



Two Special Celebrations

We are pleased to begin the summer with two very special events. The first of these is our June 8th open house which will honor the 1945 Oliver Ames High School football team, the first one to have an undefeated season! We are arranging to have several members of that team with us to reminisce about their team, players and coaches, and the games they played. They played during a time of war, when many of the previous years teams had lost players to the war effort. These young men with their excellent play gave us something to cheer about! Their record of four wins and four ties is significant in itself. But take into consideration that there were 8th graders on this team, plus the fact that they played some large schools that by today's standards would be above their league, and that record becomes even more outstanding! Please be sure to join us on this special day to honor and remember a very special team! A ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m.

The second event is the grand opening of the Governor Ames Estate on June 29th. The Governor Ames Estate is located at 35 Oliver Street. This is a joint event with The Trustees of Reservations and the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District. The event runs from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. Come join in the festivities which include a juried art show, music, food, fun, in a festival atmosphere. During the day several tours will be offered around the grounds of the estate and the surrounding historic area and the newly opened Ames Shovel Works apartments. The Society will be open from noon to 4 p.m. with an exhibit of photos of the estate from the days when Governor Oliver and Mrs. Anna C. Ames were living there. You can see the property as it is today, and then see it as it was more than a hundred years ago! The event is free and open to the public.

Summer is a great time for taking in historic Easton, and drop in visitors are always welcomed. If you have company visiting, make us a part of their visit! You can always call ahead or email us to make arrangements for a tour. Other summer open houses are scheduled as usual and will feature some slice of Easton history for you to enjoy and learn about. Hope to see you!

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, June 8th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring the undefeated 1945 Oliver Ames High School football team!

Saturday, June 14th, Flag Day—Be a patriot and fly your flag!

Sunday, June 29th, join us for a special event with the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District and The Trustees of Reservations to celebrate the grand opening of the Governor Ames Estate. Open at 11 a.m. at the Estate, noon at the Society.

Friday, July 4th, Independence Day! Happy 238th Birthday America!

Sunday, July 13th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Curator's choice. Always a surprise!

Sunday, August 10th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Photos and recently excavated artifacts from Ramcat, opposite the Society and adjacent to Shovel Shop Pond.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, November 6th, Book Appraisals with Ken Gloss, 6 p.m. at the Ames Free Library—Easton's Public Library. This event is always popular. Come and learn something about rare books, and bring your favorite book for a free appraisal!

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

On May 21st I attended the 60th birthday party of the Center School. First opened in 1954, the school has ably served as a primary school for the south and west parts of Easton. We first welcomed the second graders from that school on May 1st as part of a local history class. As a follow-up I prepared a table top exhibit for the birthday party. There are several historical areas of interest in that immediate area. There is the Evangelical Congregational Church to the northeast; the site of the old Town Hall and Unitarian Church/Meetinghouse across the street, with the Soldier's Monument in between. Of course, some of you may remember the area as the former Poor Farm for Easton. Still nearby is the old lockup, and a little further away is the Poor Farm Burying Ground where many forgotten and nameless souls rest. Also adjacent to the school property is the Devil's Footprint and the site of the old Town Pound where stray animals could be held until their owners claimed them.

I attended kindergarten at Center School in 1964-65. The school was ten years old, and the new wing was just being designed. Mrs. Hayward had the opportune task of trying to turn me into a successful student. She was very good, and I remember her well. After that, I attended grades 1-3 at Furnace Village School on Bay Road, where Mrs. Gilmore taught me first grade, Mrs. Heath second grade, and I think a Ms. Johnston who got stuck with the basement classroom for third grade. By that time, Center School had its addition finished, and even provided hot lunches to Furnace Village. Mr. Gurney, who was a custodian, picked up the lunches every day and delivered them. I think he also returned the dirty trays and dishes afterwards. For grades 4-6 I went back to Center School. Neil Mosman was the principal, Tracey Ober my fourth grade teacher, and Harriet Larson my fifth grade teacher, and Gary Hilmer for sixth grade.

