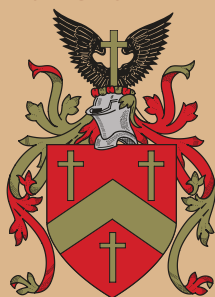


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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From Tennessee to Texas

William Bluford Austin (1847–1918) • Martha Anderson Austin (1849–1930)

Come with me on an adventure, exploring an early cemetery located in Tarrant County, Texas — Birdville Cemetery.

By Jane Austin Bruckner

In 1841 Major Jonathan Bird, with the Fourth Brigade of Texas Militia, built a fort in this area to protect the early settlers. He named it Bird's Fort. It is significant because the fort was the first Anglo settlement in north Texas, before the cities of either Fort Worth or Dallas were built. After the fort closed a town was established nearby, called Birdville, which became the first county seat of Tarrant County. Today, there is no evidence of the fort, and the town of Birdville has been renamed Haltom City and is a suburb of Ft Worth, but the historic Birdville Cemetery is well maintained, with an American flag flying.

In walking up and down the rows, looking at names on headstones, I found William Bluford Austin and his wife Martha Anderson Austin buried there.⁽¹⁾ Back home, doing some research, I see that William and Martha Austin traveled from White County Tennessee, with other families in a wagon train, to this area of Texas about 1900. I wonder if the Reeves family of Virginia might also have come with them, because three of the Austin children married Reeves children.

Last year, at the Austin Families Association of America Convention, researcher John Clinard presented new information about the Austins of White County, Tennessee⁽²⁾, and their connection to the Richard Austin who left a will in Lunenburg County, Virginia (dated 31 March

1759, Will Book 1, p. 280). So, it was especially interesting to find some of this Austin family in Texas.

In the early 1800's, the Austin and Anderson families of Virginia moved into the beautiful green valley of Lost Creek in southeastern White County, Tennessee. William B. Austin, son of Nathaniel Glenn Austin (1827–1898) and Martha Jane Bryan (1824–1910), was born 14 Nov 1847 in White County. His grandparents were Nathaniel Austin

(1781–1869) and wife Mary (1784–1870), who had traveled with other families to Tennessee from Virginia. Nathaniel claimed his land and built a small log house and later a two story log house. A cemetery for the Austin families, that still exists today, was located near his home.⁽³⁾

William B. Austin and Martha Elizabeth Anderson were married on 12 January 1867 in the home of her parents, John and Anna Eliza Anderson of White County.

continued on page 5



www.afaoa.org

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2016

NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

John Scott Austin

121 Washington Ave. S, Apt 701, Minneapolis, MN 55401; jsaustin@comcast.net; *"John and Ann Austin of Virginia"*, Jonas R. b. 1782 VA; Isaac B. b. 1810 KY; George A.C. b. 1834 KY; Christopher R. "Crit" b. 1864 KY; Carlisle John b. 1894 KY

John Steven Austin

P.O. Box 623, Ranson, WV 25438; johngrizzlyadamaustin@reagan.com; *"Thomas Austin of New Kent Co., VA"*; Richard b. ~1660; John Sr. b. aft 1692; John Jr. b. ~1720 VA; William b. ~1750 VA; John b. 1789 VA; Daniel Wesley b. 1832 AL; John Franklin b. 1870 AR; Russell Woodrow b. 1914 OK

Howard Brooks Austin

4733 Boone Ave. N, New Hope, MN 55428; hbaustin@live.com; *"Samuel Austin of Boston MA"*; Thomas b. 1671 Boston; Benjamin b. 1694 MA; John b. 1729/30 MA; Benjamin b. 1765 NH; Samuel McConnell b. 1794 NH; Ariel Thomas b. 1827 NH; Thaddeus b. ~1855 WI

William Tallmadge Austin

412 Skyview Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597; dollar1@charter.net; *"William Wilson Austin of Hanover County VA"*; William II b. ~1720 VA; William III b. 1787 VA; Robert A. b. 1823 VA; Ferdinand F. b. 1854 MO; Morris P. b. 1887 MO

Delloyce M. Beasley

653 Allison Street E., LeHigh Acres, FL 33974; delbeasley@icloud.com; *"William & Ruth Austin of NC"*; John b.

1727 Ireland; Michael b. ~1759 Ireland; John Culpepper b. 1807 – 1810 SC; Mary Ann b. 1830 GA (m. William J. Morgan)

Elaine Austin Bernard

104 S. Weir St., Bunkie, LA 71322; elainesptfr@aol.com; *"Henry Austin of Calvert Co. MD"*; Samuel b. ~1710 MD; James b. ~1746 MD; Samuel b. 1767 MD; Pascal b. 1805; Pascal Harrison b. 1845 LA; Ernest Leslie b. 1895 LA

