

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

December 2016

Your newsletters will continue throughout the winter months. Please remember to help with the membership drive all year long. We are so close to topping 400 members, it will only take a few more to reach that goal.

If you are an annual member, please renew today or convert your annual membership into a lifetime membership by sending in \$100.00 your support will help in our many projects, preservation initiatives, and simply paying the bills that arrive monthly just as they do at your house.

Thank you

A recent donation arrived from the Hawke family of Leominster. 5 hand written sermons from Rev. Sparhawk one of the first to preach in the First Church in Templeton. These sermons date back to 1766 and 1770. They are numbered 156, 378, 379, 414, and 451.

We currently have several of Rev. Sparhawk's sermons in our collection. Thank you to the Hawke Family for thinking of our collection.

Shirley Barnes has been asking me to write my thoughts and experiences as the caretaker of the clock. She has a poem written by a previous caretaker and she wanted a current story.

After a few more suggestions, I finally wrote something down and added several pictures from inside the clock room and from the bell tower overlooking the common. Shirley was so happy to finally get the reply that she sent us a donation check for \$250.00

Thank you Shirley for the check
Brian Tanguay



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

Calendar 2016 - 2017

2016

*December 21st membership meeting 7pm at the Senior Center in Baldwinville
Help plan our 2017 Calendar, your help is greatly appreciated.*

2017

January 25th Membership meeting 7pm at the Senior Center in Baldwinville

February 22nd, Membership meeting 7pm at the Senior Center

February 25th Noon to 5 at the Baldwinville Legion post 373. Cabin Fever Collectors showcase

The building is now Closed until the spring.

Thanks to Tom Hurd, Harry Aldrich, Brian Tanguay, Jerry Grimes, and Mary Grimes for making sure the building stayed open every Saturday and Tuesday night throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

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.

2016 Review

The Year in Review: 2016

As 2016 draws to a close, 1 Boynton Place is again closed for the cold winter months, the water off and the treasures all snug. We begin to remember our accomplishments and with pride, begin our planning to exceed ourselves in 2017.

Before the building opened this past spring, Mary Grimes and her crew brought new life and beauty to the functioning kitchen in the building. The fresh paint, new layout and countertops are so much better for hosting our events and brings new life to the space we all use often. Many events were held that brought visitors and new members to the building as well as The Common in general: The Downton Abbey Tea Party, Game Day in August, the Engine Show and the amazing Haunted Walk to name just a few. We even revitalized a 250 year old tradition of gifting the Bishop Miniature Blanket Chest, resulting in our youngest life member! Which is your favorite? It's so hard to choose just one. Good thing we don't have to.

The key to our success, as always, is the membership group of this Society. They will wash dishes, scrape and paint the floor, clean dusty spaces or weed the garden. They have created wonderful events from ideas and memories from those same events that will last the duration of our town's history. Our mutual love for maintaining this museum and the culture that comes with it is what we share and use to drive us forward. Without such an active membership group of volunteers none of this would work. Planning and executing the same type of events as some of the other members might have done in generations past, or that we each remember from our youth is what makes each Holiday Season feel a little melancholic and hopeful all at the same time.

A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who has helped make OUR events something to remember, capture in picture and writing, and hold in our hearts as well as in our history. May you enjoy the happiest of Holiday seasons and we will see you all in 2017, to begin to plan an even better year. *Written by: Director Amy Guthrie*



Jack Frost



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Event Sponsors



Jack Frost Festival on the common

December 4th 2016

Looking out across the common in Templeton Center you can't help but feel nostalgic. The First Church with the Christmas trees lit in the frost-covered windows, lights aglow on the gazebo, the Lions Club tree lot with it's fire and holiday lights and the museum with it's lights on, fire in the fireplace and Santa in front of a Christmas tree and baked goodies for sale on the counter in the old store. This is what a small town New England Christmas Festival looks like.



What a wonderful day for our little town. The Narragansett High School Class of 2018 sponsored a tree raffle in the First Church. MOC sponsored free crafts and storytelling in the Church hall and the Horticulture Club sponsored a floral craft for the kids to make.

