

# Narragansett Historical Society

April



2015



## CALENDAR

### Events and Meetings for 2015

April 22nd Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm at the Document room

26th May Day basket making at the Otter River Sportsman Club

May Tuesday night at the Museum begins. Every Tuesday from 6-8pm

9th Town Wide Yard Sale 8—2pm members can set up in front.

27th Annual Meeting Elections 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

June: Building open hours begin Saturdays from 12-5

27<sup>th</sup> First Tea in the Garden from 2-5 Downton Abbey

24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

July: Building is Closed 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend

Reading of the Declaration of Independence First Church.

4th COA is hosting a Mac & Cheese cook off on the common

Golf Tournament Cancelled until next year June.

Aug. Craft Fair 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> bake sale, raffle, open house, free tours.

26<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

26<sup>th</sup> Engine Show cars, engines, tractors, music and more

Oct. All Month display “Death becomes her” features mourning dresses, jewelry, and hair wreaths

28<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room

31<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Festival watch for details

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Jack Frost Festival Sunday from 1-5 Parade at 4, tree lighting at 4:30. Bake sale, open house, wreath sale, raffle drawing.

16<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

On the Common  
Templeton MA



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

# Sponsored by

These are our 2015 sponsors. If you would like to sponsor our efforts to save the Historical Society and preserve Templeton's past, contact us at the email on the bottom of the page.

Our sponsors make it possible for us to continue our mission to preserve the artifacts handed down through the generations and to restore the building where they are displayed for the public to enjoy.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

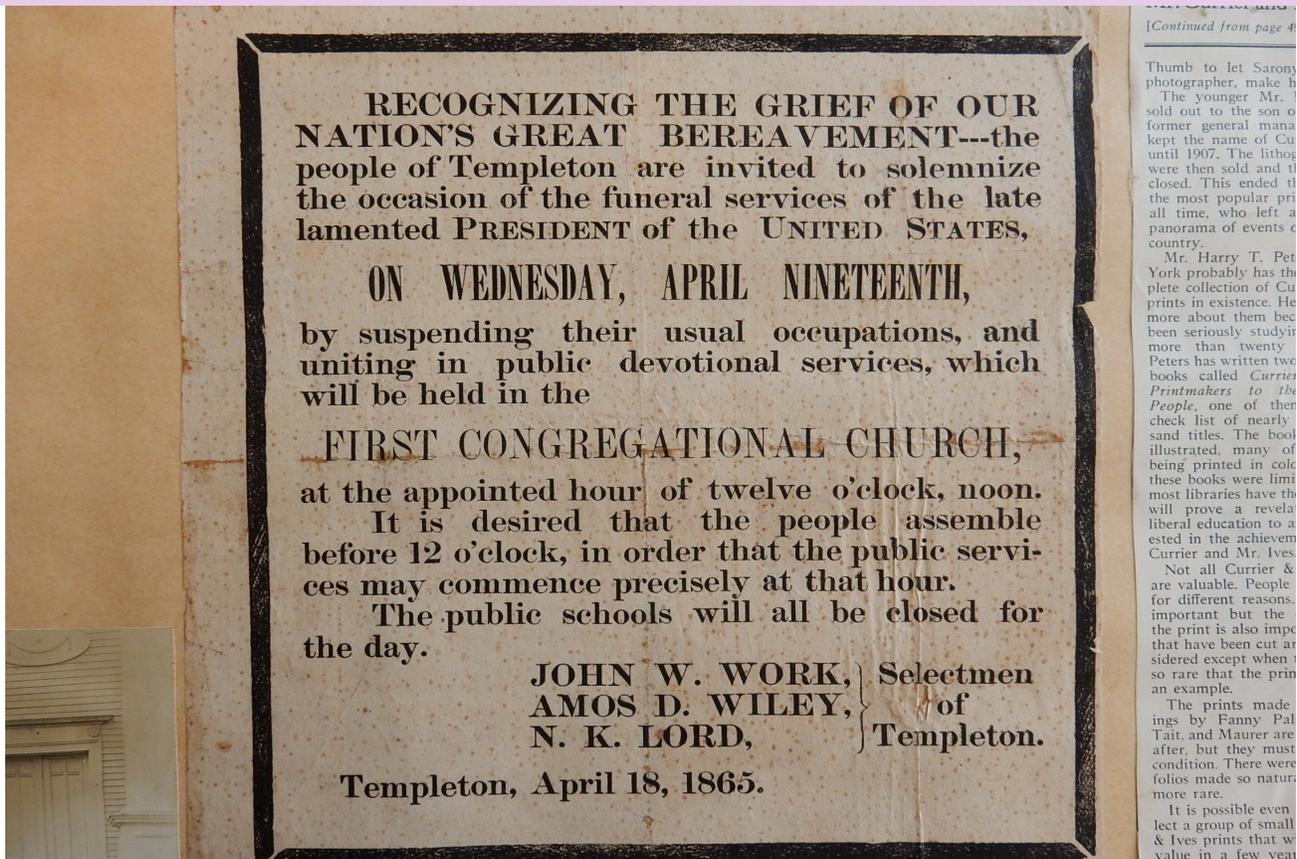
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*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.

