



CALENDAR

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

Inclement weather is a New England staple, and as such, may require us to cancel an event. Please call ahead to see if one of these programs is still being held!

December Holiday Festival open houses: Saturday, December 6th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring the Easton Garden Club Greens Sale!

Sunday, December 7th, 1-5 p.m. John Ventresco and ornament signing at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10th, Paint the Old House program, 6:30 p.m. at Queset. See page 3.

Saturday, December 13th, annual Artisan Faire at Queset, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 14th, 1-5 p.m. Carl Holmander and his History of Unionville book signing, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17th, Happy Hanukkah!

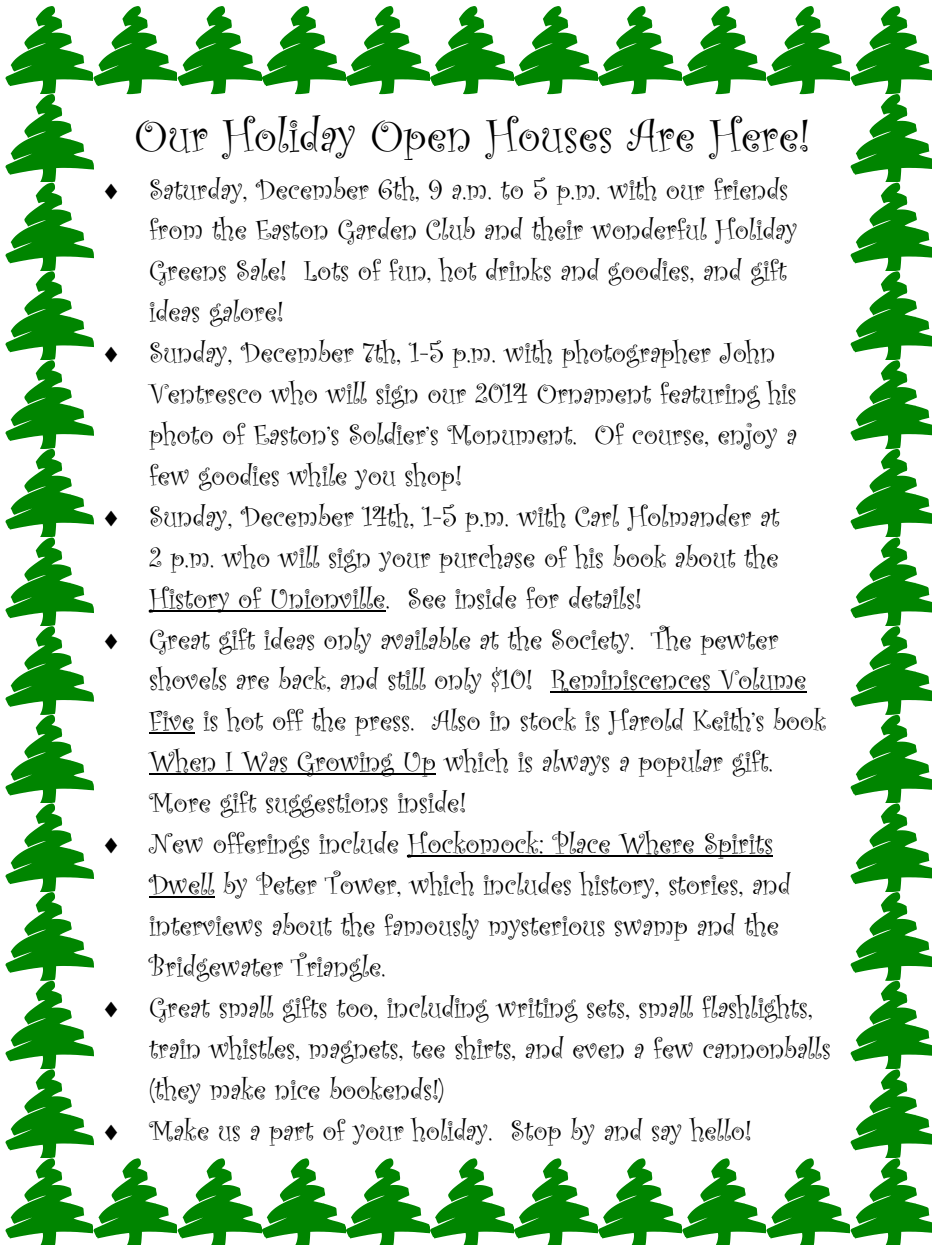
Thursday, December 25th, Merry Christmas!

