

Samuel Whitney and his Castine Mansion



Watercolor based on an early lithograph of the Whitney Mansion once located on the corner of Water and Green Street.

Recently the Castine Historical Society was contacted regarding a carefully-crafted, small wooden box with an inscription fastened to the top of the lid and a folded letter nestled comfortably inside. The letter was penned in 1859 by William Witherle (1784-1860) and sent to Henry Austin Whitney (1810-1868). John and Dorothy Honkala, owners of Country Charm Farm Antiques of New Platz, New York, had cherished these items in their private collection for many years and John was seeking to return them to an heir of William Witherle. One thing led to another, and now the box and letter have kindly been donated to the Castine Historical Society.

by Richard M. Ames

So, what was this little wooden box all about and why was William Witherle sending it to Henry Whitney?

The inscription attached to the inside lid says, "This box was made from wood taken from best room or parlor of the mansion house

built in this town by Mr. Samuel Whitney about seventy years since. The original paint is on it."

William Witherle was a successful Castine merchant, ship owner, and trader. As one of the key drivers of Castine's golden period of prosperity, he was troubled by the destruction of the old Whitney Mansion. He rescued some wood from it and had this small box made for Samuel Whitney's surviving male heir, grandson Henry, who owned a Liverpool based ship chandlery business.

The letter found inside the box includes the text, "I suppose you know that they were about taking down the old mansion house built by Mr. Samuel Whitney... I am sorry they were doing it as I do not like to part with the sight of it. Supposing you might like some relic... I have taken the liberty to send you a box made from wood taken from the best room or parlor... There was quite a

2021 Calendar of Events

Zoom lectures require pre-registration at castinehistoricalsociety.org.
All events are free.

June 11 – October 11

Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish

Back for a second year, this exhibit invites visitors to step back in time to the 1800s when Castine's working waterfront thrived on a global market.

June 11 – October 11

Castine Uncovered Walking Tours

An hour-long history tour of Castine. Private tours at other times with advanced notice. Friday, Saturday, and Monday, 10:00 a.m.; Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15

The 25th Anniversary of Castine's Community Bicentennial Quilt

6:30 p.m.
A Zoom talk featuring three women instrumental in creating this 24-foot-long pictorial quilt that depicts the history of Castine. The quilt is displayed at the Castine Historical Society.

June 19 – August 28

Castine Town Common Seated Tours

Take a seat and learn the history of Castine in eight buildings. Alternate Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Schedule at castinehistoricalsociety.org.

Saturday, June 26

2021 Season Open House

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Join us for this outdoor reception and chance to view the exhibits. Refreshments served. *Rain date: June 27.*

Thursday, July 15

The 12th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

7:00 p.m.
Noted maritime historian and author Lincoln Paine will deliver a Zoom lecture entitled, "Perfected Visions of the Past: Maritime Maine in Almost 2020 Hindsight."

Wednesday, July 21

Back in Bloom: A Summer Garden Party Fundraiser

5:30 p.m.
Watch the mail for your invitations!

Thursday, August 5

Maritime Music Concert with Castlebay

6:00 p.m.
An evening of traditional Maine seafaring songs will be performed by Castlebay, including those written by Castine sailor Amos Hanson. Castine Town Common. *Rain date Tuesday, August 10.*

Thursday, August 19

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."

Tuesday, August 24

Maine's Mid-Century Moment: Castine's Katharine Butler Hathaway, Author of *The Little Locksmith*

7:00 p.m.
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 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 p.m.
Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby will give a talk via Zoom 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 (17 School Street)

June 11 – October 11
Friday, Saturday, Monday: 10 am – 4 pm;
Sunday: 1 – 4 pm
Face coverings encouraged
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)

At this time, staff offices and library are closed to the public. Staff work year-round Monday - Friday.
Researchers may contact research@castinehistoricalsociety.org.

Castine Uncovered Walking Tours

June 11 – October 11
Friday, Saturday, Monday: 10 am;
Sunday: 2 pm
Private tours may be booked with advance notice subject to guide availability.

Castine Seated Town Common Tours

June 19 – August 28
Alternating Saturdays at 2:00.
See website for dates.

Virtual History Tour of Castine

To download the app or access the web version of the tour, visit 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

A View From The Common



Resilience.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines this word as “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. The ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.”

Resilience seems an apt word to define the Castine community and the Castine Historical Society. We’ve all been through a lot over the past year, but we see a glimmer of light ahead as we bounce back and recover.

The staff, board, and committees are busy getting ready for opening day on June 11, but are also planning 2021 programs, walking tours, and scheduling docents and guides. We’re reinstalling the *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish* exhibit after it spent a year in climate-controlled storage. We’ve been purchasing new merchandise for the gift shop and refreshing its design. And we’re creating new outdoor and indoor signage. In other words, we’re busy!

