



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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JOHN CHRISTIAN AUSTIN

PARTICIPANT IN THE HISTORY OF ELLISVILLE, JONES CO., MS

Written by

John Carlton Williams and Luna May Austin

Edited by Joy Anita Shaw

John Christian Austin (Josiah⁶, Christian Davis⁵, Davis⁴, Drury³, Bartholomew², William¹) was born August 17, 1864 in Shongelo, Smith Co., MS. John C. Austin, his wife, Lillian, and children were one of the distinguished pioneer families of Ellisville, Jones Co., MS.

Long before the appearance of European explorers and east coast colonial settlers, the land area that would become Mississippi were the home of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and other American Indian tribes. For many centuries, these peoples called this land home. The area that is known as Smith County was part of the Choctaw Nation's domain, but this would end in 1830 with the "Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek." This was the last treaty between the white man and the Choctaw, and it would be the one that gave up all remaining land in Mississippi. Some three years later, on December 23, 1833, Smith County was carved out of this land area. It was one of several counties formed at this time from this vast area ceded in the Treaty of 1830.

Smith County was named for Major David Smith who served as a Private in the Revolutionary War at Kings Mountain, Cowpens, and Eutaw Springs. Historians agree that Highway 531 in Smith County runs along the location of Andrew Jackson's Military Road. This road was a route which ran from Nashville to New Orleans and which later was improved with federal funds and named after Andrew Jackson.

Settlers quickly came into the area and made homes in the new land. Migration primarily came from Georgia and Alabama with family roots that went back to Virginia and the Carolinas. The early times were tough. Families had to carve homesteads from wooded lands and grow crops that supplied daily needs and little income to meet other needs. A strong belief in God was a big part of these early settler's constitution, and churches and schools, along with the individual

settlements, soon dotted the landscape. Many of these early communities, schools, and churches are gone, but their presence and influence remains a part of Smith County history. The first county seat was at Fairfield, four miles south of present day Raleigh. Not long afterward, it was relocated to Raleigh, named for Sir Walter Raleigh.

In 1854, a young Lutheran minister, Christian Davis Austin and his family, wife Lucretia Roberts Austin and twelve children, moved from South Carolina to Smith County. The Newberry District Lutheran Church of So. Carolina sent this young minister, one of the first five Lutheran ministers in Mississippi, to head a mission church, Providence Lutheran Church, in a Lutheran community near Trenton and Burns, MS. (*Editor's Note: This church is still active today.*)

One of the sons in this family was Josiah Austin. Later, Miss Jane Catherine Kinard of Columbia, South Carolina, came to visit relatives and met Josiah Austin. They married, bought a farm, and built a house and store on the farm. Josiah and Catherine became parents of John Christian Austin on August 17, 1864, who joined his three sisters (Luray, Jenny and Kate) and two brothers (Joseph and Sidney). That's the way our branch of the Austin family came to Mississippi.

John remained on the farm to help his mother run it and the store. They had a faithful helper in a young Choctaw Indian, and he and John became good friends. He taught John to speak the Choctaw language and John taught him to speak English. The two young men drove their team

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest Austin Ancestors

Welcome!

Gary L. Austin

P.O. Box 464, Funkstown MD; 21734;
G.Austin1D@yahoo.com; *Stephen Chester b. ~1822 Oneida, NY; Simon J. b. 1850 NY; Howard C. b. 1894 NY*

Joseph W. Austin

1650 N 800 W, Mapleton, UT 84664; j_raustin@comcast.net;
Richard b. 1578 Eng; Anthony b. 1635 Eng; Anthony b. 1668 MA; Caleb b. 1717 CT; Seth King b. 1772 CT.

Jack H. Bell

27237 Sumac Ln, Lapwai, ID 83540; jackb@nezperce.org;
Bartholomew b. 1768 (of VA); John b. 1806 NC; Jordan b. 1845 NC (to TX); Coke Richard b. 1889 Coke Co. TX; Jack Fleming b. 1928 Coke Co. TX

Douglas Houck

566 West Marion, Punta Gorda, FL 33950; millerhouck@comcast.net; *Richard b. 1598 Eng.; Anthony b. 1636 Eng.; Anthony b. 1668 MA; Joshua b. 1718 MA; Deborah b. 1755*

