



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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

Volume 16, No. 1

February 2006

ISSN 1063-3263

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Is Fort Wayne Ready for the Austins?

This year we will be heading to Fort Wayne, Indiana for our annual convention and reunion. The AFAOA will jointly sponsor the 2006 International Austin Convention with the Austin Families Genealogical Society.

Are you interested in your Austin heritage? Would you like help in finding out more about your ancestors? Then please join us for a wonderful weekend of interesting speakers, informative workshops, making new friends and renewing old friendships.

WHERE: Ft. Wayne, Indiana - home of the renowned Allen County Public Library.

WHEN: Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July, 23, 2006

HOTEL: Holiday Inn.

300 E. Washington Blvd., Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802

TELEPHONE: 260-422-5511

ROOM RATE: \$69.00 + tax (Single or Double).

AMMENITIES: Swimming pool, fitness center, laundry facilities coffee shop and bar.

FREE: Airport shuttle, continental breakfast, parking.

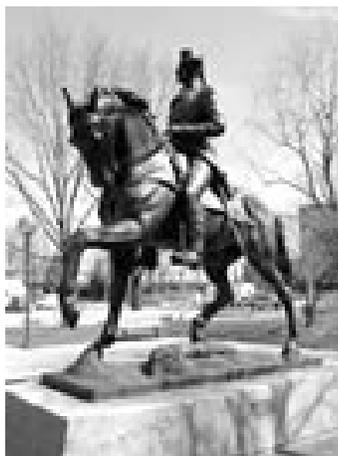
A block of rooms has been reserved for us at the guaranteed rate of \$69.00. Be sure to mention the "Austin Convention" when making those reservations. You can also come early or stay after the convention if you would like. This rate will be in effect between July 19 and July 26, 2006. Cutoff date for

making hotel reservations at this rate is June 19, 2006.



Allen County Court House

General "Mad Anthony" Wayne



Convention registration (separate from hotel reservations) can be accomplished by using the form on Page 7 of this *Newsletter*. You can also download a form from our web site.

The site of the convention is always chosen to take advantage of local genealogical resources. By voting for Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the members of the two sponsoring Austin organizations had in mind the extensive collections of the Fred J. Reynolds Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library. This library was organized in 1961 by the library director for whom it was named. The department's renowned collection contains more than 300,000 printed volumes and 314,000 items of microfilm and microfiche.

Please visit their web site <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/> for more details on the library's holdings which include Family Histories, Census Records, City Directories, Passenger Lists, Military Records, Native American Records, and records for Canada, the British Isles, Germany, and other Countries, PERSI, the periodical index and periodicals.

Library Hours are:

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Closed on Sundays, (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day).

<http://www.afaqa.org>

Membership



Corner

Confused?

New Members Welcomed

Darcy L. Nord

9911 Canyon View Road
Summerland, British Columbia
Canada
darcy.nord@gmail.com
Joseph b. 1616 England, Thomas b.
1655 NH, Benjamin b. 1704 NH.

Georgia Trimper

1211 Dodge Road
Getzville, NY 14068-1309
georgiatrimper@adelphia.net
Great granddaughter of E. O. Austin,
Austin, PA.

E.O. Austin Home/Historical Society

Ron Ebbert (President)
P.O. Box 412
Austin, PA 16720
Membership donated by:

Judy Hefty

533 Blanchard St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823-8601
heftyjudy@aol.com

Renewals

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

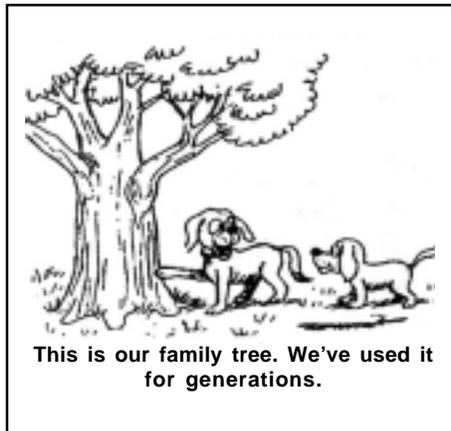
Bonnie Bigolin
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935

