

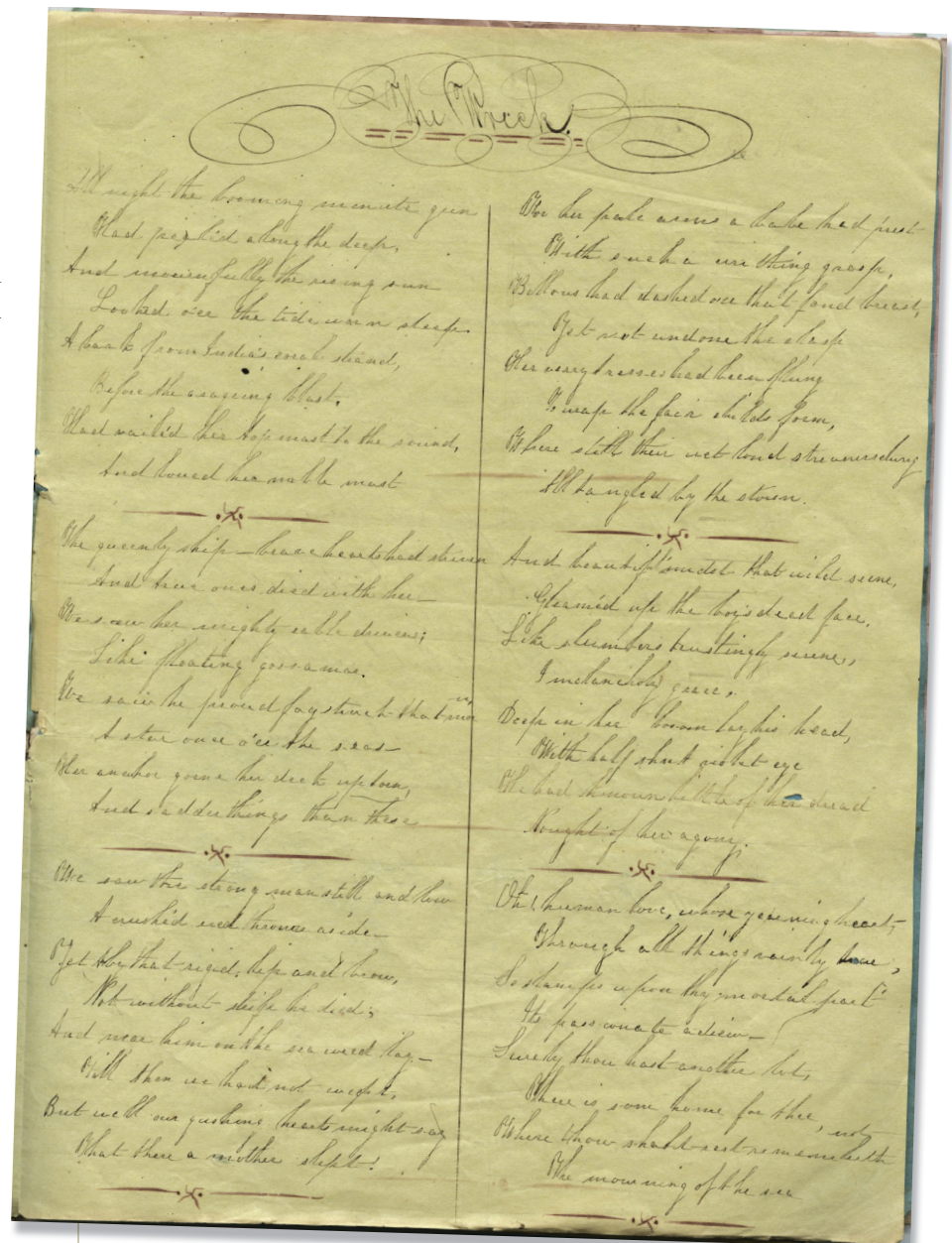
## Frances and Felicia: Poetry Spans the Atlantic Ocean

by Paige S. Lilly and Karen V. Lyons

All business in Castine is done  
And my Papa will soon be home  
How glad Mama and I shall be  
My dear Papa once more to see

So begins a children's poem of seven stanzas signed S.R.W. It emerged with several like it from a collection of papers passed down in the Whiting family of Surry, Ellsworth, and Castine, Maine. Saved with these loose pages of manuscript poems was a sheath of colorful papers full of popular early 19th century poetry copied by fourteen-year-old Frances Whitney, a young woman born in Castine in 1823.