William M. Kleppel

1060 East Main St., Apt. 2C, Shrub Oak, NY 10588;
wkleppel@gmail.com; *Robert (of RI), Jeremiah b. ~1662 RI, Pasco b. 1698 Exeter RI, Gideon b. 1731 Exeter RI, Angell b. ~1759 Scituate RI; Tabitha (Spencer) b. 1802 Coventry, RI*

Elizabeth Martin Neithamer

2607 Whippoorwill Hollow, Midland, MI 48642; daveliz3@chartermi.net; *Richard b. 1598 Eng.; Anthony b. 1636 Eng.; Nathaniel b. 1678 MA; Levi b. 1743 MA, James b. 1779 MA, Albert Bennett b. 1808 NY*

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

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

THE AUSTIN-AUSTEN DNA PROJECT

The project now contains 173 Y-Chromosome DNA test results, arranged in 25 major family groups, showing the three earliest known Austin ancestors of each participant. To see the results, go to Austin Projects — DNA at www.afaoa.org.

We have tested most of the larger families and are looking for male Austins from other families to be tested, offering up to two free tests per family group. These individuals should be distantly related — cousins from different lines that go back to the oldest known ancestor. We are also looking for Austins that have been tested by other DNA testing services to join our project.

Families where only one test has been done: Miles of Franklin Co., VA; William & Eliz. of Craven Co., SC; John & Charity of Montgomery Co., MD; Solomon & John of NC; William Wilson of Hanover Co., VA; Matthew of York Co., ME; Ambrose of Jeromesville, OH; David & Jeremiah of NY; John of Maine.

Families where no tests have been done: Francis of Essex Twp., NJ; Thos. & Esther of New York; George of Chester Co., PA; Thomas of RI; Caleb of Lewis Co., NY; Benjamin of RI; Morris of NY; Thomas & Rebecca of Nelson Co., VA; Edmund of RI.

If you are in one of these families and you know a male Austin who is willing to be tested, please let us know.

Family Tree DNA is having a December sale on selected tests and upgrades — a good idea for a Christmas present!

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

BOOK REVIEW

by Jane Austin Bruckner

Confessions of an Outer Banks Filly: Memoirs of Sybil Austin Skakle

The Chapel Hill Press, Chapel Hill, NC 2002.

Have you ever been to the Outer Banks of North Carolina? Whether you have or not, you will want to read this book, written by one whose Austin family has been there for generations. Sybil Austin Skakle is the daughter of Andrew Austin (of Hatteras Island) and Inez Daniels (of Roanoke Island). She descends from the Thomas Austin, listed on the Tax List of 1755, who "received 170 acres in Currituck County, Hatteras Banks, North Carolina, joining the Sound at the mouth of the thoroughfare near his own line, the Sea Beach and a point near the hills". In 1760 Thomas Austin purchased "144 acres joining the plantation he now lives on and the sound".

Sybil Austin grew up living near her father's Austin Store, in the middle of Hatteras Village, in the 1930's. The smallest details combine to create a huge picture of life in this fishing village, when all a child needed was an imagination. Her entertaining style of writing will draw you into her hardworking, fun loving family, show you how they survived the hard times and reveled in the good times. She was learning from her parents the value of a good name, of integrity and education. Very importantly, in childhood she learned of a loving Heavenly Father, and knows His hand has been on her life from the beginning.

In *Confessions*, the author evokes memories of simpler times with great warmth and charm. You will meet Miss Maude, the town's Postmaster, and the ghost who plays the piano in the middle of the night. Hear about the Hurricane of 1936, a Hatteras Christmas and more.

Sybil is a retired pharmacist, mother of three sons and widow of her beloved husband, Don Skakle. She is active in Friday Noon Poets, the North Carolina Poetry Society, the North Carolina Writer's Network and Chapel Hill Christian Writers. Her articles and poems have been published throughout the country in various periodicals. I had the honor of meeting Sybil at the 2012 Austin Families Association of America convention in Williamsburg, VA.

To receive a copy of this delightful book, send Sybil an e-mail: skakle@att.net

<http://www.afaoa.org>



Bonnie Austin Bigolin
President

Meet Our Association Officers

Bonnie Lynn Austin was born 6 February 1952 in Rock Springs, Wyoming., the youngest of eight children born to Ira Adelbert Austin and Dondena Frances Baker. She was raised in Jamestown, five miles west of Green River. As a child her favorite activity was riding horses. She competed at county fairs in track and barrel racing, horsemanship, etc. The family owned a ranch 15 miles west of Green River, which her grandparents, Norris H. Austin & Anne Birzilla Caldwell, had homesteaded around 1910. Her father Ira continued ranching there until 1995.

