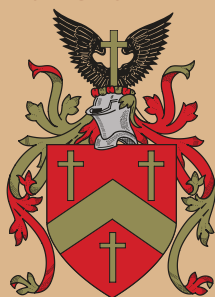


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage



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Ezekiel Austin Revolutionary War Patriot

Ezekiel Austin, born 1 May 1756/57 in Exeter, Rhode Island, was a great-grandson of Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island. The town of Exeter was formed in 1742 from the western part of North Kingstown.

Ezekiel's Revolutionary War service is recorded in the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files. He enlisted in the Continental Army in the spring of 1776, at Jericho, in New York State, and served several terms of enlistment, for a total of 18 months. He was employed for six months in building forts at Albany, for two months taking care of some Continental horses, and was in the Battle of Bennington and the Battle of Saratoga, where the surrender of General Burgoyne was a turning point in the war.

After the war he returned to Exeter, where he and his wife, Martha Harvey, farmed and raised their eight children. Ezekiel died 17 July 1849. The farm, where Ezekiel and other family members are buried, is now part of the Austin Farm Road Historic District.

The Austin Farm Road Historic District

The Austin Farm Road Historic District comprises some 105 acres of rolling fields and woodland in north-central Exeter. The adjoined Austin and Lewis farms form the core area of the district and date from the



The surrender of British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga
October 16 1777

mid-eighteenth century.

The town of Exeter was an agricultural community in 1742, but in the 1800s farming began to decline, as it did in neighboring towns as well. Several factors contributed to this decline. There was a general shift in the economics of agriculture, from a subsistence to a commercial farming base. Western farms came to dominate Eastern markets with the help of rail transportation, and the brighter social and financial opportunities available in industrial cities drew many ambitious young people. With few people still farming the land, abandoned farms reverted to woodland.

Ezekiel Austin's grandson John (b.1830) grew up on the Austin farm, acquired during the Revolution by his grandfather, but left in the late 1850s for the city of Providence, where he learned gold and silver refining and built a very successful business, *John Austin & Son*. He also was involved in banking and became

continued on page 5

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

May 2019

NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Gary Doyle Austin

P.O. Box 2142, Grapevine, TX 76099; GaryAustin.TX@aol.com;
*Joseph Leroy b. 1880 Marion Co., AR; Harrison Orvil b. 1911
Mulberry, AR*

Constance Sheet Billy

1275 Virginia Ave., Mountainside, NJ 07092;
bconnie101@aol.com; *"Robert Austin of Kingstown, Washing-
ton Co., RI" b. est.1635; Jeremiah b. est. 1662; David b. abt.1694;
Joseph b.1731 Charlestown, Washington Co., RI; James b. 1758
Richmond, Washington Co., RI; Timothy b. 1781 Richmond, RI*

Charlene Louise Stearns Shivers

26908 NE 36th St., Carras, WA 98607; chaun1948@yahoo.com;
*John Austin b. 1758 RI (m. Esther Harriet Herrick); Esther
(Smith) b. 1786 VT*

Sandi Weberlein

5643 Grape St., Houston, TX 77096; sandiweberlein@hotmail.com;
William Charles b. 1650, Sussex, Eng.

Joseph Manning Austin III

100 Harrington Farms Way, Shrewsbury, MA 01545;
joeaustin@townisp.com; *"Nathaniel Austin of Greenville, SC"
b. abt. 1720 Eng; William b.1759 VA; William Lawrence
b.1803 SC; John Wickliffe b.1833 SC; Joseph Manning b.1867
Greenville, SC; James Frederick b.1912 Norfolk, VA*

Patricia Ann "Trish" Walter

9492E 2045 North Rd., Oakwood, IL 61858;
wtrish354@gmail.com; *"William and Ruth Austin of NC".....
Greenberry b. 1794 NC; Lawrence b. 1816 TN; Mattie b. 1862 TN*

**To keep our membership records up-to-date, please send us
any address or email changes and new ancestor information.**

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

Alice Austin Martin
membership@afaoa.org

Website Features—AFAOA Publications

ABOUT OUR DATABASES

AFAOA PUBLICATIONS

AFAOA CONFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP

AFAOA DIRECTORY

WEBMASTER

AFAOA Newsletters—from Fall 1998 on, plus abstracts of
articles from earlier Newsletters.

Edith Austin Moore Field Notebooks—Book "a" through
Book 92. Transcriptions of hand-written notes by Edith
during her genealogical searches.

