

TRAIN TRACKS



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.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!

We are planning a very busy holiday season, and hope you will take the time to drop by and visit, chat and enjoy some hot coffee. Here is what we are up to...

- **Saturday, December 1st, the Society will be open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. This year, the Easton Garden Club will decorate the Station. The new Mary Bodio ornament featuring the Gardener's Cottage will be available for purchase. We will have a bake sale (you know our members are terrific bakers), a gift wrapping table, holiday music, a selection of "wrapped and ready" gift ideas to make your holiday shopping easier. We will also have a table at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall.**
- **Sunday, December 2nd, the Society will be open from 1 to 5 P.M. Mary Bodio will be here beginning at 2 P.M. to personally sign your ornaments. Past ornaments are still available, so you can get an entire set of all five Richardson buildings signed in time for gift giving!**
- **Saturday, December 8th, the Easton Garden Club will hold a "Holiday Stroll and Greens Sale" at the Station from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. You can purchase wreaths, swags, kissing balls, window greens and more! All their decorations will be on sale. Take a tour of beautiful North Easton Village, beginning at the Station, and ending at Unity Church, decorated by the Garden Club. Enjoy the magnificent architecture of Richardson, and the village landscaping of Olmsted in the spirit of the season. As a special added treat, the Garden Club has arranged for a special guest to "pet" between 11 A.M. and 1 P.M.**
- **Sunday, December 9th, the Society will be open from 1 to 5 P.M. Pick up your Garden Club purchases as well as last minute gifts for your favorite Eastoner!**

CALENDAR

December Holiday Open Houses at the Station:

Saturday, December 1st, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sunday, December 2nd, 1-5 P.M. Mary Bodio will sign ornaments beginning at 2 P.M. Sunday

Wednesday, December 5th, Hanukah Begins

Friday, December 7th, "A day that will live in infamy" - Pearl Harbor Day

Saturday, December 8th, Garden Club Wreath Sale at the Station, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Sunday, December 9th, 1-5 P.M. at the Station.

Tuesday, December 25th, Christmas Day

Sunday, January 13th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. Program TBA.

Sunday, February 10th, Open House at the Station, 1-5 P.M. Program TBA.

Coming in April—Chowder and Chatter!

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

Officers:

President—Deborah MacPhee,

1st Vice President—Kenneth J. Michel

2nd Vice President—Edmund C. Hands

Treasurer—Patricia A. Baker

Recording / Corresponding

Secretary—Hazel L. Varella

Directors—Karen R. Cacciapuoti,

Nancy DeLuca, James Morrison,

Andrew R. Salisbury, Robert J.

Wooster

Curator—Frank T. Meninno

The Station Master

President Deborah MacPhee

The HOLIDAYS are here! Do you have someone on your list that is difficult to shop for? Someone who has been out of town for a while and you would like to send them something interesting to remind them about Easton? Well, fear not. The Easton Historical Society is ready to help you with all of your shopping needs!

We have a number of unique gift ideas for you to choose from. First, we have beautiful glass ornaments featuring the artwork of the very talented Mary Bodio. This year's ornament features her rendering of the historic H. H. Richardson Gardner's Cottage. You can now purchase a complete set of five ornaments that includes all five Richardson buildings in Easton. Mary will be at the Station on Sunday, December 2nd to sign your ornaments.

How about picking up a "Shoveltown" long or short sleeved T-shirt for a loved one? Kids love them (adults too)! Or maybe a two-volume set of the "History of Easton", which is wrapped in a beautiful holiday ribbon and topped with a hand made bow? Maybe one of our custom hand decorated baskets, filled with a variety of Easton items will catch your attention. Need something small? Don't forget a train whistle, a brass bookmark, a pewter shovel ornament or some refrigerator magnets! We have many books and other publications for you to choose from. They include Memories of Twentieth Century Easton; The Toll House Cookbook; Oakes Ames, Jottings of a Harvard Botanist and a limited edition reprint of a 1910 Morse Car Owner's Manual. We even have a selection of old Easton postcards that are very interesting and are ready for you to mail to surprise someone (sorry, you have to supply the postage). Our gift items are priced to help *s t r e t c h* your holiday shopping budget. Don't forget to use your ten percent off coupon from the September Newsletter!