Kim Krockta, second grade teacher and leader of the birthday party event, asked me if I would spend the birthday evening answering students questions about being at Center School in the 1960's. Of course, I did, and it was great! We talked about school lunches then and now (sometimes not much has changed). We discussed how classes have changed. To my right was an old film strip machine which the students were fascinated with, and to my left, a record player which also begged a discussion on the "high-tech" of the times. The kids were amazed to hear how my kindergarten class was held in the gymnasium/cafeteria, and that I remember being on the stage for music lessons. I also told them that the lunch tables were attached to the walls and would be simply let down for lunch, and folded up afterwards. I talked about watching the Apollo launches on television during school. We would all be gathered into a large room in the new addition where a black and white television would appear, and where someone struggled mightily to get rabbit ear antennas to tune in a reasonable picture. How excited we were to see those launches! And what great first hand science lessons were gleaned from those events.

But time marches on, and here I am, telling it like it was fifty years ago when I attended. Who knew I would find myself doing that! But it really was special revisiting my childhood school and education, remembering special teachers, thinking of 50 year friendships, and sharing that history with a new generation of Center School alumni. You can be sure that I will be looking forward to doing my part for their next milestone celebration!

Thank you!

A special thank you to Nicole Casper, Director of Archives and Historical Collections at Stonehill College! She supplied the following in regards to the ice cutting photo in the last issue: "December 26, 1960. Ice Cutting begins: Fred J. Monte of 14 Torrey Avenue, Brockton, right, watches the first ice cutting operations at his North Easton pond, where he is beginning his 37th year of harvesting. At the cutting machine, George S. Marshall, Washington Street, South Easton, and Lawrence E. Tingley, Depot Street, South Easton." Several people, including new member Joe Verosik of California, guessed correctly! The photo appeared in the 12/27/1960 Enterprise. The photo is courtesy of Stonehill College, Stanley A. Bauman Photograph Collection.

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

Officers for 2014-2015

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Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

A grain bag tag from J. O. Dean's grain mill, given by Burt Lewis; an important collection of Rohdin and Burgess family papers and photos including school photos, tax receipts, Center Street houses and papers relating to The Evangelical Congregational Church of Easton, from Richard and Linda Beal; a photo of the 1934 Ames, Baldwin and Wyoming company outing, from Roy Augustson, Jr.; a 45 RPM record of the Pickle Barrel Five given by Dan McNeil; Judy Sabin Davis—her mother's (Martha C. Peterson Sabin) OAHs Class of 1924 ring in a Cooper Jewelers box and a picture of the North Easton Grammar School's violin class 1947-48 with the pupils identified; an unusual type of advertising for the Ames Shovel Works Apartments, from Jim and Bonny Luke; 1963 OAHs tiger mascot sweater, from Sandy Conant; a 1958 OAHs South Shore Championship basketball letter, and copies of photos of the 1958-59 team in tournament action, from Charles McMenamy; a 1963-64 OAHs basketball letter and award certificate, and team information, from Ken Michel; proclamation issued by Massachusetts thanking Civil War veteran James W. Curtis for service, and copies of his military and genealogical information, from Charles L. Wade; two pairs of children's denim pants c. 1940's, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; framed portrait of George Washington, from Alice McCarthy; antique skates, from Joanne Soule; two 1850's-1870's ledgers from the Belcher Foundry, from Peter Lewis; Stonehill College Alumni Magazine, Spring 2002 featuring Ames shovels, from Doug Mullen; OAHs Class of 1948 scrapbook with reunions, kept by the late Betty Harrold Foote Kellogg, from Steven Foote; framed photo of Stonehill College, from Chet and Maureen Raymo.

