

February

WINTER 2014



Adelaide B. Howland

Featured portrait

It is only fitting to celebrate Adelaide B. Howland as she is financially responsible for the purchase and restoration of our building. Upon her death, she bequeathed to the Society \$25,000.00 in 1933. To date, it is still the single largest monetary donation the Society has received. Many have given wonderful gifts along with thousands of hours of sweat and tears to make sure the building stands strong on our town common. She is truly an inspiration to us all.

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

Narragansett Historical Society

1934 —80 Years— 2014



80 years ago, the work on our building was completed giving our collection a place to call home. By October of 1934, the Society members were ready for a celebration to dedicate the building. This is a great time for us to think about how far we've come and how we will go forward to ensure our collection stays safe for the next 80 years.

Events are planned, fundraising is in place and new members are joining with great anticipation to be a part of this historic building.

Members new and old are excited to see the enthusiasm and support of our townspeople, Selectmen, and businesses who are here to make sure the Historical Society will continue for our children and grandchildren.

Happy Anniversary to all of you.



Check Us Out at:

Miniature Blanket Chest 1766

One of our oldest artifacts is this miniature blanket chest. The tradition started with a 10 year old girl receiving the Chest and holding it for 50 years. On her 60th birthday she would present it to another 10 year old girl. Below are the hand written words that accompanied the chest when it was donated back in 1980. The tradition has not been followed since 1966.

Quote:

“This Chest was made by William Bishop and presented to Grandma Dorothy Ward when she was 10 years old.(1780) She kept it fifty years and gave it to me (D. Warrick) when I was ten.(1830). I have kept it fifty years, now I give it to my Grandchild Grace E. Blodgett on her tenth birthday (1880) to keep until she is sixty she can then do the same.

D. Warrick

William Bishop was cousins to Grandma Ward, he froze to death on his way to Boston on the Charlestown Bridge.”

In a letter written on June 10, 1980 (Donation)

When she was (sixty years old), (technically she was 46) Grace Blodgett in 1916 gave this chest to Barbara Vose Stinson, daughter of William B. and Abbie Vose Stinson, Barbara, then 10 had lived in Templeton, moved to Winchendon in 1914 and later married Dr. Celian H. Abbott, and died May 3, 1960 at age 54. I am now giving the Chest to the Narragansett Historical Society to be properly presented and displayed.

Celian H. Abbott 96 Highland St. Winchendon, MA

We are currently searching for a Templeton Resident born in 1956 who is willing to participate in the continuation of this tradition. She will present the Chest to a girl born in 2006 during an

event to be held in 2016. Nominate a friend or volunteer on your own. Contact us via our email listed below.



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.

Programs

Our collection is filled with some of the most interesting stories. Family history, the rise and fall of manufacturing and industry, railroads, and mysteries. All of which are waiting to be discovered and presented to you, our members. Several programs have already been created by our dedicated Historians. Stay tuned for the next program of interest.



Each time our members tour the building, whether it's to discover hidden treasures or to re-organize the artifacts for better display, we stumble on a potential program to present to you.

**Future projects in the works are: The Sarah Goodridge Story
The Flood of 1938 continued
Churches of Templeton
Schools through the ages**

**Announcements on future programs will be placed in this publication.
If you would like to help please contact any Director or Officer listed on the last page.**

Genealogy

We have several qualified genealogists in our Society willing to help you research your family tree. Let them help you find your ancestors.

If you have family from Templeton and would like to know what we have in our collection, contact us via our email listed below on every other page. Send your name and the ancestors you do know and our experts will take it from there.

Find that missing link you have been wishing to locate. Let us help.

Member profile

Bill Buckler



I became a member of the Society immediately following Brian's first clock show in 2013. Before retiring in 2004, I taught English at Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham for 35 years. My wife Helen and I now live in Winchendon, but for the past four and one half years I have been driving the Templeton COA van three days a week taking the elderly and disabled into Gardner for medical appointments, shopping, the library, and other errands. I have come to appreciate the people of Templeton and am excited to learn about the rich history of the community with its four precincts. After reading *The Story of Templeton* by Elizabeth Wellington Lord, I felt there should be a way to better access the wealth of information in the book. I therefore spent a good deal of time creating an index to enable anyone searching for an ancestor, an event or business to more quickly find which part of the book contained relevant information. As you might imagine, I became very familiar with the story of Templeton. I hope to be even more engaged working at the Society in the days and years to come.

Bill

For those of you who own "The Story Of Templeton" you can get a copy of the index via our email. Send in your request today. Thank you to Bill for his effort.

