

**Case 12: John Austin born 1816 in East Greenwich, Kent County, Rhode Island who died July 8, 1890 at Togus (Augusta), Maine.**

The Register #6608 of the Eastern Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Togus, Maine, lists a military history for John Austin who enlisted October 13, 1861 in The Union Army, Company F. of the First Rhode Island Artillery Regiment. He was discharged from that unit in December of 1863. He re-enlisted in Company B of the Fifth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment on January 2, 1864 and served until July 28, 1865.

When he was in the Civil War, John had an injury to his left leg and was admitted of the Eastern Branch on January 19, 1887 by the order of Gen. T.W. Hyde. At that time, John was age seventy, was widowed and listed his sister, Mrs. Phoebe A. Himes of East Greenwich, Rhode Island as his nearest relative. John had listed his birth address as North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Three years later, on July 8, 1890, John Austin died in the hospital (Soldier's Home) of old age. He was buried in Togus at the national cemetery near the Eastern Branch Home in Section E. Row 2, grave #11. His personal effects were said to be worthless and were destroyed at the Home. No further personal information was given on the Register.

The National Archives has card records of deceased Union Civil War Veterans. There is a card for John Austin, a Private of Company B, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment RI Heavy Artillery, who was buried at Soldiers Home Cemetery in Togus, Maine. The National Cemetery Administration also has a record verifying this burial.

U. S. Army enlistment records for John Austin's service in the Civil War show the same unit name and dates of enlistment and discharge that are on the Eastern Branch Register. Another U. S. Army enlistment record for a John Austin, who was in the Mexican War, makes this researcher wonder if the John of this study served in the Mexican War, as well. There is a record for a John Austin, who was born 1818 in Rhode Island, was age 32 when he enlisted December 20, 1850. He served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, under Major Patten until Jul 25, 1851. This John had blue eyes, brown hair, a fresh complexion, was five feet six inches tall, enlisted in Washington County, RI, and was a weaver by occupation.

Edith Austin Moore included a mention of a John Austin born about 1815 who was a son of Joseph Nichols Austin and wife Elizabeth S. Money, in her, "A Genealogy of the Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingstown, Rhode Island", published in 1951. This John Austin had a sister named Phoebe A. Austin born about 1835. The U. S. Census of 1860 of Greenwich, Rhode Island shows a widow Elizabeth Austin born 1798 who had a son named John, age 40, and a daughter Phoebe age 23.

John was still living with his mother Elizabeth in 1870 and 1880. His occupation was a retired weaver. There were three grandchildren of Elizabeth in the household. They were the children of Joseph Austin, John's brother, according to the AFAOA database. Their names and birth dates were: John F. Austin and James Edwin Austin, both born about 1856-1858. They could have been twins, if the 1860 census is correct. A Sarah M. Austin was born about 1858, but she did not appear on the 1880 census and might have married before she was age 21. Joseph was a widower as listed on the 1880 census.

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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.

*U. S. Census, 1840 Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island #410.* Joseph N. Austin.

*U. S. Census, 1850 East Greenwich, Rhode Island.* John Austin, stable keeper, age 34 b RI.

*U. S. Census, 1850 Town of East Greenwich, Kent Co, RI, p 218, 14 Aug.* Dwelling 13, Family 16. Household of Andrews Arnold age 22, Jeweler, resides, John Austin, age 34, male, laborer, b RI.

*U. S. Census, 1850, East Greenwich, Kent Co, RI, Dist 22, p 230B, Dwelling 195, Fam 232.* Elizabeth Austin 52, f, \$600. pp, RI; Nicholas Austin 33, laborer RI; Joseph 24, laborer, RI; William 19, weaver, RI; Phebe A. 15, RI. Next Family 233 is Alfred Austin 27, dressertender RI; Catherine 36, Alfred W. 4/12 RI.

*U. S. Census, 1860 East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI, 6 Jun 1860.* Elizabeth Austin, age 62, b 1798; William Austin 27; Phebe Austin 23; John Austin age 40.

*U. S. Census, 1870 East Greenwich, Kent Co, RI, 21 Jun, Dwelling 321, Fam 423.* Austin, Elizabeth 72, f, w, housekeeper \$600 pp, b RI (mother); John, 53, m, w, farm laborer, b RI; John

F. 14, m. w., works in Coe Mill (grandson), b RI; James E. 14, works in Coe Mill, b RI (grandson); Sarah M. 12, at home, b RI.

*U. S. Census, 1880 East Greenwich, Kent Co, RI, p 178A, 7 Jun, Dwelling 182, Fam 235.* Austin, Elizabeth, 84, widow, keeping house, can't read or write, RI, RI, RI; John 64, son, retired weaver, married, RI, RI, RI; Joseph 53, son, laborer, RI, RI, I, widowed; John F. 22, grandson, fish market clerk, single, RI, RI, RI; Edwin 22, grandson, fisherman 4, single, RI, RI, RI.

*U. S. Census, 1880 East Greenwich, Kent Co, RI, 11 Jun, p 188, Dwelling 344, Fam 486.* Himes, Lyman, 53, house carpenter; Phebe (Austin Himes) 43, wife, keeps house; Lilla 15, dau, works in cotton mill; Minnie 12, dau, at school.

Family History: AFAOA Database, "Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington Co., Rhode Island", compiler, Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. Joseph Nichols Austin b 13 Nov 1792 RI, wife, Elizabeth S. Money b 10 May 1797, d 21 Oct 1886 m at Exeter, RI. Children: Alfred, John, Nichols, Allen, Eleanor Brown Austin, Clark L. Austin, Thomas Austin, George, Joseph, Ann Eliza, William W., Phoebe A. b 1835.

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