Financial gifts have been received from Catherine Adler and Ellen Dehm, Ruth Albert, Priscilla Almquist-Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Ames, Ethel Anderson, Phyllis Anderson, Robert Babineau, Patricia Baker, Judy Baptiste, Richard and Linda Beal, Barbara Beech, Evelyn Brown (2), Geraldine Brown, Ann Bush, Abel Camara, Mary Camara, James Carlino and Peter Simpson, Beverly and William Carlson, George Comeaux, Brad and Nancy Cohenno, Michael and Patricia-Ann Conley, Edgar A. Craig, Charles and Ann Crivellaro, Celeste Dahlborg, David DeVore, Anne Durgin, Joanne England, Gwen Wray Ferrini, Katherine Anderson Fox, Stephen and Joann Freitas, Rose Friedeborn(2), Ramona Gallagher in memory of her husband Robert F. Gallagher, Jr., Mary Rose Garfagna and Catherine Harvey, Stephen and Nancy Gay, Dorothy Goveia, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Greene, Jr., John and Genevieve Habelt, Norma-Jean Hanscom, Jessica Heft, Marilyn Henderson, Nancy Hill, Judith Walker Huffman, Larry and Nancy Hurley, Miriam Jackson, Robert J. Kane, David and Deborah Kaufman, Stanley Kavka, Carolyn Kenyon, James and Louise Kenneally, George and Cynthia Khoury, Barry Knowlton, Margo Lawless, Wayne and Marilyn Legge, Helena Luxton, Alex and Frank MacLean, Deborah MacPhee, James MacPhee, James MacPhee and Give With Liberty, Kathleen F. Marathas, Leo and Janice McEvoy, George H. Morse, Jr., Jack and Beth Mowatt, Lawrence Mowatt and Diane Cella, John and Virginia Murray, Earl Nichols, Sharon O'Leary, Duncan and Carol Oliver, The Pare Family, Patricia Parrie, Elizabeth Porter in memory of Betty (Foote) Kellogg, Nicolina Previti, Debra and Steven Salisbury, Louis Silva, Ronald Sommerville, Gail Starkey, Paul Steidinger and Gloria Freitas-Steidinger(2), Nancy Sullivan, Keith Taylor and Olivia Ames Hoblitzelle, Robert and Althea Thornton, John and Janice Toomey, John and Amanda Varella, Jean Visnauskis, Edward P. White, Janet Peterson White, Phyllis Whitty, Avery L. and Betty Williams, David Williams, Kevin and Hala Williams, Maureen Yachimski, Nora Yousif.

Donations in memory of Roger "Pete" McNamara have been received from Anne Fletcher, John Fogg, George and Merlyn Fogg, Priscilla and Roger Hall, Janice A. Lindbloom, Judge Leon Lombardi, Joel and Caroline McCurry, Frank and Anne-Marie Meninno, Christie Pattin, David and Hazel Varella, Shirley Webber.

Donations in memory of Ken Martin have been received from Thomas and Judy Sabin, and Joanne Soule.

A donation in memory of Robert T. Sultan has been received from Bradley Sultan.

Hazel L. Varella to be Honored with OAHs Room

In one of the best kept secrets in the history of Easton, it was announced at our annual meeting that Hazel L. Varella will be honored by having the Social Studies office at Oliver Ames High School named in her honor. It is a most deserved tribute, as her outstanding career as an educator, department head, and mentor to young teachers and students is well known. Her contributions to Easton are many, and her passion for history continues to inspire many others. Congratulations!

National History Day 2014

The Easton Historical Society, in partnership with the Easton Middle School, held our annual National History Day open house on January 26th. Students who won their school competition had their work on display for public viewing. These students went to a District competition and the winners from there went on to the Massachusetts History Day competition on April 5th. Easton sent fourteen projects to the state competition, and five projects and eight students have been chosen to represent Easton at the National History Day finals in June. Once again, Easton's young historians have made us proud! The Society congratulates all of the students who participated in this event. Students going to the District, State and National competitions have received a scholarship from the Society (through the Friends of the Ames Shovel Works Fund) to help offset the expenses incurred by the students who are continuing on in the competition. A selection of the students with their projects appear on the next page. Here are the school winners, with the names of those going to the Nationals in italics: Iffy Akanegbu, Olivia Allen, Zaeed Arif, Zachary Bellido, *Christina Boudreau*, Holly Chadwick, *Emalyn Duvall*, *Bryn Evohr*, *Maya Evohr*, Katie Flynn, Sage Ganshirt, Caitlin Grant, Olivia Groebe, Lauren Hartman, Caitlyn Hickey, Olivia Johnson, Brigid Kane, Nick Lombardo, Jenna Magaldi, Ellen McGrath, Josh Melnick, *Hunter Phelps*, Eileen Sagany, Serena Shea, Alexa Smith, *Katie Stapleton*, *Sarah Tetrault*, Hannah To, Thomas Un, *Annie Waters*, Valerie Zis. Best wishes and good luck!

