

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TRAIN TRACKS



Time to Get Busy!

We are finally heading towards spring. The Society has a busy spring season planned! We hope you will join us for the following events.

First of all, on Wednesday, April 1st, our friends Lee and Kevin Williams of Advest, Inc. will once again sponsor our popular Chowder and Chatter series. It will be held at Southeastern Regional High School at 6:30 P.M. This year's topic for discussion is an appropriate one for the day on which the dinner falls—"Legends and Scandals of Easton". The panel will be made up of Ed Hands, Duncan Oliver and Hazel Varella. A lively discussion is promised. Don't forget the delicious chowder, corn bread and desserts made by the staff at Southeastern! Use the form on the back to reserve your spot as seating is limited. Any donations collected at the dinner will be used to defray heating costs. Thanks to Lee and Kevin Williams of Advest, Inc. for their continued support of this program series!

Next on the agenda is a very special members only opportunity to walk the book "The Path", with author and professor Chet Raymo. He will lead a walk along the path he documented in this recent book on April 17th at 10:00 A.M. We will depart from Moreau Hall. In order to be able to enjoy Professor Raymo's comments, this event will be limited to twenty participants. Use the form on the back to register. You should be able to walk a few miles and arrange return transportation.

Please wait until March 12th to mail your form to allow for fairness in delivery for all members. After March 19th, Chowder and Chatter tickets will be made available to the public.

On Sunday, April 18th, please join us at our open house as we continue our "Meet the ..." series. This year we are privileged to have as our guest Professor James Kenneally of Stonehill College. Professor Kenneally is the retired chair of the History Department and the original curator of the papers of House Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., and will discuss the confusion and complications brought on by the institution of Daylight Savings Time during World War I. Join us in honoring Professor Kenneally and his wife Louise who have been strong supporters of the Society for many, many years.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 14th, Open House "Ice Cutting", at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

Wednesday, April 1st, Chowder and Chatter dinner at Southeastern, 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, April 11th, Easter

Saturday, April 17th, Walk with Chet Raymo

Sunday, April 18th, Meet Professor James Kenneally at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

Saturday, May 1st, Bottle Drive at the Station, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Sunday, May 9th, Mothers Day

Sunday, May 16th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

Wednesday, May 26th, Annual Meeting "Langwater" with Robert Wooster

Easton Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society.

Officers:

President—Frank T. Meninno

1st Vice President—Ken Michel

2nd Vice President, Curator—Paul Berry

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Recording Secretary—Hazel Varella

Corresponding Secretary—Curtis Chase

Director—Dot Berry

Director—Ed Hands

Director—Gary Uzdavinis

Editor—Frank T. Meninno

The Station Master

President Frank T. Meninno

Being President can be challenging at times! That was the case in January. We experienced an extreme cold spell that saw sub-zero temperatures for more than a week. One night, the mercury sank to an icy twelve below, with wind chills of thirty below!

Curator Paul Berry was checking the station one morning when he discovered that the heat had gone out. He later found a broken pipe that spurting water just as he entered the south waiting room. Paul immediately shut off the water to the station, saving us from what could have been a major disaster.

The heat wound up

quitting on us for three days. As if this wasn't enough, Paul called me one night to inform me that the door lock had broken as he was locking up. We spent a very cold time trying to repair the lock to no avail. We found another option to secure the building until a locksmith could replace the aged mechanism.

Believe it or not, some good came out of the experience. We have a commitment to protecting the station and our collections from any risks that we are able to. This includes New England winters. After a discussion with the directors, it was decided to take steps to reduce these risks. The improvements sug-

gested are: waterproof the dirt basement and cement the floor; seal up the old basement windows; install columns to support the first floor, which is showing signs of weakening in some areas; exchange the old inefficient heating system with a new forced hot air system; replace the dangerous stairs into the basement and finally, update the electrical power in the basement.

The improvements will stabilize the building and make the basement safe for storing our growing collections. It will also greatly reduce the risk of water damage, and help us to eliminate humidity problems. I will keep you informed as we progress into fundraising!

