



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Corner in Ancestors: The Austin Family (From the *Times-Democrat* of New Orleans, Louisiana)

IMPERIAL, MAJESTIC, PRINCELY, is the meaning of Austin, which is derived from the name Augustus, and that in turn from the Latin adjective augustus.

Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, was also called Austin, or St. Austin.

The name Augustus was the title of honor given to the Roman Emperors, and the era called the "Augustan age" was an illustrious one.

Augusta was a title conferred by the Roman Emperors upon their mothers, sisters, wives and daughters, for even the wife of an Augustus was not an Augusta until after her coronation. The wife of an Emperor was usually spoken of as Augusta. Claudius made his mother "Antonia Augusta" after her death.

Name of illustrious origin, it has had many, in every generation, who have borne it nobly and added to its fame. Variations of the name are Austen and Austing. The usual orthography of the present day is Austin, and the family is a large one, scattered throughout the Union.

The pilgrim ancestor of the family was Richard Austin, of Bishopstoke, Hampshire county, England, who settled in Charlestown, Mass., in 1638.

Thirty-two years after, or in 1670, Anthony Austin made a home for himself and family at Suffield, Mass., and it is there, at an old homestead occupied by an Austin, that family reunions have taken place.

Upon these occasions hosts of Austin and half Austins and quarter Austins gather together. At one reunion there were present 110 lineal descendants of Anthony. Five generations were represented, with ages ranging from ten days to four-score years.

A Connecticut settler was John Austin, who came from "Catharine Street, Strand, London," according to the records, which are probably silent as to many matters – most matters, in fact, about which we would like information.

Where our ancestors are concerned we are curiously interested in the simplest details. For

example, lives there an Austin indifferent to the fact that Jeremiah, born in 1730, in Massachusetts, voluntarily freed his only slave, and another Jeremiah – a favorite family name, by the way – of King's Town, R. I. paid a tax of one shilling under the Andros levy of 1687, or that Robert, of Westerly, R. I., paid seven pounds for his house lot, 80x12 rods? There are other facts worth reading. For one, Samuel, of Providence, born at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, helped to establish the first public libraries in manufacturing villages.

The family has always been one of note in Rhode Island. John Osborne Austin, author of a genealogical dictionary, is of this family.

Data regarding the women of the family is meagre, but it is handed down as a fact – or next door to a fact, if there is such a thing – that Mary Austin helped Betsy Ross make the first Stars and Stripes for Washington.

The founder of the State of Texas, after whom the town Austin was named, was Stephen Fuller Austin, born 1793, at Austinville, Virginia. In 1821, he began the settlement on the present site of Austin, being invested with ample powers for the civil and military government of the colony. In the trouble with Mexico he was appointed commander-in-chief of the army. When Houston was elected President of Texas he was made Secretary of State.

Moses, the father of Stephen, was born at Durham, Conn., 1764, or thereabouts. He established himself in Virginia, where he had a shot manufactory. He explored parts of the State of Missouri and began the settlement in Texas, afterward carried on by his son.

The Austins were always ready to shoulder arms when their country was in peril. The roster of officers of the American Revolution give the names of Lieutenant Aaron, Lieutenant Aaron, Jr., and Surgeon Caleb, of New York; Ensign Joseph and Captain Anthony, of Connecticut; Lieutenant John and Major Jonathan, of Massachusetts.

[The article continues with a discussion of heraldry, which is not included here.]

Please see "Corner" on page 2

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Karen Austin

517 Foxboro Drive
Norwalk, CT 06851

karen.austin@ge.com

Richard Austin b.1598 Eng., Anthony Austin b.1636 Eng., Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA, Thomas b. 1705 MA ...

Edward W. Chase III

900 Mountain Rd.
W. Suffield, CT 06093

Richard Austin b.1598 Eng., Anthony Austin b.1636 Eng., Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA, Thomas b. 1705 MA ...

Mary Ann Hanson

4045 Ferry Street
Eugene, OR 97405

maisehanson@mindspring.com

Richard Austin b.1598 Eng., Anthony Austin b.1636 Eng., Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA, Nathaniel Jr. b.1704 MA, Phenix b.1735 MA.

