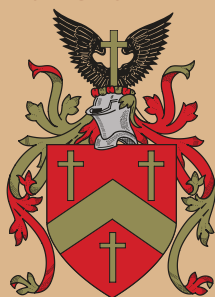


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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

Andrew Jackson Austin 1847–1924

Andrew Jackson Austin had a lot in common with his contemporaries. Born in south-west Virginia, he kept moving west in his life—not way west—just a few mountains west of his birthplace in Botetourt County, Virginia, until he eventually settled in what was to become West Virginia. Many men married young and so did Andrew. On May 27, 1867, 20 year-old Andrew married Athalinda Smith in Hawkins County, Tennessee. What a festive occasion that must have been, because on that day Athalinda and her sister Mary Agnes “Mollie” Smith made their

vows side by side in a double wedding ceremony. Andrew and Athalinda first lived in Montgomery County, Virginia—in Shawsville, near Blacksburg, where they began raising some of their 12 children. They buried two sons as babies, like so many of our ancestors in the 19th century—big families and a few heartaches along the way.

All of us try to imagine the lives of the ancestors we grow to love. When the Civil War broke out, Andrew was 13—about to turn 14 and probably too young to enlist—but we believe he took up the fight by the end of the war, considering Virginia needed every man, young and old. The personal journal of Andrew and Athalinda’s grandson, Sumpter Hewson Austin, states his grandfather fought in the Civil War. Three of Andrew’s older brothers’ Confederate service is recorded. John P. Austin, Isaac T. Austin and William Austin all served but, sadly, 21 year-old William did not recover from a head wound



Photo courtesy of Anne Austin Alves

Andrew and his boys 1917

standing (L to R): James Edward, Charles Henry, Hayden Lee
sitting: Milton Isaac, Andrew Jackson, Sumpter Hughes

he suffered on the second day of the Battle of Second Manassas (August 28–30, 1862). He died exactly one month later.

This Austin family had already been dealt a serious blow in 1856 when their 46-year-old father, also Andrew Austin, died. His wife—the younger Andrew’s mother, Mary Ann Kimberling Austin—probably struggled raising her children in war-torn Virginia. Mary Ann was the granddaughter of Paulzer Kimberling who, like the Austins, traveled south from Pennsylvania on the Great Wagon Road to the frontier. In the second half of the 18th century, Botetourt County was the frontier—and the jumping off place for those brave enough to explore beyond the hazy Blue Ridge Mountains.

Andrew Jackson Austin’s line goes back through Andrew, Isaac, William and George Jr. to our immigrant ancestor from England, George Aston/Astin. (Aston appears to have quickly evolved to Austin in the colonies.) This branch of the Austin family

continued on page 5

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

William W. (Bill) Austin III

1578 NE Iris St., Issaquah, WA 98029;
wwaustin0029@gmail.com; *William Austin & Eliz. Green of MD; William b. 1754 NC; William b. 1790 NC; Calvin F. b. 1836 TN; Wm. Wyatt b. 1879 TN*

Jeff Austin

1305 Circle Oak Dr., Schertz, TX 78154;
Robert of RI; Jeremiah b.~1662 RI; Pasco b. 1698 RI; Gideon b. 1731 RI; Gideon b. 1757 RI; Gideon b. 1795 RI; Augustus b. 1822 PA

Tammy Teague

1308 Circle Oak Dr., Schertz, TX 78154;
Robert of RI; Jeremiah b.~1662 RI; Pasco b. 1698 RI; Gideon b. 1731 RI; Gideon b. 1757 RI; Gideon b. 1795 RI; Augustus b. 1822 PA

Robert Jon Grover

3103 Washington St., Vancouver, WA 98660;
jackgrover13@yahoo.com; *Andrew Jackson "Jack" b.1828 Boon Co., MO; Mary Elizabeth (Donnelly) b. 1847 Livingston Co., MO*

LuAnn Billings Williams

5028 Sycamore St., Elida, OH 45807; luannwms@yahoo.com;
Samuel of Boston MA; Thomas b. 1671 MA; Zebediah b. 1701 MA; David b. 1739 MA; Hezekiah b. 1763 MA; Benjamin b. 1792 VT; John b. 1820 Knox Co. OH; William b. 1864 OH; Leota (Ford) b. 1904 OH

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

Membership Statistics

AFAOA membership currently stands at 226, with 40 states represented—coast to coast. The states with the largest number of members are California (27), Texas (25) and Florida (15), followed by Washington (11), New York and Virginia (10 each).

Thanks to all members for your support of the Austin Families Association of America!

