



# Austin Families Association of America

## Newsletter

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## Austin Families Association of America Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### Edith Austin Moore AFAOA Founder

Edith May Austin was born 19 April 1882 to Daniel Henry and Minnie Amelia (Chesebro) Austin. She passed away quietly 21 Nov 1979 in Rockville, Maryland, having moved there from St. Petersburg, Florida the previous year.

After her father's death in 1912, Edith became interested in searching for her ancestors who had served their country during the Revolutionary War. She later extended her research back to her first known ancestor in this country, Edward Austin of Rhode Island. Finding little published on the Austin family, and not being able to trace her own line, Edith began gathering Austin family records in 1922, hoping in that way to find her line, either through her own research or through correspondence with others.

In order to help further her family research, in 1942 together with her brother Henry Warner Austin, Edith founded the Austin Family Association, later renamed Austin Families Association of America. The organization has grown through the years with memberships from all over the United States and a few from other countries.

Edith traveled extensively, visiting libraries in Westerly and Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Hartford, Connecticut; Montpelier, Vermont; New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Utica, and Buffalo, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; and Washington, DC. She wrote many letters and sent out several thousand blank forms.

As correspondents kept writing to her for help in solving their own genealogical problems, she gradually accumulated and assembled her records into 2 books and 7 manuscripts. Her first book, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island*, was published in 1951. While gathering data for this

impressive 738 page book, Edith copied down every Austin record that she could find. This gave her data on 8 different Austin families who settled in the New England States during the 17th century. In 1968 she and William Allen Day published *The Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638*.

Her manuscripts were: Thomas Austin of Andover, MA; Joseph Austin of Dover, NH; Matthew Austin of York, ME; John Austin of East Haven, CT; John Austin of Stamford, CT; Jonah Austin of Taunton, MA; and Unplaced Austin Records

Those interested in pursuing Austin family lines owe a great debt to Edith Austin Moore for her lifetime of labors and fruitful research, for gathering and organizing volumes of records, many of which might otherwise have been lost forever. Edith will never be forgotten. She has left us all with a monumental legacy of genealogical research for which she will be remembered with admiration and gratitude.

[Edith's work was continued by Janet Austin Curtis. See page 4.]

*The story above  
was adapted from  
an article,  
written by  
Michael E. Austin,  
February 1980 edition  
of AUSTINS OF  
AMERICA,  
published by  
Austin Families  
Genealogical Society  
(AFGS), Concord,  
MA, 1995.*



**NEW MEMBERS**  
And their Earliest Austin Ancestors  
**Welcome!**

**Charles Edward Norton**

446 East Main St., New Iberia, LA 70560; nortonj25@hotmail.com; *John & Charity of Anne Arundel Co., MD; John Kendrick b. 1770 Frederick Co., MD; Robert M. b. 1804 MD (to KY); John Robert b. 1831 Butler Co., KY; John Thomas b. 26 Aug 1862 near Beaver Dam, Ohio Co., KY (to TX).*

**Patricia Austin Pitchford**

6515 Moonshell Ct.; Orlando FL; ppitchford@cfl.rr.com; *Hiram b. 1829 VA; Robert Pinkney b. 1843 or 1852 IL; Robert Talmadge b. 1890 TN*

**Please help keep our membership records up to date. Send us any address changes, email changes and updated ancestor information.**

**Alice Austin Martin**  
Membership Chairman



**William Lane Austin**  
(1871-1949)

**Census Bureau director**  
1933-1941

William Lane Austin rose through the ranks at the Census Bureau, climbing from clerk to director, over the course of his career. Born in Mississippi in 1871, he graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1897, earning his law degree a year later. However, Austin chose to become a teacher rather than pursue a career in law. In 1900, he accepted an appointment as a clerk for the Census Office, staying with the agency when it became the permanent Census Bureau in 1902.

