



Austin Families Association of America

Newsletter

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Volume 21, No. 4

November 2011

ISSN 1063-3263

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From Canada to America The John Austin Family

By Walter J. Hartung

John and Elizabeth Jones Austin were children of the American colonies in the mid-1700s. By necessity or choice, they chose a life in British America following the Revolutionary War. For more than four decades their lives and the lives of their children enriched Upper Canada. Civil unrest may have prompted their exodus to Illinois and Wisconsin or they may simply have chosen to improve their lives by emigrating to America. Whatever the reason for leaving, their immigration provided a new beginning and new opportunities for their families.

John Austin (1767–1857)

John Austin arrived in Upper Canada in 1794. He had accompanied his uncle, Solomon Austin, on a journey from Orange County, North Carolina to Newark (Niagara-on-the-lake) with twelve other families. They arrived in the spring of 1794.

In 1797 John Austin petitioned the Crown for land in York (now Toronto). His petition read:

The Petition of John Austin of York

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner came into the Province three years ago from North Carolina with his uncle Solomon Austin, Wm. Wachter and others.

That your Petitioner's father was killed in defense of His Majesty's government at an early period of the American War and his Step father died afterwards in his Majesty's service.

That your Petitioner has never received any land and being desirous to settle on what may be granted to him Prays your Honour would be pleased to grant such part of the vacant land of the Crown as to Your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray.

*his s/ John + Austin mark
York, 9 June 1797*

On the 19th of June, John was recommended for 200 acres, but if he took deed to this land grant, a title from the Crown has yet to be discovered. Historical documents indicate that John remained in Saltfleet Township near Ancaster until about 1810. According to family records, John married Elizabeth Jones prior to 1800. Elizabeth was said to be the sister to Augustus and

Ebenezer Jones of Saltfleet Township, but the exact relationship of Elizabeth to the Upper Canada Jones family has yet to be established. Augustus was a renowned surveyor of Upper Canada from the 1780s to about 1812. It was said that John and Elizabeth were married in Rochester, New York. Apparently saddleback ministers were unavailable for their marriage at Niagara or Ancaster and no record of their marriage is known to exist.

The population of the Home District, which included Toronto Township and York, was estimated to be 224 in 1799, 7,230 in 1817, and 47,055 by 1833. The Austin family farmed the land and took an active role in township affairs. They also joined and supported the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John and Elizabeth were the parents of at least seven children. Ebenezer Jones Austin was their oldest child, born in Saltfleet Township on the 23rd of January 1800. The next two children were probably born in Saltfleet as well. Sarah (Sally) was born December 21, 1802, followed by James, born about 1806. The last four children were most likely born in Toronto Township, just west of York. Augustus J. was born in 1810 followed by William Gage, born August 12, 1812. John Austin Jr. was the youngest son of John and Elizabeth and his own records indicate he was born August 7, 1815. The remaining Austin child remains somewhat of a mystery. Polly was born sometime between James and Augustus or William Gage and John Jr., but little evidence of her life exists. Handwritten family papers tell of her marriage to Thomas Ganley or Ganby.

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NEW MEMBERS

And their Earliest
Austin Ancestors

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer Austin,

13415 Medical Complex Dr., #224,
Tomball, TX 77375; andaus@sbc-
global.net;

*Nathaniel b.~1720 Eng., of Greenville
SC; William b. 1759 Lunenburg Co. VA;
William Lawrence Manning b. 1803
Greenville District SC; John Wickliffe b.
1833 Greenville SC; Joseph Manning b.
1867 Greenville SC*

Lewis Carpenter Austin,

189 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938;
lewisaustin@gmail.com; *Robert b.
~1638 Eng; Jeremiah b 1664 RI; Pasco
b.1698 RI; Jonathan b.1747 RI; Ezra
b.1773 NY; Shadrach b.1816 NY*

