



# Narragansett Historical Society



We have pulled together to complete so much, the document room is painted, the attic is insulated, windows restored, and new members are signing up in record numbers. So let's welcome 2015 with more fun and excitement. A calendar of events is being completed and will be sent out in a separate email to all members.

*Collectors Showcase, Golf Tournament, Craft Fair, Pumpkin Fest, Engine Show, Jack Frost Festival* and more will fill the calendar of events with bigger and better community driven days for all to enjoy. Sponsors are signing up to support our efforts making sure we can pay our bills and continue to preserve our artifacts while keeping them safe in both of our buildings.

The Grange is coming along with new doors and windows and a possible parking lot in the rear of the building and handicap access to the first floor. Donations continue to come in from members happy to see new life and new members getting involved throughout the year.

All this fun and growth still requires lots of man hours to make it all come together, please take a moment when you get the suggested calendar of events to mark down the one that interests you most. Volunteer to make it a success, the more the merrier is the best way to describe how much easier it is with more hands stirring the pot. If left to one person, the pot may not get stirred enough and we could find ourselves slipping backwards.

You may also suggest fundraising ideas at our meetings or through our email. Either way we appreciate your input and look forward to a great 2015.

Remember to bring a friend to our events or our next meeting.

See you at the building, Brian Tanguay, President

## December 2014



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

On the Common  
Templeton

# COLLECTIONS



Do you have a collection that you treasure? Maybe you have been saving up for years, only to have them collecting dust in your house. We are planning on a winter event that will showcase each of your collections. Whether you save post-cards, Barbie dolls, toys, pocket watches, quilts,

sewing tools, or hood ornaments we want to display them for the public to see. In the next few months details will be finalized, forms will be created, and a location will be secured. Tentatively we are thinking of *Feb. 28th Saturday afternoon at Kamaloht* where owner Tom Royer has graciously agreed to host our unique event. This is not a yard sale, it is a multi member collections display. Visitors will be interested to see the many different items not usually seen in public. Refreshments, conversations, and a nice way to spend the afternoon on a winter day. Stay tuned for our Cabin Fever Collectors show.



Sign up early to be in the show:

Contact us at the email on the bottom of this page to receive your application.

There is no charge to set up your collection

## 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.

# THE AUNTIES

## THE AUNTIES

Born in the mid-1800s, if one remembers them at all, they were known in town as the Hadley Sisters: Lizzie, Lucy and Mary..

They were brought up in what the family always referred to as The Homelands. This is the same house that Sarah and Eliza Goodridge were raised in - a connection that I find fun to think about.

The oldest of my three maiden (politically correct name for single women) Aunts was named Lizzie. As you can see she was not the lovely, Lizzie creature in the movie of Pride and Prejudice.

Like her sisters, Lizzie Jeanette Hadley was a school teacher and although they left Templeton to attend Normal School, to travel, and for a short time to teach in other communities, their home was always here.

Mr. Apple Orchard Pease and my new friend Eloise Kenny still remember them. And when I was a very young child our family paid the requisite visit at least one Sunday afternoon a month. I wasn't exactly afraid of them, but corseted, with a ram rod spine and a reprimand "Don't fidget, child", Lizzie was a bit daunting.

Mr. Pease tells of Lizzie's driving – something that was indeed fearsome. She drove everywhere. She arrived in the upper orchard one afternoon when father and son were gathering apples. This cart road was passable for horses only, until Lizzie came jouncing and banging up the hill. He says that her command of the road was unnerving, as she pointed the nose of the car down the center line and everyone knew enough to "Look Out".

Eloise recounts one Halloween Trick or Treating night where in lieu of candy, children at the door of The Hadley Sisters were treated with a healthy, but most unwelcome cup of cider.

As a young girl and looking for a short cut to school, Joyce Provencher dared to ask whether she and her siblings could cut through the Hadley Sister's driveway. She was given permission but told that she was never to so much as look in the windows. "Did You?" I asked. "Oh My, No!. I would never have dared. What if Lizzie had been looking out at me?"

