



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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<http://www.afoa.org/>

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Austins in Alaska

REV. ALONZO EUGENE AUSTIN

Alonzo Eugene Austin, his parents, grandparents and children, can be found in the "Northern Unplaced" database on the AFAOA website. The records of Edith Austin Moore provided this information about when and where they were born, married and died and the fact that Alonzo was a "Presbyterian minister to Alaskan natives".

On a recent trip to Alaska, Art Sikes came across the following story about Alonzo and his family and Sheldon Jackson College, which they established. It was included in a display by the Sitka Historical Society at the town Community Center.

John G. Brady and Alonzo Austin: Integrity, Education and Faith

John G. Brady and Alonzo Austin were the two Presbyterian ministers who were instrumental in starting the Sheldon Jackson Industrial Training School, which remains in Sitka today as Sheldon Jackson College.

Brady came to Sitka in 1878 to preach the gospel and assisted Miss Fannie Kellogg in opening a school. Brady returned to the Board of Missions in New York to petition them for the money to open an industrial training school in Sitka. Denied, but not deterred, Brady turned to Dr. Sheldon Jackson, Commissioner of Education in Alaska, and famed collector, for help. Brady urged his friend and colleague Alonzo E. Austin to return to Alaska with him.

Austin was a lay preacher before going to seminary where he met Brady. He had recently lost his business and was in poor health when he agreed to Brady's offer. Soon after returning to Sitka, Brady stopped working as a missionary to "better serve the native people." Austin continued his friend's work toward the industrial training school. Early in 1880, he sent for his family to join him in Sitka. The Austin family started elementary schools in Sitka, with Alonzo, his wife and two older daughters as teachers. With a great deal of persistence, faith and help from Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the Sheldon Jackson Institute (an industrial training school for native children) was finally established.

The Austin Women: The Gift of Education and Literacy

The Austin family women made a great impact upon early Sitka. Isabelle J. Austin (nee Camp) and her children followed her missionary husband to Alaska in 1880. The Austins had three children, Olinda, Henrietta and Alonzo Jr. The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church hired Olinda Austin to start a school for native children.

When Olinda started her school in April, so many children showed up that her father had to turn over his school for Caucasian children to Henrietta so he and Isabelle could assist Olinda. The Austin women worked tirelessly with Alonzo Austin to help the formation of Sheldon Jackson School. Through the tireless dedication of Isabelle, Olinda and Henrietta Austin, Sitka's children were given the gift of education and literacy.

Alonzo Austin's Genealogy (from the AFAOA database)

[Grandparents] **Ralph Austin**: born 16 May 1784, died 4 June 1863 in Somers Center, NY, buried in Ivandale Cemetery, married 31 Dec 1806 in Greenwich, CT to **Fanny Knapp**. They had 9 children: Samuel Knapp, Aruna Augustus, Clara, Emma Eliza, Caroline, James Harvey, William Henry, Ann Mary and Laura. Ralph was a paper manufacturer.. He also lived in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Please see "Alonzo" on page 2

<http://www.afoa.org>

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Douglas L. Austin

5517 West 3rd St.
Greely, CO 80634-4234
doug.austin@comcast.net
Edward b. 30 Jun 1773 RI; Gideon b. 11 Jul 1794; William Henry b. 21 Jun 1828 VT or NY; Bert Leroy b. 29 Oct 1878 Mercer Co., IL; LaVerne Dye "Barney" b. 16 Oct 1921 CO.

Sue Silakowski

2064 South Lake Road
Scottsburg, IN 47170
ssilakowski@anacostia.com
William Preston b. 1843 Floyd, IN.

Gwen Davis

3130 East Eldorado Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89120
noodleknocker@hotmail.com
Eliphalet; Ancil Carmi b. 1829 NY; Louisa b. 1876.

James Egan Davis

3130 East Eldorado Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89120
noodleknocker@hotmail.com
Eliphalet; Ancil Carmi b. 1829 NY; Louisa b. 1876.

