


Castine Historical Society



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
**2024**



Edith, Alice, and Dorothy Blake  
with friends, c. 1910  
Castine Historical Society collection,  
donated by Kendall Lutkins

## Making a Difference

As most of you are aware, the Castine Historical Society is in transition as our Executive Director, Lisa Simpson Lutts, winds down her tenure before retirement. We are so grateful that Lisa gave us plenty of notice to assist us during this transition.

In early 2024, we hired a New England-based consultant who specializes in museum searches to conduct the Executive Director search which we officially launched in the fall. While the search is ongoing, and until the right candidate is found, Lisa has agreed to continue to lead CHS part-time in early 2025.

CHS had an excellent year, as you will read in this Annual Report. We launched a new, very popular two-year exhibition “A History of Castine in 40 Objects.” We hosted a stellar line-up of lectures. We began long-range planning with the Wilson Museum for the eventual donation of their Castine history archives to CHS – a mammoth undertaking that requires the Board and staff to examine the significant financial, time, and staffing implications of this major project. And we ended the year by launching a ground-breaking learning unit for the Adams School on African American history in Castine.

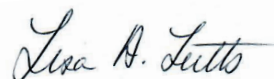
In this report you will also learn about the completed painting project of the Grindle House, some of the important donations and acquisitions for the permanent collection, and our successful summer fundraiser.

But most of all, you will learn about the many people who volunteer their time to assist in so many ways. With over 60 volunteers, we calculate that our volunteers donate 1,850 hours to CHS throughout the year - the equivalent to one full-time staff person! Volunteers give of their time and talents by serving on the board and on committees, as docents, walking tour guides, and collection volunteers. We are so grateful to everyone who serves.

As we always like to say, the Castine Historical Society is **your** historical society, and together we make Castine’s vibrant history accessible, relevant, and inspiring to everyone! Thank you.



Susan Hatch  
President, Board of Directors



Lisa Simpson Lutts  
Executive Director

## 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susan Hatch  
*President*

Dabney McKenzie  
*Vice President*

Brooke Tenney  
*Secretary*

John Mitchell  
*Treasurer*

Richard M. Ames  
Roberta Boczkiewicz  
Michael Boucher  
Mary Dearborn  
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Lisa Haugen  
Howard Lowell  
Karen Lyons  
Charlie Pearce  
Marc Pelletier  
Steven Tenney  
Melanie Twomey

## PRESIDENT EMERITUS

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James M. Day

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

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Sara F. Foote  
Jack Macdonald  
Marcia Mason  
Ann L. Miller  
John C. Parish, Jr.  
Robert B. Rettig  
Ruth Scheer

## STAFF

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Lisa Simpson Lutts  
*Executive Director*

Jules Thomson  
*Collections Manager*

Mary Caron Durost  
*Office Manager*

## Mission

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

## 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.

Acadia Yacht Service on the Castine Town Docks  
Castine Historical Society collection, donated by  
Barry, James, and Marta Hamilton in memory  
of Marie Wood and Jean Wood Hamilton



# Governance

The Governance Committee is charged with improving Board effectiveness and ensuring that CHS's bylaws, policies, and procedures follow best practices in the museum field while reinforcing the organization's mission and values.



Mike Boucher

Key benchmarks for the success of any nonprofit are the quality, knowledge, skills, and active involvement of its board. The Governance Committee secures a slate of candidates for the Historical Society's Board of Directors to consider for nomination. At the Annual Meeting, members vote to elect candidates that the Board has presented.



Lisa Haugen

In 2024 Melanie Twomey, Mike Boucher, and Lisa Haugen were elected to the Board for three-year terms. Melanie has been coming to Castine during summers since 1985, and in 2019, purchased a family home here. Melanie serves as Advancement Director of the nonprofit Effective Leadership Academy. Mike is a retired naval officer and a graduate of MMA. Since retirement from the military in 2019, Mike and his wife have become year-round Castine residents. Lisa, a Castine real estate agent and long-term volunteer with the Historical Society, returns to the Board after a one-year hiatus.



Melanie Twomey

Members also reelected Roberta Boczkiewicz, Karen Lyons, and Brooke Tenney to the Board for a second three-year term. Termed out and leaving the Board after six years were Ellie Benjamin and Alice Alston. Ellie served in several leadership capacities including as president for two years, chair of Governance, and as a member of the Finance and Development committees. Alice was instrumental in leading the Historical Society's Education Committee and served as volunteer Docent Coordinator for many years. Both continue their volunteer work as docents and committee members.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Board elected officers from among its members, as required by our Bylaws: Susie Hatch, president; Dabney McKenzie, vice president; Brooke Tenney, secretary; and John Mitchell, treasurer.

