



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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Horace and Mary Austin Holley

By Mary Kathleen "Kathi" Trask

Mary Phelps Austin Holley (October 30, 1784 — August 2, 1846) was an advocate of Texas independence and statehood. Her history of Texas was the first to be written in English. Her diaries and sketches are valuable resources for students of early Texas.

Her husband, Horace Holley (February 13, 1781 — July 31, 1827), was a Unitarian minister, a popular orator and President of the University of Transylvania in Lexington, Kentucky.

Mary Austin was born in New Haven, Connecticut to Elijah and Esther (Phelps) Austin. Her father was a shipping merchant and one of the first Americans to open trade with China in the port of Canton. Mary's childhood was a happy one. She treasured memories of attending Trinity Episcopal Church. According to her biographer, Rebecca Lee, "She cheerfully believed that the Austins and the Phelps and all other good people would go to heaven when they died." She held to

this belief throughout her life. Although she became a Unitarian as an adult, all her life she occasionally enjoyed worship at an Episcopal Church.

In 1794, when her father died of yellow fever, the Austins lost their home. Mary went to live with her uncle, Timothy Phelps, another New Haven merchant. Under Phelps's care she went to good schools, took music and dancing lessons and developed talents in writing and art.

Horace began to court Mary Austin when he was a law student by serenading with the Yale College Corps at her window. He practiced law in New York for less than a year, and then returned to Yale to study for the ministry. As soon as Horace graduated and was licensed to preach by the North Haven Association, he and Mary were married, on New Years Day, 1805, at Timothy Phelps's home.



From 1805–08 Horace served the Congregational Church in Greenfield Hill, Connecticut. By 1808, when he accepted a call from the Hollis Street Congregational Church in Boston, he was a Unitarian. The years in Boston were good ones for the Holleys. Horace's oratory made him a popular speaker. He served on numerous committees and boards. He made acquaintance with other prominent men, including John and John Quincy Adams. Mary, busy with the

care of their daughter Harriette (born in 1808), also made many friends. She enjoyed Boston's spirit of religious tolerance and thrived on intellectual discussions.

In 1818 Horace was offered the presidency of the small and struggling Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, though some of the more religiously conservative trustees opposed him. He returned to Boston to fetch Mary, Harriette and their infant son Horace (born in 1818).

Transylvania University thrived under Horace Holley's leadership. He re-organized the university and enrollment grew. A law school, a medical school, a gymnasium and an art gallery were built and a substantial library developed. Despite Holley's successes, conservatives on the board were not pleased with his religious views and his Federalist politics. His fiscal management of the university and the alleged extravagance of the

continued on page 5



NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest
Austin Ancestors

Welcome!

Baxter C. Austin, Jr.,
6608 Hyde Grove Ave., Jacksonville, FL
32210; *William Wilson b. 1680 Ireland*

Frank C. Austin,
6750 17 Mile Road, Cedar Springs, MI
49319; *Jason Lee b. 1800 CT, Almeron
b. 1818 NY; Frank M. b. 1859 Kent Co.,
MI; Beryl W. b. 1907 Kent Co., MI*

Frederick H. Austin,
404 Henderson Ct., Suffolk, VA 23434;
*Richard d. 1812 Gates Co NC; John
b. 1805 VA; Uriah b. 1830 Nansemond
Co., VA; James R. b. 1854 VA*

H. Brent Austin,
9 Long Timbers Trail, Houston, TX
77024; *Tobe; Jack*

John D. Austin,
47 Sunnyside East, Queensbury, NY
12804; *Robert of Rhode Island b.~1635
England; Edward b. RI; John; John*

Norman Wade Austin,
1801 NE 201st Ave., B2, Fairview, OR
97024; *John of New Haven CT Ben-
jamin B. b. 1827 New Haven*

Richard Stephen Austin;
4848 27th Street North, Arlington, VA
22207; *John of New Haven, CT; John b.
1677 New Haven, CT; Joshua b. 1708
Wallingford, CT; Joel b. 1747*