This year's event was saddened by the untimely passing of Bryan McSheffrey. Bryan was an eighth grade history teacher at the Easton Middle School, and the school and district coordinator for National History Day. Through his efforts and encouragement, our students took a real interest in their history projects, and the program blossomed into one of unusual success. Bryan received a special award at the Massachusetts History Day event recognizing him for his efforts. He has also been nominated for a national award which will be presented at the National History Day event in June. You can read more about him on page 7 in the memorial section.

Charitable Donation Received from Robert N. Brooks

The Historical Society is grateful and honored to have been informed by Robert (Robin) Brooks that he had provided a bequest in his estate plan for the Society. His generous gift continues a long-standing tradition and commitment of the Brooks family to the Society, both by material and financial contributions—including pro bono legal work by Attorney Abraham Brooks in incorporating the Society, donations of artifacts, and a bequest via Mrs. Brooks' will in 2008. He indicated in his letter informing us of his gift that it was "his affection for North Easton and the respect for the work of the Society that were the primary reasons for including the Society in his estate plan, and that he hoped it would motivate others to do so as well."

Formerly of North Easton, now of Amherst, MA., Robin is a 1953 Oliver Ames High School graduate. He is a member of the 6th graduating class of Brandeis University, where he was recently honored by being elected a Fellow of the University by the Board of Trustees. After graduating, he was on the executive staff of Massachusetts Governor Foster Furcolo, in charge of protocol and major special events. Later, for 37 years, (1964-2001) he was on the student affairs staff of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he was variously Associate Dean of Students, acting Director of Admissions, Director of Visitor Relations, and Commencement Coordinator.

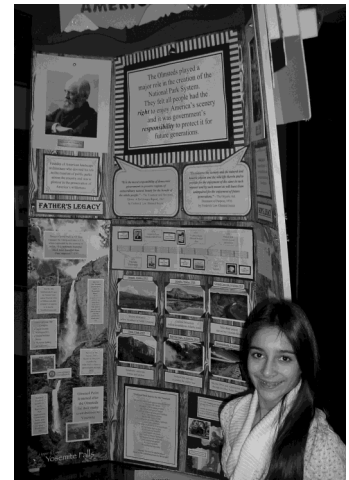
In 1998 he was honored as "Amherst Citizen of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his services to the community. He remains an active supporter of the Society. Robin noted that "while he lives in Amherst, North Easton will always be home."



