

CHASTAIN CHATTER

Number 047

July 29, 2017

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01. Dear Chastain Cousins

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~ You were given the opportunity to read a new PDF version of Chastain Chatter, issue # 046. The PDF version included color coding of headlines along with a feature that allows you to click any headline and go automatically to that section. (The PDF version was produced by **Ron Roberts**, husband of **Donna Dee Chastain Roberts**)

The responses from people who tried out the PDF version were favorable, so, we've come up with a way to give you easy access to a PDF version for each issue. Ron has converted this issue to a PDF. All you need to do is check Section 2, announcement a) to find a link to the PDF version. Then, click the link, and you will go directly to the enhanced version.

~ If you are planning to attend the 2017 Pierre Chastain Family Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky in October, be sure to read the two announcements b) and c) in Section 2. Then go down to [Section 14](#) to find the registration form and hotel reservation information.

~ We have not had trivia questions in a while, so for those who enjoy the mental challenge or a chance to learn, we have a few questions

To contact me, send e-mails to karylcb@cs.com and karylcb@gmail.com .

Love and peace,

Karyl

(**Karyl Chastain Beal**, Columbia, Tennessee.)

about **Rev. John "Ten Shilling Bell" Chastain** – a descendant of **Pierre Chastain** whose voice rang out loudly and clearly when he preached. Check [Section 5](#) for the questions.

~ In Issue # 046, I made a comment about the limits of historical genealogical research. **Howard Chesteen, Sr.** has replied with his thoughts about oral history, so you can read them in [Section 07](#). Being aware of a variety of opinions is always a plus.

In [Section 08](#), you'll find an article about the importance of visual legacies. If you find this article to be interesting, you may especially enjoy a presentation **Dr. Todd Stephenson** is planning to give at the 2017 PCFA reunion in Louisville in October.

I always need your help with the Chastain Chatter. I want to include a variety of Chastain related reports or stories. If you can send in some of your family stories, questions, comments, suggestions, history, announcements, milestone news, etc., to be published in future issues, I would appreciate it.

02. Announcements

02. a) Download .PDF Version of this *Chastain Chatter*

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Congratulations! You did it! You're reading it! YAAAAA! (From Ron who is obviously over-tired)

02. b) Deadline for Registration for 2017 PCFA Reunion

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Carol Migdat needs to have received your registration for the PCFA reunion by Wednesday, September 27th. This means that you should have put it in the mail by September 20th to make sure it arrives on time. (Reunion registration directions are below in the [Appendix, Section 14.](#))

02. c) Deadlines for Hotel Reservations for 2017 PCFA reunion

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The deadline for reserving a room at the Hampton Inn in downtown Louisville at our group reduced rates is Sunday, September 10. Check the [Appendix in Section 14](#) for the link and telephone number to make your reservation.

(If you reserve your room later, the rate will be significantly higher. If you choose to stay in another hotel, it's fine, but you will not have the convenience of being on-site for all reunion activities.)

03. Questions

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Does anyone have information about **John Paul Chastain**, born in Ringgold, Georgia in 1858? He later moved to White County, Tennessee where all of his children were born. He married Nancy Marsh, and he was a Baptist preacher. If you have information that can help, please send it to **Helen Jernigan** at heljern@aol.com and/or to me at karylcb@gmail.com.

04. Emory University Alzheimer's Center Presentation

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At the 2015 and 2016 PCFA reunions, researchers from Emory University Alzheimer's Center presented programs to explain the connection between Alzheimer's disease and Chastains. Fortunately, they will present again at the 2017 reunion in Louisville. They will also invite any Chastain descendants who would like to participate in the research to donate blood samples.

According to a letter from Dr. Allan Levey, Dr. Thomas Wingo and Ceceilia Manzanares:

Because your family has a multi-generational history of Alzheimer's, your body may contain proteins that will help us decipher the biology of Alzheimer's. Blood and spinal fluid contain millions of proteins in their cells and we are searching for the few proteins that can unravel the Alzheimer's knot.

The research is complex and difficult, requiring thousands of hours of study and super computers to make sense of the data. We are trying to find meaningful patterns in the protein sequencing. If we can understand the

structure and function of the Alzheimer's proteins then we can create a mechanism to fight the disease.

