

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

July 2017

1811 Rent the back garden 2017

Bridal or baby showers

Weddings or private tea parties.

Not much has changed over the past 206 years

A perfect outdoor venue designed to delight.



Calendar 2017

July 26th Monthly meeting 7pm Document room

Aug 5th “Go fly a kite”

Aug 12th High Tea in the garden 2:30 - 4

Aug 19 & 20 Craft Fair, building open from 10-5 each day

Aug 23rd Membership meeting 7pm

September 23 MOTORPALOOZA 2017 on the common

September 27 Membership meeting 7pm



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
PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

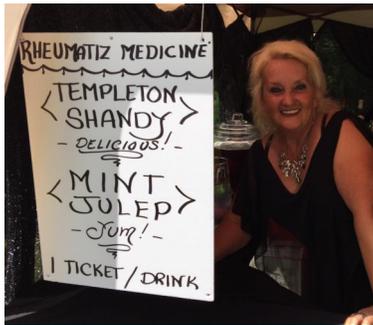
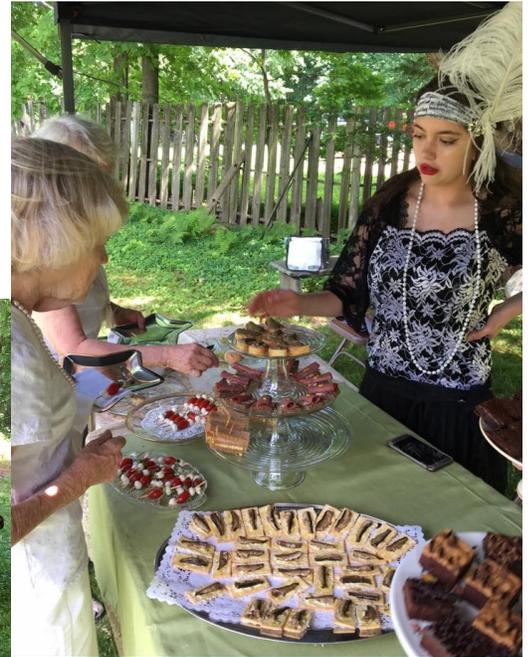
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Temperance Tea

Another successful Tea party event chaired by Mary Grimes along with a very long list of volunteers. Bringing in over \$630.00 for the Society and tons of exposure in the community.



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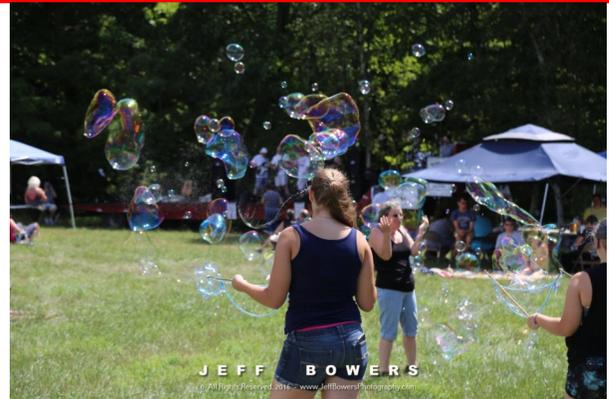


**Kite Fest 2017
August 5 from 12-4**



across from #325 Baldwinville Rd

Hosted by: Narragansett Historical Society
Food, kites, giant bubbles, and Music



Giant bubbles, fun with friends, or a lazy afternoon in a field with your family. Come join the fun, it's free, thanks to our sponsors on page 4. **Visit the food tent**



Sponsorship

Gold Sponsors 2017



Silver Sponsor 2017



Thank you to our sponsors.

Your support will ensure the success of our community driven events.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us here via email. Talk to your place of business to see if they want to get involved through sponsorship, participation, donations, or services.

Bronze Sponsors 2017



SCOTTY'S POTTIES

Our biggest supporters are all of you! Our membership. If you are an annual member, consider becoming a lifetime member at only \$100.00 by doing this, you will be making a donation to our cause, and saving us time and money each year asking for your renewal.

