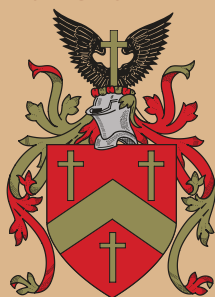


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage



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Garden Grove, CA 92844

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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

Five John Austins

The Austin Families Association of America received mention in the April 2014 issue of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register*, which contains an excellent 16 page research article, by Frederick C. Hart, Jr., entitled *Early Austins of Greenwich and Stamford, Connecticut*. Among other footnote credits, recognition is given to the Austin-Austen DNA Project, Edith Austin Moore and her "dedicated successors at the AFAOA", the "massive amount of information available" on the AFAOA website, and the research and assistance of Scot Austin of Cupertino, California.

Scot Austin is the compiler of AFAOA's *John Austin of Greenwich, Connecticut* database. [The name of this database was *John Austin of Stamford, Connecticut* until recent research

indicated the change. Although the two settlements were next to each other, the border was loosely defined and it was determined this John was from the area that officially became Greenwich in 1665.]



1787 courthouse in Bedford NY

John Austin of Greenwich (died 1657, wife Katherine, 4 children) had a son John and a grandson John, who also owned land in the adjacent town of Stamford. There was another John Austin, (died 1699, wife Hannah, 4 children) who lived in Stamford; his only son was also named John, but died without issue. Information in the land records of Greenwich and Stamford helped to identify those five different John Austins and their families. The Greenwich family seems to have been the source of descendants from the Greenwich/Stamford area bearing the name of Austin.

There was also a John Austin family in New Haven, Connecticut about the same time.

The following is an excerpt from the first two pages of Mr. Hart's article in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register* 168 (April 2014):85-100, and is reprinted here with permission.

Early Austins of Greenwich and Stamford, Connecticut

Frederick C. Hart, Jr., CG, FASG

Recent findings of the Austin-Austen DNA Project have prompted a new investigation of the early Austin families in the adjacent towns of Greenwich and Stamford in Fairfield County, Connecticut. The DNA results have already challenged some earlier speculation that the Greenwich/Stamford Austins were closely related to a New Haven, Connecticut family headed by a John Austin who died in New Haven in 1690, husband of (1) Mercy Atwater and (2) Elizabeth (Barnes) Brockett. The DNA signatures tend to demonstrate that the New

Haven clan was of a completely different Y-cs haplogroup from at least one of the Austin families in the Greenwich/Stamford area.

This present investigation has been based on all of the available original source documents found for the Greenwich/Stamford families, and has uncovered several other facts that have either been overlooked or misinterpreted by earlier researchers. The results presented herein differ greatly from the relationships and

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Austin Ancestors

Carolyn Andress

42 Pintail Drive, Glassboro NJ 08028; cda0518@verizon.net; *Robert of RI*, Jeremiah b. ~1662 RI, David b. ~1694 RI, Joseph b. 1731 RI, Job b. 1765 RI, Henry b. 1790 VT, Edmund b. 1810 VT, Catherine (Andress) b. 1847 VT

Lisa Maria Austin

60 Bromfield Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; lmaustin12@gmail.com; *Robert of RI*; Joseph b. ~1668; Robert b. ~1710; Robert b. 1742 RI; Rufus b. 1773 RI; Benjamin b. 1802 NY; Theron Raciell b. 1851 NY; Chester R. b. 1883 NY; Alfred Theron b. 1911 NY; Wayne Lee b. 1936 NY

Scott Austin

6944 Sausalito Ave., West Hills, CA 91307; scotaust@hotmail.com; *William & Elizabeth of Craven Co. SC*; Bartholomew b. ~1715 New Kent Co. VA; Drury b. ~1745 Amelia Co. VA; Davis b. 1777 VA; Christian Davis b. 1807 VA; James Elbert b. 1836 SC

William Knox Austin, Jr.

405 Marion Ave., McComb, MS 39648; willkaustin@bellsouth.net; William Jackson b. 1798 NC; Leonidas b. 1823 Hinds Co., MS; Felix Leonidas b. MS

Patsy Plum Branch

2805 Meadow Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23321; ppbranch@gmail.com; *Henry of Calvert Co. MD*; Samuel b. ~1710 MD; Henry b. 1740 MD; Richard H. b. 1763 VA; John H. b. 1820 VA; John H. b. 1855 VA; George Vernon b. 1884; Louise (Plum) b. 1919

Deneen Shockey Safritt

107 Village Rd, Lynchburg, VA 24502; dsafritt@hotmail.com; *Bartholomew of VA*, b. ~1768; Jesse b. 1797 NC; William Douglas b. 1851 VA; Hattie Mae (Shockey) b. 1905

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

Minutes of AFAOA Business Meeting

September 28, 2014 – Warwick, RI

President Bonnie Bigolin opened the meeting with an introduction of the officers.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Lois Cody presented the posted minutes of the 2013 meeting which were accepted.

