CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

vol. 26 no. 2



2016 EXHIBITS FOCUS ON

L'HERMIONE VISIT AND THE PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

Paige Lilly

Expect to see a lot of changes at the Abbott School gallery this summer. Two of our updated exhibits bring new focus on Castine's place in the War for Independence. The Castine Historical Society's exhibit committee has created a vividly revised display entitled "Castine & l'Hermione: Celebrating History and Friendship." In addition, the Penobscot Expedition exhibit, installed in 2004 in the Abbott School gallery, now presents a fresh interpretive approach re-titled "The Penobscot Expedition of 1779: Making Revolutionary History."

Both exhibits open June 10, and there will be a public reception Sunday, June 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Summer 2015 at the Abbott School featured the French ship *l'Hermione* and her historic visit to Penobscot Bay in 1780, during the American Revolution. Much of that exhibit remains intact for visitors to explore again or experience for the first time—complete with documents, artifacts, period nautical charts, and a floor diagram of Fort George. This summer's revised exhibit documents the 2015 Bastille Day visit to Castine by the new *l'Hermione*.



L'Hermione crew members on the Castine Common before the parade, July 14, 2015 (Photograph by Artsinfotos)

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 SUMMER EVENTS

Saturdays, 10:00 am, from the Abbott School

Walking tours of historic Castine

Sunday, June 26, 5:00-7:00 pm, at the Abbott School

Opening reception for the Castine Historical Society's 2016 Summer Exhibit Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, July 12, 5:00 pm, in Delano Auditorium at Maine Maritime Academy

Speaker Bruce John Riddell: "LandArt: Artistic Expression, Nature and Creativity for Maine Gardens"

Wednesday, July 13, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

2016 Castine House & Garden Tour

Thirteen beautiful homes, four gracious gardens and the Castine Lighthouse. Visit castinehousetour.com for tour information and tickets.

Thursday, July 14

Town of Castine Bastille Day celebration. See visitcastine.com for more information.

Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24

"Touring Through Time," a collective open house with historical societies and museums of eastern Penobscot Bay and the Blue Hill peninsula, including CHS. Details to be announced.

Thursday, August 4, 7:00 pm, in Delano Auditorium at Maine Maritime Academy

8th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

Liam Riordan: "The Promise and the Need: Humanities in the 21st Century"

Wednesday, August 24, 4:00 pm, in the Mitchell Room at the Abbott School

Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting

Short business meeting followed by program (to be announced).

SUMMER EXHIBIT: "Castine & l'Hermione: Celebrating History and Friendship" at the Abbott School

Exhibits open June 10-Labor Day, Mondays-Saturdays 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Sundays 1:00-4:00 pm

Permanent Exhibit: "The Penobscot Expedition of 1779: Making Revolutionary History" at Abbott School

Redesigned for 2016

Discover history through maps, letters, and diaries of the American Revolutionary War.

Samuel P. Grindle House Exhibition Rooms

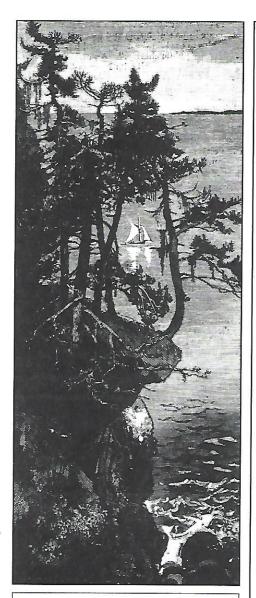
June 10-Labor Day: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:00 pm. Open year-round by appointment.

June-August, at the Grindle House, Witherle Library and Wilson Museum

Traveling exhibit from Penobscot Marine Museum: "Hancock County Through Eastern's Eye" Cooperative exhibit of early 20th-century photography from the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company, a postcard company in Belfast

All events listed are open to the public and admission is free.

Any changes to the schedule will be posted in local papers and at *castinehistoricalsociety.org*



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

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

Wendy Knickerbocker.....Editor

newsletter@castinehistoricalsociety.org info@castinehistoricalsociety.org www.castinehistoricalsociety.org

Castine Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Castine is a wonderful place to live throughout the year but perhaps even more wonderful in the summer. For those of us who live here year-round, our living and playing spaces increase exponentially, there are more people to greet, and, oh my, the pace does pick up! Sometimes I think we need the winter "hibernation" to gather energy for the summer.

