

Austin Ewell Stebbins, Sergeant, Co. D, 88 IL Infantry, USA

1844 January 26: Born to Abdiel and Julia Ewell Stebbins in in Marseilles, La Salle County, IL.

1850 August 24: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in LaSalle County, IL showed Austin lived with his parents and siblings. His father's occupation was listed as a farmer.

*"Austin E. Stebbins was raised on a farm, receiving very little school and having few advantages, as was the lot of most farmer boys in those days."*¹

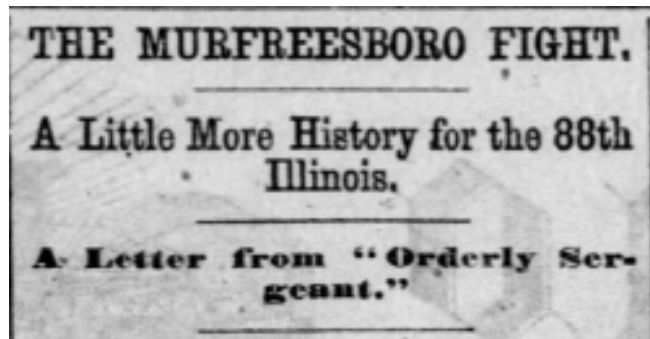
1860 June 27: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in LaSalle County, IL showed Austin lived with his mother and siblings. He is listed as a student in school.

1862 August 5: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Company D, 88 Illinois Infantry in Chicago, IL as a Corporal.

*"In 1862, he enlisted in the 88th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served through the war, his company taking part in nearly all the battles that were fought in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, being with Sherman on his march to the sea."*²

August 27: Mustered into the Infantry. Rank changed to Sergeant.

1863 January 27: Account from the Battle of Murfreesboro, TN regarding his regiment.



¹ Greenlee, Ralph Stebbins, 1838-, and Robert Lemuel Greenlee. The Stebbins Genealogy. Chicago, Ill.: Priv. print. [M. A. Donohue & company], 1904, pg. 875

² ditto

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, TENN.,
Jan. 27, 1863.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

Very recently, I saw, in your issue of the 17th inst., a brief statement that, in the late fearful fight at Murfreesboro, the 88th Illinois "did not disappoint the expectations of its friends." This statement, at once so just and so suggestive, still does not, as it seems to me, convey with sufficient explicitness, the full meed of praise which the regiment deserves. Let me, in a few concise words, tell you what work it wrought.

On Monday night, Dec. 29th, after a whole day's most wearisome march, we stood picket on the front line, throughout as wet and dismal a night as I remember. On the 30th, we were deployed as skirmishers on the extreme front of the right wing, operating on ground knee-deep in glutinous mud. That night we moved yet further towards the front, and again performed picket duty not 100 rods from the enemy's line. That was a terrible time; the coldest night of the winter thus far, without fires, obliged to remain motionless, with every faculty on the alert, our limbs nearly frozen, you can conceive how terrible it was. Thrown into line of battle before daybreak on the ensuing morning, we awaited the attack of the enemy. It came. A whole brigade advanced on us out of the woods; we lay close to the ground, besmeared with the horrible mud. Nearer and nearer the enemy came, its wings extending 100 yards on either side of our little battalion. "Fire!" was the thrilling order when the adverse line had left a distance of less than 150 yards between us. And we fired—we rained hot showers of death upon them. By ones, by twos, by threes, our men were wounded or killed, but still our fire kept full its fierce vehemence, and at last the whole long line of the enemy broke and ran.

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Twice had Gen. Sheridan sent word for us to move from our perilous position, and now, when we had driven the foe, we obeyed the order. Slowly, and in good order, we moved to the rear before the swarms of rebels which at that moment came right upon our flank, out of the woods. Opening our files to let the 42d through towards the front, we halted, reformed the line upon its company guides, and again moved off, as calmly as if on dress parade, under a horrible sleet of shot and shell, which gave honorable discharge to many true, brave men; then into the cedar swamps, where we fought and drove them again; then, by order of Gen. McCook, three miles to the rear to repel cavalry; then to support a battery; then to guard a train, and then, the next morning, back to the front again. Such, briefly told, was the nature of our participation in the fight. Glorious praises, dear to the hearts of soldiers, we received from our division and brigade commanders. And thus we have won the name of the "fighting 88th," and thus, too, when (as may God grant to many of us) we return to our homes and hearths in the city by the lakes, no friend will have to hang his head for shame because of our recreance from duty, but all may welcome us with the joyful greeting, "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

ORDERLY SERGEANT.

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October 14: List of Casualties within the 88 IL following Lookout Mountain, TN.

men.

The 88th Illinois suffered as follows: Eight killed, three mortally wounded; three dangerously wounded; twenty-four severely wounded; twenty-six slightly wounded, and seventeen missing—altogether 82. The casualties among commissioned officers are: Lieut. Rae, wounded severely; Lieut. Col. Chadbourne, do. slightly; Capt. Chickering, do.; Lieut. McMurtrey do.; Lieuts. Griffin and Brigham do.

