



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

Look for us on the Web:
<http://www.afaoa.org/>

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Austins Return to Salt Lake City

Once again Salt Lake City served Austins well as the location of the 2004 National Austin Convention, which was jointly sponsored by the Austin Families Association of America and by the Austins of America Genealogical Society. The excellent research opportunities, the presentations and the camaraderie were enjoyed by all. As usual, there was a lot of activity around the computers in the meeting room.

Kevan Hansen of Salt Lake City started the presentations on Saturday by going over the resource collections at the Family History Library and showing us how to get the most out of our visits to the Family History Library.

Arthur Sikes spoke on up-state New York genealogical research. Dr. Michael Austin explained the Austin-Austen DNA Project. Liz Carlin updated us on progress in Austin research in the southern states.

On Saturday evening many of the attendees boarded the Salt Lake City transit authority light rail and took the train ride to the Old Salt City Jail restaurant. We enjoyed a fantastic dinner while sitting behind bars in our own private jail cell. The Sheriff enjoyed visiting and thought we had behaved so well that he unlocked our jail cell to let us out so we could continue with our Austin convention in the morning.

The Sunday sessions began with Jim Carlin's presentation on the importance of adding documentation to your Austin research. Carol Austin talked about searching census records on-line and the web sites she finds most helpful.

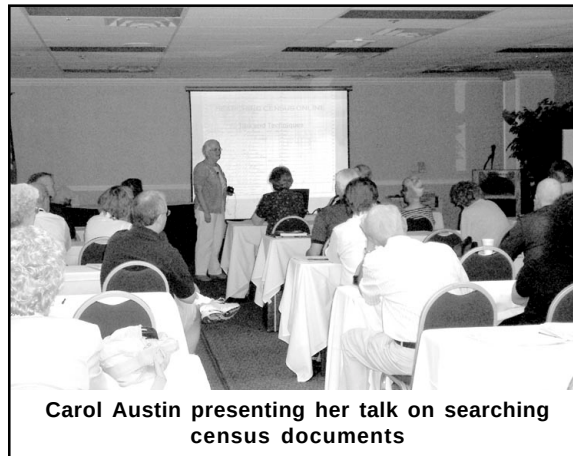
Joe Austin told us about the 2005 Highland Games to be held April 15-17, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and encouraged Austins to attend and boost the Clan Keith presence. Hal Steiner kept us spellbound with his presentation, "Murder and Genealogy".

The featured banquet speaker was Jessie Dell Clawson of the International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Salt Lake City, Utah, who gave a talk on the settlement of the Salt Lake City area and the western routes used by the pioneers.

Dr. Michael Austin, AOAGS Director, then presented the 2004 Austin Genealogical Research Award, also known as the "Eagle Award" to Patricia Biebuyck Austin of Concord, Massachusetts for her many years of research and work on the Austins of America publications.

* * * *

In 2005, The National Austin Convention will be in Seattle, Washington!
Watch for details here, in your Newsletter.



Carol Austin presenting her talk on searching census documents



The Sheriff joining in with Art Sikes (l) and Hal Steiner (c) to help us better "serve" our time.

<http://www.afaoa.org>

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Barbara J. Austin (Mrs. Neil G.)
5024 W. Belmont Ave., Glendale, AZ
85301. baustin65@excite.com
[Barbara:] *Robert Austin b. ~1830
Belfast N. IRE ; [Neil:] James Austin
II b. ~1836 Devon, ENG.*

Donna M. Austin (Mrs. L. Scot)
22283 DeAnza Circle N., Cupertino, CA
95015. [Scot:] *John b. 1647 New
London CT, Thomas b. 1653 Stamford
CT, Jonathan b. 1685 Stamford CT.*

Jack Lee Austin
9824 Gardenia Court, El Paso, TX
79925. jaustin928@aol.com
*Robert b. ~ 1638 Kingston RI; Edward
E. b. ~ 1667 Kingston RI; Edward Jr.
b. ~ 1690 Kingston RI.*

James J. Austin
7011 Blue Jay Drive, Wisconsin
Rapids, WI 54494-9021
rjt-timr@tznet.com *Stephen marr.
1801 Newport VT; David b. ~ 1805
Patton, Brome Co., Quebec; John b.
~ 1839 Patton, Quebec, Canada.*

Roger Brian Austin
New Barn, East Mill Lane, Sherborne,
Dorset, DT93DP, UK.
r.b.austin@dial.pipex.com
Thomas b. 1727 Barbados.

