

Private Littleton Berry Austin, Co. H, 31st Alabama Regiment, Infantry, CSA & Co. H, 2nd Regiment, U. S. Volunteer Infantry

Littleton Berry Austin was born on September 9th in 1840 or 1841 at Coweta County, Georgia. His parents were Larkin B. Austin (1808-1880) and Eunice Niecy Lyon (1811-1880) both born in South Carolina. Niecy was a daughter of a George Lyon who lived in DeKalb County, Georgia. Larkin was a fourth generation descendant of the elder Nathaniel Austin of Gilder Plantation, Greenville County, South Carolina.

Larkin, his family and some of his brother's families went to Georgia to get land in the early Georgia Land Lotteries, but removed to Alabama and Mississippi before 1840. Larkin and children lived in Randolph County, but Littleton moved to adjacent Chambers County after he married Harriet in 1867.

Most of this Austin family were farmers. However, some had other business enterprises. Anderson Austin, a brother to Larkin appeared to have a lumber mill and had family members who worked in local cotton mills, spinning and weaving cotton in Choctaw County, Mississippi in 1850-1860. Another brother, Harrison (1804-1883), also lived for a while in Mississippi, but went to live, late in life, near his nephew Littleton. He was buried in Chambers County, Alabama at the Lystra Baptist Church Cemetery at Five Points.

The community of Roanoke in Randolph County, Alabama, was a busy South Alabama cotton producing area in 1860. Larkin and Niecy had ten children by then. Their older sons, William and Thomas J. Austin, both single, owned some real estate.

As a child, Littleton was called Little Berry by the family. Over the years he was called alternately, Little, Littleton, Berry, and L. B. It is no wonder, that when he enlisted in the army during the Civil War, he used several alternate names on his records. His death certificate is wrongly indexed by a transcriber as, J. W. Austin, although the death date of Oct 13, 1911, and the place of his burial, at County Line Cemetery, Lafayette, Chambers County, Alabama, are both correct.

Since Larkin Austin's family depended on the help of their children to grow and harvest their cotton crops, Littleton's participation in the Civil War was hard on his parents. Littleton enlisted in Randolph County, Alabama in the Confederate States Army for a period of three years. He was a Private in Company H of the 31st Regiment of Alabama Infantry. First, he was at Camp Goldthwaite. Then, he fought in other battles for a year. However, he was unlucky. He was captured on July 9, 1863, at the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi, by the Union Army. However, an agreement between the officers of both armies, allowed Littleton to be paroled and released at Vicksburg, and he fought for the Rebels for another year.

In June of 1864, Littleton was captured for a second time by the Fifteenth U. S. Army Corp and was made a Prisoner of War at Big Shanty on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. He was taken to the prison at Nashville, Tennessee, where he was soon forwarded to the prison at Louisville, KY. Two days later he was sent to the infamous, Rock Island Barracks in Illinois. Rock Island was the prison where many Confederate prisoners died of Smallpox, Pneumonia, and other diseases. It was said that they had their clothes and blankets taken away from them in the winter time.

All the prisoners dreaded the approach of the winter of 1864. On October 13, 1864, only five months before the end of the war, Littleton B. Austin, also recorded as L. B. Austin, "swallowed the dog". He signed the Oath of Amnesty Document and enlisted for Frontier Service in Company H of the Second United States Volunteer Infantry Regiment, so he could stay alive a little longer. This regiment was made up of former Confederate prisoners from the Union Military Prisons who received amnesty if they would go fight the Indians in the Western Territories, or perform other service in areas that were not in the Southern States.

While he served his year in the Second Regiment of the U. S. Army, Littleton worked at the prison for the first four months. Hopefully he had a uniform of some kind. His physical description was itemized on a muster roll, in February of 1865: Age 23, 6 feet tall, dark skin, grey eyes, dark hair. He was a farmer, who was born in Coweta County, Georgia. From April to May of 1865 he worked outside the

prison on ditch duty as a Post Teamster. In June and July he was on detached service in the Second Regiment.

