

Austin Families Association of America, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Harold A. Steiner
PRESIDENT
P.O. Box 12354
Las Vegas, NV 89112
(702) 458-1723

Bonnie Bigolin
GENEALOGIST
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935
(307) 875-6128

Lorena Austin
SEC'Y - TREAS
Rte. 1, Box 254E
Claude, TX 79019
(806) 335-2017

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THE ANSON/AUSTIN CONNECTION

****Excerpt from The Anson Newsletter, November, 1992****

Every person searching for family records has a dream of finding THE CONNECTION linking their research with past generations. The following is the "Dream Come True" of Shirley Anson, Highland, NY.: "In the Spring of 1992 I found a "Genealogy of John Austin of Greenwich Connecticut (extracted in part from the 1963 work of Edith Austin Moore). Among the Austin names were Silas and Levinus, sons of Jonathan Austin who resided in Greenwich, Connecticut during the 1700s. They also had a brother Job Austin. Since Levinus was not a common name - and having the 3 names, Silas, Levinus and Job, all together (the same as the Astins) and at the right time period (1720-1750), I copied this information and filed it for future reference. While preparing to go to Salt Lake City, Utah in August, I pulled this file to take with me. Thinking that once I proved there was no relationship between this Austin family and our Anson family I could get it off my mind, I started to search for these Connecticut Austins. I copied a microfilm containing pages and pages of abstracts from deeds and wills compiled by Kenneth L. Austin. There was an abstract of a deed dated 18th Sept., 1786, showing Job Austin of Washington Precinct Dutchess Co., NY selling his rights to the land

of his Uncle Job Austin, deceased, lately of Greenwich, Connecticut – only this time the notary wrote on the deed: "...personally appeared Job Austin (otherwise spelling his surname ANSON...). I couldn't believe my eyes! Here it was – the lead that we had all been searching for – right here in front of me!! It had all started to come together! Research in the original deeds and probates in Greenwich, Connecticut shows that Silas, Levinus and Job Austin had two more brothers – John and Jonathan. Jonathan moved to Phillipse Precinct, Dutchess Co., NY, but he kept the name Austin. Their brother John Austin died just before the Revolution and one of his sons – Samuel Austin – moved to Nova Scotia either just before or soon following the start of the Revolution. Town of Greenwich records show that the town tried to appropriate Samuel Austin's lands since he was "an enemy of our country." There we have it! Two brothers "coming over" and changing their names – a nephew who was the Tory in the family – and most important, the ANSON name was once AUSTIN and in some records spelled ASTIN or ASTEN.

IN MEMORIUM

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KENNETH J. AUSTIN, 86, died July 19, 1993 in Wellsboro, Pa.. He was born Nov. 25, 1906 in Wellsboro, the son of Creon J. and Mae Elva Gates Austin. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII. He was a former school teacher and former employee of Corning Glass Works, Wellsboro Division. He was retired as postmaster of the Wellsboro Post Office. Preceding him in death were his wife, Wanda Mae Price Austin, one son Wendell P. Austin, one daughter Beverly Ann Austin, and 2 brothers Alferd and Adrian Austin. Surviving are 3 sons: Eldwood H. of Wellsboro, Don M. of Orange, CA and Bruce A. of Nashville, TN, four sisters: Leah Dewey of Coudersport, PA (she died Nov. 3, 1993), Onalea Opp of Vestal, NY, Alva Spatol of Vestal, NY, and Jessalyn Decker of Sewickley, PA.; 17 grandchildren, 26 great-great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Submitted by: Patricia Austin Steele



DOROTHY HIGGINSON, 75, of Green River, Wyoming died instantly Sept. 29, 1993 from injuries she sustained in a head-on collision that occurred on Interstate 80. Dorothy was born Jan. 20, 1918, in Green River, the daughter of the late Norris Henry and Birzilla Caldwell Austin. She attended schools in Green River, graduating in 1937. She married Francis Kent Higginson in Green River in 1937. He preceded her in death. Dorothy enjoyed playing bingo and was a member of the Union Congregational Church. She is survived by a brother, Ira Austin of Green River, several nieces and nephews, including Bonnie Bigolin of Green River. Dorothy was a member of AFAOA. Submitted by Bonnie Bigolin

