

## CALENDAR

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

**\*\*\* All winter events are weather permitting. Please call before coming if the weather is poor or icy. Also, please be careful when driving or walking around the Society property this winter!**

*Saturday, December 7th, and Sunday, December 8th, Annual Holiday Festival Weekend. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. including the Easton Garden Club Greens Sale, Sunday hours 1-5 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 14th, Visit us at the Shoveltown Cultural District Artisan Faire at Queset.*

*Sunday, December 15th, Open House at the Society, 1-5 p.m. Great gifts, a warm atmosphere, and of course, delicious refreshments. Come and give us some holiday cheer!*

*Sunday, January 12th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Ice-Cutting will be featured.*

*Sunday, January 26th, National History Day Open House, Noon to 5 p.m. Join us to see what great work our 8th graders are doing! Snow date is Sunday, February 2nd, Noon to 5 p.m.*

*Sunday, February 9th, Open House at the Society, 1-5 p.m. Curator's choice!*

*Remember to mark your calendar for our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening on May 1st, 2014, 6 p.m. at Southeastern Regional High School with thanks to "Lee" and Kevin Williams for making this special occasion possible! Details will be in the next issue.*

## Here Comes Winter...

And we welcome it! Yes, that is correct, we do welcome this time of year! You might ask "why", and you might get a surprising answer: winter brings fun, festivities, and best of all, you to share in all of that! While we are not favorable to cold, ice, and snow, we are looking forward to greeting you at one of our winter activities.

Celebrate the season with us during our December open houses! We will be open during the annual Easton Lions Club Holiday Festival, which takes place on December 7th and 8th. The Society will once again host the Easton Garden Club Winter Greens Sale on the 7th. Join us for a beautiful day of seasonable greetings, nature's beauty, warm friendship, and a terrific start for your holiday needs. As always, you will receive a warm smile, hot coffee, scrumptious goodies, and everything that goes along with it. We will be open for you from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., when you can go uptown for the Lighting of the Rockery. On Sunday the 8th, we will be open our usual hours of 1-5 p.m.. The following weekend we will be open for your convenience on Sunday the 15th from 1-5 p.m. Be sure to drop by and share some "holiday cheer" with us!

The Shoveltown Cultural Council will once again be running an Artisan's Faire at Queset House, behind the Library, on the 14th and 15th. The Society will have a table there on the 14th, and if you missed this event last year, don't miss it this year. It is a fun time with plenty of interesting things to see.

In January, besides our regular open houses, we will be welcoming the 8th grade winners of the annual National History Day competition. This day will be enjoyed by all as you have an opportunity to see the terrific work that is being done by these students, and encourage them as they begin their journey towards the national finals in June. February is certain to bring about some interesting facet of Easton's history too. Happy holidays!

*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

Sixty-Five is a wonderful number, especially if you are the Easton Historical Society. Over those years we have made great progress in collecting and preserving the history of Easton. Nineteen is another great number—the number of people who have led the Society as President. The number seventy-four is also special, as that is the number of different individuals who have served as officers and directors over the years.

What I really want to focus on now is the one role that is un-accounted for, but which is very necessary—the role of curator. Recently, Robert Carpenter was honored as the first “official” curator at the Society. He spent many hours here back in the late 1960's and 1970's, helping out with just about anything that needed to be done, from getting the Society ready for some of our earliest events, scraping paint and replacing glass, and helping to prepare exhibits.

As 2014 quickly approaches, I find myself fortunate to be counted as one of the Society's curators. Some things have changed. Our mission has been better defined, but we remain committed to collecting and preserving Easton's history. The advent of the computer and internet may have changed the way we get our mail, but there is still a steady stream of requests for all kinds of information. There is always more research to do, more to learn, more to share. And I for one am grateful for all those curators who worked so hard to make the Society the wonderful place it is today! To them, I offer my humble thanks.

To all of you, whom I am pleased to serve, I wish a happy and joyous season filled with visions of sugarplums, special times of fellowship, and the blessings of the season!

### Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Lucy Gallagher's grandmother's 100 year old wedding dress and a copy of the wedding photo, from Lucy and Robert Gallagher; the OA football helmet, jersey and varsity jacket worn by the late John S. Levanitis, from Mark Levanitis; a long-handled Ames telegraph shovel given in honor of George E. Mather Sr. and family, from Karen Emery; a mid-19th century child's wicker rocker from the Gardner / Grant family, an antique hat pin, an arrow-head, and a War Cake recipe, from Eleanor Grant; a 1950's OA football jersey, Easton Huskies 50th Anniversary tee shirt, and a program from Val Muscato's testimonial dinner, from Gil Heino; Ames Plow Company letters and order cards, from Doug Martin; numerous Society publications, from Alice McCarthy; Simpson Spring Nerve Tonic glass from Judy King; two glasses monogramed for Mary S. Ames, from Deborah MacPhee; information about the Knowles Family (c1900), First Flight Air Mail Boston to Easton- MAY 19, 1938 stamped envelope, from Hazel Craig; numerous OAHs athletic programs include “Tech Tourney” ones from 1954 to 1957 from June Bliss; papers from the F. S. Keith duck farm, from Craig and Judy Andrus; copies of Simpson Spring and Ross Heel Co. ads, from Burt Lewis; pewter necklace and earrings from Pewter by Kent, from Joseph Martin; Extensive Information about her family including the Tisdales, an 1885 autograph book, the first Nantucket basket made by her uncle Paul Whitten, Whaleboy Willie by Paul Whitten, and an unpublished manuscript of “Whacko and Tansey” by Paul Whitten, Glimpses of the World (Portfolio of Pictures) by John Stoddard (1892), and other relevant items, from Barbara Holbrook Read; technical book on process controls written by Norman A. Anderson, from Kenneth Michel; pictures of May 2nd 1923 (formal occasion), cast of “Green Stockings”-class play of 1924, and the 1923 OAHs Eastern Massachusetts Champions girls basketball team-all pictures of Tom Sabin's mother Martha-from Tom Sabin; a late 19th century book on Civil War battles with color plates, from Ken Wood; a paperweight from Glynn Realty from Francis Meninno. Financial gifts were received from Mary Ames, Ethel A. Anderson, Myrtle Blaisdell, Beth Mowatt, Thomas and Judith Sabin, and Joanne Soule in memory of Ken Martin, Robert Brooks (for the 65th anniversary and in memory of his parents Abraham and Mae Brooks), Deborah Keirstead Bublitz, Dr. Robert Carver and the Community Based Learning Center-Stonehill College (Corey Dolgon) in appreciation of Ed Hand's excellent walks, “Give with Liberty”, Mary Rose Garfagna and Catherine Harvey, Carl Lundin, James MacPhee in honor of the 65th anniversary, James and Deborah MacPhee (for printing costs of A Glimpse of the Past –In memory of her parents John and Judith Luke), Debra and Gregory McCabe, Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz (for publishing Reminiscences), Doris Sargent, Elizabeth Constantine.

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

#### Officers for 2012-2013

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

#### Directors

Patricia Baker  
Judge Leon J. Lombardi  
James MacPhee  
Debra Salisbury  
Robert J. Wooster  
Immediate Past President—Deborah MacPhee



The 2013-2014 Society Officers and Directors. Left to right are Past President Deborah MacPhee, Director James MacPhee, Recording/Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella, Treasurer Nancy DeLuca, 2nd Vice-President Edmund Hands, Director Judge Leon J. Lombardi, Director Debra Salisbury, President Kenneth J. Michel, and Director Robert "Buddy" Wooster. Not available for the photo were 1st Vice-President David Ames, Jr. and Director Patricia A. Baker.



