

Case 28: Granville D. Austin born 7 Feb 1845 at Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts and died 30 May 1913 at Blue Rapids, Marshall, Kansas.

The register #6098 of Mountain Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee, lists a military history for Granville D. Austin who enlisted September 23, 1862 at Taunton, Massachusetts as a Pvt. in Co. F., 11th Mass. Infantry Regiment. He was discharged August 28, 1865 at the expiration of his term of enlistment at Foxboro, Massachusetts (Camp Hooker). He had these disabilities on 20 May 1909, when admitted to the Home: chronic articular rheumatism, mitral stenosis, and asthma.

The domestic history for Granville D. Austin describes him as five feet and eight inches tall, and of a dark complexion. He had hazel eyes and gray hair. He was a Protestant by religion and was a laborer by occupation. He was a widower. His Pension Certificate was #262.404. He was age 64 in 1909. Although he was born in Taunton and enlisted there in the Army, his home residence in 1909 was listed as Leavenworth, Kansas. The Register showed that his nearest relative was his son, Roy O. Austin of Bellville, Kansas.

Like many of the Veterans who lived at the Homes, Granville transferred to three different Homes. The healthy mountain air should have been good for his asthma, but he did not stay there long. He was discharged from Mountain Branch October 22, 1909 and was re-admitted there on April 28, 1911. Then he left again, at his own request, on September 18, 1911.

Next, Granville was admitted to Western Branch Home at Leavenworth, Kansas on May 20, 1909. He stayed there for four months and then was released on October 22, 1909, according to Register #18212. At that time his pension was \$17.00 per month. During his stay at Western Branch Home, his disabilities were listed as hypertrophic heart and bronchial asthma. His physical description was the same and his son was listed as his nearest relative.

Finally, Southern Branch Home, Roseburg, Hampton, Virginia admitted Granville on December 13, 1912. According to Register #20755, he was age 67 at that time. His pension was then, \$30.00 per month. He was dismissed from Roseburg on February 27, 1913.

Granville D. Austin died three months later on May 30, 1913 at Blue Rapids, Marshall County, Kansas and was buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery. He was survived by his two sons, Roy Otis, Wylie/Wiley, a daughter Ruth L. Austin Ballard and seven grandchildren.

Other records have been found that show something about the migration, occupations and family life of Granville and his offspring. After the Civil War, from 1865 when Granville was mustered out of the Union Army, he lived at home with his parents in Taunton until he married Julia Etta Lane in 1873. From then, until 1909, when he was admitted to the Mountain Home in the Smoky Mountains, there were about forty years when he was an active participant in the migration to the western states of America. The U. S. Census shows that he went from Bristol County, Massachusetts to Van Wert, Ohio, then, to Hardy Village in Nuckolls, Co., Nebraska, next to West Wray, Yuma, Colorado, and then he lived near the Western National Home in Marshall County, Kansas.

In 1880, Granville was a poultry dealer in Ohio. He was a horse trainer in Nebraska in 1900. According to his obituary, he was famous for his training of trotting horses. His government pension was his source of income when he was living in Yuma, Colorado, after his wife died in 1901, and between his stays at the National Homes.

Granville and his wife, Julia Etta had three children: [1] Ruth (Oct 4, 1873 OH-Feb 11, 1957 CA); [2] Roy Otis (Feb. 12, 1879 NE - Jan. 22, 1959 KS); and [3] Wylie or Wiley (May 6, 1895-6 NC-Jan. 22, 1962 MI).

[1] The 1910 U. S. Census showed Roy as living at Blue Rapids City in Marshall County, Kansas. He married Emma about 1911, had children: Roy, Jr., who was born in 1912; Gordon, born in 1914; and Louise, born 1916 in Missouri. A World War I Draft Card for Roy shows he was at Livingston, Missouri in 1917.

Although Roy had helped his father train trotting horses in Nebraska, he moved to Kansas to be near the Western Branch Home, where Granville stayed. Roy ran a blacksmith shop on Lincoln Street, in Blue Rapids City, Kansas. Roy Otis Austin, Sr. lived at Blue Rapids the rest of his life. He died on January 22, 1959, and was buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, next to his father.

[2] Roy's sister, Ruth L. Austin, was a school teacher in 1900 when she was a single woman living

with her parents in Nuckolls County, Nebraska. Her mother, Julia Etta Lane Austin died a year later, at the young age of forty-nine. Julia gave birth to six children, but only three of them were living at that time. At age twenty-eight, Ruth married Albert (Bert) S. Ballard, the same year that her mother died.

Ruth and Bert stayed in Hardy Village, Nebraska for awhile, and their first two children were born there. Julia Ballard was born about 1902, and Albert D. Ballard was born October 17, 1903. A house on Illinois Avenue in Escondido, San Diego County, California was the home of Ruth and her brood by 1910. Bert had a job as a printer and typesetter. That, did not last long. By 1920, the family was living in Los Alamos, Santa Barbara County, California where Bert was a farm laborer. Son, Robert Ballard was born there in 1912 and daughter, Elizabeth was born in 1917. Ruth was forty-five years old when she had Elizabeth.

