

## A History of CASTINE in 40 Objects

2024  
Season  
Exhibit

Exhibit advertisement,  
designed by Yvonne Lauzière

## A History of Castine in 40 Objects

On June 10, the Historical Society will debut an exciting new exhibition, “A History of Castine in 40 Objects.” The exhibit highlights aspects of the town’s history through never-before-displayed objects from our permanent collection. Forty unexpected and compelling artifacts will weave together almost 400 years of Castine history.

Each object in the Castine Historical Society’s permanent collection is a window into our town’s past. For this exhibition, staff and a team of community members who serve on the CHS Exhibit Committee selected objects from our collection that tell Castine stories that are both familiar, like the town’s Revolutionary War history, and unexpected, such as our African American history. As you tour the exhibit, you will dive into fascinating stories of Castine that span from the late 1600s through the present.

The exhibit is designed thematically rather than chronologically. “Castine at War” looks at how major world powers fought over the peninsula from the 1600s through the early 19th century. You will also see objects from later wars fought elsewhere and how these conflicts affected the average Castine citizen. “Castine at Sea” highlights the careers of wealthy ship captains from Castine who traveled the world but also focuses on objects used by everyday people who worked on the docks to support the maritime trade. In “Castine at Work,” you will see objects that reflect town politics, community organizations, and occupations and how they contributed to shaping the town. The exhibition concludes with “Castine and the Arts,” which examines the significant role that the arts, artists, and writers played, and continue to play, in the community.

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# 2024 Calendar of Events

All exhibits, events, and tours are free.

Pre-registration is required as noted.

To register or find the YouTube link, visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) or call 207-326-4118.

## Thursday, June 13

### "Castine in the Civil War"

7:00 p.m.

An in-person and YouTube lecture given by Diane and Ned Smith, Civil War historians and authors. Mitchell Room, Castine Historical Society. Reservations required for in-person. For the YouTube link go to our website.

## Saturday, June 22

### 2024 Season Open House

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Join us for a free reception and viewing of the new exhibit. Refreshments served.

## Saturday, June 29

### "Art of Penobscot Bay—A Sampler"

4:00 p.m.

An in-person illustrated talk by Carl Little on paintings of the Penobscot Bay area through time followed by a book signing for his new book, *Art of Penobscot Bay*. Co-sponsored with Compass Rose Books. Mitchell Room, Castine Historical Society. Reservations required due to limited seating.

## Thursday, July 18

### "A History of Castine in 40 Objects"

7:00 p.m.

An in-person and YouTube illustrated talk by Lisa Simpson Lutts on how CHS's collection tells Castine's history over five centuries. Mitchell Room, Castine Historical Society. Reservations required for in-person. For the YouTube link go to our website.

## Thursday, August 8

### The 15th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

7:00 p.m.

Hans D. Strauch, Boston architect, will give a talk entitled "Rising from the Ashes: Building on Restituted Family Property in Post-Nazi Berlin, Germany." Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine. No reservations for in-person. For the YouTube link go to our website.

## Thursday, August 22

### Annual Meeting and Program

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Following a brief CHS business meeting, CHS staff will give a show and tell on what's new in the collection. Social hour to follow. In-person at the Castine Inn. No reservations for in-person. For the YouTube link go to our website.

## Saturday, September 7

### Hidden Legacies: A Walking Tour of Castine's African American History

10:00 a.m.

Join Georgia Zildjian and Lisa Lutts for an hour-long walking tour on Castine's African American history. Reservations required and limited to 15 people. Rain date September 8.

## Abbott School Exhibits (17 School Street)

June 10 – September 2

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / Sun. 1-4 p.m.

September 6 – October 14

Fri., Sat., Mon. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / Sun. 1-4 p.m.

### *A History of Castine in 40 Objects*

### *Penobscot Expedition 1779: Making Revolutionary History*

### *The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt*

### Grindle House (13 School Street)

Staff work year-round Monday-Friday. To schedule a research appointment, contact [collections@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:collections@castinehistoricalsociety.org).

## Castine Uncovered Walking Tours

June 22 – October 14

Friday, Saturday, Monday: 10:00 a.m. No reservations required. Private tours may be booked with advance notice subject to guide availability.

## Virtual History Tour of Castine

To download the app or access the web version of the tour, visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). Go to the "Visit" drop down button and click on Castine Virtual Tour.

