

THE CHESTNUT TREE



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 "For Chastain descendants everywhere"

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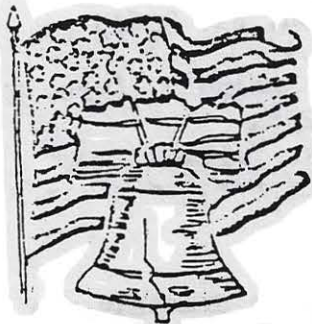
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OUR NATION 1776-1976



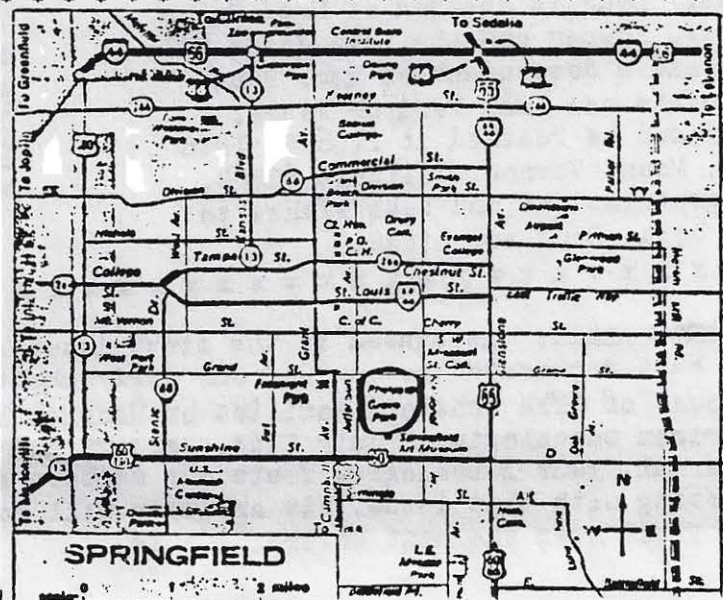
GOD BLESS AMERICA

FORMULA FOR A STRONG NATION

I know three things must always be
 To keep a nation strong and free.
 One is a hearthstone bright and dear.
 With busy, happy loved ones near.
 One is a ready heart and hand
 To love, and serve, and keep the land.
 One is a worn and beaten way
 To where the people go to pray.
 So long as these are kept alive
 Nation and people will survive.
 God, keep them always, everywhere
 The home, the heart, the place of prayer.
 Author Unknown

FIRST ANNUAL REUNION SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 5 Sep. 1976

Our first annual reunion will be held in Springfield, Missouri on 5 Sep. 1976 at PHELPS GROVE PARK. Time: 10:00 a.m. Bring a picnic basket or box lunch. All Chastain descendants are welcome. Come prepared for a day of fellowshiping. Let's all get acquainted. Will you come? Please complete the coupon on page 7 and return to our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joe A. Buland. Tony CHESTNUT sez y'all come.



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, Châtaignoux, Chataigneau, Châtain. There are numerous regional variations: in the Massif Central: Chastaignier, Chastaign, Chastan, Chastain, Chastang, Chastand, Chastenet, Chastanet; in the Midi: Castain, Castang, Castaing, Castagnier, Castagnié. 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 patronal font names. [Albert Dauzat, Dictionnaire Etymologique des Noms de Famille et Prénoms de France, Paris 1951, p. 115; Dauzat, Les Noms de Famille de France, 2d édition révisée, Paris, 1949, pp. 148, 185; Dauzat, Les Noms de Personnes: Origine et Evolution, Paris 1946, p. 95.] While the noun châtaignier 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 Général 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.

