

From Route 1 in Orland take Route 166 into Castine. Bear right at the top of the hill and onto Battle Avenue. Take the first left onto Main Street. Turn left at the stop sign onto Court Street. Go 200 yards to School Street at the town common.

Join us! Membership is open to anyone who is interested in Castine's history. In addition to receiving our newsletter The Visitor three times a year, you will have the opportunity to participate in various activities and programs, and you will be supporting an organization dedicated to sustaining and revitalizing Castine and attracting new visitors to appreciate Castine's past and present. Go to www.castinehistoricalsociety.org for more information, or inquire when you visit us.

Summer Exhibit Hours

Abbott School

June to Labor Day, Mon. through Sat. 10-4, Sun. 1-4
Sept. to Columbus Day, Fri., Sat. & Mon. 10-4, Sun. 1-4



Grindle House

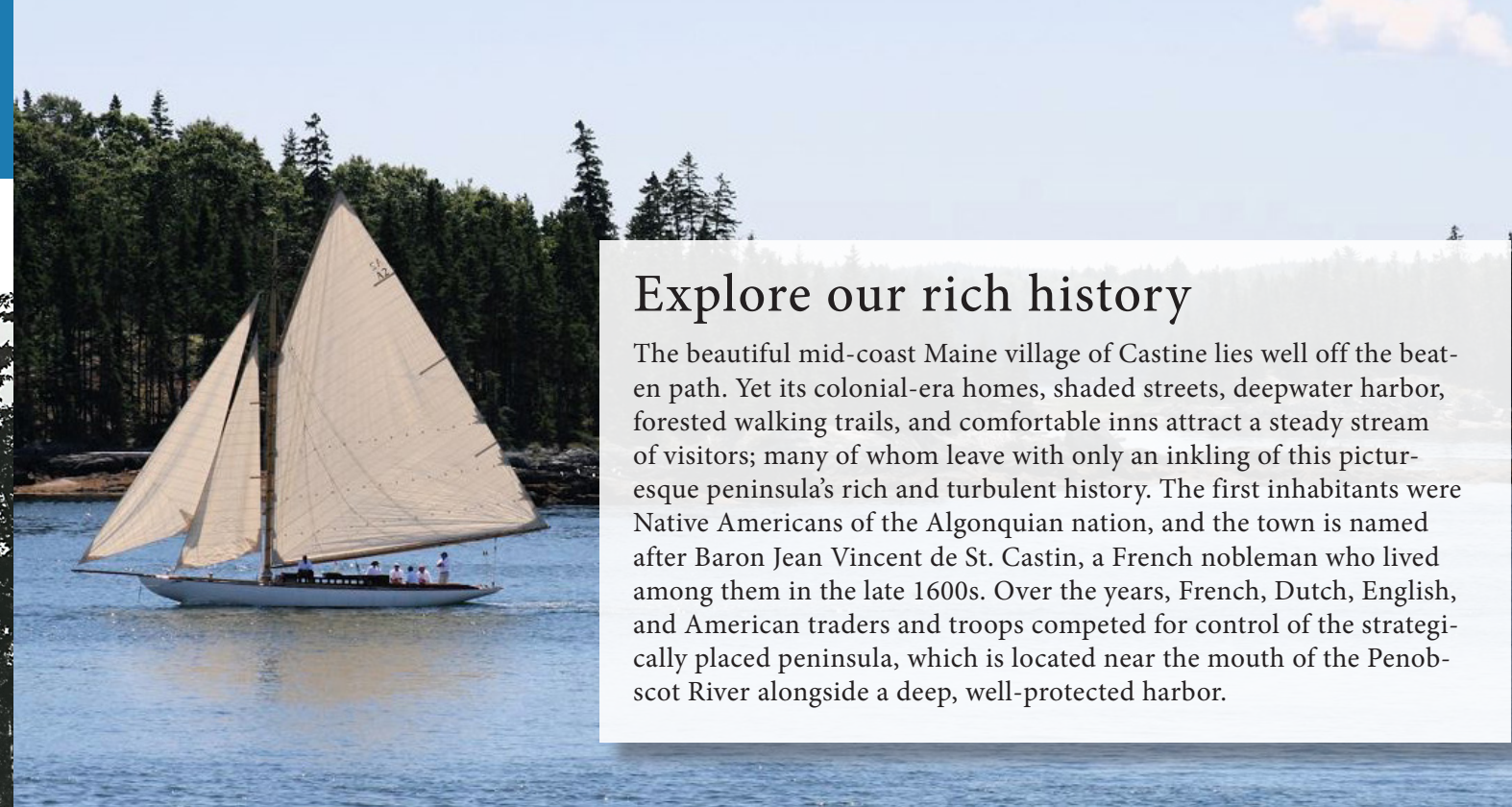
Summer Hours Tues. & Thurs. 2-4
Year round by appointment

