

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, March 10th, Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring ahead one hour, or you may miss the Sunday, March 10th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. focusing on Easton's trolley history.

Thursday, April 11th, "Chowder and Chatter" evening, 6 p.m. at Southeastern Regional, with thanks to Lee and Kevin Williams. Panel discussion on Easton Restaurants. Reservation form inside!

Sunday, April 14th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring Easton restaurant menus and photos. Do you remember these establishments, or did you work at them? Come and share your restaurant memories with us!

Sunday, April 28th, "A Celebratory Occasion at Langwater", 2:30 p.m. celebrating the Society's 65th Anniversary and the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library's 130th Anniversary! Details are on page 3.

Saturday, May 11th, Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, May 12th, Happy Mother's Day! No open house today.

Sunday, May 19th, Open House, 1-5 P.M. featuring old Easton Postcards. Can you guess how many different postcards there are of Easton?

Our Annual Meeting will be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon in May. Details will be sent in a separate mailing.

Sixty-five and Counting!

2013 marks the 65th anniversary of the Easton Historical Society. The Society you know today came from humble beginnings. It was back in 1948 when a group of like-minded individuals met and discussed the need to preserve Easton's history and the stories of her citizens. With no permanent site, the group met in various locations (usually Frothingham Memorial Hall or Ames Free Library) and stored the beginnings of our archives in some space made available at the Ames Free Library, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary.

Fast forwarding to the present, the Society has good reason to celebrate sixty-five great years. Our membership is growing and so are our collections. We have as our headquarters one of the most beautiful and studied buildings in America. Thanks to all of you, the Society continues to expand into the Eastons and surrounding communities, bringing our love of history to people of all ages and in many interesting places.

To celebrate this historic anniversary the Society is planning two very special events. In April we will be joining with the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library (celebrating 130 years of excellent service to the citizens of Easton) to hold a "Celebratory Occasion at Langwater", the historic 1859 home built for Frederick Lothrop Ames and now the home of Mrs. Oliver F. Ames. She along with Mrs. David Ames will be co-chairpersons for this special event, made possible through a generous donation from the North Easton Savings Bank. Details for this extraordinary afternoon are on page three of this newsletter.

Later this fall, the Society will have a special members only time of celebration to honor your many years of loyal support. The Society will be planning something special over the summer, and details will be announced in one of the next issues of Train Tracks. The Society is very thankful for our members and we are looking forward to celebrating with you!

The mission of the Easton Historical Society 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

The Importance of Volunteering

Greetings all you Blizzard of 2013 survivors! For those who live in New England, you know what I am writing about. For those of you who have decided the weather is better elsewhere, you are right! As I was shoveling out my driveway the day after the storm, my thoughts drifted to two things: I need help, and I need helpers! I am down to myself and one other shoveler now, and probably down to just myself next year. Anyway, I was close to the end of my driveway near the road, where the snow was five feet high, and dreaming of a snowblower, when a gentleman in a plow truck came by and plowed away the heavy snow for me. Boy, was I ever appreciative! I was very grateful for the help, and the helper was grateful for the opportunity to help someone. Great things can happen when people help each other!

