

Case 6: Frank Austin born November 1845 in Barkhamsted, Litchfield County, Connecticut, who died October 6, 1918.

The register of Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Johnson City, Tennessee (MtnB) #6421 lists a military history for Frank Austin who enlisted December 22, 1861 at New Haven, Connecticut as a private in Co. G of the 13th Conn. Infantry Regiment. He was discharged on January 6, 1865, at the close of the Civil War at New Haven, CN . He had some disabilities when admitted to the Home in 1910. They included defective vision in both eyes, injury to both eyes and to his head from a shell. He was nearly deaf in both ears. He had prostatic hypertrophy in his right hydrocele, and chronic arthritic rheumatism.

The domestic history for Frank Austin describes him as five feet and eight inches tall, and fair of complexion. He had brown eyes and black hair. He was a protestant by religion and was a machinist by occupation. Frank was age sixty-four in 1910, when he applied to the National Home Pacific Branch, in Sawtelle, California. The nearest relative of Frank was his son, Frank Austin, Jr., who lived in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. He was married and his wife was Clara J. Austin of 29 Relay Place in Stampford (sic), Conn.

There were a total of nine changes of residence in various Veterans' Homes for Frank, from 1910 to 1918. The personal data on the registers identifies Frank and is proof that it was the same Frank, at all locations. Frank had a Soldier's Pension #2500 from the Civil War. He received \$25.00 a month at the time when he was admitted on December 15, 1910 to Pacific Branch. He was discharged from there seven months later, on July 27, 1911, at his own request. Next he was readmitted to Mountain Branch Home in Tennessee on October 26, 1911 and discharged from there on February 13, 1912 at his own request. Frank went to Central Branch in Dayton, OH from 1912-1913, then to Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia in 1915. He was readmitted to Eastern Branch in Togus, Kennebec, Maine July 4, 1915. In 1916 he went back to Mountain Branch in Tennessee for a year and then to Southern Branch for another year and back once more to Mountain Branch with a discharge of record on June 20, 1917 at his own request. He was last admitted to Southern Branch April 25, 1918. No death record is on the registers of the Homes.

However, AFAOA genealogist, Liz Carlin, has information that has a death date for Frank Austin as October 6, 1918, place unknown.

The Register #16444 at Eastern Branch in Maine had some different family information in their record. Frank was said to be born in the city of Barkhamsted, Connecticut. In 1915, Frank's nearest relative listed was his son, Harry L. Austin of Vanbrook, Connecticut. The residence for Frank, the elder, for 1910 was listed as Los Angeles, California, which would have been true, since he resided at the Pacific Branch that year. His pension number was the same as on other Branch registers.

Why did these soldiers move around so much? I don't know, and probably no one else knows. The branch in Hot Springs, South Dakota was said to have had a medical specialty for digestive tract surgery, but the histories of the other branches do not mention any particular specialties. Mountain Branch and Southern Branch were both in the Appalachian Mountains and were said to have a healthy climate for those soldiers who might suffer from lung disease.

My opinion is, that, since there were no restrictions on the number of times a soldier could check out and be readmitted, it was convenient for him to go to his home to see his family when he was healthy enough to do so. When the soldier was ailing or his family could not take care of him, he was always welcome to return to the Home where he had companionship and physical care.

Other records as listed below have more information about the families of Frank Austin. His parents were William Austin who was born about 1816 and Elizabeth who was born about 1827. Both were born in Connecticut as were their children. William was a blacksmith. In 1850 and 1860, This Austin family was living in Litchfield County, Connecticut, near Winsted Post Office. Siblings of Frank were Walter who was born about 1854, Wilber who was born about 1858, and Mary who was born in October 1859. William was still alive in 1870. He was still working as a blacksmith. He was living in the house of Martin and Antonette Wilson at Pine Meadow, Connecticut.

In 1870, Frank Austin was a single man who was working as a clerk in a store in Brooklyn. He lived in a boarding house in Ward 3 of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Two years later he married to Clara who was born in June 1852 in New York.

According to the AFAOA database, Frank married on October 2, 1871 in Kings County, New York to Clara "Karrey" P. Guillan. She was a daughter of James W. and Mary A. Guillan, formerly of Scotland. The 1880 census lists Clara as Clarrey P. Austin. Clara's maiden name as Guillan is listed again on their daughter Ann Augusta Austin's marriage license of 1901 to James Watts.

