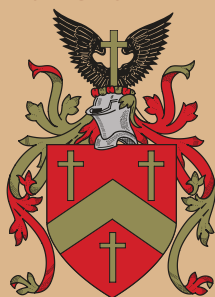


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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Austin Families Association Conference October 3 – 5, 2019 • Fort Wayne, Indiana



Standing (back row): Lois Cody, Bob Cody, W.C. Fowlkes, Bill Austin, Gay Martin, Dave Neithamer, Charlie Austin, John Clinard, Art Sikes (2nd row) Bev Sikes, Carol Austin, Elizabeth Neithamer, Alice Martin, Lil Clinard, Paula Mackey Seated: Liz & Jim Carlin, Jim & Nancy Fatheree

This year's Austin conference was held on a beautiful Fall weekend in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Although a smaller group than usual, Austin friends and cousins gathered at the Grand Wayne Convention Center to hear some wonderful speakers and enjoy each other's company. On Wednesday, early arrivals enjoyed exploring the reconstructed historic Fort Wayne, originally built on the banks of the St. Mary's River in 1815. On Thursday, AFAOA members were given a tour and orientation of the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, which was very useful for further research over the weekend. We were also treated to a private tour of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, an incomparable collection of pictures, letters and other materials from the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. That after-

noon, we enjoyed a tour of the beautiful Allen County Courthouse, a National Historic Register building constructed in the Beaux-Arts style of architecture, reflecting "the exuberant ambition of late 19th-century America". Thursday night we reconnected over drinks and hors d'oeuvres at our Welcome and Social Hour.

On Friday morning we kicked off official Conference activities with coffee, computer time, and the Presentation of the Colors by Bill Austin. Bill is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and presented our country's flag in his Revolutionary War uniform. We then enjoyed an informative presentation by Kay Spears from the Genealogy Center. Kay spoke to us about *How to Look At, Analyze, Organize, and Preserve Your Photographs*. We all have that box of "stuff", and this gave us a

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www.afaoa.org

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Marisa Bascope

122 Suzette Drive, Burnet, TX 38611;
mbascope@sbcglobal.net; *John Austin I b. 1701 Pembury, Kent, Eng; John II b. 1726 James City VA; Isiah b. 1759 Surry NC; Susannah b. 1798 Galax, Grayson, VA (m. Bennet Henry Rector)*

Lee F. Austin

1229 Countryside Rd., Nolensville, TN 37135;
laustin1229@yahoo.com; *Stephen Austin b. ~1806 RI*

Elizabeth Jayne Hensley

341 Brock Rd., Sparta, TN 38583; Littlelib1952@gmail.com;
"Thomas Austin of New Kent Co., TN"... Nathaniel Austin b. 1781 Lost Creek, TN; Nathaniel Glen b. 1827 TN, Mary Elizabeth b. 1849 (m. Wm. Pleasant Anderson)

Thanks to all members for your support of the Austin Families Association of America!

Look for your membership renewal date on your newsletter address label.

Alice Austin Martin
membership@afaoa.org

Membership statistics:

AFAOA active membership currently stands at 199, with 40 states represented. The states with the largest number of members are California 24, Texas 21, Florida 14, Washington 12

Getting to Know The Genealogy Center's Free Databases

www.GenealogyCenter.org

Whether or not you ever plan to visit The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, the nation's largest public genealogical library, you can access freely on-line some 4.1 million of its digital assets.

On the Center's website, under **"Pathfinders"** on the toolbar at the top of the page, you will find a variety of guides to help you navigate the collection and its catalogs, and other types of finding aids to get started in different types of research.

Under **"Databases"**, you will find a list of **"Free Databases"**. These Databases and Files have been compiled by the library and its various volunteer corps or have been given to the Center to post on the web for free use by all. They include:

- African American Gateway
- Allen County, Indiana Resources
- Family Bible Records
- Family Resources
- Genealogy Center Surname File
- Indiana Resources
- Native American Gateway
- Other States Resources
- Our Military Heritage

Read the details about each database, including search tips, for the best searches possible.

