



Elizabeth W. Lord

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

Narragansett Historical Society

JUNE 2014

Featured portrait

Elizabeth is the author of *The Story of Templeton* published in 1946. She credits Hosea Lane who wrote *The History of Templeton to 1888*, and to Rev. Edwin G. Adams, Author of An *Historical Discourse*, which contains information concerning the town and the First Church; Also to J. Francis Winch, author of *Memories of Templeton*, and for stories anecdotes and reminiscences, and finally to her friends, neighbors and the many townspeople who helped make it possible to compile her story.

If you haven't read the book, it's a must read if you want to know how we got started in our town, who was here, why they came, and what they did. It was a useful document in creating the book *Images of America "Templeton"* written by Harry Aldrich and Brian Tanguay.

If you visit the building you are greeted by a tall grandfather clock at the bottom of the stairway, This is the clock used by Elizabeth and trusted as the best timekeeper she had ever owned. It was made by Eli Bruce of Baldwinville around 1790. For more on Elizabeth, visit the building and enjoy our local history.

What's new in this old house?

The newest item in our building is you. Volunteers working on so many different projects keeping our collection safe and organized. Community events planned and growing, both in size and number. New members joining almost daily and new directors joining our team and taking on specific roles in the Society.

Departments are being formed to make the task of running this Museum easier. That's what's new, motivation, participation, and pride. For years it appeared to be taking a back seat and life gets in the way. It is particularly exciting to see townspeople who have moved away for years come home to Templeton and walk up to the Historical Society and ask if they can join and what they can do to help. Neighbors living next door just doing what needs to be done. Friends lending a hand and finding out how many cool things we have in our collection and suddenly they join as a lifetime member.

Many have moved to the other side of the world and some the other side of the country only to find us on Facebook and re-connect with great passion and sign up for a lifetime membership.

Let's keep the momentum going; tell your friends and neighbors to come on down and see what's old in this great house of yours. This is the only way we can keep up with the rising costs of keeping the building open.

I'm excited to see what the future brings, new friends, great events, and enough enthusiasm to keep the doors open for more than just a summer.

Most of all, I'm excited to be your new President.

Brian Tanguay

New Meeting Time is 7:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each Month

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

Help us fill our email list

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, we need your help. We have reduced our cost of postage from \$90.00 to \$25.00. We have also cut down on printing costs as well. But we could do better. We are currently working towards 100% digital communication.

You can help. Send us an email with name, your current phone and email address so we can keep you up to date on all the great events and changes going on in your Historical Society.

Our address is listed on the bottom of every other page in this newsletter, simply send us your name and we will update our list. We have added over 100 emails to our list saving us hundreds each year.

Don't settle for the black and white version. Get yours in brilliant color today! Thank you.

WGAW1340.com

Virginia Strahan has set up an interview style meeting with Steve Wendell, owner of WGAW1340.com Radio station in Gardner.

Each month on the 3rd Saturday at 1:15 pm a member of our Historical Society will talk live on the radio with Steve to discuss current events, future events, and stories from days gone by. This month will feature Virginia as Eleanor Roosevelt.

If you are interested in participating either through telling your story, or sharing it with us so we can tell your story contact Virginia through our email listed on the bottom of the page.

Stay tuned for many historic memories and an up to date conversation of things to come.

Support your Museum

Donate needed funds to help pay the bills, or
Check your closet for interesting artifacts to share with our visitors.

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.			

Winchendon Parade

By the time you get this, we will have participated in the Winchendon Parade to celebrate their 250th anniversary. Together with the Templeton Fire department we took our Narragansett #6 pumper out for the first time in over 50 years, John and Doris Brooks will be driving their 1932 three window coupe, and Brian Tanguay along with his two sons Kurt and Seth will be riding the three bikes restored by Roger Bryant. Pictures will be shared in our coming newsletter.

Kurt and Brian are seen here practicing for the Parade.



Finishing up the Room

Thanks to Parker Glass for helping out with the re-glazing of our windows.

Beth, Jennifer, Sarah, and Gus have been busy painting. Tom will soon be sanding, and putting the room back together. A few more windows and painting the floor will finish the job in time for the Summer season.

If you get a chance, please stop by and visit the building this summer; our volunteers are anxious to show what they have accomplished.

Our Genealogy department will soon be complete and in order along with our photograph collection from Oren Williams, Wallace Underwood and the many other family photo collections we have for your enjoyment.

Sit and wonder what it was like in the early 1800's here in Templeton by viewing paintings done by Sarah and Eliza Goodridge all around 1820, while sitting in a room built by John Stiles in 1811.

