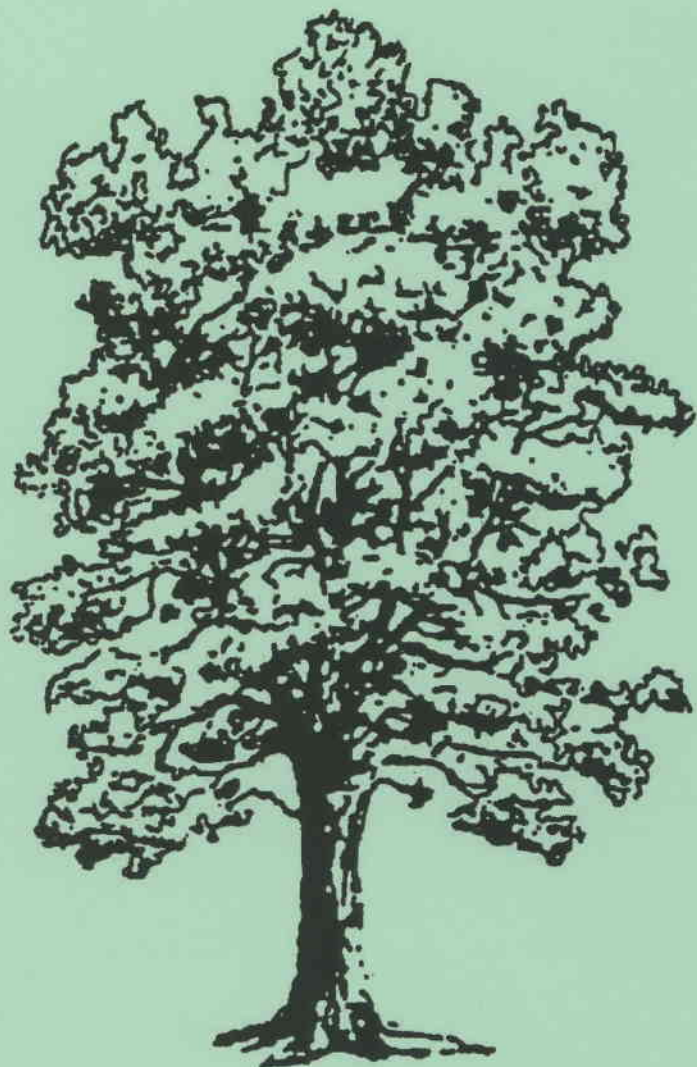


THE CHESTNUT TREE



Official Organ & Publication of

The Pierre Chastain Family Association

*Organized August 31, 1975, for
Chastain Descendants Everywhere*

Volume XLVI, Number 1
January 2021

Table of Contents

President's Page	1-2
PCFA elects new officers at annual meeting	3-5
The PCFA Facebook Group	6
DNA: How Are We Related?	7
Obituary: Herschel L. Chastain	8-10
Thomas Chastain: Crime novelist	11-13
Member Report	14
PCFA Membership Application Form	15
PCFA Publications Order Form	16

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The Pierre Chastain Family Association

Established in 1975, the **Pierre Chastain Family Association** is dedicated to the preservation and development of records and data about Chastain families. The Chastain name has varied spellings, with the most common variations being *Castine*, *Chastaine*, *Chasteen*, *Chasten*, *Chesteen*, *Shasteen*, *Shastine*, and *Shastid*. Unless your ancestors are recent immigrants, it is thought that most people who use one of these spelling variations are descendants of Dr. Pierre Chastain, a French Huguenot who migrated to America in 1700.

The Pierre Chastain Family Association maintains historical and genealogical information on thousands of Chastain descendants. The PCFA's genealogist, serving in a volunteer capacity (as do all board members), supervises and directs the compilation of genealogical records of the ancestors and descendants of Pierre Chastain, provides the membership with assistance in accessing data and gives research tips and advice to those doing further research on Chastain and related genealogy. Send your genealogical data (GEDCOMs, lineage, etc.) to our genealogist. The association has a historian who directs the compilations and writing of biographies, family histories, and personal histories pertaining to ancestors and descendants of Pierre Chastain.

