

Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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AUSTIN PROJECTS

The gateway to all AFAOA databases and archive documents is through the "Research" link in the "Austin Projects" section of our website. Besides Research, other Projects available are: DNA, Census, Publications, Native American Families, African American Families, and Austins in the Military.

AUSTINS IN THE MILITARY

Helen Cook Austin, PhD

Additional information is presented here about Austins who had military service after 1860 but before 1950. The records go beyond what is found in available individual Muster Rolls.

Records from Civil War Prisons, burial sites, National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, National Cemetery lists, requests for military markers and related records have been searched to compile this information.

Click on underlined titles below for access to information and records.

- **Austins Listed in Admission Registers of the U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938**
 - [Introduction and History](#)
 - [Index](#)
- [Confederate Austin Soldiers](#)
- [Galvanized Yankees](#)
- **Burial Sites of Austin Veterans**
 - [Austin Soldiers in Some Civil War Prisons](#) (including local burial sites for those who died while in prison)
 - [Austin Veterans buried in U. S. National Cemeteries](#)
- [Confederate Austin Civil War Volunteers in Native American Regiments](#)

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Austin Veterans in U. S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

A Series by Helen Cook Austin, Ph. D.

There are many Austin veterans listed on the registers of the twelve U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938. Most of them are Civil War Veterans from the Union Army. However, Veterans from all branches of the Service were admitted after 1900. I have combined data from other traditional sources, such as the U.S. Census and death and burial records, with the Veterans Homes register records.

Ebenezer Valentine "Eb" Austin 1836-1905

Register #7678 of Eastern Branch of National Homes for Volunteer Soldiers in Togus, Maine, contains a military history for Ebenezer V. Austin. He enlisted first on 19 Apr 1861 in Medford, Massachusetts as a Private, in Co. E of the 5th Massachusetts Infantry. A discharge from service was given on the 31st of July 1861 at Boston, MA, but on the 3rd of December 1861 Ebenezer

reenlisted in Boston. He was made a full Corporal on 24 Mar 1862. He fought in Company H. of the 23rd MA Infantry. At the Battle of Drury's Bluff on May 16, 1864 he was taken prisoner by Confederate soldiers and was taken to the notorious Andersonville Stockade in Georgia. His last discharge for the expiration of his enlistment term occurred on the 4th of February 1865.

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www.afaoa.org

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Melissa Gibson

2900 Jae Valley Road, Roanoke, VA 24016;
mgbbh71@gmail.com; *John Robert b.~1816 VA; William Thomas b. 1858 VA; Ira Eason b. 1886; Ira Eason Jr. b.1923*

Jean Shroyer

108 High Plains Trail, Spicewood, TX 78669; txjean@aol.com;
Thomas b.~1600 Eng.; Richard b.~1624 Eng.; Richard II b.~1660 New Kent Co., VA; John b.~1692 VA; Joseph b.~1727 VA; Stephen b.~1769; Owen Ed b.~1803 VA; Lavinia b. 1838 TN

Douglas Shipley

3777 Courson St., Marietta GA 30099; shipiv2@yahoo.com;
Henry b. England; Samuel b.1710 Calvert Co., MD; Henry b.1740 MD; Thomas b. 1779 VA d. 1853 MO

Please help us keep our records up to date.

Send any address or email changes and updated ancestor information.

Look for your membership renewal date on your address label.

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman



lin, AFAOA Genealogist, to get his known family data into the database. Most of the early information on this family was southern but the oldest known member was a Samuel Austin from Connecticut. Knowing a little bit about Connecticut families, I found more information, including another generation and some lines that stayed in Connecticut. I gave this information to Liz and she found more information in the south. So the family was growing.

The decision was made to do a test on the last known Austin male in this family. About 6 weeks later the results came back and the closest match was to the "John Austin of New Haven, Connecticut" family. There is a possible Samuel match in this database, but to complete that connection will take some more research.

There was one problem with the results. It was not an exact match and, of the four members of the John of New Haven family that have already been tested, three of the four were only tested to 25 markers. The 37 marker test is the most common and in most cases the best bargain. When Family Tree DNA started out they just offered 12 marker tests, then added the 25, then the 37, 67, and finally the 111. It would be great to get all of our testing brought to the 37 marker level. So, with a sale going on over Father's Day, I wrote to encourage the three members of this family with 25 marker results to get upgraded to 37 markers. One of the three e-mails came back because the address was bad. There were no responses from the other two, no orders for upgrades, and now the sale is over. This brings up some points:

1. If you have been tested visit your Family Tree DNA page and keep your information updated, especially if you have a new e-mail address.
2. If you would like to be notified about sales at Family Tree DNA let me know.
3. Getting all the DNA test results to at least 37 markers would be very helpful.

