



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, March 12th, begins Daylight Savings Time. Remember to spring ahead one hour or you might miss our open house!

Sunday, March 12, Open House 1-5 P.M. featuring three recent interesting donations and an Easton author!

Sunday, April 9, Open House 1-5 P.M. Today's topic will be surprises from the vault. Who knows what our Curator has in mind?

Thursday, May 4th, eighteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening, 6 p.m. at Southeastern Regional. The reservation form on page 7.

Saturday, May 6th, Spring Bottle and Can Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine! Bottles, cans, and volunteers are needed.

Sunday, May 14, Happy Mother's Day! No Open House today.

Sunday, May 21, Annual Meeting at Queset House, 2 p.m. Speaker will be retired FBI special agent William Rose, Oliver Ames Class of 1969.

Monday, May 29, Memorial Day. Go to a parade!

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Welcome Spring!

Snowy February is a distant memory, and our thoughts turn to warm spring days. Take advantage of the beautiful weather and join us at our spring events.

Spring marks the advent of our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening sponsored by Lee and Kevin Williams. This very popular night out, first originated 18 years ago by Dr. Robert Misiewicz, fills up fast. Preference for seating is given to members, and you can find your reservation form on page 7.

It is also time for our spring bottle and can drive in memory of Ken Martin, who for many years faithfully ran this fundraiser. Have you been saving those returnable items all winter? We will gladly assist you in putting them to good use. Details are on page 5.

Our spring open houses feature a variety of topics that we hope you will find interesting. From rarities and oddities, to some very unique additions to our collections, to working undercover, we think you'll find something of interest to each and every one who drops by.

This is also the time of year to renew your dues. You should have received your renewal letter by now. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact us by phone or by email.

Easton is a town for walking, especially in the spring. Take a walk through historic Wheaton Farm, Borderland State Park, the Governor Ames Estate, Sheep Pasture, or any of the other conservation areas in Easton. The natural history within the bounds of our town is spectacular! You can find glacial erratics, evidence of glacial erosion, puddingstone, rare plants and animals, and the remains of a quarry. You might stumble upon an old abandoned road, or some cellar holes left behind by early settlers. Watch out for wells! Spring is a perfect time to get out and discover Easton. We like to offer tours to our members and their guests. Is there a tour you would like to see us put together? Please feel free to suggest one. There is always more to discover around Easton.

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.

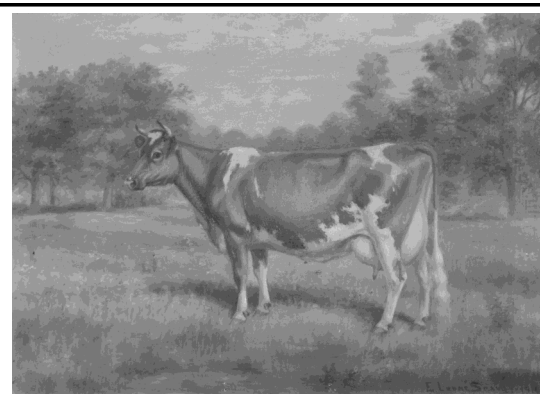
Curator's Corner - Curator / Caretaker Frank T. Meninno

“Not every man remembers the name of the cow which supplied him with each drop of milk he has drunk.” - Shmuel Y. Agnon

Dolly Dimple might ring a bell with some of you. She's not who you think she might be—not the cherub-faced doll with the dimples in her cheeks. The Dolly Dimple I know is something of another sort, and I remember the first time I saw her.

Back in the 1970's and early 1980's, I was hired straight out of trade school to work at Brockton Tool Company in South Easton. One of my high school teachers, Paul Alvarnaz, knew the owner, Gilbert Holmes of Raynham, and arranged the interview for me. The general manager was Charles Barnes of Raynham. The shop was generally busy, but once in a while a few of us would be sent off on other missions when work was slow or a special need came up. One particular time, Mrs. Barnes called and asked if a few of the guys could help her father and mother with some furniture moving in their house. I was one of the workers sent over to the house on Elm Street Extension, part of the old Marshall farm. It turns out that Mrs. Barnes was the former Brenda Nagle, and her parents were Joseph and Hazel Nagle. Joe was the last of the head herdsman for the Langwater Guernseys. He was hired as a milker, and stayed through the last dispersal sale of the herd in 1960. He worked his entire life for the Ameses taking care of one of the great Guernsey herds in America. Joe was very ill at the time, and his wife was also on in years. In their house, amidst the moving of furniture, I saw her: Dolly Dimple! The queen of the Langwater Guernseys had been featured in a wonderful painting that hung on a wall in the Nagle house, given to Joe Nagle by the Ameses upon his retirement. I remember talking with Brenda about seeing the painting and she was proud of her father's connection to the famous Langwater herd.

