



EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM Society Announces Our New Website



We are very pleased to announce our exciting new home on the web! Designed by Ed Hands, with input from past president Deborah MacPhee and others, this new site will further our outreach to the world beyond Easton. Many of our members live around the country and in some cases around the world. Features include a Museum Store for online shopping, tour brochures, an expanded gallery, and a membership form. Other features will be added as the site continues to develop. Please note the new address: www.eastonmahistoricalsociety.com. Our new email address is eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com. Our former email address is still valid for now, but it will eventually be discontinued. Be sure to update your bookmarks and address book.

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 11th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. featuring Easton School Memories. Share your favorite school memory with us.

Saturday, October 1st, Ken Martin Bottle and Can Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine.

Sunday, October 9th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Learn about the homes of the several Frederick L. Ameses.

Sunday, October 23rd, Fall Meeting with guest speaker Frederick Ames, Stonehill College, 2 p.m. Topic will be the first three Frederick L. Ameses in Easton.

Sunday, November 13th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. featuring toys and games.

Looking ahead.....

Easton Lions Club annual Holiday Festival Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, December 3rd and 4th.

Sunday, December 11th, Open House with author Linda Williams, who will have a book signing.

Can you guess?

Google recently compiled a list of the most often misspelled words in each state. Can you guess which word made the list as the most misspelled word in Massachusetts? The answer is on page 7.

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

A Big "Thank You" and a Mystery Solved!

As you can see we have announced a new website for the Society and Museum, and I for one am very excited! I connect with a lot of our members through the web, exchanging information, setting up meetings, arranging tours, and more. An effective website is such a necessity for today's fast moving world. As we look at this generation and the next few to follow, the need to reach out to new, younger audiences is critical. A balance must be kept that allows us to operate both in the past as well as the present, and look at the future. Sometimes the old way has to step aside in order to do that.

Those last thoughts brought about our initial presence on the web way back in the 1990's, the early days of the young public internet through the efforts of Paul Berry and Gary Uzdavinis. I began working with Burt Lewis who had begun a website to promote interest and discussion about things happening in Easton. It is Eastonmass.com. Once I checked out his website we made a connection and Burt got us online. For about the past twenty years he has done a lot of work for us, updating the website, posting newsletters, photos, and other content, and forwarding emails from discussions on his site. At the time I worked for Motorola, so I had access to a computer and the internet, and lots of expertise to learn my way around. So for our humble online beginnings, and for all his support for the past two decades, I want to extend a special "thank you" to Burt, and if you should see him, please thank him as well. His generosity to pay for the site as well as his time and commitment to our Society should be duly noted. His early efforts have paved the way for us to stay in touch through communication technology.

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A few months ago, we had the rare opportunity to have the Morse Car visit Easton. As part of the event, I put together an exhibit of materials from our Morse collection. As I went through the materials, one item stood out. It is a cast name plate, made from white metal, and had fancy raised lettering that was painted red. Since it is small, only about 2 1/2" x about 4", I did not place it on display. Dr. Stan Moody, whose family originally restored the car, heard about it while he was here with the car. I got the piece out for him. He looked at it and immediately took it out to where the car was parked. There, beneath the door panels, were four mounting holes that were empty. It turns out that our mystery piece was the model for a cast brass nameplate that should have been on that particular car! As you can see in the image, it says "The Morse Car" in a fancy script. In the lower right corner is the nomenclature for No. 1 Type B, which is the actual car that is still in existence! That car, the 1907 Morse, is the first one of the new model, and this part was made for it.



And so our mystery item has been identified. Dr. Moody is going to use it as a pattern to create the missing brass plate for the car which will then be proudly mounted where it belongs. The original will remain a part of our collection, which along with other materials, tell the story of a great South Easton family and the various Morse enterprises that began back in the 1820's. with a cotton thread mill, and culminated with the development of the Morse Car, the Easton Machine Company, Crofoot Gear, and a number of important inventions along the way.

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

Officers for 2016-2017
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2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands
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WELCOME TO REMINISCENCES: VOLUME SEVEN

Welcome to the seventh volume of Reminiscences. The first two articles will take you back to the 1700's in Easton. Professor Chet Raymo explores an archaeological site now on Stonehill property and raises some interesting questions about our generations. Then, through extensive research, Edmund Hands introduces you to our first Easton marine, Revolutionary War soldier Unite Keith.