Still not sure what to pick up? How about getting your favorite historian a gift membership to the Society, or a donation made in someone's honor or memory? Let us know how we can help make your holiday season more fun. Best wishes for a safe and wonderful holiday!

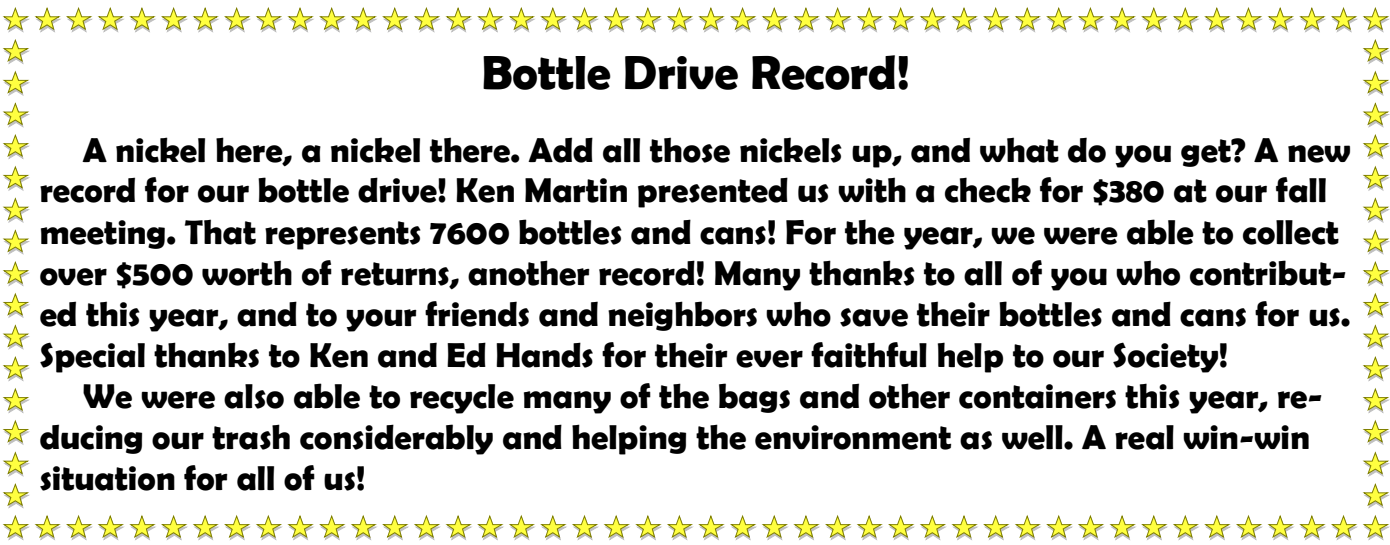
Curator's Corner

Curator / Caretaker Frank T. Meninno

In the past few months the village of North Easton has lost two historic buildings. A few months ago, a century old home in North Easton was leveled by a gas explosion. The house was located on Seaver Street, in the area once commonly known as Swedeville, a tight community of Swedish immigrants primarily working for the Ames Shovel Company. The house had been renovated recently, and housed Stonehill College students. Several were in the house when the morning explosion occurred. Thankfully, everyone escaped without life threatening injuries.

Just a few weeks ago, the landmark "blue barn" on Main Street was destroyed in a terrific fire. The barn, owned by the Ames family and located alongside the Farmer's Market area, was used to store hay. It was the third hay barn on that site, all destroyed by fire. Two workers inside noticed smoke, but it was too late to save the old building, once a part of historic Langwater Farm.

The sudden and unexpected losses of these two buildings were traumatic for their owners, and North Easton village has once again had its landscape altered. These two buildings have made that unfortunate transition from "historic" to "history." How much more we need to fully appreciate what we still have, and try to preserve that heritage to the best of our collective abilities!



Bottle Drive Record!

A nickel here, a nickel there. Add all those nickels up, and what do you get? A new record for our bottle drive! Ken Martin presented us with a check for \$380 at our fall meeting. That represents 7600 bottles and cans! For the year, we were able to collect over \$500 worth of returns, another record! Many thanks to all of you who contributed this year, and to your friends and neighbors who save their bottles and cans for us. Special thanks to Ken and Ed Hands for their ever faithful help to our Society!

We were also able to recycle many of the bags and other containers this year, reducing our trash considerably and helping the environment as well. A real win-win situation for all of us!

