

# WILSON MUSEUM BULLETIN

Fall 2021

Vol. 5, No. 24



## THE WILSON MUSEUM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

By Patricia L. Hutchins, Executive Director Emeritus

As I reflect on this past year I am tempted to begin as did Charles Dickens in his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, but I can only get to the first phrase of the sentence, “It was the best of times....” 2021 truly has been the best of times for me as I had the opportunity to finish out my career by joining with the board of trustees, staff, members, and friends to celebrate the Wilson Museum’s first 100 years.

The 100th celebration kicked off with a birthday party falling on Dr. Wilson’s own birthday anniversary, April 9. This virtual party premiered *Snippets of the Wilson Family’s Home Movies*, short film segments taken between the mid-1930s and 40s and recently compiled and edited with the assistance of filmmaker Jim Picarillo. This can now be viewed on our website. The Members’ Reception, with a 1920s theme, was held on the 100th Anniversary of the organization’s founding date, June 20, 1921. Seasonal exhibits were in place with a focus on the Wilson family’s clothing, music, art, toys, and games of the late 1800s to early 1900s. Our annual fundraising event, *Collecting Castine*, was held in August, honoring Wilson family artists.

Especially memorable was the Wilson family reunion weekend with various speakers, a walking tour led by the Castine Historical Society, and a lobster cookout. A hearty thank you is extended to Jim and Joan Huger for hosting the Wilsons on Nautilus Island, an island the Wilsons owned for 100 years. Twenty-five family members were able to come to Castine for the reunion; we are so pleased to have Dr. Wilson’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren actively interested in the Wilson Museum. Plans are underway for next year when they plan to return to work on building a skiff in the Museum’s Wood Shop.



## MISSION

*Building on the legacy of its founding family, the Wilson Museum uses its diverse collections and resources to provide learning experiences to stimulate exploration of the history and cultures of the Penobscot Bay region and world.*

Wilson Museum  
P.O. Box 196  
120 Perkins Street  
Castine, ME 04421  
(207) 326-9247  
info@wilsonmuseum.org  
www.wilsonmuseum.org

© 2021



## TRUSTEES

Hans Carlson  
*President*

Donald Small  
*Treasurer*

Kay Hightower  
*Secretary*

Steven Brookman  
Marianne Buchanan  
Barbara Cooper  
Barbara Jackson  
Robert Kilpeck  
Jeanmarie Reed  
Steve Shea



## STAFF

Julia Gray  
*Executive Director*

Heather Rose Martinez  
*Administrative Assistant*

Abby Dunham  
*Collections Manager/Curator*

Haley Blake  
*Education Coordinator*

Jocelyn Willis  
*Program Support*

Patricia Hutchins  
*Executive Director Emeritus*



Nearing the end of the season, *Patty's Picnic* was held to invite the community to celebrate the 100th Anniversary and recognize my retirement. Appreciation is extended to everyone for the warm wishes, gifts, and cards.

For the Wilson Museum, reaching its 100th year has not been without its ups and downs. Formed in 1921, it suffered the Depression, the early loss of its founder in 1936, and World War II. Fortunately, Dr. Wilson's daughter, Ellenore W. Doudiet, a young widow, picked up the pieces in the late 1940s and made it her lifework to carry on the legacy of her father. Under Mrs. Doudiet's tenure, Hoyt Hutchins restored the historic John and Phebe Perkins House and built the Blacksmith Shop and the exhibit building that now holds the Bagaduce Engine. Three other generations of Hutchins continued to carry on the work of the Museum. Today, the Museum serves the community and beyond with an active, strong board of trustees backed with significant resources: its location is rich in history and appealingly situated on the bay where the Bagaduce and Penobscot Rivers converge; its buildings are of varying purpose and/or of historic significance; its collections are world-wide; its programming attracts the interests of all ages and backgrounds; and its financial future is sound.

The board and staff are excited as the Wilson Museum moves forward under the direction of the new Executive Director Julia Gray. I remain proud to have contributed my efforts to what has been a tremendously rewarding (almost) 50 years of service, and I eagerly look forward as the Museum grows into its next 100 years.

