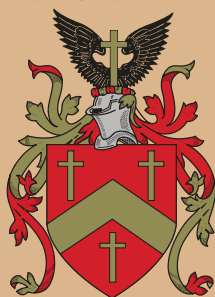


Austin Families Association of America

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

Fostering Austin Genealogy & Heritage

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Origin of the Name Austin

During the "Dark Ages", from the 5th to the 10th centuries, people were mostly illiterate, lived in rural communities and small villages and had little need to identify one another except by their given names. When they traveled, they might identify themselves by their given names and the locality where they lived.

Historians generally agree that the Normans introduced the use of surnames in Britain after their conquest in 1066. The practice caught on slowly, but their need to officially identify people spurred the growth of surnames. In 13th century Britain about a third of the male population had the forenames *William*, *Richard* or *John*. That held true into the 18th and 19th centuries. This duplicity of forenames, with the same surname, adds to the confusion and requires the additional modifiers of birth date and place to identify a particular individual.

The use and selection of surnames have been affected by many factors, including social class and structure as well as cultural traditions. British surnames reflect the history of Britain as an oft-invaded land. The surname roots include derivatives from Latin, Celtic, Gaullist, Old Norse, Old Germanic, Old English, Old French and Middle English, plus others. Four sources are the basis for native British surnames — the name of an ancestor, the name of the place where an ancestor lived, the occupation or affiliation of an ancestor, the description or nickname of an ancestor's physical attributes such as face, figure, temperament, morals or habit.

The modern English surname *Austin*



evolved from an occupation associated with the Latin word *Augustinus* and its diminutive *Augustine*. The most noteworthy individual to hold that name was Saint Augustine (354 – 430) who is credited as being the progenitor of the Austin surname. The popularity of that name was increased by St. Augustine of Canterbury (died c. 605), an Italian Benedictine monk known as 'the Apostle of the English' who brought Christianity to

England in 597 and founded the See of Canterbury. To explain the Austin surname, it is necessary to recount some history of the Catholic Church in England.

The first St. Augustine advocated that one could best serve God by living an austere monastic life. He formulated a set of rules (called canons) on how this should be done. A Synod (meeting of the Bishops) in 1059 urged the clergy to live together and adopt some form of regularized common life. Pious monks responded to this and bound themselves together in religious orders. Some of these orders took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and became known as the Augustinian Canons. In England, they were known as the Black Canons or Black Friars because of the austere, all-black habit that they wore. The Augustinian Friars were bound by poverty, and in the early years strictly adhered to this policy. Gradually they began to receive land and goods from nobles as well as lay people. By the 12th century some orders had erected priories and abbeys, some on a grand scale, with adjacent lands.

In time, the Augustinian Canons name was shortened to the Austin Canons and by the 13th century the Order of St. Augustine

continued on page 3

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Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014

NEW MEMBERS And their Earliest Austin Ancestors

Connie Gale Austin

2700 Holland Creek Rd., Savannah, TN 38372;
cgaustin45@gmail.com; *Thomas of New Kent Co. VA* b. ~1600 Eng.; Richard b. ~1624 Eng.; Richard b. ~1660 VA; John Sr. "of Southside VA" b. aft 1692; John Jr. b. ~1720 VA; Stephen b. 1755 VA

Dianne R. Austin

P.O. Box 810, Mariposa, CA 95338; dianne@haleakai.com;
William and Ruth of NC b.1700 Ireland; John b.1727 Ireland; Drury b.1760 NC; Willis Phillip b.1790 NC; Jesse b.1832 TN; George Harris b.1856 AR; David Hustin b.1888 AR; Thomas Harold b.1933 OK

Nancy Ann Austin

506 Norwell Lane, Greenville, SC 29605;
sewclevernancy@yahoo.com; (spouse: Jeffery William Austin) *Robert of RI* b.~ 1635 Eng.; Jeremiah b.~1662 RI; David b.~1694 RI; Joseph b. 1731 RI; Wilkinson b.1771 NY; James b.~1801 NY; James b. 1838 NY; Elmer Tedman b.1868 MI; James William, b.1904 MI; Bruce William b.1933 MI

Orville Lyndon Austin

7145 Dillon, Houston, TX 77061; olaustin@aol.com; John Henry b. 1846 AL, Arthur Randolph b. 1870 AR; Orville Urias b. 1900 AR

Samuel Aubrey Austin, Jr.

