CHOATES OF THE SOUTH--NEWSLETTER # 1
September 1988

1- GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOATE, by Wanda L. Clark (4 pages)
   This article was sent to me by Mrs. Ben P. Choate, Jr. (Jackye) who is very actively engaged in research
   on this family and working in the Choctaw Indian records and would be happy to hear from any of you that are
   interested in this line. They are in the process of moving but the address for now is 3109 East Manta PL.,
   Muskogee, OK 74403.

2- SEARCH FOR PARENTAGE OF CHRISTOPHER CHOATE, by Nadine Choate Perkes (3 pages)
   This is a report by Nadine of the results of the research done in England concerning our
   CHRISTOPHER CHOATE that came to America in 1676. Her address is on the article but she does not have a
   lot of time for correspondence so will be passing on the information to me and leave it up to me to pass it on.

3- MISC. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARTHUR CHOATE FAMILY
   Sent by Elizabeth Wilburn, 6703 Scott-Wright Rd., Texarkana, TX 75503
   In 1980 Elizabeth sent me a newspaper article, with picture of a very beautiful girl, Robin Gail Choate that had
   been selected Miss Texarkana that year and she is a descendant of ARTHUR CHOATE, of Wayne Co., TN. Miss
   Choate won the talent competition for her singing and attended the University of Texas.

   This year Elizabeth sent me newspaper clippings, with pictures again, of Mary Choate as follows:
   Texarkana, Texas Gazette, Wednesday, April 13, 1988

   Mary Choate made history Tuesday night by becoming the first woman ever elected sheriff in Bowie County,
   earning 52 percent of the vote to defeat two-term incumbent Thomas Hodge. With the win Ms. Choate, 33,
   became only the eighth woman to be elected sheriff in Texas history and the fourth to be elected without first
   being appointed to the office.

   NOTE by ICW: I can make copies of either of these articles with picture for anyone that is interested. Please
   send SASE with request.

   The run down on the family of MARY CHOATE is as follows:

   MARY CHOATE is the daughter of ALTON M. CHOATE, son of SEABERT FIELDS CHOATE, Sr.
   and JEBBIE WHITE (who was Texas mother of the year in 1950)
   SEABERT F. CHOATE was the son of JAMES WESLEY CHOATE & SELINA HORTON,
   JAMES WESLEY CHOATE was the son of ABNER P. CHOATE & EMILY GODFREY,
   ABNER P. CHOATE was the son of ARTHUR CHOATE, of Wayne Co., TN

   The records I had on Wayne Co., TN are on pages 85-92 in Volume 2 of Choates of the South, but since the
   publication I have found the following information about Arthur:

   CHOAT CEMETERY, WAYNE CO., TN

   This cemetery is at CHOAT Bend on Buffalo River between Topsy & Possum Creek. It was listed by Mary Jo
   Beasley of Linden, TN and at that time these stones were broken:

   CHOAT, ARTHUR, born 24 April 1780, died 19 June 1855, aged 75 yrs., 1 mo. & 25 days.
   CHOAT, MARGARET MC, wife of ARTHUR CHOAT, b. 16 March 1782, d. 13 January 1847, aged 63 years, 9
   months & 27 days

   NOTE: Newsletter was scanned and reformatted. Individual page content remains the same.
Dear Choate Cousins,

Hard to believe it has been two years since I sent a form letter out to all of you, but time just gets away from me and as you can see we have moved again. The mobil home was just not big enough for us and all my Choate ancestors, and now that I have more room to spread out I may be able to accomplish more. HOPEFULLY.

I have managed to keep up with my correspondence and have heard from a lot of new Choate Cousins and been able to help a few with their lines. Also have received some interesting articles, the most important of which was found in England.

Thanks to Nadine for" hanging in there" with that research. I must admit that I was a skeptic where that research was concerned and when Harry Choate, of Australia wrote to me in 1985 and suggested that I correspond with Maureen (Choate) Miller I felt I had my hands full with Choates in the South and had neither the time nor the inclination to start correspondence with someone in England, but told Nadine that I would share the expense of it if she would carry on the correspondence and she took the ball and ran with it and HOW IT PAID OFF.

