



## EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

### Spring Specials

Happy spring to all of you! Whether you braved the hardy New England winter or are preparing to travel back from much warmer surroundings, we have some special events planned for you!

First of all, this year marks two important anniversaries. The first is the gift of our Museum building to the Society fifty years ago! John S. Ames, II, Oliver F. Ames, David Ames Sr., and William A. Parker joined together to purchase the former Old Colony Railroad Station from the Penn Central Railroad, and gave it as a gift to the Society in 1969. With the help of the Ames family and many volunteers and donors, the building was brought back to life after ten years of sitting empty. Today, it serves as our Museum, repository, and research facility, and being centrally located in the heart of the North Easton Village National Historic District, is the perfect place to welcome visitors.

The second anniversary celebrates twenty years of “Chowder and Chatter” evenings. This annual event was first envisioned by the late Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz as a way to get people together to learn about and share Easton’s history over a delicious meal in a cozy environment. Over the years a number of topics have been featured with expert guests, and they have been recorded by ECAT for all to see. Thanks to the generosity of Lee and Kevin Williams, who have underwritten the expense for this event for all twenty years, the Society and Museum benefits from the donations we receive from attendees. This year the topic will be the receiving of the Museum from the Ames family.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate these very special anniversaries during the year.

### CALENDAR

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

*Sunday, March 10th, Open House from 1-5 p.m.*

*Sunday, March 10th, Daylight Savings Time begins. Set your clocks ahead one hour!*

*Sunday, April 7th, Open House from 1-5 p.m. featuring OAHS Senior projects. Details inside!*

*Saturday, April 20th, Passover begins.*

*Sunday, April 21st, Happy Easter!*

*Thursday, May 2nd, 20th annual “Chowder and Chatter” dinner. Details on page 7.*

*Saturday, May 4th, Ken Martin Memorial Spring Bottle Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

*Sunday, May 5th, Annual Meeting at “Queset” at 2 p.m. with Dr. Uma Hiremath, Executive Director, Ames Free Library.*

*Sunday, May 12th, Happy Mother’s Day! No open house.*

*Saturday, May 18th, Armed Forces Day.*

*Sunday, May 19th, Open House from 1-5 p.m.*

*Monday, May 27th, Memorial Day.*

*Looking ahead...*

*A special publication is being prepared and will soon be announced. Watch our website and Facebook page for details!*

*We are planning a special day in the fall to celebrate the extraordinary gift of the Old Colony Railroad Station to the Society. Watch for details!*

*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

*"Each of us is carving a stone, erecting a column, or cutting a piece of stained glass in the construction of something much bigger than ourselves."—Adrienne Clarkson*

It takes a team to create something so special as a building. "Need" has to raise herself to be heard. "Fit" has to become familiar with her surroundings. "Form" has to adapt what she envisions to scale perfectly with "Need" and "Fit." And "Function" has to learn from "Fit" and "Form" to satisfy "Need." When they all work together, true architecture happens.

Perhaps this is a bit more philosophical than it needs to be. The truth is that we all have some part in the creation of something very special, and for our Society that very special thing is our Museum building. Consider what had to happen just to make this place exist. A very successful company (Oliver Ames & Sons) had to exist. A better way had to be found to deliver product (the railroad). A better building needed to be envisioned (H. H. Richardson) and a proper setting created (F. L. Olmsted). There had to be a builder who would understand the nuances of erecting a great building (Norcross Brothers). Someone had to pay for it (Frederick Lothrop Ames). An entity had to manage it (several successive railroads). Someone had to rescue it (John S. Ames, II, Oliver F. Ames, David Ames, Sr., and William A. Parker), and someone had to have need of it (your Easton Historical Society). Restoration had to occur (many, many people who volunteered all kinds of resources). Someone (us!) had to love it. All of this happened because Oliver Ames chose to move to North Easton and through hard work, character, Ames quality, and perseverance, built one of the great American success stories.

