



EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Fall 2023

Volume 24, Issue 4

At the Museum

The busy holiday season is upon us. Since the last quarterly newsletter two Open Houses have been held. October's Open House featured memorabilia from the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. November's Open House honored Easton's veterans. Look inside for scenes from these events.

Upcoming community events include the Easton Festival of Trees beginning Saturday, November 25th, at the Easton Country Club on Purchase Street. This event is always a fun time.

The Lion's Club Holiday Festival, including a Holiday Parade, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd & 3rd. This event will feature Santa, train rides, the Lighting of the Rockery, a Reindog Parade, and more.



Thank you to all our veterans for your service.

CALENDAR

Saturday and Sunday December 2 & 3, Lion's Club Holiday Festival

Friday December 8, Hanukkah begins at Sundown

Thursday December 21, Winter begins

Monday December 25, Christmas Day

Tuesday December 26, Kwanzaa

Thursday December 30, New Year's Eve

Monday January 1, New Year's Day

Monday January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday February 14, Valentine's Day

Thursday February 15, Susan B. Anthony Day

Monday February 19, Presidents' Day

Sunday March 10, Harriet Tubman Day

Tuesday March 19, First Day of Spring

Friday March 29, National Vietnam War Veteran's 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.

Growing Up in Easton in the 1950's, 1960's & 1970's

On Sunday, October 22, a very successful Open House was held at the Railroad Station. The Open House was intended as a celebration of growing up in Easton during the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's and a chance to reminisce with others about that experience. Both older and younger community members were in attendance.

While Easton changed a great deal over those decades, some things remain the same. The population has changed a great deal. According to the US Census, Easton's population in 1950 was 6,226, in 1970 it was 12,157, and in 2020 it was 25,058. A huge increase. Over time Easton has transitioned from a small town to a suburb of Boston. As Easton has grown, schools have closed, been built, opened, and updated. The opportunity for a good education is one of the things that has drawn families to settle in Easton. New roads and homes have been constructed and the population has become more diverse. So what has stayed the same? Lots of green spaces for one. Sheep Pasture, Wheaton Farm, Borderland, the Town Forest, Fox Mountain, Flyaway Pond area, Governor Ames Estate, Frothingham Park, and many more. Ames properties such as Langwater, Oakes Ames Hall, Ames Free Library, the Railroad Station, the Rockery, the Gatehouse on Elm Street, Springhill; some of these designed by well-known architect Henry Hobson Richardson and Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape designer. In addition, Easton's commitment to preserving its unique history and prioritizing education.

The fifties, sixties, and seventies were very different decades in themselves, each with their own popular culture and significant historical events. East of Eden & the Cold War, The Graduate & the assassination of JFK. Star Wars & Vietnam War protests. But like the mythic midnight chocolate cake served in the high school cafeteria, commonalities between the decades exist and those were celebrated on October 22nd.

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

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OCTOBER OPEN HOUSE



Part of the fun was 'dressing' for our decade. In the photo are Directors Joanne Duhamel England and Virginia Murray, Staff Writer Anne Wooster Drury and President Ken Michel.



Refreshments included midnight chocolate cake, date bars, angel food cake, and chocolate chip cookies. All baked from recipes popular in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.



Among items donated and displayed were vintage magazines, comic books, vinyl albums and paper dolls. In the far right background above is a coronet from Cookie Callahan's band; OA yearbooks were available to peruse. Also displayed, vintage newspapers, pool skirt, record player, woman's gym uniform, athletic jackets, class pictures, graduation exercises, playbills, dolls, watches, a kool-aid pitcher, video memories of the 1960's donated by Director Steve Anderson, vintage typewriter, and many personal photographs and memorabilia.



Many visitors lingered to visit with friends, enjoy a coffee, carefully survey the many displays. The exhibit was temporary as most of the items were donated for the day and are treasured family mementos.



On Sunday November 12, visitors to the EHS&M heard from six speakers. Ken and Diane Sterling, members of the SAR and the DAR, respectively, spoke of their own long family histories in this country from the time of the Revolutionary War. David Ames Jr. spoke about his relative Second Lt Oliver Ames, Jr. who was killed in combat in France in WWI and his own father David Ames, Sr, who proudly served in WWII, decoding the tapes that detailed losses at Pearl Harbor and accompanying the ranking admiral on duty in delivering the news to the White House.

