



EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Summer 2020

Volume 20, Issue 4

A Different Summer For All

We do not need to tell you how different 2020 has been for everyone. The year began on a very promising note. We expected several tours to come through between spring and summer; we looked forward to seeing second graders from Parkview School; our most recent event in early March was a well attended showing of the documentary on Blanche Ames. How quickly things began to change! Easton has over 200 cases of the coronavirus as of this writing, and most of the things we are familiar with are either closed, or operating very differently.

We are patiently awaiting guidance from health and government officials in regards to when we might be able to re-open the Museum. As part of the Massachusetts Phase Three reopening plan, we may be able to open on a limited basis in July with restrictions in place that are yet to be determined. Some events, like the popular "Chowder and Chatter" evening and the spring bottle and can drive, as well as our Annual Meeting, have been postponed and will hopefully be held in the fall.

In the meantime, we continue our work. Several college and high school students have reached out to us for assistance in researching papers. People researching their family history have been requesting help. If you receive our emails, you know that we have been looking at historical sights around town. Easton Community Access Television has showings of tours and programs that they have taped for us.

Watch our website and Facebook page for updates. Call the Museum for phone message updates. Sign up for our email updates. And most of all, stay well.

CALENDAR

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

All events for June are unfortunately cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. For updates on our other programs, please call or email the Museum or check our website and Facebook page.

Our Summer Open Houses are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 12th and Sunday, August 9th, from 1-5 p.m. Details to be announced.

Sunday, June 14th, Flag Day!

Saturday, June 20th, First Day of Summer arrives.

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

Saturday, July 4th, celebrate Independence Day. Happy 244th Birthday, America!

Looking ahead...

Monday, September 7th, Labor Day celebrated.

Friday, September 11th, National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Sunday, September 13th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Details to be announced.

We hope to hold our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening sometime in the fall. Featured will be four ladies who are accomplishing some amazing things right here in Massachusetts.

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 Few Observations on Obituaries

I must admit that one of the first things I do each day is check the obituaries. It is a habit I formed during my childhood, when my parents and grandparents would check the daily paper for them as well. The newspapers in those days published all kinds of announcements: birth announcements, engagement announcements, and wedding announcements. A lot of column inches were used to celebrate life events, both happy and sad. As a side note, the (Brockton, Ma.) Enterprise usually publishes 3 or 4 obituaries each day. During this pandemic, they are publishing 3 or 4 *pages* of obituaries daily. The stark reality of this virus really hits home when you consider that one fact.

I have written a few obituaries too. It is both a great honor to be asked to write one for someone, but it is a tremendous responsibility as well. What does one write about someone that condenses a lifetime into a short article? What do you include, and what needs to be left out? What purpose will the obituary serve? What will the surviving family and friends think when they read it?

One of the challenges of writing this newsletter is deciding how to best communicate news to our members, and that sadly includes the announcement of a member's passing. I feel this is an important resource for our members, many who do not live in the area, and who may not hear otherwise about the passing of a friend or classmate. However, published obituaries are also copyrighted material. Simply copying these into our newsletter cannot be done, even if space permitted it, and the task of re-writing is not easy. We want to be respectful to both the families of the deceased and the source of the information.

The number of people who have left us recently due to the pandemic or other causes has forced the issue of how to handle these notices going forward. Many organizations simply list the names of deceased members. I think that we should do just a little more. Beginning with this issue, the "In Memoriam" section will continue to bring you information on members who have passed. Their contributions to the Society will be noted, and the surviving family will be recognized. I will also include a link, when possible, so you can read the entire obituary for yourselves and leave any message on the appropriate site. I hope this will meet the needs of our members, honor the sensitivity of the families, and respect the writers and copyright owners who published the original obituary.

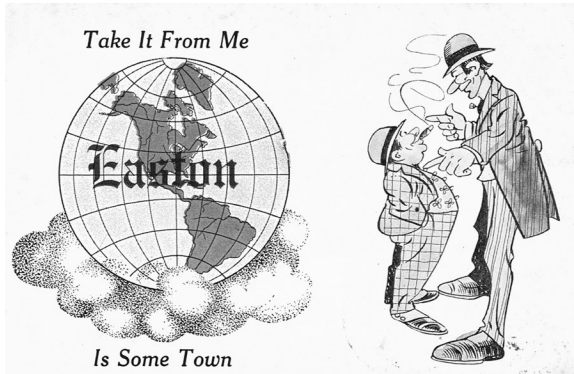
The Easton Historical Society Newsletter
is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

