



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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Ellis Island Database Now On-Line

Editor's Note: The following article was adapted from "A Labor-Intensive Gift From The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," obtained from the LDS Family History Library website: www.familysearch.org.

The computerized Ellis Island passenger records database is now a reality because of the untiring work of more than 12,000 volunteers who recently completed the task of deciphering almost-impossible-to-read microfilms and photocopies, scrutinizing century-old handwriting, and hand-copying and typing isolated pieces of information originally recorded by multiple scribes who took it down from people of different nationalities speaking different languages.

The effort was a cooperative project of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the National Park Service, and The Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. The Ellis Island database provides easy access to the passenger arrival records of approximately 22 million individuals whose names appear in the original ships' passenger manifests for the Port of New York from 1892 to 1924. Port of New York records account for approximately 71% of all US immigration records.

Visitors to the American Family Immigration History Center on Ellis Island can now search on computer for ancestors who may have immigrated to the United States from many countries during this 32-year period. If a visitor discovers an ancestor in the database, a system link allows the Center to print for the visitor a copy of the passenger manifest and a picture of the ship on which the ancestor sailed.

The database will also be available free to the public on the Ellis Island web site at www.ellislandrecords.org. Web site visitors can locate an ancestor, then order a printed copy of the passenger manifest and a picture of the ship.

The 12,000 volunteers working in the United States and Canada donated approximately 5.6 million hours to the work of carefully examining the original records on microfilm and photocopies, then "extracting" only pertinent information onto data-entry forms or typing it directly into computers.

As a further step to improve accuracy, approxi-

mately 100 full-time volunteers at Church headquarters in Salt Lake City compared the original microfilms to extracted data and made corrections as needed. The incentive for many of them was knowing they had relatives who immigrated to the United States and arrived at Ellis Island.

The end result is a database which will allow as many as 100 million living descendants of United States immigrants to find information about their ancestors or confirm these ancestors' first steps on the land of their hopes and dreams.

New at the LDS Family History Library Website

Digitized versions of the United States 1880, the British 1881, and the Canadian 1881 censuses can now be searched online. Digitization of the 1880 United States Census is complete. Approximately 50 million individuals are named in this census.

The British Isles census names 25 million individuals from England, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

The 1881 Canadian census names 4.3 million individuals. The records are a transcription of the original 1881 Canadian census, enumerated on 4 April 1881. Information from the following fields was extracted: name, age, gender, location at the time of the census, birthplace, ethnic origin, occupation, religious affiliation, marital status, and notations.

1881 Canadian census records enumerate individuals, grouped within households and institutions, for the Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec, and the Northwest Territories. (The Northwest Territories in 1881 contained the current provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and parts of historical Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario, plus the Territory of Yukon and the western part of the Territory of Nunavut.)

Now Playing on Your Screen

Joy Davis, AFAOA Web Master invites you to visit the AFAOA web site at <http://www.afaao.org/> Take advantage of the Query page or browse about for a while and feedback your comments to Joy at afaao@worldnet.att.net.

<http://www.afaao.org>



New Members Welcomed

Sheri Flannagan

907 Ann St.

Batavia, IL 60510

SheriDBH@MSN.com

Richard Austin b. 1598 England;

Anthony Austin b. 1636 England;

Ensign Anthony Austin b. 1668 Rowley, MA.

Robert E. Coley

3108 Wood Ridge Dr.

Landisville, PA 17538

robert.e.coley@verizon.net

Riley H. Austin b. 1832 Stanley Co.,

NC; John Wesley Austin b. 1856

Stanley Co., NC.

Eleanor Kolkebeck

505 Pamlico River Drive

Washington, NC 27889

kensail@aol.com

Robert Austin b. ca 1634 England, d.

1687 RI?; Isaac Austin b. 1737

Stephentown, NY, d. Gouvenour, NY;

Mary Elizabeth Austin b. 1833 New

York City, NY, d. 1908 New York City, NY.

Virginia C. High

47 Woolsey Court

Pennington, NJ 08534

Richard Austin b. 1598 England;

Anthony Austin b. 1636 England;

Amanda Austin b. PA, d. 1892 MI.

For those using the 1855 NY State Census:

The 1855 New York State census has the following column headings: Dwelling numbers in order of visitation; dwelling material, value; family numbered in order of visitation; name; age; sex; color (black or mulatto); relation to head of family; place of b. (NY county or other); marital status; years resident in this place; profession/trade/occupation; native/naturalized/alien; colored not taxed; who can read or write; owners of land; deaf; dumb; blind, insane or idiotic.

