Did you know Castine, Maine, boasted a working waterfront with shipbuilding, fisheries, and international trade in the 1800s? The profits from these shaped the town, but not without hardship and loss for almost everyone involved.

Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish

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Enjoy free admission to all exhibits and events. Pre-registration required for all Zoom lectures at castinehistoricalsociety.org. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, please call or check our website for the most up-to-date information. COVID policies for visiting the exhibits include mandatory face coverings.

June 11 – October 11
Castine Uncovered
Walking Tours
An hour-long history tour of town. Private tours at other times with advance notice. See back page for schedule.

June 19 – August 28
Castine Seated
Town Common Tours
Alternating Saturdays at 2:00 PM
An hour-long seated tour of the historic Town Common. See website for schedule.

Saturday, June 26
2021 Season Open House
4:00 PM / Rain date: June 27
Join us on the front lawn of the Abbott School gallery to celebrate the beginning of the season. Exhibits open for viewing, refreshments served.

Thursday, July 15
The 12th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture
7:00 PM
Noted maritime historian and author Lincoln Paine will deliver a Zoom lecture entitled, “Perfected Visions of the Past: Maritime Maine in Almost 2020 Hindsight.”

Thursday, August 5
Maritime Concert with Castlebay
6:00 PM / Rain date: August 10
An in-person evening of songs of the sea, ships, and sailors with Castlebay on the Town Common.

Thursday, August 19
Annual Meeting and Program
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Following a brief business meeting, Maine Maritime Academy professor, Captain Richard F. Miller will present a Zoom talk entitled “The Square-Rigged Ship: Form & Function – Then and Now.”

Tuesday, August 24
Maine’s Mid-Century Moment: Castine’s Katharine Butler Hathaway, Author of The Little Locksmith.
7:00 PM
University of Maine Professor of English, Lisa Botshon, will moderate a symposium about Castine resident Katharine Butler Hathaway and her best-selling 1943 memoir The Little Locksmith. This Zoom program is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wednesday, September 22
Cotton’s Ocean: Castine and the Antebellum Cotton Trade
7:00 PM
Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby will give a Zoom talk on the importance of the cotton trade in Maine before the Civil War and how Castine fit into this world of oceanic commerce.

Abbott School Exhibits
June 11 – October 11
Friday, Saturday, Monday:
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Historic Walking Tours
June 11 – October 11
Friday, Saturday, Monday:
10:00 AM
Sunday: 2:00 PM

Grindle House Research Library
Year-round, by appointment
EXPLORING CASTINE

Castine’s Vibrant History

Castine is one of New England’s oldest and best-preserved seaside villages – a quaint, coastal gem with a long, diverse history. Stroll or drive along our elm-lined streets and marvel at the beautifully preserved homes. Learn about Castine’s historic architecture, forts, and people with the town walking map, the Castine Virtual Tour, or on one of our free guided walking tours.

We hope you’ll join us!

EXHIBITIONS

Our 1859 Abbott School exhibit gallery provides a window into Castine’s extraordinary past. Carefully researched and curated exhibits delve into history in ways that engage families as well as scholars. There’s always something new to see when you visit.

PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

1779 – Making Revolutionary History

In the summer of 1779, British troops landed on Castine’s shores to establish a strategic naval base during the American Revolution. Massachusetts authorities immediately sent the largest naval force assembled during the Revolution to oust the British. Absorb the history when you step into the replica day cabin of the Expedition’s flagship and explore all the factors that allowed the British to defend Fort George and inflict a humiliating defeat on the colonists. Discover how Boston silversmith Paul Revere’s behavior in battle led to his court martial proceeding.

CASTINE COMMUNITY

BICENTENNIAL QUILT

The Quilt Worth a Thousand Words

View and learn about the creation of the Castine Bicentennial Quilt, presented to the Castine Historical Society in celebration of the town’s bicentennial. The 24-foot wide quilt, which tells the history of Castine, was designed and sewn in 1996 by sixty members of the Castine community.