



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

Look for us on the Web:

<http://www.afaoa.org/>

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2004 National Austin Convention

March is here and our National Austin Convention in July is coming up fast! Now is the time to make your plans to attend. The convention will again be sponsored by the Austin Families Association of America (AFAOA) and the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS), and it will be held in the very center of the genealogical research world - Salt Lake City, Utah.

The convention begins Friday, July 9, 2004, with registration and the gathering of old and new friends in a "Let's Get Acquainted" get together followed by the whole gang going out for dinner.

Saturday starts out bright and early with speakers and workshops scheduled the whole day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. One talk will give everyone the opportunity to learn about the facilities at the Family History Library located just around the corner from the convention hotel. Other speakers will detail their discoveries and perhaps their pitfalls in doing their Austin research.

Formal Sunday activities start at 10:00 AM, but the chance to visit with old friends and to compare notes begins when the conference room opens at 8:00 AM. We stop briefly Sunday afternoon to conduct the business meetings for both organizations. It is at this time that we will vote for the location of the 2005 convention site.

The convention will close on Sunday evening with a reception at 6:00PM, followed by the annual Austin Banquet, a keynote address, and the presentation of the 2004 Eagle award to the person who made the greatest contribution to Austin research.

As always, you will get the chance to meet many dedicated people who have been involved in genealogical research. Their contributions have established a number of databases devoted to specific Austin immigrants to this country. They are always ready to help and advise others researching their families.

You will be just a short walk from the wealth of research material at the Family History Library, one of the best genealogical research facilities in the world. Many of the attendees are planning their

travel so that their stay will overlap the convention weekend. This will provide them with time during the weekdays either preceding or following the convention to take advantage of these facilities to further their research into their Austin as well as their other family lines. Library hours are: Monday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday - Saturday 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. For additional information on the Library go to www.familysearch.org.

There are two (2) reservations required. Attendees must register for the convention, and separately reserve hotel accommodations. Register for the convention by filling out page 9 of this *Newsletter* and sending it with your check made out to "National Austin Convention" to Lois Cody. The cost for registration is \$50 per person attending the full convention, \$30 per person attending just the Sunday evening banquet. Please send your convention registration to Lois no later than July 1, 2004.

The convention will be held at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, 122 West Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah. The hotel has set aside 30 rooms for those attending "The National Austin Convention." Be sure to mention this when making your reservations. Convention attendees will receive a special per-room rate of \$79 for 1 or 2 people, \$86 for 3 or 4 people (children under 18 years of age stay free). Hotel guests pay \$3 per day for parking their car (\$5 per day for non-guests). The hotel's web site is at www.plaza-hotel.com. The reservation phone number is 1-801-521-0130; this number is a local number and will assure that you get the special rate. You might try the Best Western toll free number, 1-800-366-3684, but be sure that they recognize the special rate we are receiving.

The camaraderie among those attending the convention seems to give us all a sense of family. It makes the convention as much a reunion as a learning and research event. With attendees coming together from all parts of the world, we connect as an Austin clan.

So, get going now! Make your travel plans!
We'll see you there!

<http://www.afaoa.org>

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

---Dale Austin

PO Box 148, Prosser, WA 99350
austin659@earthlink.net
Caleb Austin b. ca. 1777 NH; John Parks Austin b. 10 Sep 1808 NY; Julius Devalson Austin b. 30 Mar 1838.

---Susan Whitworth Tait

(dau. of Maurine Whitworth)
26 Eastbourne Cir., Madison, WI 53717-1094
(no e-mail)
Christian D. Austin b. 1807 SC; David Austin; Drury Austin.

---Mary Ann Austin Harlan

1500 N. Coalter St., Apt A-2, Staunton, VA 24401-2540
mharlan@rica.net
Edward Austin b. 30 Jun 1773 RI; Henry Austin b. 23 Oct 1800 nr Hartford, NY; Daniel Henry Austin b. 17 Dec 1833, Mexico, NY; Henry Warner Austin, b. 23 Sep 1884, Mexico, NY. (Mary is the niece of Edith Austin Moore)

---Rev. Kenneth Gene Horne

PO Box 830451, Ocala, FL 34483-0451
kennethhorne@mymailstation.com
Phineas Austin b. 1700's NY; Herbert Willard Austin b. ca. 1850 NY; John Howard Austin b. 1890, d. 1972 Glen's Falls, NY; Lois Seath Austin b. 1926 Newark, NJ.

