

TREE TALK

Volume 48 Issue 3 Spring 2023

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Editor's Letter

I recently asked our members to write a story about someone they loved for TREE TALK. Their mother, father, brother, sister, spouse, grandmother, cousin. Someone they loved.

Eileen Stike Jones responded with the story of “MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMP-BELL”. He sounds like a character I would have liked and laughed with. I think you will like him too.

Please follow Eileen's example and write a story to be published in TREE TALK.

We mourn the passing of our long time member, Dan Bradley Cates. Information and photos about Dan and his family begins on page 62.

I hope you enjoy this issue of TREE TALK.

Gordon Bennett, Editor

MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

By Eileen Stike Jones

My maternal grandparents, **Brooksie and Ruby Campbell**, were an integral part of my growing-up years. As far back as I can remember they were a part of my life. I was their first grandchild and the first of their total of five grandchildren. He nicknamed me **Sugarpie**. Because we lived fairly close, we got to see them often. Grandpa never served in a war, was never in politics, was not high on the social ladder, never famous or widely known for any outstanding feats. His schooling went only through the third grade, but you would never suspect that, as he was a very smart man. He managed his schedule well and all that his job required. He was a big man in my eyes.

My grandpa always expected cornbread and biscuits every day for lunch when he was not out of town on a run so, of course, Grandma complied. Grandpa would always work the crossword puzzles in the daily newspaper. He was tall and lanky and when he played “solitaire” he laid the cards on the floor in front of him, then bent over at the waist and played the game. He smoked and rolled his own cigarettes, using Prince Albert tobacco. In those days women usually didn’t smoke cigarettes as it was considered unlady like but Grandma did. She smoked Kools which supposedly had menthol in them. The day Grandpa died he said, “Mama, how about letting me have one of your cigarettes.” For years she thought she was keeping her habit of smoking from him. In fact, when I was there she would tell me to watch and let her know when he was coming and she would quickly hide her smoke in the stove drawer.

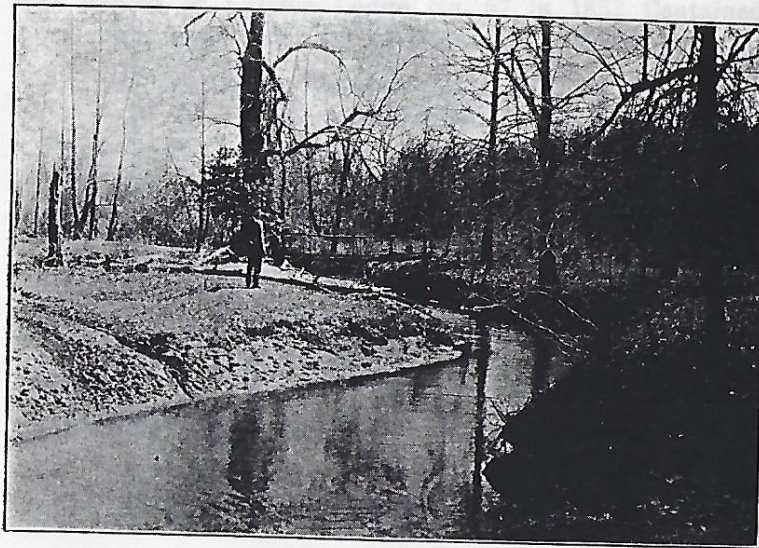


Grandpa in his chair

MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

Mervin Brooks “Brooksie” Campbell was a real character. He liked to spin yarns and could really come up with some good ones. He told of African safaris and other imagined adventures. When my Uncle M.B. was in elementary school he told his teacher about his daddy hunting lions, etc., and the teacher sent a note home to invite Grandpa to speak to their class. Naturally he had to decline and although he was a little more cautious, he continued his spinning.

Brooksie’s grandparents, **William B.** and **Amanda Campbell**, left Alabama around July of 1852 and settled in **Cherokee County, Texas** in a place that was later known as **Larissa**. While doing some research at the **Jacksonville Library**, I came across a book entitled, *Larissa* which spoke of **William B.** being a cotton ginner, a Methodist and a Mason. There was even a photo of **Campbell’s Mill** located on **Killough Creek**. His oldest son **William Hill Campbell** was said to have graduated Valedictorian from Larissa College in its only graduating class. Brooksie himself was born in Larissa.



THE CAMPBELL MILLSITE ON KILLOUGH CREEK
Pioneer Mill Built by David Rankin of Indiana in the early 50's.
Nat McCormick, mechanic and millwright

Interestingly, my grandparents met at the funeral of grandpa’s daddy, **Young Brooks Campbell**. Grandpa told me of his walking from Frankston to Tyler several times just to see my grandmother. They were married in 1915, in Smith County, Texas. To this union were born three children: a boy born and died in May of 1916; a girl **Malvern Lois** (my mother) born in July of 1917 in Tyler, Texas, and died in October of 2004 in Houston, Texas; and **Mervin Brooks Jr.** born in September of 1922 in Tyler and died in May of 1975 in Houston, Texas.

MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

When the family lived in Houston, Grandpa would get the “itch” to go to Tyler, and regardless of the weather, he would take off. Grandma made sure however, all bills were paid before she would agree to go. His job on the railroad was such that he could do this because his was not an 8 AM-5 PM job, but was gauged by trips. One time he decided to go and evidently the San Jacinto River was out of its banks and covering the road. The roads were just dirt and not paved as they are today. Grandpa got a man to have his horses (or mules – Mother couldn’t remember which) to pull them through the Huntsville area. He noticed a bridge he needed to cross was about to collapse. He backed up the Model T he was driving, told Mother and Grandma to hang on (Mother was in the back seat), then stepped on the gas. They practically flew over the bridge but made it safely. The bridge, however, caved in so they returned via a different route. Mother said when they had a flat tire they simply plugged it with cardboard from ZuZu ginger snap cookie boxes. Mother was about 6 when they bought the black Model T, which was a used car. Whenever it rained they had to put up the plastic windows.

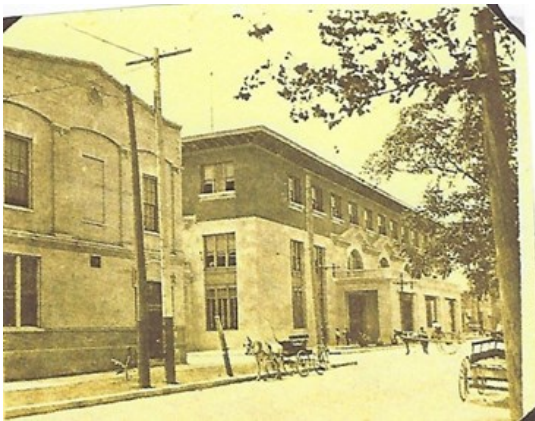


One of the stories Grandpa liked to spin included directions on how to catch a wild animal. He said, first you had to get it chasing you. Then you ran in the back door of your house and out the front, closing the door after you. You would then run around to the back and close that door so the animal couldn’t get out. I’m not sure what you were supposed to do then as he didn’t say and no one thought to ask. At any rate, the cousins fell for it hook, line and sinker. Travis, one of the cousins and Aunt Ruth’s third child, told me his Uncle Brooksie (my Grandpa) showed him how to set traps, fly kites, etc. He also told me that Grandpa advised him the way to catch a bird was to put salt on his tail. Right! But first he had to get close enough to do so.

MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

Grandpa worked first for the **IGN (International Great Northern Railroad)**, then for the **Missouri Pacific Railroad**, ending up as an engineer driving the trains. When they lived in Houston the train came by on the tracks right behind their house. He would blow the whistle and I would run out and wave to him. After they moved to Palestine I often rode the train there to visit with them.

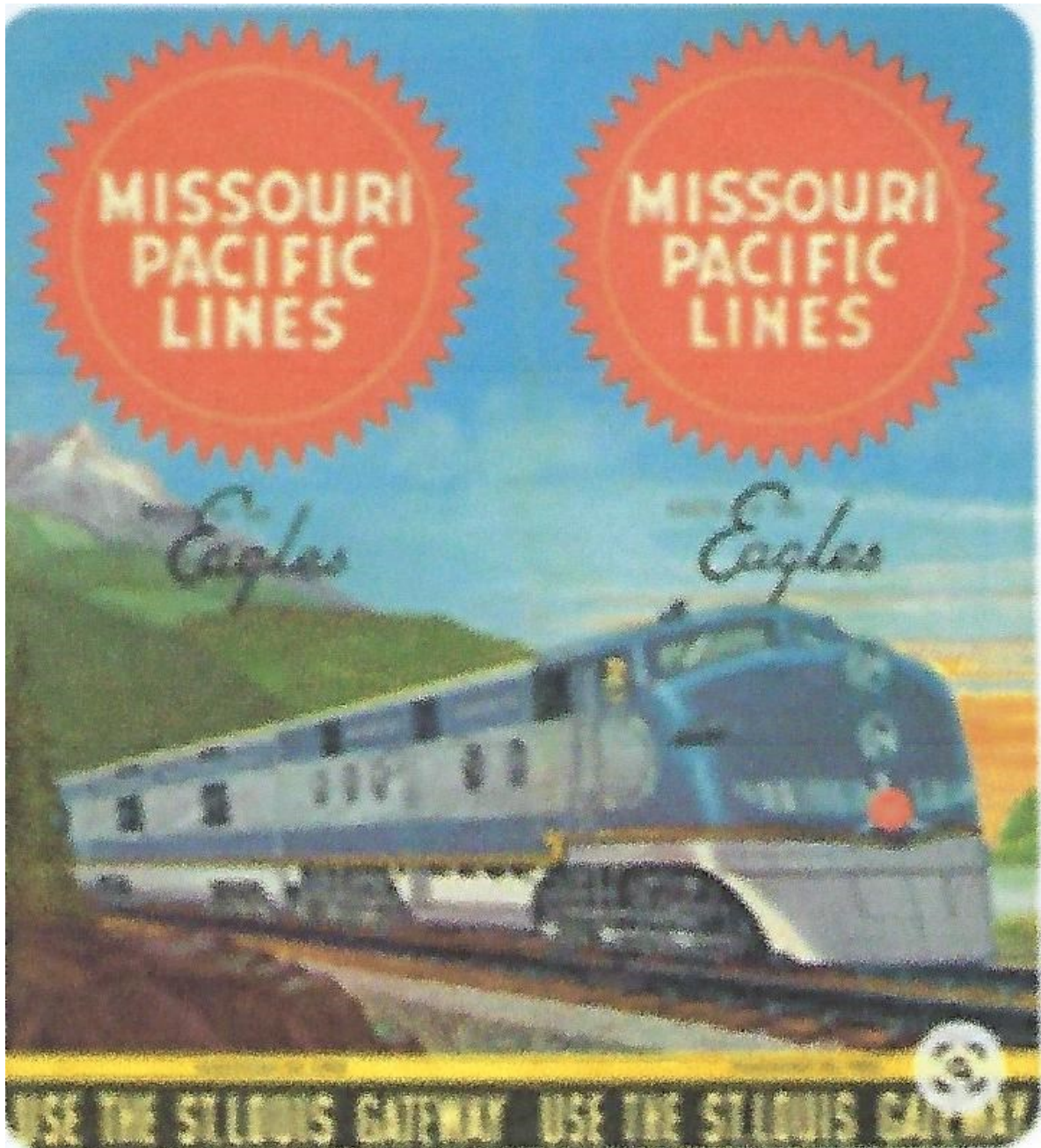
The train depot in Houston was right where Minute Maid Park, home of the **Houston Astros Baseball Team**, now is on Texas Avenue in the downtown area. As you can see in the photos below, the Union Station went through a number of changes.



On March 2, 1911, the station was dedicated. It was three stories tall and covered the entire block on Crawford Street between Texas Avenue and Prairie Streets. The firm of Warren & Wetmore designed the building, the same firm responsible for designing New York City's Grand Central Station. Passenger service reached its peak during the 1930s and 1940s. At the end of the 50s passenger traffic was on the decline and air travel was the wave of the future. The last passenger train pulled out of Union Station on May 31, 1975.

MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

When Grandpa was on the passenger run for a while, he usually drove “**The Texas Eagle,**” formerly known as “**The Sunshine Special,**” which was quite a popular run. He decided, however, he would rather drive freight trains because there was less responsibility. Most of the older railroad men wanted the passenger runs because there were set schedules; but not my Grandpa!



MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

Recently, in one of my daily devotionals I read an article entitled: “GPT: God’s Perfect Timing.”

It started out by saying, “In the days of American rail travel, nothing was more important than the timepieces kept by engineers. These pocket watches had certain operating specifications that allowed for exactness and accuracy even if damaged or jarred. If the train operators didn’t have synchronized watches, disaster would ensue in the form of train collisions.” This reminded me of my own grandpa’s pocket watch which I have in my possession. I remember him having to take it to a jeweler’s shop in downtown Houston ever so often just to get it checked.



When I once visited the train museum in Galveston, I took the following photo depicting the various railroads. Most of these came through the Union Station at Houston at one time or another.



MY GRANDPA: BROOKSIE CAMPBELL

Grandpa, as one might expect, was a dreamer. He had always said he didn't care anything about buying a house, but boy did he change his tune when they bought their first house in Palestine Texas! You would have thought it was all his idea. He really threw himself into making it his own. When they first moved there, the yard was full of bull nettles and grass burrs, but with much concerted effort on his part, the intruders were soon gone or at least under control. Grandpa always took care of all he owned. It seemed like he was always checking the fluids in the car, etc.

For as long as I can remember, Grandpa drove a train. He retired in 1962 with 42 years of service with the railroad. Today I understand computers are used to operate the trains. Grandpa died in 1963. I wonder what God has him working on now.

By Eileen Stike Jones

Used by email permission, April 4, 2023.



