

*Circa 1868*

# Stories of the Stained Glass Windows

Colorful Illustrations  
Illuminating the History  
of the  
Trinitarian Congregational Parish  
of Castine

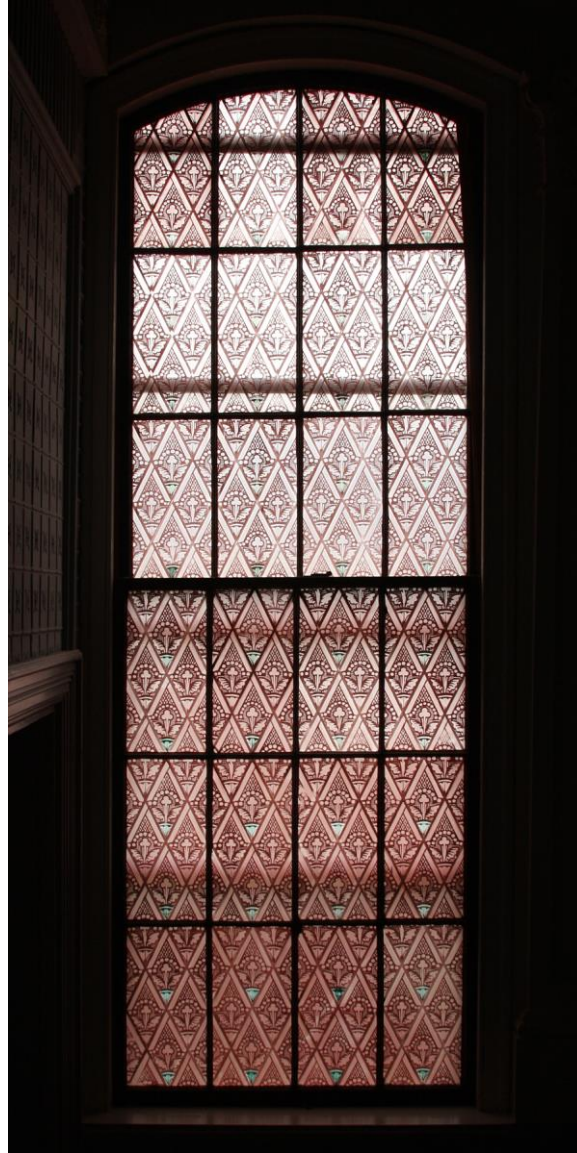
Compiled by Carolyn Brouillard

68 Main Street - Castine , Maine



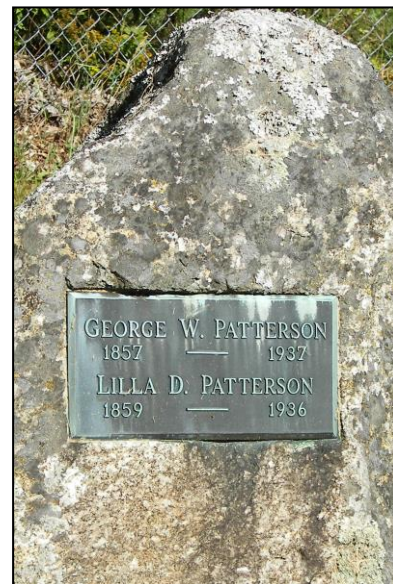
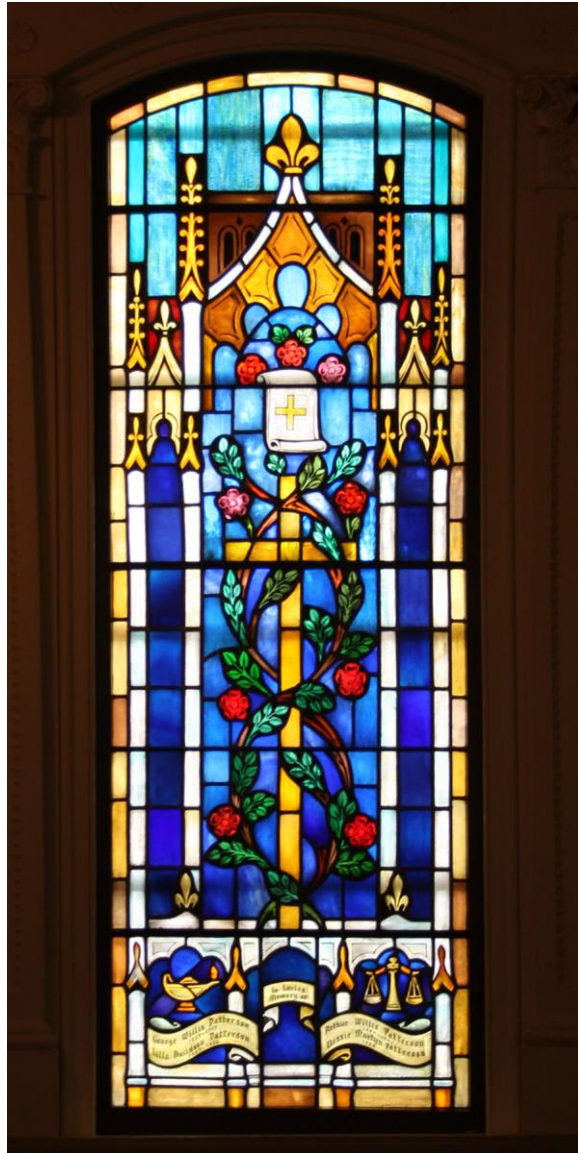
These windows are a legacy from past congregations to future congregations. They are our historic and cultural responsibility. The story of the town of Castine and the church are intertwined, and the windows tell us some of the story. In doing church research, we have not been able to find out who made the windows. Hopefully, as we take the windows apart in the process of restoration, we will find some hidden clues. Our plan is to restore them one at a time over the next 10 years. The cost to repair a window runs between eight and twelve thousand dollars per window, depending upon the detail, labor and glass replacement required. Your support small or large, will help us save our beautiful windows.





Starting on the left as you enter the sanctuary, the patterned window is from the reconstruction in 1867. All ten of the windows in the sanctuary were like this, including the large windows on the face of the church. The glass used in the windows were screened and then baked to etch the color into the glass. The original color would have been dark brown, not pink.

