

the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

vol. 22 no. 3



WHY THERE WILL BE NO QUADRICENTENNIAL IN CASTINE IN 2013

Lynn Parsons

The CHS recently received a communication from a Canadian visitor who noted the sign at the “six-mile corner” describing Castine’s “settlement” in 1613 and wondered, not inappropriately, if there was any plan for observing Castine’s four hundredth anniversary, or quadricentennial. He was not the only one. Several citizens have raised the same question. We will do our best to answer it.

First of all, it would be well to remember that there was no “Castine” before 1796. That was the year in which the citizens of southern Penobscot successfully petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to allow them to secede and establish a separate township. On February 8, 1796, Governor Samuel Adams signed the document creating the new town of Castine. (To this day no one knows who suggested the name.) Castine observed its centennial in 1896 and its bicentennial in 1996.¹

In the early 1600s this part of the world was contested by both France and England, each of

whom hoped to gain a foothold by which they could frustrate the imperial designs of the other. At various times this area was inhabited by both Frenchmen and Englishmen. How did 1613 emerge as the precise date of “settlement?”

It all started with Charles W. Noyes. Mr. Noyes, many will recall, was the man responsible for Castine’s “Historical Signs”, which for generations

have intrigued, entertained, (and occasionally appalled) citizens and visitors alike.²

Noyes was the son of Samuel Noyes, a prominent Castine ship builder and merchant, who lived from 1784 to 1859. Charles was born in 1854 and died in 1921. He worked for several years in the offices of the Witherle

brothers, George and William, and after that firm closed, moved to Newark, NJ. But he never lost his affection for his home town. He hoped to impress upon its citizens the spectacular nature of its history. Hence the “Historical Signs,” most of which were put up around 1910.

(continued on page 4)



¹ There are many of us who remember, and indeed participated in, the latter occasion. For the details of the 1896 celebration, see the *Castine Visitor* for summer 1996. For the plans for the 1996 celebration, see the *Visitor* for spring 1996.

² For previous discussions of the signs, see the *Castine Visitor* for summer 2009.

**CASTINE
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2012-2013**

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**The
Castine Historical Society
welcomes the following
new members**

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Bruce A. Mortimer

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**The Castine Historical
Society gratefully
acknowledges
contributions received in
memory of
George Marshall
and
Mary Elizabeth Pincoffs**

Special Winter Events

Saturday, December 1st

11 am to 3 pm

Open House

**Visit the Castine Bicentennial
Quilt and the CHS Gift Shop**

Sunday, February 3rd

3 pm to 4:30 pm

Show and Tell

**Explore documents, maps and
paintings new to the CHS
collections**

**Thanks and recognition
are extended to those who
have recently added to
our collections**

Adams School
Marion Bicks
Blue Hill Historical Society
Castine Yacht Club, Inc.
Edward and Irene Coombs
Joan Darby
Edward Des Jardins
Bob Dick
Richard Ditaranto
Douglas Endicott
Richard Hale
Harold Hatch
Laura Hatch
Mark Honey
John and Elaine Gardner
Lois Jackson
Tip and Jamie MacDonald
Lynn Parsons
Kate Robinson
Jim Stone
Gil Tenney
Charlene Wiseman
Witherle Memorial Library

The spring 2013 issue of the *Visitor* will feature Russell (Rusty) Bourne's review of the book *Missions and Meeting Houses; Chapels and Churches*, written by co-editor Lynn Parsons and published by the Castine Historical Society. The book covers "Four Centuries of Faith" in Castine and will be available to CHS members at 10% off the list price of \$19.95.

Visit us on line at
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If you are a current Facebook user,
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toricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CastineHistoricalSociety)



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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www.castinehistoricalsociety.org

**Castine
Historical Society**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Labor Day passed, signs of summer disappeared, a chill was in the air, but the Castine Historical Society's door remained open and things were quite lively. We decided to keep the gallery open until October 15th and I was amazed to see the number of people who continued to express interest in our 2012 summer exhibit *Schooner Bowdoin on the Greenland Patrol*, which was co-sponsored with Maine Maritime Academy, and the permanent Penobscot Expedition Exhibit. Being open in the fall helped to attract a wonderful mixture of people to Castine.