Renewals

Please check your newsletter mailing label for your renewal date. 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

W. Garry Austin

0977 E. 900 North
LaPorte, IN 46350
wgaustin@comcast.net
Waite b. RI; Jedediah Phelps b. 1804 Swanton, VT; Jedediah Phelps Jr. b. 1840 Galina Twp., IN.

Kenneth Robert Hayes

14731 Mills Park Lane
Cypress, TX 77429
peekskill36@yahoo.com
Alonzo D. b. 30 May 1839 Putnam Valley, NY; William D. b. 11 Jan 1876 Tompkins Corners, NY; Gertrude A. b. 24 Mar 1909 Peekskill, NY.

Kristina Austin Scarcelli

39889 Coronation Drive
Canton, MI 48188-1526
kscarcelli@comcast.net
John Delos b. 1807 NY; Abner Delos b. 20 Apr 1846 Canada or MI; Perry James b. 20 Feb 1882, Wayne Co., MI.

Address Changes

Send changes to: Alice Austin Martin, 527 Front Beach #10, Ocean Springs, MS 39564; or send changes by e-mail to the address below:

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

**Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman**

"Alonzo" continued from page 1

[Parents] **Aruna Augustus Austin**: born 3 Feb 1810 in Westchester Co., NY, died 1855 in New York City, NY, married 13 Nov 1834 to **Phoebe Maria Eldred**. They had 11 children: Alonzo Eugene, Mortimer Bruce, Antonette, Adelaide, Miranda, Edward, Joshua M., Justiana, Christina, Ida and Clementina.

Alonzo Eugene Austin: born 20 Aug 1837 in Eldred, NY, died in Port Jarvis, NY, married **Isabelle Johnson Camp** and had 5 children: Olinda Ann, Henrietta, Mortimer (died at age 2), Alonzo Eugene and an unnamed infant (lived 2 days). Alonzo was a Presbyterian minister to Alaskan natives. He lived in Eldred and New York City, NY and Sitka, Alaska.

[Children]

Olinda Ann "Linnie" Austin: born 9 Nov 1861 in New York City, NY, married 11 Jul 1884 to **Joseph Garrish Ayers**, one child: **Charles Haines Austin Ayers**, born 24 Apr 1889, Yale class of 1911.

Henrietta Austin: born 1863, married (1) **Walter B. Styles** (2) **Ralph Allen**.

Dr. Alonzo Eugene Austin: born 1 Jun 1868 in New York City, NY, died 20 Jun 1948 in NY, NY, married 26 Apr 1898 in NY, NY to **Sarah Frances Hall**.



Rev. Alonzo Austin

Compiler News

People contribute to our Austin databases in a number of ways, perhaps the most important are the volunteer compilers. These are people who are specialists in a specific Austin line. They agree to become "data parents" for these lines, with full access to the database, and the authority to change the files as updates

and corrections come in - either from e-mail contributions, or else by additional research.

Art Sikes, compiler for Robert Austin of Rhode Island has been going like a house afire! Besides re-working Robert with updates and corrections, he has researched a number of Austin lines in early

Rhode Island, and has removed them from the Northern Unplaced database. Three of these, Edmund, Edward and Wait Austin are now stand alone databases on our web site. Art has also submitted Brayton Austin for near term placement on the web site.

Please see "Compilers" on page 6



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With some hesitation I accepted the task of President. However, knowing the network of dedicated people in AFAOA who are doing the real work, the task promises to be enjoyable. Art Sikes has done such a good job that the transition should be seamless.

The 2008 Convention in Salt Lake City was exciting and productive. Reports concerning finances, research results, and web offerings were impressive. It is always good to visit there, with the hotel so convenient to the library and such an interesting city to explore.

A glance at our budget indicates that our dues are primarily used for the newsletter, the website and supporting the DNA project. This year we will have a major capital expense as we upgrade the software used for the databases and website.

One pressing item is the selection of next year's convention site. During the business meeting three sites were proposed - Nashville, TN, San Jose, CA, and Wilmington, DE. I would be happy to go to any one of these places. Please vote in a timely manner so that planning can begin. Your vote is especially significant if it would determine whether you could attend or not.

