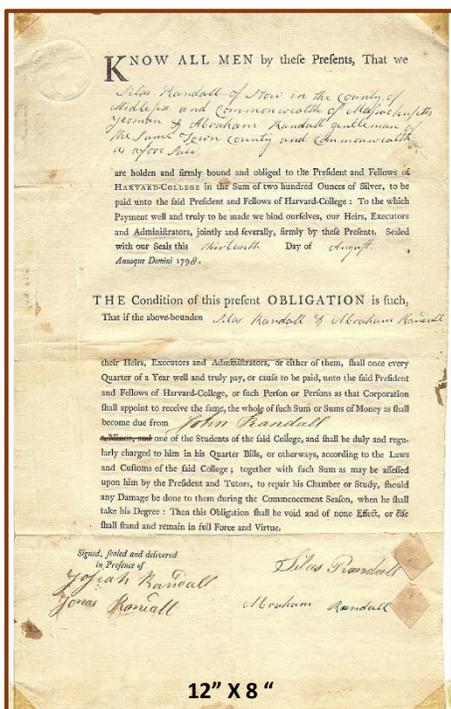


News from the Stow Historical Society

A newsletter for all friends of Stow history. Please feel free to pass it along to others who might be interested!

April 12, 2016

The Story Behind the Randall Documents' Return to Stow Massachusetts to Michigan to New Jersey to Alabama to Massachusetts!

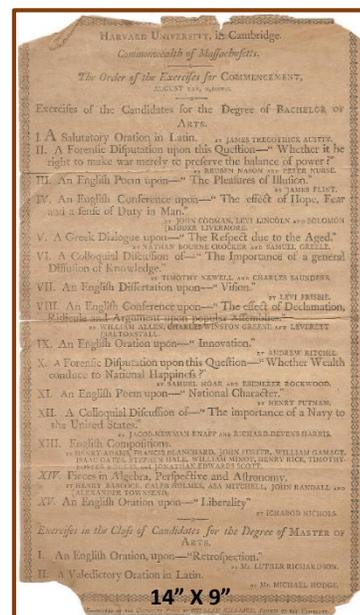


12" X 8"

The two John Randall documents, which were gifted to Stow last month, had been folded and placed in a book long ago. The SHS has learned about part of their 200-year journey back to Stow from Dorothy S, who lives near Mobile Bay, Alabama.

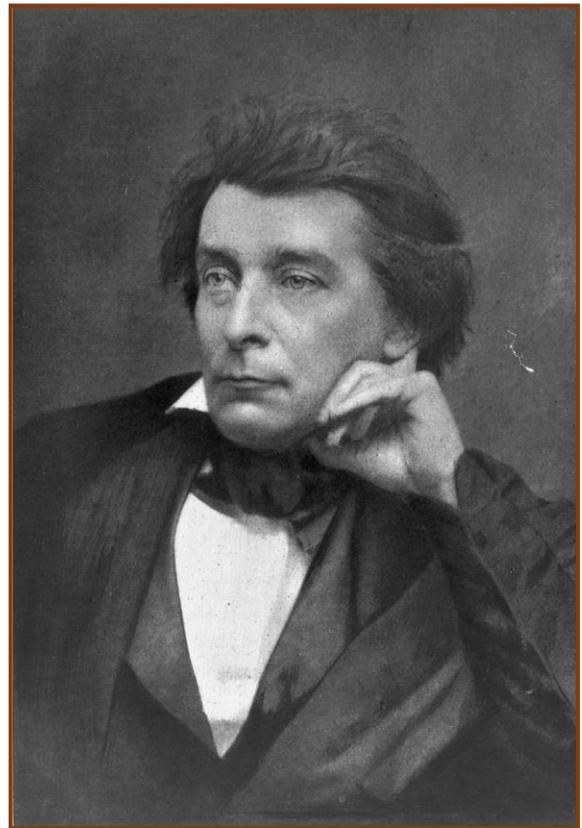
Dorothy's story: "The documents actually came to us via a box of books found in an attic in New Jersey. These books were sold to a book dealer and then purchased by my husband in a box of odds and ends on one of our antiquing trips to New England thirty years ago. After my husband died fifteen years ago, I gave away over 1,000 old books which he had collected.....no one was interested in buying them." Dorothy saved the Randall documents, knowing that an organization in MA just had to be interested. Stow thanks you, Dorothy!