---Lois Seath Austin Horne

(mother of Kenneth Gene Horne)
1062 Island Way, Leesburg, FL 34748
lahorne@homerelay.net

---Terry L. Williams

11023 Audrain Road, #945, Thompson, MO 65285
tandkfarms@aol.com
Lloyd Austin b. 1816 PA; Edwin Carl Austin b. 1855 PA, d. 1940 Elwood, KS; Julia Agnes Austin VanBibber b. 1884 NE, d. 1972 Elwood, KS.

---Donald Gene Austin

5801 200th St. SW, #201, Lynwood, WA 98036
dfa2@msn.com
Rodman Austin b. 1767?; Raymond Austin b. 2 Feb 1789 VT; Charles Henry Austin b. 29 Oct 1823 NY.

---Everett L. Austin

16840 Rainbow Drive, Crooked River Ranch, OR 97760
evaustin@msn.com
Jason Austin b. ca 1800; Jeremiah P. Austin b. ca 1829 NY; Carlton Sage Austin b. ca 1859 MI.

---Pat Hoffman

501 Font Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94132
astropah@aol.com
John Austin b. ca 1821 TN; Bryant Austin b. ca 1850 AL; Jesse Lee Austin b. ca. 1898 MS

Faithful Members

Currently the Austin Families Association has 234 members, and 94 of those have given faithful support for 10 years or longer.

Special recognition should be given to Anna Nestler Austin of Pocatello, Idaho - a member for 32 years! Although Anna is the genealogist in the family, her husband, John, is the Austin, a descendant of Robert Austin of Rhode Island. Anna began taking genealogy classes at the age of 12 and helped her mother and grandmother in their research. She later expanded that interest to her husband's family. Anna was an AFAOA Vice President from 1997 - 2001 and now serves as the Compiler for the Robert of Rhode Island database.

Another special group of members have been with the Association for 25 years. They are:

Beverly M. Austin of Toms River, NJ
Lloyd R. Austin of Little Rock, AR
Mary C. Austin of Benicia, CA
Michael E. Austin of Concord, MA
Perry H. Austin of Orleans, VT
Bonnie A. Bigolin of Green River, WY
Carman Clark of Union, ME
Christine A. Hall of Euless, TX
Betty J. Hammer of San Antonio, TX
Margaret D. Hanna of Oklahoma City, OK
Louise A. Lines of Sterling Heights, MI
Harold A. Steiner of Las Vegas, NV
Russell A. Williams of Sparta, WA
Margaret L. Williams of Albuquerque, NM

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chair

John Austin of Monongalia Co., Virginia and West Virginia

Editor's Note: AFAOA Member Susan J. Lewis has just submitted her database to AFAOA files and has agreed to become the database compiler. She proudly announces:

"The long awaited web debut of the John Austin of Monongalia County, Virginia database is now in the web publication process, and will soon appear in Family Group Sheet format on the AFAOA web site, and in descendency book format on the Austin-Austen Research Center. This Austin line is a new addition to the AFAOA database archive.

Many thanks to Ann Hecathorn for her ceaseless efforts researching these Austins and for providing the framework of the first four generations of the family, totaling 125 persons.

John Austin was born about 1765, location uncertain but possibly New Jersey. He worked at various iron forges, moving to Franklin County, Pennsylvania where he met and married Sarah (last name uncertain, but known to be the grand daughter of Nicholas and Christina Fraley), then to Washington County, Maryland by 1800, finally settling in Monongalia County, Virginia, about 1804.

John and Sarah Austin had fifteen known children, most of whom arrived at adulthood, married, and remained in Monongalia County. John died in 1849 and Sarah in 1854 or 1855. Both are buried in Fairview Cemetery, just South of Morgantown, West Virginia, with many Austin descendants and relatives.

The 1930 US Census indicates that descendants were living in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Washington, California, Oregon, and Washington DC.

Many of the descendant lines have not been brought up to the present generations, so if you belong to a previously unlinked Austin line, make certain to check the John of Monongalia database next time you surf the Austin website. And if your family links to this particular Austin tree, please send in your family information to me for include."

Susan J. Lewis



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2004 National Austin Convention, July 9 - 11, in Salt Lake City, Utah is fast approaching. I hope many of you have set aside the time to attend the Convention, renew and build friendships with other Austins, and take advantage of the wonderful research opportunities available at the Family History Library. Planning for the Convention began last July after the 2003 National Austin Convention in Richmond, Virginia where we selected Salt Lake City as the next meeting site. The Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel has set aside a block of 30 rooms for us.

The Family History Library is prepared for our visit. On Saturday morning, July 9, we will have two speakers describing the materials and collections available to us at the FHL, and instructing (or reminding) us in the efficient use of that research facility.

