



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, March 13th, Daylight Savings Time begins. Don't forget to spring ahead!

Sunday, March 13th, Open House featuring cookbooks from our collection.

Thursday, April 7th, our "Chowder and Chatter" evening at Southeastern Regional, 6 p.m. See form on page 7.

Sunday, April 10th, Open House featuring Oliver Ames Boys' Sports.

Saturday, April 30th, Spring Bottle and Can Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine!

Sunday, May 8th, Mother's Day. No open house today.

Sunday, May 15th, Open House featuring old bottles and ceramics from our collections.

Sunday, May 22nd, Annual Meeting at Frothingham Hall with the Little Rhody Bottle Club, 2 p.m. Bring a few old bottles for discussion!

Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day. Go to a parade!

Looking ahead....

Sunday, June 26th, go to the 3rd Annual Art, Music, Food, Fun, Festival at the Governor Ames Estate, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Society will be open as part of the event.

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Ames Shovel Works Wins National Award

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded the Ames Shovel Works Apartments and Beacon Communities of Boston the Driehaus Preservation Award. According to the National Trust website, "The Driehaus Preservation Awards recognize and celebrate the country's best preservation projects—projects that highlight cutting-edge preservation approaches or technologies. This is the highest national recognition bestowed upon a preservation project by the National Trust for Historic Preservation."

In a press release dated November 3, 2015, the National Trust provided information on the importance of the project and credited the many people involved with the successful preservation of the site. "Boston developer Beacon Communities and North Easton community groups mobilized to create a public-private partnership to help fund a redevelopment project that included preserving the historic integrity of the existing buildings. Beacon Communities brought on architectural firm Prellwitz Chilinski Associates to work closely with the National Park Service to stabilize the historic structures to meet National Register standards." "Today, the Ames Shovel Works complex contains 113 residential units, with 34 units reserved for affordable housing. The complex has once again become an economic driver for historic North Easton Village and has become a model for developers and preservationists across the country." "While each is unique, this year's outstanding Driehaus Award winners all reflect the importance of protecting our nation's cultural heritage," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Congratulations to co-recipients Beacon Communities LLC; The Town of Easton; Prellwitz Chilinski Associates; Keith Construction Inc.; Tremont Preservation Services; Nixon Peabody LLP; Bank of America; Massachusetts Housing Partnership; Halvorson Design Partnership; Beacon Concepts LLC; and The Friends of the Ames Shovel Works.

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

Let's Communicate!

Growing up in Furnace Village was full of great experiences. We had a very close knit neighborhood and lots of positive influences from our parents and neighbors. But there were challenges to growing up there as well. I remember when I was young (and I was once!) how difficult it was to get a group of kids together for a game of baseball. What should seem like an easy task became time consuming. Sometimes we would walk to the field and hope to meet up with others who were ready for a game. Other times we would try to call each other, one at a time, and then call each other back, so somehow we could find out if anyone was around to play. Not everyone had a telephone. Some of our houses were not close enough to see who was around. Sometimes, when we were together, we would try to set up a time for games the next day. That was fine, except of course when things beyond our control changed our plans and we were back on the phones to make other arrangements. So much for ease of communicating in the 1960's and 1970's!

Today's generation has at its disposal a number of ways to communicate. Text messages, e-mailing, Twitter, and Facebook postings can get a group together quickly. Change of plans? No problem! Having instant communication makes all the difference in the world.

In fact, communication is vitally important to any organization. Good, effective communication within an organization helps it to run efficiently. It also strengthens the relationships within it. There are less opportunities for misunderstandings, better agreement on direction, and in the end, better leadership.

We need to communicate more effectively to our members. I enjoy writing the newsletter, but it is a long time between issues. We need to take advantage of other means to communicate to you all the exciting things that are happening here. In your dues letter, there is a line on the return form that you can check off to receive electronic notices from us. Please consider taking us up on our offer. By doing so, you can receive monthly updates about the Society & Museum, news about exciting finds, and reminders of coming events.

Communication is a good thing to practice. Face-to-face is best, and I always welcome the chance to talk in person to our members. But in the larger sense of furthering our mission, it is necessary to use broader means to communicate. So let's do it—let's keep communicating and do it well!

2016 Dues Letters Are On The Way

We recently sent out our annual dues notices. Please remember to renew! We value you as a member and your support is critical to our continuing success.

Don't forget to update your contact information. We are also offering an opportunity to receive your newsletter and other communications by email. If you are interested in taking advantage of that please be sure to check the appropriate spot on your form.

