



John Boynton

1 BOYNTON ROAD, PO BOX 354, TEMPLETON, MA 01468

Narragansett Historical Society

MARCH 2014

Featured portrait

John Boynton was born in 1791, the son of a New Hampshire farmer. He made his fortune in the manufacture and sale of tinware, starting the business in New Hampshire and later moving to Templeton, Massachusetts. His tin products were sold by peddlers who traveled throughout New England in carts laden with all manner of housewares. Boynton was a quiet, honest man who, though married twice, died with no heirs. His vision was to use his fortune to establish a school where young men could learn scientific basics and then go into careers in the many growing industries of New England. When Worcester was chosen as the site of the school, advisors conceived of the idea of combining Boynton's and Washburn's proposed gifts to found a school which combined academics with hands-on training--the foundation still being carried on through the WPI Plan.

John Boynton did not live to see the two original buildings of the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science completed in 1868. Although his gift of \$100,000 was given anonymously, [Boynton Hall](#) was named for him after his death in 1867.

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From the President

Happy SPRING!!!

Members and friends,

It's certainly has been a long winter, but the society has been working very hard to plan and pave the way for a fun filled and successful year.

Because it is important for the Museum to run smoothly and in the black, I will be meeting with the Trustees and the treasurer before our annual meeting to come up with a budget that will move us successfully in to our next fiscal year. Soon will be looking at the need to heat the Grange building so it is as important as ever to see just where we stand financially.

The Grange project is moving along. Now that the roof, walls, new double chimney and footings are all secure, we are moving forward with the replacement of new windows, doors, and Handi-capped access. The grant has been written and approved by the town CPC committee and will go to town vote in May. If approved by town vote, our contractor will move forward on the final steps of completing the outside of the building. This has been a very exciting project. Next up will be the interior updates.

We continue to work at the main Museum building, painting and updating the document room, along with maintaining, organizing and cleaning the building for our May openings. Teas and activity dates have been set for the new year so be sure to check out the calendar of events included in your newsletter. If there is an activity that you would like to help with contact myself or the Committee Chairperson and we will make sure you are included.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting Wednesday March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the town office located on Patriots road.

Beth Arsenault
President

New Meeting Time is 6:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of each Month

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

CPC Grant

The Community Preservation Act provides new funding sources which can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes.

Allowable spending purposes include:

- Historic Resources
- Community Housing
- Open Space
- Recreation

The Community Preservation Committee is comprised of representatives from various town boards and committees.

This year we are applying for funds to finish the exterior windows, doors, and build a handicap access ramp on the Grange building.

Please come out to support this effort by attending the May town meeting.

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.		

WGAW1340.com Radio

Steve Wendell, owner of Gardner's radio station WGAW1340.com, met with Society members during our February meeting. Steve proposed a program to bring historic Templeton facts and interesting stories to the listeners in our area. The program is already in full swing with surrounding Museums and Historical Societies. Virginia Strahan was instrumental in bringing Steve to our meeting and will start us off on March 15th with her interview and story to share.

President Beth Arsenault will talk about the Historical Society on this first segment to kick off what looks like a year long project. Anyone interested in speaking about the history of Templeton or having an interesting story to share should contact Virginia Strahan via our email or Steve Wendell at the radio station.

Along with the interviews and stories, Steve has offered to help advertise our events throughout the year and will do live remotes at our biggest events.

Thanks to Steve and WGAW1340.com for your generous contribution to help us share our rich history with their listeners.

Tune in each month on the 3rd Saturday at 1:15pm to hear our segment.

Member Profile



Beth Arsenault has been a lifelong resident of Templeton and member of the Historical Society, wife and mother of three, is a certified Tailor. Her first activities within the society included serving at summer teas and hosting in the Museum on Saturdays.

As President and a member of the Historical Society, Beth's first love is textiles, and the preservations of such articles as quilts, old linens and period clothing. Though the job of President has left little time in the actual preservation of these articles, she has been able to have several quilts appraised and has patiently cleaned the least fragile items in the museum's collection.

