

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1948-2008

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF HISTORY

TRAIN TRACKS



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.

2008 Annual Meeting

The Easton Historical Society will hold its' annual meeting on Wednesday evening, May 21st. Those attending this meeting of the Society in the Teachers Room in the F. L. Olmsted School at 7 P. M. will learn about the collision and sinking of the S.S. Andrea Doria near Nantucket in 1956. Dr. William F. Hanna, historian of Taunton, has researched this fascinating topic for many years and has amazing facts to share with the audience. An educator in the Taunton School System for 37 years, he is Vice President of the Old Colony Historical Society and has written a number of books about Abraham Lincoln in Massachusetts and also about Taunton, the most recent being published last year, A History of Taunton, Massachusetts. Dr. Hanna is a very popular speaker, and we are pleased to have him join us for the evening. We will begin the night with a short business meeting. Don't miss this most interesting evening, and find out what else is going on at your Society!

2nd Annual Train Day to be Held May 18th

Join us at the Station for a special open house at our beautiful building, the former Old Colony Railroad Station. You know the building is one of five H. H. Richardson buildings in North Easton. You may know that it was landscaped by F. L. Olmsted. But do you know why Easton has this architectural treasure in its midst? When were the first train tracks put down? Who brought them here, and why? What happened to the first train that visited Easton? The answers to these and other questions will be revealed to you during your visit with us. We will have a variety of displays and activities available, including a visit with Easton's own "hobo"! As an added bonus, the Children's Museum of Easton is offering free admission to any child that attends Train Day. Be sure to join us for a fun afternoon!

Volume 8, Issue 4

May 2008

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 18th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. 2nd Annual Train Day!

Wednesday, May 21st, Annual Meeting—"Andrea Doria" with Dr. William Hanna, 7 P.M. at the Olmsted School Teachers Room

Sunday, June 8th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M.

Saturday, June 14th, Flag Day! Show your colors!

Sunday, June 15th, Happy Father's Day!

Friday, July 4th, Independence Day!

Sunday, July 13th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. Join us for cool refreshments!

Sunday, August 10th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. Visit the "coolest" place in town!

Saturday, September 13th, Yard Sale at the Station, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Form Inside!

Coming this fall, 60th Anniversary Celebration. Watch for exciting details!

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter "Train Tracks" is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society.

Officers:

President—Deborah MacPhee,

1st Vice President—Kenneth J. Michel

2nd Vice President—Edmund C. Hands

Treasurer—Patricia A. Baker

Recording / Corresponding

Secretary—Hazel L. Varella

Directors—Karen R. Cacciapuoti,

Nancy DeLuca, James Morrison,

Andrew R. Salisbury, Robert J.

Wooster

Curator—Frank T. Meninno

The Station Master

President Deborah MacPhee

In a past issue, I wrote to you about the mission statement updated by the Board of the Easton Historical Society. An important part of our mission is to “maintain the former Old Colony Railroad Station as our headquarters and museum.” The Station was a generous gift to The Society by the late State Senator Oliver Ames, the late Mr. David Ames, the late Mr. John S. Ames Jr., and the late Mr. William A. Parker.

On your next visit to The Station, you might notice that there are several cracks in the plaster walls. These cracks are the result of the long-time sagging of the floors of The Station. While the floor posed no danger to occupants of the building, it would have contributed to further wall cracks over time at our H.H. Richardson designed building. To remediate this situation, The Board authorized the installation of lolly columns in the basement and that work was completed this past January.

You may have noticed that ceiling in the North room of The Station, which is on your right as you enter from the front door, looks bright and well maintained. If you then move to the South room, you will notice that the ceiling is in poor condition with peeling paint. Our plan is to address this ceiling along with the cracks in the walls as our next project.

We have also asked Guy Salvo of Salvo Brothers to evaluate the condition of The Station inside and out and recommend a five-year maintenance plan to The Board. This plan will help us to prioritize future projects.

I want you to know that we remain committed to preserving The Station. Your annual dues and generous contributions help make this work possible, and for that The Board thanks you. If you can, please stop by our next Open House to be held on 5/18 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for Train Day, which is one of our most entertaining family events of the year.

Curator's Corner

Curator / Caretaker Frank T. Meninno

In the last edition of Train Tracks, I wrote about the many wonderful people who have donated a wide variety of items to the Society, and how much it means to the Society to be the keeper of those precious memories. When I wrote about some people being too much of a Yankee to throw away anything good, I immediately thought of myself. I too am one of those people who tend to keep good(?) things that might otherwise be discarded just in case there might be a need for them, or in the hope that someone else will find them interesting.