According to AFAOA bylaws, our goals include researching and collecting data and making it available to others - a pretty broad statement where the emphasis seems to have changed from publishing hardcover books to computer databases and Google. This is an exciting time in genealogy because of the networking of data, with its instant gratification but also with cautions about proofs and sources. AFAOA took a lead position in web data a decade ago, and we have watched many sites follow. However, sometimes we reach the point where multiple "sources" can feed off the same, perhaps faulty, point of information. The good old paper or microfilm sources still need to be consulted, often at remote courthouses and libraries.

We should remember that most of our information is gathered by members working at their own expense - including travel, software, and subscriptions. A great amount of time has been spent by volunteers - researching, transcribing and organizing information. Is there a way that you can help? One good way would be to contribute your own research. AFAOA still has paper information in file drawers that has not been assimilated or digitized - room for volunteers there.

Let's have fun this year, communicate with other members and officers, try to attend the convention, and perhaps do a little useful work.

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President

Financial Report for 2007

General Fund	
Beginning balance -	\$ 8122.92
Total Income	2715.00
Total Expenses	3766.65
Balance - Dec. 31, 2007	\$ 7071.27
Publishing Fund	
Beginning balance -	\$ 1675.11
Total Income - books sold	805.50
Expense - Shipping:	279.78
Balance - Dec. 31, 2007	\$ 2200.83
Convention Fund	
Beginning balance-	\$(141.87)
Total Income	\$1530.00
Total Expenses	1164.37
Balance - Dec. 31, 2007	\$ 223.76
Year End Balance 2007	\$ 9495.86

Budget for 2008

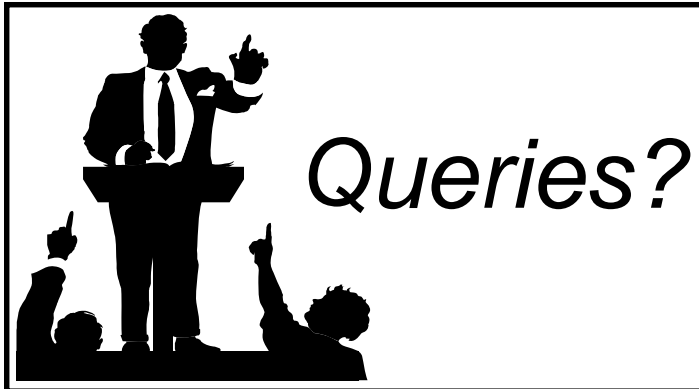
Estimated Annual Income:

Dues	\$3000
Book Sales	600
Total	\$3600

Estimated Annual Expenses:

Newsletters & Postage	\$1200
Website	1500
Ancestry.com	300
Software & services	500
Web Project	1000
DNA Project	600
Convention	250
Shipping	100
Supplies & Misc.	200
Misc. Expenses	200
Total	\$5850

Bonnie Bigolin
AFAOA Secretary/Treasurer



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

Q18, 3-1 - I am looking for my ancestors in New England. My grandfather Wallace Bennett Austin, according to the Social Security Death Index, was born 8 Apr 1921 (probably Brandon, VT) and died 23 Nov 1988 Westfield, Hampden, MA. He married Mary Moyette around 1940. She was born of George Moyette and Lucy Stevens. He had siblings; Geneva Austin, Isabella Austin, and Noble Austin. Geneve, b. Feb 1919, Isabella b. Apr 1917 and Noble b. Feb 1918 appear in the 1920 Census for Brandon, Rutland, VT. Their parents were Charles T. b. 1875 VT and Matilda E. Austin 1894 VT. Wallace had 6 children; Christine Yvonne, Wallace Bennett Jr, David Charles, Terry Anne, Rose Cecile, and Mitchell. I would appreciate any help anyone can give me. Vicky Weimer. vicky.weimer@verizon.net