Joseph R. Jones

1640 Richmond Rd., Lexington, KY 40502; jonesjosephr@twc.com; *"Nathaniel Austin of Greenville SC"*; Dickinson b. ~1755 VA d. AL; Tempe (Temperance) b. ~1800 (m. Joseph Rowland 1820 AL) d. 1841 TX

Victoria L. Towers

10 Aqua Drive, Black Mountain, NC 28711; towers.victoria.l@gmail.com; *"William & Ruth Austin of NC"*; John b. 1727 Ireland; Richard b. 1755 Ireland; Charles C. b. 1796 NC; Rachel (Jones) b. 1818 NC

**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

Genealogist's Report

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

Southern:

*John & Charity Austin of Montgomery Co., MD
John & Ann Austin of Albemarle Co., VA
Nathaniel Austin of South Carolina*

Northern:

*Thomas Austin of New York
Samuel Austin of Massachusetts
John Austin of New Haven, Connecticut*

Rhode Island:

*Abel Austin
Brayton Austin
Edward Austin
Edmund Austin*



*Nathan Austin
Robert Austin
Simeon Austin
Thomas Austin*

Additions and corrections were also made in both *Southern Unplaced* and *Northern Unplaced* (small groups of linked Austin families with unknown immigrant lineage).

Liz Austin Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2016



Good things are happening at Austin Families Association of America! It is blooming, just like the spring flowers! We welcome new members and we invite your participation in Austin research, in sharing your family stories, in the Austin DNA Project and in our annual Austin Families Association Convention.

Planning is in progress for this year's "reunion", which will be in Charlottesville, Virginia. Vice President / Convention Chair Elizabeth Neithamer has found a great hotel and established the date, the weekend of August 12-14. Plan to be there on Wednesday and Thursday as well, for "early arrival" activities. Registration and reservation information are in this Newsletter.

Other board members also wear two hats; Alice Martin is responsible for membership records. She also, with the artistic assistance of Robert Osborn, compiles, edits and mails the newsletter. Database Chair / webmaster Jim Carlin and his committee have been busy as bees, preparing and placing much new information on our outstanding website!

In the winter months I enjoy looking through plant catalogues. Even though I live near the edge of the great southwest desert, I am amazed at what will grow here, by enriching the soil, in spite of the occasional tornado, wind and hail. I grow drought tolerant perennials and herbs—also a fig tree, holly bushes, wood ferns, three antique roses and other plants. I look forward to visiting Thomas Jefferson's gardens at Monticello in August.

There are so many problems in our troubled world! The evils of terrorism, the pain of human suffering and divisive politics, affect all of us. In Psalm 23 God promises to restore our souls, through his written word, beside the green pasture and still waters. Scripture opens in a garden, and it closes in a garden. Our Austin name evolved from Augustine (354-430 AD), who created rules for living an austere, monastic life, where there would have been gardens to maintain. Praying for peace and maintaining a garden is what I am doing today.

We are anticipating a wonderful time in Charlottesville and hope you will make plans to be there to celebrate 75 years of renewing friendships and making new friends, while collecting, preserving and sharing Austin genealogy.

Jane Austin Bruckner

THE BIRTH OF A NICKNAME

Reprinted from Florida Times-Union, August 2, 1948

A Jacksonville lawyer 'christened' the University of Florida's football team 41 years ago when he gave a pennant-designing firm in Charlottesville, Va., the suggestion of "The Alligators."

"Austin Miller, who has practiced law here since shortly after his graduation from the University of Virginia in 1910, yesterday recalled the circumstances surrounding the choice of a name for Florida University's athletic teams. It happened in the fall of 1907, a year after the University of Gainesville had fielded its first team.

"Miller, a native of Gainesville, was enrolled in the University of Virginia at the time and was visited by his father, Phillip Miller, a Gainesville merchant. The elder Miller, who died nine years ago, then owned and operated a combination drug store and stationery store in Gainesville, a popular rendezvous for university students.

"While in Charlottesville the father decided to order some pennants and banners for the University of Florida from the Michie Company, which was engaged in the manufacture of such items. The Millers went to the firm, where they were shown samples of pennants which featured the Yale bulldog, the Princeton tiger and other school emblems. When the manager asked for Florida's emblem, the Millers realized the new school had none.