The above 1789 Randall promissory note to Harvard College gives another clue about their long journey back to Stow. This document had been mounted with photo corners onto a heavy paper backing. Written on this protective sheet was a name of a woman from Detroit, who was included in the Detroit, MI 1940 Federal Census. Forty-six years later these documents were found in a book in a New Jersey attic. It's intriguing! One can speculate who treasured these two documents and how they traveled through the generations before being placed in book and then long forgotten.



14" X 9"

**More on John Randall and
his son John Witt Randall
→
next month**



**Now is the time to review
SHS's excellent lineup of Spring programming!**

Plus: Stow Minutemen March on Patriots' Day

On Monday, April 18, the Stow Minutemen Company will once again march the same route taken by the colonial militia in April of 1775 to Concord upon hearing the news that the British Regulars were marching towards Concord. The company will begin its annual pre-dawn Trail March *muster* (an assembly of troops prior to parade) at 4:30 AM, in front of Papa Gino's in Lower Village, with over 30 Colonial re-enactors dressed in period garb as well as many modern-day *civilians* who are welcome to follow along at the rear. The Company will march in time to its own fife and drum corps, and musket volleys will be fired at pre-determined locations as well as spontaneously along the route. Carpooling is encouraged for the return, since several roads in Concord will be closed to vehicles. You can join them at the start or at their stops at Cucurbit Farms or Rideout Playground along the 10-mile route. There is parking at all locations.

The annual Trail March and their participation in Concord's Battle at Old North Bridge is rain or shine. For more information, email them at info@stowminutemen.org or call 978-206-1775. The full itinerary is at <http://stowminutemen.org/>.



Spring Programming



Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, April 16, 2016 **Randall Library** **3 PM**

Preserving New England Native Culture Today

Katherine Hamilton of Stow presents her Girl Scout Gold Award Documentary

Sunday, May 1, 2016 **Stow Town Hall** **3 PM**

Mary Margaret O’Connell: Lowell Mill Girl

Sharon Kennedy, a Grammy nominee, will present a one-woman show



Saturday, May 14, 2016 **Center School Lobby** **10 AM – 4 PM**

SpringFest

SHS will have

1. a smorgasbord of Stow historical artifacts on display
2. final drafts of the new Lower Village and Hillside Cemetery maps with updated spreadsheets
3. Stow historical buildings’ inventory books

