

# Narragansett Historical Society

**JULY  
2016**

**On the Common  
Templeton MA**



## **Downton Abbey Revisited**

**Our second picnic in the garden Downton Abbey style was a huge success once again. Thanks to Mary Grimes for organizing the event along with a great showing of support from our members and friends. As seen above visitors enjoyed the day dressed in period clothing and our volunteers dressed the part as well. A vintage truck was featured thanks to Jim & Ashley Lang.**



**Music provided by Steve Babineau & his Jazz band. The event was held on June 25th on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.**

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

# Calendar 2016

Events being planned by the historical society during this year include:

**August 6th - Tea with games in the garden fun for all ages. Saturday 2—4:30**

**AUGUST 14 Go fly a kite! **NEW DATE:** Sunday from noon to 5 \* Rain date Sunday the 14th. Music, food, bubbles, kites.**

**AUGUST 20 & 21 Craft Fair days open Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4 Building help needed.**

**SEPTEMBER 24th Vintage Car, Small Engine and Tractor Show, Saturday, 10-4pm, co-hosted by the Narragansett Historical Society and the Central Massachusetts Steam, Gas and Machinery Association, on the Templeton Common.**

**OCTOBER 29th Pumpkin Fest, Saturday, on the Templeton Common.**

**DECEMBER 4th Jack Frost Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting, Sunday, in conjunction with the Town of Templeton tree lighting, on the Templeton Common.**

**The building is now open for the season on both Tuesday nights from 6-8 and on Saturday afternoons from 1-5**

**Sign up to help with your favorite event to make each one successful and fun.**

## 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.

# A History of Kites By Tina Tanguay

Kites have been around for 2000+ years, first making their appearance in Shandong China where kites were tied to hats to keep them from flying away in strong winds. Kite flying is a Chinese tradition to mark the beginning of spring which continues to this day. Seventh century Buddhist used kites to ward off evil spirits of the sky to insure a good harvest. The explorer, Marco Polo documented the construction of kites and how to fly them in 1295. By 1749, a Scottish meteorologist, Alexander Wilson, used a kite with a thermometer attached to measure air temperature at 3000 feet. This was the beginning of kites assisting in the study and recording of the earth and weather forecasting by the US Weather Service. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin and his son, William constructed their famous experiment to prove that lightening was electricity. The Wright brothers also used kites in their research and development when building the first plane in the 1800's. Several cultural uses of kites from around the world include: kite fighting in Pakistan and Asia, sound making kites from Vietnam that use small flutes instead of tails to create sound, Greece and Cyprus fly kites to signify the first day of Lent, kites are flown at Easter to symbolize Christ's ascent in Bermuda, in Micronesia kites are used for fishing gear. Kites were also used in adventures or for personal travel like hang gliders. Today, kites are a staple of any visit along the coast where a variety of designs can be seen. These designs include, diamond kites, box kites, parafoil kites, tetrahedral kites, stunt kites, flexible kites, sport kites, character kites, and dragon kites just to name a few. Come out and see the variety of kites that will be flying at our Kite Festival on Sunday August 14, from noon to 5pm. See you there!



Pictures from our 2015 Event



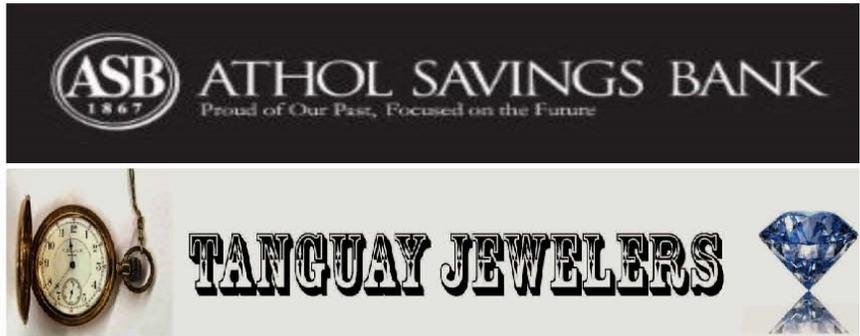
# Gold Sponsors



# Silver Sponsor



# Bronze Sponsors



# Event Sponsors



# KITE FESTIVAL

Brought to you by the Narragansett Historical Society

LIVE MUSIC ~ FOOD

GIANT BUBBLE FUN

August 14th  
Noon - 5pm

Brooks Farm  
Baldwinville Rd  
Templeton, MA

Vendors,  
Food & Drinks



"Whiskey Johnson"



"The LTC Band"



"Shades of Gray"

