



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, June 10th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. and will feature Dr. Neil Kozol. His father, Frank Kozol, wrote To The Fire of Normandy and Beyond, a true story of D-Day and espionage. Dr. Kozol will read selections from the book at 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 14th, Flag Day

Sunday, June 17th, Father's Day. Let's remember dad!

Sunday, June 24th, annual Legacy Festival at the Governor Ames Estate, noon-5 p.m.

Thursday, June 21st, first day of summer officially arrives.

Wednesday, July 4th, Independence Day. Happy 242nd Birthday to the United States!

Sunday, July 8th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Program to be announced.

Sunday, August 12th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Program to be announced.

Looking ahead.....

Fall will be here before you know it, and we are planning to take a look at some anniversaries, including the 1918 Flu epidemic and the end of World War I. Did you know that fifty years ago the OAHS Football Team won the league title?

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Things To Do on a Summer's Day

Summer is upon us! While we think of beaches and sea breezes, iced tea and frozen martinis, cookouts and (ouch!) sunburns, be sure to take time to enjoy something really special in Easton and the surrounding area.

The annual Legacy Festival is taking place at the Governor Ames Estate on Sunday, June 24th. Take in a fun-filled day full of food, games, and lots of extras. Visit the Museum to see the Junior Juried Art Show, and see some of the work our talented school students are doing. Details are inside on page 4.

Get your passport ready! This year we are joining with ten other museums on the Passport to History program, a summer long learning adventure. Visit each participating museum and get your passport stamped! Your first visit to each one is free, and passports are available at each museum. Details are on page 4.

Spend some time at Stonehill College! Take a walk or drive through the campus and see the exciting things taking place. There are new buildings being constructed, and the campus continues to grow. Be sure to visit a very special exhibit of magnificent miniatures created by the late artist Abraham Megerdichian, curated by the students of Stonehill! See page 5.

Most summer days you will find the Museum open. Drop by and see what is going on, meet new friends, and discover something new about Easton and her history!

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.

Curator's Corner - Curator / Caretaker Frank T. Meninno

A Flat Tire and Miniature Masterpieces

It isn't often that a flat tire starts a good conversation, but that was the case last summer at the Museum. One very warm day, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Megerdichian drove into our parking lot. They were out for a ride and were scouting out the area when they happened upon me in the Museum. We spoke briefly, and they were going to have some lunch and then return for a visit. So off they went to enjoy their lunch! When they returned, their car had a noticeable limp, and one of the tires had gone flat. Fortunately they made it back to the safety of our parking lot, where they could wait for AAA to come out and change their tire.

During their extended (and not quite as planned) visit, Robert and I struck up a conversation that touched on many topics. It turns out that his father was a machinist for many years, as was I. Robert told me that his father was also quite an artist, and during lunch times at work, he would create miniatures of everyday items that would later become gifts to various family members and friends. Of course, I wanted to see his father's work, and using his smart phone, he shared a few photos of his father's creations. They are extraordinary! The photos I saw revealed the work of Abraham Megerdichian, a master machinist with a creative artist's mind, and when these two talents came together, beautiful art was brought into existence. We talked at length while I showed him our Museum. Our guest was looking for places to display his father's work, which had been done a few times on a small scale, and was featured in the Boston newspapers. I gave some thought to this as we talked. Knowing that it would be a stretch for us to really take on a long-term project like this, I suggested that he contact Nicole Casper at the Industrial History Center at Stonehill College, and he did.

A few weeks later, Robert came by with some interesting news. He would be working with Stonehill to curate an exhibition of his father's works of art! He was very excited for the opportunity to work with Nicole, Jonathan Green, and the students at Stonehill. It seemed like a fitting match, showcasing the creations of a multi-talented machinist in the context of industrial art within the confines of the Industrial History Center. And it all came together because of a flat tire.

