

# the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

vol. 28 no. 1



## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND CASTINE'S "GLASS CEILING"

Lynn H. Parsons

On August 19, 1920, the lower house of Tennessee's state legislature voted, 50 to 46, to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting voting rights to all American women. With that vote, Tennessee became the thirtieth state to approve the Amendment, thus achieving the three-fourths majority of the states required for its enactment. A "Chorus of Approval" went up "From Both Parties and Both Sexes," according to a *Boston Globe* headline.

But was there a "chorus of approval" here in Castine? Less than three years earlier, Maine's male voters had rejected votes for women by a two-to-one margin. On September 10, 1917, Castine's menfolk had followed suit, voting 57 to 46 to

deny the franchise to their wives, sisters, and mothers. Yet in November of 1919 the Maine legislature chose to ignore those results, and Maine became the nineteenth state to approve the Nineteenth Amendment.

Now, nearly a century later, we can examine the impact of women's suffrage in Castine. Did it have an effect on overall voter participation? Did it alter Castine's partisan leanings? And perhaps more important, how did it affect women's participation in the town's affairs? Thirty-four years would pass before Castine chose a female Town Clerk, and another nine would pass before a female member of the Board of Selectmen was chosen. Was there a "glass ceiling" in Castine?



*Photo found 2/21/2018 at <https://historical.ba.com>. Courtesy of Heritage Auctions*  
A Maine women's suffrage campaign pin features the state tree, a white pine, and the state's motto, DIRIGO (Latin for "I lead").

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## Welcome, Lisa!



Lisa Simpson Lutts  
Executive Director, Castine Historical Society

It is with great pleasure that I announce the hiring of Lisa Simpson Lutts as our first Executive Director.

The decision to hire an Executive Director was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors during the Starboard Leadership Strategic Plan process in 2017 and is a milestone for the Castine Historical Society. Lisa will complement our existing staff of Curator Paige Lilly and Administrative Assistant Angela Bonacasa.

Lutts, with thirty-five years of museum experience, was most recently Executive Director of the New Hampshire Boat Museum in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. During her five years in this position, she helped bring the museum to a new level of public engagement through expanded programs, museum education, publicity and fundraising events. The museum also experienced increased financial stability during her leadership.

Before working at the New Hampshire Boat Museum, Lutts was the Executive Director of the Museum Center at Five Points, a county history

museum in Cleveland, Tennessee. She has also served as Director of External Affairs at Fort Ticonderoga, a National Historic Landmark on Lake Champlain, as well as the Executive Director of the Chapman Historical Museum in Glens Falls, New York.

She earned a B.A. in Art History from the University of Tennessee and an M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from George Washington University.

Since beginning her new position in mid-November 2017, Lisa has secured a \$5000 pledge from the Bangor Savings Bank as the sole sponsor of the CHS 2018 summer exhibit. She has also applied for three grants to assist with funding for various projects and maintenance of the Abbott School.

I encourage you to stop by the Grindle House and introduce yourself to Lisa. She's eager to meet our valued members and to become involved in the Castine community.

—Marcia P. Mason  
President, Castine Historical Society



We seek to invigorate our community through collaborative exploration and stewardship of our region's rich history, engaging residents and visitors of all ages in Castine's extraordinary past and, through it, that of New England and North America.

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

Wendy Knickerbocker.....Editor

[info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org)  
[www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)

**Castine  
Historical Society**

## Executive Director's Letter

### A VIEW FROM THE COMMON

As I write this, I'm gazing out from my top floor office window overlooking the Town Common. The view from here encompasses so much of what makes Castine special—the Civil War monument, Witherle Memorial Library, and the cupola on Emerson Hall. Snow is covering the ground, but there's just a hint of warmth. Earlier, children from the Adams School were out playing on the Common. Their shouts during recess help liven up the peaceful quiet that pervades Castine in winter.

As I accepted the position of Executive Director, there was so much that excited me about this new challenge. The Historical Society's highly professional exhibits, along with the state-of-the-art storage facility in the Grindle House, are all first-rate. The town's wonderfully preserved architecture, spectacular seaside setting, and multi-layered history are an historian's dream. The friendly board members and staff I met during the interview, whose commitment to the Society was so evident, gave me a good feel. And of course, the challenge of helping to bring the Historical Society to the next level of professionalism was, and is, very appealing to me.

