



The Chenault Clarion Cord

*“A Call to All Descendants of Estienne Cheneau
to Bond Together to Preserve Their Kinship”*

Volume 23, Number 1

Annual Publication of The Chenault Family National Association

Spring, 2018

Berea Reunion Highlights

Berea, KY - The location of the reunion at the Boone Tavern Hotel could not have been more lovely. The historic charm of the hotel was accented by the beautiful park-like grounds adjacent to the hotel and colorful displays of flowers everywhere. Southern elegance and hospitality were on display for all attendees to enjoy.

Friday afternoon, many attendees enjoyed strolling around the area and taking in the shops and dining establishments in the vicinity of the hotel. And, for those who just wanted to spend some time visiting with attendees in the hospitality area, it was fun to greet arriving cousins, meet some new to the reunion experience and exchange hugs with those who have become familiar faces over years of attending the event. It does not take long for the “distance” between us as cousins to melt away as we become close family.

Friday Night Mixer

President Jean Chenault Logue called the reunion to order and welcomed all attendees to the reunion. The informal approach of the Friday evening session gives attendees the opportunity to hear from every family group in attendance. It is fun and entertaining, but most of all we get a chance to hear from each group things that make them special and memorable to all of us. After each group was introduced and photographed, Judge Jim Chenault, Jean’s dad, shared some of his memories about the area around Berea and Richmond where he has lived for many years. He also shared some of his treasured collections of memorabilia.

Saturday Morning Fare

On Saturday morning, attendees gathered after breakfast for a short drive to historic Fort Boonesbough. The visit gave attendees a glimpse into the past when the direct ancestors of many of those in attendance joined Daniel Boone in settling in Kentucky. The presentation by members of The Society of Boonesborough and the tour that followed was both entertaining and informative. Following the business meeting, which was held in the meeting area of the fort, attendees were treated to a box lunch by the Kentucky Chenaults.

Sightseeing and Dinner

Saturday afternoon attendees were free to roam, so to speak. The area offered many opportunities to explore, especially the Kentucky Artisan Center or Tater Knob Pottery for those interested in crafts. As evening approached, attendees gathered for dinner and the induction of new officers. A special tribute honored cousins who are serving or have served their communities in law enforcement or as first responders. It was, indeed, a lovely evening!

July, 2018

The reunion in 2018 will be held in Roanoke, VA. Please plan to join us. See details enclosed.

Note: A complete set of the official minutes of the proceedings appears on the website www.chenault.org and will be included in reunion registration packets for review by attendees prior to the business meeting in Roanoke.

**CHENAULT FAMILY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
2015-2016 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

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Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Chenault, President
Larkin Chenault, First Vice President
Carolyn Sue Chenault, Secretary/Historian
Donna Chenault Mellick, Treasurer

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DIRECTORY & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carolyn Sue Chenault

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT**



Dear Cousins,
I would normally expect to be sending greetings from the sunny South but as we are again expecting sleet/ice/snow, let us turn our thoughts to the third weekend in July when we'll all gather in Roanoke, Virginia for the Chenault Family National reunion.

The reunion is a great time to catch up on the latest news or seek the help of Sue to trace your roots. We are blessed by our tradition of coming together and really getting to know each other. We love to hear the heroic, and the hilarious, exploits of our ancestors and cousins, and our lives are richer for sharing the indescribable sense of family. We hope to have lots of

time for visiting at the reunion as well as taking in some history and attending to family business.

Ready for the Reunion

Rest your voice. We all know how Chenaults love to talk! Are you interested in becoming more active in the Chenault National Family Association by serving on a committee, or as an officer, or just want to know more? Please feel free to contact me, Libby Chenault, President, or, Larkin Chenault, Vice-President. Come prepared to talk about future reunions might look like. Share your ideas, even those that might seem a bit crazy. (Who knew that chimes would be such a big hit?)

If you'd like to bring something for the Silent Auction, remember that some of the group will be flying so size may count. Some popular items in Kentucky last year were the Chenault wine, the locally-made candy and the items embroidered with the Chenault Crest contributed by Susan Wachter.

Westward HO!

The policy has been for the reunion to move back and forth across the Mississippi so that the amount of traveling is shared. In 2019 we are committed to going west. If you have suggestions, please let Larkin or me know. Some suggestions have been Hot Springs, Arkansas; Seattle, Washington; and Portland, Oregon.

It helps immensely if there is someone living in the area to be local host. (I don't know what I would have done without Tommy Brown a few years ago). Because the reunion is the third weekend in July we are always competing with full-season prices.