We all continue to write the next chapters in this saga. Each of you has played an integral part in that story. Your continued love of history, appreciation of architecture, dedication to community, and your belief in our mission build on the cornerstone first laid so many years ago. Each of your donations, your hours serving in so many capacities, your care and concern for our collections, and your faithful financial contributions and membership support are the things that cut the next stone, raise the next column, and fit the next piece of glass.

Buildings are important in society and culture. They are reminders that we are a civilized society, free, yet grounded in what is good. We can look at a building and see where we have been, or where we are going. We can see both the art, the artist, and the art of the architect. And we can see ourselves in how we continue to care for our buildings, and appreciate all that goes into taking good care of them for ourselves and our future generations.

As we celebrate fifty years of new life for a great American building, I am glad to have such good teammates, both present and past, and still to come.

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  
Joanne England  
Judge Leon J. Lombardi  
Debra Salisbury  
Emily Wormwood  
Past President—Deborah MacPhee  
Director Emeritus—Robert J. Wooster  
Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger  
Curator—Frank T. Meninno

## Coming Attractions

- Our March 10th Open House will feature items carefully chosen by our curator to pique your interest in Easton's history. Check out some interesting photos and artifacts!
- Our Sunday, April 7th Open House (please note the change to the first week this month) will feature Oliver Ames seniors who have been working on special Senior Projects. Selected projects will be presented by the students during the afternoon. The Senior Project is an opportunity for seniors to do intensive research into areas outside of their comfort zone. Called "learning stretches," each student uses a set of 21st Century skills to research, do fieldwork, write a research paper, and create a final presentation on the chosen subject. "The Senior Project is an authentic assessment that challenges students to demonstrate and display their mastery of many skills they acquire in the Easton Public Schools. The Senior Project allows students to take control of and have a powerful voice in their own education. The Senior Project is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves and to showcase their achievements." (Source: OA Senior Project brochure.) Come by and see what great work our Easton students are doing!
- Thursday, May 2nd, join our annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening at Southeastern Regional High School, 6 p.m. This year we celebrate 50 years at the Museum, and 20 years of "Chowder and Chatter." Details and reservation information are on page 7.
- Sunday, May 5th, Annual Meeting of the Easton Historical Society and Museum at Queset, 2 p.m. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Uma Hiremath, Executive Director of the Library, will reminisce about her experiences at "Queset" and the extraordinary growth of programs including those presented by the staff.
- Our May 19th Open House will take a look at some of the beautiful gardens of Easton past.
- Note the date changes for the April and May Open Houses! April is the first Sunday to accomodate our students schedule, and May is the third Sunday due to Mother's Day on our usual second Sunday.

### Spring Bottle Drive Announced

Doing some spring cleaning? We will gladly take your bottles and cans at our annual spring bottle and can drive, held in memory of Ken Martin, which will be held on Saturday, May 4th at the Society Museum from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine! We will be accepting all clean bottles and cans with a Massachusetts deposit. We are unable to accept items that are recycle only.

Your donations of each of those 5¢ deposits add up. We made over \$200 with our fall bottle drive! For pickup, please call or email the Society to make arrangements.

Volunteers are needed and welcomed! Join us for coffee and conversation.

### Dues Letters Are In The Mail

The 2019 dues letters have been sent out. The letters serve two purposes: they recap many of the past years events and successes, and they provide a means to keep our membership roster current. Please return your form, even if your dues are up to date. This will allow us to maintain accurate records and contact information. You can also opt to receive weekly updates by email. Our members are important to us, and your dues and donations are vital to furthering the mission of the Society and Museum.

To see if your dues are due, simply look at the date in the upper right corner of your mailing label. If it says 2018 or earlier, your dues are due. As always, we value your support and membership!