William J. Austin,

4464 Noble Loon St. NW, Massillon, OH
44646; baustin1020@sssnet.com; (*prob-
ably connected to the John Austin of
Stamford CT line*) *Job W., b. 1822 NY;
Gilbert 1846-1937 Cold Spring NY;
George Washington 1871-1964 Cold
Spring NY; Raymond Leroy 1907-1989
Cold Spring NY.*

Dolores W. Beavers,

127 West Walden Circle, Soddy-Davis,
TN 37379; beavers@bellsouth.net;
*John b. 1755 Albemarle Co. VA; Jonas
R. b.1782 Albemarle Co. VA; John L. b.
1809 Casey Co. KY; Isaac "Ike" b. 1831
Dunnville, Casey Co., KY; John Frank;*

Anne Austin Forrester,

5260-202 West Harbor Village Dr., Vero
Beach, FL 32967; aaforrester@msn.com

J. Daryl Hall;

3218 Bermuda Drive; Sand Springs, OK
74063; austingenealogy@live.com;
*William b.~1700 IRE; John b. 1727 IRE;
Drury b. ~1765 NC ; Willis Philip*

Bonnie Schwab Hoiland,

2125 Lewis Trail, Grand Prairie, TX,
75052; imkalsgram@aol.com;

Neal Lloyd Johnson;

1000 Fountain Terrace #410, Lewistown
MT 59457; njohnson@mawarid.net;
*Richard b. 1598 Eng; Anthony b. 1636
Eng; Nathaniel. b. 1678 MA; Aaron
b.1715 MA; Eliphalet b.1760 CT*

Deborah Moon-Taylor;

6801 W. Rockwood Dr., Pine Bluff, AR
71603; dmoon-taylor@sbcglobal.net;
*William b. 1738 MD, Philip b. ~1758 MD,
Charles b. 1785 Orange Co. NC, William*

*Young b. 1818 Orange Co NC, Charles
H. b. 1849 Lawrence Co. TN*

Suzette Pennington,

1922 State Rt. 133, Bethel, OH 45106;
suzettepenn@aol.com;
*Richard of Lunenburg Co. VA; Thomas
b.~1735 VA; Richard b.~1755 VA;
Richard b.~1775 VA (to Cumberland Co.
KY; Pleasant; Richard E. b. 1822 KY;
Ruth Eliz. b. 1846 Cumberland Co. KY*

Phyllis Austin Stencil;

115 Cedar Drive; Chehalis, WA 98532;
JohnStencil@gmail.com;
*Peter b. ~ 1788 in Holland; George b. 1
July 1817 NY*

**Please help keep our membership
records up to date. Send us any
address changes, email changes
and updated ancestor information.**

**Look for your membership renewal
date on your address label.**

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

**Alice Austin Martin
Membership Chairman**

Preservation of AFGS Data

A Status Report

In May 2011 a decision was made to try to preserve the information on the Austin Families Genealogical Association (AFGS) web site, which was closed following Dr. Mike Austin's death, and to provide access to as much of it as possible on our AFAOA web site, indexed for efficient searching.

Data included volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the Austins of America (AOA) publication, volumes 1 and 2 of the AFGS Register, census data, Freedmen's Bank Records, photographs that had been scanned by Mike Austin during the last ten years of conventions and a large quantity of miscellaneous documents, gravestone pictures, etc., which were identified as "Holdings" on the AFGS site.

With the exception of the 1841 English census, all AFGS census data has now been posted on the AFAOA web site. This includes Austins in the censuses of the New England states from 1800 to 1840, and in the 1850 and 1860 Federal censuses. The early census work of Art Sikes in Rhode Island has been added to the collection, and he continues to work on the 1855 New York State census.

Dr. Helen Cook Austin is also hard at work on the Freedmen's Bank Records. This was an original project which she had begun for Mike Austin, and she is continuing to add in-

formation. Our web designer, Sue Osborn, already has generated a home page for the African American Project, which will feature these Bank Records, and this project should go live on the site soon after the first of the year.

