



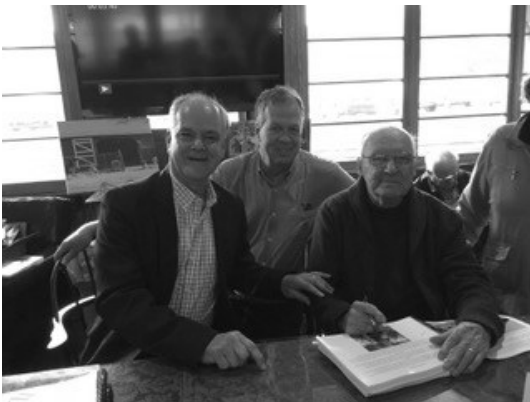
EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Summer 2019

Volume 19, Issue 4

Society Announces New Book

We are honored to announce a new book! Titled *A Beautiful Image of Historic Easton*, this coffee table book features nearly 250 pages of full color photos of historic Easton landmarks and landscapes as they appear today. Using original photography by the very talented Jonathan Jackson Coe, and with remarks by co-authors Jon Coe and Robert J. "Buddy" Wooster to enlighten the reader, this book is a great collection that is sure to become a classic. Thanks to the generosity of Bob Berg and the North Easton Savings Bank, the efforts of publisher Bill Clay of Walker Clay, and the authors who wish nothing for themselves, all proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the Society. The first edition is hand numbered and limited to 200 copies. The cost is \$50 each, and you can pick up a copy at the Museum or through the online store. You may also call or email us directly. We had a very successful book signing and supplies of this first printing are limited. Thank you, Jon and Buddy, for a great gift to the Society and the citizens of Easton!



Left, Jon Coe, Bill Clay, and Buddy Wooster. Right, signing the book.

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, June 9th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Civil War memorabilia on exhibit.

Friday, June 14th, Flag Day.

Saturday, June 15th, American Legion 100th Anniversary Open House. Details are inside.

Sunday, June 16th, Happy Father's Day!

Friday, June 21st, First Day of Summer arrives.

Sunday, June 23rd, Annual Legacy Festival at the Governor Ames Estate. Details are inside!

Thursday, July 4th, is Independence Day. Happy 243rd Birthday America!

Sunday, July 14th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Take a look at Easton gardens including a famous Rose Garden!

Sunday, August 11th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Come and enjoy some cool history!

Looking ahead...

We will be planning an event to celebrate our 50th anniversary of receiving the Museum on November 10. More information in the fall newsletter.

The annual Easton Lions Club Holiday Festival is on its way! Watch for it on December 7-8.

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 Year for Anniversaries

I recently had the pleasure of speaking at the Friendship Group of the Covenant Congregational Church on Center Street. The people were so welcoming (and the food terrific!). While entering the building I noticed a stone near the entrance with the date 1984 carved on it, the year that the present church was built. That was thirty-five years ago! This seems to be the year for anniversaries.

This year marks the fiftieth year of receiving as a gift from the Ames family the Old Colony Railroad Station to become our museum. In those fifty years countless people have worked hard to honor this gift by caring for the building, keeping it open, growing our collections, and sharing that history with the world. You will hear more about plans to celebrate this in the coming months. Whenever I am in the museum, or driving by to do a building check, I am reminded how fortunate we really are to have such a special place, and how many have contributed to the success of the Society.

The past "Chowder and Chatter" was another great night in a long list of them—twenty years worth! It was special to honor Avery and Kevin Williams who have sponsored this for all twenty years, and to honor and remember the late Dr. Robert Misiewicz and his wife Carol, who first envisioned such an event, by presenting all three with an appreciation for their support.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the American Legion, and Easton's Post 7 is one of the oldest around! To mark this occasion, Post 7 will host an open house on June 15th that will feature an historical display as well as a number of resources for veterans. There is more information inside the newsletter on this and other summer events.

1694 is the generally accepted year for the very first colonial settlement in Easton, and that was 325 years ago (has it really been 25 years since the Founder's Gala?). In a few short years, 2025, we will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of Easton becoming a town! Did you know that you can make a contribution to the Easton 300 fund to help celebrate that anniversary? Simply send a donation to the Town of Easton, 136 Elm Street, North Easton, Ma 02356 with a note stating the contribution is for the 300th anniversary fund. After all, we have a lot to celebrate, and everyone loves a good party!

When the fall newsletter is published, it will begin my 20th year of putting this quarterly paper together. It is a labor of love, but I must admit to be the one who is most surprised to still be doing it!

