

# APRIL 2014 SPRING

## Featured portrait



Eben Goodrich

**Eben Goodrich b: Nov. 7, 1782, was born Ebenezer Goodridge on what is now Patriots Rd. on the west side of Templeton, one of seven children to Ebenezer and Beulah (Childs) Goodridge. Eben moved to the Boston area to work with his brother William and brother-in-law Thomas Appleton as organ builders. Some of the best organs in Boston were constructed by them. Later Ebenezer built organs on his own account. He married Lydia Ann Bailey on October 3, 1823 and together had 2 children Henry and Ellen.**

**Currently in our document room is a fine example of Eben's work, an eight foot tall organ made for a home. Eben had two very talented sisters Eliza and Sarah who specialized in miniature portraits. His brother David became a doctor in Templeton. Find out more during your next visit to the Museum this summer.**

## Slate of Officers

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SLATE OF OFFICERS UP FOR ELECTION  
ELECTION DATE  
MAY 28, 2014

**President:** Brian Tanguay

**1st Vice Pres.** Beth Arsenault

**2nd Vice Pres.** Howard Sands

**Treasurer:** Debbie Caisse

**Secretary:** Christine Stone

**Curator:** Brian Tanguay

**Director 3 Yrs.** Karen Rich

Tom Jeleniewski

Dennis Rich

**Director 2 yrs:** Kerrie Bettez

Mark Moschetti

Bill Buckler

**Director 1 yr.** Tom Hill

Janet Haley

Open

**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

Building and Grounds: Beth Arsenault

**Trustees:** Tom Jeleniewski

John Brooks

David Huhtala

Transitional ( Brian Tanguay)

This slate of officers and Board of Directors have all agreed if it is the will of the membership to serve in the capacity as stated above. The official vote will take place May 28<sup>th</sup>.2014 at the Narragansett Historical Society Annual Meeting. Meeting will be held at 6:30 at the Society building.

**Respectfully Submitted,** Janet Haley: Past President

Howard Sands: Past President

Beth Arsenault : President

**New Meeting Time is 6:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of each Month**

Check Us Out at: [www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org) and on FACEBOOK

1 BOYNTON ROAD, PO BOX 354, TEMPLETON, MA 01468

Narragansett Historical Society

# 80 Years ago



It was in 1934 when we dedicated our building and celebrated a home for our collection. If you would like to help celebrate this milestone in our Society, please volunteer your ideas, or your support.

A picnic, Tea party, band concert, or a museum tour are some of the suggestions made at the last meeting. We can get together and have a social gathering while learning how our museum has impacted the lives of so many over the past 80 years. Bring your ideas to the next meeting on April 23rd, Wednesday night at 6:30pm

## WGAW1340.com

Virginia Strahan has set up an interview style meeting with Steve Wendell, owner of WGAW1340.com Radio station in Gardner.

Each month on the 3rd Saturday at 1:15 pm a member of our Historical Society will talk live on the radio with Steve to discuss current events, future events, and stories from days gone by.

If you are interested in participating either through telling your story, or sharing it with us so we can tell your story, contact Virginia through our email listed on the bottom of the page.

Stay tuned for many historic memories and an up to date conversation of things to come.

### Gift DONATIONS

The Society is proposing anyone interested in donating items to the Society in the future consider having it in Archival Condition. This will better preserve the item for future years

<b>DONATIONS ACCEPTED</b>			
<b>YES!</b> I would like to make a donation to the <b>Narragansett Historical Society</b>			
I/We have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____.			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
THANK YOU			
Narragansett Historical Society and send to NHS, PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.			
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.			

# John Boynton & “The Tin Man”

An impromptu display of assorted tinware was presented for our members to view during our last meeting. John & Doris Brooks have a collection of Boynton tinware passed on to them through the generations. John spoke of his grandfather John Brooks, who actually drove the tin wagon around town for John Brooks. Everyone in attendance was amazed at the assortment and the story presented. Thank You John and Doris for sharing your collection with all of us.



