

# Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

## September 2017

**Jackie Soar's  
Bridal Shower in the garden**



**Shirley Smith's Birthday party in the garden**



# Calendar 2017

**September 23 MOTORPALOOZA 2017 on the common**

**September 27 Membership meeting 7pm**

**October 21 & 22 Haunted walk**

**October 25th meeting 7pm**

**October 29 & 30 Haunted walk**

**Dec 3rd Jack Frost Festival, parade, santa, bake sale, and more**

## 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.

# 400 Members!

As we invited the community to join in and show their support by becoming members or changing their annual membership to a life Member. We soon found our newest life member to sign up on Tuesday night Sept. 12th. The board decided to give a gift certificate to the Kitchen Garden to our next life member. 400 is almost twice the membership we had just 4 years ago. Applications were updated, hundreds were printed and distributed during all of our events and to everyone who visited the building. Brochures were made up to show how great our Historical Society is both inside and out. Events were created to bring in the community and show them who we are and what is inside this great building.

We welcome Jo Ellen Parker as our newest Life member.



# Motorpalooza 2017



**Sept. 23rd. Templeton Common**

**Narragansett Historical Society Presents:**

**Cars, trucks, motorcycles, farm engines and more**

**Anything with a motor is welcome to show**

**Fun for the whole family Food & Music**

**Featuring Boothill Express**  
Thanks to the Templeton Cultural Council  
*11am to 4pm*



# Sponsorship

# Gold Sponsors 2017



## Silver Sponsor 2017



Thank you to our sponsors.

Your support will ensure the success of our community driven events.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us here via email. Talk to your place of business to see if they want to get involved through sponsorship, participation, donations, or services.

## Bronze Sponsors 2017



# SCOTTY'S POTTIES

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Our biggest supporters are all of you! Our membership. If you are an annual member, consider becoming a lifetime member at only \$100.00 by doing this, you will be making a donation to our cause, and saving us time and money each year asking for your renewal.

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## Event Sponsor



# The Frames are moved!

Located in East Templeton at the “Crossroads” between Route 2A and 101 there was a building standing tall built by V. P. Parkhurst, a Captain in the Civil War and a business man in town. It came to be called the GAR hall (Grand Army of the Republic) where events took place, plays, scouts, weddings, meetings, and so much more. It was the center of this section of town, a trolley stop, Post office, Store, and a place to talk to your neighbor.

As you entered the upstairs hall, you were greeted with two gigantic frames, built around 1880 and ornate enough to be in a Church Altar. These frames were something special, they were a memorial to the soldiers of Templeton who fought and died during the Civil war.

The building was past it’s prime so in 1980 it was torn down. As it came time to begin the demolition, Col. Tucker along with other members of the Historical Society stepped forward and demanded the frames be saved and the marble plaques be preserved. The four plaques were stored in various locations for a time until it was planned to mount them in the Civil War room of the Historical Society. The two frames were moved to Ralph Henshaw’s barn since they were so large, they couldn’t fit in any building, they measure 7 1/2 feet wide and 10 1/2 feet tall.

Ralph had mentioned to our current President over the years that those wooden structures need to find a new home. 3 years passed and again Ralph reminded Brian to take a closer look at the frames for fear that his barn would soon fall down and damage them. They were uncovered to expose them for the first time since 1980 and it was then that Brian noticed that they are the missing frames to hold those Civil War plaques. A plan was soon devised to move them into one of Aspen Trucking’s big box trucks for dry storage. Over the winter plans were made to mimic what we did to move the Trinitarian Church’s Stained glass window into the second floor of the Grange, only problem was the hole we cut for the window was too small for the frames, so we went to the back wall to find it was the perfect location to cut open a 90 inch hole to fit the 89inch frames.

Thanks to Brian Tanguay, Bill Harris, Billy Harris, John Manca, Keith Miller, Christian, Mike Matuszewski, Tim Tenney, Al Cyganiewicz, Rick Moulton, Tom Hurd, Bryan Favreau, and Harry Aldrich for taking the time to move those frames into a safe place.





