



Chenoweth Family Newsletter

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Chairman of the Chenoweth Family Association and editor.

This newsletter is intended for and directed to all descendants of John Chenoweth, who emigrated from Cornwall to the American colonies in about 1700, and from whom almost everyone in the United States whose name is Chenoweth (or any of several dozen variations) is descended, and other people named Chenoweth, and our friends.



Mineral Point, Wisconsin's July 4, 2018 Parade

Dear Cousins,

I am very excited to write to you today. Your Chenoweth Family Association Board of Directors is busily preparing for the 2024 Chenoweth Family Gathering near Media, Pennsylvania. Media is where our ancestor, John (1) Chenoweth lived beginning in about 1700.

You can be very proud, as I am, of the work that your Family's board has done to set up this event. Board member Greg Wulker has put a lot of time into the Friday Bus Tour. Board member Patti Airoidi has set up the registration website. Board co-chair Lawra Duy negotiated the hotel arrangements. All of the board members have made important contributions.

GENEALOGY:

I have been calling history and genealogy organizations in Pennsylvania to line up speakers and I'm happy to say that Jon Egge, our family's most active genealogist and historian, has informed us that he will be there. Every gathering is more interesting because Jon shares a bit of the information he has discovered in his research. I can't wait to hear what he has to say this time.

If you have looked at the Chenoweth genealogy website, and found useful information, you can thank Jon Egge. He is the person who created that website and assembled the data you find there. I know many others, including my uncle, Eugene Victor Chenoweth, and our former family chairman, Peter Chenoweth, contributed valuable information, but Jon is the key to putting it all together.

Going back to the general family website www.chenowethfamily.org, if you click on the place where it says "Genealogy-Main Site," you will be transported directly to Jon Egge's genealogy site. We believe this may be the most complete collection of genealogy information for any family in the United States. I'd like to think that's true, but at the same time, I'm fairly confident that there are a lot of holes in that chart, where our family genealogists have not yet located our cousins, who are out there, but still unidentified. If you are interested in genealogy and would like to contribute to this effort, by working on your family's genealogy, please let us know. This, in case you don't recognize it, is a serious request for help.

REGISTRATION:

[The registration page is now open and operating.](#) You can view the local map of the area, including the hotel many Chenoweths already have reservations at [by clicking here](#). The organizers of this Gathering have worked diligently to minimize the cost of attending for all our cousins. The registration fee for 2024 includes the 2024 Chenoweth Family Gathering T-Shirt and online access to the group photo that will be taken of all the attendees.

WEBSITE:

If you are not already acquainted with the Chenoweth Family website, please take the time to look it over. Board member Joshua Chenoweth (and his wife, Rebeckah) have spent a lot of effort to make it informative and easy to access. The general family website, if you don't already know this, is at www.chenowethfamily.org. There, you can find information about your board members, a link to the registration site, a link to our genealogy website (Thank you, Jon Egge) and a link to the Chenoweth Facebook Page.



CORNWALL:

Just as an aside, the photo that comes up on the Chenoweth Facebook page should be familiar to anyone who watches “Doc Martin” on PBS. It is the harbor at Port Isaac, Cornwall, which is called “Port Wen” in Doc Martin.

Our family’s ancestor, John (1) Chenoweth, is believed to have been born about 15 or 20 miles southwest of Port Isaac, in the village of Cubert, Cornwall. At the age of 15 or so, he is believed to have taken the bold step of moving to Crantock, which is about a mile away from Cubert. When I look up Cubert on the “Map” application in my computer, I notice that the street on the north side of that village is called “Chynowen Lane.” Knowing how many spellings of “Chenoweth” there are in the USA (about 30), I’m not very surprised at that, and suspect it is a hint of a connection from 300+ years ago.

Just north of Cubert and Crantock, on the North side of the River Gannel, is the much larger town of “Newquay,” where there is a “Chynoweth Lodge”. We stopped there a few years ago and spoke to the owner, Mrs. Haddock, who was very friendly and happy to see a Chenoweth visitor.



