"VICTORY TURNED INTO MOURNING"

EDITORS’ NOTE: The following is a small portion of a funeral “Discourse” preached in Castine following the death of Abraham Lincoln in April, 1865. The entire text is fourteen pages long, and must have taken more than an hour and a half to deliver. (Peoples’ attention spans were considerably longer in the pre-television nineteenth century.) Rev. Alfred Eaton Ives (1809-1892) was Minister at the Trinitarian (Main Street) Church in Castine from 1855 to 1885.

No date is given for the “Discourse.” It is unlikely that it could have been delivered the Sunday after the assassination, since news of Lincoln’s death on early Saturday, April 15, could not have reached Castine soon enough. Perhaps that is why it is called a “Discourse” and not a “Sermon.”

Rev. Ives’s text follows a typical pattern for most discourses or sermons of this sort, at least among Protestants. The scripture citation alludes to the victory of King David over his rebellious enemies, led by his own son, Absalom, whose death in battle David nonetheless mourned. He also compares Lincoln’s assassination to that of the great Dutch Protestant leader William the Silent in 1584, whose “life and labors,” Ives claimed, “established the Dutch Republic.”

Ives reflects the thinking of most New Englanders of that generation, never referring to the recent Civil War except in terms of the recent “rebellion,” and its depraved leaders. Indeed, in the weeks following the assassination, most northerners assumed, erroneously, that the leadership of the late Confederacy was behind the plot to murder the president.

2 SAMUEL, xix. 2: “The victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people.”

In this country, during the last four years, we have seen events transpire, among the most remarkable in the history of the world; taking into account the age, the country, the aim, the manner, the magnitude of the events, more striking probably than anything in the past, in the form of rebellion, revolution and war. The depths of human wickedness had been sounded, and we supposed the bottom had been touched, already, in the progress of this rebellion, but a lower deep has been found.

The President of the United States, called to that high office by the suffrages of a free people, is shot down and murdered by a vile assassin. And this is done, not when his death can have any material effect on the success or failure of the rebellion. Months ago it might have been otherwise. Now the rebellion is crushed and cannot be resuscitated. It is dead except, it may be, the spasm of a final gasp. . . . Perhaps this last drama was necessary to break the last link that could bind any decent mind in sympathy with the rebellion; and to fill full the cup of humiliation of those governments and peoples of the old world, whose hearts and minds have been with those wicked men.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN will live in the hearts of the men of this generation while they live! ABRAHAM LINCOLN is a name that will grow brighter as the years roll on! If he had defects, they will be forgotten, and only his virtues, his more than Roman virtues, will live, esteemed more highly continued on page 4
The Castine Historical Society gratefully acknowledges contributions received in memory of

George Barry McMennamin

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

Adams School
Audrey Bogdonoff
Carolyn Brouillard
Friends of Witherle Memorial Library
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Grindle
Mark Honey
Father Scott Mower
Lynn Parsons
Bill Prindle
Carolyn Punzelt
Kate Robinson
Anette Ruppel Rodrigues
Jim and Laurie Stone
Students of Saint-Castin, France
James Webber


The fire of reds and yellows that capped Castine’s trees has come and gone, the harbor is filled with empty moorings, we are banking the house and laying up firewood. So the summer must be over and it is time to report to our members how it went.

At this year’s Annual Meeting, the CHS membership elected me President and appointed three superb new members to the Board. Susie Hatch, Roger Moss and Brooke Tenney have agreed to bring their energy and multiple talents to our Society and we are fortunate to have them. And we elected Sara (Sally) Foote and Bob Rettig as permanent Honorary Directors of the Society.

The programs this summer, aided by resources from the Pulliam gift but equally by the work of Lynn Parsons, Stefanie Young and Marcia Mason, were particularly successful. They included a blockbuster presentation on Abraham Lincoln from Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. James McPherson, attended by over three hundred visitors, a packed-house talk from our own bestselling author Lee Smith, and a very well received Castine Artists exhibit. The summer closed with an Art Show that was remarkable for the variety of media and superb quality displayed.