See <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm>

Austin Excerpts from "Ebenezer Gay Jr's Record of Deaths in his Parish, 1795 - 1814"

by Scott Prentice*

Ebenezer Gay, Jr. served as pastor of the first Congregational Church in Suffield Connecticut from 1796 to 1826. He kept a diary of the deaths in the community from 1795 to 1814. The original manuscript is at the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield, CT.

page 4

Dec 9th [1795] Daughter of Calvin & Rebeckah Austin, ae 5 weeks. Found dead in ye bed had fits a few days before.

Page 6

Sep 9th [1796] [Sam'l Austin's ...

Page 7

[Oct]10th [1796]of Uriah Austin, aged a few hours, a son

page 8

May 7th [1798] Wife of Deacon Uriah Austin, ae 75. Fit of ye numb palsy. Had a shock some years before, wh preventing her getting about much.

Page 9

[June] 8th [1798] Dr. Horace Austin ae 41. Put an end to his own life in prison at Hartford by drinking laudanum, 3 oz. For 2 or 3 months he had been reasoning himself into ye idea yt his life was his own, & at his own disposal. He had lived several years at ye southward was somewhat intemperate & probably had little more religion yn ye generality of ye (?) in yt part of ye country He had been both fortunate and unfortunate in trade - Was now confined for (800?) dragged her out of her bed by her hair a few nights before & bruised her much

page 11

[Dec] 28 [1799] Deacon Uriah Austin 89 years old if he liv'd till Jany 5th A good man an full of (days?)

page 12

[Jan] 10 [1800] Calvin Austin's wife. Taken with fits, continued 1 day ae 36

page 16

Jan'y 9th [1802] Sam Austin aged 63 (Ideotish?) Several years before he burnt his foot wh continued to have a running sore upon it till ye past summer It dried up & his throat troubled him wh something of ye scrophulous kind. Wc Esq'r King expected w'd end his days. It had grown so as to limit his speech. But he was taken one night with bleeding wc came from his by stool as well as from his mouth in great quantities His speech was better but in ye course of a fortnight

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he died.

Page 21

Dec 1 [1803] Infant son of Moses Austin aged 2 weeks Fits

Page 22

[April] 6th [1803] Uriah Austin wife aged 42 Fell from a horse in ye afternoon & died about 8 o'clock in ye evening Subject to intemperance.

Page 26

April 14 [1806] Seth Austin, aged 75 declining few weeks. dies suddenly

Page 30

March 4 [1809] Uriah Austin's d. Betsy, 18

*Transcribed and published by iRoot.Net, 2001

Personal Database Management

Anna K. Austin wrote recently: "After using my genealogy program's capability to print out a place name report, I was totally amazed at how many ways the same place can be spelled, misspelled, and entered. I did find that using the program's global search and correct function worked most of the time, but you have to be very careful to work with your database backed up BEFOREHAND.

I discovered in one case that **Carol** had become **Californiarol**. I have a large database and have not figured out how to correct this without making all of Californias into Carols. Does anybody have any advice as to how to proceed?"

* * *

I make global changes to databases by first making a backup as Anna suggests, and then using my program to create a GEDCOM file of my database. The GEDCOM file is a text file which can be opened by any word processor.

What you see when you do this is a coded listing of your database with such codes as INDI, BIRT, DEAT, PLAC... corresponding to individual, birth, death and place, with data following the code. The number preceding the code indicates the order of the data - something not important for making global changes.

*I then use the word processor to do a "Find and Replace" choosing to replace **Californiarol** with **Carol**, leaving **California** untouched. After saving the file, re-import it into your genealogy program, and carefully check your work. Jim Carlin*



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope that 2002 has been a year of exciting research and discoveries for all of you! Perhaps, through AFAOA, you have found previously unknown ancestors or "cousins" to share your quest. If our databases and other research materials have helped you please let us know – we love "success stories". If you can contribute any corrections or new information please contact our genealogists, Liz and Jan.

As you work to dig further into the past, don't overlook the possible benefit of searching forward, following the lines of your mystery ancestor's other children into the present wherever possible and finding cousins, who just might have the information you lack. After three or four generations families often spread out and lose touch with one another. Another branch of your family may have inherited the old family Bible and pictures or may have already done valuable research. If you only knew who they were! Make a New Year's Resolution to find those "lost branches" – or maybe yours is the one that is lost...