Next year brings a few important very anniversaries too. 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth and lots of plans are being made to celebrate that in and around Plymouth. I know there are lots of Mayflower descendants among our members! 2020 will mark 100 years since the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Blanche Ames played an important role in that movement and we will be making plans to celebrate this. And on a more somber note, 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Lets remember our veterans from this "Greatest Generation" with special honor.

Oh yes, there is one other anniversary that I positively cannot forget! Thirty-five years ago this July I married the very special woman who has been my steady and very supportive partner in this work of preserving Easton history. I owe her a great debt of gratitude for all her help and the behind the scenes things she does for me and for the Society. Thank you, Anne-Marie!

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

Officers for 2018-2019

President Kenneth J. Michel
1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.
2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands
Treasurer Nancy DeLuca
Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

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Jonathan J. Coe
Joanne England
Judge Leon J. Lombardi
Debra Salisbury
Past President—Deborah MacPhee
Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster
Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

Society Says Good-Bye and Welcome too!

Emily Wormwood, who has very faithfully served us over the past year, is looking to relocate and has stepped down from her role as Director. She was very involved in researching Oakes Angier Ames. Her presentation about him will be in the tenth volume of Reminiscences. We thank her for making the Museum a better place and wish her all the best as she moves on to another adventure.

At our Annual Meeting we welcomed Jonathan Jackson Coe to the Board as a Director. Jon Coe, a lifelong resident of Easton, is the son of Frederick Allen Coe and Bunny Miner Coe. He has been married to Paula (McCarthy) Coe for over 46 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Jon attended Easton Schools and Oliver Ames High School where he was a major contributor to OA athletics in football (captain), basketball (captain) and baseball. He earned Hockomock League honors in all 3 sports. In college, Jon captained his basketball and baseball teams. While at Oliver Ames, he was editor-in-chief of the OAHS newspaper, the Olivian.

Jon retired after a 46 year career with a major retailer, holding numerous leadership roles, retiring as a Regional Executive. He is currently pursuing a second career in photography which has always been a passion, especially in the field of nature and wildlife.

Thank You!

Our spring bottle drive was a great success and a very busy day! Many thanks to all who donated all those 5 cent containers, and to those who helped out so much: Hazel Varella, Nancy Hill, Ed Hands, Richard Grant, Richard Williams, Jonathan Coe, and Frank T. Meninno. The donations kept coming, the weather was good, the coffee was hot, and the conversations riveting (and a little bird watching too!).

Regarding Your Dues

Last year we made a change to our annual dues, giving our senior historians an opportunity to join or renew their memberships at a discounted rate for two or three years. This has caused a few instances of confusion as to which years you are paid through.

Dues are always paid for the current calendar year. You received a dues notice for 2019 if your dues were due this year. With the new two or three year options, it works this way:

- If you took the two year option in 2018, your dues would be paid for both 2018 and 2019, and your mailing label should have 2019 on it. Your dues would next be due for 2020. If you renewed for three years, you would be paid for 2018, 2019, and 2020, and your label should reflect that date. Your dues would be due in 2021.
- If you took the two year option this year, you are paid for 2019 and 2020, and your label should say 2020 on it. Your next dues would be due in 2021. If you renewed for three years, you are paid up for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Your dues are due in 2022.

Hopefully this will help to clarify when your dues are paid through. If you believe we have made an error, please contact Frank Meninno at the Museum by phone, email, or drop in for a visit. We will correct any errors. Please accept our apologies for any confusion!