Among the few women featured in the Historical Society's current exhibit, *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*, Frances Whitney Whiting (1823-1896) stands out. The exhibit and companion book focus on Castine's booming maritime industries of the early to mid-nineteenth century and the many risk factors affecting all involved. The daughter, granddaughter, and wife of ship captains, shipbuilders, and shipping merchants, Frances went to sea with her husband, Captain Leonard Whiting, and sent home a series of letters from ports of call in New Orleans, Liverpool, and Trieste. Her letters, printed in full as part of *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global* by her descendant Richard M. Ames, record daily life aboard a merchant ship and the cares of women at sea.



"The Wreck" as copied by Frances A. Whitney in her Piece Work, 1837, loaned to the Historical Society by the Hatch Family.

# 2020 Calendar of Events

Visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) for up-to-date information related to COVID-19 restrictions that may force us to cancel events or limit numbers in attendance. We will establish a reservation system for indoor programs and we hope to film events for home viewing. All events are free and take place in the Castine Historical Society's Abbott School unless otherwise noted.

## Opening Date To Be Determined *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*

This 2020 Maine Bicentennial exhibit invites visitors to step back in time to the 1800s when Castine's working waterfront thrived on a global market. View a virtual tour at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).

## Saturdays, July 11 – August 29 Walking Tours of Castine 10:00 a.m.

Meet your guide in front of the Abbott School gallery to take an hour-long history tour. Tours at other times may be arranged with advanced notice and subject to guide availability.

## POSTPONED to July 22, 2021 Castine House and Garden Tour 2021 Save the date for next year's Castine House & Garden Tour!

## Tuesday, August 4 Maine's Mid-Century Moment: Castine's Katharine Butler Hathaway, Author of *The Little Locksmith* 7:00 p.m.

UMA Professor of English Lisa Botshon will moderate a discussion on Castine resident Katharine Butler Hathaway's best selling 1943 memoir *The Little Locksmith*. Chris Austin, Hathaway's grand nephew and Dr. Abby Clouse-Radigan will provide context for Hathaway's life and work. This program is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Reservations will be taken for this event with limited numbers being able to attend. Mitchell Room of the Abbott School.

## Thursday, August 6 Maritime Music Concert with Castlebay 7:00 p.m.

An evening of traditional Maine seafaring songs will be performed by Castlebay including those written by Castine sailor Amos Hanson. Reservations will be taken for this event with limited numbers being able to attend. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House at 86 Court Street, Castine.

## NEW DATE: Tuesday, August 11 The 12th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture 7:00 p.m.

Noted maritime historian and author Lincoln Paine will deliver a lecture entitled, "Perfected Visions of the Past: Maritime Maine in 2020 Hindsight." Reservations will be taken for this event with limited numbers being able to attend. Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall on the campus of Maine Maritime Academy, Castine.

## Thursday, August 20 Annual Meeting and Program 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Following a brief business meeting, Maine Maritime Academy professor, Captain Richard F. Miller will present a talk entitled "The Square-Rigged Ship: Form & Function – Then and Now." Reservations will be taken for this event with limited numbers being able to attend. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House at 86 Court Street, Castine.

## Abbott School Exhibits (17 School Street)

Opening day, along with days and hours open, to be determined. Please watch the website and Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

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

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

### *The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt*

## Grindle House Exhibits (13 School St)

Opening day, along with days and hours open, to be determined. Please watch the website and Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Reading Room and Exhibit Parlor with *More Risky Business* featuring maritime art and stories.

## Virtual History Tour of Castine

To download the app or access the web version of the tour, visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). Go to the "Visit" drop down button and click on Castine Virtual Tour.

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

*Six* months ago could any of us have conceived of this tumultuous time? Now in mid-May, the staff are on week nine working from home. During weekly virtual staff and emergency committee meetings, we juggle uncertainties: when should we open for the season? when we do open what will it be like? should we postpone and reschedule more events?

Despite the uncertainties, we are working hard on projects. To do so, like you we've learned the intricacies of virtual meeting platforms like Zoom. Like you, we strive to keep our cats from photo bombing meetings and have learned where the mute button is when our dogs bark!

We wish we had a definitive answer about the season, but at this point we have only a vague notion of when we might open. We are tentatively looking at early July, but so much is out of our hands. To keep up to date on opening day as well as program date changes, please continue to check our website at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). Please rest assured the health of our visitors, volunteers, and staff is paramount.

