



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

Volume 8, No. 3

Fall 1998

ISSN 1063-3263

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Salt Lake City National Austin Convention a Great Success

The annual AFAOA convention-reunion was held at the Best Western Plaza Hotel on August 7, 8 and 9, 1998. The convention was unusual in one sense since this was a meeting jointly sponsored by the Austin Family Association of America and their sister organization, the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS). Dr. Michael Austin, Director of AOAGS, as well as a member of the AFAOA, has been attending the AFAOA conventions for many years now, giving informative presentations, and generously scanning numerous photographs, so that they can be preserved.

Registration was opened Friday afternoon followed by a "Let's Get Acquainted" gathering where old friends renewed their past friendships, and new attendees were welcomed. The social hour was adjourned and the group retired to local restaurants for dinner. Many then dashed off for last minute research at the nearby Family History Library.

Saturday turned out to be an extremely busy day. It started bright and early at 8:15 AM when AFAOA president Hal Steiner and AOAGS Director Michael Austin welcomed the attendees, and introduced them to the weekend's programs. This was followed by talks given by George Ott, of the Heritage Consulting & Services firm, entitled: "Getting the Most Out of Research in Salt Lake City", Dr. Michael Austin entitled: "Researching Austin Roots with the Austin Queries CD-ROM", Bill Minnick entitled: "Public Interest in Austin Genealogies on the World Wide Web", and Wade Hone, also of Heritage Consulting & Services, who spoke on "Circumventing Burned or

Destroyed Records."

Ron Beamer, of *Roots Digest* really impressed everyone with his knowledge of source locations and their content. Prior to beginning his presentation "Survey Sources - What Has Already Been Done," he challenged each of us in the audience to mention a surname that we were investigating. He came right back telling us two or three places to find likely records for that individual or family.

George Ott returned to tell us of the rewards of researching military records in his presentation entitled "U. S. Military

Records." The rest of Saturday was spent in the scanning of photographs by Dr. Mike Austin, assistance to people researching their Austin lines, perusal of the extensive research materials brought to the conference by Genealogist Bonnie Bigolin, and just the renewal of friendships formed during past conventions.

This camaraderie was continued when most of the group adjourned to the Salt Lake City Jail for dinner, and for "punishment" meted out by the Sheriff. Our president, Hal Steiner had the opportunity to display some of his musical talents, provoking the comment, "It is a good thing that we do this

Please see "Convention", page 3

Newsletter Editor Changes

It was announced at the convention that Marilyn Osterhout, *Newsletter* editor for these past five years, was resigning. Producing the four issues of the *Newsletter* is a complicated process, and Marilyn has done a magnificent job of managing the placement of text and graphics, cajoling input

Please see "Editor", page 2



(l to r) Evelen Hull, Bonnie Bigolin, Bill Minnick, Gay Martin and Scot Austin all hard at work searching the Austin Master Database during one of the convention workshops.

Editor

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from the various contributors, laying out the various pages, printing these out and sending them to Anna K. Austin in Pocatello, ID for reproduction and distribution using mailing labels printed by Alice Austin Martin. Many times, Marilyn had to come up with her own material just to fill up the pages. The result was always a readable, informative *Newsletter*.

John Austin Pell stood up at the convention and reminded all of us that the *Newsletter* is the primary way that most of us communicate with each other, keep connected to the AFAOA. He said that it was "the life's blood" of the organization, that without it, the organization and its good work in stimulating Austin research would just fade away.

The new editors, Jim & Liz Carlin, have promised to continue the work that Marilyn and previous editors have done. It was suggested that they produce an electronic version, readable by Adobe Acrobat software for archival purposes, as well as available as a file that one can download directly from the AFAOA website.

In accepting the task, Jim and Liz asked that all AFAOA members remember to contribute articles about their research problems, successes, methods, or results, anything that they would care to share with their fellow members to help them with their Austin research. It is up to all of us to make the content of the *Newsletter* useful to all.

Marilyn Says "Goodbye"

Question: Why in the world would an editor want to be replaced?

Answer: I began editing the *Newsletter* five years ago. The AFAOA was just beginning to enter the computerized field of genealogy... and I was just beginning to explore the world of computers. Since then I have taken classes that have helped, but I have never had the time to devote to acquiring the necessary skills to publish a professional quality paper. It is time for the organization to find a more qualified editor.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the staff and members of the AFAOA, and I look forward to checking my e-mail,

not only for the articles and information I receive, but also just to "chat" with my AFAOA "family."

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to help proof read the "Richard" book. I probably would never had taken the time to read it through otherwise...only the pages that pertain to my direct line. Now, I plan to read my "Ladd Family Book" page by page also. I need to know about the rest of my family too.

For now, I will have time to devote to my family, my genealogy class, and for learning how to use my scanner and graphics programs. I plan to submit articles to the new editor to "keep in touch." Also, when the reunion is within driving distance, I look forward to attending. I have missed seeing you there.

