

the CASTINE VISITOR

CASTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

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WOMEN OF CASTINE MAKING THEIR MARK 2018 EXHIBIT CELEBRATES COURAGE AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Paige Lilly

“There have been other great crises in our country and I think if we read our history carefully, we will find that the success of our nation in meeting them was largely due to the women in those trying times.”

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote these words in her book of practical advice, *It's Up to the Women*, published in 1933. Her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), was beginning his first term as President after an election in which Democratic women came out to vote in force. Eleanor was set on redefining the role of First Lady. She and her friend and ally Mary W. “Molly” Dewson played important roles by organizing women across the country in FDR’s campaigns. The Women’s March in Washington, DC, in January of 2017 and the increased numbers of women running for office would not have surprised them. They would have expected nothing less of 21st-century American women.



Lisa Haugen and her daughter, Tess Lameyer, in Washington, DC, for the Women’s March, January 21, 2017

Photograph by Sarah O'Malley

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Castine Historical Society 2018 Calendar of Events

Abbott School Exhibits (17 School St.): June 11 - September 2, Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00-4:00 p.m. ;

September 4 – October 8, Fri., Sat., and Mon. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

- ***Castine's Devoted Women: Social Change and Public Service***
- ***The Penobscot Expedition of 1779: Making Revolutionary History***
- ***The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt***

Grindle House (13 School St.): Staff offices, archives, collections, and library open year-round.

June 21: Treasures In Our Own Backyard, 7:00 p.m. A show-and-tell on the treasures owned by area historical societies, the Wilson Museum, and the Castine Historical Society. This event will be held at the Castine Historical Society's Mitchell Room in the Abbott School.

June 24: Open House Reception, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Join the Historical Society as it kicks off the season, tour the exhibits, and enjoy light refreshments in the Abbott School Gallery.

July and August: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. Guided walking tours of historic Castine. Meet in front of Abbott School.

July 12: Tenth Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture, 7:00 p.m. Tomlin Coggeshall, grandson of former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, will deliver a lecture entitled "Molly Dewson and Frances Perkins: Two Powerful Women." This lecture will be given in the Delano Auditorium on the campus of Maine Maritime Academy, Castine.

July 17 and August 14: Exhibit Talk, 5:00 p.m. Tour and discussion led by Curator Paige Lilly in the Castine Historical Society's Abbott School gallery. Light refreshments will be served.

July 28-29: Touring Through Time. Visit historical societies throughout the Blue Hill peninsula for special displays, demos, food tastings, and more. CHS will post the event schedule on our website closer to the date.

August 22: Annual Meeting and Program, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Following the Historical Society's annual meeting, Castine summer resident and well-known writer Lee Smith will give a talk entitled "Believe It or Not! Fact...or Fiction?" The public is invited to this event, which will take place in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Meeting House at 86 Court Street, Castine. Light refreshments will be served.

September 8-9: 1779-1783 Fort George – Disputed Territory: Encampment and Events. Volunteer reenactors at Castine's historic Fort George will demonstrate what life was like when British Crown troops protected American Loyalists. Visit friendsofcastineforts.com for information on events and entertainment. Organized by the Friends of Castine Fortifications.

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

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



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
www.castinehistoricalsociety.org

**Castine
 Historical Society**

Executive Director's Letter A VIEW FROM THE COMMON

Spring is finally here in Castine. If you're like me, when I drive around and see daffodils and forsythia blooming, I give a sigh of relief that winter is over.

But the arrival of spring also means the pace is picking up here at the Historical Society. If you've never worked in an historical society of our size, it's hard to imagine what we do over the winter. The winter is the time for staff, committees, and Board to plan and organize for the coming season. Here's a brief and by no means comprehensive snapshot of what the staff worked on over the winter.

I'll start with our Administrative Assistant, Angela Bonacasa. Among other things, Angela processes memberships and donations. In November and March she did the behind-the-scenes work that allowed us to send out annual appeal and membership renewal letters. Then, when we receive renewals and donations, she records them and sends out thank-you letters.

This winter she tackled a huge project: moving all the membership and donation records to a database named PastPerfect. Designed for museums and historical societies, PastPerfect allows us to better track your donations and automates sending thank-you letters and other membership and donor correspondence. Thankfully, Angela is a details person, which is the type of person that the job really needs!

Our Curator, Paige Lilly, and her Exhibit Committee spent the winter planning, researching, writing, and finding photographs and objects we can use to expand on the theme of last year's exhibit. (Read more about that in Paige's article on page one.) It takes lots of meetings and hours to accomplish all this, but of course it is all worth the time and effort. Thanks to Paige and her committee's scholarship, creativity, and organizational skills, the Castine Historical Society's exhibitions show a high level of scholarship and professionalism in which we can all take pride.

