



Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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Towns Named Austin

As we all know from our genealogy research, Austins were well represented in the migration west across the United States during the nineteenth century. Many Austins were the first pioneers to establish residences in the wilderness, and these later became towns and cities. Here is a sample of Austin named towns:

Austin, Texas is the capital of Texas and the county seat of Travis County. Situated in central Texas, it is the fourth-largest city in the state. Austin has a population of about 690,000. The first documented settlement of current-day Austin occurred in 1835, and the site was named Waterloo in 1837. In 1839, Mirabeau B. Lamar renamed the city in honor of Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas." (Stephen was a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts).

Austin, Nevada is a small, unincorporated community located in Lander County. Kathi Koble, in a February 2006 AFAOA *Newsletter* article wrote about this town (please see the AFAOA Website for all *Newsletter* articles). On September 23, 1879 the Wellsboro, Pennsylvania *Agitator* newspaper printed: "It is not generally known that Austin, Nevada was named in honor of a former citizen of Tioga County, but such is nevertheless the case. Aaron Austin, son of Alvin Austin of Mainesburg, Pennsylvania was the first settler to break ground in the region, about thirty years ago, while prospecting for gold . . ." (Aaron and Alvin Austin were descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts).

Austinburg, Kentucky was a community also "discovered" by Kathi Koble. She wrote in a May 2006 AFAOA *Newsletter* article: "I found a neighborhood in Kentucky named Austinburg. After reading about the area, I discovered that its name came from the man who originally purchased the land. His name was Seneca Austin, who happens to be my Great-Great Grandfather." (Seneca Austin was a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts).

Austinburg, Ohio was founded by another

Richard Austin descendant, Eliphalet Austin, originally of Suffield, Connecticut. Its story appears in the Winter 1999 AFAOA *Newsletter* edition and features Sycamore Hall, the home that Eliphalet built between 1803 and 1813, and which still stands today as a National Register of Historic Places home.

Port Austin, Michigan is a village in Huron County. The population was 737 at the 2000 census. The village is within Port Austin Township, organized in 1861.

Austin, Oregon is an unincorporated community, considered a ghost town, in Grant County. It is located on Oregon Route 7, near the middle fork of the John Day River in the Malheur National Forest. Austin was named for Minot and Linda (Edwards) Austin, early settlers of the area. The Austins operated a small store and hotel near the present site of Austin. As of 2002, approximately less than 35 people lived within a five mile radius of Austin.

Austin, Pennsylvania was featured in an article by Judy Hefty in the February 2006 Newsletter. Her article recounted the story of the town's destruction caused by a massive flood that resulted when the local dam broke, and the re-construction of the home of its founder, Edward Orrameal Austin. (Edward Austin was a descendant of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts).

Austinville, Missouri probably was founded by an unknown Austin descendant of White County, Tennessee. Several members of that family served as Postmasters there in the middle 1800's.

Austinville, Pennsylvania in Bradford County appears to have been named for Gideon Austin of the Robert Austin of Kingston, Rhode Island family. His son Augustus Benedict Austin was born there in 1822.

Austin Springs, Weakley County, Tennessee was popular in the late 1800's because of its mineral springs. In an article by Ouida Jewell (see *Austins of America Newsletter*, February 1989, p 320), she writes, "In Weakley County, a small community by the name of Austin Springs was acclaimed far and wide as being the place to go to 'get the cure

Please see "Austin Towns" on page 3

Membership



Corner

New Members Welcomed

Patricia A Sheekey

18 Granville St.
Dorchester, MA 02124
psheeky@comcast.net
Jonah Austin; Jonah; John; Josiah.

Richard Metteer

540 Driftwood Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68510
rmetteer1@neb.rr.com
Mary (Polly) Austin b. ca 1805 CT.

Terence D. Thompson

PO Box 440365
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otthco@ycoamail.com
Stephen Austin b. 1750 Yates, Orleans, NY; Sarah Austin b. 1790 NY.

