



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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

Volume 16, No. 3

August 2006

ISSN 1063-3263

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Austin-Austen DNA Project Status

A Y chromosome marker of the kind used in the DNA test consists of several repetitions of a small chunk of DNA. The test counts the number of repetitions at each of 25 or 37 markers. The markers are normally passed unchanged from father to son, but an occasional rare event called a mutation may change the number of repeats at some marker.

Family Tree DNA compares the DNA of two men and, using formulas based on the number of markers tested, the number of matching markers and the known rates at which mutations occur, computes the probability that the men have a common male-line ancestor within a given number of generations. The more markers match, the higher that probability.

Comparisons with at least 23 matches out of 25 markers (23/25), or 33 out of 37 (33/37) are considered "DNA matches." Comparisons with fewer matches usually indicate less than 50% probability of a common ancestor within 20 generations.

The Project began by testing two or more descendants of ancestral lines established by traditional research, in order to get a DNA profile for each line. A goal is to find individuals whose DNA matches one of these profiles. The benefit to the individual would be finding lines whose DNA matches that of a related Austin male donor, suggesting possible relationships to be investigated by traditional methods. Sometimes a large number of mismatches will disprove a conjectured relationship, leading research in a new direction.

The status of major ancestral lines is summarized below:

Robert Austin (bc. 1638 r. Kingstown RI)

Jonah Austin (d. 1683 Taunton MA)

Descendants of these two lines match each other 24/25 or 25/25, although no common ancestor of Robert and Jonah has yet been found. Other lines with a single tested descendent which match these lines are: Jason Lee (bc.1800 CT/CAN), John (b.1732 MA), William (b.1793 CT/VT), Benjamin (b.1770 MA), John "of Monongalia" (bc.1765 r. VA) and Stephen (b.1750). A descen-

dent of Stephen matches others in this group 35/37 or 36/37. Two presumed descendants of Robert match each other closely but have so many mismatches with the Robert/Jonah group that they are clearly not closely related.

Joseph Austin (bc. 1616 England, r. Dover NH)

Three descendants of Joseph match each other 23/25 or 24/25. A descendent of Robert (b.1749 NH) matches one of the "Josephs" 23/25. A descendent of William (bc. 1843 Guyana) matches another, 23/25.

Samuel Austin (b. 16?? r. Boston MA)

William Austin (b. 1657 MD)

Five descendants of Samuel match each other 24/25 or 25/25, and also 34/37 or 35/37. Two descendants of William match three of the Samuel descendants 25/25, and match the other two 24/25. At this level of testing, a close relationship between these two lines seems likely although a common ancestor hasn't yet been found.

One William descendent has only a 33/37 match with the Samuel descendants, however, so the relationship might not be as close as hoped. Other lines with a single matching descendent are Larkin K. (b.1815 TN?), Philip (bc.1758 MD), and Daniel (b.17?? MA). These matches with the Samuel group are 23/25 or 24/25. The Daniel match may also be 36/37.

William Austin (b. 1700 IRE r. VA)

Two descendants of William match each other 24/25. One descendent of each of the following lines matches one William descendent 25/25: John William (bc.1839 AL/GA), James J. (bc. 1822 AL/GA), John (bc.1821 TN). This may represent a major southern line whose common ancestor has yet to be found.

Henry Austin (b. 1687 r. MD)

Two descendants of Henry match 24/25. A descendent of Jacob (b.1798 NY) matches one of them 23/25.

