

# MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

December 1, 2016

Volume 4, Issue 4

## Festival of Trees

PICTURE SUBMITTED BY REBECCA BURRELL



### Merry Christmas and A Very Happy Holiday Season!

Pictured above is the GCGSI Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees held annually at the Gilmer County Library. The tree is in the Georgia Room and will be on display through December 22nd. Thank you to all participated in the planning and decorating of the Christmas Tree!

*Left to Right: Patricia Henson, Gladys Spivey, Rebecca Burrell, Sylvia Johnson, Kathryn Watkins, John Davis and Karen Titus.*

### In this quarterly issue:

Festival of Trees	1
Pierre Huguenot Journey and Family	2
Bulletin Board	6
Last Quarter Highlights	7
First Families	9
Fold 3: What is Bounty Land?	10
President's Desk	11
Membership Reminder	11



A Note of Thanks to the Newsletter Team. From writing articles and taking pictures to editing the newsletter, you have made the Mountain Heritage Newsletter a joy to read! Thank You!



*American Pioneers: Flapjacks. Albert, D. Beyond the Mississippi. Hartford, CT: American Publishing Company, 1867.*



# Pierre Chastain's Huguenot Journey & Family

BY HOLLYANNA HARDY WHITE

## France and The Escape

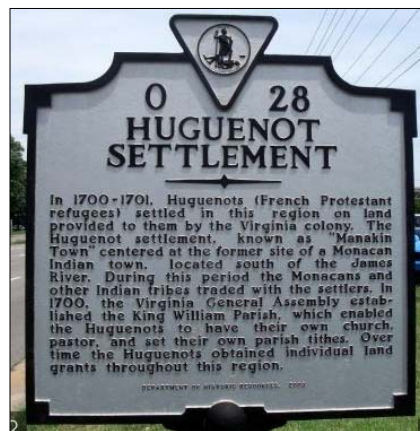
Are you a descendant of Pierre (Peter) Chastain? Many American Chastains, of various spellings, are descendants of Pierre “Peter the Immigrant” Chastain. His story begins in France. To end the French Wars of Religion, King Henry IV signed the *Edict of Nantes* on 13 Apr 1598. It gave religious rights to French Calvinist Protestants — Huguenots. Pierre was born on 9 Apr 1659 near Charost, France and became a physician. He was Protestant. The King’s grandson, King Louis XIV, revoked the *Edict of Nantes* in 1685 with the *Edict of Fontainebleau*. Protestantism was declared illegal and the persecution of Protestants was backed by the throne. In 1696, the couple fled France with their five children. They escaped to Switzerland, then Holland, and then England. In England, Pierre helped organize the immigration of a group of Huguenots to New World — Virginia Colony. ~chastaincentral.com



chastaincentral.com

## The Journey to Manakin Town, Virginia Colony, in 1700

After years of exile from their French villages, a group of 207 Huguenots arrived on 23 Jul 1700 on the ship *Mary and Ann*. They wanted to establish a “French Protestant town in the Norfolk area”. However, William Byrd I owned Falls area land and wanted that area settled — he was influential in the Virginia Colony. Governor Nicholson met the refugees and explained that they would not be staying in the Norfolk area, but would travel further up the James River into the wilderness to establish a settlement. The settlers were not farmers or hunters. They were tradesmen. Worried about surviving, some of the refugee group deserted.



markerhistory.com



huguenot-manakin.org

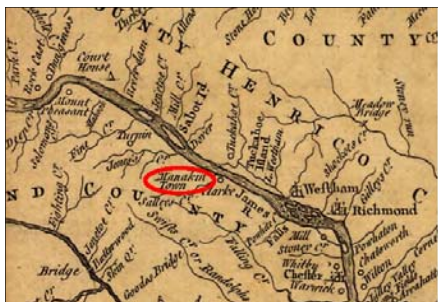
See *Pierre Chastain's Journey & Family*, Page 3