Donations

Alice McCarthy donated a thank you letter to Mary Frothingham written by Charles McCarthy regarding a Christmas party, January 6, 1942 (the letter was read by Mrs. Frothingham and returned to his parents by mail.) **Al Smart** donated a First National Bank of Easton check written by Ernie Spooner, 1913; Brockton Fair 1906 prize ribbon; Easton Grange #196 ribbon with memorial ribbon on reverse. **Bob and Betty Holmberg** donated a card for David B. Tinkham, breeder and dealer in partridges, chicken, and fowl, about 1890; postcard of The Little Fisherwoman, Old Pond, Easton Furnace; photo of the Diplomat sign; 2 large postcards of Bruno's. **David E. Rice** donated items from his father and mother Leyland and Gladys Rice formerly of 185 Washington Street: wood blade Ames snow shovel from about 1940; 1929 and 1935 Eastoner yearbooks; 1929 50th reunion photo; class play photo with names; individual class student photos. **Kevin Mulligan** donated a wooden bowl he made from a piece of an oak tree originally on the Museum grounds. **Ed Weiner** donated an 1898 Easton Town Report. **Carol Misiewicz** donated a Mary Bodio print of Frothingham Park. **Peter Constantine** donated a water bill to Ernest Spooner from the North Easton Water Works dated August 2, 1921. **Russ Meninno** donated an ash tray from the OAHS Class of 1951 25th reunion; Bruno's postcard; postcard sent to O.Ames & Sons in 1882 regarding an order; postcard of Old Pond, Easton Furnace; note written by Rev. Chaffin to Dr. Stephenson regarding a ball game, 1903; three marriage certificates issued by the Town of Easton from the 1830's and 1840's; copies of early school bus records and an early Eastoner. **Val Le Sieur** donated many issues of The Easton Patriot and The Sports Reporter he published in the 1960's and 1970's as well as postcards and souvenirs. **Emmy's Hair Salon** generously donated a basket of beauty supplies "Chowder and Chatter" dinner event. **Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated several pairs of vintage eyeglasses, a stoneware sugar jar, and other interesting household and family items. **Bob and Jean Alger** donated a deed from the Pratt family and War Stamp books. **Phyllis Whitty** donated a dedication program of first Oliver Ames High School, two early Easton postcards, Wayside booklet, Ames Free Library 1883-1983, the sixth grade patrol picture, the 1958 OAHS football cheerleaders' pamphlet, two North Easton Grammar School pictures with identifications, and a Ames Shovel Workers' picture with identification. **Donald Harrison** donated five Eastoners.

Financial donations have been received from Burch Alford, Jr., Robert and Jean Alger (2), Priscilla Almquist-Olsen, Charlton and Eleanor Ames, Fred Ames, John and Sarah Ames, Mary (Heidi) Ames (2), Minnie Ames, William M. Ames. John and Linda Amorin, Robert Babineau (2), Harold Bailey, James Baker, Judy Baptiste, Richard and Linda Beal, Barbara Beech, Robert and Jane Pike Benton, Myrtle Blaisdell, June Bliss, Geraldine Brown, Robert Brooks, Suzanne Bump, Abel Camara, Mary Camara, James Carlino (4)-one in memory of Dr. Robert Misiewicz, William and Beverly Carlson (2), Brad and Nancy Cohenno, John and Linda Conant (2), Michael and Patti Conley, Jose and Colleen Corona, Bob and Priscilla Crane, Charles and Ann Crivellaro, Nancy and Jack DeLuca, Brian Donofrio, Anne Durgin, Joanne England, Carol Ferreira in memory of her father Elmer G. Harlow, Stephen and Joann Freitas, Rose Friedeborn, Ramona Gallagher in memory of her husband Robert Gallagher, Jr., Robert and Lucy Gallagher, Stephen and Nancy Gay, Terry Getchell, Ruth Goold, Richard Grant, Eleanor Grant, Leslie Gray, Albert Greene, Bob and Nancy Hall (2), Leslie and Marcia Hirsch, Mark Ingalls and Sheri Anderson, Stanley Kavka, John Kenyon, Barry Knowlton, R. Wayne Legge, Val LeSieur, Janet Linehan, Leon and Sara Lombardi, Leo and Janice McEvoy, Russ Meninno, Carol Misiewicz, William and Louise Morse, Jack and Beth Mowatt (2)-one in memory of Ken Martin, Bill and Leslie Mullen, Donna Silva Norris, Ken and Gloria Nykiel, Duncan and Carol Oliver, Patricia Maguire Parrie, Maureen Raymo, Elaine Reasoner, Thomas and Judith Sabin (2)-one in memory of Ken Martin, Debra Salisbury, John and Lyn Schuller, Louis and Jeanne Silva, Robert Silva, Dr. and Mrs. Joel Solomon, Ronald Somerville, Gail Starkey, Gloria Steindinger, Jack and Carol Strom, Gary and Luanna Sullivan, Alan Swanson, George and Maura Tyrrell, John and Amanda Varella, Robert and Barbara Vogel, Edward Watson, Ed Weiner, Edward P. White, Phyllis Whitty, Avery Williams, Richard Williams, Maureen Yachimski.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum!

