

# *Narragansett Historical Society*

## *On the Common in Templeton MA*

### *April 2023*

**Next meeting May 3, 2023 at 1 Boynton Rd**

The lights are on in the Grange hall, it truly shows how great the work is, thanks to C. M. Chartier & co and Mitchell Caruso our Electrician.



The Hubbardston Historical Society toured the buildings Thursday night April 20th from 7 to 8:30pm. They were all amazed at our displays and the many rooms we are so lucky to have. Some have never visited before, all will be back since they just can't see it all in one trip. We invited them to have one of their meetings in our document room any time they like.

We walked across the street to the Grange hall where we were all witness to having all the lights turned on for the first time. The questions were answered by many of our volunteers who enjoy sharing the knowledge learned by hosting our many Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons.

From the front left are" Rick Jones, Liz Estabrook, Linda Hietala, Kathy Derzius, Kathy Airoidi, Joyce Green, Pam Mitchell, Susan Worth, Sue Breagy, Gary Kangas, Rick Green.

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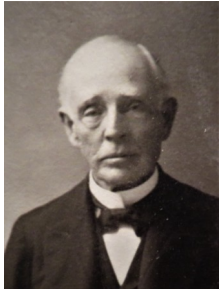


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## James Orville Winch

The sign hanging outside the cobbler shop on the east side of South Road read “J. O. Winch” with the letters forming an arch over the image of a boot. It was here that James Orville Winch made the shoes and boots for Templeton men, women and children. He also cut the hair of many of the male residents as well, as it seemed to be the New England custom that a shoemaker would offer this service. But J. Orville Winch was much more than just a cobbler and barber. He was one of Templeton’s leading citizens in the second half of the 1800’s to the time of his death in 1911.

Orville learned the trade of boot and shoe making from Otis Davis whose shop stood in the space just south of the Brick Store (now the Historical Society Building.) Upon completing his apprenticeship in the spring of 1856, and not yet twenty years old, Orville was offered the chance to purchase the business, which he did after ascertaining that it was because Mrs. Davis felt her social ambitions did not fit in well with those of Templeton. The building, originally the law office of Hon. Lovell Walker, was in poor repair so Orville had it removed and located his shop in the north end of the ell of the Brick Store Building. It was soon apparent that this location would not accommodate the business that the shop experienced.



In 1858, J. O. Winch bought the house on South Road (#45) from Dr. Jonathan W. D. Osgood and shortly thereafter decided to have a more spacious building erected for his growing business. The new building, built in 1872 by Abel Dudley, was just south of the house and quite close to the road. The three room shop measured forty feet by eighteen, was clapboarded and painted white. The shop made and sold a variety of shoes and boots for men, women and children with prices ranging from 35 cents for carpet slippers to \$5 for French calf boots with hemlock soles, pegged. Haircuts were priced at 10 cents, with an extra 5 cents if the beard was trimmed.

More can be learned about J. Orville, his family, the home on South Road, and the business of earning a living in the later 1800’s in Templeton. Stop by the Narragansett Historical Society Building to access the books and other manuscripts there.



*Thank you \* Sponsorship \* Thank you*

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## 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-

# Woods words

Last year I planted 4 hybrid chestnut trees. 2 on Historical Society property, 2 on ours, that is adjacent. Later in the summer, insects ate most of the leaves. They made some new ones, and seemed to do ok. I have checked them recently, and it seems the deer found them a tasty nibble. They have not budded yet, it may not be time, or they didn't recover.

We just planted 10 Black walnut. Ill think of a way to protect them from deer for a year or two. I have a few Christmas trees coming in a few weeks.

I continue to work on trails. The wet areas, and there are a lot, make it a challenge. I measured what I call the long trail, it's a bit over a mile. The winter storms added to more cleanup. They need some more work, and I have started putting out markings. I have plans to post a trails map. I hope to have what I call working trails by summer.

There is a big blueberry patch out there. The plants look happier all ready, having more sun, and recovering from logging equipment. I plan to host a work crew there to clean up around the plants, to make it look better, and to have better access to them. Logging is a messy operation. I look forward to sharing it all with you.

