

# CHASTAIN CHATTER

Number 037

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## 00. ABOUT THE *CHASTAIN CHATTER* .PDF VERSION

As you can see the Index (or Menu, in computer terms) is brightly colored so as to be pleasing to the eye. Or nauseating as the case may be. Each Index item is actually a link to the section named. Just click on the name of the article and you can read the article without having to scroll for half an hour. To quickly get back to the top, just press the Home key. [Links to web pages or email addresses are this color and](#)

[are not underlined](#). Clicking on a web link will open your default web browser and display the web page. Clicking on an email address will open your default email program (or “app” for you new to computing folks). You can download this file and save it to your computer so you can read it to calm your nerves during a tornado when the Internet is out, provided you have a laptop or battery backup.

## 01. DEAR CHASTAIN COUSINS

Thanks to our PCFA historian, **Susan Slape-Hoysagk**, I found out that I had misunderstood the difference in Veterans Day and Memorial Day, so when when I listed the names of Chastain family veterans in issue #036 of Chastain Chatter, I left out some of the names that should have been included. I apologize to those who sent in names that should have been listed.

So this issue is being sent out now to correct the list of veterans who are part of the Chastain family, either directly or by way of marriage. The complete list of names of veterans is listed in Section 2. It is a day late, but the sentiments are just as sincere. Also, check Section 3 for a report written by **John Chastain** on his father, **Lt. R. E. Chastain**, who received several awards for his military service.

I also want to point out that one of our PCFA Board members, **Susan Slape-Hoysagk**, is a veteran whose father and brother are also veterans, but even more remarkable, Susan's four sons are all veterans. Yes, four sons and they all served in the US Military. (I have listed their names under Susan's on the list below.)

We also have a couple interesting Chastains in the news reports for those who

are interested in what our Chastain cousins do. One of them about **Misty Chastain**, a tattoo artist with a different mission. What Misty does is especially appropriate right here at Veterans Day. The other news report is about **Dennis Chastain**, a naturalist who lives in South Carolina.

The next issue of Chastain Chatter will probably be a week or two before Christmas. (If you have family members who are hard to shop for, be sure to check out Section 6 for inexpensive gift ideas that will have lasting value.)

(If you have any special Christmas memories of your family that you'd like to share in the next issue of **Chastain Chatter**, please send them to me at [karylcb@gmail.com](mailto:karylcb@gmail.com) and [karylcb@cs.com](mailto:karylcb@cs.com) )

Remember, I need your help with the Chastain Chatter. Please send in questions, comments, suggestions, information, stories, news reports, genealogical tips, obituaries and anything else that may be of interest to our Chastain cousins to [karylcb@gmail.com](mailto:karylcb@gmail.com) and [karylcb@cs.com](mailto:karylcb@cs.com)

Love and peace,  
Karyl

## 02. HONORING OUR VETERANS

The names below are Chastains or immediate family members who are veterans, men and women who served in the US military. We honor all of our family members who served.