I am enclosing a three page summary, by Nadine, of this research and we are having Peter Nutt continue with the research. We feel that we should not leave a stone unturned and will engage him until he feels there is nothing else he can search.

I felt that this information should be shared with everyone and for several years I have considered a Newsletter to be sent out a couple times a year, but several people that have offered to help have fell by the wayside and in fact it is hard to work on something like this with people who do not live in the same town, so it pretty much will have to be done by one person and I seem to be elected.

Some of us have joined the Choates in America and they are doing a great job and trying to include all the Choates in America, but most of them are actually of the New England Choates, descendants of John Choate. They charge $25.00 for membership and ask for donations of $10.00 per year for the Newsletter and are willing to print any material that we send, but the Newsletter consists of four pages so could not include that much on our lines.

I am not interested in forming another association because we tried that and it failed, but I would like for all of us to keep in touch and am willing to do the best I can with a Newsletter, which would include interesting articles that anyone would send, as well as something from my files that I have not gotten into book form and misc. information such as any change of address etc.

I would certainly like some input on this project and will welcome any suggestions as to how this could be made to work. Nadine suggested that I go ahead and ask $5.00 for this Newsletter and see how many are interested, but I felt that was a bit too much so decided that I would ask for $5.00 for two Newsletters. That would include this one and another one about March 1989. By that time I will be able to determine if it is worthwhile to try and carry on the project and will know how many people are willing to help in some way.

Meanwhile I enjoy hearing from all of you and will try and answer all letters. A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope saves--me--a- lot of time.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOATE
By Wanda L. Clark

He was a Choctaw statesman, lawman & soldier in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy. To his grandson, Ben Choate, Sr., who presently lives in McAlester, he was, and is a hero. Orphaned as a young man, Ben Sr. was, in essence, reared by his grandfather, who took his son's widow and her children into his home. Young Ben rode out to look at cattle & the land with his grandfather often, and on those trips learned a lot of Choctaw history, a lot of family history, and a lot of philosophy of life which still sustains him.

George Washington Choate was born in October 1840, in Attala County, Mississippi, southwest of the town of Kosciusko, on the road to Yazoo City. "He was the son of James C. Choate, half Choctaw, his mother being of the Ward family." (1) On his father's side he belonged to the OK-la-fa-lay-a clan. James C. Choate's father was a white man who came into Mississippi and married a full-blood Choctaw. The older Choate, James C.’s father's mother was a Crockett. It was with James C.’s father's marriage to a member of the Choctaw tribe that the Choctaw heritage began.

James C. Choate was born ca 1806, he had three known wives, two were sisters, and one their cousin. George Washington's mother was a young girl when James C. married her, and she died in childbirth when George was born. The 1850 Atalla Co., MS Federal Census shows the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHOATE,</th>
<th>James C.</th>
<th>46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winnie</td>
<td>48 wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David C.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James S.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah M.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William W.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen G.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

James C. Choate owned slaves and a plantation, and ran an inn on the Natchez Trace. The family did not come to Indian Territory with the Removal. Instead James C. with his two remaining wives and some of his children came to Indian Territory (2) in 1854 settling on the land that later became a community bearing their name: Choate Prairie, near the present community of Indianola, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. It is known that Samuel, William & John came to the territory as did others of their siblings. Christopher Columbus Choate, a Mason, and well known in McAlester, was a son of Samuel Choate, George Washington's brother.

Just shortly before the war, James C. Choate was shot in the back by an unknown ambusher. He was sitting under a shade tree in his front yard. For years the family kept the chair marked with the bullet. He is buried in the now abandoned old Choate cemetery, on the land he occupied.

