

# CHASTAIN CHATTER

Number 058

February 24, 2018

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## 1. Dear Chastain Cousins



MENU

We have the usual variety of topics in this issue of **Chastain Chatter**, but one section that stands out this time is the information about genealogical scrapbooking by **Jeanne Short**, in [Section 4](#). If you have old family photos and documents that need to be organized in an appealing way and saved, check out the link provided with Jeanne's report.

Another section that stands out is [Section 5](#) where you can read a letter from **Karen Mabry Rice**. She has written a book about her Chastain grandmother. It's called Ghost Walk; it will be published soon.

There is also an interesting tidbit of genealogical information from **Howard Chasteen** in [Section 9](#).

Also, I strongly encourage you to click the link in [Section 2](#) that will take you to the PDF version of **Chastain Chatter** to read it. There are graphics in the enhanced version that are not included in the e-mail newsletter, so it may be worth your time to check it out.

I'd love to hear from you; I especially appreciate comments suggestions, questions, stories, information, etc. to include in future issues.

To contact me, send e-mails to [President@PierreChastain.com](mailto:President@PierreChastain.com)

Love and peace,

Karyl  
(Karyl Chastain Beal, Spring Hill, Tennessee.)

## 2. Announcements

a) Enhanced version of issue # 058 of the **Chastain Chatter**

MENU

First timers: Congratulations, you did it!  
Experienced **Chatterers**: Another mediocre task by now. :)

Navigation Tips:

**Click on any Article Title in the Menu to go directly to that Article.**

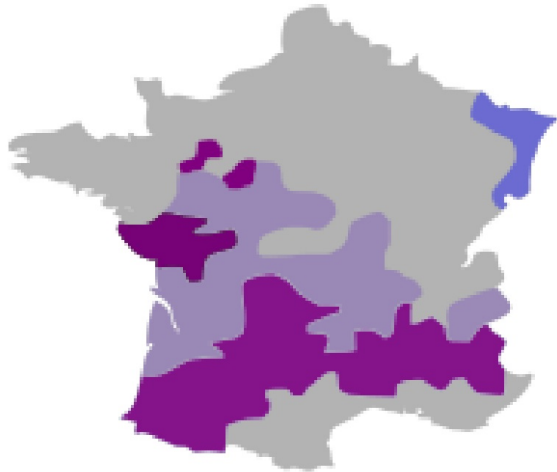
Links in this color go to **places in this document**.

This color link goes to your **web browser or email program**.

## b) Trip to France

[MENU](#)

Apparently, some of our Chastain cousins are dreaming about a trip to France to possibly visit the area where some of the early Chastains and Huguenots lived. A couple of them are working on details for a group trip tentatively planned for June of 2019. Watch this space: details about this exciting opportunity are in the works and will be forthcoming in the near future.



Areas controlled and contested by Huguenots ca. 1572 are marked purple and livid on this map of modern France.

For more information on where the Huguenots lived and were persecuted, see the Huguenot Timeline at: [pierrechastain.com](http://pierrechastain.com)

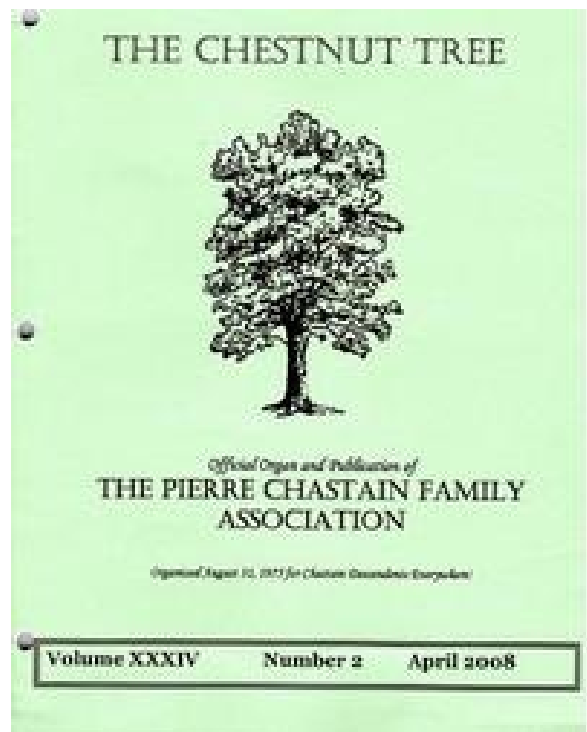
## c) The Chestnut Tree, by Phillip L. Sublett