I visited the exhibit just before Memorial Day. The students, working alongside Robert, Nicole, and Jonathan, have created a magical display of art and special pieces interspersed with family photos and the objects that provided the inspiration for the miniatures. I highly recommend—rather, I strongly urge you—to take some time this summer and see the likes of something you will not see very often. The artwork of Abraham Megerdichian transcends the normal expectations of art, craftsmanship, creative energy, and vision. Oh, and there is one other thing that should be mentioned. The master created these masterworks during his lunch time!

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

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Special June Open House and Author Event

To honor D-Day (June 6th) and the actions afterwards, please join us June 10 at 2 P. M. to learn about the incredible experiences of one man, Frank “Paul” Kozol which will be described by his son Neil, an Easton businessman. In “To the Fire of Normandy and Beyond”, Frank, a graduate of Dorchester High School, is trained to be an army medic. However, his skill in communicating in French will result in his “volunteering” to be embodied with French Resistance behind enemy lines. Assigned to both the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) and the CID (Criminal Investigation Division), his life-threatening experiences were extraordinary. As you listen on June 10 to the descriptions by his son of his father’s heroism, one will gain a deeper appreciation of military commitment. Join us for a special afternoon! This book is in the Ames Free Library-Easton’s Public Library.

Our other summer open houses will be more casual affairs, with topics and items selected by our Curator for your perusal. Stop in and visit, see some interesting things, have some refreshing refreshments, and join in the conversation. Summer visitors are always welcome, so if you have guests from out of town staying with you, make us one of your destinations!

Recent Programs

- ◆ Sunday, April 8th nine seniors explained their Senior Honors projects. Each person not only had an extensive white-board display of the research involved but also explained the processes and results to the audience. The impressive documentation of their “learning stretches” were presented by Olivia Allen, Regan Benton, Alexis Campbell, Matthew Campbell, Jack Carroll, TJ Clifford, Jack Duffy, Meghan Foley, Liz Nuss. The advisor is Craig Goldberg of the Social Studies Department.
- ◆ Saturday, April 28th was our spring bottle and can drive held in memory of Ken Martin. A nice day brought in a steady stream of bottles and cans. We also received several donations in Ken’s memory. Thank you to Hazel Varella, Dick Grant, Dick Williams, and Frank Meninno for their help. Many hands make for light work!
- ◆ Thursday, May 3rd, the nineteenth annual “Chowder and Chatter” at the Southeastern Regional High School, was extremely successful. All of the sixty-five people present had as much chowder, clam cakes, cornbread, and dessert as they desired. Then the panel moderated by Ed Hands discussed four historical buildings: 46 Pond Street, the original Ames house by Fred Ames; 30-32 Oliver Street house which was originally built for factory use on the Island by Tamsin Serjak; “Queset” by Hazel Varella, and the former McMenamy Hamburg building now the Beanery by Wendy Chambers and Alison Hirtle. This annual program was the idea of Dr. Robert Misiewicz and has always been funded by Avery and Kevin Williams. The staff and the student servers are always appreciated. Also, a very successful raffle was conducted by Nancy DeLuca.
- ◆ Sunday, May 6, the annual meeting was held at “Queset” After the election of officers for the forthcoming year, Emily Wormwood presented to the many guests extensive information about the original owner of the extraordinary house, Oakes Angier Ames. After the excellent presentation guests had the opportunity to tour the three floors.
- ◆ Sunday, May 20, Janice Hatchfield Lyttle discussed the Hatchfield/Harlow hand-written family tree beginning at the Mayflower.

Meet Our New Board Member

We welcome Emily Wormwood to our Board of Directors. Emily has deep New England roots, and has lived in Easton for many years. She first visited the Museum to see photos of the house she was living in four years ago, and began volunteering this past year. Emily has a degree in anthropology, and is currently working on research projects including creating and updating Wikipedia pages and working on the Ames Company rental records at Stonehill.

Get Your Passport!