Sunday, May 22, 2016 **West School Museum** **Noon – 4 PM**

OPEN HOUSE

Part of Freedom Way’s Hidden Treasures 2016



Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 22

Preserving New England Native Culture Today

**Katherine Hamilton of Stow
NRHS Senior**

**Presents her
Girl Scout Gold Award Project**



**Film Documentary about the Nipmuc Nation
and their Land in Grafton**



Randall Library

3 PM

Saturday, April 16, 2016

**On Display: Stow Native American artifacts
and copies of Stow's Native American deeds
and documents, 1683 to 1685**

*Sponsored by the Stow Historical Society
and the Randall Library*

Mary Margaret O'Connell: Lowell Mill Girl



**Stow Town Hall
3 – 4:30 PM
Sunday, May 1, 2016**

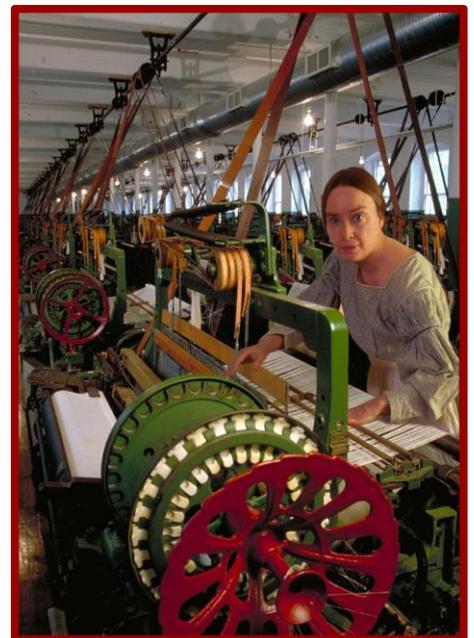
**Storyteller, Sharon Kennedy, a Grammy nominee,
presents her one-woman show,
Mary Margaret O'Connell,
for audiences from 9 to 109.**

**On Display:
Historic Photos of
Stow's
Gleasondale Mills**



***Sponsored by the Stow Historical Commission
and the Stow Historical Society***

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Stow Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Sharon Kennedy

Storyteller



Sharon Kennedy has been telling stories professionally for more than 25 years. She was honored in Yankee magazine as one of "60 people who make New England, New England." Then she and her character Mary Margaret O'Connell were featured on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America".

Sharon has 10 one-woman shows for adults in her repertoire and three for children, but Mary Margaret O'Connell is her best known character, pleasing audiences from 9 to 109.

Sharon has performed at storytelling festivals from Maine to California and at Irish festivals from Boston to Savannah to Milwaukee. She has told stories on National Public Radio and in theaters, bookstores, and coffee houses. She co-produced a storytelling concert series for six years in Brookline and, in partnership with the Charlestown Working Theater, she developed and produced six different one-woman shows over a period of 10 years.

Sharon records with Rounder Records and has several tapes and CDs available. Her Irish discs are filled with the wit and the wonder of the old Irish tales as well as with beautiful Irish music on harp, fiddle, and accordion. Her "Turtle" tape and her "Patchwork Quilt" CD feature stories and songs from a great variety of cultures including African, Jewish, Scottish, and Puerto Rican. All of her discs have won numerous awards. "The Patchwork Quilt" was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Sharon has collected oral histories from Irish, Latino, African-American, and Haitian populations in a number of Massachusetts communities including Lowell, Melrose, Lawrence and Medford. Besides developing shows from these oral histories, she has written a book entitled, "The Voices of West Medford" and created a website at haitianmedford.com.

She has collected folktales in Mexico, Ecuador, Ireland, and most recently in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

<http://www.sharonkennedy.com/>

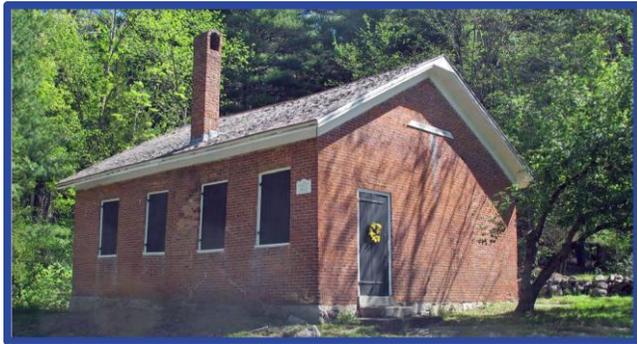


Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 22

Explore the Hidden Treasures of Freedom's Way National Heritage Area's MA and NH communities.

STOW'S HIDDEN TREASURE: WEST SCHOOL MUSEUM

One Room was Enough



Sunday, May 22, 2016

Noon – 4 PM

**Jct. Harvard & Hiley Brook
Roads**

Travel back in time, exploring Stow's 1825 one-room schoolhouse. Explore the school artifacts, view the 1829 School Roster and immerse yourselves in schooling from 1825-1903.



<http://www.discoverhiddentreasures.org/>