



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER, PRESERVE, RESTORE

Spring 2009

Two Homes to Receive Plaques During June Program



106 Nayatt Road

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m.** for the Barrington Preservation Society's Annual Plaque Program. Two very different historic homes will be honored that night in the Library Auditorium.

The first is the JOHN DRAPER HOUSE at 106 Nayatt Road, dating from 1865. This lovely Second Empire style 1 ½ story house with a distinctive mansard roof was intended to be three stories in height, but the Civil War made materials scarce. After the War, Draper added the kitchen ell, east wing and a stained-glass porch. Later owners have made this Victorian home a fashionable showcase. The front Palladian door was rescued from a Vanderbilt mansion in Newport.

The second house is the JAMES PHILLIPS HOUSE at 50 Latham Avenue and built in 1907. This simple vernacular Late Victorian cottage remained in the Phillips family for 95 years. With its picket fence and garden, the house is typical of Bay Spring cottages that have become year-round homes. It stands on Lot #20 of the "Bay Spring's Narragansett Plat," drawn by J. A. Latham in June of 1905. This plat laid out 69 lots ranging from 40

feet x 90 feet to 40 feet x 130 feet in size, helping establish the tight layout of the Bay Spring summer colony.

After the awards are presented to the owners of these two homes, we will have a presentation by Lombard John Pozzi. Lombard will present "What Style Is It?" with examples from Bristol, Warren and Barrington. Pozzi is an award-winning restoration architect with degrees in architecture and engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology and historic preservation from Columbia University. He is known for his attention to detail. Come and learn about our local history at this program and then join us for a reception in the Preservation Society Museum.



50 Latham Avenue

All Third Graders Visit the Barrington Civic Center Historic District

We are pleased to report that all third grade children who attend Barrington Public Schools visited the Barrington Civic Center Historic District as part of their local history studies this spring. The Preservation Society's award winning book "Barrington By the Bay" was the centerpiece of their studies about the local history of (continued on page 3)

Museum hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and by appointment

Letter from the President

These days with all the talk of sustainability, energy conservation and reducing waste, you may wonder whether that leaves preservationists outside the loop. On the contrary. The work of preservationists has reduced tons of waste over these last 150 years.

I shall quote Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation: “Preservationists are sometimes accused of being sentimentally fixated on the past—but, in fact, preservation is strongly future-oriented. Our goal is to ensure that our historic built environment—our legacy from the past—survives so that future generations can experience it, learn from it, and be inspired by it. This kind of focus on the future is at the very core of sustainable development. Preservationists are also sometimes accused of wanting to freeze buildings in time—but, in fact, our goal is to keep old buildings viable so that they can play meaningful roles in community life. . .All over the United States, preservationists are demonstrating that buildings are renewable—not disposable—resources.”

I could not have said it better. Be green, be a preservationist.

Nancy R. Peck, President

Maple Avenue History Study

This past academic year, students in Roger Williams University’s School of Architecture made use of the BPS Museum archives in order to formulate a historical survey of the east section of Maple Avenue and its properties. Students, under the guidance of Professor Richard Greenwood of Barrington, researched the history of the avenue and then developed ideas for future planning of the neighborhood. Historic preservation consultant, Elizabeth Warren, was also on hand to teach methodology.



Though this glass slide shows damage, it offers an interesting peek into the past. This slide is part of a collection of slides in the Barrington Preservation Society Museum archives. If you can identify this child, please let us know!

Historic Signs To Be Placed Along East Bay Bike Path

Members of the BPS Education Committee are writing grants to secure funding for interpretive signs to be placed along the East Bay Bike Path. These educational signs will be placed at historic locations and landmarks in Barrington and will include information about that site and how people shaped this industrial and agricultural community hundreds of years ago. To date, RI Council for the Humanities has provided generous support for this project. Stay tuned as this exciting project unfolds.

Website Under Construction

For the first time, Barrington Preservation Society will have its own website. It will serve as both a “virtual museum” and a promotion for the Society itself. Highlights of Barrington history will be included along with a sampling of the photographic images held in the archives. Board member Stephen Story and the website committee have planned for the navigation to include a listing of upcoming events and programs, a “Kids’ Corner,” Plaque Program information, publications for sale, membership information and more. In the development and design stage now, check our next newsletter for the launch date announcement and the official website address.

Welcome new Board members: Julia Califano, Priscilla Givan, Joseph Migliore, Carole Pace and Stephen Story

**BPS Education Grants Showcased at
RI Council for the Humanities (RICH) Event**

Sydney Montstream-Quas recently made a presentation at a "Friendraiser" garden party hosted by RICH. She updated the Board and friends about RICH-supported Preservation Society projects including "Barrington By the Bay" and the interpretive sign project to be created along the East Bay Bike Path (see description in box on page 2).

