

# the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

vol. 23 no. 2



## 2013 SUMMER EXHIBIT AT THE ABBOTT SCHOOL

Paige Lilly

Dr. Parsons' new book about Castine churches, *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches*, would make a great movie!! Although that opportunity has not presented itself (yet), the Society's Exhibit Committee is turning it into a fascinating exhibit for Summer 2013.

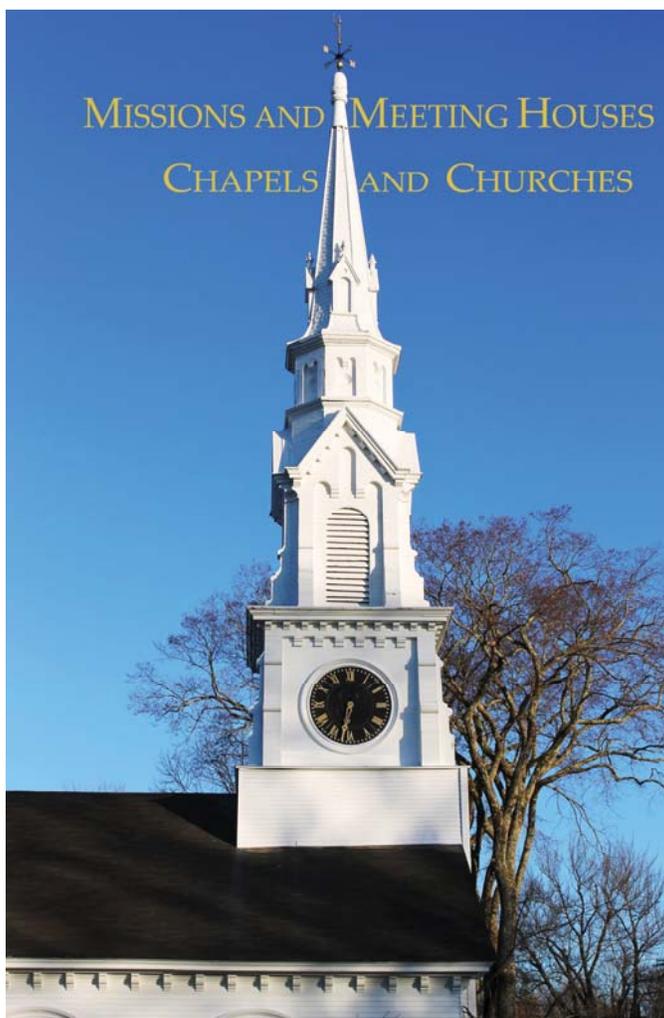
We are developing themes important to each of the four active churches in town: Unitarian, Trinitarian, Episcopalian, and Roman Catholic, as well as the old Methodist church that formerly stood on Court Street.

Visitors who have not yet read the book will be introduced to key points in the history of Castine's churches through exhibit texts written by Dr. Parsons and the Committee. In a technique new to CHS exhibit design, the Committee this year will accommodate the many different types of exhibit-goers.

Some of us cruise along reading only the major headings and then look at the pictures. Others

find and read the text that tells a story. A few linger and read every descriptive label for the artifacts and photographs. The layout for the exhibit sections this year includes a summary text in the upper left of the panel and a somewhat longer story text in the lower right. Although all the objects, maps, documents, and photographs are labeled with titles and dates, the Committee explains the significance of many of them adding a final layer of detail to the story.

In addition to the descriptive labels, this year many of the graphic elements may be read as well. *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches* relied heavily on the written word drawn from primary sources such as newspapers, diaries, church records, town records, letters, sermons and books. The exhibit lets visitors



Photograph by Sally Chadbourne

(continued on page 8)

# CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2013 SUMMER EVENTS

**Sunday, June 23 5:00 – 7:00pm**

**Opening reception for summer exhibit and book signing for *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches***

Board member and author Dr. Lynn H. Parsons will be present to sign his recently published book on four centuries of faith in Castine.

