



John Stiles 1825

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

# Narragansett Historical Society

## MAY 2014

### Featured portrait

John Stiles built the brick house on the Common in 1811 using bricks brought over from England. He married Mary McCarty, daughter of The Reverend Thaddius McCarty. Together they raised two daughters Mary and Lydia while living in Templeton Center. They became close friends with Eliza Goodridge spending many days together and it was said that Eliza spent more time with the Stiles than with her own family. John and Mary decided to move to Worcester to live a life involved with high society. After they moved out of their brick house, it continued as a store with many different owners. Eventually it was left to ruin until several ladies from town revived the society and saved the building to call it The Narragansett Historical Society. Eliza kept in touch with the Stiles girls often travelling to Worcester to spend time and practice her love of miniature painting. There are several miniatures in the Worcester Museum of the Stiles showing the girls from childhood to adult. You can also find miniatures of Lydia's children. Thanks to John and Mary for building such a magnificent structure to call our Museum.

## Slate of Officers

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SLATE OF OFFICERS UP FOR ELECTION  
ELECTION DATE  
MAY 28, 2014

**President:** Brian Tanguay

**1st Vice Pres.** Beth Arsenault

**2nd Vice Pres.** Howard Sands

**Treasurer:** Debbie Caisse

**Secretary:** Christine Stone

**Curator:** Brian Tanguay

**Director 3 Yrs.** Karen Rich

Bill Buckler  
Tom Hill

**Director 2 yrs:** Janet Haley

Tom Jeleniewski  
Dennis Rich

**Director 1 yr.** Kerrie Bettez

Mark Moschetti  
Open

**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

**Building and Grounds:** Beth Arsenault

**Trustees:** Tom Jeleniewski

John Brooks

David Huhtala

Brian Tanguay

This slate of officers and Board of Directors have all agreed if it is the will of the membership to serve in the capacity as stated above. The official vote will take place May 28<sup>th</sup>.2014 at the Narragansett Historical Society Annual Meeting. Meeting will be held at 7:00 at the Society building.

**Respectfully Submitted,** Janet Haley: Past President

Howard Sands: Past President

Beth Arsenault : President

**New Meeting Time is 7:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each Month**

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

# Please come to the next meeting?

With the renewed interest in the building and the Historical Society, now is the perfect time to start attending our meetings. You will see a very positive growth in membership, participation, and work being done to improve the building and the collection.

*If you haven't been to a meeting recently, consider starting this month with the Annual Meeting, Election of officers and Directors and most of all to see the fresh colors of the meeting/Document room.*

Let us know your favorite part of the collection so we can highlight it in our coming newsletters. We can also feature your story, how you started as a member, and to share your story with our readers.

## WGAW1340.com

Virginia Strahan has set up an interview style meeting with Steve Wendell, owner of WGAW1340.com Radio station in Gardner.

Each month on the 3rd Saturday at 1:15 pm a member of our Historical Society will talk live on the radio with Steve to discuss current events, future events, and stories from days gone by.

If you are interested in participating either through telling your story, or sharing it with us so we can tell your story contact Virginia through our email listed on the bottom of the page.

Stay tuned for many historic memories and an up to date conversation of things to come.

### 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

<b>DONATIONS ACCEPTED</b>		
<b>YES!</b> I would like to make a donation to the <b>Narragansett Historical Society</b>		
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.		

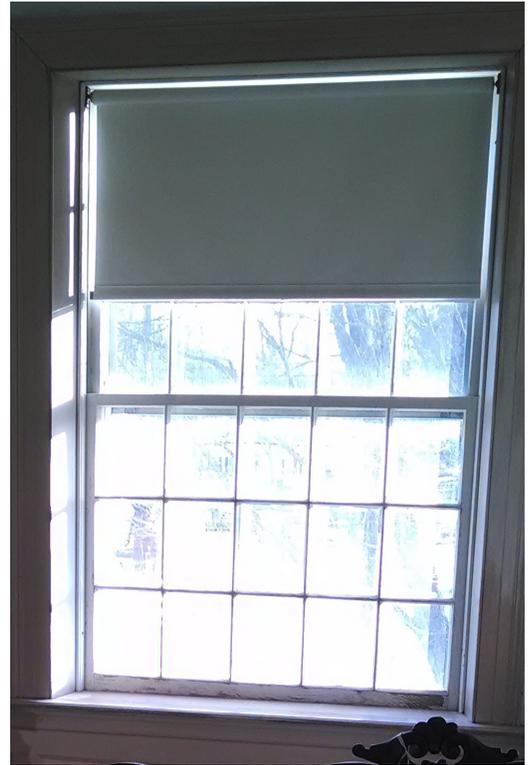
# Document room windows

**Parker Glass is currently re-grouting all of our windows from the document room at a substantial discount.**

**Members are “buying windows” in support of this complicated work.**

**Each window can be sponsored by sending a check to the Narragansett Historical Society for the suggested amount of \$60.00 per window. There are 14 windows to restore and paint. To date, we have received approximately \$400.00 to help with this project.**