Address Changes

If your address has changed, or is about to change, please notify the membership chairman. Send changes to: Alice Austin Martin, 1703 Kensington Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564; or send changes by e-mail to:

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

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman



Recent Additions to the AFAOA Archive Series

The Dall-Tardy Letters - Status

Dr. Harry Porter, Jr., the great great grandson of Clarissa Honey Austin (of the Richard of Charlestown line) has followed through on his very generous offer to donate these letters to the AFAOA Archives where they will be given the proper preservation and protection that they require. Actually, he is representing himself as well as his other two sisters: Mrs. Clara Porter Cavett (Mrs. James R. Cavett) of Jackson, MS and Mrs. Ann Porter Davis of Mobile, AL, all of whom have approved of the transfer of these letters to the AFAOA archives.

There are 33 letters currently being formatted for web presentation. The intent is to provide a separate series of pages on the AFAOA website which will feature these letters, including an overview or inventory of them, and a general introduction to the people, their times (mid 1850s until 1939), and their personal reflections on the matters affecting them.

All of the letters will be indexed and available for research using our website's text search feature. Some scans of the actual letters are available and will be posted on the website as well. Look for the announcement of this series on the home page of our web site: www.afaqa.org.

Every now and then someone writes to say that their dues have been paid and that our "reminder" or "final notice" card is in error, only to find out that they have confused the AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (AFAOA) with the AUSTIN FAMILIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (AFGS). Many of you are members of both Austin organizations.

We realize that the similarity in names can be confusing. The reasons why there are two organizations doing Austin research are complex, and, although the goals of the two organizations are similar, they differ primarily in their research focus.

AFGS emphasizes the gathering and publication of all Austin genealogical information and has now moved to an international focus. AFAOA, with over 60 years of research by its genealogists, places its greatest emphasis on establishing the family lines of Austins in America, back to their immigrant ancestors. Information on the countries of origin of those ancestors is gladly added to our ever expanding databases when available.

There are now 43 active Austin-line databases that are "published" on our web site in two forms - linked Family Group Sheets, searchable with our Master Index, and Descendancy Books based on those databases, which are searchable by text queries.

This latter text search capability was introduced to our web site in early 2005. Prior to that time, we placed our research documents and Descendancy books on the AFGS Austin-Austen Research Center (AARC) for text searching. The research documents remain there today, as well as being available for text search on our site.

The Descendancy books, the product of our changing and expanding databases, are in a constant state of correction and update. Therefore, the latest versions of these books are now available **only** on the AFAOA site. The older, uncorrected versions, although their removal has been repeatedly requested, still remain on the AARC - alas another source of confusion, and one that we now caution you about.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well the people have spoken: the site for the 2006 International Austin Convention has been selected. I felt that all four nominated locations would have made great places to have a convention. I'm very happy to be going to the one that got the most votes and a great Genealogical Library, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Some people rate this as the second best Genealogical Library in the country after Salt Lake's Family History Library. My personal list would put it third behind the New England Historical & Genealogical Library in Boston. But that is mostly because almost all of my ancestors are from New England.

If you went to our convention in 1995 it was also held at Fort Wayne. I found it very friendly city to visit and I loved their collections. We are getting a bonus this time and that is the library is in a temporary location because they are building a completely new facility so all of the stacks are open. On my last visit you had to fill out request forms and then wait for someone to retrieve your request.

The particulars for the convention are listed on page 1, so put these dates on your calendar and we will see you in Fort Wayne in July.

We are planning for the convention program at this time, so this is a good time to think about program items that you would like to see presented. We are always looking for interesting stories on the lives of Austin family members; what information you discovered, and where and how you found it. I always find talks like this interesting because I usually get some new ideas for the research that I'm doing. So if you have an interesting story to tell we would love to have you as part of the convention program.

Besides stories, what types of talks interest you? Past topics have included research techniques, reviews of records and documents, and descriptions of library holdings. Let us know and we will see if we can schedule talks on these subjects. Remember, if you have an interest, there are probably others who are just as interested.

