

CITIZENS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
STEPHEN C. NOLAND, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

John Henry Byrne Nowland

John H. B. Nowland was born October 12, 1813, at Frankfort, Kentucky. He was a son of Matthias R. and Elizabeth (Byrne) Nowland. The Nowlands are of Welsh ancestry, early members of the family having come to the American Colonies before the War of the American Revolution and settled at Dover, Delaware.

Matthias R. Nowland was born in 1787 at Dover. As a child he was brought by his parents to Chillicothe, Ohio, and there grew to young manhood. He then went to Frankfort, Kentucky, and in 1806 was married to Elizabeth Byrne. He was in business in Frankfort with fair success for fourteen years. In 1820 he made a journey to the remote wilderness village of Indianapolis, in central Indiana, which at that time consisted of a few primitive log cabins along White River in a region called the "New Purchase."

Matthias R. Nowland was a quiet, unassuming man, industrious, intelligent, public-spirited. He was naturally fitted for the tasks of establishing the new settlement. He was asked by the Commissioners to build an extra cabin to serve as sleeping quarters and as an office during the sale of lots, as he was the only person having the means to do so, being the first man to bring any amount of money to the rude settlement. He met the Commissioners when they visited the capital site in June, 1820, and promised that, if the capital were located at what was called "the Mouth of Fall Creek," he would return to Kentucky, bring his family and induce other settlers to come as well. He fulfilled his promise, and is credited with having had a large part in determining the actual site of the capital and with bringing a number of early citizens whose descendants yet reside in Indianpolis.

The first sale of lots was held at the cabin of Matthias R. Nowland on October 9, 1821. Mr. Nowland provided accommodations for Christopher Harrison, the only Commissioner present, and for Alexander Ralston, the engineer who surveyed the town. Mr. Nowland was appointed one of three men who chose the location for the first graveyard. Early in 1821 he had spent some time making sugar in the old Indian sugar camp at the end of Virginia Avenue, where he produced over 600 pounds of maple sugar and a quantity of excellent syrup. In 1822 he was appointed the first election judge of the new county by Hervey Bates, the first sheriff.

Three tracts of about three acres each were set apart as suitable for brickmaking plants. Matthias R. Nowland purchased one of these tracts, situated between East and Liberty Streets, extending from Washington Street north to Market Street. There, in 1822, he burned the first kiln of brick made in Marion County, Indiana. The work and exposure to inclement weather brought on the malady which caused his death on November 11, 1822. He left his widow and five young children. He had purchased several lots on deferred payments and they were later forfeited, leaving the family with small means.

From that bleak autumn day in 1822 until her death in 1856, Elizabeth (Byrne) Nowland was a well-known person in the town of Indianapolis and she won a prominent place in the admiration and esteem of a host of friends.

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At the age of 30 she assumed the responsibility of rearing her children and preserving the traditions of home despite difficulties. By toil and sacrifice and devotion she accomplished her task. She was widely esteemed for her cheery humor, her generous charity, her kindness and nobility of character. She was a daughter of Captain John Byrne, a native of Ireland who came to the United States at the end of the 18th Century. He married Catherine Full, of Virginia, who was descended from Dutch ancestry.

Sarah Ann Nowland, eldest daughter of Matthias R. and Elizabeth (Byrne) Nowland, was married to the Rev. Edwin Ray, one of the first Methodist ministers in Indiana, for whom the Edwin Ray Methodist Episcopal Church in Indianapolis is named. Their youngest daughter, Elizabeth Jane, became the wife of Richard Rousseau, an eminent lawyer of that day. He and his brother, General Lovell H. Rousseau, platted the town of Bloomfield, in Greene County, Indiana, from their farm. The other Nowland children, other than John H. B., died while young and unmarried.

John H. B. Nowland, with the commingled blood of Welsh, Irish and Dutch forebears in his veins, said of himself that he was "a composite of ingredients." From his own accounts of youthful escapades he was not wholly free from the peccadilloes of healthy boyhood. He started to school at the age of eight in a log cabin in the village. The teacher was a heavy-handed educator named Lambert. On his very first day, young John Nowland committed some minor infraction of the rules, whereupon the prototype of Schoolmaster Squeers proceeded to thwack the small offender's cranium against the log wall of the schoolroom.