Please see "DNA Test Results" on page 2

Wannabe Ann Austin is Back!
See page 4

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Susan Austin Roth

3013 Cleveland Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008
susanaustinroth@comcast.net
*William Austin b. ca 1750, d. 1809
Albemarle Co., VA; Morris Austin;
Alexander Austin.*

Mark R. Anderson

227 Chestnut Street
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
manderson227@verizon.net
*William & Ruth Austin of NC line:
Ephraim Henry Austin b. 1822 Anson
Co., NC; John James Austin b. 1845
Scotts Hill, TN; David Tarwater Austin
b. 1877 Scotts Hill, TN; Ruth Austin
Hale b. 1907 Bogota, TN.*

Walter Hartung

717 Southfork Road
Cody, WY 82414
wchartung@tritell.net
*John Austin; Ebenezer Jones Austin b.
1800 Canada; William Jarvis Austin b.
1837 Toronto, Canada; Mabel Esther
Austin Hartung b. 1875 Hortonville, WI.*

Josephine Kerr

11130 Coral Lane
Fontana, CA 92337
maden1fan@aol.com
Robert Austin of RI b. 1634 England.

Lester M. Elwell

494 Forest
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
leselwell@gtm.net
*Robert Austin of RI; Jeremiah Austin;
David Austin; Joseph Austin; David
Austin; Ethan Allen Austin; Elliott Hale
Austin; George Ethan Austin; Paul
Edwin Austin; Priscilla May Austin b.
1927 Three Rivers, MI.*

Jack M. Austin

P.O. Box 140005
Nashville, TN 37214
southernknight@peoplepc.com
*Earl Lee Austin, d. ca 1939 Covington,
VA*

Brian Winn

P.O. Box 1216
Fullerton, CA 92836
brian_winn@winnsims.com
*Francis Austin b. 1645 England;
Francis Austin Jr. b. 1668 England;
Mary Austin b. 1697 NJ.*

Howard Bryant Austin

14852 S. Hwy. 59
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
hbjaustin@yahoo.com
*William & Ruth Austin of NC line:
William Austin b. ca 1700 Ireland;
Richard Austin b. ca 1730 Ireland;
Drury Austin b. ca 1765 Southampton
Co., VA.*

Darwina Austin

1443 Mintola Street
Flint, MI 48532
darwinaa@aol.com
*Asa Austin b. 1811 NY, d. 1881
Romeo, MI.*

Carol Austin Bournstein

6712 Cardinal Dr.
Waterloo, IL 62298
gutterbeads@yahoo.com
*William Austin b. 1654 MD; William
Austin b. 1690 MD; William Austin b.
1710 MD.*

Patsy Austin Whalon

2210 Holden Dr.
Anderson, IN 46012
patwhalon@aol.com
*John Austin b. ca 1821 Lincoln Co.(?),
TN; John Richard Austin b. 19 Dec
1844 MS; William Walter Austin b. 27
Mar 1881 Watervalley, MS.*

Address Changes - Please notify the membership chairman.

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

**Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman**

"DNA Test Results" continued from page 1

John Austin (bc.1647 New Haven, CT)

Two descendents of John match 25/25. A third matches them 23/25. A descendent of Orville Hart (b.1837 NY) matches them 24/25.

Richard Austin (bc. 1598 ENG, r. Charlestown MA)

Four descendents of Richard match each other 25/25. None has yet been tested with 37 markers, but close matches are expected. One man thought to be descended from Richard through John (b. 1738 MA) was not closely related to the Richard group, based on a large number of DNA mismatches with the others. See John following:

John Austin (b. 1738 MA)

Two men descended respectively from the sons (James Beldin and George) of John's presumed son Isaac (b.1771 MA) match each other 25/25, but do not match the Richard group. Hypotheses are (1) Isaac was not the biological father of these sons but was perhaps their step-father; (2) Isaac was not the biological son of John. A descendent of Jonathan Austin (bc.1698 Kent?) matches James and George 23/25.

Unknown Austin

Single descendents of Richard (bc.1790 GA), John (bc.1790 VA), John (bc.1692 r. VA), and Richard (d.1759 VA) match each other 23/25 or 24/25, although no common ancestor for any of them has yet been found.

The table of test results (the Profiles Table) may be viewed at www.austins.org, following the links "Projects" - "Austin/Austen DNA Project" - "View Latest Test Results."