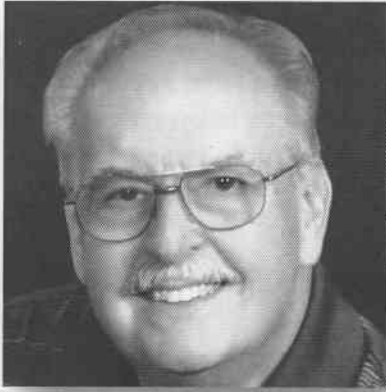
Membership consists of, but is not limited to, known and probable descendants of Pierre Chastain. The price of annual membership is \$20.00 and is a family membership that is effective the first of January each year. A life membership may also be purchased for \$200.00. All membership inquiries and renewals should be sent to the membership chair.

THE CHESTNUT TREE

Included in the membership is a subscription to the association's newsletter, *The Chestnut Tree*, published in January, May, and September. Material for publication should be sent to the editor. Please identify all photographs (do not send originals) with name, location, and age, if known. All manuscripts and photographs received become the property of the PCFA.

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President's Page

by Raleigh Chastine

President@PierreChastain.com

Happy New Year! To those new members who joined us in 2020, we say “welcome to our family” and we’re so glad that you decided to join us. For our returning members, we say “welcome back.”

I believe most of us are very happy that 2020 has come and gone and should never be spoken of again. It was a rough year for some, an annoyance for others, and heartbreak for many. Our hearts go out to any of you who lost a loved one from this terrible disease. Do you realize that it was about this time last year that COVID-19 started to creep into our vocabularies? On the one hand it seems that the year dragged on and on, but on the other hand it’s hard to believe the holidays flew by so fast.

When we look back at 2020, I will count my blessings for what I didn’t lose and have now. I had my annual physical in November and my blood test revealed I tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. Unbeknownst to us, my wife and I had the mild form of COVID-19 in March. I say “mild form” because neither of us had to go to hospital or be put on ventilators. While we suspected that we may have had it, we weren’t sure until the results of the blood test came back.

Enough of that! Let’s move forward and look at 2021. We are hoping to start several new projects this year. We have begun a Pierre Chastain DNA Research Project that we are hoping to merge with the genealogical lines we have for Pierre Chastain and his brother. Believe it or not, there are several descendent issues that need to be cleared up. We have decided that by using the Family Tree Y-DNA kits (for males) we can use the results to “fill in” some missing areas. Females can use the autosomal kits. This is being handled by Jimmy Chesteen, our Genealogist. If you are a male and descend from a completely male line of Chastains, please consider doing a Y-DNA kit via “familytreedna.com” and order through the “Chastain, Pierre project.” The results will come to you but also be shared with the PCFA research team.

We are investigating the possibility of putting *The Chestnut Tree* out as a digital PDF version. We’re looking into whether to put it online on our Web site or send it out via e-mail. So, you who prefer a digital copy will have the ability to carry it with you on genealogical

trips, but we're hoping it will save the PCFA money as well. Stay tuned for more information as we explore the pros and cons.

And, of course, that brings us to our reunion. We are still hoping to have a reunion in 2021, but so much hinges on the COVID-19 vaccines and what happens between now and the end of the year. It's difficult to predict whether our lives will have returned to normal by then, or whether we will still be in disarray. Being an optimist, I will make plans to attend. Just be aware that we may have to make quick decisions as the year progresses.

That being said, the most important thing is that you and your families have a healthy and happy year. Stay safe.

Raleigh Chastine
Cartersville, Georgia
President@PierreChastain.com

Bio for Raleigh Chastine

I am a native Georgian who currently lives in Cartersville, Georgia. Before that my wife (Pat) and I lived in Snellville, Georgia, for 40 years. I am retired, and previously worked for BellSouth Services for 32 years as well as being an independent Telecommunications Consultant for 10 years.

While living in Snellville I became interested in genealogy and joined the East Georgia Genealogical Society (EGGS) headquartered in Winder, Georgia. EGGS members cover 30 counties in East Georgia, even though there are other genealogical societies in this area.