More than one of George Washington's brothers was killed during the Civil War. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, G. W. as he was most often called, enlisted in Choctaw-Chickasaw Mounted Rifle Command under Gen. Douglas Hancock Cooper. Gen. Cooper’s family had been neighbors of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's family, and Davis had ordered him to the Indian Nation to organize the mounted rifles. He was stationed at Fort Washita.
G.W. was injured in the battle at Perryville, Indian Territory and was evacuated to the hospital at Fort Washita southeast of present day Tishomingo. There he was nursed by Eliza Wade, who subsequently became his wife. Eliza Wade was the daughter of Simon Wade, and his wife Jinsey. Descendants say Jinsey was a Beams. Traditionally, Simon was a full-blood Choctaw of the Mississippi Wade family and Jinsey was a full-blood Chickasaw. Her parentage has not yet been determined. So far, only two children of Simon Wade have been determined.

Jane F., who was born 22 October 1823, probably in Mississippi before the Removal. She married George Perkins, possibly in Blue County, Choctaw Nation, and they moved to Choate Prairie, Tobucksy County, and Indian Territory. Since Jinsey's last known child was born in 1864, it would appear that Jane F., may have been a child of Simon Wade's by another wife, but this has yet to be determined. George & Jane F. Perkins son, Hughie and their daughter Louisa are known to have moved to Tobucksy County. The town of Indianola is on part of Hugh Perkins allotment. Louisa was the wife of Alexander Hamilton Sr., well known Indianola land owner and Choctaw lawman. Jane F. died 16 January 1893 and is buried at the Choate Prairie Cemetery.

Simon Wade apparently predeceased Jinsey, and she married ______later shortened to Martin. He was killed a short time before Jinsey gave birth to their daughter, Caroline II Carrie II. Carrie Martin was born 20 April 1864, and died 25 June 1957. She is buried at Madill, OK. She married ____ by whom she had some children. Her second husband was Jeff Arbuckle b. 28 October 1862 in North Texas, and died 23 May 1913, in Ardmore, OK and is buried in Madill. He was the Vice President of the Madill National Bank, and help found it. A granddaughter, Mrs. Finas Sandlin lives in McAlester, and another granddaughter, Almeda Reid still lives in Madill. Eliza Wade Choate took young Carrie, her half-sister into her home after the death of Jinsey. The Arbuckles at one time lived at Overbrook, Love Co., OK.

Eliza Wade, daughter of Simon and Jinsey, was born in February 1839, near Talihina, Wade County, Choctaw Nation, and Indian Territory. She, with at least one of her sisters was attending Bloomfield Academy below Durant, prior to the Civil War. When the war came, she went to Fort Washita to be a nurse to the wounded. George Washington Choate brought his new bride to Tobucksy County, where he built their first home at Choate Prairie. The log house now stands on the Bynum property in Indianola, Oklahoma as a museum and tribute to the life and times of the men who built it. Eliza was one of the original founders & members of the Choate Prairie Baptist Church, one of the oldest, continuous churches in the county. (3)

Only two children of this marriage appear to have survived, William Frederick Choate, and Alice Jane Choate, as they are listed by G.W. in a turn of the century interview as his only surviving children by Eliza Wade. The 1896 census shows Abner Morris, 12, and Frances King, 10, as grandchildren living in his household. These are apparently children, possibly in some way, but not grandchildren, that the Choates took into their home and helped rear and educate. The 1900 census shows the family as having 10 children born and 8 living. The 1910 census shows 8 born and none living. It appears possible that one of the solutions to this seeming contradiction is that the census taker reversed the 1900 record and of 10 children only the two G.W. reported as surviving did so. Both the surviving children had died by the time the 1910 census was taken.

Upon his return from the Civil War, G. W. Choate farmed & raised livestock. In 1876 Judge Edmond Krebs asked him to become Sheriff, and he was elected without opposition as Tobucksy County sheriff, and was re-elected to that post again in 1882. He was a Tobucksy county judge, and in 1890 he was chosen to be a member of the house of the Choctaw Legislature from Tobucksy County, at the Capitol in Tuskahoma.
He was a Choctaw Nation senator, and remained in that position until statehood. Prior to being a Senator, he was presiding Judge of the Choctaw Nation Supreme Court.

