



# Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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

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## Abner Delos Austin

### Black Hat Hero at Gettysburg

By Kristina Austin Scarcelli

My earliest known Austin ancestors are John Delos Austin (b. 1807) and Anna Maria Golman (b. 1813), who moved in the 1830s from New York State to Redford Township, Michigan, where they raised their two sons: Charles W. (b. October 10, 1844) and Abner Delos (b. April 20, 1846).

In 1851 John and Anna Austin were killed by the cholera epidemic ravaging southeastern Michigan, leaving seven-year-old Charles and five-year-old Abner orphaned. Charles was taken in by Mr. and Mrs. John Osborne, who raised him as a son. Abner was taken in by Charles and Eliza Milroy, who owned farmland neighboring the Austins. Family legend says that Abner referred to Mrs. Milroy as "Ma." However, the Austin boys were never legally adopted; therefore they retained their birth names.

Abner Delos Austin enlisted in the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry at Redford, Michigan on August 2, 1862. On his enlistment form, he claimed to be nineteen years old. In reality, he was only sixteen.

Abner was officially mustered into Company I of the 24th Michigan Infantry on August 14, 1862 at Detroit, Michigan. On August 29, Abner Austin and the 24th Michigan marched out of Detroit and into history.

The regiment reached its field destination of Fort Lyon, Virginia as winter began to descend. Here, the 24th Michigan joined the ranks of the highly respected Iron Brigade of the West, also called the Black Hat Brigade for the handsome dress Hardee hats they wore, and were subjected

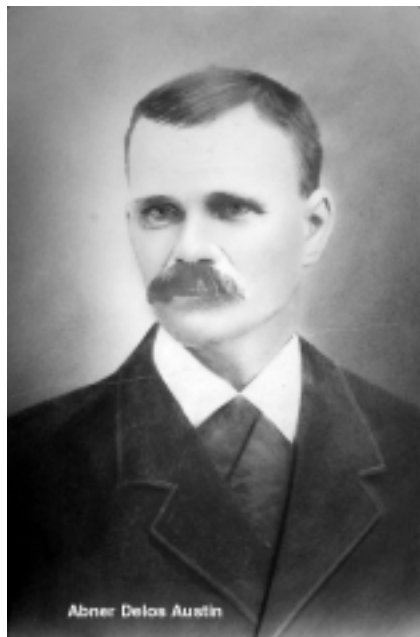
to rigorous training. The Iron Brigade was well-known on both sides as one of the fiercest fighting units in the Union Army. Then the 24th marched onward into the Battle of Fredericksburg (December 11 - 15, 1862) where their newly acquired talents were first put to the test. Come spring, the regiment found itself in the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 2 & 3, 1863).

Private Abner Austin was one of the 51,000 casualties at the Battle of Gettysburg. On July 1, 1863, during tremendously bitter fighting in the woods at McPherson's Ridge, west of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Abner suffered a gunshot wound to the left hand. With an 80% casualty rate that day, the 24th Michigan tops the Federal casualty list for the Gettysburg campaign - of the 496 men who went into battle on July 1, only 99 answered roll call on the

morning of July 2. On those three days in 1863, more men fought and more men died than in any other battle before or since on North American soil.

The bravery of the 24th Michigan, and young men like Abner Delos Austin, was instrumental in the Federal victory there. The battle changed the tide of the Civil War in favor of the Union Army.

Abner Austin was admitted to Ward B of the Satterlee U.S.A. General Hospital, at West Philadelphia where he remained for a number of months, first healing from his war wounds and later recuperating from illness. On January 25, 1864, Private Austin was granted furlough. He was to report back to the hospital twenty eight days later but he did not return. On February 19, 1864, he was listed as absent without leave.



