

THE CHESTNUT TREE



Official Organ & Publication of

**The Pierre Chastain
Family Association**

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

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Table of Contents

President's Page	1-2
The PCFA Facebook Group	3
Errata & Addenda— Francis Marion Chastain	4-10
Pierre Chastain FTDNA y-DNA Project	11-12
Guest Essay: Reflections on the Family Tree	13-14
Member Report	15
2022 Chastain Family Reunion	16-17
PCFA Reunion Registration Forms to Attend Reunion & Banquet	18-19
PCFA Publications Order Form	20

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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

The Pierre Chastain Family Association (PCFA) Reunion is on, and now is the time to start preparing to attend. The dates are one-half day on Friday, September 23, 2022, from 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We will have our normal banquet Saturday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. If you want to attend, you will need to fill out a registration form and e-mail or send it in. For those of you who still use snail-mail, there is a registration form located at the back of this issue to fill out and send in via the USPS. For those of you who are a little more technically advanced, feel free to go to the Pierre Chastain Web site — www.PierreChastain.com — and you can download the form as a .pdf, fill it out, and send it in via e-mail or USPS mail.

Last year, there was a lot of talk about COVID, what to do, what not to do, etc. And even though there is a new variant starting the rounds, we are going to go ahead and schedule everything as though it were a normal reunion. However, I would urge everyone to bring masks, just in case.

For those who may have any doubts about attending, be aware that we will have the room set up in a “classroom” fashion with round tables where 5 or 6 people can sit.

We have not determined the exact agenda as of yet, but will definitely have several things lined up. To start with, I've asked Karyl Chastain Beal, our past president, to handle the Chastain lineage portion of the meeting. This is where everyone gets to tell their lineage back to Pierre Chastain. I've contacted Emory and asked for updates regarding how things are going with the Chastains Alzheimer's research. As you know, the Chastains are being studied based on early onset Alzheimer's. Also, we'll have some update information available on our DNA project. And other items are being added into the agenda as well.

On a different note, I would like to bring something to your attention. Our Genealogist, Jimmy Chesteen, has done an excellent job in helping those who need research into their genealogy. But please remember that he is constantly getting requests from members and non-members asking him to verify their information.

For our members this is not a problem, as he will help where he can. However, he is also getting requests from non-members and this does cause a problem. I realize everyone would like to verify their heritage back as far as they can. We just don't have the resources for Jimmy to help everyone. Therefore, if any of you hear any grumblings about our not getting back to them with research information either refer them to me or explain to them that the research Jimmy does is for our members. I've had to turn down requests for information by non-members because of this.

As an FYI, you might want to know that the PCFA Board has been discussing whether to have a "members only" section for our Web site. This portion would allow you to sign in to see more information that would not be available to the general public. We will keep you posted as we continue discussions about this subject.

If you know of someone who is related, and who has not joined the PCFA Facebook group or *Chastain Chatter* e-newsletter (both hosted by our Social Media Coordinator, Karyl Chastain Beal), I would recommend they do so. Both are free to members and non-members.

More reunion information will be posted in these publications as it become available. Once again, stay happy, healthy, and safe, and I hope to see you at the reunion. Take care.

Raleigh Chastine

Cartersville, Georgia

President@PierreChastain.com

P.S. I apologize for any inconvenience in your getting this issue later than planned. We experienced a delay in getting this issue to you and will make every effort to ensure that it will not happen again. I would like to thank Phillip Sublett and Susan Slape-Hoysagk for stepping forward to help get this issue to the publisher.





The PCFA Facebook Group

by Karyl Chastain Beal

PCFA Social Media Coordinator

The PCFA Facebook group has over 1,200 members, and many of them are active on the message board. Thanks to posts on the message board, we learned that on April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census was finally made public and put on the Internet for all of us to read. The Census data will be a real treasure for genealogists and family history researchers. (This means that people like me — older than dirt — will finally see our own names on the official U.S. Census records.)

Facebook continues to add interesting information to the administrator section. For example, it lists the top ten posters during the past 28 days.

They were: Phillip L. Sublett, Kimberly Roe Yuhasz, Peggy Hartsell, Virgie Chastain, Karla Coombes Phelps, Patricia Duggan, John R. E. Chastain, Jeanine Newgent Daugherty, Elaine Hickson, and Linda Chastain Merk.

There's also a chart showing membership of the Facebook group by age and gender; 73% of the members are female and 27% are male.

The chart also indicates that the majority of members of the Facebook group are age 45 or higher, with the largest group being 65 years old or older.

In addition, the cities with the highest number of members are also recorded to help us know where our members come from. The top five cities are listed below.

- (1) Murphy, North Carolina
- (2) Marble Hill, Georgia
- (3) Ellijay, Georgia
- (4) Canton, Georgia
- (5) Cumming, Georgia

In addition, we have a few members who live in countries other than the United States: United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Australia.

We invite you to join our Facebook group. Here is the link below. (You'll also need to answer a few questions before being approved to verify that you are a real person.)

