



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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

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Austins Visit Emerald City

The lovely city of Seattle, Washington was the site of the 2005 National Austin Convention, sponsored by the Austin Families Association of America. The forty attendees enjoyed a weekend full of speakers, exchange of ideas, new and renewed friendships and, of course, wonderful dining.

Activities began with registration on Friday afternoon and a tour of the Pacific Northwest branch of the National Archives. We met up again for our "Get Acquainted" reception and then many of us went to dinner at the nearby Bonefish Grill.

Saturday began with a morning workshop, as members shared information they had brought and searched the AFAOA computer databases. The agenda officially opened with a welcome from Art Sikes and his presentation on "Little Known Facts about the Federal Census."

Gay Martin explained the AFAOA Archive Series, followed by Dr. Mike Austin, who gave us an update on the Austin-Austen DNA Project.

After lunch we were treated to an informative presentation on Genealogical Research in Washington State by our keynote speaker, Bonnie Jean MacDonald of Seattle. Dr. Mike Austin then told about the 2005 International Austin Convention, to be sponsored by the Austin Families Genealogical Society this September in Canterbury,

England.

This was followed by a report on Progress in Austin Research, by AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin. We ended the afternoon with another workshop session. Most of our rowdy group gathered for another enjoyable dinner together, this time at the nearby Outback Steak House, arranged by local member Judy Kester.

Sunday morning again began with a workshop and was packed with interesting presentations. Bill Minnick explained the history of the AFAOA Web Site, Sue Osborn spoke about the design of the Web Site's "New Look", and Jim Carlin updated us on the new search features within the Web Site. Carol Austin shared her Jonah Austin Family Land Records Case Study. During our annual afternoon business meeting officers were elected for the next 2 years. Another important action was a change in the way we will choose our next convention site. All of the Association members will now get to vote, choosing from the cities that were suggested and approved by the convention attendees.

The Sunday evening banquet speaker was again Bonnie Jean MacDonald, who is a member of the Puget Sound Chapter, Association of Professional Genealogists. She shared with us "How to Have a Successful Research Trip". In a few words, Organize, Organize and Organize!

Hope to see you next summer in ____? ____.
(SEND IN YOUR VOTE)



<http://www.afaqa.org>

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Marilyn Nickless

3149 Wagner Heights Road
Stockton, CA 95209
unicorn1950@comcast.net
Thomas b. ~1745?, MA?; Freeman b. 1770, MA?; Charles b. 1811 NY or DE?

Charlotte Wooten Art

PO Box 24
Sparland, IL 61565
cnt@mtco.com
William Wilson b. ca 1690-1700 Wales or VA?

William J. Austin

161 Van Buren Ave.
Ravenna, OH 44266
ludlite42@juno.com
Richard of MA b. 1598 Eng.; Anthony b. 1636 Eng.; Richard b. 1666 MA.

Betty Moore Johnson

520 S. Linden St.
Lamoni, IA 50140
bjohnson@grm.net
Benjamin b. 1770 MA; Benjamin F. b. 1803 NY, Sophia A. B. b. 1828 NY.

Barbara Quist Green

7124 47th Ave. SW, #207
Seattle, WA 98136
bqgreen@comcast.net
Samuel b. 1639 or 1645 MA; Thomas b. 1671 MA; Louville b. 1859 ME.

Joan J. Belanger

1910 Torquay
Royal Oak, MI 48073
jbelanger3691@wowway.com
Henry b. bef 1697, of MD; John MD.

* * *

New Treasurer

When you renew your AFAOA membership, please send your dues (\$15 for one year or \$25 for two years) to:

Bonnie Bigolin
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935

Please check your newsletter mailing label for your renewal date. Also, please notify me if your address is changing, so that your newsletter will arrive promptly.

Thanks to all members for supporting the work of the
AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA!

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

A GENEALOGY POEM

At our convention in Madison, Wisconsin in 2000, I met Brenda Rainey, and she shared a great idea with me that I would like to pass along to all of you. She introduced me to a genealogy poem and she also told me that when she visits cemeteries and is looking for ancestors, that she takes her poem, leaves it at the grave attached to a wooden flower. As well as the poem, she puts her name, telephone number, and address and email address on the back. We can't print any of the copyrighted genealogy poems, but if you Google "poems+genealogy" you will get hundreds of hits, and if you don't care for any of the poems you see there, you can always write your own. (If you do, then please send it to us so that, with your permission, we can publish it in our newsletter.)

