



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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Gay G. Martin, Jr.
PRESIDENT
527 Front Beach Dr. #3
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Patricia Korach
VICE PRESIDENT
9776 NE 134th St.
Kirkland, WA 98034

Charles Ward Austin
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9726 Mirage Circle
Garden Grove, CA 92844

Kathi Koble
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Lakewood, CA 90712

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

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

Bonnie Bigolin
ASSISTANT
GENEALOGIST
415 Wilkes Dr.
Green River, WY 82935

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Jane Austin Bruckner
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Robert Osborn

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

From Canada to America — Part II

William Jarvis, James Ebenezer, & John Thomas Austin

By Walter J. Hartung

John Austin arrived in Upper Canada from North Carolina in 1794. He married Elizabeth Jones prior to 1800. John and Elizabeth were the parents of at least seven children. Ebenezer Jones Austin, their oldest child, was born in Saltfleet Township on the 23rd of January 1800. On September 30, 1828, Ebenezer married Anne Cook at the home of her father, Andrew C. Cook.

Ebenezer and Anne Austin produced six children. The first three children were daughters - Eliza Ann, Sarah Christeen and Rachel Marilla. Three sons followed - William Jarvis, James Ebenezer, and John Thomas. Eliza and Sarah married brothers, James and Archibald McGhee, prior to 1850. They remained in Ontario and raised fine families of their own. Rachel remained single and was a part of Ebenezer and Anne's household.

The story of the boys, however, deserves further description. The Austin brothers were born in Toronto Township during a time of civil unrest. The "Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada" led to the arrest, imprisonment or hanging of several so-called 'Reformers'. It appears that the Austins were sympathetic and supportive of the rebellion and their support may have initiated the migration of several Austin families to America.

Immigration documents indicate that Ebenezer arrived at Lewiston, New York in November of 1852 and applied for citizenship in August 1854 at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. In 1852 Anne—with Rachel, William, James and John—was living with daughter Sarah and son-in-law Archibald McGhee. They are listed in the 1851[2] census of Grey County, Canada West, without Ebenezer. Prior to 1855 they joined Ebenezer in Wisconsin, where they can be found in the 1855 state census.

John Thomas Austin (1844-1864)

John Thomas, the youngest child and son of Ebenezer and Anne, enlisted in the Union Army on August 15, 1862. He and many other young men from Fond du Lac filled the ranks of what became the 21st Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. As a private in Company A, John participated in the engagements at Chaplin Hills, Kentucky, Jefferson Pike, Stone River and Hoover's Gap, Tennessee and the advance on Chattanooga.

The 21st's next engagement at Chickamauga, Georgia was John's last conflict. Prisoner of War records list his capture on September 19th, his confinement at Richmond, Virginia on September 29th, and finally his imprisonment at the Danville, Virginia Confederate prison beginning December 12, 1863. John entered the Confederate Hospital at Danville on January 9th with "Variola" (smallpox). He died on January 21, 1864.

James Ebenezer Austin (1841-1936)

Born in Canada like his siblings, James was

about eleven years old when he came to Fond du Lac. By 1860 he was working as a sawyer in the north woods of Wisconsin. Logging and forestry became his passion. His life, however, was interrupted by the War. Like his younger brother, he also enlisted on October 19, 1861 and joined the 14th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment as a Corporal. He received a disability discharge with Distinguished Service on July 10, 1862.

Shortly after the end of the war James married Emma H. Allen, on November 21, 1865, at Menasha, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Within a year James and Emma had relocated to Oswego, New York where the couple had their first and only child, Walter Scott, born October 1, 1866.

James' passion for the timber industry had blossomed and he focused his attention on creating machinery that improved the manufacture of wood shingles and an improved method of sawing boards into uniform thicknesses for barrel-heading and for making boxes with wooden strips. In April and September, 1868, James applied for

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest
Austin Ancestors

Welcome!

Margaret A. Austin

10201 W. Snead Circle North, Sun City,
AZ 85351-4201;

William b. ~1700 Ireland

Ron Austin

1020 Alegre Ave., Los Altos CA 94024;

ron_austin2001@yahoo.com;

David b. ~ 1802 RI (to Brooksville ME)

William Bennett Austin

PSC 3 Box 1957, APO AF 09021; austin-
wmb@yahoo.com;

*Nathan b. 1775 Providence RI; Nathan
b. 1802 Charlestown RI; Jeremiah b.*

*1834 Ward NY; Charles Nathan b. 1865
Alfred NY; Edwin Lloyd b. 1898 Alfred NY*

William Douglas "Doug" Austin

591 White's Cave Rd., Sparta TN 38583;
wdaustin@blomand.net;

Nathaniel b. 1779 TN/VA; William b.

