



## EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Spring 2021

Volume 21, Issue 3

### Updates From the Museum

Happy spring! After a long winter full of disappointment, we are finally seeing hope for the summer as vaccines become available. Hopefully a return to some normalcy isn't far off.

We have mailed our 2021 dues letter. Last year, as the pandemic began, we decided to extend everyone for one year. We are very grateful for your support, and look forward to seeing you this year.

We are still taking applications for the historic house marker program. However, there are some applications for signs that need further research. Unfortunately, State and Town offices remain closed to the public, so we have not been able to complete our research. If you are still waiting for your marker, drop us a note and we will let you know the status of your application. Thank you for your patience while we wait to finish up our research.

Last summer, OAHS Senior Samantha Streton proposed a summer internship program for OA students. Thanks to her vision and leadership, we will be working with three students on two summer internship projects. We are also pleased to have a summer intern from Rutgers University who will be working on cataloging a special collection. You can meet our interns in the summer issue of the newsletter.

Last September we received a very special donation, which we have not been able to share with you due to the pandemic. Hopefully by the end of summer we will be able to introduce you to our Morse Car! We'll have more on this great piece of Easton history in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

### CALENDAR

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

*Sadly, there are no events currently scheduled due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. For updates on programs, please call or email the Museum or check our website and Facebook page.*

*Thank you!*

*Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday.*

*Sunday, March 28, Passover begins.*

*Thursday, April 1, April Fools Day!*

*Sunday, April 4, Happy Easter!*

*Sunday, May 9, wishing you a Happy Mother's Day!*

*Saturday, May 15, Armed Forces Day.*

*Monday, May 31, Memorial Day.*

*The mission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum 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

“What a long, strange trip it's been.” - Jerry Garcia

I must admit I am not a Deadhead, but this quote pretty much sums up the past twelve months. Last March we had a delightful open house at Queset on a nice Sunday afternoon, where the documentary on Blanche Ames by William Ames and Kevin Friend was shown. Three days later, I was closing the Museum for who knew how long as stay at home orders began to be issued. Here I am, twelve months later, still wearing masks, waiting patiently for my vaccine, and trying to find some sense of normalcy that still escapes me. I have encouraged you in past newsletters to send in your thoughts and stories about how the pandemic has affected you. Here are a few of my reflections on these past twelve months.

- Last March: Things begin to get weird very quickly. No people out and about, no traffic, very little air traffic (I live below a flight pattern, and not hearing planes overhead reminded me eerily of 9/11), getting up early and wondering what I should be doing? Am I really going to the store at opening time looking for toilet paper?
- April: My truck needs work, so I am able to drop it off at a local garage and walk to the Museum to work. It is really odd to be the only one out anywhere. My wife and I begin to take daily walks, first in our neighborhood, then at local colleges which by that time were all but empty. I began to explore the woods and write about a number of old mill sites. I discover Facebook Live and watch my pastor preach to an empty church!
- May: I discover Zoom! Now, if I can only figure out how to use it? We continue to walk every day, and I realize how good I feel. Driving through town and walking around, I am surprised to see teddy bears in doors and windows, rainbows drawn on signs, and people parking across from each other in store parking lots, trying to have a visit while still socially distancing. It is strange to be the only car on the road at times!
- June to August: I finally get to work at the Museum on projects and reorganizing things. Still there are very few people out, and visitors are even rarer. I began working with three terrific young ladies—Emma Varella and Emma Lawson, who worked on a book project (Easton in Stereo, now available!) and Samantha Streton who built a completely new website and put together the plans for a new summer internship program for 2021.
- September to December: There are two really bright spots as fall approaches. The 1902 Morse Car is donated in September, and we were able to host the Easton Garden Club Greens Sale in December. It was so nice to see people at the Museum!
- January 2021 to the present: I still limit my store trips (one way aisles and all), and have not gone to a restaurant (except a rare takeout order). Things are looking up however, and I remain hopeful for a good summer, and a busy fall! Stay well, and let's finish getting through this together.

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

### *Officers for 2020-2021*

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

### *Directors*

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Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger  
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

## Reflections On The 2020-21 Pandemic

Robert and Jean Alger sent in the following note about how they are doing during the Pandemic. Jean writes: "This pandemic is a 'bummer!' We are Bob ("His-story") and Jean ("Her-story") Alger. We have been married for 71 years, and are now 91 and 90 years old. We have lived at 91 Pine Street, Eastondale, for 70 years in the house built by my uncle Steven E. Southworth in 1929-30. We were told by two doctors to stay home because of our age, and the fact that I was in the hospital with pneumonia for twenty days in February of last year. It took three weeks to get my lungs clear. Thank God I got home before the virus broke out!