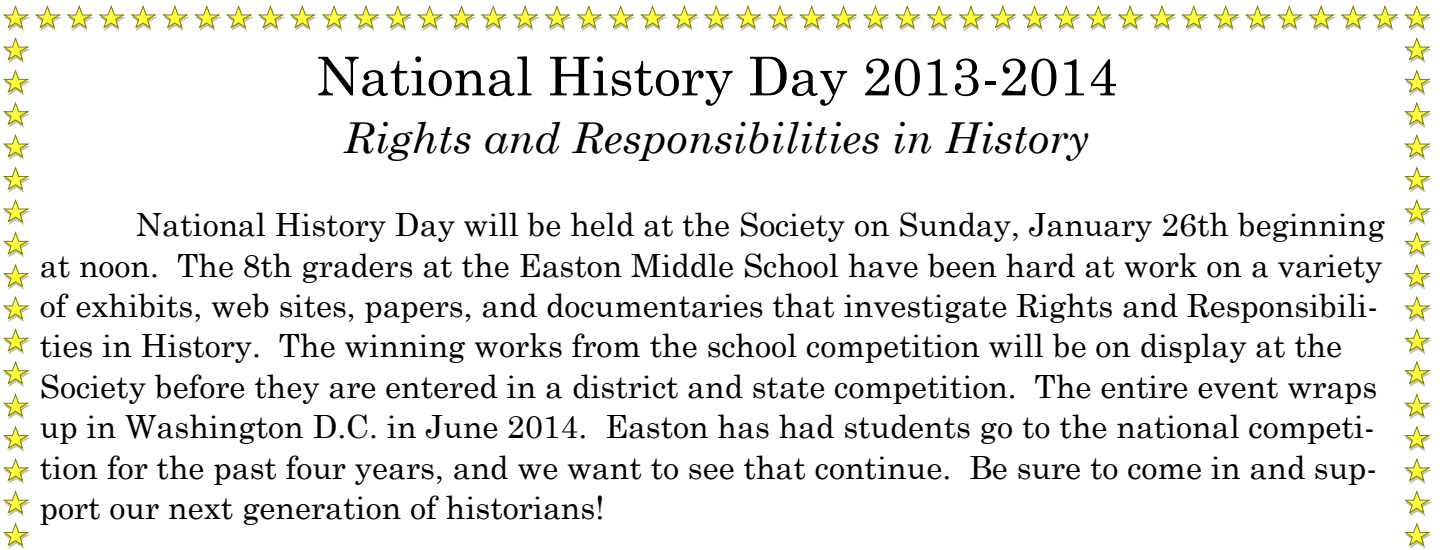
Presidents of the Society, past and present. Front row, left to right: Hazel L. Varella, Deborah MacPhee, Edmund Hands; Back row, Duncan B. Oliver, Frank T. Meninno, Richard W. Hill, and Kenneth J. Michel. Not available for the photo were Edwin White, Karen Hays, Dr. Robert Misiewicz, and William Holland.

## 65 Years and Counting!

The Station was attractively arranged in special fall colors to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Easton Historical Society October 26th. Many members attended who had the opportunity to enjoy the very appropriate surroundings and delicious food and beverages.

The members were welcomed by President Kenneth J. Michel, and then Chair of the Celebration Deborah MacPhee reminded the guests of the great progress and events which had occurred during the sixty-five years. Hazel Varella, as David Ames in October 1972, shared many stories and accomplishments of Mr. Ames including his World War II experiences, banking actions, Town commitments including being a member of the School Committee for six years and facilitating the Town's receiving "Wayside" for the Town Offices in 1960. His involvement with the Ames Free Library and the Easton Historical Society was also stressed.

Each guest received an updated history of the Society, A Glimpse of the Past, funded by James and Deborah MacPhee in honor of her parents, Jack and Judy Luke. The door prize, the Fletcher Steele plot plan for "Unity Close" was won by Ronald Danielson. The planning committee consisted of Nancy DeLuca, Edmund Hands, Joan Lundgren, Deborah MacPhee, and Frank Meninno. The Society thanks John Ventresco for the color photo used on the cover of A Glimpse of the Past.



# National History Day 2013-2014

## *Rights and Responsibilities in History*

National History Day will be held at the Society on Sunday, January 26th beginning at noon. The 8th graders at the Easton Middle School have been hard at work on a variety of exhibits, web sites, papers, and documentaries that investigate Rights and Responsibilities in History. The winning works from the school competition will be on display at the Society before they are entered in a district and state competition. The entire event wraps up in Washington D.C. in June 2014. Easton has had students go to the national competition for the past four years, and we want to see that continue. Be sure to come in and support our next generation of historians!



