



CALENDAR

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

*Sunday, September 9th,
Open House, 1 to 5 p.m. with
vintage Easton Postcards*

*Sunday, September 30th,
Annual NRT Harvest Fair*

*Saturday, October 6th,
Ken Martin Memorial Bottle
Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

*Friday, October 12th, 100th
Celebration at Town Hall,
136 Elm Street, North Easton
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 14th,
Open House, 1 to 5 p.m.
celebrating Easton Town Hall
100th birthday!*

*Saturday, October 27th,
Stonehill Mystery Walk with
Professor Chet Raymo, 10 a.m.*

*Saturday, October 27th,
Spooky Hayride, 6:00 p.m.
See form inside!*

*Sunday, November 4th,
Daylight Savings Time Ends!*

*Sunday, November 4th,
Antique Appraisals at Oakes
Ames Memorial Hall, 3 p.m.*

*Saturday, November 10th,
Flagpole Dedication in
memory of Ken Martin*

*Sunday, November 11th,
Veterans Day Open House,
1 to 5 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 1st and
Sunday, December 2nd,
Annual Lions Club Holiday
Festival*

Governor Ames Estate Update

We are pleased to announce that the Trustees of Reservations has completed the purchase of the estate of former Massachusetts Governor Oliver Ames. Located at 35 Oliver Street, the estate features finely manicured rolling lawns, many examples of specimen trees and shrubs, a beautifully maintained home and the original stone carriage house which was erected in 1862. Much of the original landscape still exists including the curved drive which leads to the house. The views across the lawn towards Shovel Shop Pond and Pond Street are wonderful. Best of all, this property is now open to the public! Below are a few photos to whet your appetite. Be sure to visit this terrific property! For more on the Trustees of Reservations, visit www.thetrustees.org.



The mission of the Easton Historical Society 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

How does it feel to be a model? I don't mean a model like those athletic hunks who star in the underwear ads, or the ones who have that continual five o'clock shadow, scraggly look so common today among male models. What I am referring to is being a model operation, one that other people want to emulate. One Saturday, two ladies came to Easton to tour the Ames Shovel project. They were early arrivals, and they found the Society open for a visit. I had an opportunity to talk about what the Society can offer and some of the past successes we have had. What I shared, which was about our usual way of doing things, was an eye opener to these two visitors. It turns out that they are involved with a small mill museum in the Boston area, and what we do so well is what they have been trying to do for some time! More questions and answers followed. Our visitors found our Society to be well organized, very active, and welcoming. Our outreaches in the community and school system were noted. The way we use our building was fascinating. Our ability to be very flexible also received positive responses. Before leaving, our visitors asked if they could arrange for a visit by their board of directors to see what we do. Of course, my answer was yes!

I never have been one to take credit for something like this. We have an excellent team of officers and volunteers that do wonderful work. However I do appreciate all the "well done" or "this place looks great" feedback I receive. It lets me know how people respond to what I am doing. Those things are always encouraging to hear. In the case of our two visitors, it was wonderful to see how another organization responded to what we do. Their deep interest in trying to learn from us takes things to a new level. When we can share our history with others, the community of Easton wins. When we are viewed by others as a model operation, and we have an opportunity to share what makes us successful with other organizations, then both communities win. Now that's the kind of modeling I can do!



SOCIETY OFFERS EASTON TOWN FLAGS!

SHOW THE PRIDE YOU HAVE FOR THE WONDERFUL TOWN OF EASTON BY FLYING ITS VERY OWN UNIQUE TOWN FLAG. THIS BEAUTIFUL 3X5' ALL WEATHER NYLON FLAG IS CUSTOM MADE WITH OUR TOWN SEAL AND IS THE PERFECT WAY TO SHOW YOUR LOVE OF EASTON. IN 1975, THE EASTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION SPONSORED A CONTEST TO DESIGN A FLAG FOR EASTON'S BICENTENNIAL PROJECT. JAMES A. ZARRELLA, A SENIOR AT OLIVER AMES HIGH SCHOOL, HAD HIS DESIGN CHOSEN FROM AMONG A TOTAL OF THIRTY DESIGNS SUBMITTED. THE FLAG FEATURES THE ENGLISH ST. GEORGE CROSS, THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY PINE TREE (A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY) AND THE TOWN SEAL WHICH REPRESENTS THE WHOLE TOWN. THE FLAG STRESSES EASTON'S COLONIAL HERITAGE AND IS BASED ON THE NEW ENGLAND GENERAL USAGE FLAG ON LAND CIRCA 1686-1775.