Ronald Bruce Austin,
1511 Hidden Hills Circle, Kingwood, TX
77339; *John b. ca. 1693 Kent, England,
to Lunenburg, VA.*

Terry Hamilton Austin,
304 S. Oklahoma Ave., Shawnee, OK
74801; *John b. 1820 TN; John Richard b.
1844 Walker Co., AL*

William B. Austin,
12 Queen Anne Lane, Hingham, MA
02043; *Alexander b. 1755 Co. Antrim,
Ireland, d. 1826 in, Laurens Co., SC*

Carol Austin Bournstein,
6712 Cardinal Dr., Waterloo, IL 62298;
*William b. 1660 MD; William b. 1690 MD;
William b.~1710 MD; William b. 1738 NC*

Carol Tillman Bullins,
1870 NC Hwy 49 S, Asheboro, NC
27205; *William b.~1700 Ireland; Charles
b. 1726 Ireland; James Allen b. 1764 Ire-
land; Aaron b. 1804 Anson Co. NC*

William Lee Carbrey,
P.O. Box 5017, Georgetown, TX 78627;
*Jacob b.~ 1781; Tillm b. 1821 Stanley
Co., NC; Henry b. 1847 NC; Wm.
Hartwell b. 1867 Carroll Co., MS*

Baker G. Clay,
1592 Lancaster Green, Annapolis, MD
21401; *William of Franklin Co., VA;
David b. 1766-1771 VA; Jane b.~1805
Russell Co., VA*

John Clinard
153 Chuniloti Way, Loudon, TN 37774;
*Archibald b. 1767 Pittsylvania, VA; Clisbe
b. 1802 TN; Clisbe Jr. b. 1897 TN*

Tom Cole
790 El Paso Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952;
*Nathaniel b. 1730 Bristol Co., MA;
Nathaniel b. 1760 MA; Edmund b.~1790
Windham Co., VT; Sarah Ann b.~1822
VT*

Sharon Barden Garber
15201 Gamecock Rd., Midlothian, VA
23112; *James Henry b. ~1840 NY*

Margie Austin Gentry
2796 Etoile Rd., Glasgow, KY 42141;
*John b. ~1800 NC or SC; John b.~ 1830
TN, John Henry b. 1861 Macon Co., TN*

Gloria Strickland Knittle
8299 State Highway 76, Exeter, MO
65647; *Robert b. England 1680; John b.
England - to VA 1701*

Charlene Lansberry
4303 General Kearny Court, Chantilly,
VA 20151; *Jas. A; Bessie Jane b. 1890
KY*

Martha P. Luallen, 1944 Guthrie Rd,
Bedford, IN 47421; *John b. 1755 in Albe-
marle Co. VA; Jonas R. b. 1782 VA; John
L. b. 1809 Casey Co. KY; Isaac Bill b.
1831 KY; Mary Martha b. 1882 KY*

Darrell L. Lucas
120 Las Olas Dr, Belleville, IL 62221;
*Joseph b. 1616 England; Thomas
b.~1656 Dover, Strafford, NH; Nathaniel
b. 1687 NH; Andrew b. 1733 NH;
Nathaniel b. 1760 Berwick, York, ME*

Nancy Austin McCoy
93340 Hwy 206; Wasco, OR 97065;
*Leroy b. 1814 TN; Robert Joseph b.
1847 Tippah Co., MS; William Claude b.
1880 Nashville, Howard Co., AR*

Judi Purcell
800 Ft. Pickens Rd, #1201, Pensacola
Beach, FL 32561; *Francis b. 1668 Kent,
Eng.; Amos b.~1708 Evesham, Burling-
ton Co., NJ; Caleb b. 1739 NJ; Josiah b.
1761 NJ; Caleb b. 1810 NJ; Mary Eliz.
b. 1840*

Mary Carol Austin Sather
7744 County Road 2, Fort Ripley, MN
56449

Alexander Charles Sutherland
56 Tabey Court, Pittsford, NY 14534;
*John of New Haven, CT; John b. 1677
CT; Joshua b. 1708 CT; Joshua b. 1736
CT; Moses b. 1768 CT*

