



# Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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## Solomon Austin and the American Revolution

Excerpt from: *THE SOLOMON AUSTIN STORY – The Early Years Revisited*

Compiled by Harold Austin Steiner, June 1997

[halsteiner@cox.net](mailto:halsteiner@cox.net)

Solomon Austin was born about 1744 and first appeared in the official records of Orange County, North Carolina in 1778. Stories about his early years are unproven and sometimes conflicting. However, it is known that in 1794 Solomon sold his land in Orange County and migrated to Upper Canada, where he submitted a petition for land. The petition states that he “was one of those who took up arms in defense of His Majesty’s Government in the Province of North Carolina during the Rebellion in America from which place he is just arrived with his family consisting of wife and seven children in order to settle in this Province. .... (he) in consequence of his known attachment to the British Constitution has ever since been obnoxious to the present government of Carolina...”

Solomon Austin was a Loyalist but, like his early years, his Loyalist activities were fraught with ambiguities. In order to help put Solomon’s activities in perspective, it is useful to review the social and political conditions in the period before and during the American Revolution.

Before 1776, the Loyalists were divided into two groups. There was a minority of extremists who advocated unquestionable loyalty and obedience to British principles and actions. The majority of the Loyalists, however, were moderates who disapproved of Britain’s unwise colonial policies and advocated opposition and changes to these policies by legislative and legal means. These moderates took up arms only after the Declaration of Independence was signed and the aggressive policies and actions of the Continental Congress forced them to recognize that their first duty was to preserve the empire.

As a whole, in all the colonies, loyalty to the Crown drew its strength from the official class, the professionals, the landed gentry and their tenants, the wealthy commercial class, natural conservatives (Tories) and opportunists. North of Maryland, loyalty to the Crown had a strong religious as well as a political basis. Almost without exception, the Anglican ministers were ardent Loyalists and they infused this loyalty into their congregations. This helped produce a cohesiveness that enabled the British to raise cadres of militia that were stable and willing to follow their British leaders.

Maryland and Virginia had large, influential

Loyalists minorities. North Carolina was about equally divided. The Loyalists in South Carolina and Georgia were in the majority. Some Loyalists joined the regular British army. Others formed militia that supported and assisted the British. Others organized guerrilla bands that allied themselves with the Indians and inaugurated a reign of terror on the frontier from New York to Georgia.

In the southern colonies, Anglicanism was predominant but the colonists did not adhere to the religious lines as closely as in the north. The Whig leaders of Virginia and the Carolinas were generally members of the established Church but by definition favored an independent America. Many of the wealthy Anglican planters of the tide-water sections supported the Crown and fought for the mother country, but the Crown derived its main support from the non-Anglican Germans and Scots of the upper country. The Scotch-Irish in the south were mostly sympathetic to the American cause.

Since religion was not a major issue in the south, the feelings about taxation, distribution of land and appointment of local officials were more intense and all the more bitter. In the Carolinas, the frontier settlers felt snubbed, both socially and politically, by the piedmont and tide-water aristocracy. They were denied adequate representation in the courts and in the colonial assembly. It goes without saying that these disfranchised settlers were not eager to go to war to defend principles in which they had no material interest. The failure of the British officers to recognize that social and political conditions

Please see “Solomon Austin” on page 4

<http://www.afaofa.org>

## Membership



## Corner

### New Members and their Austin Ancestors Welcome

**Linda Adams**, 1301 S. Yearling Road, Columbus, OH 43227  
baggiewrinkle@gmail.com  
*John b. 1695 MD; John A. b. 1739 MD; Zachariah b. 1763 MD; Samuel b. 1801 MD; Richard b. 1835 KY; Nancy Elizabeth (Reid) b. 1864 KY?; Lillie Reid b. 1890 TX.*

**Chuck Austin**, P.O. Box 272; Salem, VA 24153  
*John of Southside, VA; Joseph b.~1752 VA; Champness b. 1769; Daniel Bell b. 1807; Daniel Taylor b. 1847; Orren b. 1879, Henry Co., VA; Earl b. 1906.*

**Leslie Eugene Austin**, P.O. Box 102; La Veta, CO 81055  
*Edward b. 1773 RI; Gideon b. 1794; William Henry b. 1828 VT or NY; Bert b. 1878 IL; Bert Leroy b. 1921 CO.*

