



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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Tommy R. Austin **Founder of Make A Wish Foundation**

Interview by Jane Austin Bruckner

During his career in police work, Tommy Robert Austin often anticipated some of the dangerous and exciting assignments he would face. However, what he did not anticipate was meeting a four year old boy named Christopher Greicius in Phoenix, Arizona in 1977... and what would happen as a result of that meeting. Christopher was suffering from cancer and his greatest wish was to be a police officer. Austin and his law enforcement colleagues visited Chris in the hospital and at his home, gave Chris rides in a helicopter and police cruiser, a badge and his own uniform complete with police helmet and goggles. They cried at his funeral and vowed to do something more for Chris. Today Tommy serves as Director Emeritus of what became the Make A Wish Foundation, with 53 chapters in the U.S. and 36 international chapters, continuing to make children's wishes come true.

Austin's career in police work began in 1966, when he was employed in the Houston Texas Sheriff's Department Juvenile Division. Then came a position in the U.S. Customs Service as a Sky Marshall, preventing the hijacking of United States flagship aircraft by terrorists, until 1973 when he transferred to the Patrol Division, working the water front in Houston and along the Texas border with Mexico. During these years he and three friends were enrolled in Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, studying as they could around their demanding work schedules. He graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science



degree in Law Enforcement / Police Science. In 1974 Tommy was selected to become an Air Officer in New Orleans. His job included undercover work; he posed as a drug dealer, importer, financier and other persons involved in criminal narcotics smuggling and money laundering. By 1986 he had become a Senior Special Agent. In 1996 he transferred to EXDOS, responsible for the investigation of the illegal exportation of American industrial high technology, weapons of war, nuclear weapons and nuclear devices. Then in 1997 assignments were attached to Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA).

While continuing to work for the U.S. Customs Service and thinking about retirement, Tommy completed a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Houston, graduating May 1996. Looking back, he said that was the most demanding time of his life, but he wanted to do it, to have additional skills in retirement. He retired from the U.S. Customs Service in 1998 and was hired as Director of Family Services for the Santa Maria Hostel in Houston, a Chemical Dependency Treatment program for Women and Children. His wife Kay was then Clinical Program Director at Santa Maria and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Santa Maria Hostel. More recently, Tommy was appointed Court Liaison for Santa Maria. With his education and experience in law enforcement, his expertise has resulted in better client outcomes in court and in Family Pro-

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest
Austin Ancestors

Welcome!

Ann Penelope Austin Rigoni

372 Ozette Place, LaConner, WA 98257;
perdido90@aol.com; *Joseph b. 1803
Wallingford, CT; Andrew Foote b. 1834
CT; Frederick Winfield b. 1860 North
Haven, CT*

Gregory H. Austin

P.O. Box 13, Russell Springs, KY 42642;
*John b. 1755 Albemarle Co., VA; Jonas
R. b. 1782 Albemarle Co., VA; John
Laban b. 1809 Casey Co. KY*

Jorja Austin

10914 Tobago Rd., San Diego, CA
92129; jorjaaustin@sbcglobal.net;
*William b. ~1688 Ireland; John b. ~1727
Ire., Drury b. 1760-1770 NC; Willis Philip
b. 1790 Anson Co. NC; Amzie b. 1819
Benton Co. AR*

Lynn S. Austin

7478 Painter Rd, Bedford, OH 44146;
*Ambrose b. 1757 Eng; John b. 1794
Eng; Joseph b. 1846 OH*

Marian Crenshaw Austin

5 Ripple Road, Birmingham, West Mid-
lands, B30 2RA, UK;
MCA1928@gmail.com; *John b. bef.
1755 Eng.; d. 1806 Johnston Co. NC;
John b 1774 NC; John Arter b. 1815 GA;
Jackson Rutherford b. 1865 AL; John
Greene b. 1885; John Green Jr. b. 1928*

Michael Paul Austin

10823 Tanwood Ave., Baton Rouge, LA
70809; michaelaustin1@bellsouth.net;
*Robert Napoleon, Robert Jr. (m. Eliza-
beth Barbaree), Paul Robert*

Richard L. Austin

21257 Avenida Nubes, Lake Forest, CA
92630; raustindc@gmail.com; (*Silas b.
CT ?*); *John Wilson b. 1819 Jefferson
Co., NY; Loren b. 1852 St. Lawrence
Co., NY; Jay W. b. 1880 Dowagiac, Cass
Co., MI*

