



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 10th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Curator's choice.

Saturday, September 23rd, Ken Martin Memorial Bottle Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 8th, Open house from 1-5 p.m. Guest speaker is retired Oliver Ames High School teacher and coach Leo Duggan.

Sunday, November 5th, Daylight Savings Time ends.

Saturday, November 11th, Veteran's Day. Remember to thank a veteran for their service!

Sunday, November 12th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. focusing on the new book of World War II letters by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Thursday, November 23rd, Happy Thanksgiving!

Looking ahead.....

Saturday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 3rd, annual Lions Club Lighting of the Rockery festival and Society Holiday open house.

Sunday, December 10th, open house! We will be joined by authors Linda Williams and Alyson Larrabee. Remember to get your new copy of Reminiscences: Volume Eight, Easton throws, signed books from our authors, and other great gift items.

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Getting Ourselves Ready for Fall

The heat and humidity have moved on and soon the leaves that provided summer shade will create rainbows of color on the ground. Fall marks the beginning of a busy season at the Society and Museum, and we want you to be part of that!

Hot off the presses is the latest edition of Reminiscences: Volume Eight. Filled with new research and interesting items from our archives, your copy will prove valuable in helping you to transition from lazy summer days to sitting by the fire on a crisp fall evening with a good book in your hands. Reminiscences: Volume Eight should be available for the September open house. Copies of volumes 1-7 are also available for purchase so you may complete your set.

Speaking of books, this fall will feature the publication of a book of World War II letters from members of the Swedish Lutheran Church to those serving overseas. Our November open house will give you a chance to get your copy of the book, and hear about the letters and how the book was put together by members of the Holy Trinity Church Book Committee.

Fall is baseball weather, and just in time for the World Series, we will have retired Oliver Ames High School teacher and OA baseball and golf coach Leo Duggan regale us with tales of OA baseball in October. Leo donated a great collection of OA baseball items and records, and the awards and honors he has collected during his career speak volumes of his success both on the field and off the field.

Our fall Ken Martin Bottle and Can Drive will be held on September 23rd, so remember to dig out all those bottles and cans you have been saving since our spring drive!

The air is cool, the coffee is on, the conversation is stimulating, and the research continues. Come on by and see what's going on this fall at the Easton Historical Society and Museum!

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

The Power of Influence

My father's passing a few months ago has caused me to take some time and reflect on a life well lived. A flood of memories came back to me: memories of a great man who strongly believed in being patriotic, doing the right thing, helping out family, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike wherever help was needed. He always had a smile and a joke for you, and he never forgot a face. Through him, I learned the value of family, hard work, and appreciated my Italian heritage. He kept his promises and was a loyal friend to many people he met over the years. This included four Easton families who, along with my parents, influenced my future.

Dad always liked antiques, and he dabbled with them when he could. A few pieces of old glass items, an old clock, a box of "junk" that might contain a treasure or two, brought him much enjoyment. While working for Robert and Shirley Hatchfield who owned Merchants Alarm Company, he met the late attorney Abraham Brooks and his wife Mae. The Brooks had a collection of early American pewter and early American lighting, and their love for all things historical was passed on from them to my Dad, and then to me. I came to appreciate old things and wanted to learn about them and the stories of the people who created them.

While Dad was working for the Hatchfield family, he was fortunate to have the use of a company car. The Hatchfields bought their cars from the Mitrano family, owners of Mitrano Chevrolet in North Easton, and all of the gasoline and repairs were purchased from the late Harry Sundell at his gas station in North Easton center. In a time when there were a lot of one car families, we never had to worry about having transportation.

That transportation played a major role in forming my love for museums. Once in a while, during summer vacation or a day off from school, the Hatchfields allowed my Dad to take one of his sons with him to work. For me, this was a real thrill to see what Dad did and to spend time alone with him. Usually we were on the road to see customers. During the course of the day, we would stop for lunch somewhere (he knew all the good places to eat!). But the best part was seeing things wherever we were. I have fond memories of going to the New Bedford Whaling Museum, museums in Fall River, and antique shops. Some of my favorite memories were of the times we spent in Plymouth, visiting various museums and historic buildings there. We also visited ancient cemeteries where I marveled at the old grave stones, full of beautiful carvings and honored names. It was during those times that I developed a deep appreciation for people and places long past and first understood the importance of preservation. Thanks, Dad, for seeing something good in me and nurturing my love of history. And thanks to the Brooks, Hatchfield, Mitrano, and Sundell families for providing the influence and the means that would prepare me for the work of preserving the history of Easton.