The Second Regiment was sent by train transport to Fort Leavenworth and assigned to duty in the District of the Upper Arkansas along the Santa Fe Road from the Little Arkansas River to Fort Dodge and Cimarron Crossing. The soldiers walked west from Fort Wiley and on to Salem, Fort Ellsworth, Kansas, Fort Larned, Fort Zarah and then to Fort Scott, Kansas. Their duties were to scout and provide wagon train escort duty and to operate against the Indians. They served as guards at the signing of the Little Arkansas Treaty with the Indians.

After the Regiment returned to Rock Island, John was a Company Cook, on duty until November 7, 1865, when he mustered out. He was last paid for his service in June of that year.

Littleton Berry Austin was able to return to his family in Louina, Alabama by summertime. I will bet that they were glad to see him, under any conditions, knowing that so many of the boys had died. Of the four galvanized soldiers that I have studied, he was one of two who were not seriously disabled by the war, and were able to return successfully to a good family life.

Littleton met Harriet, an Alabama girl, and they married by 1867. They had their own farm in Louina, next to his parents and were living there in 1870. The couple did not have any children who survived, until their first daughter, Martha, was born in November 1876. Their second daughter, Eleanor Belle, nicknamed Nora, was born October 3, 1879. Martha married a Mr. Sanders and they had a child named Willie R. in 1896. Nora married a Mr. Phillips, but died young, on February 4, 1919.

The 1880 U. S. Census of Chambers County, Alabama of Bloomingdale, Beat 2 shows that Berry Austin and Harriet (Heady) had a farm there, next door to a George Watson, and near his uncle, Harrison Austin and wife Permelia. The place where they lived was later called Lafayette, Alabama.

Littleton applied, in 1880, for a pension from the U. S. Army, for his one year of service, and was granted the income. His date of death was recorded on the pension card as October 13, 1911. His wife, Harriet, also applied for a widow's pension in 1912, and the income was also granted. Harriet must have died soon after, as her death on the tombstone in County Line Cemetery, Lafayette, Alabama, is shown as August 13, 1914. Copies of the pension applications for both Littleton and Harriet should be ordered from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, by interested researchers of this family. The applications should have more family information.

SOURCES & NOTES:

CENSUS: 1860 U. S. Census, Randolph Co, AL, Roanoke P. O., Southern Division, Date-10 Aug 1860, p 727. Family 659. Larkin B. Austin 52, farmer, \$600. R. E., \$300. P. E., b SC; Nicey (sp.) 48, housewife, SC; William A. \$200. R. E., age 27, SC; Thomas J. \$50. R. E., age 23, b GA, in school; Sarah J. 21, GA; Little Berry 18, GA; Nancy A. 17 GA; Mary P. 15; George H. 13; Hardy N. 10; Sterling T. 8; Martha O. 4.

[Note: CIVIL WAR CSA: This Littleton Berry Austin, should not be confused with another by that name. He is not the Cpl. Lyttleton B. Austin, Co. L, MS 1st Light Artillery Battery, who died of dysentery Jun 23, 1862 at Duck Hill, MS. That Lyttleton, could be a cousin to Littleton Berry, if he is the son of Anderson Austin of the 1860 Choctaw Co, MS census.]

CIVIL WAR CSA, NARA Confederate Military Service Records available on Fold3.com :

Pvt. Co. H., 31st Regt. AL Infantry. Randolph Co., AL, Littleton B. Austin Enlisted Apr 1, 1862 for 3 yrs.

May 8, 1862, Age 21, Muster In Roll at Camp Goldthwaite.

Jul 9, 1863, Vicksburg, MS, Littleton B. Austin captured by U. S. Army, .

Jul 9, 1863 The company was paroled at Vicksburg and released.

Jun 15, 1864, Littleton was captured once more by the 15th Army Corp. and made a prisoner of War at Big Shanty, GA.

Jun 20, 1864. He was forwarded to prison at Louisville, KY.

Jun 20, 1864 Roll of Prisoners at Nashville, TN. Forwarded to Capt. S.E. Jones at Louisville.