Well, now I am following the excellent example set by many of my predecessors. I have been collecting historical Easton items for some thirty years. Over the past few months, I have quietly donated a major part of my personal collection to the Society. What moved me into action? I could say it was the lack of storage at home, but all kidding aside, it was the need to place the collection where it will be cared for, studied, used and shared. The items, which range from an F. L. Ames handwritten pedigree for a Langwater calf to my own written columns for the Easton Journal, are better shared with my fellow historians, and my fellow Eastoners, than hidden away in the depths of the bookcases in my home. I strongly believe in the mission of the Society to “preserve, promote and interpret” Easton's history. The time is now, and the place is here. What better way is there to support our mission than to follow the lead of so many other thoughtful donors before me and make the commitment myself to help tell another chapter of Easton's amazing history?

A Very Special "Thank You"

We recently received the following note from the family of the late Mrs. Mae Brooks to share with you.

To: Easton Historical Society

In 1990, after our Father, Abraham (Al) Brooks died, and our Mother, Mae Brooks, moved to Waltham, she wrote a "farewell address" in *The Brockton Enterprise*, which said, among other things, "Somehow I want to shout my thanks to the Town and all those wonderful friends out there for all the years."

With her passing in February - three weeks short of her 102nd birthday - we know there is nothing she would say nearly 20 years later that would express her feelings differently - unless it were to add, and which we are confident in doing on her behalf, that, "The Easton Historical Society was one of the things I especially loved about North Easton - both the entity, and more so, the people."

Of the more than 200 condolence messages received since February, some of the more meaningful, heart-felt, and significant - to her(!) and us - came from Easton Historical-related friends.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and tributes. It reaffirms her love, and our appreciation, for all things about "historical North Easton."

Robert N. (Robin) Brooks

David B. Brooks

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Map of Easton, North Easton, South Easton and Eastondale, from the 1895 Bristol County Atlas, from Ronald Danielson; Hand hooked stair runner made by Mrs. Willis Buck, that was on the staircase in the family home on Poquanticut Avenue, featuring scenes from their life together, from Jennifer S. Moore; 1911 Easton Directory, Eastondale Commercial Club By-Laws, First National Bank closing notice, Harmony Grange play cast with Jennie Goss, 1930 Poll Tax Book, 1963 Street Listing of Residents, from Norma Jean Hanscom; Gardner Wilbar's diaries from 1915—1960's, from a friend; Collection of Copeland family clothing from the late 1800's, family Bible, 1909 phone directory, riding gloves and other items, from Nancy Hatchfield; 8 school photos, Easton Huskies minstrel show photo, several Eastoners, 1947 playbill from the class play You Can't Take It With You, 1947 Graduation program, from Gloria Freitas Steidinger; Mayall Family album and genealogy papers, from Dr. Timothy Robbins; 1871 Bristol County Atlas map of North Easton inscribed by W. L. Chaffin, from Ron Somerville; early town reports from Nancy Cohenno; Funeral of Sgt. William J. Callahan on DVD, and a DVD of the V.F.W. and O.A. High School flag ceremony, from Joseph Camara; rare Simpson Spring wooden bottle case for empties, and 24 bottles, from Dan and Pam Onges; hardcover book of Memorial Day Exercises, dedication of the Soldiers Monument, 1882, from Mrs. Elizabeth Barrows.

The Easton Historical Society is grateful for the continued generosity of the donors of these and other historical items to our collections.

SCRAPBOOK MEMORIES

Many of you are no doubt familiar with the hobby of keeping a scrapbook. Scrapbooking is a hot trend today. Craft stores are full of scrapbooks and fancy papers and tools to customize them. One can easily find classes or instructional books on the subject, and there are even scrap booking retreats for groups. What a wonderful, creative way to keep family histories or to record the important news of the day. Of course, we know that the idea of keeping a scrapbook is not new at all. Witness the following taken from a scrapbook given to former teacher Mary Williams from her aunt Alice Mitchell. The book contains clippings from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. The various spellings and grammar are taken from the original.

George E. Williams of the Furnace village and Luthera daughter of Dea. Harrison T. Mitchell of South Easton, were married in the cosy little cottage on Bay Street which the expectant groom had caused to be built the past season, by a former pastor, Rev. Luther H. Sheldon. About fifty invited guests witnessed the ceremony and the presents were numerous, and costly, consisting of an abundance of silverware and many useful household articles. Among the more prominent we may mention, a sewing machine from Clifton Williams, a Brussels carpet from Ellis Williams, a China tea set from Dea. J. O. Dean, a Bible from Dea. H. T. Mitchel, one and one-half dozen silver spoons, a silver ladle and many others too numerous to specify. The happy pair entered at once upon their life's duties cheered by the best wishes of a host of friends. (Jan. 1, 1885)

Mrs. Sarah A. Howard of Taunton, mother of Heman Howard of Centre Street, this town (Easton) is today observing her 102nd birthday celebration at her home. Mrs. Howard was born in Norton but lived in town for many years at the Howard homestead in South Easton. Her daughter, Annie, with whom she makes her home, was a teacher in the Taunton schools and Mrs. Howard found it more convenient to live there.

