

# Narragansett Historical Society On the Common in Templeton MA

## October 2016

### Miniature Blanket Chest

In 1766 William Bishop made this blanket chest, he gave it to his cousin, Dorothy Ward when she was 10 years old in 1780. She kept it 50 years then passed it along to her granddaughter, D. Warrick who then passed it to her granddaughter Grace E. Blodgett. Grace had no children so she passed it Barbara Vose Stinson who moved to Winchendon and married Dr. Celian H. Abbott. Barbara died at the age of 54 and never passed on the tradition. Dr Abbott found the chest and donated it to the Historical Society where it sat on display in the top of the stairs under glass. With the tradition coming around again, all we needed to do was find a recipient who turned 60 this year and a 10 year old girl who can bring everything up to date. Where she will pass it on to a 10 year old girl in the year 2066. 2016 marks the 250th year since the chest was built. Our research committee has found the two girls and we are planning on presenting this tradition on November 12th.



Grace at 10 yrs.



We will present the chest posthumously to Linda Jean Rahaim formerly of East Templeton. Accepting the presentation will be her family. Linda was employed by the Baldwinville Nursing Home as a Medical Secretary for 16 years, retiring in 2009.

She died peacefully in the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, August 13, 2016 in Heywood Hospital of Gardner, following an illness.



Receiving the chest will be Ashlyn Duplessis who just turned 10 in August. Her proud parents are Amy and Justin from Otter River. Their names will be added to the display and complete the story with Ashlyn as the current holder for the next 50 years.



We are happy to make this announcement on such a long standing family tradition that has blossomed into a Templeton tradition.



Check Us Out at: [www.narragansethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.narragansethistoricalsociety.org) and on FACEBOOK

# Calendar 2016

**OCTOBER 29th** Pumpkin Fest, Saturday 11-4

**October 31st**, Haunted walk through the building from 6-8pm

**DECEMBER 4th** Jack Frost Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting, Sunday, in conjunction with the Town of Templeton tree lighting, on the Templeton Common.

February Date TBD. Cabin Fever Collectors showcase

**The building is Open**

**Tuesday nights from 6-8 and on Saturday afternoons from 1-5**

**Sign up to help with your favorite event to make each one successful and fun.**

**Your help is needed at the food tent, in the building, & organizing the event.  
Don't be shy, call or send an email to let us know you are able to help.**

## 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.



# We found the frames!

When the GAR hall was torn down, it made way for the new building which is currently owned and operated as J K Crossroads in East Templeton.

The main preservation effort was to save the four granite stones framed in the upstairs hall, each one carved with the Civil War soldiers names who lost their lives in battle.

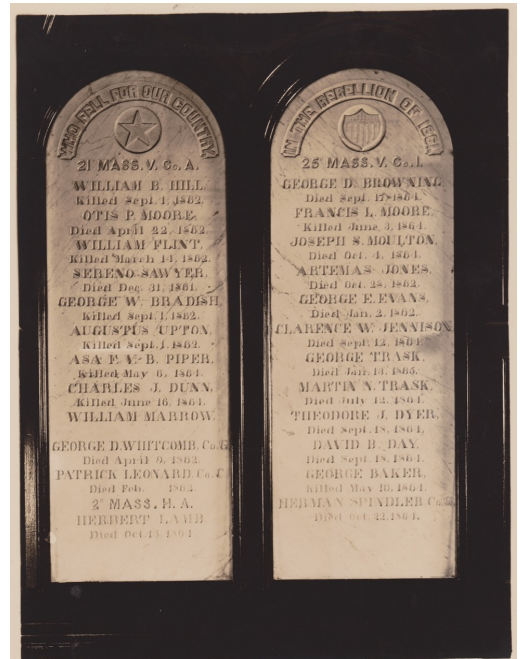
For years now we have seen the four stones on our wall in the Civil War room but no one remembered where the frames ended up.

With the pumpkin fest coming, I decided to put the staging up early so I went to Ralph's barn to get the wood he donated last year. As I was loading them up in my truck he mentioned that he still has the stage wooden structure once used in the GAR hall. So since I had some extra time that morning, I figured I would measure them up, uncover them to see what they actually were and come up with a decision as to what we should do with them. Once they were uncovered, I measured them and could not come up with what they were.

