



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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<http://www.afaoa.org/>

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Alice A. Martin
PRESIDENT
105 San Souci Ave.
Ocean Springs, MS
39564

Anna K. Austin
VICE PRESIDENT
1511 Golden Gate
Pocatello, ID 83201

Carol R. Austin
VICE PRESIDENT
9726 Mirage Circle
Garden Grove, CA
92844-3023

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
VICE PRESIDENT
1175 River Road
Suffield, CT 06078-1416

Lois W. Cody
SECY-TREASURER
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Bonnie Bigolin
NORTHERN STATES
GENEALOGIST
PO Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935

Liz Austin Carlin
SOUTHERN STATES
GENEALOGIST
jcarlin@pacificnet.net

Jim & Liz Carlin
NEWSLETTER
EDITORS
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304

Jim Carlin
DATABASE CHAIRMAN

2001 National Austin Convention

This past year, your editor received an e-mail from a fellow Austin researcher complimenting the *Newsletter* staff on producing a excellent newsletter that was "thankfully free of any mention of the National Austin Convention - either promoting it before-hand, or reporting on the results afterwards." However, one of the purposes of the *Newsletter* is to promote communication between all members of the AFAOA, and one of the best ways of doing this is to support the attendance of as many people as possible to each and every convention.

By far, the most important advantage of convention attendance is meeting and working with other people doing Austin research. True, Internet e-mail and chat groups can provide many with the means of doing this without expending money and effort to visit the convention site, but nothing beats the personal touch of looking into someone's notebook and discovering that right there is the information that you have been looking for. Many lasting friendships have been established as a direct result of these personal meetings.

Speakers at the convention also give attendees added information about local research facilities, research techniques, and the status of current projects. Convention workshops enable researchers one-on-one access to people experienced in research, computer applications, publishing, etc., providing them with help and suggestions to improve their own research. The other advantage of convention attendance is the opportunity to participate in the operation of the AFAOA, to vote on matters that concern the organization, its mission, and its future.

Because the convention is jointly sponsored by the AFAOA and the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS), full exposure to both groups is obtained.

So with the greatest respect for the views of our e-mail correspondent, this *Newsletter* issue will again be devoted to promoting the 2001 National Convention because NOW is the time to begin making your plans to attend. The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on July 27, 28, and 29,

2001. For more details on the convention and for the Berkshire area, please checkout the information on page 8 or visit our web site at www.afaoa.org/

To register for the convention, a registration form is provided as the last page of this issue. Please tear it off now and mail it with your check to the address provided.

The convention is open to anyone with an interest in the Austin (Austen...other variations in spelling) surname, or who is related to an Austin, or is descended from an Austin. Each year, Austins from all over the USA and Canada (even Tasmania last year) make a permanent entry on their calendars to attend. We also purposely choose convention sites in various cities which have excellent genealogical research facilities which enables attendees to do research before and after the convention weekend. Meeting in various regions also is done to encourage attendance and support from local Austin researchers.

We are all looking forward to meeting you in Pittsfield, Friday afternoon, 27 Jul 2001.

Nearby Sheffield, the Home of Austin Pioneers

Sheffield, Massachusetts has many historic buildings. The Old Parish Church was build in 1760. This meeting house was the scene of the ratification of the 1773 Sheffield Declaration. Others 1700s structures include the Dan Raymond House, the Silas Deane House, the Theodore Sedgwick House and Christ Church Rectory.

The Sheffield Historical Society, located in the Raymond House, has on file the Proprietors records and the town records from the first meeting in January 1733, as well as the originals of early tax records which have never been published. These tax records start in the mid 1700s and show poll, personal property and real estate property taxes. AFAOA member Pauline Schumann, a volunteer at the Society's Research Center, has offered to arrange a visit by convention attendees to view these records. If you would like to be included in a side trip to Sheffield, just before or after the convention, please contact Alice Martin.



New Members Welcomed

Robert Ulin

1920 Alta Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90402
rulin@paysonulin.com
A. W. Austin, b. 13 Nov 1842; d. 22 Aug 1917 Cushing, OK

Kathleen Tripp

1119 N. Lake St.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
kathleentripp@hotmail.com
Thomas Austin, b. 1730; d. 1805; of Currituck, NC

Barbara Carlson

721 Green St. SE
P.O. Box 364
Watertown, MN 55388
carlbar@worldnet.att.net
William Austin, b. 1768; d. 1824 MA

Laura A. Gifford

1848 Linden #1
Grand Junction, CO 81503
nanalollie@cs.com
Birch Austin, b. 1888 KY; d. 1950 CA

Vi Austin Hanson

4525 Owendale Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76116
vihanson@earthlink.net

Linda Wiesner

3416 Hearthwood Circle
Waco, TX 76708
golfwiesner@aol.com
John Austin, b. 20 Feb 1758; d. 20 Apr 1841, Swanton, VT
Esther Austin, b. 4 Sep 1786, Swanton VT; b. 29 Jan 1851