We are pleased to announce our participation in Passport To History 2018! Under the direction of the Old Colony History Museum, a consortium of 11 museum in the Old Colony Region will offer free admission for your first visit as you explore the history of the region and trace the footsteps of our forefathers. Visit each Museum and get your passport completed! To earn your stamp with us, visit us and ask for a Passport. Be sure to join Ed Hands on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for a one hour tour of the Ames Shovel Works and an H. H. Richardson building. For more information, go to www.oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org. Passports are available at any of these participating museums:

Old Colony History Museum, 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA.; Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, 42 Union St., Attleboro, MA; Berkley Historical Society, 2 North Main St. , Berkley, MA; Carpenter Museum, Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, 4 Locust Ave., Rehoboth, MA; The King Caesar House, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 120 King Caesar Road, Duxbury, MA; Easton Historical Society & Museum, 80 Mechanic St., North Easton, MA; Historical Society of Santuit & Cotuit, 1148 Main St., Cotuit, MA.; Lafayette Durfee House, 94 Cherry St., Fall River, MA.; Old Bridgewater Historical Society, 162 Howard St., West Bridgewater, MA; Plymouth Antiquarian Society, 126 Water St., Plymouth, MA; The Robbins Museum, Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc., 17 Jackson St., Middleborough, MA.



Legacy Festival Time!

Art, Music, Food, Fun

June 24th at the Governor Ames Estate

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a day of fun, food, music and other festivities at the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District Legacy Festival! A full slate of activities is being planned with something included for everyone. Sample foods and drinks from Easton's delicious eateries and brewery, enjoy a variety of musical performances, do a little paddling on Shovel Shop Pond, play some games, walk a tour of the Governor Ames Estate, and take the kids and grandkids for something just for them!

The Easton Historical Society and Museum will be opening to host the Junior Juried Art Exhibit, featuring work in a variety of mediums by students in the Easton school system. Prizes will be awarded. Come and see the work done by our talented artists! Last year's art show drew a good crowd to the Museum, and we look forward to another successful event. This is a great way to begin the summer here in beautiful Easton!

Special Exhibit at Stonehill College Industrial Art: From Scrap Metal to Masterpiece Abraham Megerdichian

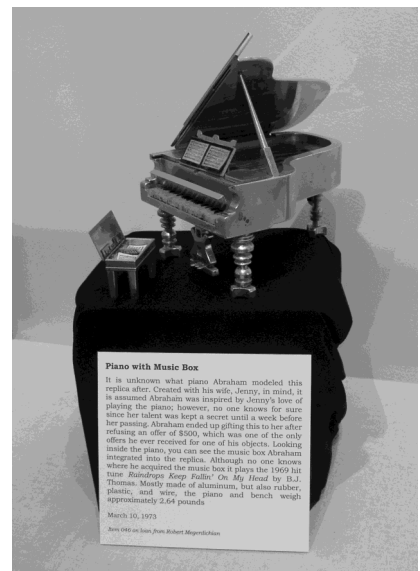
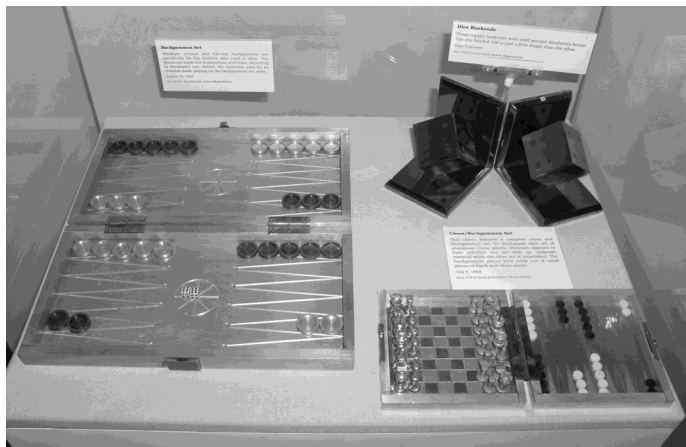
A special exhibit, curated by Stonehill’s Public History Class, showcases the extraordinary talent of Abraham Megerdichian. For many years, Abraham made miniatures of everyday things and gave them as gifts to family and friends. Thanks to his son Robert Megerdichian, this is the first time Abraham’s collection has been displayed on this scale, in addition to it being the first time some of these pieces have ever been displayed. Jonathan Green, Stonehill’s Assistant Director of Archives and Digital Assets Manager, led the class through the project of curating and creating this installation, with Robert joining in to observe the class too. Jonathan states: “It was an absolute pleasure working with Stonehill College students in our Public History course and an honor being given the opportunity to work with such a unique collection. The great part about this exhibit is that it embodies the essence of history: that is stories about people, which in the case of “Industrial Art” is the story of Abraham Megerdichian. Rather than turning to documents and textbooks, students learned about the challenging albeit rewarding and enriching experience of working with objects and, most importantly, the people whose history they as a class interpreted.”

