

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA



January 2018
Happy New Year !



Platinum Sponsor 2018

The highest level of sponsorship has been met by the hard work and efforts of Bill Harris. His commitment to the Grange hall project has kept it on track while keeping his original bid on the window and door phase. Taking money out of his own pocket and donating time to guarantee completion. We present Bill Harris as our 2018 *Platinum Sponsor*.

Swift Winder project

It's been two years since the Swift was discovered in the drawer of an attic bureau. 10 hours of reconstruction and finally, this past week, 4 more hours of making silk bows to hold the 3 piece sections together. Made of whale bone and ivory the 23 double arms radiate out from the ivory cage collars. A cup on top will hold a felt ball for pins. Approximately 16 1/2 inches tall this 19th century artifact will finally hold a special place in the building. Rivets were replaced, sections fused together and a black walnut base was created to allow it to stand on any surface. Now all we need to do is a bit of research to discover who donated this great piece and where it came from. It is said these precious gifts were hand made from whaling captains for their wives who ran the household while they were at sea. Maybe this whaling captain gave up his trade and retired to Templeton. You will be the first to hear if the story is recorded in our records. Visit the upstairs Brides/Music room to see this in full color.



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
PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY PRESENTS

**2018 CABIN FEVER
COLLECTORS
SHOW
FEBRUARY 24TH
12-5PM**

**SHOW
COLLECTORS**

CABIN FEVER



**\$5 DONATION AT THE DOOR
BALDWINVILLE LEGION**

FOR MORE INFO

narragansetthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Sponsorship

Gold Sponsors 2018



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Silver Sponsor 2017

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION



Platinum	\$5,000.00
Gold	\$1,000.00
Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00
Event	\$250.00

Bronze Sponsors 2017

SCOTTY'S POTTIES

Event Sponsor



Personal



Business



Investments



Insurance



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

What's up for 2018 ?

We have so many projects in the works, each one vital to the momentum we've built over the years. Many of which can be done through our growing membership. Here we'll highlight each project we hope to complete. If you have knowledge, experience, or an interest in helping, please contact us via our email or come to a meeting so we can get started.

Main Building at 1 Boynton Rd.

- ◆ Garden fencing: both sides of our yard have fencing that is falling down. To replace the fencing, we will have to dig and set new posts, then build the fence sections in place since each post is a different distance apart. Materials will be ordered and on site for volunteers to assemble.
- ◆ Pergola construction: Back in the 1930's there was a 6 post pergola located on the other side of the sunken garden. Decorated for weddings and parties or just an afternoon tea, this would be a great addition to bring back. Woodworking skills are required but we could always use a helping hand to make the job run smoothly.
- ◆ Painting and scraping: The back entrance is in desperate need of a fresh coat of paint, an outdoor project that will be enjoyed by all who frequent the garden during the summer and fall months.
- ◆ Shutters: Here's one you can take home with you, remove a shutter or two and scrape and paint it on your own time in your own garage, with so many shutters, many people can help complete the look of our back of the building.

Grange Hall at 9 Hubbardston Rd.

- ◆ Storage and organize: Many items have been dropped off and need to be covered and kept clean during the restoration work at the building. An easy job needed to protect the items on display.
- ◆ Displays: Help decide how to set up the Grange hall once the work is done, what will be the focus, what areas will be used for events, how will we protect what is there while still showing it off to the public.
- ◆ Decorate the stage: once the walls are put back, the stage walls on both sides and the back wall need to be painted and spruced up, the floor will need to be buffed and polished as well.
- ◆ Many projects in the Grange will need to be done by professionals, but the fun part will be setting it up. You will enjoy being a part of presenting this building once again.
- ◆ Design a sign: We'll need to come up with a sign for the front of the building, what will it say? How large will it be? Where will it go?



“A moment in time”

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian*

THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS

These are some of the good memories that I have of growing up at home. Things were quite different back then compared to today, although in my eyes, I think it was better.

We heated our home with wood in a wood furnace that my dad had taken out of a house that he tore down during the Birch Hill project. He had salvaged several houses from the project at the time and sold or saved the material from them. It was a hot air furnace that originally had a tin liner around it and would have had one big register in the floor right above it. Dad set it up in his cellar and built a round brick wall around it instead of using the tin. He used stove pipe to pipe the heat to the floor registers instead of using the big one.