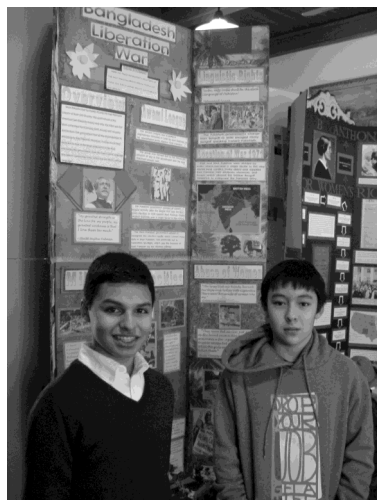
Caitlin Grant



Emalyn Duvall, Annie Waters



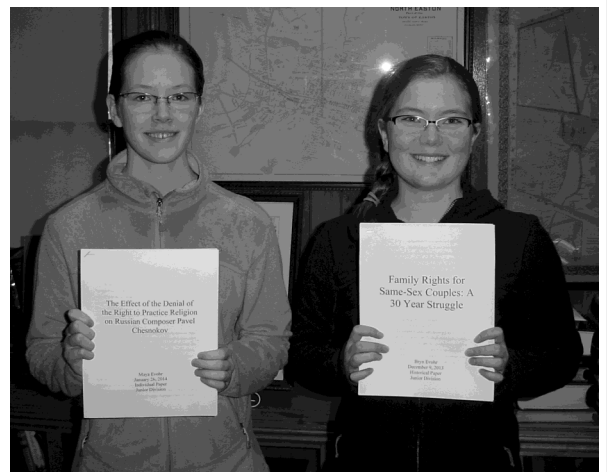
Serena Shea



Zaeed Arif, Thomas Un
Missing Zachary Bellido



Hunter Phelps



Bryn Evohr, Maya Evohr



Ify Akanegbu, Holly Chadwick, Olivia Allen



Caitlin Hickey, Lauren Hartman

Our Appreciation to...

- ◆ The annual contribution from the King Family Trust which enables our Society to function so effectively.
- ◆ Father John Denning, C.S.C., President of Stonehill College, who shared Palm Sunday afternoon with us. Both Stonehill and the Historical Society began in 1948, and the Society was honored to host him.
- ◆ Also deep gratitude to Stonehill College Director of Archives and Historical Collections Nicole Casper who set up a very informative display and spent the afternoon with us.
- ◆ Chef Paula Kfoury and the students of the culinary arts division of the Southeastern Regional, Lee and Kevin Williams and Nora Yousif for funding the fifteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter," David Ames, Ed Hands, Ellenor Simmons, and Hazel Varella for discussing six remarkable Ames Women, and to ECAT for filming the evening.
- ◆ Those who gave to the May 3rd Ken Martin Memorial Bottle and Can Drive and to Patricia Baker, Tom Bono, Deborah MacPhee, Frank Meninno, Ken Michel, Tom Sabin, and Hazel Varella who assisted. Bottle and can donations totaled \$239.10, and other donations made in Ken's memory put us over \$300!
- ◆ Those responsible for an eventful May 4th Annual Meeting: Dana Zaiser for his excellent Civil War stories on collections; Frothingham Memorial Hall for allowing us to use it for our meeting; Ed Hands for wonderful refreshments.
- ◆ Robert "Buddy" Wooster for being honored for his many contributions to the Society. He is now "Director Emeritus."
- ◆ The Society is very pleased to have Matthew Auger, Social Studies Chairman of the Easton School System, as its Educational Liason.
- ◆ Ken Michel for his excellent leadership during his terms as President, and for coordinating the Stonehill event.
- ◆ Our new President Deborah MacPhee who returns with excellent ideas and the energy to see them through. Ken Michel remains on the Board of Directors as the immediate past president. All other officers and directors will serve again in their usual positions.

A Diary for the Ages!

Sarah Ames, wife of former State Representative John S. Ames, III, has for several years been transcribing some diaries written by Evelina (Gilmore) Ames, wife of Congressman Oakes Ames. The writings capture daily events in the life of the Ames family and other Eastoners during a time we do not know too much about—the 1850's. The family shovel business was beginning to boom, and the Ames family had become the wealthiest family in Easton. Evelina reveals details about names and places long forgotten by most people, and the commentary written by Sarah puts everything into perspective. Another interesting item is that the date/days of this diary follows those of the current calendar year! You can follow the daily postings at <http://evelinaames.com>.

The original entry is in *italics*.

1851 April 6 Sunday. Have been to meeting all day, and as usual heard two excellent sermons from Mr Whitwell. It rained very hard while we were going and has rained fast all day. Edwin called after meeting & Martin Carr & a Mr Davenport from Attleborough. Oakes & Oliver called at Mr Bisbees with them.

