



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Austin-Austen DNA Testing Update

The Joint Project is underway.

The October edition of the Austin Families Association *Newsletter* described the Austin-Austen DNA Project, jointly sponsored by the Austin Families Association (AFAOA) and the Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS). The goal of the project is to produce a database of DNA profiles for Austin lines in the United States.

Starting with the larger lines of Samuel Austin of Boston, Massachusetts; Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island; and Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, we are collecting samples of DNA from male descendants of these families to build a library of DNA profiles for other researchers to use as a reference - against which future DNA test results of unknown Austin-Austen lines can be compared.

The joint project is in the process of establishing the DNA profiles, using 25 marker Y-DNA testing for the three Austin lines, and also coordinating the collection of Y-DNA test results for the following lines:

- William Austin b. ca. 1750 of North Carolina.
- John Austin b. abt. 1692 of Southside, Virginia.
- William Austin b. 1793 of Connecticut.
- Thomas Austin b. 1767 of Sharpsburg, Maryland.
- Thomas Austin b 1727 of Barbados.
- Robert Austin b. 1794 of New Hampshire.
- William Austin b. ca. 1813 of New York.
- James J. Austin b. ca. 1822 of Cobb, Georgia.
- William Austin b. ca. 1700 Ireland, of Virginia.
- Thomas Wilson Austin b. 1796 in Virginia or Maryland.

What is DNA?

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the chemical inside the nucleus of all cells that carries the genetic instructions for making living organisms. Chromosomes are paired threadlike "packages" of long segments of DNA. In all humans, there are 23 pairs of chromosomes, half of these inherited from the mother and half from the father. The con-

tents of the resulting 23 pairs determine the characteristics of the person, i.e. hair color, eye color, height, etc., all of which, being a blend of the parent's genes, creates a unique individual.

One pair is different from the other 22. It determines the sex of the individual. In females, this pair has 2 like chromosomes called X. In males, it comprises one X and one Y, two very different chromosomes. When a child is conceived, the mother can only contribute an X chromosome (that is all she has available to contribute), but the father can contribute either a X or a Y chromosome. The sex of the child will be female if the father's contribution is a X or male if he contributes a Y.

How does this help in genealogy?

The Y chromosome, passed on with very little change from fathers to sons through the generations, provides a very useful tool for tracing a genealogical line. DNA tests performed today on a male, known to be from a particular family line, can establish the DNA sequence for that line, and is then applicable to all males back to the line's progenitor. A male's DNA test result can firmly establish his relationship to any one of the profiled Austin lines, or his relationship to other males who have been tested but not matched to a family line with a known progenitor. Conversely, it can firmly establish that the male tested is not linked to the others who have been tested, and eliminate those established family lines in his search for his ancestors.

Where does the Project stand today?

The DNA profile for the Samuel Austin of Boston, MA has now been essentially established. We are waiting for the results from an additional test to resolve a single ambiguity in the profile.

The DNA testing of alleged descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown has produced anomolous results. The two test samples do not match. This indicates that the lineage documenta-

Please see "DNA Testing" on page 3

<http://www.afoa.org>

Membership



Corner

The Master Index

(Now available at www.afoa.org)

New Members Welcomed

Timothy S. Austin

520 Cleveland Ave., Little Chute, WI 54140.

tinysphere2@aol.com

Daniel Austin b. MA; Renssaler S.

Austin b. 1804/05 Renssaler Co., NY;

Charles V. R. Austin b. 1826

Springfield, MA.

William James Austin

40 Wilcox Lane, Apt. 224,

Canandaigua, NT 14424

(no e-mail)

Richard Austin b. 1598 England,

Anthony Austin b. 1636 England,

Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA.

Carol E. Hyslop

7200 Danford Lane, Springfield, VA 22152

alan.hyslop@verizon.net

Harry William Austin b. ca 1883 MA;

James Gerald Austin b. 1920 IA;

Richard Frederick b. 1943 NE.

Terisa Austin Edwards

507 Elm St., Tehacapi, CA 93561

tntquilter@earthlink.net

Benjamin B. Austin b. abt 1828, d.

1868; Eli Benjamin Austin b. 1859

MO?, d. 1940 OK; Jesse Lee Austin b.