## Donations

**Frederick Almquist** donated his sister **Karin Almquist's** OA Basketball jacket; **Tony Gomes** donated the following Easton maps in frames: 1895 map of Easton, 1895 map of South Easton and Eastondale, 1871 map of Easton, 1987 street / zoning map of Easton; **Karen Danielson** has donated a matted print of the Unity Close Gardens by Fletcher Steele; **Patricia Brophy**, through her daughter **Karen Olson**, donated Eastoners from the 1940's; **Mary Lovely** donated her local history paper including photos; **Ed Lemish** has donated a complete set of programs from the OA Hall of Fame induction ceremonies; **Richard Hill** has donated four OAHs Eastoners, 1993-1996; **Charles and Claire (Williams) Hallahan** donated a booklet - Industry and Gentle Living... Something Easton has always known, by the Easton Industrial Development Commission; **Irene Hoffman** donated a History of Easton Volume 1, Easton Town Reports for 1899, 1909, 1932, 1937, items saved by the Heath Family, and donated in memory of **Kathleen Deneault**; **Leona Berglund** donated a postcard of the Canal in North Easton in memory of her husband **Bert Berglund**; **Al Smart** donated a 1940 Easton Fireman's Ball program book; **Guy Meninno** donated a long handled shovel; **John F. Kenyon** donated three books of World War II ration stamps from the Wiedermann family; **American History Press, David Kane**, donated copies of the book In Death Remember'd; **Judy King** donated a framed photo of Mrs. Anna C. Ames, an inscribed photo of cornetist Walter M. Smith, and a thesis written about Walter M. Smith, who led the Anna C. Ames Band in the early 20th century; **Peter Constantine** donated an old tin of school chalk, a compass for drawing circles on a blackboard, and a tool that drew musical scale lines on a blackboard for writing musical notation; **John Amorim** donated an Ames Shovel display sign and an article about a fire at the Clock Farm barn; **Priscilla Almquist-Olsen** donated a covered cake dish, a copper cake carrier, children's books, linens, a standing fruit strainer and other items from her family.

Financial donations have been received from **William M. Ames, Thomas and Louise Bono, David Devore, Easton Garden Club, Dorothy Goveia, Ellen Harde, Dr. Neil Kozol, Genevieve Leavitt, Deborah MacPhee, Ann McEntee** and **Richard Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Schuller, MacKenzie and Jeannine Smith, William Tyre of Glessner House Museum in Chicago, Dr. Paul I. Weiss. Carol Misiewicz** and **David and Hazel Varella** gave donations in memory of **Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz**. **Thomas and Judy Sabin** gave a donation in honor of **Hazel Varella's** receiving recent awards and recognitions. **Russell J. Nichols** gave a donation in memory of his brother **Earl A. Nichols**.

The following donated items and time to help with our Holiday Open Houses: **Nancy and Jack DeLuca** donated bottled water, and cases of chips and pretzels; **Pamela (Johnson) Dudley** donated hand-made ducks, hat and scarf sets, and two porcelain dolls; **Russ Meninno** donated candy bars and soda; **Jeanette Meninno** for tying ribbons on fifty packages of Mary Bodio notecards; **Emmy's Hair Salon** for donating three gift baskets for door prizes.

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

## Hazel Varella Receives NRT's Elise Ames Parker Award

Hazel Varella was recently honored by the NRT of Easton, receiving the Elise Ames Parker Friend of Conservation Award at the NRT's Annual Meeting. The award is given to recognize her significant contributions to the conservation and preservation of environmental and cultural assets in the community. During the meeting, Hazel presented a talk about her memories of Mrs. Parker. Please join us in congratulating Hazel on an honor well deserved! You can see the presentation and read more about this at : <https://www.nrtofeaston.org/nrts-elise-ames-parker-award.html>.

## In Memorium

Robert F. Misiewicz DDS, 82, a resident of Norton, died peacefully at home on Sunday, December 2, 2018, after a lengthy illness. He was the beloved husband of Carol J. (Schneider) Misiewicz for 52 years. Son of the late Felix and Bertha (Slowinski) Misiewicz, he was born and raised in Boston.

Bob was a graduate of Boston Latin School, Class of 1954. He earned his bachelor's degree from Boston College, Class of 1958, and his Doctorate from Loyola University, School of Dentistry in Chicago, Ill., Class of 1962. Dr. Misiewicz served his residency in Oral Surgery at Delaware Hospital in Wilmington, where he met his wife, Carol. He resided in Norton for the past 12 years after living in Easton for 23 years. Dr. Misiewicz was an Oral Surgeon at Southeastern Oral Surgeons, Inc., in Brockton for 35 years before retiring in 2001. He also was a consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield and Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare for 15 years.