The Society is always looking for willing helpers. Just in the past few months, members and friends alike have lent their talents in many ways. Just take a look at the following activities, held during the fall and winter of the past year: In October the Society helped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of "Wayside" which was the home of Congressman and Mrs. Louis A. Frothingham, and is now our town hall. I put together a display in the lobby, and Hazel Varella, Ed Hands, Dan Pare, and Joanne England did everything from guide tours to providing written materials and a slide show about "Wayside." Joan Lundgren and Melanie Deware did a great job on the refreshments, and Gloria Freitas-Steidinger complemented the event with wonderful floral arrangements. Special guests were Mrs. David Ames, David Ames, Jr., Frederick L. Ames, and Senators Brian Joyce and Thomas Kennedy. Later that month Clover Valley Farm volunteered a hayride allowing me to scare the wits out of a few people with the "History and Mystery of Poquanticut." In November the new Easton Shovel Town Cultural Council provided refreshments for our Antique Appraisal Day which also featured volunteers from the Society, Ames Free Library, Oakes Ames Memorial Hall and the Friends of Borderland State Park. Also in November, our dedication of a flagpole to the late Ken Martin (who defined the very word of volunteer) included refreshments provided by Thomas and Judy Sabin, Society members and long time neighbors of Ken. December is always busy. During the holiday events, all the board members helped out at the Society. These included new ideas for sale items from Deborah MacPhee, fresh baked goods from Mrs. Robert Misiewicz, Patricia Baker, Melanie Deware, Jeanmarie and Catelyn Joyce and others; Ed Hands' excellent ideas and refreshments; and Ken Michel, David Ames, Melanie Deware, Patricia Baker, Frances Holland and myself staffing the table at the Artisan's Faire at Queset. Melanie Deware did a great job creating a "red and white" tree for the Society's contribution to the Easton Garden Club's Festival of Trees. I also need to mention our bottle drive group of Hazel Varella, Ed Hands, Roger McNamara, and me. Our research group has grown to include Barbara Beech, Joanne England, Ed Hands, Frances Holland, Professor James Kenneally, Judge Leon Lombardi, Dan Pare (who has also been busy editing Reminiscences and other projects), Maureen Raymo, Hazel Varella, and Jean Visnauskas. Bob Vogel gladly lent his talent and his collection of postcards to provide an interesting open house in September. Oliver Ames High School student Brett Sheehan also helps out after school with a variety of tasks.

As you can see, we are busy and help is needed. Or, to put it more appropriately, the Society needs your help! There are lots of opportunities and there is always a place for your particular talent. Have a busy schedule already? Don't worry. Any amount of time you can contribute is valuable. Are you a great organizer, or do you have computer skills? We have projects for that. Are you one of those people who just love to clean? We have plenty of glass cleaner and wipes. Whatever your skill or interest, we will try to accommodate. I have always said that I don't believe in a team of one. If we all give some of our time, energy and effort to help move the Society forward, imagine what great things we can accomplish! And no, you won't be expected to shovel snow!

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter "Train Tracks" is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society.

Officers for 2012-2013

President Kenneth J. Michel
1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.
2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands
Treasurer Nancy DeLuca
Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

Directors

Patricia Baker
Melanie-Jane L. Deware
Judge Leon J. Lombardi
James MacPhee
Debra Salisbury
Robert J. Wooster
Immediate Past President—Deborah MacPhee
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Did you know that the Historical Society is 65 years old and that the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library has been serving residents of Easton for double that number-130 years? To celebrate these extraordinary accomplishments Mrs. Oliver F. Ames of "Langwater" is hosting a special afternoon to honor both groups Sunday, April 28th from 2:30 to 5. The opportunity to tour the rooms on the first floor will begin at 2:30 P. M., and at 3 P. M. guests will be seated in the Marble Room for "A Celebratory Occasion at Langwater" with special refreshments. Honorary Co-Chairmen are Mrs. David Ames and Mrs. Oliver F. Ames. Plan to celebrate with us on this unique afternoon.

Due to the size of the Marble Room only seventy tickets will be sold at \$35. If you are interested in attending, there are three ways to purchase tickets. Mail to the Ames Free Library, 53 Main Street, North Easton, Ma. 20356 PRIOR to March 18th a check payable to the Ames Free Library for the number of tickets you desire (maximum is four) and a stamped self-addressed envelope for your return tickets. Please mark on the envelope "Langwater." Also your envelope might be handed in at the reference desk PRIOR to the 18th. These envelopes will be opened at 10 A.M. on March 18th. Any remaining tickets will be available at the reference desk on the 18th or can be ordered on-line. Contact the Library at 508-238-2000 about the process for on-line ordering. Funding for this unique opportunity is being provided by the North Easton Savings Bank.

If you have any questions, please contact Marion Wingfield at the Library-extension 5, Deborah MacPhee (238-3399) or Hazel Varella (238-3614).