THE COLORS USED FOR THE FLAG ARE RED FOR THE CROSS, WHITE FOR THE FIELD, GREEN FOR THE PINE TREE AND BLUE FOR THE TOWN SEAL. THE EASTON JAYCEE GALS TOOK ON THE JOB OF HAVING FLAGS MADE AND THEN SOLD THEM.

THESE FLAGS ARE BEING OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC FOR \$50.00. DISCOUNTED PRICING FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS IS \$45.00 (THIS IS DUE TO YOUR 10% MEMBERS DISCOUNT). PREORDERS ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 23RD, AND THE FLAGS WILL BE READY FOR PICKUP BY NOVEMBER 1ST. TO PLACE YOUR ORDER, SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO THE EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO P.O. BOX 3, NORTH EASTON, MA 02356. YOU SHOULD ENCLOSE A NOTE WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU, AND SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF FLAGS ORDERED. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL GIFT FOR SOMEONE, THIS IS IT!

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter "Train Tracks" is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society.

Officers for 2012-2013

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
Melanie-Jane L. Deware
Judge Leon J. Lombardi
Debra Salisbury
Robert J. Wooster
Immediate Past President—Deborah MacPhee
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

Recent Acquisitions

1871 Bristol County Atlas, book—Soldiers of the Civil War, 1884, from Jeanette Stone Picchi; Easton Huskies Tee Shirt, postcards, 250th photos, from Ernie Camara; 3 ladies best hats circa 1875, Blanche Ames obituary notice, from Mary Rose Garfagna and Cathy Harvey; 1923 letter from school superintendent C. E. Wheeler to teacher Miss King asking for correct reports, from Janet W. Yuse; collection of papers and photos from the late Ralph Armstead including his involvement with Southeastern Regional High School from Scott Young; postcard of G. A. Smith's blacksmith shop in Eastondale, from Bettina Smith Tucker; an 1882 steam engine built by Alfred B. Morse, from Alfred G. Morse; photo of the O.A.H.S. Class of 1919 with a graduation program, a 1969 Brockton Enterprise, from Doug Mullen; a Civil War sword and scabbard that belonged to 1st Lieutenant Albert Tilden, a relative of Easton doctor Frank Tilden, from Tom Hegg; a collection of family photos from the Grant and Gardner families with names, Book - The Complete History of World War II, Armed Services Memorial Edition, from Eleanor Grant; Easton street signs from the early part of the 20th century, from Richard and Linda Beal; Class of 1919 graduation program and class photo, also a 1969 Brockton Enterprise with an article about Easton men meeting overseas during WWII, from Doug Mullen; two Simpson Spring soda cans, circa 1970, from Tom Brooks; 2 spoons, a N.Y., N.H. and Hartford Railroad brakeman's badge, and a brass device for preparing and loading black powder into a gun, from Robert and Kristen Carpenter.

We have also received monetary donations from Mary Rose Garfagna and Cathy Harvey, Shirley Boudreau and Genevieve Leavitt, Abel Camara, Lois DiPasqua in memory of Henry and Edna Peterson, Myrtle Blaisdell and Joanne Soule in memory of Ken Martin.

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Ken Martin Memorial to be Dedicated
 ★ Many people sent donations to the Society in memory of the late Ken Martin. The Martin
 ★ family and the Society have chosen a flagpole to be erected in memory of this special person. Ken
 ★ was proud of serving his country during the Vietnam War. He was active in the American Legion.
 ★ Ken could always be seen doing his best for the town he loved. Because he was such a visible figure
 ★ we feel that a flagpole would be a most appropriate memorial for such a fine citizen. The Martin
 ★ family donated the flag used at Ken's memorial service. The dedication will be held on Saturday,
 ★ November 10th, at 11 a.m. at the Society. A collation presented by Tom and Judy Sabin will follow
 ★ the dedication. If you wish to attend, please R.S.V.P. by November 1st by calling 508-238-7774.
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Save the Date for Antique Appraisals!

The Easton Historical Society, Friends of Borderland, Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, and the Ames Free Library hope to have a program where you can bring your antiques to be appraised by a professional appraiser. There will be a charge for each item appraised. The program is tentatively scheduled for November 4th at 3 p.m. Watch our website and the local papers for details!



