



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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

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LDS Microfilm Data to Go Online

Imagine: The world's finest, largest collection of genealogy information is housed in a mountain vault in Utah. Only part of the 2 million films is available to the public. Even then, it's available only to those who can visit the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, or who are willing to wait while an ordered microfilm works its way to a Family History Center somewhere in the world. When it does arrive, the patron can view it only on a microfilm viewer at the local center. Often, the records aren't indexed, so the searching involves many tedious, eye-tiring hours of scrolling from image to image. That's the situation today.

Now imagine this: A million volunteers around the world use a new online software program to access and index those 2 million microfilms. Meantime, the films are digitized. The digitized films and the corresponding indexes are then made available on the Internet, so that anyone anywhere in the world can access them at no cost via a Web browser.

This may sound like a dream, but it's on the verge of becoming reality. The first glimpse of plans to engage a vast volunteer crew to index films that will be digitized was made public at the meeting in Salt Lake City of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in September, and confirmed by Alan Mann at the SVC GG October meeting.

The new plans build on decades of work. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been provided significant support for family history beginning early in the church, even before Brigham Young moved church members to Salt Lake City in the 1840s and 1850s. Over the years, more than 2 million rolls of microfilm of family history records have been collected from around the world and have been archived in a vault cut into the granite walls of Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah. When the vault was built in 1960, the LDS Church already had a huge collection of microfilm. Today, Church-sponsored camera crews scattered around the world are filming additional records.

Most of the records are open to the public.

Some agencies have placed restrictions on access to specific films because of privacy and copyright issues. Films without restricted access are circulated for a small fee through the many Family History Centers throughout the world. Anyone, regardless of religious affiliation, can order these films and use the other resources found in the Family History Centers.

The recently announced plans for an ambitious project to digitize the films for access on the Internet will involve in volunteer groups compiling searchable indexes to information on the film. The LDS Church is recruiting volunteers, particularly volunteers from genealogical organizations, to extract the names of individuals and other information from the film. The extraction process will work much like that used for earlier projects such as the 1880 U.S. Census and the 1881 British Isles Census which were published on CD-ROM. The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group will make arrangements for a group project to involve its hundreds of members.

Many of the microfilms have several thousand pages of information, and many are in languages other than English. The project has started on a limited scale and was demonstrated at FGS on networked computers. Before a film can be indexed, its copyright and other usage restrictions must be cleared, and in many cases renegotiated.

Each set of data records will be extracted by two individuals who have no contact with each other. The data from the two extractors then will be compared. Where the two sets of extracted data agree, the extraction will be accepted as correct. Any differences between the data will be checked by a third person who determines the correct extraction of the data.

When the data extraction for a given set of records is completed, the indexed data will be linked with scanned images of the data, which can be viewed over the Web by clicking on the item of interest in the index. It will be much like the census data on Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com, which are indexed and linked to the images of the actual census returns. Because of the massive volume of information, please see "LDS Data" on page 2.

<http://www.afaqa.org>

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Doradee Basher

2522 Community Ave.
Montrose, CA 91020
dcarmen777@cs.com
George William Austin b. abt. 1840 NY.

Lynda Manning-Schwartz

4905 Brushy Dr.
Austin, TX 78744
lmschwartz@austin.rr.com

Donald K. Cody

17A Heritage Crest
Southbury, CT 06488
dkcody@charter.net
Robert b. ca 1638, Edward b. ca 1667.

Marietta McRae Austin

2002 Green 120 Rd.
P.O. Box 160
Peach Orchard, AR 72453-0160
mariettaaustin@hotmail.com
David Passmore Austin, Julian Castle Austin b. 1885, Pelham Austin b. 1907.

Michael J. Howard

2280 Montgomery Ave.
Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007
mjhow@cox.net
Robert Austin ca 1634 England, Edward Austin b. ca 1666 Washington Co., RI, John Austin b. ca 1692 N. Kingston, Washington Co., RI.

Please check your newsletter mailing label for your renewal date. Also, please notify me if your address is changing, so that your newsletter will arrive promptly.