1896 OK, d. 1977 CA.

Patrick Austin Korach

9776 NE 134th St.

Kirkland, WA 98034

tm2@ziplon.net

Richard Austin b. 1598 England,

Anthony Austin b. 1636 England,

Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA.

Membership Renewal

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships in the Austin Families Association during the past months. Thanks also to those who will renew in the months to come. You not only give financial support to the AFAOA website, the *Newsletter*, the Austin-Austen Research Center, and now to the Austin DNA Project, but you provide encouragement to those who volunteer their time and energy to keep the Austin Families Association an active force in Austin research. Each renewal is a vote of confidence and each member is important to us. Thanks again for your support!

Please notice the renewal date on your address label. Your check for dues - \$15 per year - made payable to "Austin Families Association" should be sent prior to that date to: Lois W. Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215.

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chair

Privacy Opt-Out Now Available

Austin Families Association members at the 2003 National Austin Convention voted to allow AFAOA and AOAGS members to have full access to all information in the AFAOA family databases on the Austin-Austen Research Center (AARC) site. This includes information on [living people](#). This information would be made available only after the member agreed that their use of the data would be for their own personal genealogical research.

Currently, personal data on living people is suppressed on the AFAOA web site. Since there are no means for having a visitor first agree to any restrictions on their use of any information on the AFAOA site, personal data on living people will continue to be suppressed.

If you have contributed any family information to any of the AFAOA Austin databases that you do not want to be made available on the AARC site, please contact the database chairman.

Jim Carlin

Database Chairman

Editor's Note: This search tool is such a valuable addition to our website that we are republishing this article from the October *Newsletter*.

To those of you who have visited the Austin Families Association's web site, you are aware of the 35 Austin descendency databases that you can search, view and copy in family group sheet format (FGS).

Although each individual database is completely indexed, in the past, you had to know which descendency line your Austin belonged to or else you had to search each database until you found him or her.

To make your search considerably easier, a new database search tool has been added to the web site. It is called the master index.

The master index contains all the names in the 35 databases currently on-line at the site. Each name is linked to its FGS in the proper family database. Simply search for the name of your ancestor, choose among the different possibilities (dates are supplied, if known), and select your person by clicking on his name. In a few moments, the computer will generate your FGS and it will appear on your screen.

Besides finding the data on your ancestor, you will also discover the family database of which he is a member, and can trace the line back to the progenitor (earliest ancestor), or you can traverse that database generation by generation, or person by person using the links provided on the FGS page.

To use the master index, simply go to the AFAOA Web Site, click on "Austin Research", then scroll down to "Master Index Search" and click on "Enter the Master Index". You will see that you can search both Austin (all spelling variations) and non-Austin surnames.

We are confident that this new feature will make your search easier. Please send any comments regarding the master index, or any feedback on the site itself to the Webmaster.

Joy Davis
Webmaster



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In doing genealogical research it is always exciting when you find a new person to add to your family tree, especially when you have looked long and hard for that elusive connection. This fall and early winter, I added some names to my genealogy, but not after doing a lot of research. The additions are grandchildren: our first and second.

The first new name we added was Krycia Giovanna Harlow, born September 18, in Houston, Texas, to our daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Russell Harlow, Jr. The second addition was Samuel Austin Sikes, born in December in Hartford, CT, to our son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Jennifer Sikes of Suffield, CT.

It was a lot less work on my part, but was very exciting for all of us. I am sure many of our members out there are also adding to their genealogies with new grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews being born every day. I believe we need to share our genealogical information with these new family members.

To do this, I have published a book of all my mother's ancestors, and given copies of this book as Christmas gifts. In this way, I am getting the old and the new information in print so that the newer and future generations will have it. I think that it is important to get the information I have out to them *now*, not wait until the genealogy is "done." It will never be done, as all of you who do research have discovered. A hint: appoint a "Family Genealogist" and be sure to provide that family member with all the new dates and details important to your family's history!

In the last *Newsletter*, we introduced the Austin DNA Project that we are sponsoring with the Austins of America Genealogy Society. The Project's goal is to start a database of Austin DNA information that can be used to find connections with Austin lines here in North America. The Project funded six DNA tests, two from each of the three largest Austin lines: Richard Austin of Massachusetts, Robert Austin of Rhode Island, and Samuel Austin of Massachusetts. The people who were tested had documented their *male* Austin heritage. Please see the current *Newsletter* article for the update on this part of the project.

