

Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

Volume 45, Issue 4

www.stowhistory.org

November 2023

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Stow Historical Society

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Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

Jan. 1 for Feb. Apr. 1 for May

July 1 for Aug. Oct. 1 for Nov



**Sunny Skies, Vendor Variety and, of Course, Apple Butter,
Made for Another Successful Stow Harvest Festival**

by Neil Durban

Photos by Grace Durban

The 45th annual Stow Harvest Festival, featuring dozens of artisans and vendors attracted hundred of visitors to the Heritage House Museum grounds at Silver Springs Park on a gorgeous September 30th and October 1st weekend.



Apple Butter Boiler

"We had over 60 vendors and demonstrators," noted Tammie Menke, vendor coordinator. Vendors set up shop in Heritage Barn, the Antique Tool Barn, and in booths around the festival grounds. "There were four bands offering a variety of music and a wide variety of activities for people of all



Vendors' Venue

ages," Tammie added.

Two Harvest Festival Institutions, Morgan Family members, and the hundreds of jars of apple butter they pro-



Acoustic Music

Continued on page 2

duced on site during the weekend, made their popular return. Mr. Houston Morgan built on his streak of working every Harvest Festival since the inaugural event in 1978.

Tom Stephan, otherwise known as “The Voice of Stow,” delivered announcements of important festival events in between greeting a steady stream of neighbors, friends, and former students. Perhaps the most anticipated of those announcements



Houston Morgan Holding Court

were the winners of the various raffle prize drawings.

Vintage cars clubs displayed their favorite vehicles, ranging from early 1900s Ford Model Ts to 1960s-era Chevrolet Corvairs.



The Voice of Stow



Non-Dairy Milking



Blacksmith Demo



Mining for Treasure



Tomorrow's Driver, Yesterday's Car

Thanks again to the vendors, artisans, and, especially, the many volunteers, who worked so hard to provide another successful Harvest Festival! ♦



Alpaca and Friend

Calendar

**Times, dates, and locations may change due to the Oct. 15th fire.
Please check the website (stowhistory.org) for up-to-date information.**

November 7, 2023

Leadership Nomination Deadline

Mail to P.O. Box 1425, Stow, Ohio 44224
or email the nominating committee at
jeanie@rrengine.com

November 9, 2023

Thursday, 4:00 – Stow Library
Election and Meeting

Presenter, Gary Beckley, Stow resident and
author of *Oh! Susannah*, historical fiction
based on his own family's civil war stories.

November 19, 2023

Sunday, 2:00-4:00 – Heritage Reserve Park
Museums open

December 14, 2023

Thursday, 6:30 pm – Starr House
Meeting
Old Fashioned Sing Along

March 14, 2024

Thursday, 4:00 – Stow Public Library
Meeting
Michael Lucas presents: "Abolition
Restoration Cemetery workshop"

April 11, 2024

Thursday, 4:00 – Stow Public Library
Meeting
"Life Story" an interview of a long- time
Stow resident! Keep checking the website
for this month's special person!

April 14, 2024

Sunday, 2:00-4:00 – Heritage Reserve Park
Museums open

June 13, 2024

Thursday, 4:00
Former Hanson farm on Call Road
home of Mark and Jackie Ashworth,
Meeting

June 22, 2024

Saturday 10:00-4:00 – Heritage Reserve Park
Stow Historical Society's
Joshua Stow Festival

August 8, 2024

Thursday, 6:00 pm – Heritage Barn
Annual Picnic

September 28-29, 2024

Saturday & Sunday
Heritage Reserve Park
Stow Historical Society Harvest Festival

It is important for all of us to appreciate where we
come from and how that history has really shaped
us in ways that we might not understand.

– Sonia Sotomayor

From the President



If you visited the Stow Harvest Festival September 30th and October 1st, you may have observed the record number of vendor booths and visitors on site this year. Thank you to those who participated or donated to the society's festival to make it a resounding success. This simply would not have happened if it was not for our volunteers lending so many hours of their service and our sponsors' donations. Next year's festival is reserved for the weekend of September 28th and 29th, 2024, and our volunteer staff is planning for the same success.

Our Society's monthly programs continue throughout the year and I would like to bring the following to your attention.

On Thursday at 4pm November 9th we will meet at the Stow Library to listen to Gary Beckley. Gary is a Stow resident and author of "Oh! Susannah" an historical

fiction based on his own family's Civil War stories. This date will also be the deadline for SHS Board nominations for officers starting in December. Please email nominations to jeanie@rrengine.com.

On Sunday from 2-4pm November 18th we will hold our monthly open house tours on the historical grounds at 5120 Young Road. Stop by for a personalized tour.

The Board has unanimously approved bringing back the annual Joshua Stow Festival on Saturday June 22nd, 2024. This one-day event will celebrate our city's founding father. More information will be announced soon.

