

# Narragansett Historical Society

MAY 2015



## CALENDAR

### Events and Meetings for 2015

- May** Tuesday night at the Museum begins. Every Tuesday from 6-8pm  
27th Annual Meeting Elections 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room
- June:** Building open hours begin Saturdays from 12-5  
24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Wednesday 7pm in the Document room  
27<sup>th</sup> First Tea in the Garden from 2-4:30 Downton Abbey
- July:** Building is Closed 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend  
Reading of the Declaration of Independence First Church.  
4th COA is hosting a Mac & Cheese cook off on the common
- Aug.** **Craft Fair 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>** bake sale, raffle, open house, free tours.  
26<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room
- Sept.** 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the Document room  
26<sup>th</sup> Engine Show cars, engines, tractors, music and more
- Oct.** All Month display "Death becomes her" features mourning dresses, jewelry, and hair wreaths  
28<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in the Document room  
31<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Festival watch for details
- Nov.** 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room
- Dec.** **6<sup>th</sup> Jack Frost Festival Sunday** from 1-5 Parade at 4, tree lighting at 4:30. Bake sale, open house, wreath sale, raffle drawing.  
16<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Document room

On the Common  
Templeton MA



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

# Sponsored by

These are our 2015 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.



## 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.

# Member Profile

submitted by; Christine Stone about her Mother, Marjorie Pease Stone

I was born in Brooks village in 1917, and married Lincoln Stone of Otter River in 1941.

I graduated from Templeton High School, which now, with Phillipston, is Narragansett Regional High School. I graduated in 1939 from Worcester State Teachers College (now Worcester University; all the state colleges are now called universities). I taught first and second grade in Templeton Center for two years: 1939-1940, 1940-1941, both grades in one room. They didn't have Kindergarten then, and these poor little first-graders had never had to sit still in a chair before. It must have been a shock to those kids.

On my very first day of teaching, because I came from the town, ten mothers -- not all of them mothers of kids in my class -- came out of sheer curiosity to watch me teach my class. I was in a state of shock, complete shock, but I gathered myself together and got on with my teaching, such as it was.

Little Harry Drury sat in a chair and cried all day. "Harry," I said to him at the end of the day, "I could cry, too." That year was the most difficult time of my life. I didn't have the kind of instruction that they had at Fitchburg Teacher's College. Fitchburg specialized in elementary teaching, and for practice teaching every girl would have charge of a room and learn to deal with milk money and help kids who needed help with their clothes. I didn't have any of that. I think it was kind of a miracle that I got through that first year.

My second year was better. The kids I had taught in first grade weren't as good readers as Mrs. French's second-graders. She had been teaching forever -- I had her for a teacher in second grade. I didn't follow the methods and materials we had used at Worcester. I took out the materials that Mrs. French had used -- phonics -- and built up the second grade.

This was during the Depression. It was assumed that jobs were needed by men with families to support, so when I got married in 1941 I lost my job. But later, during World War II, the men were off at war, and they dropped that rule.

By that time, I was married and stayed home and took care of my kids. I got back into teaching in 1959, at a nursery school for children with challenges. That was half days and worked out very well.

At first I thought, "What am I doing? I don't know anything about how to help kids with challenges." Also, the job required driving into Boston once a month for meetings; so I told them I didn't want it. But then I thought, I should be able to do that; so I called back, and they accepted me. I doubt there would be many people who wanted that job.

I taught there for six years. Then Mrs. Finson retired, and I applied for her job teaching second grade in Otter River.

I taught fifth grade in Baldwinville for one year. Somehow, they had too many second grade teachers and asked for a volunteer to teach fifth grade. I said, "I'd hate to think that I couldn't do that."

Second graders' primary idea is to please the teacher. In 7th and 8th grade, where I substituted, the boys make all kinds of mischief and don't bother to conceal it, and the girls sneak around doing things.

