



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

Look for us on the Web:
<http://www.afaoa.org/>

Volume 9, No. 4

Winter 2000

ISSN 1063-3263

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 Cir.
Garden Grove, CA 92644

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

Jim Carlin
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304

L. Scot Austin
DATABASE CHAIRMAN
2283 DeAnza Circle
Cupertino, CA 95014

1999 - "So long, It's Been Good to Know Ya"

Editor's Note: This article was written by George Skelton, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. It appeared in the 20 Dec 1999 edition and has been edited for use here. It works for Skelton, or Austin, or for any surname.

If it were my call, I'd have imposed a moratorium long ago on the M-word: **millennium**. Today we have all of the hype, the worries over the supposed ravages of Y2K, the concerns of those that see the end of the world coming to name a few. Instead the end of the 20th century deserves reflection, and calm, a consideration of the future, but one grounded in the past. In my case, I've been forced to focus more directly on the last 100 years because of my own M-word: **Mom**. My mom died last Sunday at age 99.

Effie Skelton's life embraced the 20th century in many ways. She was born in 1900 and lived to within a few days of 2000. She was an Oklahoman—you didn't dare call her an "Okie"—and migrated to California, one of the many millions from the South and Midwest to seek new opportunity here. She was a product of the American melting pot.

Her father was half Cherokee, half Irish; her grandmother, as a child, had been force-marched out of the Smoky Mountains on the "Trail of Tears." Born in "Indian Territory" before statehood, mom checked in at only 1 1/2 pounds. An Indian aunt concocted a lifesaving brew of blackberry brandy and sugar water and fed her through an eyedropper. She was kept warm in a cigar box by a wood-burning stove. Such was the art of medicine in 1900.

She grew up in tiny Okemah, across a back alley from future folk singer Woody Guthrie. One of my favorite letters from mom was written after the Okemah City Council refused to name the town library in Woody's memory, contending he'd been a Communist. That's the sort of "backward, bigoted" thinking that had caused her to leave the South and drive to California in 1926, she angrily wrote.

Mom met dad at—where else?—a beach party in Ventura, and they married in 1930. Dad was a Tennessee farm boy who'd left home to work in the California oil boom. But the

Depression hit hard. Dad was unemployed for three years. "Go to college so you can get a good job," I repeatedly was lectured. Dad's schooling had ended after the eighth grade. Mom was yanked out of college by an older brother who didn't think it a proper place for a young woman. Fortunately for kids like me, California created a system of affordable higher education.

In 1942, we moved to Ojai, where \$9,000 bought my parents a small orange ranch. Mom sold real estate for three decades, finding her niche in a man's world long before most people ever heard of "feminism." Her story—and this century's, to a large degree—is illustrated in photo albums. Faded pictures of people riding to town in a buggy. Posing with a horse. No cars then—nor radios, let alone a TV or PC. Later pictures of my brother and me holding up a 1945 newspaper declaring VICTORY, a reminder of the glorious point in this century when Americans were the most united.

It's impossible to predict what sort of life a child born in 2000 will experience. There's some speculation that by the end of the 21st century, one-third of Americans will live in California, which is how it was when Columbus landed. And then there is the amazing amount of progress achieved during her lifetime. Amid continual change in mom's life, one thing remained constant: her character. Mom's old neighbor, Woody Guthrie, might sing about her: "So long, it's been good to know ya." The same could be said for the 20th century.

Some Recollections of Norris Austin of Corolla, North Carolina

My name is Norris Austin. I descend from Thomas Austin of Currituck, NC. I have lived in the village of Corolla, NC for 46 years and stayed away only two years when I was a young man with the FBI. It turns out that I have lived here longer than any other living person.