**Lora Austin Johnson Hills**, 5429 S. Dunrobin Drive, Springfield, MO 65809  
lora08@mchsi.com;  
*Samuel Austin of Boston MA, Thomas b.1671 MA, Thomas b.1691 MA, Nathan b.1723 MA, Nathan b.1743 MA, Francis B. b.1795 VT, Francis S. b. 1824 VT, George W. b.1846 PA, Harry b. 1893 IL, Melvin L. b.1915 IL.*

**Steven H. Austin**, 8584 Flower Court, Westminster, CO 80005  
s.h.austin@comcast.net  
*Ward Hunting b. 1896 Sedan KS; Ward Hunting Jr. b. 1926 Berkeley, CA.*

**Barbara McCombs McFadden**, 4924 Cochrane Ave., Oakland, CA 94618  
chuckbarb23@comcast.net  
*Robert b. abt 1638, Kingstown, RI; Jeremiah b. abt 1664, Kingstown, RI; Pasco d. 1774, Exeter, RI; Isaac b. 1737, Exeter, RI; Jotham b. 1761, Franklin, VT; David b. abt 1800 St Armand, E. Canada; Hiram b.1823, Franklin, VT; George Herbert b.1846, St Alban, VT; Charles Herbert b.1880 Toledo, KS.*

**William Austin Shaver**, 1990 Garner Rd., Denton, NC 27239-8685  
ShaverWG@yahoo.com  
*Louis (or Lewis) b. 1825 Fairfield SC; Danial b. 1855 Chester, SC; Leonard b. 1896 Chester, SC.*

**Billy A. McBride**, 313 Glendale Place; Murray, KY 4207  
debshepard@att.net  
*Nathan b. 1783 MA; Moses G. b. 1811, Delaware Co., NY; David George b. 1845 Cranberry Twp, Venango Co. PA; George F. b. 1875; Wilma A. b. 1907*

**Denise Austin Kelly**, 3132 N. 1075 West, Pleasant View, UT 84414

**Randy Thane Austin**, 284 Twin River Loop, Alpine, UT 84004

**Norma Jean Grandy Austin**, 1671 South 35 East, Bountiful, UT 84010

**Terry Lynn Austin Stapley**, 4021 West 5985 South, Kearns, UT 84118

**Billie Jean Allred**, 1645 Artistic Circle, Bountiful, UT 84010

*Richard b.1598 Titchfield, Eng; Anthony b.1636 Titchfield, Eng; Anthony b.1668 Rowley, MA; Caleb b.1718/1719 Suffield, MA; Seth King b.1772 Suffield, CT; Julius Augustus Caesar\* b.1810 Suffield, CT; Edwin Nelson\* b.1840 Suffield, CT; Torrey Lynn b.1882 Liberty, ID.*

\*Read about Julius A. C. Austin and Edwin Nelson Austin on page 3.

#### Address Changes

Please send changes to the Membership Chairman - Alice Martin, 527 Front Beach Dr. #3, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

**Thanks to all members for your support of the Austin Families Association of America.**

**Alice Austin Martin**  
Membership Chairman

## Genealogist's Report

AFAOA Genealogist Liz Austin Carlin continues to receive corrections and updates to our existing databases. She also performs research to answer queries received from Austin researchers. These queries are continually updated on our web site.

Since August, two new stand alone databases have been created from the Northern and Southern Unplaced databases and have been placed on the web site. They are *William Wallace Austin of Vermont and Canada* and *Greenberry Austin of Franklin County, Tennessee* databases. Joy Anita Shaw has also updated *William and Elizabeth Austin of Craven County, South Carolina* during this period.

Major emphasis by Liz has been directed toward coordinating inputs to the *John Austin of the Southside Region of Virginia*. Helen Cook Austin, working with Joe Newcomb, has focused research on Hardin County, Tennessee and Lauderdale County, Alabama. In addition, Liz has been incorporating data from the AFAOA library. Expect a major update of the *John Austin of Southside* database soon.

## AFAOA Web Site Report

In addition to the family group sheet presentation of our Austin databases, the descendency books are also available for viewing on-line, with Acrobat text search capability. In preparation for publishing other documents on-line, such as the AFAOA Archive Series, the Austin "featured families" stories, the Dall-Tardy letters and Helen Cook Austin's Native Americans and Austin Veterans projects, the text search has been improved to include directed searches. On the Search screen you now have the choice of searching all documents or only one category. Current choices, in addition to "All", are Archive Series, Austin Descendancies and Newsletters.

