



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.

Family Newsletter

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Michael F. Chenoweth,
Chairman of the Chenoweth Family Association and editor.



Mineral Point, Wisconsin's July 4, 2018 Parade

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW FOR THE 2024 CHENOWETH FAMILY GATHERING IN MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

www.chenowethfamily.org

Dear Cousins,

As I begin writing this newsletter, I know it will be the last one before our 2024 Chenoweth Family Gathering in Media, Pennsylvania, which will start August 1, 2024.

Today is Flag Day, June 14, 2024, which is very special to me. I hope it is special to you as well.

I spent a big hunk of my life, over 30 years, in the US Army Reserve, finally retiring in 1998. During those years, I had the opportunity to travel to places I never would have seen otherwise

and to represent my country in meetings with officials from other nations. I was humbled and extremely fortunate to have had that honor and privilege.

Our nation is a very special one, in the world-wide family of nations. The principles upon which this nation was founded, and that our Constitution embodies, are ones we all can and should be proud of, but which have to be defended, if we want to continue to enjoy the benefits our parents and their predecessors left to us. Those principles have been admired and copied by other nations around the world. There are expected norms of behavior that are essential to protecting the rights and privileges we enjoy under the foundational documents of our country. Those norms respect and acknowledge the unique identity, integrity and rights of every person. That is the principle that underlies, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...”

I am reminded of the sign that went across the inside of the gate into the base camp we had at Taszar, Hungary, during the Bosnia Peacekeeping Mission, when I was there in 1996 and 1997. It reminded all the soldiers, as they departed our logistical base to go to their stations in Bosnia, of the really important things to remember. It read: “Duty, Honor, Country.” Serving our country is a privilege and means doing our duty without fail and always behaving honorably.

When we study the history of the Chenoweth Family, we need to remember that our family’s history IS the history of America. Our ancestors were pioneers, brave people who left everything behind and crossed a dangerous ocean in tiny boats to come to a new land, full of uncertainty. They risked it all and persevered and we are the result of their efforts. They have left us with a sober responsibility – to carry on the highest ethical and moral standards of our nation.

That is just a small part of what Flag Day means to me.

Inside Baseball.

“Inside Baseball” is a term that is used, not specifically about baseball, but about how things work, particularly the social interactions between people involved in some endeavor. We see the results on the surface, but if we are paying attention, we realize that it took a lot of people, working together, to make whatever it was, happen. Our Chenoweth Family Gatherings are like that.

When I see a good movie, I enjoy the movie for what it is on its face, but I am fascinated by all the effort that went into putting it all together. Many years ago, in about 2000, a film crew filmed some scenes for “Big Trouble,” which starred Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Stanley Tucci, Janeane Garofalo and Dennis Farina, on a piece of property we owned in Miami, and I was able to stand behind the famous director, Barry Sonnenfeld (Men in Black, Get Shorty, Wild, Wild West), during the filming, watching all the crew working, each in his or her own way and discipline, to assemble four pieces of a few seconds of action which would be folded into the movie. There were many dozens of people working behind the scenes to enable the filming. That experience opened my eyes to the amazing complexity of creating and assembling a movie to entertain its viewers.

One of my favorite films is “Wonder Woman”, which came out in 2017. Gal Gadot and Chris Pine put in great performances and I really enjoy the action, but I was surprised to realize that I enjoyed the ‘Special Features’ on the Blu-Ray disc as much as the movie, and I think maybe they ran as long as the movie itself. That is the “inside baseball” of the movie. Watch the credits and realize how many people, all working together, it took to make a film that lasts only 141 minutes. It is a huge amount of work and each member of the crew and cast contribute their own talent into making it a success.

Our Chenoweth Family Gathering is something like that, albeit a less complex product. It doesn’t just happen but has a lot of planning and work behind it.

Having been involved in the planning process for four of these Gatherings now, in 2016, 2018, 2022 (you will recall that we didn’t have one in 2020 because of Covid), and now, 2024, I have a new appreciation for the ones I attended before joining the board.

Other cousins put together the Gatherings in 2000 (Bowling Green, Kentucky), 2002 (Elkins, West Virginia), 2004 (Portland, Oregon), 2006 (Baltimore, Maryland), 2008 (Fort Wayne, Indiana), 2010 (Fort Worth, Texas), 2012 (Winchester, Virginia), and 2014 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) and now I appreciate how much work they put into those events and thank them again for their efforts.

As one of the people who has had a small involvement in the last four Gatherings, I am wondering how to motivate our cousins, i.e., you, to come to the Gathering this year, in Media, Pennsylvania, but also to attend the ones we are looking forward to in coming years.

This is an important question.

We, your Board of Directors, put together a Gathering for the benefit of all the cousins, so it is of considerable interest to us to figure out how to get as many cousins to attend as possible. We are not doing it for the ‘fun’ of it for ourselves. It is hard work and uses up our valuable time, to make it happen.

Our goal is to make each Gathering a learning experience and to make it “fun” for you as well.

Success, for us, is for the folks who attend the Gathering to have a good time, learn something and feel like they would like to attend, and maybe be involved in setting up, another one. Obviously, all cousins who attend are using their time and money, which requires some commitment on their part as well.

We are sending this newsletter to over a thousand cousins on our e-mail list. So, please tell us, how is the best way for us to meet your expectations? This is a serious question.

I would like your feedback on these questions. I want all our cousins to be part of the “inside baseball” that goes into setting up our Chenoweth Family Gatherings, and we need your help.

This is your opportunity to help us assemble Gatherings that best meet your needs and expectations.

If you have attended a Gathering in the past, we have these questions for you:

1. Which Gathering did you attend and why did you attend it?
2. What did you particularly like about it?
3. If there was anything you didn't like, what was that?
4. What would you like to see in a future Gathering?
5. Any other comments that would help us put together a future Gathering you would like to attend.

