



CALENDAR

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

We all remember last winter which caused us to cancel two events. In case of inclement weather, call to make sure we are open before trekking out.

Annual Easton Lions Club Holiday Festival Weekend, Open Houses will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, December 6th, 1 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 6th, we wish you a Happy Hannukah!

Sunday, December 13th, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Join us on Main Street, in front of the former North Easton Grammar School, 2 p.m. for a special dedication of a town clock donated by Avery Lee Williams, with a reception following at the Society. Details inside.

Monday, December 21st, 290th anniversary of the Town of Easton!

Friday, December 25th, have a very Merry Christmas!

Friday, January 1st, 2016 New Year's Day.

Sunday, January 10th, Open House at the Society, 1-5 p.m. with a look at past clubs and organizations in Easton.

Sunday, January 31st, National History Day Open House, 1-5 p.m. See what great work our 8th grade students are doing!

Sunday, February 14th, Open House at the Society, 1-5 p.m. featuring ice hockey and Jim Craig memorabilia.

Visit us for holiday gift giving ideas—give history!

EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

A Very Special "Time"!

Avery Lee Williams and the Easton Historical Society are excited to announce Lee's donation of a Town Clock to commemorate Easton's 290th Anniversary! This Town Square style clock will be installed on Main Street in front of the former North Easton Grammar School. Made by the Electric Time Company, Inc., it will feature two faces so it may be seen from either direction along Main Street.

A dedication is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 13th on Main Street. The Society will host a reception following the dedication at our museum.

Avery Lee Williams, an Easton native, has passionately supported many town organizations and celebrations through his active participation and financial support. The donation of this clock continues Lee's and his son Kevin's example of giving back to the citizens of Easton, and this is something we should all be proud of. Thank you, Lee!

Join us in celebrating Easton's 290th Anniversary!

Society Announces New Ornament Series

We are pleased to introduce you to a new member of our family—the 2015 holiday ornament! Crafted in the U.S.A. of fine pewter, this first in a series features the Old Colony Railroad Station. Coming years will feature other Easton related people, places, and things. Affordably priced at \$10, they are easy to package and mail, so it makes an ideal gift for those who are near or far.



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

Greetings! Welcome to historic Easton! Come on in for a while! Let me show you around! These are just a few of the friendly words I use to greet the many visitors to the Easton Historical Society & Museum. In the past twelve months we have had close to 1000 unique visitors from all around the world.

We attract visitors for any number of reasons. There are people who visit as part of a tour for professional groups. A few years ago we hosted a group from the American Society of Landscape Architects who came to see the work of Frederick Law Olmsted. The American Society of Architects had a convention in Boston, and one of the choices for tours was a trip to North Easton to view the five Henry Hobson Richardson buildings. We were the hosts for Historic New England who gave a two day seminar on preservation restrictions, using examples of these in Easton for their training.

Visitors also come by way of student groups. Just a few weeks ago, we had visits from two different architecture classes from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. Other universities who have visited include Harvard, M.I.T., Yale, Lehigh, Bridgewater, and even the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. That's right! We even get visitors from overseas who want to experience the incredible art and architecture here. When I tell people that Easton is world famous, I'm not kidding! The Victorian Society runs a summer school program for architects in Newport, Rhode Island, and they have been coming each year for more than thirty years. Some students venture here on their own to work on senior projects, or for graduate students, their theses. Many of these focus on one or more of the Richardson buildings, and include students of both architecture and art history.

Many visitors have personal reasons for coming. Most of these people are genealogists who are looking for clues into their family history. Some have an interest in the places their ancestors grew up in or worked in. Others are people who are interested in the architectural gems here. Still others love railroading, and appreciate the good care we have given to our honored building. A very recent visitor turned out to be a great-grandson of Richardson who came to Boston from Maryland, and ventured to North Easton to see his great-grandfather's work. He was pleased to find us open, and that the buildings his great-grandfather designed are in such excellent condition. We have been the host of several groups of Swedish relatives of Easton resident Priscilla Almquist-Olsen. She invited them over from Sweden after she visited there herself. Another interesting visitor played ice hockey for the Swedish national team.

