

Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

Volume 44, Issue 4

www.stowhistory.org

November 2022

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Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

Jan. 1 for Feb. Apr. 1 for May

July 1 for Aug. Oct. 1 for Nov



The Stow Historical Society's 43rd annual Harvest Festival was a resounding success thanks to the dedication of SHS Board members and legions of volunteers. Boy Scouts assisted craft vendors as they arrived. House guides greeted visitors to each of the three historic houses and one-room school house, and the volunteer kitchen crew served up delicious refreshments. Student Council, National Honor Society, and Interact Club students volunteered in various capacities, including labeling the apple butter stirred by the Houston Morgan family. Blacksmiths, weavers, and the Tree City Carvers demonstrated old time crafts. The Menke family provided the small farm animal petting area, and Stow Parks and Recreation provided pumpkins for painting.

Approximately 40 crafters and artisans were located in the Heritage Barn, antique tool barn, and on the grounds. The sales table crew accepted over 50 donations from vendors and sponsors. They also sold raffle tickets, books, plates, memberships, and apple butter. Apple butter, by the way, was completely made on site and sold out to the last pint. Thank you to the Model T Club (Saturday) and the Corvair Club (Sunday) for sharing their automobiles with visitors. Thanks to musicians Rock, Salt & Nails, Dale Galgozy, JD & Ken, and Callahan & O'Connor for filling the air with music.

Announcer Tom Stephan kept the excitement going with ongoing announcements throughout both days. Thank you also to Tom for emceeding the winning of the raffle tickets. Corporate and individual sponsors were a huge help in supporting the Festival. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Special thanks to Tammie Menke, vendor coordinator, and the Board members for planning and preparing for the festival. More special thanks to Houston Morgan, who has attended - and worked - at every Harvest Festival since the first one in 1978! ♦



Welcome to our fall newsletter. It is hard to comprehend how time passes so quickly. With that in mind I had to do a Google search on “time flies” and this is what I found. This idiom is an English translation of the Latin proverb, “tempus fugit,” coined by Roman author Virgil in the first century BC. To be precise, he wrote, “fugit inrepairable tempus,” which translates as, “it escapes irretrievable time.”

It seems that as we get older that time does fly by. It is amazing how all the hours of planning for our yearly Harvest Festival paid off, and the event has passed quickly. Now we start the process all over again for the 2023 Festival.

Your Historical Society revolves around time. We are preserving and educating about the past times in Stow. The Heritage House circa 1849, Minnie Darrow House circa 1847, Mary Starr House circa 1849 and the Stewart School House circa 1880’s are all historic buildings that have deep roots in Stow’s history and are filled with artifacts donated from many original Stow families.

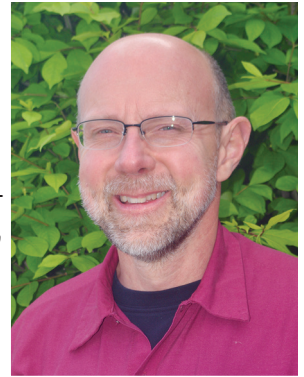
To help educate our younger generations about the past, the Society will once again offer the 3rd Grade students the opportunity to visit the museums and learn firsthand from our history volunteers. Our recorded virtual tour was a great resource during the last 2 years of lock-down, but having the children physically visit

the museums affords them the opportunity see for themselves and ask questions.

Now let me write about a different variation of time – volunteer time. According to another on-line search, the current estimated national value of each volunteer hour in the United States is \$29.95 taken from the Value of Volunteer Time Report announced in April 2022. In our Society many different individuals dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making and preserving the Stow Historical Society. This adds up to hundreds of hours. From the volunteers of the past to all the volunteers of the last Harvest Festival, none of this would have been accomplished without you. We thank you and our sponsors for their support and time given to the Society.

As you may have noticed, my theme centered around different meanings of time. Be sure to make more time for your family and friends before time flies by. Our lives are so busy anymore, we find ourselves always wanting to find more time. We just need to make it happen.

