

# *Benjamin Ausmus*

*July 27, 1801 - 10 Oct 1862*

*Last Updated 04/10/09*

**ericausmus@hotmail.com**

## *Outline*

- Father: [Henry Ausmus](#)
- Mother: Linda Price
- Born: July 27, 1801 Johnson City, Washington County, TN
- Died Oct 10, 1862 Speedwell, Claiborne County, CA
- Married: Anna Christina Dunn on January 10, 1822

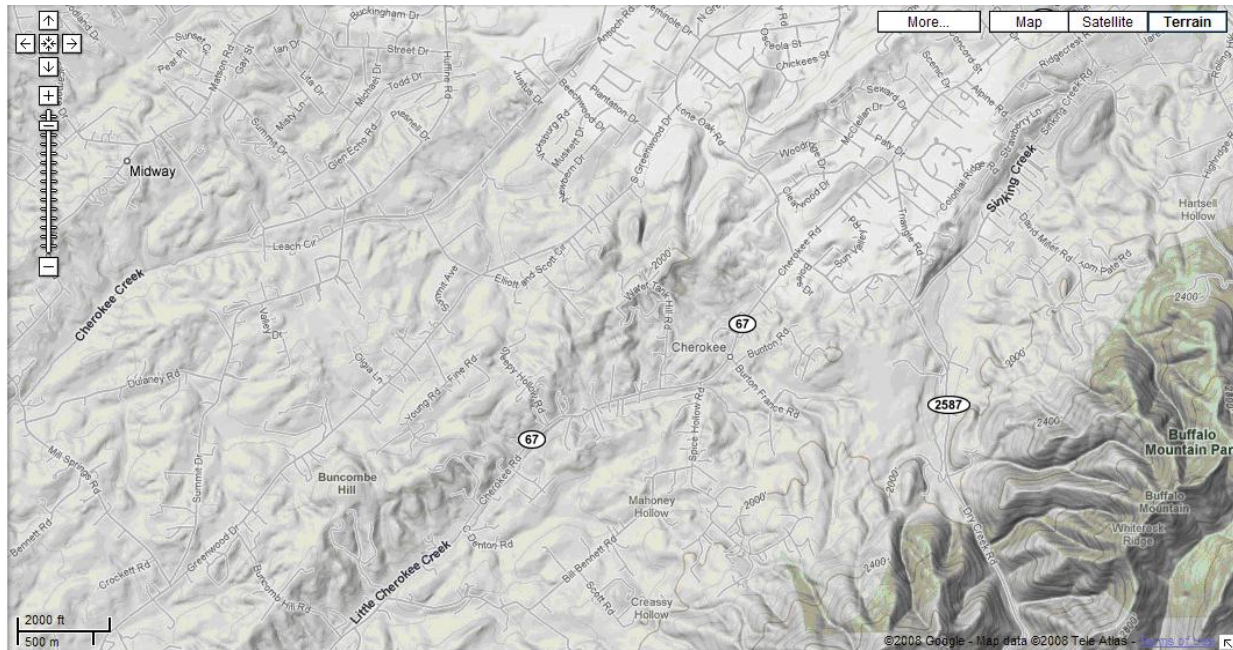
## *Children:*

1. Francis "Franklin" (12 Apr 1823 - 1857)
2. Catherine "Katie" (1825 -1827)
3. Rachael (1 Nov 1827 - Henry Morgan **Sowder** (18 Jan 1830-18 June 1915)
4. Hiram (19 Feb 1830 - c1864) m. Sarah "Sally" **Bollinger** (Oct 1831 - c1914)
5. Henry (5 Jun 1831 - 12 Feb 1912) m. Matilda **Bollinger** (07 Jan 1834 - 2 Nov 1919)
6. Thomas (4 May 1833 - 3 Jan 1874) m. Polly Emily **Rogers**
7. Captain William B. (27 Dec 1837 - November 11, 1907)
8. Susan (28 Jun 1837 - 28 Jul 1908) m1 Henry **Hunter** m2. Calloway **Graves**
9. John Franklin (4 Mar 1839 - 5 Nov 1864) m. Manerva J. **Rogers**
10. Joseph "Joe" (11 Sep 1841 - 5 Feb 1918) m. Polly Ann **Hunter**
11. [Benjamin](#) (10 Oct 1843 - 31 May 1928)
12. Malinda (16 Apr 1846 - 26 Dec 1924) m. Sampson **Edwards**

## SUMMARY

On July 27, 1801, **Benjamin Ausmus** was born as the oldest child [Johannes Heinrich Ausmus](#) (Henry Ausmus) and **Malinda** (Price) **Ausmus** while living near the west

fork of Cherokee Creek, just one mile south of what would become present day Johnson City, Tennessee.



1 mile southwest Johnson City, Tennessee

Benjamin was an increasingly common name to young Americans due to Benjamin Franklin's legacy. One year prior to Benjamin's birth, the City of Philadelphia lost its bid to become capital of the United States, and Washington D.C. became the Capital as the second President, John Adams and first lady Abigail Adams moved in the President's House later to become known as the White House.

**Benjamin Ausmus** was raised in the rural community of what would later be known as "Speedwell" in Powell's Valley, Claiborne County, Tennessee where he farmed 400 acres of land. Ben was over 6' tall and weighed 225 pounds. [3] He married **Anna Christina Dunn Ausmus** in Speedwell, TN and raised 13 children. Some tradition states Benjamin Ausmus did a little preaching at the Davis Creek Baptist Church [16].

The children's birth dates of **Ben Ausmus** and **Anna C. Dunn** can be found written in the bible once held by Susan Ausmus. The Bible made its way to the hands of "Aunt Em" Graves in Knoxville, Kentucky (1955). The following abstract is taken from Lawrence Edward's Old Speedwell Families, 1955:

*Well, we went; and found Aunt Em rocking in her wicker rocking chair on the front porch of her home near Knoxville. We greeted her, pulled chairs close up, and after inquiring about her health, dipped right into the matter that had brought us. "Law me, I caint remember nothin no more," said Aunt Em. Then a recollection coursed through her brain that disproved her*

statement. "fetch me my old Bible," she said to her son, "that real old un." He brought it; she handed it to Susie.