"Austin Miller said the name "Alligators" occurred to him as a suitable emblem, both because the Michie manager said no other school had adopted it and because the alligator was native to this state. 'I had no idea it would stick, or even be popular with the student body,' Miller said. 'We wanted to get the Michie firm started on the pennants as quickly as possible, though, so they would be available in time for the opening of the 1908 school term.'

"The Michie manager complicated the christening when he told young Miller he'd never seen an alligator and didn't believe he could design one. The law student volunteered to find a suitable picture of a 'gator. After much search, he said, he located a picture of one in the library of the University of Virginia.

"The first appearance of the alligator emblem, Miller recalled was in his father's Gainesville store in 1908. The Michie firm had supplied Millers' with the blue banner measuring six by three feet, showing a large orange alligator, and also with several different types of smaller banners and pennants. Some of them showed the alligator lying down, some rampant, while others included only the alligator's head."



[Austin Miller — b. 1888 Terre Haute IN, d. 1953 Jacksonville FL — served as city attorney of Jacksonville FL in the 1920's and 1930's. He was the son of Carolyn Cornwall Austin and Philip Miller, grandson of Alanson Gates Austin of Terre Haute IN, a great grandson of Judge Albert B. Austin of Paris IL and a 9th generation descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown MA.]

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2016

The Publications Project has Finally Gone “Live”

Over the years, the AFAOA has collected a significant amount of documents of all types. Most of these remain in the “paper” realm, although newer documents are also being collected in digital format. There has been a significant effort over the years to transcribe some of these paper documents into a digital format suitable for installation on the web site so that they can be indexed and searched using our search engine. We are also looking into donating our documents to a digital library so the transcription process can be completed, and searchable online access provided to AFAOA users by the digital library.

Access “Publications” by using the “Projects” link on the home page. The Publications link has been moved up to the 4th position on the Projects page. The Publications page lists these currently available document collections:

1. Archive Series – This has been online on our website for many years. It primarily includes the work of our founder, Edith Austin Moore, and her seminal research into Austins immigrating to the United States, and that of our first genealogist, Janet Austin Curtis, who did significant research in the Southern states. We fortunately have all 93 of Moore’s field notebooks available on-line—fortunately, since the original notebooks were destroyed in the hurricane Katrina storm surge. We also have Moore’s miscellaneous notebook material, as well as most of Curtis’ States notebooks—her records and correspondence. Additionally, transcription work continues on the rest of the States notebooks. All of these records are indexed and available for text search.

2. Special Collections – Material from Austin Families Genealogical Society (AFGS) and the Dall-Tardy letters has been available on our web site for some time now. The AFGS material is presented courtesy of Mrs. Patricia Austin of Concord, Massachusetts, spouse of Dr. Michael E. Austin, founder of AFGS and now deceased. It consists of three volumes of the Austins of America newsletters (only the first volume was published as a hard cover book—the “Red

Book”). Two volumes of the AFGS Register are now also available. All five volumes are available for browsing the whole document or, using our text search capability, to search for specific items.

New to Special Collections is the research of long time AFAOA President Harold Steiner into the lives and history of Austins in the early years of North Carolina and the Eastern shore of Maryland.

3. Austin Holdings – This is a collection of miscellaneous articles, stories, records, histories, biographies, photos and events involving Austins. It contains a combination of the holdings of AFGS and AFAOA. Abstracts have been provided so the user can better make his/her selection. Since most of these are short, they are not indexed and not available for searching. This grouping is expected to show the most growth in the future.

4. AFAOA Newsletters – Newsletters, from Fall 1998 on, are still accessible from the home page. However this additional link has been provided on the Publications page.

5. AFAOA Descendancies – Recent changes in the software that we use to create the Family Group Sheet presentation of our databases have enabled the creation of a Modified Register Report from the database. A link to this document is provided on the home page of each database

(look for “Browse the Modified Register Report for [name] Austin”). Since they are directly related to the underlying databases, for which a Master Name Index and Master Place Index are provided, these reports are not indexed and not available for searching.



4

Please
take advantage of
this new project
and explore
what is available.

Send comments,
corrections,
or even suggestions
for improvements,
to the Webmaster

Jim Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2016

Austin-Austen DNA Project Update

There has not been a lot of activity lately in the DNA Project. Since last fall two new tests have been processed and one test has been upgraded. The first new test (# 482389) is in the *John & Ann Austin of Virginia* line. The second test (# 446475) did not match any of the Austin lines we have tested so far; the family is now in the *Northern Unplaced* database. The upgrade, to 111 markers, was done on test # 74270 in the *John Austin of Greenwich, Conn.* line. The updated results table, along with an updated list of databases that have been tested, will be put on the website.