My personal goals for this position moving forward include strengthening partnerships with community, regional, and statewide organizations. In addition, I will work toward increasing the Society's visibility through marketing and publicity. And finally, my goal is to seek new areas of funding such as grants, sponsorships, membership growth and retention, and donor cultivation that will help the Society continue to grow.

Throughout my museum career, I've worn many hats as is typical in small museums. But the thread that runs through them all is my passion for using community history to teach, engage, and transform the public. Whether I was a curator organizing an exhibit, a marketing director enticing the press to write stories, or a director leading an organization, I found all these positions involved teaching history to the public in a compelling way. That's the passion that motivates me every day.

I look forward to meeting all of you throughout 2018. I'm always open to hearing your thoughts and dreams for the Castine Historical Society. While we may not be able to act on all your ideas, you can be assured we are here to listen and learn from you. So, feel free to email me at [director@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@castinehistoricalsociety.org), call me at 326-4118, or just stop by.

Lisa Simpson Lutts



We can begin to answer those questions by examining a small number of documents in the Historical Society’s archives. There are two faded typewritten lists of Castine’s voters in 1910 and 1920—before the Nineteenth Amendment was enacted—and another list compiled in 1922. Beginning in that year, someone took it upon her/himself to record the names of 160 new female voters, including their ages, occupations, and political affiliations. Finally, we have Town Reports and the Selectmen’s Minutes from the 1920s to the present.

As soon as the Nineteenth Amendment became law, many states scrambled to update their voting rolls in view of the approaching Presidential election in 1920. Here in Maine, the legislature passed “An Act to Provide for the Registration of Women.” In Castine, the Selectmen announced that Emerson Hall would be open, but for only four days, September 8 through September 11, “for correcting the list of voters.” The town constable posted the information at Emerson Hall, both post offices, and other prominent locations.

By 1920 women’s suffrage was no longer a partisan issue, if indeed it ever had been. The two Presidential candidates in that year, Republican Warren Harding and Democrat James Cox, both supported votes for women, as did their Vice-Presidential running mates, Calvin Coolidge and Franklin Roosevelt. Harding was overwhelmingly elected. For what it’s worth, four years earlier, Castine’s men voted for the Democrat, President Woodrow Wilson, over his Republican opponent, 128 to 91. In 1920 Harding easily crushed his Democratic opponent in Castine, 168 to 46. Without knowing how many women, if any, were able to take advantage of the four-day window to register to vote, we cannot be sure of their role in the outcome. But we do know that the overall turnout in Castine was five voters fewer in 1920 than it had been in 1916.

In 1910 approximately 254 men enrolled as Castine’s voters. Ten years later, before the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, the number had actually declined to 199. But the overall population also dropped in the same proportion, from 943 to 743. Following the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, the alphabetical voter list (with male and female voters segregated under each letter of the alphabet) shows an increase of 128 voters. We may assume most of them were women.

An examination of the list of 160 new female voters yields interesting results. The new voters

ranged in age from 21-year-old Marie Wood to 84-year-old Georgie Wardwell. Also listed was 21-year-old Beatrice Spurling and 37-year-old Mary G. “Polly” Porter. (Her partner, Mary “Molly” Dewson, did not register, at least not here in 1922.) Nearly all of them listed their occupation as “housewife.” The only exceptions were thirteen teachers and another seventeen scattered among mostly gendered roles such as clerk, librarian, social worker, or nurse. Their partisan political affiliation was either left blank or was, overwhelmingly, Republican. Only six women admitted to being Democrats. The voters of Castine, regardless of gender, would remain loyal to the GOP for nearly half a century.

The 1924 Presidential election was the first in which all of Castine’s women could vote. The Republican President Calvin Coolidge easily trounced his Democratic opponent in Castine, but the overall turnout, notwithstanding the new female voters, dropped from 272 in 1920 to 212 in 1924. There was also a corresponding drop in voter turnout across the nation, from 61.6% in 1916 to 49.2% in 1920, and again to 48.9% in 1924. Things picked up both in Castine and the nation four years later. In the more exciting contest between Herbert Hoover and Al Smith in 1928, 56.9% of the nation’s eligible voters participated. Castine’s voters, men and women alike, gave Hoover 218 votes to Smith’s 66, for a total turnout of 287. (Three Castiners voted for Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate.)