Officers for 2019-2020
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

Directors
Patricia Baker
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

A Postcard Tour of Easton, Part 1

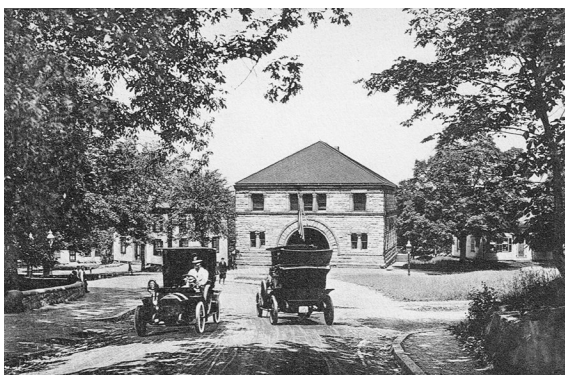
One of our projects during this pandemic has been to scan images of Easton postcards for future projects. Below are a few examples for you to look at. We hope you will enjoy this postcard tour around town. The next newsletter will feature postcards from other parts of Easton.



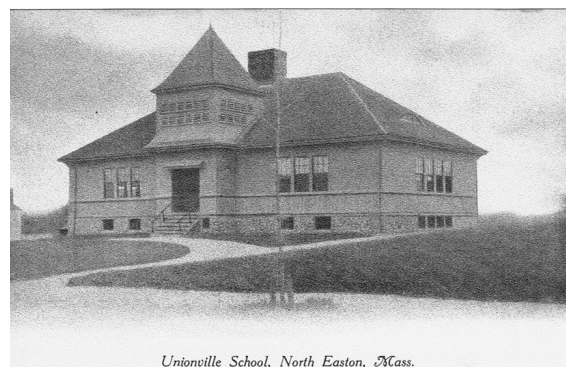
A little humor goes a long way in this card from the 1920's.



A real photo postcard of the Catholic Chapel on the shore of Shovel Shop Pond. The photo is attributed to the artist George Craig.

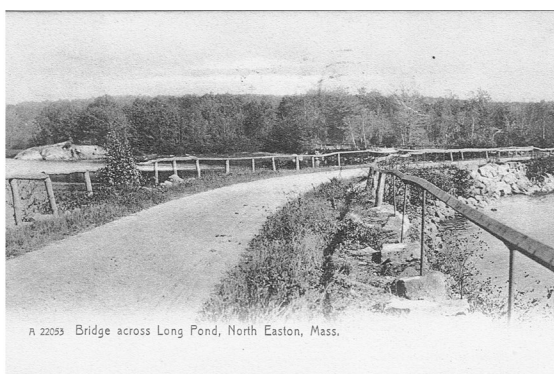


Barrows Street and the Bank—Post Office building, about 1910. A good example of a street view that includes a landmark building.



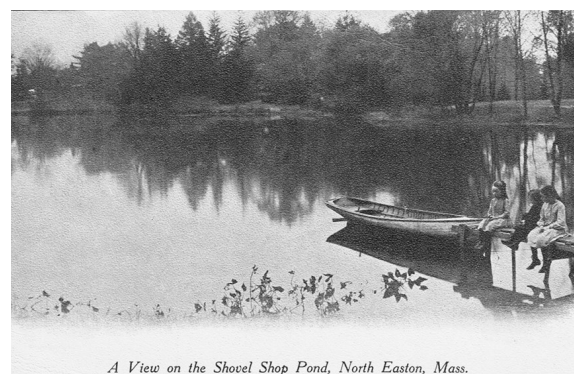
Unionville School, North Easton, Mass.

A pre-1907 postcard of the Unionville School, one of the landmark buildings along the State Highway, Route 138.



n 22053 Bridge across Long Pond, North Easton, Mass.

The causeway across Long Pond on the Easton / Stoughton line. One of the earliest postcards of Easton, it dates to before 1907.



A View on the Shovel Shop Pond, North Easton, Mass.

Another pre-1907 view of three children and a boat on a dock on Shovel Shop Pond. Local children were often used by photographers.

Our Great Toilet Paper Shortage

By Duncan Oliver

The history of cleaning up is indeed one strange tale. The Chinese are credited with inventing paper and first using it as toilet paper in the 6th century. However, it didn't become popular for many centuries. So what was used before it became popular?

For many years, people in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent have used water and washing with the left hand. This is why offering a left hand as a handshake is considered an insult. Have you ever heard of a left-handed compliment? Now you know.

In ancient Greece, along with water, pottery shards were used as scrapers. Sometimes these pottery fragments were inscribed with the name of an enemy before being used.

