Train Tracks

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND MUSEUM

CALENDAR

Sunday September 13, 12:30 - 4:30, Open House, Easton Huskies Baseball, Basketball, and Football Teams

Sunday, September 27, 2PM Open House at Stoughton Historical Society on Ames Long Pond, Lucius Clapp Memorial

Monday, October 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day

Sunday, October 18, 12:30 - 4:30,Open House, History of Cameras with a special viewing of photos taken with the Eastman #1 box camera used by Winthrop Ames

Sunday, November 15, 12:30-4:30, Celebration of Veteran's Day with guest speakers

Thursday, November 26 Thanksgiving Day

EASTON HUSKIES

The Easton Huskies were a baseball team, a basketball team, and for a brief time, a football team. A brief history of the baseball team: In the 1930's Easton had a local baseball Twilight League in which several teams competed. The best players in this league organized and started playing against other towns on Sundays. The players wore mismatched uniforms from the various twilight teams they played for, so were criticized for their motley appearance. Team leaders Connie Spillane and Bill Baxter chose a uniform and a team name, "Easton Huskies". The name was officially adopted in 1939 and throughout the next decade the Easton Huskies played competitive amateur baseball in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Their home field was Frothingham Park. Connie Spillane, a graduate of Oliver Ames High School, was a key figure in the team's success from the beginning. Throughout the forties the team played consistently although there are few written records. In 1952 when Easton's first Little League charter was created, a Huskies team was included. In 1960 Connie Spillane founded the Cranberry Baseball League and the Huskies were one of the league's flagship teams. The league was a wooden-bat amateur league affiliated with the American Amateur Baseball Congress, the Stan Musial Division. 'Cranberry' connected to the region's cranberry growing culture and history. Play continued at an elite level. Notable athletes and coaches include Louis DiTullio, who was recruited right out of high school and later became the Cranberry League Commissioner, Connie Spillane, Bob Richards, Bob Gibson, Peter Johnson, and Bill Baxter. From 1985 to 2010 player-coach Bob Wooster led the Huskies to win five Massachusetts Stan Musial titles and to compete in the Stan Musial World Series four times. In 2025 Braintree's 24th championship tied with the Easton Huskies' record of 24 league titles. By 2017 the Huskies had ceased to compete but over the years the team brought many fans to Frothingham Park, fostered a love of baseball, and allowed top athletes to compete at a high level.

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.

Project and Renovation Updates

The showcases are changing monthly to reflect and to coincide with the history topic for each month. Reorganization of the second floor and basement continues. Pillars for the two entrances to the Tricentennial Garden have been designed by the landscape architect and installed. A memorial bench will be donated. Three garden benches have been professionally restored and returned to the garden through the generosity of Craig LaPore and his wife. The 2026 Reminiscences is in process. Cover design is confirmed and articles have been received. The cutoff date for submissions was September first. Many members submitted great stories. Reminiscences 2026 will be out and available for purchase before Christmas.

Events and Recaps

An Ames Family History Book is underway. Initial research has begun in cooperation with Stonehill College. Ken Michel led a successful historic walking tour for the Stonehill College Women's Basketball Team on June 22nd. A hugely successful June Open House was coordinated by President Jon Coe, RO teacher Mrs. Maffeo, and her fifth-grade students. On July 18 there was an antique car gathering at the Museum. The Corvair Club visited and other antique cars joined the fun. The annual King Family Cookout was held on Sunday, August 16th. Thank you to Ken Sterling for taking over the job of grilling and to the DeLuca family for donation the food.

Volunteers

We've had two high school graduates volunteering this summer, Maura Shea and Rachel Carpentier. Mitchell C., a Bridgewater State University student, has also joined our volunteers. Cecile has returned and is getting to work.

Quarterly News

It was decided to update the appearance of the Quarterly Newsletter as the previously used program is no longer available. In addition, the Quarterly will be delivered digitally from now on. Please update your email address if necessary.

Visit(s)

Jon welcomed visitor Wendy Reilly Harris, Trinity Church Boston tour guide to the Museum. She wanted a close-up look at our Richardson treasures. October 11th- the Class of 1976 will visit the Museum as part of their reunion activities.

