



## EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Volume 23 Issue 5

### A New Beginning

As one year draws to a close and another opens up before us, let's take time to step outdoors and appreciate the season. My family has a long tradition of a Christmas Eve Walk. Every year on Christmas Eve, it might be 9:00 in the morning or 4:00 in the afternoon, as many of us as can gather meet at Sheep Pasture, Wheaton Farm, the Town Pool, or wherever we determine that year, and go for a walk together— adults, children, grandchildren, and dogs included. It is usually cold, sometimes there's snow— a few flakes falling or a pile a foot deep. It's a ritual that I hope continues far into the future.

A suggestion, as the season changes— get outdoors; look up at December's Cold Moon or January's Wolf Moon, walk a dog through the Town Forest, take notice of the red berries in the woods, the first ice on the pond. Go sledding at the Governor Ames Estate or Borderland State Park. We are lucky to have so many green spaces in our town. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year! As Henry Beston, American writer and naturalist wrote, "Nature is part of our humanity, and without some awareness and experience of that divine mystery man ceases to be man."

### CALENDAR

*Thursday, Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day*

*Nov. 25 to Dec. 24, Holiday shopping at the Easton Historical Society*

*Saturday, Dec. 3, Easton Garden Club Holiday Greenery sale at Easton Historical Society*

*Sunday, Dec. 4, Annual Easton Lions Club Holiday Celebration*

*Easton Festival of Trees, Easton Country Club, Nov. 26 to Dec. 11*

*Saturday Dec. 17, Open House, Easton Historical Society and Museum, 10:00-4:00*

*Sunday, Dec. 18 to Monday Dec. 26, Happy Hanukkah!*

*Sunday, Dec. 25, Merry Christmas!*

*December 26 to Jan. 1, Happy Kwanzaa*

*January 1, 2023, New Years Day*

*Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Day*

*Tuesday, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day*

*Monday, Feb. 20, President's 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.*

## In Appreciation

On Sunday, October 30th, the Easton Historical Society held its annual meeting at Queset House. Newly elected directors are Steven Anderson, Timothy Hurley and Virginia Murray. The Society would like to extend appreciation for their service and to also honor two long time members who have recently retired.

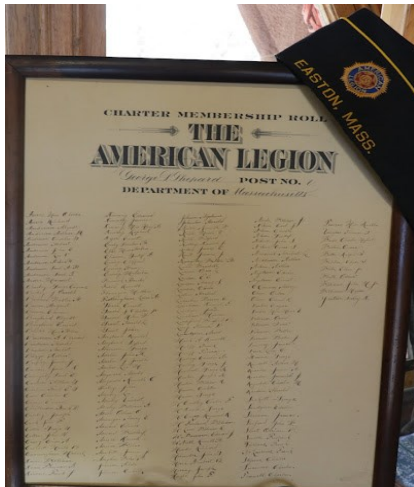
**Frank Meninno**, a forty plus year Society member, has served as President, sixteen years as Curator; Frank created and wrote the Bi-Weekly Newsletter, and most importantly, was the daily face of the Society at the Railroad Station. If Frank's truck was parked at the station, visitors were welcome. Frank always had a smile on his face and was happy to take a minute to visit or answer a question. Frank has chosen to move on to other endeavors, but he will be sorely missed.

**Ed Hands**, a fifty year Society member, 2nd Vice President, tour guide extraordinaire, Intern Program facilitator, author of "Easton's Neighborhoods", brilliant local historian, a tour de force of Easton. Ed has shared his love of local history with Easton's young people for decades and his teaching has inspired a love for the unique history of this town in many. Thank you, Ed.

Both Frank and Ed are irreplaceable to the Society but we will look for them around town and wish them the best as they continue to serve the community in other ways.

## Veteran's Day 2022 Exhibit

A wonderful Veteran's Day Exhibit was put together by Ken Michel and Arielle Nathanson. Below left: American Legion George Shepard Post Charter Membership Roll. The flag below is Vietnam Era Seabee Kenneth Martin Honor Guard American flag.