In Memorium

Jean M. (Oberlander) Kent a resident of Easton for over 60 years, passed away peacefully on Wednesday February 20, 2019 at Wingate of Norton with her family by her side. She was the wife of the late John Joseph Kent. Jean is survived by her son John (Jack) J. Kent, Jr. of Easton and his wife Karen, daughter Jeanmarie (Kent) Joyce of Easton, son Jim Kent and his wife Julie of Lincoln, six grandchildren: Matthew Kent and his wife Katie of Easton, Daniel Kent and his wife Rowela of Mashpee, Julie Smith and her husband Tyler of Denver, CO, Sonja Catano and her husband Nick of Framingham, Christian Kent of Beaufort, SC and Caitlyn Joyce of Easton and two great grandchildren Isabella and Olivia Kent of Easton. Jean was the sister of Joyce Oberlander of Dedham. Jean was predeceased by her sisters Helen V. Skarinka of Westwood and Barbara Winbourne of Dedham. Jean was a frequent visitor to the Museum and very interested in Easton history. She was a longtime teacher in Easton, teaching at Parkview School and North Easton Grammar School. Jean was active in many Easton organizations including the Friends of Borderland, Garden Club, Historical Society, Girl Scouts, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Daughters of Isabella. Her obituary can be found here: <http://hosting-6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Jean-Marie-Kent-106865697> .

James D. "Doug" Mullen, 90, of North Easton passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at home following a long battle with cancer. Husband of the late Thelma (McLeod) Mullen, he is survived by his six children; Paul of Lincoln NH, Kevin of Chicago IL, Catherine (Katie) Goslee of Alpharetta GA, Marybeth Barner of Ottertail MN, Brian and his wife Peggy of Alton NH and Daniel and his wife Anne of Amherst NH, his brother Peter of Newport RI as well as seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was a lifelong communicant of Immaculate Conception Church. Doug was a frequent visitor at the Museum and always had an appreciation for Easton. He served for many years as a Selectman, a Finance Committee member, and other Town boards. He was a U. S. Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict and was active in both the American Legion and V.F.W. and played a leading role in the creation of the Veteran's Memorial Park. His full obituary can be found here: <http://hosting-6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/James-D.-Mullen-106971195> .

Our sympathy to Linda Manning Williams on the loss of her daughter Kathleen Hanson, who passed away on February 20. Kathy leaves her children Nicole Hanson of Taunton, Matthew Hanson of Middleboro, and Sean Hanson and his wife Stephany of Kansas City, KS; her grandchildren Madison of FL and Benjamin and Mia Hanson of KS. Siblings include Kellie Wilder of Taunton, John Crowley of Brockton, and Jeff Williams of Carver and nieces Victoria and Molly and nephew Drew. She was very interested in her family's Irish history. Read the obituary here: <https://www.conleyfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.html> .

Our sympathy is also expressed to Miriam "Mim" Jackson on the sudden passing of her daughter Martha Jackson on May 15, 2019. She leaves her beloved husband, Earl Hupper; and her cherished son, Jackson G. Hupper, both of Chelmsford. She was born in Brockton, May 18, 1960, and was a daughter of Miriam E. (Whitney) Jackson of North Easton and the late Kenneth R. Jackson. Martha is survived by her siblings, Sarah Keough and husband Mark of North Easton, Rachel Jackson of Wilton, Maine, and Rick Jackson of North Easton. She leaves her stepchildren, Gwen Lawson and husband Bill of Wilmington, Clifford Hupper and wife Allison of Pelham, N.H., and Richard and Robert Hupper of Wilmington. She also leaves her nephews and step-grandchildren and dog, Jellybean. Martha had a long career as a scientist, working to improve the health of others with her research. Her obituary can be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-enterprise/obituary.aspx?n=martha-l-jackson&pid=192946767> .