I have been working on two databases of Austins from New York State. One is the Thomas Austin line that started in Delaware County, New York. The second is the Stephen Austin line that started in Herkimer County, New York. The Thomas Austin family appears to have ties back to Rhode Island, while the Stephen Austin family could be related to any number of established Austin lines (or not!). By doing DNA tests on a male Austin in each of these lines, we could determine if there are connections to established lines, or if these are separate Aus-

tin families. I give this as an example of how the DNA database could help researchers.

Unfortunately, the Association is not sponsoring any additional tests in the near future. We are looking for volunteers from the other Austin lines to have the test done at their own expense. The results of the tests, added to the Project's database, would benefit the members of each line that is tested as well as benefit researchers seeking their family lines. Please consider having this simple test performed and adding your direct-male-line DNA to the Austin DNA Research Project. We would be grateful.

Art Sikes, Jr.

DNA Testing

Continued from page 1

tion for one of both of these individuals is incorrect or that a "paternity event" has occurred. This "event" was either an unknown adoption of a son into an Austin family, or the birth of an "Austin son" actually sired by another man.

Test results from one donor have been processed for the Robert Austin of Kingston, RI line. Samples from a second donor were received by the testing agency, and we are looking forward to establishing the Robert DNA profile.

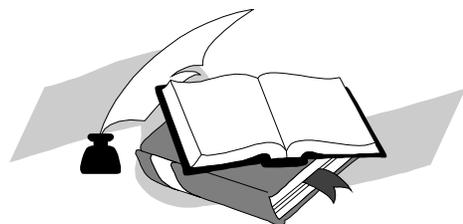
Where can I get additional information?

There are three web sites that researchers, interested in this joint project, can visit. The first presents an excellent tutorial on DNA and the various tests used in regard to genealogical research. It can be reached at <http://blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101.html>.

The AOAGS-AFAOA joint project web site can be reached at <http://www.aoags.org/DNA/>. There is a link provided which will take you to a table which lists all of the DNA test results obtained so far. If you are interested in contributing your Austin-Austen DNA test results to this project, please use the link to the FamilyTreeDNA.com site described below.

The third web site is the joint "Austin-Austen DNA Surname Project" at <http://www.familytreeDNA.com>. When you go to the site, look in the upper right hand box labeled SEARCH BY SURNAME, enter "Austin" (without the quotation marks) in the box underneath the box marked "Begins with" and click on SEARCH. You will find two projects on the search results page. Click on "Austin-Austen DNA" under PROJECT to view our project details, including an invitation to join us.

Please e-mail questions or comments to either Mike Austin: maustin@aoags.org, or Art Sikes, Jr.: artsikes@aol.com.





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

Jan Austin Untener (Northern Austins)
11307 Harborview Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44102

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

Editor's Note: All queries submitted by members of Austin Families Association to this *Newsletter* will also appear on our web site: <http://www.afaoa.org>

Q11,4 - 1 Lucy Brown - rolu@knology.net

My ggg grandmother was Agnes "Aggey" Austin found in her marriage bond, 8/8/1799 in Rutherford Co., NC. She was born abt 1767 in NC [1850 census of Pickens Co., SC]. She married James E. Frazier [Freaure] born abt 1772 in VA [1850 census of Pickens Co., SC]. He shows up in census in 1810 in Pendleton District, SC. He may be the James in Buncombe Co., NC census of 1800. Their children were: Matilda b. ca 1800; William E. b. ca 1802; Sarah b. ca 1805; Elizabeth A. ca 1806; John or James ca 1810-20; Ransom Austin b. ca 1811. I cannot find any lead to any Austin in that area of NC or any other area for that matter. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Q11,4 - 2 Emily Miller - Miller_Emily@bah.com

My grandfather just passed away before we could finish solving his family mysteries so now I am bound and determined! His grandfather was Edward Austin, born in Chittenango, NY in October of 1861. I know he had a brother J. Wesley Austin, a brother Charlie (Michigan) and a sister Nellie Austin Grimm (Michigan). I think he also had a brother David. I do not know who his parents were but I know he had an Uncle William and Aunt Josephine from Manlius, NY. Edward died in Cheboygan, MI but I don't think he is buried there. I think he is buried in Detroit along with his family but I cannot find any more info on this group.