The Convention agenda also includes an explanation and status report of the Austin-Austen DNA Project by Dr. Michael Austin. I will discuss the process of doing research in upstate New York. The state of New York did not require keeping records of births, marriages and deaths until 1891, so research in this area requires searching for local records and using a lot of ingenuity. I hope everyone will gain some useful tips for their own research as I describe the combination of two Austin Line databases. We will also hear a report of the changes made in our web site and the plans for its continued improvement.

I would like to have some members from our organization discuss their research projects, their newly discovered sources of "lost" ancestors, or some newly discovered source of information. I am sure many of you are doing things or have had some interesting experiences that can be helpful or provide inspiration for the rest of us. Please contact me and we can discuss your subject. Also, contact me if there is some topic that you would like addressed that would be of benefit to you and to the group.

This has been a very productive year for me - personally, as President of AFAOA, and as a researcher. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences and achievements with you and hearing about your past year. See you in Salt Lake City!

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

Editor's Note: We are starting a new series of biographies of the Austin Families Association officers. Please turn to page 6 for our president Arthur Sikes' biography.

Notice - To all Voting Members of the Austin Families Association

Current by-laws allow for the passage of amendments by a majority vote of members at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that any proposed changes be published in the *Newsletter* 30 days prior to the voting. Accordingly, the following proposed changes have been submitted for publication. Please be prepared to discuss these issues and vote upon them at the 2004 National Austin Convention (Note that exiting by-laws text appears in *italics*, text changes in **bold italics**).

Article I - NAME

Delete *Inc.*, from the name. There is no evidence that the organization was ever incorporated.

The name of this organization shall be the Austin Families Association of America, ~~Inc.~~; hereafter referred to as the Association.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Re-number Section 3 to Section 5. Add new Section 3:

Section 3: There shall be two (2) membership categories: Individual and Dual. An Individual membership shall have one vote at business meetings. A Dual membership, for an adult couple, will have two votes at business meetings if both are in attendance.

Move Article IV, Section 3 to this Article III, Section 4:

Section 4: Additional members of a family who are eighteen (18) years and older may also pay annual dues and have a vote in the Association.

Article IV - MEMBERSHIP DUES

Delete Section 2: ~~*Annual dues shall be a single fixed amount and shall be the same amount for a couple (husband and wife) as for one person. There shall be one vote per paid dues.*~~

Re-number Section 4 to Section 2 and add the following:
Multi-year memberships may also be offered.

Article V - MEETINGS

Delete Section 2: ~~*Regional Meetings. The Association shall be divided into three geographical regions; Eastern, Central and Western. Regional meetings shall be held at the discretion of the members residing in that region. A secretary shall be elected at a regional meeting and he or she shall prepare and submit a written report to the president and the secretary-treasurer for inclusion in the official records of the Association.*~~

Article VI - OFFICERS

Revise Section 3: *With the exception of the genealogist, no elected officer shall serve in the same position for more than two (2) consecutive terms. **The term of an officer can be extended in one (1) year intervals past this limit, provided that the officer stand for election and be approved by the voters at an Association convention at each occurrence.***

Revise last sentence of Section 6b: *The appointive positions shall include but not be limited to the following: auditor, by-laws chairman, chaplain, ~~data processing~~ **database** chairman, Newsletter editor, public relations chairman, parliamentarian, **membership chairperson, assistant genealogist and webmaster.***



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)
11307 Harborview Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44102

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

Q14 - 1,1 Mary Ann Austin Harlan - In her application for AFAOA membership, Mary Ann Austin Harlan listed herself as a descendant of Edward Austin, b. 30 Jun 1773 in Rhode Island. She asked if anyone had done any research in that line, in particular, establishing Edward's progenitor. Mary pointed out that although Edward had not been connected to the line of Robert Austin of Rhode Island by her aunt Edith Austin Moore, this relationship was her hypothesis.

Checking this, we find that AFAOA does connect Edward to the the Robert database, apparently with no justification. This constitutes an error in the Robert database, and further investigation of the Edward line is in progress.

Rhoda (Cable) Austin

Dead at Age 100 Years

What exactly makes an occurrence newsworthy? Sometimes an event, having nothing at all to do with the special abilities or accomplishments of the honoree, deserves notice because of the rarity with which these events occur. This was indeed the case when Mrs. Rhoda Austin, a very ordinary woman, celebrated her birthday in 1952.