### Calling All Bakers!



Your Society will hold a bake sale in conjunction with the December 7th and 8th Open Houses! Do you have a favorite holiday dish or delicacy? Would you be willing to share it with us? Fresh baked goods are always a great gift, and people who visit us during the day often buy a treat to take with them to wherever they are off to next. Please consider baking an extra of your specialty (you don't have to share any secret family recipes!). Pies and cakes are always popular, as well as brownies and bagged cookies. Some of you have baked date nut or cranberry breads in small ceramic loaf pans (similar to ones found at Christmas Tree Shops) which make a nice presentation, and a nice part of the gift as well. *Just to get things started, our curator is challenging you to help out. He has already agreed to bake something special from a 100 year old recipe book. Something orange, something boiled? Something forgotten? Something good! And we look forward to you meeting his challenge!* Your delicious efforts will be very much appreciated! Donations can be dropped off Friday, December 6th, or Saturday the 7th. For pickup, please call the Society at 508-238-7774.



The fifteenth annual "Chowder and Chatter" will be held at the Southeastern Regional School Thursday, May 1st, at 6 P. M. and funded, as always, by "Lee" and Kevin Williams. After the delicious meal prepared by the students, a panel discussion moderated by Ed Hands will focus on Ames Women.

Speakers will include David Ames, Jr. about his mother and grandmother, Ed Hands about Anna C. Ames, Ellenor Simmons about Blanche Ames, and Hazel Varella about Mary A. Frothingham and Elise Ames Parker. Hazel Varella will start taking reservations by mail April 7th. Look for your reservation form in the next edition of Train Tracks.

## In Memorium

Society member Dr. John R. Sullivan Jr., 74, a resident of Easton for the past 26 years, died Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Good Samaritan Medical Center after a period of failing health. He was the beloved husband of (Dr.) Nancy (Swearingen) Sullivan. He was raised and educated in Holyoke and was a 1961 graduate of Holy Cross College attaining a Bachelor of Arts in Classics as well as a Masters Degree and an Ed.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Sullivan was employed as the Executive Director & CEO of NESDEC-New England School of Development Council for 38 years. After his retirement he worked part time as the Director of Operations of NESDEC, and President of CES (Comprehensive Educational Services), a subsidiary of NESDEC. He served as the Executive Director for the National School Development Council, was a longtime Treasurer of Trustee's for the First Church of Boston, and was a member of Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, World Future Society, American Association of School Administrators, New England Association of School Superintendents, and Harvard Faculty Club. In addition to his wife Dr. Nancy Sullivan, he is survived by two daughters, Stefanie Valente and her husband Raymond of Hopedale, and Cynthia Taudel and her husband Gary of Sturbridge and four grandchildren, Ashley Valente and Kyle Valente both of Hopedale and Timothy Taudel and Alexis Taudel both of Sturbridge.

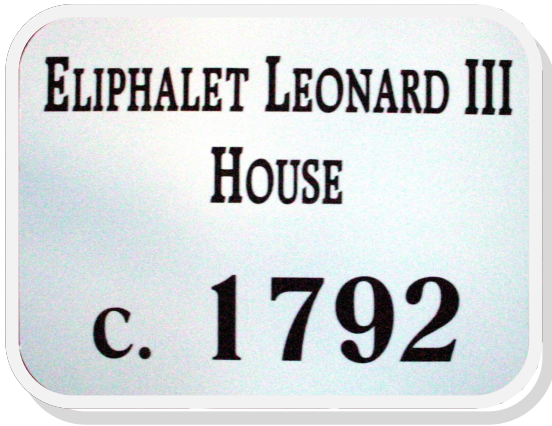
The Blue Map of Easton prepared by the Easton Historical Commission and the Easton Historical Society has just been updated and printed. The eleventh edition has five changes since the prior one was prepared in 2008. The most recent three printings totaling 16,000 copies have been funded by The Ames Family, North Easton Savings Bank, Stonehill College, and MacKenzie and Jeannette Smith. The 2013 Blue Map is available at the Ames Free Library-Easton's Public Library, Easton Historical Society, Easton Town Offices, and any Easton branch of the North Easton Savings Bank.



