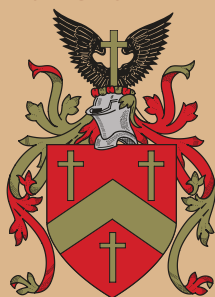


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

Jane Austin Bruckner
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4309 Sparrow Point Court
Fort Worth, TX 76133

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Suffield, CT 06078

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Alice Austin Martin
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
527 Front Beach Dr. #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Margaret Jane Austin

Landowner of Wise County, Virginia

By Barbara Austin Giacomelli

In 2007, when I first discovered AFAOA, I was trying to find my grandfather, Mack Jesse Austin. My dad would never talk about his family. I got an email from Liz Austin Carlin informing me that Mack Jesse was the son of Margaret Jane Austin and a man named Devil John Wright. On learning that my great grandfather was a man named Devil John, my curiosity got the best of me and I started digging. I just had to learn more about my family!

John Wesley Wright, known as “Devil John”, was a Civil War Soldier, both Union and Confederate, a wealthy coal broker, a skilled horseman, sharpshooter, Pinkerton agent and lawman—which is how he got his name. The bad guys would say “if you have John Wright after you it is like having the Devil at your heels, because he won’t stop until he gets his man.”

Margaret Jane Austin had two children by John Wesley Wright, Mahala and Mack Jesse. She never married John, so her children carried the surname Austin. A single woman and a single mother, Margaret was also a farmer of some of the best land in Virginia. She might have been the very first woman in our Austin line to own land.

In 1883, according to the Wise County Index to deeds, Jesse Austin deeds 100 acres of land to his daughter Margaret Jane, age 39. The deed of sale indicates she paid \$25 for the land, which would have been surveyed by her father, Jesse. In 1901, Margaret J. made a purchase of an additional 100 acres of land on the middle fork of the Pound River, for which she paid \$600. Her land was a mixture of valleys and rolling hills, probably covered in lush forests and fertile valleys.

In some local history books, I learned that a typical farm of that location and era would most likely produce corn, maybe some apples, and a vegetable garden. A

milk cow would be kept to produce milk and pull a plow. Horses were scarce, both during and after the Civil War. Walking was the main transportation.

Women in this country knew how to shoot a gun for protection against wild animals and ne’er-do-wells. I believe Margaret would have been equipped for both. In the 1900 census, she lists herself as a farmer and head of household. She owned land in a time and place when it was not common for women to do so. She was obviously ambitious and not bound by tradition. What influenced this remarkable lady to be so independent and successful?

I learned that Margaret’s ancestry has deep roots in Virginia. She was the granddaughter of Bartholomew and Anne Reeves Austin of Grayson County. Anne and Bartholomew were married about 1790 in the New River area of Virginia, when Anne was 16 and Bartholomew was 22. They had thirteen children.

Bartholomew Austin was a teacher and a surveyor. Jane Austin Bruckner said that on occasion he “wagoned” for his neighbors, hauling salt. It was on one of those occasions, in 1841, that he died, traveling on the Cumberland Gap. He is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere along the trail.

It is said that Anne Reeves Austin was a beautiful woman and she made finely tailored jackets for men. She was also a

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Austin Families Association Conference • September 14–16, 2017 • Salt Lake City



Standing: John Clinard, Nancy Fatheree, Arthur Sikes, Beverly Sikes, Curtis Austin, Elizabeth Neithamer, David Neithamer, Jim Carlin, Gay Martin, Alice Martin, Robert Osborn, Barbara Giacomelli, Paula Mackey, Charles Austin, Bob Cody, Kathi Koble, Lois Cody, Carol Hartung, Karlene Austin, Walter Hartung, Joseph Austin, Blaine Shultz.

Seated: Andrew McNeil, Bonnie Bigolin, Liz Carlin, Jane Bruckner, Rev. Marsha Davis, Carol R. Austin, Alice Ellingson, W. C. Fowlkes.