After graduating from Green River High School, Bonnie worked as a greenhouse research assistant in the wheat breeding department for North America Plant Breeders, an agricultural research company in Berthoud, Colorado.

Bonnie remained with the company until her marriage on 11 March 1977 in Denver, Colorado, to Kenneth Anthony Bigolin, who was born in Waterbury, Connecticut and raised in Middlebury, Connecticut. He graduated from the Univ. of Northern Colorado in Greeley, majoring in history and minoring in anthropology. In 1978 they moved to Bonnie's hometown of Green River, where Ken worked as a car foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad. Their daughters Brittany Suzanne and Brienne Kimberly were born in Green River.

In 1986 Bonnie and Ken invested in business property downtown, with several apartments and business offices. They also opened *The Downtown Deli*, which they operated until 1994.

Bonnie then conducted a graphic design business from her home. When Ken retired they decided to move to Prescott Valley, Arizona, where they can play golf year-round.

Bonnie's interest in genealogy arose from watching the 1976 mini-series "Roots" by Alex Haley. She wrote to aunts and cousins in Michigan, where her grandfather was born. Denver Public Library was her first research source. From *The Genealogical Helper* she learned of AFAOA, which she joined in August 1983.

In October 1990 Bonnie volunteered to take over from the ailing Janet Austin Curtis as AFAOA Genealogist. She compiled updates to Edith Austin Moore's manuscripts on *Joseph Austin of New Hampshire*, *Matthew Austin of Maine*, *John Austin of New Haven, Connecticut*, and Janet's manuscript on *Francis Austin of New Jersey*.

The Austin Genealogical Research Award known as "the Eagle", awarded annually at the Austin Convention by the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS), was presented to Bonnie in 1999 for the publication of her line in the manuscript *Some Descendants of Daniel and Mary (Brackett) Austin of Maine*.

Bonnie has served AFAOA through the years as Generalist, Assistant Genealogist, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, taking a short break this year for the move from Wyoming to Arizona. Thank you, Bonnie, for stepping into a new leadership role.

Highlights of the 2012 AFAOA Business Meeting

Officer and Committee Reports:

- Lois Cody, Secretary/Treasurer provided the minutes from the 2011 meeting, which were accepted. Lois then presented the 2012 (year to date) treasurer's report. The total bank balance, as of October 1 was \$12,360.51: General Fund \$5,443.89, Publishing Fund \$4,388.86 and Convention Fund \$2,527.76 (to be used for current convention expenses).
- Liz Carlin, Genealogist, reported that 15 databases have been recently updated. Major changes: the name of the *Isaac Austin of Virginia* database was changed to *George Austin of Pennsylvania* and *William Wallace Austin of Vermont* was absorbed into *Robert Austin of Rhode Island*.
- Jim Carlin, Database Chairman, reported that 69 Austin lines, which include 127,190 individuals, are now on our website and 5.5 gigabytes of usable material has been transferred from the *Austin Families Genealogic Society* files. Two volumes of "Austins of America" have been reformatted, with images removed and placed on the AFAOA web site with search capability. The third Volume is nearly completed. There are over 300 more documents remaining from the AFGS holdings and planning is in process for making these available on the web site as well.
- Alice Martin reported that membership is 210, with 25 expired memberships awaiting renewal.

Election of Officers:

The Nominating Committee (Jim Carlin, Charlie Austin and Alice Martin) presented the following slate of officers:

President – Bonnie Bigolin
 Vice President — Kathi Koble [2nd term]
 Vice President — Carol Austin
 Vice President — Jane Bruckner
 Secretary/Treasurer – Lois Cody [2nd term]

They were elected by unanimous vote to serve a 2 yr. term.

New Business:

- Brian Austen suggested that we add to our website a list of known Austin immigrants with links to the databases which they head and information on their origins, and that we also include links to genealogy research sites in the UK. Brian was asked to work on this project and Helen Austin volunteered to assist.
- The location of the 2013 Convention was discussed and, following several rounds of voting, Austin, TX and Providence, RI were the cities nominated for a final vote by the membership, with a ballot to be placed in the December newsletter.