Abner Delos Austin

Please see "Abner" on Page 4

<http://www.afaqa.org>

## Membership



## Corner

## TREE PLANTING HONORS STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN

### New Members Welcomed

#### Penny E. Austin

1724 Grove Street #22  
Marysville, WA 98223  
peca\_austin@comcast.net

*Maurice or Morris b. 1730 SCT or IRE;  
William b. 1769 Westfield, Washington,  
NY; James b 1778 NY.*

#### Barry R. Bjorkman

PO Box 6, Carson City, NV 89702-0006  
bjorkman6@charter.net

*Jarvis b. 1489 Tenderton, Kent, ENG;  
Stephen b. Jan 5, 1520 Tenderton, Kent,  
ENG; Jarvis b. July 16, 1540  
Staplehurst, Kent, ENG.*

#### Jane Austin Bruckner

4309 Sparrow Point Court  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
jane@janebruckner.com

*John Sr. b. ca 1692 Lunenburg Co., VA;  
John Jr. b. ca 1720 VA; William b. ca  
1750 VA, Bartholomew b. ca 1768  
Grayson Co., VA.*

#### Address Changes

Send changes to: Alice Austin Martin,  
527 Front Beach #10, Ocean Springs, MS  
39564; or send changes by e-mail to the  
address below:

#### Renewals

Please check your newsletter mailing  
label for your renewal date. When you  
renew your AFAOA membership, please  
send your dues (\$15 for one year or \$25  
for two years) to:

Bonnie Bigolin  
415 Wilkes Dr.  
Green River, WY 82935

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

**Alice Austin Martin  
Membership Chairman  
amembership@afaoa.org**

#### Nancy Phelps Hodges

8803 Healy Circle  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
ivanho@bellsouth.net

*John b. 1755 VA, d. abt 1805 Johnston  
Co., NC; Greene b. abt 1784 Johnston  
Co., NC; Gabriel b. abt 1819 Johnston  
or Wake Co., NC, Thomas Walter b.  
Aug 14, 1847 Johnston or Wake Co.,  
NC.*

#### Brenda Austin Mason

409 Miss Donna Lane  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
brendamason@mindspring.com  
*Nathaniel Sr. b. ca 1720 ENG d. 1798  
Greenville SC; Nathaniel Jr. b.ca 1745  
ENG d. 1832 Gwinnett Co. GA; Walter  
Manning b. 1768 Greenville Dist. SC;  
John Pennington b. 1808 Greenville Co.  
SC; Solomon Kirksy b. 1855 Henry Co.,  
GA.*

#### Victoria "Vicki" Cooper-Lane

5946 Busch Drive, Malibu, CA 90265  
vickicoop@earthlink.net  
*Richard b. 1598 Titchfield, ENG; An-  
thony b. 1636 Titchfield, ENG;  
Nathaniel b. 1678 Suffield, MA;  
Nathaniel b. 1703 Suffield, MA; Gad b.  
1733 Sheffield, MA; Stephen b. 1770  
Sheffield, MA.*

#### Is Your Membership Information Complete?

When you joined AFAOA you were  
asked to name your earliest Austin an-  
cestors and 3 spaces were provided.  
Some of you only named one ancestor  
and some added additional pages, nam-  
ing your entire known Austin line. Since  
giving that information have you extended  
your line back a generation or more? If  
so, please send me the additional names  
to update your membership record.

If you would like to know what an-  
cestor information we have for you, or  
who else in the Association shares your  
earliest ancestors, just send me an e-  
mail or a note and I will be happy to an-  
swer your questions.

Stephen Fuller Austin, beloved Father  
of Texas, is still being remembered for  
his vision, dedication and sacrifices in  
colonizing Texas. In Fort Worth, Texas  
on November 7, 2008 Ms. Jane Austin  
Bruckner attended the Stephen F. Aus-  
tin Memorial Tree Ceremony – the plant-  
ing of an oak tree on the Courthouse  
Square.

Mr. Sam Houston IV, past president  
of the sons of the Republic of Texas was  
the guest speaker. There was a large  
gathering of Fort Worth and Tarrant  
County officials. Members of the Sons  
of the Republic of Texas and of the  
Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who  
are descendants of men/women who  
fought for Texas independence from  
Mexico, were present, as were school  
children from the Fort Worth Academy.