After the Nagles passed on, their daughter Brenda (Nagle) Barnes received the painting and kept it for many years. When she died at far too young an age, her husband, my former employer, Charles, kept the painting in case his children might want it. Recently, the family property in Raynham was sold, and Charles surprised us by donating the painting to the Society and Museum. The painting was delivered by Rita (Nagle) Pope, and has been donated by Charles in memory of Joseph and Hazel Nagle and their daughter Brenda (Nagle) Barnes. Dolly Dimple has come back home to Easton.



Dolly Dimple

Pictured at left is Dolly Dimple, painted in 1910 by E. Leone Seavey, who was well known for her paintings of championship racehorses and other animals. Dolly Dimple was a record setting milk producer, and her sons and daughters formed the foundation of many of the great North American Guernsey herds. Her production was prodigious, and the high butterfat content gave the protein rich milk a golden yellow color. It was known as Golden Guernsey Milk.

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

Officers for 2016-2017

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Curator—Frank T. Meninno

Coming Events

Our February open house was going to feature some special items and people, but the weather would not cooperate. However, our four speakers have made themselves available for March 12th, so we will present the same program that was planned for you.

- Ed Hands will speak about a Victorian era wheelchair that was used by Edgar Belcher, and which was kept in his house until recently when it was donated by Leon and Sara Lombardi. Edgar Belcher married Julia Rankin, lived on South Street in Easton Furnace, and eventually moved to the house built on the Rankin duck farm on Purchase Street.
- Also donated is a painting of Dolly Dimple, the record setting Langwater Guernsey. The painting was commissioned by F. Lothrop Ames and was completed in 1910 by well known artist E. Leone Seavey. It was donated by Charles Barnes in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nagle, who was the last of the chief herdsman for the Langwater herd, and in memory of their daughter Brenda Nagle Barnes. Robert "Buddy" Wooster will be our featured speaker on this subject.
- Karen Danielson will speak about a 100 year old German doll that has been in her family for three generations. It is handmade and fully jointed, and stands 30" tall. It is a beautiful doll, and I can't wait to hear the story behind it.
- Our special guest writer is Alyson Larrabee. She is the author of two young adult novels: Enter If You Dare and Her Evil Ways. Both are ghost stories set in the thinly disguised town of Eastfield, Ma. Her newest novel, Hidden in the Dark, will be released sometime in 2017. Alyson grew up in Easton and she and her husband raised their three children here. A graduate of Oliver Ames High School, Emerson College and Bridgewater State University, she earned degrees in English Literature and Reading. Alyson taught in the Easton Public School System from 1975 until 2016. Since retiring, she's been involved as a volunteer at Ames Free Library and Schools on Wheels Massachusetts (SOWMA). In her spare time, she loves a cozy chair and a good book and often spends an hour or so absorbed in a terrifying ghost story, mystery or darkly twisted psychological thriller. She's also fond of long walks, Earl Grey tea, small children and big dogs. Alyson volunteers at the Ames Free Library facilitating "The Queset Society: A Teen Writing Group."

Our April 9th open house will be one full of surprises as curator Frank T. Meninno presents "Treasures from the Vault." One never knows what he will find as he peers into the past (and into our collections). Join us for an interesting afternoon of history.

Our May 21st open house will be our Annual Meeting. We will meet at 2 p.m. at Queset House, immediately behind the Ames Free Library. After a short business meeting, we will present our featured speaker for the afternoon. Retired FBI special agent William Rose, OAHs Class of 1969, has prepared a program about some of his experiences as an FBI agent. He spoke at our 2016 Annual Meeting about collecting bottles, and shared from his extensive collection of rare and interesting bottles. A tour of "Queset" will be provided at the end of the program for those interested.

2017 Dues Reminder

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.

Senior members have a new membership option this year. You can renew for up to three years.

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!

Spring at “Springhill”

“Springhill” was built in 1893 by Governor Oliver Ames for his son William H. Ames and his family. A main feature of the landscaping on the estate was the Rose Garden. It was designed in a circular layout, and was to the east of the house, which sat high above on a hill and provided a dramatic view of the garden. The garden was probably installed within a year or two of the house being completed.



The Rose Garden as viewed from the overlook of “Springhill”. Note the tree roses surrounding the hedge that encloses the garden.



The fountain was in the center of the garden and provided the focal point of the circular layout. Varieties of climbing roses were used on the eight trellises that spanned the eight walking paths.