After she has done those two things, she laminates them for weatherproofing. The next step is to punch a hole in the middle of the top, in order to tie the poem to a wooden flower (or you could use a silk flower) and she leaves it at the grave for a relative of the deceased to find. Hopefully, they will get in touch with you.

You can buy laminating kits at craft stores; my local store has different kits ranging from \$32.00 to \$125.00. They have everything you need to get started. They also sell refills for the kits.

I know that if I went to visit a relative's grave, I would be quite happy to find something like this, wouldn't you?

Kathi Kobel

<http://www.afaqa.org>

Attention Members

This is your chance to select the 2006 convention site.

We now have a process where all of our members can help choose the site of future Austin Conventions. Since the 2006 convention will be sponsored jointly by Austin Families Association of America and Austin Families Genealogical Society each organization has proposed two sites. You are asked to select one of the four sites and vote one of the following ways:

EITHER fill out the ballot on pg. 7 of this Newsletter and mail to the address on the ballot OR provide all the information requested on the ballot in an e-mail to membership@afaqa.org.

Each AFAOA membership has one vote. However, if you are also a member of AFGS you can also vote using the ballot you will receive with the next AFGS *Austin Families Register* or on the AFGS web site.

The exact convention date will be decided after the site is chosen, but will probably be in late June or early July 2006. Please send in your vote even if you are not sure that you can attend. Votes may be sent now and must be received by November 30, 2005.

And this is your chance to become a "Featured Family."

The center portion of the AFAOA web site's Home page has been allocated to a new feature where Austin family histories can be presented. Currently, this space announces the advent of the Archive Series of documents available for text search.

Members can prepare short biographies, or stories of family happenings not to exceed 750 words, with up to 4 pictures (color or black and white), and send these to myfamilystory@afaqa.org.

One of the pictures will be posted on the home page center space along with a link to a new page where the family story will be presented along with the remaining photographs.

Examples of such stories have appeared in past issues of the *Newsletter*. One of these described the hunting trip one Austin made to gather food for his starving family. Another described the evening that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Both involved Austins, which is really the only restriction.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2005 Austin Convention in Seattle was a great success. We had good participation of local Austins and many of the faithful from all parts of the country who come to the conventions almost every year. It was especially good to see Bill Minnick again and to hear the story of how the Association got into the electronic age. Another exciting thing was the review of the data being collected for the Austin-Austen DNA Project. Every new test brings information that adds to our knowledge of the Austin Family. I want to thank all of the people that helped with and participated in the convention.

During the business meeting we made three changes to the by-laws. The most important change concerns site selection for future conventions. That decision will no longer be finalized at the convention. Instead, in order to get more input from others who may want to attend, up to four cities will be nominated and then presented to the entire membership for a final vote.

Since the Austin Families Genealogical Society will co-sponsor the 2006 convention, each organization has nominated two locations and the site will be selected by a combined vote. In this *Newsletter* is a ballot listing those four cities and a brief description of the advantages of each. The voting can be done by sending an e-mail or by mailing the form in this *Newsletter*. It is important for all members, especially those who may be interested in attending, to send in their votes in the time period allowed. If the place that you would like to go to for a convention is not on the list please let one of the officers know so that your suggestion can be considered next year.

I would be interested in comments on our new web site. It has been on line for several months now. Special thanks go to Jim Carlin who coordinated the project and who worked with the databases and indexing in the background, Sue Osborn who designed the new pages of the site, and Bill Minnick who interfaced with our website provider, and dealt with the e-mail addressing. Of particular interest is the new presentation of material, with the capability of text search. Should you have a big success using this powerful feature, we would love to hear about it.