Art Sikes

Austin—Austen DNA Project

Earlier this year I got some questions about DNA testing from a non-Austin. These conversations typically don't go very far because our Project is based on Y-Chromosome DNA testing, which only applies to a male with the Austin name.

The questions were: "Is it better to take the DNA from the male side or female side?" and "If one had radiation will that impact the DNA results?" My answer to the first question was "It depends what you want to get out of the test results. What are you going to use it for?"

The answer came back "I am trying to determine which branch of the Austin family we come from." I explained that the Y-Chromosome DNA test was needed and asked if he had any male Austin uncles or cousins that might be willing to give a DNA sample. He had found just one cousin, but he had received radiation treatment. I said that I didn't think it would affect test results, but I was not completely sure.

So then we started to talk about his Austin family. It turns out that his family was already in our Southern Unplaced database and he had been working with Liz Car-

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I hope that many of you will be attending the upcoming AFAOA convention. Plan to spend some extra days in historic Charlottesville, or the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Come with your family and your curiosity, research questions and input.

We will be honoring the memory of Edith Austin Moore. Growing up in Mexico, Oswego County, New York, her family gave her deep roots and also strong wings to pursue her passion for researching and collecting information about her own Austin family, as well as the many other Austins that she found in libraries, courthouses and cemeteries around New England. I was told

she never learned to drive a car, but her supportive husband took her wherever she wanted to go. He knew the value of her work. In her travels she gathered the mate-



Edith and her cousin, Walter Warner Austin, at the first Austin Family Reunion (courtesy of Mary Ann Austin Harlan)

rial for two books and seven manuscripts. In 1941, while she was living in Brooklyn, New York, her brother, Henry Warner Austin, and his family lived in Washington DC. Edith and Henry held the first Austin Family Reunion and picnic on August 9, 1941 at the Council Ring in Fort Dupont Park, near Henry's home in Washington. In 1942, they founded the Austin Family Association, later renamed Austin Families Association of America.

Help us celebrate our 75th year as the only organization currently researching, preserving and sharing Austin Families heritage. We do this through friendships, research, the Austin DNA Project, the AFAOA website and newsletters, and our annual "reunion". We want to meet you this year in Charlottesville!

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

Brayton of RI
Isaac of Delaware Co. NY
John of Greenwich CT
Joseph of Dover NH
Robert of Kingstown RI
Sylvester & Joseph of MI
Thomas of RI

Southern Austin Databases

John & Ann of Albemarle Co. VA
Miles of Franklin Co., VA
Thomas of New Kent Co. VA

Unplaced Austin Databases

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

Liz Austin Carlin

Austin Family Reunion

Nathaniel Austin Family of White County, TN

Lost Creek Methodist Church and Cemetery

7177 Lost Creek Road, Sparta, TN 38583

Sunday, September 25, 2016,

11 A.M. Picnic Dinner

Contact Elizabeth Austin



We invite you to list your family reunion here.

Send information to: anewsletter@afaoa.org

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Ebenezer Valentine "Eb" Austin, *continued from page 1*

The domestic history for Ebenezer V. Austin, describes him as five feet, eight inches tall and of a fair complexion. He had blue eyes and brown hair. When he was admitted to the Home, on May 4, 1891, he was age 55 and said he was a widower. His next-of-kin was Mrs. Helena Bard of Holbrook, MA (his sister). He was working as a porter at the time he was admitted. His Pension Certificate was #308.744. His disability was sciatic rheumatism.

For fourteen years Ebenezer lived in the Eastern Home in Maine. The U.S. Census taken on 4 Jun 1900 listed Ebenezer V. Austin, age 64, born April 1836 MA, a widower, whose parents were both born in Massachusetts.

According to the register, Ebenezer died of cerebral hemorrhage on 7 Jan 1905. The records of Wendell Cemetery in Holbrook, Norfolk County, MA show his burial in 1906 and gives his birth date as 2 Sep 1836. His parents and other family members are also buried there.

A Sketch of Ebenezer's Life

Ebenezer was the son of Ebenezer Austin and Maria Louise Shepard. He learned the trade of bootmaker from his father. He married Matilda A. Sherman, daughter of Josiah H. and Mary Sherman on Jan 21, 1858, in the town of Randolph, MA when he was twenty-one, and she was seventeen. The 1860 Census shows the couple had a son named Forrest R. Austin. Town records of Randolph show that Forrest was born Aug 25, 1858.