I have been the Postmaster of Corolla for 28 years. Back in 1896 when the first post office was established here, three names were sent: Jone's Beach, Whalehead and Currituck Beach. Well the

Please see "Corolla", page 6



New Members Welcomed

Dale L. Amann

703 Coffeeberry Lane
Redding, CA 96003
djcamann@earthlink.net
Francis ca 1674 Eng; of NJ

Dorothy Steers

506 College St.
Franklin, KY 42134-2214
dds@kih.net
Diana D. Austin 1812 NC

Brad Austin

3033 Portsmouth Dr.
Brunswick, OH 44212
baaustin@aol.com
Robert H. Austin

Judith A. Blodgett

2821 Sommers Ave. #1
Madison, WI 53704
jablodgett@aol.com
Samuel Austin 1639

Mina Austin Marsh

14 Flag Road
Little Rock, AR 72205
mina@dah.state.ar
LeRoy Austin 8 Oct 1814 AL

Lucille Peterson

1939 West 13930 South
Bluffdale, UT 84065
lucyqp@earthlink.net
(No ancestry information provided)

Garrett Austin Rowley

c/o Towne Place
2200 Cybernetics Way
Yorktown, VA 23693
g.rowley@worldnet.att.net
Roma Byron Austin 1897-1961 WV

Faye Thiessen

19 Dorothy Bay
Selkirk, MB, Canada R1A 2J8
lthiessen@blazeinet.com (I's are L's)
John Austin of Eng.
John L. Austin b. 11 Jun 1838
Umbridge, Eng., d. 2 Oct 1889 ND

Richard Charles Austin

25 Gray's Farm Rd.
1702 Pepperhill
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
William Austin 1700-1770

Kenneth Ray Austin

1 Pollock Road
Wayland, MA 01778
austin@gsilumonics.com

John A. Austin

1504 Bedworth Road
Lutherville, MD 21093

Christmas Shopping (A Dispatch from our Outpost in Michigan)

(Special to the AFAOA Newsletter)

Suppose you're in the midst of holiday preparations...like the rest of us...shopping...looking...etc. We always officially start our holiday shopping the day after Thanksgiving...everyone is in a good mood then (not frantic, like the middle of December)...we start with a really good breakfast somewhere on the way...shop for a couple of hours...then have a good lunch with possibly a good glass of wine...shop for a couple more hours, and finish with a good dinner and certainly a good glass of wine or two...I recommend our recipe for anyone over 21...

I might add that we don't usually bring home a lot of gifts, but we do have a great time!

UNITED STATES 1930 CENSUS

The 1930 federal census will be released in the year 2001. 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.

Death of Jeannette Pell Announced

Jeannette Pell, wife of Austin Pell died November 21, 1999 in Chino, California, on her way home from a motor home club outing. She was born May 19, 1923 in Lincoln, Nebraska and was the youngest of three children.

Jeannette and Austin were married in 1979 and moved to Solvang, California in 1983. They have embraced this community with their spirits for the past 16 years.

Jeannette and Austin were actively involved in the Lions Club, Cortez Club, Model T Ford Club, Eastern Star and the Santa Ynez Valley Presbyterian Church. Jeannette was also a member of the DAR and a past president of the Santa Ynez Valley Republican Women.

She enjoyed writing and often volunteered her talents to write articles and newsletters for their various groups.

Jeannette loved to garden, travel and trace her ancestral heritage. Often their travels were planned around genealogical interests, tracking down long lost relatives.

She had a passion for a good game of bridge. Although she did not consider herself a great player, everyone agrees that she had a good attitude.

Jeannette was an involved mother, devoted wife and a loyal friend. Her death is our loss and will be felt by us all....

Austin Pell, her husband, and Doobie Dog, Pamela, Tom, David, Nancy, and Linda, her children Heather, Allison, Wes, Luke, Felicity and Elijah, her grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Austin and Jeannette were frequent attendees of the National Austin Conventions. The AFAOA extends their deepest sympathies to you Austin and to your family.

CANADIAN POST-1901 CEN- SUS PROJECT.

Queries about Canada's Census information project should be addressed to Gordon A. Watts: E-mail: gordon_watts@bc.sympatico.ca or subscribe to the mailing list CANADA-CENSUS-CAMPAIGN-L@rootsweb.com>.