Like most PCFA members, I have "walls" in my heritage line that I need to investigate before I can positively prove my lineage back to Pierre Chastain. I go back 4 generations on my father's side of the family and then my heritage gets very fuzzy. So, without further ado:

Clarence Raleigh Chastine, son of John Freeman Chastine, son of Clarence Lester Chastine, son of Sephus Josephus Chastine. Sephus was the son of Annie Chastain/Chasteen whom I think is really Ann Elizabeth Chastain. Ann was the daughter of Sanford V. Chastain/Chasteen. I am researching this and I know that Ann and Sanford (and his wife Elizabeth) came out of Pickens County, South Carolina, if I'm not mistaken.

While this is a very short list I'm hoping to expand it out in 2021.



The PCFA Board held its annual meeting via Zoom on October 9, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PCFA elects new officers at annual meeting

The Pierre Chastain Family Association held its annual meeting October 9-10, 2020. The meeting was held virtually to keep everyone safe this year, with the hope of our getting together physically in 2021.

Following was the Agenda for the PCFA Board Meeting held via Zoom on October 9:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Board reports
 - Vice-President: Rod Chastain
 - Treasurer: Sandy Chastain-Brough
 - Membership: Carol Migdat
 - Genealogy: Jimmy Chesteen
 - Historian: Susan Slape-Hoysagk
 - Editor: Phillip L. Sublett
 - Librarian: Bonnie Wilkins
 - Internet: Ron Roberts
 - President: Karyl Chastain Beal
3. Committee reports
 - Facebook: Karyl Chastain Beal
 - Reunion: Gary Chasteen
 - Nominating: Jimmy Chesteen



Members of the Pierre Chastain Family Association met via Zoom on October 10, 2020, and voted on new 2021 officers.

4. New business

- a) Revision of description of Board positions for Publicity, Internet: Carol Migdat
- b) Revision of former position with new name and description: Social Media
- c) 2021 PCFA Reunion

The following day, on October 10, 2020, a virtual Zoom meeting was held for the general Pierre Chastain Family Association members, with the following agenda:

- 1. Welcome: Karyl Chastain Beal
- 2. Acknowledgement of Board members present
- 3. Acknowledgement PCFA lifetime members present
- 4. Acknowledgement of veterans present
- 5. Minutes of the Board meeting shared: Carol Migdat
- 6. Nominations for open Board positions: Jimmy Chesteen
- 7. Nominees speak briefly, introducing themselves
- 8. Vote for new Board members
- 9. Announcement of new PCFA Officers
- 10. Comments

New and returning PCFA officers for 2021 were elected during the general meeting on October 10. The officers and board positions are as follows:

- President — Raleigh Chastine
- Vice-President — Sheila Bonham Smith
- Recording Secretary — Beth DeHart Breisch
- Membership Secretary — Carol Migdat
- Treasurer — Sandy Chastain-Brough
- Genealogist — Jimmy Chesteen
- Librarian — Bonnie Wilkins
- Historian — Susan Slape-Hoysagk
- Publicity — Sheila Bonham Smith
- Social Media Coordinator — Karyl Chastain Beal
- Internet Coordinator — Ron Roberts
- Editor, *The Chestnut Tree* — Phillip L Sublett

Please visit our Web site, www.PierreChastain.com, for more information.

PCFA Board members for 2021



Raleigh Chastine
President

Sheila Bonham Smith
Vice-President / Publicity



Beth DeHart Breisch
Recording Secretary

Carol Migdat
Membership Secretary



Sandy Chastain-Brough
Treasurer

Jimmy Chesteen
Genealogist



Bonnie Wilkins
Librarian

Susan Slape-Hoysagk
Historian



Karyl Chastain Beal
Social Media Coordinator

Ron Roberts
Internet Coordinator





The PCFA Facebook Group

by Karyl Chastain Beal

PCFA Social Media Coordinator

About four years ago, we set up a new Pierre Chastain Family Association Facebook group to replace the group we'd started several years previously. (The first PCFA Facebook group was called Chastain Generations, a name suggested by Tim Chastain.) At this time, the group has over 1,000 members.