Seated on floor: Darlene McNeil, Sue Osborn, Carol B. Austin, Joy Davis, Bryant Austin, Lil Clinard, Dianne Austin, Diana Wild
[not pictured: Anna and Jack Austin]

The 2017 Austin Families Association conference was held September 14–16 at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square. When it comes to genealogical resources, there's just no place like Salt Lake City. Many of this year's attendees arrived several days early to spend time in the LDS Library, researching family lines and tracking down genealogical leads. Time was also spent walking around the beautiful Temple Square and enjoying dinner atop the Joseph Smith Building. A Welcome Reception was held Thursday evening, where the 40 attendees enjoyed drinks, hors d'oeuvres and each other's company. It's always enjoyable reconnecting with Austin family and friends!

The conference itself kicked off Friday morning in the Salt Lake Room with time for coffee, to meet and exchange data with other Austin researchers, and to consult with AFAOA genealogists. President Jane Bruckner welcomed attendees, giving special recognition to four past-presidents in attendance—Alice Martin (1999–2003), Art Sikes (2003–2007), Gay Martin (2007–2012), and Bonnie Bigolin (2012–2014), thanking them for their leadership and continuing service to our organization.

Our first speaker was Joni Kessler. Joni has worked at the Family History Library for over 30 years, and did a wonderful job familiarizing us with what the library has to offer, making sure we were *Getting the Most Out of*

the Family History Library. She was followed by her colleague, Tim Bingaman. Tim's expertise and interest in both history and genealogy made him the ideal person to talk to us about *Tracking Your Ancestors Through Immigration and Emigration*. He brought to life the way wave after wave of immigration has led to the rich diversity that is our country today. We concluded the morning with our own Art Sikes introducing us to the *Austin Homes of Suffield, Connecticut*.

With all the attention being given these days to DNA research and testing, it was very helpful, following lunch, to have genealogist Raquel Lindaas lead us through *Genetic DNA for the Clueless*. For many of us, it helped to clarify the difference between autosomal and mitochondrial DNA, to understand the different tests, and to see where they fit into genealogical research. Afternoon talks continued, with Stan Lindaas speaking to us about the importance of taking those names, dates, and pictures and turning them into a rich story about your ancestors, in his talk, *Your Ancestors Lived! Telling the Life Experiences of your Forebearers*. Joy Davis then told us *All About the 'Newest' FamilySearch*, updating us on the newest developments in this widely-used program.

We resumed Saturday morning, learning some of those interesting stories about our Austin ancestors. Curtis

Austin introduced us to his early Austins, who were

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What a success our Salt Lake City conference was! We are reminded again of the power of knowing our heritage and preserving it.

You will read in this issue about the conference's varied program, with information helpful to researchers. In addition, we always enjoy hearing what our members are researching. I would say, John Clinard takes the cake!! ("That takes the cake" is my grandmother's expression for something remarkable and unique.) John told us how he researched his wife's ancestors and found twenty of them who were living in Tennessee before 1796, when it became a state. He collected electronically, in the cloud, without paper, the documentation required, then submitted it electronically to the East Tennessee Historical Society, and received twenty engraved First Families of Tennessee Certificates. John said this was his gift to his wife, Lillian Austin Clinard, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!! Outstanding!! Both the 50 years and the research!!

I thank our board members for working toward our goals throughout the year. We had a successful business meeting: bylaws update, support for website upgrade and the Austin DNA Project, the formation of an Autosomal DNA committee, and more.

During these winter months, remember to research and write about your families, if you have not done so. Spend time with older family members: ask questions and listen. Talk of your family stories during the holidays so the family knows their heritage - especially the younger members. Take lots of pictures and write names and dates on the back.

Vote for the place where next year's conference will meet!! See the instructions in this newsletter and be sure to vote by December 15. Thank you for your membership in Austin Families Association of America, the only organization devoted to researching, collecting and sharing Austin Families genealogical research.