For the Castine Historical Society summer of 2016 that store of energy will be well spent. Leading up to the June 26 opening reception there will be last-minute preparations for the summer exhibit, "Castine & l'Hermione: Celebrating History and Friendship." This updated exhibit includes a fabulous display of photos from last year's festivities.

Also on June 26 the newly designed Penobscot Expedition Exhibit will be ready for viewing. The approach encourages a different style of interpretation to engage visitors in the story of the expedition and to stimulate critical thinking. The design update is supported by the Frank Hatch Penobscot Expedition Endowment Fund.

Both those with green thumbs and those who enjoy gardens without doing the work will not want to miss "LandArt: Artistic Expression, Nature and Creativity for Maine Gardens," a lecture by Bruce John Riddell, award-winning Maine landscape architect. He will speak on Tuesday, July 12, at 5:00 pm in Maine Maritime Academy's Delano Auditorium.

Many volunteers have been hard at work, focusing on the multifaceted preparations for the CHS fundraiser House and Garden Tour that will occur on July 13, 10:00 to 4:00, rain or shine. This is a marvelous opportunity to visit 13 houses plus 4 lovely gardens. There will also be tours of Castine Harbor providing an opportunity to view Castine from the water. The Abbott School will be the starting point for walking tours featuring the history and architecture of the town. It will be a day featuring Castine as we were then and as we are now.

On July 14, many town organizations are sponsoring the first Bastille Day celebration in Castine with the hope of making this an annual event. There will be something for everyone, including French music, French cooking demonstrations, children's games and storytelling on the Town Common plus much more. Please check *visitcastine.com* for more information.

University of Maine Professor of History Liam Riordan will give the eighth annual Deborah Pulliam Lecture on Thursday, August 4, at 7:00 pm in Maine Maritime Academy's Delano Auditorium. "The Promise and the Need: Humanities in the 21st Century" is the title of his talk.

The fifty years from 1966 to 2016 have brought many changes to Castine and the Castine Historical Society. From a Society without a home to one that occupies the Abbott School and the Grindle House, from an all-volunteer board to one full-time and one part-time staff persons and from an archive space the size of some luxurious closets to a new archive facility that will house the Society's collections for years to come, we are proud of our history. We invite you to celebrate with us by joining and enjoying all of the activities and helping us pave the future by purchasing a celebratory brick for the walkway.

Brooke P. Tenney

CASTINE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2015-2016

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Marilyn Calder
Elizabeth "Liddy" Fitz-Gerald
Oliver James "Jim" Hart, Jr.
Admiral Edward "Ted" Rodgers

And

In Honor of:

William "Bill" Murtagh's 93rd birthday

Nancy Mundth, with many thanks for the years of beautiful flower arrangements at CHS

The Castine Historical Society welcomes these new members:

Joseph Bartek
Penelope Carlhian
Jean Cass
Bill and Susan Kennedy
Eric Marshall
Kimberley W. Nicholson
Ben and Merissa Rogers
Isabel and Christopher Silver
Patricia Winter

Thank you to the following for their donations to CHS Collections:

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Warren Giles
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Doris Russell

Don't be left out! Join us on Facebook—

for photos of interesting items in the CHS archives and sights around Castine, as well as CHS news and occasional history tidbits www.facebook.com/ CastineHistoricalSociety/

Editor's Note: Please feel free to pass along your ideas or requests for articles, along with your comments and suggestions. Contact Wendy Knickerbocker by phone at 326-8205 or email: newsletter@

castinehistoricalsociety.org

For more history and CHS news, visit our website: castinehistoricalsociety.org

Bruce John Riddell to Talk on LandArt Garden Design

On, Tuesday, July 12, landscape architect Bruce John Riddell of Boothbay Harbor will give a lecture to introduce the 2016 CHS House & Garden Tour. Riddell is the designer of two gardens in Castine, one of which will be on the House & Garden Tour. He is the recipient of several awards for garden design, and the title of his talk is "LandArt: Artistic Expression, Nature and Creativity in Maine Gardens."