1805 TN; Thomas b. 1844 White Co. TN;

William Henry b. 1875 White Co., TN;

Homer Gordon b. 1922 White Co, TN

Wayne Donald Austin

7715 Haigler Gin Rd., Monroe, NC

28110; waynechrisaustin@yahoo.com;

John Aaron b. 1871 Union Co. NC;

Jonathan Clayton b. 1893 Union Co. NC;

Jonathan Clayton, Jr. b. 1919 Union Co.

NC; Donald Clayton b. 1941 in NC

Robert D. Black

13627 W. LaReata Ave., Goodyear. AZ

85395-2246; rblack30@cox.net;

Thomas b. 1671 Andover MA; Thomas

b. 1692 Andover MA; Nathaniel b. 1725

*Methuen MA; Nathaniel b. 1748 Methuen
MA*

Linda M. Johansen

504 Golf View Drive, Greenville, NC

27834; lindamj2002@yahoo.com;

John of Stamford CT; Thomas b. 1653

CT; Jonathon b. 1680 CT; Jonathon b.

1712 NY; Silas T of NY; Isaac S. b. 1774

NY; Silas T. b. 1798 NY; Job W. b. 1822

Carmel, Putnam, NY; William Ashley b.

1845 Carmel NY; Isabelle Louise b.

1889 Old Tappan, Bergen, NJ

Michael Edwin McWhirter

87 Bitterwood Circle, The Woodlands, TX

77381; m.mcwhirter@yahoo.com; Tolliver

b. 1820 SC (d. 1884 AL); Virginia "Jen-

nie"(Walker) b. 1846 GA (d. 1916 TX)

Richard E. Nelson III

5072 W. Lake Rd., Auburn NY 13021;

owascohawk@aol.com;

John b. 1767 NC; William Gage b. 1812

Toronto, Peel, Ontario, Canada; Benson

John b. 1846 Norwich, Oxford, Ontario,

Canada; Ollive Mae (Nelson) b. 1878

Hawtrey, Ontario, Canada.

Gail Quattrochi

701 Ashley Forest Dr., Hixson TN 37343;

sassyredhead@comcast.net;

Isaac Bill b. 1831 Casey Co., KY

Catherine Austin Semken

127 Lynches River Dr., Summerville, SC

29485; csusie@aol.com;

Thomas b. ~1735; Thomas b. 1755/1763

Hatteras, Currituck Co., NC; Thomas b.

~1784 Hatteras, Currituck Co., NC; Wal-

lace Styron b. 1818 Hatteras, Currituck

Co., NC; Henry Bunyan b. 1855 Hat-

terras, Hyde Co., NC; Edward Bower b.

1893 Hatteras, Dare Co., NC; Harold

Davis b. 1920 Hatteras, Dare Co., NC

Linda Spriggs Wilson

P.O. Box 3349, Texarkana, TX 75504;

lindawilson02@windstream.net;

Leroy b. 1814 TN; William Allen b. 1855

Tippah Co. MS; Evie June (Spriggs) b.

1897 Nashville, Howard Co. AR

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

**Look for your membership renewal
date on your address label.**

**Thanks to all members for your
support of the Austin Families
Association of America!**

**Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman**

Rhode Island Austin Database Updates

What was the first Austin book published by Edith Austin Moore? What was Edith's most important book (in my opinion), and why? What was the Austin book that had the most outstanding updates? The answer to all of these questions is ***Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island***, published in 1951. I think it should have a second name—Austin Families of Rhode Island—because, besides the Robert Austin family line, the book contains many others, including Edith's Edward Austin family. With all of her research she could never make a documented connection to Robert Austin, but she was convinced there was a connection. DNA testing has added to the certainty that Edward is part of the Robert line.

On the passing of Dr. Mike Austin one of the items that I added to my collection from his library is Edith A. Moore's desktop correction copy of *Descendants of Robert Austin*, which has 359 very well used pages with added notes, corrections and comments. I have just

completed the review of this treasure chest of data and about two thirds of these pages provided additional data, clarifications and/or corrections to our database of Rhode Island families. The following databases have been updated: Abel, Benjamin, Brayton, Edmund, Edward, Nathan, Robert, Simeon, and Thomas. Changes are indicated by the addition of "and EAM's desktop correction copy" to the source notes.