As you continue down the left side, the background of the people memorialized on the windows follows:



George Willis Patterson was installed as Minister in 1907-1915. He was well loved and with him the church grew. In February 1908 he formed a Shakespeare Club at his home. The object was to read aloud the plays, with each member being assigned a part by lot. Mr. Patterson was an authority on Shakespeare and remarkably well-versed in the plays. It was considered a great privilege to be a member of this club which continued as long as Mr. Patterson remained pastor of the Congregational church. He then went off to be connected with the "government war." The church then declined in membership, accelerated by the demoralizing influence of the first great world war. It became very difficult or impossible to secure supplies for the pulpit and a satisfactory pastor. The church, unable to sustain itself, became closed for considerable periods of time.

The window was installed by Donald and Gordon Patterson and their sister Margaret Patterson Willows, in memory of the Patterson Family. The window was made by the famous Connick studio (now closed) in Boston and installed in 1971.



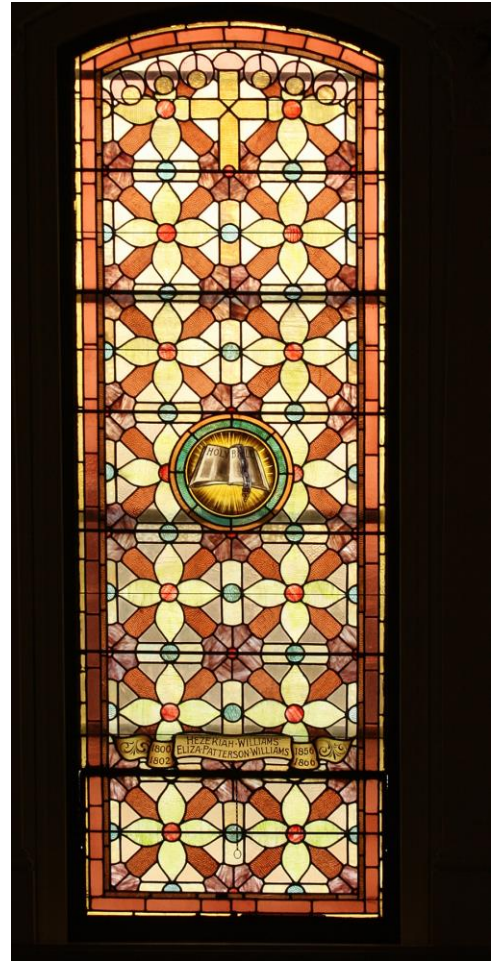
Born 1798 in Woodstock Vermont, Squire Hezekiah Williams graduated from Dartmouth College in 1820 and settled in Castine in 1825. In May of the next year, he married Eliza Patterson of Belfast. They lived in the house right below the church on the corner of Court and Main St. They had four sons and four daughters. Their daughter Lucia fell in love with Lemuel Atherton, a brilliant young lawyer who lived on the corner across Court Street. When her father didn't approve, she "took to her bed" until he gave in. They happily married and moved to Dixon, Illinois where he became the mayor. When Hezekiah Williams died in 1856 the rest of the family moved to Illinois.

In 1832 Williams was appointed to the Board of Health when cholera was prevalent in this country. The board established a quarantine for all vessels, inspected every house in town, and compelled the removal of all "nuisances and filth." The measures taken were effectual since no cholera cases occurred here as had happened in some other coastal towns. Although a respected member of the Hancock Bar, Williams was more extensively known in political rather than professional circles. He held, at different times, various offices of honor and trust in town and state. In 1845-47 he represented this district in Congress. He belonged to the Democratic Party. Mr. Williams was a prominent and zealous member of the Masonic Order. At one time he was the Master of the Hancock Lodge and in 1841 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

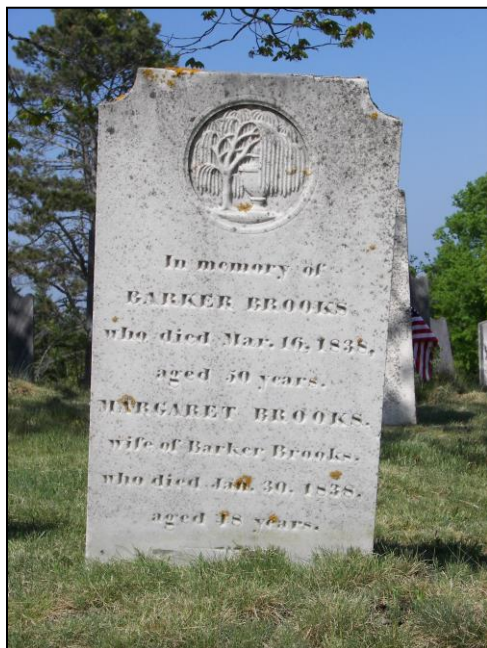
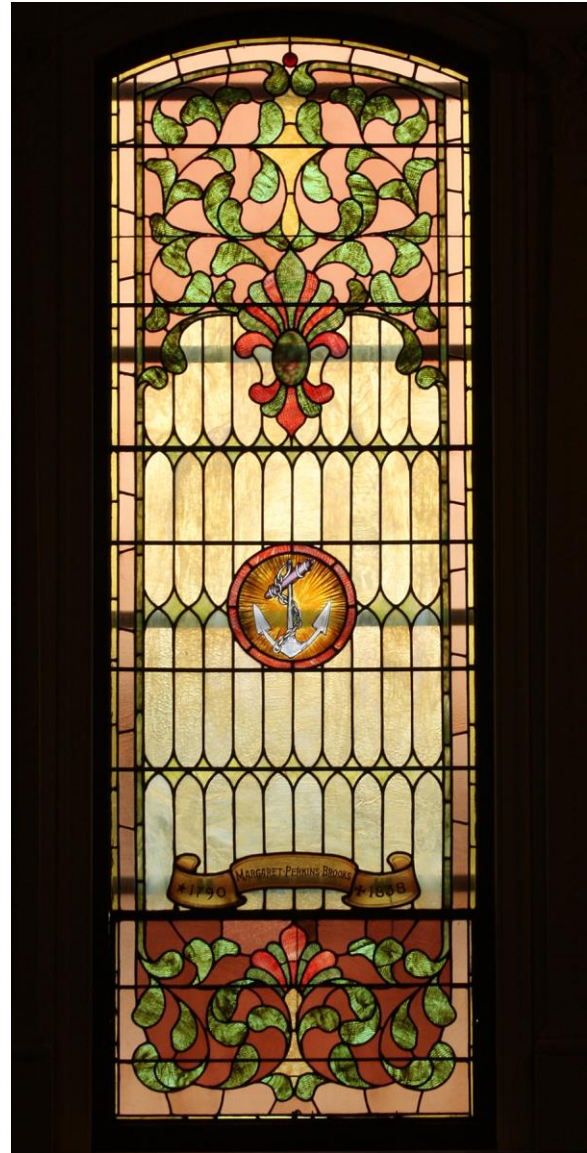
He died in Castine on October 1856 aged 58 years and 13 days. His wife died 1866 and her remains were brought back from Illinois and are interred in the Castine Cemetery.