SEEKING INFORMATION

Seeking information on SAMUEL AUSTIN, b. ca 1804 (Iredell Co.?) NC, d. Nov. 1849, age 45 Morgan Co., Al.. He married Nancy ? b. ca. 1808, NC. 5 known children: (1) William Frank b. 1827 NC., d. 1878 Morgan Co., Al., m. Frances Hutson; (2) Leander M. b. 1832 NC d. 1864 (Civil War) m. Mary Hutson; (3) Vandiver Lawson b. 1835 NC d. 1884 Morgan Co., Al., m. Elizabeth Hutson; (4) Mary Elizabeth b. 1804 NC, m. Mr. Bell; (5) Elmyra A. b. 1845 NC d. 1908 Morgan Co., Al., m. James W. White/Wilhite. Nancy Austin and children are on the 1850 census of Morgan Co. Al, so the family evidently moved there bet. 1845 and 1849, when Samuel Austin died in Morgan Co., Al. Sandra Benham, 1803 Treeridge Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202.

SEEKING INFORMATION

MARIE WALSH, 1727 CLINTON AVE., ALAMEDA, CA 94501 is searching for the birthplace of Oliver Austin, b. abt 1760/61, d. Mar. 10, 1813 (53 yrs); bur. Berkshire Cemetery, Franklin Co., VT.

Who were his parents? Oliver Austin m. Sarah Powell in Lanesboro, Berkshire Co., MA. They were parents of Oliver, Raymond, Mary, Sara & Powell.

**FIRST NOTICE:
AFAOA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The 53rd annual convention of the AFAOA will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee on 11-13 August, 1994. These dates have been selected to avoid a conflict with the Great Lakes Genealogical Conference that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana on the first weekend in August, 1994. Some members may wish to take advantage of the close proximity of Indiana and Tennessee and attend both these events. Detailed information on the convention will be included in the Spring Newsletter. Hal Steiner, President AFAOA

FEEES FOR AFAOA SERVICES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$15.00.

QUERIES FOR NEWSLETTERS - Free
(AFAOA members have precedence)

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES - Members: \$5.00 per inquiry. Non-members: \$10.00 per inquiry. This fee covers research time, copying and postage.

COMPUTER-GENERATED BOOKS - No fixed price. Book price is determined by number of pages in each book. For example, the Descendants of Daniel Austin of Maine book is 260 pages, and is currently priced at \$28.00. Contact Bonnie Bigolin for current list of Austin Descendant books and their prices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT DUES

Please inspect the mailing label on this newsletter. The label date identifies the month you send in your annual dues to our Secretary-Treasurer. You are valued as a AFAOA member. As AFAOA grows (308 members currently), we offer increasing opportunity for you to meet new cousins, who may have new information on your Austin line. If you are considering terminating your membership, please let us know WHY. Your input is important.



Donna and Scot Austin

DONNA AUSTIN of Cupertino, California, received recognition in October as chairwoman for the city's Planning Commission. Donna has been a Cupertino resident since 1977 and is employed by the San Jose Unified School District as a district reading resource teacher. She is a former member of the Citizens' Goals Committee and is serving her third year on the planning commission. Donna is the wife of L. Scot Austin, new AFAOA Western Area VP. Scot is descended from John Austin of Stamford, CT, whose line branches into the Anson line described in this issue. We congratulate Donna for her community involvement and excellent record as chairwoman.

AUSTIN RESEARCH MATERIAL AVAILABLE

We have several copies of Janet Curtis's 36 page "RED BOOKLET" for sale (that she pre

pared for the 1979 Western Regional Austin Reunion). COST \$3.00 plus \$1.25 shipping. Order from Bonnie Bigolin PO Box 1094, Green River, Wyoming, 82935-1094.