Boston Post Cane

One of our most prized artifacts is the Boston Post Cane. How many of you know the story?

Since 1909 the Boston Post cane has been presented to the oldest living male citizen of the town. Edwin Grozier, publisher of the Boston Post Newspaper sent canes to 700 towns each to be presented to the oldest citizen by the Selectmen. In 1930 eligibility was opened to women.

The cane had gone missing and resurfaced in or around 2002 where the Selectmen decided to have the Narragansett Historical Society keep tabs and display the Cane. To date, of the 700 original canes 412 have been accounted for and are either actively being presented like ours, or are simply on display.



Once presented, the original would be returned to its display in the Museum and a miniature will be given to the recipient.

It is now time to honor our oldest living citizen of the town. The recipient must have lived in Templeton for at least the past 10 years. If you know of anyone who may be eligible to be honored with this prestigious gesture, we would enjoy hearing from you. Contact an officer listed on the last page to nominate him or her.

Presenting the cane will be our President and a member of the Board of Selectmen along with family members and the local newspaper reporters and photographers.



Michael J. Kelley 1875—1955

Michael Joseph Kelley was born on December 2, 1875, in Templeton, Massachusetts. After growing up in the Otter River part of that town, he left to seek his fame and fortune as a professional baseball player. At six feet and 210 pounds, Mike Kelley debuted as a first baseman on July 15, 1899, with the minor league Louisville Colonels baseball team. The right-hander appeared in 76 games, had 282 at bats, and compiled a batting average of .241, a rather average record, but not bad for a rookie. On December 8, 1899, Mike was traded to the Pittsburg Pirates. This was it: a chance to play with the major league parent club. Eleven other players were also sent to the Pirates, including future Hall of Famers Honus Wagner and Rube Waddell. The Colonels received in return four players and \$25,000. One of the four players was Jack Chesboro who went on to have an eleven year career in the major leagues, finishing as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in 1909.



Unfortunately, though associated with these future baseball greats, Mike Kelley did not go on to become a Hall of Fame ball player. His last professional game was on October 14, 1899, while still a member of the Colonels. Mike did not ever play in the major leagues. In March of 1900, he was purchased from the Pirates by the Indianapolis team of the minor league American Association. He did not play one game for them. He is buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In the 225th Anniversary of Templeton booklet, Mike is pictured on page 24 beside baseball legend Connie Mack. The caption for the picture says that Mike later became

owner of the Milwaukee Brewers. That would have been the Brewers of the American Association, a farm team of the Boston Braves. Although Mike's baseball playing days were few, he did know and associate with some of the all-time greats of the sport.

And to think it all began in Templeton, Massachusetts.

Born: December 2, 1875 in Templeton, Massachusetts

Died: Age 79, June 6, 1955 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

What's up now?

Hosting the building: This could be the year for you, our newest members, to host the building. Each hour spent inside is a learning experience. If you would like to help keep the building open to the public, contact a Director or Officer. It's easy, fun, and a great way to learn about our town.

Our monthly meetings during the spring and summer will offer a quick tour to teach prospective building hosts what we have to offer and why we have certain items on display.



Random Acts of Kindness:

This year brought something new to our Society. It started with a request to give a lifetime membership to a friend. That friend was already a member, so our good neighbor decided to give it to a well deserving member of our town. It was a no brainer to offer the gift to Roger Brooks, who just happened to be working on our bricks as a way of giving back to his town.

Later in the year, we met Chris Tourtelott now living in Hawaii but with strong family ties to Templeton. An avid follower on Facebook, Chris asked if he could join and along with his membership, he wanted to sign up his Father and Brother. During the Christmas Holidays, Chris came home, toured the building and signed up his family.

Finally, two members who have enjoyed the research done on their family genealogy chipped in to buy a lifetime membership for Su Wetzel. Su has helped solve many family research questions presented over the years.

Let's keep the momentum going, if you know someone who would enjoy being a member, bring them to the next meeting, sign them up, or just let them know how much fun and enjoyment you get out of your membership.



Save the Date:

April 28th, Earth Day cleanup our back yard

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 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

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



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



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. **652 friends and counting!**

Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month unless otherwise advertised.

March 26th Wednesday night at 7pm we will hold our monthly meeting at the Town Office.

April 23rd Wednesday night at 7pm. To be announced as to the location.

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

May 28th Wednesday night at 7pm ANNUAL MEETING & *Election of Officers and Directors* (in the document room) of our building.

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

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

