

A chronology of Jane Austen and her family

— Prologue —

A summary of Jane Austen’s direct ancestry

AUSTEN family

The Austens or Austins were sheep-farmers and clothiers in the Weald of Kent. In 1574 the College of Arms allowed the Astyn family at Yalding to bear the coat-of-arms of: *Argent on a chevron between three lions’ gambes erased sable three bezants*; other Austen families bear similar arms, including the crest: *On a mural crown or, a stag sejant, argent attired or*.

Jane Austen’s paternal ancestry can be traced back with reasonable certainty to the sixteenth century, as under:

- (1) William ASTYN of Yalding, Kent (died 1522), and his wife Elizabeth, had three sons.
- (2) William’s eldest son, Stephen ASTYN of Yalding (died post 1532), married twice, and had in all seven sons and four daughters.
- (3) Stephen’s eldest son by his second wife, Robert, is probably identifiable with Robert AUSTEN of Horsmonden, Kent (died 1603); this Robert and his wife Elizabeth had three sons and four daughters.
- (4) Robert’s eldest son is probably identifiable with John AUSTEN I of Horsmonden (1560–1620/1); this John and his wife Joan Berry had eight sons and one daughter.
- (5) John I’s fifth son, Francis AUSTEN I of Horsmonden (1600–1687/8), and his wife Ellen, had one son and two daughters. Francis acquired the manors of Broadford and Grovehurst, in Horsmonden parish.
- (6) Francis I’s son John AUSTEN III of Grovehurst, Horsmonden (1629–1705), and his wife Jane Atkins, had two sons and three daughters.
- (7) John III’s elder son John AUSTEN IV of Broadford, Horsmonden (c.1665–1704), and his wife Elizabeth Weller, had six sons and one daughter: John V, Francis II, Thomas, William, Robert, Stephen and Elizabeth.
- (8) John IV’s fourth son, William AUSTEN of Tonbridge, Kent (1700/1–1737), and his wife Rebecca Walter (born Hampson, widow of William Walter of Frant, Sussex), had one son and three daughters: George, Hampson, Philadelphia and Leonora.
- (9) George AUSTEN of Tonbridge, Kent and Steventon, Hants (1731–1805), and his wife Cassandra LEIGH, had six sons and two daughters: James, George, Edward, Henry Thomas, Cassandra Elizabeth, Francis William, JANE AUSTEN and Charles John.

This descent is taken from *Pedigree of Austen, of Horsmonden, Broadford, Grovehurst, Kippington, Capel Manor, etc.* (compiled by Richard Arthur Austen-Leigh and privately printed in London, 1940), and also includes some corrections kindly provided by Miss Carol Hartley, 2004.

Prologue

LEIGH family

The Leigh family were originally landowners and soldiers, with estates in Cheshire, but later moved to Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. In 1568 their coat-of-arms was: *Gules, a cross engrailed argent, in the first quarter a lozenge argent*, and their crest was: *An unicorn's head, couped, argent*.

Jane Austen's maternal ancestry can be traced back with reasonable certainty to Hamon de Leigh, Lord of the Moiety of High Leigh, Cheshire, in the middle of the twelfth century. In a junior branch of Hamon de Leigh's descendants was

(1) Sir Thomas LEIGH (died 1571), Lord Mayor of London 1558. He and his wife Alice Barker had three sons – Rowland, Sir Thomas Leigh II of Stoneleigh Abbey, and Sir William of Newnham Regis – and four daughters.

(2) Sir Thomas's eldest son Rowland LEIGH (died post 1596), of Longborough and Adlestrop, Gloucestershire, and his second wife Catherine Berkeley, had one son and two daughters.

(3) Rowland's son Sir William LEIGH I (1585–1632), of Longborough and Adlestrop, and his wife Elizabeth Whorwood, had one son.

(4) Sir William's son William LEIGH II (1604–90), of Longborough and Adlestrop, and his wife Joanna Pury, had one son.

(5) William II's son Theophilus LEIGH I (1643–1725), of Longborough and Adlestrop, and his second wife Mary Brydges, had six sons and six daughters: Emma, William III, James, Theophilus II, Elizabeth, Cassandra, Thomas, Henry, Maria, Charles, Catherine, Anne.

(6) Theophilus I's fourth son, Revd Thomas LEIGH (1696–1764), of Harpsden, Oxon, and his wife Jane Walker, had two sons and four daughters: Anne, James, Jane, Mary, Cassandra, Thomas. James later took the name of LEIGH-PERROT.