Darryl J. Pepin

108 S. Marquette Street
Ironwood, MI 49938-2060

djpepin51@charter.net

Jason Lee Austin b Jun 11, 1800 CT.

Linsley G. Remington

999 River Blvd.
Suffield, CT 06078-1414

Richard Austin b.1598 Eng., Anthony Austin b.1636 Eng., Nathaniel Austin b. 1678 MA, Thomas b. 1705 MA ...

Anita Senentz

1034 Frenchmen St.
New Orleans, LA 70116

agsse@cox.net

Lewis Austin b.1825 NC; Emanuel Austin b.1868 SC; Daniel Lewis Austin b. Oct 14, 1899 SC.

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

Is Your Membership Information Complete?

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

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

Thanks for supporting the work of the Austin Families Association of America.

Address Changes

Send changes to: Alice Austin Martin, 1703 Kensington Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564; or send changes by e-mail to:

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

WW II Memories

Valerie A. Austin posted the following story on the Rootsweb Austin List. Her grandfather was Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. of the Thomas and Esther Austins of New York. He was an ornithologist, and a professor at the University of Florida, who helped set up the re-knowned Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, FL. Her father was Anthony, and her uncle was Timothy Oliver. H

* * *

My grandfather was on Gen. MacArthur's staff and set up the environmental laws in post-war Japan, laws that survive to the present day.

While my grandfather was involved in the reconstruction of Japan, my father and uncle spent their years there as children. At one point, they were commandeered to be in a play group with Akihito, the current emperor, so he could learn American "things" and gain familiarity with some American children. They also remember that they attended an American school while living there.

One morning the two boys were picked up by a bus. My father sat in the front seat. A few stops later, and arrogant boy got on and demanded that my father move, pulling rank by announcing, "My father is a Colonel!" My father retorted, "Well my father is an ORNITHOLOGIST!" The belligerent young fellow was not sure what that meant, and rather than betray his ignorance, retreated ignominiously to the back of the bus. My father continued his front seat ride for the rest of the school year.

"Corner" continued from page 1

This article, recently discovered in a very old scrapbook, was published in New Orleans, LA about 100 years ago – perhaps as early as 1900 and certainly before 1914, when the *Times-Democrat* changed its name. I was fascinated to read of large Austin reunions in Suffield, CT so long ago. Our interest in family history and genealogy is not new! We are simply preserving the interest and knowledge of previous generations. Although including scattered information about other early Austins, the writer seems to have been a descendant of Richard Austin and considered him "the pilgrim ancestor of the family". Much more is known today about the various New England Austin lines and their progenitors.

Alice Austin Martin

Who are you going to believe?

The internet is a great place for spreading news, rumors, half-truths and just plain lies. Obviously we need to be cautious about information we read on it. And, just because we have seen it a dozen times doesn't make a falsehood into truth (sound familiar regarding our accepting genealogical information?). There is a website you can use to check on whether what you have seen on the Internet is truth or fiction:

www.truthorfiction.com.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2007 Austin Convention in Suffield is over and I hope that everyone who came had a great time and learned new things about one of our Austin ancestor's home towns. I have gotten some positive comments about the modified schedule and the chance for extra research time in the area. My only regret was that there were not more people in attendance, but it turns out that the dates that we selected presented a conflict for some. I would be very interested in comments from the rest of you who attended - it's the only way we can improve things in the future.

The nominating committee came up with a slate of all officers except President. With a little arm twisting I agreed to continue as President until the next convention, where we will have a special election to select my replacement. I want to thank Betty Shelhamer and Scot Austin for serving as Vice Presidents for the past term. I also want to thank Bill Minnick and Patty Korach for taking on the job of Vice President for the next term. And of course a big thanks to Lois Cody, Bonnie Bigolin, and Liz Carlin for continuing on in their positions as Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Genealogist.

We also began the process of selecting our next convention site. The next convention will be a joint convention with the Austin Families Genealogical Society and each organization has nominated two sites. The nominated sites are; Nashville, Tennessee; Salt Lake City, Utah; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Vancouver, British Columbia. You can vote either by paper ballot or by e-mail, but please take a minute to vote!

