

# Narragansett Historical Society

December  
2015



\*\*\*\*\*2016\*\*\*\*\*

*Dec. 16th Meeting **MOVED to the Middle School Cafe** 7pm*

*Jan 27th Meeting at the High School Library 7 PM*

*Feb 24th Meeting at the High School Library 7 PM*

*Feb 27th Cabin Fever Collectors Show at the*

*Baldwinville Legion Noon To 5pm*

**\*\*Get involved \*\*\* Volunteer \*\*\* You'll be glad you did! \*\***



On the Common  
Templeton MA

Check Us Out at: [www.narraganssethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.narraganssethistoricalsociety.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.

## SILVER Sponsor



## Event Sponsors

Kite day, Engine show, Pumpkin Fest, & Jack Frost

## Scotty's Potties

Pumpkin Fest and Jack Frost

## Athol Savings Bank

## BRONZE Sponsors



Chair City Oil



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Business



Investments



Insurance



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SPECIALTY & CUSTOM CABLES

**TANGUAY JEWELERS**



## 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

Our calendar is starting to take shape, do we continue with what has worked over 2015? Do we add new events to do something different? Will you get involved in organizing one or more events?

Can you spend some time hosting the building?

These are the pending questions that need answers at the next few meetings so we can plan our fundraising a bit more efficiently.

Help is needed to plan, advertise, and implement our plan for each event. Please don't leave it up to one person, it's just too much work and it will always lead to burnout. With many helpers, the events are easy and fun.

You are important to this organization. Step up if you can. Don't sit by the phone and wait for a call.

Thank you for helping!

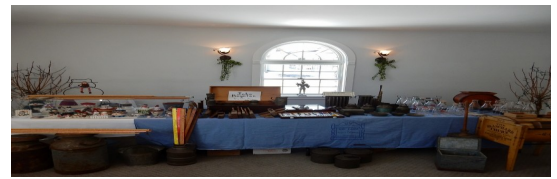
# Cabin Fever Collectors Show

**This show is going to be held on Saturday February 27th from noon to 5pm at the Baldwinville American Legion. It was such a hit last year at Kamaloht that we immediately outgrew the space.**

**Thanks to the Legion for allowing us to feature such a diverse collection of items.**

**What do you collect? You should seriously consider showing it off at this show. It's free for the collectors to set up and only a \$5.00 donation at the door to enter. All proceeds go directly to the Museum in Templeton.**

**If you don't have a collection, you won't want to miss this year's event filled with surprises showcased by local experts willing to share their knowledge on their focused collection.**



# Celebrate the Holidays

You can all sit back and take a break over the next few weeks to celebrate the holiday you were brought up with. You should know that those of you who recently joined, our sponsors, our volunteers, and our board of Governors have all pulled together to make 2015 a huge success. Our cash flow has increased to the point that we are paying our monthly bills and still adding to our account. Today our checking account balance is just over \$9,250.00 a far cry from almost \$19.00 just two years ago. Take some time to think about how we can improve our fundraising to reach the next level to secure our future and insure the growth of our membership.

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# Jack Frost Festival 2015

To kick off the annual lighting of the Christmas tree on the common we once again offered to host a fun filled afternoon for young and old by having the cast of Frozen with us including Anna, Elsa, and Olaf. The kids had a chance to ask questions and have their pictures taken. Jack Frost spent some time with the kids too before he sped off to lead the parade from Otter River Rd to the Center of town. Townspeople filled the common to see the parade which included the Narragansett Marching band, The boy scouts, Girl Scouts, Narragansett youth Soccer, Junior Girl Scouts Troop 30608, Leggo soldiers, snowflakes, a police cruiser, a Fire truck, and last of all, Santa Claus.

Pictures were taken indoors with Santa by the fireplace while children wished for treats, toys, and good wishes. Our annual bake sale was running full steam filling the rooms with freshly baked treats for the holidays.

All together this year was a huge success as we changed up the order and tightened up the schedule to make the entire afternoon enjoyable for all.

After the tree was ceremoniously lit by our fearless Selectmen & Selectwoman, the float driven by Brian Tanquay and Santa played by Susan Spuhler followed the Selectmen to each precinct to light the trees in E. Templeton and Otter River, then on to Baldwinville where we were met by 30 cheering townspeople chanting for Santa clapping and laughing. They were all so pleased by the surprise to see the float carrying Santa. Music was playing and the kids were very excited to be a part of the ceremony. After the tree was lit, we all went into the Memorial Church for donuts donated by Dunkin Donuts and to view the nativity scenes on display in the Church.



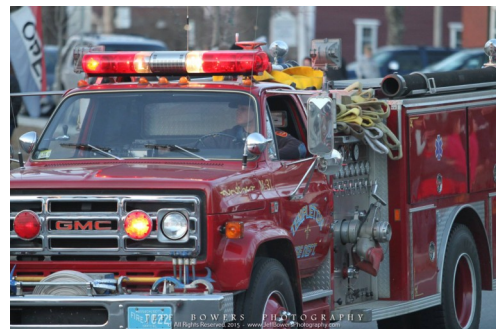
## Brochures

Created by Virginia Strahan during her training at the Mount, we are pleased to display and pass out our new brochures at the visitors center as well as many hotels and tourist attractions. The brochure is a great advertising tool to show how much we have to offer inside our two buildings.

