



## EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

### Welcoming Winter

Warm greetings from historic Easton! Unusually mild temperatures have kept us busy with lots of visitors. This summer we hosted groups from Chicago and Detroit. But the very mild fall has been conducive to tourists arriving from Houston and Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. We have had visits from many of our second graders already. They are a great group of students, well prepared for their visit, well behaved and very curious! A lot of other people have dropped in while they are about town taking in the sights and local flavors of Easton.

Of course, the weather will become cold as we settle into a New England winter. So with that in mind, we invite you to join us for the several holiday events that we have planned or are a part of. Join us at the Museum for our December open houses in conjunction with the Easton Lions Club Holiday Festival, or visit us at the annual Artisan's Faire and Holiday Tea at Queset. Check out our contribution to the Festival of Trees at the Easton Country Club. Celebrate the season as we host the Easton Garden Club's Holiday Greens Sale.

In January and February we'll be keeping the home fires burning. Our monthly open houses are still being planned, but you can always count on a hot cup of coffee or tea, a warm greeting, and stimulating conversation. Just what we need to get through those New England winters!

Be sure to place us on your to-do list this winter, and take in the sights of ice fishing on Shovel Shop Pond, skaters at Yardley Rink, and the beauty of historic Easton after a fresh snowfall. See you soon!

### CALENDAR

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

*Inclement weather could cause us to cancel winter events. In case of bad weather call first to see if we will be open.*

*Saturday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 3rd, annual Lions Club Holiday Festival and Society Holiday open house. Details inside!*

*Saturday, December 9th, annual Artisan's Faire and Holiday Tea at Queset House, 51 Main Street, behind the Ames Free Library, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 10th, open house, Noon-5 p.m. We will be joined by authors Linda Williams and Alyson Larrabee, and artist Eveline Johnson. Remember to get your copy of Reminiscences: Volume Eight, Easton throws, Easton puzzles, and other great gift items.*

*Wednesday, December 13th, Happy Hanukkah!*

*Monday, December 25th, have a Merry Christmas!*

*Monday, January 1st, we welcome 2018!*

*Sunday, January 14th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Program TBD.*

*Sunday, February 11th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. Program TBD.*

*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

### How Shall I Greet Thee?

Greetings! Or is it Season's Greetings? Or Happy Holidays? Or dare I say a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah? My goodness, when did the act of offering a well intentioned greeting become such an arduous task? Well, I guess it is a sign of the times that we live in. How we greet people has of course changed over the years as society continues to change. Years ago people greeted each other with a very proper My Lord or My Lady, Mr. or Mrs. or for a child Master or Miss. "Hi" was seldom used. "Hello" was the proper form of a neighborly greeting, and was always followed by a "How are you?" How we greeted each other was as much being friendly as it was a sign of respect for each other.

When I was young we still followed the old school when greeting others, especially adults. We never called a grown up by his/her first name! My teachers were always Mr. or Miss or Mrs., and the pastor was always Reverend or Father. My mom and dad were, well, mom and dad to us, but to others outside of the family we said mother and father. We always used Aunt or Uncle to address our close relatives. Only cousins were on a first name basis. Formality was important!

We have tried to raise our children the same way, showing respect to others with the correct type of greeting. Many parents do as well, and I find it rather amusing to have watched children who called me Mr. Meninno grow up and have difficulty calling me Frank! I suppose I should just take that as a compliment and a continuing sign of respect. After all, it sure beats someone yelling "Hey you!" to get your attention.

Somewhere along the line people have attained a much more relaxed attitude towards others. "Hi" is no longer slang; "Hey" warrants a simple response of "What?" In my role as Curator greeting people is important. I am sometimes the first ambassador of the Society that they will meet, and you know how important first impressions can be. I try very hard to remember names and faces, and respectfully make my apologies when I can't quite pull a name from my aging memory even though I know the face. A warm welcome sets just the right mood. A smile or a handshake, sometimes a hug, genuinely conveys how pleased I am to see you.