On a beautiful mid-September morning, four squadrons of MUG's



(Midshipmen Under Guidance) marched up School Street and waited patiently until it was their turn to enter the Abbott School. Meanwhile, thirty-four members of a Road Scholar Tour, formerly known as Elderhostel Tours, were in

the Mitchell Room being briefed on the history of Castine by Jim Stone before coming upstairs to the gallery. The participants, from Hawaii, Texas, Ohio, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, etc., were in route to Halifax, Nova Scotia. They were very eager to learn about our historic village during their brief stay and seeing the *Bowdoin* at the MMA dock was an additional treat.

Later in the month a busload of our Canadian neighbors from St. Andrews by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, spent the day in Castine. Curator Paige Lilly and part-time administrator Sally Chadbourne helped coordinate their plans and made arrangements for them to visit the John Perkins House and the Scott/Collinge House, presently known as the Fenn house. One of the visitors owns and lives in the Robert Pagan House, which was moved from Castine to St. Andrews in 1784. At the Abbott School our guests enjoyed viewing the *Bowdoin* exhibit and reading reference material about the Penobscot Loyalists. Jim Stone led an informative walking tour for those interested in learning more about Castine's historic architecture.

A group from South Carolina included Castine on their tour to Maine after reading Bernard Cornwall's *The Fort*. They were eager to view our permanent Penobscot Expedition Exhibit and to visit the actual site of the 1779 battle between the British and the Americans.

All of this would not have been possible without continued support from our Board, valued members, staff, and extremely loyal docents who volunteered their services during the extended fall hours. We also appreciate the assistance of a group of student docents from MMA. Thank you all for helping make Castine Historical Society's 2012 season so successful!

Marcia P. Mason

(continued from page 1)

Louise Wheeler Bartlett, writing in the second edition of her father's *History*, declared that Noyes was "due the entire credit of the signs. To the transient visitor to the town they afford an easy and interesting method of becoming acquainted with many of the principal epoch-making occurrences of Castine's early history." But Noyes had an additional agenda. He hoped, in Bartlett's words, "to establish incontrovertible proof that a continuous settlement had been at Castine (Pentagoet) from 1613 to 1670, giving it the distinction of being the first permanent settlement in New England." In other words, Noyes was convinced that Castine, Maine, settled in 1613, was older than Plymouth, Massachusetts, settled in 1620.³

The sign at the six-mile corner is the product of Noyes's commitment to this belief, which in turn has entered into the mainstream of Castine historical legend. Not only that, it has spread to that most dubious of historical sources, Wikipedia. "During the French colonial period," Wikipedians can learn, "[Castine] was the southern tip of Acadia and briefly served as the capital of the region." There is no evidence for this whatever. Another source makes the bizarre claim that Castine was settled in 1613 by a combination of "French, Dutch and British settlers."⁴

How successful was Noyes in his search for "incontrovertible proof?" There is in the CHS files an undated clipping from the *Ellsworth American*, announcing that Noyes was "actively engaged in planning for the tercentenary celebration of the foundation of this settlement" in 1913. The article was cautiously worded. Noyes's investigations, it says, established "to his satisfaction" that there had been a French colony established here in 1613, and that it had been permanent. "He claims to have proven without a doubt" that the evidence would support his case. But there was no

"tercentenary celebration" in 1913, or at least none of which we have any record.

Noyes did not give up, however. In 1916 he made his case in a paper before the Maine Historical Society entitled "Fort Pentagoet and the Beginnings of Castine."⁵ He began with Captain John Smith, whose memoir mentions a visit to Penobscot Bay in 1614 and a description of certain Frenchmen who were living with the Tarratine Indians "as one nation or family." Noyes argued that "It is, therefore, perfectly evident that Smith . . . meant to have it understood that in June 1614 certain Frenchmen were permanently settled with the Tarratines on the Eastern side of Penobscot Bay . . ." But a reading of Smith's *Description of New England* does not bear this interpretation. A footnote by the editor of *The Complete Works of Captain John Smith*, published in 1986, asserts rather firmly that "There were no Frenchmen left in the neighborhood after Samuel Argall's raid on Port Royal and Sainte-Croix, July to Nov. 1613. . . ."⁶



Charles W. Noyes

Noyes did not rely solely on Smith. Nicolas Denys, a Frenchman living in Nova Scotia, published his *Description and Natural History of the Coast of North America* in 1679, in which he mentioned a fort built here "by the late Monsieur de la Tour." By his own admission, Denys had never visited the area, but was reporting what he had been told by others. There is no evidence of any such fort built in 1613. In all probability, Denys was confusing La Tour's "fort" with the later Fort Pentagoet begun by the French in 1634. His American

translator added to the confusion when he wrote in a footnote that "It is altogether probable that the first French fort or post was established here by Claude de La Tour soon after 1613. . . ." The translation was published in 1908.⁷

(continued on next page)

⁵ Noyes, "Fort Pentagoet and the Beginnings of Castine." Copy in the CHS library.