The exhibit will be up through December 2018. Located in the David Ames, Sr. Archives Gallery on the first floor of Cushing-Martin Hall, the exhibit is free and open to the public Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm., and Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Below are a few photos that simply do not do justice to the beauty of the actual art, but hopefully will whet your thirst for something really special.



Miniature Masterpieces!

Clockwise from left:
miniature violin and case; a variety of miniatures and photos of the objects that inspired them; a miniature grand piano with a music box integrated into the piano body; game boards made for hours of enjoyment for the Megerdichian family.



In Memorium

Florence Farrell passed away peacefully May 5, 2018, surrounded by her loving family. Born May 26, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Edna Keay (Davis). Florence was a longtime resident of Easton. Florence was a graduate of Brockton High School and loved to knit. She worked as a department secretary at Oliver Ames High School for many years, and typed many Easton Historical Society items. She was part of the Easton Historical Society and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was past president of the Quota Club of Brockton as well as the YWCA. She volunteered at Cape Canaveral Hospital in Florida. She is survived by her children, Thomas A. Farrell of West Virginia, Patricia Small and her husband Rick of Plymouth and George H. Farrell and his wife Donna of Easton; 5 grandchildren, Dr. Sean Meiner, LCDR, USN, Derek and Chris Small and Ben and Aaron Farrell; 4 great-grandchildren, Jocelyn, Shaw, Griffin and Tannon Small. She was predeceased by Thomas A. Britt, Army Air Corps and George H. Farrell, Jr. She was the sister of the late Josephine Young of New Hampshire, Margaret Harlow of New Hampshire, Walter Kaey and Shirley Parks.

Marilyn E. Legge, 80, of West Bridgewater, passed away Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Hermitage Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eldora and Wallace Thorburn of Brockton; a brother, Wallace; and a sister, Eldona. She is survived by her husband of almost 60 years, Robert Wayne Legge (formerly of W.B., now residing at Hermitage Roanoke); daughter, Beth (Mark) Hathaway of Hardy, Va; son, Geoffrey (Sharon) Legge of Canton; granddaughter, Taylor Hathaway of Hardy; brother, John (Lucy) Thorburn of Florida and Thomas (Pat) Thorburn of Brockton. Marilyn always had a smile on her face and loved to make the most out of any situation. She was a talented seamstress (she made her own wedding dress), cook, craftsman of miniature furniture and she loved to travel. "Neenie" loved her only grandchild with all her heart and retired the same year Taylor was born to spend time and make lasting memories with her. Never one to fear a thing, she went skydiving at age 60! Marilyn was a devoted member of Central UMC in Brockton and served in numerous liturgical ways. She coordinated year-long church and community efforts in 2005 to create the Liberty Tree Faith Quilt, now on display at Brockton's Main Library. She graduated from Framingham State Teachers College in 1959 with a degree in Home Economics/Education. Marilyn was a substitute teacher and Girl Scout leader in WB until she took a job at Bridgewater Savings Bank, both the WB and Bridgewater branches, working as a teller then Customer Svc. Rep., closing her 17-year stint as a Corporator. A talented, trustworthy volunteer, she engaged in numerous town and church organizations. A service to celebrate Marilyn's life will be held at Central United Methodist Church, 65 West Elm Street, Brockton, on Saturday, June 16, at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Private interment at Pine Hill Cemetery in West Bridgewater. Wayne will not make the trip to Mass. Send a note to Hermitage Roanoke, 1009 Old Country Club Rd. NW, Roanoke, VA 24017.