The first record I found for Clara's parents was in Doggetts' New York City Directory for 1849-1850. It shows James Guillan was a tailor who worked and lived in New York City. The 1860 Census of Kings County, NY, Ward 16 of NYC on 7 Jul 1860, shows James Gullon, age 20 a tailor, with \$400 personal property, who was born in Scotland. His wife Mary was also born about 1840 in Scotland. Claesa (sic) was born 1851-1852 in New York and was in school. Her sister Cate age 7 was also in school. Her brother James at age 4, and Olive, age 3, and baby Emma who was born about August of 1859 were all too young to attend school. I found no earlier records for the family, and I believe they came over from Scotland to NYC only a sort time before 1850. A death record for a James Gillan age 29, born about 1841, is found in the 1870 Mortality Census. He died January of 1870 of consumption. No later records were found for the Guillon family.

The family of Frank and Clara Austin continued to live in Brooklyn, New York, at 186 Warwick Street in 1880 and 1900. Frank was working as a machinist and owned his home. Clara was keeping house. Their children were grown but were still living at home. Mary was born in August 1872 in NY and was a school teacher. Frank Austin, (Jr.) was born September 1874 in NY, and was a carpenter. Annie was born in December 1876, and had an occupation listed as "con". Harry was born November 1879 in CT and worked as a book binder. Kate was born in September 1881 in New York. She worked in an office as a type writer.

Harry L. Austin married Lulu in 1904. Lulu was born in Connecticut in 1885. The family was living in Stamford Town, of Fairfield County, Connecticut in 1910. Harry worked in a U. S. Clerk's office. They had two sons, William (H.) Austin, born in 1906, and Kenneth (L.) Austin who was born in September 1909. Both were born in Connecticut. Veteran and father of Harry, Frank Austin age 63 was also living in the household. He was able to work as a machinist at a lock drop factory. He said that all his children were living and that he was

married. His wife is not listed on the census. The 1910 U. S. Census is the last census that I found that lists Frank, the Civil War Veteran.

In the summer of 1920, Harry Lee Austin and Lulu were living on Glen Terrace Street in Stamford, CT. Harry was a clerk at a lock factory. Perhaps it is the same one where his father worked. Son, William H. Austin was age 14 and Kenneth L. Austin was age 10. By 1930, the children of Harry L. Austin and Lulu were grown and had good jobs. Harry had \$12,500 personal property and continued to do clerical work at a lock factory. William H. Austin, age 24, was single and was a trader's clerk for stocks and bonds. His brother, Kenneth L. Austin, age 20, was also single and was an apprentice at a bank. The family home in 1930 was on Sunny Side Avenue in Glenbrook, Darien Township of Fairfield County, CT.

The death certificate and Social Security records for Kenneth L. Austin show that he was born August 19, 1909 and died May 6, 1999. His wife was named Alice, who died before Kenneth. Kenneth was a mortgage officer at Stamford Savings Bank. His residence was at 111 S. Compo Rd., Westport, in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

The eldest son of Frank, the Veteran, was Frank (Jr.) who was born in September 1874, in Ward 3 of Brooklyn, New York. He was a carpenter by trade. He married Elizabeth L. in 1907. Elizabeth was born in 1883 in New York, but her parents were both born in New Jersey. Frank and Elizabeth had two sons. Edward Austin was born about 1908, probably in Queens, New York, as was his brother William W. Austin. William was born in 1911. In 1910 Frank was working as a builder, by trade and had a position of building supervisor.

Sometime after 1910, the family of Frank (Jr.) and Elizabeth removed from their house on Oceanview Avenue in Queens, New York City to Cecelia Place in Scotch Plains, a township of Union County, New Jersey. In 1911, his father, Frank, the Veteran, had given the address of his son, Frank, as Scotch Plains, NJ when he entered the Mountain Branch Veteran's Home. By 1930, Frank and "Bessie" were living on Third St. in Fanwood Borough of Union County. Their two sons were still single and living at home with their parents. Edward G. Austin was an electrical engineer. William Walter Austin was a carpenter, like his Dad and had the position of Builder.

Since Frank Austin had at least four male grandchildren; Edward, William Walter, William H. and Kenneth L., there are probably many descendants for this line of Austins. It is hoped that the publication of this paper will help future researchers. Perhaps someone will find a link for Frank's family with other Connecticut Austin families.

