

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

May 2023



Next meeting June 7, 2023 at 1 Boynton Rd

Tea in the Garden

Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road, Templeton

Enjoy classic tea party food and
music by Take Jazz

Saturday, June 17 • 2-4 pm

Sponsored by the Templeton Cultural Council
and parishioners of Templeton churches

Suggested donation: \$10
Attendees under 12, free



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Vice President

Thomas Hurd



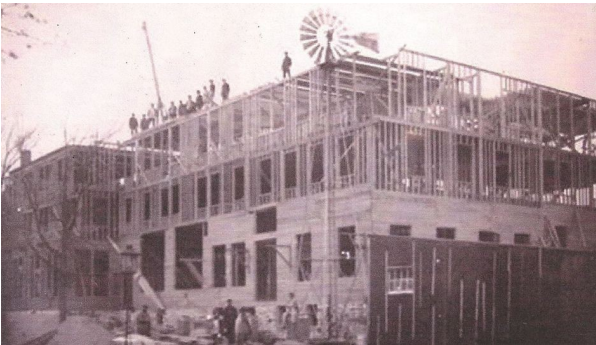
Through the stain glass windows

Many of you may not recognize the name Moses W. Richardson, he is responsible for 2 of our incredible artifacts, the Stained-glass windows from the Templeton Inn and the Trinitarian Church.

A brief history, Moses W. Richardson was born in Fitzwilliam NH, while he was still an infant, his mother, originally from Templeton who recently lost her husband moved back to Templeton, when old enough Moses worked at the general store, Mr. Richardson moved to Boston where he made a good career in the dry goods business, Mr. Richardson never lost sight of where his start in dry good began and always wanted to do something for his hometown, in the late 1890s, he returned to Templeton and from talking to residents had decided Templeton needed a hotel, since the previous hotel had burned in the 1880s. Percival Blodgett who owned the land on which the previous hotel once stood, and Mr. Richardson made a deal, Richardson bought the land and a house for the sum of one dollar with the stipulation *"This conveyance is made upon the express condition that said grantee his heirs and assignees shall build and furnish an inn for the entertainment of guests upon said premises within one year from the date hereof (15th day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety nine) at an expense of not less than \$25,000 otherwise it shall revert to said grantor his heirs and assignees"*.



Mr. Richardson went to work building what was to be the Templeton Inn, he preferred the name Inn over hotel as he felt it Sounded more like being home.



One of the main features of this building were the transom windows of the main hall, these were made by redding, Baird & CO's Studios, we have this one on Display in the main Building, it was a donation from Steve Salame in memory of his mother Gladys, the window was saved when the building was being renovated and all these windows were removed, another 60 rooms were added to the original 40 rooms. In 1927 it became known as The Landlords Inn after being bought by a group of landlords that owned 25 inns around New England and New York. Toy Town Tavern in Winchendon was one. Around 1935, the chain went bankrupt, and the inn was sold at auction. A gentleman named Waverly Oliver from Templeton purchased it and started tearing the building down to its original size to be used as an apartment building. While doing this around 1945 or 46, Mr. Oliver fell to his death from a staging while working on the building. The next owners continued to use it as apartments for many years until the town took it for back taxes and had it torn down. The Templeton Center fire station now occupies this site.

Tom

Check Us Out at: www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org OR on FACEBOOK

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*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 to-

Curtain restoration project

Work Schedule: from Chris Hadsel, Restoration expert from Curtains without borders
Funded by a grant from the CPA Preservation fund

June 21, Wednesday: Chris Hadsel, Carolyn Frisa and intern all arrive in Templeton about 1:30pm to set up and make the two rollers. Start cleaning if we can.

We need at least 2 able-bodied volunteers for the afternoon.

Carolyn and Intern drive home. Chris stays over

June 22: Chris arrives 9:00am, Carolyn and Intern arrive 10:00am. Clean, mend, assemble either grand drape or advertising curtain. Carolyn and Intern drive home.

Chris stays over.

June 23: Chris arrives 9:00am. Carolyn and Intern arrive 10:00am. Clean, mend, assemble the other curtain. Chris drives home early afternoon. Carolyn and Intern do some in-painting or finish assembly.

Carolyn and Intern drive home.

NO ONE stays over.

June 24, Saturday: Carolyn and Intern arrive 10:00am. In-paint. Chris arrives noon. Install between 1:00 and 3:00 (we will know better on previous day).

WILL NEED 3 LADDERS, 3 PEOPLE TO GO UP THEM, AND 2 MORE TO HELP. TOTAL 5 VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU CAN ONLY RUSTLE UP 4. Clean up, pack up.

Carolyn and Intern drive home. Chris gives talk. TIME TBD.

Chris stays over.



We will need help on Saturday around 1pm to hang the curtains, see above.

