

CHASTAIN CHATTER

Number 048

August 12, 2017

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1. Dear Chastain Cousins

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Apparently, I have mentioned the Chastain family reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, but I have not mentioned the dates, so here they are. The 2017 Pierre Chastain Family Association Reunion will be held this year on **Friday, October 6, 2017** and **Saturday, October 7, 2017**.

This issue contains an assortment of articles related to Chastains and genealogy along with several sections with information about the upcoming PCFA reunion.

Be sure to read **Loyce Coolidge's** note in [Section 4](#) and help spread the word so her photo can find the right home. Also, you may enjoy reading about the presentations Cousin Todd has planned for the reunion in [Section 5](#).

[Section 7](#) may help you understand the two different approaches to preserving our family's heritage – genealogically and historically. Both are essential if we are to have a complete

picture of who we came from. (And we can thank the PCFA for doing a remarkable job of preserving the genealogical history of our family for many years.)

The first announcement ([Section 3](#)) includes a link to the PDF copy of *Chastain Chatter*. Many of you checked it out last time; we hope that you will enjoy this enhanced copy of it, too.

In [Section 6](#), I've explained the importance of Board meetings and Family meetings, which are a major part of every PCFA reunion.

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, anecdotes, etc., to be published in future issues, I would appreciate it.

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

Love and peace,

Karyl

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

2. Comments

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Perhaps you already know this, but **Rene Chastain** is listed in the DAR patriots as a valid ancestor for admission to the DAR. He would also work for the SAR, I believe. There are other Chastains also, but Rene is my ancestor. — **Susanne O'Brien**

3. Announcements

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

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First timers: Congratulations, you did it!
Old hands: Well, it's pretty much routine by now. :)

Navigation Tips:

[Links in this color](#) go to **places in this document**.

[This color link](#) goes to your **web browser or email program**.

b) Two Reunion Deadlines:

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1. Deadline for Reunion Registration: **September 27th 2017**.

In order to attend the Pierre Chastain Family Reunion, you need to get your registration information and money in to **Carol Migdat** before **September 27th**, Wednesday. (This means you probably need to mail it by **September 20th** to assure it gets to Carol on time.)

Note; Check the Appendix at the end of this issue of Chastain Chatter for the registration information and form.

2. Deadline for Hotel Reservation: **September 10, 2017**.

If you are attending the reunion, you may need a place to stay. The most convenient location would be the hotel that is hosting our reunion, the Hampton Inn in downtown Louisville. (Of course you may stay at other hotels of your choice, but the Hampton Inn would probably be less stressful and more convenient.)

The last day for anyone to receive our reduced room rate at the Hampton Inn is listed as **September 10th** – OR until the reserved group block has sold out.

After **September 10th** (or sooner, if our room block gets sold out), the room rate will go up significantly.

Note: Check the Appendix at the end of this issue of *Chastain Chatter* ([Section 13](#)) for the hotel contact information, including a direct link to the quick-and-easy Hampton Inn reservation page, set up just for our reunion.

4. Old Chastain Photo Needs to Find its Descendants

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The note below is from **Loyce Coolidge** (who edited the *Chestnut Tree* for about fourteen years, if I remember correctly).

I recently came across an old photo that must have been in my grandmother's things. My grandmother was Flora (Chastain) Moody. I do not know or recognize these people. It is a photo of:

*Tabitha (Young) Chastain - wife of Jeremiah C. Chastain
3 sons L to R
George Young Chastain
Daniel Roland Chastain
James Briggs Chastain*

Henry Co., MO - about 1910

If anyone wants this photo, please contact me. Will be sent to first person responding.

Ms. Loyce Coolidge
1399 E. Dodge Dr., Apt. 3
Fayetteville, AR 72703

5. Presentations by Cousin Todd

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Dr. Todd Stephenson, PhD. will give two presentations during the PCFA reunion in Louisville for those who are interested in the topics.

One of the presentations will discuss transgenerational trauma, a theory about the way trauma experienced by people may be passed down to future generations. Todd wonders, for example, if the trauma inflicted upon the Huguenots by King Louis XIV of France and others has any influence, even indirectly, on the lives of Chastain descendants today. (Hmm ... I am wondering if this topic might result in a lively debate.)