Mary F. Briggs, 1673 Andrew Place,
Traverse City, MI 49686
embriggs2@aol.com *Samuel b. 1669
Boston, MA; Jacob b. 1751 Methuen,
MA; Horave b. 1827 Parkman, ME.*

Mary K. Copeland
P.O. Box 460, Crawfordville, FL 32326-
0460. *John b. ~ 1758 ENG; Nelson F.
b. ~ 1790 MD? ; Joseph b. ~ 1822 IN.*

Janet Marie Eads-Williams
40572 Addie Gee Rd., Hempstead, TX
77445. tomnikyjan@aol.com
*George W. b. 1833 KY, Henry S. b.
1836 Lincoln Co. KY, Alonzo b. 1882.*

James Bradley Klein
18034 Berry Branch, Houston, TX
77084. jim-ruth@houston.rr.com
*Richard b. 1598 ENG, Anthony b. 1636
ENG, Richard b. 1666 Rowley MA.*

Mary McMillan; 629 N. Austin Rd.,
Manteca, CA 95336;
nu4mum@softcom.net
Mary b. 1822 New York

Beverly Sikes (Mrs. Arthur, Jr.)
1175 River Blvd., Suffield, CT 06078
artsikes@aol.com [Arthur:] *Richard b.
1598 ENG, Anthony b. 1636 England,
Nathaniel b. 1678 Suffield MA.*

Amy Telthorst Weisser
4342 Brantleigh Hts. Ct., St. Louis, MO
63128-1832 bitey77@charter.net
Richard, b. 1598 ENG, Anthony b. 1636
ENG, Richard b. 1666 Rowley MA.

New Dues Rate

A new membership dues rate was approved at the 2004 business meeting. Now you can renew your membership for two years for only \$25. The one year rate remains \$15. Which ever term you choose, thanks for continuing your support!

Address Changes

If your address has changed, or is about to change, please notify the membership chairman. Send changes to: Alice Austin Martin, 545 Front Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564; or send changes by e-mail to:

2004 "Eagle Award" Presented to Patricia Austin



Patricia Austin (center) is flanked by past "Eagle Award" recipients.
(l to r) Hal Steiner, Liz & Jim Carlin, Bonnie Bigolin, Gay Martin and Dr. Roger Austin



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2004 Austin Convention in Salt Lake City was a great success! Forty-six people registered for the convention, with a few additional attending the Sunday evening banquet. I want to thank all of the speakers for doing a great job. Their talks were very well attended in spite of the attraction of the Family History Library next door! We were all pleased to have the opportunity to use this wonderful research facility, as well as to renew and to make new friendships with other Austins.

One of the exciting things we did at the Convention was review the status of Austin DNA research. Mike Austin brought us up to date on the joint Austin-Austen DNA Project and discussed the future direction of the project. At the AFAOA annual meeting we voted to transfer \$750 from the general fund to a special Austin DNA fund and agreed to pay for at least four new tests, two each on two additional Austin family lines. Hopefully the tests will confirm that the two Austin males are from the same family line and that we have established a good DNA profile for that line.

As we have already found out, every test does not come back with the results we expect and additional tests may be needed. We now have profiles for the three largest Austin family groups – Richard of Charlestown MA, Robert of Kingstown RI and Samuel of Boston MA - and these next four tests would be on the next two largest groups – John of Southside VA and William & Ruth of NC. Direct male descendants of any Austin line can pay for their own testing, in order to compare the results to the existing profiles or to help establish the a profile for a different family line.

We have a new Web Master, Sue Osborn of Napa, California. Sue and the other AFAOA members involved with the site have been exploring new ideas and you will be seeing some changes to the site in the near future, so check in often.

We are still seeking a *Newsletter* Editor. This issue of the Newsletter will be put together by temporary volunteers. Although the Newsletter is always the result of a group effort, we need one person to take on the responsibility of maintaining timelines and quality, to make sure that everything happens as it should and that we have input from as many members as possible.

