

*A Finding Aid to the **Easton Folklore Collection***

Date Range: 1875-2012

Compiled by Arielle Nathanson,

January 2022

Summary

Creator: Easton Historical Society and Museum

Title: Easton Folklore Collection

Dates: 1875-2012

Extent: 0.209 linear feet or 1 Half Hollinger Box

Abstract: The papers in this collection date from 1875 to 2012 and detail Easton's most famous legends regarding the: Bridgewater Triangle, George White the Horse Thief, various witches and mysterious rocks. The materials present are newspaper and magazine articles, handwritten accounts and photographs.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: This collection is the result of various donations of newspapers, photographs and oral histories and as such there is no one source to credit for their acquisition.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected, but the collection may be updated as additional relevant materials are located and processed.

Restrictions on Access: Collection may only be accessed with the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. Digitized versions of select materials are available through this finding aid and the Easton Historical Society and Museum's website at: eastonmahistoricalsociety.org

Conditions Governing Use: The Easton Folklore Collection is owned by the Easton Historical Society and Museum. It may be used for research, study and scholarship purposes. Permission to quote, publish or copy these materials requires the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum, which can be contacted at: eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com or 508-238-7774.

Preferred Citation: Easton Folklore Collection, 1875-2012, Easton Historical Society and Museum, [item].

Processing Note: This collection was fully processed and a finding aid created by Arielle Nathanson. Select materials from this collection were digitized in 2021 and are accessible online. To request virtual access to non digitized materials, please contact the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

Biographical Note

The legends surrounding George White and the Seele Family are well detailed in William Chaffin's History of Easton Massachusetts (1886) and more information can be found in the William Ladd Chaffin Papers available on the Society's website. It is important to note that there is evidence of the nefarious deeds of George White in documents relating to court proceedings and the testimonies of former members of his gang. Therefore, there is more than a bit of truth to the stories presented in this collection.

Ross A. Muscato (1963-) is a well known Easton born writer. Over the years he has worked as a writing consultant for organizations, like: Microsoft, the Boston Globe and the Boston Herald. Mr. Muscato has also worked with Jim Craig, 1980 Winter Olympic Gold Medalist, on several books about team member relations in a business setting. He is currently writing for the Easton Patch, which is the source of all of his materials in this collection. More information about Mr. Muscato can be found on his website, located at: <https://rossmuscato.com/about-me/>.

Scope and Content Note

The papers in this collection date from 1875 to 2012 and detail Easton's most famous legends regarding the: Bridgewater Triangle, George White the Horse Thief, various witches and mysterious rocks. The materials present are newspaper and magazine articles, handwritten accounts and photographs. This collection is arranged into nine series by subject and is presented in alphabetical order. Subsequent organization of subseries are arranged chronologically or alphabetically, as will be specified below. Notable materials in this collection include: a magazine article detailing all the stories related to the Bridgewater Triangle, pictures of where one of Easton's hermits used to live and a first hand account of Egg Rock's original whereabouts.

Series 1: Bridgewater Triangle. The materials in this series date from 1998 to 2011. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most notable item is the aforementioned magazine article from The Fringe.

Series 2: Devil's Footprint. The materials in this series date from 1957 to 1968. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. There are no particularly notable materials in this series, as it has only a few items.

Series 3: George White The Horse Thief. The materials in this series date from 1975 to 1982. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most notable item is an account written for a school report. It includes many aspects of the legend in one place.

Series 4: Ghosts. The materials in this series are estimated to date from 1900 to the 1960s. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most notable item is a newspaper article recounting a sighting of the Lady in White from the 1950s.

Series 5: Hermits. The materials in this series are estimated to date from 1875 to the 1990s. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most significant materials are pictures taken in the late 1990s. They reveal the location where Pete the Hermit used to live before the land was developed.

Series 6: Rocks. The materials in this series date from 1954 to 1978. This is the only series to have subseries. The subseries are arranged by subject and ordered alphabetically. The most notable item is a first hand account of the original location of Egg Rock.

Series 7: Ross A. Muscato. The materials in this series date from 2011 to 2012. All materials were written by Mr. Ross A. Muscato and published online to the Easton Patch. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most significant article mentions a man named Manny Morgan.

Series 8: Witches. The materials in this series date from 1972 to 1998. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. The most notable item is a newspaper article about the Seele family.

Series 9: Miscellaneous. The materials in this series are undated. There are no subseries and all materials are ordered chronologically. This series contains one newspaper article about a mysterious gun.

Series Outline

The Easton Folklore Collection is arranged into nine series, with few subseries. The arrangement is as follows:

Series 1: Bridgewater Triangle, 1998- 2011

Series 2: Devil's Footprint, 1957-1968

Series 3: George White, The Horse Thief, 1975-1982

Series 4: Ghosts, 1900-1960s

Series 5: Hermits, 1875-1990s

Series 6: Rocks, 1954-1978

Subseries 6.1: Billy Rock, 1954

Subseries 6.2: Egg Rock, 1976-1978

Series 7: Ross A. Muscato, 2011-2012

Series 8: Witches, 1972-1998

Series 9: Miscellaneous, Undated

Related Materials

No materials from this series have been digitized. All materials are available upon request or at the Easton Historical Society and Museum's webpage:

<https://www.eastonmahistoricalsociety.org/#/>.

Container List

Series 1: Bridgewater Triangle, 1998- 2011

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	The Bridgewater Triangle, 1998-2011

Series 2: Devil's Footprint, 1957-1968

Box	Folder	Description
1	2	The Devil's Footprint, 1957-1968

Series 3: George White, The Horse Thief, 1975-1982

Box	Folder	Description
1	3	George White, The Horse Thief, 1975-1982

Series 4: Ghosts, 1900-1960s

Box	Folder	Description
1	4	Ghosts Sightings and Stories, 1900-1960

Series 5: Hermits, 1875-1990s

Box	Folder	Description
1	5	Descriptions and Evidence of Various Hermits, 1875-1990s

Series 6: Rocks, 1954-1978

Box	Folder	Description
1	6	Billy Rock, 1954
1	7	Egg Rock, 1976-1978

Series 7: Ross A. Muscato, 2011-2012

Box	Folder	Description
1	8	Stories and Accounts by Mr. Muscato, 2011-2012

Series 8: Witches, 1972-1998

Box	Folder	Description
1	9	Witches, 1972-1998

Series 9: Miscellaneous, Undated

Box	Folder	Description
1	10	Miscellaneous, Undated