*"They's some dates somers in that bible, the births of that whole family of **Ausmuses**," she said. "See if you can find 'em, Susie." Susie thumbed through the old Bible and I held my breath. She turned and turned, and then there it was; a faded yellow sheet with the birthdates of all the children of **Ben Ausmus** and **Anna Christina Dunn.**, my paternal great grandparents. Only one who has prospected long, and futilely in barren sands and among the profitless boulders of a wasteland and one day sticks his shovel in the ground near his own cabin and turns up a nugget the size of a cocoanut can know how I felt."*

Benjamin Ausmus died on 10 Oct 1862 <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup> He is buried in the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, Tennessee. The photo of his grave appears to show a damaged above-ground grave remarked by a modern flush marker. Photo curtsey of <sup>[19]</sup>. The new markers appear to match that of his parents.





## *Timeline*

When Benjamin was about 8 years old, he heard word of his grandfather's passing in nearby Powell's Valley, Tennessee, leaving valuable farmland. As eldest child of Philip, Benjamin's father would inherit this land. This area of Tennessee was about 130 miles west north west from Johnson City and would become the Ausmus Families future home for generations. Benjamin's father gathered the family and all their belongings and moved to Philip Ausmus' old home; a small cabin made with hewn logs with a detached kitchen and outhouse. Many of Benjamin's relatives had established themselves in Powell's Valley as early as 1797 when the land was still unclaimed Indian lands. Benjamin's father would have been anxious to become reacquainted with his cousins, nieces and nephews, some of which aided in the establishment of the Davis Creek Baptist Church.

During Benjamin's youth, the land west the Missouri River was uncharted and no one had any idea of how far the Pacific Ocean was. Certainly there were fur traders who had ventured a bit west of the river, and some had heard from the Indians about the "Great Rocky Mountains", but It wasn't until 1804 that *Lewis and Clark* would reach beyond this territory and survey a North West Passage to the Pacific Ocean in an expedition funded by Congress and Thomas Jefferson.

In 1811, when Benjamin was 10 years old, the largest earthquake ever recorded in American History was felt by millions of people. Many people had to re-build their stone foundations and chimneys. According to legend, this earthquake was so large that twenty acres of land on Piney River in Missouri had suddenly sunk so low, that the tops of the trees were on a level with the surrounding earth.

Like all other early settlers, Benjamin's father was land speculator and farmer. Speculators purchased land and quickly resold it for a profit to the newly arriving settlers. But foremost, Benjamin's father was a farmer. As a young boy, Benjamin must have helped his father on the farm and possibly attended church at the Davis Creek Baptist Church in Speedwell, Tennessee. Since there was no such thing as a public school in those days, all schooling (if at all) was done at home. And because there were no schools, there was often a perpetual cycle of illiteracy where illiterate parents could not teach their children to read or write.

In February of 1816 when Benjamin was 15, his father purchased 247 acres of land in Claiborne County from his relative, **Samuel Weaver** which was proven in court by the oaths of relatives **Henry Hunter** and **Frederick Bolonger** [sic]. Samuel had married Mary Bollinger, Benjamin's father's step sister. Mary and Frederick Bollinger were brother and sister, and Henry Hunter, had married Barbara Bollinger, sibling to both Frederick and Mary. It must be realized by the reader that

these communities in early America were so small; it was very hard to marry someone who was not related in some way.

### 1816 (age 15)

1816 would also create an epoch in the Ausmus family line, many of Benjamin's relatives left Claiborne County and would settle in Illinois to take advantage of the governmental sale of newly opened Indian Lands. Some of these relatives are as follows:

- Uncle **Peter Ausmus**, (b. 1775), his wife, **Rhoda (Roberts) Ausmus** their children
- Uncle **John Ausmus** (b. 1778), his wife, **Nancy (Hill) Ausmus** and their children

A few years later:

- Uncle **Philip [Jr.]** who purchased 16,000 acres of land in Illinois
- **Frederick Bollinger**

### 1821 (age 20)

When Benjamin was 20 years old, Missouri became the 24<sup>th</sup> State of the United States and Thomas Jefferson completes his autobiography.

### January 10, 1822 (age 20)

At the age of 20, Benjamin marries his neighbor, **Anna Christina Dunn** (4 May 1802 - 23 Jun 1882) <sup>[18]</sup> in Powell's Valley, Tennessee. Anna was daughter of [Thomas Dunn and Margaret "Martha" Beeler Smith](#), early settlers of Powell's Valley who settled one mile north of Benjamin's father's place <sup>[3]</sup>. As was common for the day, Anna's brother, **Johnny Dunn** married Benjamin's sister, **Rachael Ausmus**. Young Benjamin and his new wife would move out of their parent's home and would raise their family next door. Anna was



2A1 ANNA CHRISTINA DUNN (1802-1881),  
Wife of Ben Ausmus (1801-1862).

said to be of Irish decent and was a large woman. <sup>[3]</sup> Nearly all of Anna's descendants named their children after Anna as she must have been a wonderful loving mother.

### **12 April 1823 (age 21)**

Benjamin and Anna's first child, **Francis "Franklin" Ausmus** (12 Apr 1823 - 1857) is born. Francis, named after his mother's brother became a Deputy Sheriff at the age of 23 in Claiborne County as stated in the 1850 Census for Claiborne County. Other than being listed in the 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses, nothing else is known of Francis as he died from the measles on the day he was to wed. <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup>

### **January 1, 1825 (age 23)**

The citizens of Claiborne County demonstrated an unusual attention to judicial and societal matters, even forming the Tazewell Animi-cultus Literary Society. This group pondered such philosophical and civic-minded questions as the construction of a state penitentiary, dueling, biblical justification (or lack thereof) of slavery, the two-party system of government, and public election versus court appointment of civil officers <sup>[13]</sup>.

### **1825 (age 24)**

Benjamin and Anna's first daughter, **Catherine "Katie"** is born. She died in 1827. <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup>

In 1826, the first railway in the United States is opened in Massachusetts. However, it would be another 25 years before Tennesseans would see their first rail car.

Dixon Lead Pencils are first produced.

