

Jane Austen

简·奥斯汀

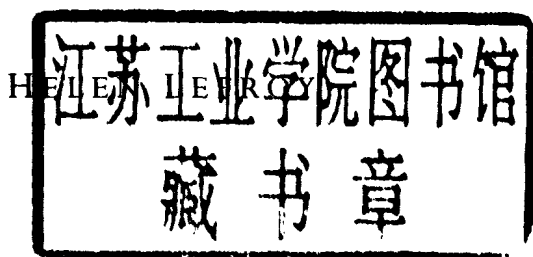
HELEN LEFROY



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Portrait BIOGR

Jane Austen



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*With gratitude for memories
of Jane Austen's great-great-
nieces, my godmother Louisa
Langlois Lefroy and her
sisters, Cousin Jessie and
Cousin Isabel*

C H R O N O L O G Y

- 1764 The Revd George Austen and Cassandra
Leigh married in Walcot Church, Bath
- 1765 James, their first child, born
- 1766 George, the handicapped son, born
- 1767 Edward born; he took the name Knight
in 1812
- 1768 The Austens move into Steventon
Rectory
- 1771 Henry Thomas born
- 1773 Cassandra Elizabeth born
- 1774 Francis (Frank) William born
- 1775 16 December, Jane born
- 1779 Charles John, the Austens' last child,
born
- 1783 Cassandra, Jane and their cousin Jane
Cooper go to Mrs Cawley in Oxford
for lessons
- 1784-8 Amateur dramatics at Steventon
Rectory
- 1785 Cassandra and Jane join Jane Cooper at
the Abbey School, Reading, but return
home at the end of 1786
- 1787-93 Jane busy writing stories and sketches
- 1791 Edward marries Elizabeth Bridges

Chronology

- 1792 James marries Anne Mathew
Cassandra becomes engaged to the
Revd Tom Fowle
- 1795 James's wife Anne dies; his daughter
Anna is taken to live at Steventon
Rectory
- 1795-6 Tom Lefroy in Hampshire for Christmas
and New Year.
Jane begins writing 'First Impressions',
the first draft of *Pride and Prejudice*
- 1797 Mr Austen writes to a London publisher
offering to send the manuscript of 'First
Impressions'; the offer is refused
Tom Fowle dies of yellow fever in the
West Indies
- 1799 Mrs Leigh Perrot (Mrs Austen's sister-
in-law) charged with larceny and
committed to gaol
- 1800 Mrs Leigh Perrot tried and acquitted
- 1801 Mr and Mrs Austen, Cassandra and Jane
move to Bath
- 1802 In December Harris Bigg Wither
proposes to Jane; he is accepted but
turned down next morning
- 1803 Copyright of 'Susan' (*Northanger Abbey*)
sold to publisher for £10.
The Austens holiday in Lyme Regis
- 1804 Jane's friend Mrs Lefroy is killed after a
fall from her horse
- 1805 Death of Mr Austen

C h r o n o l o g y

- 1806 The Austens leave Bath, and after a round of visits join Frank and his bride in Southampton
- 1809 Mrs Austen, Cassandra, Jane and Martha Lloyd move to Chawton in Hampshire
- 1811 Jane at work on *Mansfield Park*
Sense and Sensibility published
- 1813 *Pride and Prejudice* published
- 1814 Jane begins writing *Emma*
Mansfield Park published
- 1815 Jane begins writing *Persuasion*
Jane is invited to see round Carlton House, the Prince Regent's London house, and to dedicate to him her next novel – *Emma* – published in December
- 1816 Henry negotiates purchase of manuscript of 'Susan' from dilatory publisher; it is published posthumously as *Northanger Abbey*
- 1817 Jane begins writing *Sanditon*, but manuscript remains uncompleted
In May Cassandra takes Jane to Winchester for medical help
18 July, Jane Austen dies; she is buried in Winchester Cathedral on 24 July
December, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* published together in four volumes, with a 'Biographical Notice' of the author by Henry Austen



The Revd George Austen, Jane's father.
(Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen
Memorial Trust)



Mrs Cassandra Austen, Jane's
mother. (Photograph courtesy of
Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



Jane Austen, drawn by her sister
Cassandra, 1801. (National
Portrait Gallery)



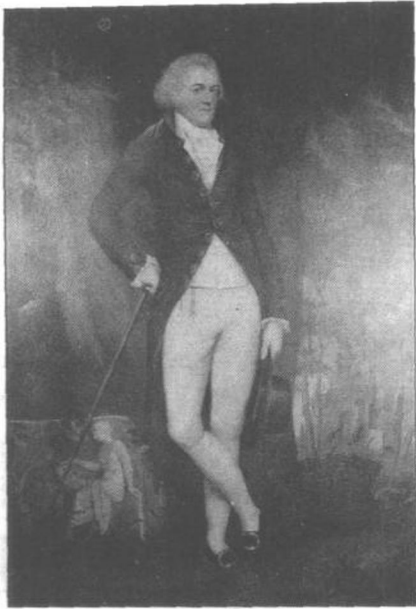
Cassandra Elizabeth Austen, Jane's
beloved sister. (Photograph courtesy of
Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



James Austen, Jane's eldest brother, possibly painted by Cassandra. (Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



Henry Austen, Jane's favourite brother, after he was ordained. (Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