And then there are surprise visitors: people who just drop by! I never know who will be in or what reason they may have for coming by. The successful development of the former Ames Shovel Company buildings, the beauty of the Governor Ames Estate, and the continuing revitalization of Main Street continue to draw visitors to our area. Sidewalks make the area very walkable and the foot traffic has picked up considerably. And thanks to the support we receive from the Robert D. and Sally G. King fund, we are able to be open most days which makes us very accessible to so many walk-ins.

We are a museum and we live for our visitors. Some of you are regulars who stop in frequently to discuss the matters of the day. Some are regular visitors to our monthly open houses, interested in seeing what might be going on or what might be new. Some are parents and their very curious children who want to know what is inside! And there are always people who have lived here for some time and have never stopped in.

As the holiday season approaches, you will find good reasons to visit us. The excitement of the Garden Club Greens sale, interesting exhibits, stimulating conversation, wonderful treats and nice hot coffee are just a few reasons to visit us! So take some time to stop by and say hello.

I wish you all the blessings of the season and peace in the year ahead. And of course, don't forget to visit!

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

Officers for 2015-2016

President Kenneth J. Michel

1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.

2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands

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Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

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Past President—Deborah MacPhee

Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster

Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger

Curator—Frank T. Meninno

DEBORAH MACPHEE

Ten years ago the Society was extremely fortunate to have a VERY enthusiastic Director who became President the following year. From 2006 to 2011 she provided dynamic leadership including the celebration at Stonehill College of the Society's sixtieth anniversary September 20, 2008, the fortieth anniversary of the gift of the Old Colony Railroad Station with representatives of the four donors present November 7, 2009, and the publication of the first volume of Reminiscences, the Society's research publication, in 2010.

After a year in Seattle, she returned to Easton and resumed her passionate commitment to the Society becoming President again in 2013. The sixty-fifth anniversary of the Historical Society was held October 20, 2013, and each attendee received an updated history of the Society, A Glimpse of the Past, paid for by Debi in memory of her parents, Jack and Judy Luke. Also, under her direction with funding from her husband's "Give with Liberty" (Liberty Mutual), the west waiting room and the ladies' bathroom were beautifully restored. The focus on reorganizing the second floor (the archives) has also resulted in the planning of the restoration of the north eaves room. The small room will become the art depository funded by her in memory of her parents.

The importance of themes for Open Houses has been another priority, and with ECAT's filming many of them, the community has been able to enjoy them also. Another program ECAT did recently was in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, which Debi had urged us to join. The Chamber and ECAT feature one business/organization a month, and the November showing will be the Historical Society. The "Taste of Easton" is another Chamber event in which the Society has participated.

Her most recent accomplishment was developing a "Hidden Easton" walk of the area. The many participants were thrilled to learn many amazing facts and to view the marble rotunda in the original Oliver Ames High School funded by the dying retired Governor.

THANK YOU, Debi, for all your enthusiasm, passion, vision, commitment, and thousands of hours which you donated during the past ten years. Debi and Jim are planning to move to Boston next year, and in anticipation of this move, they have decided that now is the right time to step down from the Society Board. We wish Jim, Joe, and you the VERY BEST!

The following article appeared in the Brockton Enterprise, Monday, October 23, 1905 and bears repeating here. It is an interesting look at travel from a by-gone era.

Has Tried Them All

Mr. Luther Bird of North Easton Goes from Ox Wagon to Auto

North Easton, Oct. 23. - - A desire to ride in an automobile, which for several years has been fostered by Mr. Luther Bird, an aged gentleman of Washington Street, has at last been satisfied. Mr. Bird was 87 years old last April, and is one of the town's citizens most representative of the old school.

"When my wife was alive," said Mr. Bird, "she used to say that she would not ride in an automobile, but I always said that the first opportunity that came to me would be accepted gladly."

These words were uttered in the presence of Representative William H. Ames of this town last week, and he immediately proffered the old gentleman a ride in his 50-horse power machine. Mr. Ames took Mr. Bird for a ride of several miles, a kindness which the old gentleman will always remember. Mr. Bird's desire to ride was, as he expressed it, prompted because his experience includes a knowledge of all the ordinary modes of travel that this country has known. When he was ten years old he rode into Boston behind an ox team, carrying a load of hand-made shoes made in his father's shop. He was one of the first in this vicinity to see a steam train come into Stoughton when the road was extended to that town.

