

## Performing Allegiance and Neutrality in the Shadow of Fort George

by Darcy Stevens

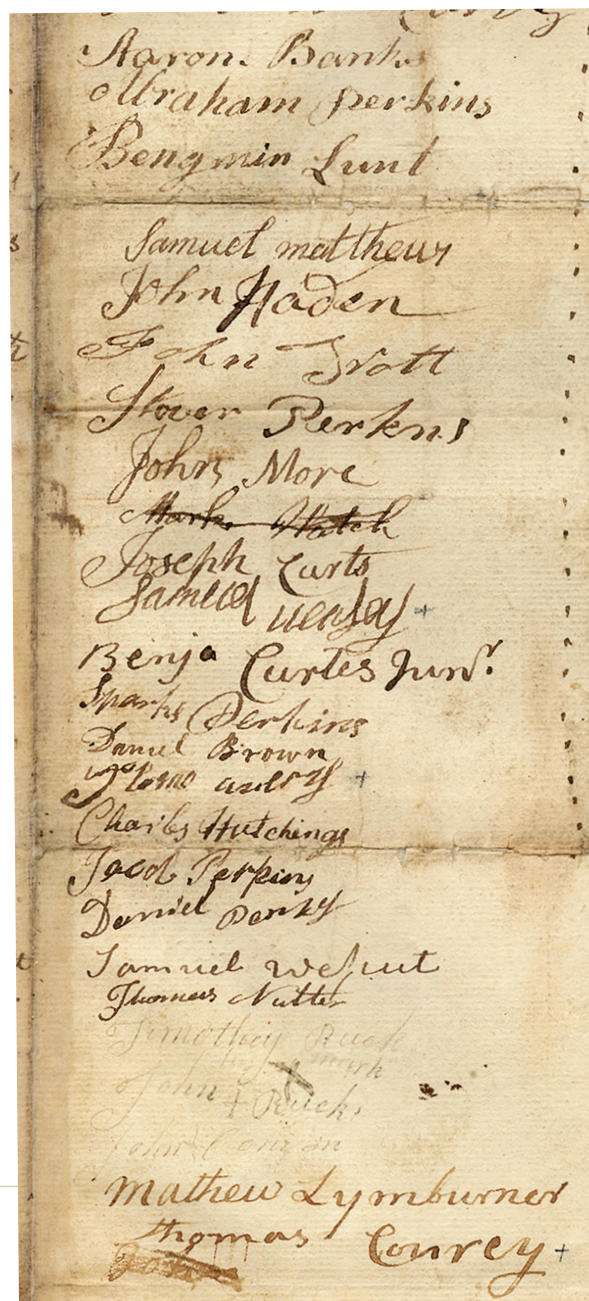
Darcy Stevens served as our summer 2020 intern. She is a history Ph.D student at the University of Maine. Her research focuses on neutrality and allegiance during the American Revolution in the New England-Nova Scotia borderlands.

When the sails of British war ships first appeared on the distant horizon, the few inhabitants in scattered settlements around Penobscot Bay undoubtedly realized they would soon have to make some difficult choices. Situated on the very fringe of the Massachusetts Bay colony, Downeast settlers were particularly vulnerable during the American Revolution. Years of embargoes and privateer activity had been economically devastating. Pleas for protection, economic assistance, even for bread had gone unanswered.<sup>1</sup> Yet, aside from the economic strain, life went on much as it always had. Troops, military orders, nor battles had come to Penobscot Bay – until the summer of 1779.

Now, a contingent of well-armed ships from the strongest navy in the world was headed to Majabigwaduce (or Bagaduce) to establish a fort. To be certain, there were Loyalists waiting. Those who, while not always pleased with Parliament, stood by the King, breathed a sigh of relief as His Majesty's ships came rolling in. Just as certain, there were Patriots filled with righteous indignation and a long list of complaints against England. Their hearts surely sank as the British fleet drew near.

