
Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

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www.stowhistory.org

May 2022

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Stow Historical Society

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Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

July 1 for Aug. Oct. 1 for Nov.
Jan. 1 for Feb. Apr. 1 for May

Introducing: Mira Scarnecchia

Hi all! My name is Mira Scarnecchia. I am a Northeast Ohio native and have recently returned to the area after doing my undergraduate degree and working in D.C. I am enjoying re-exploring the area and the fun activities that it has to offer including hiking and biking in the Cuyahoga Valley and cheering on the Browns. I am currently entering my last semester of the Master of Information and Library Science program at Kent State. I am doing the Digital Humanities pathway in the program which has allowed me to focus on learning more about the emergence and application of digital tools in the humanities. I have had the opportunity to take classes such as “Cultural Heritage Informatics” and “The Academic Library” to further my learning on these topics.

One class that I took last semester, “Preservation and Conservation of Heritage Materials” included a project for which we were to work with a local information institution to conduct a preservation assessment. I selected the Stow Historical Society for this project due to my interest in the local history and its proximity to Kent State.

Tammie Menke, the Stow Historical Society Secretary, was incredibly helpful to me by allowing me to access the Heritage House for this project and providing me with lots of details about the cultural heritage resources and the House itself. I visited the Heritage House multiple times over the course of this project and measured some of the environmental factors in the Heritage House that can affect the ability to preserve cultural heritage objects. I also was able to study the condition of the cultural heritage objects themselves. I recorded my observations and recommendations for the preservation of the collection in the Preservation Assessment that I submitted to both my instructor and the Stow Historical Society. I was overall very impressed by the effort and care that the Stow Historical Society has put into ensuring that the objects included in the Heritage House collection are well preserved. I hope to continue to be involved in the Stow Historical Society in the future! ♦



Calendar

May 7, 2022,
Saturday~ 10-Noon
Heritage Reserve
Clean up the flower beds
around the museums.

June 4, 2022
Saturday~ 10-Noon
Heritage Reserve
Begin preparations for
September Harvest Festival.

June 9, 2022,
Thursday~ 7 pm
School House
Denny Reiser presents Ohio
Prehistorical Cultures

June 12, 2022,
Sunday~ 2-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Museums Open for Tours

July 10, 2022,
Sunday~ 2-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Museums Open for Tours

August 6, 2022,
Saturday~ 10-Noon
Heritage Reserve
Caring for the Museum grounds.
Festival Preparation Continues!.

August 11, 2022,
Thursday~ 6 pm
Heritage Grounds
Annual Picnic

August 14, 2022,
Sunday~ 2-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Museums Open for Tours

September 8, 2022,
Thursday~ 7 pm
School House
Beth Daugherty presents
History of the Darrow Family

September 10, 2022
Saturday~ 10-Noon
Heritage Reserve
Prepare for Harvest Festival.

September 11, 2022,
Sunday~ 2-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Museums Open for Tours

September 24, 2022,
Saturday~ 10 am-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Harvest Festival Day 1

September 25, 2022,
Sunday~ 10 am-4 pm
Heritage Reserve
Harvest Festival Day 2

October 13, 2022,
Thursday~ 7 pm
School House
Meeting
Program TBD

November 10, 2022,
Thursday~ 7 pm
School House
Meeting
Program TBD

The Heritage Reserve In Silver Springs Park is located at 5238 Young Road, Stow, Ohio 44224

*"A generation which ignores history
has no past and no future."
- Robert Heinlein*

Happy Spring Everyone!

As we all would like to see Winter become history, I'm starting to realize the strength of Old Man Winter as snow is falling as I write this letter in late April! Signs of Spring are starting to show around the Heritage grounds in the form of buds, flowers, and even those dreaded weeds!

A big thank you goes out to our Caretakers and members for preparing our Historic Homes and Schoolhouse for our Open Houses. Our Board, Caretakers, and member volunteers, work along with student volunteers from Stow Munroe Falls High School and Kent State University who assist with hospitality and grounds keeping!

Our first Open House on Sunday, April 10th, from 2:00 till 4:00 was well attended!

Thursday, April 14th our Curator Dave Gates gave a informative presentation on Local Canals. Our May Open House will not be held due to Mother's Day. If you would like a tour of the three Historic Homes and One-room School House in May, please contact us to set-up an appointment.

Our Stow Historical Society Volunteers continue to spread the word about Stow History through presentations to local grade schools, nursing homes, and Cub Scout packs. Please contact us if you have any interest in these presentations.

The Harvest Festival slated for September 24-25th has new extended hours from 10:00 till 4:00 both days. Preparations are on track and progressing well with vendors' registrations pouring in and sponsorships being sold. Business and individual sponsorship are available at:

Preservation Hero - \$500.00 Level,

Curator - \$150.00 Level

Pioneer - \$75.00 Level

It is a great way to support our society, and all sponsors will have a sign thanking them for their support!