Thanks to everyone, for all of your help and support. Special thanks to Anna Austin who copies and mails the *Newsletter* to all of you...what a tremendous help! I would love to hear from you...and remember, the coffeepot is always on if you are in our area.

"Ye Ed...Marilyn"
Marilyn Osterhout



New Members Welcomed

Angela Austin

2600 NW 63rd. St. Apt 30
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Albert L. b. MO, Albert R. b. 1861 MO, Nicholas D. b. 1829 TN, Phillip W. b. 1797 NC, William b. ca 1750-1753.

William C. Austin

PO Box 306
Watson, LA 70786-0306
Jackson b. 1831.

Evelen Austin Hull

PO Box 623
Sumas, WA 98295
David b. 1809 of ME, Samuel W. b. 1836 ME, Elmer E. b. 1868 ME, Samuel b. BC.

Barbara Austin Thibault

PO Box 1114
St. Albans, VT 05478
Robert ca 1638 of RI, Jeremiah ca 1664 RI, Joseph b. 1831 RI, David b. 1752 RI, Eleazer b. 1787 RI, Elon b. 1815 VT, Adin b. 1844 VT, Roy E. b. 1881 VT.

David A. Austin

5820 Ridgerock Ct.
Fort Worth, TX 76132
Moses b. 1778, Samuel B. b. 1809 QUE, Samuel J. b. 1839 NY, Charles C. b. 1869 MN, Henry C. b. 1898 MN.

Eugene Austin

PO Box 115
Tilden, NE 58781-0115
(No lineage information available)

Ruby Austin Burrus

521 Lovegrove Ave.
Chesapeake, VA 23323-4205
William D. of NC, William D. b. 1825 NC, William W. b. 1860 NC, Nacie.

Margaret M. Chapman

70 Preble Lane
Woolwich, ME 04579
John b. 1647 CT, John b. 1677 CT, Joshua b. 1708 CT, Abner b. 1734 CT, Joseph b. 1767 CT, Joseph C. b. 1803 CT, Abner E. b. 1839 CT, Sarah F. b. 1866, Albert A. b. 1897.

George & Rosalie Heikes

209 Mulberry St.
Ellsworth, MN 56129
Abel ca 1755 prb RI, Freeborn b. 1778 RI, Henry b. 1801 NY, Freeborn L. 1830 NY, Charles H. b. 1859, Vinnie E. b. 1891 MN.

Anna M. Petzrick

1698 Morse Ave.
Beloit, WI 53511-3528
Erastus b. 1795 NY.

Frieda Scarborough

12718 Newberry St.
Sugarland, TX 77478
Jeff Austin b. 1844 AL?

Mary A. Austin (Corrected entry)

7230 Ridge Oak Dr.
Houston, TX 77088-5303
Milly (____) of TN, Hezekiah b. 1787 VA, William Hezekiah b. 1829, William Harris b. 1853 AL, John H. b. 1888 AL.

Ronald L. Austin

5599 Cynwyd Circle
Lake Worth, FL 33463
(No lineage information available)

H. R. Austin

Solomon E. b. 1878 TN

Richard Dryer

624 Kastle Rd.
Lexington, KY
Francis b. 1788 VA, Lucy b. 1834 KY, Martha Musgrave

Helen Planeto

35991 Illahe Rd.
Agness, OR
Richard b. 1598, ENG.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 1998 Austin National Convention has come and gone and by all standards this first meeting hosted jointly by the Austin Families Association of America (AFAOA) and the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS) was a rousing success. In any initial endeavor one can expect a few rough edges and glitches but I am happy to report that none of these happened in Salt Lake City. The goals of the two organizations were meshed and melded together in a professional manner that allowed all attendees to enjoy maximum profit from the professional agenda, the camaraderie and exchange of information between the Austin families and the superlative resources of the LDS Family History Library just a few yards away.

Another highlight of the meeting was that Jim and Liz Carlin graciously accepted the position of *Newsletter* Editor. The fine work they have demonstrated on the Richard Austin book portends a fruitful and informative future for the Association.

If there was one negative at the Salt Lake convention it was the sobering question of why so few of our members take advantage of this once a year opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie and to personally further their Austin genealogies? Attendance is a serious problem and if the Austin organizations are to remain at the forefront of adapting technology to genealogy then more people are going to have to get involved. Lethargy is a prime factor but the leadership must assume a large share of the blame. We simply are not doing good public relations work in spreading the word far and wide about the advantages of meeting annually.

Our annual meetings are not just meetings *per se*. We have adopted the policy of holding the convention in a city that

has nearby research facilities. The wisdom of this policy was manifested in Salt Lake City. Many members came early and stayed late to take advantage of the superb genealogy library. To maintain this same mood, the members, voted to hold the 1999 Austin National Convention in the Washington, DC area some time in August 1999. The AOAGS will be the primary meeting planner for this convention.