If you have questions in regards to your membership, contact the Society. Thank you!

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

Officers for 2015-2016

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
Joanne England
Judge Leon J. Lombardi
Debra Salisbury
Past President—Deborah MacPhee
Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster
Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

Clock Dedicated to Commemorate Easton's 290th Anniversary

The Easton Historical Society & Museum is very humble and deeply honored to have facilitated the donation from the Williams Family Trust of the Electric Time Clock which was dedicated on December 13th to commemorate Easton's 290th year of incorporation. It is hoped that everyone recognizes the significance of the donation and the thoughtfulness of the Williams Family Trust.

At the dedication Avery Lee Williams, Jr. and Kenneth Michel, President of the Society, made the official presentation to the Town, which was accepted by the Selectmen with Daniel Murphy, Chair. The brief program concluded with historian Edmund Hands explaining the significance of the 290th celebration. A reception followed at the Society's museum, the former H. H. Richardson Old Colony Railroad Station. Thank you to the many people who attended this special ceremony. Also, ECAT filmed the significant event.

Both the Society and the Williams Family Trust wish to recognize the Boards and individuals who assisted in the process: the Selectmen, the Historical Commission, the Department of Planning and Community Development, Town Administrator David Colton, DPW Director David Field and his staff, Police Chief Gary Sullivan and his staff, Douglas King, and particularly the Society's past president Deborah MacPhee, who was involved in chairing the endeavor throughout the year.



Left to right: Kevin Williams, Avery "Lee" Williams, Betty Williams, Hala Williams.



Avery "Lee" Williams and the 290th Anniversary Town Clock.

Easton Throws Available Once Again

Some decades ago, members of the Clover Club designed and sold a very popular throw featuring Easton landmarks. These popular throws will be now available through the Society. The throws, carefully crafted and woven, will be offered in blue, hunter green, and cranberry. People interested in obtaining one should either call the Society or email us. We hope to have them available in March. The price is being determined. The Society is very grateful to the Clover Club for making this possible.

Special Birthday Wishes!

Veronica Carter, who is in Pond Home in Wrentham, recently enjoyed looking at the pictures in Memories of Twentieth Century Easton. We congratulate the oldest Society member on her recent 108th birthday (January 21st). Mrs. Carter is a retired teacher and the former head of the Business Department at Oliver Ames High School. She is pictured here looking at the book with David Varella.



Spring Bottle and Can Drive

The Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive will be held at the Society on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine! 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 very important fundraiser in Ken's memory!

Volunteers are always needed at this event. Let us know if you can help out. You do not have to stay the entire time. Sharing the work gives everyone a well deserved breather, and allow us to take a few minutes to greet visitors. Coffee and stimulating conversation will be provided. Thank you!

Oliver Ames Coach Sets Mark For Wins

Elaine Clement-Holbrook recently became the winningest girl's high school basketball coach in Massachusetts history! Win number 634 came on Tuesday night, January 26th with a 40-27 victory over King Philip (Wrentham) at her home court, the William F. Nixon Gymnasium. In 40 years of coaching at O.A., she has 37 tournament appearances and two state titles (2006 and 2010). She is also a member of the Massachusetts State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame (2008). Appropriately enough, this win, number 10 on the season, qualifies the team for another tournament run this year. Please join us in congratulating Coach Clement-Holbrook on her mark. Way to go, Coach!