**Charles W. Austin
cwa32@socal.rr.com**

HELP FUND THE AUSTIN-AUSTEN DNA PROJECT

The AFAOA and AFGS organizations contribute to this Fund in order to systematically fill in the DNA Profiles Table for all documented Austin lines, starting with the largest lines. Private contributions are also appreciated for the DNA Project Fund. You can contribute by sending your checks payable to "Carol R. Austin" to the Fund Coordinator:

Carol R. Austin
9726 Mirage Circle
Garden Grove, CA 92644



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This year's Austin Convention was a great success due to the location near the Allen County Library (I just love their open stacks) and the great speakers that Mike lined up. Bev and I got to renew friendships and make many new friends. As usual I was sad to have it end and I wished I had more time to visit and to do research at the library.

I gave a talk on the 1855 New York State Census and was glad to find that the library has microfilm copies of that census.

We heard two interesting talks by Charlie Austin that dealt with DNA. He informed us about the history of DNA research and some technical details of what DNA is, then explained how DNA results can be used in genealogical research, what it could tell us and what it could not tell us and how best to use this new tool.

Mike Austin reviewed the Austin-Austen DNA Project to date and offered some challenges for future testing. This relatively new science offers great hopes for solving some very complex problems.

At our annual business meeting we nominated four locations for next year's Convention. Two locations were on last year's list (Nashville, Tennessee and Savannah, Georgia). We met in the northwest last year (Seattle, Washington) and in the mid west this year (Fort Wayne, Indiana). Personally, I think we need to go to the northeast or southeast, but Salt Lake City, Utah was also nominated.

The locations nominated are in Connecticut, Georgia, Tennessee and Utah. There is a ballot on page 7 of this *Newsletter* that allows everyone to vote for their top choice of location, along with a short description of each. We have also added a place on the ballot where you can indicate your preference of months for future meetings (April, May, June, July, August and September). You can vote by snail mail by sending in the ballot, or by e-mail. Please give your input, even if you can't make the next convention.

Per our by-laws, at the next annual meeting there will be an election of officers. I need at least three volunteers for a Nominating Committee, so please let me know if you are interested in being on the committee.

Patricia Korach volunteered to coordinate a process where the AFAOA would donate some of the *Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts* books to libraries and institutions that service Austin researchers. Please let her know of possible libraries that would accept a book.

Arthur Sikes, Jr.
AFAOA President

Grand Opening

Edward O. Austin Home
&
Historical Society Museum

May 14, 2006 was a special day in the city of Austin, Pennsylvania. It was the day of the grand opening of the Edward O. Austin Home Museum. The museum is a replica of his original home that was destroyed when a dam burst in 1911. Mr. Austin was the founder of the town and he was born in 1825, living until 1909.



Restored Edward O. Austin's home - museum
and the home of the Historical Society

The ceremony took place in the gazebo near the museum, and in spite of a little rain, the spirits of those attending were not dampened. Among the many in attendance were Ralph Austin of Wilson, New York, and Judy Hefty of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, both direct descendants of Mr. Austin. Many local dignitaries were on hand for the dedication and praised the society for a job well done.

Ron Ebbert, president of the historical society, has been the driving force behind the restoration and because of his persistence and dedication this dream was realized. It has taken five years of hard work to complete. After Mr. Ebbert cut the ribbon anxious guests were treated to their first look at the 10 rooms of treasures relating to the town of Austin, its tragic history and eventual triumph. It truly was as if one took a step back in time.

Anyone traveling in northern Pennsylvania should make a point of stopping by and visiting the museum. They are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and Thursday evening from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Their telephone number is 814-647-8358. The mailing address is Post Office Box 412, 1 Town Square, Austin, PA 16720. Their website is www.eoastinhistsoc@zitomedia.net.

Judy Hefty
heftyjudy@aol.com

The Unfortunate Captain Austin

By Wannabe Ann Austin

It was a dark and stormy night.... Well, it might not have been, but it certainly would have seemed so to Union Captain George Austin. He had just won a lottery, and the prize was his execution! This is a story about one of our Austin ancestors and how he was involved in a National incident during the Civil War. An incident that involved the Secretaries of War for the Union and Confederacy, General Robert E. Lee, Union General George McClellan, the Virginia Confederate House of Delegates, and Mary Lincoln.

