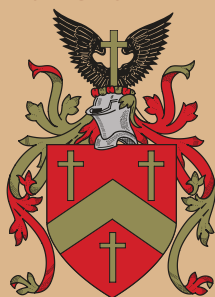


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

Jane Austin Bruckner
PRESIDENT
4309 Sparrow Point Court
Fort Worth, TX 76113

Elizabeth Neithamer
VICE-PRESIDENT
2607 Whippoorwill Hollow
Midland, MI 48642

John Clinard
VICE-PRESIDENT
153 Chuniloti Way
Loudon, TN 3774

Curtis Austin
VICE-PRESIDENT
7666 McClure Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Lois W. Cody
SECRETARY/TREASURER
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Liz Austin Carlin
AFAOA GENEALOGIST
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304

Carol Robinson Austin
ASSISTANT GENEALOGIST
9726 Mirage Circle
Garden Grove, CA 92844

Jim Carlin
DATABASE CHAIR

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
DNA PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR
1175 River Blvd.
Suffield, CT 06078

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

POTOSI, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI

In June 1963, Potosi, located about 70 miles south of St. Louis, celebrated the 200th Anniversary of its beginning as a mining camp that sprang up in 1763 after a hunter and former French soldier (Francis Azor, called "the Breton" because he was from the province of Brittany) discovered a rich outcropping of lead ore in the area. In 1797 Moses Austin arrived and transformed the primitive mining methods then being used into a major industry. A settlement grew up around his home, Durham Hall, on the hills north of Mine a Breton. This area, which was Spanish territory 1764–1803, was part of the American Territory of Louisiana after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and became the Territory of Missouri in 1812.

In 1814 Moses Austin gave 40 acres of his land, on which a public square and 147 lots were laid out, to establish the town of Potosi as the county seat of the new County of Washington.

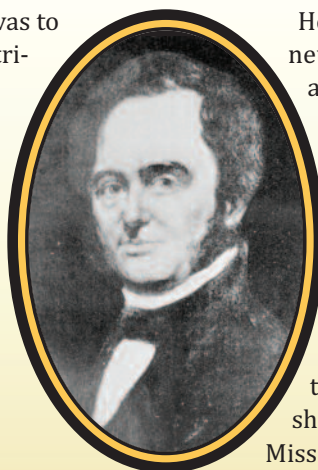
The following article is taken from the booklet, *POTOSI 200 YEARS, A Bicentennial Scrapbook*, by George W. Showalter, published in 1963 and reprinted in 1997.

The Austin Years

A Connecticut Yankee who was to become "Missouri's First Industrialist" and the "Grandfather of Texas" was Moses Austin, a major figure in the early history of Potosi.

Born in Durham, Connecticut, in 1761, he was the owner of a dry goods and importing firm in Philadelphia, later moving with the business to Richmond, Virginia. There he also became a pewter manufacturer and a lead and zinc miner.

In 1797, learning of the rich lead deposits in Missouri, he visited Missouri and obtained a grant from the Spanish officials, including a large part of Azor's grant at Mine a Breton. He brought his family [*his wife Maria Brown Austin and their children—Stephen F. and Emily Margaret*] here in September 1798, and the next year he settled in his magnificent home, Durham Hall.



Here the hard-driving entrepreneur transformed lead mining and smelting into Missouri's first major industry. Here he sank the first mine shaft in Missouri and built the first reverberatory furnace west of the Mississippi. He built a store, sawmill, flour mill, black smith shop, bridges and roads, and a shot tower, turning out the first lead sheet and cannonballs made in Missouri.

By 1802 he was smelting all the lead for the district, and in 1804, as his business prospered, he was named presiding judge of the Ste. Genevieve District. Moving north, he founded Herculaneum in 1809 as a shipping point for his lead, and for shot production.