The resources available on the Internet increase daily - from local cemetery lists, state death records and old newspapers to immigration lists and national census records. Many well-researched family trees are being placed on-line. If you have searched before, with no results, try again! And don't confine your search to one spelling of the name.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alice Austin Martin
AFAOA President

Male Names by Wantabe A. Austin

I first want to admit that an error was made in the last article on Puritan names. I misspelled Mahershalalhashbaz. While I could (when my spouse is not around) blame this on the proofreader, I will accept full responsibility. The error was discovered while standing in the supermarket line reading the Little Known Facts section of "The Star." The name is the longest in the Bible, found in Isaiah 8:1, but should not even have been in the article because it is a male name. I apologize to my readers.

English male first names are about as exciting as English food. The Austin Database shows that in the 1600's the North was settled by two Johns, a Jonah, Joseph, Samuel, Matthew, Robert and the infamous Richard. The South had another John, two Williams and Henry. Francis of New Jersey is in the middle, an abnormality. The North was colonized by the English poor and religious, the South by the English aristocrats. Sorry you Austins out there, but, looking at the database information, it appears that most of the rich Austins remained at home!

It was not until the late 1600's that America started to have

other nationalities invade our shores and bring with them new and original names. The Germans were first, using the new names Johan (John) and Josef (Joseph). This was followed by the Dutch, Spanish and a couple Scandinavians who also had little influence on the basic names. The French, being French, said "We would rather play hockey and drink LaBatts, hey, than live with vous English pigs!" and promptly moved to Canada. They had no influence on names until the Stanley Cup playoffs began. Thus the English keep their monopoly on naming male children.

The English did not create the names they used. A web site on the origin of names, reliable because of its use of graphics and well-formatted pages, gives us information about how these names came to be. John, Matthew, Joseph and Samuel can be traced back to derivations of Hebrew names. Samuel is from Shemu'el and means "name of God" or "God has heard". John is the Hebrew name Yochanan, meaning "Yahweh is gracious". Matthew means "gift of Yahweh". Joseph means "Yahweh will add". For those of you not up on your Hebrew, Yahweh is their name for God, represented by the four Hebrew letters *Yod He Waw He*. It was considered blasphemous to utter the name of God, so it was only written and never spoken. If you have read this name aloud, you are now in big trouble. I would strongly suggest a quick trip to your local church or synagogue to apologize.

It is quite fitting, from a male perspective, that men's names referred to God. Other male names tend to be derived from words for admirable qualities. Robert, Richard, Henry and William all have Germanic roots, and were forced on the English by the Normans. Robert means "bright fame", Richard means "brave power" (i.e. Richard the Lionheart), and Henry stands for "home ruler". The only strange name is William. It stands for "will helmet", or the desire to wear helmet protection. Rumor has it that his real name was John, but because he fell from his horse so many times his family bought him a safety helmet and renamed him. This leaves Francis, which is Latin for "Frenchman", or English for "Frenchman who didn't go to Canada".

Since the 1600's America has become a melting pot of cultures. Using the 1990 U.S. Census, a list of the 10 most common male first names reveals the male creativity and ability to adapt to changing circumstances. In order of commonality, they are: James, John, Robert, Michael, William, David, Richard, Charles, Joseph and Thomas. A big change from the names used three to four hundred years ago!

So how many Johns were on the Mayflower? The answer is 1, 15 or more than 18. If your mind goes to the use of the name John as a bathroom facility, there was probably one, being a board with a hole in it located on the bow of the Mayflower. Why the bow? Just consider which way the wind blows in relation to a sailing ship. As a name, there were 15 Johns, 8 Williams and 5 Richards as passengers, and of the 9 known crewmembers, 3 were named John. There were no Austins on board, unless as an unknown crewmember. If an Austin was in the crew, let us all hope he was not the navigator, since the Mayflower was suppose to land in Virginia, not Massachusetts.

The next (and last) article in this series: **Celebrity Austins, or Will someone really name their child George Bush or Pamela Anderson Austin?**

Austin Family Crests



The use of family crests or “arms” was completely unknown in Europe before the 12th century. The sudden rise in their use was primarily due to the need for identifying body armor brought on by the Crusades, and by the growing use of seals on personal documents. These early insignia were chosen because they were conspicuous, even in the bloody chaos of battle. For the same reason, bright colors were used.

