



EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Happy Holidays!

Winter is upon us and so are the holidays! Thoughts of the first snowfall, Hanukkah and Christmas, school vacations and college breaks have already made themselves known.

We invite you to join us for a festive Holiday Season! Consider these gift ideas to add some cheer to your winter:

- ◆ Check out the new Historic Easton Puzzle on pages 4-5, a great gift and perfect activity for those snowy days;
- ◆ Historic Easton Throws that support a scholarship for an Easton student (and keep you nice and warm this winter);
- ◆ The newest edition of Reminiscences for your winter reading;
- ◆ Ornaments featuring many Easton landmarks;
- ◆ A variety of other historical books and gifts.
- ◆ Many of these can be sent by mail. Order on our website, or call or email us to get more information.

You might want to attend one of our holiday open houses on December 3, 4, and 11. Share some holiday cheer, goodies, and hot coffee and warm conversation. Bring your family and friends!

Don't forget the Easton Garden Club's annual Holiday Greens Sale at the Society on the 3rd, and meet authors Linda Manning Williams and Judith Manchester (Bougas) on the 11th. They will autograph your book purchases.

Take in one of our monthly programs this winter featuring artist Eveline Johnson with the Historic Easton Puzzle in January, check out the Easton Middle School student projects done for National History Day, and see what rare and interesting items we'll have on display in February. We hope to see you at one of these events. Looking for something to do with visitors or the kids? As Ernie Boch would say, "Come On Down!" We'll be waiting for you!

CALENDAR

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

All events are subject to the weather cooperating with us. Inclement weather may force us to cancel an event.

Easton Lions Club annual Holiday Festival Weekend. Saturday, December 3rd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring the Easton Garden Club and their annual Greens Sale!

Sunday, December 4th, we will be open from 1-5 p.m. Pick up a gift that's uniquely Easton!

Saturday, December 10th, see us at the Artisan Faire at Queset House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 11th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Authors Linda Manning Williams and Judith Manchester (Bougas) will be signing their books.

Sunday, December 25th, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah!

Sunday, January 1st, Happy New Year to our members.

Sunday, January 8th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Art Show featuring Easton artist Eveline Johnson, her paintings, and will sign the new Historic Easton Puzzle.

Sunday, January 29th, annual National History Day Club open house.

Sunday, February 12th, Open house from 1-5 p.m. Today's exhibit will feature treasures from the vault.

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

Gifted

“We are treasure chests with more jewels inside than we can imagine.”
— Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

Thinking about gifts recently? I bet you are. I am too. After a year full of birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, showers, I realize that those very special occasions are somewhat of a primer for the end of the year holidays Christmas and Hanukkah. Are you ready? I think I am. I've had a lot of practice in gift-giving this year.

As I look back on the past twelve months, I realize how often I have seen gifts come across my desk at the Museum. As you can see from each newsletter, these gifts are varied and interesting as are the people who donate them.

I bring up that last point to highlight the role of people in sharing gifts. The most important gift we receive any given day is the person who gives from what they have. Each of us is gifted in some way whether we realize it or not! There are many types of gifts. Some people have the gift of generosity; some have the gift of teaching; some have the gift of administration; some have the gift of encouragement; others have the gift of hospitality—the list goes on and on. I think each of us could quickly name at least one other person whom we believe to be “gifted.” Allow me to ask you this: who would say you are “gifted” and what gift would they say you have?

Each of us has at least one gift, and many of us have gifts that are complimentary to the other gifts we have. Have you discovered your gift? There are some very good “gift inventories” around that ask you some questions, much like a personality test, and once completed offers insight that will help you to identify your gift(s). The results may surprise you! I took a spiritual gift inventory once at a church I attended. Most people who know me very well describe me as quiet or even shy (really!). However, my gift results pointed to evangelizing, which means getting out around people and doing public speaking. Once I discovered that I began to work on my shortcomings. As a result I can speak much more comfortably to groups and that of course comes in very valuable in my work here. That begs a second question: now that you know your gift, will you share it? You should! Have you been the recipient of an ugly sweater gift? Or the ugly lamp wedding gift? The sweaters are stuck in a drawer or the lamp in the corner of a little used room where they remain unappreciated. But a sweater, regardless of what it looks like, will provide warmth on a cold night; the lamp lights the darkness as well as any other. So, find your gift and share it. As the quote above says, we really are all treasure chests full of wonderful things just waiting to be discovered.

