

# Narragansett Historical Society

## On the Common in Templeton MA

# MARCH 2017



*Christopher Columbus Baldwin was born in 1800 in Baldwinville, son of Capt. Eden Baldwin and grandson of Jonathan Baldwin, one of the first settlers of Templeton. Baldwinville was named after the family in recognition of Eden and Jonathan's business enterprise and public spirit.*

*Educated at Harvard, Christopher*

*practiced law in Worcester, Barre and Sutton, before serving as librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, from 1827 until his untimely death in 1835. He was killed when the stage coach in which he was traveling overturned in Ohio.*

**Taken from his diary**

**1832, May 2.**

A meeting of the Temperance Society for the Worcester South District was held at the Hotel this day. I should not have mentioned this had I not noticed certain things which very much disgusted me. The delegates from many of the towns sat down at the public dinner table. They have signed the constitution of the Society, and profess to be samples of sobriety and regularity. I observed, however, that every one of the Society drank very freely of Cyder, and that which was of the very worst and most unpalatable sort. I am not a member of any Temperance Society, yet I should regard myself as not much better than a drunkard to be found drinking such intolerable stuff as this Cyder. If it were good, there would be some apology for them. But as it is shockingly bad, it only shows what they are accustomed to when at home.

If they will drink such cyder in the dry tree, what may we not expect them to do in the green? I saw three clergymen who sat near me at the table drink the first tumbler and were well towards the bottom upon the second when I got up. Yet these reverend gentry have left their flocks to come here to give us a specimen of their temperance and self-denial. I would not say anything if I drank ardent spirits or even Cyder. But I totally abstain from both and drink wine only when it is offered to me. Good wine I am fond of; yet I cannot relish it beyond the 2nd glass.

**1833, September Sept. 19. Wednesday.**

This day met at Worcester the Massachusetts State Temperance Convention. The delegates came from all parts of the Commonwealth, & were nearly five hundred in number. Altogether, they composed a body of great respectability, both as to virtue and intelligence. Plenty of ministers, lawyers and doctors among them. A satirical observer, however, if so inclined, might here and there pick out a red nose, which would contradict the sincerity of the convert to the doctrine of abstemious drinking. Yet for all this, I am greatly pleased with the efforts making to reform the besotting practices of drunkenness. I drink wine, but as for ardent spirits I have abstained almost totally from it for many years. I am not a member of a temperance society, contenting myself with the practice of virtue without extra preaching it to others. It is one of the faults of the day to occupy so much of our time in recommending the practice of virtue that we have no time left us to perform it. We are nothing but hearers without being doers. So true it is that when mankind undertake a reformation they are always running into extremes.



# Calendar 2017

**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 Annual meeting at the building 7pm with elections**

**June 24th Temperance Tea in the Garden**

## 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.

# *Traditional May Day Ceremony*

**HOSTED BY NARRAGANSETT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Sunday, April 30, 2017

*First Church of Templeton on the Common*

11 AM TO 3 PM

*We will make traditional May Day Baskets and  
weave the ribbons on the pole.*

\$5 PER PERSON DONATION



# Tree Removal January 27, 2017

Todd Soucie from the North Quabbin Tree Service of Athol along with Tyler Graton and Josh Mundell took the extra time and effort to drop the Ash trees piece by piece taking care not to disturb the garden below. Their professional service was prompt, affordable, and offered us the exact help we needed to remove these two trees destined to be gone in the next 5 years. This project saved us from a possible accident to either our building or to one of our members.

1-978-895-1161



## Gold Sponsor 2017



## Sponsorship

So far we have two confirmed sponsors signed up this year. *Chair City Oil* with their continuation at the *Gold Level* and *Tanguay Jewelers* as a *Bronze sponsor*.

Our sponsors have created an atmosphere of support throughout our Society backing up our efforts to succeed in our fundraising and community events all year long.

If you know of any business who is able to sponsor our Historical Society please contact us at the email listed below.

*Thank you to our current and past sponsors.*

## Bronze Sponsors 2017



**SCOTTY'S POTTIES**

Event Sponsor



# Cabin Fever

Thanks to the Baldwinville American Legion for having us again this year, 18 collectors showed up to display their favorite collectibles on a beautiful sunny afternoon with unseasonably high temperatures for February. This kept some of the visitors away, probably raking leaves and enjoying the hot sun. All in all our 2017 cabin fever was a success with the addition of 5 new members signed up and around \$400.00 deposited in the bank for the day. Chili from Kamaloht, treats and sandwiches from Jessie and served up with a smile. A complete collection of images will be printed and shared at our building in the 2017 yearbook coming soon. Thanks to all who attended and for those who support us.