Come for the Reunion, Stay for Adventure

Train enthusiasts may wish to come and return by rail. For our athletic cousins, the Roanoke area of Virginia is conveniently located to both the New River and the Appalachian trail; and, yes, there is a baseball team. While we know definitively that we are NOT related to Thomas Jefferson, history buffs and fans of the great man may wish to work in a visit to Poplar Forest. Movie fans will probably want to set aside some time to visit Mountain Lake Lodge where the first *Dirty Dancing* was filmed—you might also choose to spend the night or at least enjoy a meal in the restaurant.

See You in Roanoke

I want to say a big thanks to Jeanne Logue and all the Cousins that worked so hard to give us a great time in Berea. I hope you all have marked your calendars and that I will see you all in Virginia. If you've never been to a reunion know that you will be welcomed with open arms.

Safe travels,
Libby Chenault

P.S. Dear Cousins, please join us on Friday, July 20th, at 3 p.m. for a private family tour of the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. This is an amazing undertaking and the tour is a great opportunity for those arriving in early. The tour is sponsored by one of the cousins, so you won't have to factor admissions into your cost.

IN BETWEEN

Carrollton, TX - I arrived back in Carrollton from Berea to find the Texas July heat had arrived, too. It was good to get back though, and my sweet Zoe was so glad to see me when I picked her up from boarding. So, all this is to say, that things got back on track around my home pretty quickly.



I certainly enjoyed seeing all my cousins in Berea, both those I enjoy seeing every year, as well as many new faces. I had exchanged several emails with cousins like Jimmy Pitts from Virginia and Harold and Betty Garrett from Mississippi, and had become acquainted with them through those communications, but there is nothing like meeting them face-to-face. The truest form of social media is still that in-person contact which is alive and well at our reunions. And, unless you have heard that Margaret Stockton speak, you have not experienced Virginia's finest. She is so special! Then, there is Frank Thurman's smile. It is just plain delightful!

If you cannot tell from my ramblings, I love my cousins. If you do not attend the annual reunions, you are missing so very much of what "family" is all about. While the program for 2018 is still in the "works," I hope you will put the reunion on "your bucket list" of things to do this year and come check out the event.

If you need help to determine just where your family branch fits on the Chenault family tree, I would love to help you. I stay busy in my garden outside when weather permits, but

I spend a great deal of time tending the family tree, too. I do not work only on my own line, but try to give time to all lines as additional records become available to peruse. Unlike websites that charge for access to their data, I provide my files and information without charge. So, let me hear from you.

Well, I am about ready for a big glass of iced tea and a cool place to relax. Get your calendar out and reserve the third weekend in July to join us at the reunion.
Sincerely,
Carolyn Sue Chenault
secretary/treasurer

ASSOCIATION RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AND BALANCE SHEET

Financial reports are not published in the newsletter, but are shared with members in two ways. A copy of the complete report is provided in the reunion registration packet for attendees to review prior to the business meeting. During the meeting, the report will be covered and questions addressed. Anyone who does not attend the reunion is welcome to request a copy of the report be mailed to them by contacting me.

Donna Chenault Mellick
Treasurer.

VARIANT SPELLINGS OF FAMILY NAME

Variant surname spellings were provided by "Cousin" Lewis R. Breckenridge in 1996 and updated by "Cousin" Christopher Shinall in 1998. Others have been added since that time and will continue to be added as they are identified.

Cheanault	Chenalt	Chenau	Chenault	Chenaur
Chenaut	Chenault	Chenau	Chenea	Cheneau
Chenhall	Chenhalls	Chennalt	Chennault	Chennaux
Chennhall	Chennhalls	Chinal	Chinat	Chinauet
Chinaul	Chinaull	Chinaulle	Chinault	Chinault
Chinot	Schannault	Scheinau	Schinault	Schinott
Shenar	Shenard	Shenault	Shenaur	ShenaurIt
Shenaut	Shinal	Shinall	Shinalt	Shinaul
Shinauld	Shinault	Shino	Shinoe	Shinoff
Shinol	Shinolt	Shinot		

2018 Reunion in Roanoke, VA

DATE - Friday, July 20--- Sunday July 22, 2018

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL - The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

LOCATION - 110 Shenandoah Av NW, Roanoke, VA 24016

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Hotel reservation information as covered below is the responsibility of the individual attendees. Registration for the reunion is handled separately and can be done by email or by completing a registration form and forwarding it to Carolyn Sue Chenault (address included on form). ***Important, please note the Friday afternoon D-Day Memorial tour information that is included on the registration form. If you desire to take advantage of this tour, your registration form, so noted, must be received no later than July 3rd.***

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Chenault Family National Reunion special rate will be \$149 plus state and local tax for a room with two double beds or one king bed. This room rate does not include any meal or parking charges. Parking rates for hotel guests is as follows: Self-Parking: \$10 per day; Valet Parking: \$16 per day.

