and it became the talk of the town that Joseph had made a proposition to Nancy Rigdon to become his wife, and that she refused him. A few days after the occurrence Joseph Smith came to my father's house and talked the matter over with the family, my sister, Mrs. Athalia Robinson also being present, who is now alive. The feelings manifested by our family on this occasion were anything but brotherly or sisterly, more especially on the part of Nancy, as she felt that she had been insulted. A day or two later Joseph Smith returned to my father's house, when matters were satisfactorily adjusted between them, and there the matter ended. After that Joseph Smith sent my father to Pittsburgh, Pa., to take charge of a little church that was there, and Ebenezer Robinson, who was then the Church printer, or at least had been such, as he was the printer of the paper in Kirtland, Ohio, and a printer by trade, was to go with him to print a paper there, and nine days before Joseph Smith was shot at Carthage we started, reaching Pittsburgh the day before he was killed.

Deponent further says: I have in my possession a paper called the *Nauvoo Expositor*, bearing date, Nauvoo, Illinois, Friday, June 7th, 1844, which said paper's printing plant was destroyed by the City Council at Nauvoo a night or two after that issue. There never was but one issue of this paper. Joseph Smith the Prophet was then Mayor of the City of Nauvoo. In the afternoon of the day on which the printing plant was destroyed, Henry Phelps, a son of W. W. Phelps, came down Main Street selling this paper, the *Nauvoo Expositor*, and everyone who could raise five cents bought a copy. In that paper the three following affidavits appeared, which I reproduce herewith.

**AFFIDAVITS**

I hereby certify that Hyrum Smith did (in his office) read to me a certain written document which he said was a revelation from God. He said that he was with Joseph when it was received. He afterwards gave me the document to read and I took it to my house and read it and showed it to my wife and returned it the next day. The revelation (so called) authorized certain men to have more wives than one at a time in this world and in the world to come. It said this was the law, and commanded lough to come into the law. And also that he should administer to others. Several other items were in the revelation, supporting the above doctrines.

**Wm. Law**

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**ORIGIN OF PLURAL MARRIAGE**

State of Illinois, Hancock County.

I, Robert D. Foster, certify that the above certificate was sworn to before me as true in substance, this fourth day of May, A.D. 1844.

Robert D. Foster, J. P.

I certify that I read the revelation referred to in the above affidavit of my husband. It sustained in strong terms the doctrine of more wives than one at a time in this world and in the next. It authorized some to have to be the number of ten, and set forth that those women who would not allow their husbands to have more wives than one should be under condemnation before God.

Jane Law.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4th day of May, A.D. 1844.

Robert D. Foster, J. P.

To all whom it may concern: I hereby certify that the above certificate was sworn and subscribed before me, this fourth day of May, 1844.

Robert D. Foster, J. P.

To all whom it may concern: I hereby certify that the above certificate was sworn and subscribed before me, this fourth day of May, 1844.

Robert D. Foster, J. P.

John W. Rigdon.

Sworn to before me this 28th day of July, 1905.

[Seal.] James Jack, Notary Public.
COWLES, Austin

Birth: May 1792, Brookfield, Orange, Vermont
       Son of Timothy Cowles and Abigail Woodworth
Married: Phoebe Wilbur, 14 January 1813, Unadilla, Otsego, New York
       Irena Hix Elliott, 21 October 1827, Amity, Orange, New York
Death: January 1872, Hamilton Township, Decatur, Iowa

Austin Cowles was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1832. He served a mission to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In 1842 he resided at Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, and attended the Nauvoo Fourth Ward. He was a counselor to President William Marks in the Nauvoo Stake.