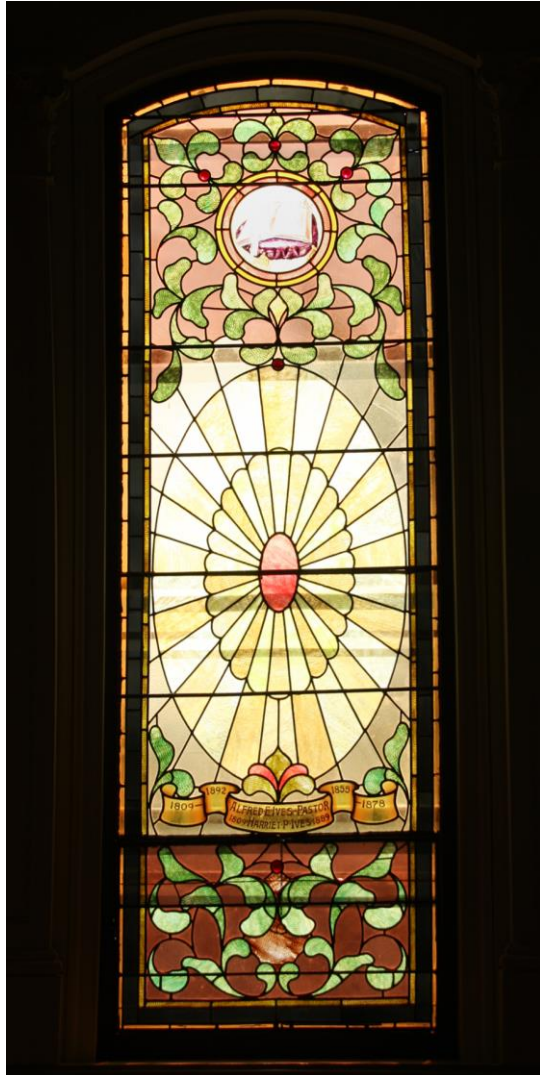
*Photo courtesy of the Wilson Museum.*



Margaret Perkins Brooks was born in 1790. Her parents, Joseph and Phebe, were considered wealthy for the time and had a large house on upper Main St. Margaret was 24 when the British occupied Castine in the winter of 1814-15. She married Captain Barker Brooks of Massachusetts a year or so later. He established a shipyard in Camden in 1806 and probably had a business in Castine at that time as well. They had eight children. Margaret died when their son Noah, the youngest, was 7. Their house is still on the common in Castine, at the top next to the Adams School and is referred to as the Gardner house. Noah became a famous writer. He published stories about growing up in Castine, among his other fine works. Noah became a close acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln and was a frequent visitor to the White House.







Alfred E. Ives, husband of Harriet P. Ives, was installed as minister by the council on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1855. He was paid 800 dollars per year. Over eighty new members joined the church in the twenty plus years he was here. He was pastor until 1878.

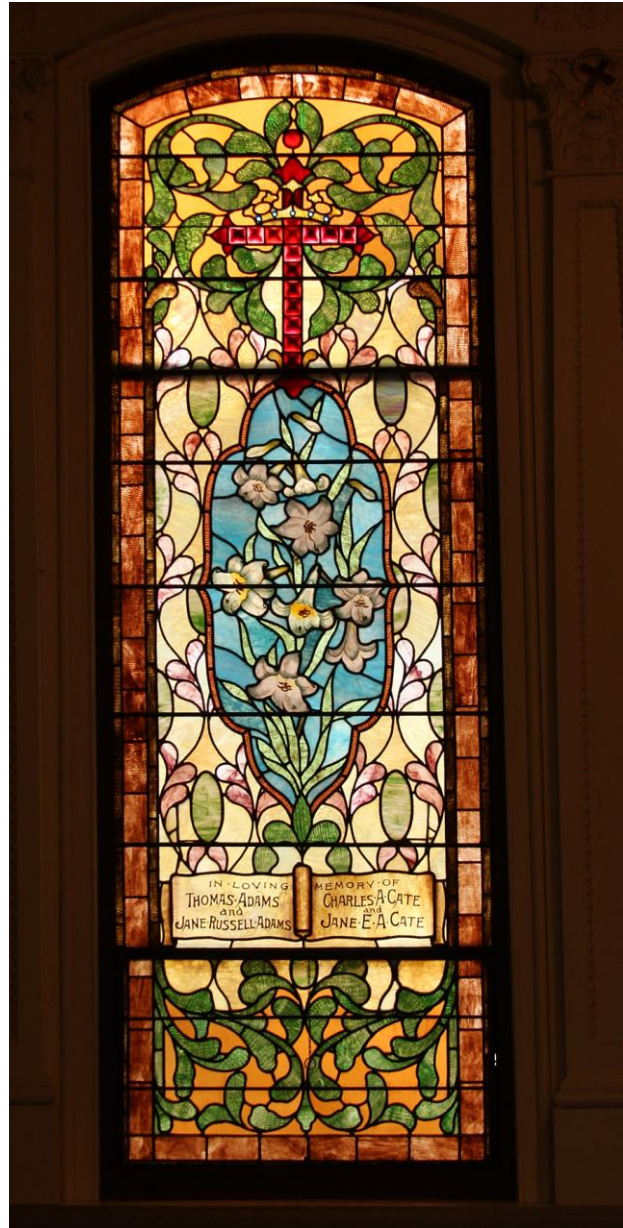
Mr. Ives liked poetry. He preferred John Greenleaf Whittier's poems over those of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He founded The Historical Society No. 2 in 1878. (Of the Historical Society No. 1, formed in 1865, there are no records). He was the president and their one important objective was the uncovering of the old French Fort (Pentagoet) which yielded numerous relics and important information. The Sunday after Lincoln was assassinated Rev. Ives gave a sermon entitled "Victory turned into Mourning. A Discourse on the Occasion of the Death of Abraham Lincoln, late president of the United States." It was well received and published into a book. The sermon gives us an insight into the mind and heart of this church and community after the Civil War. His house still stands on the common above the Witherle Library and next to the Adams School.