⁶ Noyes, "Fort Pentagoet," 15; Philip Barbour, fn on p. 338 in Vol. I of *The Complete Work of Captain John Smith* (Chapel Hill, 1986). He made the same observation in his *Pocahontas and Her World* (Boston, 1970), 119-23, 146-47. Argall was then Governor of Virginia and committed to eliminating the French presence in "Acadia."

⁷ See Nicolas Denys, *The Description and Natural History of the Coasts of North America* (Toronto, 1908), 98 and fn.

³ Wheeler, *History*, 366, 394, 420.

⁴ See the current Wikipedia citations on Castine, last viewed on October 22, 2012.

We can now see the pattern. First, Noyes clearly stretched John Smith's casual reference to Frenchmen living with the Tarratines into a claim of a permanent "settlement." Then he was able to add Denys's erroneous *Description*, which appeared in 1908. This would explain his unsuccessful campaign for a "tercentenary" five years later, in 1913.

A close reading of Louise Wheeler Bartlett's account of Noyes raises certain questions as well. In her account of the historical signs, she recorded that they were the result of the work of a committee consisting of Noyes, Dr. Wheeler (her father), and Ellen P. Johnson, but added, perhaps significantly, "Dr. Wheeler was away from town at the time." In other words, he had little or nothing to do with the signs themselves.

What did George Wheeler think about Noyes's signs, or his contention regarding the first "permanent" settlement? We know what he thought in 1875, when he wrote "The first permanent settlement of much consequence, however, was made here in the year 1629, by Isaac Allerton, under the direction of the Plymouth Colony . . ."⁸ There is no evidence that Dr. Wheeler had changed his mind at any time before his death in 1925.

Neither Wheeler nor Noyes had the advantage of reading Alaric Faulkner and Gretchen Faulkner's *The French at Pentagoet*, published in 1987. Here the Faulkners went over the same ground, approaching the question, not as historians, but as archeologists. They established that Fort Pentagoet was begun, not in 1613, but in 1634.

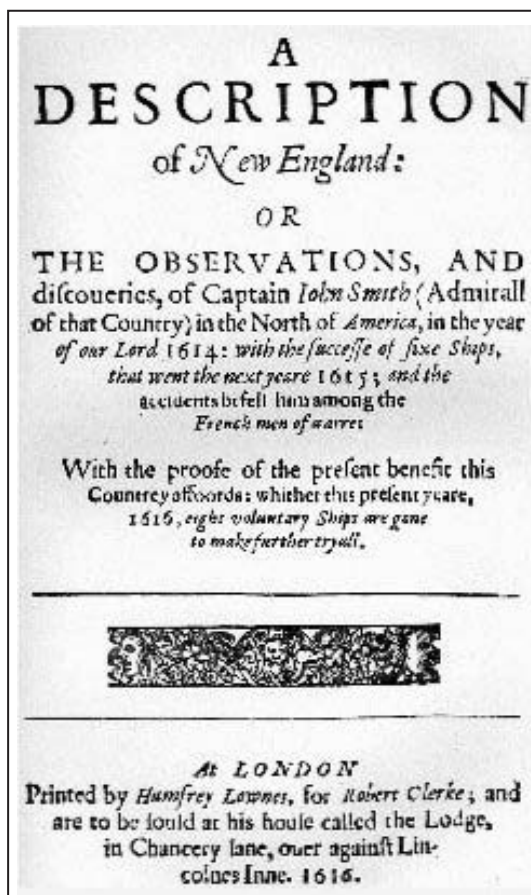
Moreover, they believed that while Claude de la Tour "may have" visited the area in or around 1613, there was no evidence of any "permanent" settlement by any European at that time.⁹

When was the sign at the six-mile corner first installed, and by whom? It was not part of the signs Noyes had put up in 1910. An inventory of the signs compiled as late as 1972 does not mention it.

