



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Fall 2017

Trustees

Nathaniel Taylor, *President*
David Stonestreet, *Vice President*
Van Edwards, *Treasurer*

Richard Donnelly
Jean Douglas
Jason Lawrence
Debra Page-Trim
Duncan Sutherland
Bonnie Warren

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

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Barrington 300 Events

Our town's Barrington 300 Committee, an official administrative committee of the Town of Barrington, has taken the lead planning and executing many different commemorative events this year. Here we chronicle a sampling of the year's Barrington 300 events which have involved Preservation Society members:



Heritage Weekends

As part of the Barrington 300 celebration, members of the Preservation Society and other volunteers organized two Heritage Weekends, one in June and the other in September. Bus tours explored Barrington's neighborhoods, stopping at old houses, churches and cemeteries. About 75 people participated and many enjoyed more than one tour. Van Edwards, Bonnie Warren, Maria Bruce, who has developed a thorough knowledge of the Maple Avenue Community, joined by Joanna Doherty from the RIHP&HC joined the first tour of the Alfred Drown Historical District. We were able to visit the General Allin House thanks to Nat Taylor, the Peleg Richmond House, thanks to Bonnie Warren and William T. Lewis House in Alfred Drown thanks to Rhonda Payne. We were also able to visit the Barrington Congregational Church, the Barrington United Methodist Church, Sts. Mathew and Mark Episcopal Church as well as St. Johns Episcopal Church. Our tours also included the Allin Family and Tyler Point Cemeteries. During the first Heritage Weekend, the Cemetery organized a fascinating living history enactment at Prince's Hill Cemetery. But most important was visiting all the significant neighborhoods of Barrington and understanding the broad sweep of our town's history as manifest in the development of its various neighborhoods. In addition to Alfred Drown and Maple Avenue, we toured Old Barrington Village, Lincoln Avenue, West Barrington/Industrial Barrington, Nayatt, Rumstick, Jenny's Lane/Mathewson Road and New Meadow Neck. Several times we were asked when we planned to repeat these tours. Perhaps we could repeat them next spring, especially if a few more members, who live in older homes, are willing to welcome visitors, because in the final analysis, the house tours were the most stimulating part of the weekend.

BIKE TOUR

On a beautiful Saturday in July, former BPS Board Member Sydney Montstream-Quas led a parade of almost forty cyclists on an historic tour along the East Bay Bike Path in Barrington. The group stopped at all of the historic waysides along the path, asking questions and telling personal stories about Barrington's history. Many participants had never stopped to read the wayside signs, and others had little knowledge about Barrington's industrial past, making this a very informative tour for the cyclists. Glorious weather and physical activity contributed to this summer highlight of the Barrington 300 event calendar!

Sydney Montstream-Quas and Mike Quas were honored with a citation from the Rhode Island House of Representatives for their outstanding service and commitment to maintaining the historic signs along the East Bay Bike Path and for their efforts in organizing the historic Barrington Bike Tour in July 2017.



Our Friend, Bernard Scola

by Bonnie Warren

Bernard Scola called me up three days after I retired from the State Preservation Office in 2000. He invited me to join the Board of the Barrington Preservation Society (BPS) and I accepted. Bernard knew what he wanted in advance and how to get people to say “yes!”

Bernard’s insight was welcome in many preservation projects. He knew how to run a house tour, based on his years volunteering for the Providence Preservation Society (PPS). As BPS’s Treasurer, he helped his beloved wife Jane run three successful tours for our Society: “A Nautical Neighborhood “ (Jennys Lane and Mathewson Road), “Old Drownville “ and “Nayatt on the Narragansett”. Then he helped raise funds to produce a National Register Historic District Nomination for the Jennys Lane neighborhood. This was followed by work on a town-appointed committee to study the Need for Historic District Zoning in Barrington.

Historic preservation was Bernard’s passion as reflected in the exquisite restoration of the Allen C. Mathewson Boat House. His flower boxes were gorgeous and were just one example of his attention to detail. Jane and Bernard graciously opened the Boat House for BPS meetings, fund-raisers and a House Tour. From that prime location on the Barrington River, many of us remember watching the fireworks over the Warren skyline, ducks swimming in the water and an endless parade of sailboats.

Bernard lived the PPS motto “The Past is Present”. His love of family, recognition of quality, search for perfection, interest in historic architecture and gracious manners will all be well remembered by his many friends in Barrington, Rhode Island, and beyond.

Gala

It was a Gala night for historic preservation in Barrington! On the evening of

October 21, 2017, the town’s Barrington 300 Committee sponsored a Gala celebration of champagne, dinner and dancing at the RI Country Club. The Gala was one of a series of year-long events designed to heighten awareness in the town of the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of our town with the name of Barrington.

Pre-publicity for the event included a Commemorative Booklet distributed to households in town who subscribe to the Barrington Times and was available to attendees at the Gala. The handsome keepsake Booklet featured interviews with several longtime resident families with warm remembrances of their growing up years here. In addition, vivid photographs contrasted ‘Then and Now’ images of several landmark locations in the town.

Featured at the Gala was an ongoing slide presentation of photographs of historic buildings and sites from the new book, Barrington, compiled by the Barrington Preservation Society and published in Arcadia Press’s “Images of America” series. Copies of the book, as well as the Commemorative Medallion commissioned for Barrington 300, were available for sale. Offerings at a silent auction included framed original historic images of the town, including a matching pair of panoramic nineteenth-century photographs of the Barrington River (showing both the Barrington and Warren waterfronts), and an original 1806 engraving of our town’s namesake, Lord Barrington.