Thomas Adams came to Castine in 1807 from Massachusetts and became a merchant. He married Jane Russell of St. Andrews, N.B. who was a granddaughter of John Perkins. He built the house that still stands on the corner of Court and Pleasant St. Thomas was one of the major merchants in town.

During 1814 and 1815 when the British had possession of Castine, they established a customs house and collected duties on imported goods. After the war the United States demanded another payment of those duties. The merchants refused to pay and Thomas Adams, as one of the principal merchants, was named as defendant. The amount involved was about one hundred thousand dollars. Daniel Webster was the attorney for the defense and won the case.

Thomas was also one of the primary stock holders and directors of the Castine Bank. It lasted five years and then failed. The United States bought the banks interest in the building it was in. It was then converted to the Customs House and since 1919, the United States Post Office.

As one of the key organizers of this church, he was the superintendent of the Sunday school for 32 years. The Sabbath School was the result of his personal labors; his heart was warm and his prayers were fervent for his pupils. He loved them so much. Mr. Adams was described as having a kindly face. It was noted that "He was extensively known and beloved as a man and a Christian. Those who partook of his kindness and shared his hospitality could not easily forget his manners and cordial welcome. His genial, winning ways must have effectively commended to many young minds the sacred truths he set before us." Prosperous as he was in the mercantile career and blessed with worldly goods, he did not forget to offer upon the altar of God a large portion of his gifts. After the death of his wife in 1834 and due to ill health, Mr. Adams moved to Boston in 1837. There is a stained glass window made by the famous John LaFarge dedicated "In loving remembrance of Thomas and Jane Russell Adams of Castine, Maine and their daughter Ruth Reed Adams" in the St James Episcopal church in Cambridge Mass.

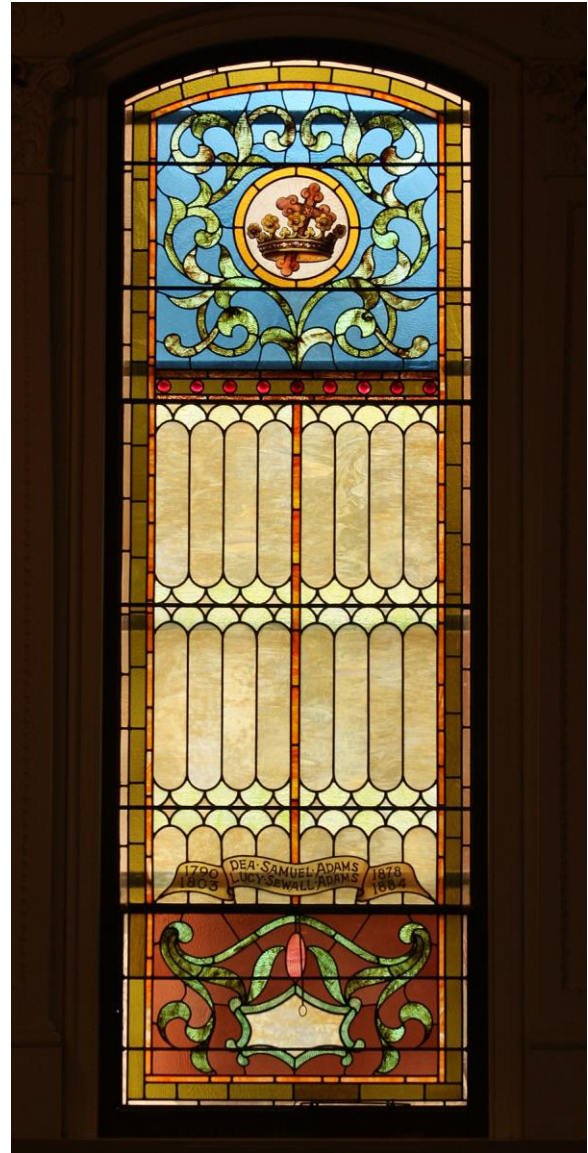






On the same stained glass window are Charles Cate and Jane Elizabeth Cate. Jane is the daughter of Thomas and Jane Russell Adams. The younger Jane married Charles Cate. He had a general store, Cate and Whitting, at the foot of Green St. He was a selectman for the town and Superintendent of the Library. He died leaving his widow with five children. She stayed on in the Adams house her father built. It is now known as the Adams Cate house. Their daughter, Anna Cate, went to Hawaii to help an uncle with his family and there met Sanford B. Dole. They were later married in the family home in Castine. He became the only president and first governor of Hawaii. He was of the Dole family pineapple fortune.

