

Case 20 Jedediah Phelps Austin, the younger, born 10 September 1840 at Rolling Prairie, La Porte County, Indiana and died 2 November 1927 Michigan City, La Porte Co., Indiana

Jedediah Austin is found on register #11396 of the Marion Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Grant County, Indiana. His military history shows that he was a Private in Company E of the 4th Indiana Cavalry of the U. S. Army for four months during the beginning of the Civil War. He enlisted 6 August 1862 near his home in La Porte County. His unit was organized and mustered into service on 22 August 1862, before being ordered to Henderson, Kentucky. His regiment then went to Louisville and served the unattached Army of Kentucky, Dept. of the Ohio, until November 1862. They were then assigned to the District of Western Kentucky, Dept. of the Ohio until June 1863. However, On December 22, 1862, Jedediah received an honorable discharge because of his injuries and disabilities. The Marion Home Register lists them as: a right inguinal hernia, deafness, old fracture of his right arm, and chronic articular rheumatism.

After The Civil War

Until he was age seventy-one, Jedediah was able to continue his life as a farmer in Kankakee, La Porte Co., Indiana. As he grew older and his disabilities increased, he was admitted to the Marion Branch Home on 6 October 1911. A U. S. Army Pension #153099 helped with his expenses. He had requested that three quarters of his pension be sent to his wife. He only stayed at the Home for one month until 18 November 1911. What happened to him next, will be explained later.

Family Background

The ancestry of Jedediah Phelps Austin, Junior "Jedd" is well documented by the Austin Families Association, See the Database, "Wait Austin of Rhode Island" compiled by Arthur M. Sikes. Jedd's father was [Jedediah Phelps Austin](#), Senior 1804-1896 one of the early settlers of Indiana since 1823. He was living in New York when he met Hannah Teeter 1807-1900. They were married for seventy-five years. During that time they had twelve children, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-six great grandchildren.

Jedd's Married Life and Descendants

There is something about a girl named Mary. Jedediah, Junior twice married ladies named Mary. After Jedediah returned from the Civil War he met Mary E. Hupp and married her on 1 October 1863 in La Porte County, Indiana. She died before 1876 and he married a widow, Mrs. Mary Ackley Burrier on 21 April 1877 who had a daughter named Girtie Burrier who was born in 1868.

Jedd and his first wife had three children who survived childhood: 1. Edward, 2. Clara Belle, and 3.

Nathan. Soon three more children would be born to Jedediah and his second wife: 4. Garry, 5. Harry, and 6. Estella E.

The 1870 U. S. Census of Rolling Prairie, Kankakee, La Porte Co., Indiana shows Jedd Austin as a farmer with a farm valued at \$3,000.00. He also had \$800.00 of personal goods. His wife Mary E. Hupp Austin and children Edward, Clara and Ruth were living in the household. Ten years later the family still lived on the farm. However, the wife Mary was now his second wife, Mary Ackley b. 1847-6, d. 6 Mar 1912 in Berrien, Michigan. Edward and Clara were still at home.

Two more children had been born to Jedd's second wife, Mary Ackley Austin. They were Nathan b. 1875 and Vernon b. 1880. By 1900 the couple had been married for twenty-three years had three more children: Garry b. 1883; Harry b. 1888 and Estella b. 1890. Harry and Estella were both born in Seward, Nebraska.

Two of Jedd's children by his first wife had died in childhood: Ruth b. 1868 d. before 1880 and Vernon b. 5 Sep 1880 d. 29 Sep 1889, just after his ninth birthday.

Jedediah was age 69 in 1910 and he was suffering more from his disabilities. He was living with his son Nathan Austin in South Bend, Indiana. Jedd was listed as a retired farmer, but said he was still married. The next year was when Jedd went to the Marion Branch Veterans' Home for a month. His wife, Mary Ackley Austin, died a year later.

Jedd returned to the homes of his sons Nathan and Garry for a while until he was admitted to the Indiana State Soldiers' Home at Tippecanoe, Lafayette, Wabash, Indiana. This was an architectural masterpiece well organized and a fully staffed facility with many buildings and landscaped grounds supported by the State and various charitable Veteran's organizations when it was built in 1901. Jedediah was living at the Home in 1920. When he died on 2 Nov 1927, Jedd was living in the home of his son, Garry Austin of Michigan City, Indiana.