### Our Mission

We make Castine history accessible, relevant, and inspiring to all.

### Our Vision

The Castine Historical Society cultivates curiosity about our past to foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society. Inside and outside our walls, we build relationships among individuals, organizations, and the community to enhance understanding of our collective experiences.

*The Castine Visitor is published two times per year as a benefit of membership.*

Karen V. Lyons, Editor

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## A History of Castine in 40 Objects

Along the way, we hope Castine residents and visitors from afar will be surprised to learn things they might not have known. You will uncover fascinating stories of Jesuit priests, Civil War surgeons, volunteer fire fighters, and movie theater operators who contributed to Castine's long sweep of history. History, though, is made every minute, and on display will be several objects from our collection that document more recent events, including the COVID pandemic.

Of course, one exhibition can never tell the full sweep of a town's history. Since this exhibit is based on what is currently in our permanent collection, you will have the opportunity to tell us "What are we missing?" For instance, you will notice that the long and continued history of Native peoples on this peninsula is not told in the exhibit. This absence exists because of gaps in our permanent collection – and this exhibit draws solely from our own collection. In the coming years, together with your input, we look forward to expanding our permanent collection to fill in these missing gaps so CHS can tell the full history of our community.

The idea for this exhibition grew out of two projects. The first is the cataloging of our object collection. While our archival collection is more fully catalogued, the objects in our collection have only minimal basic information recorded about them. Now we are photographing, measuring, and obtaining more detailed research information about objects, as well as adding them to our online catalog. It's a slow process, but one that has helped us see more clearly what we have—and don't have—in the collection. The second is the long-term project to renovate the Abbott School's second floor and the design and installation of a permanent exhibit on Castine's history. We are on track with our plans, and by the end of the year will send requests for proposals to potential architects and exhibit designers.

The research we conducted about objects for this exhibition, which included far more than the 40 that made the "cut," will be instrumental as we plan the permanent exhibition. Here's one case in point about how the new research has informed our knowledge of an object. In 1996, when we opened the Abbott School exhibit building, the town donated to us all the items that had belonged to Castine's Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post. They had been stored at Emerson Hall since the post disbanded in the 1920s. One of the items donated was what we had called a podium.

As we began to research the GAR, the veterans' organization for men who served in the Civil War, we began to grow suspicious about calling this object a podium. The height of the piece of



Grand Army of the Republic Altar, late 19th century  
Donated by the Town of Castine  
This ceremonial altar was used in Castine's Charles L. Stevens  
Post #76 of the Grand Army of the Republic's (GAR) room.

furniture is 33". Most podiums are 45 – 48" high, which lets the speaker have their notes close at hand. As we reviewed the collections of various Grand Army of the Republic museums, we noticed they were calling similar pieces of furniture altars. In reading about GAR ceremonies, we began to suspect that our "podium" was indeed an altar used in the initiation ceremony for new members into the post. Altars were found at every GAR post in the United States. They were placed in the center of the meeting room for the induction ceremony. A Bible was placed on the altar, then two crossed swords were placed on top of the Bible. A new member went up to the altar, placed his hand upon the swords and Bible, and made a number of oaths and pledges. This new identification of an altar was confirmed by the curator of the GAR Civil War Museum in Philadelphia after he reviewed a photograph of the piece.

And that was just one item! We uncovered so many other fascinating tales about our objects, and we still have much more to learn. We are excited to unveil our new exhibition in June and hope you will visit CHS many times and bring your friends. Several educational programs will accompany the exhibit. They're bound to broaden your knowledge of Castine history. So be sure to read about these programs in this newsletter.

# Finding My Grandfather at the Castine Golf Club

By Howard Lowell  
Vice President, Board of Directors, Castine Historical Society