Sunday, January 11th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. featuring a variety of Easton shovels.

Sunday, February 8th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. What is it?

Our National History Day event is being planned and will be announced soon!

The Society is open daily to meet your gift giving needs. Call or email us for hours!



Our Holiday Open Houses Are Here!

- ◆ Saturday, December 6th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with our friends from the Easton Garden Club and their wonderful Holiday Greens Sale! Lots of fun, hot drinks and goodies, and gift ideas galore!
- ◆ Sunday, December 7th, 1-5 p.m. with photographer John Ventresco who will sign our 2014 Ornament featuring his photo of Easton's Soldier's Monument. Of course, enjoy a few goodies while you shop!
- ◆ Sunday, December 14th, 1-5 p.m. with Carl Holmander at 2 p.m. who will sign your purchase of his book about the History of Unionville. See inside for details!
- ◆ Great gift ideas only available at the Society. The pewter shovels are back, and still only \$10! Reminiscences Volume Five is hot off the press. Also in stock is Harold Keith's book When I Was Growing Up which is always a popular gift. More gift suggestions inside!
- ◆ New offerings include Hockomock: Place Where Spirits Dwell by Peter Tower, which includes history, stories, and interviews about the famously mysterious swamp and the Bridgewater Triangle.
- ◆ Great small gifts too, including writing sets, small flashlights, train whistles, magnets, tee shirts, and even a few cannonballs (they make nice bookends!)
- ◆ Make us a part of your holiday. Stop by and say hello!

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

It is hard to believe that we have had our first snow of the season! November 2nd saw a cold day with a storm off the New England coast, and temperatures dipped low enough on that Sunday morning to turn rain into large, fluffy snowflakes. I know some of you are packing your bags for the more temperate parts of the U.S.A. as I write this, but my goodness, the beauty of new-fallen snow, albeit a small amount, certainly begins to put one into the spirit of the coming season.

Of course snow brings out wintry items such as sleds, skates, hats, mittens, scarves, and all those necessary items to keep warm. It also brings the sound of Christmas carolers, bright, crisp holiday music, a multitude of lights, and a flicker of excitement to a child. And then there are the smells we all cherish! Fresh greens for wreaths, that wonderful pine scent, cinnamon scented pine cones, the aroma of freshly baked sweets and family "holiday special dishes" that are only made between November 1st and New Year's Day! "How sweet it is!" to quote one of my favorites from years gone by, Jackie Gleason.

I have chosen two articles for this newsletter that describes a Christmas celebration by two Easton groups in 1886. They were recorded in the old Easton Journal, and give us a taste for the celebrations of old. How simple they were, and how simply marvelous! Reading through these will take us away from all the hustle, bustle, and busyness of today's season, if only for a few brief minutes. Consider it my gift to you. Get yourself a hot cup of cocoa, pull up your favorite chair and sit beside a warm fire, and take into your imagination the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas past.

May all the blessings of the season be yours!

A New Book: History of Unionville-Easton, Massachusetts

Carl Holmänder has just completed a very thorough history of Unionville. Unionville, one of the unique neighborhoods that make up Easton, begins at the Stoughton line and continues south along Washington Street to Stonehill College. It includes properties that are several hundred yards west of Washington Street and on the east is bordered by the Brockton line. The book traces the history of that area from colonial times up to the 1950's. The properties of that area have been carefully researched, and your house could be one of them.

