

Case 1: Lyman Purple Austin (1842-1938)

The Mountain Home National Veteran's Home at Johnson City, Tennessee has the following information on its Register #H107, U. S. Pension Certificate No. 61880. Lyman was born on April 11, 1842, in Potter County, Pennsylvania. He had blue eyes, auburn hair, and a fair complexion when he enlisted in the army; but forty-two years later, in 1903, when he was admitted to Mountain Home, he was gray haired. He was five feet, nine inches tall. His occupation was as a millwright when he was young, but he worked as a carpenter when he was older.

He first enlisted in the U. S. Army, September 3, 1861, as a Private in Company E, of the 93rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment at Lockhaven, Pennsylvania. He was discharged from that enlistment on November 9, 1862 by Order of the Secretary of War because of disabilities, including the loss of his second right toe at Williamsburg, Virginia. He re-enlisted November 9, 1862 at Fairfax Court House, Virginia as a Private of Company G. of the 2nd U. S. Artillery Regiment. He was discharged from that unit November 9, 1865 because of expiration of service. He had a gunshot wound on his right foot and had general disability.

Upon his admission to the Mountain Branch in 1903, it was noted that Lyman's wife was Mrs. Jane Austin of Barnardsville, NC, but that name was crossed out before 1927 and the name of a relative listed was Mrs. Ida Pruitt, a step-daughter, of Asheville, North Carolina. His disabilities, as of August 22, 1910, were senility, arteriosclerosis, mental insufficiency, cardiac hypertrophy, loss of second toe on right foot, and chronic gastritis.

For the period from November 21, 1903 until his final discharge on November 10, 1927 there were a total of fifteen times that Lyman was discharged and readmitted to Mountain Home. When Lyman checked out on 16 Jul 1912, he was told that his standing pass was to be withheld for thirty days. After that he transferred to the Roseburg Branch (Southern) at Hampton, VA on Chesapeake Bay, where he lived from 1912 until 1914. He is on register No. 20590. His rate of pension was \$15.00 for U. S. Pension 618800. When he was readmitted to Mountain Home it was September 14, 1917. After his final discharge on November 10, 1927 at Johnson City, Tennessee he went to Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina where some of his family lived.

Sources listed below have additional data about Lyman. AFAOA database Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA lists the parents of Lyman as Orrameal Austin and Sarah Purple who were living in Harrison Township of Potter County, Pennsylvania in 1850. Orrameal was a blacksmith who was born in Norwich, New York about 1788. Sarah Purple Austin was born about 1799 in New York. Before the Civil War, Lyman was a farm laborer for a neighbor, John Watrous in Harrison Valley.

The 1870 and 1880 census records for Lyman were not found. They might have further information about his first wife and his residence from 1865 to 1900. It is not known whether Lyman had any children by his first marriage.

Lyman had moved to Big Ivy, North Carolina, near Mt. Mitchell about the time he married Mrs. Jane Bradley, in 1887. Jane's mother was born in North Carolina and Jane had been living there since before 1883. He was admitted to the nearby Mountain Home for Veterans in 1903. They lived about twenty-five miles from the Home.

In 1910 Lyman and Jane moved down to the city of Asheville and lived on Logan Street. Laddie and Ida Bradley were infants when their mother Jane married Lyman. After Ida married Clarence Pruitt, she continued to live in Asheville and she was able to visit Lyman at Mountain Home from time to time. Ida's children, Senna, Otis, Carl, Lawrence, and Hershel Pruitt probably considered Lyman their grandfather. Lyman was close to the Pruitt and Bradley family of Asheville and they saw to his burial at Paint Fork Cemetery, at a beautiful spot in the mountains that is near to the Appalachian Trail. Lyman was age 98 when he died.

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., as posted on Ancestry.com.

U. S. Census, 1850, Potter County, PA, Harrison Township, family 74: Oromel (sic) Austin, a blacksmith age 61 born in New York and wife, Sarah (Purple) aged 51, also born in New York, have been listed on a database by AFAOA as the parents of Lyman. Although Sarah would have been age 43 when he was born, it is possible. Oromel and Sarah have two young males in the household, Edwin Austin age 15, a farmer, born in New York State and Lyman age 8, born in Pennsylvania.

U. S. Census, 1860, Potter County, PA, Harrison Valley, 9 Jul p 116, Dwelling 45, Fam 444: Lyman Austin age 18, a farm laborer, was born about 1842 in PA and he was living in the household of John Watrous, age 52, a farmer who was born in NY.

U. S. Census, 1900, Buncombe County, NC, page 304A, Big Ivy, Township, Southern Division, Precinct 1. Lyman Austin, age 58, was born April 1842 in New York; his parents were both born in New York. He was a farmer. His wife was Jane M. They were married in 1887 and had been married for thirteen years. Lyman had two step-children: Lattie age 17, a son born February 1883 in North Carolina, who was at school, and his sister, Ida age 13, born March 1887 in North Carolina. (Note that Mrs. Ida Pruitt was nearest relative to Lyman in 1927 according to Mountain Home register.

U. S. Census, 1910, Buncombe County, NC, Asheville, Ward 3, page 191, 18 Apr 1910. Logan St. address. Lyman P. Austin age 68 was born in New York; his parents were both born in New York. He was married twice, the last time for 21 years to Jane Austin, his wife, age 63, who was born in North Carolina, her mother was born in North Carolina. Lyman was a house carpenter.

U. S. Census, 1920 Buncombe County, NC, Asheville, Township 3, 6 Jun 1920, page 132. Address 2020 View St. at Logan St. Dwelling 110, Fam. 136. Clarence Pruett age 34, a day laborer, born in North Carolina is head of the house. His wife, Ida Pruett age 32 born in North Carolina, had parents who were born in North Carolina. Their children were: Senna, a son age 13; Otis, a son, age 11; Carl, a son, age 7; Lawrence a son, age 4 years and 8 months; and Ershel, a son, age 3 years and 4 months. All were born in North Carolina. Note that Ida's maiden name was Bradley (Ancestry.com FamilyTree.unsourced)

Death Certificate, North Carolina. Lyman P. Austin born about 1840 in New York, a retired carpenter died 4 April 1938 in Asheville, North Carolina, Woodfin, Buncombe County, North Carolina. His age was 98 years. He was buried at Paint Fork, Weaverville, North Carolina 6 April 1938. Informant was Mrs. P. P. Bradley of Asheville, North Carolina. No parents are named. Database online at Ancestry.com (NC Death Records 1909-1975). Paint Fork Cemetery can be seen at Findagrave.com.

AFAOA Database. *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts.* <http://www.afaqa.org>

Compiled Jul 8, 2010 Helen C. Austin
helencaustin@afaqa.org