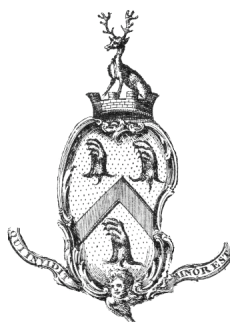


Austen of Adisham, Kent



Arms: *Or, a chevron gules between three lions' gambes erect and erased sable.*
Crest: *on a mural coronet or, a buck sejant, argent, attired or.*
(Visitation of Kent, 1619)¹

The Austens or Austins were sheep-farmers and clothiers in the Weald of Kent. This branch are recorded at Adisham, Kent, from the late fifteenth century, where they settled at Court Lodge and many of the family are buried in the chancel of the church of the Holy Innocents. Jane Austen, the novelist, descends from a branch settled at Yalding, Kent, at the same period. The Neames intermarried frequently with the Austens, Nethersoles, Solleys and Dennes, and adopted Austen as a Christian name. Alice Austen married Roger Neame of Woodnesborough about 1440.

- A. **Robert Austen**, of Adisham, Kent, b. Wickhambreaux, Kent, c. 1479; m. c. 1504 **Elizabeth** (d. Adisham, Oct 1538); and he d. Adisham, bur. 26 Nov 1544 (will pr. 5 Jan 1545; named in his will were his sons Thomas, Richard, Valentine and John), having had:
- B1. A daughter, b. Adisham, 1506.
 - B2. Thomas Austen, b. Adisham, 1508, and had sons Richard and Robert.
 - B3. Richard Austen, of Adisham, yeoman; b. c. 1515; intervened with his brother Thomas against John Bland, rector of Adisham, 1553;² an appraiser of the inventory of John Austen of Chillenden 1567 (PRC 28/1, f.39r & v); occurs bond Jun 1568 (SAS/A613); born Wickhambreaux c. 1512; m. Adisham 1536 or 1538 Agnes a'Denne (b. Barham, Kent, 1520; d. Adisham, where buried on 28 March 1588), a lineal descendant of **Robertus de Den**, 'pencerna', or butler to Edward the Confessor, and daughter of Thomas Denne by his second wife Margaret Naisshe (see *sub* Denne of Denne Hill). Richard Austen, widower, was buried Adisham 15 Dec 1592 (will dated 1587 pr. CCC 1592, ref PRC32/37-89, leaving Communion cup to Adisham Church), having had (?with other issue):
 - C1. John Austen, b. Adisham, c. 1537; d. River, Kent, Oct 1604.
 - C2. Edith Austen, b. Adisham, 11 Sep 1539; m. 13 July 1556 Michael Hougham, of Weddington in Ash, by Sandwich (see *Visitation of Kent*, 1619, p. 97), son of Stephen Hougham by Benneta Brooke; d. Northborne, 2 Apr 1613, and had:
 - D1. Richard, m. as her first husband Eliza, dau. of Edwd Sanders of Northborne by Anna, dau. and sole heir of Miles Pendreth (see *Visitation of Kent*, p. 78), and had issue.

¹ These are given as the arms of Austen of Tenterden, but various arms with differences have been granted, including: *Three roundels on a chevron between three lions' gambes erased.*

² See Blomfield's *History of the Martyrs*. Bland, 'Protestant martyr', was afterwards burnt under the orders of Thorden, Bishop Suffragan of Dover.