Project news is at <<http://www.globalgenealogy.com/census/index.htm>>

MILLENNIUM MADNESS - Y1.8K



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all!

As you contemplate the many opportunities that will come your way in the year 2000 remember the National Austin Convention, to be held in Madison, Wisconsin the last weekend in July. Now is the time to put it into your summer schedule.

In November my husband and I traveled to Madison to begin the convention planning. The Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel was chosen as the convention site because of its convenient location, only five blocks from the State Historical Society Library on the University of Wisconsin campus and within walking distance of the State Capitol and many of the other attractions of downtown Madison. The hotel is small enough to have a friendly, comfortable atmosphere and large enough to have the amenities you might expect in a top-rated facility.

I was only able to spend two days in Madison but I was delighted with what I saw and can't wait to return this summer. The library holds great potential for research - with extensive collections of genealogical and local history publications in its open stacks and the second largest collection of early American newspapers in the United States. The university campus is connected to Capitol Square by State Street Mall, a tree-lined shopping district with interesting small shops, restaurants and craft studios. Nearby attractions include an art museum, arboretum, botanical gardens, zoo, geology museum, observatory and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Center. The scenery is beautiful, with five area lakes and many parks. You will want to plan some extra time in Madison, either before or after the convention.

Of course the main reasons you should travel to Madison this summer are to meet (or be reunited with) your Austin cousins and fellow researchers, explore the Austin computer databases, talk to our genealogists and get help with your research. We will be working to prepare an interesting program for you. Please contact me if you have any comments, suggestions or questions concerning the convention. A registration form will be included in the spring issue of the newsletter. Have you visited the AFAOA website lately? It has recently been improved and updated by our Web Master, Jim Carlin. Check it out.

You should also visit the State Historical Society of Wisconsin website and learn more about their library collections. Much of their card catalog is on-line and you can begin planning your research.

Alice Austin Martin

(From an address given by Sandra MacLean Clunies at the 1999 National Austin Convention Annual Banquet, Washington, DC).

David Austin (5th David from John Austin (-1690) & Mercy Atwater of New Haven, CT) grew up in the White Haven Church, where he was heavily influenced by the "New Divinity" beliefs of the pastor Jonathon Edwards the Younger. David later graduated from the Divinity School at Yale in 1779, and was licensed to preach on 30 May 1780, but received no call to a congregation. He then took a tour of England and western Europe, returning to marry Lydia Lathrop of Norwich, CT in 1783 with whom there were no children. He seemed to lose enthusiasm for the ministry, allowing his license to lapse in 1784.

But in 1787, he was suddenly awakened "from his worldly lethargy and aroused to the service of God," re-licensed to preach, and accepted as minister of the Presbyterian church in Elizabethtown, NJ in 1788. He launched a variety of religious publishing ventures, obtaining sporadic success, but the publications usually folded after a few issues. In 1794, he published "The Millennium; or, The Thousand Years of Prosperity to the Church of God." He interpreted the founding of the American republic as a signal for Christ's imminent return.

Becoming obsessed with these themes, on 5 Feb 1796, he fell "prostrate upon the carpet in the parlour" of the parsonage in Elizabethtown and received the revelation that Christ would return to earth in May of 1796. He rushed to print a booklet, "The Voice of God to the People of the United States," and frantically preached up to three times a day. The date passed with no great event, and Austin's congregation felt he had gone mad and appealed to the Presbytery of New York to dissolve the pastoral relationship. David saved them the trouble by resigning his position in 1797.

His fanaticism did not soon abate, however, and during the presidential election of 1800 he sent open letters to the King of England, the Pope and the peoples of Europe and America warning them that the millennium would happen in Washington, DC.

When his father-in-law died in 1807 and left a large inheritance, David and Lydia were able to live comfortably for the rest of their lives. His fanatical ideas seemed to diminish over time, and the New Haven Association agreed to re-license him as minister. In 1815, he was called to a small church in Bozrah, CT where he served until his death in 1831.