AFAOA President Alice Austin Martin is the owner of a beautifully mounted seal that was used for imprinting the wax that sealed documents and envelopes.

The base of the seal is engraved with the Austin crest (in reverse), and the top is ornamented by a guardian angel. The seal is packaged in a carrying case lined with blue silk.

The seal, which was owned by Alice’s father, is a copy made from an original of unknown origin, and was crafted in Florence, Italy in 1905.

There is no doubt that it is an authentic “Austin” crest because of the similarities to other known Austin crests granted by Heralds in the 16th through 18th centuries. One can also

see the similarity of Alice’s crest with that currently used by the AFAOA.

The AFAOA Austin crest is but one example of many Austin crests that result from the various spellings of the name, and because some Austin families of both England and Scotland bore similar crests. Unfortunately, no indication can be found as to the origin to these, or the respective dates the crests came into use.

The AFAOA and Alice’s crests

both have the cross surrounded by eagle’s wings at the very top. Alice’s shield has two chevrons and a single horizontal band which contains three crosslets. This could have evolved into the single chevron shaped band (actually the two chevrons “connected” by a band of different color) and the three crosses in the AFAOA crest.

At the bottom, Alice’s Austin crest has a banner bearing a Latin motto: FORT FIDO ET FIDELITAS, which may translate as STRENGTH, FAITH AND FIDELITY. The Latin motto is unique on an English crest. They are more commonly found on Scottish crests.

* * *

The *Newsletter* would be very interested in publishing the stories of the crests of other

Austin families, and invites letters or e-mail with details and pictures. Please send them to the editors (see page 1 for address).



AFAOA Member Shipley Research Paper Published in the National Genealogical Society’s Quarterly

Douglas S. Shipley, now of El Paso, TX, has had his research paper, *Teaming Oral History with Documentary Research: The Enslaved Austins of Missouri’s “Little Dixie”* accepted and formally published in the June 2002 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. A preliminary version of his paper won the 2001 Scholar Award of the American Society of Genealogists, for which Douglas received a scholarship to the Stamford University Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research.

From his introduction: “Frank Peebley and Fanny Austin offer a glimpse into the lives of formerly enslaved people, illustrating the complex and intertwined relationships of master, slave, child, and worker roles. Both Frank and Fanny demonstrate the urgency of preserving family tradition as a window into the past, as well as the reasons why genealogists and historians should diligently strive to document the details of family lore.”

Starting with the recorded oral memories of Pearl S. Frey, Douglas’ great grandmother, Douglas proceeded to investigate and document the relationships and the family life of Fanny

Austin, her father (and owner) Thomas Austin, and of a young man named Frank Peebley that Fanny took a fancy to when she saw him run in a foot race.



Thomas Austin (of the Henry Austin of Calvert Co., MD line) was a white, Virginia-born slaveowner. His illicitly born daughter was fair-headed, blue eyed, and listed as white by the 1870 census enumerator until he was later “corrected.” Frank Peebley was what was referred to as a “black Indian.” When Fanny asked her father to buy Frank, Thomas complied, and Frank became Frank Austin. Fanny bought Frank’s freedom for \$950 from her father in 1857.

Eventually, Frank and Fanny married, ultimately producing 13 children.

When Frank died on 12 May 1898, at age 98, he had 28 grandchildren and 14 great grand-children.

Compiling your Genealogy Timeline

Genealogy consists of information about our family's history: our ancestors and descendants. We study documents and data, and carefully document each item. But we often overlook one important aspect: understanding how these people lived and the historical events that happened during their lifetimes.

We can learn a great deal about our ancestors' lives by compiling a list of a variety of events by generation. Following is part of my Austin list:

**Aaron Austin b. 5 Mar. 1773 in Massachusetts, d. 23 Jun 1836 in Michigan
Great Great Great Grandfather**

- The Boston Tea Party occurred in 1773.
- Paul Revere made his famous ride in 1775.
- The first practical hot air balloon was flown in 1782.
- Congress officially declared an end to the Revolutionary War in 1783.
- George Washington was elected America's first President in 1789.
- First passport was issued in 1796.

