

# Austin Families Genealogical Society 2005 International Austin Convention Canterbury, Kent – 16-18 September 2005

## Austin Families Convention

The Austin Families Genealogical Society (AFGS) will celebrate its 26th Anniversary in August, and is pleased to be holding its 2005 Convention in historic Canterbury, Kent, England. Austin researchers from around the world will meet to discuss their Austin family roots during the Convention Workshops and to hear experts lecture on how to do genealogical research in England. If you have an interest in Austin family roots, we invite you to join us for what is shaping up to be our best Austin Convention ever!



## Getting to Canterbury

Attendees from outside of the U.K. should fly into either London Gatwick or London Heathrow Airport. Car rental is available at both airports, reservations should be made in advance. Since roads near the airports can be congested, public transport may be easier. Detailed information on transport from the London airports to Canterbury will be sent to attendees who have registered.

## Canterbury, Kent

The Norman cathedral still dominates the skyline as you approach Canterbury; giving 21st century visitors the same sense of awe as their medieval counterparts. The city was one of the busiest places of pilgrimage in the medieval world. The Canterbury Tales Visitor Attraction will take you back in time to Chaucer's England and to the shrine of Thomas Becket, the murdered archbishop.

## Christ Church University College Lanfranc House

The Convention will be held on the campus of the Christ Church University College in Canterbury. On Thursday September 15th convention attendees may check into Lanfranc House, a modern halls of residence in the Northgate area of Canterbury, only a five minute walk to the University College, City Centre and the Cathedral. Accommodations are available with both single and twin en-suite bedrooms, and include dinner and breakfast. Single rooms are £36, twin rooms are £28 per person. Attendees will be checking out on Sunday morning September 18th, since the college's students will return to campus that day to begin their fall term.



## Get-Acquainted Party

Thursday evening September 15th there will be an informal 'Wine and Nibbles' get-acquainted party on the college campus. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow Austin and Austen family researchers from around the world.

## St. Martin's Priory



Historic St. Martin's Priory was built around 1550 and borders the World Heritage site of St. Martin's Church. The Priory offers a 16th century heritage feeling and its four function rooms include the wood paneled Frederic Mason and Jacobean Rooms. It is set on 2.5 acres of grounds and offers seclusion and privacy throughout the day. Attendees can stroll through the upper lawn and the Rose Garden and enjoy panoramic views of the city and Cathedral.

## Friday Tours and Lecture

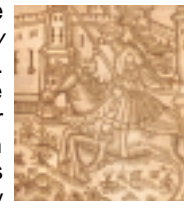
We will gather at St. Martin's Priory at 9:30 a.m. on Friday September 16th, then local guide Dr. Andrew Thomson will provide a historical commentary as we stroll to the Canterbury Cathedral and the Cathedral Archives for tours. Next we drive by coach to Chillenden where we will enjoy lunch in a 14th century pub. The coach continues on for a Dover Castle tour by Dr. Thomson and a tour of the World War II Dover cliff tunnels conducted by the English Heritage Staff. There will then be time to relax in Dover, or do some shopping. We will return by coach to Canterbury in time for dinner at the College. The total cost for this set of optional Friday tours is £45 per person, and includes everything except the cost of your pub lunch. After having dinner on Friday all Attendees will hear Dr. Thomson lecture on *Canterbury - A Key Place in English History*.

## Convention Program

The two-day Convention Program includes Workshops and Lectures to be held in St. Martin's Priory, beginning 8 a.m. Saturday 17 September. The Workshops allow time for attendees to meet and compare notes on their Austin or Austen family lines, and to pursue their lines with the assistance of AFGS genealogists. The four Workshops include computerized access to the AFGS Austin-Austen Research Center (AARC) and to records on 13 CDs published by the Kent Family History Society. Attendees with laptops and Ethernet connection will have 100 MHz access to the AARC - 33 times faster than DSL and more than 1700 times faster than access via a 56k baud modem.

## Lectures

Lectures of interest to Austin family genealogists will be provided by AFGS members and Guest Speakers. Among the scheduled talks is one by Peter Park of Surrey titled *London's Record Offices for Day Trippers*, which will be helpful for anyone planning to do research there. Dr. Roger Brian Austin of Sherborne, Dorset will be speaking about *The Distribution of Austins in England*. Ms. Else Churchill of London will speak on the topic of *Locating Your English Origins*. Carol Robinson Austin from Garden Grove, California discusses *Austin-Austen Families Around the World*. Dr. Michael Edward Austin of Concord, Massachusetts will speak about the *AFGS Austin-Austen Research Center* and will also speak on the *Austins in the Kent Family History Society Records*. Dr. Stephen Hipkin, the Director of the Centre for Early Modern Kentish Studies (which facilitates research into the primary sources housed in Canterbury Cathedral Archives and elsewhere) will speak on the *Social History of Kent in the 16 and 17th Centuries*. Dr. Charles Ward Austin from Garden Grove, California will speak about *The Role of DNA in Genealogy*. Mrs. Carol Robinson Austin will discuss the progress made in the Society's *Austin-Austen DNA Project*. The *Austin Families Genealogical Society's* prestigious annual "Eagle" award, the *Austin Genealogical Research Award*, will be presented during the convention.



## Reservations

Convention reservations may be made at the *Austin Families Genealogical Society* web site [www.austins.org](http://www.austins.org) by following the 'Convention' link or by contacting one of the Convention Registrars

Dr. Roger B. Austin  
New Barn, East Mill Lane  
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3DP U.K.  
aufa16@dsl.pipex.com

Cheryl Austin Akusis  
66 Gifford Lane  
Concord, MA 01742-2235 U.S.A.  
cakusis@austins.org

who will see that you receive a convention Registration Form. The Registration fee is £52 or US\$100 and also covers beverages and lunches on Saturday and Sunday. For those wanting to stay at Lanfranc House a room deposit of £26 or US\$50 is required. For those wishing to join us on the Friday tours, a deposit of £13 or US\$25 is required. Those who register at the AFGS web site may use their credit cards to pay the fees & deposits. We look forward to meeting many Austin family researchers in Canterbury!