Civic Center article continued from page 1

their town. The students' tour included a visit to the Town Hall, Barrington Preservation Society Museum and Prince's Hill Cemetery. A visit to the Town Council Chambers and a meeting with Town Manager Peter DeAngelis helped them understand how local government works. Youngsters also viewed a program titled "One Hundred Years Ago," a photographic-filled glimpse of life in Barrington during the later 1800s. Finally the groups searched for patriots in our historic graveyard, making it an exciting morning of local history.

While in the Preservation Society Museum, the students enjoyed seeing the household utensil exhibit, identifying markings on Barrington Bricks, seeing Native American arrowheads found on Nayatt Point and viewing the satellite map of the town. Looking at pictures of school children from eras past and one-room school houses in town was fun for all. Understanding the importance of the railroad during that time, and knowing that today we use that corridor as the East Bay Bike Path, connected the children from the past to the present.

Thank you to the Barrington Public Schools including administrators, principals, and third grade teachers as well as parent chaperones for making this historic trip a delight for everyone.



Students from Mrs. Codega's third grade class at Nayatt School enjoy a "hands-on" experience at Prince's Hill Cemetery this spring

Membership Drive Success

This year BPS has made a concerted effort to increase its membership. For instance, as you may be aware, the Society conducted its first town-wide mailing in February 2009. This campaign was not only intended to increase membership but also to introduce the community to BPS's mission. At the end of 2008, the Society had 137 members. Through five months of 2009, we have added 55 new members, a 40% increase. Going forward we are going to recognize our new members in this publication. For all of you listed below, welcome to the Society and I hope we get to meet during the year. Come to the Museum, as it's a great place to start.

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| Bethany Baker | Christina Hartley |
| Carolyn Bannon | Susan & Ed Hay |
| Diane Barens | Dr. & Mrs. Harry Ionnotti |
| Jack and Kathy Beauchamp | Judy Janes |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mars Bishop | Agnes Johnson |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Bolton | Carol & Mark Johnson |
| Brienne E. Brown | Maija Jossi |
| Mary Canha | Sara and Peter Kriz |
| Thomas Clark | Barrie and Mary Lee |
| Rosalind Colley | Ellen Mara |
| Laura Comley | Joseph J. Migliore |
| Marie Currier | Mildred S. Molter |
| Louis E. D'Amico | Dr. and Mrs. John Passante |
| John & Constance Danforth | Rose Phipps |
| Patty and Pete Deal | Robert Puleston |
| Richard Donnelly | E. Douglas & Helen Rayner |
| Calin Drimborean | Jim and Meredith Sanderson |
| Laura & Ray Dufresne | Anne and Mark Shannon |
| Spencer Easton | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Soutter |
| Robert & Janice Fancher | Stephen & Susan Story |
| Carol Gaffney | M.D. Swanson |
| Pat and Mary Gasbarro | Kim To |
| Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Gibson | Caroline & Stephen Tortolani |
| Priscilla W. Givan | Leslie Weeden |
| Marie E. Gizzarelli | John W. Wheeler |
| Dave & Pat Gregory | Mr. & Mrs. John H. White Jr. |
| Elsa Grieder | Judith and David Wilson |
| | David Winoker |

Pardon our appearance! During this past icy winter, the Preservation Museum had a bit of a setback with a ceiling leak. No memorabilia was harmed, fortunately, but exhibits have been put on hold until the Museum Committee is confident that a roof leak at the Peck Center has been repaired. Also BPS is in the process of applying to the Champlin Foundation to help fund the purchase and installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Optimum environmental conditions are essential for archival protection.

“What’s NEW in Newport?” Program

On May 29, ten members and friends of BPS travelled to Newport for the trip titled "What's NEW in Newport?" The first visit was to the Samuel Whitehorne House (1811) which houses Doris Duke's impressive collection of Rhode Island furniture, many of them Goddard and Townsend pieces. Because of the rainy weather, the group was not able to tour the Archaeology Dig at the site of the 18th century Thomas Richardson House. This site is revealing new facts about colonial life in Newport.

However, the group was able to see the area and also visit the wonderful National Restoration Foundation gift shop which abuts the site.

After lunch at LaForge Restaurant on Bellevue Avenue, a visit was made to Rough Point, Miss Duke's favorite home, which has a spectacular location at the end of beautiful Bellevue Avenue. We very much enjoyed the tour of the mansion and new exhibit titled, "How To Buy like an Heiress," a showcase of Miss Duke's clothes from Parisian and top American designers.

In Memoriam

*Dr. Louis A. Fragola, recent Barrington Preservation Society Board Member
Mary “Happy” Tefft White, founding member of the Barrington Preservation Society*

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Join the Barrington Preservation Society

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

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Classes of Membership:

___ Patron (\$100) ___ Family (\$25)

___ Sustaining (\$60) ___ Single (\$15)

___ Business (\$60) ___ Student (\$5)

___ Supporting (\$35) ___ Other

(\$ _____)

Return this form with check payable to:

Barrington Preservation Society

P.O. Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806