1930 CENSUS

This year the 1930 federal census will be released. Only the southern states will be indexed. As part of the WPA project, workers started indexing the southern states, but WWII broke out before they finished the project. The states that were indexed are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and seven counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Burnt Military Records

County courthouses for military records? Although most WWII records were destroyed in a 1973 fire at the St. Louis National Personnel Records Center, discharge papers were often filed in county courthouses. They can contain lots of information including units in which a person served, physical information, when and where inducted and discharged, and even a picture.

Douglas Shipley Becomes American Genealogy Society 2000 Scholar

It started with the following query sent to this Newsletter in May of 1999:

"My great grandmother Pearl told the story of her great grandmother Fanny Austin, born about 1817 in or around Fluvanna County, VA, who had noticed an Indian slave as he ran in a footrace, and asked her father to buy him for her. He was Frank Peebley and in the 1860 census, they are living in Fishing River Township, Clay County, MO with some of their 13 children."

In his research, Douglas Shipley found a Thomas Austin who had bought land in 1831 in Fishing River, Clay County, MO. Thomas had no family, but he had a number of mulatto slaves. Thomas died in 1853, and his will names a Fanny and her oldest children, Peter, Marie, Jack, Riley and Frank. Thomas' will also directed that his slaves were to be freed and that his estate's proceeds were to be divided equally among the freed adults. Fanny received \$800 as part of her inheritance. Adjoining Thomas' property was a Thomas Peebly who died in 1858. His slave Frank Peebly was sold at auction to Fanny Austin.

Douglas attended the 1999 National Austin Convention in Washington, DC, and was welcomed as a new member. He

discussed his research strategy: that of finding a link between a Thomas he found in Albemarle County, VA records with the Thomas of Fishing River.

After returning from the convention, Doug continued his research, eventually preparing a paper, "Frank and Fanny Austin: Oral and Documentary Research of a Formerly Enslaved Family." Upon submitting the paper for publication in the National Genealogy Society Quarterly,



Douglas Shipley talking with Carol R. Austin at the 1999 National Austin Convention

he was asked by the Society if he was interested in their annual writing contest, as well as the American Genealogy Society's contest. Doug agreed and submitted his manuscript to both organizations.

A couple of weeks ago, Doug was informed that he had been named "AGS 2000 Scholar," and was awarded a \$500 stipend to study genealogy at their course in Birmingham, AL. Doug writes that he hasn't heard from the NGS as yet.

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG!

Gathering Genealogical Data

(From Ancestry.com Daily News, 9 August 2000, courtesy of AFAOA member Kathi Kobel)

Editor's Note: The first part of this article appeared in the Winter 2001 issue of the *Newsletter*. It is concluded in this issue.

In the first portion of this article, 6 basic methods of collecting information from your family members or others who may have information useful to your project were defined. Items 1 and 2 were covered in the previous article.

1. Formal personal interview
2. Informal personal interview
3. Telephone interview
4. Letter writing
5. Querying
6. Electronic correspondence

3. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Of course, it is not always possible to visit someone in person for the purpose of gathering genealogical information. Therefore, it is recommended that you use the telephone as a means of conducting the interview. In this case, it is extremely important that you be well prepared. First and foremost, it is a good idea to introduce yourself in advance to the person you will be interviewing and let them know what you want to do.

Advance work is vital. If the person is the least bit uncomfortable, they may hang up on you or decline an interview and a very good source of information will be lost. In every other respect, the telephone interview is identical to the personal interview. Remember to record the telephone interview as the source of information in your research log and to verify any information you gather against corroborating evidence such as vital records.

A beginning genealogist sometimes overlooks another aspect of telephoning. If the family name you are researching is unique, it can prove beneficial to call people with the same name listed in the phone book that live in the area you are researching. On numerous occasions we have heard from students who have had considerable luck doing this. While there is the chance the person will tell you they are not interested in getting involved, they may also know information about the family you are researching, or may know of someone in their family who is doing research and provide you with contact information. An excellent source of addresses and phone numbers of people who share the name you are researching can be found on-line at Web sites such as <http://www.whoWhere.com>.