From 1913 until 1917, Austin was chief clerk of the Census Bureau; from 1917 to 1932, he was chief statistician for agriculture, as well as chief statistician for cotton and tobacco statistics. For the first half of 1933, he was assistant director of the Census Bureau. In April of that year, after William Mott Stuart retired, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Austin director. As director, Austin oversaw eight years of experimentation and change in census and survey work, including the introduction of statistical sampling in the 1940 census. He died in Mississippi in 1949.

[http://www.census.gov/history/www/census\\_then\\_now/director\\_biographies](http://www.census.gov/history/www/census_then_now/director_biographies)  
\*\*\*\*\*

William Lane Austin was one of four sons of Dr. Richmond Pearson Austin b. 1835 Rowan, NC, d. 1898 Harpersville, Scott Co., MS. He is a descendant of Henry Austin (b. bef. 1687, d. bef. 1745) and is included in AFAOA's *Henry Austin of Calvert Co, Maryland* database.

Information found on *Ancestry.com*:

**Mississippi Marriages 1776-1935.** W. L. Austin married to Miss E. D. Campbell 30 Dec 1903, Scott Co., MS.

**1880 U. S. Census,** Walnut Grove, Leake, MS Beat 5, 14 Jun, Dw 270, Fam 308. William is age 9 b MS, fa b NC, mo

b MS. Living with his parents: R. P. Austin, 44, physician, NC, NC, SC and Susan 36, wife, keeping house, MS, NC, MA; William, 9, son, MS, NC, MS; Annie 6, dau, MS; Annie 6, dau, MS; Duffie 4, son, MS; Susan 7 months, dau, MS; Richard 23, nephew, a student; Helen Henderson 39; John Strickland 23, w, m, servant and Noah Gunter, servant, w, m. Both servants worked on the farm.

**1900 U. S. Census,** Scott Co, MS, Beat 1, 1 Jun, Harpersville, Dw. 15, Fam 15. Sudie D. Austin 56, Nov 1843, widow, 8 ch, 5 liv, MA; W. Lane 29, single, son, Jan 1871, MS, farmer; Annie G., 26, dau, Nov 1873, book-keeper, MS; Samuel D. 24, Mch 1876, salesman (he was also the census enumerator of this page); Alma T. 18, Dec 1881, MS; Orrin O. 16, son, Mch 1884, MS, at school.

**1920 U. S. Census,** Washington DC, City, SD 40, ED 329, Jan 5, 1920, page 3B, address 1412 Delafield St.. William L. Austin 48, Statistician U. S. Census, owns his home, married, MS, NC, MS; D. Campbell Austin 42, wife, MS, MS, MS; Virginia G. Austin, 8, niece, b MS; Lula P. Campbell, 41, cousin; Myrtle William 20, cousin.

**1930 U. S. Census,** Washington DC, City, 13<sup>th</sup> Pct, ED 365-SD 1, Tract 20, Block 2709, South, Apr. 13, Page 40, Dw. 94, Fam 94. Austin, William, head, owns home, \$15,000., m, w, 50, married at age 32, MS, NC, MS; Austin, D. Campbell, wife, F, W, 57, married at age 31, MS, MS, MS; Campbell, Lulu P., lodger, f, w, 55, Single, MS, MS, MS, clerk; Davis, Katie, servant, Negro, 19, Single, NC, NC, NC, cook.

**1940 U. S. Census,** Washington DC, City, 1 Apr 1940. Address: 1412 Delafield Place N. W., fam. 37. William L. Austin, age 60, b ca. 1871 MS, widowed, Director of Bureau of Census, U.S.Govt., Owns house, Value of house \$10,000. worked 52 wks. made \$50,000, lived in same house in 1935; Evelyn Tindall, niece, age 33, Single, b. MS, typist for Bureau of Census, worked for 5 wks. for \$0.; Lulu Campbell, lodger (cousin), age 65, Single, b. MS, office clerk for Bureau of Census, worked 52 wks. for \$1830. Same house in 1935; Jennie S. Tupman, housekeeper, Widow, b. VA, lived in Brooklyn, NY in 1935. worked for 26 wks. for \$60.