In Memory of HAROLD AUSTIN STEINER

13 February 1921 – 7 June 2012



AFAOA President 1986 – 1999

Harold Austin Steiner was born in Batesville, Arkansas and spent his early years in Louisiana. He received a B.S. degree from Florida State University and an M.S. degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Hal spent 32 years in the United States Air Force. He received his wings in 1943 and served in three wars. He was shot down and

captured in 1951 and spent almost two years as a POW in Korea. After Korea, Hal remained in the Air Force as a Development Engineer involved in the research and development of advanced aircraft, ballistic missiles, satellites and space vehicles. For five years Hal was a member of the Secretariat of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, whose mission was to advise the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chiefs of Staff on scientific and technical matters. He also served on the President's ad hoc committee on the National Space Program. After leaving the Scientific Advisory Board, he completed his military career with the National Security Agency.

After Hal retired from the Air Force he was involved in community and political activities. He owned and operated an

antique shop in Frederick County, Maryland. He served on the county Planning and Zoning Commission and as a member of the Town Council of New Market.

Seeking a warmer climate, in 1974 Hal and his wife Doris decided to make their home in Las Vegas, Nevada. There he continued as a management consultant. An activist in Republican Party politics, eventually Hal was elected to the office of Vice Chairman of the Nevada State Republican Party.

Although Hal's professional life was oriented towards science and technology, he always maintained a strong interest in history and genealogy. He served as Director of the Cultural Focus division of the Allied Arts Council, whose mission was to promote an awareness of the culture, history and scenic beauty of Nevada, his adopted state.

Hal was a descendant of William Austin of Kent Co., Maryland and did extensive research on the Austins of Maryland and North Carolina. He became a member of Austin Families Association of America in 1978, served as Western Vice President and was elected AFAOA President in 1986.

On 29 June at the 1997 National Austin Convention in Waltham, Massachusetts, Dr. Michael Austin, president of the Austins of America Genealogical Society presented Hal with the AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AWARD, the "Eagle", in recognition of "the significant advances in Austin genealogical research enabled by his eleven years of dedicated leadership as President of the Austin Families Association". He continued as AFAOA President until 1999.

In addition to his interest in genealogy research, Hal was a free-lance writer and historian. His book, *The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert: A History and Guide*, was published in 1999.

Adapted from an article by
Dr. Michael Austin for *Austins of America*, August 1997.

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JOHN CHRISTIAN AUSTIN, cont'd from page 1

(horse and wagon) from the farm to Mobile for supplies. Ellisville was one of the stopover towns, and John became attached to the thriving town and the friendly people. John went to Meridian to attend the Meridian Business College. With his diploma in business, he came to Ellisville in 1888 to be a bookkeeper for a large mercantile company, the Weems Company. Ellisville was the thriving business center of south-east Mississippi. Laurel was a settlement in a thicket of kalmia latifolia (laurel bushes) at this time, and Hattiesburg was a spot on a dirt road. He married Ann Lillian (Lillie) Welborn of Ellisville on January 1, 1890. They had eight children, Oliver, Luna, Kinard, Dorothy, Lillian, Katherine, Hope and John.

When his mother and father died in July, 1892, the farm was sold. John decided it was time to branch out for himself, establishing a grocery business. During his life he had several business interests. There was a general merchandise store in one building and a feed and fertilizer store in another but nearby building. Many Indians came to Ellisville to trade with him because he could speak Choctaw.

He was one of the founders of the Merchants and Manu-

facturers Bank. He became its second president and, at his death in 1944, was chairman of the board. His other investments were in banks, land (along with his father-in-law) for timber and oil possibilities. He served as an alderman and after retirement, he was a county supervisor.

Luna's Recollections

John's daughter, Luna May Austin, gave the following speech about her father at the presentation establishing a scholarship in John C. Austin's name at the Jones County Junior College: "Daddy had an unusual ability of understanding the thinking and the needs of people. I was always impressed by the influence he had on the rural people of the county. They sought his counsel and his advice on their financial needs, their crops, the types of fertilizer for their crops, the feed for their farm animals, and, often, on their more personal problems.