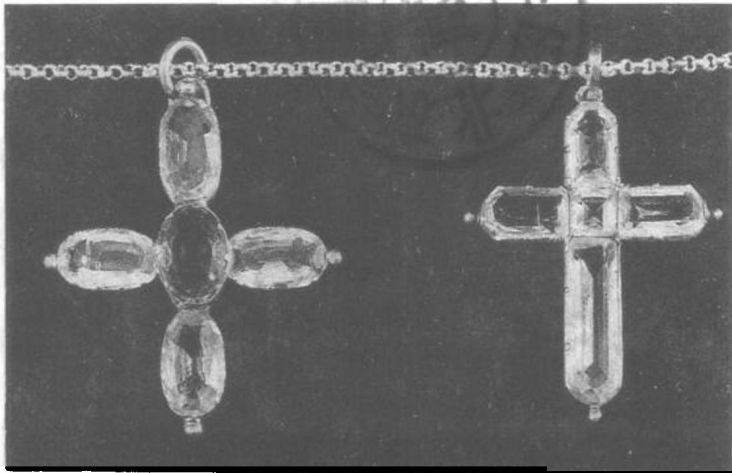
Edward Austen as a young man.
In 1812 he and his children took
the name Knight. (Photograph
courtesy of Jane Austen
Memorial Trust)



Frank Austen, as a young naval
officer. (Private collection;
photograph courtesy of Jane Austen
Memorial Trust)



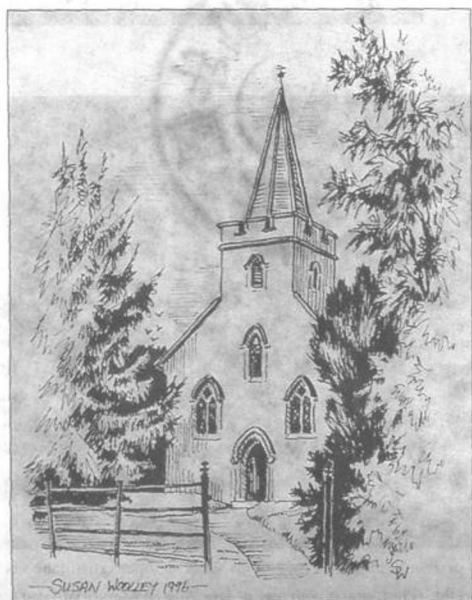
Charles Austen, Jane's youngest brother. (Private collection; photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



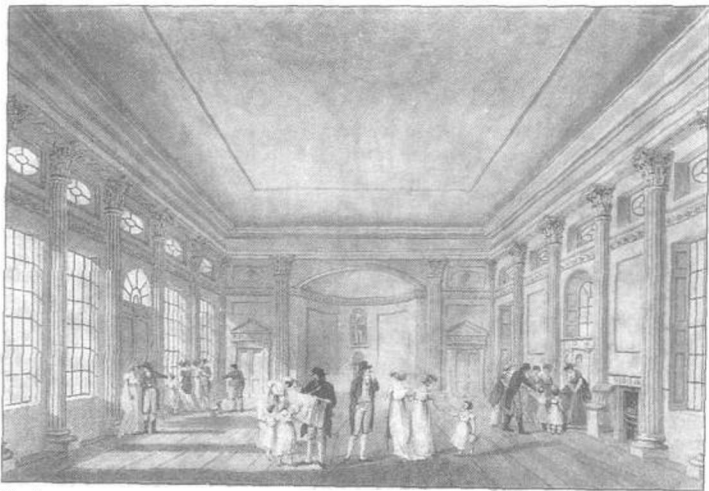
Charles Austen used his share of prize money to buy each of his sisters a topaz cross. Jane's is on the left, Cassandra's on the right. (Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



Drawing of Steventon Rectory by Jane's niece, Anna Lefroy. (Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



**St Nicholas' Church,
Steventon. (This drawing
was kindly provided by
Susan Woolley)**



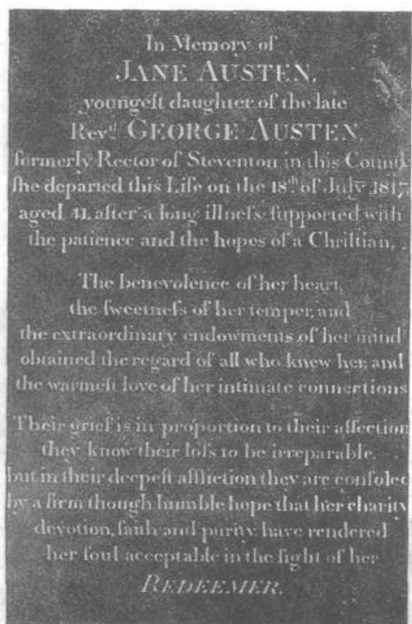
The Pump Room, Bath. Here, gentlemen would gather in the mornings to read the papers and discuss politics; the ladies would stroll up and down evening the new fashions, especially in bonnets. (The British Museum)



The house at Chawton as it is today. Mrs Austen, Jane, Cassandra and Martha Lloyd went to live there in 1809. (Photograph courtesy of Jane Austen Memorial Trust)



The house in College Street, Winchester, where Jane Austen died in July 1817
(John Crook)



Jane's tombstone in Winchester
Cathedral. (John Crook)

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

Jane Austen (1775--1817) wrote only six complete novels, two of which were published after her death. In these novels the life of the gentry, land-owners and clergy at the end of the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth centuries is shown in detail. They are peopled by an assembly of characters, men and women, old and young -- some, but not many, children -- who are unforgettable and can become as real to the reader as his or her own friends and family. Jane Austen did not step outside her own self-imposed limits. She does not write of titled people in grand houses -- although she knew the aristocratic families living in the corner of North Hampshire where she lived with her parents for her first twenty-five years, and as a young and attractive girl was invited to the annual balls given by titled families.

Critics accuse Jane Austen of being obsessed with money and rich relations. But both were a necessity in the society to which she belonged. As the younger