

Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

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www.stowhistory.org

February 2021

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Hello Everyone and Happy New Year,

I would like to introduce our newly elected Board members that will positively reshape the Society for 2021. Their goals of increasing membership and bringing multiple programs for all members to enjoy are just the beginning tasks on their agenda.

Vice President – Meredith Morgan

Trustee – Kate Frickey

Recording Secretary – Ammie Brigger

Trustee – John Baranek

Corresponding Secretary – Tammie Menke

Trustee – Houston Morgan

Treasurer – Meg Griffin

We hope to move all programming and festivals into 2021 as the world pandemic subsides. With what little we could accomplish in 2020, we managed to get the Darrow and Starr house exteriors painted while we continue to budget for exterior siding in the future. We were fortunate to have the Society pay for materials and volunteers from Stow Scout Venturing Crew 2177 to provide the labor. As of today, all of the Historic buildings are in good shape with no foreseeable major expenses in the future.



For the first time in over 35 years with the assistance of the City of Stow, we gathered volunteers to decorate all the buildings with wreaths and garland around the windows, lit Christmas trees in the Heritage and Darrow houses, and put LED candles in all the windows. Our plan to hold open houses with caroling had to be put on hold until next year. Thank you to the many volunteers from the Society and their families who made wreaths, garland, and bows to help decorate the houses. We also received help from the Stow Munroe Falls National Honor Society, the City of Stow, and the Arts Commission.



Stow Historical Society
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Thank you to members Ted and Laura Root who volunteered to dust off our pump organ in the Heritage House and played several arrangements to be sure it was in working order. Hopefully they can use this organ for or next holiday festivities.

Stow Historical Society is grateful to our long time members and volunteers Bob and Cathy Flower for years of service on the Board and at the Festival. They have passed their SHS duties on to other members, and we wish them the best in retirement.

Thank you for the generosity of the Board members who donated hot chocolate cases to December Bulldog Bag Drive. We hope to continue to support and grow this local organization in the future.

I'm pleased to announce our new curator is Dave Gates who also works with the Summit County Historical Society. Please read his bio in this newsletter. Thank you to Beth Daugherty for all her endless work as the Society's past curator.

I personally want to thank all who volunteer to preserve and maintain our collection of buildings and artifacts and educate the citizens of Stow and surrounding communities. We have one of the best settings with four historical buildings. Unfortunately only a small percentage of the population knows about this important area of Stow history. My most important goals are to inform people of all ages in our community and increase our Society's membership. If you know of anyone wanting to become a member, volunteer their time to help preserve, or donate to keep our non-profit Society running smoothly, please contact any of our Board members.

Mark your calendars for our next Harvest Festival September 25 - 26, 2021. For any questions or vendor registration, email shsfestival@gmail.com.

Stay safe and healthy. ♦

Bryan Menke
President
Stow Historical Society
stowhistorical@gmail.com

History Mystery

Why does the Jack's Ice sign have 4 holes and what do the numbers 25, 50, 75, & 100 mean?

Answer on Page 7



MEET EDWIN A. SEASON

BY BETH DAUGHERTY

Edwin A. Season lived an adventurous life, experiencing the changes in America in the second half of the nineteenth century. He was born in England in 1837 and sailed to America with his family in 1843, eventually settling in Stow Township in 1844. It was an arduous trip of over six weeks. Edwin's mother died in 1845, and his father James remarried. From the time he was 13 Edwin worked and traveled. When he was 13 his father sent him with a team of oxen to work on the building of the Cleveland, Akron, and Columbus Railroad from sunrise to sundown. According to Edwin his first day on the job was "the longest and tiredest day I ever saw." By 1855, Edwin had followed an uncle to Minnesota, traveling by boat from Cleveland to Detroit, then by railroad to Chicago, then by river boat to Red Wing, Minnesota. From there he walked twenty-five miles to Cannon Falls, stayed the night, and walked another five miles the next day to reach his Uncle's house.

