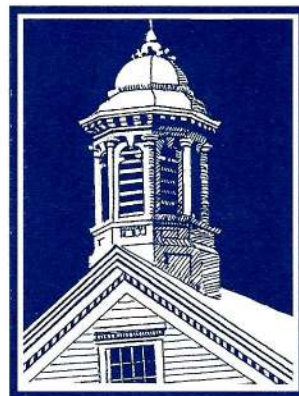


# the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

vol. 19 no. 1



## THE CONGRESSMAN FROM CASTINE AND THE CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS

Lynn H. Parsons

Up to now, Castine has sent only two residents to Congress. Isaac Parker lived here in the 1790's and was elected to the Fifth Congress (1797-99). He moved to Portland shortly thereafter. Hezekiah Williams was

a long-term resident, a state senator (1839-41), and served in the Twenty-Ninth and Thirtieth Congresses (1845-49). Williams also had the distinction (although he could not have known it) of serving in the same Congress with Abraham Lincoln.



Hezekiah Williams  
Courtesy of Wilson Museum

It is unlikely they ever met. For one thing, Williams was a Democrat and Lincoln was a Whig. For another, they do not seem to have served together on any committee. And neither man, at that time, established a particularly outstanding record. Nevertheless, as we observe the Lincoln Bicentennial, a comparison of the two, one from Maine and the other from Illinois, gives us an insight into the nature of nineteenth-century politics.

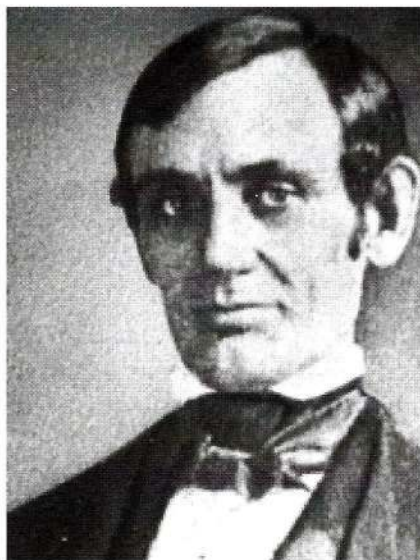
Williams was born in Woodstock, Vermont, in 1798 and was a graduate of Dartmouth College, class

of 1820. He moved to Castine from Belfast in 1824. He began the practice of law, and at various times served as Register of Probate for Hancock County, on the Castine Board of Selectmen, as Trustee of the School Fund and in the State Senate. After his two terms in Congress he resumed his law practice, and died in 1856. Coincidentally, his home is currently owned by our own President of the Castine Historical Society, Del Davis, and Sally Chadbourne. (See back page.)

Williams married Eliza Patterson of Belfast in 1826. Together they had a total of eight children: four sons and four daughters. Each of the four sons

served in the Civil War. Williams's wife died in 1866, and both are buried in Castine's cemetery.

There is a memorial window dedicated to them on the east side of the Castine Trinitarian Congregational Church. In his



Abraham Lincoln circa 1846

"Historical Address" delivered on Old Home Week in 1900, the Rev. George Moulton Adams recalled Williams sitting in church: "I remember with what

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**The Castine Historical Society  
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Our thanks and recognition are extended to the following who have recently added to the Castine Historical Society collections:

Temple Blackwood

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**Editors' Note**

In the last issue of the *Visitor*, we attempted to identify the "secret agent" who carried a message to the British in 1814 from Massachusetts Governor Strong regarding a possible separate peace between New England and Great Britain during the War of 1812. We made the case that it was probably George Herbert of Ellsworth, not Thomas Adams of Castine, as many previously believed. Since then the intrepid Sally Foote has called our attention to a letter from Herbert to Governor Sherbrooke of Nova Scotia, dated September 14, 1814, informing him that "New England may be conquered with kindness." We consider this case closed.





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

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**Castine  
Historical Society**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Despite the frozen ground, abundant snow and appearances that little is moving or happening this winter in Castine, there has been a lot of activity at the Historical Society during the past few months.