With such a wide geographical diffusion of the name, it is not a cause for surprise to find that there were families of the name in various parts of France who listened with favor to the preaching of the Reformation of the Church. Haag, La France Protestant, v. 4, gives a number of examples of the name, saying of "Chastaignier ou Chasteigner": "Il y eut sans doute plusieurs maisons de ce nom, particulièrement en Poitou et en Saintonge." Haag lists among the refugees to England "Benjamin Chastain de la Pigeonnerie et sa femme, assisté à Londres, 1702." Jean Chastain presented his temoignage from the Church at Moudun in Poitou to the Threadneedle Street Church in London on 3 May 1682 [Huguenot Society of London, Publications, 21:50. "Livre des Temoignages de l'Eglise de Threadneedle Street, 1669-1789". On 11 Aug. 1700 Jean Chastain "de la Melleraye en Poitou" was married in London to Anne Pinneau [ibid., 29:6. "Registre de l'Eglise dite le Tabernacle dans Milk Alley"]. In October 1685 we find "Le Sieur de Villars...demande le don des biens des habitants de la ville d'Annonay, de la R.P.R. [Religionnaires Pretendus Reformes, the slighting term applied to the Calvinists by

THE CHASTAIN FAMILIES OF MANAKIN TOWN IN VIRGINIA AND THEIR ORIGIN ABROAD

By Cameron Allen, East Orange, New Jersey

On The Mary and Ann, the first of the four ships which brought the largest part of the French Huguenot settlers to Manakin Town in Virginia in 1700, there were four men of somewhat similar name:

Pierre Chastain, sa femme et cinq enfants
Estienne Chastain (apparently a single man)
Quintin Chastain (apparently a single man)
Pierre Chatanier, sa femme et son pere

(Virginia Historical Society, Collections, n.s., 6:65-7). Incidentally, the transcription of the very same list in the Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 18, 156-7, lists Quintin Chastain, and Pierre Chatanier, wife and brother (not father).

No further references to Quintin Chastain (or Chastain) appear. Pierre Chatanier is quite probably the man 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], so the single reference to him as Chatanier may be fortuitous. Whether Chatanier or Chalanier, he appears not to have remained in Manakin Town long; possibly he migrated down to the Trent River settlement of the Huguenots in Craven Precinct, North Carolina; possibly he died without leaving male issue. That leaves us, then, with two follow passengers of the same surname, Pierre and Estienne Chastain, both of whom left issue in Manakin Town. Our initial curiosity is naturally over what relationship, if any, existed between the two.

Though various writers have assumed that they were either brothers or cousins, it seems quite improbable that they were related. They came, as we shall see, from widely separated parts of France: Pierre from Chastain in the ancient Province of Berri; Estienne from Vesc in the Province of Dauphiné, about 150 miles to the southeast. While the dangers and uncertainties incident to being a Huguenot even prior to the Revocation caused a certain amount of rootlessness, this disparity in their geographical origin weighs against relationship. Second, the two sought initial refuge in separate countries, Switzerland and the British Isles respectively. Furthermore, there were virtually no transatlantic actions in Virginia involving the two families. One may find an exception: Pierre's son Pierre was witness to a couple of deeds by Estienne in 1731, but this appears to have been a casual act, based on residence in the same parish.

olic officialdom] qui ont quitté le royaume, nommés... Demeure Chastain... [Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français, Bulletin, 37:363]. "Un Catalogue des familles qui composent l'Eglise française qui s'assemble à Louisendorf" in Germany made 16 June 1707 includes "Le sieur Chastain, notre lecteur et maître d'école" [ibid., Bulletin, 31:479]. The Protestant exodus from France continued for decades: On 23 Mar. 1734 Melchior-Antoine de Beaumont, seigneur de Saint-Sauveur, ... juge majeur... at the instance of the "procurour du Roy" took action against the estates of a number of Huguenots who had fled to Geneva from Saint-Marcellin, a town a few miles to the west of Grenoble. Among the offenders listed was "Pholipaz Chatain, fille à Luc Chatain, veuve" [ibid., Bulletin, 11:243-4].

It would be a mistake to assume that all the Huguenots of this name forsook their native soil rather than compromise their faith. Some quickly capitulated to the enormous pressure exerted upon them. Père Dobruzelles, curé de Salles, in the arrondissement of La Rochelle, records that he had given on 1 Oct. 1685 "l'absolution de l'hérésie de Calvin et que nous avons reçu à la religion Catholique, apostolique et romaine," among numerous others, "François Chastain, Marie Fulcher, son épouse, et Etienne Chastain" [ibid., Bulletin, 48:371]. But as we have seen, there were other Chastains who preferred the role of "strangers in a strange land," in Switzerland, in Germany, in the British Isles and in America.