E. Ray Austin

132 Scott Drive
Huntsville, TN 37756
scenicphoto@highland.net
Nathaniel Austin b. 1781 VA/NC/TN?; James b. ca 1807 TN; Elanza b. 1857 TN; Thaddeus b. 1876 TN.

Barbara Austin Stanfield

5283 Union Ct. #5
Arvada, CO 80002-1945
bas43@comcast.net

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

Victor Allen Austin

13039 Fillmore Circle
Thornton, CO 80241
vaustin59@aol.com
John Austin b. ca 1732 MA/ME; Daniel Austin b. ca 1772 ME; William N. Austin b. 1811 NY.

Gene Austin

4618 Dark Hollow Road
Medford, OR 97501-9689
agene@yahoo.com
William Austin; Neil Richard Austin b. 14 Dec 1907 Freedom, NY

Jenie Austin Roe

8600 E. Alameda #16-101 Denver, CO 80247
dliberal@peoplepc.com
John Austin b. ca 1732 MA/ME; Daniel Austin b. ca 1772 ME; William N. Austin b. 1811 NY.

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

Address Changes

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

**Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman**

HELP FUND THE AUSTIN-AUSTEN DNA PROJECT

The AFAOA and AFGS organizations contribute to this Fund in order to systematically fill in the DNA Profiles Table for all documented Austin lines, starting with the largest lines. Private contributions are also appreciated for the DNA Project Fund. You can contribute by sending your checks payable to Carol R. Austin, to the Fund Coordinator:

Carol R. Austin
9726 Mirage Circle
Garden Grove, CA 92644

<http://www.afaofa.org>

2007 AUSTIN CONVENTION SITE CHOSEN

**Hartford / Suffield, Connecticut
July 26 – 29, 2007**

The vote is in! Next year's Austin Convention will be held in the Hartford/Suffield area of Connecticut. This is an area rich in history and genealogical resources. It received 19 out of the 36 votes cast. The other votes were divided as follows:

Salt Lake City, Utah 8 votes
Nashville, Tennessee 7 votes
Savannah, Georgia 2 votes

Most of those voting also gave their preference of months in which they would like the convention to be held. July was the month that received the most first and second place votes, although the months of May through August received almost an equal total (first through third) votes. April and September were the least preferred.

The dates have been set for July 26 – 29, with organized research opportunities planned on Thursday and Friday (the 26th and 27th), talks, workshops and business meeting on Saturday the 28th and tours on Sunday the 29th (see the President's Message).

Mark these dates on your calendar now and make plans to join your Austin "cousins" for our annual reunion and sharing of Austin research. A registration form will be available in the next newsletter and on-line at the AFAOA web site www.afaofa.org.

Google Archives Old Newspapers

Google has now added a new archive (hundreds of US newspapers dating back 80 years that have been optically scanned). Over 43 million pages have been scanned and are searchable by keyword. The search section is free, however, one must pay \$5 per month to print out the Acrobat pdf file.

The coverage is not full, and the OCR (optical character recognition) is not perfect, but this could be a valuable resource. [news.google.com]

Here are some highlights of the excellent research facilities in the Hartford/Suffield/Springfield locality:



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that we have decided on the location for the 2007 Austin Convention I have started planning the convention program. The date that seems to fit the best is the last weekend in July (July 27 - 29).

Some of my thoughts on convention activities: With so many excellent research facilities available in the area, we should include extra time to utilize them. Also we have many historical Austin homes in the area and many gravestones of our Austin ancestors, so a tour is in order.

Here is what I'm proposing. Those attendees who want to do local research should arrive by Wednesday, July 25. On Thursday morning there would be a short meeting with introductory talks on the major libraries and other places for research in the area. That would leave the rest of Thursday and Friday to do hands-on research.