Rhoda was one of ten children born to Jonathan and Catherine (Eicher) Cable of Bullskin Township, Fayette County, PA. Her father, Jonathan, was a veteran of the Civil War. Nine of the ten Cable children grew to young adulthood, six are known to have married and had children. As was common at the time, siblings had married siblings. First, Rhoda's brother John W. Cable married Caroline Honora Austin in about 1874. Caroline was widowed when John Cable died in December 1876. Rhoda married Caroline's brother Hiram Austin in about 1881.

Please see "Rhoda" on page 6

Genealogy on eBay?

It started out innocently enough. My son married his sweetheart and faced his first important marriage problem: he wanted to combine their cell phone accounts into one service provider's account rather than two separate service providers, two bills, etc. The only problem was that she still had time left on her contract, and he did not want to pay the penalty of early termination. Solution? Get his old man to assume her contract.

So I (and Liz) were now dragged, kicking and screaming, into cell phone technology, and as we later learned, the definite convenience of having this instrument available at any time we needed it (and that there was service for our location - sometimes a mutually exclusive situation). What does all this have to do with eBay, and genealogy? Hang on, I'm getting to this.

Her cell phone was this big clunker Sony job, just a bare phone and a charger for its battery. She probably carried it in her purse, but I had given up carrying a purse long ago. I wanted a nice holder thingy that would clip on my belt, just like all the other guys with their cell phones. Because the phone was so old, there was nothing available in the stores. What to do?

Enter my daughter. "I know just the thing," she said one day lusting after my cherished desktop computer, "We'll get one on eBay." Not only was I introduced into cell phone technology, but I got a crash course on eBay - searching for obscure items, entering bids, understanding time limits, etc. (all of which I've since forgotten), but the end result was that she found a nice black leather holder for my cell phone, and a charger for it that could be used in the car.

My daughter also found people who had the old 78 RPM shellac records for sale, and she bid on and bought a number of my father's records that he recorded for RCA Victor back in 1923. I have one of these framed along with some of his pictures on the wall of our entry hall. I can't play the record, but we did find a web site which has digitized the music, and now I can actually hear my Dad's music!

This wonderful experience was immediately brought back to my consciousness while I was thumbing through NEHGR's magazine *The New England Ancestors*, Holiday 2003 issue. In an article by Michael J. Leclerc, I discovered that many people have found similar items on eBay that really enhance their genealogies. Examples are old photographs. Perhaps the church where your great-great-great grandparents got married, and which may not exist anymore. How about a picture postcard of the place where your ancestors lived? Promotional items from a business that your ancestor owned or worked at help you to better visualize his or her working life.

There appears to be no limit to the materials that you can find to assist in your family research. Such items as Bible and family records, handwritten and published genealogies, manuscripts, local histories, photographs, images, souvenirs, memorabilia, all of these can be found using eBay's keyword search capability.

The mechanics of eBay? Remember, I forgot all that my daughter taught me, but fortunately, Leclerc's article goes on in great detail on how to survive an eBay experience. We will save that for an article in your next Newsletter.

Jim Carlin

Minnesota Madness

By
Wantabe A. Austin

It's minus twenty-two degrees outside. Why in the world would anyone live in a place where the temperature gets to minus twenty-two? It snowed yesterday. It snowed the day before yesterday. It snows every day. I may see grass sometime in August. Why am I here? It is because I take my position as the Assistant Associate Austin Genealogy Historian seriously. I feel it is my duty to the AFA to find out why some Austins actually moved to Minnesota. Perhaps it should be part of the next Austin DNA project: *The Search for a Madness Gene in Austins*.

I had some serious decisions to make before moving to Minnesota. Should I quit my job? That one was easy—I did not have a job to quit. What about my family? Would my wife and dog move with me? No! The dog gave a strange bark that sounded like a laugh, and then went outside to chase squirrels. Even though she is an Austin, my wife obviously was not afflicted with the madness gene. She packed my bag and wished me luck.

I decided to follow the same path that most Austins followed when heading west – Interstate 90. I-90 followed the railroad, which followed the wagon path, which followed the Indian trails. At least it seems that way, and it makes a good story. After days of driving, I finally reached my destination of Minnesota. I looked up from the road and what to my wondering eyes should appear but a sign that said, "Welcome to Austin, Minnesota!" I felt that some higher Austin power was leading my quest. All that was missing was a neat ring and a sidekick named Frodo.

Austin, Minnesota was founded on the Old Territorial Trail, so my story about I-90 might have some truth to it. What a coincidence! The town of Austin is also known as Spamtown. Mr. Hormel founded the Hormel Company here in 1892, and any connoisseur of inedible faux-food knows that the Hormel Company makes Spam. In fact, there is a Spam Museum in Austin. A future article may tell the story of this odd piece of American history. Austin is also home to the Minnesota Sheriffs' Boys Ranch. I think it is like a Boys' Town with bars.

