

# **THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHAPMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION PERIODICAL**



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# Chapman Family Association

770 South Post Oak Lane, #435

Houston, Texas 77056-1913 <http://WWW.CHAPMANFAMILIES.ORG>

Membership: \$30.00 annually - Subscription comes with active membership

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## Purpose of the Chapman Family Association, as stated in Article Four of the Articles of Incorporation;

1. To collect, compile and edit historical and genealogical records of CHAPMAN family members; 2. To establish a central repository and retrieval system for the collection of CHAPMAN family historical and genealogical records; 3. To publish books, newsletters, magazines and periodicals to disseminate the collected Chapman family historical and genealogical information to members of the Association and interested members of the public; 4. To educate family members of the historical contributions of CHAPMANS to the development of the United States of America; 5. To provide social and fraternal association and fellowship to its members; 6. To establish an organization with perpetual life in order to continue and preserve the herein described purposes for successive generations; 7. For any and all other lawful purposes permitted by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, which are not inconsistent with the purposes described herein.

### EDITOR

Hello,  
Please send me your "My Chappy \_\_\_&Me" pictures. For example you and your chappy mom or dad, you and your chappy sibling, aunt, grandma etc..... Send to email listed below.

### REMEMBER:

We depend on our members, so we hope you feel inspired to keep contributing your photos, stories, tidbits and suggestions in the future to keep our CFA going strong. I can be reached via email at:

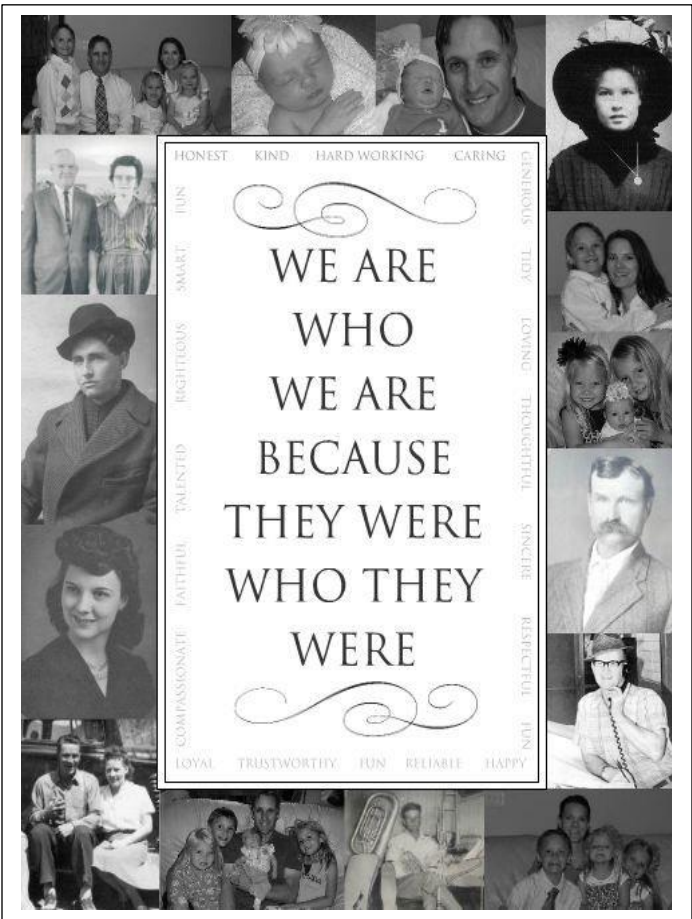
[chap814@gmail.com](mailto:chap814@gmail.com)

and snail mail at:

7518 Hollow Cove Ct, Cypress, TX 77433.

Facebook me at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Happychappy1>



# Chapman Family Association

## Officers, Directors and Key Personnel

### **PRESIDENT AND CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**MARK CHAPMAN**

[mchapmancfa@gmail.com](mailto:mchapmancfa@gmail.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT AND PARLIAMENTARIAN**

**RAY CHAPMAN**

[RAYCHAPMAN@RTMC.NET](mailto:RAYCHAPMAN@RTMC.NET)

### **SECRETARY**

**PAULINE CHAPMAN**

701 MAHALA DRIVE  
WATERLOO, IL 62298

[ENCHAPMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ENCHAPMAN@GMAIL.COM)

### **TREASURER**

**KATHY CROUCH**

P.O. BOX 472665

AURORA, CO 80047-2665

[KLCROUCH@COMCAST.NET](mailto:KLCROUCH@COMCAST.NET)

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PARLIAMENTARIAN**

**ROBERT L. SONFIELD**

770 POST OAK LANE  
STE. 435

HOUSTON, TX 77056-1913

[ROBERT@SONFIELD.COM](mailto:ROBERT@SONFIELD.COM)

### **LIBRARIAN**

**DIAN CHAPMAN GUSTAFSON**

6635 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE  
GLADSTONE, OR 97027  
503-659-5833

[CHAPPIE@1EXTREME.NET](mailto:CHAPPIE@1EXTREME.NET)

### **GENEALOGIST**

**JOAN REED MILLER**

2807 CANDLELIGHT  
YORK, PA 17402-8802  
717-757-4523

[REEDMILLER107@YAHOO.COM](mailto:REEDMILLER107@YAHOO.COM)

### **MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR & PR**

**BILLIE & JOHN CHAPMAN**

8805 SCARLET CIRCLE  
AUSTIN, TX 78737

[BILLIEJ2@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:BILLIEJ2@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

### **WEBSITE COORDINATOR**

**ROBIN CHAPMAN**

12492 S. Brougham Dr.  
Olathe, KS 66062

[ROBINCHAPMAN@RESOURCECONNECTION.ORG](mailto:ROBINCHAPMAN@RESOURCECONNECTION.ORG)

### **FACEBOOK COORDINATOR**

**DEBRA GEORGANTIS-MILLER**

2807 CANDLELIGHT DRIVE  
YORK, PA 17402-8802

[DEBGEORGANTIS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DEBGEORGANTIS@YAHOO.COM)

### **EDITOR**

**SHELLEY CHAPMAN**

7518 HOLLOW COVE CT.  
CYPRESS, TX 77433  
832-594-6456

[CHAP814@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHAP814@GMAIL.COM)

### **CFA DIRECTORS**

AL CHAPMAN

ELIZABETH CODDING

DIAN CHAPMAN GUSTAFSON

RAY CHAPMAN

JOAN REED MILLER

ROBERT L. SONFEILD

LENNAE SEEVERS

SHELLEY CHAPMAN

MARK CHAPMAN

BILLIE CHAPMAN

### **UPCOMING CONVENTIONS**

Denver, Colorado 2018



**DO YOU CORRESPOND WITH A CHAPMAN RESEARCHER WHO IS NOT A MEMBER? PLEASE PASS ALONG THE APPLICATION LOCATED AT BACK OF ISSUE.**

[WWW.CHAPMANFAMILIES.ORG](http://WWW.CHAPMANFAMILIES.ORG)

CHECK THE CFA WEBSITE FOR MANY UPDATES AND ADDITIONS TO THE DATABASES INCLUDING PICTURES, THE LATEST CONVENTION INFO AND MUCH MORE!





