

# Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

## February 2017

**Before and After images  
Of the garden and the ash trees**

**It will be a noticeable difference,  
but in time, those trees will be  
another memory in our history  
books.**

**Our future historians will, from  
time to time discover these im-  
ages and imagine what it was  
like to be around in 2017.**

**It's our current task to make  
sure we are thinking about  
the future while we preserve  
the past. We make changes  
when needed, improvements  
if required, and mostly try to  
preserve this building and  
grounds the way our charter  
members envisioned it when  
they set it up.**



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

# Calendar 2017

2017

*February 15th, Membership meeting 7pm at the Senior Center **New date***

*February 25th Noon to 5 at the Baldwinville American Legion post 373.  
**Cabin Fever Collectors showcase Food and fun, sign up today.***

**The building is now Closed until the spring.**

**March 22nd, Membership meeting at the Senior Center 7pm**

**April 4th First Tuesday night at the Museum Open –6-8pm**

**April 26th meeting at the building 7pm**

**April 30th May Day basket making and dance around the may pole**

**May 24th meeting at the building 7pm Annual meeting with elections**

## 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.

## Robert Pomeroy Weis (1928 - 2016)

Life member of the Narragansett Historical Society

DUBLIN, NH - Robert Pomeroy Weis, 87, of Cricket Hill Farm, Dublin, NH, died Tuesday, February 8th, at Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough. Robert was born June 12, 1928 at Taunton, MA, to *Rev, Frederick Lewis Weis & Elizabeth Williams Stone*. He grew up in Lancaster, MA. He attended Phillips Andover Academy, Williams College, and later, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, graduating with degrees in Mathematics and Civil Engineering. At WPI, he worked on the Niagara Hydropower Project at the Alden Laboratory. He served in the Army outside Washington, DC, where he met his first wife, Rosamond Holme Marble. They married in 1952, and had three children before her death in 1960. In 1961, he married Mary Carolyn Decrouez, with whom he had one child. In 1962, he began teaching mathematics and woodworking at Mount Hermon School in Gill, MA, where he spent the next 31 years. He was much-beloved by students and colleagues, and was at his best teaching those who had the least aptitude for his subject. Of these years he always said "I never felt like I was going to work." He retired to Dublin in 1993, where he served on several town boards and as a poll worker. An avid student of agricultural history and engineering, he collected and restored antique farm machinery and Ford Model T's, and eagerly read any literature on the subject. He was instrumental in the establishment of the annual Dublin Engine Show and was a lifetime member of the Granite State Gas and Steam Engine Association. He was also a member of the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mary and his children, Sarah of Montague, MA; Jonathan of Harrisville, NH; Peter of Northfield, MA; and Richard of Northampton, MA; eight grandchildren; and his sister, Virginia Bourne, of Castine, ME.

A memorial service in celebration of Robert's life will be held at All-Saints Episcopal Church in Peterborough, NH at 10 a.m. on February 20th, 2016.

***Our genealogy collection holds 3 volumes written by Frederick Lewis Weis a true Templeton treasure.***

# Groundhog Day

The first documented American reference to Groundhog Day can be found in a diary entry, dated February 4, 1841, by Morgantown, Pennsylvania, store-keeper James Morris:

**Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawney, PA February 2, 2017**

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye**

**Now, this Second Day of February, Two Thousand and Seventeen, the One Hundred and Thirty First Annual Trek of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club....**

**Punxsutawney Phil, the Seer of Seers, Prognosticator of All Prognosticators, was awakened from his burrow to the cheers of his thousands of faithful followers....**

**In Groundhogese, he directed the President and the Inner Circle to his prediction Scroll, which reads:**

*At Gobbler's Knob on Groundhog Day  
We celebrate a world-wide Holiday  
It's mighty cold weather, you've been braving  
Is it more winter or is it spring that you're craving?  
Since you've been up all night and starting tottle  
I, Punxsutawney Phil, shall not dawdle  
My faithful followers, I could clearly see  
A beautiful, perfect shadow of me  
Six more Weeks of Winter, it shall be!*

January 30th Jon Haley stopped by with tractor, trailer, and chainsaw in hand to cut up the ash trees left behind after they were felled. It didn't take long for Jon to remove all of the evidence of those enormous trees. His trusty Cub Cadet muscled those large sections of logs measuring almost 4 feet across. His restoration of the old homestead on Baldwinville Rd. will stay nice and warm next winter with the several cords of wood from this project. I would imagine his great grandparents were probably sipping tea in this garden under those same trees. Thanks for helping out Jon.