We are trying to connect these Rhode Island families, for which I am the compiler. Only three out of the thirteen families have joined the DNA Project. DNA testing of male Austins in these lines is needed. Some money is available in the DNA Project Fund to help with test costs.

My next project is to review all of Edith Austin Moore's Notebooks from 1951 forward, trying to find more additions and corrections.

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



I am already excited about our convention in October. Williamsburg is a great place for meeting, researching, learning and having fun. When I was in there last fall I was able to stand on the land of one of my ancestors and find the 1700s church, still standing, where his children were baptized. There is so much history there. Visit the old capitol building where Washington and Jefferson attended early Virginia Assemblies and sit in the pews of the church where they worshiped.

A registration form will be in the next *Newsletter* but, if you are thinking you might be able to attend, I would appreciate hearing from you now so that we can get an idea of the size of the group for advance planning. Just send me an email.

Newsletter articles continue to be interesting and informative. Thanks to those who have written and contributed them! Keep them coming. Genealogy should be so much more than just filling in the names and dates. Don't leave out the background, history, and anecdotes that make these forebears live. Find out what made them emigrate and migrate—how they were driven from a place by civil unrest, famine or religious persecution—or how they were attracted to another place by family already there, promises of land and new opportunities. Gain insight into the lives of both past and present Austins—their adventures, challenges and accomplishments. To think that I barely missed driving an Austin motorcar...

Reading about old cemeteries and reunions reminds me that they can be very important and sometimes overlooked sources of information. Reunions, gathering the descendants of an individual, of a family—however close or distantly related—can be a wonderful way to share and pass down the family history. If announcements of these reunions can be made public in our newsletter and on the web site, it may help us connect, in a personal and satisfying way. It is a great feeling to find a cousin who can help fill in the family story. I hope that we will have enough reunion announcements submitted so we can make it a regular feature.

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President

Web Site Report

AFAOA Projects

Late in 2011 the AUSTIN PROJECTS button was activated. This button, appearing on major web pages, is the gateway to all of our exciting projects (some of which are still under construction).

- **RESEARCH**—Provides access to the extensive AFAOA research facilities, including the Master Index to over 150,000 individuals in 67 Austin-Austen databases, and text search of over 200 documents.
- **DNA**—Coordinating the collection of Y-DNA test results and analyzing their potential linkage of 20 Austin-Austen family lines.
- **CENSUS**—Austins in the Federal census records for all of 1850 and 1860, the New England states between 1790 and 1840, and the state census for Rhode Island between 1774 and 1782.
- **NATIVE AMERICAN AUSTIN FAMILIES**—17 databases of Austin families in the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole tribes from 1896-1914 as based on "The Final Roll of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1907," commonly known as the "Dawes Report."
- **AFRICAN AMERICAN AUSTIN FAMILIES**—including Austins registered in the Freedmen's Bank 1865-1874, Austin Slave owners in 1860 in the 14 Southern slave states, freed Austins who were members or applicants of the five Southeastern Tribes, African American Austin Soldiers of the Civil War including Union Soldiers in the U.S. Colored Troops, sailors in the U.S. Navy, and slaves who fought for the Confederates..
- **AUSTINS IN THE MILITARY**—including Austins imprisoned in Civil War prisons, Austins buried in local and Federal cemeteries, Austins in Civil War Veteran's homes, pension records, and Austins who were Southern Unionists.
- **PUBLICATIONS**—An area reserved for access to various types of miscellaneous publications of interest.

AFGS Data

With the death of Dr. Michael Austin in February 2011, an agreement was made with *Austin Families Genealogical Society* (AFGS) officers to preserve and transfer as much of the AFGS web site information as possible. The current effort has been on the AOA and AFGS publications—the bound volumes of *Austins of America* and *The Austin Families Register*. Although the removal of the graphics and photos was necessary, so as to reduce the file size for indexing, all text has been retained. Volumes 1 and 2 of *Austins of America* have been indexed and are now on the AFAOA web site, available for text search. (Use the "Text Document Search" button.) Other volumes will follow.

Work continues on adapting all of the AFGS Census Project. Dr. Helen Cook Austin has recently reviewed the southern states in the project, adding alternate spellings of the Austin surname. She has also just finished adding the contents of the 1860 Slave Holders List to these states.