Riddell will describe his garden design philosophy, "LandArt." LandArt combines plants and design elements to create sustainable beauty. Riddell's designs reflect a deep respect for natural beauty and ecological sustainability. His gardens are often framed by stones and include stone walkways, walls or terraces. Plants are selected for their seasonality, color, and texture. Plant arrangements range from native ecosystems to historically inspired cottage style, blending the edges so that it is not apparent where nature and LandArt begin or end.

Riddell will speak at 5:00 pm on July 12, at Maine Maritime Academy's Delano Auditorium. The talk is free and open to the public.

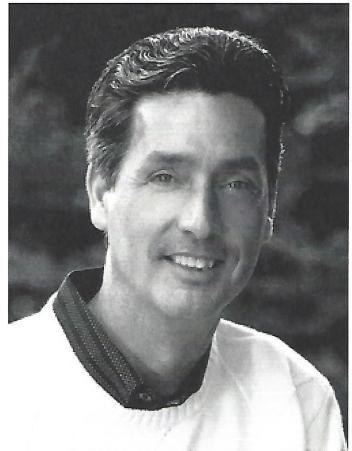


Photo by William S. Brehm, Riverside Studio

CHS Earns "Award for Originality" from 2016 Maine Governor's Conference on Tourism

Winners of the annual Maine Governor's Conference on Tourism Awards were announced during the 2016 conference held at Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine, on March 22. The "Award for Originality" was presented to the Castine Historical Society by Governor Paul LePage and Carolann Ouellette, Director of the Maine Office of Tourism. Ouellette said in her presentation, "The extraordinary achievement of the Castine Historical Society in bringing the replica of Lafayette's tall-masted frigate, Hermione, to Castine in 2015 resulted in an exceptional event that helped tell Maine's story to a world-wide audience. The Hermione visit captured an essential aspect of the Maine experience, shining light on our maritime heritage, our history of Franco-American friendship, the extraordinary beauty of our coast, and the value of cultural tourism to our state." Thanks to everyone who helped with that exceptional event!

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"2016 EXHIBITS" (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

The large, colorful images, designed by Marti Brill as a photographic essay on walls, bring to life the reconstructed ship's visit to Castine and the many festivities organized for her arrival. Volunteers working through the winter sifted through hundreds of photographs to select representative images of the key moments and fascinating people who traveled to Castine from around the world to celebrate the friendship between France and the United States. Images depict the full range of activities, from the dramatic arrival of the ship through the fog and the remarkable community parade to reenactments at Fort George, speeches, music, ceremonies, and dance. In addition to the still photographs, a monitor will run slideshows of the ship's arrival and many photographs not included in the exhibit. If you were in Castine in mid-July last summer, you may find yourself in those pictures.

New to this exhibit is a multi-layered timeline that helps bridge the years between 1780 and 2015, as well as showing the international, economic, and political context for significant events in those years. CHS exhibit committee member David Adams provided historical text and images for designer Marti Brill, which enabled her to create an intricate timeline of connections between France and America spanning 350 years. The points on the four interwoven timelines indicate transitional dates for the town of Castine; the shipbuilding city of Rochefort, France; both l'Hermione ships, built at Rochefort 230 years apart; and the Marquis de Lafayette, who sailed aboard the first l'Hermione to bring news of French aid to George Washington. Adams' vision was to display graphically the connections linking the Marquis, the ship, the American cause, the shipbuilding town, and other related people and events.

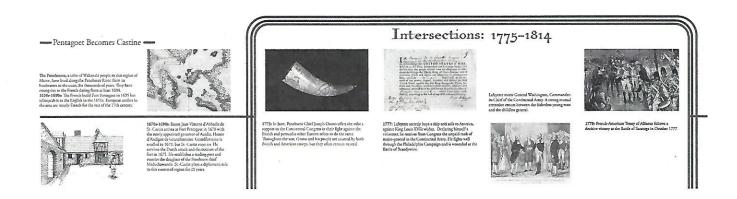
The Penobscot Expedition Exhibit Revised

In 2004, the Castine Historical Society opened a professionally researched, designed, and built exhibit on the events of a few weeks in Penobscot Bay during the American Revolution. The project was meticulously developed by volunteers Frank Hatch, Jim Stone, and Laurie Stone working with other volunteers and several contractors. The result was a multi-media installation complete with a mahogany-paneled room evoking the Commodore's cabin of the Continental frigate *Warren*. Thousands of visitors have watched the documentary video, reacted with surprise at hearing about the role of Paul Revere, and studied the many levels of research in the touch-screen kiosks.

