

# Narragansett Historical Society

January

2016



\*\*\*\*\*2016\*\*\*\*\*

*Jan 27th Meeting at the High School Library 7 PM*

*Feb 24th Meeting At the Council on Aging Baldwinville 7pm*

*Feb 27th Cabin Fever Collectors Show at the*

*Baldwinville Legion Noon To 5pm*

*March 23rd Meeting 7pm COA Baldwinville*

*The COA building is located off Bridge Street on Senior Drive, the first left after Greenlawn Cemetery behind the condo buildings.*

***\*\*Get involved \*\* Volunteer \*\* You'll be glad you did! \*\****

**On the Common  
Templeton MA**

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

# Sponsored by

These are our 2016 sponsors. If you would like to sponsor our efforts to save the Historical Society and preserve Templeton's past, contact us at the email on the bottom of the page.

Our sponsors make it possible for us to continue our mission to preserve the artifacts handed down through the generations and to restore the building where they are displayed for the public to enjoy.

**BRONZE Sponsor**

## Event Sponsors

**Scotty's Potties**

**Baldwinville Legion Post 373**

**Cabin Fever 2016**

# TANGUAY JEWELERS



## 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.

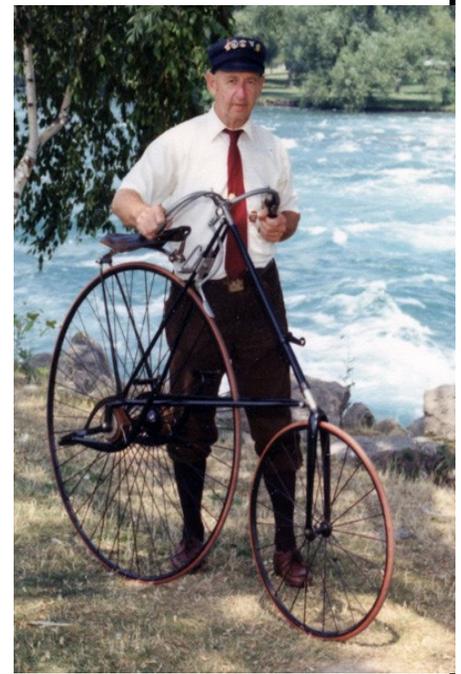
# 1920 - Roger A. Bryant - 2015

**TEMPLETON – Roger A. Bryant, 95, died peacefully Saturday morning, December 26th, in Quabbin Valley Healthcare, Athol. He was born in Northfield, MA on March 6, 1920, son of the late Leroy and Catherine (Prime) Bryant. Roger was a resident of Templeton since building his house on Dudley Road in 1951.**

**Roger was a graduate of Petersham High School, where he was a member of its state championship basketball team. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon and of the First Church of Templeton Men’s Club. A master machinist, he worked in the model shop at GenRad Corporation in Bolton until his retirement in 1985. After his retirement, Roger was so busy gardening, building, designing, and crafting that he often expressed wonder that he’d ever had time for a job.**

**Among his many hobbies and interests, Roger built Shaker style furniture, crafted brass and steel candlesticks, and made detailed doll house furniture and brassware. He was an active member of The Wheelmen, an antique bicycle organization, and could often be seen riding his high wheeler in parades in the region. His years of experience as a pattern maker led to his reputation among collectors and riders for his restorations of rare antique bicycles, sometimes from only a picture or diagram. He also designed and built custom restoration tools for himself and others, with requests coming from as far away as Hawaii. Roger was a life member of Narragansett Historical Society, for which he made miniature Boston Post canes and blanket chests to raise funds. An avid reader, he remained curious and interested in a variety of subjects throughout his life.**

**Roger was predeceased by his two wives, Bertha (Monroe) Bryant and Betty (Cooley) Bryant and siblings Bernard, Robert, Fred, Guilford, and Shirley. He leaves four children, Nancy Bryant King and husband Earle of Orange; Wayne Monroe Bryant and spouse Mary-Ann Greanier of Littleton; Leslie Ann Bryant of Maynard; Glenn Russell Bryant of Templeton; three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.**



