

Case 3: George J. Austin born 1848 in Connecticut died April 11, 1925.

The military history on the registers of the Eastern Branch of National Homes (EB) shows that George J. Austin enlisted on January 22, 1862 as a Private of Company G, of the 13th Connecticut Infantry, at Thibodaux, Louisiana. New recruits may have been transported by ship from Connecticut to the Port of New Orleans so that they could enlist near where the battles were taking place. George was discharged February 7, 1864 at Thibodaux, but re-enlisted the next day on February 8, 1864 in Company D of the 13th Connecticut Infantry. At the close of the war, George's final military discharge was on April 25, 1866 at Ft. Pulaski, Georgia. He received a Union Soldier's pension certificate #296792.

Another military record derived from the Index to Federal Pensions and Connecticut Record of Service of Men during the War of the Rebellion, showed that George J. Austin of Haddam, Connecticut, enlisted on 1 Dec 1862 in Connecticut as a Pvt. This was fifty-two days earlier than the Louisiana enlistment. He was promoted to Full Corporal and Full Private. This helps to explain the Louisiana date. A study of the service records and muster rolls for George would help us to understand the significance of the various dates and places on the EB record.

The Connecticut record of service men listed that George was, at one time, a prisoner of war. Since he was discharged at the end of the war, at Fort Pulaski on the Atlantic Coast of Georgia, I wonder if he might have been one of the 33,000 Union Soldiers who were imprisoned at Fort Sumter (Andersonville), Georgia. I could not verify that. The physical disabilities of George would certainly have been worsened by a stay in any of the Civil War prisons. The starvation and suffering of the soldiers at Andersonville are legend. Some of the discharged soldiers at Ft. Pulaski were probably put on ships so they could return to their homes on the East Coast.

The place of birth for George is listed on the domestic history of EB Register 15580, as Salem, Connecticut. He was age 65 on March 11, 1912 when his rate of pension was shown as \$12.00 per month. George was five feet, 8 inches tall, had a sandy complexion, blue eyes and light hair. He could read and write and was a member of the protestant church. His residence after he was discharged from the Army was P. O. Box 423, Niantio, Connecticut. His occupation was farmer. His nearest relative was George Austin, who lived in Waterford, Connecticut. George had disabilities which included, a left inguinal hernia, an old injury to his left side, and Tri. in cuff. (sp) and Hemosis (sp).

The Eastern Branch (EB) of the National Homes at Togus, Kennebec County, Maine first admitted George, on March 11, 1912. He was readmitted on December 26,

1918 and discharged March 18, 1920. He was readmitted October 19, 1920 and discharged on March 29, 1921, at his own request.

Next he applied, and was admitted, on June 29, 1921, to the Central Branch (CB) of the National Homes at Dayton, Ohio. He is identified on the CB register as the same George J. Austin by his pension certificate number. Other information on the CB register matches the information on the EB register. On March 23, 1922 George transferred back to the EB in Maine and was finally discharged from the Home on January 18, 1924.

Some of the information on the CB Register and the EB Register is verified by the U. S. Federal Census of 1920 for Kennebec, Maine. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Inmate, George J. Austin is listed as age 72, born in Connecticut. He was married, but widowed. His parents were both born in Connecticut, as well.

The ancestry of George J. Austin goes back a long way in Connecticut and New England. According to the AFAOA Database, "Benjamin Austin of Rhode Island" by compiler, Arthur A. Sikes, Jr., the father of George John Austin was John Austin, who was born December 10, 1808 in Canterbury, Windham, Connecticut. John married his second wife, Sarah M. Perry on June 26, 1843 in Connecticut. Their children were Mary E. Austin born about 1844, Adaline R. Austin born about 1845, George John Austin born 1848. John's occupation was laborer, as listed on the Glastonbury Town, Connecticut, U.S. Population Census of 1850.

George was a farmer after the Civil War. The year after he returned home to New England, he married Fannie Jane Durfee. The wedding took place on November 8, 1867 at Westerly, Washington County, Rhode Island. This location was the home of the Durfee family. George Austin was farming a place in Ashaway, Rhode Island on June 16, 1870.

The children of George J. and Fannie were: John who was born August 4, 1868 in Rhode Island, and died young on August 30, 1875; Adaline Arlena "Addie" who was born October 3, 1871; Alice August was born April 30, 1874; George J. (the younger) who was born July 8, 1877; Arthur Adelbert, who was born January 20, 1880; and Fannie Jane Austin, who was born October 30, 1882.

