



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Spring 2012

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Barrington Preservation Society Museum

Lower Level, Public Library

Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays
& Saturdays
11:00 – 4:00 or by
appointment

Phone

(401) 289-0802

Save the Date for Destination Drownville!

A walking tour of homes in the Drownville neighborhood

Saturday, September 15

10:00 – 4:00

With steady breezes, beaches, and natural harbors, Barrington became a popular summer destination after 1855 when the completion of the railway between Bristol and Providence made it an easy commute for city dwellers. Hotels, golf courses, yacht clubs, and beach cottages sprang up on Nayatt Point, Barrington Beach, Bay Spring, and Appian Way. To capitalize on the nearby Drownville Railroad Station, Alfred Drown subdivided his farm into house lots. The street that bears his name now boasts some of Barrington's most attractive homes and gardens. With marsh and water views, the cohesive neighborhood still retains its historic charm, and on September 15, the Barrington Preservation Society will open several of those homes to the public for a house tour from 10:00 to 4:00. Included on the tour are rambling farmhouses, converted summer homes, and cozy bungalows, all of which have seen transformations over the years. A

trolley will connect the registration area and parking area on Washington Road to the homes along Washington Road, Alfred Drown Road, Annawamscutt Road, Second Street and Appian Way. The tour is a pleasant walk of less than two miles.

BPS collaborates for Boating Safety Day

Join us on Saturday, May 19 from 10:00-2:00 at Brewer Cove Haven Marina in Barrington for Boating Safety Day. We will be selling our Barrington history note cards and our newest item – BEACH TOWELS – as well as raffling several items. The Coast Guard will be giving tours of their boats and offering boat inspections. There will be numerous door prizes, raffles and other giveaways, as well as complimentary hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. This free event is sponsored by the Barrington and East Providence Harbor Commissions and Harbormasters, Bristol County Elks, and Brewer's Cove Haven Marina.



66 Alfred Drown Rd (top) and 33 Alfred Drown Rd (bottom)

SAVE THE DATES!

May 9, 7:00 p.m.

*Barrington Public Library
Auditorium*

**"The Beauty of the Book:
Building a Collection"**

Philip Maddock

June 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*Barrington Preservation
Society Museum*

**"Two Hundred Years of
Barrington Summers"**

*BPS Museum Opening Exhibition
Reception*

June 20, 7:00 pm

*Barrington Public Library
Auditorium*

**"The History of Summertime
by the Bay"**

Jean MacIntyre

**September 15,
10:00 - 4:00**

Destination Drownville

House Tour

see article for more details

Letter from the President

It is with much excitement that we welcome the new year. The Society's plans for 2012 are packed with activities that we are certain will stir the interest of the community. See "Save the Dates!" and mark your calendars to attend some of these activities. Of special note is that we are again conducting a house tour. On September 15, join us in the Drownville neighborhood, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, to see some of the grandest homes in Barrington.

Welcome to our class of 2015 Board of Trustees: Anne Chapin, Peggy Mello, Susan Raleigh, Nathaniel Taylor, and Karen Waterman. Please see their pictures and bios in this newsletter. This is a very talented group of professionals and we are pleased they have joined us.

The Board has recently updated the Mission Statement of the Society which now reads, "The purpose of the Barrington Preservation Society is to identify, acquire, hold, arrange, maintain, open to the public with suitable regulations, and preserve for posterity buildings, places, sites, objects, and information of historical interest within or pertaining to the Town of Barrington, Rhode Island. The Society operates exclusively for literary, charitable, and educational purposes and cooperates with organizations engaged in similar activities."

A difficulty that we have experienced over time has been community awareness of where the Society's Museum is located. To counter this problem, we have been working with the Town Planner's office and the library to improve our signage. Please notice now when you enter the library that you will see directions to the lower level where the Museum is located. Soon there will also be a sign on the island in front of the library directing you to us. We welcome this change and thank the Town for facilitating this change.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who responded to our financial appeal during the winter. It was a successful drive and resulted in our ability to finish the year in a fiscally sound position. I also remind you that we are in the middle of our annual membership drive. Please renew your membership now and ask a friend to join you.

