

Narragansett Historical Society

JUNE
2016

On the Common
Templeton MA



After countless hours of painting the cabinets and walls, thanks to Mary Grimes and Amy Guthrie taking the top job of doing the ceiling along with Jessie Duguay preparing the floor, our kitchen was just about done. Tom Hurd and Brian Tanguay took on the task of cleaning and preparing the countertops for new formica, all 4 of them plus the cutting board. Now the latest project of cleaning up the kitchen is done. Ready for a summer of events that will bring in many visitors and hopefully new members.



Not to be forgotten are the countless hours of getting the rest of the building cleaned up and decorated for our open hours throughout the spring, summer, fall, and some of the winter.

A huge jump from our former hours of only being open Saturdays from 1-5 in July and August.

We are now open twice a week from May to November except holidays. Congrats to our many volunteers. Keep up the good work. *The entire town is proud of you.*

Membership drive is going strong, sign up one new life member this month. Let's pull together to help save our two buildings. Still only \$100.00 one time cost. Ask a friend or family member today.

Check Us Out at: www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org and on FACEBOOK

Calendar 2016

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

JUNE 25th Downton Abbey Revisited Saturday 2-4:30 picnic and entertainment in the garden.

JULY 9th Special patriotic program, Saturday in conjunction with the 2rd Annual Mac N Cheese Festival hosted by the Friends of the Templeton Elders. See below.

JULY 12th History of the Templeton Inn, Presented by Harry Aldrich at the Templeton Senior Center

AUGUST 13 Go fly a kite! Saturday from noon to 5 * Rain date Sunday the 14th. Music, food, bubbles, kites.

SEPTEMBER 24th Vintage Car, Small Engine and Tractor Show, Saturday, 11-4pm, 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.

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.



The Narragansett Historical Society of Templeton presents its

4th Annual Vintage Small Engine & Classic Auto Show 2016

Saturday, Sept. 24, 11-4pm

Rain Date Sept. 25th

on The Common

1 Boynton Street, Templeton, Mass.

co-hosted by the Central Massachusetts Steam, Gas and Machinery Association
to benefit the Narragansett Historical Society of Templeton

Ken Knowlton * Mac & Cheese * COA

On Saturday, July 9, Ken Knowlton, a member of the Narragansett Historical Society, will portray his fifth great-grandfather, Capt. Ezekiel Knowlton, one of Templeton's early settlers, as the historical society's contribution to the 2nd Annual Mac N Cheese Festival on the Templeton Common. Ezekiel led 36 men from Templeton to answer the call to arms against the British at the start of the American Revolutionary War in April 1775.

The Mac N Cheese Festival, with its superhero theme, is being sponsored by the Friends of the Templeton Elders to raise money to furnish a kitchen at the Templeton Senior Community Center, Baldwinville. The senior center, which opened a year ago, still needs a kitchen, siding and a lift from the main floor to the basement. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ken Knowlton as Ezekiel will tell his story at Ezekiel's grave in the Old Centre Burial Ground behind the First Church of Templeton.

In addition to Ezekiel, the festival will feature a superheroes parade, superhero games for children, live music and vendors. Children and adults are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite superhero. On sale will be macaroni and cheese dishes, including pizza, hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as other refreshments. Admission is free.



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Event Sponsors



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Sponsors



First sale of carved birds

Jerry Grimes has been carving at the building on Saturday afternoon to offer our visitors something to watch. His niece, Becky Swank, from Ypsilanti, Michigan, is shown here with the first carving sale of two downy woodpeckers. Stop by to see the other creations carved by Jerry.



Downton Abbey

Before you know it, the garden will be filled with visitors from far and wide enjoying the special treats whipped up by the team working on the Downton Abbey garden picnic. Coming June 25th Saturday afternoon.

You are welcome to come as you are, or dress the part. Search through vintage clothing stores for that perfect hat, umbrella, dress, or suit so you don't miss out on the fun. The event was a huge success last year with those in attendance anticipating and planning for this year's event. There may be vintage cars on the lawn for a photo op and a game or two can be played in the garden.

To get involved you can contact Mary Grimes through our facebook page or our email account.



DOWNTON ABBEY REVISITED
DOMINION VBBEX BEAISILED

Narragansett Historical Society

1 Boynton St., Templeton, on the Common

Saturday, June 25, 2-4:30 p.m.