In early December, our first employee, Paige Lilly, began working as our half-time Curator. In a few short weeks, under Sally Foote's guidance, Paige has gained familiarity with the Society's collections and come up with many ideas to advance or update our procedures. Paige's current schedule puts her at the Abbott School on Mondays, Fridays and Tuesday mornings. If you a question or comment relating to the Society's collections or exhibits, please contact her by phone or email.

With the major portion of Deborah Pulliam's wonderful gift in hand and receipt of the balance expected at any time, the Finance Committee has been busy interviewing prospective investment managers. The Committee has met eight times since early December and has identified a top candidate to manage the majority of the Society's funds. The Society owes a debt of gratitude to Chairman Michael Morrison and all the other members of the Finance Committee for their time and diligence in this important task.

Late last year, the Buildings and Grounds Committee issued a Request for Proposals as part of the process to select an architectural historian firm to prepare a Historic Structure Report on the former Nelson house. Part of the learning process of this activity has been to discover that a full scale Historic Structure Report may take most of a year and cost up to \$100,000. The B&G Committee is currently exploring the benefits and shortfalls of having a less expensive Preservation Plan or similar document prepared for the former Nelson house, rather than a full scale Historic Structure Report. A result of this has been some slippage in the active use of the property. To help make up some of the time, though, an ad hoc committee has been established to explore potential uses of the property.

Planning and preparation for the Society's summer activities are proceeding very well. The seasonal exhibit is titled "Castine's Art from the Past." This summer's artwork will not be limited to items with a water theme. If any members or supporters of the Castine Historical Society are interested and willing to have an article included in the exhibit, please contact Marcia Mason, who is coordinating the exhibit, at 326-4461.

The second week in August will be an especially active one this summer. On Monday, August 10, Pulitzer Prize winner and Civil War historian James M. McPherson will present a lecture that will help commemorate the Lincoln Bicentennial and highlight the fact that Castine is one of only 40 communities in the United States selected to host the traveling exhibit prepared by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The Art Show and Sale will be held later that week from Friday, August 14 until Sunday, August 16. And in July, popular novelist and CHS member Lee Smith will present "Stepping into History" an examination of the perils and pleasures of writing historical fiction, punctuating her talk with brief readings from her prize-winning books including her recent Civil War novel, *On Agate Hill*. Separately, Lee will also conduct a small workshop for those interested in writing a memoir or family history. Full details on the summer's activities will be included in the next issue of the *Visitor*.

Delacroix Davis III



## “Maine is a museum of another kind . . .”

by Elizabeth Hardwick

**From “In Maine,” an essay published in the *New York Review of Books*, October 7, 1971. Used by permission. Part 2.**

My own town of Castine stands out on a point and thus has something of the feeling of an island. It has attractive houses; boats and docks and shores give it beauty and life; it has gentility and promotes its history. The Main Street slopes down to the harbor, slowly, and houses curve along the waterfront, some ours (summer people), some theirs (town people). There is a turn-of-the-century quality to life here, pre-swimming and sunning and beaching; instead, eager boating, rather pure and difficult and special, again like decades ago. . . .

In Maine I have lived with those I loved, my family, and I have also spent several summers more or less alone. The puzzle to me is that both are the same: it is always sweet, strange, protective. That is because the town is small and the colony of summer folk, or those once summer folk, is intelligent without being in any way fanatical. Like the weather, we know we are inclined to be disappointing and yet one must take a sort of positive stand, say the faulty is not so bad, the winters less severe, the rain beautiful when compared to the devastating heat in the cities. One of the things it takes to make a good Maine summer is an inferno of heat elsewhere: if New York or Long Island or the Cape boils, a steady beauty, warm and sunny, exhilarates us in Castine. And so we profit by the ill luck of those to the south of us, but we are not, reciprocally, able to make them share our desolation. . . .

