

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TRAIN TRACKS



CALENDAR

*Sunday, September 7th,
Grandparents Day*

*Sunday, September 14th,
Station Open, 1-5 P.M.*

*Sunday, October 5th,
NRT Fair, Sheep Pasture*

*Sunday, October 12th,
Station Open, 1-5 P.M.*

*Wednesday, October 22,
Panel Discussion*

*Sunday, October 26th,
Daylight Savings Ends*

*Tuesday, November 4th,
Election Day*

*Sunday, November 9th,
Station Open, 1-5 P.M.*

*Thursday, November
27th, Thanksgiving Day*

Easton's Holiday Festival

*Saturday, December 6th,
Station Open 10 A.M. to 5
P.M.*

*Sunday, December 7th,
Station Open 1-5 P.M.*

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

Officers:

President—Frank T. Meninno

1st Vice President—Ken Michel

*2nd Vice President, Curator—Paul
Berry*

Treasurer—Patricia Baker

Recording Secretary—Hazel Varella

*Corresponding Secretary—Curtis
Chase*

Director—Dot Berry

Director—Ed Hands

Director—Gary Uzdevinis

Director, Editor—Frank T. Meninno

A Look at the Coming Year

Hello all! Here are a few items to note for this year. On Wednesday, October 22nd, we will host a panel discussion with past class presidents from Oliver Ames High School. Howard L. Porter, Class of 1946; Buddy Wooster, Class of 1947; Ralph Peterson, Class of 1948 and Lou Silva, Class of 1949 are scheduled to be speakers. This will be held at the F. L. Olmsted School at 7:30 P.M. It should prove to be quite an interesting evening.

Mark Thursday, April 1st (yes, April Fool's Day but we're not kidding) on your calendar so you don't miss the annual Advest sponsored "Chowder and Chatter" dinner. This year's topic will be scandals. I can't imagine what will come up, can you?

On Sunday, April 11th, we will present "Meet the Professor" with James Kenneally. There will be a discussion on the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. This will be held at the Station.

Holy cow! For our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 26th, our own Buddy Wooster will present a special program on the world famous Langwater Cattle. There is an article inside to whet your appetite.

The September open house will feature a "Back to School" theme. Drop by and check us out. You might be surprised by what you see! Upcoming open houses, which have been well attended lately, will feature at different times the police and fire departments.

Don't forget to visit with us during the annual Easton Holiday Festival! We have secured more of the pewter shovel ornaments that have been so popular in years past. We are also working on a special ornament this year, one that will be the first of a series of ornaments decorated with various scenes of Easton. Be sure to watch for details, since they will be a limited edition.

There is a possibility for a few special events, but they are still in the very early planning stages. Future newsletters and newspaper announcements will keep you informed.

The Station Master

President Frank T. Meninno

Greetings! I am honored to be chosen to serve as president of the Easton Historical Society. My involvement with the society dates to about 1979, when I first joined. I've been a member of the Board of Directors for several years, and am a life member of the Society.

I am a native and life-long resident of Easton, living at first on Sheridan Street, then spending a few years on Columbus Avenue in a rented house between Dick Southworth's house (now gone) and St. Marks Church. In 1963, my family moved to Furnace Village, and there I grew up surrounded by great friends. Over the years, I was exposed to much local history thanks

to the Grant, Phillips, Erving and King families. Gerald Beals, a friend, retired teacher and fellow historian, offered me encouragement as I became more interested in my surroundings. He willingly shared his time and collections with me. I soon began to focus on the lesser known parts of Easton's history, re-discovering things that had been long forgotten. I've seen charcoal pits, stood in the bottom of Round Pond, visited the former living areas of two historic hermits and crossed the brook off of Poquanticut Avenue to see the old double cellar hole used by our local horse thieves. I've also walked the length of the old "Road to Babbitts across ye high plains".

I've been a member of the Easton Historical Commission, various town committees, am one of Easton's three fence viewers, and a leader at Easton Baptist Church. I wrote a history column for the Easton Journal for five years, and hope to restart that activity soon.

I live in the Poquanticut area of Easton with Anne-Marie, my wife of 19 years, and our sons Justin, Dominic and Anthony.

The challenges to a leader of any group constantly change, and I look forward to meeting them. Hopefully I will be able to foster a greater interest in Easton's wonderful history. I look forward to seeing you!

The Curator's Corner

Curator Paul Berry

The Society has been pretty busy this year. In addition to the twelve open houses, we opened the Station for private tours. One of these groups, The Victorian Society, visits us annually. We continue to remain available by appointment for special groups.

We have been the recipients of many gifts for our collection. Recent highlights include the restoration of an early fire alarm system used in Easton, the chest that an immigrant

used to carry his belongings in to America, an early voting machine, an early Eastoner from Mrs. Norma Jean Hanscom, another Eastoner, school records from the 1930's and 1940's, ledgers from the Ross Heel Company from around 1900 and a H.Y. Mitchel Company label from Ms. Karen Carter. A great many other photos, papers and Easton related items have come in over the year. Thank you all for entrusting us with

these items.