**John Blake Barfield, US Navy, Served on submarines**

**William Berl Chapman, Korean War**

**J. Dee Chastain, US Air Force, 1952 – 1956**

**Barthel Chastain, retired from Air Force**

**Vic Chastain, 4 years of WWII**

**Lyle Chastain, retired from Navy**

**Virginia Chastain, retired from Air Force, nurses**

**Michael Chastain, US Air Force.**

**Travis Chastain, US Army Air Corp, WW II**

**Theodore Eschol Chastain, US Navy**

**James Spencer Chastain, US Navy**

**Donale Delores Chastain, US Navy**

**Donald M. Chastain, US Navy**

**Ronald N. Chastain, US Navy**

**Rusty Chastain, US Navy**

**Rodney Chastain, US Marine**

**Thomas Chastain, US Army (7 years)**

**SP5 Jerry Chastain, Pershing Missile/Personnel, US Army**

**Patrick Marvin Chastain, Sr., US Navy, Korean War**

**Patrick Marvin Chastain, Jr. US Army, Viet Nam**

**Fst Lt. R. E. Chastain, US Army, 4th Signal Battalion**

**Howard Chasteen, Sr. Army**

**Clarence Raleigh Chastine U.S. Navy**

**Ronald Beal, US Marine, Viet Nam**

**Charlie H. Conner, US Navy**

**Worth J. Conner, Jr, US Army**

**Owen H. Conner, National Guard**

**Bob Conner, US Air Force, Viet Nam**

**John L. Gibson, Army**

**William Ronaled Gibson, US Army, Viet Nam**

**Bobby Eugene Hopper, US Air Force**

**Wayne Hopper, USCB**

**Dean McCook US Army/ National Guard Artillery**

**Bob Morton, US Air Force**

**Billy Don Odum, US Army, Korean War**

**Perry Alonzo Odum, US Army, World War II**

**Lloyd Slape, US Coast Guard, World War II**

**Darren Slape - Army National Guard**  
**Susan Slape-Hoysagk, US Navy**  
**Jeremy Boutin, USMC Retired**  
**Jonathan Boutin - USMC**  
**Nicholas Boutin - USMC**  
**Aaron Boutin – USCG**  
**William L. Stephenson Jr., US Army, Vietnam era**  
**Sid Turner, US Army, Viet Nam**  
**Royal Collins Ward, US Navy, 1974-1996, Submarines Forever**

## 03 FIRST LIEUTENANT R. E. CHASTAIN

By John R. E. Chastain

First Lieutenant Chastain was a member of the 24th Signal Battalion, US Army, who suffered intra-cerebral hemorrhage and was evacuated to the 3rd Station Hospital near Pusan, South Korea where he died on April 26, 1951. Cherokee and Caucasian heritage.

The Chapel on the Parallel was dedicated to the lost from the 4th Signal Battalion, on May 4, 1952.

19 February 1945 the award of Air Medal, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights at Leyte Province, Philippine Islands, from 20 October 1944 to 10 December 1944", there

were four awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

There are listed numerous awards for meritorious service, including the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Badge and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

(Note: John has placed photos of two of the Medals his father was awarded on the Pierre Chastain Family Association FaceBook site.)

## 04. THE CHESTNUT TREE

**The Chestnut Tree** is the official publication (magazine) of the Pierre Chastain Family Association (PCFA). It is filled with genealogical information, edited by **Susan Slape-Hoysagk**.

The Chestnut Tree is mailed out three times a year to members of the PCFA in January, May and September. If you'd like to receive

the January issue, you need to join the PCFA as soon as possible so that your name will be on the mailing list when the January issue is sent out.

Check the Appendix in Section 10 for directions on how to join the Pierre Chastain Family Association for the year 2017.

## 05. NEW PCFA FACEBOOK GROUP

Our new FaceBook group is set up now; it's called **Pierre Chastain Family Association**. Check it out if you are on FaceBook, and join us. (Also let any of your Chastain relatives know about our new FaceBook group.)

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1676662255995346/?ref=nf\\_target&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1676662255995346/?ref=nf_target&fref=nf)

## 06. SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Are you looking for something different and unique to give some of your family members for Christmas or for their birthdays, wedding days or other special occasions?

If you are, look no farther than the Appendix in Section 10 to find the information you

need to either order a membership in the Pierre Chastain Family Association or any of the Chastain genealogical books published by the PCFA.

If you order books before Thanksgiving, **Bonnie Wilkins** will mail them in time for you to receive them before Christmas.

## 07. COMMENTS from FAMILY MEMBERS

Excellent news letter! You do a difficult job and do it well. Thanks! **Kitty Chastain**

Thank you so very much for doing this informative and connective work. I recognize the labor of love and I am grateful. Dreaming Bear, birth daughter of Anna Ruth Stalcup, and birth granddaughter of Augusta Narcissus Smith Stalcup, and birth great granddaughter of Margaret Chastain Smith—all discovered in 1995 when I was 54 years **Dreaming Bear**

The reunion was super from my perspective. Thank you for all the hard work that you and your stalwarts did to make it so wonderful. I had a great time and found it very productive. In fact, it could not have gone better as far as I was concerned. Thank you so much for your patience and carry-on when lots of things seem to be going wrong. The reunion was truly wonderful for those of us just enjoying the Chastain fellowship. WRT the latest edition of the Chastain Chatter. Another great job. Love it!

