

# The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt

~ 1996 ~

## A Guide to the Images of the Quilt

The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt is made up of seven squares that tell the history of Castine.

These are separated by eight panels representing the native flora and fauna of the Maine coast.

Above each square is a brief embroidered synopsis of the history below. Above the panels are the flags that have flown over Castine throughout its long history.

Below the panels and squares flows the water of the river and bay that has been so crucial to our history. Here too are all the water craft, from Native American canoes to Maine Maritime Academy's training ship, *State of Maine*.

Arched borders above and below symbolize the world and universe, bringing the entire quilt together and reminding us that we are part of a much greater whole.

From left to right:

- **Panel one:** A pine tree, a deer, and wild roses growing on the riverbank. The sun flag above

represents the Abenaki, "People of the Dawn".

- **Square one:** The Abenakis who lived here long before Europeans arrived; growing corn, chopping wood, cooking fish. The scene includes a missionary priest at the French Fort Pentagoët, and depicts the amicable relations between the two cultures as the Baron proposes to Mathilda, Madockawando's daughter.

- **Panel two:** A birch tree with a bear eating blueberries, with the French *fleur de lis* above.

- **Square two:** English colonial life at the edge of the wilderness, and

the Penobscot Expedition of 1779. The colonists' small *Defiance* is one of many vessels fighting the British warships. Behind the flying cannonballs are men climbing the cliffs at Blockhouse Point.

- **Panel three:** A wolf hides behind an oak tree, with paper wasps circling their nest; the Dutch flag above.

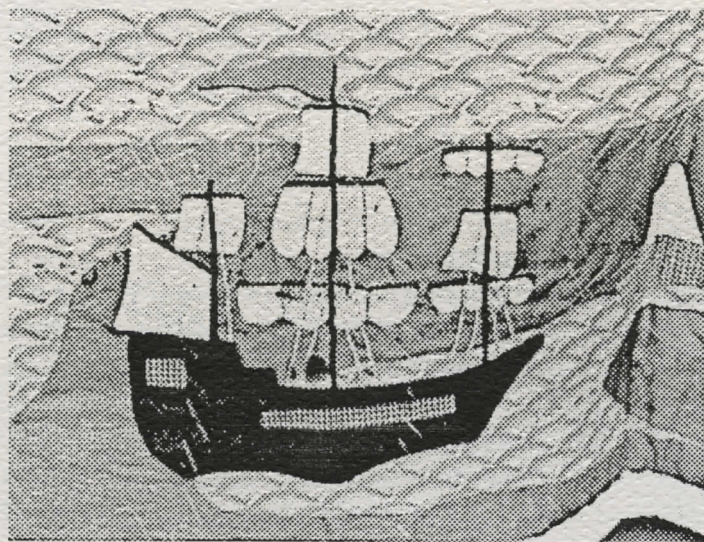
- **Square three:** More colonial life, with chickens and cows; Fort George is at the head of the main street, built by the British to fight the Revolution. The Loyalists of Castine move to New Brunswick, houses and all, in 1789.

- **Panel four:** A bobcat and rabbits, with the British flag above.

- **Square four:** The centerpiece of the quilt, with goods coming and going to the custom house. Several important commercial ships are represented here, like the *Liverpool* and *Cadiz*.

- **Panel five:** A beaver amongst trees and logs, with the American flag above.

- **Square five:** Castine's heyday of 19th century industry: a rope-



One of Lois's many ships (see inside.)

Continued on back page

# How the quilt came to be . . .

The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt idea began at a meeting at

Katherine Marshall's house on June 5, 1995. Several weeks later I found myself part of a core committee of six women meeting at Sylvia Larsson's house. Besides Katherine and Sylvia, we also had experienced quilters Sylvia Muszala and Charlene Wiseman and artist Margaret Hodesh. I wondered what I, a beginning quilter, was doing in such a group.

I had talked with my cousin Barbara Trott, who worked on the two Castine quilts done in years past. She suggested a theme of ships and boats. It sounded good to me so I mentioned it to the group. Someone said that masts and rigging might be too complicated.