Amanda Butler Davies

12 County Rd. 2114, Gainesville, TX
76240; amandalbutler@yahoo.com;
*William b. ~1688 Ireland; John b. ~1727
Ireland, Drury b. 1760-1770 NC; Willis
Philip b. 1790 Anson Co. NC; Henry R.
b. 1828 TN; William Henry b. 1865 AR;
Earl Robert b. 1891 AR*

Robert Gaylord

1103 Leonard Rd., Mancelona, MI
49659; bobyg@scbglobal.net ; *Rodman
b. 1761 Pawling, Dutchess Co., NY*

Jane Austin Faircloth

962 Campbellton, North Augusta, SC
29841; janetarheel@comcast.net;
*Thomas b. bef. 1755 Nelson Co., VA;
Jesse b. 1803 Amherst Co., VA; Jesse
Lafayette b. 1863 Iredell Co., NC*

Mary Ann Austin Harlan

600 W. Poplar Ave., Apt 329; Carrboro,
NC 27510; dcn55@gmail.com; *Ed-
ward b. 1773 RI; Henry b. 1800 Wash-
ington Co., NY; Daniel b. 1833 Oswego
Co., NY; Henry Warner b. 1884*

K. Austin Kerr

6446 Strathaven Ct. E., Worthington, OH
43085; kaustinkerr@gmail.com; *Robert
b. ~1638, of Kingston, RI; Jeremiah b.
1664 RI; David b. 1694; Joseph b. 1731;
Joseph b. 1756 RI; Newman b. 1797
Milton, VT; John b. 1833 Milton, VT*

Darlene Austin Kuerzel

6 Chatham Rd., Long Meadow, MA
01106; kuerzeld@comcast.net; *Robert
b. ~1638, of Kingston RI*

Mary Jo Edwards Meyer,

133 Harv Loop, Monterey, TN 38574;
mjm@frontier.net; *Nathaniel b. ~1720
Eng.; Nathaniel Jr. b. ~1743 Eng. or SC;
William A. b. 1778 SC; Anderson b. 1812
SC; Francis Mildred (Box) b. 1871 MS*

Michele Natale

4 Colony Beach Blvd., Plymouth, MA
02360; robn1@comcast.net; *Robert P.
b. 1852 IL or GA; Robert T. b. 1890 Over-
ton Co., TN; Flossie b. 1913 TN*

Deborah A. Austin Rogers

1286 Smyth Road, Hookset, NH 03106;
bratpack4@comcast.net; *Samuel b. ~
1639 MA; Thomas b. 1671 Boston, MA;
Thomas b. 1691 Andover, MA; Nathan b.
1725 Methuen, MA; ...Daniel b. 1834
Warren, VT; Albert b. 1864 Warren, VT;
Jasper b. 1913 VT; Berton b. 1938
Grafton, NH*

Rita Austin Urso

2538 Fenestra Drive, Dallas, TX 75228;
ptjean@flash.net; *John Sr. d. ~1759
Cornwall Parish, Lunenburg Co., VA;
John Jr. b. ~1720 VA; William b. ~1750 VA*

Gayle H. Van Horn

P.O. Box 297, Brasstown, NC 28902,
gayleh@brmemc.net; *Capt. Nathaniel,
Sr. b. ~1720 York, Yorkshire, England;
Nathaniel b. ~1745 England; Nathaniel
b. 1773 NC*

Bethany Renee Whaley

9183 Sharp Rd, Swartz Creek, MI
48473; BRW65@comcast.net; *Sylvester
b. 1785 MA; Ambrose W. b. 1821 NY; Jay
Sylvester b. 1873 MI; Raymond Ambrose
b. 1898 MI; Clayton Lowell b. 1918 MI*

Christina F. Wright

218 Woods Ave., Oak Hill, WV 25901;
dwright218@yahoo.com; *Elizabeth b.
1833 in NY (m. William Henry Quick,
lived in Mich., parents born in Penn.)*

**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 DNA Project is growing, with over 180 tests already done and additional tests being ordered. I will soon be posting an updated set of DNA test results. So check the test result chart on our website.