4. LETTER WRITING

For years, writing letters has been the main source for genealogists trying to gather information, whether from family members or a county courthouse. While people may not write as many letters as they used to, letter writing is still an integral part of the data gathering process. The person receiving the request has time to consider your questions and to respond. Of course, there is no guarantee they will respond, but if you follow the guidelines listed below you will increase the likelihood of getting a response.

- a. Above all, be courteous. Any letter that could be con-
- Please see "Data Gathering, page 4



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Austin Families Association of America is preparing for another "reunion". I am especially excited about this one because I will be returning to my Austin roots.

Pittsfield is the county seat of Berkshire County in western Massachusetts. Sheffield, about 30 miles south, is the oldest town in Berkshire County. Sheffield was part of a tract of land purchased from the native Mahican Indians in 1724, although it was not settled and incorporated until 1733. It was reached by two Indian trails from Connecticut, one on each side of the Housatonic River, and a trail across the mountain from Springfield, MA to the east.

Among the original Proprietors were Nathaniel Austin and Anthony Austin of Suffield, MA (which became Suffield, CT due to a boundary change in 1749). They were cousins whose grandfather, Anthony Austin, had been a founder of Suffield. Nathaniel had just married Agnes Adams. Anthony and his wife, Elizabeth (King), already had three young children. They each were allotted 400 acres of land in the Third Division of the Lower Housatonic Township, an area that came to be known as Sheffield Plain.

At the first town meeting, Jan. 16, 1733, Nathaniel was elected a fence viewer and Anthony, a tithingman. At the second meeting, Nathaniel and Anthony were on a committee to plan for the building of a meeting house. In 1738 the Proprietors chose Nathaniel to represent them before the General Court in Boston to get a confirmation of their land. Nathaniel and Agnes had nine children, whose names are in the Sheffield vital records. Anthony and Elizabeth had three more children born in Sheffield.

In 1773 Captain Nathaniel Austin served on an eleven-member committee which was "appointed to take into consideration the grievances which Americans in general and the inhabitants of this province in particular labor under". The resolutions drawn up by this committee were unanimously passed in the town meeting, printed and widely read throughout the colonies.

In 1774 Nathaniel was one of seven delegates sent by the town to a Congress of Berkshire towns, at which it was resolved not to purchase or consume goods arriving in America from Great Britain. He was a member of the committee that made the report to the town meeting on June 18, 1776, upon the adoption of which the inhabitants resolved to take up arms. He is listed in the DAR Patriot Index as having provided Civil Service and Patriotic Service. All six of his sons served in the Berkshire Regiment.

Some who are now active in AFAOA are descendants of

Please see "President's Message," page 6

Data Gathering

Continued from page 3

sidered curt, rude, or demanding is certain to be thrown into the trash. Also, if possible, type your letter. If you do write in pen, print the letter. A handwritten request in pencil is unlikely to be read.

b. Be inclusive. Take the time to identify yourself and to explain your project and the reasons for requesting information. This will make the recipient feel connected to you and your project.

c. Be specific. Make your questions to the point and do not ask for too much information at one time.

d. Be thoughtful. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. This will increase the chance of getting a response.

e. Be thorough. Keep a letter-writing log in which you note the recipient's name, the date the letter was sent, and the date a response was received.

f. Be prompt. When you receive a reply, answer immediately with a thank you note or follow-up letter.

When writing to a local, county (parish), state, or national office to request some type of vital record (birth, marriage, divorce, death, etc.), the following guidelines will make the task easier and more productive:

1. Determine the correct address of the office and department you wish to contact. Numerous books available through your public library will provide addresses for virtually every records office in the United States and abroad. You can also go on-line to locate information on addresses, costs, and even the electronic availability of records for numerous jurisdictions throughout the United States and the world. Find the exact address before sending your request to avoid having your letter buried in a dead letter file somewhere.

2. Determine the correct fee the office charges for the service you are requesting. The same sources used to provide the address should provide the cost for various records. Always enclose a check or money order for the exact amount; never send cash with your request.

3. Finally, provide specific information for each person you are seeking records about. This information should include:

- a. the specific record you seek
- b. full name of the person whose record is being requested
- c. sex and race
- d. parents' names in full with mother's maiden name
- e. day, month, and year of known events the person's life
- f. full place name where known events occurred (town, county, state)
- g. reason you are requesting the record
- h. your relationship to the person whose record is being requested.

Letter writing will always be an important aspect of gathering genealogical information. Probably the best advice is to put yourself in the position of the individual receiving the request. What information would you need in a letter to process a request? What encouragement would you require to want to go and gather all of your information and bother to reply?