Austin was opposed to plural marriage and sided with William Law and other dissenters in 1844. He wrote an affidavit against plural marriage that appeared in the Nauvoo Expositor on 7 June 1844. He later affiliated with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Source: Saints' Herald Obituaries, 8 March 1872, p. 160
       Black, Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of
       Latter-day Saints: 1830-1848, 12:127-29
       Temple Index Bureau
       Backman, A Profile of...Camp, 1830-1839
       Cook, The Words of Joseph Smith, pp. 64, 87, 231, 292
       Smith, Nauvoo Social History Project
       Biographical Index, RLDS Card Catalog
       Nauvoo Federal Census, 1842
       Illinois, Nauvoo City Tax Lists, 1841-1844
       Illinois, Nauvoo Property Transactions
       Journal History of the Church, 1843-1844
       Journal of History, 14:285; 16:56, 58, 64

Cowles, Elvira Annie

Born: 23 November 1813 in Unadilla, Oswego, New York
       Daughter of Austin Cowles and Phoebe Wilber
Married: 1 December 1842 to Jonathan Harriman Holmes at Nauvoo by Joseph Smith
Died: 10 March 1871 in Farmington, Davis, Utah
Individual Record

Austin COWLES (AFN: 1THM-GB)

Sex: M

Event(s):
- Born: 3 May 1792
  Brookfield, Orange, VT
- Died: 15 Dec 1872
  Pleasanton, Dctr, NY
- Buried: Dec 1872
  Pleasanton, Decatur, IA

Parents:
- Father: Timothy COWLES (AFN: 1THM-KT)
- Mother: Abigail WOODSWORTH (AFN: 1THM-L1)

Marriage(s):
- Spouse: Phoebe WILBUR (AFN: 1THM-HH)
  Marriage: 14 Jan 1813
  Unadilla, Otsg, NY
- Spouse: Irena H. ELLIOT (AFN: 1THM-JN)
  Marriage: 21 Oct 1827
  Amity, Orange, NY
- Spouse: Irena H. ELLIOTT (AFN: 9XFP-P3)
  Marriage: 21 Oct 1827

Submitter(s): 

About Ancestral File:
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10/12/99
# Family Group Record

**Husband's Name**  
Austin COWLES (AFN:1THM-GB)

- **Born:** 3 May 1792  
  **Place:** Brookfield, Orange, VT
- **Died:** 15 Dec 1872  
  **Place:** Pleasanton, Decatur, IA
- **Buried:** Dec 1872  
  **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
- **Married:** 14 Jan 1813  
  **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY

**Father:** Timothy COWLES (AFN:1THM-KT)  
**Mother:** Abigail WOODSWORTH (AFN:1THM-L1)

**Wife's Name**  
Phoebe WILBUR (AFN:1THM-HH)

- **Born:** 6 Oct 1785  
  **Place:** Wellsbridge, Otsego, NY
- **Died:** 1 May 1826  
  **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
- **Buried:** May 1826  
  **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
- **Married:** 14 Jan 1813  
  **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY

**Father:** Thomas WILBUR (AFN:1TJ0-J5)  
**Mother:** Anna WOOD (AFN:1TJ0-KB)

### Children

1. **Sex Name**  
   **F**  
   Mary Ann COWLES (AFN:1DWH-98)
   - **Born:** 31 Dec 1820  
     **Place:** Bolivar, Alleghany, New York
   - **Died:** 1 Dec 1901  
     **Place:** Kaysville, Davis, Utah
   - **Buried:** 4 Dec 1901  
     **Place:** Kaysville Cem, Kaysville, Davis, Utah

2. **Sex Name**  
   **F**  
   Elvira Annie COWLES (AFN:1SN7-RN)
   - **Born:** 23 Nov 1813  
     **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
   - **Died:** 10 Mar 1871  
     **Place:** Farmington, Davis, UT
   - **Buried:** Mar 1871  
     **Place:** Farmington City Cemetery, Davis, UT

3. **Sex Name**  
   **F**  
   Sophia COWLES (AFN:2Q6G-GJ)
   - **Born:** 17 Aug 1818  
     **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
   - **Died:** 20 Aug 1820  
     **Place:**

4. **Sex Name**  
   **M**  
   Alonzo COWLES (AFN:2Q6G-HP)
   - **Born:** 16 Jun 1819  
     **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY
   - **Died:** 16 Jun 1819  
     **Place:** Unadilla, Otsego, NY

5. **Sex Name**  
   **M**  
   Leonard COWLES (AFN:2Q6G-JV)
   - **Born:** 28 Nov 1822  
     **Place:** Bolivar, Allegany, NY
   - **Died:** 30 Dec 1822  
     **Place:** Bolivar, Allegany, NY

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10/12/99

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10/12/99
Cowles

Cowles, Austin (Male) or Cowles, Austin A.