Easton Historical Commission Announces Preservation Award Winners

The Easton Historical Commission is pleased to announce the winners of the Seventh Annual Preservation Achievement Awards. The awards will be presented on Sunday, December 2nd, from 1-3 P.M. at Unity Church, 9 Main Street, North Easton. Recipients of these prestigious awards were carefully chosen by the Easton Historical Commission:

The Briggs Award (named for our first settler Clement Briggs), given for significant achievement in preserving Easton’s historical landscape or architectural integrity, will be awarded to **Immaculate Conception Church**. The wonderful stone church building on Main Street recently turned 100 years old, and the congregation has done a remarkable job of preserving this great North Easton landmark.

The Chaffin Award (named after the Reverend William Chaffin, historian, author of the History of Easton and 50 year pastor of Unity Church), given for significant achievement in preserving Easton’s history, will be awarded to **Elizabeth M. Ames** and **Oliver F. Ames**. The Ames family legacy in Easton is absolutely incredible, from our historic Richardson buildings to Olmsted landscaping, from St. Gaudens to Kirchmeyer, from school buildings to many gifts that continue to beautify our town. Seldom has a family given back so very much to one community, and these two special people continue the Ames family tradition of excellence.

To honor this event, the Commission held a photography contest with the theme of the beauty of Easton through its landscapes and people. Winning entries will be on display.

The Easton Historical Society congratulates these deserving winners, and thanks them for their interest in, and efforts to, preserve our great history.



This and That

The Easton Historical Society extends a grateful "thank you" to Mary Bodio for once again allowing us to use her artwork for our ornaments, and for taking time to be with us to sign them. Mary, we appreciate your support!

Although we are scheduling open houses for January and February, please keep in mind that cancellations may occur due to bad weather or extreme cold. We will make every effort to change the phone message at the Society in the event of a cancellation, and will try to post cancellations on our web site as well. If you are not sure if we are open or not, please call ahead before visiting!

Chowder and Chatter is coming in April! Your next newsletter will contain a reservation form and further details about the evening. As always, members have first preference, but remaining seats will be offered to the public. Many thanks to Lee and Kevin Williams for their generosity in continuing to sponsor this wonderful evening.

The Society museum is available for group tours and to meet with other organizations. Last month, the Society opened for a reunion of the Oliver Ames High School Class of 1957. We also hosted a group of Cub Scouts who were studying trains. If you would like to inquire about having your group visit the Society museum, just drop us an email or phone call.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Pocket knife of Luther M. White, North Easton; enlarged copy of colored photograph of the Rockery c.1910; film development envelope used by O'Connor's News Store; Weeks Studio Service envelope used by O'Connor's News Store; salt and pepper shakers from Mitrano Chevrolet; Addison De Coverley Papers, ed. S. Thurber 1895 (inside-Easton High School 1895); Easton Pharmacy medicine bottle, and other items, donated by Priscilla Almquist Olsen, Esq.

8X10's of Ames Free Library; 1895 Oliver Ames High School building; Soldier's Monument and Town Hall; Gate Lodge from estate side; Langwater house; Horse and Carriage approaching Gate Lodge arch, all taken circa 1900 by George H. Craig (grandfather to donor); Real photo postcards, on private backing, taken by George H. Craig of first Catholic Chapel, 1896; Mrs. Anna C. Ames pet dogs; Group of "Gardeners", Oct. 1906; The "Maids" on Ames Estate, 1904; Rose Garden, W.H. Ames Estate; Hand written notes on the windows at Unity Church, very well detailed explanation of colors and figures of significance, by Marion Osborne; Postcards of Sheep Pasture house; Mrs. Anna C. Ames residence; Rhododendron bed on estate of Mrs. A.C. Ames; Unity Church and Parsonage; Langwater Lake by moonlight; Birds Eye View of the Ames Shovel Plant (double wide postcard, folded); Dedication booklet from O.A.H.S., 1896; Pamphlet from graduation exercises, North Easton Grammar, 6/22/1906; Two time books from estate of W. H. Ames, 1906/7 and 1914/15. Donated by Edgar A. Craig.

The Easton Historical Society is grateful for the continued generosity of the donors of these and other historical items to our collections.