Alfred Gregg Morse, 94, died peacefully at home on Monday, April 23, 2018, surrounded by his family. Raised in Easton, he graduated from Oliver Ames High School in 1941, was a Sgt. in the U.S. Army during World War II, then returned to Easton where he married Rosemary J. Bradford, raised 5 children and became president of the Crofoot Gear Corp. Alfred was the grandson of A. B. Morse, builder of the Morse Car, and the great-great grandson of E.J.W. Morse, who began the Morse family industries in South Easton manufacturing cotton thread. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the North Easton Savings Bank for most of his adult life. He also served as President of the Unity Church in North Easton, Treasurer of the Inc. Proprietors of Nonquitt and was a longtime member of the New Bedford Yacht Club. A devoted husband, father and employer, he took great pride in the care he bestowed upon his family, his employees and his home. He loved being outdoors. Raking in the fall, skating, skiing, iceboating in winter, canoeing, tending the yard and gardening in the spring, but sailing was his lifelong passion. He and his wife moved to South Dartmouth in 1982. Alfred is survived by his five children, Ann Morse, Beth Hikade and her husband John, Peggy Morse, Sarah Morse and Tad Morse and his wife Mary Beth, along with 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

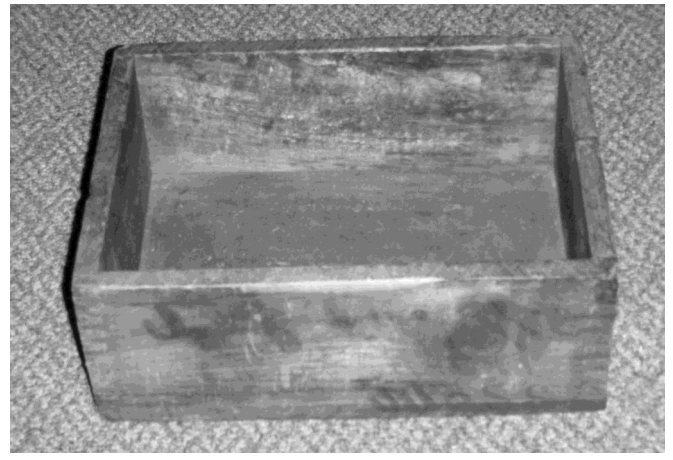
The Society expresses our deepest sympathy to the Farrell, Legge, and Morse families.

Donations

Peter Constantine has donated a large framed photo of the former Abbott's Pharmacy building, early 1900's probably from the time his grandparents ran a community store there, a pick-axe stamped with ERD from the Easton Road Department, used by Sidney Smith's father who worked for the Town, and a yardstick from Watt's' Hardware Store; **Jack Flynn** donated a photo of Ruth Wilbar from an early OA class, and a program card for an event at Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, Third Grand Assembly of L.A. 7627, December 30, 1887; **Ed Hands** has donated one of the Easton Monopoly games; **Al Smart** donated a new American flag for our flagpole; **Clydette Lothrop** and **Deborah Pierce** donated their father's trumpet and case that belonged to Clyde H. Manchester who played for "Cookie" Callahan and His Eastonians with thanks to **Eric Lothrop** who delivered the donation; **Doris Sargent** donated a World War I letter regarding her father, John Whitney, who was paid to accompany the body of a fallen soldier, and a very nice early American songbook by "The Choraliers" and Longines Symphonette Album that contains many popular songs; **Judy Leonard** donated a genealogy of the Leonard Family that she has researched over the past 40 years titled Forging Our Families with thanks to **Ed Leonard** who delivered it to us; **Jane Shaw Smoot** donated 7 ledgers of milking records for the Langwater Guernseys between 1943 and 1960, framed photo of Langwater Guernseys grazing below the mansion at Stonehill, framed photo of the herd in front of one of the former barns on the Stonehill grounds, framed photo of a man (perhaps F. Shaw) in the field at the Clock Farm, framed photo of Langwater Steadfast, prize Guernsey named most influential bull of the breed, color print of Imp. King of the May and his five daughters. by E. Leone Seavey, 1911, with thanks to Jane's daughter **Pamela Smoot** of Cambridge for delivering the items to us; **William Thomas** donated an atlas sized volume of the Easton Town Bounds, 1899, with maps, photos, and descriptions of the town boundaries.