The posted 2013 year-end financial report and 2014 year-to-date report were presented. The 2013 year had a balance of \$11,640.52. The current 2014 balance is \$13,967.15. When the convention expenses are paid, a balance of about \$11,900 is expected. Beverly Sikes moved to accept the reports. Art Sikes seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Report

Bonnie gave the report for Membership Chairman, Alice Martin. Current membership is 221. It is holding steady at between 200 and 230 members. We welcomed 27 new members and lost 23. Thirty one newsletters are sent out digitally with the remainder mailed.

Genealogist Report

Liz Carlin reported that numerous queries and emails have resulted in updates being made to 21 Austin databases. An important change resulted from research done by John Clinard and Jane Bruckner. Because of this research, we have been able to combine the *White County, Tennessee Austins* and the *John Austin, Sr. of Southside, Virginia* databases. This combined database is called *Thomas of New Kent County, Virginia*.

DNA Project

Art Sikes reported there are still DNA kits available and no additional money is needed for the project at this time.

Database Report

Chairman Jim Carlin, reported that a new effort is being made by Helen Cook Austin and Joy Davis on modifying the web site software to enable the incorporation of photos and internet links in our databases. Joy Davis is also working to add to her software the capability of creating Descendancy Reports for each database. Beta testing of new software is on-going and should be completed by the end of the year.

Web Site Report

Effort continues to fully activate the Publications entry on the Projects page of the website. The preparation of the *AFGS Register* publications, uploading them to the site and indexing them for text search, has now been completed. A Publications Editor/Chairman has been selected (see New Business). His task will be to gather AFAOA holdings, sort them logically, and prepare them for the website. He will also be responsible for integrating photographs and other material from various sites and preparing them for the website.

New Business

Curtis Austin has accepted the position of Publications Chairman/Editor.

Barbara Austen has volunteered to develop a plan for organizing and storing Austin genealogy files stored in various locations. These are being kept at the present by Bonnie Bigolin, Jim and Liz Carlin, Art Sikes and Jan Untener. Also, the late Hal Steiner's research is being offered to us by his son.

We have 2 new database compilers - Carol Austin for *John of New Haven, Connecticut* and Art Sikes for *Sylvester and Joseph of Michigan*.

continued on page 3

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We are about to begin a New Year, welcoming new officers, and we encourage your participation in this wonderful family association! Our objectives are: to preserve and disseminate Austin genealogies; to establish a specialized database of Austin information to assist genealogists and family members to learn of their heritage; and to foster friendship among the members of all branches of Austin/Austen families.

We welcome the participation of Barbara Austen and Curtis Austin, who have volunteered to provide much needed help to our Association. Barbara will work with Genealogist Liz Carlin to develop a plan for organizing and storing Austin holdings, which are now stored in several locations. Curtis will work with Database Chairman Jim Carlin to organize and prepare Austin papers and publications for website access. Thank you, Barbara and Curtis, for your help with these projects!

Our newsletter team, headed by Alice Martin and Robert Osborn, requests your assistance in producing an interesting and informative newsletter. When you have Austin news or research to share, they want to hear from you.

A good time was had by all who participated in the 2014 Austin Convention in Rhode Island. Read all about it. You now have the opportunity to vote for the location of next year's Convention. See the choices and voting instructions on page 7. Please vote—and plan to attend!

As we count our blessings during this special season of the year, may we never take for granted the price that has been paid for our freedom. Let us pray for people who need comfort and peace, as we enjoy our faith, family and friends this Thanksgiving.

