Fall 2018 Volume 19, Issue 1

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Full Speed Ahead Into Fall

As a hot summer draws to an end, we look towards the horizon to our busy fall calendar! Save the dates below for some very special events we have planned for you. Details can be found inside.

- September 9th will feature the artwork of the late Mary Bodio, presented by the Bodio family. Looking for prints of Mary's work? You will be able to purchase them today!
- September 20th, join us as we partner with the Easton Grange to present a concert of World War I music by the Canton Community Band. A slide show and narration add to the evening.
- Touchdown! On October 14th we will recognize members of the 1968 Oliver Ames football team. The team won the Hockomock League title, something that has not happened in the fifty years since.
- World War I drew to a close 100 years ago on Armistice Day. Our November 11th Open House will feature World War I items and stories, focusing on the three soldiers from Easton who gave their lives during the war.
- We have been busy in other ways too! The ever-popular Historic Easton Blue Maps have been reprinted. Work on our collections storage area continues on the second floor. We are in the very early stages of implementing a Community Preservation Act Grant to design archival storage and design a sprinkler system. You'll be hearing more about those projects soon. See you this fall!

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 9th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. featuring Mary Bodio prints of Easton.

Saturday, September 15th, the Ken Martin Fall Bottle and Can Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine!

Thursday, September 20th, World War I Music Concert at Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 14th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. with the 1968 OAHS Football Team.

Sunday, November 4th, Daylight Savings Time ends. Set you clocks back one hour!

Sunday, November 11th, Armistice Day and Open House from 1-5 p.m. focusing on World War I and our Easton veterans.

Looking ahead…..

Reminiscences: Volume 9 will be available this fall.

It's getting close to the winter holidays! Plan on seeing us as we take part in the annual Easton Lions Club Holiday Festival on Saturday, December 1st and Sunday, December 2nd!

We are happy to host the Easton Garden Club for their ever popular annual Greens Sale on December 1st. You don't want to miss this!

The mission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum 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

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world."
4-H Pledge

When I was growing up in Furnace Village, agriculture was still very much a daily way of life. Clover Valley Farm was running daily on Poquanticut Avenue, Sam Wright had his dairy herd at the Five Corners, and Galloway Farm on Bay Road was as active as ever. There were other farms as well. I was lucky to have an old-time farmer as a back yard neighbor, Ted Harlow.

The Harlow property on South Street backed up to our property on Foundry Street. As kids we soon discovered that there, just over a low stone wall, there were chickens, sheep, pigs and an occasional goat to be found. A vegetable garden was an added bonus. Ted and his wife Ruth were both 4-H leaders. Their son David was active in 4-H for many years. As I spent some time at the Harlow farm, I began to take more of an interest in farming. My father and mother had a vegetable garden that I helped out with, and even planted a few crops of my own (potatoes did well, carrots did not!). Soon we branched into a few small animals as well. I had a small chicken coop and about a dozen chickens (yes, I sold eggs to the neighbors), and soon we had a few rabbits. My brothers and I soon joined the 4-H club that Ted ran and learned about raising animals of all types. (Ruth also ran a 4-H club for girls that focused on cooking, sewing, and other home types of activities.) The 4-H program, which is run through extension services in each county, gave me a way to understand and appreciate farmers and all the work that needs to be done to run even a small farm. I learned through 4-H how I was part of a larger system of people who brought food to the nation. But I also learned what it meant to be patriotic, I learned the value of being a good neighbor by helping others without the expectation of reward or recognition, to appreciate hard work and to work hard at whatever I was going to do, and that I had a duty to be a good citizen. 4-H was much more than a club; it really was a great education.

Ted Harlow finally gave up the club in the early 1970's, turning the reigns over to Avery Lee Williams, who was farming at his property on Beatty Lane. The teen years caught up with me (as well as a lack of transportation to get to Lee's home in South Easton for meetings) and I eventually gave up 4-H for other endeavors. I still have a fondness for 4-H though. Recently attending the Bolton (Ma.) fair with my wife, I was drawn to the 4-H exhibits, and enjoyed speaking with today's youth who are active in their local 4-H clubs. I am glad to see that in the busyness of this sophisticated, high-tech world, there are still dedicated leaders who believe in the values instilled in me by the 4-H program, and who work hard to pass those along to a new generation of farmers. 4-H was one of those things that made growing up in Easton special.