**Tuesday, July 23 at 7:30pm**

**Fifth Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture by Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones,**

Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Her lecture *Foreign Policy, Science and You* will be presented at Delano Auditorium, Maine Maritime Academy Campus in Castine.

**Saturday, July 27 10:00am – 4:00pm and Sunday, July 28 1:00 – 4:00pm**

**“Touring Through Time”**, a collective open house of ten historical organizations of the Eastern Penobscot Bay area, including the Castine Historical Society.

**Saturday, July 27, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Open houses at four historic Castine churches:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, Trinitarian Congregational Parish, Trinity Episcopal Church & Our Lady of Holy Hope; map available at Castine Historical Society.

**Thursday, August 8 at 5:00pm**

**Michael C. Quinn**, President of the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, will speak in the 1954 Lecture Hall, located on the lower level of Maine Maritime Academy’s Alford Student Center. His lecture is titled *Life with George Washington, James Madison, and the American Revolution*.

**Friday, August 16 5:30-7:30pm**

**Opening Reception for the Castine Historical Society Art Show and Sale**

Professional and amateur artists will display their original art and photography. All items are for sale and proceeds in part benefit the Society; in the Mitchell Room of the Abbott School.

**The Art Show and Sale continues Saturday, August 17, 10:00am-4:00pm and Sunday, August 18, 1:00-4:00pm.**

**Wednesday, August 21 at 7:30 pm**

**Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting**

Short business meeting and a “show and tell” program by CHS Curator Paige Lilly, featuring new items in the Castine Historical Society’s collections; light refreshments to follow. Located in the Mitchell Room of the Abbott School.

**EXHIBIT: *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches***

**Early season, June 4 – 22 Tuesdays – Saturdays 1:00-4:00pm**

**Summer Season, June 24 – Labor Day Open seven days a week**

**Mondays – Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm; Sundays 1:00-4:00pm**

(early Fall hours to be announced later).

Also on view is the permanent exhibit *The Penobscot Expedition*

All exhibits and events are free admission and open to the public.

Any changes to the schedule will be posted in the local papers and on [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)



The mission of the Castine Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to collect, preserve, protect, and make available a variety of materials that illuminate the historical development of the Castine-Bagaduce River Area from its beginnings to the present.

*The Castine Visitor is published three times a year by the Society for its members and friends.*

Lynn H. Parsons &  
Anne H. Parsons.....Editors

[info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org)  
[www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)

**Castine  
Historical Society**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

You might wonder why a building permit deserves special recognition in a President's letter. Most of you are probably familiar with the Grindle House Restoration Project since it has been a topic of discussion over the past few years. (Please refer to President's letter in summer 2012 issue of *the Castine Visitor* and the Membership Drive letter 2013). After several years of hard work, the Building and Grounds Committee, under the guidance of Historic Preservation Architect Christopher Glass and contractor Steve Shea, recently completed the planning phase of this major restoration/renovation project. We have met all of the town's requirements and I'm thrilled to report that a building permit was issued on May 3, 2013. We will now move forward with the building phase so you can expect to see many changes over the next year.

The activity at the Grindle House will not interfere, however, with the Society's busy 2013 summer schedule. Please save the date of Sunday, June 23, 5-7pm to attend the opening at Abbott School of our summer 2013 exhibit *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches*. Board member Dr. Lynn H. Parsons will be present to sign his recently published book on four centuries of faith in Castine.

The Fifth Annual Deborah Pulliam Lecture features Castine summer resident Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Her lecture *Foreign Policy, Science and You* will be given at MMA's Delano Auditorium on Tuesday, July 23 at 7:30pm.

Michael C. Quinn, President of the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, will speak on Thursday, August 8 at 5pm in the 1954 Lecture Hall located on the lower level of the MMA Student Center. The title of his lecture is *Life with George Washington, James Madison, and the American Revolution*.

