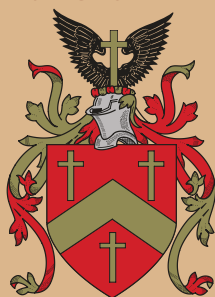


Austin Families Association of America

February 2017

NEWSLETTER

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage



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NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

Newsletter Archive

On the "Publications" page of our website, in the "AFAOA Newsletters" section, there is a link to "Newsletter Archive". This 181-page document contains excerpts of Austin data, transcribed from the Association's newsletters from November 1953 through June 1998.

Beginning with the Fall 1998 issue, AFAOA newsletters were prepared in digital format. These are individually archived and accessible both from the Publications page and the Home page.

The following article, published in the Spring 1996 AFAOA Newsletter, was taken from the Newsletter Archive, pages 141-143.

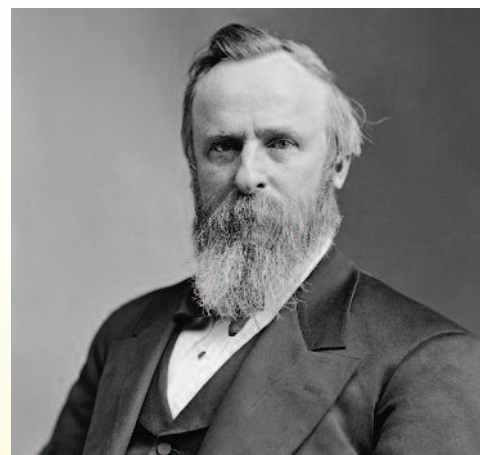
The Austin Ancestry of U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes

by Bill Minnick [1940 – 2011]

Edith Austin Moore documents President Hayes' Austin connection in her book, *The Descendants of Richard Austin, Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638*, published in 1968. Moore gives the President's Austin line as Drusilla⁵, Daniel⁴, Dr. Nathaniel³, Anthony², Richard¹.

The migration of this Austin line began with Richard Austin immigrating with his family from Bishopstoke, Hampshire, England, to Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1638 aboard the ship Bevis. Son Anthony moved on to Suffield, Connecticut where he and his son, Dr. Nathaniel Austin lived and died. Nathaniel's son Daniel was a Captain in the Revolutionary War. After the War, he moved to Wilmington, Vermont where he purchased land and raised his family. The graves of Daniel, his wife, Abigail (Phelps) and his daughter Drusilla are well marked by stately stones in the Old Riverview Cemetery in Wilmington.

Drusilla Austin was the maternal Grandmother of President Hayes. Drusilla married Roger Birchard, also of Wilmington, VT; their daughter Sophia married Rutherford Hayes, Jr., of Brattleboro, VT. Several families of the Hayes, Birchard and Austin clans moved west to Ohio in the early 19th century. A son Rutherford



Birchard Hayes was born to Rutherford and Sophia Hayes in Delaware, OH in 1822; this son later became the 19th U.S. President.

This Hayes-Austin relationship was of particular interest to me, as Drusilla's sister, Sallena, is my direct ancestor, making my relationship to the President a second cousin four generations removed. Unfortunately for me, President Hayes has hundreds if not thousands of such relatives; moreover, the family inheritance was long ago distributed.

DISCOVERING THE HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

Fortunately for all Americans, much of President Hayes' wealth was left to us all

continued on page 4

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017

NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Blythe Frausto

9651 E. Naranja Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209; bbf1956@cox.net;
John Austin of Monongalia Co., VA b. ~1765, Hannah Austin b. ~1794 PA and Jesse Austin b. ~1816 VA (Hannah's granddaughter was her brother Jesse's 2nd wife)

Mary Jane McNay

1531 South Coleman Ct., Bloomington, IN 47401;
mryjnmcy@aol.com; "Unplaced Northern Austins" – *Jonah Austin b. abt. 1720; Moses Austin b. abt. 1743 Morristown, NJ; Aaron Austin b. 1778 NJ; Alexander Washington Austin b. 1827 Butler Co., OH; Martha Elizabeth Austin b. 1858 OH*

Bruce T. Nill

9800 N.W. 24th Street, Sunrise, FL 33322; fdle244@aol.com;
Ebenezer Austin b. 21 Nov 1795 Cambridge, Washington Co., NY; Flora Austin b. 22 Jan 1840, NY

