MORE GRANGE HALL UPDATES

Harris Construction continued as the Contractor for the Grange Hall renovation project this past fall. The Society is looking forward to the day when it can have functions and meetings and such, again, in the Hall. Maybe in 2 Years!

Check Us Out at: www.narragansethistoricalsociety.com OR on FACEBOOK
First installed in 1872 by the E. Howard Clock Co of Boston in the First Baptist Church, the model #2 striking clock has been donated to the Narragansett Historical society. It can now stand proud in the daylight for the first time since they transported it from Boston via horse and buggy.

Brian Tanguay spent the good part of a year negotiating with Pastor Dan French to acquire the clock for the Museum. Past members of the Church had presented their request to the Historical society when they heard the Church was up for sale. In prior sales of Historic buildings with clocks, the clock is usually sold to an out of state interest. Immediately, Harry Aldrich and Brian Tanguay contacted the Church to consider the donation. Months of letters, phone calls and emails finally realized the donation.

Brian met with Dan French and got the key to the building on Friday November 30th, plans were made, ideas tossed around, and volunteers were rounded up to help with this monumental task. Brian asked his two sons to participate in this historic event, Kurt and Seth, who were both up to the task. They removed the 100 foot long chain, 9 pulleys, two 150 lb. weights, and then helped to dismantle the clock. Walking up and down the three flights of stairs was quite a challenge since they were filled with years of pigeon droppings on every step.

Al Cyganiewicz from Gardner’s Antique Furniture Restoration Co. spent the day with us removing the 5 foot round steel and glass dial from the front of the Church along with other components to the clock. His van was filled with the dial, weights, 9 foot long pendulum, and other assorted items needed to complete the clock.

Jon Haley from Templeton helped with many of the artifacts that needed to be carefully removed and carried downstairs. Once the clock was completely taken apart and cataloged by Brian, the main case was moved to the edge of the 3rd floor and the plan was to lower it to the second floor. Once in position, we soon realized that the clock base was heavier than Kurt and Seth combined.

Mike Matuszewski and his son George were called in with better pulleys and ropes; within minutes we had a new rig to lift the clock and it worked perfectly.

Now, how do we get it down the other two flights of stairs? Looking out the newly created window where the clock dial formerly stood, we decided to hoist it up and lower it out to the ground. With a deep breath and a few prayers, the clock case was pushed out the window and lowered 35 feet down to the ground without a scratch. The project now turns to the restoration. Each part must be removed, cleaned, and polished. Brian Tanguay heads up the full restoration of the clock bringing it back to showroom condition. So far the brass is polishing up with a golden sparkle, the steel shafts are buffed to a bright silver finish, and the grease and grime of the last 140 years has revealed the original green paint job with black and gold pin striping.

Once restoration is completed, the clock will be set up in the Grange hall on the second floor, with a 9 foot long pendulum. A hole will have to be cut in the floor allowing it to swing 6 feet below the first floor ceiling. A truly remarkable piece of machinery guaranteed to excite all who visit the display.

This Howard tower clock will be one of a very few in the country that can be viewed by the public. Presently the Grange hall is under construction, the roof is done and the siding and windows are in the process. We will then move inside to restore the ceilings, walls and floors. Once complete, we can finally set up our displays showcasing our collection of Templeton’s Artifacts.
The Trinitarian Church was formed in 1833 from former members of the First Church of Templeton Center. The window was dedicated and donated by Moses Richardson in memory of his mother Mary. (Moses built the Templeton Inn). After 107 years, the churches formed a new partnership moving all members back to the First Church. The Trinitarian Church was torn down and the window was saved. It has moved from Storage house, barn, cellar, Hospital, and finally after 64 years it sat in the Garage of the Parsonage leaning against the wall.

The Narragansett Historical Society submitted the question to the First Church as to the whereabouts of the window, and once discovered, offered to take possession of the window hoping to display it for all to see. The Church voted on offering the window to the Society on loan. It was accepted in 2004.