Jun 22, 1864 forwarded to Rock Island Barracks, Prison, Illinois.

Jun 24, 1864 At Rock Island, IL

Oct 13, 1864 Enlisted at Rock Island in U. S. Army for Frontier Service

Nov 7, 1864 in Co. H. 2nd U. S. Vol. Inf. (see continuation of military service, below).

MILITARY: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890 - 1912, documenting the period 1861 - 1866; Catalog ID: 300398; Record Group #: 94; Roll #: 15. (Galvanized Yankees) Provided by fold3.com.

U. S. Army: Pvt. Littleton B. Austin, Co. H. 2nd. U. S. Volunteer Infantry

Oct 13, 1864 Oath of Amnesty. Enlisted
 Oct 13, 1864 to Feb 28, 1865. Muster Rolls, Present at Rock Island Prison, IL Physical description: Age 23, 6'tall, dark skin, grey eyes, dark hair. b Coweta Co, GA, a farmer.
 Apr-May 1865 Absent on ditch duty as Post Teamster since Apr 1, 1865.
 Jun & Jul 1865 Absent detached service in 2nd Regt. since Mar 32, 1865
 Sept 1865 Company cook on duty
 Nov 7, 1865 Muster Out Roll. Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Last paid Jun 30, 1865. age 23, stop pay for loss of 1 wiper and 1 tompion.
 Jun 30, 1865, last payroll
 CENSUS: 1870 U. S. Census, Randolph Co., AL, Louina, Fair Play P.O., 15 Jul 1870, Page 591.
 Dwelling 292, Family 292, Littleton Austin 28, farmer, \$200. P. E., b. GA; Harriet 30, keeps house, b AL. Note: He was next door to parents Larkin and Nicy Austin.

CENSUS: 1880 U. S. Census, Chambers County, AL, Beat 2, Bloomingdale, 15 Jul 1880, Page 240. Dwelling 57, Family 57. Austin, Berry, w, m, age 38, farmer, b GA, GA, GA; Austin, not readable (Heady?), w, f, age 35, wife, GA, GA, GA. Next door to a George Watson. Note that Page 239 has his uncle, Harrison Austin b 76 SC and wife Permelia 76, b GA, parents b VA. with two black servants in the household and two more families of blacks living next to them, with heads of household, Jimi Austin, age 63 GA & Louis Austin age 34. These men worked by day.

PENSION: U. S. Military Pension Application: Pvt. Co. H, 2nd Regt U. S. Vol. Inf. enlisted Oct 13, 1864, discharged Nov. 17, 1865 for 1 year of service. Pension application Sept. 11, 1880, App. # 727483, Certif. 549771. Widow's pension, application dated Aug 19, 1912, App. # 992.031, Certificate 751.293. Littleton Austin died Oct. 13, 1911 at Lafayette, AL. Pension was granted.

CENSUS: 1900 U. S. Census, Chambers Co., AL, Trammell's Crossroads, Pct. 4, 18 Jun 1900, Dwelling 304, Family 305. Little B. Austin, 58, Sept. 1841, married for 33 yrs. GA, SC, SC; Harriet A. 60, Apr 1840, 0 ch, AL, GA, GA; Martha Sanders, 23, daughter, Nov 1876, married 4 yrs. 1 ch, 1 living, AL, GA, AL; Willie R. Sanders, 4, granddaughter, Aug 1895, AL, AL, AL; Nina Austin 20, daughter, Oct 1879, AL, AL, AL.

Note by Helen Austin Sep 2012. The listing above showing 0 children should be disregarded. Obviously the couple has at least two daughters. Several other families on this census page show zero children and then continue with a listing of the children. There must have been some confusion or lack of communication between the census enumerator and the residents.

CENSUS: 1910 U. S. Census, Chambers Co, AL, Ridge Grove, 23 Apr, Sheet 7B, Dw 125, Fam 130. Littleton Austin, 69, married 43 yr., AL, AL, AL, farmer; Harriett Austin, 72, married 43 yrs. AL, AL, AL.