

THE CHESTNUT TREE



Official Organ of the Pierre Chastain Family Association
organized 31 August 1975
"For Chastain descendants everywhere"

Vol. I No. 1

January 1976

HAPPY NEW YEAR: As we turn the page to 1976 we wish for each of you a happy and prosperous New Year. We want you to know that you, our members, are our most cherished possession and that we look forward to serving you during the coming year.

Our association was organized 31 August 1975 at Dyer, Arkansas. OFFICERS are:

J. E. CHASTAIN, President
1409 Leggett Drive
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J. E. is a son of Joseph Pinckney Chastain and Mary Ida Ibison and a descendant of (Rev.) John Chastain and Mary O'Bryan.

THOMAS V. CREEKMORE, 1st Vice-President
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Tom is a son of Evert Milo Creekmore and Alma Louise Yarbrough and a descendant of (Rev.) John Chastain and Mary O'Bryan.

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Lucille is a daughter of William John Chastain and Nancy Virginia Waters and a descendant of (Rev.) John Chastain and Mary O'Bryan.

GERALDINE BULAND (Mrs. Joe A.), Secretary-Treasurer
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Geraldine is a daughter of Charles Samuel Brown and Eva Carter and a descendant of William and Sara or Sary Chastain.

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Elby F. (Floyd) is a son of Elby Franklin Bowman and Ernestine Belle Wright and a descendant of (Rev.) Rene Chastain, Jr. and Anne Faure or Ford.

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"THE CHESTNUT TREE" This initial issue of "The Chestnut Tree," the official organ of the Chastain Family Association brings to mind the reason for naming our publication as such.

The following is extracted from Cameron Allen's article "The Chastain Families of Manikin Town in Virginia and Their Origin Abroad," as published in "The American Genealogist." (v. 39, No. 3 July 1963, p. 150)

"Chastain is a not uncommon family name in France, with numerous variants in spelling. The standard form is Chataignier which means chestnut (tree). Variants are (in the north) Chatainier, Chatain, Chatin, Chataignon, Chataignoux, Chataigneau, Chatain. There are

numerous regional variations; in the Massif Central: Chastaignier, Chastaing, Chastan, Chastain, Chastang, Chastand, Chastenant, Chastanet; in the Midi: Castain, Castang, Cas- aing, Castagnier, Castagnie. The name derives either from the tree, or from the color of the chestnut itself, in an attempt to describe the hair color of the first bearers of the surname, to differentiate these individuals from persons of the same neighborhood of identical font names. (Albert Dauzat, Dictionnaire Etymologique des Noms de Famille et Prenoms de France. 2d edition revisee, Paris, 1949, pp. 148, 185; Dauzat, Les Noms de Personnes: Origine et Evolution, Paris, 1946, p. 95). While the noun chataignier is the word in common use in standard French for chestnut tree, the word chatain is the standard French form, either as adjective or noun, to mean chestnut color, nut-brown, or auburn (Gasc's Dictionary of the French and English Languages, London, 1941). Rietstap's Armorial General gives illustrations of a number of coats-of-arms borne by families of these several variants in widely scattered parts of France, the device most typically found thereon being not unnaturally a chestnut tree."

From the above it can be seen that the name "Chastain" literally means "chestnut" or "chestnut tree." Therefore we feel it is appropriate to name our publication, "The Chestnut Tree," for, in a very real sense, it is our "Family Tree."

We plan on publishing "The Chestnut Tree," quarterly - in January, April, July and October.

OUR THANKS go to Jon Williams for the design and art work of the heading of our publication. Jon is not a Chastain descendant, but perhaps we should make him an "honorary" Chastain.

The Pierre Chastain Family Association welcomes all Chastain descendants and invite them to join our organization and receive our quarterly publication, "The Chestnut Tree." Membership fees are \$5.00 annually, payable upon joining and renewable on or before the date of our annual reunion. Our annual reunion is scheduled for the Sunday before Labor Day each year. All members will receive "The Chestnut Tree," of which this is the first issue. For information and membership application write our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joe A. Buland.

Kith and Kin

HELP US to complete our membership files. Members who have not returned their membership applications please do so as soon as possible. Return to our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joe A. Buland.