On their many horseback forays around Choate Prairie, he told his young grandson Ben, (son of William Frederick), stories of the Choctaw Nation back in Mississippi and in Indian Territory. He told him how Whitefield, OK was once named Mushalatubbee for the Choctaw Chief who was one of the signers of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. He told him of the time that the King Ranch of Texas fame was herding about 2000 head of cattle on a cattle drive to the north. The South Canadian River was swollen and the herd could not cross. As a result they were foraging in the area and damaging local crops & fences. A shooting scrape ensued on the flat between the present towns of Indianola & Canadian. The Choctaw Nation was authorized by its laws to confiscate cattle under these circumstances and G.W. went out to implement that law. He was riding a Mexican type saddle, with a big horn, which probably saved his life for a soft lead slug hit the saddle horn, then hit G.W. on the right side of the navel, injuring, but not killing him.

Two or three of the King Ranch men were killed and the group went home without their cattle, taking the bodies of their dead with them, among them a young man reputed to be engaged to one of the King girls. One of the reasons Judge Krebs had encouraged Choate to run for sheriff was to try to put a stop to the cattle herds going through the Choctaw Nation because they resulted in so much damage.

While he was County Judge, he received word that Anhauser Busch had a carload of beer that was to come to the Choctaw Nation at Krebs. The Choctaw Nation was, by its constitution adopted in 1834, dry, and it remained so until statehood in 1907. Choate ordered the then Sheriff Joe Nale to confiscate the beer, but he did not exercise that authority, so G. W. deputized a Choctaw lawyer, Napoleon Bonaparte Ainsworth, known as “Dime” to empty the beer, which he did.

When statehood came, George Washington Choate was in line for the next Governorship of the Choctaw Nation. He was a popular and well-liked man. His home was open to anyone who needed help and he took in several homeless children, some related to him and some not and helped rear and educate them. In 1894, he owned 400 acres of land in cultivation alone, 250 head of stock cattle and 100 horses. His place contained good-sized orchards.

His surviving son, William Frederick Choate was born 12 February 1870 at Choate Prairie. He married on 22 September 1891, to Mary Elizabeth Piepgras, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa and had come to the Choctaw Nation from Albany, N.Y. to teach in the Baptist Choctaw School, which was in the northwest part of McAlester. Only two of their children survive: Ben Sr., whose son Ben Jr. is an attorney in Muskogee; his son Ben III is a doctor on the medical staff of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. William Frederick & Mary Elizabeth's daughter Mary Elizabeth Poorman, lives in New Mexico. She was a teacher and was in the first enlistees in the WACs, and retired as a Major.

G. W. & Eliza's only surviving daughter Alice Jane, born at Choate Prairie on 11 June 1873. She married G. Wallace York. She died 11 March 1902, and is buried at Choate Prairie as is her husband who was born in 1868, and died in 1947. The full genealogical record on descendants of George Washington Choate is being compiled by Mrs. Ben Choate Jr.

George Washington Choate died in a McAlester, OK hospital as a result of pneumonia, which he developed in the hospital where he was being treated a broken leg received when one of his horses kicked him. He is buried in the cemetery which bears his name, a few miles from Indianola, OK in what is now Pittsburg County.
Footnote (1) -- This is a direct quote from "Leaders and Leading Men of the Indian Territory", in an 1894 article on G. W. Choate. It is difficult, from the construction of the sentence to tell if it was James C. Choate or George Washington Choate, his son, whose mother was of the Ward family.

Footnote (2) -- Polygamy was legal among the Choctaw Tribes. It was an imminently practical practice since the wives were usually related, and often widows of brothers. It prevented many of the otherwise single or widowed women from having no one to care for them in a time when women remained in the home.

Footnote (3) -- This church is still in use and is the oldest continuous Church in Tobucksy County, now Pittsburg Co., Oklahoma.

SOURCES


Interviews with Ben Choate, Sr., McAlester, OK, grandson of George Washington Choate.

Interviews with Ben Choate, Jr., Muskogee, OK, family genealogist.

Interviews with Almeda Reid, Madill, OK, granddaughter of Caroline Martin Boren Arbuckle.

Interviews with Jeff Sandlin, McAlester, OK, granddaughter of Caroline Martin Boren Arbuckle.