Billy F. Price provided the oak tree -  
grown from an acorn from an ancient  
tree on the site where Austin died De-  
cember 17, 1836. Mr. Price now owns  
this property in Brazoria County. In past  
years he collected 600 acorns and  
worked with the Texas Forest Service to  
grow these memorial trees, so one could  
be placed on every Texas Courthouse  
lawn and in other locations.

One has been planted on the grounds  
of the State capitol and another near  
Austin's grave in the Texas State Cem-  
etery in Austin. In Brazoria County there  
is a tree, with a memorial marker, where  
every year on November 3rd (Austin's  
birth date) a ceremony is conducted to  
remember this valiant leader who was  
called the Father of Texas by his friend,  
Sam Houston. Without Austin's deter-  
mination and constant diplomacy there  
would have been no Texas.

\* \* \*

This article was provided by Jane  
Austin Bruckner, a Daughter of the Re-  
public of Texas (descended from Mitchell  
Putman who fought at the Battle of San  
Jacinto in 1836).

**Editor's Note: Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836) was  
a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown,  
MA 1638. [Stephen<sup>6</sup>, Moses<sup>5</sup>, Elias<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>,  
Anthony<sup>2</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup>]**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With great anticipation we have begun plans for the 2009 Austin Convention! The place will be Nashville, Tennessee, by a 57% majority vote. For the dates, we have chosen the weekend of May 29 – 31, before the heat of the Southern summer sets in.

Alice and I have already been there to scout out the area and are making convention arrangements with a hotel in the heart of downtown, where research, entertainment and good eating are all within walking distance.

We got a really good deal! We checked out the Opry and the General Jackson Showboat, as well as the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and learned about the museums and historic homes. It's a great place to visit and we plan to help you see the sights while you learn more about genealogy and do some research on those Southern ancestors.

A registration form and detailed information will be included in the next Newsletter, and will be on the AFAOA website even sooner. In the meantime reserve those dates, and also some days before and after.

After hearing so much for so long about the successes of the Austin DNA Project, I was finally persuaded to join Family Tree DNA's Martin project and got the 37 marker test. The results have recently come back - very satisfying - validating a presumed but unproved connection between my Martins in Louisiana and a family line in North Carolina and Virginia.

Apparently the "preponderance of evidence" is correct. And my family has enlarged to include some interesting distant cousins – some of a different last name. I am now upgrading to the 67 marker test.

Don't forget to mark those dates for Nashville on your 2009 calendar! I hope to see you there. Y'all come!

**Gay G. Martin, Jr.**  
AFAOA President  
apresident@afaoa.org



## Our Austin Ancestors

Not only are AFAOA members spread out over 44 states and several other countries but their earliest known ancestors are even more diverse. Descendants of Richard Austin of Massachusetts (numbering 49) are the largest group, followed by Robert Austin of Rhode Island (12) and Samuel Austin of Massachusetts (7). Some can be grouped in twos, threes and fours, but the majority have a unique early ancestor not shared by any other member.

Some have traced their line back to an immigrant from England, or perhaps Ireland, in the 1600s or 1700s and enjoy meeting their "cousins," no matter how distant. They have been helped by earlier Austin researchers and in return want to help others find their roots. Other members are stuck in Virginia, North Carolina, New York or other states in the 1800s or even 1900s. They are still searching for that "breakthrough" that will take them back a few more generations. One thing we all have in common is our interest in Austin research and other Austins.

AFAOA provides opportunities for research (check out the updated databases and new information on our web site), for camaraderie (attend the annual convention) and for service (be a database compiler).

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### Sue Harris 1930-2008

Sue Williford Harris died at home in Mendham, N.J. on the November 3, 2008. She was born on August 11, 1930 in Ponca City, Oklahoma to the late Austin and Adelyn (Carter) Williford.