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

Errata & Addenda:
Additional Information, #605
Francis Marion Chastain

by **Jim Chesteen**
Genealogist@PierreChastain.com

The family featured in this issue is being revisited. Time slipped by and deadlines passed to sort out others. This is a unit (on this branch of the family) updated in our database records but tabled for a potential second Errata and Addenda rather than The Chestnut Tree since they had previously been profiled (April, 1981). Included are minor corrections but mainly, you'll find additional information and information about further descendants.

There is an interesting background story, and since we are headed to Georgia for our reunion this year; it is a family with deep roots in north Georgia, Gilmer and Fannin Counties. In addition, this highlights the research conducted by two of our pioneer researchers, a husband and wife team, both Chastain descendants, both native Georgians; Troy M. and Frances Chastain. Their research preceded the availability of online resources. They had to hit the archives, county courthouses, and actually make direct contact with others, make cold calls and make visits. I am pleased to provide additions and a continuation of their work on this family line.

An inquiry by descendants of Ann Thompson (1884-1962) regarding her parentage ended up in Fannin County. The family did not know the parents of Ann but her maiden name was traditionally Chastain and they knew basic facts: her birth, death, marriage and geographical locations associated throughout her life. She had apparently married her husband, William C. Thompson, in the Fannin County area in the early 1900's. There was an old tale that Ann's parents might have been murdered, that she was certainly "displaced" in her childhood.

An initial scan of the PCFA data was not productive. A 1900 census search turned up a possible candidate, Anna Chastain, residing in the household of Robert and Margaret Roberts residing near Ellijay, Georgia. Robert and Margaret were an elderly couple who was housing the 14-year-old Anna as their servant. Since there were two other girls also related as servants, it seemed unlikely that Anna would be related to the Roberts. She was a potential orphan from all of those Chastain families residing in Gilmer and Fannin Counties.

However, Ann was easily located in the 1910 Census of Fannin County. She was a 23-year-old residing in the household of William Thompson and as his wife. And, just two homes down the road was the home of John Chastain, a 29-year-old, and his wife Mollie. Was this residential association coincidence or were they potential siblings residing near to each other?

The process of identifying John Chastain, relative to identifying Ann, lead to the research of Mr. Troy M. Chastain on the family of Francis Marion "Frank" Chastain. Mr. Chastain conducted an interview with John Tillman Pryor Chastain of Scottdale, Georgia. The date of the interview is unknown but the material was submitted to then genealogist Elby Bowman in 1977. John T. P. Chastain was a son of Francis Marion Chastain; the basic family structure is from this interview.

I will let Troy M. Chastain introduce the family, from his notes in the family files.

"The story of this family is a story of tragedy, hardship, illness and death. Most of this information comes from one of the sons, John Tillman Pryor Chastain, who stated that his mother expected to deliver a baby early in 1892. Unfortunately, as the time of delivery approached his father Frank Marion Chastain became ill with pneumonia and died approximately the day the new baby arrived. At the time of delivery, the mother also became ill and both she and the baby died. Both parents and the baby were buried in a common grave in a church yard in the Tails Creek section of Gilmer County. John, apparently about 11 years old when his parents died, reported that one of the neighbors took him in to care for him, but he felt they were unduly harsh, so he ran away and made his way the best he could. John mentioned that another family took in his sister Mary and they moved to Texas and he lost contact with her."

[Research notes of Troy M. Chastain, Atlanta, GA, PCFA Family Database]

As usual, please provide any additional information and certainly corrections. References and source citations available on request.

Jimmy Chesteen, PCFA Genealogist (edited by Karyl Chastain Beal)

605. Francis Marion Chastain

1. **Francis Marion "Frank"⁶ Chastain** (Tillman P.⁵, Elijah⁴, Rev. John³, Peter², Jr., Pierre¹), son of **Tillman P.** and **Talitha Matilda (Cochran) Chastain**, was born about 1853 probably in Gilmer County, Georgia and died in 1892 in the Tails Creek Community, Gilmer County, Georgia. He married there on 26 December 1873, Adeline E. May, daughter of **Pryor and Mary (Bowman) May**, who was born in 1854 in North Carolina and died in 1892 in Tails Creek, Gilmer County.

Frank is initially recorded as a 7-year-old (1853) in the home of his parents in the 1860 Census for Fannin County, Georgia. The family apparently alluded the enumerator in 1870 as a likely household has not been determined in the Gilmer/Fannin area. By 1880, Frank, Adeline and their children, with Frank's parents, are living in the Ridgeway community of Gilmer County. The households are recorded next door to each other. Frank is farming and Adeline, as typical, is performing the duties of a housewife.

The 1880 Federal Agricultural Schedule indicated that Frank had tilled and worked 8 acres of improved land. There was no indication of other land, woodland, or unimproved. He owned agricultural implements and livestock including a horse, cows, and pigs. Since his father also reported 8 acres of worked land out of a total of 160, it is probable that Frank was working his father's cultivatable property. He reported spending \$10.00 on fencing the previous year.

Frank is recorded on the tax digests for Gilmer County from 1878 to 1887 residing in the Ridgeway area and typically indexed next to his father and taxed without real estate, only a poll

or for personal possessions like livestock and implements. Between 1887 and the 1890 tax digest, Frank had acquired 65 acres of property in the Tails Creek District of Gilmer County, section 2.