Dan Cates and His Family

Family Group Record

Husband		
John Early (Earle) CATES		
Born	7 Dec 1892	Place Angelina Co., Texas, near Clawson
Christened		Place
Died	28 Jan 1986	Place Cherokee Co, TX. Nan Travis Hospital
Buried	29 Jan 1986	Place Old Palestine Cemetery, Cherokee Co., TX
Married	16 Dec 1914	Place Pennington, Texas
Husband's father	Joseph Daniel CATES	
Husband's mother	Nancy Jane (Savannah) ODLE	
Wife		
Mary Vera DOMINY Cates		
Born	4 May 1894	Place Pennington, Tx
Christened		Place
Died	28 Aug 1963	Place home in Alto, TX
Buried	29 Aug 1963	Place Old Palestine Cemetery, Cherokee Co., TX
Wife's father	William Alexander DOMINY	
Wife's mother	Charlotte Amelia (Todie) BRADLEY	
Children List each child in order of birth.		
1	M Francis Woodrow CATES	
Born	24 Oct 1916	Place Alto, Texas
Christened		Place
Died	3 Nov 1983	Place Alto, Texas
Buried	5 Nov 1983	Place Old Palestine Cemetery, Cherokee Co., TX
Spouse	Lucelle MONK	
Married	10 Dec 1955	Place Brazoria Co., TX
2	F Mary Aliene CATES Land	
Born	14 May 1918	Place Alto, Texas
Christened		Place
Died	30 Dec 2001	Place Pasadena, TX
Buried		Place Old Palestine Cem., Cherokee Co., TX
Spouse	Ira William, LAND, JR	
Married	30 Jan 1944	Place Nacogdoches, TX
3	F Lee Iris CATES Britton	
Born	26 Dec 1920	Place Alto, Texas
Christened		Place
Died		Place
Buried		Place
Spouse	Leroy (Lee) A. BRITTON	
Married	10 Jun 1951	Place Hutchinson, KS
4	M Joseph Dominy(JD) CATES	
Born	30 Oct 1922	Place Alto, Texas
Christened		Place
Died	23 Jul 2003	Place Lufkin, TX. At home.
Buried		Place New Hope Cem., Wells, Cherokee Co. TX
Prepared by	Dan B. Cates	Address
Phone	936-858-3801	2403 State Highway 21 West
E-mail address	vtcates1943@gmail.com vtcates1943@outlook.com	Alto, TX 75925-5706
Date prepared	8 May 2023	USA

Dan Cates and His Family

Family Group Record

Husband		John Early (Earle) CATES	
Wife		Mary Vera DOMINY Cates	
Children List each child in order of birth.			
4	M	Joseph Dominy(JD) CATES	
		Spouse Pheobia Odessa HICKS	
		Married 18 Oct 1949	Place Falvey Methodist Church, Wells, Cherokee County, Texas
5	F	Doris Nell CATES Shofner	
		Born 1925	Place Alto, Texas
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Buried	Place
		Spouse Garland SHOFNER	
		Married 31 Aug 1946	Place Houston, TX
6	M	James Edward CATES	
		Born 1928	Place Alto, Texas
		Christened	Place
		Died 30 Jul 2014	Place Conroe, Montgomery, Texas
		Buried	Place
		Spouse Ladoris (Mary Ladoris) CAMPAGNA	
		Married 30 Oct 1960	Place
7	F	Claire Belle CATES George	
		Born 1930	Place Alto, Texas
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Buried	Place
		Spouse August Ike GEORGE	
		Married 23 Nov 1953	Place Grandview, Washington
8	M	John W.(Billy) CATES	
		Born 1931	Place Alto, Texas
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Buried	Place
		Spouse Dorothy Hanes JOHNSON	
		Married Jun 1960	Place
9	M	Dan Bradley CATES	
		Born 13 Mar 1935	Place Family Home, Cold Springs Community, Alto, Cherokee, Texas
		Christened	Place
		Died 21 Apr 2023	Place Nacogdoches Medical Center, Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches, Texas
		Buried 27 Apr 2023	Place Old Palestime Cemetery, Alto, Cherokee, Texas
		Spouse Vivian Leigh TOOLE Cates	
		Married 17 Jul 1966	Place Green Co., GA

Dan Cates and His Family



Front row:

John Early (Earle) Cates, Mary Vera Dominy Cates, Francis Woodrow Cates, Mary Alene Cates, Lee Iris Cates Britton, Joseph Dominy (JD) Cates

Back row:

Doris Nell Cates Shofner, James Edward Cates, Claire Belle Cates George, John William (Billy) Cates, Dan Bradley Cates

The Cates house in the background burned in December. 1947.

Dan Cates and His Family



Francis Woodrow Cates, Joseph Dominy (JD) Cates, James Edward Cates, Dan Bradley Cates



Front row, seated on steps: Dan Cates, Claire Cates, Billy Cates

Seated in rocker: Francis Cates

Standing: J.D. Cates

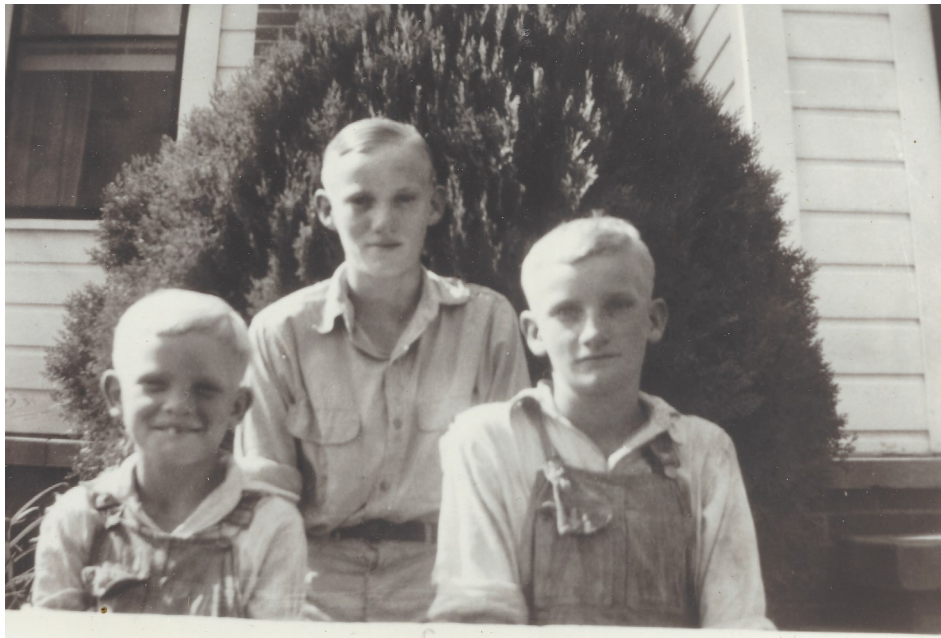
On Porch: Mary Vera Dominy Cates, John Early (Earle) Cates, Doris Cates

Dan Cates and His Family



Left to right: Tom (the horse), Billy, Gary Dominy, Glen Richard Dominy and Dan Cates

Glen Richard and Gary Dominy were brothers, first cousins, the sons of Glen Dominy, the brother of Dan's mother, Mary Vera Dominy Cates



Left to right: Dan, James, Billy

Dan Bradley Cates



Dan Bradley Cates

Funeral Services for Dan Bradley Cates, 88, Alto, Texas will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the Cold Springs Methodist Church located on FM 220 off Highway 21, west of Alto, officiated by the church pastor, Rev. Tim Ross.

Informal viewing is scheduled at the O.T. Allen & Son funeral home Wednesday April 26th from 9 AM to 5 PM. Formal visitation will be held in the church fellowship hall prior to the funeral service beginning with a noon meal. Additional visitation with a light meal will be held at the family residence in the Cold Springs Community following burial in the old section of Old Palestine Cemetery located east of Alto.

Dan Bradley Cates was born on the Cates family farm in the Cold Springs Community on March 15, 1935, the youngest of nine children born to John Early and Mary Vera Dominy Cates. Mr. Cates attended early elementary school at Cold Springs, graduated from Alto High School in 1953 while running the family dairy and playing football. Mr. Cates served in the US Army as a Quartermaster clerk in Korea and Japan. Mr. Cates attended Stephen F. Austin State University on the GI Bill graduating in 1960 with a B.S. in Forestry.

Mr. Cates was employed by the U.S. Forest Service from June 1960 to January 1992 as a professional forester, first in Florida, where he met his future wife. They married in 1966. Mr. Cates was later stationed in Hot Springs, Arkansas, before being transferred to Crockett, Texas, in 1973. In 1980 the family built their home on his share of the old Cates Family Farm. In 1992 Mr. Cates began a new career as a cattle rancher within a mile of where he was born and reared.

Mr. Cates was a member of four genealogical societies: Cherokee County, Texas; Angelina County, Texas; Augusta, Georgia and the Old Edgefield District, South Carolina.

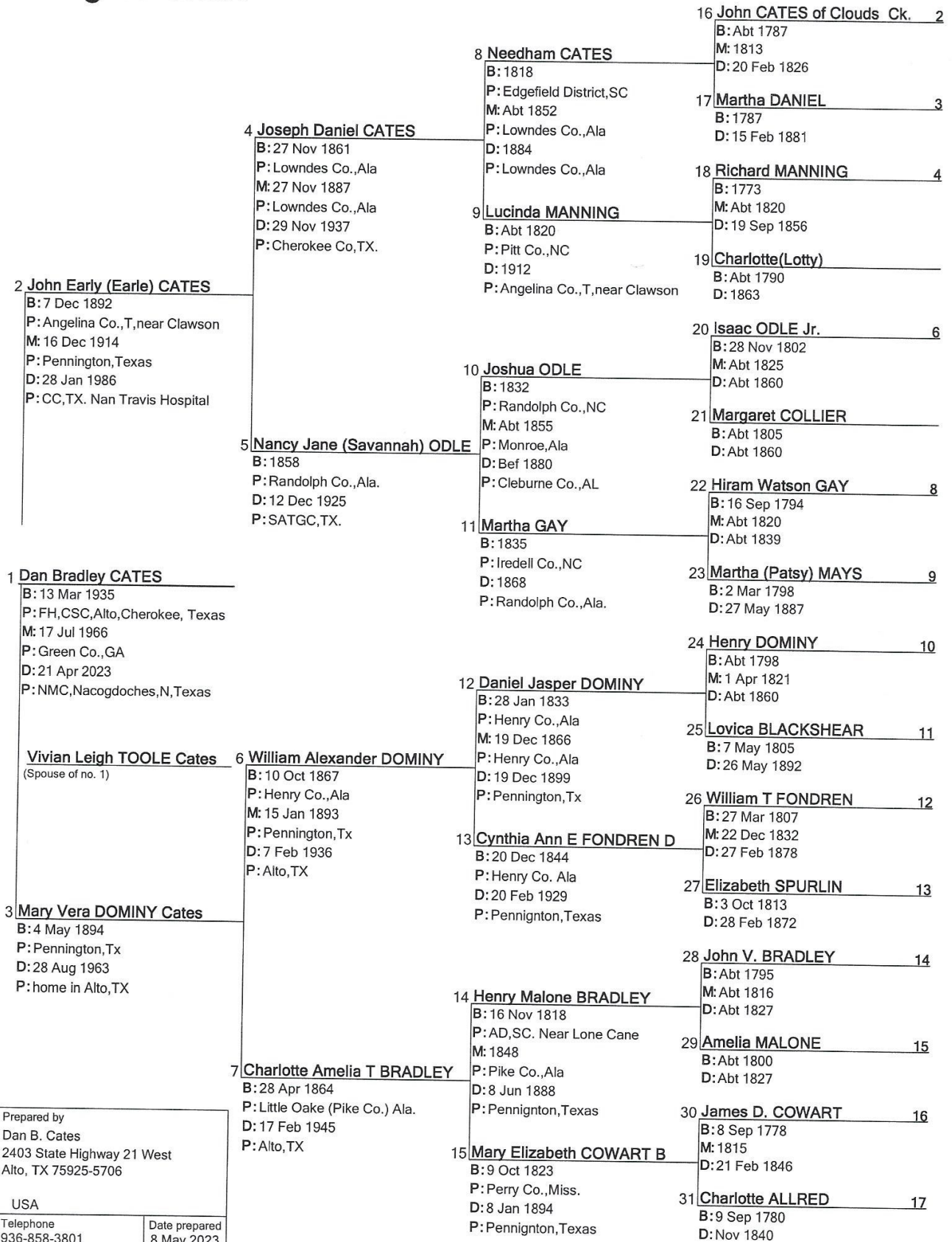
He is preceded in death by his parents, 3 sisters, and 4 brothers. Surviving him are his wife, Vivian Leigh Toole Cates, of Alto and two sons and daughters-in-law all of Santa Fe, Galveston County, Texas, Daniel Toole and Heather Shae Williamson Cates and David Bradley and Leigh Ann Woitena Cates and their son Luke; sister Claire Belle Cates George of Sunnyside, Washington.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Mr. Cates' memory to a special account established by the family at the Cadence Bank in Alto to support 4-H Club and other youth activities in Cherokee county.

Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



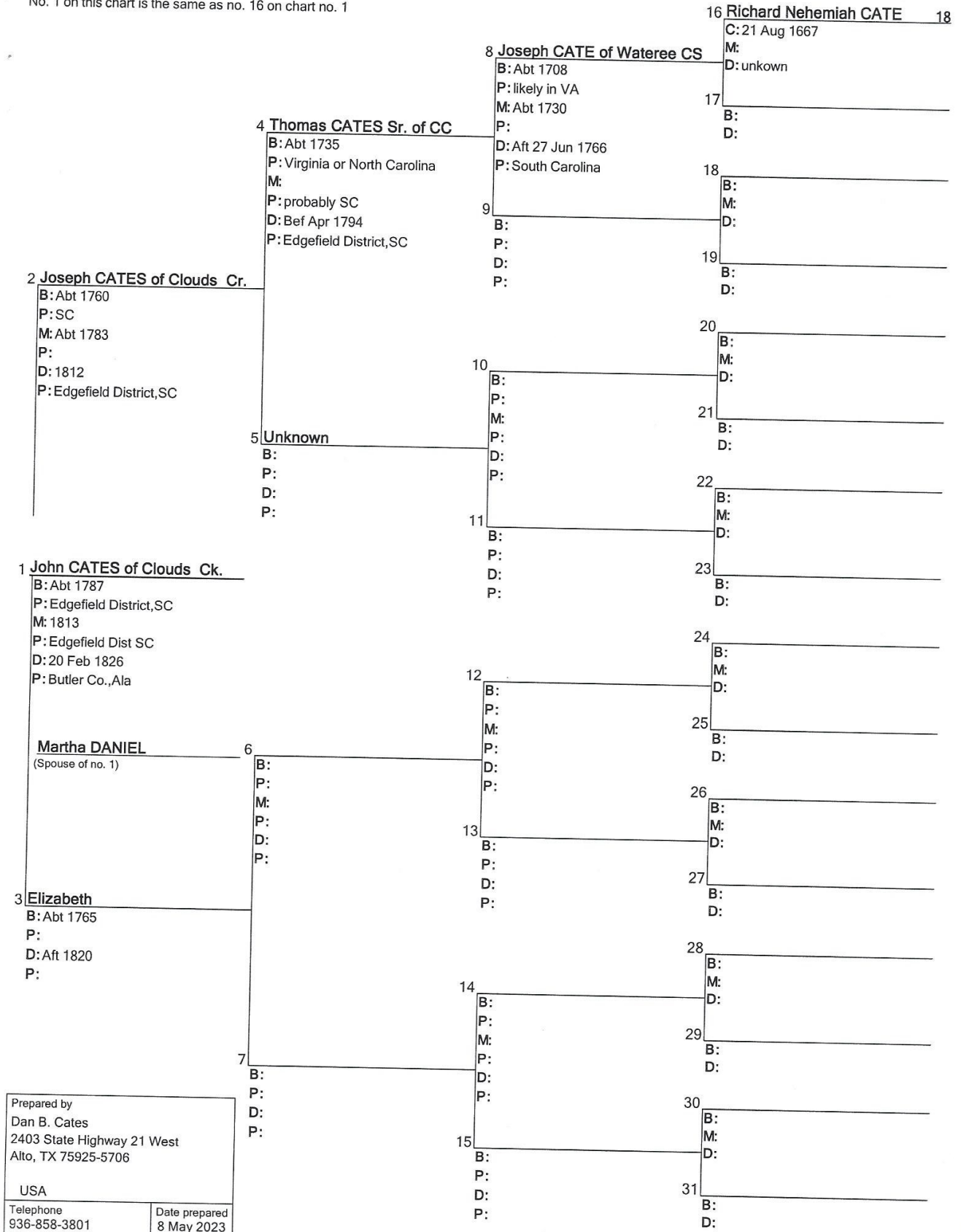
Prepared by Dan B. Cates 2403 State Highway 21 West Alto, TX 75925-5706	
USA	
Telephone 936-858-3801	Date prepared 8 May 2023

Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 2

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 1



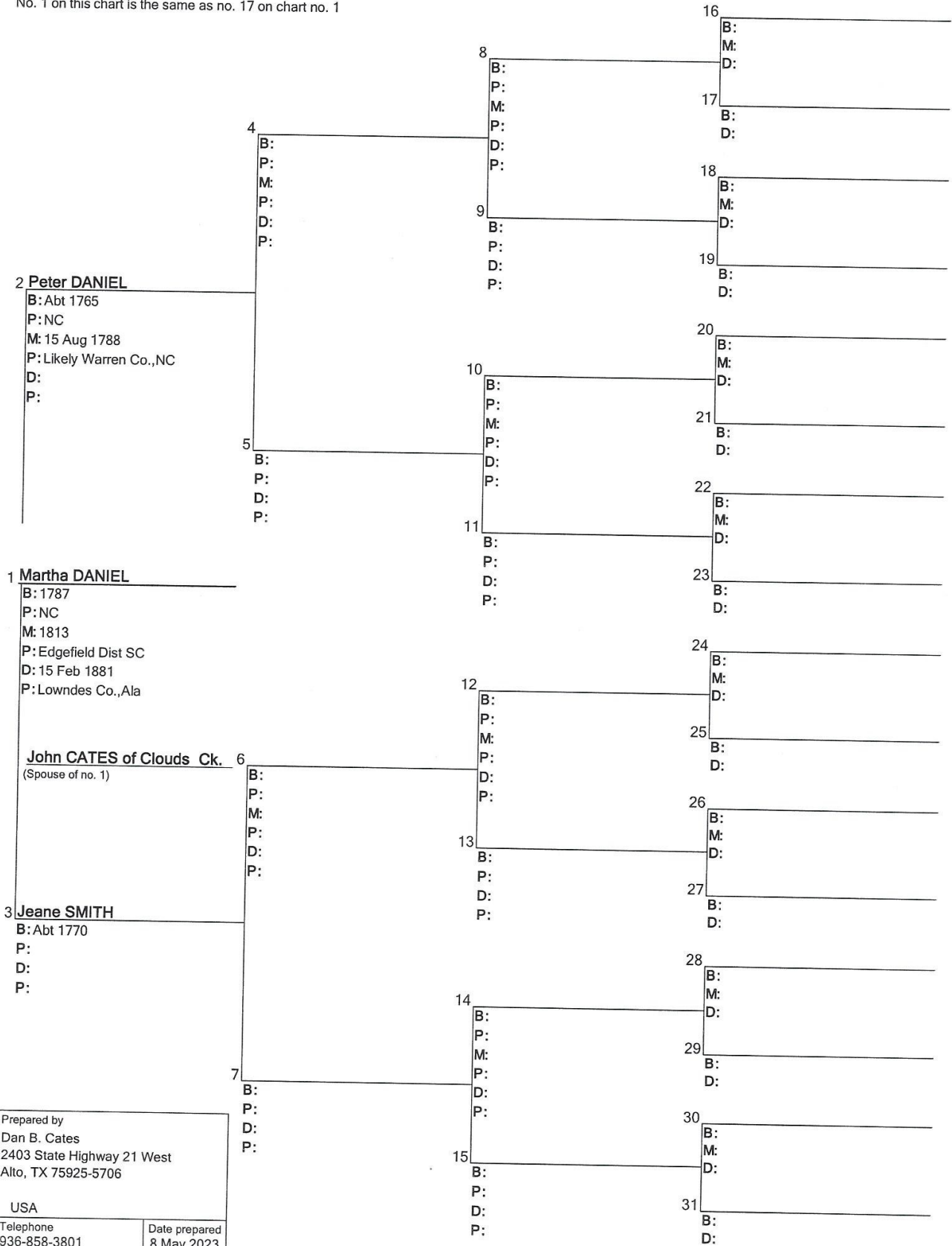
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 3

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 17 on chart no. 1



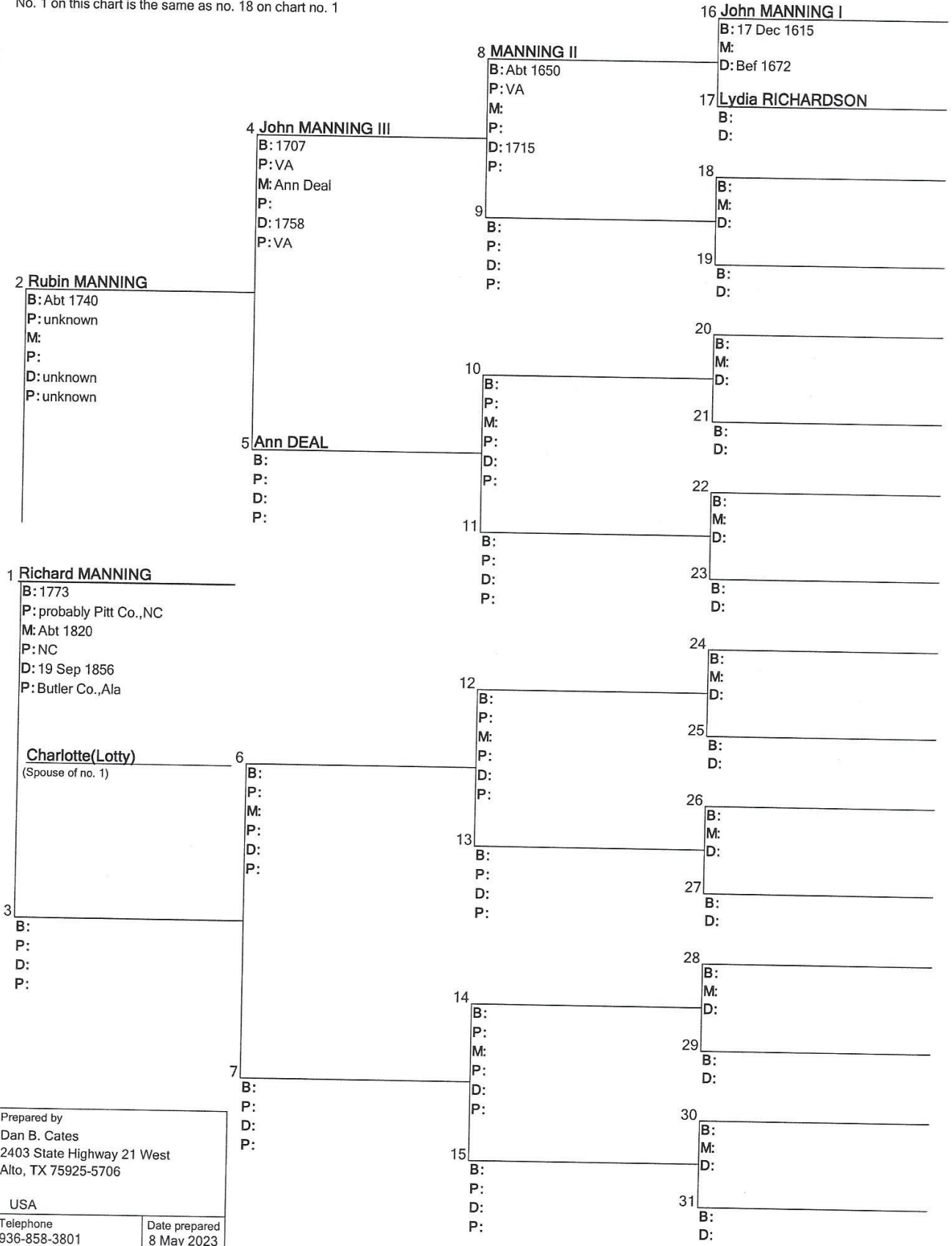
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 4

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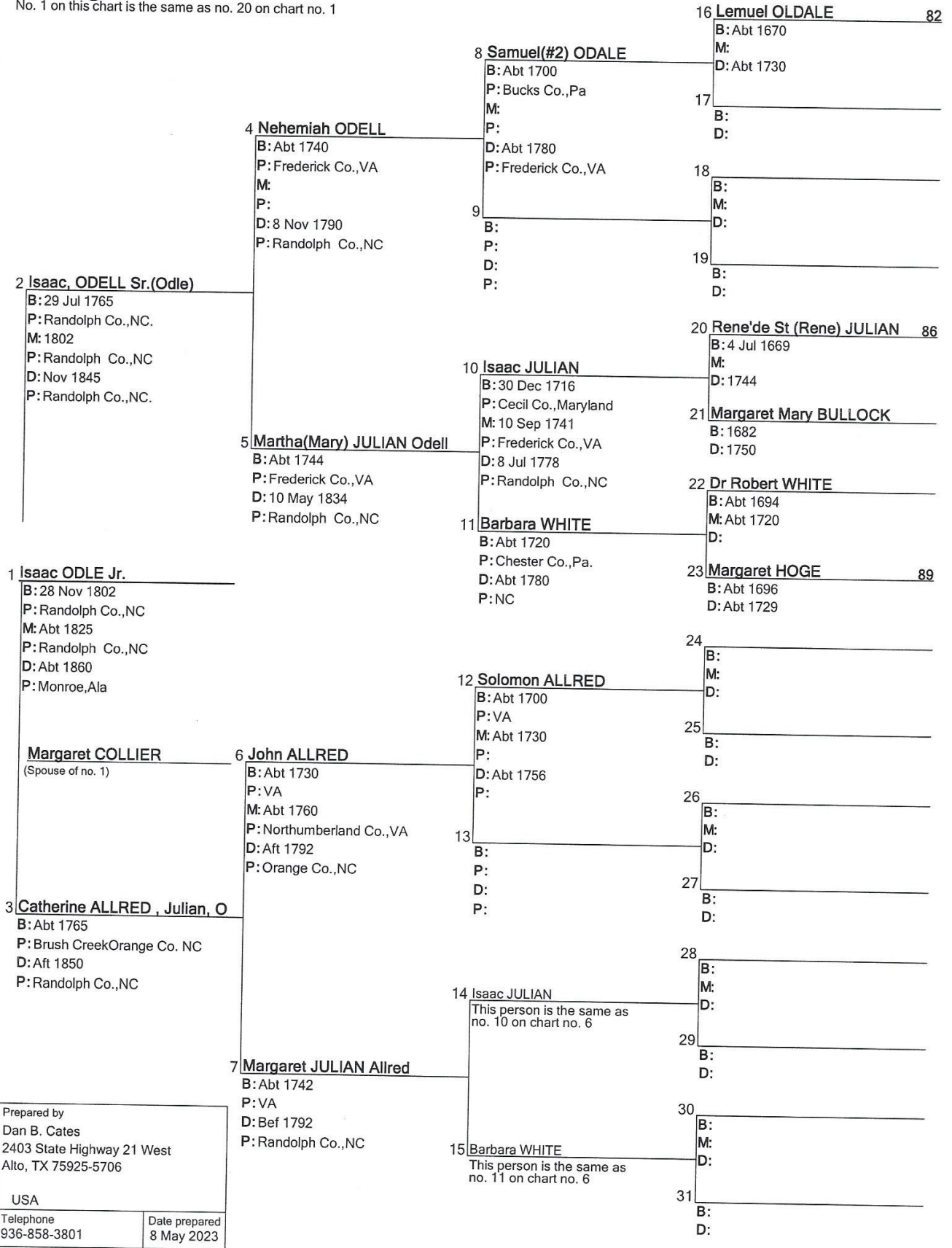
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 6

