EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Winter 2019 **Volume 20, Issue 2**

Here Come The Holidays!

Arriving with this newsletter is the start of the holiday season. We will be busy with a full schedule of events. Here is where you can find us during this special season.

- Our first Black Friday sale begins on November 29 with very special prices on some of your favorite items. Support us and other local businesses on Small Business Saturday, November 30! Our hours are listed on the Calendar section. Too busy that weekend? We have good news for you—the sale continues until December 24! See the special announcement on page 3 for more information.
- Saturday, December 7, join us for the annual Easton Holiday Festival. We will be hosting our friends from the Easton Garden Club who will be holding their annual Holiday Greens Sale from 9 a.m. to noon. The Museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival is a one day event this year, so come and check out the exciting changes and watch the lighting of the Rockery too.
- Sunday, December 8 we will have our usual open house from 1-5 p.m. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship, and of course some great holiday gift giving ideas such as pre-wrapped items ready for giving!
- Saturday, December 14 we will be at Queset House for the annual Artisan Faire and Tea from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a special menu at the Tea and visit many local artisans with unique gifts to offer.
- The Easton Charitable Trust presents the annual Festival of Trees at the beautiful Easton Country Club from November 30– December 15. You can see our tree and many others too, and perhaps take one home if you are lucky enough to win one of them. Schedules and other information is available at eastonfestivaloftrees.org.
- Last minute shopping? Unexpected visitors? Visit the Museum which is open most weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

CALENDAR

All events are held at the Easton Historical Society and Museum unless otherwise noted. Please note that bad weather may cancel winter events.

Thursday, November 28, Happy Thanksgiving!

New! Black Friday weekend sale event, November 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and November 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

November 30-December 15, Easton Charitable Trust Festival of Trees at Easton Country Club.

Saturday, December 7, Annual Holiday Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Easton Garden Club will hold their annual Greens Sale at the Museum from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Sunday, December 8, Holiday Open House from 1-5 p.m. Join us for a time of fellowship and great holiday shopping!

Saturday, December 14, Easton Shovel Town Cultural District Artisan's Faire, Queset House, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, December 23, Happy Hanukkah!

Wednesday, December 25, Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, January 1, Happy New Year to all!

Sunday, January 12, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Program is Curator's Choice.

Sunday, February 9, Open House, 1-5 p.m. Program is Curator's Choice.

The mission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum 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

"Rest and be thankful."— William Wadsworth

Four words—simple, yet to the point! How often we overlook the simple pleasures of rest and thankfulness in today's very busy world. At a time when busyness seems to be the rule, I thought I should follow this advice myself. And so I shall, by beginning to count my blessings this year.

I am thankful for a wonderful group of people to work with: the Officers and Directors of the Society, whose passion for history stand out above the crowd; the volunteers who assist with all kinds of things from creating signs, to running errands, to getting the mail and paying the bills, to fixing things that need fixing, to providing refreshments, and to all who work behind the scenes to make things run smoothly; the many people I meet any given day who come with a question and leave with a smile.

I am thankful for the love and support of my family that allows me to do the things I do at the Museum, even when those things take up more of my day than I anticipate!

I am thankful for all who have bought in such great donations, the likes of which amaze me. Just when I think there isn't much more to discover, someone brings in an item, a photo, or a paper that opens up a new and exciting chapter in our history.

I am thankful for the financial support that allows the Museum to be open so often.

I am thankful for the guidance and advice and teaching I have received from those who are much more knowledgeable than I in so many ways. Thanks for sharing your wisdom!

I am thankful for the friends I have made who drop in just to say hello.

I am thankful to have an opportunity to serve, to give back to my community, and to encourage others in whatever way I can.

And yes, I am thankful for the time to rest and relax, and keep a healthy balance of work and family in my life. Rest is so important, and few of us allow ourselves the time we need to take a break.

As the holidays approach, I wish you all of the blessings of the season. But I wish most that you will all take time to reflect on those two very important things that make every day a special day—being thankful, and a peaceful rest.

Note: The quote in my last column is attributed to S.J. Perelman, 1904-1979, an American humorist and screenwriter, who was a frequent contributor to "The New Yorker."