The large file sizes of the AOA publications and the Register, created by incorporating photographs on the pages, created a problem. The AFAOA search indexing function is provided by an outside vendor, whose charges are based on file size, making the cost of indexing these publications in their original form prohibitive. It was decided to go through the documents and remove the photographs.

AOA volume 1 has been indexed and available for search since September 2011. Volume 2 is almost completed, and will soon be posted on the site.

Much work remains on AOA Volume 3 and the two volumes of the Register. The English census must be converted from its rough spread-sheet format to one usable on the web site. All of the miscellaneous AFGS holdings must be sorted and their usability determined, then posted on the web site with appropriate linkage. Progress will be reported from time to time in this Newsletter.

**Jim Carlin
Database Chairman**



The votes are in. Williamsburg was selected as the site for our 2012 convention. Alice and I visited there in late October and are really excited about the choice. We have selected the Williamsburg Hospitality House as the convention hotel. It is a comfortable and convenient facility, within walking distance of libraries and attractions. You will enjoy visiting with your Austin "cousins" there, as you share and expand your Austin research and your understanding of history. Many of you have ancestors, even if not Austins, who lived in or passed through Virginia. This is a wonderful place to learn who they were and what life was like for them.

The historic College of William and Mary, with its impressive Swem Library, is nearby. Colonial Williamsburg, an enjoyable living history experience, is about a 10 minute walk from the hotel. It is connected by the Colonial Parkway to Historic Jamestown and Yorktown with a free bus providing convenient transportation to both.

We will also be planning a research day at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

The weekend of October 12–14 should have good weather and beautiful leaves. You will want to be there longer than the weekend. Make plans to extend your visit if you can. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

I love it when Liz reports "brick walls" being torn down from new and recently integrated information, much from AFGS. As we see from Jim's data report, we are making real progress on getting as much information out to the public as we can. Good work! Thanks! You can help by contributing your research to our databases and website.

The articles in this issue get your attention in several different ways. Walter Hartung reminds us about the circumstances of the times following the Revolutionary War, from civil unrest in Canada to "prairie pirates" in Illinois. John Clinard and Nancy Fatheree shed light on the personal aspects of frontier life, and what can be revealed to us by DNA. Helen Austin provides us with valuable information about Civil War records.

Art Sikes keeps us informed about the DNA project, an effort that gets even more rewarding as more people contribute their data. Learn about haplogroups and how this may lead you (geographically) to new findings. Consider joining the project or extending your test.

A Merry Christmas to you all!

Gay G. Martin, Jr.
AFAOA President

Genealogist's Report

In the past 3 months updates have been made to the following databases: *Hatteras, NC Austins – John of Susquehanna, PA – John, Sr. of Southside VA – John and Ann of Albemarle Co., VA – Solomon and John of NC – William and Elizabeth of Craven Co., SC.* – and, most recently, *John of Johnson Co., NC – Nathaniel of Greenville, SC – William of Kent Co., MD – John of Stamford, CT.*

The updates have resulted from research and correspondence with new members, as well as visitors to our web site. In many cases, a bit of new information has broken through someone's brick wall, encouraging them to continue to pursue their family's genealogy. Our database compilers are also very involved in this effort.

Other updates are in progress as a result of information found in records — such as old correspondence, news articles, photographs and family histories — transferred from Austin Families Genealogical Society.

So check the website often. New or most recently updated databases are marked with a star.

Liz Austin Carlin
AFAOA Genealogist

Austin-Austen DNA Project

For those of you who have been thinking about joining the DNA project or upgrading your existing test — now is the time!! Family Tree DNA is having a holiday promotion, with sale prices good until December 31.