In 1816, with other prominent citizens of Missouri, he sponsored the bank of St. Louis. Failure of the bank, along with other

continued on page 4

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Known Austin Ancestors

Allen L. Austin

1305 East Fourth St., Alton, IL 62002;
allensnewemail@yahoo.com; *Richard Austin of Charlestown MA* b.~1598 Eng; Anthony b.1636 Eng; Nathaniel b.1678 MA; Nathaniel b.1703 MA; Gad b.1733 MA; Philip b.1766 MA; Samuel b.1819 IN; Isaac b.1838 IN; James b.1861 IN; Cyrus Logan b.1887 IN; Everett Leroy b.1916 IL

James Eugene Lewis III

11600 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO 64114;
jimlewiskc@gmail.com; *William Wilson Austin of Hanover County, VA* b~1690 Wales; William Wilson II b~1720 Hanover Co., VA; James b.1760 Goochland Co., VA; John b.1806 Campbell Co., VA; Sarah Eugenia (Lewis) b.1837 Campbell Co., VA.

William H. Sutherland

P.O. Box 547, Saint Paul, VA 24283; *Bartholomew Austin of Virginia* b. ~1768; Jesse b.1797 Wilkes Co., NC; William Douglas b.1851 Grayson Co., VA; Ardelia (Swindall) b.1884 VA

Clairan Soli Wistar

392 Andra Court, Gilberts, IL 60136; wistarc1@yahoo.com; *Richard Austin of Charlestown MA* b.~1598 Eng; Anthony b.1636 Eng; Anthony b.1663 MA; Anthony b.1700 MA; Zepheniah b.1727 MA; Zepheniah b.1764 MA; Amasa Comstock b.1796 NY; William Amasa b.1845 IL

Kate Wallis

568 Shores Ave., Cave Springs, AR 72718; blueskate@cox.net; *William & Ruth Austin of North Carolina* b.~1700 Ireland; John b. 1727 Ire; Drury b.~1760 NC; Willis Philip b.~1790 Anson Co., NC; Henry R. b. 1827 Bedford Co., TN

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**

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, Native American Families, African American Families, and Austins in the Military.

Native American Austin Families

This project on Austin families with American Indian connections was originated by Dr. Helen Cook Austin and is based on her research into the "five civilized tribes" (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole). The primary source is the Dawes Commission Report produced by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior.

The Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory were compiled in 1914 by The Dawes Commission. Dawes was organized in 1893 to accept applications for tribal enrollment between 1899 and 1907, mostly from Native Americans who resided in the Indian Territory which later became the State of Oklahoma. Tribal membership entitled qualified individuals to land allotments from the U.S. Government. These enrollment records were eventually published by the Dawes Com-



mission. The Roll was also known as The Final Roll of The Five Civilized Tribes. The index entries are arranged by tribe and then by enrollment category (Cherokee by Blood, Cherokee Minor, Cherokee Freedmen, etc.). Each index entry gives an enrollee's name, Dawes Card number and final roll number. The location is given for the Post Office nearest to the District of the Indian Territory where the person resided. Tribal membership today is determined by proof of descent from a person listed on these rolls.

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Much work goes on in AFAOA during the year as we continue to update the databases on our website, share Austin information through the newsletter and plan for our annual Austin Families Convention, to be held this year in St Louis, Missouri.

We welcome our new members, and invite the participation of all members in the work of AFAOA. It has been said that word of mouth advertising is an effective way to get a message out. Talk about Austin Families Association of America to your family circle and distant relatives and in your local Genealogy or Historical Society. This is the only organization in the United States advocating for Austin Families research, offering the Austin DNA Project and a huge online collection of Austin research, as well as an annual gathering with other Austins. Plan now to join us in October in St. Louis at "the Arch"!

These are some other ways you can participate:

The newsletter team is always seeking articles about our Austin ancestors. They can tell us so much about our history. We would like to know why you research and what you have found, your lineage society affiliations, grave markings, historic trips and other items of interest. Contact the Newsletter Editor.

Contribute new information, updates and corrections to our existing family databases. Seek assistance and share your Austin research with our genealogist team. Contact Liz Austin Carlin or Carol R. Austin.

Become a compiler for one of our existing family databases—or establish a new one. Is there a family line that you have a special interest in caring for?

Contact Jim Carlin.

Join the Austin DNA Project, or find a male Austin cousin who will. Contact Art Sikes.

