

# 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!

October 11, 2016

## Upcoming Event

### October 22, 2016

### 1942 – How Preparations for WWII Changed Stow

This special October event begins at **7 PM** on **Saturday, October 22, 2016** at the **Stow Town Hall**. Desserts to follow.

By December 9, 1941, U.S. newspapers were headlining **Japan at War with U.S.- Congress to Act**. Pearl Harbor had become part of history, as civilians across the US stepped up their recycling and rationing for the war effort.

During April 1942 Stow families, who were very active in the nation's recycling and rationing efforts, witnessed the Federal Government's quiet and forceful takeover of 3100 acres of land in Stow, Maynard, Sudbury and Hudson. Nearly half of this land was within Stow's boundaries. Some families had ten days to vacate their property, their homes and their farms!


Step back into 1942 and meet two of Stow's multi-generational families who had their farms taken by eminent domain, as the Federal Government scrambled to build up the country's defenses. For Stow, it was the construction of the Army's Ammunition Depot off White Pond and Sudbury Roads. Using maps, photos and family stories, learn about the lower White Pond Road residents and the 1942 accounts of the Suikko/Wanhatalo and Urgaitis/Wickey families.

Family members are among our guest speakers:

- Sylvia Wanhatalo Estabrook of Stow
- Vivian Wanhatalo Dean of Maynard
- Bill Wickey of Morristown, NJ
- Jim Sauta of Stow will narrate his experience of the air raid drills, the black outs, and touring the secure military compound as a young teenager.

**Today this area is the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.**

The Stow Historical Society presents



**1942 – How Preparations for WWII Changed Stow**

**Saturday Oct. 22, 2016 7 pm**

**Stow Town Hall**

Step back into 1942 and meet two Stow, multi-generational families, who had their farms – homes and lands – taken by eminent domain, as the Federal Government scrambled to build up the country's defenses.

Desserts will be served.

Today this area is the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

**Government Takes Over Many Homes In Sudbury Area**

Need 3100 Acres, Four Square Miles, for Construction of Transit Ammunition Depot

JUST UNDER HALF OF THESE 3100 ACRES WERE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF **STOW**, followed by Maynard, Sudbury and Hudson.

**To contribute a dessert: contact Dorothy Sonnichsen at 978-897-3344**

Photos are on the Stow Historical Society Facebook page.

**October 25, 2016**

**Stow's third graders are visiting the West School Museum**

The SHS and the SHC will again host Center School's four third-grade classes at the **West School Museum**. This will be an annual fall program. The students arrive by school bus and enter the world of the late 1840's.



To accommodate the third grade, four back-to-back sessions are held. Morning and afternoon volunteers are needed to help shepherd the students from the bus and into the schoolhouse and back safely to the bus.



**Calling all Volunteers**

- Are you interested in volunteering for occasional SHS events?
- Do you enjoy interacting with children?

Please contact Marilyn Zavorski at [marilynzavorski@gmail.com](mailto:marilynzavorski@gmail.com) or at 978-897-5588.

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**SEPTEMBER 25, 2016**

**West School hosted Stow's Ray LaChance**

A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all as Ray LaChance captivated his audience with stories of growing up in two cultures. Native American tales, music and games complemented the afternoon activities.

**Thank you, Ray!**