I just added a grandson to my genealogy: Russell Wood Harlow III, born August 19, 2007 to Russell and Jenifer (Sikes) Harlow. It's important that, when new members are added to your family (births or marriages) or you discover new family branches, you send this information to the compiler of your Austin family line so that the database can be updated. We do not put information about living people on our web site.

We decided at the annual meeting to upgrade the software used on our web site to format and display the Family Group Sheets from our data bases. We are looking for input, from people who use this data, on how it should be displayed. So if you use this valuable resource please let us know how you think it can be improved.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
AFAOA President

Meet our Association Officers: Patricia Korach - Vice President

Patrica Bornstedt was born in 1949 in Yakima Washington. Patti became interested in genealogy and family history as a small child. Her grandmother Bornstedt had meticulously saved pictures, newspaper articles and stories in dozens of albums. Patti loved to pour over these books and especially enjoyed reading about her Sleret ancestors who had crossed the Oregon Trail by wagon train in 1865, settling in Gresham Oregon.



When the grade school Family Tree Project was introduced, Patti started writing letters to Sweden, Switzerland and Germany and as the responses arrived, she became more and more connected to her family history. Today, she has dozens of her own albums of research information. More than one of them is about the Austin family.

Patti became interested in Austin Family History when she married Patrick Austin Korach in 1976. Pat is the son of Bettymae Austin Korach and the grandson of Levi Fulham Austin; his line is directly descended from Richard, Anthony and Nathaniel.

In 1969 Patti became a flight attendant for Continental Airlines and remained in the airline industry until retiring in June 2007 after 29 years in reservation sales with Alaska Airlines. The benefits of the travel industry allowed Patti, Pat and their son Casey (born in 1981) to visit some of countries of their ancestry, including England, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden and Germany.

While researching Austin roots on-line, Pat and Patti saw that AFAOA was having their 2005 National Austin Convention in Seattle, Washington, just across the lake from Kirkland. They decided to attend and discovered a wonderful group of new friends and family. They were able to participate in the 2005 International Convention in Canterbury, England and the 2006 Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Patti volunteered to manage the Richard Book Donation Program.

They had to make a very difficult decision this year. They both had 40-year high school class reunions in the Yakima area at the same time as the 2007 Convention in Suffield, Connecticut. She made a good one in agreeing to become a Vice-President - thank you Patti.

Database Update

Two major projects are currently in work: **John & Ann (Baden) Austin of Albemarle Co., VA** and **Thomas & Esther Austin of New York**. A preliminary version of John & Ann was placed on the AFAOA web site August 27, 2007. The database was pulled from the Southern Unplaced Austin database and then updated based on raw data provided by Burt Addis Austin. Current effort involves gleaning data from many new sources that are now available on-line.

Stephen Henderson of Atlanta, GA saw the "Hudson River Austins" *Newsletter* (March 2007) article and sent us his 817 individual database which we are presently using to update the Thomas and Esther database. Thank you Steve!



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

Q17, 3-1 - I am trying to locate the family of Tempe/Tempy Austin, who married Joseph Rowland in Blount Co., AL on 03 July 1820 (acc. to All Alabama Marriages to 1825, on Ancestry.com). Joseph and Tempe Rowland lived in Morgan Co., AL until 1837, when they moved to Bureson Co., TX, where Tempe died in 1841. Joseph R. Jones, jonesjosephr@insightbb.com.

Q17, 3-2 - I recently found a water color still life picture signed A.A.Austin 1849. Can anybody tell me where a women named A.A Austin lived and anything about her branch of the Austin family. Douglas Constant, doug@douglasconstant.com.

Q17, 3-3 - Searching for information on the family of Hiram Austin, born Onondaga Co., NY ca.1807. He married Pebe Cole, who was born Oneida Co., NY ca. 1817 and died 1886 Wyoming Co., NY. Thank you. Nancy Shaner, rnshaner@adams.net.