### **1 Nov 1828 (age ?)**

Benjamin and Anna's third child and second daughter, **Rachael Ausmus** (1 Nov 1828 - 15 April 1902) is born. Rachael's B-day is known from her eulogy from the Chariton, Indiana newspaper from 1902. She later marries **Henry Morgan Sowder** (18 Jan 1830-18 June 1915) <sup>[1]</sup> and has thirteen children. "Morgan" Sowder and Rachael can be found in the 1850 census with two daughters, Anna and Milly. According to the 1870 Census for Dallas in Pulaska County, KY, she is a 42 year old homemaker. She had 13 children <sup>[1]</sup> and according to Lawrence Edwards, three of her children died before reaching adulthood. When the 1900 US census was taken for Union Township, Lucas County, Iowa <sup>[23]</sup>, Rachael and Morgan can be seen married for 51 years living on a farm with their youngest son, Ben living in the home. Rachael never learned to read or write.

Marriage Licence Issd the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1847  
to Henry M. Bowder for his inter marriage  
with Rachel Ausmus

1828 (age 27)

Ludwig Von Beethoven dies in Vienna at age 56. Wooden matches are invented.

February 19, 1829 (age 27)

Benjamin and Anna's second son and fourth child, **Hiram Ausmus** (19 Feb 1830 – c1864) is born and named after his uncle (1810–Aft 1870). Hiram later marries **Sarah Bollinger** (Oct 1831 – c1914) on 20 May 1850 in Claiborne County, TN <sup>[9]</sup>. Shortly after the marriage, they can be seen living in Benjamin and Anna's home adjacent to Jacob Bollinger and Hannah (Jenkins), parents of Sarah. According to book *Ausmus Family History 1711-1962*, Hiram is said to have "died with the chills" while living in Arkansas. Another reference states he died while fighting in the civil war. However, no reference can be found. Three years after Hiram's death, Sarah remarried a farmer, **George F. Wright** in Claiborne County, Tennessee. She learned the trade of carpet weaver as stated in two census records. After the death of her second husband, she moved to Kansas adjacent to her oldest son, Benjamin Franklin Ausmus in Balderson, Marshall County, Kansas. According to the censuses, Sarah gave birth to eleven children, eight of which lived to adulthood. For more information on some of their children, see this [webpage](#). Neither Hiram nor Sarah's graves have been located by this researcher.

Marriage License Issd, the 30<sup>th</sup> January  
1867, to George F. Wright for his  
inter marriage with Sarah Ausmus  
H. Cardwell clerk

1830 (age 29)

Benjamin is listed as the head of household in Claiborne County's U.S. Census for District 2. Although the names are not explicitly stated, Benjamin and his Anna list the following children:

Francis: Age 7  
 Rachael age 3  
 Hiram age 1

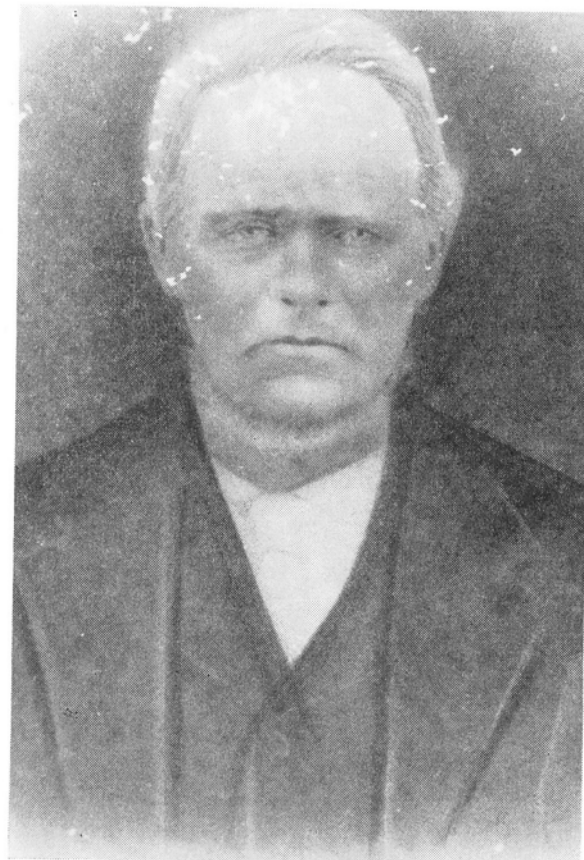
As shown in the census, Benjamin is living next to his father, **Henry Ausamus** (age 56). Benjamin's neighbors also include his relatives: **Mordeca Price, Frederick B[ollinger] Hunter, David Bolinger, Thomas Dunn and John Dunn.**

NAME OF DECEASED		Ausamus, Henry		
NAME OF SURVIVANT	Widow,	Ausamus, Matilda		
	Minor,			
ADDRESS		E. b. Tenn. Inf		
DATE OF FILING	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
1873 Aug 14	Insured,	456,456	756,326	Tenn
1873 Aug 16	Widow,	982,594	749,137	Tenn
	Minor,			

1830 Mary had a little lamb was first written Sarah Josepha Hale of Newport, N. H. Plans for the City of Chicago, Illinois were starting to be laid out. The first locomotive, "Tom Thumb" ran in Maryland. It wouldn't be for another two decades or more before Tennessee acquired a well-run rail system. Also in 1830, an African-American male was found guilty in Claiborne County of killing his mistress and was hanged for the crime. The hanging took place a short distance from the town, allowing room for public attendance. The man's bones were preserved at the local apothecary shop of Dr. Alfred Neal [11].

### 5 Jun 1831 (age 30)

Benjamin's and Anna give birth to their third son, **Rev. Henry Ausmus** (5 Jun 1831 - 12 Feb 1912) who is born and named after his father. Henry would marry the sister to his brother's wife, **Matilda Bollinger** (07 Jan 1834 - 2 Nov 1919) on 10 Jan 1854. Matilda was the daughter of **Jacob Bolinger** and **Hannah (Jenkins)**. She was a midwife and delivered hundreds of babies in the Davis Creek and Speedwell areas. All eleven of her daughter's (Anna) children were



3A5 HENRY AUSMUS, Pastor of Davis Creek Church.



delivered by Matilda between 1889 and 1910 <sup>[10]</sup>. Henry preached at the Davis Creek Baptist Church for forty years and served in the Civil war as a wagoner with his younger brother, **Captain William B. Ausmus**. Henry and Matilda are buried in the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, TN.