5. QUERYING

Another traditional method of gathering genealogical information is called querying. There are two possible approaches to this method. First, write down what is known about the individual and what you wish to learn. Be brief and as specific as possible. Mail your request(s) to a magazine or newspaper that publishes such queries. If you wonder which publications include queries, ask for the genealogy collection at your local library and browse through some of the publications your library receives and send your queries to one of them. In some cases, a person who has information will contact you directly. In other cases, the magazine or newspaper will publish responses in future issues. Either way, a well-worded query can produce exciting results and often put you in touch with someone who is researching a similar line.

In this day of high speed Internet connections and the explosion of on-line information, posting a query on the Web has become a leading method of locating specific information or leading you to someone who might have useful information. This method can take various forms but the two most useful are:

1. Posting your query on a bulletin board. Several companies and genealogical societies maintain bulletin boards for this purpose. Visit the site periodically to see if there have been any responses. The new FamilyHistory.com Web site is specifically targeted for such queries in a message board format. It is a free service dedicated to sharing family history data.

2. Maintaining your own Web site. Many people have constructed their own family Web site where other family members or visitors can leave information relevant to a research project.

6. ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

As discussed previously, the use of computers has greatly aided the task of the family historian. It is safe to say that the computer, with its organizing software, research CD-ROMs, and ability to connect easily and quickly to the World Wide Web has become the single best tool for today's genealogist. But it is important to remember that the Web is not a substitute for good solid research; it is simply an aid. But if used properly, it can open the door to unimagined information. All the admonitions listed for previous means of gathering data apply.

The task of gathering family information is not an easy one. But using all the resources available greatly increases the chances of building a solid genealogy

Important Notice to all AFAOA Members who are On-line

Please e-mail AFAOA Secretary-Treasurer Lois Cody at

your up-to-date e-mail address
Thank you

Delayed Birth Certificates and Social Security

Did you know that there is such a thing as a "delayed birth certificate?" So asked Patti Marsicano writing in the Walworth County (WI) Genealogical Society Newsletter. Seems that she was researching her grandmother's genealogy, and had her Social Security application, and her marriage certificate, but no record of her birth. To confound matters, the birth year given on the two records in-hand were different. Patti's approach to solving the problem was to first learn how Social Security operates.

What she discovered was that the Social Security program was instituted in 1937 when payroll tax (FICA) withholding began. Enrollment began in 1936 when the first Social Security Numbers (SSNs) were assigned to identify workers contributing to the plan. Thus, the SSN was never envisioned as a personal identification number as it is today. It was just an account number used for bookkeeping purposes, and no positive proof of the person's identity was required. (In light of the importance that the SSN has become, the Social Security Administration changed policies in 1972 and now requires positive proof of identity when a person applies for a Social Security account).

Payment of benefits did not begin until 1940, and it was only then that a person requesting benefits, had to document their birth. Since many states and municipalities did not require or issue birth certificates, people without these proofs of birth relied heavily upon the 1880 and 1900 federal census enumerations. Another approach was to file evidence as part of an application for a delayed birth certificate, where the person had to petition a county court stating his/her name, address, birth date, birthplace, father's name, race, as well as evidence to support these facts. Such evidence commonly accepted was a baptismal certificate, school records, Bible records, affidavit from the attending doctor or nurse, etc.

The delayed birth certificate lists vital information abstracted from these petitions. Most states have delayed birth certificates, some of which have been indexed. Some of these have been filed for people born as early as 1840. These records are usually filed in the county where the individual applied, which may not be the county of birth.

Obviously this information could prove to be a goldmine for the genealogist. Once a person files for claims, the claim file is held active during the lifetime of the applicant, and then destroyed five years after the person's death. The SSA will search their records for existing claim files by sending a request to: Social Security Administration, 4-C-5 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. The cost for the search is \$14 and photocopying is 10 cents per page, plus actual postage. The search fee will be charged whether there is information or not.

For further information, please checkout these web sites:

<http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/tip3.html>

<http://members.aol.com/rechtman/ssafaq.html#11>

<http://geocities.com/Heartland/6721/socec.htm>

and an article by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, C.G.; "Utilizing the Social Security Death Index."

Convention or Reunion? Actually it is both! And a gold mine to boot!

When was the last time that you attended an Austin Family Reunion? For me it had been quite a few years. In fact, it was the one held at Ft. Wayne, IN in order to access the great records of their County Library System, second only to the LDS Library in Salt Lake City for genealogical resources.

My research for Austin ancestors had come to a near stop because of other challenges in my life and because I had not made any significant discoveries since a great trip down Route 100 in the center of Vermont when I found numerous family burial plots and even a real live family that was descended from a brother of my great great grandfather, Samuel Taylor Austin.