A second key benchmark for the success of a nonprofit is to have a formal strategic plan that defines its vision and goals, and provides a roadmap for how to achieve these. 2024 marks the end of year two of our three-year strategic plan. The Governance Committee monitors progress against the strategic plan tasks and deadlines and reports progress to the Board each January.



Executive Director, Lisa Simpson Lutts, gives her report at the 2024 Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting in August, Executive Director Lisa Simpson Lutts announced to the membership her intention to retire at the end of 2024. She came to the Castine Historical Society as our first Executive Director in 2017. Lisa professionalized CHS, both operationally and in the programs we offer. Her impact at the Historical Society will long remain in evidence.

In anticipation of Lisa's leaving, in early 2024, CHS engaged a museum search consultant to assist us in attracting candidates for the position. President Hatch appointed a Search Committee, including all Governance Committee members, to select our second Executive Director. At the time this report was written, the search process is ongoing. The Search Committee anticipates selecting a new Executive Director in the first quarter of 2025. Until a selection is made, Lisa has offered to work part-time in early 2025 to maintain administrative continuity.

## GOVERNANCE Committee Members

Ellen Benjamin, *chair through August 2024*

Howard Lowell, *chair from August 2024*

Mary Dearborn

Brooke Tenney

Lisa Simpson Lutts, *staff*

# Docents Add Sparkle to our Exhibits

By Dabney McKenzie  
volunteer docent coordinator

While some volunteers assist with researching, planning, and organizing each seasonal exhibit, it is the Castine Historical Society docents who are the first point of contact with those who visit the Abbott School gallery. Whether one is a walking tour guide or a docent inside the Abbott School, these volunteers facilitate the connection that happens when a guest interacts with history. And interact, they do! Thanks to the many positive reviews on TripAdvisor, CHS is the number one attraction in Castine!

This year's exhibit, "A History of Castine in 40 Objects," was well received by our visitors, who traveled to our village from 45 states and the US Virgin Islands. We also had guests from fifteen foreign countries including Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and Tunisia! Teams from other New England historical societies also came to check out our current exhibit, looking to glean exhibition and curatorial design tips to take back home to their institutions.

This year's exhibit was a popular one with our visitors. Here are some visitors' comments from the sign-in book at the Abbott School:

*My favorite exhibit of all you've done!*

*Wonderful preservation of the past*

*Outstanding display and wonderful knowledge from the docent*

*Wicked good*

*Wonderful resource for Castine's significant history*

*Very impressive and informative exhibit*



Each August, CHS hosts a party to thank our volunteers. Here Patti Day, Jean Di Sabatino, Louise Giugliano, and Peggy O'Neil-Murphy enjoy the event. Between the four of them, they are either docents, walking tour guides, or serve on the Education Committee. Many wear multiple hats!

Not all guests take the time to write a TripAdvisor review, so we appreciate those who do! One particular comment from August highlights the value of our docents to our mission:

*Informative, enriching and fun! A stop at the Castine Historical Society has always been a centerpiece of our visits to beautiful Castine Village over the years. It's evident that everyone associated with the Historical Society truly loves interacting with visitors, patiently answering questions with interest and enthusiasm. Each time, our trip has been made more rewarding from suggestions we received at the Historical Society. We look forward to our next visit.*

While our seasonal exhibits are amazing, the quilt (a peerless marvel), and the Penobscot Expedition exhibit (a perennial historical favorite), our docents shine the brightest light on all that we do at CHS. We are grateful for all they do to make our season sparkle!

## Thank you TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Alice Alston	James Dearborn	Lisa Lawsing	Jane Saltsman
Richard Ames	Jill Dearborn	Howard Lowell	Ruth Scheer
Helen Anderson	Mary Dearborn	Karen Lyons	Ken Scheer
Jeb Baker	Jean Di Sabatino	Mary Claire Mari	Pamela Scully
Ellie Benjamin	Kate Dustin	Dabney McKenzie	Jim Shanley
Doug Benjamin	Susan Farmer	Marcia Mason	Steve Skillen
Casey Bernard	Judy Fitzsimmons	Beth Miller	Pedrick Sweet
Roberta Boczkiewicz	Brittany Goetting	John Mitchell	Brooke Tenney
Beth Boucher	Anne Gorman	Nancy Mundth	Don Tenney
Mike Boucher	Louise Giugliano	Peggy O'Neil-Murphy	Peter Tenney
Bill Buchanan	Susie Hatch	Charlie Pearce	Steven Tenney
Penny Carlhian	Lisa Haugen	Greer Pearce	Melanie Twomey
Justin Cooper	Ginny Hilton	Marc Pelletier	Bobby Vagt
Doug Coots	Julie Jeffrey	Ellyn Plato	Georgia Zildjian
Michael Coughlin	Gunilla Kettis	Matt Powell	Pat Zoller
Patti Day	Charlie King	Jordan Richards	



Docent Mary Dearborn greeted visitors on a weekly basis in the Abbott School gallery.