Jane Austin Bruckner



Genealogist's Report

Since July these databases have been updated:

Northern Databases:

- *Abel, Benjamin, Brayton, Edmund, Edward, Jedediah, Nathan, Robert and Simeon—of Rhode Island*
- *Ambrose of Jeromesville, Ohio*
- *John of New Haven, Connecticut*
- *John of Greenwich, Connecticut*
- *Jonah of Taunton, Massachusetts.*
- *Joseph of Dover, New Hampshire*
- *Ralph & Fanny of Westchester Co., New York*
- *Richard of Charlestown, Massachusetts.*
- *Samuel of Boston, Massachusetts*
- *Thomas and Esther of New York*

Southern Databases:

- *Henry of Calvert Co., Maryland*
- *John of Monongalia Co., Virginia*
- *John & Charity of Montgomery Co., Maryland*
- *Thomas of New Kent Co., Virginia*
- *William & Elizabeth of Craven Co., South Carolina*

Liz Austin Carlin

Business Meeting Minutes, continued from page 2

Carol Austin has been appointed Assistant Genealogist.

Election of Officers

Liz Carlin presented, for the Nominating Committee, the following slate of officers:

President- Jane Bruckner

Vice President - Elizabeth Neithamer

Vice President - John Clinard

Vice President - Curtis C. Austin

Secretary/Treasurer - Lois Cody (1 yr. term extension)

Genealogist - Liz Carlin

Motion to close the nominations was made by Charlie Austin; second by Bob Cody. The slate was elected by acclamation.

Convention Location for 2015

Salt Lake City, UT and St. Louis, MO were selected to be voted on by the Association members. Also considered were Charlotte/Raleigh, NC and Charlottesville, VA. Edwin Austin, Sr. made a motion to go to Salt Lake City every 4 years; second by Charlie Austin; motion failed.

Thanks and appreciation was expressed to Bonnie Bigolin for her work as President and to Art and Bev Sikes for organizing the convention.

Lois Cody, Secretary / Treasurer

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Meet Our Association Officers Elizabeth Neithamer, Vice President

A 10th generation descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, I was born February 23, 1962 in Honolulu, HI, the first child of Gay and Alice Austin Martin. I grew up in Ocean Springs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I have two sisters and was blessed to be part of an active family—enjoying camping and canoeing, singing in choirs and swimming competitively.

I met my husband, David Neithamer, while attending Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, from which I graduated with a degree in History. Married two weeks after graduation in 1984, we spent the next five years at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where I worked in the Admissions Office while Dave earned his Masters and PhD. We then moved to Midland, MI, where Dave is a Principal Research Scientist for Dow Chemical. Dave also is active in research of his family tree.

We have 3 children: Kyle Andrew, Kelsey Elizabeth and Scott Austin. They have kept us busy with soccer, gymnastics, and all sorts of school activities for years, but right now we're on the verge of being "empty-nesters". Kyle, 25, works as a software engineer with Quicken Loans in Detroit, was married last year, and he and his wife, Courtney are expecting their first child in March. Kelsey, 23, is studying Physical Therapy at the University of Memphis, and Scott, 21, is a senior at Alma College and pursuing Nutritional Sciences.

In addition to being a "mom", I have always been active in Memorial Presbyterian Church, where I sing in the Chancel Choir, work with the youth, participate in Bible Study Fellowship and serve as a Church Trustee. Mission trips have taken me as far away as Uganda in recent years. Travel is a big part of our family life, and we love exploring the world together.

Working with AFAOA is the perfect marriage of my interest in history with my love of family and travel. I'm looking forward to it!



David Austin Grave Marking Ceremony

AFAOA member, Rev. Marsha Lyn Davis of Martinez, California, achieved a life time goal when she organized and conducted a grave marking ceremony honoring her great-great-great grandfather, David Austin, who served in the War of 1812. The ceremony took place at the Mud Run Cemetery in Cowden, Shelby County, Illinois. David's previously unmarked grave now has a granite gravestone with a War of 1812 Veteran marker.

Marsha is a member of the David Farragut Chapter, *United States Daughters of 1812*, and laid a wreath at the grave on behalf of the Chapter. The ceremony was attended by residents of the local farming community, members of the Kaskaskia Chapter of Greenville, Illinois and several Illinois State Society officers. The Shelbyville American Legion served as the Honor Guard, with a 21-gun salute and taps.

David Austin, born September 23, 1790 in Vermont, was a descendant of Samuel Austin of Boston, Massachusetts. He went west to Ohio with his family at the age of 15 and served as a private in the Ohio Militia, August through October 1812. David and his wife Mary raised a large family in Knox County, Ohio and in 1838 moved to Shelby County, Illinois, where he died December 4, 1872.



