

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

January 2022

Next meeting in March, stay tuned for details



Cabin Fever 2022
Will be moved to June at the
Baldwinville Legion
Details to follow



Busy times

In 2018 we had help from the Boy Scouts in removing the fencing that was rotted and falling. The plan was to use the logging income to purchase the new fence sections. As you know, two weeks turned into just over 5 years of delays. Recently we signed a new contract with Kenebec lumber and Aaron Cardwell who teamed up to cut and deliver the logs to the mill. Checks should arrive weekly as the trucks leave the wood lot. It was decided to move forward with the stockade fencing along the east side of the garden. Using TFG Fence Co out of Revere MA. A Veteran owned new business was the perfect fit. Owner Kevin Guzman was great to work with and the job got done in a week.



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Wood lot plan in action

Using access from Otter River Rd, thanks to Mary and Keith Miller, we have a landing and logs are starting to stack up, some have already been delivered to the Lumber yard. The work being done is proper land management for forests like ours. Select cut wood for lumber and cord wood, but more importantly it saves the trees standing to have a better chance to mature. The removal



will also introduce a better growing of blueberry bushes and a thriving area for deer, rabbit, fox, and birds. The State is monitoring our progress to insure it is done properly.

The bonus for the Society will be much needed funds to continue the projects on our wish list. A plan will be created to plant more trees for future use. A great investment in our 25 acre lot. Work crews will be set up to clear the trails next year

Grange hall update

Thanks to the CPC funds, we still have work going on at the Grange hall. This project was completed by C. M. Chartier Contracting of Templeton. Located in the rear of the building, the ramp only needed to be brought up just over a foot from the grade. This saved thousands in costs and will serve as the main entrance once the area is cleared for parking spots. A circular driveway will be created to go around the building for drop offs and 6 parking spots will be created. Negotiations are under way with the owner of the land behind the Grange which has access to South Rd. Acquiring this lot would be a game changer, creating a parking spot with a section for a small park with picnic tables and street lights.



Wreath/ bake sale

This year we were able to bring back the tree lighting during our wreath sale and bake sale. Santa arrived to greet our visitors, the Narragansett High School marching band marched in the parade with scouts, fire and police vehicles and our Selectmen/woman.

Kelly took charge of making 50 wreaths with help from several volunteers who helped assemble and sell them. Others brought baked goods and our blacksmith Mark Suchocki donated his hand forged sleigh bells, one for the Museum and one for a raffle. All tallied, we raised over \$1,100.00 on the day and everyone enjoyed lighting the tree and singing holiday songs with the band.



Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you

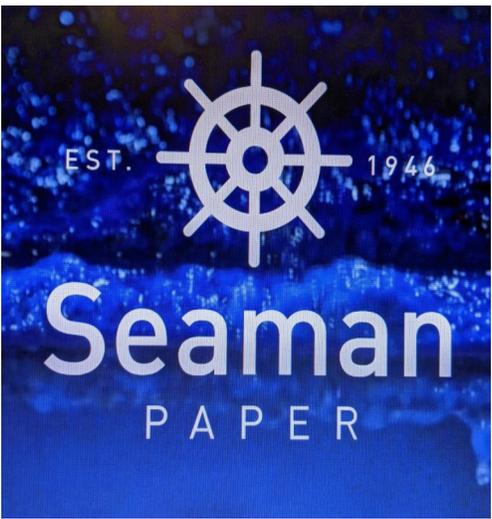
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ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

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-

Items in the Museum

by Thomas Hurd Vice President

What is it?

Welcome Back, so how did you do? Did you know that it is a Candle Wick Trimmer?

The Wick Trimmer in different forms has been used since the 14 Century, Early models were simple, basically they looked like short scissors, as time progressed so did the design in the late 1700s when it was invented. Incorporating a box to catch the hot wick as it was often trimmed while the candle burned, the wicks of the day did not burn away like today, if they were not trimmed, the flame would start to burn out and smoke, the need started to diminish in the Late 1800s to early 1900s when buildings were starting to use "Electric candles"



This month I have 2 Items that have a common connection.



The first one is a tool that was mostly used in the 19th Century, its effectiveness was of great debate, and its use seems barbaric by today's standards. Hint: pushing the button will trigger 10 razors blades which are hidden inside.



The second Item can't really say much without giving it away, however when folks visit the "What is it?" table at the Historical Society events, are very happy that it is not used today. Hint: it's been said that a string may have replaced it.

Do you know what they are?

If you Enjoy reading our Newsletter and Facebook Posts and are not a member, please consider Joining and help us preserve the rich history of Templeton for future generations, help where you can, pick a favorite Event, Mine are Cabin Fever, Kite Fest, Motorpalooza and the Wreath sale, we welcome all new members, remember this is your Historical Society being a part of it is so rewarding, Our events include Garden teas, Cabin Fever Collection Show, Kite fest, Motorpalooza and the Wreath sale that coincides with the lighting of the Town Christmas trees, contact us if you are interested in helping with any of these events, or if you have an Idea for a Fundraising event you would like to run, Contact us, on Facebook, email, reach out to any of the members or Stop by the Building during the Open Season Late April or early May to the First Snowfall.

Until next month Stay well and keep warm.

Ray Page Life member

Raymond Joel Page, 78,

Died peacefully on December 12, 2021, 11 years after being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Gardner on July 10, 1943. Ray lived most of his life in Templeton, a 1961 graduate of Narragansett Regional High School and 1963 graduate of Worcester Junior College. Ray spent his entire career selling insurance, retiring in 2005 from Liberty Mutual after 40 years. He was an active life member of the Society taking on roles of Director and Trustee along with attending many Garden Tea's with his wife Judy.