~JOIN US FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION~

HANDBOOK OF BRITISH PHONOGRAPHY;

OF

OR,

A NEW AND IMPROVED METHOD OF WRITING
WORDS ACCORDING TO THEIR SOUNDS:

BEING A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF

PHONIC SHORTHAND,

ADAPTED FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES,

VERBATIM REPORTING, &c.

BY EDWARD JAMES JONES.

*(From 1843 to 1861 a writer of Mr. Isaac Pitman's system, and
for the last 18 years a writer of the system here given.)*

FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:

S. W. PARTRIDGE & Co., 9 PATERNOSTER ROW.

1880.

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

19

CONSONANTS.

NAME.	PHONO- GRAPH.	HEARD IN	NAME.	PHONO- GRAPH.	HEARD IN
K	⌒	Key, cow.	N	⌒	No, know.
Gay	⌒	Gig.			Own.
P	⌒	Pay.	R	⌒	Roar.
B	⌒	Bay.	L	⌒	Lull.
iSH	⌒	Fish, show.	S	⌒	Oasis, ices.
iZH	⌒	Usual.	eZ	⌒	Oozes.
CHay	⌒	Church.	M	⌒	Maim.
Jay	⌒	Judge.	eMP	⌒	Empire.
T		Taught.	eP	—	Ape.
D		Did.	eB	—	Ebb.
eTH)	Thigh, breath	F	⌒	Fife.
THe)	Thy, breathe.	V	⌒	Vivid.

SEMI-CONSONANTS.

NAME.	PHONO- GRAPH.	HEARD IN	NAME.	PHONO- GRAPH.	HEARD IN
iNG	⌒	Singing.	Way	? or ⌒	We.
Yay	⌒ or ⌒	Ye	H	⌒ or ⌒	He.

A few letters besides P, B, are provided with second, or additional signs, viz.:-

eK ⌒ WH ⌒ S o
 KW or Q ⌒ L / Z o

Bob Carpenter of Easton has done extensive research on his family. He came across this gem and would like to share it with our members. His great-great-great uncle, Edward James Jones, developed an improved shorthand system forever making life easier for secretaries and stenographers everywhere. Bob states: "Edward James Jones, who was born in England and later moved to Scotland, was my grandmother's great uncle. My grandmother was Jeannie Kirkland Carpenter. She was born at Bathgate, Scotland in 1880. She emigrated to the USA in 1907. Her sponsor was E. Fielding Jones, son of Edward James Jones. Her uncle was E. Fielding Jones of Bonhill, Scotland and Providence, RI." To see the book in its entirety, go to <http://archive.org/stream/handbookofbritis00joneiala#page/n3/mode/2up>.

Thank you, Bob, for a nice piece of family history!

Historic Awards Announced

The Easton Historical Commission recently announced the recipients of the annual Briggs and Chaffin awards. Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz was honored by the Commission with the William L. Chaffin Award for his many contributions to Easton’s history. Dr. Bob served on the Society Board of Directors for many years and was President of the Society in the mid-1990’s. He did the first video series on Easton’s history, chaired the very successful 300th Anniversary Gala in 1994, served on the first Unity Church Window Restoration Committee, and was a member of the Old Stoughton Grenadiers. Dr. Bob also sponsored the planting of specimen trees in memory of Ken Jackson at Stonehill College, and for Ken Martin’s retirement from the Town of Easton. His generosity and commitment to Easton’s history and that of her citizens is most deserving of this prestigious award.

The congregation of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church, long a Center Street landmark, was honored with the Clement Briggs Award for their excellent exterior renovation of their church building. The church, built around 1895, has survived as a fine example of the late 19th century Queen Anne Style. A recent historical survey calls the church an “intact and distinctive example of late 19th century church building in North Easton” and “an important architectural and cultural landmark in the town.” The bright yellow “sunburst” painting that details the exterior of the church made the building stand out and caught the eye of the Commission. Saint Mark’s has been an active member of the Easton community, supporting the Hugs II program, providing school backpacks filled with supplies for underprivileged children, and has sent many care packages to American troops overseas. This shining congregation now has a building that shines as brightly as they do.

The Society extends its congratulations to Dr. Bob and St. Mark’s for receiving these honors.