1855 Tobukey Co., Choctaw Nation Indian Territory Census:

41. SHOAT (CHOATE) CHAMIS (JAMES)
    ALIN (ALLEN)
    WASH (GEORGE WASHINGTON)
    WILLIAM
    CHON (JOHN)
    LILLIAN (1) (LYDIA) md. a PEARSON

Note: Eliza Wade Choate was somehow related to the Cheadle family.

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NOTE by ICW -- I had to retype this article in order to get it into this Newsletter and I did proof read, but sure hope that I have not goofed. It was sent to me by Jackye Choate and was very well typed on six pages and double spaced so if any one would like a copy of that I could copy it or am sure Jackye would do so.

Will add this about JAMES C. CHOATE: Jackye states" I know that MOSES, ISAAC & DAVID CHOATE went to Mississippi, so I figure that one of them is the father of JAMES C. He is supposed to have been born in Alabama, probably near the line of MS or TN. with his father going back and forth between these states. My theory that DAVID is his father is pure guess-work, based on ages, census records, and the fact that JAMES C. named his first son DAVID."

I am inclined to agree with Jackye that DAVID is probably the father of JAMES C. In fact the DAVID CHOATE (b. 1775-1776) that married JUDITH could be the father because the first son that we have record of for him is JESSE who was born 1810 or 1822 depending on which census record we can trust. At any rate in 1810 DAVID would have been 35 years old so could certainly have had children before JESSE.

WE WELCOME ANY IDEAS OR NEW INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT...
SEARCH FOR THE BIRTHDATE, BIRTHPLACE, AND PARENTAGE OF CHRISTOPHER CHOATE (CHOTTE, CHOTT, CHOTE, CHOATES, SHOAT) IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHOATE FAMILY IN AMERICA

KNOW FACTS: 15 Apr 1676, CHRISTOPHER CHOTTE, along with 29 other passengers, was transported to Baltimore, MD. on the ship "Cecelius" with Capt. John Body as its Commander. 16 Aug 1676 CHRISTOPHER and 15 other passengers, plus 800 acres of land, were assigned to John Welsh of Ann Arundel Co., MD for paying their transportation. Patent MD. Hall of Records Liber 15, folio 504

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE: Irene and I felt it reasonable to suppose that CHRISTOPHER came to America as an indentured servant, serving for a 7 year term, for 9 Aug 1681 11 acres were assigned to CHRISTOPHER CHOATES. The land, located in Ann Aundel Co., was on the south side of Magothy River, at Little Piny Neck Point, in the Manor of Anne Arundel and called "Choate's His Fancy." Liber W G N 5. folio 191 MD. Patents & Warrants. Then 12 Nov 1681 CHR. CHOTT also received 174 lbs of tobacco from the General Assembly of Md., who disbursed in all 223,443 lbs "paid to those persons to whom the same is due."

KNOWN FACTS: 19 Nov 1692 there was an appraisement of goods belonging to CHRISTOPHER CHOTE, lately deceased. They included corn, pigs, household goods, tools, clothing, and 600 lbs of tobacco. Inventories & Accts Md. Hall of Records Liber 103, folio 27. 28 Apr 1693 a Return was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Anne Arundel Co. of Administrations granted by him from 9 Nov 1692 to 13 Mar 1693. It lists CHRISTOPHER CHOATE'S Inventory with Richard Gist (or Gott) bonded as Adm. of CHRISTOPHER CHOATE'S Estate. Test. Proceedings Liber l5A, folio 22.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE: We do not have birth records for EDWARD CHOATE and CHRISTOPHER CHOATE JR., whom we believe to be sons of CHRISTOPHER CHOATE SR. and his wife (name unknown), but we feel that one of them is referred to in the 1706 June Court listing "a true account of all ye orphans with ye names of their guardians in West River Hundred" and names "one of CHR. CHOAK's with Edward Parrish Guardian." Anne Arundel Co. Judgments T B #1 1704-1708. We believe this could have been the settling of the guardianship of the boys who carne of age in 1706. CHRISTOPHER & EDWARD made their first appearance on the Baltimore, MO. Tax Lists in 1706 and had to be at least 16 years of age to be listed. From these two sons of CHRISTOPHER CHOATE SR., We believe descend the Southern Branch of the Choate family in America. We have found much evidence to substantiate this and nothing, thus far, to contradict this theory. However, we now feel that our conclusions about the age of CHRISTOPHER CHOATE SR. are in error.