I have been encouraging two groups to get test upgrades: the J2 Haplogroup to upgrade to 67 or, for a selected group, to 111 markers – and the R1b1a2 Haplogroup to get the Deep Clade test done so that we can determine their full subgroup. Both of these upgrades will increase our understanding of the groups and make it possible to better sort them into closer related families.

If you are interested in any test or upgrade sales at Family Tree DNA let me know, and make sure I have your current email address, so I can send you a notice when the sales are running.

**Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
Austin-Austen DNA Project Administrator**



Plans are proceeding for the Austin Convention. The schedule for both Saturday and Sunday will include speakers, as well as time to work with others on your individual interests. This year we will have our banquet on Saturday night. As we plan the weekend schedule, we need to know what your interests are – thus the questions and “comments” space on the registration form. Are you interested in use of the Internet for research, in how to use the resources of the state and local libraries, or in learning more about the early history of Virginia? Should we organize a trip to Richmond or other historic points of interest, on Friday or on Monday? (There is such a concentration of history and genealogy in the Williamsburg area - you will want to be there longer than just the weekend.) Please send in your registration form, included in this newsletter, as soon as possible.

The newsletter articles, as usual, are outstanding. Tommy R. Austin's story surely demonstrates that an individual can make a difference. Helen's "Austin Veterans" series gives us a blueprint for getting deeper into the life and times of our ancestors by using multiple sources and references. The story of Captain William Austin illustrates the interesting history of maritime commerce and the move toward the West.

We should all be proud of our website. Look at the Austin-Austen DNA Project test results, reached from the Austin Projects page. The chart is attractive, easy to use, and full of information. The ease of linking to specific individuals in the AFAOA data base is impressive. Good work on the project, Art! Our thanks to Jim Carlin, Sue Osborn and others on the website team!.

Election of officers will be on the agenda for the business meeting at this year's convention. Some of us have reached our term limits. An officer nominating committee will be formed and announced in the next newsletter. Besides elected officers, volunteers are always needed. Your talents can be used in such areas as the newsletter, data entry, serving as a database compiler, assisting the Genealogist. Think about volunteering in some capacity.

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT

Since the last *Newsletter*, updates have been made to the following databases:

- *Joseph of Dover, New Hampshire*
- *Samuel of Boston, Massachusetts*
- *Hatteras Austins of North Carolina*
- *John, Sr. of the Southside Region of Virginia*
- *John & Charity of Montgomery Co., Maryland*
- *Miles of Franklin Co., Virginia*
- *Nathaniel of Greenville, South Carolina*
- *William & Ruth of North Carolina*
- *Unplaced Southern Austins*

Check the website often. New or most recently updated databases are marked with a star.

Liz Austin Carlin
AFAOA Genealogist

Bonnie Bigolin has asked to be replaced as Assistant Genealogist, due to the pressures of her up-coming move to Prescott, Arizona.

Bonnie was elected AFAOA Genealogist at the 1990 convention in Suffield, Connecticut. By the spring of 1991 she was hard at work, with Bill Minnick, creating computerized digital databases for the Austin Computer Project, using family group sheets and records submitted by researchers, data from Edith Austin Moore and Janet Austin Curtis, and other sources. This was the basis for most of the databases currently available on the AFAOA website. Bonnie was also responsible for photocopying and distributing descendency books, created from the databases.

At the 2000 Austin convention in Madison, Wisconsin, Liz Carlin was appointed to be Bonnie's assistant - working the Southern Austin lines, helping Bonnie with research requests, answering queries, etc. In 2001 they switched places - Liz was elected Genealogist and Bonnie agreed to assist her with the Northern lines. Bonnie's business responsibilities increased and Jan Untener took her place from 2003 to 2010. For two of those years Bonnie served AFAOA as Vice President, and for five years as Treasurer.

Bonnie will remain the compiler for the Maine databases: Robert of Vassalborough, Matthew of York, John of Brunswick, and Maine Unplaced.

Thank you, Bonnie, for your on-going dedication to Austin research and your service to AFAOA!



Austin Veterans in Homes for Disabled Soldiers

A Series by Helen Cook Austin, Ph. D.

There are many Austin veterans listed on the registers of the twelve U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938. Most of them are Civil War Veterans from the Union Army. However, Veterans from all branches of the Service were admitted after 1900.