I went back to the building (Museum) and built the staging again but those wooden structures stuck in my mind, I went back and measured the inside sections and to my amazement, I discovered they were the actual frames for the Civil War plaques. I went back to Ralph's and photo graphed the frame, flipped it digitally and photo shopped the plaques in place. They measure 10.5 feet tall and 7.4 feet wide. Too big for the Museum and the only place they can go would be on the back wall of the stage upstairs in the Grange hall.

Written by: Brian Tanguay

So now we need to take action and move fast, the barn is not stable and could come down this winter, John Manca has volunteered to find a safe storage until we can move them up in the Grange. This is an exciting project to have and preserve. We are currently looking for any pictures taken in the GAR hall, weddings, birthdays, anniversary or School gatherings. Look in the background to see if you can find these frames. We need to know what was in the half moon section above the stones. Thank you to Ralph for storing them, Brian for making plans to move them, and John for finding a safe home for the winter.



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# Sponsors





THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

# Pumpkin Fest

OCT 29TH 11-4PM

1 Boynton Rd, On the Common, Templeton MA

***Come and enjoy the afternoon with your family, and be sure to bring the kids. Fair, Food & Fun!!***

*Vendors*

*Games for the Kids*

*Food Tent*

*Hayrides & Face Painting*

*TOTS - NRHS Band Collecting Non-Perishable Foods*

*Carved Pumpkin & Scare Crow Contest*

*Kids Tent from Templeton Cultural Council*

*Science Show by Kosmic Kelly thanks to MOC*

Kids come in costume for our Horribles Parade with the NRHS Marching Band

TEMPLETON  
CULTURAL COUNCIL



**Be Sure to Join Us for  
Both Events!**

**MOC**

MONTACHUSETT  
Opportunity Council  
*Making Opportunity Count*



**\*\*HAUNTED MUSEUM WALK\*\***

**OCT 31ST 6-8PM ~ DONATION \$3/PP**



## “A moment in time”

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

### The History of Aprons

This was sent to me by a friend and I requested permission to use it in our news letter.

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used to carry eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warm oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids and when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons whipped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old apron that served so many purposes.

### REMEMBER;

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that old apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from a apron – but love.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did.

Harry

# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



## What's happening?

### In the document room:

**Eileen Bouvier** "I'm happy to let you know what I'm working on! Right now, I'm trying to put together an inventory of all the society's antique and vintage garments and accessories, with as thorough a description as possible (fabric and trim types, garment details, any identifying labels or markings, approximate dates, etc.). I hope to add photos at some point also, and some general historical context. Hopefully, this will allow us to do several things:

1. Keep track of what we have and where it's kept
2. Better assess storage/preservation/display needs
3. Plan more themed exhibits that can tie in with other events (for instance, we could easily do a display of children's/infant's clothes, or uniforms).
4. Provide more info on individual garments and associated social customs for guides and visitors in the form of display cards or handouts

I've catalogued most of the items in the Bride's/Music room so far. I hope to get a bit more done before the building closes for the winter, and then spend the winter months typing up my notes and doing some background research, then picking back up in the spring. There are some really interesting pieces in the collection, including a dress that, according to its label, was worn by the owner when she danced with Paul Revere!"

**Christine Stone** is cataloging the books for visitors to have a way of finding what we have on the shelves. Once complete, each book will have a number and will be listed in a database both on paper and digitally.

**Virginia Strahan** is organizing and properly storing the many newspapers stored in the desk drawers. This will allow us to know what we have and then create a storage system to share with our researchers.

**Tom Hurd** is creating a color coded photo album collection to make it easier to find pictures from each precinct. There will also be miscellaneous albums all of which will be numbered and labeled for easy use.

**Harry Aldrich** has created a year book for 2015 using our newsletters and photo files, he organized all of our events, programs, and projects completed in 2015. It's fantastic.

These are a few of the current projects going on now, so many more are pending and waiting for the next eager volunteer to complete. Visit the building on Tuesday night or Saturday afternoon if you want to get involved.

Great work everyone!

## What else is going on?

I was asked to be on the panel of local groups involved with the Community Foundation of North Central Ma. The breakfast meeting will be held on Tuesday morning Oct. 25th at the Gardner Library from 9-11.

I presented my 10th Tower clock show for the Polish American Social League at the PACC Thursday night the 6th of October. The entire group was amazed at the process of restoring the clock and pleased to hear it has been saved and will soon be on display in the Grange hall.



**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:**  
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 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.

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



Sign up soon **1,320 friends and counting!**

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

**October 26th Document room 7pm**

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

**November 23rd 7pm Senior Center**

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

