

# *Narragansett Historical Society*

## *On the Common in Templeton MA*

# *November 2021*

**Next meeting Wednesday night December 1st. at 7pm**

**Plan now for the next Cabin Fever show**

**What will you display? Collections large or small, all are welcome.**

**Slated for February 27th Sunday afternoon from 11-4**

**At the Baldwinville Legion**

**Don't miss this show, it's the most talked about event we offer.**

**Hope to see you there, bring a friend.**

**Contact us via email if you want to display your collection.**



## Silver Level Sponsor

# SCOTTY'S POTTIES



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Or on any page in our newsletter.  
Ask your employer to sponsor The Historical Society

## Event Sponsors



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## Wood raffle winners

The winner of our cord wood raffle was Jason Maillet who is sharing the winnings with his neighbor Paul as seen to the right. Tom and Mary are seen starting to load the wood, it took just under 2 hours to fill the dumpster. The total wood given was 3 1/2 cords, seen here, Jason and Paul showed up



Tuesday night to help us load the wood into one of JDH Landscaping's dumpsters. Once loaded, Heidi and Dave picked it up and delivered the load to Jason's neighborhood.

Thanks to our volunteers who came out to cut the trees, split the logs, stack the wood, and load it up. Thanks to JDH for donating their dumpster and time to deliver. The raffle raised just shy of \$1,000.00 making this fundraiser a success. All due to an ice storm and high winds that knocked down a dozen trees just beyond our sunken garden.



## 3rd grade tour

The tradition of having the 3rd grade class visit the museum for their field trip continued on Nov. 8th after a two year wait due to the pandemic. Every child was well behaved and each one enjoyed the tour inside and once they finished, our members and friend surprised them with a 3 gun blast using muskets similar to the ones used during the revolutionary war. Re-enactors Christopher Tourtellot, Scott Tourtellot, and George Podmore arrived in full dress to greet the children. Inside 7 volunteers hosted each room as the children made their way through the building. Every year, we hear how much the kids enjoyed the visit, each one holding on to a memory of their favorite part of the collection. The guns blazing outside surely topped the list and we are so happy to provide them with that memory. Time ran out and one of the classes did not get the chance to visit, so we offered them a private tour whenever they could fit it into their schedule. We hope to have other grades visit us in the future. This is a long running tradition, one of the teachers mentioned that she remembers the day she visited our building during her third grade outing. Let's hope we find our next generation of volunteers, officers, and directors by hosting this trip.





*Thank you \* Sponsorship \* Thank you*

# Gold Sponsors 2021



## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### 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-

# Intro and article by Thomas Hurd

## Starting a New Feature

As the title suggests I am starting a new feature for the Newsletter, based on our successful “What is it Table” at our events where we would set out a table with a selection of odd items from the rooms of the Historical Society. But first a little about how I became a member, it was the summer of 1992, at the Craft Fair, flea market or another event on the Common, not sure which one, I was wandering around when I spotted a sign “Museum Open” on a building that I always thought was a private residence. I decided to check it out, I didn’t know what to expect, it was about one in the afternoon and I thought it would only be an hour or so. I wandered around inside saw some interesting things, ending up on the second floor where the photo albums were located.



Looking at the photos I happened to find a picture of the house I grew up in and currently own on Dudley Rd., the picture was from around 1905. I was fascinated by this picture and all the pictures in the album, there was an order form if you wanted to purchase a copy of any of the pictures from the Narragansett Historical Society,

so I ordered one. I found more photo albums and went through most of them, a Gentleman came over and said, it looks like you are enjoying the photos, but I have to close the building now, I asked “What time is it?” he said 5:15, I had no idea that I had been looking through these photo albums for 4 hours, I returned the next weekend and bought a life membership.

I went back a couple of times after that and then life got busy and didn’t think about it again, one day Harry Aldrich called me and asked me if I would be interested in hosting the building on a Saturday afternoon, so I started hosting the building with Harry and a few of the other volunteers and over time I became the Grounds Superintendent, a Director and recently elected as Vice President.

What is it?

This month I thought I would start with something easy, every building had at least one, we have a few in the museum, they were common up to the late 1800s early 1900s, however there may be a use for them today.

