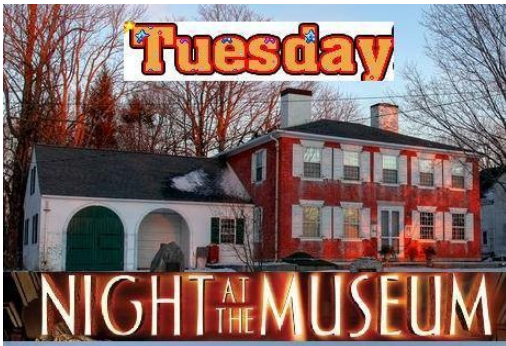


Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

March 2021

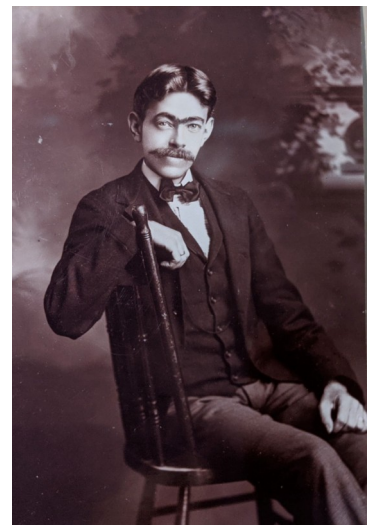
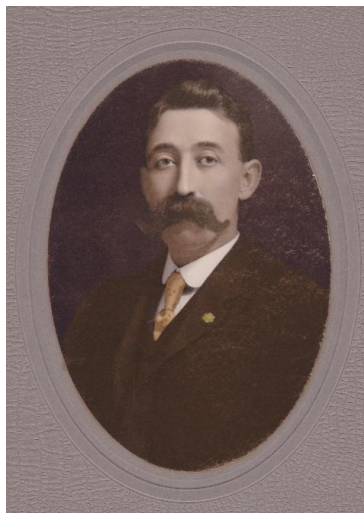


The warm weather has arrived, most of the snow has melted, and many of you have had your shots to hopefully end this year long pandemic. We will still practice safety regulations as required by the CDC's suggestion. We can get back to our routine of holding our open house on Tuesday nights from 6-8pm beginning in April, so just look for the vehicles out front and stop in.

2021 Photographic display in the Document room

Last year we featured the Civil War collection. It was very well received with artifacts, documents, photographs, and so many original items donated over the years.

This year we will pay homage to our photographers. Namely, the top three contributors who took the time to figure out those newfangled inventions. Pictured below are Albert Phelps, who's focus was on Templeton Common, Oren Williams who spent many hours touring Baldwinville, and Wallace Underwood who showed us the funny side of life in East Templeton. You'll see Oren's original camera, along with their glass plate negatives, original photographs and the many post cards they created. We are proud to feature these men and tell their stories. You won't want to miss this presentation and a special surprise, bring the family.



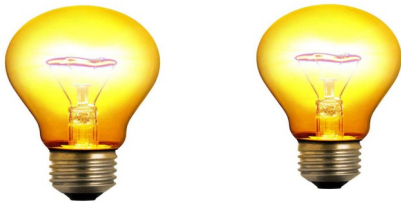
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Event Sponsors



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Templeton Light**



THREADS FROM THE PAST

By Eileen Bouvier

An occasional series of articles spotlighting items from the Society's antique clothing and textile collections

“Best of the Vests” – Part two of threeA Commemorative Vest



The Jacquard machine, invented in 1801, uses a punch card system to direct the threads of a loom into complex patterns. This allows the creation not only of textured fabrics such as matelassé, but also the weaving of elaborate images directly into the fabric. The next vest in our collection is incomplete – only the right front panel has been preserved. The panel is black silk woven with a repeating image of a man's profile surrounded by a laurel wreath. The buttons are covered in the same material or a matching silk. A card stored with the piece reads:

Half of vest of Washington silk, Probably made about 1825-30. French Silk. This is the decision of the textile expert at the Boston Art Museum.

It appears, then, that the image in the fabric is that of George Washington, who was frequently depicted with classical symbols like the laurel wreath, and may have been produced as a souvenir or commemorative design. Such a vest might well have been saved as a treasured family keepsake.

In part three, we'll take a look at a special occasion vest.

*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 today!

RACE TO 500

The Historical Society once called the Templeton Museum, started in 1924, and soon grew to have a new home in 1934 when the group incorporated and named it the Narragansett Historical Society.

Looking back through the years we have recorded up to 220 members and as the generations passed by, and new members signed up, it remained around 200 for most of those 90 some odd years. Until recently when we began our campaign to let everyone know that this is your Museum. Everyone is welcome and there has not been a fee to enter since 2015. Events were created to interest all family members, Go fly a kite, Motorpalooza, Cabin Fever, Themed tea parties, Halloween events, and a Christmas parade with Santa, the marching band, and our annual bake sale.

People started to notice, they asked when the next event was, and made sure they told us the kids loved it and talked about it for weeks. A membership drive was created, "Just one" was brought up to ask each member to sign up one new member, just one! We soon doubled our membership and are now only 16 members shy of 500.

We are not done, each one of you can print the form on this page, suggest a membership to your neighbor during your next BBQ, leave it on your table when you go out to dinner, keep it in your car just in case the conversation includes the Historical Society and the coming events.