As the holidays approach, give from the one gift that is uniquely you! May each of you discover your gift this season, and may you share those gifts with others.

Sign Up For Our Weekly Emails

We have begun sending out weekly emails to those who have requested them. If you are not receiving them and wish to get advance notice of coming events, Society happenings, or other items of interest, please email us at eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list. We will be happy to include you in our weekly emails.

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

Officers for 2016-2017

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Mary Lamprey and the Easton Garden Club

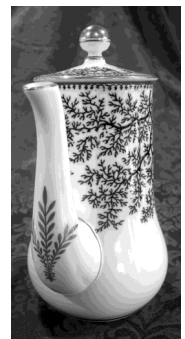
Do you remember Mary Lamprey? She served as the Librarian at the Ames Free Library from 1891-1944, a period of fifty-three years. During that time she lived in the second floor apartment at the Library. She was surrounded not only by books, but also by beautiful gardens and landscapes, especially the English Garden at “Queset.” In April of 1930, at the beginning of the Great Depression, Miss Lamprey organized a meeting in the Library Reading Room of ladies interested in gardening. This was the organizational meeting of the Easton Garden Club, and Miss Lamprey became its first President. Her legacy lives on through the continued work of the Easton Garden Club all around Easton. They have created and maintained a number of public gardens in Easton, and continue to educate others in gardening. Miss Lamprey would undoubtedly be pleased!

The Society will have on display for the next several months some personal items owned by Miss Lamprey. One is a child’s tea set that she had as a child, and the other is an extraordinary set of Minton China that was given to her by an Oliver Ames (probably Oliver Ames of “Sheep Pasture”) many years ago. This china set was a breakfast set (also referred to as a bachelor’s set) and features the usual serving pieces except that they are sized for a single portion. The cobalt blue pattern on white china is striking in appearance. It dates to about 1860, and probably belonged to the second Oliver Ames (1807-1877).

Around 1912 Miss Lamprey purchased a farm in Groton, New Hampshire, where her father hailed from. In 1925, seventh grade student Nellie Jermolovich began a part-time job at the Library working for Miss Lamprey. Nellie was often a guest at Miss Lamprey’s farm. Her education at Simmons College was paid for by Mrs. Louis A. Frothingham. She went on to become a librarian in the Children’s Division of the Detroit Public Library, and after marrying Richard Minnich (also a librarian) they served together for some years at the library in Easton, Pennsylvania. In 1963 the Minnichs purchased the farm house of Miss Lamprey, including the furnishings inside. Among these furnishings were Miss Lamprey’s tea set, and the Minton China set. A hand-written note by Miss Lamprey records: the blue-white breakfast set belonged to Oliver Ames. It was through the generosity of Nellie that the Society received these two sets of china, and you are welcome to view them now. Below are a few photos of those sets.



Miss Mary Lamprey photographed about 1900 in the apartment above the Ames Free Library. Below left is part of her childhood tea set. Right, and below right, are two pieces of the Minton China that was given to her, and which belonged to the second Oliver Ames. They are on currently on display.



Announcing the new Historic Easton Puzzle!

The Easton Historical Society and Museum is thrilled to announce a brand new addition to our family—the Historic Easton Puzzle! This 550 piece full color puzzle features wonderful watercolors of many historic Easton landmarks painted by retired Oliver Ames teacher Eveline Johnson. The puzzle is made in New England by the White Mountain Puzzle Company. Twenty images of historic Easton surround a street map of the town. When completed the puzzle measures 18" x 24" and can be mounted for framing. The puzzle will make a great gift for anyone, any age, and any skill level. If you are looking for a gift that a whole family can enjoy, this is it!

This very special puzzle is available for purchase now at the Easton Historical Society and Museum. The cost is \$15 each or 2 puzzles for \$25. Shipping can be arranged for an additional fee. Please call or email us for costs.