Loyalists and Patriots are familiar actors in the Revolutionary drama. Yet they represent but two extreme points on a political spectrum. Most colonists were somewhere in the middle and many of those wished to remain neutral in the conflict. "These were the people who were dubious, afraid, uncertain, indecisive, many of whom felt that there was nothing at stake that could justify involving themselves and their families in extreme hazard and suffering."<sup>2</sup> Scholarship has largely overlooked the Neutrals, dismissing them as apathetic or opportunistic. However, the experiences of Neutrals provide valuable insight into the social landscape of the American Revolution.

continued on page 4



Signatures from a "humble petition of the inhabitants of Majorbigwaduce" to the Massachusetts Representatives meeting at Watertown dated March 1776. The petition begs the Council to allow the formation of a military company, "as we expect the enemy will... be pilfering and robing us" of lumber and stores. Among those signing the petition are several Penobscot Association Loyalists, who in 1784, migrated to Saint Andrews and Matthew Lymburner, a Loyalist who "affected in public to be neuter."

Petition to legislature from residents of Majabigwaduce, March 4, 1779 SC1/series 45X: Massachusetts Archives Collection, vol. 303 pp. 155-155a.

# Board of Directors

Ellen Benjamin, *President*  
George Hatch, *Vice President*  
Howard Lowell, *Secretary*  
Susan C. Hatch, *Treasurer*  
Alice Alston  
Richard M. Ames  
William Buchanan  
Mary Dearborn  
Kelly Gualtieri  
Lisa Haugen  
John Mitchell  
Marc Pelletier

---

## President Emeritus:

James M. Day

## Honorary Directors:

David K. Adams  
Lynne Dearborn  
Sara F. Foote  
Ann Miller  
John Parish  
Robert B. Rettig  
Ruth Scheer

## Staff:

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

## Contributions received in memory of:

Jean Gillette Baker  
Barbara J. Colson  
Carolyn F. Hooper  
Anne Marie Parsons

## Miscellaneous donations:

Tina and Bill Anthony  
Cynthia Boyer  
Abbott Brownell  
Barbara Campbell  
Sara and Craig Fanning  
Judy and Doug Fitzsimmons  
Sara F. Foote  
Mary and Howard Lowell  
Sue and Jack Macdonald  
Ann Miller  
Lindsay and Phil Scott  
Candace and Richard Stern  
Elise and David Wilson

## Collection donors:

Susan Adam  
Tom Adams  
Lorinda and John Bradford  
Leila and James Day  
Sara F. Foote  
Tim Gilmartin  
Brooke Tenney  
Laurent Torno, Jr.

## Castine COVID-19

### Collection donors:

Susan Adam  
Alice Alston  
Annex Arts  
David Avery  
Castine Town Office  
Jean di Sabatino  
Facebook members  
Alice Kimble  
Lisa Simpson Lutts  
Ruth Scheer  
Jill Schoof  
Johanna Sweet  
Brooke Tenney

## Abbott School Exhibits (17 School Street)

Closed for the 2020 season.

---

## Grindle House Exhibits (13 School St)

Staff Hours  
Monday through Friday 9-5

Due to COVID-19 the offices  
and research library are closed  
to outside visitors.

Staff are available by calling  
207-326-4118 or  
emailing [research@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:research@castinehistoricalsociety.org).

---

## 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

*Welcome*

## New members:

Lela and David Agnew  
Cameron Brien  
Geoffrey De Sousa  
Kelly and Paul Gualtieri  
Brian Jonah  
Laurence Wade

## A View From The Common

---

# *We Gather Together*

---

*The* Town Common has been a gathering place for the Castine community since it was first laid out in the early 1800s. Since then, it has served as a Civil War recruitment center; a ball field and playground for school children; and a place for community concerts, picnics, and Memorial Day and July 4th celebrations. Just today I watched from my Grindle House office window teachers and their students gather and get reacquainted for the new and very different 2020/2021 school year.

The Castine Historical Society is also a gathering place, one in which community members come together to share their love of Castine's history and their desire to preserve and learn from it.

As members and donors, you have sustained us throughout 2020 – a year we will all remember. It has been a year in which the Historical Society has successfully taken on new challenges. Through it all, your continued membership donations and moral support made a huge difference!

To address the COVID-19 pandemic, we closed our exhibits and trained 16 walking tour guides who gave fun, informative and, most importantly, safe tours of the town and the common. These tours have served as a gathering place for visitors and locals who since July have taken over 60 of our tours.

We also launched a COVID-19 Collecting Project to document and serve as a gathering place for the history of Castine during these troubling times. Many of you have contributed to our collection and we thank you.