Three articles focus on the "Langwater" estate, including David Ames, Jr.'s recollection of his extraordinarily talented grandmother, Mrs. John S. Ames, Sr., who lived there for many years. The other two articles explain the significance of the Guernsey cattle bred there. Other aspects of North Easton, particularly in the 1930's, are described by Edward McNamara. During the same time period, life at the Five Corners is the narrative of Avery Lee Williams, Jr.

A person who had a tremendous influence on many Oliver Ames High School students and athletic programs, coach Valentine P. Muscato, is skillfully explained by Mark Bergeron. The insights of many players of the time are included.

Two major events of the 1960's and 1970's were the Vietnam War and the Blizzard of 1978. A copy of a letter/prayer found in the Historical Society files about the War sent to President Lyndon Johnson was written by fourteen-year-old Jacqueline Lesh of Easton. Kenneth R. Jackson describes North Easton after the blizzard and includes some interesting thoughts about the future.

Did you know that a family that lived on Elm Street in the early 1960's now owns four palaces in the Czech Republic? Deborah MacPhee, who has visited them, joins Hazel Varella to review the family history as well as photos from Prague.

Many civic organizations throughout Easton's history have contributed to the community. One of the longest-serving is the Lions Club—now eighty-five years old. Norbert Duhamel wrote its history in the early part of this century.

This year's "This and That" section introduces you to a runaway hot air balloon, buildings being constructed or remodeled in 1888, Gene Autry's visit to town, restaurateur Leon Prior, and Charles F. McCarthy, Jr., an Eastoner active in civics and the trucking industry. Enjoy the poetry of George Comeaux, Anne Wooster Drury, and Rich Berg.

Many federal and state elected officials have been from Easton. Judge Leon Lombardi, himself a former Easton state representative, has researched this topic, and his results you should find very interesting.

We close with a glance back at the Society's activities in 2015-2016, which hopefully you will enjoy.

Daniel P. Paré and Hazel L. Varella

Volume Seven of Reminiscences will be available at the September Open House. Due to a generous gift from Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz to help with the printing cost, the newest volume will again be ten dollars (nine to members). Any person ordering to have it mailed should add four additional dollars. The Society expresses its deep appreciation to all the authors and poets and also to the Robert D. and Sally G. King Trust, Robert Abbott, Robert Clary, Ronald Danielson, Val LeSieur, Charlene McNeill, Arlene Robinson, Ronald Somerville, John Ventresco, and the generosity of Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz.

FALL MEETING ANNOUNCED

PLAN TO JOIN US IN THE STONEHILL MANSION AT 2 P. M. ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23RD. FREDERICK L. AMES, THE FOURTH PERSON OF THAT NAME, WILL DISCUSS HIS PRIOR THREE NAMESAKES: FREDERICK L. AMES OF "LANGWATER" (1835-1893), F. LOTHROP AMES OF STONEHILL (1876-1921), AND FREDDIE AMES OF STONEHILL (1905-1932). LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE THREE FASCINATING FREDERICK L. AMESSES FROM THE FOURTH!!

THE STONEHILL MANSION, NOW DONAHUE HALL, CAN BE REACHED FROM THE WASHINGTON STREET ENTRANCE. AT THE LIGHTS, TURN INTO THE STONEHILL COLLEGE GROUNDS. TURN LEFT AT THE STOP SIGN, AND FOLLOW THE DRIVE UP THE HILL TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE HOUSE.



Frederick Lothrop Ames



F. Lothrop Ames



Frederick L. Ames



Fall Bottle and Can Drive

Our Fall Bottle and Can Drive in memory of Ken Martin will be held on Saturday, October 1st, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Society. The drive is held rain or shine. All Massachusetts returnable bottles and cans will be accepted. We regret that we cannot accept items that can only be recycled. Proceeds will be used to further the mission of the Society & Museum. Stop by and join us for some coffee and conversation! Volunteers are also needed. Please call 508-238-7774 to find out more, or if you have a donation that needs picking up. Thank you for supporting this very important fundraiser!



Easton Puzzle Coming to a Table Near You!

A very special holiday gift is coming to you this year—a puzzle of the 2013 map of Easton with a border of nineteen Easton historic icons painted by Eveline Johnson. More information will be in the next newsletter. BE READY TO ENJOY!