The other presentation Cousin Todd is giving is about interviewing techniques to use when preserving family stories for future generations to know more about their ancestors. According to Todd,

“Consider the books that have already been written about our family, how many of those are in the voice of people themselves or as reported speech? People who are no longer with us can still speak to us through the memories of them spoken by others who have heard them.”

6. PCFA Board Meetings and General Family Meetings

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The Pierre Chastain Family Association started having family reunions about forty years ago because the association's by-laws required the Board members to meet annually. The by-laws also required the Board to report to the family afterwards at a general family meeting.

Research and information sharing, socialization and visiting area attractions were all extras added on to make the week-end more appealing for the members and others who attended.

Board Meetings

About the Board Meeting

So naturally, at the reunion this year, one of our scheduled activities is our annual Board meeting. You are all welcome to attend – maybe you won't get bored. (Sorry for the silly humor.)

At the Board meeting, reports are given from Board members who have done things on behalf of the PCFA during the year. We discuss various issues of concern, and sometimes, we take action and have a vote.

One issue that is usually on the agenda

for the Board meeting is the location of the next year's reunion. (Hmm . . . I've heard rumors that some people are hoping the 2018 reunion will be near Manakin, Virginia in the area of Richmond. What do you think?)

Later, we hold a separate General Family Meeting where we basically give a brief report of any action considered or taken by the Board, discuss any issues that need to be discussed, and vote on any issues that need family approval.

Current Board members of the PCFA

Karyl Chastain Beal, President

David Long, Vice –President

Roy Chastain, Treasurer

J. Dee Chastain, Membership Secretary

Carol Migdat, Recording Secretary and Publicity

Jimmy Chasteen, Genealogist

Susan Slape-Hoysagk, Chestnut Tree Editor and Historian

Bonnie Wilkins, Librarian

Victoria Joh, Website Editor

Sandy Chastain Brough: Chair of Ways and Means Committee and Chair of the 2017 Reunion Emeriti members (Honorary): **Carrie Chastain**, **Herschel** and **Virgie Chastain**

7. Genealogical Tip: Genealogy and Family History? What's the difference?

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Information from The Society of Genealogists website

Many, including the Society of Genealogists, use the terms genealogy and family history interchangeably. However there are slight differences in definition:

Family History:

A biographical study of a genealogically proven family and of the community and country in which they lived. (In essence, this means the writing of a biography of a series of related ancestors of common genealogy. Family History incorporates Genealogy)

Genealogy:

Establishment of a Pedigree by extracting evidence, from valid sources, of how one generation is connected to the next. (In essence, this means the discipline of the construction of a valid family tree)

NOTE: In one of the upcoming issues of *Chastain Chatter*, I will include one or two pedigree (or lineage) charts that you'll be able to print out to keep or bring with you to the PCFA reunion in October, since we include lineage sharing during introductions.

8. Why would anyone want to attend the Pierre Chastain Family Reunion?

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a) To meet Chastain cousins from all over the country, and to re-visit those you've met before.

(To be in the presence of others who may have descended from our great (x?) grandfather **Pierre Chastain** and one of his wives is an amazing experience.)

b) To learn all sorts of things about our heritage from the presenters and resource people who attend and who are ready, willing and able to share and help.

c) To share your own genealogical information or family history with others who may connect with your line at some point.

d) To get to see and hold the original Brown Books put together by early members of the PCFA many years ago as they worked to preserve information about the first six generations of **Pierre Chastain's** descendants

e) To visit some of the amazing places in and around Louisville, thanks to **Sandy Chastain Brough's** suggestions.

(Note: If you can think of other reasons, please send them in so I can add them to this list. Also, if you'd like to send in comments about past reunions you've attended, I'd be glad to include them in an upcoming issue of *Chastain Chatter*.)

9. Chastains in the News

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Grinding a Community Staple

By Jenna-Ley Harrison

August 2, 2017 – The Summerville Journal Scene (Alabama)

At first it sputters, then settles into a monotonous rhythm—the sound that’s become the background music of **Butch Chastain’s** 12-year-old hobby. It’s also a sound that’s hypnotized the community into return visits to the Summerville Farmers Market, where Butch and his wife Suzanne set up their century-old grist mill.

