



EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Spring 2022

Volume 22, Issue 3

New Year, New Plans

As the new year rolls into spring, we are carefully watching to see what Covid will do next. Our hope is that we can resume normal operations and programming very soon. We have been busy at the Museum, bringing in new display cases, relocating and changing exhibits, and getting ready for a very special unveiling of a major gift—a Morse car! While we are keeping plans under wraps for now, we are very excited to share this marvelous gift, and to tell the story of the Morse family and associated Morse industries. There is also a story to tell about how our car survived the years, and we want to thank all who made this opportunity possible. Stay tuned for more information through our website, social media outlets, and mailings.

Spring brings the possibility to do some outdoor activities as well. We want to bring back our popular walking tours, and would like some of your ideas for tour topics. Please email or call us with suggestions for tours or other outdoor programming.

Things are looking like they are getting back to normal. Our local historical society neighbors are beginning to offer programs again, and community groups such as the NRT, Children's Museum, The Y, the Ames Free Library, and others are planning for a busy summer. After a two year hiatus, the Devin Ness Day of Kind "Ness" will be held. This day allows us to partner with seniors at Oliver Ames High School for a morning of community service. We look forward to seeing our outstanding young people at the Museum, and we look forward to working with interns again this summer on a focused internship. Better days are just ahead—thank you for your support and patience as we get ready to celebrate Easton's history in person again!

CALENDAR

All events are held at the Easton Historical Society and Museum unless otherwise noted.

Watch for exciting announcements on coming events on our website and social media pages! Open Houses and tours are tentatively being planned for late spring and summer.

*Sunday, March 20th,
First Day of Spring!*

*Friday, April 1st, April
Fool's Day—watch out!*

*Saturday, April 16th,
Passover begins.*

*Sunday, April 17th,
Easter and Sunrise
Service at Sheep Pasture,
6 a.m.*

*Monday, April 18th,
Patriot's Day*

*Friday, April 22nd,
Earth Day*

*Sunday, May 8th,
Happy Mother's Day!*

*Saturday, May 21st,
Armed Forces Day*

*Monday, May 30th,
Memorial Day*

The mission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum is to preserve, promote and interpret the unique industrial, social, cultural, architectural and environmental history of the Town.

Curator's Corner - Curator / Caretaker Frank T. Meninno

"My belief is that communication is the best way to create strong relationships."—
Jada Pinkett Smith

Each week I send an email out to our members and friends who have signed up to receive them. At my last count, I think there are more than 300 recipients. Pretty good I think given the fact that a few years ago, I really had no immediate plans to do something like that. Pandemics have a way of forcing us to adapt quickly, or implement changes ahead of time. That is how the email updates really got started.

What an excellent exercise this has been! One of my favorite things to do is to write. Back in the 1990's, when the Easton Journal newspaper was resurrected, I contributed a column every so many weeks. More fact based than creative, the writing of the column served to increase curiosity about Easton's history to a new generation of readers. I don't know how many articles I wrote (I have copies of them somewhere) but on a rare chance that I come across one, I reread it with a certain sense of dread as I realize how poor a writer I was then. Still, the effort was made, the words were written and communicated, and many years later, here I am again sending out missals to pique someone's interest in Easton's history, and history in general. The delivery system is quite different than the newspaper of course, with the internet and social media bringing history to a much broader audience. A week rarely passes where someone does not sign up through the website to receive updates by email.

Doing these updates provides a two-way street for communicating with our members. I have been able to meet many of you in person who tell me how much they enjoy reading the updates, and I think a few of you may even be looking for them any given Saturday morning. I have received many comments from people further away by return email or from comments left on Facebook. I enjoy hearing from you too, and I usually look at emails and "likes" to see what resonates with the audience I serve. I try to respond to each person if I can, especially the emails I receive. I feel as though I have come to know many of you who live far away through our emails, and I think that is a pretty good thing.