For many years the major offices in Castine such as Selectman, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Library Trustee, were elected by secret ballot at the annual Town Meeting. Although Castine’s women were eligible to vote in those meetings, the offices remained a men’s club until the 1950s. The Selectmen appointed women to various positions, but they were confined to the traditionally gendered roles. Amy Witherle, for example, was regularly chosen a library trustee (which made sense since it was her family that had made the library building possible). Another woman, Katherine Davenport, was appointed librarian. Amy Witherle’s cousin Anna was later appointed to the Board of Health. Mrs. Boyd Bartlett, daughter of the town’s historian George Wheeler, was appointed to the “Historical Room” at Emerson Hall, as was Mrs. T.E. Hale. Mrs. William Hooper and Mrs. William Hooke were appointed to the Public Grounds Committee.

Note that the married women were listed by their husbands’ names, while unmarried women like

Amy or Anna Witherle were listed by their given names. But a change can be noted in the Town Reports beginning around 1930, when “Mrs. Boyd Bartlett” became Louise W. Bartlett, “Mrs. Gilbert Leach” became Ethel Leach, etc. (We do not know who was responsible for this change in nomenclature.) Note also that those appointive positions were for the most part unpaid, volunteer posts. The Selectmen’s Minutes show that although the votes were freely cast in secret at Town Meetings, there was never more than one candidate for each elective office for many years. Which brings us to the “glass ceiling” question.

There does not appear to have been more than one candidate for elective office in Castine until the 1950s. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the town fathers—if that is the correct phrase—had come to an arrangement ahead of time as to the candidates, and that this arrangement was satisfactory to the town’s electorate, male and female alike, for many years. Things began to change in 1951. In that year there was more than one candidate, both for Selectman and for Town Clerk. Moreover, in that year, a woman, Florence Williams, was on the ballot for Town Treasurer. So far as we know, Ms. Williams was the first woman to be a candidate for elective office in Castine. She received four votes. Undaunted, she ran for Collector of Taxes a year later, but that

time she got only one vote. Nonetheless, she was a trailblazer.

The “glass ceiling” was cracked two years later when Edith Coombs was elected Town Clerk, defeating two other candidates, one of whom was also a woman. Two more women were unsuccessful candidates for town office in 1956 and 1958. In 1961 Laura Hatch was elected Castine’s Collector of Taxes, thus elevating two women to town office. The “ceiling” was finally shattered for good in 1963 with the election of Marie Wood—the youngest of the original 1922 registrants—as Castine’s first female Selectman. Since then there have been several women elected or appointed to town office—most notably Margery Read, who served nine full years as Selectman, from 1982 through 1991.

Only a wider examination of municipal and state records would determine whether Castine was a leader or a laggard when it came to the role of women in the town’s affairs. But it is clear that if there ever was a “glass ceiling,” it is a thing of the past.

*Author’s note: I wish to thank three women—appropriately enough—for assistance with this essay: Wendy Knickerbocker, Paige Lily, and Anne Parsons.*



*Photograph by Pratt's Photo Service. Donated by Doris Russell*

Castine Town Officers, 1965. Left to right: Barbara Trott (Town Clerk), Alva Clement (2nd Selectman), Marie Wood (1st Selectman), Austin Macomber (Treasurer), and Laura Hatch (Tax Collector).

The staff and board of the Castine Historical Society thank everyone for their support of the 2017 events and exhibits. To continue your support, you can renew your membership by filling out and sending in the form in this newsletter, or join online at [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org) Or share your support and give a gift of a 2018 membership to a friend or family member.

