

STORIES THAT BRING AMERICAN HISTORY ALIVE
CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

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THE TURKEY REBELLION

This story is a humorous parable about the serious relationship between the English settlers and the Native Americans of the northeast.

Ages 7 and up; 20 minutes

OLD TOWN

Wilmott Redd was the only woman from Marblehead, Ma. accused, tried, and executed for witchcraft during the hysteria that swept through New England in 1692. Based on the authentic trial records, this story unweaves the strands that created a fabric of suspicion resulting in the death of one old woman from a fishing village called Marblehead on Sept. 22, 1692.

Ages 12 and up; 1 hour

THE CRANBERRY THAT STARTED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A lively, original, tall tale that takes place in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1775.

Ages 6 and up; 10 minutes

THE FLAME

Commissioned by Old South Church of Andover for their 275th anniversary, this passionate story explores the life of Mary James Abbott during a pivotal era of the church's history. The demise of Calvinism, the politics of the church, and one woman's deep faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ are the wheels around which this story spins.

Ages 12 and up; 55 minutes

HELL FOR A PICNIC

The dramatic story of an 11-year-old "powder monkey" searching for his father aboard Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 will leave listeners with both an understanding of US fighting frigates, the War of 1812, and the human motivation that draws men and boys to the sea. The old adage that "The man who goes to sea for no reason would go to *Hell for a Picnic*," is well proven through this tale of courage and humanity. Commissioned by the USS Constitution Museum.

Ages 9 and up; 55 minutes.

THE LORD OF DARKNESS

The Irish immigrants of the 1840's brought with them their strong backs, their willingness to work, and their deep Druid beliefs. One of these legends is that the child born on *All Hallows Eve* can see the spirits of the dead. Join eight year old Molly as she searches for her father's spirit before it reaches judgment in the court of the *Lord of Darkness*.

Ages 8 and up; 50 minutes

MEET LUCY STONE

This first person presentation, commissioned by the *Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities*, brings to you the woman many called “the shining star” of the anti-slavery and Woman’s Rights movements. Experience the mid 19th century through the eyes of a Massachusetts woman who dared to speak in public and sway the public sentiment about the two most controversial issues of her time: slavery and the legal subordination of women. From tree stump to concert hall, her powerful oratory, and her courageous example, were instrumental in turning the north toward the cause of immediate abolition. She simultaneously waged a longer battle in support of women’s rights. This fight would outlive Lucy Stone, but forever carry her words, organization, commitment, and vision.

Ages 13 - Adult 60 minutes

WAR: Collierville Tennessee 1863

This story, commission by the Morton Museum of Collierville History, takes you to life inside a small southern town, occupied by the Union army shortly after they took Memphis in June of 1862. You will meet the Conrad family, typical of the times and place, their belief systems and social/political allegiances are much more diverse than history books would allow you to believe. It is 17-year-old Hannah Jean who will draw you into a world of pride, occupation, hunger and loss, during this horrific rupture in the fabric of our nation. You will emerge with a broader understanding of our national past and a new window onto this war.

Ages 11 and up 80 minutes

THEY SAID HER NAME WAS HARRIET TUBMAN

Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman freed not only herself but over 150 others through the Underground Railroad. This story is a dramatic rendition of the childhood that molded the woman called "the Moses of her people."

Ages 7 -11; 20-30 minutes

THE BLUE AND GRAY....WITH RUFFLES ALL AROUND

The Civil War was an era of great growth for women in this country. Meet a 96 year old patriot and a daring spy, two of the many who did rather unusual jobs during that great and terrible national struggle.

Ages 9 and up; 25 minutes

WAGON WHEELS (Story by Barbara Brenner)

This beautiful and touching story follows a family of freed African Americans after the Civil War, as they leave the south to make a new life. Told from the vantage point of an 11-year-old boy, it helps young people relate to powerful historic experiences outside of their own.

Ages 7 and up; 15 minutes

FEYGELAH'S JOURNEY

Jews have wandered all over this globe, bringing with them a sense of humor, resonating historic experiences, and strong values. Meet Feygelah, a woman whose husband having been taken by the Russian army, re plants herself and her children in a new world. From sweat shops to dating, she tries to understand this new world through the values she brought from the old world.

Ages 12 and up; 15 minutes

DINYA'S STORY Dinya, a young Jewish woman from a small shtetl, is promised in marriage to a man she has never met. Travel with her to Chicago, America and learn about culture, adaptation, and love.

Ages 12 and up; 30 minutes.

(Dinya's story was collected by her granddaughter, storyteller Laura Pershin.)

Ages 12 and up; 15 minutes

BREAD AND ROSES

The doctors said they were consumed by tuberculosis, but the daughters who watched their mothers die of poverty and exhaustion in turn of the century urban America pledged themselves to a new course. This is a story about our immigrant mothers' struggles and triumphs: from steamship to sweat shop to a home they could call their own.

Ages 14 and up; 1 hour

THE RABBLE-ROUSER

Do your students know what a union is, and why working people need them? If not, let them ask Mother Jones! Mary Harris Jones was born in 1830. Her life as an agitator, organizer, and advocate of the working man raised the consciousness of turn of the century America.

Ages 9 and up; 15 minutes.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

Throughout WWII, as the boys went off to fight Hitler, Rosie 'manned' the factories and kept the front supplied. With humor and chutzpah (daring), this story explores the issues that women dealt with, on the job, during the war.

Ages 9 and up; 25 minutes

IT HAPPENED HERE

This is the story of one Jewish family's Holocaust experience, as told through the eyes of their teenage daughter. The story is (if requested) accompanied by a workshop drawing the lessons of the Holocaust into the lives of middle and high school students.

Ages 11 and up 50 minutes (story) 50 minutes (workshop)

THE HOME FRONT is a stunning slice of American life from the middle of the war years. Initially commissioned by the US Department of the Interior to create a piece about the women who manufactured the M1 rifles in preparation for D-Day at the Springfield Armory, the artist has fashioned a musical tale. Songs of the era, including I'll Be Seeing You, Rosie the Riveter, You'll Never Know, I'm Old Fashioned, This is the Army Mr. Jones, and others add a poignant depth to a story that punctuates a rich portion of our national history. (A wonderful piece to bind a cross-generational audiences, or help elders recall and celebrate their contributions to our nation)

Ages 12 and up; 1 hour

A NEW NAME

Loan Trihn and her family arrived at my New England home in December 1976 wearing sandals and thin cotton cloths. The story of their journey from a middle class suburb outside Saigon, through war, prison, a secret underground escape, and on to a new life in America, is one that explores the potential and will of human beings in crisis.

Ages 9 and up; 20 minutes