



## CALENDAR

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

*\* Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9th. Set your clocks ahead one hour so you won't miss our events!*

*Sunday, March 9th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Cookie bake-off and Toll House Restaurant display.*

*Sunday, April 13th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring the history of Stonehill College. Stonehill President Reverend John Denning, C.S.C. will be our special guest.*

*Thursday, May 1st, 15th annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening 6 p.m. at Southeastern Regional High School with thanks to "Lee" and Kevin Williams for making this special occasion possible! Use form on page 7 to reserve your seat.*

*Saturday, May 3rd, Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

*Sunday, May 4th, 2 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Society at Frothingham Hall featuring a Civil War program with Dana Zaiser. See details inside.*

*Sunday May 11th, a very Happy Mother's Day! No open house today.*

*Sunday, May 18th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring the women of the Ames family.*

*Sunday, June 29th, join us for a special event with the Easton Shovelton Cultural Council and The Trustees of Reservations to celebrate the grand opening of the Governor Ames Park. Details of this exciting day will be announced in the next newsletter.*

## Spring is near!

The ground may still be snow covered, the air may still be cold, but we have warm plans for the Society as the spring months approach!

What would warm you up more than a delicious bowl of hot chowder? Perhaps some good conversation? You will get both of these by attending our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening on May 1st! Besides the always excellent meal, graciously provided by "Lee" and Kevin Williams, you will be regaled with stories of the women of the Ames family. Unfortunately, women were largely ignored by 19th and early 20th century history writers and precious little is known about their role in history. However, you will have an opportunity to hear about the important things done by the Ames women from our panelists who have either personally known or researched them. It will be a great evening of food, fellowship, and discovery. Don't miss out on this event!

Also on the radar are plans to honor the 1945 Oliver Ames High School football team which went undefeated. We hope to have a few of the players from that team share some of their memories of that team with us. And speaking of sports, we are hoping sometime soon to feature a program on boxing in Easton, including Easton's role in supporting one particularly famous heavyweight champion! In June, watch for details on a special celebration as we join with local groups to support the Easton Shovelton Cultural Council.

Spring also brings about our annual meeting, the bottle and can drive, visits from several groups, and a host of walk in visitors. Why not plan some time to spend with us? Take advantage of our programs and open houses, or call ahead and plan for a more personal visit. We would love to see 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

### BEING SOCIAL

I did it. I took the plunge. I have taken the leap into social media. Don't get me wrong now, I'm not a newcomer to computer messaging. After all, I have been e-mailing people since 1985, and consider myself adept at that technology. However, there is definitely a need to expand my horizons. As you have read in the recent dues letter, the Society needs to expand upon our communications. So in the spirit of better serving our membership, I have created a Facebook page. It is a personal page, very boring, but it will get me to know the ins and outs, blessings and trappings, of using Facebook so I can set up a Society page in the near future.

My first day on Facebook got me nowhere. I received a warm welcome from a whole bunch of people that I did not know that I knew! After spending about ten minutes reading this list, I did recognize a few names which was good. I don't understand why so many others were suggested to me. Maybe they are "friends" of other "friends" who might be a few of my friends, but whom I have not yet "friended" whatever that means. So far I have not asked anyone to be a "friend" on Facebook. Please do not be offended if you try to "friend" me and I do not accept. I still don't have a clue as to what this is all about. When I do, I'll be sure to e-mail you. Then perhaps we can be "friends" even though we are probably already friends anyway!

As I said, eventually the Society will have a Facebook page so we can better communicate to you what we are doing, and what events are coming up. We will reach out to new segments of the population who have been asking if we have a Facebook page. So we will. Once I get this figured out!

On a more serious note, one of the reasons we need to do this is to be part of some really interesting groups. I want to call your attention to two of them. One is a Facebook page on Unionville which has been very successful collecting stories and memories about that wonderful section of town. The other is a page called Easton Stories which has an equally strong following. I have read a few of the comments people have posted about different things to do with Easton on these pages. Having a Facebook account will allow me to participate in those discussions, and I look forward to sharing what I know as well as learning what others have to share. Perhaps I will start a page on Furnace Village and get the stories from people who grew up there. Assuming, of course, that they will "friend" me!

#### Looking back 75 years\*

The 1938 hurricane came barreling through Long Island Sound and directly into New England seventy-five years ago on September 21st. Here are two remembrances from that event.

Robert "Buddy" Wooster was a child playing ball at Frothingham Park the afternoon the storm arrived. He and the other boys all noticed the wind suddenly picking up. When it came time to leave the park, "the wind was too strong to pedal my bike home (16 Sheridan Street). I had to push it back home." He also remembers walking over and around downed trees and limbs for months afterwards.