[MENU](#)

If anyone has an essay, article, family update, or family photo they'd like to share with the Chastain family in The Chestnut Tree, the PCFA magazine, e-mail it to editor **Phillip L. Sublett** at [Editor@PierreChastain.com](mailto:Editor@PierreChastain.com).

Or mail to:  
Phillip L. Sublett,  
P.O. Box 3450,  
Stateline, NV 89449-3450

Any articles related to Chastain genealogy, Virginia Huguenot immigrants, or other topics of interest to the Chastain family, are welcome.



### 3. Trivia: Genealogical Terms

[MENU](#)

1. The study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history
  - a) genealogy
  - b) anthropology
  - c) ancestry
  - d) ancient history
  - e) paleontology
  
2. A gender-neutral term encompassing both nieces and nephews is:
  - a) niecephew
  - b) descendants
  - c) nibbling
  - d) cousinish
  - e) relative
  
3. The founder of a family, the earliest recorded ancestor of a consanguineous family group of descendants.
  - a) patriarch
  - b) matriarch
  - c) clan leader
  - d) chief
  - e) progenitor
  
4. What is a cognatic kinship?
  - a) related
  - b) spouses
  - c) kissing cousins
  - d) bilateral kinship where relatives are traced through both a mother and father
  - e) relatives that feud with each other
  
5. What is a collateral descendant?
  - a) Grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc.
  - b) Relatives descended from a brother or sister of an ancestor (nieces, nephews, cousins)
  - c) Relatives people are willing to trade away
  - d) Relatives older than 65 years old
  - e) Relatives who have a common inherited trait, like blue eyes

## 4. Genealogy Tip: Scrapbooking

[MENU](#)

**Jeanne Short** has created a beautiful, meaningful family history book for her family. I'm including the link to find photos of most of the pages of her book for those who would like to see them.

Jeanne has also written a little bit about how the book came about and how she developed it. To see photos of the pages in her book, go to [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) and type Chastain Family Heritage Scrapbook in the search box. (A few other photos will also show up, but you should be able to recognize the album photos.)

### Family History Scrapbook

By Jeanne Short

My mother, **Loyce Coolidge**, had mentioned to me several years ago, that the Chastain Reunion would be in the NW Arkansas area (Siloam Springs, I think). She wanted me to put together a scrapbook showing our direct line from **Pierre Chastain** to my grandchildren.

Once I had all of the information with the family stories, I created the direct family line with the names, dates, locations, spouses, siblings, etc., for each person in the direct line. One of the things I added to it was the Generational Chart. I showed the various generations and how they were related.

I started with **Estienne Chastain** and then **Jacques Chastain** (since I had only a little information, I allowed one page for each of them). Then **Estienne Chastain** and one page for **Dr. Pierre Chastain** (the immigrant). The next page was for his son **Pierre Chastain, Jr.**, followed by **Abraham Chastain**, and so on. For some of the generations, we only had a little information so each generation had one page. As we traveled down the line, we began to have more information and so I expanded that generation to two pages (side by side). I think the two-page spread started with **Elisha Chastain**, and followed with our direct lines.

I was able to get some of the photos from my mother and was able to expand further as we went along. This continued until I had 40+ pages. It actually turned out to be much more extensive than I originally expected. I just didn't want to omit too much.