(7) Revd Thomas's fourth daughter, Cassandra LEIGH (1739–1827), of Harpsden, and her husband Revd George AUSTEN of Steventon, Hants, had six sons and two daughters: James, George, Edward, Henry Thomas, Cassandra Elizabeth, Francis William, JANE AUSTEN and Charles John.

This descent is taken from Burke's *Peerage and Baronetage* (various editions); from Tucker, *A Goodly Heritage/A History of Jane Austen's Family*; and includes some corrections kindly provided by Miss Carol Hartley, 2004.

— 1600 —

May 20, Tuesday
Horsmonden: Francis Austen I, fifth son of John Austen I and wife Joan Berry, baptised. *PedA* 1–2

— 1603 —

May 27, Friday
Horsmonden: Robert Austen buried. *PedA* vi

— 1604 —

William Leigh II, son of William Leigh I of Longborough and Adlestrop, and wife Elizabeth Whorwood, born. *P&B*

— 1604 —

December 9, Sunday
Horsmonden: Joan Berry, wife of John Austen I, dies aged 36. *PedA* 1
MI Horsmonden

— 1608 —

July 24, Sunday
Horsmonden: Elizabeth, widow of Robert Austen, buried. *PedA* vi

— 1620/1 —

March 5, Monday
Horsmonden: John Austen I buried. *PedA* 2
MI Horsmonden

— 1629 —

John Austen III, son of Francis Austen I and wife Ellen, born. *PedA* 2–3
IGI

— 1632 —

Sir William Leigh I, of Longborough and Adlestrop, dies. *P&B*

— 1643 —

Theophilus Leigh I, son of William Leigh II and Joanna Pury, born. *P&B*

— 1643 —

July 1, Saturday
Sir Thomas Leigh, 2nd bt., of Stoneleigh, Warwicks, created Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh. *P&B*

1647–89

— 1647 —

Francis Austen I acquires manor houses of Broadford and Grovehurst, Horsmonden. PedA 2

— 1654 —

John Austen III marries Jane Atkins, of Brightling, Sussex. PedA 3

— ?1655 —

Broadford: Jane Austen, dau. of John Austen III and wife Jane Atkins, born. PedA 3

— ?1665 —

John Austen IV, son of John Austen III and wife Jane Atkins, born. PedA 3

— 1672 —

Anne Austen, dau. of John Austen III and wife Jane Atkins, born. PedA 3

— 1680 —

May 11, Tuesday
Jane Austen, dau. of John Austen III and wife Jane Atkins, marries Stephen Stringer of Goudhurst. PedA 3

— 1685/6 —

March 2, Tuesday
Horsmonden: Jane Atkins, wife of John Austen III, buried. PedA 3
MI Horsmonden

— 1687/8 —

March 15, Thursday
Horsmonden: Francis Austen I, clothier, of Grovehurst, buried. PedA 2
MI Horsmonden

— 1688 —

November 7, Wednesday
Anne Austen, dau. of John Austen III and wife Jane Atkins, marries John Holman of Tenterden. PedA 3

— 1689 —

November 28, Friday
London: Theophilus Leigh I of Adlestrop marries Mary Brydges. LCR 299

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— 1690 —

June 16, Monday

William Leigh II, of Longborough and Adlestrop, dies. P&B

— 1691 —

November 3, Tuesday

London: William Leigh, eldest son of Theophilus Leigh I of Adlestrop, and wife Mary Brydges, born. P&B
LCR 299

— 1693 —

October 28, Saturday

Adlestrop: Theophilus Leigh II, third son of Theophilus Leigh I, of Adlestrop, and wife Mary Brydges, born. LCR 299–300

December 29, Friday

Tonbridge: John Austen IV marries Elizabeth Weller. PedA 3

— 1695 —

June 16, Sunday

Horsmonden: Elizabeth Austen, dau. of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 5

— 1696 —

August 14, Friday

Broadford: John Austen V, eldest son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 3, 5

December 16, Wednesday

Adlestrop: Thomas Leigh, fourth son of Theophilus Leigh I of Adlestrop and wife Mary /I/ Brydges, born. P&B
LCR 300

— 1697/8 —

February 25, Thursday

Broadford: Francis Austen II, second son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 4, 6

— 1699 —

October 13, Friday

Horsmonden: Thomas Austen, third son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 3–4

— 1700/1 —

February 3, Monday

Horsmonden: William Austen, fourth son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 4–5

1701–05

— 1701 —

Thomas Brodnax, later May, finally Knight, born. LG

— 1702 —

September 16, Wednesday

Horsmonden: Robert Austen, fifth son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 5

