



A Little Summer Theatre!



Winthrop Ames



Vera Ross

The Society recently acquired an unique collection of letters sent by Winthrop Ames, the Gentleman Producer of Broadway, to Vera Ross, a well known actress of stage and early film. Miss Ross starred in many of Winthrop's productions including several Gilbert and Sullivan plays. Included in these archives are photos of the cast of several plays in full costume. Other ephemera includes news clippings about performances and other items.

Join us at our June 14th Open House which will be held at "Queset", home of Winthrop Ames from 1-5 p.m. Frank Meninno will be speaking about Winthrop Ames and the letters, and Hazel Varella will provide a tour of the three floors of the house plus talk about its history. An exhibit of items related to Winthrop Ames will also be included, along with the letters and photos.

Do you know how Walt Disney is connected to Winthrop Ames? You will by the end of the day. Come and join us for this special treat!

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, June 7th, join with us in congratulating the Oliver Ames High School Class of 2015!

Sunday, June 14th, Open House at Queset, 51 Main Street featuring producer Winthrop Ames and Vera Ross memorabilia, 1-5 p.m.

June 14th is also Flag Day. Fly the Stars and Stripes with pride!

Sunday, June 21st, Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 28th, go to the 2nd Annual Art, Music, Food, Fun, Festival at the Governor Ames Estate, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Society will be open as part of the event.

Sunday, July 12th, Open House featuring Main Street Through the Years, 1-5 p.m. View some of the earliest photos of Main Street and see how it has changed!

Sunday, August 9th, Mystery Open House, 1-5 p.m. We could tell you more, but that wouldn't be in the spirit of things! Stop in and test your own knowledge of Easton's history!

Sunday, September 13th, Open House featuring the famous Ames Langwater Guernsey cattle, 1-5 p.m.

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

Are you ready for summer? I am! After a long, hard winter, and a very short spring, signs of summer have appeared. Trees have suddenly leafed out, the grass is growing quickly through the remnants of last winter's leaves, and ice cream stands have opened. That last one is as certain a sign of summer as anything I can think of, and it brings back fond memories of school vacation, neighborhood ball games, and of course, good ice cream!

Growing up at Furnace Village gave us few options back in the 1960's and early 1970's. Mrs. Burroughs' store was one spot to get a little Hoodsie cup or other ice cream treat, and later the Village Store fulfilled that role. More often than not we waited for our parents to return from grocery shopping to get a frozen treat. We made our own popsicles with Zarex syrup, water, and plastic molds. These simple home-made ices were a refreshing treat on a hot day!

Around 1970 something magical appeared in our neighborhood. Maplewood Ice Cream, operated by the Minsky family, opened their doors just east of the Five Corners on Depot Street. Serving deliciously creamy McManus ice cream, they ran a very successful business for many years. As a matter of fact, my first real "job" was weeding the flower garden around the sign on Depot Street, cleaning up in the kitchen in the morning, and collecting the trash. Not a bad gig for a 11-year old kid! And after work, I was able to stop and get the best raspberry lime rickey I ever had, or even better, a scoop or two of peach melba ice cream. The ice cream was very creamy, full of chunks of peaches, and had melba sauce drizzled throughout. To this day I have not found anything as delicious as this flavor, and I surely wish I could find it again.

Some evenings, after we completed our chores at home and a ball game at the Beals and Harvey property on Poquanticut Avenue, an ice cream truck would stop by. The familiar little jingle it broadcast, and the bell that the attendant rang, brought us running to the corner of South Street and Poquanticut Avenue. There we would sit and enjoy our 25 or 50 cent frozen treat until the streetlight came on. That was our cue to head for home. A simple rule like that kept us all safe and out of trouble, for there was no need to be out after dark, and we were always told that nothing good ever happens after dark. Mom and Dad were right about that! And it didn't really matter if the evening ended then. We went home safe and happy. After all, we had all had our ice cream!



Check Your Label!

We recently mailed out dues letters. Thank you to all who have returned your dues for 2015. You are an important part of our Society and your support is very much needed and appreciated!

Please check your mailing label to see if your dues are up-to-date. If your label is highlighted in orange, your 2015 dues have not been received. Please be sure to return your dues to stay an active member of our Society and be a part of the exciting things we are doing!