Inside the Society Building , we had home-baked goods ranging from cookies and rum balls to gingerbread with whipped cream, whoopie pies and even homemade dog treats! We offered hot cider, cocoa and coffee to help keep people warm. As always, we had a visit from Santa himself! (We do have the best Santa in town.) We could not have made this happen without all of our wonderful volunteers.

The traditional parade was bigger and better than ever. Jack Frost brought his friends: Elsa and Anna, Olaf, Buddy the Elf , and the Grinch. The Narragansett Theater Company sponsored Shrek the Musical, Country Mischief put in an antique red truck. The Boy Scouts, Brownie and Daisy troops were there along with Rec basketball team representatives. The Narragansett Warrior Marching Band and, of course, a float just for the Jolly old Elf, himself! Selectman John Caplis even joined in on the fun. What a wonderful parade!

Alan Mayo set up the tree with a brand new switch that makes the tree lighting itself a little more dramatic with a great countdown! This event is getting better and better every year, we tightened up the schedule this year so there wasn't a lot of lag time, and it ran much more smoothly. Again, we represented a small-town New England setting, the likes of which Mr. Norman Rockwell would have painted. Let's keep it growing!

It's never too early to start planning, so if you want to be involved for next year's Jack Frost Festival, contact any of the directors or the event's coordinators: Ann Lyons or Jessie Duguay.

-written by Director, Ann Lyons





“A moment in time”

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

I was trying to think about something that I could write about that would pertain to Christmas for this month’s story and the fire department came to mind. Back, I believe in the late seventy’s when the fire department became involved with doing things for the children in town. One thing was making a skating rink on the common in front of the station. We acquired a bunch of wide planks from a local contractor in town [J.P. Martin and Sons] who had torn down the old church next to the library and had them stored on his property. Every winter for a number of years we would set up the rink, purchase a liner and fill it up with water. The Templeton Light Department installed a flood light for lighting and several firefighters kept it clear of snow. We asked the older kids to refrain from playing hockey on it until later in the evening after the smaller children had gone home which worked out fine.

Everything was great for a number of years until a few parents started complaining about the older children and the hockey. It got to where some of us firefighters were getting calls at our homes complaining so rather than getting into any arguments with the parents we ceased doing it any longer. It was the kid’s loss thanks to a few adults. Any expense for the rink came from money earned at the turkey raffles so there was no town funds involved.

After this we came up with the idea of buying Christmas gifts to be given out to family’s that had a hardship. We approached the minister at the church about any ideas on how to handle it. It was decided that the minister would give us a list of kids by age and boy or girl and we would purchase toys that would fit the age, wrap them up and label them from Santa. We would then drop them off at the church and the minister would see that they were given out. We never knew who got them so there was no embarrassment. We were the secret Santa. It was a great feeling for me and I am sure for the other members of the department.

My wife Phil and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Pellet Raffle

Thanks to Agway of Gardner for their donation of Pellets for the raffle

There were 5 winners drawn on Dec. 4th at the Jack Frost Festival

Each lucky winner will receive a Gift certificate to the Gardner Agway worth 10 forty pound bags of pellets .

Winning ticket holders are: Curtis & Margie Rich, Mary Alm, Rick Morley, Dawn Smith, & Steph Lacki



President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



Thank you to all of our volunteers
for your help and support
throughout the year.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
to you all.

Brian



Cabin Fever Showcase

Dust off your collection and set up at the Baldwinville Legion on February 25th Saturday afternoon from noon to 5pm

It's free to set up and show your collection, a donation at the door will go towards the many projects at the Historical Society building.

Contact us at our email or get in touch with a Director if you are coming to reserve a table.
Share your knowledge or learn about the other great items on display.



narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com to email questions or volunteer for an event.

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

DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
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: narragansethistoricalsociety@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.

Winter meeting notice: Move location to the Senior Center Baldwinville.

December 21st 7pm Senior Center

January 25th 7pm Senior Center



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