P.O. Box 325, Four Oaks, NC 27524;
samuelaustin@centurylink.net; *John of NC* b. bef. 1755; Asa b. 1770; Alsey b. 1797 NC

Thomas Keith Austin

4215 N. Collister Dr., Boise, ID 83703; rooski13@gmail.com;
Nathaniel of Greenville, SC b.~1720 Eng.; Nathaniel Jr. b.~1743 Eng.; John b.1770 NC; William C. Pinkney b.1819 SC; Thomas Manuel b.1856 GA; Thomas Leamon b.1899 GA; Leroy b.1929.

Alma Kilborn Croix

804 Portchester Castle Path; Pflugerville, TX 78660;
akcroix@yahoo.com; William b.~1732 MD; William b.1754 MD; John b. 1788 NC; John Henry b. 1817 TN; Robert Jordan b. 1855 TX; John Addison b. 1883 TX; Anne (Kilborn) b. 1914 TX

Daniel Joseph Hayden

307 W. Spring St., Colfax, IA 50054; haydendj53@aol.com;
Joseph of Dover, NH b. ~1616 Eng.; Thomas b.~1656 NH; Benjamin b.1704 NH; Benjamin b.1741 ME; Moses b. 1779 ME; Moses b. 1820 ME; Silas Franklin b. ~1844 ME; Bertha b.1892

Robert John Hendry

239 SW 122 Ave., Pembroke Pines, FL 33025;
isobuthus@gmail.com; (spouse: Deborah Ann Austin) John Leslie "Jack" b. 1892 Ontario, Canada; Robert John b. 1923 Cleveland, OH

Mary J. Hutchinson

3713 Trail Ridge Road, Louisville, KY 40241;
hutchhjmj@yahoo.com; *John of Anne Arundel Co. MD* b. 1729; Zachariah b. 1763 MD; Samuel b. 1801 MD; John Maitland b. 1847 KY; Minnie Lee (Mitchell) b. 1875 KY

Trasonda Austin Maharaj

7262 Parkview Dr., Columbia, SC 29223; trasonda@hotmail.com;
Thomas of New Kent Co. VA b.~1600 Eng.; Richard b.~1624 Eng.; Richard b. ~1660 VA; "John Sr. of Southside VA" b. aft 1692; John Jr. b. ~1720 VA; Stephen b. 1755 VA; Saunders b. 1782 VA; Archibald Saunders b.1827 TN; John Wesley b. 1850 TN

Edith Smith

16308 Jackson Rd., East Bernard, TX 77435;
smithedith@aol.com; (spouse: Vincent E. Smith) *John of New Haven CT* b. ~1647; David b.1671 CT; David b.1703 CT; David b.1732 CT; John Punderson b.1774 CT; Andrew Yates b.1803 CT; Charles William b.1833 CT; Andrew b.1870 TX; Georgia (Smith) b.1914 TX

Please help us keep our records up to date. Send any address or email changes and updated ancestor information.

Look for your membership renewal date on your address label.

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

Genealogist Report — January - March 2014

New databases:

- *Levi of Oneida Co., New York*
- *Thomas of New Kent Co., Virginia* (a merger of *John, Sr. of Southside, Virginia* and *White County, Tennessee Austins*)

Updated databases:

- *Brayton of Rhode Island*
- *Edmund of Rhode Island*
- *Robert of Kingstown, Rhode Island*
- *Simeon of Exeter, Rhode Island*
- *John of Stamford, Connecticut*

- *Bartholomew of Virginia*
- *Hatteras Austins of Hatteras Bank, North Carolina*
- *John of North Carolina*
- *William of Kent Co., Maryland*
- *William Wilson of Hanover Co., Virginia*

Additions are currently being made to *John & Ann of Albemarle Co. Virginia* and an update has been received for *Solomon & John of North Carolina*.