He loved gardening and fishing, especially on Martha's Vineyard. In addition to his wife, Bob was the brother of Joan Kovaly of Dover and the late Irene Gryniewicz and Eleanor Strug. He is also survived by 15 nieces and nephews.

The words below are remembrances from Hazel Varella regarding Dr. Misiewicz' outstanding contributions to the Easton Historical Society over many years of active participation.

One of our totally dedicated members for more than twenty-five years has died, Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz, who passed away in his sleep at home Saturday evening. "Dr. Bob" had initiated the very popular "Chowder and Chatter" dinners with the Southeastern Regional High School twenty years ago and had been the major donor for the publication of our annual research magazine Reminiscences for its nine-year existence.

"Dr. Bob" was a Director from 1993 to 2000, First Vice-President 1994 to December 1, 1995, when he became President until June 1997. A major event that his wife Carol and he organized occurred October 22, 1994 -- the Easton's Founders Gala at Alumni Hall, Stonehill College. A delightful evening was enjoyed by a capacity crowd with a Grand March led by President Karen Hays and a Past President Kenneth Jackson. April 25th of the following year the Lions Club honored "Dr. Bob" and Carol for the very successful Tercentennial Gala by presenting them with the Outstanding Achievement Award.

During the late 1990's "Dr. Bob" and Jean Churchill presented by cable an informative series of programs about historic places in Easton. Also, he was a strong supporter of Ken Martin and his commitment to Easton. Both in June of 2004 and April 29th (Arbor Day) of the following year when a tree was planted to the left of the Station in honor of Ken, "Dr. Bob" was one of the three guest speakers. In 2010 a capital campaign occurred to improve the conditions of the archives, and the Misiewiczz were very generous donors. Deeply aware of honoring the oldest person who has lived in Easton for ten years by being awarded the Boston Post Cane by the North Easton Savings Bank, "Dr. Bob" and Carol donated a plaque to the Town Office for the listing of the recipients.

"Dr. Bob" and Carol were very special people. In addition to the many comments above, he would frequently contact members of the Society to learn what else they could do. He was always so proud when Carol would bring one of her specially baked pastries for us to sell or to joy. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her, and the memories of them are everlasting.

## In Memorium

Evelyn Carlson of Easton passed away on December 17, 2018 after a brief illness. Evelyn was a life long resident of Easton and attended the Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Historical Society and served as a Crossing Guard on Main St. in Easton for 11 years. She leaves behind her loving daughter Gail Turcotte and her husband Dennis and cherished grandson Christopher. She was predeceased in life by her brothers, John, Frederick and Carl Olson, her sisters, Ruth Ing Healey, Elsie Buteau and Dorothy Glynn. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Nicolina M. "Nicky" (Tulimieri) Previti, 100, a resident of Easton for the past 56 years, passed away peacefully after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Mariano T. "Marty" Previti. A talented seamstress, she also worked as a short order cook for the former Dog & Suds and Dip and Sip of Easton. An active communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church in Easton, a member of the Daughters of Isabella at Immaculate, and received the Prestigious Marian Medal for her devotion to church ministries. She was an active volunteer at the Easton Food Pantry and Main Spring House in Brockton. Nicky received the Easton Senior of the year award from the Easton Lions Club and was a member of the Easton Council of Aging receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of help with the Elders Program and was a member of the Red Hat Society. At the age of 99, Nicky received the Boston Post Cane from the Town of Easton as the oldest living member of the community. She was active with both the Stoughton Historical Society and Easton Historical Society, and was a longtime elections poll worker for the Town of Easton. Nicky is survived by her children, Carol Ann Amado of Plymouth, John J. Previti and his wife Sandy of Lakeville, William C. Previti and his wife Mary of Easton, Mary L. Warmington and her husband Craig of Middleboro and Robert Previti and his wife Nickie of Houston, TX.; a brother, Pellegrino Tulimieri of Weymouth; 15 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was also the sister of the late Anthony Tulimieri, Carmen Tulimieri, Philomena "Tilly" Cartullo and Joseph Tulimieri.