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

Officers for 2018-2019
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

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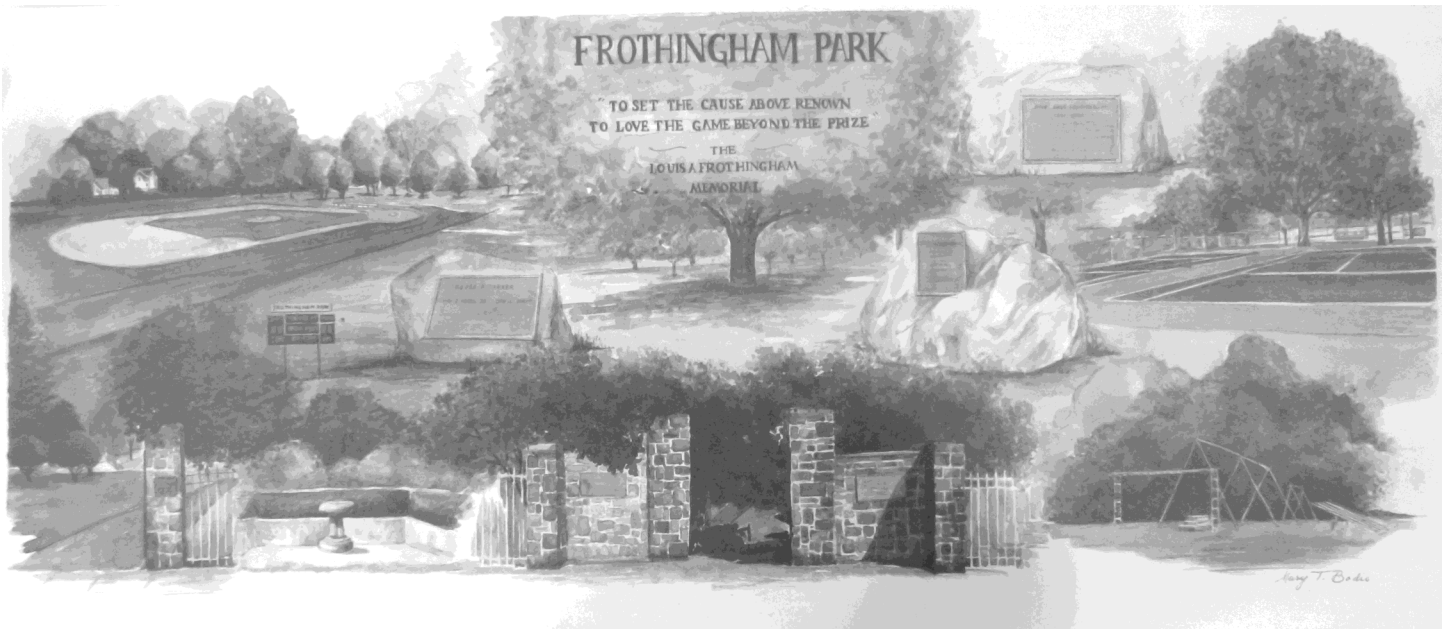
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

Mary Bodio Prints at the Museum



Frothingham Memorial Park Collage by Mary Bodio

For many years the Easton Historical Society and Museum has been selling Easton notecards featuring the watercolor art of the late Mary Bodio. Now, her family is making prints of her works available to the public. These prints of Mary's original watercolors, featuring extraordinary renderings of many Easton landmarks, will be featured at our open house on Sunday, September 9th. Many people have been asking for copies of Mary's work, and this is your chance to purchase some. The Bodio family will donate a portion of the proceeds from sales to the Easton Historical Society and Museum, My Brother's Keeper, and a charity on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, where Mary spent much time painting and offering art classes.

Mary's original watercolors and prints are highly sought after. She was well-known both here and abroad as an accomplished watercolorist. During her long career, Mary had a number of shows in major galleries in Boston, Cape Cod, and St. Croix. She had two shows at the Museum in recent years that were very successful. Mary shared her love of painting to many people, all of whom she befriended and added to her large circle of friends.