In September we hosted a reception for our colleagues of the Societé Béarn-Acadie-Nouvelle-France. (See “Bearnaise is Not Just a Sauce” in this issue.) The Societé is our French counterpart, which includes the town of Castin, and is partnering with us in developing a better understanding of that early period in Castine’s development along with encouraging the Adams School student exchange with the Castin school.

Charles Shay, an elder of the Penobscot nation and a direct descendant of Baron Castin, also attended the reception. The triangular relationship between Castine, Castin and the Penobscot Nation presents some intriguing opportunities for our understanding of the unique role Castine has played in that part of our history and I look forward to strengthening this relationship in the future.

As the summer ends we are looking at those adjustments that a devastated economy has forced on our short-term and long-term planning. I believe that the strategies and direction outlined in last year’s Winter Visitor (vol.18 no. 3) are still valid, but our initiatives are currently impeded by a substantial reduction in the anticipated income stream. That said, the Pulliam gift has dramatically altered the potential of our Society and the Board of Directors is working hard to discharge that responsibility with prudence and wisdom. I expect to report to you in more detail on this subject as our efforts materialize.

As I write this, the Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibit and our home-grown display of Noah Brooks’s library next door is being viewed by visitors and school groups from all over Maine. This joint project with the Wilson Museum is an example of the potential and range of the CHS. Success depends, however, on your continued enthusiasm, interest and support.

Finally, we will begin our Annual Appeal next month and I urge those of you who are able to help, to do so generously. In the end our contribution is measured by the kinds of initiatives and programs we provide the community.

Michael Coughlin
as, in the distance, they are seen more truly. Among
four millions of our population, and that number ere
long to be ten and twenty millions, he will be
kanized; more and more, as the years pass, he will
rise before them, in gigantic proportions, as a very
demigod, or as God's chosen Angel of Deliverance!

He had stood at the helm, and, through the
terrible storm, cautiously, calmly, successfully, had
guided the ship of state. All inexperienced before, in
the new and terrible trials to which we were called, he
had proved to be the man for the occasion. His
strong and plain practical sense, and his instinctive
sagacity; his deliberate but safe judgment, and his
teachable watching for the providence of God; his
unshaken confidence in the right, committing to that
right himself and his precious charge; his
incorruptible integrity; his rare simplicity; his high
morality; his humble fear of God; these combined to
form a character and a man, homely indeed, but
strong and true; never pretentious, never sparkling,
but practical, wise, reliable — as if a sort of infallible
instinct had guided him where reason could not feel
assured, where statesmanship was at a loss — a strange
man in these artificial days — raised up by God and
especially schooled for this emergency. . . .

The nation lives! This free government
survives the terrible ordeal! The rebellion has been
broken and stamped as the small dust! The
combination of treachery and treason, of rebellion
and murder, struggling with desperation in the death
grapple, has been overcome! The system of slavery,
hanging like a vampire on the nation's life, holding in
its bondage four millions of human beings, has been
annihilated! True Democracy, — true and not
spurious and disloyal — and New England principles,
prevail over a hateful and corrupt oligarchy! These
are the mighty results of the four years’ struggle —
these years of suffering and blood; and these results
will be more justly appreciated in the future. And the
guiding hand during these eventful years has finished
its work. The head and the heart on which we have
so much depended, and to which we are so much
indebted, are ours no more. Abraham Lincoln is
dead!

Perhaps it was fitting that it be so. . . . His sun
stood at mid heaven. We cannot suppose it possible
that in the complications necessarily involved in the
many difficult questions yet to be settled, as the
consequence of this rebellion, that any human
wisdom will fail sometimes to mistake. Had he been
spared, his reputation would have been more likely, in
some measure, to decline than to increase. Now his
glory is unaltered. And throughout the land,
among all classes, and in coming years, and over all
the world, and over in history, his sudden and tragic
death, and the blackness of that malignity which
countenanced, and sympathized with, and
encouraged, and plotted, and executed the hellish
deed, will make more striking and more bright, the
name and fame of the illustrious dead! . . .