If you have not yet made up your mind about attending this year, please tell us:

1. Do you have any questions about the Media, Pennsylvania Gathering?
2. Is there anything we can do to help you decide to attend?

If you have decided not to attend this year, what elements were key to making that decision.

1. Is there anything the host committee can do in future years to make attending more attractive to you?
2. What factors were determinative in your decision not to attend?

No matter whether you are already planning to attend or not, or if you have or have not attended one or more prior Gatherings, I would like to know where you think would be a good city for us to set a future Gathering, one you would like to visit, and why that particular city would be a good pick.

Your ideas are important to us. Use the "Contact" form on the Chenoweth Family website to send us your feedback.

For this year, if you haven't registered yet for the Gathering, please do it right away. There are deadlines for ordering appropriate T-shirts for everyone in the correct colors for the family lines, for informing the hotel about the number of meals at the Saturday dinner, and about the number of riders on the bus tour.

We will try to accommodate anyone who arrives without pre-registration, but it is a big help to know ahead of time who is coming. Just part of the 'inside baseball' of the Gathering.

As of June 24, we still have a few seats left on the bus, but the hotel has filled all the rooms in our block of reserved rooms and the Hilton Garden Inn in Newtown Square is fully booked otherwise. If you don't have a room reserved yet, there are a number of other hotels nearby, so that's still a possibility.

Possible future Gathering venues:

For myself, I am beginning to think it might be good to return to Fort Wayne, Indiana for 2026. Fort Wayne's "Allen County Public Library" is the second-best location in the United States to do genealogy research, after Salt Lake City. We were in Fort Wayne in 2008 and I thought it was a great experience. Genealogy research is fascinating and very helpful in understanding how and where our ancestors lived.

In 2008, the family had a very interesting field trip to Shipshewana, which is a mecca of Amish culture. That is a possible venue for another field trip from Fort Wayne, or for those interested in antique cars, the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum is located just north of Fort Wayne in Auburn, Indiana, and is, in my opinion the best automobile museum I've ever seen. It is located in the original building that was the showroom for the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg company, and has over 120 amazing cars. <https://automobilemuseum.org/about>.

As a native son of Indiana, I am particularly aware of Indiana's history as the birthplace of the American automobile, because of the involvement of my great-grandfather on my mother's mother's side, Charles C. Hull of Connersville, Indiana.

The following is a little excerpt about his connection with the automobile business from Coachbuilt.com (<http://www.coachbuilt.com/bui/r/rex/rex.htm>).

"Originally established in Connersville in 1857, the McFarlan Carriage Company, moved to the park in 1887. While his own factory was being completed, McFarlan began approaching regional firms engaged in the manufacture of carriage parts and accessories and asked them to join him.

The Munk and Roberts Furniture Company factory, (later the Rex Wheel Works, aka Connersville Wheel Works, Rex Buggy Co. and Rex Mfg. Co.), erected a four-story structure in 1878 and a five-story brick factory in 1883 near the intersection of Western Avenue on the east side of the canal and 15th Street.

The Rex Buggy Company purchased the former Munk & Roberts building in 1898, formally organizing on November 11, 1898. The firm manufactured the well-known Rex and little-known Yale line of buggies and light carriages.

The similarly-named Rex Wheel Works (aka Connersville Wheel Works) was organized by Edward Willard Ansted in 1900 in order to supply wheels for Connersville burgeoning carriage and buggy-building business. In 1891 he relocated the Ansted-Higgins Spring Company to McFarlan's Industrial Park from Racine, Wisconsin. Ansted, who later organized five plants for the manufacture of automobile parts, built his spring plant along Columbia Avenue just north of Mount Street. The original structure was 180' x 230'. In 1895 his spring company was merged with an axle works, and the name was changed to the Ansted Spring and Axle Works.

Ansted was also interested in the Central Manufacturing Company, incorporated in 1898 in order to manufacture vehicle woodwork for carriage builders located in and around the industrial park. In 1903 it began the manufacture of automobile bodies, which would remain its main line of work into the mid-1930s.

The Rex Buggy Mfg.Co., our subject, was organized in 1898 with an authorized capital stock of \$65,000 by Charles C. Hull and a group of Connersville and Indianapolis businessmen who included William H. Harris, Herman Munk, Col. James E. Roberts, and Frank G. Volz. They purchased the former Munk & Roberts Furniture Company factory and began crafting horse-drawn buggies and light carriages that were marketed under the Rex and Yale trade names.

The Munk & Roberts Furniture Co. was originally founded by William Newkirk, a pioneer Connersville furniture manufacturer. In 1868 he took in Cincinnati, Ohio native Herman Munk as a partner and in 1874 Newkirk sold his share in the firm to Col. James E. Roberts, in the style of Munk & Roberts. In 1884 the firm was incorporated as the Munk & Roberts Furniture Co., their specialty being bedroom suites, bureaus and wash stands which were manufactured in two factory buildings located within McFarlan's Industrial Park. The first, erected in 1878, was a four-story brick structure 60 x 100 feet in size, the second was a five-story structure, 50 x 140 feet built in 1883. During its time in business the firm employed 150 hands with Herman Munk as President and Col. James E. Roberts serving as Secretary and Treasurer.

In November 1898 Munk & Roberts discontinued their furniture operation and became involved with the Rex Buggy Company, exchanging their interest in the plant for stock in the new enterprise. Charles C. Hull, William H. Harris and Frank G. Volz were part of the management and financial team that helped make the Parry Mfg Co. one of the best-known buggy manufacturers in the country.

Rex Buggy's President, Charles Clement Hull, was born on a pioneer farm in Alquina, Jennings township, Fayette County, Indiana on January 17, 1866, to John Wellington and Marie Frances (Burke) Hull, both of whom were also natives of Fayette County.

