

## 2019 Exhibit

### *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*



by Richard M. Ames, guest curator

*This* season you are in for a treat: the Castine Historical Society's exhibit *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*. As you meander through the Abbott School gallery, you will engage with period images, artifacts and firsthand accounts from the 1800s, when Castine-built ships pursued global trading patterns. Those involved were rewarded handsomely, and this period of prosperity is largely responsible for the stately Federal and Greek Revival style architecture for which Castine is so well known.

The exhibit was inspired by my book, *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global*, which will be available for purchase (with all proceeds going to the

*continued on page 6*

Unknown artist, *Ship J. P. Whitney*, watercolor, private collection. The ship *J.P. Whitney* shown leaving Liverpool with the Skerries Lighthouse off the port bow. The ship was built in Castine in 1853 and was named in honor of John Perkins Whitney who was instrumental in establishing the very profitable New Orleans trade connections for Castine merchants. He and his brother Samuel, both of whom were nephews of Captain Henry Whitney of Castine, founded J. P. Whitney & Company of New Orleans. Initially established to import salt-cured fish from Castine, over time the company expanded into the cotton export business and other commercial enterprises. John Perkins Whitney died in New Orleans of scarlet fever in 1848.

# 2019 Calendar of Events

## Thursday, June 20

### Book Discussion Group

4:30 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion in the Abbott School gallery of Richard Ames' *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global*. Purchase in the gift shop or on the website.

## Sunday, June 23

### Open House Reception

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Join the Historical Society as it kicks off the season. View the new exhibits and enjoy light refreshments.

## Tuesdays, June 25, July 23, and August 27

### Exhibit Talks

5:00 p.m.

In this three-part series, Curator Paige Lilly will share insights on different aspects of the exhibit *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*. Abbott School gallery. Light refreshments served.

## Saturdays in July and August

10:00 a.m.

Guided walking tours of historic Castine. Meet in front of the Abbott School.

## Thursday, July 11

### The 11th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

7:00 p.m.

Richard M. Ames, guest curator for this year's exhibit, will give an illustrated talk on his research for the exhibit and accompanying book on Castine's 19th-century square-rigged ships and maritime trade. A book signing will follow. Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine.

## Saturday, July 13

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Sunday, July 14

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### J. McLaughlin Trunk Show

A portion of the proceeds benefit the Historical Society. Held at the Castine Inn. Watch for details on the Historical Society website.

## Friday, July 19

### A Concert of Maritime Music

6:00 p.m.

The Castine Town Band presents an outdoor concert on the Town Common of 19th and 20th century maritime music. The Historical Society's exhibit will be open at 5:00 prior to the concert.

## Monday, July 29

### Summer in Full Bloom Garden Party Fundraiser

Save the date and watch for your invitation in the mail.

## Thursday, August 8

### Cotton's Ocean: Castine and the Antebellum Cotton Trade

7:00 p.m.

Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby will give an illustrated talk on the importance of the cotton trade in Maine before the Civil War and how Castine fit into this world of oceanic commerce. Humanities Lecture Hall, Bath Iron Works Center, Maine Maritime Academy.

## Thursday, August 15

### Book Discussion Group

4:30 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion in the Abbott School gallery of *Letters Home from Sea: The Life and Letters of Solon J. Hanson*. Purchase in the gift shop or on the website.

## Thursday, August 22

### Annual Meeting and Program

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Following the Historical Society's Annual Meeting, Christopher Timm, Curator of Exhibits for the Maine Maritime Museum, will give an illustrated talk on Maine's connections with the Caribbean. Light refreshments will be served. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 86 Court St, Castine.

*Exhibits and programs free of charge. For information visit [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)*

## Abbott School Exhibits (17 School Street)

June 10 – September 2

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 – 4 p.m.

September 6 – October 14

Fri, Sat., and Mon. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 – 4 p.m.