Others help with writing articles, proofreading, layout, printing and mailing. We always encourage and welcome articles written by our members with stories on their Austin ancestors, new and better ways to do Austin Research, or just interesting information about Austins. Jim Carlin, our superb past Editor, will be available to guide the new Editor through the procedure. Volunteers, please contact me.

Art Sikes, Jr.

AUSTIN-AUSTEN DNA PROJECT

Carol Robinson Austin has agreed to be the Fund Coordinator for the jointly sponsored Austin-Austen DNA Project. She will set up and manage a special bank account to handle Project funds. Both **Austin Families Association of America** and **Austins of America Genealogical Society** will send their contributions to Carol, who will contact donors for the lines to be tested, according to agreed-on guidelines, and order the tests. She will receive help from the AFAOA and AOAGS genealogists in selecting DNA donors.

Individuals who want to contribute to the project, so that more tests may be funded, should send their checks, to: Carol R. Austin, 9726 Mirage Circle, Garden Grove, CA 92844. Checks should be made out to "Carol R. Austin", with "Austin-Austen DNA Project" on the memo line.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Austin-Austen DNA Project and pay for his own test (currently \$171) is invited to visit the www.FamilyTreeDNA.com web site. After searching for the Austin surname, simply submit the Join Request form. Please note that Y-DNA is passed only from fathers to sons, and not to daughters, so the DNA donor must be an Austin male. If you are not an Austin male you must locate a related Austin male to provide the actual DNA samples.

Oral History Versus DNA

Many families probably have a story about three brothers crossing the ocean in which one dies at sea and at least one of the other two become the progenitors of the family tree in America. My family told and retold the same story at family reunions and embellished the tale with remembrances of previous conversations with family patriarchs and matriarchs.

Our family legend began with my g-g-grandfather, Benjamin B. Austin, who settled in Missouri and, according to the family oral history, came from Ireland with two brothers, one of whom died at sea. Because Benjamin's oldest daughter was born c. 1854, it seemed logical that the brothers may have emigrated to the United States because of the potato famine in Ireland. However, we could never make a connection with a ship's passenger list or other source documents.

We did find Benjamin in the 1860 Census (listed as B. B. Austin) with his wife, his first three children and his younger brother Henry. One of the interesting pieces of information from the Census is that both Benjamin's (B. B.) and Henry's place of birth is given as Connecticut. But oral history dies hard. We concluded they only said they were from Connecticut because they didn't want to admit they were from Ireland. We told ourselves the same thing each time we found one of the children in a later Census in which they listed place of birth of the father as Connecticut.

About November of 2003, I told my cousin Terisa Edwards about the AFAOA web site. She did what I had not done. She searched the site for Benjamin Austin and found him. She read the notes referencing Edith Austin Moore's notes and noticed the 1860 Census reference. Now what? Could this really be

Please see "Oral History" on page 5

Genealogy on eBay?

Perhaps you remember the article on eBay that appeared in the last Newsletter. Good! You remember that I had passed along a suggestion made previously in an article by Michael Leclerc in NEHGR's magazine *The New England Ancestors*, Holiday 2003, issue. It made us aware of the fact that eBay was a good source to obtain materials that you could use in your genealogical research, or, even better, purchase mementos of your ancestors and the places they lived. Research materials include family Bibles, records, handwritten and published genealogies, manuscripts, local histories, etc. They're all there, offered by someone who just cleaned out the attic or bought a box of papers at a yard sale. Your task is to find the ones that are relevant to you.

OK, step one was jogging your memory. Step two is to visit the eBay web site <http://www.ebay.com> and browse. You will reach the home page where you'll see a colorful page with links and buttons with which to navigate the site. Across the very top you'll see the links: **Home** which is where you are now; **Pay** where you go to pay for what you bid on; **Register** not required to browse but which you must do to bid or buy; **Sign In** which you do once registered; **Services** - assistance provided by e-Bay to buyers, sellers and bidders; **Site Map** which tells you the contents of the site you are visiting; and **Help**.

Below these links are buttons: **Browse** which allows you to browse any one of 24 different major categories (linked down the right hand side); **Search** which allows you to search for specific items within these categories; **Sell** which allows you to list any items that you want to sell; **My eBay** which allows you to customize eBay's site for your interests, allows automatic searches of eBay offerings based on certain keywords, and eliminates those items in which you are not interested; **Community** where you can communicate with other eBay-ers, get latest announcements, etc.