CHASTAIN, (Elizabeth, Pierre, René, Stephen [Estienne], and Mary Ann) have been authenticated as founders of the Huguenot colony at Manakin. . .in early colonial Virginia. The use of handwritten documents and different spelling standards caused some variations. <http://huguenot-manakin.org/manakin/founders.php#C>



## Pierre Chastain's Huguenot Journey & Family

Continued from page 2



virginiaplaces.org

The immigrants had to transfer their persons and goods to small boats at Jamestown. The boat filled with most of the goods immediately sank in rough waves. Furthermore, the upriver destination (Mowhemcho — later called Manakin Town) had been burned three times, lay twenty miles inland with no navigable waterway, and had laid abandoned for several years. Like many earlier settlers, the refugees were susceptible to illness, and it spread quickly through the Huguenots. The boats traversed the

James River — passing World's End into the Fall area and beyond Shockoe Creek. The group landed and the remaining supplies were transported twenty miles over a small forest path.

The fertile floodplain on which the settlement was located offered hope. However, it was not planting season and the settlers were not farmers. One hundred additional Huguenots arrived in October. Supplies evaporated during fall and winter. Three other ships arrived on the James River, but not everyone settled at Manakin Town. To help the group survive, Governor Nicholson and William Byrd I solicited donations for the settlement throughout the Virginia Colony, and the French Huguenots became self-sufficient in the next year. They became skilled at farming and raising cattle. They established trade with the nearby Indians. The settlers adapted quickly and made practical decisions. The floodplain's fertility allowed the Huguenots to establish a "segmented agrarian society which stretched back from five miles of river bank."

~ <http://huguenot-manakin.org/manakin/huguenothist.php>

### Pierre (Peter the Immigrant) In The New World

The planting season had passed when the Huguenots arrived in Manakin Town, and not everyone survived the harsh winter. Between February and November 1700, Pierre's wife Susanne and three of their five children died. The two surviving children were Judith and John. Pierre (Peter) married his second wife, Anne Soblet, in November 1700. She was the daughter of Abraham and Susanne Soblet — also Huguenot immigrants.

On 3 May 1704, the House of Burgesses, resolved ten thousand acres at Manakin Town be appropriated for the French refugees.



1704 Resolution: [huguenot-manakin.org](http://huguenot-manakin.org)



## Pierre Chastain's Huguenot Journey & Family

Continued from page 3

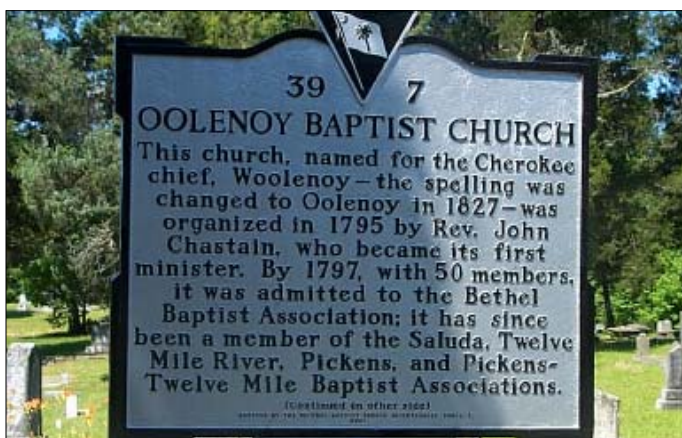
Peter and Anne had seven children: Susanna, Peter Jr, Mary, Elizabeth, Rene, Janne, and Mary M. Anne died on 3 Apr 1723. Peter married that same year for a third time to Magdelaine Trabue. The couple had no children. Peter died on 3 Oct 1728 in Manakin Town, King William Parish, Henrico County, Virginia Colony. In his life he was a physician, civic leader, a farmer, and helped establish the Manakin Episcopal Church. Peter's widow Magdelaine died in 1731.