John H. B. Nowland reported the incident at home, exhibiting contusions in evidence. His father at once sought out the erstwhile Squeers and administered a few thwacks in return. So the boy's first term of school ended on its initial day. But he later learned his A B C's in Sunday School and obtained the solid substance of learning from more kindly disposed teachers. Of these he mentions Austin W. Morris, Ebenezer Sharpe and the latter's son and daughter, Thomas H. and Isabella Sharpe, who were able and well-beloved instructors of that period.

At the age of 19, John H. B. Nowland became secretary to Governor Jonathan Jennings, first governor of Indiana. Some opposed Mr. Nowland's appointment, saying that he was too young to be capable, but the governor was determined. The young man assisted at the Treaty of 1832 with the Miami and Pottawatomie tribes, and was later made commissary. With the money he earned in these positions he attended Indiana University for two years. He left the university to earn money for the support of his mother. He bought and sold horses in 1834-1836. In 1837 he engaged in a mercantile business, but his profits, as he later commented, "scattered themselves over the Middle Western prairies in unpaid accounts." He traded his store for a farm and a distillery, and those in turn were exchanged for horses and wagons which he sold.

In February, 1849, Mr. Nowland traveled to Washington, D. C., and fol-

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Following the inauguration of President Zachary Taylor received a government appointment, first in the postoffice department and later in the landoffice. His service ended with the administration—in a slight flurry of fireworks. He was not one to keep silent when he had something to say, and he did have something to say regarding Mr. Fillmore's attitude toward the candidacy of General Scott. And he became, so to speak, an iconoclast, an image-breaker, one who sang out of tune in the political symphony.

Mr. Nowland returned to Indianapolis. For a short time he was interested in coal mining in Floyd County, Kentucky, a region he described as "God-forsaken." He had a happy knack of using words of unmistakable meaning. He did not call a certain common tool "a familiar and serviceable instrument widely employed in the industry of digging," but named it simply as "a spade." In the afternoon of his life, Mr. Nowland became a chronicler of men and events. As a historian he wrote with rare artistry and a piquant charm. His pen was facile, his style vivid and trenchant. His writings teem with living, animate human characters delineated with sparkling humor and keen insight. Not infrequently he used a light flick of satire's lash, but ever without bitterness or rancor. He wrote with the touch of a poet rhythmic measures of prose that hold the haunting music of old ballads. His sketches of early life and times in Indiana are pen pictures, as charming as old miniatures. He was the author of two books of definite historical value: "Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis," and "Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876."

John H. B. Nowland was married July 27, 1840, to Amelia Theresa Smith, a daughter of Justin and Maria B. (Lloyd) Smith. Mrs. Nowland's grandmother was a daughter of Brigadier General Joseph Otis, brother of James Otis, of Boston, the distinguished orator and patriot. Of him it was said: "James Otis of the North and Patrick Henry of the South were the promoters of the American Revolution." Mrs. Nowland's maternal grandmother was Lady Mary, daughter of the Earl of Rivers, in England. Maria B. (Lloyd) Smith was a daughter of P. B. Lloyd, a prominent banker of New York City.

Amelia Theresa Smith was born July 23, 1820, in Clifton Springs, New York. Her parents moved to Rochester, New York, in her childhood, and in 1838 came to the village of Indianapolis where Mr. Smith opened a general store on the corner of Washington and Pennsylvania Streets, the present site of the Odd Fellows Building. He also bought a farm and established a general store and a flour mill between Franklin and Edinburg, Indiana. The mill was called "Smith's Mill" for many years. At one time Justin Smith owned Clifton Springs, New York.

Antonio de Navarro, who married the famous Kentucky actress, Mary Anderson, was a cousin of Amelia Theresa Smith, and Edgar Saltus, the noted novelist, was also her cousin. P. B. L. Smith, Mrs. Nowland's eldest brother, was the first resident of Indianapolis to visit Europe, making the voyage across the Atlantic in a sailing ship.

John H. B. Nowland and Amelia Theresa Smith were married in Christ Church

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Indianapolis, theirs being the first church wedding ever held in that city. They were the parents of two sons and one daughter, namely: Paul B. L.; ^{Feb. 15} Edwin R.; and Maria Justine Otis. ₁₈₄₇

Paul B. L. Nowland was married to Nannie Glover, a daughter of John B. Glover, one time State Treasurer of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. L. Nowland were the parents of three daughters: Edna G., who is now a teacher in Arsenal Technical High School, Indianapolis; Charlotte, who is now Mrs. Emil B. Mills; and Nannie, who is now Mrs. W. R. Hatton. Paul B. L. Nowland died in 1889.

