

# Narragansett Historical Society

## On the Common in Templeton MA

Excerpts from the *Diary of*  
*Christopher Columbus Baldwin 1829-1835*

# April 2017



**Christopher Columbus Baldwin** was born in 1800 in Baldwinville, son of Capt. Eden Baldwin and grandson of Jonathan Baldwin, one of the first settlers of Templeton. Baldwinville was named after the family in recognition of Eden and Jonathan's business enterprise and public spirit. Educated at Harvard, Christopher

practiced law in Worcester, Barre and Sutton, before serving as librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, from 1827 until his untimely death in 1835. He was killed when the stage coach in which he was traveling overturned in Ohio.

**1834, July 1 & 2.**

Today assembled in this town (Worcester) a convention of young men from all parts of the State to help on the cause of temperance. Over 400 delegates were present. I was introduced to many of them. They were all, so far as I could learn, young gentlemen of great respectability. Some of them, however, were rather old, being more than 40. They behaved very well, though I could have wished they had drank less cyder. But people will never escape falling into absurdities, especially reformers. The convention sat two days. The members made many speeches and voted that no more wine should be drank. This was ultimately carried by a strong vote, though it cost many wry faces and some sharp speaking.

**1835, April 1.**

This is a day of excitement. At the March town meeting (Worcester) a vote was carried by the town to instruct the selectmen not to approbate any inn holders for licenses to retail ardent spirits. This comes of the temperance reform, and is now the subject of deep interest. The town is divided into three parties, viz.: the rigid advocates of temperance, the friends of retailers, and the neutrals, who will not belong to either party. Our innholders find themselves closely pressed by the vote of the town and have had a caucus, at which they determined that they would not take out licenses for any purpose, but would take down their signs and close their houses on the 1st of April. Accordingly, this morning, the signs to all the taverns, except the Temperance House, nine in number, were taken down and the houses all shut against travelers (sic). I saw several ladies sitting in the portico of one of the houses, who had arrived in a stage; there were many gentlemen in the same plight. But none of them were permitted to enter the house. A table was set in the portico, with several decanters filled with cold water, set upon it, which I took to be an emblem of temperance. The travellers (sic) looked cross, and the dear ladies in particular. The public sympathy was such as to justify the tavern keepers, and this enraged the temperance party.



The **TEMPLETON INN**

In the beautiful Old Hill Town of  
**TEMPLETON, MASS**

"The Town of Magnificent Views," Rooms modern and luxuriously furnished; supplied with purest spring water, and its cuisine unexcelled. The ideal summer home. Send for booklet. Address **TEMPLETON INN,** au 1 SW9t Templeton, Mass.

# Calendar 2017

April 4th First Tuesday night at the Museum Open –6-8pm

April 26th meeting at the building 7pm

*April 30th May Day basket making and dance around the may pole*

May 24th Annual meeting at the building 7pm with elections

May 20th Uniquely Quabbin weekend building open 1-5

June 17th Hubbardston 250th Parade 9:30am

June 24th Temperance Tea in the Garden

June 28th Membership meeting 7pm

July 4th reading of the Declaration of Ind. At the First Church

July 8th Tea in the garden \*\*Mac & Cheese on the common with the Templeton  
Elders

Aug 5th “Go fly a kite”

## 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

## DONATIONS ACCEPTED

YES! I would like to make a donation to the

**Narragansett Historical Society**

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.

## TEAMWORK

### Remember storm windows?

-- heavy, rigid wood and glass objects that fastened over the windows? You used to see cartoons of guys on ladders struggling with second-story storm windows. I can't imagine how anyone managed them that way. My father used to unhook the window at the bottom and lift it off the brackets at the top and then, holding the window at arm's length parallel to the ground, rotate it 45 degrees, and carefully draw it backwards into the house. This method requires formidable hands and wrists and forearms, which is why most people dealt with storm windows from outside the house.

Dad was a busy man; things around the old homestead could get done slowly. As of early July one year in the late 1950s -- my sister and I had to have been fully grown to have brought this off -- we were stifling in our bedrooms because the storm windows were still on. We may have considered together what to do about this, but probably, as usual, I figured it out and then proposed it to her: hair-brained schemes were always my idea. I'm sure we didn't trouble Mother with our plans; she could be deplorably narrow-minded about my brilliant ideas. As for Dad, if he'd been available we wouldn't have had this problem.