Holding the meeting in Washington serves two purposes. It goes without saying that the genealogy research facilities are plentiful and there is something there for everyone. In addition, Washington is an excellent destination place for family sight-seeing and this will allow members to attend the convention while their families enjoy the history and sights of the area.

On a more personal note, Doris and I will be touring Europe from mid-September until December. We leave without reservations because the AFAOA has a fine, competent cadre of officers that are willing and able to handle any administrative problems.

Hal Steiner
AFAOA President

Convention

Continued from page 1
only once a year."

Sunday began with a presentation by Dr. Mike Austin: "Scanning of Photographs to Diskettes for Posterity and Publication." Mike cleverly detailed the technical complexities of this process by posing the question of what quality of scanner one should purchase, and then demonstrating which parameters were important, and which were not.

His son, Glenn Austin followed with his presentation of the results of his research into "The Origins of Samuel and Hopestill Austin of Boston, Massachusetts." Jim and Liz Carlin then reported on their problems and final success in preparing the Richard Austin descendency book *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638* for publication, and announced that the hard cover books would be available for distribution in November 1998.

The AFAOA business meeting was then called to order by president Hal Steiner (meeting minutes are reported on page 6 in this *Newsletter*), and this

Newsletter, Fall 1998, page 3 was followed by the AOAGS business meeting. Hal Steiner then gave a talk about the genealogy of two warring families in the Las Vegas, Nevada region entitled "Murder and Genealogy."

A site selection process followed, and it was decided that the next National Austin Convention, jointly sponsored by AFAOA and AOAGS, would be held in the Washington, DC area, specifically to encourage attendance from Austins living in the South and South-East.

The annual banquet was preceded by a reception where wine and soft drinks were served. The banquet was a semi-formal event as usual, and afterwards, Wade Hone spoke on "Newspapers - The Lighter Side" where period newspaper articles can give rich, humorous anecdotes about our ancestors, augmenting the staid data we normally collect in our research.

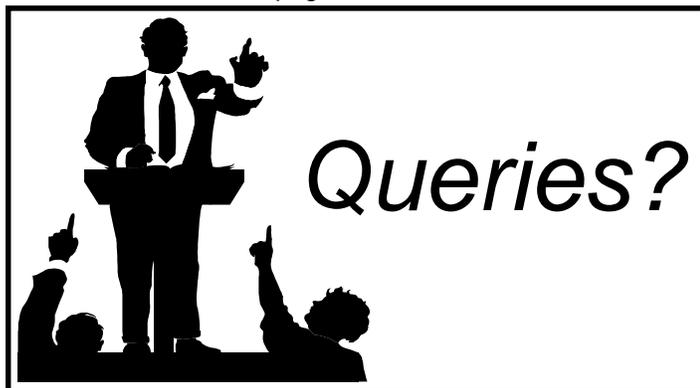
Dr. Mike Austin then presented the Prestigious 1998 Austin Genealogical Research Award to Jim and Liz Carlin in recognition of their years of dedication in compiling and publishing *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638*. This annual award is presented to AOAGS members who have made a significant contribution to Austin genealogical research which will help present and future generations to discover their Austin heritage.



Liz and Jim Carlin receiving the AOAGS Eagle award from Dr. Mike Austin, Director.

The award was presented last year to Hal Steiner in recognition of the significant advances in Austin genealogical research enabled by his eleven (now twelve) years of dedicated leadership as President of the Austin Families Association of America.

Following the award ceremony, the convention was adjourned *sine die*.



AUSTIN QUERIES - Please send all new queries to the following address. In responding to any of the following queries, please write directly to the submitter, also sending a copy to:

Bonnie Bigolin

P.O. Box 1094

Green River, WY 82935

Please contact Bonnie for submitter's email addresses.

Q8-3,1 - Marjorie Wolf, 8551 Vale Garden Rd., Canby, OR 97013.

Looking for any info about Abigail AUSTIN b ca 1780 probably Maine, d. Oct. 26, 1855 Morrow Co., OH and is bur. in the Ebenezer Cemetery there. She mar. ca. 1800 in Maine to Stephen DOUGHTY. They had 7 children b in Topsham, Cumberland Maine: Stephen W. b May 31, 1801, Elmira b Oct 21 1803, Susan b Aug. 21, 1805, George W. b Apr 12, 1806, Mary Jane b Oct 9 1811, Thomas b May 26 1815, & William H. b ca 1819.

Q8-3,2 - Phyllis Tollison, 3019 Wildwood Dr., Brunswick, GA 31520.

Thomas Ralph AUSTIN b Jun. 16, 1810 Middlesex, England; mar. Martha HAIGH b ca 1813 Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. They resided in New York City by 1832. Their 6th child was John Malix AUSTIN, my great grandfather. Did Thomas Ralph AUSTIN have any siblings? If so, in England or in the U.S.?

Q8-3,3 - Kit Willmot-Hickey, 412 Brook Forest Dr., So. Toms River, NJ 08757.