Ruth Austin Ballard and her son Albert, a chemist, were living in West Riverside, Riverside County, California in 1930. Ruth's husband, Bert, was gone. Again, in 1940, Albert was a single man, and a chemist for a produce company. He was supporting his mother, sixty-six year old Ruth, a widow. They lived at #722 North Harrison St., in Berkeley, California. Ruth died February 11, 1957 in Calaveras County, California. Her death records mention that she was the daughter of Mr. Austin and Miss Lane. Five years later, on the tenth of July, 1962, Albert D. Ballard, son of Ruth and Bert, age fifty-eight, married Guadalupe Ismodes, age twenty-four, in Stockton. It was his first marriage. Albert, lived only seven more years, dying on July 18, 1969 at Stockton. It is not known whether Lupe and Albert had any children.

[3] Wylie or Wiley Austin, the youngest child of Granville and Julia, was only thirteen years old in 1910, when his father, took a furlough from the Western Branch Home in Kansas, to go back to Yuma, Colorado, just in time to be listed on the U. S. Census with him. The next decade must have been difficult for Wiley living on his own. His brother, Roy looked out for Dad from his home in Kansas. That was when Granville was in and out of the various Veterans' homes.

The World War I Draft Card for Wiley Austin, dated June 1817, has that he was born May 6, 1895 in Raleigh, North Carolina, and his address was a place where he lodged on Third and Madison Streets, Decatur, Indiana. He was single and worked

as a hotel clerk at the Murray Hotel. He claimed that prior government service consisted of working for three years as a County Clerk in Indiana. His physical description was that he was of medium build, was slender, had grey eyes, and brown hair. In 1920, Wiley was still living in Decatur, Adams County, Indiana, and was working as a clerk at a hotel. A single man, age twenty-four, he roomed at the hotel.

Wiley changed jobs and became a truck driver for a beef factory by 1930 in Decatur. The 1935 Indiana State Census also has Wiley working as a driver for the beef factory. He moved by 1940 to Kankakee, LaPorte County, Indiana where he was a restaurant operator. He was still a single man at age forty-five.

Two years later, Wiley filled out a World War II Draft Registration Card at Rolling Prairie, Kankakee Township, La Porte, Indiana. He was self-employed. He gave his birth date as May 6, 1896, at Raleigh, North Carolina. Wiley gave the name of someone he called Sister, who might have been a friend, as a reference. Her name was Neva Templeton, address, Box 483 RFD 3, South Bend, Indiana. At that time, Wiley might not have known what had happened to his sister and brother.

Wiley moved once more to 2637 South Eleventh Street, Niles Township, Berrien, Michigan. He died there on January 22, 1962. He was interred at Highland Cemetery in South Bend, Indiana. The Michigan Death and Burials Index, 1867-1995 has his birth date as May 6, 1896 in Rawleigh (sic), North Carolina. That is different than the year 1895 as shown on the WWI Draft Card and some other records. Yet, his WWII Draft Card has his birth year as 1896. It is noted on the Death Index that his father's name was Granville Austin and his mother was Julia Eitta (sic).

Also, on the same record of 1962, Wiley was listed as a single man, whose occupation was timekeeper. It is not known whether Wiley fathered any children.

The ancestry of Granville D. Austin has been traced back to Jonah Austin of Kent, England and Taunton, Massachusetts as recorded by the Austin Families Association of America. The parents of Granville were Otis Chapin Austin (1811-1893) and Catherine Amanda Shorey (1818-1867).

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.

Database: *Jonah Austin of Taunton, Bristol Co., Massachusetts*. Compiler: Carol R. Austin. *Jonah Austin Manuscript* by Edith Austin Moore, pub. 1973. <http://www.afaqa.org>.

California Death Index, California Health Department, online records at Ancestry.com.

California Marriages. Online at Ancestry.com.

Cemetery Search. Blue Rapids, Marshall County, Kansas. Prospect Hill Cemetery. Obituary from The Blue Rapids Times, Jun 2, 1913, page 3, is on the AFAOA website. Also, Roy Otis Austin, Sr. <http://www.Findagrave.com>.

Michigan Deaths and Burials Index, 1867-1995. LDS Library, Salt lake City, Utah, 2009-2010. <http://www.FamilySearch>

Ohio Births and Christenings, Index, 1800-1962. LDS, FHL film 931591.

U. S. Census of 1850-1940 microfilm as indexed on Ancestry.com.

U. S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. NARA. M1509, online at Ancestry.com, images from FHL Library film.

U. S. World War II Draft Registration Cards 1942. NARA Adm., Branch location, Indiana State Headquarters. Online database.

Vital Records of Taunton, MA. Online at <http://www.Ancestry.com> Granville Austin b 7 Feb. 1845 in Taunton, father Otis C. Austin, mother, Catherine.

Compiled July 10, 2010 helencaustin@afaqa.org