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

Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman

"LDS Data" continued from page 1

formation involved, the LDS site promises to be more comprehensive than any other genealogy site currently on the Internet.

Editor's Note: Permission to re-print this article was granted by the Silicon Valley Computer Group, and reflects their copyright dated 2005. More information on this group can be obtained by visiting their web site:
www.svcomputergenealogy.org

Sally Schafer

25 Wild Horse Valley Rd.
Novato, CA 94947
ssmes@comcast.net
William Austin of Kent Co., MD b. ca 1651, Nathan Austin b. 30 Sep 1838 Burke Co., NC, Sallie Austin Colt b. 23 Mar 1871 TX.

Deborah Austin

4924 Bristle Cone Circle
Aberdeen, MD 21001
daustinasbury@comcast.net
Clayton Eugene Austin b. 4 Feb 1914 NC, Henry Austin b. NC.

Ann Austin Willis

11093 Alta Vista Rd. Lot 8
Keller, TX 76248
awillis641@netscape.net
John Austin b. 1680 Pembory, Kent Co., England, John Austin b. 1701 Cornwall Parish, VA, John Austin b. 1720/30 Brunswick Co., VA.

* * *

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

Become a "Featured Family"

The center portion of the AFAOA web site's Home page has been allocated to a new feature where Austin family histories can be presented. At the present time, the story of the Rev. E. F. Austin's 1871 Nebraska buffalo hunt for food and winter provisioning is featured.

<http://www.afaqa.org>

Attention Members

This is your chance to select the 2006 convention site.

We now have procedures so all AFAOA members can help choose the site of the 2006 Austin National Convention. Since this convention will be sponsored jointly by the Austin Families Association of America and the Austin Families Genealogical Society, each organization has proposed two sites. You are asked to select one of the four sites and then 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 to membership@afaqa.org.

Each paid AFAOA membership has one vote. However, if you are also a member of AFGS you can also vote using the ballot you will receive with the next AFGS *Austin Families Register* or on the AFGS web site.

The exact date for the convention will be decided after the site is chosen, but will probably be in late June or early July 2006. Please send in your vote even if you are not sure that you can attend. *Votes must be sent now and must be received by November 30, 2005.*



Members can prepare short biographies, or stories of family happenings not to exceed 750 words, with up to 4 pictures (color or black and white), and send these to myfamilystory@afaqa.org.

One of the pictures will be posted on the home page center space along with a link to a new page where the family story and the balance of any photographs will be presented.

The Rev. Austin's hunting story, currently the Featured Family on the web site, is a good example of what is intended for this feature. Other examples of such stories have appeared in past issues of the *Newsletter*, one of which was the description of the evening that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Both involve Austins, which is really the only restriction.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The planning process has started for the 2006 Austin Convention and your input is needed. We want to know where you would like the convention to be held. Four places have been nominated. Just fill in the ballot from this newsletter and mail it, or send the same information in an e-mail to membership@afaoa.org.

You have one vote per paid membership. The convention will be sponsored jointly by Austin Families Association of America and Austin Families Genealogical Society, so if you are also a member of AFGS you can vote again on an AFGS ballot or on the AFGS web site. The results will be combined. Votes must be received by the end of November. Watch our web site and the next Newsletter to find out which location was selected.

Some of our members took a heavy blow in the storm that hit the Gulf Coast in August. Genealogical data that has been collected over the years, as well as family photos that have been handed down for generations, are in danger from many types of destruction - not just hurricanes but also home fires, floods, tornados, etc... That is why it is such a good idea to share your genealogical data with others.

Pictures can be scanned, papers can be copied, the database from your genealogy computer program can be attached to an e-mail. The sharing should start with your immediate family and work out from there - children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and cousins. Even if they say that they are not interested they will keep the information and maybe some day it will be passed down to another generation, or given back to you if the unthinkable happens.

You want to get the best quality picture copies that you can to pass down. Making a high-resolution digital image will typically give you better results and digital image files never degrade and are easy to share. Remember photos without names and dates will be next to worthless to future generations.