### *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*

### *The Penobscot Expedition of 1779: Making Revolutionary History*

### *The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt*

## Grindle House (13 School St)

Open July – August,

Tuesday and Thursday, 10 – 4,  
and by chance other days.  
Reading Room and Exhibit Parlor  
with *More Risky Business* featuring  
maritime art and stories.

## Virtual History Tour of Castine

Visit [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/castine-virtual-tour](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/castine-virtual-tour) to download the app or access the web version.

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 Castine Historical Society as a benefit of membership.*

Karen V. Lyons, Editor





## Executive Director's Letter

# A View From The Common

*This* winter was amazingly busy for the staff, board, and volunteers as we prepared for this season's exhibit, *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*. The exhibit, which because of its complexity and scale will run for this season and next, grew out of the research and writing of Richard M. Ames, a long-time Historical Society member.

Curating an exhibit is not easy or quick. The story of unavoidable risk factors in Castine's remarkable 19th century maritime trade emerged as the focus of this exhibit. Three years ago, intern Sarah Laventure helped draft the overarching framework for moving Richard's work from the page to the walls. Last year, working with intern Hannah Kintzel, we conducted extensive research in our archives looking for stories, documents, and artifacts related to the exhibit.

Then followed the hard job of developing the storyline and selecting items for display. We have borrowed paintings, ship models, and archives from museums and private collections throughout New England. Of course, we also tapped into our own excellent collection for display.

The design is another crucial aspect to curating an exhibit. For this project, we hired exhibit designer, Cipperly Good of

C.A. Good Museum Services to lead us in the task. Exhibits are carefully designed so that the story unfolds as visitors flow through the room. We place items in strategic locations and even thoughtfully choose wall colors and fonts to support the exhibit's theme. No detail goes untouched!

In the process of designing the exhibit, we worked with Richard and a Maine-based publishing house to edit, design, and print his book, *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global*. The publication project involved editing and proof-reading, seeking photo permissions from around the world, indexing, and approving the design. We are all excited to see Richard's work come to fruition.

Through it all, Richard has been an ideal guest curator and collaborator. His book will be an excellent resource for scholars and people who want to learn more about Castine's shipbuilding and international maritime trade. Richard's help on the exhibit has been enormous, and we can't thank him enough for his work over the past few years.

Exhibits are all about teamwork, and we hope you will enjoy the fruits of these efforts!

— *Lisa Simpson Lutz*

## A Note from Our New *Castine Visitor* Editor, Karen V. Lyons

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience of being a docent at the Castine Historical Society for the last two years and am honored and excited to volunteer as your newsletter editor. Despite my 30 years as a professor and administrator, this position will present some challenges, as my husband, Bill, and I have been year-round Castine residents for only 3 years and still have much to learn about the history and families of our wonderful community. I am looking forward to delving into many areas in more depth and to meeting more of you as I do. If you have an idea for an article, please feel free to contact me at karenlyons92348@yahoo.com.







Saturday morning walking tour

## The Rewards of Volunteering

*Last* season we had many new and returning volunteers working from June through mid-October. We are so grateful to everyone who gave of their times and talents! Volunteers provide an invaluable service to the Historical Society. In return, volunteers meet new people, learn more about Castine's history, and give back to the community.

We are always looking for new volunteers to be docents in the Abbott School or guides for our Saturday morning walking tours. How much time do you need to give to be a docent or walking tour guide? We're flexible and can work around your schedule and your desired time commitment!

Our Abbott School docents work a three-hour morning or afternoon shift. During this time you welcome visitors and give them a brief orientation to the exhibits, sell gift shop items, and answer questions about other things to do in Castine. You don't need to know in-depth history of Castine or of the exhibits. We have several training sessions for our volunteers throughout the season as well as a Docent Training Manual. An experienced docent will serve as a mentor to guide you through your first few sessions.

We are also looking for new guides for our walking tours. These guides take visitors on hour-long walking tours of the town on Saturday mornings in July and August, or when groups schedule ahead for a special tour. To help you learn the tour, we have a script you can use and you can train with an experienced guide who is giving a tour.