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Copies of Oliver Ames' diaries originally done by Louise Kenneally for David Ames, Sr., Easton Monographs from 1956 and 1958, A Citizen's Guide to Easton 1972, Industry and Gentle Living - Easton Industrial Development Commission, Easton Bulletin 250th editions, Easton Today newspaper 1975, Easton Dual Celebration programs, Society for Industrial Archeology 33rd Annual Conference 2004, North Easton booklets 1972, Unity Church program 2002, School Committee Reports 1947, 1948, 1950-52, Mass Department of Education Bulletin 1948, Poll Tax Book 1910, South Easton Water and Fire District report 1955, North Easton Village District reports 1912, 1937, 1946-51, 1953, Town Manager Report 1941, Street List of Residents 1971, Citizens Study Committee report 1957, Town of Easton Awareness Day booklet 1989, Founders Gala program book 1994, Arts Festival book and National Landmark Dedication 1988, Holiday Festival books 1989, 1994, The Architectural Forum magazine article about H. H. Richardson in North Easton 1966, copies of Boston Globe Community Profile mid 1970's, from David Ames, Jr.; file folders, from Wayne Legge; two framed collages about Scott Gordon, from the estate of James Gordon with thanks to Don Tuck; book—Gold Medal Strategies by Jim Craig, photos of recent Society events, from Ron Somerville; book—Where Will Your Next Road Take You by former Easton resident Brooke Parker Higgins, from the author with thanks to Carolyn Cole; laminated newspaper spread with text and photos of many Ames properties written by Kathryn McEvoy, and a bound volume of Frank Leslie's Illustrated News January 1853-June 1853, from Richard Hill; School Committee Building Report from 1950, from Burt Lewis; annotated photos of the 1968 flood, an Easton map, 1972 valuations and street listing, Final Report of the Charter Commission, other Easton related materials, from Hilda Silva; The Bridgewater Book, 1899, from Paul and Pat Fruzzetti; 1956 photo of students at the Unionville School, from Marialice Davis; 2011 Oliver Ames Track tee shirt, from Elaine Rudd Reasoner; two old Simpson Spring bottles from Clement and Gloria Walsh; an early inkwell for our school desk, from Frank and Val Wood; framed photograph of the Ames Company Outing, 1934, from Stephen Moberg; Autographed copy of A Remarkable Journey (The Ames Family Emigration from Somerset, England to Massachusetts, America) compiled and edited by Keith Millard Taylor from Deborah MacPhee; Baked goods for sale from Barbara Beech and Carol Misiewicz; Gift baskets from Emmy's Hair Salon; three old post-cards Jill Mathieu; Stephen Ambrose's book Nothing Like It in the World from Duncan Oliver; two DVDs of the Clock Dedication from John Ventresco; David Ames, Jr., William Habig, Jr., and Avery L. Williams, Jr. for the copy of the Driehaus Award that the National Trust for Historical Preservation presented to Beacon Communities for the Shovel Works project.

Financial gifts have been received from June Bliss, Deborah Keirstead Bublitz, Nancy Cohenno, Mary-Rose Garfagna in memory of her sister Catherine Harvey, "Give with Liberty" (2), Eleanor Grant, Albert Greene, Jr. Gwendolyn Ferrini, Norma Jean Hanscom, Holy Cross Parish Community, David Howe, and Hazel Varella.

Thank you to Nancy DeLuca and her helpers Laurie Clay and Jenn DeLuca for creating the beautiful Society's "Believe" tree for the "Festival of Trees."

The Easton Historical Society & Museum very much appreciates your contributions and your support. Thank you!

New Open House Feature — "Do You Know?"

We are introducing a new contest at each of our Open Houses. A photograph will be displayed with the question "Do You Know?" Participants will be asked to identify key features in the photo, a person or people, a building, or a location. One winner will be selected from the correct answers and will choose twenty dollars' worth of the Society merchandise. This month's winner was Ross Muscato who identified the two young baseball players pictured with Jim Craig in 1980— John D. and James R. Varella. Congratulations, Ross! *Who will be our next winner?*

In Memoriam

Catherine J. "Cathie" Harvey died at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston on Tuesday, December 29, 2015. Catherine was the fifth child of the late Cornelius J. and Margaret (Murphy) Harvey of N. Easton, MA. Cathie was born in Brockton and resided in N. Easton all of her life. She received her sacraments and was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church. She attended the North Easton Grammar School, Easton Junior High School and Oliver Ames High School, graduating with the class of 1960. Cathie subsequently attended the Brockton Beauty Academy and spent her career working at the Stoughton Beauty Shop and the Cut and Curl Beauty Salon in Stoughton, retiring ten years ago. She loved her work, co-workers and clients. Cathie loved baseball and attended many Red Sox games, always an ardent fan of the home team. She loved traveling and enjoyed cruises. Her family, whom she loved, were so important to her and she enjoyed them all throughout her lifetime. Cathie is survived by her two sisters, Mary-Rose Garfagna of N. Easton and Anne Chojnacki and her husband Walter of N. Easton, her sister-in-law Patricia (Lane) Harvey, along with many nieces and nephews, a grandniece and a grandnephew. She was predeceased by her two brothers, James F. Harvey and Cornelius J. Harvey. She will be missed by all her loving family and friends.