Nature more than man inclines toward the general in Maine. The place always reminds one of some abstract pictorial representation of itself. Rotting boats, apple green. The cold, severe seas, home to old sailors with grizzled, undulating beards, boots, rubber coat, head turned to one side in a rocky smile. Is it Winslow Homer? The face is on the calendars and somehow you run into it at the docks. The piers with the loose boards, the native waterfront houses, tilting, listing. Leaning wharves, splintering lobster boats,

abandoned dories, the boat builder's fantastic shed. Tides and fogs and herons, seals, the osprey's nest on the tip of an island, the gulls' breeding ground. It is indeed like a painting and every little inlet, with its empty boat, the mast standing watch, is an illustration from a bad book.

*Water* – this is everything. These waters are sacred. “Going down to the bay is the closest to heaven I will ever come,” an old man said. They are all afraid of the water. It seems absurd to learn to swim and many do not know how. It is too cold for man. You can stand on a corner and hear an argument about whether you die in fifteen minutes or fifteen seconds in the really cold part. They talk about that and what happened to the lobster. Some say it's the Gulf Stream. . . .

*Inland:* Why does the hummingbird return to the north? “They live more intensely than any other being on our globe,” an old book says. The hermit thrush – suitably named for the Maine airs and branches. And yet so many of the birds are oddly bright and tropical in coloring. . . .

The abundance of flags puzzles. Fine houses, with their flagpoles jutting out from the second story, as if in a permanent, steely salute – these often seem to call attention to the claims of the house, to its white clapboards and black shutters, its fan-shaped glass over the doorway. The place itself is honored as much as the country; sentiment attaches to ownership and upkeep as well as to patriotic and ceremonial occasions.

But it is the flags on the tiniest little shacks, those frail wooden wounds, the barest sort of dwellings, coverings rather than houses. These often have two little flags, cheap ones on sticks, over the gashlike door. In Maine, those who have been born here and who remained, endured, even the poorest and quietest, appear to share a common feeling about themselves. They feel a part of something very old, a sense of living in an ancient land, with ports once so

*continued on page 5*

busy you could step from ship to ship for a mile, and they feel the empty forest still there, as it was in the earliest America, the beginning. They seem to have an unconscious image of being original stock, neither good nor bad, just what was always here. . . .

*Things:* An abandoned mill at the bottom of the hill, over a stream. A little shack, up an old empty road, the very earth depressed. On the right, the woods of birch and pines, resting upon a gutter filled with twigs and sticks and leaves, nature's garbage. I have felt frightened on the roads in Maine, as if I had stepped into a sudden darkness. The bleak northern air is unwelcoming, madly inward. Out of the darkness some old, ragged, melancholic Massasoit might now step, prophetic, resigned, subdued, aching.

A streamer of wood smoke. White paint that has rusted to a deep gray – and a disastrous rim of darkening, peeling coral paint around the window panes of the shack, like nail polish, expressing an elation shortlived, inappropriate. Some of the coral paint clings like specks from birds to the glass of the windows. It is bitterly ugly, wrongheaded, a defeat of misplayed hope.

Deep and lasting deprivation settles and clings, not yesterday's or last year's but poverty with old, sturdy roots. A horrifying clutter screams through the lonely air. It is if the history of the family were strewn around the yard, a desolating iconography. Everywhere a crowd, a multitude of rust, breakage, iron, steel, and tin. Here, almost blocking the door, is the rusting wheel of an automobile. It has lain there so long it has become something natural, like stone, taking its place in the scheme of things. . . .

But what would you have, what setting would be suitable to the unproductive, disdained back road, the barren hill? Sometimes in a dream you imagine the perfect setting for the poor, or the not-poor, for that matter. It is always a beauty based on emptiness and lack dressed and furnished in an inspired sparseness. Think of the old New England clapboard, of some historical meaning, open to the public, with nothing in it except iron pots hanging over the wide hearth, the wooden bed and worn quilt, the scrubbed floorboards, the little homemade chairs for the children primly set about a tea table. . . .

But what idle snobbery all of this is. With the

poor, and all of us, truth is found in the rusting, immovable car. This is a serious object and it has a life without end. It is the immovability, its heaviness that awe you. A defunct automobile that has come to rest in the front yard, well, it will be there next summer and the one after that and you can only pity the poor householders, singled out for this heavy misfortune.