Jane Austin Bruckner

AFAOA Conference , continued from page 2

converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. *Austins to Utah: The First Generations* was the story of their 24,000 mile journey from Connecticut to Utah by way of a voyage around Cape Horn. John Clinard shared his efforts to prove the *First Families of Tennessee* status of a number of the ancestors of his wife, Lil Austin Clinard. Barbara Austin Giacomelli brought to life her ancestor, *Margaret Jane Austin: Landowner of Wise County, VA*. Art Sikes concluded the morning with *Discussions on Autosomal DNA*.

During our afternoon Annual Membership Meeting, we heard reports from various officers and committees. We amended our bylaws to refer to our annual gathering as a "conference" instead of a "convention", discussed upcoming changes to our software and web site, and formed a committee to pursue the formation of an Autosomal DNA Project.

Our 2017 conference concluded with a delicious Western Roundup BBQ buffet dinner. President Bruckner presented awards to Alice Martin (Membership/Newsletter), Elizabeth Neithamer (Conference Chair), and Joy Davis (Website Programmer) for their outstanding work for AFAOA this year. Following dinner, "A Little Night Music" was provided by Michael Austin (Curtis Austin's brother), his daughter Addie and son Tate, who shared their considerable musical talents, serenading us with a variety of music.

Next year's AFAOA conference will take place in either Fort Wayne, IN or Philadelphia, PA. Consider your options and make your voice heard. We hope to see you in 2018!

Elizabeth Neithamer

Genealogist's Report

Queries requiring research/input from other researchers, have resulted in updates to the following AFAOA databases:

Northern:	Size	Updated
Isaac of Delaware Co., NY	726	8/04/17
John of New Haven, CT	2,661	10/05/17
John of Susquehanna, PA	299	10/13/17
Jonah of Taunton, MA	6,468	8/04/17
Southern:		
Bartholomew of VA	1,088	8/30/17
Solomon and John of NC	1,285	10/05/17
Thomas of New Kent Co., VA	10,557	8/30/17

Unplaced:

Additions and corrections have also been made to the Northern, Southern, and Rhode Island "Unplaced" databases. (These databases collect small groups of Austin families, with no documented link to any of the known immigrant Austin lines).

Liz Austin Carlin

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Margaret Jane Austin, *continued from page 1*

midwife. I was curious about her background.

Midwifery in that region and time in Virginia was an important job. Women gave birth to their children at home and it was generally a female affair. The birth rate was high in the South. Large families were needed to conduct the work on these large and remotely located Appalachian plantations. I did more research into what life would have been like on the early Virginia plantations.

The first immigrants brought many skills. They were millers, carpenters, farmers, blacksmiths, nurses, midwives and teachers. They valued education and when necessary would send for teachers from Scotland. They shared their skills and talents in a system of bartering and trading with the neighboring plantations and the local Indians. If you had a millstone a farmer could bring corn to be ground, and in payment give you a share of the corn meal. A term from this era is called "on the halves". Making soap on the halves means I bring the lye and lard, you make the soap, and we each get half. They timbered logs from the surrounding forests to build their homes. Now I understood how Anne would be a skilled seamstress and midwife. What could I learn about Anne's parents?

Anne Reeves Austin was the tenth of eleven children born to Lt. George Reeves Sr. and Nancy Jane Burton. George Reeves served in the Revolutionary War and for this service received several sizable land grants in the New River Area of North Carolina and Virginia.

Little is known of Jane Burton. However, her job as the plantation mistress was challenging. She was in charge of the household, raising a large family to help with the labor-intensive farming, and generally being the doctor or nurse of anyone ill or injured. Knowing this helps us to know more about Jane and Anne and the next generations of women in the family.

Margaret Jane's father, Jesse Austin, was the fourth child born to Bartholomew and Anne Reeves Austin. Jesse owned his first farms in Grayson Co. VA when, on Aug. 12, 1819 two deeds were made, conveying to him portions of the estate of his maternal grandfather, George Reeves. In 1834, when Jesse married Margaret "Peggy" Douglas, he was farming over 600 acres. In 1846 Jesse and Peggy Douglas Austin moved to Grayson Co., VA and bought another 125 acres. In 1849 Jesse was conveyed 1500 acres in Ashe Co., NC, and in 1855 Jesse and Peggy made their home in Ashe County.