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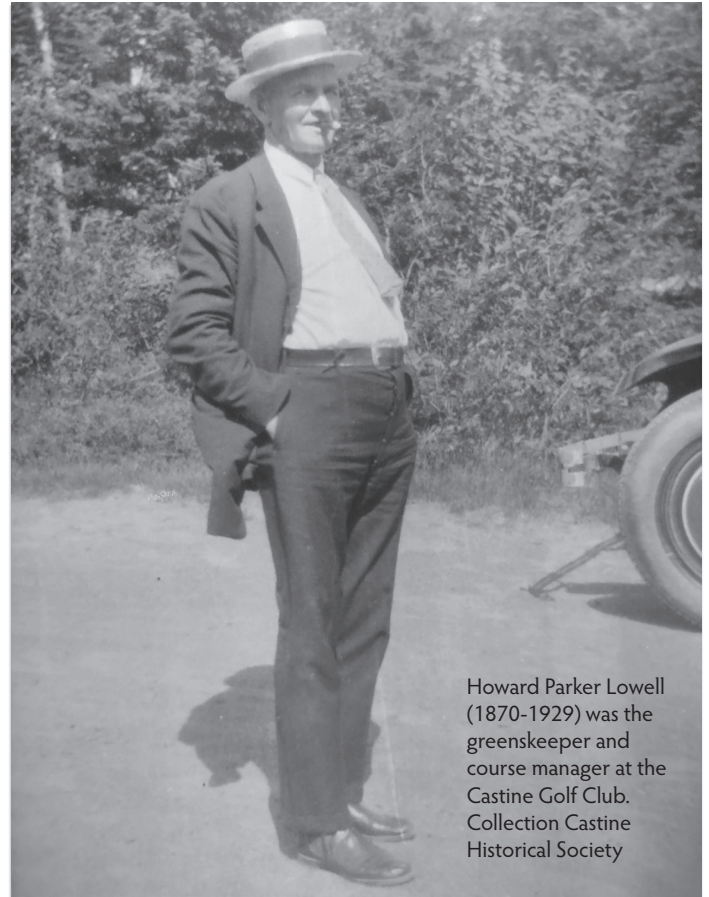
## EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are pleased to present this condensed article on the early years of the Castine Golf Club, as 2024 is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the golf course designed by famed golfer and course designer, Willie Park. The full article is available on the CHS website under the Collections Button - Featured Articles. As I read this article initially, I was struck by a valuable and touching trait of Castine residents that has not changed: the concern for friends and neighbors and the desire and well-meaning attempts to help them when difficult circumstances arise. In this case, it was cancer. As we know, cancer was essentially a death sentence until relatively recently, though the epidemiology of cancer began far earlier. As late as the 1960s, many people believed it was contagious,<sup>1</sup> and even toward the end of the 20th century, people often did not speak about having a form of cancer, nor did many who knew people afflicted with it talk about it. Fortunately, attitudes are changing, particularly with rapid advances in the last two or three years. But in the 1920s, the heyday of beginning to treat cancer with radiation emerged, as we see in the following article.

In early 2023, the Castine Historical Society received a donation of records from the Castine Golf Club. Within this donation are three folders of correspondence maintained by Louis V. Hubbard, who served as Club Treasurer throughout the 1920s. Among these letters are several between Hubbard and my grandfather, Howard Parker Lowell, who was the long-time greenskeeper at the Club, concerning day-to-day Club operations and maintenance of the course. These letters document the final months of my grandfather prior to his death from cancer in 1929, focusing on society's views of the disease and the ways in which they affected his last days.

Hubbard's correspondence mentions several social issues of the 1920s, but cancer is central to many of those my grandfather faced. Cancer was a terrifying and misunderstood disease in those days, as evidenced by a number of ideas cited in these letters. It was, in most instances, incurable. While we see fear and disfiguration, the struggle to maintain good working relationships, and income, we also see compassion and support for Grandfather as his illness progressed.

One very brief mention in Hubbard's 1926 correspondence notes that Grandfather was receiving radium treatments,<sup>2</sup> but it was not until early 1929 that the disease had reached a terminal state. In these 1929 exchanges, we see people's attitudes toward



Howard Parker Lowell (1870-1929) was the greenskeeper and course manager at the Castine Golf Club. Collection Castine Historical Society

cancer, the long-term relation between Grandfather and the Club, and the tension between being ill and the need to work, as social safety nets were non-existent in the 1920s. We also see how denying the terminal stages of an illness affects a person's attitude. And we cannot separate Grandfather's denial that his illness was severe from his need to assure Club officials that he could do the work, albeit from a distance, as well as maintain an income and a place for him and his wife to live.<sup>3</sup>

The overt concerns began in early January of 1929, when Arthur Patterson apprised Hubbard that "Howard Lowell is not very well. He has to go to Bangor frequently for radium treatments. However, he told me the other day he thought he was getting better and he is planning, apparently about the work next year at the club. Howard has had a hard time this fall, and I trust that he will get better soon." Patterson, a full-time Castine resident who was not an officer of the Club at this time as he was its legal counsel, followed with another letter suggesting that the Club should do something to help Grandfather financially with his medical bills.<sup>4</sup> While he did not state clearly the cause of Grandfather's illness, he obviously knew that it was extremely serious.