Sue resided in Houston, Texas for much of her adult life. She worked as a real estate agent in Houston for over 30 years until her retirement in 2000. Sue leaves behind two sons, two daughters, a brother and a sister, eight grandchildren, two step grandchildren, and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by one brother and a nephew. Her memorial service was held on November 22, 2008 in Houston, Texas.

Sue was my first cousin, and I had the pleasure of meeting her for the first time at our Austin Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah in 2004. Sue had been a member of AFAOA since 2002 and was of the Richard Austin of Charlestown line.

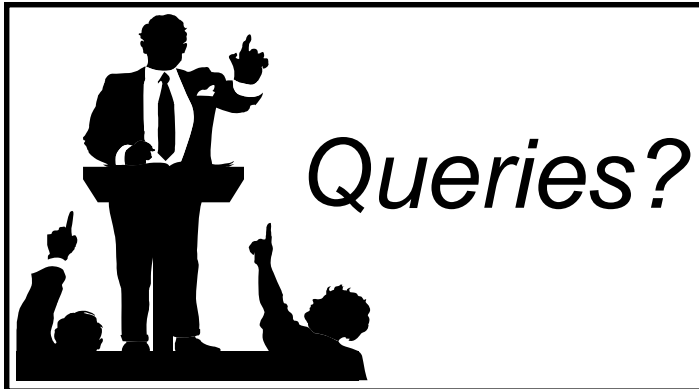
**Kathi Koble**  
anewsletter@afaoa.org

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### 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**  
adna@afaoa.org



*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  
angenealogist@afoa.org

**Liz Austin Carlin** (Southern Austins)  
23725 Community St.  
West Hills, CA 91304  
asgenealogist@afoa.org

**Q18, 4-1** - Does anyone know if the John Wesley Austin listed in the Joseph Austin of New Hampshire database: [http://www.afoa.org/cgi-bin/imgget.cgi/n=Joseph\\_Austin\\_NH?385641](http://www.afoa.org/cgi-bin/imgget.cgi/n=Joseph_Austin_NH?385641) as 3 years old in 1880 living in China, Kennebec, Maine is the same John Wesley Austin who died near Ft. Smith, Arkansas between 1900 and 1910? He left a widow Katie Bamford Austin, and children Ed, Mae, and John Felix. Thanks, Jo W. Guthrie.  
[frankpl1311@hotmail.com](mailto:frankpl1311@hotmail.com).

**Q18, 4-2** - Brayton Austin of Rhode Island is an old database that has been taken out of the Unplaced file and placed in the Northern Table as a stand-alone database. It turns out that there are no people in that file that have birth dates later than 1900 - that is over one century ago! Certainly someone out there can bring us up to date. Thank you, Jim Carlin  
[adatabase.chair@afoa.org](mailto:adatabase.chair@afoa.org).

**Q18, 4-3** - Trying to find my gggrand mother Rachel Austin Foley. She is 80, b. MD in the 1850 census for Knox Co., KY, but at some point she was living in Grayson Co., VA. She married Moses Foley abt 1907, and had Martin C. Foley. They moved to Knox Co., KY abt 1815. In 1795, Moses was a Grayson Co., VA Justice of the Peace and also a ordained preacher. He lived on 460 acres of land on Meadow Creek aon the NC border. Thanks, James Foley,  
[james.foley@penske.com](mailto:james.foley@penske.com).

**Q18, 4-4** - Need information on Hiram J. Austin b. about 1830 in Virginia (in the 1860 Alexander Co., IL census - but not 1850), and both dead by May 1863, leaving only child Robert P. b. abt 1852 GA (1850 census).

**"Abner" continued from page 1**

An Order to Report, issued in early March 1864, described Private Austin as having gray eyes, brown hair, a light complexion, 5' 4½" tall, with a gunshot wound to the left hand.