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

### Officers

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

### Directors

Joanne England  
Judge Leon J. Lombardi  
Debra Salisbury  
Steve Anderson  
Virginia Murray  
Timothy Hurley  
Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger  
Interim Curator —Arielle Nathanson  
Staff Writer —Anne Wooster Drury



*“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*

*JFK*



Garrison cap belonging to John E. Camara, Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Schindler Post 2547.



Bell & gavel, property of Women's Auxilliary of the George S. Shepard Post 7 American Legion. Given into the care of the Easton Historical Society, 1981.

## ***ORCHIDS AT CHRISTMAS***

*While wandering in the Ames Free Library, the 'Easton' section, of course, I discovered a lovely small book of etchings and pen and ink drawings of orchids by Blanche Ames. Included was a piece by her husband Professor Oakes Ames entitled "The Rediscovery of a Lost Orchid". Blanche's drawings, along with poems specifically chosen by Oakes, were sent out as Christmas cards by the Ames family between 1937 and 1949. The book was originally published by the Botanical Museum of Harvard University in 1975 and reprinted by the descendants of Blanche and Oakes Ames in 2007. Below is one of Blanche's drawings and the poem that accompanied it. What a creative and wonderful idea. Borderland was built in 1910 and I can imagine many places on the estate where flowers might grow in 'crannies'. Blanche's love for orchids and the natural world is illustrated here,*

*Flower in the crannied wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies; —  
Hold you here, root and all, in my hand,  
Little flower—but if I could understand  
What you are, root and all, and all in all,  
I should know what God and man is.*

*Tennyson*



## In Memoriam

**John F. “Jack” Hurley**, 99, a resident of Easton for the past 55 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on November 16, 2022, after a brief illness. Jack was 6 days shy of celebrating his 100th birthday. Jack was raised and educated in Stoughton and attended Bridgewater State College. He was the manager and operator of the family farm, Hurley’s Dairy, for several years. Jack enlisted in the United States Navy during WWII, serving as Motor Machinist Mate Second Class aboard the USS LCS(L)(3)63, a landing craft support ship based in the Pacific. After being honorably discharged, he enrolled in the engineering program at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Jack was employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for 36 years as an Assistant Chief Engineer for the State Highway Division. His work history included construction work on Defense projects, performing highway surveys, highway construction supervision, and traffic engineering. He worked as a consultant for several private highway engineering firms before fully retiring.

A life member of both the American Legion Post 7 and the Knights of Columbus Council 238 of Easton, Jack was also a member of St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was an avid fisherman and expert cribbage player, and he never missed a “scrumptious” meal. He will always be remembered for his engaging smile, positive outlook, and outgoing personality. Nothing made him happier than spending time with his family and friends.

Jack is survived by his children, John C. Hurley and his wife Carol of Easton, Timothy V. Hurley and his partner Lori of Easton, Eileen M. Hurley and her partner Glenn of Gardner, Paul D. Hurley and his wife Kelley of Easton, and Maureen A. Willard and her husband John of Easton; a sister, Virginia Nolan of West Bridgewater; 15 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; a son-in-law Joe Peters; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was the father of the late Katharine F. Peters and brother of the late Mary Maloney and Charles L. Hurley. Jack also leaves behind many dear friends at the Residence, where he enjoyed the last 7 years of his life. Of note, Jack’s son, Tim, is a newly elected Director of the Easton Historical Society.

**Bonny L. Luke**, long time resident of Easton, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on November 18, 2022. She was the loving wife of the late James Luke. Bonny was born in Norwood on August 19, 1953 to the late Walter and Marjorie (MacKinnon) Greeley.