The Easton Historical Society and Museum is deeply grateful to the Bodio family for their generosity, and for making this event possible.

Historic Easton Blue Maps Now Available

The twelfth edition of the Historic Easton Blue Maps are now available. A concept of the senior Honors OAHS Local History Class of 1975, the map not only lists 29 historic places to see and a suggested travel route but also histories of Easton, the Ames Company, and Iron Making in the Furnace Village area. Also included are 11 early pictures of Easton. The first seven editions (20,000) were funded by the Easton Historical Society, the Easton Historical Commission, and Bristol County. Each edition has been updated before being printed. At the beginning of the century MacKenzie Smith arranged funding for the eighth edition. Since then an additional 18,000 have been printed funded by the Ames Family of Easton, North Easton Savings Bank, Stonehill College, and MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith. The facilitator has been Lynn DeCouto. Maps are available at the Museum, the Easton Town Offices, the Ames Free Library, and Easton branches of the North Easton Savings Bank.

WELCOME TO REMINISCENCES: VOLUME NINE

Welcome to the ninth volume of Reminiscences. On October 10, 2016, Frederick "Fred" Lothrop Ames IV explained to a large audience at Stonehill College the history of "the first three Freds," shedding light on three influential and colorful members of the Ames family of Easton. These included the first Frederick Lothrop Ames, one of the 19th century's richest and most powerful businessmen; his son, a pioneering cattle breeder; and his grandson, a daredevil pilot and award-winning yachtsman. After the lecture, the fourth Fred continued to research this fascinating topic, and the Society is honored to share his current findings with you. Included are many family photographs.

Two of our annual authors, Professor Chet Raymo and Society historian Edmund Hands, focus on special interests of theirs. The hard time Chet had trying to dig postholes in the rocky yard of his Easton home leads to his informative look back at New England's geological history spanning 15,000 years. Ed Hands examines the legend that General George Washington visited Easton during the Revolutionary War.

In the 1870s, sculptor Truman Bartlett made three busts of Oliver Ames and Oliver Ames, Jr. Professor Kenneth A. Bernard reviews the life of this sculptor and Abraham Lincoln aficionado. Several years later, one of the major interests in North Easton was the creation of the Rockery in 1882. Some newspaper coverage of its development appears here. Another newspaper article from later that decade reports on a political rally held in Furnace Village, complete with cannon fire.

Life in North Easton in the early 1900s is conveyed by H. Judson Robinson, who grew up at 89 Center Street next to the former Episcopal church, and Charlotte Wallin Nelson, who grew up on Pond Street and Pleasant Street. Her descendants compiled her writings on the subject into an extensive booklet, parts of which are included here.

Another annual author, Avery "Lee" Williams, shares his memories of World War II in Furnace Village. In the 1960s, polio survivor Michael Maguire, who died last December, was a popular student at Oliver Ames High School and the manager for some of the school's sports teams. Mark Bergeron, who knew him well, describes his amazing life.

Hazel Varella's overview of OAHS teachers from the middle of last century appeared in Reminiscences: Vol. 2. An updated second edition is featured here. The longest living teacher, as far as we know, was Veronica Honohan Carter, who died late last year, six weeks before her 110th birthday. Two articles from soon after her death appear here.

Our annual poet, Anne Wooster Drury, has a fascinating and thoughtful contribution, combining prose reflections with poetry inspired by Easton. Our annual "This n' That" section of short pieces includes another Easton poem, a story written entirely with words starting with *A*, a list of Easton's school superintendents and high school principals dating back to the 1800s, and a parody of Clement C. Moore's famous poem about the night before Christmas, written to cheer on OA's 1956-1957 basketball team. Also, enjoy some of the highlights of the 2017-2018 Society year.

Photos include a special 1974 advertisement for the Ames company on its 200th anniversary. In a future volume, we hope to focus again on Wallace Gilmore, whose diary appeared in last year's volume. We are also trying to learn more about one of this year's writers, Charlotte Wallin Nelson. Any information you have would be appreciated.