On March 28, 1864, Abner Austin was present on the Officers and Enlisted Roll of Culpeper, Virginia General Hospital. A report described Private Austin as showing "good" character and stated "... metacarpal bones of middle, ring, and little fingers have been fractured ... and are badly united. The hand is now nearly useless. A brave and good soldier."

There can be much speculation about young Abner's journey from West Philadelphia to northern Virginia in the winter of 1864. It is quite likely that, in addition to his physical wounds, he also suffered from severe emotional trauma as a result of the horrors of Gettysburg.

On June 10, 1864, Abner was transferred to the 48th Company, 8th Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps, where he served until the end of the war. He was honorably discharged, at the age of 19, at Washington, D.C. on June 17, 1865.

After the war, Abner returned to the Milroy farm where he took care of the ailing Mrs. Milroy until her death. He married Mary Elizabeth Turner at Redford, Michigan on February 22, 1881 at age 34. Abner and Mary established a farm of fifteen acres in Elm, Michigan (now Livonia) and raised three sons: Perry James (b. February 20, 1882; Harry Delos (b. April 1884) and Irving (b. August 1897).

Abner's brother, Charles W. Austin enlisted in the Union Army in August 1862 at age 17 as a private in Company A of the 5th Michigan Cavalry, part of General George Armstrong Custer's Michigan Brigade, the most famous cavalry brigade in the Civil War. Charles saw action at numerous campaigns including Gettysburg, Brandy Station and the Wilderness. He was captured during the largest and bloodiest all-cavalry battle of the Civil War at Trevillian Station on Virginia June 11, 1864 and spent the next 10 months in the infamous Libby and Andersonville prisons. He was honorably discharged on May 25, 1865 at age 20.

Charles married Laura A. (maiden name unknown) around 1867 at age 23 and they had one son, Fred, born October 20, 1868. Charles Austin died June 1, 1908 at his Flint, Michigan home.

Abner Delos Austin died October 20, 1901; the cause of his death was stated to be exhaustion and paralysis. Mary Elizabeth Austin died May 12, 1913. They were laid to rest in the Turner family plot in the Clarenceville, Michigan Cemetery, in present day Livonia.

Family legend has it that Charles and Abner Austin, brothers orphaned and separated as small children and who, as teenage boys, fought side-by-side without even knowing it during the bloodiest battle in American history, were reunited late in life, when they discovered one another's names on Civil War pension rolls. It is ironic to consider that the Civil War, which tore countless American families apart, also brought this particular family back together again.

**Kristina Austin Scarcelli**  
[kscarcelli@comcast.net](mailto:kscarcelli@comcast.net)

**Editor's Note:** This story can be read in its entirety online at [www.jasonandkristina.com/abnerdelosaustin](http://www.jasonandkristina.com/abnerdelosaustin)

## Working my John Smith Line at the 2008 AFAOA Convention

John Smith was born in 1756 (parents and place unknown), married Lucy Rowe in 1778 in Suffield, CT and died in 1833 in Halifax, VT. He was my 4th great grandfather on my mother's side. For many generations our John Smith has eluded linkage to his ancestors. The story of my on-going research saga has a place in this AFAOA newsletter for several reasons:

1. John Smith and his family were neighbors of Daniel Austin and family in Wilmington, Marlboro, and Halifax - adjacent towns in Windham County, Vermont. After the Revolutionary War, these and several other families decided to move from Suffield Connecticut to virgin lands on the then northern U.S. frontier.

2. One of my Austin cousins who reads this article may know of an old family bible or other document which lists the parents of my elusive John Smith.

3. At the 2008 Austin Convention in Salt Lake City I made a major research effort at the LDS Library in hopes of discovering a document that defined John Smith's ancestry.

In the 1990s I proved my ancestral link between John Smith's son and Daniel Austin's granddaughter. \* Daniel Austin (Nathaniel, Anthony, Richard of Charlestown MA 1638) was a Captain in the Revolutionary War. Descendants of Daniel Austin intermarried with several Smith families that successfully cleared, cultivated and populated the southwestern Vermont wilderness.