**Helen Cook Austin**



Several of the articles in this newsletter are based on information in AFAOA's archives, which includes data transferred from the Austin Families Genealogical Society's *Austin-Austen Research Center*. Vol. 1 and vol. 2 of the AFGS publication *Austins of America* are now on our web site and searchable; they contain lots of valuable information. AFAOA newsletters, beginning in 1998, Edith's field notebooks and Janet's state notebooks are also there. New information continues to be added. Search — you may be surprised by what you find!

I hope you are planning to attend the convention! Even if your ancestors (1000 of them at the time of the Revolution?) didn't come through Virginia, your country was born there, and the history will be inspiring. Most of those who have registered so far are arriving as early as Tuesday to explore Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and the libraries before the convention weekend. A trip to the Library of Virginia in Richmond is being planned for Friday. The schedule for Saturday and Sunday will include speakers, workshops and the business meeting. Or, during workshop time, you might want to attend one of the afternoon programs in the Historic Area, only a few blocks away. The banquet will be held on Saturday night.

Please send Lois your registration form by October 1. If you decide to attend at the last minute let us know by email. Hotel reservations must be made by September 12 to get the \$89 convention rate.

This year at the business meeting we will be electing officers for a two year term. Two consecutive terms are allowed and some of us have reached that limit. The nominating committee consists of Alice Austin Martin, Jim Carlin and Charles Ward Austin. If you would consider service to the association, in either elected or appointed positions, please contact them.

**Gay G. Martin, Jr.**  
**AFAOA President**

### AFAOA Web Site Report

Significant progress has occurred on preparing the African American Families Project for presentation on the AFAOA web site. Note that all of the AFAOA projects can be accessed from any AFAOA web page by clicking on the "Austin Projects" button at the top of the list. Projects currently active are Research, DNA, Census and Native American Families.

The African American Families Project is the result of exhaustive research by Dr. Helen Cook Austin who has been kind enough to share this with the AFAOA. The project is expected to go live on the site in late September. Its contents are described below:

**Austin Bank Accounts: Freedmen's Bank Records 1865–1874.** After the Civil War, the U. S. Government set up banks so that former slaves (Freedmen) could deposit money from their work, services, or pensions.

**Native American, Austin Freedmen.** The Dawes Commission Report produced by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, lists those Americans with mixed Native and African blood. The report distinguishes between bona fide *Freedman* and *Freedman Denied*, who were denied benefits because they were of African descent with no Native blood or intermarriage with Native Americans.

**Austin Slave Owners Listed in the 1860 Federal Census.** Data from the 1860 U. S. Slave Census has been added to the 1860 U. S. Census records for the Southern States of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, Kentucky, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, and Montana.

#### Black Austin Civil War Soldiers:

**Slaves in the Union Colored Troops.** Late in the Civil War, slaves were permitted to enlist in the U. S. Army. Their units were designated as U. S. C. T.

**In the Confederate Army.** Slaves were sometimes permitted to go into the CSA with their masters to serve as servants, drivers, or cooks.

**Sailors in the U.S. Navy.** Austin African Americans listed in the Muster Rolls of Ships during the Civil War Period.

**Jim Carlin**

### The Austin-Austen DNA Project

Because of an early summer sale at Family Tree DNA, 5 upgrades to 111 markers in the J2 Haplogroup, and 3 upgrades to 67 markers in the E1b1a Haplogroup, were ordered. Results are just starting to come in, with some especially interesting results in the J2 group. Learn more about this at the Austin Families Association Convention in October.

**Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.**

### Genealogist's Report

Numerous queries and their resulting research, as well as many e-mails, have resulted in updates to the following Austin databases:

- Edward of Rhode Island*
- Jonah of Taunton, Massachusetts*
- Richard of Charlestown, Massachusetts*
- Nathaniel of Greenville, South Carolina*
- Solomon & John of North Carolina*
- William & Elizabeth of Craven Co., South Carolina*
- Both Northern and Southern Unplaced Austins*

Currently, additions are being incorporated in the *Northern Unplaced* database resulting from Helen Cook Austin's African American research and in the *Roderick of New York* database, from the research of Karen Cooley.

