

# *News from the Stow Historical Society*

*A newsletter for all friends of Stow history.*

*Please feel free to pass it along to others who might be interested!*

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April 28, 2022

## *Stow's Patriotism through the Centuries*

### Part Two

### Setting the Scene

In the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century Stow families began to move westward to Central and Western MA and beyond, while other families moved westward into Stow. Three of those families settling into Stow included the Patch family from Concord (ca. 1780), the Warren family from Weston (1782), and the Hastings family from Waltham (ca. 1790).

Abijah and Rebekah Hubbard Warren's (Pilot Grove Farm) fifth child, Lois, was born in Stow in 1790. Josiah Patch, the first born child of John and Isabel Jewett Patch was born in Stow in 1780. Lois and Josiah married in 1806 in Stow. They moved westward to New Salem, MA where **Louisa Warren Patch** (our main character) was born in 1808. After Louisa's sister, Mary Ann (Marianna), was born in 1811 in New Salem, their father died. Louisa, Mary Ann, and their mother returned to Stow.

In 1814 Louisa Patch's mother, Lois, married Richard Leathe Hastings in Stow. From this union there were eleven children. The Hastings family tragically buried seven of their eleven children. At Hillside Cemetery the Hastings Monument stands out by its prominence, old script engravings, and heartbreaking history.

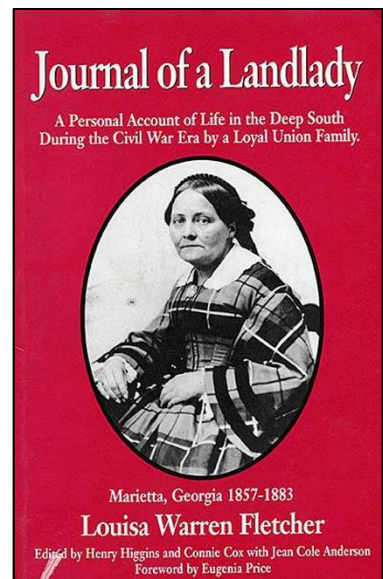


Francina  
Departed March XIII MDCCCXXX  
aged three months



**Louisa's story most likely would have ended here.** However, the Town of Stow has been the recipient of letters from her family going back to 1900. In 1995 Louisa's great granddaughter and two editors published Louisa's journal, *Journal of a Landlady, A Personal Account of Life in the Deep South During the Civil War Era by a Loyal Union Family*. The first 45 pages describe Louisa's early life and how these editors/researchers conferred with her great granddaughter and were allowed access to the boxes of family documents, records, and photos.

The book's editors and great granddaughter stated that Louisa was a confirmed Abolitionist and a liberated and truly artistic woman.



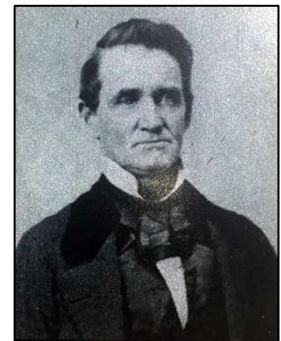
#### PROLOGUE – excerpts from pages 1-4 of *Journal of a Landlady*

“Early in her life, Louisa proved that she was very industrious. She often rose before daylight to attend to her household duties before going to school. Louisa studied hard and graduated among the top students in her [Stow] class. She later became a competent and successful teacher in Massachusetts. She was an avid reader as illustrated by her extensive book reviews throughout the early part of her journal...Louisa used reading as a means of temporary escape from the trials and tribulations of life. And even though she was well educated, she confided in her journal that ‘I would willingly have waded through anything to have been an eminent scholar, but that privilege was denied me.’”

“Louisa also developed her talent for music and became an accomplished vocalist. Singing was a passion with her, and she had many requests to perform in public.”

“On March 31, 1831, Louisa Warren Patch was joined in Holy Matrimony to Dix Fletcher in Stow, MA.”

“Louisa and Dix started a family while living in Stow and Lowell, MA, but all three daughters born to the couple died in infancy. The girls, Mary Louisa, Frances Eliza, and Louisa were born between 1832 and 1835. They were buried in the family cemetery plot in Stow.” Therefore, not only were Louisa's half-siblings buried in the Hastings plot in Hillside Cemetery, but Louisa and Dix's three daughters were interned there in unmarked graves.



As members of “the Unitarian Church in Stow, Louisa frequently performed vocalist solos. During one such performance Mr. and Mrs. Eastham, from Christ Church (Episcopal) in Savannah, Georgia, were visitors” and invited her to Savannah to sing in their church.

It is unknown why the Fletcher's relocated to the South, however, in 1835 they “loaded their possessions on a packet ship and moved to Savannah” where Dix established a new lumber and cabinet business and Louisa taught music and sang in several churches. Three daughters were born here.



“In 1849, a fire broke out in Dix's lumber yard and his business was destroyed. Hearing that St. Louis, Missouri was a fast growing town, he decided to move the family there to start over.” They stopped in Marietta to visit friends and never left.



# Louisa Patch's Stow

1814

In 1814 men of Stow were among numerous groups forming **Washington Guards**, companies of Light Infantry for ceremonial purposes.

The following men were recorded by Jonas Warren as those in Stow who proposed to form an enlisted company of Light Infantry (Washington Guards). **Jonas Warren was Louisa Patch's uncle.**

Nathan Brooks	Thomas Hastings
Henry Brooks	Richard L. Hastings
Jesse Brown	Moses Houghton
Israel Brown	Rufus Hosmer
Guy Brown	Asa Osborn
Merrick Burgess	Timothy Patch
Abel Buttrick	John Patch, Jr.
Cyrus Buttrick	Eli Randall
Artemas Conant	Ephraim Randall
Isacc Conant	Josiah Randall
Abraham Conant	Paul Randall
Phinehas Conant	Ephraim Randall
Benjamin Conant	Joseph Rice
Daniel Conant	Joseph Rogers
Peter Davidson	Calvin Taylor
Stillman Davidson	Pliny Wetherbee
Daniel Eveleth	Levi Wetherbee
John Eveleth	Wm Trowbridge
Ephraim Foster	Charles Tower
Oliver Gates, Jr.	Thomas Whitmarsh
Noah Gates	Jonas Warren
Elisha Gates, Jr.	Jonathan Walcott
Edmund Gates	Asa Whitney
Luke Gates	Daniel Whitney
Eli Gibson	Amos Whitney
	Samuel Whitcomb