I'll continue sending out the weekly updates, keeping you informed on happenings at the Museum and sharing stories about the people, places, and things that make Easton special. Maybe one day these little vignettes might be corralled and put into some semblance of order (I assume if that ever happens I will again be shuddering at my sophomoric writing skills as I reread those too!) for future historians to learn from. For now, I look forward to continuing our historic conversations each week, and I look forward to hearing from you.

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter
is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

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Can You Help Us?

Hazel Varella is working on the next edition of Reminiscences, and asks the following of our readers: One of the features people in this year's Reminiscences will be John Leonard, OAHs Class of 1948. In a Providence Journal article he was named one of the 100 Most Significant People in Rhode Island High School Sports in the 20th Century. In 2019 the Rhode Island Tennis Coaches awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award. He died March 18, 2021. Anyone who would like to include a memory of John is asked to send it to Hazel at her email: mdhvarella@comcast.net. We appreciate anyone who might be able to add to John's story.

Dues Letters Are In The Mail!

The 2022 annual Dues Letters have been mailed. If you have not received yours, you should have it shortly. A few tips on renewing your dues:

- Check the date on your mailing label. If it has “2021” or earlier, your dues are now due. If it has “2022” or later, your dues are up to date.
- You can take advantage of Senior rates for up to three years!
- You can renew online through our website store.
- You can update your contact information if you have a new address, phone number, or email address.
- Give someone a gift membership!
- All donations received with in addition to your dues are appreciated and acknowledged.
- Thank you to all who have already renewed their dues for 2022.
- Questions? Call the Museum at 508-238-7774 or send us an email at eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com.

Easton History Trivia Contest !

What better way to get back in the swing of things here at the Museum than a contest for our members? Send your answers to the questions below by email or mail no later than April 15. Entries received with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a copy of the book A Beautiful Image of Historic Easton by Jonathan Coe and Robert “Buddy” Wooster, and of course, bragging rights! One winner will be drawn April 20, and the prize will be mailed to you if you are unable to pick it up. Good luck!

1. In which year was Easton first settled?
2. In which year did Easton officially become a town?
3. How many square miles does Easton contain?
4. Who was the first person to settle in Easton, and in which part of town did he live?
5. What famous boxer trained for his early fights in South Easton?
6. In which year did Oliver Ames begin producing shovels in North Easton?
7. In which year did the first train arrive in Easton?
8. Which streets make up the Five Corners?
9. Name all the H. H. Richardson buildings in Easton.
10. Name a landscape in Easton by F. L. Olmsted.
11. What pond “flew away” in the great 1968 flood?
12. Name an island in Easton.
13. Where was Easton’s first post office?
14. Which neighborhood in Easton received its name because a school there served two adjoining towns?
15. In which neighborhood was the former G.A.R. Hall located?



The "Maids" on Ames' Estate, 1904.



Group of "Gardeners" No Easton, Mass. Oct. 1906.



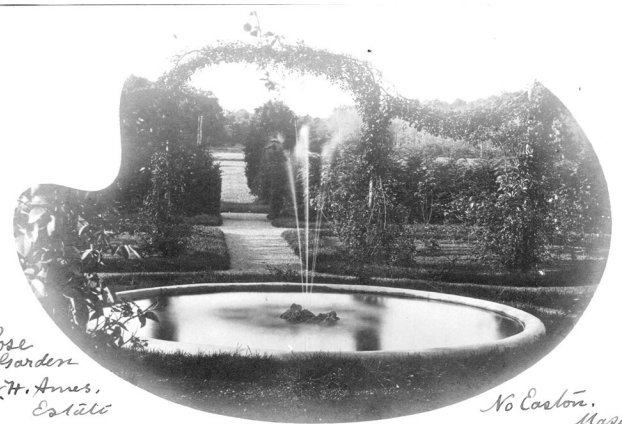
Mrs Anna C. Ames's Pet dogs. No Easton, Mass.

