

the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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AN OLD TOWN WITH A HISTORY – Part I

by Noah Brooks

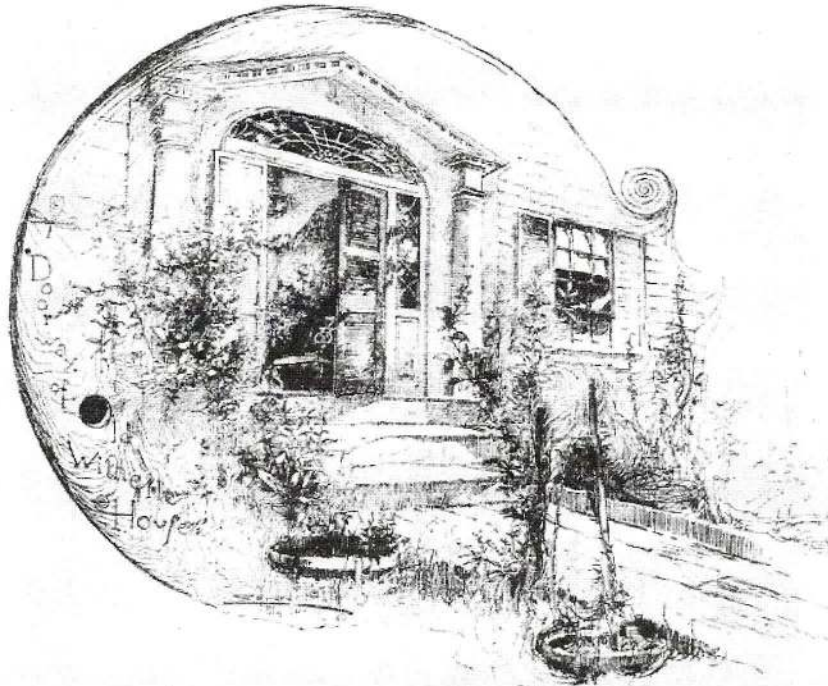
Reprinted from *Century Magazine*, September 1882

Century Magazine, the successor to *Scribner's Monthly*, was a very popular national monthly periodical published from 1881-1930. Author and President Abraham Lincoln confidante Noah Brooks (1830-1903) penned this piece about his hometown, which according to accounts of the time was well received by the people of Castine – although many of his comments will not be considered “politically correct” to a modern audience. The illustrations in the original article, however, were criticized by townspeople as unrecognizable and overly focused on scenes of dilapidation. What follows is the first part of the article and most of the accompanying illustrations. The depiction of “Yankee Doodle Upset” has been added. It was not included in the original. The rest of the article will be published in a future edition of *The Visitor*. Editors.

It is not easy to connect, even in imagination, the sterile coast of Maine, now inhabited by a plain, practical, and commonplace people, with any of the stirring scenes that were being enacted on the continent of Europe during the century immediately following the discovery of America by Columbus. But the rival European powers early took possession of the most notable points along the coast, and the struggle for ascendancy was maintained with such vigor that rulers of the houses of Medici and Valois, and the ambitious Plantagenets, and the most Catholic sovereigns of Spain, even in the midst of their schemes, plots and wars, were frequently obliged to turn their eyes in this direction.

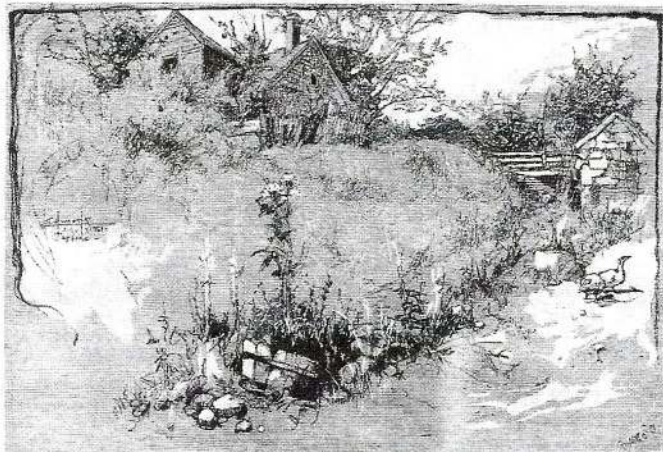
The importance of the Penobscot River was early acknowledged by explorers, as well as by the nations engaged in the strife for possession of its bay and entrance. The region watered by this stream, and stretching for many leagues to the eastward, was inhabited by a warlike race known as the Abenakis. A subdivision of the community, the Tarratines, held the entrance to the river. At the mouth of the Penobscot, anciently known as the Norumbegue

(and by other names), where that majestic stream broadens into the bay, and on the eastern side of the bay, is a peninsula formed by the Penobscot on the west, and by an arm of the sea on the east. The peninsula is irregular, and contains only about ten



DOORWAY OF WITHERS HOUSE

or twelve hundred acres; but the fighting for its possession which has distracted so many generations, would seem to indicate for it an importance very much out of proportion to its dimensions. This bit of land projects boldly into the bay, and, while it is bluff and even precipitous on the side next the mainland and toward the roadstead to the southward, it slopes pleasantly to the east, and on this sunny slope is built the modern town of Castine.



