

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!

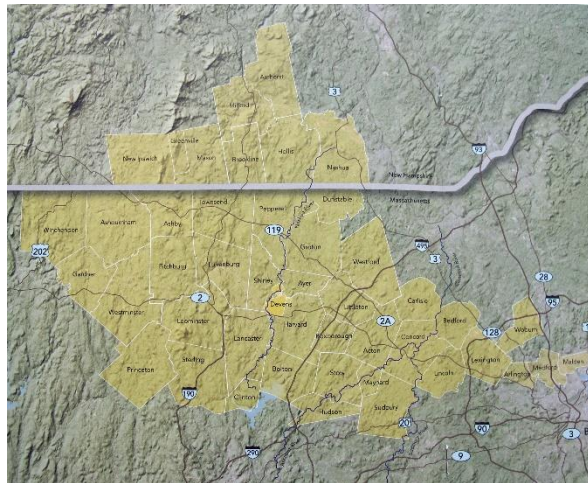
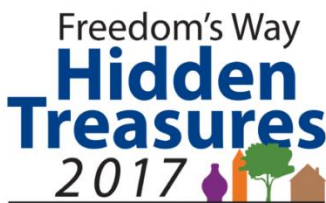
SAVE THESE DATES
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April 26, 2017

May Happenings in Stow!

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Celebrate the **HIDDEN TREASURES** of North Central MA and Southern NH during the month of May 2017.



A region-wide celebration of the natural, cultural and historic “treasures” located within the **Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area**, Hidden Treasures features a unique variety of regional treasures to explore during a full month of creative, community organized and presented activities offered free of charge.

Discover exciting and unexpected stories and places “hidden in plain sight” within the heritage area’s 45 communities.

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

This is Stow's 3rd year featuring a HIDDEN TREASURE.

Carver Hill Orchard Sunday, May 7, 2017 2-3:30 PM

101 Boxmill Road, Stow

- Take Rte. 62 to Brookside Ave and follow the signs



Photo credit: Tom Cmejla, Drone Skyworks

Tucked off a main road in Stow, Carver Hill Orchard is truly a hidden treasure. Seasonally, it offers an old-time apple-picking and produce experience. Today, this working farm and apple cider mill property is more than 100 years old.

Yet, the farm's history dates back nearly 285 years to a sawmill and tannery on Elizabeth Brook, the early life-blood of Stow. This scenic land abounds with natural history, including the historic mill dam and pond, a drumlin and an incredible glacial rock formation.

A tour of this 80-acre orchard led by the Stow Conservation Commission, Stow Historical Society, Stow Historical Commission, and Stow Conservation Trust will afford visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in local history, conservation and geology. Participants should wear comfortable walking or hiking shoes.

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



Photo credit: Kathy Sferra



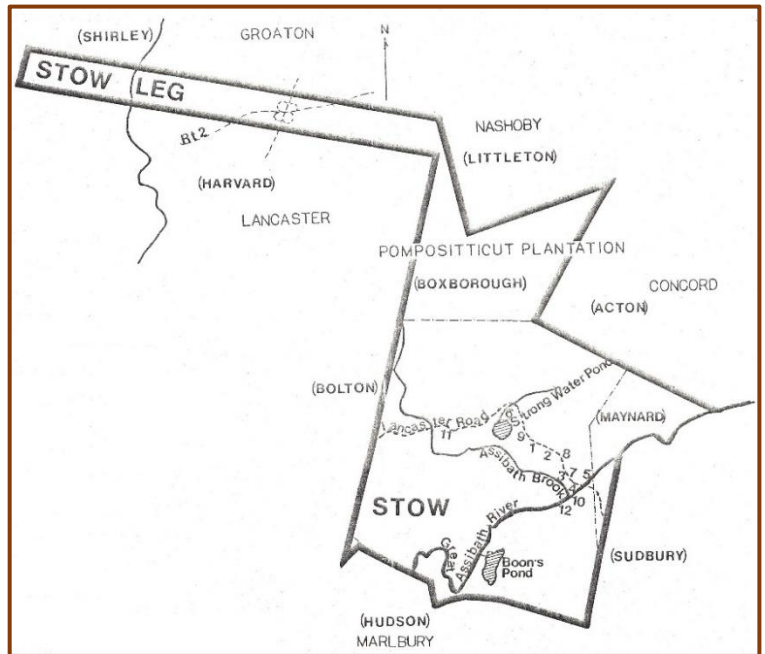
Photo credit: Tom Cmejla, Drone Skyworks



The site of the former tannery and then box shop on the N side of Elizabeth Brook and E of Boxmill Road.

Thursday, May 11, 2017
THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING STOW
Presentation by David Mark
Randall Library
7 – 8 PM

Writer and columnist, David Mark of Maynard, will be a guest speaker at the Randall Library on May 11th. His fascinating topic, *THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING STOW: How Stow Lost Land and People to Surrounding Towns*, has been researched using the archives of the towns of Shirley, Harvard, Groton, Littleton and Stow and the Massachusetts Historical Society. **The Randall Library and the SHS are sponsoring this fabulous evening program.**



SpringFest
Friday – Sunday
May 12 – 14, 2017

SpringFest's
50th
Anniversary

Silent Movie Night
 Friday, May 12, 2017
 7 - 9:30 PM
 Old Stow Town Hall
 Family-Friendly Fun



The General is a 1926 action-adventure-comedy, featuring Buster Keaton, as a Western & Atlantic Railroad engineer of the locomotive, *The General*, just as the American Civil War breaks out.

