

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

January 2017

BALDWINVILLE - **Michael R. Watt**, 59, Baldwinville, died unexpectedly at home Sunday, January 8, 2017.

He was born in Boston on September 26, 1957, son of Raymond E. Watt of Templeton and the late Phyllis L. (Hackett) Watt and was a lifelong resident of Templeton. Mike graduated from the Narragansett Regional High School class of 1975, and Worcester Trade School class of 1977 in welding.

Mike worked as a correction officer for the Massachusetts Department of Corrections for 33 years until his retirement 4 years ago. He served on the Town of Templeton Fire Department for 41 years as a firefighter and EMT. Active in town affairs, Mike had served on the Town of Templeton School Committee and Templeton Emergency Management. **He was former president of The Narragansett Historical Society** and was a former Girl Scout leader and trainer.

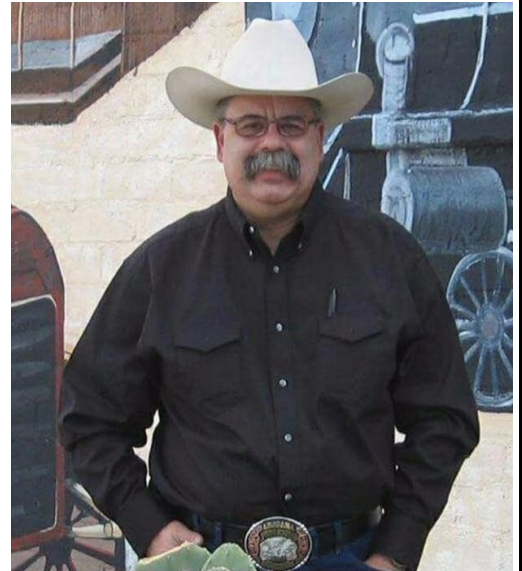
Mike was a proud member of the Abenaki Nation and was proud of his native American heritage going by the name "Running Elk." He had a love for music and had a passion for guitars. Mike also loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was a member of Otter River Sportsmans Club for many years.

In addition to his father, he leaves his wife of 35 years, Kathleen (Barker) Watt; a daughter, Hollice D. Watt of Freedom, NH; a brother, Gary Watt of Westminster, several nieces and nephews, and his 3 beloved cats.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 10 A.M. in The First Church of Templeton, Templeton Common. The Rev. William Ault will officiate. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon are Friday, January 20, 2017 from 5 to 7 P.M.

Memorial donations may be made to The Narragansett Historical Society, PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.



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

Calendar 2017

2017

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

February 15th, Membership meeting 7pm at the Senior Center *New date*

February 25th Noon to 5 at the Baldwinville American Legion post 373.

Cabin Fever Collectors showcase Food and fun, sign up today.

The building is now Closed until the spring.

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

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 meeting at the building 7pm Annual meeting with elections

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.

100 Years Ago

100 Years ago, In January of 1917, World War I was underway, despite an ultimatum issued in December of 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. While the war would rage on for another nearly 2 years (ending in November 1918) it was in January 1917 that the Allied leaders gave their first set of terms for ending the war.

100 years ago, in January of 1917, The United States settled an agreement that purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 Million dollars. (about \$467 Million in today's dollars)

100 Years ago, in January of 1917, the Russian Revolution was less than a month away. The overthrow of the Tzar system, leading to the Bolsheviks was about 6 weeks from the start of that new year. The world had no idea what was in store.

Donald Trump will be sworn in as 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017.

If we had a crystal ball, maybe we could predict how the New England Patriots will do in the Championships or who will win the Nobel Peace Prize. We could see the changes, big and small that will be brought to our world, and even in our little community.

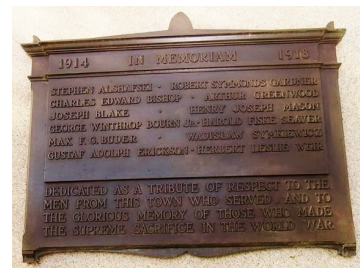
One thing is constant and that is: history happens every day and being part of a small town historical society means we get to help preserve that history. Come join us for our monthly meetings or inside the building in the warmer months. Do you know who holds the second largest collection of Sarah Goodridge Miniatures in the world? We do! In our little building. (the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has more than us) We have photos, memorabilia and the most interesting assorted collection around and you need to see it, be part of it and help preserve it!