## Gift Ideas!

You can count on us for a nice selection of gifts for holiday giving that you can't get anywhere else! Our 2013 ornament featuring "Queset" is now available. How about a copy of Reminiscences Volumes 1-4, or a matted print of the Old Colony Railroad Station, or a matted Ames family tree? How about a cannonball? We have a small selection of these leftover from Easton's 250th Anniversary / United States Bicentennial celebration that were found and have been made ready for sale. A pair makes great bookends! You may order a print made from the original watercolor plan of the garden at "Unity Close" for the green thumb in your family! Bird's-Eye View maps of North Easton and South Easton make for a great gift, especially for someone whose antique home may be pictured on one. We also have Easton Historical Society tee shirts that have been graciously donated by Eleanor Grant which feature our station logo. Need small stuff? How about some of Mary Bodio's notecards, antique Easton postcards, LED flashlights, or magnets? Check us out. We have something for everyone!

## Society Announces House Marker Program



The Easton Historical Society and the Easton Historical Commission announce the beginning of a new house marker program. This program is open to all Easton residents and property owners. The purpose of the program is to identify and uniformly mark historic properties throughout the town. Made of aluminum and sealed with a reflective coating, this 13" x 9" sign will complement any home or other property. The cost for each sign is \$30. The Historical Society will verify the date for your home, and will identify the appropriate name as well. You will be notified when your signs are ready for pickup at the Society. Please use the form below to order yours. Makes a great gift too!



### House Marker Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check for \$30 for each sign ordered payable to: Easton Historical Society, and mail it to the Society at P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356. Thank you!

Society Use Only

Date for property: \_\_\_\_\_

Name / Description for property: \_\_\_\_\_

### A Few People to Celebrate!

**Page 33 of this year's Reminiscences shows Jack Strom's being honored as the leading Pony League player in January 1955. Recently Jack was a member of the basketball team in the Senior Olympics in Utah which won the GOLD medal.**



**Long-time member of the Historical Society, Robert (Robin) Brooks (pictured in center of photo), a member of the OAHHS Class of 1953, was honored (hooded) at the annual Fellows Breakfast on Brandeis's Commencement Day. Robin Brooks, Brandeis Class of '57 received his hood from Nancy Winship, senior vice president of institutional advancement, and Brandeis President Fred Lawrence.**

**We congratulate Jack and Robin for these well deserved honors.**

## Wayne Hill Makes Special Gift to Honolulu Museum

Wayne Hill is an OAHS graduate Class of 1963. Even though he now lives in the Philippines (and survived the recent weather crisis), he has been a strong supporter of the Historical Society. Recently he gave his prized canoe to a special museum. Below is the communication from Wayne that explains what he has been up to since graduation. It is a great story! Wayne also has the following to add: *"I was lucky to have grown up in a place like Easton where roots and the sense of history are deep. There's definitely a connection between that fact and finding the "right home" for my canoe. What may seem an old keepsake to some might cause a big stir on Antiques Roadshow! Unless your heirs share your sense of history, offering your treasures to the historical society may be the best way to go...and if the treasures turn out to be "junque" and not "antique", I'm sure they will let you know in as kindly a way as possible."*

I acquired this model canoe in early 1999, but the background goes back more than thirty years before that. Fresh out of college in 1967, I was accepted as a trainee by the Peace Corps and assigned to Micronesia. At that time, most of the geographic area called Micronesia by the West was included in a political entity called the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which was administered by the United States. That administration followed a policy of "benign neglect" which came under much criticism by other countries. Hoping to save face, the Johnson Administration came up with a plan to send Peace Corps Volunteers to rescue the American reputation and provide cheaper labor than contract workers. It should be noted that volunteers were not supposed to be stationed in U.S. territories, but the Trust Territory was technically exempt because it fell under the purview of the United Nations.

Our training took place on an island in the Truk (now known as Chuuk) Lagoon, but I was assigned to the Mariana Islands, and I ended up on Saipan, the capital of both the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territory in those days. During our training, we were able to see several sailing canoes that came into the lagoon from "Outer Islands".

Once on Saipan, I gravitated to the Carolinian (Refaluwasch) community which constituted about one third of the population of the island in those days, the majority being Chamorro. My landlord's family "adopted" me and cemented my lifelong love of their people and their culture.