On November 15, 1857, Jesse age 60 and Peggy age 39 gathered their family of ten children and all their earthly possessions to move on to newer country. Their daugh-

ter Margaret Jane was 13 when they embarked on a month-long journey, heading for an area known as Pound Gap in the Cumberland Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Jesse's family, another family, and a few others, loaded all they had into five wagons, pulled by two yokes of oxen and three teams of horses. They moved to Wise Co., VA, then across the border to Letcher Co., KY, and finally back across the Cumberland Mountain to a large tract of land Jesse had previously purchased.

In his letters, Margaret's brother, David Austin, refers to the difficult winter they spent in Wise, VA. The property that Jesse owned was woodland, so it had to be cleared; a hastily built shanty from the logs is all they had for shelter. David writes that food was so scarce they were rationing to make sure the children got enough to eat. At a young age, Margaret knew the work involved on a large farm. She understood hardship and sacrifice.

In addition to raising thirteen children (three were born in Wise), Peggy Douglas Austin raised a garden—growing potatoes, corn and other root vegetables and squashes. She had her own sheep for wool and would spin and weave cloth. David writes that it was his job to tend to the sheep, making sure they were fed, and their wool sheared and carded for spinning, and to weed and hoe the garden. He goes on to say the older children all had responsibilities, helping with the younger children and doing the many chores required for daily living. They would hunt wild game for meat. Deer, bear and wild pigs were plentiful.

About five years before her death, Jesse brought his mother, Anne Reeves Austin, to Wise Co., where she lived out her life. She was the first to be buried in the beautiful Austin Cemetery, on a grassy bench of land overlooking the dense forests in the Cumberland Mountain. Next to Anne, two of her granddaughters lie side by side. There is a twin headstone for my great grandmother, Margaret Jane Austin, and her sister Anne. The headstone reads "Thy trail is ended. Thy rest is won".

Even though I never had an opportunity to meet these members of my Austin family in Virginia, I know the women in my Austin line were strong and industrious. They were skilled and educated, and played important roles in their time in history. We have much to thank them for!

[Editor's Note:

Barbara Giacomelli's story, "How I Found 'Devil John' Wright was published in the July 2009 issue of the Newsletter, followed by "The Life of Mack Jessee Austin" in February 2010.]

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Austin-Austen DNA project

Autosomal DNA testing

Autosomal DNA testing, in addition to Y-DNA testing, has now been done by 53 members of our Austin Y-DNA Project. I also get requests from a lot of non-Austins, with Austin ancestors, who have had Autosomal testing done and would like to join our project. However, since our project is based on Y-DNA testing, we do not have a way of presenting the results of the Autosomal tests. A new project, or sub-project, will be needed.

At the annual business meeting I proposed the formation of a committee to investigate how to use the information received from the Autosomal tests. It is more complicated than the Y-DNA testing and requires a new skill set. Volunteers to join me on this committee were: Carol Austin, Bonnie Bigolin, John Clinard, Joy Davis, Nancy Fatheree, Barbara Giacomelli, Walter Hartung, Kathi Koble.

- How can we best serve both our Y-DNA Project members and other AFAOA members?
- How do we let others know about Austin Autosomal test results?
- What guidelines for joining these projects should we have?
- Will this effort bring more people into Austin DNA Projects and into AFAOA membership?

These are just a few thoughts as we kick off this sub-project of Austin DNA testing.

Art Sikes

NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Dustin Austin 14281 East County Road 46, Bellevue, OH 44811; dustinaustin2007@gmail.com; "Unplaced Northern Austins"—William d. 1833 Erie Co. OH; George b.1788; Charles Tuttle b.1820 Erie. OH; Lawyer Balfour b.1849 Erie, OH; Thomas Morrow b 1883 Erie, OH; Harlan Dillingham b.1904 OH; Richard Thomas b.1928 OH.