Senior Membership, \$7

Individual Membership, \$15

Family Membership, \$20

Give a membership to someone special. Additional donations will be acknowledged!

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

Officers for 2015-2016

President Deborah MacPhee

1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.

2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands

Treasurer Nancy DeLuca

Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

Directors

Patricia Baker

Joanne England

Judge Leon J. Lombardi

James MacPhee

Debra Salisbury

Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster

Immediate Past President—Kenneth J. Michel

Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger

Curator—Frank T. Meninno

A Note From Our President About...

GENEROSITY

Each year in February, the Society mails the annual membership renewal forms to our members. During the next couple of months, most of the memberships renewals are mailed back to the Society. This year I had the opportunity to be involved in the processing of the membership renewals. As I was recording them, I was thinking to myself how generous our members are. In addition to renewing their membership, many people sent an additional generous donation. To witness first hand the numbers of donations were overwhelming. I want to thank all of you personally for YOUR donations.

The generosity of our members does not stop there! We have a dedicated group of members that come to the Society on Wednesdays for six months of the year. This group of members catalogs and preserves our collections and artifacts. Many of the members of this group have been helping the Society for years. Thank you to our entire dedicated Research Group members for the help.

Donations come in all sorts of forms. In the past couple of months, the Society has received everything from a local antique milk bottle to very early high school Eastoners. All of these wonderful donations make a nice addition to our collections. With all of the generous donations of artifacts over the years, the Society has the opportunity to help preserve Easton's past.

Even small donations add up. The Society holds two Ken Martin Memorial Bottle Drives a year. During the bottle drives, we have members that volunteer to help with collecting and sorting of the bottles and cans. This event is supported by the public and our members. Every five cent bottle and can donation adds up quickly. People donate anywhere from a couple of bottles to a hundred plus bottles. The Society appreciates every bottle and can that is donated.

The generosity of our members is very much appreciated. Donations of Easton related items are added to our collections, and financial donations are used for restoring of the Station and for preserving our collections.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Deborah MacPhee

Annual Meeting Update

Attendees of our May 31st Annual Meeting heard some interesting stories of royalty on Elm Street, the first time Easton benefitted from the mutual aid from a neighboring fire department, and translations of Indian place names in and around Easton. People in the audience then shared stories for all to hear and enjoy. Delicious refreshments followed.

The new slate of officers and directors was elected. They are listed on Page 2. This year we welcome aboard Joanne (Duhamel) England, who has been an active member of our research group. She grew up on Barrows Street. Please join us in welcoming Joanne to the Board!

Coming Attractions

Our July 12th open house will take you for a Sunday afternoon stroll down Main Street. See how the thoroughfare developed from its earliest days as a largely residential area into a busy village street. We will use maps and photos, some of them early, to show you what has come, what has gone, and what still remains. So take a trip down Memory Lane with us as we take a look at Main Street.

Our August 9th open house requires you to do a little thinking (maybe a little guessing too!). We will have on display items that have some special significance, items that are not very common today, or otherwise unusual. Use your detective skills and historical knowledge to see if you can guess what each item is, or what is unusual about it! Don't worry if you get stumped. Answers will be freely (but secretly) given.

September 13th will feature the incredible Langwater Guernsey story. Find out how this important strain of the Guernsey breed helped to shape the domestic market for these champion milk-producing cows. Learn about the role of the Ames family in breeding this very special lineage of a very special breed of cattle.

Antique Cars Return to Easton Historical Society

On May 17th, we hosted an antique car show with special guests the South Shore Model T Club. Eighteen cars were on exhibit, and attendees voted for their favorite. An exhibit inside the building featured photos of early cars and trucks in Easton, with a focus on our own Morse Car. Congratulations to Joe Rose who received a special ribbon as the People's Choice for his Model T Truck. Special thanks to Debra and Steven Salisbury for making this event a very special afternoon!



The Roses with their winning Model T Ford truck.



Leading the parade!



A small sample of other Model T cars that were on display for all to enjoy!



In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz on the passing of his beloved sister Eleanor and to Valmore LeSieur on the passing of his son Robert Craig LeSieur, and to Gilbert Heino and family on the passing of his wife Catherine.

