

# Narragansett Historical Society

March  
2016



by: Judy Rice

## May Day Basket event

April 30th 1-4pm

Otter River Sportsman's club 250 Lord Rd.



- ◆ Learn about May Day
- ◆ Create your own basket
- ◆ Participate in the May Pole ribbon dance.

\$5.00 donation per family at the door

On the Common  
Templeton MA

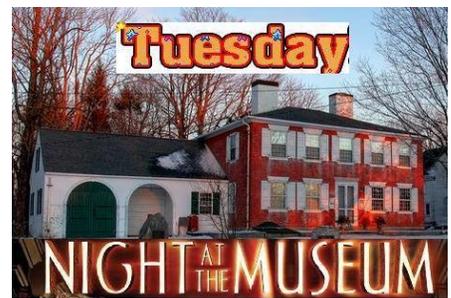
### 2016 Building hours:

#### Tuesday nights 6-8 pm starting April 5th.

This was a very successful night last year bringing in from 6 to 12 people, both members and visitors, to the building. Some doing research, others working on projects.

Stop by any Tuesday night throughout the year.

Saturdays 1-5 starting soon.



Check Us Out at: [www.narragansethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.narragansethistoricalsociety.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.



## Silver Sponsor



## Bronze Sponsor

**TANGUAY JEWELERS**



## Event Sponsors

Colonial Co-Operative Bank  
GFA Federal Credit Union  
Scotty's Potties

## 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.

# Calendar 2016

## Events being planned by the historical society during this year include:

**May Day Celebration**, Saturday, April 30; May baskets and May pole dance, Otter River Sportsman's Club.

**Downton Abbey Revisited**, Saturday, June 25; picnic and entertainment in the garden, Narragansett Historical Society.

**Special patriotic program**, Saturday, July 9, in conjunction with the 2rd Annual Mac N Cheese Festival hosted by the Friends of the Templeton Elders.

**Go fly a kite!** Date to be announced Planning on August 13 Saturday from noon to 5 Rain date Sunday the 14th.

**4th Annual Vintage Car, Small Engine and Tractor Show**, Saturday, Sept. 24, co-hosted by the Narragansett Historical Society and the Central Massachusetts Steam, Gas and Machinery Association, on the Templeton Common.

**Annual Pumpkin Fest**, Saturday, Oct. 29, on the Templeton Common.

**4th Annual Jack Frost Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting**, Sunday, Dec. 4, in conjunction with the Town of Templeton, on the Templeton Common.

The building will re-open for the season Tuesday nights from 6-8 in April, and on Saturday afternoons from 1-5 beginning soon, through the fall. For exact times and dates, check the website and our Facebook page.

Sign up to help with your favorite event to make each one successful and fun.

## Suggestions \*\* Ideas \*\* Programs

In an effort to streamline our communications and properly handle the emails coming in, we have set up a special account to receive these emails.

[historicalsociety.narragansett@yahoo.com](mailto:historicalsociety.narragansett@yahoo.com)

Bill Buckler volunteered to head up this account. He will reply to each email as needed and forward your ideas to the directors either at the monthly meeting or sooner if need be.

Thank you for your ideas and suggestions, they are greatly appreciated.

# Wright's Tavern

As editor of the newsletter, I enjoy the many messages via email or directly from members in conversation. This message came after the February newsletter and I suggested using it in our latest newsletter. Enjoy.