The artist of the puzzle, Eveline Johnson, will be featured at the January 8th Open House from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign puzzles. She will also have some of her other Easton artwork for sale.

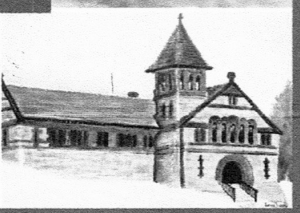
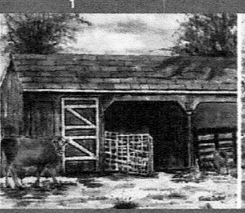
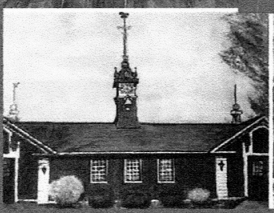
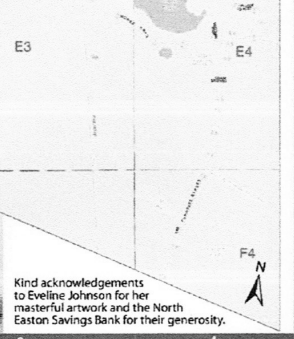
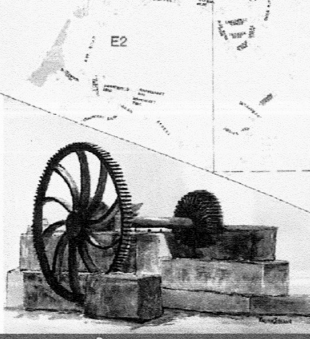
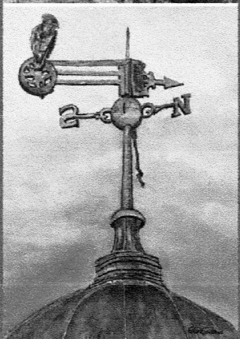
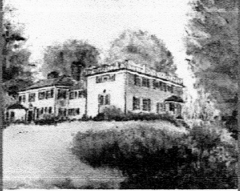
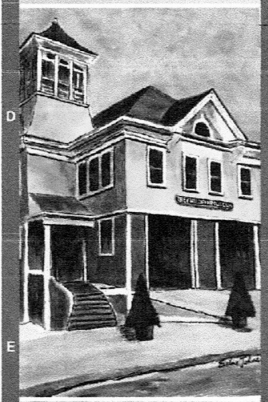
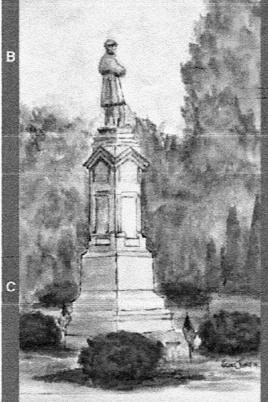
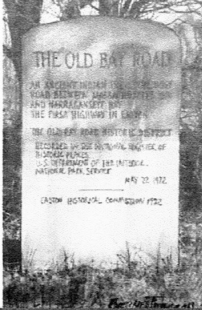
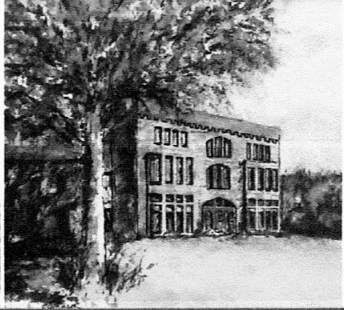
About the Artist

Eveline Johnson took up painting in the last few years of her career as a full-time history teacher in Easton, Massachusetts. She does portraits and landscapes and enjoys rustic and varied subjects. She works in India ink and pastels, but watercolor is her first love. She was introduced to painting by colleague Kristyn Shea, chairman of the art department for the Easton Public Schools. She has studied for several years with noted watercolorist Dan McCole of South Boston, and has also studied with artists Bobby Farrell of Quincy, Tony Van Hasselt of the American Watercolor Society, and Edward Kadunc of St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

Eveline grew up in Easton and was a member of the OA Class of 1971. She taught at Oliver Ames High School in Easton for 30 years and continues to be involved there. In 1990, she started the school's International Travel Study program and over the past 25 years has taken hundreds of students and adults on her annual overseas trips, primarily to Europe. Her travels have also provided much inspiration for her painting. After graduating from Oliver Ames, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Bridgewater State University.