The American Legion is looking for any information on its history. Please check your scrapbooks and photo albums! Any information on events, memorials, and especially photographs are needed. If you have any information to share, please contact the Society. We will gladly copy your items for the Legion.

150 Years of “Taps”

One of the United State’s most solemn traditions is the playing of “Taps” in connection with military funerals or memorial exercises remembering fallen members of our military. The tune was first played at a cannoner’s funeral in July 1862, replacing a three round volley, and its popularity spread quickly. By 1891 the song had become a standard part of any military funeral. In the August 1898 edition of Century Magazine, writer Gustav Kobbe contributed a piece on “Taps.” This article suggested that Union General Daniel Butterfield (1831-1901) wrote the music. Other people had propagated myths about the song’s creation. The article prompted letters to the editor, including one from General Butterfield himself. The two letters are presented below and provide the story of the origins of this hallowed song.

Chicago, August 8, 1898

I was much interested in reading the article by Mr. Gustav Kobbe, on the Trumpet and Bugle Calls, in the August Century. Mr. Kobbe says that he has been unable to trace the origin of the call now used for Taps, or the Go to sleep, as it is generally called by the soldiers. As I am unable to give the origin of this call, I think the following statement may be of interest to Mr. Kobbe and your readers.. .. During the early part of the Civil War I was bugler at the Headquarters of Butterfield’s Brigade, Morell’s Division, Fitz-John Porter’s Corp, Army of the Potomac. Up to July, 1862, the Infantry call for Taps was that set down in Casey’s Tactics, which Mr. Kobbe says was borrowed from the French. One day, soon after the seven days battles on the Peninsular, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison’s Landing, General Daniel Butterfield, then commanding our Brigade, sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night, and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. I think no general order was issued from army headquarters authorizing the substitution of this for the regulation call, but as each brigade commander exercised his own discretion in such minor matters, the call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac. I have been told that it was carried to the Western Armies by the 11th and 12th Corps, when they went to Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, and rapidly made its way through those armies. I did not presume to question General Butterfield at the time, but from the manner in which the call was given to me, I have no doubt he composed it in his tent at Harrison’s Landing. I think General Butterfield is living at Cold Spring, New York. If you think the matter of sufficient interest, and care to write him on the subject, I have no doubt he will confirm my statement. -Oliver W. Norton

General Butterfield writing from Gragside, Cold Spring, under the date of August 31, 1898 wrote:

I recall, in my dim memory, the substantial truth of the statement made by Norton, of the 83rd Pa., about bugle calls. His letter gives the impression that I personally wrote the notes for the call. The facts are, that at the time I could sound calls on the bugle as a necessary part of military knowledge and instruction for an officer commanding a regiment or brigade. I had acquired this as a regimental commander. I had composed a call for my brigade, to precede any calls, indicating that such were calls, or orders, for my brigade alone. This was of very great use and effect on the march and in battle. It enabled me to cause my whole command, at times, in march, covering over a mile on the road, all to halt instantly, and lie down, and all arise and start at the same moment; to forward in line of battle, simultaneously, in action and charge etc. It saves fatigue. The men rather liked their call, and began to sing my name to it. It was three notes and a catch. I can not write a note of music, but have gotten my wife to write it from my whistling it to her, and enclose it. The men would sing, Dan, Dan, Dan, Butterfield, Butterfield to the notes when a call came. Later, in battle, or in some trying circumstances or an advance of difficulties, they sometimes sang, Damn, Damn, Damn, Butterfield, Butterfield. The call of Taps did not seem to be as smooth, melodious and musical as it should be, and I called in some one who could write music, and practiced a change in the call of Taps until I had it suit my ear, and then, as Norton writes, got it to my taste without being able to write music or knowing the technical name of any note, but, simply by ear, arranged it as Norton describes. I did not recall him in connection with it, but his story is substantially correct. Will you do me the favor to send Norton a copy of this letter by your typewriter? I have none. -Daniel Butterfield

WELCOME TO REMINISCENCES: VOLUME THREE

In our continued effort to share memories of Easton with you, Volume Three is presented. Our initial topic is the origin of the Oliver Ames High School-Anna C. Ames Band, written by Marietta Canan, along with updates to the band program. Then the current status of the Easton School System's entire music program is described by Charlene L. Dalrymple, Department Chair. OA sports are remembered as well, with the focus not only on the school's first football team in the 1920's, but also on the success of the 2011 team.

Easton's early medical history has been researched by our curator Frank T. Meninno. In addition, we have found town historian Rev. William Chaffin's interesting description of his Aunt Phebe, who helped raise him during his childhood.