The Ames family went to both church services today and, as Evelina had come to expect, heard "two excellent sermons" from Rev. Whitwell. Despite the rain, the Ameses had visitors this afternoon. Friends of Oakes Angier and Oliver (3) called: cousin Edwin Williams Gilmore, and friend Martin Carr, who brought a Mr. Davenport with him. The young men all went out together.

Martin W. Carr was the son of "Uncle Caleb" Carr, a long-time employee of the shovel shop, and brother of Lewis Carr, the young man who died back in January from consumption. The family was descended from Robert Carr, an early governor of Rhode Island. Martin would find his own claim to fame. A jeweler by profession, he went on to found M. W. Carr and Company, maker of knick-knacks and souvenirs, including "gold and silver jewelry, hairpins, belt and shoe buckles, button hooks and garter belts [...] matchbooks, cigarette cases, ashtrays, hatpin holders, letter openers, souvenir spoons, ink stands, magnifying glasses, lamp shades, bud vases, napkin rings and trays with imprints of the homes of American authors such as Emerson, Longfellow and Hawthorne."*** The factory was a mainstay of Davis Square in the City of Somerville, and Carr himself a prominent citizen involved in many civic activities. The city honored him in 1898 by naming an elementary school after him.* The Easton boy made good.

* *Martin W. Carr School, 1898, Somerville, Massachusetts, National Register of Historic Places, now condos.*

***Somerville Journal, 1894/Coldwell Banker*

In Memorium

Roger S. "Pete" McNamara, 75, a lifelong resident of Easton, passed away on March 4, 2014 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA. The loving husband of Dianne McNamara of 47 years, Roger is also survived by his son Scott and his wife Colleen of Pittsburgh, PA; as well as his son James and his wife Holly of Danbury, CT. He was the proud grandfather of Kaitlyn McNamara of Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. McNamara is also survived by his sister Ruth Kuhn and her husband Fred of Scituate, MA.

Roger was born in Easton on October 22, 1938 to the late Roger A. and Ellen (Wall) McNamara. He graduated from Oliver Ames High School and later earned a degree in Forestry from Paul Smith's College. He honorably served our country in Germany as a member of the United States Army during the Berlin Crisis. Mr. McNamara was the first Supervisor of Borderland State Park and would later serve as an Assistant Regional Supervisor of Forests and Parks for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. McNamara was a talented and passionate woodworker. He made many of the historical and conservation signs that are seen every day around Easton and many surrounding towns. Roger enjoyed gardening and being outside, especially in his yard; he liked to read history and challenge himself with Sudoku. He was also known to enjoy the "occasional" nap. Roger was respected and will be missed by all who knew him.

He was a wonderful supporter of the Society. He made and recently updated our Easton Historical Society sign given by Mrs. David Ames in memory of her husband, made four containers that have been very helpful for our bottle drives, and lent his expertise to other projects. In the past few years he donated a set of books Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War that was given to his father while a state representative. Furnace Village and the Five Corners were near and dear to his heart, and donations of his great-grandfather's blacksmith's tools and signs from the Goss busses reflected that. He was a regular visitor who freely shared his knowledge of Easton and families that he knew, and taught us many things about those people and places he remembered.

Roger was buried with military honors at Furnace Village Cemetery in Easton. His family has asked that any donations that are made in his memory be given to the Easton Historical Society.