Featuring
 Silent Movie Pianist,
 Richard Hughes.



Hosted by the Stow Lions with a grant from the Stow Cultural Council



SpringFest
 Saturday, May 13, 2017
 10 AM – 3 PM
 Center School, Stow

- Children's Parade at 9:45 am
- Stow Minutemen
- Nashoba musicians performing acoustic music on stage and out back
- Scottish dancers on stage
- Tricia Bellsanti's *On Your Toes Dance School* dancers on stage
- Stow Conservation Commission hosts a big display
- Stow Historical Society and Commission table displays, plus a quilter & lace maker
- **NOON:** Jamie Monat's band **PRIZM**, playing classic rock
- **GREAT FOOD:** Lion's, Emma's and Stow House of Pizza
- Wonderful vendors
- For kids: free activities, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones
- Free hay rides
- Free Animal Adventures Show
- Free Kids DJ dance party
- **CAKE cutting ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of SpringFest**

and more

Sounds of Stow
 44th Annual SpringFest Celebration
 Sunday May 14, 2017
 4 PM
 First Parish Church of Stow & Action

**Songs of Love, Lilt, and Laughter:
 A Celtic Spring Fling**

with special instrumental guests
 Berit Strong (guitar, viola da gamba),
 Billy Novick (clarinet, pennywhistle),
 and Brian O'Neill (bodhrán, etc)
 joining the **Sounds of Stow Chorus**
 for a feast of folk music from the
 British Isles.



<http://soundsofstow.org/season/>

Wednesday May 17, 2017

9:30 – 11:30 am

27 Whitney Road, Stow, MA

STOW'S 2nd HIDDEN TREASURE

TOUR of the circa 1760 Gates/Whitney Homestead – by RSVP only



The Newman family is opening their historic home to local historic societies on Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

The Gates/Whitney house, which was built between 1744 and 1760, sits on land deeded to Thomas Gates in 1681. It was one of the twelve original lots of the Pompositticut

Plantation. When Stow became a town on May 16, 1683, Thomas Gates was Stow's first Constable.

The house was passed down through several generations of the Gates family. In 1806 Lucy Gates, the great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Gates, married Moses Whitney. In 1825 Moses purchased this property, therefore, the beginning of the Gates/Whitney Homestead. Moses and Lucy had two daughters, Mary and Lucia. Their daughters married their Harvard Whitney cousins. Mary married James



Fordyce Whitney in 1834 and Lucia married his brother, Edwin Whitney, in 1841. Mary and James removed to Albany, NY, where he was a prominent grocer. Their seven children were born in Albany. Edwin, a lawyer, and Lucia lived in Stow. They moved into the NEW Whitney homestead on Great Road, which had been built by Moses and Lucy in 1843.

Between 1855 and 1860 James Whitney's business was destroyed by fire in Albany. At this point the family returned to Stow and lived in the Gates/Whitney house. Over the years this house has had many additions. It is thought that the wing's second story was added when the James Whitney family returned to Stow.



Four of the James and Mary Whitney children never married: Cyrus, James, Adelaide and Martha. All four willed the two homesteads to the Unitarian Church around 1928. These four siblings' estates also donated the funding to build the Whitney Historical Room addition to the Randall Library, which was completed in 1926. This room continues in their tradition to house numerous treasures of Stow's history.

The Gates/Whitney Homestead has a storied history. It sits on an original lott and also has a connection to the Underground Railroad. This celebrated home is presently for sale. Those desiring a tour of this home must **RSVP by May 12th** to marydunlavey@comcast.net or call **781-956-0372** and leave a message.





SAVE THESE DATES

Stow's MAY Programming

Sunday May 7, 2017

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Carver Hill Orchard and Farm

STOW'S HIDDEN TREASURE 2017

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Sponsored by the SHS, SHC, SCC, and SCT

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



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7:00 – 8:00 PM

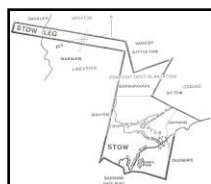
Randall Library

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING STOW:

How Stow Lost Land and People to Surrounding Towns

Guest speaker, David A. Mark, Maynard writer and columnist

Sponsored by Randall Library and the SHS

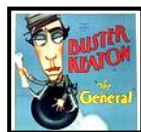


Friday, May 12, 2017

7 – 9:30 PM

Stow Town Hall

Silent Movie Night



Saturday May 13, 2017

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Center School

Visit the SHS and SHC's table in the gym



Sunday May 14, 2017

4 PM

First Parish Church of Stow & Action

SOUNDS OF STOW - 44th Annual SpringFest: A Celtic Celebration

<http://soundsofstow.org/season/>



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