The "On-Site Databases" are licensed from outside vendors and are free to use only when "on-site", in The Genealogy Center - with the exception that the



PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) can also be used from home. PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center. Using the Article Fulfillment Form under the Services tab on The Genealogy Center page, you can order copies of these articles from periodicals across the country. You need only the article title, periodical title, and the year published to place an order.

On the "Home" page of The Genealogy Center website, in the **Family History Archives** section, you will find books that have been digitized by FamilySearch and Internet Archive:

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Our AFAOA Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana in October was a great success. It was both fun and serious, featuring informative talks, business activities and tours of the impressive genealogy and family history resources at the Allen County Public Library—all of this while enjoying the company of old and new friends. Take a look at the photos on AFAOA's Facebook Page. If you couldn't make it this year, seriously consider attending next year's conference. Vote for the location you would prefer.

At our closing dinner, AFAOA recognized the 20-year service of Liz and Jim Carlin. It is impossible to described in short statements their contributions to AFAOA. If you know Liz and Jim, you know they are tireless workers... yester-years, today and future years. Our thanks to Liz and Jim!

Like most organizations, we are always looking for new members. We survive through the support and participation of our membership. You can help by recommending an AFAOA membership to your Austin friends and relatives.

I'd like to encourage you to volunteer your help with the efforts of AFAOA. Help is needed for continuation of this organization as we know it today. Just send me a note and we can explore opportunities.

John Clinard • president@afaoa.org



Austin Families Association of America Service Awards



Presented to Jim Carlin

For over 20 years of dedicated service to the AFAOA. Thank you for tireless efforts to develop our website and to continuously improve its content and features. Thank you for establishing, automating and guiding the maintenance of our many databases that represent our 150,000 Austin individuals.

Presented to Elizabeth Austin Carlin

For over 20 years of dedicated service as Genealogist of the AFAOA. Thank you for researching, documenting, connecting and assisting our Austin Families. Your work has inspired many to find and embrace their American Austin Heritage.

Genealogy Center, continued from page 2

Family History Books:

<https://books.familysearch.org/>

The Family History Library is actively digitizing its family histories, local histories, and other collections to make them searchable and available online to researchers worldwide. Together with other world-renowned genealogical research partner libraries, the Family History Library is pleased to make its collections and its partners' collections available together in the new online digital library.

Internet Archive:

https://archive.org/details/allen_county

These books were digitized by the Internet Archive for the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center.

You never know if a particular book has been digitized until you begin to look.

If you find reference to a book of interest on our website, enter the book's title into WorldCat.org,

<https://www.worldcat.org>.

This website will tell you where the closest library with that title is located.

Enjoy exploring the website of The Genealogy Center, and please contact us with any questions. We want you to be successful in finding relevant family history materials.

Allison DePrey Singleton
The Genealogy Center
Genealogy@ACPL.Info
260-421-1225

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The Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century, celebrated Colonial Heritage Month in October with a proclamation signed by Mayor Betsy Price and the Fort Worth City Council. Chapter members Joye Evetts (l) and President Jane Bruckner (r) hold the proclamation, which recognizes the vision and courage of early colonists whose efforts led to the independence of the Colonies and the foundation and establishment of the United States of America. Jane is a past president of Austin Families Association of America.

Autosomal DNA Project

At this point the autosomal DNA portion of our DNA Project includes 146 participants. Of these, 101 have tested with *Family Tree DNA* (FTDNA). The other 45 have tested with other commercial vendors, such as *Ancestry.com* and *23andme*, and transferred a copy of their test results to FTDNA to join the Austin autosomal DNA Project. Since all of our 146 participants have at least one Austin ancestral line, our Austin knowledge and AFAOA website are quite useful in helping to identify Austin relatives.

Because this type of testing works equally well for both men and women, some 30 % of our project members are females. Males (70 %) had a head start timewise, since the Y-DNA portion of our Project began many years ago, and many of those Y-DNA participants have also joined the autosomal DNA Project, which began just a little over two years ago. Women are gaining on men in our Project, and women who test are most often serious about discovering their matching relatives with autosomal DNA testing.

