

**The Texas State Times (Austin, Texas), Vol.3, No. 3, Ed. Saturday December 29,
1855:**

Jean (Jonas) Baptiste Chaison (Chiasson)

Georgetown, Dec. 1st, 1855

Jean Baptiste Chaison was a native of Nova Scotia, of French Parentage, and was born August 7, 1745, and during the French and Indian war, he with his parents, was taken prisoner by the English, and upon the cession by France of all her Northern settlements in America, to Great Britain, they disdaining to become subject to British rule, emigrated in the year 1763, to France, where his parents died of small-pox a short time after their arrival.

He remained in France but a few years, until he heard of probable revolution of North American colonies; and burning with revenge against Great Britain – fired with patriotism and the love of liberty, he returned to America to assist the patriots in their struggle for liberty. He took a most active part in our Revolutionary struggle – was under Gen. Benedict Arnold at the siege of Quebec, where fell the immortal (General Richard) Montgomery, with his two aid de camps, and distinguished himself by his intrepidity and daring in the desperate attack made upon that place upon the morning of the 31st Green and Lt. Colonel/General Francis of December, 1775. He was under (Major) General Sullivan at the battle of Germantown, and under La Fayette at Brandywine in the Autumn of (September) 1777. When the theater of the war changed to the South, he with unabated and unflinching patriotism, followed it. He was under General Nathaniel Green and Lt. Colonel/General Francis Marion (The Swamp Fox) at the battle of Eutaw Springs (September 8, 1781), where he was wounded, was with La Fayette at the siege of Yorktown, participated in the battle, witnessed its whole progress, and the surrender of the Earl Cornwallis, which he frequently described in later life with accuracy and deep pathos to his anxious neighbors and friends who were accustomed to group around him to listen to his stories of the Revolution.

The siege of Yorktown and surrender of Cornwallis was one of his chief themes. He described the surrender as one of the most solemn and imposing scenes he had ever witnessed, and Cornwallis as a man of the most noble appearance, commanding bearing and deportment, clothed with the deepest grief, and humiliating mortification. He, with all his officers, indulged freely in tears with every manifestation of the most bitter disappointment while the father of his new country with the noblest generosity and goodness of soul, used every exertion to render defeat sufferable to the afflicted British.

He was a man of remarkable memory, and in all his stories of the Revolution, gave the names of all the officers, time and place of Battle, together with the part which each took in attacks, retreats, etc, through the total war. After the disbandment of the army by the government, he removed to Louisiana, and settled west of the Mississippi river in the

neighborhood of Broom Corn Church, where he remained until his move to Jefferson County, Texas about the year 1832.

He took the deepest interest in the Texas Revolution, though his age prevented him from taking any active part in the Cap "or Field. He was a man of strit honesty and integrity, and was beloved by all who knew him, his neighbors used him as a living history of the Revolution and the "times that tried men's souls." In all his relationship as father, husband, citizen, and soldier, he performed well his part and though dead, will ever live in the hearts of all those who knew him, and especially those who wer intimate with his eventful life. He combined with his strictly moral and honest character, the purest religious purity, and perfect charity, and ever manifested the deepest gratitude to a kind and beneficent providence for conferring upon him a long life of health and strength, clothed with every needed blessing, He retained to a most remarkable degree, his health and strength of both mind and body, up to the very time of his death, and was frequently know to take his gun and go hunting for deer, only a very short time before his death.

He raised a family of fourteen children, survived the partner of his bosom by twenty-seven years, and finally closed his mortal existence at the residence of his son McGuire Chaison, in the county of Jefferson, Texas on the 20th of July, A.D. 1854. He was engaged with a friend in conversation upon the mercies and goodness of God that had accompanied him all the days of his life, spoke of his great age, remarked that his life was now but a taper, that would soon burn out and admit him to a brighter and better world than this, turned over in his bed and breathed his last, was dead, having attained the great age of one hundred and eight years, eleven months and thirteen days.

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