Ray's grandfather, William Page, who lived on the Common, was the first rural mail carrier in Templeton. Because of this, he had one of the first cars in Templeton, a 1915 Model T. Prior to that, he delivered with a horse and carriage. Early on, he had two horses, one for the morning, and the other for the afternoon. Eventually, he got a Morgan horse who was capable of doing the entire route, and of course, the horse knew every stop along the way.

He loved Templeton and all of its history, and that's why the Society was so important to him. His Templeton roots go back four generations to Genery Stiles (1853-1936) (Who owned the farm, big gray house & barn where Bill Putnam used to live on Baldwinville Road.) And six generations to William Stoddard. As a matter of fact, in doing our research, we purchased the Zenas Stoddard cemetery plot, at Pine Grove Cemetery, 15 years ago. And that is where Ray is buried, right next to his third great grandfather, Zenas Stoddard (1895-1893). Very Front Row.

Ray will be missed by his wife of 33 years, Judy (Greeno) Page; a daughter Barbara (Page) Allard and her husband Brian of Gardner; a son Eric Page of Westminster; a step-son Jay Andrews of Templeton and step-daughter Jennifer (Andrews) Shenk and her husband Jay of Princeton, with whom he and Judy lived with for the past 7 years.





"A moment in time"

By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

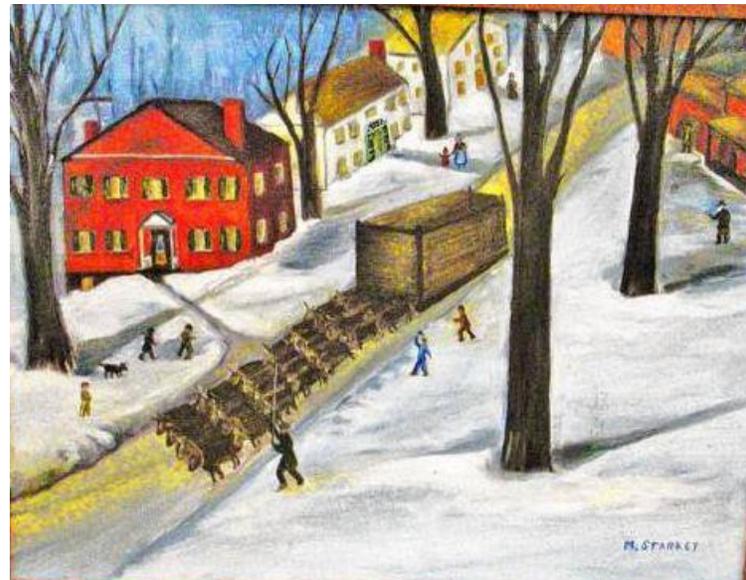
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

I am assuming that many of the people that have lived in our town or have visited the museum have heard about the story of the great load of wood. For those of you that have never heard or read the story, I will explain what it is about.

Back in January 1822, Col. Leonard Stone was drawing a large load of wood across the common heading to the minister's home. His brother, Col Ephraim Stone who ran the store that is now our museum came out and shouted jokingly, why don't you bring the minister a real load of wood to which Leonard responded, I have plenty of slabs at the mill. I will give the minister as big a load as you can draw. After going back into the store and thinking about what he had said, he decided to have some fun with the idea.

He started going around the village organizing all those that owned oxen to draw the load with. Next, the neighbors got together and built a huge sled to draw the great load with. The runners were more than thirty feet long and were set eight feet apart. The runners from this sled were later used in the building of a barn . The barn no longer stands but the runners were saved and are preserved after being used in a private dwelling on South Rd. When the sled was fully loaded, it consisted of forty cords of wood. According to the story, the team consisted of one hundred and sixty oxen hooked to the sled four abreast.

This information is from *The Story of Templeton*.



Col. Ephraim Stone



Col. Leonard Stone

President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



Happy New Year everyone!

With winter freezing the town and snow casting it's white blanket, we were lucky enough to get a few long awaited jobs done just in time. The fence and the handicap ramp.

2022 will be the year of the Grange. All pending jobs will be completed and the wish list of what it needs to open it up to the public will commence. It will take quite a bit of planning to coordinate the projects from plumbing to insulation, wall boards, painting, new lights and finished hardwood floors. How will all this get done? Team work for one and with the help and support from Past President of the GFA Tina Sbrega. Tina spoke with Barbara Miller, President of Grant Writing Resource, Inc. located in Peterborough NH. We are very fortunate to have their help in finding us the funding we'll need to get the job done. Their years of expertise and connections will be the driving force in setting up a capital campaign fund drive, along with finding matching grants and grant money just waiting for a community project like this to fund. We'll still have a lot of work to do when applying for these grants as well as searching each one out.

There will be plenty of small jobs we can handle on our own as well, so stay close to the phone as each one will need a few volunteers to lend a hand. It will be an exciting time to be part of the resurrection of the old hall and fill it with people once again. Some of you remember attending events there, kids running back stage hiding from Mom & Dad, or dancing with your partner to your favorite tunes. This will all come back if we pull together and get it done.

If you are interested in helping, let us know your strengths and we'll keep you up to date on each project as it starts.

Watch our Facebook page for info as it unfolds, you might even get a letter in the mail with details on the Grange Hall Project!

2022 OFFICERS:
 President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Thomas Hurd
 Secretary Amy Guthrie
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2022 DIRECTORS:
 3 year Mary Miller
 2 year Amy Guthrie
 1 year Jessie Duguay
 Harry Aldrich
 John Chouinard
 Eileen Bouvier
 vacant
 vacant
 vacant

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks
 vacant



Contact info:
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 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" 1800 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
NO February meeting, March meeting details to follow
Tuesday nights Ended with the first snow!



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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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