In 1865 Ebenezer, Matilda and Forrest were living with Ebenezer's parents in Randolph Town, and he was working as a bootmaker in a boot factory. By 1870 Matilda had moved to Boston, and was living in a boarding house, listed as a divorced woman. Her eleven year old son, Forrest R. Austin lived with her and attended school.

By 1880, young Forrest Austin was age 22. In Boston, he worked as a bootmaker and lived in the household with

a master bootmaker who manufactured boots at his residence.

Three other young men were boarders and apprentices. At the same time, Forrest's mother, Matilda



Austin who said she was divorced, worked in a shop and lived as a boarder in the home of Edwin P. Jones, a Boston fireman, who had a daughter Isabella. Forrest married Isabella F. Jones, age 21, on Sep 29, 1881, in Boston.

Unfortunately, Forrest died on Jul 1, 1884 in Dover, MA at age 26. The couple did not have any children.

Meanwhile, Ebenezer Valentine Austin kept making boots and shoes until his health failed him. The 1890 Veterans Schedule of Brockton, Plymouth, MA shows that he was still living on his own. The next year he applied to the National Home at Togus, Maine and was admitted.

Family History

William Austin, the grandfather of Ebenezer Valentine Austin, was born before the Revolutionary War, about 1770, probably in Easton, Bristol County, MA. His ancestry is unknown. The tradition of handcrafted boots made by four generations of Austins in the East Massachusetts towns of Easton, Taunton, Holbrook, and Randolph began with him.

William married Elizabeth Taunt, on Dec 29, 1796. They had four daughters and three sons, all born in Easton. This was calculated by using the age groups of the males and females listed on the 1810, 1820 and 1830 census. The names of the daughters are not known. The sons were: William T. Austin, Simeon Austin, and Ebenezer Austin.

William died Oct 21, 1824. His grave is marked in Easton's old Central Cemetery, established in 1803.

William T. Austin (1802-1853) owned a farm in Bristol County and was a painter by trade. He married Mary W. Phillips (1807-1875). Their children were: Elizabeth Ann, b. 1830; Abby E., b. 1833; Sarah R., b. 1837; William A. (a bootmaker) b. 1839, d. 1864 of Typhoid Pneumonia at age 25; Emily Arvilla, b. 1848; Luella b. 1853.

Simeon A. Austin was born in 1803. In the Census of 1850 he was single, age 45, and was working as a shoe cutter in the residence of Daniel Faxon, a shoe manufacturer of Randolph. He died of Consumption on May 12, 1853, and was buried at Wendell Cemetery, Holbrook, Norfolk Co., MA. He never married.

Ebenezer Austin (Eb's father) was born in 1807 and married Maria Louise Shepard (1815-1888) in 1835 in Randolph, MA. In 1850 and 1860 he was said to be a bootmaker. He also owned a farm valued at \$1000. The 1870 Census lists Ebenezer as a farmer. Did he give up making boots? Maybe not. It was common for farmers to have a cottage industry of boot making on their property. The children of Ebenezer and Maria were:

1. Ebenezer Valentine Austin (1836-1905)

2. Helena M. Austin (1839-1896) married Freeman Bard on May 22, 1862 in Randolph, MA. Freeman, born in Hatfield, Maine, was a bootmaker of Hatfield and Bridgewater. After their marriage Helena and Freeman lived in Hol-

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Ebenezer Valentine "Eb" Austin, *continued from page 4*

brook, near her parents, where Freeman continued his trade as a boot and shoe cutter and manufacturer. Their children were: Ernest J., Ethel M., Mabel Evelyn, and Annie Louise.

3. Mehitable "Hettie" Russell Austin (1845–1926) was married on May 1, 1867 in Stoughton, MA to George Forrester Littlefield, a machinist of Stoughton. Hettie and George had a daughter, Edna Georgina Littlefield.

4. Mary Josephine Austin (1850–1879) was married on July 23, 1872 to Alvin L. Jones of Holbrook, an expert bootmaker from N. Abington. Mary had two daughters who died as infants: Eloise in 1873 and Edith in 1879. On Nov 27, 1879, soon after Edith was born, Mary died of liver cancer. Mary's husband, Alvin Jones, married Emeline Leonard in 1881 and continued working successfully as a boot and shoe manufacturer. Their son, Paul S.