* * *

The beginning of the wide spread use of using DNA to help trace families was spearheaded by a paper written by Bryan Sykes, Professor of Human Genetics, Oxford University in England, 2000. By taking random samples of the Sykes family DNA in England Bryan came to the conclusion that most of the Sikes/Sykes family today comes from a single founder. This and his book *The Seven Sisters of Eve* really got the commercial testing of DNA for family researchers established.

A David Sykes has just written a paper using some early

Austin, Nevada

Then and Now

by Kathi Kobel

On September 23, 1879 the *Wellsboro* (Pennsylvania) *Agitator* Newspaper printed: "It is not generally known that Austin, Nevada was named in honor of a former citizen of Tioga County, but such is nevertheless the case. Aaron Austin, son of Alvin Austin of Mainsburg, was the first settler to break ground in that region, about thirty years ago, while prospecting for gold; and the place, now an important one, has from that time borne his name. Mr. Austin, we believe, is now in California." (Aaron and Alvin Austin were descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts).

The town became established in 1862, and there are accounts that William Talcott, who worked for the Overland Mail & Stage, discovered a ledge of silver ore. Another account claims that a Pony Express horse kicked over a rock with silver in it. Whichever is true, by the summer of 1863 Austin and the surrounding Reese River Mining District had a population of more than 10,000. Austin became the county seat of Lander County, although later, that designation was given to Battle Mountain. More than \$50 million in silver was produced by Austin's miners and 30 other mining camps in the area.

The Nevada Central Railroad was built to connect Austin with the transcontinental railroad at Battle Mountain in 1880. Unfortunately, by that time the boom was almost over. Major silver production ended in 1887, but there was a slight revival in the 1910's.

Today Austin is a living ghost town with a population of about 300. It is nestled on the western slopes of the Toiyabe Mountain Range, off U.S. Highway 50 (also known as the loneliest road in America), at an elevation of 6,605 feet. The town is a wonderful example of an early mining town. It has three beautiful churches. The Catholic and the Methodist churches were both built in 1866. The Methodist church is now used as a community center. St. Augustine Catholic church has been purchased and is being restored as a cultural center for Central Nevada.

The Episcopal church, considered by some to be the prettiest frontier church, is still standing, and was built in 1878. It is still in regular use. The International Hotel, first built in nearby Virginia City in 1859, was moved to Austin in 1863. They still serve meals and drinks (they no longer rent out their rooms).

Please see "Austin, Nevada" on page 5

English records and a well thought out probability formula to prove that the conclusion that Bryan had was not very likely. It's very interesting because of the unique way the records were used and his talk about when and how surnames were first used. This retired IBM engineer, whose ancestors migrated to America in the mid 1800 into the Blackstone River area of Massachusetts, has done an extensive amount of English genealogical research. If you are interested in a copy of this paper, please me know and I can get you a copy.

Arthur Sikes, Jr.
AFAOA President

It's A Small World!

I am Russell Ambrose Williams, named after a neighbor's son, Russell Austin. The Austins were relatives through my mother Freda Mae, nee Ambrose. One of her grandmothers was Caroline Austin who married Hiram Ambrose and became the mother of Ernest Ambrose, my mother's father. Caroline's father was Moses G. Austin. In March 1857 he had patented the Wisconsin farm adjoining the one where I was born.

Moses Austin and his second wife, Elizabeth, and their children, moved on to Dade Co., Missouri. At least four children remained in Wisconsin. There is a story about two Elizabeths – one the mother of Moses and the other his second wife, but I digress!

In trying to trace Moses and his origin I knew that Caroline was born in Bolivar, New York to Moses Austin and his first wife, Sophronia Bradley. Both were the proverbial "brick walls." I found Moses in Missouri with his family and he had informed the census taker that he was born in Delaware Co., New York of parents born in Massachusetts. My search led me to Delaware Co. where I spent a lot of time and effort on Thomas Austin and his four sons. No Moses Austin was located.

In the meantime I located the "Richard Austin of Charlestown" book and on page 502 located a Moses Austin. While the story of Nathan Austin was mixed up and said that Moses was his brother who had gone to Forest, Missouri, I recognized that Moses was mine who had gone to Wisconsin and whose post office there had been Forest in Richland Co., Wisconsin.