Sympathy is also expressed to the family of J. Jacques Tremblay. Mr. Tremblay worked at several poultry farms including Wilcox Poultry Farm in Easton. He was recognized twice by the Easton Lions Club: in 2007 as Outstanding Senior Citizen, and again in 2009 with the Outstanding Community Service Award. As a youth he worked not only in Easton ("Wayside") but also in North Beverly ("Highover") for Hazel Varella's father, John Luke.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the families of our members during this time of loss.

Recent Events Highlighted

Seven successful events were held by the Historical Society during April and May under the leadership of President Deborah MacPhee.

- April 9th—The extremely popular "Chowder and Chatter" was held at the Southeaster Regional. The idea for the program began sixteen years ago when it was suggested by Dr. Robert Misiewicz, and it has been funded each year by Avery and Kevin Williams. Forty years of OALS girls' sports were skillfully presented by Alice Kent McCarthy (1948), Martha MacAfee Gomes (1951), Deborah Coe Luke (1966), Regina Silva (1972), and Coach Suzanne Rivard. Ed Hands was our excellent moderator.
- April 12th—The Society was privileged to honor retiring Selectperson Colleen Corona for her historical preservation leadership. Speakers included David Ames, David Colton, Dr. Ellen Dehm, James Lee, Richard Martin, and James Thomas with Edmund Hands as moderator. The Society gave a certificate of appreciation and a pen made with wood from our 1883 Richardson station. A beautiful floral arrangement was provided by Gloria Freitas-Steidinger.
- April 28th—A very special opportunity to tour the two privately-owned H. H. Richardson buildings owned by the Ames Family was enjoyed by all with deep appreciation to Mrs. Oliver F. Ames and Jack and Beth Mowatt. Assisting at the Gate Lodge were Edmund Hands, Deborah MacPhee, Maureen Raymo, and Hazel Varella, and at the Gardener's Cottage were hosts Jack and Beth Mowatt, Patricia Baker, Christine Cullinane, and Frances Holland. A very special part was the presentation by Kevin Mowatt about the original design he had just located in Boston showing that there was originally a door in the front. Parking was under the directions of Kenneth Michel and Daniel Pare. The final stop was at the Historical Society, another Richardson building, with Nancy DeLuca, Frank Meninno, and Debra Salisbury as hosts.
- May 2nd—The Ken Martin Memorial bottle drive was held and was a success. Volunteers helping out for the day were Bob Carpenter, Ed Hands, Tom Sabin, John Souza, Jeffrey Webster, Patricia Baker, Ana Foote, Hazel Varella, and Frank Meninno.
- May 17th—Sixteen antique cars including those from the South Shore Model T Club were viewed by many visitors. Debra Salisbury was in charge of the arrangements. The most popular car, chosen by attendees, was Joe Rose's.
- May 19th—"Spin to Win" was the theme of the Easton Historical Society table at the "Taste of Easton" at Stonehill College. Many people enjoyed receiving Society mementoes under the direction of Deborah MacPhee assisted by Debra Salisbury and Hazel Varella.
- May 31st—"Did You Know?"—At our annual meeting many stories were shared by Ed Hands, Frank Meninno, Hazel Varella, and others. Some of these stories will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Easton Town Reports 1871, and 1873–2008, School Committee reports 1912, 1937–39, 1942, 1947–49, 1960, 1961, Valuation Lists 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1930, 1965, 1970, Poll Tax 1930, Street Listings 1960, 1964, 1969, North Easton Village District reports 1907, 1935, 1937, 1946, 1952, 1956, Dunham's Easton Directory for 1931, Dedication of the Soldier's Monument 1882, (2 booklets), Report of the Town Manager Committee, 1941, Governor Oliver Ames Address, 1889, Rambling About Borderland, Glass Flowers in the Ware Collection, 1963, The Credit Mobilier of America, 1881, by Roland Hazard and read to the Rhode Island Historical Society, Oakes Ames and the Credit Mobilier, 1880 by Oakes Angier, Oliver, and Frank Morton Ames, Act Incorporating the North Easton Water Company 1887, (2 booklets), 1902 autograph book of Easton people, Historic New England Houses puzzles including the Frederick Lothrop Ames Gate Lodge, four Louis Frothingham political pins, two Louis Frothingham ribbons, three Louis Frothingham for Governor cards, 1911, three Ames political pins, Easton pin for the Massachusetts Tercentenary, 1930, Ames Company 225th Anniversary brochure, three wood cutouts, (1 each of the Old Colony Railroad Station, Soldier's Monument, Josiah Keith House), nine Simpson Spring bottles, a Simpson Spring seltzer bottle, a Simpson Spring Boiled Cider bottle, a Porter Farms milk bottle, an amber medicine bottle found at Wheaton Farm, three George G. Withington medicine bottles, three Donohoe and Harlow bottles, a Harlow Prescription Pharmacy bottle, a Simpson Spring fruit syrup bottle, a Simpson Spring Nerve Tonic glass, more than 50 items from Walter Hatch including Easton booklets, calendars, business cards, stationery, Hatch Garden brochures, etc., from Frank and Anne-Marie Meninno; Class of 1948 memorabilia from Alice McCarthy; A. Christensen milk bottle, 1933, from the Little Rhody Bottle Club, Karsten Kydland; Ames related materials from Dwight McKerran; OA basketball jersey from Will Thompson; Sanford's Jamaica Ginger bottles from Stephen and Joann Freitas; Denver Westerners Roundup magazine, Jan–Feb 2015 with story by Anna Lee Ames Frohlich – Ames shovels and steam shovels, from Anna Lee Ames Frohlich; Easton Charter Day folder and materials from Rebecca (Cragan) Lundberg; Bills Auto Repair business card from Dan Pare; Sunday School photos c. 1910–12 and 1930 from Charlene Peterson; framed Kris Ventresco photograph of Queset Garden at night, from Ed Hands; 15 early Eastoners including all six issues of the first volume from Stanley Kavka; Class of 1969's "The Importance of Being Earnest" from Suzanne Rivard; Excellent photograph of "Spring Hill" in the snow from Ronald Danielson; OA Glee Club sweater, Unity Church Sunday School perfect attendance pins, Girl Scout pins and emblems, National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society pins, from Judith Drake King.