Center School 2nd Graders Visit Society

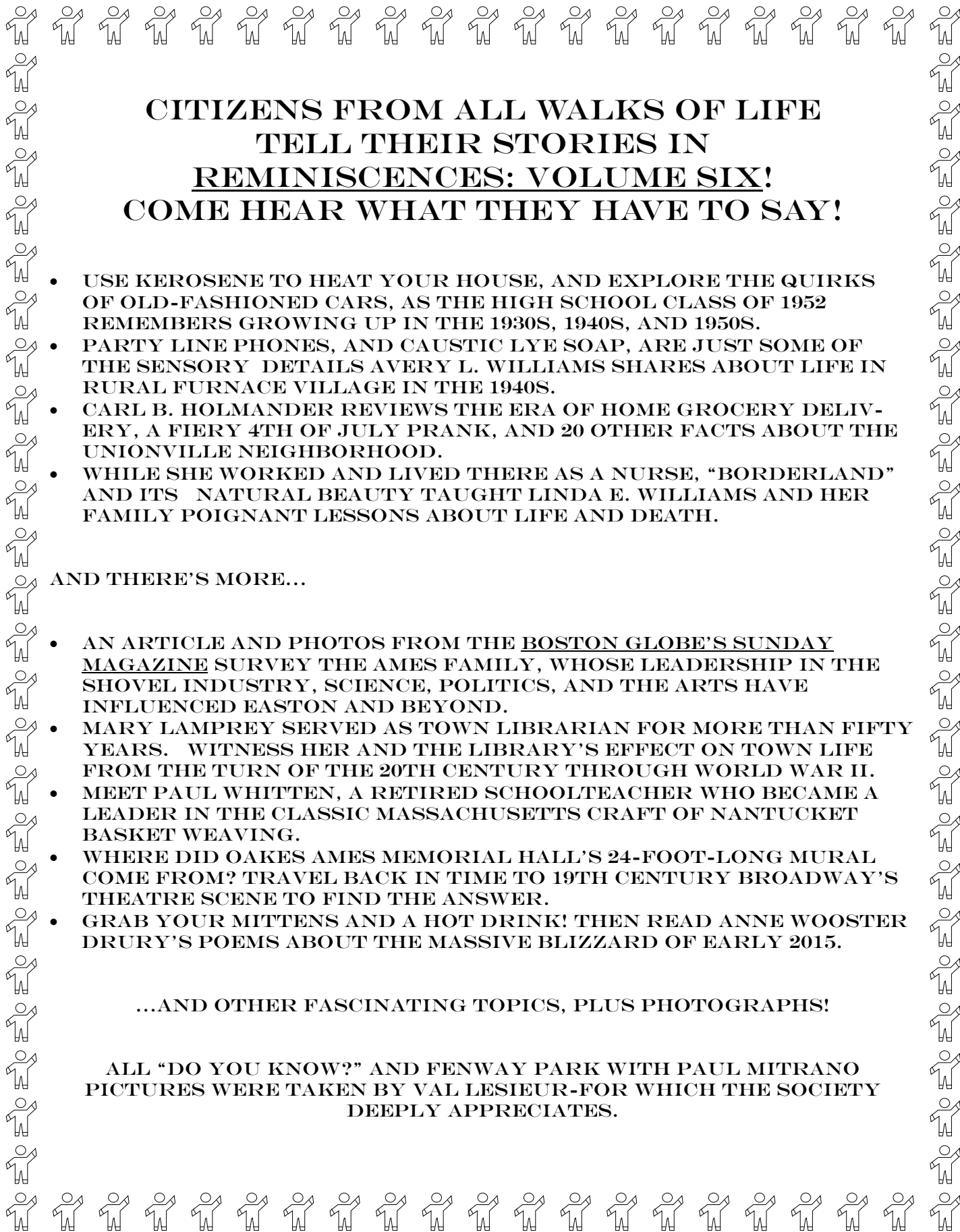
On Wednesday, October 28th, four second grade classes from Center School visited the Society. Nancy DeLuca provided an interesting show and tell time at the Society where students learned about Easton's varied history, and Frank T. Meninno led the students through the Ames Shovel Works, where they learned about the Ames family, the company, and the use of natural resources at the site.