At Emory, Dr. Thomas Wingo and colleagues are leading the intense efforts to study the samples from members of your family. They are painstakingly reviewing millions of cells and are using next generation sequencing to try to pinpoint new genes and proteins that are responsible for Alzheimer's. Your research participation was instrumental in Dr. Wingo receiving a National Institutes of Health award which has provided the funding to pay for the labs, equipment and personnel to make this research possible. . . .

Your family's participation in research has significantly added to our work and enabled a broad-based research approach among a large group of scientists at Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. . . . We are deeply indebted to the dedication to research your family has shown. We are earnestly working towards a cure and remain optimistic one is just around the corner.

05. Trivia Rev. John "Ten Shilling Bell" Chastain

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1. Rev. John was a pioneer in what movement:
 - a) Baptists
 - b) Boy Scouts
 - c) Hippies
 - d) Vegetarians
 - e) Psychic reading

2. Rev. John helped establish the first church in what state?
- a) Florida
 - b) Georgia
 - c) Virginia
 - d) South Carolina
 - e) Tennessee
3. Proof of descent from Rev. John guarantees membership in what groups?
- a) Facebook
 - b) MENSA
 - c) The Baptist Church
 - d) Daughters of the American Revolution
 - e) Sons of the American Revolution
4. Rev. John was born in Virginia and died in:
- a) France
 - b) Georgia
 - c) Hawaii
 - d) South Carolina
 - e) Pennsylvania
- 5) Rev John is ancestor to:
- a) Hundreds or maybe thousands of Chastains
 - b) About 20% of Americans
 - c) About 50% of the people who live in South Carolina
 - d) No one. He had no children.
 - e) Dolly Parton, Brad Pitt and Thomas Jefferson

(Answer key is in [Section 13.](#))

06. Comments

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a) I am a visual learner and also visually impaired. I really like the colors as they make it easier for me to see and navigate. Thank you so much for taking the extra time to format this pdf and also for sending to me. I love reading the Chastain Chatter!

~ **Jo Anne Chastain Tomblin**

b) I think it looks great and is much easier for me to read! Thanks for all your hard work.

~ **Julie Wingate**

07. Oral Records are Critical: by Howard Chasteen, Sr.

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When I began my Chastain family history research around 1983, I had nothing! When I asked my living Uncles and Great Aunts not one of them knew the correct name order of my Great Grandfather and no one knew anything before the Civil War. The family was so fractured and scattered after the Civil War folks just were not certain. But I found that with diligent questioning much information could be drawn out. And by listening carefully one could find the true threads and some bold clues.

My Research finally revealed my GGrandfather's name was **Hardin Andrew Chastain/teen**. My Uncles thought it was **Andrew Harding Chasteen**, named in part after a President :-)) But with uncanny accuracy, the oral witnesses did know that Hardin Andrew's wife's name was Mary Jane Catherine Opehelia Brown, daughter of John Brown :-)) Memorable huh? MJCO Brown's name became pivotal in my research!

By diligently seeking both names in the census and death records I came across Hardin Andrew and Eventually found him enumerated with his wife (Ophelia) Mary Jane and their 8 children including my Grandfather, **Joseph Andrew Chasteen**, and some known Great Aunts. Then by researching forward I found Hardin Andrew's death certificate with his mother's name and a hint at his father's name.

Searching backward again I found **Allen Chastain** the Civil War casualty my GGGrandfather, married to Martha Williams. I also found on the 1870 census, orphaned, **Hardin Andrew** and **Allen Pinkey Chastain** living with their paternal Grandparents Joseph and Sarreptha Williams. Allen Pinkney became the infamous "Pink".

BUT! None of this would have happened if my then living **Uncle Melvin Joseph Chasteen** a medical man and my Aunt Vanessa Sessoms had not given me every detail they could remember about the prior generation of Chasteens. I found their information accurate without fail except for the order of our Grandfather's names and the addition of the "g" to Hardin.

That is more accurate than most census records I have consulted that often get the name spellings wrong and frequently are way off on ages, especially of ladies. I have seen the census have age errors on men too of as much as ten years. That my friends is a "legal" written record...that is wrong at times.