Kent Phillips, President

2015 Board of Trustees



Anne Chapin grew up in Barrington and graduated from Barrington High School. She received a BS from St. Lawrence University and an MBA from Boston College. She has worked in the banking industry for 18 years, most recently for Bank of America, where she is a Portfolio Manager. Her volunteer positions include Harbor Commission in Barrington and Investment Committee at the Beneficent Church in Providence. She is currently mentoring a BHS student who is doing his senior project on investing. Her hobbies are sailing, tennis, golf, and skiing.



Peggy Mello refers to herself as an Army brat, having lived in the US, Europe, and West Africa before moving to Barrington in 1964. After attending URI, Peggy became an English teacher in the Bristol Warren Public Schools for many years until her retirement two years ago. She and her husband Fred live in a restored, historic home in the Alfred Drown neighborhood. Peggy's travels have given her a strong sense of the importance of place, both historically and personally. Peggy's hobbies include home decorating, cooking, sewing, antiques, and traveling.



Originally from New Jersey, **Susan Raleigh** has been a Barrington resident since 2000. She graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in Policy Studies. She has worked as a consultant in RI and MA providing development staff with training and guidance in the area of database maintenance and fundraising strategy. Other areas of professional expertise include the utilization of technology and social networks as a communication tool, event sponsorship, and planned giving. Her hobbies include golf, tennis, and Scrabble.



Karen Waterman has been a resident of Barrington for nearly 10 years. She received a BA in Humanities and History from Providence College and received a Certificate in Appraisal Studies from Rhode Island School of Design. She is President and owner of Waterman Appraisal and Consulting Services, a business which provides personal property and antiques appraisal services. She is a member of the American Society of Appraisers, RI Historical Society, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and Barrington Yacht Club, and is Treasurer of Flower Power. Her interests are cooking, sailing, biking, gardening, and painting.



Nathaniel Taylor is a newcomer to Barrington, moving here in 2011. An historian and genealogist, Nat received a BA, MA, and Ph.D. from Harvard in medieval history and literature, and has taught at Harvard, Brown, Babson, Trinity, and the University of Kentucky. His published genealogical work ranges widely, covering Rhode Island families as well as elsewhere in New England, Virginia, and pre-modern Europe. In 2011, he was named a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. He is the organist and music director at the Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal) in Rumford. He is restoring the General Thomas Allin house on Lincoln Avenue where he and his family live.



GOING GREEN Barrington Preservation Society is accelerating its efforts to reduce mailing expenses and go green! Therefore, please send your e-mail address to Carole Villucci, BPS Museum Director, at museumdirector@barrpreservation.org to receive all mailings via email. This information is for the Society's use only and will not be shared with any other individual or organization. Thank you for your assistance with this cost-saving measure!

BARRINGTON

Follow the Barrington Brick to the Museum

The BPS Museum has new signage! This signage will help people find their way to the Museum located on the lower floor of the Barrington Public Library. Each sign has been designed with a Barrington brick as a logo; a series of vinyl replicas of Barrington bricks will be placed along the library wall to guide visitors to the Museum. Barrington Brick Works was a thriving industry for almost 100 years. It was located at what is now Brickyard Pond which was formerly a clay pit that provided the material for making the bricks.

For a donation of \$200, your name or the name of your children or grandchildren, or the name of your business or organization, or the name in memory of someone special will be printed on the vinyl brick. As a bonus, each supporter will receive an authentic Barrington brick with the name embossed on the front. All bricks will have a protective coating. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact museumdirector@barrpreservation.org or call 401-289-0802.

