ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January, 2617

P.O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

Issue No. 253



CROSSIONS

COVERING

Kinder, Oakdale, Oberlin, Elizabeth, Reeves, LeBlanc, Mittie and surrounding communities.

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2017

President --- Betty Sarver

Vice President --- Durvin LaFleur

Secretary / Treasurer / Editor --- Fran Clemmons

Reporter / Tourism Envoy --- Steve Fontenot

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized May 1985 to collect, organize, process, and preserve genealogical material. The purpose of the Society are to promote interest in genealogy, to assist and encourage genealogical researchers in gathering material on historical events and people of Allen Parish, and to help complete family histories. AGHS was incorporated in March 1990.

AGHS regular meetings are held every other month on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Library located at 833 4th St., Kinder, La. Workshop meetings are held the following month on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the genealogy room of the library. Members are willing to help visitors with research and to answer questions they may have.

MEMBERSHIP fees are \$15 per calendar year per person and includes an annual subscription to *CROSSROADS*. Any Correspondence and your dues should be sent to AGHS, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

CROSSROADS is published semi – annually. Please let AGHS know any change of address to assure delivery. Queries are free to members, \$3 each for non – members and will be published as space permits. When sending in a query, please include all pertinent information such as names, dates, and places along with your name and address.

EDITORIAL POLICY We encourage and welcome contributions of genealogical and historical material that pertain to Allen Parish locations and families for inclusion in CROSSROADS. The Society does not assure responsibility for accuracy for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material we deem not suitable for publication.

DONATIONS of genealogical and historical materials such as books, periodicals, family histories, newspaper clippings, old photos, filled out 5-generation charts are accepted by the Society and each item donated will be cataloged and placed on file in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library to be used for research. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the Society.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY ALLEN GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following books are published by the AGHS and are available for purchase at the prices listed plus \$2 each for shipping and handling.

Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Church records("Marriages & Funerals"—1895–1957—vol.1) \$25

Rev .Paul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Church records (1893—1957—volumes 1, 2, 3, & 4) each \$25

Rev. Paul Leeds' Bethany (Green Oak) Church records \$15

Congregational Church records of the Indian Village, Edna, and Emad Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of Elton and China Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of lowa, La. \$15

St Peter's Bayou Blue Indian Congregational Church records(1901-1957(includes St Luke's early church)) \$15

China Cemetery, Elton, La. \$8

LeBlanc Cemetery, Allen Parish \$8

Indian Village Cemetery, Kinder, La. \$15

Sonnier Cemetery, Allen Parish, La. \$8

Resthaven Cemetery, Oakdale, La. \$8

Lyles Cemetery—Barnes Creek, Reeves, La. \$15

Index of Surnames in all recorded Allen Parish Cemeteries \$10

St Augustine Cemetery, Basile, La. \$15

Ancestor Charts—five generation charts—Allen Parish ties \$25

THESE BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

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PLEASE mark your calendar with the following Allen Genealogical and Historical Society meetings held in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library located at 833 4th Street in Kinder, La.

Tuesday April 4, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday May 2, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday June 6, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am

Wednesday July 5, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday August 1, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday September 5, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday October 3, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday November 7, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am

Tuesday December 5,2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am

We don't own our Family History. We simply Preserve it for the next generation.

President's Greeting

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season!

We are now embarking on a new year and looking forward to a year filled with lots of great new things for our society.

I want to take this opportunity to report that our member, Steve Fontenot. is back home and doing well. It is so good to have him and his wife, Carolyn, back at the meetings.

We want to extend our thanks to Mr. Bob Johnson of Reeves, La. He has been supplying us with CD's of photos pertaining to the history of Reeves. He has been acquiring this photos from various Reeves residents and copying them onto CDs. This is a great asset for preserving history of the area which is the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society's major goal.

Steve and Carolyn Fontenot are collecting old photos of Oberlin and we appreciate their efforts. This joint effort by everyone makes our collection grow greater and faster.