E. I. Estienne (Étienne) Chastain of Virginia identifies himself by his will as a native of Dauphiné, the ancient province in southeastern France, and of a town which appears in the transcription of his will to be called "Vose." Finding no town of this name in southeastern France listed in atlases and gazetteers, the contributor thought that the scribe who recorded Chastain's will might have been attempting to set down the name of one of the parishes named "Vaux" in ancient Dauphiné: Vaux-Milleu, Notre-Dame de Vaux or St.-Jean de Vaux, all in the vicinity of Grenoble. A letter to M. Avezou, the extremely courteous and able Director of Services of the Archives Départementales de l'Isère of the ancienne Province de Dauphiné, in Grenoble, brought the information that a check of the records of these parishes during the Nineteenth Century showed no Chastains resident therein, but that a Huguenot family named Chastain had anciently been connected with Vose in that portion of the Province of Dauphiné which is now the département de la Drôme, and that he believed that "V" was either a misrecording or a misreading of "Vose," since both words contain four letters and

the final 'c' in the script of that day is easily confounded with final 'e' and the interior 'e' and 'o' can likewise be confused. He further stated that Vesc was in the center of a heavily Protestant area, which was a point of departure for a large number of refugees in 1685. Vesc is a commune of 276 inhabitants in the canton of Dieulefit, arrondissement of Valence, in the Département de la Drôme. The Huguenot Temple at Vesc-Bouvières had been established in 1562. [Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français, Bulletin 1957, 103:107.]

M. François Burckard, Director of Services at the Archives de la Drôme, at Valence, France, informed the contributor that there were many Chastain families at Vesc, as well as at Valence itself, at Barcelonne, a small village to the east of Valence, and at Sahuné, near Nyons. While his Archives lacked Protestant registers from Vesc, he very kindly searched through the Roman Catholic parish registers for the community from 1682 to 1725, and abstracted at random the following Chastain entries:

Baptisms

15 Aug. 1684	Marie, dau. of Claude Chastain & Toinette Frigère
4 June 1686	Thérèse, dau. of the same
12 Dec. 1692	Marguerite, dau. of the same.
21 Feb. 1686	Jacques, son of Hugues Chastain & Jeanne Barnier
1 Dec. 1691	Jean André, son of Jean André Chastain & Marie Saymeme

Marriages

20 May 1719	Etienne Chastain, son of Jean André Chastain & of Marie Saymeme, to Louise Lambert, dau. of Benoit Lambert & Jeanne Chastain
29 Sep. 1722	Pierre Chastain, son of Isaye Chastain & of Jeanne Choin, to Catherine Ploust, dau. of Antoine Ploust & of Marguerite Efran

Burials

17 Nov. 1682	Antoine Chastain, husband of the deceased Marguerite Broc
10 Dec. 1686	Elie Chastain, aged about 80 years
14 Feb. 1688	Philibert Chastain, aged about 72 years.
14 Apr. 1688	Jean Chastain, Juge, aged about 55 years
29 June 1689	Catherine Chastain, dau. of the deceased Jean Chastain, aged about 20 years
6 Nov. 1718	Judith Chastain, widow of Etienne Moyer, aged about 70 years
15 June 1719	Isabeau Chastain, widow of Pierre Larivière, aged about 60 years

RENE CHASTAIN, son of PETER - versus Rev. RENE CHASTAIN, Jr.

Inasmuch as there appears to be some confusion, by some of the Chastain descendants, as to the children of the above two Rene Chastain's, your genealogist will attempt to clarify who their children were.

Rene, son of Peter and Rev. Rene, son of Rene, Sr. both resided in Buckingham County, Virginia and were about the same age. Rene, son of Peter, was known as S.P. to distinguish him from his cousin, Rev. Rene.

Rene, son of Peter, left a will, but due to the destruction of Buckingham County, Virginia records it is not available to us. However, there is a Suit in Chancery in the "Richmond Enquirer" dated 15 September 1818 which gives us the wife and children of Rene, son of Peter.