I have combined data from other traditional sources, such as the U. S. Census, death and burial records, with the Veteran's Home register records. This is the first story that I have written about a sailor from World War I.

Frank Edmon Austin, Seaman U.S. Navy WWI

born December 5, 1888 in Colorado County, Texas
died May 3, 1959 in Dallas, Texas

The military history on Register 34598 of the Pacific Branch of the National Veterans Home at Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California informs us that Frank enlisted December 28, 1907 at Dallas, Texas in the United States Navy as an Apprentice Seaman. He was a Seaman at the port of Bumeston, Washington when he was discharged on January 30, 1912. However, he re-enlisted May 1, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois, at the beginning of World War I. He was honorably discharged May 1, 1921 in New Orleans, LA. When admitted to the Pacific Home his disability was described as bronchial asthma.

The domestic history for Frank E. Austin states that he was born in Cheetham, Texas about 1890. This old railroad town no longer exists. He said he was age 40 on his date of admission, August 19, 1930. Frank's height was 73¼" (6'1¼"). He had a ruddy complexion. His eyes were gray. His hair was brown. He could read and write. He was of the Protestant religion. His occupation was a laborer. His home after he was discharged from the Navy was Grapevine, TX.

Frank is also found on the 1930 census of Tonopah District, Maricopa County, Arizona, living as a single man, and working as a trucker hauling freight. Frank's niece, Vickie, has told me that he lived for a while in Globe, Arizona. Frank's death certificate states that he was divorced. No record has been found for a marriage or a wife in Texas, Arizona or California. He was in the Veteran's Hospital in Dallas, Texas when he died.

His Family

The home address given on Frank's death certificate was 305 South Britain St. in Irving, Texas — the residence of his brother C. Bruce Austin. Vickie says they had a house at that address, but it was torn down during the urban renewal of Ir-

ving. His death date was May 3, 1959. He died of chronic thrombo-embolic disease of his lungs, due to bronchial asthma. He was buried at Oak Grove Memorial Park in Irving. Other family members were buried in Old Kit Cemetery which is adjacent to Oak Grove. Frank's mother, Orphia A. Mitchell died February 19, 1942 and was buried at Old Kit.

Frank's brother, Charles Bruce Austin, Sr. - born Jan. 11, 1891 in Colorado County, TX and died Feb. 13, 1964 — was also in the U. S. Navy in World War I. Charles married Hettie Bell Holland. Their children were Thomas H., Mary Virginia, Glen Wardell and Charles Bruce, Jr. Another brother, Thomas William Austin, born March 29, 1887, had a Draft Card for WWI but I don't know if he went into the Service. "Will" as he was called by the family, lived in Sheridan, TX. His description in 1917 was: medium build and complexion, grey eyes, light brown hair, and self-employed as a teamster. There was also a sister, Lela M. Austin, born in February of 1895.

The parents of these four siblings were Thomas Hughes Austin, born November 1850 in Colorado Co., Texas and Miss Orphia A. Byler, born March 1862 in Arkansas, a daughter of James Taylor Byler of Tennessee. She married first David Monteville Null and had a son named James David Null, born March 16, 1883. She married Thomas Austin in 1885; he died before 1906. They had the four children mentioned previously. In 1906, Orphia married John I. Mitchell, a widower and successful dairyman who had a dairy farm in Grapevine, Texas, near where the DFW airport is now located.

His Ancestors

The early Republic of Texas records have some information about the grandfather of Frank E. Austin — William Austin, born in 1809 in Virginia. He came to Texas with relatives when he was in his early twenties. The 1840 Tax Lists for Colorado County and Travis County include William and his brother, A.W.J.D. Austin. The Texas State Library collections contain documents for William and Augustus W.J.D. Austin.

In the fall of 1842 some volunteer soldiers were needed to fight the Mexicans, who had come across the Texas border to try to regain Mexican territory. William and Augustus were in the group of men from Colorado County who went to help the "Texians". They filed claims, for payment of their military service, to the Treasurer of the Republic of Texas. The amount of \$15.70 was received by William for his service to the Republic; his signature is on the document. Augustus received the same amount, which was accepted by William when the money was finally paid in full on August 10, 1854. It seems Augustus died on December 2, 1846, not long after the men returned to their homes near Sherman, from injuries in the border skirmish. William was made Administrator of his estate.