From memory my Uncle Melvin was able to recall the spouse names of all 7 of my Grandfather's siblings and I found those very families clustered near the Chastain dwellings in the 1800s near Sandy Springs. That is how I found the obscure page with Allen's name at the very bottom on the Pendleton district 1860, Anderson census.

In my opinion when someone who is a blood relative within a generation of the person or events in question gives testimony it is valid and useful for proving at least some of one's genealogy. How dare we discount oral testimony? Think of it! That is even where the modern Bible came down from! I would prefer the word of three witnesses to the census.

I believe that worldwide, genealogical principals have always accepted and investigated oral testimony when the source is trustworthy and it should remain that way. If two or three people say a spruce is honest and trustworthy we should proceed by assuming truth not fiction!

Until I replayed an interview with my late uncle **Melvin Chasteen** I had forgotten the stories of the "Uncle Pink" the brother of my GGGrandfather Hardin. And how Pink had always told my Uncles that his Grandfather was a well know fisherman and hunter and trapper in the Forks area that got him interested in the profession.

Then when I encountered John B. (the Fisherman) Chastain, I knew I was on the correct track. He matched the description including many details such as living near the river, crossing the river to Georgia frequently, being a "stringbean", staying gone fishing and hunting for weeks at a time. etc.

So that today I have a link via **John B.** and **John Chastain** all the way back to Pierre! A long time in coming.

There has continued to be at least one professional or semi-pro fisherman and hunter in the generations since **A. Pinkney Chastain** roamed the woods of the old Cherokee lands. Before and after WW II it was my Uncle **Wilton (Bill) Otto Chasteen** who remembered the Uncle Pink stories vividly.

Years ago when my Great Aunt Losy recounted that her Grandfather John Brown owned a goldmine, one of the very first discovered in GA, I had my doubts. I never found anything on it and John Brown was much too common of a name. Then last Fall I decided to pursue the Brown line in Hart county GA and one thing I did was search for the keywords John Brown and Gold mine. Surprise! I got an immediate hit about the "The Kings Mine" in Hart County having been operated by John Brown! The hit was in the US bureau of mines database! It existed and the site is a present day dairy farm just across the river and up a ways along the Royston road from Anderson and from what would be the modern day "Forks" were it not for the Hartwell reservoir backup etc.

Never discount oral testimony!

IMHO, anyone calling themselves a genealogist or researcher but who lightly discounts or disregards purely oral testimony from a reliable witness is not much good themselves. Food for thought. Let's get busy proving these oral witnesses reliable instead of saying it is only one person's story. It is everyone's story!

08. Genealogical Tip: Five Keys to Leaving a Visual Legacy for Future Generations

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April 28, 2016 By Andrew and Rachel Niesen

Everyone wants one. But it's something money can't buy. In fact, it's something you leave behind—a legacy. When you try to wrap your mind around leaving a legacy for future generations, you may automatically think of dollars and cents. Although leaving your family with financial security is important, it's not the

only way to leave a lasting legacy. In addition to the "assets" your financial planner may list on your balance sheet, there's another asset that deserves protecting: visual assets. That's why you need to know the five keys to leaving a visual legacy for future generations.

What are visual assets?

Simply put, visual assets are the images that you create during your lifetime. They may be moving images, in the form of videos. They may be still images, in the form of photos. They may be in digital form, or analog form. Above all, they capture moments and milestones; they tell your life story.

While digital imaging has advantages, like making multiple copies of photos and safely storing them out of harm's way, there are also some serious challenges. For example, migrating data from obsolete storage media to contemporary media is time-consuming. Smartphones have made digital photography so ubiquitous that many of us feel buried under thousands of our own photos. In fact, some experts warn that future generations may enter a "Digital Dark Age" as hardware and software become obsolete.

So how do you protect your visual assets?

Like any asset, your visual assets need to be managed. They need to be carefully monitored; they need to be safely stored; they need to be well-organized.

Here are 5 keys to managing your visual assets:

1. Make multiple backups

Make digital copies of your analog photos.

Make printed copies of your digital photos.

(Remember, prints don't require technology to view!)

Store your images in the cloud. (Pick a reputable provider that will likely be around for a long time.)

Store at least one complete set of your image archive on a hard drive.