Financial donations have been made by Ruth Albert, Burch and Audrey Alford, Robert and Jean Alger (2), Priscilla Almquist-Olsen, Charlton and Eleanor Ames, John S. and Sarah Ames, III, Phyllis Anderson, Robert Babineau, James Baker, Patricia Baker, Richard and Linda Beal, Barbara Beech (3), Robert Benton and Jane Pike-Benton, Myrtle Blaisdell, June Bliss, Evelyn Brown, Abel Camara, Mary Camara, William and Beverly Carlson (2), Lewis and Evelyn Chapman, Nancy Cohenno, Carolyn Cole, George Comeaux, Michael and Patricia Conley, Charles and Anne Crivellaro, Dr. Ellen Dehm and Catherine Adler, Nancy DeLuca, David Devore, Anne Durgin, Joanne England, Robert Farrand, Joanne Faust, Janice Fowler, Stephen and Joann Freitas, Rose M. Friedeborn, Stephen and Nancy Gay, Joyce (Carroll) Gipson, Dorothy Goveia (2), John and Marie Graca, Richard Grant, Leslie Gray, Rosemary Santos Greene, Genevieve Habelt, Joan Hayward, Nancy Gardner Hill, Frances Holland, David and Deborah Kaufman, Stanley Kavka, Professor James and Louise Kenneally, Carolyn Kenyon (2), Barry Knowlton, Shirley Boudreau Leavitt, Wayne and Marilyn Legge, Ed Leonard, Helena Luxton, Eileen Mackler, James and Deborah MacPhee (3), Leo and Janice McEvoy, Michael McKenna, John Moran, Jack and Beth Mowatt (2), William and Leslie Mullen, John and Virginia Murray, Sharon O'Leary, Duncan and Carol Oliver, Patricia Maguire Parrie, Jeanette Picchi, Elizabeth Porter, Nicolina Previti, Ana Ramon-Foote, Dr. Chet and Maureen Raymo, Barbara Read, Thomas and Judith Sabin, Louis Silva, Regina Silva, Robert Silva, Lynn Smiledge of Spencer and Vogt Group, Inc., Dr. Joel B. and Susan Solomon, Ronald Somerville, Gail Starkey, Gloria and Paul Steidinger, Gary R. Sullivan, Nancy S. Sullivan (2), Althea Thornton, Janice Toomey, George and Maura Tyrrell, Jean Visnauskis, Robert Vogel, Ed and Lyn White, Janet Peterson White, Phyllis Johnson Whitty, Avery and Betty Williams, Kevin and Hala Williams, Robert J. Wooster, Sr., Maureen Yachimski (2).