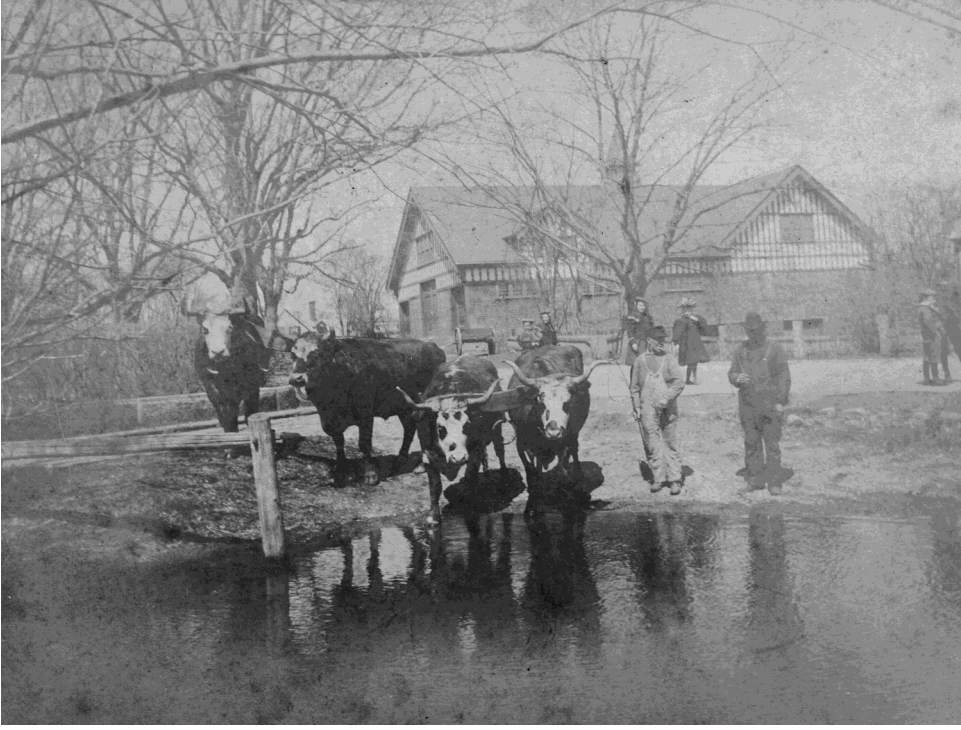
Bryan K. McSheffrey, 51, of Bridgewater, died unexpectedly, of a heart attack on April 23, 2014. He was the loving husband of Lee-Ann Bagdon McSheffrey since October of 2005 and devoted father of Madeline Rose McSheffrey. Raised in Abington, he was a 1981 graduate of Abington High School and served in the National Guard, and later graduated from Bridgewater State College. He was an 8th grade history teacher at Easton Middle School and was active in Massachusetts History Day. He won Teacher of the Year as its South Shore District Coordinator this year. Bryan was the beloved son of Beatrice (DiBona) McSheffrey of Abington and the late Leo G. McSheffrey; brother of David McSheffrey and his wife Diane of Whitman, Linda Weldon and her husband John of Walpole, Leigh Williams and her husband Dennis of Burrillville, RI and Joseph McSheffrey and his wife Michelle of Abington; loving son-in-law of Jeffrey and Julie Bagdon of Brockton; and a dear uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Bryan was a large reason for the success of Easton's National History Day program. He was a tireless worker for those students who had the same passion for history that he did. Bryan was instrumental in having the Society host the school's winning projects where they could be critiqued, and to show the public the excellent work that was being done by Easton students. He was a true mentor to many students, and was a favorite educator and an encourager to a new generation of young historians.

Coming Attractions!

Reminiscences -Volume 5 should be available in September. Included will be the unpublished manuscript of Rev. William Chaffin's about the first Oliver Ames. Also, do you know that there are descendents of "Uncle Sam" living in Easton? They will be identified in this volume.

Save the date—November 6th! Do you have a book you would like to have appraised (at no cost)? Plan to attend the joint Easton Historical Society and Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library meeting at 6 PM in the Ames Library with Kenneth Gloss, owner of the Brattle Book Shop, explaining how to determine the value of a book and then appraising books from the audience.



From the beginnings of the Ames Shovel Company in North Easton, oxen were the chosen beasts of burden. The first Oliver Ames was careful to choose only the very best oxen for his needs and often referred to their importance. Oxen served in a variety of capacities including moving carts and wagons of materials throughout the shovel shop complex, and were used to move buildings as well. The houses on Oliver Street were moved by oxen from the Island over a frozen Shovel Shop Pond to their present locations. This photo was taken at the watering hole around 1900.

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