# CHAPMAN PHOTO PROJECT 2018

## My Chappy (???) & Me!



It's time to send in those photos of YOU  
with your favorite CHAPPY!

Send as many photos as you like, including the names, dates and  
brief description of photo. You can email your photos to  
Shelley Chapman at [chap814@gmail.com](mailto:chap814@gmail.com)

Photos will be displayed at the Chapman Family Conference in  
Denver this June 15-16 2018 and on the CFA Facebook page.

\*Submit by June 1st, 2018







**Chapman Family Association  
Convention 2018  
Denver, Colorado  
June 14-16, 2018**

**Crowne Plaza Denver Airport  
Convention Center  
15500 East 40th Avenue,  
Denver, Colorado 80239  
Reservation Center: 844-284-8023**

**Hosted by:  
John and Kathy Crouch**





**2018 Chapman Family Association Registration Form**  
**18th Annual Convention - June 15-16, 2018**  
**Crowne Plaza Denver Airport**  
**15500 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80239**

**Mail this form with your check or money order- for arrival before **May 24, 2018** to:**  
**Kathy Crouch, CFA Treasurer, P. O. Box 472665, Aurora, CO 80047-2665**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Names as you wish them to appear on name tags: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Crown Plaza Airport Convention Center? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

The CFA's special group rate for Thursday, Friday and Saturday is \$135.00 per night. This group rate does not include state and local taxes. Please make your hotel reservations on line at <http://www.cpdenverairport.com>, code **CFA** or by calling **1-866-378-1583**, code **CFA** by **May 24, 2018**. Any special dietary requirements need to be arranged with Kathy Crouch at [klcrouch@comcast.net](mailto:klcrouch@comcast.net). Our group rate will be available for three days before and three days after our event for those of you who would like extra time for research, sightseeing or just plain relaxing!

**REGISTRATION FEES**

	<b><u>Fee Per Person</u></b>	<b><u>Number Attending</u></b>	<b><u>Total Fees</u></b>
<b>Convention Participant Registration Fee</b> Includes both Friday and Saturday sessions, the Friday evening reception, and the Saturday evening banquet dinner.	\$200.00	_____	_____
<b>Meals Only - Registration Fee</b> Includes the Friday evening reception and Saturday evening banquet dinner.	\$100.00	_____	_____
<b>Total Amount Due</b>			_____

*Fees include taxes and a service charge and a small amount to defray administrative costs of planning and conducting the meeting. No money is ever paid to any officer, worker or member in any way except to reimburse them for out-of-pocket costs incurred in behalf of CFA.*

Tour arrangements, if any, will be handled separately.

**FOR OFFICIAL CFA USE ONLY**

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*We look forward to seeing you in Denver, Colorado*





# CFA Library

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Ambrose, Florene Burton. Jammie Seay: His Descendants and Other Allied Families. Published 1977 by Lorene Ambrose Barnett. 187p. FHL US/CAN Film1036320 Item 4 FH049Fic CF

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Birmingham, Stephen. America's Secret Aristocracy. Little, Brown and Company, c1987 334p FH116

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- "Conrad Wise Chapman" American Art Review, Feb 1997, p150-160. FH026
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- Chapman, Jesse Pugh. Giles Chapman of Bridlington and His Descendants. Asheville, NC. Author c1976. 715p, 29cam, hardcover, indexed. FH020
- Chapman, Paul. The Man Who Led Columba to America. Judson Press. c1973. 202 p. illus. 24 cm. Bibliography: p. 196-197.
- Chapman, R.D. A Georgia Soldier in the Civil War: 1861-1865. The original book was written by Robert Duncan Chapman and published in 1922, 99p. FH003
- Chapman, Rev. F.W. The Chapman Family or The Descendants of Robert Chapman, One of the First Settlers of Saybrook, Connecticut., With Genealogical Notes of William Chapman, Who Settled in New London, Connecticut; Edward Chapman, Who Settled at Windsor, Connecticut; John Chapman, of Stonington, Connecticut; and Rev. Benjamin Chapman, of Southington, Connecticut. Case, Tiffany and Co., 1854, reprint Higginson Book Company. 413p, illus, coat of arms, hardcover, indexed. FHL US/CAN Film896749 Item 2 FH017
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- Edmonds, Elsie Chapman. John Chapman of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Thomas Powe of Cheraw, South Carolina, and related families. Self-published?, MS 421p illus hardcover indexed. FH018
- Eller, Sylvia Klope Then Are the Children Free. Vantage Press, New York, c2007, softcover. FIC002
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- Sonfield, Robert L. Jr, comp. Chapman Census. Georgia 1880. Intro, author, 1994, 235p, alpha. GA006
- Thompson Katharine Foster, Editor. Chapter and Verse: The Annotated Diaries of Asa Lansford Foster (1798-1868). Author, c1992 FH040
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- Chapman, Dean. Where Was I when Time Went By? Pleasant Hill Press, Lafayette, California, c1998. FIC004
- Chapman, Dean. The Dog Ate My "Things To Do" List. Pleasant Hill Press, Lafayette, California, c2004. FIC005
- Then Are the Children Free. Vantage Press, New York, c2007. FIC002

To request a book from the CFA Library contact Dian Gustafson at [chappie@1extreme.net](mailto:chappie@1extreme.net)





# Recycled Tie Crafts

In honor of the upcoming holiday Father's Day, I decided to include a clever craft for dear old dad. My dad has lots of ties, like lots of ties. He has kept those he wore dating back to the 70's.

He has always wanted to have a quilt made of his tie collection and with so many crafting sites emerging you can find not only quilts but numerous craft ideas to choose from. The ones I'm going to share can all be found on [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

## 1. The Tie Quilt





## 2. If the quilt is a bit much, you can try a Pillow



## 3. Tie Rug or Tie Table Runner



## 4. Chair Cushion or Foot stool





## 5. A Wreath to Celebrate/Honor Dad



## 6. Apron



## 7. Purse



## 7. Bear made from dad's ties





# Genealogy's Often-Misspelled Words

Dick Eastman · August 15, 2017 · Genealogy Basics ·



You might want to save this article someplace. I have no idea why, but many of the words used in researching your family tree are difficult to spell. I constantly see spelling errors in messages posted on various genealogy web sites. When someone misspells a word, it feels like they are shouting, “I don’t know what I’m doing!”