Charles received his early schooling in the Jennings Township district school after which he entered the Central Normal School in Danville, Indiana in preparation for a career as a school teacher. After receiving his preliminary education at local public schools, Charles C. Hull attended the Central Normal College, Danville, Ind., completing his formal education in 1885. He then taught school in Fayette County, Ind., for two years and was employed as a clerk in the hardware store of the O.P. Griffith Co., in Connersville until 1889, in that year he and a cousin, William Hanson, bought that business and operated it until 1891 under the name Hull & Hanson. At that time he sold his share in the firm to his partner and took a position as assistant superintendent of the Parry Manufacturing Co., an Indianapolis-based buggy manufacturer.

In 1898 he joined four other Connersville natives in organizing and incorporating the Rex Buggy Co., of which he served as president until 1940, at which time he became chairman of the board

of directors. In its early years the buggy company developed rapidly, reaching a production of 19,000 vehicles in 1909 its peak year.

Hull became connected with the Central Manufacturing Company in 1902, and for over a decade served as president of the Connersville Wheel Company, a Central Mfg. subsidiary. He was on the board of directors of the Lexington-Howard Motor Co., manufacturers of the Lexington Automobile, and the board of the Hoosier Castings Company. Hull was a long-time member of the National Carriage Builders Association and in 1913 was elected its president. By that time the Rex Buggy Co. employed 300, and shipped its products to all parts of the United States.

On December 5, 1888, Charles C. Hull was united in marriage to Rozzie F. Lair, born Jul. 8, 1865 to Mathias and Discretion (Ferguson) Lair, her father being a former sheriff of Fayette County. To the blessed union was born four children: Ruth M. (Mrs. Frederic I. Barrows) [my maternal grandmother], M. Lair (later assistant superintendent of Central Mfg. Co.), Rachel (b.1904) and Charles Hollis (b. 1907) Hull. “

So much for my great-grandfather; back to the Allen County Library:

The Allen County Library is a treasure-trove of information where one could spend weeks and not see everything related to their family. The Chenoweth Family Association Board of Directors has discussed going to Salt Lake City in 2026, but information from my friends who have visited Salt Lake City recently is that the hotels there are charging astronomical prices and I know that would be a non-starter for many cousins.

We do try to keep Gatherings as affordable as possible and are open to all suggestions for other cities. In planning for the upcoming Gathering, we have worked to get the best room rates and maximum substance for attendees from every dollar. Don't miss the chance to take advantage of that.

I began looking at Fort Wayne yesterday afternoon and started investigating the cost and availability of hotels near (hopefully within walking distance) the Fort Wayne library. I hope to know more about that information by the time we get to our 2024 Gathering and we may be able to make a decision about the next location at that time. Holding a Gathering anywhere is first, dependent on having some nearby cousins to host the event, so that is a big consideration.

Please get your suggestions in, for the location of the next Gathering, using the 'Contact' link at the bottom left of the homepage of the Chenoweth Family website (www.chenowethfamily.org) .

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

The first Gathering I attended was in Portland, Oregon, in 2004. It worked for me because I have a brother who lives there, and because I was already going to be in Los Angeles for another convention, and the timing was right. It was easy to get a flight from L.A. to Portland. I hadn't been able to attend the two previous Gatherings, in 2000 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, or in 2002 in Elkins, West Virginia, because of schedule conflicts.

After attending the Portland Gathering, where I met many interesting cousins and their families, and in the process made some really good friends, I regretted having missed the two earlier Gatherings. I've been trying to make up for that since then.

One of the realities of small non-profit organizations like ours is that they are dependent on help from volunteers. With something like 6,000 cousins in America who are our association's membership, we have just seven people on our Board of Directors who are doing everything. That is just a bit more than one-tenth of one percent (0.00117) of the members. The association exists for the benefit of you, the cousins, so please share your ideas with us.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, your Chenoweth Family Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization. It is run by unpaid volunteers, which means there is no paid staff. We are all cousins or spouses of cousins contributing our time without compensation.

I would like to see more participation from the many cousins who are out there, so this is an invitation to YOU. Come and join us on the board!

Board Member Vacancies:

Our Board has room to expand. We are looking for new board members. The work is not particularly difficult, but it has to be done, and I'd like to spread the workload out a bit.

Our co-chair has taken the lead in organizing hotel reservations for quite a while, and it is time to find someone else to handle that.

Our website guru could use some assistance, or even a replacement so he can spend more time with his family.

Our "corresponding secretary" has stepped in to serve also as "recording secretary", even though that's not the job she originally volunteered for, and we need to find someone to be the recording secretary.

If you look at the list of directors on the website, you may notice that we have a vacancy for a board member at large.

We meet every month or two by Zoom and would love to have a few more board members to share the fun.

DNA Project Manager:

When I attended that Portland Gathering in 2004, I first learned about the Association's DNA project. It is a way for males named Chenoweth to determine from which of John 1's sons they are descended. There are still cousins out there who don't know about our family's rich history or who their ancestors were, and we want to help them learn about that.

Peter Chenoweth, who ran the DNA project for at least the last two decades (that is how long I've been involved), has been forced by health issues to step down. We need to find a new manager for the DNA project.

I have the documents that Pete accumulated over the years and would like to pass them on to some responsible person who is interested in the science of family relationships. Please let us know if you have an interest in being our DNA project manager.

As I said, this project focuses on male descendants, but see further on in this newsletter about the DNA research into female descendants.

Gathering Organizing Committee:

Every two years, we hold the Biennial Chenoweth Family Gathering, and it is the major focus of work by the Board of Directors in between Gatherings.