## Louisa Warren Patch

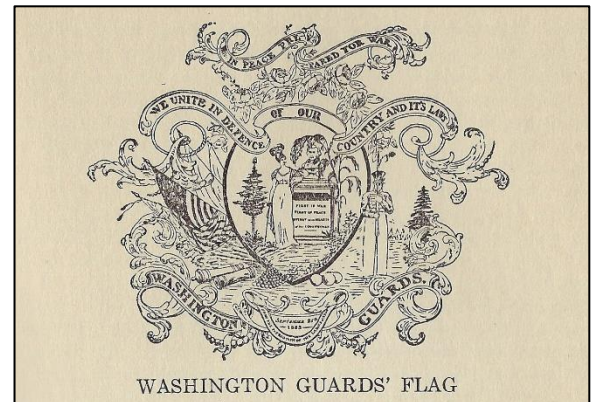
September 25, 1823

Stow, MA

The Ladies of Stow: On September 15, 1823 they chose fifteen-year-old Louisa Patch to present a 42" x 48" silk flag to the Stow Washington Guard Company.

In 1823 the ladies of Stow presented the Stow Washington Guard Company with a handsome silk flag. Its elaborate design included a Washington Guard in his uniform of blue jacket, white trousers, and shiny officer-type hat, a gold eagle above the visor, and a plume. The reverse side bears the inscription "United We Stand, Divided We Fall," with the State Seal and motto *Ense petit placidam sub Libertate Quietam*. The front is inscribed "in peace, prepare for war" and "we unite in defense of our country and its laws," a monument pictured with the inscription "Washington—first in war. first in peace, first in the hearts of his country-men."

*History of Stow*  
by Ethel B. Childs  
page 59



WASHINGTON GUARDS' FLAG

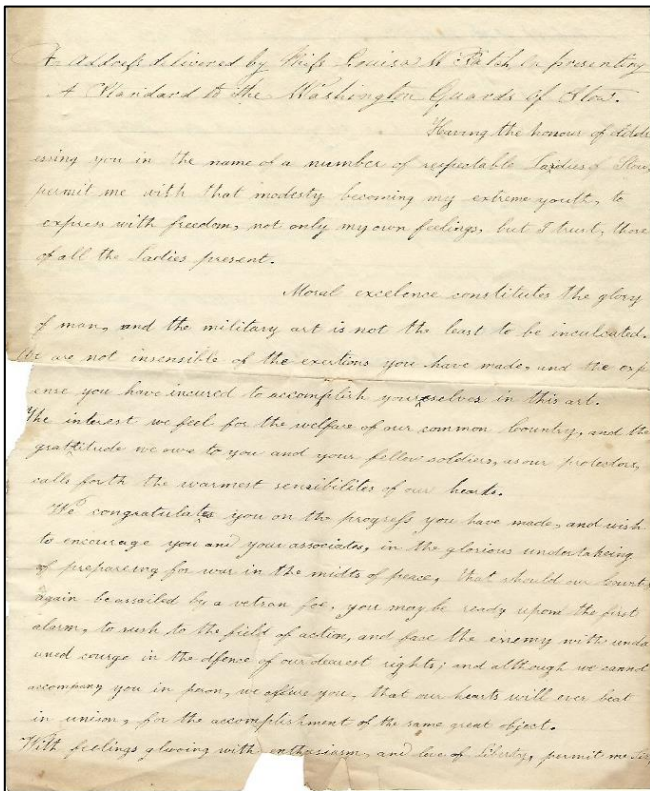
*Stow, Massachusetts*  
1683-1933

by Rev. and Mrs. P. R. Crowell  
page 23

## The speech delivered by Louisa Warren Patch on September 25, 1823 in Stow.

During the ceremony Louisa was assisted by Mrs. Caroline Brooks and Mrs. Jacob Soper.

In 1823 Dix Fletcher was a member of the Washington Guards.



The address delivered by Miss Louisa W. Patch in presenting  
a Standard to the Washington Guards of Stow.

Having the honor of address-  
ing you in the name of a number of respectable Ladies of Stow,  
permit me with that modesty becoming my extreme youth, to  
express with freedom, not only my own feelings, but I trust, those  
of all the Ladies present.

Moral excellence constitutes the glory  
of man, and the military art is not the least to be inculcated.  
We are not insensible of the exertions you have made, and the exp-  
ense you have incurred to accomplish yourselves in this art.

The interest we feel for the welfare of our common Country, and the  
gratitude we owe to you and your fellow soldiers, as our protectors,  
calls forth the warmest sensibilities of our hearts.

We congratulate you on the progress you have made, and wish  
to encourage you and your associates, in the glorious undertaking  
of preparing for war in the midst of peace, that should our Country  
again be assailed by a veteran foe, you may be ready upon the first  
alarm, to rush to the field of action, and save the enemy with unda-  
unted courage in the defense of our dearest rights; and although we cannot  
accompany you in person, we assure you, that our hearts will ever beat  
in union, for the accomplishment of the same great object.

With feelings glowing with enthusiasm, and love of Liberty, permit me to

“Having the honor of addressing you in the name of a number of respectable Ladies of Stow, permit me with that modesty becoming my extreme youth, to express with freedom, not only my own feelings, but I trust, those of all the Ladies present.

“Moral excellence constitutes the glory of man and military art is not the least to be inculcated. We are not insensible of the exertions you have made and the expense you have incurred to accomplish yourselves in the art.

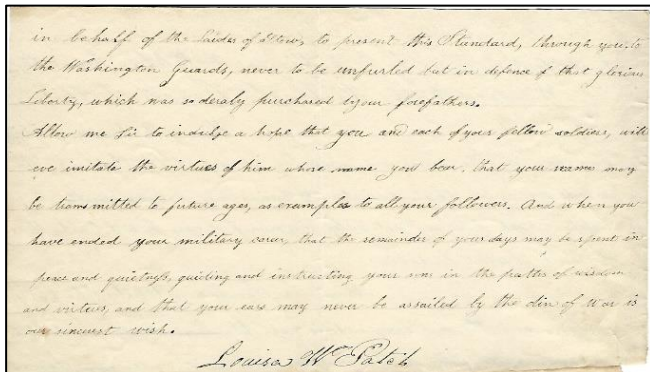
“The interest we feel for the welfare of our common Country and the gratitude we owe to you and your fellow Soldiers, as our protectors calls forth the warmest sensibilities of our hearts.