# Education – Adult Programs

In 2024, the Historical Society offered a number of talks and historic walking tours, most of which were geared primarily to adult audiences. The lectures were presented in-person, and most were live-streamed so people around the country could watch live or at a later date. These lectures are available at any time on our website, [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). On the website go to the Collections button and click Speakers and Lectures in the drop-down menu.

The season began in June with a talk by Civil War historians Diane and Ned Smith on Castiners in the Civil War. A few weeks later, Carl Little, an art historian, gave a talk on his newest book, *Art of Penobscot Bay – A Sampler*. Co-sponsored with Compass Rose Books, it also included a book sale and signing.

In July, Executive Director, Lisa Simpson Lutts, gave a talk on “A History of Castine in 40 Objects.” During her illustrated talk, Lutts uncovered some of the exciting discoveries about Castine history that staff and exhibit committee members made while conducting research for the current exhibition by the same name.

The highlight of every summer is the Historical Society’s Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture, now in its 15th year. Named in honor of CHS’s major benefactor, this lecture series honors the memory and achievements of Deborah Pulliam. Ms. Pulliam, who died in 2007, generously supported many organizations in Castine including the Historical Society.

Hans D. Strauch, a noted architect based in Boston and a Castine summer resident, gave the Pulliam lecture. During his fascinating presentation on his family and their legacy in Berlin, Strauch discussed the confiscation of the family’s art collection by Nazis before World War II, and the destruction of their home during allied bombings. Strauch ended his talk by explaining how his family successfully restituted the land following the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and how he was tasked with designing a new Mosse Palais on this site in 1998. He also discussed the Mosse family’s ongoing work in restituting the family’s art collection.

In late August, CHS hosted its Annual Meeting and Program at the Castine Inn. During the program, members heard from Board President Susie Hatch and Board Treasurer John Mitchell. Following a vote on new board members, Lisa

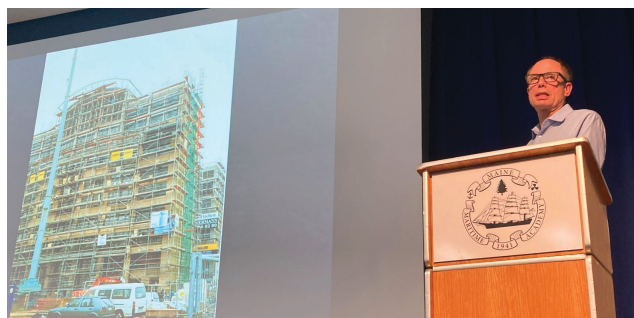


Georgia Zildjian leads a fall walking tour on African American history in Castine. The group is overlooking the site of the Dresser Rope Walk and home of African John Jackson, a former enslaved man who made his way from enslavement in Brazil to freedom in Castine in the early 1830s.

Simpson Lutts gave an overview of the year’s events which was followed by a staff “roast” on Lisa’s seven years as Executive Director in honor of her retirement in early 2025.

The season ended with a September walking tour on African American history in Castine led by volunteer Georgia Zildjian and Lisa Simpson Lutts. From its popularity, we anticipate this walking tour will be a yearly offering.

We continue to offer education programming designed to meet the aspiration of the Castine Historical Society to be a community gathering space, resource, and catalyst for civic engagement rooted in the understanding of Castine’s history and its impact on our lives today.



Architect Hans D. Strauch gives the 15th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial lecture in August at the Delano Auditorium at Maine Maritime Academy.

## EDUCATION Committee Members

Alice Alston, *chair through August 2024*  
 Jean di Sabatino, *chair from August 2024*  
 Roberta Boczkiewicz  
 Louise Giugliano

Dabney McKenzie  
 Peggy O’Neil-Murphy  
 Peter Tenney  
 Georgia Zildjian

Susan Hatch, *ex officio*  
 Lisa Simpson Lutts, *staff*

# Education – School Programs

Throughout 2024, members of the Castine Historical Society’s staff and Education Committee met to plan a new pilot learning unit for the Adams School 7th/8th grade class taught by Kalista Farmer. This pilot unit used the history of Castine’s African and African American residents to look at broader issues such as slavery in New England and the South, Abolition, the Underground Railroad, and life for free Blacks in New England.