Darrel D. Salisbury

17277 Four Seasons Drive, Dumfries, VA 220254;
willow703@aol.com; "Joseph Austin of Dover, NH" b. 1616 Eng.;

Thomas b. 1656 Dover, NH; Nathaniel b. 1687 Nantucket, MA; Andrew b. 1733 NH; Nathaniel b. 1760 Berwick, ME; Sylvanus b. 1786 Ferrisburg, VT; William H. b. 1832 NY

James Everett Toombs

34085 Kathryn Drive, Lilliam AL 36549
Jeremiah Austin b. 1805 NC; Silas Austin b. 1839 Henderson County, TN; Jephtha Andrew (Jay) Austin b. 1865 TN; James Lafayette (Jephtha) Austin b. 1892 Cedar Grove, TN

Michael Wright

520 Welcome House Road, Perkasio, PA 18944;
shopright05@gmail.com; *James Austin b. ~1805 Maine, Charles Austin b. 1853 Amity, Aroostook, ME; Ronello Austin b. 1884 ME*

Please help us keep our membership records up to date.

Send us any address or email changes and new ancestor information.

Look for your membership renewal date on your address label.

Alice Austin Martin

Austin-Austen DNA Project

Administrator's Wish List

As the number of DNA Project members increase, and the time since tests were done gets longer, it's harder to keep members up to date and informed. Some problems are:

- (1) If members have changed their e-mail address, and have not updated this on the Family Tree DNA website, I don't have a way of contacting them.
- (2) Some of the people that were tested have passed away.
- (3) Many of the early tests were 12 or 25 marker tests; today 37 markers are considered the minimum Y-Chromosome test level.
- (4) Many of our database compilers don't know who in their database has been tested because we have the policy on not divulging that information without permission.

So, here is my wish list for the New Year:

If your e-mail address has changed, go to the Family Tree DNA website and update it. If you forgot your test kit number or the password to get on your web page, let me know and I can help you.

If you know someone who was tested and has passed away, let me know so I will not try to contact them. Also, please send that information, with date and place, to the database compiler for their Austin line.

Please be sure that your ancestor list is up to

date in the DNA Test Result Chart on the AFAOA website. [Go to "Projects", then "DNA".] Many of you have done new research that will change the existing list. While you are at it, I would love to add one more generation to the chart—your 4th oldest ancestor. With some of our larger families, that 4th generation is important information about the line you are in. Include name, birth year, birth place/state.

If you are only tested to 12 or 25 markers, please consider upgrading your test to 37 markers. FTDNA usually has a sale at least once a year, with upgrades included. If you are interested let me know and I will send you an e-mail when a sale is announced.

I would like to get permission to inform your database compiler that you have taken a DNA test. We will not put that information into the database, but only use it to see where additional testing might be helpful. You can also give me permission to provide your contact information to someone who is researching your family line and asks about a certain test number.

As you are doing your family research, encourage those you are working with to get DNA tested. Our project is most interested in Y-Chromosome testing, but some members have gained new information about their family through Autosomal and Mitochondrial DNA tests.

Art Sikes

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017



Welcome to a new year of exploring what it means to have this shared family name Austin and to be Austin descendants. Our Austin DNA Project is showing us there are many DNA patterns, but we are all “cousins” in our mind.

We are pleased to tell you that the membership has voted to have this year's AFAOA Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the dates September 14–16 have been chosen. This city is home of the LDS Family History Research Library, the largest genealogy library in the world. What a grand opportunity to get special help in expanding your research and finding rare documents. Plan to be there several days before the convention program begins.

Some of our members will go to Salt Lake City for the research ... to see cousins and friends met at previous conventions or to meet new members ... to hear the well-planned programs ... to see the sights. Last year at the Charlottesville convention I met for the first time two cousins in my DNA line—a wonderful surprise! You never know who will be there.

So spread the word within your families and friends. Think about taking your favorite aunt or a cousin who has always wanted to go to Salt Lake City. If you live on the east coast, think about asking your brother or cousin in California, to meet and attend with you. Tell your local genealogy society, and put an AFAOA newsletter and announcement of the convention in the genealogy section of your local library. Let's make this the best attended convention ever!!!

Convention Chair Elizabeth Neithamer and her committee are already at work planning an interesting program—more information to follow. Your ideas and comments are welcomed. We always enjoy hearing from you..