“We congratulate you on the progress you have made and wish to encourage you and your associates in the glorious undertaking of preparing for war in the midst of peace, that should our Country again be a veteran foe you may be ready upon the first alarm, to rush to the field of action and face the enemy with undaunted courage in the defense of our dearest rights; and although, we cannot accompany you in person we assure you our hearts will ever beat in union for the accomplishment of the same great object.

“With feelings glowing with enthusiasm and love of Liberty permit me, Sir, in behalf of the Ladies of Stow, to present this Standard through you to the Washington Guards, never to be unfurled but in defense of that glorious liberty which was so dearly purchase by our forefathers.

“Allow me, Sir, to indulge a hope that you and each of your fellow Soldiers will ever imitate the virtues of him whose name you bare, that your names may be transmitted to future ages, as examples to all your followers and when you have ended your military career that the remainder of your days maybe spent in peace and quietness, guiding and insturcting your sons in the paths of wisdom and virtue and that your ease may never be assailed by the din of war is our sincerest wish.

Louisa W. Patch”

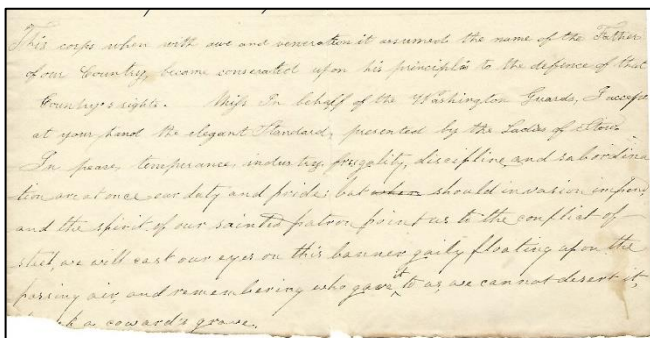


in behalf of the Ladies of Stow, to present this Standard, through you to  
the Washington Guards, never to be unfurled but in defense of that glorious  
Liberty, which was so dearly purchased by our forefathers.

Allow me to indulge a hope that you and each of your fellow soldiers, will  
ever imitate the virtues of him whose name you bear, that your names may  
be transmitted to future ages, as examples to all your followers. And when you  
have ended your military career, that the remainder of your days may be spent in  
peace and quietness, guiding and insturcting your son in the paths of wisdom  
and virtue, and that your ease may never be assailed by the din of war is  
our sincerest wish.

Louisa W. Patch

## The flag was received by Mr. Augustus Tower. Capt. Phiny Wetherbee was the chief officer.



This Corps when with awe and veneration is assumed the name of the Father  
of our Country, became consecrated upon his principles to the defense of that  
Country's rights.

Miss in behalf of the Washington Guards, I accept  
at your hand the elegant Standard, presented by the Ladies of Stow.

In peace, temperance, industry, frugality, discipline and subordination  
are at once our duty and pride, but when should invasion impend  
and the spirit of our sainted patron point us to the conflict of  
steel, we will cast our eyes on this banner, gently floating upon the  
passing air and remembering who gave it to us, we cannot desert it,  
to seek a coward's grave.

“This Corps when with awe and veneration is assumed the name of the Father of our Country, became consecrated upon his principles to the defense of that country's rights.

“Miss: In behalf of the Washington Guards, I accept, at your hand, the elegant standard, presented by the Ladies of Stow.

“In peace, temperance, industry, frugality, discipline and subordination are at once our duty and pride, and, should invasion impend and the spirt of our sainted patron point us to the conflict of steel, we will cast our eyes upon the passing air and remembering who gave it to us, we cannot desert it, to seek a coward's grave.”



# Stow and the Concord Centennial

## April 19, 1875

# THE MINUTE MAN.

CONCORD, APRIL 19, 1875.

## CONCORD CENTENNIAL.

### ORDER OF EXERCISES.

The Committee of Arrangements of the town of Concord have made preparations for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Concord Fight, 19th of April, 1775; and the citizens of all the towns locally or otherwise interested in the events of that day, and the public generally, are invited to be present.

The exercises will begin with a salute of one hundred guns at sunrise.

At nine A.M. a procession will be formed, escorted by the 5th Regiment, M.V.M., and under the direction of Gen. F. C. Barlow as Chief Marshal.

After visiting the monuments at the Old North Bridge, the procession will march to a pavilion on the Provincial parade-ground, where the exercises of the dedication of the new statue will take place, consisting of an address by R. W. Emerson, and an oration upon the events of the day by George William Curtis.

At the conclusion of the oration, the company will proceed to the dinner tent, on the same field.

Addresses will be made at the table by many distinguished speakers.

Hon. E. R. Hoar will act as President of the Day.

The exercises will conclude with a Grand Ball at the Agricultural Hall in the evening.

Tickets to the Dinner, \$1.50, to the Ball, \$6, to be obtained of the Committee of Arrangements as advertised.

Special trains will be provided on the Fitchburg and Lowell Railroads to accommodate those who desire to unite in the celebration.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

GEORGE KEYES, *Chairman.*  
SAMUEL HOAR, *Secretary.*

CONCORD, April 10, 1875.

### ORDER OF PROCESSION.

#### FIRST DIVISION.

Band.  
5th Regiment, M. V. M., as escort.  
Chief Marshal. Aide.  
Chairman Committee of Arrangements, Secretary Committee of Arrangements, Chaplain of the Day, Representatives of Originator of Monument, President of the Day, Orator of the Day, Post of the Day (in carriages).  
Monument Committee. Committee of Arrangements.

Band.  
Independent Corps of Cadets, as escort.  
Governor of Massachusetts and Staff.

Lieut. Gov. of Massachusetts and Council, State Officers, Sheriff of Middlesex, Judges of Supreme Judicial Court, Judges of Superior, Probate and other Courts (in carriages).

Aide. Band.  
Newburyport V. A. Association as escort.  
President of Senate, Mass., Speaker of House of Representatives, Mass., Chairman of Joint Legislative Committee of Arrangements (in carriages).

Joint Committee of Senate and House of Representatives.

Senate of Massachusetts.  
House of Representatives, Mass.

#### SECOND DIVISION.

Aide.  
U. S. Marine Band.  
Concord Artillery, as escort.  
President of the United States and Staff.  
Members of the Cabinet.  
Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States (in carriages).

Aide.  
General of the United States Army and Staff.  
Admiral of the United States Navy and Staff.  
Major General Commanding Department of the East and Staff.