I was living in Honolulu in 1976 when the U.S. celebrated its Bicentennial, and since I was unemployed at that time, I volunteered to lend a hand at the Hawaii Bicentennial Commission office which was managed by John Pincetich, the same man who had been the Director of Peace Corps Micronesia when I joined. Working in the office I was following the progress of the Polynesian Voyaging Society's project to build Hokulea and sail to Tahiti and back and knew that a Micronesian was working with them to reintroduce them to the old way of navigating. However, I didn't know that the Micronesian in question, Mau Piailug, was a distant relative of my adopted family on Saipan.

Over the years, I returned to Saipan several times. During my 1998 visit, I was able to finally meet Mau one evening when I joined some friends at the community men's hut on the beach. Mau was there carving a model canoe and I immediately asked if he would accept a commission to carve one for me, and he agreed to do so. I was thrilled that I would have what I considered the ultimate symbol of Refaluwasch culture. That it would be carved by Mau himself made it priceless.

Early in 1999, I received a large package postmarked "Saipan, MP 96950". I knew it had to be the canoe. I put it in a place of honor in the living room of my condo in San Francisco for eleven years until I packed everything up and put most of it in storage when I moved to Mindanao in the Philippines in early 2010.

This year I realized that the beautiful canoe with all its significance deserved a better home than a box in my storage unit and that led me to the Bishop Museum. As payback for my time in Micronesia and my twelve wonderful years in Hawaii, it's perfectly fitting that I should donate it in Mau's name for the future generations to view, and understand that their ancestors didn't always cross the Pacific Ocean in jets or huge ships.

Wayne Hill

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

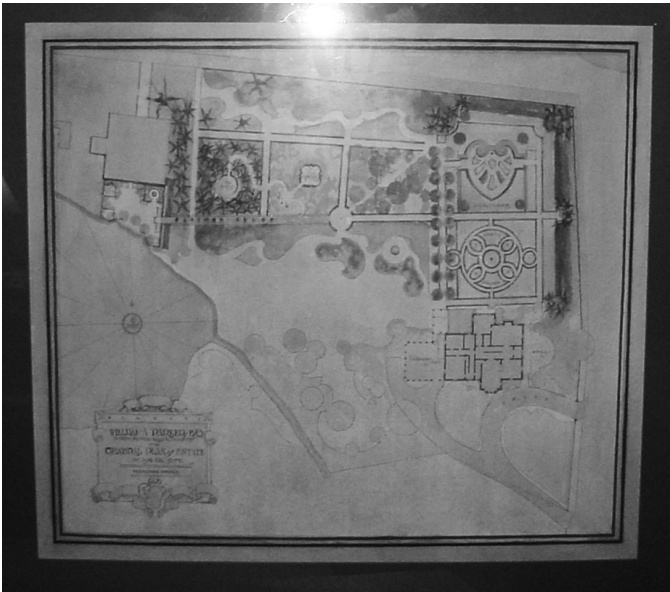


Model Satawalese Sailing Canoe carved by Mau Piailug



Wayne Hill with the Canoe

# A Special Gift Opportunity!




The Easton Historical Society is pleased to offer a wonderful gift: a print of the historic gardens at Unity Close! Made from the original 1926 watercolor done by Fletcher Steele, the giclee print captures the beautiful layout of the gardens which were originally designed for Oliver Ames, Jr. in the 1860's, and redone for Mr. and Mrs. William A. Parker. The full color print measures approximately 26" x 22", and is printed on a high quality heavy weight paper using a special process. This is not a color photocopy, but a true reproduction of the original. The cost

is \$75 per print. The Society will be taking orders for prints during the December 7th and 8th open houses. You may also order a copy by sending a check payable to the Society to P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA. 02356. You will be notified when your print is ready, so please include your phone number and/or email address. If you need your print mailed, please include \$5.00 to help offset the cost of mailing. Mail orders placed after December 10th cannot be guaranteed for Christmas delivery, especially if it needs to be mailed back to you. If you want to pick up your order you may order right up to the December 15th open house.

Address changing? Please tell us!

Address Service Requested

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



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Post Office Box 3  
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508-238-7774 [www.eastonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastonhistoricalsociety.org)