However, it appears on a second, undated, inventory compiled in the late 1980s. In 1990, Gardiner Gregory, longtime unofficial historian of Castine, challenged 1613 as the date of any first settlement. There is an extensive defense of the 1613 date written in 1992, largely repeating the arguments put forth by Noyes in 1916.¹⁰ It is a good guess that the sign at the six-mile corner was put up somewhere between 1972 and 1990. More information would be welcome.

Finally, there is the matter of definition. What do we mean by "settled?" What do we mean by "permanent?" There were aboriginal Americans living here long before 1613, but the European definition of "settle" implies building permanent homes, planting crops, and raising families that would in time continue the traditions of previous generations. If this was Noyes's definition, we would have to move the clock forward, well into the eighteenth century.

Considering the evidence (or more precisely, the lack of evidence), the sign at the six-mile corner describing Castine as being "settled" in 1613, cannot be defended. Welcoming visitors to "historic Castine" is a good thing. Misleading them is not.



Title page of Captain John Smith's *A Description of New England* which Charles Noyes believed made the case for 1613 as the date of Castine's first "settlement."

⁹ Alaric Faulkner and Gretchen Faulkner, *The French at Pentagoet* (Augusta, 1987), 1-14.

¹⁰ This material is in the files marked "Historical Signs," in the CHS archives.

⁸ Wheeler, *History*, 12. Of course, the English did not stay long either, departing in 1632 when the area was returned to French control.

Ed Coombs' *Green Street News*

Anne Parsons

In the early 1990s, Deborah Pulliam, then editor of the *Visitor*, came across copies of the *Green Street News*, a bold attempt at delivering to Castiners the “goings-on-about-town.” The *Green Street News* had a short run, from 1934 to 1936. It was two or three pages, published every other week, and selling for two cents per copy. What made the *News* unique was its comprehensive coverage of events in Castine. Its readers could learn of happenings not covered anywhere else. What also made it unique was the fact that its editor, Merrill (Ed) Coombs, was only nine years old.

The *GSN* was delivered by hand after being typed on Ed's mother's typewriter and reproduced on a hectograph, a predecessor of the mimeograph. With a hectograph, the ink in a master copy was impressed into a gelatin-like substance, from which a limited number of copies could be made before the ink ran out. Ed later got his own second hand typewriter for Christmas and acquired a “printing press.” His paid staff consisted of two reporters, Phyllis McIntyre and Alvin Norton.

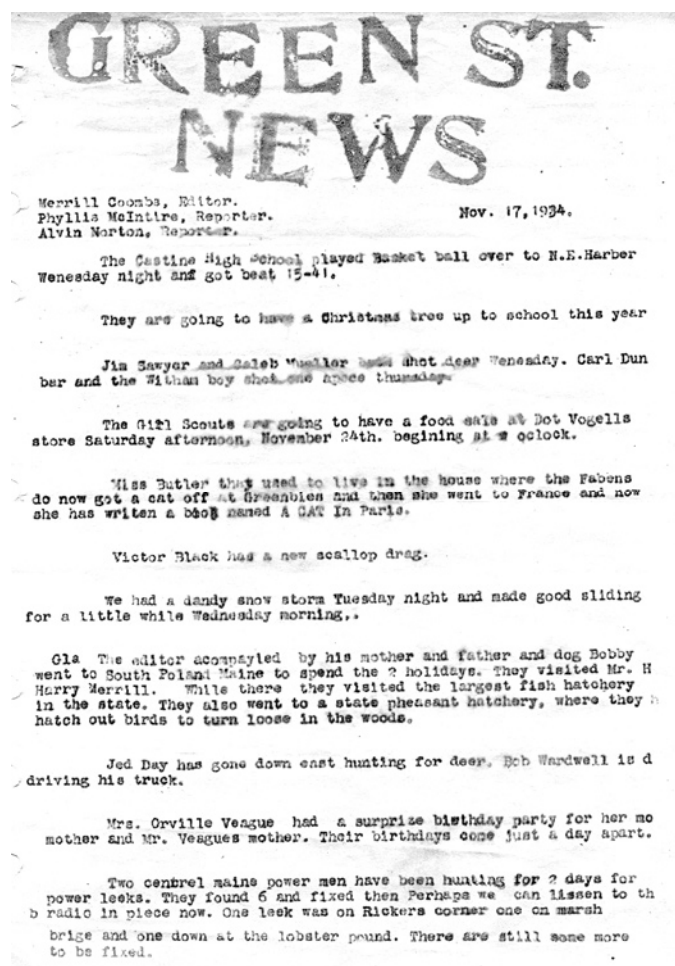
Phillip Booth's parents were subscribers, and they saved almost every issue of the *GSN*. When the originals fell into the hands of Deborah Pulliam, she thought so much of them that in 1996 she arranged to have several hundred copies edited and reprinted. But part of the order was left behind for over fifteen years in dusty cartons in the storerooms of Furbush-Roberts, CHS's printers in Bangor. They have now been returned to Castine.