There are links to the four specialty sites at the upper right: **eBay Motors** for various vehicles in whole or in part, **eBay Stores** for general merchandise, **Half-Zone** for books, movies, music and video games, and an eBay facility called **PayPal** which serves as the eBay bank providing secure credit card transactions for the buyer and the seller.

The two most complicated tasks for an eBay-er are performing efficient searches, and adopting proper bid strategies. A basic search for the word "genealogy," across all categories generated 2,584 entries. The first was a package of 299 microfiche of the IGI for Yorkshire, England (£60 or about US\$109.33). Leclerc recommends that you further define your search by adding "handwritten," "family Bible," "account book," etc. But, you have to think ahead, since "family record" also returns items such as music albums.

eBay **Smart Search** allows you to further restrict your search criteria. Searching for "Austin, but not Texas" in all categories produced 6,539 entries which were displayed 50 to a page for 131 pages, and which consisted of Austin Powers, Austin Healy motor cars, and more. Restricting the search to the category "Collectables" reduced the number of hits to 451 items, one of which was an Austin MG paint chip display with 12 different colored chips for \$1.99 - something I've always



*AUSTIN QUERIES - Please send all new queries to the following addresses. In responding to any of the following queries, please write directly to the submitter, **also sending copies to:***

Jan Austin Untener (Northern Austins)
4601 Eastwood Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Liz Austin Carlin (Southern Austins)
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304-3004

Q14 - 2,1 Emily Miller - Miller_Emily@bah.com. My grandfather just passed away before we could finish solving his family mysteries! His grandfather was Edward Austin, b. in Chittenango, NY in October of 1861. He had a brother J. Wesley Austin, a brother Charlie (Michigan) and a sister Nellie Austin Grimm (Michigan). Another possible brother is David. His parents are unknown, but there was an Uncle William and Aunt Josephine from Manlius, NY. Edward d. in Cheboygan, MI but I think he is buried in Detroit along with his family. I cannot find any more information on this group.

wanted.

To bid on an item that you are interested in, you click on the **place bid** button, and you'll be prompted to enter your maximum bid. eBay will then place the appropriate lowest bid on your behalf, and will automatically increase your bid to prevent you from being outbid until your maximum is reached. If your maximum is outbid, you must enter a new maximum bid to stay in the auction.

Since all auctions have a time limit, after which the item is sold to the highest bidder, eBay will e-mail you once you have been outbid, so it is wise to monitor the auction, especially as the bidding times out. This is very important since there are bidders who swoop in at the last moments of the auction and outbid the unwary previously high bidder.

The only other thing to watch out for is the likelihood of becoming an eBay addict. I know of no support groups established as yet, but click on the **Community** button, and stay tuned. Genealogists are already known addicts, so the tendency is there. Be careful!

Now excuse me, I've got to go and bid on that paint strip.

Jim Carlin

Meet our Association Officers: Vice President Bonnie Bigolin

Bonnie Lynn Austin was born in 1952 in Rock Springs, WY, the youngest child of Ira Adelbert Austin and Dondena Frances Baker. In early childhood, she lived in the community of Jamestown, three miles west of Green River, WY. The family home was on a seven-acre plot along the Green River. Here, Bonnie and her seven brothers and sisters spent many happy hours throwing rocks into the river and cooling off in the swimming hole not far from the house. Their home had a chicken coop and an old barn with a corral; horses, cattle or sheep were kept in the corral, depending on what Ira was taking to or from market.



In 1963, the family moved into the city of Green River, where Bonnie attended school and graduated in 1970. By that time, her sisters had gone off to college or married and moved away, and Bonnie believed that she should go off and see the world too. She moved to Loveland, Colorado—which seemed, to her, much farther away from Wyoming than it does today! Among her jobs was field work with North America Plant Breeders, an agricultural research company. She had the opportunity to travel to seven different states gathering research data, and she did not mind getting dirty out in the fields!