On Thursday evening the archive section of Suffield's Kent Memorial Library would be available for research. (See a list of research facilities below). I'm considering having a van available to transport us to these research facilities. Newcomers would have help from those more familiar with the area. Our AFAOA genealogists would be available to give personal assistance through the convention weekend.

Those who are not planning on doing local research should arrive by late Friday afternoon. On Friday evening we would get together for a reception, followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

On Saturday we would have talks and workshops, with assistance in searching the AFAOA computer databases and other resources. We would also hold our annual business meeting. The banquet would be held on Saturday night. Sunday mid to late morning, after church for those who go, we would start a tour of Suffield to include old Austin Homes, the Suffield Historical Society museum, several cemeteries with many Austin gravestones and perhaps a visit to the Old Newgate Prison and Copper Mine Museum in nearby East Granby.

Although this is a different format than we have had in the past, I think it would allow us to take greater advantage of the many resources that will be available as well provide greater flexibility for the serious researcher. But please - I'm looking for your comments and suggestions before we finalize these plans.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
AFAOA President

Connecticut State Library in Hartford is an outstanding library for researching your Connecticut ancestors. You could spend several weeks here and just scratch the surface. The New England Historical and Genealogical Society conducts tours to this library.

Connecticut Historical Library in Hartford has an outstanding archive sections with files and material on almost all Connecticut families. All of the files of Donald Lines Jacobus, the founder of TAG (The American Genealogist) are in the archive section of this library.

Connecticut Valley Historical Library in Springfield, Massachusetts is a very good genealogical library (where I did all of my original family research) and covers many Massachusetts families. Remember that Suffield was formed in 1674 by John Phychon of Springfield.

Kent Memorial Library in Suffield holds information on Suffield and many local families. It has many original documents and pictures.

Hampshire County Probate Office in North Hampton, Massachusetts has Austin and other early Suffield families' records that are not microfilmed or abstracted any place else. Because of a county split all of the early Springfield and Suffield probate records are in North Hampton.

"Austin Towns" Continued from page 1

fer what ails ye." Austin Springs was probably named after Clisbe Austin, a descendant of John Austin of the Southside Region, Virginia.

Austin, Macon County, Illinois is one of two towns in Illinois named Austin. This town was named after Benjamin R. Austin, a surveyor who laid out the town of Decatur, Illinois. Austin is now part of the Decatur metroplex.

Austin, Cook County, Illinois was originally a temperance settlement founded by developer Henry Austin. It was annexed by Chicago in 1899.

Austin, Minnesota, (aka "Spamtown") is the only Minnesota city outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area with a Fortune 500 company. Austin is home to Hormel Foods, manufacturer of the world renowned SPAM® family of products. The company's corporate offices, manufacturing plant, research and development division and the new SPAM® museum are all located here. Austin, the county seat of Mower County, is currently home to more than 23,000 residents. It is presently celebrating the 150th year of its first settlement. However "Austin" is not a surname, but named for Austin Nichols who staked the first claim in Austin Township. Wannabe A. Austin has been there. Please see the description of his visit in the April 2004 edition of the AFAOA Newsletter.

Boston Passenger Manifests

Boston passenger manifests, 1841-1891, can be searched at: www.sec.state.ma.us/ArchivesSearch/PassengermanifestSearch.asp. There is no soundex support at this time.

Who was Richard Austin?

When we do genealogical research to find our ancestors we strive for authentic and accurate documentation of an individual's name, date and place of birth and death and perhaps a marriage or christening document. But really we want much more. We would like to know what that person was really like - and the names, dates and places are just clues to a bigger picture. We want to know how they lived, if they were famous, if they were good people and what their thoughts were.

While we may never know our ancestors to the level of knowing their thoughts, short of stumbling across a diary, we can look back at the history of their times and, by placing them in the context of that time, we can make some general inferences about what our ancestors were like. After visiting Titchfield, England, the birthplace of Richard Austin, I decided to apply that technique to learn more about him.