Edwin moved between Minnesota and Stow until he joined the First Minnesota regiment, Company F, in 1861 and fought in the Civil War. He participated in several major battles, including the First Battle of Bull Run, Battle of York Town, Battle of Mechanicsville, Battle of South Mountain, and the Battle of Antietam. In letters to his friend Mary, Edwin described the har-

rowing battlefield scenes, and wrote that "I never want to see another battlefield." After Antietam (September 1862), Edwin came down with typhoid fever and was sent to convalesce at the U.S. Patent office turned hospital in

Washington D.C. After being discharged from the Army he settled in Darrowville and married Emma Call in 1866. He found work as the yard master with the Pennsylvania Railroad. He was the next to the last surviving member of the First Minnesota when he died in June, 1936 at the age of 98. Edwin and Emma are buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Darrowville (Stow, Ohio). Seasons Road in Stow is named after the family.

Stow Historical Society is fortunate to have received copies of Edwin's letters written during the Civil War to his friend Mary (most likely the sister of Emma Call). If you would like to read Edwin's first person account of his experiences see the Stow Historical Society website at:

<https://stowhistory.org/category/edwinaseason/>. ♦



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



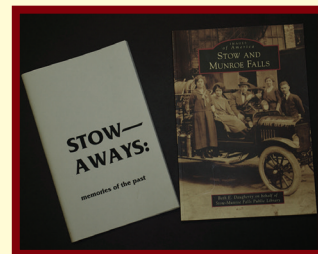
Apple Butter \$5.50 per jar



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

Stow-Aways: Memories of the Past by Garnet Byrne \$3.00

Note Cards 6/\$5



Remembering our Mom, Peg Griffin

by Meg Griffin, Kate Frickey, and Mike Griffin

When both of your parents are history buffs, you learn your history, not out of textbooks, but by life adventures. From our dad it was during our cross country camping trips, civil war battle fields, etc. From our mom, it was her own backyard-Stow, Ohio.

When we moved to Stow in 1966, one of the first things Mom did was join the Stow Historical Society. Lib Cowles (the first President of the Society) became one of her dearest friends. We can remember as kids going with Mom to peoples' homes to hear about the history of Stow-the Wetmore and Graham homes, the Indian encampment at Stow Pond (Silver Lake), Joshua Stow's surveying party, etc. Her Peg James' book, listing the early settlers in the cemeteries, was constantly with her for reference. We remember visiting Mr. and Mrs. Troyer's beautiful early home, visiting on Mrs. Workman's front porch, and many others. (She used the information from these visits to help with research for the Fred Long book on Stow.)

Then the big excitement happened! In 1972, Heritage House (built in 1849) was moved from Graham Rd. and Fishcreek by Stanley Boltz (the developer for a new bank that would be located at the location) to Silver Springs Park. It was the first of the homes restored and maintained by the Stow Historical Society there. Of course, Mom brought us along too! In our childhood remembrances, Meg and Kate remember Heritage House initially as a dirty old home with lots of cleaning to do and creaky

floors. Mike can remember playing outside on the piles of dirt (from digging the foundation) and the blinkers on the tanker units across the street while the cleaning was going on inside. He even found a unique piece of barbed wire outside - one of our first artifacts.

And that is really where the fun began. After the house was cleaned, people starting bringing in their memorabilia that had been in their families for generations - the early history of Stow - to fill Heritage House. We remember as each of the artifacts was brought in, Mom and the other adults would document them and their history (stories). It then became our "play house". We knew there were things we could touch and some things we couldn't.

