



## News from the Stow Historical Society

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

---

September 26, 2014

### Storyteller at Stow's West School House Museum – Sunday, October 5 at 3 pm

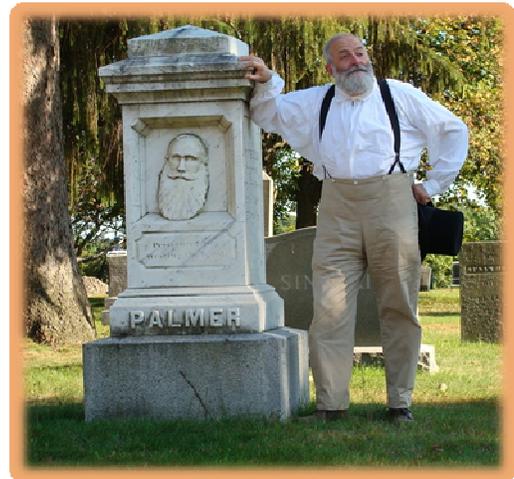
**Sunday, October 5, 2014, 3 – 4 p.m.** - Please join us for an afternoon of *Stories of New England* at Stow's West School Museum. Master storyteller and vocalist, Todd Goodwin, will ignite the audience's imagination as he transports us to different places in time and space.

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 colonial times to the 1960's. One story will feature Joseph Palmer, a member of the *Fruitlands* commune, who was persecuted in 1830 for wearing a beard.

This event is the fourth and last of a series of programs presented jointly by the Stow Historical Commission and the Stow Historical Society.

Refreshments will follow.

The Stow West School is located on Harvard Road at the intersection with Hiley Brook Road. Convenient parking is across the road.



Todd Goodwin as Joseph Palmer



Massachusetts Cultural Council

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Stow Cultural Council which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Upcoming event: The Stow Historical Society presents ***The Hardtack Evening, Saturday, November 15, 7 pm at the Stow Town Hall***



**The Hardtacks: Marek Bennett and Woody Pringle**

**Join** us to commemorate the upcoming 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War with an evening of Civil War folk music by **The Hardtacks**. Arranged and performed for your enjoyment on multiple period instruments and in diverse manners by **Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett**. Their well-known energy is sufficient guarantee that this concert will liberally delight and educate all audiences. 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, photographs and more.

The evening begins at 7 PM with conversation and light finger food and desserts. The folk concert begins at 7:30 PM. ***Attendees are encouraged to bring a finger food dish to share and donations are welcome!***

On display in the Town Hall will be exhibits showcasing Stow's Civil War veterans and the home front activities of the town.

***Historical note:*** Hardtack is a biscuit made from flour, water and sometimes salt. It was frequently carried by soldiers and sailors in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (and earlier). The word “tack” is British sailor slang for “food.” It was indeed very hard, but it was nonperishable making it an ideal way to carry sustenance on long campaigns or at sea; it could actually last for years! It needed to be dunked in a liquid before consuming or you might break a tooth or at least damage one. Josiah Bent’s company, founded in 1801 in Milton, MA, supplied the hardtack used by troops during Civil War. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardtack>)