

Case 18: Isaac Austin born ca. 1843 Nashville, TN, died Dec. 10, 1913 Illinois.

The Company Descriptive Book of the Fourth Regiment of the U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery (USCT), on June 21, 1863, had a note, "Isaac Austin supposed to be the name of his owner". His description on that record agrees with the Register of the Danville Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Illinois

Register #10352 of Danville Branch lists a military history for Isaac Austin who enlisted for a term of five years, on June 8, 1863 at Columbus, Kentucky as a private in Co. C of the Fourth Regiment of the USCT Heavy Artillery. He also served in the Eleventh Regiment and mustered out on February 25, 1866. His disabilities were varicose veins, ulcers on his legs, bronchitis and a weak heart. His nearest relative was his wife, Elizabeth Austin, who lived at 39 Dewey St., Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois, in 1910.

The residence of Isaac subsequent to his service in the Union Army was at Murphysboro. He was admitted to the Danville Home in 1910. His domestic history describes Isaac as age 67, 5'7" tall, colored complexion, eyes dark, hair gray, can't read or write, Protestant religion, occupation-laborer. He was married at the time of his admission to the Home.

Isaac's Pension Certificate was #667.881. He received \$12.00 per month. At some time during the period of 1910 to 1912, He left the Home without checking out. He was listed as AWOL (Absent Without Leave), when he died. His date of death was listed on the Register as December 10, 1913. He was buried at Oakland Cemetery, owned by the City of Carbondale, Jackson Co., Illinois. A military marker was placed on his grave.

As a child, Isaac was a slave on a plantation near Nashville, Tennessee. The actual name of his parents is not known. Since he told the Captain who enlisted him in the Army that Isaac Austin was the name of his owner, it is not possible to trace his ancestors by his name. However, the slave owners of Tennessee and Kentucky can be searched on the 1850 and 1860 Slave Census, for owners named Austin. The probate records and deeds of Davidson County could be searched for slave names appearing on Austin plantations antebellum.

The exact birth date of Isaac is not known. September 1844 was written on the 1900 U. S. Census. Six other records have dates that vary from

1840 to 1845. He was either manumitted or escaped slavery and left Nashville sometime before the Civil War started. He went 140 miles northwest to the community of Columbus, Kentucky, on the waterfront of the Mississippi River. There he decided to enlist in the Union Army when he heard about the opportunity for service, and the offer of government pensions and other benefits.

Isaac was working on a farm before he went in the service and was able to get his own farm in Illinois after his discharge in 1866. He was healthy enough to work at his place near Carbondale, in Murphysboro Township of Jackson County, Illinois, for forty-four years until he could work no longer. His wife and family took Isaac the two hundred miles to the Danville Branch National Home.

A first marriage record for Isaac Austin, is in the Jackson County, Illinois Court Records, Film 096827. Isaac and Mrs. Darcus Vincent, a woman with 4 children, married on December 8, 1869. Darcus' children were: Frank; Samuel; Marie and Charlie Vincent. There was also a son named Isaac Furgeson who was born in 1874 in Kentucky after she was married to Isaac Austin. As head of household in 1880, Isaac claimed all of the step-children and Isaac as his. Perhaps the surname Ferguson came from the mother of Isaac.

Something happened to Darcus before 1893 and Isaac married, second, to Elizabeth "Bettie" Matthews Glenn, a widow with ten children who lived near him in the Ridge Community. Elizabeth's children by her marriage to Hilliard Glenn, a mulatto, were: Mary; Fannie; John; Madathen; Melisa; Grant; Louise; Daisy; and Cora Glenn. She also had a son, Hegard Hoisand born in 1878.

No records before the emancipation of slaves have been found for the parents of Isaac. However, both Davidson County, Tennessee and the town of Columbus, Kentucky, where Isaac enlisted in the Union Army, did have some slave owners named Austin listed on slave schedules of 1850 and 1860. Several U. S. Census Population Schedules from 1870 to 1910 show information about the families of Isaac, Darcus, and Elizabeth Austin. They are in the following source list.

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, Wash., D.C.

NARA: *U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865*. Record for Isaac Austin Co. C 4 H. Art'y, enl. Jun 21, 1863, age 22, ht. 5' 5 1/2", black complexion, black eyes, black hair, b. Nashville, TN, farmer, enl. At Columbus, KY by Capt. Wm. Grant for five years. Note: "Supposed to be name of owner".

<http://www.findagrave.com> Cemetery search on August 15, 2012. Jackson County, Illinois, City of Carbondale, Oakland Cemetery. Photo of military marker for Isaac Austin, Civil War, 4th US H.Art. b. unknown d. 10 Dec 1913.

U. S. Census, 1870 Jackson Co., IL, Ridge Pct., Carbondale P.O. 14 Jul 1870, Dwelling 124, Fam. 124. Isaac Austin, 25, TN, black, farmer, \$100 P.E., can't read or write; Darcus Austin, 42, f, b, keeping house, b TN; Frank Vincent 18, b. KY; Samuel Vincent 10, b. KY; Marie Vincent 8; Charles Vincent 3, b, IL.

U. S. Census, 1880 Jackson Co., IL, Murphysboro, 14 Jun 1870, P. 126B; Sw. 66, Fam. 66; Isaac Austin 40, m, black, works on farm, b TN, parents b. TN; Dorciss, 52, black, wife, b, TN, fa. b TN, mo. unk.; Samuel Vincent, 19, b, son, at home, KY, TN, KY; Charles Vincent, 12, son, at home IL, TN, KY; Furgeson, Isaac, b, male, 6 son, KY, TN, KY.

U. S. Census, 1900, Jackson Co., IL, Murphysboro, 16 Jun, 1900, P. 209A. Isaac Austin, b. Apr 1844, ae. 56, black, TN, TN, TN; Elizabeth Austin, 55, b, May 1855, ae. 55, 8 ch. 6 living, TN, TN, TN; Henry Glenn, grandson, black, Apr 1887, ae. 13, IL, TN, KY; Lulu Glenn, mo-in-law, Jan 1816, ae. 84, VA, VA, VA; Lydia Glenn, granddaughter, Feb 1884, ae. 16.

U. S. Census, 1910, Jackson Co., IL, Murphysboro, 25 Apr, 1910, Res. 23 Dewey St, in Murphysboro City, 197, 210. John Glenn, head, m, B, ae. 47, widower, truck gardner, TN, TN, TN; Elizabeth Glenn (Austin) b, ae. 65, married twice, for 18 years, 10 children, TN; Isaac Austin, Boarder, b, ae. 67, married twice for 18 yrs., TN, TN, TN; Louisa Glenn, grandmother, b, ae. 100, widow, 1 child, 0 living, TN, TN, TN; Rockwell McDonald, boarder, black, ae. 15, MO, US, IL.

Jackson County, Illinois Marriage Records. Film 096287. Records transcribed from Ancestry.com.

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