We get Meals on Wheels five days a week which is our main meal. Most of them are pretty good. Our four children help out in various ways. Our older son, Don and Karen, come once a week and do what needs to be done. Our daughter Kathy lives in New Hampshire and plans to retire in November when she turns 66. I talk with her on the phone for a visit. Our daughter Nancy and Mark sold their house after 32 years at 20 Walnut Street, West Bridgewater, and moved across town to live with their son Christopher, Roxanne, and three children. Mark has retired but Nancy still works. Nancy comes once a week and does various things as needed. Our younger son Rob and Lori live in Middleboro with three children, eight chickens, two goats, a dog, and a cat. They recently acquired a pot-bellied pig (Miss Piggy, of course!). Rob says it is now officially a farm!

Mostly we read, watch TV, and I do knitting and crocheting and Word Search puzzles to pass the time. I also call friends to visit on the phone. And I like to write letters to friends. We 'go to' church on Zoom Sunday Worship and Wednesday Bible Study.

Bob was born at 35 Pins Street, the last child of two families. His father's first wife had four girls. She, and two of the girls, died in the 1920's from the flu. He then married Florence and had four little redhead boys (one died in child birth.)

I was born at 87 Pine Street in the old farmhouse built by my great-grandfather in about 1825. We both went to the Eastondale School six years. We went to Oliver Ames High School. Bob worked at Simpson Spring, Boston Gear Works in Quincy, and Astro Gear in Brockton. Many years he was custodian at the Evangelical Congregational Church of Easton (TECCOE.) I worked in various area offices as a bookkeeper, and was the church secretary at TECCOE for 26 years."

Thank you, Jean, for updating us on how you are spending your time during the pandemic. We extend our congratulations to both Bob and Jean on their landmark birthdays, and on their 70th wedding anniversary!



Wearing their "Sunday best" clothes, a well-dressed couple fishes at "Pout Rock, North Easton." A hand written note on the back of this photo says "Oct. 5, 1902" and "Book Keeper, O. A. Ames Office." There are two "Pout Rock" locations in North Easton: at the site of the former Flyaway Pond, and a second location on a high ledge off of Pond Street that overlooks Langwater Pond. This photo appears to be taken at the Flyaway Pond location, which is much closer to the water. This "Pout Rock" was also a popular location for another summer activity, swimming, and on any hot summer day many years ago local boys would indulge in the coolness of the water, with or without swimsuits!



## A Postcard Tour of Easton, Part 3

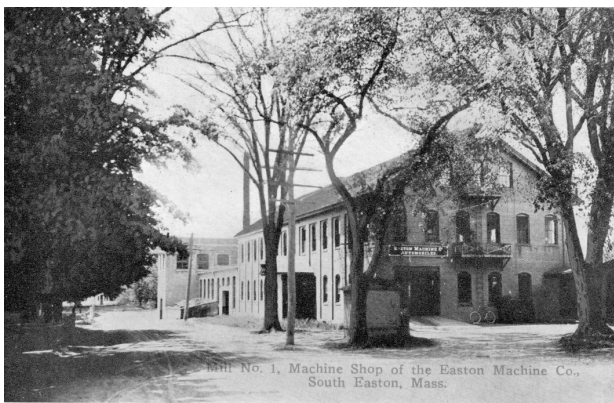
One of our projects during this pandemic has been to scan images of Easton postcards. Below are a few favorites for you to look at.



Built in 1913, South Easton Grammar at 580 Washington Street served neighborhood children for around 70 years.



Situated near 300 Turnpike Street, Brooks Farrar's restaurant was a welcome stop for weary travelers. Duck sandwich, anyone?



Plant #1 of the Easton Machine Company at 7 Central Street was the former Morse Thread Mill, built in 1878. The Morse Car was built here between 1902 and 1918.



Easton Machine Company Plant #2 at 12 Central Street was built in 1912. The company manufactured specialized machinery in this building. For many years it was occupied by Crofoot Gear.



A familiar site in South Easton since 1878, the Simpson Spring Company at 719 Washington Street employed many local residents.



The Lucius Howard Farm at 110 Purchase Street is a fine example of the many farms that dotted the rural landscape in this part of town.