To assist with the project, we are also partnering with Castine's Annex Arts in their *Castine in the Time of Quarantine, A Community Journal*. Annex Arts is gathering community stories, observations, notes, poetry, photos, and art which will become part of the Historical Society's permanent collection so that 100 years from now, future generations can learn how we dealt with the pandemic.

Nor have we ignored the national introspection prompted by the death of George Floyd and the subsequent calls to address our country's longstanding racial inequities. We are examining ways to broaden our research, teaching, and exhibitions to



embrace the stories of people of color—both in Castine and in the wider world in which Castiners engaged. For instance, we plan to update the exhibit *Risky Business: Square-Rigged Ships and Salted Fish* for the 2021 season to show more fully how Castine's maritime trade in salted cod and cotton was intertwined with the institution of slavery.

Yes, 2020 posed challenges ranging from the financial to the programmatic. Yet we look forward to turning these challenges into opportunities as we pursue our mission to explore and steward Castine history, making this town and region's fascinating past accessible and relevant to an ever-wider population.

Soon, you will receive your Annual Appeal gift request in the mail. We hope you can help the Historical Society continue to serve as a gathering place for the community while meeting each new challenge together. Please consider making an Annual Appeal gift today via mail or online at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).

We look forward to a better 2021, a year in which we can all gather together to celebrate community. We remain committed to serving Castine with a Historical Society that connects people to one another, to our history, and to the larger world around us. ***We couldn't do any of this without you. Thank you!***



## Performing Allegiance and Neutrality in the Shadow of Fort George

Neutrality is a surprisingly complex issue; even defining it is a challenge. An individual or a government could interpret it to mean offering no aid or comfort to the enemy under any circumstances or simply a commitment to not take up arms. There was also no conformity about when and from whom neutrality would be accepted or tolerated. For example, British and American officials accepted neutrality as equivalent to allegiance from various indigenous tribes in the New England-Nova Scotia Borderlands.<sup>3</sup> But, New England Planters in Nova Scotia, who lamented having to choose between their loyalty to the King and their love for family and old neighbors in the lower thirteen colonies, were informed that their request to “remain Neuter” was inconsistent with the duties of loyal subjects. Still, the British tolerated their neutrality and there was usually no action taken to enforce militia enlistment among Planter communities.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, many, perhaps even most colonists were “pliant” Neutrals. Left alone, they would be completely neutral, but factors such as community pressure, economic realities, or the presence of military troops motivated them to affirm allegiance which could shift with circumstances. Finally, a “passive” Loyalist or Patriot *performed* neutrality. Their actions were neutral, although their political convictions were not. When the British arrived in Bagaduce, inhabitants were forced to assess their situation and examine their personal convictions. Many of the settlers were pliant Neutrals. Others concluded that performing neutrality or allegiance was in their best interest.

Momentous decisions were required of settlers even before the British unloaded their ships. On June 15, 1779 a proclamation was issued giving the inhabitants one week to swear an oath of loyalty to the King. As many as six hundred and fifty settlers did so. Dozens also obeyed the order to assist with the construction of the fort. The threat of destruction of their property for noncompliance and the prospect of paid work were powerful incentives. Yet, not everyone took the oath or labored on the fort. The British oath notwithstanding, some signed an American

oath and fought with the rebels during the Penobscot Expedition. When the rebels were defeated, some inhabitants renewed their loyalty to the Crown in yet another mandated oath. By affirming oaths for both sides, these pliant Neutrals illustrated the ways changing circumstances influenced decisions about allegiance and neutrality. The British held Bagaduce through the end of the war, a situation which would continue to impact the lives and behaviors of the settlers in the area.

The Greenlaw family offers an example of performed neutrality. The five brothers came to Deer Isle from Scotland around 1761, and at least four served in the French and Indian War. They took the oath when the British arrived and labored on the construction of Fort George. Well-known as Loyalists, four brothers were captured by rebels during the Penobscot Expedition. During their captivity, they suffered abuse so harsh that one of the brothers, Charles, was “sometimes out of his senses.” After the war, Johnathan, Ebenezer, and Alexander were granted land in St Andrews, New Brunswick, with other Loyalists. Charles and his family later joined them. However, historians disagree about whether the fifth brother, William, was a Loyalist or a Patriot. He was not captured with his brothers and did not file a Loyalist claim. One historical sketch relates that William slipped quietly back to his farm whenever the British troops came near. If he was an active Loyalist, he would not have needed to retreat when the British were near, and it seems unlikely he would have escaped the rebels when his brothers were captured. Whatever his political inclinations, he successfully performed neutrality and his family and property were safe from both rebel and Tory aggression.