Continue to check the AFAOA website for update notices and new information.

Liz Austin Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014



I'm sure your children or grandchildren have asked you to read them a story many, many times, right? Why not reach back into your childhood and tell them a story instead. This can be an opportunity to share with them some of the memories you have of growing up. Each of these fond memories can be turned into a short story to share with the next generation.

I tried this with my 8 year old granddaughter when she came to spend the weekend with us. It was bed time and of course she insisted I read her a story before going to sleep. So I asked if she would like me to tell her a story instead. I told a story about two little girls, about her age, playing out back of the house one summer afternoon. They were pretending to be Indian ladies getting dinner for the family, making Indian stew. This Indian stew was just leaves, sticks, water, etc. that they stirred over the fire in an old pan they had found. It was only a 5-10 minute story, but my granddaughter listened intently. At the end of the story, I asked her if she knew who the two little girls in the story were. I told her they were me and my childhood friend, Diana, who lived next door. "Wow, that's cool", she said, a bit in awe that this story was about her Grandma.

Now, I still read many a book or story to her, but often she will ask to hear another story about Grandma, when she was a little girl. This has opened a fun door for both of us to get to know each other deeper. Lately I have broadened the stories to include events about my grandparents and great grandparents, etc. It's been a great way for me to share a bit about the family tree in a way that keeps an 8 year old's interest. Share your story! Once upon a time...

Bonnie Austin Bigolin

Origin of the Name Austin, continued from page 1

had evolved into what was known as the Austin Friars. Later, when King Henry VIII dissolved the Catholic Church in Britain in 1539, the buildings were abandoned and have been allowed to become ruins.

Many of the monasteries were not cloistered and, even those that were, relied on the product of the land for subsistence. Lay people were recruited to provide the additional labor required. These lay people accepted the surnames *Austin*, *Austen*, *Austing*, *Auston*. The Old French *Aoustin* was



a forename but gradually became a surname, as with *Ostene* and its derivatives in Ireland.

(The above is reprinted, with liberties, from an article by Harold Austin Steiner, in *Austins of America*, May 2004, p. 889)

This means there are Austin family lines, both in Europe and America, which are related in name only. AFAOA classifies these Austin databases as Southern or Northern, based on the place where the earliest known immigrant Austin ancestor settled in America. There are a number of seemingly unconnected Austin families with New World beginnings in Virginia.

The family of William Austin and Ruth Bryant came from Ireland to the Southampton area in Virginia before 1760, when William signed his Last Will and Testament. Some of their children had already moved on to North Carolina by that time. We have been unable to trace William and Ruth back to a location in Ireland because we have not been able to locate a ship's passenger list that might give us that information. We are still looking.

Richard C. Austin
Compiler

William & Ruth Austin of North Carolina

Website Report

Work continues on refining the Master Place Index, removing incorrect terms from the place fields in the various databases. Vague terms such as "cemetery", "died", and the like are slowly being changed to reflect city, county, state, etc.

The one project that has not yet reached the point of going live on the site is the Publications Project. The intent is to provide a place where smaller documents, notes, *Newsletter* articles and the like can be accessed on the site. Links to these Adobe pdf documents will allow the user to bring the document into Adobe Reader, enabling them to search the document using the

Reader's search capability.

The Publications Project compliments the Archive Series, consisting of the material of Edith Austin Moore and Janet Austin Curtis, and continuing transcription of their notebooks and registers collected over the history of AFAOA. Also included, per our agreement with the Austin Families Genealogical Society (AFGS), are Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of *Austins of America*, and Volume 1 of *The Austin Families Register*. Work continues on preparing Volume 2 of the *Register*. These documents will be totally text searchable via our on-site search engine.

