



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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

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A Passion for Research!

Everyone I know who is deeply involved in genealogy works on it for several reasons. First, of course, they want to know about their ancestry. They may be tracing a disease or family trait. Or trying to prove their eligibility to join a group such as the DAR. But, if they research more than the minimum requirements, the reason is that they just plain enjoy it.

When I first learned about the Austin reunion, I sent in my reservation and waited eagerly. But, when I attended and first saw the Richard Austin book, it was – awesome! To think that Edith Austin Moore had compiled all that information about the family before computers! What a dedicated (and organized) lady!

Now, Liz and Jim Carlin have compiled a magnificent history with more Austins and much more information. They also have the passion for research.

I found the Ladd (my maiden name) family book at an antiquarian book sale several years ago. Paydirt! Bingo! Wow! Someone from that side had also delved into my family's history. They both have a "place of honor" on my bookshelves.

But – I still have a passion for research. So, I do what I enjoy. I visit libraries and book stores and the antiquarian book sales. I love holding an old, old book in my hands are trying to visualize the people and events narrated within. To me, this is research at it's very best.

And of course, we have the internet. A worldwide research tool. Capable of amazing discoveries. Such as these web sites:

http://www.familychronicle.com/klond_a.htm brought information about Austins who participated in the Alaska-Yukon Goldrush. How exciting! I can visualize them, working in the bitter cold day after day, looking – hoping – maybe, just maybe, finding – gold! Their names: A. B. Austin, Rampart City (Minook Ck), NAT & T Co. sawmill; Austin, B., Nome, miner; Austin, B. C., Nome, miner; Austin, E, DC., YT, miner; Austin, Fred, DC, YT, miner; Austin, H., Nome,

Miner; Austin, J.C., DC, YT Austin, L. M., Nome, Miner; Austin, M.P., gold claim in Bonanza CK; Austin, M.P., DC, YT, miner.

<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs.dgi/SomebodysLinks/> lists treasures you have that need to be reunited with their family. If you have an old Bible with another family's information, pictures that are identified, any old records with names, etc., list them here. Also, look for treasures from your family's past (if you don't have a computer, send me the information and I will be glad to enter it for you, and also to check for any treasures with names you are researching). Think how exciting it would be to find your ancestor's family Bible!

You all probably know about <http://www.rootsweb.com/> - a treasure trove of information....

And now, I must get back to my latest project: transcribing ship records.

Researching is Fun! Enjoy!

Marilyn Osterhout
9252 Charmin Pl.
Jackson, MI 49201

Why Go to the 2000 Austin National Convention?

Three years ago, at a convention in Salt Lake City, I learned that The Austin Families Association possessed these tantalizing books (over 100 field notebooks) of hand-written notes and vital records, mostly about Austins and their spouse lines, gleaned from many libraries before the days of Xerox or e-mail. These notes were laboriously copied by Edith Austin Moore, taken home and organized by hand into family lines. Bonnie Bigolin was asking for someone to transcribe these notes into digital form so that they could be searched and this valuable information made available to others. In a fit of uncontrolled enthusiasm I raised my hand.

Edith Austin Moore began researching her
Please see "Convention", page 6



New Members Welcomed

Randolph B. Trembly

2103 East 39th St.
Vancouver, WA 98663
rkluckhohn@aol.com
Mary Alameda Austin, LeRoy, MI

Welda Johnson Clemens

1030 W. 12th Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025
wclemens@netimes.net
William Austin of Kent Co., MD

K. Janice Austin Unterer

11307 Harborview Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44102
unterer@ameritech.net
William Porter Austin
b. 4 Feb 1902, Perkasio, PA

Virginia Austin Telthorst

6815 SE Fountaindale Rd.
Topeka, KS 66614
Richard Austin 1598 Titchfield, Eng.

John C. Stephens

2009 N. Illinois
Caldwell, ID 83605
jtkstp@rmci.net
Mary Elizabeth Austin
1861, Alabama

Kristine Burns

20136 Sorrento
Detroit, MI 48235
kburns@aaamichigan.com
Marybell & John Austin
(Slaves of an Austin family in what is now Austin, North Carolina)

Mrs. Beverly McLean

P. O. Box 82
Coopers Plain, NY 14827
hiltonmclean@infoblvd.net
(No ancestry information provided)

Weta D. Hayden

8998 Oswego Rd.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
nyrpr@aol.com
(No ancestry information provided)

Neil Austin

358 Hillcrest Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
Richard Austin 1598 Titchfield, Eng.

The Sad Tale of the Orphan Austin Databases

Once upon a time, in an obscure part of cyberspace, there lived a terrible ogre, whose sole rationale for existence it was rumored, was to destroy genealogical databases. It (ogres have no specific sex) did this by taking the painstaking work of the many researchers dutifully exploring the limits of their lines, and entombing it onto countless hard drives and into notebooks and file cabinets, eventually erasing these collections of people and their history (our history actually) from our memories.