Reverend Jeanne Holly (Millett) Bell, 85, passed peacefully on Friday morning, January 22, 2016. She was born in Everett, December 9, 1930, to Robert N. and Leonora (Mann) Millett and was named Jeanne Hollyberry Millett in honor of the Advent Season. In 1974 she became the minister of Unity Church in North Easton, retiring from her post in 1999 after 25 years of service. She is lovingly remembered by her children, Peter M. Bell and his wife Mary of Bernardston, Rebecca H. "Becky" Bell and her husband Edward Green of Castleton, N.Y., and Elizabeth M. "Libby" Kellard and her husband Robert of Danvers. Additionally she leaves her adoring grandchildren. Holly was predeceased by her son, Marc A. Bell, as well as by her sister, Cheryl Herman. She was the spouse of the late Hubert W. Bell and the late Gerald C. Bailey. A memorial service will be observed to celebrate her life at a future date.

Albert L. Davies, a resident of Easton for 59 years, died in Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center November 4th. He was the beloved husband of Audrey (LaPadula) Davies for 61 years. Born in Grand Rapids Michigan June 9, 1932, a son of the late Harlan W. and Frances T. Davies, he was raised in Grand Rapids and Sand Lake Michigan, and a graduate of Sand Lake High School. A veteran of the U. S. Navy, he served from 1951-1955 as a naval photographer in the Korean War. He attended Boston University and was employed for 30 years as a senior Customer Service Engineer for Hugin-Sweda of Waltham. A member of Unity Church, he was active in several environmental and animal advocacy organizations. He was the loving father of two daughters, Sheryl Davies of Lenox and Jennifer Chapman of Brockton. He also left a granddaughter, sister, and many other caring relatives.

The Society expresses its deepest sympathies to all.

Recent Events

Our January program featured a new video by William Ames. He recently visited the famous Ames Plantation near Grand Junction, Tennessee, formerly owned by the late Hobart Ames. The video takes a good look at the history of the plantation, the plantation today, the National Field Trials (held there since Hobart Ames hosted them in the early 1900's), and ongoing programs that further agricultural sciences. Bill followed that presentation with some personal reflections and answered some questions. Also speaking was Alice McCarthy who had occasion to visit there a few years ago. The Society was gifted with a copy of the video by Mr. Ames.

The February open house was well attended even with the severe cold. It was a good day to talk about ice hockey, and Ross Muscato spoke about his friend and Olympic Gold Medalist Jim Craig. His very interesting talk covered Jim's early days learning hockey in Easton to his current success as a motivational speaker for businesses. Leo McEvoy brought in a number of related items and made remarks about his long time relationship with the Craigs. Leo attended the 1980 Lake Placid games for one day, and was able to see two of the hockey games, one thanks to Jim Craig who got him in to see a second game (he had tickets to another game).

We thank Easton Community Access Television (Eastoncat.org) for taping and showing these programs.

A Sure Sign of Spring - "Chowder and Chatter!"

The seventeenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening will be held at the Southeastern Regional High School Thursday, April 7th, at 6 P. M. and generously funded, as always, by "Lee" and Kevin Williams. Come and enjoy hot chowder, clam fritters, corn bread, dessert and coffee as well as a time of fellowship with other Society members! Southeastern Regional is conveniently located at 250 Foundry Street, South Easton.

After the delicious meal prepared by the students, a panel discussion moderated by Ed Hands will focus on OAH'S Boys' Sports from the 1940s through the 1970s. Speakers will include Robert "Buddy" Wooster (1940's), James Elson (1950's), Robert Clary (1960's) and Robert Wooster, Jr. (1970's).

Hazel Varella will start taking reservations by mail March 14th. Please do not call to reserve your seat. Remaining seats will be made available to the public after March 25th.

We heartily thank "Lee" and Kevin Williams for their continued generosity and support of the Easton Historical Society. Thanks also to Dr. Robert Misiewicz who suggested this wonderful event seventeen years ago.

2016 CHOWDER AND CHATTER RESERVATION FORM

Mail on or after March 14th!

Please use this form to reserve your seat for the April 7th "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. Any 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 March 25th. 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 1851 the Ames family donated land on Pond Street and paid for the erection of a chapel to provide a place of worship for about one hundred Irish Catholic workers. The image was taken in 1896 by George Craig, noted painter and photographer. The view is from the shore of Shovel Shop Pond on the Governor Ames Estate. Just to the left of the chapel in this photo is the old lockup, and there is a chance that it still stands nearby. According to one reference, the old lockup was moved and used for a shed or barn. Does anyone know where it might be now? Finding it would be a great discovery!

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Old Colony Railroad Station