Jim Carlin

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014

Ancestors of William Jackson "Jackie" Austin, Jr. and Linda Kay Hood Austin

Jackie's great grandfather, John William Austin, was born in Alabama or Georgia about 1839. Mary Elizabeth Sutherland (or Southerland or Sutherlin) was born about 1849 in Alabama or Louisiana; they married about 1867. This couple began their lives together shrouded in mystery that still exists today. Who were their parents? and where were they really from?

(Linda's note; I have been in this Austin family for 50 years and can testify that the older ones did not trust strangers, the government, etc. This family loved to tell tales, stories they made up to entertain each other and the children.)

And so the story goes ... John William Austin and several brothers were being chased by a posse from Texas for cattle rustling and the posse turned back at the Mississippi River. The brothers stopped at the home of a relative to



hide for a while and rest. After two months the brothers were ready to ride and, when they left, Mary Elizabeth left with John William. Her family said they would kill John William if they ever caught him.

According to the story, the couple "headed for the deep woods, never to be seen by her folks again". It's been told that they were cousins or uncle/niece.

(Linda's theory: John William Austin and his brothers may have stopped at a sister's home. This sister may have been married to a Mr. Sutherlin and Mary Elizabeth was their daughter. This Sutherlin man could have been Native American, because Mary Elizabeth looks very Native American and some say that she was.)

To protect the couple, the brothers split up — one went to Tennessee, one to Georgia. John William and Mary Elizabeth settled in mid-Alabama. Their 5th child, William Lawson Austin, Jackie's grandfather, was born in 1885 in Shelby County, Alabama.

Linda's ancestor, Jasper Hood, was born in 1649 in

Holland. He and other travelers came into New York, then named "New Amsterdam".

Generations later, in 1745, John Hood was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia. John Hood married Sarah "Sallie" Austin, born about 1750, daughter of Charles Austin and granddaughter of **William and Ruth Bryant Austin of North Carolina**. He was a surveyor by trade. George Washington hired John Hood to help him survey his 1,100 + acres of his beloved Shenandoah Valley.

John and Sarah's sons helped Andrew Jackson fight the Indians in Alabama and were given land in return. They had seen the hills and rich valleys of what was soon to be St. Clair County. (Alabama was not even a state yet, but was given statehood in 1819.) These Hood brothers went back to their Dad's home in Tennessee — by this time "Sallie" had passed away. They told him of the exciting opportunity in this new place that was opening up and how much they wanted him to move there with them and their families. Old John Hood agreed. They loaded wives, kids, slaves, furniture, fowl, pigs and cattle on flat boats and floated down to Gunter's Landing in Alabama.

Don't you just know that was a sight? I can just see my bunch, with some kids hanging off fishing, clothes-lines stretched across the open air with bloomers flapping in the breeze. The men-folks would be puffing on their pipes while playing their fiddles and strumming on their banjos. The rest of the half-sunken boat load would be dancing a jig while singing "I'm going to Alabammy with a banjo on my knee"!

I am related to General John Bell Hood, born in Kentucky. Also in my line is Minnie Mae Hood. She married Jesse McClowell Presley. They were Elvis' grandparents and Minnie Mae was the last to live at Graceland. Jesse and Minnie Mae Hood Presley gave some of their land to their daughter Gladys and her husband Vernon to build a little "shot gun" house on. It was next door to their home and Minnie Mae was there to help Gladys through her difficult delivery of Elvis and his twin brother (who died). You wouldn't believe all of the women who claimed to have "helped" deliver Elvis! I'm not one of them, only because I wasn't born yet!

There I go, telling tales like "those Austins"...

Jackie recently joined the Austin DNA Project, and the test results (test #56180) show a match with descendants of **William and Ruth Bryant Austin of North Carolina**! Although additional research needs to be done to confirm the connection, John William and his descendants have been placed in that family line.