Work continues on the Station. We have had iron rails installed on the exterior benches in an effort to stop skateboarders from riding on them. So far it has worked. Ceiling fans were installed on the main level, windows were glazed with a special material to cut down on UV rays that damage and fade paper goods and pictures. Next up is the painting of the exterior trim. Thank you for your gifts and support!

The Inside Inn

An Historical Tongue Twister

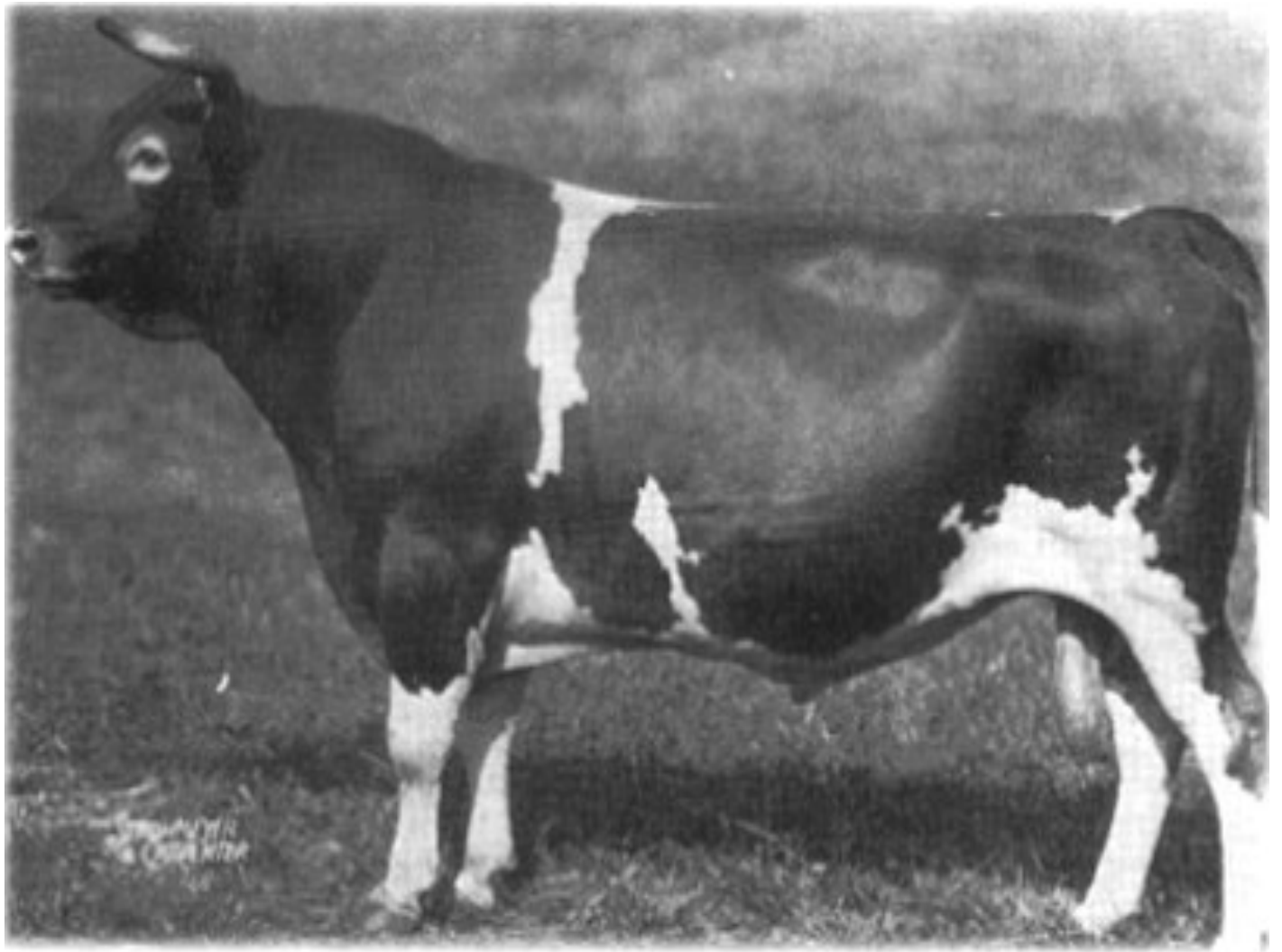
A visitor to the World's Fair walked up to the inside clerk of the Inside Inn and asked, "Excuse me sir, is this the Inside Inn? And is the Proprietor of the Inside Inn in?"

"Yes", replied the clerk, "this is the Inside Inn and you will find the Proprietor of the Inside Inn outside by the Inn's side. He has kept the Inside Inn for several weeks. Once, on an ocean trip, he couldn't keep his inside in, but that is inside information and he don't want it known outside."