The Historical Society asked Georgia Zildjian, an Education Committee member who is also on the Adams School staff and more recently on the Wilson Museum staff, to write and present the five-week learning unit for the fall term. Zildjian designed the unit to allow students to explore sites in Castine, use primary documents at the Castine Historical Society, and learn from community experts. This unit aligns with Maine state learning standards and provides the school with the ability to meet the requirements of Maine’s LD 1664, a mandate to incorporate African American history into the curriculum.

The goal of the Historical Society in working with Zildjian was to create and present this learning unit to meet our vision statement to “cultivate curiosity about our past to foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.”

Adams School students spent time in the classroom and visiting Castine historic sites learning the curriculum.



The final class project – a giant elm tree filled with Castine’s African American history.

The culminating project for the class was presented to over 70 community members on November 14 in the Castine Historical Society’s Abbott School gallery. In this amazing event, students showed off their colossal art project representing an elm tree filled with the real life stories of Castine’s African Americans, a moving video documentary on their visit to Esther and Emanuel Islands, and a story book called *Elms on the Water*.

The final impact of this learning unit was evident that evening. Zildjian and CHS wanted to ensure that the unit met the criteria outlined below. We believe that these were not only met but exceeded our wildest aspirations.

- To leave the students with essential knowledge about Castine’s African and African American citizens and how they shaped the town’s history.
- The unit was participatory and experiential involving hands-on projects and on-the-ground learning as they visited sites in the Castine community.
- Students’ empathy was sparked through the use of story and human connection.
- Real-world connections were made, and students were inspired to think critically about other related histories, events, practices, or current events in connection with this unit.
- Students learned stewardship of our community as they sought out ways to honor the legacies of Castine’s African American community.

As a small rural historical society, CHS has much to be proud of and this African American Learning Unit is a shining star among our accomplishments. We are so grateful to Georgia Zildjian for her leadership and gifted teaching skills that brought this to fruition.

# Collections

It's been another vibrant and dynamic year for the Collections Committee. 2024 featured some important additions to the permanent collection. For the archives, the Hatch family generously donated 10 boxes of 19th-century Castine business records and documents originally collected from local sources by Francis W. Hatch. This treasure trove of Castine's social and commercial history is one of CHS's largest single acquisitions to date.

Other donations were smaller but no less exciting, including a box of personal and business correspondence from Castine's Johnston family, courtesy of Brian Witherspoon of St. Louis, MO. CHS purchased at auction a significant item related to the Penobscot Expedition: a 1780 travel pass signed by Henry Mowatt, captain of the HMS *Albany* which was stationed in Castine during and after the 1779 conflict. CHS also acquired its first Clark Fitz-Gerald sculpture to feature a religious theme. Entitled *Bow of Life*, this work was originally purchased by Christ Church, Cambridge, MA from Fitz-Gerald in 1964. Many thanks to the Lovett Family who funded both of the latter purchases in memory of William A. Lovett.

In 2024, CHS was awarded a grant from the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. This grant funded an assessment of what it will take to transfer the Wilson Museum's Castine-related archival collections to the Historical Society. The two institutions have agreed that moving these records makes sense both from logistical and preservation perspectives. Combining the two archival collections at CHS will create a one-stop hub for researchers. From an access and preservation standpoint, CHS has a dedicated public reading room for researchers, and collections are housed within a climate-controlled, fireproof vault. There are, however, many factors to consider in such a large transfer. Archivists Paige Lilly and Pat Burdick were hired as project consultants in October, and at the end of the year produced a feasibility report. This report will guide the two institutions in the creation of a detailed plan for the transfer, as well as for soliciting future grants to assist CHS with the not insignificant financial costs that will be incurred with this donation.

One of the challenges common to all collections work is mitigating backlogged collections which are either unorganized, uncatalogued, or both. Staff cataloged 15 boxes of personal papers from the Hale Family, which span



Clark Fitz-Gerald's *Bow of Life*, 1964 was purchased by CHS from Christ Church in Cambridge, MA using the Lovett Family Fund.

well over a century of Castine history. Staff also organized and cataloged most of Clark Fitz-Gerald's sketches, archives, and personal papers, along with several boxes of Unitarian Universalist Church records, as well as a number of smaller collections from previous years. This was in addition to keeping up with incoming donations, which totaled about 40 for the year, consisting of many hundreds of individual records and items.