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

Officers for 2018-2019
President Kenneth J. Michel
1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.
2nd Vice President Edmund C. Hands
Treasurer Nancy DeLuca
Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

Directors
Patricia Baker
Jonathan J. Coe
Joanne England
Judge Leon J. Lombardi
Debra Salisbury
Past President—Deborah MacPhee
Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster
Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

The Easton Historical Society and Museum

To commemorate our 50th year at the RR Station, we will have Black Friday prices on key historical items starting Black Friday, Nov.29th thru Dec 24th!!! While quantities last! Museum and On-line

Free glass tree Ornament with any purchase!!

Free glass tree Ornament with new Membership!

Free EHS tote bags

- **Reminiscences 1-9 editions $5 each, reg. $10 each**
- **Brand New Volume 10 Reminiscences now available $10**
- **The new "Beautiful Image of Historic Easton" book $40 each, reg. $50**
- **Easton Historical Landmark Puzzles now $5 each!**
- **Bird's –eye maps of Easton $5 each, reg. $10 ea. Three maps available.**
- **Tree Ornaments now $5 each, reg. $10 (Glass, RR Station)**
- **History of Easton Volume I $10 each, reg. $20**
- **History of Easton Volume II $5 each, reg. $10**
- **Free snacks and box drinks on Black Friday and during weekend hours!**

Easton Historical Society and Museum Celebrates 50 Years at the Old Colony Railroad Station

On November 10th more than 90 people celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Society receiving as a gift the former Old Colony Railroad Station. The event was held at the Easton Country Club. Clockwise from top left: Hazel Varella, at our Museum, recounts the story of receiving the building from the Ames and Parker families with the key being delivered by Attorney Abraham Brooks; Society President Kenneth J. Michel welcomes the crowd at the Easton Country Club; guests mingle during the opening cocktail hour; the keynote speaker was former teacher and Oliver Ames High School principal Duncan Oliver, who talked about the early days at the Museum and especially the role played by OAHS students and many volunteers whose hard work and dedication made the opening of the building possible.

Original Donors Remembered

Representatives of the Parker and Ames families gathered at the Museum to reflect on the donation made by the four original donors of the building: William A. Parker, John S. Ames, Jr., David Ames, Sr., and Senator Oliver F. Ames. Members of the Ames and Parker families spoke about the concern of the donors regarding the future of the former Old Colony Railroad Station and how the family was confident that the Easton Historical Society would be the right group to save the building. They all expressed sentiments that the donors would be very happy with how their decision turned out.

Mr. David Ames, Jr., represented his father David Ames, Sr.

Former State Representative John S. Ames III, represented his father John S. Ames, Jr.

Mr. Oliver F. Ames, Jr., represented his father former Senator Oliver F. Ames.

Mrs. Frances DeLacvivier represented her grandfather, William A. Parker.

Donations

Peter Constantine donated an account book from Howard's Store, Eastondale, that belonged to John Connolly; **Robert Taylor** donated a framed photograph of the Station and a mounted print done by Adam Taylor used to illustrate "Spells and Mumbles, Witches and Jumbles" by Adam Taylor and Robert Taylor for the Gala raffle; the **Estate of Richard H. Gentile**, Dennis Galvin, personal representative, donated a collection of historical books and papers written by Mr. Gentile; **Muriel B. Charron** donated a photo of the railroad bridge on Bridge Street, probably about 1960; **Ron Wood** donated a cannonball found in Easton and a railroad spike; **John Conant** donated two prints of the Rohdin House and Barn at 279 Bay Road, and a photo of a stone house; **Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated a woven laundry basket, a hand-made quilt, a World War I era box used to ship items to one of the Almquist family members stationed overseas during the war; a quilt rack, and old tool for unclogging drains, and porcelain kitchen container, a 1950's umbrella, a make-up box with an illustrated lid and an interior mirror, and a copy of the Ford Times, July 1981 with an article on North Easton; **Lou Silva** donated the banner from the OAHS Class of 1949 and a class photo given to us by the class following their 70th reunion; **Melanie Horris** donated a July 20, 1922 Enterprise with local Easton news; **E. Tamsin Serjak** donated a bottle, Davis Vegetable Pain Killer, late 1800's; **Lela Pierce** donated 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963 OAHS yearbooks; **Elizabeth Callahan** donated two early 20th century dresses (one a wedding dress) from the Bryant family; **Gil Heino** donated a Frothingham Park 50th Anniversary green tee shirt; **Doris Sargent** donated 16 Old Farmer's Almanacs from 1886-1939; **Steven Anderson** donated items on behalf of the OAHS Class of 1969 including a class photo, reunion photo, class graduation program, and a thumb drive with images prepared for their reunion.