Jim Carlin

Austins of White County, Tennessee

Nathaniel Austin, following his brother John Austin, moved into Tennessee from Virginia before 1817. In a few years Nathaniel had accumulated 1200 acres and built a plantation home in the area of White County known as Lost Creek, which is located about seven miles southwest of the city of Sparta. A cemetery for the John and Nathaniel Austin families was located about 150 yards west of Nathaniel's home. Upon his death in 1869, Nathaniel Austin willed the remaining plantation property to his daughters, Susan Frazier and Elizabeth Austin and stipulated that his grandson James Frazier and wife Catherine remain and manage the property. In 1888, Susan and Elizabeth conveyed the title to the one acre cemetery tract to a committee of Austins for the perpetuation of the cemetery "to be used forever as a family grave yard". The last family member to be buried in the cemetery was James Frazier in 1916. The plantation, with the exception of the cemetery, was sold out of the Austin family in 1924.



The Lost Creek Austin Cemetery Association was formed in 1964 by a group of Austin descendants, led by Bess Austin Machtley, in order to restore and preserve the cemetery. In 1978 the State of Tennessee granted the association a charter to operate as a perpetual and nonprofit association. A trust fund was established at the First National Bank of Sparta, to be used for

the maintenance and beautification of the Austin cemetery. The cemetery is surrounded by a private farm and several gates must be opened to reach it.

A monument was prepared and erected in 1971 to honor the deeds and perpetuate the memory of the John and Nathaniel Austin families. The memorial is inscribed on all four sides. The south and north sides are of historical nature. The west side is dedicated to the names of the Nathaniel



Austin family and the east side is dedicated to the names of the John Austin family

An annual Austin reunion, at the cemetery, and a business meeting, conducted at the Lost Creek Methodist Church, are held on the last Sunday of September.

[For information on the descendants of John and Nathaniel Austin visit the Projects/Research area of the AFAOA website and see the Southern database of "White County Austins". For more pictures of the cemetery go to www.danielhaston.com, then select "places", "ceme-teries" and "Austin Cemetery".]

Eileen Austin Cox of Texas

I attended a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) meeting last year. With help from this group I began researching my family. When I started looking at my Austin line, I wanted to know more about my ancestor Nathaniel Austin. I learned about the Lost Creek Austin Cemetery and the reunion held in White County, Tennessee each year and I was determined to attend.

Since my researcher friend Louise also has Tennessee roots, we flew to Knoxville and toured in Hamblen and Hawkins Counties, before going on to White County. I enjoyed seeing the lovely old courthouses and towns. We drove to Sparta, county seat of White County, located half way between Nashville and Knoxville in the awesome Great Smoky Mountains. From Sparta we headed southeast on Lost Creek Road. When we arrived at the cemetery, the gates were open and Austin descendants welcomed us, showed us around and pointed out the old chimney, still standing where Nathaniel Austin's house had been. The cemetery is well maintained by Doug and Elizabeth Austin and their family, who live in the area; I can tell their work is done with love.

From the Cemetery all of us drove to the nearby Lost Creek Methodist Church, where we enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship, followed by the business meeting and program. I purchased a book about the John Austin line from Mable Austin Moore, with whom I had previously corresponded. E. Ray Austin, a long time Austin researcher, gave me additional information about Nathaniel and John Austin. I learned that a person from my Nathaniel Austin line had participated in the Austin DNA project.

E. Ray Austin sent my contact information to that person, who turned out to be my first cousin, Tommy Lee Austin. Our Dads were brothers, and our families had lost touch when we moved away from Oklahoma in my childhood. This contact with Tommy Lee is the best thing that has come from my trip to Tennessee. He sent me a letter, written by my parents in the 1960s, that he found in his mother's correspondence box after her death. I am amazed to find there are so many from this Austin family who are still in contact with each other and are willing to share information about the family.

I would like to know more about my great grandfather, Shelby Austin (1844-1876) of Boone County, Arkansas, who was a grandson of Nathaniel Austin.