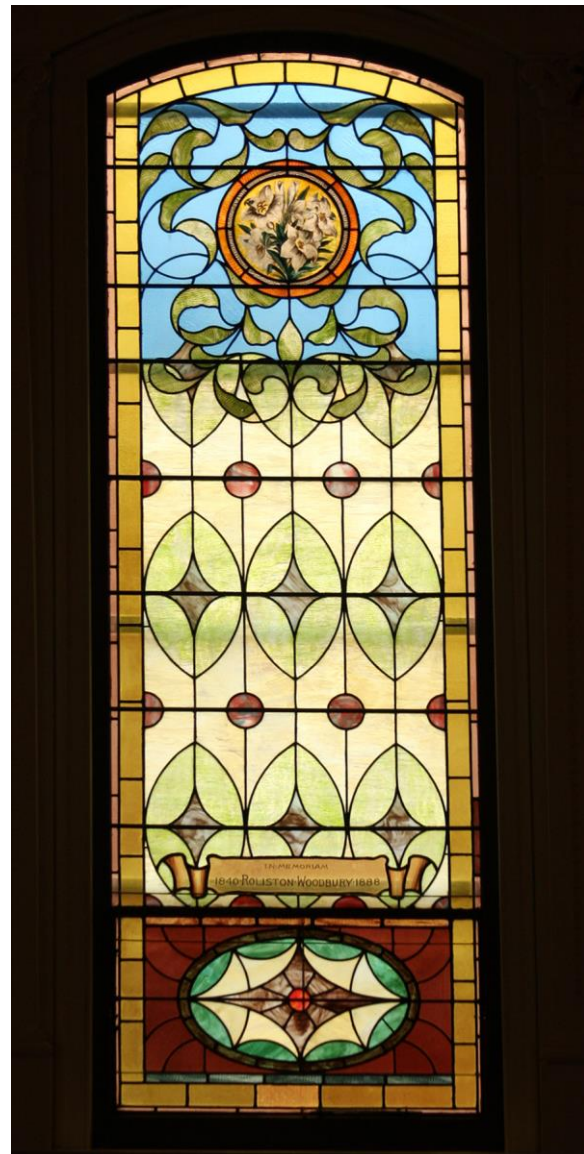
Samuel Adams, born in 1790 in Pembroke, N.H., came to Castine to work for his older brother (by 7 years) Thomas in his store around 1809. He and his brother later joined in partnership. Samuel married Lucy Moulton of Bucksport, and they had six children. The house they built and lived in is still on upper Main St., the only house with a widows' walk. He soon became a merchant on his own and was involved in all phases of shipping including owning, building, and outfitting ships. Where Dennett's Wharf is now, was the old Adams Wharf. It came down through the family into the Dennett family by marriage from a granddaughter. The Adams Store was a true general store selling everything from diaper cloth to rum, camel hair to spyglasses and ear horns for the hard of hearing. It was in the brick building on Water St. and Main (where the Union Trust Bank is now located). It sat in the middle of three store fronts. Samuel was also one of the founders of the Adams and the Abbott Schools. The Abbott school now houses the Castine Historical Society. Samuel presented the Eastern Maine Normal school with the bell that sits on the grounds of Maine Maritime Academy today. He was one of the original organizers of this church and served as a deacon for 36 years. He held many important positions in town. In 1874 at 84 he was described as "a hale old gentleman with all his faculties unimpaired-cheered by the presence of his worthy wife and the companionship of his children and host of friends." He died in 1887 at 88 and he has a large monument in the Castine Cemetery.







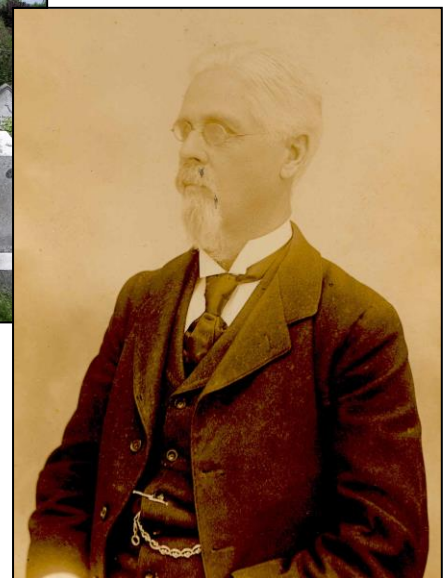
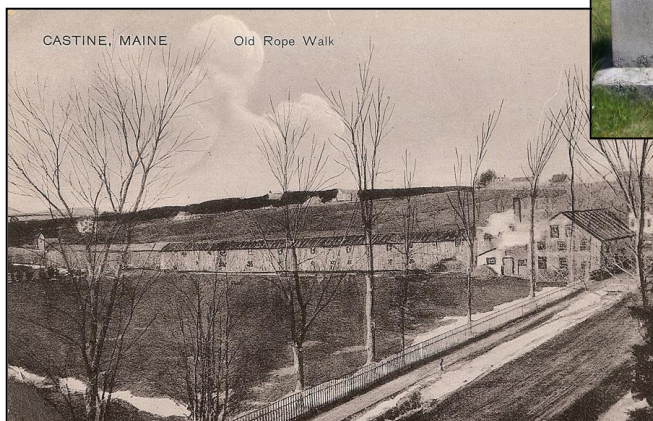
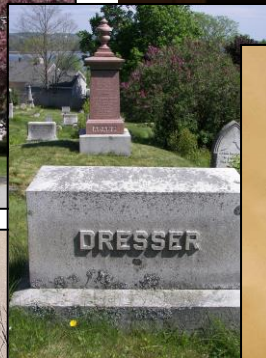
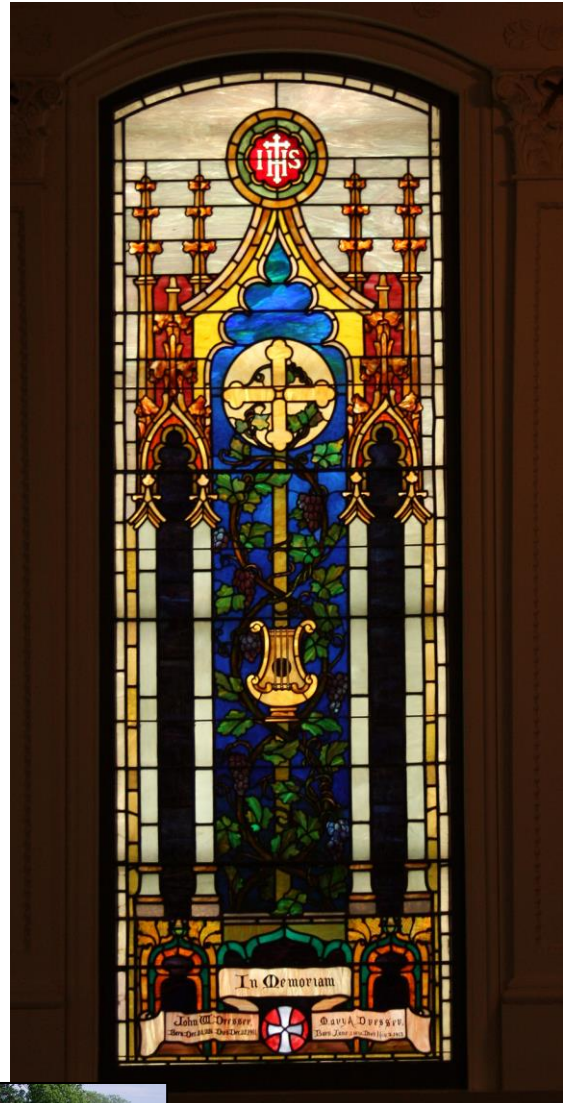
*Photo courtesy of the Wilson Museum.*



