

Who Was Jane Austen

Causes of Jane Austen's death

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The causes of Jane Austen's death, which occurred on July 18, 1817 at the age of 41, following an undetermined illness that lasted about a year, have been discussed retrospectively by doctors whose conclusions have subsequently been taken up and analyzed by biographers of Jane Austen, one of the most widely read and acclaimed of English writers.

The two main hypotheses are that of Addison's disease, put forward in 1964 by the English surgeon Zachary Cope (1881–1974), and that of Hodgkin's disease, first mentioned concisely the same year by Dr. F. A. Bevan, then developed and argued in 2005 by the Australian Annette Upfal, professor of British literature at the University of Queensland. In the 2010s, the British Library speculated she died of arsenic poisoning based on 3 pairs of eyeglasses owned by Austen.

The discussion is based primarily on Jane Austen's writings on her own clinical case. It does not rule out the possibility of tuberculosis, which was the usual etiology of Addison's disease in the 19th century.

Cassandra Austen

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Cassandra Elizabeth Austen (9 January 1773 – 22 March 1845) was an amateur English watercolourist and the elder sister of Jane Austen. The letters between her and Jane form a substantial foundation to scholarly understanding of the life of the novelist.

Henry Thomas Austen

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Jane Austen's family and ancestry

Jane Austen's parents, George (1731–1805), an Anglican rector, and his wife Cassandra (1739–1827), were members of the landed gentry. George was descended

Jane Austen's parents, George (1731–1805), an Anglican rector, and his wife Cassandra (1739–1827), were members of the landed gentry. George was descended from wool manufacturers who had risen to the lower ranks of the gentry, and Cassandra was a member of the Leigh family of Adlestrop and Longborough, with connections to the Barons Leighs of Stoneleigh Abbey in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. They married on 26 April 1764 at Walcot Church in Bath. From 1765 to 1801 (for much of Jane's life), George was a rector of Anglican parishes in Steventon, Hampshire and a nearby village. Irene Collins estimates that when George Austen took up his duties as rector in 1764, Steventon comprised no more than about thirty families. From 1773 to 1796, he supplemented his income by farming and teaching three or four boys at a time (who boarded at his home).

The Austens raised a large family of six boys and two girls:

James (1765–1819)

George (1766–1838)

Edward (1767–1852)

Henry Thomas (1771–1850)

Cassandra Elizabeth (1773–1845)

Francis William (Frank) (1774–1865)

Jane (1775–1817)

Charles John (1779–1852)

Jane's sister Cassandra was an artist who, like Jane, did not marry. She was Jane's closest friend and confidante throughout her life.

James (matriculated 1779, BA 1783, MA 1788) and Henry (matriculated 1788, BA 1792, MA 1796) were both educated at St John's College, Oxford, as their father had been. Together they edited a literary magazine, *The Loiterer*. An accomplished poet, James was ordained as an Anglican clergyman, succeeding his father as rector of Steventon.

Of her brothers, Jane felt closest to Henry, who became a militia officer, then a banker, then (after his banking firm failed) an Anglican clergyman. Henry was also his sister's literary agent. Henry's large circle of friends and acquaintances in London included bankers, merchants, publishers, painters and actors and he provided Jane with a view of social worlds not normally visible from a small parish in rural Hampshire. He married their first cousin (and Jane's close friend), Eliza de Feuillide, who was the daughter of their father's sister, Philadelphia Austen Hancock.

George was sent to live with a local family at a young age because, according to Austen biographer Le Faye, he was "mentally abnormal and subject to fits"; he may also have been deaf and mute.

Charles and Frank served in the navy, both rising to the rank of admiral.

Edward was adopted by his fourth cousin, Thomas Knight, inheriting Knight's estate and taking his name in 1812.

Miss Austen

Fowle, who dies soon after, Mary's marriage to James Austen, losses of relatives and homes for the Austen family, new chances for love, and Jane's literary

Miss Austen is a four-part historical television series. It stars Keeley Hawes and Jessica Hynes. It is an adaptation by Andrea Gibb of the novel *Miss Austen* by Gill Hornby. Aisling Walsh directed the series, while Stella Merz produced for Bonnie Productions and Masterpiece.