And don't forget the Austin Families Association of America; send a copy of your Austin data and pictures for our archives. This includes not only completed work but work in progress and raw data that you have collected. The more you share your genealogical data the better chance that it will survive for future generations to use.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
AFAOA President

Scan, Copy and Share!

On the morning of August 29, 2005 the unbelievable happened. A hurricane pushing water and waves up to thirty feet high smashed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast bringing destruction never before seen. Coast residents have experienced many storms and hurricanes, the worst before now being Camille in 1969, but none like Katrina. Homes that had stood for more than 100 years were swept away - ours was among them.



Gay and I were prepared for flooding and roof damage - we moved valuables to protected, interior areas of the house - but none of that mattered as the house was reduced to rubble and we escaped with only our lives.

The results of twenty years of genealogy research - shelves full of notebooks and binders, file cabinets with research information, a large computer database, many old pictures - were all lost, or so it seemed at first. Yes, the paper copies were lost and the data on our computers was not retrievable. But we had done several things right.

1. We had scanned most of those old pictures.
2. Using my computer genealogy program I had entered, not only names and dates, but notes and narratives - and that was included in family group sheets saved as Word files.
3. (most important) All those picture and Word files had been put on discs and sent to our three daughters and copies of my database had been shared with several relatives. I have already gotten those back.
4. Notebooks with much of my Austin research data were always taken to the annual Austin conventions, copies made and shared with others. I anticipate having copies of that information returned to me.

We have a home again, and a new computer, and soon I will begin the task of gathering the pieces of our family history and putting them back together again. Of course I wish I had scanned every picture and that I had noted every reference, even scanned those pages too. Some of the research I had done was truly lost because I was not always thorough and consistent in recording it. But much was saved because I digitized and shared. I hope you will do the same and protect your research for future generations.

Alice Austin Martin
Ocean Springs, MS

Editor's Note: All the Edith Austin Moore field notebooks were also lost. However they had been transcribed by Gay Martin and are shared with Austin researchers on the AFAOA web site. Gay received the Austin Genealogical Research Award in 2001 for this 4 year project.

Take Nothing for Granted!

While I have always had an interest in genealogy it became a serious hobby some 30 or 35 years ago. I've made plenty of mistakes and hopefully have learned from them. The most important thing to remember is to take nothing for granted.

Tradition is a place to start but must be verified. A cousin certified that his family believed that our grandfather Williams, who came from Wales, helped build the Erie Canal. My story is that it had been built many years before grandfather came over in 1869. He worked his way as far as Ohio as a teamster driving horses on the towpath pulling canal boats, then westward until he reached a Welsh settlement in Ohio.

Vital records are subject to misinformation and interpretation. My wife, nee Alice Amelia Schubert, knew she was born at Viola, Richland County, Wisconsin. When she went to get a copy of her birth record there was none. When she asked an uncle he said she was born in Vernon County at LaFarge, Wisconsin.

The register of deeds of Vernon County required more verification. Her uncle and the man who had been the village clerk at the time of the birth certified the birth and she was entered in the Vernon County birth records as a delayed birth.

We have since proved her birthplace with an item in Viola's local paper, "The Viola News". The edition that announced WAR DECLARED (WW I) had an item on the front page announcing the birth. When Alice was six months old, the little family did move to LaFarge – and that is what the elderly gentleman remembered as her birthplace.

Census records are a great help but data is often wrong as to ages, place of birth, and even names. Alice's Slaback family should have shown up in a certain census – and did. In the census the name was entered as Kebeck, but could be verified by names, places of birth, etc. Since the census taker had about six months to do his work, about October to March, and his penmanship was often not the best, errors do abound.

Wills are good sources of data but often list children by nicknames, or if deceased, not at all. Along with the wills are obituaries, written by someone after the deceased's death. Just look at the corrections listed on the current local paper's obit page and you will see what I mean.

Researchers are great sources of data, especially those with family connections but are given to many errors, usually from assumptions. While of some use I find their work a case of sifting a lot of chaff to get to information that can be verified. Some are very good but I find many of the researchers have not verified their findings. Perhaps we have all been guilty of this at one time.

