

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# TRAIN TRACKS



## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Easton Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30 P.M. At press time, the location was yet to be determined. The final location will be announced in the local newspapers.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Dana Zaiser of Norton will present a program about a little known part of United States coinage, Civil War tokens. He is a member of the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table (OCCWRT), a non-profit group focused on learning and discussing the history of the American Civil War. The group is involved in preserving Civil War sites, researching Civil War history and writing articles, and they are the largest of it's kind in Massachusetts. Dana is the Chairman of the Preservation Committee for the club. Besides being a pharmacist for Walgreens, he is a member of the ANA (American Numismatic Association), and the Civil War Token Society. Dana has offered to look at any of your tokens and will be bringing around twenty of his own for you to look at. The OCCWRT is donating a book called "Patriotic Civil War Tokens" by George and Melvin Fuld to the Ames Free Library in March. You may want to review the book before the talk. The book is a privately published hardcover book (by the C.W.Token Society) and it is considered to be the best reference book available on Patriotic tokens. Civil War buffs, coin collectors, don't miss this fine evening of history! See [http://members.aol.com/gordonkwok/ocwrt\\_1.html](http://members.aol.com/gordonkwok/ocwrt_1.html) for more information about this group and other Civil War links.

### The Spring Bottle Drive is Coming!

Doing your spring cleaning? Let us help! The Society spring bottle and can drive will be held on Saturday, May 13th, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Station, rain or shine. This date coincides with the annual town hazardous waste collection day. As you gather your items to dispose of at the Highway Department on Center Street, please consider stopping at the Station. We will be happy to take your empty returnable bottles and cans. For large pickups, please call Ken Martin at 508-238-2185. The Society appreciates your contributions! All proceeds will be used to defray the heating costs at the Station. Many thanks to Ken for his continued support of the Society with this important fundraiser!

### CALENDAR

*Sunday, March 12th, open house at the Station, 1—5 P.M., featuring ice cutting in early Easton.*

*Thursday, April 6th, Chowder and Chatter Dinner, 6:30 P.M.*

*Sunday, April 9th, open house at the Station, 1-5 P.M. President's choice.*

*Saturday, April 29th, Chet Raymo Mystery Walk*

*Sunday, May 7th, Free Family History Walk, 2 P.M. at the Station*

*Saturday, May 13th, Spring Bottle Drive at the Station, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.*

*Sunday, May 21st, open house at the Station, 1-5 P.M.*

*Wednesday, May 24th, Annual Meeting, 7:30 P.M. Location to be determined. Special guest Dana Zaiser will discuss Civil War Tokens.*

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

*Officers:*

*President, Editor—Frank T. Meninno*

*1st Vice President—Ken Michel  
2nd Vice President, Curator—Paul Berry*

*Treasurer—Patricia Baker*

*Recording Secretary—Hazel Varella  
Corresponding Secretary—Curtis Chase*

*Director—Dot Berry*

*Director—Ed Hands*

*Director—Deborah MacPhee*

# The Station Master

President Frank T. Meninno

Greetings fellow history lovers, members and friends! I hope your winter was a good one, and that this greeting finds you all in good health.

Congratulations to Linda Hamalian of North Easton who won the map we raffled off in December. Thanks to all who purchased tickets. We raised over \$1000! Thanks once again to Mr. and Mrs. Ed White for their generous donation of this map.

We have a busy spring set for you. The March open house will feature a display on ice-cutting in Easton, and will include a variety of ice-cutting tools and photos as well as a video of the ice-cutting process. The video and photos showcase the ice-cutting operation at Fred J. Monte's ice house, which was the last major operation in New England when it closed in 1967. The ice house was located on Elm Street Extension. The remains of Monte's Pond and the dam

can be easily viewed from the road.

I plan to offer you a real treat for the April open house—President's Choice! I have a few ideas in mind, including items from my personal collection. While I haven't yet decided what I will display, you can be sure it will be something you haven't seen before. I hope this event will become a tradition, something for you to look forward to. Please be sure to drop by!

On April 6th, plan on joining us for our annual Chowder and Chatter dinner. Once again, Lee and Kevin Williams have offered to underwrite the cost of this event. I sincerely appreciate their generosity to the Society, and I am very thankful for their continued sponsorship of this great event. This years theme will be "Amazing Facts and Legends about Easton." The featured panelists will be Duncan Oliver, Hazel Varella and Ed

Hands. Donations towards paying off the heating system loan would be very welcome.

