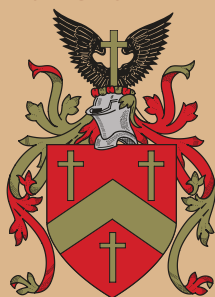


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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DNA PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR
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Suffield, CT 06078

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

Vermont to Kansas James Austin (1838–1923)

Westward expansion increased rapidly in the 1800s, and many of our Austin ancestors were a part of this migration pattern. They left their homes in the east, continually moving further west where they could find new opportunities and land.

James Austin, born in Vermont, "went west" to Michigan with his father in the 1850s, then took his new bride to Kansas in 1868. Their son, William Clark Austin, born 1872 in Chase County, Kansas, was publisher of several local newspapers and was elected to the office of Kansas state printer.

In 1928, Zula Bennington Green got her start as a popular Kansas newspaper columnist by writing for the Chase County Leader-News, published by W. C. Austin, who gave her column its name. A clipping from that paper, where "Peggy" told a story about James Austin, is shared with us by his great granddaughter, Sally Austin Stansbury, of Hays, Kansas.

James Austin

James Austin was born September 13, 1838 at East Highgate, Vermont. He moved to Michigan as a boy, with his father, Jessee Austin, and two brothers. They settled in Eaton County, near Charlottesville. After completing the common school he attended the Michigan College and then taught school, first in Michigan, then in Indiana and Tennessee. He also served as internal revenue collector in Tennessee before going to Buffalo, New York, where he was employed in the railroad offices. In 1868 he married Mary Elizabeth Barker of Buffalo and they moved west to Cottonwood Falls, Chase County, Kansas. He was in the mercantile business in town until 1870, when he purchased the farm east of town on which he resided the rest of his life.

James and Mary Austin had four children: George Washington (1871–3 Jul 1890), William Clark (30 Dec 1872–1944), Sarah J. (Jan 1875–1919) and Mary Elizabeth (Jan 1876 – 1914). Mary Barker Austin died February 1, 1876.

In 1878 James married Lavansha Ewing. James Austin died September 15, 1923 at the age of 85, survived by his wife, Lavansha Austin, his son, W. C. Austin, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

continued on page 4

As Peggy of the Flint Hills Sees It

BY ZULA BENNINGTON GREENE

A Kansas Vermonter

This is the story of the last laugh being the best, tho it was many years before the late James Austin of Chase County knew that he was entitled to laugh.

Mr. Austin, a Vermonter by birth, was in poor health in Buffalo, where he was auditor for a railroad. Hoping for better health in the West he moved to Chase County and bought a farm near Cottonwood Falls.

Mr. Austin was thirty years old but didn't look it. He was thin and pale, and towering several inches over six feet, he looked like a shadow walking.

His new friends in Chase County felt sorry for the frail young Vermonter who bore himself with such austere dignity. No word or sign from him betrayed any concern for his physical well-being, and their respect for him was even greater than their pity.

They were sorry too for Mr. Austin's pretty young bride of less than a year. And they liked them both.

One day Frank Allison, shoemaker, gravedigger and village cut-up, was sitting in H. L. Hunt's general store when Mr. Austin came in. He stopped for a dignified word of greeting with the group around the wood stove, but he did not join them.

After he had gone, Allison, with a great show of briskness, turned to Mr. Hunt with "Say, have you got a spade you're not using? Business is a little slack right now and I

continued on page 4
www.afaoa.org

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Adeline Austin

366 Ash St. #34, Willimantic, CT 06226;
deeaustin111@yahoo.com; Stephen A. Austin, b. 1866 NY

David L. Austin

500 Camelot Drive/PO Box 166, Collinsville, IL 62234;
dlaustin@austinsteel.com; *Richard b. England; Richard Alonzo b. 1839 Salem, NY; Anthony Bernard b. 1908 Vincennes, IN.*

Jerry Don Austin

1653 Picadilly Way, Mantecca, CA 95336;
dedon13@gmail.com; *William Clifton b. 1882 Graves KY; Guy b. 1908 Apache, OK.*

Lawrence W. Austin

580 East Stratford Rd., Lecanto, FL 34461;
austin1761@centurylink.net; *Robert of RI; Jeremiah b. 1664 RI; David b. 1696 RI; Joseph b. 1731 RI; David b. 1752 RI; Ethan Allen b. 1789 VT; Elliot Hale b. 1834 VT; George Ethan b. 1868 MI; Paul Edwin b. 1895 MI.*