Ann D. Tuohy
1926 Grand Ave # 101, Everett, WA
98201; *Steven Decatur b. 1818 Maine*

Vicki Vipond
429 Eldridge Ave. West, Roseville, MN
55113; *John b. 1758 RI; Phineas Herrick
b. 1790 VT; Charlotte Amelia (Vipond) b.
1824 VT or Canada*

Jacqueline H. Webster
9264 Grossmont Blvd., La Mesa, CA
91941; *William Austen (m. Elizabeth
Hales) of Heronden & Tenterden, Kent,
England*

Patsy Austin Whalon
2210 Holden Drive, Anderson, IN 46012;
*John b. ~1821 TN; John Richard b. 1844
MS; William Walter b. 1881 Yalobusha
Co., MS*

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

**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**

We had a great time in Salt Lake City! Good weather, good food, good research, good speakers and good friends. We arrived early and stayed for a couple of days after, but still didn't finish at the library... Convention pictures will be posted on the AFAOA web site. Take a look.

The news of the death of Bill Minnick, our guiding light in presenting information on the web, came as a shock. Thanks to Charles Ward Austin for assuming the remainder of Bill's term as Vice President.

A decision to be made soon is the choice of location for next year's convention. Fort Wayne is a wonderful research site. Rhode Island is a hotbed of early Austins, Robert being the largest line but, as mentioned in the previous newsletter, there are at least nine other Austin lines with roots there. Williamsburg offers immersion in Colonial history and opportunities for research in early Virginia genealogy. If you think you may be interested in attending please vote! Also, please note that the ballot includes a space for time-of-year preference, either the summer or fall. If the timing is important to you, let us know.

I am reading Rebecca Smith Lee's biography of Mary Austin Holley, subject of our front page story. It is a wonderful commentary, with a personal touch, on life in Connecticut, Louisiana, Kentucky and Texas in the early 1800's - from whalers and China traders, to lawyers and ministers, to Austin pioneers in Missouri and Texas — a real window on history. Thanks to Kathi Trask for that story, and to Joy Anita Shaw for her contribution.

Also, thanks to Art Sikes and his volunteers for their work on the New York 1855 Census project, and to Art for his efforts on the DNA project. See his updates in this issue, and the beautifully presented DNA results on the web site.

Work is going on behind-the-scenes at AFAOA, as we try to assimilate and present the data from AFGS on our website. Jim Carlin and the Web Team have quite a challenge making the newly received information available on-line in a manner that we can afford. Many thanks!!

Welcome to our new members, many transferring from AFGS. We hope that you will be active, working with us to advance Austin research and connect Austin families.

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President

IN MEMORY OF



William Arthur Minnick

Bill Minnick passed away on June 24, 2011 from complications of esophageal cancer. Bill was born July 26, 1940 in Brattleboro, Vermont. He earned a BSEE at Norwich University and enjoyed a long career in computer engineering with Applied Technology, Litton, Production Automation and Schlumberger, earning several patents and designing the camera equipment used on NASA voyages to Mars and Jupiter. He was a 40-year resident of Cupertino, California. Bill and his late wife JoAnn loved to travel. He dedicated his last years to cancer education and promoting better health through diet.

Bill is survived by two sisters, one brother, two daughters, five grandchildren and a large extended family across the country. He dedicated his last years to cancer education and promoting better health through diet.

Bill's avocation was applying computers to genealogy research and publication projects. He was the driving force in getting the Austins computerized and a pioneer in publishing those results on the Web. He established the Austin Computer Project in 1991, organizing AFAOA members with computers into an effective team to convert the Association's extensive research collection into computer database format. Bill put a high priority on documenting the sources for all information.

Seeing the potential for making the Austin databases available to everyone via the Internet, by November of 1995 Bill had worked out the technology to make the Richard Austin database available as the first American genealogy on the World Wide Web. He then worked closely with Liz and Jim Carlin to convert the computer database to book manuscript form and publish, in 1998, a formal revision of Edith Austin Moore's *The Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638*.