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The Connecticut Historical Society

Founded in 1825, the Connecticut Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit museum, education center and library. The Hartford-based organization holds an extensive and comprehensive Connecticut-related collection of manuscripts, printed material, artifacts and images that document social, cultural and family history.

The Connecticut Historical Society is located in the West End of Hartford, at the corner of Elizabeth Street and Asylum Avenue.

In our recently renovated Research Center, visitors can find, on open stacks for their perusal, published family genealogies; Connecticut town histories; city directories for many Connecticut towns; books about New England, New York State and Ohio; historical maps of Connecticut; a hand-written index to the Hartford Courant; the Barbour collection of vital records (both the published and the microfilm version); the Hale collection of cemetery inscriptions on microfilm; Mary Morris obituary scrapbooks; Connecticut newspapers on microfilm; and the NEHGS Register.

In our closed stacks, available through our online and card catalogs, are rare books; books on various aspects of Connecticut, New England, and United States history; ephemera; genealogical research collections; "family files" that contain various researchers' notes on specific families and include research by such genealogists as Donald Lines Jacobus, C.L. Camp and Edna Miner Rogers; maps and atlases; broadsides; photographs; and historical manuscripts. Historical manuscripts include town records, tax records, church records, account books, diaries, wills and deeds, military records, business records, and family correspondence, all of which can be surprising sources of genealogical information and provide historical context.

Over the years researchers have gathered data from towns in Connecticut and deposited them at the Historical Society. These can include transcriptions of vital records, cemetery inscriptions, church records, and land and court records. For example, the Colonial Dames transcribed numerous church records between 1894 and 1914 and those are available for around 106 towns and parishes. Another resource is Lucius Barnes Barbour's abstracts of Hartford probate records dating from 1750 to 1800. The Julius Gay Collection contains abstracts of Farmington records including probate and town records, 40 volumes of vital records from various sources, 69 notebooks of ceme-

tery inscriptions and group sheets for individual families.

The Research Center not only provides access to library materials, it also can put you in touch with photographs, prints, drawings, costumes, furniture and other three-dimensional objects that could be related to the family you are researching. These objects can be accessed through our website **www.chs.org**. There is a link under the Research button for eMuseum, our object database. For library and manuscript material, you can begin your research by looking at our online catalog at **www.chs.kohalibrary.com**.

The Research Center is open to the public Thursday afternoons from 12:00 to 5:00 PM and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is a use fee of \$8.00 unless you are a member, in which case admission is free. You can contact the Research

Center at 860-236-5621 extension 230, or by emailing **research@chs.org**.

Barbara Austen, Archivist,
Connecticut Historical Society



Five John Austins, continued from page 1

conclusions being circulated today on the Internet. Previous work appears to have been based on the incorrect assumption that all persons named Austin in the early Greenwich/Stamford area belonged to the same family. The evidence in the original records is not compatible with that assumption and leads instead to a conclusion that there were two separate Austin families involved, possibly related but with no evident connection. One family was primarily in Greenwich and one was primarily in Stamford.

Thanks to plentiful land records preserved in both towns, and complemented by the few other original records that are available—vital, town, and probate, a clearer but more complicated picture of these Austin families has emerged. Specifically, the following features in those land records have been used to differentiate among five men named John Austin who lived in this area before 1700.

- Towns of residence and of record
- Statements of relationship where given
- Use or non-use of identifying mark (or signature)
- Use or non-use of identifying suffix (Jr. or Sr.)
- Location, size and boundary(ies) of property(ies)
- Dates of transactions

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Back row: Jim Carlin, Liz Carlin, Curtis Austin, Charles Austin, Edmond Croix, Alma Croix, David Neithamer, Lois Cody, Bob Cody, Ed Austin Jr., Ed Austin Sr., Robert Osborn, Beverly Sikes, Art Sikes

Front row: Vincent Smith, Edith Smith, Sue Osborn, Carol Austin, Elizabeth Neithamer, Dixie Austin, Gary Austin, Bonnie Bigolin, Patricia Korach, Patrick Korach

Attendees not pictured: Barbara Austen, Dee Kuerzel, Ann Freeman, Ed McGuire

The 2014 Austin Families Association Convention—Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island

The 2014 Convention was held the weekend of September 26–28 against a backdrop of crisp autumn weather interspersed with a hint of fall color throughout Rhode Island.