The festivals began to raise money for Heritage House, and the later homes, Mary Starr house and Minnie Darrow house. More fun!! The Strawberry Festival started with cutting up strawberries in the basement of Heritage House and serving them in boats of vanilla ice cream. That turned into the Joshua Stow Fest with the Civil War re-enactors and their cannon and fashion shows wearing the historic clothing from the house (nothing like wearing a long wool skirt on a hot July day!). The Harvest Festival with the vendors and craftsmen - candle makers, caning chairs, and dulcimers - and of course making apple butter with the Morgan family. So many volunteers to help - many fun and social times together! Dad would help with



Peg Griffin at the Harvest Festival

cashiering at the kitchen -so much delicious homemade food, and pies (homemade by members and from Mrs. Osman) and apple dumplings! Again, fun time again in the basement, peeling the apples for the apple butter! Mom and the other ladies would dress up in the long period dresses to give tours of Heritage House (they continued these tours with the Third Grade school tours and Sunday afternoons throughout the year).

Another fun memory was the annual Christmas party. Only Mrs. Troyer, and a Stow High School music teacher were allowed to play the pump organ in the parlor. It was so much fun to have the house decorated for Christmas and a crowd of people singing Christmas carols enjoying pop corn and hot apple cider. Our involvement continued as we became teenagers with the Explorer and Boy Scouts, again with the Morgan family. We made many good friends and had many good times together at the Historical Society homes. Our friendships have continued today, many of us are now on the Stow Historical Society Board. Mom's active involvement in the Stow Historical Society continued until her death in 2003. We are so appreciative of the wonderful childhood memories that she and Dad gave to us and the years that we have had at Heritage House (our playhouse). ♦



Peg Griffin with her children - Mike, Meg, Kate and Tom

Now is a good time to renew your Stow Historical Society membership. Checks should be made out to Stow Historical Society. Please copy the Membership application and give them to your friends. **Please include your email address if you would like to be contacted by email.** Your address will not be shared with any other organization. Thank You.

Stow Historical Society Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please accept my membership fee for the following type:

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

Membership Total Enclosed _____ Date _____

Volunteer Interests (circle)

Archives Building & Grounds Festival School Tours

Other _____

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

INTRODUCING DAVID GATES



chance at a new life, in a faraway place, where they had to make do with what they had or create something from what they could find. How would I have fared in such a time?

In Junior High School, Mrs. Hupp, our World History teacher, introduced our class to the idea that sometimes researching history can lead to unintended results. As the example of a future culture that finds the U.S. Postal Creed, in the town of Pound Laundry, which was actually Washington D.C. These future historians get things a little wrong. Always double and even triple check your facts (or what you think are facts) and sources for accuracy and authenticity.

And in High School, I do apologize to Mrs. Ferner and Mr. Stitt for my (and several other students) constant notion that not all authors of great World Literature had a political or social agenda in mind when penning their works. Or could they just have written a story to get next month's rent? Probably a little bit of both...

What is history? My definition is very simple and, it comes from the word history itself. H. I. Story = Highly Informative Stor(y)ies. These stories tell us about our past but, in a personal way. Something that connects us to that time period or event – something personal we can relate to. It's the human interest side, or just a look at the past that shows us how similar we all are. And in that lies the common thread that ties us all together. History can unite (if we learn from it) or it can divide (if we choose to ignore it) us.

As curator of the Society, I view the way we obtain history, from oral histories, written histories, illustrations and paintings, as well as photographs, just to name a few, as pieces of a puzzle that help us to understand what has happened in our area before us. All of these things tell stories that help us to see into our past. It is my job to sort and recommend which of these items we should keep in our collection to help tell the story that is Stow, Ohio. And then preserve the items that our Board selects for our collection. ♦

As the new curator of the Stow Historical Society, I would like to introduce myself. Some basic facts about me are in order and perhaps a glimpse into my way of thinking about history.

I have been a Stow resident for over twenty years. Growing up in Silver Lake Village I attended Silver Lake Elementary and later Gilbert Roberts Junior High School (the first year it opened) and Cuyahoga Falls High School (class of 1973, boy that sounds like a long time ago...). And no, I never purchased or sold elevator passes at the high school. I have also lived in Munroe Falls and Cuyahoga Falls.