Officers of the United States Army and Volunteer Officers especially invited.  
Officers of the United States Navy, and Naval Officers especially invited.

Members of the Senate of the United States.  
Members of House of Representatives of the United States.  
United States Marshal and Judges of Circuit and District Courts (in carriages).

#### THIRD DIVISION.

Aide. Band.  
Portland Mechanic Blues of Maine, as escort.  
Governor of Maine and Staff (in carriages).  
Band.

Amoskeag Veterans of N. H., as escort.  
Governor of New Hampshire and Staff (in carriages).

Aide. Band.  
Ransom Guards of Vermont, as escort.  
Governor of Vermont and Staff (in carriages).  
Band.

First Light Infantry Veterans of R. I., as escort.  
Governor of Rhode Island and Staff (in carriages).

Band.  
Putnam Phalanx of Conn., as escort.  
Governor of Connecticut and Staff (in carriages).  
Governors of other States (in carriages).

#### FOURTH DIVISION.

Aide. Band.  
Old Sixth Regiment Association.  
Guests especially invited, not embraced in any organization.

Mass. Society of the Cincinnati, President and Fellows of Harvard College and Overseers of Harvard College (in carriages).  
Dean and Faculty of Harvard College (in carriages).

Members of the Press.  
Standing Committee of Bunker Hill Monument Association.  
Committee of Mass. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Council of Mass. Historical Society.  
Representatives of N. E. Historic-Geographical Society.

Aide.  
Official delegations from Cities and Towns, especially invited, in the following order:  
Band.

Asten Minute Men, as escort  
Acton, Bedford, Billerica, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Lincoln, Littleton, Stow, Sudbury, Westford, Arlington, Belmont, Beverly, Boston, Roxboro', Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Charlestown, Danvers, Dedham, Everett, Framingham, Lexington, Lowell, Lynn, Lynn-

field, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Needham, Newton, Norwood, Peabody, Pepperell, Reading, Roxbury, Salem, Somerville, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, Winchester, Woburn.

Posts of Grand Army of the Republic.  
Companies of Continentallers and other organizations.

#### FIFTH DIVISION.

Aide.  
American Brass Band of Providence.

Citizens of Concord, generally.

Citizens of other Cities and Towns, generally, with Bands, Escorts and Aides in the same order as above.

The different Divisions will form as follows at precisely nine o'clock, A. M., of Monday, April 19, 1875:—

First Division on Main street, right on Thoreau street.

Second Division on Middle street, right on Thoreau street.

Third division on Sudbury street, east of the railroad, right on Thoreau street.

Fourth Division on Sudbury street, west of railroad, right on railroad.

Fifth Division on Thoreau street, south of Sudbury street, right on Sudbury street.

All persons and organizations are requested to proceed, immediately on arriving in Concord, to the points designated as above, in order that they may be placed in position by the Marshal's aides in charge of the respective divisions.

By reason of the concurrent ceremonies on the same day in the town of Lexington, it is absolutely necessary that the procession move punctually at half-past nine o'clock, and all persons and organizations not formed in their proper position at that time will be considered as having declined the invitation to participate in the ceremonies.

The available widths of the streets on which the divisions are to form are as follows: Main street, 40 feet; Middle street, 35 feet; Sudbury street, 35 feet; Thoreau street, 35 feet.

Military organizations will march in company or platoon fronts, as their commanders may designate.

All bodies of civilians marching on foot will march in ranks, four abreast, with intervals between the ranks of four feet.

In order to prevent confusion in the music, the Marshal's aides (mounted) will give directions to the several bands, either directly or through the commanders of the organizations to which the bands belong, as to the order of playing.

All ladies desiring to obtain seats at the oration will assemble at the Town Hall punctually at half-past nine o'clock, and will be conducted to the tent.

At the close of the oration and other exercises in the tent, those desiring to participate in the dinner will proceed forthwith to the tent provided for that purpose.

FRANCIS C. BARLOW, *Chief Marshal.*

## CENTENNIAL TIME TABLES.

**Trains FOR CONCORD leave**  
BOSTON at 6.15, 7.30, \*7.40, \*7.50, \*8.10, 8.15, (8.30, via Watertown Branch.) \*8.40, \*9, \*9.30, \*10, \*10.30, 11.10, A. M.; 2.35, 4.15, 5.30, 6, and 7.45, P. M.

**Trains LEAVE CONCORD for**  
BOSTON at 7, 7.52, 8.40, 9.15, 9.54, 10.50, 10.45, A. M.; 1.30, \*2.30, \*3, \*3.15, \*3.30, \*4, \*4.15, \*4.40, \*5, \*5.25, \*5.40, 6.30, and 6.58, P. M.

WALTHAM, same as Boston, omitting 7.52, A. M.

CAMBRIDGE at 7, (8.40 change cars at Waltham.) (9.15 via Watertown Branch.) 9.54 (10.45 via Watertown Branch.) A. M.; (1.30 change cars at Waltham.) \*2.30, \*3, \*3.15, \*3.30, \*4, \*4.15, \*4.40, \*5, \*5.25, \*5.40, and 6.38, P. M.

BELMONT, and WAVERLEY, at 7, (8.40 change cars at Waltham), 9.34 A. M.; (1.30 change cars at Waltham), \*5, and 6.38, P. M.

STONY BROOK, and LINCOLN, at 7, 8.40, 9.15, 9.34, 10.45 A. M.; 1.30, \*5, and 6.38, P. M.

\* Extra Trains. In case of accident from some of the above extra trains may not be run. If pleasant, other extra trains will be run as often as occasion may require.

WATER TOWN BRANCH.—The Watertown Branch Trains, leaving Boston at 6.50 and 8.30 A. M., will be run through to Concord. The Train leaving Concord at 9.15 and 10.45 A. M., 2.30 and 3.30 P. M., will connect at Waltham with Trains over the Watertown Branch.

EXTRA LATE TRAINS AFTER THE BALL.—An extra Train will leave Concord at 12.30 A. M., Tuesday, April 20th, also another Train will leave at a later hour time of starting to be announced at the Ball, both of which will stop at all Way Stations to leave passengers. Care of the Metropolitan Horse Railroad for the Highlands, via Washington and Tremont Sta., will be at the Boston Station upon the arrival of late Trains.

**Trains FOR LEXINGTON leave**  
BOSTON at 7.10, 7.40, 8.10, 8.30, 8.45, 9, 11.05 A. M.; 12.05, 3, 6.25, 7.10, 7.45, P. M.