Edwin R. Nowland was married to Helen Raymond, a daughter of the Rev. Charles H. and Mary J. (Underwood) Raymond. The Rev. Charles H. Raymond was pastor of Presbyterian Churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. He became pastor of the Seventh Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis in May, 1871. One daughter, Florence, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Nowland. Florence Nowland became the wife of O. W. Davidson, of Portland, Oregon, and to them were born two children, Orlando and Helen. Edwin R. Nowland died September 11. 1928.

Maria Justine Otis Nowland was educated in the public schools and in Butler College, Indianapolis, Indiana. She has always resided in the family home, 1114 North Dearborn Street, Indianapolis. Miss Nowland has the distinction of having been longest a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution of all present members of that organization in Indiana. She has been a member of the Society of Indiana Pioneers since that society was founded in 1916.

John Henry Byrne Nowland passed away August 1, 1899, at the age of 86. His widow, Amelia Theresa (Smith) Nowland, was called by death January 28, 1902, aged 82.

Mr. Nowland saw the straggling little backwoods hamlet of Indianapolis grow into a splendid, far-spreading, modern city. Tall buildings of stone and steel now stand where the rude log cabins of the settlers dotted the landscape and broad asphalted avenues stretch where once the dust lay thick in streets of bare earth. Mr. Nowland saw the transition of primitive ways into a new order. The steam railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, the talking machine, electric street cars and many other wonders came within the span of his lifetime. The automobile, the flying machine, the miracle of radio, came afterward. His pen was stilled too soon. He made much of the material he had. With the vast infinitude of subject matter now he might have wrought masterpieces of the chronicler's art.

February, 1934

NOWLAND, Edna Glover
Liberty Township



Pedigree Chart No.

Date _____
 Name of Compiler _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as
 No. _____ on chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
 p.b. Place of Birth
 m. Date of Marriage
 d. Date of Death
 p.d. Place of Death

2 Paul Bernicke Lloyd Nowland
 (Father of No. 1)
 b. Feb. 15, 1847
 p.b. Indianapolis Indiana
 m. ~~1874~~ 1874 July 1
 d. 1939, March 25
 p.d. Indianapolis

1 Edna Glover Nowland
 b. Jan. 5, 1878
 p.b. Indianapolis, Indiana
 m. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. Presbyterian Home,
 Greenwood Indiana

8 Nanny B. Glover
 (Mother of No. 1)
 b. Dec. 10, 1856
 p.b. Orleans, Indiana
 d. Aug. 8, 1838
 p.d. Indianapolis

b. _____
 p.b. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. _____
 (Husband or Wife of No. 1)

4 John Henry Byrne Nowland
 (Father of No. 2)
 b. Oct. 12, 1813
 p.b. Frankfort Kentucky
 m. 1840, 27 July
 d. Aug. 1 1899
 p.d. Indianapolis, Indiana

5 Amelia Theresa Smith
 (Mother of No. 2)
 b. July 23, 1820
 p.b. Clifton Springs, N.Y.
 d. January 28, 1902
 p.d. Indianapolis, Indiana

6 John B. Glover
 (Father of No. 3)
 b. March 4 1833
 p.b. Orange Co. Ind
 m. Dec. 23, 1855
 d. March 25, 1911
 p.d. _____

7 Mary Caroline W. May
 (Mother of No. 3)

b. _____
 p.b. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. _____

8 Matthias Reynolds
 (Father of No. 4)
 b. 1789, Salisbury 17
 p.b. Dover, Delaware
 m. 1806, March 31
 d. Nov. 11, 1822
 p.d. Indianapolis, Indiana

9 Elizabeth Byrne
 (Mother of No. 4)
 b. 1791 June 18
 p.b. Frankfort Ky
 d. December 6 1856
 p.d. Indianapolis Ind.

10 Justin Smith
 (Father of No. 5)
 b. _____
 p.b. New York State
 m. _____
 d. Dec. 29, 1854
 p.d. Cincinnati, Ohio

11 Maria B. Lloyd
 (Mother of No. 5)
 b. _____
 p.b. New York State
 d. 1839
 p.d. Indianapolis, Ind.

12 Thomas Glover
 (Father of No. 6)
 b. Oct. 8, 1805
 p.b. Shelby Co. Ky,
 m. March 1827
 d. _____
 p.d. _____

13 Eliza Elgin
 (Mother of No. 6)
 b. _____
 p.b. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. _____

14 P. James G. May
 (Father of No. 7)
 b. _____
 p.b. _____
 m. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. _____

b. _____
 p.b. _____
 d. _____
 p.d. _____
 (Mother of No. 7)

