

YANCEYS WEST

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF AUSTIN YANCEY, HIS DESCENDANTS AND THEIR WESTWARD MIGRATION

The material from which this sketch is taken has been compiled from many years of research and correspondence. These efforts have been made by Mrs. Bertha Y. Jensen. She has very graciously shared this material and has given generous assistance and encouragement at all times.

To all others of our family and to our genealogical correspondants, we extend our gratitude. We will not list their names at this time due to lack of time and space and hope that they will understand.

This short history of our particular family is being sent to you, in order to generate more interest (we hope) in the history of the family of Yancey. Part of it is documented, much of it is heresay, but every scrap of information is necessary in order to complete a full picture of our Family. If you are interested, if you have any documents, stories, Bible records, pictures or any other material which pertains to our history, or if you know anyone who does, ^{will} you let us know. If pictures are sent, or any other original material, copies will be made and they will be returned as quickly as possible.

We are of course very interested in all families by the surname Yancey. For only by compiling records of the whole family can any one particular line be fully known. We will appreciate any corrections, revisions or additional material.

Austin Yancey is said to have been born in Tyson Co., N. C. on the 29th of August 1752. So far his parentage is unknown as are brothers and sisters, if any.

There is no record of a Tyson Co., N. C. There was, however, a Tryon Co. formed in 1768 and discontinued in 1779. Rutherford Co. was formed in 1779 from part of the former Tryon Co. In the year 1816 a postoffice was noted at William Tyson's store in Rutherford Co.

Austin married Sarah Garrison Feb 11, 1775. Sarah was born in 1756. She was then 19 years of age and he was 23 yrs..

Early that summer Austin entered the Service of the State of N. C. as a volunteer from Rutherford Co. He went to McKinney's Station on the Broad River and attached himself to the command of Col. William Graham, leader of the Rutherford Co. militia. He was directed to detach 25 men and proceed to Chimney Mt. on the Broad River. For four and one half months they guarded the mountain passes between Chimney Mt. and Green River Cove (Cave) a distance of about 20 miles. This was done in order to prevent the Cherokee Indians (then hostile) from making incursions between these points, upon the defenceless frontier settlers. In September of this same year these troops were disbanded.

Austin and Sarah's first child was born in 1776; a son named Austin, and then Sarah abt. 1778, Mary abt 1780, another daughter abt 1782, a daughter abt 1785, Nancy b. Aug 22, 1787 and James b. 1789.

In 1781, Austin visited relatives in South Carolina, and while there, troops were called to aid in the ~~siege~~ siege of Old Ninety-Six (an old district in S. C.) He volunteered and attached himself to Obid Holloway's Company. They were so engaged for a period of forty days, from the 22 May to 19 June 1781.

The first Federal Census taken in 1790 indicates Austin as a resident of Ninety-Six Dist. in S. C. The family then consisted of; 1 male over 16, 1 male under 16, and 4 females. Thus, 2 males and 1 female were no longer in the family household.

We now come to one of our major problems in unravelling our history. There are two Austin Yanceys, father and son. One of the Austins purchased 100 acres of land in 1794 from Samuel Hunter who had the original patent. This land was in Rutherford Co. N. C. on the north branch of Nobb (or Nash) Creek, a tributary of the Broad River.

We find a Sophie Yancey married to Burrell Bell, 17 Jan 1797. The witness to this marriage was Austin Yancey. Perhaps Sophie was one of the two unnamed daughters, and either her father or her brother was her witness. This was in Blount County Tenn. and it was about this time that our family started on it's long and slow westward migration.

Nancy, the youngest daughter, in 1805 married Benjamin Franklin Kelley. He was the son of Richard Kelley and Maria (Gibbs) Kelley who imigrated to America in 1773.

From 1800 thru 1806, Austin Yancey was on the tax list of the State of Kentucky. He then lived in Lincoln County on the Rolling Fork River and had 50 acres.

Richard Kelley Yancey was born in 1798 in Tenn, Matilda Yancey born 1803 and our Hiram John b. 3 Aug 1804, the latter two both born in Kentucky. Hiram John gave as his birthplace as Carey City in Bell County, Ky. These three gave their father as Austin Yancey and their mother as Marie. Conceivably then, either Austin could have been their father. It is possible that his wife Sarah was one of those missing in the 1790 Census, previously mentioned, and that Austin Sr. had remarried.

Hiram John married Elizabeth Pratt and their first son William Riley was born 3 June 1825 in Warren County, Tennessee. Richard married Elizabeth or Nancy Smith. About 1826 Austin Sr. , Richard and Hiram John with their respective families moved north to Williamson County, Ill. (then Franklin Co.) To date there is no record of Matilda.

When Austin Sr. was 81 years old in 1833, he made a deposition to the Franklin County Clerk applying for his pension for his Revolutionary War service. (previously quoted in part.) This was eventually denied him for he had less than the six months service time required. Williamson County was established in 1839 and was a division of the said Franklin County.

From May 15 until Aug 2, 1832, Hiram John and William R. Yancey served in Capt. Holman's Company in the Black Hawk War. It would seem that William R. could also be one of Austin's sons.

After living in Williamson Co. for about 25 years Hiram and Elizabeth Pratt Yancey, their eight children and their respective families, in 1853 left Illinois and started west. During their journey, as they passed through Missouri, Elizabeth died and was buried along the trail.

On the next page will be found a chart which is intended to simplify somewhat the two succeeding generations of Hiram John. It is arranged vertically by year, and horizontally by the respective children of H. J. Since much of the material was taken from old U. S. Census enumerations, we have endeavored to find the location of each family in the census taken at ten year intervals. Also shown are the marriage dates for each and the birth year and state of each of the children. This also illustrates the movement and eventual area of settlement of each family.

Correspondence invited please.

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