Our story begins two months after the start of the Civil War. In June of 1861, a volunteer regiment was formed at Camp Clay, Pendleton, Ohio, to fight for the Union. Although consisting primarily of Ohio recruits, it was led by Kentucky officers, and became the 2nd Kentucky Infantry Volunteers. Our George Austin was a Captain, and the leader of Company B of this unit.

The first campaign against Confederate forces started July 13 in Virginia around the towns of Barboursville and Scarytown. On 17 July 1861, the regiment engaged Confederate forces led by Captain Jenkins. During the battle, the Union regimental commander Col. Woodruff, his assistant Lt. Col. George W. Neff and our Capt. George Austin were captured and taken prisoner. They were ultimately confined at the Confederate Columbia Jail, Columbia, South Carolina. While Captain Austin sat in prison feeding birds, events were taking place that would put his life in greater peril.

The Virginia State Rangers of the Confederacy were authorized by an act of the Virginia General Assembly. These were civilian or partisan units, loosely sponsored by the Confederate Government, whose purpose was to harass Union forces using guerrilla tactics. Their leaders were given blank commissions, which were completed by the guerrillas to prove they were soldiers in case they were captured. Some Ranger groups were very effective soldiers, while some became common criminals, robbing friend and foe alike. Just how bad was it? You have some idea when Confederate General Henry Heath characterized one of the groups as "an outlaw band that robbed and plundered."

The leaders of two of these Ranger Companies, Captains John L. Spriggs and Marshall Triplett were captured by Union forces; considered outlaws, not soldiers; and were sentenced to be hanged as felons. The Confederacy would simply not allow these soldiers, official or otherwise, to be treated as criminals. The story of what happens next is set forth in a series of letters that are published in "The War of the Rebellion - A Compilation of Union and Confederate Armies."

It starts with a January 4, 1862, letter from Capt. Austin's commander Col. Woodruff indicating that he, his assistant Neff and Austin were being held as hostages for the privateers Triplett and Spriggs. In a February letter Woodruff said:

"We are treated as felons, humiliated, degraded, yet no steps have been taken as we are aware to relieve us from the mortification and suffering we have been compelled to endure. As long as the privateers are held otherwise as prisoners of war there can be no possible

chance for our release."

It was at this point that things started to go downhill for our Captain. Having no appropriate answer from the Union, which was still planning to hang Triplett and Spriggs, the Head of the Confederate Prisons ordered a lottery be held to select two Union Captains who would be hanged if the Union carried out the sentences against the Rangers. Guess who won the lottery – our Captain George Austin and Captain Timothy O'Meara, of the New York State Volunteers. General Robert E. Lee then wrote to Major General McClellan of the Union Army:

"GENERAL: I am directed by the Secretary of War to state that having been informed of the capture of Captains Spriggs and Triplett, of the Ranger Service of the State of Virginia, and of their intended execution by order of the United States Government, he has caused lots to be drawn from among US officers detained as prisoners of war for the purpose of selecting subjects for retaliation, and the that lots have fallen upon Captain George Austin and Captain Timothy O'Meara."

"It is the desire of the Confederate Government to conduct this war in conformity to the usages of Christian and civilized nations, but should he have been correctly informed and should Captains Spriggs and Triplett be executed, retaliation will be made on Captains Austin and O'Meara. This course will be demanded by due regard for the citizens of the Confederate States and will be unhesitatingly though reluctantly pursued."

"Not being certain of the correctness of the report no change has been made in the treatment of the hostages, and I shall be very happy to learn that the report is without foundation."

While we do not have the reply, the records of the Virginia Confederate House of Delegates show a letter from the Confederate Secretary of War dated October 1862 that says, "Hearing some time ago from Gov. Letcher, of the reported intention of the enemy to treat Captains Sprigg and Triplett as felons, the department caused two hostages to be set aside from the commissioned officers of the enemy, and informed General McClellan, through General Lee, that they would be treated in all respects as the United States government treated Captains Sprigg and Triplett. General McClellan referred the letter to his government, and afterwards informed General Lee that Captains Sprigg and Triplett would be treated as prisoners of war."