In Rome, people cleaned themselves after using a public toilet with a sponge tied to a stick. These were kept in a bucket of salt water. After use, it was rinsed and wrung out before putting it back so it was available for the next person.

Others have used leaves, moss, sticks, shells, sand, smooth stones, and reusable rags, often along with water.

What about those Pilgrims coming across the Atlantic on the Mayflower? No one on board wrote how they handled this regular function, but sailors in the 16th and 17th century often trailed a rope in the water and this was used to wipe. Tossed back in the water, it cleaned itself. (No, this wasn't the rope John Howland grabbed to save himself when washed overboard in a storm. He grabbed a loose halyard from a sail.) Salt water was also used to wash. For those using chamber pots, water was probably the preferred method. Many of the people on the Mayflower had started from Leiden in the Netherlands in June of 1620 and actually stayed on board through the winter into 1621. Changing clothes and washing wasn't a common occurrence and hygiene was an issue, even if they weren't always aware of it.

The invention of indoor plumbing and a flushing toilet changed routines even more. The flushing toilet was invented by Sir John Harrington in 1596. Water was released by a valve and he suggested flushing at least twice a day. Some give credence that the name "John" being given to toilets relates back to Sir John.

In rural areas, handfuls of straw were frequently used, and one of the more popular items to use for clean-up was dried corncobs. Even after toilet paper became available, some people still preferred corncobs when using the outhouse.

Before toilet paper, outhouses had paper from catalogs (The Farmers Almanac has been in publication since 1818) and later the Sears, Roebuck catalogs. Lime was dumped into the pit to help speed the decay.

In the U.S. in 1857, Joseph Gayetty made his "medicated paper" from hemp, along with aloe. Scott paper started in 1879, and in 1890, toilet paper was sold on a roll. But it wasn't until the 1920s that names were printed identifying the manufacturer. Charmin was one of the earlier. And, since that time people have purchased and used toilet paper.

As you probably remember, this is NOT the first toilet paper shortage in the US. In 1973, with gas prices spiking due to shortages, rumors started that there were toilet paper shortages in Japan.

A congressman from Wisconsin, Harold Froelich, was dismayed that less pulp was being cut in his heavily wooded district. He released a press statement "*The Government Printing Office is facing a serious shortage of paper*" but it received little attention. Some weeks later he found a document that mentioned that the government's National Buying Center hadn't secured enough bids to provide toilet paper for its troops and bureaucrats. On December 11, another press release was sent from his office: "*The U.S. may face a serious shortage of toilet paper within a few months...we hope we don't have to ration toilet tissue...a toilet paper shortage is no laughing matter. It is a problem that will potentially touch every American.*"

This claim spread throughout the public by the media. At this point, comedian Johnny Carson joked about it on his late-night TV show. To his 20 million viewers he noted, "You know, we've got all sorts of shortages these days, but have you heard the latest? I'm not kidding. I saw it in the papers. There's a shortage of toilet paper!"

The result was a run on all stores carrying toilet paper. For four months, toilet paper was a rare item until the panic subsided in February of 1974. Slowly the public realized that there really wasn't any shortage. Johnny Carson issued an apology; "I don't want to be remembered as the man who created a false toilet paper scare. I just picked up the item from the paper and enlarged it somewhat...there is no shortage."

Johnny didn't stay out of the spotlight too long. In 1976 it was reported that he was involved in a lawsuit with a porta-potty company named "Here's Johnny."

So, what is happening today?

Some four billion people worldwide don't use toilet paper. While some can't afford it and others don't want to spend the money, water is much more commonly used than paper.

Parts of Europe use aimed jets of water, or separate toilet fixtures known as *bidets*. Toilet paper is simply used to dry off. In the Far East, some use scrapers too. In parts of South America, toilet paper isn't flushed – it's thrown out with the trash. Just another hazard for dump pickers!

A little research on this topic shows interesting facts like: The average American uses over 100 single rolls each year (over 25,000 sheets a year), or 69 sheets of toilet paper a day. An average single roll lasts five days.

Americans bought over seven billion rolls of toilet paper this past year, compatible to our sewer and septic systems. Understand that toilet paper and facial tissues aren't the same, although they feel similar. Toilet paper is made to decompose within seconds of getting wet, allowing it to easily dissolve in septic systems.

And now you know the history up to our current shortage. We haven't answered the question, should the roll be installed with the paper being unrolled over the top or underneath?

And if you don't have any and are sheltering in place, there's a website that tells you how to recycle newspaper into TP. It's ehow.com and I'll bet some of you check. Good luck!

