

# *The Austins*

Written and Compiled by Patricia Nell Austin 2009  
pnellaustin@yahoo.com

Contributors were Gloria Rohrer, Shawn “the Grave Hunter” Hughes, and Carla Bullard

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*(for the first 20 or so years of his life our pa-pa William Anderson Austin sometimes went by Anderson William Austin instead of William Anderson Austin), there is no census records showing George H. Austin's name spelled out and William Anderson Austin's*

*name spelled out but we have family knowledge that George H. Austin of Lineville, Clay County, Alabama was pa-pa's father  
(Randolph, Clay, and Chambers Counties in Alabama had fires that burned the courthouses and the records that were in them about 1897, so it is hard to find information there.)  
Just for Fun pages  
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# *The Austins*



This is the family coat of arms shown here and in James W. Austin's Book

**Captain Nathaniel Austin Sr** was born in 1720 in York, England.

His Father: John Austin

His Mother: Henrietta

He married Mary Manning in England in 1742. They had children:

Walter Manning (Pestle Watt) Austin born 1745 in England

**Nathaniel Austin Jr** born 1743 in London, England (our ancestor)

Thompson Austin born 1747 in England

Capt Nathaniel Austin Sr. traveled with his wife, Mary, and 3 sons from London, England to Virginia between 1747 and 1750, they landed in America around Surry, Virginia and had sons

John Edward born 1750 in Virginia

George born 1751

Benjamin born 1752

Jesse born 1753

Mary Manning Austin died in Louisa County, VA in 1753. Nathaniel Sr. then married a handsome blonde woman named Agnes Dickinson in Saint Martins Parish, Virginia in 1754 and they had 3 sons

James Dickinson Austin born 1755

Francis born 1757

William Austin born 3-27-1759

Nathaniel Sr. was appointed High Constable in Virginia under King George III of England and served in

Virginia for almost 10 years. Nathaniel Sr. was given a grant of land by King George containing 100 acres of land in Berkeley County, South Carolina on 5-2-1770, he was also given a grant of 500 acres located in Ninety-Six district (in both Laurens and Greenville Counties) on 2-19-1791.

In May of 1761 Nathaniel Sr and his family traveled to the area that is now Greenville County, South Carolina (in Indian country, not a part of South Carolina yet) and had a daughter

Mary born 1764 Greenville County South Carolina

and started building a plantation in the midst of Cherokee Indian country.

(There are 2 different stories about the ages and names of Nathaniel Sr's children which are included in this book, but I think the version I have recorded above is probably the most correct. One account has Nathaniel having 2 sons younger than Mary, Robert and Samuel, but then they would have been too young to be fighting in the revolutionary war, I also wonder if maybe the names Robert and Samuel are middle names or first names that go with the names above, or if they are grandchildren of Nathaniel Sr. Since Agnes's headstone states she is his second wife, I think the version with Mary Manning coming here as his first wife is probably correct. So, this is the only one that makes sense to me. But since the other versions are included you can decide for yourself.)

### **1. Nathaniel Austin Sr** born 1720 York England

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Manning

***Nathaniel Austin Jr***

Walter Manning

John Edward

George

Benjamin

Jesse

2<sup>nd</sup> Agnes Dickinson

James

Francis

William

Thomas

Mary Polly

2. ***Nathaniel Austin Jr*** born 3-31-1743 London

1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Ann Anderson

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Larkin

Mary

Franky

Walter Manning

John

Nathaniel III

Henrietta

***William Anderson***

Sarah Ann

Thomas Henry

Ann

3. **Colonel William Anderson Sr** born 9-4-1778 Ninety-Six

Greenwood County, South Carolina

Jane Nelson

Nelson

Anderson

William Anderson

Harrison

**Larkin B.**

Elizabeth

Amelia (Milly)

Sarah

4. **Larkin B. Austin** born 6-16-1808

Georgia or South Carolina

Unice

William A

Sarah J

Littleton Berry

Hardy N

Nancy Ann

Mary P or E

**George H**

Thomas J

Sterling F

Martha Oliver

5. **George H. Austin** born April in approximately 1850

Alabama either Chambers County or Randolph County

Martha Josephine Holder

Hattie E

Sallie J

Tolly Baswell

**William Anderson**

Berry Larkin

Vinnie

Avie (Ava Montana)

6. **William Anderson Austin** born 8-17-1877

Lineville, Clay County, Alabama

Serena

C.P.

Alvie

Benjamin Thomas (B.T.)

Viola

**Cecil Anderson**

Walter George

Margaret Nell

Emma Josephine

William Anderson Jr (W.A.)

Jim Partin

Russell Anderson

Guy

Maretta Juanita

Donald C.

Donis Carley

# THE AUSTIN and ALLIED FAMILIES

BY JAMES W. AUSTIN, of ATLANTA, GA.  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
GEORGE W. CONNORS, of BIRMINGHAM, ALA.