Another set of Scottish brothers provides a less successful example of performed neutrality. The Lymburners had settled in Majabigwadu in 1770. Initially, Matthew made (a somewhat feeble) attempt to be a passive Loyalist. He claimed that “at the beginning of the Rebellion, wishing to preserve his loyalty to the King, and at the same time Stay on his property... [he] affected in public to be Neuter, altho’ in private he gave his assistance to every loyalist that he could.” He was fined when he refused

### Endnotes

1. Some examples include: Inhabitants of Penobscot to the Provincial Congress June 7, 1775, 268-269; Committee of Safety for Majorbigwadu to Continental Congress, Feb 1, 1776. 331-332; Extract of a Letter from Hon. Enoch Freeman, undated, 278-279 all in James Phinney Baxter *Documentary History of the State of Maine*. vol XIV Portland 1.
2. John Shy, “The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War,” in *A People Numerous & Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence*, Revised (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2008), 235.
3. For one example see: St. John Indian chiefs to Massachusetts, Sept 19, 1776 and George Washington to St. John Indians, Dec 24, 1776 in Frederic Kidder, *Military*

*Operations in Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia During the Revolution*, chiefly compiled from the journals and letters of Colonel John Allan (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1867), 57-59.

4. New England Planters is the term used to describe immigrants from New England who took up evacuated farmlands following the expulsion of the Acadians. Petition of the Inhabitants of Yarmouth to Governor Francis Legge. Dec 8, 1775, in John Bartlet Brebner, *The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia: A Marginal Colony During the Revolutionary Years* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1937), 291.
5. Claim of Matthew Lymburner, March 28, 1786, in Brooks, *Downeast Ancestry* 7, no 4 (Dec 1983) 146; Claim of John Lymburner, Jan 16, 1784, in *Ibid*, 147.

to join the rebel forces at Machias, and thereafter his neighbors spurned him. Once exposed as a Loyalist, Matthew's business suffered since "a Son of Liberty durst openly trade with him." In 1779, he took the British oath and reported to Fort George when the Penobscot Expedition arrived. He was sent home to protect his family but was captured by rebels and held for two weeks. When he returned to his family, he found his home and farm had been plundered. The rebels eventually "drove him with his family to the Garrison" – the only place they were safe. Conversely, his brother John never attempted to hide his loyalty. He "went out divers times with his Majestys forces... and in one Scurmige with the Enemy he received a Musket Ball in his Shoulder." Matthew

received a St Andrews land grant, but John did not request one and remained at Bagaduce. By 1790 Matthew was back as well and the brothers resumed operation of their mill.<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, Matthew's attempted performance of neutrality and John's open Loyalism garnered much the same results.

War is complex, more so where the warfront and the home front meet as they did in Bagaduce. The proximity of troops and the social landscape of Bagaduce required inhabitants to continuously evaluate circumstances and make pragmatic decisions. Their experiences illustrate the fluid nature of allegiance, the complexity of neutrality, and provide a new terrain for assessing the social history of the American Revolution.

### Board of Director Transitions

*Like many organizations, we did not host an in-person Annual Meeting this year. This did not stop you, our members, from voting to elect new members of the Board of Directors!* Thanks to our new on-line or mail-in voting system more members than ever before voted. We anticipate continuing this system so everyone, not just those living in Castine, can have their say.

As a result of a virtual on-line election, the Castine Historical Society welcomes to its board three new directors, Kelly Gualtieri, John Mitchell, and Marc Pelletier. At the same time, the Historical Society celebrates the contributions of retiring board members John "Jack" Macdonald and Brooke Tenney.

Jack Macdonald joined the Board of Directors in 2008. He served as Vice President and President during a time of transformation and growth that saw the restoration and opening of the Grindle House and the planning of the Tall Ship *Hermione's* visit to Castine. Jack also served on various committees over the years and is a docent in the Abbott School exhibits.