On receiving a copy of Patterson's latest letter from Hubbard, Club president George Farnsworth responded to Hubbard, asking "the members to chip in ten or fifteen dollars (approximately \$150-200 today) apiece to help him [Grandfather] through." In this same letter, he noted that Grandfather was very ill and did not think he would be able to handle the work in the upcoming season. "His trouble has hung on, as you know, and is apparently getting worse." Almost as an afterthought, he mentioned that, although someone else could be hired to do the work, "The house proposition is another thing, however."

The correspondence continued in March, when Farnsworth wrote to Hubbard again after receiving a copy of a letter my grandmother sent to Hubbard inferring that Grandfather was in very bad shape. Farnsworth concluded, "Considering his physical condition and the inevitable result of that on his mental condition seems to prohibit our using him in his old capacity at least."

On March 23, Grandfather wrote to Hubbard focusing on his work for the season. "I have always started the season on April 1st on the links but there was nothing said about it in the fall. The season is ready now and I should advise starting with the season ... I am getting along very well am doing some work but if I am not able to do a good days work on the start I will oversee the work and pay a man out of my wages until I can do it myself." He was reluctant to let the Golf Club down. He needed the income and was, perhaps, in denial about the effects of his treatment.

A few days later, Grandfather again wrote Hubbard with thanks for the Club's check from the "Golf Club Friends." He noted, "We really have had a long hard expensive winter but think everything will work out all right now. I am feeling very much better and am working some it will take quite a while to get my strength back."

A new concern arose in May. Farnsworth wrote to Hubbard, "A letter was received from Arthur Connor. . . stated that Lowell was in very bad shape, also that the trouble he has been having in his mouth was showing now badly on his face. If this is true it is going to be questionable whether it will be safe or wise to keep the Lowells in the house. I think it would be well to write to Dr. Babcock (Castine's physician) and get his opinion on Lowell's condition and prospects. Also the contagious angle of his trouble."<sup>5</sup> Babcock's reply showed concern both over Grandfather's health and his presence around others: "The best way in my humble opinion would be for him to live off at his own camp or in some other house and let him work until he just has to give up. It would floor him entirely if he lost his entire job."

Hubbard agreed with Babcock's ideas and noted that he had asked Mr. [Frederick] Pierce to look into the situation. "I

[Hubbard] also said that if people had a suspicion even of the trouble being cancer<sup>6</sup> that I did not think Lowell should be in the Club House."

Pierce responded, noting that Hubbard's letter had taken him by surprise as he assumed the club officers knew of Grandfather's condition.<sup>7</sup> "Lowell has fought bravely and still keeps a bold face to the enemy, but I can't help think that he doesn't know what he has. All the radium treatments this winter could be for only one thing. Of course he is badly disfigured and bandaged, and it would seem to me that you are perfectly right as to the impossibility of his continuing to live in the Club house, because of members' objections."<sup>8</sup> He added that his own wife would be uncomfortable seeing or being around Grandfather.

Grandfather also wrote to Hubbard on May 26, "I have been rather poorly the last week. Went to Hospital for examination yesterday, and got no encouragement whatever from the Dr. She says she has done all she can do. Under existing conditions we feel that it would be best for all concerned for us to resign here at the Club for the summer season at least. While the Dr. is afraid of cancer she has failed to find many germs this far. But to be fair to the Club + members we think it would be the wisest thing to do. As the speech of the people might make it very uncomfortable."



Eva Lowell (1878-1953) was the manager and cook at the club house for the Castine Golf Club Collection Castine Historical Society

He continued:

*We are very, very sorry to give such short notice, but we only got it yesterday. We will stay and carry on the work, everything just as we would otherwise, until you arrive or until our places are filled. I feel very bad to leave the course, as it is in the best shape it has been since I have been here.*

*I have tried to make good, and I think I have, and I feel if you + I could carry this on together we could make it self supporting and satisfactory to all Club members in another season. . . We are very sorry to make this change, but feel it is much better for all concerned for Mrs. Lowell and I both have enjoyed the work and appreciate what the members and our golf friends have done for us.*

In letters that crossed in the mail, Hubbard had written to my grandmother on May 27,