Miscellaneous Records of Edith Austin Moore

States Notebooks of Janet Austin Curtis—Collections
of her notes, records and correspondence

Miscellaneous Records of Janet Austin Curtis

Austin Families Genealogical Society—"Austins of
America" newsletters

Austin Families Genealogical Society—"AFGS Register",
Volumes 1 and 2

Harold Steiner Collection—History and research into
the Austins of early North Carolina and the eastern shore
of Maryland

The Philip Austin Family of North Carolina—History and
genealogy of 5 generations of the Philip Austin family
that helped settle the North Carolina counties of Orange,
Burke and Caldwell. Follows the male line: Philip, Charles
(son of Philip), William Young (son of Charles), and
Joseph Kirkman (son of William Young) and their
families, 159 pages.

Austins of the Eastern Shore of Maryland—Histories and
genealogies of William Austin of Talbot County, William
Austin of Kent County, William Austin of England or
Wales, Samuel & Alice Austin of Anne Arundel & Queen
Anne's Counties, John & Rosamond Austin of Queen
Ann's County, Samuel & Mary Green Austin and others,
168 pages.

The Solomon Austin Story—The Early Years Revisited,
Solomon Austin was born about 1744 and first appeared
in the official records of Orange County, North Carolina
in 1778, compiled by Harold Austin Steiner, June 1997,
in 3 parts.

Dall-Tardy Letters—Letters by James and Henrietta Dall in
Baltimore, Maryland to their niece and foster daughter,
Clara Honey Austin Tardy (1818-1858), in Mobile,
Alabama.

Austin Holdings—A combination of AFAOA & AFGS
miscellaneous articles, stories and records of Austin
families, histories and events.

African-American Austins—Miscellaneous records of
African-American Austins.

Census Project—Austins in U.S. and other censuses.

Austins in the Military—Austins in various military and
veterans institutions.

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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What I offer is more pep talk. This organization called AFAOA is great! One of the greatest things we do is offer these quarterly Newsletters. I hope you enjoy them.

By now, those of you who read the Newsletters know what AFAOA's missions are. You know about our free website. You know we have a meaningful DNA Program. You know that we will help you with your research on Austin families of America. You know we have dedicated, freely-giving volunteers who provide continuity to this organization—that's about a dozen people. It's not a job; but it is a demanding pursuit, with continuous improvement as a focus.

Although we are over-worked, not-paid and aging, we give you our best. As with any organization, we are in the hunt for new blood... to share in the fun and the work, and to bring new energy and enthusiasm. I am leading forward-planning, while also serving as the volunteer coordinator for AFAOA. There will be more to come on this subject. Send me an idea or two.

We appreciate all that you give us in return, including your membership, your family data, your shared research and your family stories... and your attendance at our annual Conference. See the registration form for October's Fort Wayne Conference, included herein.

John Clinard
president@afaoa.org



Jane Austin Bruckner, past President of AFAOA, has been re-elected to another two-year term as President of the *Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter of Colonial Dames XVIIC* in Fort Worth, Texas. Jane is a descendant of Phillip and Isabella Hurt Pendleton of Virginia. As an Austin, she is a descendant of Thomas Austin of New Kent County, VA, who came to the colonies in 1642.

Jane and her late brother, Isham Austin, have participated in the Austin DNA Project.

database SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Austin of Cross Hill, Laurens County, SC

386 individuals, 98 families—Compiler: Liz Austin Carlin

Alexander Austin (1755–1826), Samuel Austin (1761–1826) and James Austin (1780/1790–1832), all born in County Antrim, Ireland, share this database.



Most of the Scots-Irish were lowland Scots transplanted to Ulster (in the Austins' case to County Antrim) in the early 1600's by King James I, to plant Protestantism in Catholic Ireland. In the eighteenth century the English governors of South Carolina became concerned about the colony's racial distribution and encouraged emigration by offering bounties to English speaking settlers. The size of the bounty was sufficient to lure the Scots in Ulster to abandon the poverty of Ireland by paying for steerage passage to Charleston and providing a simple stake to establish them in South Carolina. Land obtained by treaty from the Cherokees was available in the upstate area.

Alexander, his wife Agnes and their children (James, Alexander, William, Samuel, Henrietta and Nancy), and his brother James, sailed from Belfast, arriving in Charleston, South Carolina on 13 November 1804 after a 70-day voyage. They went directly to friends in Cross Hill. They erected a one room cabin on 700 acres in Cross Hill, Laurens County. Five more children were born in South Carolina. Alexander and James filed for citizenship in the Laurens District Court on 14 November 1815 and took the oath of citizenship April 18, 1821.