Bottle Drive News

We had a good turnout for our Ken Martin Memorial fall bottle drive. Many of you have been extra good saving those bottles and cans for us! We collected three pickup truck loads of returnables which are then taken to the Brockton Area Arc Redemption Center. We then received a check for \$315.05. Many thanks to you for your donations, and to Deborah MacPhee, Joanne England, Ed Hands, Tom Bono, Frank Meninno, and intern Allison Such for helping out. A special thank you to our friends at Tedeschi's at Washington Plaza, North Easton, who donate their personal bottles and cans to us as well.

Did you know that the Society has an account set up at the Arc? You may bring returnable bottles and cans there anytime and ask them to be donated to the Society. Any bags, boxes, or other containers you use MUST be marked Easton Historical Society so we can receive credit for your donation.

The Brockton Area Arc is located at 1250 West Chestnut Street (corner of West Chestnut and Pearl Streets) in Brockton, across from White's Bakery. This non-profit was chartered in 1952 to provide employment and support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Brockton and surrounding towns. The redemption center is just one program they operate. The Arc assists with job placement services, family support and services, and programs for children and teens. Stop in or call them at 508-583-8030 for more information, or to ask how you can support the Society. Ken would be pleased.



**CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE
TELL THEIR STORIES IN
REMINISCENCES: VOLUME SIX!
COME HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!**

- USE KEROSENE TO HEAT YOUR HOUSE, AND EXPLORE THE QUIRKS OF OLD-FASHIONED CARS, AS THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1952 REMEMBERS GROWING UP IN THE 1930S, 1940S, AND 1950S.
- PARTY LINE PHONES, AND CAUSTIC LYE SOAP, ARE JUST SOME OF THE SENSORY DETAILS AVERY L. WILLIAMS SHARES ABOUT LIFE IN RURAL FURNACE VILLAGE IN THE 1940S.
- CARL B. HOLMANDER REVIEWS THE ERA OF HOME GROCERY DELIVERY, A FIERY 4TH OF JULY PRANK, AND 20 OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE UNIONVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD.
- WHILE SHE WORKED AND LIVED THERE AS A NURSE, "BORDERLAND" AND ITS NATURAL BEAUTY TAUGHT LINDA E. WILLIAMS AND HER FAMILY POIGNANT LESSONS ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH.

AND THERE'S MORE...

- AN ARTICLE AND PHOTOS FROM THE BOSTON GLOBE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE SURVEY THE AMES FAMILY, WHOSE LEADERSHIP IN THE SHOVEL INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND THE ARTS HAVE INFLUENCED EASTON AND BEYOND.
- MARY LAMPREY SERVED AS TOWN LIBRARIAN FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS. WITNESS HER AND THE LIBRARY'S EFFECT ON TOWN LIFE FROM THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY THROUGH WORLD WAR II.
- MEET PAUL WHITTEN, A RETIRED SCHOOLTEACHER WHO BECAME A LEADER IN THE CLASSIC MASSACHUSETTS CRAFT OF NANTUCKET BASKET WEAVING.
- WHERE DID OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL'S 24-FOOT-LONG MURAL COME FROM? TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO 19TH CENTURY BROADWAY'S THEATRE SCENE TO FIND THE ANSWER.
- GRAB YOUR MITTENS AND A HOT DRINK! THEN READ ANNE WOOSTER DRURY'S POEMS ABOUT THE MASSIVE BLIZZARD OF EARLY 2015.

...AND OTHER FASCINATING TOPICS, PLUS PHOTOGRAPHS!

ALL "DO YOU KNOW?" AND FENWAY PARK WITH PAUL MITRANO PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY VAL LESIEUR-FOR WHICH THE SOCIETY DEEPLY APPRECIATES.