Here are a few words to memorize:

**Genealogy** – No, it is not spelled “geneology” nor is it spelled in the manner I often see: “geneaology.” That last word looks to me as if someone thought, “Just throw all the letters in there and hope that something sticks.” For some reason, many newspaper reporters and their editors do not know how to spell this word. Don’t they have spell checkers?

**Cemetery** – The letter “a” does not appear anywhere in the word “cemetery.” You can remember the spelling by an old saying, “We go to the cemetery with E’s.” (ease)

**Ancestor** – This simple word is often spelled “ancester,” “ansester,” or “ansestor.”

**Ancestry** – This word is often misspelled “ancestory.” I often see errors when someone is referring to the ancestry.com online web site as “ancestory.com.”

**History** – More than once I have seen someone refer to their “family histroy” or “family histry.”

**Descent** – Perhaps not as common, but I have seen this spelled as “decent,” which sounds almost the same.

**Descendant** – it often appears as descendent, descentent and many others.

**Grantor versus Grantee** – In land records, the grantor is the one who sells or gives (grants) the land while the grantee is the one who receives.

**Copyright** – Then there is Copyright versus Copywrite. Just remember that it is always **right** to copy, not write to copy.

**Progenitor** – I can never remember how to spell this word. I simply try to avoid it when I am writing!

Two other words often are confused: **immigrant** and **emigrant**. Another variation is immigration versus emigration. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com>, an emigrant is “a person who leaves a country or region to live in another one” while an immigrant is “a person who comes to a country to live there.” To repeat, an **emigrant leaves** while an **immigrant arrives**.

The late Dick Pence was quite a storyteller, and once he told of an online genealogy article he wrote in which he poked fun at common spelling errors by genealogists. He deliberately misspelled **ten** different words in the article, including most of the words I listed above. In the text of the article, he never mentioned that the article was a tongue-in-cheek attempt at humor.

Dick soon received an email message from an irate lady who apparently didn't realize it was a deliberate attempt at humor. She scolded him for his spelling errors, writing, “Mr. Pence, you should be ashamed of yourself. I am an English teacher and I want to tell you that I found **seven** spelling errors in your article!”



Dick Eastman has been writing this genealogy newsletter for 22 years.

He has been involved in genealogy for more than 35 years. He has worked in the computer industry for more than 40 years in hardware, software, and managerial positions. By the early 1970s, Dick was already using a mainframe computer to enter his family data on punch cards. He built his first home computer in 1980.

# Queries

**Subject: I am a Chapman**

Hello Ernie. My name is Curtis Chapman. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) points me at Edward Chapman (1607-1678) (North Hull, Yorkshire, England) as a root. I found your site and wanted to know more about it. I attempted to reach Philip Ellsworth as listed on the home page but the email came back NDR.

Just wondering if someone else has taken over that layer of geanealogy? Thanks in advance for your assistance. I am looking to learn much more about my Chapman heritage :-). I have asked to join the CFA facebook group. Here is my FB profile...

<https://www.facebook.com/PAINTEDFENCE>

thanks,

**Curt Chapman** [curt.chapman@gmail.com](mailto:curt.chapman@gmail.com)

**Subject: Chapman Chatter**

Hello,

I read an article written by Gordon R Chapman in your Nr 31 Fall 1992 issue page 6 & 7. The article refers to a 17 page family tree. I would like to purchase a copy of this family tree if it is still available.

I am researching Stephen Chapman and his brother Benjamin and his other brother John b 1749 d Charlton, Saratoga, NY. My Chapman ancestors are mostly from Montgomery County NY area.

Thank you,

*Dianne Chapman Harris*

[13902 Windfall Lane](mailto:Dianne1390@msn.com)

[Odessa, FL 33556](mailto:Dianne1390@msn.com)

[Dianne1390@msn.com](mailto:Dianne1390@msn.com)

**Subject: Search for Biological Father**

Al,

Debra Georgantis-Miller said I should contact you. I was told my biological father was Carl Chapman who I never knew. I would like to either confirm or disprove this using DNA. His father was Archibald Parsons Chapman and his grandfather was Hiram Leslie Chapman from the Chapman Settlement in Amherst, Nova Scotia.



I had DNA analysis using Ancestry and am completely confused by my matches. In the past month I have added a number of people to my tree using the trees of my DNA matches. My thinking is that the DNA won't lie and the connections would appear based on the trees of my matches.

Maybe the tree I created is leading to false conclusions?

Is the CFA linked to the same Chapman's of the Chapman Settlement?

If you have skills with Ancestry, the Wyatt Family Tree that I created is public, but everyone back from Hiram Leslie Chapman is from the Chapman Family Tree, which is also public.

Any guidance or information would be greatly appreciated.

Michael Wyatt

[Mikewyatt312@gmail.com](mailto:Mikewyatt312@gmail.com)

518-312-1506

**Mike-**I can understand how you came away from Ancestry's dna test completely confused. I have worked with genetics off and on for over 60 years and am as confused by the subject today as I was 60 years ago. We couldn't even spell DNA in those days (a joke) but today it is covered on many news and entertainment programs as if everyone understood. Everyone does not, but I am going to try and explain a small part of it as it is used in genealogy.

There are three kinds of dna testing that are useful in genealogy. I have sent the following before to explain dna in genealogy. Pardon me is it seems a little canned, but I will try and personalize it farther down.

There are three basic kinds of genetic dna tests normally run. yDNA, mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) and autosomal DNA. The yDNA uses one of the sex related chromosomes (The y) and as it is passed nearly unchanged from father to son generation after generation it has been very useful in proving surname line. It alone is the basis of the Chapman project. (using Familytree DNA, Houston, TX)

The objective of the Chapman Project:

Phase 1: Encourage as wide a sample of male Chapmans as possible to get DNA analysis of their Y chromosomes.

Phase 2: Identify the various Chapman families most closely matching each other.

Phase 3: Encourage joint exploration and expansion of the family trees for each grouping identified in Phase 2.

Only the yDNA tests achieves this goal.

So what do the other two tests do?

The mtDNA test (mitochondrial DNA) is on free dna in the nucleus of the cell not associated with chromosomes. It is passed nearly unchanged from mother to child (both male and female child) This could be very useful except women's surname changes with each generation and the database is very limited. It is not passed with the sperm.

The autosomal test (Ancestry's test and FamilyFinder for Familytree DNA) is a test of the other 22 pairs of chromosomes. It is useful for the first few generations, but the dilution factor is very great. After 4 or 5 generations we are talking 32 parents of several families. In other words a person carries only 3% of any one ancestor's dna after 5 generations and it is cut in half each generation. On top of that each recombination is totally random much like shuffling a deck of cards each time. Cousins can be identified by specific mutation, but I don't pretend to understand the process.