It was time to start a Nathan Austin file. The Bear Run Cemetery can be located on the internet which, combined with census records and the valued correspondence with Don Austin, allowed me to add a lot to Nathan's file and to learn that his wife's first name was Elizabeth, surname unknown. Moses failed to appear in any of the records searched. I was corresponding with a number of people regarding Nathan. Nathan's father was said to be Gad, or Gurard or Anthony, etc. In fact this was just a lot of guesswork. Who were Nathan's parents? Where was he from? Why was the only clue to Moses Austin that mixed up story in the Richard Austin book?

I sent out several queries but had received nothing. Don Austin sent me a number of pages pertaining to the Bell Run group that had been written by a Chris Hobson. I jumped to the conclusion that he was a local who might know of Moses Austin, so I contacted him. He had never heard of Moses Austin. But what he did tell me is responsible for the title for this article.

Chris Hobson's interest in the Austin family is with Nathan's son Horace. Horace Austin had married Mary Ann Gleason and their second child was Earl Lorenzo Austin who married Dacie Violet Howard. Earl and Dacie Austin's seventh child was Iona Pavilla Austin who married Karmon Meredith Wood. Karmon and Iona Wood had nine children, one of whom was Ella Pauline Wood.

Why am I dwelling at length on this family? I, Russell Ambrose Williams, have spent a good part of my life in Sparta, Wisconsin and live in Sparta at the present time. Ella Pauline Wood was working in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when she met and married Fred Clayton Hobson when he was in the military and stationed in Washington, D.C. They returned to his home-

A Valentine Remembrance

I SIT AND ROCK ALONE

Just yesterday it seems,
My children sat upon the floor.
And I wiped countless fingerprints
From windowpane and door,
I kissed away a thousand tears.
Darned socks after socks,
And tried to keep pace with the hands
That raced around the clock.

And often, at the end of day
Too tired to sleep, in bed I lay.
I'd think, how nice when children grown,
My time again should be my own.

So now I sit and rock alone
My hands at rest, the work all done,
No little tots upon the floor
No fingerprints upon the door.
No socks to mend, bruises to kiss -
Ah me. How could I know I'd miss

The very things I'd grudge to do,
When I was young and sturdy too.
Dear God, if only there might be
Someone again, who needed me.

Norris Henry Austin

Editor's Note: This was written by Bonnie Bigolin's great grandfather. His wife died one Valentines Day leaving him with two small children to raise.

town of Sparta, Wisconsin and it was in Sparta that Chris Hobson was born. Three generations of Hobsons lie at rest in the Leon Cemetery located a few miles south of Sparta. A native of Sparta, and aunt to Chris, is Helen Peterson, now deceased. Before her retirement she was a teacher in Sparta. My wife, Alice, loved to sew and made many dresses for Helen. So you see that it's truly **A Small World!**

Russell A. Williams

Need a birth, marriage, or death certificate from the UK?

Well then, check out this web site:
<http://www.bmd-certificates.co.uk>

They locate and obtain United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) birth, marriage or death certificates. All certificates are full/long form, certified and official. They dispatch all certificates within a strict stated timeframe, and for certificates required urgently, they offer an express service. They accept USD payment by credit card, and assure privacy and security with independent payment processing. They will also research your request should you have incomplete information.

<http://www.afoa.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

Liz Austin Carlin (Southern Austins)
23725 Community St.
West Hills, CA 91304-3004

Q16,1-1 - Nathan Austin was born in Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. There are unverified clues as to his parentage. I am reasonably sure that he is of the Suffield Austins. Suffield was in Massachusetts until 1749 when a change in state borders put it in Connecticut. If you have information please contact me.

Russell A. Williams, wmsrasp@centurytel.net.

Q16,1-2 - I am looking for information on Louise A. Austin, b. 1856 in Cape Girardeau Co., MO. I believe that she is the third child of David P. Austin b. 1823 and Lucy J. Wright, who are listed in the William Austin of MD Genealogical Database. I believe that Louise is the person who married my ggrandfather about 1885. His name was Thomas Jefferson Johnson. Elbert L. Johnson, elbert.johnson@gmail.com.