George H. Craig Postcards

George H. Craig, Sr. (1854-1923) was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He became an accomplished artist whose most recognizable work would be the oil on canvas painting of the Expulsion of the Acadians painted in 1893. He painted a number of scenes around Halifax, and after moving to North Easton, he continued to paint. One of his paintings is in our collection: cranberry pickers at "Springhill" (one of the young girls picking would later become his wife.) He would also work for William Hadwen Ames at "Springhill" on Elm Street. Craig was also a talented photographer, and here are several postcard images attributed to him. Clockwise, from top left: Maids on the Ames Estate, 1904; Group of Gardner's, October 1906; Mrs. Anna C. Ames's pet dogs; the Rose Garden at W.H. Ames estate; the old Catholic Chapel on Pond Street in 1896. The gardeners and maids are probably staff at "Springhill" and the dogs would be the pets of William's mother, who was the wife of Governor Oliver Ames. The photo of the Catholic Chapel is picturesque with the buildings and surroundings clearly reflected on a pristine Shovel Shop Pond. The photo was taken from the Governor Ames Estate where William grew up.



Old Catholic Church. 1896. No Easton, Mass.



Rose Garden W.H. Ames, Estate No Easton, Mass.

Donations

Priscilla Almquist-Olsen donated 2 framed lithographs of children, c. 1890; a photo of Helen Lincoln with a notation of her being the chief operator at the phone company in North Easton; a Gold Medal Flour Cookbook; **Paul Berry** donated a New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad timetable, New England Transportation Company timetables and photos of early busses, auction book of items from the estate of Mrs. Oliver Ames (Sheep Pasture), copy of the 1911 Easton Directory, Boston Globe special edition of the Blizzard of 1978, 1938 Hurricane Photo Book, Easton Cooperative Bank 100th Anniversary book, Historical Women and Trailblazers in Massachusetts, many Easton news articles and photos including information on the Eclipse auto once made in South Easton, coin bag from the First National Bank of Easton; **David Bingamon** donated a 1903 Scarborough Map of Massachusetts; **Kathy Brown** donated 4 snapshots of Alice Jones and her children Barbara, Phyllis, Marjorie, Bradford, Thomas and Jeralyn taken in the 1940's; **Peter Constantine** donated 18 Old Farmer's Almanacs dated between 1903 and 1949, a 1952 calendar from George L. Copeland Funeral Service, and two metal anchors for anchoring a hammock made by the Ames Company 1944; **Alice Edwards** donated a number of Easton in Pictures pages from the Green Flyer that came from her aunt Adelaide Johnson Lundgren who taught in North Easton for many years; **Jim Isiminger** donated The Story of the Old Colony Railroad by Charles E. Fisher; **Ken Josephson** donated a 1927 and a 1934 Town Report; **Stanley Kavka** donated The Look Book - 35 years of photographs and writings, two calendars featuring Swedish prints of noted Swedish artist Carl Larsson, 1990 + 1991, 1984 Easton Street Listing, Easton Historical Society publications, 50 Years in New England, 1912-1962, from the Lutheran Church, 50th Anniversary of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Lebanon Church, 1892-1942, 95th Anniversary book for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1892-1987, Mrs. Browning's Poetical Works featuring the poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning; James Lincoln donated a copy of the Dedication of the Soldier's Monument; **Russ Meninno** donated candy for our Holiday Sale; **Carol Misiewicz** donated two shovel ornaments, a cabbage slicer, and a shuttle bobbin from an old loom; **Arielle Nathanson** donated hand crocheted doilies; **Barbara Read** donated the wedding certificate for Abijah and Adelia Tisdale dated 12/23/1873, a very early teddy bear given to Paul Whitten, three handmade christening gowns from the Whitten family, her baby shoes and pink plastic teddy bear, a 45 RPM recording of Mercury Space Flights, family photos and news clippings of the Tisdale/Holbrook families, photos and clippings of Harvard graduate Velma Holbrook who traveled extensively, letter to Paul Fleury from President Bill Clinton, Order of the Eastern Star certificate for Velma Holbrook, 1932, Address to the State Federation of Women's Clubs given by Velma Holbrook, Charles F. Holbrook photos and letters to Velma, photo of the Tisdale Farm House, photo of the Whitten House, Tisdale account book, two wedding invitations and news clippings for the marriage of Charles F. Holbrook and Clara Tisdale, 1904; **Jeannine Smith** donated aerial photos of Mrs. Frothingham's estate "Wayside" and the Elm Street area; **Ron Somerville** donated a photo of children in front of the Ames Company Store with Santa - this photo hung in McMenemy's Hamburger House for many years; History of the Old Colony Railroad, Descendants of John Howard, by Heman Howard, North Easton Savings Bank book for children to save dimes, and Mass Hoops: The Best of the Bay State's High School Basketball History by Rob Van; **Maura Tyrrell** donated Oakes Ames, Jottings of a Harvard Botanist by Pauline Ames Plimpton, and The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times, by Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr.; **Scott Waldon** donated negatives of photos taken by his grandfather John A. Gustafson; **Bob Vogel** donated an ice scraper from the North Easton Co-Operative Bank.