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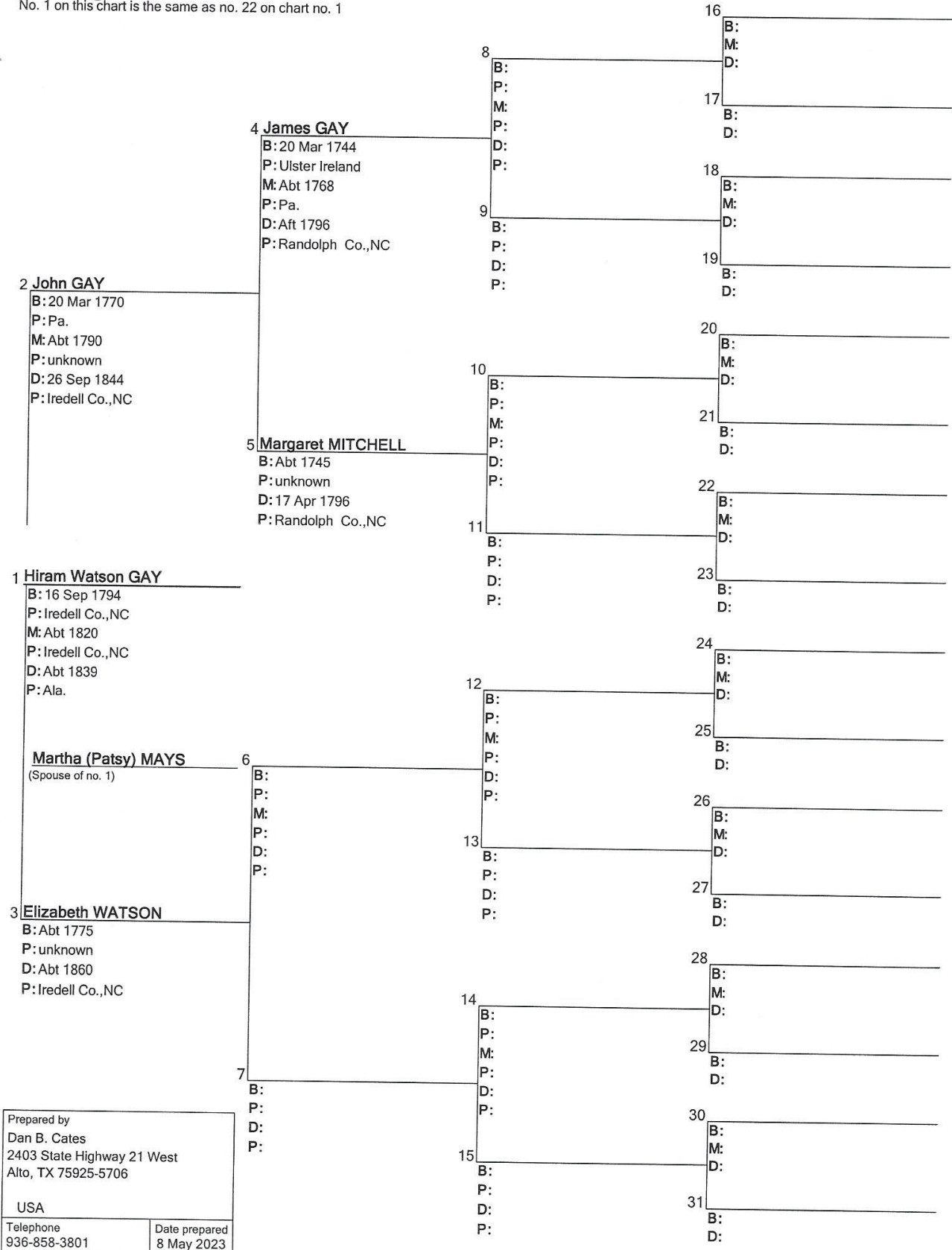
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 8

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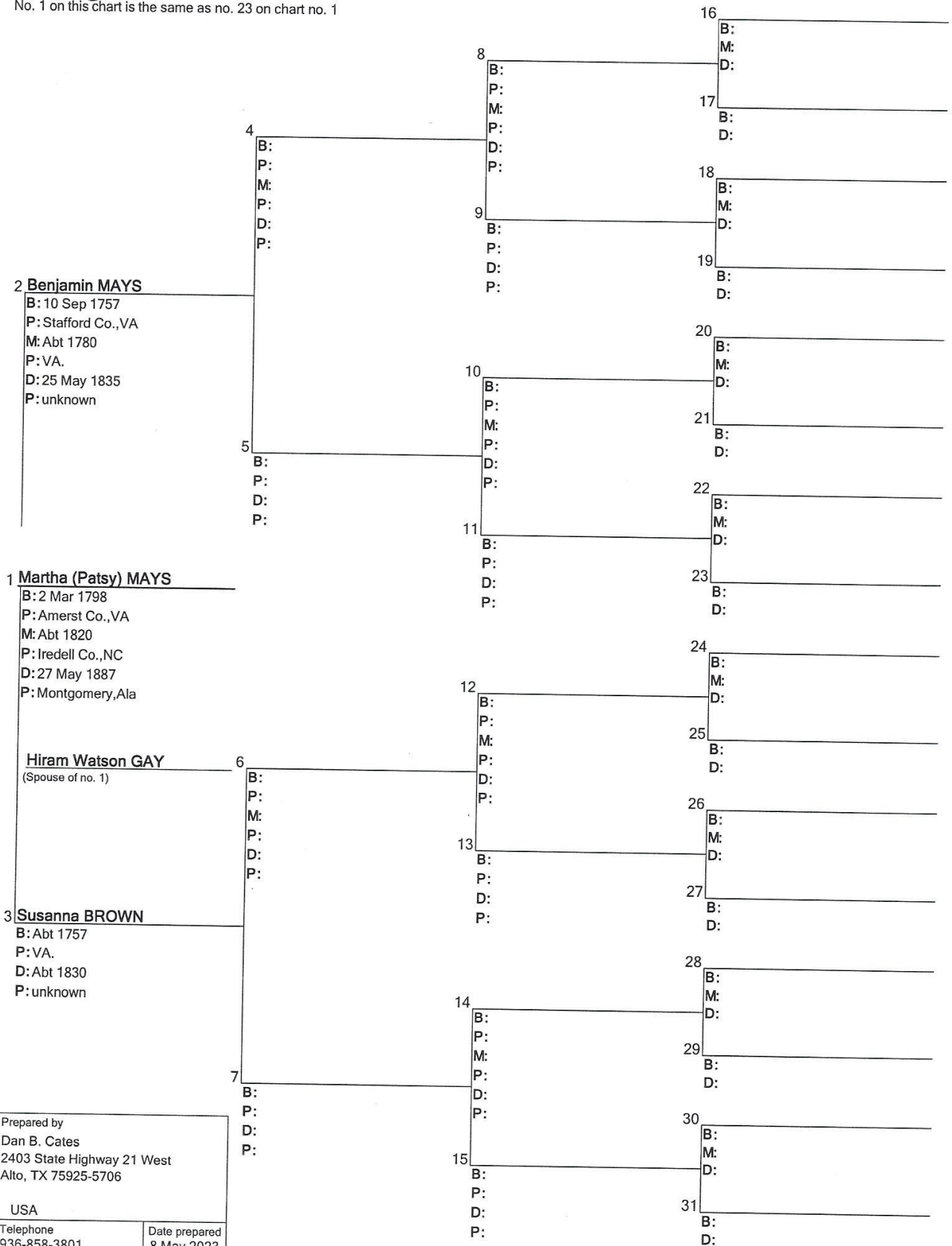
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 9

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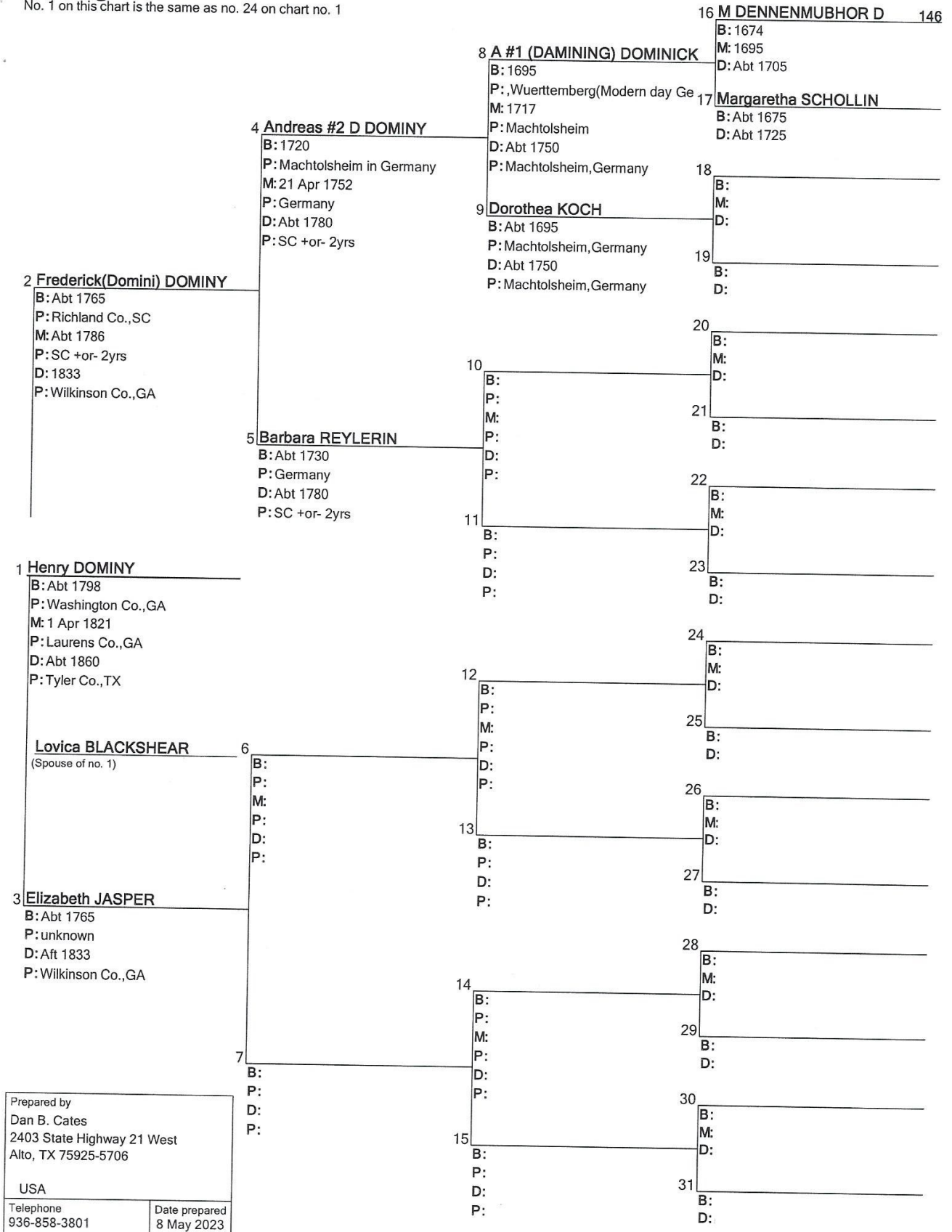
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 10