Check-in time is 4 PM; check-out time is 11 AM. Hotel policy states that to confirm a sleeping room, it must be secured with a valid credit card provided by guest, along with a first night's deposit, which is refundable up to 7 days in advance of the reunion. Checks and major credit cards are acceptable to establish prepayment. All credit cards used to prepay the room deposit will be charged immediately. Guests who depart prior to their reserved check-out date may be charged an early departure fee if they fail to notify hotel personnel at check-in.

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE FOR THE GUARANTEED CHENAULT REUNION RATE IS JUNE 20, 2018.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The hotel is under no obligation to honor the special reunion rate for reservations requested after the cutoff date. Reservations beyond the cutoff date will be

accepted only if rooms are available. The special rate is available for extended stays two days prior to and two days following the reunion dates.

Reservations may be arranged directly with the hotel at 540-985-5900 or online as follows. A dedicated website is available for attendees to book hotel rooms. Reservations can be made at this web address: <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49566142>

GETTING THERE

Coming into Roanoke from north or south, merge onto I-581. Take the exit for US-11/US-220 Bus S toward Downtown. Merge onto Williamson Rd NE/US-11 via the ramp on the left toward Downtown. Take the 2nd right onto Shenandoah Av NE. Hotel will be on left.

PROGRAM

The following is a general preview of reunion activities. When more a more definitive agenda is finalized, it will be posted on the website.

Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m., Friday, July 20 in the hospitality room, which will be open after 1:00 p.m. for visiting and display of silent auction items and memorabilia. It will remain open until 11:00 p.m. Friday except during the Friday night activities.

Also, for early arrivers, a tour of the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA, is being offered courtesy of one of our cousins. *Please note details for sign-up on the registration form.* Participants can either be at the memorial by 2:50 p.m. or can meet in the hotel parking lot by 1:50 p.m. to caravan to the site.

Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., our customary get-acquainted gathering will include introductions of attending family groups, refreshments, and an informal program.

Saturday morning the hospitality room will open at 8:00 a.m. for late registrations, visiting, silent auction bidding, etc. It will be closed during the business meeting and other activities.

A continental breakfast for attendees will open at 7:30 a.m. After the business meeting, which will begin at 9:00 a.m., is adjourned, attendees will be on their own

to explore the area as they choose during the remainder of the morning and the afternoon.

Saturday evening, at 7:00 p.m., attendees shall gather for dinner which will be followed by a program that will include entertainment, results of the silent auction, the reading of the annual memorial list, and the installation of new officers.

SILENT AUCTION

Items donated by family members will be auctioned to help defray association expenses. Handmade crafts are especially welcome, as are artifacts, books, copies of photos, news articles, etc., especially those having historical and/or Chenault connections. These are displayed in the hospitality room. The auction will close at 5:00 p.m. to allow time to process the bids before the start of the dinner Saturday evening, with the winning bids to be announced at the dinner.

MEMORABILIA

Members are invited to bring photos, books, and other family mementos to share with others. These items are not for sale. Place a descriptive label and owner’s name on the items before leaving them on display. Also on display, will be mementos from previous reunions and several collections of correspondence, news clippings, and other items from the Association’s historical files.

THINGS TO SEE ON YOUR REUNION VISIT

Refer to the inside back cover of this newsletter for some of the popular sites to experience in and around Roanoke during your visit.

RED BOOK NEWS

The 2008 edition of “The Red Book” is still available. If you would like to purchase the book, ordering instructions are available online at www.chenault.org. Or, you may notify Carolyn Sue Chenault by simply



completing an “Activity Request” form (copy included at the back of this newsletter), marking it “RED BOOK ORDER,” attaching your check for \$95 per book, and mailing it to Ms. Chenault. Please allow 2-4

weeks after our receipt of these paid orders for shipping of the books.

If you have already purchased a 2008 edition and would like to have a copy of the changes/additions that occurred after publication up to mid 2010, a few copies of the 2010 supplement are still available. The publication includes an index formatted the same as the one included in the Red Book. Copies will be available for purchase at the annual reunions or copies may be purchased directly from Carolyn Sue Chenault, email schenault@tx.rr.com. The cost is \$13 per copy, which covers the shipping and handling fees.