# 150 Years ago



We share with you an article found in our large scrap book proclaiming a day to mourn President Abraham Lincoln's death.

## Council on Aging

A special Thank You to Dianna Morrison Director of the Council on Aging for her support in our efforts to communicate with our members who do not have computer access. Currently we have 40 members who we send our newsletters to via the post office and the COA is kind enough to offer their copy machine to supply those newsletter copies for us.

The kindness of our volunteers and our fellow organizations has helped continue our much needed communication with every one of our members and friends so they can stay informed of coming events and past successes.

Show your support to the COA when you hear about their fundraising efforts along with making sure you make regular donations to the Templeton Food Pantry. Every dollar helps in so many ways.

# Annual Meeting and Elections

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SLATE OF OFFICERS UP FOR ELECTION  
ELECTION DATE  
MAY 27, 2015

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Tanguay

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Howard Sands

**TREASURER:** Debbie Cassie

**SECRETARY:** Christine Stone

**CURATOR:** Brian Tanguay

**DIRECTOR 3 YEARS:** Tom Hurd  
Jessie Duguay  
Ann Lyons

**DIRECTOR 2 YEARS:** Karen Rich  
Tom Hill  
Bill Buckler

**DIRECTOR 1 YEAR:** Janet Haley  
Dennis Rich  
Tom Jeleniewski

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

**HISTORIAN:** Harry Aldrich  
**BUILDING and GROUNDS:** Tom Hurd

This slate of officers and Board of Directors have all agreed if it is the will of the membership to serve in the capacity as stated above. The official vote will take place May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Narragansett Historical Society Annual Meeting. Meeting will be held at 7:00 at the Society building.

Respectfully Submitted,  
President Brian Tanguay  
Historian Harry Aldrich  
VP Howard Sands

*Reminder: While our Directors and Officers are volunteering to help grow the Society in a positive direction, each and every member can contribute toward this goal and several do just that every day. This slate of officers has promised to be a role model for our members and encourage others to participate in our events and our days in which we are open to the public.*

*We are currently experiencing the strongest membership growth in decades and we are encouraged to replenish our financial strength to bring us into the next decade stronger and more sound.*

## Bylaws change vote

When we updated our bylaws in 2014 we kept the list of officers the same. At times it was difficult to find volunteers to fill some positions. Some were placed just to fill the position even though they really didn't want the title. Our Officers and Directors are working hard to find the right people who want the title, those that will help in our events and those who will attend our meetings to set up our calendar for the year. One position in question was having two Vice Presidents, There is no clear reason as to why we have had these two VPs over the years and a vote to cut it down to having one VP was overturned in our annual meeting last year.

A vote is again requested to set up our Officers Slate with one VP for this coming election and to change the Bylaw to make it easier in the future.

Having one VP, 9 Directors, 4 Trustees, and one of the best Historian's this town has ever seen gives us plenty of support when decisions are needed.

Presented by: Brian Tanguay, President

# May Day

**April 26th Sunday from 1 to 4 at the Otter River Sportsman Club. Make a may basket for your Mom or Grandmother, dance with ribbons around the may pole, or make a fancy flower hat. Learn the history of May Day or just bring your camera and enjoy a beautiful spring day with the kids.**



## June 27th Downton Abbey Style

This year our Tea in the garden begins with a tribute to Downton Abbey. Our staff will suggest you come dressed best to fit the theme. The plans are still in the works for the June 27th start to our summer season of Saturday afternoon teas.

With the theme idea, we will probably have one or two teas a month instead of every week allowing our volunteers the time needed to set up and bring their ideas to life.

If you have an idea for a tea and would like to host one, please contact us soon so we can advertise and help make it a successful afternoon.

As always, the building will be open for a tour during the tea and with our new volunteers we plan on being open every Saturday for visitors to enjoy the building and it's artifacts. Hosts are always needed to keep the building safe so please let us know if you have a Saturday with nothing to do, you will be welcome as a volunteer. While you are hosting the building you will also enjoy the many photo albums and documents on display. Maps, deeds, genealogy, town records, and paintings are just the beginning of what you will find in the document room.



## Spring and Summer projects

A group of "Garden Hands" has set up to make sure the garden does not go wild. Several men have offered support in doing some of the heavy lifting including the front steps and the brick walkway. The snow is almost gone and the ground is just about thawed out, so stay tuned for these projects to move forward soon. Volunteers are needed to help mow the lawn, if you can help, email us here. Thanks to all for your efforts.