Most importantly, we’ve created protocols to maintain the safety of our visitors, staff, and volunteers as we reopen the exhibits. We are encouraging face coverings. Two docents will be on duty on each shift to greet visitors, gather contact tracing information, and keep number of visitors low to maintain social distancing. We’ll monitor tight areas like the gift shop and will make sure high-touch areas are kept extra clean. Our goal is to make visiting the Castine Historical Society enjoyable, educational, and safe for everyone!

Along those lines, we have a schedule of Zoom programs extending through year-end. Many are highlighted in this issue of the *Visitor*, but we will continue to add others on the website at castinehistoricalsociety.org.

We wanted to hold some in-person events as well because we miss seeing you! In August, we are excited to host the Maine musical duo, Castlebay, for an outdoor evening of sea shanties and maritime music held on the Town Common. Over the past two years, Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee have been hard at work researching and documenting lost maritime music of Maine, including songs by Castine’s own nineteenth-century sailor, Amos Hanson. It should be a magical evening of history and song.

We also hope to see you at our Annual Open House on June 26. Since this will be a mainly outdoor event, the rain date is the next day, June 27. Yes, exhibits will be open that evening, but we will limit the number of visitors inside and encourage everyone who views the exhibits to wear a face covering. And, last but not least, read about our July 21 outdoor cocktail fundraiser. If you’re like us, you will be looking forward to seeing friends, making new acquaintances, and celebrating the Castine Historical Society.

We can’t thank you enough for all you did in 2020 to support us financially and emotionally. It’s been quite a journey, but thanks to you we’ve been resilient and we’re bouncing back. Thanks!

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Samuel Whitney and his Castine Mansion



Memento of Samuel and Abigail Whitney's Castine home. Given to the Castine Historical Society by John and Dorothy Honkala, Country Charm Farm Antiques, New Paltz, New York.

good hall in the upper story which was used for dancing when they had parties.”

The discovery of this box led to a renewed interest in my 4th great grandfather, Samuel Whitney. Why did he end up in Castine and how could he afford to build a mansion?

Samuel, born September 5, 1734 in Marlborough, Massachusetts, was the youngest son of Benjamin Whitney and his second wife, Abigail Bridge. At the age of two, he moved with his parents to Boston, where his father died the following year. His enterprising mother and an elder sister, also called Abigail, earned good incomes from a shop they owned on Union Street in Boston that sold English goods, including cloth, combs, looking glasses, and shoes, etc. (Lemire, 2009).

Samuel married Abigail Cutler in 1757. He was a merchant with a store in Boston and by the spring of 1761, had opened a branch of his business in Salem. A *Boston Gazette* advertisement from 1761 reads: “Imported from London by Samuel Whitney, in the Captains Bull, Vernon, White and Mackay¹ and to be sold at his shop in Union Street Boston, and his shop in Salem near the Snow Tavern, a large assortment of English and India goods at the lowest price for cash or treasurers notes” (Whitney, 1860).

Samuel was forced to liquidate his holdings in 1764 during a depression caused by new taxes and trade restrictions imposed by Britain. In April of 1767, he moved to Concord with his wife and seven children. In August of the same year, Samuel's mother died, leaving him £400, quite a handsome sum in those days. He used this inheritance to purchase a shop, a large house (today a historic house museum known as The Wayside), and 70 acres of adjoining farmland (Whitney, 1860).

Samuel also owned two male slaves, according to a 1771 tax assessment, one called Casey and the other not named.

Slave ownership was quite common among Concord's more prosperous citizens. “It was part of the equipage of being a gentleman. A rich father would give his son a slave as a gift” (Lemire, 2009). “Slave labor not only allowed landowners to cultivate large farms, but gave professionals like ministers and doctors the free time to write sermons and develop a medical practice” (Lambert, 2010). Records have revealed a total of thirty-two enslaved people owned in Concord just before the Revolution (Lemire, 2009).

Once he arrived in Concord, Samuel quickly gained the respect of his neighbors. By 1774, the citizens of Concord, like other Massachusetts towns, were becoming fed up with their treatment by Great Britain. Concord voted to provision a force of minutemen, and Samuel was appointed to the town's Committee of Correspondence charged with coordinating with surrounding communities. He was also selected as a delegate to represent Concord in the Provisional Congress. As Concord prepared for war, stores of provisions were accumulated in various households, including eighty-two barrels of flour in the Whitney's basement, and Samuel was appointed Muster Master of Concord's minutemen.