*Dear Brian,*

I love receiving the newsletter (I am a life member) but I was sad to see that the house, at 29 Boynton Rd. where we lived for a while in the early 50s had partially burned. This fall I drove back to Templeton to have a look at the house. I saw the for sale sign and someone stopped to tell me that he thought that it had already been purchased. It was the first house that Arthur and I had ever owned and we so enjoyed living in it. I used to walk down the street to the post office pushing our first child in his stroller. Often neighbors who were home because they had retired would join us. Quite frequently our big beautiful black lab would walk with us as well---no leash laws then. Once when I was busy with our new baby and our little boy, Oliver was playing in our fenced back garden I got a call from Mrs. Pearson the minister's wife. She wanted to tell me that our son was in her back yard. He had crawled under the split rail fence and gone exploring. (I think he was only two years old at the time.) His very first playmate was Gwen Valiton. She was just his age but had been born on February 29th, 1952. He was born on March 7th



Arthur and I belonged to the Fifty-Fifty Club and had a great time at the potluck dinners and I remember being in a women's club play. Our next door neighbors were the Kennys. They were such lovely people. When we arrived Mrs. Kenny brought over a delicious cake frosted in boiled icing which I didn't even know how to make and shortly afterwards they invited us to Sunday dinner. She and I would talk over the back fence as we hung up our laundry. Mrs. Kenny told me one spring that the weather wouldn't really warm up until the snow was off Monadnock.

I hope Templeton has retained some of its former small village character. I live in Groton where we moved when it looked as if it would be a while until Templeton would have an adequate school system. When we moved to Groton there were about 1,900 people. Today there are about 11,000.

Sadly, Arthur died February of 2015 after going blind and having declining health and memory. He was 91. I think he learned a lot about community from living even briefly in Templeton. He went on in Groton to hold many volunteer town positions and became selectman after serving on many other committees.

By the way please change the address on my newsletter as shown below. I have moved "downtown" to a small house, part of which is quite old though not as historic as "The Joshua Wright Tavern".

*Keep up the interesting newsletter,  
Camilla Blackman*

## News around the building:

- ◆ Jerry Grimes is almost done on his project building a platform for the refrigerator just inside the civil war room.
- ◆ Brian Tanguay will present the Tower clock restoration slide show at the COA on Senior Drive April 11th at 1:00pm
- ◆ Wood carving will be demonstrated during our Saturday afternoon hours this coming Spring and Summer
- ◆ The Howard Grandfather Clock standing in the hallway of the Elementary School on South Road will be moved into our building for safe keeping during the construction process.
- ◆ Our Grand curtain and the Advertising curtain on the Grange hall stage will be stored to save them from the dirt during construction of the new windows, ceiling, insulation, and cleanup. They will then be taken out, restored, and properly hung again.
- ◆ The kitchen floor is just about ready for paint. The cabinets, walls, and ceiling looks great!
- ◆ Jim Dimaio our Forester has walked the property borders marking them with Tom Hurd. One step closer.

# Cabin Fever 2016

Our second annual collectors show proved to be a success on Saturday Feb. 27th at the Baldwinville American Legion on Central Street. 17 collectors set up their favorite things filling the downstairs hall. Sandwich rolls and corn chowder were served to quench your hunger and conversations filled the room discussing toy steam engines, postcards from all four precincts, hat, lapel, and stick pins, bells, 60's Beatles memorabilia, football & baseball cards, pocket watches dating back to when George Washington was President, Peter Rabbit, hand saws, vintage woodworking tools, antique toy trucks, vintage salesman sample stoves, wood carving, bells, belt buckles, snowmen, ceramic birds, and boy scouting memorabilia.

Members and friends enjoyed the afternoon, even though it was spring like temps outside with the sun shining like it was April. Not the traditional weather in late February where we usually bundle up and shovel our way to the car. Many visitors mentioned they have collections they would like to share giving us the possibility of an even larger show next year.

Thank you to all of our visitor, collectors, and sponsors who helped make this event an enjoyable success.





# “A moment in time”

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

## PEOPLE THAT HAVE SERVED AS TOWN OFFICIALS AND GIVEN MANY YEARS

I thought this month I would list some of the people that have served our town for much of their lives. These people gave the town a lot of their time for little or no pay year after year.