Bill was serving as a vice president of AFAOA, and on the website team, at the time of his death. Words cannot express how much he will be missed.

OLIVER V. AUSTIN

Professor at University of Southern Mississippi

By Joy Anita Shaw

Oliver V. Austin was born on September 25, 1890 in Ellisville, Jones Co., Mississippi. He was the oldest son of John Christian Austin and Lillian Welburn, and grandson of Josiah Austin and Jane Catherine Kinard. The family included Oliver's four sisters: Luna, Dorothy, Lillian O., and Katherine K. and one younger brother, Kinard Austin.

Oliver attended the old Ellisville High School and graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1911 where he received nine letters in football, baseball and basketball. He

completed his studies for both a BA and MA degree there. Advanced study was done at the University of Illinois and at the University of Chicago, where he lacked only his dissertation for completion of his work on a Ph.D. degree.



His teaching career started at Jones County Agricultural High School. He then continued to teach and coach at Greenwood, MS. He served in World War I. In 1921 Dr. Joe Cook, President of

Normal College in Hattiesburg (name later changed to Mississippi Southern) invited him to join the faculty. He married Ruth Sharbrough of Biloxi, MS and they had one daughter, Ruth Evelyn "Ruthlyn", born in 1929.

Mr. Austin's long career at USM started as a chemistry teacher and the Head Coach of football and basketball. In 1925 he was named Head of Dept. of Sciences. In 1943 this position combined both the Biological and Physical Science Departments, where he served until his retirement in 1955. He died Sunday, May 21, 1960 in Hattiesburg, MS and is buried at the homestead in Ellisville. Ruthlyn told me that her father enjoyed watching sports in his later years and a lifetime hobby of stamp collecting.

The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation established the Oliver V. Austin Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1970. The fund was initiated by Ruth and her husband, Dr. Lamar Moody, honoring her father's thirty-four years at USM. It was stipulated that an annual scholarship award would go to a deserving undergraduate Science Major. According to the USM Foundation the scholarships have been awarded yearly since 1970. At the time Moran Pope Jr., president of the USM Foundation was quoted as saying "In view of Mr. Austin's long and productive association with Southern, we are happy to begin this perpetual type of scholarship as a memorial to him and the services he rendered." [from articles in the *Hattiesburg America* newspaper, May 23, 1960 and 1970 (date unknown)]

Editor's Note: Joy Anita Shaw's grandfather, Sidney M. Austin, was Oliver's uncle. This family line (Oliver8, John Christian7, Josiah6, Christian Davis5, Davis4, Drury3, Bartholomew2, William1) can be found in AFAOA's "William Austin of Craven County, South Carolina" database.

New York 1855 State Census Project

A couple of years ago I put into this newsletter an article about the New York 1855 State Census. As a challenge before the Salt Lake City Austin Convention I asked the people that I knew were going if they wanted to help with the project of extracting Austin names from this Census. I got several volunteers and we accomplished a lot. This is an update on what we did.

But first a quick review of why I feel that the 1855 State Census deserves this attention:

1. Images of the 1855 NY Census are not on-line. There are several counties or towns that have extracted versions on-line or indexes for them. All the information on-line that I can find has already been added to what we know of the Austins in New York during this census period.

2. There are 3 special questions, out of the 20 questions asked, that I think makes this a really valuable census. First—the relationship to the head of the family—good for finding in-laws, parents, brothers, sisters, second marriages, etc.. This was not asked on the federal census until 1880. Second—the place where this person was born, list the county if within New York State. This question was not asked on any of the federal census released so far. New York didn't mandate vital records state-wide until 1890, so finding where people were born at this time in New York can be a challenge. Third - how long have you lived in this town/city? Using this, and the place each family member was born, is a good way to see the migration of the family across New York State.

I had collected 106 Austin family records, or families with Austins included, from on-line records and just a little bit of microfilm work I did in Boston and Fort Wayne. Thanks to the help of Charlie Austin, Carol Austin, Jim Carlin, Bonnie Bigolin, Kathi Koble, Lois Cody, and Joy Davis we now have 251 family records from the NY 1855 State Census. The results of this project will be put on our web site for all to use. If there is a county that you would like to look at I can sent it to you as an e-mail attachment.

