

CHAS  
FAM

(1) Virginia C.; (2) Thomas C.; (3) Clement C.; (4) Betsy C.; (5) Susan H. C.; (6) Mary G. C.; (7) Ann R. C.; (8) William Carrington.

Colonel Henry Carrington, of Halifax, married Betsy Morton, and had (1) Agnes Carrington and (2) Henry Carrington.

The Carringtons of Halifax, Charlotte and Prince Edward counties are all related, and all intermarried with the Mortons, Watkins, Venables, Cabells, Henrys and Frenchs.

#### CHASTAIN.

The Chastain family descended from the Huguenots, and suffered all the perils and hardships attendant upon a Huguenot refugee. Being compelled to leave home, friends and all earthly possessions in their native land, they came to this colony, barely escaping with their lives.

We find the forebear of the subject of this sketch living in this county at a very early date, with sufficient land upon which to build a simple home, and sufficient thrift, frugality and industry to add to it and provide for a family.

The old home, now fallen into disuse and decay, was well built of hewn logs, smooth and square, mortised together after the substantial fashion of most of the primitive homes of people in moderate circumstances of that day. The nails used were evidently made in the blacksmith shop on the place, and they are holding the timbers together today almost as firmly as they did when driven there almost a hundred years ago.

Through the small panes of glass in the narrow windows several generations have looked out over the broad fields and sloping hills, and two generations are laid to rest in the graveyard close by, around which there is a strong wall, and within it on a large slab is the inscription, "Sacred to the memory of the Chastain family," the names following:



"Howell Chastain, born April 3, 1800, died October 30, 1868.

"Elizabeth A. Chastain, born December 25, 1810, died June 18, 1886.

"Mary Gilliam Chastain, born February 28, 1835, died August 30, 1842.

"Richard Cabell Chastain, born September 16, 1852, died December 1, 1859.

"Howell Archer Chastain, born August 28, 1840, died September 12, 1861."

The parents of Howell Chastain are buried at Clover in the old churchyard. The subject of this sketch, their descendant, James Chastain, has had substantial marble stones placed at the head of each grave.

James Chastain was born and lived through his young life in this county. In later years he went to New York to live, and there met and married a wealthy widow, who died in a few years, leaving him an independent fortune, and one of the most praiseworthy things that he did was to mark with stones the graves of his people and leave an endowment fund with St. John's Church at Halifax for keeping up these graves.

After the death of Captain Henry Edmunds, James Chastain bought his beautiful home that he had built for his wife, who was Susan Edmondson. Mr. Chastain put some improvements on it, and there he lived during his widowerhood and entertained with lavish hand his friends and relatives. Generous to a fault, those who knew him best know how many he helped in times of stress, and how bitterly disappointing was his sudden death to those who regarded him as still a man in the prime of life.

His will, recorded at Halifax, a lengthy and liberal one, covers several pages with generous legacies and leaves the home, which he named "Restawhile," to his cousin, Miss Lula Howard Edmondson (with other legacies and no incumbrances as to upkeep, etc., of the large house and

grounds) during her lifetime, and after her death to be a home for aged women of gentle birth of Halifax county.

Mr. Chastain's French blood was strongly tintured with a love of luxury and pleasure, which licensed him to do many things repugnant to the more straight-laced views of the puritanical, but he was so thoroughly unselfish, and generous withal, that the envious alone could have maligned him.

He died suddenly in Washington, D. C., while on a pleasure trip to New York and other cities with some of his relatives and friends, and his body was sent to Kentucky to be buried beside that of his wife.

He left a large estate, and was considered very liberal to his legatees, but nevertheless there followed some law suits and much wrangling.

'Tis a pity that the whole human race cannot be guided by Agur's prayer—"Give me neither poverty nor riches, lest I be full and deny Thee, or be poor and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."