Next are two articles about the Ames Family. Kenneth R. Jackson traces the construction of "Langwater" and the Gate Lodge. "From a Wedding to a Funeral" involves the surprising contents of a small blue box found by Mrs. David Ames.

We present Edmund Hands's discovery that Eastondale was the location of the first public library in Easton. The educational history of the area is described by Edwin H. White in a paper he first presented to the Historical Society in the 1950's. Meanwhile, life in Furnace Village is narrated by Caroline Belcher Bulfinch, and then at least a generation later by Avery Lee Williams, Jr.

Two very informative autobiographies were so lengthy that they are being shared in two volumes. Anna Buck's Poquanticut memories, the first half of which appeared in Volume Two, conclude here, while Signe Johnson DiPasqua's account of North Easton life begins in this volume.

Transportation is examined in three articles: "The Morse Car" by Dr. Stan Moody, an account of the Fall River Ship Line, and Mrs. Louis A. Frothingham's letters to the New Haven Railroad company on behalf of beautifying North Easton's train station.

"The Old Town Farm" by James Pomeroy, Jacques Harlow's reflections on his Oliver Ames High School Class of 1944, "Memories of Frothingham Park" by Charles Christenson, and an account of the North Easton Grammar School's famous White Bench, written by its principal Olive H. Gurney, are other articles included for your reading pleasure.

Nine short pieces from newspapers, newsletters, and other sources have been gathered in a section called "This & That." Finally, Volume Three concludes with pictures of the September 24th, 2011 reenactment of *Life in Easton Years Ago*, the 1951 play written by Amory Parker and Ruth Smith.

The Society is deeply indebted to Daniel P. Paré, who not only prepared all the materials for this publication but also edited what was appropriate. Newspaper articles were not changed except for minor typos.

Reminiscences: Volume Three should be available by the September 9th open house. This 110 page publication with more than a dozen color photographs will be sold for \$15.00. You can pick up your copy at the Society during the week, at one of our open houses, at the annual NRT Harvest Fair, or at our Holiday open houses in December. These books make great gifts! If you do not live nearby, you may wish to have copies mailed with a small extra charge for postage.

Daniel P. Paré
Hazel L. Varella

2012 Ornament Honors the 100th Anniversary of "Wayside"



The Society is pleased to announce that "Wayside," the former home of Mary Ames Frothingham and our current Town Offices, has been chosen as the subject of our 2012 ornament! This year marks the 100th anniversary of this beautiful Georgian style home. The home has been the center of public service both during the ownership of Mrs. Frothingham, and from 1960 on, under the Town. Mrs. Frothingham supported music programs in the school system and gave the town Frothingham Park in memory of her husband, Congressman Louis Adams Frothingham.

The price of the ornaments is the same as they have been in the past: \$10 each or 4 for \$36. To preorder yours, send a check payable to the Easton Historical

Society to Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356. Include a note with your name, address and phone number, as well as the number of ornaments being ordered. These make great gifts too! Call or email the Society for cost on prior years ornaments or to purchase all 10!

Duncan Oliver Featured in Cape Cod Life
Congratulations to Duncan B. Oliver, former Easton Historical Society president, newsletter editor, and author about Easton's history. He is honored in the 2012 Annual Guide of Cape Cod Life for his important role in the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth and is labeled the "Historian with Humor." Congratulations on your excellent work keeping history alive!

Society Postpones Yard Sale
The Society will not hold a fall yard sale this year due to the work being conducted at the Shovel site. Saturday work, noise and parking limitations would not make for a welcoming environment for either yard sale sellers or buyers. We hope to have this event in the spring. Stay tuned!

Lots of Bottles and Cans!
The Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle and Can Drive brought in more than \$237! That is 4740 containers, worth a nickel apiece. Hopefully you are saving now for our fall bottle drive, which will be held on October 6th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Society. Call 508-238-7774 for pickup. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser in Ken's memory!

Spooky Rides are Coming!