Bonny worked for the Easton public school system for over 30 years. She was much loved by the community. She was known for her generosity and free giving nature. Bonny donated to numerous charities throughout her life, but her greatest joy was giving items of need to kids and families in the Easton area and beyond. She enjoyed cooking and would put out an entire spread of homemade delights for football games and other events at the school. Bonny never forgot a birthday and had a knack for choosing the perfect gift for her recipients. She was selfless and caring towards everyone.

She loved animals, especially her pets. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, game shows and scratch tickets. Whenever she won on a scratch ticket, she would gift it to whomever she thought could use it. Her greatest pride in life was her family - she was very proud of each and every one of them.

Bonny leaves behind her cherished sons and their wives; James Luke and Sheri and Mark Luke and Sarah of Easton. Her beloved grandchildren; Nathan, Tessa, Anna, Abby and Brodie. 3 sisters; Donna Dionne, Judy Buswell and Barbara Pelletier, all of Norton and 1 brother; Francis Sullivan of Groton, CT. She was predeceased by the late Janice McGuinness, Kathy Davis, Paula Zito and Mary Jane Sullivan.

## Donations

**Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated Early American Glass, a 1930’s doll high chair, Easton social calendar, cranberry centric menu; **Sarah Anestam** donated office furniture, a safe and a microwave; **Bonnie and Steve Lytle** donated The Uncrowned Champion by Joey Giambra; **Ada Espkala** donated a German porcelain doll with clothes and a box; the **Easton Fire Department** donated over 40 report books; **Lela Pierce** donated an Easton Monopoly game; **David Mitchell** donated the Diary of Horace Y. Mitchell; **Sharon Baird Graves** donated a ‘Golden Spike Ceremony’ print; **Gail Eidson Jones** donated an Ames metal sign with stand; **Jennifer Heine** donated a pristine first edition of The History of Easton, Mass. issues of the Eastoner, a small tool/shovel made by Mr. Burrill for Mrs. E. White’s father at the Ames Shovel Shop, framed print of South Easton & Eastondale, Easton post cards and Historical Society badges, including one for the first Antique Auto Meet, 1970, and other items.

Financial donations were received from David DeVore, Ken Michel, Phyllis Johnson Whitty, Jack and Kelsey Gill.

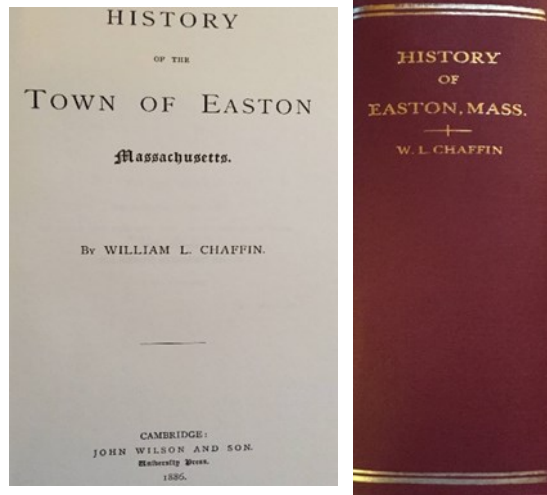
Thank you for your generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum

*Easton Historical Society & Museum  
Holiday Season Museum Store Specials*

*Specials are from November 20<sup>th</sup> thru January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
While inventory lasts.*



**A must have for your coffee table! Over 400 current vibrant images with historical facts.  
Reg, \$50 Now \$40**



**The 1886 History of Easton by William L. Chaffin.  
Reg. \$20 Now \$10**



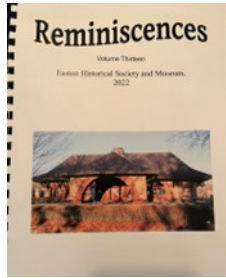
**Two NEW Golf hats  
\$15 each 2 for \$20**



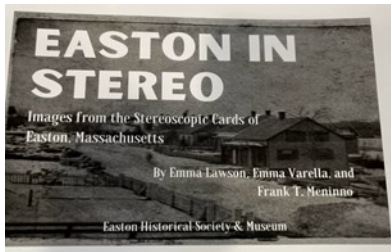
**All 3 books in this gift set PLUS a new copy of our Reminiscences included WITH a Free EHS & Museum tote! Want more? OK, 2 EHS mugs included!! An over \$100 value!!  
All for \$50!!!!**



All Easton Map Prints  
\$10 Each



New Reminiscences  
13th Edition-\$10 ea.

