



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!*

May 2013

During This Year's SpringFest: Open House at the Stow History Museum



When Dr. Able Cutting Livermore made housecalls by horse and buggy in the late 1900s, he carried this medicine bag – among the museum artifacts – of herbs and medications.

In truth, Stow's the artifacts in the museum, maintained by the Historical Society, are on display anytime the Library is open. SpringFest 2013 seemed an opportune time to emphasize their availability and their role as a window into our town's history.

The artifacts are enlightening and diverse, ranging from Revolutionary War lancets and bullet molds to Laura Hosmer Cheney's 1830s painting of the Lower Common (shown on this newsletter's masthead), town benefactor Elijah Hale's

Peter Larsen's "come-along" was a device that Stow's first police chief could wrap around suspect's wrists to pull them along.

Consider: The Regicide's coffin nails, Samuel Adams' punchbowl, Dr. Livermore's tooth extractor, Police Chief Peter Larsen's "come-along" handcuffs.

They're among the several hundred artifacts to be on display during an Open House at the Stow History Museum at Randall Library during this year's annual SpringFest celebration on Saturday, May 18th. Like many SpringFest Saturday activities, the Open House will run from 10 am to 2 pm.

While most SpringFest activities will take place at Stow Community Park, the Museum Open House, presented by the Stow Historical Society, will take place side-by-side with the Friends of the Library Book Sale on the Library's second floor.





Consisting of several display cases, the museum's space is small, its collection a window into our town's rich history.

gold-capped walking stick, a sliver of wood from the Old North Bridge in Concord, ivory carvings collected by Rock Bottom native Alonzo Parks (who spent his life as a trader in Africa), wooden lasts from Marshall Wetherbee's shoe shop, a snuff box, a pie fork (for removing pies from ovens), a farm auction handbill from 1853, porcelain tea and dinnerware sets and the Stow Time Capsule, sealed in 2011 to be opened in 2061.

Also on view nearby: The Stow Musket, carried by Ichabod Stow during the Revolutionary War and acquired by the town with a grant from Stow resident Jean McFeddries, and marble plaques listing the four Revolutionary War and 22 Civil War soldiers from Stow who died in those conflicts.

Also on Tap for SpringFest: "Hot Water"



History lovers who enjoy old-time images on the silver screen can spend an evening with classic film comedian Harold Lloyd at "SpringFest Silent Movie Night" on Friday, May 17th. The movie: Lloyd's 1924 silent film "Hot Water."

To be presented in Town Hall, beginning at 7 pm, the free event is facilitated by Lew Halprin, features musical accompaniment by Richard Hughes and is sponsored by the Stow Lions Club. And, there will be free popcorn.

Like most Harold Lloyd movies, the story immerses Lloyd in a series of frantic misadventures. This one includes a ride on a crowded trolley with a live turkey, a wild spin in a new automobile with his in-laws and his conviction that he has accidentally killed his mother-in-law and is being haunted by her – as she sleepwalks.