### Peter Chastain Jr & Mildred (Middy) Archer

Peter Chastain Jr was born in 1707 in Henrico, Virginia Colony. His wife, Mildred Archer, was born in Goochland, Virginia in 1710. Peter is the English form of the French Pierre. Peter inherited his father's home and 111 acres of land in 1728. The property was later mortgaged and then deeded to cover debts. Peter and Mildred married in 1730. On 1 May 1731, he witnessed a deed for Stephen (Etienne) Chastain in Goochland County, Virginia. Peter is listed at tithing in King William Parish through 1731. He then moved outside of the parish although he remained in Goochland County. He obtained 400 acres in Goochland County on 1 Dec 1740. The tract later became part of Albemarle County. In 1749, he helped appraise an estate for Abraham Beguin and in 1751 he witnessed a will for William Allen. Peter lived in Virginia until his death in 1775 and Mildred died in 1790.

### Reverend John (Ten Shilling Bell) Chastain & Mary O'Bryan

John Chastain was born in 1743 in Manakin Sabot, Virginia and Mary O'Bryan was born in 1744 in Virginia. The couple married in 1763 in Virginia. John broke with his grandfathers church to become a pioneer in the Baptist movement. John's nickname, Ten Shilling Bell, was derived from his pure voice which carried a long way as he preached. Reverend John co-founded the Sinking Spring Baptist Church in 1772 along with Matthew Talbot. The church's website indicates that it is the oldest church in Tennessee still in existence. In 1795, Reverend John organized the Oolenoy Baptist Church. It was named for the . . .



---

See *Pierre Chastain's Journey & Family*, Page 5



## Pierre Chastain's Huguenot Journey & Family

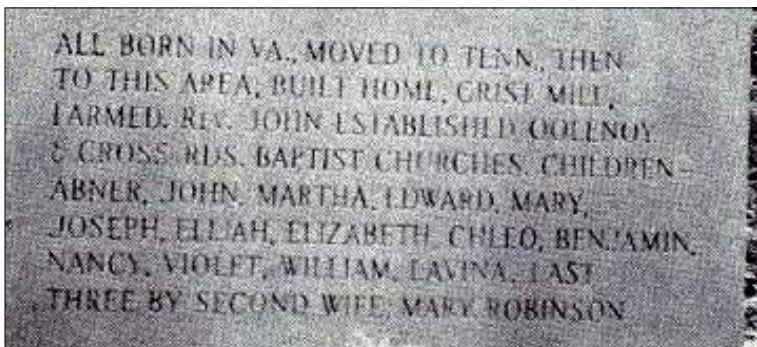
Continued from page 4

... Cherokee chief, Woolenoy and the spelling was changed to Oolenoy in 1827. Reverend John is a American Revolution patriot. He served through Virginia — signing an oath of allegiance in Powhatan County, Virginia during the war. He is recognized by the DAR. His ancestor number is A021238.



dar.org

Reverend John died in 1805 in Pendleton, South Carolina and Mary O'Bryan died 31 Jul 1824 in Pendleton, South Carolina. They are buried in Pumpkintown, Pickens County, South Carolina. The tombstone for Reverend John and his wife Mary also serves as a tombstone for their son and his wife — John Chastain Jr and Jemima Denton Chastain. It reads "All born in VA., moved to Tenn, then to this area, build home, grist mill, farmed. Rev. John established Oolenoy & Cross Rds. Baptist churches." ~chastaincentral.com



The Peter Chastain Family Association meets at an annual reunion. The 2016 reunion was held in Hiawassee, Georgia. The 2017 reunion will be held in Louisville, Kentucky. Information will post on Facebook in the *Pierre Chastain Family Association: PCFA* group page.