As I said, work projects continue. As the community's historical society, the first thing we did before the stay-at-home order was put in place was to check our collection to see what was happening in Castine during the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic. Sadly, we found very little in the collection. The Town Reports mention schools being closed for six weeks. Below you will see an excerpt from the Unitarian Universalists' Annual Meeting notes referring to services being held rarely in Fall 1918. Not much for such a major event in Castine and the country!

With that in mind and with your help, we are documenting the COVID-19 pandemic as it happens. If you are living in Castine as either a full-time or summer resident, or are a summer resident grappling with the issues of when or if to come, we hope you will help us create a collection of local history during this world-wide event.



Please take the time to record the impact of COVID-19 on your life and on the Castine community. In the midst of isolation, illness, grief, anger, and economic stress, we hope this project could serve as something positive while providing for the future historic record.

We seek many kinds of donations including your diaries, songs, photography, poetry, artwork, emails, letters, or even stream-of-consciousness writing on Facebook. We also seek information about closings, cancellations, and related material from organizations and businesses in town.

Our goal is to collect and archive the community's observations, activities, and thoughts. Your donations will be catalogued and archived so future generations will benefit from your collective experiences and wisdom. If requested, public use of your donated material will be restricted for 15 years and/or any names may be redacted for privacy.

To make a donation or to ask further questions, please contact our curator, Paige Lilly, at [curator@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@castinehistoricalsociety.org) or leave her a message at (207) 326-4118 ext. 11. We thank you for helping us document and preserve history for Castine's future.

In closing, we hope that you and your family are well. We are eagerly looking forward to the day when we can welcome you all back to the Historical Society! Until then, please know we are thinking of you all.

Mr. Muder left the first of Oct. sending the Rev. Geo. T. Jones to fill out the rest of Oct. Owing to a quarantine he only preached two Sundays and a very few heard him.

**Frances Whitney's Transcription of  
"The Wreck" by Felicia Hemans**

All night the booming minute gun  
Had peeled along the deep,  
And mournfully the rising sun  
Looked o'er the tide worn steep.  
A bark from India's coral strand,  
Before the raging blast,  
Had nailed her topmast to the sound,  
And bowed her noble mast.

The queenly ship – brave hearts had striven  
And true ones died with her –  
We saw her mighty cable [riven]:  
Like floating gossamer.  
We saw the proud flag struck that morn  
A star once o'er the seas –  
The anchor gone her deck upturn  
And sadder things than these.

[ *missing stanza* ]

We saw the strong man still and low  
A crush'd seed thrown aside  
Yet by that rigid lip and brow  
Not without strife he died;  
And near him on the sea weed bay -  
Till then we had not wept,  
But well our gushing hearts might say  
That there a mother slept.

For her pale arms a babe had prest [sic]  
With such a writhing grasp,  
Billows had dashed o'er that fond breast –  
Yet not undone the clasp  
Her very tresses had been flung  
To wrap the fair child's form,  
These still their wet long streamers clung  
All tangled by the storm.

And beautiful midst that wild scene  
Gleamed up the boy's dead face,  
Like slumber's trustingly serene,  
In melancholy grace,  
Deep in her bosom lay his head,  
With half shut violet eye  
He had known little of her dread  
Nought [sic] of her agony.

Oh! human love, whose yearning heart-  
Through all things vainly true  
So stamps upon thy mortal part  
Its passionate adieu –  
Surely thou hast another lot  
There is some home for thee,  
Where thou shalt rest remembereth [not]  
The mourning of the sea.

**continued from page 1**

## Frances and Felicia: Poetry Spans the Atlantic Ocean

The ninth of eleven children born to Lucy Perkins Whitney and Captain Henry Whitney, Frances grew up in the State of Maine. All her older siblings, aged three to fifteen when Frances arrived, were born in the District of Maine in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before Maine achieved statehood in March 1820. While this fact meant little to children living in a large house on the Town Common in Castine, the benefits of Maine statehood impacted their lives in several ways and significantly in their education.