From the manifest of the ship "Bevis" that brought Richard Austin and his family to New England in 1638 we know that he was a tailor, of Bishopstoke, age 40 (therefore born about 1598) and that he was accompanied by a wife and two children and a servant named Robert Knight (a carpenter). Also aboard the Bevis was Richard's sister Annes (or Agnes) Littlefield, 38, and her six children.

Another passenger was Richard Dummer, with his wife and children. Dummer was a Puritan leader who had already accompanied an earlier group to New England and returned to England for his family. He and some of the other passengers were associated with the Rev. Stephen Bachiler, one of the first nonconformists excommunicated from the Church of England. For many years there had been a strong movement to reform, or "purify", the church and these religious dissenters were sometimes subject to persecution. Perhaps Richard Austin was also a Puritan and was taking his family to the New World for religious freedom.

Richard Austin was probably born in Titchfield, Hampshire, England, where names of family members are found in the church records. Richard would have been 22 when a group that had decided to separate from the Church of England left to settle in New England and became known as the Pilgrims.

Richard was 25 years old in 1623, when his father died in Titchfield, and he was a witness and overseer of his father's will, along with one of his father's neighbors and Richard's brother-in-law, Edmund Littlefield (who wrote out the will). The will shows that Richard had two older brothers, Daniel and Peter, and four sisters, Joan, Emlen, Annes and Elizabeth.

The inventory of Richard's father's estate shows a value of £123 pounds which, according to the conversion tables in the British National Archives, is worth about £11,800 pounds today. That amount of wealth wouldn't have made him a rich man but he wasn't destitute either. He had farm animals and enough wealth to have several servants and a maid.

At the time of his father's death Richard, as a future tailor, would have been establishing himself in the clothing industry. He would have been fully involved with his apprenticeship before he was 20. This was the largest industry in England. Everyone needed clothes and all of them were hand made. At some time in Richard's teens his father would have paid an

indenture (a fee) to a master tailor to take Richard into his house and teach him his trade. This system was different than the one we associate with the term "indenture". Richard wouldn't have been an indentured servant who had to work to pay off a debt, rather it was more like paying a tuition to a vocational school.

In those days, it was customary for the oldest son to follow his father into his father's trade or farm and for the other sons to be indentured into other trades. Indentures ranged anywhere from £1 for a carpenter's nailer all the way to £150 or more to join a stationers or goldsmiths guild in London. By looking at Richard's father's will it seems that the family was well enough off to be able to pay for Richard's indenture to a local craftsman. Depending on how strict his Master was, Richard, as an apprentice tailor, may not have been allowed to marry without his Master's permission, play cards or dice, commit unlawful acts, or go to plays or taverns. This seems to be the perfect training of a Puritan.

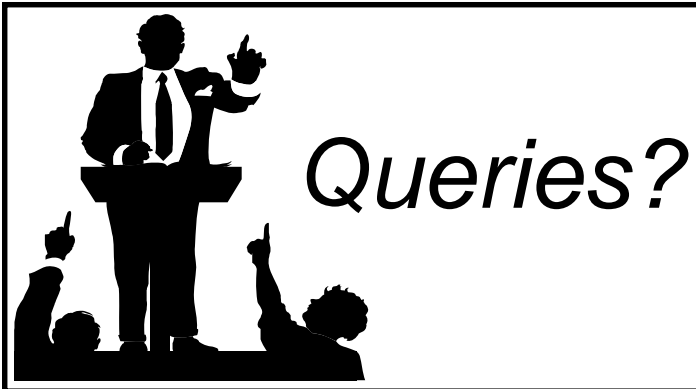
As Richard worked his way up the crafts hierarchy, he would have graduated from the lowest level of being a "table monkey" which only required the skill of sewing, to being a cutter, who cut the patterns, then to a fitter, one of the most important jobs in that the reputation of the house depended on the fit of the clothes, to finally a finisher, who was the person that did the delicate detail work, like the flourishes of button-holes and pockets and elegant trim.

