

Narragansett Historical Society



August 2015



Events and Meetings for 2015

Summer / Fall

OPEN every **Tuesday night at the Museum from 6-8pm**

- Aug.** *22nd Saturday MAD HATTER'S Tea from 2-4:30*
26th Metal Detecting presentation in the garden 6pm With Erin Stevens
Meeting to follow at 7pm in the Document room
30th Go fly a kite day on Baldwinville Rd at the Brooks Farm
- Sept.** *23rd Meeting 4th Wednesday in the Document room*
26th Engine Show cars, engines, tractors, music and more
- Oct.** All Month display "Death becomes her" features mourning dresses, jewelry, and hair wreaths
28th Meeting 4th Wednesday 7pm in the Document room
31st Pumpkin Festival watch for details
- Nov.** *18th Meeting 3rd Wednesday in the Document room*
- Dec.** *6th Jack Frost Festival Sunday from 1-5 Parade at 4, tree lighting at 4:30. Bake sale, open house, wreath sale, raffle drawing.*
16th Meeting 3rd Wednesday in the Document room

On the Common
Templeton MA



Check Us Out at: www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org and on FACEBOOK

Sponsored by

These are our 2015 sponsors. If you would like to sponsor our efforts to save the Historical Society and preserve Templeton's past, contact us at the email on the bottom of the page.

Our sponsors make it possible for us to continue our mission to preserve the artifacts handed down through the generations and to restore the building where they are displayed for the public to enjoy.



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.

Beatles Tea (Results)



Hat's off to Arianna Winters for hosting a fun filled tea party in the garden with records playing and treats on the menu fit for a Beatles reunion. A lot of effort went into this tea and it is very much appreciated.



Donation

Most of us remember this room as the Bride's bedroom, but lately it has transformed into the music room with organs, music boxes, guitars, and a base viol. The most recent addition would be this beautiful room sized rug formerly owned by George and Midge Pushee and used in their home which was at one time called Wright's Tavern on Boynton Street just a few doors down from our Historical Society building.

Thank you to Linda Pushee Mercer for thinking of us and donating this great piece of history. As you can see, it fits as if it was custom made for this room.



August 15 & 16 Craft Fair (Results)

The two day Craft Fair on the common was a success for everyone, the weather held out and treated us to a sunny two days with a slight breeze to keep us comfortable. People crowded the building in search of classic artifacts from days gone by. Kids, teens, and adults enjoyed the tour of the building taking in each room with excitement after each discovery. Donations were dropped off, 5 new members signed up, and friendships were formed with members and visitors throughout both days.



Keeping the doors open is our main objective during this type of event. Giving our visitors full access only creates more interest and eventually more members.

The bake sale was another successful event for our members and bakers who came out and filled our table with very delicious treats eagerly purchased by our passing visitors.



Some travelled for miles to attend, while others walked down the street from their home of many years close by. Each one wide eyed as they browsed through our 8 rooms filled with historic items.



Research was done on map projects searching for Queen Lake and the area back in the late 1800's assisted by Virginia Strahan in the document room.

Bob Gillis paid us a visit in full attire playing bagpipes from the Historical Building then he marched across the entire common playing many enjoyable tunes. .



Thanks to our 15 volunteers who spent their weekend in our building keeping it safe and answering question from our curious visitors.

Mad Hatter

August 22nd from 2 to 4:30.

Take a trip down the rabbit hole and see what Alice encountered. The Rabbit, the Cat, and the Mad Hatter will be on hand enjoying tea and lemonade in our garden. Keep an eye out for the Queen of hearts and who knows what else you will discover in our sunken garden.

Hosted by Ann Lyons, Jessie Duguay, and Amy Guthrie along with a cast of volunteers ready to make your afternoon an enjoyable one.



Fly a Kite

August 30th Noon to 4
John and Doris Brooks have offered their field on Baldwinville Rd. Parking will be in the field with two entrances open. Bring your kite and be a part of our first try at flying 100 kites at the same time. Bring your camera. **Fun begins at noon.** Vendors will be on site to offer kites. MOC will offer free kites to families. There is no charge to attend this event. Hosted by the NHSociety.



Engine Show

**September 26th
from 10-4pm.**

Volunteers are needed to help organize, cook, set up, and park the many cars which will fill the common. Contact us at our email listed on the previous page if you are available in any capacity.

If you have an engine, tractor, motorcycle, vintage or classic car, or anything motorized we want you to come and show it off.

A swap meet will be set up if interest allows. Motor related, no yard sale stuff please.

Vendors contact us here as well.



Pumpkin Festival

This is definitely one for the kids, especially those of us in our second childhood. Pumpkin carving, music, games, costumes, food and drink, and fun, fun, fun. I heard the marching band is coming! And a haunted walk out back in the sunken garden when it gets dark. Stay tuned for more details as it gets closer, we will need all hands on deck for this day of spooky fun.

Saturday October 31st



“A moment in time”

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

BOURN and HADLEY STEAM WHISTLE

Today’s story is not about my memories growing up. It is from a story that I recently read that was printed in the Telegram back in 1995.