Think of it this way. Autosomal testing is wide but shallow. Mitochondrial and yDNA are narrow, but deep. The yDNA is most useful for determining surname lineage. Mitochondrial is only useful if you have a target (common grandmother) to aim at. Autosomal is useful to determine ethnicity and recent cousins.

Each of the testing companies use their own database and own algorithms to analyze them. (Said as it I knew what they were!!!) I minored in Zoology with a whole lot of genetics 60 some

years ago, but we couldn't even spell DNA  in those days. It was just being discovered and I don't remember it even being brought up in class. Things have changed.

The yDNA would help pin down the surname link, but only if one of the related Chapman males would test. Do you know of any of male family members with the Chapman name that you might get to test using Familytree DNA?

We have had some members outside of the US, but not many and I don't find any reference to Nova Scotia. I have looked at the Chapman family Tree by EM Kaegel and the names are not familiar in our data. I have not been able to find the Wyatt Family Tree. Is in on Canadian Ancestry or US? If Canadian I do not carry the world wide Ancestry subscription and you may have to send me an invitation.

**-Ernie Chapman, CFA**

**Greetings Ernie,**

I'm with you so far, at least on the spelling of DNA...

I am on the US Ancestry site and have downloaded a txt file of my DNA. I'm not having much luck finding someone to get tested. I added you as a viewer on the Ancestry site, so you should get a notification.

Also, I found a site called myFTDNA and after joining (free) was given the opportunity to transfer Ancestry DNA. It now says to wait 24-48 hours for results.

Thanks for your speedy assistance!

\*I should tell you that at the beginning of my efforts, I quickly found a lot of information with the help of Don Chapman in Nova Scotia. I pulled as much of that information as possible into the attached document. I'm still in contact with him, as he provided me with the myFTDNA site. He's been very generous in helping me and I'm being cautious about getting him too deep with the DNA and in particular Ancestry. I may ask him for additional assistance if needed.

**Hi Mike:** The YDNA testing is very useful. My male Chapman cousins (descended from different sons of Nicholas Chapman (born c.1747 in Baltimore, Maryland) did YDNA tests (67 Markers) for me for the FamilyTree DNA website. Their tests matched perfectly with the lineal male descendants of Major General John Hammond (c. 1669) of Baltimore, Maryland. Since CFA has two Thomas Chapmans with sons Nicholas Chapman from Baltimore, Maryland, the YDNA testing was important in keeping the descendants of these two Chapman Families from getting confused.

Barb Matson

Branch Manager, Nicholas Chapman c. 1747

P.S. I have a public tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (Matson Family Tree) which you can check if you think it would be useful.

**-Barb Matson**

**Hello Michael,**

I wanted to offer a couple of ideas relative to the discussion about your biological father. Relative to the autosomal testing you have done (Ancestry, FamilyFinder), Ernie is on the mark when he suggests that autosomal testing casts a wide net. He is also correct that each company that offers autosomal testing has their own data base. Accordingly, you, as a researcher must somehow be able to interrogate each possible data base to see if there are matches. Besides Ancestry and FTDNA, 23 and me and MyHeritage also do autosomal testing. As you can see looking at all possible matches can be daunting. I have one more item to add to the autosomal discussion and that is to mention that GEDMATCH. It is a free service that you can load your autosomal data into and look for searches; the only problem that this is effective only if possible matches have also transferred their data into GEDMATCH. Autosomal testing is very interesting, but as with all testing, has its limitations. I am sure you are already doing this on your autosomal matches, but perhaps a way



to get thru autosomal data is to limit your relevant “hits” to 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins or less. Since autosomal results are not limited to males, a lot of surnames will appear.

Let me turn to your original goal of determining if Carl Chapman is your biological father. This discussion will be targeted to Y-DNA testing. Y-DNA transferred from father to son “essentially” unchanged. Surnames, in this case Chapman, conveniently follow the same convention. Only males have the Y chromosome and thus testing is limited to males. Let me offer that perhaps a more targeted strategy would be to look at Y-DNA as a vehicle to determine if Carl Chapman is or is not your biological father. One question to answer is do you know of a living descendant of either Carl or a Chapman in his line, that is his Chapman line who carries the surname Chapman? If such a person exists, perhaps a dialogue might result in a path to have him Y-DNA tested. If such a person is found and is willing to be tested, then you would need to be Y-DNA tested as well. If the two of you are closely matched, then I think you could say with a high probability that you are in the same line as Carl and you can judge more properly if he could be your father. If, on the other hand, you and a person of Carl’s line were not either related or closely related, then I think you would be able to make a judgement that perhaps Carl was not your father.

I looked at our current Chapman Y-DNA data base and found an interesting member entry. <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Chapman?iframe=ycolored> Kit number 19181. The tested individual lists his Paternal Ancestor’s name as Hiram Chapman b.1811 in Pa. I don’t mean to suggest this is your line, but...

If you decide that Y-DNA testing is worth pursuing, I would suggest at least doing the Y-37 test. Again, if you want to pursue this path, I would suggest visiting the Chapman Family Association (CFA) web site at <http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/> and select the Y-DNA project tab. Select Let’s get started.

I wish you good hunting and success.

Ray Chapman

Mike,

I’m out of sorts right now, having just moved, working on a tablet, and having all my notes boxed up; but I seem to recall having a 12-marker connection to that Nicholas Chapman in Maryland. After communicating with several people researching that line, I was persuaded it was just a coincidence. However, I tracked him to Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania, where he purchased several tracts. He shortly died and his widow appears in many records after that. (If memory serves me.)

**Tom Chapman** [surfcitytom@gmail.com](mailto:surfcitytom@gmail.com)

**Hi Tom:**

Hope things settle down for you soon -- moving is a true chore -- always LOTS of boxes. Anyway, I remember communicating with you several years ago re: the origins of the Nicholas Chapman line (born c. 1747 Baltimore, Maryland, m. 1st Rachel Wallace, 2nd Jeanette McCartney in Derry, Westmoreland Co., PA). Since that time some progress has been made but two brick walls remain (more about that shortly). I've been able to establish Nicholas' YDNA Chapman/Hammond line (67 markers) which can be found on FamilyTree DNA under the Major General John Hammond project. I've also listed the relevant Hammond ancestors and as many of the Chapman descendants of Nicholas as I could find on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) under the Matson Family Tree (a public tree which you can check). Nicholas had 9 children and I was able to find some living descendants of his children: Thomas, Joseph, John, Samuel and Rachel. His son Issac died as an infant; the line of his son Nicholas, jr. died out by the late 1800's and his daughter Susannah died unmarried in the late 1800's. I've been able to trace Nicholas' son William Chapman to the US Federal census of 1840 and have hit a brick wall. William lists a son and two daughters on the census but I cannot find any further mention of them. The second brick wall is a lack of mention of children from Nicholas and his 1st wife Rachel Wallace although he shows a male and two females under age 16 living with him and his wife Rachel on the 1790 census. Well, that is all I know so far but I will check probate records see if any new tidbits turn up. Meanwhile, take care and very best regards,

**Barb Matson**, barbmatson@hotmail.com

Branch Manager, Nicholas Chapman born c. 1747, d.1821



**Al,**

It has been a long time since I have contacted the CFA.

