



Chenoweth Family Newsletter

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We are looking forward to the 2024 Biennial Family Gathering!

Dear Cousins:

Your Chenoweth Family Association has begun 2023 by preparation for an exciting Chenoweth Family Gathering in 2024. I just returned from Media, Pennsylvania, where we know our ancestor, John (1) Chenoweth, spent his first few years in the American colonies.

Four of our board members, Lawra Duy, Greg Wulker, John Wilkins and myself, were on this trip. We spent several days visiting historic locations and potential lodging venues for the 2024 Gathering. We visited several hotels, the campus of Swarthmore College, and a charming Quaker retreat center, as well as several churches of various denominations. It was interesting to me, as a person who hasn't had any experience with Quakers, to have an opportunity to learn a bit more about that particular religious group.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated board members. Lawra flew in from Dallas; Greg drove hundreds of miles from Southwest Ohio; and John flew in from the Chicago area. I flew up from Miami. However, in order to have a successful Gathering, we need more. We urgently need some cousins in the Philadelphia area to volunteer to help organize this Gathering.

The logistics of holding a family Gathering requires someone on the ground in the area to coordinate the little details of making it all come together. Our discussions over the past several days included buses, food and drinks, photographers, airport shuttles and other necessary arrangements, all of which are critical if the Gathering is to be the success we want it to be.

We need some volunteers, cousins who live near Philadelphia, to help organize and carry out the 2024 Gathering.

If you live in that area and would like to help, please call me at (305) 302-4443.

The Southeastern part of Pennsylvania was key to the establishment of the Chenoweth family in America. Our Board Member, Greg Wulker, who lives in Ohio, wrote two excellent articles about the early years of John (1) in and around Media, Pennsylvania. This was just after the arrival of John (1) in about 1700. The first of those articles is attached at the end of this newsletter and we will include the second article with another newsletter in the future.

Speaking about the early years of John (1), Jon Egge told me some time back that there has been some research to try to determine how John (1) Chenoweth got from Cornwall to the Pennsylvania colony, and no answer has been found to date. We will give a prize to anyone who can answer that question. I have been told that in those years, it wasn't unusual to have 200 ships at a time in the harbor at Philadelphia, with ships from England and Europe, but also ships bringing cargoes from the Caribbean. So there apparently were lots of ways he could have gotten here. Is it possible that our John (1) went first from England to Jamaica or some other Caribbean destination before arriving in the American colonies? I wonder how many ships arrived during the relevant time period?

Beyond the events of the first several decades of the 18th Century, when John (1) was arriving in America and starting his family in Southeastern Pennsylvania, this area was the scene of important events in the founding of America as a nation. While I am in the area for our Gathering, I intend to take advantage of the opportunity to visit Philadelphia and its environs to visit historic sites downtown and learn what other places might be interesting outside of the city. Valley Forge is not far (fewer than 10 miles) north of Media, and I hope to include it in my trip. It is possible that we might have a field trip to the Independence Visitor Center, which is next to the park with the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and other historically important sites, even if they are not directly related to Chenoweth Family history.

I spoke yesterday to a gentleman from the Delaware County Historical Society. We are planning to have a history expert from the area give us a presentation about the early history of the area.

As June of 2024 gets closer, you may want to review some of our family's history, which is presented in very interesting ways in back issues of the Chenoweth Family Newsletter. Links to back issues of the Chenoweth Family Newsletter are located on the Chenoweth Family website at <https://chenowethfamily.org/newsletters/>.

When I was applying for our tax exemption from the IRS, I explained to the IRS agent who was reviewing our application that what we are studying in the genealogy of our family is actually the history of America. That is not hyperbole, but an accurate description of what we learn as

we study our ancestors, their families, where they lived and what they did as the pioneers who created our nation. Travel around this country, and from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia to Oregon and Washington, there are places with histories impacted by members of the Chenoweth family.

I highly recommend that you look at other issues of the Chenoweth Family Newsletter as well as examining the family's genealogy website, which is the result of years of work by our cousin, Jon Egge, and other family genealogists. It is located at <https://chenowethsite.com/index2.htm>. The individuals named on that website number in the hundreds of thousands and include many very interesting stories about their lives. If you are interested in the history of your family, this is a wealth of information.

The following is an excerpt from the Chenoweth Family Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 4, from December 2006. We are deeply indebted to Greg Wulker for this contribution to our knowledge about our family.