Letter Written by Henry Ausmus April 20th 1906 (*on letterhead of S. Edwards & Sons: General Merchandise, Dry Goods Notions, and Country Produce*):

*Henry Ausmus and Matilda Bolinger was Married January the 10th 1854 Henry Ausmus was bornd [sic] June the 5th 1831. Matilda Bolinger was bornd January the 7th 1834. The children of the above, Rachel Ausmus was bornd March the 22nd 1855. Huston [sic] Ausmus was bornd Nov the 15th 1856. Melvina Ausmus was bornd Jan. the 16th 1859. David Ausmus was bornd Dec the 11th 1860. Matida [sic] Ausmus was bornd July the 22 1862.*

The picture below is courtesy Lawrence Edwards from Old Speedwell Families. This was the **Beeler** house which was built circa 1800 in Speedwell Tennessee. Before the Civil War, it was known as the Davy Beeler House, but it came into Ausmus hands about the time of the outbreak of the war and was then occupied by John Ausmus, son of Hiram. It is now (1955) owned by Garfield Clawson, grandson of John Ausmus, and is located about one mile south of Highway 63 and about fifteen miles northeast of La Follette, in the Clawson community.



## 11 Jan 1834 (age 22)

Benjamin purchases 160 acres of land from his father for \$600 which included the old Ausmus fort-like house of Benjamin's grandfather <sup>[3]</sup> of which his father had helped build. Ben's father moved into a smaller house nearby also constructed by his grandfather in which he would live until his death in 1849.

## May 4, 1833 (age 32)

Benjamin and Anna give birth to **Thomas Ausmus** (4 May 1833 - 3 Jan 1874) who is named after Anna's father. Thomas later marries **Polly Emily Rogers** (June 1835-May 29, 1898) daughter of **Jesse Rogers** and **Margaret Wilson**. They married on March 4, 1854 <sup>[9]</sup>. Thomas is later murdered at the age of 41 by Ananias Honeycutt on January 3, 1874 <sup>[3]</sup>. It is said that the murder may have been over the sale of a pig; with large rocks being used as the weapon.

*Ananias Honeycutt was convicted of the murder of Thomas Ausmus. Honeycutt was arrested a week after the murder in January of 1874 and was detained in the county jail; in August of 1875, he was to be hanged for the crime. Following his prosecution, Honeycutt defended himself through a ten-page printed 'confession' in which he recounted his version of the incident, claiming that had been framed for the murder. In the booklet, Honeycutt claimed that his brother-in-law, Henry Mayers, had privately confessed the crime to him and swore him to secrecy. However, since a couple of witnesses had seen Honeycutt with Ausmus on the morning of the murder, he was placed under arrest, whereupon the victim's family threatened him. Maintaining his innocence, Honeycutt stated that the son of the slain man threatened that if Honeycutt "did not implicate Henry Mayers with the murder of his father, he would fill [Honeycutt] with pine splinters and set [him] on fire." Honeycutt first claimed ignorance and then stated that his brother-in-law "was connected with the murder." Since Mayers was already being held in jail for the murder of Ausmus, perhaps Honeycutt's knowledge of his brother-in-law's guilt implicated him, as well. Honeycutt was chained and placed in jail, though he omits the fate of Mayers from his essay. He stated: "Since I have been lodged in the jail of this [Claiborne] county, I have often been visited by the relations and friends of the Ausmus family, trying to extort a confession from me." As witnesses, according to Honeycutt, perjured themselves in court, the evidence (probably considered circumstantial today) against him accumulated. Maintaining a clear conscience to the end, Honeycutt's final wish was that God take care of his wife and small child, and that his "friends, one and all, meet [him] in Heaven."*

*The day of Honeycutt's hanging was a major social event for the citizens of Claiborne County. Families packed picnic lunches to attend the event. Between 5,000 and 6,000 people, approximately half the county's population at the time, were on hand. A procession of fifty guards accompanied Honeycutt and his coffin from the jail to the site of the hanging, which took place in what was historically called "Academy Hollow," near the Kentucky Road (today, the intersection of Clear Fork Road and Highway 25E, within walking distance from*

*the jail). Reverend Billy Cruthfield [Crutchfield] [husband of Lena Jane Ausmus (24 Sep 1815 - 29 Sep 1889)] preached for an hour, and a second preacher, Reverend Greer, spoke as well. Honeycutt was allowed some final words, asking the crowd to meet him in heaven, reinforcing his claim of innocence. His head was covered, and the wagon pulled out from under him. His family took him home to bury. This was the last hanging to take place in Claiborne County* <sup>[12]</sup>.

Thomas Ausmus is buried in the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, TN. <sup>[20]</sup>

On December 27, 1834 Benjamin and Anna give birth to **William B. Ausmus**. William B. later marries three times: **Sarah Jane Cawood**, Sarah's sister **Adeline Cawood**, then **Dorcas Branscomb**. William was a Captain in the Civil War and is Census taker for Claiborne County. William had 13 children, of which the youngest, and only boy, **James Canday Ausmus** was born. James worked in the coal mines of Middlesboro, KY and married his cousin, **Matilda (Ausmus) Edwards**. Captain William Ausmus died November 11, 1907. His third wife died on March 16, 1940. Although his middle name is not exactly known, a very good guess would be "Bollinger", his grandmother's maiden name.

Also in 1834, the very first refrigerator, which was more like an icebox was invented. Claiborne County would not get a refrigerator until after Benjamin's death.

According to early records of the Claiborne County Court, debt was one of the most common offenses. Debt, and other non-violent offenses, drew the punishment of lashing at the county whipping post, which was located between the jail and the courthouse and consisted of a yoke, similar to an oxen harness. The county jail contained a room, eighteen square feet in size, specifically for debtors; it was one of the units on the second floor. There, the sheriff held people who made no attempt to resolve their indebtedness. It was the sheriff's responsibility to take debtors, two at a time, from the jail to the post for whipping until they promised to find work that would pay off their debts <sup>[13]</sup>.

### **March 1836 (age 35)**

Benjamin and Anna would have got word about the battle of the Alamo. Beginning on February 23, 1836 Santa Anna leads 3,000 men in a siege of the Alamo, killing all 187 Texans inside on March 6.