Autosomal DNA testing tells us some useful things

about our family history, such as approximate percentages for our ethnic makeup, but the quest for a more complete family tree can be successful only through the coupling of genealogy research with those genetic test results. Much work and study are always needed for success. Rewards can be great when DNA test results complement standard genealogy research. Long-standing "brick walls" may be removed. Links to many of your family lines may be uncovered.

We offer all our AFAOA members an invitation to experiment with DNA testing. Just send questions to Art Sikes or John Clinard. We will do our best to answer in an understandable manner. The web itself is a vast resource for learning about DNA testing. FTDNA has help at www.familytreedna.com.

John Clinard
autodna@afaoa.org

Y-DNA Project

The *Austin-Austen DNA Project* has some 350 current members and I am asking your help in growing this Project. Encourage family members to join the project. Consider an upgrade to your DNA testing.

Men: With the Y-DNA 37 marker sale, it makes sense to upgrade to at least that level if you are not already there. Also, you should consider the advanced Big Y-700 test, with its lowest price ever. It explores the depth of your Y chromosome and continues to provide you with future changes to your terminal haplogroup/SNP. Plus, you receive future matches for SNPs and STRs as other relatives test Big Y. You can upgrade to Big Y from previous STR test levels. AFAOA's goal is to achieve at least one of these Big Y upgrades for each Austin family group.

FTDNA is currently offering reduced DNA testing prices for its 2019 Thanksgiving Sale, which runs through November 28, but if you missed that there is typically a Holiday Sale that runs the entire month of December. Log into your FTDNA account and see details of the sales. If you have forgotten your password, FTDNA makes it easy for you to get a new password, as long as your e-mail address has not changed, and you know your kit number. With a changed e-mail you must go through Customer Support to get it updated. If you have forgotten your kit number, write me and I can tell you what it is.

If you have questions please contact me.

Art Sikes
dna.administrator@afaoa.org

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Hopping the Pond

Accessing Online Foreign Archives in Search of Your Immigrant's Ancestors

Many of us can trace our roots back to our immigrant ancestors, but researching their life in the country of their origin can be difficult, not only because of the distant location of the records but also gaining access to those records. Fortunately, many digital records can be found online, not just on the larger genealogy websites such as FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com or MyHeritage.com but from the National or Regional Archives of the country, canton, state, or region where your ancestors lived. Typically, these archives contain church or parish records including birth/baptism registers, marriage registers, and death registers, census records, family histories, local histories, land records, administrative records, and maps.

In order to begin your research, you need to know several key pieces of information. First, you need to have the names of your immigrant ancestors. This may seem obvious but looking for the wrong people will only lead to a great deal of frustration and valuable lost research time. Second, and perhaps most importantly, you must find the name of the town or local region where they came from. This may be difficult to locate but often can be found mentioned in immigration or naturalization records, birth, marriage, and death records, obituaries, family histories or historical documents, Bibles, US church records, online public trees, and sometimes, albeit rarely, in the census. Third, knowing your ancestor's religious affiliation is also important because many of the records are organized

according to church denomination. Finally, knowing your ancestor's birth or marriage dates can give you a specific point in time to look within the archives to ensure you are looking in the correct record.

I wish I could give you a map of which countries provide good online archives, but I can't because many archives are held at the state or regional level rather than the national level. Furthermore, not all countries, states, or regions have digitized their archives. Some regions may be very good, while neighboring regions may have no online digitized records yet. In addition, records are usually documented in their native language, a regionally common language, or even in Latin, depending on who created the record, and reading the old script can be extremely difficult. However, these investigative speed bumps can be overcome using Google Translate, subscribing to various Facebook transcription and translation websites, comparing examples of script from the time period of interest, or talking with library personnel at various genealogy libraries. If the language hurdle is too difficult to manage, hiring a genealogist from the country of interest can be a way to overcome a challenging research problem. Just remember, although searching online foreign archives can be frustrating, they can also be extremely rewarding and can divulge some very interesting family history. Happy hunting!

David Neithamer
vpresident3@afaoa.org

The following letter was recently received from AFAOA member Andrew Wells.