As they say — "Now you know the rest of the story!"

Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014

Stephen Austin American Revolutionary War Soldier

Stephen Austin (1755–1850) was honored May 4, 2013 at a Grave Marking Ceremony conducted by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution in Hardin County, Tennessee. The event was held at his grave in Hollands Creek Cemetery, Savannah, Hardin County. Two of Stephen's descendants, Diane Austin and Connie Austin, both officers in the Colonel Joseph Hardin Chapter of DAR, participated in the ceremony.

Stephen was a son of John Austin, Jr. and Mary McBee of Lunenburg County, Virginia. He was born in Halifax County but by age 2 he was taken to Grayson County to live. In his pension application he said "When I joined the Army I went from Grayson County, Virginia into Surry County, North Carolina to join the Army." He enlisted in Washington's Light Horse Dragoons in Surry County in 1776 at age 21, in the Cavalry of Major William Armstrong, in General Green's Division. He saw action in North Carolina and South Carolina, at Hanging Rock and Camden, and was at the Battle of Cowpens. His brother Isaiah Austin (1759–1840) also served in the American Revolution.

Stephen Austin married Dorcas Pinson, the daughter of Aaron and Delilah Pinson of North Carolina; they had five sons and two daughters.

In 1798 Stephen moved to Grainger County, Tennessee where he is listed as a bondsman for the marriage license of his son William to Rebecca Moses. In 1804, Stephen purchased land from John Ulmstead in Claiborne County and then sold it the same year to Aaron Davis. In 1808 he was in White County where he purchased land from Thomas K.



Harris. The *White County, Tennessee Austins* are his cousins, descendants of his father's brother, Richard Austin of Lunenburg County, Virginia.

His descendants state that he was a "wagon master" who made many trips back to North Carolina and Virginia to lead settlers from there into Tennessee. He made his last trip when he was 70 years old and returned with thirty families, mostly relatives. Since he is not on many census schedules, this seems like a likely explanation for these absences and the many descendants in Hardin County.

Stephen applied for a Revolutionary War pension in 1832 while living in Wayne County, Tennessee. His last pension payment was in 1844, which may have been the year of his death, at the home of his son, Sanders Austin.

Stephen can be found in AFAOA's *Thomas Austin of New Kent County, Virginia* database.

Jane Austin Bruckner

Photos courtesy of Emily Patterson

database SPOTLIGHT

Thomas Austin of New Kent Co., Virginia Compiler: Liz Austin Carlin

Thomas¹ Austin, with an unnamed wife and two sons, arrived in America by 1642. He was born in England about 1600 and died testate in New Kent County, Virginia before 1668, bequeathing 300 acres to his sons, Richard² and John². Richard re-patented the same 300 acre tract in 1668, being the sole survivor, his brother John having died previously without issue.

Richard², born in England about 1624, seems to have had a son, Richard³, born in Virginia about 1660. A Richard Austin owned 50 acres in New Kent County in 1704. Sons of Richard³ included Richard⁴, born about 1690, and John⁴, born about 1692. These brothers, Richard and John, great grandsons of Thomas Austin, left New Kent County before 1738, migrating to Amelia County, "Southside Virginia",

continued on page 7



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014

Asa and Ellen move to Texas

By Barbara Lee Smith Hunter (As told by my grandmother, Sallie Cleveland Woodward Smith)

Asa Lawrence Woodward (1850 – 1934) and Phoebe Ellen Austin (1850 – 1934) moved their family to Texas in 1891. They began their move on 1 January 1891, the day after Sallie Cleveland Woodward's 6th birthday. They were making the move to a warmer climate because Phoebe Ellen (the family called her Ellen) was very ill. The doctor thought she would get better if she could bathe in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and breathe the fresh Gulf air. She eventually got better; she lived until 1934!