William Witherle
(1784-1860).
Castine Historical
Society Collection

During the winter of 1774-1775, one of Samuel's young sons decided to re-enact the Boston Massacre and began pelting slave Casey as he was chopping firewood. Casey rightfully became fed up and hurled his axe at the miscreant. It did not hit him, but realizing he was in trouble, Casey decided to make a run for it. He had probably calculated that this would be a good time to escape as Samuel would be hesitant to draw attention to himself while storing illegal provisions in his home. A search party scoured the area, but Casey avoided capture by hiding in tall reeds by the river. However, Casey returned and found shelter with a sympathetic neighbor before returning to the Whitney family.

Tensions were increasingly high, and on April 15, 1775, word was received that British troops might be sent to Concord to confiscate their provisions. As a precaution, Samuel and his neighbors toiled to disperse these goods to neighboring towns. Early in the morning of April 19th, Samuel's family was awakened by Samuel Prescott, who was spreading the word that the British were initiating their march on Concord. After cautioning his wife to stay inside, Samuel grabbed his musket and headed out to hide ammunition and supplies that remained stored in the town. Just before 10 am, he arrived at the North Bridge, and with his minutemen neighbors, engaged the British troops. Immediately after the skirmish, Samuel hastened home

through the fields, concerned that British forces were heading to his house to search and burn it.

Abigail, Samuel's wife, had seen the British troops march past her house on the way to the bridge and had heard sounds of the battle. Also fearing that the Redcoats were heading her way, she gathered her youngest children and loaded them into the family chaise (a two wheeled covered horse drawn cart) and headed at pace towards Bedford. Chaises, being expensive imports from England, were frowned upon by the locals. A neighbor, probably not knowing who was in the chaise and suspecting that its inhabitants were fleeing instead of standing their ground, took aim and fired. The musket ball slightly grazed the head of one of the children and a terrified Mrs. Whitney returned home later in the day to find Samuel safe but exhausted (Whitney, 1860).

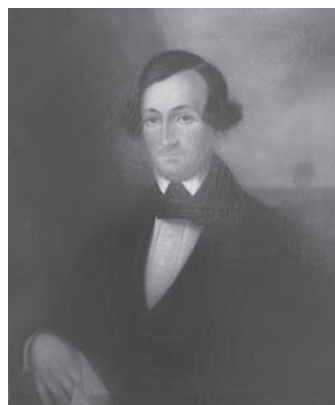
Almost two months later, the British defeated the colonists at the battle of Bunker Hill. Samuel seems to have interpreted this as a turning point in the war in favor of the British and decided to switch his allegiance to the crown. Three days after Bunker Hill, Concord's Joseph Lee wrote in his diary, "Mr. Samuel Whitney a very zealous Whig left town in a fright with all his family" (Lemire, 2009). Samuel, Abigail, and their twelve children moved back to Boston but abandoned Casey to his freedom, possibly due to fears that an aggrieved Casey would "reveal his master's treasonous actions at the very moment when he needed to establish his credibility with British officials still occupying Boston" (Lemire, 2009). Casey remained in Concord and enlisted in the militia in 1781, and after serving for a year returned there for the remainder of his life.

Samuel completed the sale of his holdings in Concord in 1778, receiving more than £800, and in 1779, bought a large house in Boston bordering on a millpond. There he held the well-paying office of constable and had an interest in a vinegar yard (Whitney, 1860).

Samuel's sister, Abigail, died in 1793, and he inherited a portion of her sizable estate worth over \$10,000. Later that year, at the age of fifty-nine with new monies to invest and limited economic opportunity in Boston, Samuel uprooted his family and moved to Maine, where lumber was abundant and profits were to be made from building and operating American sailing vessels. He arrived in Penobscot (later to be incorporated as Castine) accompanied by his wife Abigail, five of his younger children, and possibly one of his former slaves, as the 1800 census lists one African American living in the Whitney household.

Samuel put his resources to work making several wise investments. In Orland, he purchased timber land and exported lumber to domestic and foreign ports. In Castine, he owned a ropewalk and a dock as well as built and purchased several vessels for domestic and foreign trade. With his profits growing, he decided to erect a mansion.

The house was perched on a commanding site overlooking the harbor with the approach from the street consisting of a number of terraces. Inside, there were four large rooms on the first and second floors. On the third floor, there was a central hall with an arched ceiling that was frequently used for festivities. When asked by a neighbor how much his mansion cost to build, he replied, "That is what I should like to know myself. I kept an accurate



Henry Austin Whitney (1810-1868). Collection of Richard M. Ames

account of my expenditures up to seven thousand dollars, and then concluded to shut my eyes" (Whitney, 1860).