Stephanie Masterman 406 S. Greengrove Drive, Orange, CA 92866; mrsgardener406@gmail.com; "Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA" b.1598 Eng.; Anthony b.1636 Eng.; Nathaniel b.1678 Suffield, MA; Nathaniel b.1703 Suffield, MA; Gad b.1733 Sheffield, MA; Nathaniel b.1764 Sheffield, MA

William J. Austin 161 Van Buren Ave., Ravenna, OH 44266; ludite43@gmail.com; William Earle Austin, b.1865; Florence Austin (Girard); William Earle Austin, Jr, b. 1921(adopted by his grandfather)

Diana Morris Wild 832 Euclid Avenue., San Francisco, CA 94118; dianemwild@gmail.com; "Richard Austin of

Charlestown MA" b.1598 Eng.; Anthony b 1636 Eng.; Nathaniel b.1678 Suffield, MA; Nathaniel b 1703 Suffield, MA; Joab b.1740 Sheffield, MA; Henry b.1770 MA; Warren b.1798 NY; Henry W. b.1828 NY, Sophia (Morris) b.1869 IL

Jeffery Anson 1821 Humphrey St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048; jef-fanson@gmail.com; "John Austin of Greenwich, CT."; Thomas b 1653 CT; Jonathan b.1685 CT; Levinus b.~1727 CT

Kenneth D. Mines 1805 Shadow Lane, Apt.11, Dalton GA 30720; kdanm@hotmail.com; "Thomas Austin of New Kent Co., VA" b.~1600 Eng.; Richard b.~1624 Eng.; Richard II b.~1660 New Kent Co. VA; Richard III b.~1690 VA; Nathaniel b.~1741 VA; John b.1779 NC; Pleasant b.1820 White Co. TN; Flora (Akin) b.1862 TN

David Austin, Jr. 315 E. Granada Ct., Ontario, CA 91764; davi-daustin1973@gmail.com; Isaac Austin b. 1737 ... Jeremiah b. 1825 Nantucket, MA ... Alberto b. 1870 Minas Nuevas, Mexico

David A. Welker 5614 Rowena Dr., Centreville, VA 20120; dawelker@gmail.com; "Robert Austin of Kingstown, RI"; Edward b.~1664; John b.~1692 RI; John b.~1712 RI; Picus b.1740 RI; Thomas b.1766 RI; John b.1801 MA; Thomas Jefferson b. 1830 NY; Minnie Isabelle (DeTemple) b.1868

Debra M. Austin 2008 Sadie Lane, Goodlettsville, TN 37072; debbie.austin@newleafpartners.com; Miles Austin b.1794 York Co. VA; Josiah "Joseph" b.1835 Campbell Co. VA; John Creed b.1855 Floyd Co. VA; Thomas King b.1883 Floyd Co. VA; Theodore Calvin b.1911 Franklin Co. VA; Curtis King b.1938 Rockingham Co. NC

Kyle Neithamer 52361 Creek Lane, Chesterfield, MI 48047; seesharpist@gmail.com; "Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA" b.1598 Eng.; Anthony b.1636 Eng.; Nathaniel b.1678 Suffield, MA; Nathaniel b. 1703 Suffield, MA; Levi b.1743 Sheffield, MA; James b.1779 Richmond, MA; Albert Bennett b.1808 Durham, NY; Albert B. Jr. b. 1842 Schenectady, NY; Albert B. III b. 1876 Paris, IL

Kevin Kainula 161 Ridge Street, Unit 2114, Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783; kckainula@gmail.com; "Samuel Austin of Boston, MA" b. 1639 Boston, MA; Samuel Jr. b. 1669 Boston, MA

Alice Rockwell Deak 21 Harvester Rd., Monroe, CT 06468; gram1943@hotmail.com; "John Austin of New Haven, CT" b.1647; John b.1677 New Haven, CT; Abel b.~1721 Wallingford, CT; Abel b.1766 Wallingford, CT; Aaron b.1803 Prospect, CT; Esther Jane (Clark) b.1834 Prospect, CT

Please help us keep our membership records up to date.
Send us any address or email changes and new ancestor information.