Carl has spent hundreds of hours doing his research, culling information from all sources. Included are stories about the properties, and some of the people who lived there. For instance, there have been three Unionville school buildings in the former School District 8 dating back to 1793. Read more and find out about the Easton Grange, the Band Hall, the old "Square Top" and other fascinating places.

The book, titled History of Unionville-Easton, Massachusetts, is now available. This soft cover edition book is 262 pages long and includes 5 maps and 45 images. It is nicely indexed. Each property is given its own history, and the book is an excellent research tool as well as a nice gift for anyone in town, especially those whose families, past and present, who have a Unionville connection. Copies of the book are available at the Society. It is affordably priced at \$19.99. Delivery is free to Easton residents; a small shipping and handling charge will be necessary to send it by mail.

Join us on Sunday, December 14th at 2 p.m. to meet author Carl Holmänder and have your book signed. This is an excellent opportunity to make someone's holiday special. Don't miss it!

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

Officers for 2014-2015

President Deborah MacPhee

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2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands

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Society Welcomes New Intern

Meghan Gotsell, a senior at Stonehill College, has been interning at the Society since September. She is enrolled in Stonehill's new Museum Studies degree program. Twice a week, she has been helping with a number of assignments including compiling a World War II veterans list from multiple sources, working with our textile collection, setting up exhibits, and helping with 2nd grade tours. She is pictured here with our recent exhibit on the Morse family of South Easton that she helped to organize and set up.

Meghan will be at the Society until the end of the semester in mid-December. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well as she pursues a career in the museum field.

*The Easton Historical Society and the Ames Free Library
proudly present*

Paint the Old House: The History and Practical Aspects of Exterior Paint Colors

Wednesday, December 10th, 2014

6:30—7:30 p.m.

Queset House, 51 Man Street

Learn how paint color can enhance the character of your historic house. In this illustrated lecture, preservation expert Sally Zimmerman helps you understand the history of paint color and practices and how they affect the appearance of historic homes. Bring a photo of your house for expert analysis and advice!

Sally Zimmerman, manager of historic preservation services at Historic New England and former preservation planner at the Cambridge Historical Commission, is a co-author of Painting Historic Exteriors: Colors, Application, and Regulation.

This event is free and open to all.

Queset House is conveniently located behind the Ames Free Library.



A Tale of Two Christmases

From the Easton Journal, Friday, December 31, 1886

(The articles below are reprinted as they originally appeared.)

The Unitarian Society celebrated Christmas Eve, in Memorial Hall, by a most agreeable entertainment, a beautiful tree, and social dance. The entertainment consisted of a play entitled "Santa Claus at Home" participated in by a large number of the children of the Sabbath school. The little girls looked lovely in their rich white dresses, they represented fairies, and were very fairy-like indeed, they sang sweetly, acted their parts gracefully and every one was pleased. Little Ellen Jones performed her part admirably as queen and although only six years old maintained her part without prompting and with all the ease and grace of a much older person. Mr. Frank Swain represented Santa Claus and was so completely disguised that none but his most intimate acquaintances would have recognized him during the exercises. It was a brown study with a great many during the evening who Santa Claus could be. The anvil chorus sounded well and the boys kept good time. The whole thing was admirably planned and carried out. The wide-spreading tree was laden with rich gifts for the children and Dr. Charles Cogswell called out the names in a clear, strong voice as the presents were distributed. After the presents had been disposed of the floor was cleared for dancing, Porter's Orchestra of Brockton furnishing music, and the young people enjoyed themselves till shortly after midnight.