The Collections Committee produced several important pieces of policy in 2024, including a mutual aid agreement formalizing cooperation between local non-profit institutions and the town in the event of a disaster. Also created was a Collecting Plan, which articulates CHS's current collecting philosophy, identifies strengths and weaknesses in existing collections, and targets directions for expansion.



Documents in the Johnston family papers donated by Brian Witherspoon document not only the personal life of the family, but their business dealings in New Orleans and Castine.

Volunteers and interns continue to be lynchpins of CHS's collections work. The summer graduate school intern, Austin Dumont, was here in July and August, leading walking tours and digitizing the photo collections. He also created an exhibit on Castine's working waterfront, displayed at Witherle Memorial Library. Volunteer Julie Jeffrey read and created an archival finding aid for the 1825-1841 diary of George Doty Little, son of local architect and businessman Doty Little. The finding aid will enable future researchers to quickly assess subjects and individuals found in the diary.

High-school student volunteer Jessiek Patterson digitized selections from the postcard collection during her summer break. Two Simmons University Library Science and Archives program interns, Jane McCamant of the Maine Maritime Academy Library, and Jennifer Rosenthal of the Friend Memorial Library in Brooklin, worked in the archives. CHS is pleased to help these students get hands-on processing experience at archives near where they live, which is not always easy. They've been hard at work organizing and describing collections within the large Hatch family donation.

## COLLECTIONS Committee Members

Richard M. Ames, <i>chair</i>	Susan Hatch, <i>ex officio</i>
Casey Bernard	Jules Thomson, <i>staff</i>
Brittany Goetting	Lisa Simpson Lutts, <i>staff</i>
Howard Lowell	



# Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is charged with caring for CHS's two historic structures – the Abbott School building and the Grindle House. Not only do the buildings house the exhibits, gift shop, offices, and collections storage, but they also are important mid-19th century historic properties that grace the Town Common. The committee works hard caring for the buildings and grounds to ensure they will be here for future generations to enjoy.

2024 was a busy year for the committee. They continued to assist with construction projects related to CHS exhibitions displayed in the Abbott School gallery, which is a huge cost-savings measure. This year's exhibit, "A History of Castine in 40 Objects," required construction of several new display pedestals and shelving units which the Buildings and Grounds Committee members tackled. The committee also assisted with the exhibit installation. Working with the Exhibits Committee was a fun and rewarding experience for everyone.

In early summer, Bennett Painting painted the remaining sides of the Grindle House and made minor repairs to the exterior. Begun in 2023, this two-year project spread out the costs of this significant capital improvement project.



Bennett Painting finished painting the two remaining sides of the Grindle House in the spring.

Committee members also installed two dozen engraved bricks in the walkways leading to the Abbott School building. This continues to be a popular fundraiser for the Historical Society as people purchase engraved bricks as memorials or honorariums for friends, family, and even pets.

During the late fall, the staff and committee members noticed that our electric bill was spiking; after testing all our equipment and devices, we found that we had a defective heater in our generator. This was replaced, and our utility costs have been significantly lowered.

Last but not least, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is actively involved in planning for the Abbott School Renovation Project. As the project continues in 2025, the committee will help write a Request for Proposal for architectural firms.



Members of the Building and Grounds Committee constructed and painted new pedestals to display various pieces of furniture in the exhibit gallery. Here Mike Boucher and Marc Pelletier install the Grand Army of the Republic altar on a new pedestal.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS Committee Members

Marc Pelletier,  
*chair*  
Mike Boucher  
Justin Cooper

Doug Coots  
Marcia Mason  
Steve Skillen  
Pedrick Sweet

Susan Hatch,  
*ex officio*  
Lisa Simpson Lutts,  
*staff*

# Exhibitions

Historical Societies exist to tell and preserve a community's history through objects and archival records. With that in mind, over the past year-and-a-half, the staff and Exhibits Committee organized a new two-year exhibition, "A History of Castine in 40 Objects." The exhibition highlights aspects of the town's history through never-before-displayed objects from the CHS permanent collection.

Forty unexpected and compelling artifacts in the exhibition weave together almost 400 years of Castine history. The objects selected for exhibition tell Castine stories which are both familiar, like the town's Revolutionary War history, and unexpected, such as its African American history.



Bringing CHS's largest collection piece, the Custom House Desk, into the exhibit required hiring Strout Brothers Moving Company from Bucksport. They are skilled at moving heavy objects and did a marvelous job.