In the midst of managing the exhibit work, Paige is our link to the archival and artifact collections. She fields questions from Board committees, Angela, and me, as well as requests that come in by email and phone and from visiting researchers. The collections continued to grow this winter through generous gifts and strategic purchases of significant Castine material, and you can learn more about this aspect of the Historical Society's efforts in Paige's Collections Corner.

For me, the winter consisted of writing grants; helping to update policies and procedures; meeting with members; planning the lecture series; writing press releases, eblasts, and Facebook posts; and attending meetings as the Historical Society's representative for such community projects as Friends of Castine Fortifications and Bastille Day. And through all these endeavors, I've thoroughly enjoyed learning Castine's history and discovering the details of the Historical Society's work.

One large project I'm working on involves the Castine History Partners, a group consisting of the Wilson Museum, Witherle Memorial Library, Maine Maritime Academy, the Town, and us. We are working on an exciting Castine virtual tour project that will help visitors and residents learn more about our historic and beautiful town. Stay tuned.

As I said, this is just a snapshot of what keeps us busy in the winter. With opening for the season just around the corner on June 11th, we look forward to seeing you all here at the Historical Society. As always, I want you to feel free to call or email me if you have suggestions, questions, and, most importantly, concerns. My door is always open. You can reach me via phone at (207) 326-4118 or by email at director@castinehistoricalsociety.org

—Lisa Simpson Lutts

The staff and volunteers of the Castine Historical Society are excited about the 2018 season. If you are not a member already, becoming one is easy to do. Just fill out and send in the membership form in this newsletter, or join online at www.castinehistoricalsociety.org We look forward to seeing you!

**2017-2018
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

In Memory of:

Robert and Barbara Chitwood
Richard Blystone

New Members:

Harry Farr
Jack Farr
Louisa Farr
Sam Farr
Alexandra Hatch
Ian Hatch
Eliza Hatch & Ian Jessen
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Nina Hatch
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The Castine Historical Society
website has up to date
information on exhibits and
events! See it all at
castinehistoricalsociety.org

Have a comment, idea, or
suggestion? Contact us at
(207) 326-4118 or [newsletter@
castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@castinehistoricalsociety.org) and let
us know!

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

Leland Bowden
Dona Brophy
Deer Isle-Stonington
Historical Society
Douglas Endicott
Rodney Flora
David Leach
Ann Miller
Edie Powell
Don Reed
Doris Russell
Ken Scheer

The Castine Historical Society
actively collects photographs,
papers, maps, memorabilia
and artifacts to document life
in Castine and the Bagaduce
River area. If you want to
donate something you think is
worth preserving, please
contact Paige Lilly at:

(207) 326-4118 or [curator@
castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@castinehistoricalsociety.org)

Either we will add your
material to our collection or
suggest a more appropriate
institution for you to contact.
Thank you!

Volunteering at CHS is Fun!

With our June 11th opening just around the corner, we'd like to extend a special invitation to you. Would you consider volunteering as a docent during the 2018 season (June 11 to Columbus Day)?

What does a docent do? During a three-hour morning or afternoon session you will:

- Greet visitors and give them a brief orientation to the exhibits
- Sell gift shop items
- Answer questions about visiting Castine
- Meet interesting new people
- Serve as an ambassador for and the face of the Historical Society

You don't need to know in-depth history about Castine or the exhibits. We will provide training, and you will have a "seasoned" docent as mentor to guide you through your first few sessions.

How much time do you need to give? We can work around your schedule and your desired time commitment!

To learn more or to sign up, call or email our new Docent Coordinator, Alice Alston at (207) 326-8432 or alice.alston@gse.rutgers.edu

Thanks for your interest!

We Need Your Help Sprucing Up the Abbott School

Caring for our historic buildings is an important part of the Castine Historical Society's mission. We have owned the 1859 Abbott School since 1994, and we restored the building extensively at that time, with generous community support. The school is the Historical Society's exhibition building as well as a centerpiece of the Town Common.

Maintaining our buildings is an ongoing need. The last large preservation project for the Abbott School was in 2006-2007, when the Historical Society restored the rotting cupola, replaced the roof, and repainted the building.

Now, over ten years later, the peeling and worn paint on the building needs to be scraped and repainted to continue the Abbott School's long-term preservation. Painting a building this size is no small undertaking, and we are looking at a number of ways to pay for painting the areas most in need: the cupola, the building's façade, and the Mitchell Room side of the building. The project cost is \$33,685.