Then of course everything turned upside down for the family in 1892. Gilmer County Probate records confirm the recollection of son John T. P. Chastain relating the death of both Frank and Adeline and the scattering of the children into other local families. B. F. Charles was made guardian of the minor heirs of F. M. Chastain. B. F. is more than likely Benjamin G. Charles a resident of the Tails Creek Community. His relationship to the Chastain children is unknown except as a neighbor. None of the children were residing in his household in 1900 or 1910. Perhaps it was with this family that John T. P. Chastain had originally been placed.

Apparently, the property of Frank and Adeline was sold and the funds held in a trust for the children. Potentially funds were available for the children's care with a final share distributed as each turned 21 years of age. On July 14th 1897, the eldest child, Mary F. Chastain received a distributive share; she would have turned 21 years old in 1897. Less than a year later, in a report dated 14 February 1898, P. G. Hyatt was reimbursed for the expenses of Mary's burial. Mary had died in early 1898, some six years after her parent's death and separation from her siblings. Her brother John never knew of her death thinking that she had moved to Texas with another family.

Jefferson F. Chastain received his inheritance 23 October 1899, and then another daughter, "Mrs. Thompson" received her inheritance on 5 June 1906. This "Mrs. Thompson" would be Ann Chastain, the subject of the initial inquiry and revisit of the family. Lenora Chastain Craig received her share in 1908.

The two apparently youngest children, Martha J. and Dora, were reported in 1910 to have addresses unknown. Neither Benjamin nor John are mentioned in the estate disbursements. Perhaps Benjamin had died before coming of age and without a request for burial assistance. It could very well be that John T.P., who reported that he ran away from his guardians, was thought to be deceased; certainly, he was attempting to keep his whereabouts unknown to the estate administrators for fear of a second foster placement.

Searches for the children, although not extensive, has not been productive, especially for the two youngest girls. None of the family is found in the immediate area of Gilmer or Fannin Counties in 1900 with the exception of Anna. John T.P. was probably moving from place to place picking up whatever work was available without a long-term residence in which to be enumerated. It is likely that Leoma was residing in Gilmer circa 1900 since she married there in 1906. Perhaps she too was being shuffled from residence to residence as domestic help.

Attempts to locate the youngest girls by both surname and their given names in Gilmer, Fannin, and surrounding counties has not produced any likely matches. Potentially the two girls were placed with families who removed from the area, maybe relocating to Texas as John T. P. thought concerning his older sister Mary, that they might have used the surname of their "adoptive" parents.

It is strange that apparently none of the children was taken in by known relatives. Their maternal family, the Mays, seemed to no longer reside in the area, but there were Chastain "cousins" scattered all about and close relatives. Both of Frank's aunts, Rhoda Chastain and

Martha Chastain Anderson, were residing in the Ridgeway area circa 1900. Were the children “snapped up” by local families hoping for a portion of the estate funds or property?

The murder tale by Anna’s descendants is probably just that, a tale. But maybe one with underlying suspicions relative to the families who fostered the children. Maybe gossip concerning motivations for persons interested in the family property. John T.P. Chastain’s recollection of the demise of the family is credible without mention of any criminal intent and no other legal proceedings appear in the records.

There are several cemeteries in the Tails Creek area that have burials that precede the period of Frank and Adaline's deaths. They were active at the time, and are possibilities for their burial. The logical assumption would be Tails Creek Church Cemetery since the family owned property and resided in the area at the time of their deaths. Ridgeway Cemetery is certainly a possibility since the family was recorded for a number of years living in that community and immediate family is said to be buried there: Frank's sister Rhoda Chastain and perhaps his parents.

Adeline's family had North Carolina origins, residing in Caldwell County from the 1840's until 1870 when they are found in Union County, Georgia, Blairsville. However, by 1880 the family had moved back north into North Carolina, residing in Haywood County.

Children of Frank and Adeline (May) Chastain, all assumed to be born in Gilmer County, Georgia:

- 2 i. **Mary T.⁷ Chastain**, born in 1876; died prior to 14 February 1898, in Gilmer County. Mary was recorded in the home of her parents in the 1880 Gilmer County, Georgia census as a four-year-old female. Her brother John reported that she and the family of her care had moved to Texas. However, she received her share of her parent’s estate in 1897 after she became of age, 21. Unfortunately the estate distributed funds on 14 Feb 1898 for the expenses of her funeral. The expenses were paid to a P.(Peter) G. Hyatt, a resident of Ridgeway in Gilmer County, so apparently Mary never relocated to Texas and her brother John was unaware of her death. Peter Hyatt’s relationship to Mary is unknown but does not appear to familial.
- 3 ii. **Benjamin F.⁷ Chastain**, born in 1877; perhaps died prior to 1898. Benjamin is not recorded in the estate disbursements of his parents’ property. Both his older and younger siblings, Mary and Jefferson, received their shares in 1897 and 1899 when they reached the age of 21. Since it appears that the ages of the children in 1880 were accurate, Benjamin should have received his share in 1898. So, it would seem that since he is not listed in the estate records it is probable that he had died prior to reaching the age of 21.