As in all stories of this nature, there lived our hero, a "Minnick of Cupertino," who made a valiant effort to collect these databases and to present them to the genealogy public as best he could using the magic mirror of the day (now called "The Web").

Our hero was even able to engage others in his crusade to preserve this data, and together they have now toiled for over a decade (a very long time in cyberspace) to get more and more of these databases established and published.

But even more importantly, our hero's major quest was to get data-parents for these databases, people who were willing to adopt a database, perhaps one including their line, and to nurture it, and expand it, to correct it and especially to protect the database from the terrible ogre! But, alas, he has not been able to find data-parents for all databases.

James D. Austin (Dub)

8209 Edgemoor Pl.
Austin, TX 78749
dub@jump.net
Asberry Austin, b. 1820's in NC?

Faye Thiessen

19 Dorothy Bay
Selkirk, MB, Canada R1A 2J8
lthiessen@blazeinet.com (l's are L's)
John Austin of Eng.
John L. Austin b. 11 Jun 1838
Umbridge, Eng., d. 2 Oct 1889 ND

Ron Austin

3834 Sandalwood Dr.
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
bioteachca@aol.com
William Garfield Austin, b. 1883, IA

So as a public service and in support of our hero, the *Newsletter* has published below a list of databases that are all alone in the world, without a parent, in grave danger of the ogre. In doing so, an appeal is made to you Austin researchers to consider adoption of one or more of these poor orphan databases, and help us place them on the Web along with their cousin databases. Please respond to Bonnie Bigolin (northern) or Liz Austin Carlin (southern).

Northern Austin Orphans:

Caleb of Oneida and Lewis Cos., NY
Charles of Oxford Co., ME
Daniel of Orleans Co., NY
Francis of Burlington, NJ
John of Stamford/New Haven, CT
John of Vermont
Jonah of Taunton, MA
Joseph of Dover, NH
Matthew of Wells, ME
Stephen of New York
Sylvester & Joseph of MI & IN
Thomas of Bethlehem, Albany Co., NY
Unlinked Maine Austins

Southern Austin Orphans:

Bartholomew of NC & VA
Isaac of VA & PA
Levi of West VA
Miles of VA
Nathaniel & John of White Co., TN
Nathaniel of Greenville, SC
Philip of Orange Co., NC
Richard of Anson Co., NC
Thomas of Currituck, NC
Thomas of Halifax Co., VA
William of Hyde Co., NC
William of (Wales) Hanover, VA
William & Milly of Anderson Co., TN

Existing Database Parents:

Robert of Kingston, RI - Don Challis
Richard of Charlestown, MA - Jim Carlin
Samuel of Boston, MA - Carol R. Austin
Daniel of ME - Bonnie Bigolin
Henry of Calvert Co., MD - Dan Whitley
Bartholomew of NC & VA - Liz Carlin
John of Lawrence Co., AL - Helen Cook
Larkin K. of Smith Co., TN - Eual Austin
William of Kent Co., MD - Welda Clemens
Thomas of VA & WVA - Linda West
John of Southside, VA - Garrett Austin
Rowley



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

For 58 years the Austin Families Association of America has existed to bring Austins together for a common cause. According to AFAOA bylaws, our objectives are:

1. To gather, preserve and disseminate Austin genealogies and Austin family histories.
2. To establish a specialized database of Austin information that can assist genealogists and family members to learn as much as possible about their Austin heritage.
3. To help foster wider acquaintances and long-term friendships among the members of all branches of the Austin families.

How are we meeting these objectives? Bonnie Bigolin and Liz Carlin, our present Genealogists, preserve and organize and continue to gather Austin data. They answer queries, searching AFAOA's collection of research notes, manuscripts and computer databases for the answers to your questions.

Through the work of many members over the past decade, almost a dozen Austin family lines have been entered into computer format, a website was established and, through the power of the Internet, these databases are now available to the world. The work is ongoing, with three new databases added this year.

This newsletter is important, not only because it provides a way to share information of interest to Austins but because it helps us to know each other better and therefore to work together more effectively. Please share the research you have done and the family stories you have discovered.

Keeping in touch by newsletter is good, but getting together in person is better. At our annual convention we learn and we teach; we make new friends and maintain old friendships; we have fun! Won't you join us this year?