Please welcome Kathi Koble as our new *Newsletter* Editor. She will be looking for stories and material to put into OUR *Newsletter* - stories on your family members and ancestors, stories on genealogical research that you have done, good genealogical books you have used, new genealogical resources you have discovered. I want to thank Kathi for accepting this position. It's a very important position because it is what holds the Association together between conventions.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

Bill Minnick Recognized for his Austin Computer Project

The Austin Computer Project, as envisioned by Bill Minnick, was first described by him at the 1990 Austin Convention in Suffield, Connecticut. The following year Bill Minnick presented his paper "An Overview of Computerizing Genealogy Using the Personal Ancestor File Program" to the attendees of the 1991 Austin Convention, held in Austin, Texas. A plan was agreed upon, as documented in the 1991 Summer issue of the *AFAOA Newsletter*:



"For starters, we will computerize vital information and family linkage for the American Austin family lines. This will take some of the load off our genealogist because it will be a team project. We will call it the Austin Computer Project and the project will be

headed up by Bill Minnick. The new computer data base will be available to members via floppy disk or computer bulletin board being set up by Bill in California. All genealogical data will computerized and six stalwarts who own PCs will aid Bill Minnick and our genealogist, Bonnie Bigolin in this massive effort."

The AFAOA Computer Project was begun and volunteers began converting AFAOA's extensive research collection into computer format. Over the next few years, more research and data entry was done and draft copies of many Austin lines were produced in soft spiral-bound books and disk versions using the Austin Computer Project databases.

In 1995, the AFAOA web site was conceived and created by Bill Minnick – the first American genealogy databases ever presented on the Internet. Bill worked closely with Tim Doyle with his software for gedcom file extraction, and with engineers at the University of Illinois with their embryonic graphics browser. Somehow, with software downloaded from a Swedish experimenter, he got the whole thing to work properly.

In 1997 Gay Martin volunteered to transcribe the 92 handwritten research notebooks of AFAOA founder Edith Austin Moore, a project that took four years. He also excerpted into digital format the AFAOA *Newsletter* Archive. Gay has gone on to transcribe the research notes of Edith Austin Moore and Janet Austin Curtis, as well as Janet's States Notebooks.

Using Austin Computer Project data in 1998, the AFAOA published a hard-cover book, *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638*.

Today, 43 databases contain the data on well over 90,000 Austins and their relatives. In addition, 6,700 pages of archive documents have been digitized are now text searchable on the AFAOA web site. Bill's long term support to the AFAOA was lovingly recognized by the attendees at the 2005 Austin Convention in Seattle Washington. The AFAOA's major shift into publishing Austin genealogies 15 years ago could not have been accomplished without Bill's foresight and leadership.

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Minutes of Business Meeting

June 12, 2005 – Seattle, Washington

President Art Sikes opened the Austin Families Association meeting. The reading of the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting was waived since they had been on display for all to read during the convention. Carol Austin moved that they be accepted. Beverly Sikes seconded. Motion carried.

In his update on the past year, Art thanked Don Austin for his assistance in locating potential convention sites and for providing a printer for the convention. Art stated that in January 2005 the Executive Committee made the decision to finance a major upgrade to the AFAOA web site, adding text search capability and more memory. A web site design by Sue Osborn was approved. Serving on the web site team were Jim Carlin, Sue Osborn, and Bill Minnick.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer, Lois Cody, gave the following report on 2005 year-to-date finances:

General Fund

Beginning balance - January 1, 2005	\$10,017.46
Income	\$1517.09
Expenses	1326.49
Balance - May 31, 2005	\$10,208.07

Publishing Fund

Beginning balance – January 1, 2005	\$ 715.11
Income	\$ 395.00
Balance – May 31, 2005	\$ 1,110.11

Convention Fund

Beginning balance - January 1, 2005	\$ 213.69
Income	\$ 1760.00
Balance - May 31, 2005	\$ 1,973.69

(Convention expenses may exceed income)

TOTAL BANK BALANCE – MAY 31, 2005 \$13,291.87

Anna Austin moved to accept the report. Charles Austin seconded. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2006:

Estimated Annual Income

Dues	\$3,125.00
Book Sales	400.00
Interest	20.00
TOTAL	\$3,545.00

Estimated Annual Expenses:

Newsletters + postage	\$1,100.00
Reminder cards + postage	75.00
Web site + search engine	1,800.00
DNA testing	350.00
Supplies + misc.	100.00
Convention expenses	300.00
Software	500.00
TOTAL	\$4,225.00

Bob Cody moved to approve the budget. Jim Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Anna Austin, reporting for the nominating committee, which also included Jan Untener and Carol Austin, presented the following slate of officers to be voted on for 2-year terms:

President - Art Sikes
Vice President - Betty Shelhamer
Vice President - Lois Cody
Vice President – L. Scot Austin
Secretary – Treasurer – Bonnie Bigolin
Genealogist – Liz Carlin

Liz Carlin moved that the nominations be accepted. Gay Martin seconded. The slate of officers was accepted.