Daniel P. Paré and Hazel L. Varella

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

Robin Brooks of Amherst recently made an exceptionally generous financial gift to the Easton Historical Society & Museum

A long-time supporter of EH&S, he said that the gift was made to his "beloved hometown and in memory of his parents," Atty. Abraham and Mae Brooks, who were instrumental in establishing the legal structure of the Society and devoted many hours to its heritage. (Robin graduated from Oliver Ames High School in 1953.)

A benefactor of a number of charitable organizations, Robin's very special gift to the Society will augment a Community Preservation Act grant, to help facilitate the creation of a fire suppression system and climate controlled archival storage system, an essential need for the second floor archives.

Robin, the Board of Directors gratefully accepts this fabulous gift!

Thank you.

Donations

James Kempf donated a trumpet and case, circa 1940's, played by his father Carl Kempf who played with bands in both Easton and Brockton, including perhaps "Cookie" Callahan; **Paul R. Forsstrom** donated an extensive collection of Civil War papers and letters from Easton soldier George Andrews: 150 letters from Civil War battlefields during his three year enlistment, other personal letters, photos of the Andrews family including photos of George Andrews in uniform, GAR Post documents, family Bible, accounts book from the GAR with details of his wedding, GAR pin, an outstanding ladies lace folding fan that is richly embroidered and in a decorated black lacquer box, G.A.R. pins and papers, a pocket watch that belonged to George's father William Andrews, family photos, framed photos of early OA boy's basketball teams with members of the Lincoln family, a 1907 photo of the OA basketball team, a photo of an early OA football team, and a photo of an early OA baseball player. (George Andrews, and his father William, were the first occupants of the Mechanic / Andrews street area, and George served in the 7th Mass with many other Easton men); **Celeste (Camara) Dahlborg** donated a glass mug from the OAHS Class of 1945 40th Reunion, and cup plates featuring Easton landmarks; **Alice McCarthy** donated early 20th century magazines, a catalog, and news items dealing with growing strawberries (a former resident grew them commercially on the property near Center Street and Short Street); the **Visnauskis** family donated Easton Town Reports and other reports; **Dennis Lyons** donated two programs from the Hockomock Rail Road Club, 1964 and 1965; the family of **Archie Freeman** donated a 1924 calendar featuring Langwater Valiant; **John Kenyon** donated stamps, first day covers, and items from the Weidermann and Kenyon families; **Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated items from her family including a doll, a wonderful child's tea set, cookie cutters, books, and clothing, and sheet music used by Mrs. McNamara to give lessons at her home on the corner of Pond and Main Streets; **Kimberly Frattasio**, donated items from the Robert King Music Company: 15 photos on foam board with the history of the King Music Company and Alphonse Luduc Company from 1987-2007, brass music catalogs from 1961-2005; scrapbook of composers, 3 French musical game boards, 5 framed photos of the King Family and music room at the King house on Canton Street, 3 award plaques presented to Robert King; **Ruth Williams Carrigan** donated Easton books from her late parent's collection - Easton 275th Books (2), Easton's Pictorial Past, The Architecture of H.H. Richardson in North Easton, 75 Years of Church History in Easton, 250th Anniversary Program Book, Growing Up at Sheep Pasture, Easton's Past as Shown through Maps, Letter from the Citizens Committee for Wheaton Farm, December, 1966; **Robert Sundell** donated 3 coins from Easton's 275th Celebration; **Tony Pires and Beth Kenney** donated film reels from the Easton Theatre that were found by Pires when they were doing the building over; **Dwight and Mary Kaligian** donated an antique shovel, and a bird's eye map of South Easton; **Mark Bergeron** donated his 1964 OAHS football jacket (the team won all their games and the Class D State Championship); **Jim Luke's** family donated an official picture of the Class of 1963 and 25th and 40th reunion booklets; items from **Veronica Carter's** home including silver bowl given by the Oliver Ames Athletic Council for her many years of devoted interest and enthusiastic support of the athletes of Oliver Ames High School-1970, Easton School Directories from 1945-1972, and the 50th reunion booklet of the Class of 1949.