Alice Austin Martin

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AFAOA Business Meeting Highlights September 16, 2017

President Jane Bruckner called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and began by recognizing four Austin women who have passed away since our last meeting. Jane shared their interesting life stories in memoriam:

- Dorothy Smith Clinard, 91, mother of John Clinard
- Dorothy Carlin, 55, daughter of Liz and Jim Carlin
- Colleen Clark Austin Sorensen, 87, mother of Curtis Austin
- Arlene Austin Sikes, 97, mother of Art Sikes

The minutes from the 2016 Business Meeting, posted in the meeting room for review, were approved.

Officer and Committee Reports

VP and Conference Chair Elizabeth Neithamer reported 40 registered for the conference; expenses will be very close to income. She thanked Curtis Austin and Alice Martin for their help in organizing the conference.

VP John Clinard has worked with Joy Davis and Jim Carlin on plans to place the AFAOA website with a new web host.

VP Curtis Austin said The Family History Center is working with the project of digitizing our holdings. Test equipment used for the past 4 months has worked well.

Secretary-Treasurer Paula Mackey gave a year-to-date financial report, which was posted in the meeting room. The report was approved.

Membership and Newsletter Chair Alice Martin reported that 215 members and 3 libraries are currently on the mailing list, with 29 receiving their newsletters by email. Alice encouraged members to submit stories about their Austin ancestors and thanked Robert Osborn for formatting our newsletters.

Genealogist Liz Carlin said the greatest challenge now is to connect the families that the DNA Project has identified as related. More research is needed. Many of the original researchers of the databases have retired.

Genealogist Carol Austin reported there have been updates to 9 of the 11 databases she compiles. Most of her activity has been in the Northern Unlinked databases. Several are large enough to stand alone, but compilers are needed.

Webmaster Jim Carlin has been working with John Clinard and Joy Davis on the new web site. He also spoke of the situation of retiring compilers. Liz Carlin, Carol Austin, and Art Sikes are responsible for most of the databases.

Web Programmer Joy Davis introduced The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding (TNG) software. She

explained the advantages of replacing our current, aging software, and the move to a new web host.

DNA Project Administrator Art Sikes reported there are now 257 Austin-Austen DNA project members and 238 Y-DNA tests have been completed (40 Mitochondrial, and 49 Autosomal); 26 of those tests were completed last year, with 7 free kits provided to those who qualified.

Elizabeth Neithamer announced there is an AFAOA Facebook page. A Facebook icon can be found on our website home page.

Jane Bruckner is planning a questionnaire to determine what interests people in AFAOA.

New Business

Two amendments to the AFAOA Bylaws were proposed by the Board: 1. Call our yearly convention a conference which better describes our size. 2. Delete all references to "joint conventions" as AFAOA no longer holds annual conventions jointly with another genealogical organization. In accordance with the Bylaws, the proposed amendments were published in the May 2017 AFAOA Newsletter, more than 30 days prior to voting. The amendments were adopted.

Elizabeth Neithamer, Curtis Austin, and Jane Bruckner volunteered to serve on a Bylaws Committee.

Joy Davis moved that \$600 be budgeted for setup of the new website and consultation with a professional TNG programmer. The motion was seconded by Lois Cody and passed.

Jim Carlin proposed that *ancestry.com* access be provided for the genealogists. Elizabeth Neithamer moved that AFAOA pay up to \$300 per year per genealogist for access; Curtis Austin seconded. After more discussion, the motion, modified by Charles Austin, that the genealogists be reimbursed, upon their request, up to \$300 per year per genealogist for *ancestry.com* access, was passed.

Art Sikes moved that he be allowed up to \$600 to buy four more 37-marker Y-DNA test kits. The motion was seconded by Bob Cody and passed. Art also proposed that a committee be formed to plan an Autosomal DNA project.

Nominations for next year's meeting site were discussed and narrowed to two—Fort Wayne, IN and Philadelphia, PA—to be presented to the membership for a final vote. There was agreement to continue with the Thursday-Friday-Saturday conference format.