In September of 1862, records show that Captain George Austin was exchanged as a prisoner of war. This is all we know about George Austin, and today he is in our Unplaced Austins Database until we find a home for him. We can guess, however, that he probably stayed away from lotteries the rest of his life!

How does Mary Lincoln fit into this? Pictured on the next page is an envelope addressed in her own handwriting by Mary Lincoln to Mrs. James/John Spriggs of Springfield, IL, dated

Please see "George Austin" page 5

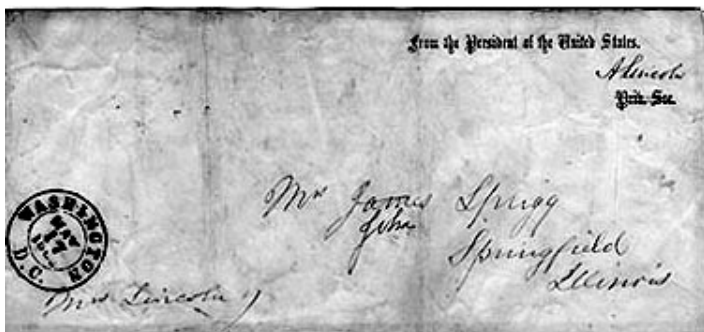
GAY MARTIN RECEIVES SECOND EAGLE AWARD FROM DR. MIKE AUSTIN AT THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION



The Austin Genealogical Research Award is presented annually at the International Austin Convention by the Austin Families Genealogical Society (AFGS). More commonly referred to as the "Eagle Award" it was established in early 1997 to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to publishing Austin genealogical research.

The 2006 Eagle Award was given to Gay Martin, who also received the award in 2001, for his continuing efforts toward transcribing the paper records of the AFAOA into digital format which can then be searched on the web. He is currently working on Janet Austin Curtis' information that she gathered for Austins in North and South Carolina.

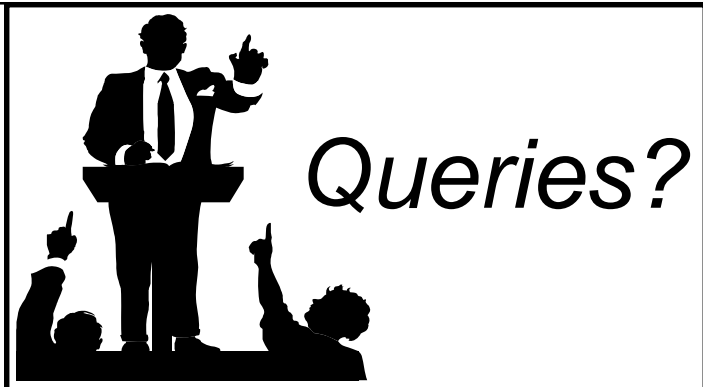
"George Austin" Continued from page 4



Letter from Mary Lincoln addressed to Mrs. James/John Spriggs. Writing at top right: "From President of the United States," Lincoln's signature, "Priv. Sec." (scratched out). Writing at lower left: "Mrs Lincoln." Stamp: "Washington D.C., May 17 [1863]"

May 17 [1863]. The letter bears the actual signature of Abraham Lincoln who "franked" the postage requirement. The contents of the envelope are not with it, and one can only wonder what situation caused Mrs. Lincoln to write to the wife of an enemy combatant who had been recently condemned to death. The envelope alone is being offered for sale by an antique dealer for \$25,000.

Editor's Note: Initial research by Jim Carlin. Additional research and re-write by Jan Untener.



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

Q16, 3-1 - I am looking for documentation that Patrick Austin, b. 5 Aug 1793 Campbell Co., VA was the father of Thomas Washington Austin, 1829 Madison, Charlotte Co., VA. He married Mary Jane St. John. Patrick was a son of James Austin b. 1760 and Catherine Patrick b. 1777. My deceased brother linked Patrick and Thomas Washington some 20 years ago and I do not now have his source.