Duncan Oliver came to OA as a history teacher in 1965 after getting out of the Army; he became principal in 1978 and retired in 1999. A Past-President of the Easton Historical Society, he has also been president of the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth and is still on the board. A prolific writer, he is most proud of a book on Shore Whaling on Cape Cod, the only book ever written on that topic. Duncan was the keynote speaker at our recent event honoring the gift of the Old Colony Railroad Station to the Easton Historical Society and Museum last fall.

Donations

Steven Finer of Steve Finer Rare Books donated printer's samples from the Bristol Printing Company, North Easton, 1880's including billheads and receipts, and a price list for printing, and two copies of Governor Ames' addresses to the state for 1888 and 1889; **Glenn Chandler** donated a quilt with names on each square that belonged to Howard Chandler who raised his family in Easton; **Walter Baird** donated items from his mother's OAHS Class of 1937. Her name was **Beatrice Evelyn (Holmes) Baird**: Palmer Method Certificate, Class Photo, autograph booklet, OAHS diploma, Graduation Exercise Program, Commencement Memories booklet, 50th Reunion booklet with class photo and Brockton Enterprise article, 18 individual photos of the O.A. Class of 1937, three O.A. Girl's Field Hockey photos from 1935; **Alice McCarthy** donated **Charles McCarthy's** 1948 Eastoner Graduation Issue; **John Visnauskis** donated issues of the Eastoner from the 1970's-1990's.

Financial contributions have been received from **Richard and Linda Beal**, **Robert and Nancy Hall**, **Stanley Kavka**, **John Kenyon**, **Avery Lee Williams**, **David and Hazel Varella** in memory of **Ernie W. F. Carlino**.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum during these extraordinary times!

Thank you!

A big thank you to Kevin Friend for his excellent presentation of the documentary Borderland: The Life and Times of Blanche Ames Ames on March 8 at Quset. The event was well attended, and the film is extraordinary. Thank you, Kevin, for spending the afternoon with us, and thanks also to Uma Hiremath and the staff at the Ames Free Library for providing the use of Quset for this special occasion. Thanks also to Ed Hands for his always delicious and much appreciated refreshments.

OAHS Students Honored with Scholarships

Brianna Chevalier plans on attending UMass Amherst to study Communication Disorders. She is an active member of the National Honor Society. Brianna is involved in the OA Music program, Spring Track, and is part of the new NASA HUNCH class. The NASA HUNCH class sews soft goods for astronauts! Brianna has volunteered at the Easton Baptist Church and Easton Historical Society and Museum and has worked at the Children's Museum of Easton. She loves the rich history and the beauty of Easton.

Nicholas Williams plans on majoring in Political Science and International Affairs. Nick has a passion for history, and it began when he visited the Society in the second grade. At OA, Nicholas is part of the Mock Trial Team, the Science Olympiad Team, the Hockomock Model Senate, and DECA. He is also part of the OA Track and Field Teams – both winter and spring. Nick has volunteered at Holy Cross Church and My Brothers' Keeper.

Olivia Pierce plans on attending the University of Texas in Austin to study Mechanical Engineering. At OA, she was involved in the music program, the Mock Trial Team, the OA Society of Women Engineers Chapter of which she is founder and president, and DECA. Olivia participated on the Winter and Spring Track Teams. She has volunteered at the Ames Free Library for four years. Olivia is writing and directing an historical reenactment about Blanche A. Ames which will be presented this summer at Borderland. Academically, Olivia has been recognized as a National Merit Scholar, and currently ranks third in her class at OA.

Congratulations and best wishes for future success to our scholarship recipients!

In Memoriam

Jacqueline Alice (Wray) Buck passed away peacefully on March 19, 2020. She was a graduate of Oliver Ames High and went on to complete her studies at Simmons College & Simmons School of Social Work in Boston, MA, where she earned a Master's degree in Social Work. She was a member of the MIT community for many years, serving as the Chief Psychiatric Social Worker in MIT's Medical Department. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Dr. Dudley Allen Buck and her son, David Allen Buck. She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Buck Harrison (Stephen) and her son, Douglas John Buck (Bobbie Lindsay), her sister Gwendolyn Wray Ferrini, granddaughter Sarah Pennington Hearn and her grandsons, Maxwell Buck Harrison and John Lindsay Buck. You can read her obituary here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?pid=195776080>.