Jane Austin Bruckner

Genealogist's Report

Numerous queries requiring research, as well as input from other researchers, have resulted in recent updates to the following databases:

Northern Austin Databases

Benjamin of Rhode Island
Brayton of Rhode Island
Edward of Rhode Island
Francis of Evesham Twp., NJ
Isaac of Delaware Co., NY
John of New Haven, CT
John of Greenwich, CT
Jonah of Taunton, MA
Joseph of Dover, NH
Richard of Charleston, MA
Robert of Kingstown RI
Samuel of Boston, MA

Southern Austin Databases

Thomas of Sharpsburg, MD
Thomas of New Kent Co. VA
William & Ruth of NC

Unplaced Austin Databases

Northern Unplaced
Southern Unplaced
"Austins who lived in RI at some time"

Liz Austin Carlin

Database Report

My most recent accomplishment was to systematically go through the 14,100 or so notes in the *Richard Austin of Charlestown MA* database, cleaning them up, modernizing them with additional research, and re-formatting them to make them consistent throughout. This also led to further research by AFAOA Genealogist Liz Carlin to confirm or disprove some of the records which were deemed unreliable during this review, or to fill in areas with information now available online that was not available when the database was first formulated.

Jim Carlin



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017

Rutherford B. Hayes, continued from page 1

in the form of the first U.S. Presidential library, which is located in Fremont, Ohio. In fact, the entire Hayes estate, called Spiegel Grove, including the presidential library, is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9–5.

My discovery of the Hayes estate was serendipity just after last year's [1995] Austin Reunion in Ft. Wayne [Indiana]. After the Austin Reunion, my wife Joann and I were traveling east on the Ohio Turnpike toward Akron, OH to visit an old friend. As we sped along the Ohio Turnpike, I happened to dial the AM radio band of about 530 on the band where I found one of those ever-repeating local area information stations (with about a 5-mile range). Here we heard about current events happening at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library at Spiegel Grove. Delighted about my find, I turned off the pike about 30 seconds later at the Fremont exit, and made my way to Spiegel Grove, about two miles down the road.

What surprised me was that I had not known of the Hayes Library being in Fremont, OH. It is not marked on road maps, and for this reason, the Hayes Library and Presidential home, Spiegel Grove, seems to be one of America's best kept secrets. I later discovered that the Hayes estate gets no US Government support, and is not on maps because it is a private institution and not a National Historic site.

We enjoyed a tour of the Hayes home, a beautiful Victorian mansion surrounded by stately trees, beautiful lawns and gardens with walking paths enticing us to an afternoon stroll. One of these paths leads to the Hayes Family Cemetery, and the President's grave site. The home is beautifully decorated in period decor including furniture, china service, carpets and woodwork – much as it was when President Hayes used it as his residence after retiring from politics.

AUSTIN HISTORY IN THE HAYES LIBRARY ARCHIVES

I was delighted to find that the Hayes Library Archives hold a large collection of the President's hand-written letters and correspondence; there are a good number of these letters between President Hayes and his Austin cousins. I scanned several of these letters and found that, in his later life – the decade of the 1880's, the President was very interested in discovering more information about his Austin heritage.

It was also surprising to me that, while the Hayes Presidential Library considers genealogy sources one of its strengths, the Library did not have a copy of E. A. Moore's *Descendants of Richard Austin* among its holdings. Seizing the moment, I offered to the Library Director a copy of our AFAOA current revision of the Richard Austin

book in exchange for a listing of all references to Austin in President Hayes' correspondence archived at the Library, and copies of selected letters to the President's Austin cousins.

Gems in the Hayes-Austin Correspondence

During the fall of 1995, we completed the agreed upon exchange; I received 31 pages documenting 492 references to persons with the Austin surname in President Hayes' Correspondence held by the Archive. Names which occur frequently in the correspondence include:

- Alvin Austin of Columbus, OH
(a cousin; topics: Austin/Birchard genealogy)
- David R. Austin, Toledo, OH
(topics: political advice, appointments)
- Emily L. Austin, Knoxville, TN
(topics: new Austin training school)
- Henry Austin, Boston, MA (topics: forebears)
- Gov. Horace Austin (of MN) (topics: politics)
- Linus Austin, Cleveland, OH
(a socially close cousin; topics: Regrets his gunpowder mill blew up; duck hunting, family genealogy, plans for visits, land investments, train wreck.)
- Mrs. Linus Austin, Cleveland OH
(“Auntie Austin”; topics: family matters, visits, etc.)
- Guy M. Bryan, Galveston, TX (topic: Stephen F. Austin)

Many of these references include one or two lines describing the subject of the letter. There are several examples of “poor” Austin relatives requesting President Hayes to send them money, or arrange jobs in the Civil Service for them (as one might expect).