I had long known that I could undo the hook at the bottom of my window and swing the window outward. I had once lifted it off the brackets at the top, just to see if I could, and even managed to put it back. But how to get it off the window entirely required some thought. Even I could see that a teenage girl who tried Dad's method would come to grief, as would the window. So I considered the relative dimensions of the window, my arms, my sister's arms and height, and the distance from the bottom of the second story window to the ground; I may even have done some measuring.

This sounds hair-raising -- but it was surprisingly easy to unhook a window and lower it between my hands to the point where my sister, basketball player and all-around athlete, could reach it. We then lowered it together until I ran out of arm length, by which time she could easily control it and set it gently on the ground. We started with my bedroom window and worked our way smoothly and without so much as an unsteady moment around to her windows on the opposite side of the house. When we confessed to the authorities what we'd been up to, it seemed to me that they weren't appropriately impressed. We may even have been allowed to repeat the procedure in subsequent years.

Submitted by: Christine Stone

## BOURN HADLEY & COMAPNY

### Part 1.

Having received the sad news that a close cousin, Elijah Hadley, had just been killed in the Civil War, a determined 18 (20?) year old Lucien Norman Hadley snuck away from the family farm in Canaan, NH to join the fight. Arriving in Portsmouth, a shipbuilding town on the coast, he discovered the war had just ended. Eluding his autocratic father who had followed him with the intent of bringing him back to work the farm, Lucien met a lumberman, Isaac Bourn, who was delivering his goods from Templeton, MA, where a sawmill built in 1820 was supplying lumber. The mill not only supported the shipbuilding trade but the local furniture production which at the time was being made by hand in small shops.

Isaac hired Lucien to come back to Templeton with him, live in his house and be employed in his expanding business. Making quick work of finding a new home, Lucien married Isaac's daughter Jeanette in 1865, and literally became part of the family, the church and the community..

One of the small local furniture shops moved its operation next to the mill and it was this small factory that Isaac and his partner John Brooks bought and started the expansion of the furniture industry in Templeton. In 1879 Lucien N. Hadley and George W. Bourn bought out Brooks and the business became known as Bourn, Hadley & Company

**A BUSINESS card advertised: “  
*Bourn, ,Hadley & Company. Manufacturers of PINE AND CHESTNUT FURNITURE and dealers in LUMBER OF ALL KINDS*”**

*Submitted by: Mary Grimes*

# Sponsorship

# Gold Sponsor 2017



# Silver Sponsor 2017



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*Thank you to our sponsors.*

Your support will ensure the success of our community driven events.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us here via email. Talk to your place of business to see if they want to get involved through sponsorship, participation, donations, or services.

# Bronze Sponsors 2017



**TANQUAY JEWELERS**



**SCOTTY'S POTTIES**

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Our biggest supporters are all of you! Our membership. If you are an annual member, consider becoming a lifetime member at only \$100.00 by doing this, you will be making a donation to our cause, and saving us time and money each year asking for your renewal.

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# Event Sponsor





# May 24th Elections / Annual Meeting

The month of May signifies our annual meeting where we select new members of the Board of Governors. Officers are re-elected along with the directors holding 3, 2, and 1 year terms and finally our Trustees.

This year we have one director stepping down and one new director filling the position, no VP has been selected or has stepped up to take on the position. So it will remain vacant.

It is not a good practice to fill a position if that person does not intend to fulfill the required duties of that position. Therefore it is a good practice to find a dedicated individual willing to help out for the good of the Society.

Many of our dedicated volunteer members are doing their part in helping without a title and we are proud of their support. Moving forward is our ultimate goal and everyone chipping in has had a tremendous part in our success over the past several years.

To put forth the ballot of those interested in being placed on the ballot I hereby submit to you our list of volunteers.

## Ballot 2017

President- Brian P. Tanguay

Vice President -(Vacant)

Secretary -Christine Stone

Treasurer -Deb Caisse

## Directors

3 year term Karen Rich, Tom Hill, Darlene LaClair

2 year term Amy Guthrie, Tom Jeleniewski, Dennis Rich

1 year term Tom Hurd, Jessie Duguay, Ann Lyons

## Trustees

David Huhtala, John Brooks, Tom Jeleniewski

JOIN US

*A Proper Temperance Tea and an Improper Speak Easy*  
June 24<sup>th</sup> in the Garden from 2 to 4:30

- ◆ sweets and savories of the 20's
- ◆ refreshment - more than just tea
- ◆ Special wardrobe display inside
- ◆ music that spans the decade