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## Finding My Grandfather at the Castine Golf Club

*I dislike to write this letter but in justice to you and the golf club and with the kindest feelings I must do it.*

*Various reports are coming to me about Howard's condition and they are of such a nature that I feel it would be unwise for him to live in the Club House during the summer. I know that there will be many objections to his staying there even though he would have nothing to do with any of your work. The ladies particularly, would not like to have sickness of any kind in the house or around the kitchen and I don't know as if I would blame them. We want him to take care of the course as long as he can and will do everything to help him. We also want you to continue in the care of the house. Some arrangement will, however, have to be worked out so that Howard does not eat or sleep in the Club House ...*

The next day, after receiving Grandfather's resignation letter and after writing to Grandmother with suggestions on another way forward, Hubbard again wrote to Grandfather,

*I am sorry for you and I know how hard things must be for you both. I appreciate your feeling about resigning but if some other plan can be worked, along the lines suggested in my letter of yesterday it may be best for all concerned.*

*In the first place, I presume that you both need the money, as your expenses must have been very heavy and in the second place the club needs your wife to run the house and your advice regarding the links if you cannot do a days work.*

*If you can arrange it so as not to live in the house, as I suggested, Mrs. Lowell could run things there and carry on during the season. This would give her a home and the salary that goes with it.*

*With you, some arrangement could be made, so you could supervise the work if you are able to be around and you would have someone to take your place as a real worker along the lines you suggested some time ago. This would give you some compensation and keep your mind busy at least.*

The Lowell family camp on the Shore Road where Lowell was encouraged to live once his cancer became disfiguring, c. 1930 Collection Castine Historical Society, donated by Howard Lowell



*I believe that you have tried to make good and personally I want to do everything I can to help you and Mrs. Lowell get through the summer. If any change has to be made, I don't see how we can do much until some of us are on the ground.*

Grandfather replied to Mr. Hubbard on May 31. "As to supervising the work here at the Club - don't think I could do the Club justice as I am not feeling so well. And of course if Mrs. Lowell takes care of me it would be absolutely impossible for her to attend to the House in any way. We won't neglect anything until some one comes to look after it. If we are unable to do it our selves we will get some one to do our part. Awful sorry but this seems the only way out to all concerned."

The final letter in the 1929 file concerning Grandfather is from L.V. Hubbard to my grandmother,

*I was greatly shocked to receive your telegram late yesterday telling me that Howard had passed away. Of course I knew he was in bad shape but did not look for his end to come so quickly. The Castine Golf Club without Howard will never be the same. He has been with us for so many years and did so much work to make the course a big success. I think he left it believing it was better than ever this year and that must have been a joy to him.*

*We all will miss him, and I especially. Naturally I do not know what your future plans will be but I hope you can carry on in the house this summer.*

Howard Parker Lowell had died at 9:00 a.m. the previous day, June 3, 1929 at age 59.

### Endnotes

1. According to the National Cancer Institute, fear that cancer was contagious began in the 18th century, burgeoned in the early 20th century, and continued well into the 1960s. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer-understanding-cancer/history-of-cancer/modern-knowledge-and-cancer-causes.html>.
2. Radium treatments were what we now call radiation treatments and were developed from the discovery of x-rays in 1896. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/understanding-cancer/history-of-cancer/cancer-treatment/radiation-html>.
3. Throughout the 1920s my grandparents lived at the Golf Club in the same building that members used for parties, teas, and similar events. Today this building continues to serve as the club house.
4. Arthur W. Patterson would become a Club director in 1938. He was the author of the young adult book, *Redcoats at Castine*, first published January 1, 1938.
5. Arthur Connor was a Castine resident living on Green Street. The 1930 Federal census lists his occupation as caretaker in the summer home industry.
6. Editor's note: this is the first time in the correspondence that the word "cancer" was used, a telling example of the fear and reluctance to face the disease.
7. They did by this time.
8. Pierce was president of the Club from 1937 to 1941 and again in 1946.

# What's New in the Gift Shop

We are excited to show you some of the new products exclusive to our gift shop this season. Over the winter, the staff seek out new products that will help you find the perfect gift for friends, family, or yourself. And best of all, your purchases help support the Castine Historical Society!