ON FACEBOOK

Check out the Chenault Family National Association page on facebook.com. It is intended to point visitors to our web site for more information about us.

LOOKING AHEAD →→→→→

Where do we go from here?

During the annual business meeting at each reunion, recommendations for the site of the next reunion are received and discussed. Approval of members in attendance is then required for the site chosen. Factors considered in determining sites are available accommodations, associated costs, and surrounding entertainment for attendees. Site suggestions, as well as volunteers willing to help scope out hotels in the areas suggested are welcome and encouraged.

2017 MEMORIAL HONOR ROLL

- 11353.11233 Michael David Chennault; d. 23 Jun 2016, Tyler, Smith Co., TX.
- 11353.11233S Anne C. Johnston Chenault; d. 4 Jan 2003, Tyler, Smith Co., TX.
- 11353.2128 Mattie Lou Rubert Chennault; d. 2 Apr 2015, Lawrenceburg, TN.
- 11353.23732 Larry Raymond Chennault; d. 5 Sep 2012, Plano, Collin Co., TX.
- 11353.28122 Nallen Wayne Chennault; d. 28 Mar 2015, Guthrie, Logan Co., OK.
- 11353.28122S Marilyn Lucille Miller Chennault; d. 5 Nov 2014.

- 11353.3531 Dorothy Marie Harper Chennault; d. 11 Apr 2013, Frisco, Collin Co., TX.
- 11353.3533 William David Chennault; d. 12 Jun 2015, Jackson, Hinds Co., MS.
- 11355.7543 Billy Harold Morrison; d. 28 Feb 2015, Conroe, Montgomery Co., TX.
- 11355.7543S Donna Sue Raybon Morrison; d. 1 Aug 2008, Montgomery Co., TX.
- 13111.19311 Charles Polk Chenault, III; d. 22 Jun 2016, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX.
- 13115.9753 Nellie May Newell Chenault; d. 7 Jul 2015, Columbia, Boone Co., MO.
- 13123.6211 Rose Chenault; d. 13 Feb 2016, Glendale, Los Angeles Co., CA; buried Riverside National Cem., Riverside Co., CA.

HONOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES

Deceased cousins/spouses not previously included on the Honor Roll may be included on the 2018 edition to be read at the reunion in Roanoke. Information, including their full name, dates of birth and death and their 2008 "Redbook" number, if known, should be sent to the Secretary/Historian by July 1, 2018 to be included in the printed program. Information may be sent by mail, phone, or email.

OBITUARIES

If you would like your relatives' obits included in future issues, please notify the editor, Sue Chenault, at schenault@tx.rr.com.

DNA GENEALOGY

Genetic genealogy, which is the use of DNA to track one's ancestors or relationship to other individuals, is gaining popularity. Several companies have emerged offering various packages to individuals interested in such testing, such as Family Tree DNA, Ancestry DNA, 23&Me, and others. Some members of our association have pursued testing with these various companies and are receiving a variety of reports from their testing. It is important to note that this testing is just another resource in a genealogist's "toolbox" that can add to their traditional research, and it is important to understand that it is not without its limitations if used as a "stand-alone" resource.

There are many different DNA tests available, i.e., Y-DNA, mitochondrial (mtDNA), autosomal, and so on.

Some of these can potentially reveal information about a person's health and other factors. Anyone considering testing should fully explore the options available, the companies offering the tests, and determine what their expectations for testing are before proceeding.

Six Chenault descendants have been tested through Family Tree DNA and found to match on Y-DNA data. Since this match is across various lines of descendants, the only "common" ancestor of all six is Estienne Cheneau/Stephen Chenault, whom traditional genealogy research reveals is their common ancestor. In other words, the match confirms what our traditional genealogy research led us to understand.

de Cheneau **SOUVENIRS**

A limited quantity of souvenirs are available at reunions, but they also may be ordered directly from Carolyn Sue Chenault by mail, phone, or e-mail, schenault@tx.rr.com. Pictures of the items appear on the website. Each of the souvenir items is beautifully decorated in color with the family crest. They make great family gifts. With the exception of the Crest Note Cards, the following souvenir prices do not include shipping and handling:

- Kelly Green Polo Shirts (Adult S-XXL) \$27.50
- Dark Green Polo Shirts (Child S-L) \$20.00
- Golf Caps \$10.00
- Christmas Ornaments \$10.00
- Embroidered Crest Patches \$ 6.00
- Crest Note Cards (8/pkg) Small \$ 6.50
- Crest Note Cards (8/pkg) Large \$10.00
- Crest X-Stitch Patterns \$ 4.00
- Huguenot Cross X-Stitch Patterns \$ 4.00
- Crest Prints (suitable for framing) \$15.00