However, a potential candidate for Benjamin is residing in Shuck Penn in Murray County, Georgia in 1900. A 22-year-old was working as a servant in the Webster R. Coffey household. The location is near to Eton, Georgia and is not very far from Tails Creek community and Ellijay. There are issues with this “Eton” Benjamin being the son of Frank and Adeline, his reported birthplace in Tennessee, etc.

- 4 iii. **Jefferson F.⁷ Chastain**, born in 1878; Jefferson received his portion of his parents’ estate in 1899, corresponding to him turning 21 years old based on his age in the 1880 census. A record of his existence after the 1899 estate entry in the Gilmer/Fannin area does not seem to be probable for him. There is an un-sourced

reference that he married Josie Moses but that remains unsubstantiated. Perhaps he moved to California and was one of the two Jefferson Chastains recorded there in the 1920 Census.

One of the Jefferson Chastains left sporadic records from his initial appearance in 1880 in Stanislaus County to his death there in 1935. Stanislaus County is in the San Joaquin Valley east of San Francisco. This man was born circa 1861 and he potentially differs from the Jefferson Chastain recorded also in 1920 but in Los Angeles County. Unless a duplicate with demographic data greatly corrupted, this appears to be the record of another individual.

The 1920 Jefferson Chastain residing in Los Angeles was born circa 1875 and in Georgia. He is probably the same person recorded in the Pomona, California City Directory of 1924. Casual searches for additional info did not produce any likely candidates in California for him. It is interesting that he reported his father's birthplace as France.

Perhaps his middle initial F indicates being named for his father, Francis or Frank and potential further research should include persons relating this name as well.

- 5 iv. **John Tillman Pryor⁷ Chastain**, born 1 January 1881; died 30 April 1962 in Scottdale, DeKalb County, Georgia; buried at Scottdale Cemetery; married 30 September 1901 in Fannin County, Georgia, **Mary J. "Molly" Thompson**. [*Correction: She was called Molly rather than Nellie*]. Mary was born on 21 October 1874 in Georgia and died on 23 May 1934 in Scottdale. She was buried at Scottdale Cemetery.

John and Molly are noted in the Federal Census records as Fannin County residents in 1910. In 1920 they are living in Cobb County, Georgia, and in 1930 in DeKalb County, Georgia, probably the Scottdale community. John's occupation was noted as general labor in 1910, as a farmer in 1920, and as a truck farmer in 1930. He and Molly owned their home without a mortgage by 1930.

Apparently, the couple was childless. Molly indicated in the 1910 census that she had not had children; children are not recorded in latter census records either. After Molly's death and by 1940, John was residing with a nephew/niece in Scottdale, the James W. and Clyta (Anderson) Sweat family. The relationship as uncle to either John or Molly is unclear. Possibly Clyta Anderson is actually a cousin of some sort, a descendant of John T. P.'s aunt Martha Chastain Anderson. The 1950 census records John still residing with James and Clyta and that he is working in a textile mill.

John's obituary prefixed his name with Reverend, so at some point he had become involved in the ministry. The obituary included the mention of Mrs. W. C. Thompson, his sister Ann. His recollection of his parents and siblings in an interview with Chastain researcher Troy M. Chastain provided the basis for research on the family unit.

- + 6 v. **Anna E.⁷ Chastain**, born 29 May 1884; died 19 May 1962 in Cherokee County, Georgia; buried at Enon Cemetery, Bankston, Cherokee County; married in 1904 in Fannin County, **William Charles Thompson**. William was born in 1876.
- + 7 vi. **Leoma Savannah⁷ Chastain**, born 22 January 1888; died 4 April 1952 in Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama; buried at Hanks Cemetery, Calhoun County,

- Alabama; married 11 December 1906 in Gilmer County, **Joseph Alfred Craig**.
- 8 vii. **Martha J.⁷ Chastain**, born circa 1889. Residence circa 1910 unknown.
- 9 viii. **Dora⁷ Chastain**, born circa 1891. Residence circa 1910 unknown.
- 10 ix. **Infant⁷ Chastain**, born and died in 1892. Buried with parents near Tails Creek.

Second Generation (Children)

6. **Anna E.⁷ Chastain** (Francis Marion "Frank"⁶, Tillman P.⁵, Elijah⁴, Rev. John³, Peter², Jr., Pierre¹), daughter of Francis Marion "Frank" and Adeline E. (May) Chastain, was born on 29 May 1884 in Gilmer County, Georgia and died on 19 May 1962 in Cherokee County, Georgia. She was buried at Enon Cemetery, Bankston, Cherokee County. She married circa 1904 probably in Fannin County, Georgia, William Charles Thompson, who was born 21 August 1876 and died 15 February 1966, son of William and Abigail Thompson.

Anna is probably the person of the same name residing in the home of Robert and Margret Roberts in Ellijay, Georgia in 1900 as their servant. She was married circa 1904 and then received her share of her parent's estate in 1906 as "Mrs. Thompson". The family is recorded for the 1910 Census as residents of Toccoa, Fannin County, Georgia. The information given relates the couple had been married six years and that Anna was the mother of three children, two of whom were still alive. They were renting their home and William was working as a carpenter. Her brother John T. P. Chastain was residing two homes down the road.