The Christmas entertainment at Harmony Hall was a success and a very pleasant evening was spent there by quite a large number of families. Superintendent Sylvester opened the entertainment by reading a passage of Scripture. Prayer was offered by A. M. Hayward. The little folks spoke their pieces, sang their Christmas carols, and had a very pleasant time. Then came the unloading of the two large trees bending under the load of Christmas presents of all descriptions. Some of the presents were a surprise to the recipients and much fun and merriment was indulged in as they were being distributed. Superintendent Sylvester was presented with a beautiful night cap embroidered with red and all trimmed round with golden thread. Mr. Sylvester tried it on and it was pronounced very becoming judging from the shout that came from every part of the hall. The name of Mr. Ed. Crowley was called and Mr. Hill took from the tree a beautiful girl baby doll, a bouncer, but Mr. C. was not present and it was sent to his home. He expressed his regrets for being absent and said it would have given him much pleasure to have received it at the hall. We understand that upon opening a box accompanying it he found a little bottle with a curious little rubber on it. He says it is an artificial mother. He will loaf next week and go in search of the generous donor. There were also other presents delivered that were laughable and all went to make up a jolly good time.



Ames Mansion Exhibit at Stonehill College

The Easton Historical Society and the Stonehill College Archives remind you that the exhibit Ames Mansions of Easton—A Collaborative Project between the Easton Historical Society and the Stonehill College Archives will be open at the Cushing Martin Hall Lobby during normal college hours, and may be seen through the summer of 2015. No appointment is necessary to see this unique display featuring the homes of Easton's Ames families.

How to Make Your Gift Giving Easier!

Here is the secret to finding and giving the best gifts this holiday season: shop your local historical society and museum shop! By shopping local, you can find many gifts not found elsewhere, and you support the organizations and people who help make your community a great one. Here are a couple of suggested gifts you can find at our Society:

- Gift memberships
- Assorted Easton tee shirts
- Bird's Eye View map lithographs
- Pewter shovel ornaments and paperweights
- Historic Easton ornaments
- Hand crafted pens made from wood recovered

in our own 1882 railroad station

- Blanche Ames orchid prints and political cartoons
- Reminiscences, Volume 5 and earlier editions
- Reprint of a 1910 Morse Car owner's manual, some are signed by Alfred G. Morse, grandson of Morse Car builder Alfred B. Morse
- Toll House Cookbooks
- 250th Anniversary of Easton First Day Cover envelopes
- Assorted note cards by Easton artists Mary Bodio and Frank Holub
- A selection of history books of all types

Check us out this holiday season. You won't find such unique items anywhere else!

2015 Coming Events

On March 16, the Easton Historical Society and the Ames Free Library will present a program about Abigail Adams. Details will be announced in the next newsletter!

Our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening generously sponsored by Lee and Kevin Williams is being planned for April at Southeastern Regional. The plans are being formulated now, and will include excellent food and conversation as always. More details will be announced soon!