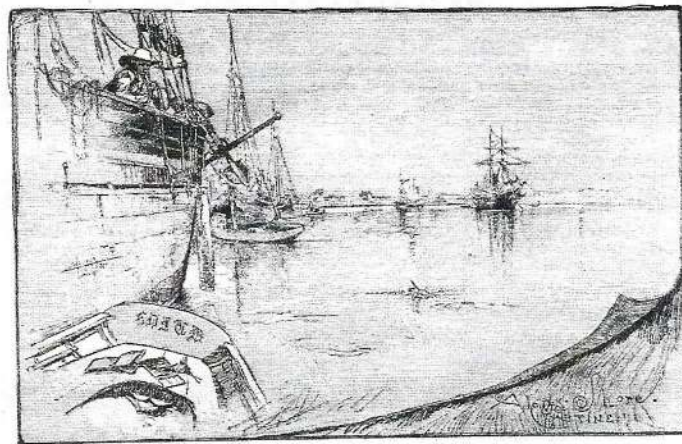
BACK FROM THE BEACH.

The arm of the sea was anciently known by as many names as were given to the Penobscot. The Indians called it Pentagoet, or entrance to a river. The Dutch, who, in their turn, had had a hand in the exploration of the region, corrupted this into Pentegeovett; and according to some authorities, another Dutch translation of Pentagoet was Pountegouycet. This was Gallicized into Majabagaduce by the next possessors of the country, and, finally, the estuary was dubbed "the Bagaduce," by which name it is known unto this day. Naturally, the peninsula was called Pentagoet, and by this name were all the early settlements on the point known to the historians of the time.

The voyager approaching these shores beholds a wonderful panorama of sea and land. The bay of the Penobscot is studded with unnumbered islands. These are covered, for the most part, with fir, spruce, and larch. The shores are bold and rocky, and rich tones of brown, gray and purple are reflected in the silvery tide. Far up the Penobscot, as one rounds the eastern end of Long Island, stretches a lovely vista of tender blue, melting into more positive hues in the middle distance, where old Fort Point, once Fort Pownal, stands like a sentinel at the entrance of the river. To the right and eastward, the bluff and well-wooded extremity of the peninsula of ancient Pentagoet dominates the scene, its

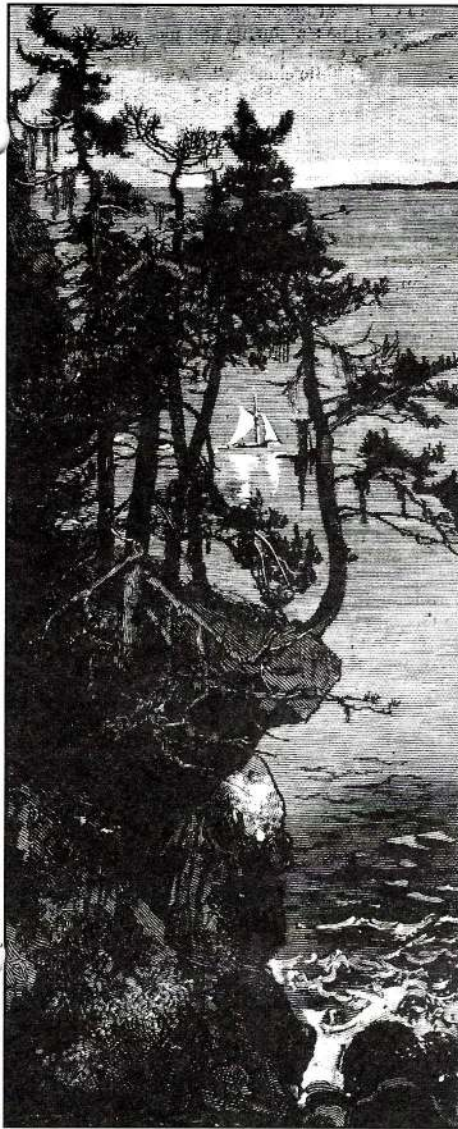
light-house marking, like a white finger, the highest point of that section of the shore. To the right of the light-house opens another vista where the Bagaduce, with the shores of Brooksville mirrored in its tide, leads the eye up into a tangle of hills and dales over which rises the azure peak of Blue Hill. Still farther to the eastward, over the hills, and resting like a cloud on the horizon, are the heroic lines of the ridges of Mount Desert.

As early as 1556 there was a French trading and fishing station on Pentagoet, but it was not until 1613, so far as we know, that the French claimants erected any fortification on the peninsula. In that year, Captain Argall, of Virginia, was cast ashore here; and a year later the illustrious Captain John Smith paid it a flying visit. The Plymouth colony of Massachusetts, with an eye to trade with the Tarratines, set up a trading house at Pentagoet, in 1626, Isaac Allerton being at the head of the enterprise. In those days beaver-skins were ardently coveted by the white traders, and in all the accounts of the doings of the first adventurers along the coast, we encounter wearisome recitals of beaver by the ton, beaver by the ship-load, and beaver in such enormous quantities that we may well understand why the much-hunted animal has now almost wholly disappeared from the region.



ALONG SHORE.