The exhibition is divided into themes that help visitors dive into these fascinating stories of the past and present. "Castine at War" looks at why major world powers fought over the peninsula and examines how subsequent wars—including those not fought in town—affected the average Castine citizen. "Castine at Sea" delves not only into the careers of wealthy ship captains but also into those of craftsmen who worked on the docks to support this maritime trade. "Castine at Home" explores how politics, community organizations, and occupations helped shape the town. The exhibition ends with "Castine and the Arts," which examines the significant role the arts, artists, and writers played and continue to play in this community.

## EXHIBITS Committee Members

Brooke Tenney, <i>chair</i>	Marcia Mason
Mike Boucher	Don Tenney
Penny Carlhian	Lisa Simpson Lutts, <i>staff</i>
Susan Hatch	

Exhibit committee member, Penny Carlhian, prepares the mannequin to safely display Sergeant Bakeman's World War II uniform.



Objects on exhibit include the oldest – and smallest – object in the collection which is a Jesuit chess piece seal used to make an impression in wax on a letter or document. Found at the Baron Castin's habitation site along the Bagaduce River, the seal dates to the 1680s. The location was a mixed community of French and

Wabanaki inhabitants and served both as residence and as a trading post. It is believed the seal was inadvertently dropped there by the community's resident Jesuit priest or by a visiting priest.

Also included in the exhibit are more contemporary objects such as a Susan Adam painting from 2020 of Dr. Nirav Shah. Dr. Shah was the director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention during COVID and served as a comforting presence in the lives of Mainer with his daily broadcasts during this difficult time. Susan donated the painting to CHS as part of the COVID collection documenting the effects of COVID on the town.

The Exhibits Committee worked with the staff to help select and research objects and edit the labels and text panels. The committee also installed the exhibition with the staff, a process which ranged from hanging paintings at eye level, to dressing a mannequin, to hanging a campaign torch. The Buildings and Grounds Committee assisted by building pedestals and shelving and with exhibit installation.

Like all CHS exhibitions, "A History of Castine in 40 Objects" helps the Historical Society meet its mission to cultivate curiosity about Castine's past to foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.



Exhibit committee member, Don Tenney, installs blown-up historic photographs of Castine in the exhibit.

# Development

In 2024, the Development Committee planned another fun and successful fundraiser. In late July, CHS hosted an evening cocktail party in the lovely side yard of Gunilla Kettis's historic home on the Town Common. It was a delightful summer evening, and attendees enjoyed cocktails and wonderful hors d'oeuvres under the grand tent. A highlight of the evening was the silent auction with unique items and experiences donated to help raise funds for CHS. Each year this summer cocktail party raises a significant amount to support CHS's exhibitions, education programs, and care of our historic collection and buildings.

Not every event that the committee organizes raises funds. At the start of each season in June, CHS hosts an Open House Reception. This free event is open to everyone – not just members. Not only is it a great way to kick off the season, but it is a great chance to view the new exhibition. The committee, along with other volunteers, assist by bringing hors d'oeuvres and volunteering at this event.

Besides events, the committee focused on four key areas of revenue support: membership, Annual Appeal, grants, and the gift shop. This year, 21 new households became members of CHS, which brings the total number of member households to 405. These members are a geographically diverse group, consisting of year-round residents, summer residents, and people throughout the United States, many of whom have past family ties to Castine.

While membership dues are the backbone of CHS's income, the year-end Annual Appeal also provides significant financial support. Close to 30% of CHS's members elected to give a year-end gift in addition to their annual membership dues raising well over \$40,000 to support exhibitions, programs, and collections care.



The summer fundraiser, A Midsummer Night Fling, was a lovely evening at the historic Whitney House on the Town Common. This view of the CHS Abbott School is taken from an angle visitors don't normally see!



The Open House Reception in June is a great way for people to enjoy the new seasonal exhibition.

Grant income was also part of the 2024 revenue. Thanks to a \$7,163 grant from the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, CHS was able to hire two archivist consultants to write a report on a potentially groundbreaking project not only for CHS, but for the museum field in general. You can read more about this project in the Collections Report!

**DID YOU KNOW**  
In 2024, YOUR contributions to CHS constituted a vital 41% of our annual operating budget!

CHS's gift shop is another important revenue source. During the winter, staff go to wholesale gift fairs to discover new vendors and products for the shop that are unique to CHS. The gift shop is open daily in the Abbott School building from June – October. Sales don't end when CHS closes because people can buy items

online at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). New this year, CHS hosted a Sip & Shop event in early December so locals can shop for the holidays. It was a fun event that will continue in the future.

