



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Spring 2017

Trustees

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

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

Sara Kriz, *Graphic Design*

Barrington Preservation Society Museum

Lower Level,
Public Library

Hours

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

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(401) 289-0802

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Barrington 300

Barrington's Tricentennial year is off to an excellent start, with a variety of programs and events under the aegis of the independent Barrington 300 Committee, co-chaired by BPS Treasurer Van Edwards. The Barrington 300 season began in March with a Barrington 300 preview party at St. Andrew's School, including a slide show of the forthcoming book, *Barrington* (see page 3).

In April, BPS involvement began in earnest with a genealogy program, "East Bay Roots." An enthusiastic group learned techniques for researching families in Barrington and generally, with special emphasis on unique Barrington historical records at BPS which we hope to organize and possibly publish in the next couple of years.

Barrington Preservation Society's Tricentennial events continue with the Book Launch "Meet the Authors" evening on Tuesday, May 23, and with Preservation Society and Barrington 300 representation in the Memorial Day Parade, which will feature banners with a digitally restored image of our Barrington Infantry flag from the 1830s.



A Timeline of Barrington's History

This year's most visible museum exhibition is outside the museum walls: "A Timeline of Barrington's History" has been installed in the main floor of the library, near the Reference Desk and the Teen Room. A set of maps, historic photographs, and explanations tells the story of how Barrington grew and changed over four hundred years. This exhibition will be up through the summer and can be seen whenever the library is open, even when the BPS museum itself is not!



Jean MacIntyre

It is with great sorrow that the Barrington Preservation Society notes the passing of long-time BPS supporter, past BPS president and museum director, Jean Ungberg MacIntyre, on April 4, 2017. A Barrington native, Jean graduated from Barrington High School in 1965 and Springfield College in 1969, and taught physical education and coached throughout most of her adult life.

As well as teaching and coaching, Jean was an active volunteer, a former president of the Nayatt PTA and the Barrington PTA Council as well as BPS. She was a volunteer docent at the Roger Williams Park Zoo and went on numerous naturalist expeditions to Yellowstone Park, Alaska, Tanzania and South Africa. She was an avid sailor and member of the Barrington Yacht Club, founded the Women Teaching Women program, became expert in sailboat racing protocol and, as a member of the social committee, probably prepared and served more meals than the average caterer. Jean's interest in Barrington history aligned with her sailing interests as Jean researched and wrote a history of the Yacht Club as part of its centennial.

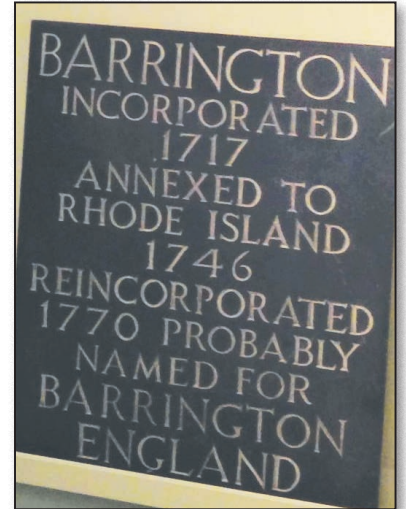
Jean was a loyal friend and always proud of her community and family (husband John, daughter Jamie, son Scott and granddaughter Dylan). She will be greatly missed.

Barrington's Two Birthdays

The visibility of Barrington 300 events and signage this year has given us the opportunity to spread awareness of Barrington's history to a wider audience. At the beginning of May, in response to questions raised in the Barrington Times, BPS President Nat Taylor wrote a letter summarizing the paradox of Barrington's two birthdays:

"We were incorporated as Barrington, Mass., in 1717, breaking off from Swansea, partly due to religious differences. In 1746-47, a redrawn colony line transferred most of Barrington and part of Swansea, as well as all of the town of Bristol (Mass.), into Rhode Island. The parts of Barrington still left in Massachusetts were Barneyville, which rejoined Swansea to the east, and most of Riverside, which joined Rehoboth to the north. The Rhode Island parts of Barrington and Swansea were given a new identity and name, Warren. But the differences between the Barrington and Swansea people persisted, so in 1770 Rhode Island allowed Barrington to be reincorporated as an independent town."

"So Barrington has two birthdays, 1717 and 1770, and we have been celebrating both for a long time: town historian Thomas W. Bicknell presided at a centennial celebration in 1870 and a bicentennial celebration in 1917. Modern signs and documents don't always have the luxury of reflecting our nuanced history. The town government mostly uses the 1770 date these days, while the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website lists 1717 as our incorporation. Handsome metal plaques put up around town in 1936 stated: 'Barrington: Incorporated 1717, Annexed to Rhode Island 1746, Reincorporated 1770.' Those plaques are now all gone, except for one which greets visitors in the doorway to our museum, in the lower level of the library building."



▲ Back in 1936 when this sign was made, the naming connection to Lord Barrington was not clear!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 5/23 Book Launch,
"Meet the Authors"

Sunday 5/28 Memorial Day Parade

Sat-Sun 6/17-18 Summer Heritage
Weekend

Sunday 7/23 Barrington 300
Bicycle Tour of Barrington

Saturday 8/12 Barrington 300
Picnic, Pow-wow & Plumage in Haines Park

Sat-Sun 9/15-16 Fall Heritage
Weekend—tours, lectures, picnic, etc.