Now, back to the holidays! This can be a real challenge during these politically correct times. For me, a particular holiday still carries a strong sense of meaning. Thanksgiving is still Thanksgiving; the 4th of July is still Independence Day. And so I will greet each person I know this season with a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah as the case may be, so that I may remain respectful of each day and the meaning behind it. Old school I guess! So, with wishes for peace, joy, and good health, I wish you all the very best blessings of this wondrous season. And may we accept with glad hearts the greetings we will receive from each other!

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

#### *Officers for 2017-2018*

President Kenneth J. Michel  
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2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands  
Treasurer Nancy DeLuca  
Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

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Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger  
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

We wish to express our thanks to Leo Duggan who presented a very informative program at our October open house. Leo, who drove up from Connecticut for the afternoon, spoke at length about his career as the Baseball Coach at Oliver Ames High School. He also coached the golf team and the girl's softball team during his tenure at OA. He also donated a number of team related items that were on display for the day.

Thanks also to Elaine Anderson Sears and Priscilla Almquist-Olsen of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church who gave a very nice presentation at our November open house that honored World War II veterans. They spoke about finding the World War II Honor Roll letters written by church members to servicemen and women during the war, and how they became published in the book So We'll Meet Again. An excerpt was read by Priscilla to give some insight how the war affected Easton.

ECAT (Easton Community Access Television) was been a very dependable partner, as they have been taping many of our open houses and speakers. We are thankful to those who have volunteered to take time on their Sunday afternoon to tape events, and for those who do the editing and broadcasting so all may enjoy our programs.

We also wish to thank Frederick L. Ames and the staff at Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, Dr. Uma Hiremath and the staff at the Ames Free Library, Gail Bruno and Unity Church, Oliver Ames, and David Ames, Jr. for helping to make the tours we had this summer and fall such a success.

## An Opportunity to Help

This year we will once again be collecting new toys for boys and girls of all ages for My Brother's Keeper of Easton. Founded by Easton resident Jim Orcutt, My Brother's Keeper serves families within it's service area (Easton and now Dartmouth, MA.), meeting the needs of more than 12,000 people regardless of background. All year long they provide furniture and food to struggling families. During the holidays, there are many special needs. Please consider dropping off a new toy for a girl or boy. You may never know whose life you touch, but you can be sure that you made a difference and brought some real holiday cheer to a needy kid!

## Society Now Accepting Debit Cards

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer Nancy De Luca and her husband Jack, we are now able to accept debit and credit cards at the Society. A number of people have asked about this during this year. We hope that this will make your shopping easier and more convenient!

## A Special Gift—A Membership or Historic House Marker

Do you feel stuck looking for the same old gift for someone every year? Why not give someone a membership to the Society? Introduce someone new to the many facets of Easton's history! A membership is a great way to welcome a new neighbor, encourage a young historian, and your gift will help both the recipient as well as your Society.

Our Historic House Marker program is a very popular idea for gift-giving as well! Do you know someone who has an old home in Easton, and might like to have his/her home recognized with a sign noting the original owners names and date? Why not surprise them with a marker!

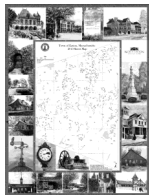
## Historical Holiday Happenings

The Society will be very busy this holiday season. We may even need to borrow a few elves to help us out! Please join us in the festivities listed below:

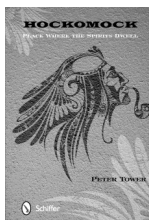
- \* The season begins with the Easton Charitable Trust Festival of Trees. See the Society Tree and many other beautiful, creative, and festive trees during this event held at the Easton Country Club, 265 Purchase Street, South Easton from November 25-December 10. You may visit on Thursdays and Fridays from 4-8 p.m., Saturday and Sundays from Noon-8 p.m., and December 10 from Noon-5 p.m. See their website at [eastonfestivaloftrees.com](http://eastonfestivaloftrees.com) for more information.
- \* Our holiday events begin on Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Easton Garden Club will be at the Society with their ever popular Greens Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pick up your fresh greens, wreaths, and check out some great raffle prizes! Go to their website at [eastongardenclub.org](http://eastongardenclub.org) for more details. While you are here check out all of the fun events around the Rockery, culminating with the Lighting of the Rockery. More information can be found at the Easton Lions Club website: [eastonlions.org](http://eastonlions.org).
- \* On Sunday, December 3 will be open from 1-5 p.m. Copies of the new book of letters sent to our troops during World War II, So We'll Were Again, will be available for purchase. Join us for great gift shopping, hot coffee, treats, and spirited conversation! Check out the parade along a revitalized Main Street. Stay until dark and take in the lights that add to the festive feel along the street.
- \* Saturday, December 9 is the annual Artisans Faire and Holiday Tea at Queset from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Society will be joining a group of artisans who will brighten your December with a wonderful selection of ideas to fill your shopping list. See the Easton Shovel Town Cultural District website at the link below for information or tickets to the Holiday Tea:  
[www.easton.ma.us/boards\\_and\\_committees/cultural\\_council/easton\\_shovel\\_town\\_cultural\\_district.php](http://www.easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/cultural_council/easton_shovel_town_cultural_district.php)
- \* Sunday, December 10, join us at the Society from Noon-5 p.m. Authors Linda Manning Williams and Alyson Larrabee will be on hand with new books! Artist Eveline Johnson will be here with a fine selection of original artwork and prints including Easton related art. Today is a must for art and book lovers!
- \* Attention Holiday Shoppers! December is a pretty busy month. If you do not have the chance to come to the events listed here, the Society is open most weekdays from 10 a.m. to about 4 p.m., and most Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon or so. We have a great selection of gift items available for you to choose from. Drop in, call 508-238-7774, or email us at [eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com) so we can help you finish off your shopping list! A list of gift ideas can be found on page 5. We look forward to greeting you!

## Give the Gift of History!

Looking for a special gift this year? Check out these suggestions!



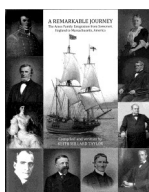
Easton Puzzle, 550 pieces, 18" x 24". 19 full color images of Easton landmarks from original paintings by Eveline Johnson. \$15 each or two puzzles for \$25.



Hockomock, Place Where the Spirits Dwell, by Peter Tower. 234 pages of stories about the Hockomock Swamp with original writings interspersed. A real conversation piece! 6" x 9", \$20. By the way, Easton is mentioned eleven times!

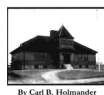


When I Was Growing Up by Harold Keith. Revelations about growing up in Unionville during the Great Depression. 6" x 9". 145 pages with illustrations, \$14.



A Remarkable Journey by Keith Taylor. The story of the Ames family origins in medieval England and their journey to America. 248 pages with color and black and white illustrations. 8 1/2" x 11", \$40.

History of Unionville



History of Unionville by Carl Holmander. A comprehensive history of the Unionville section of Easton told through the properties and families who lived there. 218 pages with illustrations. 6" x 9", \$20.



Pewter holly wreath ornament. 3" diameter, with a 1" x 2" pewter centerpiece of the Old Colony Railroad Station in the center. Comes boxed with a red ribbon for hanging. \$10.



Pewter Ames Shovel ornament. Shovel is 4" long with a red ribbon for hanging. \$10.

Also available from our Museum are all eight volumes of Reminiscences, a reprint of the 1910 Morse Car Owner's Manual, the Architecture of H. H. Richardson in North Easton, Easton Throws (approximately 45" x 60" and available in red, green, or blue), glass ornaments of Easton landmarks, Easton tote bags, and other great booklets and items. Check our web site for holiday specials! Most items can be shipped for a nominal charge.

