

# Narragansett Historical Society

March



2015



## CALENDAR

### Events and Meetings for 2015

Mar. 25th Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm at the High School Library

April 22nd Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm at the Document room

26th May Day basket making at the Otter River Sportsman Club

May Tuesday night at the Museum begins. Every Tuesday from 6-8pm

27th Annual Meeting Elections 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

June: Building open hours begin Saturdays from 12-5

27<sup>th</sup> First Tea in the Garden from 2-5 Downton Abbey

24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

July: Building is Closed 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend

4th COA is hosting a mac & Cheese cookoff on the common

Still no date set: Golf Tournament at Templewoods. Look for details to follow

Aug. Craft Fair 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> bake sale, raffle, open house, free tours.

26<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

26<sup>th</sup> Engine Show cars, engines, tractors, music and more

Oct. All Month display "Death becomes her" features mourning dresses, jewelry, and hair wreaths

28<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

31<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Festival watch for details

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Jack Frost Festival Sunday from 1-5 Parade at 4, tree lighting at 4:30. Bake sale, open house, wreath sale, raffle drawing.

16<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

On the Common  
Templeton MA

# 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.



## 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.

# Cabin Fever

The cabin fever show went off without a hitch, everyone showed up in full force filling the Kamaloht function hall. Thank you to Tom and Joanne Royer for your hospitality, your time, and your chili.

The collectors were pleased with the day and our visitors were excited to see such a full house. Each collector was anxious to talk about their collection and share the knowledge they have gained through years of research making it a more enjoyable afternoon for all. Our volunteers were a huge part of the success that day raising close to \$500.00 for the Historical Society along with a few needed items for the Templeton Food Pantry and gaining some leads for the Templeton Council on Aging.

We can mark this event down as a great success and anticipate an even more fun filled afternoon next time we offer this Collectors showcase.



Pictured from top: 1. Karen Rich, Phyllis & Harry Aldrich, and Dennis Rich 2. Joyce Provencher 3. Tina Tanguay 4. Christine Stone 5. Wayne McCartney 6. Cathy Manca, 7. Sandy and Dana Hill

# Worker's Credit union

**Monica Whitehouse Branch Manager of Worker's Credit Union presents a \$750.00 sponsorship check as part of it's charitable giveback program. Accepting the check is our President, Brian Tanguay.**

Welcome to Workers' Credit Union, located in North Central Massachusetts. Workers' is dedicated to "doing what's right" for our members' financial needs throughout all phases of their lives.

Your money is safe with Workers', we are insured by the NCUA and MSIC. We are financially sound and are celebrating our 100th year in business this spring. We hold a 5-star rating for financial strength from Bauer Financial, and were nominated as one of the top workplaces in 2012 by the Worcester Business Journal.

Workers' is a non-profit financial institution owned by you, the member, because our members are our stockholders. What does that mean? Your benefits include higher interest rates on your savings, competitive loan rates, and low or no fees.



We also share our financial success with our members. Unlike banks that are focused on profits because they must provide the highest return to their owners - stockholders - we are focused on the financial success of our members. And what better way to help make this happen than to return a portion of the credit union's profits to our members. Check out the Workers' GiveBack Program today.

Today, we have over 79,000+ members. Our field of membership allows us to accept members who live or work in Massachusetts, including their immediate family members. Simply open a \$25 membership account to enjoy the benefits of membership. As long as you maintain your membership account, you're a member for life, no matter where you call home.

Our goal is to become your trusted financial institution. Workers' is committed to helping you with all your financial needs and strive to guide you through every part of your changing life.

## Macaroni & Cheese by: The Council On Aging

The first annual "Macaroni and Cheese Cook-off on the Common" will be held Saturday, July 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the historic Common in Templeton Center, sponsored by the Friends of Templeton Elders. The event is being held to raise money to purchase chairs for the new Senior Center in Baldwinville, which is scheduled to open later this year. Chefs will be able to enter their homemade from scratch mac&cheese dishes for judging in three categories: Professional, \$50 entry fee; Amateur Adults, \$25 entry fee; and Youth 12-16 years old, \$10 entry fee. Prizes will be awarded based on votes from visitors and a juried panel. The day also will include vendors, entertainment and photos with Uncle Sam. A shuttle will be available from the parking lot at Narragansett Regional High School to the Common.

For more information and/or entry forms,  
contact Virginia Strahan at [wistahsistah@gmail.org](mailto:wistahsistah@gmail.org)

# May Day

What ever happened to those May baskets? Our members are planning a **May basket-making day on Sunday April 26th** at the Otter River Sportsman Club. Your children will be able to make a May basket for Mom, Grandmother, or their favorite teacher.

There may even be a May pole set up for the kids to enjoy and create new memories of Templeton. Noon To 4pm



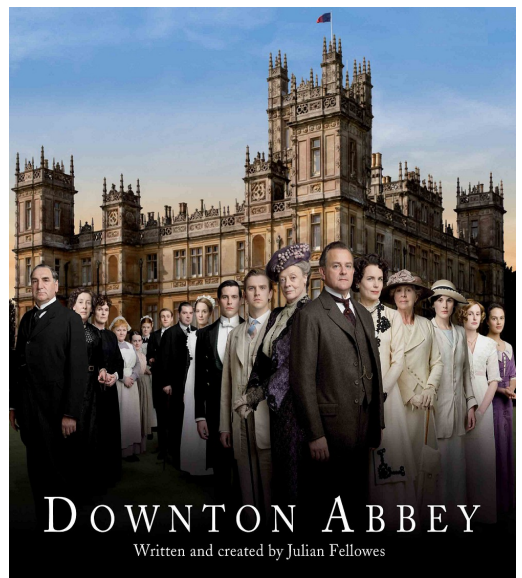
# June 27th Tea Theme

This year our Tea in the garden begins with a tribute to Downton Abbey. Our staff will suggest you come dressed best to fit the theme. The plans are still in the works for the June 27th start to our summer season of Saturday afternoon teas.