Q18, 3-2 - Need death and burial information for Franklin James Austin b. 6 Jul 1885 (?) Ashe Co., NC, married Lara Catherine Blevins b. 15 Feb 1905 Pulaski Co., VA. She died Wilkes Co., NC in 1937, but can find no records for Frank. Kaye Smith. ksmith21@dc.rr.com

Q18, 3-3 - Have reason to believe but cannot verify the following: Sybil Austin (b. 17 May 1793, d. 1875) of Wallingford, CT married Joel Walkley (b. 1787) in Wallingford, 23 Feb 1815. Daughter Harriet Newell Walkley (b. 1830) married Benjamin Jeffery ca. 1850 and bore a child by the name of Benjamin Walkley Jeffery, while living in the household of Sybil Austin, then widowed. Benjamin Walkley Jeffery would be my great grandfather, Benjamin Wallace Jeffery would be my grandfather, Benjamin Jeffery, husband of Harriet Walkley, my great great grandfather. Can anyone out there verify Harriet's marriage to Benjamin Jeffery? Thank you. James J. Lutz. lutzjim@msn.com

Meet our Association Officers: Gay G. Martin, Jr. - President

Gay was born May 2, 1939 in New Orleans, LA, the first of two children of Gay Gaston Martin and Margaret Caroline Ulmer. Most of his early years were spent in Hazlehurst, MS. Since

both his mother's and his father's family had lived in south Louisiana and Mississippi for at least four generations he had many relatives nearby.



Gay attended Tulane University in New Orleans, LA on a Navy scholarship, graduating in 1960 with a major in physics. He met Alice Elizabeth Austin - in the college choir, the Presbyterian youth fellowship and Physics lab - and they were married in 1961. After graduation, Gay received a three year assignment to the USS Carpenter, a

naval destroyer based in Pearl Harbor. Leaving the Navy in 1963, he earned a secondary teaching certificate, moved to Alice's home town of Ocean Springs, MS and taught high school physics before beginning a career in optical design. Their family expanded to include three daughters - Elizabeth Anne, Linda Margaret, and Carolyn Alice - and now includes four wonderful grandchildren.

In 1966 Gay joined Ferson Optics in Ocean Springs, a small firm making optical systems for military and aerospace use. In 1975, after Ferson Optics became a division of Bausch and Lomb, Gay and three other members of the Ferson group founded Alpha Optical Systems. Systems built by Alpha included star trackers for the Space Shuttle navigation system and lenses for smart weapons used in Desert Storm and elsewhere. One system, mounted on a naval aircraft, was used for evaluation of space launches. Eventually Alpha was purchased by Coors Ceramics Company and Gay retired in 1994.

Gay's mother had done research for years on both the Martin and Ulmer families and gathered a large "shoebox" of information which he inherited, but Alice knew little about her ancestors. In 1989 she became interested in genealogy, discovered her Austin line in *The Descendants of Richard Austin*, by Edith Austin Moore and learned about the Austin Families Association of America. She attended the 1990 Austin convention in Suffield, CT, and every annual meeting since, and has served as Secretary/Treasurer, President and now membership chairman of AFAOA. Gay began attending conventions with her in 1994. He also became enthusiastic about genealogy, and in 1997 volunteered to transcribe the field notes of Edith Austin Moore - a three year project. He is now transcribing some of the field notes of Janet Austin Curtis. These transcriptions, for which he received the Austin Genealogical Research Award (The Eagle Award) from AFGS in 2001 and again in 2006, are available on the AFAOA website and in the

Please see "President" on page 5

International Austin Convention

July 25-27, 2008

Salt Lake City, Utah

This year's Austin Convention, jointly sponsored by Austin Families Association of America and Austin Families Genealogical Society, started with a "Get Acquainted" reception Friday evening for the thirty nine attendees.

The first of three workshops was held Saturday morning. Workshops provide an opportunity to meet and exchange data with other Austin researchers or to receive help from AFAOA & AFGS genealogists. As always, there was an abundance of

The 2008 convention culminated with a fine dinner at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. Interesting pioneer women stories told by guest speaker Maurine P. Smith of the International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers highlighted the evening. Afterwards, Dr. Michael Austin presented Art Sikes with the Austin Genealogical Research Award (Eagle Award) from the AFGS (see page 6).