- Pierre "Peter the Immigrant" Chastain + Anne Soblet
- Pierre "Peter" Chastain II + Mildred "Middy" Archer
- Reverend John "Ten Shilling Bell" Chastain + Mary O'Bryan
- Reverend John "Blind John" Chastain Jr + Jemima Denton

John came with his father to Tennessee, and later settled in Pendleton District, South Carolina near Pumpkintown. He was blind in his later years.

- James Allen + Martha "Patsy" Chastain (moved to Gilmer County, Georgia)

Daughters of Reverend John "Blind John" Chastain Jr and Jemima Denton (Martha "Patsy" Chastain and Elizabeth Chastain) married cousins (both named James Allen). The brides and grooms were all from the Pendleton, South Carolina area. Martha "Patsy" Chastain married James Allen in 1812 and they later moved to Gilmer County, Georgia. Elizabeth Chastain married his cousin, James Allen, in 1817 and they later moved to Habersham County, Georgia.



## Bulletin Board

### December:

- 8th - Annual GCGSI Christmas Luncheon and Installation of Officers  
11 AM at the Shriner's Lodge in Ellijay. This will take the place of our monthly meeting. Please bring a covered dish to share. Everyone is Welcome!



A big thank you to Genelle Cantrell, Events Chair, for organizing all of our luncheons, picnic, and Christmas party this year.

Genealogy Research Center Volunteers - Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Research Assistants: Karla Duke, Rebecca Burrell and the Research Team.

### January:

- 12th - Gilmer County GCGSI Monthly Meeting at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM. The Board of Directors have voted to make a change in our by-laws. This will be voted on during the meeting.

Our speaker will be Carole Jean Kell. Mrs. Kell was born and raised in McCaysville, GA and married her high school sweetheart, Carlton J (Corky) Kell and they lived in Copperhill, TN for 5 years until they and their two children moved to Marietta where he became the very successful coach at Wheeler High School. She had a 33 year career as an educator in the Cobb County School System during that time she completed several degrees and held prominent positions. She retired when her first grandchild arrived. She enjoys her children and grandchildren in Marietta. Unfortunately her husband passed away in 1995 but she keeps the Kell family history alive by sharing stories from the family farm on Boardtown Rd.

### February:

- 9th - Gilmer County GCGSI Monthly Meeting at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM.

Our speaker will be Kathi Harper Hill. Kathi Harper Hill, one of Gilmer County's favorite daughters, and one of our favorite speakers is returning for the second year in a row to celebrate her birthday with us, 2 days late. She has become an enthusiastic genealogist and has applied to be a member of First Family and hopes to receive her certificate and pin this year. She has a recently published book "Bensy and Me" and will be reading from it. Guaranteed to make us laugh.

### March:

- 9th - Gilmer County GCGSI Monthly Meeting at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM. Our speaker will be Leslie Barker Thomas. Leslie is giving us another chance after having to reschedule in the fall due to family illness. She will be sharing information about the recently donated pen and ink sketches of 40 Cherokee home-places and settlements created by Rev. Charles O. Walker. As a result of Rev. Walker's early interest in preserving and documenting the history of the Cherokees, when he passed away, he already had several books published and material for others and extensive records. His family has shared some of his collection with the Trail of Tears Association and Mrs. Thomas will discuss these wonderful drawings with us.



## Last Quarter Highlights



**September:**  
Our September Meeting featured Carolyn Bunce who created the Gilmer County Heritage Quilt. This quilt took over 10 years to complete!



Members Admire the Gilmer County Heritage Quilt. Picture submitted by Rebecca Burrell

Carolyn Bunce

### October:

Our October meeting featured Our Members! We brought items to share with the group. Pictured are just a few of the moments we shared together. Pictures submitted by Rebecca Burrell and Gladys Spivey.



Continued on Page 8



## Last Quarter Highlights (Continued from Pg7)

**October** (continued): We also inducted several new members into the First Families of Gilmer County at our October meeting. The new members are listed on page 9.