During a class reunion Richard (Skip) LaDeau came home from Lamoine Maine to see his classmates on their 50th class reunion from the class of '64 Murdock High. He's had this ring he found while working in his in-laws garden on 56 Elm street (1985) and decided to take it out of his dresser drawer and try to find the owner. Staying with friends Norma and George Rocheleau in Winchendon he shared the story, They soon asked their friend Phil Johnson aka (Gardner Nostalgia) of Facebook fame. Phil contacted Brian Tanguay who has had several successes in returning lost jewelry over the years. Brian posted the story on the Narragansett Historical Page requesting friends to "do their thing". We started by looking for a woman who graduated in 1951 with initials SWN, with little success as there are no known 1951 Templeton High School yearbooks available. Virginia Strahan decided to search the Gardner Library for graduation lists. She soon realized there wasn't an SWN, but there was a JWN. Within minutes, JoAnne W. Norskeys name came up. Harry Aldrich jumped in and recognized her as the now widowed Joanne Tiihonen of Baldwinville. A phone call was made and sure enough she had lost her ring and remembers the chipped stone on the bottom corner. Plans are under way to return the ring in the next few days. With the help of the Historical Society members and our friends on Face book, the ring will soon be home after 61 years and many miles of travel.



Hadley Genealogy collection

James Hadley has been working on his family genealogy for quite some time. His collection is so large and complete, the Library of Congress wants it. His family is searching for a place to store it for safe keeping and for future generations to enjoy. They have requested to work with us, to create a room possibly in our Grange hall, which will be insulated, locked, and climate controlled to safely store the documents some of which are 225 years old.

It was presented to the directors at a special meeting on June 11th, to allow Jim to approach his family through their newsletter for funding to get this project done.

Jim has offered to present his project to our members at an upcoming meeting to answer questions and iron out any details. The room will be built with enough space to hold many of our precious artifacts as well, making this cooperative project beneficial to all involved.

If you would like the copy of his article email your request to our account listed below and you will receive it in your mail.

A vote to approve the advancement of the project in securing funding was approved unanimously by all directors present.

The suggested location was back stage on the second floor, where no one will ever notice.

Charles Knowlton

Charles Knowlton (May 10, 1800 – February 20, 1850) was an [American physician](#), atheist and writer

Knowlton was born May 10, 1800 in [Templeton, Massachusetts](#). His parents were Stephen and Comfort (White) Knowlton; his grandfather Ezekiel Knowlton, who was a Captain in the revolution and a longtime state legislator. Knowlton attended local schools, then New Salem Academy. At age 18, he taught school briefly in Alstead, NH. As a young man, Knowlton was extremely concerned about his health. This led him to spend time with Richard Stuart, a “jack of all trades” in Winchendon who was experimenting with electricity. Knowlton married Stuart’s daughter, Tabitha, and his condition was instantly cured.

Knowlton studied medicine with several area doctors, and attended two terms of 14-week “medical lectures” at Dartmouth. He supplemented his education by digging up and dissecting corpses. Knowlton was awarded his M.D. in 1824, moved to [Hawley, Massachusetts](#) to begin his practice, and then served two months in the Worcester County jail for illegal dissection.

Modern Materialism[\[edit\]](#)

While in jail, Knowlton formulated ideas that he eventually published as *Elements of Modern Materialism* in 1829. The book challenges the religious [dualism](#) of body and spirit, and Knowlton presents a psychological theory that’s been described as “early [behaviorism](#).” Knowlton moved his family to [North Adams, Massachusetts](#) in 1827, to be closer to a printer. In the summer of 1829, he took a “one-horse load” of books down to New York city. He failed to sell any, but probably visited local freethinkers like [Robert Dale Owen](#). Knowlton named his second son Stephen Owen, after his father and his friend. Knowlton was convinced *Modern Materialism* would make him as famous as [John Locke](#), who he quotes on the title page.

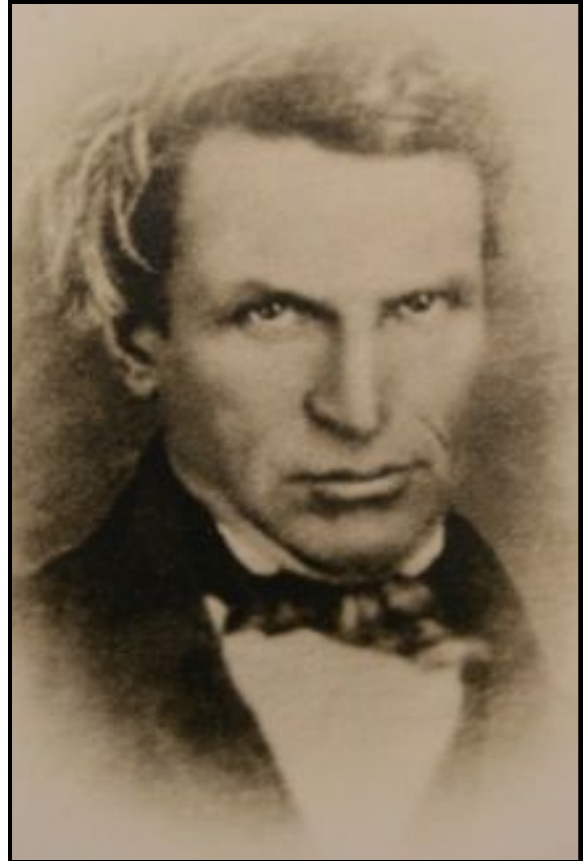
In 1832, Knowlton moved his family and medical practice to [Ashfield, Massachusetts](#). A year later, the town’s new minister, Mason Grosvenor, began a campaign against “infidelity and licentiousness,” targeting Knowlton as its source. Knowlton had written a little book called *The Fruits of Philosophy, or the Private Companion of Young Married People*, and had been showing it to his patients. It contained a summary of what was then known about the physiology of conception, listed a number of methods to treat infertility and impotence, and explained a method of [birth control](#) he had developed: to wash out the vagina after intercourse with certain chemical solutions.