Need ancestors and siblings for Enoch AUSTIN b ca 1805 NJ, mar. Mary W. MILLER. 1850 W. Pittsgrove, Salem Co., NJ census shows children as: Matilda b ca 1829 NJ, Sarah C. b ca 1831 NJ, Aaron b ca 1834 NJ, Susan b ca 1836 NJ, Caroline b ca 1838 NJ, & Joseph G. b ca 1840 NJ.

Q8-3,4 - Bonnie Bigolin, P.O. Box 1094, Green River, WY 82935.

Would like more info on ancestors & descendants of Benoni AUSTIN b ca 1712, of New Meadows, ME, mar. Feb 4, 1731/32 Mary (Masey) THOMPSON. Children born Brunswick, Cumberland Co., ME: John b 1732 mar. Mercy ___?___; Daniel b 1735; Rosanna b 1737 mar. Samuel ALLEN; Mary b 1739 mar. Samuel WHITNEY & Benoni Jr. b 1741 mar. Jean ANDREWS. Where there additional children?

Q8-3,5 - John D. Caldwell, P.O. Box 1021, Warner Robins, GA 31099.

I have an old bible marked "This book belongs to Benjamin Austin

1798". It belonged to my grandmother Marion Mitchel (Wiggin) Caldwell b May 23, 1883 Bangor, ME. Her father was Charles Pound WIGGIN b Mar. 29, 1828 Bangor, d Oct. 12, 1878 Bangor. Her mother was Alice Bradford MITCHELL b Feb 14, 1842 Bangor, d May 7 1912 Ashville, NC. There seems to be some sort of connection between the Wiggins and the Austins. Any help appreciated.

Q8-3,6 - Joseph Wilson, 4565 W. 5335 So., Kearns, UT 84118. Samuel AUSTIN & Lydia MORROW are parents of Joseph Henry AUSTIN b Nov. 13, 1853 Oswego Co., NY, mar. Elisa Jane ALDRICH b 1857 IL. Need further info on ancestors of Samuel AUSTIN and his children.

Q8-3,7 - Ronald Lee Austin, 5599 Cynwyd Cir., Lake Worth, FL 33463.

Need parents and siblings of H.R. AUSTIN who mar. Anne SIMMONAL. Believe they had severall children, one being a Hamp AUSTIN who moved to Blytheville, AR and a Solomon Eli AUSTIN b Nov. 14, 1878 Sparta,TN, d Dec. 8, 1956 Blytheville, AR, mar. Elizabeth WILLIAMS b 1885 MS, d 1976 AR. Also interested in Austin's b, m, d, in and around Sparta, TN, Houston, MS, and Blytheville, AR.

Q8-3,8 - Richard Dwyer, 624 Kastle Rd., Lexington, KY 40502
Need parents & siblings of Francis AUSTIN b ca 1788 VA, d 1850 Daviess Co., KY, mar. Mary (Polly) TALMAN b ca 1793 VA. Children: James Madison b 1822 mar. Eliza PITT; William Henry b 1829 Ohio Co., KY mar. Mary HAYDEN; Sarah Jane b 1826 Ohio Co. KY mar. Robert RHODES; Lucy b 1834 Ohio Co., KY mar Madison MUSGRAVE; & Francis Marion b 1838 mar. Jane CRABTREE.

Q8-3,9 - Anna M. Petzrick, 1698 Morse Ave., Beloit, WI 53511-3528.

Looking for parents and siblings of Erastus AUSTIN b. 1795 NY, mar. Anna ___?___ b ca 1797/1802 NY, d WI. CH: 1) Francis Erastus b Jul 23, 1820 Ripley, Chautauqua Co., NY mar. Anna Mahala OSBURN; 2) Andrew Jackson b 1828 NY, d Dec. 15, 1859 Lodi, Columbia Co., WI, mar Mary Jane HOLLIS; 3) Thomas b 1832 NY, 4) Harriet b 1832 NY, 5) Phebe A. b 1837 NY. Did Thomas, Harriet & Phebe A. marry and have families?

Q8-3,10 - Evelyn A. Hull, P.O. Box 623, Sumas, WA 98295.

Looking for ancestors & descendants of David AUSTIN b ca 1810 ME, res. Belgrade, Kennebec Co., ME, d ca 1877, mar. Dorothy H. LITTLEFIELD b ca 1800 MA, d 1884 Franklin Co., ME. CH b ME: Samuel Woodbury b Oct 6, 1835 mar. Emma Jane HOLMES; Stephen Orren b Oct 5, 1838 Belgrade ME; James C. b 1839; David Leeman b Jun 7 1840 Belgrade ME; Raymond F. b 1844 Franklin Co., ME; Benjamin Ray b Nov 7, 1843 Belgrade ME; Mary J. b 1846 ME.

Newsletter Deadline, and Distribution Options

The deadline for the Newsletter Winter Issue is December 13, 1998. Please send all articles to the Editors.