And all the other parts and bits seem to represent some kind of odd hope that afflicts the poor when they are faced with a damaged but not utterly valueless object. One day the bolt will meet the nut, the broken saw will find a function, the new child will play in the rubber tire, the broken slide will one morning grow upright like a stalk of corn. This is not psychotic hoarding, but normal bewilderment riding on the back of consumption. These broken, damaged, smothering things are reminders of all those miserable down payments and you cannot utterly disown them any more than you can bring yourself to throw away the mistaken coat, the shoe that lightly pinches.

What sadness in the fuchsia plastic flower amid the steely, violent grays of the landscape. One day on display in the warm store it represented eternal possibility. . . .

The clutter is life history, autobiography. It depresses with its bulk, its sharp tetanus edges; and yet it is homage, belief, loyalty, hope. It is the same everywhere except that in Maine you come upon the heroic trash by surprise, for you hadn't thought there was anything living around the corner. The debris is oddly settled in an emptiness and you see the old plastic as if you were an antiquarian looking for musket balls.

The fine houses, the beautiful harbors and islands, yes. But Maine is a museum of another kind, a collection of the deserted and abandoned, a preservation of the feel of long, catatonic winters. Its exhibitions tell of no money and nothing to buy anyway, of nothing to do and no place to go. It preserves the face of lack, of minimum, the bottom – the pure, lost negative. Living in it your heart seems to stop sometimes, gripped by a fearfulness that is not altogether painful. You have seen your great-grandparents, their static, browning profiles; and you have put them back into their still and slow, hard scenery.



lawyer-like intentness he watched the preacher, as if bound to test the strength or weakness of every argument."

Abraham Lincoln, also a lawyer, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1809. He eventually moved to New Salem, Illinois in 1830. He was self-educated, and after a few years was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1836. He served several terms in the lower house of the Illinois State legislature from 1834 to 1841. He was elected to the Thirtieth Congress (1847-49). Subsequently, he was one of the early organizers of the new Republican Party in Illinois. The rest, as we say, is history.

In the 1840's, both Maine and Illinois were heavily Democratic states. Under the congressional allocation at that time, each sent seven congressmen to Washington, and in the Twenty-Ninth and Thirtieth Congress, each sent six Democrats and one Whig.

In Williams's and Lincoln's time, elections produced turnouts that exceed those of today. The presidential election of 1840 saw 80% of the eligible voters turn out, and that of 1844, the year in which Hezekiah Williams was first elected, saw a turnout of only slightly less, 79%. (This may be compared with the 68% turnout in 2008.)

Comparing Whigs and Democrats with today's political parties is difficult. Philosophically, Lincoln's Whigs were similar to today's Democrats, in that they were more comfortable with an activist federal government, and willing to spend dollars in support of the infrastructure of the time (roads, canals, and eventually railroads). Democrats were more like today's Republicans, espousing limited government, states' rights, and strict construction. Their states' rights philosophy also made them particularly attractive in the South, nervous as it was over possible federal interference with slavery.

However, in terms of their voter support, Whigs were more like today's Republicans, attracting most of their votes from Anglo-Saxon Protestants, while Democrats drew support from most of the "minorities" of that day, including Roman Catholics and most immigrant groups.

Although he was elected in November, 1844, under the Constitution of the day, Hezekiah Williams did not begin his term until thirteen months later, in December, 1845. (This was changed in the twentieth century by constitutional amendment.) Among



Hannibal Hamlin circa 1850

the Maine Democrats sent to Congress in 1845 was Hannibal Hamlin, later Abraham Lincoln's first vice president. In the Tennessee delegation was Lincoln's second vice president, Andrew Johnson, also a Democrat.

Williams served on the Committee on Roads and Canals in his first term, and the Committee on Elections in his second. Upon arriving in December, 1845, he lost no time in presenting a number of

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, December 1, 1845.