**Trains FOR BOSTON leave**  
LEXINGTON at 6.12, 7.12, 10, 11.05, A. M.; 2, 4, 4.30, 4.40, 5, 5.30, 6.25, 7.10, 11, P. M.; 12.30, 1.30, 2.30 A. M. April 20.

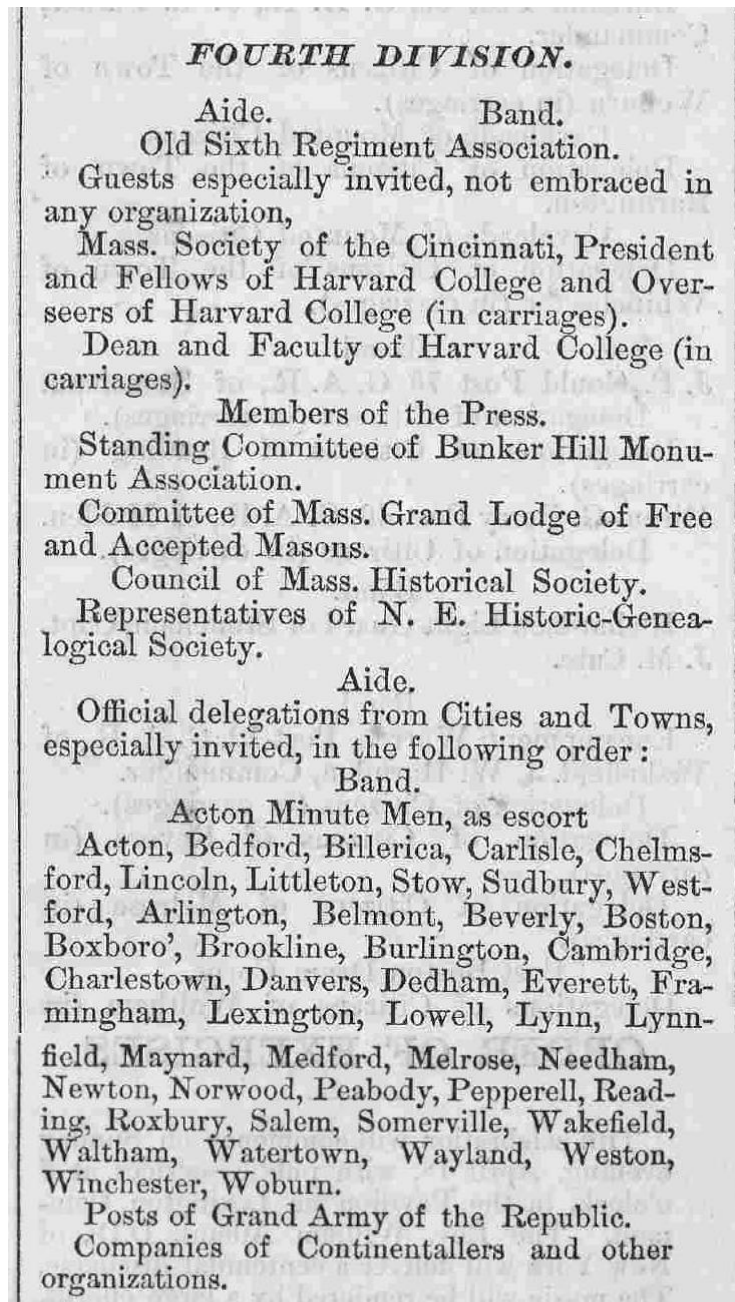
**Trains FOR CONCORD leave**  
LEXINGTON at 8, 9.30, 11.05 A. M.; 12.10, 2, 4.05, 5.50, 7, 8.25, P. M.

**Trains FOR LEXINGTON leave**  
CONCORD at 6.50, 6.50, 9, 10.30, 11.35, A. M.; \*1, 1.15, 3.30, 5.50, 7, P. M.

\* Private train for invited guests.

The minute man. Lexington, . Lexington centennial. Order of exercises ... For railroad time tables, see other side. Lexington, 1875. Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.07402200/>.

## Stow's storied flag was carried in the Concord Centennial 1875 Parade.



**Stow**

Sources about Stow's participation in the Centennial Parade:

- *Lowell Daily Courier*, April 15, 1875
- *Lowell Daily Courier*, April 29, 1875
- *The Hudson News*, April \_\_\_ 1875 – written by the STOW correspondent

These newspaper articles were all hand copied and in the Stow vault.

## “The Fathers came in 1775, The Sons are here Today”

*The Hudson News*, April \_\_\_\_, 1875

STOW

Centennial. Our town was pretty thoroughly deserted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1875 at least as far as regards the male portion, for nearly everybody went to Concord. The Stow company turned out its fifty men and they made a good appearance in the procession. Mr. John Robbins, late of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cavalry, was appointed color bearer and carried the banner of the company. It was of plain material and upon its white surface was inscribed the following.

viz: “Stow – The Fathers came in 1775:- The Sons are here today, April 19<sup>th</sup> 1875.”

The banner attracted considerable notice, and was of the neatest and most appropriate in the line. Some of our people extended their trip on to Lexington and there came to grief, owing to the rush and ill mannered crowd, and lack of transportation to facilitate their egress from the same. They came home wiser after their trying experience, and do not wish to indulge in another centennial such as this. The chilling wind, a legacy from March, caused very much inconvenience and suffering.

Interesting Relic – Besides the above named banner, the Stow company carried in their ranks an elegant and costly silk flag about which a few words of history might be written. More than half a century ago there was in this town an independent infantry company called the Washington Guards. Among those enrolled as its members were some of the prominent and esteemed men of the town. On the twenty-fifth of September, 1823, fifty-two years ago the ladies desirous of showing their esteem, presented the company with a beautiful silk flag, upon one side of which are the words, “United we stand, divided we fall,” with the State seal and motto, “ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem.” Upon the reverse side appears the inscription: “In peace prepare for war. We unite in defense of our country and its laws.” “Washington, first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen.” “Presented by the patriotism of the ladies of Stow.”

The presentation was made by Miss Louisa Patch, who afterward married Mr. Dix Fletcher, a member of the company, she being assisted by Mrs. Caroline Brooks and Mrs. Jacob Soper, in the ceremony. Mr. Augustus Tower, a member of the company, received the flag at the hands of the ladies. Capt. Phiny Wetherbee was the chief officer. The latter has descendants still residing here. We believe there are but two surviving members of the company living in town. Capt. Wetherbee was a famous musician, a member of the Boston Brass Band. The uniforms consisted of white pants, blue coats, uniform cap, and each member furnished his own.