We are delighted to hear that Donna Guy Young has been accepted into First Families of Tennessee, through her 4th great grandfather, Nathaniel Austin. We congratulate Rev Marsha Lyn Davis for achieving a life time goal of erecting a granite gravestone with a War of 1812 Veteran marker for her great, great grandfather, David Austin, in Shelby Co., Illinois. We encourage each of you to look for ways to honor your ancestors through lineage societies, gravestone markers and more.

I believe this Helen Keller quote: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Jane Austin Bruckner

Genealogist's Report

Numerous queries and their resulting research, as well as many e-mails, have resulted in compiler updates to the following Austin databases:

- *Samuel of MA, Joseph of NH, Francis of NJ, John of New Haven, CT, and Jonah of MA*—Carol Austin, compiler
- *John Austin of Greenwich, CT (was of Stamford, CT)*—Scot Austin, compiler
- *Thomas & Esther of NY*—Steve Henderson, compiler
- *Richard Austin of MA, William & Elizabeth of Craven Co., SC*—Jim Carlin, compiler
- *Bartholomew Austin of VA, Thomas Austin of VA, and William & Nancy of Franklin Co., VA*—Liz Austin Carlin, compiler
- *Northern Unplaced Austins*—Carol Austin, compiler
- *Southern Unplaced Austins*—Liz Austin Carlin, compiler

At last year's Austin Convention in Providence, RI, Carol Austin was appointed Assistant Genealogist. Carol has also agreed to be the compiler of *John Austin of New Haven, CT* and the *Northern Unplaced* file. She has identified numerous duplications in *Northern Unplaced* and is working to resolve these.

Liz Austin Carlin



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The Austin Years, continued from page 1

financial reverses, left him financially ruined in 1819.

Seeking to retrieve his fortune, he set out on horseback for San Antonio [*known as Bexar*] in November 1820, to obtain permission from the Spanish government in Mexico to settle 300 families in the province of Texas. He was first ordered to leave Texas. However, with the help of Baron de



According to David B. Gracy II, *Moses Austin: His Life*, (1987), p. 231:

"Moses Austin played an equally significant role in American History in pushing westward and in taming the American frontier. He opened the lead mines region of Missouri, if not the lead mines area of Virginia, to settlement. He planted at Potosi the first permanent non-Indian settlement in Missouri west of, and back from, the bank of the Mississippi River. Austin's work is easy to see, because he left a chain of towns in his wake: Austinville at the mines in Virginia, and Potosi at the mines and Herculaneum on the Mississippi River in Missouri, all still active communities. He may have helped guide the early development of Little Rock and likely encouraged the founding of Fulton, both communities in Arkansas. No student of the Austin genealogy could be surprised at Moses' pioneering. Most of his forebears possessed a similar drive, and all, beginning with Richard Austin who brought the line to America, died in communities west of the ones in which they were born.

Obtaining initial permission to introduce a colony of Anglo Americans into Spanish Texas is, of course, the accomplishment for which Austin is most widely remembered. His enterprise led to the second largest territorial acquisition of the adjacent United States. Moreover, the tale of the trip to Texas and of his deathbed call to his oldest son to take over the work rank among the most dramatic stories of the westward movement.

Contemporary observers recognized that Moses' Texas success equaled, if not exceeded in importance for the country, the work he had done in developing the mining industry. Sometimes those who know a person firsthand see most clearly, and can sum up best, the essence of the individual. So it happened for Austin. From his pioneering spirit to his cultivated taste, from his town building to his colony planning, from Virginia to Missouri to Texas, Moses Austin truly was, as the editors of newspapers in Missouri and Arkansas described him to their readers without fear of contradiction, 'a gentleman of the West'."



Bastrop, whom he had known in Missouri [*and who had become an influential citizen of Bexar*], his petition was forwarded to Monterey.

As Austin returned to Missouri the hardships and exposure of the journey undermined his health, and he died at the home of his daughter [*Emily Austin Bryan*] at Hazel Run on June 10, 1821, a few weeks after his colonization plan was accepted. He was at first buried at Hazel Run, and later [1831] the bodies of Austin and his wife, Maria, were re-buried in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Potosi.