Austin-Austen DNA Project

The May issue of the newsletter included a chart showing how many DNA tests had been done for each of the 38 largest databases that the Association maintains. It was thought that this could encourage testing in some of the databases with no tests, with just one test and with 2 non-matching tests.

This updated chart, which now includes all the databases, is accessible on our website's Austin-Austen DNA Project page. Look for the link to "DNA Testing by Database". There are some additional columns on the chart: 'birth' (the year that the oldest member of that database was born), "non-matching tests", and "comments". My goal is to update this chart whenever I update the "Latest Test Results".

DNA testing, including Autosomal testing and the Family Tree DNA "Family Finder Test", will be discussed at our up-coming convention in St. Louis. There will be a speaker on this subject. So bring your questions. I hope to see you there

Art Sikes

Genealogist's Report

Using continued research and input from other researchers, frequent updates are made to our Austin databases. The date of the update is included and the most recent updates are marked with a star. When you visit the AFAOA website take a look at that list, to be found at "Austin Projects"—"Research", and notice the revision date of those databases of interest to you. The most recent have been:

- *Levi Austin of Oneida County, NY*
- *Robert Austin of RI*
- *Edward Austin of RI*
- *Nathan Austin of RI*
- *Thomas Austin of RI*
- *Wait Austin of RI*
- *John Austin of NC*
- *William Austin of Kent Co., MD*

NEW: As databases are updated, a link to the new "DNA Testing by Database" chart will be added to the database home page.

Liz Austin Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015



Seventy four years ago, in the summer of 1941, this idea of having an Austin Families Conventions began—when Edith Austin Moore was visiting her brother Henry Warner Austin and his wife Mary in Bradbury Heights, Washington, DC. They decided to have a family picnic in nearby Fort DuPont Park. At this picnic Edith displayed the notebooks of Austin research she had been collecting for some years in her effort to find out more about their family.

Since she was born in Mexico, Oswego County, New York, she began in New York State but kept expanding her research to include all the New England states. All the while, as she found her family's information in courthouse documents, census records, cemeteries, on old maps, etc., she saw so much other information on unrelated Austin families that she copied it also, putting it into notebooks. At the early Austin picnics she made her notebooks available for everyone to see, hoping to find connections. Initially our organization was called the *Austin Family Association*, and later renamed *Austin Families Association of America*.



The first weekend in October is fast approaching. Have you sent in your convention registration? Knowing that you are coming will help us in planning, so please send that form as soon as possible. St. Louis is full of interesting history of the westward expansion of our nation. So many of our ancestors, or their relatives, "went west." Learn a little more of that history, expand your research, talk with an Austin genealogist, find out more about the Austin DNA Project, meet your Austin "cousins" and enjoy good food and fun in St. Louis. We need your ideas, and your participation, as we continue to document and celebrate our heritage for future generations.

Sending all good wishes until I see you at the Drury Plaza Hotel in St. Louis!

Jane Austin Bruckner

Westward Migration

Albert Bennett Austin was born February 12, 1808 in Durham, New York, the son of James Austin and Ruby Bennett. James had moved westward into New York from Massachusetts as a young man. Albert's grandfather, Levi Austin, a blacksmith and soldier in the Revolutionary War, was an original proprietor of Richmond, Massachusetts; his great grandfather, Nathaniel Austin, was a proprietor of Sheffield. Nathaniel's grandfather, Anthony Austin, originally from Charlestown, was an original proprietor of Suffield. Each generation had moved a little further west.

Albert married Jane Elizabeth Hannah of Schenectady, New York in 1832. In Schenectady he served as a Justice of the Peace, head of the fire department and president of the school board, and then he left New York to "move west" to Paris, Edgar Co., Illinois. He purchased 240 acres of Public Domain land from the State of Illinois in 1852. In Paris, he was elected Judge of the County Court.

In a biographical sketch the question was asked: "Why did Albert B. Austin, at the age of 44, leave the older civilization of the Hudson River Valley and relocate in an area then only 20 years removed from the absolute log-cabin period?" Perhaps "moving west", to participate in the development of a rapidly expanding country, was in his blood. Perhaps he heard of opportunities there from his wife's brother who had relocated to Paris several years earlier.

Albert and Jane Hannah Austin had ten children and four continued the Austin migration west. William, settled first in Abilene, Kansas and later in Long Beach, California. James was an attorney in Kansas City, Missouri, where he later became a judge. Archibald joined James in the Kansas City law firm of Austin & Austin. Alanson was a merchant in Terre Haute, Indiana.