In 1837 Samuel Morse invents the telegraph paving the way for the future telephone industry.

Although land speculation had been occurring in North America since the settlers arrived, the early 1830's became the pinnacle of land speculation. State banks, cut loose from central restraint and gorged with federal funds, went on a lending spree that helped fuel a speculative boom in western lands. Between the years 1834 and

1836, land speculation increase 5-fold. Most speculators bought for the short-term in hopes that the newly government created canals, turnpikes and promised railroad would bring a huge influx of westward immigrants. Illinois was one such state in which many of Benjamin's brothers, uncles and cousins purchased tens of thousands of acres after the end of the of the Native American occupancy at the end of the Black Hawk War of 1832.

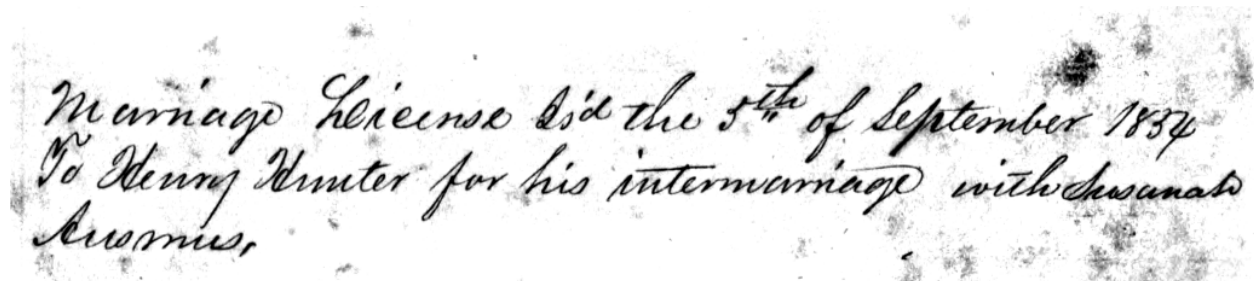
The Federal government, in an attempt to secure Illinois via citizen occupancy and acquire revenue, sold the land cheap. President Andrew Jackson's unsatisfactory experiment with the state banks helped drive his economic thinking toward more radical extremes. He renounced all banknote currency and demanded a return to the "hard money" of gold and silver. To that end, and to curb rampant speculation, he ordered the issuance of a "Specie Circular" in 1836 requiring payment in coin for western public lands. Most historians believe, this demand for hard money resulted in the Panic of 1837.

### *Panic of 1837*

A five year depression hits the United States as a result of land speculation

#### **June 28, 1837 (age 35)**

**Susannah Ausmus** (28 Jun 1837 - 28 Jul 1908) is born to Benjamin and Anna. She later m1. **Henry Hunter** on 5 Sept 1854 <sup>[14]</sup> and had two daughters. Susan married second, **Calloway Graves** (6 Nov 1831 - 8 Mar 1892) on 6 Sep 1885 <sup>[22]</sup>. He first married Elizabeth Keck. Susan and Calloway lived most of most of their lives in district 10, Union County, Tennessee adjacent to Calloway's parents. Susan and Calloway gave birth to 14 children. When the 1880 census was taken, son William A. Graves can be seen listed as recovering from a "snake bite"<sup>[23]</sup>. According to Hiram Graves, Calloway was a very devout Primitive Baptist and never had an enemy. During the civil war he did undercover work for the Union Army, smuggled men to Kentucky and supplied information to the Federal forces. He died March 30, 1892 in Sharps Chapel, Union County, TN and is buried in the Graves Cemetery. Shed died 28 Jul 1908. <sup>[18]</sup>A painting of Calloway and Susannah has been posted at "Find a Grave" memorial 43684290.



Marriage License Iss'd the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1834  
To Henry Hunter for his intermarriage with Susannah  
Ausmus,



1838 Cholera Epidemic and Malaria outbreak in Tennessee.

### 1838 (age 37)

Trail of Tears was dubbed by the Indians as thousands were displaced westward. Eight years prior the Congress of the United States passed the "Indian Removal Act." Although many Americans were against the act, most notably Tennessee Congressman **Davy Crockett**, it passed anyway. President **Andrew Jackson** signed the bill into law. President Andrew Jackson was a Jonesboro, Tennessee native and had fought with the Indians during his military career. Davy Crockett was born 5 miles southwest of Benjamin's father's home in Washington County, TN.

### March 4, 1839 (age 37)

Benjamin and Anna give birth to **John Franklin Ausmus** (4 Mar 1839 – 5 Nov 1864) who married **Manerva J. Rogers** (4 Sep 1841 -3 Feb 1916). They had the following children:

1. Sarah (c1859 - ?); age 1 in Oct 1860.
2. Emily 1 Sep 1860 – Sep 1891) m. Lafayette Stiner
3. William Harrison (17 Mar 1862 – 26 Jan 1924) m. Ann Russell
4. John Frankin "Dr. John Blue" (11 Dec 1863 – 11 Feb 1933) m. Anne Ausmus

John enlisted as a private in the Union Army and was taken prisoner in Anderson Georgia. He died at age 25 from disease. Reference <sup>[3]</sup> states he died at Altoon station at Lookout Mountain and was "killed".

## American Civil War Soldiers

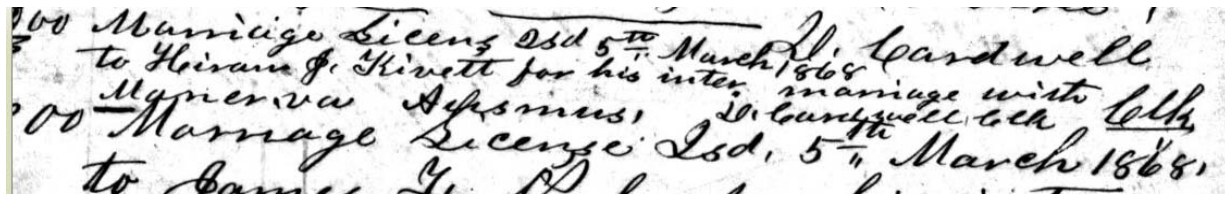
### about John Osmus

**Name:** John Osmus  
**Side Served:** Union  
**State Served:** Regular Army  
Enlisted as a Private.  
**Service Record:** Enlisted in [Company I, 4th Cavalry Regiment Regular Army](#).  
Died of disease as a POW [Company I, 4th Cavalry Regiment Regular Army](#) on 5 Nov 1864 at Andersonville, GA.