Eileen Austin Cox

Tommy Lee Austin of Oklahoma

Interview by Jane Austin Bruckner

Some of the grandchildren of Nathaniel Austin (1781-1869) left White County, Tennessee to settle in Boone County, Arkansas. The next generation moved again, to settle in Tahlequah, the county seat of Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Tommy Lee Austin was born in Tahlequah in 1940, the youngest of the seven children of Shelby and Nettie Hunt Austin, on their farm about eight miles from town. The older children were Leona Isobel, Louise Imogene, Shelby Madison Jr., Wesley Oliver, Jacquie Jean and Johnnie Joe Austin. Down the hill was the house of their grandparents, Raleigh "Rolla" Madison Austin and Bertha Brown Austin.



In 1943, to escape the drought and unrelenting sandstorms, his family loaded their children and what they could take, into their Model A truck and headed toward Arizona, sleeping beside the road at night. He remembers at one of the rest stops he was playing in the sand and reaching into a hole when out came a large, black tarantula spider. His Mother came running to snatch him away before any harm was done.

His Dad found work in the Sunset Dairy in Tucson for a year; then they moved back to the Oklahoma farm. In addition to working in the Tahlequah Ice Plant, his Dad grew sugar cane. Tommy remembers the distinct taste of homemade sorghum syrup. The cane, brought from the field and prepared, was fed into the press, powered by two old mules walking in a circle, one used in the morning, the other in the afternoon. The large cooking pan, supported by long logs, was 10 inches deep, five feet long and four feet wide. He remembers his older brother using his pocket knife to make a spoon out of a stalk of sugar cane to dip into the big pan.

Each Saturday a number of Cherokee Indian neighbors would show up at the farm, get into the truck and his Dad would take them to town, about 10 miles away, to do their shopping. Tommy remembers: "One Cherokee family was Justee Morgan, his wife Anawake and their two sons, who attended Indian School south of Talequah."

In 1949 the Austin family moved to California to the little town of Tahachapi in the mountains east of Bakersfield. His Dad worked on a ranch and also grew potatoes and onions, with the children helping to plant and harvest. In 1952 the family moved back to Coweta, Oklahoma, where his Dad continued farming. Tommy recalls his father as a hardworking man of few words who kept his word and took good care of his family.

Tommy's parents had been married for 72 years when his Dad died 28 Feb 1993, at age 94. His mother then lived with her daughter Louise at Wagoner, Oklahoma, where she continued to make quilts and crochet until her death 11 Sept 2000, at age 99.

Tommy joined the Navy and went to Navy School in Norman, Oklahoma. He was stationed for a short time in New Jersey, where he saw the last U.S. Navy dirigible before it was decommissioned, then was deployed to Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, in Navy Aviation Ordinance. He was then assigned to NAS Jacksonville Florida. "I was in the VA 44 Attack Squadron. We went to Guantanamo, Cuba several times". He also spent time at the Marine Corp Airbase in Yuma, Arizona. He was deployed on these ships: the USS Saratoga, the USS Randolph, the USS Roosevelt and the USS Independence.

While home on leave in 1961, he met Sharon Swartwood at a restaurant in Coweta. He knew she was "the one." In June 1962, when he was discharged, they were married. Tommy worked in a metal finishing shop for three years before he was employed by American Airlines in Tulsa. He went for training and received his Airframe and Power Plant license and certification from the Federal Aviation Administration and continued working for American Airlines in the Engine Shop. In 1983 he became Crew Chief, and an expert on how to maintain jet engines. His expertise was recognized when he was named 1998 Employee of the Year.

In retirement he lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, near Tulsa, where he and Sharon will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary in June 2012. They have a daughter, Leslee Dawn Austin, whose degrees are in Environmental Management and Industrial Hygiene.

Tommy enjoys fishing, metal detecting, remodeling projects and genealogy. He has participated in the Austin DNA Project and is especially interested in learning more about the ancestors of Nathaniel Austin of White Co., Tennessee. Contact Tommy at tlaustin3@cox.net.

Genealogist's Report

Updates have been made to the following databases:

- *Abraham of Orange Co., New York,*
- *Benjamin, Edward, Nathan, Robert and Thomas of Rhode Island*
- *John of Stamford, Connecticut*
- *John of Susquehanna, Pennsylvania*
- *Roderick Ransom of New York*
- *Bartholomew, and John Sr., of Virginia*
- *John of North Carolina*
- *Nathaniel of Greenville, South Carolina*
- *White County Tennessee Austins*
- *William of Kent Co., Maryland*
- *William & Elizabeth of Craven Co., South Carolina*
- *the Unplaced Southern file.*

Simeon of Rhode Island was added as a new database.