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter
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WELCOME TO REMINISCENCES: VOLUME EIGHT

Welcome to Volume Eight of Reminiscences. We begin with a look at the life of Robert D. King, an Eastoner who became renowned as a publisher of music for brass, and later established the Robert D. and Sally G. King Trust with his wife. The Society has been extremely fortunate to have received this trust which has enabled us to provide extensive services to the community, particularly by our curator. We asked the Kings' daughter Judy to introduce her extraordinary parents to you. Learn about the fascinating King family's involvement in Easton for several generations.

Professor Chet Raymo writes about a crayfish he encountered one day on his daily walking commute through Sheep Pasture to Stonehill. It inspired him to reflect on the challenges in our relationship with nature and what role humans should play.

One of the most interesting individuals in Easton more than half a century ago was Wallace Gilmore, who became deaf at the age of twelve. What was his life like at the age of eighteen in Easton in 1906? Enjoy the entries that Dan Paré selected from his diary.

Edmund Hands describes in depth the final days of Frederick L. Ames, owner of "Langwater" and the wealthiest person in Massachusetts in 1893. His second oldest son, the second F. L. Ames, built Stonehill in 1905. Dan Paré reports some Stonehill trivia, particularly from its days as a college, and presents photos and remembrances by several alumni couples who settled in Easton.

Three other selections that you will enjoy include Lee Williams's humorous description of "my stellar military career," Ralph Peterson's challenge of running in the 2017 Boston Marathon for a very worthy cause, and a chronology of Frothingham Memorial Park from 1930 to 2017, seen particularly through the reports of the first Park Director, John C. Mason, and the 2005 speech by the long-time Park President David Ames, Jr., at the Park's 75th anniversary field day.

Poems of Anne Wooster Drury are always enjoyable; this year the setting is Borderland State Park. Through poetry, Moira Linehan reflects on the relationships of the Irish immigrant residents of Lincoln Street more than a century ago.

Another article covers the passing of beloved Oliver Ames High School coach and assistant principal Sue Rivard. Volume Eight's "This and That" section likewise focuses on OAHS, including the first editorial from the first Eastoner (the school's official publication begun in 1923), an Ames shovel advertisement from a 1925 issue, and some funny absence/tardy notes compiled by Principal Duncan B. Oliver in 1985. Following these items is the list of the Directors of the Ames Free Library from 1883-2017, with concluding pages featuring some of the Society's activities in 2016-2017.

Daniel P. Paré ~~~ Hazel L. Varella

Coming Events

- Open House, September 10, 1-5 p.m. Curator's choice! Among the items on exhibit will be a Simpson Spring maple syrup tin, Rocky Marciano memorabilia, a photograph of four very distinguished looking musicians who formed the "Union Quartet," the South Easton railroad station and a train wreck, and other curiosities to whet your historical whistle.
- Open House, October 8, 1-5 p.m. Join us for a visit with Leo Duggan at 2 p.m. Leo, a long-time physical education teacher as well as the coach of OAHS baseball, has donated many items from his years as coach. He will talk about his favorite memories while he was at OAHS, a special trip to Cooperstown, and winning a state championship. Leo was also the coach of the OAHS golf team. Join us for a look at OAHS baseball, just in time for the World Series!
- Open House, November 12, 1-5 p.m. We will be joined by members of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church who will be displaying letters written to Easton troops during World War II. The members will discuss their new book which includes the letters to the troops as well as photographs. Many Easton families are represented, many Easton places are remembered, and the news from home going to the troops gives a window into what was going on in Easton during the war. Books will be available for purchase, so this will be a great opportunity to pick one up for yourself or as a gift for someone.
- The holidays will be here before you know it, so get ready with us! We begin the festivities with our annual Holiday Festival open houses. On Saturday, December 2nd, we will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joining us will be our friends from the Easton Garden Club with their annual Greens sale. If you want something really special for your home, or as a gift for someone else, pick up one of their fresh wreaths or arrangements. On Sunday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 10th, we will be open from 1-5 p.m. Pick up your copy of Reminiscences: Volume 8, an Easton throw, or other unique gift. Send a little bit of Easton to someone special this year!



Ken Martin Fall Bottle and Can Drive

We will hold our fall bottle and can drive on Saturday, September 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Society and Museum. The event will be held rain or shine. Any and all Massachusetts returnable bottles and cans will be accepted. Please rinse them first. Large amounts may be picked up prior to the event by calling 508-238-7774. Donations are also accepted during the week. Our spring drive brought is \$185, and with donations made in memory of Ken Martin, the total was more than \$300! Please keep saving those bottles and cans. We appreciate your support for this very important fundraiser!