Fun with Probate

By

Wannabe A. Austin

I can see into the future. You want proof? I know that somewhere in this *Newsletter* is an article on probate. It is a good and very informative article, unlike the painstakingly researched column that I do, better known to the editor as filler. In that vein, I have decided to do a follow-up to the other probate article, by comparing probate inventories that span over 200 years of life here in the United States.

Until the 1900's, the inventories found in the Probate Court records were very complete, listing everything (and I mean everything) the deceased owned prior to death. Then, unlike today, women legally were not allowed to own anything, so the inventory covered all household goods. I say "legally" because we married men know who really owns everything we have regardless of what any law has ever said.

This authoritative article will compare probate records of my spouse's great great great great grandfather, Thomas Orton, who died in 1792, her great grandfather, Orestes Austin who died in 1888, and the current inventory of goods contained in our home.

Let us start with the volume of information. The inventory of Mr. Orton took two full pages, listing everything in the house – sheets, blankets, tables, chairs, number of dinner plates, even the pairs of stockings he owned. By 1888, many of the little things were left out of the inventory, but it still included the majority of household items. This condensed inventory of Mr. Austin's estate was, again, about two pages.

Today the list of items in our home would be, well, let's say something like the 37 volumes of the encyclopedia you used to receive when buying groceries. Volumes 1 through 22 would list all of her clothes, 23 - 36 all of her other stuff (notice the use of the politically correct term "stuff" not "junk"), and the last page and one-half of Volume 37 would be the things I own. Perhaps this is why we do not see detailed inventories anymore!

Now let us consider animals. You would expect that Mr. Orton, who lived on a farm, would have animals, and he did. In fact, he had a yoke of oxen (I have no idea how many oxen are in a yoke), a cow, 2 heifers, 1 bay mare, 1 colt and 12 sheep. Even Mr. Austin, who lived in the big city of Fort Plain, NY, owned, in 1888, 1 cow, 10 sheep and 2 pigs. I guess sheep were the big thing in showing how important one was.

Today, none of my friends will admit to owning sheep. No one I know owns a cow. The best we can do is count dogs, five that we chose and about 37 that "followed my spouse home." I did have a turtle once, but over the course of several days he ran away. My spouse had, first, one hamster, then two, then 3,412! Friends of mine have lizards and snakes. Let someone a hundred years from now decide what role these creatures played in our households.

Clothing was an important item, especially since these relatives lived in the northern states. In addition to Mr. Orton's stockings, the household also had 3 coats, 3 blankets, 2 woolen sheets (for very cold nights?), 3 old linen sheets, a trundle, a

Please see "Probate Fun" on page 7

From a Hanging at Newdegate to an Austen Website

Noah AUSTEN, was hung at Newdegate Prison on 24 March 1863 for the murder of Mr. ALLEN. He is now recorded on my Austen website; a piece of trivia for all those interested in people and events associated with the name Austen. Noah follows a story about William Austen who might have been the son of Princess Caroline, of Brunswick, the wife of George IV of England. Trivia or not such stories in my view add colour and hopefully interest to a website on genealogy. Unfortunately such stories are few and I eagerly wait for more offerings. But since I began the exercise I have received a steady flow of Austen family trees to add to my collection and website. Best to start at the beginning.

After I acquired an internet connection, and with time on my hands resulting from having had my political activities abruptly curtailed, I decided that the easiest way to search for my forebears was to find others who had done all the work. I subscribed to various lists, and checked out family history sites and sent messages to people. But instead of unlocking doors to the treasures of my past, I acquired a collection of various other Austen families, none of which were mine. I invested in some genealogy software (TMG) and entered thousands of Austen names.

As the information mounted, I soon lost my personal focus and became hooked on collecting family trees and information on people by the name of Austen. The resultant travel opportunities in England and the US for research was a very agreeable bonus! Ambrose Austen's emigration to Ohio was an early obsession for which I have been rewarded with the honour of becoming the Ambrose Austen database compiler for the AFAOA.

Unfortunately I don't have any more on Noah but I began to find published biographies, newspaper clippings, obituaries and unpublished stories and acquired an interest in writing family stories. I have received photos; I have a piece of Austen tartan, some model Austin cars, and a plaque from my attendance at a National Austin Convention in Wisconsin which I have proudly hanging on the wall of my den.