Some published works have depicted David Austin as insane and mad, and his published writings have been evaluated as disjointed and sometimes incoherent. But he is also described as a colorful though controversial example of how confident some Americans were that their new republic was such a departure from the old European system that the future of the United States had to be closely identified with God's millennial purposes for the world.

Ms. Clunies' sources:

Garraty, John A. & Mark C. Carnes, "American National Biography," Vol. 1, Oxford Univ. Press (NY, 1999), pp 758-9.

Jacobus, Donald Lines, Comp. "Families of Ancient New Haven," Reprinted 9 vols. in 3, Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1974, Vols. I-III, pp 90-92.



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

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

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

Q9-4,1 - James F. Austin, 3756 S. Magnolia Way, Denver, CO 80237 jimmarijo@cs.com.
Seeking information regarding Nathan W. Austin, b. abt. 1784 near Cambridge, Washington Co., NY. Nathan married Sarah King who was b. abt. 1787 in CT. Nathan moved to Freedom Twp., Henry Co., Oh, where he was a farmer. Nathan and Sarah's children were: Josiah, b. 17 Dec 1814, Washington Co., NY; Marinda, b. abt. 1810/11, NY; Franklin, b. 29 Dec 1816, Springwater, Livingston Co., NY; and Mary B., b. abt. 1826/27, Livingston Co., NY.

Q9-4,2 - W. Marshal Van Meter, Rte. 6, Box 6030-1, Tullahoma, TN 37388.
Henry Austin of Richmond Co., VA in his will, probated 1706, leaves his entire estate to his wife Anne (Newman). In 1713, Anne leaves most of the estate to her sister, Mary Newman Brockenbrough's children. There is one bequest to Mary, dau. of Jane and Owen Jones - no relationship stated. Does anyone know if Jane, wife of Owen Jones is an Austin, and/or perhaps a cousin or niece of Henry Austin?

Q9-4,3 - Lue Champion, lachampion@juno.com
Need information on Estey B. Austin, born 1848 Chine, Maine. Married Rose (unkn). Father: Elijah H. Austin, Mother: Ruth R. Hussey born 1823/26 China, Maine. Believe he moved to Idaho, last known address on family in Idaho was Boise and Gardenia. His brothers: Theron born 1854 (believe he also went west). Henry born 1858. His sister: Adelma A. born 1850 China Maine. Married William Ladd and moved west also.

Q9-4,4 - Brian Austen, 440 Strickland Ave., South Hobart Tasmania 7004 Australia. austenbjr@trump.net.au
As part of my ambition to document as much of the Austen version of the name as I can I am keen to establish a register of Austen emmigrants from UK. I already have a number to US, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia. I am looking for details of date, ship, destination, family etc. I am also particularly interested in two Austen families: John Townsend Austen of New York (chemist, late 1800s) and Walter Austen (married Annie Semour) also of New York, mid to late 1800s.

Q9-4,5 - Helen Austin, 118 Ryan Crest Lane, Decatur, AL 35603-2216. austinart.aol.com
COULD THIS WOMAN BE AN AUSTIN CONSORT?
Some of the descendants of John Calhoun Austin (b 1831 TN- d 1907 Lawrence Co, AL), say that his mother could have been a woman who was some percentage Native American, probably Cherokee. This photo was found among Austin family pictures. A grand daughter of John Harvey Austin says that she thinks this was the mother of John. Perhaps she was a step-mother. All that is known of the parents of John C. is that they were both born in South Carolina about or before 1800, and came over the Appalachian ridge along the Tennessee River. John is said to have come down the River on a flatboat to Chattanooga. He could have been in Morgan County, Alabama before 1844, but was certainly on the 1860 census in Cedar Plains District. Nancy Ann Austin b 1826 TN who married 25 Jun 1844 in Morgan to William Lott, was probably the sister of John C. Please help me find more clues about this woman in the picture and the parentage of John. Some of the grand daughters of John had a similar appearance. However, the sons of John all had light blue eyes, ruddy complexion and thick, dark, hair. John had a club foot and limp. Several descendants also had a reverse metatarsal at birth.