For best use of the Search feature, read the instructions on that page – especially Note 2 concerning the Adobe Reader. Please make sure that "highlights" are enabled for the Reader, as follows: in the program toolbar, click on *Edit – Preferences – Search – Enable search highlights from external server*. Enabling this feature will take you directly to the text matching your search criteria with the text highlighted.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, the vote was close, but decisive, and next year we plan to meet in Salt Lake City. The availability of the desired hotel, adjacent to the Family History Library, influenced the date – the weekend of July 22- 24. Mark those dates on your calendar! This is during the Pioneer Days celebration, as it was when we met there in 2008. Read the convention announcement on page 5 and watch for further information in the next *Newsletter* and on our web site.

Several of this edition's interesting articles are based on information found on our web site. Have you explored it lately? I highly recommend searching, or just browsing through, our archives, old newsletters and databases.

"Solomon in the Revolution", by former AFAOA president Hal Steiner, gives insight into the pressures on citizens when it was time to decide whether to stay with England or to revolt. Helen Austin's series on Austin veterans shows how records can be used to discover and tell their stories, and uncovers a saga of migration from Pennsylvania to California during the time of the real Wild West.

Another story of great adventure is the migration of the family of Julius and Octavia Austin from Connecticut to California and then to Utah, at the time of the Gold Rush. "Ships Named Austin", by the late "Red" Austin, brings home the changes in vessels of the United States Navy, from wood sailing ships to steel steam-powered.

In casual historical reading, I have been trying to place more general historical events around the actions of our forebears. The Little Ice Age, religious strife, hard economic times and social pressures influenced their decisions. Learn about the Thirty Years War that laid waste to much of Europe, spanning neatly from before to after the Great Migration. Learn about the migration patterns from different areas of Europe to different areas of the New World.

The migration to New England reversed just after the Great Migration, in about 1841, when some went back to England to fight with Cromwell. Try to put yourself in their place, and think about what you would do and how you would feel in their circumstances. This is one of the great rewards of genealogy – not just gathering names and dates, but understanding the history of our society.

**Gay G. Martin, Jr.**  
**AFAOA President**

### A Personal History of Julius A. C. Austin

While still a youth, living in Suffield, CT, Julius learned the trade of carpenter, joiner and glazier, from a master mechanic by name of Lewis, in the city of Hartford, some 20 miles away. Julius walked the 20 miles every Monday morning, returning to Suffield the following Saturday evening, for 7 yrs. He built his own small home in Suffield, bringing his bride Octavia to live there, and there raised 3 of their 4 children, Louise, Edwin and Newton.

Soon after their Mormon conversion (ice was broken in the Connecticut River for their baptism 10 Jan 1844), the persecution of Mormons forced them to consider leaving Connecticut for the West. They were among the 70 men, 68 women and 100 children who sailed from New York Harbor 4 Feb 1846 on the "Brooklyn" bound for San Francisco via Cape Horn. The fare was \$50 per adult plus \$25 for provisions, children between 5 and 14 yrs. were half fare.

After a 6 month voyage around Cape Horn, they landed at Yerba Buena (San Francisco), worked the gold fields at "Mormon Island" on the American River after gold was discovered in 1848. With the arrival of the Mormons at the Great Salt Lake, UT, they travelled east across the Sierra Nevada eventually settling at Farmington, Davis Co., UT.

**Editor's Note:** Written by his granddaughter, Delina C. Willis, in 1940 - (provided by contributor Celia Smith).

\* \* \*

### Edwin Nelson Austin - My Father

My father, Edwin Nelson Austin was born in Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut September 5, 1840. He is the son of Julius Augustus Caesar and Octavia Ann Lane Austin. On February 4, 1846, the family embarked on the Ship Brooklyn on its trip to San Francisco. They reached their destination July 31, 1846 and remained there two years waiting for instructions from Brigham Young as to their final settling place. Before leaving for Salt Lake, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill and the whole family panned gold until they got enough to outfit themselves for the trip to Utah. Then they gave up their holdings and prepared to take another hard trip, this time by land.

The family travelled with Ebenezer Brown's company from San Francisco to Salt Lake in the fall of 1848. Edwin was baptized in 1849. At the age of 17, he went with a rescuing party to the Salmon River to help subdue the Indians. On April 17, 1863, he was married to my mother Alnora Naomi Lane. They then moved from Farmington, Utah to Paris, Idaho which was then a part of Rich County, Utah. In 1872, he was married to Emma Wood. He was the father of 21 children.