Jones founded the shoe last company, Jones & Vining. This company is still in business, manufacturing shoe lasts, soles and other component parts using computerized production in their factories in Massachusetts, Arkansas, Maine, Vietnam, Taiwan and China.

It is interesting that in this Austin family history, the skill and trade of crafting boots and shoes was traditional for two centuries. They, and their relatives by marriage, contributed to the important Eastern Massachusetts industry of boot making. Twentieth Century descendants of this family line are from the sisters and aunts of Ebenezer V. Austin and do not have the Austin surname.

Sources:

Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1749, 282 rolls); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Massachusetts State Census 1855 Online at www.Ancestry.com
Massachusetts Vital and Town Records 1840–1915, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Suffolk, MA and online at www.Ancestry.com
U. S. Census of 1800–1920 microfilm, as indexed on www.Ancestry.com
Cemetery Search. www.Findagrave.com
"Holbrook Style Shoe Last", History of Jones & Vining Last Company, Holbrook, MA www.jonesandvining.com/about-us.html
Ellsworth, Lucius F. "Boot and Shoe Manufacturing" *Dictionary of American History*. The Gale Group, Inc. (2003).



"The Bottoming Room of the B. F. Spinney & Co. Factory." Lynn, MA. (1872) www.peachridgeglass.com

The Craft of Making Boots

Colonial manufacturers did not have large factories. They put out the work of making the boots to farmers who had a "craft corner" in their homes or built a "ten-footer" shoe shop on their property. The leather from the tannery was cut into pattern pieces in the factory and they were given to the area families to do piece work, hand sewing the shoe uppers together. Then the boot pieces were fitted and shaped over a wooden last. The men attached the soles and heels, bottoming the boots with hand tools. Workers received wages from the shoe merchants for their labor, which supplemented their family income.



By the Nineteenth Century central shops began to obtain power driven machines for sewing uppers and welting soles. It is supposed that the Austin families learned the new processes as the trade developed. The occupations listed on the census for these Austins were: bootmaker, boot fitter, shoemaker, and boot manufacturer.

"Shoemakers in a Ten-Footer Shop" David N. Johnson Sketch. Bing Images www.bing.com/images

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Welcome Clifton Austin 1885-1940

Welcome C. Austin is found on register #27109 of the Pacific Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Sawtelle, overlooking the Pacific Ocean by Los Angeles, California. His military history shows that he was a veteran of World War I. He enlisted June 3, 1917 at Ft. McDowell, CA, as a Private in Company B, of the Third U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He continued his service until the end of the War and received an honorable discharge on Dec 17, 1919 at The Presidio in San Francisco, California.

Because of the scarcity of WWI records, we do not have proof that Welcome went to France to serve. However, records show that within three months of his enlistment the Third USACE, his unit, arrived in France as Combat Engineers.

In 1917 there was an urgent need to facilitate the actions of the military by moving artillery and equipment. Welcome's unit was busy building bridges, maintaining beachheads, building beach roads, unloading supplies and personnel from transports, working on camouflage, providing healthy water supplies and sanitation, making maps, maintaining vehicles, setting up tents, and making temporary corrals for the horses and mules. The Engineers contributed both to front-line and rear-support efforts in the War.

In 1908, when he was 23 years old, Welcome had married a girl named Elizabeth L., somewhere between Texas and California. On April 10, 1910 they lived on East 59th Street in Los Angeles, California and they had no children. Welcome was working as a waiter in a café. Something happened to Elizabeth in the next ten years, as she did not appear with Welcome on other records. It is not known if they had any descendants.

After WWI ended, Welcome lived and worked with his brother, Alfred Bryant Austin, for a while. He was a salesman at Alfred's grocery store in Clovis City, NM and was listed as a single man in the 1920 census.

The Pacific Branch Home admitted Welcome on April 13, 1927 based on his honorable discharge papers from the U.S. Army. The personal details listed in the domestic history for Welcome Austin are: age 41, born Bosque County, Texas 1886 (should be 24 Sep 1885); 5 feet, 3 inches tall; of a ruddy complexion; light brown eyes; gray hair. He was a Protestant. He could read and write. He was a single man and had been working as a waiter in Bakersfield, California. Welcome's sister, Mrs. Joe Colt, was listed as his next-of-kin.

He left the Home on August 15, 1927, but was readmitted on May 2, 1929. His disabilities were perineal abscess and drug addiction.

