

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# TRAIN TRACKS



## CALENDAR

*Sunday, September 8th,  
Open House at the Station,  
1-5 P.M. Dedication of  
Benches.*

*Sunday, September 29th,  
Queset House Tour, 1-4 P.M.*

*Saturday, October 5th, Bot-  
tle Drive at the Station, 9  
A.M. to 1 P.M.*

*Sunday, October 13th, Open  
House at the Station, 1-5  
P.M. Focus on Howard /  
Hayward Neighborhoods.*

*Wednesday, October 23rd,  
7:30 P.M. Panel Discus-  
sion—Working in Easton in  
the 1950's, Olmsted School.*

*Sunday, November 10th,  
Open House at the Station,  
1-5 P.M. Focus on Veterans.*

*Monday, November 11th,  
Veteran's Day. Salute a  
Veteran!*

*Thursday, November 28th,  
Thanksgiving Day.*

*Easton Historical Society News-  
letter is published quarterly by  
the Easton Historical Society.*

*Officers:*

*President—Dot Berry*

*1st Vice President—Ken Michel*

*2nd Vice President, Curator—Paul  
Berry*

*Treasurer—Patricia Baker*

*Recording Secretary—Hazel Varella*

*Corresponding Secretary—Curtis  
Chase*

*Director—Ed Hands*

*Director—Gary Uzdevinis*

*Director, Editor—Frank T. Meninno*

## Queset Open House !

Here is an opportunity you don't want to pass up. Queset, an historical Ames home situated behind the Ames Free Library on Main Street, will be open to the public on Sunday, September 29th, from 1-4 P.M. Light refreshments will be served.

Designed in the style of Andrew Jackson Downing and built in 1854, the house was home to the family of Oakes Angier Ames. It was enlarged in the 1870's by architect and Life magazine founder John Ames Mitchell. Theatrical producer Winthrop Ames lived in the house from the early 1900's into the 1930's. Recently the house has come under the ownership of Forest Systems Inc., who have been busy restoring the exterior of the home. This important fundraiser offers the rare chance to see one of Easton's great architectural treasures up close and personal.

Parking is available around the Rockery, Main Street and at the shovel complex across from Queset house.

If you plan on attending, please use the form inside to reserve your tickets. Admission for this event is \$9.00 in advance, \$10.00 the day of the tour. Please take advantage of this great opportunity!

## A Very Special Dedication

The September 8th open house at the Station will feature a very special ceremony. At 2:00 P.M., we will be dedicating two benches in the side yard of the Station in what is becoming a memorial garden. The benches are in memory of Ken Jackson and in honor of (the late) Robert and Sally King.

Anyone who knew Ken Jackson was blessed with knowing a warm, funny, caring and talented individual. He was an integral part of the Society for a number of years, serving in many positions, participating in tours and writing the society newsletter using his unique flair for words. A dedicated family man and historian, Ken had a style all his own, and it was wonderful!

Robert King left his mark on Easton in numerous ways. A devoted family man, Robert kept the family tradition in music alive in Easton as the owner of a sheet music publishing company. He was also an active historian, sharing a wealth of family knowledge that goes back to the Drake family of early Easton settlers. He, along with his wife Sally, have been generous to the Society in terms of early documents, gifts to the Society library and their enthusiasm to learn and share discoveries in Easton's history.

Please be sure to join us along with the families of these fine people as we dedicate benches in their honor.

# The Station Master

President Dot Berry

Greetings from beautiful Easton! It has been a long, very hot summer, and I hope you have all managed to come through it in good health.

We have planned some interesting events for the coming 2002-2003 year. You'll find announcements throughout the newsletter, so please be sure to make a note of them.

If you haven't been to the Station recently, please plan to drop by when you are in Easton. Cura-

tor Paul Berry is putting together some special open houses based on Easton's neighborhoods. In addition, the Honorable Leon Lombardi will take time from his busy schedule to visit with us in April. We appreciate his taking time to be with us.

Look for a holiday open house in December as we take part in the annual Holiday Festival. Details will be in the next newsletter. We hope to see you soon!

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Historical Society members and  
guests enjoyed the May presen-  
tation by Dr. Gregory Galer at  
the Stonehill Industrial History  
Center which includes the Ar-  
nold B. Tofias Archives and the  
Ames Family Collection. After a  
fascinating discussion by Greg  
of current materials being ana-  
lyzed, he provided an extremely  
fascinating tour of the new facil-  
ities. We are deeply appreciative  
to Greg for a very informative  
evening, and for a copy of his  
doctoral dissertation "Forging  
Ahead", a 350 page plus docu-  
mentation of the Ames Family  
of Easton, Massachusetts, and  
Two Centuries of Industrial En-  
terprise (1635-1861).  
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# Working in Easton