Unknown Austin Woman
ca 1860-1870
North Alabama

Genealogy on the Internet

ON-LINE LIBRARIES

(From www.accessmagazine.com, 3 Oct 1999)

Online libraries are among the most powerful research tools at our disposal. These sites are useful for a variety of purposes - a teacher panicked about tomorrow's lesson plan, a student who can no longer afford to procrastinate or a curious Web surfer trying to remember the second verse of a favorite poem. The best part is that you won't be locked out late at night when you need instant information.

Online libraries can be divided into two categories: sites that collect links to informational resources and sites that actually offer a database of electronic texts. Some of the largest sites, like the Library of Congress or the U.S. National Library of Medicine, do both. These gigantic research meccas should be the first stop for nearly every topic, from cancer to U.S. History.

Readers searching for such electronic texts as the Bible or the complete works of Shakespeare should surf university-affiliated sites like the University of Virginia's massive Electronic Text Center (etext.lib.virginia.edu) or Columbia University's Project Bartleby (www.bartleby.com/index.html). Be prepared for slow downloads and long waits.

"Web traffic very much reflects the traditional academic year," says Project Bartleby's Steve van Leeuwen of university-affiliated sites, "with peaks at the middle of the fall and spring semesters, and dips during the winter and summer breaks." As a general rule, surfers should be patient during busy periods as well as during the weekday lunch hour, when many 9 to 5 types go online to pleasure read.

"The quantity of information is overwhelming, which is the Web's virtue and vice," says Lauren Zollinger, LibrarySpot's managing editor. "By showcasing the best, we hope to make the journey to quality resources faster, easier and more enjoyable."

The Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)

Though visitors can search the LOC site as they would any other library, only a portion of its 17 million books and 95 million images, audio recordings, maps, and other items are accessible online. Visitors can use THOMAS which is a congressional database, or American Memory, an ongoing initiative to digitize the library's historical American holdings. The Electronic Texts and Publishing Resources page offers links to libraries with electronic books.

LibrarySpot (www.libraryspot.com)

This compact, efficient site offers a plethora of links but only to the best library and reference sites. One can research everything under the sun, read the latest topics in the Reading Room (a collection of online journals, newspapers, magazines and books), or link off to other online libraries as well.

Bibliomania (www.bibliomania.com)

A site of interest to students and writers, Bibliomania offers a selection of electronic texts searchable by engine or category.

The Internet Public Library (www.ipl.org)

The first public library of the Internet, IPL is one of the Web's largest searchable collections of links for those who want to know more about subjects including oceanography, genealogy, accounting, etc. There are also links to magazines and newspapers.

University of Virginia, Electronic Text Center

(etext.lib.virginia.edu)

One of the largest electronic text archives, this site contains holdings in 14 languages. Although commercial texts such as the Oxford English Dictionary, are restricted to UVA users, the general public can access legally access everything else.

Local Libraries

Local, regional, state and private libraries are another place for research. These libraries often have thousands of histories of specific surnames such as Austin, or Adams. You can't find this information online, but some libraries post their catalogs on the Internet. To find catalogs for facilities in your area, see the Webcat site (www.lights.com/webcats) or the Canadian Library Resource Centre (www.sla.org/chapter/ctor/toolbox/resource/index.html). To locate archives of original materials, check into the research and scholarly sites such as the Repository of Primary Sources (www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html), which links 3,300 websites that describe manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs and other such materials.

RESEARCH HINT OF THE MONTH

The following notice was posted on Jewishgen by Ellie Weld of Twickenham, Middlesex, England:

"Somerset House hasn't for several years been the source of information about family records (it now houses the Inland Revenue and the Courtauld Art Gallery). The Family Records Centre, where you can research birth, marriage and death certificates is now at 1 Myddelton Street, London EC1.

General enquiries: (0181) 392-5300.

Certificate enquiries: (0171) 233-9233.

