

**JOHN AUSTIN.**  
**Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**  
**1913**

John Austin was a grandson of James Austin, who was born about 1748, in Bedfordshire, England. His wife, Mary, was born in 1752, in the same shire. James Austin was fairly well to do, being very industrious, and had a respectable family of eight children. One Sunday afternoon, on his way home from visiting a friend, he broke a blood vessel while crossing a stile, and died soon after. The family was now dependent on the mother, and the children, who were going to school, were kept out and set to work. The mother died in 1835, being 83 years of age.

Joseph Austin was the seventh child of James and Mary Austin, and was born May 17, 1791, in Studham, Bedfordshire, England, where he lived all his days, and where he died September 14, 1870. He married Ann Mills about the year 1814, and to them were born eight children.

John Austin was the third child of Joseph and Ann Mills Austin. He was born December 3, 1822, in Studham, Bedfordshire, England, where he spent his youth and early manhood. He married Emma Grace March 20, 1847, on her twentieth birthday. She was a daughter of Thomas Grace and Mary Jayce Grace, and was born in Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, England, March 20, 1827. Soon after their marriage, this couple moved to Kinsmouth, Hartfordshire, where they resided for about one year, when they returned to Studham.

While in Kinsmouth; Mrs. Austin was converted to the Mormon faith and was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, January 5, 1848, by Elder Benjamin Johnson, and two years from that day Mr. Austin was immersed in the waters of baptism.

Soon after their conversion, this couple had a strong desire to emigrate to Utah to the body of the Church, as the principle of gathering was preached considerably throughout England at this time. It seemed to be a hopeless undertaking, however, as it was about all they could do to get the bare necessities of life for their ever-increasing family. Mrs. Austin, who was a woman of great faith and determination, was very anxious to do something to increase their scanty income, that her family might at some time be permitted to gather with the Saints in the valleys of Utah.

One day in 1854 a man came to her door selling straw for braiding. He persuaded her to buy a number of bundles to sell to her neighbors, offering her about one cent per bundle for profit.

Mrs. Austin was quite successful in this venture, and bought more bundles of straw, which she also sold at a profit. From this small beginning, in the course of time, a business was built up and a small store was conducted, which helped materially to swell the coffers of the family.

By 1866 sufficient means had been saved to send two of the children to Zion, accordingly the two oldest, Harriet and George, were sent. Two years later the father decided to emigrate, as perhaps the opportunities for making money were more plentiful in Utah than in England.

Two weeks before the vessel sailed on which John expected to travel, one of their neighbors who also expected to emigrate to Utah at this time offered to lend the money for the entire family to go. This man was Bartle Turner, the father of the Turner families of Lehi, and it is needless to say that the offer was thankfully accepted, the necessary preparations hurriedly made, and the family, which at this time consisted of father, mother, and nine children, was soon on its way to the West.

They crossed the ocean on the sailing vessel, "John Bright," and the plains

in Captain Joseph S. Rawlins' mule train, which left Laramie City July 25th, and arrived in Salt Lake City August 20, 1868. They came at once to Lehi, where their son and daughter, who had preceded them, were living, and have since made this place their home.

Soon after his arrival in Lehi, Mr. Austin took up farming and in connection with his sons was among the first to take up land on the bench north of Lehi on the Bull River Ditch. The father and sons have been eminently successful as tillers of the soil and when the sugar factory was located at Lehi, the Austin brothers were among the foremost to bring about the successful cultivation of the sugar beet.

As a consequence, a number of the sons of John Austin at the present time are superintendents of agriculture at some of the factories of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, George being the general superintendent of agriculture over all of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company factories.

After a well spent life of toil and devotion, having brought seventeen children into the world, twelve of whom grew up to manhood and womanhood. Mrs. Austin died, November 30, 1893.

In May, 1894, Mr. Austin married Elizabeth Pead, who preceded him just a few days to the Great Beyond. He died February 13, 1907. John Austin was a true and faithful Latter-day Saint, full of devotion to duty and true to every trust.

At the time of his death he presided over the high priests of Lehi, and was dearly beloved and respected by all. Hi's family has been active in many lines in the history, not only of Lehi, but of the intermountain region. They are noted for thrift, industry, and business sagacity, and are filling many positions of trust and honor both in church and state.

The names of John Austin's children are as follows: Harriet (Mrs. John

Jacobs), George, Joseph, Hiram, Alfred, Parley, Heber, William, Sarah Emma (Mrs. Charles Allen), Juliet (Mrs. John Brown), Hector, Anne (Mrs. Charles Munns), Mark, Thomas, Herbert, John Ezra, Lettie .(Mrs. Abraham Gudmundson), and Frank.