

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

April 2021



Spring has sprung in the garden, time to fill in the area around the sunken garden and level out the outer borders.

Using the rich soil composted over the years, our leaves and grass clippings created a very large pile of black soil filled with worms and nutrients, all for free.

Plans will be created and voted on at our next meeting to plant trees and flowers. The gardens need weeding, or winter cleanup. There is a pile of dirt to help add to the soil. All together we moved 15 loads from the compost pile to the garden grounds.

The split wood is seasoning in our wood bin out front, we need to finalize the raffle plans and get those tickets made and sent out to the membership and community.

The new display in the Document room will be all about photography and those responsible for showing us what life was like around 1900. Find out the difference between a Daguerreotype, a Tintype, and an Ambrotype. Discover who took all or those pictures we have been posting on Facebook. The display should be ready to view by the end of May.

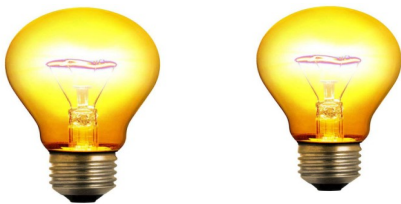
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An occasional series of articles spotlighting items from the Society's antique clothing and textile collections

“Best of the Vests” – Part three of three



A Wedding Vest

Every man wants to look his best on his wedding day, and what better way than with an elegant silk waistcoat? Last, but definitely not least, we have an ivory jacquard vest with a flower-and-trellis design. Similar to the paisley vest, the back is made of a plainer white silk twill, and the inside hem is faced with a band of fine kid leather. This vest was worn by Edward A. Locke on the occasion of his marriage to Ellen Bailey Goodrich on December 11, 1856 in Boston. Ellen, a Templeton native, was the niece of miniaturists Sarah and Elizabeth Goodridge, many of whose works are on display at the historical society. Edward Locke was an entrepreneur who invested in the development of several watch patents, eventually founding the Columbia Watch Co. of Waltham, Massachusetts, producing affordable pocket watches.

So we see that the humble vest can convey many things: personal style, cherished memories, status and celebration. Come visit us when the building reopens to see these and many other pieces of wearable history in our collections. And keep following the newsletter for future articles exploring these Threads from the Past.



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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 today!

Pandemic, 1918 vs 2020 by Cathy LaRoche

Since March of 2020 we have all experienced something that most of us have never experienced or even thought possible. The Covid pandemic has, in many ways, brought our lives to a screeching halt. You all know the statistics, the rise and fall of cases, and the symptoms associated with Covid because we all have access to television, news outlets and the internet. I can't help thinking about all those folks who lived through the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, who had much less information about what was approaching and spreading among them.



The Flu of 1918, sometimes called the Spanish Flu, most likely did not originate in Spain at all. In the spring of 1918 it struck the United States with rather mild symptoms and low numbers of cases. A second wave struck, however, in August and by fall there was a 28% morbidity rate across the country. Those unfortunate enough to come down with the flu experienced some symptoms similar to Covid - high fever, fluid in the lungs, head and body aches. Many subsequently developed pneumonia and died.

Within our Armed Forces, 26% contracted the Flu and more than 30,000 died of it in 1918 alone. The fact that we were in the midst of World War I certainly contributed to the development of more aggressive strains and the spread of the virus around the world. My own great grandfather, Narcisse Aubuchon died in October of 1918 at the age of 38. I am told that he went to work on October 10, 1918, came home sick and died during the night. He left behind his young Leominster family, including my grandfather, Ernest Aubuchon. According to the CDC, there were 50 million deaths worldwide, with 675,000 in the U.S. alone. Similar to today, mask-wearing rules were instituted across parts of the country, some schools and entertainment facilities were closed and strict "no-spitting" ordinances were instituted. Minor inconveniences, then and today, for staying safe during a contagious pandemic!

SOCIETY RECORD TO BE TURNED INTO SECRETARY

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MY MEMBERSHIP LEVEL • Annual ☐ \$15.00 Student ☐ \$5.00 Family ☐ \$25.00 Life ☐ \$100.00

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"A moment in time"