(Rain Date: Sunday, June 26)

Jazz / Beverages / Savories / Period Dress Optional

Suggested Donation: Adults, \$10; Children, \$5



“A moment in time”

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

CHANGES IN THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON OVER THE YEARS Part 1

I was just thinking about how much Templeton has changed in my life time. I was born on Sept. 17th, 1939, and can't believe how much things have changed in the last seventy six years. Some were for the good but many are a down right shame. We had at least five but I think it was six railroad stations and today we don't have any. One of them, a small freight station was located on what was Athol Road across from the old Bourn and Hadley factory. A gentleman who was related to one of our members, Joyce Provencher, operated this station. His name was Harold Aikien and he lived just down the street from the station. There were two in Otter River, one on each side of the tracks. One was a freight station and was later taken over by the paper mill as apparently they were the only company using it. The other station was a passenger station and was the location where over 200 Union soldiers from our town left to fight in the Civil War. It was destroyed by a fire years ago. The rest of the stations were in Baldwinville off Exchange Street and no longer exist. They were freight stations. One was destroyed by a train wreck one night when the train went right through the building and the other one by a fire. I think there was a third one at this location but I am not sure. There are no longer any tracks going through Templeton, just Otter River and Baldwinville.

We had at least twenty dairy farms that I can think of and maybe a few more one of them being the Henshaw Farm who had the largest herd of Brown Swiss cows in the state. Some others were the Evens Farm off Otter River Rd., the Ted Johnson Farm, the Racette Farm on Dudley Rd., the Larson Farm and the Johnson Farm on the Otter River Rd to name a few. There were also many small family farms throughout the town that supplied their neighbors with farm products such as eggs, milk, and vegetables. Today, there is one dairy farm left in town and that is owned by the state. Most farmers were operating at a loss and forced to give it up. The majority of this farm land has been sold off and converted into residential property.

There were many small neighborhood stores around town, at least two or more in each village so if you ran out of an item, you didn't have to leave the village for it. Templeton Center had the Clover Farm store, Wares Store and Johnsons Store which is now the Country Store. East Templeton had a store in the G.A.R. building which was operated by several different people in its time and Ernest Pervier operated a hardware store. Otter River had Cote's Market and Leland's store not to forget Shag's Grinder's, and in Baldwinville there were several small stores operated by the Flis family, the Raffa family, Roy's Market, Lee's and a few others that don't come to mind at this time. Central Street was a small business district with several stores and a bank. Gardner Trust Co. also had a bank on the corner of Memorial Street and Elm. The kids could walk or ride their bikes to get ice cream etc. Most of the store's are now gone, not being able to keep with the times. I guess it is called growth. I personally liked it better the old way and I'm probably not alone on that. Well I guess that is it for now.

More changes next month.

President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



With the help of a friend, I decided to repair my Grandparents old typewriter recently. I would type out the jewelry appraisals for them when I worked there during my High School years. Once I began my business and merged with them, I remember using that same typewriter up until computers became part of our office supplies. The old 1916 typewriter sat on a shelf as a constant reminder of those simple days where you had to put just a bit more effort into what you were doing.

As I walk through the Historical Society building I am reminded on so many levels of the effort it took our ancestors to make it through the day. No electric weed trimmer, no gas powered lawn mower, just horse power and muscle to get the job done. It's important to keep those reminders around us to learn how to make life easier for the next generation. Giving us the time to enjoy our friends and family and to share our precious time in the community.

The generations before us have left us with some great reminders, some simple and some created by talented artists or craftsmen. The past 4 years have given us the opportunity to complete the maintenance on the building as well as button it up to a point where we can move inside to focus on the rooms and eventually on the artifacts left behind for us to care for.

Many great volunteers have come forward recently to make sure our mission is on track and to lend a hand with the many projects started and planned. Don't hesitate to come forward with your commitment to attain the goals set forth by our volunteers. It's a pleasure to see so many doing so much.

Working with Steve Castle of Templeton TV, we have begun a video library showcasing our collection with a story or a brief description of an artifact. This is an endless project and we can focus on any part of our history, such as the Templeton Inn, the farms, or the Railroad as Harry mentioned in his story this month. If you have a favorite story or want to be the voice on the featured item, please contact us through our email or come to one of our meetings, it would be great to have a collection of people talking about our great history. Some of these video clips will run on Templeton TV.

It truly is an exciting time to be a part of the Historical Society with so much exposure and so many great things happening. Thanks for being a part of it, the next generation will thank you for your efforts.



Before and after images of the swift winder found in the attic. Made of whale bone by a sea captain in the 1800's for his wife. This artifact was restored by Brian in October of 2015. It will be featured in our first video clip showcasing our collection.



OFFICERS:
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Historian: Harry Aldrich

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3 year	2 year	1 year
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 Brian Tanguay
 John Brooks



Contact info:
 Main email: narragansetthistoricalsociety@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 **1,230 friends and counting!**

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

June 22nd Document Room with the Central Mass Genealogy Club 7pm

July 27th Document room 7pm Mt. Grace representative

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