I used the scrapbook supplies created at that time by K and Company for Ancestry. However, in looking at the sources now, I no longer see this kit. It may be out of print. As a substitute, Karen Foster Collections has developed an Ancestry collection which includes the family chart along with albums and paper along with accessories.

I did not adhere specifically to the K and Company Ancestry Collection. I added pieces of tea-dyed lace, ribbons, along with chipboard words and phrases cut by a local vendor (although these could be cut on a Silhouette or Cricut). I also used other paper and accessories where needed.

I know this is pretty vague in some areas, especially for a beginner, but I would be happy to expand on the instructions for anyone interested in doing something like this.

**Jeanne Short**  
[jmshort48@gmail.com](mailto:jmshort48@gmail.com)

## 5. Ghost Walk, by Karen Mabry Rice

MENU

Greetings to all my dear cousins.

Thank you, Karyl, for inviting me to write an article for Chastain Chatter about the book I'm writing about my Chastain grandmother, **Sophia Kathleen**, and my granddaddy **George Smith**. His story starts at the end. When he is almost a year away from death's door.

The story is also about his father, Wilhelm Heinrich Schmidt, an immigrant from the Independent Kingdom of Saxony in the Prussian Empire in 1873. He became a cattleman, which has everything to do with why and how my grandfather and his older brother became cowboys on the Western Trail to Dodge City, Kansas.

Something wonderful happened last night. My great-grandfather had two wives and two sets of children. Way back in 1963, a cousin from the second family found my grandmother. We answered her letter, and the result was a fifteen-year friendship with my cousin in which we shared all our family history. When I moved to Texas in 1965, we got to meet in person.

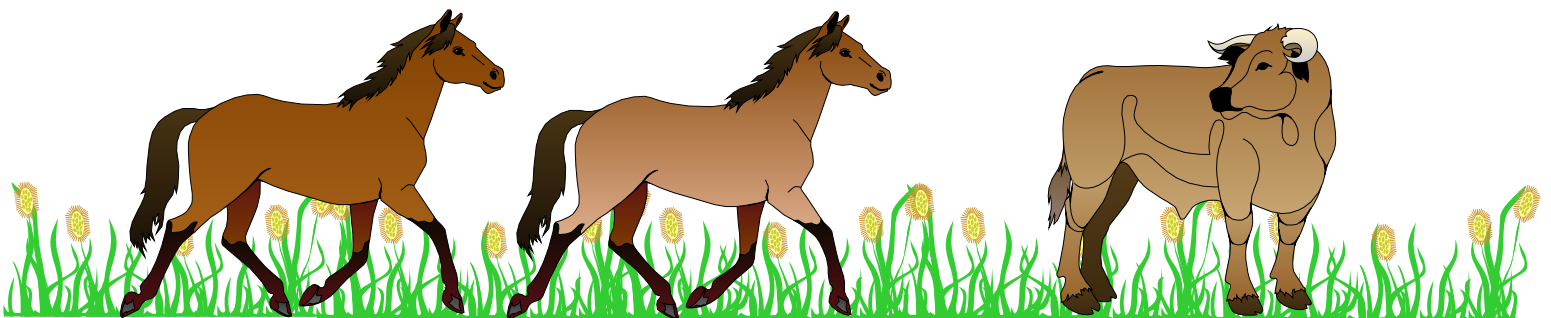
Sincerely,

Karen Mabry Rice  
Author of Ghost Walk,

In 1978, when my husband died in a car wreck, I moved off the farm and back into town. All my genealogy information bounced out of the back of the horse trailer and landed in a deep borrow ditch. When I wrote Marion to get a copy of our data, I never got a reply and didn't know her husband had also died of a heart attack.

Last night I finally tracked down her youngest daughter, Celeste, who is on vacation in Santa Fe. Facebook can be a wonderful tool. As soon as Celeste gets back to Texas, she is going to send me all the information in a book Marion wrote.