All volunteers will be invited to a reception at the Castine Yacht Club on August 7th. Last year's event was great fun, and we look forward to thanking our hardworking volunteers again.



### Join Us!

If you're interested in being a docent, please email Docent Coordinator, Alice Alston at [alston@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:alston@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) or call her at (207) 326-8432.

If you would like to be a walking tour guide, email Lisa Simpson Lutts at [director@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@castinehistoricalsociety.org) or call her at (207) 326-4118.

**Thanks for your consideration!**

# The Duff Endowment – Making a Difference

by Paige Lilly

*In* 2001, the Castine Historical Society received several large checks from the Estate of Elizabeth “Betty” Jean Duff. The bequest, a quarter of her money after the bills were paid and the house near Wadsworth Cove sold, totaled over \$110,000. Betty specifically intended the funds “to use first for the provision of a suitable headquarters and then to use to catalog and house its collections.” She was actively involved in the Historical Society as committee chair and Board member, serving as president twice in the 1980s. Planned giving at its best!

Betty signed her will in 1993, pre-dating the capital campaign to purchase and renovate the Abbott School. The Historical Society secured the gift as a restricted endowment fund and uses the investment income for projects related to the historical collections. For example, we purchased the two hand-drawn and illustrated maps that once belonged to Commodore Dudley Saltonstall of Revolutionary War and Penobscot Expedition fame. Betty’s funds were combined with generous donations from Historical Society members to make this purchase happen. Her money has also been used to buy secure exhibition cases for safe display of loaned and Historical Society collections for seasonal exhibits.

Some readers may not have known Betty or her background, and we’re delighted to introduce you to her while bringing back memories for those who knew her well. In the 1960s, her parents built a house in Castine and retired here from Greenwich, Connecticut. Betty, whose father had emigrated from Scotland, grew up in Connecticut and graduated from Columbia University. She was in the midst of a successful career as a copywriter and director in New York City when her father became ill. So Betty moved to Castine to care for him, stayed longer to care for her mother as well, and never did return to her city life and career.

In over twenty years of life in Castine, including thirteen years as Town Clerk, Betty applied her energy and intellectual curiosity to Castine community life. She researched and wrote histories for the churches and lighthouse among other historic sites. The Garden Club and Historical Society welcomed her volunteer participation. She also served as chair of the 1996 town bicentennial planning committee and both wrote and directed a reenactment of the first Castine town meeting.

As Bob Dick said of her after her death, “those few stark facts tell us nothing of the real Betty.” She was independent, strong-



Betty Duff, with her nephew Eric Duff, attending an event at the 1996 Castine bicentennial celebration

willed, efficient, smart, and funny as well as devoted and compassionate. Here’s former town manager Joe Slocum on the subject in the *Castine Patriot* January 21, 1999:

*She had announced her retirement before my first day on the job. When I walked in to introduce myself to her, there were two gentlemen transacting some business. After I said my name she looked me sharply in the eye and said, “I want you to know right now, I won’t type a darn thing for you.” With that she turned her back to me and went about her business. Knowing that town managers are about as welcome as skunks at a lawn party, I said, “Well, at least you haven’t lost your sense of humor.” I swear to God the two men ran out*

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## *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*

Witherle Wharf, c. 1873, photograph courtesy New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. The building adjacent to Witherle Wharf displays signs for Wm. B. Mograge Sail Maker and W. H. Witherle Fishing Outfits. Castine's waterfront was teeming with activity with a dozen wharfs lining a half-mile stretch. Along the harbor there were active shipbuilding yards and auxiliary businesses. W. H. Witherle's firm was a major importer and supplier of salt for the fishing fleet. It is likely that the barrels in the photograph are filled with salt destined for the fishing fleet. The other business depicted in the photograph is the sailmaking firm owned by the Mograge family, one of two such companies at the time in Castine.

Castine Historical Society) for those who desire additional details of this fascinating period of Castine's history.