July 4, 1864, he, with Charles Oakey, raised the stars and stripe on the first Liberty pole in Bear Lake. He was one of the commissioners who organized the county; was first sheriff of the county; was deputy United States Land and Mineral Surveyor for the State of Idaho. LDS Church history has this to say for my father, "He had the courage of his convictions and his fidelity to principle has never been questioned by friend or foe." He died in Salt Lake City, May 23, 1920 and was buried at Liberty, Idaho.

**Editor's Note:** The name of the author does not appear on this document, which was provided by Derk Phelps, Jul 2008, through the courtesy of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. It has been edited for use here.

Solomon Austin, continued from page 1

in the south were different from those in the north, as well as the tendency for the British to look upon all dissenters as rebels, was partly responsible for the British loss of the southern campaign.

When Solomon Austin first appeared in the official records, Orange County, North Carolina (then considered frontier country) had been a hotbed of discontent for more than ten years. High handed, unscrupulous and morally dishonest officers of the law had caused the private citizens to band together to try to regulate these dishonest officers of the Crown. This positive defiance by the citizens was construed as an attack on the established government, which acted accordingly. Repeated confrontations between the government officials and the Regulators escalated until 1771 when the movement moved from riots to widespread insurrection. It is debatable whether the War of the Regulators in 1771 was the first step of the Revolution, but what is important is that the battle brought to a head the social and political turbulence of the Carolina frontier. ...

This caldron of mixed emotions is where Solomon Austin took up residence after he left Maryland. It is not known exactly when Solomon arrived in Orange County but it was certainly by the mid-1770's. Solomon Austin was disturbed by the unfair and heavy handed British government but when hostilities broke out he could not support the rebellion against the Crown and he apparently joined a local Loyalist militia regiment.

#### Sources:

Lumpkin, Henry. 1981. *From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South*, Columbia, University of South Carolina Press.

Pancake, John S. 1986. *This Destructive War: The British Campaign in the Carolinas*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.

**Editor's Note:** Hal Steiner has been researching Solomon Austin of Orange County, North Carolina for many years, with the objective of determining whether Solomon should be included in the lineage of the Maryland Austins who migrated to North Carolina. His recent manuscript, *Austins of the Eastern Shore - Revisited*, is a "work in progress", but the preponderance of evidence leads him to conclude that Solomon was a member of the family of William Austin and Elizabeth Green, who came from Maryland's Eastern shore to Orange County, North Carolina before 1770. Hal believes that his ancestor, Phillip Austin, was also a member of that family.

The Province of Upper Canada, located west of Montreal and Quebec, was established in 1791 to govern the center third of the Canadian colony and included present-day southern Ontario. Named according to its location on the St. Lawrence River, it existed until 1841.

Hal explains, in his newest work: "Before, during and after the Revolution many colonists who were loyal to the Crown and no longer wished to serve or live under an alien flag began an exodus to Upper Canada where they established settlements and provinces. This influx of incomers became universally known as the Loyalists, and by the end of the 18th century it is estimated that Upper Canada was the home of about 8,000 Loyalists. Despite the turmoil of transition, these newcomers successfully established multicultural settlements that would soon become integral parts of Canada's most successful provinces."



*AUSTIN QUERIES* - Please send all new queries to the following addresses. In responding to any of the following queries, please write directly to the submitter, also sending copies to:

**Bonnie Bigolin** (Northern Austins)  
415 Wilkes Dr.  
Green River, WY 82935

**Liz Austin Carlin** (Southern Austins)  
23725 Community St.  
West Hills, CA 91304

**Q20,4-1** Seeking information on Mary Jane Austin b. Nov 1848, married to Harvey L. Way in MI, died Jackson, MI in 1926. Obituary says married in Alma, MI in 1871 but not in any Alma marriage records. 1900 census for Blackman township, Jackson, MI shows her married 29 years and Harvey as married 27 years. Was she an Austin or is Austin the name of a first husband? Lived 1880 in Springwells Township Wayne County, MI (Detroit), and 1888 till their death in the city of Jackson, MI and they owned the Way bakery. They are buried in the Woodland Cemetery, Jackson, MI. Michaele Kellermeier [marayah@comcast.net]