For early arrivals to the convention, Art Sikes organized two outings. On Thursday, there were visits to quirky and mysterious graveyards. The rainy day did not stop a dedicated group of genealogists from tromping over fences and through overgrowth. Cemeteries on the schedule to visit were the old Austin Cemetery in North Kingstown, and the Joseph N. Austin Cemetery in Narragansett. Afterwards, a visit by the group to Pettaquamscutt Historical Society Museum, followed by lunch at a local restaurant, gave everyone a warm and welcome reprieve from the rain.

Friday, a group of 14 were off to the Rhode Island Historical Society in downtown Providence to enjoy the society's popular walking tour: "Benefit Street: A mile of History." This morning tour was an opportunity to view the unique architecture of homes in the Benefit Street neighborhood and to check out two churches bristling with history: the First Baptist Church and the Unitarian Church. The guide had so much to tell about the events of bygone days! Lunch was followed by a tour of the John Brown House Museum.

Friday night, convention attendees gathered for a "get acquainted and reacquainted" reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, where the convention was held.

Saturday morning was the beginning of a weekend of presentations on an array of subjects! Before lunch, Kristen Hammerstrom, Director of Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society, spoke about genealogical research in Rhode Island and Southern New England; and Art Sikes presented information on New England Austins in New York and the 1855 New York Census Project.

On Saturday afternoon everyone enjoyed Gary Austin's talk, "Student Craig's Romance", about a colorful and interesting ancestor—a family story about

where a school romance took Craig in life and the ensuing discoveries made by his descendants today.

Liz and Jim Carlin rounded out Saturday afternoon, with Liz sharing information on Google Alerts and other Internet search techniques. Jim then brought everyone up to date on our website and talked about adding multimedia to AFAOA's genealogy data.

Sunday morning, speakers included Barbara Austen, Archivist of the Connecticut Historical Society, and Art Sikes, administrator of the Austin-Austen DNA Project.

Barbara's presentation was titled "Behind Closed Doors: Archival Resources at the Connecticut Historical Society". She walked us through the multitude of materials available at the society and when and where to find them. Art brought us up to date on the newest DNA test results and the future of DNA testing.

Workshop and computer 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.

Sunday night everyone gathered in the Rotunda for a well-presented banquet—the entrée, a delectable Chicken Cordon Bleu. The guest speaker for the evening was C. Morgan Grefe, Ph.D., Executive Director from the Rhode Island Historical Society. The title of her talk was "Turning Thought into Gold: How Freedom of Conscience Helped Make Rhode Island an Early American Exemplar."

The 2014 convention was another fine event with camaraderie, discoveries, renewal of friendships and creation of new friendships. You can join in the fun next year! Be a part of our 2015 Austin Convention, to be held either in Salt Lake City, Utah or St. Louis, Missouri. AFAOA members will choose the location by vote, so be sure to cast your vote for your favorite location.

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VOTE FOR THE 2015 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.
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.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

St. Louis was established in 1764 by the French as a trading post on the Mississippi River. It is close to the center of the United States and was known as the Gateway to the West. The 630 ft. stainless steel Gateway Arch was built as a monument to the westward expansion and is the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere. Ride to the top! Visit the Lewis and Clark Expedition exhibits. Cruise the mighty Mississippi on a 19th century paddle-wheel boat replica.

The city hosted the 1904 World's Fair and the 1904 Summer Olympics. Permanent facilities and structures remaining from the fair are Forest Park, the St. Louis Art Museum, the St. Louis Zoo and the Missouri History Museum.

The Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center (www.mohistory.org) contains resources of the Mississippi and Missouri Valley, the Louisiana Purchase Territory and the American West, as well as the state of Missouri. The National Archives at St. Louis (www.archives.gov/st-louis) is the repository of millions of personnel, health and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all military services during the 20th century.

The archaeological remnants of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico are preserved at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site directly



across the river from St. Louis. Inhabited from about AD 700-1400, and designated a World Heritage Site, the area includes an Interpretive Center with museum exhibits, programs, tours and trails. The 100 ft. high Monks Mound is the largest earthwork in North America.

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 Center and adjacent hotel are conveniently located for walking the downtown area and a short trolley ride from the Gateway Shopping Center.

The Family History Center 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 holdings include over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 727,000 microfiche, 356,000 books and 4,500 periodicals. Over 400 computers are available for searching electronic resources.



Please cut here

2015 Convention Site Ballot:

_____ St. Louis, Missouri
_____ Salt Lake City, Utah

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Austin Families Association of America



2014 Convention Photos:
Read our report on page 6.

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

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