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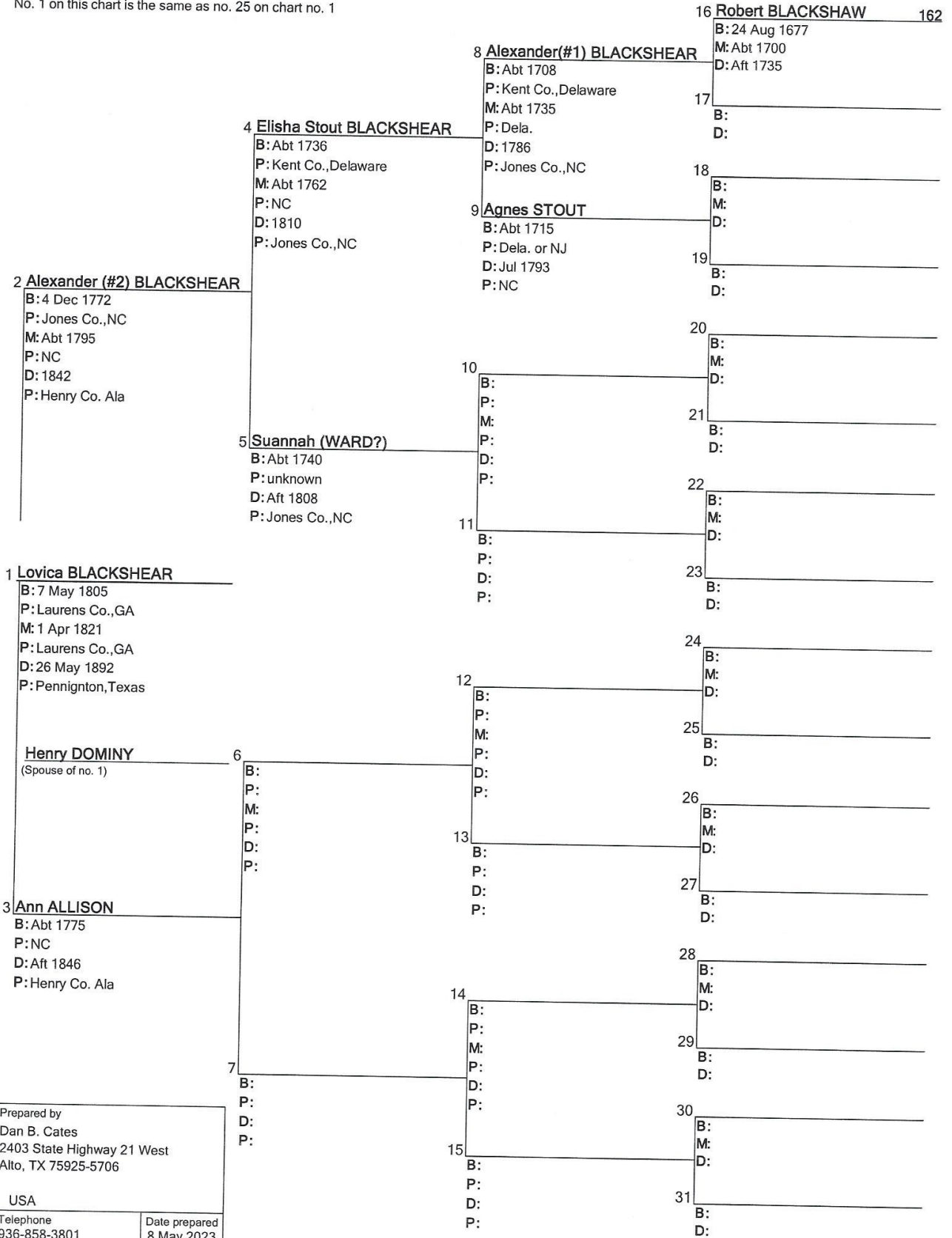
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 2403 State Highway 21 West
 Alto, TX 75925-5706
 USA
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 11

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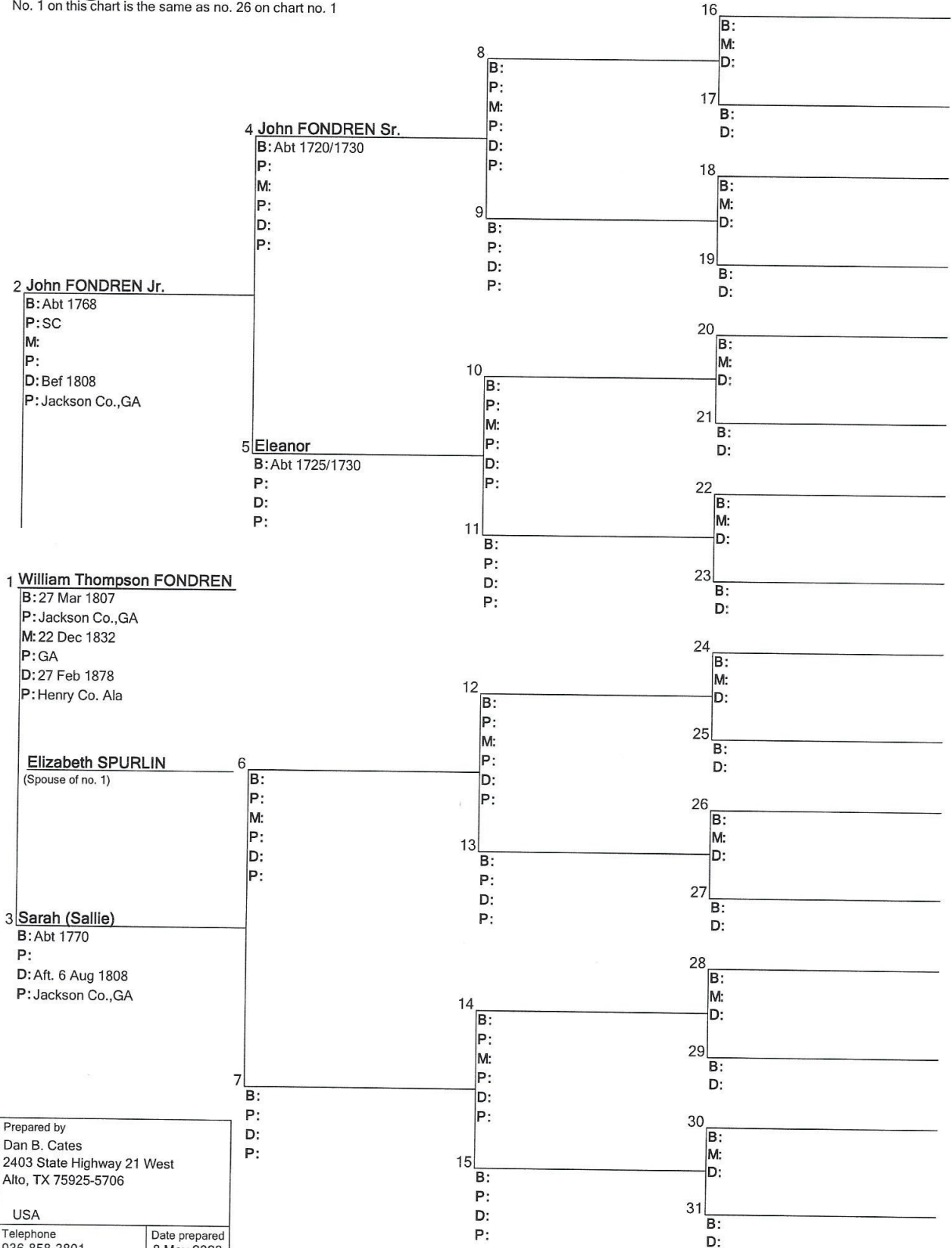
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 12

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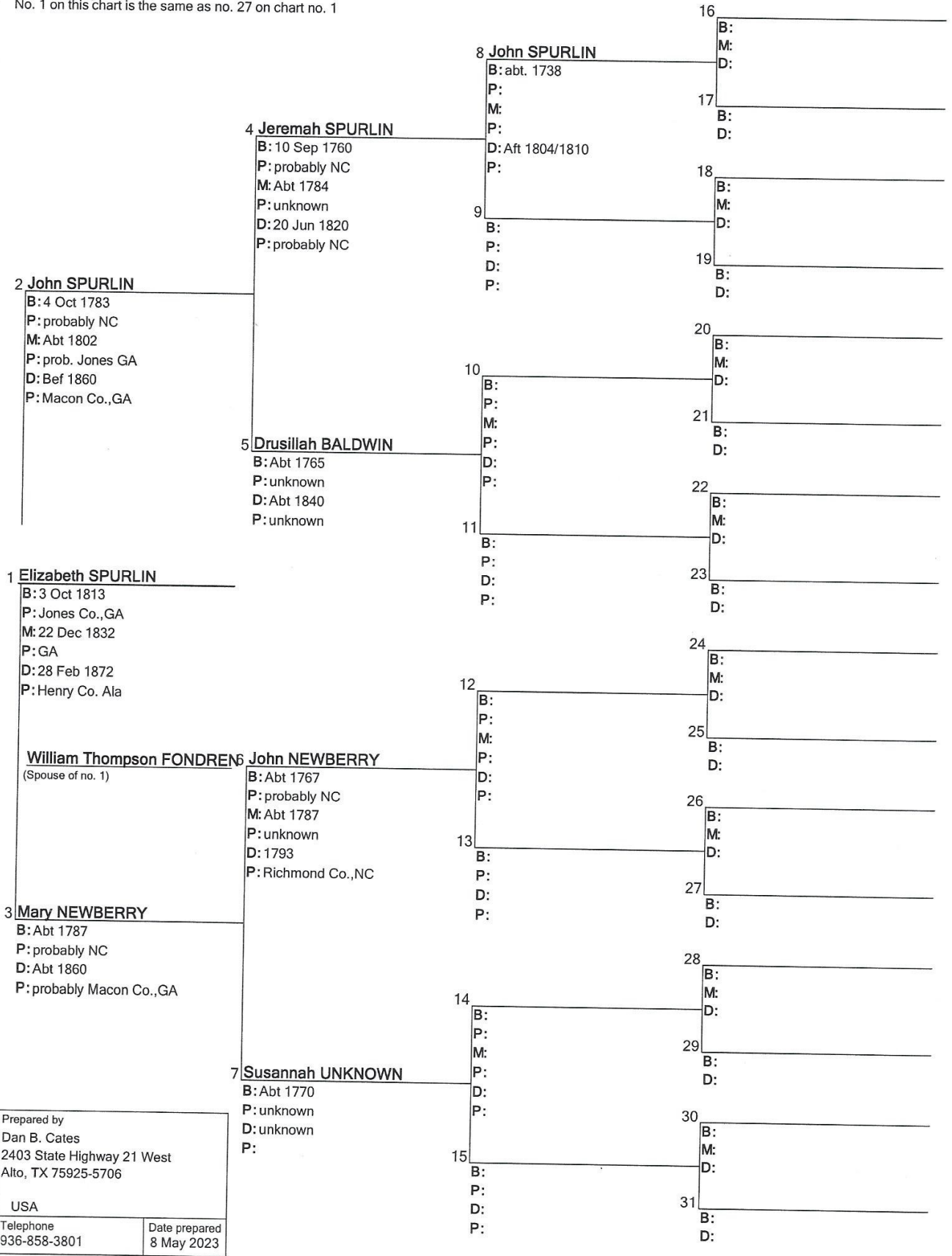
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 13

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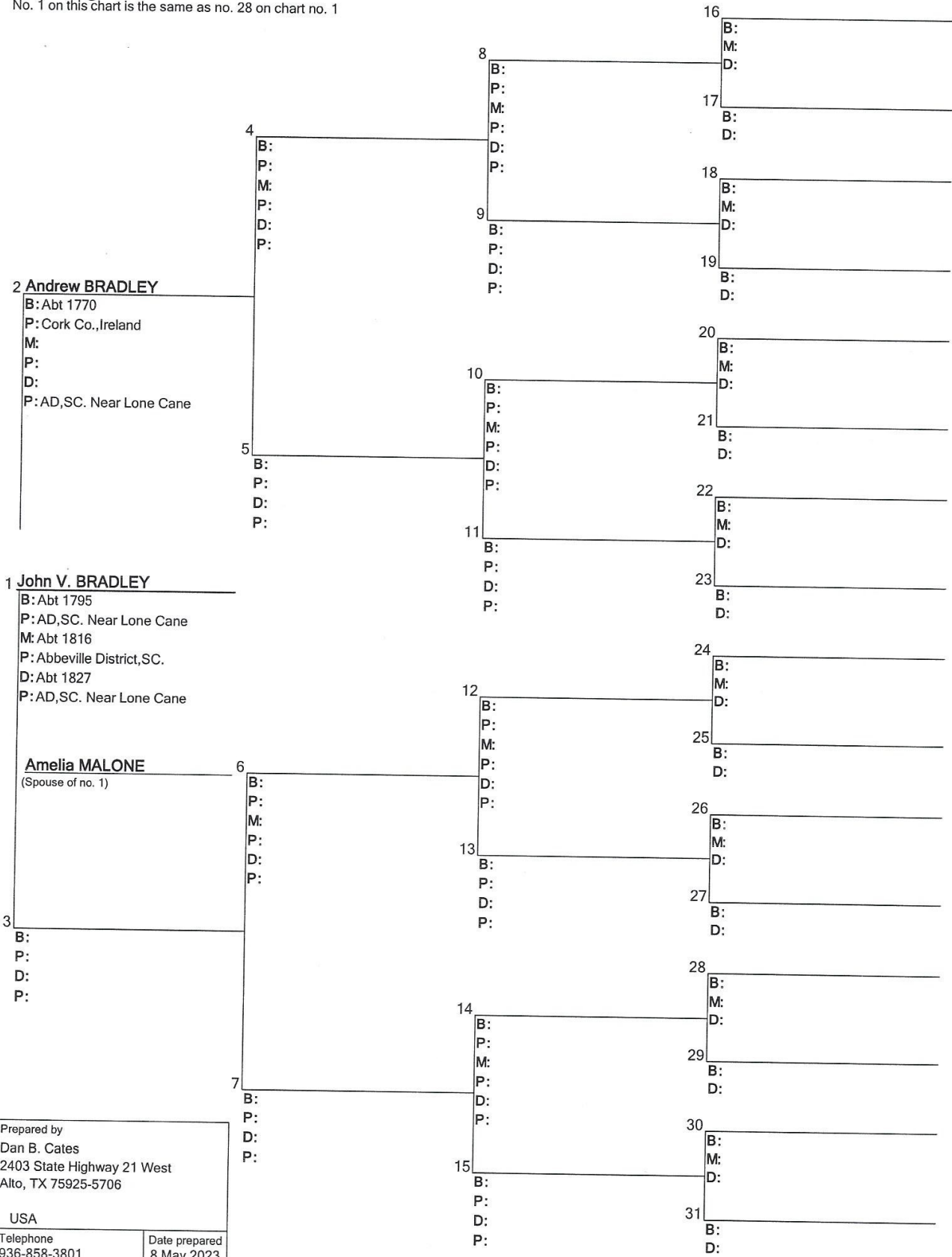
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 14