The opening reception for the bi-annual Castine Historical Society Art Show and Sale will be on Friday, August 16, 5:30-7:30pm in the Mitchell Room of the Abbott School.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks and hope you will be able to participate in our many noteworthy events.

Marcia P. Mason

**CASTINE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
2012-2013**

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**NEW MEMBERS**

The Castine Historical Society  
welcomes the following new members

Bob & Barbara Allen

Ted Diomme

Mr. & Mrs. W. Felton Norwood

**THE CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED**

**in Honor of**

Marilyn M. Ashley

Laura G. Hatch

John A. and Penny Steppacher

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Douglas and Wade T. Kinnard

William J. Murtagh

Barbara Rossow

**and in Memory of**

Nancy (Ann T.) Buttfield

Philip Day

Dorothea M. "Dot" Twomey

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

If you have already renewed your membership for the year,  
we thank you for your continued support of the Castine  
Historical Society! It's not too late to do so. Payment can  
be sent to CHS, PO Box 238, Castine, ME 04421.

*From your friends on the Membership Committee*

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEW BOOK REVEALS CASTINE'S STRUCTURE OF FAITH

Russell Bourne

In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville arrived in America to study this new country's democratic society and soon took note of and pondered its passion for religion. He reached the paradoxical conclusion that the very multiplicity of sects and denominations here went beyond tolerance, contributing to a kind of religious "indifference." Rather than concentrating on doctrine or dogma in the European manner, American church-goers focused on morality and well-being.

Fortunately, today's readers are given a fresh opportunity to look back at that time of definition thanks to the book *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches – Four Centuries of Faith in Castine, Maine*, written by Dr. Lynn Hudson Parsons.

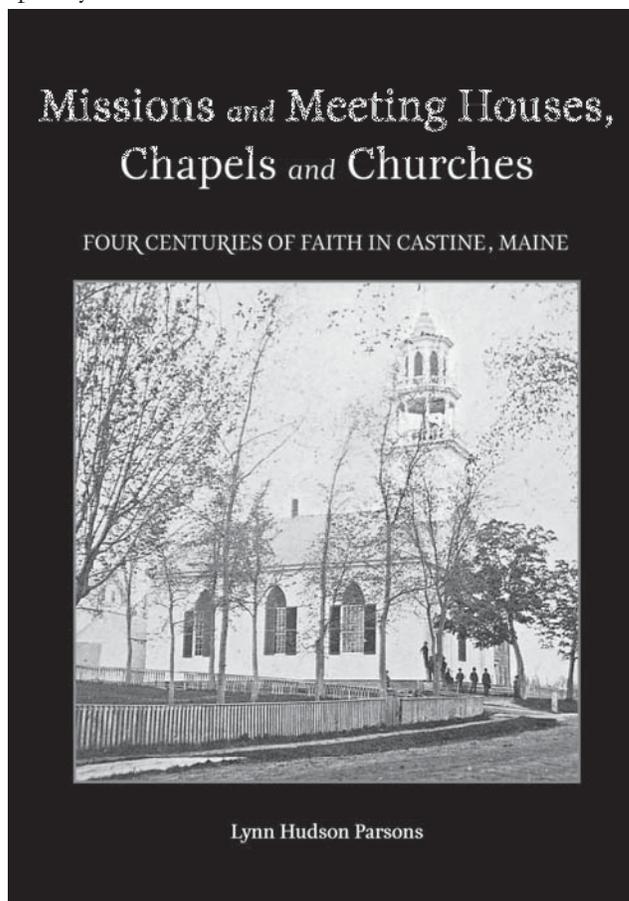
Significantly (one of Dr. Parsons' favorite words), the hours of Castine's days are rung in these modern times by the century-old clock in the Trinitarian Congregational church on Main Street. None of the other churches dispute that primacy, perhaps because that church in some ways represents the ancient covenant by which the town was founded. In March of 1762, the colonial legislature of Massachusetts (of which Maine was then a part) instructed the inhabitants of this region to "build a suitable Meetinghouse for the publick Worship of God, and settle a Learned Protestant [meaning Harvard-educated Congregational] Minister, and make provision for his comfortable and honourable

support." The Main Street church, built originally in 1828, carries out aspects of that orthodox tradition, at something of a remove.

