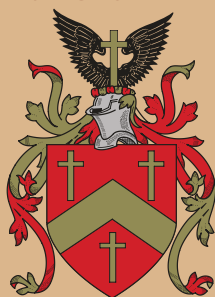


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage



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Grove Street Cemetery New Haven, Connecticut

In the 1790s, a deadly epidemic of yellow fever swept throughout the eastern United States, hitting densely-populated urban centers like New Haven especially hard. As fever-related fatalities multiplied, the burying grounds located behind the churches on the New Haven green—which had been in operation for nearly 150 years at that point—quickly reached capacity, and city leaders designated a large plot of land near the outskirts of the city as the new repository for the dead.

On November 9th, 1797, Martha Beardsley became the first person to be buried in the city's "New Burying Ground," which would soon come to be known as the Grove Street Cemetery. Born of necessity, city planners designed the cemetery to model the nine-square grid pattern of the city itself, carefully laying out patterns for where future residents and their families would be buried in order to avoid the overcrowding issues commonly experienced in disorganized churchyards. Because of these features, the Grove Street Cemetery is considered to be the first planned burying ground in the country, as well as the first to incorporate the use of formal family plots. Its construction marked a significant turning point in American urban history, as more cities began favoring purposefully designed, sprawling, park-like cemeteries to house their dead, instead of the centuries-old



An 1879 photo of the Grove Street Cemetery's Egyptian Revival-style front gate, with a Victorian-style chapel behind it.

model of ad hoc, disorganized graveyards typically located behind church buildings and meetinghouses.

When the cemetery's original wooden fence began to decay in the 1830s, the city built high walls of brownstone to surround and protect the yard and hired **architect Henry Austin** to design a striking Egyptian-revival style front gate, inscribed with the portentous phrase "The Dead Shall Be Raised." Since 1797, the Grove Street Cemetery has become the final resting places for over 14,000 Connecticutans, including many of the state's most famous residents, such as Noah Webster, Eli Whitney, Roger Sherman, Lyman Beecher, Charles Goodyear, Walter Camp, Glenn Miller, and scores of other famous architects, inventors, Yale professors and presidents, and statesmen.

continued on page 4

www.afaoa.org

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Jackie Anson

2148 Poplar Ridge Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122;
("John Austin of Greenwich, CT") *John b.1615 Eng;*
Thomas b.~1653 Stamford CT; Jonathan b. 1685 CT; Levinus
Austin/Anson b. ~1727 Greenwich CT

Gary Lee Austin

P.O. Box 464, Funkstown, MD 21734;
("Robert Austin of RI") *Robert b.~1635, Jeremiah b. ~1662,*
Pasco b. 1698 RI, Gideon b. 1731 RI, Stephen b.~1765 RI, Patrick
b.1783 RI; Stephen Chester b.~1822 Oneida NY; Simon Jefferson
b.1850 NY

Philip Austin

5512 W 11350 N, Highland, UT 84003;
("Richard Austin of Charlestown MA") *Richard b.1598*
Eng.; Anthony b.1636 Eng, Anthony b.1668 MA, Caleb b.1718 CT,
Seth b.1772 CT; Julius b.1810 CT

Thomas E. Austin

304 E. Vine, Minneapolis, KS 67467;
("Unplaced Southern Austins") *Samuel b.1654; John b.1695*
MD; Samuel b.1723 VA; Samuel b.1766 NC; Samuel b.1814 NC;
George Washington b.1857 MO; Roy William b.1895 OK

William George Austin

55 Clay Cv, Atoka, TN 38004; ("George Austin of VA")
Edwin J. b. 1785 NC or VA; George W. b. 1807 TN

Andrea Cutting

3141 40th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406;
("Robert Austin of Kingstown RI") *Robert b.~1635, Edward*
b.~1664, Edward Jr. b.~1690 RI, Benjamin b.~1733 RI, John
b.1758 RI, Phineas b.1790 VT, John B. b.1819 VT, Florence
Amelia (Silcox) b.1854 IL

Theresa Eastwood Davis

3015 Cunard Dr., Valrico, FL 33596;
("Unplaced Southern Austins") *John b.1802 GA; John*
Thomas b.1839 GA; James Henry b.1876 Liberty Co. GA; Vera
Agnes (Hodges) b.1908 Waycross, GA