If you have questions about any events or suggestions for future meetings, please contact any one of the Board members listed on the front page. ♦



As many of you have heard, a fire started in the upstairs of our 1838 Heritage House Sunday morning October 15th. Stow and Kent fire departments responded and they quickly divided into two teams. Half were fighting the working fire and half were assigned to retrieving as much of the interior contents as possible.

Unfortunately we lost most of the items upstairs and the remainder will need to be dried and restored. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

We anticipate working closely with Stow Mayor John Pribonic and Stow Deputy Service Director Mark Anderson in rebuilding the structure and restoring the Heritage House to preserve Stow's history. The Board of Directors will keep you informed on how you can help as soon as our plans are decided.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this difficult time. ♦

Bryan Menke



Heritage House Fire Update and Your Help Needed

On Sunday October 15th, the oldest of our historic houses had a significant fire. The entire upper floor and many of the contents were either lost or damaged with water and smoke from the fire.

The members of the Stow Historical Society are reaching out to all to raise funds to be able to help manage the restoration of the contents that were able to be saved. This is a significant and long process, and we are working with professional restoration organizations to save as much as we can as soon as we are able.

Within the first few days after the fire, we had already been consulting and working with two restoration companies, as well as spending numerous hours of time at the site working on what we can do personally in the restoration.

There is a GoFundMe link (gofund.me/7d564241) on our website stowhistory.org and on our Facebook Page (facebook.com/StowOHHistoricalSociety). Please consider donating through this fund to help in that restoration.

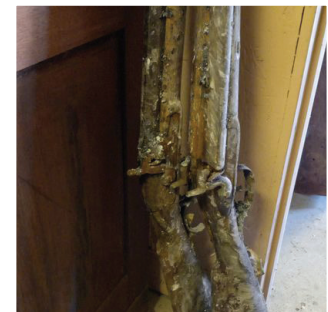
Alternatively, if you would prefer to support our cause with a paper check, it can be mailed to our post office box: P.O. Box 1425 Stow, Ohio 44224. Please make the check out to “Stow Historical Society” with the Memo Section: “Heritage House Fire”. Please continue to look at our Facebook page and website and for updates to this project!

Thank you!

Elizabeth and William Parke built this house in the 1830’s, upon the fifty acres of land they had purchased from the state of Connecticut in what was known as the Western Reserve. The house originally stood near the intersection of Graham and Fishcreek roads.

In later years, the house served as a stage coach stop. One traveler posted a sign outside the house. The sign pointed west and said, “Oregon – 1000 miles.” That intersection was dubbed “Oregon Corners.”

The house was moved to its current location in 1972. Through the efforts of the Stow Historical Society, the Heritage House has been restored and filled with tools, clothing, and furniture to give visitors a perspective on the life of Stow’s early settlers. ♦



First Christian Church of Stow – the Early Days

by Beth Daugherty



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

As the first official place of worship for Stow's early settlers, First Christian Church has a long history in our community. The Disciples of Christ trace their formation in Stow back to 1831, with preacher William Hayden. Members first met in homes, then in a church building located just west of Stow Cemetery on what is now Kent Road. It was used for worship services until 1876 when the congregation moved to a new church built just to the north of Stow Corners, on what is now Darrow Road.

Francis Marion Green was ordained a minister in the Disciples of Christ in 1863 and according to his son, Frank Green, preached in "about every town and hamlet on the Western Reserve and in 27 or 28 states in our Union" – and that included Stow. Reverend Green was a friend and biographer of President James A. Garfield. Garfield, also a member of the Disciples of Christ, was at one time a guest minister at Stow Church of Christ at the invitation of Reverend Green.

By 1922 the congregation had outgrown the 1876 wooden church and was ready to move into a new brick building. Constructed for \$87,000 the church was incorporated under the name Church of Christ of Stow. The old church remained standing next to the new one until it was moved in 1925. It was used as a community hall.

In 1941 the Reverend Leo Gregory purchased a building to be used as a Children's Chapel for the church. Built in 1868, this building had previously served as the Stow

Township Hall and as the Stow Public Library. Reverend Gregory bought the building for \$350 and it was moved next to the church. However, due to materials shortages brought on by World War II, the chapel was not completed and dedicated until August 15, 1948.

The 1950's saw a significant growth in church membership. In 1954 Pastor Theodore Card purchased a 40-passenger bus for the church to transport the young people of the congregation. In 1957, the Church of Christ, previously known as the Disciples of Christ, officially changed the name of the congregation to the First Christian Church of Stow.



FRANCIS MARION GREEN STANDS AT CHURCH PODIUM

First Christian Church remains an active church in Stow today with many ministries, including community outreach. For more information see the church's website at www.firstchristianstow.org. You can also read more about the early history of the church in *History of the First Christian Church of Stow, Summit County, Ohio*. By Robert Taylor Henning Jr., held at Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. ♦



1897 CHURCH CONGREGATION. SEATED SECOND ROW CENTER (WITH ARMS CROSSED) IS ALBERT STOW.

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 _____

Mail application and personal check to:

Stow Historical Society
PO Box 1425
Stow, Ohio 44224

Date _____

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