Special thanks to the **Easton Garden Club** and **Gloria Freitas-Steidinger** who donated a wreath for the door and a swag for the front sign, and to **Marilyn Cunha** and **Ellen Long** for preparing the Society's tree for the Festival of Trees.

Financial Donations have been received from **Esther Ames**, **Easton Garden Club**, **Ken and Gloria Nykiel**, **Ed Hands**, **Barbara Read**, **Shaw's Supermarkets**, **Mark and Michele Streton**, and **Dr. Paul I. Weiss**. **Emmy Ducharme** of **Emmy's Hair Salon** donated gift baskets. **Geraldine Brown** and **Deborah MacPhee** made donations in memory of **Patricia Baker**. **Wayne Hill** and **Julius Apus** made a donation in memory of **David Varella** and in honor of **Hazel Varella**. **Thomas** and **Julie Coleman** made a donation in memory of **David Varella** and **Robert Wooster**. **Robert** and **Jean Alger** made a donation in memory of **Robert Wooster**. **Robert Silva** made a special donation in honor of his parents **Anthony** and **Hilda Vieira Silva** from their children: **Bob**, **Donna**, **Gerry**, **Mark** and **Gina**. He also made a donation to fund a scholarship for Oliver Ames High School students.

Thank you for your generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

In Memoriam

Robert J. (Buddy) Wooster, a lifelong resident of North Easton, passed away November 30, 2021. Buddy was predeceased (2004) by his beloved wife of 51 years, Grace Ann Kent Wooster. A 1958 Stonehill College graduate, Buddy taught English at Oliver Ames High School for more than 30 years, and he was a driving instructor as well. In 1970, he became Executive Director of Frothingham Park, working tirelessly to maintain the fields, improve the playground, and improve the space with tree plantings. An excellent athlete, Buddy played baseball at OA and with the Easton Huskies. He was an avid runner, and ran the Boston Marathon in 1975 with his childhood friend Joe Connolly. Buddy was Director Emeritus at the Society, and worked on historical videos, and most recently, co-authored the book *A Beautiful Image of Historic Easton* with Jonathan Jackson Coe. His family and his faith were the cornerstones of a life well lived. Buddy was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church in Easton. He is survived by his seven children and their families: Anne Wooster Drury, Rosemary Dughily (Bruce), Bob Wooster (Donna), Nancy Holmes (Rob), Kathy Canavan, Tom Wooster (Evelyn), Beth Pearsons (Scott). He also is survived by 19 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He had a very special friend, Connie Minot, and they enjoyed spending time together. The full obituary can be found at <http://hosting-6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Robert-Wooster-108532036>