Although Daddy worked hard when he worked, he had several wonderful hobbies. I suppose gardening was his first love. We always had vegetables of some kind in the garden during the entire year. He was a great fisherman and he loved to hunt. Near Pascagoula, in Jackson County, he owned a

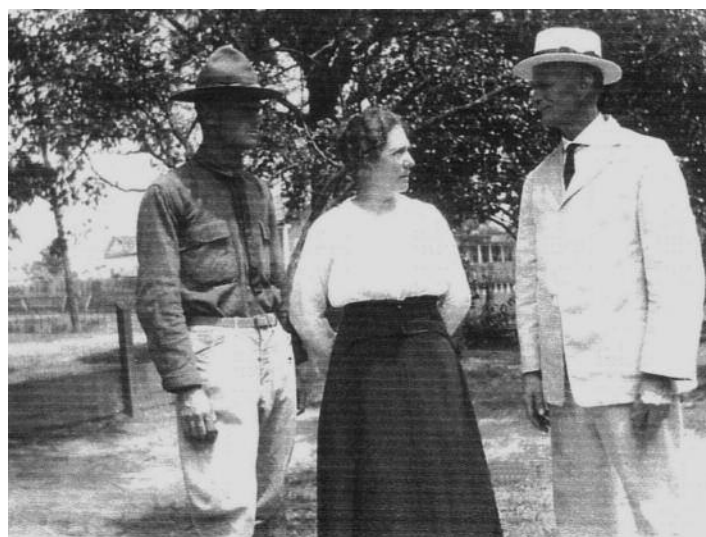
lakeside camp which groups of sportsmen from the Ellisville-Laurel area went to hunt for a week or more at a time.

It was our custom in those days to have a quail-on-toast breakfast each Christmas for the entire family. Daddy was an expert marksman. I remember on our trips to the woods before Christmas to look for holly, mistletoe and a living Christmas tree, he would always take a rifle. When we would spot a large bunch of mistletoe high in a tree, he would take aim and cut the base stem of the branch right where it joined the tree limb. Then we would run under the falling mistletoe and catch it before it hit the ground. These pleasant memories of our early days are some of our "Roses in December."

Our parents believed in education. They gave their six children the opportunity to work for and receive a baccalaureate degree from various Mississippi universities. That was quite an investment in education, and in the six of us. They also encouraged other young people (white and black) to go to school by buying them their books and many times their clothes.

If our father were here today, he would be greatly pleased to know that he will continue to help the young people of Jones County and Mississippi in reaching their goals in education. He would be pleased to know that the Merchants and Manufacturers Bank is interested in affording financial help and encouragement to students who need such help to further their education. And he would be pleased to know that this scholarship has been placed in a school in which he was interested from its beginning. Where all six of his children and two son-in-laws either were students, taught as faculty members, or both. We are all proud of this school, one of the outstanding junior colleges of our state.

We feel that this scholarship is 'continuing education' from our father, our thanks for so honoring him."



L to R: Oliver with parents Lillian and John, ca. 1918

[Picture courtesy of granddaughter Ruth Austin Moody;
historical notes written by grandson John Carlton Williams,
son of Katherine Karol Austin Williams.]

Note: Read about Oliver V. Austin, John and Lillian's oldest son, in the August 2011 *Newsletter* - and about John's grandparents, Christian Davis Austin and Lucretia Roberts, in the October 2009 *Newsletter*. Newsletters can be found in the *Research* section of *Austin Projects* on the AFAOA Website.



Database Spotlight

The Austins of Hatteras Bank, North Carolina

Compiler: Liz Austin Carlin

This database, which now contains 2,216 individuals, began by documenting two separate North Carolina Austin clans, Thomas Austin of Currituck County and William D. Austin of Hyde County. Research into Thomas Austin's family in Hatteras Banks, led to a search for the other Austin in the 1790 Currituck County census – William Austin. Census records, deeds, and wills show this William as a son of Cornelius and Amey Austin of Princess Anne County, VA. (Princess Anne County no longer exists, but is now absorbed into Independent City of Norfolk. It is just over the northern border of Currituck County, NC.)

Thomas (b. abt. 1735) and Cornelius (b. abt. 1720) are in the same generation, and are probably closely related. The names Cornelius, Daniel, Thomas, and William occur repeatedly in both families over several generations.

In the 1960s Janet Austin Curtis, AFAOA genealogist, gathered Austin records and worked with and corresponded

with many Austin descendants in the area. This material has been archived in two notebooks in the AFAOA Archive.

Hatteras Bank was chosen as the place name for the families because in the early generations the heaviest concentration of Austins was in the Hatteras area. Later generations spread out from Hatteras, north along the Outer Banks as fishermen, lighthouse keepers, Coast Guardsmen and ship-builders, and west to Ocracoke and the other major ports of Pamlico Sound.

