



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 7th, King Philip's War program at Queset House, 3:00 p.m. Given by the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District.

Friday, September 12th, Opening of joint exhibit at Stonehill College, 4-6 p.m. See page 5!

Sunday, September 14th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring Boxing in Easton.

Saturday, September 27th, Ken Martin Memorial Fall Bottle Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 12th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Join a special H. H. Richardson tour.

Sunday, November 2nd, Daylight Savings Ends.

Thursday, November 6th, Book Appraisals with Ken Gloss, 6:30 p.m. at the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library.

Sunday, November 9th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. focusing on Easton Veterans.

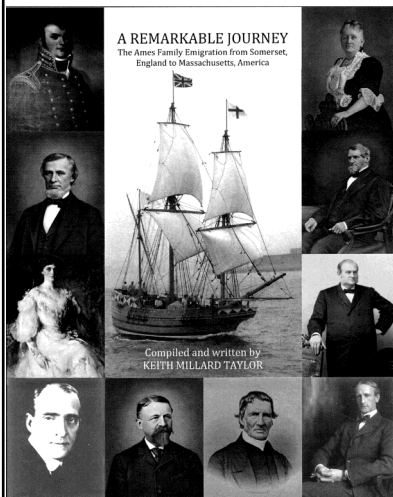
Tuesday, November 11th, Veteran's Day. Go and see the parade!

Thursday, November 27th, Thanksgiving Day.

December open houses: Saturday December 6th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, December 7th and Sunday, December 14th, 1-5 p.m.

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.

New Publications for You!



A Remarkable Journey—The Ames Family Emigration from Somerset, England to Massachusetts, America, tells the story of two Ames brothers, William and John, who left their family and home in 1643 to find freedom and success in the new American colonies. Written by Keith Millard Taylor, this thoroughly researched volume tells the story of life during medieval Britain, and reveals the struggle of the early Ameses and others in their class to win freedom from serfdom. It also describes the social and economic climate of the times, education, thievery, church and village life. Mr. Taylor's research includes visiting the ancestral home of the Ames family in England, and searching ancient records to fully understand, and communicate to the reader, the true beginnings of this special family. By reading this book you will discover much about the first generations of the Ames family, and by way of that, perhaps discover the heritage of some of your own ancestors. A book signing is in the works!

Also of interest is a book by Peter Tower titled *Hockomock—Place Where the Spirits Dwell*. Tower grew up within the confines of the Bridgewater Triangle. It tells the story of the Bridgewater Triangle and the ever mysterious Hockomock Swamp from its beginning through to more recent events. Clearly written and well researched, with many personal stories included, this book will answer the question: Can a place be inherently evil? After reading it, you can decide!

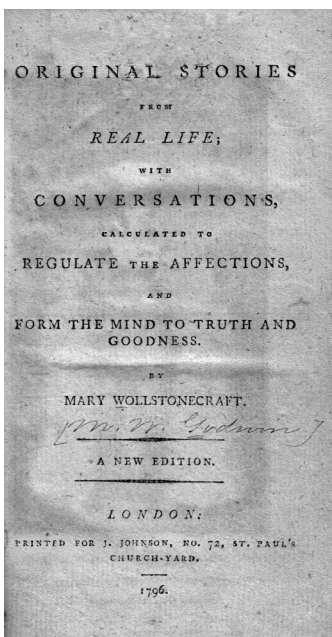
History buffs and those whose curiosity needs fulfilling will love these books. They are great reading, terrific history, and provide something for everyone! Copies will be available at the Society.

Ken Gloss / Brattle Book Shop

On Thursday, November 6th, the Easton Historical Society will hold a joint meeting with the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library. The featured speaker will be Ken Gloss, proprietor of the famous Brattle Book Shop in Boston. Mr. Gloss is an expert on rare and collectable books. He is always entertaining, and usually brings interesting literary treasures to share. The meeting will be held at the Library and will start at 6:30 P.M.

Do you have a book that you think might be valuable? Bring it along for a FREE verbal appraisal! Who knows what special treasure you might have on your bookcase. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable evening of literary enlightenment! We will be asking his thoughts on the book described below.