The *GSN* not only describes the comings and goings of several Castine characters – some of whose descendents are still with us – but it also provides clues as to the town itself. Bear in mind that the *GSN* was published during the very depths of the Great Depression, whose impact on Castine was no less than that of most New England coastal towns. Yet there were far more businesses there and then than here and now. One of them was Coombs' father's hardware store. The businesses were advertised in the *GSN*, at five cents for an ad that would run all year. (“It pays to advertise in the *Green Street News*.”) The first issue on October 6th had eight ads and a “curcerlation of 20 custermerers.” By November 17th, it was reported “The *Green Street News* is growing

large. We have 15 ads and 50 custermerers.” And on December 1st, he added “It has come to the attenshun of the editor that the *Green Street News* has a circerlashun [all the] way to Germany.”

Ed's keen business sense is another fascinating thread. In July after he bought a new “printing press”, he raised price of the *GSN* from two to three cents and began offering printing services. To be fair, he also raised the pay of his reporters – the amount is not reported. Ed and his staff also supplied Christmas trees upon request.

What follows is a copy of a page from the *GNS* (originals are in the CSH archives) and a very small sampling of selections from other issues. Spelling and typography have for the most part been left as published. Part of the charm of reading the entire collection is to follow the development of the enterprise. Everything from a baby's tooth to the shortwave radio broadcast of a royal wedding caught the editor and his staff's attention and was deemed newsworthy.



The 150-page spiral bound book is a unique piece of Castine's history. It is carefully annotated with genealogical and geographic clues provided by Deborah and her contemporary sources. It is fun to have around. Guests and family will enjoy it.

Free copies are available at the Witherle Library, holder of the copyright. Copies will also be available at the December 1st Quilt Day and the February 3rd Show and Tell at the Historical Society and during regular hours beginning in June.

October 6, 1934

Hallwen is near.

It is so cold and frosty mornings that every body hates to get up.

Jed Day shot 4 partridges other day. The mackerel are still biting.

[Advertisements]

Buy your fish, meats and groceries at Wardwells Sa[n]itary Market.

Try the Drug Store - Main Street Corner.

Get your shaves and hair cuts at Bob Bowdens Bobber Shop.

Boyd Bartlett Agency - Real Estate and insurance.

Taw-no-ker [tourist home on northwest corner of Main and Court Streets - run by] Villa Pumphry, Castine

Frank Moore Dairy Farm, Castine

George T. Coombs, General Hardware, Castine, Maine.

Stabbouls Quest is the picture at the Folly Theater Saturday, October 6, 1934. Merna Loye and Lionel Atwill are in it. They say is is good.

October 20, 1934

Next week the school children have 3 extra holidays while the teachers go to Portland to the teachers convenshun. The children would not care if there was a convenshun evry week.

Some of my custermers think that this paper is only for green street but it isnt. It is an oll over town paper.

Hazelton Bowden, Jimmy Thombs and Ormond Bowden all tried to join the army but Jimmy was flat footed and Hazelton too young and Ormand couldn't.

November 3, 1934

Victor Black, Buffie Gray [Paul Gray's father] and Stanley Sawyer have started scalloping.

Four sardine boats were tied up at dennets wharf Thursday and Friday.

Since the citizens have found out that the Green street News is an oll over town paper there have been twelve new custermers. We even have 2 out of town subscriptions, one

in South Poland Maine and 1 way out in Montclair, N.J.

It has been reported to the editor that our milk man shot a tame duck.

Folks are breaking a lot of things lately. Mrs. Charles Richardson broke a bone in her wrist by falling down and Mr. Will Vogel broke his toe by dropping a apple on it.

November 17, 1934

[See reproduction on previous page. The Miss Butler referred to is Katherine Butler Hathaway who also published *The Little Locksmith*]

December 1, 1934

We heard on the short wave radio the wedding seremony of Prince Edward and Princess Marina.

December 15, 1934

Some of the members of the American Legion went to Bucksport last tuesday evening. They reported an extra good time.