# Tree Removal January 27, 2017

Sad to see them go, but fate has set the stage to take them down. 100 plus year old Ash trees standing tall over the garden at the entrance and just before the sunken garden. They have provided us with cover but recently have given us reason to remove them. Many of the top branches were beginning to fall during each windy storm and although the trunk was solid, the pending doom of the ash borer beetle was on its way to seal the deal.

The forestry program slated for the back woods will also include the removal of all ash trees due to the same fate. Now we plan on the next step in our garden project. To select new fencing for both sides of the yard, picking trees to fill the gap created from the removal of the giant ash trees, sprucing up the lawn, and re-creating the pergola that has long since been removed from beyond the sunken garden. Our sponsors play a huge role in supporting these efforts showing progress and improvements to our building and its grounds. The forestry plan will also bring in funding to help complete these projects with no affect to our growing account, in both our checking account and our stock portfolio.

Volunteers are being lined up to take the lead in some of these projects, if you are interested in helping out, don't hesitate to contact any one of our directors or officers. Your help is the reason we are able to complete so many tasks.

The garden plan will be outlined at our Feb 15th meeting at the Senior Center.



**Gold Sponsors**



## Sponsorship

Take a closer look at these sponsors to the left. Visit them if you can, mention your appreciation for their support throughout the year. Some have been sponsors for 3 years in a row, others have joined in our efforts to secure the future of the Historical Society. Several have already expressed an interest to continue into 2017.

**Silver Sponsor**



If you own a business or work in an institution with ties to Templeton either through family or friends, please suggest a sponsorship to our Historical Society. Projects are getting done, ideas are created and implemented knowing we have the support of our membership and our sponsors.

**Bronze Sponsors**



To become a sponsor contact us at the email listed below or contact one of our officers or directors listed on the back page.

**Event Sponsors**



You can become a sponsor through a donation or donating your services, either way we all win.

**SCOTT'S POTTIES**

**SCOTT'S POTTIES**

From all of us at the Historical Society, Thank you.



NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

# *CABIN FEVER COLLECTORS SHOW*

**FEBRUARY 25TH ~ NOON - 5PM**

BALDWINVILLE LEGION, BALDWINVILLE, MA  
TO DISPLAY YOUR OWN COLLECTION  
CONTACT BRIAN AT  
NARRAGANSETTHISTORICALSOCIETY@YAHOO.COM

**\$5 DONATION AT DOOR  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

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

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## “A moment in time”

by: **Harry Aldrich Jr. *Historian***

### My Old Club House

Many years ago before mom and dad had met dad had built what is today known as a motorhome out of an old Model T. I have a couple of pictures of him and a friend building it. After building this machine I am assuming they took off for Florida with it as dad use to comment on Florida quite often. I have no idea how many trips were made but I am guessing that after mom and dad met it ended. Mom was never interested in traveling very much. She was happy with staying in Templeton. Anyway for as far back as I can remember, this old so-called motor-home sat in the field out in back of our house. The motor was no longer in it and the tires on it were all old and flat.