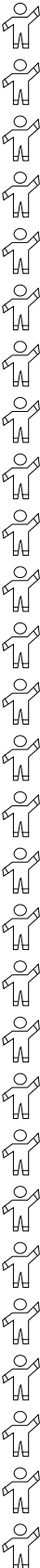
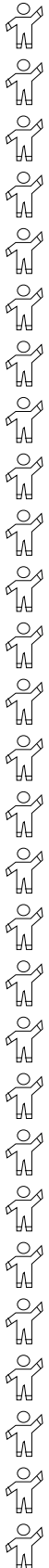
Recently discovered among the Society's collections was a book, whose title page is at the left. It was published in 1796, and the author is Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797). During her short life in England she was a noted philosopher, women's rights activist, educator, scholar, and journalist. I wonder if she helped to inspire Blanche Ames in her work during the Women's Suffrage movement! Mary's better known works included *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) in which she made a case for, and fought for educational reform for women, and *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters* (1787). Our book, titled *Original Stories from Real Life; with Conversations Calculated to Regulate the Affections, and Form the Mind to Truth and Goodness*, was probably



her final book. She died in 1797 ten days after giving birth to a daughter Mary. The daughter took after her mother in a way, and became a well known author. You might know her as Mary Shelley, and her most popular work as *Frankenstein!*



WELCOME TO REMINISCENCES: VOLUME FIVE



Welcome to our fifth volume of Reminiscences. Our first focus is on the original Oliver Ames who came to Easton in 1803—and dramatically affected the history of Easton, particularly North Easton. In 1910, Reverend William Chaffin prepared a manuscript about the “original Oliver” which has never been published. We are honored to do so in this volume. One of the ethnic groups that worked in the Shovel Shop was the Swedish. Edmund Hands has extensively researched the first Swedish man to come to Easton, his residence, his religious commitment, his family’s educational success, and his final residence, not in Easton.

Life in the early part of the 1900’s is included in several readings that represent various decades and parts of Easton. Eastondale is effectively described by Jean Southworth Alger, who has always lived on Pine Street. In Furnace Village, the importance of marble-playing is the major focus of Avery “Lee” Williams’s article. However, marble-playing was not limited to Furnace Village; it was also important at about the same time to Edward Leonard growing up on Columbus Avenue. Another aspect of North Easton is shared from the writings of Grace Reardon (Duhamel), a lifelong Barrows Street resident who enjoyed playing with the Ames sisters at “Queset”. Relive life in earlier times through these descriptive articles.

The early history of the Easton Country Club is extremely well-documented by Leon Lombardi. Developed by his parents, Sam and Mary Lombardi, the golf course was nearly lost to them through the signing of a fifty-year lease. Learn how they were able to regain control of the course, now managed by their grandsons.

A new addition to Reminiscences is poetry. Anne Wooster Drury has published PLACE: Poems of Easton. Three are included here, including one set in the Hockomock Swamp and a second in “Queset,” while the third begins at Old Pond and New Pond. Also included is a poem we recently received by Anne’s father Robert “Buddy” Wooster, about Frothingham Memorial Park. The fifth poem was selected by one of the editors who has been a Red Sox fan since 1946. All Sox fans should enjoy George Comeaux’s “Confessions of a Red Sox Fatalist, 2004.”

This volume includes a “This and That” section with short articles about the creation of paper towels, the original Uncle Sam’s relatives in Easton, a very civic-minded couple (Lawrence and Olive Gurney), the first news assignment of Meredith Vieira, the popular television personality, and three features about World War II: Easton’s celebration when the war ended, a list of Easton military killed during the war, and an Easton soldier’s surprising comparison between an Ames shovel and a gun.

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

Daniel P. Paré
Hazel L. Varella



Stonehill College Exhibit features Ames Mansions

The Easton Historical Society and the Stonehill College Archives are pleased to announce the opening of a joint exhibit: Ames Mansions of Easton—A Collaborative Project between the Easton Historical Society and the Stonehill College Archives. The exhibit, developed by Society Curator Frank J. Meninno and Nicole B. Casper, Director of Archives and Historical Collections at Stonehill College, features a number of photographs of the eleven Ames mansions in Easton. Many Society visitors are fascinated with the great houses of the Ames family, and those that have survived the years add to the rich history of Easton. Through the exhibit, you will be able to follow the growth of the Ames family as the Ames Shovel Company prospers. You can observe the changes from the very fine early period estates of Oliver Ames and his sons, to the gilded age homes of the third and fourth generations of the Ames family. Some of these houses will be familiar to you as they are now serving as parks, a college, Easton's Town Hall, and part of the Ames Free Library. A few others are privately owned, and still others disappeared after the deaths of their owners.