The Newsletter will soon be available via the Internet either via download from the AFAOA web site, or by e-mail attachment. If you prefer receiving the Newsletter in this form rather than by US mail, please e-mail the Editors.

AUSTIN - HIGGINS

Facts, Findings & Challenges.

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1- Hannah Austin Higgins had children as follows:

- I. David b- Vt. Sept. 23, 1790 m/ Ohio Mary (___?___) m/2nd III. Martha Reed
- II. Benjamin b- Vt. Dec. 15, 1792 m/ Ohio Ruth Hardesty m/2nd Ohio, Rebecca Collins m/3rd Rachel (Scoles) Kimber
- III. Hannah b-Vt ? ca. 1793 ? m/ o. Joseph Rigby
- IV. Mary b- ca. 1795 m/ ? (___?___)
- V. Olive b- Vt 1797 m/o (___?___) Dodge m/2nd 1819 O Reuben Gleason
- VI. Isaiah b- Vt Jan. 4th 1798 m/ Vt Olive Hall

Hannah Austin, a widow, married Joseph Higgins Vt. ca 1803/4 possibly Bradford or Corinth Vt. and removed in 1805 to Ohio, 1st to Marrietta for 2 years, then on to Knox county, leaving Isaiah in Vermont with Stephen and Comfort (Wallace) Smith at Tunbridge.

2- The Higgins Bible states that Hannah was Hannah Austin -not Widow Austin. She had 4 more children by Joseph Higgins whose 1st wife Polly (Rand) Higgins died at Corinth Vt. 1805, and whose family consisted of 8 children.

3- Hannah (Austin) Higgins named her last 4 children (!) Aaron b- Vt. 1805 (2) Lucy b- Knox Co. Oh. 1808, (3) Charles b- Knox Co. Oh. 1810 (4) Jesse b- Knox Co. Oh. 1812. Hannah died there shortly after. She would have been in her early 40s when the last 2 children were born not uncommon in those days.

Physical and documented evidence findings:

1- On page 4 of Vermont's 1st Settlers by Jay Mack Holbrook, David and Hezekiah Astin are listed on October 10, 1786 at Danville Vt. (then a part of Orange Co.) which became a part of Caladonia County Vt. The introduction to the book states that the names therein were taken from land granted to the settlers.

2- Danville is but a short distance from Corinth where Daniel Astin of Lunenberg, Worcester Co. Ma. was among those listed as proprietors through a charter deed granted on Feb. 10, 1764 in Corinth. (Dec. of Samuel, Thomas). His son Daniel and wife Priscilla are mentioned in the land deeds as being deceased and their

son Timothy and son in law Philip Goodridge, sold and granted a warranty deed on January 23, 1795. Ref: Corinth Land Deeds Vol. 3pp 100 & Vol 3 pp 416.

3- In 1764 Jonathan Austin (A carpenter) of Pelham, Rockingham Co.,NH purchased land March 18, 1796 in Corinth and Bradford Vt. He also purchased a church pew for \$20 in 1802. (He is also a decendant of the Thomas and Samuel lineage).

4- A Joseph Higgins received a land grant November 27, 1778 at Corinth, Vt. Ref: Vol 3pp 290 Corinth Land Deeds. The 1790 census of St. Johnsbury next to Danville Vt. shows the following Higgins men enumerated there: John, Joseph, and Pelatiah who were of Chesterfield, NH., as was Joseph Higgins, 2nd husband of Hannah Austin. No Higgins or Rand men were included in the list of early settler listings.

5- Joseph Higgins and his wife Polly were residing at Jamaica, Windham Co. Vt. during the 1791 Vt. census. They were at Corinth, Orange Co. Vt. for the 1800 census.

Joseph Higgins provided the town clerk with the birth dates for some of his children. Listing Joseph Jr. b/ April 6 1787; Myrick b/ Feb. 18 1793, Polly b/ Sept 10 1796, thomas b/ Aug. 24, 1798, John b/ Jul. 6, 1800, Betsy b/ Nov. 6, 1803. His wife died there 1803 after the birth of her last child. Polly (Rand) Higgins was the daughter of Nathaniel and Hepzebaih (Larkin) Rand of Charlestown Ma., b/ Jan. 7, 1764. She married Joseph Higgins in Chelsa, Ma. on Feb. 14 1786.

6- Note: In the Samuel / Thomas Austin manuscript by Edith Austin Moore, Hezekiah Austin, s/o David and Lydia Austin, was b/ Methuen, Ma. on October 25th 1763. He married his cousin, Hannah Austin at Lyndenboro (Ref. NH vital records) and is next documented at Danville, Vt. in 1786 with a land grant. (Ref. Vermont Early Settlers by Holbrook). He is documented next in the 1790 census at Francelstown, NH. (Ref. 1790 Census) with 1 male under 16 yrs of age, 1 over 16 with 2 females in the household. No other documented evidence has been found after this. His father (David's Will) in 1810 Dresden, Lincoln Co, Maine mentions his eldest son Hezekiah, however it is theyoungest son Silas who is

Newsletter, Fall 1998, page 5 executor. There seems to be confusion as to the date of Hezekiah's death date. It is possible for heirs to be mentioned in wills in those days that had died, and due to distance, the deceased heirs parents would not have known. Documentation on the probate proceedings is needed.