In Memoriam

Helen Cecilia (Tracey) Copeland, 89 years old, died on Sunday morning, August 30. She was born in Easton, daughter of the late Joseph and Jane (Brophy) Tracey. She was a graduate of Oliver Ames High School, in Easton. Helen has been long time resident of Taunton and she was a communicant of St. Jude the Apostle Parish. Helen was a past president of the Taunton Gaelic Society. She is survived by her husband Thomas Copeland and her sons Edward Reed and his wife Pamela of Taunton and David Reed and his wife Colleen of Bradenton, FL. She is step mother of Ted Fitzgerald and his wife Diane of Walpole, Bill Fitzgerald and his wife Theresa of Taunton, Brad Fitzgerald of Taunton, Greg Fitzgerald and his wife Melinda of Acushnet, Julianne Fitzgerald of Taunton, Tom Copeland and his wife Rita of Taunton and James Farrands and his wife Patricia of Taunton, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Helen was the sister of the late Joseph, John, George, Thomas Tracey, Mary Elliot, Margaret Jones, Katherine Grasso and Nancy Lorden.

Warren Kenneth Nylén, 86, of North Easton died September 17, 2015. He was the husband of the late Janet D. (Duclos) Nylén. Born October 20, 1928, in Worcester, he was the son of Carl F. and Agda Nylén. Warren grew up in Worcester and was a 1946 graduate of North High School. He attended Wentworth Technical Institute in Boston graduating in 1948; served in the Army, state-side during the Korean War; and married the love of his life, Janet D. Duclos on September 5, 1953. They raised their family both in Sharon and later in North Easton. Warren was an accomplished sailor, skier, tennis player and golfer. Warren was an active member of the Massapoag Yacht Club for many years, where he also served as Commodore. Warren and Janet were the co-founders of System Controls, Inc. Warren had the opportunity to become acquainted with his extended family in Sweden with the help of his dear friend Priscilla Almquist-Olsen. They traveled together to Sweden several times to visit friends and family, and reciprocated by their entertaining trips to the States. Warren was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Agda, his brother, George and his wife Janet. He leaves behind daughter, Kristin Nylén, and granddaughter, Savannah Nylén of Miami, Fla.; daughter, Susan Nylén and son-in-law Tim Fischer of Firestone, Colo.; daughter, Pamela Gustafson and son-in-law Richard Gustafson of Hollis, N.H.; and niece, Roberta Nylén of Tonawanda, N.Y.

The Society expresses its deepest sympathies to all.

Obituary

Died, in Easton, Mass., on the 5th of August, 1836, Mr. David Thompson, aged 98 years, 6 months and 22 days. Mr. Thompson, during his long life, was much respected. He belonged to the Congregational Church and Society at the time of his death, having been a communicant forty-four years. He left at his death, 6 children, 38 grandchildren, 100 great-grand-children, and several grand-children's grand-children. Mr. Thompson, at the age of sixteen, enlisted in the old French War, and lost his left arm by a bomb, in the storming of Fort Henry by the French, in 1757. He received a pension until his decease—and was the last surviving pensioner who took part in that war. His grandmother, Mrs. Mary Houghton - (her maiden name was Mary Blackburn), - was one of the three whose lives were saved at the sinking of Port Royal, in Jamaica, by an earthquake, in June, 1692. She heard and felt the shock, and rushed to the door; as the place sunk in the water, she clung to the sill of the house, which separated from the building. She remained in the water three days and three nights, when a vessel passed near her, and she was taken on board. Her trunk of clothing floated near her, and was also saved. She afterwards lived in a public house in Dorchester, and waited upon passengers. Several years had elapsed since the occurrence of the earthquake, when her husband entered the house in which she resided to obtain lodgings for the night; they immediately recognized each other, and the surprise was so great that Mary fainted. The husband supposed she had perished at the time of the earthquake, and she believed he was lost at sea, he being absent on a voyage at the time of the disaster. She died in 1768, at the advanced age of 105.

*This was donated by Claire McHugh after being found in an old desk that may have belonged to a member of the Randall family. It was written by Isaac Stearns of Mansfield, Ma. and is recorded by Rev. Chaffin in his History of Easton (1886). It can be found beginning on page 762 along with Chaffin's footnotes.