Addie married James V. Ellis in 1894. They had a daughter named Florence Ellis who was born in January of 1898. The Ellis family lived in the town of Stonington in New London County, Connecticut where James was the proprietor of a retail grocery. Addie Austin Ellis, was a clerk in her husband's store.

Alice Augusta Austin married Joseph Lyman Dawley on July 9, 1894. Their children were Ardelia Frances Dawley, who was born July 19, 1896 and Herbert Arthur Dawley who was born January 28, 1908 in Rhode Island. The Dawley family was living at 918 West

Marshall St. in Norristown Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on January 30, 1920. Herbert was a student living with his parents. Ardelia was living in her parent's house with her husband Raymond E. Bogus who was a machinist working in a machine shop. Her father, Joseph was also a machinist working in a machine shop.

George J. Austin, the son of Veteran, George J., was mentioned as the nearest relative of his father in the EB Register. George (the younger) married three times. First, he married Jessie L. before 1900. Second, he married Mrs. Alice G. Butterfield Maxson in 1909. Third, he married Mrs. Eliza Tucker who was his wife in 1920 and 1930. George was a machinist, by trade. By 1930 he was a proprietor of an automotive sales shop. Although George did not list any children of his own before the census of 1930, he helped raise two step children. His wife Alice had a daughter named Mabel R. Maxon, who was born about 1901. His wife Eliza had a son named Harold P. Tucker who was born about 1905. Harold worked as a stock clerk in the business operated by George J. Austin (the younger).

Arthur A. Austin, another son of Veteran, George J., married Anna L. Willey August 15, 1908. Arthur was also a machinist and was living at 60 Beach St. in Westerly, Washington County, Rhode Island on April 19, 1910. Arthur and his wife Annie were boarding with William H. Healey and his wife Mary. Twenty years later Arthur and Anna L. Austin were renting a place at 3319 Avenue D in Brooklyn, New York. Arthur was a machine knitter of Rayon. They did not have any children.

Fannie Jane Austin (the younger), the daughter of George J. and Fannie Jane Austin had three husbands according to Sikes. I did not find her living with any of them on the census of 1910 to 1930. Nor did I find her children Mildred A. Potter, born 1905, or Margaret A. Potter, born 1907, in the census indices. I did find a George E. Johnson, who came from Sweden in 1898 to Rhode Island. He was employed as a stationary engineer in the boiler room at a State Home in 1920 in Providence, Rhode Island where an inmate named Fannie J. Johnson was living. I do not know if this is meaningful, or coincidental.

Something happened to the marriage of George J. Austin and Fannie J. Durfee after their children were born. In 1888 and 1889 George J. Austin, a laborer was living in a house at the rear of #64 West Broad Street in Westerly, Rhode Island. In 1890 and 1892, George is not listed as living there, but his wife, Fannie J. Austin is living in the house at that address. The couple separated before 1900. Fannie must have believed that George had died, or else, she wanted to believe that. She lists on most of the census that she was a widow, although George did not die until 1925. On the 1920 census Fanny lists that she was married. Did she find out that

he was still living? George seemed to be equally confused about his marital status. He listed that he was single in 1900. The 1910 census has that George was married for 42 years although he was a boarder in another man's house and living as a single man. In 1920 it is listed that he is single and a widower, as well. Someone was confused!

In 1900, George was a farm laborer. He boarded at the farm of George Loveland and his wife Jennie in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Two years before he applied to the Eastern Branch of the National Home near Augusta, Maine, George was living on Crescent Beach, East Lyme, New London County, Connecticut in the home of Edward A. Merrell. Edward had a wife Rose and they had a daughter, Lorina E. Merrell, who were also in the house. George's relationship to the head of household was listed as "attendant", but his occupation was a farmer, who was working out. At this time George J. Austin was age 63 and considering his disabilities, was surely ready to retire to the National Home.

George's estranged wife, Fannie J. Austin, was living June 25, 1900 in Stonington Town, New London County, Connecticut. She lived in the house of her son-in-law, James V. Ellis and her daughter, Addie A. Ellis. Also living with their sister Addie and her husband were Arthur Austin and Fannie J. Austin. Arthur was a laborer in a cotton mill, and Fannie was a ticketer in a cotton mill. Fannie, the "widow" continued to live with her daughter Addie's family in Stonington in 1910 and in 1920. On January 15, 1920, the U. S. Census was taken at 48 Mars St. and Fannie Austin was age 74, listed as "married". Her death date was May 13, 1926.

I found no burial record for these family members, but the death date for George John Austin was listed by Sikes as April 11, 1925. No location was listed.

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.