We also had a wood stove in the kitchen that mom cooked on. It was a lot like one that we have at the museum that was made at the Otter River Foundry. We made some of the best toast you ever tasted on that stove top. Mom was a real good cook and everything she cooked or baked in that stove was good. Her kitchen would smell like a bakery. In later years when the electric stove came out, Dad purchased one for her and had the house wired for it but the stove he bought was also capable of using wood on one side.

Of course with this we had to have a wood supply. Dad use to pile his cord wood along the side of the road off on our property and I can remember one night which I believe was Halloween, some local kids had pulled a little prank. We got a phone call early the next morning from a neighbor asking Dad come down and get his wood off their door steps. The lady was a school teacher and apparently some of the kids had gotten the idea to pile wood in front of the doors to her house so they couldn't open the doors. I was probably about eight years old then but I can remember Dad going down with his truck and getting the wood.

Another prank that was pulled in the neighborhood on one Halloween was right in front of our house. We had a neighbor across the street that raised chickens and sold eggs. In the summer time he kept his chickens fenced in a field with an A-frame shaped shelter for them to get in out of the rain. In the winter he would move them into his chicken coop and take the fence down. Well on this particular Halloween night, a bunch of kids picked the A-frame up and set it out in the road blocking one side of the road. My guess is that he was not a happy farmer.

(more next month)

President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



Welcome to 2018! A frosty couple of weeks to get you into winter in grand style. I made a few quick visits to the Grange hall, one to be interviewed by the Gardner news and the other to cover some of the items on display to keep the construction dust off of them. Harry and I could only be in there for half an hour and we soon found ourselves outside to warm up, it was -10 degrees outside. The Gardner news wanted to do a story on the Grange, when it was built, who used it, and when did we acquire it? They got the idea from our newsletter which they get every month. It pays to share our news with the community and keep them informed of our issues and our accomplishments throughout the year.

I also met with Jim Dimaio, our forestry contact. He informed me of one change in our plan, it has expanded to the opposite side of the property from John Brooks land. As you know, the Brooks land will be harvested along with our 23 acres expanding our forestry plan into a 28 acre project. The proceeds from the harvest on the Brooks property will become a donation to the Historical Society. Recently the Millers on Otter River Rd. asked Jim to do the same to their 12 acre wood lot, and since it is bordering our project, the forester agreed to put them on the plan. They will reap the profits on their land and since the project was piggy backed with ours, it made sense to the forester where normally their lot would have been too small. As a neighborly gesture, they suggested to use their land as an entrance to the entire project and gave permission to use their area as a landing for all the wood to be removed. I signed the papers today (1-8-2018) to agree to this proposed change. Previously we had agreed to use the land on the Brooks side which we would then have to access it through the Lawrence trailer park entrance. We all agree that this will be a lot more effective and less disruptive overall. Thanks to Mary and Keith Miller for your generous offer.

A watch collector contacted me through my business last month as he was heading to an auction in Orange MA. We talked about the restoration of the E. Howard tower clock in the Grange hall and he was excited when I offered to give him a quick tour and show the clock in person. He has one in his collection and has been following my Facebook posts and other comments about the restoration on a collectors website. His visit created interest in the Church Window we currently have on the second floor. He also studies stained glass antiques and immediately noticed it to be a possible Tiffany window. That being said, I searched for Tiffany stained glass windows and came across Kathy Jordan in Pennsylvania who is an expert in Tiffany window restoration work. I sent images of the window and she responded with a list of things to do, pictures to take, and where to find the name plate for Tiffany. She also gave me quite a bit of info on the care and how we need to handle it before we stand it up. One suggestion was to send it to Pennsylvania for a full restoration. Obviously we'll need a grant for that and she is willing to help us out. We've always known we have "the best of the best" but seriously, we need to pace ourselves on the discoveries. Windows, clocks, Civil War frames, paintings, posters, and so much more.

So much for the winter blues, there is plenty to keep a hundred people busy in our two buildings, so, as you have heard me say before, wait for it. Here it comes, Volunteer to help us get things done.

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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/>
Located at 1 Boynton Rd. Templeton MA

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised.
January 24th at the Senior Center in Baldwinville 7pm
February 28th Senior Center Baldwinville 7pm

Thank you to the Templeton Senior Community Center for helping us print 45 copies of our newsletters each month for those without email accounts.