Brian Tanguay, curator of the NHS, took on the task of moving the window to the Grange Hall. With the help of Pastor Bill Ault, Mark Moschetti, Ray Paige, and George Barnes the plan was put in motion. On December 6, 2004 Brian met up with Society volunteers to move the window, like a float in a parade. The window, 14 1/2 foot long and almost 6 foot tall window lying down on its side, made its way across the center to the Grange Hall on Hubbardston Rd. The plan was to move it upstairs to its final resting display in the rear of the dance hall, however, at a weight of over 400 lbs., that was easier said than done. So, the only option at the time was to slide it into the kitchen through the back door. Years went by, projects were done, yet the window still sat there hiding in the kitchen.

Then, in 2010 a grant was awarded to the Society to replace the roof of the Grange and the work was done. Then, in 2011 another grant was awarded to do the siding, only enough to do the back and side walls and footings. Which brings us to the year 2012, when a third grant was awarded to the Society to restore the front and West side of the Grange hall. This is when the idea came to Brian, before they replace the siding on the front wall, we could cut a slot between the two windows on the second floor and then slide the window in there like a letter in a mail slot. Not an easy task!

So, Brian contacted Mike Matuszewski of Premier Carpentry and Woodworking of Templeton. After a long discussion, a plan finally came to light. The main lift, which is owned by Bill Harris and is currently on location to do the siding, could make a sling and we could slide the window on it, lift it up, and pull it onto the second floor. With the help of Alex, Eric, Jeff, and Chris to guide the window, and Bill Harris at the controls, it only took half an hour and the window was in place upstairs without a scratch.

After 73 years in hiding the window will soon be standing up tall, with a light closet built to illuminate it as it originally was seen by the members of the Trinitarian Church back in the 1800’s when the sun lit it up during Sunday morning services.
The papers also include a 28 March 1865 letter referring to a ceremony to bury the remains of members of the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts killed in battle on James Island in July 1864—"at the time of the battle the Rebs held the field therefore it was impossible for our troops to bury their own dead, supposing of course the Rebs would do so, and imagine our astonishment and indignation to learn that they never were buried; the remains were carefully collected, all except the heads, and in every instance these were missing; the only supposition we can have is that the Rebs must have smashed them in order to show their spite against colored troops. I should have enjoyed going into a fight with the Regt after this ceremony; what the chaplain said did not tend to soften their feelings and I could see in the faces of the men a desire to revenge this insult." Lee noted that he was shipping northward a rifle captured from a Texan and a Revolutionary War era sword which, he claimed, "belonged to one of the first Families before I captured it."

Letters, 19 April and 3 May 1865, react to news of the fall of Richmond and the surrenders of Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston. The earlier letter voices the Union soldier's frustration at not having been present at Appomattox. "The news...quite elated me till I read the account in the papers," he confided, "and then I was disgusted because I did not have a hand in the thing. I believe I would give ten years of my life to have been there." News of the death of President Lincoln provoked an even stronger response—"all I can say is that I sure hope this war will continue till every man woman and child of secession proclivities are either banished or exterminated...can any one tell me what will be the satisfaction of simply hanging the perpetrator? ought not the cause of it be killed as well...now let those who believe in it suffer." "[S]ome of the sesech in Charleston are glad of the Presidents death," Lee noted, "but the better class abhor the manner by which it occured; for a few days they literally trembled in their shoes; fearful of the consequences that act would produce; now they are feeling a little easier as hostilities have ceased."

The 3 May letter also announces that they had received orders to march from Camp Hallowell near Charleston to Orangeburg. From there he wrote on 30 May 1865 that a request from the officers of the regiment had petitioned the governor of Massachusetts "to use his influence to have the Regt discharged now that the war is closed." Orangeburg, he observed, "was quite a place for the South before the war, containing about three thousand inhabitants but now not more than two thirds of that number; the principal portion of the town is on one street about one mile long: Sherman when here burnt all the stores and public buildings and a few private residences but not sufficient of the latter I think to benefit the people; they are the most bitter I have yet met with; Charleston is nothing compared to it; they especially dislike colored troops but that makes no difference they cannot help themselves in this respect."
The Society has received a number of letters from Lynn Canada from North Carolina. She is related to the Amos Cook family of Templeton who resided here in the late 1790s and early 1800s. Several of the letters have been re-typed from the actual letters for easier reading. The Society hopes to publish one of the letters each Newsletter. Anyone interested in reading others may do so at the Society building, where the letters are kept.