We invite you to attend the opening reception at Stonehill College on Friday, September 12th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Cushing Martin Hall Lobby. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Society (508-238-7774, or email curator@eastonhistoricalsociety.org), or by contacting Nicole B. Casper (508-565-1396, or email at ncasper@stonehill.edu).

The Society is very grateful to Stonehill College and Nicole for offering to host this exhibit, one which we believe will be very popular with the Stonehill faculty and students, as well as visitors. Please join us for a special afternoon!

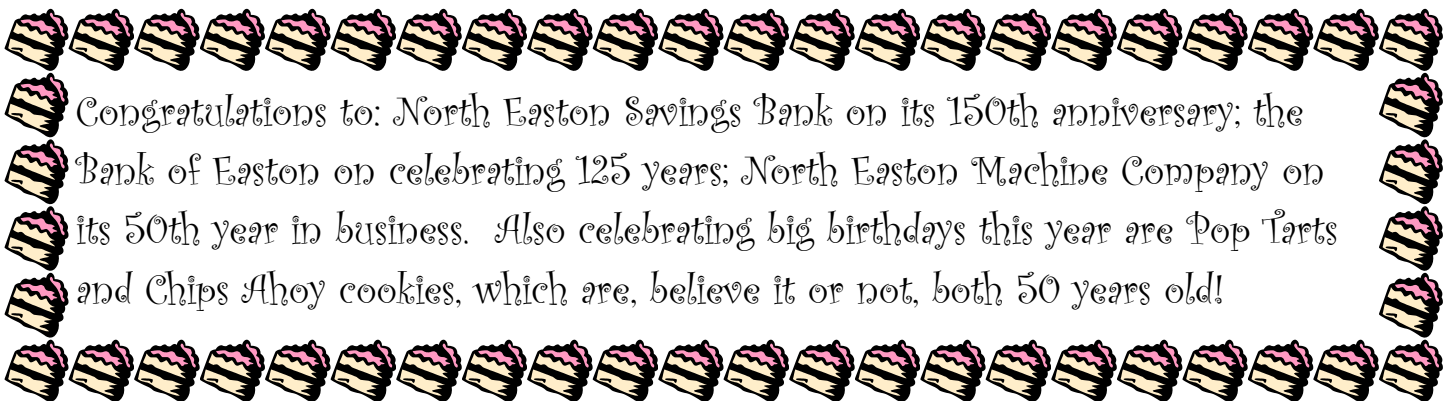
House Marker Update

We thank you for your patience as you wait for your historic house markers to be delivered. You have not been forgotten! The Society received a number of applications for markers, which is fantastic. Some properties have required extra research, and several other unexpected projects have contributed to the delay. We sincerely apologize for this, and thank you very much for your patience. We will be in touch with you very soon.

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Postcard of Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, photos of the celebration and dedication of the Governor Ames Estate, from David and Diane Kaufman; kerosene lamp from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; book of Easton genealogical records, Easton school tee shirts, from Sarah Keough; scrapbook of items relating to John S. Ames, Jr. and his time on the Governor's Council, Senate election, and 1948 Red Cross drive, and a slate roof tile from Unity Church, from former Representative John S. Ames, III; invitations to the inaugurals of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush, photo of the groundbreaking ceremony for Easton Baptist Church, items relating to Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, framed photo of Oakes Ames circa 1850's, from Leon J. and Sara Lombardi; Elise Ames Parker's garden hat, from Tom Downey; Town reports from the 1950s and 1960s, a Lion's Club Child Welfare Night program from 1947, 1945 Easton Village District Report of John S. Ames, Jr., from Robert Taylor; A book Picturesque Cuba and our Navy 1898, of many U. S. ships in Cuba including the U. S. S. Maine, from Francis Meninno; Two Unionville document binders— One includes annual reports of the Fire and Water District, the Easton Grange, resident listings of 1930 through 1980, telephone directory of 1938, and many maps of the area. The second includes many deeds and other documents pertaining to particular locations in Unionville, from Carl Holmander; football trophy, from Charles McMenemy; 1973 map of North Attleboro, Attleboro, Norton, Mansfield, Easton, from Janet O'Neil; Frothingham Park long sleeve tee shirts and cooler bags, from the Frothingham Memorial Park Trustees and Dan Morse; songbook from the Easton Schools, and three Easton postcards, from Paula MonKarsh; a large Sundell's ashtray, from Burt Lewis, photos of Rocky Marciano's memorial in Brockton, from Barry Knowlton; new books on Blanche Ames and Women's Suffrage, and posters of Blanche's political cartoons supporting Suffrage for Women, from Oakes Ames Plimpton; photographs of the Harlow family, from Earl Nichols; postcard of Hilliard's, from Carl Holmander; ink well with plastic top for school children, from Barry Knowlton.

