# Narragansett Historical Society On the Common in Templeton MA

# May/June 2022

#### Next meeting July 13th Wed night at 1 Boynton Rd.



Tuesday nights from 6-8 and Saturdays from 1-5

A few highlights from our Cabin Fever show taking place now through July, stop by any Tuesday night or Saturday afternoon. New collections arriving each week.



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Event Sponsors



Page 2

nh1924society@gmail.com to email questions or volunteer for an event.



Narragansett Historical Society Inc. Events 2022



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Page 3

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## Items in the Museum

by Thomas Hurd Vice President

Well, another month has passed, it has been relatively busy, this past weekend a small group of folks led by Mary Miller, helped to start clearing trails in the woods of the Historical Society, it was a rather warm day so the work was limited to the morning hours, it is going to be a long process, but will be well worth it, when we can walk through the woods and see nature's beauty in the plant and animal life, I like to thank Mary and Keith Miller, John Chouinard, Tom Jeleniewski and Jeremiah (who saw our request for help on Facebook and came out), I really enjoyed being part of a great start to the trails and spending time with these great people. Keep an eye on this Newsletter and Facebook for our upcoming events, and volunteer, we have a lot of fun and it is a great cause, the success of the Historical Society depends on the success of these fundraiser events, choose one or more that you might be interested in, stop by on Tuesday night 6 to 8 or any Saturday afternoon 1 to 5 except Holiday weekends, we need time off too, sometimes, if it is a slow day we may head out at 3:30 or 4, best to come in early, wander through the Garden, and come inside and check out all the history of Narragansett Number 6 that later became Templeton museum.

Last month we featured our hearing aid, we don't know the exact date of its manufacture or who owned it, but this one does works amazingly well for its simplicity and age, as I had mentioned it has since been replaced by a much smaller in the ear device as shown.

The Moulding Plane, now before you lynch me for spelling it wrong, this is how it is spelled and preferred by the Moulding & Millwork Producers Association, the Industry's official association and they use this spelling exclusively, these were hand made from blocks of hardwood that was shaped to match what the moulding was to look like, and a iron plate was formed as well and was held in with a wooden wedge set to the depth of the cut desired. Today's hand planes are all steel and the larger ones are electric.

This one was found in the basement in very rough shape, and restored by Howard Sands, a member and former President of the Society, to the beautiful shape it is in today, Thank you Howard.

Tom



#### Words from the woods

by Mary Miller, director

Words from the woods

We have a trail ! It's a short loop trail. It's rough, it isn't on its final route because there are trees in the way that the logger needs to process. Down the road after logging is finished we would like to get a chipper out there. That will make the view into the woods from the path prettier, and we can use the chips on the path itself to make it clearer. Right now its flagged with caution tape. If you walk behind the museum almost to the woods, then left to the stone wall, you will see the trail tapes. It crosses into the woods at one point and comes out to the wood road on another. There are a few painted rocks hiding. I'm pretty sure the wood elves are planning more things. We have spotted 2 lady slippers. There are quite a few Jack-in-the-pulpits, and some pink lily of the valley.

Maybe I'll see you out there and we can find more treasures.

And thanks to Tom, John, Keith, Thom and Jeremy for their time, chainsaws, muscle and supervision, to make it happen.

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## "A moment in time"

## by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

#### **POUT FISHING**

I wonder how many people go pout fishing these days. When I was growing up, many of us couldn't wait for fishing season to open. I remember it was usually around spring school vacation and you were not allowed to catch more than twenty pout a day. Today there is no limit on them. You can fill a pail up if you like. Most of us did not own fishing rods back then. We would go out and find a straight piece of brush amount eight to ten feet long and tie a length of fishing line to it and we were off fishing.

Unlike today, there were ponds both large and small that were good for pout fishing. There was no acid rain yet and most of the ponds had fish in them waiting to be caught. The favorite location foe many of us to fish was the ponds in East Templeton. There was first, second and third pond as we called them and they were all good for fishing, mostly pout and pickerel. First pond was next to the Edge Water Café now the location of a package store. Many years ago the dam was destroyed and the pond was drained. Second pond was next to the Huhtala Oil Company and third pone was behind second pond and was divided when the highway was built.