*Brenda Cochran is accepting certificates on behalf of Luke Alexander White and Calen Isaac Babb.*

*Picture submitted by Rebecca Burrell.*



*Pictured above is Sarah Chastain. She is accepting for herself, Matthew Hassell Chastain, and Luke Parks Chastain.*

*Picture submitted by Rebecca Burrell.*



*Willene Kuykendall Davis accepting her certificate.*

*Picture submitted by Gladys Spivey.*



*Shirley Ruth Hill Wells is accepting her certificate.*

*Picture submitted by Rebecca Burrell.*

*Continued on Page 9*





## Last Quarter Highlights *(Continued from Page 8)*

### November:

Our Speaker was Laura Thomas who shared stories from her Bucktown ancestors!

GCGSI members also donated gifts to the Lions Club for their White Christmas project to help children have a better Christmas!



Pictures submitted by Karla Duke

**Thank You Members!**

## First Families

SUBMITTED BY JOY CHILDRESS

The purpose of the First Families program is to honor the pioneers who were settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or before, and to recognize those descendants who become members of this program. We encourage anyone who is directly descended from early citizens listed on the 1840 Gilmer County Census to apply. Applicants are not required to be currently residing in Gilmer County. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.gcgisi.org/firstfamilies.html>.

*“The purpose of the First Families program is to honor the pioneers who were settled in Gilmer County by 1840 or before and to recognize those descendants who became members of this program.”*

### First Family Members added this quarter.

- Willene Kuykendall Davis - John Calvin Jones Sr., Ancestor
- Shirley Ruth Hill Wells - Absalom Pence, Ancestor
- Luke Alexander White - Samuel Jones Sr., Ancestor
- Calen Isaac Babb - Samuel Jones Sr., Ancestor
- Geneva Juanita Wells Burnette - Samuel J. Thompson, Ancestor
- Lawrence H. Wells - Samuel J. Thompson, Ancestor
- Hilda Loretta Wells Coker - Samuel J. Thompson, Ancestor



**Leslie Barker Thomas**



## Fold 3: What is Bounty Land?

SUBMITTED BY BRENDA COCHRAN

([http://blog.fold3.com/what-is-bounty-land/?utm\\_source=content&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=content-oct-2015](http://blog.fold3.com/what-is-bounty-land/?utm_source=content&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=content-oct-2015))

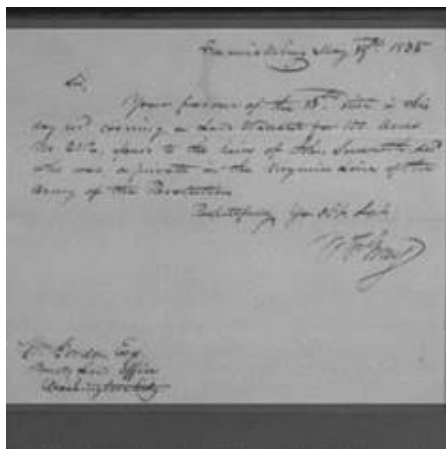
If you've looked closely at Fold3's [Revolutionary War Pensions](#) and [War of 1812 Pension Files](#), you may have noticed that some pension files include [correspondence](#) or [claims](#) regarding bounty land. And, of course, Fold3 also has the [Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Index](#). But just what is bounty land?

Bounty land served as both an incentive and reward for military service. It was issued to [eligible](#) veterans or their heirs by the Continental Congress and federal government through congressional acts passed between 1776 and 1856. Most early federal bounty land was in military districts like Ohio and other parts of the former Northwest Territory. Later, land was set aside in the territories of Michigan, Illinois, and Louisiana. Post-1847, land anywhere in the public domain qualified.

Unlike military pensions, qualifying veterans didn't have to demonstrate financial need to apply for federal bounty land, but they (or [their heirs](#)) did need to [file a claim](#). Some states also offered bounty land, but the collections on Fold3 contain information about federal bounty-land claims.