BY-LAW CHANGES

Three amendments to the by-laws of the Association were published in the May issue of the newsletter. These were discussed and voted on with the published text of Article V to read as follows:

Article V - Meetings

c. The members present at a national convention shall select up to four potential sites for the next convention. These sites shall be presented to the membership in the Association *Newsletter* and a vote shall be taken by mail and electronic mail, with the voting procedure to be decided by the executive committee. If the next convention is to be a joint convention, then each organization may select up to two sites and the sites selected shall be presented to the membership of both organizations for a combined vote. The site which receives a plurality of the combined votes shall be selected. Charles Austin moved the amendment be accepted as changed. Gay Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Article VI - Officers - Section 8. Duties of the Genealogist.

There were no changes to the published amendment. Liz Carlin moved that the published changes be accepted. Bob Cody seconded. Motion carried.

Article VII – Executive Committee

Section 2. There were no changes to the published amendment. Liz Carlin moved that the published changes be accepted. Beverly Sikes seconded. Motion carried.

SELECTION OF CONVENTION SITES

After a number of potential sites were suggested, Nashville, TN and Savannah, GA were selected to be voted on. Since the 2006 convention will be jointly sponsored with Austin Families Genealogical Society, two sites will also be proposed by AFGS and the four sites will be presented to the members of both organizations for a vote.

Gay Martin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Cody – Secretary-Treasurer

Meet our Association Officers:

L. Scot Austin, Vice-President

Scot Austin was born in 1940 in Waukegan, Illinois, an industrial city 40 miles North of Chicago on Lake Michigan. He is the oldest of five children born to Phil and Edwina (Whitlock) Austin.

When he was a young boy, his grandfather, Charles Perry (Charlie) Austin, told him many stories about the family, of his father's boyhood home near Niagara Falls, on a farm which had once been a battlefield in the French and Indian War, about encounters with Indians and his father's service in the Civil War, that he had been, at one time, a member of Lincoln's body guard, and that the family was related to Commodore Perry and Buffalo Bill Cody.



Scot attended Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago studying Architecture and finally Electrical Engineering. He spent 22 years as a consulting engineer before joining Hewlett Packard as a Facilities Construction Manager,

where he spent another 18 years before retiring in 2002. He moved to Silicon Valley, California in 1969 where he met and married the former Donna Gomes. They have twin daughters, both school teachers like their mother, and 3 grandchildren.

In 1991 at a Civic event in Cupertino, California, where every one was wearing name tags, Scot was approached by a man who said that he was interested in Scot's surname. Scot saw that the man's name was Bill Minnick, and wondered why this interest. Scot learned that Bill was an Austin descendant, and that he was very involved in the AFAOA. The following year, when the convention was held in the adjacent town of Sunnyvale, California, Scot and Donna attended and joined the organization. A year later, Scot was elected for the first time as Western Vice President and served in that capacity for 6 years.

About a year later Scot identified his family as being descended from John Austin of New London and Greenwich, CT. Since then he has done much research on his ancestors and, so far, has identified among them, 18 Revolutionary War Patriots and five Mayflower passengers, proved the Perry connection, but found no evidence to corroborate the Cody relationship. To date, his children and grandchildren show little interest in genealogy, but perhaps someday they will appreciate it.

And now Scot has again agreed to be nominated for the office of Vice President, and was unanimously elected, at the 2005 National Austin Convention in Seattle, Washington, to a two year term. Good to see you back on board Scot.