She lives in Easton with her husband, Ken. She has three children and six grandchildren who have provided excellent material for her art. Her work has been recognized by the New England Water Color Society. She is a member of the South Boston Art Association and the Neponset Valley Art Association, and her work has been displayed at area art shows and fairs. She may be reached at evelinesjohnson4176@gmail.com.

This fundraiser is made possible by the generosity of the North Easton Savings Bank.



Ames Monument Gains National Landmark Status

The Ames Monument in Wyoming is one of ten new National Historic Landmarks recently announced by the National Park Service. This follows several years of work led by Anna Lee Ames Frohlich and many others to seek restoration and recognition of the H. H. Richardson designed monument that commemorates the role played by Oliver and Oakes Ames in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. Check out the link below for the official announcement. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on this significant achievement, and especially to Anna Lee for her passion and commitment to preserving this historic monument for future generations to appreciate.



The Ames Monument near Sherman, Wyoming. Completed in 1882, it sits at the highest point of the original route of the Transcontinental Railroad. It memorializes brothers Oliver Ames II and U.S. Representative Oakes Ames and their financial leadership in one of the greatest accomplishments in American history. The two Easton brothers are featured in bas reliefs done by sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens.

Recent Open Houses

Our September Open House was a great time to reminisce about our favorite school memories. Hazel Varella, David Ames, Nancy DeLuca, Patricia Baker, Frank T. Meninno and moderator Ed Hands all shared a few memories of favorite teachers or events from their school days. Several members of the audience also shared some remarks about their time in school.

Our October Open House, and the October 23rd Fall Meeting took a look at the three former Frederick Lothrop Ameses. The Open House focused on the homes that they lived in including “Langwater” (the home of the first Frederick), “Stone House Hill House” (built for the second Frederick and lived in by the third one), and the Newport, Rhode Island mansion “Rock Cliff” owned by the second Frederick.

The current Frederick Lothrop Ames gave an excellent presentation at our fall meeting on the first three Fredericks at Stonehill College’s Donahue Hall, which is the former mansion lived in by the second and third Fredericks. Many thanks to Fred for his enlightening talk, and thanks to Stonehill College for providing a perfect setting for it all.

Still Shopping for a Gift?

The Society and Museum will be open during the holiday season on both December weekends. We are also open most days between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. as well as Saturday mornings. You may also purchase items on our website, or if you can’t make it in during our usual hours, call or email us to arrange a convenient time to come in. We have a great selection of items for you to choose from. Many can easily be packaged and mailed to that special someone who has been away from home. Send them something special from Easton!

In Memorium

Mary-Rose (Harvey) Garfagna of North Easton, died on September 10, 2016 at home surrounded by her loved ones. She was the loving wife of the late Americo H. Garfagna. Mary-Rose was born in Brockton to her loving parents Cornelius J. Harvey, Jr. and Margaret (Murphy) Harvey. She was a 1953 graduate of the Oliver Ames High School, a member of the National Honor Society and Cheerleader Captain. She loved music and was a past member of the Immaculate Conception Church Choir, past member of the Sweet Adeline's and past member of the Norton Little Theatre. Mary-Rose was a frequent visitor to the Society and a generous supporter. She was employed at the Brockton / West Roxbury VA Medical Center for forty years. Mary-Rose and her late sister Catherine Harvey provided monthly pizza parties for veterans for many years following her retirement. Mary-Rose is survived by her sister Anne T. Chojnacki and her husband Walter of North Easton and her dear sister-in-law Patricia (Mrs. James F. Harvey of West Yarmouth). She was recently pre-deceased by her dear sister-in-law Phyllis (Mrs. Lester Brackley) of Hingham. She leaves several nieces and nephews and 4 step-children, Paul and Philip Garfagna, Diane Passo and Nancy Byron. Mary-Rose was the sister of the late, loving Catherine J. (Cathie) Harvey, James F. Harvey and Cornelius J. Harvey.