But the plaque aside, the wealth of Austen material collected needed more exposure than just sitting in my computer and in files on my bookshelf. Websites became popular and somehow I fell into a job as co-ordinator of a pretty awful Office website. Unfortunately it had only recently been developed and its creators had received an award so I had to dismantle it and rebuild it slowly and systematically so as no one would notice until it had come together as a completely different presentation. That experience was the stimulus needed to decide to take the plunge and create an Austen website where all my collected material could be presented for the world to see and use, and maybe even get excited about.

The site is not adventurous because I don't have the technological knowhow, the technology, or the finances to do a

really professional job. But it is the best Austen website around and it is doing the job to date and every week or so an email comes along as a result. I don't know the hit rate as having a counter might be nice but that costs extra.

The focus is family trees and they take centre stage. Like the AFAOA database presentation, I have to devise a way to present them. As all originate in England I am using counties; so far I just have Kent, Sussex and Surrey. But unlike the AFAOA site I don't have a Master Index which is a definite weakness. However I do have stories and biographies linked from database entries and if I had the web space I would add photographs.

AFAOA's Master Index, if it could be done, would be an ideal point from which to link the many Austin stories and biographies that have been published, and which are yet to be published. On my site the stories are also separately listed under biographies.

Biography is one of a number of peripheral topics and categories I have provided including the Austen name, Austen Honour roll WW1, WW2, Emigrants from England, Heraldry and Crests, Links to Austen sites, Trivia, Photographs and pictures, Austin families, Pigots 1840, and Austens from Kent in the 1881 Census.

Material on the Austen name was taken from the AFAOA site, but I have added a piece of the tartan. The Austen honour roll is taken from the official Commonwealth War Graves site. Emigrants is still a good idea yet to be

fully realised; the intention is to provide emigration details of the Austens which left mother England. Often I don't have the details, so the list is very incomplete.

Heraldry and crests is another "good idea". At the top of the home page I have used the crest of the Shalford Austens, which, with others could provide an interesting article. Links connect organisations such as AFAOA, several Jane Austen societies, as well as personal sites of Austen people. This has scope for further development as most seem pleased to have their sites advertised; singer Seth was very happy with the idea.

When I began, my intention was to confine my contribution to AustEN families. Due to the increasing number of queries and Austin tree acquisitions, I have departed from my intention.

Finally, Pigots 1840 is a list of Austens recorded in Pigots (English) directory, and Austens in Kent is a listing of individuals and families recorded in the Kent 1881 Census. An English bias to be sure but there's time and scope for additions. I'd like to do Austens in your civil war.

No doubt there can be improvements, and further ideas to explore, so I'm open to suggestions. That way I'll know I've had some readers and some visitors. Visit me at www.trump.net.au/~austen/austenhist.htm

Brian Austen



**Brian Austen
of Hobard, Tasmania**

PROBATE RECORDS

by Art Sikes, Jr.

Probate records are a great source of genealogical data. They are sometimes the best or the only source for establishing family relationships. Some information that we can learn from probate records includes: the names of the spouse and children of the deceased, the possible birth order of the children, the married names of daughters, the existence of grandchildren, the property held, and the approximate date of death.

First, let us examine what a probate record is. Probate is a legal process a local government uses to distribute the assets of a deceased person (decedent) to his legal heirs. Records that may be found as part of the probate proceedings include: the will (if one exists); the inventory of the estate; a list of what is owed by the decedent as well as a list of debts owed to him; the required distribution of the estate; and guardianship papers for under age children. You may not find a copy of the actual will, but the other documents can hold a wealth of information.

If a will exists, it probably will be dated, as will the other records of the Probate Court. You will be able to estimate a date of death by comparing the date of the will and the date of the first probate record. The married names of daughters and sometimes the names of their spouses may appear in the will or in the records made following the death.

Be aware that the last names of the daughters may have changed in the time between the writing of the will and the time of distribution of the estate. Again, the dates of the two records will allow you estimate dates: that is the dates of the daughters' marriages. The distribution of goods may provide information about family relationships. The witnesses to the will and the person named as executor are also useful pieces of information. The witnesses were usually relatives or close neighbors. (Here, census records can help clarify, and give insight into family friendships—Ed. Note.) The executor of the will was typically the wife or the eldest son. The list of people who did the inventory will often include a close friend or a family member. Finally, if you do see the will, you will see your ancestor's signature.