Q16,1-3 - I am looking for information on John Austin born 1766 in Concord, NH died July 20, 1855. He married Sarah Lawrence June 8, 1797 in Concord, NH by Rev. Ebenezer Hill of Mason NH. She was born March 18, 1768 in Mason, NH and died Nov. 28, 1821 in Mason, NH. Children: Asa Austin 1803 - 1893; Luther Austin 1807 - 1880; Sarah Austin 1797 - 1809; Deidamia Austin 1802 - 1822; Eliza Austin 1804 - ? I am trying to find out who were John's parents?

Kandy Austin, Kaydesso@aol.com.

Q16,1-4 - I am researching the relationships between the Austin, Fairman, Gardiner, and Fletcher families. I recently acquired a letter written by Caroline Augusta Fairman, who I believe to be the daughter of Gideon and Delight (Austin) Fairman. I'm looking for confirmation of this, and if another Caroline, then who are her parents? Mention of members and known associates of the Austin/Fairman family show that this is, somehow, the right extended family.

William Voss, bellafortuni@earthlink.net.

"Austin, Nevada" Continued from page 3

This hotel is said to be the oldest in Nevada. Austin also has a number of other historical buildings.

Just west of the main area of downtown Austin is the restored Gridley store, built in the early 1860's from native stone. Reuel Gridley, owner of the store, became famous about 125 years ago after he lost an election bet and agreed to carry a 50-pound sack of flour the length of town.

Following his walk, the sack of flour was returned to the center of town where it was auctioned off. The sack was sold many times that day, each buyer returning it to be auctioned again, raising more than \$6,000. Other towns heard about Gridley's famous sack and he was invited to conduct similar auctions throughout the west. Over the next year, Gridley actually raised about \$275,000 for the "Sanitary Fund", which aided Civil War victims. Today the sack is on display at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

Today, Austin is also known for rock hounding, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, historical trips, and agriculture, farming and ranching. There are campgrounds, RV parks, and several motels and B&B's. It is said to be located in the geometric center of Nevada.



**Actual road sign to Austin, Nevada
showing the barren desert landscape**

Q16,1-5 - I am looking for the Martha Austin, born 1 May 1832, who married Jeremiah Vardiman Mulberry and had 3 children. The 1880 Illinois census lists her father as being born in New York, and her mother born in Virginia. Martha was probably born in Kentucky. She died 15 April 1875 in Green County, Illinois.

Scott Stauffer, scott_s@ix.netcom.com.

Q16,1-6 - My grandfather, Edgar Noel Austin, was born 8 November 1908 and died 19 November 1999 in Clay County, Mississippi. He had 3 sons, Noel Edgar, Charles Edgar (my father), and Anderson Earl. I am trying to learn to which Austin line he belongs, and any information will be appreciated.

Todga Sue Austin Salke, todga@msn.com.

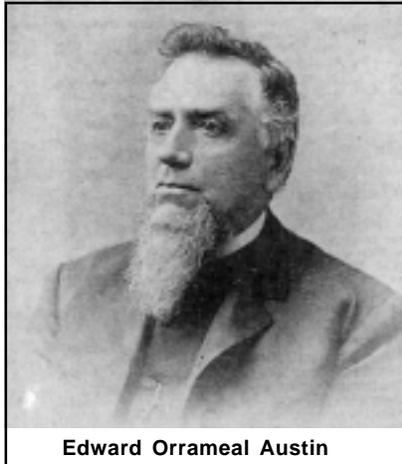
Q16,1-7 - I am looking for the parents of Ruth Austin, born 9 March 1759, died 9 February 1813, married Simeon Stiles, born 23 December 1757, died 24 March 1818. Simeon was from Westfield, Massachusetts.

Ed Stiles, edwardstiles@bellsouth.net.

A Dream Realized

Some people had a dream that they would build a replica of a home that was destroyed on September 30, 1911. It would be a museum for the town. The original home was destroyed along with almost the entire town of Austin, Pennsylvania because of a dam that broke above the town. Over 78 people died as a result of the flood.