Financial gifts have been received from The Victorian Society of America, "Give With Liberty" with thanks to James MacPhee, United Technologies with thanks to Henry Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Chapman, Deanna L. Kastler in honor of Wayne and Julius, Sandra Conant, John H. Bergstrom, Jr. in appreciation for research by Hazel Varella, Myrtle Blaisdell in memory of her brother Ken Martin's birthday, Jack and Beth Mowatt in memory of Ken Martin's birthday, Business Leader Program of Liberty Mutual Foundation in honor of James MacPhee, Bruce and Deborah Lenahan, Lindbloom Family in memory of Roger McNamara; Scott and Kimberlee Algieri, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dennis Brennan, Kenneth Burke, Tekla Cote, Lois DePasqua, Lynn Farnham and Rena Fahy, Dennis Hill, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hill, Marilyn R. Hill, Joanne and George Joseph, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leary, Teresa Maebori, Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Pantano, Jane Pidgeon, Beverlee Reed, Lawrence and Charlene Tingley, Shirley Tingley, Clement and Gloria Walsh, Daniel and Pamela Yung in honor of Wayne and Julius; Duncan and Carol Oliver, Suzanne Rivard, and Thomas and Evelyn Battinelli, in honor of David Varella.



Congratulations to: North Easton Savings Bank on its 150th anniversary; the Bank of Easton on celebrating 125 years; North Easton Machine Company on its 50th year in business. Also celebrating big birthdays this year are Pop Tarts and Chips Ahoy cookies, which are, believe it or not, both 50 years old!

In Memorium

Frederick Ames Cushing of The Ledges, Ocean Avenue, Newport, a life member of the Society, passed away on November 19, 2013 at the age of 79. He was the son of the late Howard Gardiner Cushing and Mary Ames Cushing. Mary Ames Cushing grew up at Stonehill. His grandfather was the renowned portraitist Howard Gardiner Cushing. The Cushing Gallery at the Newport Art Museum was built in his memory. Mr. Cushing graduated from Harvard University. Following that, he joined J. P. Morgan Bank in the commercial banking department. He also worked at Lehman Brothers where he specialized in international finance, a position which found him assigned to their Paris office for eight years. After retiring to the U.S., Mr. Cushing worked in venture capital. With his wife Catherine Milinaire, they formed a video production company out of New York and Newport that produced industrial videos for museums, tourist offices, and non-profit companies.

Mr. Cushing had no formal art training, but being constantly exposed to the works of his grandfather, and the beauty of Newport, he was inspired to paint landscapes and seascapes in oils and water-colors. In August 2011, he had an exhibit of his paintings at the Isherwood Gallery in Newport.

The Cushing family arrived in Newport in the mid-1860's when Robert Cushing, eldest son of J. P. Cushing the China trader from Boston, bought a parcel of land by the sea and erected a summer house. This property, The Ledges, is still occupied by his descendants today. Mr. Cushing is survived by his current wife Milinaire Cushing and his children by his first wife John Van Gerbig Cushing, Cassandra Beeman Cushing, and stepdaughter Serafine Klarwein.

Rick Regan, Oliver Ames class of 1972, passed away in New York recently. He was a valued member of the Fox News family and worked as a reporter, producer and editor for them at the time of his passing. Rick did extensive work on the excellent Frothingham Park video for the Society. No further details are available at this time.

The Society wishes to express deepest sympathy to the families of these members.

An Afternoon with a King

The Easton Shovel Town Cultural District will present a two-part history of King Philip's War on Sunday, September 7th at Queset House. Queset House is located at 51 Main Street behind the Ames Free Library. The presentation will be given from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. This two-part program chronicles the struggle of the native people of southern New England against the expanding colonial settlements.