~ **Ron Mitchell**

## 08. PRAYER REQUESTS

My husband, **William Berl Chapman** is a veteran of the Korean War also I'm requesting prayers for him as he is in Hospice Care. Again thank you and all the Chastain family members who help you.  
— **Judith Ann Mohon Chapman.**

**Don** and **Joyce Chastain** from Florida ask for prayers. One of them has cancer and the other has heart issues.

**Grace Hopper** from California asks for continued prayers as she deals with several health issues.

## 09. CHASTAINS IN THE NEWS

(a) Minnesota tattooing project helps vets confront pain

By Mark Brunswick, Star Tribune (Minnesota) November 11, 2016

ROCHESTER - Artist **Misty Chastain** is in the shop a little early on a recent Sunday to prepare. Iraq war veteran Derrick Brooks is there, too. They are an unusual pair who've come together as founders of an organization called Warrior Ink. The aim of their project is to pair her artistry with the needle with his skills as a listener to help veterans confront the wounds of war. They are believers in what is loosely called ink therapy, a Zen-like healing combination of endorphins and empathy.

"People tend to open up to their tattoo artist, whether they are paying attention or not," said Brooks, who served for almost four years in the infantry with the Army's 101st Airborne. "When you are getting tattooed, you really don't think about the other pain you are going through."

**Chastain**, who has been tattooing for five years but has been an artist her entire life, said the personal pain she has experienced may help develop the rapport she has with her clients.

"It's not just veterans, but all my clients, as soon as they sit in my chair they've established that relationship with me and entrust a lot of their personal life with me, and they don't even know me," she said. "Tattoos are time consuming. I've never had someone sit in the chair and not say anything. To let someone put something personal on your body, how

could you not tell a story?"

The two met when Brooks' wife suggested he book an appointment with **Chastain**. Afterward, Brooks, who has training with peer support and trauma counseling through the Wounded Warrior Project, was impressed with **Chastain's** soft touch, and thought she could help veterans struggling with their combat experiences. **Chastain** saw the partnership as an opportunity to honor her grandfather, a Vietnam War veteran now facing health issues because of his exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange.

Before they got started, **Chastain** and Brooks visited her grandfather to present the idea of the project, and Brooks was able to elicit emotions from him that **Chastain** saw as cementing the need to go forward.

"I never really knew his story. He never talked about it," she said of her grandfather, who has "Love" and "Hate" tattooed on his knuckles. "It was a side of my grandfather that I had never seen before."

### C-O-U-R-A-G-E-O-U-S

Warrior Ink could be the definition of the phrase "shoestring operation." It's just Brooks and **Chastain**. They don't charge a fee and don't accept donations.

Since the project began in August, news of their work has spread through a modest Facebook page but mostly by word of mouth through the state's veteran community.

Just recently, **Chastain** left the Rochester shop to venture off on her own, temporarily postponing bookings through the rest of the year. Still, vets are already lining up for a chance to spend a few hours on Chastain's table in 2017.

She hopes to open her own shop in Austin, Minn., and resume the project by January. Supporters have started a GoFundMe page, but **Chastain** says she will continue on her own terms and with her own financing if she must.

"It's important for me to pay it forward," she said.

About a dozen vets have participated so far. One had an image of his service dog tattooed on his calf as the dog lay resting nearby on the shop floor. A female veteran who was the victim of military sexual trauma requested an image of the Hindu god, Ganesha, who is revered as the remover of obstacles and the god of beginnings.

Brooks conducts the vetting process and books the appointments. **Chastain** exchanges pictures and ideas with the vet before they meet for the first time. She often spends hours on drafts and edits. Most of the work is spent on new tattoos.

One, though, was a particularly cathartic modification of an existing tattoo. The former Army Ranger, diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, had the word R-A-G-E scripted in Old English letters on his back. Chastain added six letters to reflect his new life, which includes working as a therapist for other veterans. The tattoo now reads C-O-U-R-A-G-E-O-U-S.

"The whole idea of this is to replace something negative with something

positive," Brooks said.

Her drawing, his vision

On a recent Sunday, Brooks and Chastain shared a smoke in the parking lot outside the shop, tucked next to 4 Paws Paradise pet grooming on the south side of town. **Chastain's** own tattoos include a prominent image on her neck of a cicada, a symbol of rebirth and longevity. They await the arrival of Iraq war veteran Steve Major, who is requesting a very personal image.

A barrel-chested hockey player with bulging biceps who arrives wearing a tight "ARMY" T-shirt, Major is momentarily overcome with emotion when he sees what Chastain puts before him on tracing paper.

Her drawing is his vision: a Purple Heart draped over an outline of the map of Iraq. There are letters and numbers beneath it: MC3135637348. They are the military grid coordinates of where Major's convoy was attacked in 2006 outside a U.S. military base at Taji, north of Baghdad, while with the Minnesota National Guard.