The Association has several test kits on the shelf waiting for an **Austin male** (1) in a line with no testing done to date or (2) in a line with just one test — **if** you are a distant cousin to the person already tested. The test is free if you qualify. The person being tested does not have to be an AFAOA member. I would love to get some of these families tested.

Some of our Project members have had tests done other

than Y-Chromosome DNA, which only tests the male line, from father to son. Mitochondrial DNA is passed down from the mother to all of her offspring but only can be passed on to the next generation by the daughters, tracing only an all-female line. Autosomal tests look at all the genes from both parents — it can connect you with genetic cousins on both sides of your family. Results of these tests are not posted on our Austin DNA Project page, for various reasons, but members would like others to know about them, so I have formatted a chart* which will allow others to know what other tests have been done and how to contact the person. Other tests may include “Family Finder” from Family Tree DNA, “AncestryDNA” from Ancestry.com, “Geno 2.0” from National Geographic’s Genographic Project, and “23andMe”.

Let me know if you have had any of these tests done and would like to compare the results with others.

For more information on testing: International Society of Genetic Genealogy <http://www.isogg.org/>

Art Sikes

* Here is an example of the chart:

Kit #	Contact Link	Contact Name (Optional)	Testing	AFAOA Database and Link	1st Generation
422642	link	Jean	FF, 23andMe	Thomas Kent Co., VA	Thomas Austin b. c.1600 England
472806	link	Art	FF, mtDNA	Richard Austin of MA	Richard Austin b. c.1598 England
B23881	link	George	FF, ADNA	William & Ruth of NC	Michael ^ b. c.1795

The first and last person on the list are made up examples; the middle one is testing done on my mother. Five generations of ancestors will be listed, not just three as on the Y-Chromosome test results (although I show only one here) and can include non-Austins. The “Contact Link” is your e-mail address. The chart will be made available on our website.

From Tennessee to Texas, continued from page 1

Their children were born in White County and the family is listed on the White County TN Census for 1850, 1860 and 1880. William died 30 June 1918 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Martha Anderson Austin’s Obituary from The Arlington Journal, Friday, April 25, 1930, states: “The passing of another good woman Mrs. Martha E. Austin, age 81, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Press Reeves of Birdville, brought sorrow to her friends. ...Mrs. Austin has lived in the Birdville community for twenty-five years having moved there from Sparta, Tenn.” She was said to be survived by four sons and four daughters: Albert Denny Austin of Arlington; Dallas M. Austin of Sherman; Nathaniel Storm Austin and James Dillard “Dick” Austin of Fort Worth, Mrs. Press (May) Reeves, Mrs. Dock (Nora) Reeves, Mrs. Clyde (Elizabeth) Anderton of Fort Worth; Mrs. W. M. (Ida Lou) Mitchell of Sparta, TN.

This family history is an example of the migration pattern from southwest Virginia to Tennessee and on to Texas.

(1) Pictures of William and Martha Austin’s headstones can be seen on “Find A Grave” (www.findagrave.com). Search for Birdville Cemetery and the name Austin.

(2) The former *White County Austins of TN* and *John Austin Sr. of Southside VA* databases have been combined into *Thomas Austin of New Kent County VA*. (AFAOA Newsletter, March 2014) Go to the *Thomas Austin* database for more information on this line.

(3) An article on the “Austins of White County”, and the Lost Creek cemetery, appeared in the AFAOA Newsletter, February 2012.

Additional information can be found online at

<http://www.danielhaston.com/places/cemeteries/austin/austin-cem-info.htm>

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75th Anniversary of the First "Austin Reunion"— Charlottesville, Virginia

Edith Austin Moore began gathering Austin family records in 1922, searching for her ancestors who had served their country in the Revolutionary War. Although she found little published on the Austin family, she hoped to find her line back to her first known ancestor in this country, either through her own research or through correspondence with others. Edith traveled extensively, visiting libraries throughout the northeast, and she wrote many letters. Correspondents wrote to her for help in solving their own genealogical problems.

In the summer of 1941 Edith and her brother, Henry Warner Austin, organized an Austin Reunion at Fort Dupont Park in Washington, D.C., where Austin family members, and those interested in finding their Austin roots, gathered to enjoy each other's company and exchange information. This reunion became an annual event, leading to the founding, the following year, of what has become the Austin Families Association of America. 75 years later members are still coming together for fellowship, to share research and to learn from each other.