At 12 o'clock meridian, BENJAMIN B. FRENCH, Esq., the Clerk of the House at the last session of Congress, (and who, by the tenor of his appointment, remains Clerk until a successor is elected,) rose and said, that, as the hour of twelve o'clock had arrived, he would, in pursuance of usage, if not objected to, call over the list of members by States, for the purpose of ascertaining the names of those present, and whether a quorum was in attendance.

No objection having been made—

The CLERK proceeded to call the roll by States, commencing with the State of Maine; and having gone through the list, it was found that the following named members were in attendance:

From the State of MAINE—Messrs. Dunlap, Hamlin, McCrate, Sawtelle, Scammon, Severance, and Williams.

From the State of NEW HAMPSHIRE—Messrs. Johnson, Moulton, and Norris.

From the State of MASSACHUSETTS—Messrs. Abbott, Adams, Ashmun, Grinnell, Hudson, King, Rockwell, Thompson, and Winthrop.

From the State of RHODE ISLAND—Messrs. Arnold and Cranston.

From the State of CONNECTICUT—Messrs. Dixon, Hubbard, Rockwell, and Smith.

From the State of VERMONT—Messrs. Collamer, Dillingham, Foot, and Marsh.

From the State of NEW YORK—Messrs. Anderson, CAMPBELL, Colin, Culver, Mott, Ellsworth, Goodyear, Gordon, Grover, Holmes, Hough, Hungerford, Hunt, Jenkins, King, Lawrence, Lewis, Maclay, MILLER, Moseley, Niven, Rathbun, Seaman, Smith, Strong, Wheaton, White, Woodruff, Woodworth, and Wood.

From the State of NEW JERSEY—Messrs. Edsall, Hampton, Runk, Sykes, and Wright.

From the State of PENNSYLVANIA—Messrs. Black, Blanchard, Brodhead, Buffington, CAMPBELL, Darragh, Erdman, Ewing, Foster, Garvin, Charles J. Ingersoll, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Leib, LEVIN, McIl-

From the *Congressional Globe* December 1, 1845.



petitions, including two objecting to the admission of Texas as a slave state, as well as petitions dealing with fishing bounties, lighthouses, and other matters relevant to his district.

On February 18, 1846, he presented a petition from Castine seeking funds to repair the old Custom House, and another from Brooksville, advocating the peaceful resolution of national disputes. Neither cause seems to have been successful

By Mr. E. W. HUBARD: The petition of Christopher Moon, the heir of Jacob Moon, for seven years' half-pay under the act of Congress of August 24, 1780: referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

By Mr. WILLIAMS: The petition of citizens of Castine, Maine, for an appropriation for repairing the custom-house at that place: referred to the Committee on Commerce. Also, the petition of citizens of Brooksville, Maine, that Congress would provide for the settlement of national disputes, by reference or otherwise, without an appeal to arms.

By Mr. HUNGERFORD: The petition of officers of the 2d regiment United States infantry, for the establishment of a military asylum for the relief and support of aged and disabled soldiers.

By Mr. RELFE: The petition of M. R. Bowers and 145 other citizens of Missouri, asking the establishment of a tri-weekly mail-route from Quincy, in the State of Illinois, through the towns of Palmyra and Paris, to St. Joseph's, in the State of Missouri: referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

By Mr. J. G. CHAPMAN: The memorial of Charles Hill, Wm. D. Bowie, and seventy-two others, citizens of Prince George's county, Maryland, asking that the bridges across the eastern branch of the Potomac may be made free.

By Mr. HARMANSON: The petition of George Whitman and J. M. Keys, asking an adjustment of their claims for mail service: referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

By Mr. GROVER: The petition of J. H. Gillman, for a pension: referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

From the *Congressional Globe* February 16, 1846.

In the 1840's, slavery and its future would consume an increasing amount of attention in the Congresses in which Williams and Lincoln served. As a northern Whig, and later a Republican, Lincoln's opposition to slavery is well-known. Williams, as a northern Democrat, seems to have been more ambivalent.

The most critical issue facing Williams in his first term was the war with Mexico. Although his Democratic Party was overwhelmingly in support of the War, Castine's Congressman was not among those voting either way on May 11, 1846. There exists a letter dated from Castine, May 4, 1846, which suggests he could not have been in Washington seven days later.