Family genealogies, libraries, newspapers, family newsletters – I could go on and on with resources other than the ones described above. I have written up family lines after much research only to throw the whole line out because I have not been able to verify the data and/or have proven it wrong. Happy Hunting!

Russell A. Williams

Editor's Note: Russell A. Williams has been a faithful member of the Austin Families Association of America since 1978. His Austin line is Nathan Austin of Massachusetts. Thank you for your loyalty and your support Russell.

Recent Additions to the AFAOA Archive Series

The Dall-Tardy Letters

The Dall-Tardy letters are a collection of a total of 31 letters, 17 in their original, hand-written script dated from 1840 to 1854 mostly from James and Henrietta Dall in Baltimore to their niece and foster daughter Clara Austin Tardy in Mobile. Clarrisa Honey Austin (1818-1858) was the youngest of 8 children born to Horace Austin and Elizabeth Richards Austin, and she was less than 7 years old when both of her parents had died. She was "taken in" by her father's sister, Henrietta Austin Dall, and her husband, who became her foster parents, and to whom Clara always referred as "Mother" and "Father."

With the collection are 6 letters written in 1858 to Clara's son Alexis H. Tardy, then 15 years old, and to Clara's husband Balthazar Tardy, about Clara's death in March, 1858, at the age of 39. There are two accounts, both thought to be written by Alexis, of Clara's dying words to her husband, children and servants.

Also included in the collection are 3 letters to Henrietta Cecilia Tardy, Clara's daughter: one in 1860 from a girlfriend after Henrietta had gone away from Mobile, one in 1866 from her father Balthazar about her getting married and leaving home, and one in 1874 from her brother Alexis following the death of her husband John Nathaniel Matthews at the age of 41.

Included with the collection are three other letters: one written in 1904 by "Etta" (thought to be Henrietta Austin Matthews, double first cousin of Lucien Tardy Matthews) to Lucien's wife Clara about the death of Clara's father; one written in 1908 by Hallie Austin Aldrich (granddaughter of James and Henrietta Dall) to her cousin (presumably Henrietta Cecelia Tardy Matthews) in which she mentions "the packet of dear old letters" (this very collection); and one written in 1939 by Carrie Matthews to her brother Lucien Tardy Matthews (both children of Henrietta Cecelia Tardy Matthews) in which she also refers to this collection of letters.

Many of the letters are conversational in tone, express much affection, offer bits of family news, and convey a flavor of the personalities involved. Those following momentous and often sad events express condolence and shared grief. The 1866 letter is a tender, loving one from a busy, business man father who misses his newly married daughter. Also prominent in these letters is the strong Christian faith of the persons involved.

Clara Honey Austin Tardy and her descendants were apparently good "letter-savers." It is that trait we have to thank for this treasure trove of letters offering such an intimate window into this family.

Harry Porter, Jr.

The full collection has been transcribed and annotated by Harry Porter, Jr., August, 2003. Some of the transcriptions will be presented in subsequent editions of your *Newsletter*, and will be made available for text search on the AFAOA web site.

Editor's Note: Dr. Harry Porter, Jr., the great great grandson of Clarissa Honey Austin (Richard of Charlestown line) has made the very generous offer to donate these letters to the AFAOA Archives where they can be given the proper preservation and protection they require. They are currently stored, per Dr. Porter, "folded up and in a box, in a dusty old storage box in my sister's storeroom." His generous donation will now allow the AFAOA to share these documents with all Austin researchers. Thank you Dr. Porter.

Meet our Association Officers: Liz Austin Carlin, AFAOA Genealogist

Liz Austin Carlin was born in 1937 in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, the oldest child of James Austin and Thelma Hecker. She graduated from Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles as a History major, and later received her Secondary Teaching Credential in History and Mathematics from Loyola Marymount University. In 1984 she went to work as a High School Mathematics teacher in the Los Angeles School District, and has since retired in 1997. She is married to Jim Carlin, AFAOA Database Chair, and they have four children.



Both of her parents had a very active interest in their family's history. Both kept notebooks on family data, and boxes of letters among the family.