CHANGE OF MIND: We had surmised that CHRISTOPHER SR. came to America as a young indented servant no more than 16 years of age. Therefore, his birth in England (Essex Co.) would be about 1660. In the search for him, however, we have uncovered information which leads us to the conclusion he was born in 1642 and was 34 years of age when he emigrated.

SEARCHING IN ESSEX CO., ENGLAND: The reason we searched for CHRISTOPHER SR. 'S birth in Essex Co. is that the bulk of the Choates to be found in the International Genealogical Index are in Essex Co. The only CHRISTOPHER CHOATE we had record of was in Birdbrook, Essex Co. in 1533. I began the research in Essex Co. with the help of Maureen (Choat) Miller, who lives in Chelmsford, Essex Co., and is the Registrar of the Essex Co.
Family History Society. She was recommended to me by Harry Choate of Roselands, Australia, a cousin of hers. She is not a professional genealogist, but was more than willing to undertake the searches for $5 an hour U. S. currency, an extremely low fee even for an amateur.

KNOWN FACTS: In 1533 a widow, ISABEL CHOATE, and her sons: JOHN, WILLIAM, CHRISTOPHER, and ROBERT; her daughter, MARGARET, and her maid, KATHERINE, were arrested for being Wycliffites. Also THOMAS CHOATE and his wife and 32 others. All of them were from Birdbrook Parish.

MAUREEN'S RESEARCH: She started by checking an Index of Surnames from the Essex Co. Court Records, dating from the late 1500's. Among the 63 CHOATE entries was a CHRISTOPHER CHOATE, who was a witness for a court case in the parish of Halstead in 1611. He would be too old for our CHRISTOPHER, or even his father. Halstead is a parish about 10 miles from Birdbrook, which Maureen felt was the ancestral home of the CHOATE FAMILY in Essex Co. (see Parish Map) Maureen searched all the references in the Index for CHOATES and the parishes named were: Ketton, Halstead, Finchingfield, Weathersfield, Stamborne, Ketton, Hamlet, Great Barfield, Sturmer, Castle Hedingham, Toppsfield, Birdbrook, Great Dunrnow, Thaxted, Stebbing, Little Sampford, White Notley, Colchester, Steeple Burnpstead, Ridgewell, and Sible Hedingham.

Then she copied the Choate names from the Index of Essex Co. Wills and searched all 22 of them, sending me copies. She also copied the 2 or 3 wills in which CHOATES were mentioned. The parishes included: Birdbrook, Stamborne, Finchingfield, Stebbing, Little Burnpstead, Wethersfield, Little Bardfield, and Steeple Burnpstead. From Boyd's Marriage Index 1538-1600, she found CHOATFS married in White Notley, Ridgewell, Thaxted, Mucking, Toppsfield, and from 1601-1675 in Castle Hedingham, Rayne, Little Sampford, Good Easter, Panfield, and Shalford.

She made a circle search of the parishes surrounding Birdbrook. Several CHOATES were found, but no CHRISTOPHER. However, a pattern of relationships and movement began to emerge. The first CHOATES in Birdbrook were JOHN CHOATE and THOMAS CHOATE, listed on the Lay Subsidy Rolls in 1524. Since the early parish records for Birdbrook are missing, it is not possible to trace the descent of JOHN and THOMAS. But the arrest record of ISABEL CHOATE and family, along with THOMAS CHOATE and wife; the will of a widow, ELIZABETH CHOATE in 1568, naming her children: RICHARD, ANN, THOMAS, JOSEPH, EOBOARD, and ROBERT; land and court records all indicate a strong possibility of ISABEL being the wife of JOHN CHOATE and ELIZABETH being the wife of THOMAS CHOATE. By 1702 the CHOATES were living in parishes surrounding Birdbrook--specifically, Halstead, Stamborne, Finchingfield, Castle Hedingham, Stebbing, Thaxted, and Terling. parishes in which she found no CHOATES were: Helions Burnpstead, Ridgewell, Ashen, Ovington, Tilbury, Toppsfield, Little Maplestead, Great Maplestead, Sible Hedingham, Bosfield, Bocking, Stisted, Pattiswick, St Coggeshall, Marks Hall, Earle Colne, Colne Engaine, Pebmarsh, and Halstead.