---

## PATRICIA L. HUTCHINS ENDOWED INTERN FUND

By Heather Rose Martinez

The Wilson Museum has had the privilege of celebrating many wonderful milestones this year. One of particular importance is the establishment of the Patricia L. Hutchins Endowed Intern Fund. The board of trustees created this endowment in recognition of Patty's retirement after nearly 50 years with the Wilson Museum. The internship program will serve to honor her dedication in full measure while helping the Museum carry out its mission into perpetuity.

Thanks to the efforts of the Fundraising Committee and the staff, we exceeded our initial goal of \$100,000. We extend a very warm thank you to everyone who contributed to this campaign. Your donations will enable the Museum to offer opportunity to many talented and diverse future museum professionals.

Stay tuned for a detailed announcement of how this internship will help us meet our mission by enhancing programming and the overall visitor experience. If you would like to contribute, please reach out to the Museum for a donation form.

### We want to offer special recognition to the gifts made to the Endowed Intern Fund in memory of:

John & Jean Baker  
Tom Bartlett  
Bob Downes  
Dorothy Farnham  
Fritz Foote

Harold Hatch  
Sanger & Lydia Howard  
Harry Kaiserian  
Barbara Mallonee

Donna L. Sawyer  
Charlotte Snyder Sholod  
Alice Wilson Trowbridge  
Georgia Wilson  
Arnold Wyman

**And in honor of:**  
Bob Kilpeck



## MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julia C. Gray accepted the position of Executive Director and officially took the reins in September. Julia is the owner of Riverside Museum Solutions, LLC, and has an impressive resume including Interim Director, Abbe Museum; Director of Collections and Research, Abbe Museum; Research Assistant, Archaeological Research Consultants, Inc. and Curatorial Assistant, Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum. A trained archaeologist, she holds a BA in Anthropology from Bowdoin College and an MA in Anthropology from the University of Arkansas.

Throughout her professional life she has maintained a strong connection to the fields of Anthropology and Museum Studies through an impressive record of participation and presentation at state and regional conferences.

Particular aspects of Julia's profile that make her such an outstanding match with the Museum's aspirations include her experience in a similar role at the Abbe Museum; extensive networks throughout state, regional and national museum communities; a broad scholarly knowledge of coastal New England history and culture; as well as a lifelong family connection to the region. Most of all, she brings a level of creative energy and an engaging leadership style that will dynamically expand the Museum's mission. All associated with the Wilson Museum are thrilled to have her leading it into the next 100 years.

Julia and her husband John and two dogs live in Orland where she serves as Assistant Chief of the Orland Volunteer Fire Department.



### BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

On September 11, 2021, the board of trustees met for its Annual Meeting and election of officers and board members (see side bar for complete list). Hans Carlson was elected vice president and Kay Hightower was re-elected to her third term as secretary. In addition, the Museum is pleased to announce the election of two new trustees (both who have previously served on the board): Jeanmarie Reed and Don Small, who was also elected treasurer.

Don Small is retired from a 36-year engineering career, the majority of which was spent as a faculty member at Maine Maritime Academy. Don has lived in Castine for much of his life and writes historical fiction about this region.

Jeanmarie Reed, graduate of UMaine, is a former Castine business owner and co-founder of The Castine Visitors Center. As a former collections committee chair, highlights of her prior service have been growing the collection with the acquisition of the *Home and Away* sculpture (part of the Maine Sculpture Trail) and local art pieces acquired through the Wilson Museum's *Collecting Castine* events. Jeanmarie and her partner, Michael Russell, reside in Penobscot.





# OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



## KICK-OFF CELEBRATION April 9

The 100th Anniversary season kicked off with a virtual celebration with Wilson family members, supportive community members, and Museum staff & board gathering on Zoom for an announcement of anniversary season events, a raffle, and the premiere of the short film *Snippets from the Wilson Family's Home Movies*. The morning of the event, many community members engaged in celebrating the season kick-off by signing the event guest book and picking up a celebratory piece of cake from MarKel's Bakehouse.



## PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION PRESENTATION July 30

As a part of the Wilson Family Reunion Weekend and on request of the Wilson family, the Museum hosted Professor Liam Riordan of the University of Maine at Orono for an illustrated presentation about the Penobscot Expedition. This topic was of interest to the family because a good portion of this engagement was situated on Nautilus Island – the island which was owned by the Wilsons for 100 years.