The pilgrims were driven out by the French in 1632, but the Englishmen came back and were again driven out, in 1625, by Razillai, then governor of Acadie. Razillai, dying soon after this, left the command of Acadie to his two lieutenants, De la Tour and D'Aulney. The first-named was a Huguenot and the latter a Catholic. Between the two there raged a long and arduous contest, each claiming priority in the government. D'Aulney's seat was at Pentagoet, and he fortified himself there in the work now in ruins, and known as the old French fort.



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.

Sally Chadbourne &
Delacroix Davis III.....Editors

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**Castine
Historical Society**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past six months have been extremely busy and eventful ones for the Castine Historical Society. In May, the lustrous copper of the restored cupola was lifted in place on the newly shingled roof. We commemorated the completion of the Abbott School cupola restoration and roof replacement project on June 30 with a variation on the usual opening day party. The entire town was invited to join Society members both inside the building viewing the new seasonal exhibit and outside on the green enjoying ice cream and other treats while listening to a kilted bagpiper and to the Tarratine fife and drum corps. An estimated 250 people attended. The event was kicked off with Denny Colson, a member of the Castine High School Class of 1961, and Dorothy Jean (Young) Smith, a member of the class of 1934, ringing the old iron bell that once again resides in the Abbott School cupola. Other guests included Ashley Webster, a member of the Class of 1927 and believed to be the oldest living graduate of the Castine High School.

Work on the Abbott School continued this autumn with the repainting of the entire exterior of the building for the first time since the restoration work done by the CHS in 1995-1996. Completion of these projects results in the Society's home positively gleaming from the ground to the tip of the weathervane. We are indebted to David Adams for the countless hours he spent overseeing the cupola/roof and painting projects during the past fifteen months as building and grounds committee chair.

Long time Society member, contributor, and fifth generation Castine resident Philip Booth died in early July. The Castine literary tradition he embodied and encouraged was celebrated on July 25 with a panel discussion dedicated to his life and work. Other summer events included Eugene Gaddis's well-received illustrated lecture on Everett A. (Chick) Austin. The Art Show and Sale, ably chaired by Stefanie Scheer Young and Sue Macdonald, resulted in near record net income for the event. The "Turning the Page--Writing Castine 1956-2006" exhibit drew nearly two thousand visitors. A hearty thank you to the exhibit committee and to all the docents who kept the exhibit hall open five and one-half days a week. A special thank you is owed to Jim Stone for his efforts arranging and conducting historic walking tours of Castine with passengers of the cruise ships that stop here. Although Jim enlists the help of a few others as backup guides, he personally conducted at least 25 walking tours this past summer, mostly while walking backwards!

At the annual meeting in August we said goodbye to departing Board members and welcomed new ones. After nearly two decades of service to the Society in numerous positions, Barry McMenamin was elected an Honorary Director. After three years of editing this newsletter and two years of long hours preparing the seasonal exhibits (both with considerable help from his wife, Dixie) Paul Gray is moving on to new challenges with other area organizations. We thank them as well as Lisa Haugen for her work with publicity and Sandra Richardson for managing the gift shop. For a list of new officers and directors please see page 5. Adams School Principal Todd Nelson spoke before the meeting about his trip to St. Castin, France and his hopes that an ongoing exchange program between Castine and St. Castin students could be established. Pursuant to an earlier action of the Board, Todd was presented with a check from the Historical Society to support the exchange effort.

Delacroix Davis III

A LIFETIME—AND MORE—OF GIVING

A Tribute to Deborah Pulliam

Our community was saddened to learn in May that Deborah S. Pulliam, a valued member of the Society for many years and editor of *The Castine Visitor* newsletter for six years, had succumbed to cancer. Many members and friends of the Castine Historical Society are aware that Deborah made an extremely generous bequest to the Society in her will. While no distribution has been received yet, we have been advised the Society can expect to receive \$4,000,000 from her estate next year. Provisions of the gift stipulate it must become part of the permanent endowment of the Society. A gift of this magnitude will present many opportunities, but it will also impart many challenges. The Board of Directors is beginning the process of examining our mission and long-range goals in light of Deborah's bequest. One issue being seriously considered is hiring professional help to assist with the archives, exhibits, and other operations of the Society.

For more on Deborah's generous spirit and the organizations she aided, we present the following article, which is reprinted from the Fall 2007 issue of *MaineCF*, the newsletter of the Maine Community Foundation. The Castine Historical Society gratefully acknowledges permission granted by the MCF to print this appreciation.

Giving without recognition

The Belvedere Fund donor brought personal passion to her philanthropy.

Deborah Pulliam once told a friend that she had read an article in the *Bangor Daily News* about an anonymous philanthropic gift that so inspired her that she, too, wanted to give to the cause. Then she realized, with some embarrassment, that she already had given. She was the inspiring donor.

That story is as telling about Pulliam as any could be. She gave generously, passionately, anonymously—and without attachment. The results inspired her, and that was what mattered.

The daughter of Jane Bleecker and Eugene S. Pulliam, the former publisher of *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News*, Pulliam was raised in a powerful and comfortably affluent family. A writer herself, she was interested in carrying on the family trade, but in a more natural and simple setting. Twenty years ago, she came to Maine to work at the *Castine Patriot*. Then her father died, and she inherited a fortune. Literally.