This year, we worked hard to source new items related to our current exhibit, *A History of Castine in 40 Objects*, for you to purchase. Framed original vintage Castine postcards, as well as a new t-shirt sporting a lovely vintage postcard image of Castine harbor will be available. And we have a new cozy throw with a stunning vintage Castine map.

To support the exhibit, we will feature new books such as *Lincoln's Confidant: The Life of Noah Brooks*, *The Art of Penobscot Bay*, and a great selection of used and hard-to-find books on Castine history.

Since our Baron de Saint-Castin portrait will be on display in the exhibit, we are thrilled to offer our own Baron de Saint-Castin hand soap and the ever-popular Baron's Blaze hot sauce. Plus, we haven't forgotten our special Castine pets. New this year will be Castine map dog collars and leashes in assorted sizes.

Back by popular demand will be our birchwood trays with new scenic designs and matching coasters. As always, other popular items including our bestselling CHS logo fleece jackets, the blue CHS logo baseball caps, and the Castine nautical chart dish towels and koozies will be in stock.

Stop by the gift shop during our open hours. If you don't live locally or wish to shop when we're closed, please shop online. Go to [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) and look for the "Shop" button in the upper right. If you shop online, we can ship directly to you or we can arrange for local pickup. **And don't forget that all current members get a 10% discount!**



Framed vintage Castine postcards



Birchwood serving tray



Vintage Castine map throw

Baron de Saint-Castin hand soap



Castine nautical map and four flags dog leash and collar



# 2024 Education Series

*Moss* talks are in-person in the Castine Historical Society's Mitchell Room. See descriptions for other locations. Due to space limitations, you must register in advance to attend in-person talks at CHS. All but one lecture will also be livestreamed on CHS's YouTube channel. **To make reservations or to find the livestream link, visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) and go to the "Exhibits and Events" Button. If you have questions or problems, call us at 207-326-4118.**

## Castine in the Civil War

Thursday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.

CHS Mitchell Room

*Reservations required to attend in-person. The event will also be livestreamed. Visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) to make reservations or for the livestream link.*



Private Henry Butler

Civil War historians and authors Diane and Ned Smith will discuss their research on Castine's Civil War soldiers. The Smiths wrote six books documenting aspects of Maine's role in the Civil War. Their recent research came during the COVID lockdown when they began visiting cemeteries in central and coastal Maine, including Castine's. After finding the graves of Civil War veterans,

they began to research these men's war experiences. During their talk, the Smiths will review Castine men and their service in the war. They will also focus on the treasure trove of letters in the CHS collection written home by Private Henry Butler. He served four years in the 16th Maine Regiment and died shortly before the war ended.



Carl Little

## Art of Penobscot Bay – A Sampler

Saturday, June 29, 4:00 p.m.

CHS Mitchell Room

*Reservations required to attend this in-person only event at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).*

We are thrilled to co-sponsor with Compass Rose Books this in-person illustrated talk by Carl Little. Little will introduce attendees to his newest book, *Art of*

*Penobscot Bay*, which he co-authored with his brother David. He will discuss how Penobscot Bay has attracted generation after generation of artists to paint on its shores. He will also focus on the artists who drew inspiration from this region from the 19th through the 21st century, including Castine artists Joshua Adam, Susan Parish Adam, and Gregory Dunham. A book sale and book signing will follow his talk.



Chair detail

## A History of Castine in 40 Objects

Thursday, July 18, 7:00 p.m.

CHS Mitchell Room

*Reservations required to attend in-person. The event will also be livestreamed. Visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) to make reservations or for the livestream link.*

Castine Historical Society's Executive Director, Lisa Simpson Lutts, will give an illustrated talk highlighting objects from CHS's permanent collection that tell unexpected and compelling stories about the town's 400-year history. Lutts will uncover some of the exciting discoveries made by the staff and exhibit committee while conducting research for this season's exhibit. Attendees will learn fascinating stories about Jesuit priests, World War II soldiers, ship captains sailing to China, and tales of Castine's woman-run movie theater!

## The 15th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture – Rising from the Ashes: Building on Restituted Family Property in Post-Nazi Berlin, Germany

Thursday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall,

Maine Maritime Academy, Castine

*No reservations to attend in-person.*

*Visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) for the livestream link.*



Hans D. Strauch

Hans D. Strauch, a noted architect based in Boston and a Castine summer resident, will present a talk on how the Mosse family legacy of publishing and advertising, along with their home and extensive art collection in Berlin, Germany were confiscated and destroyed by Nazis before World War II. Strauch will talk about his family roots in Berlin, the history of the family's property, and their successful



restitution of the land following the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Stauch designed the new Mosse Palais, which was built in 1998. The American Jewish Committee was the building's first occupant and is still there. Besides creating this physical representation of the Mosse legacy in Berlin, the family has the largest ongoing art restitution project in Europe.

