

**Case 10: Moses Austin b 1820 and Case 11 Benjamin Austin, his brother, b 1814 at Westbrook Town, Cumberland County, Maine.**

The register #1996 for Moses at the Eastern Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Togus, Maine, lists a military history for Moses Austin who enlisted September 1861 in Company K of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Maine Volunteer Infantry. He mustered out September 24, 1864. Moses re-enlisted in Company K of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Maine Volunteer Infantry on December 6, 1864. After completing another year of duty, he was discharged December 5, 1865. His disability first occurred on October 15, 1862 at Fernandina, Florida. It was rheumatism that attacked his spine and lower extremities.

Moses was listed as a single man, age 53, when he was first admitted to Eastern Branch on November 28, 1873. His nearest relative (named as his brother), was Simeon Austin of Westbrook, Maine. Ten years later Moses was admitted to the Southern Branch (Roseburg) of National Homes at Hampton, Virginia. Register #3984 has the age of Moses as 72 in 1883. His relatives listed are Simeon and Benjamin Austin of Westbrook, Cumberland County, Maine. Moses' military information is the same as it was at Eastern Branch. He was listed as married. His disability was listed as rheumatism.

The EB residence history for Moses shows that after he was admitted he was furloughed March 30, 1874, but was dropped as a deserter from the Home on January 1, 1875. Moses applied for readmission on September 5, 1879, but was dropped for impropriety at his Post, September 8, 1879. He applied for readmission January 17, 1882, but was dropped for temper at his Post, May 1, 1882. He applied for readmission November 8, 1882. He was readmitted unconditionally on the same day. Moses was furloughed from March 5, 1882, and returned on April 3, 1883. On September 26, 1883 Moses was dropped from the rolls at Eastern Branch.

The Roseburg Southern Branch at Norfolk, VA, admitted Moses the same year, in 1883. He stayed there for nine months, but was sent away on March 27, 1892. This is the last record at the National Homes for Moses Austin. I noticed that his birth date varied from 1820 to 1811, with him getting older over the ten year spread of the applications.

Before the Civil War, the history for Moses Austin is confirmed by various records of the State of Maine. Moses Austin married Joanna H. Nickols on June 27, 1841, at Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine. Their parents are not named on the Maine Marriages microfilm #11334. The 1850 U. S. Census of August 8, 1850, lists Moses, a carpenter, and Joanna H. as living in Bath City, Lincoln County, Maine. Joanna and Moses were both age 30 and they had four children. William H. Austin was age eight, Alonza B. Austin was age 7, Silas F. Austin was age 5, and Albert S. Austin was age 4. All the children were in school that year.

**Case 11: Benjamin Austin b 1814 Westbrook Town, Cumberland County, Maine at The Eastern Branch National Home for Disabled Soldiers.**

The brothers of Moses Austin who he mentioned in his applications to the National Homes were Simeon, and Benjamin Austin. Using the AFAOA database as compiled by Carol R. Austin, I read that Moses Austin and Simeon Austin, were children of Moses Austin (3 Dec 1779 – Aft 1860 Linn Co., Iowa) and Elsie Estes (13 May 1784 – Aft 1856). Other siblings listed by Carol are Ebenezer, Susannah, and Silas. Carol's record does not mention a son of Moses and Elsie Estes named Benjamin. Another database for Moses, on FamilySearch.org, is a Pedigree Resource File submitted by Daniel Hayden of Colfax, Iowa. Daniel has a complete birth date for Moses of 3 May 1820 and a birth date for brother, Benjamin of 25 Jan 1814, but no source is listed. V. Warren a submitter to Ancestry.com has a family tree that includes Benjamin born 25 Jan 1814 as a brother to Moses, born 3 May 1820. No source is mentioned.

In my opinion, one proof of fraternity of the brothers is the marriage record of Benjamin F. Austin, born 1813, to Clarissa Davis on 18 Feb 1864 in New Durham, Strafford, New Hampshire. This document lists the parents of Benjamin as Moses Austin and Esta Estis, daughter of Isaiah Davis and Martha Crockett. This suggests that the Moses of both compiled genealogies did have a brother named Benjamin. In 1870, the Census of New Durham, Strafford, New Hampshire has a Benjamin Austin age 58, a farm laborer, born about 1812-1812 in Maine, with a wife named Clarisa, age 61 of New Hampshire. Also living in their house was a Moses Davis age 57, who may be a brother of Clarisa.

There is a civil marriage for a Benjamin F. Austin to a Mary A. Lambert on 10 Nov 1867 in Freeport, Cumberland County, Maine. This may or may not be the same Benjamin.

Benjamin Austin also applied to stay at the Eastern Branch of the National Home in Togus, Maine, but not until after the residency of Moses, which ended in 1883. On Register #6620 Benjamin lists his residence in 1888 as Westbrook, Maine. His U.S. Army pension was #225959, for \$10 a month. He served in Co. K. of the 9<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry from 21 September 1861 to 5 January 1863. This was the same unit in which his brother, Moses served. They enlisted on the same day. The disabilities of Benjamin were old age and varicose veins. His final discharge from the Home at his own request was on October 13, 1888. He only lived at the Home for less than two months. His estate was appraised at \$3.09 and his personal property was sold for \$6.65. Benjamin's instructions to the Home were, "Don't say I am dead". So, was he dead in October 1888? I don't think so.