**Please make a notation on the check for the window project.**



## Tea and Building hosts requested

**For those of you who would like to host a Tea, or be a building host, we would love to have you help us out. It's not a difficult task and it only takes a few hours on a Saturday afternoon.**

**We would like to have a short seminar to make the job as easy as possible. We will tour the building showcasing some interesting artifacts making the visit more enjoyable for you and our visitors.**

**For Tea hosts, we will offer a quick rundown of how a Tea is run, how many helpers you will need, and how to pack it up for the day.**

**If you are interested in attending this short seminar please email us at the address listed on every other page of this newsletter, once we get enough interest, we will set up a date and organize a time.**

**With more of you helping out, it will lighten the load on the many Volunteers who have been working so hard to keep our Museum open to the public.**

**Email us now, our operators are standing by to take your message. Thanks**

# Sarah Goodridge display

With the new paint job in the Document room and the new look, we are replacing the material in the wall cabinets on both sides. The two built in display cabinets between the windows which have held our miniature paintings from Sarah and her sister Eliza for the past 80 years or so have revealed a serious problem. Upon removing the pictures tacked up to the velvet we noticed that most of the tacks were rusted. A very disturbing discovery since we are under the assumption that these precious artifacts are in a proper storage and display case. Upon closer inspection it was revealed that the foam board backing was the only thing between the paintings and the brick wall.

Roger Brooks and Brian Tanguay worked out a plan to treat the bricks with a skim coat to seal out the moisture, then blow in insulation around the edges and finally layer it with a new space age insulation product creating a vapor barrier more suitable to a sealed wall cabinet. Roger and Brian have donated their time and materials to insure that this situation is corrected and our artifacts are protected for future display.

## Member Profile

**Brian Tanguay**, a lifetime member since 1991 became involved with the Historical Society through a collection of Glass plate negatives all of which are originally from Baldwinville and Templeton Center.

Those negatives were taken by Oren Williams and together with the Society's collection and Dr. Louis Fletcher's 95% were identified. They have since been included in the Chapter on Baldwinville in the *Images of America, Templeton* book co-authored by Brian and Harry Aldrich.

Since joining Brian has taken on several positions including Building Supervisor, Director, Trustee, and Curator. He enjoys working with the collection of photographs, negatives and daguerreotypes and has digitized up to 1,000 images so far. With the help of 5 other scanners they have surpassed 2,500 digital images taken from photo albums and hidden in drawers in the Society's collection.

His favorite pastime is working with the Sarah Goodridge miniatures. To date, he has purchased two portrait miniatures from Vermont and New Zealand, one of an unknown man; the other is surely Eliza Goodridge. When Brian went to Boston to view their Sarah Goodridge miniatures, the curator for the Museum of Fine Arts remarked that Brian possesses more knowledge of Sarah's works than anyone she has met to date. Brian is currently in the middle of a project to write a book of the entire known miniature collection and where they are displayed, possibly to publish one day, but certainly to be on display in our Museum.

Brian is celebrating his 33rd year of marriage to Tina they have two grown boys and has been self employed as a Certified Watchmaker since 1976 currently located at Tanguay Jewelers in Gardner. His other passions are fishing rivers for trout and shooting competitive billiards with the Central Mass Pool League since 1979.

Brian is seeking the position of President of this Society with the intention of bringing it into the future with a sound financial structure to insure we can proceed with the much needed preservation work to save the artifacts left in our care.

Image credits: Michael Therriault

taken in the Bell tower of the First Church



## Document Room update

The self proclaimed “Wellington Wonders” are pictured here in front of the newly built shelves in the document room. These proud volunteers are the scrapers, painters, and builders all from Wellington Rd. only walking distance from the Museum.

Lee Cunningham, Mary Grimes, and Jerry Grimes have been working on the room for a good part of the winter and spring to prepare the room for the coming season. Visitors will be pleased to see a bright new room with organized books and documents ready for their inspection. Whether it's a lazy Saturday afternoon looking through photo albums taken in the 1890's or reading up on journals left by prominent figures of Baldwinville, our visitors will enjoy each and every hour spent in our brightest room. Thanks to Beth Arsenault for Chairing this project, it has been her dream to see this room come alive again.