The flag is now in possession of Mr. John Lawrence, a resident of Stow, and was carried by him in the Concord procession, but owing to the extreme delicacy of the material, its age, the high wind which prevailed, it was deemed prudent not to unfurl it. Except at occasional intervals. The attempt to unfurl it was made in one instance but the wind being very strong at the time, quite a large hole was broken out of the center of the flag. Mr. Lawrence proposes to place the banner and flag in the Town Hall in a conspicuous position as soon as possible.

Mr. Frank Conant formerly owned the hotel and is supposed to have been the color bearer of the Washington Guards. The flag was found stored in the attic of the hotel some years ago and being discovered by Dr. Bass’s son, subsequent possessor of the house, in its resting place, was brought out and sold by public auction with other articles. Mr. George Smith, now of Maryard, purchased it at merely nominal sum, and from him Mr. Lawrence obtained it for a small price.

**John Lawrence:** John was the father-in-law of **Susan Proctor Lawrence**, Stow school teacher, Stow’s first librarian, Stow correspondent to *The Hudson News-Enterprise*. **Samuel A. Lawrence**, a Civil War veteran and Susan’s husband, was one of the officers of the Stow company marching in Concord.

# Setting the Scene in Stow before April 19, 1875

Lowell Daily Courier, April 15, 1875

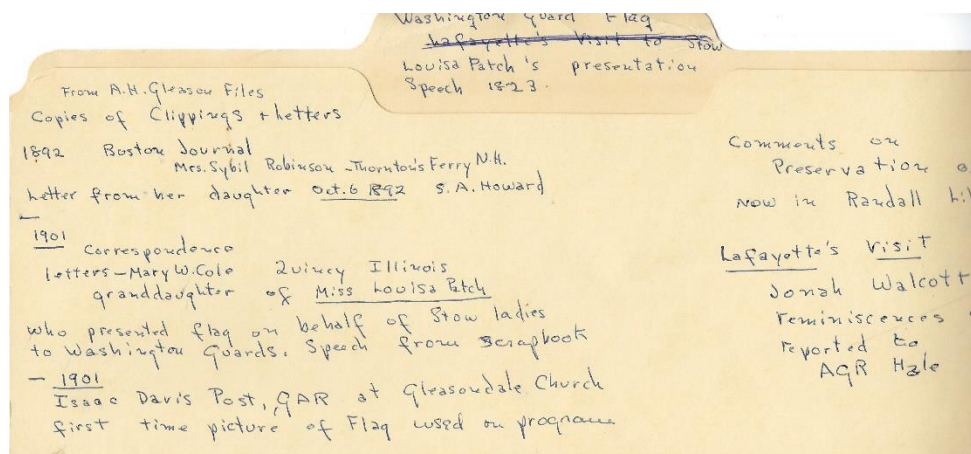
Stow Company. This organization is new pretty well started and in a good state of progress. Nearly 50 names appear upon the roll and it is hoped that this number may be swelled to 75 soon. It is proposed to turn out in citizens clothes with drum and fife and march without arms in the procession at Concord on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a place having already been assigned the company. It is proper that as Stow sent her men to Concord in 1775 she should be represented on the great centennial occasion. The company meets for drill nearly every evening. Its officers are Captain H. P. Hildreth, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ezra Miles, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Samuel A. Lawrence. Two of the officers saw service in the late rebellion. A subscription was been made up to prepare a suitable banner for the parade. There will be very few men left in Stow on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Stow's Historic Documents

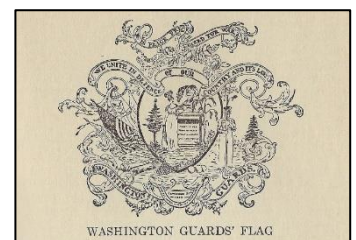
Louisa Warren Patch's speech was mailed to Stow residents in the early 1900's. Miss Mary Cole, Louisa's granddaughter, mailed copies to Lucy Fletcher Newhall, whose father was the brother of Dix Fletcher, and to A. H. Gleason. In the vault there is also a copy sent by Miss L. M. Caldwell, who located it in her father's papers. She is most likely the granddaughter of Louisa's sister, Mary Ann (Marianna) Patch Caldwell.

The Louisa Warren Patch and the Washington Guards Flags documents/sources have been stored in the Town Vault or gathered by the Stow Historical Society, which was founded in 1961.

This is a vintage vault folder which holds copies of correspondence and notes gathered by A. H. Gleason (Albert Howe Gleason).



His inquires date to 1892. In 1901 he was corresponding with Mary W. Cole, the granddaughter of Louisa W. Patch Fletcher. Mary W. Cole and her mother, from Quincy, Illinois, visited Albert H. Gleason in Stow in 1900. NOTE: Before 1900 Albert H. Gleason had purchased the Washington Guard Flag from Samuel A Lawrence, the son of John Lawrence, to preserve it and had full-sized reproductions made and placed in the Randall Library. On May 26, 1901 the design for the G. A.R. services in the Gleasondale Methodist Church carried a picture of the flag. This was the same design as in Crowell's book on page 23.



**On the front of the G.A.R. program was the picture of the flag and the words, "Flag used in welcoming Lafayette [to Stow], Sept. 2, 1824."**