The reason for his absence is not clear. Many northern Democrats, possibly including Williams, believed there was some truth to the claim that the

war with Mexico was part of a conspiracy to spread slavery throughout the West. To deal with this, many northern Democrats, including Williams and Hannibal Hamlin, joined with antislavery northern Whigs in support of the Wilmot Proviso, which declared in 1846 that land gained from the war with Mexico would be closed to slavery.

Yet in late 1847, Williams joined with his southern colleagues in tabling an anti-slavery petition from Indiana. Opposing him, and supporting the petition, was Abraham Lincoln, and former president John Quincy Adams. Following the rejection of the petition, Williams moved to adjourn the session in order that members might accompany of body of Maine's recently deceased Senator John Fairfield to the railroad station prior to its return to Maine.

#### SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. C. B. SMITH presented the petition of John M. Sinclair and 210 other persons, of Jay county, Indiana, praying for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and moved its reference to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. CABELL moved to lay the petition on the table; which question was decided in the affirmative by yeas and nays: Yeas 76, nays 70, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barringer, Barrow, Birdsall, Black, Boyd, Boydon, Richard Brodhead, William G. Brown, Charles Brown, Buckner, Cabell, Chase, Howell Cobb, Williamson R. W. Cobb, Cocke, Crozier, Cummins, Dickinson, Donnell, Garnett Duncan, Alexander Evans, Faran, Featherston, French, Fulton, Gayle, Gentry, Goggin, Willard P. Hall, Harmanson, Harris, Haskell, Hill, Hilgard, George S. Houston, Inge, Jamieson, Andrew Johnson, James H. Johnson, Robert W. Johnson, George W. Jones, John W. Jones, Kaufman, Kennon, Thomas Butler King, Lahm, La Sere, McClernand, McDowell, McLane, Mann, Miller, Morehead, Morse, Pendleton, Peyton, Preston, Richardson, Richey, Robinson, Simpson, Sims, Smart, Robert Smith, Stanton, Stephens, Thibodeaux, Tompkins, Jacob Thompson, John B. Thompson, Toombs, Turner, Venable, Wick, Williams, and Woodward—76.

NAYS—Messrs. Abbott, John Quincy Adams, Green Adams, Bingham, Blanchard, Brady, Butler, Canby, Clingman, Collamer, Collins, Conger, Crauston, Crowell, Dickey, Dixon, Daniel Duncan, Dunn, Edwards, Embree, Nathan Evans, Farrelly, Fisher, Giddings, Grinnell, Hale, Nathan K. Hall, Henley, Henry, Hubbard, Hudson, Hunt, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Irvin, Kellogg, Daniel P. King, Sidney Lawrence, Lincoln, McClelland, Marvin, Morris, Mullin, Palfrey, Peck, Petrie, Reynolds, Rockhill, Julius Rockwell, John A. Rockwell, Root, Runsey, St. John, Sawyer, Schenck, Slingerland, Caleb B. Smith, Truman Smith, Starkweather, Andrew Stewart, Charles E. Stuart, Strohm, Strong, Sylvester, Tallmadge, Taylor, Richard W. Thompson, William Thompson, Tuck, Warren, and White—70.

So the petition was laid on the table.

A message was here received from the Senate, announcing that the Senate had passed resolutions in relation to the funeral of the Hon. JOHN FAIRFIELD, late a Senator from the State of Maine.

The resolutions were read; when,  
On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, it was

Ordered, That the Speaker of this House, its members and officers, in compliance with the invitation of the Senate, and as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator FAIRFIELD, will attend his remains and accompany them to the depot at 4½ o'clock in the afternoon of this day, where they will be put into the care of the Hon. Mr. CLARK, to be accompanied by him to the family of the deceased, in the State of Maine.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS,  
The House adjourned.

From the *Congressional Globe* December 28, 1847.

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Williams's last appearance in the in the *Congressional Globe* seems to be February 15, 1848, when he presented a petition for a pension from one Robert Ramsey, presumably a veteran of the War of 1812.