Ancestry.com. Historical Data Systems, compiler. U. S. Civil War Soldier Records and profiles, 2009. This database includes information from the National Archives: In dex to Federal Pension Records, as well as Connecticut Record of Service of Men during the War of the Rebellion. Profile for George J. Austin of Haddam, CT.

U. S. Census 1850, Hartford Co, CT, Glastonbury Town. 22 Oct, 1850, p 780, Dwelling 497, Family 543. John Austin 42, laborer, \$350. pp, b CT; Sarah (Perry) 36, CT; Mary E. 6, in school, CT; Adaline R. 5, CT; George 3, CT; Henry 14, CT; Perris 19, laborer CT.

U. S. Census 1870, Washington Co, RI, Hopkinton, Ashaway P. O. 16 Jun 1870, p 199B, Dwelling 250, Family 254. Austin, George J. 23, m, w, farmer b MA; Fanny J. 26, keeps house, b RI; John, at home, age 1, RI. Also on the page are Sarah E. Durphy 15, Hannah 12, Edward B. Derwood 8. Note by H. Austin: This Sarah m David Monroe Austin, a brother of George J. Austin.

Directories of Westerly, Rhode Island by Sampson, Murdock & Co. 1888, 1889, 1892. George J. Austin, laborer, living at a house in the rear of 64 West Broad, P. for 1888, 1889. Same address for Mrs. Fannie J. Austin, 1890 & 1892.

U. S. Census, 1900 Hartford Co, CT, Glastonbury. 22 Jun, Dwelling 555, Family 636. George J. Austin, a boarder b Feb 1851, age 48, single CT, CT, CT, farm laborer. He is living in the household of George Loveland, b Oct 1844, age 55, married 24 yrs. CT, CT, CT, farmer; Jennie, wife, Oct 1840, age 59, married 24 yrs. CT.

U. S. Census, 1900, New London Co, CT, Stonington Town. 25 Jun 1900, Page 238A, Dwelling 334, Family 490, #10 Moss St. Fannie J. Austin (wife of George J. Austin) is the mother-in-law of the head of household. She was b Apr 1845, is age 55, a widow, had 8 children, 5 were living, RI, VT, RI. James V. Ellis, head, b Mar 1867, age 33, married for 6 years, b CT; Addie A. (Austin) Ellis, wife, b Oct 1871, age 28, married for 6 yrs., 2 children, 1 was living, b RI; Florence Ellis, dau, b Jan 1898, age 2, b CT. Also in the house are Arthur Austin, brother-in-law, b Jan 1880, age 20, single, b RI, laborer in a cotton mill; Fannie J. Austin, sister-in-law, b Oct 1882, age 17, single, b CT, a ticketer in a cotton mill. Note the conflict, that George J. Austin said he was still married, but his wife said she was widowed.

U. S. Census, 1900 Washington Co, RI, Westerly Town. 21 Jun, family 647. Son of George is George J. Austin (Jr.) age 22, married 3 years, b Jul 1877 CT, CT, RI, was a machinist, setting up. He was out of work for four months of the year. Jessie L. Austin, 27, wife, b Sep 1872 RI; Lilla B. Taylor 22, boarder, b Mar 1875, RI, RI, RI, an inspector in a thread mill. She was out of work for two months of the year.

U. S. Census, 1900, New London Co, CT, Stonington. Jun 8, 1900, #3 Hillside Avenue, Dwelling 98, Family 144. Joseph Dawley 30, b Mar 1870, CT, CT, CT, machinist; Alice A (Austin) Dawley 26, b Apr 1874, 1 ch, RI, RI, RI; Ardelia F. Dawley, 3, dau, b Jul 1896 BT.

U. S. Census, 1910 New London Co, CT, East Lyme. Orange, 23 Apr 1880, Page 500. Crescent Beach Rd, Dwelling 167, Family 187. George J. Austin, attendant to head of house, age 63, married for 42 years, b CT, CT, CT, farmer, working out; Edward A. Merrell, head of house, married twice, married for 23 yrs. To Rose B., wife, age 47, married twice, m 23 yrs. 3 ch, 1 living b VT; Lavina E. Merrell, dau, 15, CT.

U. S. Census, 1910 New London Co, CT, Waterford Town. 18 Apr 1910, page 153B, Dwelling 15, Family 18. George J. Austin (Jr.) age 32, head, b 1878 RI, CT, RI, a machinist; Alice G. Austin, 31, wife, married twice, m for 1 year; Mabel R. Maxson 9, step-daughter, b CT; Fred Butterfield 28, brother-in-law, machinist.