In order to have the gathering be successful, we need a local Gathering committee to do the research and planning for the site where the Gathering will be held and to make logistical arrangements. This includes: identifying sites to visit, finding the hotel we will use as a base, finding speakers, locating convenient restaurants, setting up the bus service for the local tour, and arranging for the photographer to record the attendees. Wherever we pick for the next Gathering, we will need a committee of cousins who live near enough to the site to handle those functions.

Please be watching future newsletters, where we will announce the possible locations of the next Gathering. If you live near one of those, you might help by being a part of the Gathering Committee.

2024 Media, Pennsylvania Gathering:

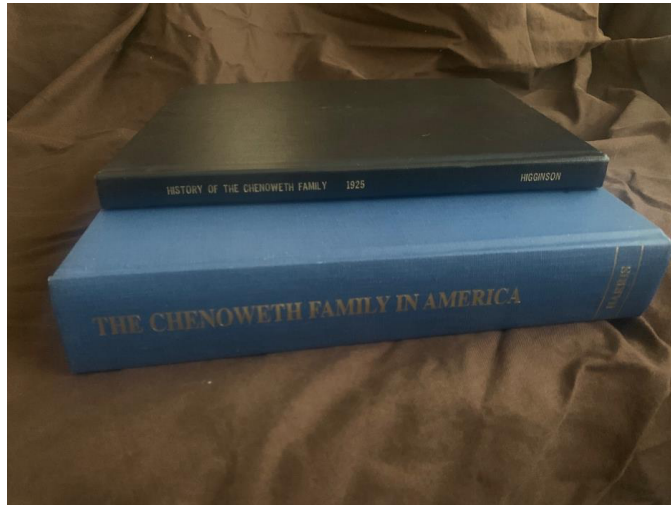
So, here we are in the middle of June, with seven weeks before the 2024 Gathering begins. There is still time for you to register for this special event, which we do only every other year.

Our 2024 Gathering is going to kick off on August 1, focused on Media, Pennsylvania (with our hotel being in Newtown Square, which is nearby) and we have had an excellent response from those cousins who have registered already. Our bus for the tour on August 2 has limited capacity and we are just about full. If we get more registrations, we will have to hire a second bus, which we would love to do, if more people sign up.

Our bus tour of places where our ancestor lived, videos, interesting speakers and in-person demonstrations are lined up for us, and I'm excited to meet you in person.

CHENOWETH FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS:

(This is a repeat from the last newsletter and it is included here because many cousins may still not have a copy of either of these very interesting books.)



One of the ways we provide ‘education’ is through the opportunity for cousins, or others, to obtain books about the Chenoweth Family.

We have two very interesting books, both the products of years of research by their authors. The older book, which we refer to as “The Cora Hiatt Book” [the Black book in the photo here] is formally titled “History of the Chenoweth Family – 1925”. I am bringing five copies of each of these books with me to the Gathering.

The Hiatt book was written long before the research tools we have today, i.e., the internet, were in existence, which is amazing, if you realize the difficulties that faced the author, Cora Chenoweth Hiatt.

The Hiatt book starts out with these lines: (Remember this was written before 1925.)

“This History and Genealogy was compiled under very unusual conditions and with no thought of a general history of the Chenoweth family.

In the first place, I am a perfectly helpless cripple, from what the physicians call arthritis, and have not walked a step for twenty-two years, and cannot even feed myself, so the only thing left that I can do is to write and type a little.”

That is from Cora Hiatt’s Introduction. It also says the book was priced, in 1925, at \$7.00 a copy. With inflation, a 1925 dollar is equal to \$17.85 today, and by that standard, the book should cost \$124.95 today, so \$40 a copy, including shipping, is a pretty good deal. Our supply is running low and we might have to restock sometime soon. It will be interesting to learn what the new price will be.

The other book is more recent. We refer to it as “The Harris Book” [the Blue book in the photo]. Its actual title is “The Chenoweth Family in America.” It is dated 1995 and has much more information within its pages. The Harris Book is several times the size of the Hiatt Book, and coincidentally, came out about the same time as our family’s main genealogist, Jon Egge, started the big genealogical website. The Harris Book is \$50.

If you would like to have one or both of these very interesting books, please send a check for the appropriate amount made payable to CHENOWETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

Please mail your check to:

CHENOWETH FAMILY ASSOCIATION
8605 Patricia Lynn Lane
Sherwood, Arkansas 72120-3049

Be sure to include your mailing address and e-mail address. Single copies are normally sent by US Mail. Larger orders may be sent by UPS.

SEND YOUR FEEDBACK:

I spend a considerable amount of time writing the Chenoweth Family Newsletter. I then pass it on to Joshua Chenoweth, who manages our website. He sends it out by e-mail to our e-mail list of cousins, which currently has almost 1,300 names, and puts it on the website in the “Current Newsletter” spot, and someone – I’m not sure who – puts a notice on the Chenoweth Facebook page that there is a new newsletter available. I invite any comments, suggestions, complaints, objections, any feedback at all from any of our approximately 6,000 cousins.

As the editor of YOUR newsletter, I am sincerely interested in hearing back for any cousin who has read the newsletter. Tell me what you like or dislike. What you don’t want to see again or what we haven’t done that you would like to see.

Share your genealogical research:

I would particularly like to publish some genealogy items from anyone who has done some research on their family’s history. The following is something I received from a cousin a while ago and published in a previous (2022) newsletter. It is an example of the kind of information that is floating around out there and we would like to pass on to other cousins:

"Other cousins:

Sometimes, I hear from cousins I didn’t know about before. That is easy to understand, as we have thousands of cousins, and only have actually met a few dozen.

I was contacted recently by a woman calling herself ‘Zann Gill.’ If you were at the Gathering in Little Rock, you may recall that I mentioned her and her very interesting activities. She has a website at www.zanngill.com that is worth a visit.