Strauch received his architecture degree with distinction from Cornell University. He leads a talented team of designers and architects at his Boston architectural firm, HDS Architecture, and designs distinctive buildings and communities in the US and abroad. Strauch also chairs the Board of Trustees at Lesley University in Cambridge, an institution focused on teacher education, counseling, and the visual arts.



Georgia Zildjian leads a walking tour

### Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program

Thursday, August 22, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Castine Inn, 33 Main Street, Castine

*No reservations to attend in-person.*

*Visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) for the livestream link.*

CHS's Annual Meeting is open to members and the general public. The event begins with a talk on the Historical Society's projects and programs since the last annual meeting, followed by the election of new officers and members to the Board of Directors. After the business meeting, staff will present exciting new objects and archives that were donated to the collection this year. A wine and cheese reception will be held after the meeting.

### Hidden Legacies:

#### A Walking Tour of Castine's African American History

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 a.m.

Rain date Sunday, September 8

*Limited to 15 people.*

*Reservations required at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).*

Join Georgia Zildjian and Lisa Simpson Lutts for an hour-long walking tour that will take you to the homes, places of work, and burial sites of Castine's African and African American citizens. Along the way you will hear stories about the remarkable lives of sailors, students, cooks, waiters, and essential workers who made a difference in Castine.



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**2024 Season Open House**  
Saturday, June 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Castine Historical Society  
17 School St., Castine

Enjoy a glass of wine or lemonade, have some delicious hors d'oeuvres, meet new and old friends, and view the 2024 season exhibits. Everyone is welcome at this free event that kicks off the Historical Society's season!

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# Midsummer Night Fling at the Whitney House



## SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday, July 24, Castine will experience a special fundraiser that is sure to be one of the summer's most anticipated social events. The Castine Historical Society will host a magical evening at the Whitney House on the Town Common. The event, generously hosted by Gunilla Kettis, will be held under a grand tent on the lawn of her historic home.

The Whitney House was built in 1810 for Henry Whitney and his wife, Lucy Perkins Whitney. This magnificent Federal style home is best-known as one of the houses occupied by British officers during the War of 1812. This gracious home overlooking the Common has witnessed over 200 years of Castine history!

The festive evening will feature signature summer cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres by Rioux Caterers combined with a stellar silent auction. Committee members are hard at work selecting unusual items and fun experiences for you to bid on.

*The evening will be an unforgettable event to raise money for a great cause! As CHS members, you will get first access and special pricing to purchase tickets to this event, which will no doubt be a sell-out. Please save the date and watch your mailboxes for an invitation to enjoy this special evening.*

# Board, Staff, and Donations

**Board of Directors:**

Susie Hatch  
*President*

Howard Lowell  
*Vice President*

Brooke Tenney  
*Secretary*

John Mitchell  
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### Chair, c. 1870-1889

#### Donated by Leila and James Day

One of the spectacular collection items in this season's exhibit is this magnificent oak chair carved by Samuel T. Noyes, Jr. (1824-1889). Noyes made the chair for his family from wood he salvaged from an old wreck found just north of the Noyes Shipyard on Water Street. In the exhibit, you will be able to see "British Transport – St. Helena – 1779 – Castine ME" carved on the back of the chair.

During the Victorian era, carving furniture from historic salvaged wood was a popular pastime. When the wood was salvaged from a wreck in Castine's harbor, Noyes and Castine residents believed the wood was from the *Saint Helena*, a British ship from the Penobscot Expedition.

Today, we know the wood could not be from the *Saint Helena* which was lost in a storm off Halifax, Nova Scotia in December, 1779. More recently, some people maintain that the wood was from the wreck of the American sloop *Providence*, also from the Penobscot Expedition. That's unlikely because the *Providence* was destroyed further up the Penobscot River and not in the area where this wood was salvaged. We will probably never know which vessel the wood comes from or even if the wood is from a Revolutionary War era ship. Not knowing the ship's identity does not take away from the beauty and history of the chair.

#### CONTACT US:

(207) 326-4118

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