If you are thinking about attending the convention I would love to hear from you, so easy with e-mail. What would you like to have included in the convention program? Any questions about Madison? If you can't be there I would still like to hear from you. Do you have any questions, suggestions, comments about your family association? Where would you like the convention to be held next year?

Whatever you do, I hope you have a great summer. Good luck in your Austin research!

Alice Austin Martin
AFAOA President

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

The Society was chartered in 1853 and is the oldest American historical society to receive continuous public funding. It serves as the archives of the State of Wisconsin and maintains a library, museum, and research facility in Madison as well as a statewide system of historic sites, area research centers and affiliated local societies.

Lyman Draper served as the Society's first director from 1854 to 1886. Draper had a lifelong interest in the history of the trans-Allegheny West, a region including the western areas of the Carolinas and Virginia, portions of Georgia and Alabama, the Ohio River Valley and the upper Mississippi Valley, from the 1740's to the period of the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

His travels and research resulted in a collection of nearly 500 volumes of records - including biographical sketches, journals, interviews, and correspondence - known as the Draper Manuscripts, which can be viewed on microfilm at major libraries around the country.

The State Historical Society Library possesses one of the largest genealogical collections in the country. Nearly one-fifth of the entire library collection, now over 3.5 million items, deals with family or local history.

Library Hours

The Library is open from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Library is closed on Sunday.

Library Collections

American History

For a century and a half the Library has collected the history of the U.S. and Canada, including political and military affairs, multicultural history, women's history, religion, folklore, anthropology, architecture, labor history, genealogy and more. Generally speaking, it has not collected the history of American literature, art, sciences, or business, nor does it collect international materials, because those areas are collected by University of Wisconsin—Madison libraries.

Genealogy

The Library collects genealogical and local history publications for the U.S. and Canada; it has no European materials and does not collect manuscript or unpublished material. Strengths of the collection include about 20,000 book length family histories, a complete file of all the available schedules of the 1790-1920 U.S. censuses as well as the censuses of Canada 1666-1881, nearly all vital records for Wisconsin before 1907, and microforms of major genealogical collections from other institutions.

Government Publications

The Library is the official depository for all State of Wisconsin publications and, with the University of Wisconsin, is a regional depository for United States government publications. It is also a selective depository for Canadian national and provincial documents and holds official state publications from many states outside Wisconsin. The latter collections are especially strong for the nineteenth century.

Please see "Library", page 7



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:**

Bonnie Bigolin (Northern Austins)
P.O. Box 1094
Green River, WY 82935-1094

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

Q10-1,1 - Betsy Cushman, 21945 Wildwood, Dearborn, MI 48128. ElizCush53@aol.com

I have old photographs (pre-1900) of descendants/relatives of Lucius Montgomery Austin (1802-1887) and Melissa Whiting (1805-1878) of Austinburg, Ohio, especially sisters of Elizabeth Austin (1827-1915): Ellen Melissa Austin, b. 1832, m. George Phelps; Emily b. 1839, m. Charles Austin Gaylord; Cornelia b. 1844, m. Albert Henry Snow. I am trying to find their descendants to give these photos to. Any suggestions appreciated.

Q10-1,2 - Ginger Austin, 1246 Scenic Dr. N. Muskegon, MI 49445. vaustin@remc4.k12.mi.us

Thomas W. Austin came to Zanesville, Muskingham Co., Ohio by 1830. First wife was Mary A., d. Dec 1843. He married his second wife Ann Moore Chinn, widow of Lot Barr, Sep 1844. In 1860, they were in Terre Haute, Vigo Co., Indiana. Thomas was b. abt 1797 in Maryland. Looking for any Maryland connection.

Q10-1,3- Dub Austin, 8209 Edgemoor Pl., Austin, TX 78749. dub@jump.net

Anderson Austin shown in 1840 census for Davidson Co., North Carolina with wife Rachel and 3 children. In 1850, widow Rachel with children Asberry (m) b. 1835, Mary J. b. 1839, and Cornelia Ann b. 1842. In 1860, Asberry is in adjacent Davies Co., North Carolina, married Elizabeth Jane Naylor, daughter of Batson Naylor, and they had son Thomas Battson and daughter Rachel A. Looking for information on Anderson and Asberry's families.