## Member Profile



Harry Aldrich, currently serving as Historian and First Vice-President of the Narragansett Historical Society, has been a member since the early 1990's. He was born in Gardner on September 17, 1939, and has lived in Templeton all his life. As a youth, Harry worked with his father, town tree warden, painting gypsy moth eggs with creosote. Harry saw service with the U. S. Coast Guard stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter Castle Rock, a 311 foot High Endurance Cutter, for two and a half years serving on weather patrols. He was discharged in 1962 as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class Boatswain Mate. For thirty-six years Harry served as firefighter in town, twenty-five of them as Deputy Chief. At the time of his retirement, after forty years working for the town of Templeton, Harry was serving as superintendent of the water, highway and sewer department.

No other member of the Society has the knowledge of Templeton history that Harry possesses. If you want to test that statement, just ask Harry a question about a business or personality from the town's past; he's sure to have information on whatever you asked about. Harry has an extensive postcard collection relating to Templeton and he frequents the internet, yard sales and flea markets looking for Templeton artifacts. Recently Harry presented to an enthusiastic membership meeting a slide show with old photographs showing business once thriving in Templeton.

# Copper Printing plates

**Eloise Kenney** donated a large collection of copper printing plates used in creating catalogs and brochures for the Kenney Brothers manufacturing company in Baldwinville. Eloise estimated they were used up to the 1940's when they moved the company to Winchendon after the flood of '38. Along with the plates, Eloise donated two school chairs and one school desk made by the Kenney Brothers. The collection will be on display during the summer with the bulk of the plates stored in the Grange hall next to the Adams printing collection.

From all of us, Thank You Eloise.



## Letter from the President

As we move into our busy months I'm reminded of how much still needs to be done to start the "OPEN" season successfully.

We could still use some Hostess' for teas on Saturdays in July and August, we need to CLEAN to and reorganize the main building and continue the ongoing maintenance and up keep of the Main Building and the Grange. We have many small jobs that need to be done and so few "active" members that those that are active are getting burnt out. Thank you to the members new and old for stepping up and helping with the "winter" projects as they are going to make a huge difference this summer. Let Myself or Brian know if you want to jump in and help.

The biggest project under way is the renovation of the meeting room... It is transforming into quite the beautiful room. First showing will be in May at the Annual Meeting. Part of this project has been the stripping and caulking of the windows. Parker Glass has graciously given us a price of \$60-\$90 for the removing of the old caulking and replacing it with a new silicone paintable caulking. The 7 windows are 15 over 15 and are in really rough shape. Even though this price is at a great saving to us, it still is above the budget I'm trying to adhere to. One window is at Parker Glass now and is being paid for by a member! YEAH!!!! 6 more to go! So, with approximately (high side of the range) \$540 remaining in window expenses I'm going to ask if there are any members old there that would like to "buy a window"? Your \$45 donation will fix a 15 paned window. If we raise more than we need to finish this room we have a lot of windows that still need and could to be done. If you care to make a donation, send to Narragansett Historical Society and mark for windows.

Thank you everyone for your continued support, and please join us for the fun we are planning for the remainder of the year.

Beth Arsenault  
President



## Document Room update

The warm weather has finally arrived or at least enough to start painting again. Mary Grimes and Lee Cunningham took some time to brighten up the document room. The front wall and West side wall is almost done with the wood trim and blue walls. Upon completion of these two walls, all furniture will be moved over to clear the way for the rest of the room. We are so excited to see how much brighter the room will be. Many thanks to all involved, Mary, Lee, Bill, Jerry and Beth have all put an excellent effort to complete this project by the time we open to the public. Jerry Grimes is building new shelves for our “West Wing Library”



## Jonathan Baldwin Turner

Born in Templeton December 7, 1805, Jonathan Baldwin Turner graduated from Yale with a classical education in 1833 to teach at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois. There he became a champion of higher education for the industrial classes, a tireless worker on behalf of the land-grant movement, an editor of an anti-slavery paper, and was the man who introduced the Osage orange to Midwestern farmers as a hedging enabling the vast prairie holdings to be fenced in the years before the invention of barbed wire. Turner patented a machine for preparing the soil and planting the seeds for the Osage, and he profited from the sale of both machines and seeds. Although barbed wire replaced the Osage as fencing in the mid-west, Osage hedging may still be found in parts of Illinois.