Financial donation s received by the Society may be found on Page 6. We thank you for your continued generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum!

Hilda Silva Celebrates 100th Birthday

Hilda Silva celebrated her 100th birthday in a series of gatherings, extending over several days, surrounded by family and friends from across the country. The events started with a Casino themed party at the Connemara Senior Living in Brockton on August 15 where she was presented with a tiara and corsage composed of playing cards in keeping with her interest in gaming. The mayor of Brockton presented her with a citation and the chair of the City Council dropped by to wish her well. She also received well wishes from the Red Sox and the Patriots, teams she follows avidly. The Brockton Enterprise covered the event with publication in the following day's paper.

On Saturday she was feted at a luncheon by 75 friends and relatives from Seattle, California, Texas, Missouri, Florida, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Maine. A highlight of the afternoon was a presentation of a citation from the Easton Historical Society by the president, Ken Michel. The EHS also provided a variety of photos depicting the Town of Easton in earlier times which drew a lot of attention from the attendees. The musical background consisted of a variety of popular tunes as well as live entertainment provided by her great-grandsons, Tony McCahill on piano with Anthony Norris on some vocals.

Mrs. Silva was a long time resident of Easton and, with her husband Anthony, raised five children who all attended Easton schools. She continues to enjoy cheering for "her" Red Sox and Patriots, attending outings to close by casinos and playing Bingo and other card and trivia games. She expressed her appreciation for all the attention and the many cards, bouquets of flowers and other thoughtful gifts but mostly the enjoyment of sharing the occasion with so many of her family and friends.

In the photo at left, Hilda Silva proudly holds up a copy of the Brockton Enterprise story featuring her 100th birthday celebration. In the photo on the right, the guest of honor enjoys family and friends at a party given in her honor.

Photos and article provided by the Silva family.

Financial Donations Received

The following have made financial donations: **Tom** and **Louise Bono**, **Robert Benton** and **Jane Pike Benton**, **Kathleen O'Connor**, **James MacPhee**, and **Molly Satter**. We have received donations in memory of **Attorney Abraham** and **Mae Brooks** from **Robin Brooks**, in memory of **Ruth Smith** from **MacKenzie** and **Jeannine Smith**, in memory of **Alfred Morse** from the **North Easton Savings Bank** and **Scott Callan**, in memory of **James Luke** from **James Carlino**, **Kenneth** and **Janice Michel** and the **Varella Family**.

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

In Memorium

Carolyn Dorothea Wiedemann Kenyon, 82, of Brockton passed away on Saturday, July 7, 2018. She was the loving wife of John "Fred" Kenyon for 61 years. Carolyn was the daughter of Sigurd Emil and Agnes Linnea (Larson) Wiedemann of North Easton. She was a 1953 graduate of Oliver Ames High School, where she was a cheerleader, and a violinist and concert mistress in the school orchestra. She was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brockton. She was a Past Worthy Matron Order of the Eastern star Easton Chapter #164, was an active member of the Easton Grange #196 where she served as Chaplain, the Ingeborg Lodge #66 of the VASA Order of America where she served as Treasurer, and a member of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. Carolyn was very proud of her Swedish and Norwegian heritage and celebrated the holidays with the food and customs of Scandinavia. She really enjoyed the comraderie of the Swedish Weaving classes at Easton's Council on Aging's Frothingham Hall.
Carolyn leaves her husband, Fred, her sons, John and his significant other, Emily Younie, Dean, and her daughter, Lynne, all of Brockton. Carolyn is survived by her brother-in-law, George Kenyon and his wife, Kay, and children, Thomas and Kathleen Kenyon, her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Richardson and children David and Darrin Richardson, and her brother-in-law, Richard Kenyon. She is also survived by her cousins, Priscilla Almquist-Olsen and her children, Annika Helmrich and Erik Olsen, and H. Frederick Almquist, his wife, Ellen, and their children, Allison Braley and Jennifer Reid. She was predeceased by her cousin, Karin Almquist Bell. You can find the complete obituary here: http://www.d-mfh.com/obits/obituary.php?id=707171.