Like many Maine cities and towns, Castine invested in public education early in the 19th century, opening several primary district schools before Frances was born. Massachusetts law mandated public schooling, and Maine law in 1821 added a requirement that each town raise no less than .40 per capita to support a system of district schools. In 1802, Castine residents voted to build a schoolhouse on the Town Common. Early records are inconclusive as to where on the Common the school was located, but it might have been on the site of the current Abbott School. Perhaps Frances and her siblings attended a district schoolhouse near their home, or perhaps she was educated privately. In either case, it is evident by her student work and her letter writing in adulthood that she, along with her brothers and sisters, grew up well-educated and widely read.<sup>1</sup>



Frances Whitney Whiting with her son John, c. 1852



In those colorful pages tied together with ribbons, one poem stands out. Its subjects, a shipwreck and the tragedy of death, loomed large in the minds of seafaring families. Frances may have copied Felicia Hemans' "The Wreck" at the behest of her teacher, though she omitted a stanza and changed some wording and punctuation, why, we have no idea. To explore the reason she chose this poem, we must examine Hemans' writings and her place in the context of the poetry of the 19th century in both America and Britain.

Felicia Hemans was an English poet whose work was extremely popular throughout the 19th century and into the 20th in England and the United States, though many of us may not have heard of her as her popularity faded after World War II. Her work was resurrected in the late 20th and the early 21st centuries when feminist scholars became interested in uncovering women Romantic poets. Hemans was a contemporary of Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, and Lord Byron, the latter of whom influenced her strongly, and her poems were widely accepted favorites, particularly among women. She often dealt with the status of women in the household, though some of her more famous works, such as her best-known poem, "Casabianca," and "The Wreck," deal with tragic circumstances. Hemans' work was often required reading for young women as instructive, whether as guidelines for behavior or as warnings of tragic possibilities.

Artistically, Hemans' poetry fits into the Romantic sensibility, which rejected the tight forms of the Neo-classical period. The poets forsook the heroic couplets which followed the form of such works as Pope's translation of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and turned to freer forms, though sonnets continued to be popular, as was rhyming. However, in terms of subject matter, her poetry was decidedly not that of many Romantic poets, who glorified nature and freedom. While she did not ignore those topics, she often focused on women's lives, which is not surprising, as Mary Wollstonecraft had published *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* in 1792, and women novelists such as Ann Radcliffe were forging their way into a realm previously held by men. Yet Jane Austen's novels published in her lifetime, beginning with *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811, were authored by "A Lady". Only after her death in 1817 did her brother announce her identity. As late as mid-century, Charlotte Brontë and her sisters, Anne and Emily, published under male pseudonyms. That Hemans published under her own name was courageous, to say the least.

Critics have interpreted Hemans' poetry in diametrically opposed ways. While some see it as celebrating the woman's place in the home, raising the family and supporting her husband, others have suggested that her poetry contradicts that notion. The latter critics have focused on Hemans' lifestyle and behavior. A precocious child whose mother believed girls should be highly educated, Hemans spoke several languages, read voraciously, and devoured Shakespeare. She was fourteen when



Felicia Hemans in 1828, an engraving by Edward Scriven after a portrait by William E. West.

her first volume of poetry was published. Though she married at seventeen, seven years and five children later her husband left her, so she moved in with her mother in Wales and supported her family by her poetry, quite an extraordinary feat.

Additionally, some people who knew Hemans suggested she was not particularly domestic. Wordsworth said "[s]he was totally ignorant of housewifery, and could as easily have managed the spear of Minerva as her needle."<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, he was sympathetic to and supportive of her, though he disparaged her, as she had to earn money by publishing, and so could not be choosy about her topics. Perhaps her use of everyday subject matter or of tragedies reported in the news of the time is part of what endeared her work to so many readers, though apparently not to Mr. Wordsworth. It was accessible, familiar, though not always comforting, yet artistically pleasing to the ear as well as to the eye.

Hemans' poetry was a bit of an anomaly of its day in Britain, but more so in America. Much early American poetry was religious, until shortly before the Revolutionary War, when it began to turn to patriotism. While this trend is a generalization, nevertheless the Neo-classical age influenced the poets of the colonies only minimally, and the Romantic age flourished later than it did in England in the poetry of Whitman and the Transcendentalists in the mid-1800s. Whitman, Melville, Emerson, Hawthorne, Dickinson, and Thoreau were the main authors of the time now

*continued on page 10*

# Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine – 200 years of Faith in Action

by Reverend Tim Hall



Saturday, July 29, 1820 – A special Ecclesiastical Council, comprised of pastors and delegates from congregational churches in the vicinity of Castine, gathered for the final time since forming on July 20 to investigate conflict within the First Congregational Church. A dissenting faction from the church had testified before the council, listing their grievances regarding the leadership and theology of the Rev. William Mason, the church pastor. They claimed that Rev. Mason was not upholding traditional church doctrine or discipline and sought impartial adjudication from the council. On July 26 the council sent a delegation to meet with Rev. Mason regarding the allegations, but the delegation returned with no comment from the pastor or the church. Since they had no formal authority over the church (in true congregational tradition), the council voted to gather and acknowledge the dissenting members as “a Church of Christ in this town, in due form, according to usage,” and proceeded to examine and receive members from Castine and Penobscot. The council then “gave unto them the right hand of Fellowship, according to usage, and adjourned without delay.”