BOSTON OBITUARY INDEX

The Boston Public Library offers an obit search for the *Boston Globe* and the *Boston Herald* at:

http://www.bpl.org/catalogs/frame_obits.htm



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

Q15,3-1 - I'm trying desperately to find out more about my ancestors who came to South Africa round about 1816. Apparently they were three children - 2 brothers and a sister. One brother was named William Henry Austin and the sister (Mary?) died at sea before they reached Cape of Good Hope. If I can get some assistance in this regard it will be most appreciated.
Ryan Austin - Ryan@syndata.com.

Q15,3-2 - I am looking for information about John Ward Austin, born in Brown Co., Ohio September 4, 1821. I am looking for his parents. I have found census entries for a Joseph F. Austin who would have been the right age, but I have not been able to make a connection. John Ward Austin married Susan Dragoo in Brown Co., Ohio. Would appreciate any information you could give me. Karen Simpson - kdsim706co@msn.com.

Q15,3-3 - Looking for family of Eliza Austin, b. 1873 in Canada, daughter of George Austin and Julia Smith, siblings: Minnie Bell, Clara, George, Albert and Louis. They settled in Michigan, circa 1888. Doradee Bashar dcarmen777@cs.com.

Q15,3-4 - I am looking for any information I can find on William Austin of Virginia, born (?). He was living in Franklin County, Virginia in 1780's - 90's. Will was probated in 1799 - 1800 Franklin County, Virginia. He has a son David who lived in Franklin County as well, and grandson, Thomas born 1800 in Fincastle(?). Thomas married Nancy Hurd Martin in Patrick in 1826 - 1827 and moved to Russell County, Virginia in about the early 1840's. Larry Austin - laustin2@cox.net.

Q15,3-5 - I am a descendant of Deborah Austin who married Lt. John Coffin in 1668. I am doing research on my family line. I look forward to learning more. Cynthis Rhodes - auntcissy_99@yahoo.com

Attendees at the National Austin Convention Seattle, Washington, June 10-12, 2005



Back Row (standing l to r): Donald Austin, Arlene Bailey, Kathi Koble, Anna Austin, Mickey Fast, Dana Elmore, Charles and Carol Austin, Bob and Lois Cody, Alice and Gay Martin, Betty Shelhamer, Robert Osborn, Barbara Green, Mike Austin, Art and Beverly Sikes, Bill Minnick. Inge Austin and Rod Wedge.

Middle Row (l to r): Dale Bailey, Linda Austin, Judy Kester, Marjorie Elmore, Arlene Prince, Ernestine and Jack Austin, Patrick Korach.

Front Row (l to r): Patti Korach, Patricia Austin, Fay Austin, Alice Ellingtson, Liz and Jim Carlin, Sue Osborn and Eual Austin.

Not Pictured: Ruth Miller

Portals and Invisible Web Sites

Thought you had heard of everything on the World Wide Web? You have probably stumbled over portals and invisible sites during your prowling of the Web, so let's give these guys some recognition.

A portal site is an ordinary web site that lists links to other web sites. The best example of a portal genealogy site is Cyndi's List, <http://www.cyndislist.com>. Cyndi presents a list of links to over 240,200 different genealogical web sites, organized into easily understood categories. Cyndi's List may actually contain no genealogical data at all. It is just a means of pointing the user to sites that have specific data that the user is interested in. The "LINKS" button on the AFAOA web site serves as a portal site for Austin genealogical data.

Invisible sites are not really invisible to web site users. They are invisible only to search engines such as Google and Yahoo. Some reasons they are "invisible" are:

1. Private files.
2. Secure files - FBI, CIA, university research.
3. Unsavory content - blocked by your browser.
4. Fee or subscription required.
5. Built-in search capability of their own.

Examples of #5 are EllisIsland.org, FamilySearch.org, and our AFAOA site, www.afaoa.org. The data on our site is hidden from the automated search engine "spiders" that continuously

"crawl" the web, gathering data for "data miners" who copy it, copyright it and distribute it on disks for sale. Since our data is always being updated and corrected, we must control its distribution so that the user gets access to the latest and most correct data that we can provide.

So how do you get access to these invisible sites? This is where portal sites can be very helpful. Portal sites will provide you with a link to our site as well as to thousands of other invisible sites. (Actually, if you search for "Austin Families" using Google or other search engines, you may find a link to our site, but, and here is the big difference, NOT directly to our data).