In Memorium

Francis T. "Frank" Meninno passed away June 12 at the age of 83. After growing up in Brockton and Avon, he settled in Easton and raised his family there. For many years he worked for Merchants Alarm Company as an installer, salesman, and manager. It was through his efforts that the Society received their first alarm system. Frank was a Navy veteran of the Korean War who served primarily on LSTs. He was on one of the first ships to the Arctic for Operation Dew Line that delivered the special equipment for what would become NORAD. Frank is survived by his wife of almost 60 years Jeanette (Johnson), sons Frank and his wife Anne-Marie, Mark, Guy and Russ, grandchildren Justin Meninno and his wife Kelly, Dominic, Anthony, Jennifer and Christopher Meninno, his great-grandchildren Matthew and Christopher Meninno, a sister, Rita Cormier, nieces and nephews, cousins, and his many coffee friends.

Normand G. Levesque, age 85, of Bridgewater died on August 13, 2017. He was the beloved husband and best friend of Betty L. (Keyes) Levesque for over 58 years. Survivors include his son, David and wife Lori, his daughter, Ann Wood and husband Warren, and grandchildren, Sarah Wood and Peter Wood. He is survived by his sister, Irene Rec and husband Bob, his brother, George and wife Janet, his brother, Henri and wife Jill, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Normand attended La Sallette Seminary in Enfield, N.H., and graduated from Coyle High School in 1949. After serving in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command as a jet mechanic during the Korean War, he was a bricklayer and construction supervisor for many years. He also taught masonry at Tri-County Regional Technical High School for fifteen years. Norm loved music and was an accomplished pianist. He was an outstanding athlete, excelling in baseball, basketball, golf and tennis, and coached Bidy League basketball for a number of years. He was a member of St. Vincent De Paul Society and volunteered at the St. Thomas Aquinas food pantry for many years. Norm and Betty traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Ronald P. Danielson passed away on August 15 at the age of 74. He was the son of Reginald and Helen (Danielsen) Danielson. He is survived by his wife of fifty-two years of Karen (McKean) Danielson of North Easton, his children Pamela and her husband John Scanlon, Sarah and her husband Steve Peake, and Stephanie and her husband Christian McMullan. He is also survived by his brother Lee Danielson and his wife Mary Ellen, and his sister Margaret and her husband Robert Dechene. Ron is survived by nine grandchildren ranging in age from five to fifteen and a niece and nephew and their children. He will be greatly missed. Ronald graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY with a degree in civil engineering. At graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Corp of Engineers. He served at Fort Riley, KS prior to his deployment in 1965 to Vietnam to serve in the war. Three weeks before deployment Ron married Karen. While in Vietnam Ron earned a Purple Heart and an Army Accommodation Award. Ronald and Karen moved to Easton in 1972 and raised their children there. He was very active at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, serving as president of the Church Council and Superintendent of the Sunday School along with other committees. He was a member of the Easton Historical Society and Natural Resources Trust. He served as treasurer of the First Engineer Battalion for five years 2011 - 2016. Ron loved his family first. He also enjoyed gardening, reading, swimming and traveling. Several places were dear to Ronald including Long Lake, NY in the Adirondacks and Camp Calumet in W. Ossipee, NH.

We offer our sincere sympathy to the Meninno, Levesque, and Danielson families.