The  
Temperance  
Movement





# “A moment in time”

by: **Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian***

## MEMORIES OF THE GRANGE

I doubt if there are many younger people out there that remember. Being that I grew up just down the street from Grange Hall, I have many fond memories of that time of my life. I can remember when they had their meetings on I believe every Friday night and the cars would be parked on both sides of the road. As kids we would stand outside and listen to the music whenever they had a function. It was almost like when you see a saloon in the old western movies and hear the piano playing. They would have country music some times. One of the groups that played was from Gardner. If I remember correctly, their leader was called Doc Snow. I believe his real last name was Arsenault. Another member went by the name of Slim West (all stage names I believe). There would also be minstrel shows where they would blacken their faces and do different comedy skits. This type of show would be frowned on today. Every fall in September the Grange would put on a country fair on the common. This fair would take up the entire common and last all weekend. There would be cattle and other animals on display from the many different farms in town and they would judge who had the best and give out ribbons. I remember one year I brought a Holstein heifer that we had and won a ribbon with her. Mr. Rod on Wellington Rd. raised rabbits and would enter them. There were also chickens, ducks, geese, pigs and sheep. At the hall there would be quilts displayed as well as vegetables and fruit grown on local farms and preserves put up by different people. All these were judged too.

There would also be baby carriage and bicycle parades and firemen’s muster between our four fire stations and games and displays in different tents all over the common.

As I got older and started high school, I got to learn how much work went into setting the fair up. I took Agriculture in high school was an Aggie Boy as we were known. Our job was to set up for the cattle display. We had to put up two rows of hitching rails across the common in front of the church. The rails were store under the church. We had to dig holes for the posts, put them in and assemble the rails to them. The poles were about the diameter of a telephone pole.

Deming Pump display: 1950  
Alice, George Moore, Graves



# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



**S**pring has arrived with trees budding, grass coming back to life, and our building is buzzing with activity as we start our Tuesday night open house. Projects have already begun and many more are in the planning stages. Events are planned and organized with many involved and many more needed. Our income is still growing and interest in the building along with our vast collection is moving in the right direction.

There is always that certain item or story that brings people back. My interest started with the photography collection created by Oren Williams and saved by the 200 glass plate negatives I found and many more preserved and donated by Doc Fletcher. Since then, others have shared many photographs hidden in their parents attic or closet. Digitizing them has offered an opportunity to organize them in categories and keep them easily accessible for sharing with our members who are searching for family faces, homes, or just the neighborhood images from days gone by.

Is your interest in our collection of Civil War items? Currently we have several members taking time to make sure the collection is cared for and displayed safely.

Working with Templeton TV, we have begun a series of video clips highlighting a certain artifact or a small collection. The first was a small segment on the Ivory Swift Winder which was saved from the attic where it was stored in many pieces. The video is available on our Facebook page and on You Tube. If you want a link to it just shoot me an email request.

Anyone interested in doing a segment on their favorite item or collection please contact us here and we'll set it up. Thank you to the Templeton TV crew for offering this program to us.

Membership has grown to 393 which is almost double since we started our membership drive just 3 years ago. Keep an application with you in the car or at work and pass it out to anyone interested in the preservation of history in Templeton. You will be surprised at how many want to join, but were never asked. If you need a copy, email a request or find it on our website and on Facebook.

**OFFICERS:**  
**President:** Brian Tanguay  
**Vice Pres.** Vacant  
**Secretary** Christine Stone  
**Treasurer** Debbie Caisse  
**Curator:** Brian Tanguay  
**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

**DIRECTORS:**

<b>3 year</b>	<b>2 year</b>	<b>1 year</b>
Amy Guthrie	Tom Hurd	Karen Rich
Tom Jeleniewski	Jessie Duguay	Tom Hill
Dennis Rich	Ann Lyons	William Buckler

**TRUSTEES:**  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
 Brian Tanguay  
 John Brooks



**Contact info:**  
 Main email: [narragansethistoricalociety@yahoo.com](mailto:narragansethistoricalociety@yahoo.com)  
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

Find us on Facebook—Search for **Narragansett Historical Society**. 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 from around the town. We have created a "page" instead of a "profile"  
<https://www.facebook.com/narragansethissoc/>

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



**Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised.**  
**April 26th Wed night at the Museum in the document room**  
**May 24th Annual meeting at the Museum in the document room**

**Thank you to the Templeton Senior Community Center for helping us print 45 copies of our newsletters each month for those without email accounts.**

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

