

Case 23 James Austin, born 1828 at Massillon, Stark, Ohio and died 1905 Pitcairn, St. Lawrence, New York. Register #314289 Dayton, Ohio.

Military History

James enlisted in the Union Army on 19 Aug 1864 at Watertown, New York. He was a Private in Co. E of the 10th NY Heavy Artillery. He was discharged on 20 Jun 1865 and was mustered out at Petersburg, Virginia with his unit. His disability as listed by the Dayton Home were: left inguinal hernia, varicose veins of both legs, and injury of right side.

Domestic History: James Austin was born in Massillon, Ohio in 1828 and was age fifty-eight when he entered the Dayton Home. A physical description has that his height was 5'8". He had a fair complexion, gray eyes, and gray hair. His occupation was laborer. James residence after discharge was Dayton, OH. His nearest relative was his daughter: Mrs. C. L. Kirkbride of Harrisville, NY*. He was listed as a widower as his wife died in 1904 before his last admittance.

Other: U. S. Army Pension #581,165. Rate \$12.00. James was admitted to Dayton Home 18 Sep 1886 and discharged 17 Sep 1891 at his own request. He was re-admitted 1 Nov 1904 without any conditions. Again he was discharged 25 Dec 1904 at his request.

Remarks: His admission paper and certificate of service were provided by himself. Pension: He was qualified under Act of 17 Jul 1890 in the new amount of \$129.00 to June 4, 1891.

Family Background

The most likely possibility for the ancestry of this James Austin is found in the AFAOA database, "Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island". This researcher believes that Theodora Chandler is the correct name for the wife of Isaac Austin, although Art Sikes was told that her first name was Sheale. Theodora is found on two documents as listed here: The St. Lawrence County, New York Civil War Registry of James and the marriage record of Isaac Austin and Theod. Chandler. A grave marker in Massillon Cemetery, Ohio has her full name clearly engraved.

James pedigree would be: Father: Isaac Austin (b. 1787-1793 RI d. OH 1850+) Mother: Theodora Chandler (b.30 Nov 1792 RI d. 16 Jun 1862 OH). Grandparents: James Austin (b. 21 Apr 1754 RI d. Aug 1843 OH) married 11 Nov 1778 to Ruth Fish (b. 1768 d. 1823). Great Grandparents: Jeremiah Austin (b. 24 Mar 1730 d. 20 Dec 1815) married 8 Aug 1748 to Margaret Congdon (b. 1 Oct 1725 d 29 Jan 1812). Second Great Grandparents Robert Austin (d bef 13 Apr 1752) married Hannah Crandall (b abt 1690 d bef 1752RI). This Hannah Crandall and Theodora Crandall, who was born about one hundred years later, in 1792 could both be related to

Jeremiah Crandall b 19 Sep 1755 in South Kingston, Washington, Rhode Island and his wife, Elizabeth. They are listed in the Rhode Island Birth Records.

The migration patterns of this family were of great interest to me, as I had not researched any New England families who took the route West that they did. As expected they seemed to follow the waterways. Grandfather, James Austin and family removed from Rhode Island to Ferrisburg, Vermont in 1808. There his son Isaac married Theodora and they followed the water route North to the St. Lawrence River into Lake Champlain and eventually resided in Stark County, Ohio.

A few of the siblings of James Austin are known. Harriet Austin was born 1814 (married a Knapp or Rapp); Jane Austin was born 1816; Elizabeth Austin 1822-1885. She married John Evans McLain 1814-1886.

The reason for the separation of Isaac and Theodora Austin is not known by this researcher. However, in 1850, and 1860, Theodora Austin was living in her widowed daughter, Harriett Knap or Rapp's house in Massillon. Harriett's children: Hellen b. 1833; Shepard b. 1835; Jane b. 1838; William b. 1842; Frances (male) b. 1846, were all born in Ohio. Yet there is an Isaac living in Sugar Creek District of Stark County, Ohio with a young woman half his age, Nancy Austin. I have not seen a marriage or divorce record for Isaac. The Darcus Austin in the household may be the sister of Isaac and the Sarah and Mary McCaughey may be the sisters of Nancy. Further research is needed to determine what happened to Isaac Austin the father of James.