Wayne Legge, who was eight years old at the time, remembers the "yellowish sky" and "everything was eerily quiet" before the winds arrived. Living in Stoughton at the time, his neighbor across the street was a Dr. Welch who had 6-8 very large maple trees in his yard. Wayne relates "every tree toppled over, roots and all. It reminded us kids of a jungle with branches going out in all directions creating tunnels and caves everywhere." He goes on to say "the storm provided us with a natural playground. We played 'Tarzan of the Apes' and 'Cowboys and Indians' for what seemed like six months before the trees were cut up and removed." He also said that for his father, mother, and five children, candles, lanterns and grills were the order of the day. While they felt like they were "camping out" they also realized that too many others were not so fortunate.

Thanks to Buddy and Wayne for sharing their memories. Please send us yours!

*\*Originally was to be in the prior issue but due to space constraints was not able to be included.—Ed.*

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  
Judge Leon J. Lombardi  
James MacPhee  
Debra Salisbury  
Robert J. Wooster  
Immediate Past President—Deborah MacPhee

## It's a Small World, or The Mystery of the OAHS Ring

Each Fourth of July for more than fifty years we have spent with Dave Varella's BU college classmate and his family on Cape Ann, Fred and Joanne Peterson. This year we arrived on a VERY hot July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Rockport. As we were sitting on the Peterson porch, their mailman Lary Salo approached, and Fred offered him a very cold glass of water. As he was drinking it, we were introduced, and he commented that Easton was close to Taunton. When we responded in the affirmative, he explained that one of his hobbies was metal-detecting and collecting. More than a decade ago he had scanned a large field in Taunton, and among the items he found was a 1959 Oliver Ames High School ring with initials inscribed within. When we indicated we were not returning to Easton until the 6<sup>th</sup>, he said he would bring the ring on the 5<sup>th</sup> with his deliveries. He had kept the ring and had tried to locate the owner with no success.

When he returned on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Dave and I instantly identified it as a 1959 OAHS ring with the initials PLC. The mailman indicated he did not want a reward but hoped to be able to present the ring to the rightful owner and to have positive publicity about the action. As some of you might know, my brother George was Vice-President of the Class of 1959 and Patricia Gurney (Baker) was the Treasurer. I immediately e-mailed Pat about the discovery and the initials PLC. However, no one in the senior class listing had those initials—thus the mystery!!

The following Wednesday Pat picked me up on the way to a Board meeting of the Easton Historical Society and obviously we discussed the mystery!! It was definitely an OAHS ring!! Halfway through the meeting, Pat suddenly said to me she knew who PLC was—Pauline Louise Charron. Pat subsequently made telephone contact with Pauline Charron Carlson in New Hampshire, and then I called her. Pauline indicated she had lost the ring many decades ago while probably helping a friend to hay a field in Taunton. She was not positive that she had lost it there, but it was during that time period that she realized she no longer had her class ring. She would be thrilled to have it returned.

The mailman Lary Salo had hoped to hand it to her, but due to complications that was not possible. He did mail it to her, and she sent a picture to him with her wearing the ring. We have seen the picture, but Pauline has requested that it not be disseminated.

**WHAT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN SO HOT JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>, PAULINE MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAD HER OAHS RING RETURNED!! IT IS A SMALL WORLD!!**

Hazel L. Varella

## 2014 Annual Meeting and Dues Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Easton Historical Society will be held Sunday, May 4th, 2 p.m. at Frothingham Hall. Dana Zaiser will be presenting a program on Civil War stories and objects.

You should have received your dues letter by now. To check your current status, look at your address label. If the date says 2014 you are paid for this year. If the date is 2013 or earlier, then you have not. Please be sure to renew so you can keep up to date with Society programs and special occasions such as "Chowder and Chatter" for which members receive priority seating reservations. Don't forget your 10% discount on Society merchandise! Please call us at 508-238-7774 with any questions.

# Very Special Honors



Congratulations to Dr. Maureen Raymo for being the 2014 winner of the Wollaston Medal of the Geological Society of London, the most prestigious international prize in the Earth Sciences. Prior winners have included giants in geology such as Louis Agassiz, Charles Darwin, and Thomas Huxley. An OAHs graduate in 1978, Maureen, the first female winner, is the daughter of Chet and Maureen Raymo, who are active members of the Historical Society. The honor began in 1831.

Ed Hands and Avery "Lee" Williams were recently presented with the Kuehn Community Preservation Award, recognizing their dedication and excellent work as part of Easton's Community Preservation Commission (CPC). The Kuehn Community Preservation Awards were developed to honor the memory and work of Robert H. Kuehn, Jr. Bob was actively involved in the process of drafting and passing the Community Preservation Act (CPA). He was also one of the founders and main supporters of the Community Preservation Coalition.