Roliston Woodbury attended Bowdoin College but suspended his studies at the commencement of the great Civil War in order to enlist in the Fifth Maine Battery. It was recorded that he was “slightly” wounded at Gettysburg. He served until the end of the war. Instead of returning to Bowdoin he went to the Normal School in Farmington, Maine where, after graduation, he was retained as an instructor, later to become the assistant principal. In 1878 he was chosen principal of the State Normal School in Castine and continued to serve in that capacity until his untimely death in 1888. He was considered to possess “superabundant qualifications” as an educator, school director, and one of the most efficient preparatory teachers in the state. Bowdoin College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. In politics he acted with the Republican Party. Mr. Woodbury was a member of this church and actively interested in religious work. He was married to Nellie Lovejoy of Albany, Maine. After her death he remarried Maria Billings of Fayette, Maine. He had three sons.

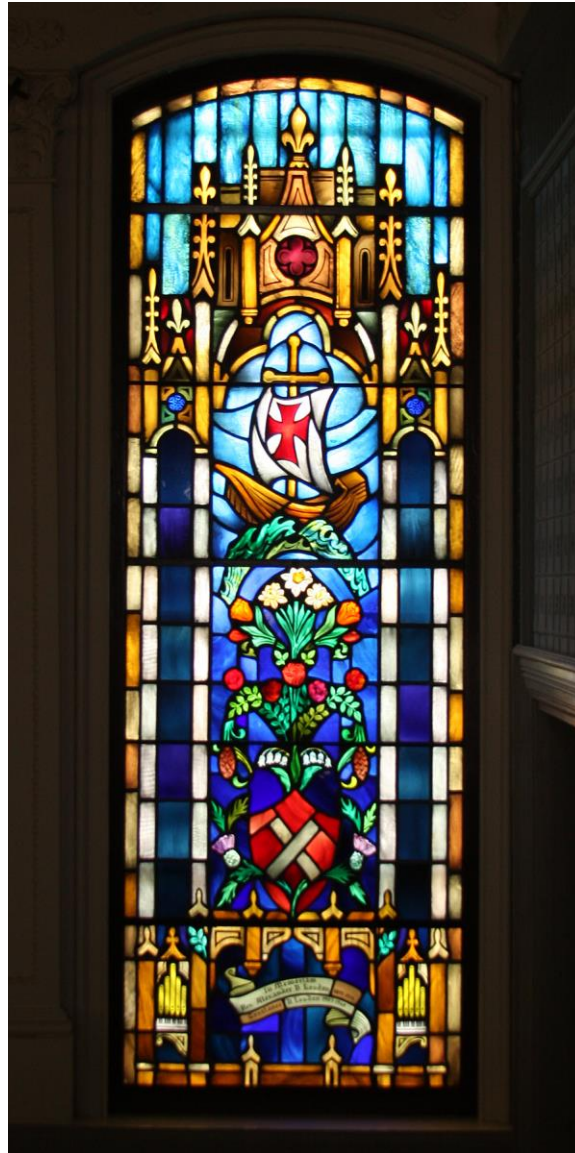
John Wentworth Dresser was born and raised in Castine and married Mary Adams, daughter of Deacon Samuel and Lucy Adams in June of 1830. He was in business with his father, also John Dresser. They built a large rope walk on upper Pleasant St. where they made mackerel and cod line. The rope walk was the longest wooden building in Maine. Their business was well known all over the world. Young John also had a ships chandlery store. He made a comfortable fortune out of both the businesses and in 1900 he sold out to E.H. Carpenter. John W. Dresser was a member of the school committee, and taught singing at the Normal School for many years. He took an active interest in town affairs and this church.

The Castine Centennial was celebrated on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1896. Castine was incorporated on February 8<sup>th</sup> 1796, but the celebration was held in July instead of February because "The weather in February is usually inclement." The literary exercises were held in this church and John Dresser (among others) wrote a lengthy poem about the history of Castine and read it to the crowd.



*Photo courtesy of the Wilson Museum.*





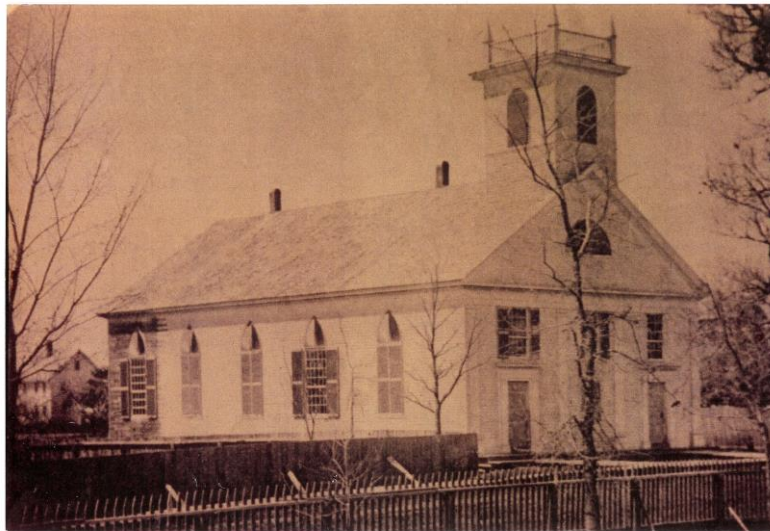
Rev. Alex Loudon was a well respected pastor of the church. He was a member of the American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions and a Member of The Maine Congregational Ministerial Relief Society. The Dr. Mary Cushman Circle had the window commissioned and it was installed shortly after his death in 1973. It was made by the Connick Studio of Boston, one of the last few windows made before the studio closed. The design of the window was based on the “excellent comments” written by the Dr. Mary Cushman circle to help the Studio design a window to reflect the church’s devotion, including significant personal symbolism reflecting the Louden’s service. At either side of the scroll for the memorial text are organs suggesting Mrs. Louden’s love of music and her activities in that field. The shield above is inscribed with St. Andrews Cross wreathed with thistles recalling Mr. Louden’s Scottish origin. The flowers suggest his love of gardening, while the two pinecones represent the State of Maine. The dominant symbol above is the Ship of the Church, with the cross for the mast and again the inscription on the sail. This is an excellent symbol of dedicated devotion to the church and its steadfast progress through stormy seas.