\*\*\*\*\*

*Roger was an active member of the Historical Society through the years, he restored our Columbia bike along with displaying the BoneShaker. Roger rode many of these vintage bikes in parades and allowed us to ride them in the Winchendon 250 parade a few years ago. The members of the Narragansett Historical Society offer our condolences to his family. Please know Roger was well loved in this town and will live on through the artifacts he touched and the friends he made. His picture will be on permanent display with the bikes.*

## Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

<http://cfncm.org/LearnAboutCFNCMi/OurHistory.aspx>

Copy and paste this link to your browser to learn how this foundation can help. Brian attended a breakfast meeting along with several surrounding Historical Society members to learn what this foundation can do to help us move into the future with a solid footing. There is another meeting on March 15th at the Athol Public Library which Brian will also attend, learn, and report back to the directors. A private meeting will be set up in the coming weeks to learn more about this program. Stay tuned for more.

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

**Page 3**

## The new kitchen

Since December you may have seen a Volvo parked out in front of the building just about every other day. Each morning Mary Grimes would stop by, turn up the heat which didn't take long since the kitchen is the first place the heat comes up. She started by sanding and removing the cabinet doors, then moved on to the walls getting a good wash, and finally to the cabinets themselves. Then January rolled along and the room was ready for paint and just as she did in December her routine continued only this time she was cracking open a can of paint and working to bring new color to our kitchen.

While the hinges were off, we brought them to Courtney and Kurt Tanguay where they sand blasted each one and powder coated them to a glossy black finish which will last many lifetimes. The screws were brought to Tanguay Jewelers where Seth and Brian put a brush finish on them removing the yellow paint.

Once a week Mary would finish a few doors and announce to Tom Hurd that she needs his help to hang them up once again.

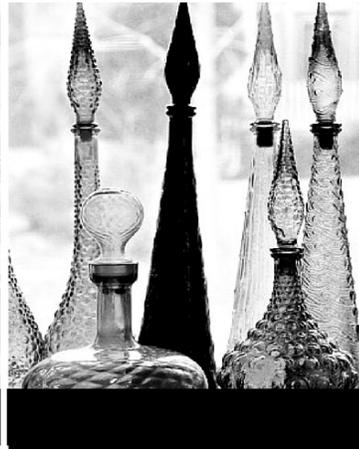
Thanks to these volunteers you will see an excitingly new life brought back to our kitchen. Plans are being made to move the refrigerator and stove into new positions making the room more efficient.



## Boynton Library

The Boynton Library was holding several artifacts including photo albums, Woman's club records, miscellaneous town records, portraits, pictures, and maps all of which were intended for the Historical Society collection but never moved to our building. On Monday January 11th Brian met with Harry and Virginia to sort through the items and deliver them to the Museum building. They will be featured in coming newsletters as well as being on display this summer. Stop by and check it out, you will be surprised at what we found. Pictured are John Temple and his wife, Moses Richardson, and a few unknown.



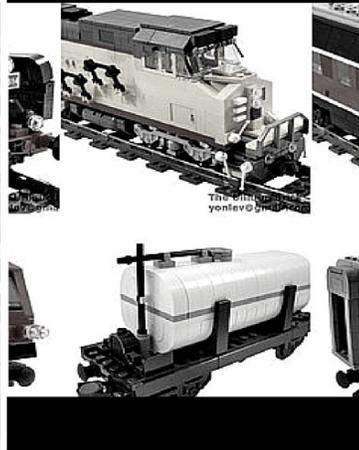


*2nd Annual*  
**CABIN FEVER  
 COLLECTORS  
 SHOW**  
*February 27th ~ 12pm - 5pm*  
*Baldwinville Legion*

Dust off your collection  
 and display it for all to enjoy.  
*Advanced free registration is required to  
 showcase your collection*

**~\$5 Donation at the Door~**  
**Refreshments Available**

Presented By  
 NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 narragansetthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com





# “A moment in time”

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

## I REMEMBER

I wonder how many of you will remember any of these?

I remember when we would go to the store on a hot summer day and buy a frozen pop or cup of ice cream for a nickel. A little later the frozen pops became known as pop cycles and they started making some of them with two sticks and shaped them so that they could be broken into two. We would try our luck and buy them hoping we got one with the word FREE printed on it, if you did you could get another one for free.

I remember when the only brand of soda that they sold at the local store was Virginia Dare and all the bottles were made of glass and had to be opened with an opener which was usually attached to the cooler. The cooler was a tub full of water and ice.