Births of Smith children with the middle name "Austin" were common. The birth and land records in southern Vermont after 1780 helped me find and prove my Smith-Austin family links - - but the one link which continues to defy connection is John Smith's link to his parents. One research tool I had not used in my John Smith research was an onsite session at the LDS Library at Salt Lake City.

Each year our Austin Convention offers us a multitude of opportunities. We visit with a friendly group of our Austin cousins. We're annually offered a series of informative lectures on effective research methods along with the status of Austin research efforts. Convention cities are chosen because they offer a genealogy research library.

The 2008 convention rewarded me in all three of the above areas. The Saturday schedule included a presentation by George Ott, a principal at Heritage Consulting, a local family history research firm, on the merits of researching probate packets to make new research breakthroughs. He certainly sold me on his skills as a researcher at the nearby LDS Library; so I decided to enlist his services in my John Smith research battle plan.

I began by having George act as a step-by-step consultant on how to use LDS Library facilities efficiently. His coaching put me rapidly into the mode of pulling and visually scanning dozens of microfilm reels of various Connecticut probate and land records which might have documented my John Smith (and/or his parents) prior to, during and just after his Dec 1778 marriage in Suffield CT. As I slaved away, staring at microfilm, I dreamed of the day when all the filmed docu-

ments and books are digitized with name and place indexes, and are accessible from home on the Web. Suddenly my plane reservation beckoned, so I decided to go for broke - - I made the rash decision to purchase a "Ten Hour Research Project" from George, enlisting his unique talents to go after John Smith with a final blast of research momentum.

Well, the bottom line is that George worked through several of my promising research leads and proved them to be solid Dead-Ends. All I can say is that when we do finally solve the John Smith ancestral link, the magnitude of the effort so far will make finding the solution that much sweeter.

Many of you doing family history research probably share my frustration with at least one dead-end ancestor like my John Smith. We press on, applying new ideas and tools as they come along. And where can we get new genealogy research ideas? - - I have often found them at the annual Austin Conventions and in the AFAOA Newsletters. So I've decided to document some of my research successes and failures in hopes that others get some fresh ideas about the direction their own research should take. Searching for probate packets is definitely a good idea - even if it didn't work for me this time.

**Bill Minnick**  
**avpresident3@afaoa.org**

**\* Editor's Note: Bill Minnick's story of using land records to prove the connection between the Smith family and Daniel Austin can be found in the AFAOA Newsletter, 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter 1994. This and other Newsletters are on the AFAOA website.**

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### ***Become a "Featured Family"***

Here is your chance to share your story  
with visitors to our website.

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. At the present time, the story of Captain George Austin, a deadly lottery, and General Robert E. Lee is featured in this place.

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@afaoa.org](mailto:myfamilystory@afaoa.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 and the balance of any photographs will be presented.

The Captain George Austin story, currently the Featured Family on the web site, is a good example of what is intended for this feature. Other examples of such stories have appeared in past issues of the *Newsletter*, one of which was the description of the evening that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Both involve Austins, which is really the only restriction.

# Treating Sensitive Subjects in a Family History

or

## How to Keep your Relatives from Burning your Family History

Every genealogist runs into dead ends from time to time — that elusive ancestor who can't be found no matter how hard you try. My daughter-in-law's great-great grandmother was such a case. Nobody seemed to know much about her except her name, Nevada Belle Davis. I knew that she and her husband divorced, but nothing much beyond that.

I found her husband on the 1900 census, single again and living with his parents. Then I found their two sons living with a Davis family, probably Nevada's parents. But Nevada herself was not to be found. When I finally found her on the census under a misspelling of her name, her occupation was shown as "inmate, house of ill fame." What to do? How do you handle prostitution in a family history?

I called my daughter-in-law to get her reaction. I was relieved when she thought the whole story was a hoot! She assured me that her mother would handle the news well, and that turned out to be the case. She had been told by her in-laws that it would be better if she didn't research that side of the family and she had always wondered why.