We welcome any and all photos pertaining to the history of our great parish. If you have any you can share or allow us to copy we would appreciate your sharing them with us.

Wishing you a great new year,

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR......fran clemmons

I am a dinosaur when it comes to all the ends and outs of computer use, but being without one when needed to get information and to get the *CROSSROADS* publication written and ready to be sent out has been a "thorn" for me. My computer went kaput—had to have it worked on—order parts for it (new hard drive)—took time to get it back. So that is my excuse for the late issue.

I hope you enjoy the articles that I chose to publish in this issue of *CROSSROADS*. The information in the articles came from old newspaper clippings and from the internet. I do not take credit for the research on the articles, but I report what research I find that I think will be of interest to you. I chose to write an article about the 1941 Louisiana Maneuvers after going through the pictures and materials the Society have on file in the genealogy room in the Kinder Library about the Maneuvers and the role Kinder had in this great exercise.

Ms Ethel Sacker has contributed some material to be used in the next issue of *CROSSROADS* as well as a story she wrote that I have used in this issue. I am electing Ms Ethel as the *AGHS* story teller. I received Kudos for her story about the Kinder High School, that was published in *CROSSROADS* a while back.

I need your attention and help in getting material to publish in *CROSSROADS*. Any advice, or comments, and even criticism you may have to offer, I would appreciate very much.

AGHS regular meetings are held every other month on the first Tuesday of the month and workshop meetings are to be held the following month on the first Tuesday of the month. The meetings are held in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Libraries located at 833 4th Street, Kinder, Louisiana at 10:00 A.M. The Society extends an invitation to you to come join us and bring someone with you. Coffee and fellowship begin when you arrive.

A LITTLE HUMOR

I know I am comy but I thought this little joke was so cute!

Q. What did baby com say to mama com? A. Where is popcom?

DUES

ARE

DUE



Just a little reminder! It is time to send your dues. Disregard this notice if you have already sent in your dues. Thank You!

CAPPEL DRUGSTORE

Cappel Drugstore in Kinder, La. Was first opened in 1911 as Cappel Drugs by Calvin Dudley Cappel, who was from Alexandria, La. No other business has been in operation longer in Kinder.

Mr. Cappel was a graduate from Loyola University Pharmacy College in 1889 and was issued the 89th certificate in the state.

He came to Kinder to establish a drugstore for his son who was in pharmacy school. Calvin's son, Joseph Ward Sr., joined his father in 1913. Calvin eventually returned to Alexandria and his son became the sole owner.

Dr. Gurdon Buck and Dr. Will Buck were associated with these pharmacists in their practice of medicine. During these years, the drugstore changed locations a few times until it moved into a wooden building at the present location.

Joseph Ward Sr. died in 1944, leaving Kinder without a pharmacist. His son, Ward Jr., was petitioned home from service in World War II to take his father's place. Ward Jr., a pharmacist, had graduated from Loyola University in 1943.

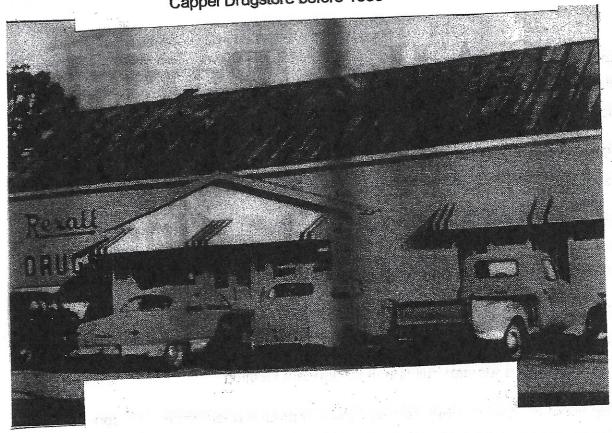
He continued the family business and made many modern changes. He engaged the business with the Rexall franchise and changed the store name to Cappel Rexall Drugs.

