



News from the Stow Historical Society

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

October 11, 2014

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 18th and 19th 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 thehardtack used by troops during Civil War. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardtack>)