A VISIT TO TITCHFIELD

Editor's Note: In 1996 and again in 1998 Lois and Bob Cody made journeys to the village of Titchfield in Hampshire as part of their vacation trips to England. They visited this small English village because it is believed that Richard Austin, the progenitor of the Richard Austin line was born there in 1598. Here is their report (photos by the authors):

THE VILLAGE

Titchfield is a typical English village located on the Southern Coast of England midway between Portsmouth on the east and Southampton on the west. Nearby in the English Channel is the Isle of Wight. Contrary to our limited expectations, we found a picturesque, yet thriving, village which boasted of important Paleolithic remains, the oldest standing piece of ecclesiastic architecture in Hampshire (St. Peter's Church), the site of a famous monastic library (Titchfield Abbey), one of the earliest known canals, a handsome medieval barn, and buildings associated with both Shakespeare and early 18th century industrial developments. Some build-



ings near the town square date back to the 14th century.

Although situated near the Channel, Titchfield is not and never has been a fishing village. Through the centuries, the chief occupation of the villagers has been centered around agriculture and associated industries such as brewing, tanning, and the weaving and fulling of cloth. Indeed, the name of the village itself is thought to have been derived from the Anglo-Saxon "ticce" meaning kid or goat. Therefore, Titchfield was "an open field where goats were pastured."

HISTORY

Titchfield is a truly ancient town. It is probable that it began life as the center of a large estate of the Anglo-Saxon Kings of Wessex in the 5th century AD. In the 7th century an important church was constructed there. The earliest documented reference to the village occurs in a Charter given to King Ethelred the Unready in 982 AD. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book commissioned by King William the Conqueror in 1086.

TITCHFIELD ABBEY

Just to the north of the village center lie the Abbey ruins. The Abbey was founded in 1231 for the White Canons by Peter des Roches, the Bishop of Winchester. Henry V stayed there in 1415 while his invasion fleet was being assembled. His son, Henry VI, was married in the Abbey to Margaret of Anjou in 1445. At the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII the Abbey passed into the possession of Sir Thomas Wriothesley (pronounced Risley), the first Earl of Southampton. He demolished most of the building and built

a home, "Place House."

The Third Earl was the friend and patron of Shakespeare and it is believed that Shakespeare stayed here. Local legend maintains that Romeo and Juliet was performed here. The fourth and last Earl gave shelter to Charles I on his flight to the Isle of Wight. In 1781 Place House was bought by Peter Delme who soon had most of it dismantled to build his new home in nearby Fareham.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

In the middle of the village, just off the town square, stands



St. Peter's Church. St. Peter's had its beginnings in the Anglo-Saxon period (probably the late 7th century). Still standing are the lower part of the original tower and several walls of the nave. As you enter the church, you pass through an elaborately carved arch and doorway from the Norman period (1160-1190). When you walk inside and turn around, you can see a window and the walls from the 7th century.

Numerous additions and changes were made during the Middle Ages. One of these was a chapel built in the 14th century. It is called the Southampton Chapel



and was used for the burial of the Earls of Southampton after the Dissolution. The Chapel now houses a pictorial and written history of the church. A wooden chest, that dates from the 14th-15th centuries, was used to house the church records which date from 1589. The actual records are now stored in the Hampshire Record Office in Winchester.

EVIDENCES OF AUSTINS

Despite the references in Edith Austin Moore's version, as well as the newly published update of SOME DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD AUSTIN – 1638, we could find no direct evidence that Richard Austin, the immigrant, was born in Titchfield. However, it is very likely that he was since his father (also named Richard) died and was buried there February 15, 1622 according the Parish Register. This is also confirmed by his will proved 6/4/1622. His older sister,

Agnes, was baptized in St. Peter's February 1, 1596 and married Edmund Littlefield there October 16, 1614. Baptisms of several of their children are also recorded. Edmund's father, Francis Littlefield, was a successful cloth maker and merchant. He also owned a fulling mill nearby. There are 8-10 other references to Austins in the Parish Register which covers the period 1598-1634. The will of William Awstyne (Austin) proved March 27, 1567 states that he is to be buried in the churchyard of Tycheffeld indicating that earlier Austins were residents of the village.

At some point Richard, the immigrant, must have moved from Titchfield to Bishopstoke located about 10 miles north because immigration records list him as Richard Austin, tailor of Bishopstoke. Perhaps the tailoring opportunities were better there than in the smaller village.