A coast guard boat has been in the harbor and it is reported to the editor so has the rum boat.

December 31, 1934

Saturday nighgt when they tried the fire alarn out it wouldn't go. When they tried Sunday morning it went.

Andy Gump comes in over the radio every noon at quartet past 12 over WNAC.

Donald Wardwell [Dot Wardwell's uncle] was towing behind a car skating on Pierces Pond Christmas and fell on the back of his head. he had concushion. He was sick and talked funny all night. He is better now.

The editor had a new second hand typewriter for Christmas and he is not used to it yet.

January 12, 1935

We had an accident up to school. Some one threw a snow ball and knocked off Oliver Denets glasses and Miss Bills and Mr. Hatch had to scrape the snow all over in that storm to find them.

Buffy Gray has got 7 hens and he gets 6 eggs a day.

Willis Leach cut his knee going down over a wood pile on skees and had to stay in bed 3 days.

January 26, 1935

The Mississippi river is flooding her banks terribly bad. This is not Castine news but it is United States News.

Mr. Muffits Cat the story that Miss Butler wrote about the cat she took to Paris is in the Liberry now.

Winnie Coombs The liberry woman had 12 of her hens eaten up by a dog.

Mr. Mace Eaton has Mr. Hopper wharf. He is building a dandy boat there.

The Mishionary meeting was at Mrs. Olsens Wednesday. Mrs. Spurling [Bea

Spurling's mother] was going to have it but the captain [Castine's last lighthouse keeper] was sick abed.

February 9, 1935

The picture at the Folly Saturday afternoon and evening is Mrs. Wiggs Of The Cabbage Patch. The book is awfully funny so the picture must be. The editor has read it. It is about Asia, Europeans, Austalia, and the horse Cuby. Pauline Lord, WG Fields and Zazu Pitts are in it.

February 23, 1935

Mace Eaton has got one boat underway and has started on another 19 foot boat.

We found out what the police were looking fot that day th[ey] were in town. They were looking for Ormond Bowden and they found him and now he is over to Ellsworth in jail.

March 30, 1935

At the special town meeting that they are going to have Apri; they are going to choose a moderator and then they are going to see if the town will vote to recind all the votes about the town hall. The reporters couldn't copy all of the other articals from the paper down on Clarks store but one was to see if we want daylight saving. If the town will vote to pay a policeman 500 dollars and have him from June to September. To appoint more people on the committee that didn't want to be on them.

The Editor will go to town meeting and will tell you all they do in the next edition.

The paper may not be quite so regular coming out now that the baseball season is here. If anybody wants to play good base ball they have to keep in practice.

April 20, 1935

At the special town meeting they voted not to have any police man, and to have daylight saving. Day light saving is all right but sometimes it makes a fellow go to bed before dark.

May 25, 1935

Late news. Donald Wardwell broke his leg practising jumping. Mrs. Pol Westcott broke her shoulder.

June 20, 1935

All the boys are getting crew haircuts this summer. They are good and cool.

July 4, 1935

The Fourth is going to be good this year. There is going to be a band too with the parade. Bucksport band is coming down. The parade is going to start up on the common go down dyers over water up and down main street last and end up at the water front. The ball game is going to be Ellsworth against Castine. The bon fire the night before the fourth is going to be good Ivan Bowden has

been gethering old tires and things for three weks.

July 25, 1935

EXTRA MRS. ROOSEVELT COMING TO CASTINE FRIDAY. [26 July 1935].

Mrs. Roosevelt is coming to Castine Friday. She will visit Miss Mary Dewson [Virginia Bourne's great aunt living at Moss Acre] and have dinner with her. Miss Dewson lives of to Porters. Then, Mrs. Roosevelt the mother of the country is coming down to the Library and see everyone. Everybody can shake hands with her. She is on the way to Campbello.

After this the GREEN STREET NEWS will be three cents because the editor has bouhgt a new printing press and has gone up on his pay to the reporters. The paper will have more news in it when the Editor and the reporters get so they can work the press because the tipe is littler.

August 17, 1935

This edition of the paper is not printed on the printing press because she editor has not had enough practice yet.

August 22, 1935

The womens club from Milo came down to Mrs. Owens July 24. They brought sandwiches and cakes and Mrs. Owen made clam chowder and coffy. They ate out on Owens porch and ate an awful lot. They were 14. They sat at the tables a long time after they ate and then they got into cars and went around town.