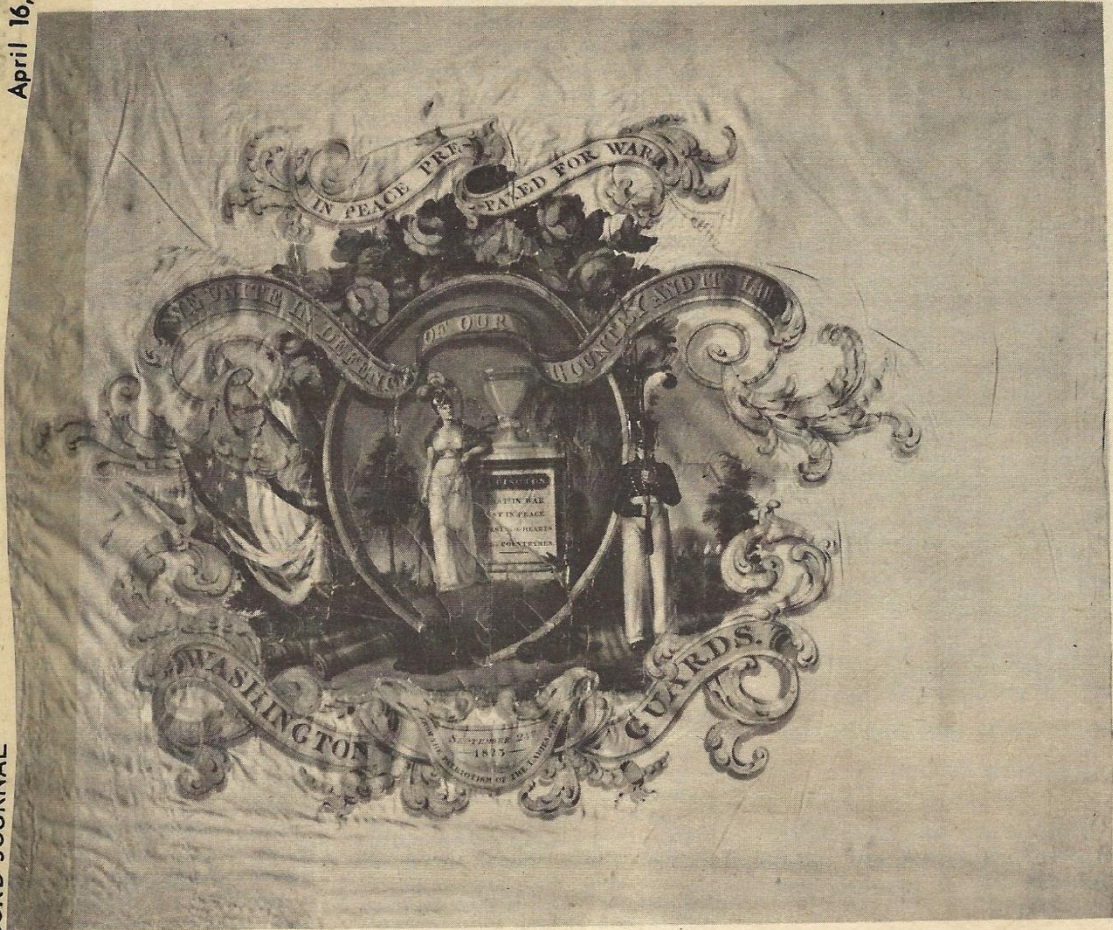


# Stow, April 16, 1964

April 16, 1964

## 1875 Damage To Stow Flag Repaired At Last

CONCORD JOURNAL



anner of the Washington Guards of Stow

(Photo - Keith Martin)



Charles and Ellie Childs  
SpringFest, May 1983, Stow Tercentenary, 1683-1983

In a place of honor in the Stow Public Library now hangs the white silk banner pictured here. This flag had been rolled up with a hole in the middle, the result of Concord's bad weather on April 19, 1875, and has only now been reconditioned and restored by the expert skill and the generosity of Charles D. Childs of Stow and Boston.

on behalf of the Washington Guards.

After years of service the flag was lost until 1875. Then after its sad fate in Concord, it was put away damaged, and now it is brought out once more after almost 90 years.

R.R. W.

This is a long article which recaps the story printed by the two 1875 *Lowell Courier's* articles.

**Charles D. and Ellie Childs** lived in Stow by 1940. He was born in Needham in 1905. Charles established the Childs Gallery on Newbury Street in 1937, specializing in old American paintings and prints. As founding members of the SHS, he and Ellie, led the way with restoration and recording Stow's history. Charles was instrumental in the restoration of the Washington Guards Flag, which the SHS unveiled as a framed artifact in April of 1964.





# Stow 1964 - 2017

The framed Washington Guards Flag graced a wall in the Randall Library from 1964-2017. It had been hung by the SHS in the Randall Library's former designated reading area for library patrons. The 1976 library addition reconfigured this space into the present 2<sup>nd</sup> floor children's section. In 2017 the upcoming library restoration required the relocation of this large, framed artifact, which measured 58 inches wide by 48 inches high. The SHS petitioned the Select Board for permission to have it rehung in the Moses Whitney Room of the Town Hall.



These two photos were taken in the library.

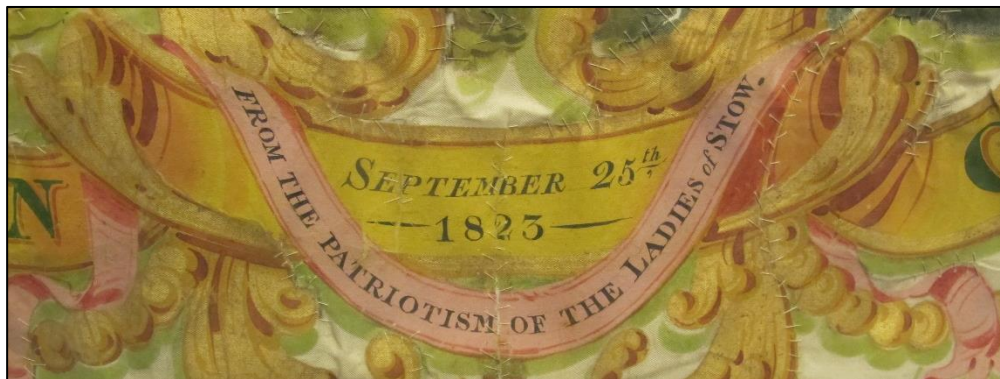
The flag had had constant exposure to UV light. Reflection made it difficult to view.