Lucinda Karlic

10615 NE 60th Ct., Vancouver, WA 98686;
("Samuel Austin of Boston MA") *Samuel b.~1640; Thomas*
b.1671 MA; Thomas Jr. b.1691 MA; Nathan b.1725 MA; Nathan
Jr. b.1748 MA; Daniel b.1773 MA; Daniel Jr. b.1795 NH; Gilman b
1827 NH; Carrie 1859 WI

Michael Klein

3774 Butte St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601;
("Richard Austin of Charlestown MA") *Richard b. 1598*
Eng; Anthony b. 1636 Eng.; Richard b. 1666 MA

John R. Parry

36 Money Point Rd., Mystic, CT 06355;
("Thomas Austin of New Kent Co. VA") *Thomas b.~1600*
Eng; Richard b.~1624 Eng; Richard b.~1660 VA; Richard
b.~1690 VA; Nathaniel b.~1741 VA; Lucy (Holston) b.1774 VA

Debra McBride Shepeard

P.O. Box 1598, Murray, KY 42071;
("Nathan Austin of MA") *Nathan b.1783 MA; Moses G.*
b.~1811 NY; David George b.1845 PA; George Franklin b.1875;
Wilma Amber (McBride) b.1907

Louise Austin Smith

E. Dixileta Dr., Cave Creek, AZ 85331;
("Ralph & Fanny Austin of Westchester Co. NY") *Joshua*
b 1748, Ralph b.1784 CT; Wm. Henry b.1824 NY

Alice Austin Martin
membership@afaoa.org

Look for your membership renewal
date on your address label.

Have you registered for access to our new Website?

The Austin Families Association of America website is the result of over 75 years of research on Austin family lines. The website, created in 1995, contains information on close to 144,000 individuals who are either surnamed Austin, have married an Austin, or are children of an Austin.

Our new website software allows us to control access to that information and prevent data-mining by web robots or "bots". All who visit the website, whether AFAOA members or guests, are now required to register for access and to "sign in". When registering, you must provide a user's name, email address and password. All other infor-

mation—such as address—is optional. A valid email address is required to verify that a person, not a "bot, is registering. All passwords are "one-way encrypted"—they cannot be read by the Webmaster. Since the "sign in" requirement was added, in November of last year, almost 350 people have registered for access. Only 75 of those are members of AFAOA!

You are encouraged to visit your website, see "What's New" (database updates and added documents) and take advantage of features such as Bookmarks and creating a Register Report.

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2019



After six months in my new job as President, here is what I see—a group of dedicated volunteers who work to achieve our objectives: to gather and preserve genealogical data and family history for all Austin family lines that came to America, and to make that information freely available to interested Austin researchers. They do this in an organized manner that respects the past while preparing for the future.

In this Newsletter you will find topics ranging from Austin research, to tips for using our new website, to news of our 2019 conference.

This is a modern digital age. Work to digitize all remaining paper files from our 70+ years of research continues. Our powerful new website, while presenting challenges, has opened new doors as we discover how useable and flexible The Next Generation (TNG) software interface really is. However, you may have noticed a problem created by the new privacy regulations, restricting the display of information on living persons. Our software is classifying anyone entered in the database without a death date as Living, even when it is obvious from related dates that they are not. Be assured that we are aware of the problem and are working to correct it – a lengthy process since those entries must be reworded individually.

As commercial DNA testing utility goes up and costs go down, we are witnessing a rapid growth in our Austin surname DNA Program. Connections among our 70+ databases are being seen through DNA, resulting in the joining of family lines. There is more to come as we move to the future.

I wish to thank our dedicated volunteers, to thank you all for your membership in AFAOA, and to ask you to share in our efforts. Share additional research information on your family. Submit stories about your interesting Austin ancestors for the newsletter. Plan to join your Austin cousins and friends for our annual Austin conference/reunion, this year in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

John Clinard
president@afaoa.org



Austin-Austen DNA Projects

The Austin-Austen DNA Program now supports two DNA projects, with Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) providing the testing, data comparisons and results display. Participation in the program continues to increase. The largest increase is for FTDNA's Family Finder (autosomal DNA) tests, including transfer of autosomal data from Ancestry.com and other vendors. Our Autosomal (at-DNA) Project now has about 130 participants and the Y-DNA Project has about 250.