The current hot topic about Zann Gill is that she has a new book coming out called, “Alton.” It is about a journalist, Elijah Parish Lovejoy, who was the editor of *The Alton [Illinois] Observer* in 1837. Lovejoy was murdered by a pro-slavery mob, because of his anti-slavery values and exercise of his free speech rights. Zann Gill says that Lovejoy’s murder was one of the incidents

that inspired Abraham Lincoln to run for the Presidency. [That's interesting to me as well, since I am off to Illinois in two days to visit Lincoln's historic sites.]

As I understand it, the book is based on research that Zann Gill's father, a Unitarian minister, did. Her father, John Glanville Gill, did the original research on Lovejoy for his Harvard PhD thesis, which became another book, entitled "Tide without Turning, Elijah P. Lovejoy and Freedom of the Press."

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Glanville_Gill. Zann Gill previously wrote a screenplay to make the book into a movie, which was one of her father's dreams. This history is fascinating and it IS the history of America.

The Alton book is scheduled to be released on Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2023.

Here is how our cousin, Zann Gill, is connected to the Chenoweth family, as a descendant of Helen Chenoweth Stites, according to family genealogist, Jon Egge

As it turns out, Zann Gill and I are not only cousins by virtue of both being Chenoweth descendants; we are more closely related than that. We both have Absalom, Jr. as our common ancestor, which makes us fifth or sixth cousins, I believe, several times removed.

Stephen Ross Chenoweth, Absalom Jr.'s first son, was born in 1796. Then, Absalom Jr. had a daughter, Jane, in 1798, and then another son, John, also in 1798, then Mary in 1800, then my great-great grandfather, Ephraim Bowen Chenoweth, in 1804. [There were three more children after that from Stephen and his wife, the last in 1816.]

The line for Zann is John (1), John (2), Absalom (3), Absalom, Jr. (4), then Zann has Stephen Ross Chenoweth (5), who married Frances Stuckey. They had several children, including John Henry Chenoweth (6) born in 1825 in Kentucky, who married Helen Martin Bullit. They had a daughter, Mildred Ann Chenoweth, (7) born in 1856, who married John Stites, and they had a daughter, Helen Chenoweth Stites, (8) who was born on March 6, 1879, married John Granville Gill, Jr.

[Now here is where names get interesting. Jon Egge has the name as "Granville" on the www.chenowethsite.com website, but it seems to have metamorphosed into "Glanville" sometime between the 1850s and the 1950s when John Glanville Gill, III was at Harvard. Or was it always Glanville, or Granville, but someone back there wrote it down wrong?]

John Glanville [Granville] Gill, Jr. and Helen Chenoweth Stites had three children; Mildred Ann Gill, born in 1908, John Glanville Gill, III (9), born in 1909 in Louisville, Kentucky, and Susan Barrett Gill, born in 1911, also in Louisville, Kentucky. John Glanville Gill, III is shown to have two daughters, Mary Louise Glanville Gill, and Susan Pierpoint Gill (10), whom I suspect we know now as 'Zann Gill.'

Outline Descendant Report for Helen Chenoweth Stites *[From Jon Egge]*

1 Helen Chenoweth Stites b: 06 Mar 1879 in Jefferson Co., KY, d: Abt 1959, Burial: Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY, Find-a-grave: 65875672

+ John Glanville Gill Jr b: 23 Oct 1875 in Big Rapids, Mecosta Co., MI, m: 12 Sep 1906 in Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY, d: 24 Jul 1967 in New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT, Burial: Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY, Find-a-grave: 65876008

...2 Mildred Ann Gill b: 17 Jan 1908 in New York, d: Aug 1982

+ James Fay Mersereau b: 30 Oct 1904 in Pennsylvania, d: Mar 1986

.....3 James Gill Mersereau b: 11 Oct 1930 in Harrisburg, Dauphin Co., PA, d: 07 Oct 2012 in Washington, DC, Burial: Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC, Find-a-grave: 120585699

+ Shirley Ann Williams b: 20 Oct 1932 in Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

.....4 Lynda Ann Mersereau b: 27 Sep 1954 in Brazos Co., TX

+ Charles Douglas Elliott b: 29 Mar 1952, m: 01 Dec 1979 in Washington, DC

.....4 James Williams Mersereau b: 07 Jun 1957 in Harris Co., TX

+ Barbara ? b: Aft. 1957

.....3 Anne Chenoweth Mersereau b: Abt 1932 in Pennsylvania

+ Benjamin Dimmick Byers b: 06 Jul 1927 in San Francisco, San Francisco Co., CA, m: 20 Sep 1958 in New York City, New York Co., NY, d: 21 Apr 2008 in Southport, Fairfield Co., CT, Burial: Center Cemetery, Norfolk, Litchfield Co., CT, Find-a-grave: 219247950

.....3 Susan Barret Mersereau b: 03 Oct 1935 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA, d: 08 Jul 2003 in Alexandria City, VA, Burial: Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington Co., VA, Find-a-grave: 187474101

...2 John Glanville Gill III b: 22 Nov 1909 in Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY, d: 23 Oct 1979

+ Evalyn Ruth Pierpont b: 29 Aug 1911 in Boulder, Boulder, CO, m: 08 Nov 1943 in Manhattan, New York City, New York Co., NY, d: 28 Nov 2004 in Greensboro, Guilford Co., NC

.....3 Mary Louise Glanville Gill b: Aft. 1943

.....3 Susan Pierpoint Gill b: Aft. 1943

...2 Susan Barret Gill b: 02 Jul 1911 in Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY, d: 10 Sep 2005 in New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT, Burial: Church Hill Cemetery, New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT, Find-a-grave: 121492324

+ Kempton Dunn b: 05 Mar 1909 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA, d: 24 Jan 1986 in Stamford, Fairfield Co., CT, Burial: Church Hill Cemetery, New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT, Find-a-grave: 121492288

It looks to me as if the Alton book is going to be very interesting and I intend to acquire a copy when it comes out. [UPDATE: I got a copy and am reading it. It is very interesting and thought-provoking.]

