

John Austin Sr.
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Heritage of White County Tennessee
1806 – 1999

White County Heritage Book Committee

John Austin Sr. (January 6, 1779 – February 27, 1858) was born in North Carolina, (1850) Census. Parents unknown. He married Rachel Denny, daughter of James and Ester Denny, on June 21, 1802 in Wayne Co., Kentucky. Rachel was born in 1784 and died about 1818. She and John, Sr. are both buried in Austin-Anderson Cemetery, Lost Creek in White Co.

John, Sr. and Rachel came to Hickory Valley in White County in 1807. The earliest record of John Austin, Sr. in White Co. was tax for one white poll in Hickory Valley in 1811.

John Sr. and Rachel had seven children: William, Jude, Tamar, Hannah, James, Elizabeth, and John Jr. (My great grandfather). After Rachel died, John Sr. married Catherine Haston in 1819. She was born December 25, 1776 in Virginia and died June 27, 1843. She was buried in Austin-Anderson Cemetery, Lost Creek. The children of John, Sr. and Catherine were Pleasant, Emaline, Robert, Susan, Bird, and William Edward.

After the death of Catherine (2nd wife) in 1843, John Sr. married Mary Ann Todd, January 17, 1844. No children.

John Austin Jr. (my great grandfather) the youngest child of John Sr. and Rachel Denny Austin, was born November 8, 1818. He married Rebecca England, daughter of John England and Mary Scott England June 27, 1841. They had six children: Frances, Mary, Helan, Susan, Phenetta “Netie”, John Robert “Bob”, and William Edward “Bill” my grandfather.

John Jr. served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. He was a Pvt. in Co. K 16 Infantry.

According to a story told by my grandfather, William Edward “Bill”, news came that his father, John Jr. would be marching by his homeplace. His two little boys, John Robert, age 5 and William Edward, age 3 sat on the gate posts to wave as their father marched by. The year 1863.

John Jr. died August 16, 1903, and was buried in the Anderson Cemetery located behind Big Dollar Warehouse. His wife, Rebecca England Austin, born February 2, 1819 died April 9, 1889 and was buried in England Cemetery, Brock Cove.

William Edward “Bill” Austin, my grandfather, the youngest son of John, Jr. and Rebecca England Austin, was born January 10, 1860. On June 6, 1883, he married Mary Florence Jernigan, born June 5, 1863, daughter of Wiley and Sarah “Sally” Short

Jernigan. They had nine children: Flora Ann, Nora Etta, Ernest Haskell (my father), Evola Avo "Vola", Franklin Pierce, Elmer Claude Myrtle Gertrude "Berchia", William Arthur, and Ida Viola. After the birth of their second child, they moved to Putnam County near Baxter, TN. William Edward "Bill" died October 3, 1931, and his wife, Mary Florence Jernigan Austin died March 25, 1941. Both are buried in Double Springs Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN.

Siblings of John Austin, Sr. in a Bible in possession of Col. Jimmie L. Akin (Ret) of Denver, Co are listed as: Josiah-1770, Elizabeth-1772, Lucy-1774, William-1776, John-1779, Nathaniel-1781, David-1783, Hannah-1786, Robin-1788. Submitted by: Sean Austin Will, 4 Great Grandson, 1982 McMinnville Hwy. Sparta, TN 38583. Sources: Family Bible, Census Records & Courthouse Records.

John and Nathaniel Austin
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John Austin Sr. was born in 1779 in NC. He and his brother Nathaniel moved into the valley of the Lost Creek off Hickory Valley in pioneer times. John's first wife **Rachel Denny** Austin (died 1818). They were the parents of William (1803–1833), Jude (1805–1825), Tamsy Haston, (1807-?), Hannah (1809-1826), James M. (1814-1889), Elizabeth Hudgins (1816-?), and **John Austin Jr.** (1818-?).

After Rachel's death, John married Catherine Haston (died 1843), and they had Pleasant (1820/23-1900), Emaline Doyle (1822-?), Robert or Robeson (1826/27?), Susan Duncan (1829-1879), daughter Bird (1831-1833), and William Edward (1833-?).

John married (3rd) Mary Ann Todd (b. 1793-96 Maryland – d. in 1864), but they had no children together.

John and family and his brother Nathaniel and wife are among the several members of the Austin family buried in the Austin Family Cemetery on the old plantation in southeast White Co. at the old community of Greentree in the valley of the Lost Creek.