The Easton Throws are back! These very popular items were once available through the Easton Clover Club. All profits from the sale of these incredible throws will be used for scholarships. Our volunteer Courtney Saraf is pictured with one of the throws.

These high quality throws, which are all woven and not printed, are available for \$45 and can be purchased in blue, hunter green, or cranberry red. Featured on the throw are the Ames Free Library, Borderland, F. L. Ames Gate Lodge, David Ames Clock Farm at Stonehill College, Old Colony Railroad Station, Children's Museum in Easton (former North Easton Village Fire Station), 1895 Oliver Ames High School, Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, Ames Shovel Shops, Frothingham Memorial Hall, Civil War Monument, Rockery, and the Town Hall.

In Memorium

Jean (Whyte) Visnauskis, 88, a resident of Easton for the past 44 years, died June 17, 2016. She was the wife of the late Albin J. Visnauskis. Jean was a clerical aide at the Oliver Ames High School and later became a substitute clerical aide for the Easton Public Schools. A member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Easton, she was an avid reader who enjoyed history and biography. Jean was a volunteer at the Easton Historical Society & Museum for many years, and enjoyed serving on the Research Group at the Society. Jean is survived by a son, John Visnauskis and his wife Mary of Easton; a sister, Muriel Britton of South Portland, ME.; three grandchildren, Alexander Visnauskis, Evan Visnauskis and Ada Visnauskis all of Easton; her devoted friend of 57 years, Gladys Donovan of Easton and her three daughters; and 3 nieces, 1 nephew and several grandnieces and grand-nephews. In lieu of flowers donations in Jean's memory may be sent to the Easton Scholarship Fund c/o Oliver Ames High School, 100 Lothrop Street, Easton, MA. 02356.

Lorraine "Rosie" (Porter) Watson, 98, of North Easton MA, died peacefully on August 14, 2016, at the Life Care Center in West Bridgewater MA. She was the daughter of Isabella (Almaretta Harvey Lawson) Porter and William Porter. She was the wife of the late John T. "Bud" Watson. She leaves behind four sons and one daughter: Gary and his wife Lynn of Mashpee, MA; John and his wife Anne of Bridgewater; Edward of Easton; Stephen and his wife Joanne of Easton; and Gail Beck and her husband, Robert of Lunenburg. Rosie was the proud "Grammie" of 13 grandchildren. She was also an adoring great-grandmother to 17 great-grandchildren. Rosie was primarily a homemaker until her husband "Bud," died suddenly in 1964. Not long after his passing, Rosie began work as a housekeeper and assistant to Blanche Ames at the Ames Estate in Easton. They both seemed to relish the conversations and companionship. She also worked for the VA hospital in Brockton for thirteen years as a nursing assistant. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Rosie's memory to the Evangelical Congregational Church of Easton, 351 Depot Street, Easton, MA 02334, or to your favorite charity.

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Rocky Marciano postcard signed and pictures of the 1954 hurricane, from Hilda Silva; extensive information about Edward Smith, OAHS Class of 1965 who was killed in Vietnam, from Mark Bergeron; many "Eastoners," from Charles Mone; Easton Civil Defense badge, from Don Tuck; photo of the stack room at the Ames Free Library, from Fran Holland; a Mary Bodio print of Frothingham Park, from Robert Wooster; cheese knives and serving spoons, from Deborah MacPhee; two histories of the Edson family and their house on Center Street, 4 unused Easton Shovelton license plates, and 1 Irish license plate, 13 postcards of Trader Don's store, 13 "Home of the Easton Historical Society" postcards, and 4 postcards with the 2000 cancellation (also Easton's 275th), from Alice McCarthy; information about the Easton Improvement Association 1953-8 recorded by Dorothy Young and donated by her daughter Andrea Young Martin; a wooden fine paper box stamped with Daniel Reed's name along with information on the paper maker, Langwater Farm milk bottle, Simpson Spring bottle, Enterprise 1938 Hurricane photo book, Republican National Convention Ribbon and Medallion, 1988, Republican Pre-Primary State Convention ribbon from 1966, four photos of the Rankin Duck Farm, a ruler from Horace Mitchell's store, from Leon Lombardi; a scrapbook of letters and clippings from one of John S. Ames, III political campaigns, including several items regarding his father John S. Ames, Jr., a scrapbook with photos of metal sculptures done by John S. Ames, III in the 1970's, a proclamation issued by the Executive Council of the Commonwealth July 18, 1973 in memory of John S. Ames, Jr.'s passing and his service on the Council in 1947-48, from John S. Ames, III; 1957 OAHS jacket and football letter, 1963 Easton Huskies Championship jacket, from Gil Heino; papers and maps from the Ames family, from Fred Ames; Morse Car photos and a copy of the book Where Will Your Next Road Take You by former Eastoner Brooke Parker Higgins, from Ron Somerville; newspaper clippings, hanging file folders, tabs, paper, binders, from Wayne Legge; items from the Almquist family including a young boy's sweater, young boy's coat, girl's dress, child's Swedish pattern suspenders, beanie cap, sock clown toy, wooden dancing puppet toy, 1940's girl's baking set, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; Assessors maps, c. 1940's, from the Town of Easton.