*[Summarized from the meeting minutes
submitted by Paula Austin Mackey, Secretary.]*



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VOTE FOR THE 2018 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:
3. **Vote on-line.** Go to the AFAOA web site. Select "Conference/Reunion" and follow the instructions.

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



PHILADELPHIA, PA

Philadelphia is a city full of history. Visit Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were debated, drafted and signed. See the Assembly Room where George Washington was appointed commander of the Continental Army. Christ Church, founded in 1695, is where the American Episcopal Church was born. The current building was constructed in the early 1700s. Benjamin Franklin raised money for the tower and steeple, added in 1754. Other attractions include the Philadelphia Zoo (America's first zoo), and the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Philadelphia also has many opportunities for genealogy research. The Pennsylvania State Archives holds court records such as land and estate transactions, as well as birth, death and marriage records. The Pennsylvania State Library offers large collections of city directories, passenger lists, family and county histories, microfilmed newspapers, and church and cemetery records. The National Archives at Philadelphia maintains historically significant records of the Federal Agencies and Courts, dating from 1789 to the present, for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia City Archives are also excellent research facilities.



FORT WAYNE, IN

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, 513,000 microfilm and microfiche items and over 50,000 compiled genealogies. The library's holdings include family histories, state, city and town histories, census records, city directories, passenger lists, military records, Native American records, records for Canada, the British Isles, Germany and other countries, periodicals and PERSI, the periodical index.

This region, at the confluence of three rivers, became an important center of trade, due largely to the Wabash-Erie Canal. Visit the History Center and the Old Fort, where history is brought to life through hands-on demonstrations and re-enactments. The restored Allen County Courthouse, a National Historic Landmark, boasts magnificent art glass, exquisite murals and intricately patterned tile floors. Surround yourself with nature at the Botanical Observatory, spark your imagination at Science Central.



Please cut here



2018 Conference Site Ballot:

_____ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

_____ Fort Wayne, Indiana

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: AFAOA
c/o Elizabeth Neithamer
2607 Whippoorwill Hollow
Midland, MI 48642

Austin Families Association of America

Julius Augustus Caesar Austin 1840–1903

While still a youth, living in Suffield, Connecticut, Julius learned the trade of carpenter, joiner and glazier, from a master mechanic by name of Lewis, in the city of Hartford, some 20 miles away. Julius walked the 20 miles every Monday morning, returning to Suffield the following Saturday evening, for 7 years. He built his own small home in Suffield, bringing his bride Octavia to live there, and there raised 3 of their 4 children - Louise, Edwin and Newton.

Soon after their Mormon conversion (ice was broken in the Connecticut River for their baptism 10 Jan 1844), the persecution of Mormons forced them to consider leaving Connecticut for the West. They were among the 70 men, 68 women and 100 children who sailed from New York Harbor 4 Feb 1846 on the "Brooklyn" bound for San Francisco via Cape Horn. The fare was \$50 per adult plus \$25 for provisions, children between 5 and 14 yrs. were half fare.

After a 6-month voyage around Cape Horn, they landed at Yerba Buena (San Francisco) 31 July 1846. While they waited for instructions from Brigham Young as to their final settling place, gold was discovered, in 1848 at Sutter's Mill. Before leaving for Salt Lake, the whole family worked the gold fields at "Mormon Island" on the American River until

they got enough to outfit themselves for the trip to Utah. They travelled east across the Sierra Nevada with Ebenezer Brown's Company in the fall of 1848, eventually settling at Farmington, Davis Co., Utah.

[Written by his granddaughter, Delina C. Willis, in 1940.]



Editor's note: Julius, ancestor of AFAOA VP Curtis Austin, was a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA. (Julius⁶ Seth⁵, Caleb⁴, Anthony³, Anthony², Richard¹)

For more information on this voyage:

"Ship Brooklyn - California Pioneer Heritage Foundation"

<http://californiapioneer.org/historic-events/ship-brooklyn/>

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

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

**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**

Address Service Requested