# “A moment in time”

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

## THE OLD TOWN DUMP

Not too many people today realize that the town dumps or landfill as it is known today was located on Barre Road. It served as the towns dump for many years. If you were to go there today, you would never know what the area was used for unless you were to dig into the ground. You probably would not have to dig in very deep before you would uncover one of the many treasures that might have been buried there. Old furniture, wood stoves, toys, bottles that are considered collectable today etc. Anything and everything was allowed in there. I went down there one time with my dad when I was a youngster and while we were there I spotted an old barrel that was heaping full of toys. Dad checked it out and loaded the barrel into his truck. Unfortunately for me, dad had a good idea where the barrel had come from. We had some family friends that were moving out of town and they had thrown the barrel out by mistake so I didn't have them for long. Later in years after I had become a teenager, the dump became a form of recreation. Once I was sixteen, I was old enough to have a license so some of my friends and I would go down there at night with 22 cal. Rifles and shoot rats. The place was infested with them so it made for good target practice and got rid of some of the rats at the same time.

By the time I had gotten out of the military which was in 1966, the town had hired someone to serve as a monitor to kind of police the area and tell people where to dump. I don't think he was very highly paid but he probably made up the difference by picking things over and salvaging some items. One day I went down there with an old picture tube from a television. I didn't see him around so I took it over to the edge of the pile and threw it over on to a piece of ledge that was at the bottom. At that time it was about forty feet to the bottom. Well he was down at the bottom and when that tube hit it sounded like a bomb had gone off. He came up over the top yelling that I had scared the life out of him.

Quite often the dump would catch fire usually from someone lighting it I assume. It would happen often right after a highway worker had pushed it over with the grader. Sometimes we would be there for a whole day trying to put it out. With all the paper and cardboard that was buried there, it would be burning underneath and was pretty hard to put out. The Lily Chemical Co. also dumped a lot of waste down there consisting of different paint mixtures which we had to let burn out. There was also a lot of wood products from Temple Stuart Co. and paper waste from Adams Printing Co. When the town opened the new landfill on RT. 202 in Baldwinville, this site was closed and sealed off. As I said, you would not know it was ever a dump. The landfill in Baldwinville has since been closed and the towns waste is today trucked out of town.



# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



September arrives with cool nights and thoughts of fall, we are almost through the year with only a few events to go. Motorpalooza on the 23rd and our October Halloween Haunted house will soon be here. It's rewarding to see the many volunteers who come to help but more so that they are having fun. We are also celebrating our 400th member, a huge milestone in our efforts to grow the organization. The Grange is taking shape, windows are in, doors will soon follow, and hopefully we can make a deal on the land out back of the Grange to create a parking lot with street lights mounted on the original cement blocks that held up the water tower for the Templeton Inn. Inside, we can finally begin our work creating a safe storage room with the help of the Hadley family donations and finish setting up the stage to show our newly installed Civil War frames. So much is taking shape and moving forward it's hard to put it all down on paper.

The Community Foundation is helping us to create a fund that will eventually pay our monthly bills leaving us more opportunity to focus on the preservation of our vast collection. This part of the plan is the most exciting since it will continue into the future for those who follow in our footsteps.

Parties in the garden have created great memories for those in attendance. Several have joined our membership and many are life members along with others in their family. It's particularly encouraging to see children joining the ranks of membership.

Still no word on the forestry plan, let's hope it will move forward over the winter so we will be ready to plan out how we are going to use the land and share it with the community. Already members have approached me asking how we will use the trails and many are willing to help organize afternoons of hiking, nature walks, and maybe horse drawn sleigh rides. The possibilities are endless.

My appointment with the Community Foundation was moved up due to scheduling issues, but we have time before the deadline of the next round of grants. I will meet with their staff to discuss our options on how to apply and what we can apply for. They just awarded another 800 thousand dollars in grants and scholarships.

If you are interested in learning how you can make a difference by creating a charitable donation to help with the future of our Historical Society it's as simple as contacting me directly or we can set up an appointment at the Community Foundation who manages our Fund.

Enjoy the leaves changing colors, the cool fall air, and all that surrounds us in this great place we live. Come to our events, enjoy the day with friends and family, and take a tour inside the Museum on Templeton Common.

**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>
Darlene LaClair	Amy Guthrie	Tom Hurd
OPEN	Tom Jeleniewski	Jessie Duguay
OPEN	Dennis Rich	Ann Lyons

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



**Contact info:**  
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 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/narragansethissoc/>  
**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.**

**September 27 Membership meeting 7pm Document room**

**October 25th 7pm Membership meeting 7pm Document room**

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



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