16 Philip Matthias Nowland died in Tenn.
 (Father of No. 8)
 Continued on chart _____

17 Elizabeth Reynolds
 (Mother of No. 8)
 Continued on chart _____

18 John Byrne
 (Father of No. 9)
 Continued on chart _____

19 Catherine Fall 1756-1824
 (Mother of No. 9)
 Continued on chart _____

20 Polycarpus Smith
 (Father of No. 10)
 Continued on chart _____
 Joseph Otis

21 Dorothy Otis Mabel Kitterer
 (Mother of No. 10)
 Continued on chart _____

22 Paul Bernicke Lloyd
 (Father of No. 11)
 Continued on chart _____

23 Lady Mary day of Earl Rivers
 (Mother of No. 11)
 Continued on chart _____

24 Leah Glover Tr.
 (Father of No. 12)
 Continued on chart _____
 Oct. 21, 1778 Married Feb. 14, 1797 Union Pa

25 Priscilla Gaddis Hays 1779
 (Mother of No. 12)
 Continued on chart _____

26 Jesse Elsin
 (Father of No. 9)
 Continued on chart _____

27 Susan Steel 1770 Md.
 (Mother of No. 13)
 Continued on chart _____

28 _____
 (Father of No. 14)
 Continued on chart _____

29 _____
 (Mother of No. 14)
 Continued on chart _____

30 _____
 (Father of No. 15)
 Continued on chart _____

31 _____
 (Mother of No. 15)
 Continued on chart _____

HUSBAND'S NAME Matthias Reynolds ~~BY~~ Nowland
 When Born 1784 January 17 Where Dover, Delaware (Husband's Full Name)

Christened Where
 When Died November 11, 1822 Where Indianapolis, Indiana
 When Buried Where Green Lawn Cemetery, Indianapolis
 When Married March 31, 1846 Where Frankfort, Ky. (Wife's Maiden Name)
 Other Wives
 His Father Philip Matthias Nowland His Mother's Maiden Name Miss Elizabeth Reynolds
 This information obtained from

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME Elizabeth Byrne
 When Born June 18, 1791 Where Frankfort, Ky.
 Christened Where
 When Died December 6, 1856 Where Indianapolis, Indiana
 When Buried Where Green Lawn Cemetery, Indianapolis

Other Husband (if any)
 Her Father Capt. John Byrne Her Mother's Maiden Name Catherine Fall City State
 Compiler Address
 Date
 MARRIED
 Date Aug 21 1827 To Rev. Edwin Ray
 Date To Samuel H. Patterson
 Date July 27 1846 To Amelia Thereser Smith