During this time, she met Ken Bigolin of Denver. After a long-distance courtship, she left Loveland and her job and moved to Denver where the couple was married in 1977. Soon Bonnie and Ken returned to Bonnie's hometown of Green River and Ken got a job with the Union Pacific Railroad. There they had two daughters, Brittany in 1979 and Brienne in 1981. Brittany, her husband and young son remain in Green River, while Brienne lives in Arizona. Bonnie and Ken own and manage some apartment buildings and business offices in downtown Green River and Bonnie also works as Assistant Manager of Electronics Boutique.

Bonnie's interest in genealogy began while watching the 1976 mini-series, "Roots." She was fascinated by the story, and immediately wrote to her father and her aunt for information about their parents and grandparents. With every answered letter or phone call, she became more excited about "this genealogy stuff." In 1978, she joined Austin Families Association of America and in 1989 she attended her first Austin Convention, in Point Pleasant, WV. The following year she traveled to the Austin convention in Suffield, CT, where Bill Minnick got everyone excited about computerizing AFAOA's wealth of Austin information, beginning the Austin Computer Project, which resulted five years later in the AFAOA web site.

Also in 1990, AFAOA genealogist Janet Austin Curtis decided to retire; and the call went out for a volunteer to fill her position. Bonnie answered the call! Serving as the AFAOA genealogist for eleven years she continued the long tradition of assisting those who were involved in Austin research. She and other volunteers entered thousands of records into the databases which today serve as the backbone of the AFAOA web site and indexed many boxes of research materials in the

AFAOA archives, a major step in making those records useful. She even found time to research her own line, John of Maine, and to create the Maine database, which contains all of the Austins that lived for a time in that state. In 1999 the Austins of America Genealogical Society presented Bonnie with the Austin Genealogical Research Award, known as the "Eagle Award", for her manuscript entitled *Some Descendants of Daniel Austin and Mary Bracket of Maine*.

During these years the scope and amount of Austin research had increased, with more work being done on Southern Austin lines. Bonnie asked for relief from some of her duties and in 1999 Liz Carlin volunteered to assist her. In 2001 Bonnie officially turned over the title of Genealogist to Liz. However in 2003 Bonnie again answered a call to AFAOA leadership and was elected a Vice President of the Association.

"Oral History," Continued from page 3.

our B.B. Austin linked to the line of John Austin of New Haven, CT.? How could we document the link? Edith Austin Moore's notebooks were cited, as well as Janet Austin Curtis' notes and the Tuttle Family book. What were their sources?

Enter the Austin-Austen DNA Project

After deciding that the DNA Project might save hundreds of hours of dead-end research, I traced the lines backwards and forwards to see if I could find a living male descendent of John Austin of New Haven. I deduced that based on the number of generations involved, there was an Austin who would be about my age and would likely still be living. I "Googled" the name and I found several addresses in California.

With nothing to lose, I called the first name on the list and asked him if he was by chance the Austin who had submitted the data to AFAOA. He said that he was indeed the one and he agreed to submit a DNA sample that I offered to pay for processing. My father also eagerly agreed to submit a sample. All that remained was to wait for the results.

In the April 2004 issue of the *Newsletter* the results were identified as pending; but soon after, the results were posted at the Austin-Austen DNA Project site. Twenty-three of the twenty-five markers matched. I still do not understand the statistical probabilities involved, but, to the best of my knowledge, there is a reasonable statistical probability that we have a common ancestor. I believe that the DNA results, together with the other research data, make a family relationship very likely. Now we can focus our evidentiary research on details more likely to bear fruit.

Lessons Learned

Oral history can provide clues, but it can also lead one far astray. The descendant trees posted at the AFAOA site were a valuable break in our family's research. Without that information and the reinforcing DNA research, my cousins and I could still be looking for a link to help us "jump the pond" because we could not abandon the oral history. The names listed by Edith Austin Moore as the children of Benjamin do not exactly match the subsequent census records, but they are close enough to be derivatives, so we persist in looking for source documentation while rejoicing in finding long lost cousins.

Wade Austin

Searching Census Online

Now that all the censuses that have been released are available online, research is much more accessible without a trip to a family history center or the National Archives. If inspiration strikes you at 4:30 in the afternoon or even 2 in the morning, all you have to do is sign on to a website that has the censuses you need, input a few things in the search screen, and there you are!