Samuel arrived in South Carolina at a different time. He is thought to be a brother or close relative because of the intermingling of this family with that of Alexander and James.

Alexander successfully established his family, providing for a medical education for his son, Robert Campbell, with William inheriting the "big house" and some land. His son, Alexander Jr., also inherited land which he resold to William, using the proceeds to purchase the land on the Honea Path side of the Saluda River, which became the foundation of the Anderson-Abbeville line of Austins. Alexander died in Cross Hill, SC in October 1826.

Source: "Alexander Austin and his Honea Path Family" by William Bennett Austin, Jr. (provided to AFAOA by the author 28 Jul 2009)

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Autosomal DNA Project

Both men and women continue to join our Austin Autosomal DNA Project. All have an Austin ancestor, whether on their father's or mother's side of the family. Most have developed their own family tree, filling in many of the branches. These trees are shared/displayed using the tools provided by Family Tree DNA (FTDNA). In the case of autosomal DNA, matches can only be understood if the match-partner has provided a family tree.

To date we have 144 members, many of whom are also members of our Austin Y-DNA Project. The autosomal DNA matches have provided valuable complementary data in searching/proving ancestors for men with matching Y-DNA. Usually we have been successful in pointing these members to the proper ancestral line in our AFAOA database; with some we have yet to find the connection. In about one quarter of the cases the DNA Project member is also a member of AFAOA.

Project members are given advice for proper use of the tools that are embedded in FTDNA for autosomal testing and comparisons, and can receive help in moving DNA test results from other commercial vendors, such as Ancestry.com, to FTDNA. Advice can also be given for moving test results to GEDMATCH, a popular third-party vendor that has free but powerful tools for autosomal DNA data-matching, beyond the tools provided by FTDNA.

Although we are very open on a one-to-one basis in communicating with our DNA project members—sharing information, some of which might be considered private—we follow closely the guidelines provided by FTDNA for data and personal information protections. We post very little of our results on the AFAOA website, particularly in the case of autosomal DNA matching. This is partially due to privacy protection and partially due to the fact that autosomal DNA matching does not generally lend itself to display.

Contact me if you have any questions.

John Clinard
autodna@afaoa.org

Y-DNA Project

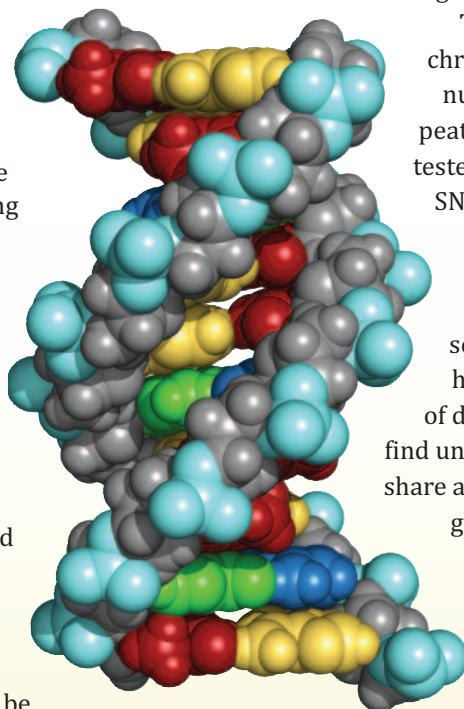
There is a new tool in the DNA research toolbox! Earlier this year Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), introduced the Big Y-700 test. It's expensive, and the tools available for using the results are still evolving, but it could be valuable for identifying and separating early families and even branches of families. You must have at least a 37 marker test before ordering a Big Y test.

There are two parts to this test on the Y chromosome: the first is increasing the number of STR markers (short tandem repeats—repeated sections in DNA) that are tested to 700; the second part is testing SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms—single changes in the DNA). Some of these SNPs have a very slow rate of change and their steady nature allows scientists and genealogists to learn about human migration and the relationships of distant ancestors. The Big Y-700 test will find unique Y-DNA variants that only men who share a direct paternal line, perhaps 10 to 20 generations back, will share.

We have three large Austin families in the J2 Haplogroup, and lots of small families that tested J2 and probably belong to one of these three. There is a good chance that all three families have a common ancestor in England, probably in the Kent area, four to seven generations before coming to North America. The J2 Haplogroup is a very rare Haplogroup in England and is concentrated in and around Kent.