By 1920, the family had relocated to Blue Ridge, Fannin County. William was now working as a shoemaker and in his own shop. Both Anna and William as well as the school age children were all reported to be able to read and write. The family unit had moved south by 1930 into Cherokee County. William was still in the shoe business, apparently running his own "shoe shop" with his occupation noted as a cobbler. The family was numbered on the farm schedule, so a farm commodity was being produced by the family as possible income.

Anna's family was still living in Cherokee County, the Lickskillett area, in 1940. William gave his occupation as a farmer rather than a cobbler but he indicated that he had other income besides the farming activity, the assumption would be that he still ran some sort of shoe repair on the side. The obituary of Anna's brother, John T. P. Chastain, indicated she was still residing in Cherokee County in 1962 with the included "Mrs. W. C. Thompson of Woodstock, Georgia".

Children of Anna E. Chastain and her husband, William Charles Thompson, all born in Fannin County:

- 11 i. **William Edgar⁸ Thompson**, born 6 September 1905.
- 12 ii. **Bonnie Louise⁸ Thompson**, born 6 July 1910; died 25 July 1926.
- 13 iii. **Dorothy Josephine⁸ Thompson**, born 9 August 1915.
- 14 iv. **Joseph Franklin⁸ Thompson**, born 2 May 1919; died 5 August 1982 in Dade County, Florida.
- 15 v. **Virginia Ruth⁸ Thompson**, born 25 March 1924; died 11 December 2006 in Cherokee County.

- 16 vi. **Edna Lucille⁸ Thompson**, born 27 January 1927; died 15 August 2014 at Albany, Linn County, Oregon; buried at Willamette Memorial Park, Albany; married 25 October 1945 in Henrico, Virginia, **Troy Melvin Gable**.

7. **Leoma Savannah⁷ Chastain** (Francis Marion "Frank"⁶, Tillman P.⁵, Elijah⁴, Rev. John³, Peter², Jr., Pierre¹), daughter of Francis Marion "Frank" and Adeline E. (May) Chastain, was born on 22 January 1888 in Gilmer County and died on 4 April 1952 in Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama. She was buried at Hanks Cemetery, Calhoun, Alabama. She married on 11 December 1906 in Gilmer County to Joseph Alfred Craig.

She received her distribution of her parent's estate in 1906. Leoma and her family continued to reside near Ellijay, Georgia but had moved to Cobb County, Georgia by 1930. Joseph died after 1930 and prior to the 1940 census, perhaps in Cobb County. The family reported their residence as Cobb County in 1935 but had moved to the Vickers area of Worth County, Georgia by 1940 with Leoma now widowed. Leoma's obituary did not mention any surviving siblings although both Anna and John T.P. were still alive. Her Social Security files reported her father as Frank Chastain, her mother was not named.

Children of Leoma Savannah Chastain and her husband, Joseph Alfred Craig, all born in Gilmer County:

- 17 i. **John Paul⁸ Craig**, born 26 December 1910; died 6 January 1980 in Cobb County, Georgia; buried at Mount Harmony Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Mableton, Cobb County, Georgia; married **Etna P. Johnson**. Etna was born in 1917 and died in 1995. She was buried at Mount Harmony Memorial Gardens Cemetery. John was residing in Forsyth, Georgia in 1952 at the time of his mother's death. He and Etna had two known children, Olin Paul and Harold L. Craig.
- + 18 ii. **Beauty Viola "Avelie"⁸ Craig**, born 1 December 1914; died 16 August 1998; buried at Hanks Cemetery; married **Charlie Glass**. Charlie was born on 8 February 1919 in Cleburne County, Alabama and died on 3 October 1969 in Copeland, Florida. He was buried at Hanks Cemetery.
- 19 iii. **Joseph Walter⁸ Craig**, born 27 August 1917; died 25 July 1988 in Douglas, Georgia; buried at Rosehaven Cemetery, Douglasville, Georgia; married **Annie Victoria Tancreater nee O'Brien**. Walter was living in Birmingham, Alabama in 1952 at the time of his mother's death.
- 20 iv. **Jasper Blair⁸ Craig**, born 22 March 1920; died 17 April 1982 in Anniston, Calhoun County, Alabama; buried at McFry Cemetery, Piedmont, Calhoun County, Alabama; married 27 November 1942 in Calhoun County, **Bertha Mae Haynes**. Bertha was born on 23 February 1916 and died on 10 November 1951 in Calhoun County. Residing in Ulvalda, Georgia in 1952

Pierre Chastain FTDNA y-DNA Project

We are pleased that a descendant of Robert Ransom Chastain (William³, Peter, Jr.², Pierre¹) has joined the group, a much-needed additional dataset from a son of William Chastain other than George. This brings the total to 23 members who share a common male ancestor. Thanks to all who are participating. And since we are a young and homogenous dataset we continue to need participants.

Sponsor Funds Available for 37 Marker y-DNA Test Kits

Since numbers matter, we are pleased to announce that we have sponsorship funds available for PCFA members who descend from one of the group's target lineages. **Members of the Pierre Chastain Family Association who are descended from one of the priority lineages below can purchase a 37-marker y-DNA test for \$39.00.** This is an \$80.00 discount from the current regular price.