Francis W. Hatch, Jr., conservationist and philanthropist with deep family ties to Castine, passed away in April 2010. In his will he generously left funds to CHS for the maintenance and updating of the Penobscot Expedition permanent exhibit. His forethought in providing the funds was perceptive and considerate. The kiosk technology had become obsolete, docents observed the touch screens were little used, and new information about the expedition had come to light. In 2014, the tenth anniversary of the installation of the exhibit, CHS began exploring options for updating it. It was time to seek advice and expertise for how best to revise the exhibit and make the story more meaningful for visitors.

Brainstorming

History museums are constantly seeking new methods for engaging visitors. To enhance this exhibit, CHS wanted to learn from professionals in the field who work at the cutting edge of interactive exhibit design. In early 2015, Scott Stephenson,



Detail of new l'Hermione exhibit panel entitled "Two Ships, Two Towns & a Marquis: 1635-2015"

Director of Collections and Interpretation for the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, and Tim Grove, Chief of Museum Learning at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, traveled to Castine for two days to help. These two leaders in their field had never worked together before and knew little about the Penobscot Expedition, but they quickly assessed the task at hand and begin brainstorming the options for change.

Stephenson and Grove had similar responses to the current exhibit. As a rule, planners in the museum learning field want engaging exhibit design to be physically and intellectually accessible. Our Penobscot Expedition installation had several obstacles to accessibility: too many words; a long video that's hard to view; low kiosks with low resolution screens; and a background image, seen as if through the stern windows of the *Warren*, that takes up too much real estate. Stephenson and Grove loved the space, however, and they were intrigued by the possibilities for treatment of the subject.

Truly interactive exhibits require people to solve a problem or use critical thinking to find the answer to a question. These exhibit components work best when the problem presented to visitors involves relatively few pieces of information. Interactive design allows people to see the evidence and make their own decisions based on that evidence, and then shows

them what really happened. This would be hard to do with the Penobscot Expedition because the questions are complex; the factors involved in the strategic military decisions facing American officers over several weeks are too numerous to present as an interactive piece of a small exhibit on a big topic.

Here are some of the alternative ideas Stephenson and Grove introduced.

- "Active learning" exhibit designs use questions to engage visitors. Questions the consultants would like to see answered in the exhibit include:
 - O What did George Washington say about this expedition?
 - O How does this episode fit into the broader military story of the war?
 - O Why did the British want to establish a naval base here?
 - O Why did Massachusetts officials think they should send an expedition to Penobscot?
 - O Why did they expect it to work?
- Remember to show people the historical process. Don't give them the conclusion; show them the research/detective process, the fun part.
- Include hands-on activities, such as facsimile documents that are part of the evidence.

Captain Henry Mowat

"He was to face a test so severe that a description of it would have been edited out of a naval textbook as being unrealistic."

Rise, and Fight Again: Perilous Times Along the Road to Independence, Charles Bracelen Flood, 1976, p 156

Mowat, a British naval officer with long experience sailing the coast of America, commanded the survey ship carrying the cartographer who drew this detailed chart. He was notorious in New England for the 1775 bombing and burning of Falmouth (now Portland, Maine) under his admiral's orders. It was a controversial action which backfired by inspiring further resistance to British rule.



Portrait of Henry Mowat, Private Collection (accessed at www.aboutorkney.com 1/21/16)

Detail of revised Penobscot Expedition exhibit panel entitled "Daunting Mission"

- Use maps to tell the story.
- Add informal "Did you know?" sidebars to convey additional information.

At the end of almost two days of making lists and exchanging ideas, the consultants proposed short-term and long-term phases of development for the Penobscot Expedition exhibit.