In 1955 he had the wooden building moved and had a modern brick structure built on the site. The new building housed the pharmacy, a soda fountain, and doctor offices for two of the Kinder doctors, Dr. Gurdon Buck and Dr. J.J.Storer.

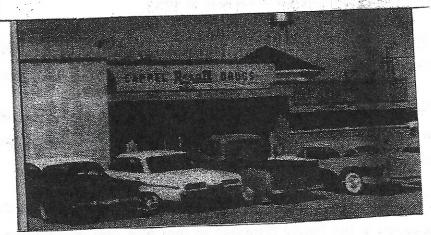
Ward Jr. died in 1969, leaving the business to his wife and four sons. Ward's second son, Lane was employed in the family business at that time and assumed managerial responsibilities and he and his wife Ginger have maintained the business until just recently.

The business still operates in the brick structure built in 1955. The store name has changed to Cappel Drugstore as the Rexall Drug Co. is no longer in retail existence. The soda fountain in recent years has discontinued its food service.

Cappel Drugstore before 1955



Cappel Drugstore after 1955



Information for this article taken from "The Kinder Courier News -Thursday January 27, 2000

The Last and Largest Wargame Before World War II

"The Louisiana Maneuvers"

The summer of 1941 was no picnic for tens of thousands of U. S. Army personnel involved in the largest peacetime maneuvers ever held. By this time it was clear to American leadership that war was inevitable. Hitler's armies had invaded and captured France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg in May 1940, and the British Expeditionary Force had barely escaped annihilation at Dunkirk. Britain was under aerial siege and possible invasion and with Japan also flexing its military muscle in the Far East the future was indeed grim.

The U. S. Army of the early 1940's ranked seventeenth in the world. By mid-1941, the U. S. Army's rank had more than doubled, from 620,000 in December 1940, to 1,460,998 men. In the hands of these men were new weapons and in their heads new doctrines. If America was to go to war, it was clear to Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall that the army must be prepared to meet the challenge of war. Before his army was blooded, he wanted it tested. The result was a series of largescale maneuvers held in 1941 in the Carolinas, Tennessee, and in Louisiana. The Louisiana Maneuvers, an army-level exercise, was the largest of the three, involving 472,000 troops who "fought" across the entire state of Louisiana and parts of Texas in September 1941. General Marshall stated, "I want the mistakes made down in Louisiana, not over in Europe, and the only way to do this is to try it out, and if it doesn't work, find out what we need to make it work." He also wanted to draw the nation's and Congress's attention to the army's deplorable state of preparedness. The Louisiana maneuvers would be the first where two armies battled one another and were under the overall control of the commanding general of U.S. Army ground forces, Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair. Lt. Gen. McNair was responsible for training. Recognizing the broad sweep of training inadequacies among the troops, he instructed his deputy Brig. Gen. Mark Clark that when he prepared the exercise, he was to "keep the directive as simple as possible." Clark worked out his scenario, the attack/defense of Louisiana. In phase I, Lt. Gen. Ben Lear's Second Army would be the "Red" force attacking Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Third Army, the "Blue" force.

"War" was declared at noon on Sept. 15, 1941. Lear, a hard-nosed and hot tempered disciplinarian with an abrasive manner that made him unpopular with his troops, was not known for his tactical brilliance. Krueger, a stern, demanding, but fair commander described as "one of the Army's best educated and most perceptive officers", was 62 years old, in superb physical shape, and among the first to exploit the possibilities of armored warfare. He proved so adept in its tactics that his armored forces nicknamed themselves "Blitzkruegers." Lear's assault plan was pedestrian, and even though his armored forces included Maj. Gen. George Patton's 2nd Armored Division, his army was

soon defeated by an imaginative defense orchestrated by Krueger and his chief of staff, Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower. In phase II, the roles were reversed. With the attacking armor force under Krueger, Patton fared better, conducting a 400-mile end run flanking maneuver that resulted in the defeat of Lear's army.