**Q20,4-2** Seeking information of the ancestors of James Monroe Austin b1816 Westerly, RI d1899 Bloomfield, NJ, m. Eleanor Schoonover. Children: (Charles) Eratus, Emma L., W, Margaret (Maggie), James M., Mame, Willie, Wallace. Erick\_K\_W [erick\_k\_w@yahoo.com]

**Q20,4-3** Would like to find out who Edward J. Austin's parents are. Edward J. Austin died about 1906 in Stamford, CT. He and his wife were separated for a couple of years before he died. Cannot find him in the 1880 census or anywhere except the 1900 and 1910 censuses. His daughters are single in 1920 still living in Stamford, CT and listed with their grandfather, Robert Ross. Would like to correspond with living descendants about the Ross family. Cheri Astrahan [cwastrahan@mac.com]

**Q20,4-4** Seeking information on Lydia Austin who married a Calvin Plumley. He was born in VT in 1773. Lydia was born in RI in 1775, and died 29 Mar 1862. They lived in Messena, St. Lawrence, NY at least 1800-1860. Their children were Calvin Jr, Irena, Lois, Ruah (my ancestor), Jedediah, Sylvester, Sarah, Robert, and Orpha Plumley. SallyJo McFarland [mcfarland5624@msn.com]

## U. S. NAVAL SHIPS NAMED AUSTIN

by H. M. "Red" Austin

Three ships of the United States Navy have been named Austin.

The first Austin was a sloop-of-war, constructed in 1839 at Baltimore, MD by Schott and Whitney for the Texas Navy and commissioned 5 January 1840 at Galveston, Republic of Texas, Captain Edwin W. Moore commanding.

The Austin stopped at New Orleans for provisions and stores and in late July she set sail in company with the San Bernard for the Yucatan peninsula where another revolt had broken out against the central government in Mexico City. When the negotiations between Texas commissioner James Treat and the Mexican government failed completely, the Austin spent her time cruising around the Gulf coast of Mexico and the Yucatan, gathering intelligence and investigating ports and suitable anchorages.

She was named after Stephen F. Austin and served as flagship of the Texas Navy until 1845, when Texas became a state of the United States and the Texas Navy was dissolved. Along with other ships of the republic's Navy, the sloop was moved to Pensacola Navy Yard where she served as a receiving ship until she was broken up in 1848. The Austin was a wooden sloop, 600 tons, with a beam of 31 feet and a length of 125 feet. The hull at the waterline was 12 feet 6 inches. Her armament was sixteen 24-pounders and four 18-pounders and she was manned by 174 officers and crewmen.

The second USS Austin (DE-15) was laid down on 14 March, 1942 at Mare Island, Navy Yard as a ship that was intended for the British, but was taken over by the U. S. Navy and commissioned 13 February 1943, with Lt. Comdr. H. G. Claudius USNR in command. She was a destroyer escort, displacing 1140 tons, with a length of 289 ½ feet, breadth of 35 feet and a draft of 9 feet, 11 inches. Speed was 20 knots and her crew was 199 men. Armament was six 40 mm automatic guns and five 20 mm and three 3-inch guns and several depth charge anti-submarine weapons. The ship was named for Chief Carpenter's Mate, John Arnold Austin, an Alabama Navy man who was killed while trying to help his fellow shipmates during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December, 1941. The ship named in his honor served during World War II and was decommissioned in 1945.

The Austin was assigned to Escort Division 14 with a home port in San Diego, and plied the cold waters of the North Pacific, escorting ships between Alaskan ports, conducting patrols, performing weather ship duties and serving as a homing point for aircraft.

The third USS Austin (LPD-4) was named for the city of Austin, Texas and the hull number denotes that it was an amphibious warship, built to combine the functions of several amphibious ships – the troop transport, attack cargo ship, helicopter carrier and dock landing ship. The USS Austin was capable of carrying over 900 combat-ready Marines and about 2500 tons of heavy equipment by helicopter, launching two at a time from the large landing platform on the after part of the ship.

This ship also honors Stephen Fuller Austin, after whom the Texas city was named. He served as a leader in the

## THE 2011 AUSTIN CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah

July 22 – 24, 2011

The vote is in! Next year's Austin Convention will be held in Salt Lake City. The dates have been set for July 22 – 24. Mark these dates on your calendar now and plan to join your Austin "cousins" for our annual reunion and sharing of Austin research.

When making your plans, be aware that the Family History Library is closed on Sunday and will also be closed that Monday, July 25, for the Days of '47 Parade. You might want to arrive a few days early and do some research before the convention. Some early-arrival activities will be planned.