— 1703/4 —

January 27, Thursday

Horsmonden: Stephen Austen, sixth son of John Austen IV and wife Elizabeth Weller, born. PedA 5

— 1704 —

September 21, Thursday

Broadford: John Austen IV dies of consumption, leaving debts unsuspected by his wife Elizabeth Weller. PedA 3
AP 1–16
MI Horsmonden

— 1705 —

May 12, Saturday

Horsmonden: John Austen III makes his Will. To his granddaus. Jane, Hannah, Elizabeth, Ann and Mary Stringer, and also Ann, Sarah, Mary and Frances Holman, £100 apiece upon marriage or at age 21. To grandson John Holman, £200 at age 21. To granddau. Elizabeth Austen, dau. of his son John Austen deceased, £400 at age 22. To grandsons Francis, Thomas, William, Robert and Stephen, the five younger sons of John Austen deceased, £40 apiece at age 14 to pay apprenticeship premiums. £10 apiece to friends Mary, Mrs John Sheffield; Anne, Mrs William Court; Margaret Packham his housekeeper; John Osbourne of Horsmonden, clothier. One guinea each to Thomas Lake of Goudhurst and William Finch of Tenterden, to buy mourning rings. All household goods to be divided equally between his eldest grandson John Austen V and his daus. Mrs Jane Stringer and Mrs Anne Holman. The five younger Austen grandsons to receive £200 each at age 21, provided they relinquish any claim upon the Broadford property in Horsmonden and Goudhurst. Dau. Mrs Stringer to receive some lands in Goudhurst; dau. Mrs Holman to have lands in Smarden.

↻ All other landed property to go to eldest grandson John Austen V and his heirs; if his line fails, then to go to each of his younger brothers and their heirs in turn, or finally to daughters' children. All other goods and personal estate to John Austen V at age 22. John Austen V to be brought up and educated by the sons-in-law Stephen Stringer and John Holman, the joint executors, who are to receive for this purpose the income from the Broadford estate, which had been in hands of deceased son John Austen IV, as well as £20 apiece annually until he reaches age 22.

Witnesses: Richard Purty, Richard Thorpe, Thomas Birch, William Finch.

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July 13, Friday

Horsmonden: John Austen III dies, buried Horsmonden.

PedA 3
MI Horsmonden

September 29, Saturday, Michaelmas

Broadford: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for her seven children for the past year – clothes, board, schooling, medicine, pocket money – total £84.11s.1d. ‘all my 7 Children this year my care & charge only Jacks [*John Austen* V] board to Mr Richards not so much to me, by reason his Grandfather dyed within ye year.’

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1706 —

September 29, Sunday, Michaelmas

Broadford: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children now at home, totalling £72.12s.od. for the past year: ‘the expence of Cloths ye Less by reason ye gift of Mourning for their Grandfather.’
⇒ She also writes ‘Memorandums for mine & my Childrens reading, being my own tho’ts on our affairs 1706, 1707, a rough draught in a retired hour.’

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1707 —

September 29, Monday, Michaelmas

Broadford: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, totalling £80.14s.1d. for the past year.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1707–9 —

Chawton: Large walled gardens created at Chawton Great House, and repairs carried out to the house itself.

FS 1/2, 3, and 2/1, 7

— 1708 —

June 27, Sunday

Elizabeth Weller lets the Broadford estate and goes to Sevenoaks, where she takes employment as housekeeper to the Master of the Grammar School, in return for free accommodation for herself and cut-price tuition for her five sons. The domestic expenses for her children for last nine months total £66.2s.3d.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1709 —

June 24, Friday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children after first full year at Sevenoaks – total £87.9s.9d.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1710 —

June 24, Saturday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £95.10s.4d. for past year.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

1711–15

— 1711 —

June 24, Sunday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £100.4s.2d. for past year. AP 1–16
Weller MS

— ante 1712 —

Chawton: A cottage built or rebuilt by John Alderslade, yeoman; at this time known as Petty Johns. The cottage, with two closes of land (North Pitt 1½ acres and Pyked Close ½ acre) descends between Chawton villagers until purchased by Thomas Knight I in 1769. Vick, *Reports* **IV**,
388–91

— 1712 —

June 24, Tuesday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £100.16s.5d. for past year. AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1713 —

May 4, Monday

John Austen V admitted at Pembroke College, Cambridge. *PedA* 5

June 24, Wednesday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £106.4s.4d. for past year. AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1713/14 —

January 15, Friday

Sevenoaks: Francis Austen apprenticed to George Tilden, attorney, of Bedford Row, London, for premium of £140. *PedA* 6
AP 2