Then came a crushing blow. Austin, Minnesota was named for a trapper named Austin Nichols who built a cabin here in 1853. Perhaps he had his mother's maiden name and the AFA could claim some connection to him. But proving this was for another time. I needed to move on. It was time to do some real historical research.

If you like to dig through old records and trace ancestors back to the 1600's, then Minnesota is not the place for you. Americans did not admit to going to Minnesota until 1815. The 1850 census should give us the earliest pioneers who used their real names.

Minnesota is a place no one really wanted. In 1763, France gave the Louisiana Territory, which included the land that is now Minnesota, to Spain. The Spanish valued it so much that in 1800, they gave it back to France. The French immediately (1803) gave it to the new United States. The land then became part of the Wisconsin Territory. But, in 1848, when Wisconsin became a state, it abandoned this unwanted piece of the terri-

tory. Eventually, someone took pity on the land and made it a separate state, Minnesota. But enough of this sad story – where are the Austins?

There was a famous Austin in Minnesota. Horace Austin of the Samuel of Maine line of Austins was the Republican Governor of Minnesota from 1870 until 1874. He moved here in 1853, did his term, and then moved back to Maine. Clearly, he is not a candidate for the madness gene. He was just a misguided soul who realized where he was, did his job, and went home.

A search of our databases shows that several Austin lines had people who moved to Minnesota, but it is the Richard line that has the most members who actually stayed here. I can imagine what happened back then. The Richard ancestor is traveling along future I-90, heading west. Suddenly he is stopped by the Minnesota Dakota Indian tribe. "You should live here," they say. "Is not it beautiful in the summer? You like fish? We have 10,000 lakes with lots of fish, you betcha. You should build cabin and maybe sell Big Green Books to fur traders." The Indians pack their tents and move south, laughing all the way and wondering if the Austin with the madness gene will be alive when they return in the spring.

From Edith Austin Moore's Field Notebook #34, quoting *The Americana Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, page 563: "Austin, MN – city and Mower County seat. At the head of Main Street is Horace Austin State Park, where, before 1841, a Fort Snelling officer and party, including Dred Scott, at that time a slave, pitched tents and hunted. Austin was first settled in 1853. Named after the first permanent settler, Austin Nichols, a trapper."

Looking Forward to Salt Lake City

At the 2003 National Austin Convention in Richmond, members chose Salt Lake City as the site for the 2004 Convention. I am excited! We will have the opportunity to be in our country's greatest genealogical research center and do research in one centralized and well-equipped facility with knowledgeable people to help us!

I have used the Family History Library's website, www.familysearch.org/ many times. I have also driven thirty miles to a local Family History Library (FHL) to order tapes, driven home, waited for the postcard telling me my tapes were in, then driven the thirty miles back to the Library with my fingers crossed, hoping a microfilm reader would be available for the time I needed to review my tapes.

The trips were worth it. I found photographed copies of the wills of some of my Austin ancestors and discovered an additional son in one generation. The travels and marriage of this son explained the relocation and naming of family members of the next generation. I found a wealth of information in a single document. However, it took two hours of driving time and several weeks of waiting to access this document.

In the FHL in Salt Lake City, I will have immediate access to the films I want, a library with enough microfilm and microfiche readers for many researchers, and the ability to copy the documents I find more easily than I can at my local FHL.

Please, go to the FamilySearch site and read about the wonderful facilities there. I hope that you will become as excited as I am about visiting Salt Lake City.

Jan Untener

Meet our Association Officers: President Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

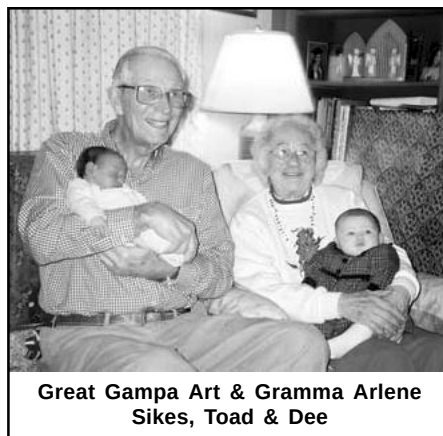
Arthur Maynard Sikes, Jr., Austin Families Association president, was born to Arthur Maynard Sikes and Arlene (Austin) Sikes, in Suffield, CT, home to both sides of his family for nine generations. Born in 1944, while his father was serving on a submarine in the south Pacific, Art was raised in a family of four boys and one girl. As a boy and young man, he was active in Cub, Boy, and Eagle Scouts, and when his own son was six years old, Art re-enlisted in the Scouts and has continued his activity in the organization.