7- Hannah Austin, wife of Hezekiah, appears to be the daughter of Jonathan Austin and Hannah Charles Austin of Francelstown who were early settlers on the Rand land and lived 100 rods from the Rand residence. (Ref. Moore's manuscript).

I challenge the marriage record of their daughter Hannah to a Umphery Hadley. I think she was married to Hezekiah her cousin, the son of David and Lydia Austin. Note Hezekiah was listed in 1790 at Francelstown.

The Higgins Bible inscribes Hannah Austin wife of Joseph Higgins. Hezekiah must have died some time around 1800. Hannah took her family and went to her parents in Bradford Vt., in 1802. She may have known Joseph Higgins prior to her arrival at Corinth, if his wife Polly Rand was in any way related to The Rands whose land her parents settled on in Francelstown.

8- If this is the same Hannah Austin as she appears to be by all of the physical and documented facts, we find that she named her known children after members of the families. Child # 1 David named after Hezekiah's father David Austin; child # 2 Benjamin Austin after her own brother Benjamin; child #3 Hannah after her mother Hannah Charles and herself; Child #5 Olive after her sister Olive Austin, and her son Charles Higgins after her mother's maiden name (Charles).

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The above information is being submitted as a challenge and review to clarify and correct any misleading or erroneous data conflicting with the lineage, thus preventing others to establish their origin.

Pauline L. Austin
292 Northpointe Dr.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

AFAOA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

. . . .

The annual business meeting of the AFAOA was called to order by Hal Steiner, President, at 11 a.m. on Sunday, August 9, 1998 in the Eagle Gate Room of the Best Western Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. About 40 members were in attendance.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Alice Martin, Secretary/Treasurer, reviewed the minutes of the 1997 meeting in Waltham, Massachusetts. She also presented the annual financial report, which stated a balance on May 31, 1997 of \$8,892.41, income of \$8,782.70, expenses of \$6,999.54, and a balance on August 4, 1998 of \$10,675.57. This balance will be reduced by 1998 convention expenses expected to be about \$2,000. The report was accepted. The Secretary/Treasurer was requested to attempt location of past minutes and any other documents that might exist from previous years.

GENEALOGIST REPORT

Bonnie Bigolin, AFAOA Genealogist, gave the following report:

1. All members' lines have been entered into the computer data base.
2. Two new compiler volunteers are entering information on Austin lines: Carolyn Cooper on the Bartholomew Austin line of VA/SC and Helen Austin on the John Calhoun (Jack) Austin line of Alabama.
3. Gay Martin is making progress in entering Edith Austin Moore's field notes, having transcribed 45 of the 80 notebooks.
4. On our word processing project, Vince Smith is entering information from Unplaced Austins, vol. 1.

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

Anna Austin, Western Vice President, has been copying and mailing the newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Changes in the AFAOA by-laws, as recommended last year by the Executive Committee, were discussed. The change to Article VI, Section 1 was to remove the sentence "*The vice presidents shall reside in and represent one of the three geographical regions.*" The change to Article VII, Section 7 c. was to replace the sentence "*Each of the regional vice presidents shall be responsible for Association activities in his or her respective region.*" with "*Each vice president shall be assigned specific duties by the Executive Committee.*" All references to Regional Vice Presidents were changed by eliminating the word "*regional*".

Section 7 a. was clarified by inserting the words "*as vice president*" so that the sentence reads "*The vice presidents shall, in order of seniority as vice president in the Association, perform all the duties of the president in his or her absence or inability to serve.*" A motion by Gay Martin, seconded by Margie Austin, to approve these changes was passed. The by-laws will continue to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Current by-laws will be published and suggestions for

future changes are solicited.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The President announced that Jim and Liz Carlin had accepted the position of *Newsletter* editors.
2. A Publishing Fund was established with \$2,000 transferred from the General Fund. This fund will be used for immediate advertising and printing expenses for the Richard Austin book. Proceeds from sale of the book will go into the Fund and any money remaining after expenses have been paid will be used to begin publication of future books. Motion by Alice Martin, seconded by Lois Cody and passed.
3. Three places were proposed by the President and discussed as the site of the 1999 Austin National Convention. The Washington, DC area. was chosen by vote over Richmond, VA and Raleigh, NC. Dr. Michael Austin, AOAGS President, will coordinate that convention.
4. Expenditure of up to \$1,500 was approved for upgrade of the Genealogist's computer. Motion by Betty Shelhamer, seconded by Floyd Austin and passed.
5. AFAOA will accept a loan from Liz Carlin for approximately \$18,000 for publication costs of the Richard Austin book. Mrs. Carlin will pay Gateway Publishers for charges due now and AFAOA agrees to repay that amount in quarterly payments as money becomes available from sales of the book. The books will be the collateral for the loan. Motion by Gertrude Davis, seconded by Margie Austin and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Austin Martin, Secretary