Ed and Lee have served on Easton's CPC since its inception and have overseen the use of funds to provide historic preservation, housing, recreation and open space. Their work on using CPA funds to preserve the Ames Shovel Complex from destruction earned them a nomination from Easton Selectman Chairman Colleen Corona. She stated that "Easton would be a different community than it is now if we hadn't passed CPA." Stuart Saginor, executive director of the Community Preservation Coalition, commented that "Avery and Ed deserve a tremendous amount of credit for using the money exactly the way Bob would have wanted it to." The Ames Shovel project provided for historic preservation of the buildings, the creation of open space on the grounds, and a mix of market rate and affordable housing.

Congratulations to Ed and Lee, and thank you for serving Easton so well!

## Spring Bottle and Can Drive

The Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive will be held at the Society on Saturday, May 3rd 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. 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. Coffee will be provided. Thank you!

## In Memorium

Robert T. Sultan of North Easton, on December 23, 2013. He was the devoted father of Lauren Hollop and her husband Walter of West Roxbury, and Bradley Sultan of Easton, dear grandfather of Ethan Hollop and Andrea Hollop, loving brother of Susan Feingold of PA. Services were private. Mr. Sultan was a retired LT. Colonel in the U.S. Army. He served for over 25 years, and was a Veteran of Vietnam. He was an employee of the United States Federal Government for over 30 years and was a long time Society member.

Betty Jean (Harrold) Foote Kellogg, 83, of Swansea, MA passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2013 at Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River. She was the wife of the late Richard H. Kellogg, also of Swansea and the late Paul R. Foote, originally of Weston, MA. Betty was born in Easton, MA to Elmer C. Harrold and his wife Jessica Gertrude Dewitt. Betty raised her own family in Easton where she resided for 60 years before remarrying and moving to Swansea. Betty was predeceased by her eldest daughter, Cheryl A. (Foote) Floyd Grede. She is survived by her daughter Diane E. (Foote) Sargent Whitney and her husband David of Taunton, MA; her son Peter H. Foote and his wife Sandy of Discovery Bay, CA; her son Steven D. Foote and his wife Frances of Easton; her son Scott D. Foote and his wife Ana of Easton; twelve loving grandchildren and her first great-granddaughter. A graduate of Oliver Ames High School in Easton, Betty also attended the nursing program at Wellesley College, was a licensed real estate salesperson in Massachusetts, and worked as an audio-visual technician at the Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School for 20 years before retiring. She was a member of the Unitarian Church, Easton Garden Club, Easton Historical Society and Swansea Historical Society.

John Paul Vieira, Jr., 56, passed away unexpectedly October 12, 2013. A resident of Tewksbury, MA., he was an outstanding athlete at Oliver Ames High School Class of 1975. He earned his Bachelors Degree at Salem State College in 1979. He was a Manager of Global Production Support at TJX Companies in Marlboro. He was the beloved son of the late John and Cecelia Vieira, lifelong residents of Easton. He leaves behind his wife Barbara (Smolski) Vieira and three children John Paul III, Lauren and Lindsay all of Tewksbury, MA. Also, he leaves his five sisters, Joan Grider of Bellingham, Ma, Carol Lanigan of Maine, Sheila Passehl and husband Dennis of Florida, Paula Concannon and husband Paul of Wilmington, MA and Joyce Nardone and husband Keith of Shrewsbury, Ma. He was an uncle and great uncle to several nieces and nephews and also brother-in-law to the late Jack Grider and Tom Lanigan.

Anthony Silva, 101, a longtime resident of Easton and Hampton Beach, NH. died Friday, November 29, 2013 at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton after a period of failing health. He was the husband of Hilda (Vieira) Silva for 74 1/2 years. He was born on Day Street, North Easton on February 19, 1912, a son of the late August and Matilda (Pires) Silva. He was raised in Easton and spent his early years in the "ramcat" section of town in company housing as his father toiled for the Ames Shovel Company. Anthony was employed as a night superintendent for the Plymouth Rubber Company of Canton for 40 years. A communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church in Easton, he enjoyed traveling with his wife Hilda in their RVs across the country from 1978-2006 visiting many US States on their way to see family. His hobbies included coin collecting, golfing, metal detecting and gambling in Las Vegas, California and New Mexico, and trips to Foxwoods. He enjoyed his visits to the Easton Historical Society and his conversations with the curator, regaling him with his stories of life growing up in town. In addition to his wife Hilda, he is survived by his children, Robert Silva and his wife Marion of Rockville, MD., Donna Norris of Mission Viejo, CA., Gerald Silva and his wife Catherine of Weymouth and Naples, FL., Regina Silva of Whitman and the late Mark Silva; brother of the late Mary, Isabelle, Emily, John and Alfred Silva; grandfather of Marc Silva, Deidre Silva, Sean Norris, Todd Norris, Michael Norris, and Scott Silva; also survived by 7 great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The Easton Historical Society expresses its sympathy to the families of these special people.