1 Boynton Road as it looked 100 years ago with the front porch and entrance into the barn which is now the “new kitchen”. Notice there is no tree in the front yet.



As it looks in 2016 during the engine show the tree now hides each house down the road.



World War I plaque on the Common

Tea for you

Tea Party Planning is in full swing for the summer months. During the dark winter afternoons and cold, longer nights, we enjoy dreaming about the events we'll hold in the summer, warm and bright in the lovely back garden area of the building at 1 Boynton Road. With no shortage of dates to fill, planning begins right after the new year. Will we stay with our theme of the Jazz Era? Will Christmas in July be a good tea party theme? Food, drink, costumes, games and music are all a great way to bring some joy to our summer months as well as plan these events so many attend and look forward to. Do you have an idea to propose? Maybe you want to



help out or even your daughter, granddaughter, son or grandson would like to help serve and host the events? We always need new ideas, help with food and plenty of hands on deck each day there is a tea in the garden. Help us continue this great tradition. Contact Mary Grimes at marve-grimes@comcast.net or Amy Guthrie at nh1924society@gmail.com and we will be sure to get in touch with meeting dates, available tea dates and would love to have you join us. Your membership with the Society is your ticket to helping us feel warmer just by thinking of these events! See you soon!

Gold Sponsors
Chair City Oil
CO

Silver Sponsor
Workers' Credit Union
Doing what's right for you.™

Bronze Sponsors
ASB ATHOL SAVINGS BANK
TANGUAY JEWELERS

Event Sponsors
Colonial Co-operative Bank
SCOTTY'S POTTIES

Sponsorship

Take a closer look at these sponsors to the left. Visit them if you can, mention your appreciation for their support throughout the year. Some have been sponsors for 3 years in a row, others have joined in our efforts to secure the future of the Historical Society. Several have already expressed an interest to continue into 2017.

If you own a business or work in an institution with ties to Templeton either through family or friends, please suggest a sponsorship to our Historical Society. Projects are getting done, ideas are created and implemented knowing we have the support of our membership and our sponsors.

To become a sponsor contact us at the email listed below or contact one of our officers or directors listed on the back page.

You can become a sponsor through a donation or donating your services, either way we all win.

From all of us at the Historical Society, Thank you.



NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

CABIN FEVER COLLECTORS SHOW

FEBRUARY 25TH ~ NOON - 5PM

BALDWINVILLE LEGION, BALDWINVILLE, MA
TO DISPLAY YOUR OWN COLLECTION
CONTACT BRIAN AT
NARRAGANSETTHISTORICALSOCIETY@YAHOO.COM

**\$5 DONATION AT DOOR
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

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

Page 5



“A moment in time”

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

Having fun in the early 50s.

I was thinking how it was growing up in the early 50s. We didn't have a computer at home that occupied our time in the house, so we spent more time outside. We had television but we were limited to twelve channels so there wasn't very much to watch compared to today. We spent much of our time playing games on the common or in a friend's back yard. We played football or softball on the common in front of the church or at the center school. Sometimes we played a game called kick the can in front of the historical building. The game was a form of Hide and Seek and we would hide all over in back of the building.

Spring vacation from school was always the same week that fishing season opened so many of us would go out fishing that week at one of the local ponds. Most of them were loaded with fish back then as Acid Rain had not been heard of. I would bring the fish that I caught to my grandfather and he would help me skin them. He was real good at it and could do a half dozen fish in the time it took me to do one. I would leave half of them for him and my grandmother to cook and eat. In the summer after a rainy day some of us would pick night crawlers on the common after dark for fishing bait. We would sell them to earn money, and would charge a penny a piece for them. We stored them in box or tub with wet leaves in a cool location like a cellar.

Another way we used to earn money in the summer was picking and selling blue berries. One of our favorite locations was in back of the historical building. It was loaded with bushes back then. Now it is pretty much grown in with brush.