Pondering what sparked my interest in Castine's maritime history, I recall fond memories of summers in Castine with frequent visits to the Whitney house which was built in 1810 for Captain Henry Whitney and his wife, Lucy Perkins Whitney. This stately home on Castine's Town Common passed down through the generations, daughter to daughter, and was owned by my grandmother, Harriet Hatch Ames. The house was well-loved and remained filled with the possessions and memories of multiple generations. Great-uncle Frank (Francis Whiting Hatch), who could spin a yarn with the best of them, stopped by for his daily visits, and after back-garden searches for stray golf balls, we wandered from room to room through the house. Paintings, furniture and knickknacks became the stimulus for fascinating tales of family history. The portraits of ships particularly captured my attention. There was something

alluring about the sun reflecting off the square-rigged sails, the colorful flags flapping in the breeze and the tiny figures standing on deck preparing for arrival at a distant port.

This fascination with full-rigged ships and our family's connection with them led to the years of research that resulted in the book. I was very fortunate to have original documents and first person accounts carefully preserved by previous generations. In addition, the expanding availability of historical content on the internet provided abundant material.

*Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish* relates stories of people and ships from Castine that contributed to a young America coming onto the global stage. You will learn that romanticized portraits of ships calmly sailing in untroubled waters were a depiction of the exception rather than the rule. Operating these ships was arduous and risky work, and these majestic vessels were buffeted not only by weather but also by



This photograph taken in 1852 shows little Johnnie Perkins Whiting with his mother Frances Whitney Whiting. The photograph was taken while they were traveling on board ship with Frances' husband, Captain Leonard Whiting. Marriage to a ship captain was a lonely life. Castine-based ship captains were typically away at sea for ten to eleven months at a time before returning home late in the year for a few short weeks with their families. This way of life posed a difficult dilemma – travel together with the family and be exposed to the difficulties and risks of a life at sea or tolerate being separated for most of the year. Frances chose to travel with her husband Captain Whiting, even bringing their toddler on board. By all accounts little Johnnie was delighted with his sea voyage!

powerful political and economic forces. However, the resolute men and women of Castine were equal to the challenge and prospered despite the hardships that confronted them.

So, I encourage you to pay a visit to the Castine Historical Society and take in the exhibit, which will be up for two seasons. You will come away with a new-found appreciation for Castine's resolute souls of the 19th century and the ships that carried them across the globe.

#### THIS EXHIBIT IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

Majabigwaduce Chapter  
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Brooksville, Maine

•  
Maine Humanities Council

•  
Thomas Adams and Nancy Marto

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## Collections Corner

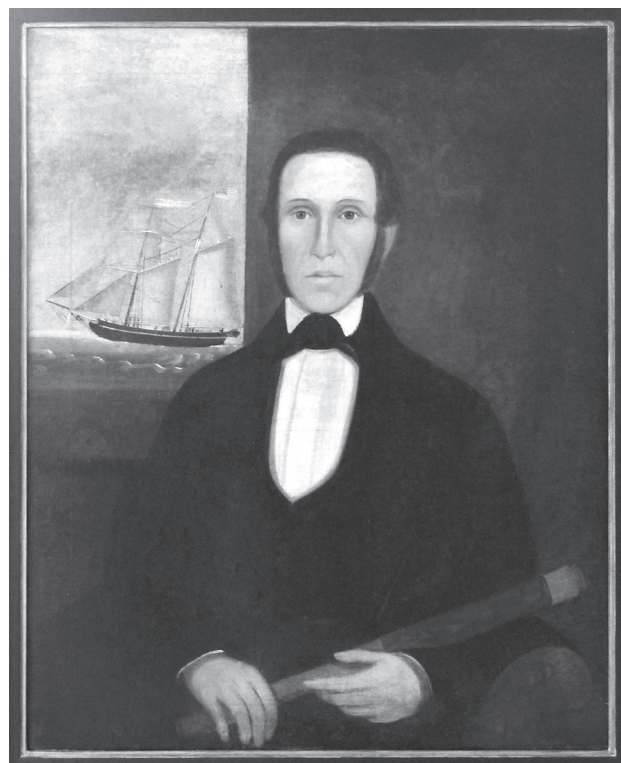
*of the room and out of the building. I immediately thought she must be packing a gun or something so I was careful to keep an eye on her hands. Months later I would realize she was packing something all right. She was packing a strong, solid sense of Duff. . .*