“A lot of people listen for the noise,” she said. While each grew up in rural areas—Butch near Montgomery, Alabama, where he still owns 400 acres of cattle land, and Suzanne in Kentucky—neither knew they would one day run a grits operation in town.

“I’m the worker bee; he does the mechanic stuff,” Suzanne said.

It all kind of happened by accident in 2005, several months after Butch, just 56, suffered a stroke the year before that left him paralyzed on his right side. His noticeable limp and leg brace now serve as proof of the incident that impaired him but didn’t crush his spirit.

He always loved machines, the outdoors, and working with his hands. And sitting idle was never on his to-do list. But his medical condition was a setback in a life of flying cargo planes and serving in special ops in the U.S. Air Force. He had enlisted during the Vietnam War when all his friends had been drafted. Butch said he wanted to enlist so he could choose which branch of military he would serve.

He fought in Grenada and in both Desert Storm conflicts.

“I’d ask him if he was going off to the North, South, East or West, and then watch the news,” Suzanne said.

It was also the Air Force that brought the pair together, now 40 years married, and moved them to the Charleston area twice—the first time in 1967 and again six years later after Butch gained his aeronautical license.

He finally retired 21 years after he enlisted to keep from moving to a base up North. Butch said he frowned at the idea of living in cold, snowy conditions and being away from his wife. So they settled in the Summerville area and later had a daughter, Gail.

Then the stroke happened in fall 2004. Shortly before, the couple had met with a family friend, Bill Kelly, during a visit to Suzanne’s hometown. Kelly owned a grist mill, and Butch couldn’t take his mind off of buying one himself. It was a fateful meeting for Butch which Suzanne blamed on his love of machines.

“I said, ‘Well, I need one,’” Butch said. While at the time Butch owned only four single-cylinder engines, his collection now totals 45.

“He’s got more engines than we got shoes,” Suzanne said with a laugh.

After the stroke Butch was forced to endure a two-week hospital stay and time at an in-patient rehab facility, relearning how to walk—and even talk. Three hours a day for three days a week he was in occupational and speech therapy.

But he never forgot the mill. And Suzanne has yet to forget his excitement the day she told him Kelly called about selling one. Butch was in rehab at the time so Suzanne took down the message.

“When he comes home about a week later, I said, ‘Oh yeah, Bill Kelly called, and he’s got a mill,’” Suzanne said. And he grabs the thing, reads it and calls Bill.”

Butch purchased the mill for \$1,200. And the rest has been history. Every day he visits his workshop, which is an old hanger he used to store his Cessna 177 Cardinal and three other planes. It’s a relaxing place, an open place, where the wind whips through the facility, and Butch moves about slowly but steadily among his engines and mills—his oldest one dating back to 1910.

He still has the first yellow grist mill he ever purchased; another mill he built by hand and painted red with black trim. On Monday he sat next to it with a paintbrush in hand, touching up a few spots along one of the corners. Butch then kick-started one of the mills operated by a gasoline engine.

“They’re just basic machines,” Suzanne said. “It holds about four gallons and will run all day on that much gas.”

The engine wheel’s shafts, typically wooden, contain gears that turn and transfer energy to

a granite stone, which in turn, also turns to grind the grain. While the mill can grind any type of dry grain, the Chastains only use corn.

At the mill’s top rests a funnel-like object, called the “hopper,” where Butch drops the corn. The corn then falls down to where the 20-inch stone turns and crushes it, producing grits.

The process always amazes Suzanne.

“It’s history, and it’s becoming lost really,” she said.

Monday was the first day in a while when the temperatures weren’t too hot or humid to keep Butch from working outdoors.

His wife said he’s had to limit his time outside in the last month after a minor health scare put him in the hospital. The episode even kept him from the farmers market for a month—community members wondering his whereabouts and eager to see the 69-year-old return, which he did on Saturday.

“He is just so mechanically minded. It’s just really unbelievable,” Suzanne said. “It’s like a therapy for him.”

Their grits has even traveled as far away as Afghanistan. Suzanne said a local mother told the couple her son was serving in the war there and said he missed the Southern staple and needed her to send some.

During any given weekend at the market, the couple will sell as little as 60 pounds of grits—portioned out in to one-pound bags—or up to 120 pounds. They’ve even sold as much as 150 pounds at one time, Suzanne said.