I remember the ice man coming down the street peddling blocks of ice for the ice box's in peoples homes. Not everyone owned a refrigerator back then. The ice man's name was Mr. Henshaw [Charley Henshaw] and we would chase him down the road asking him for some ice. He always had a block that he would chip some off from and give us a hand full. There was another man that would come around once a week selling fish which he would have packed in ice in his truck.

I remember going grocery shopping with my parents at Brocklemen Brothers in Gardner which was right near Sullivan's Alley on Main St. You walked into the store and the meat section was right there as you came in. There were dead chickens packed in ice with their heads and feet still on them and the butcher would cut them up when you bought one. There was a big tub of peanut butter and they would fill a cup container and sell it by the pound. This store was later bought out by Stop and Shop who has been in Gardner ever since. I can also remember going shopping at the First National in Baldwinville. They were on Central St. between the Thirsty Turtle and the Pizza Barn.

I remember going Pout fishing with my parents at Stone Bridge. We used Bamboo poles with a white cork stopple for a bobber. Dad's bamboo pole was about fifteen feet long and after he put the worm on the hook, he would spit on it. We would have to get there early to get a spot to fish because it was a popular spot and not much room.

I remember in the summer after a real heavy rain, we would put on our bathing suits and play out in the road looking for deep puddles to sit in before they dried up. It doesn't sound like a good idea but back then cars didn't go as fast as they do now and you never saw anyone speeding in the neighborhood. You only saw a police officer when they got called out for something such as a vagrant or something. The only police cars we ever saw were State Police once in a while and that was because RT2 went right through town.

I remember going with my dad to get gas for his car. You weren't allowed to pump your own back then and he would pull up to the pump and tell the attendant to put in a dollar's worth and when the attendant was pumping, you could see the gas swirling around in the glass bulb on the pump. There were filling stations all around town. Most of them just sold oil and gas and did not repair cars. Dad always had a man on Baldwinville Rd. work on his car.. The man's name was Everett Bickford and he worked at his house at the time. He later opened a garage in Athol. He was a well known mechanic.

That's it for now, more next month

*Harry*

# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



**Welcome to 2016 a year that could re-define us as an organization. Last year was exciting to say the least with so many things happening such as new members joining us in our efforts to save the building and preserve the artifacts entrusted to us by those who began this Society so many years ago. It's interesting to learn all who have come before us and how they created displays, programs, events, and fundraising just as we are doing today.**

**Partnering with other groups will help us grow in both our financial goals as well as our public perception. If we can become a powerful community driven group we will have no problem bringing in more sponsors, members, and ultimately Officers and Board members who have the same passion as we do.**

**The next few weeks will be filled with learning the ropes in how to receive grants, how to create a fund that will generate years of income needed to pay the monthly bills, and how to work with other Historical Society groups in our neighboring towns. I attended the Winchendon Historical Society meeting Tuesday the 19th of this month to talk about our successes and theirs and to create a neighborhood bond so we can work together.**

**Next I will meet with Linda Mack, Vice President of Development and Donor Services at the Fitchburg office of the Community Foundation of North Central Mass. See page 3 of this newsletter to learn more.**

**Along with our regular meetings and our newly created events 2016 is going to be filled with restoration jobs inside and outside of our buildings. The project list is always growing and thankfully many of those projects on the list are being checked off one by one. Most of them have been completed by our great volunteer members and several members of the community who have yet to join, but are willing to put some sweat equity into this fantastic building. Check the front and back page for meeting times and try to make at least one to start, they are not your average meetings and we will do our best to bring in some entertainment to break up the monotony of the traditional business meeting.**

**From all of us on the Board we are thankful that you joined the Historical Society and to the many who came to our events to lend a hand, Thank you for the help. Every volunteer has made it a point to come to me and say, "I had a great time" and that's what it's all about. Let's have a great 2016. Lend us your hand.**

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

**DIRECTORS:**  
 Karen Rich Tom Hill  
 Dennis Rich William Buckler  
 Tom Jeleniewski Janet Haley  
 Ann Lyons Jessie Duguay  
 Tom Hurd

**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 **1,140 friends and counting!**

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

**January Meeting 27th at the High School Library 7pm**

**February Meeting 24th at the COA building off Bridge Street 7pm**

**March 23rd at the COA building off Bridge Street on Senior Drive 7pm**

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