Neither Abraham Lincoln nor Hezekiah Williams ran for re-election in 1848. Why Lincoln chose not to run is a matter of record. The Whigs in Illinois, recognizing their minority status, had agreed in advance to share their solitary seat in Congress, and Lincoln served only a single term in order to make way for the others.

Why Williams chose not to be a candidate is unclear, but short terms of service were the rule rather than the exception in the first half of the nineteenth century. The length of time and expense involved in traveling to and from the nation's capital acted to enforce "term limits" in a manner that would diminish only with the expansion of railroads, and eventually air travel.

Williams returned to Castine where he practiced law until his death. By that time, the proslavery policies of successive Democratic presidents had driven many northern Democrats into the new antislavery Republican Party. This included Williams's

former colleague Hannibal Hamlin, who was elected the first Republican governor of Maine in the year Williams died.

Abraham Lincoln was a far more ambitious man than Hezekiah Williams. He left the Whigs at about the same time Hannibal Hamlin left the Democrats. When he was nominated for president by the Republicans in 1860, Lincoln looked for a running mate who could balance the ticket both regionally and politically. Hannibal Hamlin, the Yankee former Democrat, was an ideal choice for Lincoln, the Midwestern former Whig.

Whether Hezekiah Williams would have joined Hamlin and the Republicans can only be a matter of speculation.



Detail of the Williams memorial window, Trinitarian Congregational Church in Castine.

## 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.

- |  |  |  |
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**Clip and mail to Castine Historical Society, P.O. Box 238, Castine, Maine 04421**



# THE LOYALISTS ARE COMING! THE LOYALISTS ARE COMING!

Well, not exactly. But it's true that on the weekend of June 4-7, the University of Maine's History Department is hosting a conference of scholars entitled "*Loyalism and the Revolutionary Atlantic.*"

Once upon a time, those who chose to support their King and Parliament in the 1770's over the agitators for the colonial cause were looked upon not only as criminals but as traitors. They were physically abused, their property was confiscated, money owed them was not paid, and their children were harassed. Now, in more quiet times, Loyalism during the Revolution has become an object of scholarly research.

On June 4-7, scholars from Harvard, Brown, and the University of New Brunswick will descend upon Orono and Castine to discuss such topics as what caused men and women to stick with the Empire. Where were they located? Who stayed behind, and why? Who went, and why?

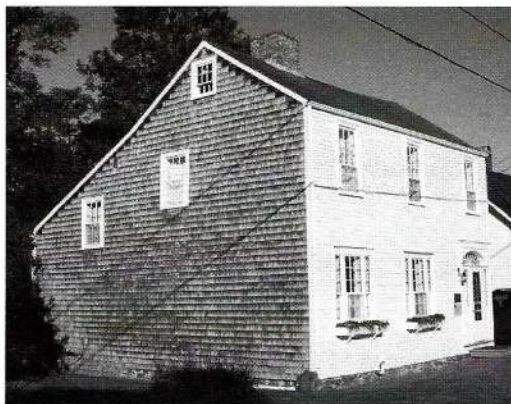
On Saturday, June 6, the conference will move to Castine for one of its sessions, entitled "The Migration of Cultures: The Loyalists in the Maritimes," followed by a walking tour of the village and dinner at the Castine Inn.

The conference is sponsored by the Canadian American Center at the University of Maine in association with the History Department and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences as well as the University of New Brunswick, the Maine Historical Society, and the Castine Historical Society.

For further details of the conference, contact Liam Riordan, Associate Professor of History, University of Maine: [riordan@umit.maine.edu](mailto:riordan@umit.maine.edu) or telephone (207)581-1913.

## CASTINE AND ST. ANDREWS, 1783-1983

Many readers of the *Visitor* will remember the summer of 1983, when Castine commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the departure of several hundred Loyalists for St. Andrews, New Brunswick. In August, 1783, many Loyalists took not only their belongings, but their houses as well. The dismantled parts were placed aboard sailing vessels and re-assembled in St. Andrews. At least one house still stands.