Nathaniel Austin (1781-1869) came to White Co. from NC with his elder brother John. Nathaniel and his wife Mary (1784-1870) had a large family of children:

William Henry Austin (1805-1878) has many descendants, including Escol Hale (grandson of Thomas Milton & Elizabeth (Austin) Anderson-see 1984 & 1993 Austin Newsletters), and the Passons and Dillard Austin families of Warren Country, TN (see 1985 Austin newsletter for photo of William Henry and wife with a list of their children; the 1987 newsletter features their daughter Nancy Scott & family; the 1989 newsletter features son Thomas Austin).

James Austin (1808-1878?) descendants include the Thaddeus Austin family (featured in 1992 & 1994 Austin newsletters).

Elizabeth Austin (1808-1896), the third child, lived to a ripe old age on the ole family plantation.

John Wesley Austin (1809-1883) died in his mid-twenties.

Nancy Austin (1811-1843) died at age 32.

Susan Austin (1812-1889) married a Mr. Frazier.

Raleigh "Rollins" Austin (1815-1894) married Mary McDonald on 17 June 1838 in White Co. TN, (rites read by John Bryan, Esq.). They later moved to Lead Hill, AR (see their photo in the 1987 Austin newspaper). Several of Uncle Rollin's descendants (including brothers Gene, Bob, & Bill Austin) have been faithful participants in the Austin Reunion at Lost Creek, TN.

Mary Austin (1816-1819)-? married a Mr. Hudgins.

Jackson Austin (1818-1824? - 1823-1828?, likely named for the great Tennessee hero Andrew Jackson, died as a child in his 5th year of life.

Thomas Austin (1821-1874) lived to his 53rd year.

Robertson Austin (1826-1912), lived to his 86th year.

Nathaniel Glenn Austin (1827-1898), the youngest child, married Martha Jane "Jennie" Bryan (1824-1910) on 21 January 1847 in White County. Jennie was likely a daughter of early Hickory Valley settler William Bryan. According to her granddaughter Mary Attie Anderson Davis, Grandmother Jennie was a cousin of the great orator and three-time Democratic nominee for president, William Jennings Bryan. The children of N.G. and Jane Austin included William Bluford "willie," Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. William Pleasant) Anderson, Nathan Isabelle, Susan, James Monroe, Darthula "Thulie" White, and Nancy Jane "Nan" Dodson.

The Austin Cemetery was restored in the mid-1960's by local descendants under the encouragement of the late family historian Bess Austin Machtley of Texas and Pennsylvania. For the last several years, it has been maintained under the good leadership of Doug and Elizabeth Austin of Lost Creek. This work is supported by donations of Austin descendants from across America. The cemetery is on a rise overlooking the old Austin plantation. It is the site of an annual Austin Family Reunion, currently held the last Sunday of Sept. After a memorial service at the cemetery, a covered dish dinner is shared on the grounds of Lost Creek United Methodist Church, followed by a business meeting with historical reports and discussions. An annual newsletter, inaugurated by the writer in 1980, is distributed to those present. All Austin

descendants are encouraged to attend and participate in reunion activities. Submitted by: Larry Craig Boyd, 1998-99 president, Austin Family association of Lost Creek.

**See Chapter 10 - Mary Florence Jernigan md William "Bill" Edward Austin. He was the s/o John Austin Jr. & Rebecca England. John Austin Jr. was the s/o John Austin Sr. & Rachel Denney. Rachel Denney was the d/o James Denny/Denney & Esther/Ester Small.*

**Mary Florence Jernigan was the d/o Wiley Jernigan & Sarah Jane "Sallie" Short. Wiley was the s/o Kedar Jernigan & Sarah Jernigan. Mary Florence was the sister of John_Tilford Jernigan, who is my ggrandfather – Audrey J. Denny Lambert.*

According to the story by Sean Austin Will his grandfather, William Edward "Bill" Austin was born January 10, 1860 but according to the 1860 census of White Co., TN William was 2 years old in 1860. This would indicate that William Edward "Bill" Austin was born January 10, 1858.

1860 Census, White Co., TN, #1080-1065

John AUSTIN 42 TN Farmer
Rebecca 41 AL
Frances 15 TN
Mary 12 TN
Helen M. 10 TN
Susan P. 8 TN
John R. 5 TN
Wm. E. 2 TN

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