Brooke Tenney joined the Board of Directors in 2009 and served as Vice President and President. While Brooke was President, the Historical Society embarked on our most recent Strategic Plan. Brooke also served on various committees including exhibits that she continues to chair.

We welcome new board member Kelly Gualtieri. She and her family moved to Castine in 2016 when Kelly joined the administration at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA). Her children attend MMA and the Adams School. Kelly has worked in higher education at several universities and currently serves on the CHS education committee.

John has been a Castine summer resident for over 64 years. He spent 20 years in the jewelry industry and later owned and operated his own small screen printing, promotional products, and graphic design business. He and his wife, Maggie, split their time between Castine and Scarborough. When in Castine, John and Maggie both volunteer as docents in the Abbott School exhibits. John will be joining the finance committee.

Marc Pelletier, who recently transitioned to a full-time resident, will continue to chair the building and grounds committee. He and his wife, Penny Carlhian, have been active in the Historical Society since they began summering here in 2016. Marc's professional career was in historic preservation and the building trades.

Honorary Directors are former board members who, through their exceptional initiative and leadership, have made an enduring contribution to the Castine Historical Society and the town. The Board of Directors voted in two new members to serve as Honorary Directors, Lynne Dearborn and Ruth Scheer, in recognition of their combined 41 years of outstanding board service. Both Lynne and Ruth have co-chaired several House and Garden Tours.

During her 18-year tenure, Lynne served on numerous committees, as an exhibit docent, and continues to serve on the collections committee. Ruth, who joined the board in 1995, also served on many committees and spearheaded strategic plans. She will continue to serve on the finance and development committees.

We welcome our three new board members, congratulate our two new honorary directors, and say a huge thank you to Jack and Brooke.

## A Volunteer's Perspective

by David E. Avery

I don't know about you, but some of my most memorable travelling moments have occurred during organized tours. I know. You thought I was going to say that the best moments happen spontaneously. It is more romantic, sure, but in my experience, it just isn't true. No charming diner serving delicious cuisine to local characters ever materializes on that unplanned drive in the country. Instead, it's usually forgettable granola bars to stave off hypoglycemia till you get back to the hotel. By contrast, I'll always remember the helicopter-van tour of Maui. And how could I forget the bus tour in Spain that passed by a statue of Woody Allen in downtown Oviedo (who knew?) and culminated in dinner at a 15th century castle where we sang John Denver tunes with Japanese scientists? So, when I heard that something was afoot (so to speak) at the Castine Historical Society, I was intrigued. Maybe I could help a few visitors to our town enjoy an informative historical tour. Even if my tour couldn't measure up to the awesome river-borne architectural tour of Chicago (highly recommended), it could surely be as good as the waterfront tour of Detroit that made me seasick (avoid a windy day).

When the call went out for docents to lead walking tours, I immediately volunteered, and I immediately regretted the decision. Although I teach at MMA, and so I am quite

accustomed to public speaking, I am not a historian. In fact, my only claim to any expertise in history is that I've managed to live through a bunch of it. I was intimidated by all the names (most of them Perkins) and dates and sources, authoritative and not. But, before I could back out, Paige and the CHS staff had provided a map, a script, and all the training necessary for even me to pull it off. I, along with eagerer and hardier volunteers, practiced the script under the tutelage of Paige, Angela, Lisa and Darcy. Soon we all felt confident enough to lead our own *Castine Uncovered* tour without messing up or reprising the queasiness I felt in Detroit.

It hasn't been nauseating. I have been quite surprised and pleased to learn how many visitors to Castine are interested in the local history. Like my classes, each group has had a personality of its own. For example, one large party was quite interested in the Penobscot Expedition and all the military particulars. Luckily, I didn't need to know much because these guests knew everything. They told each other the whole story in great detail right down to Paul Revere's court martial. At the end, I felt compelled to offer them a percentage of my non-existent pay.

Another memorable group was a couple of English ex-pats "on holiday" in Port Clyde. They day-tripped to Castine to

Tour guide Mike Coughlin leads a tour group.