Free Admission

www.castinehistoricalsociety.org
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(207) 326-4118
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Discover
Castine with us



Explore our rich history

The beautiful mid-coast Maine village of Castine lies well off the beaten path. Yet its colonial-era homes, shaded streets, deepwater harbor, forested walking trails, and comfortable inns attract a steady stream of visitors; many of whom leave with only an inkling of this picturesque peninsula's rich and turbulent history. The first inhabitants were Native Americans of the Algonquian nation, and the town is named after Baron Jean Vincent de St. Castin, a French nobleman who lived among them in the late 1600s. Over the years, French, Dutch, English, and American traders and troops competed for control of the strategically placed peninsula, which is located near the mouth of the Penobscot River alongside a deep, well-protected harbor.

Who we are

The Castine Historical Society serves as a window into the town's extraordinary past. Through its exhibitions, art shows, lectures, house and garden tours, occasional historic reenactments, and especially its guided walking tours, the Historical Society reveals the historic treasures still present throughout the town. It also draws on its archives of thousands of items ranging from diaries and photographs to paintings and cannonballs to bring the history of Castine, as well as that of New England and the United States, to life.

History revealed

Located in two historic buildings on the Town Common, the Castine Historical Society is dedicated to engaging resi-



dents and visitors of all ages in the exploration of Castine's diverse historical resources. The Abbott School, used by the Eastern State Normal School from 1867 to 1873 and the Castine High School until 1961, now houses seasonal exhibits and a community meeting space. In 2008, CHS purchased and carefully restored the Grindle House, a mid-19th century, three-story home of the Greek Revival style which now serves as the research center and archival storage for the Society's historical collections.



Castine

Early Settlers

Prior to the arrival of the first European explorers, Native Americans chose the Castine peninsula for its game, fish, harbor, fresh water, and proximity to two rivers, the Bagaduce and the Penobscot. The early French, Dutch and English explorers and colonists were attracted for much the same reasons during the American Revolution and also saw Castine as easy to fortify and defend. Castine became the site of skirmishes, battles and raids culminating in one of the biggest defeats of the American colonial forces by the British: the infamous Penobscot Expedition.

The Penobscot Expedition

Early in June 1779, the British sent a small flotilla from Halifax, Nova Scotia, with enough troops to occupy the peninsula and build an earthworks fort, later named Fort George, still plainly visible at the crest of the town on Battle Avenue. Shortly thereafter, a large American fleet under the command of Commodore Dudley Saltonstall was dispatched to retake Castine. Among the American officers was Lt. Col. Paul Revere, who was in charge of the ordnance. After two weeks of indecisive fighting, another British fleet of heavily armed warships arrived, and the American naval commander fled up the Penobscot River where the entire American fleet was scuttled. The American forces then returned to Massachusetts on foot.

Multi-Media Permanent Exhibit

The Historical Society has a permanent exhibit relating the tale of this debacle. Visitors can step into a simulated replica of the day cabin of the frigate Warren, the flagship of the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition, and better understand this disastrous chapter in American history through a multi-media presentation.

Commercial boom, bust, and new arrivals

After another brief occupation by the British during the War of 1812, Castine's history mirrored that of maritime New England with a vigorous shipping trade providing considerable wealth for the town, as evidenced by its many fine houses. With the rise of railroads after the Civil War, Castine's prosperity declined, only to be revived in the late 19th century by the arrival of New England's burgeoning middle classes seeking vacation relief from the cities' summer heat. Castine's present-day inns were built for these so-called rusticators, who took steamboats from Boston's piers to spend their summers sailing, golfing, and picnicking. Many of Castine's current residents are here because their grandparents and great-grandparents were on those early steamboats.



The quilt worth a thousand words

On June 5, 1995 six women met to talk about an idea. This rather lofty idea eventually resulted in sixty women of the Castine community designing and constructing the Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt. The quilt includes seven squares and eight panels depicting the rich history of Castine. In 1996 the quilt was presented to the Castine Historical Society in celebration of the town's bicentennial.