REFERENCES

1. TITCHFIELD, A HISTORY The Titchfield History Society 1982
2. ST. PETERS, TITCHFIELD The Church Publishers, Chapel Place Ramsgate 1990
3. TITCHFIELD PARISH REGISTER 1589-1634 The Titchfield History Society 1998
4. Richard Austin and William Awstyne Wills, Hampshire Records Office Winchester
5. Titchfield Website <http://www.interalpha.net/customer/titchfield>

UNITED STATES 1930 CENSUS

The 1930 federal census will be released in the year 2001. Only the southern states will be indexed. As part of the WPA project, workers started indexing the southern states, but WWII broke out before they finished the project. The states that were indexed are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and seven counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA, 1638 Database Has Been Updated

The Richard Austin database has been updated with additions and corrections collected for over two years now. The database now numbers 12,775 individuals and is available for browsing on the AFAOA Website. An 18 page corrections document has been prepared for owners of the Richard book (the corrections are keyed to the individual numbering system used throughout the book). This can be received as an Acrobat PDF document via e-mail attachment from the Richard Book compiler. Please visit www.rahul.net/afaof/richard_book.htm and click on the link: **Corrections**. This will open an e-mail request form on which you must enter your name, and snail mail address, and then click "send". For those without Internet access, please snail mail a request to Jim Carlin (see address on page 1 of the *Newsletter*) plus \$2.50 (repro/postage), and a copy will be mailed to you.

The deadline for the Newsletter Summer Issue is Saturday, 24 June 2000. Please send all articles to the Editors.

Austin roots after her father's death in 1912. She labored long and hard compiling histories and genealogies for New England Austins and allied families, and became the pre-eminent Austin family historian in New England. The research eventually exceeded the capabilities of one person, and she decided to get more Austin descendants involved.

In 1942 Edith and her brother Henry Warner Austin founded the Austin Family Association, with Henry serving as its first president and Edith as historian. At first, members were mostly Robert Austin descendants, but the new organization quickly grew to encompass Austin families of all lines. Edith published books on the lines of Robert Austin of Kingstown, RI and Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA and placed them, and several other Austin manuscripts, in the D.A.R. Library in Washington, DC and the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in Boston. Edith died in November 1979 at the age of 97. A few years earlier the position of Genealogist was passed to the late Janet Austin Curtis, who had been a professional genealogist for many years. Janet served until her health failed and passed the position to Bonnie Bigolin in 1991.

Over the years, this group has evolved into the AFAOA and AOAGS, both dedicated to research and distribution of Austin genealogical information. A convention has been held every year since 1941 except for three war years. After the '41 convention in Washington, DC, sites were small cities in New York or New England, until 1977 when they began to be scattered throughout the country. Recent conventions have been held in cities noted for their research facilities.

Ten years ago my wife Alice went to a meeting of the local genealogical society, and found in a magazine a list of family associations. The Austin association was listed. She copied the address and wrote, asking about a certain book that a friend had found earlier in the D.A.R. Library and used to help Alice join the D.A.R. The book was the DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD AUSTIN OF CHARLESTOWN, MA, 1638. Soon a letter from Lorena Austin arrived, and Alice joined AFAOA and ordered a copy of the book. Shortly after that she went to Suffield for the 1990 convention. She was expecting a grand gathering of hundreds, and instead found a wonderfully small and gracious group of friends; some were distant relatives but all seemed like family. Bill Minnick had a lap top computer and enthusiastically preached the future of genealogy on the Internet. Things have never been the same in our home since!

I have almost finished transcribing Edith's field notes – close to 2000 typed pages, six megabytes in Word97 – and they are now being used as a research reference by AFAOA and AOAGS.

Gay G. Martin

* * *

Enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter is your invitation to come to Madison, Wisconsin and participate in the 2000 National Austin Convention. Things may never be the same for you either!

House Has Historic Ties

Owners Enjoy Restoring Building Once Owned by Moses Austin

There is another Connecticut connection to the Lone Star State besides the ancestry of George W. Bush, the state's current governor and Republican presidential candidate.

Moses Austin, the Connecticut entrepreneur who arranged the first settlement of Americans in Texas, was a native of Durham. The Lone Star-Nutmeg linkage becomes even more evident with the fact that the 1743 Colonial where Austin was born at 256 Main St., Durham is now the carefully restored home of a couple with strong ties to both Durham and Texas.

William and Susan Gillespie bought the Moses Austin house in January 1998 and began an 18 month restoration that has returned the front section of the eight room house to what it looked like in 1783. That was the year that Moses Austin started out from Durham on the path that led him to Mexico City in 1820 to negotiate the terms of the first settlement of American colonists in the sparsely populated northern province of Texas.

Susan Gillespie said she was fully aware of the house's rich history when they began planning a move back to Connecticut from Texas in 1997. "We knew a lot about the history of the house, that was why we bought it," she said.

Along with a new kitchen and living room added to the back of the house, the restoration included the removal of a front porch that was added during the early 1900s. The removal brought the front of the house to the condition it was in during the years when Moses Austin was raised by his parents Elias and Eunice Austin.