Tisdale Collection Donated to Easton Historical Society

Barbara Holbrook Read, an eleventh generation direct descendent of the Tisdale family, has donated an extraordinary collection of Tisdale family items to the Society. The collection features several examples of wedding gowns, children's clothing, mourning clothes, Bibles and family photos. They were unveiled at our October open house, where Ms. Read spoke about the items and the Tisdale family.

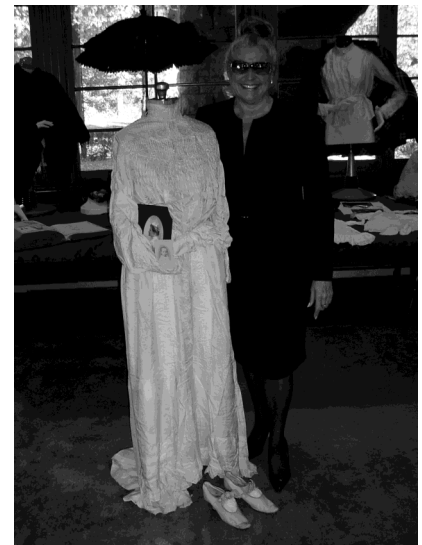
The Tisdale family was a very influential family early in Easton's history. John Tisdale Sr. and John Tisdale Jr. both were original purchasers in the Taunton North Purchase of 1668. Macy Tisdale was a member of a four man committee formed in 1790 to hold grammar school in each of the four quarters in town. Captain Ebenezer Tisdale, and after him Macy, kept a tavern on Bay Road near Randall Street in the mid to late 1700's. Captain John Tisdale served as a Representative to the General Court from 1806-1812. Seth Tisdale served as a corporal during the War of 1812.

The family later settled on what is now Mountain Road, on the Easton / Sharon town line, where they built several homes. One of these became the home of Oakes and Blanch Ames while their mansion at Borderland was being constructed. Later, the Lennon Sisters spent a few weeks there during the early years of their career. The property became part of Borderland State Park, and while the house has since burned down, a sign marks the spot where the house once stood. The Tisdale family cemetery still stands on the north side of Mountain Road.

In 1873, newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Abijah Tisdale lived in one of the homes on Mountain Road. The hand made dress worn by the bride is an important part of the collection, as well as pictures of the bride and groom in their wedding attire. Abijah drowned in 1890. As was the custom at the time, the widow had to wear black whenever she ventured away from her home. As a result, we now have several outstanding examples of late 19th century mourning clothes.

The collection also contains several women's hats. One is a hat made from beaver for, and another is a great example of a field bonnet, worn when the women went out to work in the fields.

The Society thanks Ms. Read for selecting us to be the caretakers of her family's history. We are honored to be chosen. Selected items will be on display throughout the winter months. Stop in and see this extraordinary collection of items for your self.



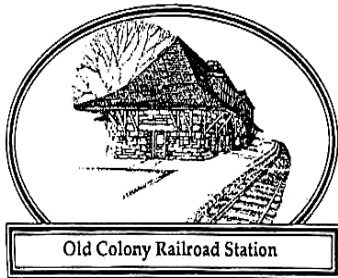
Above left: Some of the Tisdale items on display for our October open house included mourning clothes, a hooded cape, Tisdale family Bible and family photos. Above right, Barbara Holbrook Read poses with a 1904 wedding dress and shoes worn by her grandmother, Clara Elsie (Tisdale) Holbrook.



Bakers Wanted!

We are looking for donations of baked goods for our holiday open houses on December 1st and 2nd, and December 8th and 9th. If you would be willing to bake one of your favorite holiday treats, we would love to be able to offer it as part of our bake sale. Any baked good is welcome. Last year, people loved the decorated cakes and pies that are ready to bring to a party. Of course, fancy breads and pastries always sell well too! To donate, please bring your item by the Station on Friday, November 30th from 2 to 6 P.M., or at opening time of any of the open houses above. If you would like to donate, but can't deliver, please call the Station to arrange a convenient pickup time. The Society appreciates your help in making our holiday open house a delicious success!

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



P.O. Box 3, 80 Mechanic Street
North Easton MA 02356

508-238-7774

www.eastonhistoricalsociety.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
NO. EASTON, MA
02356
PERMIT NO.25

Address Service Requested

Don't forget your membership entitles you to a 10% discount on ALL your holiday shopping through the end of December, 2007. Offer includes a 10% discount on the new Richardson ornament too!