Encourage others to join the Austin-Austen DNA Program, and point out the advantages of the vast genealogical backup provided at www.afaoa.org. Membership in AFAOA is strongly recommended but not required. Project members get a discount on all FTDNA tests. It is not possible for us to supply a DNA Project member list because of issues of privacy. You can contact your matches using the e-mail addresses provided by FTDNA.

If you are an Austin male, Y-DNA tests can be ordered for 12, 25, 37, 67 or 111 markers. A test already taken can be upgraded for better results. The 12-marker test is typically insufficient, and even 25 markers are frequently not enough for valid matching. The 37-marker test is most popular because of cost considerations and because it supplies a valid starting point for serious matching. Sometimes it is necessary to upgrade the 37-marker test to 67 markers. This has proven useful for families in the R Haplogroup—the most common Haplogroup from England and the most common among our members. It is possible to increase the number of markers tested to 111; however at some point a cost-benefit plateau is reached, where additional costs may not be warranted.

The "DNA Testing" link on the AFAOA website's Home page will direct you to valuable information about both at-DNA and Y-DNA, specific project details and the latest test results, how to join the Program and how to qualify for free testing.

If you have questions, please contact the Project Administrators.

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

John Clinard
autodna@afaoa.org



Henry Austin



New Haven Museum

Henry Austin was a prominent and prolific American architect based in New Haven, Connecticut, in the 1800s. He designed many public buildings and homes in the New Haven area. Italianate-style houses on Wooster Square and Hillhouse Avenue, and classic structures on Yale University's campus and downtown, bear his signature.

Henry Austin, born December 4, 1804 in Hamden, Connecticut, was the son of Daniel and Adah (Dorman) Austin. He died December 17, 1891 in New Haven.

The families and descendants of Daniel Austin and his brother Phineas Austin can be found in AFAOA's "Unplaced Northern Austins" database. Daniel and Phineas Austin came from Vermont to Connecticut when they were young men. [*Families of Ancient New Haven*, Vol 1, compiled by Donald Lines Jacobus, 1923]

For more information about Henry Austin:

www.findagrave.com/memorial/94182247/henry-austin
[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Henry_Austin_\(architect\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Henry_Austin_(architect))

Grove Street Cemetery, continued from page 1

Today, as a National Historic Landmark, the Grove Street Cemetery remains one of New Haven's most popular historical attractions and urban retreats, with guided tours of the park-like landscape offered daily.

Credit: Rachel L. Smith, Office of the State Historian, University of Connecticut, Hartford TODAYINCTHISTORY.COM

Note: The Burial Registry of Grove Street Cemetery contains the names of 81 Austins, including architect Henry Austin, Elijah Austin (brother of Moses Austin and uncle of Stephen F. Austin) who died of yellow fever in 1794, and many descendants of "John Austin of New Haven, CT".

For more information about Grove Street Cemetery, and those buried there: www.grovestreetcemetery.org and www.findagrave.com.

database SPOTLIGHT

John Austin of New Haven, Connecticut

Compiler: Carol R. Austin
john.nhct.compiler@afaoa.org
(Individuals 2,684)

John Austin, born in 1643, is said to have settled in New Haven before 1667 and appears there in the 1669 Census. John married Mercy Atwater (1647–1683) on 5 Nov 1667. They had eight children—only three (David, Joshua and John) lived to adulthood.

Soon after Mercy's death, John married Elizabeth Barnes (1650–1695), widow of Benjamin Brackett. With Elizabeth, John fathered 2 more children, Sarah and Elizabeth.

John died 20 Feb 1690 and was buried in the Old New Haven Burying Ground, on the Green.



History Note: The New Haven Colony was founded in 1638 by English Puritans. The next year, eight streets were laid out in a four-by-four-grid, with the central common block known as the New Haven Green. The Green was the location of the First Congregational Church, organized in 1639, and was also the town's burying ground. In the 1740s another Congregational church was built on the Green to the north, and in 1814 an Episcopal church was built on the Green to the south. First Church, situated in the middle, became known as Center Church.