As the session begins, **Chastain**, who is intense but unassuming, says little, focusing her instrument on the outline on Major's biceps. The buzz of the needle pulsating into Major's arm provides a surprisingly comforting constant in the room. Major and Brooks, bearded and bearlike wearing a T-shirt that says "PTSD, You are not alone," hit it off. They quickly share a bond over military lingo, complaining about the VA and wartime experiences that civilians could never understand.

Brooks sits on a stool nearby as Major tells the story of the incident that has brought him to the shop on this day.

Major's convoy was hit in an area that Major, as a scout gunner, was confident was secure. A rocket-propelled grenade struck his Humvee, lifting the back of the 5,200-pound vehicle 5 feet, slamming

him to the ground. The firefight lasted 45 minutes and ended only when Special Forces aircraft arrived and took out almost two dozen insurgents.

Major was hit with shrapnel, suffered a traumatic brain injury and later developed PTSD. Two other soldiers were also wounded. Major, who says he takes personal responsibility for the attack, tells Brooks he still wakes up to the sound of the firefight. He jokes that he now calls his Purple Heart his Enemy Sniper Badge.

"I felt like I was meant to come back," he says, noting that he is alive and his attackers are not.

In gentle questioning, Brooks moves Major away from that day. They talk about Major's hockey team, the Minnesota

Warriors, made up exclusively of Purple Heart recipients. Major is a captain of the team.

Two hours after it begins, Major is off the table and inspecting the artwork in a mirror.

"Oh, man. That is awesome," he says.

As **Chastain** tapes over the tattoo for healing, Major extends his hand in what appears at first to be simple gesture of thanks. As she reaches out, he gives her a Purple Heart coin he has tucked into his palm. Her eyes begin to tear as he reflects on his newest tattoo.

"That one hurt a lot more," he admits. "But talking kept my mind off it.

#### (b) Firefighters attempt to contain Pinnacle Mountain fire

By Mike Eads, From independentmail.com, November 11, 2016

Two crews are working up either side of Pinnacle Mountain Friday in a fresh attempt to get a 300-plus-acre forest fire under control as smoke continues to blanket the Upstate, causing health officials to issue an advisory.

"There's one hand crew on the left and another one on the right that are making their ways up the mountain," said Doug Wood, director of communications for the South Carolina Forestry Commission. "The idea is to let it burn up to the Saluda River."

The South Saluda River runs above the present fire line. Wood said the tentative plan is to use the river and the hand lines firefighters were trying to establish Friday morning to hem in the blaze. It would leave a burnout area of

about 2,500 acres in an area where controlled burns are common, Wood added.

Persistent drought and high winds have fueled the three-day-old fire, which is responsible for the smoky haze over much of the Upstate. It has also closed the mountain trails within Table Rock State Park, but there is no immediate public danger.

As for air quality, AnMed Health is asking Upstate asthma patients, children, the elderly and others with breathing problems to stay inside and take precautions.

Mike Shoemaker, manager of respiratory care services at AnMed Health Women's and Children's Hospital and site coordinator for Asthmania Academy, advises patients to keep windows closed,

not overexert and eliminate indoor pollution sources like frying or broiling meat, spraying aerosol products, burning candles, smoking or vacuuming.

Medications should be taken as prescribed, Shoemaker added, and patients should seek medical attention quickly if they begin coughing, wheezing or having shortness of breath.

Firefighters were ordered off the mountain Thursday night due to the steep terrain and worsening conditions. They regrouped early Friday with tractors and other heavy equipment to use near the top of the 3,400-foot mountain. Additional firefighters and specially-trained volunteers from Pickens and surrounding counties have also been brought in to work with state forestry personnel.

Pickens County naturalist **Dennis Chastain** guides tours in the area now consumed with flames. He volunteered early Friday to help a fire crew get a tractor up to Bald Knob, near the mountain's summit, "to put in a line to cut the fire off to the east and north," he said.

State and local firefighters worked hand lines Thursday, while the South Carolina National Guard helicopter used a dangling bucket to drop water on the fire

from Lake Oolenoy in nearby Table Rock State Park.

The commission has extended its outdoor fire ban across the Piedmont region in the northern half of the state, due to low humidity, drought conditions and more dead wood and other detritus on the ground than usual.