Lizzy graduated from Templeton High School in 1885, taught for many years and I remember being allowed to go through the shelves in the library at their house on Patriots Road. They instilled in me a love of books, there was always an old one gifted at Christmas. Lizzie left me her gold nib, pearl stem pen. I treasure it.

Submitted by:  
Mary Hadley Grimes

Pictured: Lucy Hadley



# Member Profile

## Susan McNeill Spuher

I have always loved history and genealogy. My mother's side of the family contains the Bartletts and Robert Bartlett first came from England to Plymouth in 1623. The Bartletts were one of the seven founding families of Lancaster, Massachusetts, which was settled in 1643 and incorporated in 1653. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795) was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

I come from a well traveled family. My paternal Grandparents visited all 50 states by the early 70's and always had photos and tales of great adventures. This helped ignite my Love of travel. A 1991 trip to Stonehenge in England was a turning point in my life where I accidentally was introduced to dowsing, the art of finding water well sites, missing items and missing people. This is a skill that I've honed over the past 23 years. I've been President of the Boston Dowzers since 2002 speaking at dozens of conferences and organizations including haunted churches not to mention dowsing hundreds of wells.

In 1993 my observation while performing demonstrations at the now defunct National Plastics Center and Museum was that students were not very interested in learning about math and science. The idea came to me to create my own kids TV science show. I named it Susan's Science Center and the show was on local Leominster cable every other week where I performed live kitchen chemistry experiments. My assistant was the Gravity Gorilla whom I dressed in a fluorescent green lumber bun, vest and bow tie. My motto was "if you're not careful, you may just learn something". The show ran for three years and I would have local guest celebrities and children on the show. I asked scientific questions where you had to call in with a correct answer and you could win edgy prizes like the newly invented Glide dental floss that was made of goretex or a Fisher Space pen that would write under water or upside down and never freeze. While a part time ski instructor at Wachusett Mountain, I also wrote a weekly ski column for the Sentinel & Enterprise. This gained me free ski passes at resorts from Pat's Peak in Henniker, NH to Snowmass in Aspen, Colorado. While working on my technical MBA at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1998, I started looking for a different job than my research position in non-inertial guidance systems at the Charles Stark Draper laboratory. A WPI classmate introduced me to Tom Spuhler who was supposed to help me get a job at Hewlett-Packard. Instead he took me skiing in Aspen, dragged me to Paris numerous times and on one of those trips proposed to me under the Eiffel Tower. We were married on April 23, 2001 and returned to Paris for our honeymoon. Over the years I've thrown many large parties that include circus tents and Elvis impersonators who are whisked onto our stage/deck via our neighbor's convertible. Besides playing Madame Volka, Santa Claus for the Jack Frost parade and scanning documents for the Narragansett historical society, I am a Corporator for Concord's Emerson Hospital. My interests include triathlons, golf, swimming across Walden Pond every day from mid-May to Mid-October and collecting eclectic art which includes a 12 foot tall, 20 foot long dinosaur made of metal tubing, a moose made of car parts and a church pew from the Baldwinville Baptist church. I was the first person in Middlesex county to install a Little Free Library in front of my house ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)). In Westford I have served on town committees which include the Registered Marijuana Dispensary Committee and currently the Master Plan Implementation Committee. Since our town moderator is retiring, I will run for that position during the next election. I live in Westford with my Californian husband who cooks for me and tolerates my eclectic nature with a rare patience. I also have three cats, a cockatiel and numerous Society Finches. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into the Narragansett Historical Society!



# Jack Frost

This year's bake sale and Jack frost festival was a huge success. From organization to decorating and the volunteers who baked filling our tables with delicious treats for our visitors to buy for the holidays. Donations were still coming in this week placing our total to over \$1,150.00 for the day. Santa and our photographer and his helpers at the printer did more than double from last years total. The students from RHO Kappa came and put their time in to make the day a little easier for all involved. Other than a little issue with the flow of the crowd and some time issues between the band playing and the tree lighting, everyone had a great time and were looking forward to next years event.