Yet even friends close enough to share holidays with Pulliam did not know this. To them, she was a rather quiet woman who loved animals, cared deeply about

textiles and history, and so loved cookies that she published two cookie recipe books and delighted in hosting cookie exchange parties before the holidays. To this day, many of her friends have no idea that she was at all philanthropic, just as many did not know that the breast cancer she thought she had licked had returned—until it was almost too late to say goodbye. Pulliam died May 22, 2007. She was 54.



Deborah Pulliam on a sunny day in Castine.
Photo Mary Kneisel.

Stubborn, fun, smart, funny, opinionated and straightforward, Pulliam was fierce about not wanting people to treat her differently because she had money. When she heard about her estate, she contacted the Maine Community Foundation so she could give the bulk of her money away—on one condition. She demanded absolute anonymity.

Pulliam simply felt that she had been given more than one person needs

or should have; she wanted to see what that money could do, says Ellen Pope, Maine Community Foundation's vice president of philanthropic services. Not surprisingly, Deborah—and numerous organizations

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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across the state, especially downeast—discovered that, yes, much could be accomplished.

Many of the grants from Pulliam's Belvedere Fund, the foundation's largest, are directed toward historic preservation, including the \$1 million anonymous challenge grant to the Bangor Museum and History Center to energize their \$3 million campaign (it was probably this gift that Pulliam read about in the *Bangor Daily News*). She also gave generously to the Maine Historical Society, as well as to the Maine State Museum, Ruggles House, Waterville Opera House and the Tides Institute and Museum of Art.

Hugh French, director of the Tides Institute, recalls the day Maine Community Foundation president Henry Schmelzer called to tell him about the Belvedere Fund grant. He was in the middle of the first phase of renovating the institute's historic building in downtown Eastport. "It was a huge shot in the arm, a major reason why we were able to be successful," says French of the grant. It did more than pay the bills; the funding showed the community that someone believed that the institute was on the right track. "It was an enormously beneficial award at a very critical time for us, and it ensured that we were going to be able to complete that first phase successfully," adds French.

Pulliam's grants to support land conservation have amounted to more than a million dollars and range from the Penobscot River Restoration Trust to Katahdin Lake to the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village to the Fund for Maine Land Conservation. Says Laura Rose Day, executive director of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, "[The Belvedere grant] built a new era of momentum and confidence that will help us continue until the river flows freely."

Pulliam was also a strong supporter of animal welfare groups, ranging from Hancock County's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to the global Jane Goodall Institute. Additionally, her passion for traditional crafts led her to support organizations such as Maine FiberArts, Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.

But that isn't all, says Pope. Pulliam cared deeply about people and social justice. She gave to food pantries, homeless programs and to organizations in the wake of the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, as well as to healthcare, especially community healthcare, including Castine Community Hospital. She might read about a homeless shelter in Bangor and call up the foundation to direct a grant to that group. "She had a real interest in downeast Maine and a real soft heart," says Pope.

Giving without recognition, adds Pope, is considered the highest form of giving. To Deborah Pulliam, it seems to have been a matter of course.



JANUARY LECTURE AT CHS

Madockawando's Pentagôet: Hub for East Penobscot Bay

On Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00 PM, noted anthropologist and author William A. Haviland will present an illustrated lecture in the Mitchell Room of the Abbott School on the historic role of Native Americans in the Blue Hill Peninsula. His title: "Madockawando's Pentagôet: Hub for East Penobscot Bay." Dr. Haviland's talk, jointly sponsored by the Adams School and the Castine Historical Society, will also address the interactions of early French trappers and settlers with the Native population. The event is open to the public and CHS members are encouraged to attend.

One purpose of the lecture is to increase the knowledge of Adams School seventh and eighth graders about the important role Native Americans played during the early years of European exploration and settlement in this area. This event is one of many designed to help prepare the students for their April trip to St. Castin, France, ancestral home of the Baron de St. Castin. While in France, the students will make presentations—in French—to the elementary students in St. Castin on the subject of Native American and French relations. The April trip will be the first in what is hoped will become a traditional part of an Adams School education.

The historical connections between Castine and St. Castin give special meaning to the trips. There are very few American communities that can boast of a well-documented 350-400 year history with Europeans. The benefits to the students of structured and purposeful exposure at a relatively young age to another culture and language are immense. The Castine Historical Society has provided financial support for the exchange trip as a way to foster an expanded relationship with the Adams School and the community, and in keeping with the CHS mission of providing educational support for all ages.

Dr. Haviland is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Vermont, where he founded the Department of Anthropology and taught for thirty-two years. Knowledgeable about indigenous peoples in many cultures, he holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Now retired from teaching, he continues his research, writing, and lecturing from the coast of Maine. In addition, Haviland is a Corporator of the Abbe Museum and serves on its collections committee. He was on the Town of Deer Isle Conservation Commission from 2002-2007, and serves on the boards of the Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society and is current president of the Island Heritage Trust.