Joe went on to tell more stories of Betty's personality:

*As Town Clerk, Betty had a most unique style. She not only organized the protocol and took minutes of our meetings, she was also often the main speaker. She freely jumped into every debate. She always did things and said things that I as town manager would be afraid to say or do.*

He even described Betty's stance as an off-neck resident. Apparently, she inserted the subject wherever possible in town business. For example, "when sidewalks were proposed, Betty wondered out loud where we'd put them off-neck."

Betty Duff's generosity and devotion to Castine history lives on. A few years ago, the Historical Society used income from her bequest to purchase and conserve the portrait of Captain Jefferson Devereux which will be on display in the Grindle House this season. He was a mariner and family man who lived in a modest cape off-neck. We think Betty would be pleased.

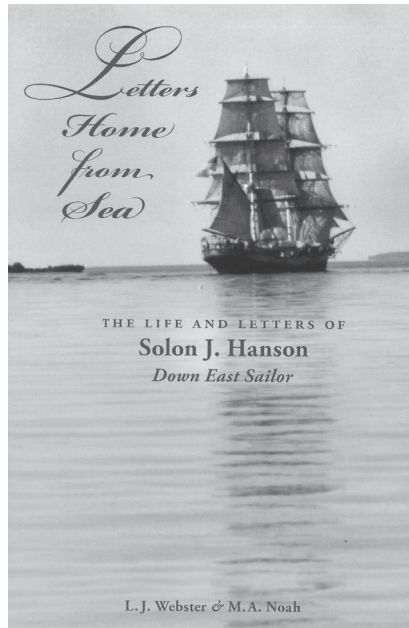
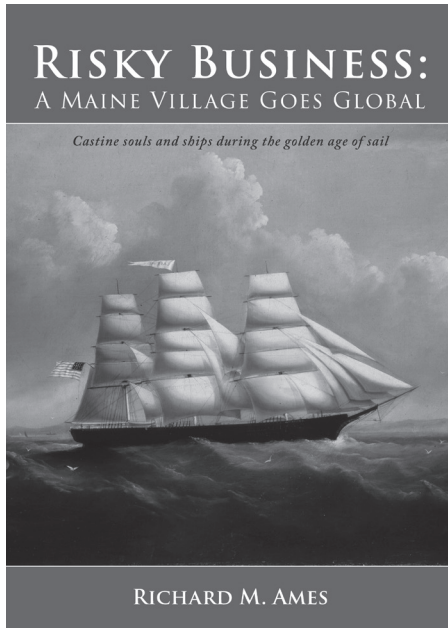


Captain Jefferson Devereux, depicted in the late 1830s with his schooner *John Murray* in the background.



# Maritime Castine and Maine Lecture and Learning Series

This year's exhibit provides ample opportunities for you to delve deeper into many topics the exhibit and its accompanying book only touch upon. All events are free.



## Exhibit Book Discussion Group

Abbott School Gallery  
Thursdays, June 20 and August 15  
4:30 p.m.

New this year are two book discussion groups to help you expand your knowledge about Castine's maritime past. In June we will discuss Richard M. Ames' *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global*. In August, we will discuss Lucy Jane Webster and Meg Noah's *Letters Home from Sea: The Life and Letters of Solon J. Hanson*. Both books are available for sale in the Historical Society's gift shop or on our website at [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org).