Financial Donations have been received from Ruth Albert, Robert L. and Jean Alger, Charlton and Eleanor Ames, Elizabeth Ames, Frederick L. Ames, Mary ("Heidi") Ames, Sarah and John S. Ames, III, William Ames, John and Linda Amorin, Phyllis Anderson, Robert Babineau, Harold Bailey, Patricia Baker (2), Judy Baptiste, Richard and Linda Beal, Barbara Beech, Myrtle Blaisdell, Robert and Donna Bishop, Fairis and June Bliss, Geraldine Brown, Suzanne Bump, Abel Camara, James Carlino, Beverly and William Carlson (2), Lewis and Evelyn Chapman, Brad and Nancy Cohenno, Carolyn Cole, John Conant, Colleen Corona, Charles Crivellaro, Christine Cullinane, Celeste Dahlborg, Richard D'Amore, Nancy and Jack De Luca, Scott Deware, Dominic and Kathleen DiBattista, Anne Durgin, Joanne England, Carol Ferreira, Ramona Gallagher and Family in memory of Robert Gallagher, Jr., Stephen and Nancy Gay, Terry Getchell, John and Marie Graca, Richard Grant, Leslie Gray, Albert R. Greene, Jr., John and Genevieve Habelt, Robert and Nancy Hall, Larry and Nancy Hurley, Mark Ingalls and Sheri Anderson, Stanley Kavka, Robert Keller, John and Carolyn Kenyon (2), Barry Knowlton, Edward Leonard, Val LeSieur, Judge Leon and Sara Lombardi, James MacPhee, Kathleen Marathas, Alice McCarthy, Leo and Janice McEvoy, Russ Meninno, Donna Morris, Leslie and Bill Mullen, Ginny and John Murray, Ken and Gloria Nykiel, Sharon O'Leary, Duncan and Carol Oliver, David and Cindy Olson, Edward and Bernadette Pare, Andrew and Lee Parker, Marcia Pennington, Elizabeth Porter, Chester and Maureen Raymo, Tom and Judy Sabin, Robert Silva, Dr. Joel and Susan Solomon, Ronald Somerville, Gail Starkey, Gloria and Paul Steidinger, Jack Strom, Allan Swanson, George and Maura Tyrrell, Janice Toomey (2), Robert and Barbara Vogel, Janet Peterson White, Phyllis Whitty, Butch and Valerie Wood, Maureen Yachimski. Donations in memory of Kenneth Martin were received from Myrtle Blaisdell, Beth and Jack Mowatt, Tom and Judy Sabin, and Ed Watson; in memory of Alfred Morse, David and Hazel Varela; in memory of John Peter Simpson, Barbara O'Donnell. We are grateful for the annual grant from the Robert D. and Sally G. King Trust at The Boston Foundation.

The Easton Historical Society & Museum very much appreciates your contributions and your support.
Thank you!



Not Your Average Box

Lots of things come in boxes: appliances, electronics, candy, food, beverages, donuts, coffee, and sometimes surprises! Today's cardboard boxes are sturdy and serve a singular purpose of holding something safely until it is purchased. Beyond that, they are usually relegated to the recycle bin. The box in the photos above is different. Nicely manufactured with sturdy wood and dovetailed corners, it was meant to be used and re-used. This gem, more than 120 years old, once held horse shoeing nails and sat on a shelf in Joel S. Drake's store at the Five Corners, where it probably received a lot of attention. You can still make out the words "J. S. Drake, Easton, Mass." on the box side. A family horse was very important, and good shoes for the horse were a necessity. Later on, this box was taken home and used for other purposes (there is some green paint on the underside!). Thanks to an anonymous historian for sharing this with us!

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