We are thrilled to announce that we have received a grant for \$11,715 from the Davis Family Foundation to fund painting the cupola. Now we are seeking donations to help fund the remaining parts of the project.

We hope you will consider donating to the Abbott School Painting Project. Your tax-deductible donation will help the Historical Society preserve a building that is not only crucial to the functioning of the Society but also serves as an historical anchor for the beautiful Castine Town Common.

You can mail your contribution to the Castine Historical Society (PO Box 238, Castine, 04421) or visit our website to make a secure online donation: www.castinehistoricalsociety.org Thank you so much for your consideration!

Save the Date!

Cocktail Fundraising Party on Nautilus Island

Tuesday, July 31

Members – Look for Your Invitation in the Mail

The exhibit *Castine’s Devoted Women: Social Change and Public Service* connects the lives of Molly Dewson and Mary G. “Polly” Porter, loving partners for fifty-two years, with dozens of other Castine women devoted to politics, social reform, public service, women’s rights, and marriage equality. The core of the storyline, from last summer’s exhibit, is based on twenty-eight scrapbooks compiled by the Porter-Dewsons (as they called themselves), using their own pictures, voices, and artifacts as well as the voices of their contemporaries. First-time visitors and repeat guests can follow this couple’s life from the Progressive Era, when they met as social workers (and began spending long stretches of time every year at Polly’s family home in Castine), through the significant role Molly played in social reform and American politics and then to their retirement in Castine.

Building on that intriguing history of two women, this year’s exhibit, sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank, has been enhanced with local and national content to deepen the meaning of social change and public service. We explore what happened next with the Porter-Dewsons’ social and political interests—wage legislation, government jobs for women, same-sex partnerships, women’s voting rights—in Castine and beyond.

Topics important to Polly and Molly reverberate in the daily news today, and visitors will see these connections through photographs, objects, quotations, and documents. What was termed a “Boston marriage” of two independent women in 1912 can now be a legal marriage under federal law. The current exhibit introduces visitors to two seasonal Castine couples who were legally married in 2013 and 2015. A woman’s right to vote, which did not win support among Castine men in 1919, changed the lives of Castine women in 1920 and led to women being involved in local, state, and national government. Polly and Molly were activist suffragists in Massachusetts during the last stages of the movement.

Molly’s groundbreaking research for wage and hour legislation, begun in Massachusetts before 1920, gained momentum and passage across the country, but what do minimum-wage workers earn in real dollars? Polly’s career in social work emphasized education and support for the children of factory workers in New York City. Both women volunteered with the American Red Cross in France during the First World War. Who else from Castine pursued careers in social reform and public service, as volunteers or professionals, over the past 100 years?

Molly’s favorite project to promote with her friends, Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, was the advancement of qualified women in government jobs. Molly’s biographer, Susan Ware, wrote in her book *Partner and I*: “Molly Dewson worked so hard to get Frances Perkins into the cabinet because the appointment would fulfill one of her major political goals for the new Roosevelt administration: to show that FDR took women’s contributions to politics and public life seriously and that he was willing to entrust women with unprecedented power and responsibility.”



Doris Russell, whose past role within the Republican Party paralleled that of Molly Dewson's in the Democratic Party, is among the Castine women featured in this year's exhibit. Here she is in 1987 at a party in honor of Senator Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth.

Photograph by Stephen Rubicam; loaned by Doris Russell

How has the status of women in federal jobs changed since Molly pushed for Frances Perkins to become the first female cabinet member, as the Secretary of Labor? These questions and more bring our concept of “Castine’s devoted women” to a new level.

In her 1933 book, Eleanor Roosevelt added, “I think we shall have fulfilled our mission well if when our time comes to give up active work in the world we can say we never saw a wrong without trying to right it.” Castine’s public-service-oriented citizenry agrees.

This exhibit is generously sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank

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Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting Wednesday, August 22, 4:00 p.m.

Each year attendance at our Annual Meeting and Program has grown so much that our Mitchell Room isn’t large enough to seat the attendees. What a great problem to have! To provide enough seating, our 2018 Annual Meeting and Program will be held in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Meeting House, located at 86 Court Street, next to the Castine Historical Society complex.

We will hold a brief annual meeting to share news with our members and take care of business. Then our guest speaker, the noted author and Castine summer resident Lee Smith, will delve into the different issues involved in writing fiction, nonfiction, and “their ungainly child, historical fiction.” During her talk she will read examples from her own books and will leave time for audience discussion and questions.