## Transporting the Washington Guards Flag to its new 2017 location



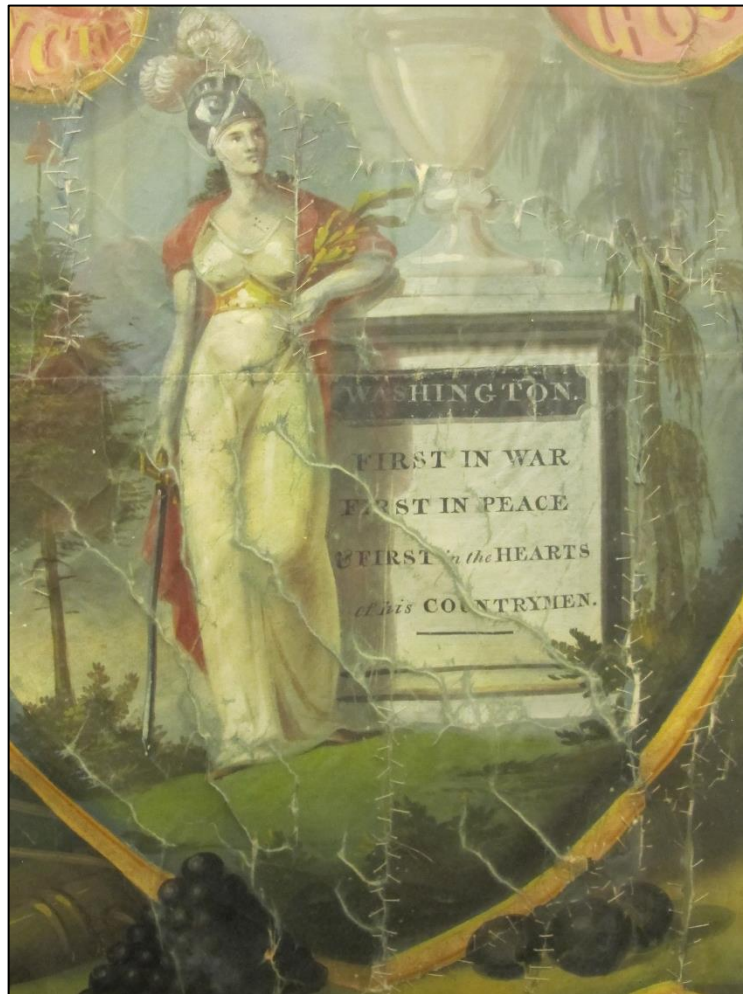
Stow's finest, facilitating the move!  
There were a few surprised motorists as we stopped traffic for a moment.





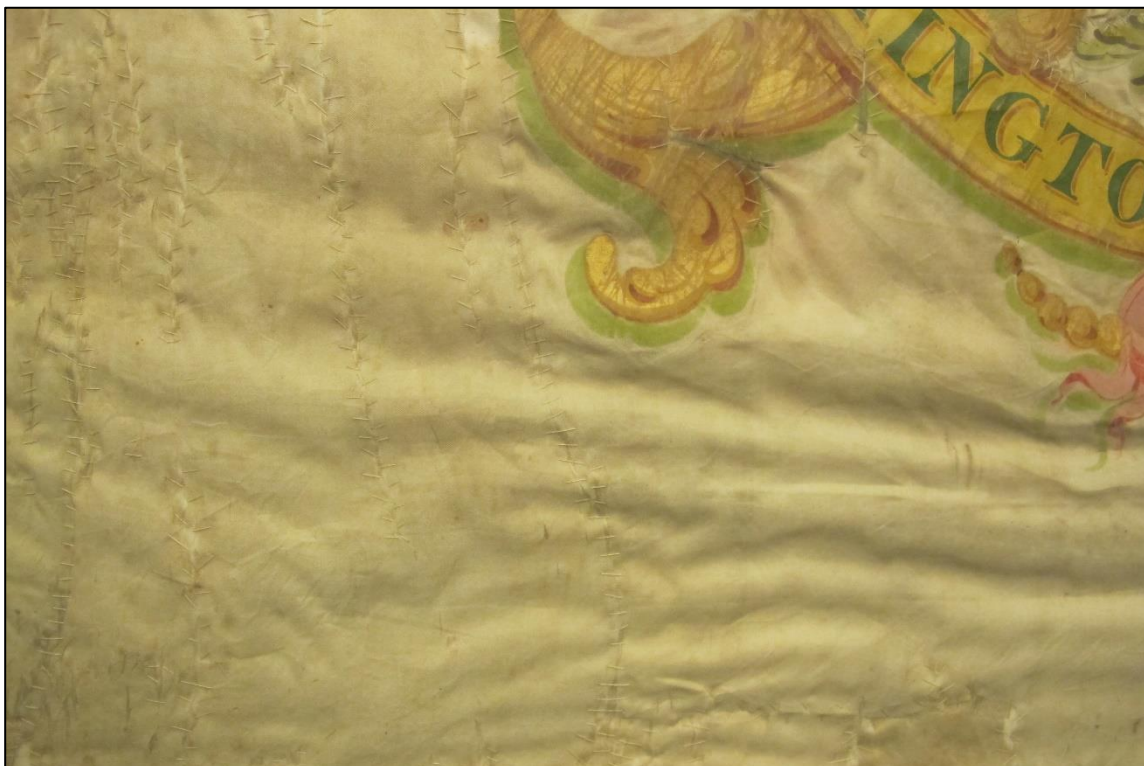


Look closely for the repair stitching throughout these photos.





Look closely for  
the repair  
stitching  
throughout  
these photos.





Reflection from the Whitney Room lights





A big thank you goes to Steve Ziegler of Star Custom Framers,  
formerly in the Stow Shopping Center,  
who donated his time and expertise to install a new backing to the frame.



## 1823 - 2022

199 years strong!

This glorious flag continues to honor Stow and her veterans.

The story of Stow women has a strong and proud history.

The Stow women of 1823 certainly chose a superb presenter.

Stow is the benefactor of Louisa Warren Patch Fletcher's and her succeeding generations' (children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren) passion to preserve and share Louisa's story.





## Gifts to the Stow Historical Society from Hank and Nancy Campbell of Dublin, NH

This framed collage of 18 cyanotype photos printed on cloth hung in the Davidson house (3 Taylor Road) at the trianangular intersection of Taylor and Boxborough Roads. Two of the photos are landscapes of the Davidson barn and the second Davidson house which once stood on the south side of this intersection. The first Davidson house dates back to the 1750s. The 1830 Stow map listed this property under the name of J. Davidson. Hank is a direct ancestor of Jerome H. Davidson. More about the Davidson's in the future. Thank you!



The cyanotype print to the left is of Daniel French's Minute Man statue, unveiled in 1875. To the right is a ca. 1876 stereoview of the statue. (Concord Museum Collection).



In the background of the Davidson print in Buttrick Mansion built in 1911, now the North Bridge Visitor Center. Therefore, this print could have been taken between 1911-1920.

## from Bob Trumpolt, Canton Twp., Michigan



Bob is a direct descendant of the Stow family for whom Stow was named in 1683. Below is a sampling of Stow artifacts which arrived in today's mail. Thank you!

### West School's New Wreath! Happy Birthday, Stow!



SpringFest is June 4<sup>th</sup>!  
Look for the SHS table.