Exploring your website today, I discovered an Chapman Ancestor Lineage {The contact individuals are persons specifically in charge of all of the lineage and support documents from that particular

line-- that means that they are responsible for maintaining the database and support documents that have been made available to them--- also to answer any requests that may be made on that line.}

I am willing to do this for the line of Amos Chapman born about 1745 in Pennsylvania and died 1820 in Shelby, Kentucky. I have extensive information on this family and his descendants. I need to update the information on his descendants. I have not successfully found another living descendant listed on CFA. (Believe his father to be John and grandfather to be William, both living in Cumberland Co., PA and suspect there is a connection to the Bucks County, PA Chapman family – but I am unable to positively to connect). Long ago, I posted by Ahnentafel chart for this family for the old CFA magazine (full chart needs to be updated). I assume Amos is still part of your file. I am hoping this will attract some other descendants who do not think that they connect to anyone on CFA. In the past there was a Mr. Graves (the descendant of

Amos's daughter Jane Chapman Graves, I have his information through many letters that we exchanged, and he has now passed away.)

I have printed out the membership form and will mail in my renewal. (I will add the Chapman Ancestor Lineage as a "willing to Serve in the Association". Hope this is the right place?)

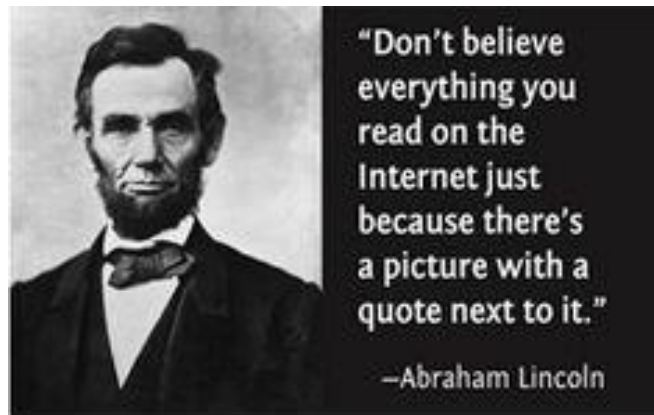
Please have someone contact me by email and let me know what I need to get set up on-line.

**Elaine Chapman Booth** [elaine33@beyondbb.com](mailto:elaine33@beyondbb.com)

**Member #370**

**Elaine---** good to have you back in the fold--- By way of process, I'm including our Board and Officers to take a look at your suggestion on Amos--- Unless I hear back that Amos is already included in another line, etc., I will move ahead and place you as the responsible person for the Amos Chapman line. In addition, will see that it is placed on our Webpage..

With your renewed interest, please note that we are having a meeting in Denver on June 14-16 at the Crowne Plaza Airport in Denver--- registration, etc. is available on the website. Hope you can make it.. **Al**



# Human Interest

## ORVILLE WESTON CHAPMAN (1846-1890)

It is hard to remember when I really became interested in this story of our family. Like many budding family genealogists, perhaps an old piece of paper, a Bible, an old handkerchief belonging to a great grandmother brings a longing to know about the person to whom it belonged, and with each discovery, a person is remembered as a real human being.

In the late 1980's, a page of Cyrus Chapman Family birth records was found in an old dresser drawer that had belonged to Orville and Margaret Chapman. This dresser was in the home of Carrie Earl, who made a copy for me. The document shows all the births and deaths in this family and possibly was written by Margaret who may have put it in the drawer. It seemed to be waiting to be discovered. This single sheet of paper shows us that our subject here, Orville Weston Chapman, the eleventh child, was born on 10 August 1846 to Cyrus and Jerusha (Hosmer) Chapman.

Few facts have been found for the short life of the subject. The reader will also find background information to give an idea of the times.

Orville was from this early pioneering family. His father and grandfather before him had searched out new lands and pioneered from Vermont to Ohio and Wisconsin and finally to Iowa. Father Cyrus and his family resided and had property in Sharon, Walworth, Wisconsin at the time of Orville's birth. Cyrus had moved the family to Wisconsin from Ohio by early 1840's. The population was 912 at the 2000 census. The village of Sharon is located within the town of Sharon. For this reason, I assume Orville was born in that area.

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census of Sharon, Walworth Co., Wisconsin shows:

#55/57 Cyrus Chapman 61 M Farmer \$1600 bVT Jerusha 49 F bMA Franklin 22 M Farmer bOH Emily J 20 F bOH Milton W 15 M at school bOH Alvira 12 F at school bOH Alfred 9 M at school bOH Orville 3 M bWI

Sadly, it was only a few days after his fifth birthday that Orville's mother died 6 Aug 1851. Father Cyrus, perhaps because of his age, signed house, land and care of the two minor children to son Franklin in 1852.

Within a year, Franklin sold this land in Wisconsin, took his family along with Orville, to Fayette County, Iowa - a trip that was approximately 200 miles. By 1856, they were settled in Westfield township as shown in the Iowa State census of that year.

97/102 Frank Chapman 28 M Farmer bOH Adaline 23 F bNY Candance A 2 F bIA Orville W. Chapman 10 M bWI (3 years in IA) Colson, Sarah 24 F bTN (1 year in IA)

This family moved again southeast to Ilyria twp, Ilyria, P.O., Fayette County, Iowa 12 July 1860. Orville and father Cyrus are now seen in this Federal Census with Franklin. Franklin was still a farmer and had land value at \$1600. His household included:

Vol 7 Roll 322 microfilm copied on Jul 2, 1979 Franklin Chapman 35 M Farmer \$1800 600 bNY Adaline Chapman 24 F bNY Cindis Chapman 7 F bWI Evart Chapman 5 M bIA Adell Chapman 8/12 F bIA Cyrus Chapman 70 M bNY Orville Chapman 16 M bNY

Father Cyrus died 03 October 1865 and is buried in West Union, Fayette, Iowa.

The 1870 Federal Census shows Orville with another brother, DeWitt, in New Hampton, Chickasaw County, Iowa (Had Orville helped this family while brother Dewitt had enlisted and fought in the Civil War?)

