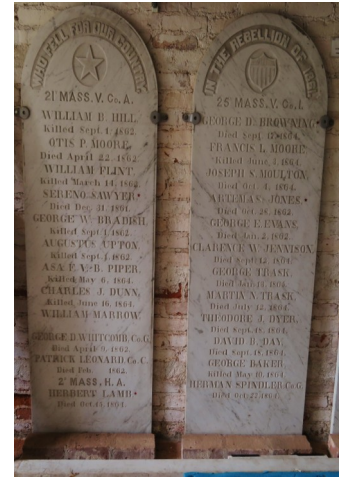


Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

October 2019



Civil War lunch in the garden featured 3 tents, a camp fire, and a mess tent where we served beans, hard-tack, corn bread, treats, and drinks for those who ventured out to enjoy the afternoon and visit the building, especially the document room that was converted to the officer's quarters featuring a field desk, travel cot, canteens, guns, swords, and trunks all originally used in the Civil War. Each artifact was donated by the family of those who served from Templeton.

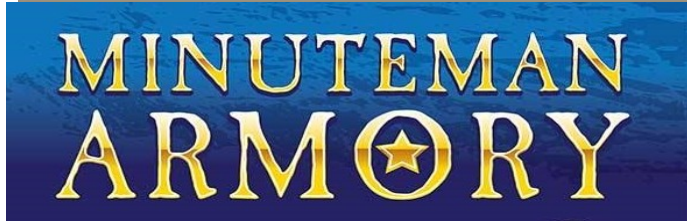
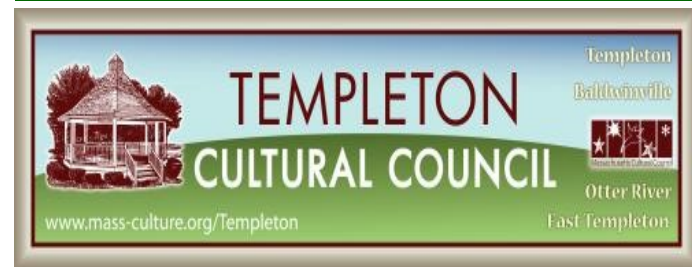
Paul Grady, Maurice Healy, and Brian Tanguay pictured above dressed in soldiers uniforms. Brian portrayed Capt. V.P. Parkhurst who lead the 25th Mass Vol. men from Templeton. The Captain, who survived the war settled back down in East Templeton after the war and built the Memorial hall building in E. Templeton Center later known as the GAR hall. On the second floor he created the four granite tablets listing the names of the Templeton men who fought and died during the Civil War. Their names were called out during the lunch to honor their memory.

Our members who created this event would like to get more participation next year as we try to create a larger event on the common to be more visible to the public. If you can't help with our events, please try to attend and show your support for the preservation of Templeton's great history.



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Event Sponsors



A special Thank you to
Templeton Light Co.



SCOTTY'S POTTIES

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.

2019 Calendar

Our last event for 2019 will be the Colonial Christmas and tree lighting.

Sunday December 1st from 2 to 4:30pm

Bake sale, Santa, and the tree lighting at 4:30 on the common.



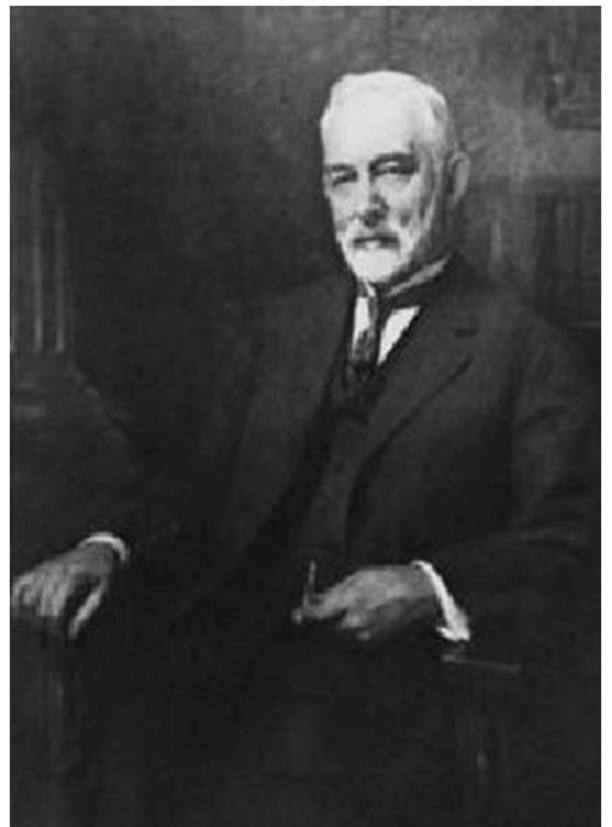
George I. Alden, 1843-1926

George Ira Alden was born April 22, 1843, on Cottage Street in East Templeton. Educated in the old Partridgeville School, he earned his money for college in the furniture factories of nearby Gardner. Alden entered Harvard College in 1862 and joined the staff of Worcester Polytechnic Institute as Professor of mechanical Engineering in 1868.

As pioneer members of the faculty of the newly established WPI, George Alden and his colleague, Milton Higgins, joined in 1885 with several Worcester businessmen in establishing the Norton Emery Wheel Company. Mr. Alden became treasurer and Mr. Higgins president. Not until 1896 would they devote full time to the Norton Company which grew by leaps and bounds through good times and bad.

By then Mr. Alden had invented a dynamometer for measuring the power of all kinds of machines, the first hydraulic elevators had been invented and produced by him and Mr. Higgins, and he had established and directed the second hydraulic laboratory in the United States. And all this time the graduates of WPI remembered him as a fine but demanding teacher.