**Liz Austin Carlin, AFAOA Genealogist**

## Janet Austin Curtis Austin Families Genealogist



Genealogist Janet Austin Curtis died at home on Sunday, 16 June 1991, after a long illness. She had devoted over 50 years to researching Austin lines, and to helping others discover their Austin roots. She considered herself “a rather unorthodox genealogist, a rebel at heart.” Accuracy and completeness were always her goals. She believed “that most people have *no* imagination, and are almost totally lacking in patience, and will not sift through anything that is not indexed.” This may seem a rather harsh view to some, but Janet was a serious researcher and she tended to judge others by the same high standards she had set for herself.

### An Early Introduction to Genealogy

Janet Virginia Austin was born 18 May 1920 in North Holston, Virginia, a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts. Janet was first introduced to genealogy when she was only about age 18, travelling with an aunt who was an avid member of the D.A.R. They visited “cemeteries and Court Houses and libraries galore.” That got Janet off to a good start, and genealogy became a lifetime interest.

### Education, Family and Ceramics

Janet Austin received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1942 from Alfred University in Alfred, Allegany County, New York. She was one of the pioneers in the application of non-directive industrial psychology for Western Electric, and she also worked as a therapist at the Phipps Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Janet was married to Wesley Edmond Curtis on 29 May 1949. They had two sons born in Havre de Grace, Maryland: Mark A. Curtis in 1950 and Kipp A. Curtis in 1953. While raising the two children, Janet was the Chief of Design and Production for the Colonial Pottery of Williamsburg, Virginia. Many of her pieces are still on display in the restored areas of Jamestown and Williamsburg. In 1968 the family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### Meeting Edith Austin Moore

When Janet first started researching her Austin line, she worked with New England Austins trying to find her David Austin, a soldier in the Revolution, which she finally did through the process of elimination. It was while searching for her David in New England that Janet first met genealogist Edith Austin Moore, and they collaborated ever after. Edith Austin Moore devoted 67 of her 97 years to researching Austin family lines. Although she did not drive a car and did not enjoy the benefits of a personal computer, Edith compiled and indexed amazing quantities of Austin information, and she left future generations with a rich legacy of Austin genealogical data in her two books and seven manuscripts, which she placed in several major genealogical libraries.

### A Lifetime Friendship

Janet once wrote me that she “loved Edith dearly, and in many respects was closer to her than to my own mother.” Over the years Janet purposely kept a low profile, leaving the limelight to Edith. She stopped most of her work on New England Austins, and transferred her activities to Southern Austins, due in part to the fact she was living in Maryland and later in Virginia. In 1974 Janet became a Certified Genealogist, but that was merely a formality, for she had long since become an excellent genealogist.

### The Mantle Passes

Edith Austin Moore was greatly admired for her monumental efforts, and she remained the revered family matriarch for decades — “the keeper of the flame” for many Austin genealogists. Upon her death in 1979, Edith’s mantle passed to Janet Austin Curtis. Edith had turned some of her material over to Janet in the ten years prior to her death, but much of Edith’s material was lost, and Janet was somewhat frustrated about not receiving it all. The two had exchanged research notes and correspondence for many years, and they jointly produced a manuscript on the *Francis Austin Family of New Jersey*. Janet held this manuscript closely to herself, and unlike Edith’s other manuscripts, this one was never made available to genealogical libraries.

### Different Viewpoints and Approaches

Edith Austin Moore had limited her research mainly to New England Austins, while Janet Austin Curtis worked the rest of the country for over 40 years. Edith had gleaned most of her material from secondary sources such as library books, while Janet sought hers from primary sources such as court house records, cemeteries, and from original documents via L.D.S. library microfilms in Salt Lake City. Finally, Edith organized her data into separate Austin lines, while Janet generally organized her data in notebooks by States and Counties. Although Edith’s approach led more naturally to publication, Janet felt that her system simplified the answering of queries.