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1864 November 30: Austin fought at the Battle of Franklin. Fourth Corp, Wager's Division, Opdycke's Brigade. At some point during the battle, Austin

³ Chicago Tribune, 04 Feb 1863, Wed, Pg.2.

⁴ Newspapers.com, Chicago Tribune, October, 14, 1863. Page 2

lost his journal on the field. The journal was picked up by a Confederate soldier named Alfred Hinson. It stayed with Alfred until the end of the war. He continued to make entries where Austin left off. It remained in Alfred's family until 2023, when the journal was donated to the Atlanta Historical Society.

1865 June 9: Mustered out of the US Infantry in Nashville, TN.

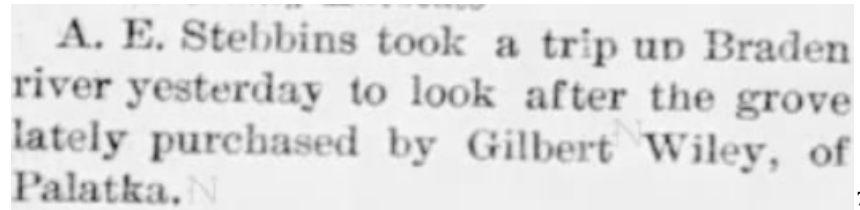
*"After the war, Mr. Stebbins went to Nebraska, where he lived for five years."*⁵

1867 February 5: Austin married Lydia Wiley in La Salle County, IL.

1870 August 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Gage County, NE showed Austin lived with his wife and two year old son. His occupation was listed as a farmer.

1877 *"In 1877 he removed to Florida, and from there went to California. After living there two years he returned to Florida, where he expects to spend the remainder of his days. Mr. Stebbins is a successful dealer in real estate, making a specialty of orange groves."*⁶

1891 February 20: Austin appears in a newspaper in FL.



A. E. Stebbins took a trip up Braden river yesterday to look after the grove lately purchased by Gilbert^N Wiley, of Palatka.^N

7

⁵ ditto

⁶ ditto

⁷ Newspapers.com, The Polk County News - 20 Feb 1891 - Page 2



Florida Home of Austin Stebbins

1894 February 16: Austin had a large hand in developing Manatee, FL.

ing condition and efficiency managed by
Mr. J. E. Johnson. A. E. Stebbins is
one of the prominent factors in the de-
velopment of the town. He is intelli-
gent and works with well directed
efficiency towards successful ends.
Altogether the town has a bright future.

⁸

1897 January 21: An article was written about Austin's life in the The Weekly Tribune, Tampa, FL.

⁸ Newspapers.com - The Weekly Tribune - 16 Feb 1894 - Page 1

"One of the most prosperous and progressive settlers in this town is Mr. A. E. Stebbins, who came here from Illinois in 1877. He left and went to California, but quickly returned, and claims that Manatee county is richer in land and healthier than any place in California. Mr. Stebbins is in
THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS,
and reports sales fairly active for this season and an increasing demand for good hummock lands. Mr. Stebbins has recently issued a neat pamphlet entitled "Manatee County, Florida; Its Climate and Resources," which will be mailed to anyone addressing him for the same. In this pamphlet under the head of "Unrest," it says: "It is a rare thing to find a man who wants to sell out and leave the country. Of all the property I have sold in the ten years that I have been in the real estate business I have never sold a place for a man who wanted to leave the country. It has generally been for those who had two places, more trees or more land than they wanted to cultivate, and this alone speaks well for Florida. I have lived in several states and have always found a great unrest—people wanting to sell out and move to some other state. That unrest cannot be found here—everybody seems to be contented. No

everybody seems to be contented. No doubt it is mostly on account of the delightful climate and the beautiful scenery and the evergreen foliage that is always presented to the eye. It must be from some of these attractions, because until one gets a bearing orange grove, he must work, and work hard, too, to make both ends meet. I don't want anyone to infer from what I say that he can come here and pick up a living, because he cannot. What we want is industrious people the heart of the town, free to all, and many sufferers from diabetes, dropsy, dyspepsia and different kinds of stomach troubles find quick and permanent relief in its waters. It certainly has great curative properties.

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- August 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Manatee County, FL showed Austin lived with his wife and two sons. His occupation was listed as a Real Estate Agent.
- 1910 April 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Hillsborough County, FL showed Austin lived with his wife, son, Gilbert, and his daughter in law, Pearl. His occupation was listed as a Real Estate Agent.
- 1920 February 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Pasco County, FL showed Austin lived with his wife, Olivia. His occupation was listed as the President of the Zephyrhills Laboratory Company.
- 1925 February 24: Austin passed away in Pasco County, FL. He is buried in Oakside Cemetery.



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¹⁰ Photo taken by Eileen Hunter (accessed on [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com))