I just received confirmation my application for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants has been approved, and I'm now a member through my Austin ancestors. If it weren't for Edith Austin Moore's field notes, I might never have known about the 1854 will of James Russell Austin, a merchant in East Greenwich, RI. Due to his only son George Ray Austin having died in the Civil War and never having reached age 21, a contingency clause in the will went into effect. One quarter of the estate, after the death of his wife Lucinda, went to "Catharine C. Sweet and Susan A. Sweet children of my half-brother Eldredge Sweet..." Legatee Susan Austin Sweet was my 3rd great grandmother. Susan's grandfather Ezra Sweet married Patience Austin, daughter of James Austin of North Kingstown, RI. Descen-

dants of Patience Austin can now qualify, as she's the new line. Without the Austin Families Association, this would have remained without proof.

Thanks to everyone!

Andrew Wells is a descendant of Mayflower passenger George Soule, whose great granddaughter, Mary West, was the wife of Edmund Austin. Edmund was born about 1706 in Kingstown, Washington Co., Rhode Island. James Austin, the son of Edmund and Mary West Austin, had a daughter, Patience, who married Ezra Sweet. The line from Edmund down to Patience and Ezra's son Eldredge Sweet and his children, is in AFAOA's *Edmund Austin of Rhode Island* database.

This Austin line was first published in the back of Edith Austin Moore's book *Robert Austin of Rhode Island*, where it appears along with other Austin lines that she felt were closely related to the Robert line.

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2019 Austin Conference, continued from page 1

roadmap of how to do something with all of that. Our next speaker was AFAOA member Dave Neithamer, who talked to us about *Hopping the Pond: Accessing Online Foreign Archives in Search of Your Immigrant's Ancestors*. A common goal for most of us is to find our immigrant ancestor, but then what? Dave shared interesting cases from his own research on how to continue the search in various European digital archives, including useful tips on overcoming roadblocks and how to interpret the information you find.

After lunch we were treated to two presentations from Curt Sylvester of the Indiana Genealogical Society. First, Curt introduced us to the ins and outs of *Colonial Era Research*. Knowing more about Colonial society and the way things were organized makes a big difference in the way research should be done. Curt went on to talk to us about *Genealogy Using Church Records*, also very interesting and helpful. Charlie Austin wrapped up the afternoon with *Exploring Family Legends: John Orlando Austin in the West*. Knowing more about the life and times of our ancestors is what puts color in the black and white of genealogy, and John O. Austin certainly lived an interesting life out West in the time of Buffalo Bill, during the Western expansion.

We resumed our time together Saturday morning with a very useful talk, by Allison DePrey Singleton from the Genealogy Center, on *Researching the Genealogy Center from Home*. Allison walked us through their website and showed us how we can continue our research from home after we leave Fort Wayne. Next we heard from Bob Schmidt, President of the Canal Society of Indiana. His presentation, *Exploring Indiana Canals*, gave us a glimpse into Indiana's past, how the Wabash and Erie Canals came into existence, and how they shaped immigration and Indiana's development in the mid-1800's.

After lunch, our afternoon began with a talk by AFAOA President John Clinard on *Powerful Uses of Y-DNA: Examples for Solution of Non-Conventional Genealogical Cases Involving the Descendants of Thomas Austin of New Kent, VA*. It was truly fascinating to hear how DNA evidence, and some determined genealogical sleuthing, can rewrite our family history and change what we thought we knew about our ancestors. Our last speaker was Art Sikes, who shared a wonderful collection of photographs of *Old Austin Homes of Suffield, CT*. Some of these homes and other buildings no longer exist, and only live on in memory and in pictures like these.

We finished off the afternoon with our annual AFAOA business meeting. Following reports from officers and committees, nominations for next year's conference location were received from members in attendance, and voting narrowed the nominated locations down to two. AFAOA members

will now be choosing between Williamsburg, Virginia and Salt Lake City, Utah. A ballot is available in this newsletter, and also on the AFAOA website. Be sure to cast your vote for the location you would most like to visit in 2020!