Post-maneuver assessments identified successes and failures and corrective recommendations were made. McNair, an antitank advocate, believed the maneuvers confirmed the superiority of tank destroyers over tanks. Actual combat later revealed otherwise.

Command deficiencies were dealt with ruthlessly. Of the 42 corps and division commanders, 31 were relieved outright or reassigned career-ending duties. Omar Bradley, Matthew Ridgway, James Van Fleet, and J. Lawton Collins were among the new generation of commanders put on the fast track. Eisenhower found himself skipping a grade, promoted to brigadier general.

Krueger went on to command the 6th Army under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, retiring with the rank of general, the first soldier in the U.S. Army to rise to that rank from private.

Louisiana Maneuvers / Fact-bites

One week before the start of the maneuvers, a hurricane struck southern Louisiana. Rainfall triggered flooding and swelled rivers causing trucks to become stuck in the mud. This was just the beginning of the hardships for the soldiers.

The flamboyant George Patton known by his men as "Blood and Guts" used an old cavalry tactic of circling and coming in behind the enemy to win a battle during the maneuvers and used the exact same maneuver at Bastogne. He remembered his success in Louisiana. He made a statement proclaiming, "If you could take these tanks through Louisiana, you could take them through Hell."

The Louisiana Maneuvers was the last campaign for mounted cavalry units of the U.S. Army.

The Army had obtained lease privileges for 20 million acres of land secured from 94 thousand owners for the maneuvers. Landowners were sent questionnaires for permission or rejection of troop use of their land. Not a penny was charged for any of these leases.

Soldiers in the military exercises bought out small towns. Candy, cigarettes, cigars, and soft drinks were in heavy demand. Small businesses flourished. General Omar Bradley known as the "Soldier's General", one of the generals who was there serving as

observers during the maneuvers, explained how the people who lived in the land they occupied welcomed the soldiers with open arms. Some of the soldiers were invited to sleep in some of the locals homes and to share meals.

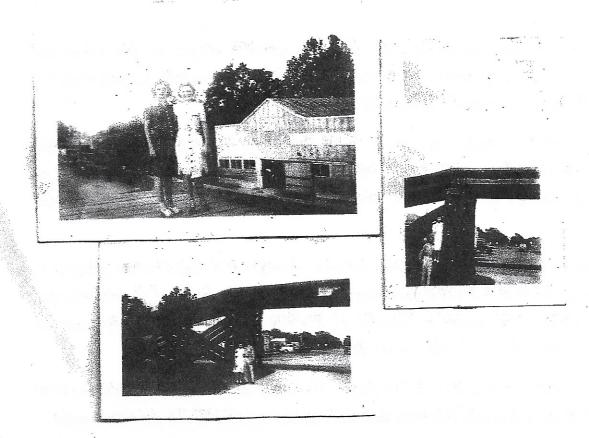
The Louisiana Maneuvers led to the creation of Fort Polk named for the Confederate General Leonidas Polk.

Field ration, type C was field tested during the La. Maneuvers. Data was obtained regarding weight of meals, the composition of meals and the shape of the can used for the meals. The field ration type C was used by ground forces for most of World War II.

The men who trained in the Louisiana Maneuvers were part of the greatest army in the world. This Army fought and overcame all America's enemies and they preserved our freedom!!!

The following photos were taken in Kinder during the 1941 Louisiana Maneuvers!

A wooden overpass constructed on highway 190 for the use of tanks and army vehicles to drive over to protect the highway from being harmed by the tank tracks.





Historical Marker Commemorating the Great Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941

The marker commemorating the role Kinder, Louisiana played in the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941 is located next to the Alvin L. Nevils American Legion Post 9th Street at Highway 190 and one block east of Highway 165 north.

