

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

October / November 2023



The Grange hall project is moving right along, a display project we've been featuring here is the Church window, the frame is now built, the wiring and lights are installed and the outer frame (right) has been scraped, primed, and painted with its first coat. Once the window is raised into the final resting spot, the frame will be created to secure the white trim outer frame to the front of the window.

Tuesday nights appear to be our best time to get things done upstairs, moving, cleaning, and building in preparation for our many displays.

Panels have been installed to diffuse the lights and spread it out to better illuminate the stained glass window.



Meanwhile, the bathrooms are moving forward with hot water, toilets, sinks, and running water. Doors will be installed this week and the trim will be finished. Windows are still on order but will be done in the next few months. Not to worry, there are plenty of projects to keep everyone busy.

NOTICE:

Plans are on track to raise and install the window Sunday afternoon at 2pm



New mailing address effective immediately.
Narragansett Historical Society 1 Boynton Rd. Templeton MA 01468

Silver Level Sponsor

SCOTTY'S POTTIES



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Event Sponsors



**A special
Thank you to
Templeton Light**



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TCTV Cable Channel 8



NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS:

AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

Featuring our 4th annual fresh cut
wreath sale!



SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 2023
1:00PM-4:30PM
1 BOYNTON RD TEMPLETON MA

Also including:

Bake Sale

Christmas Tree Lighting

A special visit from Santa

See Facebook for more details!

*Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you*

Gold Sponsors 2023

Chair City Oil Full Service Oil Company

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"We treat our customers as warm friends!"



TANQUAY JEWELERS



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ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

Platinum	\$5,000.00	Gold	\$1,000.00	Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00	Event	\$250.00		

Lifetime memberships are still only \$100.00 sign up a friend to-

On the trail

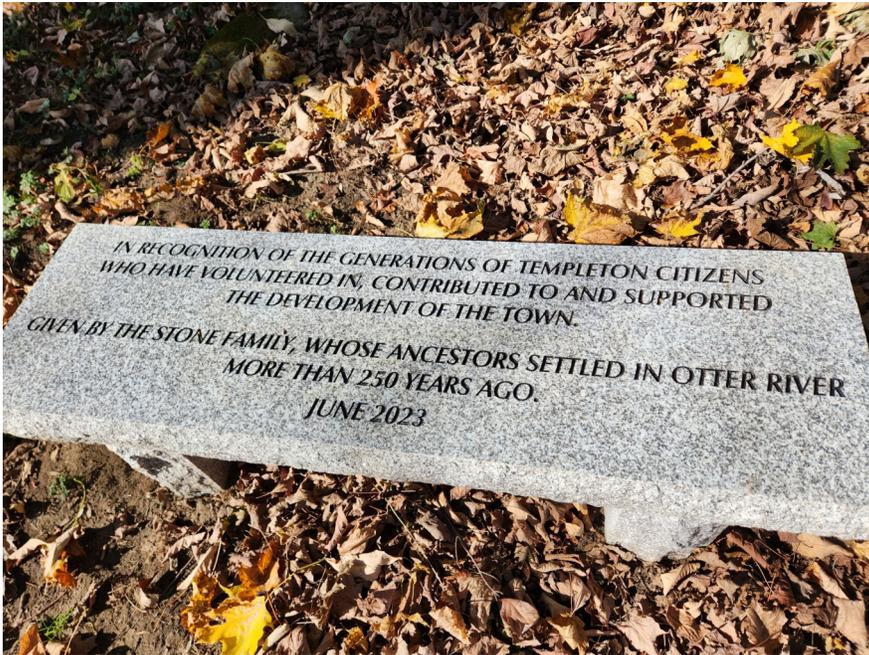
Several folks from the Stone Land Trust group from Otter River visited the area of the walking trails behind the main Society building on October 28, 2023.