**2017-2018  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Marcia P. Mason  
*President*

George Hatch  
*Vice President*

Brooke P. Tenney  
*Secretary*

Susan C. Hatch  
*Treasurer*

William Buchanan  
Lynne I. Dearborn  
Anne B. Fuentes  
Lisa Haugen  
John S. Macdonald  
Roger W. Moss  
Ruth C. Scheer  
Stefanie Scheer Young

**President Emeritus:**  
James M. Day

**Honorary Directors:**  
J. Alton Boyer  
Robert C. Dick  
Sara F. Foote  
Robert B. Rettig

**Staff:**  
Lisa Simpson Lutts  
*Executive Director*  
Paige S. Lilly  
*Curator*  
Angela Bonacasa  
*Administrative Assistant*

**The Castine Historical  
Society gratefully  
acknowledges  
contributions received**

**In Memory of:**

Paul Cyr  
Chase Bruns

**In Honor of:**

Lynne Dearborn  
Mary Dearborn  
Robert B. Rettig  
and  
Nancy Mundth,  
with many thanks for the years  
of beautiful flower  
arrangements

**Brick Project:**

Ed Perkins Jr.  
Valerie Scott

**New Members:**

Helen R. Brown  
Patrick Cloud  
James Conway  
Jane Guild Cutter  
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Henderson  
Brian O'Leary  
Ingrid and Doug Scott  
Serena R. Smith

---

The Castine Historical Society  
website has up to date  
information on exhibits and  
events! See it all at  
[castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org)

**Thank you to the  
following for their  
donations to the  
Historical Society  
Collections:**

Castine Yacht Club, Inc  
Dan Daley, Jr.  
Ray Durkee  
John Gardner  
Sara F. Foote  
Susan Hatch  
Wendy Knickerbocker  
Ann Miller  
Michael Morrison  
Lynn H. Parsons

---

Editor's Note: Please feel free  
to pass along your comments,  
suggestions, or ideas for  
articles. Contact editor Wendy  
Knickerbocker by phone at  
326-8205 or at [newsletter@  
castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@castinehistoricalsociety.org)

## Thank You To Our 2017 Annual Appeal Donors!

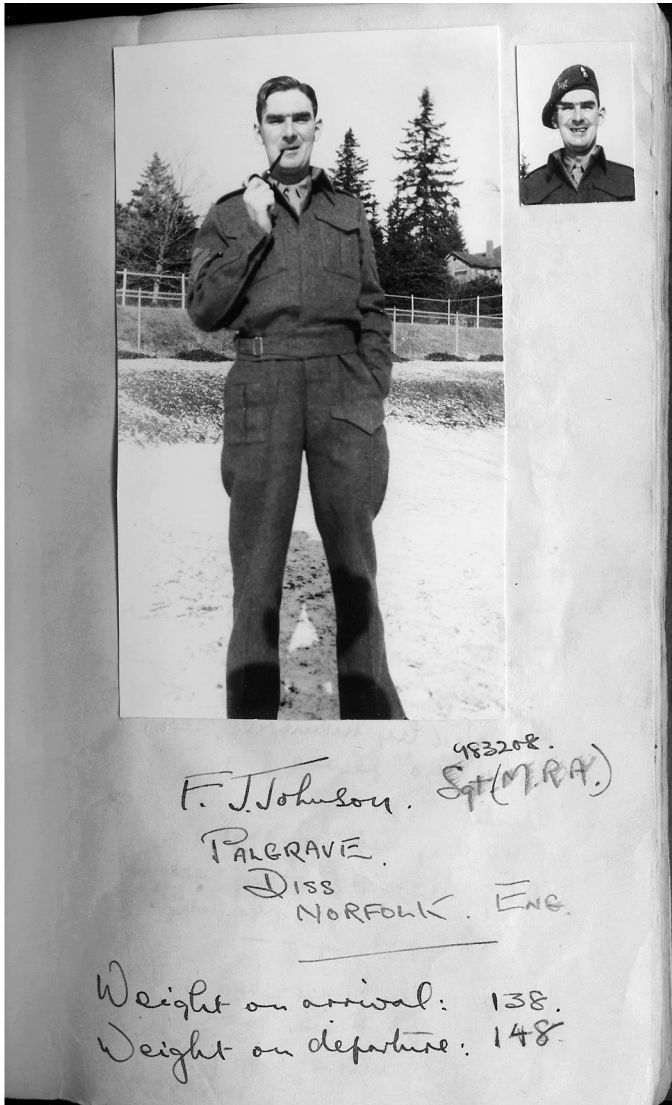
Josh and Susan Adam  
Carol Adams and Rich Armstrong  
Carol Allen  
Susan and Neil Allen  
Wallace and Alice Alston  
Oakes Ames  
Bill and Tina Anthony  
Morten and Carolyn Arntzen  
Ann Ashton  
David and Sandy Austin  
Jane Bagot  
Kay Bailey  
Jeb and Lynn Baker  
Nat and Jane Ball  
Margaret and Christy Beckman  
William Belmont and Carmen Gillett  
Doug and Ellen Benjamin  
Arnold and Rive Berleant  
David and Marian Bicks  
Temple and Victoria Blackwood  
George and Gene Bland  
A. Bruce Boenau  
Standish and Virginia Bourne  
Rusty Bourne  
Jim and Kathleen Bower  
Bill and Marianne Buchanan  
Charles and Miriam Butts  
Gary's Fuel Service  
Alton Chelette  
Caroline Chester and John McDonald  
Elaine Cinciva and Colin Baker  
Tom and Jane Coony  
Paul Davis  
Jim and Leila Day  
Mary Dearborn  
Lynne Dearborn  
William Dick  
ExxonMobil Foundation (Matching Gift)  
Craig and Sara Fanning  
John and Olivia Farr  
Richard Fenton  
Doug and Judy Fitzsimmons  
Kathy Flood  
Elizabeth Foote and Howell Jackson  
Ginny Foote  
Sally Foote  
Bob and Sam Friedlander  
Roland and Anne Fuentes  
Barbara Grover  
Dick and Sharon Hale  
Azita Hamedani and Peter Mason  
Bente Hartmann  
Susan and David Hatch