Form F2 Use Reverse Side For Additional Information

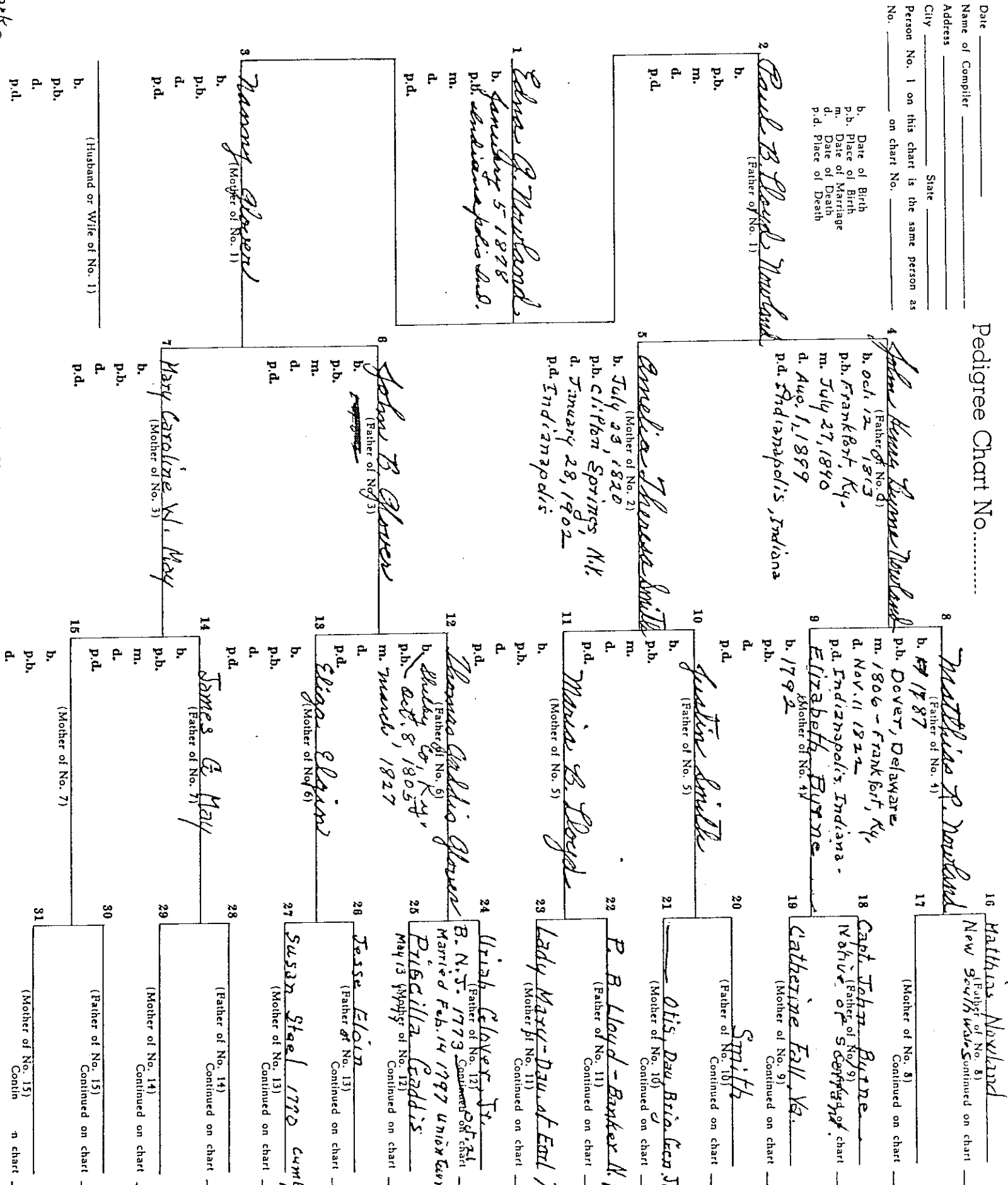
Family Group Sheet North Main, Logan, Utah

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		DIED		MARRIED	
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County	State or Country	Day		Mo.
1	Matthias T. Nowland	21	Feb.	1807	Frankfort	Ky.	3	Oct.	1834	Date <u>Aug 21 1827</u> To <u>Rev. Edwin Ray</u>
2	Sarah Ann Nowland	16	Nov.	1802	Frankfort	Ky.	16	Oct.		Date To <u>Samuel H. Patterson</u>
3	James Ray Nowland	11		1811	Frankfort	Ky.		April	1851	Date <u>July 27 1846</u> To <u>Amelia Thereser Smith</u>
4	John Henry Byrne Nowland	12	Oct.	1813	Frankfort	Ky.	1	Aug	1877	Date To
5	William Nowland	23	Dec.	1815	Frankfort	Ky.	27	Sept	1877	Date To
6	Elizabeth Nowland	5	Feb.	1820	Frankfort	Ky.	29	Sept.	1841	Date <u>1848</u> To <u>Richard Rousseau</u>
7	Elizabeth Jane Nowland	13	Nov.	1822	Todd's Station	Indiana	15	Nov.	1850	Date To
8										Date To
9										Date To
10										Date To
11										Date To
12										Date To
13										Date To
14										Date To

Pedigree Chart No.

Date _____
 Name of Compiler _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
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 No. _____ on chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
 p.b. Place of Birth
 m. Date of Marriage
 d. Date of Death
 p.d. Place of Death



* See Back
 The Everton Publishers 518 North Main, Logan, Utah
 Form P8

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Family Record.

BIRTHS

Paul Bennett & Fannie Gloss
Lloyd Rowland his wife was born
was born in the in Orleans Indiana
Town of Indianapolis on the 11th of
on the 15th of February December 1836
1848,

Their Children:
Amelia Caroline Charlotte was born
was born in the in Bedford Ind.
City of Indianapolis Nov 13/1880
on the 14th of October
1875

Edna was born on Harriette Louise
Waverly Avenue was born on
Indianapolis on Newbury Ave Indpls
the 5th of January Oct. 17, 1883
1878,



Family

Record.

DEATHS

Amelia Caroline
daughter of J. B.
L. & Annie G.
Montand, died
on East Street
Indianapolis on
the 19th September
1876,