Website: <http://www.open.gov.uk/pro/prohome.htm>"

The deadline for the *Newsletter* Spring Issue is Saturday, 18 March 2000. Please send all articles to the Editors.

Corolla

Continued from page 1

Post Office Department didn't care much for the first two names, and there was already a Currituck Post Office. Then a teacher who lived here said, "The inner circle or petals of a flower are called the corolla." Many violets grew wild here so the people liked the name, and the Post Office accepted it.

The Austins got to Corolla because my grandfather William Riley Austin was the lighthouse keeper. He was in the Lighthouse Service and transferred here from Hatteras in 1891. Granddaddy served here until he retired in 1929. There were three different houses at the lighthouse, and three keeper's families lived there all the time.

My father John Austin said that his father liked to keep him busy with jobs at the lighthouse when he was a boy. One of his jobs was to clear the little brick walks around it of every blade of grass.

In the wintertime he had to carry off ducks and geese that were blinded and crashed into the light every night. There was a basket type netting around the top of the lighthouse to catch the piles of wildfowl. Sometimes whole flocks crashed into the light. Daddy carried away the ducks and geese and gave them to the people in the neighborhood for food.

The lighthouse has watched folks come and go for over a century. I have always sensed an aura of mystery about the Currituck Beach Light. It has seen sailing ships go past, planes flying over and helicopters transporting the sick to hospitals in Virginia. It has also experienced the howling winds of hurricanes and many, many northeasters, and has seen the perils of World War II.

The Charleston earthquake of 1886 actually cracked the lighthouse. The story is told that it shook so bad that Etta Dunton, a young woman, was not able to walk down the steps, and slid all the way down with a baby in her arms.

Miss Grace Lewark, shy and gentle, was the kindest person that I have ever met. In the late 20's she came from Virginia to teach school on the Outer Banks. She was my teacher in the second and eleventh grades.

She loved birds and dogs and all of God's creation. Some of the older boys used to take advantage of this kindness. When they saw her coming on one of her daily walks on the beach, they would start to club a loon that had become disabled by sticky bilge oil. The oil or tar, as we called it, came from ships at sea pumping out their bilges.

Miss Grace would promise the boys chocolate fudge - she was known for her delicious candy - if they would leave the loon alone. She was one of the first to try to clean up the birds after they got coated with bilge oil. She would try to wipe the tar off the loons with a towel, but it didn't do much good, the birds usually died anyway.

Daddy kept a little store and post office at Corolla for many years. He originally built it for an ice cream parlor. From 1935 to 1959 he served as Postmaster until I took over the office. Mama was Assistant Postmaster for 40 years, serving both Daddy and me.

Daddy stayed at the store until bedtime. He had to be careful how he used the lights because they ran off of a bank of batteries that were charged by a gasoline generator. The light bulbs would get dimmer and dimmer as the day went on, lasting until 9 PM.

You couldn't listen to the radio when the generator was running as it was so noisy. In order to listen to Grand Ole Opry, we cranked up the generator for a while and then turned it off. When the radio was on, we could only have one light burning.

Everyone loved to sit around the store and tell yarns. Old folks could remember every fine detail in their stories, like how the wind was blowing on a certain day. One of the oldest stories that I know of was passed down by Daddy and earlier generations. It dates back to the Civil War when Union soldiers came riding into the neighborhood and found only the Davis family - the others had fled. Tom Davis was in bed and had rubbed molasses on his face so that flies were attracted to him. His wife told an officer that her husband was sick with a fever, so the officer left with his men to get a doctor, saying they'd be back in the afternoon.

When they returned, Tom had sneaked out to Big Pond to hide. He lay on the bottom of the pond and breathed through a reed stuck out of the water. Angry when they realized that they had been tricked, the Union soldiers burned down Davis' house and stable and took his wife to Virginia with them.