Mrs. Francis Hatch  
George and Marina Hatch  
Whitney and Tizzie Hatch  
Lisa and Patrick Haugen  
Richard and Kay Hightower  
Breeze and Skip Hobbs  
Carolyn Hooper  
Julie and Chris Jeffrey  
Harry and Berna Kaiserian  
Sue Loomis  
Howard and Mary Lowell  
Jack and Sue Macdonald  
Jerry Martindale  
Tom and Marcia Mason  
Frank McKean and Margaret Taylor  
Ann Miller  
John and Maggie Mitchell  
Michael Morrison  
Roger Moss and Gail Winkler  
Nancy Mundth  
Larry and Danielle Mutty  
Joan Netland  
Mary and Felton Norwood  
John and Liz Parish  
Lynne and Anne Parsons  
Tom and Jean Pedersen  
Michael and Rosemary Pierce  
Marc Pelletier and Penelope Carlhian  
Ron and Joy Pott  
Carolyn Punzelt  
Carlos and Jean Quijano  
Jeanmarie Reed  
Robert B. Rettig  
Jordan Richards  
Deane and Sandra Richardson  
Doris Russell  
Alan and Geraldine Schechter  
Ruth and Ken Scheer  
Dottie Sherling  
Don and Marty Tenney  
Catherine and David Tenney  
Gil and Brooke Tenney  
Del Thomas  
Douglas and Carolyn Tinney  
Charles and Carolyn Ulrich  
David Unger  
Lucy Webster  
Fred and Trina Whitridge  
Maurice Williams  
Andrew and Stefanie Young  
David and Alan Ziff



## Guest Log from the Convalescent Home for British Seamen

Lisa Simpson Lutts



Every collection piece, no matter how mundane, tells a story. While helping with this year's exhibit, I was given the task of researching Dr. Alice North. When Dr. North passed away, the Historical Society was given a wealth of documentation about her fascinating career.

Dr. Alice North (1892-1982) graduated from Temple University Medical School in 1925 as one of four female surgeons. After briefly serving as a

surgeon's assistant in Plattsburgh, New York, she ran a free medical clinic in New York City's Chinatown. In 1940, Dr. North moved full-time to her family's summer home in Castine. With World War II raging, Dr. North got permission from the British ambassador in Washington to convert her home into the Convalescent Home for British Seamen.

From 1942-1945 she helped 127 British seamen recuperate in the restful atmosphere of her seaside home, called North Star. In 1947, Dr. North received the OBE (Order of the British Empire) for her service to the men of Britain. The Society now owns the medal and citation.

In the collection we also have Dr. North's guest books from her time running the convalescent home. The books all follow the same format. On one page is a photo of a sailor or officer in uniform, his name, address, rank, weight on arrival and weight on leaving. Opposite each photo, the seamen wrote a poem to "Doc," their nickname for Alice. While some of the men obviously balked, each and every one contributed a poem!