Mary Calvert and John Chenoweth

By Gregory George "Greg" Wulker

(Margaret Mary⁸ Lacy, Charles Edgar⁷ Lacy, Martha Jane⁶ Chenoweth, Joseph⁵, Absolom⁴, William³, William², John¹)

"Mary Calvert, wife of John Chenoweth, was born 19 February 1687 in Upper Providence Township, (later became Delaware County), Pennsylvania in 1789. According to J.R. Buckey, who wrote "The Calverts Who Were Quakers" Mary was the daughter of John Calvert and Judith Stamper, and not the daughter of Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore. I believe this is the accurate placement for Mary who married John Chenoweth.

John Calvert, her father, was born the 6th of October 1648, near Belfast, Ireland. He was married on 29th of May 1673 in Stranmillis, Belfast to Judith Stamper, the daughter of Hugh Stamper and his wife Briget. John Calvert was later living in county Armagh, Ireland and began to embrace the Quaker faith, along with his future brother-in-law Valentine Hollingsworth. Both men were living in the town of Lurgan, Calvert listed as a landowner, and Hollingsworth as a yeoman. A map of Lurgan dated 1703, still showed the name Calvert on a town lot, possibly a brother to John.

The immigration of this Calvert line into Ireland from Yorkshire, England was purely for religious freedom, as this line had chosen to follow the Quaker faith. Quakers were being persecuted and jailed for their beliefs.

Hugh Stamper, Mary Chenoweth's grandfather had been imprisoned in Carlisle Castle Prison in 1663 (Cumbria County, England) for his beliefs, and also fined. Shortly after, he must have fled to Ireland.

County Armagh had become somewhat of a safe haven for Quakers, but still with much prejudice. As the number of Quakers grew, they had established themselves in industries such as linen and wool manufacturing. Although their numbers were small, they controlled a good portion of the economy.

Our Calvert family line along with other Lurgan Quakers were instrumental in helping to perpetuate the Quaker religion in County Armagh and the rest of Ireland. Armagh saw more Quaker immigrants come to

America than any other county in Ireland, and John Calvert was among them. He came with William Penn's Quakers into Pennsylvania in 1683.

John Calvert's father and mother-in-law, Hugh and Briget Stamper continued to follow Quaker teachings, and both remained near Lurgan. When they died, they were buried in what is believed to be the oldest Quaker burial ground in Ireland. The graveyard called Lynastown, was begun by Thomas Lynas, for the purpose of burying his father, William, in 1658. Burials numbering about 200 continued there until 1967. The graveyard wall has been repaired, a new gate was in recent years rebuilt, and a large plaque inside the burial ground has the 200 names engraved on it. Both John Calvert and Valentine Hollingsworth were listed as "commissioners" of the graveyard at one time.

Hugh Stamper was buried in 1676, Briget in 1681, a son Daniel in 1684, and daughter Sarah in 1674. There are no gravestones, reflecting the early Quaker belief.

When Mary Calvert's father, John, arrived in Pennsylvania in 1683, he purchased of William Penn, land in Upper Providence Township. He became one of the largest landowners in what became Delaware County, PA. After his arrival, he brought his father, Thomas Calvert, and wife, Jane Glassford, to America. Thomas had purchased another 300 acres, but died shortly after arriving. His will, dated 1685 in Philadelphia, mentions his wife Jane, but that is the last we hear of her.

John Calvert acquired upwards of 800 acres from his original purchase, his father's land and sisters. The location of the property can be seen today along the Providence Road, just north of Media, PA. At least 120 acres of the Calvert land is now a municipal park called Rose Tree Park.

This land became the focus of a dispute between John Calvert and his Hollingsworth in-laws. At the same time, the Quakers asked John Calvert to settle the dispute ... he refused to answer them and this must have been the reason for John Calvert to leave the Quaker faith. He had been elected constable of Upper Providence in 1687. There is no other indication that John joined another church. When he died however in September 1699, the Philadelphia Quaker Meeting graveyard recorded his burial as one not of the Quaker faith.

Judith Calvert, however, had joined another faith, and in 1697 she was baptized in Ridley Creek, near her home, by Thomas Martin. She was baptized into the Seventh Day Baptist Church, but this union did not last long. About 1700, a difference arose about which day to observe the Sabbath, and the society was dissolved.

In 1702, and before, a group was forming; some from Christ Church, Philadelphia and many who were former Quakers. They started a church near the Delaware River and the church was to be called St Paul's Episcopal on the Delaware.

In the records of the church are found Judith Calvert and her son Isaac, both who became wardens of the church. They are found on a list dated 1704. St Paul's Episcopal (Anglican) Church was erected about 1702, and consecrated by the Rev. John Talbot in January 1703. John Talbot had been a ship's chaplain, and later came to America from England as the first missionary for The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This was the missionary branch of the Anglican Church.