Carrying out Austin's Texas plans and known as the "Father of Texas", was his son, Stephen F. Austin. Stephen spent his boyhood in Potosi, was educated in Connecticut and Kentucky and was associated with his father in business at Potosi. He served as Washington County representative from 1814-1821 and was later appointed a judge of Arkansas territory. Following his father's death, he moved westward to the Brazos in Texas in 1822, taking with him as the first settlers in Texas many Missourians from Washington County and the surrounding area. He reconfirmed the land grant with the Mexican government, which had since gained its freedom from Spain, and helped his colonists prosper.

26th annual
**Moses Austin
Heritage Festival
2015**

*Historic
Potosi, Missouri*

Friday, June 19
Saturday, June 20

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Austin-Austin DNA Project update

The latest DNA test results for the Austin-Austen DNA Project have just been posted to our web site. We continue to receive new test results, as well as test upgrades. However, many databases do not have any DNA tests done on them. The Association will pay for tests of up to two male Austin distant cousins in our larger databases, if tests have not been done before.

Here is an example of how DNA testing can help. The *Thomas Austin of Rhode Island* database includes over 700 people. There is a good chance that a test would match the *Robert Austin of RI* line, but we will never know until some-one steps forward and gets tested.

We have just done a major review of the *Northern Unplaced* database and are going to move several of the larger families from that group into their own databases. One of these families has a Samuel Austin of Illinois as its oldest known ancestor. We found him in only one census (1840 in IL) and he was born 1771–1780. We don't know where he was born because he died or went missing before the 1850 census. A DNA test from someone in this Samuel Austin's line is a match to *Robert of RI* and *Jonah of MA*, the J2 Haplogroup, but the connection is not known. In the process of doing some updates I found a possible connection between Samuel and a member of the *Thomas of RI* database, but more direct evidence and/or a DNA match to Thomas is needed to connect these family lines.

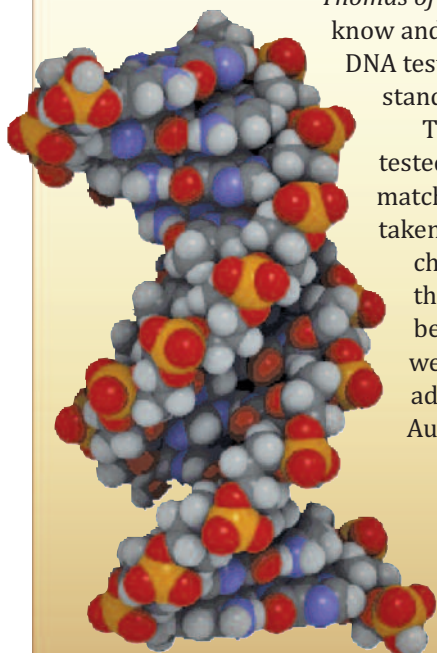
So if you are a male Austin who is a descendant of

Thomas of RI please let me or Carol know and we can arrange for a free DNA test and advance your understanding of your Austin family.

The more Austins that are tested the better chance we can match someone new who has taken a DNA test and the better chance you can find a cousin that you didn't know about before. Using DNA testing we have made some great advances in connecting our Austin families.

Art Sikes

Carol R. Austin



Meet Our Association Officers

Curtis C. Austin Vice President



Curtis C. Austin is a descendent of Richard Austin through Anthony of Suffield, CT. His Austin ancestors include Julius Augustus Caesar Austin and Edwin Nelson Austin, early converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1846 those ancestors did not cross the plains heading west, but instead took a 24,000 mile journey by ship, The Brooklyn, around the Cape of Good Hope, stopping in Hawaii before landing near what is today San Francisco. They traveled east to the Rockies, settling in the Bear Lake Valley of southeastern Idaho.

Curtis was introduced to AFAOA by his grandfather, Torrey Austin, who kept a copy of Edith Austin Moore's Richard Austin book by his recliner. Curtis secretly coveted that book, which went to other relatives. Today, through AFAOA, all of his children have copies of the book.

Born and raised in Idaho, Curtis completed his bachelor's degree in Communication and Economics at Brigham Young University. He did graduate work in Rhetoric at the University of Southern California, before moving to Tallahassee, Florida. He worked as an Assistant Professor of Communications at Florida State University for four years, serving as the interscholastic debate coach. He then went to work for the Florida Legislature for a little over nine years.