## History of the Church

1820-The church was organized by Thomas Adams, Thomas Hale and Bradford Harlow. Adams and Hale were members of the First Congregational Society (now the Castine Unitarian Church), under the leadership of the Reverend William Mason. Fundamentalism was sweeping across Maine at that time and was the cause of their split from “Mr. Mason’s Society”. There was an attempt to reunite and although it was a friendly exchange, the views of the two groups were so far apart that they decided to organize their own church. The First Trinitarian Church also known as The Second Congregational Church had no home and for eight, (some accounts say nine) years met in the County Court House on the Town Common where the Witherle Memorial Library now stands. Land for the construction of a new church was purchased for \$146 on Main St.

October 6<sup>th</sup> 1828-the church was dedicated. John Crosby from Andover Seminary was hired as a permanent pastor for \$600 a year.

1848-The original church looked very similar to the Unitarian Church on the town Common. As the church was growing there was a need for more room inside. An addition was added on to existing building adding 14 more pews and one more window on each side.



1867-with the congregation growing again, the church was reconstructed. The building was raised nine feet, with excavation adding three more feet, giving room for a basement of brick, and for an airy well ventilated vestry, “Ladies Room,” and kitchen. The seats were cushioned and the whole building was carpeted with wool, even downstairs except for the kitchen. All the lamps were new also. Decorative frescoes are painted on the ceiling and behind the altar was a remarkable “trompe l’oeil” perspective. Patterned stained glass was replaced in all the windows in the sanctuary. The entrance of the church was redone and the beautiful steeple added. A Mr. N. Wilson Brooks Esq. from Detroit, Michigan donated the bell that now hangs in the steeple. The bell was hung on February 4<sup>th</sup> with the thermometer registering a frigid 5 degrees. The bell was dedicated the next day. We have not been able to find out any information on Mr. Brooks, but we assume he was a relative of Margaret Brooks who is memorialized in one of the windows. The complete renovation, windows, pews, kitchen, steeple, fresco’s and rug cost



a total of twelve thousand dollars. The church then became known as the "Fancy Church." It is now also referred to in documents as the "Orthodox Church."



1872-On Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> at noon it was discovered that the church was on fire. That morning the fires were lit to warm the church for Sunday services, and the cold air boxes were closed. The wind was blowing a gale, and the fire in the furnace burned so fiercely as to ignite the lathing and plaster forming one side of the cold air box. The fire was burning in the ceiling of the east side under the floor of the sanctuary. It was severely cold. Due to the wind it was necessary to keep the building closed as much as possible. For an hour and half it seemed like there was little chance of saving the church. If it had fully burned in the violent gale, the fire would have swept through the village in the direction of the wind and consumed both the other two church buildings (there was a Methodist Church there too), the two school houses on the Common and the Town House. The fire was put out in two and half hours after the earnest and persistent efforts by the Castine Firemen and the citizens of the town. It was noted in the Castine Gazette on December 22<sup>nd</sup> that "Rarely has there been manifested such an oppressive solemnity,- rarely if ever have firemen and citizens exerted themselves with more energy and consistency- rarely has the feeling of relief been greater when it was found that the fire was extinguished, the exterior of the church but little affected, the beautiful spire adorning the village and a wide conflagration escaped." The wet wool carpet on the church floor stopped the fire from spreading into the sanctuary, so the fire damage was contained principally in the floor of that room and below it. The whole building was seriously damaged by water and smoke including the frescos on the walls and ceiling. Estimated cost of repairs was \$1200. There was no insurance and everyone got busy on Monday morning working on the restoration. The money was subscribed and two weeks later there was again public worship in the church. You can still see charred timbers from the floor.

1873-In January after the holidays and the church reopened, the ladies of the "Orthodox Society" gave a supper in the vestry for the fire department and a few volunteers who had been especially active at the fire. The supper was an excellent and bountiful one, according to the Gazette. "We could hardly understand how they managed to get up so good, and one at this time of year!" Toasts were made and the following humorous poem was read to everyone's great delight. (Please note, the fire department had two engines, the #2 and the #3. On Nov 12 the fire department received the new fire engine called the #3. The Squirrel tail referred to is the intake hose on the engine that was stored curling over the engine like squirrels' tails. No attempt had been made to test the engine yet as the connecting hose was in poor condition and a committee had been formed to confer with the selectmen for funds to replace it).

The Castine Conflagration by James Webster (A ship builder)

One day the wind severe did blow,  
The ground was covered thick with snow,  
And fire bells were loudly rung-  
Which started people on the run.

To the scene of conflagration-  
Which filled all with consternation.  
The fancy church was on fire!  
And all were breathless to get nigher.

The "Three" was promptly on the spot;  
The fire and smoke they heeded not.  
The "squirrel tail" though, strange to tell,  
Was quickly thrust into the well!

The hose screwed on some joints or more,  
Was boldly making for the door-  
The famous Bridges seized the nozzle  
And on the fire began to dozzle!

A little, puny liquid stream,  
All which was plainly to be seen,  
They never could put out the fire,  
For still the flames were rising higher.

Most manfully he stood the test  
And like a hero did his best:  
But human nature cannot stand  
What is beyond the power of man.

Then Davies did most loudly shout:  
"You cannot put the fire out,  
I'll tell you boys what we must do:

Now quickly get the Number Two."

The "Two" as if by slight of hand,  
Was quickly there and strongly manned.  
The wind did blow, the smoke it flew,  
And all was right to put her through.

Then came up dear brother Surry;  
Says: "Now boys be in a hurry,  
Man the hose, the walls go through  
And show the 'Three' what we can do."

Most desperately they worked the "Two,"  
The hose men had all they could do.  
Flooded on such streams of water,  
Drove the fire from every quarter.

The fire now was most subdued:  
The inside had to be reviewed,  
To see if all the fire was out-  
As firemen know what they are all about.

Our Deacon Hale, quite out of breath,  
Without the slightest fear of death,  
Down in the vestry fiercely goes;  
The ceiling fell and skinned his nose.

Colonel Tilden was there before-  
The debris jammed him on the floor,  
And most lustily he cried,  
To pull him out before he died!