A bequest from a member of this group paid for the bench construction and placement. The site was agreed upon earlier between the Society trustees and a representative of the Stone Land group (and lifetime Society member) Paula Stone Erickson. Pictured below are group members and the bench. George May, Sarah Hibbard Finn, Paula Erickson, Mary Stone, Priscilla May and Brian DeRosier are pictured.

As people walk this trail in the future, they can rest on this bench, which is placed as a remembrance of the very earliest settlers in the Town of Templeton.

The SLT thanks the NHS for enabling the placement of the bench. The Trust will be donating \$3000 to the NHS to help finance projects in the future.

Paula Stone Erickson





"A moment in time"

By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

SOME OF THE PAST FIRES IN OUR TOWN

After seeing how so many of the town's residents were affected from the loss of Francis Leland's store (The Red Onion), I decided to write about some of the fires in the past, some that involved town property.

One of these fires that were a big loss to the town was a fire that destroyed the Templeton High School in December, 1921. The building and contents was a total loss. The school had closed on Friday for Christmas vacation. The janitor had been working in the building on Saturday and had left at 10:30 that night.

A neighbor saw flames coming out of the windows at 6:30 the next morning and turned in the alarm. According to a story from the Gardner News it was already a total loss. By 7:30 the roof had fallen and all was lost. The loss was estimated at \$80,000 dollars with an insurance of only \$7,000 dollars.

Upon returning from Christmas vacation the students were schooled in the hall of the Otter River School. The old Elm Street School which stood next to the Baptist church was also reopened for use.

Fitting right in with story is another school fire years later in October 1933. This school was the very school that was used to ease the citation of the high school fire. The fire was discovered shortly before midnight. This building located on Main Street in Otter River was also a total loss having only a portion of the front wall standing after the fire was extinguished. The loss was estimated at \$100,000 dollars. (More next month)



Templeton High School



Otter River School

President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



A chill is in the air, it's getting dark early, and we might get a chance to mow the lawn one more time, or at least pick up the leaves. Needless to say, winter is coming and we are so lucky to have the outside work done at the Grange hall, the roof was so important to get done when we had the chance. Heat is installed for the comfort of our volunteers as well as our contractors working on getting the building ready for spring.

Depending on the heating situation on the first floor, we may be able to work through the winter both on the restoration and the research which continues all year. We'll have the time to build some cases for displays and move some of our vintage glass display cases upstairs and begin filling them with the many artifacts in our collection.

After so many years of sitting dormant, doing one or two projects only to sit dormant again, we have finally reached the point where we can say "we will be open next year". You've seen the pictures, followed us on our Facebook page, and some have taken a sneak peak inside during our Tuesday night work projects. Everyone has commented on what a great looking hall it has become. I will remain committed to this task as the project manager overlooking and organizing everything to insure that it will get done.

Our sponsors, donors, members, and the town CPC have backed us up for many years and we are so thankful for that support. We want to make the town proud to have the old Grange hall back up and running as a multi use facility for small events both public and private.

Stay tuned for more exciting news to come.

2023—2024 OFFICERS:

President: Brian Tanguay
Vice Pres. Thomas Hurd
Secretary Sue O'Coin
Treasurer Kelly Elliot
Curator: Brian Tanguay
Historian: Harry Aldrich

2023—2024 DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Eileen Bouvier	Mary Miller	John Chouinard
Kelly Elliot	Harry Aldrich	Vacant
Joseph Croteau	vacant	vacant

TRUSTEES:

Vacant
Anyone interested in joining in any capacity, please attend our meetings to see how you can help.

Contact info:

Main email: nh1924society@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay



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" 2000 members following

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

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

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



Meeting Notice: 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised

*Tuesday nights in the Museum from 6-8 have begun.
Saturday from 1-4, if you see vehicles, stop in and say Hello.*

Meeting Dec. 6, 7pm at the Senior Center in Baldwinville



Grange hall Restoration / 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
1 Boynton Rd., Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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1 Boynton Rd.
Templeton, MA 01468