

Case 16: Colden Austin born 1845 and who died 1912 at LaPorte, Indiana.

The Register #10792 of the Marion Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at Marion City, Grant County, Indiana, lists a military history for Colden Austin who enlisted May 27, 1864 as a Private in Company B of the 138th Indiana Infantry. He was discharged September 30, 1864 at Indianapolis, Indiana. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of service. His disabilities were Hemiplegia, a form of partial paralysis, and crippling Arthritic Rheumatism.

More details about his disabilities are in his pension papers. The Declaration states that Colden had, "Affectations of the right leg by being broken above the knee in an accident at the Dodge Manufacturing Company (where he worked) and Rheumatism and its results".

A personal description of Colden on the Register has that he was 5 ft., 10 inches tall, of dark complexion. He had grey hair, grey eyes, could read and write and was a Protestant. His occupation was a machinist. After he was discharged from the Army he lived at Peru, Indiana. In 1910 he was a widower. Next-of-kin named on the register was, Charles Austin, who lived at Mishawaka City, Indiana.

Colden was age 65 when he was admitted to the Home on May 13, 1910. He was supported by a military Pension of \$12.00 per month, Pension Certificate Number 1.044.308. He was dropped from the rolls of the Home in December 1912. This was after the Home was notified that he had died of asphyxiation at Manistee, Michigan on July 21, 1912. The home was not notified until December 24, 1912. His personal effects were \$31.00 of pension money in his account. His remains were taken to La Porte, Indiana for interment by his son, Charles E. Austin. He was buried there at Patton Cemetery on July 27, 1912. There is a military marker on his grave.

Much more information about Colden Rufus Cadwalader Austin and his family is available from census records and other publications. There were at least three men of that name in the family, including an uncle and a cousin. The source of the name may be the politician and writer of Albany, New York who congratulated a John Austin in 1823 for his encouragement in the Erie Canal project. His name was Cadwallader D. Colden. He proposed the construction of the Erie Canal from Albany, New York to Lake Erie, which opened up commerce and

travel from New York City to the western states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. No connection for a John Austin, Esq. of Albany has been made to the ancestors of Colden Austin as of this date.

Perrigo Austin, the grandfather of Colden, was born in 1775 at Pittstown, Rensselaer, New York and was one of the many New England descendants of the immigrant Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island. Perrigo and his wife, Sarah Grey, had ten children. Three of their youngest sons left New York, probably after the death of their mother in 1837.

William G. Austin who was born December 9, 1816 in Marvellus, Onondaga, New York, came to La Porte, Indiana and married Polly Plank there, on December 19, 1843. Lafayette F. Austin who was born January 11, 1819, moved to Illinois. William's youngest brother, Dr. Stephen Sherman Austin, who was born September 12, 1821, also moved to Indiana. He was a medical doctor whose practice was in Etna City, Whitley County in 1880.

The U. S. Census of the town and county of La Porte, Indiana, dated 7 August 1850, has the family of Colden listed. His father was William G. Austin, age 35, a carpenter and joiner whose real estate was worth five hundred fifty dollars. His mother was Polly Plank Austin, age 24. They were both born in New York State. Colden was listed by his initials, C. R. C. He was born in La Porte County. At age five he was already attending school. His sister Sarah Eveline was age two and was also born in La Porte.

After his Civil War service, Colden used his mechanical skills to become a machinist, and found employment at a number of machine shops and industries in Plymouth, La Port Town, Penn, Peru, and finally at Dodge Manufacturing Company in South Bend, Indiana, where he worked until, at least, 1905. His sons, Charles E., a mason, and Noble C. Austin, a laborer, also lived nearby.

Colden Austin's wife was Helen Marr Lovely. She was born in January 1850, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She married Colden Austin before 1869. Her father was Noble Lovely, a prosperous manufacturer of Plymouth in Marshall County, Indiana. In 1870, Noble Lovely was living with Colden and Helen in that city. Their son, Charles E. Austin was one year old by July of that year. According to a descendant, Carol Doody, Charles was born Feb., 19, 1869.

Helen had at least two more sons and a daughter. William was born about 1872; Noble Colden was

born June 10, 1876; and Helen M. was born August 1, 1882.

After their children were grown, Colden's wife, Helen, died. She passed away November 2, 1902, in Mishawaka, Indiana. Eight years later, Colden went to the Marion Branch Home to live, where he would have some companionship with the other veterans. He stayed a couple of years and then took a furlough to visit his relatives.