22nd ANNIVERSARY OF WHEELER- MOGIEANNAH AUSTIN REUNION HATTERAS, NC JUNE 27, 1998

Reported by Ruby Austin Burrus

175 members of the Austin family and a few friends braved the sweltering heat Saturday afternoon to gather at the home of Nacie Austin Peele and his nephew's family, Bubba and Theresa Leatherwood on the beautiful landscaped, grassy lawn, to celebrate their 12th Bi-Annual Reunion. Cousins and their families traveled from great distances to be together. The Adam Wilson family came from Oregon not to be outdone by the Joey Leatherwood family who traveled from Germany. This couple received a gift for distance traveled. Gifts were also presented to Erma Austin as our oldest member and William Harmon Willis as being the youngest member present.

Bubba Leatherwood welcomed the members and guests present. He sincerely thanked his uncle Nacie for his continued generosity in providing a gathering place for 22 years. Thanks were also extended to his cousins Maxton and Michael Peele for their efforts in providing and cooking the corned mackerel and steamed clams, which is always a highlight of the gathering. He also thanked all who were responsible for help provided.

Please see "22nd Anniversary", page 8

MAJOR J. A. S. AUSTIN

1796-1872

By Marjorie Stoner Elmore

Who is this man of various names - Major Austin, J. A. Austin, Addison Austin, Joseph Austin, Joseph Addison Spencer Austin, even James¹ Austin? For me, his 2nd great-granddaughter, his initials or acronym "JASA" serve well. For others, confusion seemingly reigns for he is something of a man of mystery.

Born August 24, 1796 to Seth Austin and his wife Margaret (Spencer²) Austin, both native residents of Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut, little Joseph turned out to be the only child of the couple. Two years and eight months following his birth his mother died of tuberculosis. Relatives stepped in to care for the lad until his father remarried.³ In the 1800 Federal Census of Suffield, he appears to be living at his Uncle Gustavus Austin's along with his father and widowed grandmother Austin.⁴



JASA is found in Colesville, Broome County, New York, on January 6, 1822 with his marriage to Tamzon Baker, daughter of Joshua and Abigail (Frost) Baker. They are enumerated there in the NY State Census of 1825, occupying 16 acres of improved land, and remained in Colesville, or more precisely Center Village, the rest of their lives.⁵

Six children were born to them: Seth King, b. Feb. 23, 1823, lived only one week. Margaret Eliza, b. Mar. 30, 1824, died at 4-1/2 years. Robert Emmett, was born Apr. 2, 1827; Lydia Angeline, Oct. 2, 1830; Adah Caroline, Sept. 5, 1834; and William Henry, Sept. 18, 1840. Interestingly, the records of Dr. John D. Bancroft, Harpursville's first doctor, showed the billing of \$3.00 for the latter's home delivery!

Joseph's half-brother Seth K. Austin, Jr. [1806-1864] also immigrated from Connecticut to Upstate New York. He is found in Windsor with his 17-year-old bride, the former Betsy Lord, in the 1830 Federal Census.

A special State Census taken in Colesville on October 31, 1835 reports that the town supported 3 grist mills, 22 saw mills, 2 fulling mills, 2 carding machines, and 4 tanneries. The Joseph Austin family kept 1 cattle for beef, 2 hogs, and 14 sheep. Further, they produced 20 yds. of fulled cloth manufactured in a "domestic way" during the preceding year; 25 yds. of flannel & other woolen cloths; and 20 yds. of linen, cotton, or other thin cloths.

R. Leone Jacob's "Famines, Fires and Festivals, A History of Colesville, 1785-1978" (1978) provides a map of Center Village from the 1866 "New Topographical Atlas of Broome County." J. A. S. Austin's residence appears on the south end of town bordering the Susquehanna River. JASA's grandson Frank Austin [1854-1943] wrote in his memoirs, "I have been told that he had a fondness for swimming in the Susquehanna River."

Frank continued, "I had heard father say that his father had him pile up rock, push it over, then pile it up again. But I always gave his father credit for having more sense, and think

he could have found some useful work for him to do. They were both carpenters."

With the expanded details of the 1850 Federal Census, JASA's occupation is given as "carpenter and joiner." He was also a notary public and his signature "J. A. S. Austin" is to be found on many documents of the period. "Addison Spencer, Lawyer" is his appellation and profession in the 1870 Federal Census, at which time his realty is valued at \$2000. and personal property at \$400.

