

**Case 7: Joseph K. Austin born August 29, 1846 in New York, died November 15, 1921, buried at Perry, Oklahoma.**

The register #5569 of Danville Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois, lists a military history for Joseph K. Austin who enlisted August 22, 1862 at Brookston, Indiana as a private in Co. F of the 99<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment. He was discharged on June 5, 1865 at the close of the Civil War at Appomattox. This was officially at Washington, D.C. He had general disability when admitted to the Home September 18, 1903. He specifically had sciatica and hemorrhoids which he contacted in 1889 in Noble, Oklahoma.

The domestic history for Joseph K. Austin describes him as five feet and nine inches tall, and of a light complexion. He had blue eyes and gray hair. He was a protestant by religion and was a farmer by occupation. He was a widower. His Pension Certificate was #587298. He was age 57 in 1903. Although he was born in New York and enlisted in the Army in Indiana, his home residence in 1903 was listed as Peedee Post Office of Oklahoma Territory. His nearest relative was his daughter, Mrs. Nellie Hicks of Peedee, Noble County, Oklahoma.

Like many of the Veterans who lived at the Homes, Joseph transferred to three different Homes. He was discharged from Danville Branch May 14, 1904 at his own request and was readmitted to Western Branch Home at Leavenworth, Kansas August 12, 1904 where he stayed until February 2, 1909, according to Register #15032. He then transferred to Mountain Home in Johnson City, TN until sometime after the 1910 U. S. Census. He was recorded living on April 21, 1910 at the National Soldiers Home, as Joseph K. Austin, member, age 63, widowed, born in New York. Both his parents were listed as born in Ireland.

According to the Mountain Branch Register #4527, Joseph transferred again to the Western Branch Home August 2, 1913, but transferred again to Mountain Branch November 11, 1914. Another transfer to Western Branch was recorded October 11, 1915. Since it was nearer to his home in Oklahoma, Joseph seemed to stay more often at the Western Branch. On their Register he was listed as being born in New York City. His last admission was August 27, 1918 and the last dismissal was June

29 1920 at his own request. At that time his pension was \$40.00 per month.

I have not proven the father of Joseph K. Austin. However, I believe that the most likely candidate on the 1850 U. S. Census for Ward 5 of New York City is a William Austin who was born about 1815 in Ireland (no occupation listed). William's wife was Hesty Austin (Hester?) who was born about 1814 in Ireland. Two sons in this family were John W. Austin who was born about 1844 in New York, and Joseph born about 1846. John who was age six was in school. Next door are a Neil Murphy and wife Ann, who were born in Ireland.

In the summer of 1880, a Joseph Austin, age 32 who was born in New York and had parents who were both born in Ireland, was farming in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. There were many other families who were working on this very large farm. Joseph's wife was Elmira born about 1854 in Illinois. Her father was born in North Carolina and her mother was born in Indiana. The couple had one daughter named Nelly who was born in 1874 in Indiana. This matches the Register information about Nelly Hicks, the daughter of Joseph K. Austin and his wife.

Since we know that the residence of Joseph was listed as Noble County, Oklahoma, it was not hard to locate his married daughter and her husband on the 1900 and 1910 census as well as a burial record for Joseph in that county. The Hicks farm was in a place called Red Rock. Howard F. Hicks who was born in December 1865 married Nellie Austin about 1896. The birth date of Nellie was March 1876 in Indiana. Howard and Nellie had a daughter named Mira Hicks who was born June 1897 in Oklahoma. In 1910 Howard and Nellie were still farming in Red Rock. Their daughter Myra (sic) was age twelve.

Mount Carmel Cemetery, near Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma is the gravesite of Joseph K. Austin. His memorial inscription reads that he was born August 29, 1846 and died November 15, 1921. His wife is buried by him. Just as listed on the 1880 Census, her name was Elmira J. Austin. She was born January 9, 1853. Elmira died June 28, 1902, before Joseph went to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Danville, Illinois.

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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.

*Immigration Record.* William Austin of the Ship, Josephine, arrived NYC 13 May 1836, Line 80, on the passenger list, age 23, born about 1813. William was a cabinetmaker. Ship departed from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Note: This William is about the right age and the date of arrival is about right, to be the same William as the one on the 1850 Census, below. No conclusions are implied.

*U. S. Census, 1840 New York City, Ward 9, NY.* Page 93. William Austin 011001-200001. One person is engaged in manufacturing and trade. One person is a navigator of the ocean (sailor?). It is not known if this is the same William as the one on the 1850 Census.

*U. S. Census, 1850 New York, NY, Ward 5, 23 Aug 1850,* page 162, Dwelling 659, fam 1167. William Austin, age 35, born Ireland, no occupation listed; Hessa 36, f, Ireland; John W. Austin, 6, in school NY; Joseph 4, NY.

*U. S. Census, 1880 Warren County, Indiana, Medina Township,* 12 Jun 1880, Page 7B, Dwelling 105, Fam 105. Joseph Austin 32, b NY, fa b IRE, mo b IRE, a farmer; Elmira 26, wife, keeps house, b IL, fa b NC, mo b IN; Nelly, 4, dau, IN, NY, IL; also Ambrose Smith 18, servant, farm laborer, IN.

*U. S. Census, 1900 Noble County, Oklahoma, Red Rock,* 29 Jun 1900, Dwelling 275, Fam 293. Howard F. Hecks 34, b Dec 1865, married 4 years, b KS; Nellie Hecks 24, b Mar 1876, married 4 years, 1 ch, 1 living, IN, NY, IL; Mira Hecks 3, b Jun 1897, OK, KS, IN.

*U. S. Census, 1910 Noble County, Oklahoma, Red Rock Township,* page 51, Dwelling 100, Fam 100. Howard F. Hicks, 44?, head, married once for 13 years, KS, OH, OH, farmer; Nellie Hicks 39, wife, married once for 13 years, IN, NY, IL; Myra Hicks, dau, age 12, b OK, KS, IN.

*Findagrave.com. Cemetery Search Perry, Noble Co., OK.* Mount Carmel Cemetery. Joseph K. Austin b Aug 29, 1846, d Nov 15, 1921. Also, Elmira J. Austin b Jan. 9, 1853 d Jun 28, 1902.

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