Membership

If you want to become a member or renew your membership go to our website and click on the MEMBERSHIP menu. It is easy to navigate and join/renew online. (Of course you can always mail a check.) Our website page for Membership: www.eastonmahistoricalsociety.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In June a special open house was held that featured Mrs. Maffeo's class from the Richardson Olmstead School. Mrs. Kristen Maffeo and Jon Coe undertook a special project together in honor of the 250th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The project began in January and after much learning and practice, the fifth-grade class taped their reading of the Declaration of Independence. Each student was assigned a passage and at the end of the reading also named a signer of the Declaration. On Sunday, June 14th much of the class arrived at the Historical Society and Museum with family and friends for the public viewing of their film.

Refreshments were enjoyed and the program ended with everyone singing "God Bless America". Jack Carreiro of ECAT filmed the Open House and it can be viewed there. It was great to see young people involved with history. Mrs. Maffeo, Jon Coe and the 25 students should be commended for their hard work and a successful presentation.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

More Baseball…

According to Connie Spillane, baseball was always played in Easton, first at the Plains and later at Frothingham Park. An interesting story from 1931-

Mr. Carlton Mason, who was the Superintendent/Custodian of Frothingham Park, created an opportunity for young boys to play baseball. One league- the American League was created for the older boys, those of high school age, and another league- the National League for younger boys. Team names for the American League were the Park Street team, the South End Team, and the North End Team. Players were:

Park Street Team

Jackman
Rohdin
McSweeney
Anderson, Unnie
Holster, George & Gus
Noyes
Holster, Ed
Lowell

North End Team

Johnson
Ralph Tufts
Art & Frand DeKirt
Anderson
Craig
Tracey
Pearson, Everett & Howard
Holmes
Crocker

South End Team

Abrahamson
Fratus
Galvin
Adams, C & J
Lordan
Vierra
Joe Dahlborg
Carlson, E
Jermolovich
Peterson, Henry

AND THE WINNING TEAM WON A TRIP TO A BIG-LEAGUE GAME!

MEMORIES

Some interesting reminiscences from member and volunteer June Bliss that highlight how much times have changed.

Attending North Easton Grammar school in the 1950's June remembers how boys and girls were segregated. First, they entered the building from different entrances. Coming from Main Street, the boys filed to the right, the girls, left. On the playground the sexes were separated, each using the playground equipment every other day. On the 'other' days, boys played in the field below and the girls on the blacktop closer to the school. June remembers the white bench (which she never was sent to) and students being disciplined by being hit on the hands with a rattan stick. In addition, the punishment took place outside the offender's classroom and certain other students from the class, *who might need to be deterred*, were invited to watch. According to June, Miss Harvey was a much-desired teacher at NEG during that time. She lived on North Main Street, and her family owned the meat market. Mrs. Smith also taught at NEG (and later Parkview School) and her father was the paymaster who was tragically shot and killed in the infamous Sacco and Vanzetti case of 1920.When the new housing development of Western Ave (including Dailey Ave, Harrison Ave, and Coughlin Road) was constructed in 1952 many new students arrived at NEG, 3 new students in one classroom alone. Easton was changing fast. Below is a photo showing girls celebrating Class Day at Oliver Ames High School on Lincoln Street in the early 1950's. Girls always wore white dresses, boys wore white shirts and any pants except jeans. Class Day was held in the spring. Class Night was also observed and still is, but Class Day has disappeared.

Above, Class Day, 1950's

DONATIONS

William Ames, Judith Baptiste, Paul Berry, David Clifton, Robert A. Clemens, George Comeaux, Donna Costa, Sandra Day, Mildred Depallo, Steven Finer, Kathleen A. Fox, Larry Hurley, Edward Leonard, Leon Lombardi, Leslie Mullen, Pauline Robello, and Jeannette Tighe.

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Easton Historical Society and Museum

FROM THE EASTON HUSKIES HALL OF FAME:

Cornelius Spillane
Class of 1927
Inducted 2003

Connie Spillane is known affectionately, and accurately, as "Mr. Baseball." A multi-sport athlete while at Oliver Ames High School, his participation in scholastic sports was merely a warm-up to a truly extraordinary life of love and devotion to amateur and semi-professional athletics. Spillane has been inducted into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Cranberry League Hall of Fame and has received special recognition from the Frothingham Park trustees. More than 50 years ago, Connie launched the Easton Huskies, a semi-professional athletic organization that fielded football, basketball, and baseball teams in the Cranberry League. While Connie has love for many sports, he is of course best known and most closely identified with his affection for and contribution to local amateur and semi-professional baseball. Through the years, Connie has helped introduce scores of up-and-coming baseball talent to pro scouts and the Major League farm system. At the age of 92, Connie remains active in raising money and providing overall support for his beloved Easton Huskies and Cranberry League. Connie Spillane on the right in left-hand photo below.

