

Our daughter, Samantha Patricia Austin (Sami), was born on December 25, 2003, our Christmas baby ☺. I was getting very uncomfortable with her at the end of my pregnancy. For those of you who have been reading our bios, you probably remember that we were living in a camper that summer while we were building our house, and come Halloween, I finally got a finished bathroom in our new house that could fit my expanding size! By Thanksgiving, we were permanently in our house, and I had a bed that finally fit me ☺ Sami was a good sized baby, and I am not that tall. It felt like she was in there trying to lay claim to every square inch she could get. She was due on December 20th, and I was ready for her. We had heard that a good bumpy ride could maybe get things moving along, so a few days before my due date, Tom took me on a 4-wheeler ride in the neighbor's corn field. But we weren't going with the rows, we were going against the rows!! Good Lord! I was already huge and now this ride about put me over. My bumper kept hitting the metal bars in the back and I could hardly take it, lol. I was trying to hold onto Tom (and don't worry, he wasn't going that fast) and at the same time trying hold myself up off the bars for a little bit of a cushion. Of course, did the baby come?? No!! I swear that girl was in there with her elbows out and a look on her face that said, "I will come out when I want to come out". I am thinking for those of you that know Sami, you are nodding your head right now and chuckling thinking, yep, I can see that. She is a very determined, sweetheart of a young lady with a mind of her own ~ kind of like her daddy, which could be the reason they butt heads sometimes, but that is between you and me and the wall next to you, lol. Anyways, I went into labor on Christmas Eve morning. I worked all day at Mayo at a very leisurely pace ~ I think I pretty much watched everyone else's studies and timed my contractions, went to Christmas Eve service at church, and then headed to the hospital where we had her early Christmas morning. It was a very special Christmas that year ☺

Sami is our horse lovin' cowgirl turned Diva when shopping. She loves animals!! Especially horses!!! She has been taking horse lessons for 1 ½ years now and also rides the neighbor's horse once in a while. This summer she is hoping that there will be a horse of her own in our pasture. Her riding instructor is on the lookout for one so hopefully that dream will become a reality for her soon. Watching her work with the horses at lessons is amazing. She is a natural at it and very confident, which is a good thing around a big animal like that. You want the animal to know that you are in charge and they aren't, and she does a very good job of that. She even tries that one at home too with her parents but she tends to not win that one, although it can be quite a battle of the wills at times, lol.

Sami is full of life and spit and vinegar too ☺. Ever since she was a wee little toddler she has been outdoors with her Daddy helping him on the farm. Whether it was swinging a hammer with him or doing her favorite thing ~ moving the chickens and cows ~ she is in her glory. When she collects eggs she usually carry's a hen under one arm while doing the egg collecting with the other. On the other side, she helps me a lot in the house. She loves to cook, bake, and clean if she is in the mood, which can be a daily dealing when they are 12! (and she loves to clean the bathroom ~ woohoo!).

Sami is our social butterfly! Sami loves her friends!! She loves to hang with them, talk with them on the phone, go places with them, do their hair and nails, and especially have them over for a sleepover, and one time she went shopping with one of her friends and totally thought that was the bomb! She even already has it planned out that when she gets her driver's license, she is going to pick them all up and they are heading to the Mall. Lord help us!!

Sami loves to head up to the neighbor's house to visit and help them with things they have going on around there, and I think they love to have her come because she is such a delight to have around. She

also plays softball in the summer and during the school year she plays piano, and I must say she is getting really good at it! She has been playing piano for 3 or 4 years now with one year off in there to play guitar. She just had to play the guitar, she was so sick of piano! 😊. I actually think she was watching too many Hannah Montana reruns and envisioned herself on that stage with guitar in hand standing at a microphone. About halfway through the year, she told us she didn't like the guitar and wanted to go back to piano, lol. We made her stick with the guitar for the whole year and then this past year she switched back to piano. I actually think the year off helped her. I was amazed at how far she got with the piano this year, and how much better she got. She is a very talented young lady (I keep wanting to say "little girl" but she's not so little anymore. Her feet are bigger than mine and pretty soon I am going to be looking up at her 😊) She is very smart academically, especially at Math, and she loves, loves, loves to read!! She wants to be a vet someday, which I think she will rock at!

And yes, Sami is the only girl with 3 brothers, so let me tell you, she can handle her own. I feel sorry for the first boy that wants to date her because they will have to go through her brothers, us, and then her too!! 😊