**Sources:** 304,570,43

Four years later, on 5 Mar 1868, John's widowed wife, Manerva marries second, **Hiram "Harvey" John Kivett** (Oct 1847 – 3 Feb 1916) who was born in North Carolina and served in the military in 1870. Minerva gave birth to 11 total children,

eight of which lived to adulthood. Minerva's grave is located in the Ausmus Cemetery.



1839 the common bicycle is invented.

### 1839 (age 38)

Anna's father **Thomas Dunn** passes away in Claiborne County, TN. He is buried in the Dunn Cemetery in Speedwell, TN. <sup>[21]</sup>

Also in 1840, slavery's Underground Railroad is underway.

### 1840 (age 39)

When the 1840 US Federal Census was taken Benjamin can be seen living next to his parents. The following unnamed children are itemized: 221101-101001

- John Franklin (b. 1839; age 1)
- William B. (b. 1834; age 5)
- Thomas age (b. 1833; age 7)
- Henry (b. 1831; age 9)
- Hiram (b. 1829; age 11)
- Francis (b. 1829; age 17)
- Benjamin (b 1801; age 39)
- Susannah (b. 1837; age 3)
- Rachael (b 1828; age 12)
- Anna C. Ausmus (b. 1802; age 38)

Benjamin and Anna's daughter, Rachael is raising two daughters in **Morgan Sowder's** home, and are not listed here.

### September 11, 1841 (age 40)

Benjamin Ausmus and Anna give birth to **Joseph Ausmus** who later marries **Mary "Polly" Ann Hunter** (2 Sep 1842-5Feb 1918). In the 1860 Census he is 19 and still living at home. Joseph enlisted in the Civil War on the Union side along with his brothers. He served as a private in the 1st Tennessee Infantry [M392 roll 1]. In the 1900 Census he is a farmer and still living in Claiborne County and with Polly in the fourteenth year of marriage. Joseph dies on June 3, 1912 in Union County, TN.

October 1843 Benjamin and Anna give birth to [Benjamin Ausmus Jr.](#) (10 Oct 1843 – 31 May 1928). Benjamin owned a store in Speedwell, TN and would later marry three times and have 21 children. His wives were **Barbara Hunter**, **China O'Dell**, and **Martha Adeline Beeler**.

#### 16 April 1846 (age 44)

Benjamin and Anna's daughter **Malinda Ausmus** is born and named after father's mother, **Malinda (Price) Ausmus**. She later marries **Sampson Edwards** who worked in a flour mill. They had fourteen children. Their second son was Dr. Lawrence Edwards, author of *Old Speedwell Families*. Malinda learned to read but not write. She died the day after Christmas 1924.



1846 Anesthesia is used for tooth extraction for the very first time. Poor Tennesseans would not have this luxury for some time later.

#### 1846 (age 45)

Anna's mother dies and is buried next to her husband in the Dunn Cemetery in Speedwell, TN <sup>[21]</sup>.

#### 16 Dec 1846 (age 45)

Benjamin's 22 year old daughter **Rachael Ausmus** marries **Henry Morgan Sowder** in Speedwell, Tennessee.

1848 Gold is found at Sutter's mill leading to the California Gold Rush.

#### 3 May 1849 (age 48)

Benjamin's father, Henry passes away and is buried next to his home which would become the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, TN.

In June 1849, Tennessee experiences a cholera epidemic and Benjamin's father and neighbor, **Henry Ausmus** dies at age 75. Benjamin inherits his father's estate.

#### 21 Nov 1850 (age 49)

Census for Claiborne County, District 2, Benjamin states the value of real estate \$2,200, which is relatively high. Eldest son, **Francis Ausmus** is listed as a deputy sheriff at age 27 and living at home with his father. All children are attending school. **Matilda Ausmus** (age 16) is living next door to Benjamin with cousin, **Jacob Bolinger** and **Hannah Bolinger**. Benjamin and Anna's children have ages that are explicitly stated and are as follows:

Francis; age 27  
Hiram; age 21  
Henry; age 19  
Sarah [Bollinger w/o Henry]; age 18  
Thomas; age 17  
William; age 15  
Susan; age 13  
John; age 11  
Joseph; age 9  
Benjamin; age 7  
Malinda; age 4

#### **4 Mar 1854 (age 52)**

Benjamin's fourth son, **Thomas Ausmus** (age 21) marries **Polly Emily Rogers**. 1857

#### **26 May 1855 (age 53)**

Benjamin is mentioned in the inventory notes belonging to the estate of [William Kincaid](#).

Note on Henry Ausmus \$1.43

Note on Benjamin Ausmus \$53.49

Note on Thomas Ausmus \$4.62

#### **1857 (age 56)**

Benjamin and Anna's oldest son and promising Sheriff dies of the measles on the day he was to wed.

#### **1 Jun 1860 (age 59)**

Benjamin and Anna appear in the 1860 census.



2	3	4	5	6	7
	Benjamin Adams	59	M.	W.	Farmer
	Anna C. "	60	F.	"	"
	Joseph "	19	M.	"	"
	Benjamin "	17	"	"	"
	Melinda "	13	F.	"	"
	Martha "	78	"	"	"
	William Cooper	21	M.	"	"

**6 Nov 1860 (age 59)**

Abraham Lincoln is elected president, the first Republican, receiving 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

**Feb 9, 1861 (age 59)**

The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Army officer, as president.

**April 12, 1861 (age 59)**

At 4:30 a.m. Confederates under Gen. Pierre Beauregard open fire with 50 cannons upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War begins...

**April 15, 1861 (age 59)**

President Lincoln issues a Proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen, and summoning a special session of Congress for July 4. Benjamin and Anna must have heard the news and shuttered for the safety of their country and for their family.

**April 17, 1861 (age 59)**

Tennessee secedes from the Union forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union will soon have 21 states and a population of over 20 million. Benjamin and Anna's sons would join with the Union. Roving bands of murderous thugs run around the State of Tennessee killing supporters of the north and south.