His great-granddaughter Mary (Austin) Linder [1906-1967] stated he was a veteran of the War of 1812 and attributed his military title to the N. Y. State Militia. She further recorded Joseph Addison Spencer Austin as prominent in political affairs of his state, having an extensive correspondence, and a lawyer whose advice was sought after in his community. He also owned and operated a sawmill on the Susquehanna River, which was his final undoing.

Frank Austin again in his memoirs: "Grandfather Austin was accidentally killed by being jerked or pushed against a saw in a sawmill. It cut through the brain, and he died instantly. Some thought he took hold of a board or piece of timber that was not quite sawed off and got jerked back against the saw; and some accused a man of pushing him against the saw....Grandfather was seventy-five, I believe, and was said to be more active than many young men."

While no obituary was evident in surviving newspapers, this succinct accident report appeared in the Broome Republican, Binghamton, N. Y., May 22, 1872, p. 8:1 and was copied by surrounding communities.

Terrible Accident at Center Village.

Major J. A. S. Austin, an aged and much respected citizen at Center Village, was killed in a very singular manner on Monday, the 13th instant. He was repairing his saw mill, and for the purpose of slitting a board set the machinery in motion, when he was caught in his clothing by the saw, and his arm was severed between the elbow and shoulder. He then straightened up but fell back with his head upon the saw, and the portion of his head above the mouth was instantly cut off. The funeral took place last Wednesday.

His wife Tamzon survived him by 21 years living to a hale old age of 87.

End Notes

¹ New York DAR cemetery records for Broome County misconstrue "J. A. S." for "James."

² Born March 24, 1773 to Eliphalet and Mary (Granger) Spencer.

³ Seth and Polly (Monroe) Austin had twelve children between 1801-1820.

⁴ Phebe (King) Austin, 1728-1820.

⁵ Records of the Town of Colesville burned in 1855, according to H. P. Smith, Ed., "History of Broome Co., NY," 1885.

Volunteers Needed

Project #1 - Word Processing

We would like to thank member Vincent Smith of Houston, TX for helping in this project. However, we still need several people who can help with retying the AFAOA research notebooks. We can use files produced by any of the popular word processors. MS Word (versions 2.0 to 7.0) is preferred, but we can use Word Perfect 5.X for DOS or 6.X for Windows.

There are about 15 notebooks ranging from 300 to 500 pages. Some pages consist of hand written records, some are typewritten in varying quality, and many are photocopies. When completed, CD ROM or hard copies will be available.

• • • •

Project #2 - "Adopt a State"

Several members are also needed to to "Adopt a State." In this project, you would select a US State that you would be interested in, and then collect and compile all Austin records and data for that State, i.e., Austins of Vermont, or Austins of Missouri, etc.

• • • •

If you have the time to work on either of these projects, or if you have a idea for a project that you would like to work on, please give me a call, or e-mail me at:

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

22nd Anniversary Continued from page 6

The large family tree was posted for all to see and note the growth of each family. Ruby Burrus stated that in the past two years ten new members had been added by marriage; 11 new births and gratefully only one death - Bertie Dixon of Buxton. The Beatrice Austin - Lee Peele branch of the family now have 85 members of the 422 members of this family.

Following the invocation given by Sybil Skakle, everyone enjoyed a bountiful potluck dinner. Later there were games for the children, picture taking, and lots of catching up and 'Down-home' fellowship.

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Jim & Liz Austin Carlin, Newsletter Editors
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The "Richard Book" is Now Being Published

Jim and Liz Carlin, co-compilers of the Richard Austin master database, have announced that they have finally sent the manuscript version to the Gateway Press in Baltimore, MD, publishers of many genealogical books. The book is titled: Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638. They expect to receive delivery of the professionally produced hard cover, bound books in early November, and are now getting ready for the sale and distribution of these books.

Over seven years in preparation, this reference book is based on the material first published by Edith Austin Moore in her 1968 edition. That work has been carefully analyzed and corrected where possible, and then updated by extensive further research and the contributions of 189 Austin family genealogists.

The Carlins said that the book features:
a) 720 pages of genealogical data on 12,200 individuals (over 7,500 Austin surnamed individuals).
b) 108 photographs of Austin family members, many of them dating back to Civil War days.

c) Special 108 page name index, where individuals are alphabetically arranged by given name, augmented by their birth and death data where known.
d) Whenever possible, thorough documentation is listed for each event in each individual's genealogy, based on primary, secondary and tertiary sources.

The book presents genealogical as well as biographical data in a modified NGS Register format, which is arranged by generation for 13 generations. The book version is distinctly different from that obtained from accessing the data on the AFAOA website.

Buyers are urged to purchase their books using the AFAOA member discount of \$10 off of the regular price of \$65 per book (see order blank below for details). Besides becoming family heirlooms, buyers can buy books for their children, for their favorite genealogist, or as a donation to their favorite genealogical library. Please indicate which books are to be charitable donations, and a form will be provided with the book that will document your donation for tax purposes.

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