We believe that the Whitney Mansion was located on the north side of the intersection of today's Green and Water streets.

Samuel died in 1808 at the age of seventy-four, leaving a sizable estate of \$50,000. Six days later daughter Abigail, who had lived with her parents

as an invalid since a childhood injury, also died. Samuel's wife, Abigail Cutler Whitney, traumatized by these deaths and the memories that the mansion house harbored, moved into what is now known as the Hunnewell-Howe house on Green Street to live with her daughter, Sarah Whitney Howe. She remained living there until her death in 1813 at the age of seventy-eight.

The Whitney Mansion was probably uninhabited until it was torn down as the only remaining Whitney children living in Castine were Henry Whitney and Sarah Whitney Howe, both of whom were settled in their own houses. What became of the African American listed as living in the mansion in 1800? We are not certain, but the 1810 census counts one African American living in the Henry Whitney household, and this could be the same individual.

Thanks to William Witherle's appreciation for old Castine, and John and Dorothy Honkala's donation, the Castine Historical Society now owns a treasured memento from a time gone by when Samuel Whitney's stately mansion graced the town's waterfront.

Foot note:

¹ Captains' names were listed rather than the ships' names.

References:

Lambert, C. (2010). "Black Walden., The neighborhood where Henry David Thoreau took shelter was home to Concord's 'abandoned' slaves."

Humanities, September/October 2010, Volume 3, Number 5.

Lemire, E. (2009). *Black Walden, Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Whitney, H. A. (1860). *Incidents In the Life of Samuel Whitney*. Boston: Printed for private distribution.

Back in Bloom:

A Summer Garden Party Fundraiser

by Lisa Haugen
Chair, Development Committee

Let's get this party started!

Save the date Wednesday, July 21, 2021 for a special evening of festivities and fundraising at a private garden in Castine.

Catered by the highly esteemed team at Trillium Caterers, the event will be open-air if weather permits, or under a large tent if necessary. Trillium Caterers, of Belfast, are known for exquisite food combined with creative use of local, in-season ingredients. They will provide a hearty assortment of delectable hors d'oeuvres served with safety protocols in mind.

Cocktails will be flowing and bidding will be fierce in the silent auction for items curated from our generous community. There will be attic treasures, special dinner opportunities, boat rides, and one-of-a-kind experiences that add up to a well-rounded collection of items.

With our largest fundraising event, the Castine House & Garden Tour, now postponed once again until July 2022, we want to make sure we say "thank-you" in a meaningful way to everyone who has helped us through such a challenging year.

In the spirit of renewal, we hope to start a new tradition of honoring a special Castine Historical Society community member in connection with our fundraising events. The inaugural honoree this year will be announced in coming weeks!

Tickets will be on sale and available by calling the Historical Society or by reserving online once the invitations have been sent out. Look for your invitation in the mail to learn all the details of this special garden party event.

We thank you, our members and supporters, for turning out when we need you most.



It's been a while. Scenes from the 2019 Summer in Full Bloom garden party at the home of Leila and Jim Day.



The Gift Shop is Open for Business!

by Angela Bonacasa
Officer Manager

After a long and challenging year, this exhibit season will see our gift shop once again physically open to the public. To celebrate, we are offering some brand-new merchandise to help with your Castine fix. Some of the items that you will see for the first time this season are:

- Castine nautical chart pillow
- Castine map placemats by Pickering Company
- Castine nautical chart stainless steel travel mug
- Nautical themed key fobs, change purses, and wristlets
- Castine nautical chart throw

And, of course, we still carry our popular fleece, four flag wine glasses, books, and Meri Meri items. **Check out all our available items by going to our online store at www.castinehistoricalsociety.org and selecting “Gift Shop” under “Support.”** You can purchase items in person or still have them shipped directly to your home. You can even give us a call at 207-326-4118 to arrange local pickup or delivery. ***And don't forget that all current members get a 10% discount!***

After a year of purely online sales, we are looking forward to seeing you in person!



Nautical key fobs



Castine pillow



Vintage Castine map placemats



Buoy wristlet

2021 Schedule of Programs

We are excited to present our 2021 schedule of programs – a mix of free Zoom lectures and in-person outdoor events. All Zoom programming requires pre-registration at castinehistoricalsociety.org.

2021 Open House

Saturday, June 26 • 4:00 p.m.

Join us on the front lawn to celebrate the beginning of the season. Exhibits open for viewing and refreshments served. Face coverings encouraged indoors. Rain date: June 27, 4:00 p.m.