Once, a second cousin in Kansas asked in astonishment how she knew so much about her and her family. She replied that she had years of correspondence from the cousin's mother to her family, full of family happenings.

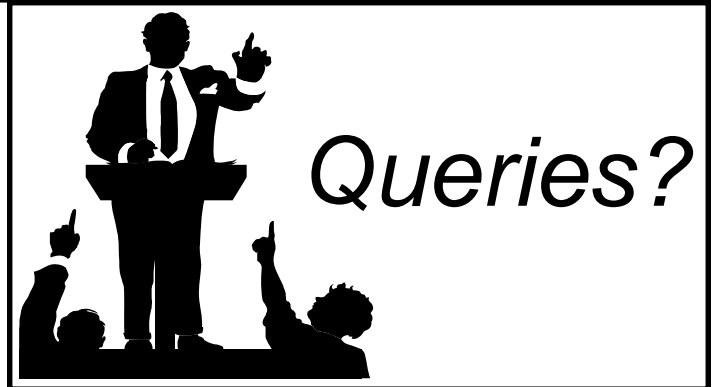
For many years now, Liz has had access to the Los Angeles Family History Center (Mormon Library – second only to the library at Salt Lake City). Using the German records on microfilm, she was able to trace her mother's German ancestry back to the 1600's, and has actually met with several distant cousins in her travels in Germany.

On her father's side, on both the Austin and Hannigan lines, she discovered that she had Mormon cousins, who had entered her family's information into the Mormon IGI file. She contacted both informants, and learned of family histories that they had prepared. The Hannigans of Sacramento, California sent her their privately published history and photos, and she has since been to several Hannigan family re-unions, both in Sacramento and Portland, Oregon.

When she contacted her Austin cousin, Lorraine Norland, Lorraine told her that she was certain that she knew the ancestry of their Austins (they share a great-grandfather Harvey Owen Austin), but she didn't have hard proof. She shared Edith Austin Moore's 1968 book "Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA, 1638." Moore's book stopped at Harvey's grandfather Arva Owen Austin. Over several years, Liz and Lorraine were able to document the connection between Arva and Harvey.

Lorraine was also responsible for introducing Liz and Jim to the AFAOA in early 1990, and it was at that time that Jim became aware of Bill Minnick's Austin Computer Project. Since they had already been working on Liz's personal connection to "Richard," Bill raised the possibility of extending their personal database by revising and updating Moore's "Richard." With the help of literally over a 100 volunteers "Richard" was published in 1998.

Liz and Jim attended their first AFAOA convention in 1994 at Nashville, TN. They have attended every convention since. At the 2001 AFAOA Convention, Liz was elected AFAOA Genealogist. Jan Austin Untener, generously offered to assist her, and Jan oversees and develops Northern Austin lines, while Liz specializes in the Southern Austin lines.



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 91304-3004

Q15,4-1 - I am looking for information on John Austin born 1766 in Concord, NH died July 20, 1855. He married Sarah Lawrence June 8 1797 in Concord, NH by Rev. Ebenezer Hill of Mason NH. She was born March 18, 1768 in Mason, NH and dies Nov. 28, 1821 in Mason, Hillsborough Co., NH. Children: Asa Austin 1803 - 1893; Luther Austin 1807 - 1880; Sarah Austin 1797 - 1809; Deidamia Austin 1802 - 1822; Eliza Austin 1804 - ? I am trying to find out who were John's parents?
Kandy Austin, kaydesso@aol.com

Q15,4-2 - I am searching for parental info on George Washington Austin b. 23 Dec 1810, d. 15 Dec 1866(?), m. 8 Oct 1835 Ann Rogers b. 7 Aug 1811, d. 18 Mar 1891. I don't know their b. place but they both d. Alvarado, Johnson Co., TX. I believe they had 9 children. One was William Pleasant - CSA, b. 23 Jan 1840, never m., d. 15 Nov 1862, Van Buren, Crawford Co., AR. Some think he is the son of Jonathan Asbury, others say Hezekiah Daniel.
Ann Austin Willis, awillis641@netscape.net