T-shirts with the variations of the spelling of Chenault printed on the back are also available as follows for \$10 each plus shipping and handling:

- Yellow (M, L, XL)
- Green (M, L, XL)
- Red (M, L, XL)
- Purple (L, XL)

The Chenault Family National Association does not

assess dues for membership and is dependent on donations, silent auctions and the sale of souvenir items to help offset the operating expenses such as printing, supplies, communication, and postage. We encourage you to support the Chenault Family National Association by participating in fund-raising activities including the sale of souvenirs.

Roanoke and Surrounding Area Sites

Drive the Blue Ridge Parkway, take a food tour or wine tasting tour, shop for antiques, or visit the Mill Mountain Star to experience incredible views of the surrounding scenery. Or, perhaps, one of the following would be of interest to attendees.

Virginia Museum of Transportation

303 Norfolk Av SW

Antique automobiles and trucks, electric and diesel locomotives, and vintage steam are all part of the nostalgic show in this museum which is located in a historic freight station. *Look for cousin Steve Southward's racing car!* Open 7 days a week. Monday through Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 1-5. Admission rates: Adults (19-59), \$10; Seniors (60+), \$8; Students (19-25 w/ID), \$8; Youth (13-18), \$8; Children (3-12), \$6; Members and Kids under 3, free. Admissions tax of 5.5% is in addition to rates shown.

Black Dog Architectural Salvage and Antiques

902 13th St SW

A huge display of salvaged pieces of history and American craftsmanship, an eclectic collection of Old World Iron, works by local and regional artists and artisans, garden statuary, vintage and unusual items for the home. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk!

O. Winston Link Museum

101 Shenandoah AV NE

A collection of photos and digital media that focus on trains and document rural culture. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5. Admission rates: Adults, \$6; Seniors (60+)/Military/Students, \$5.50; Children 3-12, \$5.

Roanoke Pinball Museum

1 Market Sq SE, Ste 2

Located in Center in the Square, the museum is an

interactive museum dedicated to the science and history of pinball in American culture. The collection has over 50 machines with production dates from 1932-2016. Open Tuesday-Thursday, 11-5; Friday, 11-8; Saturday, 10-6, Sunday, 1-6 (Times subject to change for private parties) Admission rates (Pricing includes unlimited play for the entire day ticket purchased): Ages 0-5, free with paying adult (18+); Ages 6-8, \$6.78 (includes fees); Ages 9+, \$12.40 (includes fees)

Taubman Museum of Art

110 Salem Av SE

Internationally renowned architecture and exhibits are part of the eleven galleries in the Fralin Center for American Art. Featured artists have included Kehinde Wiley, John James Audubon, Sally Mann, and Norman Rockwell. The museum itself was designed by architect Randall Stout and features a 77-foot glass peak in the atrium and an undulating roofline that reflects the Blue Ridge Mountains. Open: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Sunday 12-5. Admission: Free

Chenault/Chennault Sites to Consider Visiting

From time to time sites that have a family connection come to our attention and bear mentioning in case you are looking for such places to visit. Following are a few of those places. If you have information about such a place, please contact this newsletter's editor.

Washington DC - The **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial** honors Elijah Chenault, the first law enforcement officer in the United States to lose his life in the line of duty.

Alexandria, VA - The **Alexandria Police Department Fallen Officers Memorial** has also honored Elijah Chenault's memory in their recently dedicated site.

Monroe, LA - The **Chennault Aviation & Military Museum** is full of memorabilia from US wars, particularly WWII, and the service of Gen. Claire Lee Chennault.

Ramer, TN - The **Shiloh Chennault Bed & Breakfast** is located near the Civil War battlefield at Shiloh and offers a beautiful experience in a rural setting for those who want to get away for something special.

CHENAULT FAMILY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
Carolyn Sue Chenault, Editor/Publisher
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Postmaster: Please Forward Address Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hey! Do you know you descend from a Huguenot?

Estienne Cheneau, our ancestor, is recognized by the National Huguenot Society as a Huguenot whose family fled France to escape religious persecution. You are in good company. Alexander Hamilton, Davy Crockett, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Keith Richards, Warren Buffett, E. I. DuPont, Winston Churchill, and Sara Roosevelt (mother of FDR). The National Association invites you to apply for membership to a local chapter. To find out more about this prestigious group and how to become a member, check out their website, www.huguenot.netnation.com.