In 1814 the present Meeting House of Center Church was built over a small part of the burying ground, protected by the church's foundation, with the gravestones left in their original positions. This enclosed basement area, referred to as the Crypt, contains 137 gravestones dating from 1687 to 1812. These are said to include John, Mercy and Elizabeth Austin and several of their descendants.

In 1821 the monuments remaining outside on the Green were moved to Grove Street Cemetery, and placed, in alphabetical order, around the inside of the West and North Walls.

For more information about Center Church:
<http://centerchurchonthegreen.org/>.

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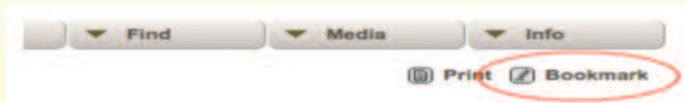
AFAOA Website Features — Register Report:

The screenshot shows the AFAOA website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'ABOUT OUR DATABASES', 'AFADA PUBLICATIONS', 'AFADA CONFERENCE', 'MEMBERSHIP', 'AFADA DIRECTORY', and 'WEBMASTER'. Below this is a search bar with 'Find', 'Media', and 'Info' buttons. The main content area displays the 'Register' report for John Austin (1643-1689). The report includes his birth and death details, his marriage to Mercy Atwater in 1667, and a list of his children: David, Joshua, Mercy, John, Hannah, and Mary. It also mentions his marriage to Elizabeth Barnes in 1683. The report is presented in a compact, register-style format.

1. Select "About Our Databases" on the top bar.
2. Select (scroll down to) the database of interest, and then select a person in that database. (The person you select becomes "generation 1".)
3. That person's "Individual" information appears. But other choices on the tool bar are Family, Ancestors, Descendants, etc. Select "Descendants".
4. Select "Register" on the next bar—and select the number of generations to include.
5. Select "More detail" (top right, opposite Generation 1) to include the Notes. OR
6. Select "PDF" (on the bar) instead of "Register", to create a more compact "Descendancy Report".
7. Select "Print" (top right of page).
8. Chose a printer. (Chose "Print to PDF", then "Save", if you want a PDF file of the report, instead of a paper copy.)

Bookmarks:

One overlooked feature in our new software is the Bookmark.



Almost any page, including individuals in our databases, may be bookmarked. Please note, however, that any bookmarks you create are stored in cookies. If you delete your cookies, or don't allow your browser to create persistent cookies, you will not be able to use bookmarks. Also note that each browser maintains its own cookie database. If you like to switch between different browsers (e.g., Chrome, Edge, Safari) you will need to set your bookmarks in each different browser. If you have both a desktop and laptop computer, you will also need to set your bookmarks on each computer.

To create a bookmark, navigate to any page. In the upper right-hand corner you will see a small Bookmark icon. Click it and your bookmark will be set.

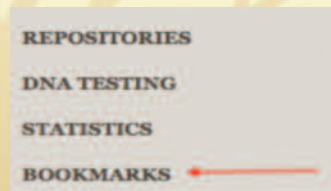
When your bookmark has been set, you will receive a confirmation: Clicking "Go to Bookmarks" will bring up a list of all bookmarks you have set.

Note: These bookmarks are only visible on this computer and in this browser.

- [Individual info for Sarah Elizabeth Austin \(1979\) | Remove](#)
- [Individual info for John Flavel Garrison, Sr. \(1980\) | Remove](#)
- [Individual info for Marcus Irenaeus Garrison \(1983\) | Remove](#)

You can click on any of the links to go immediately to the desired page or remove a bookmark you no longer want.

For quick access to your bookmarks, there is a link to the Bookmarks list on the home page at the bottom of the list of links on the left side. You must be logged in to access any of the pages you have bookmarked.



We hope you enjoy these convenient features of our new software.

Joy Davis
AFAOA Programmer
programmer@afaoa.org

Why I think Edith Austin Moore was part of the “Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island” family

By Arthur M. Sikes, Jr

Edith Austin Moore thought her great-grandfather, Edward Austin b. 30 Jun 1773, had to be part of the “Robert Austin of Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island” family. The 1850 Census states that Edward was born in Rhode Island and it appeared to Edith that most of the Rhode Island Austins were related. Her research indicated that Robert had four sons: Jeremiah, Edward, Joseph, and John. There were many Edwards in the “Robert of RI” family tree, so she thought that her Edward must have come from the line that had the most Edwards in it—Robert’s son, Edward—but no documentation could ever be found to verify that.