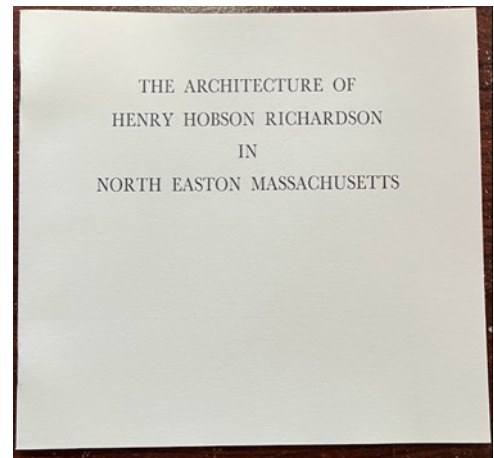
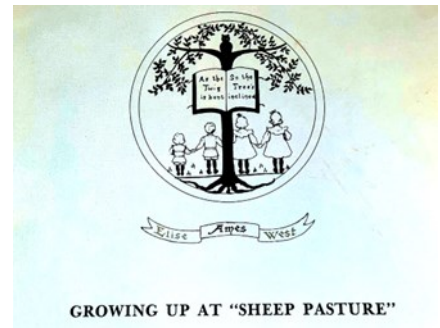
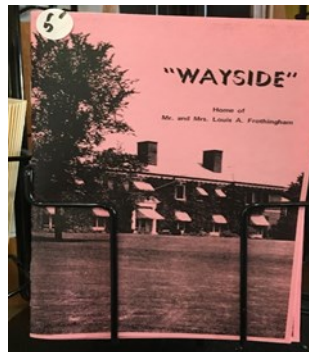
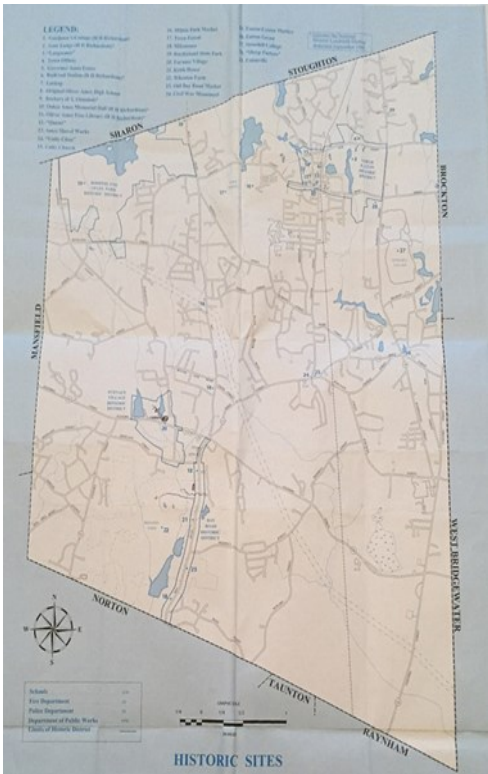


Easton in Stereo  
\$12 Each



\$5 each  
All Commemorative Glass Ornaments

All items below are free gifts just for stopping by! In-store only while quantities last.





From our Veteran's Day Exhibit. The George S. Shepard Post No #7 was named in honor of 1st Lieut. George S. Shepard, the first casualty from Easton in WW I. This Honor Roll remembers the Easton men who bravely fought in WW II.

Address Service Requested

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Old Colony Railroad Station