The term "Baby Steps" is looked at differently when you begin a campaign. You sign up two members and think, we now have 202 members, but then you fast forward to 5 years later, and look back and realize you helped sign up 300 members. So we keep moving forward, and know that we are going to be fine, this organization will continue for the next generation, hopefully it will be easier for them and they can focus on the fun parts of running this volunteer group. Thank you all for the "Giant Steps" we've taken one baby step at a time.



KEEP TOP SECTION



SOCIETY RECORD TO BE TURNED INTO SECRETARY

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone (optional) _____

email _____

MY MEMBERSHIP LEVEL • Annual ☐ \$15.00 Student ☐ \$5.00 Family ☐ \$25.00 Life ☐ \$100.00

D a t e _____

Make checks payable to Narragansett Historical Society Inc. • P. O. Box 354, Templeton MA 01468



"A moment in time"

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE ICE SKATE NOW DAYS?

I drive by what we now call Candlelight Pond the other day and saw someone ice fishing and it reminded me of when we use to ice skate on that pond and others in the town. It was not uncommon to see groups of children of all ages skating. Most ponds usually had an area cleared off if there was snow on the ground just for that purpose. Usually the older children would get together and clear an area with shovels. Sometimes there would be adults with snow blowers if the pond happened to be in their back yard. When we were skating on Candlelight Pond, we would build a fire on the ice to keep warm. In East Templeton on North Main Street, Mr. Lajoie had a small building with benches that was used to put your skates on or warm up. I believe he also kept the snow cleared off but I am not sure. I am sure there were locations in Otter River and Baldwinville too. One location in Baldwinville was in back of Paine's Garage. I have been told that they use to flood the concrete slab from one of the old factories that once stood out there for the children.

In Templeton center on Dudley Road, someone use to flood Mr. Kendell's field every year. Another area that we use to use in Templeton was a small brook that always froze over. The brook went from in back of the old L&J Texaco through the woods to Burn's Pond across from Louie Johnson's cider mill.

At one time the firefighters in Templeton Center would erect a ice rink in front of the station. The lumber for it was donated by contractor named Paul Martin, owner of J.P. Martin Construction. His company had taken down the church that stood next to the library and that was where the lumber had come from. The fire fighters would lay down a large plastic liner and fill it with water. This went on for several years and the children got a lot of enjoyment out of it.



TEMPLETON RINK — Members of the Templeton Center Fire Department are shown installing a 60 by 150-foot skating rink in front of new fire station at the Templeton Common for the benefit of the youngsters of the town. It is expected that the rink will be completed soon.

President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



As I write this newsletter and most of it is filled in, there still needs to be 5 pages filled with history, information about coming events, reports on events we just worked on, and projects we are about to begin. Doing this for so many years, I sometimes have to sit back, ask Tina what I'm missing, and go over the calendar. I am thankful to Harry for filling the page to my left every month with is true to life stories of what it was like to live in Templeton as a youngster, a teenager, and an adult. It takes some of the stress away to fill that one page. We now have Eileen offering her insights on vintage clothing, which will interest many of our readers and again, allow me to focus on one less page and a hundred other tasks that need my attention on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. I hear rumors that others may submit stories or articles soon, which will be a welcome addition to this newsletter.

With our new service, Constant Contact, I can import this newsletter and send it out to our almost 400 accounts we have on file, and Harry can send out the 40 he has on his list for the post office. Several of our members have omitted a viable email address or home address once they moved to points west and south, not many head north due to the cold winter months. So those are our lost members we cannot communicate with.

However, those we email to, we can see if they open the newsletter, click on it, or never open it. So, I'll send it out once more in 4 days to see if they just forgot, several do open it on the second attempt, but overall, we have 53% who open it. This number is the best of any organization and they tell me I should be proud of that high volume of interested members.

With the warm weather, comes longer days and more interest in doing work on or in the building, so the Grange project will soon continue, Stage wall, wiring, insulation, then apply for more grant money to finish the second floor with wall board, paint, and heating & air conditioning.

I'll also continue to pursue a better parking situation for the Grange hall, seeking funds to acquire land and pave a driveway to our handicap drop off and main entrance for our meetings and events.

Anyone interested in doing what needs to get done, it's time to get involved as an active member, once you are comfortable, you will be eligible for a directors position or officers position. Start small, take one step at a time. Get involved with the event you like the most, focus on your strengths and soon you will discover how great it is to help out and see the growth right in front of your eyes.

Happy Spring everyone!

2019 OFFICERS:
 President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Vacant
 Secretary Amy Guthrie
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2019 DIRECTORS:
 3 year Amy Guthrie
 2 year Thomas Hurd
 1 year Open
 John Chouinard
 Eileen Bouvier
 Ann Lyons
 Open Jessie Duguay
 OPEN

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks
 Open

Contact info:
 Main email: nh1924society@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay



**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT
 NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME
 any time.**



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" 1700 members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>

**Located at 1 Boynton Rd. and 9 Hubbardston Rd
 Templeton MA**

Meeting Notice: 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised

April will begin our Tuesday nights at the Museum, no specific meeting date for April is set

May 5th will be our test run to have the meeting on the first Wednesday of the month

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 _____

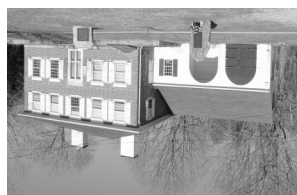
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Thank You

Narragansett Historical Society and send to
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