**Aaron Kellogg Austin b. 1 Aug. 1807 in New York, d. 29 Jul 1887 in Michigan
Great Great Grandfather**

- The first emigrants used the Oregon Trail in 1836, the Big Rush occurred in 1843 and usage ended in 1869 when the transcontinental railroad was completed.
- In 1837, Michigan became a state.
- Gold was discovered in California in 1848, the Gold Rush occurred in 1849, when 80,000 prospectors emigrated there.
- In 1854, the Republican Party was founded in Jackson, Michigan (Aaron K. Austin was present).
- In 1861 the first transcontinental telegraph line was completed.
- In 1862 the Homestead Act was approved, granting free family farms to settlers.
- In 1869 Major John Powell explored the entire length of the Grand Canyon in 1869 (It had been first viewed in 1540).
- In 1876 Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his new invention: the telephone.
- The Battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's Last Stand) occurred in 1876.

**Frank Elmer Austin b. 25 Apr 1857 in Michigan d. 10 May 1944 in Michigan
Great Grandfather**

- Pony Express operated from 1860-61: delivered news of election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, outbreak of Civil War in 1861.
- First transcontinental telegraph line was completed in 1861.
- The Civil War began in 1860, and ended in 1865.
- Irving Berlin was born in 1888.
- George Selden patented first gas powered auto in 1895.
- World War I began in 1917: the armistice was signed in 1918.
- First successful airplane flown in 1903, first solo transatlantic flight in 1927, first American turbojet in 1942.
- President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law in 1935.
- Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941.

**Mabel Fanny Austin (Ladd) b. 10 Jun 1889 in Michigan d. 10 Mar 1976 in Michigan
Grandmother**

- Zippers were invented in 1893.
- The ice cream cone was invented in 1896.
- Paper clips were invented in 1899.
- Nikola Tesla invented modern radio in 1901 (not Marconi as I always thought).
- Vacuum cleaners were invented in 1901.
- The first teddy bear was created in 1902.
- Crayons were invented in 1903.

**Austin George Ladd b. 3 Apr 1909 in Michigan, d. 30 Jan 1984 in Florida.
Father**

- Talking motion pictures were invented in 1910.
- Traffic signals were invented in 1923.
- The first yoyo was made in 1928.
- Monopoly was invented in 1933.
- World War II began in 1941 (Austin G. Ladd served in the Army).

Think about the lives of your ancestors: My great grandfather, Frank Elmer Austin, lived during the time of the Pony Express. He lived through the Civil War, First World War, and most of the Second World War. I never knew his father, Aaron Kellogg Austin, but I understand more about his life knowing some of the events that occurred during his lifetime.

Marilyn Osterhout

A Woman's Place in the 1870s

A few years back I wrote a biography on my paternal grandmother, Carrie Austin. I knew that Carrie's early education was gained in Iowa country schools as she is recorded in the 1870 Federal Census as a 13-year-old school girl in Otter Creek Township, Tama County. Following her father's election to county sheriff the family moved from the farm to the county seat of Toledo.

Like many young women before and for years to come, Carrie discontinued formal schooling. Was it just shyness to enter a new school situation? My per-



spective broadened when I read an article in Carrie's own local newspaper, The Toledo [Iowa] Chronicle of January 2, 1873. The female gender is relegated its own stipulations for success. "Educating Girls"

Educating girls for household duties ought to be considered as necessary as instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and quite as universal. We are in our houses more than half of our existence, and it is the household surroundings which effect most largely the happiness or misery of domestic life.

If the wife knows how to "keep house," if she has learned how things ought to be cooked, how beds should be made, how carpets should be swept, how furniture should be repaired and turned, and altered, and renovated; if she knows how purchases can be made to the best advantage, and understands the laying in of provisions; how to make them go the farthest and last the longest; if she appreciates the importance of system, order, tidiness, and the quiet management of children and servants, then she knows how to make a heaven of home; how to win her children from the street; how to keep her husband."

Marjorie S. Elmore



*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

Q12-4,1 - Joe & Alice Ragusa - ragooz1@lightspeed.net
Seeking information regarding Sarah Amy Austin, born in New York, possibly Jefferson County, 1820-1830. Sarah was the daughter of Edmond Austin and Harriet Barber. I would like to find out more about her and her descendents. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Q12-4,2 - Steven L. Austin - Kaxhlan@aol.com
I am looking for information on the ancestry of William S. Austin, who was born about 1825/1828. He is listed in the 1850 Federal Census for Richmond, VA, living with his mother, Sarah _____ (b. abt. 1810), and siblings John O., Ann G., Sarah A., George W., Isabella, James M., and Alonso. He married a woman named Elnora _____.