## The 11th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall on the campus of Maine Maritime Academy  
Thursday, July 11 • 7:00 p.m



Richard M. Ames

Richard M. Ames, guest curator and author of *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global* will present his research into ships built at Castine. The talk will highlight the voyages, people, and risks involved in Castine's 19th century global trade. As a youngster, Richard spent summers in Castine at the Whitney House, built in 1810 by his 3rd great-grandparents, Captain Henry and Lucy Whiting Whitney. During these visits and while talking to family members, he became fascinated by his family's deep ties to the period of maritime trade which brought Castine considerable prosperity.

Richard and his wife, Laura, have three grown children and spend their time between Kiawah Island, S. C. and Highlands, N. C. and visit Castine in the summer. Richard has previously written articles on family history published in *The Castine Visitor*. His new book will be available for sale with a book signing following his presentation.

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

For detailed directions  
and map visit  
[www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)



## Cotton's Ocean: Castine and the Antebellum Cotton Trade

Humanities Lecture Hall, Bath Iron Works Center  
Maine Maritime Academy  
Thursday, August 8 • 7:00 p.m.



Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby

Like many Maine maritime communities, Castine had deep mercantile ties with the south before the Civil War. Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby will give an illustrated talk about how the trans-Atlantic cotton trade helped Maine's shipbuilding and ship-owning industries flourish before the Civil War and how Castine fit into this world of oceanic commerce.

Dr. Hornsby is Director of the Canadian-American Center and Professor of Geography and Canadian Studies at the University of Maine. He is the author and co-editor of several prize-winning books, including the *Historical Atlas of Maine*. Dr. Hornsby's books will be available for sale at the lecture. A book signing courtesy of Compass Rose Books will follow his talk.

For detailed directions and map visit [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)

## Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program Maine and the Caribbean: A Plantation? A Paradise?

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 86 Court Street  
Thursday, August 22 • 4:00 p.m.



Christopher Timm, Curator of Exhibits,  
Maine Maritime Museum

The 2019 Annual Meeting and Program is open to the public. The event begins with a brief member meeting to share committee reports and elect new officers and members to the Board of Directors.

After the business meeting, guest speaker Christopher Timm, Curator of Exhibits at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, will give an illustrated talk on how Mainers have long traded with, fought over, and traveled to the Caribbean. He will look at the role of Maine's ships and mariners and how our view of the region changed over time. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.



# New Additions to the Castine Historical Society Gift Shop!

by Angela Bonacasa

With a new exhibit comes new merchandise! In addition to many of the items associated with the town of Castine as well as our previous exhibits, you can now purchase new maritime-themed items associated with our 2019-2020 exhibit including:

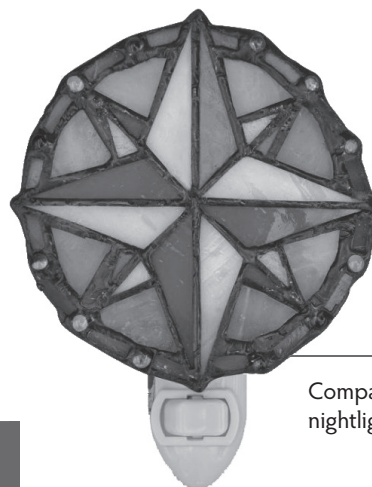
- Sextant and telescope keychains
- Cutting boards featuring maps of Castine
- Compass rose nightlights
- Castine map table runners, trivets, placemats, and coasters

In addition to our extensive selection of new maritime history books, we are excited to announce that you can purchase *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global*, at our gift shop. Written by Richard M. Ames, the book and its information inspired the exhibit *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish* and is a wonderful companion to the information included in the exhibit.

And, of course, we still carry bags, clothing, CDs, and a collection of Meri Meri items.