Plan on getting together with us on October 23rd for a panel discussion, "Working In Easton". The panelists, who will have a discussion on working during the 1950's—1960's are: Dorothy Berry, who worked at O'Connors News Store and the Easton Cooperative Bank; Elmer Harlow, who worked for many years at the Belcher Malleable Iron Foundry;

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**Working in Easton**  
**October 23rd, 7:30 P.M.**  
**F.L. Olmsted School**  
**Teachers Room**

Mary LeRoy has worked at the Ames Shovel Company and the

North Easton Savings Bank, and Edwin White spent many years perfecting the delicious products of the Simpson Spring Company. All of these are long time Easton institutions, and each of the panelists are sure to have many entertaining stories they will share. Please join us at 7:30 P.M. in the teachers room at the F.L. Olmsted School. It should be a great time!

# Bottle Drive / Coming Attractions

On Saturday, October 5th, the Society will hold a bottle and can drive from 9 A. M. to 1 P. M. at the Station. Once again, our friend Ken Martin, along with the help of Ed Hands, is running this fundraiser, which helps in paying the heating bills at the Station. If you have a donation but are unable to drop it off at that time, please call Ken at 508-238-2185 to arrange a pickup. We appreciate your support in the past.

Coming events to plan for: On April 3rd, the Society / Advest will hold it's annual "Chowder and Chatter" night at Southeastern Regional High School. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

The April 13th open house will feature "Meet the Judge" with the Honorable Leon Lombardi. He will greet us and comment on growing up in Easton, along with remarks on his career.

May 3rd is the date of the next semi-annual bottle drive. May 10th brings a 1:00 P.M. walking tour of Historic North Easton.

Be sure to make a note that June 4th is the date of the Society's annual meeting. Plans are being made for Ken Gloss to discuss the values of old books. There is a possibility that he will appraise one book for each attendee.

# Queset Tour Pre-Registration Form

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• Use this form to reserve a spot for the Queset House tour. Tickets are \$9.00 each in advance, \$10.00 each at the door. Mail this form, along with your check, to: **Easton Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356**. You will not be mailed a ticket. We will check you off at the door as being pre-registered. Thank you!

• Name \_\_\_\_\_

• Address \_\_\_\_\_

• City / Town \_\_\_\_\_

• Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

• Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

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## Boston Post Cane In Easton Again!

Many years ago, in 1904, the old Boston Post newspaper gave a commemorative cane to many of the cities and towns in Massachusetts. The cane became an icon and was to be awarded to the oldest male citizen of each of the respective communities.

Easton received one of these canes. One of the earliest Eastoners to have the cane was the great grandfather of Edwin C. White.

Unfortunately, many of the canes, including Easton's, have been lost or destroyed. It was last seen some fifty years ago. Record keeping was poor and as a result many of the recipients are unknown.

All is not lost, however. Through the remarkable generosity of the North Easton Savings Bank, a long time community supporter

and friend of the Society, a reproduction of the cane is once again in Easton. In fact, there are two of them! Bank President Thomas A. Deubler presented one of the canes to the Easton Board of Selectmen on August 19th, 2002. The other cane will be on permanent loan to the Easton Historical Society. It will be used for special bank and historical events. Many thanks to the North Easton Savings Bank for making this possible. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters.

Do you have any Boston Post cane memories? Do you remember any of the recipients? We would love to set the record straight! If you have any information on Easton's old Boston Post cane, please drop us a note. It sure would be nice to recover some of this lost history.

Easton was once a cow town! The Ames family developed the Langwater Guernsey in the early 1900's. Thirty years earlier, the Ames family bred Ayrshires. A letter from Fred L. Ames, dated June 29, 1870, attests to the pedigree of a bull calf. It reads:  
 Pedigree of Ayrshire bull calf sent by me to L. L. Berry at Greene Me in April 1869.  
 Color Red White  
 Calved April 8, 1869  
 Bred by Fred L. Ames, No. Easton, Mass  
 Sire—Bristol No 104 Ayrshire Herd Book  
 Dame—Nancy No 652 Ayrshire Herd Book  
 The parents of the calf were thoroughbred Ayrshires and I believe above pedigree to be true and correct in every particular.  
 (signed) Fred L. Ames

The Easton Historical Society invites you to become a member of our organization. Please use this form for a new membership. Include your check or money order payable to the **Easton Historical Society** and send it along to : Easton Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356.

New Member(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a gift, please include your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

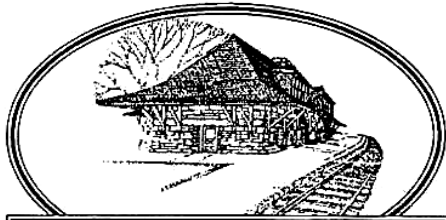
Corporate \$100

Senior (65 and up) \$7.00

Other Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**Old Colony Railroad Station**

**P.O. Box 3, 80 Mechanic Street  
North Easton MA 02356**

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