New Generations in the Twentieth Century

A few of the children and grandchildren of Jedediah removed from La Porte to live in California and Colorado. However, most of them stayed in Indiana in industrial towns not far from the shore of Lake Michigan.

[1] **Edward E. Austin [1 Dec 1865-17 Mar 1930]** Jedediah's eldest son, worked as a Railroad Fireman, until he became a Locomotive Engineer in La Porte County, Indiana until his death. He was married to Jennie Jones on 20 December 1898, but no children were found on the census records. Edward was divorced and living in boarding houses after 1910 with other railroad workmen.

[2] **Clara Belle Austin [5 Jun 1866-31 Jan 1948]** was quite an adventurer. She married three times; first, on 28 May 1882 in Berrien, Michigan when only age fifteen to

Andrew Amor. They had two children, Mabel b. Feb 1883 in Indiana, Walter Amor 16 Jul 1884-1930; and second, in 1889 to Henry Edwin Wilson 1861-1926, a farmer. They had three daughters born in Skagit, Washington State: Ethel Mae Wilson 1891-1950; Myrtle March Wilson 1893-1963; and Minnie Ellen Wilson 1895-1973. Three more were born in Humboldt County, California: Harry Thomas Wilson 1896-1955; Henry Burtus Wilson 1898-1981, and Anona Mary Wilson 1905-1982. In 1900 the Wilson family was living in Rohnerville, Humboldt, California. By 1910, Clara and Henry had separated. One of the children was living with her husband, and the other five were living with Clara. The couple was divorced by 1920 and Clara was working as a housekeeper outside of her home and Anona Mary was living with her.

After Mr. Wilson died, Clara married again to Thomas H. Yates of Union, Humboldt, California before 1927. Her Death Certificate has her name as Clara Belle Yates, but names her parents as Jedediah and Mary Hupp Austin. She was buried at Sunset Memorial Park at Eureka, Humboldt Co., California.

[3] Nathan Austin [1875-13 May 1937] Lakeville, St. Joseph County, Indiana. He was a lineman, working for an electric company and living in South Bend, Indiana at 905 Harrison Ave., Portage Township with Cara D. his second wife in 1910. They had two children: Estella b. 1904 and Carl b. 1907.

[4] Garry Austin [25 Nov 1883-23 Nov 1913] of Rolling Prairie, Indiana, married to Minnie Mary Blank (1883-1977) on 14 Dec 1904 at Kankakee Township, La Porte. They had four children: (1) Pearl Alice Austin 30 Sep 1905-17 Dec 1997; (2) Willard Franklin Austin 6 Aug 1908-18 Nov 1969; (3) Elsatia Melissa Austin 10 Jun 1914-; and (4) June Rose Austin 1 Jun 1918-1986. Garry worked for the Michigan City Railroad as a brakeman, and then as a Locomotive Engineer.

Garry's eldest daughter, (1) Pearl Alice Austin married John Latham 1901-1957, a core baker for a manufacturing company in Michigan City, where they lived at 310 Cloud Street in a nice frame house with a large back yard, but close enough for John to walk to work. John was born in Massachusetts and had two years of college. They had four children: Doris, William G., Patricia and Donna Latham.

(2) Willard Austin, Garry's only son, worked for Tonn and Blank as a carpenter and married first to Nina Mae Hutton on 26 Nov 1932 in La Porte. Nina and Willard had a son named Willard Garry and a daughter, Nancy Lee Austin. Willard married second to a girl named Anita Ida Kienitz 1916-2005. They had a daughter named Connie Jean Austin. The couple is buried at Swan Lake Gardens, La Porte, Indiana.

(3) Elsatia Melissa Austin was a good student and industrious. She had a job working as a clerk for the National Tea Company when she was age 15. She is pictured in The Isaac Elston High School Annual of 1931 and the Indiana University Annual for the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, Class of 1936. She was a dark-haired beauty and well educated. A few years later, on 9 Dec 1939 she married Orison Lloyd Hayes in St. Joseph County, Indiana. Her husband died 22 Oct 1986 at their home at 15395 Old Bedford Trail in Mishawaka, St. Joseph, Indiana. He had suffered with lung cancer for some time.