If you have access to these microfilm records (LDS Libraries, Salt Lake City, Fort Wayne's Allen Co. Library, NEHGS Library in Boston, New York City Library, New York State Library, & Newberry Library in Chicago) and want to add some more data to this project, let me know and I can tell you what counties still need work.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.



Horace and Mary Austin Holley, continued from page 1

Holleys' social life were also under scrutiny. In 1827, having lost the support of the Governor of Kentucky, he resigned.

The Holleys moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where Horace hoped to establish an academy for the sons of Louisiana planters. Discouraged and miserable in the humid climate of New Orleans, Horace and Mary booked a vacation trip to New York on the ship *Louisiana*. On shipboard they both contracted yellow fever. While Mary was burning with fever and unaware of her surroundings, Horace died and was buried at sea.

The widowed Mary Holley had to find a way to support herself and her son. She wrote and had published a book about her late husband. For a time she worked as governess for the wealthy Hermogene- Labranche family in New Orleans and then, for the rest of her life, traveled between New England, New Orleans, Kentucky and the Austin Colony in Texas, a project started by her uncle, Moses Austin. Her brother, Henry Austin, and his family had gone to Texas to join their cousin Stephen F. Austin, often since referred to as "The Father of Texas". Mary and Stephen became friends and correspondents who wrote each other long letters while they were apart. His untimely death in 1836 was a great grief for her.

During her visits to Texas Holley kept diaries and made intricate sketches. She published *Texas: Observations, Historical, Geographical, and Descriptive*, 1833, revised and expanded as *Texas*, 1836. The first edition is credited with attracting new settlers to Texas. Her diary was also published as: *The Texas Diary, 1835-1838*.

Mary promoted the independence of Texas from Mexico and Texas statehood. Women met in her home in Kentucky to sew for the soldiers serving "the cause" in Texas. Her poem, "The Plea of Texas," 1844, was published in many newspapers.



Besides being an author and artist, Mary was very musical. She learned to play the piano at a young age on her aunt's rosewood piano. She also played the guitar and carried it with her as she traveled and moved about the country. Mary had a lovely silhouette made of herself and her guitar. She also wrote music. Her song, *Brazo's Boat Glee*, was published by Wilhelm Lucho in Kentucky and performed in Lexington.

In 1845 Mary decided to return to her teaching. In New Orleans she lived with the family of a former pupil and tutored her young children. In 1846 Mary died of yellow fever, like her father and her husband, and was laid to rest in the St. Louis Cemetery in New Orleans.

Much of the information for this article came from: *Mary Austin Holley: A Biography*; Rebecca Smith Lee; University Press of Texas; First paperback edition.

Portrait and silhouette courtesy of the Brazoria County Historical Museum.

Editor's Note: Mary Phelps Austin Holley is a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts (Mary⁶, Elijah⁵, Elias⁴, Richard³, Anthony², Richard¹).

Kathi Trask retired from the Clovis, New Mexico Municipal Schools in 2001 after teaching kindergarten for thirty years. She then worked as an aide and substitute in the Portales, New Mexico Schools for several more years. Kathi is very interested in genealogy and was honored to find that Horace and Mary Holley were among her ancestors. Horace Brand Hening, Kathi's paternal grandfather, inherited his great-great grandmother Mary Austin Holley's talent of writing and observation as well as her spirit of adventure. He came to the New Mexico territory in 1902 as a young news reporter and became Secretary of Immigration. He wrote a book and pamphlets advertising for settlement in New Mexico — much in the way Mary Holley had promoted Texas a century earlier!

Austin-Austen DNA Project

- To date we have test results on 149 Austins — now part of our Austin-Austen Profile Table.
- We have indentified 25 family groupings and 79 individual Austin family members.
- Using the results, we have joined individuals into families and grouped by Haplogroups.

