



# Stow's Historical Attic

**Pop Quiz:** What do the Stow Musket, Elijah Hale's walking stick, "The Stow Regicide's" coffin nails, the 1846 Stow Town Report and the painting of the Lower Common on display in Randall Library all have in common?

## Answers:

**1. They're all parts of Stow's history** – artifacts, each in their own way, of people who lived here, its growth through 300-plus years and its way of life in times past, preserved by the Stow Historical Society, Ancient Documents Committee, Historical Commission and other groups.

- **The Stow Musket**, acquired last spring, reflects Stow's commitment to the American Revolution. Stow soldiers not only fought the British force that marched on Concord on April 19, 1775, they served at Bunker Hill, Saratoga and on other campaigns. The musket is believed to have been obtained by Ichabod Stow while on duty in Rhode Island.
- **Elijah Hale's walking stick** is a reminder of the prominent Stow businessman who helped launch the woolen mills that became Gleasondale, and whose gifts to the town included funds for Hale High School – still with us in name at Hale Middle School.
- **The nails are all that was left** of the Regicide's coffin, buried in 1688, when it was dug up in the 1930s. Along, of course, with the Regicide's headless skeleton.
- **The 1846 Town Report** was the first of Stow's official reports of government officers, activities, statistics, income and expenditures, produced each year ever since, including the one you're holding in your hands.
- **The Lower Common painting**, created by Louisa Hosmer Cheney, gives us an image of Stow's original grassy center as it appeared in the 1820s (prominently showing off, of course, the house and law office of her father, "Squire" Rufus Hosmer).

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**On the Cover:** Artifacts in Stow's historical collections include (clockwise from top) Louisa Hosmer Cheney's painting of the Lower Common; nails from the Regicide's coffin; the Stow Musket; Dr. Livermore's tooth extractor; a section of Stow trolley rail and spikes; an inset from the record of the Town Meeting of July 1, 1776, in which Stow voted for independence from Great Britain; a portrait of 19th-Century Stow benefactor Elijah Hale.