Les Austin

15128 Glenwood Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223;
les@lesaustin.com; *Edward b. 1773 RI; Gideon b. 1794; William Henry b. 1829 VT/NY; Bert Leroy b. 1878 IL.*

Heather Lynn Fox Bell

559 Eastwood Rd., Hinckley, OH 44233;
HeatherB477@gmail.com; *Thomas S. b. 1825 KY; William F. b. 1856 KY.*

Neal B. Hotelling

4934 Mendavia Drive, Sebring, FL 33872;
nbhotelling@sbcglobal.net; *Pollard b. 1825 Seneca, NY; Frances Isadore b. 1862 Bloomingdale, MI.*

Sandra Lenhart

PO Box 621, Dripping Springs, TX 78620;
plenhart@swbell.net; *William of Kent Co., MD; Benjamin Dillery b. 1760; Elijah b. 1792 Butke Co., NC; Rebecca.*

Joanne Rieder-Malone

1030 Griffith St., Philadelphia. PA 19111;
jomeer@comcast.net; *Joseph Manning "Edward" b. 1857 Philadelphia, PA; Clarence Rest b. 1880 Philadelphia, PA; Edna E. (Roats) b. 1909 Philadelphia, PA.*

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

Financial Report for 2014

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$6,539.53
Income (dues)	+ \$3,025.00
Expenses (Newsletter, misc.)	- \$982.33
Ending Balance	\$8,582.20

Website Fund (pka Publishing Fund)

Beginning Balance	\$4,548.86
Income (books sold)	+ \$180.00
Expenses (website)	- \$1,100.00
Ending Balance	\$3,628.86

Convention Fund

Beginning Balance	\$552.13
Income (registration fees)	+ \$2,215.00
Expenses (Banquet, speakers, supplies)	- \$2,472.59
Ending Balance	\$294.54

Book Presentation

On October 5, 2015, following the Austin Families Association Convention in St. Louis, a copy of the AFAOA publication *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts 1638*, was presented to the St. Louis Public Library. Alice Martin presented the book on behalf of the Association to Thomas Pearson, Subject Specialist, in the Genealogy Room of Central Library, 1301 Olive Street.



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Thank you for renewing your membership, which supports our website, the Austin DNA Project, this newsletter and more.

In October we had a wonderful time in St. Louis at the Austin Convention and seeing the sights! Gratitude goes to Elizabeth Neithamer and her committee for the planning and attention to every detail. We enjoyed learning about resources available for research in the mid-west and hearing some of our members present their research.

You now have an opportunity to vote for the location of next year's convention. Would you rather go to Salt Lake

City or Charlottesville? Vote promptly before January 15—either by paper ballot, by email or on our website. We will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary next year!

Today, I attended a program, given to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, about Texas quilts and quilt makers. So I leave you with the thought of our grandmothers creating quilts for beauty and utility that now continue to bring joy to us. I hope you have a homemade quilt that comforts you. Sending warm greetings at Christmastime.

Jane Austin Bruckner

Minutes of AFAOA Business Meeting

October 4, 2015 – St. Louis, MO

President Jane Bruckner opened the meeting with a Welcome to members and a report of her activities. She emphasized the need for more members to be active in the organization. Database compilers were introduced and were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

Vice-presidents Elizabeth Neithamer, John Clinard, and Curtis Austin were introduced. As Convention Chairman, Elizabeth reported that twenty nine people had registered. Thirty one, including two speakers, will be present for dinner. The Association held its first meeting in 1941 in Washington, DC. In 2016 we will celebrate our 75th year.

The members present selected Salt Lake City, UT, and Charlottesville, VA to be voted on by the membership for the site of our next conference. Also considered were Denver, CO, Columbia, SC and Portland, OR.

The minutes for the 2014 meeting, and financial reports for 2014 and YTD 2015 had been posted all week-end and will be filed. Outgoing secretary/treasurer, Lois Cody, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the president.

Nominating Committee Chair, Liz Carlin, placed the name of Paula Mackey before the group to fill the vacancy of secretary/treasurer. Liz moved to close the nominations; John Clinard seconded. Motion passed.

DNA Project Administrator, Art Sikes, reported that the number of Y chromosome DNA tests have slowed.

Our website DNA page has been updated and a chart of the tests has been added for each AFAOA database. There are 221 registered as Austin-Austen DNA Project members.