If you have a Facebook account, and if you haven't joined the PCFA Facebook group yet, we hope you'll consider joining us. You can participate daily or weekly in exchanges and discussions in a message-board type format, if you'd like to. If you post comments or questions, you may receive a few replies; you may also discover other members who are closely related to you or who live nearby.

To join the PCFA Facebook group, you need to send a "friend request" to the group. Then, you need to answer a few questions that you'll receive automatically. After your answers have been checked by one of the moderators, we'll approve your membership and introduce you to the other members.

The group began as a public group, but we recently changed the group to private status. This means that group posts and the list of members are only visible to approved members.

The Facebook group administrators and moderators are: Karyl Chastain Beal, Sandy Chastain-Brough, Bonnie Wilkins, Sheila Bonham Smith and Ron Roberts.

Visit our Facebook group at: www.Facebook.com/groups/pierrechastain





DNA

How Are We Related?

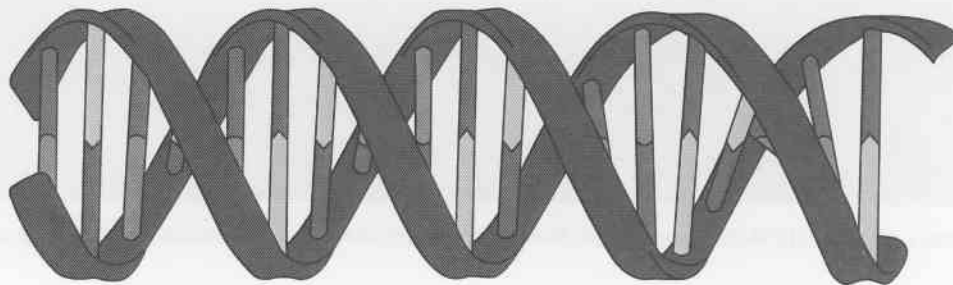
by Sheila Bonham Smith
VicePresident@PierreChastain.com

Are you curious about how you are related to other Chastains? Are you positive the family stories and legends are completely accurate? We are fortunate that so much time and love were put into research for our “Blue Books,” but now it is time to move into the next research phase for scientific evidence! Some Chastains have had DNA testing with various companies and found corroboration and some have found errors in their lineage.

Jimmy Chesteen, our genealogist, is leading the Pierre Chastain Project on Family Tree DNA. We have several brick walls or questionable connections in our paper trails and it is exciting to have the opportunity to explore those with this project. Please consider going to **FamilyTreeDNA.com** and ordering a kit through the “Chastain, Pierre project.” The results will come to you and also the data will be a part of PCFA valuable research.

If you are male and descend from a completely male line, please purchase the Y-DNA kit. The Y-DNA results are particularly valuable for us! If you are female, the autosomal kit is for you.

We hope you will give this serious thought and decide to participate. Be on the lookout for ongoing DNA information via the PCFA Web site (www.PierreChastain.com), *The Chestnut Tree*, and the Chastain Chatter e-mail newsletter. We look forward to sharing exciting discoveries!