## “A moment in time”

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

### OLD BUCKAROO

When I was just turning into my teenage years there was an old gent that lived in a little shanty near the center of town. It was located off Wellington Rd. in a small field. I don't believe he owned it but was allowed to live in it. He called himself Buckaroo and he would stop and talk to us kids on the common when he walked by going to the package store to pick up his liquid refreshments. He only had one eye the other one was just a blur.

He would tell us all kinds of stories about living out west getting in gunfights and what not. He was a good story teller and we were foolish enough then to believe some of it. When ever we saw him coming we would stop him and question him about some of his tales. I think we probably made his day just listening to him. He was a harmless old guy that just needed someone to talk with. We would ask him if he ever knew certain western legends that we had heard of in the movies and he would come up with a story.

There was one day that I especially remember when Old Buck came across the common and he had a white duck that was following him. It was his duck and quite often it would be with him but on this day it was a little different. The duck was drunk and was having a hard time walking straight. It was following Buck but it could not walk in a straight line. Apparently Buck had been sharing some of his beer with the duck .

He was only around for that one summer as I remember. We never knew what became of him after that. Perhaps he and his duck went south.



Note from the editor:

This is an image found in our collection dating back to 1898 taken by Oren Williams. This is not the Old Buckaroo Harry spoke of, yet his story is probably the same. No information was provided with this photograph, but it truly fits with this story.

# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



For those who can't make the meetings and listen to those awesome reports and updates, well let me tell you what's going on.

This month recorded another record high we haven't seen in over 15 years, a total portfolio including our checking account, stock certificates, & the Community Foundation fund totaling \$40,434.70

I remember the days when we had several mutual funds, and several more stock certificates but with those down days of the recession, much of that was lost. To see it recover in only 3 years is remarkable to say the least. Our sponsors played a role in that along with the almost 200 new members signed up, many of which are life members, and the 11 events we have planned this year will keep us on track.

All of our bills get paid on time, many projects are completed and many more are in the works and after all that, we are still adding to the total portfolio not taking away. Many of our new members have a renewed interest in our projects and volunteer their time and expertise to handle it as their donation to the cause. There hasn't been any problem finding several people to help when needed, some of them were not members yet but soon signed up mostly due to the fact that they knew they could make a difference. One of our friends who set up at the Cabin Fever show this month offered to do any building maintenance project free of charge as long as we paid for materials. This is how we have grown, all of us doing our part in the field we enjoy.

I am so proud of all our volunteers, it is actually getting easier to be President. Most of my predecessors have left the position many of them never to be seen again. I'm happy to report that we have the most past presidents still active today. I know now that in years past, this was a tough job to volunteer for. In my first few years I have invested over 20 hours a week to cover all the bases, but now, our directors and members are stepping up one by one to offer help in areas they are comfortable working in. Advertising, organizing events, preparing foods for events, setting up and tearing down, cleaning out the building, organizing our collection, creating new events for the community, and so much more. This participation has been infectious throughout the organization showing members that every small part plays a big role in our growth.

With the election coming in May at our annual meeting, we already have a new director willing to take on the role needed to continue our momentum. What we need now, is to open the building more often. Tuesday nights from 6-8 has proven to be a huge success with as much as a dozen visitors each week, Saturday afternoons are still a constant but could use a bit more attendance. Which day would we need to add next? Wednesday was brought up during a recent conversation, can we find a few volunteers who could open up during the afternoon?

***Suggestions are always welcome, help is always appreciated,  
and your time invested is the biggest gift you can give.***

***Volunteer today***

**OFFICERS:**  
**President:** Brian Tanguay  
**Vice Pres.** Vacant  
**Secretary** Christine Stone  
**Treasurer** Debbie Caisse  
**Curator:** Brian Tanguay  
**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

**DIRECTORS:**

<b>3 year</b>	<b>2 year</b>	<b>1 year</b>
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](mailto: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.**  
 March 22nd Wed 7pm at the Senior Center

**Stop by any Tuesday night starting in April to help clean up the building for the season. Pack away the decorations, set up the displays as they were, and create new displays to showcase our collection.**  
**Start at 6pm.**

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