After high school and some technical training, Art enlisted in the Navy and was an Electronic Technician, 2nd class. He was discharged in 1969, just before the ship he served on headed to Viet Nam. He returned to school to complete his Associate's Degree, and had time to meet and date his future wife, Beverly Jean Mackay.

Art and Bev were married in 1971, and the following years were full for the new Sikes family. Art completed his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, and he and Bev had two children, Jennifer, born in 1973, and Christopher, born in 1975. A third child, Amanda, was born in 1980.

Art's interest in genealogy began in the early 1970's. His father was one of nine children, and the Sikes family held a reunion every other year. Art began making lists of all the relatives to hand out at each get-together. Then he started searching for the family's ancestors, and he began adding stories to the bi-annual handout.

Perhaps she was feeling left out, but in 1989, Art's mother, Arlene Sikes, learned that the Austin Families Association was holding its annual meeting in Suffield. The whole family signed up to go! Art was impressed with the Austin research



Great Gampa Art & Gramma Arlene
Sikes, Toad & Dee

and with all that a group of people could accomplish working together on a common goal. He joined the Association, and has been a member for fifteen years.

Until his experience with the Austin Families Association, Art had been researching the Sikes family independently. Inspired by the Austins' group effort, he set about forming a new organization. In 1991, he was one of twenty-one people that formed the Sikes/Sykes Families Association. Today that group has over one hundred members, publishes a newsletter, and has a family reunion every eighteen months.

Art is now the grandfather of two and says, "It's great being a grandfather! And all that genealogy research, it's really for the generations that follow."



"Rhoda," continued from page 4

Finally, Rhoda's oldest brother, Austin Cable, who had been widowed by his first wife, Mathia Painter, married Caroline (Austin) Cable in about 1882.

Hiram and Rhoda had three children, Harry, Charles and Lola. All three of their children married and had children. Hiram died in 1933, and their son Charles, a barber who had moved to Brownsville, Fayette County, PA in 1916, died in 1950. In 1952 Rhoda was living in Poplar Grove, just outside Connellsville, Fayette County, PA, with one of her seven grandchildren, Thomas Stickel and his family, and by then she had eight great grandchildren. And it was there, on May 19th, 1952, that Rhoda celebrated her hundredth birthday.

I wish I could say that I was there for the celebration, but it wasn't possible for me to meet Rhoda because she died before I was born. Because Rhoda was interviewed by a reporter for the local paper, *The Connellsville Courier*, we know a little about the celebration. The day before her birthday Rhoda was the guest of honor at a dinner party given by her son-in-law and daughter, Otto and Lola Stickel. And on her birthday she was presented with a large vase of red and white carnations, a potted plant, a fruitcake, an orchid corsage and other gifts by her admiring family and neighbors. The newspaper article described



Hiram and Rhoda (Cable) Austin

Rhoda as being of medium height and having good posture and eyesight, having an excellent memory and enjoying almost perfect health.

She liked sewing and still made the occasional apron or sewed a snap on a dress, but she used to do more of it, making all of Hiram's shirts. Her two regrets were that she was not able to attend church services anymore at the Mount Olive Church in Bullskin Township (which she had joined as one of the first members in 1867 when she was 15), and that she had not gotten more schooling. She felt that she could have been more useful if she had a better education.

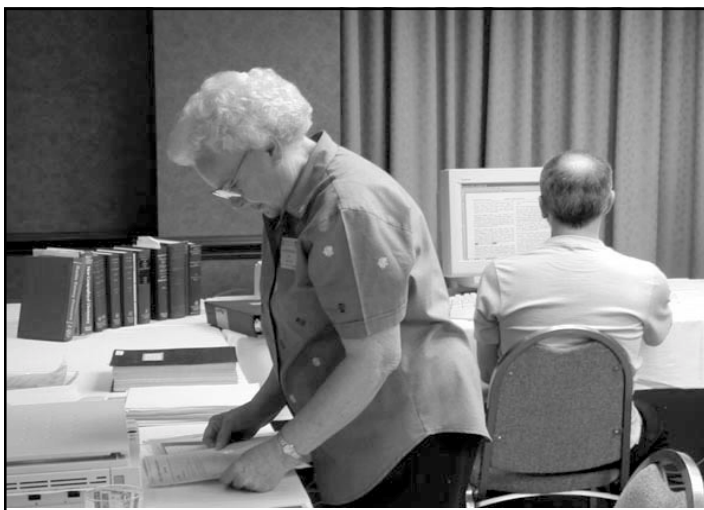
Rhoda stated that she thought 100 was old enough for a person to be, and she died later that year, on October 19, 1952. Hiram and Caroline Austin are descendants of the "John of Monongalia" Austin lineage.