The following is the introduction as written by Janet Curtis: "This booklet was undertaken as an educational project for those interested in the surname AUSTIN.

(In Part I) - It is hoped that the reader will better understand Heraldry and the fact that not everyone is entitled to display a Coat Of Armor and that individuals, not families, are granted Arms. Our cover Arms is the one most frequently associated with the name, but there are many more. Arms are not very American, but a holdover from Colonial days and British rule. In Britain only Knights, Nobility or the Gentry had Arms. It is strictly a class symbol, and when our forefathers declared 'all men are created equal', Arms became obsolete. Heralds of the College of Arms in London spend a life-

time studying it. The second half of this book has been



FROM THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

It is now December. Thanksgiving is over and Christmas will soon be here. Since our Sept. issue, I have had -- a "Foliage Trip" to New England that restored my spirit and brought new hope to my soul -- and the MOST interesting mail!

From GERTRUDE DAVIS, PO Box 490, Campbell CA 95009-0490.... "I am trying to learn the ancestors of my grandfather, Ancil Austin, whose American forebears are believed to go back to Colonial times. He was born somewhere in upstate New York. His father died, according to family stories, before he was eight and shortly thereafter his step-father placed him in an apprenticeship from which he ran away. He sought refuge with an Irish family for a time and soon went to work leading or driving mules pulling barges on the Erie Canal. At 16 he married Charlotte Wood in DeKalb, Illinois. They had two children who died in infancy and six who lived to adulthood: Adella, b. 23 Dec., 1857 in Il., Rebecca, b. 27 Feb 1860(?), DeKalb, Il.; Olive (Ollie), b. 15 Sep 1862, DeKalb, Il.; Carmi, b. 23 Mar 1870, Ks.; Spencer Myers, b. 04 April 1874, Il.; Louisa Adeline, b. 08 Mar 1876, DeKalb, Il."

From GERRY WOODRUFF, Box 8344, Mt. Pleasant 4740, Queensland, Australia... "Need information on descendants of Charles Richard Austin, b. 1868 in Mt. Solon, Virginia. Married Florence O'Brien 1893 in Australia. They had 2 sons and 1 daughter, names unknown, and returned to live in America.

From JEAN SHROYER, 6119 S. Blue Ct, Crystal Lake, IL 60014... "I would love to see more queries and information supplied on Austin families/records. If we are to supply Austin family data, then I would like to share info or see a newsletter/quarterly publication that gives out data on Austins in the US that is difficult to obtain. People who are researching Austins would send in data for publication in the newsletter so we could share information and connect to each others lines. Sources are to be cited and data (hopefully) documented. I am still struggling with my Austin family in Virginia because of lack of records and information. Not knowing what or where to extract the data or what is available."

Thanks for your suggestion, Jean. Certainly this type of information is of help to AFAOA members and will be published as it is received.



CAROL PIPPITT HENKEL, 214 Four Knot Lane, Osprey, Fl, 34229 sent the above picture of her G-G- Great Grandmother Sarah Austin's sampler to Westtown School, Westtown, Pa., seeking information. She received the following:

"It is beautiful, especially for such an early one. Yours (the sampler above), a geometric, is the rarest type. Only Girls were allowed to do this type once they had mastered the more basic skills of darning, cross stitch and plainer needlework. Sarah Austin must have been sewing at home to have been allowed to do this sampler at Westtown at age 13 or 14! Jedediah Thompson Allen did not go to Westtown; there were so many Allen's who attended here, I did not check to see if any of his children came. There were some Austin's but they were from Nantucket, Ma, and Bucks Co., PA. There was one Ambler from Gwynedd, PA who entered in 1814, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Ambler. You could learn more about all these Quaker families by contacting the FRIENDS HISTORICAL LIBRARY, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, SWARTHMORE, PA, which holds all the meeting records and has wonderful genealogical resources. They refer family questions to me and I would be glad to help you by looking into their records. For additional information and my fees, write to: ANN W. UPTON, Quaker Genealogical Researcher, 1406 Fox Place, West Chester, PA 19382. Tel: 215-399-1864.

