

Case 5: James N. Austin b Dec 1846 Rhode Island died 21 Apr 1916 Hampton, Virginia, a Descendant of Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington Co., Rhode Island.

The register of Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Johnson City, Tennessee (MtnB), #1694 lists a military history for James N. Austin who enlisted November 11, 1864 at Providence, Rhode Island as a Private in Company C of the 5th RI Heavy Artillery Regiment. He was discharged on 26 Jun, 1865 because of the expiration of his term of enlistment and the end of the Civil War. He had some disabilities when admitted to the Home in 1905. They included a double inguinal hernia, a lost ring finger on his left hand, rheumatism, kyphosis (sic), slight varicose veins of both legs, a lost ring finger on his right hand, and hemorrhoids. He weighed only 142 pounds.

The domestic history for James lists that he was born in Rhode Island and was age 58 when he was admitted to Mountain Home, August 4, 1905. This age matches the birth date given on the 1900 U. S. Census, of December 1846. He was described as five feet and three inches tall, of fair complexion, gray hair and gray eyes. He could read and write and was of the protestant religion. James was a machinist by trade. He had been previously married, but was a widower in 1905. His nearest relative was Sarah Ward of Phenix, Providence County, Rhode Island.

James checked in and out of Mountain Branch ten times between 1905 and 1915. He transferred first in 1907 to Central Branch in Dayton OH where he was on register #31906 until 1907. Then, he came back to Mountain Home. Next he transferred to Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia in March of 1914. In June of that year he came back to Johnson City, Tennessee.

Another record for Bath Branch National Home in Steuben County, New York shows the same soldier on Register 2,115, as being a resident from December 1, 1908 until March 6, 1913. This transfer is not shown on the Mountain Branch register. His last transfer was from Mountain Branch to Southern Branch on February 4, 1915. He died in Hampton, Virginia April 21, 1916 and was buried at the adjacent National Military Cemetery.

James N. Austin had a Civil War Pension #1103225. He was receiving payments of \$12.00 per month on that pension while an inmate at Mountain Branch and Bath Branch. It is not known whether he had surviving children who applied for a survivor's pension after 1916.

I have found more records that provide additional information about James and his family members. He was on the U. S. Census of 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 in Kent County, Rhode Island, Warwick Town and nearby places. The Census information also matches his

listing on the 1890 Veteran's census which shows his home located at Kent County, Rhode Island.

The parents of James N. Austin were Allen Austin and Dorcas who were both born about 1820 in Rhode Island. James had two sisters named Melissa ca 1843-1852 and Jane M. "Jenny", who was born about 1850-1851. James had at least one wife. He was married to a Theresa Margaret Eaton Platt on March 16, 1889 in Warwick, Kent, Rhode Island. They were married until about 1904. It is not known if they had any children. It was stated that Theresa had two children who were living in 1900 but they were not listed as living with James and Theresa on the census. Theresa was born in England and her parents, John R. and Elizabeth B. Eaton, were also born in England.

The AFAOA database, Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island, as compiled by Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. shows that Allen and his son James N. Austin are descendants of Robert. Two earlier marriages for James N. Austin are listed by Sikes but the sources are not given. A search for the Sarah Ward of Phenix, Rhode Island who was listed as a nearest relative for James N. Austin in 1905, did not result in records that could be proved as belonging to that particular Sarah. However, I listed some of the records for a Sarah Ward, below. There were several women of that name and several Theresa Ward who were related to them. It is not known if Sarah was a daughter, step-daughter, sister-in-law or other relative to James N. Austin.

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, 1850 Kent County, Rhode Island, town of Warwick. 26 Aug 1850, page 244, Dwelling 250, Family 273. Allen Austin 30, overseer, cord. Card b 1820 RI; Dorcas Austin 30, b 1820 RI; Melissa Austin 7, in school, RI; James N. Austin 4, b 1846 RI.

U. S. Census, 1860 Kent County, Rhode Island, Coventry. 27 Jan 1860, Dwelling 239, Fam 285. Dorcas Austin 39, \$50 pp, RI; James N. Austin 14, RI, in school; Jenny Austin 10, RI, in school; Sarah Stone 38 (Ward?) b PA, a mill operator.

U. S. Census, 1870 Kent County, Rhode Island, Warwick Town, Phenix P.O., RI. 22 Jun 1870, page 266, Dwelling 885, Fam 848. Allen Austin 50, m, w, works in cotton mill, RI; Dorcas A. Austin 49, keeping house, RI; James N. 24, works in cotton mill RI; Jane R. 19 (Jenny) works in cotton mill, RI.

U. S. Census, 1880 Kent County, Rhode Island, Warwick, Crompton Dist. 78. 8 Jun 1880, page 240, dwelling 99, fam 141. Austin, Ellen (Allen?), 60, head, none RI, RI, RI; Dorcas A. Austin 57, sister (?), keeping house, RI, RI, RI; James N. Austin 33, son, working in cotton mill, RI, RI, RI.

FamilySearch.org, Pilot Study, Rhode Island Marriages. Theresa Margaret Eaton Platt married James N. Austin (b abt 1848) on 16 Mar 1889 in Warwick, Kent, RI. Parents of the groom were Allen Austin and Dorcas. Parents of the bride were John R. Eaton and Elizabeth B.

U. S. Census, 1890 Veteran's Census, Kent County, Rhode Island; SD 139, ED172, Page 2; Centerville & Crompton, Dwelling 201, Fam 223. James N. Austin, Enlisted 1865, Pvt Co. C, 5th RI, line 17, consumption, Rent, RI.

U. S. Census, 1900 Kent County, Rhode Island, Warwick Town, 16 Jun 1900, Page 280A; Dwelling 278, Fam 395. James N. Austin b Dec 1846 RI, age 53, parents b RI. He is a corder in a cotton mill; Wife, Theresa M. Austin, b Oct 1869, age 35, b England, married 1889, for 11 years, parents both born in England.

**Sikes, Arthur M., Jr. AFAOA Database Compiler for Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington Co., Rhode Island.* " Marriage James N. Austin to Mary Potter 30 Oct 1867, Warwick, Kent, RI and marriage of James N. Austin to Annie MacK 31 May 1873 Warwick, Kent Co, RI".

National Cemetery Administration, U. S. Veterans Gravesites, ca 1775-2006. Ancestry.com. Burial of James N. Austin d 21 Apr 1916, Hampton National Cemetery, Cem. Rd. at Marshall Ave., Hampton, VA, Section A site 10941. This location is adjacent to the Southern Branch of National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

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helencastin@afaao.org