### Publishing and Compiling

Janet never published a book or distributed the manuscripts she compiled to major libraries, as Edith had done, but she wrote numerous articles, as well as an outline for the *Descendants of John Austin & Jane Potts of Philadelphia*. She belonged to the Austin Families Association of America, serving as Secretary-Treasurer in the 1950’s and as Genealogist from 1979 to 1990. In 1981 Janet also became active in AFGS as one of the first Associate Editors of *Austins of America* and in subsequent years she published many valuable articles in that newsletter.

### Nationwide Activities

Janet Austin Curtis was a member of the D.A.R., and served as their Genealogical Records Chairman for New Mexico. She was also a Past-President of the New Mexico Genealogical Society, and she helped in the production of the Colonial and Territorial Censuses of New Mexico. Janet was a member of, and contributed to, many national, regional, and state genealogical societies in New England, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and elsewhere.

[The story above was adapted from an article by Michael E. Austin, published in *Austins of America* by AFGS, August 1991]

## MOSES AUSTIN IN VIRGINIA

### THE AUSTINVILLE MINE

Dr. John H. Lienhard  
University of Houston

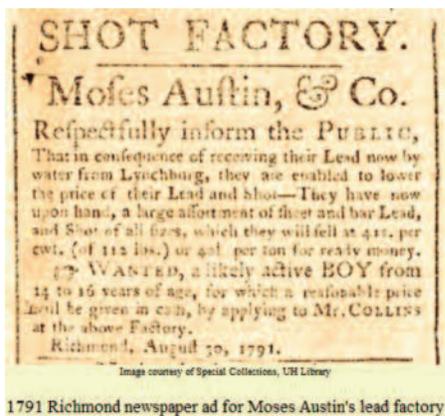
Meet Moses Austin, born into a Suffield, Connecticut family in 1761 — the youngest of eight children. His people were business folk. So, when Moses was 28, he and his brother [Stephen] saw opportunity in an abandoned lead mine in Virginia. The lead was there, and America needed it. The Austin brothers bought it, and they undertook what historian David Bracy calls “a feverish expansion.”

They hired foreign experts at outlandish salaries. They built a new town around their mine and called it Austinville. They spent all they had, then hocked their homes. But it worked.

That was the beginning of the American lead industry. They put a lead roof on the Virginia Capitol building that Thomas Jefferson designed. They sold lead to New England and Kentucky.

Lead shot was one of their major products. In 1782 an English plumber invented the shot tower. He found that when you run molten lead through a sieve and let it fall into a water tank far below, surface tension forms the lead drops into almost perfect spheres. As early as 1790 the *Virginia Chronicle* reported that the Austins were making the first drop shot in America.

But their success wasn't all it seemed to be. The Capitol roof leaked. It had to be replaced with slate. And America kept right on importing most of its buckshot until just before the War of 1812. The Austins had built an industry, but they couldn't sustain it. They had to sell out. It was time to move on again.



1791 Richmond newspaper ad for Moses Austin's lead factory

So Moses left on a scouting trip to the west during the bitter winter of 1796. He dedicated a written account of that adventure to his young son, Stephen. He told him that America's fortunes lay west of the Mississippi. Then in 1798 he packed a wagon train and set out to create new lead mines in Missouri.

That venture lasted two decades and opened up lead sources far greater than those in Virginia. Then he made a really dumb move. Faced with a labor shortage in 1814, he turned to slaves. He was soon paying more to feed and house slaves than it would've cost to pay them as freemen. By 1819 he was bankrupt. It was time for a sick and aging Moses

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## Bicentennial of the War of 1812

### Some Austin Soldiers Who Served

On 18 June 1812, President James Madison and the U.S. Congress declared war on England, charging the British with violating the nation's sovereignty by restricting American trade with Europe and by removing seamen from American merchant ships, forcing them to serve in the Royal Navy. While the British bombarded Fort McHenry in Maryland, Francis Scott Key was in a detained ship across the harbor watching. When dawn finally came he saw the United States flag still flying at the fort and wrote the words for The Star Spangled Banner, now our national anthem. When the war ended in 1815 the nation took pride from having stood up to the mighty British Empire.