Queen St. St. Andrews

Photo by Lynn Parsons



Plaques on Queen St. House in previous photo

*continued on page 10*



The commemoration was the result of thorough planning, beginning the previous March, when several representatives from St. Andrews came to Castine and met at Emerson Hall with their Castine counterparts.

According to the schedule of events in the *Castine Patriot* (which was temporarily renamed the *Castine Loyalist* for the occasion), the commemoration began with a reenactment of the Loyalist departure by a march down Main Street from Fort George to the Town Dock. British troop reenactors and a lone bagpiper escorted families some with trunks, furniture and livestock. Citizens of both Castine and St. Andrews participated in full eighteenth-century garb.



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Box lunches (\$3.00) and cold drinks were served back at the Fort, followed by a program that included a performance by the Acadian Pipes and Drums "in full regimental highland dress" and a dance program presented by Cold Comfort Productions. There were rousing speeches by representatives of the British Embassy, the New Brunswick Legislature, the Mayor of St. Andrews, the Town Crier of St. Andrews, and the Chair of the Castine Board of Selectmen.



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"Singing and general merriment" rounded out the day. All were invited to the supper served at the Federated Church on Main Street Church (\$7.00) followed by a dance aboard the *State of Maine*.

At 11 p.m. the "troops" reassembled for another march down Main Street, reenacting their own final evacuation. Led by "Castine's legendary drummer boy," the event was illuminated by candles placed in front of homes along Main Street.

Two months later, in October, a second commemoration was held at St. Andrews, in which a number of Castiners participated. A special medal was struck, and a contingent of St. Andrew citizens welcomed their American friends with costumed receptions and a potluck supper.



CHS Archives



## PLUS ÇA CHANGE...

A letter in the Hooper and Shepherd Collection, a gift from Lois Cyr to the CHS, addressed to

*Messrs Sheppard & Hooper  
Agts Its Pioneer,  
Castine.*

*Bucksport June 29, 1876*

*Gentlemen:*

*Miss Dora W. Montgomery of Penobscot, took passage on the Steamer Pioneer at Carver's Harbor [Vinalhaven] for Castine on the seventh instant, and carried with her as baggage on board said Steamer one black leather trunk marked "Dora W. Montgomery, Castine Maine."*

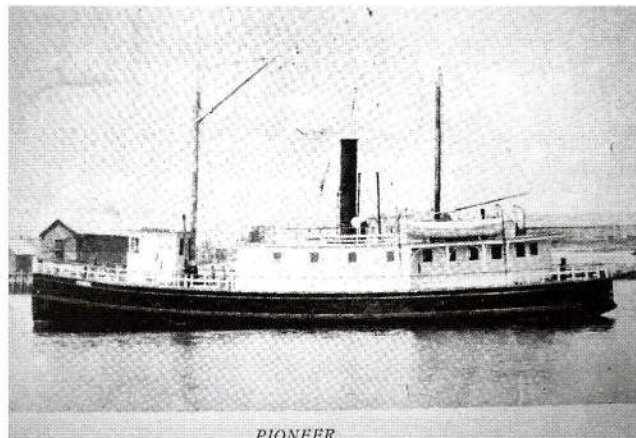
*The Pioneer duly arrived at Castine, and Miss Montgomery called for and demanded her said trunk of the agent of said Steamer at Castine, and there the said agent failed and refused to deliver said trunk to her and she has not received said trunk up to the present time.*

*The value of said trunk and contents are worth the sum of seventy-five dollars, and she is damaged in that sum by the refusal on your part to deliver said trunk.*

*I now ask as attorney for Miss Montgomery that said trunk be immediately delivered to her, or instead thereof that payment for same be made.*

*Yours truly*

*H. D. Hadlock*



PIONEER

From *Steamboat Lore of the Penobscot* by John M. Richardson





Corner of Court and Maine Street  
House built by Joseph Bryant circa 1820 and sold to Hezekiah Williams in 1835.

Photo by Lynn Parsons

Castine Historical Society  
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