

Easton Historical Society

Train Tracks



CALENDAR

May 13th—Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

May 23rd—Annual Meeting. 7:30 P.M. at the Richardson / Olmsted School cafeteria. Duncan Oliver presents "Drive-by History."

June 10th—Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. Oldest picture on display.

July 8th—Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

August 12th—Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

September is coming! Watch for a new calendar of events in the upcoming newsletter!

The Officers and Directors of the Society wish you a safe and happy summer. Be sure to stop by the Station during the open houses!

Have a group tour in mind? The Society will gladly open for your group. Call the Station for details!

Remember the Annual Meeting!

The annual meeting of the Easton Historical Society will take place on May 23rd at 7:30 P.M. This year, the meeting will be held at the Olmsted School cafeteria. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, this is an opportunity that should not be passed up!

On that night, after a short business session (see below), the ever popular Duncan Oliver will present a specially prepared program. It is titled "Drive-by History." Duncan describes the program as "learning

local history the easy way." Many of us have driven through town on a spring day. But do we always realize the significance of what we are gazing upon? You can learn more about your neighborhood and town without ever leaving the comfort of your car. Stone walls, trees, houses and even cemeteries will have new meanings once you view and listen to this fascinating presentation. It is not complicated; you must simply understand what you are seeing and why it is

there.

Using slides of Easton, Duncan Oliver, one of the authors of volume 2 of the "History of Easton," and writer of many other Easton publications, will explain the process and help you become a more observant local historian. You will quickly be able to know the "why's" as well as the "what's" of history, and these observations will enable you to have a greater appreciation of our town. Don't miss this rare chance to hear Duncan!

Proposed By-Law Change

Notice is hereby given of a proposed by-law change to be voted upon at the Annual meeting on May 23rd. It is proposed to add a section to Article IV of the By-laws as follows after Section 2:

Section 3. There shall be created a permanent position of Curator / Caretaker of the Easton Historical Society who shall perform such duties and tasks and for such remuneration as shall be outlined and described by the Executive Board from time to time, Said Curator / Caretaker shall hold the position (at the pleasure of the Executive Board) upon the vote of the Executive Board for a yearly term from May to May and may be removed for just cause by said Executive Board.

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The Station Master

Dot Berry

Dear Members,

We have many things to report since our last newsletter. First the bad news - As you may or may not know, the cellar of the station is an 88' x 25' dirt floor. In the thirty-plus years we have owned it, no one has seen more than a damp spot after a heavy rain. Not so this time-after the latest heavy rains, we suddenly found ourselves with a foot of water, just missing the furnace by an inch. This was not entirely the fault of Mother Nature. The pool and spa north of us had a reported four feet of water which was pumped day and night for four days into the old rail bed. When the ground became fully saturated, the water soon found it's way into our cellar. Our great Easton Fire Department came to the rescue, and eventually all the water was pumped out. We are now left with a very damp cellar which must be dried out so the dampness will not further damage the

building or it's contents. We have been advised to open up a few of the cellar windows that were previously boarded up and paved over. This will allow fresh air to circulate in the cellar and dry it out. We are already working on this.

Worst of all, our wonderful Treasurer, Lorraine Gomes, has been forced to resign for personal reasons. She is greatly missed already, not only for her skill with figures, but the great business sense she brought to the Board of Directors. We all wish her well!

Now for the good news! During the past year we were blessed with two very generous donations. These donations, and part of the annual interest from the King Trust Fund, have enabled us to purchase a very fine microfilm reader and printer. We were also able to purchase tapes and records of the town. We are now much better equipped to assist

people in researching town history and genealogy.

We have contracted with the New England Sun Control Company to make our windows less light sensitive. This will help to prevent fading of the articles entrusted to our care.

Last but not least, we are replacing the toilet in each of the rest rooms. The present ones were in the building when we took ownership.

As you can see, life has not been dull!

In a separate paragraph, you will find a proposed change to the By-laws which must be voted upon during the Annual Meeting. This is required to meet the wishes Mr. King put forth in the trust.

Please continue to send in your dues. This money helps to cover the day-to-day expenses of the Society.

Curator's Corner

Paul Berry

We have received, from a donor in Maine, an "immigrant's chest." This type of chest could be carried over one's shoulder while the individual migrated to the United States. It often held the person's only belongings. Painted on the rounded cover of the chest are the words "Carl Alfred Johansson Easton, Mass. U.S. Nord Amerika." We are try-

ing to research this person. A search of the town records so far has not yielded any trace of the name Johansson. If anyone has any information on this person, or the surname Johansson, please let us know. We think he may have arrived sometime around 1850 as a young man.

We are also looking for someone to keep a scrapbook of the per-

sons, places and events pertaining to the Society (an historical society's historian, if you will). If you are interested in helping to begin and maintain this undertaking, please consult with President Dot Berry during the May 23rd Annual meeting.

Thanks to all who have helped this year with sorting the archives!

Station To Station

Member News and Milestones

Your Historical Society is growing again. We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Lynn Stevens, South Easton

Joan Hayward, North Easton

Mr. And Mrs. Timothy Tedesco,
North Easton

Mr. And Mrs. Robert Hicks,
North Easton

Richard Bissett, North Easton

Stella Anderson, South Easton

Jason Shemnitz, South Easton

Marie Lordan, West Bridgewater

If you have not renewed your membership, please remember to do so. Also, send along information for the newsletter! If you are planning a reunion, or looking for genealogical information, we will include as much as we can. Perhaps some of the members who are scattered far and wide would like to drop a note. Have you received an honor? Don't forget to share the good

news with us!

The Society has bestowed upon two people an Honorary Membership: Mrs. Judy King of Farmington, CT., and Miss Nancy King of Cambridge, Ma.

Spotlight on History

Looking for something to do this summer? Try visiting the Station! During the summer months, open houses will be held. Look for dates in the local paper, and on the front of the newsletter. The Society members will have a variety of items on display, with a changing focus each month.



For a special summer kick-off, the Society will have on display the oldest dated portrait of an Easton resident. It was taken in the 1840's and is a photo of a member of the famous Pool family. Be sure to see this rare photo from a private collection during the June open house!

Waiting Room

Things We Need, Things We Could Use, and Things In General

To date we have received one donation towards the purchase of a digital camera. We are on our way! This fairly new technology will allow us to digitize images for use in the newsletter and on our soon to be updated website. This will eventually allow us to send requested images via the

internet to groups and individuals. Another benefit of this project will help us in developing PowerPoint presentations for the Society, and for school history projects.

Thank you for supporting us by meeting so many of the Society's needs.

Your Society welcomes the opportunity to share in your expertise! If you have some background in the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we would like your advice. Making sure we proceed properly into new ventures is an important part of being a good steward of the history we keep!

The Easton Historical Society invites you to become a member of our organization. Please use this form to file a new membership. Include your check or money order payable to the **Easton Historical Society** and send it along to : Easton Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356.

New Member(s):

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

If this is a gift, please include your name: _____

Membership Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

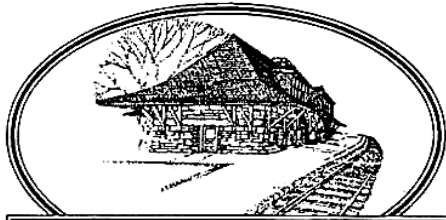
Corporate \$100

Senior (65 and up) \$7.00

Other Donations \$ _____

Total \$ _____

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Old Colony Railroad Station

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