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

THE GINKGO TREE

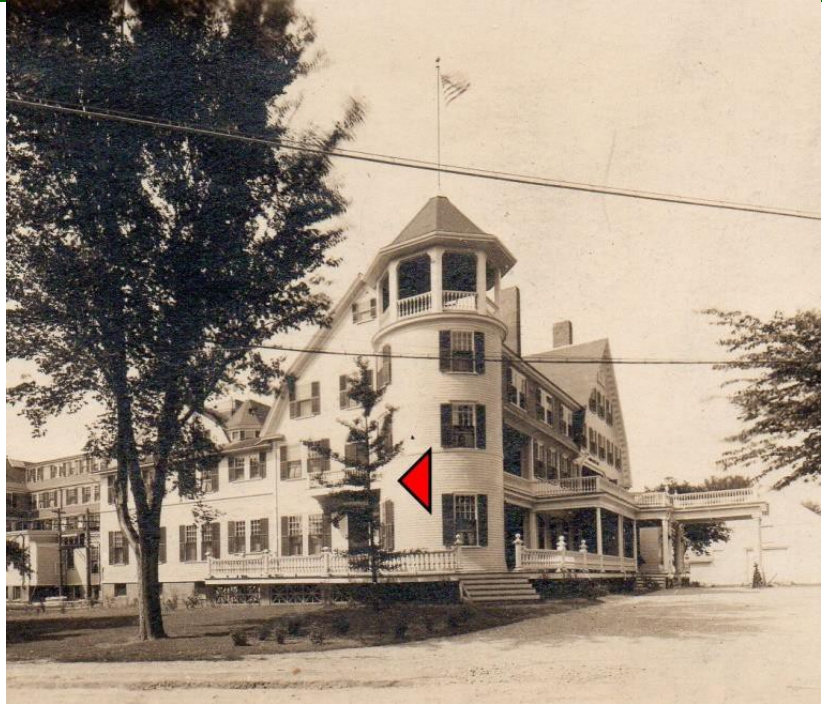
Have any of you ever heard of a Ginkgo tree? The tree is considered a living fossil that dates back 270 million years ago according to what I have read about it. The tree grows in Hardiness Zones 3-8 which includes our area. The tree is considered both a shade tree and an ornamental tree and grows to a height of 25 to 50 feet. It prefers full sun but will do well in partial shade. The leaves are fan shaped and are bright green in color. They are 2 to 3 inches long and the same

in width. They turn yellow in the fall. The tree can live as long as 3000 years and grows in a pyramidal shape. It can tolerate heat and air pollution

The tree was rediscovered in 1691 in China and brought to our country in the 1700's. The seeds and leaves are used in medicine throughout the world.

You are probably by now wondering why I am bringing up this particular tree. Well the answer is that we have a Ginkgo tree growing in our town on the common in Templeton Center. As far as I know it is the only one around. My father told me about the tree back many years ago when he was Tree Warden. I have heard a few people over the years say that the tree is ugly and should be cut down but in my eyes that would be a big mistake. I am sure if they knew what the tree really is, they would feel different.

The tree stand next to the firefighter's memorial and it is my belief that the tree was probably planted when the Templeton Inn was built in 1900 and has survived all these years. Below is a picture of the inn with a red arrow pointing at what I believe is the same tree.



President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



To keep you up to date, these are the projects I've been working on over the past few months.

- ♦ A grant application was started with the Ford Foundation. They have revamped their giving process to help non profits with the daily cost to survive. They will reply in the next 30 days.
- ♦ A local trust fund is considering a gift to the Society to help us with the Grange hall restoration. A letter was written and well received with a personal visit. Update to follow

The Woodbound Inn, 247 Woodbound Road, Ringe NH 03461 (603)532-8341

www.woodbound.com offered donations to non-profits to spend a few Wednesday nights at their new buffet dinner. Their guests will learn about each organization and the Inn will donate a portion of their profits. I submitted our name and info and we got a positive response asking us to be there Wednesday nights June 2nd and June 9th. They begin on May 5th and it will go throughout the summer. A few of our Directors volunteered to spend those nights to talk about the Historical Society, we'll bring our brochures, books, and applications.

- ♦ The Twin City Toastmasters is interested in holding their outdoor meeting in our garden again this year, May 18th from 6-7pm is the date we set, stop by, all are welcome. We enjoyed it last year and are looking forward to this meeting. A casual gathering will follow in the building with a tour.
- ♦ We submitted our tentative schedule to the Uniquely Quabbin magazine, there were very few submissions, so they were happy we relied and asked for more info and a story, grab a copy and check it out.
- ♦ We are only 9 members away from our race to 500! Clip a copy of our application and sign up a friend, neighbor, or family member. The support of our members and sponsors is keeping us going and in better shape than we could have imagined at the start of this pandemic. Thank you to everyone who donated
- ♦ Get involved with any event or open house soon, we were sad to miss out on our events, although it was worth making the effort to stay healthy. Most of us are now vaccinated and the numbers are coming down, our event schedule will come out next month and most of it will be trimmed down and outside. Let's make some noise on the Templeton Common this summer. Send us an email if you are able to help in any way.

2019 OFFICERS:
 President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Vacant
 Secretary Amy Guthrie
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2019 DIRECTORS:
 3 year Amy Guthrie
 2 year Thomas Hurd
 1 year Open
 John Chouinard
 Eileen Bouvier
 Ann Lyons
 Open
 Jessie Duguay
 OPEN

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
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 John Brooks
 Open

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 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" 1800 members following

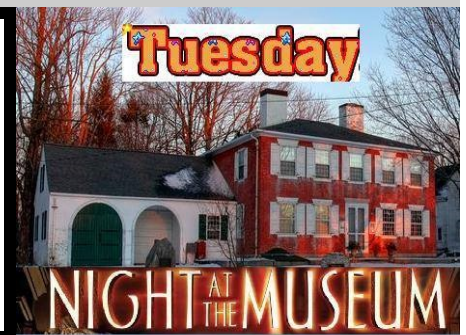
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>

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

Meeting Notice: 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised

***May 5th will be our test run to have the meeting on the first
 Wednesday of the month***

Tuesday nights we are open from 6-8pm



DONATIONS ACCEPTED

YES! I would like to make a donation to the
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 PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.**

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