## Donations

The following donations have been received by the Society and Museum. The family of the late **Archie Freeman** (Mrs. Donald Freeman, with thanks to Lee Williams for arranging the donation) has donated a book on the sinking of the ship Rohna, November 26, 1943, and two hats with the ship's name and date embroidered on them, The Langwater Story, 1940 and 1960 Langwater Guernsey Catalogs, 4 photographs of individual Langwater Guernseys, photo of Langwater Guernseys in a field entitled "Langwater Guernseys at Home", photo of Langwater Farm employees with years of service, Langwater Farm advertising proof for the Guernsey Breeder's Journal, November 1944, photo and biography of John S. Ames as President of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, June 1, 1936, gestation table for cattle and production averages, supplementary list of Langwater Farm animals, photograph of General Eisenhower talking to troops (D-Day invasion) from the WWII Veterans Committee, Brockton Enterprise June 6, 1994 commemorating the D-Day invasion; **Tom Stephens**, an original Easton Branch Railroad stock certificate (un-issued); **Charles McMenemy** donated 2 Bracelets from the OAHS basketball teams of 1958 (silver) and 1959 (gold) Eastern Mass. Championship tourneys at Boston, 1957 Brockton Y Trophy, 1958-59 Eastern Mass. Tourney Championship trophy, OAHS 1957 trophy to Charles McMenemy for the teams 9-0 record; **Dominic and Kathleen DiBattista** donated Mary Lamprey related items including a Japanese calendar, large book of photos of English churches, book of photos from Europe, porcelain teacup from the Parker home, Toby mugs; **Paula MonKarsh** donated Rocky Marciano memorabilia including photos, ashtray and advertisements, program for a retirement benefit; **Barbara M. Read** donated a high chair from the Whitten Family, child's rocking chair from the Tisdale house at Borderland, organ from Marianna Lillie's home; **Barbara Wotherspoon** donated a framed Mary Bodio print of Easton landmarks; **Michael Armsted** donated an Air Mail cover for Ames Field; **Martin C. Taylor** donated 2 books on the equipment used in the original North Easton Village District Water Works; **Michael Wood** donated a photo collage of the Ames Oak at the Clock Farm; **Steven F. Anderson** donated a harpoon pattern from the Belcher Malleable Iron Foundry; **Pantelis and Janice Sarafoglou** donated framed prints of North Easton landmarks from the former Main Street café; **Leonard Strachman** donated a leather shoe sole found in wall of a house / shoe shop, child's sparking toy gun, knife blade, parts of old lock, Old Mr. Boston bottle, British door knocker; **Gus Arns** donated an 1897 Sears, Roebuck and Co. Catalog reprint; **Wayne and Virginia Johnson** donated items belonging to Nellie Maud Woodworth of Easton (1904-1938): An extraordinary Kindergarten book full of woven patterns and thread work, her Oliver Ames High School diploma (1924), Certificate of Proficiency in Typewriting (1921), and genealogical information on her family; **Gil Heino** donated the OAHS diploma presented to his brother Reino Heino in 2001 along with other Easton veterans who did not graduate because they joined the Armed Forces to support war efforts; **Virgil Andrews** donated 8 photos of the Jaycee's Old Tyme Field Day; **Doris Sargent** donated a late 1800's / early 1900's store ledger, and a photo of the DAR Northeastern Outing 1921, with Janet Whitney as a member of the group; **Carolyn D. Kenyon** donated the following issues of the Eastoner: January 1949, graduation issues of 1949, 1951 and 1952; **Nancy Swanson Wilson** and **Tom Wilson** donated items from the family of Richard Swanson including multiple photos, Sunday School books, and Swedish Heritage items; **Stanley Kavka** donated a World War II ration book from his grandmother Ida E. Jacobson, and 5 newspaper articles about the Langwater Guernsey sale of 1940 and the Clock Farm; **Wayne Legge** donated office supplies including binders, folders, paper, etc. and these other items: Conversion factor booklet he used at Draper Labs, Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Woman's Relief Corps auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, 1902, Rand McNally Guide to Boston with trolley line map, 1910, antique car prints from a City Services dealership, and a report written by Wayne for Draper Labs about an experimental shuttle system used to weave textiles.