Y-DNA 37 marker test *	\$119	(regular \$149)
*recommended minimum		
Y-DNA 67 marker test	\$199	(regular \$239)
Upgrade 12 to 37 marker	\$69	(regular \$99)
Upgrade 12 to 67 marker	\$148	(regular \$198)
Upgrade 25 to 37 marker	\$35	(regular \$49)
Upgrade 25 to 67 marker	\$114	(regular \$148)
Upgrade 37 to 67 marker	\$79	(regular \$99)

This would be a great Christmas present!

Also — advanced Haplogroup testing is now available — to show the origin and migration of ancestral lines in more recent times. This is just one more tool in making closer connections within a group.

If you have participated in the DNA testing be sure that Family Tree DNA has your current email address so that you can receive notices and messages about the project.

Visit the DNA Project page on our website or contact project administrator Art Sikes for information or help.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.
Austin-Austen DNA Project Administrator

Archibald Austin of Virginia

By John Clinard and Nancy Fatheree

After 250+ years, and after years of family research, the descendants of Archibald Austin (1776–1866) recently were surprised to find out who they really are. They descend from Capt. Edward Riggs (1720–1820), not Joseph Austin (~1730–1811) of Southside VA. Y-DNA cannot be denied. The proof came recently when three known male Austin descendants of Archibald submitted their Y-DNA to studies including the Austin-Austen Family DNA Project. They matched each other perfectly for 67 markers; yet they matched no other Austin male who has participated, including, of course, all males who are proven descendants of John Austin, Sr. (or son Joseph, or brother Richard) of Southside VA.

The other face of the surprise coin was the close match of these three descendants of Archibald to the Y-DNA of men proven to descend from Edward Riggs (1593–1671) who came in 1633 with his family to MA from England.

Since Archibald was born out-of-wedlock to Wealthy Pruet/Pruitt on 10 Feb 1767, the Riggs man who was the father had to be in Southside VA in about May of 1766. The hunt was on; yet we knew also from the studies of Riggs researchers, notable among which is Alvy Ray Smith, FASG, that the Riggs family did not reside in Southside VA in the 1766 timeframe. But several Riggs men did pass through the area on their way from NJ to settlements in NC, such as Yadkin River.

Our three tested descendants of Archibald match closely (65 of 67 markers) to a proven descendant of Capt. Edward Riggs. If Edward migrated through Southside VA in 1766, he was most likely the father of Archibald. Edward moved his pension file to Yadkin in late 1765, signaling his migration. According to the 1834 pension filing of Edward's son Samuel, the family, including mother Jane Buckley Riggs, located to Yadkin River when Samuel was about five. This is consistent with the 1766 visit to Wealthy by Edward. Therefore we have pinned the charge of bastardy on Capt. Edward Riggs. Traveling in the late spring of 1766 on the Great Wagon Road, the Riggs family wagon train likely stopped for rest, repairs, and resupply near Hickey's Ordinary. Edward and a few other men traveled the 20+ miles by Hickey's Road into the area of Halifax County (later Pittsylvania Co.) where Wealthy lived with her widowed mother, Sarah. The Pruet farm adjoined other large farms, such as Joseph Austin's, which furnished supplies to migrating settlers.

Why would Wealthy have had an affair with traveler Edward Riggs? This question will never be completely answered. Yet we know much about Wealthy, and Edward, that allows us to believe that the affair, however short-lived, took place. Here are a few facts, intermingled with speculation,

surrounding Joseph Austin's actions:

(1) Edward was charged with bastardy by Mary Shipman in 1753 in NJ. He was married to Jane Buckley at the time. (2) In 1760 Wealthy gave birth to bastard daughter Fanny. We believe the father of Fanny was Joseph Austin, who married that year to Champness Terry's daughter, Hannah, who was also pregnant by Joseph. (3) In 1763 and 1765 Wealthy was charged with bastardy. All charges were dismissed in 1766 however, likely because the children were absorbed into the family of Sarah Pruet. (4) We believe Wealthy and Joseph had a long-standing affair which lasted from 1759–1766. These included the years when Joseph, who truly loved Wealthy, was estranged from wife Hannah. (5) In 1766, prior to Edward's visit, Joseph returned to his wife Hannah, leaving Wealthy in a vulnerable situation and volatile emotional state. (6) In 1767 Wealthy bore her last bastard child, Archibald.