October 1935

Noah Hoopers turkeys are getting some big. They will be ready to eat by thanksgiving.

All the women and girls are making door stops out of Sears and Robuck catologs. You can use montgomery wards too.

December 1935

Quite a while ago the editor sawed his hand in a buzz saw instead of the wood and that is why you have not had any Green Street News. Dr. Babcock used a lot of thread and sewed it up with a needle and he had to wear a plaster paris cast for 3 weeks.

February 1936

Washingtons Birthday comes on Saturday this year so it doesn't do the schools any good.

May - June 1936

There is going to be a Memorial Day here this year. They are going to have the Camp Fire Friday night at the town hall. The Womans Club anf Lions Club is getting it up. Where Memorial Day comes on Saturday it does not give the kids at school any day off.

June 17, 1936

The World war veterans in Castine got their bonus Tuesday. Those that got them are

(concluded on next page)

Harold Philbrook, George Coombs, Horace Leach, Medos Bouleur, Jed Day, Carl Dunbar, Pike Perkins, George Bowden, Percy Wescott, Mr. Wight, Orett Robinson, Harry Small, Joe Dennet.

June 1936

The new beauty parlor lady looks like Sylvia Sydney.

The lobster Pound is open again. They have got the swimming pool all cleaned out and folooded. Raymond Bowden is doing it. School is all over and no one is sorry.

July 1936

Grace Wardwells baby has got a tooth.

All the men even the old ones are playing soft ball this sumer. Jed Day has got a team and George Coombs Ivan Bowden and Link Sawyer. They play up on the fort every Monday anf Wenesday anf Friday. Some od them were lame the first time.

August 1936

The Bluehill Fair comes Labor Day and school begins that same week.

In a recent interview, Ed Coombs recalled that he left Castine "at about eighteen" to join the National Youth Administration and be trained as a radio technician. From there he went on to serve in the United States Navy in the closing years of World War II. After his service, he attended the University of Maine and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. From there he went on to work for RCA and the New England Telephone Co. After spending "a couple of years" in Washington working on the Apollo space project, he joined the Bell Laboratory system. He also taught for a while at a technical college before returning to Penobscot and Castine.

He and his wife Irene currently live in Dexter, Maine. They recently donated limited edition prints of two of his grandfather's paintings to the CHS. One of the prints is pictured on the back page of this issue. Both are available through the CHS gift shop.

Holiday Shopping at the Abbott School Gift Shop

The Castine Historical Society Gift Shop will be open during the Quilt Open House on Saturday, December 1 from 11:00am to 3:00pm, and by appointment on weekdays throughout the winter holiday season. CHS Members receive a 10% discount on all Gift Shop purchases. Can't be in Castine this time of year? We would be pleased to ship your selections to you or a gift recipient (shipping charges will apply, as will 5% Maine sales tax on purchases shipped to a Maine address).

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, or inquire about items not listed below, call the CHS Administrator at 207-326-4118 or email admin@castinehistoricalsociety.org.

Total due \$ _____

Selected items available for shipping (shipping & handling charges are \$6.00 per shipment):

Castine Artist Ned Coombs Limited Edition Prints

Waterfront Village \$30.00 _____

Fisherman's Bend \$30.00 _____

CHS Logo Ball Cap, one size \$18.00 _____

Schooner Bowdoin nightlight \$35.00 _____

CHS Logo Adult Fleece Half-zip Pullover

Adult size S__ M__ L__ \$45.00 _____

CHS Logo SeaBags recycled sail cloth totes

Small \$95.00 _____

Medium \$115.00 _____

Large \$130.00 _____

CHS Logo Child Fleece Zippered Jacket

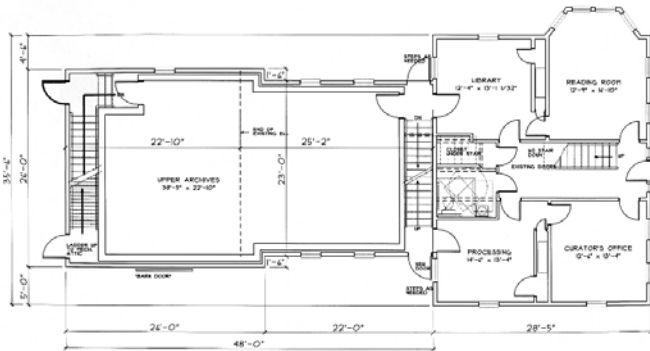
Child size S__ M__ L__ \$35.00 _____

Curator's Corner

Paige Lilly

"Do you have climate-controlled storage?" asked painting and frame conservator Nina Roth-Wells, her head bent to examine a portrait of Thomas E. Hale. "No, but we will soon," answered Castine Historical Society curator Paige Lilly. "Good!"