Throughout his apprenticeship, Richard would have been taught to read and write because as a master tailor, the goal of his training, he would have had to know how to write invoices, balance accounts and create indenture documents for his own apprentices. By contrast, his older brothers, who looked ahead to the husbandman or yeoman's agricultural life of their father, would not have required these skills. Revisiting Richard's father's will, we can see evidence of this in that Richard's father only signed the will with a shaky "x" but Richard signed his name and the will itself was written by Edmund Littlefield, Richard's brother-in-law, who was also a merchant - a clothier and draper, a person who bought and sold cloth.

Sometime later, Richard moved about 9 miles north to the village of Bishopstoke where he set up shop as a tailor. Then in 1638 he closed his tailoring business and left England. What were his thoughts as the port of Southampton faded from view? Anxious moments must have been mixed with high hopes for the future. Those children, excitedly exploring the decks of the Bevis would help to establish a new society in a new world.

Mike Klein
mikek@austinprinting.com

For additional information about Titchfield contact Mike Klein. Also see the Spring 2000 Austin Families Association Newsletter for Bob and Lois Cody's report on their visit to Titchfield. Past Newsletters can be found on the AFAOA website.



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

Q16, 4-1 - Looking for any photos of this family:
Alfred J. Austin b. 2 Aug 1858, England, d. 5 Sep 1924 St. Louis, MO; Edith M. Smith (wife) d. 5 Jan 1928 Sedalia, MO; children: Percy G. Austin b. 1892, d. 1977; Ada C. Austin b. 1895. Percy's wife Myrtle Avis Parsons d. 1972. (I am a descendant of Edith Smith, Alfred's wife).
Leta (Smith) Sheaffer, leta.sheaffer@verizon.net

Q16, 4-2 - I am looking for any information for David Austin b. bet 1790 & 1805, d. bet 1860 & 1870. He was listed in the 1820 Centre Co., PA census. He m. Martha ____, b. about the same time frame. She d. 1877. Both bu. Kellersburg Methodist Cemetery, Armstrong Co., PA. They moved abt 1850 to Western PA, and in 1860 they were living in Madison Twp., Armstrong Co., PA. Their dau. Maria was m. to William Barrett.
Donna Butler Sheaffer, butlerdona@aol.com

Q16, 4-3 - I would like to compare notes on the following Austin family: Wallace Morrell Austin (Jan 1895 - Aug 1971); his father Archie S. (Archer Spencer?) Austin (Mar 1865 - ?); his father James (T or H) Austin (Aug 1839 - ?); his father (?) Gilman Austin of VT.
Bernard L. Carpenter, bernard.carpenter@worldnet.att.net

Q16, 4-4 - Edward Austin b. ca 1816 NY and Mary Jane Rush b. ca 1831 NY resided in MI, had at least 3 children: Newton b. ca 1862; Elias b. 1867 & Cordelia b. 1876. Cordelia adopted by Manley & Fannie Luce abt 1880 and resided in Ionia Co., MI. Elias & Newton never m. Need information abt Edward and Mary Jane including origins.
Cassandra Hanson, hanson26@cableone.net

Queries Continued.

Q16, 4-5 - Searching for Chloe Austin who m. John Fairfield and had a son Marcus b. 1817 in Rutland Co., VT. They are listed as parents on Marcus' d. certificate. I think they were b. in or lived in MA before moving to VT.
Patty Kalin, kalin1225@aol.com

Q16, 4-6 - Looking for parents of Ruth Austin (9 Mar 1759 - 9 Feb 1813), m. Simeon Stiles (23 Dec 1757-24 Mar 1818).
Ed Stiles, edwardstiles@bellsouth.net

Q16, 4-7 - Looking for information on Edgar Noel Austin (8 Nov 1908 - 19 Nov 1999 in Clay Co., MS) who had 3 sons: Noel Edgar Austin, Charles Edgar Austin (my dad) and Anderson Earl.
Todga Sue (Austin) Salke, todga@msn.com