## 2020 Walking Tour Guides

### *Many Thanks*

to our guides who led a successful series of tours this season! We can't thank you enough for giving your time and talents to promote the history of our town.

Alice Alston  
David Avery  
Jeb Baker  
Margaret Beckman  
Beth Boucher  
Mike Coughlin  
Jean di Sabatino  
Anne Fuentes  
Louise Giugliano  
Gunilla Kettis  
Karen Lyons  
Dabney McKenzie  
Peggy O'Neil-Murphy  
Richard Stern  
Darcy Stevens  
Bobby Vagt

David Avery begins a tour on the Town Common.

visit another picture-postcard Maine town and to see the summer home of one of her favorite poets, Robert Lowell. They were also a little too pleased, in my opinion, to learn that Castine was home to British loyalists during the Revolution. Even my feigned defiant rebel attitude could not dissuade them from feeling right at home.

Some groups were keen to learn about Castine's maritime heritage, past and present. Others, especially "from-aways," were fascinated by the idea of students still attending the Adams School. I think they may have come from towns a little larger than Castine. I hope I was able to uncover a bit of history for each of them and to give them a reasonably educational tour. I did hear of one positive Tripadvisor review—that was written by my sister.

It's been fun to learn the town's history in more detail, and to meet visitors, and especially to get to know other volunteers, but, for me the tours have been bittersweet. About a year ago I lost my life-long travelling companion, too young and too soon. Wendy Knickerbocker's name will be familiar to readers of these pages as editor and frequent contributor to *The Castine Visitor*. As editor, Wendy meticulously proof-read the newsletter by reading every word aloud in her office. Today her office is eerily quiet, but somehow, on tour, I feel her voice mix with mine as I discuss the fine points of Maine statehood or Congregationalism or elm trees. The feeling is especially poignant when we reach Noah Brooks' childhood home on the village green because Wendy was an expert on 19th century baseball, and Brooks was, among other things, an early baseball promoter and historian. He wrote a famous early fictional account of baseball (see Wendy's article in the Fall 2014 *Castine Visitor*). In honor of Wendy, on tour I wear the *Fairport Nine* cap that she had custom made to honor Brooks' team. She is my natural connection to the CHS and to history. The pandemic tours of 2020 have uncovered that for me.



## Raising Funds During Covid



Happy picnickers enjoying a mystery spot overlooking the harbor.

*Because* we postponed our large fundraiser, the Castine House and Garden Tour, until July 22, 2021, the Development Committee and staff looked for new and creative ways to raise funds during this unusual time when getting together in large groups was not possible.

Instead, we hosted a few small fundraising projects with the idea of lifting spirits and helping to support the Castine business community. The Mystery Backyard Picnic Fundraiser was one. During the summer and early fall, picnickers bought a mystery picnic pass to one of several exceptional Castine private backyard settings. On our website, we encouraged picnickers to frequent our local food establishments to purchase their supplies. Then, on the morning of the picnic, participants received a text or call telling them what amazing location we'd chosen for their picnic – the mystery! To maintain appropriate social distancing, the picnics were limited to four or fewer people.

We had many happy picnickers. People were wowed by the venues and thought it was a very positive experience. A few even bought more than one pass including one for a special wedding anniversary! A big thank you to all of our donors who offered

their backyards and docks for this unique fundraiser and to all those who bought a picnic pass.

The second fundraiser was a “Castine in a Bag” Raffle. Members of the Development Committee bought gift certificates and products from local businesses, then donated those items to fill a Castine Historical Society sailcloth logo bag. Our aim was not only to raise some funds for the Historical Society, but to help our local businesses during this economic downturn. We sold over 300 tickets and the lucky winner was Brooke Tenney.

Our next event will be the Christmas Pop-Up Shop at Compass Rose Books, debuting on November 28th. We will be featuring a selection of new merchandise! If you're not in Castine during the winter or want to see all the products we carry, check out the gift shop on our website at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org). Go to the “Support” button and the “Gift Shop” tab in the drop-down menu. We are happy to ship or arrange for local pick up.