Once you have arrived at our site, our data can only be accessed via indexes that our site provides for the user. This includes the Master Index which lists all of the individuals in our databases, individual database indexes which list the individuals in a specific Austin line, and our text search feature which will locate specific text in our descendency books, and in our ever growing collection of documents from the vast AFAOA Archives.

Perhaps it is only justice, but the way to find portal sites is by use of a search engine. Simply type in the words: "genealogy" and "portal" (no quotes needed) in the Google search terms field, and hit GO.

Jim Carlin

Cities Nominated for the 2006 International Austin Convention Site

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

After Salt Lake City, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne boasts the most complete genealogical collection in the United States, with over 300,000 printed volumes, 314,000 microfilm/fiche items and over 50,000 compiled genealogies. Its 10,000 genealogical and local history periodicals are comprehensively indexed, and the Library's stacks are currently open. Fort Wayne's other attractions are: the Botanical Observatory, an excellent Children's Zoo, the Fort Wayne Wizards (the Class A affiliate of the San Diego Padres), the Museum of Art, the Science Center, and the Lincoln Museum. Near Fort Wayne are many state parks and campgrounds, and the Auburn-Cord Duesenburg Museum of classic autos.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Nashville is a very visitor-friendly location, with many outstanding opportunities for research, sightseeing, and relaxation. The Tennessee State Library and Archives are well worth several days of research for those seeking southern ancestors. Most of the county holdings have been moved to the State Library, and the large collection is available in open stacks. Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage, is on Rachel Lane. You might also want to take in the Grand Ole Opry, wander through adjacent Opryland, or visit Nashville's own Parthenon, an exact cement replica of the original in Athens. Nashville is also home to the well-known Maxwell House coffee, and the famous Jack Daniels was a local boy there.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Savannah's rich past is preserved by 22 of the original 24 squares as a living legacy. Some of the National Historic Landmark District sights: Home of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America, Old Fort Jackson built circa 1808, Ghost Walking Tours, intricate statues in Bonaventure Cemetery, and Colonial Park Cemetery, where Revolutionary War hero Button Gwinnet, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, rests. The Georgia Historical Society Library & Archive is a major research center for Georgian History. The Municipal Research Library handles reference requests from researchers and the general public that are related to its archival and historical city records.

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Toronto is an excellent research center for those seeking Austins in Canada, including those U.E. Loyalists from the United States during and after the Revolution. The Ontario Historical Society in Toronto has indexed 96% of Ontario's cemeteries. The Archives of Ontario has an extensive collection of land and estate records, and its Reading Room has a surname index to Births, Marriages and Deaths on microfilm. Toronto attractions include the CN Tower observation deck with its 100-mile panorama, Queen's Quay Harbour Front, the Skydome (home of the Blue Jays), Saint James Cathedral, the Hockey Hall of Fame, and the Museum for Textiles with its impressive textile arts collection drawn from all around the world.

Please Cut Here

Please Cut Here

Official AFAOA Site Selection Ballot for the 2006 International Austin Convention

Please select your site preference (check one box only)

- Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Savannah, Georgia
- Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Membership Information:

Your Name: _____

City or Town: _____

Zip Code: _____

Please Mail Your Ballot to:

Edwin Arnold Austin

PO Box 64483

Rochester, NY 14624-6883

- OR -

E-mail your selection, AND membership information (see left) to:

*Deadline for all votes:
November 30, 2005*

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR CHECK FOR DUES - \$15 PER YEAR. OR \$25 FOR 2 YEARS - MADE PAYABLE TO "AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA" SHOULD BE SENT TO BONNIE BIGOLIN, P.O. BOX 1094, GREEN RIVER, WY 82935-1094

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

Address Service Requested

Inside this issue:

- Report on the 2005 National Austin Convention including the Business Meeting Minutes.
- New members welcomed.
- President's Message by Art Sikes, Jr.
- Meet our new Vice President - Scot Austin.
- Austins looking for Austins - your queries.
- Where you can find "invisible sites" on the web.
- And finally - your chance to participate in selecting the site for the 2006 International Austin Convention!

You are now authorized to open this issue, sit down and read it from cover to cover, and then vote.