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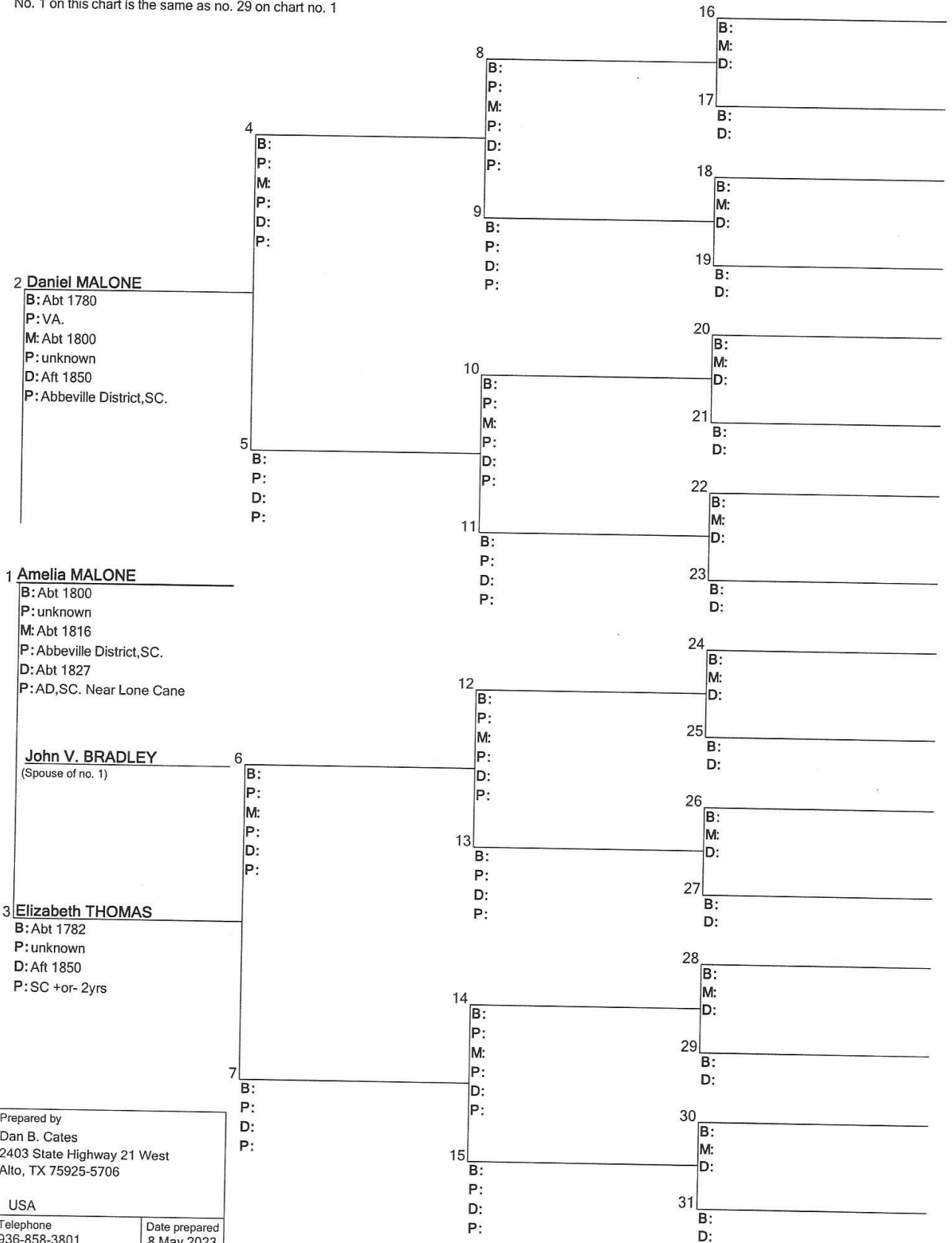
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 15

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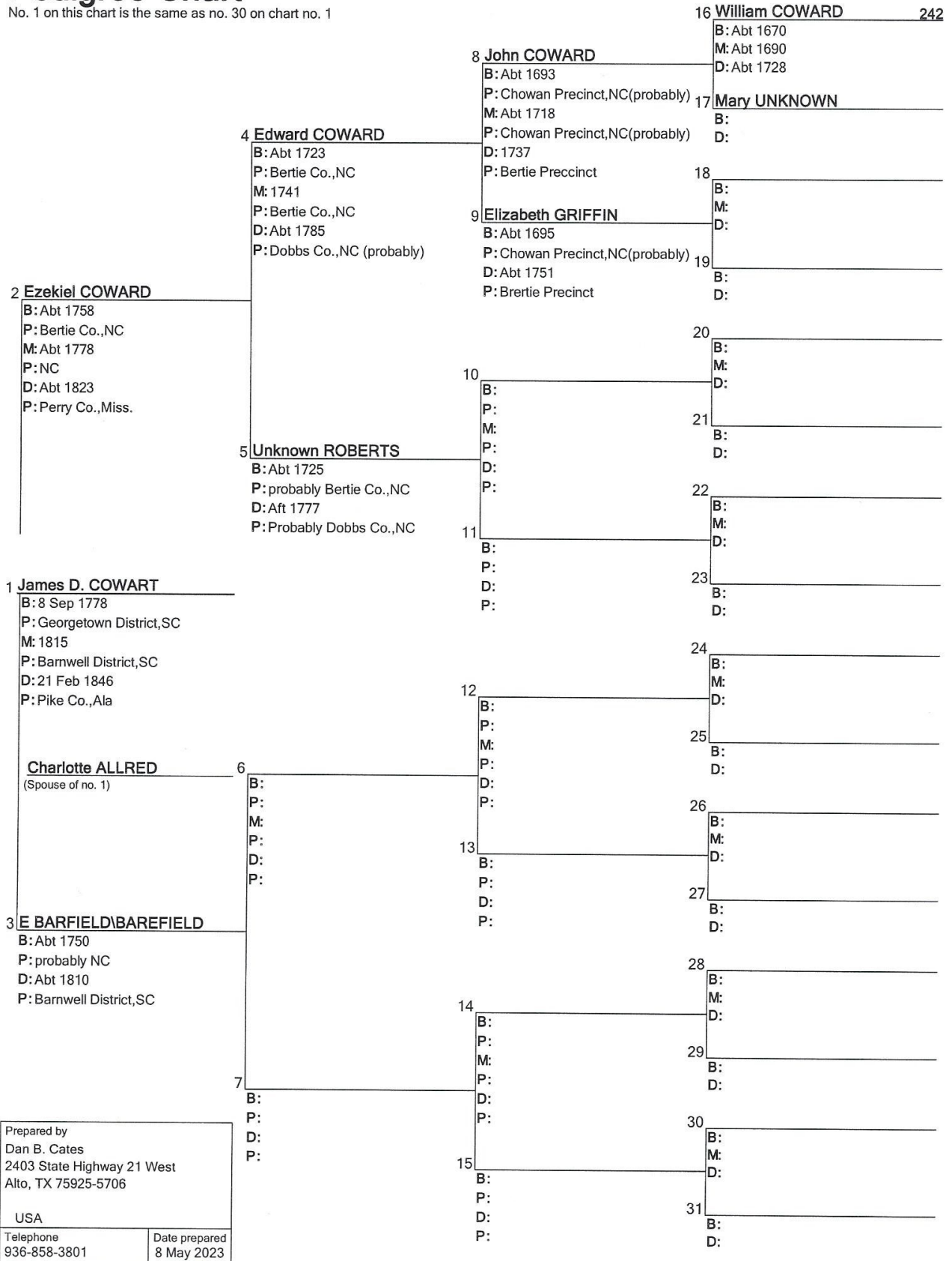
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 16

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 30 on chart no. 1



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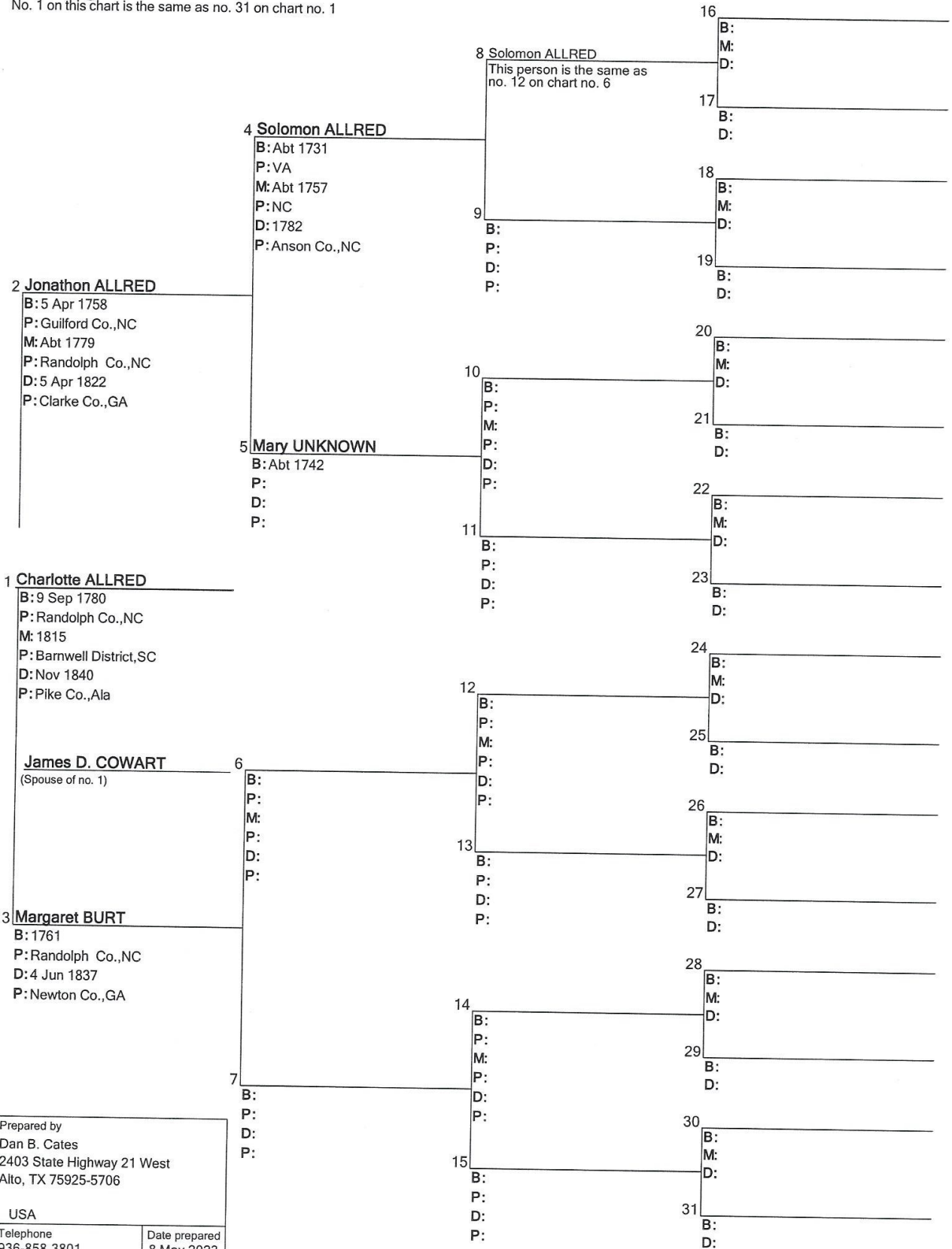
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 17

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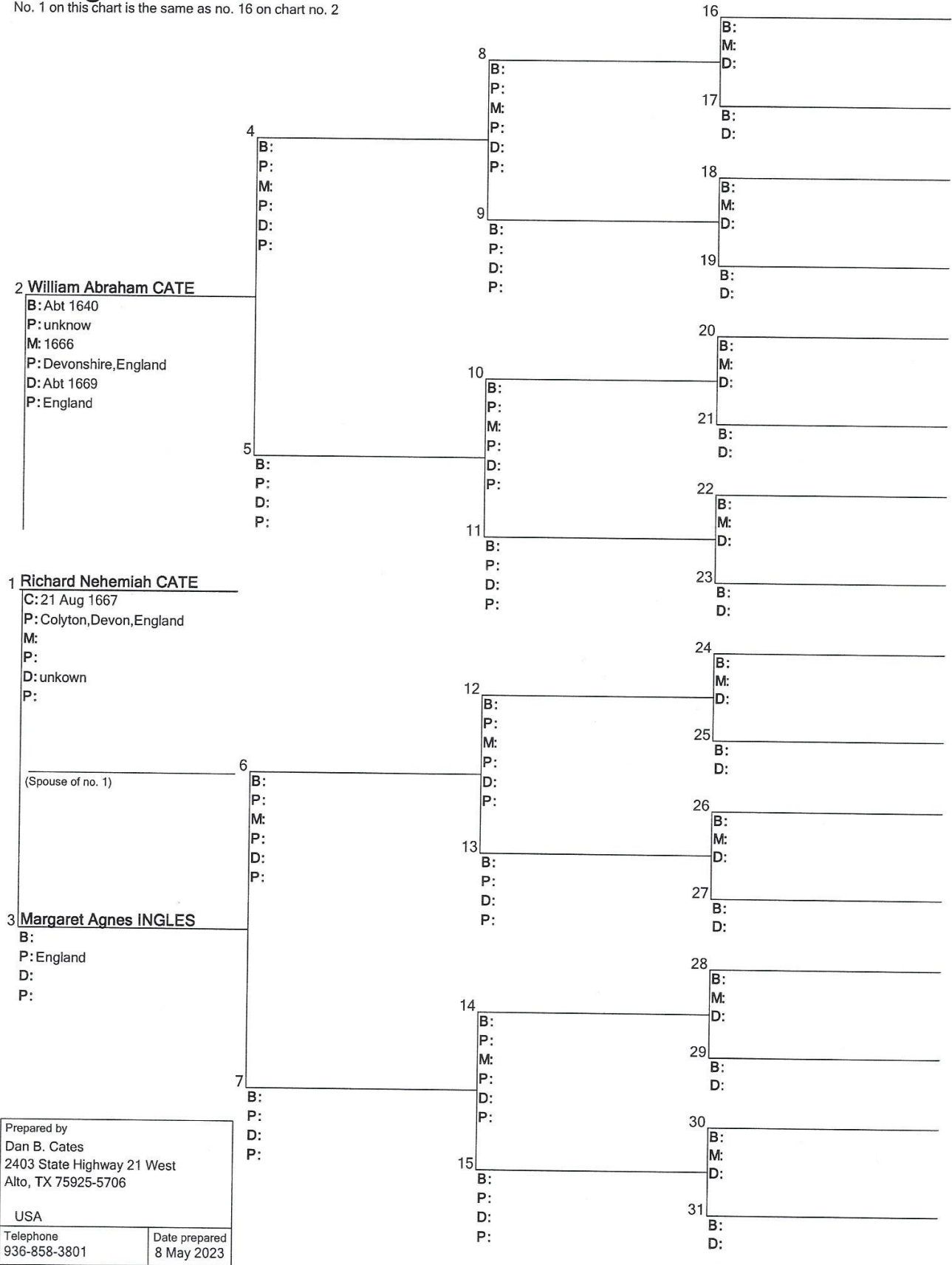


Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 18

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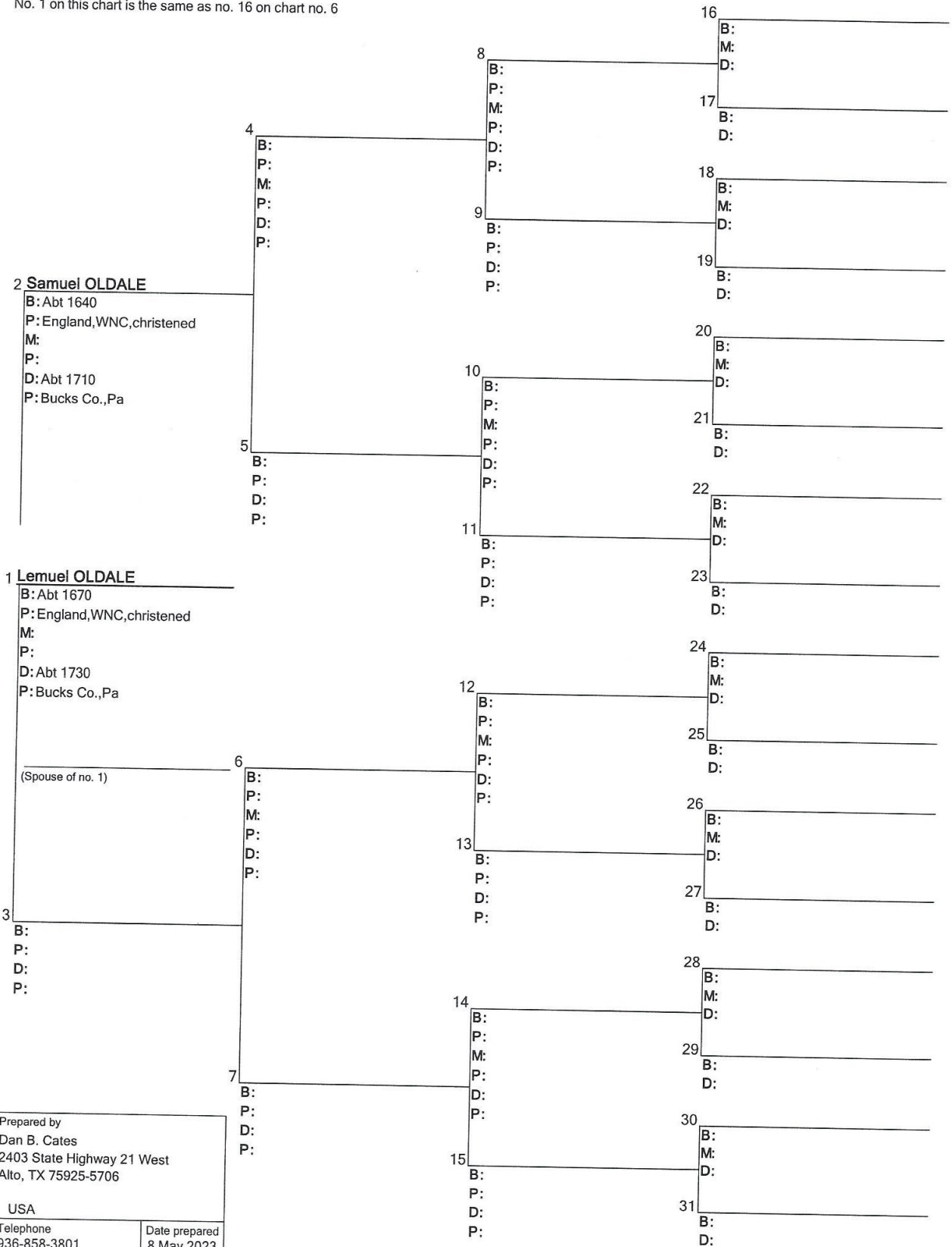
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 82

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 6



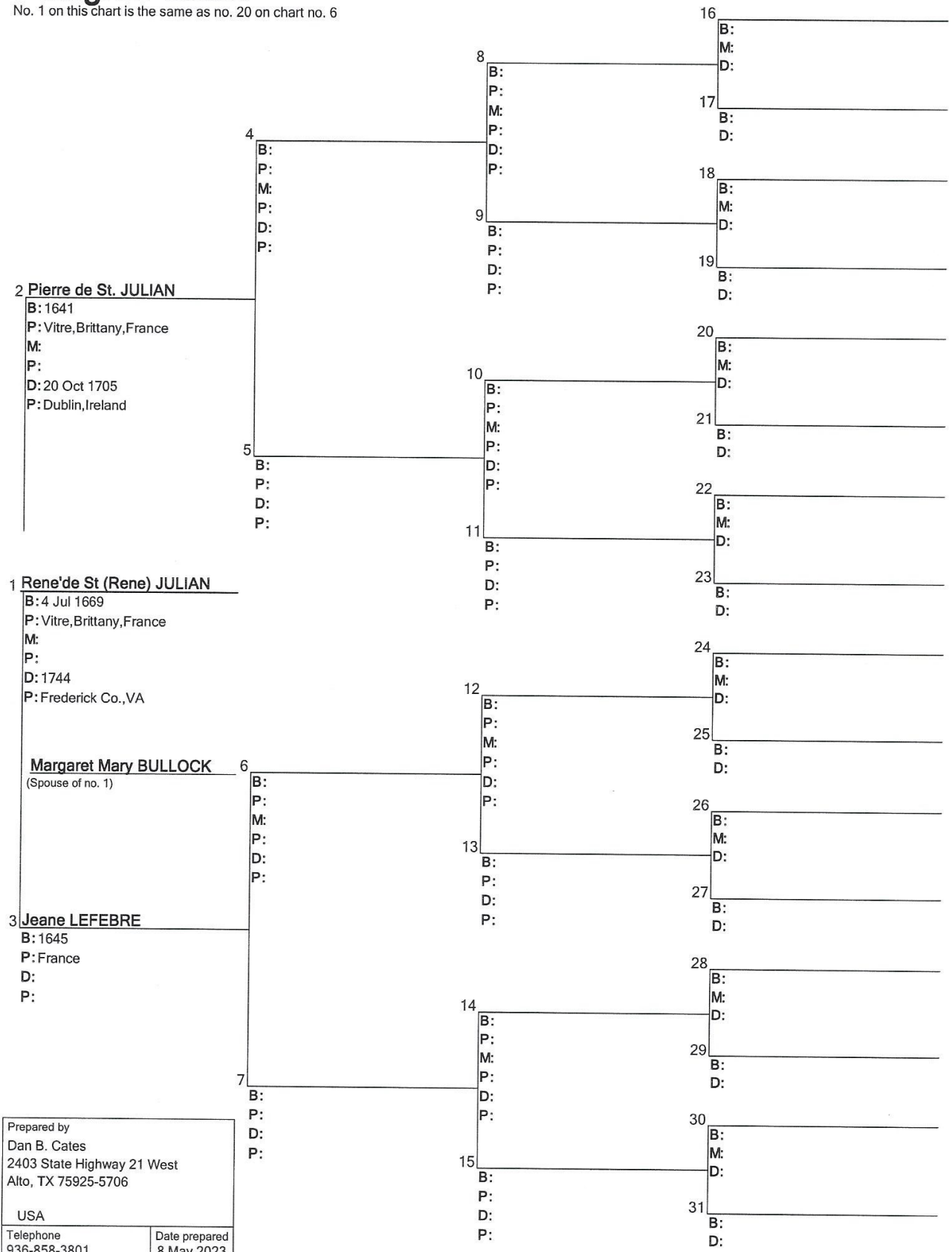
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 86

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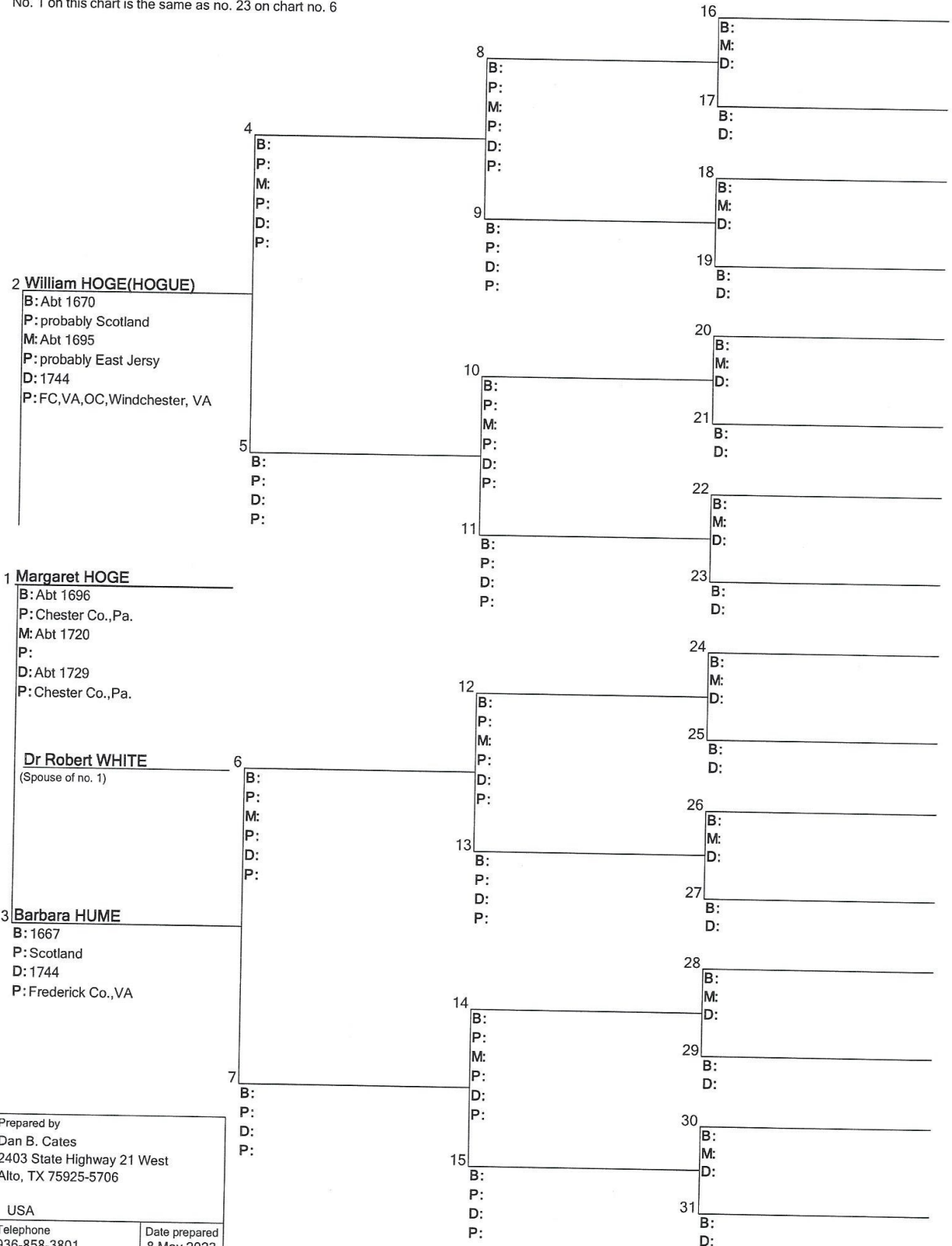
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 89