The project now has a new presence on the AFAOA web-site. Go to "Austin Projects" and then to "DNA project". From this page you can see the latest test results, or Profile Table. From the DNA Project page there is also a link to the Family Tree DNA web site, to order tests or upgrades or to give money to the DNA Project Fund. Learn more about DNA testing by reading the "Frequently Asked Questions", or contact the project administrators, Art Sikes and Carol Austin, with any questions that you may have.

Some new features of the Profile Table: If the family has a presence in one of the AFAOA databases then the name of the database, with a link directly to that database, is in the column next to the test number. The Haplogroup for each test is given and the tests are grouped by Haplogroup first and then by family. Haplogroups pertain to ancestral origins dating back thousands of years.

Haplogroups can be predicted from other data or a full "Deep Clade" test (\$89) can be performed using the DNA sample already sent in. Family Tree DNA has a guarantee that if the Haplogroup is different than what they predicted then the test is free

Family Tree DNA now offers 111 marker Y-Chromosome tests, as well as upgrades to 111 markers for testing that has already been done.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

Minutes of AFAOA Business Meeting

July 24, 2011
Salt Lake City, Utah

President Gay Martin opened the meeting and welcomed the 21 members attending. The reading of the minutes of 2010 was waived since they had been posted for all to read. Beverly Sikes moved to accept the minutes. Betty Shelhamer seconded. Motion passed.

Lois Cody gave the 2010 and 2011 (year to date) treasurer's reports, which had also been posted. The total bank balance as of July 9 was \$9,996.43: General Fund \$4,787.57, Publishing Fund \$3,948.86 and Convention Fund \$1,260.00 (to be used for current convention expenses). In addition to February and May newsletter expenses of \$483.07, there was an expense of \$540 for half of the mailing to AFGS members and for transfer of AFGS materials. Jim Carlin moved to accept the report. Bonnie Bigolin seconded. Motion passed. An asset line will be added to the treasurer's report covering the unsold *Richard Austin of Charlestown* books.

Discussion was held to determine the best use of the AFGS material and how to combine it with AFAOA data. Joy Davis suggested having the paper materials professionally scanned. Jim Carlin had suggested in an earlier talk that pictures be removed from all on-line text documents which will be indexed. This would result in a reduction of yearly web costs.

Since all our new data is being put on the website, and we do not plan to publish more books, there is no longer a need for a Publishing Fund as it has been used in the past. It was decided by general agreement to use this fund for special web expenses and possibly electronic publishing in the future.

Alice Martin, membership chairman, reported that the association now has 209 members, including 17 whose dues are delinquent. They will receive one more newsletter and a final reminder.

Charles Austin sent a letter to about 250 AFGS members informing them of Dr. Michael Austin's death and that the AFGS no longer exists. Included in the mailing was information about AFAOA and an invitation to join. Complimentary membership in AFAOA until January 2012 has been extended to them and 20 applications have been received so far — 10 of those have already paid for memberships past January.

In an effort to reduce expenses, the membership will be given the opportunity to receive the quarterly Newsletter by e-mail. Those wanting paper copies will continue to receive them.

Alice and Jim still need help with the *Newsletter*. Kathi Koble volunteered to assist. Jane Bruckner has also offered to help and both will be added to the *Newsletter* team.

Liz Carlin, AFAOA genealogist, reported that 17 lines were updated in the Northern database and 5 new added. The Southern database had 26 lines updated and 1 new.

Liz listed the Genealogist's responsibilities as:

- Content & accuracy of AFAOA databases
- Basic research in support of the databases
- Response to queries, updates & corrections
- Compiler coordination and recruitment
- Maintain the Austin Library
- Continue digitization of AFAOA paper resources

The president announced that long time member and vice president Bill Minnick, died on June 24 in Cupertino, California. The Executive Board will appoint someone to serve the remaining year of Bill's term as vice president.

Location for the 2012 Austin Convention was discussed and, after several rounds of voting, Providence RI, Fort Wayne IN and Williamsburg VA were chosen as potential sites and will be submitted to the membership for a final vote by mail, email and website.