Q16, 4-8 - Looking for information on Martha Austin b. 1 May 1832 KY?, d. 19 Jan 1893, m. Jeremiah Vardiman Mulberry, and had 3 children. 1880 IL census lists b.pl. of Martha's father as NY, and mother as VA. Jeremiah d. 15 Apr 1875 in Green Co., IL.
Scott Stauder, Scot_s@ix.netcom.com

Q16, 4-9 - Need more information on "Minnie" and Oscar Austin, Minnie supposedly the eldest dau of John Thomas and Georgia Austin. Minnie is listed as age 18 mother of a child in the 1900 Polk Co., GA census. Minnie's bro Eugene m. and had 3 dau, but then he started living with a Nell Irvin Darswell and had 10 more children with her.
Dottie Darswell, ddsdoll@cox.net

Q16, 4-10 - Trying to locate family members of Elmo Clarence Austin, b. 11 Jan 1868, d. 6 Feb 1927; Armelia Elizabeth Austin, b. 19 Oct 1867, d. 9 Jan 1896; Edward Bernerd (sp?) Austin, b. 31 May 1892; Dora Adda Kirkham Austin, b. 14 Oct 1876, d. 3 Feb 1918; Walter Appling Austin, b. 29 Jun 1908; Mattie Suphiar (sp?), b. 9 Apr 1875; John Allen Austin, b. 3 Nov 1845; Marthie Jane Austin, b. 24 Apr 1847, d. 26 Jan 1923; Mary Jane Austin b. 3 Mar 1866; Lou Lasiphene Austin (I believe she m. a Newton Eldon McGlothlin), b. 28 Jun 1871(?); Mary Edna Austin Devasher, b. 28 Mar 1887. These people were centered in Sumner Co., TN.
Jacqueline, summer100470@aol.com

Q16, 4-11 - Looking for the parents of this Austin family: Ebenezer, b. 23 Jan 1800 York (Toronto), Canada, d. 24 May 188 Fond du Lac, WI. He m. Ann(e) Cook and had Rachel Austin, b. 23 Jan 1836; and William J. Austin, b. 28 Jan 1838. William m. Millie J. and had at least two daus: Florence and Emma - these last two bu. in Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac. Ebenezer had at least 2 bros: Augustus J. Austin and John Jr. who settled in Ogle Co., IL in 1838. Ebenezer had at least 1 sis. Sarah (Sally) Austin Silverthorn (see 1870 Oakland Twp., Jefferson Co., WI Federal Census. My research so far indicates the parents of Ebenezer, Augustus and John Jr. are John Austin and Elizabeth. Would appreciate confirmation of this.
Walter Hartung, wchartung@tritel.net

FUN ON THE ROAD

by Dave Untener

Are you the type of person who does their genealogical research by surfing the internet, finding gems of information such as: All Austins in America can be traced to three brothers who arrived here in 1745? Or, are you skeptical about all that information that appears on a screen when you hit ENTER (I certainly am). Then perhaps you are the type to leave home and visit exciting places like Historical Societies or State Archives. There is nothing like spending a bright summer day in the basement of an old building going through dusty books. I just love fighting over the one usable microfishy thing that eats my quarters and gives me a page with a black square on it. If either describes you, then you are missing out on the best part of genealogy research, the road trip! Here are three experiences that my significant other and I have had. Experiences like these can be yours, if you are willing to take the chance.

You can meet the nicest people in a cemetery.

Finding the right tombstone in an old cemetery is more difficult than finding a needle in a haystack. At least the needle looks different than the hay. We were desperately searching for great grandfather Austin's grave when we struck up a conversation with another person who also seemed to like wandering through the tombstones. We exchanged names of who we were looking for in the ridiculous belief that it would help our search.

