

THE CHESTNUT TREE



Official Organ & Publication of

The Pierre Chastain Family Association

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

Volume XLVII, Number 3
Fall-Winter 2022

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[Facebook.com/groups/PierreChastain/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierreChastain/)

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.

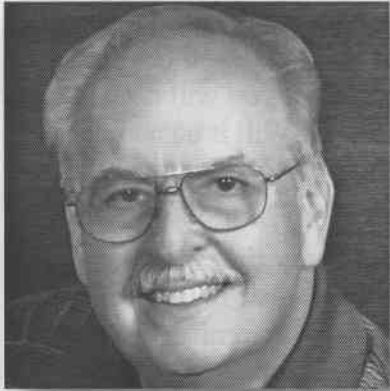
Membership consists of, but is not limited to, known and probable descendants of Pierre Chastain. The price of annual membership is \$20.00 and is a family membership that is effective the first of January each year. A life membership may also be purchased for \$200.00. All membership inquiries and renewals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

It's about time ...

I just got an extra hour back in my life. It is the same hour I lost when the government took it away in the spring. Someone even made a little "memory jogger" to help you: Spring forward, Fall back. Which should be: Spring forward into Daylight Saving Time and Fall back to Standard Time, because I can never remember which one is which.

This is not the first time that man has messed around with time. When Pope Gregory XIII introduced his calendar in 1582 time jumped from October 4th one day to October 15th the next. Heck, I was just getting use to B.C. when they now reference BCE. But you know what? Time is not standing still regardless of what man does to it.

I am sitting here thinking about all the issues of *The Chestnut Tree*. Partly, because I have been trying to scan them into ".pdf" formatted documents. While doing so I have taken the opportunity to read some of the articles in the older issues. We have had quite a history so far, and that history is continuing. And while we have some famous relatives that people talk about, most of us are only known to our family, friends, and co-workers.

If you go to the PCFA Web site and look at the reunion pictures you will see that the last reunion was the 47th. That is somewhat hard to believe, because as I have gotten older, I think "where has the time gone?" I think it is natural that people reflect on their life as they get older. Whether you have made use of the time to do what you have wanted to do or whether you are one of the millions of people where "life" got in the way.

But it is not only about the 47 years that the PCFA has been in existence. It is about the three hundred plus years of our family history. While some of the lucky ones have had their past generations well documented by previous family members, some of us still have a lot of research to do. I know I do. A lot of research.

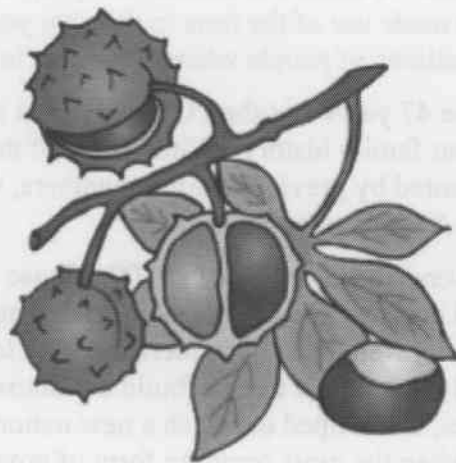
I think about those ancestors who came here in 1700. Those relatives that spent 3 months sailing in ships with cramped quarters and had all their belongings packed into crates, and barrels, and bags. Relatives that went into the wilderness, only to get into an area that was undeveloped, where they had to cut down trees to build the house that would become their home. Relatives, our relatives, that helped establish a new nation and new form of government. This at a time when the most common form of government was a king or queen who dictated how far you could advance in life or what religion you had to be.

So, when I say “it’s about time,” I am not referring to any right, or wrong, way to spend it. Time does not care whether you are rich or poor. It is about what you do with your time. You may not be the richest person in terms of money, but you may very well be the richest in how you spend your time. You are the one that needs to decide what you will do with your time. Will your time be spent with your family making memories? Will it be about documenting your family history to pass down to future generations? Will it be about traveling to some place that you have always wanted to visit but never had the chance?

Like I said, there is not any right way or wrong way to spend your time, as long as you spend it wisely. We are heading into the new year and it is my wish that I hope you spend your time wisely. I hope you have the chance to spend your time with family, friends, and co-workers. And, I hope you will take time to think about all that has come before us, about all that will come after us, and how blessed we are to have each other — at this time.

Stay happy, healthy, and safe. Please take the time to take care of yourself.

Raleigh Chastine
Cartersville, Georgia
President@PierreChastain.com





The PCFA Facebook Group

by Karyl Chastain Beal

PCFA Social Media Coordinator

The PCFA Facebook group has over 1,300 members, and almost 1,000 of them are active on the message board. (It is regularly checked to remove members who have inactivated their Facebook accounts.)