April 29th brings a mystery walk with Chet Raymo as our guide. I could tell you more, but then it wouldn't be a mystery, would it? Seriously, professor Raymo is an excellent speaker, very knowledgeable and always entertaining. This is limited to twenty people to allow all in attendance to hear his remarks. You will be contacted by phone and given the walk details.

Plan on joining us on May 7th as we try to get this going! Arrive at the Station around 2 P.M., pick up your self-guided tour and worksheet, and get started. A small prize will be given to any child who can complete their hunt. If you don't finish it that day, bring in your completed sheet at a future open house to claim your prize. Don't forget to bring mom and dad! See you!

# The Curator's Corner

Curator Paul Berry

We are still looking for yearbooks to fill in gaps in our collection. Any yearbook that features an Easton resident, past or present, would be helpful. We would be interested in your old high school literary publications as well. At one time, these journals of student writings were published twice each school year. Check your bookcases!



**Calling All Kids!**

Are you up to a real adventure? Join us for a free self-guided discovery walk on May 7th, at 2 P.M. at the Railroad Station on Mechanic Street. Pick up your pencil and discovery sheet, fill in the answers during your walk, and bring us the completed sheet. You will receive a prize! Please make sure you are accompanied by an adult!

**The Society is pleased to announce the receipt of two very special gifts. The first is a wonderful collection of items from the Tisdale family, who were very well known early in Easton's history. One item in particular is an extraordinary wedding dress. This historically important and well documented collection offers a rare glimpse into the lives of an early and influential Easton family. We express our deepest appreciation and thanks to Ms. Barbara Read Holbrook for choosing us to be the caretakers of a truly remarkable family history.**

**The second gift is a framed painting titled "Mexican Fiesta" painted by Mrs. Mabel Brenner. Mrs. Brenner, an Easton resident and wife of Doctor Brenner, was an accomplished artist. Her works were well known in the area during the 1950's and 1960's. The Society is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Tremblay for this donation of a fine piece of art by a truly gifted artist. It is a wonderful addition to our collection.**

### *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

*Mrs. Abraham (Mae) Brooks celebrated her 100th birthday on February 28!  
Mrs. Brooks is a long time member and supporter of the Society. The Society congratulates you and wishes you the very best on this remarkable occasion!*

**The Society has mailed out the 2006 dues letter. Your dues provides us with a large percentage of our operating capital. A prompt reply is much appreciated, and will save the Society from sending a second notice. Many of you have included an extra donation in your check. We appreciate your generosity and support!**

**A number of volunteer opportunities exist at the Society. We have a need for someone who likes to type, and would be willing to transfer some inventory records onto computer discs. This may be done in your own home. We are also looking for a web master to re-establish our web site. Please call the Station at 508-238-7774 if you would like to help out with these or other projects.**

### MYSTERY WALK RESERVATION FORM

Professor Chet Raymo will lead twenty Society members and friends on a special mystery walk on Saturday, April 29th. Please use this form to make your reservation. Tickets are \$15 each, and checks should be made payable to the "Easton Historical Society." Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis only. This event will not be offered to the general public. Please send this form and your check to: Mrs. Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356. You will be notified by phone and given information regarding when and where to meet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets requested \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHOWDER AND CHATTER RESERVATION FORM**

The Easton Historical Society's annual Chowder and Chatter evening will be held on April 6th, 2006. Please plan on arriving at the Southeastern Regional High School by 6:30 P.M. The school is conveniently located at 250 Foundry Street (Route 106) in South Easton. Once again, Lee and Kevin Williams have generously offered to underwrite the cost of this event. As in the past, there is no cost to you. However, any donations made will go towards paying off the debt incurred by the Society for the heating system installation. Donations by check should be made out to the "Easton Historical Society." Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Seating for this popular event is limited, and members requests will be filled on a first come first served basis. Any seats still available after March 15th will be offered to the general public.

Please send this completed form to: Mrs. Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

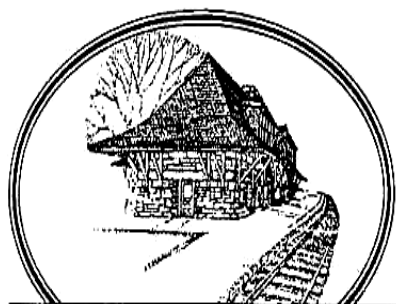
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**Old Colony Railroad Station**

**P.O. Box 3, 80 Mechanic Street  
North Easton MA 02356**

**508-238-7774**

**Ehsociety@arczip.com**

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