Susan J. Lewis

National Austin Convention Photos



Informative genealogical presentations.



Opportunities to do research with convention materials.



Unlimited access to Austin computer databases as well as expert computer assistance.

"Three to GET READY, Four to GO!"

To make the most of your library time at the National Austin convention in Salt Lake City this July you'll want to arrive prepared. As you've been informed, the Family History Library is right next door to the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza, the convention home base. Opportunities of proximity and resource materials couldn't be better. As a prompt, here are three possible areas you may have overlooked in the past. Preparing a plan of readiness in advance can save valuable moments in the largest genealogical library in the world.

1. Mortality Schedules. In 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 the federal census included a special inquiry sheet about persons who had died in the year immediately preceding the enumeration. Using 1850 as an example, the mortality listing was for "Persons who Died during the Year Ending 1st June, 1850." Questions covered such topics as name, age at last birthday, sex, race, marital status, occupation, state or country of birth, length of residence in county, month in which person died, cause of death, number of days ill, and name of attending physician.

2. State and City Censuses. At least 30 states held their own censuses. The dates and frequency varied a great deal. For example, Iowa enumerated itself in 1836, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. South Dakota counted its populace in 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935 and 1945. Illinois contributes 1855 and 1865, while California offers only 1852.

A state census can include name, street address, age, sex, marital status, occupation, place of birth in U.S. or abroad, if parents are native, if subject to military draft, if an alien who has taken out first papers. City censuses may be taken to change its governmental status such as Incorporated Town to City of Second Class, or to assess water needs. While the data provided is significantly less, it does confirm the family's presence with names, sexes and ages.

3. World War I Draft Registration Cards. President Wilson set in motion the American draft to help generate the strong army needed in combat during World War I. This occurred in four phases between June 5, 1917 and September 12, 1918. The registration included all men, including aliens, ages 18 to 45, who were born between September 13, 1873 and September 12, 1900. Consequently many facts of interest to the researcher are available for over 24,000,000 men. The only exemptions were men already serving in the military.

Requested information included full name, address, age, date of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, employer's name and place, any reason to claim exemption, nearest of kin with kin's address, and actual signature. The registrar then provided a generalized description consisting of general height and build, color of eyes and hair.

As these cards were filled out at a local draft office it's necessary for the researcher to know in what city the registrant was living in at the time.

Marjorie S. Elmore

The Austin - Austen DNA Project Test Results to Date

The Austin - Austen DNA Project is jointly sponsored by the Austins of America Genealogical Society and the Austin Families Association under the auspices of Dr. Michael E. Austin. The project has been featured in the following AFAOA Newsletter editions: Fall 2002, October 2003 and January 2004. For more information, please refer to these articles on our web site www.afaoa.org, click on Austin Research, then at the bottom of the page, AFAOA Newsletters.

One interesting aspect of DNA testing is the consequence of a non-match situation. Such occurred for Richard of Charlestown. Two 25 marker tests resulted in a no match situation, yet the individuals that were tested claimed to be members of that Austin line. Later, a 25 marker test from a third individual was processed. A partial 12 marker comparison of this latter test provided a 100% match to one of the 25 marker tests providing a high confidence that a Richard baseline will

AUSTIN PROGENITOR	NUMBER OF DNA TESTS	NUMBER OF MARKERS	MARKERS THAT MATCH	RELATIONSHIPS Numbers in () represent the generation number back from the progenitor
John ba. 1692 - of Southside VA	2	12	10/12	Test subjects stem from William (3) and John (2)
Thomas b. 1727 - of Barbados	4	25	2 - 24/25 2 - no match	Test subjects related to Richard (2), William (2) and Thomas (2)
Samuel b. 16?? - of Boston, MA	4	25	2 - 24/25 2 - results not in yet	Test subjects related to Thomas (2) and his sons Thomas (3), Zebediah (3) and Benjamin (3)
Richard bc. 1598 of Charlest'n, MA	3	25	2 - 12/12* 1 - no match	Test subjects related to Richard (2) and Anthony (2) *Partial results - missing 13 marker results expected soon.
Robert of Kingstown, RI	2	25	6/12*	Test subjects related to Edward (2) & Jeremiah (2) *Partial results - missing 13 marker results expected soon
John bc. 1647 New Haven, CT	2	25	Results not in yet	Test subjects related to David (2) and John (2)
William bc. 1700 Ireland, of VA	2	25	25/25	Test subjects related to Charles (2) and John (2)