The group is private; this means that even though the public can see that our group exists, no one can see who is in the group or read posts through the group unless that person has been approved as a group member.

The approval process includes reading and evaluating answers pending members give to questions they send to identify themselves, their connection to the family, and why they want to join the group. We also visit the person's Facebook profile to review it carefully to make sure it's current and legitimate. If in doubt, we may send the person a private message asking a few more questions. This strict protocol helps assure that trolls or others with hidden agendas don't get into the group.

During the last sixty days reported, Saturday is the most popular day for posting. There have been 75 posters, 454 comments and 1324 reactions.

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 55 or higher, with the largest group being 65 years old or older.

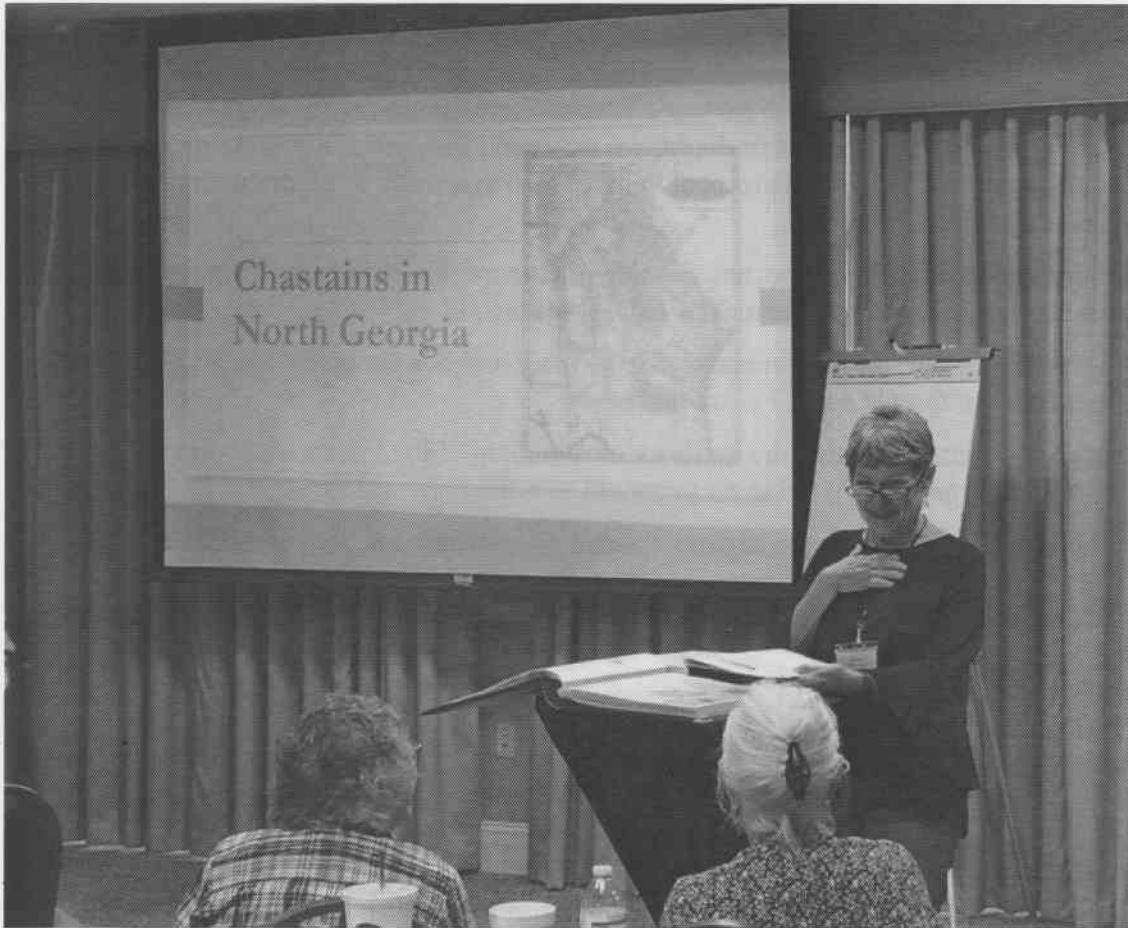
In addition, the cities with the highest number of members are also recorded to help us know where our members come from. The top five cities are listed below.