Sometime during the next two years he went to Seattle, WA where on April 5, 1930 he was living in a boarding house and working as an office clerk. One month

later he returned to the Home at Sawtelle.

The Register does not list a date when Welcome finally left the Home. There was a change in administration about that time, from the U.S. National Home status to the new Veteran's Administration.

By 1940 Welcome had moved back to Texas. He was single and was working as a cook in San Antonio. On April 27, 1940 he had an attack of appendicitis. Because of complications with gangrene he died that very day. His brother, Joel Felix Austin of Alice, Jim Wells Co., Texas was with him. Welcome Clifton Austin, a proud Texan, was buried with a military marker at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

Family Background

The ancestry of Welcome Austin can be found in AFAOA's "William Austin of Kent County, Maryland" database. His parents were Nathan Austin (1838 NC-1937 TX) and Harriett Davis Maddox (1845 TN-1903 TX). They married in 1861 and had 12 children.

Nathan Austin, was a soldier in the U.S. Civil War. He served as a Sergeant in Company I of the 8th Regiment of the Missouri Cavalry from 1862-1865. His regiment, organized in Springfield, Missouri, was immediately attached to the Army of the Frontier and went to Arkansas, where they were in the Battle of Prairie Grove. They captured Little Rock in September 1863. The War ended for Nathan on July 20, 1865. After that, Nathan and his family moved to Texas.

Harriett and Nathan enjoyed their children and their family life. It is no surprise that they named their last son "Welcome", a descendant said, because they were so glad to see Welcome come into the world.

Sources:

Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938; NARA Publication M174

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Brief History of the Corps: WWI; www.usace.army.mil

U.S. Census: 1850, 1860, 1870 Dallas Co., MO; 1880 McLennan, TX; 1900 Hamilton Co, TX; 1910 Los Angeles, CA; 1920 Clovis, Curry, NM; 1930 Seattle, King, WA; www.ancestry.com

U. S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963. for Welcome and Nathan Austin. www.ancestry.com

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX. Burial Plot: Section F Site 21; www.findagrave.com

Texas Department of Health. Bureau of Vital Statistics. Death Certificate 70693; www.ancestry.com

Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Missouri. www.fold3.com

Dyer, Frederick H. *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, V.III. c1908, p.1308*



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AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA – AUGUST 12-14, 2016

Thursday & Friday, August 11 & 12

Early arrival activities — tours of local attractions are being planned

Friday 5:00 pm social hour

Saturday & Sunday, August 13 & 14

Presentations and workshops

Guest speaker — Jean L. Cooper, University Library Genealogical Resources Specialist

Sunday 6:30 banquet — “An evening with President James Monroe”

Convention Hotel:

English Inn of Charlottesville

2000 Morton Drive, Charlottesville, Virginia

Convention Room Rate:

The convention rate of \$112.99 includes a full hot breakfast buffet, afternoon High Tea, complimentary High Speed Internet, microwaves and refrigerators in all rooms, free parking, and shuttle service to Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (7.8 miles from the hotel).

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

Hotel Reservations: Hotel reservations can be made online at www.englishinncharlottesville.com.

Under *Booking Type* select *Group Booking* and then enter the AFAOA Group Number, **081016AF**.

Reservations can also be made by contacting the English Inn at 800-786-5400 or 434-971-9900.

A block of rooms reserved for Wednesday, August 10th through Monday, August 15th will be held until July 10th at the convention room rate. **Reservations made after July 10th will be on a space available basis at the prevailing room rate, but should still be made with our Group Number (081016AF).**

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

A registration form was included in the March Newsletter. Additional forms can be printed from the Convention page of the AFAOA website. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Neithamer, .

Arrive early!

Explore historic Charlottesville—walking tour of Court Square.

Visit the homes of Presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe.

Enjoy research opportunities at the libraries of University of Virginia and the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society.

Learn more about the history surrounding your Virginia ancestors.

Places you should see in Charlottesville:

www.visitcharlottesville.org/about/historical-sites

Early Arrival Activities will be planned according to the interests expressed on registration forms.

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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



Monticello
The primary plantation of Thomas Jefferson

Research and information websites
for Charlottesville

Central Virginia Genealogical Association
cvga.avenue.org

Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society
www.albemarlehistory.org

University of Virginia
www.virginia.edu/visit/grounds
www.library.virginia.edu

Thomas Jefferson's *Monticello*
www.monticello.org

James Monroe's *Highland*
highland.org

James Madison's *Montpelier*
www.montpelier.org