



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!*

October 30, 2011

Start the Holidays Right – with a Tour of the Lower Village Cemetery

Join Pilot Grove Farm's Skip Warren for a tour of Stow's Lower Village Cemetery on Sunday, November 6, hosted jointly by the Stow Historical Commission and the Stow Historical Society.

There have been Warrens at Pilot Grove Farm in Stow since 1782, and he has ancestors buried in each of the three cemeteries in the town. He knows his burying grounds!

Everyone interested in Stow history is invited to attend the free tour, which will begin at 2 pm.

The tour will include a discussion of the most memorable site – the Regicide's Grave, believed to hold the remains of William Goffe, one of the signers of the warrant that led to the beheading of King Charles I in England. Goffe was a general in Oliver



Cromwell's army during the 17th Century British civil war. He was a man with a price on his head, fleeing to New England after the monarchy was restored. Goffe is believed to have ended up in Stow – his sister was married to one of Stow's original proprietors – and to be buried under an immense, unmarked slab.

When historians opened the grave in the 1930s, all they found was the nails from the coffin and a skeleton that was missing its head and hands. It's believed that someone took the head to collect the bounty offered on everyone who took part in the king's execution.

During the event, Mike Busch, a member of the Community Preservation Commission, will be available to speak about the improvements made with CPA funds, especially the restoration of the tombstones.

"We wanted to tie this in with Halloween," notes Historical Commission member Karen Gray, "but this is the best date for Skip. It should be a great tour."

The tour will start at the corner of Pompositicut and Great Road. Please park at the shopping center and walk across the town land, which continues from the Lower Common to the Cemetery. If the weather is inclement, the event will be postponed until next spring. Please check the Historical Society website (www.stowhistoricalsociety.org) for an announcement.



The Regicide's Grave, Nails from the coffin