Patricia A. Baker, age 80, a lifelong resident of North Easton, Massachusetts passed away on December 30, 2021. Pat was born in Brockton, Massachusetts to Lawrence and Olive Howard Gurney on July 1, 1941. After graduating from Oliver Ames High School in 1959, where she lettered in field hockey, Pat graduated with a Masters of Education from Bridgewater State Teachers College. Pat is remembered by her colleagues and students for inspiring a love of music and her many musical productions throughout the years. Pat was a Director and past Treasurer for the Easton Historical Society. Patricia is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Manning, and her husband Chris, grandchildren Molly & James of Easton, Massachusetts. Pat enjoyed spending time spoiling her grand-pups. She also loved lunches with friends, traveling, taking care of her antique home, and cheering on the Red Sox. Her full obituary can be found at <http://hosting-6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Patricia-A.-Baker-108534196>

Albert Richard Greene, Jr., 82, passed away Friday, January 7. He was the beloved husband of Sandra (Parton) Greene for 45 years. He was raised in Easton, MA, and graduated from Oliver Ames High School, Class of 1957. He then graduated from Springfield College in MA with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1961 and from Air Force Institute of Technology with a Master of Science in Logistics Management in 1971. Richard resided in Lincoln, Rhode Island for the past 30 years where he actively pursued and enjoyed his lifelong hobbies of stamp collecting and restoring antiques. He had an outstanding military career of 30 years, serving on bases across the United States, specializing in Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Operations and Maintenance including command and staff positions at all levels of the Air Force. Career highlights included duty as Squadron Commander at Minot AFB, ND, and Wing Commander at Little Rock AFB, AR. He was awarded the Legion of Merit twice, the Meritorious Service Medal five times and the Air Force Commendation Medal twice. He retired in the rank of Colonel. Richard earned recognition as an Eagle Scout, and following retirement from the Air Force, he continued to be involved with Scouts in four Rhode Island communities, including successful camps for more than 6000 Scouts each summer. Along with his wife Sandy, he is survived by his daughters Lisa Greene Cooper (Jack) and Lori Greene Sundsted (Michael) of Dallas, TX, and his son, his beloved namesake, Albert Richard Greene III, (Kasey) of Alamogordo, NM. He has also been blessed with 5 grandchildren. Richard also is survived by one sibling, his devoted and much-loved sister, Judith Sabin (Thomas) of South Easton, MA, and nephew Jonathan Belk (Kim) and family of San Francisco. Richard's motto, words he left for his children: "Be a contributing citizen, work hard, never give up, and serve others." You can read his full obituary at <https://www.jjduffyfuneralhome.com/obituary/albert-greene>

MacKenzie "Mac" Smith, longtime resident of North Easton, and most recently Naples, FL, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Jeanine M. (Sullivan) Smith for 56 years. MacKenzie was born on April 4, 1941, the son of the late Graham F. and Elsie R. (Ruth) Smith of Easton. He grew up on Pond Street and graduated from Oliver Ames High School, class of 1959. His strong work ethic and attention to detail started at a young age while working with the grounds crew at the Ames Estate in Easton. After two years at Colby College in Maine, he joined the Army Reserves and graduated from the USA Infantry School as an Infantry Unit Commander and Second Lieutenant at Fort Dix, NJ. MacKenzie was a third-generation insurance agent who started his distinguished career at the Phoenix Insurance Company in Boston before joining his family-owned agency, Albert G. Smith and Sons. This later became the Smith, Buckley & Hunt Insurance Agency in Brockton where he worked with his father and uncle. His two sons Jim and Graham later joined him until his formal retirement in 2014 when Eastern Insurance acquired the agency. Golf became a huge part of his life as a young boy first working as a caddy at Thorny Lea Golf Club in Brockton and later becoming a lifelong member and serving as President of the club. He was also a member at Lely Resort in Naples, FL. In addition, he was a USPGA rules official at many local tournaments. An active member in the community, he served on several boards and committees such as Easton Housing Authority, Peoples Savings Bank and Stonehill College. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Goddard Memorial Hospital/Good Samaritan Medical Center. In addition to his wife, MacKenzie is survived by his three children, Angela Adams and her husband Jonathan of Thornton, NH, James Smith and his wife Kim of West Bridgewater, and Graham Smith and his wife Michele of Taunton; his eight cherished grandchildren, his sister, Cynthia VanSwearingen of Chicago, IL., and several nieces and nephews. His obituary is at https://www.enterpriseneews.com/obituaries/enterprise_cn13996061