Your continued support of the Castine Historical Society is critical to our ongoing work in exhibits, education programs, and the preservation of our collection and two historic buildings. *We thank you!*



# Lincoln's Confidant and a Mystery

by Howard Lowell

*Noah* Brooks— artist, newspaperman, writer of juvenile fiction, intimate friend of Lincoln — was born in Castine in 1830. Orphaned at an early age, and raised by older sisters, Brooks left Castine after high school for a life voyage that took him to Boston, Illinois, Kansas, California, New York City and, during the Civil War, Washington DC.

A recently published biography by Dr. Wayne Temple, *Lincoln's Confidant: The Life of Noah Brooks*, tells his story, and the closeness he felt to Castine throughout a life that found him relocating there for its final chapter. Brooks died in 1903 and he is buried in the Castine Cemetery with a stone inscribed, as he requested, "REST."

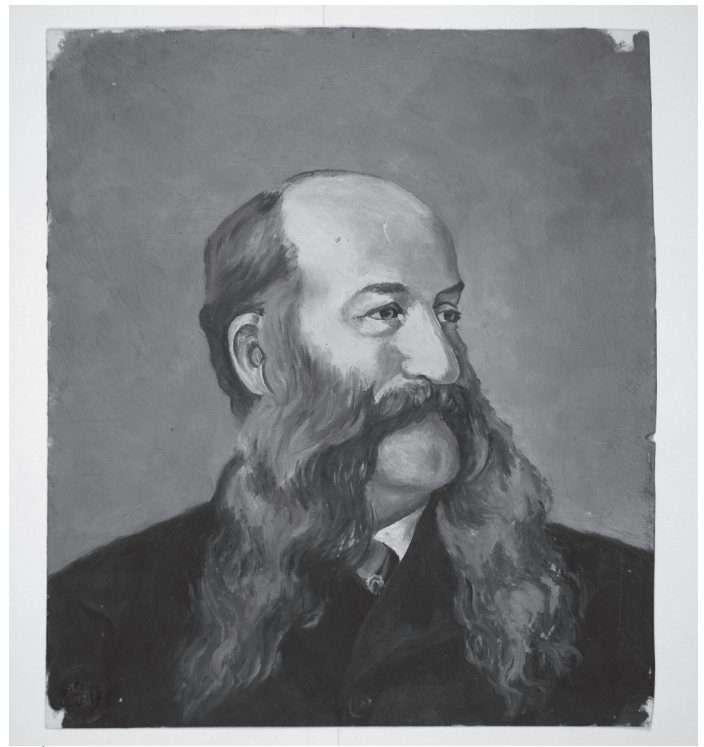
The book derives from a very readable Ph.D. dissertation that Temple defended in 1956 at the University of Illinois. Dr. Temple went on to have a long career at the Illinois State Archives as a nationally recognized Lincoln scholar.



Noah Brooks' gravestone in the Castine Cemetery

In one sense, Brooks might have left Castine as a young man, but Castine was always part of him. In his many Civil War dispatches to the *Sacramento Daily Union*, he wrote under the byline "Castine." The plotlines for many of his articles and books aimed at a juvenile male audience were based on his experiences as a boy in Castine. One can almost imagine seeing

Brooks on the baseball field inside Fort George as he wrote *The Fairport Nine*,<sup>1</sup> published in 1880. Many of Brooks' writings were published under fictitious names. In his research for the dissertation, Dr. Temple used several letters between Brooks and his boyhood friend, George Witherle, to uncover evidence of many articles and newspaper columns written under various pseudonyms. Temple notes this find: "recently a collection of his [Brooks] letters was discovered by Mr. Francis Whiting Hatch of Boston." (22) The footnotes find 112 citations for "Brooks



Portrait of Noah Brooks, c. 1875. Witherle Memorial Library Collection at Castine Historical Society

to Witherle" letters written between 1848 and 1891. What has become of these letters is a mystery the Castine Historical Society is trying to solve.

Our research so far has led to no definitive answer. Francis Whiting Hatch donated a collection that includes two Mary Lincoln letters and a Brooks journal to Harvard on May 14, 1992. In a letter to Hatch in the Harvard donation of seven items, dated May 7, 1950, Anna C. Witherle notes his purchase of the two Mary Lincoln letters and states, "When you come [to Castine] later on, you can go over the other Noah Brooks papers." Given the dates when Dr. Temple was working on this project, his note cited above and from the date of this letter, I surmise that the George Witherle/Noah Brooks correspondence referenced in Dr. Temple's dissertation was part of these "Noah Brooks papers." Dr. Temple's biography has thus left us with both a readable account of one of Castine's most famous sons, and a challenge to find the original documentation on which his research depended. Can you help?