Oliver Ames High School coaching legend Suzanne Rivard, 76, of North Easton, passed away on Sunday, November 13, 2016. A graduate of Somerset High School class of 1958, she attended Bridgewater State College earning her master's degree in Education in 1962. Sue came to OA in 1962 as a physical education teacher, and soon added field hockey, basketball, and softball coaching to her duties. She began her 18 year coaching career in the days before Title IX, and as a result, for much of her coaching years there were no opportunities for post-season play. Consider her remarkable accomplishments in the Hockomock League during her coaching tenure: her field hockey teams won six Hockomock League championships and finished four seasons undefeated, three of those seasons consecutive. She was named Hockomock League Field Hockey Coach of the Year in 1970, 1971, and 1976. Her girls' basketball teams won 51 consecutive games and went undefeated for four years, winning the Hockomock League all four years. Sue was appointed Dean of Students at OA in 1980 and assistant principal in 1984. In 1985, OA received the National Excellence in Education Award in recognition as one of the outstanding high schools in the U.S. Sue was inducted into the Oliver Ames High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, and was a member of the 1957 undefeated Narragansett League champion basketball team that was inducted into the Somerset High School Athletic Hall of Fame. She was a speaker at the April 9th, 2015 "Chowder and Chatter" about OA Girls Sports.

She also was an avid golfer and loved her New England Sports teams. She flew various team flags at her home in North Easton, and always supported OA teams with banners as well. The Sue Rivard Basketball Tournament is played in her honor each year. Suzanne cherished her Bichon Maggie. Survivors include a brother, Damon P. Rivard Sr. of North Kingstown, R.I.; and several nieces and nephews, including Damon P. Rivard Jr. and his wife Patricia of East Bridgewater who were her caregivers.

The Easton Historical Society and Museum expresses its sympathy to the Garfagna and Rivard families.

Recent Acquisitions and Gifts

Oliver Ames Jacket with Field Hockey letter, from Valia Lee Thoms; Oliver Ames Class of 1948 memorabilia, from Wayne Legge; Simpson Spring bottle, Maliff Farm milk bottle, Randall Dairy milk bottle, photos of the 1938 and 1954 hurricanes, from Evelyn Dupont; 1981 Easton Jaycees Distinguished Service Award program, Reader's Digests from 1949-1950, OA letter for philosophy, 1952 Town Report, several photos of OA teams and a Minstrel Show, from Larry Hurley; book of speeches given by John D. Long including the dedication of Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, from Ronald Somerville; diary of A. A. Gilmore and copy of Citizen's Guide to Easton, from Burt Lewis; Springhill Dairy milk can from Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Ames; 'Pushin' Glazier Points manufactured by Tri-Engineering, Inc. North Easton, from Katherine Carpenter; four excellent aerial photographs of the Library area taken in 1996 by Edwin and Lyn White; information about the musket manufactured by Eliphalet Leonard in Easton in 1776, from Edward Leonard; print copy of Ames to Please from Phyllis Whitty; Grant-A Grand Family by John E. Grant, from John E. Grant. Special thanks to Jack DeLuca for his assistance in acquiring a Keurig coffee maker for the Museum.

Financial gifts have been received from Mary-Rose Garfagna, Emily Wormwood, Ronald Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Ames, William Ames, Dr. Deborah Keirsted Bublitz, James Carlino and J. Peter Simpson and David and Hazel Varella to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Robert and Carol Misiewicz, James MacPhee, Ronald Somerville, Linda Williams. Memorial gifts have been received from Anne and Walter Chojnacki and David and Hazel Varella in memory of Mary-Rose Garfagna, and from Lois DiPasqua in memory of Donald and Dorothy Hill and Lorraine Porter Watson. Gifts were received from Myrtle Blaisdell, John and Marie Gracia, Beth and Jack Mowatt, Tom and Judy Sabin in memory of Ken Martin. Appreciation also to Ken Michel for paying for the refreshments at our Fall Meeting at Stonehill College.

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



Thank you and congratulations to the Easton Garden Club and Gloria Freitas-Steidinger for the very special “Welcome to Historic Easton” sign on Main Street. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are deeply appreciated. Look at page three for a related article on the Easton Garden Club and its founder, Mary Lamprey, and a story about two very special items in our collection.

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