So in a state of discouragement, I pondered long whether or not I should bother going to the Austin reunion in Madison, Wisconsin in 2000. The fact that it would also give me a chance to visit both my son and family on the East side of the state and a rather recently discovered cousin on the West side of the state, made me say, "Why not!"

In the earlier Austin gathering I had looked over the Richard Austin papers hoping to find some family connections, I thought I sensed a possible connection, but nothing concrete turned up. So I really had no great expectations that 2000 in Madison would be any different.

How wrong can one be! At this convention there were books available from several of the early New England Austin family lines. So one by one, during breaks in the formal program, I started to look them over. EUREKA! I hit gold! There, on page 168 of the Descendants of Samuel and Hopestill Austin of Boston, 1669, was my great, great grandfather, Samuel Taylor Austin and my great grandfather, his son, Edwin Eaton Austin.

Edwin Eaton, who had spent 12 years moving his family from Rochester, VT, to Wisconsin, to Kansas, to Wyoming and finally to the Boise valley of Idaho where his son Harry would marry and produce my father Harold, finally had a significant past! In a single moment of discovery I added 6 totally unknown-to-me generations all the way back to 1669!

Talk about rejuvenating my interest in my family and in genealogy! This surely did it! So, with the 2001 convention on the horizon, hesitate not! Sign up now. You may be just as fortunate as I was in adding to the generations of your known family.

And a brief note about my experience with the nearby National Archives Center that you will have a chance to visit when you attend the Berkshires Convention. This is the newest such center in the US, and, because of it's rather remote location, does not get the intense use of others. So their microfilms are in excellent condition. Also at this library I found the ship manifest listing all my ancestors from another family who arrived from Germany years after the Austins. This library is a Gold Mine! You may want to schedule an extra day or two to mine for your own gold!

Edwin A. Austin
P.O. Box 92224
Rochester, NY 14692

SETTLERS MOVE WEST: AN AUSTIN FAMILY HISTORY

By George Charles Austin, son of Frank P. Austin,
and great grandson of Harmon and Elvira (Parks) Austin
(with some editing by Patricia Austin Horrigan)

Editor's Note: This is the line of John Austin of Stamford, Connecticut

In the year 1871 James Smith of New York, a nephew of Harmon D. Austin, decided to go to Kansas and take up a homestead. He went to Russell, Kansas (60 miles south of Bull City) by rail, and made the trip to Bull City with a freight hauler. He picked out land on the Little Medicine Creek, southwest of Bull City, and then wrote to his Uncle in glowing terms of the great country, and he urged his uncle and two cousins to come so that they could all get land together.

Harmon D. Austin had a good farm between Buffalo and Niagara Falls in New York. He lived there with his wife, Elvira and his three sons, Delos, Cassius, Lafayette and one daughter, Emma. His mother and father, John Austin and Lucy French Austin also lived on the farm.

Harmon was a fine carpenter and stone mason. His sons, Lafayette, Cassius, and Delos, were also carpenters. After receiving letters from his nephew, Harmon Austin gave much thought to the opportunity of getting 160 acres of land for himself, and for each of his sons. His wife was not overly enthusiastic about the move, but said she would go if they thought it was the right thing to do.

Harmon had all arrangements made by May 1872, and he, with Cassius and Delos, left for Kansas. They went by rail to Russell, Kansas. They came on to Bull City by wagon. A few days after their arrival in Bull City the Austins met James Smith. During that interval they met and talked with Lyman Earl and Gen. Hiram C. Bull. Gen. Bull heard about Harmon Austin's skill as a carpenter, stone mason, and contractor. They talked Harmon into building a hotel. At this time there were four buildings in Bull City, three log cabins and Gen. Bull's log store.

They began building at once. Harmon was a fine carpenter, and stone mason. The hotel was built of hand hewn, native yellow sandstone blocks; the interior woodwork was all finished in native black walnut. When completed the hotel had 15 rooms, a lobby, dining room, with a two-story frame building at one end to be used as a kitchen on the lower floor, and the Austin family sleeping quarters upstairs.

In November the hotel was finished, and Harmon sent word back to New York for his wife and daughter to come west. They arrived in Bull City on November 16, 1872. It was a big change for Mrs. Austin. The bleak prairies of Kansas were in direct contrast to their beautiful farm in New York. The only thing that seemed plentiful to her was the endless prairie, cotton wood trees, sunflowers, and grasshoppers. They shipped their furniture from New York, and when it arrived the new hotel was opened for business.