I wasn't in on the beginning of the Historical Society. When I joined later, we would take our turn at overseeing when people came to look at things and made sure nothing was damaged. I guess we were supposed to answer questions, too.

Mrs. White started the teas. Her sister, Ruth Parkhurst, had a tea room in Petersham, and Mrs. White started doing a similar thing every Saturday in the garden. In my day, she was the backbone of the Historical Society, the one who really got things going.

For about three years I was in charge of getting people to work at the teas. After one time when somebody called at the last minute to say she couldn't do her tea, I decided that I would say: "If you find that you can't do it, get your own people to fill in."

I used to go to the teas when I was more mobile, but I haven't seen the building for a while. I remember the old post office, to the right as you go in the front door; the room across the hall, with old tea things; and the old kitchen with the fireplace.



# Annual Meeting and Elections

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SLATE OF OFFICERS UP FOR ELECTION  
ELECTION DATE  
MAY 27, 2015

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Tanguay

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Howard Sands

**TREASURER:** Debbie Cassie

**SECRETARY:** Christine Stone

**CURATOR:** Brian Tanguay

**DIRECTOR 3 YEARS:** Tom Hurd  
Jessie Duguay  
Ann Lyons

**DIRECTOR 2 YEARS:** Karen Rich  
Tom Hill  
Bill Buckler

**DIRECTOR 1 YEAR:** Janet Haley  
Dennis Rich  
Tom Jeleniewski

**TRUSTEES:** Tom Jeleniewski  
John Brooks  
David Huhtala  
Brian Tanguay

**HISTORIAN:** Harry Aldrich  
**BUILDING and GROUNDS:** Tom Hurd

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 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Narragansett Historical Society Annual Meeting. Meeting will be held at 7:00 at the Society building.

Respectfully Submitted,  
President Brian Tanguay  
Historian Harry Aldrich  
VP Howard Sands

***Reminder: While our Directors and Officers are volunteering to help grow the Society in a positive direction, each and every member can contribute toward this goal and several do just that every day. This slate of officers has promised to be a role model for our members and encourage others to participate in our events and our days in which we are open to the public.***

## Bylaws change vote

When we updated our bylaws in 2014 we kept the list of officers the same. At times it was difficult to find volunteers to fill some positions. Some were placed just to fill the position even though they really didn't want the title. Our Officers and Directors are working hard to find the right people who want the title, those that will help in our events and those who will attend our meetings to set up our calendar for the year. One position in question was having two Vice Presidents, There is no clear reason as to why we have had these two VPs over the years and a vote to cut it down to having one VP was overturned in our annual meeting last year.

A vote is again requested to set up our Officers Slate with one VP for this coming election and to change the Bylaw to make it easier in the future.

Having one VP, 9 Directors, 4 Trustees, and one of the best Historian's this town has ever seen gives us plenty of support when decisions are needed.

Presented by: Brian Tanguay, President

# May Day

A great tradition was resurrected on April 26th introducing may basket making and the may pole ribbon dance braiding 16 ribbons around the 30 foot flag pole at the Otter River Sportsman's Club. Children and adults enjoyed the day some for the first time and others bringing back fond memories of their childhood. This is sure to be on our calendar for next year as everyone went home with a smile and a promise to be back.

Thanks to all involved in making this event a success especially to Susan Spuhler for chairing the event and creating the slideshow presentation for our visitors.



## June 27th Downton Abbey Style

### You are cordially invited

To attend our *Downton Abbey Themed Garden Picnic*

Which will include Savories, Sweets, Tea and assorted cold Drinks.

A tour of the Main building is included. View our collections at your leisure. You may also enjoy Games on the Common including Bocce, Croquet and Badminton and Enjoy an afternoon with your neighbors in Templeton Center At the Narragansett Historical Society

June 27th from 1 to 5

Tea is served from 2pm to 4:30

\$10.00 donation at the gate.