I will start with a gentleman named Percival Blodgett who held the position of Selectman for 26 years. He was first elected in 1882. His last year in office was 1914. John W. Work who was elected to the board in 1849 and served as a selectman for 21 years being elected for the last time in 1878. Another person that held office as a selectman just a little longer than Mr. Work was Ms. Gladys Salame, who passed on during her 22<sup>nd</sup> year. An interesting point about these two people is that the home where Ms. Salame grew up in was also the home of Mr. Work when he held office. The building stands to the right of our museum.

There are several people that have served as Assessors for fairly long terms over the years such as Milton S. Brown, John L. Brooks, Wilfred L. Dennis, Fred C. Henshaw and George P. Hawkes but there is one person that probably held the record. That person was Lester N. Pease from Brooksvillage. Mr. Pease worked as an Assessor for the town for fifty consecutive years. I can remember as a boy when Mr. Pease would come to my parents to check on things such as how many cattle we had. In later years, I remember him coming to my home to assess my property. Mr. Pease owned and operated Pease Orchards which is still in business today, being run by Mr. Pease's son and grandson.

Next is the position of Town Collector which eventually was later merged into Town Clerk and Collector. The position of Collector was held the longest by George P. Hawkes having held it for twenty one years. After they were merged, Emil A. Wirkkala held it the longest with thirty years of service followed by Oren R. Williams with twenty seven years. For many years, the people performed their jobs in their homes having a small office to work out of. I can remember as a boy going with my father to both Mr. Williams and Mr. Wirkkala's house to buy a fishing license or dog license. They were pretty lenient as far as their hours went. You could just drop in and if they were home, you got taken care of.

The position of Town Treasurer was held the longest by a gentleman named William P. Hawley who was in office for 31 years. He was followed by Mrs. Edith R. Cutting who held the position for 21 years.

There are many others with less time but it would take too long to list everyone. For the most part, all these people have dedication because none of these jobs probably paid much if anything back then. I hope you enjoy this write up..

**"Templeton's oldest resident, Josephine Ruckey, who received the town's Boston Post Cane in 2015, will celebrate her 101st birthday March 27 at the Baldwinville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Ruckey formerly lived on Dudley Road, Templeton Center."**

**Photo taken March 2015**



# President's Page

by: **Brian P. Tanguay**



**“Keep up the good work”. I hear that comment every day at my store, in a friendly email, or someone stopping me on the street. We need to hear those words of encouragement especially since we are volunteers. There are so many people who are taking notice of our efforts in preserving the building and the collection we are entrusted with.**

**Together we have accomplished so much and created many events that are fun for the community. It's rewarding to see that we are getting noticed. Stories in the newspapers and posters around town have given us the publicity we so desperately needed to become a visible organization.**

**We have grown our membership in great numbers bringing in new ideas and new volunteers willing to take the time to make a difference. We have received great support from the business community through our sponsors who want us to succeed in our efforts. All of which could not happen without the show of support from our volunteers.**

**The checklist is growing, not with more projects on the list waiting to be done someday when we get the funding or the help, but with actual checks marking off another completed project and moving quickly on to the next one.**

**Everyone who hears about our events soon come to realize what they can do in any capacity to lend a hand. No matter how small, together, as you can see, we have accomplished so much. Look back over the past few years and think about it for a minute, you were a part of it, history in the making. It is a proud moment when as your President, I hear those words of encouragement and share your great work with the community. We have not seen participation like this in many years and I can see that we are not slowing down at all. We are checking off more projects each month thanks to everyone getting involved doing what they love to do.**

**Spring is here. Set the clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night the 13th and get ready for an exciting new season in the building.**

**Lights..... Camera.....Action.**

**Keep up the good work!**

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

**DIRECTORS:**

<b>3 year</b>	<b>2 year</b>	<b>1 year</b>
Tom Hurd	Karen Rich	Janet Haley
Jessie Duguay	Tom Hill	Tom Jeleniewski
Ann Lyons	William Buckler	Dennis Rich

**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 **1,170 friends and counting!**

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

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

**April 27th at the building. Document Room 7pm**



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