If you would like to volunteer in any aspect of the Harvest Festival before or during the event, please contact shsfestival@gmail.com or 330-342-9918 or talk to one of our board members.

We welcome new members!

Please join us at one of our upcoming activities!



Thank you
Bryan Menke ♦

Edwin Williams

1924-2022

Ed was president of the Stow Historical Society for several years. He and his wife, Willa, were life members. Among Ed's accomplishments are the following but not the only ones:

He was instrumental in getting the Stow City Council to designate the area including the houses and barns as the Stow Historical Reserve to protect the historical buildings.

He was project manager for the little barn/workshop and did much of the interior finish work. For many years he and Willa were custodians of Darrow House.

He found Cooper's Mill in Bucyrus as source for supplies for apple butter when the SHS did not have enough people left to peel, cut, and core the raw apples.

He was also the Parade Marshall for the 4th of July Parade. These are just a few of the things that show his dedication to the SHS. ♦



by Houston Morgan

History of Stow Parks

by Beth Daugherty

Like all of the Connecticut Western Reserve, Stow Township was originally a wilderness, and there was no need for parks in the early 1800's. But as Stow and surrounding communities grew in population and became less rural, it became apparent that there was a need for more green space and recreational areas. One of the first people to recognize this was Ralph H. Lodge, who purchased Silver Lake (formerly Stow Lake or Wetmore's Pond) and land around it in 1876. At that time Silver Lake was still part of Stow Township.

Mr. Lodge developed Silver Lake Park on the shores of beautiful Silver Lake as a picnic spot. Eventually this quaint spot became an extensive amusement park with a dance hall, a dining hall, a small menagerie (with bears), swim lake, a hotel, a roller-coaster, and an aquarium. Locals and out-of-towners flocked to the park. The Summit County Farmers Institute had their annual picnic there, and people from Akron and elsewhere arrived by train. Attendance reached over 10,000 a day during the peak years. The arrival of World War I and lack of transportation (no more train service) conspired to shut down Silver Lake Park, and its final season ended in September 1917. The park property was sold and houses built on it. William Lodge went on to become mayor of the newly developed Village of Silver Lake. The park aquarium lives on in the bricks of the New Apostolic Church (formerly the Community Church of Stow), located on Elm Road.

Another visionary who saw the need for green space was Homer Campbell. Mr. Campbell was married to Lottie Durbin, daughter of Robert and Adell Durbin. Lottie's sister was Jessie, who married Don Williamson. In 1939 Homer donated 29 acres of land along Route 91 (Darrow Road) in Stow to be used as a municipal park. The park was in honor of his beloved mother-in-law, Adell Durbin. World War II postponed the development of the park, but it was finally opened in 1948 as the Adell Durbin Park and Arboretum. The first park manager was John Denning who oversaw



Silver Lake Park train station in 1908.



Old Wagon Shed, located in Adell Durbin, and completed in 1950. At one time the shed was used by Stow Historical Society as a meeting place and storage for historical artifacts.

the construction of several buildings at the park. One of the buildings was the Wagon Shed, completed in 1950. For a time it was used by Stow Historical Society for a meeting place and to store historical artifacts. The park's original two lodges were named for Mr. Campbell and Mr. Denning. Howard Gaylord, great-grandson of Munroe Falls Pioneer Jonathan Gaylord Jr., was in charge of security for the park in the early years. Adell Durbin was, and still remains, a popular park in Stow. Many scout meetings, tennis matches, play dates, and family reunions have taken place there.

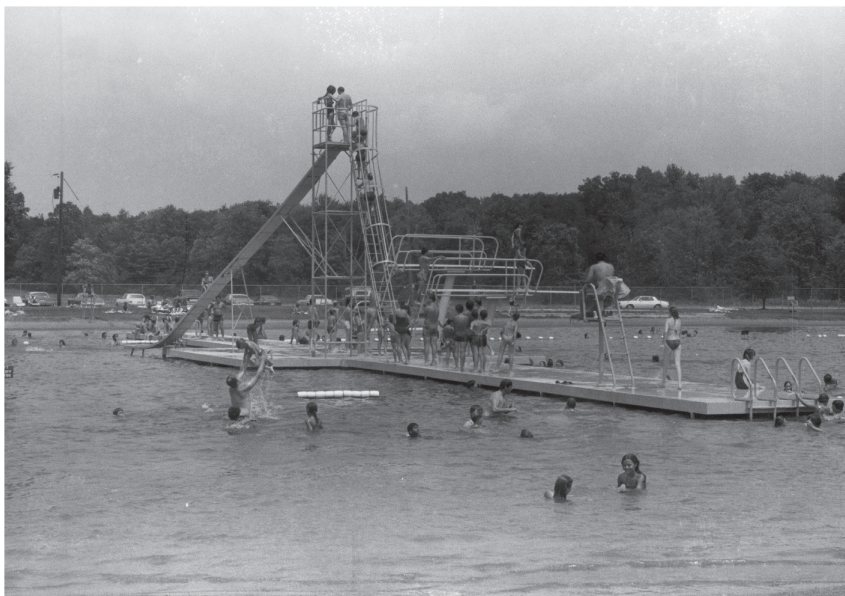
The City of Stow purchased the land for Silver Springs Park in 1967. The Silver Springs campground in the northeastern portion of the park has been operated by the Parks and Recreation Department since 1976