A special Thank you goes out to Ellen Courtemanche owner of Traver's Printing in Gardner for printing the first batch as a donation to the Society.

They are currently found from here to the Visitors Center on Route 2 and many hotels and Inns along the way. Also available at the Gardner Chamber of Commerce and of course in our own building.





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## “A moment in time”

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

### **A little town gossip**

I just came across some information about our town that I had gathered and forgotten about and thought I would write about this month instead of a story. I will call it DID YOU KNOW ?.

- ◆ Did you know that Templeton, being the only town in the county not to have electricity started making plans to bring in electricity one hundred and nine years ago? It was voted on and passed at a special town meeting held on May 14, 1906.
- ◆ Did you know that Templeton was in the grasp of a real old fashion blizzard one hundred and eight years ago in 1907. It was the worst since the blizzard of 1898
- ◆ It was one hundred and five years ago that Templeton voted to go dry. At a vote of 317 to 275, Templeton voted not to allow any booze in the town. Those wanting a drink had to go to Athol.
- ◆ One hundred and six years ago, the Templeton Street Railway started a trolley express to East Templeton, Templeton Center, Otter River, and Baldwinville, one trip each way every day.
- ◆ One hundred and eleven years ago the Waite Chair Company presented plans to build a new factory on the north side of the Otter River. In the flood of 1938, the factory was badly damaged and taken by the U.S. Government for the Birch Hill flood project.
- ◆ Did you know that one hundred and seven years ago on a Sunday morning, Constable H.H. Hammond along with four Templeton constables swooped down on an alleged house of ill fame in Pitcherville? A number of bottles of beer along with two young women from Manchester were taken to the Gardner lockup.
- ◆ One hundred and eight years ago the Smith and Day factory was completely destroyed by a fire. Steamer No. 1 from Baldwinville along with the Oregon hand tub from Otter River with 60 men under foreman Henry Kirschner fought the fire.
- ◆ One hundred and twelve years ago the Bourn Hadley factory on Athol Rd. in Templeton was destroyed by a fire. The fire was started from sparks from a New York Central and Hudson River Railway locomotive. The railroad was sued for damages. The factory that stands there today is the replacement.
- ◆ Last of all, did you know that the Templeton Street Railway was sold at a sheriff's sale one hundred and eleven years ago for \$112,000.00 to William E. Barrett. Mr. Barrett was the only bidder.

I hope you enjoy these little bits of gossip and maybe got a chuckle out of a couple.

**I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

*Harry*

# President's Page

**by: Brian P. Tanguay**



**I am so impressed with everyone who stepped up to help this year. It is nice to see our newest members jump right in to help out with the everyday tasks, and the fundraisers through the year.**

**Cabin Fever, May Day, Go fly a kite, Themed tea parties, craft fair, engine show, pumpkin fest, appreciation evening, Jack Frost, Tuesday night at the Museum, and Saturday afternoon all during the summer and Fall. We have put in more hours this year than just about any other year in our history. We averaged 7 people on Tuesday nights, 2 die hards on Saturday with a few others showing up to talk about Templeton's historic past. Not to leave out the cast of characters who show up smiling each big event we host setting up the show, cooking, cleaning, decorating, and selling tickets.**

**Often times we complain that only a few people actually do all the work, most organizations will agree the numbers are low. If you look at our last 12 newsletters, you will see as much as 80 different people each doing their small or large part to insure the success of our efforts.**

**As always, we could use a few more dedicated individuals to stand by our side in organizing, and cleaning up after each event, that will probably never change. But in comparison to years gone by, and I've seen how it's been over the past 25 years, we are doing the best ever!**

**For our newest members, you may feel as though we are only taking baby steps, but in comparison, we are taking giant steps and the future looks very bright.**

**I sit here thinking of how much work went into 2015 and if I can continue this pace into 2016 and after reviewing all that we have done, I don't see how I can't. The reward of seeing all of you enjoy our time together working toward a common goal makes it all worth while.**

**I do have to take one moment to thank Tina for her patience and support while I serve as your president. She has supported my efforts to help move the Society forward and help save the financial structure of the Museum. I think I'll take the next few weeks and enjoy Christmas with her and my family.**

**I'm looking forward to 2016 to help take this Society to the next level.**

**Merry Christmas to all.**

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

**DIRECTORS:**  
 Karen Rich Tom Hill  
 Dennis Rich William Buckler  
 Tom Jeleniewski Janet Haley  
 Ann Lyons Jessie Duguay  
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**TRUSTEES:**  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
 Brian Tanguay  
 John Brooks



**Contact info:**  
 Main email: [narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto: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 **1,111 friends and counting!**

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

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**January Meeting 27th at the High School Library 7pm**

**February Meeting 24th at the High School Library 7pm**

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