Gen. Bull was sure Bull City would be the metropolis of the west. In 1873 Charles Guttery built a large one-room house with a basement, where the water tower later stood. He ran a blacksmith shop. His son, Harry, was to be a barber. He gave me, George Austin, my first haircut. (One of my curls is in Grandmother Barber's watchcase which was handed down to me by my mother, Lucretia Hibbs Austin).

The Post Office was established on May 31, 1871. Gen.

Bull was the first postmaster. A minimum quantity of mail had to come to a town before a post office could be established. Mrs. Bull sent many letters to her friends in the east and had them remail them to help build the mail volume up to the requirements. Bull City was becoming a boomtown. All the good land was homesteaded by 1879. Business was very good at the Austin Hotel, for there were many prairie schooners coming, and many men walked 60 miles from the nearest railroad.

In May 1874, just two years after coming to Bull City, my Great Grandfather Harmon Austin died of typhoid-pneumonia. Great Grandma, Elvira Austin, continued to run the hotel for a few years, and then decided it was too much for her and her daughter, Emma. She sold the hotel to Mr. J.B. Taylor and took up a homestead 1 1/2 miles from town, since all the good valley land had been taken. Undaunted she lived in a half basement house with walls four feet above ground on two sides.

Great Grandmother planted several hundred trees including several shade varieties, mulberry, and walnut. She planted 175 fruit trees; 100 peach, and the balance were cherry, plum, and apple. Wild plum, chokecherry, and wild grapes grew everywhere and were enjoyed by early settlers. Wild currants were available too.

Great Grandma Elvira and her daughter, Emma, found ready sale for her fruit. She gave fruit to those unable to buy. She trimmed and cared for her trees and in winter shoveled snow deep around the roots. They prospered and were soon able to build a sturdy two-story frame house. She organized a Sunday school for neighboring children and taught them the Bible.

She left the luxury of a rich farm in New York and faced the terrible hardships of pioneer life in Kansas. She never complained and always said that God was very good to her. She said 1874 was the hardest year when she lost her husband, and she couldn't have made it through the winter except for gifts of food and clothing from New York. There was a wonderful spirit and her New York neighbors never forgot her. When the freighters brought boxes from the east, they would gather and open the boxes and divide the contents. It was a joyful time. In addition to the loss of her husband, the grasshoppers had taken most of the local crops that year.

At 80 she was still tall and straight and looked to be about 60. There was a sparkle in her eyes and she was very active. At 84, she was standing on a chair trimming trees. She fell and broke her hip, and from that time on she was an invalid. Her main complaint was that she couldn't get out and do the work that needed to be done. She died three months after her accident in 1907. Kansas lost a noble pioneer.

President's Message

Continued from page 3.

Nathaniel and Agnes. Their son Levi, a founder of the nearby town of Richmond, is my ancestor. Liz Carlin (genealogist) descends from another son, Gad; Lois Cody (secretary/treasurer) from son John; Marilyn Ousterhout (former newsletter editor) from son Joab.

All of you have a very special invitation to join us in the beautiful Berkshires this summer. No matter what your Austin line, you will enjoy the companionship and assistance of other Austin researchers, as well as the culture, history and research opportunities of the area.

Alice Austin Martin, AFAOA President



AUSTIN QUERIES - Please send all new queries to the following address. In responding to any of the following queries, please write directly to the submitter, **also sending a copies to:**

Bonnie Bigolin (Northern Austins)
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935

Liz Austin Carlin (Southern Austins)
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304-3004

Q11-1,1 - Linda Wiesner, 13416 Heathwood Circle, Waco, TX 76708 golfwiesner@aol.com

Looking for source material to establish *Mayflower* lineage - any and all reference material greatly appreciated.

John AUSTIN, b. 20 Feb 1758, (place unknown); d. 20 Apr 1841 Swanton, VT; m. 16 Jan 1783 to Esther Harriet HERRICK, b. 20 Oct 17?? New London, CT; d. 27 Jul 1850 or 1851. Their daughter: Esther AUSTIN, b. 4 Sep 1786 Swanton, VT; d. 29 Jan 1851; m. 4 Dec 1806 John SMITH, b. 4 Feb 1782 Swanton, VT; d. Jun 1859, VT. Their daughter: Mary Augusta SMITH, b. ? West Derby, VT; d. 16 May 1897 VT; m. Charles PETTENGILL, b. 1820 Sheldon, VT; d. 1889 Albany, VT.

Q11-1, 2 - Mina Austin Marsh, 14 Flag Road, Little Rock, AR 72205 mina@dah.stat.ar

I am trying to find the ancestors of my great-great grandfather, LeRoy Austin, b. December 8, 1814, in Tennessee. He married Naoma Hodges February 15, 1836, in Lauderdale County, Alabama. They had ten children, Jesse, John W., Martha, Robert Joseph, Lucinda, Cynthia, M. E., William Allen, James, and Frances.