Such was the birth of the Trinitarian Congregational Society of Castine, a church gathered under traditional (trinitarian) doctrine and congregational polity. The church had no permanent pastor and no home for eight years, when John Crosby was called as the first settled pastor. Until 1829 the society met in Castine’s courthouse (where Witherle Memorial Library now stands). The society purchased land on Main Street and constructed the original church building on its present site, dedicating the building on October 6, 1829. The original building was known as the Second Congregational or First Trinitarian Church for many years.

As Castine and church membership grew, the church building was enlarged and improved. A major reconstruction of the church in 1867 raised the structure by nine feet and added an outstanding spire and a 1,600 pound church bell. In 1890 Sarah Perkins Johnston donated funds for a town clock, and when those funds were accepted at a special town meeting, an “Archback” four-face clock was purchased from E. Howard and Co. of Boston and installed in the steeple base. Additional renovations to the church building were carried out in 1896 and 1991.

While keeping its roots as a Christian congregational church in the reformed tradition, the Main Street Church has for many years

Sanctuary of the Trinitarian Church c. 1890  
prior to major renovations in 1896-97



been a strong “missional” church, supporting Christian outreach and service locally, regionally, and internationally. In 1896 the church formed a “Book and Thimble” club, whose activities helped raise funds for international mission work. Today the Dr. Mary Cushman Circle, named after the daughter of a church minister and a pioneer medical missionary in her own right, continues its efforts in raising funds for local and international service organizations. The church is also active in local food ministries.

In 1906 the church was incorporated by the State of Maine as the Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine. The parish continued as a true community church, absorbing members of the Castine Methodist Chapel in 1943 when that building was demolished. In 1967, when many churches in the area struggled with a shortage of qualified pastors, the church joined Trinity Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine to form the “Interchurch Parish of Castine,” sharing resources and pastors until conditions improved, allowing churches to return to independent operations.

Today the Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine continues its several ministries, serving the community, worshipping God, and following the path of Jesus Christ, loving God and one another in an institution that is 200 years old, but just beginning its joyous and eternal work.

*Details in this article come from church records.*

**For a fascinating look at the history of Castine and its churches, be sure to read *Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches: Four Centuries of Faith in Castine*, by Lynn Hudson Parsons. The book is available in the Castine Historical Society gift shop or from the online gift shop at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).**



# The Online Gift Shop is Open!

by Angela Bonacasa

*Although* our exhibits are closed, the Castine Historical Society online gift shop is still open and processing orders. As usual, we have a wide variety of books to help you brush up on your Castine history. If you have a little extra reading time, perhaps you might explore some of our titles from smaller publishers:

**Scatterings from Offneck:** Journals and letters from author Dorothy Jean Young Smith (March 4, 1916-Jan 17, 2014), who attended Emerson School offneck in North Castine and the Abbott High School on The Common in town, graduating in the Class of 1934.

**Dear Aunt Dorothy: Letters from a Young Soldier to his Great Aunt.** Blake Sabine's Letters to Aunt Dorothy chronicle three years of faithful correspondence from a young nephew serving in the Army during WWII to his great aunt in Castine, Maine.

**From Out of the Past:** In 1996, Ashley Joseph Webster (July 12, 1908 - January 4, 2009) and one of his grandsons, David Loble, co-authored "From Out of the Past Speaks Morse's Cove," which chronicles their family and Castine area history.

**Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global:** Richard M. Ames' excellent study on the maritime economy of Castine in the 19th century.

While you read, keep the kids entertained with some of our Meri Meri party items or a puzzle. Or purchase a box of our Abbott School cards and have the whole family write and send cards to extended family and friends—all while supporting the US Postal Service. Have you been to our gift shop before? Then check out our Castine market bags and lobster dish towels, the newest additions to the shop.

In these times when we may feel adrift, let us help you stay connected to Castine. Whether it is a book about Castine's history, an item designed by a Castine resident, or a product related to an exhibit, we are happy to send you something from our little corner of the common. We can help keep Castine on your mind until you can be here in person—which will hopefully be soon!