Q12-4,3 - Gertrude Davis - GerAly@aol.com
Solomon and Ancil Austin had a sister, Elizabeth, who married a Levy Bogardas, who may have been a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. They lived in Cheung Co., NY. Elizabeth's mother, Susan Bundy Austin Dunning came to live with the family after her second husband Gideon Dunning died. First husband Austin probably died in 1842 in Oneida Co. of cholera. Would like to learn more about siblings other than Solomon and Ancil. Would appreciate any death certificate information.

Q12-4,4 - Stephanie Irish - Stephanielrish@msn.com
Need information on William Austin, b. in Abbeville, SC. He had at least one son, Francis Brison Austin b. abt. 1850 also in Abbeville. William enlisted in the Civil War in SC and later lived in Moore Co., NC where he married Flora Anne Hunsucker in 1880 and worked as a contractor in Raleigh. They attended Second Baptist Church in Raleigh. They later moved to Wilson

and Wilmington, NC and then to Savannah, GA, where he died. Children included Kathryn Elizabeth "Katie", Clyde, Jesse, William Palmer, Frederick Raleigh, Georgia Virginia, Eunice Anne "Daisy", Francis Brison, Jr., and one who died in infancy.

Q12-4,5 - Wanda Davis - wbdavis@ktc.com
I am looking for any information on William Austin, born 1842. He married Mary Nicholas, born 1849. At least one son named (Dr.) William Gaines Austin, who died in Bryan Co., OK in 1940.

Q12-4,6 - Lew Austin - lew.austin@rogers.com
I have a copy of a petition for a land grant (1784) in Canada around Missiquoi Bay (just north of Lake Champlain) from the Canadian National Military Archives listing a Captain Austin as one of the petitioners. The petition refers to the "unhappy war" and to "loyal to the King". He may be our family's original settler in Quebec or Ontario. I'm trying to establish: (a) The British Regiment he served with (b) His first name.

Q12-4,7 - Bobbye Taylor Costello - bobbyec@swbell.net
Need information on Elizabeth Austin b. 6/6/1810 NC, d. 1/11/1889 Haywood, TN, who married Thomas A. Adams; had a child named Volumnia Jane Adams.

Q12-4,8 - Austin Dolby - gandalfmithrindir@yahoo.com
Need information on Anna Elizabeth Mary White (father: Samuel J. White, mother: Harriet Janvrin, spouse: Alva Converse Austin) and a possible link to Peregrine White.

Q12-4,9 - L. Brown - rolu@knology.net
Need information on Agnes "Aggey" Austin m. to James E. Frazier [Freaure?] in Rutherford Co., NC, Aug 8, 1799 (from NC Marriage Bonds). They migrated to Old Pendleton District, SC by 1810 (Census), died in Pickens District, SC after 1850. 1850 Census said she was b. in NC and James b. in VA.

Q12-4,10 - Dale Jensen - dhjen@sisna.com
Need information for Abigail Austin likely born Maine in 1780, moved to Lincoln, OH about 1820, married Stephen Doughty. Her sister named "Polly". Several of their children married into the "Buck" family. Need information on Abigail's parents.

Q12-4,11 - Robert Clayton - anjinclay@hotmail.com
Seeking info on Tryphena Austin, b. 1795 OH, married in IL Stephen McKenzie, b. 1780 TN.

Q12-4,12 - Priscilla Nobles - Cilla42@aol.com
My great grandmother married Elijah Graham in 1874, Baldwin Co., AL. She supposedly had two brothers, John and Charles. On her death certificate her father was listed as Charles Austin born in England and her mother was Rebecca? born in France. Family legend has Eliza and her two brothers being raised by a family that was mean to them because their parents died when the children were small. I think her brother, John, died in Biloxi, Ms. in 1900 but have no proof.

Did you know that all of these queries came from the Queries page on our website? Please visit the page on your next visit and help these people - or - contribute a query yourself.

An Excerpt from a 1929 Letter to Edith Austin Moore

92 Hendirc St.

Detroit, Mich.

Sept. 24, 1929

Dear Mrs. Moore:

The Austin pioneers were men and women of character and integrity. Some of the women had great personal charm and beauty, as had Abiah Knapp.