“I have an attack of genealogical mania. It came on about ten days ago, superinduced by reading a family tree which a friend sent me. It is in a violent form but I trust it will soon abate. I have got up into the Cooke tree and am lost. Can you help me out?”

Letter from Rutherford B. Hayes
to “Uncle Scot”, 14 March 1870.

Links to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums website:

- www.rbhayes.org/
- www.rbhayes.org/about-us/our-history/
- www.rbhayes.org/main/research-collections/
- www.rbhayes.org/news/2017/01/03/library/2017-genealogy-class-schedule/

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017

History of a 200-Year-Old Violin And its Austin Connection

In an email from Clarence P. Cameron to Jim Carlin, on 28 September 2016, Clarence tells the story of receiving a very old violin from a Beloit, Wisconsin neighbor in about 1951. The violin was handmade by a slave for his master in 1800 and had been handed down from owner to owner, as documented by a browning scrap of paper that was found inside the case. William Leuron Austin received the violin in 1913 and it had been held in his family until presented to Clarence in 1951.



*"I am a pretty persistent detective and I was so happy today, when I simply put "W. L. Austin, Beloit, WI" in Google and your Austin Families Association of America's web site was the first thing to come up. This led me to the record for **William Leuron Austin**, who (I learned from your site) was born 2 October 1839 in New York and died 8 August 1923 in Beloit, Wisconsin. He married Phoebe Jane Burdick on 27 February 1864, and had seven children. Phoebe was born 11 July 1848 and died 27 April 1934. William was a carriage-maker by trade, serving as foreman at Munger's Carriage Works. He was a Civil War veteran, mustering into the 4th Wisconsin Artillery in September 1861, mustering out in July 1865. His address in 1923, the time of his death, was 356 Vernon, Beloit, Wisconsin.*

I grew up in Beloit. When I entered the fifth grade, the school system offered all students music lessons, wind or string. I believe we had to have our own instruments. One day, my mother and I visited an acquaintance who, I recall, belonged to the Cosmopolitan Club in Beloit, along with my family. Although my memory of her is vague, I recall that this woman lived on Vernon Street and I think her name was Grace Allen. Somehow, the subject of music came up and she asked me, a 10 or 11-year-old, what instrument I wanted to play. I told her, "the violin". She said, "Wait, just one minute". She left the room and went to the back of the house.

She brought back a black, wooden case, handed it to me, and said, "Open it up". To my surprise, it was a violin. I was thrilled, as was my mother, and I couldn't thank her enough. She told us that it was made by a slave for his master in 1800. Inside the case was an old envelope with the attached "provenance."

My brother's private music instructor checked the violin over and, many years later, we learned that he switched bows and gave me a cheap, beginner's bow. (Of course, watching Antiques Roadshow, the bow itself could have been worth a fortune!)

*I did take lessons for a while, but the instructor frightened most of us children. He was very tall and lanky, and the best description is of Ichabod Crane in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. He was mean! I soon lost all interest in the violin and switched to the cornet, which both my father and older brother had played. The junior high band director was a wonderful teacher and person. I continued on that instrument up to my senior year in high school.*

For many years, the violin gathered dust. A neighbor boy played it a couple of times, and that was it, up to a few years ago.

When I learned that the Smithsonian was building an African-American museum in Washington, I thought perhaps that might be a good home for it, so I donated it to the museum. They had professionals come to retrieve it, and they took every precaution to make certain it would make the trip undamaged. I did receive a thank-you (and a donor invitation to the opening) and, about six months ago, a researcher

wrote me to see if I had any more history than the attached provenance. I told her that I didn't but would keep trying. I did track down W. L. Austin's records and family plots in Oakwood Cemetery, a very nice place to be. So, I know the violin was in his possession, and that he wrote the
continued on page 6

*Owners of this Violin Was Made 1800
Joseph B. A. 34 years
Henry Buckley 18 "
Clark of Edmille 14 "
Henry K. 01 "
Richard Burton 37 "
Given By W. L. Austin
Since the year 1913
This Violin Was made in the year 1800*

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017

Why go to an Austin Convention?

There are certainly different and various reasons why you, our AFAOA friends and cousins, have chosen to join this organization. Perhaps it's for the resources and articles, or the invaluable assistance of our genealogists. Perhaps it's the fun and fellowship we share whenever we get together at our annual reunions. Perhaps it's because your spouse is an Austin descendant and you got dragged into it. Whatever the reason, we're glad you've joined us!