This conceptual painting by John Clinard depicts Wealthy with Joseph Austin and mother Sarah in 1760

Surely Joseph assumed that Archibald was also his child; yet Archibald was the child of Edward Riggs, whom Joseph never met.

In the spring and summer of 1766, when Edward continued to Yadkin with his family after the brief affair, Wealthy was desperate. She was also pregnant with Archibald. At this point we think she found an answer in religion. She turned to a forgiving God as portrayed by the evangelists of the Baptist and Methodist churches who were preaching on the frontier. The message was "hellfire and damnation" to those who did not repent.

Wealthy found religion and lived for the next ten years, apparently in harmony, with her mother Sarah and children Fanny and Archibald. Her siblings had departed the household before 1770, with her brother William apparently killed in the French & Indian War. Times were hard, but Sarah remained a strong and admirable family-centered mother and grandmother. Archibald's birth did not bring any additional bastardy charges.

Then in 1775 Joseph's wife, Hannah, died in the birth of their fifth son David. After a period of mourning respecting his dead wife and mother of his five sons, Joseph married Wealthy in 1777. (This occurred just after Fanny married Edward Covington, with Joseph providing surety for the marriage bond.) The marriage produced an additional four daughters.

We say Wealthy never told Joseph about Edward Riggs. Archibald lived with Joseph and Wealthy as if he were a son of Joseph. After their marriage Wealthy and Joseph became respected citizens of Pittsylvania Co., VA. At least 30 grandchildren or step-grandchildren were born in Pittsylvania between the years of 1779 and 1811, the year of Joseph's death. Wealthy survived until about 1822.

But, hold on! You, the reader, do not have to accept these possibly slanderous allegations against Joseph Austin. Where is the proof? Admittedly, there is little. So we, the authors, can rewrite Joseph's involvement to purify his association with Wealthy. It would go something like this:

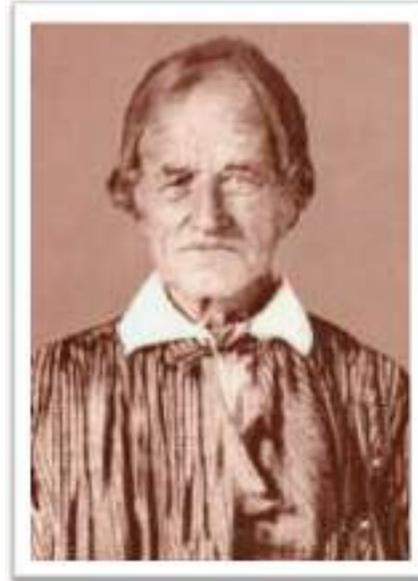
"As longtime neighbors, Joseph knew Wealthy had the children without fathers. Then, as a widower, he needed Wealthy and wanted to protect her and her children. He married her, accepting her past wayward life and welcomed her children, knowing they were not his. Joseph, being the good man that he was, treated them all as Austins."

We have spent many worrisome hours trying to reason through the unknowns. Naturally we all wish to portray our ancestors in the most noble light. Each of us must decide for ourselves what to believe when unknowns cannot be eliminated.

Keep in mind that at the start of our saga in 1759 Joseph owned property near the farm of Champness Terry which was 20 miles to the east of his farm adjacent to the Pruett Farm. (Champness had just died in 1758.) This location was also near farms of his father and uncle Richard who died there in 1759. Visiting his eastern farm and his relatives, Joseph had opportunity to be near Hannah. The 20-mile distance between the two ladies, Wealthy and Hannah, was probably the only thing that kept him out of earlier trouble. However, with both women pregnant at the same time in 1760, Joseph faced difficult choices at the time his father John was dying. The Terry family was rich and powerful; the Pruett family certainly was not. Did this influence Joseph to marry Hannah? Further, the resulting marriage of Joseph and Hannah produced no children for the nearly six-year period between the births of first son John and second son William, a period which runs concurrent with our speculated affair period, 1759–1766. This long period of no children in a new marriage was quite unusual, and leads these authors to speculate that Hannah abandoned Joseph, taking son John to a nearby farm of the Terry family, likely that of her brother David. Lastly, about the charges of bastardy against Wealthy, the Church rarely punished the man involved in bastardy—just the

woman. Wealthy never named Joseph, or anyone, to the authorities. She protected him.