## George Ira Alden

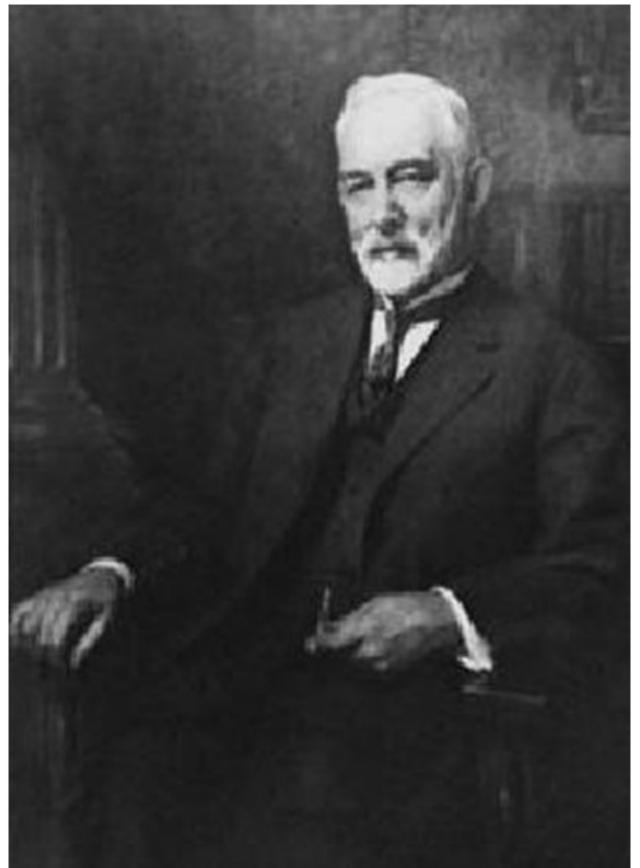
George Ira Alden was born April 22, 1843, on Cottage Street in East Templeton. Educated in the old Partridgeville School, he earned his money for college in the furniture factories of nearby Gardner. Alden entered Harvard College in 1862 and joined the staff of Worcester Polytechnic Institute as Professor of mechanical Engineering in 1868.

As pioneer members of the faculty of the newly established WPI, George Alden and his colleague, Milton Higgins, joined in 1885 with several Worcester businessmen in establishing the Norton Emery Wheel Company. Mr. Alden became treasurer and Mr. Higgins president. Not until 1896 would they devote full time to the Norton Company which grew by leaps and bounds through good times and bad.

By then Mr. Alden had invented a dynamometer for measuring the power of all kinds of machines, the first hydraulic elevators had been invented and produced by him and Mr. Higgins, and he had established and directed the second hydraulic laboratory in the United States. And all this time the graduates of WPI remembered him as a fine but demanding teacher.

George I. Alden of Templeton was an experienced and successful teacher who wanted others like him to be aided in their efforts. He provided well for those as independent as he was in mind and spirit, establishing a trust fund which is still today granting financial support for "the maintenance of some charitable or philanthropic enterprises" with particular expressed interest in "the promotion of education in schools, colleges, or other educational institutions."

Taken in part from “The George I. Alden Trust—History”



# One Ton Pellet Raffle

Thanks to Agway of Gardner who donated one ton of wood pellets for our raffle.

5 winning tickets will be drawn on December 7th after the Jack Frost Festival  
Each lucky winner will receive a Gift certificate to the Gardner Agway worth 10 forty pound bags of pellets

Call any Director for tickets.



Lisa and Al from Agway of Gardner

## RHO KAPPA Honor Society Narragansett High School

Charles Crook and Brian Tanguay, co-advisors to the Honor Society have begun their second year in the program. This year we are asking the students to spend a Saturday afternoon with us at the building as a host. Within two days, we got two volunteers and it's looking like we will have more sign up soon. Let's hope we can create enough interest to have at least two Students helping during our Saturday afternoons.

**Thank you  
To all of our  
Hard working  
Volunteers**

**Many hours  
No pay  
Great results !**



Robin's nest  
in our  
Back door  
Entry way  
Use Caution

## Save the Date:

*June 21, 4pm Winchendon Parade with our participation*

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

*June 28th 80th Anniversary Party Details to follow.*

*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](mailto: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  
 Cell: 1-978-895-2980  
 Fax: 1-978-632-3723

**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 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised.**

- May 28th Wednesday night at 7:00 pm ANNUAL MEETING & *Election of Officers and Directors* (in our new document room) On One Boynton Street.
- June 25th Wednesday night at 7:00pm AT THE GRANGE Hall, Upstairs with a presentation of the Tower Clock Restoration.
- July 23rd Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the Document room
- August 27th Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the Document room

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