Other architectural elements added interest to the garden. This masonry column was topped with a richly decorated capital.



The main entrance into the garden was roofed with a wooden trellis. In the background is the drive to the main house.

In Memorium

Edgar A. Craig, 92, of Yarmouth, Maine, was a former resident of Easton. Edgar was the son of Edgar A. Craig and Olive Knowles Craig and was a long time member and supporter of the Society. Edgar graduated from Oliver Ames High School and Northeastern University with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a World War II Navy veteran. Edgar was predeceased by his wife Jean in 2015. He is survived by his daughter, Carol Nale of Yarmouth, and his son, Thomas Craig and wife Ann of West Newbury, Mass. He was predeceased by his son Wilfred Craig of Hull, Mass. He leaves seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was also the grandson of the artist George H. Craig.

Robert A. Farrand, 79, was a resident of Easton for the past 40 years. He was the husband of Marguerite (Wise) Farrand for 54 years. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the US Air Force, and loved his country. He was a longtime member of the Easton Lions Club, receiving the Melvin Jones Award, and was a member and the Chaplain of the American Legion Post 7 of Easton. Robert volunteered at the VA Medical Center in Brockton, as well as the Easton Food Pantry along side his wife. He is survived by three daughters, Lori Hawthaway of Abington, Sue Kaupp of Easton and Sharon Southworth of Raynham, a brother, Richard Farrand of Quincy, and seven grandchildren.

Robert F. Thornton, 85, was a resident of Easton for the past 51 years. He was the husband of Althea A. (Russell) Thornton. Born in Washington, DC., a son of the late Latha and Marie (Ida) Thornton, he was raised and educated in Jackson Heights, N.Y., and received a bachelor's degree in economics from New York University. Robert was a U. S. Army Corporal during the Korean War. He was member of both the VFW and the American Legion in Easton, the Natural Resource Trust of Easton, a life member of the Easton Lions Club and a member of St. Marks Episcopal Church of Easton. In addition to his wife Althea, he is survived by three children, Jeanne L. LaPensee of Tampa, FL., Barry S. Thornton of Norton, and Meredith Porter of Ponte Vedra, FL.; and 4 grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Ted Thornton.

Dorothea K. (Williams) Lewis, 73, was the daughter of the late Avery L. Williams of Easton, and the late Margaret M. (Adams) Williams of Easton. She leaves a loving brother, Avery Lee Williams of Easton, her sister Claire (Williams) Hallahan of Virginia, and her late brother, Francis (Buddy) Williams. She was a nurse for forty years at Norwood Hospital, Goddard Hospital, and Good Samaritan Hospital. She dedicated her life to caring for people in her work and at home. Her many joys included her artwork, their home in Maine, visiting her many friends and spending time with her grandchildren. She is survived by her husband J. Peter Lewis of fifty three years, her children: Donna Bonia and her husband Michael, Margaret McNeill, John Lewis and his wife Gina, Michael Lewis and his wife Marilyn, Patricia Warwick, and 11 grandchildren.

The Easton Historical Society and Museum expresses its sympathy to the Craig, Farrand, Thornton, and Lewis families.

Spring Bottle and Can Drive

The Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive will be held at the Society on Saturday, May 6th 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. If you have a large donation and need to have it picked up, please make arrangements by calling 508-238-7774 or contact us by email at eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting this very important fundraiser in Ken's memory!

Volunteers are always needed at this event, and many hands make for light work. Let us know if you can help out. Even an hour of extra help can provide someone with a break or allow us to talk with visitors. Coffee and stimulating conversation will be provided. Thank you!