Financial donations were received from the Oliver Ames High School Class of 1967, Tom Bono, Glessner House Museum, James MacPhee, Barbara Read, Arlene Johnson Robinson, and Phyllis Johnson Whitty. Tom and Judy Sabin, Myrtle Blaisdell, Joanne Soule, and Jack and Beth Mowatt made contributions in memory of Ken Martin.

Thank you to all who donated bottles, cans, and financial contributions to our fall bottle drive. Thank you to our volunteers for helping out: Ed Hands, Hazel Varella, Dick Grant, Dick Williams, Tom Sabin, Tom Bono, and Nancy Gardner Hill.

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

## In Memorium

Oakes Ames Spalding, Jr. 84, died January 11, 2016. Mr. Spalding attended Milton Academy class of 1949, Harvard College class of 1953, and the Harvard Business School class of 1960. He served for four years in the United States Navy. He had a very successful career in the financial sector, and was a partner at Estabrook and Co. and Managing Director at Adams, Harkness and Hill where he founded the 100 Emerging Growth Stocks product. He retired from Wellington Management. Oakes was a mentor to many financial analysts, helping them to launch their own successful careers. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Monique (Chamberlin) Spalding and their 3 children: Oakes Ames Spalding, III and his wife, Julie Vollgraff, Lucienne Spalding Schroepfer and her husband, William, and Timothy Edward Spalding and his wife, Lisa Carey. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren. Oakes spent the final year of his life compiling an extensive genealogy of his ancestors consisting of over 1000 pages of biographies and charts all meticulously researched. He had a lifelong interest in classical music, art and history, and he became a full-time member of the New England birding community.

David Acton Williams, 87, a life-long resident of Easton, passed on October 26, 2017. He was the son of the late Albert Edward Williams of West Bridgewater; his mother, Ruth Arizona Baillie, passed away when he was a child. His beloved wife, Barbara Jean Bissett, died in 2008. They were married in 1951 and enjoyed 57 wonderful years together. David is survived by his children, Albert Edward Williams and wife Jeanne, of West Bridgewater, Jean Evelyn Atwater-Williams and husband Ron Bernard of Sandisfield, MA, and Ruth Anne Williams Carrigan and husband Tom of East Bridgewater. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and his cherished calico cat, Caledonia. Dave touched the lives of many and was dedicated to serving youth in the community. He was a graduate of Oliver Ames High School Class of '49, a Korean War Veteran (US Army) and member of the Easton VFW. He was a troop leader for Boy Scout Troop 54 and a life member of the Ames Rifle Club where he coached a youth target shooting league. Dave was a member of Paul Revere Masonic Lodge in Brockton and a member of Covenant Congregational Church in Easton. He was a regular attendee of the Society's annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening.

The Society expresses our deepest sympathy to the Spalding and Williams families.



### Map of North Easton 1825

Here is a detail from an 1825 map of Easton. It shows the large system of ponds that was created to provide power the growing factories of the Ames Shovel Company. Long Pond, Picker Pond, Hoe Shop Pond, Shovel Shop Pond and Stone's Pond (later Langwater Pond) are all featured here. Washington Street, Main Street, Lincoln Street, Center Street, Elm Street, and Canton Street are also prominent, as well as the names and homes of those who lived along the way.



North Easton, Mass. Langwater.

A sure sign of a cold winter—ice skating and hockey! In the photo above local youths are frozen in time as they skate around Langwater Pond, Main Street, North Easton, about 1909. A close look will reveal a few hockey sticks as well. A common site throughout Easton, where there are plenty of good skating ponds, one could always get a few people together to skate, sled, or play on the ice. Langwater, home of John S. Ames at this time, overlooks the party of skaters. Just below and to the left is the Ames boat house which probably gave skaters a place to warm up away from a cold winter’s wind.

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