Priority lineages of descent who are presently not represented in the project:

1. Jean Adam Chastain² – (Pierre¹) two data sets from grandsons (John III, Lewis, William, Stephen).
2. Rene Chastain, Jr.³ (Rene Chastain², Pierre Chastain¹), descent from any of Rene, Jr.'s sons.
3. Peter Chastain³ (Rene Chastain², Pierre Chastain¹), line of descent down from sons John or James.
4. Abraham Chastain³ (Peter, Jr.², Pierre Chastain¹). Two sets from any of Abraham's sons.
5. Renny Chastain³ (Peter, Jr.², Pierre Chastain¹), any line of descent.
6. Unknown or unattached lines of descent from a man born prior to 1830.

With preference to those above the following are not as critical but would certainly be helpful:

1. Rev. James Chastain³ (Peter, Jr.², Pierre Chastain¹), line of descent from sons Royal, Samuel, or Peter.
2. Rev. John Chastain³ (Peter, Jr.², Pierre Chastain¹), descent from John II, Benjamin, William, or Joseph.
3. William Chastain³ (Peter, Jr.², Pierre Chastain¹), descent from sons Barnett, Valentine, Rene, or John.
4. Jesse Chasteen/Shasteen (unknown, Pierre¹), descendant of sons Jesse, Jr., Thomas, or Samuel.

The funds are limited so it will be a first come, first serve. Please contact Jimmy at jimchesteen@gmail.com or genealogist@pierrechastain.com if you are interested and/or have additional questions.

We also attempt to keep several kits reserved at discounted prices for anyone who would like to test regardless of a targeted or priority lineage; a) 37 marker kit-\$79.00 (regular price \$119.00), b) 111 marker kit-\$199.00 (regular price \$249.00), and c) Big Y kit-\$379.00 (regular price \$449.00)

Remember these tests are for males only and the son of a female Chastain descendant will not qualify, only direct male descent. **However, female Chastain descendants can certainly participate by submitting and managing a sample from their father, uncle, brother, or male cousin.**

Project Participation

As we grow we would like to include others who are interested to assist with the DNA projects, both the male y-DNA and autosomal. If you consider yourself a genetic researcher it would certainly be great to have that input in evaluating our test kits.

We have 121 total members in the FTDNA project including the 23 y-DNA male descendants and 190 kits from 112 members in the Gedmatch project. We hope and expect these numbers to continue growing. Another goal not realized is to collaborate with other Chastain and Chastain like surnames

worldwide from the Huguenot diaspora. It would be interesting to work with the Mobile, Alabama Chastang families to determine if there is a common ancestor back in Europe.

Also, if there is an interest in pursuing Mitochondrial DNA. There are 32 members of the FTDNA project who have performed a mtDNA test. Although doubtful that any are descendants of one of Pierre’s daughters, this could still be an interesting project for someone to coordinate/administer.

Send Jimmy an email if you are interested in assisting or can provide additional expertise regarding the results.

STR Data Results Evaluation

The reason behind increasing our participation numbers is that our dataset is quite “young” compared to many other family projects. Presently, we are not attempting to separate potential brothers born in the 1400’s, maybe some 12 to 16 generations back. Rather we are looking at grouping men born in the 1700’s or early 1800’s, maybe at the most 10 generations back and more probably around 8 generations at the extreme.

This presents some issues in developing signature mutations. With some of the more defining marker mutations occurring at an average rate of once every 8 to 10 generations our chances of seeing defining patterns are not as great in the STR markers as families generationally older.

3 rd Generation Participant Ancestor	393	390	19	391
Group Modal (Pierre)	13	24	13	11
Rev. John Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. James Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. John Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. John Chastain	13	24	13	11
Peter Chastain (Rene ²)	13	24	13	11
Rene son of Peter, Jr.	13	23	13	11
Rev. James Chastain	13	24	13	11
William Chastain	13	24	13	11
William Chastain	13	24	13	12
William Chastain	13	24	13	12
William Chastain	13	24	13	12
Jesse Chas/Shasteen	13	24	13	12
James Chasteen RWS	13	24	13	12
James Chasteen RWS	13	24	13	13
James Chasteen RWS	13	24	13	13
James Chasteen RWS	13	24	13	13
Rev. James Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. James Chastain	13	24	13	11
James Chastain (Rene ²)	13	24	13	11
Rev. John Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. John Chastain	13	24	13	11
Rev. James Chastain	13	24	13	11

However, it appears that a signature has developed on marker DYS391. Considered a slow-medium mutating marker, and appropriate to develop a signature within our dataset. As illustrated, a pattern has developed for descendants of William Chastain and the James RWS and Jesse Chasteen lines. Potentially signifying a closer relationship between these three groups of descendants. The progression from 12 to 13 is recent with those members sharing an ancestor within 2 to 3 generations, and is actually yet another signature for descendants of James RWS(Revolutionary War Soldier).

Note the one outlier who is at mode with an 11. This is a possible back-mutation that would require further testing, perhaps SNP’s to define a terminal haplogroup.

Also, the only descendant of Rene, son of Peter Chastain, Jr., has a unique mutation not shared by any others on DYS 390. This could have occurred recently or could be a signature for this line of descent. Only testing other descendants will determine.