I told her that without her mom this book would never have been written. I'm going credit her with posthumously being the co-author. Now at 105,000 words, the book will be a trilogy: Part I. Wilhelm and Anna, Part II. Wilhelm and Augusta, Part III. George and Sophia. Besides this good news, I'm sharing the Prologue and the Preface for Sophia's part of the story.



### Arkansas man feeling great thanks to heart transplant

by Beth Hunt, Feb 7, 2018, KATV.com website

LITTLE ROCK (KATV) — Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States.

70-year-old **Larry Chastain** has been through a lot. He had a heart attack 10 years ago, eventually losing the ability to do the simple things.

Chastain had class-four heart failure and he still gets emotional thinking about it. "I had trouble walking from the front porch to the mailbox, and according to the doctors, I didn't have very long at all left," he said.

"When you get to that stage, there's about a 50 percent chance of being alive in one year," Dr. Patrick Campbell explained.

That was something Chastain was not willing to accept. This father and grandfather knew he had so much to live for, so he sought help

from the Baptist Health Heart Failure and Transplant Institute.

"Not only do I have a great support group at home, this hospital has formed the greatest support group that you could imagine," Chastain said.

Doctors implanted him with a heart mate-3 heart pump. It supported him well for nine months. Then, Chastain decided he wanted to get on the list for a heart transplant. Right at the end of 2017, a heart became available.

In Arkansas, this kind of comprehensive care is something Dr. Campbell says is rare.

Now, just about a month post-surgery, Chastain is feeling great and very blessed. He hopes by sharing his story, he's able to inspire others. "If you have heart problems, don't wait long. I almost waited too long," Chastain said.



### Gilmer High School Wins TBF/FLW High School Fishing Georgia State Championship on West Point Lake

February 12, 2018, Lagrange, Georgia,  
By Drew Aspinwall for Fishing World

The Gilmer High School fishing club duo of **Thomas Chastain** and Carter Ott, both of Ellijay, Ga, brought a five-bass limit to the scale Saturday weighing 15 pounds, 5 ounces to win the 2018 TBF/FLW High School Fishing Georgia State Championship on West Point Lake.

A field of 62 teams competed in the no-entry fee tournament, which launched from Highland Marina in LaGrange. In FLW/TBF High School Fishing competition, the top 10-percent of teams competing advance to the High School Fishing National Championship.



## 288-Lb. Woman Becomes Heaviest to Run a Marathon and Aims for Ironman: 'It's About Visibility'

from people.com, Feb 22, 2018 by Julie Mazziotta

When **Ragen Chastain** sets a goal, she wants it to be nearly unattainable. Which is how she went from hating running to signing up for a marathon.

"I decided I wanted to try a challenge and jump out of my comfort zone, and distance running had always been the thing that I was worse at in the entire world," Chastain, 41, a speaker and writer, tells PEOPLE. "So I signed up for a marathon first thing."

Plus the Los Angeles-based Chastain, who weighs 288 lbs., wanted to bring visibility to runners of different sizes.

"I was looking around for other plus-size people who had done marathons, and I saw a lot of people who started the marathon but didn't finish it," she says. "So I was just really inspired by the idea of being plus-size and finishing the marathon, and the visibility that would create for other people who wanted to try it and thought they couldn't because of their size."

After completing a 20-week training program, Chastain successfully (if not

painfully) finished the Seattle Marathon, only to discover that she could've set the Guinness World Record for the heaviest woman to run a marathon. Because it's not possible to set the record retroactively, Chastain would have to run another one, which didn't sound appealing at the time. But, ever the goal setter, she decided to shoot even higher.

"I was having trouble psyching myself up to do another one, honestly, so I listened to audiobooks about endurance athletes and a lot of them had completed Ironman triathlons, so I wondered if I could do that," she says. "It seemed like the ultimate expression of pushing outside of my comfort zone. So I decided to do the second marathon as part of the training for Ironman Arizona."

Chastain says her training for the Ironman — which starts with a 2.4-mile swim and a 112-mile bike before ending with a full marathon — made the marathon preparation much more enjoyable, and she was able to get the Guinness World Record at the Mainly Marathon in Sanford, Maine.