Meet Two Austin Data Base *Compilers*

Since the Convention in August, we have concentrated on setting up and training our leaders. We call these dedicated folk our Austin Data Base *Compilers*. The *Compiler's* job is to organize cousins to enter information on members of Austin families, family linkages, and source information – all in computer format. We have standardized on using the PAF Program to enter all information, and the GEN-BOOK program to format the Austin Descendant Books from each Austin Data base.

The *Compiler* also sets standards of data entry format and quality to achieve the most useful and accurate results possible. We offer a useful set of guidelines for documenting sources entering individual data in a consistent manner. Finally, the *Compiler* collects, edits and merges Austin descendant line information into the Master Data Base which begins with their earliest known Austin forebear.

Bonnie Bigolin is the *Compiler* of the data base. From her Daniel Austin Data Base, we have produced the Daniel Austin of Maine Book – including about 20 early Austin photos. This book was a big hit at the last convention; AFAOA Members and friends have purchased 30 of the Daniel Austin Descendants books to date.

Jim Carlin is the *Compiler* for the Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA Data Base. He has established tough standards for entry of information sources, and has worked with members of the 'Richard Team' to produce the best overall source documentation we have achieved to date on the project. Anyone who is planning to properly enter the information in a genealogy data base should order a copy of the current Richard Austin Data Base (\$5.00, postpaid; specify diskette size). As an aside, Jim and I have been working together for about a year defining every detail of the *Compiler's* job. We've been doing this via PRODIGY which lets us type-in and send messages via phone link to each other. Because some of Jim's letters (called E-MAIL in the jargon) are lengthy and often express frustration, I have suggested we publish our letters as a book entitled, "The Trials and Tribulations of an Austin Data base Compiler" for others to learn from. Jim isn't sure he wants our E-MAIL to go public. If we do, Jim will get to edit the book first. By the way Jim and I have never met; we know each other only by our computer E-MAIL and a few phone calls.

We'll feature other Austin Data Base *Compilers* in this column each month. If you don't know the *Compiler* of your Austin line, please contact Bill Minnick, 20237 Bollinger Rd., Cupertino, CA for further information.

We Need Your Old Austin Photos (just long enough to scan them)

Our Austin Descendant books are greatly enhanced with the addition of photographs of our Austin ancestors. We have a non-destructive process for scanning old photos of Austin ancestors for use in our publications. When you let us scan your photos, we copy the photo in *digital* format which has two advantages: the scan is a high quality copy of your photo which we can share with any number of your cousins and future descendants; and the digital copy of your photo will not degrade over time.



Photograph from The Daniel Austin of Maine Descendants Book as supplied by Bonnie Bigolin

AUSTIN COMPUTER PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

Your Old Austin Photos (Cont.)

If your Austin ancestor photo is too precious to trust to the mail, take a good quality photo of the picture and send it to us instead. Or if you don't have a suitable camera, have your local photo shop take a high quality photo of the picture to send in to us.

If your picture is damaged, ripped, stained, too light or too dark, we can usually correct these problems after the photo is scanned. So send the photo along, even if it looks a bit over the hill. We'll include it in our Austin descendant books as we prepare new books for publication.

For example the above 19th Century photo was actually torn in half between the nose and lips of Francis Austin. We were able to use digital enhancement and reconstruction methods to replace the torn part of his face.



Francis Harvey Austin
(1873-1941)

*Descendant of
Richard Austin
of Charlestown, MA.*

*Submitted by
Elizabeth Carlin,
West Hills, CA*

Please send photos directly
to Bill Minnick, 20237

Bollinger Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014, for scanning and
enhancement so we can include them in either the
newsletter or Austin Descendant books.