Our next Austin reunion is coming up soon, September 14th -16th, in Salt Lake City. If you primarily use your AFAOA membership for research purposes you may be wondering, "why should I travel all the way to Utah? What can I accomplish at an AFAOA conference that I can't do online in the comfort of my own home?" But wait, there's more...

An AFAOA conference includes workshops, speakers, and the opportunity to do research (especially in Salt Lake City), but it's so much more than that. In the words of one of our members, who was with us for the first time last year, "what a treat to meet so many 'folks' you've never met, and after a couple of days you truly walk away feeling as family. It was so nice to have met you all and the neat thing about 'family' is it was not so much like introductions, but more like just 'catching up'!"

So, consider giving it a try. You just may be surprised at how much more AFAOA is than ink on paper, or words on a computer screen. I hope to see you in Salt Lake City!

Elizabeth Neithamer



Violin, continued from page 5

provenance in 1913, but I have had no luck in finding any of the previous owners or the woman, after him, who gave it to me. Nor did the researcher at the Smithsonian find any more information.

In addition to the provenance, I am attaching a photo of the violin. I would be more than happy to learn anything additional. Thank you.

Clarence P. Cameron

Note:

William Leuron Austin is a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts (William⁹, Alva⁸, Arva⁷, Nathaniel⁶, Gad⁵, Nataniel⁴, Nathaniel³, Anthony², Richard¹). This is also the Austin line of AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin - William being her great grandfather's brother. In doing her research, Liz had previously visited William's Oakwood Cemetery gravesite, retaining copies of the cemetery lot card. There are ten graves in the lot, eight of which held William and Phoebe and members of William's family. Buried in grave 4 is Alice Allen,

William Austin's daughter, born about 1877. From the obituary for William we learn that Alice married a Fred Allen; he is not buried in the lot, so it is possible that there was a divorce or a separation. There are also no Allen children buried in the lot. Checking the 1930 Census for Beloit, Wisconsin, only Alice and her mother are listed, at 510 Vernon Street in Beloit, confirming that Fred Allen was no longer with the family and that Fred and Alice had no children.

A likely scenario would have the violin coming into the possession of William in 1913 and remaining with the family until his daughter, Alice Allen (age 74), gave it to Clarence. This information was reported to Clarence, who replied "I am willing to say that it must have been Alice Allen who gave me the violin. It certainly makes sense with the timing and the last name. 'Grace' Allen has been stuck in my mind all these years only because my family knew her from the Cosmopolitan Club".

Jim Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

February 2017

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION Salt Lake City, Utah • September 14–16, 2017

Wednesday & Thursday, September 13 & 14
Early arrival activities • Thursday evening social hour

Friday & Saturday, September 15 & 16
Speakers and workshops • Saturday evening banquet



Convention Hotel:

Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square
122 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
(Next to the Family History Library)

Convention Room Rate:

The convention rate of \$90 (single or double occupancy) or \$97 (triple or quad occupancy) includes complimentary hi-speed internet, microwave and refrigerator in each room, and free shuttle service to the Salt Lake City airport (6:30 am – 10:00 pm). Parking is \$5/day.

Hotel Reservations:

A block of rooms reserved for Monday, September 11th through Sunday, September 17th will be held until August 12th at the convention rate. Reservations made after August 12th will be on a space available basis, at the prevailing room rate.

Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at (800) 366-3684 or (801) 521-0130 and referencing *Austin Families Association of America*.

Convention Registration:

The convention registration fee is \$70 per person, which includes all meetings, materials, the Thursday social hour, and the Saturday night banquet. The fee is \$45 per person for family or friends who wish to attend only the social hour and banquet.

Your registration form, with check payable to AFAOA, should be sent as soon as possible to the Convention Registrar:

Paula Mackey,
5104 Golden Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76123



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.**

**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

Facebook

AFAOA has its very own Facebook page! If you have a Facebook account, simply search for **Austin Families Association of America**, check it out for current information about the association, "Like" it, and tell your family and friends about it! See the pictures of the convention in Charlottesville posted there. This could be a wonderful tool for sharing information, and bringing Austins together.

Receive your AFAOA Newsletter in color!

You can receive your full color newsletter via email in pdf format. Web addresses are active links. The pdf format also allows you to easily share the articles with friends and family. Would you like a test copy?