The story is about how the weather forecast was put out to the village back in the late 1800’s. The forecast came from the local Grange who received it daily. The Bourn and Hadley Company had agreed to let the people know with signals from their steam whistle with different codes. The signals went like this. There was a warning signal which was a long 15 to 20 second blast. After the warning there would be 4 to 6 second blasts to refer to the weather and 4 to 6 second short blasts to refer to the temperature. The weather blasts were sounded first. One long meant, fair weather. Two long for rain or snow and three long for local rain. The signals for the temperatures were one short, lower temperature, two short, higher temperature, and three short for a cold wave. There were several other codes too but I see no need to print them.

These signals were repeated several times in intervals to be sure the people got them. According to the story, the word spread around the region very quickly and within a short time, the people in Winchendon were requesting the same service.

This was something that I had never read about before although I did know that the fire alarm could be rung from the factory in later years. Their phone number was listed for one of the places to report a fire. This was because their boiler room was manned 24 hours a day.

I wonder if any of our weathermen got their start there?

Agnes Pease 1889-1989

Agnes Christine Jensen Pease was born in the Springfield, Massachusetts, area on November 19, 1889, the oldest of six children of Sren and Sine Hendricksen Jensen, who emigrated from Denmark in the 1880s. She attended local schools, graduating from her high school business program as valedictorian of her class in 1907. She then worked for the Indian motorcycle company in Springfield as well as the Westfield Whip Manufacturing Company while living at home, as respectable young women did in 1907. Sometimes she walked the three miles home from the office to save the 5¢ carfare.

In 1913, she married Lester Pease and moved with him to the apple orchard in Brooksvillage. Their children were Paul Pease, until his death in 2002 a resident of Baldwinville; Marjorie Pease Stone of Otter River; Dorothy Pease Clemons of Stratham, New Hampshire; and Robert Pease, of the apple orchard in Brooksvillage.

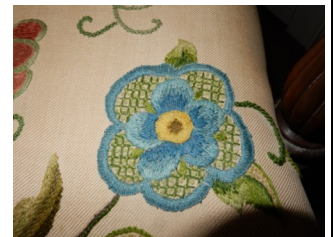
In addition to assisting with the farm and orchard work, Mrs. Pease was for many years secretary to Frank M. Favor of the Frank W. Smith Silver Company in Gardner. She was active in First Church of Templeton and served as its treasurer in the early 1960s.

After her retirement in 1959, she filled her time with craft activities: hooked and braided rugs and crewel embroidery. A chair with a cover embroidered by her *ca.* 1960 is in the possession of the Society.



She died on January 16, 1989.

Submitted by: Christine Stone



President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



This month I am interested to find out if you are receiving this newsletter in the mail or via email. I have reported in the past at the huge savings we have enjoyed by switching to an email version of the newsletter. Postage alone has saved us \$3,528.00 to date. This savings is helping us grow and allowing us to do some of the many projects that have been on hold for too long. Please take a moment to send a reply to the newsletter email with a simple “got it”. This way, we can update and follow up on those who are not getting the email from either an old account or it may be going into a spam folder.

Also, to all new members recently joining us and our lifetime members, please know that you can visit the building on our Tuesday nights from 6-8 or Saturday afternoons from 1-5. Also, if you are interested in any aspect of the Society from our events, teas, bake sales, or to help organize the collection, don't hesitate or “wait for a call” to let us know you are available. We always need more help plus it gives some of us a needed break from the busy happenings of the summer season. Every little bit helps, and brings a smile to our faces to see new members getting involved.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, it goes by so fast. I hope you are all having fun in the sun. See you at the next event or at the building.

You may think you know Templeton, but did you know

There is a rock formation along the Barre Road named in honor of Princess Star Fire? She was an Indian maiden who chose death at the base of the rock rather than being forced to marry anyone other than her lover Young Eagle. Legend says that at the site one can still hear the death song of the young couple.

The first meeting house in Templeton was a log building which stood next to the present First Church of Templeton? The first minister walked from Athol each Sabbath Day with a gun over his shoulder, protection against Indian attack.

On a January day in 1882, a sled carrying 40 cords of wood was hauled by 80 oxen from Baldwinville to Reverend Wellington's parsonage in Templeton as partial payment for his services. School children were allowed out of classes to view the procession as it passed by their school. Runners from this huge sled may still be seen in the ceiling beams of a house on South Road.

At some time in the 1800's a witch was said to be living in a log home about a mile north of Baptist Common. Today the site has been altered by construction of Route 2, but to this day people still hang horseshoes above their doors, supposedly a sure method of keeping witchcraft or its carriers out of their homes.

These excerpts are from *Profiles of the Past*, a book local historian by Tom Malloy, just one of the many interesting resources of the Narragansett Historical Society here in Templeton. Come to the main building on Tuesday evenings to explore this and other documents detailing bits and pieces of Templeton's past.

Submitted by: Bill Buckler

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Contact info:

Main email: narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

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.

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



Sign up soon **1,004 friends and counting!**

Meeting Notice:

4th Wednesday of each month at **7:00 PM** unless otherwise advertised.

August 26th Metal Detecting at 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm

September 23rd 7pm in the Document room

October 28th 7pm in the Document room

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P.O. Box 354
Templeton, MA 01468