What I disliked mostly about fishing was the job of skinning them after but most often I had that taken care of. My grandparents love eating fried pout and my grandfather was quite good at skinning them. I could skin them but it took me much longer.

When it came time to cook them mom had that taken care of. She had cooked many of them in the past. Once they were done, you could pick the meat right off the bones.





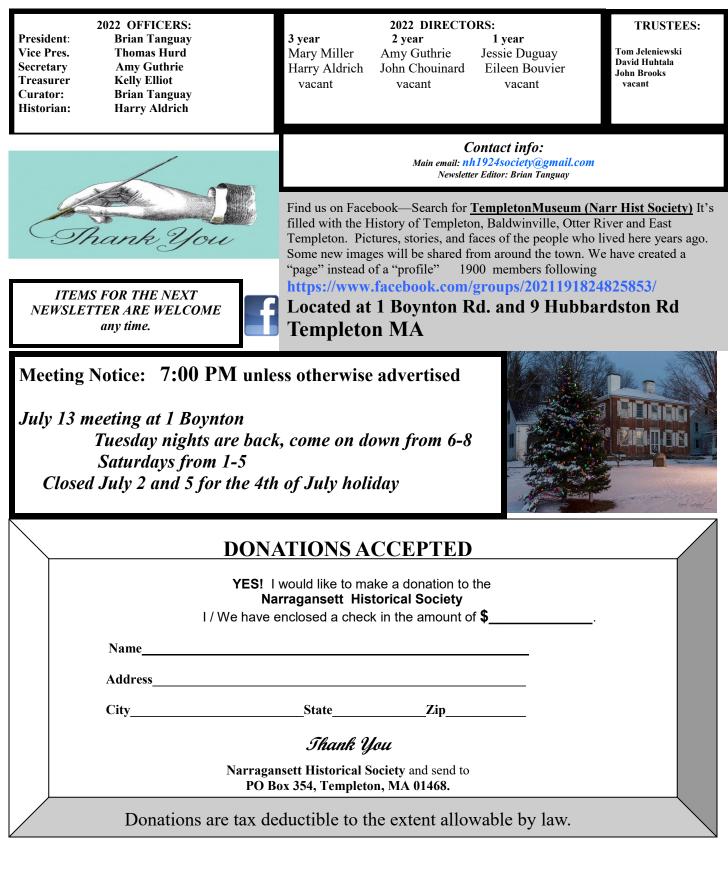
Over the past few weeks, my focus has been to organize the events as they arise. We have completed the wiring work needed to begin the insulation. We paid out the initial deposit required to begin work most of which will be paid back through the CPC (Community Preservation Committee) grant currently in our account approved for this job. The money is not allowed to be spent until the job is done, which means, we can't pay a deposit using those funds. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, this is the first time we have enough in our account to get the job going.

Sunday the 5th we had an open house, placed the sleigh, tin wagon, hand tub and the two bikes out on the common to promote our Museum, we had visitors enter some from near and far to see all that is inside for the first time. Our volunteers made popcorn and filled a wagon with ice and water bottles and proceeded to offer them to the over 200 people watching the 60's band playing in the Gazebo offered through a grant from the Templeton Cultural Council. The day was fun filled and the weather was perfect, sales exceeded \$200.00. Another great team effort by our dedicated volunteers.

Cabin Fever will be moved to our building due to a smaller turnout of collectors, which gives us the opportunity to use our place and highlight what we have along with some new collections displayed. Having it here, will give us the opportunity to hold on to the collections if the owners agree and offer our visitors more opportunities to see what is on display. Stop by any Saturday starting on June 25th and it will continue every Tuesday night and Saturday throughout the end of July. New collections will arrive each weekend.

The insulation in the cellar has been completed in the Grange, Chartier & Co. is working to get the work completed, they demo'd the walls in the second floor hallway to allow the insulation to be sprayed on to complete that portion of the job. Our hope it to begin the sheet rock installation in the fall giving us a clean area to store our items from the first floor allowing us the room needed to start downstairs.

Many of our senior members remember the Grange hall with fond memories, it is out hope to create lasting memories for our current members of the community. If you want to get involved with this project, please send us an email so we can include you in the project.





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