If no will is found, or if none existed, there still will be an inventory and a distribution of assets. These documents provide more insight into the life of the decedent and his family. The inventory will tell you something about the family's standard of living. Clothing, eating utensils, pieces of furniture, tools and livestock are all part of the inventory list. The list of tools may shed light on occupation; while a list of books, other than a Bible, will give clues to the educational level of the decedent or his family. Guardianship papers will usually provide the name and age of the child as well as the name of a guardian and his relationship to the child.

As you can see, there is a wealth of information that can be gleaned from probate records. One word of caution: the abstracts of probate records could have errors or omissions of some very interesting and valuable information. If you are investigating a direct line, take the time to locate and read the original documents. It is usually well worth the effort; and a copy, digital photograph, or a transcribed copy of the documents will enhance your genealogical record - and that book you hope to write some day!

Queen Recalls 1900 Street Fair

A gala midway with hosts of exhibits on display along Jefferson and Banker streets marked the Effingham street fair



Mrs. Kenneth D. (Julia Austin) Hooker in 1900

of 50 years ago. To those who experienced the joys of these early open-air expositions, the fair of 1900 in many mind's is just a vague memory. But Mrs. Kenneth D. (Julia) Hooker has a special reason for remembering the 1900 event vividly. She was Queen of the Fair.

In 1900 she was Miss Julia Austin, daughter of one of Effingham's leading citizens, Edward Austin. This week, in an interview with a Daily News re-

porter, she recalled that a long, parade opened the event, and that she rode in regal splendor at the head of the procession which moved down Jefferson street westward to Banker. At the intersection of the two dirt thoroughfares, a reviewing stand had been erected and there Dr. J. B. Walker, in appropriate ceremonies, placed the diadem on her head.

The parade, cheered by hundreds who came from Effingham and the surrounding county, was several blocks in length according to the memories of several of Effingham's older residents. Mrs. Hooker remembers that she rode in a special carriage with her attendants, one of which was her sister Harriet Austin.

Records reveal, that \$1000 was awarded in premiums to prize winners who had exhibits at the fair and that another \$1000 was required to finance the event. Mrs. Hooker recalls that it was a beautiful day early in October that the fair was officially opened with all sorts of rides and concessions, including the inevitable ferris wheel, providing entertainment for visitors of all ages.

Exhibits included all sorts of livestock and produce from Effingham county farms as well as quilts and preserved foods and other products of the domestic arts. With some amusement she told an incident concerning herself and the ferris wheel mentioned earlier. It seems that the big wheel "stuck" while she was enjoying a ride. She remembers that she was "scared to death" when the wheel stopped, leaving her suspended near the top where she remained until mechanics far below corrected the trouble and she was permitted to complete the circuit back to terra firma.

From an article in the Effingham (Illinois) Daily News, ca. 1950. Contributed by Kathi Kobel

Austin Family Bible Needs a Home

I am not a member or affiliated with any Austin family, however, I have in my possession a small family Bible that originally belonged to Rose Curtis-Austin b. 24 Jun 1859 who was married to John S. Austin b. 26 Sep 1852. They were married 26 Sep 1879 and had three daughters whose names were Genevieve Lillian Austin, Bertha Mildred Austin and Harriet Curtis Austin.

This Bible, probably written by Rose Curtis-Austin, has important family information in it's family history area.

I was able to trace John S. and Rose Austin and their daughter Bertha's family to Syracuse, NY (per the 1930 U.S. Census, Sheet # 11A). Harriett Curtis-Austin, who married Vann Richard Phillips continued to live in Morris Plains, East Orange, Essex Co., NJ, but I have been unable to find any further decedents there.

I located this family treasure while I was looking through our local church library. I am a member of the Old Tennent Presbyterian Church located next to Monmouth Battlefield in Tennent (Freehold area), NJ.

It seems our Pastor Rev. Hugh Mackenzie, is an avid collector of old Bibles and he puts them on the church library shelves for all to look at. I am an amateur genealogist and upon seeing this Bible, asked if I could locate the family to return this treasure to them.