George Howard Morse Jr., 92, peacefully passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at his home in North Easton, MA, with his family at his side. Born on September 13, 1927 in North Attleboro, MA., he was the son of the late George Howard Morse and the late Frances (Rioux) Morse. Mr. Morse was a long time member and supporter of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. He moved to North Easton 22 years ago. "Howard", as he was known by most, was a graduate of Tabor Academy, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Babson College. After graduation, he was commissioned an Ensign and reached the rank of Lieutenant during a tour of duty with the United States Naval Reserve in which he proudly and honorably served our country during the 1940's. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing.

He was one of the owners of Morse Brother's, Inc., that grew cranberries for the Ocean Spray Cranberry Cooperative. The company had bogs in Easton as well as surrounding towns. Mr. Morse served as a Director, and later as Chairman, of Ocean Spray. He also was the past owner of the Holman Insurance Company. He generosity was well known, and he was involved in many charitable organizations including the Hockomock YMCA. Survivors include his wife Audrey S. Morse, and his children: George H. "Chip" Morse III of North Easton, MA; and Pamela Smith of North Attleboro, MA. He was the proud grandfather of Mark Smith, Emily Smith, Patrick Morse, Kyle Morse, and Samuel Morse, and the great-grandfather of Brayden Morse, Landon Morse, Logan Morse, Maeve Morse, and Lily Tracy. His full obituary may be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thesunchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=george-morse&pid=195995068&fhid=4140>.

David C. Kaufman of Easton passed away on April 17th, 2020 at the Serenity Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Wrentham. He was born to Leonard and Bessie (Bass) Kaufman in New York City on May 11, 1943. David was a frequent attendee of Historical Society events and always contributed to our bottle drives. He leaves behind his beloved wife Deborah (Hurwitz) Kaufman of Easton. His obituary can be found at <https://www.southeastfuneralhome.com/obituary/David-Kaufman>.

Louise M. (Fogarty) Kenneally, age 88, of Brockton, died peacefully April 21, 2020. Louise was the loving wife for 65 years of James Kenneally, and daughter of the late Herbert and Elizabeth (O'Connor) Fogarty. Louise was a life member of the Historical Society and enjoyed a forty year career at Stonehill College. She began her career at Stonehill as a part-time reference librarian in 1961. In 1978 she was chosen to be the first full-time archivist at Stonehill, collecting years of college history. She became the curator of the Arnold B. Tofias Industrial Archives, popularly known as the Ames Shovel collection, which formed the basis of Stonehill's Industrial History Center. During her time at Stonehill, she was very involved with the transition to electronic archiving as new technologies became available. Both she and her husband, Stonehill College Professor Emeritus of History James Kenneally, were honored by the Town of Easton's Historical Commission in 2009 with its W.L. Chaffin Award for their contributions to the preservation of the Town's history. The couple were also honored by Stonehill College at its 50th Anniversary celebration.

In addition to her husband, Louise is also survived by her devoted children, Stephen and his wife Judith, Ann and her husband Mark, David and his wife Cheryl; her eight grandchildren, Stephanie, Matthew, Gregory, Eve, Nicole, James, Joanna, and Maureen, and one great grandchild, Liam. She was the sister of the late Paul Fogarty, and best friend of the late Barbara Tremble Maroney. You can read more about her work at Stonehill here: <https://www.stonehill.edu/news/details/remembering-louise-kenneally/> and her obituary may be found here: <https://www.conleyfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.html>.

In this time of losses, we also note the loss of people in the following member's families: Mary Anne (Wood) Schofield Murray, sister of members Lawrence Wood and Francis "Butch" Wood (obituary at <https://www.southeastfuneralhome.com/obituary/MaryAnne-SchofieldMurray>), Scott Lewis, son of members Burt and Doris Lewis (obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?pid=196087320>), Ermie W. F. Carlino, father of member James Carlino (obituary at <http://farleyfh.tributes.com/obituary/read/Ermie-W.F.-Carlino-108463905>).



A heron patiently awaits an opportunity for a meal along the shore of Ames Long Pond on the Easton / Stoughton line. It is seemingly unaware of the photographer's approach. Just seconds after this photo was taken, the heron was airborne, flying low across the causeway between the upper and lower ponds.

The current pandemic has given many of us the time to walk and explore our neighborhoods and our backyards. Easton abounds in natural history. Look around your area for wildlife, brooks and springs, evidence of glaciers, and even the remains of an extinct volcano. And remember to take your camera along too. The next great photo could be yours for the taking!

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
NO. EASTON, MA
02356
PERMIT NO. 25

Easton Historical Society & Museum
Post Office Box 3
80 Mechanic Street
North Easton, MA 02356
www.eastonmahistoricalociety.com
508-238-7774