A registration form and schedule details will be available in the February and May newsletters and on-line at the AFAOA web site.

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### *Become a Featured Family*

The center portion of the AFAOA web site's Home Page has been allocated to a new feature where Austin family histories can be presented. At the present time, the story of the "Daring Exploits of Captain Charles W. Austin, Confederate Hero and Designer of the First Ironclad" is featured.

AFAOA members can prepare short biographies, or stories of family happenings not to exceed 750 words, with up to 4 pictures (color or black and white), and send these as e-mail attachments to

One of the pictures will be posted on the home page center space along with a link to a separate page where the family story and the balance of any photographs will be presented.

Captain Austin's story, currently the Featured Family on the web site, is a good example of what is intended for this feature. Some other examples of such stories have appeared in past issues of the *Newsletter*, one of which was the description of the evening that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Both involve Austins, which is really the only restriction.

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settling of Texas and played an active role in freeing Texas from Mexico and establishing the Republic of Texas. The USS Austin was commissioned 6 February 1965 and was christened by Lynda Byrd Johnson, the daughter of the 36th President of the United States, representing the city of Austin, Texas. Lucy Baines Johnson was her lady in waiting.

**Editor's Note:** The USS Austin (LPD-4), which was involved in the nation's space program as the recovery ship for Apollo 12 and part of the recovery for Apollo 13 and 14, was decommissioned 27 September 2006, ending more than 41 years of Naval service.

Harris "Red" Austin, Chief Cryptologic Technician USN (Retired) and Naval Historian, died 20 Jan 1999 in Fredericksburg, MD. He is buried next to his early Austin ancestor, Anthony Austin, in the Old Center Cemetery, Suffield, CT.

This article was taken from the AFAOA Newsletter, Fall/4th Quarter, 1994.

# Austin Veterans in Homes for Disabled Soldiers

A Series by Helen Cook Austin, Ph. D.

There are many Austin veterans of the Civil War listed on the registers of the twelve U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938. The information available in these records varies. It can include: name of soldier (Union before 1920), name of Home or Branch, date of admission and discharge for each Home, birthplace, rank, company and regiment, dates and places of enlistment and discharge, physical description, occupation, marital status, religion, name and address of nearest relative, pension number and amount, date and place of death. I have combined data from other traditional sources, such as the U. S. Census, death and burial records, databases of AFAOA and AFGS, with the Veteran's Home register records.

## William Austin

A daring stagecoach driver of the Old West and Corporal of Co. E, 1st Missouri Light Artillery

"William Austin was born about 1831 - 1836 in Pennsylvania and died August 31, 1901 in Los Angeles, California.

The military history on the registers of the Pacific Branch of the National Home at Sawtelle, Los Angeles, California, shows that William Austin enlisted on April 27, 1861 at the arsenal in St. Louis, Missouri as a Pvt in Co. E, 1st MO Lt. Arty.. He was a Corporal when discharged on June 9, 1864 in Brownsville, TX after 37 months term of service. Although it was not mentioned in the Home records, the Muster Rolls for William show he first mustered in to his unit on June 10, 1861 at Boonville, MO. He served as a Teamster for the Company E, from October until December 6, 1861.

The muster roll record also shows that William joined by transfer from earlier service in the 5th MO Regiment by order of General Lyon. The name of his unit – Company E, 1st Regt MO Volunteers – was changed to Battery E, 1st Regiment Missouri Light Artillery. William's age was recorded as 26 when he enlisted in 1861.

William's service is also proven on the Pacific Register by his pension certificate #959548, which he applied for on December 8, 1896 as an invalid. William's disability was a rupture of his stomach and general debility. The rupture happened in August of 1862 at Henry County, Missouri. A Casualty Sheet in his service records shows that he was wounded on August 10, 1861 in a battle at Springfield, Missouri.

The domestic history for William Austin, when he first was admitted to the Pacific Branch Home in Los Angeles on March 30, 1897, describes him as age 66, 5 feet 8 ½ inches tall, of light complexion, with gray hair. He was born in Pennsylvania, a protestant, and a stage driver by profession. His residence after discharge from the military, was listed as Ukiah, Mendocino County, California. He was a widower and his nearest relative was not a relative, but a friend named William H. Miller of Ukiah, California. This William H. Miller was shown on the 1900 U. S. Census of Ukiah as a liveryman operating a livery stable.