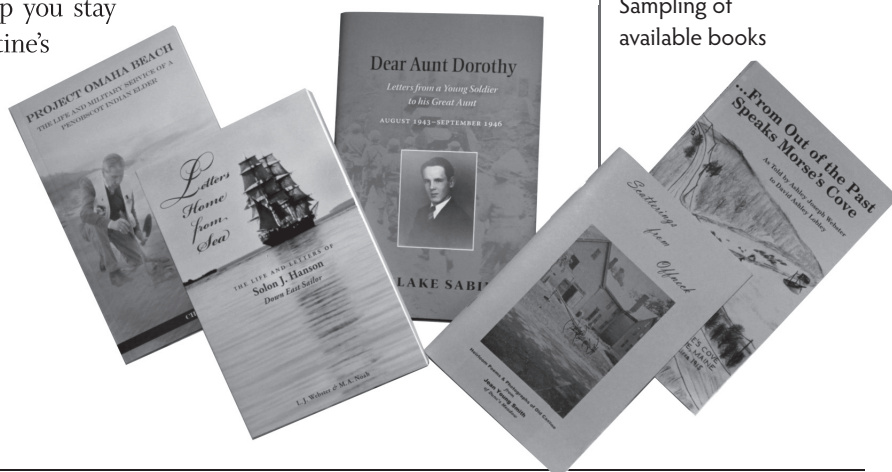
To visit the online gift shop, go to our homepage at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org), click on the Support button, and look for the gift shop tab.



Castine bag and towels



Meri Meri party supplies



Sampling of available books

# Maritime Castine and Maine Lecture and Learning Series

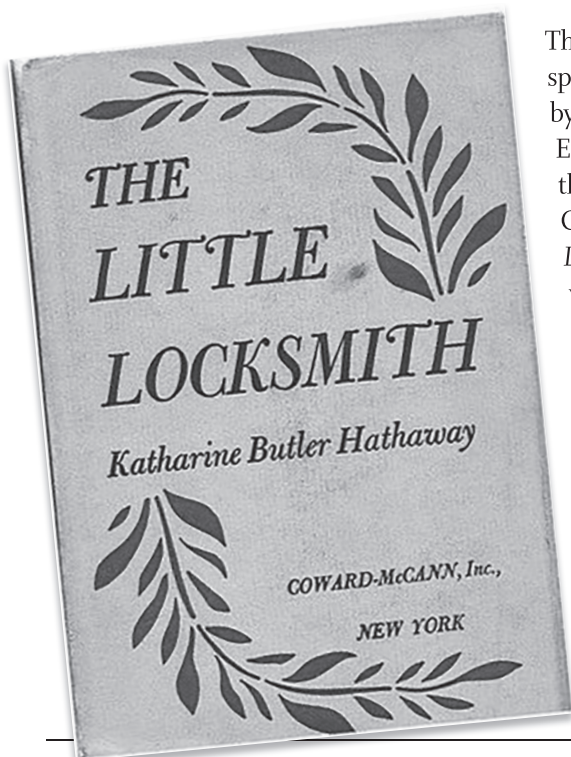
*Due* to the recent COVID-19 crisis, all programs are subject to postponement, cancellation, or limiting numbers in attendance with a reservation system. Please call us at 207-326-4118, email at [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org), or check the website at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) for the most up-to-date information. For those unable to attend, we will film as many programs as possible to be posted on our website at a later date. We thank you for your understanding.

## The Little Locksmith Symposium

Mitchell Room, Castine Historical Society Abbott School  
17 School Street  
Tuesday, August 4 – 7:00 p.m.

Lisa Botshon, Professor of English at the University of Maine Augusta, will moderate a discussion on *The Little Locksmith*. This poignant memoir, written in 1943 by Castine resident and author Katharine Butler Hathaway, documents how she overcame many obstacles and barriers in her life. The memoir chronicles her transformation as an independent woman living in the 1940s after she bought her large historic home on Court Street. There she welcomed friends, family, artists, and lovers.

Abby Clouse-Radigan, an independent scholar who is writing the first biography of Hathaway, will speak on Hathaway's life and work. Chris Austin, Hathaway's grand nephew who lives in her final home in Blue Hill, will show photographs and will talk about his family's perspective on Hathaway's life.



This program is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Copies of *The Little Locksmith* will be available for purchase at the event courtesy of Compass Rose Books.