Along with her personal love for textiles she also enjoys overseeing the maintenance and up keep of the buildings, chairing the Document room redo and working on the Grange building committee.

Membership email list

We need your help.

If you get this newsletter through the mail and you have a computer with an email address, please send us a note at our email at yahoo so we can add you to the list. So far, we have increased our email addresses from 44 members to 115 allowing us to save **\$675.00 a year in postage.**

With your help, we can save even more. Send us your email address today. Thanks.

John Boynton

On May 1, 1865, John Boynton gave \$100,000 to David Whitcomb to establish a school in Worcester, which would eventually become Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Two years later, at age 75, John Boynton died of pneumonia. The very next June, Whitcomb donated \$4000 to the Town of Templeton to establish and maintain a free public library specifically to be named Boynton Library.

In November, 1840, the Town of Templeton borrowed \$5000 from the firm of Boynton and Whitcomb. The town also borrowed \$1000 from John Boynton himself.

In early 1846, Boynton sold his share of the tin ware business and interest in several properties to David Whitcomb. Then, in June of 1848, John Boynton sold his Greek revival style home to David Whitcomb for \$2000, suggesting to the present day observer just what value the loans to the Town of Templeton represented. Clearly the recent financial difficulties of the Town of Templeton are nothing new; unfortunately today there is no John Boynton to borrow from.

Eden Baldwin

On December 22, 1780, twenty-one year old Eden Baldwin married Abigail Ware Force in New Braintree, Massachusetts. He put his young bride on his horse and traveled the twenty miles up the Barre Road to Templeton, "in the pine woods." Eden applied his determination and resourcefulness helping his father Jonathan, a Spencer native who was one of the original settlers in Templeton, with his business. Eden, undoubtedly recognizing the importance of an education, went back to school for one year after his marriage. The saw and grist mills of Jonathan and Eden became known as "Baldwin's Mills" and later "Baldwinsville." In time a lumber and brickyard became part of the Baldwin holdings and Eden became a large land owner and man of great wealth.

Eden and Abigail had six children, including Christopher Columbus Baldwin who later was to become librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. Eden died at age 73 on June 6, 1839.

Information taken from *The Baldwin Genealogy from 1500 to 1881*, by C. C. Baldwin, published in Cleveland, Ohio, by the Leader Publishing Co. , from *Massachusetts Vital Records Project*, and from the *Vital Records of New Braintree, MA, to the year 1850*.

Support from a friend

The Baptist Church tower clock included a very large dial originally mounted at the church front in the peak section of the attic. An unfortunate incident left a small BB hole in one section of glass which over time spread into several cracks. The glass is bubble designed on the back and plain flat on the front, an unusual pattern. An extensive search for a suitable replacement was done by Brian Tanguay who is heading up the restoration and installation of the complete clock with the dial, but the search kept coming up empty. One slow day at work, Brian offered the challenge to his daughter in law Courtney. She took the sample and spent countless hours online searching for a glass company who might be able to help. A group who reclaims old glass from buildings ready for destruction claimed to have a piece of glass to match, so Courtney mailed out a sample and a pattern for them to measure and compare. The call soon came back that it is a match. Courtney is not a member of the Society, but she is a family member to our Society's Trustee. For her determination and persistence, we would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You from all of us who will enjoy seeing this completed project in the near future.



Correction and Addition to Mike Kelley Story

In the last newsletter's article about Mike Kelley, Mike was said to have owned the Milwaukee Brewers minor league team. We have since learned that the Templeton 225th Anniversary booklet was incorrect and Mike never owned any team other than the Minneapolis Millers.