The Curator's Corner

Curator Paul Berry

Hi everyone! The research committee has been meeting just about every Tuesday morning to continue identifying and organizing our archives. We have made a lot of progress, and are currently looking at our collection of newspapers. As you can probably imagine, this takes a significant amount of time. If you are interested and able to help, please leave a message at the Station (508-238-7774) and I will get back to you.

There are three buildings in Easton celebrating their 100th anniversary this year: The former North Easton Fire Station on Sullivan Avenue, the Immaculate Conception Church building on Main Street and the former Bank and Post Office Building across from the Rockery. The Children's Museum, which now occupies the old fire station, has asked us for some copies of pictures from our archives to use in their display.

We are pleased that they are sensitive to the buildings historical importance to North Easton over the years, even though the usage has drastically changed. It is a great opportunity to share some local history with the children (and adults) who utilize the building today.

Finally, the last few open houses were well attended. There will be a video on ice cutting and ice cutting tools on display in March. Hope to see you here!

North Easton Tour Book, Historical Map Reprinted

Thanks to the generosity of the Ames Family, the North Easton Savings Bank, MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith and Stonehill College, the blue Historical Maps of Easton are being updated and printed. This is a joint project of the Easton Historical Society and the Easton Historical Commission. The map was first developed in 1975 by the Local History classes at Oliver Ames High School, and has been reprinted eight times since. However, due to printing costs, the map and data have not been updated in many years. Nevertheless, thanks to the generosity of the above named donors, the map has now been accurately updated before being printed. The maps are free, and are available at the Town Offices, Historical Society and other locations in Easton.

Robert Babineau, Society Curator Paul Berry, Edmund Hands and Hazel Varella have spent many hours on a draft using the format of the original map. They have been capably assisted by Judy Luke, who has done all the typing, and Maurice Goulet of the Department of Public Works, who has redrafted the map. Five thousand copied were printed and should be ready for distribution in late March. Once again, we wish to express our gratitude to the Ames Family, North Easton Savings Bank, MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith and Stonehill College for making this project possible. The credit for initiating the project goes to MacKenzie Smith.

A second important printing of the thirty-eight page booklet "Richardson, Olmsted, Others and the North Easton Historic Village District" has been completed. This book, known as the "Yellow Book" because of its bright yellow cover, was reprinted by the Southeastern Regional High School, and is now available at the Station. This popular, informative script describes the many buildings within the district, and also includes interesting comments from Eastoners of the time. Contributors to this booklet are Hazel Varella, Dr. Robert F. Brown, and the late Ken Jackson. Following the format of the book will allow a very nice self-guided walking tour of the North Easton Village National Historic District. Be sure to pick up a copy at the Station the next time you stop

Bring those Bottles and Cans!

We hope you are saving those cans and bottles for our upcoming Bottle Drive! The spring drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, between 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. at the Station. All donations are welcomed. The funds raised at this important event are used to help defray the heating costs at the station, which were, due the extreme cold of this winter, unusually high. The Society thanks Ken Martin and his able assistant, Ed Hands, for their time and faithfulness in running this for us. After all the bottles and cans are delivered to us, Ken and Ed still have to bring them to a center to cash them in. Thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously!

Looking ahead—We will begin a series of Easton Superlatives, some of which were mentioned in a past newsletter. What were we first at doing, what were we best at, what are we best known for? Some of the things may surprise you! It takes some research to tell the stories, but we think the effort will be worth it!

The Easton Historical Society invites you to reserve your place for Chet Raymo's walk and / or the Chowder and Chatter dinner. Please make your check payable to the "**Easton Historical Society**". Mail them to Mrs. Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356, postmarked no earlier than March 12th in order to insure equal opportunity to all our members. All donations will be acknowledged. Directions will be included in the acknowledgements. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

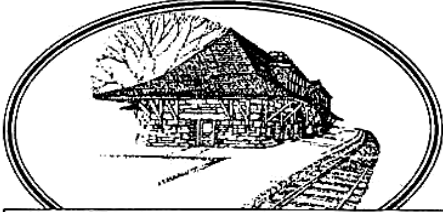
Chet Raymo Walk Tickets _____ X \$15.00 Each = _____

Other Donation Towards Heating _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Chowder and Chatter—Number of Attendees _____

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Old Colony Railroad Station

**P.O. Box 3, 80 Mechanic Street
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