In browsing the database, you should note that the Hatteras area was in Currituck County from 1790 to 1823, in Hyde County from 1823 to 1870, and in Dare County from 1870 to the present. Roanoke Island, Nag's Head and other northern towns were in Currituck County from 1790 to 1870 and in Dare County from 1870 to the present. Ocracoke Island was in Carteret County from 1790 to 1845 and in Hyde County from 1845 to the present.



2012 Austin Convention

The annual Austin Convention was held this year in Williamsburg, VA, October 12 – 14, with 41 attending. Many arrived early to explore historic Jamestown, Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg and to take advantage of research opportunities in the area. It was great to be with our “Austin family” again — and to greet new members, who quickly became part of the family!

Convention activities, held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, officially began with a reception on Friday afternoon, and continued on Saturday and Sunday with interesting speakers and workshop time and a Saturday evening dinner.

On Saturday the morning program included: “*Early Virginia Society — Who Were Those Early Settlers?*” by Dave DeSimone, program instructor for *Learning Odysseys* at the College of William and Mary, and “*Did They Choose Free Passage to the New World? Researching Indentured Servants in Colonial Virginia*” by Mary Beth Dalton, of *Jigsaw Genealogy* and also an instructor for *Learning Odysseys*.

After lunch Art Sikes gave “*An update on the Austin-Austen DNA Project — where do we go from here?*”. John Clinard told of “*DNA Proof, Conjecture and Surprises in the Austin Families of Southside Virginia*”.

Following dinner we enjoyed a Living History Experience with Rebecca Suerdieck, as we met “*Marye Bucke, the Minister’s Wife*” and heard stories about her voyage to the New World and her life in Jamestown in 1623.

On Sunday morning Helen Cook Austin shared her research on four Austin men who were “*Galvanized Yankees — Heroes Who “Swallowed the Dog”*”. Then Jane Austin Bruckner told about “*The Life and Times of John Austin (1692-1759), Constable of Cornwall Parish, Lunenburg Co. VA*”. In the afternoon Jim Carlin gave the “*AFAOA Database and Library Holdings Report*”, and the convention concluded with the *AFAOA Business Meeting*. Some then ventured back into Colonial Williamsburg, attending the evening service at the historic Bruton Parish Church and dining at one of the historic taverns.



2012 AUSTIN CONVENTION ATTENDEES

Standing: Alice Martin, Gay Martin, Trudy Austin, Richard Austin, Lois Cody, Bob Cody, Lil Clinard, John Clinard, Judy Austen, Robert Osborn, Brian Austen, Donald Holzer, Rhonda Nunley, Jane Bruckner, James Woodward, Rita Urso, Cynthia Sanck, Christine Taylor, Bev Sikes, Charlene Lansberry, Art Sikes, Kathi Koble, John Adams, Bob Austin
Sitting: Sue Osborn, Liz Carlin, Rebecca Holzer & daughter Alana Grace, Sybil Skakle, Ken Bigolin, Helen Austin, Jane Austin, Jim Carlin
Kneeling: Linda Adams, Susan Joy Lewis, Bonnie Bigolin, Barbara Giacomelli, Elizabeth Neithamer, Beth Williams, Judy Austin
(Not pictured: Sherri Hartselle, Patti Pitchford)

Thomas Austin Personal Papers

Mary Beth Dalton of Williamsburg, VA writes:

I have received the Quarterly Report of Newly-Available Archival Accessions from the Library of Virginia, noting additions to the Archives collection. There is an item that may be of interest to someone in your organization:

PERSONAL PAPERS — Austin, Thomas — 3 pages.

Letter, 29 December 1835, from Thomas Austin (1811–1885) in Buckingham County, Virginia, to his father, Archibald Austin

(1772–1837) in Richmond. Topics include slaughtering hogs and their weights and prices, harvesting corn, iron shipments and prices, collecting money for wheat sold, and a request for bacon. Purchased. (50548)

Mary Beth can be contacted at jigsaw@widomaker.com. To subscribe to the library's mailing list send an email to: VA-ROOTS-L-request@rootsweb.com and type “SUBSCRIBE” in the body of the email. Explore Virginia Digital Collections on The Library of Virginia website: <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/>.