Part one of the afternoon features an excellent film, The History of King Philip's War, narrated by Eric Schultz and Michael J. Tougias, who co-authored King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict. The film was produced by David Ames, Jr. It accurately presents the conflict using available colonial resources, first hand accounts, and oral histories passed down by the Native Americans throughout the generations.

Part two will feature noted author Faye George, who will read selections from her book Voices of King Philip's War. The monologues, which are created as a sequence of first-person narratives, dramatize the conflict from the perspective of the Native American leaders who led it: Wampanoag, Narragansett, Nipmuck and others. This book was recently awarded the Sheila Motton Book Prize given by the New England Poetry Club.


This is a free program, and more information can be obtained by contacting Carolyn Cole at 508-230-5874, or at fairewind7@aol.com.

If you should need another reason to attend, or wonder if King Philip's War has anything to do with Easton, Wampanoag tradition holds that Philip was born in the Five Corners area of Easton!

Address Service Requested

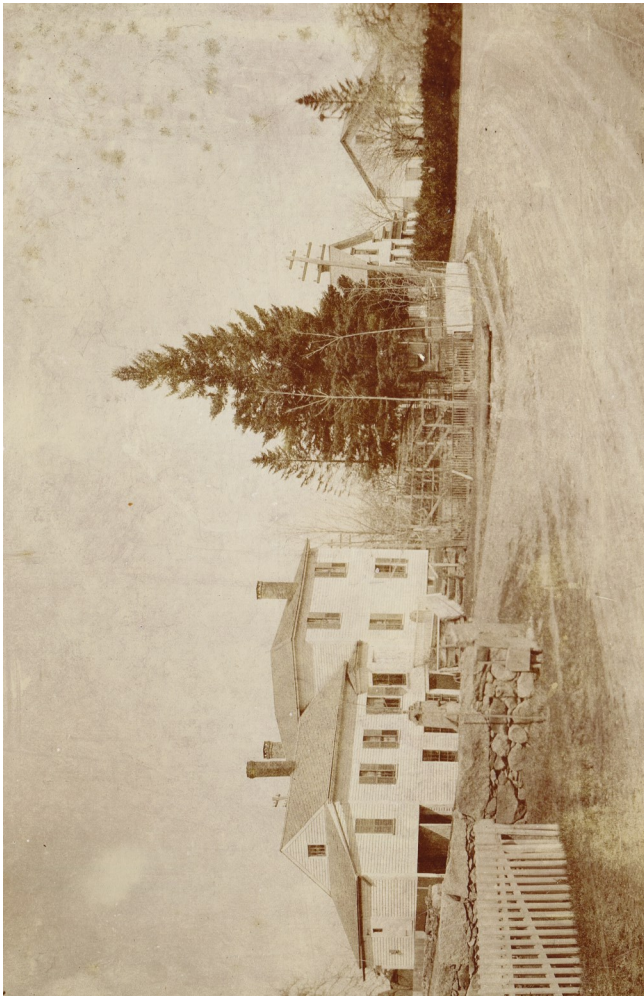
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Old Colony Railroad Station

Address changing? Please tell us!



View of the Five Corners, circa 1890

A lot of things have changed in Easton over the years. Seeing this view of the Five Corners, looking east along Foundry Street, we can imagine its transformation from a small, rural village into the busy center of commerce that it is today. Long gone is the former Joel Drake home which stood at the corner of Bay Road and Depot Street. In its place today is a Mobil gas station, and an entrance to the former Walgreen’s parking lot. Dead Man’s Corner lurks just to the north of this intersection.

Today the Five Corners is the site of a new assisted living community called the Residence at Five Corners. Opening soon is a new restaurant on Foundry Street appropriately named The Foundry, and is brought to us by the owners of another popular Five Corners eatery, Maguire’s. Coupled with the Shaw’s plaza, Rite-Aid Drugs, two other gas stations including a Sunoco station, a CVS Pharmacy, and other small stores, the area is thriving. Half a mile down Foundry Street is another plaza that contains a Hannaford’s supermarket, a Target store, a TJ Maxx store, and several other businesses. Nearby is the main office of the North Easton Savings Bank (which also has an office at the Five Corners) and the Bank of Easton. As the area continues to grow, great care must be exercised to maintain the historical identity of the Five Corners and Furnace Village as contributing sites in Easton’s history.