Donations were also received from Robert Brooks in memory of his parents Attorney Abraham and Mae Brooks, and James L. Boudreau, Ramona Gallagher in memory of Robert Gallagher, Jr., Earl Nichols in memory of his wife Beth, Russ Meninno in memory of Ada V. Johnson, Thomas and Judy Sabin, and Joanne Soule in memory of Ken Martin, Jack and Beth Mowatt in memory of Ken Martin, Marie Holbrook in memory of the Porter/Holbrook Family, Genevieve Leavitt in memory of James Boudreau, David and Hazel Varella in memory of Catherine Heino, United Technologies (match of gift from Henry Ames), Easton Chamber of Commerce with thanks to Ed Hands, Fellowship Club of the Covenant Congregational Church with thanks to Hazel Varella.

The Easton Historical Society very much appreciates your contributions. Thank you!

Devin Ness Day of Kind “Ness”

Members of the Oliver Ames High School Class of 2015 participated in the third Devin Ness Day of Kind “Ness” on April 30th. Devin Ness passed away suddenly in January 2013. Devin was a person who was well known for his acts of kindness to others, and was always willing to lend someone a helping hand. To celebrate his life, each year the senior class does community service projects around Easton. This year, eight students led by Oliver Ames teacher Susan Hadge spent the morning at the Society raking, removing debris, spreading mulch, and cleaning windows. They did a fantastic job! The Society thanks those who helped us out: Clinton Hausman, Meghan Hurley, Tyler Kent, Muger Morose, Gillian Sheehan, Mike Simeon, Amy Solov, and Phoebe Welcome.

Photos of the crew are below. The Society expresses its thanks to them for their hard work and caring, and to Devin’s parents Brad and Kathy Ness, OA Principal Wes Paul, and teacher Cindy Hall for making this touching tribute possible.



Items of note

Congratulations to Unionville’s own Carl B. Holmender on receiving the 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award at the Lions Annual Award Dinner for his book History of Unionville.

Appreciation to the second floor research ladies who work every Wednesday spring and fall—Barbara Beech, Frances Holland, and Maureen Raymo. Each week they make the trek to the upstairs King Research Library to sort and organize materials in our collection, making them accessible for researchers.

Appreciation is expressed as well to Burch Alford, Jr. who has been doing some great photo work for us.

Thanks to Thomas and Judy Sabin who donated a new flag for our flagpole.



Summer reminds us of special times such as our high school and college graduation. Here are the graduates of the Oliver Ames High School Class of 1937. All names are from left to right. Front row: Anne Neimi, Beatrice Holmes, Marion Buck, Arlene Gibbs, Mary Russell, Phebe Carlson, Stephen Diamond, Dorothy Hilmer, Isabelle Diamond, John Mitchell, Alice Lawson, Emma Giordano, Ruth Tait, Barbara Mann, Elsa Johnson, Helen Drew. Row two: Barbara Pulsifer, Cynthia Hammond, Barbara Eastwood, Helen Ebbs, Julie Stehly, Helen Murphy, Frances Hayward, Dorothy Corkum, Ruth Oman, Sara Helen Shaw, Lucile Marvill, Helen Gooch, Florence Pearson, Miss Holt. Row three: Lillie Carlson, Virginia DeCouto, Harriet Woodworth, Miss Honahan, Dan Mitrano, Manual Santos, Thomas Sullivan, Albert Olliff, Jr., Francis Walett, Harold Keith, Ivan Phillips, Forrest Bailey. Fourth row: Mr. Taylor, John Rego, Richard Mailiff, Edward Reilly, Allan Sherman, Robert Nelson, Norman Ellis, Earl Pulsifer, Arthur Lewis, Everett Dunn, Stanley Smith. Class members not pictured here were Mabel Milan and Ruth Williams. Photo donated by Dan McNeil, whose mother, Arlene Gibbs, is pictured in the front row, fourth from the left.

Address changing? Please tell us!

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