Q15,4-3 - I was born Vincent Lee Elvick on 11/21/1969 to Ken and Barbara Ann Austin-Elvick in Marshall, TX. I have already been reunited with my father Ken; but, I am still searching for my mother Barbara and my brother Brian. If anyone knows anything, I would really appreciate it. I don't want anything more but to see them and let them know that I miss them!
Rick Wallace (Vincent Elvick) - rick_wallace@sbcglobal.net

Q15,4-4 - I am the great great granddaughter of Nathan Austin(1838-N.Carolina) & Harriett Maddox (1845-Missouri, married in 1862, Dallas Co., MO. They had 12 children, one of whom, Sallie Austin Colt, is my greatgrandmother. Would love to share info!
Sally Schafer - ssmes@juno.com

I WANT TO BE RELATED TO YOU

When I went to my first AFAOA convention in Salt Lake City in 1997 I was overwhelmed by how much was known about my Austin ancestors. The association opened doors that I never knew were there. I learned so much about my family that I didn't think there was any more that I could do to enhance Austin knowledge. I have since learned that I can contribute, by giving a face to the names, my family's history, and stories and facts about my direct Austins that no one else knew.

Since I was staying two days after the convention, I of course spent most of the time in the Library. I decided to look for my other family on my father's side. I looked up every source I could find with my maiden name Williford in it. I knew almost nothing about that side of my family.

I found pages and pages of information about people I had never heard of, I made copies of everything and the front of each book in which I found a reference, especially if they were from Illinois, my father's birthplace. I came home with pages and pages of clues and leads.

During this process I read an obituary written by a gentleman named James Madison Williford. I fell in love with this person just by reading his obit. I fervently prayed that someday I would find a link between our families. I finally found proof that this gentleman was my great great grandfather. I was delighted, because his words made me feel like he was a man I would want to know, and I would like to share what he wrote with you.

"In view of my age and infirmities and knowing I cannot live long, I thought I would leave a short sketch of my life. The subject of this sketch was born in the State of Tennessee, Rutherford County, July 26, 1812. When I was between twelve and thirteen years of age my father and family moved to Montgomery County, Illinois and lived near the Bond County line. But I have lived in this county over forty years.

I married my first wife, Fannie Malinda White, in this

county on the 7th of January 1834. We lived happily together for nearly forth-eight years. The fruit of that marriage was a large family of children, five of whom with their mother have crossed the Jordan. For which I have not only hope but an expectation of meeting them in the near future, where sorrow and tears shall be all wiped away.

When I was about sixteen year old I became serious about the welfare of my souls hereafter. The good people told me to pray and give myself to Christ. I tried with all the powers of my mind. I began to conclude that I had been forgotten and left reprobate and that there was no mercy for poor me. I continued for sometime in that condition, and in the meantime I read the Bible as carefully as I could, but it had gotten so mixed up with the traditions of men that I was unable to understand it.

About the year 1836 I heard one of our beloved preachers, Charles Drennens Thrilling, preach a sermon on "How to Become a Christian." I was surprised at my stupidity in not seeing the way sooner. God bless his memory! He has long since gone to his reward and I expect to soon meet him. When I heard, I obeyed. Since that time I have had no doubt about being in Christ. If I continue to the end I shall have a crown of everlasting life."

To the above we might add a few things. He was married to Mrs. Jane Craige, July 23, 1883. He leaves two sons and three daughters, one son having died since he wrote the above. He died at his home in Greenville, March 19, 1897, aged 84 years, 7 months and 23 days. He fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith. His remains were taken to Mt. Moriah Church where the services were conducted by Rev. H.H. Peters.