More significant was Turner's contribution to the establishment of the land grant university. On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a bill which anticipated the creation of a system of state universities supported by the proceeds from the sale or lease of lands granted to each state in the Union, designed, primarily, to serve the agricultural and industrial inhabitants of our nation. Turner was the significant promoter of the underlying ideas of the movement which brought about passage and ultimate signing of the act. The Morrill Land-Grant Act has been called the most important piece of educational legislation ever passed in the United States: its passage was public recognition that every citizen is entitled to educational aid from the federal government and that the common affairs of life are subjects worthy of collegiate training.

Each year, 55 UIUC Jonathan Baldwin Turner Agricultural Merit Scholarships, each worth \$4000, are awarded to incoming freshmen at The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Turner's passion for education of the masses in the 1850's continues into the present time, and Templeton should be proud that such a man arose from within its borders.



## One Ton Pellet Raffle

Thanks to Agway of Gardner who donated one ton of wood pellets for our raffle.

5 winning tickets will be drawn on December 7th after the Jack Frost Festival  
Each lucky winner will receive a Gift certificate to the Gardner Agway worth 10 bags of pellets

Call any Director for tickets.



Lisa and Al from Agway of Gardner

## *New Officers and Directors*

Please try to make this Meeting: we need your support



**We need YOU!**

*Our annual May meeting will also feature election of officers.* If you are a Director or Officer and can continue in your current position or a new member and would like to offer more guidance and support, we encourage you to step up and join us in our effort to keep the buildings and the collection safe and on display for the public to enjoy. We currently need one director. Contact Beth if you have an interest in any position.



Contact the Nominating Committee:  
Beth Arsenault  
Janet Haley  
Or  
Howard Sans

## *Save the Date:*

*April 26th, Saturday Earth Day cleanup our back yard ~~Corrected Date from last month~~*

*June 21, 4pm Winchendon Parade with our participation*

*June 25th, replay the Tower Clock Presentation at the Grange*

*July 12, Aug. 2, and Aug 16th are our scheduled Teas in the Garden*

*Sept 20, Cemetery Tour*

*Sept 27th 2nd annual Engine/Tractor/Car and Truck show*

*October 26th Pumpkin Festival*

*Dec 6 & 7 Christmas Tree Lighting/cookie Sale/ Jack Frost Festival*

[narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) to email questions or volunteer for an event.

**OFFICERS:**  
 President : BETH ARSENAULT  
 (978) 939-2510  
 Email Address: treadylady00@aol.com  
 1st Vice Pres. HARRY ALDRICH  
 2nd Vice Pres. JOYCE PROVENCHER  
 Secretary CHRISTINE STONE  
 Treasurer DEBBIE CAISSE  
 Curator: BRIAN TANGUAY  
 Historian: HARRY ALDRICH

**DIRECTORS:**  
 Dennis Rich  
 Charlie Carroll  
 Jeannie Pleines  
 Mark Moschetti  
 Carol Caisse  
 Kerry Bettez  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 Open  
 Open

**TRUSTEES:**  
 BRIAN TANGUAY  
 TOM JELENIEWSKI  
 MARY BARNES  
 open

**Narragansett Historical Society**  
 Contact: Brian P Tanguay  
*Building & Grounds Supervisor*

Contact Brian Tanguay mention the Historical society  
 Phone: Home: 1-978-939-2053  
 Work: 1-978-630-1011  
 Cell: 1-978-895-2980  
 Fax: 1-978-632-3723

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.**



Find us on Facebook—Search for **Narragansett Historical**. It's filled with the History of Templeton, Baldwinville, Otter River and East Templeton. Pictures, stories, and faces of the people who lived here years ago. Some new images will be shared also of around town. Take a look, add a comment, or ask us a question. Friends have been sending images to us and posting online. We fill out the history to go with the photograph and post it for your enjoyment. Sign up soon. **660 friends and counting!**

**Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm unless otherwise advertised.**

April 23rd Wednesday night at 6:30pm. At the Town office building.

*A special thanks to the Selectmen for offering us a warm place to meet during these cold winter nights.*

May 28th Wednesday night at 6:30pm ANNUAL MEETING & Election of Officers and Directors (in our new document room) On One Boynton Street.

**If you are interested in becoming an Officer or Director, contact us via email or call Beth at the number above.**

**Narragansett Historical Society**  
 P.O. Box 354  
 Templeton, MA 01468