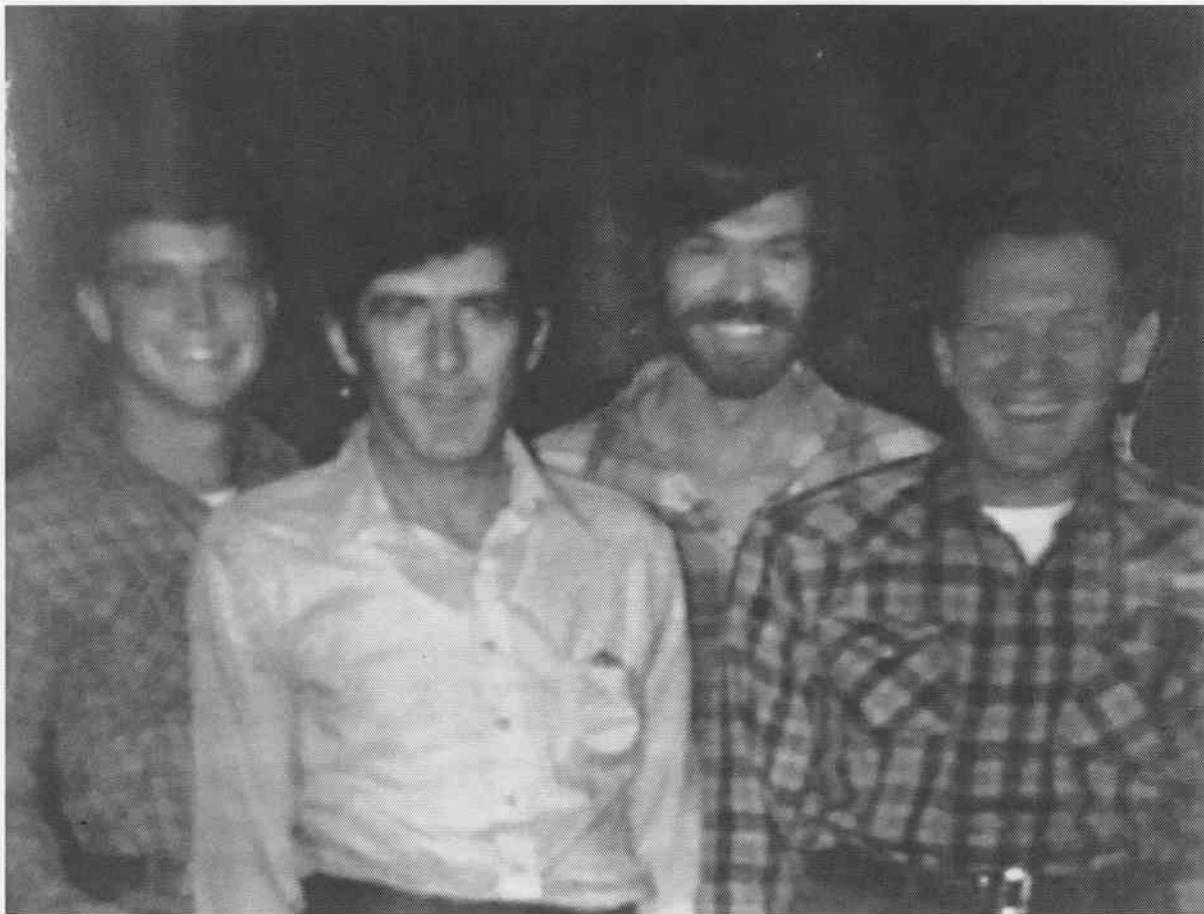
Herschel L. Chastain (1934-2020) was on the Board of the Pierre Chastain Family Association for many years.

Obituary: Herschel L. Chastain

Herschel Lute Chastain, of Lamar County, Mississippi, born June 22, 1934, passed away December 1, 2020, in his "Silver Bullet" motor home at his daughter's house in Dickson, Tennessee. Funeral services were planned for 1:30 p.m. on December 19, 2020, at the Hattiesburg Chapel of Moore Funeral Home with interment in Clear Branch Cemetery to follow.

Herschel was the husband of Virgie Whiddon Chastain. They were married on August 12th, 1956, and shared 64 years of adventures. He was a member of Friendly Baptist Church in Branson, Missouri. He will be remembered for his calm, loving and hardworking nature. He was self-educated and prided himself on always looking his best. One would never find him without a comb in his pocket.

He grew up in Mississippi but met and married his wife and had all three of his children in Dallas, Texas. He then moved back to Lamar County to care for his mother and to raise his family. He was a farmer and machinist. He retired from Amerada Hess in 1993. He loved



From left are son Karl Wade Chastain, Herschel L. Chastain, nephew Ben Chastain, Jr., and older brother Ben Eldred Chastain.

managing his stock market accounts and was always watching CNBC.

Traveling with his wife and travel buddies around the States in a 5th wheel was a huge source of joy for him, and second only to spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed genealogy research of the Chastain and Green families; he was proud to have traced his roots back to Dr. Pierre Chastain, a French Huguenot who migrated to America in 1700. He was preceded in death by his mother, Eula Francis Green Chastain, and father, Bunyon Montgomery Chastain; sister, Imogene Davis; brother, Ben Eldred Chastain; and son Karl Wade Chastain.