Knowlton was prosecuted and fined in Taunton, Mass for the book. [Abner Kneeland](#) printed a second edition of *Fruits of Philosophy* in Boston in 1832, allowing it a wider circulation than the few closely guarded copies Knowlton had been lending to patients. This led to Knowlton’s imprisonment in Cambridge at “hard labor” for three months, and was a central issue in Kneeland’s blasphemy trial in 1838. Reverend Grosvenor filed a complaint against Knowlton in Franklin County, but after two juries failed to convict him, the charges were dropped. Grosvenor left Ashfield, and became a general agent for the [Aetna](#) insurance company.

Later life[\[edit\]](#)

Knowlton became the leading country doctor in western Massachusetts, with a “ride” that covered thirty towns. He contributed several articles to the [Boston Medical and Surgical Journal](#), as well as Kneeland’s freethought paper, the *Boston Investigator*. Knowlton was an officer of several freethinking societies in New England and New York, and founded “The Friends of Mental Liberty” in Greenfield in 1845. In addition to affirming its members’ right of “freely enquiring into the truth of all religions which claim to be a Revelation from some intelligent being superior to man,” the group’s Constitution declared that “Female members of this Society shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as male members.”

Knowlton died February 20, 1850. Twenty-seven years later, [Charles Bradlaugh](#) and [Annie Besant](#) were tried in London for publishing Knowlton’s *Fruits of Philosophy* there. The book had been selling in moderate numbers in the interim; the publicity of the Bradlaugh-Besant trial made it an overnight bestseller. Its circulation increased from an average of 700 per year to 125,000 in just one year;^[1] Besant subsequently published her own birth control manual. The trial, and Knowlton’s *Fruits of Philosophy* are credited with reversing British population growth and popularizing contraception in Great Britain and America.^[*who?*]



One Ton Pellet Raffle

Thanks to Agway of Gardner who donated one ton of wood pellets for our raffle.

5 winning tickets will be drawn on December 7th after the Jack Frost Festival
Each lucky winner will receive a Gift certificate to the Gardner Agway worth 10 forty pound bags of pellets

Call any Director for tickets.



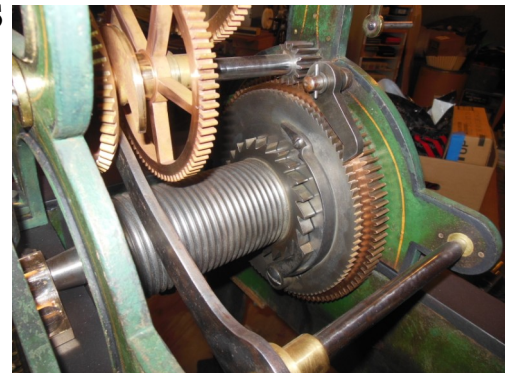
Lisa and Al from Agway of Gardner

Tower Clock Presentation

Thank you

Roger Brooks for helping with our display cases which hold our Sarah Goodridge miniatures. The bricks needed a mortar coating to protect them from moisture. *Dave at Dow's Concrete donated the bag of Mortar to get the job done.*

**The Slide show and demonstration of the E. Howard Tower clock will be presented Wednesday night June 25th at the Grange hall at 7:00pm
Brian Tanguay has been at the Templeton Woman's Club, The Lions Club, and the Gardner Museum to share the restoration slide show.
Everyone in attendance enjoyed the show and was excited to come to see the clock in person.**



Save the Date:

June 21, 4pm Winchendon Parade with our participation

June 25th, replay the Tower Clock Presentation at the Grange

June 28th 80th Anniversary Party Details to follow.

July 12th, July 26th, Aug. 2nd, 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 : Brian Tanguay
 1st Vice Pres. Beth Arsenault
 2nd Vice Pres. Howard Sands
 Secretary Christine Stone
 Treasurer Debbie Caisse
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

DIRECTORS:
 Karen Rich
 Tom Hill
 William Buckler
 Janet Haley
 Dennis Rich
 Tom Jeleniewski
 Kerry Bettez
 Mark Moschetti

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 Brian Tanguay
 John Brooks

**Narragansett Historical
 Society**
 Contact: Beth Arsenault
 Building & Grounds
 Supervisor

Contact info:
 Main email: narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
 Phone:
 Building & Grounds:

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



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. 702 friends and counting!

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

**June 25th Wednesday night at 6:30 at the building—then we move to 7:00pm AT THE GRANGE Hall,
 Upstairs with a presentation of the Tower Clock Restoration.**

July 23rd Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the Document room

August 27th Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the Document room

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