The accidental death of Colden was a shock to his family. He was visiting his daughter, Helen M. Austin and her husband Ernest Edward Beattie in Manistee, Michigan at the time. Helen cooked a big dinner of family favorites for the occasion. Her two-year old son, Russell, was sitting in his high chair, enjoying the excitement and the delicious meal. Having his grandfather at the table was a big treat. But, suddenly, while Colden was eating some meat, he strangled, and choked to death.

Spasms of the mouth, tongue and windpipe often occur in patients who have a hemiplegic condition, like Colden. The whole family was aghast at the sight and saddened by their loss.

Some information about the descendants of Colden were submitted for this article by Carol Doody. Carol is the great granddaughter of Colden and Helen. She said that there was a family legend that Colden might have been a sword-swallower. No records have been found to verify the story.

Colden's son, Noble Colden Austin, married first to Vesta Coutts on October 16, 1898, in Indiana. Vesta had an infant who was born prematurely on March 8, 1899 in Mishawaka. The Naugatuck Daily News of Connecticut had an article about the baby weighing only one pound. It said, "The baby is the size of an incandescent lamp light globe. The physicians say it will live." The name of the child is not known by this writer. A year later, there were no children living with the couple.

In 1899, Noble had friends who lived in Naugatuck, Connecticut and he traveled between his home in Indiana and Naugatuck. Noble divorced before 1901 and moved to Connecticut. Vesta remarried to a Fred Muesing (aka Mesing).

Noble Colden Austin, Senior, married second, to Anna G. Richards. He worked at the U. S. Rubber Shop, was a member of the Knights of Pythias, a Burgess for Naugatuck's District One, and was on the Fire Commission. Annie had two children: Laura Estelle Austin (1904-1995); and Noble Colden Austin, Jr. (1906-1976). Noble lived in Naugatuck,

Connecticut and prospered until he died, Apr., 10, 1928, of tuberculosis.

Noble Colden Austin, Junior was first a brass worker, and then a roofing salesman for Tilo Roofing Co., in Waterbury, Connecticut. Noble, Jr., married Ann Virginia Daikus, a registered nurse. He died in Waterbury, New Haven County, on March 27, 1976. He had three surviving children. His sister, Laura, did not marry. She lived the rest of her life in New York City and was a housekeeper for well-to-do families.

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.

The Library of Michigan, Michigan Death Records 1897-1920, Roll #171, Certificate #20. Colden R. C. Austin, b May 11th, 1845, d Jul 21, 1912. Machinist, at Machine Shop, Age, 67 yr, 2 mo. 10 da. Parents, Wm. G. Austin b NY and Polly Plank b. NY. Informant: Ernest Beattie of Maniatec, MI. Cause of death: Asphyxiation. Accidental swallowing a piece of meat. Dr. Harlen Mullen, MD.

South Bend, Indiana City Directories 1821-1989. Colden Austin. 1901, Page 30. Residence, 817 E. Second St. (wife Helen M. Austin). Machinist for Dodge Manufacturing Co. Also, sons: Charles E. (Katie) a mason, res. 428 E. Third St.; Noble C. laborer, res. 817 E. Second St.

South Bend, Indiana City Directories 1821-1989. 1905, Page 731, Colden Austin, res. 817 E. Second St., no occupation; Charles E. (Katie), a mason, res. 839 E. Fourth St.

U. S. Census, 1850, La Porte Town, La Porte County, IN., 7 Aug 1850, Page 254-255. Dwelling 32, Family 33. Wm. G. Austin, 35, m, w, carpenter & joiner, \$550. R. E., b. NY; Polly 24, f, w, b NY; C R C 5, m, w, b La Porte, Co., in school; Sarah Eveline 2, f, w, b La Porte Co.

U. S. Census, 1870, Center, Marshall Co., IN, Plymouth P. O., 2 Ju 1870, Page 54, Dwelling 33, Family 207. Colden Austin, 23, machinist, b IN; Helen (Lovely Austin) 20, b PA; Charles 1, b IN; Noble Lovely 30, manufacturer, \$2000. R. E., \$3000. P. P., b IL.