Some organizations were interested in building a float for next years parade bringing in a more exciting program. The school students sang their favorite Christmas songs for the large crowd in front of the building. Elsa, Anna, and Olaf were a big hit with the little ones and even the adults posed with the girls for a photo opp.

There were so many important contributions of time and effort, a two page photo collection will show just how much fun the community had and how much they are looking forward to the next one.





# “A moment in time”

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

## CHRISTMAS IS A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY

When I was a little boy growing up, Christmas was a very special holiday to my parents, especially my dad. It was always special to him and every year that I can remember, he would get my mother a gift and not even give her a clue that it was coming but it was always something that he knew she really wanted. There was one time that he had gotten her a gift and I couldn't wait to break the news so I did it a little early and he let me know in no uncertain words that I had ruined Christmas. I was told that Santa would not be very happy with me and I might not get anything this year for doing that so from then on I was on my best behavior.

They tried to keep me believing in Santa as long as they could. If I told them that one of my friends told me he wasn't real, they told me not to believe them. They did a really good job of convincing me to the extent that one Christmas morning I actually went out side and stood in the road looking up on the roof for tracks. There was one Christmas when I must have been showing them that I had some doubt because that Christmas eve, I had put out a cup of coffee and cookies for Santa and when I got up in the morning it was gone. Now normally I would have thought that they had taken it but dad went so far as to put some gray hair in the bottom of the cup to convince me and it worked. I was convinced. The best one that I remember was the year I wanted an electric train for Christmas. I woke up at about 2:00 AM and checked and sure enough, he had already been there [so I thought]. I found this big box with my name on it and opened it up. It was my train, a Lionel which I still own today. I start setting it up when mom and dad came in. I must have been pretty excited and I am sure they were surprised to see me up so early They told me I had to go back to bed because it was too early. That was probably the longest night of my life at the time.

So as you can see, I was raised to believe that Christmas is a very special holiday and I still feel that way today, Phyllis and I have raised our family to think the same way.

HERE'S WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## More from the Jack Frost Festival



# Lifetime Membership

## Join Today

We only have a few more weeks to sign up new members for 2014. If you need an application, send us a request through our email account. Each life member will receive our newsletter filled with important information that may interest them to get involved.

Sign up a neighbor, a co-worker, or a family member.

*You can even give a lifetime membership as a gift this holiday season. What a great gift that would be.*

Our goal was to sign up 50 new members this year and we are closing in on that goal, you could be the one that gets us there.

You'll go down in history....

**Our 2015 Calendar of events is soon to be announced.**

**Details will be finalized at the December meeting  
and published early in January.**

**Watch your emails for more.**

## Sponsorship

A campaign was started this year to find sponsors to help us with our mission. We have survived the past 80 years without sponsors although we did get generous donations from members which helped tremendously.

Our first sponsor to sign up is Tanguay Jewelers located at 19 Connors Street in Gardner MA. Owner Brian Tanguay decided to take the lead knowing the details of our financial health as an acting 20 year member of our Trustees and currently becoming our President this past May. "If I am to ask businesses and institutions for sponsorship, I had better put my money where my mouth is." a direct quote from Brian during one of the membership meetings.

Two other institutions and several businesses have shown interest in joining as sponsors so look for them in our coming newsletters and on Facebook. If you shop at these locations you will be helping all of us since a percentage of your sale is going directly to the Historical Society.

Thank you to Tanguay Jewelers, from all of us.



**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  
 Dennis Rich William Buckler  
 Tom Jeleniewski Janet Haley  
 Kerry Bettez Mark Moschetti

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

**Contact info:**  
 Main email: [narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:narragansethistoricalsociety@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. **865 friends and counting!**

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

Due to the holidays, we will meet a week early in Dec.

**December 17th at the Narragansett Regional High School Library 7pm**  
**Setting up the 2015 Calendar of events. Bring your final ideas.**

**January 28th at the High School Library 7pm**

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