What do you think it is?

Find the answer in the next newsletter.



wreath sale!



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021  
1:00PM-4:30PM  
1 BOYNTON RD TEMPLETON MA**

Also including:

Bake sale

Music by Narragansett Marching Band

Christmas Tree Lighting

A special visit from Santa





*"A moment in time"*

*by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

## THE NARRAGANSETT MUSTER TEAM

Back in 1975 the town sent some of the firefighters to Athol to represent Templeton in their anniversary parade. After the parade, Athol fire department held a muster with some of the area fire departments. One of the towns was Phillipston who at the time had a muster team. The firefighters from Templeton got involved in some of the races and actually won a trophy and came back to town with the idea of starting a team.

A meeting was called with the firefighters from all four stations and it was voted to form a team. We met with the teams from Phillipston and Hubbardston to get ideas on how to get started. First of all we needed a truck and it just so happened that the town was getting ready to replace a 1937 Ford brush truck that we had in service. The selectmen voted to turn the truck over to the team and we were on our way.

The team voted that they would be known as The Narragansett Muster Team and the truck was painted blue and white, our school colors. The Indian chief was painted on the doors and the pump in the truck was replaced to accommodate the larger diameter hose used in the musters.

Our first muster was held in Hubbardston and several trophies were won which were presented to the selectmen and put on display in their office which was over the Baldwinville station at the time. Eventually many of the women in town expressed an interest in taking part and a girl's team was formed.

In later years the team was dissolved and the truck was sold and the money was used to build the firefighters memorial on the common.



# *President's Page*

*by: Brian P. Tanguay*



With one month to go in 2021 I have to give thanks to everyone who helped make this year another great success. By everyone, I mean, volunteers, sponsors, donors, members, officers, directors, and trustees, all of whom make this group expand and thrive. It is also a great thrill to see our checking account grow as well as our endowment fund.

I think and hesitate to get excited about the forestry plan, but, we have a new company willing to do the work and pay us for the wood from our 23 acres once they do a select cut and removal. End of December is slated to begin and after 6 years, I'm not holding my breath, but I am hopeful. This should bring in a nice chunk of change, some going into our endowment fund, some going out back to erect a fence on the east side of the garden, and some going to help with the Grange hall project.

To update the Grange hall: the handicap ramp will soon commence along with the completion of the rough in wiring on the second floor. Once the wiring is done, we can have the insulation work completed and move on to the sheet rocking. Covid has put a dent in our timeline, so let's hope we can get back on track and finish this project.

I am working with two different options for raising major funds which will help this project move forward with greater speed. One of them will be a capital campaign drive with the possibility of having matching funds from a grant. If our target is \$200,000.00 and we find the right grant, then we need to raise one hundred thousand. This can be achieved by anyone in our community who may be thinking of including the Society in their estate planning. To make it work now, the tax deductible donation can be made now while the donor is here to see the results of their gift.

We will be able to finish the heating, air conditioning, plumbing, downstairs wiring, kitchen upgrade, and painting. We also might need a new roof or repairs since we found a small leak recently. The final cherry on top would be to acquire in some way, the land behind the Grange hall which will provide enough parking for any of our events or meetings. This will be my focus for the next year along with others who are willing to do the work.

I hope you all have a great holiday season, however you celebrate. Safe travels and think about what you can do to make 2022 one of our best years, one that will go down in history.

There won't be a December newsletter, it will continue in January.

**2022 OFFICERS:**  
**President:** Brian Tanguay  
**Vice Pres.** Thomas Hurd  
**Secretary** Amy Guthrie  
**Treasurer** Kelly Elliot  
**Curator:** Brian Tanguay  
**Historian:** Harry Aldrich

**2022 DIRECTORS:**  
**3 year** Mary Miller  
**2 year** Amy Guthrie  
**1 year** Jessie Duguay  
 Harry Aldrich John Chouinard Eileen Bouvier  
 vacant vacant vacant

**TRUSTEES:**  
 Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
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 vacant



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



**Contact info:**

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 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

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" 1800 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**

***December 1st Monthly Membership meeting!***

***Tuesday nights Ended with the first snow!***



**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**