Genealogists, Liz Carlin and Carol Austin, reported that database *David and Jeremiah of NY* has been merged into *John of Greenwich, CT*. A new database has been added—*Hezekiah of VT*. Thirty three databases were updated since last year's report. Currently there are 70 databases with 139,953 individuals.

Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor, Alice Martin, reported that our current paid membership is 223 - up from 213 on January 1, 2015. The digital newsletter in color is emailed to 32 members. Anyone wanting a digital copy can request one at anewsletter@afaoa.org.

Webmaster, Jim Carlin, and Computer Programmer, Joy Davis, presented "*AFAOA: the Future Is Now*". Jim discussed his concern for the preservation of a multitude of AFAOA documents now located at five different sites. These need to be prioritized and then consolidated for convenient access. Joy spoke on the need for modernization of the website operational software. This is primarily driven by more modern programming languages and in server technology which our current server is unable to provide. Joy was given authorization to research alternative methods and other host sites easily available on the web.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Vermont to Kansas, continued from page 1

William Clark Austin

William Clark Austin was educated in the public schools of Chase County and at the University of Kansas. He was instructor in the Cottonwood Falls schools for several years and for three years engaged in the grocery business at Strong City. In 1903 he bought the *Chase County Leader*, a Republican weekly, and in 1909 bought the *Strong City News* and the *Courant* of Cottonwood Falls, consolidating them as the *Strong City News-Courant*. In 1904 he was elected as the Republican candidate for register of deeds and served two years, and in 1910 was elected state printer. He was the author of the uniform blank-book law of 1911, which was the first law for uniform county records passed by any of the United States.

In 1895 William C. Austin was married to Rose Palmer of Cottonwood Falls. They had three children: Catherine (born in 1896). James Barker (25 Aug 1899 – 10 Mar 1978) and William Preston (18 Jan 1902 – 11 Aug 1970). He was holding the office of state printer in the 1930s until his death in 1944.

James Austin can be found in AFAOA's **Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island** database.

Additional sources:

Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc.; Standard Pub. Co. Chicago: 1912. Edited by Frank W. Blackmar.

The obituary of James Austin, published in the *Chase County Leader News*, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, September 15, 1923

A Kansas Vermonter, cont'd from page 1

think I'll go out to the cemetery and dig Jim Austin's grave. He looks like he'll need it in a couple of days."

But James Austin did not need a grave in a couple of days, or a couple of years, and when he did need it fifty-five years later, Allison was not there to dig it. He had been lying in his own grave for half a century.

Mr. Hunt told W. C. Austin, State Printer and son of James Austin, about Mr. Allison's remark more than fifty years after it was made. Mr. Austin told his father, who wasn't inclined to think it funny at first, but soon was telling it with great enjoyment.

It may have been the Kansas climate, it may have been the outdoor work, it may have been the sturdy Vermont stock, it may have been his will to live, or it may have been all of them. At any rate James Austin began to improve.

At eighty-five he was hale and hearty, active on the farm, enjoying his children and grandchildren, and seemingly had a number of years to tick off.

One spring day he went out into a sudden shower to drive the calves off the alfalfa, and scoffed at the suggestion that he change into dry clothes.

He took pneumonia, which proved to be the final enemy he could not conquer. But he gave it a magnificent battle before he finally had to surrender.

[Published in the *Chase County Leader-News* circa 1928]

Meet Our Association Officers Paula Mackey, Treasurer

Paula Austin Mackey is a native of Fort Worth, Texas and attended Texas Christian University. She is retired from the position of Secretary to the President of Southwestern Bell in Texas. She is also the former treasurer of the Tarrant County Republican Party and the Denton County Republican Party.

Paula's husband, George, is an attorney in Fort Worth. Their son, Paul, is a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army and is about to move from Fort Benning to Fort Campbell. Paula and George attend Travis Avenue Baptist Church where she plays clarinet in the orchestra.



Paula's earliest known Austin ancestor, John K. Austin, was born in 1802 in Virginia. He left Wayne County, Missouri, in a caravan with his wife, Catherine Holmesley Austin, her parents and siblings, and John's brother, Jonas Austin. They entered the Arkansas Territory about 1827 and settled in Madison County, Arkansas. According to the *History of Madison County, Arkansas*, the earliest land entry in that county was made by John Austin. The entry bears the date of November 8, 1834, and covers eighty acres. John and Catherine had 8 children. Their oldest son, William Benjamin, appears in the 1850 Arkansas census as a schoolteacher in 1850 and a clergyman in 1860; but by 1880 he and his family had moved on to Texas.