Image: Hundred Acre Cove looking east towards Wampanoag Trail. c. 1800

*Peleg Heath house on left
Horton Heath house on right*

MUSEUM NEWS

Local Historic Education

Springtime. That's when Barrington's third grade students once again tour our Town's Civic Center (a National Register Historic District) including the Town Hall, Prince's Hill Cemetery, and the BPS Museum. For many of these children, this is their first time exploring one, two, or all three of these landmarks. Peter DeAngelis explains our town government to the children, while providing some history about the Town Hall and Town Chambers. In Prince's Hill Cemetery, the children conduct a search for old Barrington family names such as Drown, Blount, and Bicknell, and look for the slave monument dedicated in 1903, the first of its kind in the United States! In the Museum, the children are treated to an exhibit set up just for them with historic toys, games, a 1930s typewriter and a Victrola (in working condition). Not only are the children enthused to ask thoughtful questions during this tour, but the parent chaperones are just as excited with the opportunity to explore historic places that they may have never visited before. Many of these families come back in the summer with other family members in tow. So make time with your family to explore our local history: walk through an historic cemetery and read the names on the gravestones, taking note of familiar names that may have streets named after them; look closely at the beautiful details on our Town Hall; and visit the BPS Museum, a local treasure chest of historic objects, photographs, and stories.



Two Hundred Years of Barrington Summers

Museum exhibit open June 2 - Oct. 2

**Opening Reception
Wednesday, June 6
6:00-8:00 pm**



Surrounded by waterways, Barrington's natural setting of shorelines and marshlands made it a perfect escape from the summertime heat of the city. With its picturesque beauty, and cool breezes off Narragansett Bay, people came to Barrington to spend their summers in hotels, cottages, and even tents. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Barrington was a vibrant summer community where people could mingle with the year-round residents, relax on the beach, sail the waters, participate in sporting events, or simply sit on wicker chairs on lawns or porches and have a family picnic. Barrington's coves, ponds, creeks, streams, and rivers were treasured resources that made summer living special.

This exhibition celebrates Barrington's summertime history with the inclusion of historic photographs, musical instruments, costumes, wicker lawn chairs, games, and sports and sailing gear. Imagine a trip to the beach or a fishing spot and discover Barrington's past fishing industry. Visualize walking on a footbridge in the early 20th century from Haines Park to Crescent Park in Riverside, a favorite amusement center. If you remember those days and have a story to tell, please share your comments for our oral history project.

Volunteer Opportunities

Barrington Preservation Society Museum is a fun place to spend some time. If you like children, you can be a tour guide. If you like discovering historical facts, you can do research. If you like organization, you can work on our files. If you like display, you can help with exhibitions. Call 401-289-0802 or e-mail museumdirector@barrpreservation.org for more information.

Note Cards Available

The fundraising committee has created beautiful note cards of 12 historical Barrington images. These black and white photographs depict landmarks such as Town Hall and The Congregational Church. Note cards are available in the Preservation Society Museum and at Barrington Books and are sold in packets of 12 for \$15. The note cards are a great way to share images of our town while corresponding to others, and also make a great gift!

WANTED

PERIOD CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES
FURNITURE CA. 1800-1930, MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS, QUILTS,
BARRINGTON SUMMER ACTIVITIES
(PHOTOS, ARTWORK)

PLEASE HELP ADD TO OUR HISTORIC
COLLECTION. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING
IN GOOD CONDITION THAT YOU WISH
TO DONATE TO THE MUSEUM PLEASE