When Florida privatized much of the Department of Labor functions, he was selected as the President and CEO of the state workforce board, Workforce Florida. He worked with three Florida governors before transitioning to working with private colleges and universities. Today he represents private sector career schools in Tallahassee, where he is the voice of 1,000+ campuses and 285,000 students. He lobbies on behalf of these students and provides continuing education to faculty and administrators.

He is active in church work, his neighborhood association and has served as a Boy Scout volunteer for many years (including two years as a scoutmaster). He is married to Carol Belnap Austin. Carol and Curtis are the parents of six children (one graduated and married, four single and in college, and one on an LDS mission in Utah).

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database SPOTLIGHT

Northern Unplaced

The *Northern Unplaced* and *Southern Unplaced* databases contain families that have not yet been linked to one of the larger established family lines, and are defined as families who lived or came from States roughly above or below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Information on these unlinked families arrived by several different pathways. Through the years, many of them were sent to one of our genealogists by family members who had done some research and were hoping to connect. Some were compiled from obituaries or biographical information sent in by Austin researchers. Still others were gleaned from the 1850 or 1880 censuses. Some are headed by an immigrant, such as Peter Austin born about 1775 in Holland, who lived in New York, or John Austin from England who appeared on the 1810 census of Brown County, Ohio.

The various genealogists who have compiled the *Unplaced* databases checked new information as it arrived to see if it fit into an established database. If it did not, then it went into *Unplaced*. Often the same people were added more than once, from different sources of information. Over time, as the database grew, sorting out these duplications from thousands of entries became overwhelming.

When I agreed to tackle the *Northern Unplaced* database, I first tried checking the master name list for duplicate names, but that turned out to be slow and cumbersome. Next, I moved the database, which was in PAF, into Roots Magic, which has a utility that counts the "trees". I was able to print out a list of those, which helped a lot. As I explored each tree and checked it against the master name list, I could identify many families that were already in established databases and remove those from *Unplaced*. I found information that allowed me to combine duplications within the database. I started with 554 and whittled it down to 367 trees, 15 of which have more than 100 people in them. Those should be removed and set up in their own named databases; compilers are needed to expand, correct and care for them.

As you can see, there is more work to be done. Volunteer assistance would be appreciated.

Carol R. Austin

First Families of Tennessee

First Families of Tennessee (FFT) was established by the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) in 1993 as a Tennessee Bicentennial project. Membership is open to anyone who can prove direct descent from a person or persons living in any part of what is now Tennessee before or by statehood in 1796.

Recently AFAOA researchers proved the line of descent from Thomas Austin, immigrant to Virginia in 1642, through his great-great-grandson, Nathaniel Austin (abt. 1741 – abt. 1809), to the Austins of White Co., TN, called the Lost Creek Austin Clan. This opened the door to FFT status for the descendants of Nathaniel Austin, who settled his family in Hawkins Co., Tennessee prior to 1790.

First of this line to achieve FFT status is Donna Guy Young, a 4th great-granddaughter of Nathaniel. Now it becomes much easier for other Lost Creek Austins to achieve FFT status. Congratulations Donna!

John Clinard



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AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI October 2-4, 2015

Westward Ho!

Equal parts conference, research and reunion, the Austin Families Association annual convention is always a good time for those in attendance, and the 2015 convention, to be held in **St. Louis, Missouri**, promises to be no exception. Your convention committee has been scouting out venues and research facilities, and things are shaping up for a fun and interesting weekend! The convention will be held on the weekend of **October 2nd-4th**, with the **Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch** serving as our convention hotel.

Besides being a chance to catch up with old friends and cousins and meet new ones, and to share your Austin research, there is so much to see and do in the St. Louis area!

St. Louis was established in 1764 by the French as a fur trading post, was part of Spanish Louisiana, and after the Louisiana Purchase in 1802 became a major port on the Mississippi River. Close to the geographic center of the United States, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, it was known as the Gateway to the West. From this area in 1804 the Lewis and Clark Expedition set out to find a water route through the newly opened western land to the Pacific Ocean.