William was married on December 23, 1845, in Colorado County, to Blanche Elizabeth Woolsey from Monroe Co, GA, daughter of John Moore Woolsey and Phoebe Castleberry Blanche. (The family had received land in Colorado County, Texas in March of 1845.)

William and Blanche had 8 children: John Augustine (1847); Robert (1848); Thomas Hughes, who was the father of Frank Edmon, (1851); Edmond R. (1853); Rebecca

Labinda (1858), Kate Carrie Gertrude (1862); Charles T. (1863); and Blanche Helen (1865).

William died on October 1, 1866 and was buried in the Austin Family Cemetery, in what is now Lavaca County near the Colorado County line. Blanche lived on the Austin family farm for many more years and raised her children. She died on September 1, 1885 and was buried near her husband.

No linkage to any of the Virginia Austin families in the AFAOA database has been proven for William (born 1809 in VA). Submitters to websites have suggested that he could be: a descendant of John, Sr. of Southside Virginia - or the William born in 1802 in Grayson County, Virginia, the son of Isaiah and Lucy Blevins Austin — or William, the son of Joseph, another descendants of John of Southside VA. Please write to me if you have a clue or document to clarify the ancestry.

Helen Austin

Sources:

- *Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938*; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1749, 282 rolls); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, available online at *Ancestry.com*
- *U. S. Census, 1850 – 1930*
- *Texas State Library*: online records for Claims to the Republic of Texas. TSLAonline.org
- *Findagrave.com*: Austin Family Cemetery, Lavaca County, Texas. Oak Grove Memory Gardens and Kit Cemetery of Irving, Dallas Co., Texas
- *Footnote.com*: Texas Death Certificate # 25662 F. E. Austin
- Personal testimony by email from Vickie Jones, of Dallas Texas, a niece of Frank E. Austin. July 2010.
- Jenkins, Frank, submitter. Texas State Genealogical Society. Bible of Wm. Austin. 1980.

THE 1940 CENSUS

The 1940 United States Census is here! If you know where your ancestors were living - street, city/town, county, state — you have a pretty good chance of finding them. If you don't, then you will have to wait until an index has been completed and published. You may even find yourself on the census, if you were born before April 1, 1940.

Why is everyone so excited about the 1940 Census? Is it going to show any new information? What is the difference between this and, say, the 1930 census?

Almost all of the questions on the 1930 census are also on the 1940. New questions include: street name and house number, highest grade of school completed, where this person lived on 1 April 1935. There are 10 questions about working, and/or being un-employed; they were trying to gage the recovery of the economy from the depression. If the person giving the information was not of the household then their name and relationship was to be given.

The next section was designed to be a random sampling of the people on the census. Those on two lines of each census sheet were asked additional questions, such as: Where were your parents born and what language was spoken in the home in your childhood? Are you a veteran or child of a veteran? Do you have a Social Security number? The woman, if she was or had been married, was asked how many times married, age at first marriage and number of children born.

A separate questionnaire on the dwelling included 31 questions, such as: value, type of structure, water supply, toilet facilities, lighting, radio, heating and cooking fuel, mortgage, who held the mortgage, what monthly payment or rent.

The 1940 census images can be found on-line on the National Archives official 1940 Census Website, <http://1940census.archives.gov>, and also on other sites such as *Ancestry.com* (subscription needed) and *FamilySearch.org*.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

Tommy R. Austin, continued from page 1

tective Service hearings. Tommy is a community leader who represents the clients and demonstrates daily a vested interest in the success of the families he serves.

His awards are many. In 1986 Tommy Austin was the first recipient of the Austin Award, as the U.S. Customs Service's Humanitarian of the Year. He has also been presented Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service Awards three times, received numerous in-service awards from the Customs Service and the National Child Labor Committee's Louis Hines Award. The Jaycees gave him their Spoke Award. In 1996, the City of Houston gave him the SAVVY Award as Houston's Volunteer of the Year. In 1998 he was named an outstanding alumnus of Sam Houston University College of Criminal Justice, and Alumnus of the Year of Sam Houston University.

Tommy and his wife Kay have five children and four grandchildren. On December 16, 2011 they celebrated 40 years of marriage, renewing their vows at Chapelwood Methodist Church in Houston.

