



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Holiday Season 2015

Trustees

Nathaniel Taylor, *President*
David Stonestreet, *Vice President*
Van Edwards, *Treasurer*
Maureen Soutter, *Secretary*

Pat Buff
Anne Chapin
Jean Douglas
Jason Lawrence
Lyn Malone
Margaret Whitehead

Sara Kriz, *Graphic Design*

Barrington Preservation Society Museum

Lower Level, Public Library

Hours

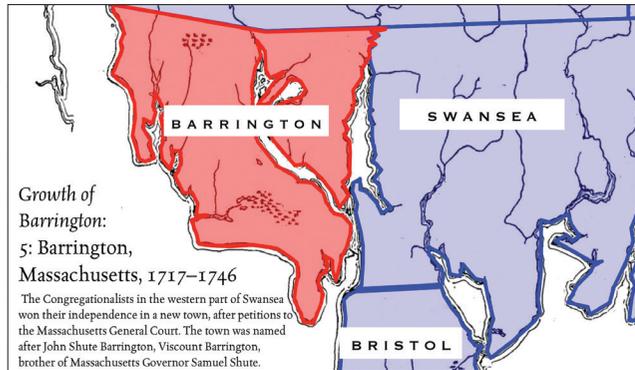
Wednesdays & Saturdays
1:00 – 4:00 or by
appointment

Phone

(401) 289-0802

E-mail

info@barringtonpreservation.org



Barrington 300—Just Around the Corner!

On November 21, BPS sponsored “A Celebration of Barrington’s History” at the Barrington Public Library. Van Edwards began with an overview of the early history of our town. Using a series of maps prepared by Nat Taylor, Van told the story of the evolution of Barrington from the 1600s to 1770. Our town was born in 1717, when the Massachusetts legislature accepted the petition of residents of the western part of Swansey to form a new town, which was named Barrington, after the brother of the new Massachusetts governor at that time. Back then, Barrington was bigger: it included Riverside (now East Providence) and Barneyville (now Swansea). In 1747 most of Barrington (except for Riverside and Barneyville) became part of Rhode Island, but was folded into a new town, named Warren. In 1770 we petitioned Rhode Island to be a separate town from Warren, and our town was reborn as Barrington, Rhode Island. In the past we have celebrated both 1770 and 1717 as dates of our founding, but it is more appropriate to view 1717 as our true birthdate: 2017 will mark the 300th anniversary—the Tricentennial—of Barrington.

Lyn Malone then took over and led a lively discussion of potential events to celebrate 300 years of Barrington. Cards were circulated for each participant to record ideas. Then Lyn had each person read out some of their ideas with the result that a list of nearly 40 activities was generated. At the end of the meeting, members of the audience indicated their preferences by sticking dots on a provisional list of activities. Wonderful ideas on the list include tours, fireworks, a beach concert, a clam bake and a dress ball. We are actively seeking to expand our list of partners in organizing Tricentennial events, as well as additional ideas to work up. We have scheduled our next Barrington Tricentennial planning meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the School Committee Room, Town Hall.

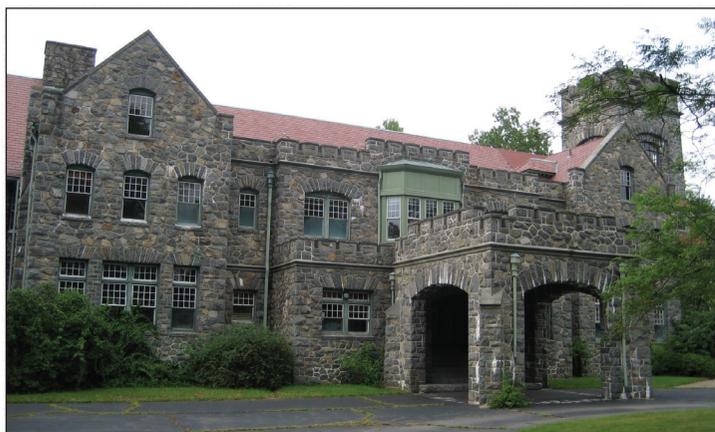
We encourage all members of the Preservation Society to attend this meeting, or if it is impossible to attend, please share your ideas with provisional Barrington Tricentennial co-ordinators Van Edwards (bvnedwards@gmail.com) or Bonnie Warren (bonniewarren18@gmail.com).

Annual Meeting Luncheon to Feature Architect Martha Werenfels

Our Annual Meeting for 2016 will be held at the Bluewater Grill on Sunday, January 10 at 12:00 PM. Members are invited to reconnect after the Holiday Season, to vote on our slate of new and returning Trustees to serve in 2016 and 2017, to hear about this past year's activities and planned activities for the new year, and to hear our featured speaker.

Architect Martha Werenfels will speak on "Breathing New Life into Historic Manor Houses: a Look at Three Rhode Island Projects." She will discuss her own projects featuring sensitive repurposing and restoration of historic private homes, with special reference to Barrington's Belton Court, the grand home of Frederick S. Peck, whose proposed renovation as part of a project involving assisted living and elder care is currently before the Barrington Planning Board. Martha Werenfels, AIA, LEED AP, is Principal with the firm Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects in Providence, and lead architect on the proposed Belton Court project.

Space is limited and many Barrington residents will be interested in Martha Werenfels's presentation. Please return the enclosed reply form and check promptly, to reserve a place at the luncheon and choose your entree.