Castlebay members Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee



**Maine Maritime Music Concert with Castlebay**  
Unitarian Universalist Meeting House  
86 Court Street, Castine  
Thursday, August 6 – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a free evening celebrating Maine's traditional seafaring songs with the musical group Castlebay. Castlebay will perform songs from their extensive research into the rich archive of Maine maritime music. Songs will include ones written by Amos Hanson, a 19th century sailor whose family once lived in Castine.

Castlebay consists of singers Julia Lane, who also plays the Celtic harp, and Fred Gosbee, who plays the 12-string guitar, violin, and woodwinds. The duo regularly tours throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain at festivals, concert series, and folk clubs. In addition, they teach cultural history through music in schools, libraries, museums, and elder hostels. Their CDs will be available for purchase at the concert.





Lincoln Paine

**The 12th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture**  
**Delano Auditorium, Levitt Hall on the campus**  
**of Maine Maritime Academy**  
**Tuesday, August 11 – 7:00 p.m.**

Lincoln Paine, noted maritime historian, author, editor, and curator, will present his lecture. “Perfect Visions of the Past: Maritime Maine in 2020 Hindsight.” This illustrated talk is a perfect accompaniment not only to our current exhibit, *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*, but also for Maine’s Bicentennial. Copies of his books will be available for purchase courtesy of Compass Rose Books. Mr. Paine will be available to sign books following the lecture.

Mr. Paine’s chief aim is to engage people in the wonder of the maritime world in all its manifestations. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews for popular and academic audiences. His books include the award-winning *Down East: An Illustrated History of Maritime Maine* (2018), *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World* (2013), and *Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia* (1997). He is currently writing a book entitled *Global America and How It Got that Way: A Maritime History of the United States*.

The Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lectures began in 2009 to honor her memory and achievements. 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 a map to the Pulliam Lecture**  
**visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).**

**Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting**  
**and Program**

**Unitarian Universalist Meeting House**  
**Thursday, August 20 – 4:00 p.m.**

The 2020 Annual Meeting and Program is open to the members as well as the general public. The event begins with a brief meeting to share committee reports and elect new officers and members to the Board of Directors.

After the business meeting, guest speaker Captain Richard (Rick) F. Miller, Maine Maritime Academy professor and chair of the Marine Transportation Department, will present a talk entitled “The Square-Rigged Ship: Form & Function – Then and Now.”

Captain Miller is uniquely qualified to give this talk. At Maine Maritime Academy he teaches Terrestrial Navigation (Coastal Piloting), Celestial Navigation, Seamanship, Electronic Navigation, Meteorology, and Marine Weather Routing.

Captain Miller has successfully blended his academic training as an educator with his passion for sailing for more than 40 years, sailing on a number of sail training vessels and with the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. In 2008 he was master aboard Maine Maritime Academy’s schooner *Bowdoin* for a training expedition to the Arctic along the west coast of Greenland. Captain Miller continues to be an active mariner, sailing seasonally as a master of vessels transiting Pacific and Atlantic basins.



Captain Richard F. Miller

continued from page 5

# Frances and Felicia: Poetry Spans the Atlantic Ocean

familiar to us, though Whitman and Dickinson were the only ones who wrote primarily poetry.

The first half of the 19th century saw poetry gradually come to embrace the uniqueness of America. The so-called “Fireside Poets,” New Englanders Whittier, Bryant, Lowell, Holmes, Jr, and Longfellow, were known for their celebration of American values and the land itself. Their works, found in schoolrooms and homes, adhered to familiar poetic forms which were easy to memorize and which dealt with topics suitable for families. Yet few women poets were recognized by literary circles from the colonial period onward — Anne Bradstreet was well-known, but died before 1700; Phillis Wheatley, the slave poetess who

was self-educated, wrote poignant religious poems during the colonial period. Emily Dickinson, the Belle of Amherst, was not lauded until the mid-1950s. However, Hemans’ contemporaneous women poets such as Susanna Rowson, Lydia Sigourney, and Hannah Crocker were household names. Rowson was an actress and playwright who wrote songs as well as poetry.<sup>3</sup> Sigourney focused on mortality and death,<sup>4</sup> while Crocker was an adamant early abolitionist.<sup>5</sup> Sojourner Truth’s “Ain’t I a Woman” stands as a diatribe against gender and racial discrimination.<sup>6</sup>

That Felicia Hemans’ work appeared in Frances Whitney’s copy book demonstrates both the ways in which young girls were educated and some of the focus of that education. Combined with the trends of American and British poetry at this time, what emerges is a complex picture of an evolving society in which Castine played a central part, even as evidenced by a young girl’s copy book.

