

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

April 2020

Our April meeting is cancelled



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

Platinum	\$5,000.00	Gold	\$1,000.00	Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00	Event	\$250.00		
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our newsletter.**

**Ask your employer to sponsor
The Historical Society**

Thank you to all sponsors!

**A special Thank you to
Templeton Light Co.**



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.

Lucy Stone Tea party

On June 27, 2020 from 2-4:30pm, Narragansett Historical Society will host a tea in their back garden, with a very special guest, Lucy Stone. A lifetime advocate of equal rights, suffrage for all, and the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree, Ms. Stone inspired thousands of women to join the cause to earn the vote, which we will celebrate along with Lucy Stone represented in her later years. Victorian era dress is encouraged, highlighting the white outfits favored by the Suffragette movement of the turn of the century. Savory and sweet treats and beverages will be served to all who purchase tickets. This event is co-sponsored by the Templeton Cultural Council and will be held rain or shine at the Society's main building, located at 1 Boynton Road, Templeton, MA. For more information or to purchase advance tickets, email us at nh1924society@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door on the date of the event.



When will we open?

The State may open some businesses on May 4th. Our members health is a #1 priority so we are not going to open on Tuesday nights right away. We will have one or two members stop into the building to do some organizing or cleaning, but we will not unlock the doors until we all feel comfortable with this situation.

Until that day comes, we will have limited work projects. Our directors are planning and organizing small one person jobs that can be done outside or at home. Follow us on our Facebook group page to see what's happening.

Grange hall update

The Grange hall project using CPC funds is moving forward with the remaining work on the windows and doors along with plans for the handicap ramp at the main entrance using the back door. A planned driveway will be set up on the left side of the building if permits are granted so we will be able to drive around the Grange hall. Limited parking will be created for up to 7 cars at the handicap ramp. Permits are being pulled now to get this plan started. We are still negotiating with the land owner out back to see if we can use a portion of the land to park a few more cars. Good things are happening, you just have to know where to look. If you want to get involved, simply let us know via email or Facebook.

*Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you*

Gold Sponsors 2020



TANGUAY JEWELERS



HUHTALA

OIL &

Propane

Templeton Inn Sign restored

On the cover; The original sign hanging over the front entrance from 1900 to 1926 was removed when the building was sold to the Landlord's Inn group. From the looks of the sign, it appears that it was placed in a barn, maybe a dirt floor, since the bottom is slightly rotten and all of the letters have fallen off, leaving the black shadow of where the letters were once placed. The scale model was made by Charles Burpee of Arizona, he donated it in July of 2000 on his trip back to town.

Using the pickets from the old fence next to the sunken garden the wood was ripped to the appropriate width of the original letters and cut to size, glued together and nailed to the sign. The project only took three days, first to measure and cut the templates for each letter, second to cut the wood and glue and paint the cut edges, and third to tack them securely in place. Now that it is brought back to life, it will be displayed in the Grange hall in a safe location for visitors to see.

With the "Stay Home" act in place projects like this can be given the time needed to complete. In the past, we would only have a few hours a week to dedicate towards a restoration project like this.



Boston Post Cane

5 years ago in March of 2015, we presented the Boston Post Cane to Josephine Ruckey on her 100th birthday. I recently spoke to her relative to check up on her, she is doing fine getting visits from relatives at the window of the Baldwinville Nursing home. She was so happy to see the children on her 105th birthday. Pictured below is the original Boston Post Cane from 1909, it was encased using black walnut donated by Brian Tanguay and made by Don Irving.





"A moment in time"

By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

WHO IS HARRY ALDRICH?

I have been writing for our newsletter since 2014 and I got to thinking how many of you folks that read these stories actually know me. So, I figured what better time to introduce myself and tell you a little about me.

I was born here in 1939 and have lived here all my life. My mother Agnes [Valiton] Aldrich was born in Brooks Village and was also a lifelong resident of Templeton. My father, Harry Aldrich Sr. was born in Keene, NH and moved to Templeton in the 1920's. He and my mom were married in the old Trinitarian church on Boynton Rd. in 1935. My father served the town as Cemetery superintendent, tree warden, and was a firefighter for twenty five years.

I was educated in the Templeton schools and graduated in 1958, the first graduating class out of the new Narragansett High School having attended there the last six months of my senior year. I took the agriculture course in high school hoping to go into farming but by the time of graduation, the farming business in decline so that never happened.

After graduating, I started working for Sears Roebuck in Gardner. I started working in their garage doing oil changes and mounting tires. later worked in shipping and receiving. I also worked with my father part time doing tree removal and maintenance. After working for the town for about six months, the town treasurer informed me that if I was going to continue working, I had to join the retirement system and start paying in 5% of my pay. I told her I would never be retiring as an employee of the town. She said that didn't matter, it was the law, so I had no choice if I wanted to continue and that is what I did.

From 1962-1966 I was in the U.S. Coast Guard and when I was discharged I went back to working for Sears. The Gardner store had closed so they sent me to work in a new store in Springfield. Gardner only had a catalog store at the time. A few months later, Gardner had an opening at their catalog store in Gardner and I was given a transfer.

In 1966, after being discharged from the Coast Guard I became a member of the fire department where I served for 36 years, 25 of them as a Deputy Chief. The fire department was all volunteer back then and many people in town wore more than one hat.

I hope everyone enjoys this page during this trying time, stay healthy.

More next month, *Harry*

President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



I prepare this newsletter amidst a fresh and fluffy 4 inches of snow falling around our town. Just a few days ago, I was outside in my T-shirt cutting down trees for spring cleanup. It has been about a month that the State ordered non essential stores to close down to the public, so for me, I could only go in to get caught up on my work for a few hours every other day or so and then “Stay Home”. This must be what it’s like to retire, so I’ll embrace it, implement my emergency plan for my business so it will survive and spend time at home like most others around the globe.

The hardest part is not seeing my granddaughter who is 1 1/2 years old now, and our newest Grandson who is 2 months and getting bigger by the second. Pictures and videos are great, but holding them and being with them in person can’t be duplicated with technology.

That brings me to the duties as President. What can we do and what do we need to do to get through this. Honestly, not much. We are in the planning months that normally prepare us for the new season, we don’t usually have any events this time of year other than doing the spring cleaning at the building. There is no loss of income other than the financial help our sponsors donate, which I understand now that they too are closed to the public. The Federal Government has offered stimulus money to non-profits who run essential programs like food pantries, so we do not fall into that category.

The media is flooded with the same thing day after day, Facebook is inundated with chain letters, questionnaires on what you like, can you find Waldo, and what you ate for lunch. So I started to access our vast digital database along with asking Harry to flood our Facebook group page with the history of Templeton. All positive posts, all interesting information and stories from the town. Our followers now 1,400 strong have loved every post and are begging for more. At one point we have seen over 3,400 interactions on our page per week. People who have moved out of State have been glued to our page waiting for tidbits of history from the town they grew up in. They are sharing our posts to their pages and more are becoming members just to be able to support our efforts.

Finding the good in a bad situation has always been the recipe for success, as we come out of this pandemic, we will be stronger, closer, and we’ll have a renewed sense of purpose for the Society. What really matters will be the focus going forward. I hope to see you all soon, in person, at the Museum, or online showing your encouragement.

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: narragansethistoricalsociety@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

April 22nd cancelled

May 27th at the Main Building at 1 Boynton



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