and is one of only a few municipally-operated campgrounds in Ohio. Ken Barnhart has served as park attendant for over forty years. Silver Springs is the largest (280 acres) of Stow's Parks, with hiking trails, tennis and basketball courts, baseball and softball fields, picnic areas, and two lodges. The Leona Farris Lodge (formerly Silver Springs Lodge) at 5027 Stow Road and the Heritage Barn (home base of Stow Players and site of the annual Stow Historical Society Harvest Festival) at 5238 Young Road, are both available for rentals. Heritage Barn is part of the Heritage Reserve Park area of the park, accommodating the historic buildings maintained and operated by Stow Historical Society. Adults and children enjoyed the swimming at the Silver Springs lake for many years. Bow Wow Beach, Stow's dog park, officially opened in June 2007 and is very popular with residents and their pooches.

Stow has several smaller neighborhood parks. The earliest of these was the five acre Wetmore Park, dedicated in 1919. Located on Route 59 between Silver Lake and Stow, it is named for the Wetmore family, early pioneers of Stow Township. The original home of Judge William Wetmore, Joshua Stow's land agent who arrived with a large party of settlers in 1804, still stands nearby. Another notable neighborhood park is Meadowbrook Lake. Sarah Hibbard Amlung, a charter member of Stow Historical Society, along with her husband and brothers, donated the 19-acre lake to the city of Stow in 1966. The property had been part of the family farm located on Hibbard Drive. The lake is surrounded by residences of the Meadowbrook allotment, but is available to the public for fishing. The public entrance to Meadowbrook is at 5069 Hudson Drive. A playground, basketball courts, and picnic area are also available.

Another Stow green space worthy of mention is the Stow Sancturetum, which now includes the Akron General Wellness Walking Trails at Stow City Center. This lovely arboretum was first opened June 29, 2006. The sixteen-acre nature preserve was created on property owned by Paul and Barbara Coleman and acquired by the City of Stow. The Colemans were very active in Stow Historical Society, with Paul being president of SHS in the 1970's. The Colemans built a house on the property, then owned by Roy and Nina Parpat, in 1959. Nancy Kroft, another long-time SHS member, was president of FOSPAR (Friends of Stow Parks and Recreation) at the time of the dedication of the park.

When Joshua Stow first saw the land that was eventually to become Stow Township he described it as "one of the prettiest and most romantic spots in the Western Reserve." Thanks to the foresight of Stow's citizens and the City of Stow, the area still remains one of the prettiest in Northeast Ohio with its beautiful parks. ♦



Silver Springs Park in the 1980's. Children and adults alike enjoyed the swimming and water activities at the lake at Silver Springs.

Stow Historical Society Display at the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

Stow Historical Society is currently exhibiting “Fashions of the Day” at Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. This exhibit features seldom seen items from the Society’s archives collection. The examples of late 19th and early 20th century styles accentuate the importance of accessories when dressing for everyday or a special event. Men and women of that time dressed for the occasion with hats, gloves, hankies, pins, and gloves. A lady would most likely also carry a fan, and a gentleman might wear spats and carry a cane. “Fashions of the Day”, located in the display cases directly behind the Information Desk, will remain on exhibit through Father’s Day, June 19. ♦



Beth Daugherty and Tammie Menke worked together on the library display, gathering the items from the Heritage House Museum. The display will be up through Father’s Day. We hope to be able to put another display in there again.

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

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



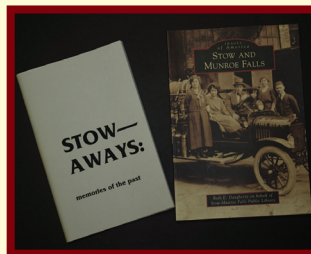
Images of America:

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

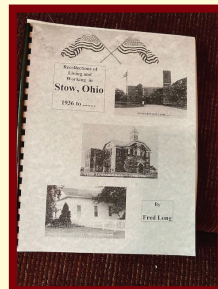
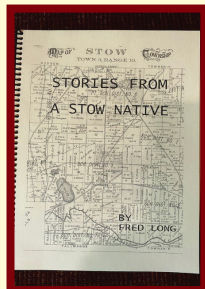
Stow-Aways:

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