- D2. Stephen Hougham, of Northborne, m. Joanna, son of Thomas Beke, and had issue.
- C3. William Austen, b. Adisham, 8 June 1541; m. 20 Nov 1564 Anne Welle; and d. Wingham, Kent, 16 May 1614.
- C4. Anne Austen, b. Adisham, c. 1545; d. before 1565.
- C5. Elizabeth Austen, b. Adisham, 10 Feb 1542/3; m. 16 Jun 1561 William Heneker; d. Goodnestone, Kent, 1601.
- C6. Alice Austen, b. Adisham, 21 Mar 1548/9; m. 15 July 1566 John Richards; d. Goodnestone, 1600.
- C7. Robert Austen, b. Adisham, 11 Mar 1553/4; m. 24 July 1578 Margaret Owen (living 1627); and d. Adisham, Mar 1614.
- C8. Margery Austen, b. Adisham, before 8 Mar 1558; d. Adisham Sep 1558.
- C9. Thomas Austen, b. before 15 Nov 1561; will dated 1578, pr 1580 [or 1617].
- C10. Matthew Austen, b. Adisham, before 21 Sep 1562; d. Wye, Kent, before 21 Jun 1640.
- C11. Richard Austen, b. before 12 Jun 1564; d. before 5 Jul 1564.
- C12. Anne Austen, b. before 9 Jun 1565; d. before 28 Jul 1567.
- B4. **Valentine Austen**, who follows.
- B5. John Austen of Adisham, Kent; born c. 1514; m. c. 1539 Kempe (see *Visitation of Kent*, 1619), of Adisham.
- The third son,
- B4. **Valentine Austen**, b. Adisham, c. 1512; m. **Alice Taylor** c. 1542/3, and d. Adisham Feb 1564/5, having had (with other issue):
- C1. **Valentine Austen**, lay vicar choral at Chichester Cathedral; b. Adisham c. 1548; m. Adisham 29 Apr 1572, **Margaret Solly** (b. c. 1551), daughter of **Stephen Solly** (born Ash near Sandwich c. 1520; bur. Ash 24 Nov 1590; see *Visitation of Kent* for this family) by his wife **Elizabeth** dau. of **Stephen Hougham**, whom he married about 1547; and he d. Adisham, 18 Dec 1616 (MI in chancel of Adisham Church, aged 66), ? will pr CCC 1616 (43/211), having had:
- D1. ?Alice Austen, bapt 12 July 1573 (dau. of Valentine); m. John Richards, of Goodnestone (d. 15 Jan 1609; M.I.), and d. Goodnestone 16 July 1600 (M.I., with her arms, *a chevron between three lions' paws erased*).
- D2. Benet Austen, bapt. 20 Feb. 1575.
- D3. Henry Austen, bapt 17 Feb 1577.
- D4. Alice Austen (dau. of Valentine and Margaret), bapt 12 Dec 1578; m. 27 Dec 1597 Lawrence Omer.
- D5. Margaret Austen, bapt 1 Feb 1581.
- D6. **Robert Austen**, b. Adisham 13 Apr 1583; occurs 1632 with wife Elizabeth Nethersole (DCb/J/J/30/16); m. Womenswold, Kent, 27 Jul 1612 **Elizabeth Nethersole** (b. Womenswold, Kent, 10 Oct 1592; is she the Eliz Austen who left will CC 1629?), dau. of **Vincent Nethersole**, of Kingstone (b. c. 1563/4; d. 3 Jun 1588) by **Elizabeth Denne** (b. c. 1566; d. Womenswold Sept 1637), dau. of **Vincent Denne** by **Joanna Kittall** (b. Dennehill, Kingston, about 1543), and had:
- E1. **Bennet Austen**, b. 1622; m. 1st at Adisham 16 Sept 1648 **Thomas Neame** (b. 1627; d. Rowling, Goodnestone, Kent 1664); she m. 2nd 1674 William Gibs, and died 26 Nov 1677. For issue by first husband, see *sub* Neame.
- D7. Richard Austen, b. Adisham, on 23 Nov 1585; m. Womenswold on 20 Jun 1614 Mary Nethersole, sister of Elizabeth above. Richard died Ickham, Kent, on 22 Dec 1647, aged 62, having had:
- E1. Margaret Austen, b. 1615.
- E2. Bennet Austen, b. 1617.
- E3. Elizabeth Austen, b. 1619.
- D8. Elizabeth Austen, bapt 30 Mar 1589; d. before 1616.
- D9. Thomas Austen, bapt 1 Apr 1590; d. Nov 1617.

- D10. Valentine Austen, of Adisham, bapt Adisham 2 Jan 1592/3; m. Susan, dau. of Nicholas Ladd of Wooton, Kent, by his wife Joan Parker (m. Monkton, 1578); living 1618; and had:
 E1. Nicholas Austen, m. c. 1652 Thomasine, and had:
 F1. Mary Austen, m. her cousin Sylvester Neame of Bridge, Kent (bapt. Goodnestone 17 Jun 1653 [IGI gives 1655]), son of **Thomas Neame by Bennet**, dau of **Robert Austen**.
- C2. Richard Austen, yeoman of Adisham; bapt 14 Jun 1551; m. Adisham 30 May 1575 Elizabeth Solly of Ash (b. Ash, c. 1554; bur. Adisham 10 Jan 1629), sister to **Margaret Solly** above; and was bur. Adisham, 20 May 1619, having had:
 D1. Michael Austen, bapt St John the Evangelist, Ickham, 24 May 1580; m. Adisham 1 Mar 1605 Ann Rigden (bapt Littlebourne 19 Feb 1584; bur. Eastry, 11 Jun 1654), and was bur. Eastry 25 Mar 1651.
 D2. Mary Austen, m. John, son of David Denne of Littlebourne.

Sources:

Visitation of Kent, 1619; Roger Sutton, 'The Austen Family of Adisham, Kent, England, 1539–1716', 14 Nov 2004, ref. book 452 in the Austin Families Genealogical Society Library.