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Standing: Vernon Austin, Elizabeth Neithamer, David Neithamer, Edith Smith, John Clinard, Barbara Giacomelli, Alice Martin, Gay Martin, Lois Cody, Bob Cody, Jim Carlin, Art Sikes, Liz Carlin, Patrick Korach, Bev Sikes, Curtis Austin, David Austin, Charles Austin, Doug Shipley

Seated: Vincent Smith, Lil Clinard, Carol Austin, Helen Austin, Jane Bruckner, Patti Korach, Paula Mackey, Erin Austin

In Front: Joy Davis **Not pictured:** Vera McCullough

The 2015 Austin Families Association Convention—St. Louis, Missouri

This year's Austin Convention was held the weekend of October 2–4 in St. Louis, Missouri. At the Drury Plaza Hotel in the shadow of the Gateway Arch, Austin cousins and friends once again gathered for what has become equal parts reunion, workshops and speakers, sharing research, and the opportunity to experience our host city. As the "Gateway to the West", St. Louis offered the opportunity to learn about the amazing adventure that was the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and to explore the area that became the gateway for the exploration of a continent.

Those arriving early enjoyed local attractions such as the Anheuser-Busch brewery, Camp River Dubois (the Illinois starting point for the Lewis and Clark Expedition), the National Archives and Personnel Records Center and Historic St. Charles, in addition to the Old Courthouse and other historic sites in downtown St. Louis. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, IL was another destination for some. On Friday, we experienced a riverboat cruise on the mighty Mississippi River and enjoyed the amazing view from the top of the Gateway Arch. On Friday evening attendees gathered in the lobby of the Drury Plaza to enjoy each other's company over drinks and dinner.

Saturday morning began bright and early, sharing coffee, fellowship and computer time in the Lewis Room with its wonderful view of the Arch. Time for anyone interested in working with AFAOA genealogists, or wanting to research online, was scheduled before and after the presentations on Saturday and Sunday, and after the Sunday afternoon business meeting. Following a warm welcome by President Jane Bruckner, Justin Watkins, historian and researcher, gave an informative talk on *"Migration Routes Into and Through the Midwest"*. His love of history and genealogy was evident as he explained the location and growth of Colonial roads in the 1700s and the network of roads, trails and rivers traveled in the early 1800s westward expansion of the United States, and told of various groups and families that came through the St. Louis area on their way west.

Next was Ann Carter Fleming, certified genealogist, author and past president of the National Genealogical Society. Ann spoke on *"Researching Your Family History in the Midwest"*. We all came away with new information on resources available for researching our own family histories.

On Saturday afternoon we first enjoyed a talk by AFAOA member Dave Neithamer, *"Family History:*

continued on page 6

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Convention, continued from page 5

Where Fact and Fiction Collide". Research sometimes shows oral history to be far from historical fact, yet the truth is often more interesting than the "facts" that have been passed down. Dave shared with us his often-amusing journey seeking to sort out fact from fiction in his own Neithamer family history. He was followed by Doug Shipley, who spoke on *"Teaming Oral History with Documentary Research"*, a fascinating talk about his own family research. We could all relate to the challenges Dave and Doug faced in separating out fact from fiction in family tales, and both of these talks illustrated how important it is to verify oral histories through research. DNA testing can be an important tool in this process. Our last speaker of the day was Laura Smith, who spoke on *"Using DNA to Explore Your Family Tree"*. She shared with us information on various DNA tests and their places in genealogical research.

On Sunday morning we resumed our time together, with Edith Smith sharing one of those interesting genealogical finds we all hope for...*"A Serendipity Moment—Finding My Ancestors' Land in Rhode Island"*. Then we heard from AFAOA Vice President John Clinard, who spoke to us about his Austin research, *"Discovering an Early Austin Line from James City Co., VA"*

Our last talk of the morning was concerned with how to handle that genealogical information once it's been gathered. Joy Davis, John Clinard and Dave Neithamer gave us an *"Introduction to Legacy"*, demonstrating the program and answering questions. Joy explained that, since Personal

Ancestral File (PAF) is no longer supported, the Software Committee has researched various genealogy programs to find the one most suitable for future use by AFAOA members and compilers. They recommend Legacy because it is inexpensive, intuitive, full-featured, and it reads PAF files directly, without a GEDCOM transfer.