William Austin's military pension of \$8 a month was listed as his income. He stayed in the Home for only 4 years, 4 months and 18 days before he died on August 18, 1901. The cause of death was Pydo-Nephritis (kidney disease). His personal effects were appraised at \$5. William had \$42 cash when he died. He was buried in the Sawtelle National Home Cemetery, Section 6, Row D-15. This is now the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

To find out more about the early history of this stagecoach driver and his trek from Pennsylvania all the way across the United States, many records were searched. They are listed below. No matching record for this William was found in the AFAOA database. No parents were found on the 1850 U. S. Census for Pennsylvania that could be proved as belonging to William. The 1860 and 1870 U. S. Census for the states of PA, OH, IN, IL, or MO had no record that fit the name, age, place of birth and occupation for this William.

The earliest post-war record that can definitely be identified is in Canyon City, Fremont County, Colorado on June 12, 1880 - William Austin, born about 1836 in Pennsylvania. His parents were also both born in Pennsylvania. He was a single man, a stage driver who lived next to the largest hotel in town. He also was living next to T. B. Henry and W. B. Groseclose who were express agents. On the other side of William's abode was a Chinese laundry and a liquor store.

This new and prosperous little town was located west of Colorado City, at the mouth of the Royal Gorge and had steady traffic to the early silver and lead mines of Colorado. The Murray Saloon in the hotel next door was said, in the history of Canyon City, to be the center of political activity and commerce. It is no wonder that the Murray Hotel was full of engineers, traveling salesmen, doctors, lawyers, and a wholesale liquor dealer. There were express mail stage routes to the surrounding mines and there probably was an overland stage route to Salt Lake City and beyond to California.

It is not known if William Austin's wife died before 1880 or if he married later, or if he had any descendants. He was a widower before 1897.

The most interesting information that was found about William comes from a San Francisco newspaper, *The Daily Alta California*. William Austin was indeed a stagecoach driver on a route from San Francisco to Ukiah, California from sometime before 1893. The stagecoach line was owned by Jeremiah DePuy "Doc" Curtis of Ukiah. Census records show that Doc Curtis was first a livery stable keeper in Sonoma County, California in 1870. Then he married Fannie "Tiny" Walker about 1878 and moved to Powellville, Humboldt County, California where he was a stock farmer. Doc Curtis must have started his stage line after 1880 and hired William Austin as a secondary driver.

The story of the terrible stagecoach accident of William Austin and Doc Curtis goes like this:

## Fall Over a Precipice - Narrow Escape of Two Men in the Overturning of a Wagon

"17 March 1893. Ukiah – Dave Sawyer, a farmer of Little Lake, rode galloping his horse to town this afternoon, announcing the death at Blue Slide Pass, thirteen miles from Ukiah, of "Doc" Curtis, the famous mountain stage line owner and driver. He reported that a slide had carried the driver, four horses, and the stage into a deep canyon; also that William Austin, another driver, who accompanied Curtis, was dying.

The town was shocked by the news, and over a score of men on horseback and in light buggies and carts, accompanied also by a wagon with mattresses, started for Blue Slide on the Little Lake Road, to learn particulars and render assistance.

Shortly before 8 o'clock this evening the first returns were received to the effect that the stage loaded with furniture, had rolled down a precipice 100 feet deep and had been smashed into splinters, the horses being killed.

Curtis, it is said, had received several serious scalp wounds and was unconscious for ninety minutes and Austin was severely but not seriously injured; also that the wounded men would be transported here tonight by slow stages.

Curtis and Austin started this forenoon for Round Valley with household goods belonging to Lieutenant Connelly, the new Indian Agent, intending to return next week with the Round Valley Commissioners."

In spite of his injuries from the stage wreck of 1893, and old war wounds, William Austin was able to live in Ukiah four more years, perhaps with the help of his friend, the livery stable operator, William H. Miller. Maybe it was Miller who took William Austin to the Pacific Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Los Angeles to rest for his final years.

### Sources:

*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, 1880, Canyon City, Fremont County, Colorado. 12 Jun 1880, Page 49A, Dwelling 212, Family 222. William Austin, age 44, stage driver, single, b PA, parents both b PA.

U. S. Census 1900, Los Angeles County, California, Sawtelle. Pacific Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. 14 Jun, page 243A. list of inmates. William Austin, b Jun 1831 PA, father PA, mother PA, single, age 69, can read and write.

California Digital Newspaper Collection. *Daily Alta California*, San Francisco, California, Vol 73, No 107, 17 Mar 1893.