This year we are offering a free hayride, thanks to the kind folks at Clover Valley Farm! The Wilbur family has run the farm since 1939. Come and learn about the history and mystery of the Poquanticut section of Easton with your guide Frank T. Meninno. The hayride will be held on October 27th, and will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. Content will be aimed at a more mature audience (attendees must be twelve years or older). No child care is available during the ride. Refreshments will be served. Meet at Clover Valley Farm, 131 Poquanticut Avenue. Check out Clover Valley's website at www.clovervalleystables.com for location, horse shows, and more!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE SPOOKY RIDE! Please reserve your seats by sending this form to the Society at P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356 after October 1st, to allow all of our members time to receive their newsletter. Please, no phone or email reservations! Reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. You will be notified when we receive your reservation and you will be checked in before getting on the ride. Seating is limited to 40 people. Be sure to include yourself in the total number of reservations requested! Donations given will benefit the Society. Please call 508-238-7774 for more information.

Your Name: _____

Names of other attendees: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Total number of reservations: _____

Chet Raymo Walk

The Society is honored that Professor Chet Raymo has agreed to conduct a walk of special parts of Stonehill College on October 27th from 10 a.m. to noon. Interested participants should send the form below to Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, Ma 02356. She will contact you as to where to meet on the 27th. The walk will be limited to 20 participants. For those who have participated in prior Chet walks, you know how informative and fascinating the experience is. A donation to the Easton Historical Society would be appreciated. Thank you!

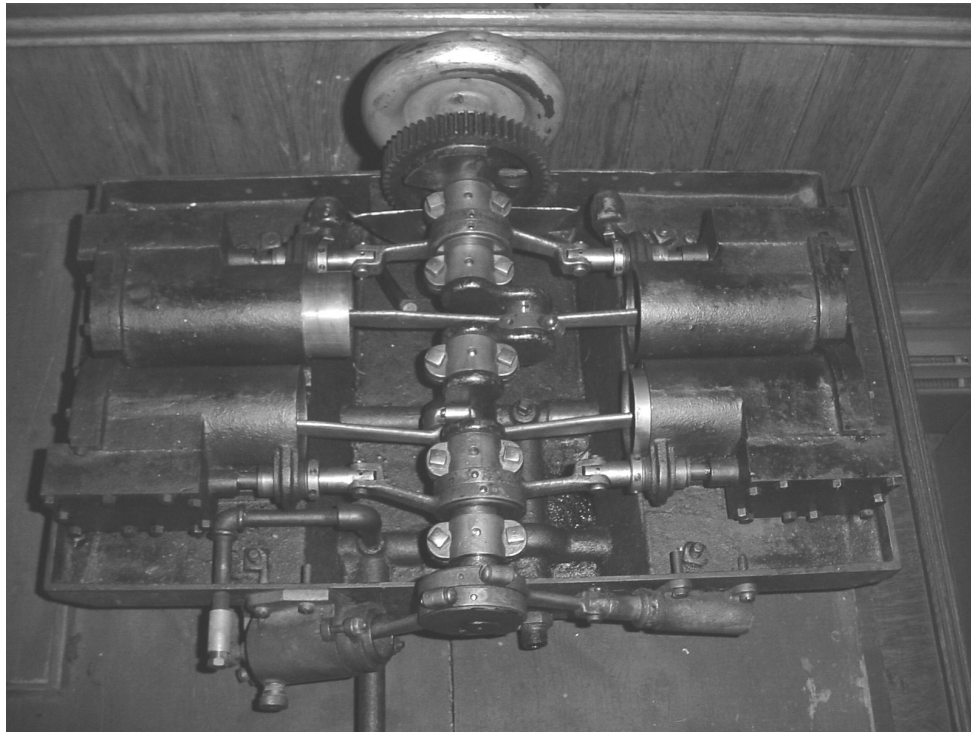
Chet Raymo Walk

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (very important!) _____

Number of Reservations _____ I have included a donation of \$ _____



Inventive Genius on Display!

Pictured above is a four cylinder steam engine built in 1882 by Alfred Bryant Morse, and donated by his grandson Alfred G. Morse. He was 18 years old at the time. The engine powered a twenty foot boat which was sailed on Morse's Pond, and later, in Massachusetts Bay. It was capable of making 10 miles per hour on the water, and could hold about ten passengers. What a wonderful example of early work from the person who would go on to manufacture the Morse Car during the early 1900's!

Address changing? Please tell us!

Address Service Requested

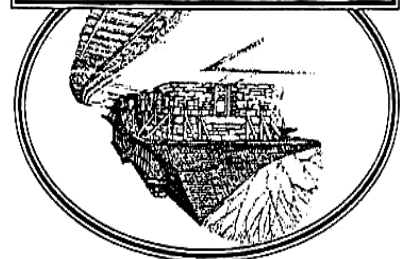
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