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

Liz Austin Carlin
AFAOA Genealogist

From Canada to America, continued from page 1

and patented two versions of a saw shingling machine. By 1870, he was issued another patent for additional improvements to his shingle machine and two additional patents were issued by 1875. The family moved west to Michigan and he continued to invent and patent new machinery. His last patent was made in 1894 when he produced a slicing machine.



James Ebenezer Austin



Walter Scott Austin

James, Emma, and Walter returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan by 1900 where James had originally come to supervise the manufacture of his own invention at the Michigan Iron Works in 1875.

During the 1890s Walter, began his own career as an inventor. Walter's first patent was approved February 2, 1897, a Velocipede. "My invention relates to an improvement in velocipedes, and more particularly to brakes for bicycles, &c., in which the propelling mechanism is operated by means of pedal levers adapted to have a vertical vibratory motion". This patent preceded the Austins' move to Grand Rapids and was issued to Walter while still living in Standish, Michigan.

In 1901 the manufacture of automobiles was begun at the insistence of Walter and thus began a family enterprise that lasted for more than three decades. James and Walter were not only father and son, but life-long business partners as well. Production of their first automobile began in 1902 with the manufacture of a 2-cylinder car that had 16 horsepower. By 1907, they produced a 90 horsepower, six-cylinder automobile which sold for \$6,000. High production processes among competing manufacturers of



automobiles finally caused production of the Austin car to cease and the firm retired from the field in 1918, but technology innovations continued.

Walter married Elsie E. Noe in 1908. Elsie was almost 20 years younger than her husband. Born in New Hampshire, she

trained as a musician and vocalist under several of the best teachers in Boston. Unfortunately, Elsie died in 1916 from appendicitis leaving behind a four year old son, Walter Scott, Jr.

Walter continued producing new inventions for the automobile. He had been granted patents in 1901, 1903, and 1905 for a rotary engine, a rotary pump or motor, variable speed gearing, and a reversing gear. Later he patented spring suspension for autos, two-speed axle gearing and as late as 1956 he patented a variable-ratio hydraulic transmission.

Walter Austin married Ruth M. Allison late in life, at the age of 80. Walter died May 12, 1965, at the age of 99, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

James Ebenezer Austin also lost his wife Emma in 1916, just seven months after the death of his daughter-in-law, Elsie. He continued to assist his inventor son. When James died, August 2, 1936 in Grand Rapids, his obituary on the front page of *The Grand Rapids Press* read, "While the son actually was the genius of the automobile that won wide fame because of its unusual merits for the time, the father checked every mechanical detail of each innovation and it was the proud boast of the company that not a single device of refinement in the production of their cars went awry. Austin was sturdy up to within a few days of his death. For many years he maintained his fame as a billiard player and enjoyed the game up to his ninetieth year."

William Jarvis Austin (1837-1919)

William Jarvis Austin was the fourth child and eldest son of Ebenezer and Anne Austin. Born January 28, 1837 in Toronto Township, Peel County, Ontario, he immigrated to Fond du Lac with his mother and siblings as a teenager. William had a very close relationship with his father, just as his brother James had with his son Walter. The Brigham & Co.'s 1857-58 Fond du Lac City Directory listed Ebenezer as a Wagoner and Wm. J. as an Engineer. Later, William and Ebenezer became proprietors of two flour mills, one in Calumet, Fond du Lac County, and one in Hortonville, Outagamie County. It's unknown if William received any formal training, but through the 1880 census, he listed his profession as an engineer while he and his father owned and operated a flour mill. Unlike his two brothers, William never served in the military.



William married Permelia Josephine Boynton on June 22, 1864 at Taycheedah, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. "Millie" Boynton was born at Denmark, Lewis County, New York in June 1844. The Boyntons had a long New England heritage extending back to the late 1630s at Rowley, Massachusetts. Her great grandfather was a soldier during the Revolutionary

War. The marriage of William and Permelia produced four daughters, Florence, Emma, Mabel, and Edna.

During 1875 while at Hortonville, William, like his inventor brother, applied for and was granted a patent for new and useful improvements in Condensing Feed-Water Heating and Filtering Apparatus for Steam Boilers. Another patent in 1877 refined and improved his feed-water heater and filter patent to provide this same technology for steam locomotives and engines. In 1878, William Austin was issued another patent that made further refinements of his improved feed-water heater and filter design. Additional patents were issued to William in 1891 and 1892.