An interesting addition to the Mike Kelley story is the fact that the Boston Red Sox sent their promising rookie Ted Williams to the Millers in 1938 for experience, as he was just 19 years old. Ted tore up the American Association, winning the triple crown in batting, but his careless, often childlike attitude on defense drove his manager crazy. Manager Donnie Bush went to owner Kelley and demanded that Williams be sent elsewhere or he (Bush) would resign. Kelley told him that Williams was a once in a lifetime hitter and that managers like him were a dime a dozen. Bush relented and both he and Williams finished the season together. After the 1938 season, in baseball's winter meetings, Tom Yawkey, owner of the Red Sox, gave Mike Kelley an envelope containing a check for \$10,000 and a note saying: "Mike, Thanks for making a ballplayer out of Ted Williams." According to dollartimes.com, that would have the buying power of over \$162,000 today. Not a bad sum for a Templeton boy.

What's up now?



Last year, Brian Tanguay agreed to become an advisor for the Rho Kappa Honor Society at the Narragansett High School. Working with junior and senior students to digitize one of our books "Reminiscences of Life" by J. R. Gould in the 1860's the students have completed more than half of the over 100 pages in the book. Once completed, the book will be re-worked to include photographs of townspeople and images of the town mentioned in the book.

The goal of this project is to bring to light the historic information provided in these pages and making it a more enjoyable story to read. Each student working on this project will be given credit in the new printing.

Several students working on this project have found an interest in our local history simply by typing these pages.

Annual Meeting in May

Please try to make this Meeting: we need your support



We need YOU!

Our annual May meeting will also feature election of officers. If you are a Director or Officer and can continue in your current position or a new member and would like to offer more guidance and support, we encourage you to step up and join us in our effort to keep the buildings and the collection safe and on display for the public to enjoy.

We currently need a few directors and a Vice President. Contact Beth if you have an interest in any position. The nominating committee will meet during the next few months in preparation of the upcoming annual meeting to present the slate of officers for 2014.



Contact the Nominating Committee:
Beth Arsenault
Janet Haley
Or
Howard Sans

Save the Date:

April 28th, Earth Day cleanup our back yard

June 21, 4pm Winchendon Parade with our participation

June 25th, replay the Tower Clock Presentation at the Grange

July 12, Aug. 2, and Aug 16th are our scheduled Teas in the Garden

Sept 20, Cemetery Tour

Sept 27th 2nd annual Engine/Tractor/Car and Truck show

October 26th Pumpkin Festival

Dec 6 & 7 Christmas Tree Lighting/cookie Sale/ Jack Frost Festival

narraganssethhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com to email questions or volunteer for an event.

OFFICERS:
 President : BETH ARSENAULT
 (978) 939-2510
 Email Address: treadylady00@aol.com
 1st Vice Pres. HARRY ALDRICH
 2nd Vice Pres. JOYCE PROVENCHER
 Secretary CHRISTINE STONE
 Treasurer DEBBIE CAISSE
 Curator: BRIAN TANGUAY
 Historian: HARRY ALDRICH

DIRECTORS:
 Dennis Rich
 Charlie Carroll
 Jeannie Pleines
 Mark Moschetti
 Carol Caisse
 Kerry Bettez
 Tom Jeleniewski
 Open
 Open

TRUSTEES:
 BRIAN TANGUAY
 TOM JELENIEWSKI
 MARY BARNES
 open

Narragansett Historical Society
 Contact: Brian P Tanguay
Building & Grounds Supervisor

Contact Brian Tanguay mention the Historical society
 Phone: Home: 1-978-939-2053
 Work: 1-978-630-1011
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ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



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. Sign up soon. **660 friends and counting!**

Meeting Notice: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm unless otherwise advertised.

March 26th Wednesday night at **6:30pm** we will hold our monthly meeting at the Town Office.

April 23rd Wednesday night at **6:30pm**. To be announced as to the location.

A special thanks to the Selectmen for offering us a warm place to meet during these cold winter nights.

May 28th Wednesday night at 6:30pm ANNUAL MEETING & *Election of Officers and Directors* (in the document room) of our building.

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