In Memorium

The Society sadly announces the passing of member Alfred F. Beech of North Easton on December 17, 2012. He was the beloved husband of 60 years to Barbara A. (Cherry) Beech. He is also survived by his children Barbara C. Beech and her husband Paul DeRosa of Walpole, Robert F. and his wife Kathryn Beech of Coatesville, PA , and Alfred J. Beech and his wife Genevieve Kenney of Arlington, VA. , and grandchildren Jonathan, Allison, Mary, and William Beech. Alfred retired after 37 years as a Quality Control Specialist for the U.S. Government. He also owned and operated Easton Appliance Service for many years. He was a licensed private pilot, and with his wife, was featured in a newspaper article about their flying experiences. Alfred was a WWII Navy veteran as a plank owner on the U.S.S. Cape Esperance.

The Easton Historical Society expresses its deepest sympathy to the Beech family.

Spring Bottle and Can Drive

The Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive will be held at the Society on May 11th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All Massachusetts returnable clean bottles and cans are gladly accepted. Sorry, we cannot accept items for recycling. Call 508-238-7774 for pickup. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser in Ken’s memory!

Volunteers are always appreciated at this event. Last fall we were exceptionally busy, and our faithful bottle drive helpers could use a break! In addition to the bottle and can activity, we had several visitors to the Society that needed assistance. Let us know if you can help out, even for 1/2 an hour. This will give our regulars a breather, and allow us to take a few minutes to greet visitors. Thank you!

Recent Acquisitions

Articles on Eliphalet Leonard, Manufacturer of Muskets, photos of the Ames Monument in Wyoming and a photo of a re-enactment of the golden spike driving, photos of the fire at St. Mary's Hall taken the following day, a photo of a fire at 56A Center St. about the same time as the St. Mary's fire, photo of the Leonard home at 17 Columbus Avenue, photo of children playing ball in a field on Columbus Avenue, photo of Mr. Werner and family who was the OA principal from 1948-1952, piece of granite from the site of the Ames Memorial in Sherman Wyoming, from Edward Leonard; a 19th century autograph book, three ledgers with the by-laws and minutes of the "Easton Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor" from the 1880's to the early 1900's, one ledger with the by-laws and minutes of the "Bristol Club" from Ron Hayward; the biography of the current Boston Post Cane holder, Gladys Gay, from her son Stephen; History of Rehoboth, Mass. from Robert Carpenter; special penny from the North Easton Savings Bank, a centennial ruler, from Robert Brooks; Frank McMenemy's 1961 Oliver Ames football jacket with Hockomock League Champion letter, from Charles McMenemy; a 1932 Easton Bulletin with the graduating class featured, 1939 newsclipping about the Stanley Whitten / Lorraine Dahlborg drowning, a 1932 Eastoner graduation issue, book—Tenting on the Old Camp Ground, 1890, from Robert Pratt; "HO" scale model of the Mitrano Block on Main Street made by Jay Slavitz circa 1950, from Jeremy Slavitz, History of the Easton Country Club, from Leon Lombardi; photos of the Kenneth Martin flagpole dedication from Myrtle Blaisdell and Ronald Somerville; a paper cutter, model of a 1950 tow truck, and other items from Robert and Kristen Carpenter; Emmy's Hair Salon for two gift baskets of beauty items for our December open houses; Burt Lewis for providing the Easton Historical Society web site; Rosemary Santos Schofield Green for a photo of her former home on Pond Street; Oakes Ames Memorial Hall Centennial Program 1881-1981, invitations to the Centennial Ball – November 14, 1981, postcards, picture of Roger Nelson, Charles McCarthy, John O'Connell, and Louis Silva, and original letter and copies of letter from Oakes Ames of "Borderland" to his daughter Evelyn-9/28/1946, from Alice McCarthy.