"In Chancery, at a Court held for Buckingham County, 13th day of July 1818, Daniel Guarrant, complainant against Lewis Chastaine, Isham Chastaine, James Hudnall and Rhoda his wife, _____ Jones and Elizabeth his wife, John Chastaine, Jacob Chastaine, William Chastaine, William Ayres and Mildred his wife, _____ Moss and Martha his wife, and Judith Chastaine, children and heirs of Rene Chastaine, dec., and Martha Chastaine, widow and executrix of the Last Will and Testament of the said decedent. Defendants Lewis, Hudnal and wife, John, Jacob, and Wm. Chastaine are not inhabitants of this state."

Some descendants have confused this account and presumed this to have been Rev. Rene Chastain, Jr. However, note the date 13 July 1818 above. Rev. Rene did not die until 1823. (Ref. his obituary "Richmond (Va.) Enquirer" dated 21 Nov. 1823 - account given in April 1976 edition of "The Chestnut Tree," V. I No. 2).

Marriages of the children of Rene Chastain, son of Peter and his wife, Martha are:

1. William Chastain, born ca 1769, Buckingham County, Virginia, married Magdalene Ayres, born 16 August 1778, Buckingham County, Virginia, daughter of John Ayres and Jane Sallee.
2. Joseph Chastain, born ca 1771, Buckingham County, Virginia, married Margaret or Peggy Rowland. He died in 1807 Warren County, Kentucky. His widow married (2) John Miller.
3. Lewis Chastain, born ca 1773, Buckingham County, Virginia. No more data.
4. Rhoda Chastain, born 2 January 1775, Buckingham County, Virginia, married James Hudnall, Jr., son of James Hudnall, Sr., and Mary Ann Warner. She died 1 April 1846 at Richardsville, Warren, Kentucky. He died 12 April 1851, also at Richardsville, Kentucky.
5. Isham Chastain, born ca 1777, Buckingham County, Virginia, married (1) Sallie Howell; married (2) 20 January 1806 Frances Camp.
6. Jacob Chastain, born ca 1781, Buckingham County, Virginia, married (1) Judith Ayres, born 9 February 1794, Buckingham County, Virginia, daughter of John Ayres and Jane Sallee; married (2) 21 December 1818 at Logan County, Kentucky, Eleanor or Ellen Britt. He died 17 October 1873 at Calhoun, Henry, Missouri.
7. John Chastain, born ca 1783 Buckingham County, Virginia, married 4 February 1806 (Date of bond) at Charlotte County, Virginia, Polly Bottom, daughter of Miles Bottom.
8. Elizabeth Chastain, born ca 1785, Buckingham County, Virginia, married 16 September 1802 at Charlotte County, Virginia, Peter Jones.

9. Mildred Chastain, born ca 1783 (age 63-1850), Buckingham County, Virginia, married William Ayres, born ca 1782 (age 68-1850).
10. Martha Chastain, born ca 1789, Buckingham County, Virginia, married Moss. No more data.
11. Judith Chastain, born ca 1793, Buckingham County, Virginia. No more data.

Rev. Rene Chastain, Jr., born 28 June 1741, at Manakin, Goochland, Virginia, married 1 October 1760 Anne Ford, born 24 February 1738 at Manakin, Virginia, daughter of James Ford or Faure and Anne Bondurant. He died 21 November 1823 (Date of obituary) Buckingham County, Virginia. The children of Rev. Rene Chastain, Jr., and Anne Ford can be ascertained from the following extracts of deeds. (Bath County, Kentucky Deed Book "B" pp. 75-79).

- "July 24, 1816 - Between Rane Chastain of Buckingham County and State of Virginia of one part and Magdalene Carter (daughter of the said Rane) of Bath County, Ky. x x x Consideration \$1.00 for love and affection which he hath for his daughter Magdalene x x x 135 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres it being a part of the tract of six hundred (600) Acres patented to the said Rane Chastain on the waters of Slate Creek. x x x."
- "July 23, 1816 - Between Rane Chastain of x x x and Martin Chastain (Son of the Said Rane) of Bath County, Ky. x x x."
- "July 24, 1816 - Between Rane Chastain and Asa Maxey, Rhoda Parker, Ann Perat, Calvert Maxey, Thos. Maxey and Rane Maxey all heirs and representatives of Thomas Maxey deceased, also children of Lydda Maxey deceased and daughter of the said Rane Chastain x x x \$1.00 and love and affection which he hath for his grandchildren x x x 130 acres in Bath County, Ky. x x x."
- "July 24, 1816 - Between Rane Chastain of Buckingham County, Va. and Rhoda Raglin, daughter of the said Rane of Bath County, Ky. \$1.00 and love and affection which he hath for his daughter Rhoda Raglin x x x 179 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres part of six hundred acres x x x."
- "July 24, 1816 - Between Rane Chastain of Buckingham County, Va. and Elijah Chastain son of the said Rane of Bath County, Ky. \$1.00 and love and affection x x x 136 Acres x x x."