James Austin, in writing about his life, said: "I was born into a family of 10 children at Schenectady, NY. ...from here my parents started west to Illinois. ...We took the railway to Buffalo—which was as far west as the railroads had then gone—and at that point we transferred to a boat on Lake Erie, taking us to Toledo, Ohio; and we there entered the Wabash Canal... and went to Terre Haute, Indiana, and from there to our destination, Paris, Illinois by stage."

"Paris was a typical western town of about 2000 inhabitants built around a courthouse square. The people of this town and the surrounding area consisted of the sturdy class, which had populated Kentucky and had pushed west to Indiana, Illinois, and later to Missouri."

Alice Austin Martin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

Sarah Austin's Sampler

Contributed by Steve Henkel

Sarah Austin was born on 27 April 1788 at Mannington, Salem, New Jersey - the daughter of Samuel Austin and Lydia Ambler and the great-great granddaughter of John Austin and Jane Potts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sarah and her husband, Jedediah Thompson Allen, had five children. She died in 1824 in Salem Co. New Jersey.

In 1802 Sarah was attending the Westtown School, a co-educational Friends boarding school near West Chester, Pennsylvania, where she made a sampler, dated 1802 and signed by her. When Carol Pippitt Henkel of Osprey, FL (Sarah's great-great-great granddaughter) sent a picture of the sampler to Westtown School seeking information she received the following letter from Ann W. Upton, the curator at Westtown School and a professional Quaker Genealogical Researcher.

"The photograph of your g-g-great grandmother's sampler is beautiful, especially for such an early one. Westtown maintains a sampler collection of 115 samplers, mostly made here. Yours, a geometric, is the rarest type. Girls were only allowed to do this type once they had mastered the more basic skills of darning, cross stitch and plainer needlework. Sarah Austin must have been sewing at home to have been allowed to do this sampler at Westtown at age 13 or 14! Girls were only allowed to make the very plainest of samplers while at Westtown, but it was common that

when they took them home they were decorated and made fancier. It looks to me that Sarah Austin probably embellished much of the interior work after leaving Westtown. The geometric samplers were typically made by doing the monocolour border first. While at Westtown she may have done the border and central motif with her parents' names, and added the rest later."

"Concerning the initials: Usually they stand for family members. However in this case they are so varied that it seems unlikely. [The initials in the diamond are almost certainly those of Sarah's parents.] It also looks to me, from the photo, that the initials may have been made by hands other than her own. I wondered if they may stand for her special friends at Westtown. I checked the names of the girls and teachers who were here when

Sarah was and this resulted in some matches."

Matches of students and teachers:

ES #147, Esther Stapler, age 13, of Falsington, PA
SW #143, Sarah Woolston, age 13, of Falsington, PA
SW #150, Sarah West, age 12, of Mt. Holly, NJ
AS #180, Anna Shipler, age 14, of Wilmington, DE
RP #189, Rebecca Potts, age 14, of Abington, PA
AS #198, Ann Stroud, age 11, of Philadelphia, PA
AT #210, Anna Thomas, age 13, of West Whiteland, PA
ES #215, Edith Sharpless, age 14, of East Bradford, PA
LW #233, Lucr Wright, age 14, of Burlingtun, NJ
AG Ann Gilbert, teacher, Grammar and Writing
AT Ann Thomas, teacher, Sewing, Grammar, Reading

Sarah Austin, student number #193, of "near Salem", NJ, entered Westtown School 11th month 28, 1801, at age 13, and left 10th month second, 1802. She was the daughter of Samuel Austin who paid her bills.

A few facts about the school:

Westtown School opened 1799, and in that year sent a pamphlet to parents of entering children dictating what the children should bring (e.g. "if the cloathing be not sufficiently plain as to color or shall require much washing it shall be returned") and the schedule: "6 AM wake up bell, candles lit... Scholars dress. No talking. Proceed to the gallery... then to the Washing Shed pump... then to the Collection Room for morning school: grammar and geography. 7:30 AM Breakfast... 8:30 AM School day begins... spelling, penmanship, arithmetic and reading... Noon, Dinner. No talking. Disorderly students sit at the 'Disgrace Table'... 2 PM Recess... Find opportunities for silent 'inward retirement'...



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

Andrew Jackson Austin, continued from page 1

can be found in AFAOA's Northern Databases: *George Austin of Downington, Chester Co., Pennsylvania*.

Between 1881 and 1883 the family moved from the Blacksburg area of Montgomery County, Virginia to Mercer County, West Virginia—about 41 miles northwest—where coal was beginning its reign as energy king. Railroad lines expanded and small towns popped up creating new opportunities. Andrew Jackson Austin became a merchant, opening two general stores in the area. The first was located in Frenchville, a small town known today as Oakvale. Of course he farmed too, but didn't everyone back then?