Director: Mary Miller

## 2023 Preliminary Calendar

**Tuesday nights at the Museum from 6-8**

**Saturday afternoon from 1-4 Closed on Holiday weekends**

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

**August Go fly a kite festival**

**September Motorpalooza on the common**

**October Haunted walk on the common and cemetery**

**Dec. 3, Tree lighting**

**Please get involved, offer to help make each event a success.**





*"A moment in time"*

*by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

## **STORES IN THE EARLY 1800's in TEMPLETON CENTER**

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a long building stood in the center of town known as the Lee building. At one end of the building, a gentleman named John Bigelow who lived in the house on the corner of Dudley Road and Wellington Road kept clocks, watches and other goods, in the center of the building there was a variety store kept by a gentleman named Cyrus Brown, the man who built the house occupied by Mr. Bigelow. In the southern end of the building there was a shoemaker's shop.

In 1829 Col. Artemas Lee erected a new building located at 1 South Rd, the original building was moved across the common to build part of the Charles Upham home which is now used by Kro's on the common. Lee's building was used as a store and dwelling. Some of the names of the businesses were Lee, Harding and Jones, Lee and Lincoln, Lee and Wood, Lee and Gambell, and Leland and Jones. Later after the death of Col. Lee the building was purchased by Percival Blodgett who operated the store for many years. In the mid 1900's the building was occupied by the Templeton Farmers CO-OP and later as general store and ice cream parlor. Today it is a dwelling with apartments and the old store is a real estate office.

Across the common stood a second store that was known as the Union Store. This building was built out of brick that, it is said, came from the ballast of ships that came over from England. It was built by a merchant named John W. Stiles. A wooden building that stood at this location was moved down the road to become part of the Trinitarian parsonage; the brick building was used as a dwelling and a store. Some of the people who operated the store were Col. Ephraim Stone, Rufus Wyman, Samuel Phelps, Percival Blodgett, and Abel Dudley.

In the 1930's \$25,000.00 was willed to the Narragansett Historical Society by Mrs. Adelaide Howland to acquire a building to be used to display and protect its collection. This building was purchased and refurbished in 1934 and is now the home of the society.

Shown here is the Union Store as it looked back in the day.



# President's Page

by: Brian P. Tanguay



Let's take a minute to enjoy the spring weather, plan our outdoor activities on the trails throughout our 23 acre woods. Some light work picking up sticks and some heavy work cutting downed trees and leftover logs from the forestry plan. Planting has begun with black walnut, chestnut, and a few selected ornamental trees. Last year's planting fell upon some very hot days leaving us to wonder if it will bounce back after a tough start.

Garden cleanup is in order for those who enjoy working out back, don't be shy, it's your garden, take pride in it.

We have quite the list of displays planned for both the Grange hall, and the main building. Showcasing our vast collection gives us plenty to choose from. You can share your ideas at any meeting or you can stop by any Tuesday night from 6-8 to check out our progress and lend a hand. I try to keep you up to date on what's up, frankly, there is so much, I have a hard time determining what to put in the newsletters. The last time we have taken on such a grand project was in 1934 when we rehabbed the main building, You really should stop by and get a first hand look at our historic undertaking.

Please come to the May 10 town meet to voice your support to keep this project on track, this will be our final push to complete the hall and open the doors for events and meetings. Our only piece to the puzzle will be securing funds to install the elevator. I am confident that we will acquire the land out back to make parking safe for everyone.

With the exposure we've received over the past few years, many donations have arrived and are now stored in the Archive room at the Grange hall, we need volunteers to help sort out and organize those new donations as well as the many documents and artifacts donated over the past 100 years or more. This will be an ongoing project but one that is most important to the proper use of those donations. Many displays will be created to showcase what we've accumulated. We are already becoming a destination for out of town visitors who have been following our success anxious to see all we've done and enjoy the artifacts that interest so many.

**2023 OFFICERS:**

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

**2023 DIRECTORS:**

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

**TRUSTEES:**

Tom Jeleniewski  
 David Huhtala  
 John Brooks  
 vacant

**Contact info:**

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 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 at the Grange hall from 6-8 have begun.  
 Saturday from 1-4, if you see vehicles, stop in and say Hello.*

*Meeting May 3, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

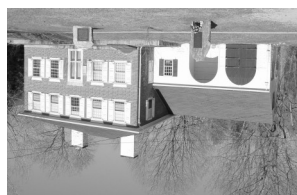
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*Thank You*

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