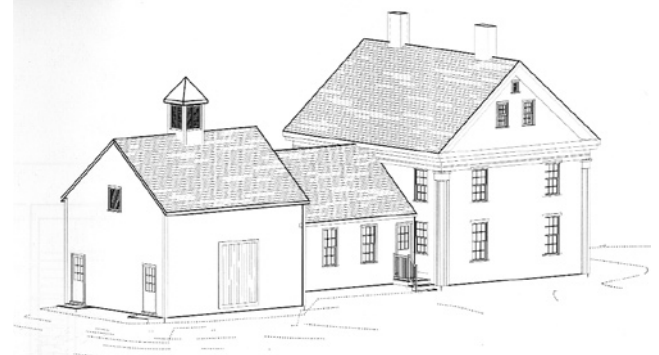
A simple exchange, but oh so gratifying. CHS is taking the next step to ensure secure and safe storage conditions for all the documents, photographs, maps, artifacts and paintings in its care. In her President's Letter for the Summer 2012 *Castine Visitor*, Marcia Mason described plans to move forward with a renovation and construction project that will turn the Grindle House into a research and storage facility complete with a two-level preservation storage wing. Admittedly it's a big project, but it's also a natural step in the progression which began when the Society first made a commitment to safeguard the historical evidence of Castine's development.



The plans call for the main part of the house to become reading room, library and work space on the first floor, with offices and a staff/volunteer gathering room upstairs. The current ell will be replaced with a secure, fire-proof and climate-controlled storage space for the growing CHS collections, including appropriate furniture for archiving framed paintings, flat maps, charts and plans, photographs, documents and objects. On the outside, the "vault" will look like an ell and carriage house complete with false windows; on the inside, it will be a separate, enclosed structure with its own mechanical systems for heating, cooling, and ventilation. (See drawings on this page by architect and architectural historian Christopher Glass.)

The Grindle House will succeed the Abbott School's second-floor workroom, and the Gardner and Anne Gregory Storage Room. Since 1996 these have been home to the core activities of the Collections Committee, led for over a decade by Sally

Foote. The Storage Room, seasonally air-conditioned and dehumidified, was a huge improvement over Emerson Hall and the lower level of Gardner Gregory's home. Now full, it was fitted out with used department-store shelving in order to house bound manuscripts and boxes of archival papers.



The second-floor workroom, scene of countless hours of accessioning and cataloging work by Sally and the archives team, is now crowded with artifacts, exhibit panes, maps, paintings, research projects, and vertical files along with office space for staff and volunteers. It's time to expand the available storage capacity, improve the storage and research environments, and make the reference material available in an easily accessible space.

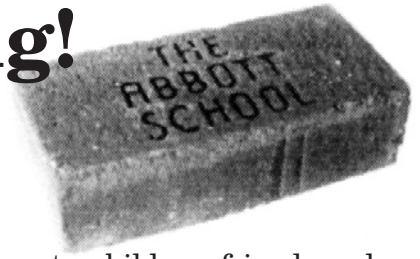
Getting back to the Hale painting, we were delighted to receive the donation of two early nineteenth century portraits this summer from Dick Hale. Thomas E. Hale (1784 -1821) pictured below was a lawyer who married Agatha Hatch of Castine and settled on Court Street. Currently there is a flurry activity in the interest of cleaning and stabilizing the paintings as well as identifying the artists. I hope to report on these projects in a future *Visitor*. In the meantime, one of the reasons Dick donated the paintings was to provide them with better storage conditions. Looks like we've got that covered.



Thomas E. Hale portrait

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Join the hundreds of CHS supporters who have remembered their parents, children, friends and even pets by purchasing a personalized brick for the Abbott School walkway. This is the perfect gift for the holidays, a great way to support the Society, and a lasting remembrance for future generations.

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Waterfront Village by Ned Coombs (1866-1948)

Green Street is on the right heading up to the Library

Ned Coombs was the grandfather of Green Street News editor, Merrill "Ed" Coombs (see article in this issue)
Limited Edition prints of this painting and another, Fisherman's Bend, are available through the CHS gift shop (see page 9)