SEARCHES EXTENDED TO SUFFOLK CO., ENGLAND: Having searched all the parishes that Maureen and I thought likely to turn up our CHRISTOPHER, we decided a look at the border parishes of Suffolk Co. that were adjacent to Birdbrook. She recommended her friend, Peter Nutt, a professional genealogist who works in Suffolk as well as Essex.

I wrote to Peter Nutt and found that he charges $10 an hour U. S. currency. I sent him $70 to search the 7 Suffolk Co. border parishes near Birdbrook. I also sent him copies of all info sent me by Maureen and asked him if he thought we had covered all the parishes we should in Essex Co.

THE LETTER: Peter Nutt’s letter dated 30 July 1988 listed the following Suffolk parishes he had searched, without success, for CHRISTOPHER CHOATE'S baptism: Cavendish, Glemsford, Alpheton, Acton, Chilion, Sudbury All Saints, and Sudbury St. Gregory
Then he wrote "Being a full-time professional genealogist, I look through quite a lot of records and uncommon
names seem to stick in ones memory. Now whilst working on another case here in Essex, and using the parish
registers of Rivenhall, I came upon this burial entry, viz:

1667 Nov 10 buryed the wife of CHRISTOPHER CHOATE

On my next visit, I made a thorough check of this parish as follows:

RIVENHALL Essex original registers ERO D/PI07/1/1
Baptisms 1639-1675
1639 Apr 29 EDWARD sonne of CHRISTOPHER CHOTE and of JANE his wife baptized on the 29 day of
April

1642 Sep 4 CHRISTOPHER the sonne of CHRISTOPHER CHOTE cooke was baptized on the 4 day of
September

1644 Nov 3 JOHN CHOTE ye son of CHRISTOPHER CHOTE was baptized

Burials 1639-1675
1667 Nov 10 Buryed the wife of CHRISTOPHER CHOTE

Unfortunately the registers of this parish have not survived before 1634."

Peter Nutt also searched the parishes adjoining Rivenhall: Kelvedon, Great Braxted, and found no CHOATES in
any of them. There were no surviving registers for four other parishes which border Rivenhall: Bradwell,
Cressing, Little Braxted, and Witham.

He will continue the search for CHRISTOPHER’S antecedents, and we will keep the family posted about the
results of these searches. But another quote from his letter is important in helping confirm that we have the right
CHRISTOPHER CHOATE. "If this CHRISTOPHER is the one in question, he would have been 34 when he
arrived in Baltimore in 1676. These indentured servants were not necessarily young persons and were in a
different category from the normal "apprentice" who were usually aged between 13-21. So I presume your
choice of the year 1660 for his birth is purely a theory. One other thing in this CHRISTOPHER’S favor is that
he had an elder brother named EDWARD baptized in 1639, and your information states that CHRISTOPHER
named a son EDWARD. One other thing is that CHRISTOPHER’S father was described as a "cooke" which
points to a servile occupation. Perhaps CHRISTOPHER JR. took up a trade, hence was an "indentured servant."

CONCLUSION: I am convinced that the CHRISTOPHER CHOATE JR. born 4 Sep 1642 in Rivenhall, Essex,
England is the CHRISTOPHER CHOTTE transported to Baltimore, MD in 1676.

Nadine Choate Perkes
(Mrs. W. E. Perkes)
P.O. Box 1066
Fillmore, Utah 84631

Note: In Newsletter #19 Irene Choate Williams has a
"revised opinion", "nagging questions", if the Christopher
born 1642 in Rivenhall is the same one that arrives in
Maryland in 1676.