The Abbott School, home of the Castine Historical Society, is located at 17 School Street on the town green. The Mitchell Room is fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. For more information on this event, please contact Todd Nelson at 326-8608 or Del Davis at 326-0828.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our grateful thanks are extended to the following individuals who have recently added their gifts to the Castine Historical Society collections:

Robert C. Dick	Deborah Pulliam Estate
Dixie & Paul Gray	Sandra & Deane
Beverly Farnham Henry	Richardson
Mark E. Honey	Madelaine Stuckey
K. Loiche	Eve Stwertka
Maine State Archives	Pat Wardwell
George Marshall	Wilson Museum
Todd Nelson	

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Castine Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the gifts recently received in memory of the following individuals:

Philip E. Booth

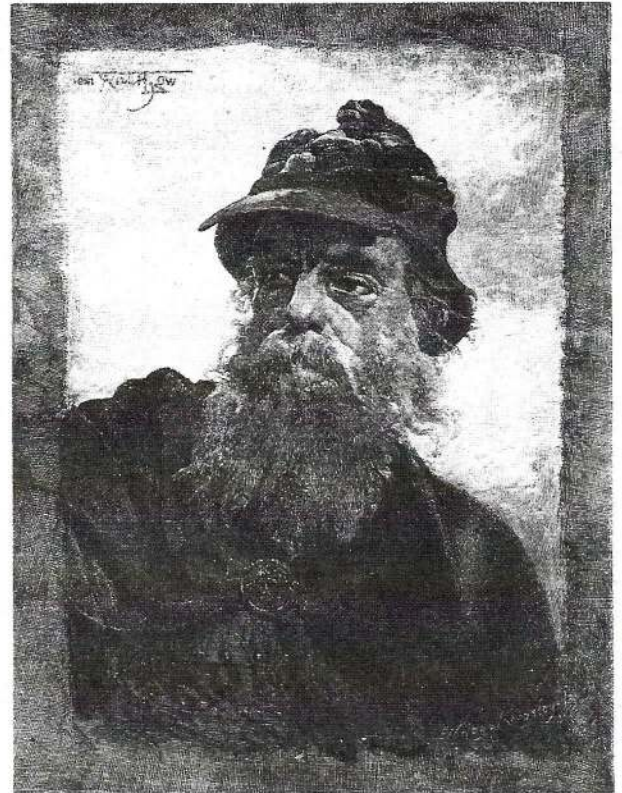
Deborah S. Pulliam

The English took possession of Pentagoet in 1654, under orders from Cromwell, then Protector, but the French remained in their peaceable pursuits of trading. By the treaty of Breda, in 1667, the much-disputed territory of Acadie, including Pentagoet by name, was ceded by the English to the French. It was not until 1670, however, that the French flag was hoisted over the place, when the Chevalier de Grandfontaine, acting under orders from Colbert, minister, took possession of the peninsula, with express instructions to hold it against the English.

About a quarter of a mile from the village of Castine, in a southerly direction and toward the entrance to the harbor, is the site of the old fort originally built by the Pilgrims, enlarged and occupied by D'Aulney, assaulted by De la Tour, and plundered alternately by French, Dutch, English, and by buccaneers. Antiquarians have run trenches across the plateau on which stood the ancient fortress, and have laid bare the solid masonry of the foundations. When the present writer revisited the spot a year ago, he found that vandals had carried off some of the stones laid in the early part of the seventeenth century, to repair the underpinning of the town-house. A copper plate, nailed by the unlearned finder to the bow of his boat, was discovered to bear an inscription in Latin setting forth the fact that the chapel of "Our Lady of Holy Hope" was founded here in January 8, 1648, by Friar Leo, of the Capuchin Mission. Another odd relic of the Romanist propaganda in North America is a rude copper disk, dug up near the old fortress, and stamped with emblem and date showing that it was a medal used as a badge by an Indian convert. It is said of the early Catholic fathers of California that they were accustomed to lasso their Indian wards, baptize them, and let them run. The worthy Capuchins, it seems, labeled their dusky children of the faith.

The next prominent historic figure in old Pentagoet, after the death of D'Aulney, was Jean Vincent de Saint Castin, a nobleman whose family-seat was near the town of Oléron, District of Béarn, in the Lower Pyrenees. As the archives of the town are supposed to have been destroyed during the French Revolution, very little is known of St. Castin's early history. When a young man, he joined with other youthful nobles the regiment of Carignan Salières, a famous organization that took part in the War of the Fronde, and afterward was incorporated into the French Corps

furnished to Leopold, Emperor of Germany, by Louis XIV, to aid in the campaign against the Turks, who had overrun Transylvania, and were then threatening Germany. In 1665, the Carignans were transferred to Canada, after having achieved renown in the war against the unspeakable Turk in Eastern Europe. In the New World their services were required against an enemy equally savage, though perhaps less worthy of their steel—the Iroquois, who proposed nothing less than the extermination of the French colony on the St. Lawrence.