Financial donations have been received from **Dr. Deborah Keirstead Bublitz, John Conant, Robert Keller**, and the **Senior Fellowship of the Covenant Congregational Church**.

Jack and Beth Mowatt, Myrtle Blaisdell, and **Tom Coleman** made donations in memory of Ken Martin.

The following made donations in conjunction with the 50th Gala: **Anonymous, Mr. and Mrs. David Ames, Jr., Frederick L. Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ames, Mary Ames, Bank of Easton, Edmund Hands, Mr. and Mrs. James Kenneally, Leon and Sara Lombardi, Mr. and Mrs. James MacPhee, Alice McCarthy, Frank and Anne-Marie Meninno, Kenneth J. Michel, Carol Misiewicz, North Easton Savings Bank, John Schuller, Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie Smith, Ron Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. David Varella, Mr. and Mrs. John Varella, Avery L. Williams, Kevin Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams**.

Thank you for your continued generous support of the Easton Historical Society and Museum!

Well-Deserved Thanks To:

Nancy DeLuca who put many hours and lots of effort into making the 50th Gala such a success! From having the invitations printed and mailed, to putting the program book together, getting raffle items, coordinating the food and other items, Nancy deserves a round of applause!

Hazel Varella and Dan Pare for their work in updating A Glimpse of the Past, a history of people and events at the Society since it began in 1948.

David Ames, Jr. for underwriting the cost to make A Glimpse of the Past available for all 50th Gala attendees.

Jonathan Jackson Coe and Joanne England for photographing the Gala and many other Society events.

In Memoriam

Joseph B. Verosik passed away on Oct. 2, 2019 Joe was born on Veteran's Day 1941 in Youngstown, Ohio to Joseph Verosik and Jessica Nichols. He would lose his father three years later over Japan in WWII. He moved to Easton, Massachusetts at age 9 when his mother re-married. His most cherished memories are of playing football on the Oliver Ames High School Varsity Football Team. The Tigers were undefeated for 3 years (1956-1959) and they were inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame by the State of Massachusetts. Coach Muscato, affectionately called "Muzzi," was the single most positive influence in Joe's life. After graduating from high school in 1959, Joe joined the 7th U.S. Army assigned to the signal corps. He was later stationed in Germany for two years during the Cold War and was there during the Berlin Crisis. Joe is survived by his wife, Pam, of Redlands and family members in the Yucaipa area. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/redlandsdailyfacts/obituary.aspx?pid=194149745

Miriam Elizabeth Jackson (nee Whitney), age 89, of North Easton, passed away on Monday, October 14, 2019. Miriam was the wife of the late Kenneth R. Jackson. She is survived by her children, Sarah Keough and husband Mark of North Easton, Rachel Jackson of Wilton, Maine, and Richard Jackson of North Easton. She was predeceased by her children Martha Jackson and James Jackson. Miriam leaves her three grandsons, Patrick Keough of Philadelphia, Caleb Hodson of Wilton, Maine and Jackson Hupper of Chelmsford. She leaves her three sisters, Corliss Thompson of Worcester, Janet Wass of Duxbury and Doris Sargent of North Easton. Her brother John Whitney predeceased her. She was born in Boston, July 13, 1930, to the late Kathryn F. (Larsen) and John B. Whitney. Miriam grew up in Avon before moving to North Easton, where she continued to reside for the last sixty years. Miriam graduated from Avon High School and then went to work for the Girl Scouts of America, which was fitting since she was a scout for many years. She was an active parent and worked in her children's classrooms, volunteered at the NRT, went on fieldtrips and helped with Girl Scouts. Miriam was a talented cook. In 1976 she worked as a cook at the Village Rest Home in North Easton until she retired. Besides cooking, she enjoyed singing, gardening, crocheting, reading and crafting. She was involved in many ministries at her church, Holy Trinity Lutheran in Easton and she loved her church family. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-enterprise/obituary.aspx?pid=194224659