## Donations

**James Baker** donated a trivet from Easton's 275th Anniversary celebration in 2000; **Ron Somerville** donated a signed copy of the book We Win by Jim Craig, and a copy of The Enterprise featuring color fall photos of the Museum and other Easton places; **Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated a number of items: 1940's and early 1950's toys: sewing set, cleaning set, spelling board, magic kit, 2 pastry sets, glass tea set; a cast iron fire engine, vintage Christmas decorations, hat pins, sewing items, hand made fabric thread holder, old woodworking tools, Elliot Richardson political advertising sewing kit, Easton Bulletin 7/22/1965 (has her wedding photo inside), and assorted small items; **Burt Lewis** donated a hanging banner from the 275th Anniversary sponsored by his website Eastonmass.com, 35 prints of Jim Craig by Eddie Germano, 1971 OAHs Cookbook, Easton Industrial and Gentle Living brochure, 1960 dedication book for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Vol. 1 History of Easton, Oakes Ames Jottings of a Harvard Botanist, Robert Gilmore promotional video, 1904 History of Brockton with Easton shoe related items, Massachusetts Genealogy Vol. 1 (1930), Easton's Pictorial Past, Richardson, Olmsted and Others in North Easton booklet, North Easton Savings Bank 100th Anniversary book, news clipping about the Mechanic Street Police Station, 2 photos from 1952 Little League Teams, numerous Ames Shovel Company blotters; **Susan Pearson** donated a beautifully framed, full color baptismal certificate (1909) and the confirmation certificate (1923) of her father Allen Mauritz Pearson, who was born in North Easton to his Swedish immigrant parents August and Jennie Pearson. The documents are in Swedish, beautifully printed in full color, and heavily illustrated; **Kevin Mullen** donated four sets of photos with some negatives taken while living in Easton over the years (some were taken from the cupola of the original OAHs, to match perspective and note changes with older photos taken from a similar vantage point); **Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Greene** donated an Ames shovel; **William Dexter** donated photos of Easton's 250th Anniversary Parade; **Emmy's Hair Salon** donated four gift baskets of beauty items; The family of the late **George** and **Virginia Melendy** donated many old Easton Town Reports from the late 19th and early 20th century; **Joseph Richard** donated 16 Eastoners from the 1930's through the 1950's, and a booklet from Easton's 250th Anniversary Ball; **Bob Vogel** donated the following Simpson Spring items: old order forms, soda labels, pocket protector, unused bottle caps, bottle opener, water cooler rental tag, letters about purchasing bottles, shipping labels, visitor patch, visitor pin, return checks, and bottle caps made into earrings; silver Easton 250th coin, Board of Health inspection forms, Eatmor Cranberry labels, 13 small animal figurines made by the American Pewter Company, Ames 225th Anniversary Brochure, 1904 photo of narcissus flowers along a path at Mrs. F. L. Ames Estate, Easton Tercentenary Pin, Boston and Providence Railroad Waybills from the 1860's, Easton Branch Railroad Ticket, glass slide of Langwater Hope, The Herd Registry of the American Guernsey Cattle Club October 1909, Easton Police patches, letterhead from the Drake Iron Foundry 1892, Oakes Ames Memorial Book 1884, Swedish Lodge memorial ribbon, wood souvenir pin cushion; **Carol Misiewicz** donated a multi-colored Easton throw originally done by the Easton Clover Club.

Special thanks to **Merrick Sokol** who donated a Nikon Coolpix Camera.

Financial contributions have been received from **Thomas** and **Louise Bono**, **Cathy Adler** and **Ellen Dehm**, **Eleanor Grant**, **David De Vore**, and **Dr. Paul I. Weiss**. **Ed Hands** made a donation in memory of **David Varella**. **Carol Misiewicz** made a donation in memory of her husband **Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz**.

We are honored to receive a bequest from the estate of **Warren F. Moffitt** in memory of the **Warren F. Moffitt Family**.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum during these extraordinary times!

## In Memoriam

Helen Barbara Barnett Kyse, 100, a longtime San Antonio resident, entered her heavenly resting place November 8, 2020. Due to Helen's incredible sense of adventure combined with her love of history, archaeology, art, cultures, and religion she traveled extensively throughout the world visiting 83 countries and 48 states. Helen was a lifelong avid reader which combined with her passion for history and family led to genealogical research into her ancestry and traveling across the country to meet formerly unknown relatives and stand where ancestors walked. In San Antonio, Helen studied multiple art disciplines including painting, mosaics, and copper enameling at the San Antonio Art Institute. As a writer/speaker for over 60 years, her diverse talks and programs ranged from history to the American Indians to the meaning of Christmas. She was a proud member of the DAR, Colonial Dames XVII Century, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. Helen is survived by her daughter Barbara Carol Kyse; her son, Russell Carlton Kyse and daughter-in-law Barbie; and step-granddaughter Liffin Molter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell Howard Kyse.