The restoration work uncovered several hidden artifacts that confirm the status of the house as one of the most historically significant structures in Durham, and probably all of Middlesex County. The house was built as a small four room two story dwelling in 1743 and enlarged to the front with four additional rooms around 1765.

After removing plaster on the wall of a second floor bedroom, the Gillespies discovered a chalk drawing of a single masted schooner that is signed M. Austin. They believe the drawing is a childhood sketch done by Moses Austin.

The restoration also uncovered two young girl's shoes that were sealed behind a wall. Susan Gillespie said "concealment shoes" of children were often sealed in the walls of homes to bring good luck to those living in the home.

The Gillespies also restored a 1741 barn located behind the house and connected it with a foyer to the main dwelling. Their master bedroom includes the original chestnut beams of the barn, including one with the year 1768 carved in it.

After receiving approval for a settlement in Texas from the Spanish colonial rulers, Moses Austin died of pneumonia in June 1821. It was his son, Stephen Austin, who honored his father's final wish by establishing the first settlement of 300 families in the early 1820. The main settlement was named San Felipe de Austin in his honor.

* * *

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Hartford Courant in late February, 2000. It was clipped and sent to the AFAOA Newsletter (via Bonnie Bigolin) by Luella Austin Champion.

Library

Continued from page 2

Microforms

Nearly 2 million of the Library's items exist on some sort of microform, including 35mm and 16mm film, microfiche, and microcard, and these represent virtually all the subject areas in which the Library collects. Newspapers, manuscript collections, vital records, PhD dissertations, pre-1820 American books, archival series, and pre-1850 American magazines can all be found in large numbers.

Newspapers and Periodicals

The Society has the second-largest newspaper collection in the United States. It is truly a national collection spanning the period from the seventeenth century to the present. The Society's newspaper collection consists of 11,740 bound volumes, over 100,000 reels of microfilm, and 17,168 sheets of microprint.

The serials collection has a number of areas of particular strength, including: Wisconsin newspapers, the largest collection of colonial and early American newspapers west of the Appalachians, and the largest collection of labor papers in the nation. The Society Library's holdings of "underground" or alternative newspapers are also extensive.

Other areas of the collection that have attained national importance are Native American and African-American newspapers and periodicals, abolitionist, ethnic, military, nineteenth-century religious, radical/reform, and women. Among rarities in the newspaper collection are the first African-American and Native American newspapers and the first Bohemian, Dutch, Norwegian, and Spanish language newspapers published in the United States.

The library's website is: <http://www.shsw.wisc.edu/library/>



Please help to spread the word about the Austin convention by posting the enclosed flyer in the genealogy section of your local library. Extra copies will be sent upon request if you would like to distribute them in additional locations.



HIT TOO MANY BRICK WALLS LATELY?

Christine Horn <chorn@mail.powr.net> writes: "At the Family History Center at the LDS Church where I am the director, we get mail sometimes that brings a smile and often a chuckle. Thought I would share it with all of you."

To the FHC, enclosed, please find my grandmother. I have worked on her for 50 years without success. Now see what you can do.

I've looked for grandpa for over 20 years. Do you have him in your library?

I am sorry we do not have complete families. The trouble here is extracting the children from the minister.

Our grandfather was found dead, crossing the plains in the library.

For Sale: We have an antique desk just right for genealogy work and a lady, with thick legs, and large drawers.

Research in Wisconsin:

Area Research Center Network

The Wisconsin Area Research Center (ARC) network is a coalition of 14 archival repositories located across the state, mostly on the UW System campuses. The various ARCs are administered by the institutions in which they reside and work in cooperation with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin to protect the state's historical resources. They service geographically based collections, many of which are owned and maintained by the State Historical Society. A unique feature of Wisconsin's ARC network is the transfer of original records among network archives for patron convenience and research. Contact information for each of the 14 centers is listed below:

