

Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

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www.stowhistory.org

February 2023

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Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

Apr. 1 for May July 1 for Aug.

Oct. 1 for Nov Jan. 1 for Feb.



Photos by Jess Fishel

Hello Stow Historical Society Members,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. The Board of Directors has already been busy establishing a great calendar of events. Be sure to read these activities in this newsletter and mark them in your own calendars.

A special thank you goes to the students and faculty of the Stow Monroe Falls High School and our local Scouting groups for donating many hours volunteering to help the Society. We especially thank the volunteers who decorated the museums for the holidays and who became characters for the Drive Thru.

Looking for a way to help retain the history of our community? Help in volunteering to preserve the museums and the Stow Historical Reserve Park grounds this year. The tasks could include weeding and maintaining the flower beds to repairing the interior and exterior of our museums. Get in contact with a Board Member to see where you can help.

A few larger projects on the 2023 agenda include new roofs on the Minnie Darrow and Mary Starr Houses, repairing the interior of the museums, and gathering options for a more permanent walkway between the parking lot and the Darrow and Starr House along with a pathway to the tool barn. This will greatly improve the access to these buildings.

Please mark the 2023 Harvest Festival dates of September 30th and October 1st on your calendars. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.



Thank you
Bryan Menke ♦

Stow Historical Society Membership Application

Please accept my membership fee for the following type:

- Individual \$10
- Family \$20
- Contributing \$30
- Sustaining \$50
- Business \$100
- Lifetime \$200

Membership Total Enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Volunteer Interests (circle)

Archives Building & Grounds Festival School Tours

Other _____

Date _____

Mail application and personal check to: Stow Historical Society
PO Box 1425
Stow, Ohio 44224

Calendar

March 9, 2023

Thursday ~ 4:00 pm
Stow Munroe Falls Public Library
Munroe Falls meeting room
Presentation by Teri Seroki
Who is a Civil war re-enacter

April 9, 2023

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm
Heritage House Museum
Open House

April 13, 2023

Thursday ~ 4:00 pm.
Stewart School house
Stow Bulldog Bag presentation
by Stow Alumni Laura Root
Bring any Stow school day
memories to share!

June 8, 2023

Thursday ~ 4:00 pm.
Stewart School house
Stow was a farming community!
Stories from growing up on a Stow Farm!

June 11, 2023,

Heritage House Museum
Open House

July 9, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm
Heritage House Museum
Open House

August 10, 2023

Thursday ~ 6:00 pm.
Annual potluck Picnic
Please Join us for an after dinner Nature
stroll around the museums!
Heritage Barn at Silver Springs
Please bring a side dish to share
The Historical Society will provide
the meat and drinks

August 12, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm
Heritage House Museum
Open House

September 14th mtg. 4:00

September 30-October 1 ~ Harvest Festival

October 12th mtg. 4:00

Nov. 9th mtg at 4:00

Holiday events and dates:

More details will be released in the next
newsletter!

"History is instructive. What it suggests to people is that even if they do little things, if they walk on the picket line, if they join a vigil, if they write a letter to their local newspaper... Anything they do, however small, becomes part of a much larger sort of flow of energy. And when enough people do enough things, however small they are, then change takes place."

- Howard Zinn,

A VISIT TO STOW CEMETERY

BY BETH DAUGHERTY

Take a walk through Stow Cemetery (Kent Road) and you will find yourself walking through more than 200 years of Stow History. Established in 1809, the cemetery contains over 7,500 graves. Many familiar local names, such as Wetmore, Ritchie, Gaylord, Stow, Durbin, Campbell, and Graham, reside here. Other names are not as well known, but nevertheless, are part of our local history. Sections A and C are the oldest sections of the cemetery

THE OLD GROUND

Joshua Stow acquired Town 4, Range 10, (Stow Township) when the Connecticut Land Company began selling newly formed townships in a lottery in 1798. Joshua then hired his cousin William Wetmore from Middleton, Connecticut as his land agent.

Joshua Stow made numerous trips on horseback to the Stow area, but never lived here. William Wetmore, however; moved to Stow Township in 1804 with his family and a party of other settlers. As William sold lots and settlers continued to arrive, there was a growing concern of the need of a “burying ground” for the new community. The site selected was a part of Josiah Wetmore’s farm and became known as “The Old Ground,” and later as Section A of Stow Cemetery.

The first burial was in 1809, when Elizabeth Gaylord, wife of Jonathan Gaylord Sr., died a short time after mak-

ing the trip from Connecticut. Legend has it that as the early settlers needed places for burials, they would choose their own location and as large a plot as they thought they might need for their family, and paid for their lot in labor by clearing away briars and brambles from



their lot. After about 200 burials, the township trustees retained a surveyor to determine the lot lines surrounding the headstones and known graves for each family. Thus “The Old Ground” became Section A.