It helps, however, to know a little about what is available on each website and how to access it. This article will address the two census websites that I use the most and consider the best, Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has the most complete list of censuses, 1790 to 1930, with all years but 1900 indexed. The index search results with the exception of 1910 are linked to the images. Most years have every-name indexes, but 1920 is indexed for head of household only. Ancestry.com requires a paid subscription in order to use it. Their search engine allows use of soundex and wild cards, and you can download a small program, MrSyd, that improves the quality of the image considerably. They also have a help screen with tips for searching, and explains how the wild cards can be used.

For navigation, Ancestry.com uses the cursor that becomes a small hand to pull the image around the screen. They also have zoom tools and on some years, it is possible to switch from a positive image to a negative image by right-clicking on the mouse and selecting "invert". In order to move through the results list, you must return to the results page and select another person, a slightly cumbersome move. The images are gray-scale, giving a greater degree of accuracy than black and white images, but they are slightly more difficult to read.

Heritage Quest

Heritage Quest is free, but must be accessed through a library website that includes it on their online databases. Their indexes are only for head of household, and only the 1790-1920, 1860, 1870, and 1890-1920 censuses are indexed. No wild cards or soundex are available for census searches. Heritage Quest uses frames for navigation around the image, and allows 1x, 2x, and 4x zoom. It is also possible to switch from positive to negative images.

Their search results are shown at the top of the page, and you can easily move through the search results by clicking on "next page." The images are black and white, and are easy to read in most cases. One disadvantage of Heritage Quest is that occasionally the search "times out" and you must log into the site again.

Heritage Quest has a help screen with tips for searching as well as census maps that can be very helpful for different census years, when boundaries may have changed or new counties formed. These are accessed by going to 'browse' the Census, putting in the year and state, and then a map link shows up on the right. The maps have the current county configuration shown as an 'underlay' and how it was in the census year being looked at.

Search fields on both websites are similar but with a few differences. Both have fields for surname and first name, residence (state, county, town) and age. Ancestry.com requires an exact age, which can be difficult, so it may be necessary to search two or three times using different ages in order to cover all the possibilities. Heritage Quest allows only a 10-year age range (21-30, 31-40, etc.). Other fields may include sex, race, birthplace, and series, roll and page.

Can't Find Your Person?

If your search doesn't turn up the person you are looking for, it could be due to the census taker having missed the family or using a different spelling of the name, the indexer may have misread the name, the photographer may not have filmed that page, or the page may not have been loaded onto the web site. However, it is more likely that a search using different parameters will work.

If your person doesn't show up in the index, you may have to be creative in the items you put in the search fields. Ideally, you will get a manageable number of results, so with a common name, you would need to use many of the search fields, as opposed to an uncommon name where there may be only a few results with just the name input. There are many possibilities for searches, but here are a few of the techniques that have worked for me.

Then Try These:

- 1) Use spelling variations or soundex if available. Try the middle name, try initials or nicknames such as Wm for William, Bnj or Benj for Benjamin, Sally for Sarah, or Polly for Mary.
- 2) Try using letters that could be mistaken for another, such as u for n, H or D for A.
- 3) Switch the first and last names. Sometimes the indexer or even the census taker switched the names.
- 4) Search on the first name only, using other parameters such as birthplace and age.
- 5) Search the entire town using blank name fields; the names will be in alphabetical order in the town, and you may be able to locate your person.
- 6) If the index is for every name, search on the wife's name or a child's name. Sometimes both the husband and wife were enumerated using initials or nicknames, and locating one of the children will net you the whole family.
- 7) Try different combinations of age and birthplace.
- 8) Try a different web site in case the other indexer read the name differently.
- 9) If neither Ancestry.com nor Heritage Quest turns up your person, remember that censuses for some areas have been transcribed on USGenWeb, and the transcription may include your person.

Good luck!

Carol R. Austin

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Minutes of Business Meeting - July 11, 2004 - Salt Lake City, Utah

President Art Sikes opened the Austin Families Association meeting. Since the minutes from 2003 had been on display in the meeting room, they were not read. Betty Shelhamer moved that they be accepted. Bev Sikes seconded. Motion carried.