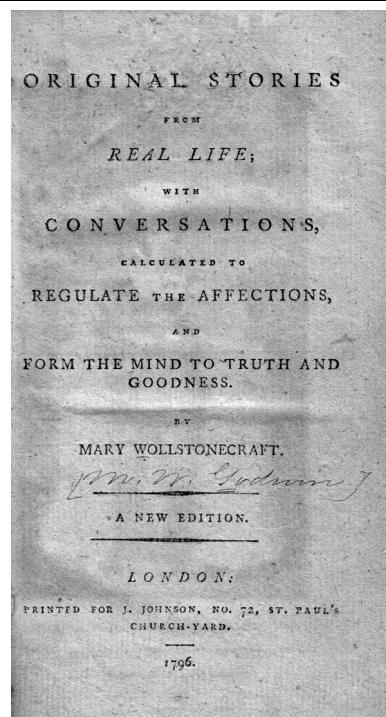
Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Information about the Pohockamock Tribe #68 of North Easton from Russell Phillips; Picture of the 50th anniversary banquet of the Knights of Columbus from Edward Robicheau; Picture of the OAHS basketball banquet for 1948-49 winning team from Larry Hurley; Frothingham Memorial Park's 50th anniversary's Classic Game shirt from Allan Johnson, who played in the game; Extensive information about the OAHS Class of 1948 from Alice McCarthy; Edward Rowe Snow book from Lyn and Ed White; Historic tape of conversation between Neubert Morse and Dr. Jay Rice Moody-August 11, 1963, several DVD's of the Morse Car restoration, from Dr. Stan Moody; A small cloth Santa Claus doll that Barbara Holbrook Read made in 1940-1941 in Muriel Hatchfield DeWitt's day care (Sheridan and Park Street) donated by Barbara; White sweater with OAHS monogram by Ray Wallace, member of undefeated OA football teams of '63 and '64; Box of class pictures, Eastoners, town reports, tools from the family farm on Randall Street, and many newspaper articles about Easton from the Barretto Family; Cast iron cobbler's form and stand, from Wayne Legge (who also brought some Mass Archeology Month brochures); Three foam Founders Day hats, and a copy of THE EVANSVILLE (Indiana) JOURNAL dated May 20, 1873, containing an article about the will of Oakes Ames, from Alice McCarthy; many papers and clippings about Dorothy Hatchfield, Eastoners (4), OAHS class play program, OAHS letter award papers, Unity Church directory 1960's, Mass Bay Tercentenary book 1930, postcards of Easton, 1942 Easton Directory, other related clippings about several members of the Hatchfield family, from the MonKarsh family; From Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Platt, Sheila Heath Platt, a copy of The Langwater Story and three framed photos used in the book, framed JFK sketch, 1927 List of Soldiers books (2), letter from Simpson Spring to Hastings Keith, 1954, several loose photos regarding the Langwater herdsmen; Easton Historical Society 250th anniversary coins, and photos of recent events, from Ron Sommerville; photos of events from David and Debra Kaufman; OA 1968 Football Jacket with Championship football letter, from William Ralph who was a member of the team; information on the Langwater guernseys and the 1968 floods, from Robert Wooster.

Financial donations- William M. Ames, Dr. Deborah Keirstead Bublitz, Friendship Circle of the Covenant Congregational Church, "Give with Liberty" through James MacPhee (2), Robert Keller, Barry Knowlton, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Misiewicz (for printing publications), Beth and Jack Mowatt, Thomas and Judith Sabin, and Joanne Soule in memory of Kenneth Martin, OAHS Class of 1959, OAHS Class of 1964, MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith, Dr. Paul Weiss.

We express special appreciation to Ed Hands for leading a tour about architects who worked in Easton at our October open house. Ed wrote a paper of more than 50 pages for the tour, which was attended by 79 people!

The Easton Historical Society very much appreciates your contributions. Thank you!



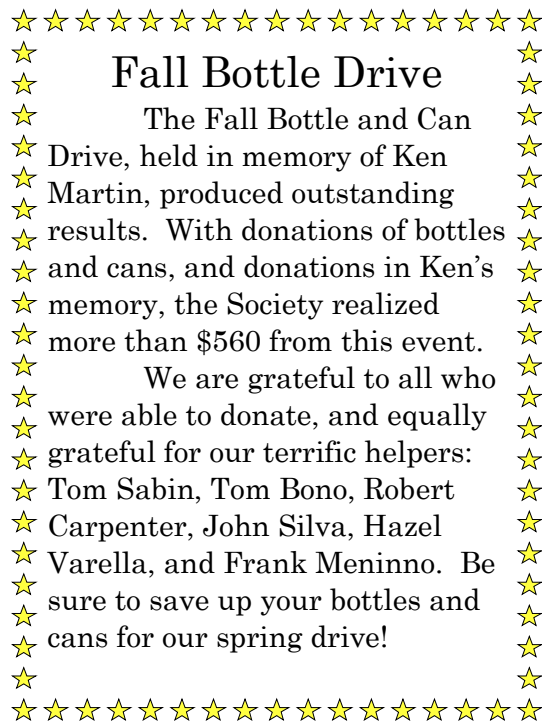
Book Update

On November 6th, Ken Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop presented an informative program about old books and book collecting. After his talk, he gave verbal appraisals of those books brought in by people in attendance.