Pictured here is her most prolific poem writer, Sergeant Fredrick James Johnson of the Maritime Royal Artillery. Sergeant Johnson's poem is entitled "Fantasy Come True," written on Jan. 15, 1944.

In the poem he describes Dr. North and her work helping the men recover and go back to the brutality of war.

Queen of this earthly paradise,  
Silver-haired, gentle, kind & good,  
A woman  
Welcoming to her kingdom with a tender smile,  
We who have fought, and live –  
To fight anew.



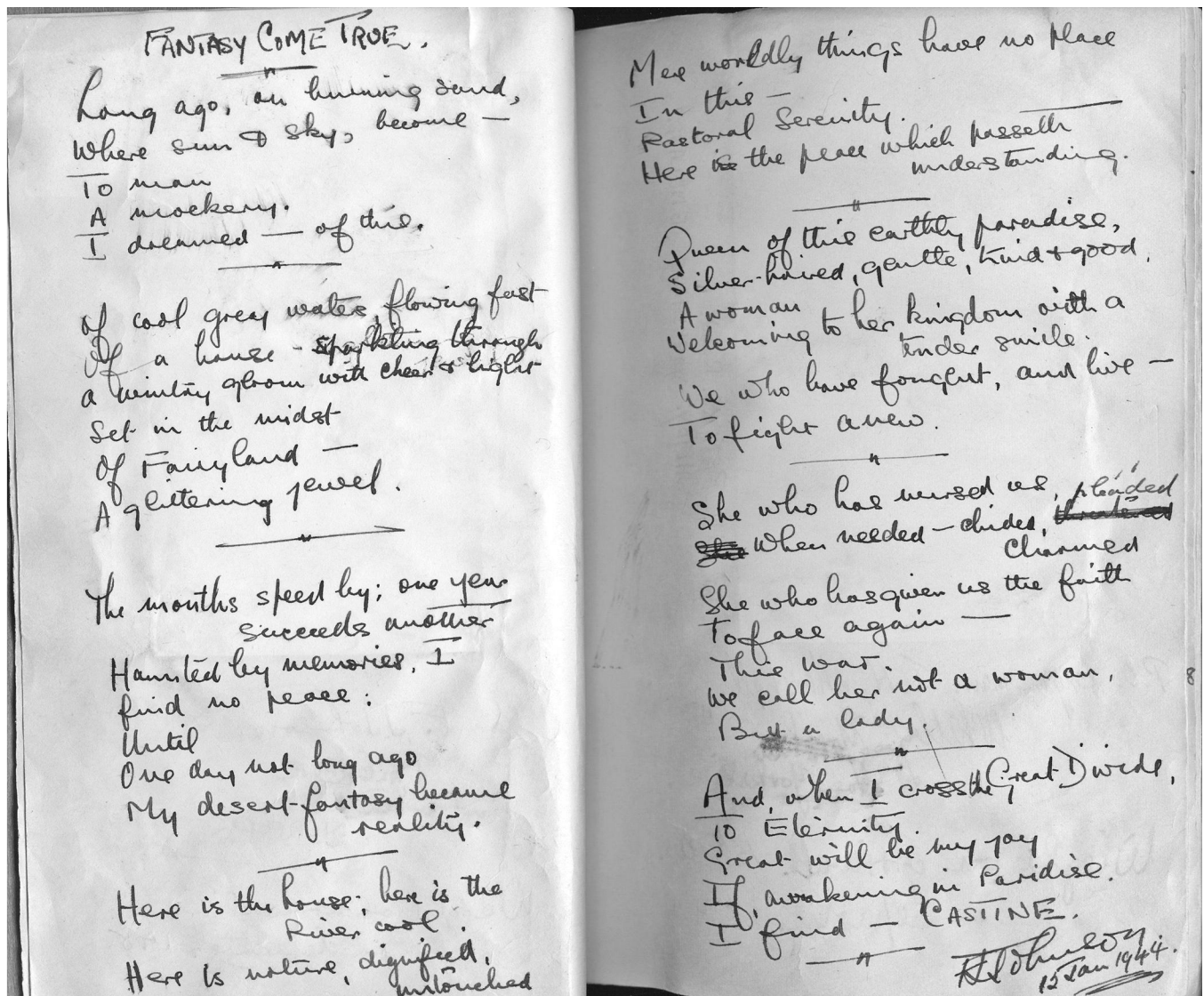
We have many more poems by Sergeant Johnson, along with letters he wrote to Dr. North after he returned to duty. I became curious—who was this Sergeant Johnson? I contacted the local history museum near his hometown of Palgrave, England, and received back a wealth of information.