Take your choice of stories to believe. There is no proof, and none is likely to emerge.



Archibald Austin age 98
1767 – 1866

What became of Archibald Austin and Edward Riggs? Edward, with his family, moved from NC to East TN in 1777. He remained there until his death in 1820. Still using the family name Austin, Archibald left VA in 1796, moving his family to East TN. This was not just happenstance. He probably moved to be in the region of his father, Edward. Apparently Wealthy had divulged the truth to Archibald, if not to Joseph. Archibald reunited

with Edward in TN and was closely associated with his half-brother Clisbe Riggs, son of Edward and Jane Buckley, until Clisbe Riggs' death in 1845. We know that Archibald named a son, born in 1802 in TN, Clisbe Austin.

Archibald Austin had nine children with wife Rebecca Blankenship. Son Clisbe Austin, our relative, had a total of 19 children with his two wives, Sallie Robertson and Jane Hammond. Thus there are many, many descendants alive today who share this story and heritage of Wealthy Pruett, Edward Riggs and Joseph Austin.

We hope you enjoy the discoveries, truths, and speculations surrounding your ancestors.

Let us know if you would like to receive your Newsletter by email, in easy to download Adobe Acrobat format. You can then save it to your computer, where it will be available to read and refer to, share with family or print copies of the whole or special parts. Send your request to anewsletter@afaoa.org.

Where is Southside Virginia?

"Southside Virginia" is traditionally defined as the region south of the James River, east of the Blue Ridge, west of Tidewater, and north of North Carolina. During the colonial era, Southside was considered the frontier, where entrepreneurs settled, as opposed to some of the more established families in the Tidewater counties, although many early Southside settlers were younger sons of established Tidewater families. Counties often considered part of this region include: Patrick, Henry, Bedford, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Campbell, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Nottoway, Amelia, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Powhatan, Dinwiddie and Greenville.



From Canada to America, continued from page 1

Thomas and Polly apparently moved to Detroit, Michigan where they ran a carpet business. Polly died 11 Dec 1882, but the place of her death is unknown.

Ebenezer Jones Austin (1800–1888)

By the 1830s, John and Elizabeth's children had grown and several had married. At age 19, Ebenezer petitioned for his own land.

To his Excellency

Sir Peregrine Maitland

Knight Commander of the most honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada and Major General commanding his Majesties Forces therein in Council

The petition of Ebenezer J. Austin eldest son of John Austin of the Township of Toronto in the Home District

Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner's father has been twenty five years an inhabitant of this Province that your petitioner was born in this Province and is now residing with his father employed with him in the cultivation of lands.

That your petitioner is desirous of becoming a settler of new lands and that he has never received any land or grants of lands under the Crown.

Therefore humbly prays your Excellency in Council will be pleased to grant him such a portion of the waste lands of the Crown in this Province as your Excellency may deem such

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

s/ Ebenezer J. Austin

Ebenezer Jones Austin was granted 100 acres of land by order of the Executive Council on April 22, 1819. He received the Crown Patent Deed to the west half of Lot 13, Concession 4, Toronto Township on February 11, 1822. On September 30, 1828, Ebenezer married Anne Cook at the home of her father, Andrew C. Cook. Ebenezer and Anne became the parents of Eliza Ann, Sarah Christeen, Rachel Marilla, William, James, and John. Members of this family emigrated to Friendship Township, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin in the 1850s.