Sue Osborn

Minutes of the AFAOA Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Presented Financial Report for 2007 (See page 3). The Budget for 2008 was approved. Even though expenses may exceed income, there are sufficient funds available to absorb a possible deficit.

Database report by Jim Carlin: reports a continued need to revise the IGM software, generated in 1996 by Tim Doyle and is no longer supported. We need software that supports source citations and Family Tree Maker gedcoms – majority of contributors use FTM rather than PAF and the files must be converted. The action committee Jim Carlin and Bill Minnick will continue to search out solutions for the software & website issues, as passed at the 2007 business meeting.

Membership report by Alice Martin: 201 paid members.

Genealogist report by Liz Carlin: We currently have 49 searchable databases online. Linda Austin Fosnaugh has agreed to be the Pardon Austin line compiler. The status of the Richard books – inventory of 110 books remaining out of the 446 printed.

Newsletter report: by Kathi Koble: reports a need for a new newsletter editor or a committee to edit and search out articles for the quarterly newsletter. At this time no volunteers have been identified.

Election of President: A special election for the office of president: Gay Martin was elected.

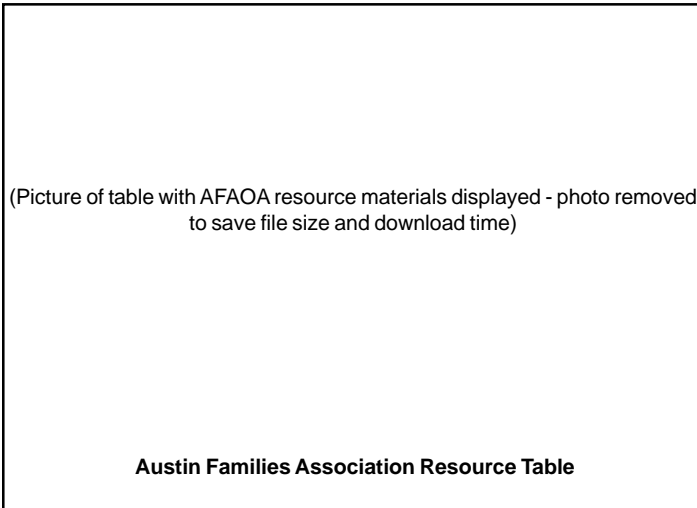
2009 National Austin Convention: By show of hands, the top three sites are: Nashville Tennessee, San Jose California area, and Wilmington, Delaware. The rest of the membership now has the opportunity to express their choice (please see instructions on page 7). All AFAOA members in good standing may vote, either by paper ballot, or e-mail ballot.

Bonnie Bigolin
AFAOA Secretary/Treasurer

"President" continued from page 4

Austin-Austen Research Center on the AFGS website.

Another of Gay's accomplishments was the conversion of hundreds of family slides, very old family photographs, and genealogy research records which he saved in digital format on computer discs. By sending these to their daughters, all was not lost when Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home and possessions in August 2005. He earnestly preaches the motto "scan, copy and share" to protect your family history for future generations.



material and information available to Austin researchers at the workshops. Following the workshop AFAOA President Art Sikes and AFGS President Dr. Mike Austin welcomed attendees.

Jimmy Parker of Salt Lake City, past head of the Family History Library, gave a presentation titled "Approaches to the Family History Catalog – Finding Sources that Do Not Appear To Be There." Jimmy's very interesting presentation was followed by George Ott of Salt Lake City who gave yet another interesting talk on "Researching in U.S. Court Records." George got everyone excited about the data that can be found in court records, where to look and what might be found.

Art Sikes and Mike Austin talked on a variety of subjects. Art covered "Rhode Island Genealogical Research." Mike reviewed the Austin-Austen DNA Project, a fascinating subject that continues to hold everyone's attention. The afternoon was free for research at the Family History Library.

