

Case 14: Capt. Richard H Austin born 1831 Illinois.

The Register #65-306 of the Northwestern Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Milwaukee, Wood County, Wisconsin, lists a military history for Capt. Richard H. Austin who enlisted August 12, 1862 in Company A of the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He was discharged from that unit in June 15th 1865, at the end of the war in Nashville, Tennessee.

More personal information is on the Register to help identify this Richard H. Austin. He was age 56 when he first was admitted to Northwestern Branch by Capt. J. L. Mitchell on Nov., 2, 1887. He was born in Illinois, was a Catholic, a widower, and his nearest relative was a sister, Mrs. H. E. Lovig who resided at 46 E. 18th. St., Chicago, Illinois. Richard's last residence before entering the Home was Chicago, where his occupation was a Contractor (Agent).

When Richard was first admitted to the Union Army he was given the rank of First Lieutenant. After only three months service he was awarded the rank of full Captain which he kept for the duration of the war.

In November of 1863, after Richard had experienced military combat for a year, he led his men up the Missionary Ridge, near Lookout Mountain, Tennessee to defeat the Confederates (Bragg's Army), in a mighty battle. Richard was seriously injured with gunshot wounds in the thigh of his left leg and his neck. Some reports claimed he had been killed. However, he recovered, but remained in a military hospital at Nashville, Tennessee for the duration of the war.

The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies contain reports made by the superior officers of Richard, lauding his performance at the Battle of Missionary Ridge: "Capt. Austin of Company A was personally complimented by Gen. McCook's Inspector General, and approved by an order from the General for the conduct of their men, and their men on picket".

Although Richard did not live in any of the National Homes until 1887, this researcher did not find any census, marriage or other family records that could definitely identify him as a family member. The Register showed that he was a widower, so he probably did marry before or after the Civil War in either Illinois or Wisconsin. Perhaps a descendant will submit a query to the

Austin Families Association and additional information about him and his family will be available on this site in the future.

During his stay at the Northwestern Branch Home, Richard received \$5.00 per month from his military pension. His certificate was #147774. It was filed January 16, 1877. The actual pension documents in the National Archives would have details on the last pension payment made which would help to establish a death date for Capt. Richard H. Austin. He was still living in the summer of 1890 when the United States Census for Wisconsin, showed him continuing to live at the Wisconsin National Home. The census repeated the Registers data for his military service and his wounds. It listed his injuries as occurring at Mission Ridge, Tennessee on 25 November, 1963.

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.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865. Record for an ancestor. Series I Formal Reports, Serial No 055 (Vol 31, pt 2): Reports, Cont'd on operations in KY, SW VA, TN, MS, The Chattanooga-Ringold Campaign. Pages 208-209.

U. S. Census, 1890, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Line 41, Richard H. Austin, Capt. Co. A- 24th WI Inf, Enl. Aug 15, 1862, disc. Jun 1865.

U. S. National Archives, Microfilm #T289 Original Index to Pensions Filed by Veterans 1861-1900. on Ancestry.com

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>
Civil War Home: Dictionary of Wars. History of the 24th Infantry. History of Missionary Ridge. Page 292.

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