The Reverend John Denning, C. S. C. will be our honored guest at our April 13th Open House. Father Denning, who became the tenth president of Stonehill College July 1st, 2013, began his service at Stonehill in 2000 as its Director of Campus Ministry, then was the College's first Vice President for Mission, and from 2007 to 2013 guided the College's Students Affairs Division. It is a distinct privilege to have Father Denning at this special Open House.

## House Marker Program



The Easton Historical Society and the Easton Historical Commission announce the beginning of a new house marker program. This program is open to all Easton residents and property owners. The purpose of the program is to identify and uniformly mark historic properties throughout the town. Made of aluminum and sealed with a reflective coating, this 13" x 9" sign will complement any home or other property. The cost for each sign is \$30. The Historical Society will verify the date for your home, and will identify the appropriate name as well. You will be notified when your signs are ready for pickup at the Society. Please use the form below to order yours. Makes a great gift too!

✂

**House Marker Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check for \$30 for each sign ordered payable to: Easton Historical Society, and mail it to the Society at P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356. Thank you!

Society Use Only
Date for property: _____
Name / Description for property: _____

## Gifts

A collection of women's hats and accessories that belonged to Josephine Peterson, from Janet Peterson White; an Oliver Ames Cheerleading megaphone, award plaque and cheerleading letter from the early 1960's, from Sharon E. Graves; a cigarette case / lighter from the 1940's initialed "HA" for Harland Almquist, and other family items, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; three hand colored prints of H. H. Richardson buildings from Harper's Weekly, 1884, from Anne-Marie and Frank Meninno; a ribbon from the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) Lodge in Eastondale, from John Christman; 1934 Oliver Ames High School class photo, from Stanley Borgeson; article about raising thoroughbred horses at the Clock Farm, from Robert Carpenter; a collection of 14 Ames shovels in very good condition and representing various styles and ages, from Gerhard R. Schade, Jr.; Two World War II scrapbooks combining major political and military events with information about local service people prepared by Janet J. Miller and donated by her niece Jean E. Miller; Boston Globe magazine featuring an Easton fashion shoot from Ron Somerville, Copies of pages from the Olmsted Papers, Volume V111, containing letters by Olmsted on his concerns about the Cairn (Rockery) and annotations on these letters from Arleyn LEEVE, two gift baskets for door prizes from Emmy's Hair Salon, old Edison street bulb from Wanda Lewicka Michaeloswki; OAHs 1953 Track letter from Robert Brooks; OAHs SPORTS INFORMATION-1954-1959 from Patricia Baker; Letter Leo Harlow's father John wrote to George Shepard's mother after her son's death in France, from Leo Harlow.

Monetary gifts have been received from Henry Ames, Mrs. David Ames, Robert and Alison Ament, Robert Farrand, Eleanor Grant, Olaf Hentschel, Janet Linehan, Doris Sargent, Myrtle Blaisdell as a Christmas remembrance for Richie, Ken, and Bill, Robert Brooks, James Carlino and Peter Simpson in memory of Melanie Deware, Arleyn LEEVE, "Give with Liberty" by James MacPhee, Liberty Mutual Foundation's Business Leader Program in recognition of James MacPhee, Alice McCarthy, Robert Silva in memory of his father Anthony Silva, Easton Garden Club.

*Special Thanks to Laurie Gomes for preparing the extraordinary "button" tree in memory of Melanie Deware.*

## It's "Chowder and Chatter" time!

The fifteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening will be held at the Southeastern Regional School Thursday, May 1st, at 6 P. M. and generously funded, as always, by "Lee" and Kevin Williams. Come and enjoy hot chowder, corn bread, dessert and coffee as well as fellowship with other Society members!

After the delicious meal prepared by the students, a panel discussion moderated by Ed Hands will focus on Ames Women. Speakers will include David Ames, Jr. about his mother and grandmother, Ed Hands about Anna C. Ames, Ellenor Simmons about Blanche Ames, and Hazel Varella about Mary A. Frothingham and Elise Ames Parker. Hazel Varella will start taking reservations by mail April 1st. Please do not call to reserve your seat.

We heartily thank "Lee" and Kevin Williams for their continued generosity and support of the Easton Historical Society.

### **2014 CHOWDER AND CHATTER RESERVATION FORM**

Mail on or after April 1st!

Please use this form to reserve your seat for the May 1st "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, and we hope you enjoy this excellent evening!

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 on April 18th. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



In this 1960 Stanley Bauman photo, Fred J. Monte, right, keeps a watchful eye on two young men cutting ice at Monte's Pond, Elm Street. Mr. Monte cut ice for more than fifty years before closing the ice house business in 1968. We would like to know the identity of the two young men. One is wearing an Oliver Ames jacket with a 1956 football letter. Please contact us with any names that come to mind.

Address changing? Please tell us!

Address Service Requested

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