This year Austin cousins and friends will be gathering the weekend of August 12–14, 2016 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Charlottesville and the surrounding area are beautiful, and rich in history. Formed in 1792, it was named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, queen consort of the United Kingdom as the wife of King George III. The Charlottesville area was the home of our 3rd, 4th and 5th Presidents - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. Monticello, Jefferson's plantation manor, is located just a few miles from downtown. Ash Lawn-Highland, the home of James Monroe, is down the road from Monticello. Both Jefferson and Monroe, while serving as Governor of Virginia, traveled to and

from the capitol in Richmond along the 71-mile historic Three Notch'd Road. About 25 miles northeast of Charlottesville lies Montpelier, the home of James Madison.

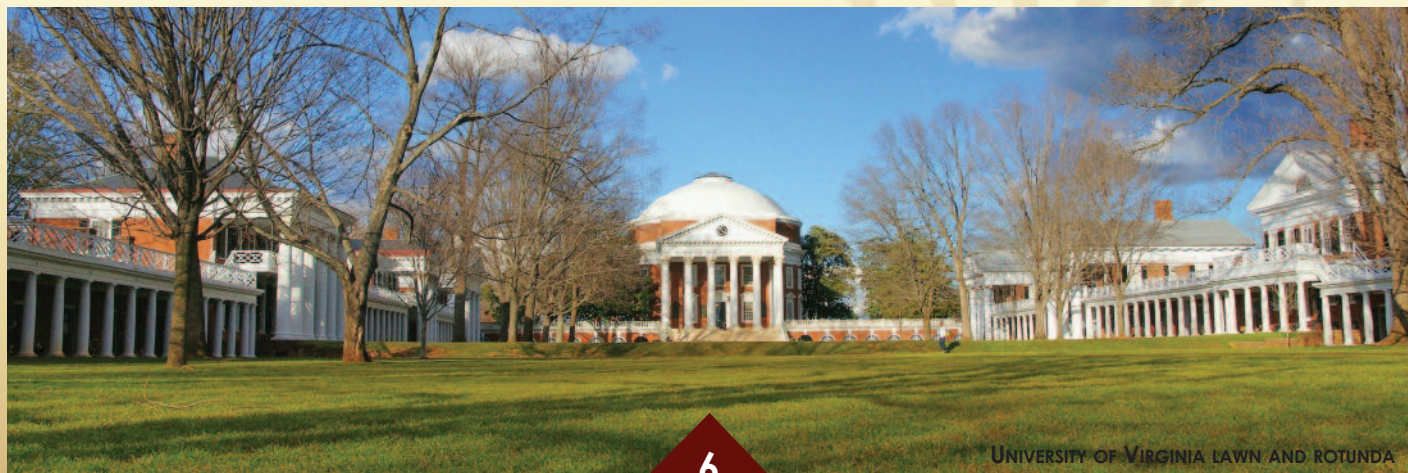
Charlottesville is also home to the University of Virginia. Founded in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson, UVA is regarded as one of the most beautiful and prestigious universities. In 1987, UNESCO named the University (in conjunction with Monticello) a World Heritage Site. The University of Virginia Library has a large number of genealogical sources among its holdings, including one of the foremost collections dealing with Virginia genealogy. The Downtown Mall is a beautiful brick-paved pedestrian area with a wonderful mix of restored and renovated historic buildings. Here you can enjoy shopping, dining, theatre, or simply relaxing in the shade. Also downtown, the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society offers exhibits, lectures, walking tours and over 6,000 books and bound periodicals, photographs, manuscripts and maps.

The nearby Shenandoah National Park offers recreational activities and beautiful scenery. Skyline Drive runs the length of the park. The Blue Ridge Parkway, which extends south to the Great Smoky Mountains, terminates at the southern entrance of Shenandoah. This junction of the two scenic drives is only 22 miles west of downtown Charlottesville.

It is the hope of your convention committee that attendees will be able to explore the Charlottesville area and enjoy the many attractions it offers. There are so many reasons to join us in Charlottesville this summer, so come and join the fun!

Elizabeth Martin Neithamer

Photo by Karen Blaha - Flickr: The lawn and rotunda, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13275529>



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2016

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

Thursday & Friday, August 11 & 12

Early arrival activities – Friday evening social hour

Saturday & Sunday, August 13 & 14

Speakers and workshops – Sunday evening banquet



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.



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

**"Publications," our newest Austin
Project, has arrived!**
More details on page 4.



**The following paper collections are now all part of
our Publications Project and are available & text
searchable in DIGITAL format through our website!**

- AFAOA Archie Series
- Austin Descendancies
- AFAOA Newsletters
- AFGS Materials
- AFAOA Holdings
- Dall Tardy Letters

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