I'm a big believer in the importance of free, and informed, speech, and hope to learn some useful information from this book. Free, and informed, speech is the reason we should all be concerned about the decline in real journalism these days, as advertising dollars go away from traditional newspapers and toward Internet websites. Visit Zann Gill's website yourself to learn more about the book. Free speech is precious, and you don't need to look any farther than Ukraine to realize that. Again, her website is www.zanngill.com. "

So, back to the present; the above is just a sample of the information that is out there about the lives and accomplishments of people in our family. In the above case, the important element is that John Glanville Gill, III, was a minister, spent time at Harvard, and wrote a historical book about the death of an abolitionist in the middle of the 19th Century.

I am personally aware of at least a half-dozen cousins who have done some research on the genealogy of their ancestors. If I know that many, there must be thousands of others – "out there" – who have information about other relatives. These stories are pieces of American history. If you have some information about the family discovered during your research, please send it to us to publish in this newsletter.

We need to make them more widely available, particularly because people today don't often think about the significant accomplishments of their antecedents. And while we celebrate the actions of the 'men' in history, we should not minimize the accomplishments of the women, whose roles, whatever they were, were critical in shaping the next generations. Some of them are truly awe-inspiring.

One example of this is "The Chenoweth Massacre" of July 17, 1789. Here is what Wikipedia says about The Chenoweth Massacre.

"The **Chenoweth Massacre** of July 17, 1789 was the last major [Native American](#) raid in present-day [Louisville, Kentucky](#).

Captain **Richard Chenoweth**, builder of [Fort Nelson](#) [which evolved into the City of Louisville, Kentucky], was stationed with his family northeast of present-day [Middletown](#) when a large band of Native Americans (likely [Shawnee](#)) attacked from across the Ohio

River. They killed three of Chenoweth's children, Levi, Margaret and Polly and two of the soldiers. Chenoweth's wife, Margaret "Peggy" née McCarthy was pierced through the lungs by an arrow and seriously wounded. She [faked death](#) while an attacker took her scalp. She survived and wore a hat for the rest of her life to conceal the scars. Two soldiers were captured alive and were ritually burned at the stake near the springhouse.^{[1][2]}

Chenoweth Station was likely targeted in the raid because it was relatively isolated from the nearest settlements of [Linn's Station](#) and the [Falls of the Ohio](#). What is now called the [Chenoweth Fort-Springhouse](#), where Chenoweth and his wife took refuge, has been preserved and is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#)."

We have a more comprehensive narrative about the massacre on our Chenoweth Family genealogy database, at <https://chenowethsite.com/chenmass.htm> . It is too long to include here but you can follow the link. I think it is fascinating reading.

I have urged readers of this newsletter to check out the genealogy database, www.chenowethsite.com . This is just an example of the very important and informative information contained there.

Cornish Language Revival:

We know our ancestor, John 1, came to the American colonies from Cornwall. If you've never been there, you have missed seeing a very beautiful part of Great Britain. Rewatch "Poldark" on PBS to get a flavor of it. Being there, you can't help but realize how a population could live so closely involved with the sea. The culture is uniquely different from that of England, and I've heard some Cornish people assert that Cornwall is as separate from England as are Wales or Scotland. The language of Cornwall has fallen into disuse and was believed lost, but here is an article which suggests that there is a resurgence of interest in Cornish, as a language, that isn't restricted to people in Cornwall. Maybe some of our cousins are learning Cornish?

By the way, The Guardian is an excellent newspaper, if you might think of helping them with a contribution. Journalism is a discipline that is in decline these days, since most advertising has moved to online media, and it needs all the help we can give.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jun/16/cornish-language-revives-on-back-of-psych-pop-and-covid>

About DNA Research:

A few pages back, I mentioned that we need someone to take charge of the Chenoweth Family's DNA Project. I repeat that request here. It is serious scientific research into the relationships between our family members.

Up to now, the family's project has been focused on male descendants of John 1. This is simply because it is much easier and more direct. As has been explained in previous newsletters, the DNA study looks at the Y chromosome, which is passed down from father to son.

Males are males, as I understand it, because they have an X chromosome and a Y chromosome. The ovum is fertilized, and after a little meiotic dance, the gamete gets one of the father's chromosomes. If the X chromosome is replicated, the resulting child will be a female, because it will have two X chromosomes, or XX. However, if the Y chromosome is replicated, the resulting child will be a male, because it will have an XY pair, like the father, with the X from the mother, and the Y from the father. That's how I understand it and if I'm wrong, I invite anyone to correct me.

So, that same Y chromosome has been passed down from father to son, over many generations, and the Y chromosome in each Chenoweth male living today is very similar to the one John 1 passed on to his sons. But it is NOT identical, because mutations occur when DNA is replicated.

The DNA Project looks at specific points within the Y chromosome where there are something like 'spaces' between the main parts. Those spaces have some markers that can be counted but aren't exactly replicated every time. When particular spots on the Y chromosomes of two men have the same numbers of markers, it is possible to conclude that they are related, and in our case, to get a pretty good idea which of John 1's sons they are descended from. That is my very muddy explanation of the way it works. It is all based on probability.

Anyway, that system works for sons but not for daughters, because daughters don't have a Y chromosome, and with two Xs, either one might get passed on to their offspring, particularly to their daughters.

But there is something females do have, which is called "mitochondrial DNA". It is unique to women and seems to be passed from generation to generation with little change. Genealogical research using mitochondrial DNA is less common, in my experience, but it does happen.