Lincoln Paine

The 12th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture

Thursday, July 15 • 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Paine, noted maritime historian, author, editor, and curator, will present a lecture via Zoom on “Perfected Visions of the Past: Maritime Maine in Almost 2020 Hindsight.” This illustrated talk is a perfect accompaniment to our current exhibit, *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish*.

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.

Maine Maritime Concert – Songs of the Sea, Ships, and Sailors • Castine Town Common

Thursday, August 5 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an in-person evening celebrating Maine’s traditional seafaring songs with the musical group Castlebay. The group 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 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. Rain date: Tuesday August 10, 6:00 p.m.



Castlebay



↓ Captain Richard (Rick) F. Miller

Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program

Thursday, August 19 • 4:00 p.m.

The 2021 Annual Meeting and Program held via Zoom is open to members as well as to 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.

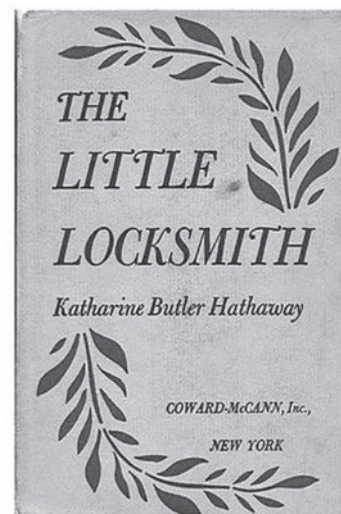
Captain Miller has successfully blended his academic training as an educator with his passion for sailing for more than 40 years, sailing on a number of training vessels and with the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. In 2008 he was master aboard Maine Maritime Academy’s schooner *Bowdoin* for a 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.

The Little Locksmith Symposium

Tuesday, August 24 • 7:00 p.m.

Lisa Botshon, Professor of English at the University of Maine Augusta, will moderate a Zoom discussion on *The Little Locksmith*. Written by Castine resident and author Katherine Butler Hathaway in 1943, this poignant memoir documents how she overcame many obstacles and barriers. Butler’s 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 Auston, 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.

Cotton’s Ocean: Castine and the Antebellum Cotton Trade

Wednesday, September 22 • 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Stephen J. Hornsby will present a talk via Zoom entitled “Cotton’s Ocean: Castine and the Antebellum Cotton Trade.” In his talk, Dr. Hornsby will focus on the importance of the trans-Atlantic cotton trade for the growth of the shipbuilding and ship owning industries in Maine 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* (2015).

We look forward to seeing you!

Board, Staff, and Donations

2020-2021 Board of Directors:

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Welcome New members:

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Leigh and Jay T. Kearney
Greer and Charlie Pearce
Michelle Robinson
Georgeann and Parks Snead

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

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!

Buy an Abbott School Walkway 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.



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In honor of our exhibit, "Risky Business", read about Captain Henry Whitney, the son of Samuel Whitney and the father of Henry Austin Whitney who are in our lead article. To see this portrait, be sure to visit our exhibits this season!

Captain Henry Whitney (1783-1837)

Henry, youngest son of Samuel Whitney and Abigail Cutler, was born in Boston in 1783, eight months before the end of the Revolutionary War. He moved with his parents to Castine at the age of ten, and like many boys in coastal Maine, was attracted to the adventures of life at sea. At the age of sixteen, Henry was Second Mate on his brother Samuel's ship *Hiram*, on a harrowing voyage during which Henry was stabbed in the side in a melee with French captors. Henry teetered on the brink of death for several days with a gangrenous wound, but Samuel kept him alive by treating the gash with brandy-soaked dressings.

Despite these hair-raising experiences, Henry chose the sea as a profession and was awarded his first command at the age of twenty-one on the schooner *Lincoln*. In 1807, at the age of twenty-four, Henry married Lucy Perkins, the daughter of John Perkins, a renowned Castine merchant. During the first year of



their marriage, they lived with Henry's parents at the Whitney Mansion and then moved to the Dyer House until taking possession of their newly built house on the Common in 1810.

Henry's reputation as a skilled captain was growing, and by 1819, he was master of the brig *Sarah Lee*, owned by Castine merchants William Witherle and John Jarvis. Witherle & Jarvis, later joined by merchant Thomas Adams, were impressed with Henry's skills and rewarded him with commands of larger and newer vessels in their fleet.

At the age of fifty, Capt. Whitney decided to take a break from the demanding Castine triangle trade to try his hand at being an investor in ships. After a spell, Henry headed out to sea again as master of the newly built Castine ship *St. Leon*. This voyage was to be his last, as he arrived at Le Havre and died there in April 1837. Henry Whitney's family and descendants continued to reside in the stately house on The Common for several generations.

CONTACT US:

(207) 326-4118

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