But today on Sundays, bells ring and organs sound in other religious structures of the town as well. These are the Meeting House of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Court Street (where both Castine's original Town Meeting and its First Parish began operating in 1790); the chapel of Our Lady of Holy Hope on Perkins Street (which stands on the site of Castine's first religious structure, a chapel built in 1635 as a part of the French fort); and Trinity Episcopal Church, also on Perkins Street, built in the 1890s (the age of Castine's summer "rusticators"). Dr. Parsons, in his enthusiastic and meticulous researching of these buildings, came upon the remark of a townsman who remarked wearily in 1906 that he had gone to church but that there was "small attendance . . . . Too many churches in Castine." Given a

population of well less than a thousand and shrinking fast, his judgment seemed fair.

Yet the whole story of the churches in Castine is a tale of how, though they tried several times to make things more centrally organized and less costly by joining together, they never quite did so. Why not? Why, while they worked together on social problems and hosted each other when roofs leaked or clergy lacked, did they stay forever agreeably apart? They liked their peculiar ways of worshiping is a part of the answer. The other part is that they found they could contribute more to the town as a whole by



maintaining their own faith, as expressed by their special building with its distinctive altar (or non-altar) and unmistakable steeple. That Yankee-ish attitude toward church-and-town is what Tocqueville might have observed in Castine. Separate yes, but all in it together for the good of the community.

Dr. Parsons admits in the book's Acknowledgments that he had some doubts about the project before he generously agreed to take it on. He gives much credit to the Editorial Advisory Board, composed of representatives from all four existing congregations for providing essential materials that made the work possible. But what he doesn't say is that his artful way of keeping the focus of the narrative on the churches themselves – their origination and funding, their structure and maintenance – is what makes the book work, that plus the handsome illustrations.

Let's imagine what Tocqueville would have experienced had he actually sailed into Castine in 1831. That era, we learn from *Missions and Meeting Houses*, was a time of tremendous religious upheaval. The 1830s witnessed America's second Great Awakening when, as Dr. Parsons tells us, Castine was marked by "intense religious activity – what [some] called 'protracted meetings' and what others would call 'revivals.'" Not only was the church of the puritan fathers no longer supported by the state (Maine having become independent from Massachusetts) but the congregations were also being rent by internal division. This was made manifest in Castine when the Trinitarian Congregationalists found the preaching of beloved but aging pastor William Mason too unorthodox and built for themselves a meeting house for the "Second Parish" on Main Street. What might Tocqueville have thought of that religious disturbance?

It was slightly later in this era that the Methodists, who had come earlier to the Penobscot peninsula, blossomed most prolifically, building

several churches and chapels. One of these was constructed directly across Court Street from the meeting house of the First Parish, remaining there until its demolition in the early 1940s.

Tocqueville might well have found enough evidence of churchly partnership and outreach in the town's "fairs, suppers, and sociables" to avoid reaching facile conclusions. He would perhaps not have judged that the variety of those consciously Christian doings, plus the loyalty of attendance in the respective churches, added up to religious "indifference." He might have figured out that this *was* religion all right, a people's faith expressed in a distinctive, shingled and clapboarded style.

One of the most articulate of the writers and clergy to whom early copies of the book were shown, the popular author and Unitarian Universalist minister Kate Braestrup, came forth with a particularly resonant comment. She wrote: "As this book makes fascinatingly clear, our religious history IS our history." She added, "Here, in a seaside microcosm we see the great issues of American Christianity being thrashed out within a community of earnest farmers, shipbuilders, chandlers, and shopkeepers. The way they clung so fiercely and tenaciously to their beliefs, even when self-interest, if not rationality, would encourage letting-go, is one of America's most infuriating and endearing qualities."