Thank you
Bryan Menke ♦



Festival Volunteers

Planning and working the festival:

The Stow Historical Society Board of Trustees:
John Baranek, Ammie Brigger, Tim Burns, Karen Fritschel, Bryan and Tammie Menke, Houston Morgan

All-around helpers:

Stow-Munroe Falls High School National Honor Society
Stow-Munroe Falls High School Student Council
Stow-Munroe Falls High School Ineract Club Studenta
Scouts: Crew 2177, Troop 177, Pack 3177

Raffle table and apple butter sales:

Bob Megesy, Jeanie Menke, Kim Muzic,
John and Beth Daugherty

Food Table:

Rachel Brownridge and family, Donelyn Knoop,
The Kirpick family and scouting friends!

Apple butter: The Morgan family

Blacksmiths: Bob Reed and Ben Delaney

Weavers: Claire Bourguet and Jill Griffiths

Wood carvers: Tree City Carvers

]Museum House Guides:

Christine Baker (churning butter)

Pat Bilderback

Tim Burns

Mike and Suzanne Call

Beth Daugherty

Doris Deleandro

John Duckworth

Karen Fritschel

Marcia Gilmore

Larry Long

Bob Megesy

Bryan and Tammie Menke

Denny Reiser

Teri Siroki

Donna and Martha Urbank

Announcer: Tom Stephan



Festival Photos by Tim Burns & Tammie Menke



Heritage Park Holiday Drive-Thru

Dec. 11 | 6 – 7 p.m.

Silver Springs Park / 5238 Young Road

Take a ride back in time!

Drive through to see the homes decorated as they would have been when they were built, and view a bustling farming village complete with carolers, a town crier, farmers, villagers, visual demonstrations by the historical society, a historic St. Nick with a treat for the kids, and more!

Starting Dec. 11 - lights will be on each evening from 5-10pm through Jan. 2, 2023.

Hosted by the City of Stow Arts Commission
in collaboration with the Stow Historical Society.

For more information, visit stowohio.org



Calendar

November 10, 2022,

Thursday ~ 7 pm

School House

Meeting

presentation by Denny Reiser
on Lighthouses

Heritage Park Holiday Drive Thru

Planning / sign- ups

December 8, 2022,

Thursday ~ 7 pm

Heritage House Museum

Meeting

Old Fashioned Caroling Party

December 11, 2022,

Thursday ~ 6-7:30 pm

Heritage Park Holiday Drive Thru

April 9, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm

Heritage House Museum

Open House

June 11, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm

Heritage House Museum

Open House

July 9, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm

Heritage House Museum

Open House

August 12, 2023,

Sunday ~ 2-4 pm

Heritage House Museum

Open House

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

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

By Beth Daugherty

Did you know that Stow had a community newsletter in the 1930's and 1940's? It was a great way for people to learn about local and national issues, catch up on news about their neighbors, shop local ads, learn a little history about their town, find out what new books were at the library, and be inspired by uplifting sermons. **The Community Church News** was published from 1934 to 1948 with 52 issues a year. It contained articles, essays, and tidbits about local people and events during two important time periods in American history – the Great Depression and World War II. **The Community Church News** is a cultural spotlight on the daily life of Stow and Munroe Falls residents during that time.

The Community Church News was the brainchild of H.J. Stockman, who was editor and publisher for the entire run of the newsletter. Mr. Stockman and his wife Willie Vei were members of the Community Church



Stow Community Church -located on Elm Road.
The church was dedicated in 1920.

of Stow. In a 1979 **Stow Sentry** article Mr. Stockman explained that he started the newsletter to help the church members become better acquainted with each other. Since the newsletters contained so many items of interest, he also found himself with many subscribers who were not church members.

As stated in the Introduction in the first newsletter: "The purpose of this paper is to make the members and prospective members of Stow Community Church better acquainted with one another, more interested in one another and more concerned about the Sunday Services. We are to have an editor and we hope—regular weekly news items from the choir, the Christian Endeavor, the Deacons and Deaconesses, the Ladies' Guild, the Minister, the Sunday School, the trustees, and from anyone else who would have something special..."