All families have skeletons and secrets. This poses a problem for the family historian who wants to compile as accurate a record of the family as possible. We want our history to tell the whole story, but there are always those who may be offended by what you may present in a family history. How should the family historian approach these roadblocks to full disclosure?

There are many issues that can be difficult to deal with. What about my great-uncle and great aunt who didn't marry until their second child was on the way? That was fairly easy; I just omitted their marriage date from the history since nobody else knew for sure when they married and Aunt Millie wasn't telling. There was also the matter of my great-uncle who suffered from schizophrenia and eventually murdered his father and two brothers. That was a deep dark secret for my generation for decades, until a slip of the tongue clued me in.

Here are a few tips on how to deal with these issues when you run into them.

1. If the issue is already public knowledge, include it.
2. Treat it with tact—tell the truth, but not necessarily all the gory details. There are times when all the details are not absolutely necessary.
3. Be sure that it really happened. Oral tradition isn't always true. Document your findings.
4. In general, the longer it has been since the incident took place the less likely it is that family members will be upset. That isn't always the case, however. If your ancestor was thought to be of sterling character, negative details are likely to upset some people.
5. Keep the privacy of living individuals in mind.
6. Beware of inadvertent disclosure. For instance, if there is an adopted child in the family be sure the child knows he or she is adopted before putting that detail in your history.
7. If all the details are in your notes, but you don't want to

print out some of them, learn how to print selectively. You might flag some things to be omitted or edit your text file after it is generated.

8. If you have been requested to leave something out of your history, such as a marriage date, honor the request.

9. Each situation has its own facts and circumstances. It is well to consider all sides and present a balanced viewpoint. Nevada Belle, for instance, was between marriages and was trying to support her children, using whatever skills she had available to her.

10. These black sheep and family skeletons add interest to your family history. There are several organizations that honor those colorful ancestors, such as: Order of Descendants of Pirates & Privateers, International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists, Associated Daughters of Early American Witches, and Descendants of Wayward Ancestors.

Carol Robinson Austin  
adna@afoao.org

## AFAOA Database Updates

Work continues on creating new Austin databases, and correcting and updating existing ones. Recent databases that can now be accessed on the AFAOA website:

**Brayton Austin of Rhode Island** - actually an old database, updated and removed from the Northern Unplaced database by Art Sikes, Jr. who is serving as the compiler.

**Daniel Austin of Longmeadow, Massachusetts** has been recently updated by compiler Tim Austin.

**Jason Lee Austin of Genesee Co., Michigan** has been updated by compiler Everett Austin.

**Bartholomew Austin of the Southside Region of Virginia** has been updated by compiler Liz Austin Carlin.

A major update of the **Isaac Austin of Virginia** has been completed by AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin. She has taken an old database and has incorporated the information from the many documents in the AFAOA Archive. This is basically a "new" database.

A new stand-alone database **Solomon & John Austin of North Carolina** has been removed from the Southern Unplaced database, and completely updated by Walter Hartung, who recently joined the ranks as an AFAOA compiler.

Updates, resulting from the changes above, of **Northern** and **Southern Unplaced** databases have also been posted on the website.

Near term website updates are planned for **Richard Austin of Charlestown, Robert Austin of Rhode Island, and William and Ruth Austin of North Carolina**. AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin has finished the creation of a new database: **John Austin of Springville, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania**.