Leslie Ann Gray, 72, died Sept. 28 at her West Tisbury home with her husband at her side. She was born June 14, 1949, in North Easton, to Gerald and Barbara Gray, who were both physicians. Inspired by her history teacher at Oliver Ames High School, Leslie earned her bachelor's degree in education at George Washington University and a master's degree in applied history at George Mason University. She then taught high school history for 30-plus years with the Fairfax County, Va. public schools outside of Washington, D.C. She chaired a department of 22 teachers and staff, which provided an opportunity to mentor teachers in her craft and discipline. Prior to retirement, she created and taught the history curriculum for the newly-established online campus. She was recognized at the White House as a National Presidential Scholar teacher and as Outstanding Teacher Historian by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. She was a member and gave many conference presentations at the National Council for Social Studies and served as president of the Virginia Society for History Teachers. She is survived by her husband; sister Mary Augustine of Easton; son James Wallace of Bangkok, Thailand; stepdaughter Anna-Karen Lentz and her husband Steffen; granddaughters Alicia Noélie and Chiara Julie of Hermetschwil-Staffeln, Switzerland; sisters in law Anne Reeves and her husband Ron of Wilbur-by-the-Sea, Fla., and Susan Southworth and her husband Gus of Enfield, N.H. Her obituary can be found at <https://vineyardgazette.com/obituaries/2021/10/27/leslie-ann-gray-72>

Carolyn Cole, 73, a resident of Easton, passed away on January 6, 2022. She was the loving life partner of the late Bradford S. Kenney. Born in Boston, daughter of the late Enrico Pasquale and Mary Joan LaTora, she was raised in Newton. Carolyn graduated from Cardinal Cushing High School in South Boston and went on to study at New England Law. Carolyn was a successful real estate broker and after overcoming Guillain Barre Syndrome became a cantor at Holy Cross Church. Her singing uplifted everyone around her. Carolyn had a great appreciation for the arts, enjoying theater, musicals and gardening. Carolyn was beloved as a leader in the community of Easton. As Chair of the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District, she established the Art Co-Operative, where local artisans display and sell their crafts; The Annual Legacy Festival with juried art exhibition; and Annual Artisans Faire and Holiday Tea. She was instrumental in starting the Foodie Group at Ames Free Memorial Library and in assisting other local libraries in starting their own groups. She served as a Trustee of Oakes Ames Memorial Hall and an Advisor for the Easton Legacy Fund. She was active in Easton's Grange and Lions Club. She was also a political activist, involved with Citizens for an Informed Community. She is survived by her two children Keri-Ann Wagner of Taunton and David Cole of New York; their spouses David Wagner and Gaetane Prezeau; brother Robert Pasquale of Florida; and sister Joannie Pasquale of Boston; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. Her obituary can be found at <https://www.enterpriseneews.com/obituaries/pneo0160083>

We express our sincere sympathy to the Wooster, Baker, Greene, Smith, Gray and Cole families.



Workmen pause for a group photo at the Drake Foundry, Furnace Village, recently donated by Paul Berry. They are: 1st row, left to right: William Manning, George Sylvester, Ed Manning, William Wills, Frank Wills, Warren Willis, George Geddes; 2nd row, Fred Britton, George Ghen, Del Britton, Frank Belcher, Walter Welch, Tom Sisson; 3rd row, John Belcher, Asa Sisson, William E. Goward, Norman Ghen, Frank Britton; 4th row, Robert McKean, Wallie Grant, Orrin Phillips, George E. Belcher, Robert Hamilton. Photo taken about 1885.

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