Lt. General Walter Krueger, commander of the Blue Army during the maneuvers used the old Kinder High School home economics cottage as his headquarters. His chief of staff, Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the other staff occupied the KHS campus buildings.

Documentation of the two great military leaders, Krueger and Eisenhower, staying in Kinder during this time is a thank you letter written by Krueger to Mr. R.G.Hanchey, the principal of Kinder High School at that time, for making the school buildings available for use by the Third Army during the maneuvers.

A copy of the letter follows on the next page. The copy of the letter was received from Dr. Lilyan Hanchey and Gail Hanchey Bearden, whose father was the school principal.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL SMITH-YOUNG TOWER SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

October 1, 1941.

Mr. R. G. Hanchey, Principal, Kinder High School, Kinder, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Hanchey:

Please accept my personal and official thanks for your kindness and cooperation in making the school buildings in Kinder available for use by the Third Army during the recent maneuvers.

The privilege thus accorded contributed not only to the success of the maneuvers, but likewise to the comfort of the personnel involved.

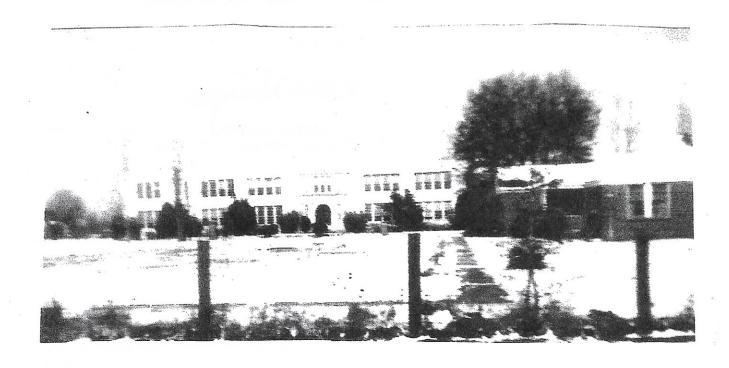
With best wishes, and thanking you again,

Sincerely,

WALTER KRUEGER, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army.



The Kinder High School Home Economics Cottage was the "home" of General Walter Kruger who was in command of the Blue Army during the 1941 maneuvers. Colonel Eisenhower, later President of the United States, lived in a trailer alongside this building. The KHS building was used as a hospital. These facilities were sometimes hit by a "flour sack" bomb.



My Mother's Shotgun By Ethel Sacker

After my Mother married Fred Rostrom, in 1940, we went to live in the country in his home on the Chachere Road, about 3 miles north of Kinder. It was located on his share of the old Rostrom place; land that his father, Eric Wilhelm, known as "Will" Rostrom, had homesteaded after moving to Louisiana from Kansas around 1898.

Fred's parents, Will Rostrom and Annie Davidson Rostrom, had passed away by 1940, during the four years he and my mother had courted. However, his sister, Furnn, still lived in the old family home. He farmed rice on all of the homeland acreage, plus his own share, also. Our house was a little old-fashioned, with no conveniences, such as running water or indoor plumbing, but my mother began making it a real home for all of us. My sister and I had our own bedroom to share and thought it was heavenly, since we were used to sleeping three and four in one bed. Our water was from a cistern located just outside the kitchen window; and later my step-dad piped the water into a kitchen sink for my mom. It was rain water, which we thought was wonderful, as it was so clear and tasted so good. And of course Mama loved the convenience. However, for wash days, and for baths, we still had to haul water from a canal running along side the house. Mama did the wash on an old fashioned rub-board, after first letting the clothes soak and wash in a black iron pot placed over a fire in the yard. Later, she got a machine with a hand wringer that you rolled the clothes through. My sister and I hauled water from the canal, in buckets, to fill the tubs for her.

Mama was always willing to exchange the old for the new. Our wood stove and heater

later gave way to a modern, oil burning stove and heater.

