

13 children. One of his daughters married Capt. Frank Smithwick, who was a mate with Capt. Artell Austin and arranged to bring Austin's body back from England to be buried beside his beloved daughter, Georgia.

John Austin also had a daughter, Hannah, who married Deacon Zenas Hall of Nobleboro. Their son, Austin Hall, became a prominent citizen of Newcastle and the deacon in the Damariscotta Baptist Church. In 1889 he donated the bell that rings forth on Sunday in the First Baptist Church of Nobleboro, where he attended as a boy. The bell is inscribed with his name and the appropriate biblical verse: "Let all the people praise thee, oh God. Let all the people praise thee."

Mary Austin, an older daughter of John, married Josiah Winslow, a drummer in the War of 1812. A great-grandson of theirs is Hudson Vannah, one of the few remaining farmers in Nobleboro who operates an excellent livestock farm on Butter & Egg (Vannah) Road.

Willard 'Bill' Pinkham, former mail carrier of Nobleboro, who resides at the former Hussey Tavern, also is a John Austin descendant. Bill's grandfather was George Nelson Bartow, a Nobleboro blacksmith, who lived near the Tavern. He was a grandson of John Austin, following in the footsteps of his blacksmithing ancestors. Nelson Hancock also has George N. Barstow as an ancestor, and thus carries good rich Austin blood in his veins! Mr. Hancock is respected as an 'elder statesman' of Nobleboro, having served for many years as first selectman, lumberman, and supervisor of alewives.

We could cite numerous other Austin descendants (most all Nobleboro natives are related!), but we will close with Luella Genthner. She married William F. Morang, Nobleboro millionaire. She was a great granddaughter of John Austin. They lived in the home now owned by Albert and Gentelisca Bouffard. Mr. Morang constructed the ornate white picket fences across the road; beautified with hydrangeas and other flowering shrubs. This home was where our millionaire 'hung his hat' whenever he was not away in his Florida involved in major real estate developments in Fort Lauderdale and nearby areas.

Nobleboro folks can take justifiable pride in the accomplishments of her early settlers and their descendants! They built the ships, they sailed the seven seas, they were good farmers and blacksmiths, bankers, real estate promoters, lumbermen, mailcarriers, catchers of alewives, and devoted family people.

The preceding article originally appeared in *THE LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS* in Damariscotta, Maine. It is reprinted here with the permission of its author, Dr. George F. Dow of Nobleboro, Maine.

JOHN & JERUSHA AUSTIN OF FARMINGTON, MAINE

by Francis Gould Butler

John Austin was a native of England, and came from Brunswick to the township of Farmington, Maine. He was a soldier under General Wolfe, and shared the fortunes of that victorious general in the battle fought on the plains of Abraham, near Quebec, September 13, 1759. He was also in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Austin was the first sexton in town, and served in that capacity many years. His settlement was on river-lot No. 46, west side, opposite the Center Village. Mrs. Austin, familiarly known among the early settlers as "Granny Asten," was a native of Cape Ann, and one of those rare women full of energy and capable of great endurance. As a doctress she rendered efficient service to the inhabitants for many years, and was largely employed in midwifery, a branch of medical practice in which she excelled. Few children were born in the township for the first fifteen years after its settlement, at whose birth she did not preside. Her field of visitation was mostly confined to the settlements on the river, occasionally, however, extending to what are now the towns of Stark and New Sharon, and also to Strong and Avon. When visiting her patients at a distance, she frequently went and came by boat; while at other times she would travel miles on foot, braving the merciless storms of midnight, and allowing no obstacles to prevent the accomplishment of her purpose. The town records state that "Jerusha Asten died in Jesse Gould's house, October y^c 6, A.D. 1804."

The above article is drawn from Mr. Butler's book, *THE HISTORY OF FARMINGTON*, published by Knowlton, McCleary & Company, Farmington, 1885. The Gould house in which Jerusha Austin died is now occupied by Nelson and Betty Austin, who brought this article to our attention.

AUSTIN GOT THE GALLOWS

In February 1974 John Austin purchased the old steel Hangman's Gallows from the recently demolished Citrus County Jail, Florida, along with four large volumes of sheriff's records. You can imagine his surprise when his wife discovered his name in one of the volumes, dated April 1888! This led John to an interest in his family name, and after about a year of research, he traced his line through Edith Austin Moore's *JONAH AUSTIN* manuscript, and he contributed several colorful pages to that manuscript. Persons interested in the gallows or in John's unusual writeup of his branch of the Austins may send a SASE along with their questions to John Northam Austin, 6356 Sundown Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32210.