"All right" said the inquirer, "if this is the Inside Inn, we want to see it's inside as well as it's outside before we look inside any of the outside inns. If we like the Inside Inn's inside and outside better than we like the outside inns outside and inside, we may bring our things from outside inside and stop inside the Inside Inn. Because we won't have to go from the inside outside or come from the outside inside, but can remain inside or outside the Inside Inn, it being the only inn inside the grounds. The other ones are on the outside and furnish no more comforts inside or outside than does the Inside Inn which exhibits class outside the inside, while those who stop at the outside inns have to go inside to get in and go outside to go to their inn, so you see-"

But the clerk had fainted and fallen inside the Inside Inn's desk, and bell-boys were hurrying with water for his outside and brandy for his inside. In their excitement they got that which was meant for his inside outside and that which was meant for his outside inside!

This humorous tongue twister was found in a postcard album that dates to the early part of the 1900's. Do you know it? At least one or two lines were very popular as a tongue twister for young children some years ago. The original sender of the postcards, a relative of Faston's Kimball families, traveled extensively as a salesman and probably visited one of the early World's Fairs.



Bet you can't guess what this bovine is doing here! He isn't just any bull. His name was Langwater Foremost, one of the most famous of the world famous Langwater Guernsey's bred here in North Easton by the Ames family. He was born in April of 1915. By the time of his death, he was one of the most influential in his breed. When he was sold, he was purchased by a man named James. James had plans for this bull, who was from a line of champion milk producers whose milk was very high in butterfat content. James began to breed Langwater Foremost, and the bull eventually sired 68 registered daughters and 87 registered sons. Some of these offspring formed the core of a new dairy operation, Foremost Dairies, now Foremost Farms USA. Foremost Dairies grew through the decades by expanding its service area, and then by merging with smaller dairies, to become the third largest dairy in the world during the 1950's, and still exists today as one of the ten largest dairy cooperatives in the United States in terms of milk production. James had done all right for himself, I guess. After all, he was a very successful dairy farmer. But James had an even greater interest. While the dairy grew, he started a small chain of stores. Eventually they too grew into an empire, but unlike Foremost Farms USA, you have probably heard of this retailing giant. James was not just a farmer, you see. He was an exceptional business man with a keen mind for quality goods and service to match. In fact, the success of his enterprises is reflected in his middle name. The circumstances that led this man to find this bull may never be known for sure, but thanks to the success of Langwater Foremost and his offspring, James Cash Penney, that's right, J.C. Penney, was able to build the chain of stores that still bear his name.

Old Colony Historical Society Celebrates 150 Years !

The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, MA., is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Taunton was shire town to Easton, Mansfield and Norton, to name a few, and of course you all know that these three towns comprised the property known as the Taunton North Purchase.

Old Colony is asking area towns to lend items for a display detailing how we related to Taunton in the 1850's. This

special exhibit, entitled "Telling Taunton's Story for 150 Years: The Sesquicentennial of the Old Colony Historical Society", will be displayed from September 6th through November 22nd. The Easton Historical Society will be represented by providing a few items from our collections. Among Taunton ties are the Ames Shovel Company and the Swan family, noted doctors and abolitionists.

A variety of events are planned for the next few months. There are lectures, walking tours, and a special lecture given by renowned filmmaker Ken Burns still to come.

The Old Colony Historical Society is located at 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA. They may be contacted by phone at 508-822-1622 for more information.

Olmsted Comes to Easton

Frederick Law Olmsted, who hasn't been seen around these parts for a good many years, will soon return to the town which he graced with his some of his very fine work.

The Easton Film Festival will sponsor a performance by Mr. Gerry Wright, a social worker who also looks like an old F. L. Olmsted. Mr. Wright will perform a one man show titled "Frederick Law Olmsted: Passages in the Life of an Impractical Man". He became interested in Olmsted while working to restore Jamaica Pond. The show has gotten good reviews from other towns, and Easton expects this to be true here.

Olmsted's historic landscapes

complement the architectural greatness of H. H. Richardson. The centerpiece in Easton is the Rockery at the intersection of Main, Center and Lincoln Streets. When you see the scope of Olmsted's other works, you realize how very fortunate Easton is to be a part of his legacy.

The show will be presented at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall on Sunday, September 28th at 4:00 P.M. This is a ticketed event, and tickets will be available at the door, or ordered by check made out to the Easton Film Festival, 250 Main Street, North Easton, MA 02356. The cost of the tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for students. Light refreshments will be served.

Thank you!

We wish to express our thanks to all of you who have made contributions to the Society this past year. We have a beautiful historic building, but it is expensive to maintain. In fact, most of our budget goes towards the heat, electric and phone bill, and other operating expenses. We are also grateful for the support of the King Trust, which allows us to take on projects that we would otherwise find difficult to accomplish.

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

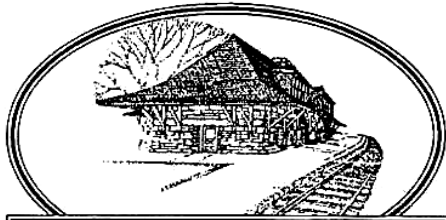
Corporate \$100

Senior (65 and up) \$7.00

Other Donations \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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Old Colony Railroad Station

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