Workshops resumed on Sunday. After the morning workshop, Jim Carlin presented an update on the website, Carol Austin then talked on "How to Keep Relatives from Burning Your Family History" and Scot Austin introduced new information on "Wiki Genealogy," with many interesting questions and comments from the attendees.

During the annual meeting we reviewed the Association operation over the past year. Support for the Austin-Austen DNA project was increased. We had a special election for President and Gay Martin was elected President of the Association.

"The Unfortunate Captain Austin" A Correction

An article in the August 2006 *Newsletter* entitled *The Unfortunate Captain Austin* relates the nearly fatal relationship of one Union Army Captain George Austin to a Confederate member of the Virginia Rangers, Captain John L. Spriggs. Captain Spriggs led a group of irregulars in guerilla actions behind Union lines, was captured, tried, convicted of serious felonies, and sentenced to be executed by hanging.

Captain George Austin was captured 17 July 1861 by Confederate forces during the battle of Barboursville and Scarytown, Virginia (now West Virginia), and confined as a prisoner of war in the Columbia Jail, Columbia, South Carolina.

The central issue here was the decision of the Union Military courts to consider Captain Spriggs as a renegade criminal rather than an officer in the Confederate Army, thereby denying him prisoner of war status, which would have assured him of exchange or repatriation rather than being condemned to death.

Upon learning of this decision the Confederate generals informed the Union generals that, should this sentence be carried out on Captain Spriggs, they would retaliate by hanging one of their prisoners, which as it turned out happened to be Captain George Austin, who had been chosen by lot. Ultimately, the Union courts re-designated Captain Spriggs as a prisoner of war, and George Austin was freed in September 1862 in an exchange of prisoners.

The *Newsletter* article ended with a photograph of an envelope addressed to a Mr. James Sprigg ("John" written in the same hand just underneath "James") of Springfield, Illinois, from Mary Lincoln, dated May 17, 1863, and "franked" by Mary's husband's familiar signature "A. Lincoln". However the *Newsletter* apparently erred by associating this John Sprigg, recipient of the letter from Mary Lincoln, with Captain John L. Spriggs of the Virginia Rangers.

Paraphrasing an e-mail dated 17 Aug 2008, Captain Troy Michael Tofflemeyer, USMC, dated 17 Aug 2008: "The Mary Lincoln envelope has nothing to do with the George Austin - John L. Spriggs saga. It contained a letter to John C. Sprigg and Julia Ann (Remann) Sprigg, close friends and Springfield neighbors of the Lincolns in 1860.

"Compilers" continued from page 2

Elizabeth Austin Carlin, AFAOA Genealogist, has just completed a complete revision to the Isaac Austin of Virginia. She has incorporated all of the accumulated e-mails and letters received for this database, and has gleaned all of the information contained in the AFAOA archives. Isaac of Virginia is now ready for placement on the web site.

Kevin Austin, compiler of the John Austin of North Carolina, has sent in his update to this database. It will be checked and placed on the web site during the upcoming batch upload.

While at the 2008 International Austin Convention, Linda Austin West provided the database chairman with a paper copy of her latest update to the Thomas Gilmore Austin of Sharpsburg, Maryland. The database is in hold until these changes can be made. The convention also gave Linda Austin Fosnaugh the opportunity to transmit a new database on Pardon Austin of New York. This database is now on the AFAOA web site.

Austin Families Genealogical Society Presents the 2008 Eagle Award to Arthur M. Sikes Jr.



The Eagle Award, given annually by AFGS for significant contributions to Austin research, was presented by Dr. Mike Austin to Art Sikes for the many research articles that he has submitted to the Austin-Austen Research Center.

Vermont Vital Records Project

Earlier this year Art Sikes asked for volunteers to transcribe the "General Index To Vital Records of Vermont, early to 1870" from microfilm held at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This project was accomplished in the days before and during the Austin Convention.

The dedicated group of transcribers included Carol Austin, Bonnie Bigolin, Lois Cody, Gay Martin, Derk Phelps and Art Sikes.