I have ordered a test on my Sikes/Sykes line, and a second one for a nephew of Edith Austin Moore. John Clinard has ordered two as well, both associated with the E-M2 Haplogroup line of "Thomas Austin of New Kent VA." Because of the newness of the test and the relatively small number of tests ordered so far, satisfactory results will probably not be immediate.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
dna.administrator@afaoa.org



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Ezekiel Austin, continued from page 1

president of the Citizens Savings Bank in 1879.

John Austin cared deeply about his rural agrarian heritage and knew that the life of the country farmer, that he knew as a boy, was fast disappearing. In the late 1800s he acquired his family homestead and the adjacent Lewis farm and made the combined farms more productive than they had ever been before. The "Austin Homestead Farm", that became a summer retreat for himself and his family, contained 208 acres and required the supervision of a boss farmer who directed the work of several hired hands. The livestock included horses, cows, pigs, hens, ducks and turkeys. The farm produced as much as 100 tons of hay per year and 1100 bushels of potatoes. Austin planted apple trees and established peach, plum and pear orchards. A large vegetable garden was kept. Each week a wagon would take fresh produce from the farm to Austin's large house on Westminster Street in Providence.

No early structures survive. New buildings were erected by John Austin, either to provide new facilities or to replace earlier deteriorated or burned out structures. The Austin farm complex remains largely as it was in the late nineteenth century. Though on a much smaller scale than in former times, it continues in use as a "hobby" farm. There are planting fields, an orchard, a family cemetery, pastures and woodland. Roaring Brook runs from north to south across the farm and, in the late nineteenth century, it was dammed in two places, creating two ponds. Austin Upper Pond provided power for a turbine driven sawmill. An unspoiled stone-walled lane runs from the main complex to the mill. Austin Lower Pond, with fine cut-stone dam, was probably created to provide a convenient source of ice.

Although the farms are again in separate ownership, the character they achieved under Austin's proprietorship remains and is predominant. The Austin Farm Road District is one of a relatively small number of extant examples of traditional open farm landscape. The area was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

[information from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form]

AFAOA member Jenifer Vieira has been accepted for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution as a descendant of Ezekiel Austin. She visited the farm and found the old family cemetery to be in overgrown condition. She hopes to organize a clean-up of the cemetery.

"Lonesome" Historic Marker Dedication

Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 1 PM – 2 PM



The historic "Lonesome" Cabin now has its own Tennessee State Historic Marker on Highway 96 in Burns, Tennessee. A sign at the park entrance says Lonesome Pioneer Park.

Stories in the May 2015 and March 2018 AFAOA newsletters introduced readers to the log cabin in Burns, Tennessee, built in about 1820 for William Green Austin and his wife Delilah "Dicy" Horner Austin. It remained in the Austin family into the twenty first century.

In 2015, in order to preserve the cabin and land and to make it accessible to the public, William Wyatt Austin III, great-great-grandson of William and Dicy Austin, donated it to the city of Burns. The Friends of Lonesome was founded to carry out plans for the development of Lonesome Pioneer Park, and to celebrate and preserve the pioneer history of Dickson County. The park also includes other buildings and artifacts of the 1800s. A picnic pavilion and a new access road are under construction. A major restoration of the cabin is planned and donations to fund this project are requested.

IRS non-profit status (501c3) has been secured, and the re-organized Friends of Lonesome Historic Site (FOLHS) has received a grant to develop public school curriculum for the site.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLonesome.BurnsTN>

Information on the family's Austin ancestry can be found in the William Austin of Kent County, Maryland database at

www.afaoo.org.

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Fort Wayne, Indiana

Fort Wayne, the county seat of Allen County, derives its name from a U.S. military fort established in 1794 by Gen. Anthony Wayne. This fort, built where the St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers come together to form the Maumee, followed Wayne's victory over the Miami Indians. Originally the capital of the Miami nation, the first European settlers were French fur traders who established their trading post during the 1680s. The first French fort, named Fort Miamis, was built in 1697. It was annexed by the British in 1760, after the French and Indian War, and renamed Fort Miami, but it was taken over by the Indians following Pontiac's Rebellion. Indian rule lasted for about 30 years, following which the United States army attacked the region and established their hold. Settlement took place in 1815. Fort Wayne was platted in 1824, and was made the county seat. The city charter was obtained in 1840.

The local economy was aided by the arrival of the Wabash and Erie Canal in 1843, linking the navigable water of the Maumee River with the Wabash through the seven mile portage at Fort Wayne. This provided easy and rapid travel for incoming settlers and a convenient way for moving their agricultural and other products. The arrival of immigrants from Germany and Ireland during the 19th century increased the population and brought about a mixed culture in the city.