VOTE FOR THE 2013 CONVENTION SITE

[One vote per membership]

1. Vote by using the ballot below.
OR
2. Vote by e-mail. Send the information requested
on the ballot to: amembership@afaoa.org.
OR
3. Vote on-line. Go to the AFAOA web site.
Select "Convention/Reunion" and follow the instructions.



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

Your vote must be received by January 15, 2013.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Austin, the capital of Texas, is a growing city on the Colorado River, established in 1835 when Texas won its independence from Mexico. The pink granite Texas State Capitol soars over the city. Within walking distance is the Bob Bullock History Museum with interactive exhibits, artifacts, and IMAX Theatre. Enjoy the natural beauty of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Head to South Congress Avenue to discover eclectic shops, trendy restaurants, and popular music venues. Visit "The Father of Texas" Stephen Fuller Austin's grave and Monument in tree shaded Texas State Cemetery. Nearby is the oldest wooden structure in Austin, the French Legation, built by the French as a diplomatic outpost during the Republic of Texas period, 1835-1845. The Daughters of Republic of Texas Museum houses collections centered on this period.

The University of Texas is home to 17 libraries and museums, including the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum, the Briscoe Center for American History and the Blanton Museum of Art.

For research, the Texas State Library holds a variety of Texas government records, including Republic of Texas Passports, the Index to Confederate Pension Applications, newspapers on microfilm and the 1897 Voters' Registration, as well as printed family and county histories and city directories. The

Texas General Land Office, established in 1837, archives land grant records and maps dating to the 18th century.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Providence, Rhode Island, founded in 1636 by Roger Williams, has several excellent research facilities. The genealogical collection of the Rhode Island Historical Society Library is the third largest in New England. Printed items exceed 150,000 volumes, including the pre-eminent collection of pre-1800 Rhode Island imprints. Also available are microfilms of almost every newspaper published in Rhode Island from 1732 to the present, the Rhode Island Cemetery Database and a comprehensive collection of city directories.

The Providence Public Library maintains a special collection with extensive material and information about the State of Rhode Island and the City of Providence. In addition to newspapers and city directories the collection includes Sanborn maps, Historic American Buildings Survey of Rhode Island, city and town histories and genealogy resources.

Visit Benefit Street's "Mile of History", with numerous well preserved colonial homes and churches. Enjoy the Roger Williams Park zoo, the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium and other important museums and historic sites.



----- Please cut here -----

2013 Convention Site Ballot:

_____ Austin, Texas
_____ Providence, Rhode Island

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

<http://www.afaoa.org>

Four “Galvanized Yankees” Named Austin

From the data compiled by Dr. Helen Cook Austin for the 2012 Austin Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia

These were four Southern men who were part of the Confederate Army, fought bravely but were captured by the Union Army and put in military prisons.

More than 400,000 soldiers, North and South, were prisoners. Exchanges and paroles of prisoners were ended after 1863. Sustaining care of prisoners became increasingly difficult for the armies and more than 45,000 of them died in terrible prison conditions.

The U. S. Army needed soldiers to do the unpleasant tasks of fighting the Indians in the West, and building pontoon bridges. The Army came up with the idea of using the prisoners for those tasks. The prisoners signed amnesty papers (called “Swallowing the Dog”, a hard thing to do) and became part of what was called the U.S. Volunteer Infantry, Regiments one through six. Some 20,000 Confederates joined the Union Army and were known as “Galvanized Yankees”.

The term “galvanized” refers to metal cleaned in acid and dipped in zinc to make it rust-proof. “Yankees” were Union soldiers. The double meaning was: tough soldiers who could be re-cycled.

1. Private John R. Austin — Co. G, 2nd Arkansas Regiment Mounted Rifles — prisoner at Camp Douglas — Co. F, 6th Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry

2. Private Littleton Berry Austin — Co. H 31st Regiment Alabama Infantry — Rock Island Prison — Co. H, 2nd Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry
3. Private Nicholas D. Austin — Co. D 10th Regiment Missouri Infantry — Alton, Illinois Prison — Co. A, 5th Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry
4. Private John H. Austin — Co. G, 31st Tennessee Infantry — Rock Island Prison — 2nd Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry

The biographies of these soldiers, with source lists, will be placed on the AFAOA website.



**Merry
Christmas
& a
Happy
New Year!**

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

**AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
527 Front Beach Dr. #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

Address Service Requested