The home of Edward O. Austin is the home that a group of people who called themselves The E. O. Austin Home/Historical Society wanted to rebuild. The president, Ron Ebbert, was the driving force along with the members of the historical society that worked hard to make a dream come true. They started to build in 2001 without



Edward Orrameal Austin

much money. Several men and women in the town volunteered their skills in the building process. Through fund raising, donations from individual donors, businesses and organizations this dream was realized. The children of the town also helped.

Austin, Pennsylvania is located in the northern part of the state in Potter County. The town of Austin was named after Edward O. Austin who was born in 1825 in Greene, Chenango, New York. He purchased 147 acres of land and settled in the area which is now called Austin around 1856. It was incorporated as a borough in 1888.

He was a highly respected man in the community. He gave much of the land for the town and spent a lifetime helping it grow. He was involved in politics and served two terms as county commissioner, was a surveyor and a justice of the peace in Austin. He also served as a soldier in the Civil War. He loved to write and had written the first historical papers of Potter County that were published. He wrote an historical paper entitled, Historical Reminiscences of Potter County. He contributed to Egle's Pennsylvania History.

Edward O. Austin is descended from Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, who came through Boston Harbor in 1638. He had five children with his first wife Amelia Stedman/Steadman who died in 1875. He had three children with his second wife, Julia Allington Wales who died in 1906. Fortunately Edward died in 1909 before the dam broke and his home was destroyed. We are told that the home was owned by the Austin family when the destruction occurred.

The home/museum was completed in 2005 and is a dream realized. Through the efforts of many people in the town and others they have proven that dreams do come true. Edward O. Austin would be proud of the people who accomplished this.

The grand opening/dedication will be May 14, 2006. The home/museum is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 and Thursday evenings from 4:00 to 7:00. The home/museum is located in the center of town on



Austin, Pennsylvania before the dam broke



Downtown Austin, Pennsylvania after the dam broke



Restored E. O. Austin's home - now a museum and the home of the Historical Society

the town square and near the fire hall. The mailing address is E. O. Austin Home/Historical Society, P. O. Box 412, Austin, PA 16720. People to contact are Ron Ebbert, 814-647-8650 and Johnny Owens 814-647-8448.

Judy Hefty
heftyjudy@aol.com

2006 INTERNATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

Registration Form

Fort Wayne, Indiana - July 21 through July 23

NAME: _____ Date: _____

[Please write names as you wish them to appear on name tags.]

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT(S) WITH SAME ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS: (Street) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

EARLIEST KNOWN AUSTIN ANCESTORS (WITH PLACE AND DATE):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Convention Registration Fee is \$50 per person. This fee covers convention meetings and materials and the Sunday banquet. Family or friends who wish to only attend the banquet may pay a Banquet Fee of \$30.

(# of people) _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

(# of people) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Enclosed is my check, payable to "Austin Convention" for \$ _____

I expect to arrive in Ft. Wayne on (date) _____ about (time) _____ by Car ___ Plane ___ Other ___

I am planning to stay at the Holiday Inn Yes ___ No ___

[Please Note: This registration form is just for the convention proceedings.

Don't forget to also make your hotel reservations **before June 19, 2006.**

Call 1-260-422-5511, and be sure to mention "Austin Convention"]

I expect to be staying before or after the convention for research: Yes ___ No ___

When using computers I consider my level to be: Novice ___ Intermediate ___ Experienced ___

Additional comments: _____

Please send this form and your check to the Convention Registrar:

**Cheryl Austin Akusis
66 Gifford Lane
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2235**

<http://www.afaoa.org>

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

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
1703 Kensington Ave.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Address Service Requested



Portrait of Gen. "Mad Anthony" Wayne, builder of the original fort at the junction of the Maumee, St. Marys and St. Joseph rivers - dedicated 22 Oct 1794

REGISTER NOW!

2006

International Austin

Convention

& Annual Reunion

July 21, 22 & 23
Fort Wayne, Indiana
USA