I loved cigars when I was five years old. I got to smoking with two other young boys, Roger and Rodney Gray, who were twins. The three of us were like triplets and are still close friends today. Roger and Rodney were great-grandsons of Tillman Lewark. Uncle Till would sit on his porch and light up three big cigars and throw them out in the yard. He would go back in his house so we boys would have a chance to pick them up. One time when we got hold of the lit cigars, we went out in the marsh with them and set it on fire. After that, Uncle Till quit throwing out cigars to us. I begged Mama at the store one day to let me have a cigar. As I smoked it, she waited for me to get sick. But I never did, and she knew then that I was used to smoking cigars.

There used to be a crazy bunch around here. One of the funniest was a fellow who entertained us by eating light bulbs. He would grind them up with his teeth and then stick his tongue out to show us the little pieces of glass on it. Then he would take a drink of water and swallow them.

The same fellow was in the Navy during World War II and decided that he would get out of the service by acting crazy. The story goes that when a psychiatrist came in to talk with him, the psychiatrist took off his glasses and laid them on the table between them. The light bulb eater immediately swooped the glasses off the table and chewed them up. They say the psychiatrist screamed and ran from the room. Did the fellow get out of the Navy? He certainly did, he was home the next day.

At the store, I received some strange reports. One time a local woman called to report that a yellow submarine had come ashore near the old Penny's Hill area. She said the people had walked to the sound and came back to the beach. I asked her what they looked like, and she said, "Oh, they were yellow too!" Deputy Sheriff Griggs O'Neal and I went to the beach to check it out. We did find a place where the beach was scuffed, but not a sign of a yellow sub. We had a lot of fun over that!

Norris Austin's tales have been captured by Suzanne Tate, in her book "WHALEHEAD, Tales of Corolla, N.C." published by Nags Head Art, Nags Head, NC, 1987.

WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, SOUTH-EAST REGION

The following information is provided by the National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region, in response to recent postings on several list servers concerning World War One (WWI) Draft Registration cards maintained at our facility:

1. The original cards, in excess of 24 million, were received at our facility a number of years ago. Upon their receipt, they were boxed and arranged by NARA employees. The original arrangement was by state, thereunder by county or draft board, and thereunder alphabetically by the registrant's last name. The cause for arrangement by draft board instead of county is due to the size of certain cities. For example, New York City had in excess of 180 boards, Chicago had over 80. As a result, we require a street address when searching for cards in most large cities.

2. The cards were later microfilmed by representatives of the Genealogical Society of Utah in the exact order they were originally arranged; each NARA regional facility has a copy of the microfilm for the states in the region that it serves. Any patron wishing to use microfilm will find the cards arranged exactly as they are in the box. The arrangement of the cards has never been changed.

3. NARA, Southeast Region, has provided a request form for these records for a number of years. The forms can be ordered via e-mail (archives@atlanta.gov), telephone (404-763-7383), or in writing (NARA, Southeast Region, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, GA 30344).

4. At a minimum, the following information is required from the requestor for NARA staff to conduct a search for draft registration cards: a) Full name of registrant, b) Complete home address at the time of registration (to include county), c) Name of nearest relative.

5. Additional information, if known, which can improve the thoroughness of a search includes: a) Birth date, b) Birthplace, c) Occupation of registrant.

6. In July, 1997 NARA established an updated fee schedule for services provided to the public. The minimum mail-order fee for photocopies for each WWI Draft card was increased from \$6.00 to \$10.00, a fee which includes both sides of the card. Patrons need not request that both sides of the card be copied, and patrons need not submit a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with their request. Walk-in customers can make self-service photocopies of the original records for \$0.10 per side. Please contact individual regions for their policies regarding microfilm copies. These fees are copying fees only; there is no charge for searches when a record is not located.

The staff of the NARA, Southeast Region, remains committed to assisting our patrons in anyway possible, including the timely and accurate dissemination of information concerning our holdings and services. The WWI Draft Registration cards represent only one of many significant collections of historical records maintained by the Region that are invaluable for genealogical research. For additional information regarding our holdings and services, visit our home page at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/atlanta.html>.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AUSTINS

The Newsletter Editor received the following e-mail, 11 Dec 1999:

Holiday GREETINGS:

Our family is interested in the records of Sam Austin an African American, from the area of Vicksburg, Ms. All Africans that came to America during the Slave Trade Period were renamed by the plantation owners. Hope your records indicate some reference to Sam probably born 1870's or 1880's. This request for information is our first official inquiry. We will keep reviewing your web site for additional data regarding the African American Austin family. THANKS for your cooperation. Woodrow W. Austin, Jr.