Lyn White, 81, of Middleboro, formerly of Easton, died peacefully on September 4, 2019, after a brief illness. She was married to Ed White for 62 years, and was the mother of Jennifer (Joseph) Heine of Hanson and Christopher (Meg) White of Pennsylvania. Lyn was the proud grandmother of Thomas Heine of Hanson and Drew and Alex White of Pennsylvania. Predeceased by her brothers, R. Howard Smith and Dr. David Smith, she leaves her sisters-in-law Genevieve Smith of Connecticut, Wanda Higgins of California, and Christine Bara of California, along with her nieces, nephews, and many friends. Born September 17, 1937 in Paterson New Jersey, Lyn was the daughter of the late Ona M. and Walter B. Smith. She was raised in Bloomingdale, NJ, and graduated from Butler High School. She earned her undergraduate degree magna cum laude (Phi Beta Kappa) from Wheaton College and worked toward her master's degree at Antioch New England. Lyn was instrumental in the acquisition of major properties that would be conserved as open space. In 1967, the Wheaton Farm property in Easton was going to be sold. Lyn helped to organize and lead a group of concerned community members to preserve the farm. When the Natural Resources Trust (NRT) of Easton was founded in 1967, Lyn became its first president. Lyn served on the board of the NRT until 1979. During this time, she was instrumental in the NRT's acquisition of the much-loved Sheep Pasture property, and in the start of its acclaimed environmental education programs. During this time, Lyn also helped other towns to establish land trusts. After their retirement, Lyn and Ed enjoyed many hiking, camping and canoe trips, traveling around the United States in their Cesna airplane after they both learned to fly it. More recently they became snow birds, enjoying winters in Sun City Center, Florida. http://hosting-6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Lyn-M.-White-107493366

Philbrook Samuel Mason Sr., 90, of Middleborough, passed away October 31, 2019. Phil was preceded in death in 2012 by his wife of 63 years, Grace Elizabeth (Desmond) Mason. Phil was born in Stoughton, July 21, 1929, to Lillian (Crockett) Mason and Arthur Mason. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1948 after graduating from Stoughton High School. A resident of Easton for 30 years, Phil worked for a number of years as an electrician at the Fore River Shipyard and later for Codex Corporation in Mansfield. Phil was an avid Red Sox fan who enjoyed spending time with family, collecting postcards, coins, and reading about local regional history. Phil is survived by his daughter, Kathleen Kingsley and her husband Edwin of Berwick, ME; and by his son, Philbrook Jr. and his wife Teresa of Bridgewater. He was the father of the late Joanne Hannon, formerly of Pembroke. He is survived by six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was also the brother of the late Richard Mason, Marilyn Littlefield, and Grace Steele. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-enterprise/obituary.aspx?n=philbrook-s-mason-sr&pid=194402878

Representatives from the Ames and Parker families with the dedicatory plaque marking the occasion of receiving the Old Colony Railroad Station fifty years ago.
From left to right: Frances DeLacvivier, David Ames, Jr., John S. Ames, III, and Oliver F. Ames, Jr.

At a special gathering prior to the 50th Gala, fifteen members of the Ames and Parker families gathered to reflect on the giving of the building to the Society. Besides the four family members pictured here, Frederick L. Ames and William M. Ames also shared remarks regarding their father David Ames. Sr.'s role in purchasing the closed up railroad station for the Society to use as their museum and meeting space. Charlton and Noni Ames traveled from Maine for the event.

The plaque inscription reads "Easton Historical Society and Museum - Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the gift of the Old Colony Railroad Station from William A. Parker, John S. Ames, Jr., David Ames, Sr., and Oliver F. Ames, on November 11, 1969. Rededication November 10, 2019."

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