Coming To You This Summer

- ◆ Passport to History—We are pleased to participate in this summer’s “Passport to History” program from the Old Colony History Museum in Taunton, MA. Participants can stop by any participating historical museum and pick up a passport, which will allow them one free admission to any of the museums listed. We heard good things about this program last year and encourage you to get out this summer and discover our region’s history. A limited number of passports will be available at our Museum beginning in June.
- ◆ We are preparing to hold another series of Tuesday Tours this summer. Please note we will be starting at 9:30 a.m. to beat the heat. This year we are going to tour other parts of Easton, and hope to include Wheaton Farm, Easton Center, Highland / South Street, Hayward-Poole neighborhood, Swedeville, and other areas. We will meet at the Society around 9 a.m. and drive to the tour location, or you may meet us on site at 9:30 a.m. Each week’s tour will be published via email and Facebook, or you can call or email the Museum for more information.
- ◆ Our June Open House will feature a collection of Civil War items, including some new ones recently added to our collections. The Museum will host the annual meeting of the Civil War Roundtable on the Saturday prior so this leads itself to a two-day exhibit for our Civil War veterans.
- ◆ The annual Legacy Festival will be held on June 23rd from noon-5 p.m. at the Governor Ames Estate, 35 Oliver Street, North Easton. Enjoy art, music, food, and fun for all in a beautiful setting. Once again, the Museum will host the Junior Juried Art Show. Watch for more details about this event from the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District.
- ◆ The Easton American Legion Post 7 is celebrating its 100th anniversary with an open house on June 15th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their headquarters, the VFW Hall at the intersection of Rockland Street and Allen Road. They will have information and resources available for all branches of the service for anyone who has served in any war, conflict or era. An historical display will feature World War I items. For more information, call Theresa Podeiko-Poole at 508-297-2014 or Stanley Borgeson at 508-230-7390.
- ◆ Our friends at the Raynham Historical Society are putting together a summer long exhibit called “The Way We Were: Antique and Vintage Clothing and Accessories” at the Hannant House, 6 Pleasant Street, Raynham. The house is diagonally across from the Stone Church in Raynham Center. The Society will sponsor a talk at 2 p.m. on June 23rd at the Stone Church. Tickets are \$10. The speaker will be Dr. Laura Johnson, Ph. D. from Historic New England, and her talk is titled “Mottos, Messages, and Gem Lore in Victorian Society. The clothing exhibit will be open from 2-4 p.m. on the following Saturdays: June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24, and the following Sundays: July 7, July 21, August 4, and August 18. Admission to the Hannant House is \$5.00. You can email them at raynhamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for further information.
- ◆ Our July Open House will feature a look at some of the gardens at the various Ames Estates and should add a little color to your summer. View photos of the famous Rose Garden of Mrs. Mary Frothingham. Learn a little about “Victory Gardens” in Easton too!
- ◆ The August Open House will be left to our Curator’s imagination. Hmmm....

A Note of Thanks to...

Thanks are expressed to Avery and Kevin Williams for sponsoring another wonderfully delicious evening of “Chowder and Chatter.” Thank you to Chef Kfoury and the student staff in the Southeastern Regional High School Culinary Program for preparing, serving, and cleaning up following a tasty meal!

Thanks to our great panelists at “Chowder and Chatter!” David Ames, Jr., Heidi Ames, and Minnie Ames for being on the panel and sharing the importance to their late fathers of purchasing the former Old Colony Railroad Station. David spoke on his father David Ames, Sr., Heidi spoke of her father John S. Ames, II., and Minnie spoke of her father former Senator Oliver F. Ames. All shared stories of their father’s love of Easton and their work in preserving the things they felt most important. Hazel Varella told the story of receiving the keys to the Station from Attorney Abraham Brooks on behalf of the Ames and Parker families, venturing forth into a long boarded up building with seven people and three flashlights. The rest, as they say, is history! Many thanks to expert moderator Ed Hands for guiding the conversation along and keeping things interesting!

Thanks are also expressed to Dr. Uma Hiremath, Executive Director of the Ames Free Library for her extremely informative presentation at our Annual Meeting. Her expert presentation and talk about the variety and quality of programming offered by the Library and staff at both the Library and Queset raised awareness about the importance of supporting a quality library. We are fortunate to have one of the best small libraries in America!

Summer Gardens

Here is a preview of the July Open House! At left, Pan is reflected in the still waters of a reflecting pool in the Rose Garden of Mrs. Mary Frothingham. This famous garden featured a variety of bush and tree roses and architectural features. On the right is a half-acre vegetable garden grown by Webster Belcher in 1913. These gardens were part of the school curriculum in the days prior to World War I, leading the way to the well-known “Victory Gardens.”





A Beautiful Image of Historic Easton

by
*Robert J. Wooster
 and Jonathan Jackson Coe*

Photography by
Jonathan Jackson Coe

The title says it all— Easton is one very beautiful and photogenic place! It is no wonder that a long list of people have chosen Easton for wedding photos, prom photos, yearbook photos, modeling and portfolio shoots, and holiday cards!

The best of Easton is captured by photographer Jonathan Jackson Coe in this new book, with remarks by “Buddy” Wooster and Jon. You can find out more on the front page of this newsletter!

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 Post Office Box 3
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 508-238-7774
www.eastonhistoricalsociety.com