Earl A. Nichols of the Pine Run Health Center, formerly of Carversville, PA was welcomed into the loving arms of Christ on December 30, 2018. He was born in 1931 in North Easton, Massachusetts to the late Clarence W. Nichols and Hattie M. Harlow. His father was a pattern maker at the LeBaron Foundry in Brockton. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his sisters Ruth Louise Ball, Mabel Isabel Magnuson, Lydia Alice Nichols and Priscilla Marie Wheeler, and his brother, Roger Harlow Nichols.

He married the love of his life, Elizabeth A. Suckow, on May 28, 1955 in Glen Rock, NJ and they resided in Carversville from 1955 to 2013 when they moved to the Pine Run Community. They enjoyed nearly 60 years together before Elizabeth's death on January 21, 2015. While living in North Easton he worked for Mitrano Chevrolet, the Ames Shovel Shop and Knapp Shoes. In Pennsylvania he had various jobs in the automotive industry, but found his real calling working as an Automotive Technical Training Instructor for Big A Auto Parts, traveling from Maine to Virginia and conducting evening classes on various aspects of auto repair designed to keep mechanics up to date on the latest technology. During their retirement, Earl and Elizabeth traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada visiting National Parks, lighthouses, family and friends. They also traveled to England, Scotland and Germany.

Earl was the proud father of his surviving children: Theodore E. Nichols (Melody) of Doylestown, PA, Miriam N. Wilson (Kenneth) of Zelienople, PA, Timothy E. Nichols (Betty) of Doylestown, PA, Holly N. Stenson (Stephen) of North Adams, MA, and Dr. Thomas E. Nichols (Ulrike) of Leamington Spa, UK. He was lovingly called Gramps by his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers Paul W. Nichols and Russell J. Nichols (Patricia) and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

He had a love of music from an early age. He earned money mowing lawns and shoveling snow to purchase a violin and take lessons. He sang in the Bucks County Choral Society in the 1970s. During his retirement he and Elizabeth were subscribers to the Philadelphia Orchestra and enjoyed attending Friday afternoon concerts. Earl learned a love of cooking from his grandmother Ada K. Harlow. He will be remembered for his sticky buns, donuts, brown bread and his grandmother's Daffodil Cake.

Earl was a member of Christ Community Church, Plumsteadville, PA, where he served as an Elder and as a Trustee. He was a life member of the Harlow Family Association where he served as Chaplain for 20 years. This maternal family line has roots that trace back to several Mayflower passengers. He was a longtime member of the Easton Historical Society and enjoyed visiting his hometown whenever he was back in Massachusetts. He served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 64 of Carversville from 1956-1961, and later as an Assistant Scoutmaster in the 1970s and was instrumental in overhauling and maintaining Troop 64's Scout busses which traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada in the 1980s and 1990s. He enjoyed using his skills to do repairs and maintenance projects for his family, friends and church.

A funeral was held at Reed and Steinbach Funeral Home, 2335 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901, In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in the name of Earl A. Nichols to the Easton Historical Society, P. O. Box 3, North Easton, MA 02356.

The Society expresses our deepest sympathy to the Carlson, Nichols and Previti families.

## “Chowder and Chatter” to Note Two Anniversaries

The annual "Chowder and Chatter" evening will be held in the Colonial Room at Southeastern Regional High School, 250 Foundry Street in South Easton on Thursday, May 2nd at 6:00 P. M. This is the 20th annual “Chowder and Chatter” event, first envisioned by the late Dr. Robert F. Misiewicz and generously funded by Lee and Kevin Williams. Following the traditional and always delicious chowder dinner with trimmings and dessert prepared by the students of the Culinary Program, we will present a program that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Society receiving the extraordinary gift of the H. H. Richardson designed Old Colony Railroad Station from the late Ames family: John S. Ames, II, David Ames, Sr., Senator Oliver F. Ames and William A. Parker. Panelists will be John S. Ames, III, David Ames, Jr., and Minnie Ames representing Oliver F. Ames, and Hazel Varella who was President. Ed Hands will moderate the evening’s discussion. Hazel Varella will start accepting reservations April 1st. Be sure to reserve your seat! Preference is given to members. Any remaining seats will be offered to the public.