Edward Austen Knight

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Edward Austen Knight (born Edward Austen; 7 October 1767 – 19 November 1852) was the third eldest brother of Jane Austen, and provided their mother with the use of a cottage in Chawton where Jane lived for the last years of her life (now Jane Austen's House Museum). He was also High Sheriff of Kent in 1801.

James Austen

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Jane Austen in popular culture

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Jane Austen (16 December 1775 – 18 July 1817) was an English novelist whose social commentary and masterly use of both free indirect speech and irony eventually made her one of the most influential and honoured novelists in English literature. In popular culture, Austen's novels and personal life have been adapted into book illustrations (starting in 1833), dramatizations (starting in 1895), films (starting in 1940), television (starting in 1938) and professional theatre (starting in 1901), with adaptations varying greatly in their faithfulness to the original.

Books and scripts that use the general storyline of Austen's novels but modernise or otherwise change the story also became popular at the end of the 20th century. For example, *Clueless* (1995), Amy Heckerling's updated version of *Emma*, which takes place in Beverly Hills, became a cultural phenomenon and spawned its own television series. Over two centuries after her death, her works still inform popular culture and cosplay.

Jane Austen

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Jane Austen (OST-in, AW-stin; 16 December 1775 – 18 July 1817) was an English novelist known primarily for her six novels, which implicitly interpret, critique, and comment on the English landed gentry at the end of the 18th century.

Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage for the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security. Her works are implicit critiques of the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism. Her use of social commentary, realism, wit, and irony have earned her acclaim amongst critics and scholars.

Austen wrote major novels before the age of 22, but she was not published until she was 35. The anonymously published *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816) were modest successes, but they brought her little fame in her lifetime. She wrote two other novels—*Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1817—and began another, eventually titled *Sanditon*, but it was left unfinished on her death. She also left behind three volumes of juvenile writings in manuscript, the short epistolary novel *Lady Susan*, and the unfinished novel *The Watsons*.

Since her death Austen's novels have rarely been out of print. A significant transition in her reputation occurred in 1833, when they were republished in Richard Bentley's Standard Novels series (illustrated by Ferdinand Pickering and sold as a set). They gradually gained wide acclaim and popular readership. In 1869 her nephew published *A Memoir of Jane Austen*. Her work has inspired a large number of critical essays and has been included in many literary anthologies. Her novels have been adapted in numerous films, including *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), *Pride & Prejudice* (2005), *Emma* (2020), and an adaptation of *Lady Susan, Love & Friendship* (2016), as well as the film *Persuasion* and the miniseries *Pride and Prejudice*, both released in 1995 by the BBC.

A Memoir of Jane Austen

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A Memoir of Jane Austen is a biography of the novelist Jane Austen (1775–1817) published in 1869 by her nephew James Edward Austen-Leigh. A second edition was published in 1871 which included previously unpublished Jane Austen writings. A family project, the biography was written by James Edward Austen-Leigh but owed much to the recollections of Jane Austen's many relatives. However, it was the decisions of her sister, Cassandra Austen, to destroy many of Jane's letters after her death that shaped the material available for the biography.

Austen-Leigh described his "dear Aunt Jane" domestically, as someone who was uninterested in fame and who only wrote in her spare time. However, the manuscripts appended to the second edition suggest that Jane Austen was intensely interested in revising her manuscripts and was perhaps less content than Austen-Leigh described her. The Memoir does not attempt to unreservedly tell the story of Jane Austen's life. Following the Victorian conventions of biography, it kept much private information from the public, but family members disagreed over just how much should be revealed; for example, regarding Austen's romantic relationships.

The Memoir introduced the public to the works of Jane Austen, generating interest in novels which only the literary elite had read up until that point. It remained the primary biographical work on the author for over half a century.

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