

Case 9: Frank Edmon Austin born December 5, 1888 in Colorado County, Texas and who died May 3, 1959 in Dallas, Texas.

The military history on the registers of the Pacific Branch of the National Veterans Home at Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California informs us that Frank enlisted December 28, 1907 at Dallas, Texas as a R. A. S. in the United States Navy. He was a seaman at the port of Bumeston, Washington when he was discharged on January 30, 1912. Cause for discharge was E.T.S. However, he re-enlisted May 1, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois at the beginning of World War I. His rank was S.M.M. U. S. Navy. He was honorably discharged May 1, 1921 in New Orleans, LA. Cause was AL NAV67. When admitted to the Pacific Home his disability was described as bronchial asthma.

The domestic history for Frank E. Austin on Register #34598 of Pacific Branch lists that he was born in Cheetham, Texas about 1890. He said he was age 40 on his date of admission August 19, 1930. Frank's height was 73 ¼" or 6'1 ¼". He had a ruddy complexion. His eyes were gray His hair was brown. He could read and write. He was of the Protestant religion. His occupation was a laborer. His home after he was discharged from the Navy was Grapevine, Texas. He was single in 1930. Note that this is a conflict with information on the 1930 census from a couple of months earlier, when Frank said he was divorced. Frank's death certificate states that he was divorced. No record has been found for a marriage or a wife in Texas, Arizona or California. His nearest relative was his mother, Mrs. Orphia Mitchell of Grapevine, Dallas County, Texas.

The register of Central Branch Home at Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, shows only Frank's admission date and does not show that he was dismissed. However, he did check out since he had been a patient at the Veteran's Hospital in Dallas, Texas when he died.

Frank is also found on the 1930 census of Tonapah District, Maricopa County, Arizona, living as a single man, and working as a trucker hauling freight. Frank's niece, Vickie, has told me that he lived for a while in Globe, Arizona.

The home address given on Frank's death certificate was 305 South Britain, St. in Irving, Texas. That was the residence of his brother C. Bruce Austin. Vickie says that they had a house at that address, but that it was torn down during the

urban renewal of Irving. The death certificate also has a death date for Frank of May 3, 1959. He died of chronic thrombo-embolic disease of his lungs with septic infarcts and pneumonitis, due to bronchial asthma. He was buried at Oak Grove Memorial Park in Irving. Other family members, including Frank's mother, Orphia were buried in Old Kit Cemetery which is adjacent to Oak Grove.

The family history of Frank shows that he had a background of patriotic Americans who served in several branches of the military. His brother, Charles Bruce Austin, Sr. was born January 11, 1891 in Colorado County, TX and died February 13, 1964. He was in the U. S. Navy in World War I, TX. Charles married Hettie Bell Holland. Another brother Thomas William Austin who was born March 29, 1887 had a Draft Card for WWI but I don't know if he went into the Service. "Will" as he was called by the family, lived in Sheridan, TX. His description in 1917 was that he was of medium build and complexion. He had grey eyes, light brown hair, and was self-employed as a teamster. According to his statement, Will was married and his wife depended on him for her support.

There was also a sister in the family who was named Lela M. Austin. She was born in February of 1895. The parents of these four siblings were Thomas H. Austin who was born November 1850 in Colorado County, Texas and Orphia A. Byler, a daughter of James Taylor Byler of Tennessee. Orphia was born March 1862 in Arkansas, and she married three times. First she married David Monteville Null and had a son named James David Null who was born March 16, 1883. Second, she married Thomas Austin in 1885. They had the four children who were mentioned previously. Thomas died before 1906 probably in Montgomery County, Texas near Conroe, where he and his family lived in 1900. After that, Orphia married John J. Mitchell, a widower and successful dairyman who had a dairy farm in Grapevine, Texas, near where the DFW airport is now located.

The early Republic of Texas records at the TSLA have some information about the grandfather of Frank E. Austin. William Austin was born in 1809 in Virginia. He must have come to Texas with some relatives when he was in his early twenties. The 1840 Tax Lists for Colorado County and Travis County list William and AWJD Austin. There are several folders showing case files for William and Augustus W. J. D. Austin.

In the Fall of 1842, when some volunteer soldiers were needed to fight the Mexican General Wol/Wall, who had come across the Texas border to try to regain Mexican territory. William and his relative, Augustus W. J. D. Austin were in the group of men from Colorado County who went to help the Texans. By the time the men got to Gonzales, the fighting was over and the Mexicans had retreated. They met with other volunteers who had been in the Battle of Cibollo. Then, the Colorado County soldiers went home.

I don't know what family relationship that Augustus had to William. Neither, do I know the age and place of birth for him. However, William named his oldest son, John Augustine Austin (b 1847). It seems Augustus died not long after the men returned to their homes, near Sherman, probably after 1842, but before December 2, 1846, when William was made the Administrator of the estate of AWJD. If probate records exist for AWJD, it would be interesting to see who was named in the final settlement of his estate, to see if he had any other family members in Texas.

A Texas Land patent with a date of June 20, 1861, for 320 acres in Colorado County, Texas was certified for a patentee, Mrs. A. W. Austin, and J. D. Austin. I wonder if this patent could be for the survivors of AWJD Austin who died about 1845?

Claims were filed to the Treasurer of the Republic of TX for money for the service of William and Augustus. The amount of \$15.70 was received by William for the service to the Republic. William's original signature is on the document. Augustus received the same amount, which was received by William. The money was finally paid in full on August 10, 1854.