Dewitt Chapman 44 M Farmer 1700 470 Elizabeth 34 F Housekeeper Weston 17 M Orin 14 M George 10 M Elmer 7 M Arthur 4 M Jay 1 M Orville Chapman 22 M farm laborer

Research in records, so far, then jump to 1879 when Orville was 32, single and lived with his nephew Earl Weston Chapman, 27, also single. Both having ventured



out on their own for land further West in Clay County, Iowa, as father and grandfather before them had searched out new lands in Ohio and Wisconsin.

This new frontier was in relatively unsettled land. Bridgewater, Clay County, Iowa in 1880 was tested that year by Orville and his nephew, Earl Weston Chapman, son of brother Dewitt. Bridgewater was in the southeastern part of Lake Township as shown on maps from 1873 to 1887. Each of the two young men took patents for land on the public domain near beautiful Swan Lake in the growing town of Lake township on 30 March 1880 .

#33/33 Orville Chapman W M 32 single Farmer NY Earl W. Chapman W M 27 single Farmer Ill

In an article entitled "A listing of Towns and Post Offices of Clay County now abandoned" is the entry Bridge Water, SE part of Lake township, in 1873-1887.

9 December 1879 is the date when Orville first purchased a small parcel of land on Swan Lake. On 30 Mar 1880 he received a patent for a homestead site located in Lake twp., adjacent to his purchase on Swan Lake. Earl also bought up land near this growing town of Lake township. There they built homes and brought their new brides.

A little background for Orville's chosen land is given in the following account taken from the "History of Clay County, Iowa 1984 by the Parker Historical Society of Clay County.

"By an Act of the Legislature of the State of Iowa in 1851, Clay County was created and her boundary lines were defined. In 1853, Clay County was attached to what is now Woodbury County, for revenue, election, and judicial purposes. At that time, it was a county in name only. It was not until 1858 that the little settlement mustered up enough courage to apply for a separate organization. The first settlers arrived in 1856 near where Peterson is now located. That same year two families arrived and settled near where Gillette Grove is now located. In 1860, the county seat was located in Peterson. This is where most of the pioneers were living."

"By 1871, the northern part of the county was more densely populated and another vote was taken by the settlers and the county seat was changed to the town of Spencer."

"In June of 1873 the grasshopper invasion stopped the influx of people into the county and many families found it necessary to leave. The grasshopper problem lasted two or three years. The winter of 1874 brought many blizzards which were the worst they have ever seen. Food became scarce because supplies couldn't be brought in. In July of 1876 there was another bad scourge of grasshoppers. Many

farmers lost all of their crops. It was not until the coming of the Milwaukee Railroad that the influx of people resumed."

The nearby county capitol, Spencer Twp. began to grow in the late 1860's. A picture taken in 1869 shows a Blacksmith Shop, a store and a bank. The town grew rapidly after the railroad came in 1878.

The railroad reached into Clay County and Spencer township in 1867 and then on to Canton Dakota Territory by 1878. After this the county grew by leaps and bounds as many people came from the east to stake out their farms in the rich Clay County soil and others to open stores with merchandise that was now needed by the increase in population. People could now shop nearby for lumber and other necessary supplies instead of having to haul them long distances by teams of oxen or horses. The town of Dickens was only about six miles away.

1885 Lake twp, Clay County, Iowa State census page 114, reel 66, seen on 26 Mar 1981) township 97 Range 36 Section 30 SW, SE 1/4 Orville Chapman farmer bWI 1847 parents natural born, subject to military, entitled to vote Maggie Chapman keeping house bCanada 1858 parents foreign born Aaron B Chapman born Iowa 1884 son

Ruthven, in Palo Alto county, was the nearest post office to Lake township. It was formerly called Lost Island.

Bridgewater was In the southeastern part of Lake Township, as shown on maps from 1873 to 1887. Lake, Dickens and Freeman townships were set off from Bridgewater and organized around 1882. Population of Lake township in 1885 was 171. 55 were entitled to vote.

Lake, Dickens and Freeman townships were set off from Bridgewater and organized around 1882. No. of buildings - 45; No. of families - 49; No. of males - 111; No. of females - 90

W.C. Gilbreath in his 1889 History of Clay County, Iowa, page 229, gives a contemporary view of the early area and the challenge of its inhabitants:

“Lake was a part of Bridgewater, and was set off as a Congressional township in 1882. It derives its name from the number of lakes within it borders. It was early settled by an excellent class of citizens, who have been energetic and frugal, and tilled its soil to good advantage. It possesses some excellent farm and hay land, and is also a fine stock township. It has good school houses, which are well managed and taught”.

“In and around these lakes for many years was the constant habitation of Indians during the hunting and fishing seasons. There were a number of Indian relics found near these lakes, showing that it was a common rendezvous for wandering tribes...”

“The game was plentiful at times, and the protection from storms and excessive heat very fair, and consequently the Indians found it a very comfortable place. The citizens of the township are very confident that the Rock Island Railroad at no distant day will extend its branch northward from Ruthven, and thus supply them with better railroad facilities. When this is accomplished, there can be no doubt but what Lost Island and its surrounding lakes will be utilized for a summer resort, besides the land will greatly increase in marketable value.”

“---Lost Island Lake is the largest body of water in the county, its banks are gravelly and it is surrounded by a plentiful supply of shade trees.”

Note: U.S. Post Office Department Dec 12, 1878 states: Ruthven, (being the nearest Post Office to Orville's homestead) was situated on the SW 1/4 of Section 18, township 96, range 34 in the County of Palo Alto, State of Iowa. It was on the route Rail Road No. 27397 being the route from Emmetsburg to Spencer on which the mail is now carried daily or 6 times per week. Lost Island which changed its name to Ruthven, former office is one a few rods off. There were 60 residents in this village.

The United Methodist Church of Ruthven had its beginning in what is known as the Harris schoolhouse, which was built during the summer of 1872. It is related in 1874 that the postmaster would stop at the railroad station, get the sack of mail and take it to the Harris school on Sunday mornings. There, he would hand out the mail to those who were present. It is likely that his accommodation along the line of being the communities first rural mail carrier helped increase the church attendance. We find the Methodists moving to Ruthven the next year as a result of growing attendance and membership and a demand for larger building.

LAND RECORDS It might be conjectured that the date 1919 on these land records was that they were filed after Orville's death and when the land was sold and profits distributed to the children. Land Patent United States to Orville W Chapman June 6, 1919 Des Moines, Iowa for 72 4/100 acres.

Deed Record Book 17 page 262 Clay County Recorder, Iowa. United States to Orville W. Chapman Land Patent No. 1607 dated recorded June 5, 1919. Book 17 page 262

Homestead Certificate #1718 June 1919 for Orville W. Chapman, 7, 1982.