The Veteran

Although born in Massillon in March of 1828, and he had family nearby, James Austin did not stay in Ohio as a young adult. He tried different occupations and moved to St. Lawrence County, New York before he enlisted to serve the Union in The Civil War.

James met a girl named Almina and they married about 1850. Their daughter Charlotte L. Austin was born in January 1852 when they were living in Ohio. By 1860 the couple and their young daughter moved to Pitcairn, St. Lawrence County, New York, where James was working as a farmer. In June 1863 when James Austin registered for the Civil War Draft he was listed as a hotel keeper residing in St. Lawrence County. The NY Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts agree with the data in the Dayton Home Register, except when he was age 36 he had blue eyes, black hair and a florid complexion. Perhaps his youth and occupation made him appear different than when he was age 58. This Abstract also mentioned that he was on active duty at the Siege of Petersburg shortly before the end of the war.

In 1870 James and Almina and Charlotte had returned to Ohio. They were living at Celina, Franklin, Mercer,

Ohio. That year, Charlotte married John J. Kirkbride, a lumberman. They had three children: Clarence E. Kirkbride b. Nov 1870; Austin Clark Kirkbride b. 22 Sep 1872 (wife, Lillian); Benjamin Claud Kirkbride b. 4 Aug 1876 (wife, Lulah P.) All were born at Pitcairn, St. Lawrence, NY where John had purchased a dairy farm at 187 Puffer Road before 1900.

James lived in the Dayton Home from 1886 to 1891. He left to be with his wife, Almira who was in Pitcairn, NY where James had rented a farm for a while. After Almira died on 12 Mar 1904, James buried her at Garrison Cemetery. As the records showed, he returned to Dayton for a one month stay and then he died the next year in 1905.

James Austin was taken to Garrison Cemetery to be buried next to Almira. His grave is marked with his military record and the dates 1828-1905.

*aka-Mrs. Charlotte L. Austin Kirkbride

Compiled Aug 27, 2016 by helencastin@afaoa.org

Sources:

AFAOA Database: "Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington Co., RI" Compiler, Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. www.afaoa.org

Burials: Garrison Cemetery, Pitcairn, St. Lawrence Co. NY has an old military Marker for *James Austin, Co E 10 Regt NY Heavy Artillery..Memorial #2804881*. Garrison Cemetery also has a marker for Almira E. Austin, wife of James Austin, died Mar 12, 1904 ae 88 yr, 6 mo, 4 dys, memorial 28904880. Mother of James: Massillon City Cemetery, Stark County, OH, plot: Section 24- monument for Theodora (Chandler) Austin b Nov 30 1792 d Jun 16, 1862. GNIS ID for cemetery is 1731091. www.findagrave.com

Ferrisburgh Vermont Town Meeting Book Vol 2, Page 101 A. L. Robinson, Clerk. Marriage Date 14 Oct 1813 Isaac Austin married Theodora "Theod" Chandler. Microfilm available on www.ancestry.com

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

NY Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts 1861-1900 for James Austin 10th Artillery Co E. "James Austin b 1828 OH"

State Population Census Schedules. New York State Archives; Albany, New York; 1905; Election District: A. D. 01 E. D. 01; City: Pitcairn; County: St. Lawrence

"Rhode Island Births and Christenings, 1600-1914," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F8QN-TV8> : 6 December 2014), Jeremiah Crandall, 19 Sep

1755; citing SOUTH KINGSTON, WASHINGTON, RHODE ISLAND, reference ; FHL microfilm 908,271.

SS Applications and Claims 1936-2007. "Austin Clark Kirkbride b 22 Sep 1872 Pitcairn, NY, father: John J. Kirkbride; Mother- Charlotte Austin." Applied for SSN Jun 1937. Note that he is the grandson of James Austin. Resided in 1940 Diana, Lewis, NY, widowed.

Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War, ca 1865-1867. Microfilm publication, 37 rolls. New York State Archives. Albany, New York. www.ancestry.com

U.S. Census: 1830 to 1870 OH; 1880 to 1940 NY www.ancestry.com

Images:

- (1) 10th Art. New York Heavy Artillery. Ft. Corcoran 1862
- (2) New York Soldiers At Ease
- (3) James Austin gravesite St. Lawrence NY