*Lincoln's Confidant: The Life of Noah Brooks* can be purchased from the Castine Historical Society online Gift Shop at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) under the Support button or by calling the office at 207-326-4118.

## Endnotes

1. Brooks wrote of the fictional village of Fairpoint, using Castine as its model. The Castine Historical Society recently acquired a first edition of this book, signed by Brooks.

# A Less Than Traditional Christmas

by Angela Bonacasa

*In* true 2020 fashion, it seems that the upcoming winter will continue to be an uncertain time for many of us. When you are thinking of Castine this holiday season, remember that plenty of items from our gift shop can bring Castine to you, even on the darkest winter days. And by popular demand, we have two new items, wine glasses and placemats, just for the holidays!

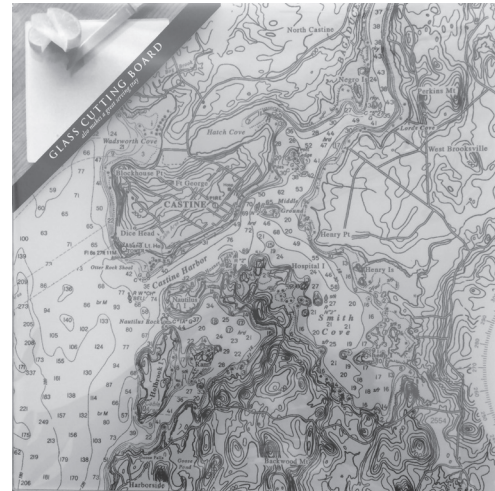
- Castine Historical Society wine glasses
- Ship Castine placemats by Pickering Company
- Castine market bags
- Cutting board featuring a nautical map of Castine
- Christmas ornaments
- And, of course, books about Castine history

And we still carry our popular fleece, cards, caps, and Meri Meri items. Check out all our available items by going to our online store at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) and selecting “Gift Shop” under “Support.” From there, either purchase your items for shipping directly to your home or give us a call at 326-4118 to arrange local pickup or delivery. ***And don't forget that all current members get a 10% discount!***

You can also visit our Pop-Up Shop at Compass Rose Books! Beginning November 28, you can purchase a selection of our items in person through the holiday season. While there, you can grab a coffee and a tasty treat. We appreciate our friends at Compass Rose Books and encourage you to buy local.

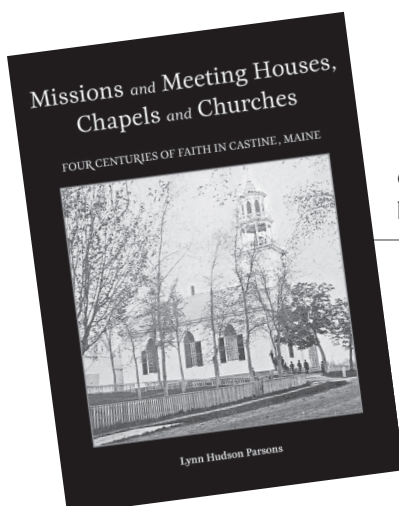
Regardless of where you shop, all of us at the Castine Historical Society wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Ship Castine placemat by Pickering Company



Glass cutting board featuring a nautical map of Castine

Castine Historical Society wine glasses



Castine history book



Castine market bag and towels



## 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).

## 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



Photograph courtesy of Ellie Benjamin

## **Social Justice and Social History**

June 9, 2020

In a year when history is at the forefront and as relevant as ever, the Historical Society saves contemporary images of a peaceful protest event during the coronavirus pandemic. Marchers on Main Street, Castine, carried signs and chanted as they walked from Fort George to the waterfront for a vigil. Margaret Goodson organized the event as a local response to the death of George Floyd in Wisconsin on May 25, 2020. Her invitation to the community began: "I've lived in this town almost my whole life and it's quiet and beautiful, but right now I feel it's a little too quiet." Margaret and other young people in town led the march, joined by nearly 100 townspeople of all ages, several of whom spoke as well.

### **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)