## MEMBERS' RECEPTION June 20

A hearty crowd turned out for the 1920s speakeasy-themed Members' Reception held in recognition of the Museum's founding on June 20, 1921. Many guests came dressed for the occasion and enjoyed era-inspired drinks by MarKel's, hors d'oeuvres by the Tarr family, jazz emitting from the Wilsons' Victrola, and the photo booth.



## OPEN HOUSE July 3

Kids and adults alike enjoyed a day of hand-cranked vanilla ice cream, musical performances by New Shades of Blue and the Leftovers, and the announcement of the incoming director, Julia Gray, during the Open House.





## PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION WALKING TOUR July 30

Following the Penobscot Expedition Presentation, many members of the Wilson family joined Darcy Stevens, a guide from the Castine Historical Society, for a historic walking tour of Castine with an emphasis on the Penobscot Expedition.



## WILSON FAMILY REUNION & PRESENTATIONS August 1

The Wilson family gathered in celebration of the 100th Anniversary and were hosted with a Maine lobster picnic before enjoying public presentations by Dr. Franklin Portugal and Dr. Alan Schechter reflecting on American science during Dr. Wilson's time (between 1890 and 1920) and the role of natural history museums in science and education during the past century.

## PATTY'S PICNIC August 29

The retirement of Patricia (Patty) Hutchins, after nearly 50 years of dedication to the Wilson Museum, was honored on August 29.



A full house of guests came to celebrate Patty as she was acknowledged with gifts by the board, the town of Castine, and Maine's House of Representatives. Attendees were treated to a picnic – Patty-style – with fresh rolls from the bake oven, pulled pork and beans from the bean-hole, cake, three flavors of hand-cranked ice cream, and more.

Special guest demonstrators joined in to celebrate Patty and to help close out the season's Demonstration Days.



Special thanks to

**Bangor**  
Savings Bank

**You matter more.®**

Member FDIC

for supporting the Wilson Museum's 100th  
Anniversary Summer Season.

## COLLECTION CONVERSATIONS

By Abby Dunham, Collections Manager/Curator

This summer in honor of the Wilson Museum's 100th Anniversary, the founding family was honored with the special exhibit *Wilson Family: A Window into the Past*. Rather than focusing on the scientific and historical interests of the family, which are explored throughout the Museum, this exhibit gave glimpses into other aspects of their lives. Primarily featured were Georgia and John Howard Wilson along with their three children, Birkbeck, Sturgis, and Ellenore.



The exhibit began with childhood toys that belonged to J. Howard or his children. There was an array of miniature shop tool toys that were owned by J. Howard, along with the functioning steam boiler that could power the tools. The model trains laid out on tracks, no doubt played with by all the Wilson boys, were donated to the collection by Sturgis. A fully furnished, three-story dollhouse belonged to Ellenore, as did a wooden jigsaw from PAR Puzzles that included pieces in the shape of her initials.

Enlarged photos of the Wilsons in their swimming costumes provided a backdrop for a selection of swimsuits. Dating to the early 1900s, two of the bathing dresses are wool while the other two are cotton.

To complete the beach vignette, in addition to sea glass and other beach finds, were a straw hat, basket, and picnic cloth.

The Wilsons were an artistic family and work by four members of the family were on display. This included ceramics painted by Georgia Wilson and a stone inlay designed by J. Howard as well as paintings by Ellenore Wilson Doudiet and J. Howard's brother Arthur Everett Wilson, one of which was graciously on loan for the summer from the Castine Historical

Society. Artwork by Ellenore and Arthur is on view in other Wilson Museum exhibits. Ellenore sometimes drew illustrations for her research papers, and Arthur sometimes did the same for J. Howard's writings.



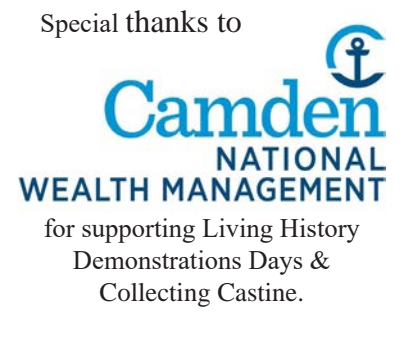
The showstopper in the exhibit was the Victor Victrola from the Victor Talking Machine Co. This was purchased by the Wilson family in 1921 and has more than a dozen albums full of records with a particular focus on foxtrots. The Victrola was shipped to the Wilsons in a wooden packing crate, and it was repacked into this same crate for transport across campus and into the exhibit. Accompanying the Victrola in the display were two of Georgia Wilson's evening dresses from the 1920s: one velvet with rhinestone embellishment and the other entirely covered in purple sequins and beads.