Q17, 3-4 - I am looking for information on a Percy James Austin, born in New Jersey abt. 1865. Percy was a photographer and traveled extensively. When in England, he met a beauty contestant named Lilian (Lily) Gosling and married her in 1886. Percy traveled back and forth from NJ to England many times. Children were Percy Jr Austin (b)1888; Warner (b) 1890; George (b) 1892; Edward (b) 1897; and Iris (b) ?. Paul Reinert-PREinert@cequentgroup.com.

Q17, 3-5 - Does anyone know James Austin (b. 1791) married to Elizabeth ? in Licking Creek Twp., Fulton Co. Pennsylvania about 1816 who had Rowland and James C. Austin (civil war vet) both born around 1920. Rowland is my great-great grandfather, but I can't seem to locate James Austin's father or where they all immigrated from. Thanks. Jeannie Ginther-rsg6888@aol.com.

Highlights of AFAOA Business Meeting July 28, 2007 – Suffield, Connecticut

Financial report for 2006 by Bonnie Bigolin:

General Fund: Beginning balance:		\$8,945.96
Income: dues		\$2,765.00
Expenses: newsletter	1,084.00	
web site	1,899.95	
DNA Project	400.00	
Software	108.92	
supplies	70.00	
misc.	24.50	
Total:	\$3,588.04	
Ending balance:		\$8,122.92
Publishing Fund: Beginning balance:	\$1,240.11	
Income: Books sold	\$435.00	
Ending balance		\$1,675.11
Convention Fund: Beginning balance	\$ 75.96	
To AFGS, half of deficit:	\$217.83	
Ending balance		(\$ 141.87)
Bank balance at the end of 2006:		\$9,656.16

Database report by Jim Carlin: The IGM software, generated in 1996 by Tim Doyle is no longer supported. Software that supports source citations and Family Tree Maker gedcoms is needed so that contributed files will not need to be converted. Jim's proposal to spend \$3,000 - \$5,000 over a two year period to upgrade the database and web site software was approved. Bill Minnick and Jim Carlin were appointed to search for solutions to the software and web site issues.

Budget for 2007: An increase in our contribution to the Austin-Austen DNA Project, from \$400 to \$500 was approved. Increases in newsletter postage and website costs were noted. Although the cost of updating the database and web site software may cause expenses to greatly exceed income it was felt that the Association has sufficient funds to absorb this deficit.

Membership report by Alice Martin: 221 members.

Genealogist report by Liz Carlin: There are currently 49 searchable databases on the AFAOA web site. Art Sikes has agreed to be the compiler for the Robert Austin of RI line. There are 120 copies of The Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts 1638 remaining, out of the 446 printed.

Election of Officers for 2 year terms: President: Art Sikes (one year). Vice Presidents: Patti Korach, Bill Minnick and Lois Cody; Secretary/Treasurer: Bonnie Bigolin; Genealogist: Liz Carlin.

The 2008 Austin Convention: Nashville, TN and Salt Lake City, UT were nominated as convention sites. These will be presented to the entire membership, along with 2 sites nominated by AFGS, for a vote in September.

Bonnie Bigolin
AFAOA Secretary-Treasurer

Moses Austin

1761 – 1821

Moses Austin was a very industrious man. He is recognized as the founder of the American lead industry and was the first to settle a community west and inland of the Mississippi River. He was the first to get permission to bring Anglo-American settlers into Spanish Texas.

Moses was born in Durham, Connecticut on October 4, 1761, son of Elias Austin and Eunice Phelps and great grandson of Anthony Austin of Suffield. Instead of following in his father's footsteps as a tailor, farmer and tavern keeper, he chose to go into the dry goods business in Middletown at the age of 21. In 1783 he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to go into business with his brother, Stephen. It was there that he met and married Mary Brown. They had 5 children, three of whom lived to adulthood: Stephen Fuller Austin, Emily Margaret Austin and James Elijah Brown Austin.

Soon after moving to Philadelphia he extended his business to Richmond, Virginia and established Moses Austin & Company. In 1789 he secured a contract to roof the new Virginia capitol in lead. The state promised to pay above the market price if the lead was from Virginia. His company quickly gained control of the richest lead deposits. He brought experienced miners and smelters from England to improve the efficiency of his operation. He founded Austinville (in Wythe County) at the lead mines in 1792.