William married December 23, 1845 in Colorado County to a girl named Blanche Elizabeth Woolsey from Monroe Co, GA. She was the sister of Captain James M. Woolsey, who received his commission in the Confederate State of America Army. Blanche was born October 27, 1828. Her parents were John Moore Woolsey and Phoebe Castleberry, who were formerly of Monroe County, Georgia. The family had received land in Colorado County, Texas in March of 1845.

The 1850 farm schedule shows that William Austin owned two horses, seven milk cows, and fifteen other cattle. Blanche and William had many children. They were John Augustine Austin born 1847; Robert Austin born 1848; Thomas H. Austin

born 1851 who was the father of Frank E. Austin; Edmond R. Austin born 1853; Lavina born 1858 who married John Nunn of the 1880 Census; Kate Austin born 1862; Charles Austin born 1863; and Blanche Helen Austin born 1865, who married John Haywood.

William died about 1867, in Texas, and was buried in the Austin Family Cemetery, in Lavaca County, Texas. This is near the county line of Lavaca and Colorado County. The land was once part of Colorado County. Blanche lived on the Austin family farm for many more years and raised her children. Blanche died September 1, 1885 and was buried near her husband and other family members.

No linkage has been proven for William who was born in 1809 in Virginia, according to the 1850 census, or Augustus, birth date and place unknown, to any of the Virginia Austin families in the AFAOA database, but some researchers have suggested a possibility that William could be a descendant of John, Sr. of Southside Virginia. One person on Ancestry.com and a researcher for FamilySearch who lives in Utah, has William as the same person as the William born in 1802 in Grayson County, Virginia who was a son of Isaiah and Lucy Blevins Austin. However no proofs are offered for such linkage.

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. Available online at Ancestry.com.

U. S. Census, 1850, Colorado City, Colorado County, Texas, 4 Sep 1850, Page 26A; William Austin, 41, b VA c 1809, farmer; Blanch Austin, 22, b GA; John Augustine Austin 3, TX; Robert Augustine Austin 1, TX.

U. S. Census 1870, Lavaca County, Texas, 20 Jun, Dwelling 437, Fam 391. Austin, Blanch E. 42, keeping house, \$10,000.00 Real Estate, \$2500 PP, b GA; Thomas H. 19, at school, TX; Edmond R. 17, working on farm, TX; Lebinda 15, teaching school, TX; Willia Mary 11, in school, TX; Connie 9, in school, TX; Charles 7, in school, TX; Blanch 5, TX; Carr, Irena, domestic servant, black b LA.

U. S. Census 1880, Lavaca County, Texas, Pct 8, 4 Jun 1880, page 490, Dwelling 59, Fam 60; Blanche Austin 52, keeping house GA, VA, VA; Kate 18, dau, TX, VA, GA; Charles 17, son, TX, VA, GA; Blanche 15, dau, TX, VA, GA; John Nunn 25, son-in-law, farmer TX; Labinda Austin Nunn 22, dau, TX, VA, GA; John Nunn 1, grandson, TX; Samuel D. Williams 37, boarder, school teacher; Sarah E. Williams 27, boarder.

U. S. Census 1900, Montgomery Co, TX, Conroe City, Just Pct 7, 14 Jun 1900, page 161B, Dwelling 346, Fam 348. Thomas _ Austin head, husband, W, M, Nov 1850, married in 1885, in TX, farmer; Orpha A. Austin 38, wife, Mar 1862, 38, m 15 yrs. 7 ch, 5 live, b ARK, TN, TN; David Null 17, son, Mar 1883, 17, TX, TX, AR, day laborer; Thomas W. Austin 13, Mar 1887, TX, TX, AR; Frank E. Austin 11, Dec 1888, TX, TX, AR; Charles B. Austin 9, Jan 1891, TX, TX, AR; Lela M. Austin 5, Feb 1895, TX, TX, AR.

U. S. Census, 1910, Dallas, TX, Just Pct, 1 – Dist 21, Record Road, Dwelling 169, Fam 172; Mitchell, John 48, married 3 times, TX, un. AR, Dairyman, employed; Orpha, wife, 48, married 1, 3 yr. 8 ch, 4 liv, AR, TN, TN; William, son, 17, TX, TX, OH, farm laborer, working out; Georgia, dau, 11, TX, TX, OH.

U. S. Census, 1920, Dallas, TX, Just Pct 1, 11 Feb, page 91, Record Crossing Rd., Farm, 165, Fam 171. John I. Mitchell 58, renter, head, TX, KY, KY, farmer dairy farm; Orphie A. 57, wife, AR, TN, TN.

U. S. Census, 1930, Tarrant Co, TX, Pct, 3, Apr 16, 1930, page 215, Dwelling 153, Fam 159. John I. Mitchell 68, rents, married at age 24, TX, US, US, farmer; Orphia A. Mitchell 68, m at 24, AR, TN, TN.

U. S. Census, 1930, Maricopa Co, AZ, Tonapah Election Dist. Apr 14, 1930, Page 206B-207, Dwelling 33, Fam 34. Austin, Frank E., head, \$0, \$100., age 40, single, TX, TX, AR, Trucker, freight hauling, Veteran.

Texas State Library. Online records for Claims to the Republic of Texas. TSLAonline.org. There are a number of documents that are online. They can also be accessed from accessgenealogy.com.

Findagrave.com. Austin Family Cemetery, Lavaca County, Texas. Oak Grove Memory Gardens and Kit Cemetery of Irving, Dallas Co., Texas

Footnote.com. Texas Death Certificate # 25662 for Frank E. Austin who died May 3, 1959. Father Thomas E. Austin. Mother, Orphie Byler.

Compiled July 10, 2010 helencastin@afaoa.org