Footnote.com *U. S. Military Pension Files* William Austin, Co. E, 1st Regt. MO Inf. Date filled Dec 8, 1896, App # invalid 1.183.755. Certificate 959548.

Footnote.com *U. S. Military Records*, Muster Rolls. William Austin Co E 1st Reg MO Light Artillery.

National Cemetery Administration. *U.S. Veterans Gravesites*, ca.1775-2006 National Cemetery Administration. Nationwide Gravesites Locator

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<http://www.afoa.org>

## New Databases on the AFAOA Web Site

### William Wallace Austin of Vermont & Canada

Although no formal birth or marriage records have been found for William Wallace Austin, census data verify William and his family's existence in Franklin County, Vermont in 1850. Family Bible records indicate that William and Laura Jane Kenaston were married in Franklin, Franklin County, Vermont on 24 Jul 1857, and in 1860 William and "Jenna" (Laura Jane) are shown still in Franklin, with their 2 year old first-born, Albert. Curiously, this record gives both parents' birth place as Canada East. The family moved to Canada during the next 11 years, appearing in the 1871 Canadian census for Hatley, Stanstead, Quebec Province, now with Albert age 12, Frank age 2 and Arthur age 3 months.

William died at the rather young age of 44 on 6 Sep 1871 in Ascot, Sherbrooke, Quebec Province and is buried in the Reedsville Cemetery in North Hatley. Laura lived for another 42 years, dying 2 Jan 1913 at Minton, Stanstead, and is also buried in the Reedsville Cemetery.

DNA tests have already been completed and the findings for William Wallace Austin match him identically to Roderick Ransom Austin, 1797, New York, and William Austin, 1794, Connecticut. This 67 marker match shows a very close match to the 67 markers of proven descendants of Robert Austin of Rhode Island and Jonah Austin of Taunton, Massachusetts. The task now is to provide the paper trail verifying these relationships.

Maurie Nord, and Darcy Austin Nord, have agreed to become compiler for this database.

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### Greenberry Austin of Franklin County, Tennessee

Greenberry Austin was born about 1794 in North Carolina. He moved to Tennessee by 1830, showing up in the census for that year in Warren County, in 1840 in Franklin County, and in 1850 in District 3, Coffee County. He died after 1870 in Hardin County, Tennessee.

He married twice, first to Sarah Grogin who bore him two children Rachel & Lawrence, then, after Sarah's death in 1848, to Elizabeth who also bore two children Elizabeth A. and Laura. Elizabeth's first marriage produced a daughter Emeline Adam who joined Greenberry's four children.

This database was created by the collaborative efforts of Bevery Clark White, Marilou Werrill, Peggy Schott, and Liz Austin Carlin, AFAOA Genealogist. Marilou and Beverley were researching Rachel Austin, daughter of Greenberry and his first wife Sarah. Peggy is descended from Lawrence Austin, Rachel's brother. They were assisted by Gary Futral who contributed the Grogin connection.

Extensive research by Beverley into the Grogin connection suggests that Greenberry's father may have connections to the Austin family of Captain Nathaniel Austin of Greenville, South Carolina. A descendant of Greenberry has submitted his DNA for testing, and the results of that test might confirm this connection.

Peggy Schott has agreed to become compiler for this database.

PLEASE NOTICE THE RENEWAL DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. YOUR CHECK FOR DUES - \$15 PER YEAR. OR \$25 FOR 2 YEARS - MADE PAYABLE TO "AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA" SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
LOIS W. CODY, 336 PLEASANT HILL DR., CINCINNATI, OH 45215

AUSTIN FAMILIES ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA  
527 Front Beach Dr. #3  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Address Service Requested

## Austin Families Association of America

- 1942 Association begun by Edith Austin Moore and her brother, Henry Warner Austin.
- 1991 AFAOA Computer Project begun.
- 1995 AFAOA genealogy web site begun.
- 1998 *Some Descendants of Richard Austin of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1638* published.
- 2003 Austin-Austen DNA project jointly funded with Austin Families Genealogy Society.
- 2010 New operating software implemented on AFAOA web site.

### AFAOA Objectives

- To gather, preserve and disseminate Austin genealogies and Austin family histories.
- To establish a specialized database of Austin information that can assist genealogists and family members to learn as much as possible about their Austin heritage.
- To foster acquaintances and long-term friendships among the members of all branches of Austin families.