The 630 ft. high Gateway Arch, set in a 90 acre park along the banks of the Mississippi River, was built as a monument to the westward expansion of the country, and is the tallest man-made monument in the United States. You can't beat the view from the top—and our hotel is right in its shadow! Step back in time as you visit the nearby Basilica of Saint Louis and examine the museum exhibits at the Old Courthouse. From there, take a walking tour of other historic buildings in Downtown St. Louis and cruise the mighty Mississippi on a 19th-century paddle-wheel boat replica.

For those interested in research, the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, with a large collection of genealogical material, is less than a mile from the hotel. Other excellent facilities, 6 to 12 miles from downtown, are: the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center (at Forest Park), the St. Louis County Library, and the National Archives at St. Louis and National Personnel Records Center.

Forest Park is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S. Besides being home to the region's major cultural institutions—including the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum and Science Center - it is a beautiful oasis in the midst of the city and was the site of the 1904 World's Fair.

As you can see, there will be something for everyone in St. Louis! So plan on extra days to explore and enjoy the area. "Early arrival activities" will be arranged for Thursday and Friday—with speakers, workshops and a banquet on Saturday and Sunday. More details and registration information will be coming in the next newsletter and on our website, but for now, **mark those dates on your calendar** and plan to join your Austin cousins and friends in St. Louis on the first weekend in October.

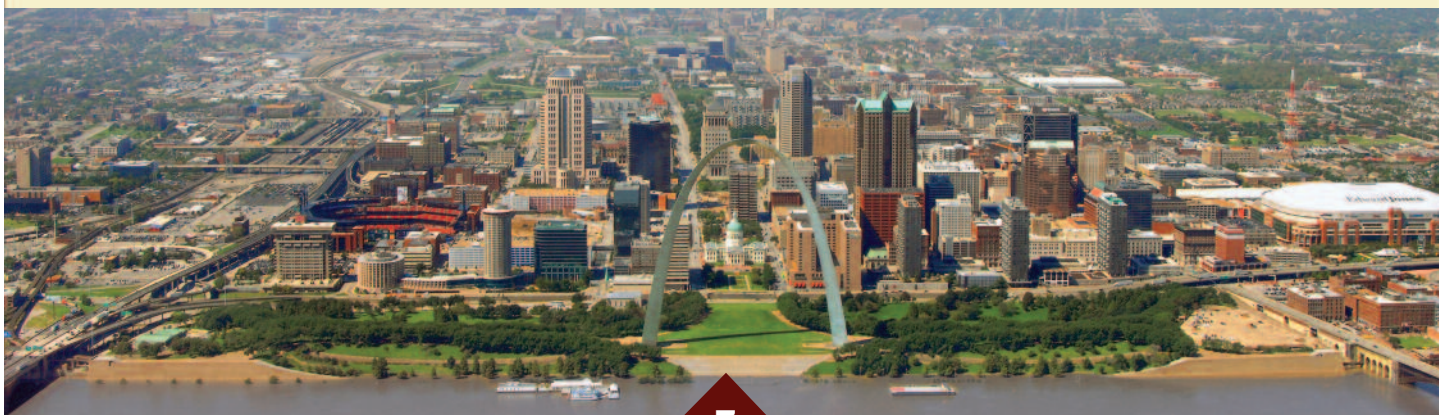
See you at the Arch!

Convention committee:

Elizabeth Neithamer, Alice Martin,
Jane Bruckner, Lois Cody

Learn more about St Louis attractions and research opportunities by visiting the websites listed on page 8.

Web links to these sites are on the convention page of the AFAOA website.



Austin Families Association of America

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

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LOIS W. CODY
336 PLEASANT HILL DR.
CINCINNATI, OH 45215

Address Service Requested



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

St. Louis Web Links:

Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch

www.druryhotels.com/PropertyHotelServices.aspx?Property=0103

Gateway Arch www.gatewayarch.com/experience

St. Louis Public Library <http://central.slpl.org/>

Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center www.mohistory.org

St. Louis County Library www.slcl.org/genealogy

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

Forest Park www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/Forest-Park.cfm

www.afaoa.org