Laetitia M. (LeBlanc) Tremblay, 89, a resident of Easton for the past 56 years, passed away on November 15, 2020. She was the wife of the late J. Jacques Tremblay. Born and raised in Newburyport, she was the daughter of the late Elphege and Laetitia (Gosselin) LeBlanc, and a graduate of Newburyport High School. A devoted homemaker to her family, Laetitia enjoyed traveling, singing and listening to Opera. A talented and skilled soloist, Laetitia was an active communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church and was the church soloist for over 50 years. She is survived by her children, Marc Tremblay and his wife Debra of Pelzer, SC, Denise Cook and her husband John of Madison, NH, Laetitia Hayes and her late husband John of Norwood, David Tremblay and his wife Diane of Easton and Jacqueline Campbell and her husband Eric of Sterling; sibling of Arthur LeBlanc of Newburyport, Dolores Cassidy of NH and the late Joseph LeBlanc. She is also survived by ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Raymond Albert Sheffield II passed away on December 15, 2020 at the age of 81. He was born in Somerville and lived in Milton, Randolph, and Brockton before moving to Easton in 2014. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Germany from 1962 to 1964 as a radar mechanic. He was active in the Catholic Church. He was a baptism greeter and taught CCD for many years. He was an amateur genealogist and traced his roots to the Mayflower and beyond. Ray was a retired Marketing Manager, working many years at Peterson Products in Holbrook. He also had a Construction Supervisors license from the Commonwealth of MA and the City of Boston and served as a Notary Public for many years. He attended Archbishop Williams High School and held a BA degree from UMass Boston and an MBA degree from Suffolk University. He is survived by his daughter Patty (and husband Rick) Gallagher of Norfolk, MA; son Ray (and wife Heidi) Sheffield of Northville, MI; and daughter Christine (and husband Greg) Fioretti of Freehold, NJ. He was a cherished grandfather to six grandchildren. He was a loving brother to Sister Margaret Mary Sheffield, O.P., of Sinsinawa, WI; Cathy (and husband Keith) Durham of Plymouth, MA; Bob (and late wife Mary) Sheffield of Milton, MA; and the late Peggy (and husband Don) Connors, formerly of Duxbury, MA.

Marion Turnbull Silva, 78, of Rockville, MD passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at home after a fall. Born and raised in Baltimore, MD, Marion graduated from Goucher College, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa and Johns Hopkins Univ. in classical languages and received her law degree from the Univ. of MD School of Law. Marion enjoyed a respected federal legal career with DOJ Office of Legal Counsel; DHHS Office of Business and Administrative Law; SSA as an Administrative Law Judge; and DHHS Office of Hearing and Appeals Chief Judge. She and Bob Silva married in 1984 and embarked on an adventurous journey of exploring life's offerings, traveling extensively, and living in New Mexico, CA, and CO. As a result of many trips to New England to visit Bob's family and friends she came to appreciate the charms of the region and specifically the Town of Easton and the architecture of the historic district which tickled her classics education. She loved to visit the Easton Historical Museum. Marion adapted to the hard "Boston accent" and loved exploring the regions offerings, and "lobstah" rolls. Despite Herculean efforts by her husband and New England relatives to root for the Boston teams she remained steadfast in her avid support of "her" Orioles and Ravens. She loved to entertain, and her Super Bowl parties were, as one friend commented, legendary. Marion's outgoing personality, friendliness, bright smile, and wonderful sense of humor will be sorely missed by her husband, Bob, her mother-in-law, Hilda Silva, stepchildren Marc and Deidre, and their spouses, Kathryn and Michael, grandchildren Amelia and Tony, Tasman and Gerald, sisters-in-law Donna Norris and Gina Silva, and their spouses, Mike and Kathy. She was predeceased by her parents Thomas Turnbull and Dorothy Carson Turnbull, father-law Anthony Silva and brothers-in-law, Gerald and Marc Silva.

We express our sincere sympathy to the Kyse, Tremblay, Sheffield, and Silva families.

Veteran Graves in Easton

FEBRUARY, 1927.

A LIST OF NAMES  
OF  
SOLDIERS

Buried in Easton, Mass., who  
served in

The French and Indian War, 1754—1763; The Revolutionary War 1775—1783; The Mexican War, 1846—1848; The War of 1812; The Civil War, 1861—1865; The Spanish War—1898; and The World War; together with the Cemeteries in which they are buried.

Dedicated to the Veterans of the Civil War by Elijah A. Morse Camp 118, S. of V.