Event Sponsor



Gray Family discoveries

Family research and filling in the blanks. Genealogy, maps, and historic documents are our most important items in the collection. For example: We received an email from Barbara Shaffer of Holland MA requesting information of Simeon Gray and his wife Sarah Fitts. The question was, There is a Gray road just off of Barre Rd and at the end of Farnsworth, is it named after the Gray family? After a quick search of our maps dating back to 1831, 1870, and 1898 it was found to have several Gray family referenced in the Gray Rd, and Barre Rd area. It was also discovered to have a Gray Whittemore Saw mill. Upon searching our book, *The Story of Templeton* by E. W. Lord, we found that Simeon Gray took over the house built in 1797 by Robert Fitts, who just happens to be Sarah's Father. The house was mentioned in the book to have been taken down in 1862 and rebuilt on Baldwinville Rd just across the street from Otter River Rd by Simeon's Son in Law John Whittemore, co-owner of the saw mill.

The book also mentioned Sarah Gray as a charter member of the Trinitarian Church which by the way created a hair wreath in our collection with a strong possibility that one of those hair flowers belonged to Sarah.

The family was beyond excited to learn all of this in such a short length of time, and quickly set up a meeting to visit the building including Simeon's 3rd Great Granddaughter Carol Dearborn, and 4th great granddaughter Heather Hall.

To be able to do all of this research is the results of all the digitization over the years, pulling up the maps from a computer file, clip and copy to an email, take a digital image of a few pages from the book, and answer that simple email with 9 replies and more information than they thought possible, is exactly what we should be doing with all of this information.

This story is not the only one, we have answered over 100 emails, filled family files numerous times, completed several missing branches of the family tree, and supplied images of Great Grandparents never before seen by their decedents.

Email comments:

Your help has been phenomenal--far more detailed than I could have hoped for. Over the years, I have emailed many different libraries and historical societies but have never gotten such a positive response before. I look forward to thanking you in person.

Brian, Carol, Heather and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the museum Saturday. Without your cordial and diligent assistance in researching the Gray family, our trip to Templeton would not have been so successful. The maps were invaluable for checking out Gray Road and finding the Whittemore house in town. The cemetery listings helped us looking for pertinent stones. When we came to the museum, it was like having a private tour guide to show us the connections to the family as well as the other treasures in the society's collection. We hope to return again to further explore the ancestral home town. Thank you once again for the warm reception by you and the rest of the museum staff. Barbara



Heather and Carol search the maps in the Document room

MOTORPALOOZA

TEMPLETON COMMON SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

FEATURING *** BOOTHILL EXPRESS

SPONSORED BY **THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
VINTAGE CARS, ENGINES, TRACTORS, FOOD, AND MORE!

Music sponsored by; The Templeton Cultural Arts Council grant



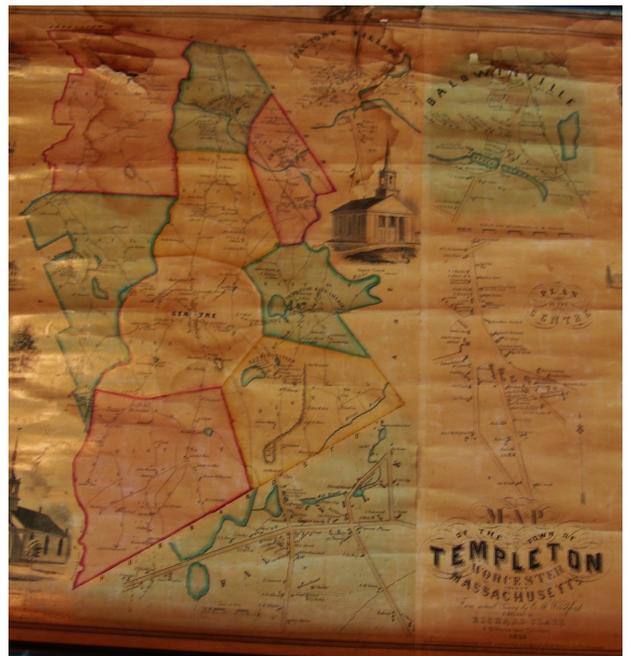
“A moment in time”

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

THE NINE DISTRICTS OF TEMPLETON

Back in the early 1800s, the town was divided up into nine districts which I picture as being nine little villages. Each district had its own school house. Some had a firehouse with an engine (a hand tub back then) and the residents depended on each other more so than in later years. Some of them had businesses such as stores, shoe makers, etc. Some of them had many farms occupying the land.