Encountering problems, and with his business going bankrupt, he started looking elsewhere for lead. After visiting mines in Spanish Upper Louisiana in the winter of 1796-97 he obtained a grant to part of Mine a Breton, which is where modern day Potosi, Missouri stands. It was there that he established the first Anglo-American settlement west of and back from the Mississippi River in 1798. He aggressively expanded his holdings and gained control of almost all smelting in the area and amassed a wealth of \$190,000.

This second period in the history of the American lead industry is known as the "Moses Austin Period". His contributions influenced the lead industry until heavy machinery revolutionized mining and smelting after the Civil War. Because of Aaron Burr's conspiracy, the war of 1812 and depressed conditions, Austin joined a group in founding the Bank of St. Louis, the first west of the Mississippi. The bank failed in 1819 and his finances were in trouble. He had relinquished the mines to his son Stephen and moved to Herculaneum, Missouri, a town that he established in 1808 as a river shipping port for his lead, and returned to merchandising.

Unable to escape his debt, he developed a plan in 1819 for settling an American colony in Spanish Texas. The Adams-Onis Treaty clarified the Spanish title to Texas and he went to San Antonio in December 1820, seeking permission from Governor Antonio Maria Martinez. While there he chanced to meet with the Baron de Bastrop. They had met years before in New Orleans. Bastrop lived in San Antonio and encouraged the governor to endorse the proposal for the colony. The governor forwarded the plan to higher authorities on December 26, 1820.

Returning from this trip Moses came down with pneumonia

THE 2007 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

The 2007 National Austin Convention, sponsored by the Austin Families Association of America, was held July 26 through July 29, 2007 in Suffield, Connecticut and the surrounding area.

The camaraderie began with an orientation on Thursday morning, followed by library research in Hartford, Conn. and Springfield, Mass. on Thursday and Friday and a "get acquainted and reacquainted" gathering at the hotel in Windsor on Friday evening.

On Saturday, attendees enjoyed a day of speakers and workshops at the Second Baptist Church in Suffield. Topics presented by speakers Edward Chase III, Dr. Mike Austin and Art Sikes included "King Phillip's War and New England Settlements", "The Austin-Austen DNA Project" and "Early History of the Connecticut River Valley".

As always, before, after and between presentations, AFAOA genealogists were on hand to assist with research of our extensive Austin databases. One attendee who, after reading about the Austin convention in the local newspaper, arrived with only the names of three generations of her Austin ancestors. She found information that connected her into the John Austin of New Haven, Conn. line, adding six previous generations!

Austin family and friends then gathered for a Saturday night banquet. Good food, more camaraderie, and a presentation by the Suffield town historian, Lester Smith, were enjoyed by all.

This year, Sunday was set aside to tour the Suffield area. The tour included the King House Museum, the Old Center Cemetery, the First Baptist Church Cemetery, several historic Austin houses and a tobacco farm where the harvest was in progress.

Visit our web site: www.afaoa.org and click on "Conventions" to see what REALLY happened in Connecticut!

and only lived two more months. During that time he learned that permission for the colony had been granted. He devoted all of his energy to the "Texas Venture". On his death bed he told his wife to write a letter for him to Stephen, begging him to take his place and continue the enterprise he had started.

Moses Austin died on June 10, 1821, at the home of his daughter, Emily Austin Bryan, and was buried in the Bryan family cemetery. In 1831 the remains of both Moses and Mary were moved to a public cemetery in Potosi, Missouri, on land they once owned. Their tomb rises three feet above ground and has the wrong date of death for Moses. The only marking on it says "MOSES AUSTIN – DIED 1820. In 1938 members of a Texas historical group, supposedly led by an Austin, tried to move his body to the Lone Star State during the dark of night, to be near his son Stephen. Their attempt was thwarted by a group from town. They only succeeded in marring the tomb by putting an ugly hole in it.