Financial gifts have been received from William Ames, Tom and Louise Bono, Jacqueline A. Wray Buck, Ana Foote, Retired Colonel Albert R. and Sandra Greene, Jr., Mary Kimball, Shirley Boudreau Leavitt, Sara and Leon Lombardi, MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith, and Arnold B. Tofias. North Easton Savings Bank has made a donation to assist with the cost of printing the upcoming Easton Puzzle.

The Easton Historical Society & Museum very much appreciates your contributions and your support. Thank you!

A Tribute to My Uncle

By Jean (Southworth) Alger

Steven E. Southworth was born September 1, 1902 in the house his grandfather, William H. Southworth, built in 1825. The house is #87 Pine Street, Eastondale, and was one of the first eight houses built on Pine Street. As a young fellow Steve attended the Eastondale Schoolhouse at the intersection of Washington and Turnpike Streets where the Schoolhouse Plaza is now located. Steve worked at Simpson Spring (as most of his family did), while learning carpentry from Bob Birnie, cabinet maker on Washington Street, South Easton.

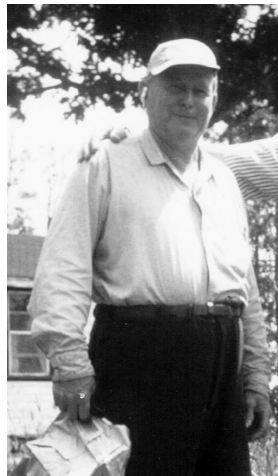
In the 1920's Steve built a house for his older brother, Richard H. Southworth, Sr., which is now #90 Pine Street. In the 1930's he built a house for his younger brother, Philip H. Southworth, which is now #91 Pine Street, where Bob (Alger) and I have lived since March 1950. Steve built #84 Pine Street to sell. The Swanson family bought this house in the 1940's and two of the family still live there. Steve built #85 Pine Street for his friend, Austin Eddy. He went on to build a house for himself at 145 Foundry Street across from Maplewood Camp. He built a barn in the back of the house where he raised rabbits for market. That barn has now been made into a residence. Steve went on to build two houses at Rose Point in Wareham. He resided in one and sold the other.

Steve never married. He retired to Florida for a few years but missed his family and friends in New England, so he came home. He loved working a garden and giving his vegetables to friends. I remember one year he worked three gardens. One field was all potatoes. With the help of family they harvested and delivered bushels of potatoes to a family with 13 children just because he thought they needed them!

Steve sold all his property and went to live with a friend until he passed on in May 1973.



87 Pine Street



Steven E. Southworth



90 Pine Street



91 Pine Street



84 Pine Street



85 Pine Street



Eastondale School



145 Foundry Street



Society Awards Scholarship

Julia Carabatsos is the recipient of a scholarship from the Easton Historical Society & Museum. An Easton resident and 2016 graduate of Milton Academy, Julia spent several days each week compiling information from old Easton Journals and Easton Bulletins from the 1880's. This will be used to create a finding aid for those newspapers which we hope to have scanned and made available to researchers. Julia uncovered a number of fascinating facts about Easton and Easton families during her work. She will attend Yale University this fall.

Congratulations, Julia, and best wishes as you begin college!