During the war Fred, as he preferred to be called, was a member of the Royal Artillery Marine Regiment and spent the war serving as an anti-aircraft gunner on board merchant ships throughout the Battle of the Atlantic, in the Mediterranean and around the coasts of Italy and in the Far East. He served a total of six years and was given five campaign stars. In 1943, he became engaged to a

Canadian Army captain stationed in London and they married at the war's end in 1946.

Following the war, Fred became a journalist and worked for the *Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal*, and later the *Eastern Daily Press*. He passed away in 1994.

His is just one story out of 127 in the guest books. 127 deep connections and ties to towns and families in England are buried in these unique yet humble mementoes.



## What's New with Membership

Angela Bonacasa

It's a new membership year at the Castine Historical Society! As we work hard on our 2018 exhibits and events, we are reminded how your membership contributions help make them happen. We truly appreciate every single contribution that we receive. Whether it goes toward putting together an exhibit, or purchasing an item for the collection, or even something as simple as purchasing toilet paper for the Abbott School, every single dollar goes toward improving the Historical Society.

We wanted to let you know a few exciting membership changes for 2018. First and foremost, rather than all memberships going from January-December, your membership will now begin one year from the day we receive your donation, regardless of when you join. If your check comes to us in May your membership year will be May to May. There are many benefits to this "rolling membership." Now, you can feel free to give that birthday membership in June or September, knowing that it will be valid for an entire year. And don't worry—we will still send you a reminder, so you will know when you need to renew.

We are also sending membership cards! With your 2018 membership renewal, you will receive a

membership card indicating your level of membership, as well as your membership expiration date. You'll be able to present this at the gift shop when you visit to receive your 10% member discount.

In addition to that member discount, you'll still receive the other benefits that membership in the Society provides: a free subscription to the Society's newsletter *The Castine Visitor*; advance notice about planned exhibits, lectures and special events; and the satisfaction of supporting an organization dedicated to preserving our historic treasures for future generations. We are also working on some additional benefits to share with you as well, so watch this space.

Please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information for our database records. We need to know if you've moved, and it's so helpful to have your email address. This information helps us get Castine Historical Society news and updates to you as soon as possible.

As always, thank you for your support of the Castine Historical Society. Feel free to contact us with questions at any time at [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org) or (207) 326-4118, and we'll see you this summer!

### Get a Brick! Give a Brick!

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 perfect gift for yourself or for someone else. It's also a great way to support the Society and leave 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 3 lines.

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

The tax-deductible price for each brick is \$50.00. Make checks payable to Castine Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 238, Castine, ME 04421. To pay by credit card, call 207-326-4118 or order at [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)

## Become a Member of the Castine Historical Society!

Thank you for your support. What we do is not possible without you!

\_\_\_\_ New Membership      \_\_\_\_ Renew My Membership      \_\_\_\_ Gift Membership

(If this is a gift, name of gift giver: \_\_\_\_\_)

Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it should appear on the mailing list)

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (used only for special mailings) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level

\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$25      \_\_\_\_ Family, \$40      \_\_\_\_ Sustaining, \$60  
\_\_\_\_ Contributing, \$100      \_\_\_\_ Patron, \$250      \_\_\_\_ Benefactor, \$500  
\_\_\_\_ Other

**Please send this form and your check to:**  
**Castine Historical Society, P.O. Box 238, Castine, ME 04421**  
**To pay by credit card, or for more information, please call CHS at 207-326-4118**  
**OR join online at [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/membership](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/membership)**

*The Castine Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*



Castine Historical Society  
Post Office Box 238  
Castine, Maine 04421

Address Service Requested

Printed on recycled paper

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #76  
Bangor, ME



*Photograph by Christopher Goetting*

This sign stood for many years at the end of the private drive to Moss Acre, the Castine home of Mary G. "Polly" Porter and her partner Mary W. "Molly" Dewson. It was photographed on July 12, 2017, at the CHS members' reception, generously hosted by the current owners of Moss Acre and following a talk by Dewson's biographer, Susan Ware.