Sarah Austin (1802–1879)

Sarah Austin was probably the first Austin family member to marry. She married George Silverthorne about 1822 or 1823. The first ten children of George and Sarah were born in Upper Canada. The eleventh and twelfth children were born in Oakland Township, Jefferson County, Wisconsin.

Documents suggest George Silverthorne, Andrew Cook and other members of the Austin family were supportive of the grievances expounded upon and published by William Lyon Mackenzie. Poor agricultural performance, a diminishing economy, criticisms of provincial banking, Church and State issues, and a general mistrust of the Crown, paved the way for the exodus of the Austins and their related families from Upper Canada. In the autumn of 1843, George, Sarah, and ten children established a home in Jefferson County, Wisconsin Territory.

James Austin (1806–1876)

James Austin joined his father and brothers as a farmer in Toronto Township. James married Eleanor Aikins (or Eakins) on April 23, 1834. James and Eleanor had four children and they remained in the township until their deaths in 1876 and 1854, respectively.

Augustus Austin (1810–1880)

By 1810, John and Elizabeth had established themselves on their purchased lot near York. Augustus was most likely born in Toronto Township. At the age of 23 he married Ann Rutledge.

Apparently Augustus, his younger brother John, and his father, John Austin Sr. became disillusioned by the growing economic and political conditions prevalent in 1837. The prospects of a brighter future and the ability to provide for his growing family must have seemed bleak. In December 1838 his mother Elizabeth passed away, and within months of her death, Augustus, John Jr., and John Sr. moved their families to Ogle County, Illinois. Augustus, John Jr., and John Sr. applied for and were granted land by the Government Land Office in the early to mid 1840s.

1841 brought another upheaval to the Austin family. "Prairie pirates" as they were known plundered and murdered citizens of Ogle and surrounding counties. Many of the county citizens, tired of the lawlessness and corruption they witnessed, formed a citizen group known as the Ogle County Regulators. One hundred eleven Regulators including Augustus and John Austin, tried and executed two bandits of the notorious Driscoll gang. An indictment of Augustus Austin, his brother John and the other one hundred nine Ogle County Regulators was made in September 1841. One hundred eleven men were charged with the murder of John and William Driscoll June 29, 1841. The trial lasted a short while and all one hundred eleven men were acquitted.

Augustus and Ann brought four children from Canada and their family grew to twelve by 1857. They remained on their Payne's Point farm until their deaths, Augustus in 1880 and Ann in 1895. Three sons of Augustus and Ann served as Union soldiers during the Civil War.

John Austin Sr. passed away at the age of ninety in 1857. John Sr. spent forty-five years in Canada after his arrival from North Carolina in 1794. His last eighteen years were spent once again in America. The Austins from Canada prospered in Illinois.

William Gage Austin (1812–1879)

William Gage was a farmer whose early life remains largely undocumented. He left Toronto Township to farm in Oxford County. He married later than his siblings, the first marriage to Ann Eliza Lossing sometime before 1845. They raised two sons and two daughters of which one son and one daughter emigrated to America. When Ann died in 1865, William married second, Caroline Elizabeth Southwick, in 1867. William survived both wives and died May 15, 1879 in North Norwich Township, Oxford County, Ontario.

John Austin Jr. (1815–1887)

John was most likely the youngest child of John and Elizabeth Jones Austin. On June 1, 1836, John married a Scottish immigrant to Upper Canada, Catherine Sinclair. Their first two children were born in Canada and in 1839 John and his family accompanied his father and brother Augustus to Illinois. Six more children were born to John and Catherine in Illinois. Just as John Sr. and Augustus applied for government land, so did John Jr. and Catherine. Together they received over 80 acres. John didn't remain a farmer like his father and brother and by the mid 1850s, John left Ogle County to reside at Rockford in Winnebago County. He listed himself as a carpenter in the 1860 U. S. Census. It was in Rockford that he enlisted in the Union Army and became a captain with the 8th Illinois Cavalry. His eldest son also enlisted as a Union soldier in the 9th Illinois Cavalry. By the 1880s he became an architect and designer and had moved his family from Rockford to Chicago.