Upcoming Open Houses

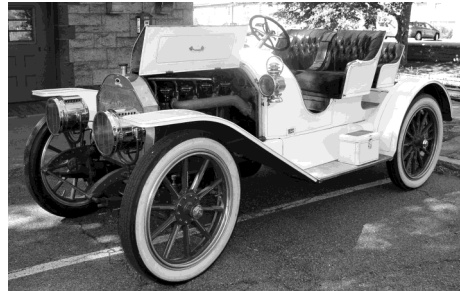
Our September Open House will focus on "Remembering Easton Schools." Each Board Member will share one or two memories about a grade or school (five minutes max!). Those attending will be encouraged to share their memories. This should be a fascinating meeting. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

In October, to go along with our Fall Meeting topic of the three Frederick Lothrop Ameses, come in for a look at the mansions they owned.

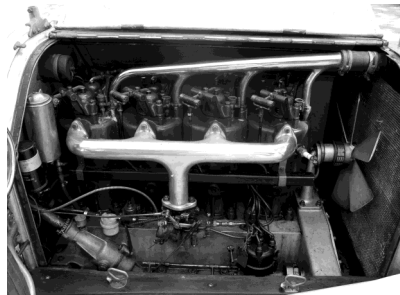
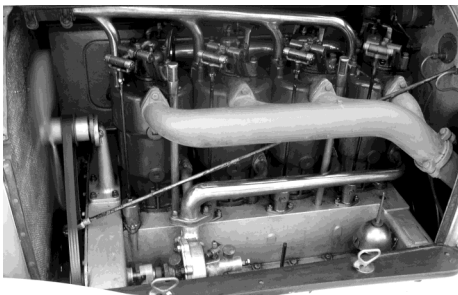
In November, volunteers Allison Such and Courtney Saraf will curate a selection of popular toys and games from our own childhoods. Perhaps you will remember playing with these toys and games!

Photos of the 1907 Morse Car

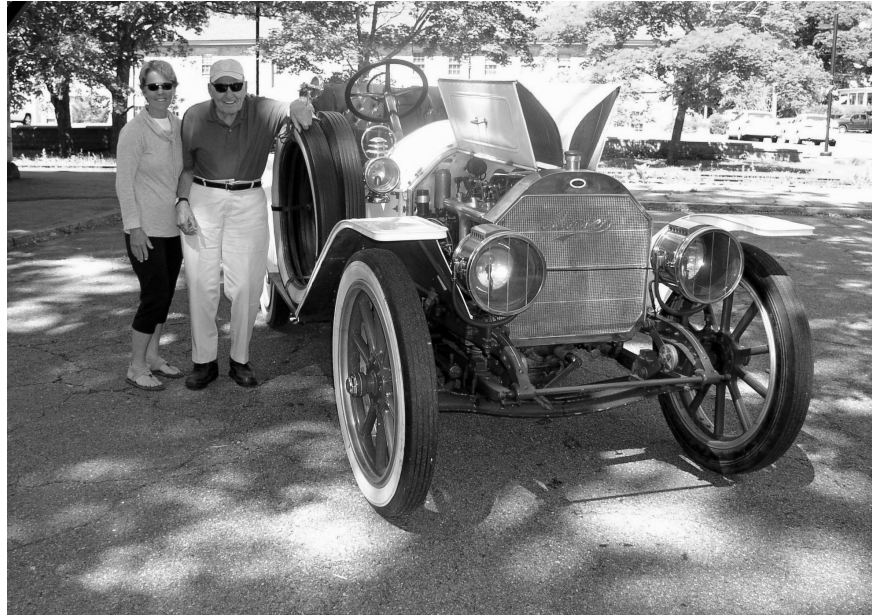
We had a great opportunity to photograph the Morse Car while it was here in June and we thought we would share a few of them with you. Enjoy!



Clockwise from top left: instrument panel and pedals; showing off the engine with the hood open; kerosene sidelight; steering and suspension; both sides of the engine, pistons and exhaust manifold.



Answer to trivia question from page 1: According to a Google survey, the most commonly misspelled word in Massachusetts is the word "Massachusetts!" To see the entire list, go to <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/google-reveals-top-misspelled-word-state/story?id=39406176>.



1907 Morse Car Visits Easton

In June the Society hosted a visit from the Morse Car, made by the Morse family of South Easton. In the photo at left, Dr. Stan Moody mans the wheel. His father, Dr. Jay Rice Moody, owned and restored the Morse. In the photo on the right, Alfred G. Morse and his daughter Peggy stand alongside the Morse. Alfred's grandfather, Alfred Bryant Morse, was the inventor and manufacturer of the car. See related photos inside.

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