Donations and Thank You's

Information on the Harlow family, Harlow Family Newsletter, Old Harlow Fort House photo and other Harlow family information, from Earl Nichols; items about the assassination of John F. Kennedy including: Life Magazine Memorial Edition, Look Magazine Memorial Edition, Saturday Evening Post Memorial Edition, Look Magazine with JFK story Feb. 1967, several Pictorial Living Magazines with various stories on JFK, Redbook Magazine with JFK stories; Easton Bulletins (3 different editions) with 275th Anniversary materials, Easton Bulletin 75th Anniversary Edition, Brockton Enterprise 12/26/1972 (President Truman's death), Brockton Enterprise 3/28/1969 (President Eisenhower's death), from Stanley Borgeson; framed oil painting of Dolly Dimple by E. Leone Seavey, signed and dated 1910, record book of the Langwater Guernsey herd from 1906-1922, from Charles F. Barnes in memory of Joseph and Hazel Nagle and Brenda M. (Nagle) Barnes; a photo of the Fred Ames plane crash in Randolph, a piece of airplane canvas recovered from the site, and a hand drawn map of the crash location, from Larry Dahlgren; items from Mary Lamprey's house: Goodrich's History of the United States 1833; Atlantic Monthly Magazines (4 issues from the 1890's); Governor Ames Address 1889; Easton Directory 1911; The Continental Weekly Magazine (8 issues July-August 1884); Street Lists of Residents (1962, 1965, 1971); Easton Poll Tax and Valuation books (1910, 1930 three copies, 1900, 1913, 1960); Town Reports (1891, 1892, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1916); Handbook of Burial Hill in Plymouth; Easton Historical Society publications on various topics, from Dominic and Kathleen DiBattista; OA baseball memorabilia including a game ball from the 2007 State Championship Game, a ticket from the team's visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame, a video, a program book from the Foxboro vs. Oliver Ames game played in Cooperstown in 1996, photos, and The Boston Globe All-Scholastics book from 1992-1993, OA Golf information, from Leo Duggan; Abraham Lincoln photo collage from Dr. and Mrs. B. Hoagland Rosania; Golden Books and other children's books from the 1930's – 1950's, various household items from the same period, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; a Victorian era wheelchair used by Edgar Belcher, from Leon and Sara Lombardi; a picture of her first grade class at the North Easton Grammar School in 1955, from Phyllis Johnson-Whitty; historical magazines and newspapers about the landing on the moon July 1969 (Life, Time, Boston Globe, Boston Herald Traveler, and Brockton Enterprise), articles about the death of President Kennedy in Life and Time, and information about World War II in the Boston Herald June 23, 1945, Also the donor's Easton report cards, OAHS Class of 1963 graduation picture and activities, letters received from Senators John F. Kennedy and Leverett Saltonstall and Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., and his acceptance to Stonehill College, from Wayne Hill; a handworked wooden jointed doll 30-plus inches tall made in Germany a century ago that has been in Karen Danielson's family for at least three generation, from Karen Danielson; Oliver Ames yearbooks from the 1950's and 1960's, from Charles Mone; four large beauty baskets from Emmy's Hair Salon; a framed newsclipping from Easton Today-March 5, 1975 of the original North Easton Post Office at 54 Main Street, and photographs of Easton about fifty years ago taken and donated by Val LeSieur; an original 1886 Monograph of the Memorial Buildings in North Easton by H. H. Richardson, from Shepley Bulfinch (with thanks to Kelly Brubaker); 1925 and 1926 Eastoners that belonged to Elmer and Esther Anderson, from Nancy Gardner Hill; photo of Unionville School students, 1956, from Father Peter Conley, whose mother was a teacher there; several items including a watch fob and a Columbus Day medallion dated 1910 and featuring the State Seal, Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway token, and a St. Christopher's medallion, from Robert Meade.

Financial donations were received from Mary "Heidi" Ames, Mrs. Oliver F. Ames, William M. Ames, Robert N. Brooks, Suzanne Bump, David DeVoe, Easton Garden Club, Eleanor Grant, James MacPhee Alice McCarthy, Tom and Louise Bono in memory of their special dog Callie, Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz and David and Hazel Varella in memory of Suzanne Rivard, Dr. Paul J. Weiss.

Thank you to Barbara Beech for her special baking for the Holiday Open Houses. Thank you to Ed Hands, Hazel Varella, Tom Bono, Frank T. Meninno, and Allison Such, for helping at the Fall Bottle Drive.

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

18th Annual "Chowder and Chatter" Evening

The eighteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening will be held at the Southeastern Regional High School Thursday, May 4th, 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. Dinner is in the Colonial Room.

After the delicious meal prepared by the students, a panel discussion moderated by Ed Hands will focus on the Ames Shovel Works and Beacon Communities LLC. The panel will be announced prior to the evening, and is under the direction of David Ames.

Hazel Varella will start taking reservations by mail April 3rd. Please do not call to reserve your seat. Remaining seats will be made available to the public after April 17th.

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

2017 Chowder and Chatter Reservation Form

Mail on or after April 3rd!

Please use this form to reserve your seat for the May 4th "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 very 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 April 17th. 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) _____

Thank You!

At our January Open House the Society presented Certificates of Appreciation to those who made the Historic Easton Puzzle such a success. Eveline Johnson, left, was honored for her contribution of twenty watercolors that were used to illustrate the puzzle. The Open House also featured her artwork. Diane Shannon, right, represented North Easton Savings Bank, whose generous support helped to make the puzzle possible. Puzzle Committee Chair Debra Salisbury, center, presented the awards.



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