Many Austin men served in this war. Sally Austin Day compiled a list of some of these Austin soldiers and their regiments — “Some Austin Soldiers in the War of 1812” — which was published in *Austins of America*, Vol. 1, pp. 158-159, August 1985. They were copied from the National Archives Microfilm 602, Reel 7. In the February 1986 issue, Vol. 1, p. 182, *Austins of America* published “Index to Southern Pension Applications for the War of 1812”, with data copied from National Archives Microfilm 313, Reel 3. Both of these documents can be found on AFAOA's web site. Just type “Some Austin Soldiers” or “Index to Southern Pension Applications” (using the quotation marks) in the Text Search bar.

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**Pvt. John H. Austin** served in Captain G. Colbert's Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Georgia Militia. He was born 12 May 1794 in Wilkes Co., GA to John and Fanny Crittenden Austin, and was a descendant of John and Hannah Love Austin of Lunenburg Co., VA. He married Rachel Anderson 14 Dec 1819 in Greene Co., GA, died 21 Dec 1868 in Covington, GA and is buried at Holly Springs Cemetery, Newton Co., GA.

**Pvt. Joseph Austin** enlisted at Morgantown, VA in Capt. Samuel G. Wilson's Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Militia. He was discharged at Fort Meigs, Ohio on 13 Mar 1813. The son of John and Sarah Austin, he was born 23 Oct 1792 in Franklin Co., PA. He married Camilla Morgan on 30 Dec 1813 in Monongalia Co., VA. His pension dated 15 July 1871 paid \$8.00 a month, which he received until his death on 10 April 1888. Joseph was buried in Fairview Church Cemetery, Monongalia Co., VA.

**Col. William Austin**, who had fought in the Rev. War, enlisted as a Lt. Col. on 15 Sept 1813. He was appointed colonel of Austin's Regiment, South Carolina Militia on 1 Feb 1815, serving until 20 Mar 1815. William was born 27 Mar 1759 in Lunenburg Co., VA, son of Capt. Nathaniel Austin Sr. and Agnes Dickinson, and married Jane Collins 12 Jan 1783 in SC. He died 23 Feb 1841 in Greenville, SC.

**Sgt. Stephen Fuller Austin** was born 3 Nov 1793 in Austinville, VA to Moses and Maria Brown Austin. “Nineteen year old Stephen enlisted 24 May 1813 as a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Mounted Militia, under the command of Col. Alexander McNair. No sooner had Austin joined his regiment

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## Database Spotlight

### John Austin of Southside Virginia

The largest of AFAOA's Southern Austin databases is *John Austin of Southside Virginia*, which includes John's brother, Richard Austin, and their 6,325 descendants. The initial research on this family was done by Genealogist Janet Austin Curtis, who published her work — *Southside Virginia Austins* — in *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 5, 1961. Since then, others have made important contributions, including the current compiler, Liz Austin Carlin. The Austin DNA Project has demonstrated which other southern Austin groups match the John Austin family.... and the migration patterns of descendants.

"Southside Virginia" has traditionally referred to the part of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and south of the James River. In 1746, Lunenburg Co., VA was formed from Brunswick Co., VA. In 1765 Charlotte Co., VA was formed from Lunenburg Co., VA. So these Austins were listed in Brunswick County before 1745 and in Lunenburg County after 1745, without having changed residencies. Today, this area is about an hour west of Richmond, VA.