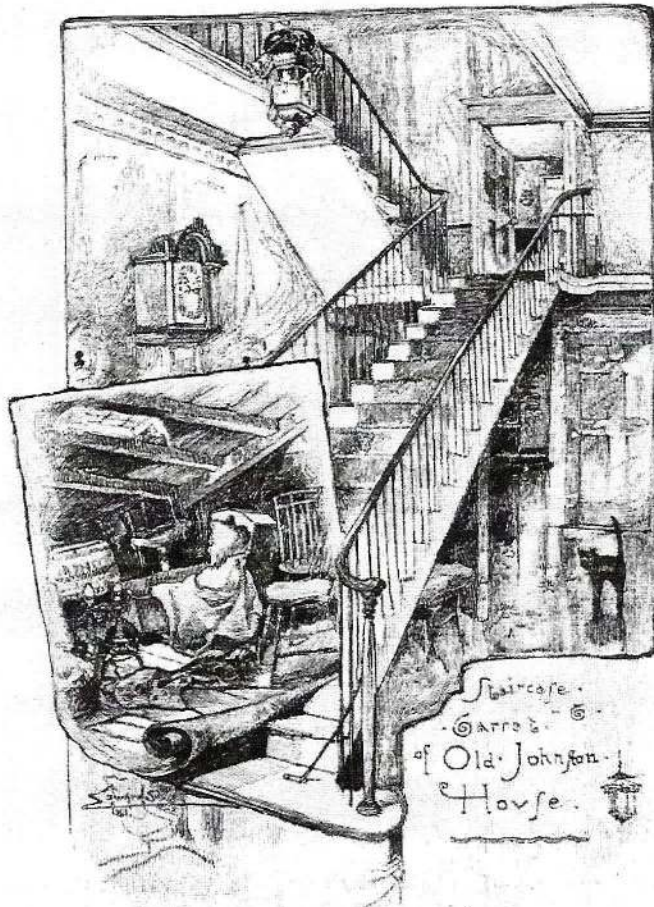


BARON CASTIN, OF ST. CASTIN.

When the Iroquois had been reduced to submission, the Baron de St. Castin turned his steps toward the French post, at the mouth of the Penobscot, on the peninsula that now bears his name. Why he came here nobody seems to know. It was a strange adventure for a scion of the ancienne noblesse, with great expectations awaiting him in his native land. Perhaps he was fascinated by the stories told him by Madockawando, the chief of the Tarratines, who visited Quebec during St. Castin's sojourn there. At any rate, he was not only the friend and companion in arms of the great chieftain of the Tarratines, but he soon became his son-in-law, marrying his daughter Mathilde. There is no historical warrant for the glowing description of the Baroness de St. Castin, which is given in Longfellow's poem of "The Baron

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Castin, of St. Castin." But we do know that the baron was received by the subjects of Madockawando with great favor and even reverence. He was made a sachem of the tribe. He adopted its manners and costume, and so great was their veneration for him, that, when alighting from his expeditions, he was never allowed by the Indians to tread the common ground, but skins and mats were spread for his sacred feet to rest upon.



STAIRCASE AND GARRET OF OLD JOHNSTON HOUSE.

During Castin's time, in 1674, the Dutch took possession of Pentagoet, first sending thither a privateer, and afterward a frigate. Next, the Boston English drove out the Dutch. The Baron de St. Castin, however, continued to hold his own during all these mutations. St. Castin had two sons by Dame Mathilde, Anselm and Joseph Dabadis, the former of whom succeeded to his father's estates and title. His second wife was Marie Pidiansge, by whom he had at least two daughters.

St. Castin returned to France in 1701, but he did not "come to his own again," as Longfellow, with a poet's license, has told us. He was cheated out of his inheritance, which amounted to five thousand pounds a year, the lieutenant-general of Oléron having seized it

while St. Castin was dallying with the dusky women of the Tarratines. But, as the worthy baron carried home a fortune (according to the history of the period), "in good dry gold," he never came to want.

Permanent possession of the Penobscot country was taken in behalf of the English, in 1759, soon after the fall of Louisburg, by Governor Pownal, of Massachusetts. The governor built, near the mouth of the Penobscot River, at what is now known as Fort Point, a fortification which long bore his name, and which cost £4,969 7s. 2d., according to the governor's own accurate account. Pownal went over to the eastern side of the bay and inspected the peninsula of Pentagoet, for the occupation of which there had been so much fighting and intrigue. He found the old French fort abandoned and in ruins, the descendants of the Castins having gone, none now knows whither. The worthy governor hoisted the king's colors and drank the king's health in token of the final subjection of Pentagoet to His Majesty's authority.

Under the fostering care of Governor Pownal, settlements were made at various points along the bays and shores of the Penobscot region, several families having taken sites on the peninsula of Pentagoet, or Penobscot, or Bagaduce, as the place was then variously called. During the war of the Revolution, in June, 1779, General Francis McLean, with a fleet of seven or eight sail, was sent from Halifax to take possession of Pentagoet, then known on the maps as Bagaduce, or Majabagaduce. The forces landed seven hundred strong, comprising detachments from the Seventy-fourth and Eighty-third regiments of His Britannic Majesty's foot [sic]. The precise spot at which the British disembarked is pointed out to this day. But of more account than this is the fort on the ridge above the town, in the construction of which McLean's forces were at once engaged, and which was called Fort George, in honor of the king. The seizure of Bagaduce greatly excited New England, and it was resolved that the British must be dislodged at all hazards. An expedition, the most costly ever fitted out by the Americans during the Revolutionary war, and under the command of Brigadier-General Solomon Lovell, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, was sent to retake the place. General [sic] Dudley Saltonstall being in command of the fleet. General Peleg Wadsworth, the maternal grandfather of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was second to Lovell in command, and Lieutenant [sic] Paul Revere, whose midnight ride has since been celebrated by the poet, was in charge of the ordnance.