NEWSLETTER NEW LOOK



Have you noticed our new look? Text and photos are sharper; lines are finer; we're using more photos in our articles. How is this possible, you ask? We've done it by adding an extra layout step to the Newsletter publication process, and by using the more

advanced software and computer equipment from the Austin Computer Project. Our Editor, Marilyn Osterhout still produces the articles and does a preliminary layout. She now hands her work to her cousin, Bill Minnick, to do final layout, printing and mailing.

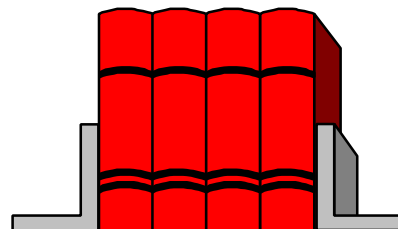
Please continue to send your articles and material for publication to the AFAOA Newsletter Editor:

Marilyn Osterhout
9252 Charmin Place
Jackson, MI 49201

Please let us know if you like our Newsletter's *new look*.

JANET AUSTIN CURTIS RESEARCH

Bonnie Bigolin, our AFAOA Genealogist, submits the following three pages of Austin research from the Janet Austin Curtis collection of research material. Bonnie advises that these pages are taken from the Janet Austin Curtis Material, Volume 1. Page numbers from the source are included in the upper left corner of each page.



PROFILE OF BILL MINNICK
HEAD OF THE AUSTIN COMPUTER PROJECT

My ancestry, as we know it, has been from New England, traceable back to the English and Scottish immigrants who settled the area between 1620 and 1660. Several of my father's ancestors were Tories who made their way to Canada during the Revolution. We are still looking for our Minnick line before 1835 when my Great Grandfather William was born in Bath Maine (per Civil War records), but with no parents of record. We speculate that the Minnick ancestors headed for Canada from Pennsylvania during the Revolution.

I became interested in genealogy a few years ago, and began my research efforts on my mother's Smith line because more was known: my great grandmother and her sister had documented about 480 ancestors, several of whom were soldiers in the American Revolution. With the aid of a personal computer and hours in various libraries, I was able to double the known Smith ancestors to 960 in about one year.

I am especially proud of my discovery of my mother's relationship to Capt. Daniel Austin, a Revolutionary War soldier descended from Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA, 1638. This Austin linkage was a complete surprise to my mother and her family. They were interested to learn that they were second cousins 4 generations removed to U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes through this Austin Connection. This Austin link also helped me uncover 53 more ancestors who were primarily from Suffield, CT before 1776, and Wilmington, VT after the Revolution. Though my Austin line ended with Sally Austin born in 1760, my Austin link was part of the reason for my birthplace: Brattleboro, VT.

I have a degree in Electrical Engineering and have worked with computers for 30 years. I married Joann Hurst of Jackson Heights, NY in 1964. We have daughters Sue and Kathy; Sue married Bruce Carleton in 1990; they live in Hawaii with sons Alex and Robert. Joann and I visit the Carletons in Hawaii as often as possible.



Hiram and Elizabeth Sears Austin

From Gene Austin (East Region AFAOA V.P.)

"This 100 year old photo presents an austere likeness of my Great-Grandparents: Hiram and Elizabeth Sears Austin. Hiram (1818-1900) was second son of Cyrenius (1785-1840) who migrated to Northern Ohio, Western Reserve Area from Connecticut in the very early 1800's. Cyrenius was 6th generation American, and the reason I became interested in genealogy."

*Happy
Easter*

**From
the Officers
and Staff of
A F A O A**

ADDRESSES TO REMEMBER:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marilyn Osterhout
9252 Charmin Place
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 536-8186

GENEALOGIST

Bonnie Bigolin
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935
(307) 875-6128

SECRETARY - TREASURER

Lorena Austin
Route 1, Box 254E
Claude, TX 79019
(806) 335-2017

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MAY 15, 1994**

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
Lorena Austin, Secretary-Treasurer
Route 1, Box 254E
Claude, TX 79019

Forwarding and Address
Corrections Requested