**April 6/7, 1862 (age 60)**

Confederate surprise attack on Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's unprepared troops at Shiloh on the Tennessee River results in a bitter struggle with 13,000 Union killed and wounded and 10,000 Confederates, more men than in all previous American wars combined. The president is then pressured to relieve Grant but resists. "I can't spare this man; he fights," Lincoln says.

#### **April 11, 1862 (age 60)**

Benjamin and Anna's son, **William B. Ausmus** gets mustered at Camp Spears in Company "E" Organized at Boston, Kentucky, April, 1862;



3A7 CAPTAIN WILLIAM (Bill) AUSMUS  
of the Union Army. Died Nov. 11, 1907.

On September 2, the 3rd and 6th, under Colonel Shelley, of the 5th, moved to McMinnville, where they were joined a little later by General Spears, with the rest of the brigade. The brigade left McMinnville on September 13, and after some marching and countermarching, arrived at Chattanooga September 21, just after the battle of Chickamauga. Here the brigade was stationed at the bridge over Chickamauga Creek, just outside of Chattanooga, with instructions to stop all Federal soldiers below the rank of major general. The 6th, with five companies of the 5th, was attacked here by Confederate troops, and after a fight of about an hour and a half, fell back to a point on **Lookout Mountain**, where the 6th was again attacked on September 24 and withdrew into Chattanooga.

Colonel Cooper was promoted to brigadier general on June 4; Lieutenant Colonel Maynard was in command of the regiment until he had to relinquish command for a time on June 22, during which time Captain Marcus D. Bearden commanded until he was wounded on July 1, after which **Captain William Ausmus** took command. Captain William L. Lea, of Company "C", was killed in the heavy fighting on August 6, 1864. Mustered out at Nashville, April 24 to June 30, 1865 [8].

At Nashville, April 27, 1865, all but a detachment of recruits was mustered out of service, having served a few days over three years and moved on foot and otherwise nearly 10,000 miles.

*The Battle Above the Clouds* on the other flank, while Sherman was making his initial attack, Hooker had moved out with three divisions. His mission was to get into Chattanooga Valley and occupy Rossville Gap. Grant realized that once the battle started, Hooker's previous mission of protecting the vital line of communication down Lookout Valley had no further importance. Accordingly, Howard's Corps had been withdrawn from Hooker's Command and moved to Chattanooga before the battle started. Grant originally planned to move Hooker's other two divisions to Chattanooga so they could advance on Rossville Gap without having to fight their way past Lookout Mountain. But difficulties the pontoon bridge made this impossible, and resulted in Hooker's having three divisions instead of two. Grant accordingly, ordered to attack around **Lookout Mountain**.

The Confederates were holding **Lookout Mountain** to guard against an enemy approach from Trenton. Sherman had, in fact, sent Ewing's division toward that place as a diversion; it rejoined his main body for the attack on Missionary Ridge.

Lookout Mountain drops precipitously several hundred feet from a plateau nearly 1,100 feet above the river. The top was occupied by two Confederate brigades. Walthall's brigade (Cheatham) blocked the narrow passage around the northern face of the mountain, and Moore's brigade of the same division was posted up the slope from it. Geary's division, reinforced by one Cruft's brigades, crossed Lookout Creek above the Wauhatchie at about 8 A.M. Osterhaus and the rest of Cruft's division followed. Contact was made at about 10 o'clock, and a sharp fight took place around Craven's Farm ("the White House"). A heavy fog covered the scene as both sides brought up reinforcements. About noon the defenders were driven from Craven's Farm to a new position about 400 yards away. Here they were reinforced by the two brigades from the plateau, and held this position from 2 o'clock until after midnight, when they were ordered to withdraw. The name "Battle above the Clouds" was given to this engagement after the war. The next morning a party from the 8<sup>th</sup> Ky. scaled the heights to plant the Stars and Stripes at a point plateau, and held this position from 2 o'clock until after midnight, when they were ordered to withdraw. The name "Battle above the Clouds" was given to this engagement after the war. The next morning a party from the 8<sup>th</sup> Ky. scaled the heights to plant the Stars and Stripes at a point

### **July 1, 1862 (age 60)**

Congress passes the Internal Revenue Act, creating the Bureau of Internal Revenue (later renamed to the Internal Revenue Service). This act was intended to "provide Internal Revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the Public Debt." Instituted in the height of the Civil War, the "Public Debt" at the time primarily consisted of war expenses. Taxable goods and services were determined by legislative acts passed throughout the years. All persons, partnerships, firms,

associations, and corporations submitted to the assistant assessor of their division, a list showing the amount of annual income, articles subject special taxes and duties, and the quantity of goods made or sold that were charged with taxes or duties [15]. The following is a list a copy of the list created on June 7, 1862:

NAME OF OWNER.	DESCRIPTION OF LOTS AND LANDS.		VALUATION.	TAXES.				
				FEED, AND NOTICE GIVEN. AMT CHARGED.	PAID WITHIN DEFTY DATE.		PAID AMOUNT	
	NO. OF LOT	NO. OF ACRES			Dolls	Cts	Dolls	Cts
Ausmus John		115	1,000	\$ 50				
Ausmus Benj. Jr.		200	200	70				
Ausmus Benj. Sr.		400	\$3,600	12 60				
Ausmus Hiram		200	800	20 80				

Benjamin owns 400 acres of land valued at \$3,600 of which he is taxed \$12.60.

### 10 Oct 1862 (age 61)

A few months after paying his tax bill, Benjamin passes away. Nothing is known of the circumstances regarding his untimely death but he was buried in the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, Tennessee. However, it is readily apparent he experienced an extremely difficult life which would have negatively affected anyone's health.

One month after Benjamin's death, the nearby town of Tazewell was evacuated. Confederate soldiers burned down twenty buildings including the courthouse, a large brick hotel and several brick storehouses.

### 1864

**Malinda (Price) Ausmus** (1782 - 1864), mother of Benjamin dies and is buried in the Ausmus Cemetery in Speedwell, TN.

Anna hears word of her son, Hiram Ausmus' death as a result of illness while serving his country. Between 1857 and 1864, Anna's life completely disintegrated. After losing her husband, mother and two grown sons, she moves into her youngest daughter's home. **Sampson Edwards**, the head of household was supporting his wife, **Malinda (Ausmus)**, his children and now his mother in law by working in a flour mill.

