

# Narragansett Historical Society

## On the Common in Templeton MA

# January 2021

During the late 1800's, Hosea Lane began collecting artifacts, documents, and photographs dating back to the 1760's all to do about Templeton. He stored them in the attic of the Boynton Library, and I'm sure there were numerous items in his home.

No doubt his wife Elizabeth was supportive in his dream to create the Templeton Museum along with his writings in 1888 when he published "The History of Templeton" a most valuable document. His excellence as a principal encouraged many of his students to become teachers over the years and his passion for preserving local history inspired those who later formed the Narragansett Historical Society in 1924.

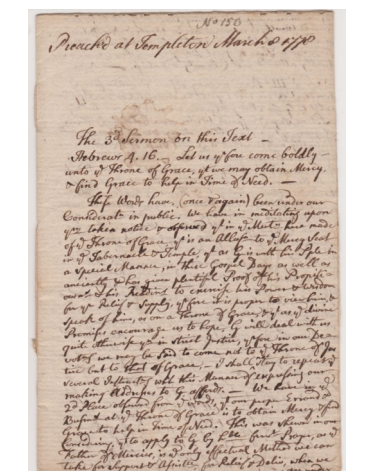
Born February 7, 1831 in Ashburnham, he soon moved to Templeton in 1855 where he spent the next 48 years as Principal and Librarian, Hosea died May 27, 1903.

Elizabeth moved to Leominster after her husband died, she lived to the age of 78, where shortly before noon on January 27th 1917, she was lighting papers in the stove, when the flame ignited her clothing. She was alone at the time and when the firemen arrived, she was lying on the bed, breathing feebly. She died shortly after. She had been in poor health for some time.

A page from the Rev. Sparhawk Sermon collection currently in the Museum thanks to Hosea Lane for preserving this group of documents from 1767 to 1789, now digitized for safe viewing.

For more information on the Lane family and several others who cared for Templeton, visit the Museum or follow us on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nh1924society>



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# Toys in the attic

An unusual collection of dolls fill the attic, not uncommon to Museums, since they are near and dear to the original owner. Without much info on the who's and where's, we can merely display them in carriages, cribs, walkers, and chairs.

Some are worn out enough to be on the creepy side.



KEEP TOP SECTION

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Make checks payable to Narragansett Historical Society Inc. • P. O. Box 354, Templeton MA 01468

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

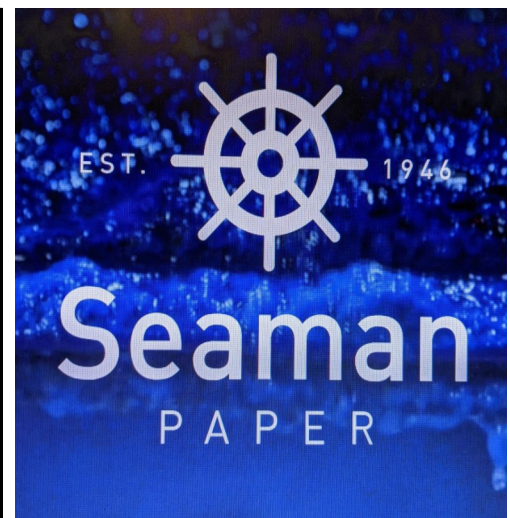
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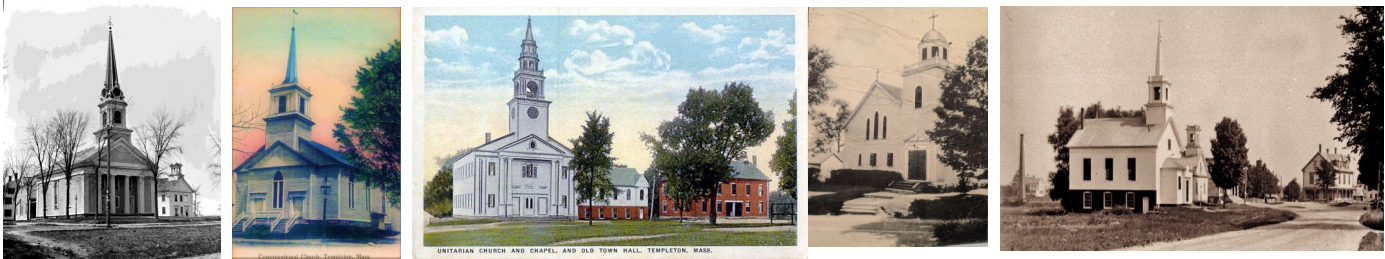
Platinum	\$5,000.00	Gold	\$1,000.00	Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00	Event	\$250.00		

Lifetime memberships are still only \$100.00 sign up a friend today!

# CHURCH BUILDINGS

Pictured below are a few of the Church buildings in Templeton. From left to right are the Baptist Church of Baldwinville, which was torn down and is the current location of Dunkin Donuts. Next was the Trinitarian Church on Boynton Rd, now a vacant lot, In the center appropriately enough is the First Church on the Common, still standing and being used as much as can be allowed currently. Next is the St. Martin Church of Otter River which is very active in the community with events annually and finally the East Templeton Church which was converted to an Antique shop for some years yet now lay empty.