John Austin and his brother Richard Austin are found on the first Brunswick County Tithable List of 1740. John Austin owned at least 1000 acres of land in the part of Lunenburg County which later became Charlotte, Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties. One land grant, dated 10 Aug 1750, granted to

John Austin by King George II of England, was for 400 acres in Lunenburg County. Some of John's land was on the north side of Wards Fork. Richard's land was on both side of Terry's Run in Lunenburg County. Timothy S. Ailsworth's book, *History of Charlotte County*, states that Richard Austin is among those living in the Cub Creek area; this is where a group of Scots Irish Presbyterians were granted 30,000 acres in 1739 and built the first Presbyterian Church in Virginia. Two of Richard Austin's daughters married men from that neighboring community: Sarah married Alexander Joyce and Elizabeth married Isaac Vernon.

In 1749 John Austin was Constable of Lunenburg County. He was a farmer growing tobacco (with which to pay bills) and corn (for eating); he and son John Jr. are listed with their neighbors as maintaining the roads in their area, very important in Colonial Virginia.

John's wife was Hannah Love, an Indian woman of the Eastern Woodland Indian Saponi tribe. In 1755, during the French and Indian War period, their son John made a statement, recorded at the lower court, the Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Rowan Co., NC, dated 19 April 1755: "Whereas John Austin (Jr.), a Saponi Indian, and Mary (his wife), a Susquehanna, and Thomas, a Catawba, were applying for a pass to the Catawbas on behalf the other said nations and had three belts of Wampum by which the said Treaty would be concluded."

John's will was dated 29 Sept 1758 and recorded 5 Feb 1760 on p. 308 of Will Book One, Lunenburg County. He gave land to his wife Hannah, and to sons John Austin Jr., Joseph Austin, Richard Austin, Stephen Austin and Valentine Austin.

**Jane Austin Bruckner**



#### Moses Austin in Virginia, cont'd from page 6

Austin to move on yet again.

So he went down into Texas. In San Antonio he struck a deal with the governor of the Spanish Province of Texas to admit settlers. He turned the course of American history, then went home to Herculaneum, Missouri, to die of pneumonia.

Of course his son Stephen F. Austin led the colonization of Texas. Today, the capital of Texas isn't named after Moses; it's named after Stephen. And Moses, his judgment not always as good as his vision, had to die without crossing over the Brazos River — without finally entering this new land of promise.

**Editor's Note:** Moses Austin, born 4 Oct 1761 at Durham, CT, was the son of Elias Austin and Eunice Phelps and great, great grandson of Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA. His son, Stephen F. Austin, was born 3 Nov 1793 in Austinville, Wythe Co., VA.

#### Bicentennial of the War of 1812, continued from page 6

at Portage des Sioux, north of St. Louis, than he received a promotion to quartermaster sergeant, as the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment was "much in want of company officers". McNair recognized the Austins were one of the most prominent families in Missouri and Stephen knew the mercantile business. Putting him in charge of supplies for his regiment made sense. He learned the importance of a well-laid tactical plan, witnessed the advantages of conducting an Indian campaign with various types of light cavalry, including his own mounted militia regiment, mounted riflemen, mounted spies, and especially significant in light of his later career in Texas, elite ranger companies. He understood the difficulties inherent in imposing discipline on individualistic frontiersmen. The campaign taught him that a show of force could be as effective as a pitched battle and that burning villages and supplies could badly damage Indians' war-making abilities. All of these lessons would later be seen in his struggles to control the Indians who contested his presence in Texas. Austin returned to Mine à Breton, Missouri in October 1813 a much worldlier young man than the college boy who had arrived home from Kentucky three years earlier. Of the previous fifteen months, eight had been spent on the New Orleans trip and two on military campaign. He had seen more of the world before his twentieth birthday than many nineteenth-century Americans saw in their lifetimes."

[*Stephen F. Austin, Empresario of Texas* by Gregg Cantrell; Yale University Press, New Haven, 1999.]

# AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Friday, October 12 – Sunday, October 14, 2012

Meet your Austin “cousins” in Williamsburg this fall. Get help with your Austin research and exchange information with others. Take advantage of the research facilities in Williamsburg and Richmond. Explore the rich history of Colonial Williamsburg, as well as nearby Historic Jamestown and Yorktown Battlefield.