With the theme idea, we will probably have one or two teas a month instead of every week allowing our volunteers the time needed to set up and bring their ideas to life.

If you have an idea for a tea and would like to host one, please contact us soon so we can advertise and help make it a successful afternoon.

As always, the building will be open for a tour during the tea and with our new volunteers we plan on being open every Saturday for visitors to enjoy the building and it's artifacts. Hosts are always needed to keep the building safe so please let us know if you have a Saturday with nothing to do, you will be welcome as a volunteer. While you are hosting the building you will also enjoy the many photo albums and documents on display. Maps, deeds, genealogy, town records, and paintings are just the beginning of what you will find in the document room.



# Spring and Summer projects

With our season upon us, we have begun to set up groups interested in doing some spring cleaning, organizing the building, yard work, installing the new front granite steps and more. Contact us through our email account if you are willing to spend some time to spruce the place up. As soon as the snow melts, we'll be getting back to work.



## “A moment in time”

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian*

### *My first brush with the Law*

My first attempt at being a thief was when I was about 9 or 10 years old I think. I am guessing on the age. Things were a lot different then and our parents didn't have to worry about perverts as they were uncommon back then. I think if we had ever had one around, our parents would have taken the individual out behind the barn or to some wood lot and handled it. Anyway some of us kids in the center would go out into a pine grove that Mr. Brooks owned in back of his pasture and play, climbing the trees, and making shelters out of pine branches. Well, in back of the old Clover Farm Store there were two rows of garages that belonged to the Templeton Inn which were no longer used. There were a few people that rented parts of them for different things. One was rented by Louis Oliver for a little welding business. A couple of people stored old cars in them and one section was rented by Mr. Pokki for a wood shop. I believe he made chair parts for a local factory. Well we happened to be playing in the area and spotted the pile of lumber that he used in his work. We got the bright idea of taking some of it to build us a little cabin in the pine grove. I don't remember how much we took but I would guess probably a dozen or so boards and carried them out into the woods.

Come morning when Mr. Pokki arrived at his shop, I imagine it was obvious that the pile had been disturbed and the police were called. In those days the police was Mr. Hawkes who was also the school janitor. Well you can imagine how long it took to solve the case with the nice little path going down through the field right to the pine grove and it was no secret that it was our play ground. Mr. Hawkes called our parents and we were brought to Mr. Pokki's shop to talk to him and Mr. Hawkes. I looked to my dad for help and his exact words were, you got yourself into it, you get yourself out of it. Our very next job was heading out into the pine grove and bringing all the boards back while the elders watched. This was the end of my criminal career and something I never forgot. A lesson well learned.

I think the elders probably really got a kick out of it and laughed at us after because the lumber was kiln dried Birch, a very hard wood so we would have bent a lot of nails trying to use it. As I grew up, Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Pokki became very good friends with us kids, both men being fire fighters and Mr. Pokki also became a police officer.

# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



## ***Boston Post Cane:***

Our committee searched the town records and spoke to area nursing homes to determine that our latest honoree to be presented with the Cane would be Josephine Ruckey. Her 100th birthday is coming this March 27th 2015 and to help her celebrate we will present her with the cane at her birthday party 2:30pm Friday at the Baldwinville Nursing home. Together with family and friends representatives from our board of Selectmen and the Narragansett Historical society will present the cane along with gifts of a miniature cane and a pin engraved with the exact copy of the original cane. Congratulations to Josephine Ruckey on her birthday and our town's historic honor.



## ***Email update:***

*If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and you have an email address, please send us an email requesting the newsletter electronically. You can save it on your computer, read it in full color and zoom in to see the pictures much better than print. You will also be a part of saving the Society expensive postage. Since we started the email expansion, we have saved close to \$2,000.00 in postage alone. Please do your part to help, send us an email today.*

## ***Membership drive:***

*Let's crush last years membership drive of 50 members. If we can all just sign up one more lifetime member we will have 265 new supporting members who care enough about our Museum to become a member. Some sign up just to be supportive and receive the newsletters. Others join to help out in projects to see results and to help save the building and the collection. Some join to attend meetings and come up with exciting events for the community to enjoy and some may simply want to visit the building to discover the great artifacts and information held inside.*

*Every member is important to our survival.*

*Sign up a friend today.*

**OFFICERS:**  
 President : Brian Tanguay  
 1st Vice Pres. Beth Arsenaault  
 2nd 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  
 Kerry Bettez Mark Moschetti

**TRUSTEES:**  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
 Brian Tanguay  
 John Brooks



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



**Contact info:**  
 Main email: [narragansethistoricalociety@yahoo.com](mailto:narragansethistoricalociety@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.

Sign up soon. **925 friends and counting!**

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

**March 25th at the High School Library 7pm**

**April 22nd in the Document room of our building 7pm**



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