Use the three-copy rule: you should have three digital copies of your photos, at least one at an off-site location. (For example, store one copy in your bank safety deposit box.)

Choose cloud systems that make at least one automatic backup, which won't require manual effort on your part.

Apple Photos will keep a copy of your photos on your local hard drive and another in Apple's cloud, but you need Apple devices to use it.

Google Photos, Google's answer to Apple Photos, is great for people who use any computing platform: Android or iOS, Windows or Mac.

Backblaze will make a backup of all of the documents on your computer, including your photo library, and store them in the cloud.

2. Share images with family—now!

Giving digital copies of your photos to family members makes it easier to recover files if your copy is destroyed. One great way to share images with family is to tap in to the power of FamilySearch's Memories feature. As an added backup, give family members printed copies of your favorite images.

3. Be disciplined and systematic.

This is the toughest one! Make sure you use one system that you are comfortable with, and stick with it. Before backing up images, delete bad photos. This mostly pertains to photos you shoot with your smartphone. Purge photos that you would never use or won't care about in the future. You don't need 25 snapshots of your mom's rose bush in her front yard. Just keep one copy. And pay close attention to images that capture people—after all, future generations will care more about a blurry picture of YOU hiking Pike's Peak than a pretty picture of a mountain.

4. Organize, organize, organize!

The software mentioned above allows you to group images by dates and themes. Don't simply rely on chronological ordering as your primary organization method. Group images by occasion or event. Logical groupings

include, “Jody’s Baptism,” or “Edward’s First Christmas.” If you’re struggling to create a system that works for you, reach out to the Association of Professional Photo Organizers for tips or personalized help.

5. Add metadata

Metadata is just a fancy word for information about your photos. Think of metadata as the context future generations will need to understand your life story. Your smartphone or digital camera may add a lot of this data for you, especially time and location.

But there’s more to telling your life story than time and location. For example, ask yourself these key questions when adding metadata to

your images: who, what, when, where, why, and how? Remember, old photos need context and content. There’s a sense of urgency when it comes to adding metadata—gather as much data now while the people who know the information are alive.

These are just five keys to leaving a visual legacy for future generations. There are many technological tools that can help you back up and protect your visual assets. The most important principle is to create a system that works for you and stick to it! Every time you think about what you want to leave behind for future generations, remember that visuals like photos and videos enrich your legacy. And you can’t put a price on telling your life story.

09. History of the Sinking Creek Baptist Church

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(From sinkingcreek.org)

Sinking Creek Baptist Church is named for a tributary of the Watauga River. It is located on the Old Elizabethton to Johnson City Highway in Carter County. It is the oldest church of any faith in the state of Tennessee still in existence at its original location. It was organized 1772 in Washington County (now Carter County).

Matthew Talbot was the first pastor. Worship services have continued through the years except during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. In 1778 evangelists **Charles** and **John Chastain**, brothers from Virginia, held a revival here and the need for a larger church was realized. Pastor Talbot, Joshua Kelly, and a

Mr. Maulkey planned and erected what is now known as the "Old Log Church" that still stands today with many of its' original logs intact. E. Reece Harris was the longest standing pastor to the congregation. He served from 1962 - June of 2012.

Worship and an occasional wedding is held there mostly in the summer months. Because of its' legendary past it is now a historical landmark and can be viewed each Saturday and Sunday; Monday between the hours of 1:00-4:00 pm. It shares the same grounds with the new church built in 1962.

10. Chastains in the News: Gov. Bevin Makes Appointments to Kentucky Board and Commissions

July 27, 2017, From the Lane Report, Kentucky

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FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 27, 2017) – Gov. Matt Bevin has made the following appointments to Kentucky Boards and Commissions: Gary Dan Griffith, Mary Bartlett Broecker, and **Dr. Melissa Chastain** have been appointed to the Kentucky Authority for Educational Television.

Gary Dan Griffith, of Owensboro, is chief executive officer for the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra. He will serve for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Mary Bartlett Broecker, of LaGrange, is an active community volunteer and chairperson of internal affairs for the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce. She will serve for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Dr. Melissa Chastain, of Anchorage, is an associate dean at Spalding University. She will serve for the remainder of an unexpired term ending June 30, 2018.