Andrew and Athalinda's surviving children were Emma Zetta, John W., Harvey J., Mary Agnes, Theodosia, Milton Isaac, James Edward, Charles Henry, Hayden Lee and Sumpter Hughes. Most stayed in the region of VA, WV, KY and OH, but oh how their descendants have spread out! Coming to the first reunion of this branch of the family are folks from CA, NV, TX, NJ, MI, TN, OH, NC, VA and WV. Pipestem State Park, near Beckley, West Virginia, is 40 minutes north of Andrew and Athalinda's final resting place - a small cemetery on the top of a pretty hill in Oakvale (population 320).

Think you're related to this Austin clan? We'd love to hear from you!

Karin Kelly

Great, Great Granddaughter of Andrew Jackson Austin

Austin Reunion

**Descendants of
Andrew Jackson Austin 1847-1924
Saturday, September 26, 2015**

Pipestem Resort State Park
3405 Pipestem Drive
Pipestem, WV 25979

For more information contact:

**Anne Alves
Karin Kelly**

database SPOTLIGHT

George Austin of Downington, Chester Co., Pennsylvania

Compiler: Floyd Austin

George Austin was born in Birmingham, England, and died about 1738 in Downington, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. He was a long time resident of Downington, eventually serving there as a Justice of the Peace. He married Elizabeth Hunter on 24 Feb 1705 in Ireland. She was born 27 May 1682 at Rathdrum, County Wicklow, Ireland. Her death date is unknown. Together they had at least 5 children.

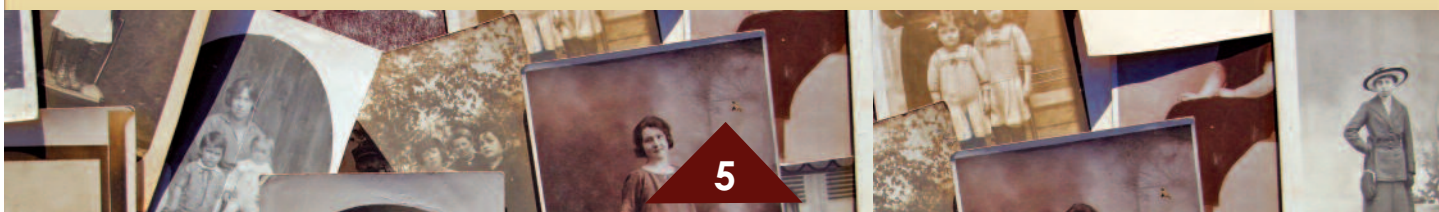
"ASTON, George, a justice of the peace and active citizen, purchased 500 acres in Caln township, on the western side of what is now Downingtown, and is said to have built what is known as the old Hunt mansion, 1727-8. His wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Peter Hunter, of Middletown. He died in 1738, leaving children—George, Peter, Mary (married to Joseph Few, 2-18-1733), Susanna, and probably Esther, wife of Roger Hunt... George Aston (1) was styled a Quaker..., but there is no evidence to that effect in the records of the society. His daughter Mary and son Peter became members."

The History of Chester County,
by Futhy and Cope (1881); pg. 466

Sarah Austin's Sampler, continued from page 4

3 PM... More classes, recitations... 5 PM Supper... No talking... 6-7:30 Evening School. Talks on Religion... or on natural science... otherwise grammar or genealogy studies, or bath night (two times a week)... 7:30-8:30 PM... Free time... Students may read library books... or in summer, work in their garden plots."

Among the "Common Rules for Behavior" were: "no fighting, shouting, whistling, singing, playing the harmonica or the jews harp. No kicking under the table or champing on food during silent grace. No skipping or running in the hallways. Tree climbing is prohibited. Running away is prohibited."



www.afaoa.org

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

St. Louis and the American West

The following is taken from a publication of the City of St. Louis, Heritage and Urban Design Division: *A Preservation Plan for St. Louis*. Section One, St. Louis Historic Contexts, is a summary of the important themes of St. Louis history.

St. Louis and the American West

The history of St. Louis is inextricably tied to the development of the trans-Mississippi West. From its inception it has been a hinge for goods and people crossing the country between east and west. The people, products, and developments in the city's past reflect this role of thoroughfare.

Fur Trade

Fur traders passed by the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers for more than a century before Maxent, Laclède & Company established a new village there in 1764. Marquette and Joliet passed through in 1673; it became the domain of King Louis XIV nine years later. French, Spanish, English, and American trappers passed through the region on their way to the Rockies for pelts and on the way back to sell them to Europe or the east.