A very sad story of a romance between Abiah and Dr. Wyman is handed down by one still living, who remembers her. I also heard the story from my grandmother many years ago.

It seems Abiah fell in love with young Wyman while in her teens, he being a medical student and a bold and adventurous youth, could swear and shoot, had no money but plenty of brains. Abiah's father, being a clergyman and very straight laced, disapproved of the love affair and would not listen to the young man's proposal of marriage.

So Abiah was ordered to break off the affair and see him no more. In those days daughters obeyed their parents and Abiah bade her lover goodbye - and the Rev. Knapp preached to an empty Wyman pew.

Time went on and after a few years, her family began to fear she would be an "old Maid," a thing not desirable to be in those days. Finally their hints became too persistent and her quick temper rose and she said, "All right, I will marry the first man who asks me."

The first man to ask her was Peleg Austin, a man homely enough to stop a clock, about eight years older than herself, uneducated and rough, but he had some land, some money and was religious and upright, honest and a hard worker and quite dependable, so the dainty little Abiah cultured refined and beautiful, said "yes" - and married him and bore him eleven or twelve children. She pioneered with him from Constable to a newer frontier which is now the northern end of Moira Township.

First they built a log cabin in the howling wilderness, then after many years, a substantial stone house. Wild Indians came daily to their door, sometimes entering unbidden to steal a whole baking of bread and any other provisions they could find. The hardships and terrors of life in the wilderness (which was at that time called the "Siberia of America") was more than the delicate Abiah could stand. This, together with a broken heart (for she had never loved Peleg) caused her to become mentally unbalanced in a mild harmless way. Three of her children were born after this happened.

She learned many words from the Indians and tradition has it that she used to stand in the door of her cabin and gaze at the forest and say, "Oh Wan Gum, Wan Gum" meaning "Oh Lonesome Land" and thus Wangun received its present name from my great-grand mother, its first white woman.

Abiah Austin lived to the goodly age of 86 and died at the home of her daughter, Ruth McNall. She is buried beside Peleg in the southwestern corner of the old cemetery at Moira (Franklin County, New York). Many of her descendants inherited her type of beauty, small of stature, dark beautiful eyes, dark brown hair and small hands and feet, beautiful skin and quick temper.

Mrs. Lillian Manchester
(Robert Austin of the Rhode Island Line)

An Austin Tribute

In the several years that I spent in gleaning Austin data from the many varying sources for this project, I have become increasingly aware that Richard Austin and his descendants form a very backbone of America. They were stalwart, God-fearing builders. Captain Anthony, who followed Miles Standish as Town Clerk of Suffield, Massachusetts (now Connecticut), Stephen who established Texas, and Arva Owen who founded the town of Chautauqua, now known as Sinclairville, New York are but a few of the descendants of Richard who helped to carve a new nation out of the raw frontier.

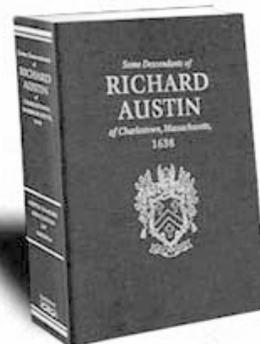
I was filled with compassion while reading about those Austins who lost loved ones in Indian attacks and other wars. I sit up straighter knowing that Austins have served their country, and that some of them have lost their lives in every war from the beginning of this nation to the present. I tried to imagine myself in their situations but couldn't. When I read about one dear Austin mother who lost most of her large family to illness in a matter of days, I cried.

Due to the magnitude of this project and the restrictions necessarily imposed, all the stories could not be told, but I have read every one of them and it with heartfelt gratitude that I express my thanks for having had the opportunity to be a part of this Austin project, and a member of the extended family of Richard, the first of his line to be called an American.

Lorrain Norlund

Contributing Editor
Richard Austin Book Project

Editor's Note: Lorraine Norlund, a Richard Austin of Charlestown descendant, spent the better part of three years at her computer, entering almost 75% of Edith Austin Moore's original book into the project database. She was also the "gleaner" or the person assigned to read all of the various AFAOA archive materials, and sort out any applicable additional information to augment Moore's text. Late in the book publication cycle, Lorraine voluntarily sent this tribute to the compilers, and it was immediately decided to include it in the final publication. Obviously, the tribute applies to any Austin family who made the perilous trip across the sea and made this country what it is today.



* * *

Richard descendants - get the rest of the story
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