We had an ice box that held a large block of ice; this was later replaced by a Servel refrigerator that ran on gas. We really felt "modern". One thing we didn't have was a toaster, because they were run by electricity and we had no electricity or bathrooms. Our bathroom was located down a trail from our back door, and yes, we kept an old Sears-Roebuck catalog in it. I remember spending extra time there, just "shopping" through the pages. My sister, Margie, would insist I accompany her at night (she actually got Mama to make me go with her), on her necessary trip down the trail. So at times, she and I would sit down on the trail and share our secrets. Sometimes Mama would have to come see about us, and tell us to get back to bed, that we were keeping her awake.

Then the war broke out in December 1941, and our town of Kinder began experiencing rationing and our boys were leaving for the war. My brother, Winifred, joined the Army, as did my Mother's two brothers, Robert and Dillon. Mama worried that my brother would have to go into battle, which he finally did.

Service men crowded our streets and cafes on weekends.

Such were my school years in Kinder. I loved school and only missed when I was sick. My step-dad worked hard on the farm, and during the months that he had to flood the rice, he would have to stay at the pump most of the night. So my mother, sister and I would be alone at home. It was country, with no street lights, and sometimes we would be afraid. Mama kept a shotgun handy with shells nearby. We had a small dog that stayed outside, and some guineas that roosted in a tree near the house and barn. If anything unusual came near the house, the dog would bark and the guineas would make loud sounds, so Mama felt fairly safe.

One night my dad was gone and we heard the dog barking wildly, and the guineas making lots of noises, so we knew something was wrong outside. Mama blew the lights out, except for a dim light in the middle room, and making my sister and me stay hidden, she crept into the small, glassed-in room off the front porch, holding her shotgun. She could see a figure crouched behind a large oak tree just in front of the house. My sister and I were huddled behind a chair in the front room, near by. Mama watched in the darkness as the figure tried to creep closer to the house, but the dog was barking at his legs, and finally we heard the dog yelp as though he had been kicked. Well, that was it for Mama; she put the shotgun to her shoulder and fired a shot in the air toward the figure. She was never a good shot, but she knew how to pull the trigger and fire. She blew a large hole in the ceiling, but it was enough to scare our intruder away. We were so scared, but Mama soothed us and reassured us that the intruder was gone. We all slept together in one bed until my step-dad came home after midnight; then we all felt safe, for he wasn't afraid of anything.

We left the hole in the ceiling for a long time and laughed about Mama and her shotgun, My step-dad teased her often, and would laughingly say he had to be careful around her, because she was so handy and good with a shotgun.

Written by: Ethel Fontenot Sacker

TRADITIONS

Family Story Telling

Our memories can be a mixture of the happy and sad. Often those horrible, "we-will-laugh-about-it-later" stories can become some of our fondest memories.

My husband and I were that couple that <u>didn't</u> smear the wedding cake into each other's faces. That's why this "tradition" is so strange for us. We have this huge fake, but very life-like spider, <u>don't know where we got it or how this even began</u>, but my husband would hide it, where I would least expect it and of course I would jump and scream.

This was all well and fine - until that fateful day when we were house hunting in rural Pennsylvania and ended up in an old farmhouse basement. The basement was unfinished and there was a hole in the foundation wall that leads to what was basically a huge dirt pile; as I leaned my head in to view it - the home owner, said

"Um, I think you should slowly back away."

And, I am all like, "huh?' I was very articulate back then.

The owner grabs my arm and pulls me away from the hole...and that is when I saw it. It was a HUGE spider and right next to my face.

"HA. HA. "says I. "Great", I think, another man with a fake spider sense of humor...until I noticed it was REAL.

A spider with the body and legs bigger than my hand and it less than 3 inches from my face!

I was so traumatized by my close encounter that I suffered from nightmares for days afterwards. *Dreamt that a huge spider was carrying away my young and wrapped them in a cocoon to devour later...*needless to say - we *did not* buy that house!