2016 New Approach

This year CHS is implementing the short-term proposal. The design features maps and charts to connect the story to the landscape, uses evidence to support historical conclusions, and invites visitors to read the primary sources, documents created during the time the events occurred. The goal is to make the context and significance of the story accessible, even to those who are not Revolutionary War history buffs, and to encourage everyone to participate in the historical process.

Using all the wall space and a new surface in place of the three research kiosks, ten graphically rich exhibit panels provide the basic story of the Penobscot Expedition. Each panel displays a map, print, painting, or document in the background and a relevant quotation under the title. The exhibit text (kept to around 300 words per panel) introduces the place, the characters, and the action. Accompanying several of the panels will be facsimile letters, reports, and maps, so that people can pick up and read first-hand accounts. The video kiosk has been moved into the larger gallery space and an exhibit case put in its place. The case displays several of the original maps, documents, and objects that survive to help historians put together the story.

Stephenson and Grove envisioned this as a one- to two-year phase, a test of this "active learning" style of interpretation. CHS would then evaluate the impact of the change and use that information to move on with an expanded project. Because plans for the overall exhibition space in the Abbott School will be addressed in the new CHS Strategic Plan, the exhibit may actually be in place for four to six years. Thus, you have a greater opportunity to visit and let us know if you like this approach.

The Future?

Stephenson and Grove recommend making a bigger investment of exhibit space to tell more fully the story of this historic moment near the end of the Revolutionary War. They suggest Castine would become a "destination," both inside the Society's buildings and outside on the landscape, if this story is developed in a way that makes history relevant. It's a

rich story with opportunity for engagement with visitors of many backgrounds or interests and a chance to make connections to other regions of the country. The Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia plans to focus on the southern version of this same story—British occupation and battles, and creating a protected province for loyalists.

The consultants' long-term concept would turn a central question of the Revolutionary War into a lens for the area's entire history. Why is Castine worth dying for? They want the Castine Historical Society to focus on the answer to "So what?" about Castine. To them, the answer is location: location is the strong, overarching theme of the history of Castine. The Penobscot Expedition story then becomes the entry point for a larger permanent exhibit that shows other ways and times when this place was both worth dying for and connected to the broader world. The history before and after 1779 could be portrayed as a timeline, showing the many reasons this area has been significant to people for thousands of years.

Listening to Stephenson and Grove, it was easy to get caught up in a "what if" scenario. The full story is about more than Dudley Saltonstall and Paul Revere. What if we expand the exhibit into one side of the Abbott School gallery hall with large panels and hands-on activities? A high-tech touch table would facilitate the development of characters and layers of the story including its relationship to the broader war: the British strategy for communication with New York and Halifax; loyalists' movements within New England and the Canadian Maritimes; Native American tribal territories shrinking and overlapping; and the fate of families left at home on both sides of the conflict. The story is much bigger than those few weeks in the summer of 1779 and involves many personal stories that have not been told.

Stephenson and Grove described possible interactive components for the expanded exhibit. Based on the evidence, visitors would be asked what conclusion they would come to, either as a person in that situation or as a historian studying these questions:

- How did people decide whether to remain loyal and sign the oath of allegiance instead of joining the rebels and/or moving away?
- Was Paul Revere a coward, maybe a traitor whose inaction caused the naval defeat, or was he justified in his inaction?
- Why did some Native Americans fight with the Americans against the British? Show

evidence of the Indians' relationships with the two sovereignties and use the decision point to engage visitors.

- Why did George Washington not want to get involved? Use evidence related to the size of the navy and other priorities he had that summer and in the years following.
- Tell the loyalist story—not "life at Penobscot," but the dilemma people faced in choosing loyalty or rebellion and why Britain needed a place to shelter them.

With the interpretive text and video moved out of the Warren's cabin, Stephenson and Grove would create an immersive media experience complete with sound effects, smells, and an interactive chart table. They feel the space is ideal for this treatment because of the low ceiling and the feeling of being down below in the ship. Their combined enthusiasm for the possibility was infectious and inspiring.