Several years ago, during the Covid time, I received a report from a gentleman named 'Bob Crane' about a search to determine the origins of a Chenoweth cousin from the early 19th Century. That file was lost in my computer, but I just found it and because I think it is very interesting, I want to share it with all our cousins. Who knows but what it might stimulate someone to get involved with our DNA research project. So here it is, exactly as Bob Crane sent it to me. I apologize for the long delay in getting it out to the family.

THE SEARCH FOR MATILDA JANE:

" For many decades, there has been an enduring mystery over whether an Ohio-born woman named Matilda Jane belonged to a branch of the Chenoweth family tree. The issue was complicated by the fact that her most informed descendants never knew the names of her parents, could not explain her conflicting maiden names, or resolve why she was said to have been born near a village that did not exist.

Time and again, her descendants diligently searched for clues; finding none, some embraced an unproven theory that she was a daughter of a Pennsylvania couple, Edward Chenoweth and Mary Wilson. This theory stemmed from the fact that although

five daughters in this family had been identified, three others were suspected but unknown.

Now, 195 years after her birth, the details of Matilda Jane's life have come into sharper focus thanks to DNA testing of mitochondria, a cellular organelle specific to women. Tests taken by biological descendants of three early nineteenth century women show that as of August 1825, the newly born Matilda Jane, and an unmarried 24-year-old Sarah Wilson (1801 – 1850), and a 53-year-old mother of nine named Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson (1772 – 1857), were genetically matched in a category of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) known as haplogroup U5b3g.

MtDNA testing conclusively identifies a woman's biological lineage extending far back through time. When two or more women are matched, the discovery proves that at some point in the past, they had a common female ancestor.¹ MtDNA does not, however, reveal the exact nature of each match.

Beside the mtDNA matches, the strongest evidence regarding the Matilda Jane – Sarah Wilson – Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson relationships, the one that takes us as close to certainty as we can get, is buried within a statistical anomaly. Haplogroup U5b3g is extremely rare. In late 2020, the Family Tree DNA database in Houston, Texas held 202,758 mtDNA test results, of which only 42 belonged to haplogroup U5b3g. Of those 42 tests, 25% were submitted from Ireland, Scotland, the UK, and Tunisia, and of the rest, three were the results commissioned for this research project. When the three commission tests produced U5b3g matches, and when documents confirmed that the ancestors of the three testers were living near one another in a sparsely populated farming area of southeastern Ohio, the results indicated with a high level of probability that Matilda Jane was the daughter of Sarah Wilson and a granddaughter of Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson.

These discoveries were made during a three-year investigation by a group of Matilda Jane's descendants who commissioned 20 DNA tests while partnering with accredited genealogist Susan Glenn of West Jordan, Utah, who studied over 400 documents.

In addition to the discovery of her genetic connection to Sarah Wilson and Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson, the investigation significantly clarified other elements of Matilda Jane's life, and that of her ancestors.

- The mtDNA matches definitively place Matilda Jane on the Chenoweth Family Tree. Her lineage to Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson extends to Lurannah's parents, Isaac Chenoweth (1752 – 1792) and Sarah Lane (1747 – 1830) of Berkeley County, Virginia.

¹ The lineage between everyone tested by this project and their eighteenth and/or nineteenth century ancestors was researched and confirmed prior to testing.

- The absence of an 1825 marriage record for Sarah Wilson indicates that she was unmarried when she gave birth to Matilda Jane. Matilda Jane's birth father, whose surname was almost surely Emberson, has never been identified.
- Adam Linn III, who married Matilda Jane in 1840, permitted the Emberson surname to be entered as her maiden name on the official marriage document. This seems to have been an acknowledgement of community recognition. Even so, our research found absolutely no indication that Matilda Jane's father had any relationship with his daughter at any point in her life. To the contrary, Matilda Jane seemed to have identified with her Chenoweth lineage throughout her adult life.
- The documentation on the Embersons of Muskingum County eliminates any reason possibility of an on-going affairs between an Embersons and Sarah Wilson, and points instead to the probability that the insemination of Sarah Wilson was the result of an unplanned, short time, and impossible to confirm encounter with an unidentifiable Emberson.
- Eleven months after giving birth to Matilda Jane, Sarah Wilson married her first cousin, Ison Chenoweth (1805 – 1881), on July 22, 1826 in Guernsey County, Ohio. Ison thus became Matilda Jane's stepfather. Family trees dating this marriage to 1834 are incorrect.
- Ison's father, Edward Chenoweth (1777 – 1840), was the brother of Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson. Edward's wife, Mary (Chenoweth) Wilson (1780 – 1850), was the sister of Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson's husband Zachariah Wilson (1765 – 1827),
- Lurannah and Zachariah Wilson had three daughters in rapid succession after their marriage. The biographical information on their family provides no details regarding these daughters, one of whom was named Sallie, a name sometimes used synonymously with Sarah. Sallie's presumed birth date, frequently described as "after 1797," is vague enough to include 1801, when Sarah Wilson was born. Our research found no explanation more probable than that Sallie was in fact Sarah Wilson, daughter of Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson, named after Lurannah's mother Sarah Lane.
- Contrary to many Ancestry.com family trees, tax records reveal that Lurannah (Chenoweth) Wilson's husband, Zachariah, was the son of Jeremiah Wilson (1746 – 1844) and a brother of Daniel Wilson (1765 – 1832). Daniel Wilson was the husband of Anne Chenoweth (1752 – 1808), a sister of Lurannah Chenoweth's father Isaac Chenoweth. Additionally, our research conclusively determined that Lurannah's husband was not the Zachariah Wilson married to

a Catherine Pickett of Caroline County, Virginia, as shown on many Ancestry family trees.