- (1) Murphy, North Carolina – 16
- (2) Ellijay, Georgia – 16
- (3) Marble Hill, Georgia – 14
- (4) Indianapolis, Indiana – 12
- (5) Phoenix, Arizona – 10

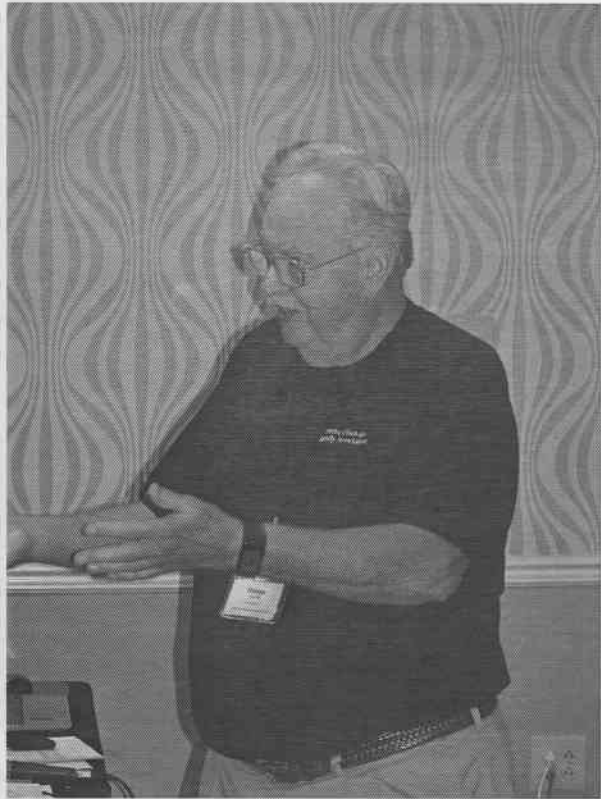
In addition, we have a few members who live in countries other than the United States: United Kingdom, France, Germany, Costa Rica, Australia and Ecuador.

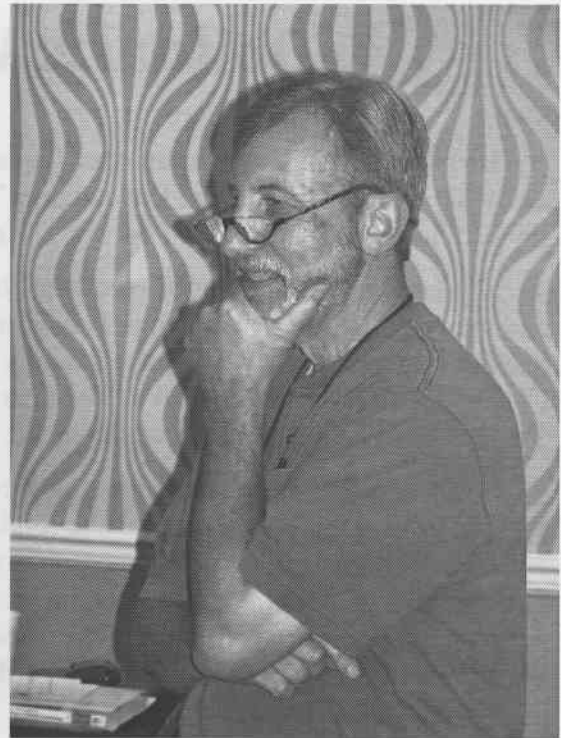
Visit our Facebook group at: www.Facebook.com/groups/pierrechastain

2022 PCFA Reunion photos









Photos provided by Raleigh & Pat Chastine and Donnie Kendrick

Obituary: Virgie Chastain

Virgie Lee Whiddon Chastain, of Lamar County, Mississippi, born July 1, 1935, passed away September 21, 2022, at her daughter's home in Dickson, Tennessee. She has finally and joyfully joined her husband of 64 years, Herschel Chastain, in Heaven.

She grew up throughout the southeast traveling for her father's engineering career, met and married the love of her life in Dallas and had her three children there. They then moved back to Lamar County to raise their family and care for her beloved mother-in-law, Eula Chastain Amacker. This began a life of care-giving to so many in her family and community. She was hospice before there was hospice.

She was proud of her accounting degree and the career that she had in banking in Dallas until she left it to raise her children and use those skills to serve her community. She and her father, D.V. Whiddon, started the West Lamar Water Association because of the rusty water in her home. She later served on the library board for Lamar County and contributed to the building of multiple additional libraries.

She had so many roles in her life ... Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother, Nanny, Aunt Virgie, Friend, Accountant, Farmer, Traveler, Caretaker, Student of the Bible, Branson Show Attendant, Library Board Member, Pierre Chastain Family Association Librarian, Water Association Developer, and Bookkeeper.

They were avid travelers and visited almost all of the states throughout the years with an amazing group of friends. Their life was exciting and adventurous always.