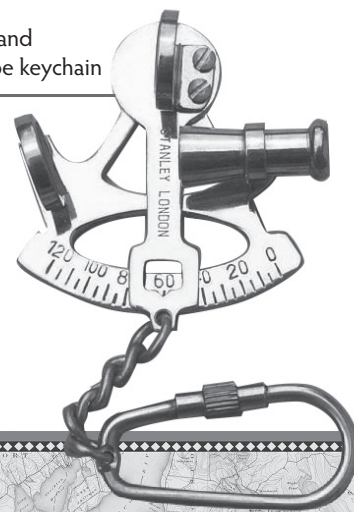
Any of our items can be purchased either in person beginning June 10, or by going to our online store at [www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org) select "Support" then "Gift Shop."

*And don't forget that all current members receive a 10% discount!*

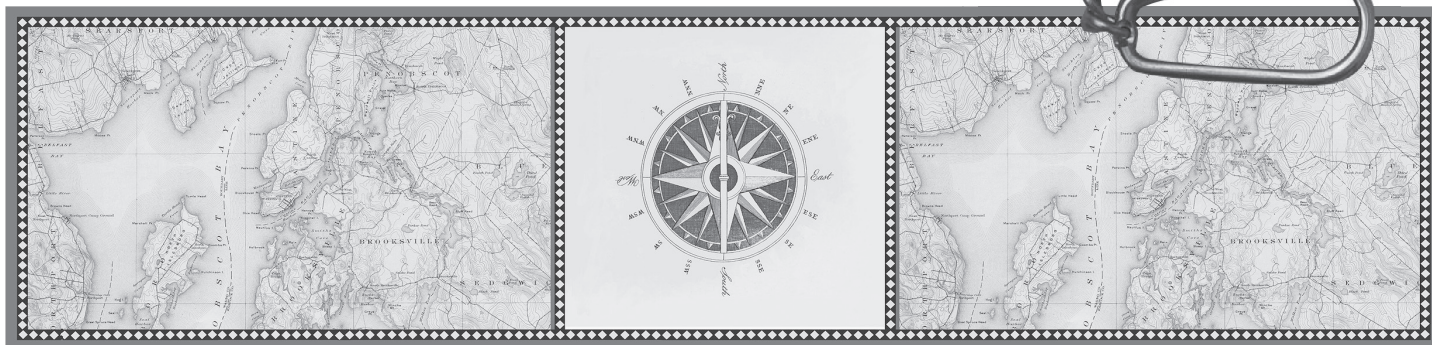
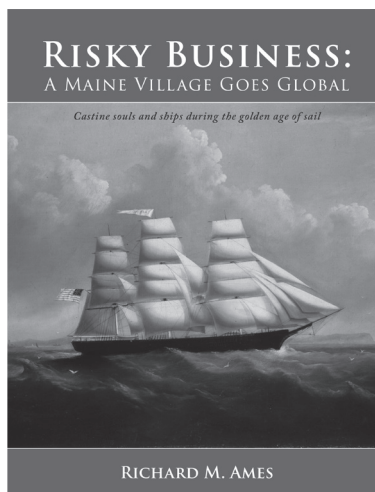


Compass rose  
nightlight

Sextant and  
telescope keychain



Castine Historical  
Society cap



Castine map table runner



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**New Members:**

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## Become a Member of the Castine Historical Society!

☐ New Membership    ☐ Renew my membership    ☐ Gift membership

Name (as it should appear on the mailing list)

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Membership Level: ☐ Individual • \$25    ☐ Family • \$40    ☐ Sustaining • \$60  
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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.

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



Castine Historical Society

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[www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)

Study portrait made in preparation for full portrait of Thomas Adams, c. 1835, artist unknown. The painting is lent to the exhibit by his great, great grandson, Thomas H. Adams, III and his wife Nancy Marto. Thomas Adams (1783-1847) owned half the shares of the Castine-built ship *Canova*, credited with making the first fish-cotton-salt triangular voyage in 1823-24. Thomas Adams first came to Castine in 1802 and quickly went into business. He was an importer of salt and other goods with a store on Water Street and a wharf on the harbor. In addition to being a managing owner of square-rigged cargo ships, he also involved himself heavily in Castine's extensive fisheries.