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

A 48 star flag used by the Women’s Auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 2547 with appreciation to Lou Silva; OAHs Class of 1962 Graduation invitation, Class of 1962 40th and 50th Reunion tee shirts, Cheerleading letter, photo album of pictures from Easton’s 275th Anniversary parade, from Rosemary Santos Greene; Civil War 50th Anniversary book with many illustrations and an illustration of Henry Eldridge, military discharge service pin, \$5 confederate note framed, from Eleanor A. Grant; 1958 election items including a Town of Easton Ballot and Town Meeting Warrant, political ad for Wendell Anderson from 1958, Vincent Hurley political ad from 1958, 1940 Laurel Club cookbook, EJHL Women’s Auxiliary cookbook, other antique cookbooks, old ice cream scoop, flat iron, 1950’s hand crocheted pot holders made by the donor and her sister Karin Almquist, aprons used by Enie Almquist’s catering company, items from the OAHs multi-class reunion, from Priscilla Almquist-Olsen; Simpson Spring crate, Easton’s Neighborhoods book inscribed to the OAHs Class of 1963, original 1886 copy of the History of Easton, several Swedish church and Sunday School hymnals and books, 1970’s school photos with names, Anderson Store account book from 1897, collection of family photos, checks from the First National Bank of Easton, other books, antique wooden rattle, from Lois DiPasqua; obituary for David Thompson, from Claire McHugh; tooth from an ice cutting saw blade, and two gages to set the shaver at Monte’s Ice House, from Henry Lindstrom; a solid blade brush cutter and cords, from William M. Ames; town reports from 1863, the 1870’s, 1919, and mid 1900’s, 1880 Poll Tax book, Centennial Gathering of the Hayward Family book (1878), other Easton Historical Society publications, from Nancy Lewis Donovan; many photographs from Val LeSieur; Goodwin Anderson’s Motor Coach Service-Complete Timetable-November 22, 1928, a photo of the winning 1955 OAHs basketball team, from June Bliss; DVD’s from Robert Holmes; from Michelle Oliver Sims-newspapers from her grandmother’s home (Laura Holmberg’s).

Financial gifts have been received from Mary “Heidi” Ames, John & Linda Conant, Anne Wooster Drury, Mary-Rose Garfagna and Catherine Harvey, Larry and Nancy Hurley, Robert Keller, Janet Linehan, Leon and Sara Lombardi, Larry Mowatt and Dianne Cella, Elizabeth Rose, Bradley Sultan, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Wallace, and Dr. Paul I. Weiss, Lee Williams, Kevin L. Williams TTEE and Kevin L. Williams REV TR UAD.

Donations for the bottle and can drive in memory of Ken Martin were received from Myrtle Blaisdell, John and Marie Graca, Jack and Beth Mowatt, and from an anonymous donor. We also received an anonymous donation of a new flag for Ken’s flagpole.

Thanks to Theresa Rylko who donated railroad themed ornaments and toys for our Holiday Tree.

A donation was sent "In loving memory of my Oliver Ames High School sweetheart (1953),
Susan Sproul Nordbeck (RIP), Robin Brooks"

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

Save These Dates!

- Easton Garden Club Greens Sale will be held at the Society on Saturday, December 5th, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. And don’t forget the
- Festival of Trees held at the Easton Country Club from November 29th to December 13. Visitors should look for the Historical
- Society’s tree!
- Our March 13th Open House is a tasty one! It will feature early Easton and other cookbooks including many that belonged to
- Enis Almquist.
- On April 7th we will have the annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening with the topic of discussion being OAHs Boys Sports. The
- girls were discussed Girls Sports this year. Thanks to Lee and Kevin Williams for their generous sponsorship of this special night!



Snowy winters are nothing new to hardy New Englanders! This photo of a solitary snow shoveler was taken in front of Kelly's Hardware on Center Street, in the late 1930's or early 1940's. Kelly's Hardware is visible on the sign at right. It was formerly Pires Hardware, and currently is the home of Paint, Rust and Pixie Dust. The building next to that was once Swanson's Lunch, and later, the Betty Jean Shop. On the far left of the photo is the former Bell System building at 2 Center Street.

If your mailing label does not have the latest date of your membership, please contact Hazel Varella.

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