Art gave an update for the year. During the fall of 2003 the Executive Committee was polled on the following question. "Should AFAOA spend \$507 on DNA testing on the Richard, Robert, and Samuel lines with the AOAGS contributing an equal amount?". The vote was affirmative and testing proceeded. A merger of the Austin Families Association of America and Austins of America Genealogical Society, proposed by Dr. Michael Austin, Director of AOAGS, was discussed during the year. The final consensus was that a difference in the focus of the two organizations makes a merger at this time not feasible.

The Vice Presidents, Bonnie Bigolin and Betty Shelhamer were introduced.

The following reports were given:

Treasurer

Lois Cody, Treasurer, gave the following report for YTD 2004. The 2003 finance report had been on display during the convention.

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$9373.82
Income	1507.00
Expenses	(1699.56)
Balance - June 30, 2004	\$9182.15

Publishing Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 502.78
Income	186.46
Expenses	(47.13)
Balance - June 30, 2004	\$ 660.11

Convention Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Income	1910.00
Expenses	(195.53)
Balance - June 30, 2003	\$1714.47
<u>Total Bank Balance - June 30, 2004</u>	<u>\$11,556.73</u>

Bev Sikes moved to accept the report. Betty Shelhamer seconded. Motion passed.

Genealogists

Liz Carlin, Southern Genealogist, reported for Jan Untener, Northern Genealogist. We need people to write stories about their Austin ancestors, how they became interested in genealogy, etc. to be included in the Newsletter. Jan offered to help with re-writing them. Another idea put forth by Jan was that members living in close proximity to each other, combine efforts in searching archives and cemeteries and other projects. Liz offered to search for information at the Los Angeles Family History Center.

Membership

Alice Martin, Membership chair, reported that we have 228 paid members as of June 30. Reminder cards are sent each month and dues are being returned regularly.

Database

Jim Carlin, Database Chair, reported that databases are divided into Northern group and Southern group. Of the 16 in the northern group, 7 have been updated since August 2003. The Southern group has 17 databases, of which 10 have been updated. All four unplaced databases have been updated. Among upcoming work will be the updating of Richard of MA.

By-laws

The following proposed changes to the By-laws, published in the April and June newsletters, were discussed and voted on.

Article I - NAME - Proposed: Remove Inc. from name of organization. Motion passed.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP - Proposed: Add a new Dual membership category having two (2) votes. The motion failed.

Article IV - MEMBERSHIP DUES - Proposed: Multi-year memberships may be offered. Motion passed.

Article V Section 2 - REGIONAL MEETINGS - Proposed: That this section be deleted. Motion passed.

Article VI Section 3 - OFFICERS - Proposed: Revise to read: "With the exception of the Genealogist, no elected officer shall serve in the position for more than two (2) consecutive terms. If no other candidates for the office can be found, the term of an officer can be extended in one (1) year intervals. Add the following appointive positions: Membership Chairperson, Database Chairperson, Assistant Genealogist, and Webmaster. Motion passed

Article X - AMENDMENTS - Proposed: An amendment that allowed for voting to be done via USPS mail, or electronic mail if deemed necessary between conventions. Motion failed.

New Business

DNA Funding

President Art Sikes proposed a special fund be set up for DNA testing, with \$750 transferred from the General Fund. Samuel, Richard, and Robert lines have already been established. Two tests per line on at least two additional lines would be funded by the organization. Donors to this fund can request a certain line be tested, while the Executive Committee will make the final decision. Fully funded requests will be honored as requested. Wade Austin moved to set up the fund. Liz Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

Webmaster

Sue Osborn was appointed as Webmaster. Liz Carlin thanked Joy Davis for her work in creating the Master Index for the web site.

Newsletter Editor

Jim Carlin asked to be replaced as newsletter editor.

Membership Dues

Alice Martin made a motion to have a new category of dues set at \$25 for 2 years in addition to the current dues of \$15 for 1 year. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

At a joint meeting of AFAOA and AOAGS, Seattle, WA was selected for the site for the convention in 2005. A date will be named later.

Lois W. Cody

AFAOA Secretary - Treasurer

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" SHOULD BE SENT TO LOIS W. CODY, 336 PLEASANT HILL DR., CINCINNATI, OH 45215

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
545 Front Beach Dr.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564



Address Service Requested



Photo by Sue Olsborn

2004 National Austin Convention Attendees