To be continued ...

Editor's Note:

Walter Hartung is the compiler for AFAOA's *Solomon & John Austin of North Carolina* database. He is a great great grandson of Ebenezer Jones Austin.

A story about Solomon Austin, can also be found on our website in the November 2010 issue of the *Newsletter*.

Austin Civil War Soldiers

Sources of Information

By Helen Cook Austin, Ph.D.

Most of you have probably used basic information for finding your Austin veteran. You may have looked for service records (Muster Rolls) on government microfilm which is available in many libraries and on some internet sites, such as *Fold3.com* (formerly *Footnote.com*). The early "U. S. Army Register of Enlistment 1798–1914" is on *Ancestry.com*, in cooperation with the National Archives. The National Park Service Civil War website <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss> is also a good beginning, with a database of names and units, as well as information on some battles, prisons and cemeteries.

Some records for the Civil War are only for Confederate Soldiers. Others are only for Union Soldiers. Some records for later wars, starting with the Spanish-American War, might include men who served on both sides in the Civil War.

To find pensions for Confederates you have to look in the records of the State Archives where the soldier served or where he lived when he got the pension. For Union soldiers the index is available on several websites, including *Ancestry.com* and *Fold3.com*. A new database, "U.S. Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards 1907–1933", is available on *FamilySearch.org*.

Union soldiers who lived in Southern states were sometimes called "Southern Unionists". Often they were children of Revolutionary War Soldiers who were told at their father's knee "Be true to the Union at all costs". Some Alabamians moved to the Free State of Winston, Winston County, Alabama, because that County refused to secede from the Union. You might want to look at the history on this site - www.1stalabamacavalryusv.com

Another category of soldiers of the Civil War were the "Galvanized Yankees", who served in both the Confederate and Union Army. If you find a Confederate soldier who either was captured and put in a prison, or who deserted the Confederate Army, then look at the Union records and see if he got a pension from the Union or was enlisted in the Indian wars in the West. Near the end of the war when there were more prisoners than the prisons could hold or feed it seems that prisoners were promised their freedom if they would fight for the Union. If they went West to fight the Indians it was unlikely that they would see their Southern neighbors and so would not feel disgraced.

The Union Army Regiments for former Confederate prisoners were the U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments 1 - 6. Some went to Dakota Territory, Cimarron Crossing, Fort Dodge, Kansas, Fort Kearney, to Colorado and New Mexico. Ahl's Heavy Artillery Company from Fort Delaware remained at that Fort as guards and caretakers after the men were captured from the Battle of Gettysburg. Looking at the Muster Rolls and unit histories for these groups would be helpful.

"Requests for Headstones for Soldiers", a National Archives microfilm that is now available on *Ancestry.com*, includes Union Soldiers and those who fought for the United States in other wars, with the name, unit, date of death, place of burial and name of the memorial company who engraved the stone.

If the Civil War soldier from either side was said to have died during the war or shortly thereafter, but you can't find his grave near family, search websites for the National Cemeteries, such as <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> or <http://www.interment.net/us/nat/veterans.htm>. Or, you might find him in a Civil War prison.

If your soldier lived at home after the war and you find him on the 1870 and 1880 census but not on the 1900 or 1910 census, don't assume that he died. There are many Civil War veterans listed on the "Historic Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938". The index is in order by the name and birth date of the veteran and may include death and burial information. This microfilmed database, which can be found on *Ancestry.com*, has photos of the registers from twelve National Homes until 1938, when the Veteran's Administration was established and many of the old Homes were converted into Veteran's Hospitals.

Ancestry and *Fold3* require paid subscriptions, but *FamilySearch*, the National Park Service and other government sites are open to all.

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:
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