About the time that I turned eight or nine years old (not sure exactly) I laid claim to the remnants as my club-house and would play in there with some of my friends. Dad didn't care as it was just rotting away anyway. The old wooden spoked wheels would never be on the road again. The windows were still in it and the roof was pretty tight so it served our purpose and eventually it just got so bad that it went to the junk yard. Now, many years later after getting on the historical society, I got involved in getting a couple of old movies that a gentleman named Mr. Flood made in 1932 put onto a DVD. One of the movies was titled, In and Around Templeton in 1932. The films had been preserved by Richard Kendall, a society member and professional photographer. The first job was to get the films from Mr. Kendall and he was reluctant to part with them unless he knew that they would be handled properly. After I convinced him that they would be well cared for, he returned the films to us and helped us treat them with a chemical that he recommended. Next, we brought the films to a company down near Boston and they were put on DVD. One movie entitled ,A New England Village Tells Its Story was converted and narrated by Mr. Hal Goodwin, another member of the society and is available for sale in our store.

The second DVD was done with music added to it and is the one that connects with this story. I had never seen this movie, and while viewing it saw section with a sign that said, Off to Florida, and low and behold, there was my old-club house with my dad checking it out. This was staged for the movie because it no longer had any lights on it but Thanks to this DVD I now have a picture of my club-house.



# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



## Meetings, Committees, Elections and more

**Trustees:** Tuesday January 10, 2017 Brian Tanguay, Tom Jeleniewski, David Huhtala, and John Brooks, met at John's house at 6:30pm to discuss the transfer of stocks to the Community Foundation fund. David took the statements and will communicate with the VP Linda Mack to acquire the forms needed to complete the move. David will also call the Computershare company to see which stocks can be moved easily. Tom has taken on the task to organize both the trustee's records but also the assorted records created by the Society so we can finally get them in a system for future searches. Brian has requested to be removed from the board of Trustees at the next annual meeting in May. The board can survive with three trustees and if a 4th can be found, that candidate will be elected in May.

**Directors:** A few meetings were held with Director Amy Guthrie and President Brian Tanguay to discuss the many duties now placed in Brian's care. Amy volunteered to help take some of those duties on as Director. Advertising, newsletter compilation, and as an added bonus, chair for 3 teas in the summer.

**The Nominating Committee** will be set up soon to fill the Trustee's position and the Vice President's position in May. A new position will be created and voted upon in the coming months to accommodate the need for an assistant to the President. Computer skills are required to work with emails, records, reports, and organization. During the last few months, members of the board of governors have discussed this position, which is becoming increasingly important now that the Society is growing and our events calendar is expanding.

**May Elections:** The three one year directors will need to contact the Nominating committee with their commitment to continue into the 3 year position, Trustees and Officers will be asked to do the same. All nominees are reminded that the position they hold is one to be proud of, to devote the time needed to see the Society grow, and to motivate the membership to help in all areas of our activities. Directors, Trustees, and Officers must maintain a leadership role, search out new members, and offer support.

**Michael Watt Memorial** donations \$225.00 to date

**The garden plan:** To replace the falling fencing along both sides of our garden borders, picket style on the west side and stockade style on the East. Bids are being searched out to find the best quality at the best price. Volunteers will help keep the cost down providing labor and help with design ideas. Trees are being priced out to replace the downed Ash trees, our garden team will help in the style and placement of the new trees. Grass will be planted to boost the health of the lawn and our garden will bloom to its full beauty just as surely as the sun will shine in July.

**OFFICERS:**  
**President:** Brian Tanguay  
**Vice Pres.** Vacant  
**Secretary** Christine Stone  
**Treasurer** Debbie Caisse  
**Curator:** Brian Tanguay  
**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

**DIRECTORS:**

<b>3 year</b>	<b>2 year</b>	<b>1 year</b>
Amy Guthrie	Tom Hurd	Karen Rich
Tom Jeleniewski	Jessie Duguay	Tom Hill
Dennis Rich	Ann Lyons	William Buckler

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



**Contact info:**  
 Main email: [narragansetthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:narragansetthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)  
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

Find us on Facebook—Search for **Narragansett Historical 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"  
<https://www.facebook.com/narragansetthissoc/>

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.**



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

**Winter meeting notice: Move location to the Senior Center Baldwinville.**

**Feb 15th Wed 7pm Senior Center **NEW Date****

**March 22nd Wed 7pm at the Senior Center**