Transportation

Changing modes of transportation enhanced St. Louis's location. The city was ideally located at the confluence of two of the great waterways in North America. It is also near the division between the upper and lower Mississippi and just north of the Ohio, providing connections from the northern Rockies to Pittsburgh, from Minnesota to New Orleans. After the first steamer Zebulon M Pike chugged up to the St. Louis wharf in 1817, the city held stronger and faster connections to farther markets. Furs and ores traveled east while people and manufactured goods came west. By 1840, St. Louis and New Orleans were the busiest river ports in the United States.

Railroads built farther on the location's advantages, especially after the Eads Bridge opened in 1874. With so few points for trains to cross the Father of Waters, bridges became an economic confluence of people and products. Manufacturing grew around products coming and going, as did a large wholesaling and warehousing industry. Cupples Station stood as the ultimate statement of the importance of the city in the nation's web of steel rails. The largest of its type in the world when it opened, Cupples Station set St. Louis as a major hinge between east and west at the turn of the



century. It was among the busiest rail hubs in the country. Union Station was the largest passenger station on the globe when it opened in 1894.

Gold Rush

St. Louis was one of the last points of "civilization" for explorers heading west before the Lewis & Clark expedition. One commented that goods for argonauts were so plentiful that he found "California around every corner" in the city. Travel guides published for fortune-seekers heading to California in the Gold Rush of 1849-53 almost universally advised argonauts to purchase certain goods in St. Louis rather than lug them from home. Since an estimated 50,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail each of those years, many potential customers passed through St. Louis, now truly a "gateway city."

Military Ties

The military used St. Louis for many of the same reasons as did entrepreneurs. On the edge of American settlement, St. Louis was the jumping off point for Lewis

and Clark in 1804, as it was for subsequent explorers going to the Missouri and upper Mississippi rivers.

Ethnographer/artist George Catlin started his travels in the 1830s in St. Louis. German Prince Maximilian, and his hired artist Karl Bodmer, gathered supplies and information in St. Louis before leaving for the upper Missouri in 1833-34.

Forts in the plains received supplies on steamboats which loaded in St. Louis, first from Fort Bellefontaine and later from Jefferson Barracks. By 1830, Jefferson Barracks served as a training center for troops headed west, and the main staging area for the Mexican War in 1846. Native American diplomats came to St. Louis to negotiate with William Clark to end Black Hawk's War; the United States government ran its Indian affairs for the west from St. Louis for decades after the Civil War.

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/cultural-resources/preservation-plan/Part-I-St-Louis-and-the-American-West.cfm>

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — October 2–4, 2015

Thursday & Friday, October 1 & 2
Early arrival activities — Friday evening social hour.

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4
Speakers and workshop time — Sunday evening banquet.

Convention Hotel: *Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch*, 2 South 4th Street, St. Louis, Missouri

Hotel Reservations: All reservations made after August 29 will be on a space available basis at the prevailing room rate, but should still be made with our Group Number. The rate includes: free hot *Quickstart* breakfast, free 5:30 *Kickback* (hot food buffet and cold beverages every evening), free Internet and long-distance calling in rooms. Parking is \$16 per night.

Hotel reservations can be made online at www.druryhotels.com.

- Select *Reservations*, then *Group Reservations* from the drop-down menu.
- Enter our Group Number, which is **2239314** and *Verify Group Number*.
- Enter desired dates, number of rooms and people and accessibility preference (if any) where indicated.
- View *Available* and select *Room Type*. Fill in *Guest Information*.

Reservations can also be made by calling **1-800-325-0720**. Refer to the Group Number **2239314**.

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.

Registration forms are available on the AFAOA website and should be sent as soon as possible, to be received no later than September 25. Your registration, with checks payable to AFAOA, should be sent to the Convention Registrar:

Lois Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Drive,
Cincinnati, OH 45215.



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
"AUSTIN FAMILIES
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA" SHOULD
BE SENT TO:
LOIS W. CODY
336 PLEASANT HILL DR.
CINCINNATI, OH 45215

Address Service Requested

Austin Families Convention October 2-4, 2015 St. Louis, Missouri



Experience the Gateway Arch, the Riverfront,
and Historic Downtown St. Louis.

Research Opportunities in St. Louis:

Central Library
<http://central.slpl.org/>

St. Louis County Library
<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy>

Missouri History Museum, Library and Research Center
www.mohistory.org/lrc-home/

The National Archives at St. Louis - National Personnel
Records Center, www.archives.gov/st.louis