He is survived by his wife, Virgie Whiddon Chastain; daughters Deborah Chastain Kitchen of Dickson, Tennessee, and Sharlene Chastain Joh of Franklin, Georgia; sons-in-law, Paul Kitchen and Fritz Joh; grandchildren and spouses, Danielle and Hunter Dehn of Dallas, Texas; Karlin and Mitch Foor of Williamsburg, Virginia; Charlotte Trené and Zach Moody of Wedowee, Alabama; Victoria, Frederick, Sterling, Leopold Joh of Franklin, Georgia; Austin Kitchen of Dickson, Tennessee; great-grandchildren Sky, Star, Landon and Savannah Dehn of Dallas, and one little Moody on the way. He is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews. His family is celebrating their patriarch, “Hershey-bar,” “Daddy,” “Pawpaw,” “Papa” being in Heaven with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and son Karl.

Visitation was planned from noon until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 19, 2020, at the Hattiesburg Chapel of Moore Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers for Herschel were Frederick Joh, Sterling Joh, Leopold Joh, Hunter Dehn, Landon Dehn, Jeff Bond, Trae Morgan. Honorary pallbearers were Ben Chastain Jr., Ben Eric Chastain, Troy Molsbee, Terrell Broome, and Butch Davis.

Chastain lineage:

Herschel Lute Chastain was the son of Bunyon Montgomery Chastain, whose father, John Calvin Chastain, was the son of Jonathan Kimsey Chastain, son of Jonathan Davis Chastain, son of Benjamin Chastain, son of the Rev. John “Ten Shilling Bell” Chastain, son of Pierre Chastain, Jr., son of Huguenot immigrant Pierre Chastain.



Thomas Chastain: Crime novelist

by Phillip L. Sublett
Editor@PierreChastain.com

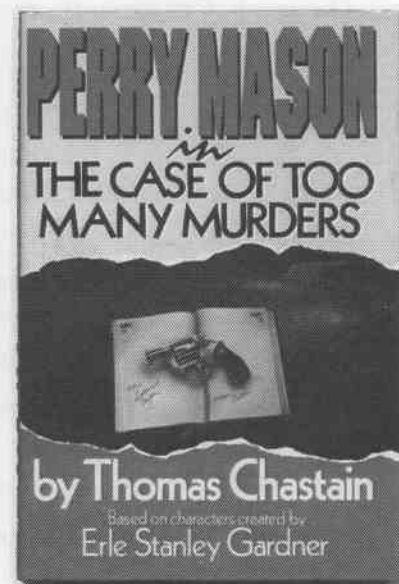
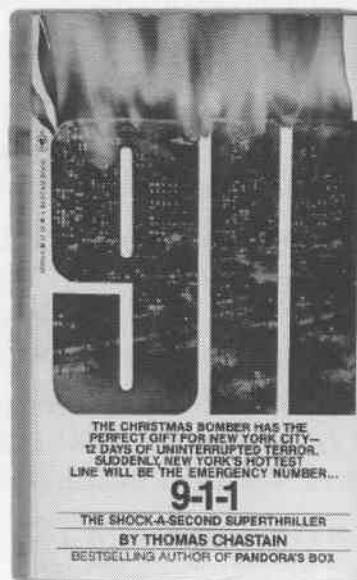
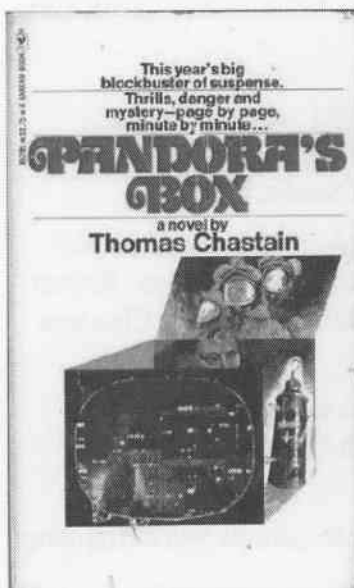
A voracious reader from a young age, Thomas Floyd Chastain, Jr., had a long career as a writer in many fields, from newspapers, advertising, and magazine freelancing to radio scripts. But in the 1970s and '80s he became well known as a novelist, specializing in crime, suspense, and mystery books.