And Mr. Dow was standing near,  
His stifled cries did faintly hear.  
By feeling round he found him there,  
Then dragged him out into the air!

Mr. Noyes deserves some mention  
For his brave and good attention,  
And the council he imparted  
To the faint and chicken hearted!  
The ladies, too, with open hearts,  
Like angels, well they did their part,  
With outstretched arms, refreshments free  
For all the men of "Number Three."

Some jealousies then did arise,  
About the cakes and nice mince pies-  
The "Two's" men would not rob the  
"Three."  
So acquiesced most gallantly.

The Quality here did preside  
On this occasion in their pride,  
With kid-gloved hands and mustached face!  
They bowed and smiled with charming  
grace.  
And said the Commoners have done well  
To save the church and steeple bell-  
Which would ring, in years to come,  
For what the old tub "Two" had done.

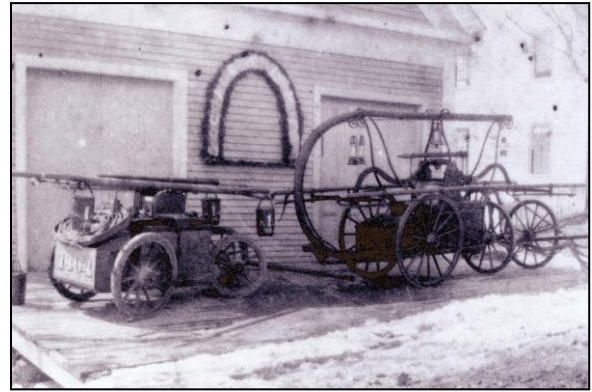
So now my story is all told,  
A hundred thousand copies sold!  
To spread the news o're all the nation  
How we stopped the conflagration.

This poem was published in "The Times" on November 23, 1897.

1878-The Deacon Samuel Adams house is donated to the church for use as a parsonage by his family.

1890-The four faced clock is installed in the steeple base as the town clock. (The town still owns the clock to this day). It is an elaborate brass and cast iron pendulum clock with hand-wound weights drawn up weekly. It sounds the hour with a clapper on the church bell.

1896-The church received a substantial redecoration/refurbishment. The popular pressed-tin decoration was installed over the ceiling and walls covering the frescoes. An entirely new set of curved pews are installed and the stained glass windows are in evidence.



Engine Three with squirrel tail hose.  
*Photo courtesy of the Wilson Museum.*



The “Book and Thimble Club” was organized by ladies of the church to manage social events and ministry work. This was the predecessor of the Dr. Mary Cushman Circle which continues its substantial works today. Dr. Cushman was the daughter of Pastor Cushman who served the church in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was a pioneer in medical missionary work for 30 years, establishing a hospital in Angola, South Africa.

1905-The state incorporated name of the church was changed from “Trinitarian Society” to the “Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine”.

1908-The church was lit by gas.

1947-The former Methodist Parish of Castine joined our congregation and we became known as Trinitarian Parish Church-Federated of Castine.

1967-1979 Clergy representing the four protestant congregations in Castine, Episcopalian, Unitarian, Congregationalist and Methodist (the Federate pair) came together to function as The Interchurch Parish. This ecumenical effort was formed based on the need to account for scarce pastoral resources. Pastor Mervin Deems became its regular minister, performing the respective rituals of service in each of the three churches.

1971-The Episcopalian element of the Interchurch withdrawals to return to their own services in the Episcopal Chapel on Perkins Street.

1985-The Unitarians element of the Interchurch Parish returns to their church on the Common. This ends the Interchurch Parish initiative.

1986-The Adams parsonage is sold and an endowment fund is set up.

1991-94 Substantial renovation projects focusing on the vestry and kitchen began. The sanctuary floor was reinforced and a new concrete floor under the vestry was constructed.



1993-The town clock, out of operation for over a decade, was restored and enhanced with an automatic weight-winding mechanism.

1995-present. Among the many refurbishing/maintenance projects recently completed: The steeple was strengthened, lightning arrestors installed, the weathervane refurbished, the sanctuary floor completely rebuilt, the pews refinished and a music platform was constructed to accommodate a new piano. A generous gift from former neighbor, Mrs. Jean Cass, of a rectangular plot of land immediately behind the church enabled the construction and planting of a pleasant garden and activity area.



The view of Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine from the Adams-Cate house on Court St.

*Photo courtesy of Lisa Burton*

Much of this information was taken from:

“Majabigwaduce: Castine, Penobscot, Brooksville. Castine Scientific Society ME 1978” by Ellenire Doudiet.

“History of Castine, Penobscot and Brooksville, Maine” by George A. Wheeler M.D. assisted by Louise Wheeler Bartlett.

“Castine, Past and Present” by George Wheeler

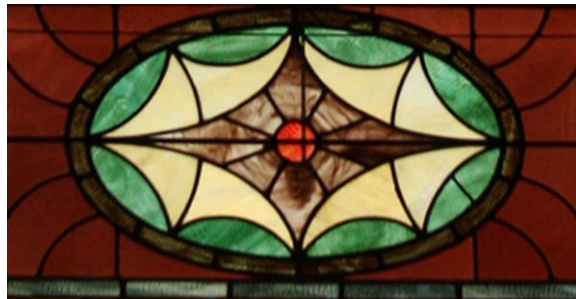
“The Centennial of Castine” by the Town of Castine

“History of The Congregational Church” by Florence Philbrook Crockett’s

Many thanks to:

- Paula Dunfee from the Wilson Museum for her guidance and suggestions.
- Ann Romans from the Witherle Library for her help.
- Carolyn Ulrich for digging through old church documents.
- Lisa Burton at Mainely Solutions for putting it all together into this brochure.
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- Rosemary Wyman for capturing the beauty of the windows in photographs with her photography.
- The Castine Historical Society
- John Conrad for his personal history of the Adams Family.
- The Wilson Museum

Please note this is a continuing work in progress. As information is shared about our past, more comes forward from Castine families and those connected to our church. Many documents used in this research contain conflicting information and hearsay; efforts were made to be correct. It is hoped the reader, noting errors will send corrections and when possible, further information.



If you would like to assist financially in the restoration of these historic windows, please indicate “window restoration” on your check memo line and send your donation to:

Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine  
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