Ever since that incident my husband and I have taken turns, hiding the fake spider into each other's belongings... inside of shoes, coat pockets, brief cases and pillows. The original was hid so well, that it is still waiting to be discovered - until then we are using Spidey II.

This morbid tradition helps us connect with a memory that we can laugh about now, as well as create new memories built from it. I wanted to insert a clever picture of Spidey in his new hiding spot, but it looks like it is my turn to have him sprung on me and I haven't found him yet...oh goody!

"Family traditions are like spiritual and emotional cement in the foundation of a happy home. They create fond memories, and these memories bond us together as nothing else can."

"Traditions influence the way we live and the way we look at life. They may be practices or beliefs handed down from generation to generation, or new habits or patterns we establish in our own families.



Family traditions may be quite personal practices, as simple as reading stories at bedtime, kissing the children goodnight at their bedside, or singing or playing games while traveling [or hiding fake spiders in each other's drawers].

Or they may be more elaborate events like serving special foods on certain days, decorating the dinner table in a festive way, or taking a child on a weekend outing with one or both parents when he reaches a certain age.

...Like habits, traditions are formed intentionally. They are not automatic, but require preparation, planning, and a combined effort."

17

QUERY FORM

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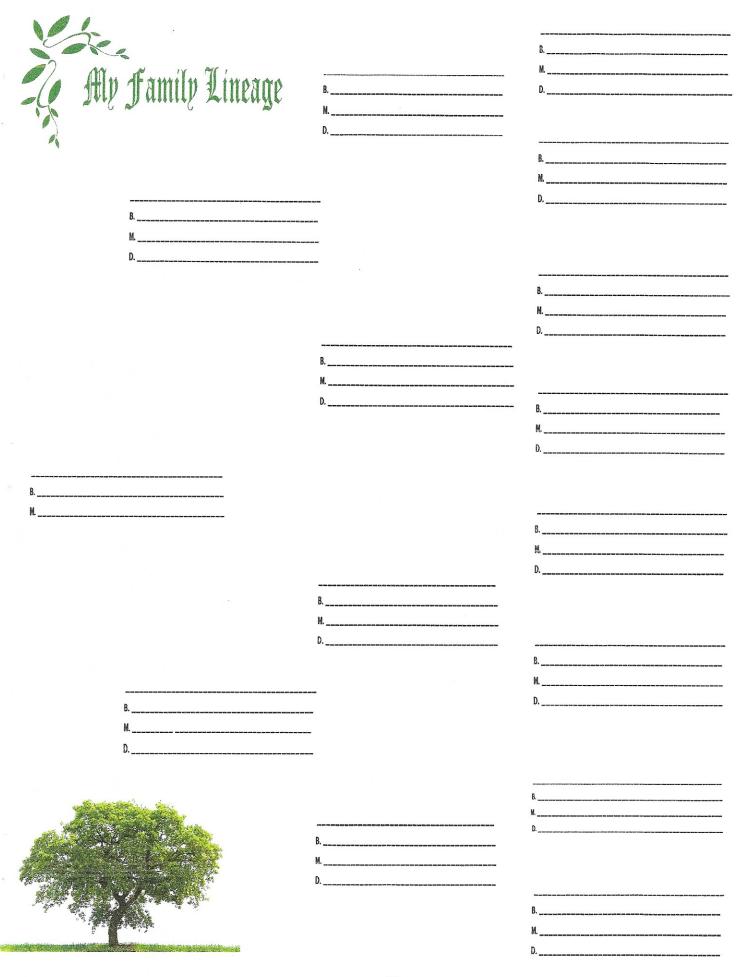
Queries are free to all members. Non-member fee is \$3.00 per Query.

Send Queries to: Allen Genealogical and Historical Society, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, Louisiana 70548

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TO: ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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