(4) June Rose Austin, had a career as a successful office manager and then was Chief Accountant for The Arno Adhesive Tapes Company of Michigan City, Indiana in 1960. She died on 9 Oct 1986 as a single woman, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

[5] Harry Austin [10 Apr 1888-20 Mar 1951] married first to Lucy M. Heckman 1879-1958. Harry lived in La Porte until after 1927. Harry and Lucy had a son, Garry H. Austin 6 Apr 1913-21 Jul 2012. He died in Gunnison, Colorado. On 11 Apr 1925, Garry H. married first to Mrs. Nora Wilhelm Bolin 6 Apr 1890-Feb 1982. Then Garry H. Austin and wife removed to Denver Colorado before 1930. On 23 Feb 1937 Garry married his second wife, Frances Pechnick 1916-24 Jan 2010. He had finished four years of college and by 1940 was working as a Junior Engineer for The Bureau of Restoration in Denver. In 1948 he was a Civil Engineer for USBR. His mother Lucy Heckman Austin died 3 Mar 1958 in Denver, Colorado.

[6] Estella S. Austin [30 Jun 1890-19 Jan 1922] married 27 Feb 1908 at Saint Joseph, Berrien, Michigan to Harvey Ephraim Webster 1883-1981. The place they lived was named Michigan City. It was a growing industrial city at the waterfront of Lake Michigan and just a short distance from the Michigan State Line. Their children were: Gaylord Vern Webster 21 Nov 1908-14 Oct 1993; Clarence Ward Webster 1911-1977; Charles Emil Webster 1915-1987; Mary Leona Webster 1920-1989. Mother Estella died of a fatal complication of an eight month pregnancy when she was only age thirty-two. All her children were born in Michigan City. which had become heavily industrialized in the Twentieth Century.

Greenwood Cemetery where many family members are buried, was at the end of Cloud Street in Michigan City where several of Jedediah's children and descendants lived. The turn of the century frame houses still stand and appear to be well cared for (see Google maps). Rolling Prairie Cemetery, in the community of that name, is the family cemetery for more of the pioneer Wait Austin descendants.

Compiled August 9, 2016 by helencaustin@afaoa.org



1. *Indiana State Soldier's Home at*



2. *Men's Domicile, Indiana State Soldier's Home*

Sources:

Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938; NARA Publication M174

AFAOA Database "Wait Austin of Rhode Island" compiler Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. Including family history and newspaper articles submitted by family member W. Garry Austin in 1997. www.afaao.org/db_files/Wait_Austin_RI/Individuals/I10.html

Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Indiana. <https://www.fold3.com/>

Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865. NM-65, entry 172, 620 volumes. NAI: 4213514. Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), Record Group 110. www.nara.gov

Indiana Works Progress Administration compiler. Index to Marriage Records La Porte County, Indiana. Volume 1, Book: R-E; Page 377. Record at www.ancestry.com

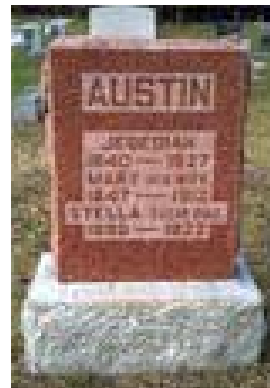
U.S. Census: 1850-1940 www.ancestry.com

The Harvey Book: giving the genealogies of certain branches of the American families of Harvey, Nesbitt, Dixon and Jameson; and notes on many other families, together with numerous biographical sketches. Ancestry.com. "North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000" Provo, Utah.

Images:

1. Indiana State Soldiers Home at Tippecanoe
2. Men's Domicile at Tippecanoe
3. Memorial at Rolling Prairie Cemetery
4. Grandson, Willard Franklin Austin 1908-1969 photoprint on gravestone

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.com/~dunelady/>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~inlpcem/cemeteries/>



3. *Jedediah & Family Tombstone*
Rolling Prairie Cemetery



4. *William Franklin Austin*
1908-1969
(Photoprint on Gravestone)