Easton resident John Amorim shared his experience in Vietnam after he enlisted in 1963, the constant need to be on the lookout for booby traps, and his sadness on hearing of the death of fellow Easton resident and OA grad Pfc Edward Smith. Frederick Allen Coe Jr.'s military duties included combat force protection and electronic security systems operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Since September 11, 2001 he has been deployed on three military operations, including OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQUI FREEDOM. Elizabeth M. Riley, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret), served in the US Army from 1984 to 2013; her specialty was logistics, plans, operations and training. Her career included assignments in the Army National Guard, Army Reserves, and active duty. Listeners were impressed with the selfless service given by these individuals and the gift of those who solemnly pass their story on.

VETERAN'S DAY OPEN HOUSE

In photo below, left to right: First Vice President David Ames Jr., John Amorim, Elizabeth Riley, Frederick Coe, Jr.

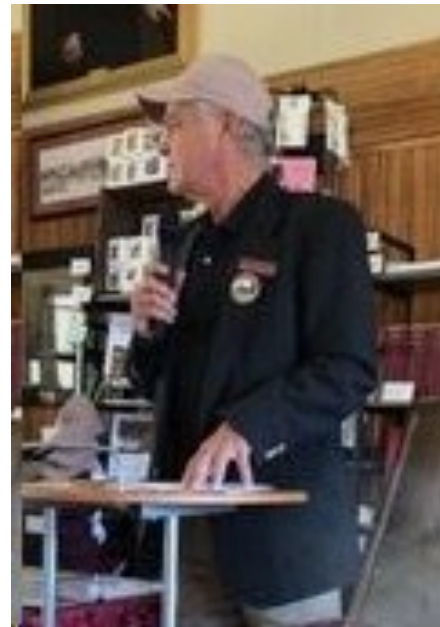




Long time Easton residents Ken & Diane Sterling are caretakers of a private cemetery in West Bridgewater and contributors to “Find a Grave.”



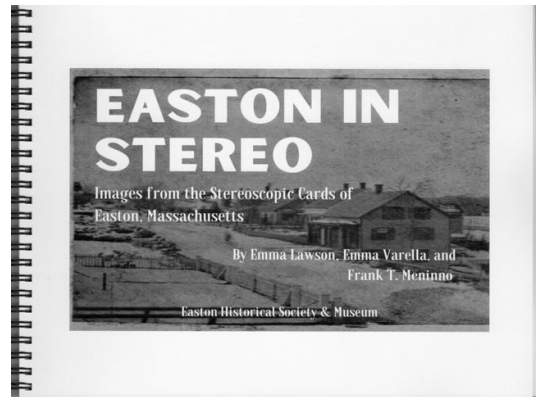
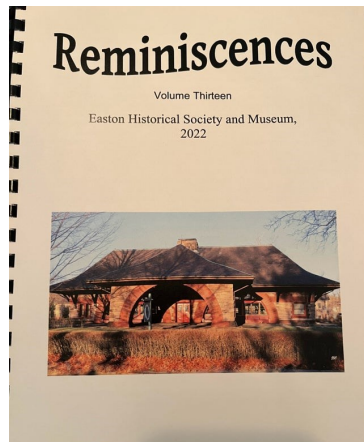
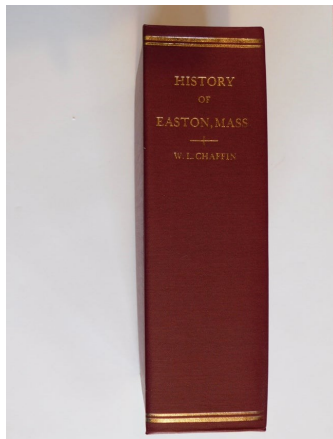
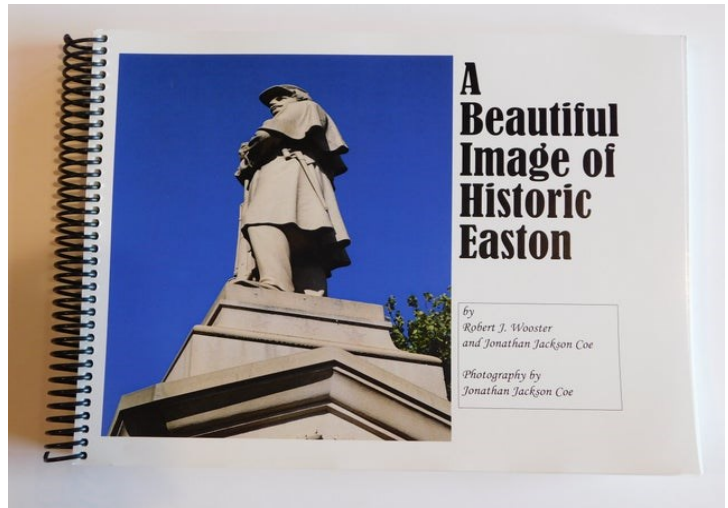
John Amorim of Easton talks about his service in Vietnam. He arrived in Da Nang, Vietnam in February of 1966, He served with the 3rd Marine Division, 12th Marines for 13 months. He graduated from Oliver Ames in 1963.