The conference concluded with a delicious "Western Cookout" buffet and a visit from Steve Smith, a re-enactor with the 30th Indiana Volunteers. Steve entertained us with tales of the experiences of the regiment during the Civil War. The 2019 conference was another fine gathering filled with camaraderie, discoveries, the renewal of old friendships, and the creating of new ones. And now we look to next year. Whether in Williamsburg or in Salt Lake City, we hope you will join us in 2020!

Elizabeth Neithamer
Conference Chair



Bill Austin
"presenting the colors"

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VOTE FOR THE 2020 CONFERENCE SITE [One vote per membership]

Vote in one of the following ways:

1. **Vote by mail.** Use the ballot below.
2. **Vote by e-mail.** Send the information requested on the ballot to: membership@afaoa.org
3. **Vote on-line.** On the AFAOA web site. Select "AFAOA Conference" on the top toolbar and follow directions.

Include your comments on date preference, the reason you are interested in that location, etc.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah, is located in a high valley at the foot of the Wasatch mountain range. The city was founded in 1847 by Mormons, who were led by Brigham Young on a 1,300 mile trek from Illinois. "This is the Place" Heritage Park commemorates their arrival and includes a living history museum. Downtown's 10-acre Temple Square, the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is home to the majestic Salt Lake Temple, the Mormon Tabernacle (noted for its acclaimed Tabernacle Choir and great organ), the Joseph Smith Memorial Building (with its Legacy Theater, FamilySearch Center and restaurants) and the Family History Library. Other city attractions include the State Capitol and Historic District on Capitol Hill.



The Family History Library is the largest genealogical library in the world. The collection includes over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed records; 727,000 microfiche; 356,000 books, serials, and other formats; over 4,500 periodicals and 3,725 electronic resources. Records are from the United States, Canada, British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa and have been filmed in over 110 countries, territories, and possessions.

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Step back in time when you visit Colonial Williamsburg, which stretches over 301 acres, and includes 88 original 18th-century structures. Hundreds of houses, shops and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Walk the streets with costumed interpreters representing Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Patrick Henry as well as ordinary citizens, preachers, farmers and craftsmen. Visit the historic dining taverns and trades shops. Twenty trades are practiced with 18th-century methods and tools.

For research opportunities, the collections of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library focus on the history and culture of colonial British America, the American Revolution, and the early United States. Also in the Historic District is the College of William and Mary, chartered in 1693. The Manuscripts and Rare Books Collections of the university's Swem Library are primarily focused on Virginia history from the 17th to the 21st centuries. The Williamsburg Regional Library has a growing number of genealogy resources, with emphasis on the Tidewater region of Virginia.

While you are in the area you can also enjoy research at the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, about 50 miles away.

Historic Jamestown and the Yorktown Battlefield are only 10-15 miles from Williamsburg.



Please cut here



2020 Conference Site Ballot:

_____ Salt Lake City, Utah
_____ Williamsburg, Virginia

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: AFAOA
c/o Alice Austin Martin
527 Front Beach Drive #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Austin Families Association of America

Austin Families Association of America
527 Front Beach Dr. #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

**PLEASE NOTICE
THE RENEWAL
DATE ON YOUR
ADDRESS LABEL.**

Address Service Requested

YOUR CHECK FOR DUES - \$15 PER YEAR OR \$25 FOR 2 YEARS -
MADE PAYABLE TO "AFAOA" SHOULD BE SENT TO:
PAULA MACKEY, 5104 GOLDEN LANE, FORT WORTH, TX 76123

Austin Families Association of America

Objectives

- To gather, preserve and disseminate Austin genealogies and Austin family histories.
- To establish a specialized database of Austin information that can assist genealogists and family members to learn as much as possible about their Austin heritage.
- To foster acquaintances and long-term friendships among the members of all branches of Austin families.

History

The archival holdings of AFAOA began with the research efforts of Edith Austin Moore as she searched for her Austin ancestors. From 1922, until her death in 1979, Edith compiled a collection of Austin genealogies and research data and eventually produced books or manuscripts on eight Austin lines. In 1942, to further her Austin research, Edith and her brother, Henry Warner Austin, founded the Austin Family Association, which later became the Austin Families Association of America. AFAOA researchers have continued her work. The Computer Project was begun in 1991, and the AFAOA website was created in 1995.