The first issue was published Friday, January 26,



Stow Dairy – located directly south of Stow Community Church – was a prominent advertiser in **The Community Church News**

1934 and was only four pages long, with no photos, but plenty of advertisers. Businesses placing ads included Stow Dairy, Stow Hardware, Baughman's Feed Store, and Fisher's Stow Market. Mr. Stockman stated that he didn't originally want to advertise, but he had to sell ads to pay for supplies and mailing. During the Depression, he went door to door to sell ads for a penny a word or from three to five dollars a page for a business ad. Mr. Stockman, who was a chemist at Goodyear, spent his evenings gathering news and editing. A volunteer from church, Esther Shakespeare, did the typing. Mrs. Stockman, known as the "Circulation Department," folded and addressed the issues. Every Thursday night the paper would go to press, and the paper would be delivered every Friday. Mr. Stockman even purchased his own printing press and ink which he set up in his basement. He declared that he spent more time on the newsletter than he did at Goodyear!

Every issue contained a message from the minister, Rev. George M. Hulme. After Rev. Hulme retired in 1946, guest ministers wrote the minister's column. Besides official church news, such as choir meeting dates, committee meetings, services, and so forth, the newsletters contained announcements about the personal activities of congregants. For example, birthdays, anniversaries, hospitalizations, graduations, deaths, vacations, and just simple everyday occurrences were published. This was a great way for folks to find out what was going on with their neighbors. No social media back then! For example, in the **Personal Mention** column of issue 3 of the 1934 volume, we learn that:

Mr. Howard E. Ferris flew up last week from St. Petersburg, Fla. in an Austin. He returned in a new Plymouth. He expects to be back again next week driving the old reliable Studebaker. And Mrs. C. F. Meredith on Marhofer Ave. was sick in bed the for part of the week but is able to be up and around now.

A popular column was written by Local Historian Frank Green. Frank was at one time the sexton of Stow Cemetery and was a charter member of Stow Historical

Society. He was also the author of **Biographical and Historical Data of Stow**. His columns shared the history of people, places, and events in Stow Township.

A very significant feature of **The Community Church News** during the World War Two years was the inclusion of letters from soldiers stationed around the world. Mr. Stockman mailed copies of the newsletter to every local person in service. He recalled that his biggest thrill was receiving hundreds of letters from service men and women from all around the globe. He reprinted those letters, including pictures, and kept the people at home in touch with their loved ones. Almost 600 readers were in all branches of the armed forces.

By the December 1948 issue of **The Community Church News** it had grown to 32 pages. However, there is a message in the that issue from Mr. Stockman, requesting that folks send in their subscriptions or the paper may not continue. It seems enough folks did not renew, as that issue was to be the last.

A set of original bound volumes of **The Community Church News** were donated by the Stockmans to Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library and are part of the Local History Collection. They are limited to library use only because of their rare and fragile nature. However, thanks to federal funding from an Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded through the State Library of Ohio and local funding from the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library, **The Community Church News** is now available as an on-line database. This is truly a treasure for our community. The on-line database is searchable by keyword, such as name or place. Or one can select an issue to browse. Many thanks are due to long-time Stow resident Fred Long for spending so much time creating this searchable database. I urge you to take a look at the database on the library's website (<http://www.smfpl.org/ccn>) and search for a name. You may find information about an ancestor, such as a letter or wedding photo or graduation announcement, that you never knew existed. ♦

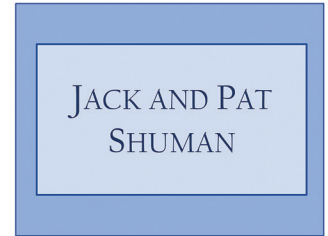
"History isn't about dates and places and wars. It's about the people who fill the spaces between them."

— Jodi Picoult



Festival Sponsors

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