George I. Alden of Templeton was an experienced and successful teacher who wanted others like him to be aided in their efforts. He provided well for those as independent as he was in mind and spirit, establishing a trust fund which is still today granting financial support for "the maintenance of some charitable or philanthropic enterprises" with particular expressed interest in "the promotion of education in schools, colleges, or other educational institutions."



*Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you*

Gold Sponsors 2019



TANGUAY JEWELERS



Shoddy Mill

Here is further documentation related to the "Old Shoddy Mill" (aka Turner's Mills, River Mills, etc.) and "Hamlet Mills" (owned by the Warfield Family after 1895). It also supports the great load of wood having originated off Hamlet Mill Road. Items in italics are my own notations.

From the History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with biographical sketches of many of its prominent men, Volume I, compiled by Duane Hamilton Hurd, J.W. Lewis & Company, Philadelphia 1889. p. 136-137.

"[The] Otter River enters the town on its eastern side, from Gardner, and flows through the northerly portion of the town, furnishing an abundant water-power in the villages of Otter River and Baldwinville. The Otter River Blanket Mill occupies the first mill-site on this stream, having a location just over the Gardner line. Horse blankets in large quantities were quite recently the product of this mill. The first mill [there] was built by Cooper Sawyer. The manufacture of chairs, has, in the past, been carried on here. *[Remnants of the mill site, impoundment area, and quarried granite block dam are visible on both sides of the Otter River off Turner Street in Otter River and Bridge Street in Gardner]* A little further down the stream is what is known as the Templeton Blanket Mills, which, together with the factory last named, is owned by Rufus S. Frost of Chelsea, Massachusetts. On this site, William Hunting built a saw-mill, which Col. Leonard Stone bought, and occupied for many years. William E. Nichols for a time had a machine shop here, and Charles Everett a grist mill. *[This site located on Hamlet Mill Road in Otter River].*"

Douglas S. Fleming, Sr.





“A moment in time”

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian*

HOW MANY SEARS HOMES IN OUR TOWN ?

While hosting our museum during the Civil War encampment I met a gentleman from town that stated that his grandfather’s home located on the common was a kit home sold by Sears Roebuck. This is the second home in town that I have been told was a Sears home and I can’t help wondering how many more there are.

In researching, I found that Sears Roebuck sold these kits by mail order from 1908 until 1940 when the great depression forced them to discontinue this part of their business.

Between 1908 and 1940 they sold over 75,000 home kits at prices ranging from \$450.00 to a few thousand dollars depending on the year and model. Over the 32 years that Sears produced these home kits, they offered over 400 different types.

I will not mention the location of the two homes that I know of but one of the homes is a large two and a half story home with the second floor being smaller than the first. I was very surprised to learn the history of them. From what I was told, the kits were somewhat like a puzzle. The parts were all numbered and whoever was assembling it just had to follow the instructions.

This is a copy of an old Sears advertisement showing some of the kits that were available.



President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



This will be the first year we do not have an October event in some time. A classic example of volunteer burnout. More of our members need to help in simple ways to help ease the burden of those who do so much. Our Civil War Lunch was a fantastic afternoon with soldiers in uniform sitting around a camp fire and 3 tents set up. A dozen people showed up to take the tour and half of them stayed for lunch. Needless to say, our volunteers had a good time, the weather was perfect especially while wearing authentic woolen uniforms. I hope you won't miss the next one.

The forestry plan has begun, we've waited patiently for over 4 years and we excited that it has begun. The Miller's property on Otter River Rd will be done first, they are already a week since the start. Once their land is completed, the loggers will move into our 23 acre woodland to select cut assorted hardwoods and pine to thin out the property. This will bring in a nice payday most of which will go into our long term funds while some will go towards much needed projects for improvements around the buildings we care for. Monthly meetings will decide what will go on the project list and how we plan to implement them. If you want to get involved with some of these projects, you are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings listed on the last page of this newsletter.

I continue to meet with the Community Foundation to discuss how our involvement is growing, with the CPC to stay on track with the next round of Grants. I've met with our architect to organize the progress in the Grange hall restoration project & the forester on the progress of seeing machines move in our neighbors land where they will gain access to our land. I've had multiple meetings with directors, our new treasurer, Kelly Elliot, and members who are interested in building a strong future for this organization.

The historical society has been looking at the land behind the Grange hall on it's potential use, it could become a parking lot, a sitting area for outside events, a park section leaving trees to hide the cars and activity from the neighbors or at a minimum, we are hoping to cut some of the trees on the border creating some much needed parking spots for our elderly to gain easy access to the building.

Fall is a time to prepare for the coming winter season. We also have those same preparations at the building on 1 Boynton Rd. If you have an hour or so, bring a rake and lend a hand with leaf pickup. No appointment is necessary, just stop by when you can. You can't miss the leaf pile out back, and our 4 wheeled wagon is up against the building for your use.

Thank you to all who help care for the gardens, they look great.

2019 OFFICERS:

President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Vacant
 Secretary Amy Guthrie
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2019 DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Amy Guthrie	Thomas Hurd	Darlene LaClair
Open	Eileen Bouvier	Ann Lyons
Open	Jessie Duguay	OPEN

TRUSTEES:

Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks
 Open

Contact info:

Main email: narragansethistoricalociety@yahoo.com
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay



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



Find us on Facebook—Search for **TempletonMuseum (Narr Hist 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" 1400 members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>

**Located at 1 Boynton Rd. and 9 Hubbardston Rd
 Templeton MA**

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

October 23rd at the building 7pm

November 27th to be announced, possibly at the Senior Center



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