The youngest of five sons of Coke and Buna Roberts Austin, Tommy was born at his family's ranch in Coke County, Texas and graduated from San Angelo, Texas High School. His grandparents Jordan and Arminta DeLong Austin were pioneer settlers to that area, arriving in 1872 from North Carolina and Kentucky. Jordan was the son of John and Margaret Baldwin Austin of Ashe Co., North Carolina and grandson of Bartholomew and Anne Reeves Austin of Grayson Co., Virginia.



Database Spotlight – *Unplaced Austins*

The Unplaced Austins databases (Northern, Southern and Maine) are collections of Austin families which have not as yet been linked into any of the known immigrant Austin lines.

Unplaced Northern Austins collects “unplaced” Austin lines from above the Mason-Dixon Line. This database currently contains 8,101 individuals.

Captain William Austin

William Austin, his family and descendants can be found in AFAOA's *Unplaced Northern Austins* database. He was born between 1757 and 1762, lived in New London, CT, and died between 1820 and 1830 in Vermillion, Erie County, OH. Pioneer histories of Vermillion state that Captain William Austin was one of the earliest settlers, building a house a short distance west of the mouth of Vermillion River in 1809. “He made nineteen consecutive yearly voyages to the banks of Newfoundland, thence to Spain and home again to New London, CT before he came to Ohio, and mostly as captain. He was a man of much energy and built one of the first boats ever launched from these shores (a 50 foot schooner “The Friendship”) and sailed her before and during the War of 1812.”

Why did William Austin leave Connecticut for Ohio? The website “Roots & Routes” gives the following history lesson:

FROM “THE SOUND” TO “THE LAKES”

<http://www.rootsandroutes.net/sound.htm>

As soon as British bans on American shipping were lifted after the Revolutionary War, Yankee traders began building large ships and sailing them profitably around the world. Connecticut had no deepwater harbor the size of Boston, Salem or New York but many a brig sailed from New London to

South America, Nootka Sound, Hong Kong and Marseilles. Most cargoes clearing New London were headed for other U.S. ports along the Atlantic coast or for the West Indies trade.

Yankee mariners were never more than 10% of the population — but they transformed New England from a random collection of farming communities into a thriving regional economy and made it known throughout the world. Connecticut sailing folk bemoaned her geographical position — calling her a keg drained at both ends by Boston and New York — but by 1820, merchant traders and shipbuilders from the Nutmeg State had “captured” the port of New York, outnumbering native Yorkers employed in maritime trades and vastly outweighing New York in tonnage and shipbuilding.

Commerce generated cash — but the ups and downs of those turbulent times demanded a diversity of enterprises. Many Connecticut merchants were also early investors in frontier Vermont, Western New York, Muskingum and Marietta, Ohio. Especially attractive to those with maritime interests was the Ohio Western Reserve with its access to the Great Lakes. Because their homes had been burned by the British, many New Londoners received free land in the Firelands* and pioneered the lake ports of Vermillion and Sandusky. Many others invested directly in Connecticut Land Company shares or joined with other Southeastern Connecticut investors in a subsidiary group called The Erie Company, which founded the capitol city of New Connecticut — Cleveland

Although no systematic study has been done on the transfer of maritime culture from “The Sound” to “The Lakes,” there is much anecdotal evidence that ties did exist. Samuel Livingston Mather, Jr. of Middletown, Connecticut; John Walworth of Groton and **William Austin of New London** went to the Western Reserve and had successful careers. [continued on the *Roots & Routes* website]

*The Firelands: During the Revolutionary War, the British soldiers burned the towns of New London, Groton, Norwalk, Greenwich, New Haven, Ridgefield, Fairfield and Danbury, Connecticut. The state of Connecticut gave lands of the Western Reserve to pay the people whose property was destroyed in these seven towns. Those people whose homes or stores were burned were called the “fire sufferers.” The land they were given was called the “fire sufferers’ land” or the “Firelands”. The Firelands is the part of Ohio that today is Huron and Erie counties, as well as Danbury Township in Ottawa County and Ruggles Township in Ashland County. [continued on the *Roots & Routes* website. Excerpted from “A Schoolchildren’s History of the Firelands,” by permission of the New London Area Historical Society.]