I would like to turn this bible over to a decendent of one of the daughters if possible. There would be no cost required as I feel that they would want this as a family keepsake.

Please contact me, Gary Naden, at austinbible@yahoo.com.

Still Searching---



for help in producing the AFAOA Newsletter. We need articles, queries, biographies,

pictures - and YOU can help. All that you need to do is to contact the editors. You know who they are.

Probate Fun Continued from page 4

great wheel and spindle, and a loom. By 1888, we stopped listing clothing, but still the Austin household contained a spinning wheel, weaving loom, knitting machine and sewing machine.

Today, the list would be more like American Express, Master Card Gold, two Visa Platinum and Sears credit cards. The balances on these would be much better indicators, as we gauge things today, of dressing for success.

Kitchen items are also interesting to compare. In 1792, the Orton family had 8 pewter plates, 4 pewter platters, a large pot and pan, a punch bowl and a tea pot. By 1888 we only listed what Mrs. Austin got to keep, 12 plates, a sugar dish, 12 teacups, 1 milk pot (whatever that is) a tea pot, and 12 spoons. No knives or forks were listed. Perhaps it was too dangerous for a woman to own these in 1888. There were no coffee pots, not even a Starbucks mug. No George Forman grill, no toaster, no electric can opener, no

blender, none of the things one *needs*. I have no idea how these people survived.

Last is furniture. I am sitting in a room with three couches. I started counting our chairs, (my spouse collects chairs), but stopped when the number exceeded the number of hamsters she used to own. It must run in the Austin family. Mrs. Austin was left with five sofas, two of which were "hair cloth", and some 16 chairs. I did not count the chamber sink as a chair. I guess farmers do not sit often, since poor Mrs. Orton had to live as a widow with only 4 chairs.

What will future genealogists think a hundred years from today when they look back at our inventories? They will say we sat a lot, which makes sense given the five televisions in each home; we no longer enslaved animals (my dogs live better than I do!); and we allowed people in third world countries to make our clothing, thereby giving them the opportunity to experience capitalism. They will say we had the good life!

The ABCs of '03 / '04?

FYI, have you noticed how many acronyms have crept into everyday communications in the USA? We genealogists have AFAOA, AOAGS, AARC, FGS, DNA, CD-ROMS, FTM, PAF, DAR, FHC, plus many more. But they're everywhere - GWB, NBA, RBI, CIA, HBO, URL, JLo.

Time Warner recently got rid of AOL in their name, but we still have CNN, CBS, NBC, PBS, NPR, BBC, TNT, VH1, MTV, and Fox.

There might be some excuse when the printers actually set type letter by letter. That is probably where we got TR for Teddy Roosevelt, and WW1, FDR and HST. Eisenhower became Ike, but Nixon stayed Nixon (RN means nurse anyway). Later we had JFK and LBJ.

Apparently, because we are so busy, or to save ink, or whatever - we have taken to shortening our common words into arrays of letters to get more meaningless info into our idle conversations. So we use shorthand to save on tongue work and thinking. Did you watch the NFL on ABC's MNF? How about those MLB play-offs? Too bad TV games are broadcast to meet EST requirements and not PST. Too busy with PTA? Or maybe just waiting for UPS with the flu or PMS? Do

HMOs cover that?

So FAX someone via ATT, MCI or SBC if you don't have DSL for your IBM or MAC. Our government has HHS, DOE, DOD, EPA, IRS, and the FBI (still investigating the KKK?). The CDC studies American health; we're all carrying too many lbs and too much LDL, so watch your RDA and your SPF against UVL.

OAC you can borrow to buy a new SUV with DVD, good RPMs and MPH, but poor MPG. We have 911, www, .org and .gov (LOL at that one). Sports play-offs with ERAs and AVGs are SRO. To get into (name your college initials) you need good SATs and ACTs, not ESP, and a good GPA and GRE to earn an MBA or PhD and start your IRA. OBTW, there are more 4 letters acronyms: ASAP, TGIF, ESPN, MSRP, etc.

Well enough of that. What do you suppose is the ETA for the next round of shortening? Do you suppose our liberal use of today's acronyms will be intelligible to all of our descendants who eventually read what we write in the genealogies we hand on down to them?

(As liberally adapted from the LAT - er sorry, the Los Angeles Times, 16 October 2003)

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