Smith began writing stories at the age of nine and selling them for a nickel a piece. Since then, she has written seventeen works of fiction, including *Fair and Tender Ladies*, *Oral History*, and most recently her memoir, *Dimestore: A Writer’s Life*. She has received numerous awards, including the North Carolina Award for Literature and an Academy Award in Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her novel *The Last Girls* was a *New York Times* bestseller and won the Southern Book Critics Circle Award. Smith lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and summers in Castine with her husband, the writer Hal Crowther.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



Diana Matthews Photography

Tomlin Coggeshall to Give the Tenth Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture



Tomlin Coggeshall, the grandson of former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, will deliver the tenth annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture on Thursday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m. He will speak on “Molly Dewson and Frances Perkins: Two Powerful Women.”

Coggeshall is a founder of the Frances Perkins Center in Damariscotta, Maine, that honors her legacy of service. Perkins was a political ally and friend of Molly Dewson and is featured in our 2017-2018 exhibit, *Castine's Devoted Women: Social Change and Public Service*.

In his talk, Coggeshall will discuss the friendship between Molly Dewson and Frances Perkins—a powerful combination of two powerful women. As head of the Women's Division of the Democratic Party, Molly

Dewson worked hard to help get Franklin Delano Roosevelt elected President in 1932. Thanks to Dewson's insistence, FDR invited Frances Perkins to become his Secretary of Labor even though this post had been traditionally occupied by a male labor leader.

Frances Perkins and FDR worked tirelessly to craft and implement a New Deal and improve the lives of their fellow citizens. The story of Frances Perkins, Molly Dewson, and FDR is one of perseverance, relationships, and how Perkins used her power as the first woman cabinet member wisely and for the good of the nation's people.

Coggeshall's lecture will take place in the Delano Auditorium on the campus of Maine Maritime Academy. It is free and open to the public. For directions or further information, call us at (207) 326-4118 or email us at admin@castinehistoricalsociety.org.

The Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lectures were begun in 2009 to honor the memory and achievements of Deborah Pulliam. Ms. Pulliam, who died in 2007, was a generous supporter of organizations both in Castine and beyond. She was an active member of the Castine Historical Society, and she served as the editor of *The Castine Visitor* for six years.

Something a Bit Different – Pop-Up Exhibit and Talk

Treasures In Our Own Backyard

Historical societies own a wealth of treasures, many of which are rarely seen due to lack of exhibit space or limited open hours. Even the smallest community on the Blue Hill peninsula has an historical society, but have you visited any of them? We know how busy you are in the summer, so we're hosting a pop-up exhibit and talk in the Mitchell Room to give you a quick snapshot of what's in our own backyard.

The evening of surprises will take place Thursday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. We have invited representatives from the historical societies in Orland, Brooksville, and Penobscot, as well as the staff of the Wilson Museum and ourselves, to create mini-exhibits in the Mitchell Room. These exhibits will consist of unique and seldom-seen items from each organization's collections. Each group will have ten minutes to discuss one fascinating collection piece. After the talks, you will have time to view the exhibits in more detail and ask questions.

We can't wait to see what treasures will appear at this fun, free evening!

eBay Auction Countdown

Paige Lilly

The Historical Society is fortunate to have a small annual budget for purchasing unique or rare items. As some of you may know, it's amazing how many great Castine documents, photographs, artifacts, and ephemera show up at the online auction website eBay. It's fun to bid, though sometimes frustrating—and at a collecting institution there is always legwork to be done before placing a bid.

The first step is searching to see what is out there. The stereoview shown here appeared on eBay in early May. Sally Foote, Honorary Member of the Historical Society Board of Directors and longtime volunteer curator, monitors eBay regularly. When Sally finds items we might need for the collection, she sends email notes to the current curator. Sally's searching is very helpful. (You are all invited to contact me if you see historic Castine materials in any auction or at a dealer's shop or in your neighbor's attic . . .)



Recently purchased stereo card of a view of Main Street, Castine

The second step is noting the price and end date for the auction. Occasionally it's obvious right away that the minimum bid is too high for us, or we may not have enough time to decide.

Then we move on to the research. If the item is historic and rare but not unique, then I check both cataloged and uncataloged collections in case the Historical Society already owns it. If it is a letter, ledger, or family photograph, the research is about the family, business or recipient: do we know them, does the Historical Society own similar business letters, is the family in the image identified? I might send a question to the seller if the item is an envelope described as a "stampless cover" with no indication of a letter inside the envelope (the "cover"). If the item is a postcard or map, do we have the same or a similar view, or perhaps a different printing? If the postcard was mailed, is either the sender or recipient from Castine?