# # #

*Russell Bourne has written several books about New England's social history. The two most pertinent to this review are The View from Front Street (W.W. Norton, 1989) and Gods of War, Gods of Peace (Harcourt, 2002). He has had the pleasure of visiting Castine every summer for the past sixty years.*

# # #

The book is now available at the CHS Gift Shop and local book shops. See page 11 for information about ordering by mail.

## Fifth Annual Deborah Pulliam Lecturer



**Kerri-Ann Jones**

The Society is both pleased and proud to have as our Fifth Annual Deborah Pulliam Lecturer one of our own, Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs (OES), a position in which she has served since August 2009. She leads the OES Bureau's bilateral, regional, and multilateral engagement on oceans, environment, science, space, and health.

She has held several other senior positions in the federal government, having served as Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and as Director of the National Science Foundation's Office of International Science and Engineering. Dr. Jones also served on the National Security Council as the Senior Director for Science and Technology Affairs. In addition, she has worked at USAID, the National Institutes of Health, and with the state of Maine.

Dr. Jones is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She obtained her Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University. She holds a bachelors degree in chemistry from Barnard College, Columbia University.

She and her husband, Tom Beck, have been longtime residents of Castine. She will be speaking at 7:30pm, Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Delano Auditorium on the campus of the Maine Maritime Academy. The title of her lecture will be "Foreign Policy, Science and You."

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## The Historian Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

### Lynn Parsons

In the recent Fall issue of the *Visitor*, I contributed an article questioning the validity of the sign at the six-mile-corner proclaiming that Castine was "settled" in 1613. I maintained, and still maintain, that the date in question was wholly the product of the imagination of Mr. Charles Noyes, who, perhaps not coincidentally, was also responsible for the creation of the "Historical Signs" familiar to all Castiners.

I then suggested at a Select Board meeting, perhaps rashly, that the sign be changed to merely record the incorporation of Castine in 1796, and the Selectmen agreed. An outcry soon followed. Indignant e-mails were fired off. Letters were written and published. The idea was challenged at the next Selectmen's meeting. The CHS was accused of trying to erase the town's early history. Then a new sign mysteriously appeared at the corner proclaiming that the town had become "unsettled" in 2013.

After due consideration, the CHS's Board of Directors has decided that perhaps the issue should be postponed for the time being, and those interested in exploring the question dispassionately be invited to share their views, present evidence, and discuss the nature of the historian's craft and obligations.

The Society, in cooperation with the town's Board of Selectmen, has scheduled a meeting at Emerson Hall, at 3:30 Wednesday afternoon, July 10, for this purpose. As we go to press, the format has yet to be determined.

Although always interested in other views, I remain unfazed:

*It's said that in 1613  
Men came to settle Castine  
They may have achieved it  
Folks always believed it  
But the proof has yet to be seen.*

(continued from page 1)

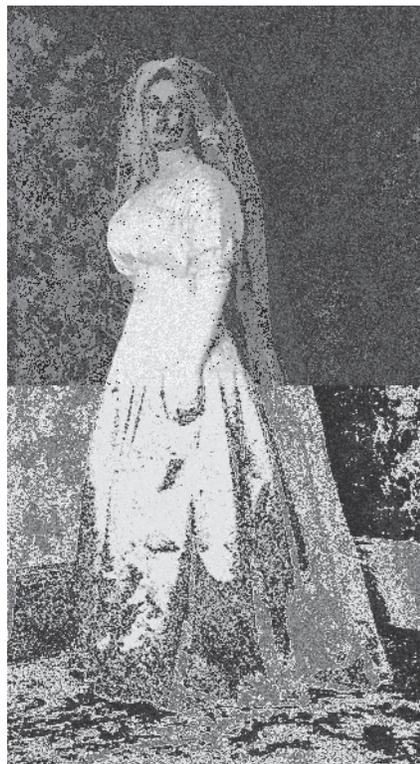
explore these materials themselves. In some instances, visitors will find copies of complete documents laminated and available for those history buffs who will enjoy reading, for example, the original 1763 resolve granting permission for families to settle Township No. 3 that later became Penobscot, Castine and Brooksville. Or perhaps some will enjoy the full account of the wedding of Geneva and Will Wardwell in Penobscot with the service performed by a Castine minister.