Marriages of the children of Rev. Rene Chastain, Jr., son of Rene Chastain, Sr., and Judith Martin are:

1. Magdalene Chastain, born ca 1761, Buckingham County, Virginia, married Joseph Carter, Sr. (Note: Nellie F. Ayres in her "Ayres Kin and Kin to Kin" published 1961 erroneously states that Magdalene married Jacob Carter (p. 88) as does Cameron Allen in his series on "The Chastain Families of Manakin Town" wherein he quotes her. (The American Genealogist, V: 40, No. 3, July 1964, p. 147).
2. Stephen Chastain, born Nov. 1764. Buckingham County, Virginia, married 12 April 1786 (Date of bond) in Buckingham County, Virginia, Mary Amonet, daughter of William Amonet. (Allen p. 146 above ref.).
3. Lydia Chastain, born ca 1767, Buckingham County, Virginia, married Thomas Maxey, born ca 1764 Fauquier County, Virginia, son of Nathaniel Edward Maxey and Ruth E. Ford. She died 10 Nov. 1805 Montgomery County, Kentucky. He died 5 May 1808 (Inventory of Estate), also in Montgomery County, Kentucky.

OUR EMIGRANT ANCESTORS

(Continued from Vol. I, No. 2)

As stated in the April 1976 issue, the fact that the Agee's, Bondurant's and Faure's came to Virginia and settled in Manakin Town is well documented. Due to numerous intermarriages between these families and the Chastain family your genealogist feels it appropriate to give a brief account of these families.

As said in the previous issue Dr. P. M. Agee states that Elizabeth Ann Chastain married Dr. Joseph Bondurant and their son, Jean Pierre Bondurant came to Virginia and settled in Manakin Town.

Jean Pierre Bondurant, born ca 1683 is said to have come from the Province of Lyonnais, France. With other Huguenot refugees he embarked from London to Manakin Town on the ship "Ye Peter and Anthony" arriving in Manakin Town on 20 September 1700. At the time of his arrival he seems to have been a single man as he is listed by himself on the ships passenger list. (Brock: Huguenot Emigration to Virginia, p. 14).

After his arrival in Manakin Town he married (1) Anne _____. Her maiden name is not definitely known to us. Some say she was Anne Rouvierre, daughter of Claude Rouvierre. Others say she was Anne Godwin, daughter of Isaac Godwin. Still others maintain she was Anne L'Orange who may have been the daughter of Jean Velas Lorange who came over on the ship "Le Nasseau" and is listed with "sa femme and un enfant." (Brock: p. 32). Jean Pierre Bondurant married (2) Rhoda Ann Fore or Faure, daughter of Daniel Isaac Faure and Mary Ann Chastain. ("The Agee Family," Dr. P. M. Agee, p. 330).

Issue of Jean Pierre Bondurant by his first marriage:

1. John Bondurant, born 1 October 1709; married Sarah Rachel Moseley, nee Taylor.
2. Peter Bondurant, born ca. 1711; married Amy _____.
3. Frances Jane Bondurant, born June 1712; married John Peter Perrault Salle.
4. Anne Bondurant, born ca. 1714; married James Ford or Faure.

Issue of Jean Pierre Bondurant by his second marriage:

5. Joseph Augustus Bondurant; married Agnes Radford.

Jean Pierre Bondurant's will was dated 5 September 1734 and proved 21 January 1734/5. In his will he mentions the above children, as well as his wife, Anne. (Goochland Co., Va., Deed Book 2, 1734-1736).

Elby F. Bowman, Genealogist

(To be Continued)

Lives of great men all remind us and, departing, leave behind us
 We can make our lives sublime, Footprints on the sands of time.
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, A Psalm of Life.