I brought this book from the Society's collection. This old edition, printed in 1796, is not worth much. Even though it is a 1700's book, there are much older editions than this one. It turns out that the binding is not original. The book was rebound probably in the mid-1800's, and that significantly reduces its value. It was appraised for less than \$50. Even so, we enjoyed an enjoyable night.

Fall Bottle Drive

The Fall Bottle and Can Drive, held in memory of Ken Martin, produced outstanding results. With donations of bottles and cans, and donations in Ken's memory, the Society realized more than \$560 from this event. We are grateful to all who were able to donate, and equally grateful for our terrific helpers: Tom Sabin, Tom Bono, Robert Carpenter, John Silva, Hazel Varella, and Frank Meninno. Be sure to save up your bottles and cans for our spring drive!



2014 Holiday Raffle

Society member and life-long Easton resident Ron Somerville has donated one of the silver coins minted for the celebration of Easton’s 250 Anniversary in 1975. This coin features the Town Seal on the obverse, and the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall / Benjamin Williams mile marker on the reverse (which represent the two National Historic Districts in Easton at that time), and is number 230 of a limited edition that was part of this special celebration. We are offering this special part of Easton’s history to one of our lucky patrons in the form of a raffle. Tickets are available by mail using the form included here, and are priced at \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. To enter the raffle, return this form with payment. The number of tickets you request will be placed into the drawing. Please make checks payable to Easton Historical Society. The raffle will be held at the end of the December 14th open house. Entries must be received by Friday, December 12th, 5 p.m. Sorry, we cannot be responsible for delayed delivery by the post office. Checks received after the deadline will gladly be returned to you unless you specify otherwise. The Society will contact you if you win, and will mail you your prize if you cannot pick it up. Good luck!

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

of tickets _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5)

Winter Open Houses

Join us on January 11th to take a look at one of the things Easton is most famous for—shovels! As you might imagine, we have a variety of shovels in our collection. Do you think you know what some of them might have been used for? You might be surprised with the answers! Don’t miss this opportunity to “dig” into a little history about your town!

Our February 8th open house might be a mystery to some! We are not talking mystery novels or murder mysteries (sorry, no Agatha Christie sleuthing will be needed). We will choose some unusual items from our collections for you to take a look at. See if you can guess what the item is, and what it was used for. Who knows? Some intrepid gumshoe might even win a prize. Who knows what that might be? It only adds to the air of mystery surrounding your Society that afternoon. But don’t worry, if you guess our items, then good for you. If we stump you, good for us! In the end, all will be revealed, and you will have learned a little something and had some fun doing it.

A Little Musical Trivia

Do you know the song The Twelve Days of Christmas? I bet you do! This popular song is sung often, and children love it. The song actually dates back to the early 1600’s, and may have its roots in a much older, more obscure 15th century song. Did you know that the first seven items are all related to birds? “Four calling birds” was originally “four collie birds” and in the old English, “collie” meant black. So the “four collie birds” stood for blackbirds! And the “five golden rings” phrase originally described the five rings on a pheasant’s neck. So there you have it. But can you remember all twelve stanzas? Go ahead, give it a try, and if you can, good for you!



2014 Holiday Ornament Now Available!

We are happy to announce that the newest addition to the Holiday Ornament series is now available! This year's ornament features the Soldier's Monument. The beautiful photo was taken by well known Easton photographer John Ventresco. Erected as a Civil War memorial in 1882, this majestic statue has stood at Monument Square (Center Street and Depot Street) ever since.

We have been able to keep the price of this ornament at \$10, the same price we have charged in the past. A set of 4 is \$36. Special pricing will be available for a complete set of 12 pieces. On Sunday, December 7th, John will be at the Society at 2 p.m. to sign your ornament.

Address changing? Please tell us!

Address Service Requested

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