The annual AFAOA business meeting was held Sunday afternoon. Following officer and committee reports, nominations for the site of next year's reunion were accepted, discussed and narrowed down to two. AFAOA members will now choose between Salt Lake City, Utah and Charlottesville, Virginia. Be sure to cast your vote for your favorite location!

The business meeting concluded with a discussion led by Jim Carlin and Joy Davis, *"AFAOA: The Future is Now"*, about planning for the future and direction of our organization.

The weekend's activities concluded with socializing and a delicious dinner at Carmine's Steak House. After dinner everyone enjoyed *Trails and Tales* - a fun and interactive program about Westward Expansion presented by Carol Watkins, educator and professional storyteller, and her son, Justin Watkins, who was our first speaker on Saturday.

The 2015 "convention" was full of fun, fellowship, sharing, and exploration! I'd like to invite you to join us next year and find out what makes this such a special group. Whether it's in Salt Lake City or Charlottesville, I hope to see you in 2016!

Elizabeth Neithamer
AFAOA Vice-President

The Future of AFAOA's Databases

Our databases are one of the most popular features of our website, but most of our members are not acquainted with all that is involved in getting the data there.

Jim Carlin and the late Bill Minnick conspired to put AFAOA's genealogy information onto the World Wide Web in the late 1990s. I was recruited to make software updates to make things run more efficiently, and to help Jim publish everything in book form more easily.

But there are chinks in the armor. Jim and I are the only people who really understand the process — and even I don't understand all that Jim does. There is still a lot of manual labor that goes into putting each database onto the website. And we aren't getting any younger. That has forced us to look for alternative methods of continuing to make our data freely available to the world per our mission.

AFAOA President Jane Bruckner appointed me to chair a Software Committee whose assignment is to

look at the long-term future of our databases. A major goal will be to make sure our databases remain freely available — hopefully to an even wider audience — while reducing the workload of the current database and website teams. We also want to make sure that our compilers can still make updates as new information is found.

During the next year, we will be investigating several different alternatives for our databases. These include modernizing our software, using a third-party host site, or allowing our databases to be added to a genealogy host site. Once we have determined an appropriate course of action, we will post notices on the web site and in the newsletter. We will make every effort to ensure that no interruption of service occurs during the transition. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Joy Davis
Chairman, Software Committee

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

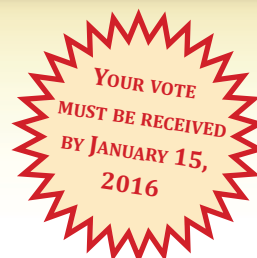
DECEMBER 2015

VOTE FOR THE 2016 CONVENTION 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: amembership@afaoa.org.
3. **Vote on-line.** Go to the AFAOA web site. Select "Convention/Reunion" and follow the instructions.

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



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Charlottesville, formed in 1792 by an Act of the Assembly of Albemarle County, was the home of U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. Monticello, Jefferson's plantation manor, is located just a few miles from downtown. The home of James Monroe, Ash Lawn Highland, is down the road from Monticello. Both, 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.



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 National Park in North Carolina, terminates at the southern entrance of Shenandoah. This junction of the two scenic drives is only 22 miles west of downtown Charlottesville.

Charlottesville also is home to the University of Virginia, established in 1819. The University of Virginia Library has a large number of genealogical sources among its holdings, including what must be considered one of the foremost collections dealing with Virginia genealogy.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Salt Lake City is in a valley located at the foot of the Wasatch mountain range. Attractions include the State Capitol, Temple Square, historic homes of Mormon Pioneers, "This is the Place" Heritage Park, the Hogle Zoo, the Clark Planetarium and some excellent museums. Attend a Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal and an organ recital in Temple Square. The Family History Library and adjacent hotel are conveniently located for walking the downtown area and a short trolley ride from the Gateway Shopping Center.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has the largest collection of genealogical materials in the world. Its records cover the United States, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Its collections include over 1.6 million rolls of microfilmed records onsite, 727,000 microfiche, 356,000 books and 4,500 periodicals. Computers are available for searching electronic resources, including subscriptions to the major genealogical websites.



Please cut here



2016 Convention Site Ballot:

_____ Charlottesville, Virginia
_____ Salt Lake City, Utah

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: AFAOA
527 Front Beach Drive, #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Austin Families Association of America



2015 Convention Photos: Read our report on pages 5–6.

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

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Address Service Requested