CONTRIBUTIONS welcome. It takes money for postage, printing and stationery, as well as for genealogical research. Your contributions will be used for a good cause - that of furthering the aims of our association as governed by our constitution and by-laws.

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MEMBERSHIP in the Pierre Chastain Family Association. Dues \$5.00 annually. Anyone desiring to join our association send for membership information and application to our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joe A. Buland.

If you could see your Ancestors,
All standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them or not,
or don't you really know?
Some strange discoveries are made
in climbing family trees.
And some of them, you know,
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors,
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them, perhaps
you wouldn't care to know.

But here's another question,
which requires another view.

If you could meet your ancestors
would they be proud of you?"

Extracted from "The Descendants of
Joseph Carter and Magdalene Chastain."
John Amos Dimitt

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"Pierre Chastain sa femme et cinq enfants.
Estienne Chastain (apparently a single man at that time).
Quintin Chastatain)apparently a single man).
Pierre Chatanier, sa femme et son pere."

In speaking of Quintin Chastatain, he states that no further records appear; and surmises that Pierre Chatanier is the one who is probably called Chalanier on the Miller's List of February 1700/1. (VHS, Collections, 5:27) and Chalagenie on William Byrd's list of November 1701 (ibid, 5:46). He further states that it appears he did not remain in Manikin Town very long, that he possibly migrated to the Trent River settlement of the Huguenots in Craven Precinct, North Carolina and appears to have died without leaving any male issue.

That leaves Pierre and Estienne or Stephen. He brings out that it is very unlikely that Pierre and Estienne were related inasmuch as they came from widely separated parts of France; Pierre from Charost in the ancient Province of Berri and Estienne from Vesc in the Province of Dauphine, about 150 miles to the southeast.

Estienne appears to have been single upon his arrival in America. He married (1) Martha _____ ca. 1701, who died December 24, 1725, aged 52 or 53 years. No issue: He married (2) ca. 1726, Marthe Dupuy, daughter of Bartholomew Dupuy. Issue:

1. Marie Magdelaine Chastain, b. 23 August 1727.
2. _____ Chastain (a boy), b. 3 Nov. 1728; died before January 1732/3.
3. Estienne Chastain, b. 1 March 1729/30; died before January 1732/3.

Marie Magdelaine Chastain, b. 23 Aug..1727 married (1) James Cocke, son of Powell Cocke and Martha Herbert. She married (2) Peter Farrarr. She had issue by both marriages.

From the foregoing account, it can readily be seen that Estienne or Stephen Chastain left no male issue. This brings us to Pierre Chastain, our common ancestor, and the one for whom our association is named. Pierre Chastain, sa femme et cinq enfants embarked on the ship "Mary and Ann." on 19 April 1700, and arrived at the mouth of the James River on 23 July 1700. (VHS Collections, n.s. v. 6: pp. 65-67).

His first wife, whose name is unknown to us, but who is said to have been Marie Magdalene de la Rochefaucald, and who accompanied him across the Atlantic, apparently died during the first winter after arrival. It also appears that several of Pierre Chastain's children died shortly after their arrival in Manikin Town.

Pierre Chastain married (2) Anne Soblet, b. ca. 1684, daughter of Abraham Soblet and Susanne Brian. The register of King William Parish verifies this, for, "on 3 April 1723, died Anne Soblet the _____ sieur Pierre Chastain, aged about _____ years; was buried the 4th of the month." (Register of King William Parish, VHS Collections n.s. 5: 110). Cameron Allen says, of the above, "to achieve the identity suggested above it is necessary to supply in the blanks "the wife of." Unaided by other references it would be just as possible to supply alternatively, "the daughter of" and thus make her wife of one of the young Soblets. However the death register also gives this reference: "the 12th of January 1722 (1723), died Janne Chastain, daughter of _____ sieur Chastain and Anne Chastain, her father and mother, aged about 6 years, was buried the 13th of the month, on Sunday, at three o'clock in the afternoon." This presumably refers to the same Anne and makes her wife to Pierre Chastain, hence born a Soblet."