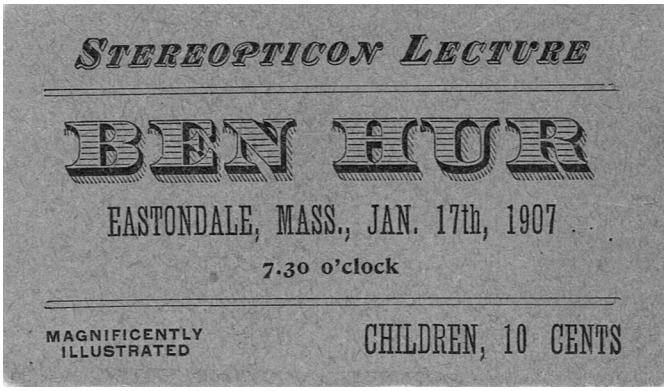
Bertil Berglund of Easton, a long-time member of the Society, passed away on July 25, 2018, age 89. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Leona S. (Blazis) Berglund; dear son-in-law of Mildred Blazis of Canton; brother of Helen Markgren of Mashpee and the late Erling Berglund and A. Louise (Berglund) Arvidson; brother-in-law of Sandra Berglund of West Gardner, Maine and C. Richard Arvidson of Dublin, NH.; "Guffa" to nieces and nephews; also survived by his feline friends Tilly and Chloe. At the request of the family there are no services scheduled at this time. Donations in Bertil's memory may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

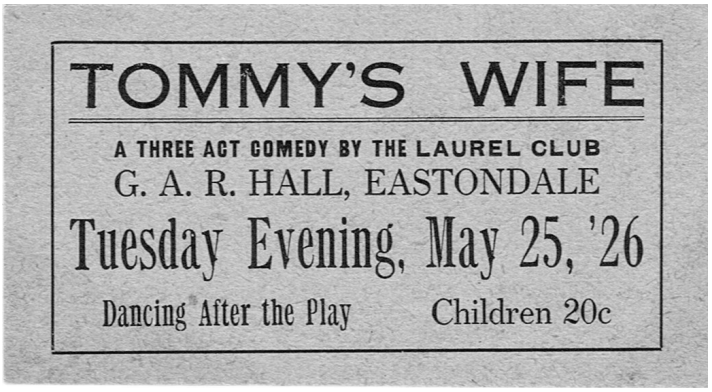
Gerald Silva passed away on August 13, 2018, at his residence in Naples, FL after a long and valiant battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Mr. Silva, a native of Easton, attended public schools, graduating in 1964. He was active in several sports and school government. He later attended Northeastern University and was employed by the IRS, Criminal Investigation Division, where he enjoyed a long, challenging and meritorious career. After retiring to Florida, Gerry pursued his affection for golf and became proficient, winning several club championships. He continued his civic involvement becoming a member of the homeowners association board, including serving as president for a couple of terms. Gerry will be remembered for, among other traits, his fondness for his Easton roots, dry and quick sense of humor, love of antique autos, and passion for all Boston sports teams. He is preceded in death by his father, Anthony, brother, Mark and former wife, Lynda. He leaves behind his mother, Hilda, wife Catherine (Kit), son Scott, and siblings, Bob, Donna, and Gina, as well as several nieces and nephews. Services will be at the Immaculate Conception Church on September 22.

The Society expresses our deepest sympathy to the Kenyon, Berglund, and Silva families.

Fall Bottle and Can Drive

The fall bottle and can drive, held in memory of Ken Martin, will take place on Saturday, September 15th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Museum. This important fundraiser will be held rain or shine. All clean, Massachusetts returnable bottles and cans will be accepted. For pickup, call the Museum at 508-238-7774, or drop us an email at eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com. Thank you for saving those bottles and cans for us!





A Night Out in Eastondale

Eastondale residents looking for an evening of entertainment had a variety of options to choose from, as evidenced by these tickets for dances, lectures, and plays. The G.A.R. Hall on Turnpike Street hosted a number of dances in the late 19th and early 20th century. The events were put on by various organizations including churches and neighborhood clubs such as the Laurel Club. Not mentioned, but surely available, would be home-made refreshments to add a sweet finish to a good night out.

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