What a loss of human life! If we take no
account of those who have fallen fighting for a
wicked cause — once part of our strength and no less a
loss because dying as rebels — how many of our young
men have died that the nation might be free! How
many, of the noblest and the best — how many, who
were the joy and the pride and the hope of their
generation — dying on the field of battle, killed
outright, or after hours or days of suffering, on the
field or in the hospital; dying from hardships or
privation or disease; dying from starvation, or
murdered in Southern prisons, with barbarities and
horrors which nothing but slavery has ever
genereated! How many still live, disabled, enfeebled,
maimed! How many households, how many hearts,
carry a load of sorrow which will continue while they
live — parents, widows, orphans!

Above the great sepulchre of this rebellion,
where sleep the honored dead, sacrificed for their
country's salvation, the name of Abraham Lincoln,
and the name of the humblest soldier who has fallen,
are engraved on the same immortal tablet!

EDITORS' NOTE: The entire “Discourse”
may be read and downloaded from the Library of
Congress’s online catalog. Our thanks to Sally
Foote for tracking it down.
Castine During the Depression

Paul Gray

Mark Honey’s “Castine’s Nineteenth-Century Economy” (Visitor, Spring, 2004) describes the shift in Castine’s economy when the discontinued bounty on cod and the restrictions on shipping brought about by the Civil War forced the town to turn from banking, boat building, and marine commerce to light industry, retail merchandizing, and tourism. In the twentieth century, the Great Depression brought an even more dramatic change. Where most of the rest of the country began to recover with the massive government spending on armaments that started in 1940, the Depression would linger in Castine well past the end of the Second World War.

In 1940, Castine’s property value after ten years of depression, stood at $774,744. At the end of the decade it had actually shrunk to $746,740. In 1936, the most valuable property in town was the Woolley Cottage (later the Holiday House and Harbor Lodge) and the owner paid taxes of $692. Two decades later, in 1955, the taxes had decreased to $675.

Several factors accounted for this lasting economic drought. Though World War II brought the end of the Great Depression to most Americans, it also brought gas rationing, making the drive from big eastern cities to Down East Maine impossible for many. Castine’s tourist business had been grounded in large part on the town’s accessibility. At the turn of the twentieth century, as many as five passenger steamboats stopped here daily, with connections to Rockland, Bangor, Down East, and the Canadian Maritimes. With the arrival of the automobile came the shrinking of the steamboat industry. By the mid-thirties, the Goldenrod, the last steamboat to serve Castine, went out of business. Where once the town had been a transportation hub, it was now an out-of-the-way spot, difficult to get to under the best of circumstances. During the war, one could take the train to Bangor and hire a taxi to Castine, but once here, with no marine transportation, one was pretty much marooned.

During the Depression, some members of the summer colony simply abandoned their cottages. The Baker Cottage on LaTour Street was sold for taxes owed, $450.

The Baker Cottage, now owned by John and Suzanne Macdonald. (CHS Archives)

Those who continued coming were operating in straightened circumstances. After the war, the reduced summer colony’s financial contribution to the town’s economy was only a fraction of what the hundreds of tourists had spent here when big hotels like the Acadia and Dome of the Rock were thriving. The few tourists who did make it up here after the war stayed at smaller inns like The Manor, The Blake House (now Jim and Leila Day’s home), the Castine Inn, and the Holiday House. By the end of the fifties, the first two of these went out of business, and the Castine Inn was, for its owner, a tax write-off.

Sardine canning factory survived until the 1940s (CHS Archives)

In the 1940s, with a steady decline of fishing in Penobscot Bay, the canning factory, located on what is now the Maine Maritime Academy dock, went out of business and was torn down in the forties. This was the last of the town’s light industry, as the brickyards and line factories were by now long gone. By the 1950s, the Town’s high school had shrunk to less than thirty students, a trend that continued until the school was closed in the early 1960s.

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The automobile also brought an end to Castine’s commercial economy. With the construction of the paper mill at the end of the 1930s, Bucksport’s population grew, and with improved roads after the war, that town replaced Castine as a shopping site for all of the towns surrounding it. What had been a thriving market place with three auto agencies, a pharmacy, and a dozen other stores, by the late 1950s was down to only a handful. In short, by the end of Castine’s thirty-year depression, every important source of income had disappeared.