As we started tossing out ideas, different eras of Castine's history came to mind—everything from Abenaki Indians, Baron Castin and naval battles, to a commercial village which turned into a Victorian recreation spot. We realized we were no longer talking about a bed-size quilt, but a complicated and large wall hanging. It scared us a little but we kept on, adding descriptive panels and flags

above the scenes and separating the story squares with narrow panels showing indigenous trees and animals.

Suddenly the boats reappeared in my mind. I could see them sailing across the Penobscot River or the Bagaduce and across the bottom of the quilt!

Someone asked, "Were there enough ships?" Enough ships? I started naming everything from Indian canoes to British warships, fishing boats, the steamer *Goldenrod*, the schooner *Bowdoin*, the mail boat *Hippocampus*, Castine Class sailboats, the tug *Pentagoët*, MMA's training vessel, and more.

Charlene said "the hippo-who?" But she was all smiles and I knew that Margaret was seeing the design take definite shape in her mind. She had already started sketching.

I was delegated historian, so I went home to do research while the real artists went on a shopping expedition for fabric. At this point, more than 30 local quilters became as involved and excited as we were. Some were expert at applique, or quilting, or embroidery. Many of us were less so. But how some of the beginners took off!

There were some design changes in the interest of historical accuracy. And a few things got overlooked until



A bear comes out of the woods some unsuspecting pickers.

later in the process. One example was when I saw a bobcat in one of the panels which looked very much like a mountain lion. Someone good naturedly lopped off the poor thing's tail so he could be a genuine bobcat.

There were a few days when ideas clashed and someone was tired and went home mumbling. But we always came back, smiling, ready to work and compromise. Sylvia Larsson held us all together, putting in hours planning and phoning, hosting the steering committee meetings at her home, organizing those at Emerson Hall and

# and those who contributed to it

The following people contributed to the Bicentennial Quilt in some way; by sewing, quilting, designing, doing research, or hanging it in the Abbott School.



steal blueberries from

even finding time to applique!

I won't try to list here the names of the talented artists with a needle who made this vision a reality both by their own skill and by their encouraging and teaching the rest of us [editor's note: the full list of everyone who contributed to the quilt is printed to the right.] The names of all involved are posted near the quilt when it is hung in the Castine Historical Society's Abbott School. It was a fitting birthday gift to our town.

