

# *Narragansett Historical Society*

## *On the Common in Templeton MA*

### *August 2023*

**Next meeting September 6, 2023 at 1 Boynton Rd**

With so many aspects to the restoration, we get a chance to sit back and enjoy our victories one at a time. It's not finished yet but you can see how the stage will look with our fully restored Civil War frames, never to be moved again. Not counting the times we had to "get them out of the way", these memorial frames were moved 6 times from Ralph's barn, to storage, to the Grange, then finally upstairs, and now in place. Once you see how gorgeous they are, only then will you appreciate the work that went into them. The final steps will be to install the plaques, the two painted crescents, and standing up the new flags for that finishing touch. There is no rest on this endeavor, we are on to the next part of the work, bathrooms, first floor work, and organizing the rest of the artifacts we have in this fine collection. If you've had a hand in any aspect of these projects, you are invited to stop by and sign the wall before we insert the tablets.

Thanks to the team of workers at C.M. Chartier for taking on this monumental task, Andre Beauregard for doing the floor, Mitchell Caruso for the electrical work, George Krestyn for his master woodworking skills, and the countless others who have worked in the building over the years, let's keep the ball rolling. Our volunteers are literally the best, always available to handle the heavy lifting on such precious artifacts.

We have a bit more to do, so stay tuned and be ready when we open up to the public.



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# Motorpalooza 2023

Presented by:

**The Narragansett Historical Society**  
**Templeton Common Boynton Rd**

**September 24th, 11-4pm**

**Anything with an engine can show**





*Thank you \* Sponsorship \* Thank you*

# Gold Sponsors 2023

## Chair City Oil Full Service Oil Company

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## TANQUAY JEWELERS



### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

#### 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-

# 2023 “Go fly a kite” Festival

Our 9th annual kite fest on the field of John and Doris Brooks was a great success. Vendors lined the edge of the field, the William’s Brothers band played some great music all afternoon, our food tent offered hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks, faces were painted, balloon hats were made and giant bubbles filled the field. Kids had a blast and adults acted like kids again trying to get their kites in the air with just 7mph winds it wasn’t easy, but it was fun trying. The wagon ride around the field gave people a chance to sit back and watch the festivities and catch a breath. If you missed it this year, we’ll be sure to continue the fun next year and pray for wind. Where else can you go to act like a kid again and no one says a word, other than encouragement and laughter. Bring your cell phone just for the camera, and leave your everyday life at home. Hope to see you next year and for those who came, we’re glad you did.



## Woods Words by Mary Miller

When the trees are cut, a lot of light is let in, and plants that couldn’t grow in the understory take over. I’ve been using a scythe to keep parts of the trails open. It doesn’t need gas or a battery, and it’s quiet. It’s good exercise.

I’ve been cutting back goldenrod, asters, snake-root, grass, ferns, pilewort and jewelweed. I like jewelweed. Hummingbirds like their flowers, and I’ve spotted them zooming around a couple of times. I found three more tulip poplar trees. Bitty things now, about 3 inches tall. The two I found last year are doing well, and are about 18 inches tall. They are fairly common farther south. I’ve found 2 on my property next door. I wonder how the seeds get around. Birds? Where are the adult trees they are coming from?

It’s nice out there, go for a walk!







*"A moment in time"*

*By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

## MEMORIES OF CARNIVALS IN TOWN

I was just thinking about all the carnivals that use to come to town around this time of the years ago. Some of them were very big and would require a large field or parking lot to set up in and others were not quite so big and required less area.

One of the larger ones that comes to mind use to set up in what was called Lawrence Field which was located on what is now Patriots Road near the Phillipston town line. Another one that was a little smaller was sponsored by the Baldwinville fire fighters This was at their annual fall bazar that was held in the area of the little league field. They would have a small carnival come and set up their rides. This function always started off with a parade through Baldwinville consisting of fire engines from several area departments .Years later after the merger of the Templeton and East Templeton firefighters another bazar was started on Templeton Common in front of the Templeton fire station. This one was not quite as large but did consist of a few rides for youngsters. All of these functions included game that one could play and win prizes. The functions operated by the firefighters use to have what was called a dunk tank which consisted of a tank of water with a seat over it that dropped into the water when a target was hit by a baseball. They would get people such as school teachers or public officials to volunteer to sit in the seat and people would pay to get a chance throw a ball hoping to hit the target. One of the games was for young and old was one called penny pitch. It consisted of a table covered with Luck Strike labels. The trick was to pitch a Penney and have it land on the center of the label surrounded by the color red. At one of the events, the firefighters had a game of water polo using beach balls as shown below.



# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



**I must admit, it's more work than I thought, keeping up the work schedule at this speed is a lot, but every time I meet up with someone, they have such supportive comments about the work we've accomplished in the past 9 months. To be honest, I can't believe it's going this fast. The contractors we've found have gone over and above the call of duty to arrive on time, get their job done quickly, and clean up for the next crew to show up in a day or two. Even the surprise jobs, like the new roof and the sewer line, each done in just one day.**

**Our private funds have been a blessing providing us with the cash on hand to get things done without delay. The CPC has also made our progress a breeze allowing speedy payments to contractors and updates each step of the way.**

**Every aspect of this restoration gives all of us great pride in knowing that this is an historic event in our organization and in our town. Each and every person involved has shown or expressed how happy they are to be a part of this. They will eventually bring their friends and family to show off the Grange hall once it's done. There have been so many "once in a lifetime projects" and so many different people stepping up to lend a hand, I'm certain the hall will be filled with proud people who lent a hand when needed.**

**Next up is raising the Trinitarian Church stained glass window, the dance floor is opened up as you can see from the front page, it's probably the first time that floor has been empty since the dances back in the 50's and 60's. After the window is installed and the light box is completed, the floor will be refinished and the rest of the display items will be placed around the room.**

**We have lights, music, AC, heat, and clean floors, painted walls, new windows and doors. we are getting closer every day.**

**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](mailto: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 September 6, 7pm at the Main building*



**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  
PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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