All these factors contribute to the decisions that come next. Do we want to bid and how much is it worth to us? A "stampless cover" containing a letter might be worth \$100 to a collector of hand-cancelled envelopes but only half as much to an historical society that owns a similar note about family health from one cousin in Castine to another cousin in Orrington. However, a long letter sent in 1851 from a "Mary" in Castine to a "Mary" in Boston inside a "stampless cover cds" (city/date stamp) made higher bidding worthwhile. The bidding started low, and we won the auction against a single bidder who stopped at \$21.09.



Detail, "View of Main Street from Water Street,"
stereographer George E. Collins, with photo
manipulation for clarity

After a search through the photographs collection, it was clear we did not have this stereoview of lower Main Street. We do have images of that area of Castine in the same time period, but the Historical Society did not have a view from that camera angle and not in stereo. The seller set the minimum bid at \$49.99, high in our experience, but we set a higher bid. Our bid was challenged by a single bidder who stopped at \$55.

Stereoviews are 3D cards viewed through special lenses with the card placed near the viewer. The two photographs on the card were taken from slightly different angles, and the lenses help our brains to overlay the images and see one image with added depth. In 3D, the contour of Main Street toward the photographer on Water Street is palpable, the fences and stairs between McCloskey's and the drug store make sense, and the horses seem about to move.

The Historical Society collection includes about 150 stereoviews. Please be in touch if you would like to schedule an hour of viewing historic Castine, circa 1870, in 3D.

Become a Member of the Castine Historical Society!

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

☐ New Membership

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☐ 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

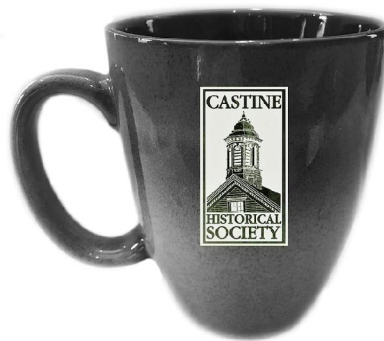
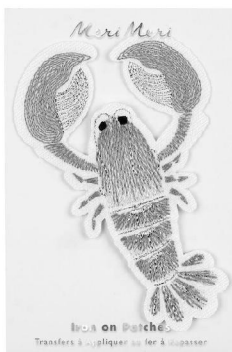
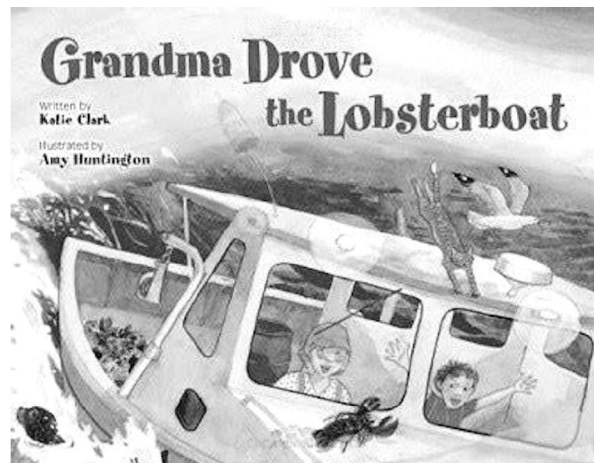
Thank you for joining the Castine Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Welcome to the Castine Historical Society Gift Shop!

Currently located in the corner of the Abbott School exhibit hall, the Historical Society Gift Shop is full of treasures. You can always find a good book about Castine or our exhibits, and there are plenty of caps, aprons, and tea towels to fit easily in your backpack as you walk around town. We often get requests for merchandise, and this summer we have some new items to share including:

- Castine Historical Society mugs
- Castine Historical Society logo fleeces
- Castine postcards (4 different kinds)
- Christmas ornaments
- Children's books

And, of course, we still carry bags, cards, CDs, and a collection of Meri Meri items. You can purchase any of our items either in person, or by going to our online store at www.castinehistoricalsociety.org and selecting "Gift Shop" under "Support." And don't forget that all current members get a 10% discount! Thank you in advance for your purchase, and for bringing the names Castine and Castine Historical Society not only across the state of Maine, but across the country. See you at the Gift Shop!



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Left to right, Louise Giugliano, Lana Gold, Holly Perry, and Jean di Sabatino at Asticou Gardens in Northeast Harbor, Maine. After the Defense of Marriage Act was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 and 2015, these two couples, Lana and Holly and Louise and Jean, were married in Castine. They are featured with the Porter-Dewsons in the 2018 CHS exhibit. *Photograph courtesy of Jean di Sabatino*