Robert Joseph (m. Sabra Ford in Alabama) was my great-grandfather, and I have lots of information about his descendants, particularly through his son James Henry Austin. My records are in Family Tree Maker format, but I have not yet submitted them to the AFAOA database. If I can link LeRoy to any of the southern immigrant families I will be pleased to provide the information I have to your database.

The deadline for the Newsletter Summer Issue is Saturday, 23 Jun 2001. Please send all articles to the Editors.

New AFAOA Web Site Debuts in July

The new version of the AFAOA web site is scheduled to appear on your screens in time for the 2001 National Austin Convention. The new address will be <http://www.afaofa.org>. We hope that this address will be easier for everyone to use, and also harder to forget. But don't use it yet - we'll tell you when.

Our main goals are to make the site easier to use and to facilitate communication among AFAOA members. We also hope to become more visible to visitors and to hopefully recruit some new members.

Among the new features we are including are:

- 1) An Internet Query Board
- 2) A bulletin board to provide up-to-date information on such items as the convention, database updates, etc.
- 3) Easier navigation to the Austin databases.

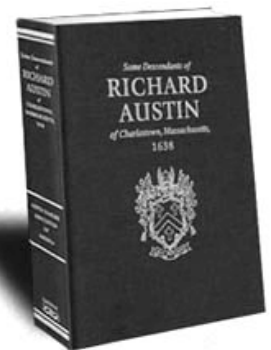
So please send me any queries that you would like to have posted. This will make your queries visible in cyberspace and should yield more replies.

We hope these changes will benefit everybody. Remember that this is YOUR site -- we want to make it as useful as possible. Once we become operational, I welcome your comments, criticisms, and suggestions.

Joy Davis

AFAOA Items for Sale

The AFAOA has published a hard cover book on Richard Austin of Charlestown, 1638, and offers it for sale to members at the price of \$55 + \$5 for shipping and handling (\$65 + \$5 for S & H for non-members). The book starts where Edith Austin Moore stopped in 1968 in her documentation of this descendancy, and updates, corrects and adds newer Austin generations. An 18 page supplement listing additions submitted to the authors after publication will be shipped with all book orders. The 18 page supplement is also available to owners of the book for free via e-mail attachment or in hard copy form (please remit \$2.50 for repro & postage).



Also being offered by the AFAOA is the Research CD-ROM (in PC versions only). It contains searchable

CD-ROM no longer offered
Please visit our web site and use
Text Search

letter editions. The cost for the disk is \$5 which includes the costs of production, and S & H. Please send your order letter and your check for either or both items to Lois Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215

Convention Details

2001 National Austin Convention

WHEN: 27-28-29 July 2001

WHERE: The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pittsfield, MA, in the heart of the Berkshires.

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY: The Austin Families Association of America (AFAOA) and the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS).

WHY: Have you ever wondered what others are doing to research their Austin heritage? Have you ever wanted to learn how personal computers can enhance your ability to organize your genealogy and family history? Would you like to learn more about the recently announced web-based Austin-Austen Research Center? Would you like to have your Austin family photographs scanned (it's free) so you can share them with your children and relatives? If the answer is YES to any of these questions, then you should plan on joining us Austin-Austen descendants as we come together again this summer.

AGENDA: Friday – Registration from 1 to 5 p.m., NARA Center tour from 2 to 4 p.m., "Let's Get Acquainted" Gathering from 5 to 6 p.m., and dinner with old and new-found friends wherever you choose.

Saturday – Speakers and Workshops 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday – Speakers and Workshops 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Reception 6 p.m.; Annual Banquet 7 p.m., includes a local Guest Speaker and presentation of the prestigious AOAGS Austin Genealogical Research Award (also called the "Eagle Award") for an AOAGS member who has made out-standing contributions to publishing Austin Genealogical Research.

HOTEL: The Crowne Plaza Hotel, One West Street, Pittsfield, MA. The Berkshires area is very popular with summer tourists and hotel prices on the weekends reflect that. Special rates are available to our Convention attendees. Friday July 27 and Saturday July 28 nights the rate is \$139 for double occupancy (normally \$209 is their best summer weekend rate), and they require you stay both nights. Children are free, any additional adults are \$15.

Since many attendees will want to come before (or stay after) the Convention for sightseeing and research, the special rate of \$109 per night applies from Sunday 22 July to Thursday 26 July, and from Sunday 29 July to Thursday 2 August.