Birth: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Date: May 3, 1792
Place: Brookfield, Orange, VT, USA

Parents: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Father: Cowles, Timothy
Mother: Woodworth, Abigail

Death: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Date: December 15, 1872
Place: Pleasanton, Decatur, IA, USA

Marriage Information: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Spouse: Wilbur, Phebe
Date: January 14, 1813
Place: Unadilla, Otsego, NY, USA

Children: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Name: Birthdate: Place:
1. Cowles, Elvira Annie November 23, 1813 Unadilla, Otsego, NY, USA
2. Cowles, Louisa W. March 19, 1817 Unadilla, Otsego, NY, USA
3. Cowles, Sophia August 17, 1818 Unadilla, Otsego, NY, USA
4. Cowles, Alonzo June 16, 1919 Unadilla, Otsego, NY, USA

Marriage Number 2 Cowles, Austin (Male)
Spouse: Elliott, Irena Hix Date: October 21, 1827
Place: Amity, Orange, NY, USA

Temple Ordinance Data: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Baptism
Date: June 19, 1900
Endowment
Date: June 20, 1900

Sealed to Parents
Date: November 19, 1940

Sealed to Spouse
Date: July 18, 49 or July 1919
Temple: Logan, Cache, UT, USA

Places of Residence: Cowles, Austin (Male)
1842, Nauvoo, Hancock, IL, USA

Comments: Cowles, Austin (Male)
Austin was a member of the Nauvoo 4th Ward.

Austin was a counselor to William Marks in the Nauvoo Stake Presidency, beginning March 29, 1841. Austin was opposed to the prophet's practice of plural marriage. He sided with William Law and other dissenters. Austin even wrote an affidavit against plural marriage which appeared in the Nauvoo Expositor June 7, 1844.

Austin labored in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Cowles, David C. (Male)
Comments: Cowles, David C. (Male)
David was a member of the Nauvoo 4th Ward.

Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)

Birth: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Date: November 23, 1813
  Place: Oswego, NY, USA

Parents: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Father: Cowles, Austin
  Mother: Wilber, Phebe

Death: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Date: March 10, 1871
  Place: Farmington, Davis, UT, USA
  Burial Date: March 1871
  Buried: Farmington, Davis, UT, USA

Marriage Information: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Spouse: Smith, Joseph Jr.

Marriage Number 2 Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Spouse: Holmes, Jonathan Herriman

Church Ordinance Data: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Baptism
  Date: 1832

  Baptism
  Date: October 19, 1835

Temple Ordinance Data: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
  Baptism
  Date: September 27, 1967

  Endowment
  Date: December 23, 1845
  Temple: Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, USA

Sealed to Parents
  Date: July 18, 49 or July 1919
  Temple: Logan, Cache, UT, USA
Sealed to Parents
Temple: Provo, Utah County, Utah

Sealed to Spouse
Date: February 3, 1846
Temple: Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, USA

Places of Residence: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
Kirtland, OH, USA
Nauvoo, Hancock, IL, USA
9/00/1847; UT, USA

Vocations: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
School Teacher
Place: Farmington, Davis, UT, USA

Comments: Cowles, Elvira Annie (Female)
Elvira was married by Joseph Smith.
Elvira's marriage to Jonathan is listed on the Nauvoo Marriage Record.
Elvira married Joseph Smith as a plural wife.
Elvira was sealed in life to the Prophet Joseph Smith, February 3, 1846.

Elvira was general treasurer of the Relief Society. Elvira was sealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith and lived in his home to assist his wife Emma in her household duties. After the martyrdom of the Prophet, she was married to Jonathan H. Holmes, a former body guard to the Prophet. Her husband joined the Mormon Battalion, and she crossed the plains to the Salt Lake Valley with the Jedediah M. Grant company. Elvira remained for a time in the Old Fort, where she taught school, and after her husband's return from California, they made their home in Farmington. Elvira reared her husband's motherless daughter.

Cowles, Henry Austin (Male)

Birth: Cowles, Henry Austin (Male)
Date: December 8, 1841
Place: Nauvoo, Hancock, IL, USA