Had prosperity returned to the town after the war, the Depression would have had little influence on its appearance, but buildings that might have made it through ten years of neglect succumbed to the thirty years of economic distress. Certainly the section of town most visibly affected was Dice Head, an area sprinkled with “rusticator cottages,” almost all of which were demolished by the end of the war.

Originally a part of the Dome of the Rock complex, some of these buildings were impressively large. A brochure on one of them, The Boulders, describes a cottage with 10 bedrooms and separate quarters for servants. A picture of this cottage is on the back cover of this issue. At least one cottage, The Robinhood, escaped the wrecking ball. It is located at the corner of Battle and Perkins Streets Avenue, with gardens reputed to be the finest on the Bagaduce peninsula, had virtually been abandoned by its owners and was torn down in 1944.

Two other significant buildings also disappeared at about the same time, the Acadian Hotel on Perkins St, and in 1948, the Hooke house on Water Street. Historically, the latter was one of our most important buildings. Constructed before the Revolutionary War, it had served as headquarters for the British and social center for the town in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Looking back at the period from 1930 to 1960 today, it is clear that the town was undergoing an economic shift as profound as the change in the middle of the nineteenth century that Mark Honey described. Ironically, it was the automobile that would save the town. In 1947 the Maine Turnpike opened running from Kittery to Portland. By 1955 construction had extended it to Augusta, only two hours from Castine. Once again, accessibility coupled...
with the continued national economic expansion began to bring a prosperity to the town that was most evident in the exponential growth of Castine's property value. After stagnating for decades at less than a million dollars, during the 1960s it quadrupled to $4,763,220. By 1980 it had reached $35,955,000, in 1990 it was $70,500,000, and at the start of the present century it was $115,000,000. Even after taking into account fifty years of inflation, Castine's property value in 2000 still turns out to be more than $16,000,000 in 1950 dollars, a sixteen fold increase.

As it began the twenty-first century, Castine's property was worth more than at any other time in its 200-year history.

In 1948 a writer described Castine as "a hidden jewel of America." The "hidden" part of this metaphor has clearly come to an end. The new prosperity, unprecedented in the town's history, derives from neither business nor industry, but from the beauty of the town. A recent article in the Dallas Morning News titled "Renting Ocean Front Property in Maine for Less than a Thousand a Week," warned its readers in the first paragraph: "Of course, we aren't talking about posh spots like Blue Hill and Castine."

Skeptics might insist that being "posh" is hardly a firm basis for an enduring economy, but what in the last two hundred years ever has been?

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BÉARNAISE IS NOT JUST A SAUCE

"BANF" stands for Béarn-Acadie-Nouvelle-France, the French organization dedicated to the preservation of the cultural legacy the Béarn region of southwestern France with its descendents in North American and Australia. For Castiners, the most important personage to emigrate from Béarn was none other than Jean-Vincent Marie D'Abbadie, better known as Baron de Castin.

Also in attendance was Mr. Charles Shay, a descendent of the Baron and a World War II veteran who participated in the D-Day landings in Normandy in 1944. He was present at the commemoration of that event last June, along with President Obama and most of the leaders of western Europe. Following the ceremonies at Normandy, Mr. Shay visited the Béarn region and thanked Messrs. Renault and Tisserand for the warm welcome given him by the Béarnais last summer.

On October 5, the Castine Historical Society sponsored a reception honoring BANF and its secretary, M. Jean Renault, and its treasurer, Bruno Tisserand. Messrs. Renault and Tisserand and their wives were visiting Castine and the region, during which they met Governor Baldacci and members of the Castine community. They examined the Society's collection of documents on the second floor of the Abbott School, including a photocopy of a document in Castin's handwriting, as well as documents showing the location of Castin's home.

In remarks delivered in French and translated by Mr. Todd Nelson of Castine, M. Renault paid tribute not only to the Baron, but to the French King Henri IV, whose interest in exploration led to the French settlement of which Saint-Castin was later a part. M. Renault concluded by expressing the wish that the exchange of visits by the young people of Castine with the young people of the Baron’s home town, will further BANF’s mission.
THE CURATOR'S CORNER

By Paige Lilly

In June, Castine's Lincoln Bicentennial Committee decided that the November exhibit Abraham Lincoln: Self Made in America would be set up in the Castine Historical Society's Abbott School. The CHS had space enough for the array of seven kiosks and it was also secure, accessible, and heated. The choice presented a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other organizations in town and to serve as one of only two sites in New England to host this national exhibit.