Another very interesting Chenoweth connection, to me anyway, is the appearance of the Chenoweth name (Chynoweth) in fiction. If you have ever watched the “Poldark” series

on PBS, you may be aware that there is a series of 12 novels, written by Winston Graham, about the life of a fictional person, Ross Poldark. In the first episode of the TV series, Ross Poldark returns home to Cornwall, after being wounded while fighting for the British in the American colonies during what we call “the Revolutionary War.” (I don’t know what the British call it.) He returns, expecting to be reunited with his love, Elizabeth Chynoweth.

As one reads through the several books, Ross travels from his home, Nampara, to a variety of places in Cornwall, and it often says, it is (x) miles to this or that town. If one takes a compass to a map of Cornwall and measures the distances from these various towns, the conclusion is quite clear that Nampara is located somewhere very near the village of Cubert. Holywell Beach is just west of Cubert, and Crantock Beach is just west of Crantock, at the mouth of the River Gannel. Many events in the Poldark story take place on ‘the Nampara beach.’ I have tried several times, unsuccessfully, to find out how Winston Graham chose this particular location for his story, but it is clear that he knew something about Chenoweths there.

NEWSLETTERS:

Another strong recommendation in anticipation of the 2024 Gathering, is for you to go back and re-read the past Chenoweth Family newsletters. We have links on the Chenoweth Family website back to Newsletters from March of 2005. If you have a copy of any newsletter earlier than that, (I suspect there may have been such newsletters back to 2000, or earlier) and could share it with us, it would be very appreciated. As review of the family’s history, a re-reading of the back newsletters on the site will be very informative, in preparation for attending the 2024 Gathering.

DNA PROJECT:

One of the important areas of research for the family in the past has been our family DNA project. This program has collected DNA samples from male descendants of John (1) Chenoweth and analyzed the DNA patterns to determine which line the person is in, in other words, from which of John (1)’s sons the person is descended. The person being DNA tested has to be a male because the DNA that is analyzed is in the Y chromosome, which is passed from father to son. There are ‘markers’ at certain places in the Y chromosome’s DNA, and by comparing the markers, the DNA experts can tell who is related to whom. Daughters get Xs, which doesn’t help. Unfortunately, female descendants change their names when they marry and are very difficult to track for that reason. Mothers pass on mitochondrial DNA, which is different. That about summarizes everything I know about DNA.



In the past, former Chenoweth Family chairman, Peter Chenoweth, who manages the DNA project, has attended our Gatherings and provided a report on the findings of the DNA study. I contacted Pete recently and learned that he has a work conflict this year and won't be able to attend. That's an unfortunate piece of news, but I will ask Pete to send us a written report to share with the attendees, or even set up a Zoom link to hear from him in real time, as we did last time with Jon Egge, which proved to be very worthwhile.

THE GENEALOGY DATABASE:

In case you haven't seen it previously, I am reaching out to every cousin, to please check out **your** listing on the family's genealogy website and ensure that you are correctly listed. If there have been any changes in your immediate family, or cousins that you know of, such as births, deaths, or marriages or divorces, please send it to the family, so we can keep the genealogical record as accurate as possible.