<https://www.curtainswithoutborders.org> For details on this group from VT.

2023 Preliminary Calendar

Tuesday nights at the Museum from 6-8

Saturday afternoon from 1-4 Closed on Holiday weekends

June 10, Templeton Lion's Club Golf Tournament at the Woods of Westminster 23 Rock Maple Lane

June 17th Tea in the Garden Join us for tea, treats, and a tour.

June 25th Membership drive at the Red Onion in Otter River

August 6, Go fly a kite festival

September 24, Motorpalooza on the common

October 27, & 28th, Haunted walk on the common and cemetery

Dec. 3, Tree lighting



"A moment in time"

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

POST OFFICE'S COME TO THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON

According to what I have read the records of the U.S. Post-Office Department do not show when a postmaster was first appointed for Templeton. The earliest records show that Thomas Wilder was postmaster in 1802. In 1803, Lovell Walker was appointed and served until 1809 when he was replaced by Caleb Leland. Lipha French was appointed in 1810 and served until 1829 followed by Artemas Lee. In 1843 John Boynton was appointed and served until 1848. Others that served were George Jones 1848, Dexter Gilbert 1849, Addison Lincoln 1849, Dexter Gilbert 1853, Artemas Lee 1863, Henry Smith 1865, Julius Jones 1867, Percival Blodgett 1869, and Delia Damon 1885.

The post office in Templeton Center was the only one in the town until 1830 when a second post office was established in the village of Baldwinville. The postmasters appointed for Baldwinville were Joseph Davis 1830, James Clapp 1853, Edwin Sawyer 1861, Otis Sawin 1870, Ezra Lamb, 1874, and George Bryant 1885.

In 1860, a third office was established in the village of Otter River. The first postmaster for this office was Samuel Osgood appointed in 1860 followed by Francis Leland in 1867 and Frederick Warner in 1885.

The fourth post office was established in the village of East Templeton in 1866 with Fitch Sargeant as the postmaster, a position that he held for many years.

Brooksvillage did not have a post office. Many of the residents living there paid a gentleman named David Spear to pick up the mail at the post office in Templeton Center .

The post office in Templeton Center was once located in (Union Store 9now the historical building). From there it moved to the Artemas Lee building, then to a small building owned by John Brooks then to the present location. The post office was located in the Francis Leland building and later closed, date unknown. In East Templeton it was in a store owned by Fitch Sargeant, later moved to the GAR building and then to its present location. The Baldwinville office has had several locations, some due to buildings be destroyed by fires. The present office was built at the location of the old school house next to where the Baptist church stood. Below is the old Templeton Center office.



President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



Happy Spring to you all!

Longer daylight means getting more things done. Work is progressing at the Grange hall with plumbing being installed, new cast Iron drains and new water lines to begin with, relocating toilets and sinks, installing ceiling vents and small space heaters. Wiring is done and soon we'll have the spray insulation installed. Thanks again to the town voters who support this project by passing our request for the Historic Preservation funds through the CPA account.

For those who missed the memo, we also raised a little over \$100,000.00 in private funds and grants through various groups and individuals. With our volunteer workers, we plan on coming in under budget while providing better quality work, and finishing up more projects that were not on the original plan. We could not be more pleased with the savings, and the excellent finished work which surpassed our expectations. It will truly be an exciting day when we host our open house to show off all that we've accomplished.

Mary Miller has headed up the planting of Chestnut, Black Walnut, and a few other varieties of trees along the trails she has been creating. A map will be available for those who want to enjoy the woods when they are done. More work parties will be planned when the grounds dry up in the late summer and during the fall. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details and don't be shy, we always need more help.

The dogwood tree planted behind the sunken garden has sustained shock over the winter and it appears to be alive and budding, so we are hopeful that it will continue to thrive and become a showpiece in our garden in the coming years.

Our events listed on page 5 cannot be successful without your help and support, please volunteer for the event you enjoy the most, let's keep it going and not fall to the fate of so many town events lost over the years. There is no magic wand, it takes many hands to make it happen.

**Thank you all for what you do,
for your hard work,
for your kind words of encouragement
and your donations to keep us going.**

2023—2024 OFFICERS:

President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Thomas Hurd
 Secretary Sue O'Coin
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2023—2024 DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Eileen Bouvier	Mary Miller	John Chouinard
Kelly Elliot	Harry Aldrich	Vacant
Joseph Croteau	vacant	vacant

TRUSTEES:

Vacant
 Anyone interested in joining in any capacity, please attend our meetings to see how you can help.

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" 2000 members following

<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

*Tuesday nights in the Museum from 6-8 have begun.
 Saturday from 1-4, if you see vehicles, stop in and say Hello.*

Meeting June 7, 7pm at the Main building



Grange hall Restoration / 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
 PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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