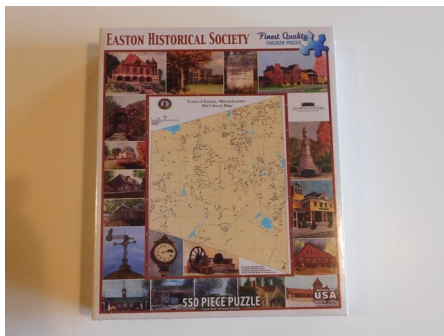
Second Vice President Jon Coe introduced the speakers. Jon’s brother Frederick (Ricky) Coe was one of the guest speakers.

Shop EHS&M for the holidays!

Books make excellent gifts and we have a great selection. Our best selling book, A Beautiful Image of Historic Easton is on sale for \$30.00, History of Easton Vol. I is \$10.00, and History of Easton Vol. II is \$5.00. Reminiscences 2023 is still in progress but last year's is now \$5.00. Easton in Stereo, images from stereoscopic cards, is just \$12.00.



Novelties



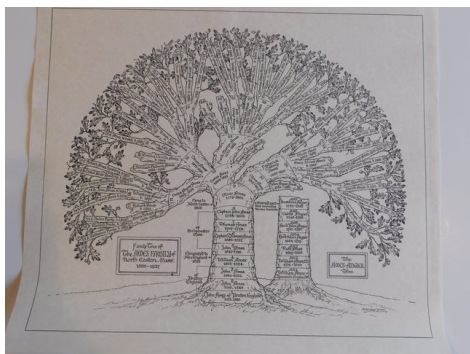
Throw blanket in red, green, or yellow, \$45.00. Commemorative Easton Historical Society Coffee Mug is \$5.00. The “new” Easton Historical Society and Museum Golf Hat is \$20.00. Our Easton Historical Museum Puzzle is only \$15.00.

HOLIDAY SALES

PRINTS & MAPS & MORE



Greeting Cards, \$10.00



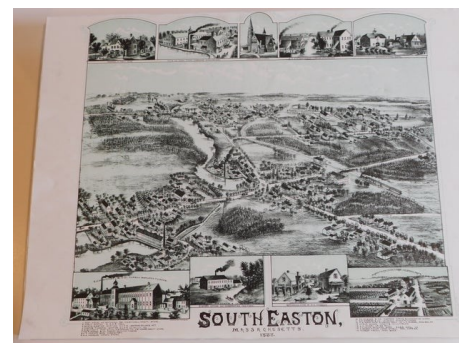
Ames Family Tree Print, \$5.00



Frothingham Park Print, \$10.00

For pictures of additional prints please visit the EHS&M Store,

eastonmashmuseum@gmail.com



Bird's eye View of North Easton, 1891 and Bird's Eye View of South Easton, 1888, \$10.00 each. Other prints available— Stonehill College Print, Gardens of Unity Close Print, Easton Schools Print, Bird's Eye View of North Easton, 1881.



Custom Ornaments, EHS&M, \$5.00

ORNAMENTS



Wreath Ornament, \$5.00

Fred Monte ran an ice house on the north side of Elm Street extension from 1927 to the late 1960's. It was the last in New England. The pond is still called Monte's Pond today. There were two ice houses at the pond with a total capacity of 14,000 tons of ice. (Easton's Neighborhoods)



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