— 1714 —

June 24, Thursday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £111.9s.8d. for past year. AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1715 —

June 24, Friday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £120.9s.7d. for past year: ‘For Frank’s Cloaths ac. ye charge of ye Small-pox all in ye first year of his being Clerk – £29.10s.6d.’ AP 1–16
Weller MS

November 11, Friday

Sevenoaks: Thomas Austen apprenticed to Henry Wells, London haberdasher, for premium of £60. He later became an apothecary and practised in Tonbridge. *PedA* 3
AP 2

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— 1716 —

June 24, Sunday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £113.12s.11d. for past year – ‘Frank & Tom at London.’

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1717 —

June 24, Monday, Midsummer

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for six children, total £108.18s.11d. for past year.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

September 29, Sunday, Michaelmas

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for five sons for past quarter, total £36.19s.6d. ‘Now Betty is of Age to receive what her Grandfather Left her I dont reckon any thing here on her account this qr.’

⇒ At some time after this, Betty Austen marries George Hooper, attorney of Tonbridge; they live in house ‘Powells’ [*modern name ‘Lyons’*], East Street, Tonbridge.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

PedA 5
Wilson, *JATonbridge* 16

— 1717/18 —

February 20, Thursday

Sevenoaks: William Austen apprenticed to William Ellis, of Woolwich, surgeon, for fee of £115.10s.0d.

PedA 11

— 1718 —

September 29, Monday, Michaelmas

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for five sons, total £88.6s.5d. for past year.

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1719 —

June 1, Monday

Stephen Austen apprenticed to William Innys, a London stationer, for fee of £105.

PedA 5

September 29, Tuesday, Michaelmas

Sevenoaks: Elizabeth Weller notes domestic expenses for five sons, total £69.15s.3d. for past year; Frank has now reached age of 21.

⇒ ‘My Son John desires ye Rent at Broadford may be allowed to him as an equivalent for ye Expences he has been at this Year on his brothers account, & repairs, & for his own part in ye Rents.’

AP 1–16
Weller MS

— 1720/1 —

February 25, Thursday

Tonbridge: Elizabeth Weller’s body brought from Sevenoaks for burial.

AP 16

1721–23/4

— 1721 —

August 14, Monday

Northleigh, Oxon.: James Perrott makes his Will. Various small bequests to friends and charities; his widow to have money, household goods, horses, etc.; his dau. Ann to have £1500, his dau. Sarah £1300; his grandchildren William, John and Jane Walker to have £20, £10 and £10 respectively; his grandchildren Richard, James, Dorothy, Thomas and Catherine Musgrave similarly to have £20 for the eldest, £10 for the others. Son Henry to have remainder of a lease. Son Thomas to have other leases, and to be residuary legatee and sole executor. Witnesses: J. Brooks, Thomas Taylor, George White, Edmund Palmer.

Spence 62–9
PROB.11/601/48

August 21, Monday

Gloucester, St Michael: William Hampson, son of William Walter and wife Rebecca Hampson, baptised.

Hoole & Jarvis, *Reports* III, 344–6

— ?1722 —

Francis Austen sets up as an attorney in Sevenoaks, ‘with £800 & a bundle of pens’. Now or later lives at The Red House, High Street, Sevenoaks.

AP 16–17

— 1722 —

April 15, Sunday

London, Grays Inn Chapel: John Austen V marries his cousin Mary Stringer.

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April 28, Saturday

Adlestrop, Glos.: Theophilus Leigh I makes his Will, providing for his younger children. His dau. Anne to be educated by his brothers-in-law Revd Dr Henry Brydges and Edmund Chamberlayn of Mangersbury, at £50 p.a. for her maintenance, and £1500 at marriage or age 21; to his two youngest sons Thomas and Charles £500 apiece; to his dau. Cassandra £1000, with an extra £500 if she does not marry her cousin Thomas Wight. Token bequests to other three children Revd Theophilus II, rector of Broadwell, Mrs Emma Waldo, Dame Mary Hoskyns, to brothers-in-law, and to servants; everything else to eldest son William, who is sole executor. Witnesses: Penyston Hastings, Robert Parsons, George Crawford.

Spence 52–8
PROB.11/604/157

— 1723 —

December 25, Wednesday, Christmas Day

Sittingbourne, Kent: Tysoe Saul Hancock born.

Vick, *Reports* v, 222–6

— 1723/4 —

January 10, Saturday

Sittingbourne: Tysoe Saul Hancock baptised.

Vick, *Reports* v, 222–6