Following the June decision, the CHS board approved a proposal to install exhibits in the annex as well, to supplement the Lincoln traveling show. And because the Lincoln exhibit consists of free-standing kiosks, the walls of the main floor in the Abbott School presented an opportunity to develop several more themes. Everyone was enthusiastic, but the list of goals and tasks to complete before November 1 meant a hectic, not to say crazy, timetable.

The race began with deliberation about what themes to develop in these new exhibits that would provide local context for the Lincoln era. We settled quickly on a plan to showcase Noah Brooks and his library on Main Street in Castine. Other exhibit ideas took longer to pin down: life at home during the Civil War; military weapons; the G.A.R. veterans post; childhood in Castine; currency connections to Lincoln; self-made in Maine politicians; Bagaduce area soldiers; the Chamberlain family; and more. Brainstorming sessions and meetings with interested parties from CHS, Witherle Memorial Library, and Wilson Museum followed. How could we accommodate traffic flow in the annex? Where could small groups of visiting school children gather for learning stations? What activities would fit the curriculum and be reasonably accomplished by volunteers? Could we borrow enough artifacts to fill these spaces? Do these themes fit the Lincoln biography? How would we divide the tasks on the growing to-do list? When does everything have to be completed?

We ended up creating five "Links to Lincoln" exhibits in three months: the Noah Brooks library, an 1860s parlor, a two-part exhibit on the Bagaduce area veterans of the Civil War, and an educational display about the monetary system emphasizing the Lincoln years.

Oh, and a related show in the Mitchell Room to add graphic interest during events held there.

Décor decisions became paramount. The two front rooms of the annex had to be redecorated to evoke the period. Extensive research went into the paint colors, wallpapers, stenciling, rugs, curtains, fireplace surrounds, book shelves—everything. We sought advice about the 1890s and what could be learned from the photographs of Noah Brooks’ library. We studied photographs and drawings of parlors and window treatments and floor coverings for the 1860s parlor. And we began searching and searching and searching at the homes of friends and neighbors, at antiques shops, on the internet and beyond for the seemingly unique items collected in Noah’s home library.

By the middle of the summer, and in spite of the usual visitors to the Historical Society, the research and list making and collecting continued. In September a small group of board members began redecorating and constructing—removing wallpaper, painting, making curtains, moving shelves, installing molding, washing woodwork and windows . . . . And as the time to install the exhibits drew near, we were still searching for artifacts and books. Of course, as the weeks passed, we were more willing to compromise—for example, since we couldn’t find books without library labels that matched the titles Noah Brooks owned, we decided that nice looking tall books published prior to 1905 would do fine. It’s a representation of Noah’s library, after all, not a reproduction.

By mid-October, with the new paint dry and stenciled border underway, we were still searching for artifacts but we were also narrowing our research focus and beginning to write exhibit text. continued on page 9
motivations for the effort were worthwhile, and we've gained valuable experience while accomplishing several “firsts” for the historical society.

The Lincoln exhibit featured reproductions artifacts, in seven kiosks, from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. (photo by Lisa Burton)

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IN MEMORIAM

George Barry McMennamin (better known to most of us simply as “Barry”) died last August, aged 87. For many years he was a key figure in Castine, both as a summer resident and in the Castine Historical Society, in which he played several roles. Barry was instrumental in the purchase of the Abbot School building, which currently houses the CHS, and was co-chair of the Abbott School Campaign in 1994-96. He worked closely with the late Deborah Pulliam in developing the Castine Visitor, and helped promote the present brick walkway as a source of funding for the CHS. More recently he was responsible for funding the production of the play “The Little Locksmith”, which was followed by a reception at his home on Court Street, formerly the home of the author Katherine Butler Hathaway.