## “A moment in time”

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian*

### ***THE OLD WINTERS OF YEARS GONE BY***

Everybody thinks we had a rough winter this year, and we did compared to anything we experienced in say the last 30 years, but when I was growing up this type of winter was normal.

I can remember snow drifts so high that I could step off the drift and get on our porch roof and then jump off into the snow. The front yard probably had about 3 feet of snow in it and was full of tunnels that we had dug playing in it. We would have snowball wars, building snow forts and knocking the other team's down when we attacked them and then rebuilding them. We would pour water over the walls so that they would freeze up and be more solid.

I can remember when the town would post Dudley road so that we could slide on it. I believe, if I remember correctly, the signs said, Coasting Allowed. Of course things were different then. People drove slower, trucks were not as big as they are nowadays and anyone that drove down the hill was very careful. Sometimes some of the older kids would do some foolish things thinking they were funny but not thinking about the driver. I remember one Sunday one of the older boys who was notorious for being a dare devil. I will not mention his name but on this particular day there was a good sized truck going down the hill and the driver had waited until it was clear. After he started down the hill this kid ran behind him and jumped onto his sled. He went behind the truck and went right under the truck and came out in front of it. Back then we thought that was quite a thing but I can imagine what went through that drivers mind when he came out in front of him. This is probably one good reason why the practice ended.

I remember back then how the snow would drift on many of the roads such as South Road. There were quite a few farms in town then and the highway department would go around putting up snow fence to help stop the drifting. I can remember South drifting so deep that the plows could not get through. I believe there were times that they had to have Walt Lawrence open it up with his dozer. Of course back then the town would hire Ken Lawrence to plow the roads with his trucks as he had owned several of them.

I will end this story with something that I was reminded of with the idea people had this winter of rolling a snowball in the driveway to remove the snow. A bunch of us were playing down on Hubbardston Rd. down in the area of Laurel View and we got the idea of making a snowball. We started at the top of the hill and started rolling it down the hill. By the time it got too big and heavy to roll anymore we were quite a ways down the hill and had about half the road blocked. It was so big that we could no longer move it at all so guess what? We went home and left it there. Never heard anything about it but I'll bet it was them dang kids again.

# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



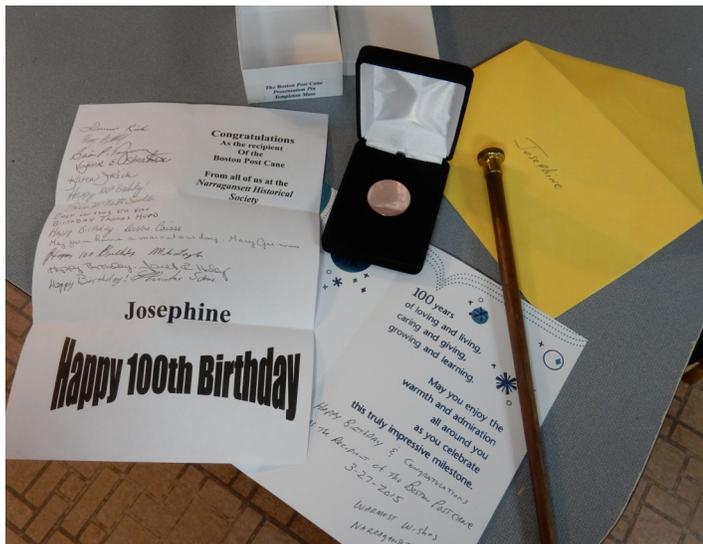
It's time to open our doors.  
Sign up using our email so we can make plans early.  
Saturday from 2-5,  
Sunday from 11-3 (providing we have volunteers)  
and Tuesday nights from 6-8

We must have at least 3 volunteers to open our doors.

While you are helping watch the building, you will learn so much about our local history in our document room or by viewing the vast collection donated by residents over the years. I have been a member for over 24 years and I still find something different every visit.

## Boston Post Cane

*Surrounded by friends & family, Josephine Ruckey celebrated her 100th birthday and was honored with the presentation of the Boston Post Cane at the Baldwinville Nursing Home on March 27th 2015. Present were Selectman, Julie Farrell, Director of the Council on Aging Dianna Morrison, President NHS Brian Tanguay, Directors Bill Buckler & Kerry Bettez, Historian Harry Aldrich, and Members Tom Hurd, Shirley Peabody, and Mike Manca.*



**OFFICERS:**  
 President : Brian Tanguay  
 1st Vice Pres. Beth Arsenaault  
 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.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT  
 NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME  
 any time.



Sign up soon. **930 friends and counting!**

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

**April 22nd in the Document room of our building 7pm**

**May 27th in the Document Room 7pm **Annual Meeting & Elections!****

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