## COLLECTING CASTINE 2021

*Collecting Castine* looked a little different in 2021. Rather than a one-night event for a limited audience, this annual fundraiser was held as a two-week exhibit open to the public. More than two dozen artists with connections to Castine shared their work inspired by the town. Museum members visiting the exhibit were able to cast their vote for the artwork they felt the Wilson Museum should purchase for its collection. The selected work, the People's Choice for 2021, was a portrait by Susan Parish Adam of retiring Executive Director Patricia Hutchins. Following this selection, a successful online auction was held of the artwork, with proceeds going to both the artists and the Museum.

This year, in honor of the Wilson Museum's 100th Anniversary, the *Collecting Castine* event was dedicated to past artists within the Wilson family. As an artistic family, they began the legacy of the Museum's art collection, and the Museum regularly hosted summer art exhibits beginning in the 1960s. These traditions continue to this day with programs like *Collecting Castine*. Artwork by members of the Museum's founding family were on exhibit through the summer in the Main Hall.



## TWO CENTENNIALS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

By Haley Blake, Education Coordinator



In addition to celebrating our own 100th Anniversary this year, we celebrated the centennial of the schooner *Bowdoin*. Built in Boothbay for Arctic exploration, today the vessel is the Official Vessel of the State of Maine and the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy's Vessel Operations and Technology program. During the month of September, we offered a series of three collaborative programs for virtual and in-person audiences. The series kicked off on September 15 with *Donald MacMillan and the Bowdoin: A Man and His Boat*. During this presentation by local author Donald Small and naval architect David Wyman, guests "met" *Bowdoin's* commander Donald

Baxter MacMillan through a selection of stories and gained a deeper appreciation for the vessel's unique design. The following week, Genevieve LeMoine from the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College joined us for a closer look at some of the families MacMillan worked with and the way of life in northwestern Greenland. A highlight during *Donald B. MacMillan and the Inuit: Living and Working in Northwest Greenland* was short film clips showing Inuit people using items, including a bow-drill, like those on display in the Wilson Museum's Arctic exhibit. The series culminated with *Shipsmithing: From Forge to Sea*, a dynamic program with Captain Kenneth Barnes. Guests learned about shipsmithing, saw forged items onboard the schooner *Bowdoin* during a dockside tour with Ryan Reed and Molly Macinnis of Maine Maritime Academy, and watched Barnes make a jib shank in our blacksmith shop.





REMEMBERING DIANE LINSOTT  
By Jocelyn Willis, Program Support

Diane Linscott was a creative and talented visual artist and musician. The Wilson Museum staff and board got to know Diane well through her participation in our fundraising art show event, *Collecting Castine*, since the event's inception. As a visual artist, she was comfortable in a variety of media: sculpture, encaustic painting, monotypes, and wearable art pieces in the form of jewelry. Diane's work has been featured in shows across the state of Maine, in Massachusetts, and all the way in New Zealand. She was also an accomplished Jazz singer. She shared her

creativity with others whenever possible, including mentoring the next generation of artists and musicians.

When Diane passed away in April of 2021, her family graciously donated one of her pieces, *Eaton's Boatyard*, to the Museum, and it is a wonderful addition to the permanent collection. *Eaton's Boatyard* is an encaustic mixed media painting that compiles her observations and photographs of Castine's local boatyard over the course of ten years. The Museum is also very pleased to have acquired Diane's painting easel to display the artwork.



**WILSON MUSEUM**  
**BAGADUCE ENGINE CO.**  
**ANTIQUE BOAT EXHIBIT**  
**PERKINS GALLERY & MUSEUM STORE**

Weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturdays & Sundays 2-5 p.m.  
May 27-September 30

**JOHN & PHEBE PERKINS HOUSE**  
Hour tours beginning at 2 p.m.  
Wednesdays & Sundays  
July & August

**THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH**  
**LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS**  
Wednesdays & Sundays 2-5 p.m.  
July & August