U. S. Census, 1880, Troy, Whitley Co., IN, Dwelling 15, Family 16. (Note: William G. Austin was living with a nephew who was the son of Dr. Stephen S. Austin) Perry Austin, 24, farmer, IN, NY, OH; Frances 24, wife, keeping house, In, NY, OH; Kittie, 2, dau, IN, IN, IN. William Austin 64, Uncle, widower, farm laborer, NY, NY, NY.

U. S. Census, 1880, La Porte Town, La Porte, IN, Washington Street, 7 Jun, 1880, Page 163B, Dwelling 184, Family 198. Colden Austin, 35, machinist, IN, IN, IN; Helen 30, wife, housekeeper, PA, NY, PA; Charles 11, son, at school, IN, IN,

PA; William 3, son, IN, IN, PA; Noble 4, son, IN, IN, PA; Wyman Lovely 23, brother-in-law, works in Boiler Shop, PA, NY, PA.

U. S. Census, 1900, St. Joseph, IN, Penn Twp., 14 Jun 1900, Page 169A, Dwelling 277, Family 294. Colden Austin 55, b May 1845 IN, NY, NY, married 32 yr. (1868), machinist; Helen, wife, 32, Jan 1850, 5 ch, 3 living, PA, NY, PA; Nellie, dau, 17, Aug 1882, IN, IN, PA.

U. S. Census, 1910, Penn Twp., St. Joseph Co., IN, Meshawaka City, 18 Apr 1910, 833 East Fourth St., Page 59B, Dwelling 60, Family 60. Austin, Charles E., head, 43, married once for 10 years, a mason, b IN, unknown, PA; Catharine N., wife, 50, 5 ch, 2 living, married twice, 10 yr., a laundress, IN, Ger., Ger.; Ella A., daughter, 9, IN, IN, IN,

Family History: <http://www.afaao.org> Edith Austin Moore. *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island. St. Petersburg, FL, 1951.*

AFAOA Database, "Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington Co., Rhode Island", compiler, Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. To follow the line, go to Perrigo Austin (1775-1857) NY, father; then son, William G. Austin (1816-1894) Indiana; then son, Colden Rufus Cadwalader Austin b 11 May 1845 IN.

<http://www.afaao.org> Edith Austin Moore. *Field Notebook* 81-87, pg. 438. "John Austin, Esq. of the merchant employ, is mentioned in an article by Cadwallader D. Colden of the Canal celebration at Albany, Oct 8, 1823. Publication unknown, Page 180."

<http://www.findagrave.com> Patton Cemetery, La Porte, IN. A photo of the military marker is at the following website. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~inlpcem/cemeteries/patton/patton.htm>

Carol Doody, a great granddaughter of Colden Austin, *Family History Notebook*. Notes were submitted by email to Helen Austin, July 29, 2012.

United States National Archives. NARA. *Civil War Pensions. Pension Certificate Number 1.044.308. Declaration for Invalid Pension, dated 3/11/1902.* Copy in possession of Carol Doody.

U. S. Census, 1900, St. Joseph Co., IN, Penn Twp., Ward 3, 2 Jun, 1900, Sheet 3. [Son of Colden] Noble C. Austin, 23, b Jun 1876, w, m, IN, IN, IN, core marker; Vesta V. Austin, wife, ae. 22, b. Aug 1877, b. Kendalville, IN, IN, IN.

1901 City Directory South Bend, Indiana, 817 E. Second St., Noble C. Austin, laborer, living with his parents.

U. S. Census, 1910, New Haven Co., CT, Naugatuck, Ward 1, Sheet 3, 137 Central Ave, Dwelling 115, Family 139. Annie Austin ae. 29, stitcher in Woolen Mill; Laura Austin, daughter, ae. 5; Noble C. Austin, Jr., son, ae. 4; Mary E. Hanford 53, a servant.

World War I Draft Card, 1918. Noble C. Austin, New Haven, CT, born 10 Jun 1876, address 194 Scottt St., Naugatuck, CT;

Medium height, brown eyes, black hair, age 42, a rubber worker at Goodyear M.R. Shoe Company.

U. S. Census, 1920, New Haven Co., CT, Naugatuck, Ward 2, 2 Jan., Sheet 3B. Noble C. Austin ae. 48, bootmaker at a rubber factory Annie E. Austin, ae. 39; Laura E., ae. 15; Noble C., son, ae. 13.

1926 City Directory Waterbury, CT, 172 High St., Waterbury, CT. Annie Austin and son, Noble Colden Austin, Jr., a brassworker.

Compiled Aug 2012 helencaustin@afaao.org
