

Case 4: James E. Austin born October 1842 in Providence, RI, buried 1920 Arlington National Cemetery, a son of Eliza Austin Chappell b 1816 RI, and an unidentified Mr. Austin from England.

The register of Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Johnson City, Tennessee (MtnB), #1983 lists a military history for James E. Austin who enlisted August 25, 1861 in Providence, Rhode Island as a Private in Company C of the First R. I. Light Artillery Regiment. He was discharged on October 1, 1864 because of the expiration of his term of enlistment. He re-enlisted a few months later, on February 12, 1865 in Providence, RI as a Private in Co. B, of the Second U. S. Volunteer Infantry and was discharged February 12, 1866, one year later at the end of the Civil War. He had some disabilities when admitted to the Home. They included rheumatism, contacted at Antietam Battlefield in Maryland. Also, he had suffered injuries to his head.

The domestic history for James lists that he was born in Providence, RI and was age 62 when admitted to Mountain Home November 28, 1904. He was described as five feet and four inches tall, and had light complexion, gray hair and eyes. He could read and write and was of the protestant religion. James was a farmer and was single in 1904. His nearest relative was not a relative but a friend, Clarence Johnas (sic) of Providence, RI.

James took a furlough from Mountain Branch and checked out on May 4, 1905. The year after he left Mountain Home he transferred to the Central Branch at Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, on November 21, 1906. The register of Central Branch #31736 had the same military record for James. He was described as having blue eyes and gray hair. His pension rate was \$8.00 per month in November 1904, but changed to \$12.00 per month on Jan 25, 1909. No further admittance or transfer record was found for James. However the 1910 Census for Montgomery Co, OH, Jefferson, 18 May 1910, lists inmates of the National Military Home and James E. Austin is on that census. He was listed as born about 1840 in RI, his father as born in England and his mother born RI. He was a divorced man, aged 70.

Before his admittance to Mountain Home, James was found on the 1880 and 1900 census of Providence County, Rhode Island, as listed below. Comparing the census records, it is likely that James E. Austin is the son of Eliza Austin Chappell who appeared on the 1870 and 1880 census with her second husband, Richard Chappell. James Austin age 37, was a step-son of Richard Chappell. He was a farm hand and was born in Rhode

Island. His father was born in England and his mother was born in Rhode Island.

In 1900, Eliza L. Chappell said she was born September 1816. She was a widow, who was born in Rhode Island, owned her house and had a son living with her, named James E. Austin, who was single and was born in October 1842 in Rhode Island. His father was born in England (first name unknown) and his mother was born in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. He was listed as a laborer. Eliza Austin Chappell has not been identified on the 1850 or 1860 census of Rhode Island with a son named James. Neither has an Englishman named Austin with a son named James been matched with this James E. Austin. Perhaps he went by his middle name beginning with the initial E.

A burial record was found for James E. Austin of Co. B, Second U. S. Infantry who died February 12, 1920. His grave is in the Arlington National Cemetery, Section 17-B, site 19686.

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., as posted on Ancestry.com.

U. S. Census, 1880 Providence, Providence, RI, 2 Jun 1880, page 279B, Dwelling 54, Fam 79. Chappell, Richard, W, m, 61, works at fish market, RI, RI, RI; Eliza Chappell, wife, keeping house, RI, RI, MA; Austin, James, 37, step-son, farm hand, RI, ENG, RI.

U. S. Census, 1900 Providence County, RI, E. Providence, Dist 130, page 205B; Dwelling 466, Fam 435. Eliza L. Chappell, head, b Sep 1816, age 83, widow owns house, b RI, MA, MA; Austin, James E. son, m, w, Oct 1842, age 57, single, RI, ENG, MA, laborer.

U. S. Census, 1910 Montgomery Co, OH, Jefferson, 18 May 1910, page 273; National Military Home. List of inmates: James E. Austin, age 70, divorced, b RI, father was b ENG, mother was born RI.

National Cemetery Administration, U. S. Veterans Gravesites, ca 1775-2006. Ancestry.com. Burial of James E. Austin, of Co. B, 2nd U. S. Inf. D 12 Feb 1920. Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

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