SECTIONS B-I

About 1859, the trustees raised \$375 to buy a new burying ground, Section C, which was located east of Section A to the eastern property line, also fronting on Kent Road. The first church building in Stow Township was built in 1831, just west of Section A. It was used for worship services until 1876 when the congregation moved to a new church built at Stow Corners. When the old church was torn down, the old churchyard was purchased and it became Section B.

In 1915, additional land was purchased and Section D was added. In 1923, the cemetery was expanded to the south to Gorge Park Blvd, thus utilizing all the space into what later would be named Sections E, F, G, H, and I. Three areas in Section A, all in formerly dedicated walkways, are reserved for infant burials and these sections are known as Babyland. The



first burial in Babyland was in 1947.

Monuments include the memorials to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and The War on Terror. Veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and the Spanish-American War are also buried here.



William & Peggy Stow

RESIDENTS

Residents of Section A represent pioneers and settlers, and veterans of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. The four Revolutionary War veterans are Stephen Butler, Jonathon Gaylord, Samuel Gaylord, and Joshua Pendleton. Jonathon Gaylord was married to Elizabeth who died shortly after arriving in Stow Township in 1809. They are the oldest residents of the cemetery, both being born in 1745. Their daughter Margaret (Peggy) married William Stow. He was a ship builder and a veteran of the War of 1812. William and Peggy had ten children. Section A of the cemetery is directly across Kent Road from Holy Family Church and William Wetmore's



Aunt Jane Sturdevant

gravestone is easy to spot from the road. His very prominent grave stone marks his prominence in the community, as he was a judge and a veteran of the War of 1812.

Once you get to Section C of the cemetery you will notice the birth and death dates are mostly in the 1800's. The first burial in this section was in 1839. Three women are of interest here. Mary Jane Sturdevant (born 1827, died 1881) was a much beloved, long-time school teacher in Stow, affectionately called "Aunt Jane". She had a difficult early life, but was taken in by Josiah and Elizabeth Wetmore, and eventually had a house of her own. A beautiful needlepoint created by Mary Jane when she was ten years old is held by Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. Adella Durbin (born 1862, died 1911) was raised by Seth and Lucy Wetmore. She married Robert Durbin in 1880, and Adell Durbin Park is named for her. Adella and Robert's daughter Jessie Williamson became the first librarian of Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. Charlotte Banning (1847-1923) was the founder of Stow Culture Club, still in existence and now known as the Stow Woman's Club.

Stow Cemetery is home to many Stows. Frank Green is buried in Section C in his family plot. Frank was the sexton of Stow Cemetery for many years and was the first to organize the cemetery records. He is a descendant of William Stow on his mother's side. He is also the founder of Stow Historical Society. Frank died in 1968, a few months short of his 100th birthday.

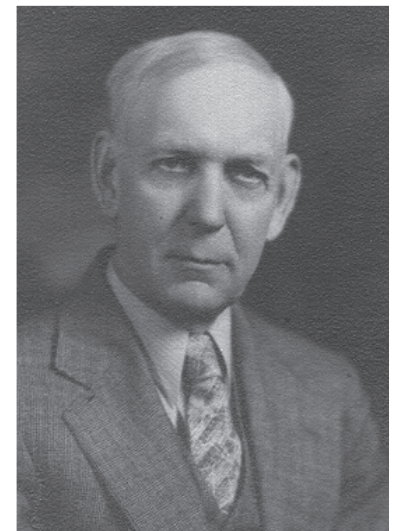
There are many more folks worthy of mention, but you can discover them yourself by taking a stroll through the history of Stow at Stow Cemetery. ♦



Charlotte Banning



Adella Durbin



Frank Green

STOW HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1425
STOW, OH 44224

Heritage Reserve Store

Stow Historical Society offers products for sale with proceeds going toward the maintenance and preservation of the collection. Contact a Board Member if interested. Items include:

Heritage Plates: \$4 each



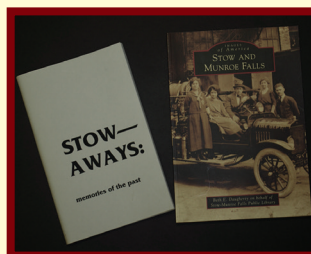
Images of America:

Stow and Munroe Falls by Beth E. Daugherty: \$22.

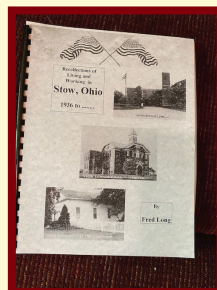
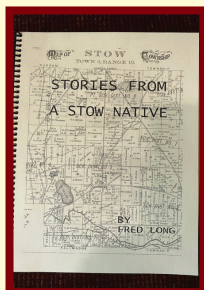
Stow-Aways:

Memories of the Past by Garnet Byrne: \$3.

*Recollections of Living and Working in Stow, Ohio
1936 to..."* by Fred Long: \$15.



Stories of a Stow Native
by Fred Long: \$25.



Note Cards: 6/\$5

