

# *Narragansett Historical Society*

## *On the Common in Templeton MA*

### *November 2023*



After years of thinking about how to raise the window, months of planning, and the final weeks in preparation to put the plan in action, **IT WORKED!** On November 12, the window was uprighted for the first time in decades, it has light behind it to mimic the outdoor light that once illuminated it and we can finally enjoy the beauty of the window created by Moses Richardson in memory of his mother Lucy who passed in 1875. The full story with pictures and a paragraph on the back of



each one will be on display with the window for all to discover. These milestones in our endeavor to finish the Grange hall and create a display with the many historic artifacts is coming together in grand fashion. Thanks to everyone who helped make this and every project a success.

We got a chance to take a deep breath and enjoy it, only to jump into the next project which was 4 days later Nov. 16th, Andre Beauregard arrived with his crew to sand and coat the dance floor. It looks amazing! Now, on to the next project, no rest until it's done.



New mailing address effective immediately.  
Narragansett Historical Society 1 Boynton Rd. Templeton MA 01468

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## A Tribute

It is with deep regret that the Trustees of the Boynton Public Library must record at this time the death of Miss GRACE E. BLODGETT, who had been the librarian for a period of more than forty years.

It was in 1903 that Miss Blodgett was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the former Librarian, Mr. H. F. Lane. With great reluctance she accepted this responsibility.

This was a period of transition in the history of the Library. During the preceding years marked progress had been made in Library Science throughout the country. New systems of cataloguing had developed and the methods in administration had been greatly modernized.

It was evident that some changes must be made in the Boynton Public Library in order to meet these new conditions.

Upon assuming her duties, with her characteristic thoroughness, Miss Blodgett set herself to the task before her. She acquainted herself with the needs of the Library. She investigated systems and methods and visited other Libraries for information and help.

In due time under her direction a new system of cataloguing was introduced and the book stacks were opened to the public, greatly increasing the efficiency of the Library.

Branches were established in Baldwinsville, Otter River and East Templeton, making the facilities of the Library much more accessible to the townspeople and greatly increasing the circulation.

With the rapid increase in children's books, a room was set apart for their exclusive use.

The selection and purchase of new books, which is no easy task, devolved largely upon Miss Blodgett. A discerning reader herself, Miss Blodgett had endeavored with the limited funds at her disposal to meet the growing demands of the Library and to comply as far as possible with the requests of its patrons.

With the tremendous increase in books and periodicals she used discretion and good judgment in her selections.

That the Boynton Public Library has a high rating among the small town Libraries of the State is due largely to her sincere interest and untiring efforts during the past forty years.

As Trustees we wish through this tribute to express our deep appreciation for the work of Miss Blodgett. The Boynton Public Library as it is to-day stands as a fitting memorial to her many years of service.

EMMA L. DICKINSON  
LESTER N. PEASE  
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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-



# Wreath sale and tree lighting

You won't believe it, but it rained on Sunday. The story of 2023, but we set up the wreaths and bake sale, started a camp fire to keep warm and waited for some hearty souls to stop by, and they did. Thanks to all who came out on such a dismal day to support our last fundraiser of 2023. Thanks mostly to Kelly for handling, and making the wreaths, they are all great.

The ones we didn't sell will be available at Tanguay Jewelers in Gardner for the week, and some will be set up again next Sunday at the Building on 1 Boynton Rd.

The parade was postponed until next Sunday as well, Santa will be there to help with the tree lighting.

We figured we would test the tree, since there was a mishap last year with cut wires. So, Santa gave it a test run just to make sure.

See you all next week and Merry Christmas to you.







# *"A moment in time"*

*By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

## **TEMPLETON SUFFERS A MAJOR LOSS ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

It was 4:50 in the morning, 1945 when the alarm was sounded for a fire in Templeton's town hall in Baldwinville . The rear of the building better known as Fraternity Hall was a mass of flames when firefighters arrived and help was sought from Templeton, East Templeton, Otter River and Gardner in order to prevent the flames from spreading to other buildings. The fire was discovered by Mrs. Charles Locke, owner of the Narragansett House.

The building which was used by many fraternal organizations as well as town meetings and public assemblies. It was also used by the boy and girl scouts a barber shop and the Baldwinville Grange The building was built in 1913 and acquired by the town in 1937.

The building was a total loss with portions of the brick walls left standing. The site of this fires now the location of the American Legion and if you look at the front of their building, you will see the arched doorway that was once the entrance to the hall. When the building was taken down, this portion was salvaged.

There were several other fires on Central Street such the Bank building which was salvaged and the stores that adorned Central Street between the Thirsty Turtle and the former Pizza Barn.

Shown below is Fraternity Hall before and after.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



Since there is so much going on at the Grange, let me continue to update you. The wood trim in and around the two bathrooms are done and painted, the supplies needed are arriving daily, rubbish barrels, baby changing table, Paper holders, soap, etc.

Next up is the heating units which will be installed by Huhtala, one in each bathroom, one in the cellar, one in the entrance just outside the bathrooms, one in the dining hall and one in the kitchen, all run on propane for the most efficient means of heating and with our foam insulation like we have up-stairs, it will take very little to heat the first floor.

The second floor had one section of heavy items pushed up against the back wall, now that the main portion of the floor is cured, we moved everything over in preparation for Andre & Co to come in and finish that last section. Then the fun begins, moving some items up from the first floor to make room for the work that needs to be done, and setting up the artifacts into their permanent locations. Many of us have been waiting for this day, we helped move the Church Tower clock, the Stained glass window, and the Civil War frames only to let them sit while the room was made ready.

I particularly enjoy seeing everyone involved becoming excited to see each one of these projects completed, to see the pride in knowing they were a part of it all. We each signed the wall behind the artifacts for our future leaders who may, one day, take down or open up the case to reveal our writings.

Our events continue with the wreath sale and bake sale on Dec. 3rd, Kelly has put in a tremendous effort to create and decorate the wreaths. We are searching for anyone willing to continue this event, those that enjoy making wreaths should step up and help us with this project next year.

**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](mailto:nh1924society@gmail.com)  
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" 2000 members following

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>

Located at 1 Boynton Rd. and 9 Hubbardston Rd  
Templeton MA

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



**Meeting Notice: 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised**

*Tuesday nights in the Museum from 6-8.*

*Saturday from 1-4, if you see vehicles, stop in and say Hello.*

*Meeting Dec. 6, 7pm at the Senior Center in Baldwinville*



**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  
1 Boynton Rd., Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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1 Boynton Rd.  
Templeton, MA 01468