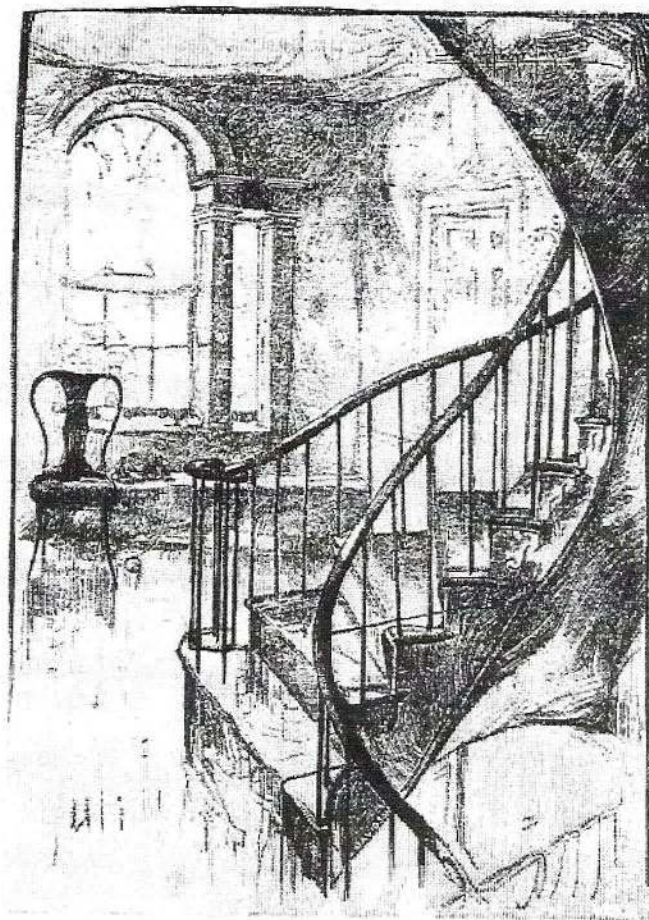
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The best account of the siege is found in the journal of General Lovell, recently published by the Weymouth Historical Society. It is sufficient to say that Saltonstall refused to go in with his ships and attack the three British war-ships then defending the harbor entrance. Wadsworth landed on Nautilus Island, which commands the mouth of the harbor, and dislodged the British. Another party was commanded by Lieutenant Moore, afterward famed as Sir John Moore, and killed at the battle of Corunna, Spain. Lovell landed at the western side of the peninsula, known as Block-house Point, under a galling fire, and, scaling a precipitous and woody bank, drove the British off and secured a foothold for his troops. Still Saltonstall would not go in and attack the British ships. Lovell's landing, of which he exultingly says, "I don't think such a landing has been made since Wolfe," was effected on the 28th of July, and it was not until August 13th that any decisive action was taken. Then the brave Lovell prepared an attack on Fort George, which had been greatly strengthened by the British during the long delay, and would possibly have carried it by assault. It was too late. As he moved, a British fleet of seven sail, carrying two hundred and four guns, was descried coming up the bay to the relief of the beleaguered garrison. The attack was abandoned, and Lovell, with rare ability, successfully reembarked his men without loss. The American fleet got under way, but, instead of attempting a defense, Saltonstall crowded on all sail and fled up the Penobscot River. By this blunder he was in a trap where he could have been easily picked up and dispatched at leisure by the British. The American ships and transports, that had cost so much, were set on fire, run ashore, or abandoned with all sail set. The men succeeded in getting ashore, on the west bank of the Penobscot, leaving their craft to the mercies of the enemy. So great a rout was never before known in the history of the country, and the disastrous end of the expedition was long remembered with rage and bitterness by the patriots, who heard from many lips the story told by Lovell in his journal.

General Wadsworth was destined to visit Bagaduce again, and this time as a prisoner. He was captured in 1780, after a vigorous resistance, during which he was severely wounded, at his own home, near Thomaston. Brought to Fort George, he was lodged in the guard-house to await the sailing of a privateer bound for England. It was thought that he was too important a prisoner to keep on this side of the Atlantic. Joined soon afterward by Major Burton, who was also a

captive from the patriot camp, and who had served under Wadsworth, the two prisoners contrived a desperate plan of escape, which they carried out under the most remarkable difficulties. The account of their cutting an aperture in the ceiling of the prison, eluding the guards, plunging through abattis, chevaux-de-frise and moat, and finally crossing the Penobscot, is one of the thrilling stories of the war. The British privateer sailed for England without General Peleg Wadsworth, and perhaps it was this lucky chance that saved to us and to the world the best loved of American poets.



GENERAL GOSSELIN'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

The British held possession of Bagaduce until 1783, [sic] when the evacuation took place amid great rejoicings on the part of the inhabitants. A few Tories were left, however, and they were commanded by proclamation from the people of the town "to depart out of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on or before the 13th day of September, 1784, or they will gain the displeasure of the Subscribers and many others of the citizens who have suffered by the war."