Endnotes

1. It is important to remember that education in an early 19th century coastal community included primarily navigation and other seafaring subjects for boys and homemaking skills for girls. Reading and elementary mathematics were generally part of the curriculum as well, but the emphasis was on practical skills.

2. Qtd in Longman’s, p. 735.

3. Oxford, p. 771.

4. Oxford, p. 807.

5. Oxford, p. 222.

6. Oxford pp. 888-9.

References

*The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, v2. David Damrosch, Gen. Ed. New York: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, 1999.

*The Oxford Companion to Women’s Writing in the United States*. Cathy N. Davidson, Linda Wagner-Martin, Eds. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.

## Buy a Commemorative Brick



Join the hundreds of CHS supporters who have remembered their parents, children, friends, and even pets by purchasing a personalized brick that will be installed in the Abbott School walkway. This gift is a great way to support the Castine Historical Society and create 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:    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_    \_\_\_

Your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

If a gift, please indicate recipient’s 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 [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).



# Board of Directors

Ellen Benjamin, *President*  
George Hatch, *Vice President*  
Brooke Tenney *Secretary*  
Susan C. Hatch, *Treasurer*  
Alice Alston  
Richard M. Ames  
William Buchanan  
Mary Dearborn  
Lisa Haugen  
Howard Lowell  
John S. Macdonald

**President emeritus:**

James M. Day

**Honorary directors:**

David K. Adams  
Sara F. Foote  
Ann Miller  
John Parish  
Robert B. Rettig

**Staff:**

Lisa Simpson Lutts, *Executive Director*  
Paige S. Lilly, *Curator*  
Angela Bonacasa, *Office Manager*

**Contributions received  
in memory of:**

Jean G. Baker  
William J. Mottola  
Charles E. Deans

**Miscellaneous donations:**

Ellen and Douglas Benjamin  
Direxa Dearie  
Judy and Doug Fitzsimmons  
Sally Foote  
Mary and Howard Lowell  
Suzan Holmes-Newton and Russell Newton

*Welcome*

**New members:**

Lela and David Agnew  
Linda and Ned Cloonan  
Sylvia DiNello  
Rose Honders  
Laura and Kevin Hopkins  
Cynthia Kimball  
Mary Kneisel  
Emily and Richard Law  
Heather Tyler Smaha  
Betty and Mike Venson

## Become a Member of the Castine Historical Society!

☐ New membership    ☐ Renew my membership    ☐ Gift membership

Name (as it should appear on the mailing list)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (used only for special mailings)

Membership Level: ☐ Friend • \$35    ☐ Family • \$50    ☐ Contributing • \$100  
☐ Patron • \$250    ☐ Benefactor • \$500    ☐ Noah Brooks Society • \$1,000

**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 207-326-4118  
or join online at [castinehistoricalsociety.org/membership](http://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**

P.O. Box 238 • Castine, Maine 04421

*Address Service Requested*

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 76  
Bangor, ME

The *J.P. Whitney* was built in the Castine shipyard of J. H. Noyes in 1853. Her home port was New Orleans, except during the Civil War when her home port shifted to Castine to escape the blockades.

The *J. P. Whitney* was named in honor of John Perkins Whitney, who, with his brother Samuel, moved to New Orleans in the 1820s and founded J.P. Whitney & Company. Initially the brothers imported and marketed cured fish from Castine. Over time they expanded into the cotton export business, thus helping to establish highly profitable trade connections for Castine merchants.

The ship was sold in 1869 at Calcutta. That same year she met her fate on April 10 when she was sunk in the Indian Ocean. The demise of the *J. P. Whitney* highlights the dangers and difficulties encountered at sea at a time when weather forecasts and telecommunications did not exist. If ships in distress were not sighted and assisted by passing vessels, lifeboats and an uncertain fate were the only options.



*J.P. Whitney Lying in Malta Bound for Calcutta*, watercolor, unknown artist, 1864 Collection  
Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport, MA

To learn more, purchase the book *Risky Business: A Maine Village Goes Global* written by guest curator, Richard M. Ames, in our gift shop or at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). To find the online gift shop, click the "Support" drop down button.

**CONTACT US:**

(207) 326-4118

[info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org)

**VISIT US:**

13 & 17 School Street • Castine, Maine 04421

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