Visitors will also find details, images and objects to draw them deeper into the history of religion in Castine. A bound collection of Parson William Mason's sermons in his own hand, borrowed from the Wilson Museum, will be on display. A bible used in the North Castine Methodist Church has been loaned by the Trinitarian Church where it was recently rediscovered. Quotes from 19<sup>th</sup> century diarists including Phebe Little Holmes, Noah Brooks, Abigail Hawes and others have been scanned and transcribed to put on the walls. The benevolent work of the women of Castine's churches is explored and illustrated in depth. A whole section of the exhibit focuses on weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Artifacts, documents and photographs featured in the exhibit are from several Castine residents, the CHS collections and a number of institutions: the four churches, Wilson Museum, Maine Historical Society, Brown University, Massachusetts Archives, the Anthropology Department at the University of Maine in Orono and the Bangor Public Library.

The Abbott School, the Exhibit and the Gift Shop open to the public on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. See page 2 for hours. The Exhibit's Opening Reception is Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The book is available at the Gift Shop and local book stores. To order by mail, see page 11.

A sample of what you will see at the Abbott School this summer follows.

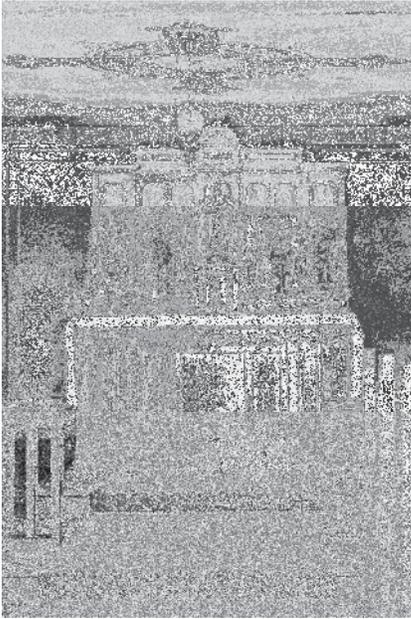


**Wedding portrait of Gladys Perkins who married Orville Veague circa 1912. (CHS Archives)**



**Portrait of Patrick Tom Nelligan (born Dec. 18, 1890, died Aug. 14, 1891). Little Patrick was a Hale family relative. (CHS Archives)**

## PICTURES AT THE EXHIBITION



Postcard view of the altar in  
Our Lady of Holy Hope, circa 1931.  
(CHS Archives)



Poster advertising fundraising event  
held by the ladies of the Unitarian Church in 1873.  
(CHS Archives)



Stereoview of Court Street circa 1870 showing the Methodist Church and the old Town Hall near the Castine Common.  
The exhibit features an enlargement of one side of this card as well as a reproduction stereoview to enjoy in 3D!  
(Courtesy of Bangor Public Library)

## Curator's Corner

Paige Lilly

In 2011 the CHS summer exhibit "History and Hearsay" featured several stories that were more legend than fact. At that time I wrote that the project made me uncomfortable. It worked out because we took the opportunity to explore the documentary evidence and learned through research what parts of the stories could be confirmed and what parts were mostly conjecture.

The recent discussions and debates about 17<sup>th</sup> century events in what later became Castine present the same kind of "history and hearsay" characteristics. Carefully examining available records, we can confirm a few events and activities; other events can only be inferred. I've been working in the archives field for almost thirty years and must still remind myself that doing "history" does not always reveal what actually happened.

It's important to remember that history is the study of the past based on the writings and objects that remain. Interpreting those writings and objects is difficult because they themselves are influenced by the vagaries of memory and bias. As well, additional evidence may turn up at any time to cast doubt on previous interpretations at which point the "history" may be re-written.