Donations of money have been received from Betty Kellogg in memory of Elmer and Gertrud (De Witt) Harrold, Joseph and Eloise (Harrold) Lyons, and Cheryl Foote Grede; Lois DiPasqua in honor of Lorraine Watson, Francis Ialenti, Francis and Lisa Garcea, Suzanne Rivard, Duncan and Carol Oliver, Margaret Lupica, and James, Deborah, and Joseph MacPhee in honor of Hazel Varella; Helen Kyse, Patricia Parrie in memory of Ron Buba, The Oliver Ames High School Class of 1962, James Carlino and Peter Simpson, Suzanne Rivard, Henry Ames, Mary-Rose Garfagna, Catherine Harvey, Helen Kyse, Easton Garden Club, Joanne Soule and the SEABEES who served with Ken in the Mobile Construction Battle Twelve, in memory of Kenneth Martin, and "Give With liberty" with thanks to James MacPhee.

The Society is in need of the following yearbooks: 1962, 1972, 1986, and 1994 to the present. Junior High yearbooks and Southeastern Regional yearbooks are also needed. Class reunions and many of our visitors look through our yearbook collection. If you can help complete our collection, please contact us. Thank you!

Easton Historical Society Annual Meeting

Plans are being developed for our May Annual Meeting. As usual, we will begin with a short business meeting. That will be followed by a presentation of a video on King Philip's War, produced by David Ames. A question and answer session on that event will follow. The day and location of the meeting are still being confirmed, and a separate mailing will announce the details to you.

The Bridge across Long Pond is one of many postcards of Easton that will be on display at the Society on Sunday, May 19th. Postcards were immensely popular in the early 1900's, and every town had pen pals sending cards of their town in exchange for cards from other towns. Bob Vogel and Frank Meninno, two longtime collectors of Easton postcards, will loan their collections for an amazing day of sightseeing around all areas of Easton. Do you know how many different cards there are of Easton? You'll have to come and find out!



A 22053 Bridge across Long Pond, North Easton, Mass.

It's "Chowder and Chatter" Time!

The fourteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" will be held Thursday, April 11th, at 6 P. M. at the Southeastern Regional High School with the cost of the meal being provided, as always, by Lee and Kevin Williams. After the delicious meal of chowders, fritters, cornbread, dessert, and beverage by Chef Kfoury and the students, a panel moderated by Ed Hands will focus on restaurants on route 138 in the 1950s. This was still the main route from Boston to the Cape, Taunton, Fall River, New Bedford, and Newport. Hopefully some in the audience might share a memory of enjoying food and beverages at Howard Johnsons, Merrymacs, the Four Hundred, Yankee Hostess, or even Cappy's. To provide equal opportunity for all, please mail the form to Hazel Varella MONDAY, MARCH 18th OR AFTER. You may call Hazel at 508-238-3614 with questions, but NOT to reserve your spot. All reservations are to be made by mail only.

Donations made to the Society for this event will be used to purchase archival supplies. All donations will be acknowledged. Thank you!



2013 CHOWDER AND CHATTER RESERVATION FORM

Mail on or after March 18th!

Please use this form to reserve your seat for the April 11th "Chowder and Chatter" dinner. Southeastern Regional High 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, all donations made will go towards the purchase of archival supplies. 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 member requests will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Any seats left will be made available to the public. Please send this completed form to: Mrs. Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

Number of Seats Requested (limit of 4) _____ Donation \$ _____

Names of Attendees (include yourself) _____



Easton's Favorite Watercolorist!

Mary Bodio was back in Easton recently visiting with several friends and taking in the changes around North Easton. After a nice lunch, she visited the Easton Historical Society, the Ames Free Library—Easton's Public Library, saw the work being done at the Ames Shovel Shops, and visited her old Union Street neighborhood. Mary especially would like to be remembered to all of her many friends.

Pictured above from left are Frank Meninno, George Comeaux, Mary Bodio, Hazel and David Varella.

Address changing? Please tell us!

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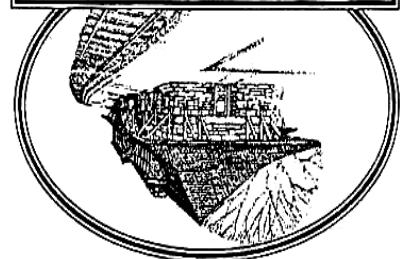
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