Jim Carlin  
adatabase.chair@afoao.org

## Austen-Austin DNA Project Report

To date, over 100 Austin yDNA tests have been processed, many of these for volunteers from our 53 AFAOA databases. This has resulted in establishing the DNA profile for 18 of the larger databases. Those databases which have at least two matching tests include the following:

- Richard of Charlestown, MA
- Robert of Kingstown, RI
- Samuel of Boston, MA
- John of Southside, VA
- William and Ruth of North Carolina
- Jonah of Taunton, MA
- William of Kent Co., MD
- Joseph of Dover, NH,
- John of Monongalia Co., VA
- Henry of Calvert Co., MD
- Nathaniel of Greenville, SC
- John of Stamford, CT
- The White County TN Austins
- John of New Haven, CT
- Larkin K. of Wayne Co., IL
- John of North Carolina
- Edward of Rhode Island
- John Calhoun of Lawrence Co., AL

These tests also established that there is a close relationship among descendants of Robert of Kingstown RI, John of Monongalia Co. WV, and Jonah of Taunton - and between Samuel of Boston and a group including William of Kent Co., MD and Larkin Kelly of Illinois. They also disproved speculation that John of New Haven and John of Stamford were related. Many of these tests were extended to 37 or 67 markers to resolve ambiguities.

In addition, two tests have been done on what was thought to be a subset of the Richard line, John b. 1738 of MA, and tests showed a mismatch with the Richard line. Similarly, two tests have been done on "documented" descendants of Robert, which match each other but not the rest of the Robert line.

The eleven databases on which only one test has been done include:

- John and Charity of Montgomery Co., MD (matches John and Ann of VA)
- John and Ann of Albemarle Co., VA (matches John and Charity of MD)
- Matthew of York Co., ME (possibly will match Samuel of Boston or William of Kent Co. when upgraded to include more markers)
- Bartholomew of Virginia (matches John of Southside, VA)
- Sylvester and Joseph of Michigan (matches Robert of RI)

- John of Maine (matches Jonah of Taunton).
- Solomon and John of North Carolina (matches William of Kent Co., MD).
- Jason Lee of Genesee Co., MI (matches Robert of RI).
- Daniel of Longmeadow, MA (matches Samuel of Boston).
- Miles of Franklin Co., VA (does not match any other line).
- Thomas of Sharpsburg, MD (does not match any other line).

The test results of lines on which one test has been done have been quite exciting to watch as the test results come back. In these cases, descendants did not know where they might fit among all the Austin lines. Nine of the eleven tests showed where the most likely connection would be, thus giving researchers a direction to search.

Some of the Project Fund this year has been spent on extending the tests of what has been termed the "Big Group" (Robert of Rhode Island, Jonah of Taunton and John of Virginia.) The remaining fund will provide for four tests of lines that have not yet been tested or have had one test but do not match another line. Likely candidates for tests paid by the Fund would be the Hatteras Austin group, Francis of Evesham Twp., NJ, or Thomas and Esther of New York since they are the largest databases that have not yet been tested.

If you wish to join the project, go to the Family Tree DNA web site, [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com), click on SURNAME PROJECTS, then the letter A and finally the name Austen-Austen. At the bottom of the page fill out and submit the "Austen-Austen DNA Project Join Request" form. All tests should be at least 25 or 37 markers.

If you are a male descendant (with surname Austin) of a Hatteras Austin, Francis of Evesham Twp., NJ, Thomas and Esther of New York, Thomas of MD or Miles of VA you may receive a free kit, paid for by the Fund. If you wish to have one of these kits, contact the Project Fund Coordinator, Carol R. Austin, [caustin@socal.rr.com](mailto:caustin@socal.rr.com).

Test results are displayed at [www.austins.org/cgi-bin/DNA.asp](http://www.austins.org/cgi-bin/DNA.asp). Go to this link and click on View Latest Test Results. The tests are displayed by kit number, with the name of the earliest ancestor in the Austin line. You can then see which other lines match yours. The DNA profiles of two men are considered to "match" if they disagree at no more than 2 out of 25 markers or 4 out of 37. This indicates a probable common male-line ancestor within the period of genealogical interest.

A test or upgrade would make a good Christmas present!

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President Gay G. Martin, Jr. and the Executive Board  
of the  
**Austin Families Association of  
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wish each and everyone of you  
a Very Merry Christmas  
and Happy Researching in the New Year!