She is a charming lady and although she had a recent illness which handicaps her somewhat, finds much enjoyment in life. She has a keen memory and delights relating incidents of former years. She enjoys reading and is able to do some crocheting. (August 1939)

The most brilliant social event that ever occurred at Easton Centre transpired there yesterday afternoon when Miss Sarah Louise, daughter of Rev. F. P. Chapin, and Mr. Walter H. Andrews, were united in marriage. The wedding took place in the Congregational Church about 400 guests being assembled there. Previous to the ceremony Mr. Howard M. Dow, the celebrated organist, rendered in a masterly manner the following brief organ concert: Overture, Masoniello, Auber; Allegro, Dupuis; Swedish Wedding March, Soderman; March, Lachner. As the bridal party entered the church, the organ pealed forth the beautiful Bridal March from Lohengrin. The bride looked pretty in a beautiful costume of cram silk made en train, with wreath of orange blossoms. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, Rev. F. P. Chapin. Charles Chapin, Edward B. Hayward, Justin Morse, Charles A. Drake and James C. Wade acted as ushers. As they left the church at the close of the ceremony, Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played. Immediately afterward a reception was held at the residence of Rev. F. P. Chapin. The bride and groom departed for New York and a trip up the Hudson on the 4.30 train amid a shower of rice and old shoes. Upon their return they will take up their abode at Easton Centre. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews were the recipients of about 130 useful and valuable presents. (about 1885)

DUES UPDATE

*The Society would like to send a big **THANK YOU** to all of our members who have sent in their dues for 2008! We appreciate your promptness in responding to the dues letter, as it saves us postage costs for mailing reminders. Many thanks as well to members who were able to include something extra with their dues payment. We know times are difficult, and we are honored to be the recipient of your generosity.*

Please take a look at your mailing label. If it has a “2006” or “2007” in the right hand corner, we have not received your dues yet. We hope you will consider renewing and supporting the Society as it celebrates sixty years of preserving Easton’s history! Plans are continuing for our anniversary gala, and we are excited about sharing many of the items recently added to our collection. Members receive discounts on purchases, and receive advance notice of special events like our wonderful “Chowder and Chatter” evening. Be a part of Easton’s history—send in your membership dues today!



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YARD SALE RESERVATION FORM

Saturday, September 13th, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., at the Station,
80 Mechanic St., N. Easton

To reserve your space in our fall yard sale, please fill out this form and send it, with a check for \$15 payable to the Easton Historical Society, to: Easton Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356.

The yard sale will be held rain or shine. Proceeds from the sale of spaces benefit the Society. Your sales are yours to keep! Spaces are limited, and will be the equivalent of two adjoining parking spaces. They will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. You must bring your own tables, chairs or tents. There is no trash collection at the Station, so please plan on removing your trash from the site when you are finished. Bathroom facilities are available. All items must be yard sale items. Unfortunately, crafters can not be permitted at this time. The Easton Historical Society assumes no liability for loss or damages to any person or property before, during or after this event. Thank you for supporting the Easton Historical Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

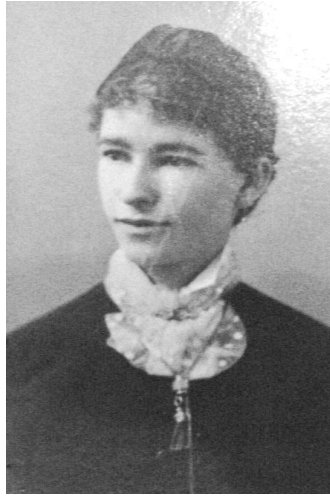
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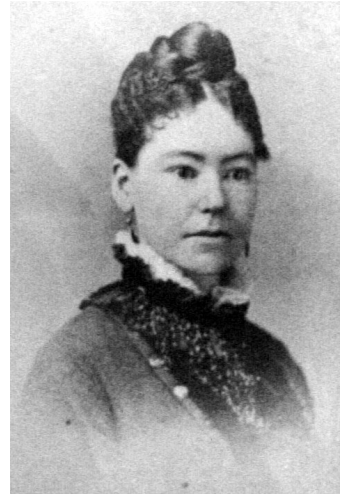
Jabez Mayall



Mary Mayall



Charles Crockett



Alice (Mayall) Crockett

We are pleased to announce the donation of a wonderful photo album. Dr. Timothy Robbins of Houston, Texas, donated this exceptional collection of family photos, found some years ago at a yard sale by his mother. What makes the collection so valuable historically is the fact that nearly all of the people pictured are identified. The album dates from the 1890's and belonged to the Mayall family of Easton, several of whom are pictured above. Also represented are members of the Crockett family, the Schofield family, Sarah Jones, Dora Peckham, and the Wright family. Also included is a treasure trove of genealogical information provided by Dr. Robbins about these families. Dr. Robbins is hopeful that there may still be some descendents in the area who can shed more light on the people pictured. If you are a member of one of these families, please contact us to view the album. The Society is very grateful to Dr. Robbins for donating this important piece of Easton history to us. Thank you!

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Old Colony Railroad Station

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