Who knows? These ideas or others may be developed at CHS in the future. For now, phase one of the revised exhibit, "The Penobscot Expedition of 1779: Making Revolutionary History," awaits your visit and interaction, as does "Castine & l'Hermione: Celebrating History and Friendship."

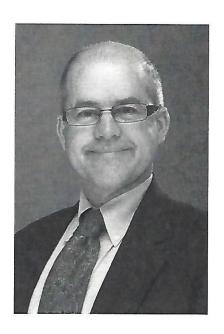
Liam Riordan to Speak on the Humanities for Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

Dr. Liam Riordan, Professor of History at the University of Maine, will be the Castine Historical Society's eighth annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecturer on August 4. He brings with him the unique asset of actually having had Deborah Pulliam as a student in one of his graduate seminars.

Riordan's main field of research and publication has been the Revolutionary War and Early National periods of U.S. history. He is currently helping organize commemorative events for the state of Maine's bicentennial in 2019-2020.

Riordan is also the Director of the University of Maine's Humanities Center and an advocate for the Humanities in American education. At a time when much attention is focused on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Riordan reminds us of the importance of the Humanities (History, Philosophy, and Literature) and the Social Sciences.

His lecture will include a short video presentation narrated by the American actor John Lithgow, entitled "The Heart of the Matter." The title of Riordan's lecture will be "The Promise and the Need: Humanities in the 21st Century."



The 2016 Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 4, at Maine Maritime Academy's Delano Auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public.

A Highlight from the Castine House & Garden Tour 2016

Castine's "building boom" was over 200 years ago. With so many generations of ownership, Castine houses come with great stories. Sometimes a new house has a great story, too. Here is the story shared by the owners of one of the homes on this year's House & Garden Tour.

Just call it serendipity that there was no wind and the sail from Portland to Castine took longer than expected. Peg Patterson, architect McKee "Mac" Patterson's wife, had to cool her heels in Castine.

They had never even discussed a second home, but by the time Mac got off the boat, Peg was eager to show him a building that called for their joint creative vision. Once a gallery and pizza place, known to locals for many years as "Petty's Pizza," it was in serious need of repair. But it had "location, location, location": right across from the harbor. After consultations with the local code enforcement official, they found it could also have three floors, with a height limit of 35 feet and a rooftop terrace. Mac designed a house to sit on the entire 34' x 17' plot.

Presto. The couple now has a gorgeous retreat, with stunning views to the east, south and west of Penobscot Bay. Their four-room living space (large living/dining room, kitchen, master and guest bedrooms, and three baths) sits over two garage spaces, and it has an herb garden and blueberry hedge on the roof. The home is a canvas for the couple's design interests in color, furnishings, detail – "egg and dart" lobster reliefs in the kitchen, copper "wave" around the fireplace, and wave motif on the exterior window trim – and art by artist friends and relatives.

This is just one of the thirteen fascinating and beautiful homes on the House & Garden Tour on July 13, 10:00-4:00, rain or shine. Be sure to buy your tickets early, and don't forget luncheon at the Manor Inn. For tickets and the full schedule, go to castinehousetour.com or see the CHS website.

-- Lisa Haugen



CHS Appreciates Your Support

We would like to thank all of our members for your generous support of the Castine Historical Society. Including life members, our membership numbers around 650. Each new, renewed, or gift membership conveys all the privileges of being a CHS member, including a subscription to *The Castine Visitor*, published three times a year.

If you have a change of address, either winter or summer, please let us know. It is important that we keep our records accurate, to insure that all members will receive all CHS mailings. Your support is what makes the CHS and its members, near and far, an active part of the Castine community.



Start your summer off on firm footing. Buy a personalized brick! A great gift idea, too. Give a commemorative brick to that someone special!

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 a great way to support the Society and a lasting remembrance for future generations.

Tatare generations.			
Please indicate below how you want the b	rick to look, using up to 12	letters, numbers, and spaces or	n each of 3 lines.
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Recipient's Name and Address			
The tax-deductible price for each brick is \$ Castine, ME 04421. We also accept credit email us at admin@castinehistoricalsociety	cards by phone and at our	le to Castine Historical Society a gift shop. For more information	and mail to P.O. Box 238, n call 207-326-4118 or
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