**Convention Hotel:** Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Road [adjacent to the College of William and Mary and a short walk to Colonial Williamsburg]. A block of rooms has been reserved for October 12–14. This block will be held until September 12. Hotel website: [www.WilliamsburgHospHouse.com](http://www.WilliamsburgHospHouse.com).

**Convention Rate:** \$89 per night (single or double occupancy); free parking; free Internet. This rate will also apply three days before and three days after the convention.

**Hotel Reservations:** must be made by September 12. Call the hotel at 1-800-932-9192. Be sure to request the Austin Families Convention rate. Any reservations made after September 12 will be on a space available basis.

**Convention Registration:** The convention registration fee is \$60 per person, which includes all meetings, materials and the Saturday night banquet. The fee is \$30 per person for family or friends who wish to attend only the social hours and banquet. Registration forms, with checks payable to AFAOA should be sent to the Convention Registrar: Lois Cody, 336 Pleasant Hill Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215.



## The College of William & Mary

The College of William & Mary is the second-oldest college in America. The original plans for the College date back to 1618—decades before Harvard—but were derailed by an “Indian uprising.” On February 8, 1693, King William III and Queen Mary II of England signed the charter for a “perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and other good Arts and Sciences” to be founded in the Virginia Colony.

Workers began construction on the Sir Christopher Wren Building, then known simply as the College Building in 1695, before the town of Williamsburg even existed. Over the next two centuries, the Wren Building would burn on three separate occasions, each time being re-built inside the original walls. That makes the Wren the oldest college building in America, and possibly the most flammable.

The College has been called “the Alma Mater of a Nation” because of its close ties to America’s founding fathers. A 17-year-old George Washington received his surveyor’s license through the College and would return as its first American chancellor. Thomas Jefferson received his undergraduate education here, as did presidents John Tyler and James Monroe.

The College became a state-supported school in 1906 and went coed in 1918. In 1928, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. chose the Wren as the first building to be returned to its 18th-century appearance as part of the iconic Colonial Williamsburg restoration.

## Colonial Williamsburg

Step back in time when you visit Colonial Williamsburg, which stretches over 301 acres, and includes 88 original 18th-century structures. Houses, shops and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Walk the streets with costumed interpreters. Visit the historic dining taverns and trades shops.

[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit)

## Research opportunities:

**The Swem Library**, College of William and Mary, has a large collection of books and manuscripts focused on Virginia history from the 17th to the 21st centuries. [www.swem.wm.edu/about](http://www.swem.wm.edu/about)

**The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library** collections focus on the history and culture of colonial British America, the American Revolution, and the early United States. <http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary.cfm>

**The Williamsburg Regional Library**, 515 Scotland St., has a growing number of genealogy resources, with emphasis on the Tidewater region of Virginia. [www.wrl.org](http://www.wrl.org)

**The Library of Virginia**, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, houses records of the colonial and state governments; county court records (wills, deeds, and marriage bonds); church and cemetery records; military service, pension, tax and land records. [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

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**Address Service Requested**

A convention registration form was inserted in the June newsletter. If you have decided to attend, but have misplaced the form, one can be downloaded from the convention page on our web site. Or, let me know and I will send you one.

### *Austin Family Reunions*

**John and Nathaniel Austin Families of White Co., TN**  
**Lost Creek Austin Cemetery Association**  
September 30, 2012 – in Sparta, TN  
Contact Elizabeth Austin: [wdaustin@blomand.net](mailto:wdaustin@blomand.net)

**John Austin Family of Monongalia Co., VA**  
Descendants of this line, please let us hear if you are interested in starting and/or attending a reunion.  
Contact Susan Lewis: [Susan.joy.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.joy.lewis@gmail.com)

***If you have an Austin Family Reunion to list  
in a future AFAOA Newsletter,  
please contact Jane Bruckner:***

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