Honored guests at the event included State Senator Cindy Coyne, State Representatives Joy Hearn and Jason Knight, and Barrington Town Council President Mike Carroll. Barrington’s elected representatives presented citations from the House of Representatives and the Senate honoring the town’s efforts towards historic preservation and commemoration with the Barrington 300 celebrations.



Door and Window box contest

To celebrate Barrington’s Tricentennial and highlight Barrington’s historic architecture, the Society joined with the Barrington Garden Club and Barrington 300 to sponsor a “Door & Window Box Contest” early in the summer. Owners of historic houses displaying the BPS plaque were invited to participate. Entries came from New Meadow Neck, the County Road section of “Between the Bridges,” the northern section of Rumstick Road, and the Alfred Drown Road historic district in Old Drownville.

The contest required that owners use only fresh plant material and limit decorations to the main facade of the house. Use of flags, banners and potted plants was permitted. The exhibit lasted for the full month of July, *The winners were:* **1st Place:** Rhonda Payne, owner of the William S. Lewis Sr. House, 1871, at 66 Alfred Drown Road; **2nd Place:** Alan and Pat Buff, owners of the William S. Lewis, Jr. House, ca.1905, at 45 Alfred Drown Rd.; **3rd Place:** Kim Holland, owner of the Charles Barton House, 1818, at 78 County Rd. **4th Place:** Linda Bainer, owner of the “Fisherman’s Shack,” ca. 1750, at 170 New Meadow Rd.



Barrington 300 Medallion Designed by Ted Hail

The Barrington 300 Committee selected artist Ted Hail to design this stunning medallion for Barrington's Tricentennial celebration. Ted wrote about what inspired the choice of images on this celebratory coin: "I wanted something old and something new." Old is represented by the gables of our landmark 1888 Town Hall. New is represented by the 2014 Barrington Bridge. The river under the bridge, and the Lantern of the 1856 Nayatt Point Lighthouse in the bottom of the outer ring, represent Barrington's maritime heritage as a bayside town. These images are modeled in sharp relief and completed with the legend, "Barrington Tricentennial 1717-2017." On the back simple text recounts the complex history of the town: "1717-1747, Barrington, Mass. 1747-1770, Warren, R.I. 1770-2017, Barrington, R.I." The solid brass medallion measures two and one-half inches across, and was produced by Barrington Manufacturing Company.

Ted is a Barrington native and graduate of RISD, class of '74, where he majored in Illustration. Ted works in pencil, pastels, oil and watercolor paints, and acrylics. He recently retired from a long career as a graphic designer for Amica Insurance Company and is now writing a novel. The images have a personal meaning for Ted: "When the Town Hall was the Library, I used to dodge Mr. and Mrs's Riccio's dancing school by reading books on marine life in the basement and I would stand outside to hear the twelve o'clock whistle echoed by the one in Warren across town." About the bridge, Ted said "I would ride my bike "Red Lightning" and stop at the top of Barrington Bridge to look at red sponges growing on the piers and boats going under the bridge." The Barrington bridge also symbolizes connection—between people, places, religions and work—from 1717 to 2017. Crossing rivers has been an important need in our area from the early colonial settlement era down to the present. It is a fitting symbol for our Tricentennial medallion.



Recent Donation: Molly Nye Tobey rug

The Society was honored earlier this year with the gift of a pictorial hooked rug by Molly Nye Tobey. Mrs. Tobey, who died in 1984 at the age of 92, was a longtime Barrington resident. She and her husband Warren Price Tobey built a house at the intersection of Rumstick Road and Chachapacassett Lane, filling it over decades with her drawings, paintings, artisanal objects and hooked rugs. Mrs. Tobey learned to hook rugs from her grandmother, and during the 1940's she began to design, hook and sell small rugs with folk-art designs and historical subjects. She donated a set fifty decorative rugs commemorating all states of the Union to the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. Behind her home, Mrs. Tobey planted an English garden filled with perennials, herbs, roses, and boxwood, which she opened to the public during garden club tours. A master of many crafts, Tobey sent out handcrafted, block print cards each Christmas and did needlework, smocking and numerous watercolor sketches of the flowers and plants in her memorable garden.

We believe the rug given to the Preservation Society depicts a famous naval ship, the USS North Carolina, which served with distinction from the 1820s through the time of the Civil War; it was decommissioned in 1866. This rug appears to celebrate the centennial of the end of its career (unlike the USS Constitution, the USS North Carolina has not been preserved). It was a "74"—a ship of the line considerably bigger than the USS Constitution and other frigates of the

same era, but it bore the same distinctive black and white paint pattern over the gun ports. We plan to have this beautiful rug mounted for display in the museum.

*Many thanks to the donor,
Deborah Shadd.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 11/18
Barrington Birthday Celebration

Thursday 12/6
Plaque program

Sunday 1/14
Annual Meeting/Luncheon





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

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 1
Barrington, RI 02806

Book and Medallion Available Together

The book *Barrington* (Arcadia Press, Images of America series) was published in May to critical acclaim and strong sales. It is on sale at the Preservation Museum, the Town Clerk's Office, and the Library Circulation Desk. Together, the Book and Commorative Medallion make an attractive holiday gift ensemble for anyone with interest and pride in Barrington. Prices: Book: \$21.99 plus tax (available through website with \$4 shipping and handling); Medallion: \$25.00 plus tax (available through website with \$5 shipping and handling). Special price, book and medallion together, \$45 plus tax (available on website with \$8 shipping and handling).

GIVE THE GIFT OF BARRINGTON'S HERITAGE!

*** Be a member and help preserve Barrington's rich history.
2018 dues cover from January 1 to December 31.

Join the Barrington Preservation Society!

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

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____*

New member _____ Renewal _____

*Stay connected and help BPS reduce costs by giving us your email address. Dues are tax deductible.

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