## Go fly a Kite!



Plans are under way to organize an afternoon of kite flying. Bring your kids to this one it's sure to be a hit. If you want to help organize this afternoon, please send us an email.



## “A moment in time”

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

### DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THOMAS RYAN ?

**I wonder if there is anyone in town today that remembers Thomas Ryan. Thomas was an older gent that lived across the street from us when I was growing up. He had one glass eye and wore very thick eye glasses. There were not many people in town that did not know him. He did not own a car or drive. He always walked when ever he went somewhere or someone drove him. More often than not, he walked.**

**I can remember Thomas with his little wagon or wheelbarrow that he used all the time. You see, Thomas got his money by going around town picking up newspapers and rags which he sold to earn his living. At most anytime of the day you would see him either leaving his house or coming back with a load. You can imagine how many trips he had to make to get enough to fill up a van type truck. There was a barn attached to his house that he would fill up with these items and a truck would pick them up when he had enough. This was probably twice a year. He would bundle them up and tie the bundles with twine.**

**In 1957, I started working at Sears Roebuck in Gardner part time while I was in school. I was coming home with a friend that also worked there and we came upon an accident in front of what is now Wilson Bus Lines in East Templeton. It was Tom, he was walking home and had been hit by a car and killed. As I remember, it was just getting dark and it had been raining and it was Christmas Eve.**

## Engine Show is coming

Spread the word, invite your friends who may enjoy an afternoon of motors, engines, cars, trucks, and tractors.

Saturday September 26th on the Templeton Common.

More info coming in the next newsletter. This is a great event to get involved with, contact us here if you can help.

# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



A year has gone by so quickly and so much has been accomplished. Thanks to all of you for doing your part in making this year a huge success. I had hoped to put the Historical Society in the news as much as possible so that we could get more sponsorship, more members and more commitment from our members. I would have to say that we succeeded and exceeded our goal. Congratulations.

I made a promise to see over \$5,000.00 in our checking account, we have close to \$8,000.00. Projects were started and completed, supplies were either donated or paid for by our sponsors and new members. For the first time in many years, we take in more than we spend. This makes for a happier Society and one that will want to continue the success by stepping up, creating new programs and events, and by getting others to join in.

It was my pleasure to be your top spokesman over the last 12 months, and I look forward to continuing as President for another year at the coming election on May 27th. Please welcome our 3 newest directors on the ballot and let them know that you will help them to succeed on the coming events and activities this year.

## Chamber Awards

*The Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce held it's annual awards banquet Wednesday night May 6th at the Colonial Hotel on Betty Spring Rd. Our accomplishments over the past year have raised some eyebrows in the business community, so much that they submitted our efforts to the nominating committee and we came out on top as an organization that grew rapidly and improved it's position overall both in finances and community awareness.*



*The award was presented to Brian Tanguay our current President for his leadership and direction this past year. Accepting the award on the Historical Society's behalf, Brian brought with him a list of those who were responsible in helping achieve this goal.*

*"I accept this award knowing I have 70 active members, Directors, Trustees, and Officers who have my back" stated Brian as he was speaking to Chamber President and CEO Jim Belina. "Here is the list of people who came out, set up, cleaned, painted, attended meetings, and were there for most of our events. We could not have accomplished this much with just a few people."*



**OFFICERS:**  
 President : Brian Tanguay  
 1st Vice Pres. Beth Arsenaault  
 2nd Vice Pres. Howard Sands  
 Secretary Christine Stone  
 Treasurer Debbie Caisse  
 Curator: Brian Tanguay  
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

**DIRECTORS:**  
 Karen Rich Tom Hill  
 Dennis Rich William Buckler  
 Tom Jeleniewski Janet Haley  
 Kerry Bettez Mark Moschetti

**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. **950 friends and counting!**

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

**May 27th in the Document Room 7pm Annual Meeting & Elections!**

**June 24th in the Document Room 7pm**



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