Bring your lawn chairs  
and blankets



\*Rain will cancel this event  
If in doubt call (978)257-6404

## 4th Annual VINTAGE CAR, SMALL ENGINE & TRACTOR SHOW

Co-hosted by the  
Narragansett Historical Society  
and the  
Central Massachusetts Steam,  
Gas and Machinery Association

BRING THE FAMILY

~FOOD TENT~  
~FREE MUSEUM TOURS~

Join Us  
on The Common, Templeton, Ma  
September 24, 2016  
10am-4pm



## Craft Fair days are coming!

August 20 & 21 and our building should be open both days. Volunteer now so we can plan on who will be there to keep an eye on the place. Please don't sit at home and wait for a call, email, message us on Facebook, or call us if you have some time to spare.

Otherwise, we'll have to close  
and that would be a shame.



## “A moment in time”

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

CHANGES in the town Part 2 continued from June 2016

Industry thrived in town during the early part of the 1900's paper mills, furniture shops, a printing company and two paper mills, Baldwinville Products and Seaman Paper now we only have Seaman's. There were several furniture manufacturers many of which were wiped out by the flood of 38. After the flood we still had Temple Stuart Co., Dan's Pine Shop, and Fountains in Baldwinville and Conant Ball Co. Fall Mountain Furniture, and R.H. LeMieur Co. in Templeton. There were many smaller manufacturers also. The only one remaining in business today is R.H. LeMieur Co. and Glenwood Kitchens which is in the old Conant Ball Shop. They manufacture kitchen cabinets.

There were filling stations where you purchased gasoline for your automobiles. Most of them only sold gas and oil products and did not do repairs. From the Gardner line to the Phillipston line on what was then RT2 there were at least twelve stations. In Baldwinville, there were at the least four or five in the center of the village at one time or another that sold gas and today there is one, Cumberland Farms. There are several auto repair shops scattered around the town.

If you wanted to take your family out to eat, there were places like Smith's in East Templeton, Ann's Clam Shack, Templeton Lunch, Emma's and Chag's Grinders as I mentioned earlier. There was Olsen's in East Templeton which is now Crossroads and in Templeton we have Country Mischief on the common. We have two in Baldwinville that come to mind, The Station and The Trestle. We have four pizza shops in town which is something we did not have years ago. The point that I am trying to make is that a person could stop in and purchase a home cooked meal like mom cooked and not many of this type exist today. I don't want to sound like I am bashing those that I have listed. They all serve good food . I probably better get off this subject before I get myself in trouble.

When I was a boy, we had three hotels in the town. We had the Narragansett House in Baldwinville, the Otter River Hotel in Otter River and the Templeton Inn on the Common. These hotels thrived in their day. There were a few places that rented little cabins for people to bed down for the night when traveling through town. Today there are no hotels, motels or cabins for rent in our town.

Back in 1874, there were over one hundred and twenty businesses in our town not counting the many farms and you can see what we have today. Time and progress has taken its toll. Many other towns in our area have suffered the same losses but there is one thing that we have that many towns do not and that is our museum. Remember to support our historical society and promote new membership. We are growing more and more every day and when the Grange Hall is completed we will have more than double the size of our current museum. Encourage the younger generation to become active.

*Harry*

# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



## Narragansett Historical Society Fund

**On June 20th President Brian Tanguay met with VP Linda Mack of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to create the fund in our name. Moving 7 stock certificates and \$1,750.00 from our Checking account the fund will start off with around \$10,500.00**

**This fund is set up under the Community Foundation's 501 ( c ) 3 status allowing us to accept donations and offer our donors a tax exempt gift. It also opens the door to applying for grant money. They recently gave out \$500,000.00 in grant money to various groups and organizations to help them move forward in their missions.**

**The idea is to grow the fund large enough to bring in dividends that will pay our bills. One simple way to do this is to get serious about our membership drive. Currently we have 1,230 friends on Facebook yet only 373 members on our master list.**

**If only 300 of our members would sign up one lifetime member this month and possibly do this again next month, we would have 600 new lifetime members bringing in \$60,000.00 sounds too easy doesn't it? All you have to do is ask a local friend, neighbor, work partner, or give one as a gift for a birthday or anniversary present. Once the fund is big enough to pay our bills, we can then use all of our generated fundraising monies to create better displays, preserve our collection and take care of those items in need of repair.**

**Let's all pull together, sign up a new member, and become a part of the movement**



**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: [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 **1,235 friends and counting!**

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

**July 27th Document room 7pm Mt. Grace representative**

**August 24th Document room 7pm**



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