

Case 30 Montgomery O. Austin, born 1849 at Randolph, Portage County, Ohio and died 30 Sep 1918 At Geauga County, Ohio

Register #39851 of the Central Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Dayton, Ohio has the following record for the brief stays of Montgomery O. Austin: His military history shows that he was a veteran of the very brief Spanish American War. He enlisted June 25, 1898 at Cleveland, Ohio as a Private in Company A of the 10th Ohio Infantry. His unit served in Ohio and Pennsylvania. After only fifteen weeks of service, Montgomery was discharged on Oct 10, 1898 at Camp Meade, Pennsylvania. The discharge was because of his disability – defective vision and hearing as well as a right inguinal hernia and mitral insufficiency of his heart. The war was also ended in August and many soldiers were being discharged.

The personal details listed in the domestic history for Randolph were that he was age 68 and born in Ohio. Physically he was 5'10" tall, had a dark complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He could read and write. He was a Protestant, and a farmer. His residence after discharge, was at New Baltimore, Stark Co., Ohio. He was a single man when he was at the Home. Montgomery's nearest relative was his niece Cora Ladd, who lived in Randolph, Ohio.

The Dayton Home history listed: Rate of pension \$6.00; admitted Central Branch (C. B. May 10, 1917, readmitted C. B. May 11, 1918. After his first stay of about seven weeks, Montgomery was discharged at his own request on July 2, 1917. After the second admission on May 11, 1918, he lived there for only four months. His heart disease became more serious and on September 30, 1918, he died of mitral insufficiency. His niece, Cora E. Ladd, a resident of Randolph, Portage, Ohio, was notified of his death. Montgomery O. Austin was buried with military honors at the Dayton National Cemetery near the Home in Burial Section 2, Row No.5 Grave No. 28.

Family History

Montgomery (nickname "Montie") is included in the Austin Family History Association of America's database of the descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts. More data about the families living in Randolph, Portage, Ohio has been consulted for this summary: Parents of Montie were: Hiram Austin b. 2 February 1818 Vernon, Oneida, New York, d. 25 February 1900 Randolph, Portage Co., Ohio and Elizaette Sears Austin b. 21 February 1820, d. 28 Nov 1900. They were married 1 Jun 1841 at Portage County. Their children were: Duane Stanley Austin b. 9 Mar 1842, d. 26 Nov 1903; Emma E. Austin b. 1844, d. 18 April 1864; Ann Eliza Austin b. 28 May 1846, d. 7

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February 1875 who m. Harrison Hatcher; and Montgomery.

It was Montie's sister, Ann Eliza Austin Hatcher who was the mother of Cora Emma Hatcher b. 1864, d. 11 January 1941. Cora married Edward Herman Ladd 1863-1948 and had a daughter Marjorie Ladd b. 1900. Cora was named as the nearest relative to Montgomery and it was she who was notified of his death. Cora, her family and some of the Austin family members are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Portage County, Ohio.

Other AFAOA researchers who descend from Richard of Massachusetts may have more information about any Twentieth Century descendants of Montgomery. This writer found that Montie had two marriages. The Findagrave record listed that Montgomery married the first time, to Juliette Coover on 30 Nov 1869 in Jackson County, Michigan. The young couple were shown on the 1870 U. S. Census, living in Montgomery's home community of Portage, Ohio. The Census has the date of his marriage to Julia as December 1869. The couple was living next door to Duane Austin and his wife Isadore. Duane was an older brother of Montgomery. They both were farmers. Their father, Hiram, and mother Eliza lived in the next house. In 1880 Randolph and Julia were still married, with no children, and he was keeping a hotel instead of farming.

Montgomery married the second time to a divorcee, Mrs. Mary Maria (nee Prosser) Hiddleston, on 13 May 1891 in Portage County, Ohio. No records were found that any children were born to either marriage. He was divorced from his second wife by 1910 and lived with Aaron Austin, age 82, possibly a uncle. Montie was a single man when he lived at the National Home for Disabled Soldiers. He was alone when he died.

Compiled Sep 1, 2016 by helenceaustin@afaoa.org

Quoting a 1898 article about Hiram, his wife Eliza and mother Clarissa Austin

"Mrs. Clarissa S. AUSTIN, commenced Feb. 21, 1821, pioneer life in Ohio, moving with her husband and four small children on the wild, uncultivated land once owned by a Mr. BACON. A double log house, a fire place and chimney made of stone, bake oven to chimney. On starting a fire, a large possum came out from the oven, down into the room with the family.

They had a trap door leading to the cellar, a hole dug out to put some things for family use; Mrs. AUSTIN went to her cellar one day bare footed. Soon she called for help, for there were snakes in the cellar. Her husband, with her help, brought out a black snake and stretched it out eleven feet in length, and large around in proportion. The next day they caught the mate, the same size. This was the beginning of pioneer life in Ohio. At another time they had a small flock of sheep, twelve in all; the wolves attacked them in the night and killed three of them. Mrs. AUSTIN got up, took the coarse furniture out of one room of the log house, and helped drive the sheep into it to save their lives.

Mrs. AUSTIN was a very devoted religious woman. She would walk two and a half miles to church on the Sabbath. She would carry her

stockings and shoes in her hand, and when near the meeting house she would put them on, and on her return do the same. They had no horses or wagons. Having no money they could have no luxuries.

Her son, Hiram AUSTIN, married Miss Elizabeth SEARS, and she is today the oldest living person born in the township. She is a good housekeeper, and an earnest Christian worker.”

Sources:

AFAOA Database of Richard Austin of Charlestown, MA.

Compilers: Jim and Liz Austin Carlin.

http://www.afa.org/db_files/Richard_Austin_MA/Individuals/11203.html.

Austin, Otis Gene, MD. *The Austin Family 1598-1974*. Private publication 1974. Medina, Ohio. Page 3. Copy in possession of AFAOA. Note: see nickname “Montie”.

Memorial Marker Montgomery O Austin. Dayton National Cemetery, Montgomery County, OH. Plot:2,5,28.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=305180&PIpi=97099846>. Note that information about the soldier’s marriages and service are also on the website.

Official History of the Ohio National Guard and Ohio Volunteers: The United States Volunteers in 1898-99. Betty Leonard. <http://www.spanamwar.com/10thohio.htm>

U.S. Census: 1850-1910 Ohio. www.ancestry.com

Background reading: Spanish American War facts.

<http://www.history.com/news/6-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-spanish-american-war>

History of Randolph Twp, Portage County, Ohio. “Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve”. USGenWeb Archives contributor Betty Ralph, 1999. Quoting a 4 paragraph story about Clarissa S. Austin, pioneer woman. Written 1896 by Mrs. Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/oh/portage/history/Randolph.txt>

Images:

Spanish American War Poster 1898.

Dayton Soldier’s Home

Campus of Dayton Soldier’s Home



Dayton, Ohio Soldier's Home



Dayton, Ohio Soldier's Home Campus



Spanish American War Poster