1. Columbia, Dane, Sauk Counties - State Hist. Soc., 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706-1488; 608-264-6460 e-mail: archive.reference@ccmail.adp.wisc.edu
2. Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau Counties - UW La Crosse e-mail: beck_pb@mail.uwlax.edu
3. Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland Counties - UW - Platteville email: freymilm@uwplatt.edu
4. Jefferson, Rock, Walworth Counties - UW - Whitewater e-mail: westonk@uwwvax.uww.edu
5. Kenosha, Racine Counties - UW - Parkside website: www.uwp.edu/info-services/library/archives.htm
6. Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha Counties - UW - Milwaukee e-mail: t1e@gml.lib.uwm.edu
7. Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Winnebago Counties - UW - Oshkosh e-mail: ranger@uwosh.edu
8. Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano Counties - UW - Green Bay e-mail: andersod@uwgb.edu
9. Adams, Forest, Juneau, Landlode, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, Wood Counties - UW - Stevens Point e-mail: rwachter@uwsp.edu
10. Buffalo, Chippewa, CLark, Eau Claire, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor Counties - UW - Eau Claire e-mail: lynchld@uwec.edu
11. Barron, Dunn, Pepin Counties - UW - Stout e-mail: thoriek@uwstout.edu
12. Burnett, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, Washburn Counties - UW - River Falls e-mail: susan.g.watson@uwr.edu
13. Douglas County - Superior Public Library e-mail: zachauj@ci.superior.wi.us
14. Ashlund, Bayfield, Iron Counties - Northern Great Lakes Visitor's Center, Linda Mittlestad, 715-685-2648

Perry Lucius Austin 1844-1920

John Austin was born in 1784 in Manchester Vermont. When he was 21, he married 17 year old Lucy French. The following year, they loaded their belongings into a wagon pulled by a team of oxen and headed to western New York state. They built a log cabin in West Hamburg, 12 miles south of Buffalo. The first winter, they didn't even have a door on the cabin yet, just a blanket hung in the doorway to shelter them from the wind.

One winter day, John had to go Buffalo. He left Lucy in bed with their 6 month old daughter Eliza and left his rifle near her at the head of the bed. While he was gone she heard something at the door and saw the blanket move, she raised the rifle and fired. She then re-loaded the rifle but heard no more.

John returned just before dark and found a large black bear lying in the doorway, he called out to Lucy and she answered that she was all right. He rolled the bear out of the doorway and went inside. Later he dressed the bear and they had meat and a robe. John was a millwright and a farmer. He built a sawmill on his farm powered by water from the creek running through his property.

Harmon, their first son, married Jane Wilson who died within a year. He then married Elvira Parks. Elvira was related to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the war of 1812 hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. She named her first son Perry in honor of her famous cousin. They had four more children, Lafayette C., Hermon Delose, Cassius and Emma J.

They had a farm adjoining John and Lucy's. Harmon and his sons operated the sawmill, farmed and worked as carpenters. Elvira's sister Julia was the local school teacher and Perry began school at the age of three. When Perry was 16, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. He got caught up with patriotic fervor, joined the Wide Awakes, went on torchlight processions and enlisted in the New York Militia. Since he was under age, he required parental permission to join. His father refused permission, but after the third time that Perry tried to enlist, he relented and signed the necessary papers.

When the recruiting sergeant was filling out the enlistment papers and asked his name. Perry told him and the sergeant said, "Middle initial?" "Don't have one." Answered Perry. "Everybody's gotta have one," says the Sarge, "I'll put down 'L'."

Perry was assigned to Company M, 90th New York Cavalry and was sent to Camp Relief in Washington, D.C. The second day in camp he went on his first raid and was out two days in pouring rain. When they returned, President Lincoln came to review the troops. Not yet having been issued a uniform, Perry stood at attention in his farm clothes. At six foot four, Perry was the tallest man in the company, as Lincoln walked along the row of men, he got to Perry, stopped,

looked him straight in the eye, shook his hand and said, "You look like the second rail splitter to me."

Perry was stationed in Washington for nineteen months, and then got orders to go to New Orleans. They sailed down along Cape Hatteras and arrived in New Orleans July 4th, 1864. They rode up the Mississippi to Baton Rouge on scouting patrol, went up the Red River with General Banks, then went on a raid of Pascagoula, Mississippi. They then set out with six days rations but were gone for 30 days and had to forage for a living. They ended up at Key West where a troop transport met them and brought them back to Baton Rouge. They then went to Vicksburg where they encountered zero degree weather and nearly froze to death. For the rest of the war, he did patrol and scouting.

Perry by then had been promoted to sergeant and had been involved in dozens of battles and skirmishes. He mustered out at Memphis and returned via Chicago to Buffalo where he received his discharge at Buffalo June 12th 1865, 5 days before his 21st birthday.

The sergeant filling out his discharge papers asked his name. "Perry L. Austin" answered Perry. "What's the L stand for?", asked the sergeant. "Doesn't stand for nuthin'." said Perry. "It's gotta stand for sumthin'." said the sergeant, "I'll put down Lucius."