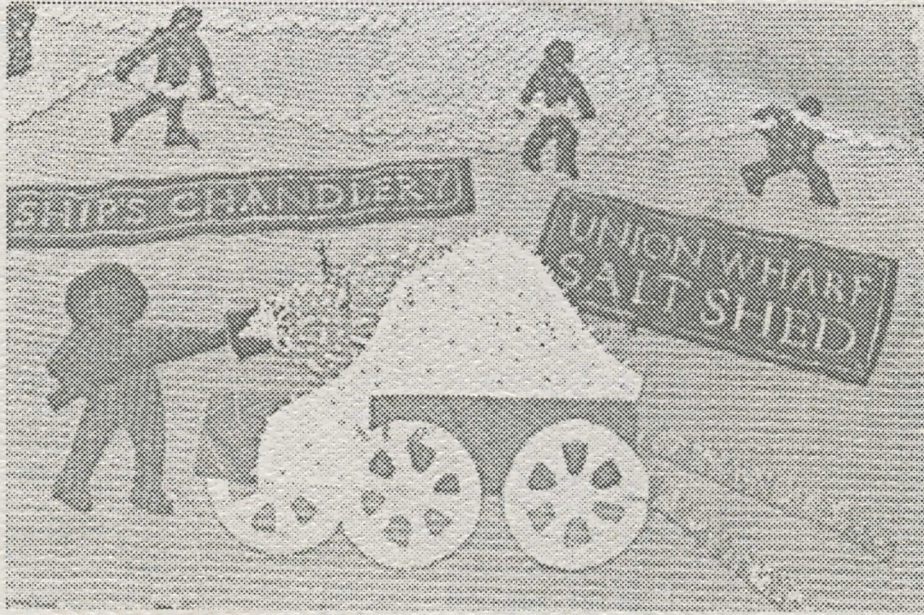
*Lois Moore Cyr*

Lou Bartlett  
Tom Bartlett  
Ione Bergin  
Nancy Blomquist  
Prill Bisher  
Fran Bos  
Stephanie Bowden  
Cynthia Boyer  
Dona Brophy  
Sara Brouillard  
Martha Cole  
Frances Cooke  
Barbara Cooper  
Judy Crist  
Lois Cyr  
Jimmy Day  
Leila Day  
Betty Duff  
Sallie Erhard  
Liz Fallow  
Laura Feeney  
Martha Ferguson  
Liddy Fitz-Gerald  
Kelli Flanzala  
Barbara Fleck  
Janet Forbes  
Kathy Gould  
Tish Gray  
Meredith Hashey  
Joan Henry  
Margaret Hodesh  
Bev Howard  
Gaff James  
Pat James  
Betty Joseph  
Alice Kimball  
Jane Kimball  
Marcia Landry  
Bjorn Larsson  
Sylvia Larsson  
Caroline Livermore  
Sue Loomis  
Renee Mainen  
Katherine Marshall  
Jean Miller  
Hazel Mitchell

Tracy Montauk  
Sylvia Muszala  
Liz Parish  
Judy Payne  
Rita Perkins  
Rosemary Pierce  
Grete Plender  
Deborah Pulliam  
Patricia Ranzoni  
Peggy Rogers  
Lea Raymond  
Nancy Rushton  
Mattie Shafer  
Vickie Sheridan  
Karen Siegel  
Sue Slocum  
Mary Sochacki  
Cush Stuckey  
Brooke Tenney  
Christina Thomas  
Barbara Trott  
Bonnie Tyler  
Carolyn Ulrich  
Robin Vogell  
Charleen Wiseman  
Hannah Zimmermann

## Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Adams School students

Erika Bisher  
Reneé Bowden  
Chantal Brouillard  
Katie Cole  
Abby Dunham  
Stow Dunham  
Michaela Fallow  
Katie Fitch  
Paul Floyd  
Heather Gray  
Caitlin Harpin  
Jeanne Hodesh  
Cassie Hodgson  
Lizzie Kane  
Sarah Kilch  
Jennie Olivari



*Two of Castine's most important nineteenth century industries: salt and rope.*

### *Continued from page one*

walk, salt shed, brickyard, blacksmith, shipyard, and chandlery.

- **Panel six:** A heron and raccoons with lupines, under the Massachusetts flag.

- **Square six:** The late 19th and early 20th centuries find Castine a "watering hole," with ladies playing croquet in front of the Acadian Hotel. There is the old Brooksville ferry, fishing on the bank of the river, and the life that supported the recreation: a livery stable, and ladies going to work at the sardine factory.

- **Panel seven:** A moose with cattails, under the Maine flag.
- **Square seven:** Modern times in Castine: a recycling truck, road work, school bus, church, and a jogger (said to represent super-quilter Charleen Wiseman!)
- **Panel eight:** A fox and owl, under the moon. The Native Americans counted time and the changing seasons by the phases of the moon.
- **The ships:** running from left to right, include: Abenaki canoes,

British ships, the frigate *Warren* (flagship of the colonists during the Penobscot Expedition), barges carrying the Loyalist houses to Canada, the *Eight Sisters*, the *Liverpool*, working boats of the 19th century, the *J. P. Whitney*, the steamer *Goldenrod*, Eaton's Boatyard's the *Annabelle*, the Schooner *Bowdoin*, MMA's *State of Maine*, the tug *Pentagoët*. Mace Eaton's Castine Class sailboats and a host of paddlers in kayaks finishes off the 20th century.



Compiled and produced for the CHS by Deborah Pulliam,  
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