Early on, federal bounty land applications were handled by the War Department, but later they became the purview of the Pension Office and Department of the Interior. If a veteran's application for bounty land was approved, they would receive a [bounty land warrant](#) (sometimes abbreviated in the files as [B.L.Wt.](#)) for a certain number of acres. They could then either transfer or sell the warrant (which is what many did), or file it with a land office for a selected portion of land. They then received a land patent, which is what gave them ownership of the land.



The amount of bounty land granted changed over time through a series of acts of Congress. Most Revolutionary War veterans were originally offered 100 acres (with larger amounts offered to those of higher rank), but many veterans of the War of 1812 were eligible to receive at least [160 acres](#), which in some cases was later doubled. In 1855, the minimum acreage for surviving Revolutionary War veterans or [their heirs](#) was also raised to 160 acres; those who had already been granted a warrant for a lesser acreage could [apply for the difference](#). Eventually, qualifying veterans of the Mexican-American War and Indian Wars also became eligible to apply for bounty land. Civil War veterans were not offered bounty land.

Did any of your ancestors apply for or settle on bounty land? For more information about bounty land, read the National Archives' descriptive pamphlets for the [Revolutionary War](#) and [War of 1812](#) pension files.



## President's Desk

SUBMITTED BY KAREN TITUS

We are having a great year. Sylvia Johnson has worked very hard to provide interesting monthly programs for the society. We are all very grateful for her continued efforts on our behalf. Our second achievement this year is to get a great start on the book about "The First Families of Gilmer County". Most of the First Family members are assisting the committee with materials and family stories to add to the original application information. This book holds the promise of providing a great addition to our Gilmer County heritage books. We are requesting help from all our members and friends who might have letters, documents or pictures relating to early Gilmer families.



We have had new members join us and we ask that everyone share genealogy tips and assistance with them so they can expand their personal family history. The board also wants to thank everyone who has volunteered in so many ways this year. This is a wonderful society providing research books to the library as well as volunteers to help visitors not only on Fridays but anytime we happen to be in the research room. The research committee has done a tremendous job of look ups and correspondence with folks from out of the county or the state. Since we have taken on the responsibility of the First Family applications a considerable number have joined that group this year. We should all be very proud of the work we are doing to preserve the history and genealogy of Gilmer County.

## Membership Dues Reminder

GCGSI is a non-profit all volunteer organization whose aim is to promote and preserve family history. Our goal is to have all necessary tools available in the Gilmer County Library's Genealogy Room to aide you in your search. We also encourage donations of family histories for preservation. We invite you to join us in our effort to attain our goal.



Logo by Hollyanna Hardy White

The Membership Drive will begin at the November meeting for the 2017 Calendar year.

Please note that First Family Membership covered the GCGSI membership for the year that you joined First Families. If you joined the First Family in the 2015 year, your membership to GCGSI will be due by January 2017.

### MEMBERSHIP:

**PATRONS: \$50 CORPORATE: \$100 SPONSOR: \$250 BENEFACTOR: \$500**

Annual Dues: Single \$10 Family \$15 (everyone living in same household) \$5 Student

If you are unable to attend an upcoming meeting, please visit our website at

<http://www.gcgisi.org/membership.html> for a membership form and mailing information.

Thank you for your support!

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 919  
Ellijay, GA 30540



The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

Page 12

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 919  
Ellijay, GA 30540

**We're on the web!**  
[www.gcgsi.org](http://www.gcgsi.org)  
Contact email: [gcgs@etcmail.com](mailto:gcgs@etcmail.com)

---

## What Is Available Online?

- GCGSI Membership
- Book Order Form
- First Families Application
- 1834 and 1840 Census
- Genealogical Links
- Contact Information
- Officers
- Research Resources



Receive your newsletter via email.

Send your email to [gcgs@hotmail.com](mailto:gcgs@hotmail.com)