In the summer of 1888, Benjamin Austin stated that his wife was named Emma, and that she lived in Winthrop, Maine. I could not find any census that shows a wife named Emma living with Benjamin. The 1880 U. S. Census of Winthrop, Maine, had a Benjamin Austin age 61, a farm laborer, who was married to a Leaura A. Austin, aged 48. A few years later, the 1890 Veteran's Census, of New Sharon, Franklin, Maine, had the Veteran, Benjamin Austin, Pvt. Co. K, 9<sup>th</sup> ME Inf. Who enlisted in 1861 and was discharged August of 1865. His disability was, "tremble in legs". A similar disability of varicose veins of his left leg was mentioned on the Register of the Eastern Branch National Home. Except for the discharge date, the rest of the description matches for this soldier.

A burial record for a Benjamin Austin of Rome, Kennebec County, Maine with a grave located at cemetery Lot 4, Grave 1, at Rome, Maine is posted on the Austin Family Genealogical Society website by Pat B. Austin, genealogist. It was transcribed from the Maine State Archives. The article titled, "Grave Registration of Maine Austins of the Revolutionary, Civil and Spanish American War", is from the August 1987 issue of Austins of America. The enlistment and discharge dates do not match the subject of this report, but the military history of the units show that the Ninth Regiment ended their Petersburg Campaign on October 13, 1864, but the

Eighth Regiment continued from Petersburg, Virginia, on to Appomattox and the end of the War. Moses was enlisted in the Eighth Regiment after his enlistment in the Ninth Regiment ended September 24, 1864. It is likely that Benjamin did the same, and served until 1865.

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Source: *Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938*; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1749, 282 rolls); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

*AFAOA Database Online*. Carol R. Austin compiler for the family group of Moses Austin and Elsie Estes as part of the Joseph Austin of New Hampshire file.

*U. S. Civil War: Records and Profiles – Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine*. Moses Austin, resident of Westbrook, Maine, b 1820. Enlisted 21 Sep 1861 as Pvt., age 41, Co K 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt Maine. Mustered out Co K 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt Maine 27 Sep 1864. and Enlisted 6 Dec 1864 Pvt, age 44, Co K 8<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt. Mustered out Co K 8<sup>th</sup> Inf 18 Jan 1866.

*U. S. Census 1850, City of Bath, Lincoln Co, Maine, 8<sup>th</sup> district, page 169, Dwelling 521, Family 614*. Moses Austin age 30, carpenter, b Me; Joanna H. Austin, 30, f, Me; William H. Austin 8, in school; Alonzo B. Austin 7, in school; Silas F. Austin 5, in school; Albert S. Austin, 4, in school.

*FamilySearch.org. Document search. Maine Marriages 1771-1907*. Groom's Name: Moses Austin, Bride's Name: Joann H. Nickols, Marriage Date: 27 Jun 1841, Marriage Place: Lewiston, Androscoggin, Maine, Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M52051-2, System Origin: Maine-ODM Source Film Number: 11334. Groom's Name: Benjamin F. Austin, Groom's Birth Date: 1813, Groom's Birthplace: Westbrook, Cumberland, Me, Groom's Age: 51, Bride's Name: Clarissa Davis, Bride's Birth Date: 1810, Bride's Birthplace: Nottingham, Rockingham, Bride's Age: 54, Marriage Date: 18 Feb 1864, Marriage Place: New Durham, Strafford, New Hampshire, Groom's Father's Name: Moses Austin, Groom's Mother's Name: Esta Estis, Bride's Father's Name: Isaiah Davis, Bride's Mother's Name: Martha Crockett, Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M02502-4, System Origin: New Hampshire-EAST, Source Film Number: 1001122.

*U. S. Census 1870, Strafford Co, New Hampshire, New Durham*. Jun 15, 1870, page 234, dwelling 151, fam 154. Benjamin Austin 58, ME, farm laborer; Clarisa Austin 61 b NH; Moses Davis 57 NH.

*U. S. Census 1880, Kennebec County, Maine, Winthrop City*. 5 Jun, 1880, Page 564, Dwelling 72, Family 75; Benj Austin, age 61, b ca 1819 ME, ME, ME, married, farm laborer; Lauera A. age 48, ME, wife, keeping house.

*U. S. Census 1890 Veteran's Census, SD1-E186, Franklin Co, ME, New Sharon*. Page 3, line 32, Dwelling 165, Fam 170.

Benjamin Austin, Pvt. Co. C, 9<sup>th</sup> ME Inf, 3 Sep 1861-10 Aug 1865, 3 yr, 11 mo, 23 da. Line 32- disability, Tremble in legs.

*Maine State Archives*. Transcribed by Patricia B. Austin, published *Austins of America*, August 1987, page 237. "Grave Registration of Maine Austin Revolutionary, Civil and Spanish-American War."

National Archives Index. Report of Adjutant General State of Maine. Posted on Ancestry.com. Benjamin Austin, resident of Westbrook, Maine, age 47 on 21 Sep 1861. Pvt Co K 9<sup>th</sup> Me Inf Regt. Mustered out 02, Jun, 1863. o: Moses Austin, resident of Westbrook, Maine, age 41, enlisted 21 Sep 1861. Pvt. Co K 9<sup>th</sup> Me Inf Regt. Mustered out Co. K 9<sup>th</sup> Me Inf Regt on 27 Sep 1864. Then, Moses Austin of Portland, Maine age 44, enlisted in Co K 8<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt, mustered out Co K 8<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt 18 Ju 1866.

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Written July 2010 and revised July 2012 by  
[helencaustin@afaofa.org](mailto:helencaustin@afaofa.org)