Asa had purchased the land, sight unseen, from a man who had come to Scotts Hill, Tennessee looking for buyers who were willing to come to Texas. The land was in Nueces County, on the Corpus Christi Bay at White Settlement.

Asa and Ellen sold or gave away all the stuff they were not taking to Texas, loaded up their horse-drawn wagons and made the several day trip from Scotts Hill, Henderson County, Tennessee to Lexington, Tennessee to board the train for San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. They rented several boxcars for all their belongings and stayed in the boxcar with the livestock for the trip. The family got off the train at San Antonio, then drove their wagons to White's Point to begin their new life.

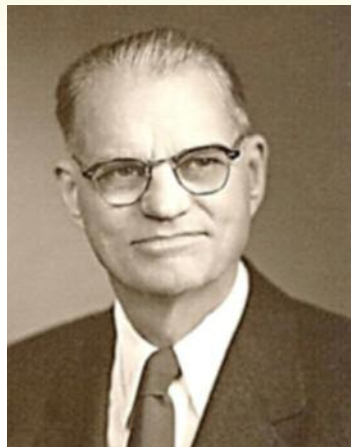
Sallie remembered that she had been given custody of the baby's diaper bag. One day she saw the bag in the garage and told her dad that she had been really disappointed that she hadn't been given more responsibility on the trip to Texas. He told her that she'd had the biggest responsibility of all. Asa had made a false bottom in the diaper bag and had put all their money in that false bottom to protect it from thieves they might encounter on the trip. He said that, of all his children, he knew Sallie would not let

that bag out of her sight for a moment, so he knew that the family savings would be safe. He hadn't told her about the money because he didn't want her to be afraid. Sallie said after that she "puffed up" and felt really proud that she had taken exceptionally good care of that diaper bag!

A nephew, Robert Ephraim Austin (1870 – 1957), stowed away in their wagons and was discovered after it was too late to take him back, so he continued with them to Texas. Robert lived with Asa and Ellen for a while, and then eventually moved to Foss, Washita County,

Henry Warner Austin

By Mary Ann Austin Harlan



My father was born September 23, 1884 and raised in Mexico, NY. He received a Civil Engineering degree from Syracuse University, in three years, after losing a year to illness. From his graduation in 1908 until the early twenties he worked at various engineering jobs in Texas, California and Alaska.

In the early twenties he ended up in Washington, DC and bought The Play-

house which included a tea shop, book store, ball room/lecture hall, and apartment above. He married Mary Elcena Sutfin June 25, 1924. He lost the business in 1929 and was out of work four years during the depression. Our family moved five times (whether reducing their housing costs or wielding and dealing in real estate, we don't know). Mom supported the family with boarders and a job with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. In 1935 Dad got a job in the U.S. Treasury and, because of a regulation against two members of one family holding government jobs, Mom quit her job and went to work for the Red Cross. That regulation was lifted in 1941 and she returned to her job with Public Roads.

During the war Dad switched to a job with the Navy. That agency folded after World War II and Dad was not able to get another job in Government service because of his age (62). He then took a course in real estate appraising and had some income from that source over the next 20 years.

In the summer of 1941, Dad and his sister, Edith Austin Moore mounted an Austin Reunion in Fort Dupont Park, Washington, D.C. (directly behind our house in Bradbury Heights). The Austin organization that exists today stems from that first reunion. Dad was president for a time.

In the late 1950s Dad and Mom embarked on a trip around the world. They sailed from Newark, NJ, went through the Panama Canal (a life-long wish of my Dad's) and across the Pacific, with the first stop in Singapore. Their immediate goal was to visit son John in Saigon, working there under Truman's Point Four program. After a month they continued their trip across Southeast Asia, and Asia Minor into Europe, ending up in London. A side trip to Majorca covered a couple months.