She is survived by daughters Deborah Kay Chastain Kitchen and Sharlene Annette Chastain Joh, sons-in-law Paul Kitchen and Leopold Fritz Joh, grandchildren and spouses, Jaelyn "Danielle" Gray Dehn, Hunter Wallace Dehn, Karlin Chastain Joh Foor, Mitch Foor, Charlotte Trine Joh Moody, Zach Moody, Victoria Lee Gosyne, Jonathan Gosyne, Frederick Leopold Joh II, Leopold Sterling Joh, Anna Joh, Leopold Abraham Joh, Austin Dana Kitchen, and great-grandchildren and spouses, Sky Samantha Dehn, Star Dehn Jackson, Seth Jackson, Landon Matthew Dehn, Savannah Kay Dehn, Trina Scarlett Moody, Micah Lee Foor, and Sherry Esther Moody.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herschel Lute Chastain, mother, Bessie Jane Boone, father, Daniel Verlon Whiddon, sister Vondie Lee Edwards, son Karl Wade Chastain, and great-granddaughters Harper Lily and Hadley Rose Jackson.

A celebration of life was held at Moore Funeral Home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on Sunday, September 25, 2022, with a viewing and visitation for friends and family. Pallbearers included Frederick Joh, Sterling Joh, Leopold Joh, Hunter Dehn, Landon Dehn, Austin Kitchen, Trae Morgan and Jeff Bond.



Obituary: J. Dee Chastain



J. Dee Chastain of Siloam Springs, Ark., passed away Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at the age of 90. J.D. passed peacefully with his beloved wife, Carrie, and daughter, Lila, by his side.

J.D. was born in Gentry, Ark., on September 3, 1932, to mother, Elsie Butler, and father, Howard Chastain. J.D. was the only brother to four sisters, Lila, Onita, Mazelle, and Kaye. He was valedictorian of Gentry High School Class of 1950. J.D. married Carrie Mae Luther on January 14, 1951, in the local community building. He entered the active duty Air Force in October of 1952, where he served as a Special Weapons Technician at Keesler AFB and Sandia/Kirtland AFB. He was honorably discharged June of 1956 to attend the University of Arkansas Engineering program.

J.D. graduated from the University of Arkansas in the spring of 1959 with High Honors. Before graduating, he was already employed by D.H. Baldwin and Company, where he worked 36 years and retired as Divisional Vice President, though he would never refer to himself as management. He later served on the Mississippi board of manufacturers as Chairman of the 13th District.

In 1964, J.D. was ordained a deacon at Central Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Ark. In 1975, Eastgate Baptist Church in Greenwood, Miss., began in their home. He later helped to build the church a building. In 1995, J.D. retired from D.H. Baldwin and Company and the family moved back to Northwest Arkansas. He joined the Arkansas Mission Builders, which helped build Baptist churches in Arkansas, one of which is Pathway Baptist Church where he became a Charter member.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Elsie Chastain, and his sister, Onita Joyce Copeland, who passed in May of 2022. He is survived by his wife, Carrie Mae Chastain and sisters Lila Oliphant, Mazelle Johnston, and Kaye Lair, his children Doug Chastain (Tammy), Bryan Chastain (Theresa), and Lila Muchow (Walter), his grandchildren Ryle (Paige), Ashley (Ricardo), Rachel (Wesley), Anthony (Bailie), Tucker (Brittany), Kayley, Alyssa, Crystal, Jessica, and 10 great-grandchildren.

A visitation for J.D. was held on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at Wasson Funeral Home in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The funeral followed Monday, October 3, at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Siloam Springs.

Anyone wishing to honor J.D.'s lifelong commitment to family and community can make donations to The Central Project at Pathway Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9117, Fayetteville, AR, 72703, or to Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Rd, Springdale, AR, 72762.

— *Wasson Funeral Home, Inc., Siloam Springs, Arkansas*



Member Report

by Carol Migdat

Membership@PierreChastain.com

New Members

A big welcome to all those who have joined us recently. I hope it's been a good year and that you are blessed with a healthy 2023.

The following is a list of those who joined the Pierre Chastain Family Association since publication of the previous issue of *The Chestnut Tree*:

- Shannon Kettler, Tucson, AZ
- Dale Ann Chastain Cochran, Cumming, GA*
- Robin Michelle Payne, Winston, GA*
- Everett Hoyt Womack Jr., Ellijay, GA*

*Lifetime Member

To those who have been members for a while, please send any changes to your mailing address, home address, e-mail address, or phone number to: pcf.a.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 or Upgrade - Lifetime Membership (\$250)**
 (2) Join or Renew - Annual Membership (\$25)

NEW MEMBERS, List of your Chastain Ancestors (include additional page if needed).

Renewing Members, fill this out only if you have new information.

You:

Parents:

Grandparents:

Great-Grandparents:

2nd Great-Grandparents:

3rd Great-Grandparents:

4th Great-Grandparents:

5th Great-Grandparents:

6th Great-Grandparents:

7th Great-Grandparents:

Make Checks Payable to: PCFA. Please send completed form and check to:

Carol Migdat, PCFA; 708 Bodega Bay Dr, Keller TX 76248 (cell 817/371-1839;
pcfa.carol@gmail.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: _____

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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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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

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