10. PCFA Reunion Information

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Oct 6 – Oct 7, 2017 Louisville, Kentucky

Silent Auction – Treasures Needed

by Sandy Chastain Brough

Calling on All Chastain Cousins

Have a hobby? Share your talents! Sewing, painting, wood-working, leather crafting, hand-made cards, knitting/crocheting - all great auction items! Do you have home-canned goods, jellies and jams to donate - that's great!

Look around your home, check out that closet, attic, basement and garage - I'm sure there are objects d'art, books, knickknacks, etc just gathering dust that another Chastain Cousin could fall in love with.

You know all the "interesting" gifts that

you've received that you weren't sure what to do with - bring 'em / send 'em to the auction! If you can't attend the reunion this year, give your treasures to one of your Chastain Cousins that will be there, or pack them up and mail them to me -

Sandy Chastain

7303 Abbott Glen Dr
Crestwood, KY 40014.

Questions? E-mail Sandy at sandychastainbrough@yahoo.com or call / text 502-494-1288.

50 – 50 Raffle Fund-Raiser

By Sandy Chastain Brough

- Provide an opportunity for PCFA attendees to purchase a 50/50 CHANCE ticket for \$5, or 5 tickets for \$20.
- Participation is totally voluntary - no pressure!
- At the end of the event, at the banquet, a winning ticket is drawn.
- The lucky winner gets half of the amount of total from CHANCE ticket sales, the other half goes to PCFA to help pay for the reunion.

11. Obituaries

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Shirley Leone Chastain

August 6, 2017, *Cleveland Daily Banner* (Tennessee)
Also *The Chattanooga* (Tennessee)

Shirley Leone Chastain, 93, a resident of Colledge-dale, passed away on Saturday morning, Aug. 5, 2017. She was born on March 14, 1924, to the late Genoa and Ellen Howe Zollinger.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: George Zollinger, Glen Zollinger and Eddie Zollinger.

She worked for many years in the family business and was a vital part to its success. All that knew her, knew that she had a kind, genuine heart that was always eager to give. Her generous hospitality and her love for working with kids were always wonderful traits that were observed by all those around her. She will be dearly missed.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her loving husband of 69 years, **Andrew Chastain**; children: **Bettie Griffin (Ric)**, **Don**

Chastain (Lucia), **Ken Chastain (Karen)** and **Jeannie Hefner (Marty)**; grandchildren: Tara Hills, Mandi Gane, Bekki Wade and Tyler Hefner; eight great-grandchildren; brothers: Le Zollinger, Bob Zollinger and Beecher Zollinger; sister, Betty Ashlock; and numerous extended family and friends.

The family will hold a private celebration of life graveside service in the Collegedale Memorial Park. You are encouraged to share a memory of her and/or your personal condolences with her family by visiting her memorial web page and guestbook at www.companionfunerals.com. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist the Chastain family with these arrangements.

12. Upcoming issues

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There will probably be only two more issues of *Chastain Chatter* before the PCFA reunion because we are moving, so I may not have good Internet access to my computer and printer for a while, but at this time, I'm planning to send the next two issues out on September 2nd, and then, hopefully, either September 23rd or September 30th.

Some of the topics I hope to include in the next two issues are

- ◆ More about the Brown Books
- ◆ Lineage or Pedigree Charts
- ◆ PCFA publications that will be for sale at the reunion
- ◆ More information about presenters and speakers and resource people.
- ◆ Tentative schedule of the reunion

13. Appendix: PCFA 2017 Reunion Registration Form

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2017 REUNION REGISTRATION

PCFA Reunion Friday October 6, 2017 – Saturday, October 7, 2017,
Downtown Hampton Inn, Louisville, Kentucky

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.

NOTE: Our reduced rates will end on **September 10, 2017**.

If you have any concerns or problems making your reservation, e-mail **Sandy Chastain Brough** at sandychastainbrough@yahoo.com or call / text 502-494-1288.

2017 HOTEL RESERVATION

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>

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If you have any concerns or problems making your reservation, e-mail Sandy Chastain Brough at sandychastainbrough@yahoo.com or call / text 502-494-1288.

14. *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.