



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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

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Special Convention Issue

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Last Call for the 2001 National Austin Convention

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

JULY 27, 28 & 29, 2001

Where: The Crowne Plaza Hotel, One West Street, Pittsfield, MA. A special weekend rate of \$139 has been made available to convention attendees for reservations made through June 29. After that date, regular rates and availability apply. Make your reservations by calling 413-499-2000. You may learn more about the hotel and its facilities on the web at <http://www.berkshirecrowne.com>.

Since many attendees will want to come before (or stay after) the Convention for sightseeing and research, the special rate of \$109 per night applies from Sunday 22 July to Thursday 26 July, and from Sunday 29 July to Thursday 2 August.

How to get there:

If you are driving, take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), to the Lee exit (Exit 2), bear right after the toll booth

onto Route 20 West. Follow Route 20 through Lee and Lenox towards Pittsfield. After 10.6 miles Route 20 merges with Route 7. Follow Route 7 north towards Pittsfield for another 1.3 miles, turn left onto West Street and you are there!

If you are flying, Albany, New York is the closest airport, about an hours drive (48 miles) from Pittsfield. AOAGS will be providing a free shuttle service between the Albany airport and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. To arrange for this, please provide the Convention Registrar with your flight arrival-departure information when you pre-register for the Convention (see below), and be sure and let her know of any last-minute changes.

Convention registration fee: \$50 per person – includes all convention meetings and the Sunday evening banquet. There will be a \$30 banquet fee

for family members or friends of attendees who wish to attend just the banquet.

Agenda:

Friday, July 27 1:00 – 5:00 PM Registration
2:00 PM National Archives & Records Administration Tour
5:00 – 6:00 PM “Let’s Get Acquainted” Reception.
7:00 – 9:00 PM Research room open.
Saturday, July 28 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Speakers, Workshops.

Sunday, July 29 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Speakers and Workshops.
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Annual Banquet. Guest speaker, and presentation of the AOAGS Austin Genealogical Research Award.

Registration: Please tear off the last page of this issue of the *Newsletter* and mail it with your registration fee to the Convention Registrar: **Cheryl Austin Akusis, 66 Gifford**



Dr. Michael E. Austin Conducting a 2000 National Austin Convention Workshop

Lane, Concord MA 01742-2235.

If you have any questions regarding Convention Registration or the Albany Airport shuttle service, please contact Cheryl directly.

Coming to Your Screen July 1st!

The AFAOA is proud to announce the debut of our new webmaster **Joy Davis** AND the new AFAOA web site. You will find it at <http://www.afaao.org/> Joy has worked hard to improve the general look and content including an easier to use alphabetical index for your Austin ancestor. She has introduced a new Query page for your use. Please visit, browse about for a while and feedback your comments to Joy at afaao@worldnet.att.net.

<http://www.afaao.org>



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To those who will be attending the convention: Wonderful! We're going to have a great time. Don't forget to bring any pictures you I hope you can stay long enough to do some research at the National Archives and the Berkshire Athenaeum and enjoy the many cultural attractions in the area. A visit to the Sheffield Family History Center is being planned for Monday afternoon. Nathaniel and Anthony Austin and their families were original settlers of this historic area. Please let me know if you would like to go along.

To those who are undecided: It's not too late! For planning purposes, we really need to know now. The hotel will only guarantee availability of rooms until June 29; after July 20 we can't guarantee you a place at the banquet - but we'll do our best to make it possible. Please notify me or Cheryl Akusis if there is a chance you can be there. We'll be happy to see you, even if we hear from you late.

To those who will not be there: We understand that many of our members are not willing or able to travel long distances to the annual convention. Would you attend if we met at a location near you? or in an area of special interest to you? If so, where?

Those who do attend have the responsibility of choosing the site for next year's convention and would like to know how attendance could be increased. Let your voice be heard NOW. Send your comments and suggestions to me and they will be considered. Most of you have e-mail and my address is below - couldn't be easier. Or call; or send a postcard. Please take the time to comment.

Whatever you do, have a good summer!
Alice

Alice Austin Martin
105 San Souci Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564

ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation now welcomes all genealogy researchers to search for and tell stories about passengers who came to America through Ellis Island and the Port of New York. Browse the American Family History Center web site at:

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

<http://www.afaofa.org>

PITTSFIELD GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Pittsfield has become one of the richest areas to mine for New England genealogical material. Among the repositories listed below are literally thousands of primary, secondary and tertiary resources.

Northeast Region of the National Archives

Mon. - Fri. 8 - 4, Wed. 8 - 9

The holdings of NARA's Northeast Region includes all available census records; military service, pension and bounty land warrant records, naturalization and passenger arrival records. For a more detailed list visit <http://www.nara.gov/regional/pittsfie.html>

The Berkshire Athenaeum - Local History & Genealogy Department

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9 - 5, Tues. & Thurs. 9 - 9, Sat. 10 - 5

Radiating from its strong focus on Berkshire County and Western Massachusetts research materials, this collection offers histories for nearly every town in the Commonwealth and neighboring areas. In addition to Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and early Rhode Island resources, material is available on Maine, New Hampshire and adjacent New York counties east of the Hudson river. To learn more about the collection, visit <http://gemini.berkshire.net/PittsfieldLibrary/>

Adjacent to the Athenaeum is the Superior Court House, and two doors west is the Probate Court and the Registry of Deeds for Central Berkshire.

LOOKING FOR A HOME

A home is needed for the following three documents, which contain the Austin name. These documents, found in an estate sale in Michigan, belonged to Arthur Howard Austin of New York, who was born April 20, 1904 and was married to Lola Brown. He may have owned a Taxi Company in Buffalo, NY or Newark, NJ.

1. A certificate dated March 1806 shows that John Austin was a Master Mason in Lodge 958 - Enniscorthy. (There is a town named Enniscorthy in Ireland, but none was found in New York or New Jersey.)

2. John Austin's funeral expenses, incurred by E. M. (or H.) Campbell, lists the price of the coffin (\$25.00), gloves, coaches, etc.. John died in Newark, NJ in 1856.

3. A three page record of plot ownership of Thomas Austin (John's son?) from the Fairmont Cemetery Association of Newark, NJ is dated 1856.

Anyone with an interest in these documents should contact Alice Austin Martin, AFAOA President.

2001 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Crowne Plaza Hotel — Pittsfield, Massachusetts – July 27, 28, 29

Please write your names as you wish them to appear on your Convention nametags:

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Person 3 _____

Person 4 _____

Street address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Your Earliest Known Austin Ancestors (with places and dates):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I would like to be met at the airport in Albany, New York: Yes No

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

I am interested in the National Archives and Records Administration Center tour on Friday afternoon: Yes No

I understand that the Convention Registration Fee is \$50 per person, which includes the Convention programs, meetings and materials, use of research computers and the Sunday Banquet. Family members attending only the banquet pay just the Banquet Fee of \$30.

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

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

Enclosed is my check for the total \$ _____

**Please send your completed form and your check payable to the
“National Austin Convention” before July 20th to the Convention Registrar:**

**Cheryl Austin Akusis
66 Gifford Lane
Concord, MA 01742-2235**

* * * *

You can take advantage of special convention hotel room rates
so please ask for these when you make your
hotel reservations directly with the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**
by calling **1-413-499-2000**.

REMEMBER

The special rate rooms will be blocked until 29 Jun 2001.

<http://www.afaoa.org>

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

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
336 Pleasant Hill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215-2040
<http://www.afaoa.org/>

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2001 NATIONAL AUSTIN CONVENTION

July 27-29 Pittsfield, MA



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