We will have a presentation/discussion at this year’s reunion with additional details and charts generated by a couple of analytical software applications including David Vance’s SAPP program that allows input of lineages weighing that data while also giving weight to the various markers by their mutation rates. We also have six persons who have advanced tested at the Big Y level, we don’t know where this will lead but we hope to be able to report on those results at the reunion as well.

Jimmy Chesteen, DNA Project Co-Administrator

*Guest Essay:***Reflections on the Family Tree**

by Tom Taylor
totaylor@seidata.com

All of my life I have been a Taylor, so I once considered the Taylor family to be the story of my heritage. This is despite the fact that only one of my sixty-four g-g-g-g-grandparents is a Taylor. Among these sixty-four are a variety of family names, but the most common is Chastain. It fills three of those sixty-four slots. Those Chastain slots are filled by Valentine Chastain, the same fellow.

My grandmother was a Robbins. I remember her talking about the Chasteens, but personally knew no one of that name. Grandma's father was a great-grandson of Valentine Chastain and her mother was a great-granddaughter of, yes, Valentine Chastain. I later learned that the Chastain and Robbins families had many marriages, and it seems like half the women were named Mary or Martha.

At first I was concerned about all these cousins marrying each other, but it did answer one question for me. I have always been a very slow runner and it seems my heritage comes from ancestors who were never fast enough to catch someone outside the family to marry.

Genealogy remains an interesting hobby, but I am sometimes uncertain why it matters. I mean, who cares what my g-g-g-g grandfather did or did not do? I have siblings who are different from me, so why should I think some distant ancestor would be someone like me?

I have not taken one of those DNA tests, but I understand that a surprising percentage of the results produce, uh, surprises.

In some cases the surprise fills in a gap and answers a long-standing question, but in others the answer is a true surprise, which creates a gap causing the individual to reconsider their entire heritage.

This has brought me to the position that I now think of having two family trees: I have a sociocultural tree and I have a biological tree.

The socio-cultural tree is the one that is more interesting to me. It might include adoptions or a wrongly identified parent. Still, this tree is about individuals considered the parents. It helps explain why I might have certain religious beliefs or live in a certain part of the country. It can help show vocations passed through generations, or interests in sports or the arts. It is this tree that is mostly responsible for who I am, where I live, and how I identify.

The biological tree, however, is probably the more important. It defines my genetics and answers questions such as how much money I can expect to pay on combs in my elder years. Through this tree I can trace health issues and discover patterns which may help guide me in my own quest to stay healthy.

I have not heard of others refer to these two different trees, but I suggest in today's world we accept that both exist and both are important. There should not be a battle as to which tree is the "right" one. Each is important and has something important to offer.

As we are all discovering things through DNA testing, I would like to suggest that the Pierre Chastain Family Association create a position to reach out to our cousins of color and invite them to join us in celebrating our share heritage.

Yes, we would probably find both types of family connections — somewhere there is a biological heritage and others where a family name was adopted 150 years ago and has been used ever since.

The Thomas Jefferson family discussed this question for many years before they opened their doors. Our family is just as good, important, and inclusive. I mean, I already knew our family had cousin marrying cousin, so I'm ready for any other interesting connections we can discover.





Member Report

by Carol Migdat

Membership@PierreChastain.com

New Members!

We're so excited to welcome several who have joined us in recent months. We hope we can meet every one of you at the reunion this year. The following is a list of those who joined the Pierre Chastain Family Association since publication of the previous issue of The Chestnut Tree.

- **Brenda Williams, Union City GA**
- **Jennifer Murphy, Murphy NC**
- **Michael Maszaros, Petersburg VA**
- **Teresa Frye, Walland TN**
- **Linda Chastain Merck, Rome GA**
- **James Balkcom, Holt FL**
- **Laura Rogers, Pima AZ**
- **Carol L. Ditmore, Phoenix AZ**
- **Joretta Hirleman, Paradise CA**
- **Michael Smith, Plainfield IN**

To those who have been members for a while, please send any changes to your mailing address, home address, e-mail address, and/or phone number to: pcfa.carol@gmail.com.

2022 Chastain Family Reunion

by Raleigh Chastine
President@PierreChastain.com

2022 Chastain Family Reunion

The Pierre Chastain Family Association (PCFA) Reunion is on. It will be held in Cartersville, Georgia, at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 24 Liberty Drive, Cartersville, GA, 30121. The Reunion is scheduled for Friday 09/23/2022 and Saturday 09/24/2022. On the 23rd we will be having one-half day discussions and presentations (1-6 p.m.) and all-day on the 24th (8 AM – 6 PM), with a banquet Saturday evening (7-9 p.m.).