- ◆ District 1 was what is now Templeton Center and was then known as Centre, spelled as shown. School house #1 stood next to First Church. It was a brick structure built in 1844 and also served as Town Hall.
- ◆ District 2 was the area of upper South Rd. taking in from the Stone Bridge area to the Hubbardston boundaries. The Haskell Rd. at that time went all the way up to the Farnsworth Rd. School house #2 stood on the Corner of these two roads. Looking at the 1855 map, I am guessing that District 2 was made up mostly of farms and the homes were pretty well spread out.
- ◆ District 3 was known as Partridgeville and extended to the boundaries of Hubbardston and Gardner. School house #3 was located on South Main St. near Pail Factory Rd. The area now known as Partridgeville, was thickly settled with farms and homes.
- ◆ District 4 is now Baptist Common where the original Baptist Church was first built before being twice moved. The area was populated with many homes and farms but there is little information other than that. School house #4 was in the area between the highway garage and the high school.
- ◆ District 5 contained the area later taken by the state for Walter E. Fernald School and was known as Church Hill. School house #5 was in the area of Norcross Hill
- ◆ District 6 now Otter River was called Factory Village probably because of all the factories along the river. It was also at one time called Jonesville due to the fact that the Jones family owned much of the industry in the village. School house #6 was located on Old Winchendon Rd. in the area of Red Fox Crossing.
- ◆ District 7 was known as West Village, Bowkersville or Brooks village it was made up of several farms, a large tavern and many homes. This was a stopping point for the stage coach's going through town. They would stop to rest get a fresh team of horses before moving on. School house #7 was at the intersection of Skunks Misery Rd. and Queen Lake Rd. Some of the foundation can still be seen.
- ◆ District 8 was and still is known as Baldwinville. It also had a lot of industry and homes. School house #8 was located where the post office now stands.
- ◆ District 9 was East Village now East Templeton. It too contained much industry and population due to available water power. School house #9 was located next to the church and is now Scout Hall.



1855 map of districts

President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



Setting goals

A good practice for any organization and an important way to achieve them. We set a goal to move funds into a vehicle that will provide income for our annual bills. One that can continue for many years helping us to focus more on the preservation of our artifacts and the display of the many items in the collection.

- ◆ The Community Foundation has helped us set up a fund in our name and designed to benefit our group. Initially requiring us to deposit \$10,000.00 with the hopes of adding to it over the years giving us the interest income we need. This month we were successful in moving 190 shares of AT&T stock and 26 shares of Frontier stocks giving us a deposit of \$7,649.45 along with another \$1,050.00 from our Checking account and the \$2,030.56 that was in there from our initial deposit. Add another \$59.41 interest from last quarter and we have finally reached our goal of \$10,789.42 .
- ◆ Our other goal was to complete the list of things to do around the building, and I can proudly say, our volunteers have accomplished all that we have put on the list and then some.
- ◆ The Grange hall windows were delayed in the ordering process, but are on track to come in within the next month, so soon after Bill Harris and company takes a long overdue vacation, they will begin the installation and have them done by the fall months.
- ◆ The forestry plan is set to begin in August, weather permitting of course, which is why it hasn't begun. If the fall is not cooperative then this winter will be the best time once the ground freezes up. A great project that will encourage our visitors to hike the trails in our back woods and enjoy the area that has been so long forgotten. A sure way to increase our membership goal and exposure to the community.
- ◆ The display has been created further with more visual signage and images throughout the building highlighting the artifacts with information for the visitor to understand why it is here. Along with the portraits of those who were so insightful to save the many documents and artifacts we now care for.
- ◆ The garden and grounds are looking as good if not better than they ever have. Color, clean cut, and newly exposed trees are blooming into beautiful centerpieces taking our visitors to a place they can sit and enjoy the peace and quiet as it has been for generations.
- ◆ To share with the other organizations in town that we are now one of the community organizations people come to for fun, research, learning, and history.

If you haven't been to the building recently, please stop by, you'll be glad you did.

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

DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Darlene LaClair	Amy Guthrie	Tom Hurd
OPEN	Tom Jeleniewski	Jessie Duguay
OPEN	Dennis Rich	Ann Lyons

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks



Contact info:
 Main email: narragansethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

Find us on Facebook—Search for **Narragansett Historical 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"

<https://www.facebook.com/narragansethissoc/>
Located at 1 Boynton Rd. Templeton MA

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



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

July 26th Membership meeting 7pm Document room

August 23rd Membership meeting 7pm Document room

Thank you to the Templeton Senior Community Center for helping us print 45 copies of our newsletters each month for those without email accounts.



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