CALL CAROLE VILLUCCI AT
401-289-0802 OR E-MAIL
MUSEUMDIRECTOR@
BARRPRESERVATION.ORG

Spotlight on Collections Management

Using her technical expertise, Linda Blake has been working for the past two years placing objects and corresponding information in a digital format using the Past Perfect host site. To date she has catalogued over 2,600 historical objects, photographs, and narrative material. The cataloguing and dissemination is almost complete and will be launched in early May. The task required a lot of work “behind the scenes.” The Past Perfect software requires a very complicated system of entering information. Fortunately, Linda is a specialist when it comes to technology. Our goal was and continues to be making our historic collection available to a wide audience. Funded by two grants from RI Foundation ADDD Media and the RI Council for the Humanities, the digital project was made a reality. In addition, she reorganized our flat-file system to coordinate with the online catalogue. Assisting her is Nicole Amaral, a graduate student at Northeastern University. Linda says, “I know so much detail work was worthwhile when I see people react favorably to viewing our collection online. As we continue to work through our archives and acquire new objects, we will continue to build the database. I am encouraged by and appreciative of the interest the RI Foundation has expressed by awarding us a third grant for \$1,800 to bring this project to completion.” The RI Foundation support is earmarked for the final phase of the cataloguing and digitizing the collection. Nicole feels that her role in the project is important because “working with the collection on Past Perfect has made me realize how many amazing things we have for such a small museum. Once the collection is online, the community will be able to search and utilize our extensive resources.”



Nicole Amaral and Linda Blake

For a preview, go to <http://barrington.pastperfect-online.com>, click on “click here” and then click on the Random Images tab on the top of the page.

Plaque Program Update

The Barrington Preservation Society annual Plaque Program will be held this year in October. Watch for more details in the Fall newsletter. The Plaque Program began in 1965 with the founding of the Society. We now have 161 plaqued houses in every Barrington neighborhood. To be eligible for a BPS plaque, your house must be:

- at least 100 years old;
- well maintained;
- retain the integrity of the original design; new additions are reviewed and presented to the BPS Board for approval;
- use of vinyl, aluminum, or similar siding makes a house ineligible for a plaque.

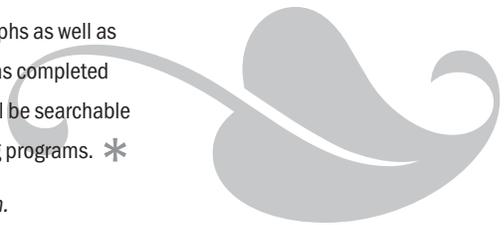
Homeowners interested in plaquing their house should contact the Museum to receive an application to start the review process. After approval by the BPS board, the homeowner is contacted and research starts. The cost for research and the plaque is \$300. We have found that this is a very low cost in contrast to other historical societies.

Is your old BPS plaque on fiberglass fading or deteriorated? Replacement plaques can be ordered for \$75. Our oval wooden plaques, hand painted with the date of building and the name of the original owner, are made by Bob Leonard of Oulde Colony Artisans. Please contact Marion Willey at 245-5336 or AZA515@aol.com if you are interested in a new or replacement plaque.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE The fiscal year for the Barrington Preservation Society corresponds to the calendar year, and dues reminders were sent out in January 2012. To date, many of you have not yet renewed, and this is a year you don't want to miss!

In June, the Barrington Preservation Society Museum will be launching a new exhibit commemorating Barrington's 200 years as a summer destination. * On September 15, BPS will be sponsoring a house tour in West Barrington. * The Museum has added a gift shop with note cards featuring historic photographs as well as BPS publications. With each new exhibit, more items will be added to the shop. * The Museum has completed its digitization project of objects and is working on archiving its publications. Eventually, all items will be searchable on-line. * BPS will be sponsoring its annual plaquing program, jazz concert, and several speaking programs. *

Don't miss out! Join or renew your BPS membership and support historic preservation in Barrington.



Barrington Preservation Society
P.O. Box 178
Barrington, RI 02806

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Join the Barrington Preservation Society!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

New member _____ Renewal _____

Dues are tax deductible and qualify members for discounts museum purchases, including photo reproductions.

Membership Categories

Student \$10 _____ Individual \$25 _____

Family \$35 _____ Supporting \$50 _____

Business \$100 _____ Sustainer \$100 _____

Patron \$250 _____ Life Member \$1000 _____

Please clip and send this form with a check payable to:
The Barrington Preservation Society
P.O. Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806