After a winter in Mexico City, Mom and Dad settled in Berkeley, CA. He was active in Toast Masters and volunteered at the YMCA. He was an avid reader his whole life. He died in Berkeley September 10, 1970.



continued on page 7

6

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Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

MARCH 2014

Austin Families Convention September 26–28, 2014 Providence, Rhode Island

Providence, Rhode Island was chosen by vote of the membership to be the site of the 2014 Austin Families Convention, and we hope you will attend! A committee, headed by Art Sikes, is making plans for the last weekend in September. So mark September 26 – 28 on your calendar, and also allow a few extra days to enjoy the historic sights and research opportunities of the area. The convention hotel and registration information will be announced on the website when available, and in the next newsletter.

Rhode Island is the smallest state, but full of history, with Providence as its capital and largest city. Its official name, *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, came from the merger of two settlements in 1644. Providence Plantations was the name of the colony founded in 1636 by Roger Williams in the area now known as the City of Providence; Rhode Island Colony was founded soon after, near present day Newport.



There were many Austins in the Colony of Rhode Island. Robert Austin resided at “Kings Town”, located between Providence and Newport, in 1661; his sons also settled in the area south of Providence. There are other early Rhode island Austins — including Edward, the ancestor of Edith Austin Moore — whose possible connections have not been found.

Rhode Island is bordered by Connecticut to the west and Massachusetts to the north and east. These three states, forming “lower New England”, were the original locations in America of some of our major Austin lines: *John of New Haven CT, John of Stamford CT, Richard of Charlestown MA, Samuel of Boston MA*, as well as *Robert of Rhode Island*. The areas where these families lived are less than a two hour drive from Providence, making them convenient for further exploration and research.

Asa and Ellen move to Texas, continued from page 6

Oklahoma where he raised his family.

Asa and his family built a 2-story house and worked the land for a garden. He built a boat that was large enough for the whole family; it had tall sides and windows and a door. They used the boat in the evenings so they could get far enough out in the water that the mosquitoes didn't bother them and the Gulf breezes could cool them off. Sometimes they spent the whole night on the boat. Asa also built a barn for hay and the animals, and had a blacksmith shop where he could forge metal as he needed it. He built a small sailboat that the children used to cross the bay in good weather so they could attend school.

Asa and Ellen made regular payments and were looking forward to owning the land free and clear. The day before they were supposed to make the final payment, the owner of the land and some others came and said if they didn't get off his land, he would kill them all. He called them “squatters”, even though Asa had papers to show they had purchased the land and had made the payments on time.

Asa and his family gathered up what belongings and animals they could and hurriedly put everything in their wagons. They eventually made their way to Sharpsburg, Texas (near present-day Corpus Christi) where they began all over again. *Phoebe Ellen⁶ (Ephriam⁵, Charles⁴, Richard³, John², William¹) was a descendant of William and Ruth Bryant Austin of North Carolina.*

Thomas Austin, continued from page 5

then on to Brunswick County by 1740. In 1746, Lunenburg County was created out of Brunswick County. For many years, descendants have known of John Austin, Sr. and his brother Richard Austin, both of whom left wills in Lunenburg County, Virginia.

Recent DNA testing of descendants of William and Milley Austin of Anderson County, Tennessee (William being an alleged son of John Austin, Jr.), the Bartholomew Austin family of Virginia, and the White County, Tennessee Austins has shown that these families present a “perfect” DNA match (37 out of 37 markers), indicating they share a common ancestor, thought to be Thomas Austin.

Significant research by John Clinard and Jane Bruckner (as presented at the 2013 AFAOA Convention in Austin, Texas), adds Nathaniel Austin as the 7th child of Richard⁴ and shows by preponderance of evidence that this Nathaniel is the probable father of the nine children who begin the *White County Austins* database. This research, together with the DNA evidence, establishes a link between the *White County Austins* and *John Austin, Sr. of Southside, VA*. Therefore these two databases have been merged, to become *Thomas Austin of New Kent County, Virginia*.

Austin Families Association of America

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Austin Families Convention September 26-28, 2014 Providence, Rhode Island



Roger Williams

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