Fortunately, the job of the archivist or curator primarily involves caring for and sharing the papers and objects so *others* can interpret them and write history! The program for this year's CHS annual meeting, based on this collecting-and-sharing role of the historical society, is designed to engage the curiosity of members and the general public. We'll share newly collected items, describe what we know and make guesses about what we don't; a "show and tell" event to take us back to the basics.



Unused dairy bottle cap is a new addition. We know the farm was in Castine but we don't know anything else about it.

## Help Wanted:

### Summer Exhibit Docents

The summer exhibit at the Castine Historical Society, *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches*, opens to the public on Tuesday, June 4. Volunteer docents are needed to keep the exhibit open through the summer and into early fall. CHS members and friends interested in serving as a docent should contact Carol Adams at 207-326-9232, or contact CHS via email at [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org).

It's fun and educational, and training is available! Please consider volunteering for a 3-hour shift on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis, or whatever your schedule allows. The facilities have been upgraded and are now "docent-friendly." A training session has been scheduled for Monday, June 3 at 10:00-11:30, and additional sessions will be scheduled as needed.

### President of new Museum of the American Revolution to Speak in Castine

Dr. Michael C. Quinn, CEO and President of the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, will be speaking on "Life with George Washington, James Madison, and the American Revolution" at 5pm Thursday, August 8. The lecture will be held in the 1954 Lecture Hall in the Alford Student Union on the campus of the Maine Maritime Academy.

Prior to assuming his present position, Dr. Quinn was President and CEO of James Madison's Montpelier, located in Virginia, where he transformed Madison's home from a private estate into a premier historic home. Before that he was Deputy Director at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Dr. Quinn received his B.A. from the University of Virginia, his M.A. from Yale University, and an M.B.A. from George Mason University.

# CHS Appreciates Your Support

We would like to thank all of our members for their generous support of the Society. Including life members, we now number more than 600. Each new or renewed gift membership conveys all privileges of being a member of the Society, including a subscription to *The Castine Visitor*, published three times a year.

If you have an address change, winter or summer, please let us know. It is important to keep the files accurate so you receive all the CHS mailings. Thank you for your support. It is what makes the CHS and its members, near and far, an active part of the Castine Community.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual.....\$ 25.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Family ..... \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining .....\$60.00           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing .... \$ 100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron..... \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....\$500.00          |
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***Clip and mail to Castine Historical Society, P.O. Box 238, Castine, Maine 04421***

## Order the Book *Missions and Meeting Houses...*

Want to read the book before you see the 2013 Summer Exhibit? Looking for a graduation or wedding gift with an historical flair? The CHS Gift Shop will open with the Exhibit on Tuesday, June 4. Members receive a 10 percent discount on the *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches* book and all CHS Gift Shop purchases. Can't be in Castine this time of year? We would be pleased to ship selections to you or a gift recipient (shipping charges will apply, as will five percent Maine sales tax only for purchases made at CHS or shipped to a Maine address).

Other items available at the Gift Shop include CHS logo SeaBags in three sizes, Fitz Henry Lane print placemats, Castine artist Ned Coombs prints, and CHS logo fleeces, ball caps and aprons, and the *Images of Castine* photo book. Call 207-326-4118 or email [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org) for selection and pricing details. Books and other selected items are available for shipping (Shipping charges \$5.60 per order under \$40; \$12.35 per order up to \$80).

*Missions and Meeting House, Chapels and Churches* by Lynn Hudson Parsons    Quantity \_\_\_\_\_    Price: \_\_\_\_\_ \$19.95

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_    Item total:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_    Less 10%    - \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_    Shipping    \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by check, mail to CHS, PO Box 238, Castine, ME 04421    (5% ME tax)    \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by Visa or MC, call the CHS Administrator at 207-326-4118    Total due    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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This item from the Summer Exhibit is a Dresden China Creamer depicting Trinity Episcopal Church, donated by Langdon Wood, whose family established the colony of cottages at Dice's Head in the early twentieth century.