## 7. 2018 PCFA Reunion Update

**Ron and Phyllis Mitchell**, reunion coordinators, have had several meetings with people in the Manakin area of Virginia where the next reunion will be held. They are developing plans for an unforgettable family reunion.

If you are thinking about attending the next **Pierre Chastain Family Association** Reunion, mark your calendar for the week-end of September 14 and September 15, 2018.

The PCFA reunion is for all Chastain family members, regardless of spelling of the surname or connection. You do not have to be a paying member of the PCFA to attend.

Technically, you do not even have to be a family member to attend if you are interested in the Chastain family.

The reunion will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, Richmond – Midlothian, Virginia, the area where the early Chastains settled when they came to America in 1700. Registration to attend the reunion will begin in March. (You can reserve your hotel room now, if you would like to.)

For more information about the reunion, go to [www.pierrechastain.com](http://www.pierrechastain.com) and click on the Annual Reunions menu tab on the left – and then go to 2018 reunion.)



## 8. Emory University Studying Family with Unusually High Rate of Alzheimer's Disease

[MENU](#)

Equities.com 11 September 2017

We wanted to highlight a [terrific article that we read on STAT](#) today about an ongoing study of a family with an "astonishing" rate of Alzheimer's disease.

The writer, **Michele Cohen Marill**, is an Atlanta-based health and medical writer who has written a thoroughly engaging account of the study of this extended family by [Emory University's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center](#).

Across a study that first began 17 years ago with a single family member, researchers have unearthed "an astonishing rate of Alzheimer's in the Chastain family, with the disease striking 44% of family members with an affected parent." **The uniquely high rate** "suggests some family members carry a previously unknown gene so powerful that it can cause disease in someone who receives a copy from just one parent."

It's been 14 years since the FDA has approved a new drug for Alzheimer's - Namenda (memantine hydrochloride) by

Forest Laboratories, now part of Allergan (NYSE: AGN), was approved in 2003 to treat symptoms of moderate to severe Alzheimer's - and considering the Chastain family's history, Ms. Marill writes that scientists may have "perhaps their best shot at finding the genetic origins of late-onset Alzheimer's, a goal that has eluded them for decades."

"This family to this day remains amazingly engaged and interested in participating in research," said Dr. Allan Levey, a neurologist and director at Emory. "They understand the implications of the disease for their family. They're afraid, understandably. And they're brave and courageous and they want to make a difference."

"There's enough power in this pedigree to find two or three variants in genes that are likely damaging in some way — that are causal or have a high effect in this family," said **Dr. Thomas Wingo**, a neurogeneticist at Emory. "I would settle for one."

## 9. Ordering a DNA test in France is a crime

[MENU](#)

By **Howard Chasteen**

Of interest since most Chastains I know claim roots in France: It is a state crime punishable by prison time for any citizen to order a DNA test! That is one reason very little French DNA is available for comparison!

Amazing. A nation world famous for being libertine in its sexual practices will not allow its citizens to "know" This is not just paternity testing it is ANY DNA testing. Apparently they wish to keep screwing around and keep the old saying viable: "Your Daddy's ain't your Daddy but yo Daddy don't know"

Source: [Eupedia.com](#)

# 10. Life Interview Questions: The Present, Aging, Life Lessons and Legacies

[MENU](#)

## Part 3

By **Dr. Todd Stephenson**

At the 2017 reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, **Dr. Todd Stephenson** did a presentation on interviewing family members in order to record their stories.

One of the helpful hand-outs he gave us had a long list of questions to ask the person you are interviewing. The list is divided into several sections. This is the third (last) installment of his questions.