Chastain's first major suspense novel was *Pandora's Box* (1974), followed by *9-1-1* (1976), *Vital Statistics* (1977), *High Voltage* (1979), *The Diamond Exchange* (1981), and *Nightscape* (1982).

In 1983, Bill Adler commissioned Thomas Chastain to write the mystery contest novel *Who Killed the Robins Family?* — a hardcover book that depicted a number of murders, giving clues but no answers to the mysteries. The publisher challenged readers to submit their solutions to the murder mysteries for a \$10,000 prize. On January 29, 1984, the book topped the New York Times Best Seller List for fiction (knocking Stephen King's *Pet Sematary* to second on the list). After the contest was over, a subsequent paperback edition revealed the answers to the mysteries.

Thomas Chastain continued writing through the 1980s and '90s, including a couple Perry Mason novels (based on the fictional lawyer created by the late Erle Stanley Gardner).

In 1989, Thomas Chastain served as president of Mystery Writers of America (a post previously held by such notable authors as Ellery Queen, Raymond Chandler, Robert Bloch, and Mary Higgins Clark).





Thomas Chastain contributed to the animated TV series *The Simpsons*, co-writing the 1992 mystery-themed episode titled "Black Widower," in which Bart Simpson's nemesis, Sideshow Bob (voiced by Kelsey Grammer), got out of prison and married Bart's aunt Selma. Bart followed a series of clues to foil Bob's plot to murder Selma for her money.

Thomas F. Chastain, Jr., died from lung cancer on September 1, 1994, in New York City.

Chastain ancestors

Author Thomas Floyd Chastain, Jr., was born on January 17, 1921, in Nova Scotia, Canada, but grew up in the southeastern United States. His parents were Thomas Floyd Chastain, Sr. (an Alabama native), and Katherine Powers (of Nova Scotia, Canada).

His father, Thomas Floyd Chastain, Sr., was born in 1896 to Robert Thomas Chastain (#1841 in the book *Pierre Chastain and his Descendants, Vol. II*) and Emma Oliver. Robert Thomas Chastain, born around 1870 in Alabama, was the son of Thomas William Chastain (#725 in the book *Pierre Chastain and his Descendants, Vol. II*).

Thomas William Chastain was the son of Raney Chastain (#226 in the book *Pierre Chastain and his Descendants, Vol. I*), who was born 1811 in South Carolina to William Chastain (#67). William was the son of Abraham Chastain (#16).

Abraham Chastain was the son of Pierre Chastain, Jr. (#5), whose parents were Huguenot immigrants Pierre Chastain and Anne Soblet.



Thomas Floyd Chastain, Jr., wrote his first novel, *Judgment Day*, in 1962.



Member Report

by Carol Migdat

Membership@PierreChastain.com

New Members

A Happy New Year to all our “old” members and especially to our new members. The following is a list of those who joined the Pierre Chastain Family Association since publication of the September issue of *The Chestnut Tree*.

- Laura Jane Adolph, Austin, TX
- Rebecca Amerson, Woodstock, GA
- Cindy Chastain, Canby, OR
- Betty Bates, Guntersville, AL
- Brandi Dawn Roe, Oklahoma City, OK*
- Te’ Shawn Finley, Oklahoma City, OK*
- Kamal Finley Jr., Oklahoma City, OK*
- Tyrell Finley, Oklahoma City, OK*
- Rahsaana Finley, Oklahoma City, OK*
- Annetta Bethene Fahnestock, Miami, OK
- Aimee Chastain, Arnold, MO
- Brenda Harris, Richmond, KY

*Lifetime member

To those who’ve been members for a while and have changed your e-mail address, please send me the new information so we’ll be able to contact you if needed. You can e-mail it to me at pcfa.carol@gmail.com.