When I started to work, as compiler, on both “Robert of RI” and “Edward of RI” (separate databases), I also tried to prove that connection, with no luck. Along came Y-DNA testing. We finally tested Austin descendants of two sons of the Robert Austin family and they matched. At the same time we were testing a descendent of Edward, and the DNA was close at 25 marker, but not a good match. There were two mutations and they were in the lower markers. As we accumulated more tests, and went to 37 then 67 markers, a pattern showed up. By then we had several good test results for three of the brothers. One brother, Joseph, and Edith’s Edward line, which by that time had two tests, had a common mutation. I started to think that maybe Edward’s line was from Robert’s son Joseph and not his son Edward.

So then I started looking at all of the data I could find on Washington County, New York. Later I added Warren County, which was made from a section of Washington County in 1813. Warren County is where Edward ended up, along with many of his descendants. I checked census records from 1790 to 1860, including the 1855 State Census, cemetery records (many from Find-A-Grave), and some probate and land records. I also spent a full day at

the Washington County Historical Society digesting all that I could find there.

There were several Austin family lines—from Robert of Kingstown RI, Richard of Charlestown MA, and John of New

Haven CT—in the Washington County area in the time span 1790–1855. There were at least two Robert lines in the area; and one of those lines, the Ellis Austin family, also had a documented son and a documented daughter in the area. Ellis Austin (b. est. 1737, d. bef. 1813) was from the line of Robert’s son Joseph, and from the census it looked like he had a large family, but we knew very little about most of the members.

In the 1800 census of Hebron, Washington County, NY there are five Austin families—Ellis and (I think) four of his sons: Amos, Benjamin, Edward and Reuben. Then I saw, on Find-A-Grave, that someone else had the same thought and had connected Ellis and Edward together as father and son, of course with no documentation. I wrote to that person several times but never got an answer. Was this Edward, son of Ellis, Edith’s great-grandfather?

“Ellis” is not a very common name in any of the Austin databases, so I wondered if that name showed up in Edith’s line. Her Edward didn’t have a son named Ellis, so I checked his grandsons and there was no Ellis there, but when I checked the great-grandsons there he was - Ellis Maxwell Austin b.1896, son of Alexander D. Austin, grandson of Edward J., and great-grandson of “Edward of Rhode Island”. I then went back to Ellis’ daughter, who had married a John Eldridge; their first child was Ellis Austin Eldridge b. 1766.

That convinced me that I was barking up the right tree. So what is next? I plan to go back to Warren and Washington Counties and see if I can find a land or probate record that connects Edward, who died 6 Sep 1854 in North Creek, Johnsburg, Warren County, with Ellis Austin, thereby showing that he really was part of the “Robert of Rhode Island” family, just in a different way than Edith had envisioned.



Edith Austin Moore

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 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. Nearby attractions include the History Center, the Old Fort, the restored Allen County Courthouse 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.

A block of rooms will be reserved, at the conference rate, for 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.



PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

More information on hotel reservations and conference registration will be in the next Newsletter, on our website Conference page and on our Facebook page.

About the AFAOA Databases

AFAOA has always maintained separate databases ("trees") for each documented lineage back to an Austin immigrant to America. Established genealogies without a link to an immigrant Austin progenitor are collected into three "Unplaced" databases with the hope that linkage back to an immigrant progenitor can someday be established. There are currently 70 Austin databases numbering almost 144,000 genealogically linked Austin families. They have traditionally been grouped into Northern and Southern categories, based roughly on the Mason-Dixon line, but they are now listed alphabetically by the database title,

which is the name of the progenitor (except for the "Unplaced" Northern, Southern and Rhode Island Austins). The Native American Austins database is a special case, a collection containing 27 smaller genealogies which represent Native American families bearing the surname Austin.

Each database has a compiler/editor. They are continually updated by the research of our genealogists and compilers, and with information submitted by researchers investigating their Austin lines.

Use the "What's New" link on the website Home page to see a list of the most recent updates.

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.