U. S. Census, 1910 New London Co., CT, Stonington. 2 May 1910, page 57, #48, Dwelling 48, Family 317. Fannie Austin, age 65, mother-in-law of head of household, widowed, 8 children born, 5 are living, b RI, fa b VT, mo b RI. James V. Ellis, 42, head of house, married once, for 16 years, b CT, fa b CT, mo b CT; Addie A. (Austin) Ellis 39, married once, for 16 years, 1 ch, 1 living, RI, CT, CT; Florence A. Ellis, 12, daughter, single, CT, CT, RI.

U. S. Census, 1910 Washington Co, RI, Westerly. Apr 19, 1910, page 258B, 60 Beach St., Dwelling 103, Family 137. William H. Healey, 35, head, m 7 yrs. RI, RI, RI, machinist, machine shop; Mary A. Healey, 33, m 7 yrs. 0 ch, CT, unk, RI; Arthur A. Austin 30, boarder, married 1 year, CT, Unk, CT, Machinist, machine shop; Annie L. Austin, 27, boarder, married 1 yr, NH, NH, NH.

U. S. Census, 1910 New London Co, CT, Stonington. Apr 28, 1910, page 94B, 21 William St., Dwelling 161, Family 128. Joseph L.

Dawley, 40, married once, for 16 yrs. CT, CT, CT, machinist, manufacturer of printing press; Alice (Austin) Dawley, 35, m 16 yr, 2 ch, 2 liv, RI, CT, CT; Ardelia Dawley 13, single, CT, CT, RI; Herbert D. Dawley 2, CT, CT, RI.

U. S. Census, 1920 Kennebec, Maine. Jan 2, 1920, Page 205. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. George J. Austin, inmate, age 72, born about 1848 CT, married, widower, CT, CT, CT.

U. S. Census, 1920 New London Co, CT, Norwich, #5 Grove St. Dwelling 24, Family 33. George J. Austin (Jr.) head of household, age 42, b CT, US, RT, a machinist in a machine shop; Aliza, wife, age 46, b RI, RI, RI; Tucker, Harold P. stepson, age 15 b CT.

U. S. Census, 1920 New London, CT, Stonington, Pawcotuk Village. Jan 15, 1920, 48 Mars St., Dwelling 201, Family 325. James V. Ellis, 52, CT, married, CT, CT, CT, proprietor of retail grocery; Addie A. (Austin) Ellis, 48, wife, married, RI, CT, RI, clerk in retail grocery; Fannie Austin, 74, mother-in-law, married, RI, VT, RI, none.

U. S. Census, 1920 Montgomery Co, PA, Norristown Borough, Ward 10. Jan 30, 1920, 918 West Marshall St., Dwelling 326, Family 376. Joseph L. Dawley 40, head, CT, CT, CT, machinist, machine shop; Alice A. (Austin) Dawley 45, wife, RI, none; Herbert A. Dawley, 11, son, RI, student. Family 377. Raymond E. Bogus, head, 21, CT, machinist, machine shop; Ardelia (Dawley) Bogus, wife, 23, RI, none.

U. S. Census, 1930 New London Co, CT, Norwich Town. Apr 8 1930, page 128; #343 Franklin St. George J. Austin (Jr.) age 52, RI, married at age 20, \$30.pp, rents, a proprietor of automobile sales shop. He is not a veteran.; Eliza Austin, 55, wife, married at age 23, RI, RI, RI; Harold P. Tucker 25, stepson, stock clerk, b CT, RI, RI. All living in the household of Louise Fellows, age 49, CT, \$9000. pp; Edith A. Fellows, sister, age 52, single, CT.

U. S. Census, 1930 Brooklyn, Kings Co, NY, Ward 29, Block "I". Apr 14, 1930, #3319 Avenue D., Dwelling 214, Family 449; Arthur A. Austin, 50, head, rents, married at age 28, no children, RI, CT, RI, machine knitter of Rayon; Anna L. Austin, 44, wife, married at age 17, no children, NH, NH, NH, no occupation.

AFAOA Database "Benjamin Austin of Rhode Island" Compiler Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. George John Austin, b 27 Feb 1848 at East Glastonbury, CT, d 11 Apr 1925. He married Fanni Jane Durfee 8 Nov 1867 at Westerly, Washington Co, RI. His father was John Austin 1808-1856. His mother was Sarah M. Perry b abt 1820. The children of George J. Austin and Fannie were Adaline Arlena Austin b 3 Oct 1871; Alice Augusta Austin b 30 Apr 1874; George J. Austin b 8 Jul 1877; Arthur Adelbert Austin b 20 Jan 1880; and Fannie Jane Austin b 30 Oct 1882.

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