

Case 8: Elias Ezra Austin born February 27, 1845 in Holly, Michigan and died May 12, 1924 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The military history on the registers of the National Homes shows that Elias E. Austin enlisted on January 27, 1864 in Michigan as a Private in Company M. of the 1st Michigan Cavalry Regiment. He was dismissed June 30, 1865 in Michigan by order of the War Department. Elias disabilities included: cardiac hypertrophy, arhythmia, arterio sclerosis, partial left hemophlegia, and hemorrhoids.

The domestic history for Elias E. Austin when he first applied to Central Branch Home in Dayton, Ohio on May 18, 1914, describes him as age 68, five feet and 7 inches tall, of light complexion, with hazel eyes, and gray hair. He was a protestant by religion, and a carpenter by trade. His residence at that time was listed as Florida. He was married and his nearest relative was his wife, Mrs. Joene (sic) Austin of Jacksonville, Florida. He had a military pension Certificate # 536776 from which he received \$17.00 per month.

The register of Central Branch Home at Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, #37203, shows that Elias was discharged from that Home August 4, 1914, three months after he was admitted. Next, he was admitted February 21, 1920 to Mountain Home in Johnson County, Tennessee. That Register was #11030. He left Mountain Home on May 5, 1920 and was readmitted August 9, 1921 to Southern Roseburg Branch at Hampton, Virginia, Register #25286. He remained in Virginia for most of 1921 until he was discharged February 2, 1923 at his own request.

There are more records listed below that help to tell the story of Elias Austin. Compiler, Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. of the AFAOA Database for Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island, has Elias Ezra Austin as a son of Hiram Austin and Mary Youdan of New York and Holly Town, Oakland County, Michigan. Sikes shows that Elias had two wives which is verified by the Census of 1910 item, showing that Elias was married twice. His first wife was Mollie (Mary?) Everetts, who Elias married about 1872. Mary Austin was age 26 on the 1880 Census of Millington, Michigan. Elias and Mary had one child named Floyd Austin who was born about 1873. Elias married a second time, about 1895 to Joan Slingsby who would be the Joan mentioned in the Central Branch Register and the Census of 1900 and 1910. Joan S. Austin applied for a Widow's Pension on June 9, 1924. Her application was #1220297 and her certificate was 963017 Michigan.

Elias is found living with his parents on the 1860 and 1870 census. They had a farm near Holly Town, Oakland County, Michigan with a large family of eight children. In 1870, some of the older children are living

in a separate household from Hiram, headed by Elias' brother, Handy Austin. Elias was the first child in the family to be born in Michigan. Hiram Handy was born in New York about 1843.

After the Civil War, Elias returned to Michigan. He worked in a stave mill in Millington in 1880. Elias and Mary had a son Floyd and a daughter Pearl. Pearl must have died as an infant, before 1880. Mary/Mollie Austin probably died within twenty years of her marriage. The disabilities that Elias suffered during his service in the War must have put a strain upon his family life and his ability to work.

The military pension for Elias began on September 15, 1885 and it provided some support for Elias. After 1890 he left Michigan. He moved to the Mississippi Gulf Coast first, and lived in the City of Bay St. Louis, on Front Street, directly in front of the shaded white sand beach. He was working in Mississippi in 1900 as an engineer for a grist mill. Elias and Joan had been married for five years. A few years later the couple moved to the Atlantic waterfront and lived at St. George City, Georgia. Joan kept house while Elias worked as a carpenter, framing houses. This was not far from Jacksonville, Florida where the couple was living in 1920. Elias was still able to work as a house carpenter despite his disabilities. However, we know that during the time from 1914 until his death, ten years later, Elias was in and out of the Veteran's homes from Ohio to Tennessee to Virginia until his final release the year before he died.