[Ebenezer and Anne made their home in Fond du Lac City until the death of Ebenezer May 24, 1888. Anne apparently died while making a trip to see her daughter at Forest, Ontario. She died at Forest on April 6, 1890, her body returned to Fond du Lac, and she was buried beside her husband at Rienzi Cemetery.]

The William Austin family moved to Milwaukee in 1892, after the death of William's parents.

William's inventive pursuits continued during the 1890s from his home in Milwaukee. Beginning in November 1897, he was issued several different patents that focused on new and improved methods of joining railroad rails.

A December 20, 1897 Milwaukee newspaper article announced:

"A New Rail Joint and Welding Company is formed in Milwaukee — The Milwaukee Rail Joint and Welding Company is the name of a new organization which is about ready to go into the rail-joining business, a business out of which one concern in this city has made a great deal of money. The new company, which was incorporated in October with a capital stock of \$20,000, controls what is known as the Austin patent, and as soon as the weather will permit it will begin work on a contract for the Milwaukee Street Railway Company. It is said that the joint made under the Austin process is superior to joints made by any other process. Supt. Lyn of the street railway company is interested in the enterprise and so is E. E. Warner."

"In other processes it is said reliance is placed upon the welding metal to hold the ends of the rails secure, but in this fish-plates are imbedded in the welding metal to increase the strength of the joint. The plates, it is claimed, bring the ends of the rails together so that the tops of the rail are exactly level and when the welding fluid is poured around them they cannot move and a very smooth joint is made. The patent is the invention of W. J. Austin, an inventor who resides at 152 Fifteenth Street. It is understood that the stock is all held by Milwaukee people and some very prominent men are said to be behind the enterprise."

On March 8, 1898, William assigned his patent to the Milwaukee Rail Joint and Welding Company. Three additional patents were issued for the Austin rail-joint.

During the later years of William's life, his physical condition and overall health deteriorated. On February 22, 1900 William fell outside Chicago's Calumet Electric Street Railway Power house. He fell on scattered, icy bricks beside the company's outside furnace while superintending work being completed at the foundry. He returned home to Milwaukee, but by the afternoon of February 23rd he was paralyzed below the neck. He remained paralyzed for several months and was

taken to the Riverside Sanitarium. Five doctors had been called and consulted, but none of them had an explanation for such a case. In August William returned home only somewhat improved; for years he remained an invalid. Permelia and Emma provided for his care at home and the Austin daughters worked to support the family. It wasn't until 1917 that he had improved enough to walk several blocks from home. The paralysis had taken its toll, however, and William Jarvis Austin died December 2, 1919 at the age of 82. His wife Permelia died June 25, 1921 at their home in Milwaukee. William and Permelia are buried at the Austin Family Plot at Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac.

William Jarvis, James Ebenezer, and John Thomas Austin made new lives in Wisconsin. John fought and died for the preservation of the Union. James fought for the Union and became a successful inventor and entrepreneur. William, like his brother James, honed his skills as an engineer and became a successful inventor and businessman. Their descendants are few, but their rich heritage provides a great foundation for future generations.

Editor's Note:

Walter Hartung is the compiler for AFAOA's *Solomon & John Austin of North Carolina* database. He is a great grandson of William Jarvis Austin.

Part I of *From Canada to America* can be found in the November 2011 issue of the *Newsletter*.

Austin-Austen DNA Project

I have been busy over the last couple of months, thanks in part to Family Tree DNA's Christmas sale and our last Newsletter. Although Family Tree DNA runs some sales during the year, they are usually not announced ahead of time and only last for a short period. The Project Administrator is notified and the test must be ordered and paid for during that time period.

This year they announced the Christmas Sale in mid November and it ran to the end of December, so I had enough time to e-mail the people in the project (test upgrades were included in the sale) and put a notice about the sale in the Newsletter. We ended up with 16 new tests or test upgrades and the results are still coming in. Continue to check the test result chart on our website.

If you think that you might like to participate in a future sale let me know, and be sure that I have your current e-mail address. I will notify you as soon as I find out about a sale.

I am continuing to encourage those already in the project to extend their testing to 111 markers, especially those Rhode Island families in Haplogroup J2. Please contact me if you are interested or if you have any questions about the project.

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

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

Save these dates!

October 12—14, 2012

Plan to attend the annual

Austin Families Convention

To be held in

Williamsburg, Virginia



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Austin Newsletter
in FULL COLOR

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