The results of testing so far is available in detail at www.aogas.org/DNA. The table above simplifies the test results for only those seven Austin lines that have had at least two DNA test kits analyzed. Single tests have been performed for five other Austin lines: William b. 1793 of Connecticut or Vermont; Thomas b. 1767, of Sharpsburg, Maryland; Robert b. 1794, of New Hampshire; William bc. 1813 of New York; and John Calhoun b. 1831 Tennessee.

DNA test kits are designed to gather tissue cells from test individuals (e.g. a swab of the inside of the mouth). When processed, a number of genetic markers or specific segments of DNA are isolated. Comparing the markers, for two or more subjects, can then establish a DNA baseline for that line. This will enable other Austin-Austens, with their own DNA test results, to establish their relationship to these baselines.

In the early testing of descendants of John of Southside Virginia, 12 markers were thought to be enough. However, 12 marker DNA test results have proven to be very questionable so that 25 marker tests are now considered the minimum. As a result, all entries in the table above, other than John, represent the results of 25 marker testing.

be established when the results of markers 13-25 come in. Adding to this confidence is the fact that the match obtained was between Anthony's (2) son Richard (3) and Richard's (2) son Joseph (3), a result that would be expected.

It must be obvious that there are some consequences of performing DNA tests. In the case of Thomas of Barbados or Richard of Charlestown, how does the an individual, alleged to be of that line, answer the situation where a non-matching event results?

The first thing to do is to look for a match in the other Austin baselines. Perhaps DNA testing will prove that he belongs to a different Austin line indicating that his genealogical pedigree is incorrect. He should go back as far as possible to verify his Austin pedigree in the light of the DNA results. A second possibility is that somewhere back in time, a son who was raised as an Austin was not sired by an Austin father.

If you are interested in contributing your DNA test results to this project, please go to www.FamilyTreeDNA.com and locate our project by searching for the surname "Austin", select Austin-Austen DNA to read about our goals, then fill out the Join Form.

**2004 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION
Convention Proceedings Registration Form**

**Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
122 West Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah**

NAME: _____
[Please write names as you wish them to appear on name tags.]

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT(S) WITH SAME ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS: (Street) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

EARLIEST KNOWN AUSTIN ANCESTORS (WITH PLACE AND DATE):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Convention Registration Fee is \$50 per person. This fee covers convention meetings and materials and the Sunday banquet. Family or friends who wish to only attend the banquet may pay a Banquet Fee of \$30.

(# of people) _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

(# of people) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Enclosed is my check, payable to "National Austin Convention", for \$ _____ **By July 1, 2004 PLEASE**

I expect to arrive in Salt Lake City on (date) _____ about (time) _____ by Car _____ Plane _____
Other _____

I am planning to stay at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. Yes? _____ No? _____ Maybe? _____

*[Don't forget to make your hotel reservations **before July 2.** Call 1-800-366-3684 or
1-801-521-0130. Be sure to mention "National Austin Convention"]*

I expect to be staying after the convention for research: Yes _____? No? _____

When using computers I consider my level to be: Novice _____ Intermediate _____ Experienced _____

Additional comments: _____

Please send this form and your check to the Convention Registrar:

**Lois W. Cody
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215**

<http://www.afaoa.org>

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR CHECK FOR DUES - \$15 PER YEAR - 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

Wanted & Really Needed!

Newsletter Editor: The editor is responsible for producing a quarterly Newsletter which is so necessary for binding the Association members together into a family. He/she must set a theme for each issue and either write or arrange for appropriate articles. He/she must also encourage Association membership to submit timely articles on Austin - genealogy related subjects such as their Austin research, their experiences in travel to Austin homesites, grave yards, etc. The editor shall do a rough layout and send the material to the production people who will do the final layout, publication and distribution.

Webmaster: The Webmaster is responsible for the overall running and maintenance of the AFAOA web site and should lead current efforts to update the design of the site. He/she must have a working knowledge of HTML coding and become familiar with all aspects of our current setup. He/she will be assisted by Jim Carlin, who provides the databases used by the site, and by Joy Davis, who is responsible for the Master Index and the IGM software that produces the Family Group Sheet pages.

Please contact:

Art Sikes, Jr.