A burial record was found on the Internet for the cemetery of the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home in Kent County, Michigan. Sgt. Elias E. Austin of Co. M, 1st Mich. Cav. was born February 28, 1846, died May 12, 1924. He was interred in Plot 7, Row 21, Grave 15. No mention was given of Joan S. Austin who died three years after Elias. Neither do we know if Floyd Austin, the son of Elias and Mary survived to adulthood.

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.

AFAOA Database, Some Descendants of Robert Austin of Kingston, Washington County, Rhode Island. Compiler: Arthur M. Sikes, Jr. <http://www.AFAOA.org>. Lists Elias Ezra Austin b 27 Feb 1845 at Holly, Oakland, MI d 12 May 1924 at Grand Rapids, Kent Co, MI, marriages: 1. Mollie Everetts m abt 1872. 2. Joan Slingsby. Children of Elias and Mollie were Floyd b abt 1873 and Pearl b abt 1876. Elias was the son of Hiram Austin and Mary Youdan.

U. S. Census, 1860 Oakland County, Michigan, 13 Jul 1860, page 361, Dwelling 1123, Fam 1124. Hiram Austin, 45, farmer, \$6,000.00, \$1500.00, NY; Mary 42, b England; Emily 19; Handy 17 NY; Elias 15 MI; Mary 13 MI; Martha 11 MI; Loretta 7 MI; Sumner 5 MI; Friend 3; Elias Austin age 80 b RI.

U. S. Census 1870, Oakland County, Michigan, Holly Town, 15 Jul, 1870; Page 283, Dwelling 426, Fam 404. Handy Austin 28, head, single, NY \$4,000.00, \$1000.00; Elias 25, single, MI; Martha 20, sister, single, MI; Jane 16, sister, single, MI. Note that family 403 is father, Hiram 55, b NY, a farmer and mother, Mary 52, b England.

U. S. Census, 1880 Tuscola County, MI, Millington; Elis (sic) Austin 33, b MI, fa b NY, m b England, works in stave mill; Mary Austin, wife, 26 b MI, parents b NY, Floid Austin, son, age 7 b MI.

U. S. Census 1890 Veteran's Census, Harrison, Clare, Michigan. Line 35, Dw 103, fam 104; Elias E. Austin, Pvt. Co. F& H, 1st Mi Cav. 26 Jan 1864-3 Jul 1866, served 2 year, 5 months, and 5 days. Disability: chronic diarrhea and piles. Discharge and general order.

U. S. Census, 1900 Hancock County, Mississippi, 5th S. Dist. City of Bay St. Louis, 2 Jun 1900, Front St., Dwelling 36, Fam 36. E. E. Austin, b Feb 1845, age 55, b MI, married 5 years, fa b NY, mo b England, engineer grist mill; Joan Austin, b Mar 1845, 55, wife, b NY, NY, NY.

U. S. Census, 1910 Charlton County, GA, Toledo Dist 154, St. George City, Ward 3, 24 Apr 1910; Georgia Avenue, Dwelling 35, Fam 26. Elias E. Austin age 65, head, Married twice, for 15 years, b MI, fa b NY, mo b England, carpenter, frame builder; Joan, 65, wife, married twice, 15 years, 2 ch, 0 living, NY, NY, NY.

U. S. Census, 1920, Duval County, Florida, Marietta (Jacksonville Cit, Pct 25) 6 Jan 1920; Murray Hill, page 260; Dwelling 116, Fam 123. E. E. Austin 74, b MI, fa b NY, mo b Eng, carpenter, house; Joan Austin 74, NY, NY, NY, none.

Civil War, Widow's Pension, Joan S. Austin. Application 1220297, Certificate 963017 Mich. Date applied Jun 9, 1924. Earlier soldier's pension app Sep 15, 1885, Invalid ap. 459.945, Certif 536776 Mich. Findagrave.com. Grand Rapids Veterans Home, Kent Co., MI; Plot 7, Row 21, Grave 15 is Sgt. Elias E. Austin, Company M of the 1st Mich. Cav.

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