



Stow West School Museum

## News from the Stow Historical Society

*Please feel free to pass this  
newsletter along to others who might  
be interested.*

June 17, 2014

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE! SAVE the DATE –**

**Sunday, June 29 at 3:00 pm**

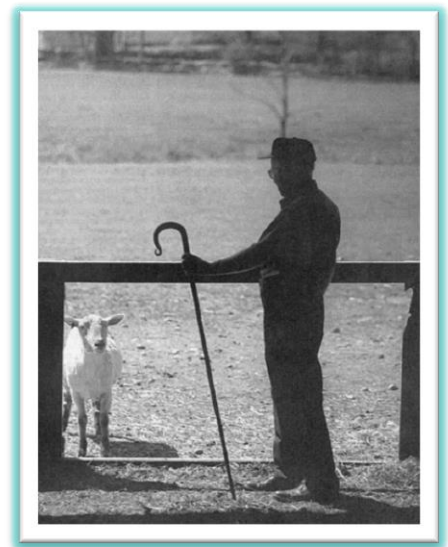
at Stow West School Museum

### **An Afternoon of Stow Oral History**

Please join us for Stow West School Museum's annual **Oral History Program**. Our featured speakers this year will be **Skip Warren, Richard Gelpke** and **Mary Wetherbee**:

**1.) Skip Warren: *Pilot Grove Farm's Changes over the Centuries.***

Born and raised in Stow, Skip is the owner of Pilot Grove Farm. The farm has been in his family since 1782 when it was purchased by Abijah Warren. He will talk about the changes that have occurred on the farm since its eighteenth century origins. Changes have included a vegetable farm, a fruit farm, a dairy farm and, of course, the present day sheep farm.



Skip Warren and a young lamb.



1930's Lake Boon Postcard

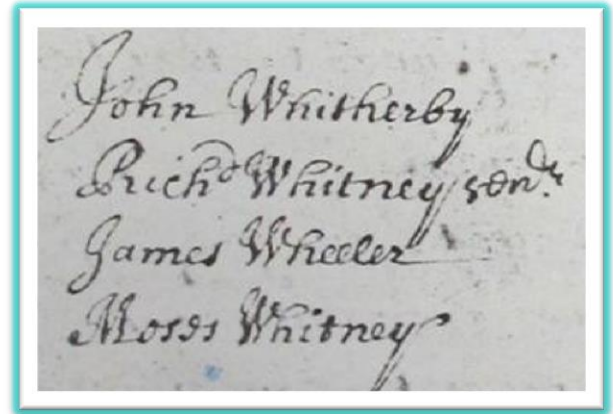
## 2.) Professor Richard Gelpke: *The Evolution of the Lake Boon Community.*

Dick will be speaking about the change in the Lake Boon community from a summer resort for Bostonians and others to a population of year-round residents. Dick, a long time summer Lake Boon resident, summered at the lake as a child when Lake Boon was mostly summer vacation cottages. His family cottage once had a Stow

address until the town boundaries were reconfigured and it is now in Hudson. Dick is retired from the Department of Geography and Earth Science at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he concentrated on historical and environmental issues, and physical geography.

## 3.) Mary Wetherbee: *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Times.*

Mary, a retired social studies teacher at Hale School, will talk about her family, the Wetherbees, whose origins in Stow date back to 1679. They were among the original settlers in the Pompositticut Plantation, which was the beginning of today's Stow. She'll be speaking about different generations of the Wetherbee family and how they exemplified the American experience including American expansion and changing times - Jonathan and Sarah Whitman; changing roles of women - Angeline Giles Wetherbee, M.D. and much more.



John Whitherby (c.1642 - 1711) listed as a lott owner in 1681 Stow Town Records.

**Steve Dungan** will be our interviewer for this fun and informative history program. Steve moved to Stow in 1990 and has since become a familiar figure around town. Steve received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biochemistry from Yale University and the University of Michigan respectively. He retired in 2000 from his job as Manager at SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratory in Waltham (now Quest Diagnostics) after 25 years. He brought this expertise to his second career as a volunteer in the Town of Stow. He has served in many capacities including Finance Committee member, Selectman, Stow Food Pantry board member, Council on Aging

board member, Community Chest board member, Stow Community Housing Corporation board member and interviewer extraordinaire for Stow TV.

## So come and learn more about our wonderful little town!

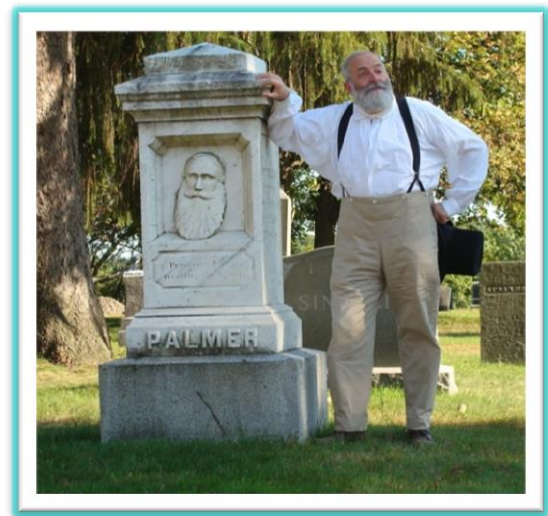
Refreshments to follow.

### Upcoming later this year:

The 2014 West School Museum programming will also include:

- Sunday, August 10, the **West School House Open House**, 3:00 – 5:30 pm
- Sunday, September 7th, the **Back to School program**, 3:00 – 5:30 pm
- Sunday, October 5th, **Storyteller Todd Goodwin's *Stories of New England***, 3:00 pm:

Todd is a master storyteller and vocalist, using his face and voice to ignite the audience's imagination as he transports them to different places in time and space. Todd will weave stories and songs (accompanied by the harmonica) to capture the delight of young and old in a **multi-generational program** (ages 5 and up), featuring New England stories from the Civil War era to the end of the 19th century.



Todd Goodwin as Joseph Palmer, who was persecuted for wearing a beard.

The Stow West School Museum is one of Stow's historic jewels. It was built in 1825 as a one room schoolhouse and used as a school into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Have you passed by the Schoolhouse on Harvard Road and wondered what was inside? Make this the year you find out! The Stow West School Museum Events are run jointly by the Stow Historical Commission and the Stow Historical Society. ***The Stow West School is located on Harvard Road at the intersection with Hiley Brook Road. Convenient parking is across the road.***



Marek Bennett and Woody Pringle

### Upcoming at the Fall Historical Society Meeting:

On Friday, November 14, the Historical Society presents ***The Hardtack Evening***. **The Hardtacks** perform folk music of the Civil War era on period instruments, interspersed with contemporary voices from letters, books, artwork, and historical documents. Year by year, the tumult, tragedies,

and triumphs of the era unfold in the music and words of the people who lived them. Audience members may sing along as they bring the Civil War to life during this **multimedia program**, featuring rally and camp songs, fiddle tunes, parlor music, spirituals, and more. Stow memorabilia and two photo albums will be on display.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

These programs are sponsored in part by a grant from the Stow Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.