- The first widely accepted details regarding the date and place of Matilda Jane's birth were published in an obituary following her death on Dec. 26, 1891. It stated she was born Aug. 30, 1825 "near Adamsville, Muskingum Co. O" ... "at which place" she married in 1840.
- However, Muskingum County documents prove that Adamsville did not exist at the time of her birth. Her most likely birthplace was the home of her aunt, Elizabeth (Chenoweth) Gordon (1787 – 1860) in Highland Township in Muskingum County, approximately five miles from the site of the future village of Adamsville.
- A series of mtDNA tests debunk a theory that Matilda Jane was a daughter of Edward and Mary (Wilson) Chenoweth. Testing by direct female descendants of Mary's daughters Isabella (1802 – 1871) and Sarah Chenoweth (1809 – 1861) revealed their mtDNA haplogroup to be T2c1d1, confirming their place in the Chenoweth family and eliminating any possibility that Matilda Jane, whose mtDNA haplogroup was U5b3g, was their sister.
- Another mtDNA test proved that a Deliah Chenoweth was not one of the unidentified daughters of Edward and Mary (Wilson) Chenoweth, as widely speculated. The test by a third great-granddaughter of Deliah Chenoweth revealed her haplogroup to be W5a2, proving that Deliah Chenoweth was unrelated to Mary (Wilson) Chenoweth, her daughters, or to Matilda Jane.
- The list of known daughters of Edward and Mary (Wilson) Chenoweth has now been expanded from five to seven with the discovery of documents adding daughters Nancy (1814 – 1870) and Mary (1815 – 1849) Chenoweth.
- Starting in 1916, one of Matilda Jane's sons and three of her grandchildren described her in various public documents as a Chenoweth, reinforcing the contention that Matilda Jane had embraced her Chenoweth ancestry, despite the nature of her birth.

These and additional findings are discussed in detail in a report entitled *Someone's Daughter, A Wilson/Emberson/Chenoweth Investigation*. To see the report with extensive research endnotes on Ancestry.com, go to the profile gallery of Matilda Jane on a family tree entitled The Story of Matilda Jane Wilson/Emberson/Chenoweth. The full report, with detailed appendices, will be available by summer 2021 at the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library, in McArthur, Ohio; the Ohio History Connection Archives and Library in Columbus, Ohio; the Guernsey County Genealogical Society in Cambridge, Ohio; the Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society in

Zanesville, Ohio; and the Berkeley County Historical Society in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Findings are also being added to the data base at FamilySearch.com.

For further information, contact Bob Crane at pbjcrane@gmail.com.
or Carl Edward Weersing at carleweers@aol.com "

Your Vote Matters; Don't Forget to Vote.

Last Sunday, June 23, my wife and I attended the celebration for the 42nd Anniversary of the opening of the Thai Buddhist Temple near Homestead, Florida. As long-time members of the Thai-American Association of South Florida, we have watched the Thai community grow and prosper here. During that celebration, several people were invited to speak and one of them, a particularly eloquent woman, reminded us of the importance of voting in this election year.

One of the most important elements of being an American is the opportunity to vote for our elected government officials. It is very important that this is a presidential election year, but every elected official is important in his or her own way. Here in South Florida, we are electing the county mayor, the sheriff, the property appraiser, the clerk of the court and many other public officials. Each of them has major implications for our lives, each in their own way. Good government doesn't just happen. We all have to be involved, in order for it to work properly.

I heard an interview on TV a few days ago, in which a citizen was asked if living in a democracy was important to them. The individual told the interviewer that we don't live in a 'democracy,' we live in a 'republic'. I have news for that person. America is a republic AND a democracy. It would be meaningless to have a republic, if were not also a democracy. In a republic, we send our elected representatives to set the policies of the government, rather than having a king or a dictator. But the way we select the representatives matters, and the way we have chosen to do that is through elections, which are democratic (little "d"), one person, one vote. That's how our government works. That's how the founders of this country set it up, 235 years ago. Of course, then, only white male property-owners could vote. But there have been changes; society is different now; we have improved it. Now, just about everyone can vote. Our ancestor, John 1, helped build the society that became the America we know today.

Here in Florida, there are primary elections in August, and then the general election in November, when we will vote not only for our choice for president, but also to possibly amend our State of Florida Constitution.

Each vote matters. Never let anyone tell you that every vote does not matter.

Here is a clear example. In the 1980s, my wife, Pam, who was a Monroe County (Florida Keys) resident, and I were living in Miami (Dade County), where we were in law school. I was a Dade County voter. When election day came around, I voted, but the weather was miserable, rainy and windy. It was 50 miles to the voting location in Monroe County, and we could have let the day go by without making that 100-mile drive. However, there was a very good candidate running for county commissioner that day, and my wife wanted to vote for her. So, we made the drive, my wife voted, and we turned around and came back to the law school in the afternoon.

When the election returns were finally announced, it was revealed that the woman Pam had voted for had won the election, by one vote. Every vote matters. Your vote matters.

I'm going to wrap up here. It has been eleven days since I started composing this issue and I need to get this to Joshua Chenoweth, our web guru, for sending out to you cousins.

CHENOWETH FAMILY GATHERING – AUGUST 1-4, 2024

Remember that the 2024 Chenoweth Family Gathering will be kicking off on August 1, in Media (Newtown Square), Pennsylvania and we hope you will join us there.

The registration page is at: <https://chenowethfamilyassociationinc.regfox.com/chenoweth-family-gathering-2024>

Let us know if you have any questions or comments about this newsletter or anything else related to the Chenoweth Family. Use the "Contact" page on our website.

<https://chenowethfamily.org/contact/>

Michael F. Chenoweth, Chairman
Chenoweth Family Association

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

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."— Jane Goodall

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