It should be mentioned that Frank had two brothers. Walter G. Austin, who was born January 1854 in Connecticut, was living in Stamford Town, of Fairfield County, Connecticut in 1900 at #92 Main Street. Since his occupation was a lock maker, I think he is a candidate for the son of William and Elizabeth, of that name, who lived in Winsted in 1860. The wife of Walter was Nettie who was born July 1857 in Connecticut. The couple had a daughter named Bernice, who was born in March 1889.

I could not positively identify the Wilber G. Austin of Waterbury Town, New Haven County, Connecticut as a brother for Frank. He was the right age. This Wilber, who ran a livery and stable, was born August 1857, and he married in 1879 to Emma J. Their home was at 21 Manham St. in Waterbury. According to the 1860 Census, the brother of Frank who was named Wilber was born about 1857-1858 in Connecticut. Emma and Wilber had three daughters: Grace E. born Nov 1879, Mabel J. born March 1885 and Ruby M. born July 1893. All three girls were in school in 1900. Maybe a descendant of Wilber will help us to identify him as the son of William and Elizabeth of Winsted, Connecticut.

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.

U. S. Census, 1850 Litchfield County, CT, New Hartford. 12 Oct 1850, page 125, Dwelling 174, Family 195. William Austin, 34, blacksmith, b CT; Elisabeth 24, MA; Frank 4, CT; Hector C. Rink, 29, blacksmith, CT.

U. S. Census, 1860 Litchfield County, CT, Winchester, Winsted P.O., 27 Jun 1860, page 84, Dwelling 625, Family 679. William Austin 43, mechanic, \$200.pp, CT; Elizabeth 33, MA; Frank 14, CT, in school; Walter 6, CT, in school; Wilber 2, CT; Mary Austin 8/12 mo., CT.

U. S. Census, 1870, Litchfield County, CT, New Hartford, Pine Meadow P.O., 20 Jul 1870; Page 215; Dwelling 253, Fam 274. William Austin, age 54, b CT, Blacksmith, living in home of

Martin Wilcox 42, CT and Antonette 39, CT. Martin works at a Rube (sic) factory.

U. S. Census, 1870 Kings County, NY, Brooklyn Ward 3, 18 Jul 1870, page 248, Dwelling 530, Fam 813. Boarding House. Frank B. Austin, 23, m, w, clerk in store b CT.

U. S. Census, 1880 Kings County, NY, Brooklyn, 3 Jun 1880, page 402A, #274, Dwelling 58, Fam 80. Frank Austin, 34, machinist, CT, CT, MA; Clarrey P. 29, wife, housekeeper, NY, Scotland, NJ; Mary E. 7, dau, attending school, NY, Brooklyn, CT; Frank 5, son, NY, attending school, CT, Brooklyn, CT; Anney Aug. 3, CT, Brooklyn, CT; Harry Lee 6 months, b Nov 1879 CT, Brooklyn, CT.

U. S. Census, 1900 Kings County, NY, Brooklyn Borough, Ward 26, 9 Jun 1900, page 162 A. 186 Warwick St., Dwelling 231, Fam 298. Frank Austin 54, b Nov 1845 CT, fa b CT, mo b NY, machinist, owns home, married in 1872 for 28 years; Clara Austin, wife 47, Jun 1852, 5 ch, 5 living, NY, Scotland, NJ; Mary 27, dau, Aug 1872 NY, school teacher CT, NY; Frank 20, son, b Sep 1874 NY, carpenter, CT, NY; Annie 23, dau, Dec 1876, CT; Harry 20, son, Nov 1879, CT, CT, NY, bookbinder; Kate 18, dau, Sep 1881 NY, typewriter CT, NY.

New York Marriage Records. NYOPM film 1570684, Index M00551-X, Anna Augusta Austin m 25 Sep 1901 in Manhattan, NY, NY to James Watts. Bride's father, Frank Austin; Bride's mother, Clara Guillan; Groom's father James Watts, Mother Susan Garside.

New York State Census of 1905. Brooklyn, Kings County, NY. Frank Austin, head, age 58, US Citizen, machinist; P. Clara Austin, wife, age 52, housework; Frank Austin, Jr. son, age 29, carpenter; E. Mary Austin, dau, teacher (school); Katharine Austin, dau, housework.