Many of us boys in town also belonged to our local Boy Scout Troop 30, so we got to go camping quite often usually down at Brown's Pond which is down in the area of the Henshaw farm. Two of our scout leaders who we camped with were Robert Merriam and Arthur Bezio. They were good leaders and did a lot with us.

Some of us owned our own tents so it was not uncommon for a group to sleep out in one of the boy's back yard or down the road in someone's wood lot. Parents didn't have to worry about anyone bothering us as that was pretty much unheard of back then. Today things are different.

I acquired my own tent by selling Cloverine brand salve. The company would send you a dozen cans of salve to sell and when you sold them and returned the money you got your gift. The more you sold the more gifts you got. Not a bad deal for you but I hate to tell you how many cans of salve Mom bought.

Most of what I have written about hardly even goes on today. You very rarely see a ball game on the common or other types of games being played. Many of the Boy Scout Troops are gone. Many of the younger folks as well as adults no longer go fishing. They don't know what they are missing but I do because I miss it.

Here's wishing you a Happy New Year.

President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



There is no such thing as the winter blues when you run an organization or are active in creating a calendar of events. Meetings are held, emails exchanged, visits to directors and trustees and late night planning is an ongoing task if you want the Society to succeed.

How do we move forward? Simple, get help and create programs and projects that are easy to hand off. People just don't like hard work, they do it all day and want to get involved and participate in a limited window of time.

Over the past 3 years, this is exactly what I have been working on, and my time invested is paying off. Each meeting or visit is productive and yields another willing participant who is ready to take on certain tasks to better the future of the Society. Newsletter stories, historic reports, financial moves for better return on investment, and people willing to run errands are all part of chipping in to get things done. Obviously one person cannot possibly do each and every task, no matter how simple they are. One would have to quit his or her daily job and devote countless hours to complete all of these simple tasks.

The identification of each task and how do we go about implementing said task did take some time to figure out and to get the ball rolling, but now as I finish up my third year as your president, I see a great flow of volunteers willing to take on many of these defined roles. For that I am thankful and very much relieved that I have the support of not only the membership and the board of governors, but of the townspeople who are watching our every move.

My plan included being on the front line of conversation, the visual for passersby to question what is going on at the Museum, and to invite the community to join in as members to support the Historical Society in the fight to survive. The simple and affordable first move is to join, just become a life member, that's the start. Once you become a member, you will be informed of all events and happenings at the Museum and on the common, you may see one event that sparks your interest and you visit that day to see not only a great event, but you take time to tour the Museum and discover the tremendous collection that awaits inside. One may find his or her place in the civil war room, the textile room, or the document and photographic collection room. You will soon find out that you have some extra time just to get back into the building to dig deeper, organize a section, or help with a project. Now you take ownership and share with your family and friends to come and see what you were able to accomplish. Those family or friends will also see something to spark their interest and right there we step back and realize that this is exactly how our Historical Society will be able to continue to grow with great people willing to carry on the tradition.

I am lucky enough to be holding the position of some very noted people in town some dating back to 1880 like Hosea Lane who had the vision to save many documents and artifacts in the Library attic for us to discover 137 years later.

Thanks for the help, don't be shy to let us know what you can offer, and sign up a friend today.

The future is coming faster than you think.

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: narragansetthistoricalsociety@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/narragansetthissoc/>

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.

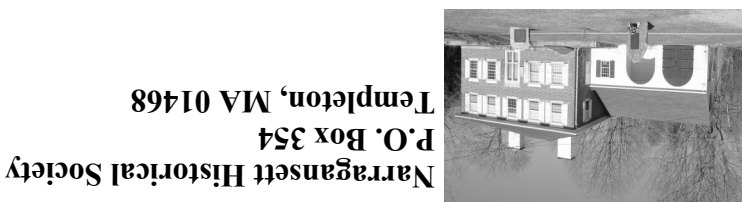


Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised.

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

Jan25th Wed 7pm Senior Center

Feb 15th Wed 7pm Senior Center **NEW Date**



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