Donations

Two coins from Easton's Bi-Centennial celebration, from Barry Knowlton; Easton Town Reports, from Michael Russell; Swedish Bible from the Nagle and Benson families, Bird's Eye View map of South Easton, in memory of the Nagle and Benson families, from Charles F. Barnes; wine press that was used on the F. Lothrop Ames estate "Stone House Hill House" (Stonehill College), from Mary Delgado; copies of two booklets about the building of the North Easton Water Works, from Martin Taylor; photo collage of the "Ames Oak" at the Clock Farm, from Michael Wood; harpoon pattern used at the former Belcher Malleable Foundry, from Steven F. Anderson; framed photos of Richardson buildings and North Easton landmarks, from Pantelis and Janice Sarafoglou; quilt, children's articles, household items from the Almquist family, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; three railroad books: The New Haven Railroad: Its Rise and Fall; Waiting for the 5:05, Terminal, Station, and Depot in America; Westward to Promontory, a pictorial book of building the Union Pacific across the plains and mountains, a copy of the Maine Antiques Digest June 2016 that features items from the Jim Craig auction, USA Today article about converting the former H. H. Richardson designed Buffalo (NY) State Asylum into "Hotel Henry," from Ronald Somerville; envelope from National Air Mail Week with the Ames Shovels cancellation, commemorating the first airmail flight from North Easton to Boston, May 19, 1938, from Michael Armstead; photo of the entire Mass. House of Representatives, 1905, featuring Louis Frothingham as Speaker, from Renee and James Anderson; items from the Phelan and McNamara families including an ivory handle from a stagecoach driver's whip, a bench from the 1886 Easton Town Hall, two old American flags, original copies of the History of Easton, original copy of Every Day But Sunday (History of Mansfield, Ma.), Grange song book, dedication of the Easton Soldier's Monument, Ames Shovel Catalog, History of the Massachusetts Constitution by Louis Frothingham, Recollections of the Civil War by Major Robert Dollard, Dollard family photos, materials relating to former State Representative Roger McNamara, booklet of Soldier's Buried in Easton, patent for roller blinds, automatic tack hammer, school diplomas, World War II ration stamps, other Easton-related items, from Dianne McNamara; construction helmet given to students involved with the expansion of OAHs, from Jeff and Patricia Webster.

Thank you to Bob Vogel, who helped us to acquire two items: a 1787 letter that allows James Perry to travel without fear of trouble (Shay's Rebellion), and a ticket for a Grand Ball at Sequasset Hall, 1870; and to Duncan Oliver, who helped us to acquire a tin container that held maple syrup compound and was bottled by Simpson Spring.

Financial donations have been received from Judy Baptiste, Robert and Jane Benton-Pike, the Easton Garden Club, James MacPhee and Give With Liberty, Oliver Ames Class of 1957.

We also received our annual bequest from the Robert D. and Sally G. King Trust, which enables us to employ a part-time Curator/Caretaker as well as provide support for operating expenses of the Society and Museum. Thanks to the generosity of this very special family, we are able to have the Museum open daily for researchers and visitors.

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

A New School for Easton

During the early years of education in Easton, few scholars were able to receive much education beyond grade school. This began to change in 1867 when the town voted to maintain a high school curriculum. Since travel could be a hardship for scholars, four high school terms were held in four parts of town: the first term at Easton Centre, the second term at South Easton, the third term at Furnace Village, and a fourth term at North Easton. Each term was ten weeks in length. Unfortunately, this “school on wheels” as described by Rev. William Chaffin, did not work well. A central site needed to be chosen, and a building erected.

In the Town Report ending February 1st, 1868, the members of the School Committee made an impassioned plea for such a building. In their report, George G. Withington, Oliver Ames, 2nd, and Edward R. Hayward noted fifty-seven students of high school age who were lacking the ability to further their education. They also made note that by not having a high school, the town had to forfeit its share of state funding. “A High School worthy of the name will be of incalculable benefit to the whole town. It will increase the efficiency of the district schools by arousing the ambition of the pupils therein, setting before them the advantages as an object to be attained; it will afford at home ample facilities for acquiring a solid and thorough English education, and, if desired, for preparation to enter college.” The report ends with “Let us look, therefore, to the future as well as the present and be governed in our action by wise foresight and prudence. Let us have a High School which shall accomplish all that is possible to such an institution, and be an honor to the town.”

By the time you read this, another school year will have begun. More than 1100 students will fill the halls of Oliver Ames High School. If only our Mr. Withington, Mr. Ames, and Mr. Hayward were here to see how their forward looking vision would play out. They would be pleased to see that our High School, and all Easton schools, are indeed an honor to our town.



Easton High School about 1870

Pictured at left is the first high school building erected in Easton. Opened in late 1869, it was built by the Ames Shovel Company on land purchased by the former No. 7 School District. The Italianate styled school was three stories high, and had a clock tower. The front four rooms were used for the high school students with lower grades housed in the other rooms. Students are shown in front of the building, and one little tyke is sitting in front of the iron fence.

The school stood on Lincoln Street, opposite the Rockery. When the original Oliver Ames High School was built on the same site in 1895, this building was moved closer to Barrows Street where it served as a junior high school before being torn down in 1930 to make room for an addition to the 1895 school.



Camp at Long Pond, July 1942. This photo, donated by Alice McCarthy, shows a favorite summer getaway—camping at Long Pond on the Easton / Stoughton line. The canvas tent is in the background, and a note on the back of the photo identifies “Johnnie Mara’s canoe” at the front left. The camp sites have long disappeared, but Long Pond remains a popular summer place for swimming, canoeing, and fishing.

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