In an effort to increase future convention attendance, members will be asked, if they will not be attending the 2012 business meeting, to send in their nomination for a location in 2013.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lois Cody
Secretary/Treasurer



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Of course, if you do not use email regularly, or if you just prefer to read and save the traditional paper copy, ignore this offer and your Newsletter will be delivered as usual.

VOTE FOR THE 2012 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@afoa.org.

OR

3. Vote on-line. Go to the AFAOA web site. Select "Convention/Reunion" and follow the instructions.

Your vote must be received by September 30.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne boasts the second most complete genealogical collection in the United States, with over 350,000 printed volumes, 513,000 microfilm and microfiche items and over 50,000 compiled genealogies. The library's holdings include family histories, state, city and town histories, census records, city directories, passenger lists, military records, Native American records, records for Canada, the British Isles, Germany and other countries, periodicals and PERSI, the periodical index.

The library is back in its original location following a 3 year expansion and renovation project, which was completed in December 2006. The beautiful new building features open book stacks and includes art and exhibition galleries, a rare book room and a computing center.

This region, at the confluence of three rivers, became an important center of trade, due largely to the Wabash-Erie Canal. Fort Wayne's other attractions include: the Lincoln Museum, the Botanical Observatory, Museum of Art, Science Central, and the nearby Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum of antique and classic autos.

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, the Roger Williams Park zoo and gardens, and various art and history museums.

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Step back in time when you visit Colonial Williamsburg, which stretches over 301 acres, and includes 88 original 18th-century structures. Hundreds of houses, shops and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Walk the streets with costumed interpreters representing Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Patrick Henry as well as ordinary citizens, preachers, farmers and craftsmen. Visit the historic dining taverns and trades shops. Twenty trades are practiced with 18th-century methods and tools. Historic Jamestown and Yorktown Battlefield are only 10-15 miles from Williamsburg.

For research opportunities, the collections of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library focus on the history and culture of colonial British America, the American Revolution, and the early United States. Also in the Historic District is the College of William and Mary, chartered in 1693. The Manuscripts and Rare Books Collections of the university's Swem Library are primarily focused on Virginia history from the 17th to the 21st centuries.

While you are in the area you can also enjoy research at the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, about 50 miles away.

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



2012 Convention Site Ballot:

_____ Fort Wayne, IN
 _____ Providence, RI
 _____ Williamsburg, VA

The convention date I would prefer:

_____ July – August _____ September – October

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Preservation of Austin Families Genealogical Society Resources

With the death of Dr. Michael Austin, and the dissolution of the *Austin Families Genealogical Society*, a means for preserving all of the resource material that had been accumulating over the last 30 years had to be established. AFAOA has agreed to store this material, and to present as much of it as possible on the AFAOA web site. In doing this, there could be an impact on the AFAOA operating budget because of the cost of indexing this data, a capability that was originally provided by Dr. Austin using specialized software on his dedicated server.

In late June 2011 an AFAOA team visited the home of Patricia Austin and with her help, systematically reviewed all of the AFGS materials. Some paper and book materials were dispatched to the appropriate research person, some put aside for donation to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society and other libraries and some set aside for further review. Of the digital data copied from the AFGS computers, the following materials will be included: *Austins of America*, Vols. 1, 2, 3; *AFGS Register*, Vols. 1 & 2; the census projects; and “holdings” — documents that were found only on the web site and not in published volumes.

The cost of indexing data on the website is based on file size. To keep indexing costs from becoming unaffordable the website team is working to find ways to reduce file size without losing information — such as removing pictures and graphics and not indexing the census projects. Some of the “holdings” would be indexed; the rest would be presented as a part of a new feature being planned for the site which will list the documents, with links to each.

Discontinuing the indexing of AFAOA’s 63 descendency books is under consideration, since their content is the same as the already indexed Family Group Sheets. The feasibility of adding a place index to the Master Index is being studied.

Finally, a new type of document is being proposed to replace the classical register formatted descendency book — a document suitable for downloading and viewing on the latest technology devices, such as the iPad.

Jim Carlin
Database Chairman

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