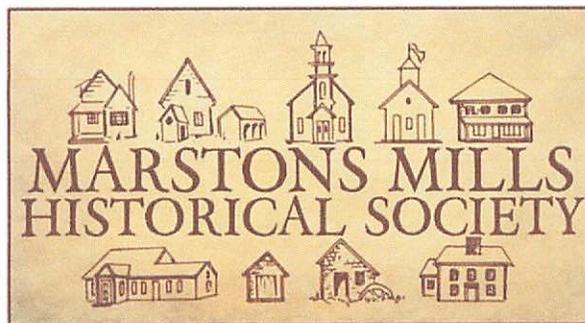


Marstons Mills Historical society
Interview with James Gould
(by Dianne Kavanagh Potter & David Martin)
February 15, 2014



P.O. Box 1375 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
marstonsmillshistorical.org

Here is a list of Jim's writings on Marstons Mills history in the archives:

1. Genealogies of the Portuguese families of Marstons Mills: DeBarros, Mendes, Perry, Perry and Rogers.
2. History of Newtown and Santuit Pond.
3. Maritime History of Marstons Mills, for Maritime History Day of 1996.
4. History of Burgess House.
5. Articles on Mills history from two years of columns in the Barnstable Enterprise, with chronological index.
6. National Register forms B with history, title and photo of about 100 historic houses in The Plains, Falmouth Road, Newtown, River Road, South County Road, Route 149.

Jim's chairmanship and membership in the Town of Barnstable Historical Commission resulted in active interest in preservation of endangered historic sites in Marstons Mills. Village historian Vivian Cushing was enlisted to give a maritime history of Prince Cove in 1994. In 1996 Jim did the first maritime walk of the village center, based on a documented history

When, in 1995 Marstons Mills Historical Society was on the point of dissolution Jim took a lead in its rejuvenation. A professional archaeologist was brought to advise on the plan to produce a history walk around the Grist Mill. Wilbur Cushing was encouraged to record the original lot lines of the village which he had located.

The town started cutting down trees on Newtown Road to improve visibility around corners and curves on the road. However, since the road is officially designated as a scenic road, cutting down trees there would be contradictory. The Barnstable Historical Commission, of which Jim was a member, started a protest to save the trees. They won.

Then, in 1995, the demolition of the town owned Burgess House came up for discussion. Town Council wanted it torn down because the property had been purchased primarily for a Frisbee park. Linda Edson joined Jim in his protest, and neighbors of the Burgess House supported them. Town Council said, "Give it to Jim! Just take it!" Jim and Linda started an association to preserve the house. After the restoration, largely by neighbors' voluntary labor, it became a Village Association responsibility, cared for by Bob Frazee and Al Baker.

Jim began serious scholarly work on Marston's Mills history in 2000, as an extension of his inventory of historic houses in the Newtown (northern) section of Cotuit, which included genealogies of Portuguese Azorean families on both sides of the line. In 2001 he completed a history of the western side of Marstons

Mills, known as Newtown. This included National Register recording of 30 newly recorded historic houses dating back to 1790, and several archaeological sites.

Holly Hobart and Jim Gould completed the inventory of all houses over 75 years, and Holly printed a list by address.