Our Reply:

And Holiday Greetings to you Woodrow. Thank you for checking into our web site, and for your interest in the Austin surname. I have to admit that the known number of African Americans in our little band is only one. His name is Douglas S. Shipley, and lives in Fredericksburg, VA. You can see Doug in one of the pictures on the AFAOA Web page of the 1999 National Austin Convention this summer in Washington, DC where we first met him.

There may be other Austins with African ancestry that we deal with via e-mail or snail mail, but their race never surfaces in these cases, nor should it. Recently, my wife Liz (a descendant of Richard of Charlestown, MA) became the "Southern Genealogist" and we have become much more interested in families with the surname Austin that lived in the South. As a result, Liz and the AFAOA are very interested in tracking the genealogies of African American families, and would like to enlist you in helping us to making some connections.

I'll let Liz comment on your query since she is the genealogist. I shall put your query into the up-coming issue. In case you are not a member of the AFAOA, please join us - the required form is on our web site.

And so we wish to again invite any person bearing the Austin surname, or descending from such a person to contact us via our web site, to consider joining with us in researching our ancestry, and to meet a bunch of good folks in the bargain.

We also found the following (now out-of-date) notice on Rootsweb giving contact people and links to one African American research group:

THE AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY's 21st annual conference "Following Their Footsteps into the 21st Century" will be held 28-31 October 1999 at Gallaudet University, Kellogg Conference Center, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-3695. For general information, visit the society's home page <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdaahgs>> and for conference information visit <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdaahgs/conf.html>>.

Contact: Sylvia Polk-Burriss <spburriss@aol.com>

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
Jim & Liz Austin Carlin, *Newsletter* Editors
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215-2040
<http://www.afaoa.org/>

POSTAGE PAID
BULK RATE
PERMIT # 220
POCATELLO, ID
83201

Address Service Requested

2000 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

MADISON, WISCONSIN

JULY 28-30, 2000

Jointly Sponsored by:

Austin Families Association of America (AFAOA) and
Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS).

When: (tentative agenda)

Friday, July 28, 1:00 – 5:00 PM, Registration, library tours.
5:00 – 6:00 PM, “Let’s Get Acquainted” Reception.
7:00 – 9:00 PM Research room open.

Saturday, July 29, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Speakers and
Workshops.

Sunday, July 30, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Speakers and
Workshops.
6:00 PM, Reception.
7:00 PM, Annual Banquet.

Where:

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 525 West Johnson Street,
Madison, Wisconsin. Complimentary parking and indoor pool.
Shuttle service to airport and UW campus (SHSW Library).

Room rate:

\$82 + tax for regular room, one Queen Bed or two Double
Beds (1 – 4 persons); \$87 + tax for Home Office Room
(includes sofa or recliner, refrigerator & microwave).

All rooms have coffee makers, hair dryers, iron/ironing boards,
desk w/phone dataport. Convention rates apply for the dates
of Wed., July 26 through Tues., August 1. A block of forty
rooms will be held until June 27. Reservations received after
June 27 will be honored on a space available basis only. Call
(608) 251-5511 to make your reservations.

Convention registration fee:

\$50 per person – includes Sunday night banquet. (There will
be a \$30 banquet fee for family members of attendees who
wish to attend the banquet but will not be attending the day
sessions.)

Check out these Internet Web Sites:

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel: www.hjplazamadison.com/
Library, State Historical Society of Wisconsin:
www.shsw.wisc.edu/library/

Madison Visitors Bureau: www.visitmadison.com/

Austin Families Association of America:
www.afaoa.org/

Austins of America Genealogical Society
www.aoags.org/