Thank you to all of you who help raise funds for CHS. Your support allows the Historical Society to do so much more, whether it is curate high-quality exhibitions, host thought-provoking education programs for adults and youth, or care for our important collection and buildings following best museum practices. Thank you for your support!

## DEVELOPMENT Committee Members

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mary Dearborn, <i>chair</i> | Ellyn Plato                      |
| Ellen Benjamin              | Ruth Scheer                      |
| Penny Carlhian              | Melanie Twomey                   |
| Susan Hatch                 | Mary Caron Durost, <i>staff</i>  |
| Lisa Haugen                 | Lisa Simpson Lutts, <i>staff</i> |

# 2024 Castine Historical Society Members

## LIFETIME

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Virginia Beers  
Virginia and Stan Bourne  
Dona Brophy  
Paul Davis  
Leila and Jim Day  
Direxa Dearie  
Sandy and Will Dick\*  
Felicity and Mike Gillette  
Andrew Harig  
Vivian Harig  
Mark Honey  
Kathryn Jones  
Gunilla Kettis  
Charles King\*  
Barbara and Elliot Lindsley  
Kim and Conner Madison  
Donnamarie and Mark Mills  
Albert Myers  
Paul Myers  
Meg Ann Noah  
Robert B. Rettig\*  
Deborah Rice  
Jeryl Schriever and Alexander Huppé  
Arthur Wardwell  
Lucy Jane Webster\*  
Roxanne and Robert Webster  
Libby Wiswall  
Brian Witherspoon\*

## NOAH BROOKS SOCIETY

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Laura and Richard Ames\*  
Kristen Caverly and Robert Campbell  
Sally and Todd Fonner  
Linda Genereux and Timur Galen  
Susan and David Hatch\*  
Marina and George Hatch\*  
Mary and Howard Lowell\*  
Dabney & Richardson McKenzie\*  
Darisse Paquette and Hans Strauch\*  
Peg and Mac Patterson  
Georgeann and Parks Snead  
Trina and Fred Whitridge\*

## BENEFACTOR

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Maggie and Peter Begley  
Karen and Jochen Bene  
Ellie and Doug Benjamin\*  
Sarah and Bryan Carey  
Penelope Carlhian and Marc Pelletier\*  
Roxanne and Kevin Coady\*  
Mary Dearborn\*  
Emily Eerdmans and Andrew McKeon  
Susan and Paul Farmer  
Jim Hubbard  
Sue and Jack Macdonald\*  
Joan Netland  
Liz and John Parish  
Julia and Brooke Parish  
Jean and Tom Pedersen\*  
Louise and Peter Pincoffs\*  
Geraldine and Alan Schechter  
Lindsay and Phil Scott  
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DeRaaf Realty  
Down East Landscape & Design  
EHL Design  
E.L. Shea Builders and Engineers  
FGN Global Logistics  
Furbush Roberts Printing  
Hammond Lumber Company  
Merle B. Grindle Agency  
Saltmeadow Properties  
Wallace Interiors



*Thank you*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

# In Memory

**In 2024, the Historical Society lost two dedicated supporters each of whom made a difference through their time and talents.**

In February, staff learned of the passing of Beverly Farnham Henry, a dedicated member of the Historical Society for over 20 years. Born at Castine Hospital and raised in West Penobscot, Bev was part of two families with deep ties to Castine, the Farnham and Conner families. An extraordinary genealogist, Bev spent years documenting these and many related auxiliary families in detailed notebooks that she donated to the Historical Society. These have proved invaluable when researchers come to CHS to learn more about their families.



Beverly Farnham Henry was a great supporter of the Historical Society through her collection donations and generous sharing of Castine history.

In addition, over the years Bev donated many items to the permanent collection including archival records from the Eastern State Normal and Castine High Schools, postcards and photographs of Castine, and even a 1920s era sailor's blouse and cap belonging to Allan Conner of North Castine.

The staff looked forward to Bev's annual Castine visits where we always came away learning more about Castine than we did before. She will be greatly missed.



Jim Shanley checks in visitors at the Historical Society's 2022 House & Garden Tour with volunteer Ellie Benjamin.

In September, the whole town was saddened to learn of the passing of Jim Shanley. A long-time CHS member, in 2007 Jim volunteered to be a docent. Every Wednesday afternoon during our open season, Jim would be on duty at the docent desk in the exhibit gallery. And whenever we had a call for volunteers for other events, such as the House & Garden Tour, Jim was always eager to assist.