- ▶ What have you liked best about your life so far? What's your happiest or proudest moment?
- ▶ What do you feel have been the important successes in your life? The frustrations?
- ▶ What's the most difficult thing that ever happened to you? How did you deal with it?
- ▶ What do you think the turning points have been in your life? What were you like then?
- ▶ Are there times of your life that you remember more vividly than others? Why?
- ▶ What have been the most influential experiences in your life?
- ▶ Describe a person or situation from your childhood that had a profound effect on the way you look at life.
- ▶ If you were writing the story of your life, how would you divide it into chapters?
- ▶ What, if anything, would you have done differently in your life?
- ▶ What do you know now that you wish you'd known when you were young?
- ▶ What have you thrown away in your life that you wish you hadn't? What have you held on to that's important and why is it important? What "junk" have you held on to and why?
- ▶ Over time, how have you changed the way you look at life/people?
- ▶ What advice did your grandparents or parents give you that you remember best?
- ▶ Do you have a philosophy of life? What's your best piece of advice for living? If a young person came to you asking what's the most important thing for living a good life, what would you say?
- ▶ How do you define a "good life" or a "successful life"?
- ▶ Do you think a person needs to first overcome serious setbacks or challenges to be truly successful?
- ▶ In what way is it important to know your limitations in your life or career?
- ▶ If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why?
- ▶ What do you see as your place or purpose in life? How did you come to that conclusion?
- ▶ What would you like your children and grandchildren to remember about you?
- ▶ If you could write a message to each of your children and grandchildren and put it in a time capsule for them to read 20 years from now, what would you write to each?

## 11. Obituaries

[MENU](#)

### Ruth Chastain

January 30 from Sauk Valley News, Illinois

PROPHETSTOWN – **Ruth Chastain**, 73, of Prophetstown, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, at Good Samaritan Society – Prophets Riverview in Prophetstown.

**Ruth Ann (Emerson) Chastain** was born Nov. 25, 1944, in Moline, the daughter of Denis and Anna (Dunning) Emerson. She was a 1962 graduate of Alleman High School in Rock Island. In 1982, she graduated from the nursing program at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, to become a licensed practical nurse. Ruth was a dedicated healthcare professional for 35 years, spending the majority of her career at Winning Wheels in Prophetstown, Sterling Pavilion in Sterling, and Pleasant View in Morrison, and briefly worked as a hospice nurse. After retiring in 2012, she enjoyed time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; they were the joy of her life. Ruth was an avid reader, enjoyed watching movies and collecting coffee mugs, and loved visiting with friends. Ruth was very proud of her Irish heritage and enjoyed listening to Celtic music. Ruth was a dedicated mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend.

Ruth will be missed by her four children, sons, **Mike (Linda) Chastain** of Prophetstown and

**Bryan (Amy) Chastain** of Edwards; and daughters, **Kelly (Michael Messmer) Chastain** and Brenda (Randy) Geesey, both of Savanna; her sister, Mary Lou (William) Berry of East Moline; a sister-in-law, Gwen Emerson of Coal Valley; 15 grandchildren, Eric (Alycia), Michael, Jeffrey, Cheyenne, Dakota, Brandon, Conor, David, Cory (Jenna), Aaron, Josh, Sierra, Taylor, Jovi, and Cooper; six great-grandchildren, Carson, Emerson, David Jr., Patrick, Brycen, and Elijah; and several nieces and nephews with extended families.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Denis Emerson Jr.; and one daughter, **Deborah Chastain**, who passed away in infancy.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, with the rosary recited at 4:45 p.m. Friday at McDonald Funeral Home, 46 Grove St., Prophetstown. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Prophetstown, with the Rev. Antoni Kretowicz officiating. Cremation rites will follow, and private burial of the cremains will be at a later date.

[MENU](#)

### Linton Stevens Chastain

February 8, 2018 – Our Gazette, South Carolina

Linton was a member of Immaculate Catholic Church in Goose Creek, SC. He served as a Recorder for the Knights of Columbus, Immaculate Conception Council 11991 in Goose Creek in 2013. He was an avid motorcyclist and enjoyed traveling the east coast in his cruiser. Linton also found time to enjoy photography and bird watching.