### 1880

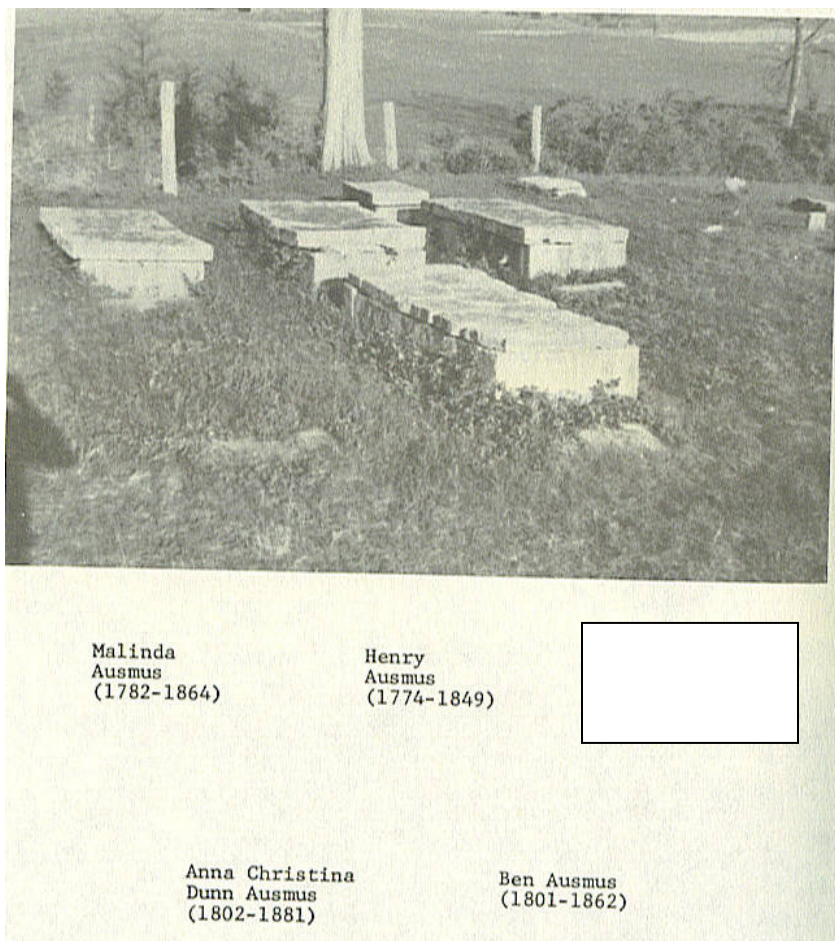


Unfortunately Anna cannot be found when the 1880 census was taken. She would have been living with her relatives. Her daughter, Rachael Sowder cannot be found either and thus may have been living with her.

### **23 Jun 1881**

Anna Christina (Dunn) Ausmus passes away at age 79 in Speedwell, Claiborne County, Tennessee. She is buried next to her husband. Anna must have been an amazing woman as nearly all of her descendants named their children after her.





## References

1. Old Speedwell Families; Edwards & Davis; revised and updated 1983
2. Register of Deed Book 3 Page 272, Washington County, Jonesboro, NC
3. *Ausmus Family History*, Harry L. Ausmus, 1963
4. US and International Marriage Records 1560-1900
5. Washington County, Tennessee Register of Deeds: Roll# 197 Vol. EHI Page 258 (Old Book H page 102nd)
6. To be added
7. Source: Heritage Quest Microfilm: Claiborne County Minute Docket, Court Pleas and Quarter Sessions; Copied under works Progres Administration 1815-1818
8. *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, Vol 1. Copyrighted © 1964 by the "Civil War Centennial Commission of Tennessee"
9. *Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2008. Original data: *Tennessee State Marriages*,

1780-2002. Nashville, TN, USA: Tennessee State Library and Archives. Microfilm.

10. Madge Rogers Bays; article with photo on Ancestry.com; 2008
11. Cloud, Vol. 4, No. 2, 9-10; "Goodspeed's History of Claiborne County," website; Hansard, 43
12. Claiborne County, Tennessee," at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pruittsintn/claibornecountytennessee.html> accessed September 8, 2006.
13. National Register of Historic Places; US Dept of the Interior; Claiborne County Jail, Tazewell, TN
14. Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002. Nashville, TN, USA: Tennessee State Library and Archives. Microfilm.
15. Civil War Direct Tax Assessment Lists: Tennessee; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T227, 6 rolls); Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 217; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
16. Dedicatory Address by Dr. Graydon Ausmus, July 30, 1967 at the Memorial Marker at the Grave of Rev. Philip Ausmus; Author by Rosalie Ausmus Kever, retained at Tennessee State Library (vertical files)
17. Marriages of Claiborne & Campbell County, TN 1838-1853; Whitley 1983
18. A Joseph Hunter Genealogy and His Jager Connection, 1650-2000 By Patricia Finn Hunter
19. Find A Grave Memorial# 9104581; Created by: Silent Tears~RoxEd; Record added: Jul 15, 2004
20. Find A Grave Memorial# 9073730; Created by: Larry McNeal; Record added: Jul 09, 2004
21. Find A Grave Memorial# 35427612; Created by: Jane McClure  
Record added: Apr 01, 2009
22. Find a Grave" memorial 43684290. Created by: Leon Graves; Record added: Oct 30, 2009
23. Year: 1880; Census Place: District 10, Union, Tennessee; Roll T9\_1283; Family History Film: 1255283; Page: 214.3000; Enumeration District: 116;
24. Year: 1900; Census Place: Union, Lucas, Iowa; Roll T623\_445; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 78.



Courtesy of **Lawrence Edwards**, the Photo above is of **Captain William Ausmus** (1837-1907) with his third family before the Kincaid house - one of several - which was his home. Note the belfry, where the "dinner" bell hung. it was rung to call in the work hands from distant parts of the farm for the noon-day meal. This house is located on the north side of Davis Creek, on a cross road, about 1-1/2 miles south of State Highway 63 about fifteen miles southwest of Cumberland Gap. Just across the creek, on the south side about 100 yards distant, is another of the famous Kincaid houses. Both are now (1955) owned by the Russell family. The picture was made c. 1906, about a year before the death of Captain Bill