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## *Part I*

### CHAPTER I.

#### THE PIONEER AUSTINS

##### THE AUSTINS COME TO GILDER

For nearly two months, a little caravan of covered wagons and horsemen with rifles slung over their shoulders, toils southward along the foothills of the Alleghanies. It comes from the bank of the James River, near Richmond, Virginia.

And now, near sunset of a day in May, in the year 1761, twelve Austins arrive at Gilder. The cavalcade halts in a grove of walnut trees two hundred yards north of Gilder Creek. The men dismount. The women and children and slaves climb down from the covered wagons. Axes ring in the forest. Soon their tents are pitched and their camp fire is lighted on the soil of their new home in the land of the Cherokee Nation.

And on every one of the sixty-four thousand days since, to this November in 1936, the Austins have kept their home fires burning on or near the same spot.

From two homes there today, Austin smoke still curls skyward within sight of the grove where the hardy pioneer, Captain Nathaniel Austin, and his stalwart sons kindled their first camp fire on the soil of Gilder Plantation on this starlit night in May, 1761.

##### A FIRE-LIGHT PICTURE

Blazing pine knots light up a picturesque group around the fire. A handsome blonde English lady, Agnes Richardson Austin, the wife of the pioneer, with her negro woman cook, is broiling venison and baking bread for the hungry family. Little William Austin, two years old, sprawls on a great bear skin near the fire. Seated by him and tickling his little son's bare feet, Captain





Nathaniel Austin, English born and bred, the head of the family, relaxes his stern features, relieved that the long journey is ended. Sitting around the fire, hungrily sniffing the broiling meat as they clean their rifles, are the nearly-grown sons, Watt, Nathaniel, Jr., John and Thompson, all four born in England, while the younger boys, Benjamin, Jesse, George, Walter and Francis, are noisily using the wagon tongues as rocking horses. These five younger boys, with little William, are of Virginia birth. Mary Austin, the only sister of the ten brothers, was born after the family settled at Gilder.

#### GUARDING THE CAMP

When the tired family, happy and excited to reach their new home in the Indian country, turn in, the two older sons, Watt and Nathaniel, Jr., keep guard with their trusty rifles over the sleeping camp, with John and Thompson to relieve them at midnight. The family and the horses must be vigilantly guarded, for the forests around the camp are teeming with wild life—with bears, wolves, panthers, wild horses, buffaloes and wildcats. It is needful to keep a sharp lookout.

Watt Austin, who stands guard, was the giant of the ten Austin brothers. He was known as "Pestle Watt," because of his powerful fists which struck with the pulverizing force of a stone pestle. All the ten sons, when grown, were six feet or more in height, except William, the youngest, who was five feet ten, but sinewy and strong, and with the quickest and most violent temper of them all. Even Captain Nathaniel, his father, a stern disciplinarian, could not control William when enraged. Only one human being was ever known to calm his turbulent temper—his wife, Jennie Collins Austin. She alone, with her gentle voice, could quiet him when his seven-devils-of-a-temper flashed and flared.

#### THE FIRST SETTLER IN GREENVILLE COUNTY

Captain Nathaniel Austin was probably the first set-

tlar in what is now Greenville County, South Carolina. It is interesting to note how he came to make his home there. Shortly prior to 1761, Lieutenant Governor Dunwiddie, of Virginia, desirous of securing a larger share of their trade, sent a number of emissaries to the Cherokee, Catawba, and Chickasaw Indians, and succeeded in establishing very friendly relations with these tribes, and in obtaining a brisk trade between them and his Virginia commonwealth. Captain Nathaniel Austin, according to family tradition, was reputed as an officer of the Crown—as High Constable in Virginia—to have successfully settled many disputes with the Indians and to have been a masterly diplomat in negotiating with the Red Men. It is highly probable that his first visit to the Cherokees in the south, was by direction of Governor Dunwiddie, and that during these visits to the Cherokee Nation, attracted by the abundance of game, and the fertility and beauty of the country, he had bargained with the Cherokee chiefs to cede to him a large tract of land at Gilder, to which he later removed with his family and a few slaves in the spring of 1761.

Colonel S. S. Crittenden, in his history, "Greenville Century Book" (1903), says on pp. 9 and 10:

"Owing to its exposed situation and being still Indian territory, there were few settlements in this County previous to the Revolutionary War. Among the very first settlers was doubtless Nathaniel Austin, the great-grandfather of Hon. J. Thomas Austin, who immigrated from London to Virginia and then to South Carolina in 1761. He settled fifteen miles east of Greenville near Enoree River and Gilder's Creek. He held appointments as High Constable under George III until the troubles with England began. He then joined the patriot army, and with ten sons, did active service at different times during the war."

#### THE PIONEER AUSTINS

Captain Nathaniel Austin did not hold the office of High Constable for upper South Carolina, however, for what is now Greenville and the territory around it, then belonged to the Cherokee Nation and formed no part of