The Kentucky Authority for Educational Television is composed of nine members: five members appointed by the Governor and four other members (including the chief state school officer, a representative of the Department of Education, a representative of the University of Kentucky and a representative of the state universities). The Authority was created in 1962 to govern and operate Kentucky Educational Television (KET), the largest PBS network in the nation.

11. Obituary: Matilda Bishop Chastain O'Neal

From legacy.com

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May 1, 1933 ~ June 27, 2017 (age 84)

Matilda Bishop (Chastain) O'Neal, devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, died peacefully on June 27, 2017. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Thomasville, GA. Matilda, or Tillie as she was affectionately known by so many was born on May 1, 1933 in Quitman, GA to Annie Wade and George Quicksall Bishop as the eldest of six siblings.

Her loving husband of 37 years, Cecil Bruce O'Neal, Jr., her son, **Kenrad Chastain, Jr.**, and her brother, James Wade "Jim" Bishop preceded her in death. She is survived by her adoring daughter, **Marianne Chastain Moss** (Robert) of Albany; loving step-daughter, Deborah O'Neal Plummer (Pat); her well loved three granddaughters, **Courtney Moss** of Charlotte, NC, **Ashley Meador** (Mike) of Fairhope, AL, and

Catharine Brannan (Glenn) of Macon; one grandson, **Jeffrey Billingsley** (April) of Chicago, Ill; her four great granddaughters, Irie Anne and Miriam Meador, Brooks and Bailey Billingsley; four siblings, Anne Bishop Cowdrey (Dick), Joan Bishop Killebrew, George Quicksall Bishop, Jr., Mary Beth Bishop Cassady (George), and countless nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Her kind, gentle, caring love for all people left an everlasting memory for all who knew her. Tillie cherished her family and enjoyed time spent at Cherry Lake with her loved ones, friends and family alike. The simple things in life were what gave Tillie so much joy. She will forever be remembered for her kind spirit, infectious smile and generous nature. In her own words, "Always say your prayers and give thankfulness to God...I'll say a prayer for you, and you say one for me."

12. Upcoming Issues

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In issues of Chastain Chatter coming up, I plan to include reports on some of our other presenters at the PCFA reunion, in addition to Dr. Thomas Wingo and **Anne Stokes Moore**. **Dr. Todd Stephenson** and **Susan Slape-Hoysagk** will be at the reunion sharing information also.

13. Trivia Answer Key

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Rev. John “Ten Shilling Bell” Chastain

1. Rev. John was a pioneer in what movement:
 - a) Baptists
2. Rev. John helped establish the first church in what state?
 - d) Tennessee (Sinking Creek Baptist founded in 1722 in Johnson City, Tennessee.)
3. Proof of descent from Rev. John guarantees membership in what groups?
 - d) Daughters of the American Revolution
 - e) Sons of the American Revolution
4. Rev. John was born in Virginia and died in:
 - d) South Carolina
- 5) Rev John is ancestor to:
 - a) Hundreds or maybe thousands of Chastains

14. Appendix: PCFA 2017 Reunion Registration Form

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Mail the following information and payment to register for the reunion and for the Saturday night banquet to **Carol Migdat** at the address below. (The last day for registration to be received is Wednesday, September 27, 2017.)

(Checks or money orders should be written to PCFA.)

Your name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address: _____

How many people are you registering? _____

List names of all people you are registering, including yourself.

(Also write CHILD beside names of any children ages 12 or younger.)

Saturday banquet: \$40 per person (or \$20 for children ages 12 and under.)

Total amount of payment enclosed: _____

Mail to:

Carol Migdat – PCFA

708 Bodega Bay Dr

Keller TX 76248

NOTE: After you have registered for the reunion, to reserve a hotel room at the Hampton Inn in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, go to this link to make sure you receive the reduced room rate of \$129 or \$164 plus tax per night.

<http://group.hamptoninn.com/PCFA-Annual-Meeting>

Or you may call 1-502-585-2200 to reserve a room.

15. *Chastain Chatter* Publishing Information

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The Chastain Chatter anchor site is www.chastain-chatter.com.

To submit articles, reports, stories, questions, announcements, etc., send a note to **Karyl Chastain Beal** at karylcb@gmail.com and 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.