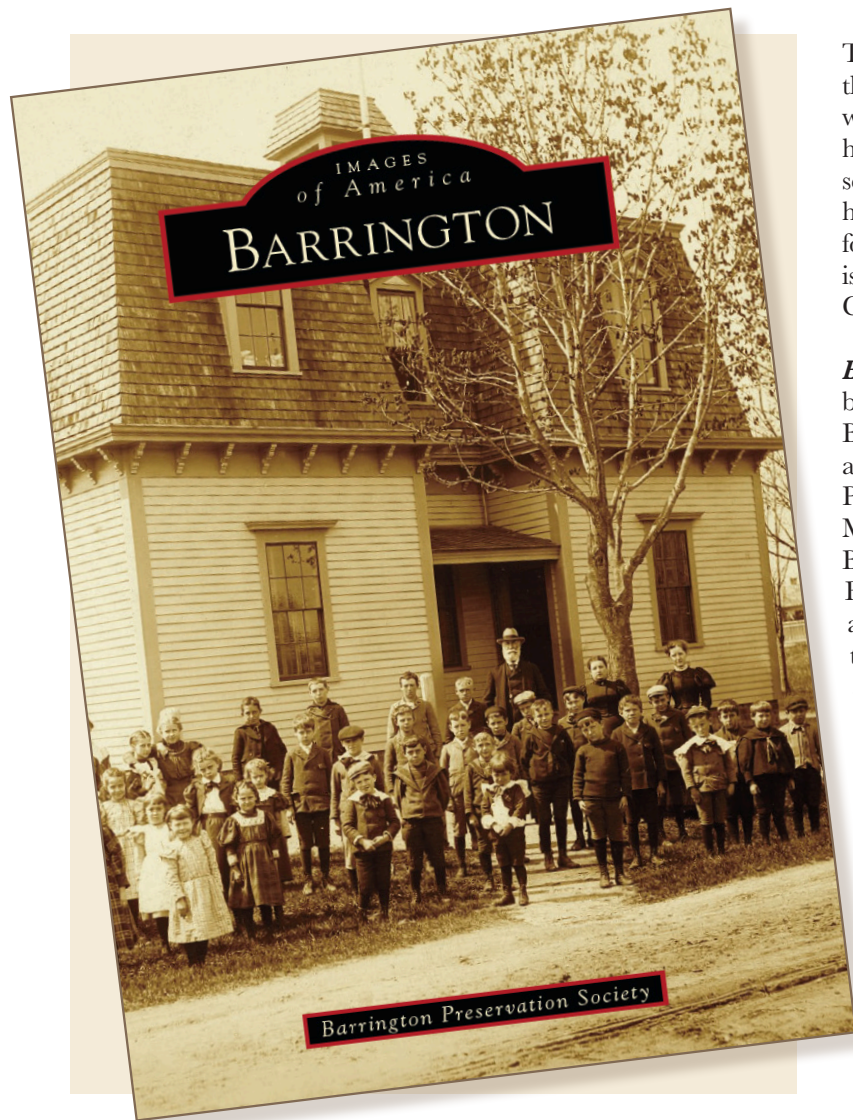
Saturday 9/16 Barrington 300
Townwide Sidewalk Sale

Saturday 10/21 Barrington 300
Gala

Saturday 11/18 Barrington 300
Official Celebration

Barrington — the Book:

Meet the Authors, Tuesday, May 23



The Barrington Preservation Society (BPS) has produced the book *Barrington* to salute our town, in cooperation with the Barrington 300 Town Committee. A pictorial history, *Barrington* is part of the "Images of America" series by Arcadia Publishing Company. This major historical publishing house has produced town histories for nearby East Providence, Warren and Bristol. Now it is time for Barrington, as part of the *Barrington 300* Celebration.

Barrington includes an historical introduction by historian Van Edwards and eight chapters on Barrington's neighborhoods: Old Barrington Village and Hampden Meadows; Osamequin Farm and the Peck Estate; Nayatt, Rumstick, and Adams Points; Maple Avenue Neighborhood; Drownville and West Barrington; Bay Spring; Barrington Center; and Barrington Harbor. Authors Jean Douglas, Van Edwards and Bonnie Warren have used their extensive knowledge to identify neighborhood buildings, landscapes, people and events. Richard and Jane Donnelly edited the book.

Barrington is to be released at a "Meet the Authors" event on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at the Senior Center (lower level of Public Library building) from 5 to 9 pm. Copies can be purchased at the event by check.

Copies of *Barrington* purchased subsequently at the BPS Museum, Barrington Public Library, or Barrington Town Hall, most directly benefit the Barrington Preservation Society. Copies will also be on sale at retail outlets throughout town.

Barrington – the Book will be available in three places:

**1 Barrington
Preservation Museum**
(Wednesdays & Saturdays, 1:00–4:00 pm)

**2 Barrington
Town Hall**
(Mon–Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

**3 Barrington
Public Library**
(Mon–Thurs 9:00 am – 9:00 pm;
Fri–Sat 9:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Sun 1:00 – 5:00 pm)

Soft cover, 128 pages, 207 photos • Cost: \$23.53 (includes RI sales tax)*

*May also be purchased by mail from Barrington Preservation Society: add \$4 per copy postage and handling

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

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*** Be a member and help preserve Barrington's rich history.
2017 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

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

Name _____

Address _____

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 and qualify members for discounts on museum purchases, including museum photographs.