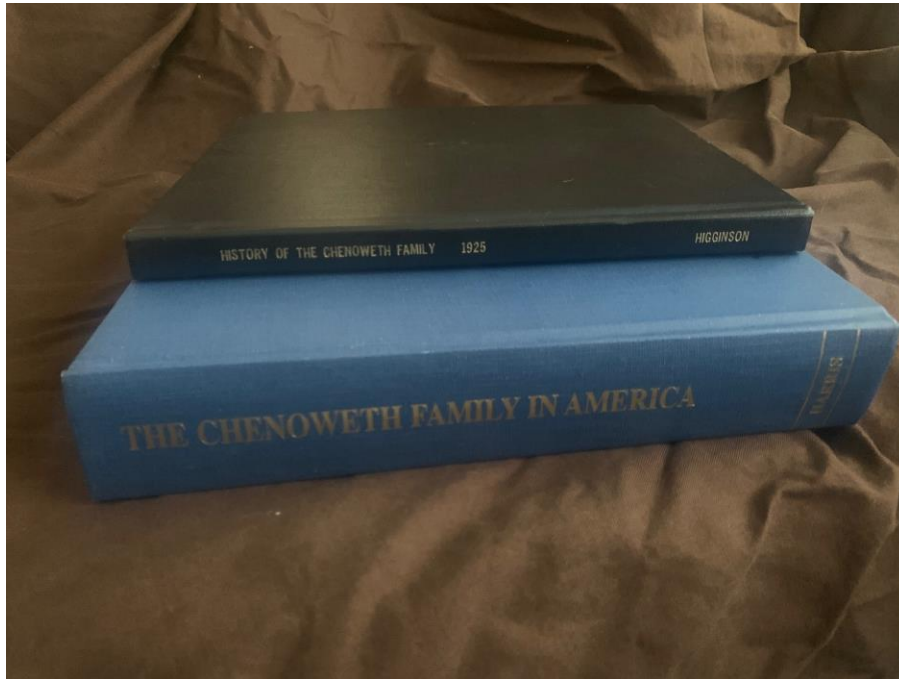
As I'm sure you realize, the family's makeup is constantly changing because of events like those listed above, so the family's recent genealogy is always out-of-date to some degree. With an estimated 6,000 cousins or so around the country, it is impossible for it to ever be really current. I think Jon Egge told me once that there are something like 250,000 names on the genealogy website with all the many generations. I, myself am in the ninth generation, and I know people my age who have great-grandchildren. If you have a family change to report, please use the "Contact" link on the Chenoweth Family webpage.

Check with your local cousins to be sure they have let us know about changes in their families, including their current e-mail address. A few years ago, I tried to contact cousins using a spreadsheet of telephone numbers broken down by state. Virtually all of them were no longer in service, probably because the cousin had gone from a land line to a cell phone and gotten a new number. So, we lose contact with that cousin. Our current e-mail address database has over a thousand names, but when we send out an e-mail, we often get back error messages saying there is no longer an active e-mail at that address.

BOOKS ABOUT THE CHENOWETH FAMILY:

There are two other interesting sources of information about our family. The Cora Hiatt book dates back to 1925, and the Richard Harris book, from 1994. Both have a lot of valuable information. Jon Egge has discovered errors in each one, but that just is evidence of the difficulty of doing accurate genealogy research. We are fortunate to have many diligent researchers with better information sources, who have found and

sorted out the various names over the many generations. You can't imagine how many John Chenoweths or Thomas Chenoweths, or some other common name, there can be in a database, and it is easy to confuse them. In the genealogy website and in some of the back newsletters there are discussions from Jon Egge about the mixed-up assignment of names in long-ago generations. The fact that there is confusion makes the whole research process more interesting.



We still have a few (but not many) of the Hiatt books remaining and a good collection of the Harris books. The Hiatt book is \$40 and the Harris book is \$50. Send us a check for the relevant amount (s) and your mailing address and we will mail you a book.

This is YOUR family organization, and the board is here to help you learn about your family, its history and its relationship to American history. Many cousins have made important contributions to the history of America and some are making those contributions today.

Remember, registration for the 2024 Gathering is now OPEN and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Have questions? Use the "Contact" link on the www.chenowethfamily.org website to ask.

Mike Chenoweth, Chairman

My Chenoweth ancestors: John (1), John (2), Absolum (3), Absolum, Jr. (4), Ephraim Bowen (5), Clinton Lafayette (6), James Ephraim (7), Karl Marx (8), me (9).

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