Currently the information is being combined and collated with a similar effort by Ruby Bruffee Austin in 1977. Plans are to make the fully searchable results available on both the AFAOA and AFGS web sites.

Thanks to all who worked on the project and to Mike Austin for providing the Ruby Austin transcription.

Newsletter Help Needed

Please send stories and interesting information about your Austin ancestors for the *Newsletter*. Tell us about problems you have solved in your research. Do any of your ancestors have funny or unusual names? Any Austin war heroes? Let us know their story. Do you have a female ancestor that was ahead of her time? I'm quite sure there were a lot of wonderful Austin women.

Sending a story is easy. Type it and e-mail it to me; or you can send a letter to my address, found on page 1. It can be a carefully worded, ready to print, article or a rough draft that needs editing. Either one will be appreciated. PLEASE help keep the *Newsletter* interesting.

Kathi Koble
Newsletter Editor

Cities Nominated For the 2009 National Austin Convention

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Nashville, the Tennessee state capitol, is a very visitor-friendly location with outstanding opportunities for research, sightseeing, and relaxation. The Tennessee State Library and the adjoining State 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. The old card file indices are still available for all the early Tennessee and North Carolina Land Grants. Tennessee was part of North Carolina when it was first opened for settlement and many bounty certificates were granted to NC veterans of the Revolutionary War. Other major attractions include the Grand Ole Opry (which showcases the best in country and bluegrass music), the Hermitage (home of President Andrew Jackson, built in 1819 and now restored as a museum), the 1853 Belle Meade Plantation, the Tennessee State Museum, Nashville's Parthenon (a concrete replica of the Greek temple that serves as an art museum) and the General Jackson Showboat (a paddlewheel riverboat with afternoon and evening cruises on the Cumberland River).

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Situated in the heart of Silicon Valley at the foot of San Francisco Bay, San Jose is just 45 miles south of San Francisco, surrounded by premium wineries and vineyards, and a 90 minute drive from the Napa and Sonoma Valleys; Santa Cruz, Monterey, Carmel and John Steinbeck's Salinas Valley. In addition to its natural beauty and near perfect weather the area provides some excellent research opportunities. The Central Park Library in nearby Santa Clara maintains an excellent Genealogy Collection with the assistance of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. The National Archives – Pacific Region is 30 minutes away in San Bruno. Records at the Na-

tional Archives come from every branch of the Federal government. The Sutro Library in San Francisco, a branch of the California State Library, has the largest genealogical collection west of Salt Lake City. The California History Section houses many specialized publications and materials that support genealogical research about Californians.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Wilmington is rich in history and research opportunities. The Historical Society of Delaware Research Library offers excellent resources for those researching ancestors along the eastern shore from New England to Virginia. Hagley Museum, located along the banks of the Brandywine River is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E.I. du Pont in 1802 and includes restored mills and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family. Winterthur, the former estate of Francis du Pont, displays a vast collection of early American furniture and decorative arts that rivals the Smithsonian collection; the Winterthur Library is a research facility with a wide collection of materials on art and history. Other area attractions include the Brandywine Battlefield (historic Revolutionary War site), the magnificent Longwood Gardens and the Brandywine River Museum, housed in a converted 19th century grist mill and often called the "Wyeth Museum" for its extensive collection of works by the Wyeth family. A boat trip to Fort Delaware offers a unique Civil War experience. In Philadelphia, only 30 miles away, are the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Research Library and the National Archives - Mid-Atlantic Region, which serves the areas of Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia and maintains the Mid-Atlantic federal records from 1790 to the present. There you can also visit the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Please Cut Here

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Official AFAOA Site Selection Ballot for the 2009 National Austin Convention

■ Please select your site preference (check one box only)

- Nashville, Tennessee
- San Jose, California
- Wilmington, Delaware

Membership Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail Your Ballot to:

Alice Austin Martin
527 Front Beach #10
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

- OR -

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

*Deadline for all votes:
October 31, 2008*

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
527 Front Beach #10
Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

Address Service Requested

(Large group photo removed to save file space and download time - check our web site "Conventions" link)

2008 International Austin Convention Attendees