Land Deed 30 Apr 1880 M.E. Griffin to O.W. Chapman, Clay County, IA 160 acres Lake twp on file 1981.

Land Record between M.C. Griffin (single) of Clay County, Iowa to O.W. Chapman of Clay County, Iowa April 1880 Book L, page 158 (For affidavit see Book "A" of Affidavits page 103) 9 Dec 1879 shows (Lake Twp) Lot No. One in Section Thirty-four Township Ninety Seven North of Range Thirty-five West 5th P.M. Iowa 160 acres being sold for sum of \$85.00. Recorded 9 Nov 1879.

United States to Orville E. Chapman No. 1607 Filed June 6, 1919 at 1:40 p.m. Recording Fee \$60/100 The United States of America, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Homestead Certificate No. 1718 application: 6922 whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Des Moines, Iowa, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May 1862, To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain, and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Orville W. Chapman has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the Lots numbered two and three of section thirty four in township ninety seven north of

Orville was married in Spencer, Iowa on 01 August 1880 to Margaret Ann Simington, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Crawford) Simington. Earl married her sister Mary Jane Simington the next November, she also of Spencer,

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

STATE OF KANSAS, County of \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk of the District Court

do hereby certify that the marriage record of the said County, of which

I am custodian, shows that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Married on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

Married on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

were married by \_\_\_\_\_

on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_

in TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand and the seal of said court at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

By \_\_\_\_\_

pg. 27



**TRAGEDY STRIKES** “the sisters were in the habit of late on washing to do their work together a their homes were quite near each other and each had a young babe. “While the mothers were busy at Margaret’s home, the little ones escaped their watchful care and wandered to he bank of the lake only a few hundred rods from the house. The were missed and the mothers began the search, running direct to the lake. “Both children were floating but a few feet apart and but a short distance from the shore. They could not be revived. “At an early hour the next day, the two (Cyrus James and Mary Jane) were laid to rest, with a gathering of neighbors and friends in attendance.”

One son was left, Aaron, as shown in the following Iowa State Census for 1885 in Lake township, Clay County.

24/24 Orville Chapman Farmer 37 bWI 1847 Twp 47 R25 entitled to vote and is subject to military Maggie Chapman Keeping House 26bCan 1858 Aaron Chapman bIA 1884

Two other children joined the family in coming years. Asher in 1887 and Alice in 1889. The family Bible states the children were born in Ruthven. Ruthven is actually the nearest town and post office but is located in the next county of Palo Alto. The Chapman family went to church in Ruthven and did their shopping there. The family farm was located in the township of Lake. I assume the children were born at home.

The farm had prospered. It is believed Orville and his family belonged to the Methodist Evangelical Church in Ruthven, Palo Alto, IA. Orville was known to offer sermons on occasion.

The Orville Chapman family was established and was respected by all.



Chap012 Orville, Asher, Aaron, Alice & Margaret (Simington) Chapman  
Iowa ca 1889





Children: Aaron Briggs Asher J Alice Belle  
in 1892

In 1890, Orville was taken ill. His illness was not long. He died at his home in Lake township, Iowa 16 February 1890 of stomach cancer at the age of 44 years. He is buried in Dickens Cemetery, Dickens, Freeman township, Iowa. His obituary told of his devoted and exemplary Christian life.

#### OBITUARY

Obituary: Spencer Reporter

Orville W. Chapman died at his home near Ruthven, IA., Feb 15, 1890, of cancer of the stomach. He was born in Sharon, Wis., Aug 10, 1846. His mother died when he was five years old but he found a welcome and loving care in the home of his brother Franklin, with whom he lived till early manhood, coming to Fayette county in 1853. In 1871 he settled on a farm in Clay county, where he resided until his death. He leaves a wife and three children, three sisters and five brothers and a wide circle of relatives and friends to mourn, but they are comforted with the thought that he sleeps in Jesus. About six years ago he met with a severe bereavement in the accidental death, by drowning, of his oldest child, at which time he found peace and consolation in the 10Masters service; since when he has lived a devoted and exemplary christian life. the funeral services were held in the M.E. church at Ruthven, the pastor, Rev. R. Hill, speaking words of comfort from Psalms 16, 11.20

Orville is buried in Dickens-Freeman Township cemetery, Clay County, Iowa. The cemetery is located in the southeastern part of the town of Dickens, on the road leading into Dickens from Highway US 18. It is in Section 18 of Freeman Township.

Margaret, his wife, kept the farm going until she remarried 4 Jan 1892 to Jay Cook Chapman, a nephew of her first husband. They lived on a nearby homestead.

In 1909 the property was sold., the profits divided between the three children of Orville and Margaret. Asher, Aaron, and Alice signed agreement Aug 1909 that they had received their share of property of said estate (of father Orville).

**-Submitted by Dian Gustafson**



**Mary Chapman** was born in Salisbury CT on September 18, 1835. She is a direct descendant of Robert Chapman of Saybrooke, CT b. 1616 one of the original settlers of Saybrooke CT. She married William H. Orr of Pine Plains, NY in Sheffield, MA or Sheffield, CT on January 1, 1856. Shortly thereafter, Mary and William, together with her parents Reuben Chapman and Polly Merrifield (Merryfield), moved to Dundee, MI where they became farmers.

Mary and William H. had 4 children, George (b. 1856), Alice (b. 1858)

Marietta (b. 1860) and William Walter Orr (b. 1863).

William H. mustered in to the 15th Michigan Infantry in Oct 1862. He died on Aug. 9, 1864 in Marietta, GA after sustaining a gunshot wound

to the left knee in the Battle of Ezra Church during the Battle of Atlanta. I have copies of letters between Mary and William during the period between when he was shot (July 7) and when he died. The letters are copies

and a little difficult to read but I'm happy to share the last 2 letters. I also have a copy of a letter from the chaplain who attended to William during his final days to Mary.

Mary was left a widow with 4 small children. In 1867, she married Dwight Waite and had 2 more daughters with him (Bertha and Ida). Mary divorced Dwight in 1872 (I don't think this was at all common back then so Dwight must have a real piece of work). Mary then married Daniel Ostrander in 1874 and had 3 more children, Gertrude Ruth, Lillian Dora and a son Howard who died in infancy or was stillborn.

