



Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Fall 2018

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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



Historic Barrington Bike Tour

On Saturday, August 4, a bike tour was led by Sydney Montstream-Quas, the director for the East Bay Bike Path Historic Signs program. The free annual event was sponsored by BPS. Participants met at Police Cove and rode north on the East Bay Bike Path, stopping at various signs along the way where Sydney talked about the history of the neighborhood, including brick making and ice harvesting. Shortly after setting out, it began to rain but a hardy group continued, ultimately reaching the former O'Bannon Mill on Bay Spring Avenue (now Barrington Cove Apartments). At that point everyone was soaked through and Sydney called it quits. Although the tour was shorter than planned due to the inclement weather, it was certainly a memorable event!

Walking Tours of Historic Neighborhoods

On Saturday, September 15, BPS hosted tours of two historically significant neighborhoods. The morning tour took place in the Mathewson Road/Jennys Lane area and the afternoon tour focused on the Alfred Drown neighborhood. A large group of interested neighbors came out for the walking tours.

Morning tour visitors viewed 53 Jennys Lane, a Victorian Italianate house built by Allen C. Mathewson and sold in 1869 to Nelson and Adeline Newell.

Mathewson, a Barrington native and successful Providence jeweler, bought a large waterfront Barrington farm in 1863 and became a developer who built five houses, a boathouse, and two hotels in the area. Current owners Ronald and Margaret "Peggy" Hillegass bought the Jennys Lane house in 1973.

In the afternoon, residents learned about the Nathaniel and Jane Hazard House, located at 60 Alfred Drown Road. History shows construction began in 1890 on one of four lots bought from Samuel M. Drown for \$400. By 1912, the house was owned by Clarence J. Fillmore, treasurer of the Silk Leader Weaving Company in Pawtucket, who summered here until 1927. Stephen Lang, who grew up in the neighborhood, and his wife Patricia bought this charming house in 1982.



Save the date!

BPS Annual Meeting 2019

The BPS Annual Meeting/
Luncheon will be held
at Bluewater Bar & Grill on
Sunday, January 27, 2019.
Look for your invitation
in the mail.

NEWS TO KNOW

Peck Center Renovation

With funds provided by a recent bond issuance, Barrington has plans to repair the Peck Center roof and renovate the TAPIN and Senior Center facilities in 2019. The BPS Museum is in the basement of the Peck Center, between TAPIN and the Senior Center, and has stored museum artifacts in the TAPIN facility for several years. BPS has shared with the town the need to keep the museum open as construction work proceeds and to improve the environment in and around the museum. David Stonestreet will participate in project meetings and report to the BPS board and members on progress.

BPS Scholarship News

The Board of Trustees voted to reinstate a scholarship award for local students. The Barrington Preservation Society Award was created to recognize a Barrington High School senior who is graduating with a high level of academic performance and an active interest in history, art history, historic preservation, or architecture. It will be awarded in the spring of 2019.



Record Book Restoration Project

In partnership with the Rhode Island Genealogical Society (RIGS) and the Town of Barrington, BPS is sponsoring the repair and custom archival reboxing of the earliest public record book of the town. Jason Patrician of Fish Bindery will repair the book of minutes of town meetings held from 1717 to 1746, when Barrington was a part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The contents of the record book, which has never previously been published, will be transcribed by Cynthia Ferguson and published under the auspices of the RIGS. Pictured are BPS Board member David Stonestreet, Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto, and Cherry Bamberg, Susan Taylor, and Cynthia Ferguson from RIGS delivering the book to Jason Patrician on October 4.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Watch our event mailings, website, Facebook page, and the town calendar for specific dates and times of upcoming events.

A spooky tour of Prince's Hill Cemetery by lamplight

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018, 6:30 TO 7:30 PM • FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Get ready for Halloween and join local historian Jeff Howe on a spooky tour of Barrington's historic Prince's Hill Cemetery by lamplight on Friday, October 26, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Some of Barrington's oldest gravestones line a ridge overlooking the Barrington River, and Jeff Howe will bring back to life the stories of the town's earliest settlers, their children, and slaves as well as Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans. Founded in 1720 by members of the Barrington Congregational Church, the cemetery occupies a prime spot next to Town Hall. Wear walking shoes, bring a flashlight, park in the lot behind Town Hall, and meet at the Peck Mausoleum. (Rain date: Sunday, October 28, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm).



◀ Abigail Becknell, died 1772

Vox Hunters to Perform

The Vox Hunters will be at the Barrington Public Library on March 24, 2019, co-sponsored by BPS and the Barrington Public Library. Hailing from Rhode Island, Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi are seekers and singers of old songs, cultivators of local music, and multi-instrumentalists. They are strong tradition-bearers in their generation, and their genuine affinity for the music is evident in the emotion they draw from it. With a pair of harmonizing voices garnished with fiddle, free-reeds, and tenor guitar, the Vox Hunters offer a connection to the living tradition of folk music. Their three mantras are "Sing Local," "Sing Often," and "Roger Williams for President."

The BPS Annual Plaque Program & Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Restoration Lecture

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 • 7:00 PM COLLIS GALLERY •

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY • FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • REFRESHMENTS

Four historic properties will receive a BPS plaque displaying the name of the first owner and building date. Plaqued houses must be 100 years old, display defining elements of their original architectural style. Anne Shannon, Researcher of Historic Houses, will present four plaques. A new plaque will be issued to 30 Walnut Road, Jerry W. & Cornelia Goff, 1902. Replacement plaques will be issued to 170 New Meadow Road, Benjamin Drown, c. 1750, moved to site 1774; 6 Holly Lane, the Mary Eliza Dyer Carriage House, 1897 et seq.; and 84 Alfred Drowne Road, Walter J. Howland, c. 1900. After the presentation of plaques to homeowners, historian David Kelleher will present a talk on the restoration of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, built in 1871. David helped found the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. Exterior restoration began in 2005, the lighthouse was relit in 2006, and interior restoration was completed in 2018. The project will receive a Rhody Award from Preserve RI and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission this month.

▲ Top: 170 New Meadow Road, Benjamin Drown House, c.1750
Bottom: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse



A Blithewold Christmas

Join BPS for a special Blithewold Christmas Tea and Tour on December 6 at 11:00 am (tea followed by self-guided tour). This event is for BPS members only. More information to follow.

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

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit Number 1024
Providence, RI



Book and Medallion Available Together

The book *Barrington* (Arcadia Press, Images of America series) was published in May 2017 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 commemorative medallion make an attractive 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.
2019 dues cover from January 1 to December 31.

Join the Barrington Preservation Society!

Membership Categories

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 | High School Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | College/University Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Supporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | Life Member |

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