We have made arrangements for the Hilton to block out 25 rooms for our reunion dates so if you plan to attend, please do not wait too long to book your reservations. The number (amount) of booked rooms and their rates are:

Standard King bed (15): \$129/night + tax (10%)
Standard Double Queen beds (7): \$139/night + tax (10%)
King Junior Suite (3): \$149/night + tax (10%)

For those who would like to arrive early we have 10 room available (6, 3 and 1 respectively), or leave on Monday we have 5 rooms available (3, 1 and 1 respectively). Why would you want to do that? If you decide to come in early or stay an extra day there are several things in the Cartersville area that I would recommend:

We have four museums. First, there is the Booth Western Museum (www.boothmuseum.org). Regardless of whether you're a cowboy fan or not this is a fantastic art museum. They are constantly bringing in different exhibits concerning western art and sculpture. I think it'll be well worth your time. Next, there is the Tellus Science Museum (www.tellusmuseum.org). It is comprised of four galleries as well as a planetarium. The third museum has just opened, the Savoy Auto Museum (www.savoymuseum.org). It is a 65,000 square foot structure with four exhibition galleries. For trivia's sake — the museum was named after finding a Savoy automobile that was dug up during construction. It now sits outside the museum with a fully restored Savoy automobile sitting inside. And, as an extra bonus for local history there is the Bartow County Museum located near the heart of the city.

As for eateries we have almost all the normal restaurants that you can think of, and then some. Want a good meal in a unique environment try the Appalachian Grill (www.appalachiangrill.com). What? Just need a sandwich, then try the Swheat Market Deli (www.swheatmarketdeli.com). And if you prefer casual dining there is The City Cellar (www.thecitycellar.com) right around the corner from Swheat's. All are excellent.

We will try to squeeze as many items of interest into the agenda as we can. We have not determined the exact agenda as of yet, but will definitely have several things lined up. Please refer to our Web site or keep tabs on our Facebook page for updated information.

I've asked Karyl Chastain Beal, our past president, to handle the Chastain lineage portion of the meeting. This is the portion of the meeting where you get to tell your lineage back to Pierre Chastain. I've contacted Emory and asked them to give me an update, if possible, on how things are going with the Chastain's Alzheimer's research. As you may know, the Chastains are being studied based on early onset Alzheimer's. Also, we'll have some update information available on our DNA project. And other items are being added into the agenda as well.

If you want to attend, please register as soon as possible. For those of you who still use snail mail, there is a registration form located at the back of this issue. For those of you who are a little more technically advanced feel free to go to the Pierre Chastain website and you can download the form as a ".pdf", fill it out, and send it in via email or USPS mail.

If you have not joined the PCFA Facebook group or Chastain Chatter (both hosted by our Social Media Coordinator, Karyl Chastain Beal) I would recommend you do so. Both are free to members and non-members. More reunion information will be posted in these publications and on our website as it becomes available.

I strongly encourage you to join The Pierre Chastain Family Association: PCFA. The more people we get involved in our endeavor the more information we will have to find the true path of our heritage.

— **Raleigh Chastine**
Cartersville, Georgia
President@PierreChastain.com

Registration to attend the annual Chastain Reunion

September 23 - 24, 2022 - Cartersville, Georgia

The Chastain reunion, sponsored by the Pierre Chastain Family Association, will be one and a half days long this year, Friday, September 23rd from 1 – 6 PM and Saturday, September 24th from 8 – 6 PM, with a banquet from 7 – 9 PM. During the day, we'll have a variety of meetings, presentations, and time for socializing and connecting.

Discussions are still on-going about the possibility of a box lunches and dinner menus for the banquet on Saturday evening. We'll give details and cost of the meal out once arrangements have been made.

Note: Because of the uncertainty we hope that everyone who attends the reunion will be respectful of others personal space. Some have been vaccinated against Covid-19 and others may not have been vaccinated. In order to help keep all of us safe w ask that everyone will bring face masks with them, just in case.

If you plan to attend, please complete the following information and e-mail it to Karyl Chastain Beal at karylcb@gmail.com (or print it out and snail mail it to the address listed below.)

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Where do you live? _____

Names of people who will be attending with you:

Where did you learn about the reunion? (Circle all that apply.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Chestnut Tree | PierreChastain.com Web site |
| PCFA FaceBook Group | Chastain Chatter |
| From relatives | Other (explain) |

Please send completed form to:

Karyl Chastain Beal - Reunion
703 Clay Court
Spring Hill, TN 37174

Reunion Buffet Dinner

Saturday, September 24, 2022

6 – 8 PM

The PCFA 2022 Buffet Menu:

In addition to:

Freshly Brewed Ice Tea, Coffee, or Water
A delicious house salad
Artisan rolls



You will have a Entrée choice of:

Either Grilled Chicken, or Roast Beef

You will have a choice of 2 of the 3 sides:

Green Beans with Bacon and Caramelized onions
Caramelized Carrots
White Cheddar Mashed Potatoes

And for Dessert you will get:

New York Style Cheese Cake

If you're planning to join us for the Pierre Chastain Family Association reunion banquet, please provide the information requested below and mail it to Karyl, along with a check or money order payable to the PCFA or Pierre Chastain Family Association.

(Or if you're paying by PayPal/credit card, you can e-mail the form to Karyl.)

Number of people attending the banquet:

_____ X \$45.00 = \$ _____

The banquet cost is \$45 per person. That is \$90 for two people, \$135 for three people, and \$180 for four people.

Pierre Chastain Family Association Publications Order Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City/Town: _____

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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: \$_____

For **PUBLICATIONS** please send completed order form and total payment amount to:

Bonnie Wilkins
701 S 14TH ST Phone: (618) 694-3349
HERRIN, IL 62948-3807 Librarian@PierreChastain.com

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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!

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