Born in New York City in 1922, Barry served in the United States Navy in World War II as a Lt. J. G., graduating from Harvard in 1945. Following graduation, he entered the field of advertising and public relations with the Doremus agency. He worked his way up through the ranks, becoming president at the agency’s New York headquarters, and later Vice Chairman. He retired in 1987, but continued as publisher of WorldPaper, a Boston-based internationally published newspaper.

Barry and his family moved to Castine on the recommendation of his friend Jim McCaffrey, co-founder of the Castine Patriot. In addition to his activities at the CHS, he was a prominent member of the Castine Yacht Club, and enjoyed exploring the Penobscot Bay with family and friends on his yacht Carousel.

Barry is survived by his wife, Marilyn (Mimi) McMennamin, a sister, Sheila Ann Pinette, two daughters, Breeze M. Hobbes and Karen M. Bene, and four grandchildren.
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER EXHIBIT

Through the generosity of so many Castine community members and others, the 2009 CHS Summer Exhibit *Castine’s Art from the Past* was a huge success. This could not have happened without their many contributions. Every painting, drawing, lithograph, sculpture, photograph, and carving helped to inform as well as visually delight the many visitors who were eager to learn more about each artist’s connection to Castine.

The Society also thanks the Maine State Museum and the Farnsworth Museum for their willingness to loan specific pieces of art, which greatly expanded the dimension of the exhibit.

The exhibit was chaired by Marcia Mason, who thanks Sally Foote for her steady guidance and support throughout months of preparation. Lynne Dearborn, Ann Fuentes, Audrey Bogdonoff, Diana Bogdonoff, and Paige Lilly are to be commended for their assistance in hanging the exhibit. Also, thanks to Nancy Mundt who graciously provided floral arrangements on a weekly basis during the span of the exhibit.

The following is a list of those whom the Society wishes to thank for the loan of so many examples of the creative artists who lived in or visited Castine in the past.

Carol Badgley
Jane Bagot & Family
David Bicks
Audrey Bogdonoff
Frances Bos
Sara Perkins Bourne
Virginia & Standish Bourne
Butler Institute of American Art
Buttfield Family
Castine Collector
Colby College Museum of Art
James & Leila Day
Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society
Gregory & Pat Dunham
Kathy & Ken Eaton
Lynn Evans
Farnsworth Museum
Elizabeth Fitz-Gerald
Foote Family
Lee Freedman
Paul & Dixie Gray
Dan Gregorie
Gardiner Gregory
James Grindle
Francis W. Hatch
Stephen & Elizabeth Hyatt
Howell Jackson
Sylvia & Bjorn Larsson
Maine Maritime Academy
Maine Maritime Museum
Maine State Museum
Tom & Marcia Mason
George H. Molycka & Family
Ray Nualla
Judith & Kerman Obering
Brooke & Julia Parish
Penobscot Marine Museum
Linda Raskin
Bruce & Debbie Rogers
Al Rollins
Doris Russell
Ruth & Ken Scheer
Ingrid & Doug Scott
Jay Speredakos
Stearns Family
St. Louis Art Museum
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Swicker
Wilson Museum
Andrew & Stefanie S. Young
A Brick in Every Stocking!

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.

Please indicate below how you want the brick to look, using up to 12 letters, numbers and spaces on each of three lines. Also, please provide names and mailing addresses so we can notify recipients of your gift.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Name

Phone (H) ____________________________ (W) ____________________________

Address

The tax deductible price for each brick is $50.00. Please make checks payable to the Castine Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 238, Castine, ME 04421.

Give a gift of the CHS for the Holidays!

□ Student ............ $ 5.00  □ Family ............ $ 25.00  □ Contributing ........ $100.00
□ Individual ......... $15.00  □ Sustaining ........ $ 50.00  □ Patron ............. $250.00
                      □ Please renew my membership  □ Please send a gift membership to:

Name

Address

Gift Membership Category ________________________ Check Or Money Order Enclosed ________________________

Clip and mail to Castine Historical Society, P.O. Box 238, Castine, Maine 04421
Boulder Cottage, Castine, Maine.

From a brochure for a "rusticator" cottage, originally part of the Dome of the Rock complex, Dice Head. See article starting on page 5. (CHS Archives)