ROOTS & ROUTES is published and maintained by L.C.Productions, Inc. The *ROOTS & ROUTES* website began in 1996 with a planning grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council Cultural Development Fund and the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of New London, Connecticut. Since then, the website has gradually expanded to serve all of the continental United States.



AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Friday, October 12 – Sunday, October 14, 2012

Meet your Austin “cousins” in Williamsburg this fall. Get help with your Austin research and exchange information with others. Take advantage of the research facilities in Williamsburg and Richmond. Explore the rich history of Colonial Williamsburg, as well as nearby Historic Jamestown and Yorktown Battlefield.

Convention Hotel: Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Road [adjacent to the College of William and Mary and a short walk to Colonial Williamsburg]. A block of rooms has been reserved for October 12–14. This block will be held until September 12. Hotel website: www.WilliamsburgHospHouse.com.

Convention Rate: \$99 per night (single or double occupancy); free parking; free Internet. This rate will also apply three days before and three days after the convention; room availability is not guaranteed for those days.

Hotel Reservations: must be made by September 12. Call the hotel at 1-800-932-9192. Be sure to request the Austin Convention rate. Any reservations made after September 12 will be on a space available basis.

Convention Registration: The convention registration fee is \$60 per person, which includes all meetings, materials and the Saturday night banquet. The fee is \$30 per person for family or friends who wish to attend only the social hours and banquet. Registration forms, with checks payable to AFAOA should be sent to the Convention Registrar: Lois Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215.



The College of William & Mary

The College of William & Mary is the second-oldest college in America. The original plans for the College date back to 1618—decades before Harvard—but were derailed by an “Indian uprising.” On February 8, 1693, King William III and Queen Mary II of England signed the charter for a “perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and other good Arts and Sciences” to be founded in the Virginia Colony.

Workers began construction on the Sir Christopher Wren Building, then known simply as the College Building in 1695, before the town of Williamsburg even existed. Over the next two centuries, the Wren Building would burn on three separate occasions, each time being re-built inside the original walls. That makes the Wren the oldest college building in America, and possibly the most flammable.

The College has been called “the Alma Mater of a Nation” because of its close ties to America’s founding fathers. A 17-year-old George Washington received his surveyor’s license through the College and would return as its first American chancellor. Thomas Jefferson received his undergraduate education here, as did presidents John Tyler and James Monroe.

The College became a state-supported school in 1906 and went coed in 1918. In 1928, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. chose the Wren as the first building to be returned to its 18th-century appearance as part of the iconic Colonial Williamsburg restoration.

Colonial Williamsburg

Step back in time when you visit Colonial Williamsburg, which stretches over 301 acres, and includes 88 original 18th-century structures. Houses, shops and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Walk the streets with costumed interpreters. Visit the historic dining taverns and trades shops.

www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit

Research opportunities:

The Swem Library, College of William and Mary, has a large collection of books and manuscripts focused on Virginia history from the 17th to the 21st centuries. www.swem.wm.edu/about

The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library collections focus on the history and culture of colonial British America, the American Revolution, and the early United States. <http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary.cfm>

The Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland St., has a growing number of genealogy resources, with emphasis on the Tidewater region of Virginia. www.wrl.org

The Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, houses records of the colonial and state governments; county court records (wills, deeds, and marriage bonds); church and cemetery records; military service, pension, tax and land records. www.lva.virginia.gov

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

Address Service Requested

Austin Family Reunions

Bartholomew Austin Family of Ashe Co., NC

Labor Day – September 3, 2012 – in Jefferson, NC

Contact Jim Austin: JAustin@lpagroup.com

John and Nathaniel Austin Families of White Co., TN

Lost Creek Austin Cemetery Association

September 30, 2012 – in Sparta, TN

Contact Elizabeth Austin: wdaustin@blomand.net

Austins of Outer Banks, NC

Biannual Reunion

June 16, 2012 at the Hatteras, NC Civic Center

Contact Cora Simmons: (252) 216-8498 or 995-4239

John Austin Family of Monongalia Co., VA

Descendants of this line, please let us hear if you are interested in starting and/or attending a reunion.

Contact Susan Lewis: Susan.joy.lewis@gmail.com

***If you have an Austin Family Reunion to list
in a future AFAOA Newsletter,
please contact Jane Bruckner.***

Receive your Austin Newsletter in FULL COLOR

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