

Austins of America Genealogical Society Files

[Above this is a letter from C. C. Mason]

Above you have a copy of letter which has caused us to mourn the loss of our friend. I furnished Dyer J. Bottum money to go to California. I took life risk in your company. C. C. Mason is a man who was born & brot up in Orwell Addison County Vt & was acquainted with Dyer before they left for California. There will be doubtless in next Steamer letters from those who went with Dyer to there friends here giving news or a/c of his death. I do not know how to proced to get my insurance money. I write this for information. I can get any amt. of testimony that C C Mason is a man of integrity & he would not give us the intelgence without its being true, as for my self I can refer you to Dan Howard, Ralph Mead, Burger & Hulburt, Chumbey Hisser & Co Booth & Tuttle & many more if nessery - Please write me giving me the necessary instructions to enable me to obtain the Insurance Money.

V. R. Yours
Gustavus A. Austin
Orwell, Addison
County, Vermont

Dec 13, 1850

Since writing the above I learn Dr. Rust of this place now in California has written home to his wife in this place stating Dyer J. Bottum is dead.

Mr. Bishop Bottum the Gent to whom this letter was written has the paper with the death of Dyer. Mr. Mason mentions he will send one & has done so.

G. A. Austin

I am compelled now to believe the man is gone to his reward.