Pierre Chastain Family Association
Membership Application Form

Please print:

Date: _____

Name: _____
 First *Middle* *(Maiden)* *Last*

E-mail: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____
 Home Cell

- Circle one:** (1) Join – Lifetime Membership (\$200)
- (2) Join – Annual Membership for 2021 (\$20)
- (3) Renew – Annual Membership for 2021 (\$20)

New Members, List of Your Chastain Ancestors (include additional page if needed):

You:

Parents:

Grandparents:

Great-Grandparents:

2nd Great-Grandparents:

3rd Great-Grandparents:

4th Great-Grandparents:

5th Great-Grandparents:

6th Great-Grandparents:

7th Great-Grandparents:

MEMBERSHIPS and PUBLICATIONS/MERCHANDISE TOGETHER:

If you are purchasing membership together with publications or merchandise, you can send one check. **Make Checks Payable to: PCFA.** Please send completed application and order forms and total payment amount to:

Carol Migdat, PCFA
708 Bodega Bay Dr.
Keller, TX 76248

phone: (817) 371-1839

e-mail: Membership@PierreChastain.com

[This form may also be downloaded and printed from www.PierreChastain.com.]

*Pierre Chastain Family Association
Publications Order Form*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal: _____ Country: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Select Product(s):

- 1. *Pierre Chastain and His Descendants, Vol I, First Five Generations;*
this volume now includes the *Errata and Addenda* \$45.00
- 2. *Errata and Addenda* to original Volume I
(for those who purchased Vol. I before E&A was added) \$20.00
- 3. *Pierre Chastain and His Descendants, Vol. II, Sixth Generation* \$45.00
- 4. *Chastain Families of Manakin Town and Pierre Chastain Revisited* \$10.00
- 5. *The Chestnut Tree*, some back issues available. Contact Bonnie Wilkins ... \$6.00
- 6. *Little Otter to Lost River* — available in CD only \$20.00
- 7. Blue Book Bundle - **Best value**
(Vol. I including A&E, Vol II, and 1-year membership) \$100.00
- 8. Annual Membership \$20.00
- 9. Lifetime Membership \$200.00

Make Checks payable to: ***Pierre Chastain Family Association*** Total: \$ _____

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708 BODEGA BAY DR Phone: (817) 371-1839
KELLER, TX 76248-4128 Membership@PierreChastain.com

[This form may also be downloaded and printed from www.PierreChastain.com.]

The Pierre Chastain Family Association

In 1975, Elby F. Bowman sent invitations to fellow Chastain researchers to attend a "conference" on the interests of further research and the coordination of these efforts into a society or association. A group of interested parties met on August 31, 1975, at Dyer, Arkansas, and the Pierre Chastain Family Association was born! The following were charter members from this organizational meeting.

Lucille Anderson
Kiefer, Oklahoma

Thelma Cavin
Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma

Thomas V. Creekmore
Silsbee, Texas

Elby F. Bowman
Wheaton, Illinois

Gordon Lee Chastain
Indianapolis, Indiana

Ella M. Daily
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Pauline W. Bowman
Wheaton, Illinois

Granville O. Chastain
Gulfport, Mississippi

Helen Ingle Ezell
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Geraldine B. Buland
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

J. E. Chastain
Galena Park, Texas

Avilla Farnsworth Milligan
Newton, Kansas

Richard Cavin
Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma

Wanda Chastain
Galena Park, Texas

Alene Wilkin
Monticello, Illinois

The organization was founded with J. E. Chastain as President, Thomas V. Creekmore as First Vice President, Lucille C. Anderson as Second Vice President, Geraldine Buland as Secretary-Treasurer, and Elby Bowman as Genealogist.

The first issue of the association's newsletter, *The Chestnut Tree*, was released to the membership in January of 1976. Volume One, Number One of *The Chestnut Tree* was a total of four pages, hand-typed, photocopied, and one-sided. By the release of this first issue, the membership had grown to 42 members.

Today, the Pierre Chastain Family Association has approximately 220 members. There is also an extensive computer database, maintained by the association's genealogist, which contains information submitted by the membership in their research, as well as numerous census, legal, Bible, and other records documenting the lineages of Chastain descendants, sometimes covering 12 or more generations.

The present membership, and all interested in Chastain and related family history, are very grateful for the efforts of these founding members. These efforts have culminated in great documentation that allows almost instant lineage verification. These efforts have placed this material in print, in volumes such as *Pierre Chastain and His Descendants*, for generations to come. We thank you!

The Chestnut Tree

P.O. Box 3450

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