Another who would become instrumental in this church was the Rev. Evan Evans, a Welshman, formerly of Christ Church. He had been a missionary traveling about Philadelphia and the surrounding churches, and preached at St. David's at Radnor in Welsh. Maybe John Chenoweth had been present at one of these churches.

At St. Paul's however, Rev. Evans was listed as the occasional minister for the church through 1703. It is my belief that Rev. Evan Evans was the one who married John Chenoweth and Mary Calvert, at the church of her mother, St. Paul's Episcopal, sometime in the year 1703.

In 1704, John Talbot had removed to Burlington, New Jersey, some 20 miles up the Delaware River. His missionary position was all that was needed to spearhead an already eager group of Episcopalian followers. In 1702, the congregation had begun a church called St. Anne's in the earliest records, but was shortly changed to St. Mary's.

It is here that John Chenoweth and Mary Calvert Chenoweth followed, and in the records of the church, completed in 1705, is listed a son William Chenoweth, christened in 1704. Land records of Bristol, PA across the Delaware River from Burlington, record the name of John Chenoweth as a witness to three separate land transactions, dated 1706, 1707, and 1708. I believe he was living in Bristol, PA, crossing over by way of ferry to St. Mary's church.

John Talbot had become the rector of St Mary's, and in 1712, a new Episcopal church named St. James (the Greater) was built in Bristol. Rev. Talbot also became the rector there. St Mary's in Burlington is still there, the original part of the church built 1702-1705, with many additions over the years. This is the oldest Episcopal Church in New Jersey, and a newer church is across the graveyard, which was built in the mid 1800's. I have no doubt that the children of John and Mary Chenoweth were christened in these two churches.

There are two things which may have precipitated John and Mary's move from this area. One, a great fire broke out in Bristol in 1724, and nearly leveled the town. Being the early county seat, it was afterwards removed to Doylestown.

Secondly, the death of Rev. John Talbot took place in 1727, about the same time we found John Chenoweth and his son, John, Jr, as a witness to the Bowen/Kirk marriage down in Nottingham, now Cecil Co., PA.

I am inclined to believe the former date, as John Chenoweth, Jr is found to have been married in 1730 at St John's Episcopal Church, Copley Parish in which congregation was forming in 1724. St Johns was completed in 1729/30 and located near Joppa, now called Joppatown, and located on what is now called Rumsey Island, a newer church constructed in the 1970s is on the site of the former St John's; it is called Church of the Resurrection. When contractors were excavating the site, they found the old foundation of St. John's. It is now roped off to show the outline of the original church.

Also a reminder that Baltimore City was not laid out until 1729. The Joppa wharf was silting up, and thus prompted the demise of the town. By 1768 Joppa was in ruins.

I have been giving you this information which I started to accumulate before the 2006 Chenoweth Family Reunion. I spent several days visiting the above-mentioned sites prior to the reunion, and have found it interesting again to find that our Chenoweth ancestors were always "on the frontier". They are truly 'pioneers' in every sense of the word."

Here is a personal message from Greg Wulker to our cousins.

Greetings Chenoweth Cousins!

It's my pleasure once again to host the next Chenoweth Gathering in Pennsylvania next June, 2024.

With the help of members of the planning committee, we visited the Media, Pennsylvania area last week, and boy, did we have fun. We were in the hotbed of the earliest places our ancestors John Chenoweth and his wife Mary Calvert lived.

Many of the sites we visited are the same original places, sites and even buildings they once graced, and raised their family.

We not only will learn more about the Chenoweths, but also will get more acquainted with who Mary Calvert was, and her family as well.

This area of Pennsylvania is blessed with so much of our family history which precedes Maryland and Virginia, and West Virginia, and all other States.

Join us next year; plan to come along and see for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

This area of the country has so much American History, you may even want to check out more Historic sites.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, Greg Wulker

**NOW AVAILABLE
1925 CORA HYATT REPRINT**

Though there are genealogical errors within her book, the pictures and letters are a must for the serious Chenoweth genealogist. \$35 (includes S&H) for a hard bound copy

**ALSO AVAILABLE:
The Chenoweth Family in America**
By Richard Harris

Copyrighted in 1994 with this second printing in 1999, Richard's wife, Shirley, dedicated her life to the Chenoweth family research. An excellent genealogical resource that has been supplemented with newsletter articles by Jon Egge. \$50 (includes S&H) for a hard bound copy

Make check payable to Chenoweth Family Association

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Please feel free to send your questions, comments, and suggestions. Contact us through the Chenoweth Family website: <https://chenowethfamily.org/contact/> . Thanks for your contributions.

Michael Chenoweth, Chairman

(Karl 8, James Ephraim 7, Clinton Lafayette 6, Ephraim Bowen 5, Absolum, Jr. 4, Absolum 3, John 2, John 1)