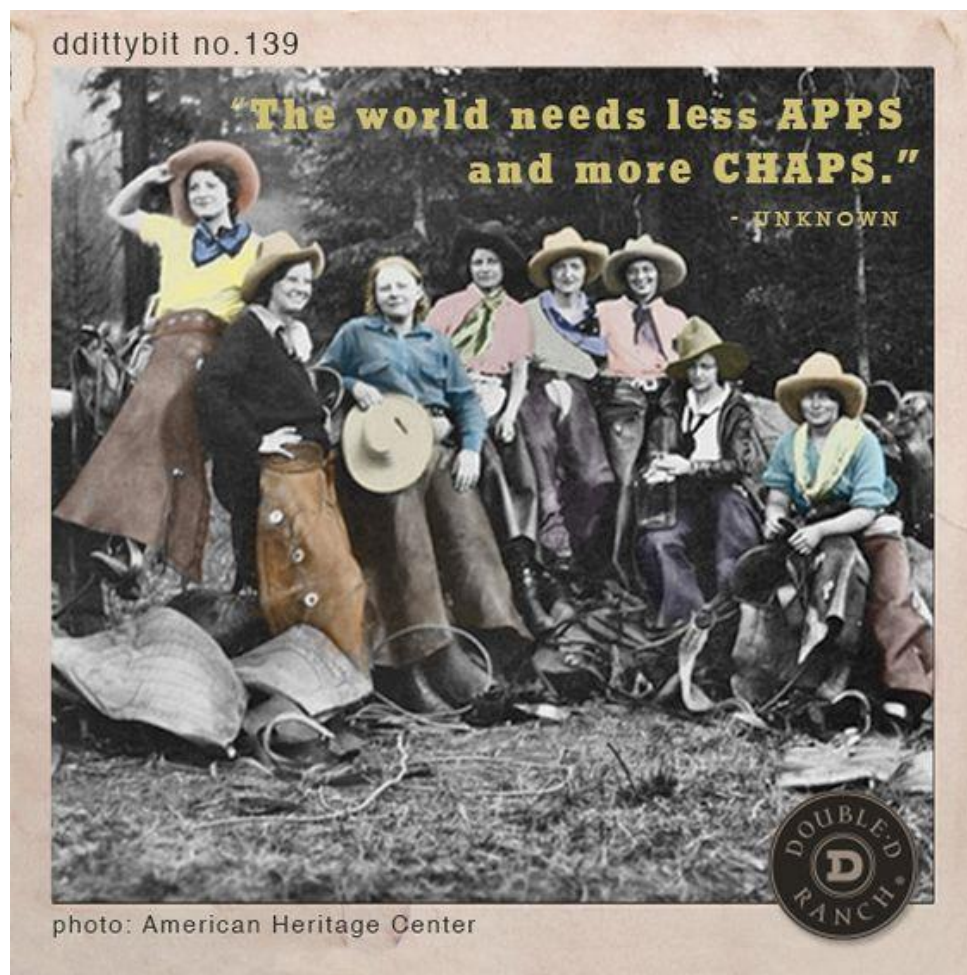
Mary died in 1935, just 5 months shy of her 100th birthday. She was something of a celebrity in Dundee, MI because of her advanced age. She was known as the "Grand Old Lady of Dundee (Michigan)"

When Mary was 95 (circa 1930) she took an airplane ride with her son William W. during a trip to Wallington CT. While there, she caught the attention of Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University and they corresponded regarding her ideas regarding longevity for a book he was writing (I've not been able to find a book by Irving but he was a professor at Yale and his papers are in Yale's archives).

When she was 98, she was the grand marshal of a homecoming parade in Dundee, MI because she was the oldest living person there. She died in her home (we are told while sitting in her backyard) in Dundee in April 1935.



\*I apologize to **Paula Orr** for neglecting to include her name as article submitted by last issue.





# In Memorium



MADISON — Services for Bryce P. Neidig, recently of Norfolk, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Madison. The Rev. Donna Goltry will officiate. Burial will be at the Crown Hill Cemetery at Madison. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Monday at the church under the direction of Home for Funerals/Resseguie Funeral Homes.

Bryce was born on Oct. 31, 1931, to Percy and Edith (Chapman) Neidig. He attended District 48 grade school in Madison. He graduated from Madison High School in 1948.

He served in the Korean War in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954.

Bryce married Shirley Ann Volk on Dec. 25, 1952. To this union, four children were born.

Upon return from Korea, Bryce farmed with his father as the third generation on the family farm. In 1958, he became a member of Madison County Farm Bureau, which started a decades-long legacy of serving the organization. He was Madison County Farm Bureau president, became a board member of the Nebraska Farm Bureau in 1975 and was elected vice president in 1979.

In 1981, he became the second longest-serving president in Nebraska Farm Bureau history before retiring in 2002.

Bryce was very active in agriculture associations including the Nebraska Soybean Board, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Nebraska LEAD board, Rural Develop Commission, Nebraska Ag Builders and the Capitol Commission Committee, from which he resigned in the past year.

Bryce brought prominence to Nebraska in Farm Bureau circles nationwide through his election to the American Farm Bureau board of directors in 1988, on which he served until retirement.

Bryce chaired the American Farm Bureau's credit committee and its trade advisory committee. He was awarded the Trail Blazer award at the Nebraska Statehood Dinner. He also was awarded the Nebraska Farm Bureau Silver Eagle award in 2003, and many more awards — too many to mention.



In addition to his passion for Farm Bureau and agriculture, Bryce was a devout Christian, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Bryce loved working with his hands, making everything from a grandfather clock to pens and other unique devices. He was well known for his speaking ability and humor. He was always teasing. One of his favorites was playing and singing a song, "Lonely Little Petunia in an Onion Patch," to the grandkids.

Survivors include his spouse, Shirley Ann of Norfolk; their children, Neal (Deb) Neidig of Madison, Kim Throckmorton of Battle Creek, Kay (Mac) MacLaren of Madison and Van (Kathy) Neidig of Battle Creek; nine grandchildren, Sean, Travis and Brandon (Jacie) Throckmorton, D. Vance, Justin and J.T. Neidig, Ed (Alecia) and Tracy Neidig, Dana (McCrae) Garringer; eight great-grandchildren, Klarysa, Delaney, Dylan, Braelynn, Kadyne, Layton, Brynn and Kayler Throckmorton; a sister, Marlene (Vernon) Seevers; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Percy and Edith, and several aunts and uncles.

--Submitted by Lennae Seevers, niece of Bryce P. Neidig



**CFA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Please complete this form and send it with your check, payable to the Chapman Family Association to:

**Kathy Crouch, Treasurer, PO Box 472665, Aurora, CO 80047-2665**

If you have any questions about your membership, please email **Billie J. Chapman** at [billiej2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiej2@sbcglobal.net) or call **512288-7197**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **[Please check the box below that is applicable:]**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ **[Renewal Single Membership \$30.00] /\_\_\_/**

\_\_\_\_\_ **[Renewal (you + spouse or Family) \$35.00] /\_\_\_/**

City, State, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**We have a hard time keeping track of everyone, so please include your current phone number and email address below.**

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSOCIATION USE ONLY:**

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