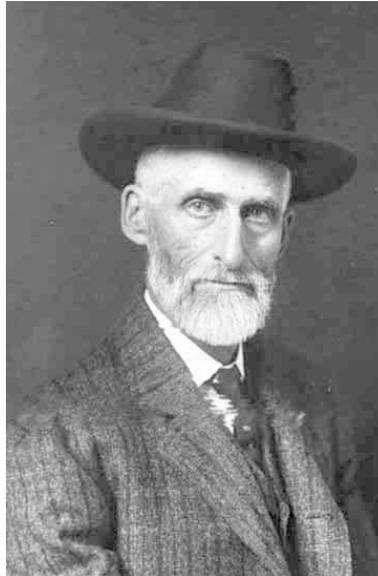
Perry Lucius married Arabelle Stoddard Sept 27, 1866 and began farming next to his father. In 1869 he sold his farm to his brother Lafayette and went west to Illinois, looking for land and working as a hired hand for a while before returning for his wife.

He brought her to Waukegan, Illinois where he ran a farm for her uncle. In 1871 he returned to New York alone to collect their household belongings. He loaded them into a wagon and with the wagon full of goods and a team of horses, boarded a sailing ship to travel from Buffalo to Chicago.

Due to storms and many other problems, the voyage took three months. His worried wife, Belle walked the bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan for weeks vainly searching the horizon for signs of the ship's sails. He finally arrived at Chicago the morning of October 8th where he hitched his team to the wagon and drove north out of Chicago just hours before Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern that started the Chicago Fire.

They settled in Waukegan where Perry worked as a building contractor and they raised their family. Perry was a deacon in the First Baptist Church, and was actively involved in the GAR and the Odd Fellows Lodge. Belle died of blood poisoning in 1900 and Perry died on Christmas day, 1920 at the age of 76.

Editor's Note: This fascinating story of Perry Austin was just "re-discovered" on our hard drive, a victim apparently of the data ogre. Unfortunately, the contributor's name has been lost, and we hasten to apologize.



2000 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

(Please tear off this last *Newsletter* page, fill in and mail)

Please write names as you wish them to appear on name tags.
Send completed form and your check, before June 25, to:

Lois W. Cody
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215-2040

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations BEFORE June 25. Call (608) 251-5511

2000 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin – July 28, 29, 30

NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANT(S) WITH SAME ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: (Street) _____

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

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

EARLIEST KNOWN AUSTIN ANCESTORS (WITH PLACE AND DATE):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I will arrive in Madison on (date) _____ at (time) _____.

I am interested in a tour of the State Historical Society Library on Friday afternoon:
____ Yes ____ No.

I understand that the Convention Registration Fee is \$50 per person. This fee includes all convention programs, meetings and materials, use of research computers and the Sunday banquet. Family members who will attend ONLY the banquet pay a Banquet Fee of \$30.

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

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

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

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$15 PER YEAR SHOULD BE SENT TO LOIS CODDY, 336 PLEASANT HILL DR., CINCINNATI, OH 45215-2040

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2000 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

MADISON, WISCONSIN
JULY 28-30, 2000

Jointly Sponsored by:

Austin Families Association of America (AFAOA) and
Austins of America Genealogical Society (AOAGS).

When: (tentative agenda)

Friday, July 28, 1:00 – 5:00 PM, Registration, library tours.
5:00 – 6:00 PM, "Let's Get Acquainted" Reception.
7:00 – 9:00 PM Research room open.

Saturday, July 29, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Speakers and
Workshops.

Sunday, July 30, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Speakers and
Workshops.
6:00 PM, Reception.
7:00 PM, Annual Banquet.

Where:

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 525 West Johnson Street,
Madison, Wisconsin. Complimentary parking and indoor pool.
Shuttle service to airport and UW campus (SHSW Library).

Room rate:

\$82 + tax for regular room, one Queen Bed or two Double
Beds (1 – 4 persons); \$87 + tax for Home Office Room
(includes sofa or recliner, refrigerator & microwave).

All rooms have coffee makers, hair dryers, iron/ironing boards,
desk w/phone dataport. Convention rates apply for the dates
of Wed., July 26 through Tues., August 1. A block of forty
rooms will be held until June 27. Reservations received after
June 27 will be honored on a space available basis only. Call
(608) 251-5511 to make your reservations.

Convention registration fee:

\$50 per person – includes Sunday night banquet. (There will
be a \$30 banquet fee for family members of attendees who
wish to attend the banquet but will not be attending the day
sessions.)

Check out these Internet Web Sites:

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel: www.hjplazamadison.com/
Library, State Historical Society of Wisconsin:
www.shsw.wisc.edu/library/

Madison Visitors Bureau: www.visitmadison.com/

Austin Families Association of America:
www.afaoa.org/

Austins of America Genealogical Society
www.aoags.org/