The Society extends its sincere thanks to Lee and Kevin Williams, whose generosity makes this special evening possible.

### 2019 Chowder and Chatter Reservation Form

#### Mail on or after April 1st!

Please use this form to reserve your seat for the May 2nd “Chowder and Chatter” dinner. Southeastern Regional High School is conveniently located at 250 Foundry Street (Route 106) in South Easton. Once again, Lee and Kevin Williams have very generously offered to underwrite the cost of this event. As in the past, there is no cost to you. However, all donations made will go towards the purchase of archival supplies. Any donations by check should be made out to the “Easton Historical Society.” Your generosity is very much appreciated, and we hope you enjoy this very special evening!

Seating for this popular event is limited, and member requests will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Any seats left will be made available to the public April 19th. Please send this completed form to: Mrs. Hazel Varella, 121 Center Street, North Easton, MA 02356. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

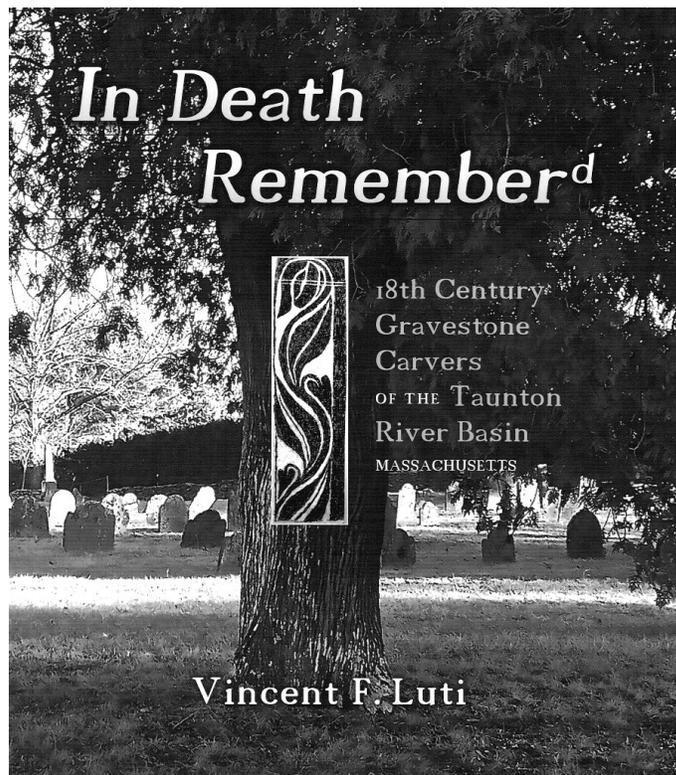
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Seats Requested (limit of 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Attendees (include yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

"In Death Remember'd - 18th Century Gravestone Carvers of the Taunton River Basin" by Vincent F. Luti is a beautiful hardcover edition illustrating the work of notable gravestone carvers who worked during the Colonial period in our region. This 154 page volume is heavily illustrated and focuses on the work of five gravestone carvers: David Linkon of Norton; Barney Leonard of Taunton and Bridgewater; Ebenezer Winslow of Berkeley; Cyrus Deane of Taunton; and Jabez Carver of Raynham. The edition contains short notes on the life and work of each carver, and illustrations of their associative lettering styles, borders, and decorative carvings. A number of Easton surnames are mentioned: Howard, Hayward, Ames, Guild, Pratt, Manley, Dean, and others, and there are black and white photos of a number of gravestones. If you have roamed any of the old cemeteries in the Taunton River Basin area and wondered about the beautiful work on the old stones, then this book is for you!



Thanks to a very generous donation by the book's publisher, American History Press, we are making this book available to you for \$15.00! This offer is limited to supplies on hand. To receive one by mail, please send a check for \$20 (\$5 for postage and handling) to the Easton Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, North Easton, MA. 02356. We reserve the right to limit quantities, and members receive priority!

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