Kathi Koble

Memories of Wannabe A. Austin

The following was received from Jan Untener on 11 August: "Dave passed away on August 6. He had been at home receiving visiting hospice care, then went to a beautiful, very home-like hospice for four days before leaving. Yesterday we had a memorial service that was a wonderful tribute to Dave—more than 100 people were there, most from Cargill. The love and respect they voiced for Dave was overwhelming. He touched so many people in three short years."

And so we start this story of Dave Untener at the end, with his death due to cancer. Dave was born December 4, 1946 in Pittsburgh, PA. He married his college sweetheart Janice Austin in September, 1969. He was employed for 30 years as a chemical engineer, eventually becoming Chief Patent Attorney at Sohio Corp. (now BP) of Ohio and for 3 years as a Patent Attorney at the Cargill Corporation in Minnesota. Jan and Dave lived with their Doberman Reba in the suburb of Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Other than the passing of the husband of the AFAOA Northern Genealogist and past Vice President, why this memorial to a person who wasn't even an Austin? The answer is that he wanted to be an Austin, adopting the pen name Wannabe A. Austin for the eight articles he wrote for this *Newsletter*. He did this in jest of course, but he was always a loyal supporter of the Association, writing eight *Newsletter* articles over the period of August 2002 through August 2006, and assisting in legal matters.

The fact that Wannabe was really Dave has been a closely guarded secret these past four years. But all *Newsletter* readers knew of Wannabe after experiencing his sense of humor through his informative articles, always asking when the next article was going to be published.

Dave's first article, "The Name Game" (Summer 2002) reflected on how a father passes his name down to his son, who in turn does the same to his son, etc. Dave wrote about how he researched each of the known Austin lines to see how this practice was carried down through the generations. After his abortive use of the latest technology failed, he relates: "I resorted to manual paging through the databases. After four days, I finally got to the answer: a tie between Jonah of Massachusetts (seven Jonahs) and William of Maryland (seven Williams)."

His next article "Good Puritan Names" (Fall 2002) was subtitled, "How Many Johns were on the Mayflower," pun of course intended. He relates that the Puritans started out with names from the Bible, but after running out of possibilities, began to choose names based on moral qualities, particularly for females. Dave wondered what personalities resulted from girls with names such as Increase, Chasity, Restitute, Innocent, Fearnot, Thankful, Deliverance, Desire, and of course Faith, Hope, and Charity.

"Male Names" was the title of his third article (December

2002). Here Dave observed that "...since the early Austin immigrants were from England, their English names, like their food were not very interesting." Other European cultures had their influence, but the French? Dave decided that "The French, being French, said 'We would rather play hockey and drink LaBatts, hey, than live with vour English pigs! and promptly moved to Canada. They had no influence on names until the Stanley Cup playoffs began."

Dealing with middle names came next in "Celebrity Names," (March 2003). Middle names originated from the Germans who gave a saint's name separate from the given name during the baptism of their child. Eventually, even saint's names were abandoned, and parents began choosing well known celebrity names such as Washington, or Lincoln, or Luther.

Dave next dealt with the origin of the Austin surname in his article of that title appearing in the July 2003 edition. The earliest recorded instance of the Austin surname that Dave could find was Margery Kempe's (c1373 - 1438) spiritual biography, often called the first autobiography in English, where we find: "lerk, a Frer Austyn, in hys owyn hows at Lynne..." (see also story on page 1).

Dave's humorous examination of an Austin probate record appeared in the January 2004 edition. Besides the usual bequeathals, what fascinated Dave most were the property inventories, especially when compared to what Dave & Jan owned. This dealt with the usual furnishings, but also animals (cattle in those days, dogs and cats today). Dave did admit that: "I did have a turtle once, but over the course of several days he ran away."

"Minnesota Madness" was his next article (April 2004), now dealing with the "ridiculous" places that people choose to live, and the possibility of an errant "madness Austin gene" causing Austins to choose to live with the unreasonable climate of Minnesota. His search brought him to the town of Austin, which, Dave discovered, was the home of the Hormel Company, makers of that delicacy Spam, and which was founded by Austin Nichols, a fur trapper, who wasn't even an Austin! Perhaps, Nichols wanted to be an Austin too?