Audrey Austin, flaudbill9@earthlink.net

Q16, 3-2 - I have been researching my Austin line from Sequatchie and Bledsoe Counties, TN. My gr-gr-grandfather was William Austin who married Annie Jane Knight. While going back through the census, I have found that in 1860, he was listed as William Farris who lived with Joseph and Elizabeth Austin. Sometime prior to the 1870 census, he (and his brother Alvis) had their last name changed to Austin. I would like to communicate with anyone who can explain the Faris/Austin connection as this appears in several places Tennessee.

Connie Talley, catalley37@aol.com

Q16, 3-3 - Would like to compare notes on the Austin family. I am specifically interested in the following: Wallace Morrell AUSTIN (my mother's father) [Jan 1895 - Aug 1971]; His father: Archie S. (Archer Spencer?) AUSTIN (March, 1865 - ?); His father: James [T or H] Austin [Aug 1839 - ?]; His father: ? Gilman Austin of Vermont.

Bernard L. Carpenter, bernard.carpenter@worldnet.att.net

Q16, 3-4 - I am the great great granddaughter of Nathan Austin (1838-N.Carolina) & Harriett Maddox (1845-Missouri, married in 1862, Dallas Co., MO). They had 12 children, one of whom, Sallie Austin Colt, is my great grandmother. Would love to share info!

Sally Schafer, ssmes@juno.com

Q16, 3-5 - Looking for family tree info. Birth certificate info: Johnnie Garland Austin, b. 19 Sep 1945, Tyler, TX.

Johnny Garland Austin - johnny@rosebriar.com

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Minutes of Business Meeting

June 23, 2006 – Fort Wayne, Indiana

President Art Sikes opened the Austin Families Association meeting and introduced the officers who were present.

In the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer, Alice Martin was appointed to take the minutes.

The reading of the minutes of the 2005 annual meeting was waived since they had been on display for all to read during the convention. Charles Austin moved that they be accepted. Beverly Sikes seconded. Motion carried.

Art Sikes presented the 2005 and 2006 year-to-date financial reports as received from the Treasurer. Beverly Sikes moved to accept the reports. Jim Carlin seconded. Motion carried.

The following budget for 2006 was proposed:

Estimated Annual Income:	
Dues	\$3,200
Book Sales	<u>400</u>
Total	\$3,600

Estimated Annual Expenses:

Newsletters & postage	\$1,200
Web site & search engine	2,600
DNA Project	400
Software & computer services	300
Supplies & misc.	<u>150</u>
Total	\$4,650

It was noted that expenses exceed income, but that the Association has sufficient funds to absorb a possible deficit and an increase in membership was possible. Betty Shelhamer moved to approve the budget. Gay Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Liz Carlin presented the Genealogist report. She stated that there are now 23 Northern Austin databases, of which 3 are new (Abraham, Rodman and Nathan, all of NY) and 9 have been updated in the past year. Of the 19 Southern Austin databases, 1 is new (Joseph of VA) and 6 have been updated. Two of the three Unplaced databases have been updated. Another database is almost ready for placement on our website and an update to Richard of Charlestown, MA should be ready by the end of the year.

Jim Carlin, Database Chairman, reported on improvements to the AFAOA Web site. The AFAOA databases can be searched from a master index and also by text search in descendency book format. These books are maintained only on the AFAOA web site. Documents now available for text search include the Edith Austin Moore Field Notebooks, the States Notebooks and Miscellaneous Records of Janet Austin Curtis and the Dall-Tardy Letters. He recognized the contribution of Gay Martin for the transcription of most of these documents. Gay is now working on a collection of North Carolina records. Jim introduced web master, Sue Osborn, and Newsletter editor, Kathie Koble, thanking them for their excellent work.

Jim then asked for help in distributing the remaining *Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts* books, published by AFAOA in 1998, to genealogical libraries around the coun-

try. Patricia Korach volunteered to work on this project.