Linton was preceded in death by his loving wife, **Anne Marie Chastain**. He is survived by his daughters; **Beth Irene Chastain** and **Britt Marie Chastain**.

A Memorial Service will held on Saturday, 2:00 pm at Hanes Lineberry Vanstory Chapel. The family will receive friends following the service at the funeral home.

## Jack G. Chastain

February 11, 2018 from the Yakima Herald (Alaska)

**Jack Gray Chastain**, 73, passed away suddenly at his home in Wasilla, AK on Saturday, January 20, 2018. He was born on October 28, 1944 in Portland, OR to **Jack V. Chastain** and **Helen G. Chastain**. Growing up in Yakima, WA, Jack found a sincere passion for photography that continued for the rest of his lifetime. Jack was a graduate of Eisenhower High School class of 1962 in Yakima. He studied geology at the University of Montana and then served in the U.S. Navy.

Jack relocated to Alaska and was employed by

Alaska Airlines for over three loyal decades. Alaska gave Jack the beautiful sites needed for his passion for photography. Flickr, where he displayed his work, has over 1.8 million views and 1.6k followers.

Jack is survived by his wife Jalaine, son Keith, step-children Kevin and Kris (Wasilla, AK), and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is also survived by his siblings: Fred and his wife Coretta (Yakima, WA), George and his wife Lorene (Tacoma, WA), and Nancy and her husband Steve Royer (San Diego, CA).



## Earl Eugene Chastain

February 12, 2018 from the Oroville MR (California)

**Earl Eugene Chastain**, of Oroville, died Friday, Feb. 9, 2018, in Oroville. Arrangements are under the direction of Scheer Memorial Chapel.

## 12. Trivia Answer Key

1. The study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history
  - a) genealogy
2. A gender-neutral term encompassing both nieces and nephews is:
  - c) nibbling
3. The founder of a family, the earliest recorded ancestor of a consanguineous family group of descendants.
  - e) progenitor
4. What is a cognatic kinship?
  - d) bilateral kinship where relatives are traced through both a mother and father
5. What is a collateral descendant?
  - b) Relatives descended from a brother or sister of an ancestor (nieces, nephews, cousins)

## 13. Appendix: Renewing or Joining the PCFA

[MENU](#)

I've copied the form below, however, if you want to print the form, follow the directions at the end of the form to go to the PDF version.

.....

To join the Pierre Chastain Family Association:

- (1) Print and fill in this form.
- (2) Write a check to PCFA for the dues (\$20 for 2018 or \$200 for lifetime)
- (3) Mail completed form and check to Membership Chair, Carol Migdat.

(It's also good to send an e-mail to Carol to let her know that you've mailed in your membership dues so she can be on the lookout for it. Carol's e-mail address is [Membership@PierreChastain.com](mailto:Membership@PierreChastain.com).)

Mailing address:

Carol Migdat, PCFA; 708 Bodega Bay Dr, Keller TX 76248

Please print or type the information.

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Last (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

- (1) Lifetime membership - \$200
- (2) Join for 2018 - \$20 per year
- (3) Renew 2018 - \$20 per year

Include your genealogical information:

Name of your spouse (first middle, maiden, last)  
List of your Chastain ancestors starting with your name first.

NOTE: To get to the printable version

Go to [pierrechastain.com](http://pierrechastain.com).

## 14. *Chastain Chatter* Publishing Information

MENU

The ***Chastain Chatter*** anchor site is [ChastainChatter.com](http://ChastainChatter.com).

To submit articles, reports, stories, questions, announcements, etc., to the ***Chastain Chatter***, send a note to **Karyl Chastain Beal** at [President@PierreChastain.com](mailto:President@PierreChastain.com).

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

To submit articles, reports, research stories, questions, comments, etc., to the **PCFA Web Site**, send a note to **Ron Roberts** at [Webmaster@PierreChastain.com](mailto:Webmaster@PierreChastain.com).