Dave's final article was a more serious piece (August 2006) where he dealt with the story of a Captain George Austin who, being captured and imprisoned by the Confederacy as a Prisoner of War, was chosen by lottery to be hanged in retaliation for the threatened Union execution of a Confederate prisoner. Dave reveals that eventually George was exchanged and returned home safely, but probably "never ever again participated in a lottery."

And so a good friend and loyal member of the Association has passed on, but his memory is kept alive by his contributions. Perhaps it is time for the Association to grant Dave an honorary Austin surname posthumously.



Cities Nominated for the 2008 International Austin Convention Site

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Family History Center in Salt Lake City is now the largest library of its kind in the world. The library contains 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 742,000 microfiche, 310,000 books, 4,500 periodicals and over 700 electronic resources. Its records cover the United States, Canada, The British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Salt Lake City is in a high valley in the Rocky Mountains, located at the foot of the Wasach mountain range. Places to visit include the State Capitol, the Governor's mansion, historic homes of the Mormon Pioneers, Ensign Peak where Brigham Young planned the city, and "This is the Place" Heritage Park. Many fine restaurants, Olympic sites, and attending a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir provide interesting things to do.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Vancouver BC is one of the only places in the world where it is possible to ski, snowboard, hike and golf, all on the same day. There are also plenty of places to do some good research such as: the B. C. Vital Statistics Agency, the B. C. Genealogical Society, the Vancouver Public Library, the Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives, Anglican Archives of St. Richards Church, and the Jewish Genealogical Institute of B. C. Some of the fun things to visit are historical Gastown, Chinatown, Robson Street (high fashion shopping), Stanley Park, with its Prospect Point and Totem Poles, Queen Elizabeth Park and the Bloedel Floral Conservatory and the Island Public Market. There are many wonderful restaurants, and a very active night life.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Nashville is a very visitor-friendly location, with many outstanding opportunities for research, sightseeing, and relaxation. The Tennessee State Library and Archives are well worth several days of research for those seeking southern ancestors. Most of the county holdings have been moved to the State Library, and the large collection is available in open stacks. Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage, is on Rachel Lane. You might also want to take in the Grand Ole Opry, wander through adjacent Opryland, or visit Nashville's own Parthenon, an exact cement replica of the original in Athens. Nashville is also home to the well-known Maxwell House coffee, and the famous Jack Daniels was a local boy there.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

The Clark County Library District maintains various records including newspaper articles, biographies, and obituaries. The Las Vegas Art Museum has vital statistics, census, military, immigration and family history records. Collections at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas history department include the Biography Resource Center - information on more than 185,000 people from throughout history; U.S. History Resource Center; LexisNexis Primary Sources in African American History; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog; Nevada Museum & Historical Society. There are many fun places to visit: The Liberace Museum; Guggenheim Hermitage Museum; and of course the famous Las Vegas casinos/night-life.

Please Cut Here

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Official AFAOA Site Selection Ballot for the 2008 International Austin Convention

Please select your site preference (check one box only)

- Salt Lake City, Utah
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Membership Information:

Your Name: _____
 City or Town: _____
 Zip Code: _____

Please Mail Your Ballot to:

Alice Austin Martin
 1703 Kensington Ave.
 Ocean Springs, MS 39564

- OR -

*Deadline for all votes:
 November 30, 2007*

E-mail your selection, AND membership information (see left).

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



*This is your chance to Vote for
the 2008
Austin Convention site!*

The 2008 Austin Convention will be sponsored jointly by AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA and AUSTIN FAMILIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. Each organization has proposed two sites. You are asked to select one of the four sites and vote one of the following ways.

EITHER fill out the ballot on pg. 7 of this *Newsletter* and mail to the address on the ballot ***OR*** provide all the information requested on the ballot in an e-mail.

[You have one vote as an AFAOA member. However, if you are also a member of AFGS you can vote again, using the ballot you will receive with the next AFGS *Austin Families Register* or on the AFGS web site].

All votes must be received by November 30, 2007