COMMITTEE

Chas. W. Hill, E. Avery Dinsmore, H. V. B. Smith

Thanks are extended to all who have kindly assisted the Committee.

In 1927, members of the Elijah A. Morse Camp 118, S. of V., Eastondale, published a small booklet. In it are the names of Easton veterans and their final resting place among the many cemeteries in town up to that time.

Beginning with the French and Indian War, and wars up to and including the First World War, the committee gathered as much information on veteran's graves in Easton as they could. The results were published in this booklet, which lists for each cemetery both the particular war and then the names of each veteran who served in that war.

Although the title mentions soldiers, the book also lists veterans of the Navy. Nineteen Easton cemeteries are included and the names of nearly three hundred veterans are noted. The ages of each person is given. A notice on the back of the booklet asks that anyone with more information might contact the committee members on the front so that a more complete record might be obtained.

<p>ISAAC LOTHROP CEMETERY Purchase Street Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Corp. John Lothrop      Died 1840 Isaac Lothrop          Died May 11, 1814</p> <p>War of 1812</p> <p>Simeon Leach          Died Aug. 16, 1843 Major Noah Reed      Died Jan. 22, 1817</p> <p>Civil War—1861—65</p> <p>Frank M. Lambert, Co. A, 3rd, D      Died Nov. 6, 1864</p> <p>EDWARD DEAN CEMETERY Highland Street Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Thomas Drake          Died Dec. 2, 1803 Alexander Keith      Died Dec. 21, 1839 Abisha Leach          Died Jan. 31, 1817 Edward Williams      Died July 9, 1820 Capt. James Perry     Died July 3, 1808</p> <p>French and Indian War—1854</p> <p>Capt. Nathaniel Perry      Died June 15, 1756</p> <p>War of 1812</p> <p>Solomon Belcher      Died Aug. 20, 1827 Lemuel Keith          Died Apr. 18, 1859 Lewis Williams        Died Oct 5, 1860 Dwelly Williams        Died Aug. 24, 1838</p> <p>Civil War—1861—65</p> <p>Charles Bellows, 4th, D      Died Apr. 19, 1861</p> <p>THOMAS MANLEY CEMETERY Lincoln Street Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Paul Lincoln Hugh Washburn</p>	<p>War of 1812</p> <p>William Washburn</p> <p>ELIJAH COPELAND CEMETERY Bay Road Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Elijah Copeland      Died Sept. 8, 1817</p> <p>CHARLES KEITH CEMETERY Bay Road Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Benjamin Kingman      Died Jan. 30, 1826 Seth Littlefield        Died May 1, 1839 Peter Dunbar          Died Mar. 7, 1817</p> <p>EASTON CEMETERY Washington Street, South Easton, Mass. Revolutionary War—1775</p> <p>Samuel Guild, age 69      Died May 11, 1816 Col. Abiel Mitchell, age 89      Died Oct. 11, 1821 Lieut. Seth Pratt, age 64      Died Aug. 27, 1802 William Pratt, age 81      Died Dec. 11, 1806 Enoch Pratt, age 65      Died Aug. 22, 1818 John Randall, age 76      Died July 23, 1814 Jonathan Randall, age 60      Died Nov. 11, 1805 Lyman Wheelock, age 86      Died Mar. 29, 1848</p> <p>War of 1812</p> <p>Horatio Copeland, age 70      Died Dec. 2, 1866 David Macomber, age 77      Died Aug. 8, 1863 Alanson White, age 90      Died Dec. 19, 1883 Isaac N. Waite, age 69      Died Dec. 18, 1866 Leonard Williams, age 75      Died June 1, 1871 Eliphalet Mitchell, age 83      Died Jan. 15, 1858 Francis Russell, age 67      Died Jan. 29, 1852 Jonathan Drake, age 80      Died June 23, 1867 Thomas Dunbar Fifer</p>
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This is one page from the booklet. It lists the various veterans buried in six cemeteries around Easton, and provides the names, ages (if known), date of death, the war that they were veterans of, and in some cases, identifies the rank and unit of the soldier or sailor. One could expect to find a number of names from the Revolutionary War or the Civil War, and these do make up the bulk of the burials listed in the booklet. A surprise seen here is the number of veterans of the War of 1812. Though this war was a very unpopular one, many Easton men answered the call to protect the new nation.





## Queset River South Easton

Gently flowing easterly towards West Bridgewater, the Queset River wends its way from the mills at Dean's Pond. In this postcard photo from the 1920's, the mills can be seen on the right. Heavily vegetated banks keep the waters moving along its course. Look inside for more postcards of South Easton as we continue our postcard tour of Easton!

*Queset River, South Easton, Mass.*

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