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 23 on chart no. 6



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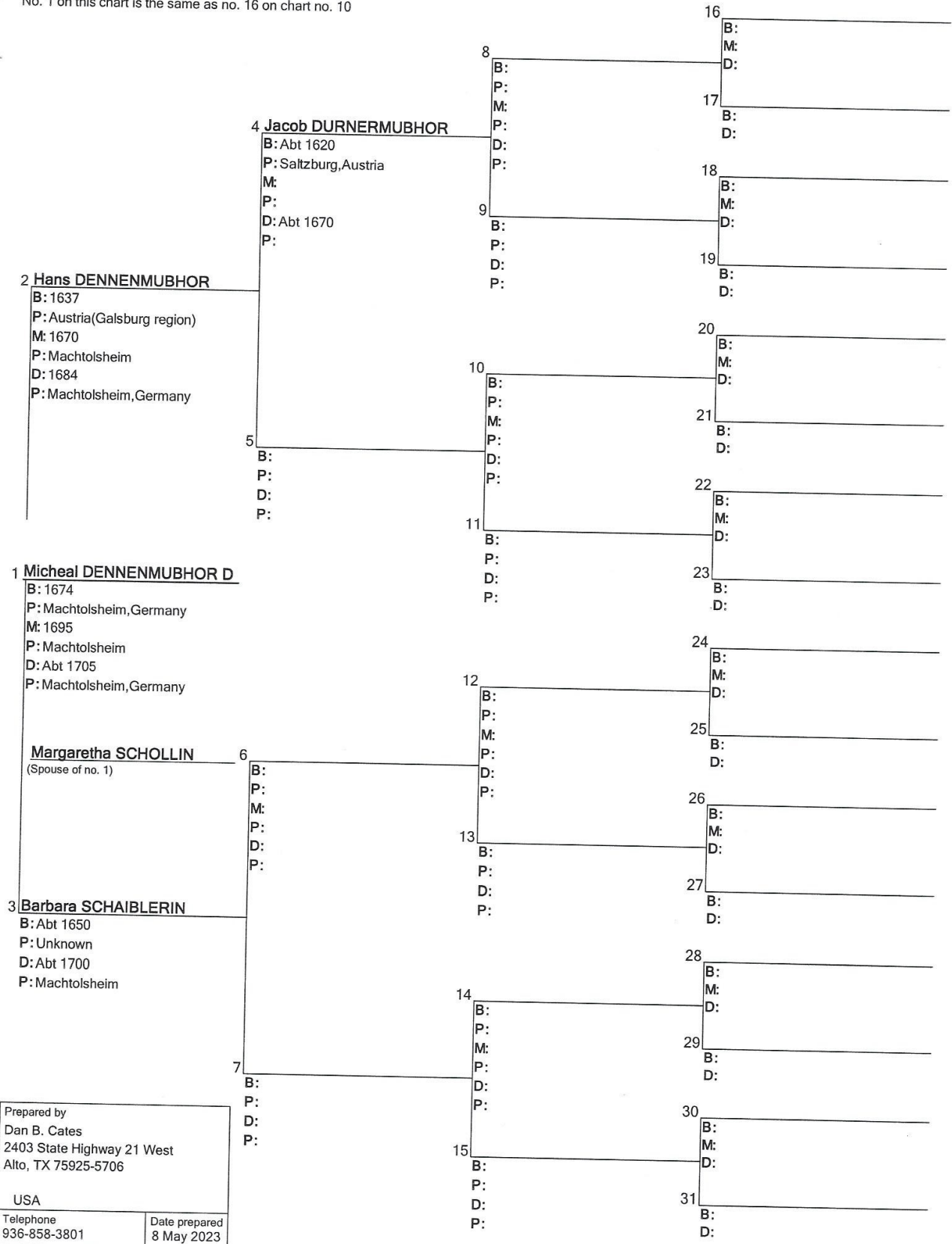
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 146

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 10



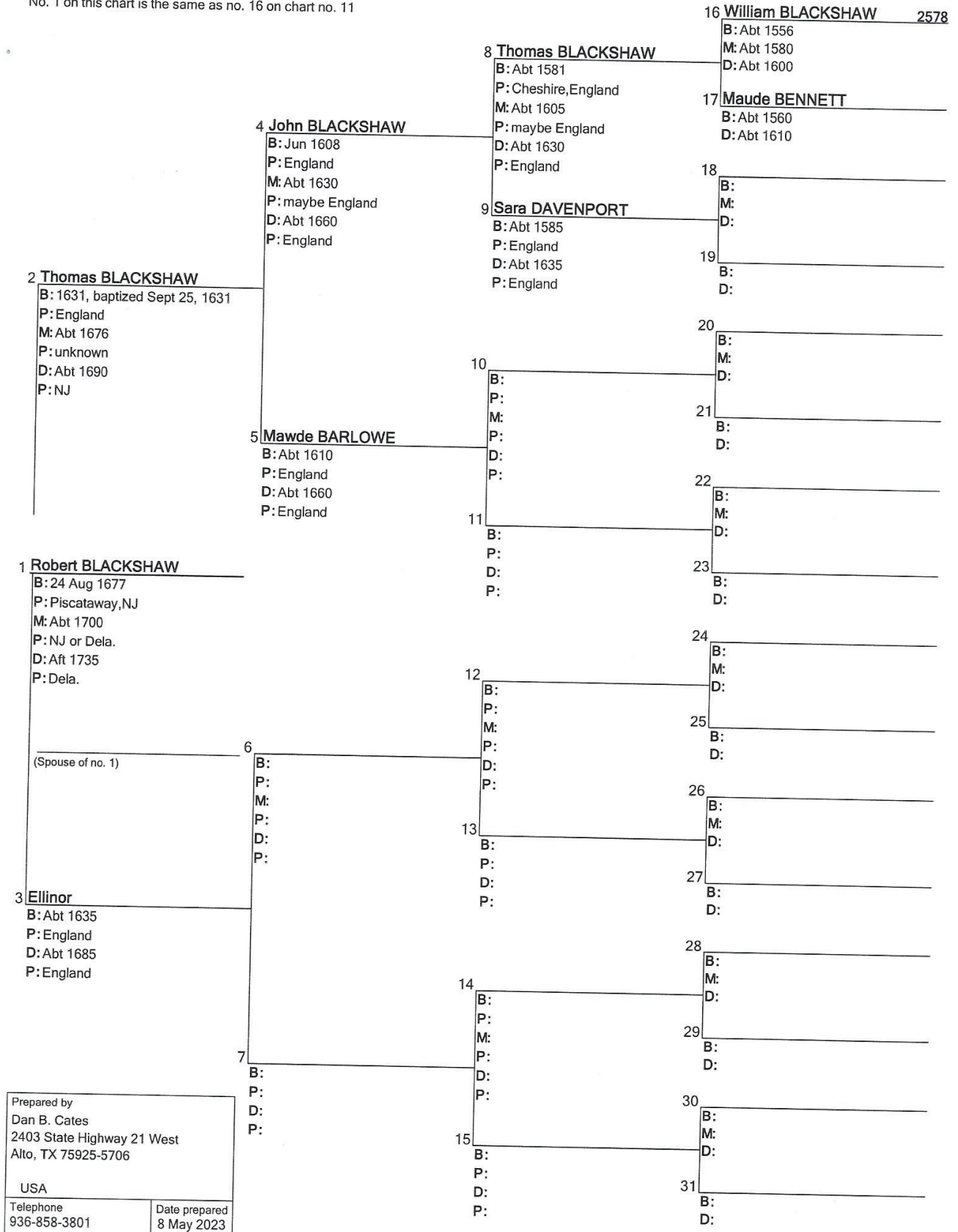
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USA	
Telephone 936-858-3801	Date prepared 8 May 2023

Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 162

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 11

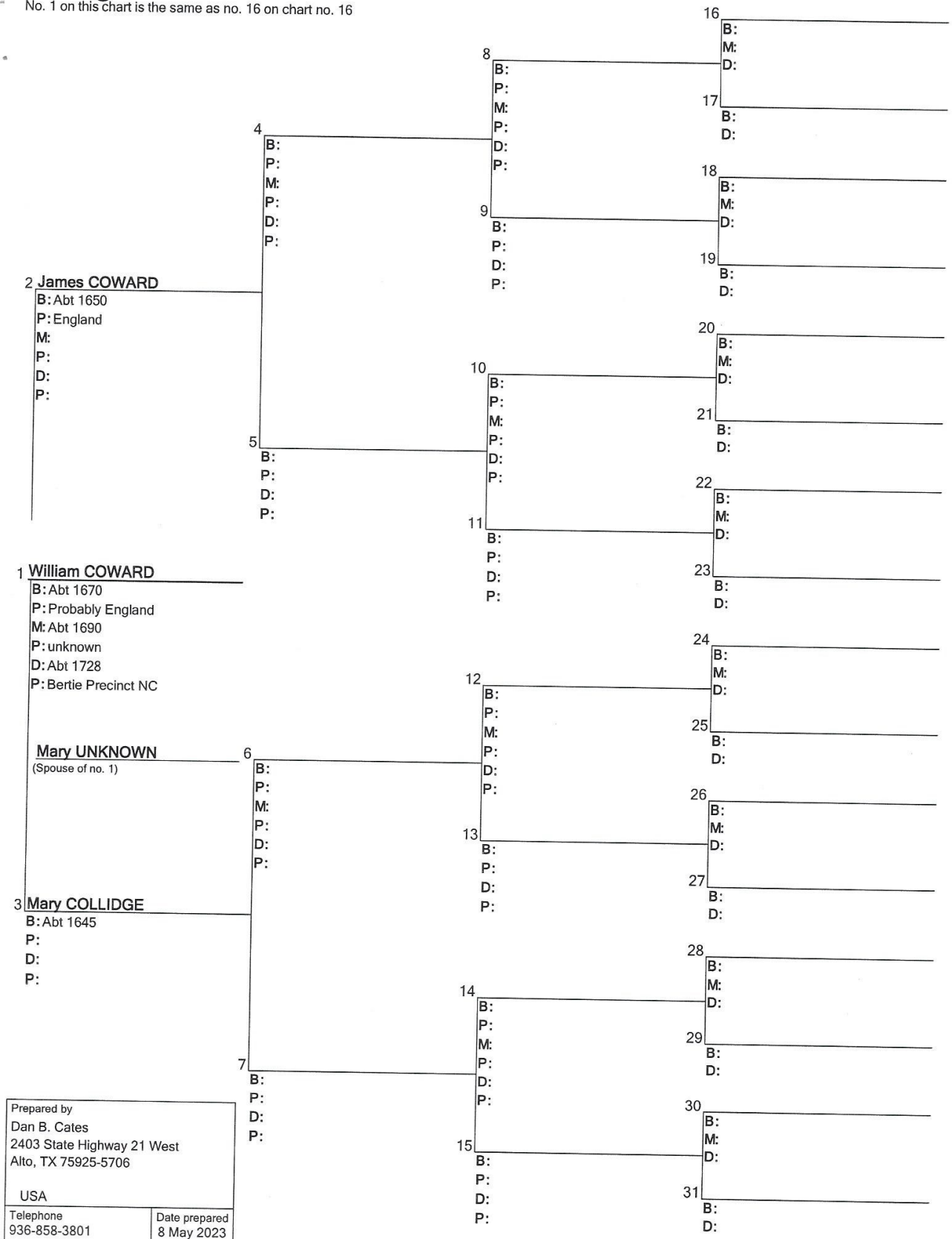


Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 242

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 16



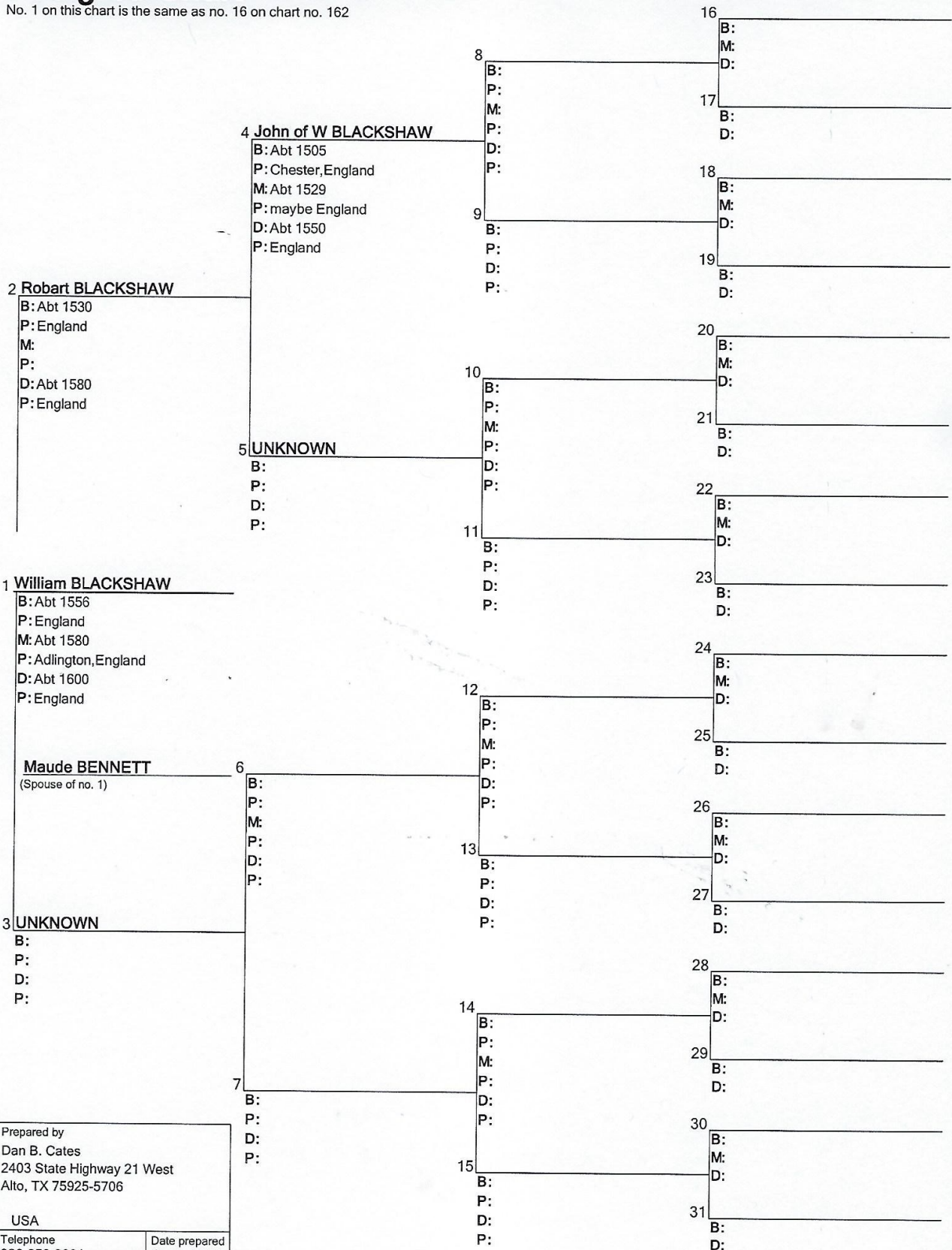
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Dan Bradley Cates Pedigree Chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 2578

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 16 on chart no. 162



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