

# Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

## September 2023

Next meeting October 4, 2023 at 1 Boynton Rd



Our first experience with the Church window was back in 2004 when we decided to move it into the first floor of the Grange hall kitchen. Then in 2012 we designed a plan with Mike Matuszewski and Bill Harris to lift it up and slide it into the second floor.

Now almost 20 years later and hours of planning, it's time to stand it up and place it in its final display location. A team of volunteers are working on the frame and light box, hoists are being placed to slowly raise the window to the upright position.

It is more stressful than the time we lifted it into the second floor. But over planning is the key to success. A model of the window with the lifting points was made to see the plan in action, and it worked perfectly. We will need around 10 people, if you are interested in helping complete this once in a lifetime project, you are welcome to join us. Follow us on our Facebook page for dates and times.

Once the window is in place, we can finish the hardwood floors and set up the pews, clocks, displays, and whatever else is to be displayed up on the second floor.



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

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# Event Sponsors



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THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

# A HAUNTED HISTORIC STROLL

1 BOYNTON ROAD  
TEMPLETON, MA

MEMBERS  
AND  
STUDENTS \$5  
NONMEMBERS  
\$10

OCTOBER 27 AND 28

7:00 PM

A STORY TELLING WALKING TOUR WITH  
PERIOD DRESSED GUIDES



Baldwinville in the late 1800's testing out the steamer in front of the old Tiger #1 fire station. The Narragansett Hotel is the building on the left.

Check Us Out at: [www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.narragansetthistoricalsociety.org) OR on FACEBOOK

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*Thank you \* Sponsorship \* Thank you*

# Gold Sponsors 2023

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## TANQUAY JEWELERS



### 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-

# The Grange hall

We have two toilets, new flooring, two sinks, all new plumbing, a new hot water heater, and are ready for two bathroom doors and two new windows. Paint, trim, baby changing table, lights and space heaters are next. The entry way will also be updated with lights and new front steps and porch.

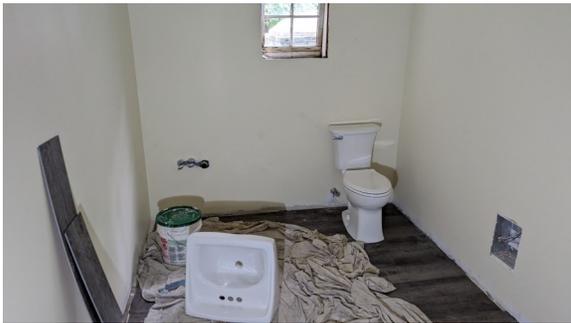
Then we continue into the main room on the first floor, insulation and sheet rocking is done, it is ready for paint and wood trim around the windows and doors.

Once the window is upright, we refinish the dance floor upstairs and move everything upstairs to make room for the finish work on the first floor.

There is so much to do and so many small display projects to set up, which is refreshing since all the heavy lifting is almost done. What a relief it will be to move some small glass cases and set up collections inside of each cabinet.

Our only hope is to get the area opened up enough to put in the new lights and wiring. This will provide us with the safe workspace as we begin to have those days with less light.

As always, if you see our vehicles out front, don't hesitate to come in and see what's going on and lend a hand while you are there, if you can.





## *"A moment in time"*

*By: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian*

### THE HILLCREST HOTEL

I am wondering how many people in our town have ever heard of the Hill Crest Hotel. I do not know when this building existed but I believe it was in the early 1900's sometime after the building of the Templeton Inn and was known as Templeton's newest summer hotel with a stable adjoining it. The hotel was owned by a gentleman named J.H. Gould from Somerville, MA. The building was located on Ladder Hill at the location where the Wilson family now lives and has a farm.

Unfortunately the hotel was destroyed by a fire early in the morning that it was scheduled to open. A gentleman named Waverly Oliver stated that he had passed by the area at midnight and saw no sign of a fire but by 1:30 the building and stable were in flames. The bell on the engine house was sounded at about 1:05 and the bell on the church sounding shortly after. The hand tub Narragansett No. 6 was drawn to the fire by an auto truck owned by G.W. Bourn. Steamer No. 2 from the East Templeton engine house arrived shortly after but nothing could be done. Everything was lost.

It is said that the road side on both sides of Ladder Hill was lined with autos from Gardner and Templeton.

This information came from a write up from the Gardner News. I do not have the date of the story. Shown below is a picture of the hotel showing what a beautiful building it was.



# President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



**September 27, 2023** Wednesday night around 10pm I opened the Facebook app to see that the Red Onion was on fire, that's all it said. I headed down to the area and parked in the Paper Co. lot to see fire trucks, police cruisers, and emergency vehicles parked surrounding the Onion with lights flashing. Smoke began to billow out the roof and sparks were falling from the attic as seen through the second floor window. Four firefighters were on the ladder entering the second floor through the window and proceeded to punch out all the windows, smoke exited like a cloud of cotton. Soon the firefighters exited the building and the trucks pulled a safe distance and they began to pump water onto and into the building, only to see flames starting to fill the second floor and exit through the windows reaching heights of 50 feet or more.



Patrons and neighbors watched in horror as this 142 year old fixture in Otter River began to collapse, within minutes the roof collapsed and the second floor was completely engulfed. I witnessed this historic and horrific event from every angle and with many members of the community. We shared some thoughts but mostly stood silent as the building created by Francis Leland and cared for by numerous individuals for so many years appeared to have met it's end.



The new owners, Steve and Matt have said, "This is not goodbye, it's see you soon." Which gives the area a glimmer of hope that it's not over. So we'll wait for them to figure out the next step, create a plan, and decide what course of action will be taken.

Preserving history is complicated, what do we save? What story do you write for the next generation? We all have the power to make history, write the ending and share it with our grandchildren, we include them to carry on, in some way, to make things better, to continue the process and give them the strength to make their own history in our town.



Most of what we do at the Historical Society is positive and uplifting, we share the history left to us from previous generations. It's heartbreaking to report on this type of historic event, just as our ancestors had to do with similar tragedies. I'm hopeful that something good will come of this and I look forward to sharing it with all of you.



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

*Meeting October 4, 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  
1 Boynton Rd., Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



**Narragansett Historical Society**  
1 Boynton Rd.  
Templeton, MA 01468