U. S. Census, 1910 Fairfield County, CT, Stamford, Ward 1, 26 Apr 1910, page 18-19; Dwelling 208, Family 363. Harry Austin 36 b CT, works at U.S. Clerks office, married once for 6 years, 2 children, 2 living; Lulu Austin, 25, wife, married once, for 6 years, b CT; William Austin, 4, son, CT, CT, CT; Kenneth 8/12 mo. Son, CT, CT, CT. Frank Austin, 63, CT, father, CT, CT, machinist lock drop, married once had 5 children and 5 are living.

AFAOA Database, Unplaced Northern Austins. <http://www.AFAOA.org> Lists information for Frank Austin son of William and Elizabeth of Winsted, Litchfield County, CT. Reference shown for the 1900 U. S. Census. A death date for Frank Austin as 6 Oct 1918 is referenced from a NY Death Certificate.

U. S. Census, 1920 Fairfield County, CT, Stamford Town, 31 Jan 1920, Dwelling 589, Fam 651; Glen Terrace St. Austin, Harry L. 39, CT, CT, NY, clerk lock factory; Lulu 34, CT, CT, CT; William H., 14, CT; Kenneth L. 10, CT.

U. S. Census, 1930 Fairfield County, CT, Darien, Glenbrook, Apr 10, 1930; Sunny Dwelling 304, Fam 315. Sunny Side Avenue. Harry L. Austin, 49, head, owns, \$12,500.00, married at age 24 CT, CT, NY, clerical lock factory; Lulu 44, wife,

married at age 19, CT, CT, NY; William H. 24, single, CT, CT, CT, traders clerk, stocks and bonds; Kenneth L. 20, single, CT, CT, CT, apprentice, bank.

U. S. Census, 1910 Queens County, NY, Queens Ward 4, Dist 1255, 26 Apr, page 102B, 34 Oceanview Avenue. Austin, Frank, head, 35, married once, 3 years, b NY, fa b CT, mo b NY, a builder, building sup., Elizabeth, 27, married once, for 3 years, b NY, NY, NY; Edward Austin, son, age 2, single, NY, NY, NY. (This is the son of Frank, the Veteran).

U. S. Census, 1920 Union, County, NJ, Scotch Plains Twp, Jan 7-8, 1920, Cecelia Place, Dwelling 140, Fam 151. Frank Austin, 45, rents, b NY, fa b CT, mo b NY, a carpenter, works out; Elizabeth L. 37, b NY, fa b NJ, mo b NJ; Edward 12, son, b NY, fa b CT, mo b NY b 1908; William W. son, 9, NY, CT, NY b 1911. Note: Register of Home listed son of Frank the Veteran as Frank Austin, Jr. of Scotch Plains, NJ.

U. S. Census, 1930 Union County, NJ, Fanwood Borough, April 15, 1930, page 250. Third St., Dwelling 377, Fam 356. Frank Austin 55, head, \$9,500. pp, Rents, married at age 32, b NY, fa b CT, mo b NY, a carpenter, Builder; Bessie T. 47, wife, married at age 24, NY, NJ, NJ; Edward G. 22, son, NY, NY, NY, Engineer, Electrical; W. Walter Austin 19, son, single, NY, NY, NY, carpenter, Builder.

U. S. Census, 1900 Fairfield County, Connecticut, Stamford Town, 13 Jun 1900. #92 Main St., Dwelling 321, Fam 409. Walter G. Austin, Jan 1854, married once, for 17 years, a lock maker, b CT, CT, CT; Nettie, 42, wife, b Jul 1857, CT; Bernice 11, dau, Mar 1889, CT.

U. S. Census, 1900 New Haven County, Connecticut, Waterbury Town, #21 Manham St., Dwelling 239, Fam 343. Austin, Wilber G., b Aug 1857, married 21 yr. CT, CT, CT, Livery & Stable; Emma J. Oct 1861, 38, married 31 years, 3 ch, 3 living, CT, CT, CT; Grace E., dau, Nov 1879; Mabel J. Mar 1885; Ruby M. Jul 1893. All children are in school, Chilsey, Jennette, mother-in-law, Jul 1841, age 59, a widow, one child living.

Connecticut Death Index 1949-2001 and Social Security Death Index for Kenneth L. Austin, SS # 043-03-4491.

For future research the descendants of David Austin of Winsted, Litchfield, CT should be traced for a possible connection to the parents of Frank. David was a landowner who operated two mills and was one of the founders of Winsted. See, *Historical Annals of Winchester, Connecticut*. Full text is posted on Ancestry.com

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