The Crowne Plaza has "blocked" rooms for Convention attendees until 29 June 2001, but please firm up your plans now and reserve early by telephoning 413-499-2000. Mention the special "National Austin Convention" room rates. You may learn more about the hotel and its facilities on the web at <http://www.berkshirecrowne.com>.

DIRECTIONS: If you are driving, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), to the Lee exit (Exit 2), bear right after the toll booth onto Route 20 West. Follow Route 20 through Lee and Lenox towards Pittsfield. After 10.6 miles Route 20 merges with Route 7. Follow Route 7 north towards Pittsfield for another 1.3 miles, turn left onto West Street and you are

there!

If you are flying, Albany, New York is the closest airport, about an hours drive (48 miles) from Pittsfield. AOAGS will be providing a free shuttle service between the Albany airport and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. To arrange for this, please provide the Convention Registrar with your flight arrival-departure information when you pre-register for the Convention (see below), and be sure and let her know of any last-minute changes.

COSTS: The Convention registration fee (unrelated to hotel costs above) is \$50 per person, which includes all convention meetings and the Sunday Evening Banquet. For family members or friends who wish to attend just the banquet, the cost is \$30. *Please Note: You do not have to be a member of AOAGS or AFAOA to attend the Convention or the Banquet.*

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER SO WE WILL KNOW YOU ARE COMING

Please tear off the last page of the *Newsletter* and mail it with your registration fee to the Convention Registrar:

Cheryl Austin Akusis

66 Gifford Lane

Concord MA 01742-2235.

If you have any questions regarding Convention Registration or the Albany Airport shuttle service, please contact Cheryl directly. Her phone number is 978-369-5963, her e-mail is: cakusis@AOAGS.org.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: Plan to come before (or stay after) the Convention to take advantage of the area's many attractions. Brochures tout the area as providing "Culture in the Country" and "America's Premier Cultural Resort." It certainly has enough museums, historical sites, performing arts groups, and cultural centers to justify those accolades. To name a few: Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville (where *Moby-Dick* was written), the fifteen-acre Berkshire Botanical Garden, the Berkshire Museum (fine art, sculpture, history, natural science and an interactive aquarium), Chesterwood, the home of sculptor Daniel Chester French (view working models of his famous Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC), The Mount, home of Edith Wharton (author of *The Age of Innocence*, *The House of Mirth*, *Ethan Frome*).

There is also the Hancock Shaker Village (20 restored buildings, a working farm preserving 170 years of Shaker life, with hands-on activities for families), the Norman Rockwell Museum (a treasure of his original art and famous *Saturday Evening Post* covers), the Williams College Museum of Art, the Albany Berkshire Ballet, the Barrington Stage Company, the Berkshire Opera Company, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Shakespeare & Company, Tanglewood Music Festival (summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra), the Contemporary Artists Center, the Theater Barn, and the Williamsville Sculpture Garden. For a **FREE BROCHURE** on these attractions, with contact numbers for making reservations, just e-mail: BerkshiresBrochure@AOAGS.org

2001 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Crowne Plaza Hotel — Pittsfield, Massachusetts – July 27, 28, 29

Please write your names as you wish them to appear on your Convention nametags:

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Person 3 _____

Person 4 _____

Street address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Your Earliest Known Austin Ancestors (with places and dates):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I would like to be met at the airport in Albany, New York: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I will arrive on (date) _____ at (time) _____.

I am interested in the National Archives and Records Administration Center tour on Friday afternoon: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I understand that the Convention Registration Fee is \$50 per person, which includes the Convention programs, meetings and materials, use of research computers and the Sunday Banquet. Family members attending only the banquet pay just the Banquet Fee of \$30.

(# of people) _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

(# of people) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Enclosed is my check for the total \$ _____

**Please send your completed form and your check payable to the
“National Austin Convention” before July 20th to the Convention Registrar:**

**Cheryl Austin Akusis
66 Gifford Lane
Concord, MA 01742-2235**

* * * *

You can take advantage of special convention hotel room rates
so please ask for these when you make your
hotel reservations directly with the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**
by calling **1-413-499-2000**.

REMEMBER

The special rate rooms will be blocked until 29 Jun 2001.

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR MEMBERSHIP
DUES OF \$15 PER YEAR SHOULD BE SENT TO LOIS CODY, 336 PLEASANT HILL DR.,
CINCINNATI, OH 45215-2040

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215-2040
<http://www.afaoa.org/>

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2001 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

July 27-29 Pittsfield, MA



Jointly Sponsored by
The Austin Families Association of America
and
The Austins of America Genealogy Society