Below is a third actual letter from the collection that has been transcribed. Enjoy:

**LETTER TO MR SAMUEL COOK, TEMPLETON BY MR. STRATTON (?)**

July 8 1797 N Salem

Honored parents,

    After our duty & tender regards to you,
    we are happy to inform you that we enjoy usual health and prosperity. The 4th inst. we joined a number of the most respectable characters in this and other towns in celebrating the day for independence. At 11 O C on same day the procession was formed at Rev. Mr. Foster's & marched into the meeting-house, with the greatest decency & decorum. 1st the music - then the scholars - then the preceptor - then the clergy & selectmen. Then the troupp & after seated, an oration was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Foster. Then music in the gallery on their (?) instruments. Then we formed a proccession & marched to the arbour (?) a few rods from the meeting-house - where we partook of the publick festival - After dinner the wine was brought on the table and there were about 17 toasts announced by Esq. Uphams (sp?) - music & cheers (?) between each toast & we received ______ Favored by Mr White. The coat of (arms?) set very well. We rejoiced to receive your letter accompanied with money.

We expect to work out soon, I think we can employ _______ to work some for dear Hindale (?) - The Preceptor & Miss Miriam & Perhaps, as much as we can make it convenient. The Precpetpr will give out the parts for exhibition soon. There are about 40 students who attended. I shall write more particularly respecting exhibition 3 or 4 weeks hence perhaps.

    We are with due respects your sons
    AC AAY Cook (?)

LOVE to brothers & sisters & all who inquire

LETTERS , as often as convenience will allow (?) will be received with gratitude by

AC & AoF C
The Society’s Annual Christmas Cookie Sale was another success, thanks to the efforts of Joyce Provencher and her cookie bakers. In addition to serving hot cocoa and cookies, the Society joined in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common with a bonus visit from Santa Claus. Thanks for all who helped during this event.
DONATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

YES! I would like to make a donation to the Narragansett Historical Society.
I/We have enclosed a check, payable to the Narragansett Historical Society in the amount of $______________.

Name_______________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________
City_______________________State_____________Zip_____

Please make all checks payable to the Narragansett Historical Society and send to NHS, PO Box 354, 1 Boynton Road, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

DONATIONS FROM:
Richard Shyllberg Kentucky
1. His great uncle James M. Maynard, 1st Asst. for the Narragansett #6 Engine Co, for 50 years; 2) Medal with red, white and blue ribbon Engraved: Nar. Engine Co.No. 6 J. M. Maynard Templeton 1869 to 1919; 3) Templeton Police badge and a Templeton Grange No. 122 past master Pin. Templeton High School Class of 1919 Watch Fob

THANK YOUs -
Donations received from our Annual Appeal include the following to date:

Tanguay Jewelers , $100
John and Doris Brooks, $50
M. Jane Eaton, $50
George Pushee, $100

THANK YOU
Every little bit helps us to continue our mission to preserve the History of our Town!

Why don’t you usually get a newsletter? NO FUNDING FOR POSTAGE. Those of you who have email still get notifications and newsletters when we have enough info to fill one. To those of you who are not connected to the internet, maybe you have a family member who is. Ask them if you can use their email to get our newsletters. The savings is helping us focus on the more basic bills such as heat, electricity, and insurance to name a few. In the past we relied on donations to help pay for the postage on our newsletters and notifications, those donations have dried up forcing us to take these actions. Please realize we are all trying our best to keep the Historical Society moving forward during these trying times. Your understanding is appreciated. Please take a moment and read our newest newsletter and see all the new projects we are involved with. Think of your strengths and how they can be applied to help with our growth. Is there a project you can help with? Talk to your friends and try to get them involved, helping when the building is open, bringing in new members who are interested in Templeton’s history or simply making a few phone calls to members. We have so many new projects currently in the process and many more ready to start. With your help, we can complete our current project and start the next one sooner. Come to the meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month, either at the First Church (Winter time) or at our main building in the upstairs document room.
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Narragansett Historical Society
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Building & Grounds Supervisor

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY APRIL 30, 2013

Find us on Facebook—Link to Tuesdays in Templeton and The Narragansett Historical Society’s Website.
Search for Narragansett Historical Society Inc Templeton MA
It’s filled with 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 also of around town. Take a look, add a comment, or ask us a question. Friends have been sending images to us and posting online. We fill out the history to go with the photograph and post it for your enjoyment. Sign up soon.