The History Center 302 E Berry St.

www.fwhistorycenter.com

The History Center, managed by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, is a museum housed in the Old City Hall building, which was constructed in 1893 and served as the seat of city government until 1971. The center holds an extensive collection of archival records and more than 22,000 artifacts that trace the community's heritage from the Glacial Age to the Information Era.

Allen County Courthouse 715 S. Calhoun St.

www.allencountycourthouse.org/history.php

A National Historic Landmark, and one of the finest examples of Beaux Arts architecture, the restored Allen County Courthouse boasts magnificent art glass, exquisite murals and intricately patterned tile floors.

Completed in 1902, it was meant to express in art and architecture the dignity of the government and the grandeur of the law.



Historic Old Fort 1201 Spy Run Ave.

www.fortwayneparks.org/facilities/historic-old-fort.html

www.oldfortwayne.org/

The reconstructed Fort Wayne is a faithful copy of the post built by American troops in 1815-1816. The original complex was perhaps the most sophisticated all-wooden fort built



in North America. The Old Fort is a public park, so you can always wander and enjoy the Fort's grounds. The buildings are open for special events.

Allen County Public Library 900 Library Plaza

Genealogy Center

www.genealogycenter.org/

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne boasts the second most complete genealogical collection in the United States, with over 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 microfilm and microfiche items. The library's holdings include family histories, state, city and town records and histories, census records, city directories, passenger lists, military records, U.S. Special Collections, and records for Canada, the British Isles, Germany and other countries.



Botanical Conservatory 1100 S. Calhoun St.

www.botanicalconservatory.org/

Three indoor gardens cover over 25,000 square feet and showcase 1,200 plants (over 500 species). Stroll through four outdoor gardens featuring a variety of ornamental grasses, rhododendrons, trees, shrubs and perennials. Visit the Showcase Garden with its lush seasonal displays, and the Tropical Garden where orchids and palms thrive in the shadows of a cascading waterfall, or retreat to the quiet beauty of the Desert Garden.



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

May 2019

2019 Austin Families Association Conference Fort Wayne, Indiana

Wednesday & Thursday, October 2nd & 3rd
Early arrival activities • Thursday evening social hour

Friday & Saturday, October 4th & 5th
Speakers and workshops • Saturday evening dinner

Conference Hotel:

***Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne
Convention Center***

1020 S. Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

The Hilton is a modern downtown hotel, only two blocks from the Allen County Public Library with its well-known Genealogy Center. Other nearby places you might want to visit include the Old Fort, the historic Allen County Courthouse, the History Center and the Botanical Conservatory.

Conference Room Rate:

\$119 + tax for standard rooms (1 King or 2 Queen beds) with a microwave, mini-fridge, coffeemaker and free Wi-Fi. There is a complimentary airport shuttle. Attached covered parking is \$8/day.

Hotel Reservations

A block of rooms is reserved, at the conference rate, for the nights of Wednesday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 5th. This room rate will also apply 3 nights before and 3 nights after the conference on a space-available basis. Availability might be limited, so make your reservation as soon as possible!

This room rate will be available until September 3rd—or until the group block is sold out—whichever comes first. Reservations made after September 3rd will be on a space-available basis, at the prevailing room rate.

Hotel Reservations may be made 4 ways:

- If your reservation will include nights before or after the group block, it is recommended that you call the hotel directly **(260-420-1100)** and speak to the front desk. Refer to the Austin Families Association or the group code—AUS.

- Contact Hilton Reservations at 1-800-HILTONS **(1-800-445-8667)** and refer to the Austin Families Association, or the group code—AUS.
- Reservations may be made online at **www.ftwayne.hilton.com**. Enter your arrival and departure dates, click on “Add special rate codes,” then enter AUS in the box labeled Group Code.
- Hilton has created a personalized **group reservation link** for AFAOA: This link will be available on the “AFAOA Conference” page on **www.afaoa.org**. Just click on the link, then choose your dates and room type. (You must be registered for use of the website.)

Conference Registration:

The conference registration fee is \$100 per person, which includes Friday and Saturday speakers and workshops, the Thursday social hour, and the Saturday night dinner. The fee is \$75 per person for those who wish to attend only the social hour and dinner.

A registration form is included with this newsletter and is also available on our website’s “AFAOA Conference” page.

Send your registration form, with check payable to AFAOA, to the Conference Registrar:

Paula Mackey, 5104 Golden Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76123.

To help with planning, please send your form as soon as possible and be sure to indicate your interest in “early arrival activities”.

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.