I suppose my interest in history started in elementary school, when we learned about the pioneers who first settled in the "west." Spoiler alert: that was Ohio at one time. Imagine taking a

Calendar

**August 16, 2021,
Monday 6 pm
Society Picnic
Heritage Barn
All are welcome!**

**September 25-26, 2021,
Saturday & Sunday 11am- 4pm
Fall Harvest Festival
Heritage Reserve Park**

Book Review

Diary of an Early American Boy By Eric Sloane

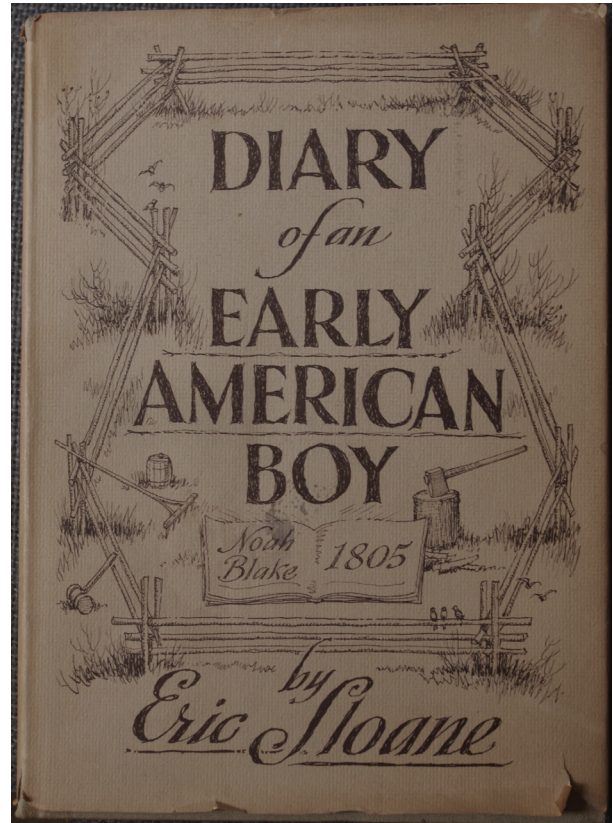
Copyright 1962 by Wilfred Funk Inc.
ISBN 9780308700437

Eric Sloane is a great resource for pioneer and early settler life. His books are copiously illustrated with tools, utensils, and even the buildings used by 19th Century frontier farmers. In *Diary of an Early American Boy*, he uses the progression of the year 1805 for a 15 year-old boy as a vehicle for showing the typical activities and tools that would be used through the seasons. Based on an actual diary, Sloane creates a narrative of a maturing young man.

Some of the objects on display in our Heritage Park houses are mentioned or illustrated, particularly the tools. The illustration also show how they were used. Sloane describes how some of the typical jobs that needed to be done on a pioneer farm were accomplished. Just how did these early farmers remove the stumps from the trees they cut down to prepare a field for farming? And what did they do with the stumps?

Sloane has other books about tools, barns, and weather that are good references. *Diary of an Early American Boy* has a gentle story to go with it. Anyone who enjoys meeting visitors in our Heritage Park houses can benefit from reading this book. It is still in print and is available in the Akron-Summit County Public Library. ♦

- John Duckworth



Bulldog Bag Collection

The Stow Historical Society is helping to collect items for Bulldog Bags.

Bulldog Bags, Inc. is an all-volunteer-managed, community, non-profit business that was organized to address food insecurity in children in the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District. Weekend food programs for students are designed to supplement the students' educational process. The link between hunger and education is

undeniable. Children who go hungry are more likely to exhibit higher levels of anxiety, irritability, hyperactivity, and aggression which affect all-around school performance.

March items are microwave pasta cups, small bags of goldfish, band-aids, and small hand sanitizer due March 10th. Donations can be dropped off at City Hall, or contact a Board member for pick up. ♦

History Mystery

With 4 holes, a different number can be upright. When hung in the window, the upright number let Jack's delivery man know how many pounds of ice the homemaker wanted. Ice was delivered in 25 pound blocks.

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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PERMIT 618

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH 44224