Alice Martin reported that current paid membership is 236.

The location of the 2007 National Austin Convention was discussed and the following places were nominated as possible convention sites: Hartford/ Suffield, CT, Nashville, TN, Salt Lake City, UT, and Savannah, GA. Although the annual convention is usually held in June, July, or August, it was suggested that the months of April, May and September also be considered. The membership will be asked for input on this. Voting instructions will be in the August Newsletter. All AFAOA members in good standing may vote, either by paper ballot or e-mail ballot.

Gay Martin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Beverly Sikes seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Martin, Acting Secretary

Finance Report for 2005

General Fund

Beginning balance – January 1, 2005:	\$10,017.46
Dues received	\$3,320.00
Interest received	<u>11.35</u>
Total Income	\$3,331.35

Newsletter expenses	\$1104.21
Web page expenses	2636.29
Supplies	15.95
Computer Software	248.62
Austin DNA Project testing	342.00
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>55.79</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,402.86
Balance – December 31, 2005:	\$ 8,945.95

Publishing Fund

Beginning balance – January 1, 2005:	\$ 715.11
Total Income – books sold	<u>525.00</u>
Balance – December 31, 2005	\$ 1,240.11

Convention Fund

Beginning balance - January 1, 2005:	\$ 213.69
Registration fees	1,950.00
Banquet Attendees	<u>60.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,010.00

Printing	\$34.98
Snacks & Drinks	63.87
Transportation to Nat. Archives	80.00
LCD Projector Rental	150.00
A/V Rental	81.60
Banquet	1,598.90
Award	38.38
Banquet Speaker	<u>100.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,147.73

Balance – December 31, 2005: \$ 75.96

TOTAL BANK BALANCE – Dec. 31, 2005 \$10,262.03

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bigolin
Secretary-Treasurer

Cities Nominated for the 2007 National Austin Convention Site

HARTFORD/SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

There are three outstanding research libraries in this area, the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Historical Society Library in Hartford and the Connecticut Valley Historical Library in Springfield, Massachusetts. Suffield, a few miles from Hartford, also has an outstanding library with a large archive section and many original Suffield documents. Suffield has many old Austin homes and at least four cemeteries with Austin headstones. Anthony Austin, one of the two sons of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, was an original proprietor of Suffield in 1674 and left many descendants in the area. Other Austin lines that began in Connecticut are those from John Austin of New Haven and John Austin of Stamford. Among the many interesting places to visit in the area are: Mark Twain house, Springfield Armory, Harriet Beecher Stowe house, Noah Webster house, Old Newgate prison, and Historical Deerfield.

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 here.

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.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Family History Center in Salt Lake City really needs no introduction. Founded in 1894 to collect genealogical records, it is now the largest library of its kind in the world. Its facilities are open daily to the public at no cost other than nominal reproduction charges. The library contains 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 742,000 microfiche, 310,000 books, 4,500 periodicals and over 700 electronic resources. Its records cover the United States, Canada, The British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Salt Lake City is in a high valley in the Rocky Mountains, located at the foot of the Wasach mountain range. Places to visit include the State Capitol, the Governor's mansion, historic homes of the Mormon Pioneers, Ensign Peak where Brigham Young planned the city, and "This is the Place" Heritage Park. Many fine restaurants, Olympic sites, and attending a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir provide interesting things to do.

Please Cut Here

Please Cut Here

Official AFAOA Site Selection Ballot for the 2007 National Austin Convention

- Please select your site preference (check one box only)

- Hartford/Suffield, Connecticut
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Savannah, Georgia
- Salt Lake City, Utah

- Please indicate your preferred convention months (indicate priority i.e. 1, 2, 3...)

___April ___May ___June ___July ___August ___September

- Please Mail This Ballot to:

Alice Austin Martin
1703 Kensington Ave.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

- Or e-mail your selections to:

Please be sure to include your membership information: Name, City, State, Zipcode

**Deadline for all votes:
September 30, 2006**

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

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