EASTON HUSKIES

Robert J. Wooster
Class of 1978
Inducted 2005

Bobby Wooster (above right) is arguably the best all-around baseball player in OA history. Then again, Bobby - voted "Best All Around" by his senior classmates - was accomplished all around, period. A member of the National Honor Society, in athletics Bobby excelled not only on the baseball field, but on the basketball court as well. A shooting guard, he made the Hockomock League all-star team as a junior and senior and was named Hockomock Co-Player of the Year as a senior. He also led the Tigers in scoring his senior year. Baseball is where Bobby really stood out. At OA, as a pitcher and shortstop, he made the All Hockomock team as a junior and senior. His senior year he was 10-2 on the mound. Success in baseball continued when Bobby went on to play across town at Stonehill College. He started four years at shortstop and was named to the NCAA Div. II All-New England Team as a sophomore, junior, and senior. Following graduation, Bobby signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Indians organization and eventually reached its Double A team. Bobby returned to Stonehill to coach the baseball team from 1986 through 1993. He then moved over to Bridgewater State where he has coached baseball from 1994 to the present. For 20 years, Bobby has managed - for 13 years as a player-manager - a semi-professional baseball juggernaut, the Easton Huskies of the Cranberry League. Under his direction, the Huskies have won five Massachusetts Stan Musial titles and made two trips to the Stan Musial World Series in Battle Creek, MI, finishing second in 2002. Bobby is a member of the Stonehill College Athletic Hall of Fame and the Cranberry League Hall of Fame. He is the son of 2003 OAHS Hall of Fame inductee Robert "Buddy" Wooster (OA '47).

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Edith (Watts) Hurley passed away on February 26, 2026, in her North Fort Myers, Florida home. She was 92 years old. Nancy was born on October 6, 1933, in Brockton, Massachusetts, and was a life-long resident of Easton. She graduated from Oliver Ames High School in 1951. Nancy was married to Lawrence Hurley, and they had six children and thirteen grandchildren. Nancy is survived by her brother Bob Watts of Media, Pennsylvania. She was predeceased by her *brothers David, Jimmy, and Allan Watts.*

Thomas Peter Wilson Sabin, age 79, of South Easton, Massachusetts and Naples, Florida, passed away on July 14, 2026, in Naples. Tom worked at A. A. MacPherson Company, where he worked alongside company owner and CEO Bruce A. MacPherson, and in later years, leading A. A. MacPherson as President and co-owner was among Tom's proudest accomplishments. He earned the respect of colleagues, customers, and friends through decades of trusted relationships, integrity, and dedication to his profession. Tom's family includes his beloved wife, Judith G. Sabin; his son, Thomas E. Sabin and his wife, Rachel of Camp Hill, PA; and their sons, Thomas, Samuel and his wife, Anastasia and Matthew; his stepson, Jonathan G. Belk and his wife, Kimberly Schmitt of San Francisco, CA; and their children, Lucas and Elizabeth; his late daughter, Melissa J. Scowcroft; and her daughters, Amanda Gauthier and her husband, Larry of Bridgewater, MA, Lauren Scowcroft of Bridgewater, MA, Rachel Scowcroft of Brockton, MA and Meghan Scowcroft of West Bridgewater, MA; his sister Priscilla Mosher of Plymouth, Judy Davis of Easton, Rosemary Anderson of Bridgewater and his late sister, Brenda Sabin; as well as many nieces and nephew and eight great-grandchildren.

Below are 2 pictures of a young Tom Sabin that was published in the Taunton Gazette in 1957. He is in the old barn on the shovel shop property. Tom's grandfather, Peter Peterson, worked in the North Easton Shovel Factory for 49 years.

The Easton Huskies also had a football team and a basketball team. Football faded away after WWII in 1946. It was an expensive sport to maintain. The basketball team played into the 1960's although exact dates are difficult to confirm. Left, basketball photo circa 1950's.

Easton Huskies baseball team, circa 1970's

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

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