Imagine our surprise when it turned out she was searching for her great grandmother, who was a good friend of our great grandmother! It turned out that our family bought her family's house. She promised to send us some of the material she had on our Austins. The next day a package arrived for us at our motel. It contained a newspaper article that our relative wrote in the late 1800's and pages of an old autograph book in which the two friends exchanged funny one-liners with each other. All of this gained from a simple "hello" to someone in a cemetery.

If you never ask, you will never get the answer.

We were looking for the location of great grandfather Austin's produce store in Fort Plain, New York. We had one of those really cool 1860's "bird's eye" maps of downtown. It showed his store being the third of five buildings in the city block. Unfortunately either the map maker messed up or someone built another building because there were really six! If you counted from the left you got a really pretty red brick building that housed a pharmacy with a sign that said "Established 1887." If you counted from the right, you got an old wooden building that looked ready to collapse. I was ready to claim the red brick building and call it a day, but my wife suggested we go in and ask.

Sure, I said to myself quietly (in fear of being hit), the sixteen year old behind the counter is going to know who owned this building in the 1860's. In the spirit of maintaining a good relationship, I let her do her thing (like I could stop her!). The young girl at the counter called to her boss, who just happened to be the owner and a man who had researched the

building's history and its operation as a pharmacy since 1887. He pulled out a scrapbook that contained the original ad that ran when the pharmacy opened, noting that the building was purchased from my wife's great grandfather O. O. Austin. He showed us how, during remodeling, he found the wall of the Erie Canal in the back of the building where provisions used to be delivered. I then decided never again to question the actions of my spouse!

Some things never change.

Our most recent trip took us to Wallingford, Connecticut in search of information about my wife's great great grandfather William Austin and his father Porter Austin. We had an 1865 map of Wallingford that showed a few roads around the area. On two of these roads outside of town were little black dots indicating the homes of William and Porter Austin. The closest roads were labeled "Highway" and "East Farms", neither of which appears on a current map. In fact, there now appeared to be a large reservoir in the area where these homes were.

Fearing that the houses may have been torn down to make way for a new development, or even worse under water; we took the chance and drove through the area. Nothing had changed from the 1865 map. The road layout was the same as it was 140 years ago! Using the 1865 map we turned down what seemed to be the correct road and there, about 300 yards down the road, was a well maintained wooden house sitting very close to the paved road. Having no shame, we parked in the driveway, knocked on the door, and asked if this was the old William Austin house from the 1800's.

The man who answered the door stared at us for a moment, and then said "Yes". He was restoring the house and doing research on the previous owners. He graciously gave us a tour, we shared information, and we are now helping him trace the owner before our ancestor. Interestingly, the original house was built in the 1700's and lifted to be a second floor. A new first floor was built, apparently by William, around 1820.

We continued to use the 1865 map to find Porter Austin's house, which, to our amazement, was still standing. The house was still owned by the family that had purchased it from the Austins in 1895. This family bought the house and grazing land from our ancestor and turned it into a fruit farm which they owned and operated for over a hundred years.

Another gracious homeowner welcomed us to her home, and showed us the 1700's fireplace she had uncovered. Later, we learned from land deeds that this had also been the house of Porter's father, Joel Austin—my wife's fourth great grandfather!

We would not have had these wonderful experiences if we had stayed in the library doing research. Using the information we had gathered, talking to strangers, and asking the seemingly silly questions provided us with more knowledge about our ancestors and how they lived than we ever could have gained from books or web sites alone. Next time you are doing research make sure you schedule time to take a chance and take a road trip. You may be pleasantly surprised at the results!

Your Austins in Canada?

Check out these web sites:

Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1922 Now Online

Library and Archives Canada has placed online passenger lists for 1865-1922. The site includes images only; there is no passenger index. For a description of the collection see [www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianct/passenger].

Canadian Passenger Ship Index Database

The Nanaimo Family History Society has created a Canadian Passenger ship index database that currently contains records for the years 1908 to 1910. They plan on expanding their index to include all Canadian ports for the years 1900 to 1924. See [members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs].