Kathi Koble

Hints on Passenger Lists

Many immigrants were called "two boat people" because they sailed first to Canada and then to the United States via the Great Lakes. They did this because it was cheaper to buy a ticket to Canada than to buy a ticket directly to the U.S. Also, there was a time when immigration rules and regulations prevented them from going directly to the United States, but allowed them to go to Canada instead. To find records of these immigrants, you should search the passenger lists of ships that maintained routes on the Great Lakes. Some of these records are kept in the public libraries of large cities such as Duluth, MN, and Chicago IL. You can also find passenger lists and arrival lists in local newspapers from that time period. Footprints, Vol. 17, #3, May/June 2002 via Gems of Genealogy, Brown Co, WI, Jul/Aug 2002. Michigan Family History Network has a website full of information, www.mifamilyhistory.org.

If your ancestors arrived in New York, you know the ship's name and date, and you'd like to know a bit more about the voyage, the New York Times reported the ships arriving in the port on the front page. The information includes the ship's name,

the captain's name, port it came from, length of travel, how many passengers, whether she carried merchandise also, and the name of the owners. The New York Times is available on microfilm at many libraries.

Family Histories now On-line

LDS Family History Library has announced the digitization of their book holdings. Over 5,000 books have already been placed on the Brigham Young University on-line servers. The books are fully searchable by any word or by use of advanced search combinations. These books are primarily in the 929.273 series, and will eventually include all of the Family History books in their collection.

Access is obtained by going to <http://www.lib.byu.edu/>. Click on "Online Collections at BYU" midway down on the right hand side. Click next on the tab at the top labelled "Text Collections," then "Family History Archive" third down on the left. You can now search for documents by surname, geographical area, title, author, or any for word. (excerpted from a Rootsweb Austin List posting by Carl Hommel, 9 Nov 2005).

Cities Nominated for the 2006 International Austin Convention Site

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

After Salt Lake City, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne boasts the most complete genealogical collection in the United States, with over 300,000 printed volumes, 314,000 microfilm/fiche items and over 50,000 compiled genealogies. Its 10,000 genealogical and local history periodicals are comprehensively indexed, and the Library's stacks are currently open. Fort Wayne's other attractions are: the Botanical Observatory, an excellent Children's Zoo, the Fort Wayne Wizards (the Class A affiliate of the San Diego Padres), the Museum of Art, the Science Center, and the Lincoln Museum. Near Fort Wayne are many state parks and campgrounds, and the Auburn-Cord Duesenburg Museum of classic autos.

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.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Savannah's rich past is preserved by 22 of the original 24 squares as a living legacy. Some of the National Historic Landmark District sights: Home of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America, Old Fort Jackson built circa 1808, Ghost Walking Tours, intricate statues in Bonaventure Cemetery, and Colonial Park Cemetery, where Revolutionary War hero Button Gwinnet, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, rests. The Georgia Historical Society Library & Archive is a major research center for Georgian History. The Municipal Research Library handles reference requests from researchers and the general public that are related to its archival and historical city records.

TORONTO, ONTARIO

Toronto is an excellent research center for those seeking Austins in Canada, including those U.E. Loyalists from the United States during and after the Revolution. The Ontario Historical Society in Toronto has indexed 96% of Ontario's cemeteries. The Archives of Ontario has an extensive collection of land and estate records, and its Reading Room has a surname index to Births, Marriages and Deaths on microfilm. Toronto attractions include the CN Tower observation deck with its 100-mile panorama, Queen's Quay Harbour Front, the Skydome (home of the Blue Jays), Saint James Cathedral, the Hockey Hall of Fame, and the Museum for Textiles with its impressive textile arts collection drawn from all around the world.

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Official AFAOA Site Selection Ballot for the 2006 International Austin Convention

Please select your site preference (check one box only)

- Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Savannah, Georgia
- Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Membership Information:

Your Name: _____

City or Town: _____

Zip Code: _____

Please Mail Your Ballot to:

Edwin Arnold Austin

PO Box 64483

Rochester, NY 14624-6883

- OR -

*Deadline for all votes:
November 30, 2005*

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

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

YOU'VE STILL GOT TIME -

to make your choice for the site of the 2006 National Austin Convention.

How about Toronto, Canada, or Nashville, TN, or Savannah, GA, or Fort Wayne, IN?

We need your vote.

Please tear off the bottom half of this page,
turn it over and make your selection

- OR -

Vote via e-mail.

Deadline is the 30th of this month!