Jim was not only one of our most faithful docents, he was a never-ending source of good cheer, welcoming visitors from around the world to the Historical Society. Docent Coordinator, Dabney McKenzie remembers him this way: "Jim loved everything about Castine; the people, the history and geography, and he was quick to share that love with everyone who visited the Historical Society. His warm smile and calm demeanor were contagious! I'm going to miss his signature advice of 'Cheers and be well.'"

## IN MEMORIAM

Catherine Abbate  
Miriam Butts (2023)

Robert Bruce  
Ben Clark

Jim Gibbons  
Beverly Farnham Henry

Jim Shanley  
Eve Stwertka (2023)

# Financial Report

The Historical Society’s Finance Committee’s goal is to care responsibly for the financial resources that are entrusted to CHS for today and for the future.

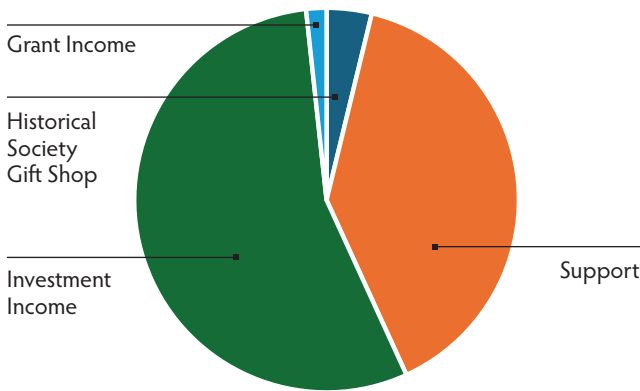
At the end of each calendar year, the staff, committee chairs, and the Board Treasurer and President create a draft general operating budget. The Finance Committee reviews the draft budget before the Board of Directors gives its final approval.

The committee meets quarterly with Bangor Wealth Management to review the performance of the CHS Endowment funds. Bangor Wealth Management has overseen the CHS Endowments since 2009.

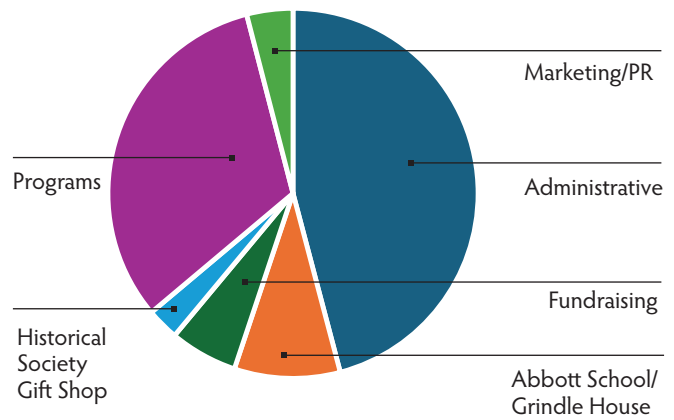
FINANCE Committee Members	
John Mitchell, <i>treasurer and committee chair</i>	Susan Hatch
Ellen Benjamin	Ruth Scheer
William Buchanan	Steven Tenney
	Lisa Simpson Lutts, <i>staff</i>

The graph and figures below show the 2024 revenue and expenses, as well as a comparison between 2023 and 2024. As always, Finance Committee members welcome questions from CHS members about our financial picture, which continues to remain healthy.

**2024 REVENUE**



**2024 EXPENSES**



2023 REVENUE	
Historical Society Gift Shop	15,878.00
Support	168,216.00
Investment Income	232,585.00
Grant income	4,925.00
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$421,604.00</b>

2024 REVENUE	
Historical Society Gift Shop	15,875.00
Support	164,920.00
Investment Income	230,782.00
Grant income	7,163.00
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$418,740.00</b>

2023 EXPENSES	
Marketing/Public Relations	15,339.00
Fundraising	10,982.00
Abbott School/Grindle House	60,315.00
Programs	147,164.00
Administrative	145,970.00
Historical Society Gift Shop	11,138.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$390,908.00</b>

2024 EXPENSES	
Marketing/Public Relations	15,310.00
Fundraising	22,461.00
Abbott School/Grindle House	35,059.00
Programs	121,663.00
Administrative	174,003.00
Historical Society Gift Shop	10,693.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$379,189.00</b>



Castine Historical Society

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Castine Historical Society

2024 STATISTICS



406 MEMBERS



21 NEW MEMBERS



VOLUNTEERS & HOURS

1,994 FACEBOOK FRIENDS



1,301 E-BLAST SUBSCRIBERS



Patti Day gives a historic walking tour.

Thank you for your support!