St. Albans Records

If your relative crossed the border from Canada to the U.S., they may be found in the St. Albans border crossing records. These are available at the LDS Regional Family History Center. This may then provide you with the name of the ship and date of arrival. You can use this to go directly to the actual online passenger list.

1911 Canadian Census

The most recently available Canadian census is the one for 1911. While this census is available online, it is not indexed. So, you will need to start with a rough idea of the individual's location. An exact address would, of course, be best. If you don't have the address, check city directories. You can access the Census at:

[www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911].

Other ways to proceed

The Library and Archives Canada website suggest the following for finding the year of arrival, which may help in isolating a passenger list:

- The 1901, 1906 and 1911 Census returns indicate the year of arrival for immigrants.
- Land Records are helpful; immigrants often applied for land shortly after their arrival.
- City Directories can provide information. For example, if an individual's name first appears in the directory in 1910, it is possible that he or she arrived in 1909.
- Death Records sometimes indicate the number of years the individual resided in Canada.
- The National Registration of 1940 indicates the arrival year of immigrants.

Canadian Genealogy Centre

For more information about pursuing your Canadian research, check out the following Library and Archives Canada website: [www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy]. Microfilm reels may be borrowed by any library or institution within or outside of Canada. Requests for loan must be submitted by the borrowing institution and must include the Library & Archives Canada microfilm numbers. Loan details can be found at:

[www.collectionscanada.ca/ill/index-e.html].

Couple Marry Themselves by Quaker Service

Unique Wedding Ceremony Performed at Friend's Church Last Night

Ethel S. Fisher weds Dr. Leroy S. Austin
Minister is Present Only as a Spectator, Relatives
and Friends Attend.

An old fashioned Friends marriage service took place Wednesday evening in the Friend's meeting house on Eastern Avenue, in which the principals were Miss Ethel Stockwell Fisher, a former Brockton school teacher and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie P. Fisher of 176 Williams Avenue, and Dr. Leroy S. Austin of 53 Pine street, Swampscott, son of Mrs. Ruth Austin. The couple married themselves in the presence of only the immediate relatives and friends.

This was the first marriage of its form to take place in the Friend's Eastern avenue meeting house for three years. The service is recognized by law and requires only the presence of four witnesses in place of a minister. The witnesses to this marriage were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sykes, Charles Burke and Lucy T. Herbert, these being appointed witnesses by the Society.

The ceremony is simple, but odd, and is performed by the couple, who repeat the following, the groom accepting the bride first: "In the presence of the Lord, and before these witnesses, I take thee Ethel Stockwell Fisher, to be my wife, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband so long as we both shall live," after which the bride declared: "In the presence of the Lord and before these witnesses I take thee Leroy S. Austin to be my husband, promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife so long as we both shall live."

After the ceremony had taken place a sermon was given by Tom Sykes, minister of the meeting house, and Friend Minister Charles Peaslee of Gornic, N. H., an uncle of the bride, also spoke.

During the reception the couple received the congratulations of more than 100 relatives and friends, and they were the recipients of many beautiful wedding gifts.

At a late hour the couple started upon a wedding trip to Maine, and upon their return will take up their residence at 63 Pine street, Swampscott. Dr. Austin is a dentist, and has an office in that town.

Editor's Note: From an article in an unknown newspaper, dated 1 September 1915, Brockton, Massachusetts. Contributed by Judy Kester. j_kester@msn.com

A Surname Love Poem - circa 1842

From Mr. J. M. Bee to Miss Martha Flower.

*Well hath the little busy Bee, improved life's shining hour -
He gathers honey now all day, from one sweet chosen Flower.
And from this match if heaven pleases
He'll raise a swarm of little Beeses!*

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*President Arthur Sikes, Jr. and the
Executive Board
of the
Austin Families Association of
America*

*wish each and everyone of you
a Very Merry Christmas
and Happy Researching in the New Year!*