I know there are more Churches, some are gone, some are repurposed, these are the most commonly photographed. If you have any info on other Churches, you can submit an image and a story for submission to this newsletter. It will be shared with many and added to the growing collection at the Museum.



## CABIN FEVER 2021

Plans are being created to hold the Cabin Fever at the Narragansett School.

It was suggested to hold it during April Vacation, Since February is coming too quickly for us to make all the plans needed.

If you showed your collection last year or any of the previous years, you are most welcome to attend this show. Since we all have cabin fever all year long, let's plan on doing this one in style. We'll need help in setting up, and a few stations for guiding our visitors through the collectors.

Volunteer now via our Facebook page, or our email account, please help us have a successful show.

What will you display this year? Something new, or show your collection again for those who've never seen it before.

Watch our page and our newsletter for more info as it unfolds. Toys, Pez, pocket Watches, purses, radios, photo albums, pens, knives, fishing poles, toy boats, steam engines, matchboxes, TV guides, and more. If you collect it, you should show it.



# *"A moment in time"*

*by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

## GROWING UP ON A SMALL FARM

I grew up on a small farm on Hubbardston Rd and learned quite young, that farm life meant hard work. The days started early and sometimes were long. There was always something to do. There were no computers or electronic games to play and there were twelve television channels to watch with limited shows and the networks went off the air every night so you were limited anyway. On our farm we had a flock of chickens and four cows and supplied eggs and milk to many of our neighbors. Sometimes we would raise a pig but I can't remember how my mother preserved the meat. Perhaps she canned it. I can remember doing that with chickens. There was very little waste with the pig. I remember they would even cook the head and make what they called head cheese which I guess was used for sandwich meat. I never cared for it and still wouldn't try any of it today.

When it came time to cut the hay and get it in I didn't have much to do with it until it was cut. Back in those days we didn't have a machine to mow the hay with so my father did all the cutting with a scythe. When he was cutting, every once in a while you would hear him sharpening the blade. It was like music in the air. He would be out there cutting until the sun went down. After it was cut it had to dry and I would help him shake it up to let the air get in and speed up the drying. The next job was raking it into piles getting it ready to get in. When it came time to get it in, my job became more like playing. He would pick it up in what I thought were huge bundles and pitch it up onto the truck. My job was to tramp it down to tighten the load so we could get more on. After this, I got to ride back on top of the load. Sometimes a friend would come along and he would allow them to ride back on the load too. Once we got home I would have to get in the hay loft and pack it in again. In later years when there were people with motorized equipment to hire out it was much better. He would hire someone to cut, rake and bale it. Until I was big enough to handle the bale, I was done except for watching. Below are some of the tools that were used.



Scythe



wooden hay rake



pitch fork



sharpening stone

# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



21 days into 2021 as I type this newsletter. Not much has changed, we stay home, do our projects, and wait patiently for this pandemic to end. The projects at the building and the Grange have on the most part ceased mostly due to winter setting in, so we keep a few souls busy doing small jobs. The feet for the Civil war frames have been made and mounted, this will enable us to stand them up, previously, we could not stand them up since the original feet were part of the GAR hall structure. Now they can be placed up against the wall and out of the way, imagine two frames measuring 11 feet tall and 6 feet wide each, you just can't work around them.

This will make way for the wall to be built on the right side of the stage and give our electrician the green light to finish the rough in wiring. Once done, we can move onto the insulation, but first, we have to address the small leak in the roof, will we need a new roof or can it be fixed? So far, it has been looked at and suggested we replace the roofing. That was not in our plans, so we figure it out and move on.

Donations are still coming in from all over the country, boxes mailed to us with documents and photographs dating back to the 1800's along with a few artifacts from Wallace Underwood's painting on objects usually used in the kitchen, trays, boxes, etc.

We are also thankful for the many new members who realized that their support is needed now more than ever.

This year we are hoping to have an election in May, one we missed in 2020 due to Covid-19 shut downs. We have several open positions for Directors, one for Trustee, and one for Vice President. Although we are a busy organization with many irons in the fire, taking on one of these positions is not too demanding, some help on the computer, a monthly meeting, and answering emails as issues arise and decisions are made. Don't be shy, please step up and help preserve Templeton's history, we've made it this far, you can help us take the next step.

Financially, our endowment fund is growing, and our Fiscal Sponsor fund which is basically our checking account, has gained enough to pay all of our bills for 2020 and shows a gain of \$3,000.00 since the start of Covid shut down. This tremendous news is accomplished with the donations from our sponsors, and most of all, YOU! Our members who have sent checks along with our new lifetime members who have joined in the recent months. To all of you, give yourself a pat on the back, knowing you helped us through one of the toughest years on record.

We truly are a great Society.

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

**2019 DIRECTORS:**

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

**TRUSTEES:**  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
 John Brooks  
 Open



**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" 1700 members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>

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



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

**Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised**  
*February meeting, Zoom style, I will need help setting it up.*  
*Directors will stay in contact during this time. Newsletters will continue*

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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 PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

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