◀ Belton Court

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 10, 2016

BPS 2016 Annual Meeting and Talk by Martha Werenfels
12:00 Noon
Bluewater Grill,
Tyler Point

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Barrington Tricentennial Organizational Meeting
4-6 PM
Town Hall,
School Committee Room

Digging into the Vault: Plaque News

Digging into records in the Town Vault, tracing old plats, and reading early wills and inventories can become a real treasure hunt. Add genealogical data, census and tax records, and a picture of life in old Barrington comes alive. This year the Plaque Committee has been busy confirming the ages of the oldest houses in Barrington Village. One exciting discovery was an 1838 inventory of the Kinnicut Tavern (509 County Rd.) in the town's probate records. The tavern was quite fashionable! Furnishings included "6 Beds, 8 Bed Sheets, 6 blankets, 4 Bed Spreads, 3 Large Silver Spoons, 12 Small Silver Spoons, one silver Porringer, 2 doz. knives and forks, one Pair Brass Andirons, 2 Doz. Chairs, 4 Arm Chairs, 5 Tables, 3 Light Stands, 3 Looking Glasses" and much more. To qualify for a BPS plaque, a property must be 100 years old and meet other criteria. Total cost for an awarded plaque is \$325 (including a \$25 application fee), or \$100 for a replacement plaque (\$125 for non-members). New wood plaques are superior to the plastic ones still on many houses.



Harold N. Gibbs Bird Carvings Acquired for the Museum Collection



▲ Miniature Mallard Duck, Harold Gibbs



▲ Miniature Black Duck, Harold Gibbs



▲ Miniature Canada Goose, Harold Gibbs

Barrington native Harold N. Gibbs (1886–1970) lived and worked on the waters and shores of Narragansett Bay all his life, as a commercial and sport fisherman, oysterman, and, for many years, the first Administrator of Fish and Game for the state of Rhode Island. As one of the fathers of salt-water fly-fishing, he developed specialized fly rods and flies for striped bass—his Gibbs Striper Fly is still the premier fly for striped bass fishing. An avid hunter and naturalist, he carved and painted many beautiful miniature birds which are now much sought after by collectors.

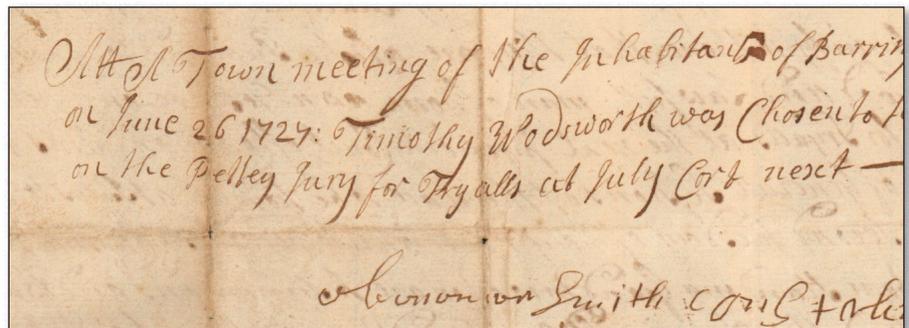
Last month Barrington Preservation Society acquired three of Gibbs's iconic miniature bird carvings at auction—a mallard, a black duck, and a Canada goose. They will be incorporated along with other recent acquisitions into a new exhibition section on the Natural History of Barrington, to debut early in 2016.

Other Recent Collection Acquisitions

In addition to the Harold Gibbs bird carvings, BPS has had several recent notable acquisitions and donations: Charlotte Sornborger, granddaughter of Mr. Gibbs and like him, a prominent naturalist and conservation advocate, has donated a precious Diamondback Terrapin shell from Nockum Hill, as well as one of her grandfather's Gibbs Striper Flies set in lucite.

Austin Smith of Connecticut has donated the original will of his ancestor Nathaniel Smith of Rumstick Point, signed and sealed in 1823, and framed in a double-sided handmade frame of varnished white oak constructed in 1905 from the timbers of the original colonial Nathaniel Smith homestead which was torn down in that year for newer development on Rumstick.

Other recent donations or purchases include an 1817 printed sermon from the White Church and two early eighteenth-century legal documents from Barrington, Massachusetts. The oldest of these is from June 26, 1727, recording the town's appointment of Timothy Wadsworth to sit as Barrington's juror in an upcoming county court session.



▲ 1727 Barrington, Massachusetts, Document Detail

Membership Dues and Donations— On Paper or Online

Want to pay annual membership dues by credit card? Or make additional or one-time tax-deductible donations to BPS (for a specific purpose or for general fund)? Our website will be revised to accept both dues payments and donations online. Use the enclosed insert to pay dues or donate by check, or visit the website for online donations and dues:

barringtonpreservation.org/membership/

*** Join BPS and help preserve Barrington's rich history. 2016 dues cover from January 1 to December 31, and this year we are sending every member a BPS 2016 sticker to display on your car or in your home.

Join the Barrington Preservation Society!

- Membership Categories**
- Individual \$35
 - Family \$50
 - Supporting \$100
 - Patron \$250
 - Life Member \$1000

Join or renew online at barringtonpreservation.org/membership/, or clip and send this form with a check payable to:
The Barrington Preservation Society
P.O. Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806

*Stay connected and help BPS reduce costs by giving us your email address. Dues are tax deductible and qualify members for discounts on museum purchases, including museum photographs.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail *

New member _____ Renewal _____

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P.O. Box 178
Barrington, RI 02806

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