It was not until 1796 that the name of the Baron de St. Castin was given to the town. Previous to that date,

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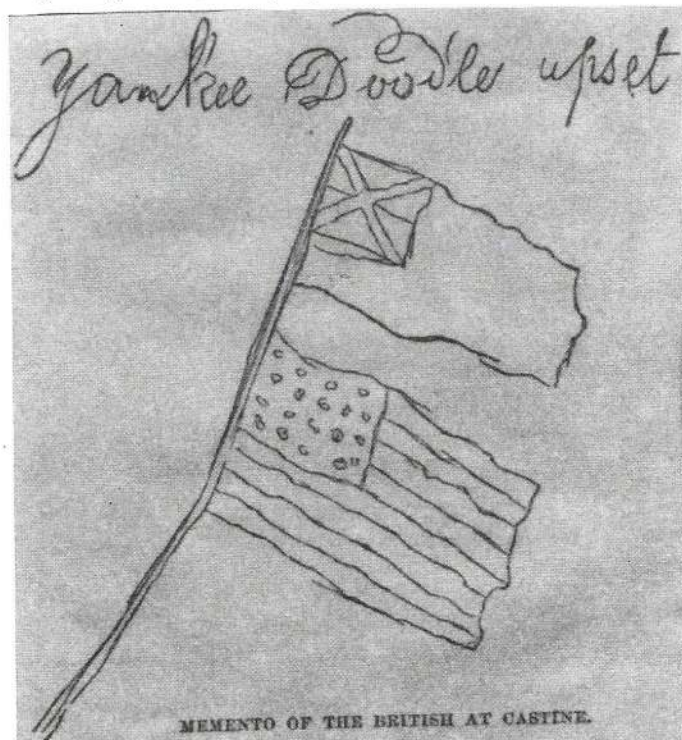
the town had been incorporated by the General Court of Massachusetts (of which commonwealth Maine was then a district), under the title of Penobscot. The township embraced the settlement on the peninsula of Bagaduce, that on the opposite or eastern bank of the river, and that on the mainland, to the west and north. The settlement of the largest part of the mainland was set off in 1796 and retained the old name of Penobscot. The village of the peninsula was given its present name, Castine. Subsequently the settlement on the eastern bank of the Bagaduce was divided from Castine and was given the name of Brooksville.

As we have seen, Castine had not been without a garrison from 1630 to 1783. The peninsula is covered with the remains of fortifications, redoubts, pits for the breaking of advancing ranks of men, and other military works. Exclusive of Fort George and Fort Pentagoet, there are fourteen batteries, or earthworks, still left in a fair state of preservation, on the peninsula, and five smaller works mark landing-places that were defended. The landing in front of D'Aulney's Fort was protected by a line of oaken palisades running parallel with the shore, and closed at one end of the narrow passage. From time to time the sharpened points of these sticks of timber are dragged out of the sandy ooze in which they have been buried for so many centuries, and are made into antiquarian relics by the lucky finders. A richer find is an occasional coin picked up by some stroller whose eyes are on the historic soil rather than on the wonderful landscape that is spread around him. In 1840, about two thousand old silver coins were unearthed on a farm in Penobscot, a few miles from Castine. These were chiefly of foreign coinage, and are very curious and interesting. The dates are of the early part of the seventeenth century, and it is supposed that a deposit of treasure may have been made here by some fugitive early settler, flying before an invader.

Once more, in September, 1814, during what is now known as "the War of 1812," Castine fell into the hands of a foreign foe. A formidable expedition, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir John Sherbrooke, and with the naval contingent under the command of Rear-Admiral Griffith, was sent from Halifax against this place. Major-General Gerard Gosselin, who subsequently was in

command of the town garrison, and made himself very unpopular with the citizens by his pompous ways and his overbearing conduct, was with the fleet. The troops, numbering thirty-five hundred men, were detachments from the Twenty-ninth, Sixty-second, Ninety-eighth, and Sixtieth regiments, the first-named being notorious as "The Boston Regiment," as it figured as the firing party in the Boston massacre of historic renown.

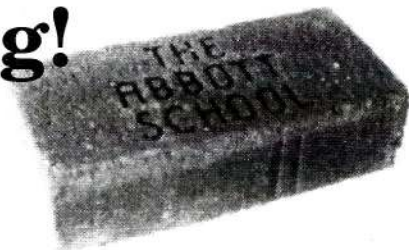
A relic of the occupation of the British was a rude drawing made on a window-pane in the Whitney House, now standing on the village common. This was a scrawl representing the American flag upside down, around which was written the contemptuous legend, "Yankee Doodle upset." No words of mine can express the satisfaction with which the townspeople, to the latest generation, have regarded this bit of empty and premature boasting. Some of the officers of the staff of General Gosselin amused themselves with carving, apparently with pocket-knives, a rude picture of a naval engagement on the smooth oaken surface of the wainscoting of a mantel-piece in the Dyer Mansion, the glorification of the British flag being the evident purpose of this bit of vandalism.



The image above is a reproduction of the etching made on a windowpane of the Whitney House during the War of 1812, as described by Brooks in the Century Magazine article. Whitney House is located between Noah Brooks' boyhood home and the Abbott School on Castine's town green. From the CHS Archives.

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COURT STREET FROM MAIN STREET LOOKING EAST. This undated photograph is a reminder that winter is upon us. It also reminds us of how many majestic elm trees in Castine have been lost in recent decades, including several pictured here, both to disease and storms. The second tree from the left (behind the street lamp) is one of the victims of the September 26, 2007 microburst that drastically changed many streetscapes in Castine. From the CHS Archives.

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