The blaze was nearly out a couple of days ago, according to **Chastain**, who visited a dozen or so firefighters working a hand line above his home Wednesday.

"They were mopping up from the day before and just about had the fire out," said **Chastain**, who serves on the state's Drought Response Committee. "It's a big fire now, and really intense. It's dangerously crispy up in those woods."

**Chastain** said deer and other wildlife higher up the mountain should have plenty of forage, thanks to a higher than normal acorn crop. He added that the fire would clear the way for more new trees and wild flowers over the next couple of years.

The mountain trails in the state park have been closed as a precaution, but the park itself and its lakeside trail remain open. Call 864-878-9813 or email [tablerock@scprt.com](mailto:tablerock@scprt.com) for trail updates.

## 10. APPENDIX

### (a) Joining PCFA

To join the Pierre Chastain Family Association, you need to send your membership fee and the following information to J. Dee Chastain, who is our Membership Chair. (If you are also ordering publications, you can send one check to J. Dee for both membership and publications. Checks should be made out to P. C. F. A.

J. Dee Chastain  
20122 S Highway 59  
Siloam Springs, AR. 72761

E-mail J. Dee at [jdchastain@centurytel.net](mailto:jdchastain@centurytel.net) for more information and to let him know you have mailed a check to him.

#### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

- a) One year at a time - \$20.
- b) Lifetime membership - \$200

~ MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION NEEDED ~

Name (First, middle/maiden, last)  
E-mail address  
Mailing address: (Street, city, state, zip)  
Telephone(s)

Genealogical Information:  
Your surname at birth  
Full name of husband or wife  
Your Chastain ancestors (lineage)

### (b) Ordering PCFA Publications

To order publications, complete the order form and send it with payment to Bonnie Wilkins at the address listed below. (Write the check or money order to PCFA.)

Also, please e-mail Bonnie to let her know that you've mailed an order so that she will be able to easily contact you when she receives your order to let you know when she puts the books in the mail. Her e-mail address is [bonray717@yahoo.com](mailto:bonray717@yahoo.com)

Bonnie Wilkins, PCFA Librarian  
701 South 14th Street  
Herrin, Illinois 62948

~ PUBLICATION LIST ~

1. Pierre Chastain and His Descendants, Vol I, First Five Generations - \$45.00 New Printing includes the Errata and Addenda (#2 below)
2. Errata and Addenda to Volume I - \$20.00
3. Pierre Chastain and His Descendants, Vol. II, Sixth Generation - \$45.00
4. Chastain Families of Manakin Towne and Pierre Chastain Revisited - \$6.00
5. The Chestnut Tree, individual back issues, please specify issues: - \$6.00
6. Little Otter to Lost River - Available on CD - \$20.00
7. Blue Book Bundle: Volumes I (including the Errata), Volume II, and 1 Year Membership - \$100.00

IMPORTANT: If you order the Blue Book Bundle, you also get a one year membership in the Pierre Chastain Family Association, so you will also need to complete the membership application listed below.

~ ORDER FORM ~

- a) Mail your order to: Name, mailing address, city, state, zip
- b) Your e-mail address and phone number (s)
- c) List of publications ordered and price for each
- d) Total price
- e) Number of check or money order enclosed

~ MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION NEEDED when you order the BLUE BOOK BUNDLE ~

Name (First, middle/maiden, last)  
E-mail address  
Mailing address: (Street, city, state, zip)  
Telephone(s)

Genealogical Information:  
Your surname at birth  
Full name of husband or wife  
Your Chastain ancestors (lineage)  
Comments

## 11. CHASTAIN CHATTER PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The Chastain Chatter anchor site is [www.chastain-chatter.com](http://www.chastain-chatter.com).

The official site of the Pierre Chastain Family Association is [www.pierrechastain.com](http://www.pierrechastain.com).

Another outstanding site with Chastain information is [www.chastaincentral.com](http://www.chastaincentral.com).

The first issue of Chastain Chatter was sent out June 27, 2015.

To submit articles, reports, stories, questions, announcements, etc., send a note to Karyl Chastain Beal at [karylcb@gmail.com](mailto:karylcb@gmail.com) and [karylcb@cs.com](mailto:karylcb@cs.com).

Questions or comments about the .PDF file formatting, problems with links, or eye aches, please contact Ron Roberts at: [strebor1995@gmail.com](mailto:strebor1995@gmail.com).