

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
Sept. 17th and Oct. 28th

September 3, 2017

SHS has a future book in the making! Extraordinary writings and materials have been donated. Here's a small sampling from the 1940's and 1950's era.

Bob Trumpolt (now of Michigan), who lived in Stow for fifty years on his mother's (Ruby **Stow**) family ancestral land, has been in conversation with the SHS. He mailed a large box of Stow/Trumpolt memorabilia, which included old family photos, letters, documents, books, items from the Tenney and Gates families, and precious, extensive written recollections of his mother's stories and his own.

How the Town of **STOW** was named.

On May 16, 1683 Pompositticut Plantation was renamed *Stow* by Governor Simon Bradstreet after his friend, John Stow, who sailed with him from England to the colonies years before.

John Stow was Bob Trumpolt's 8th great grandfather.

There were no descendants of John Stow in town until Stephen Stow of Marlborough married Alice Smith in Stow, moving here in 1756 and buying the Boaz Brown house and farm near West School in 1764.

Stephen Stow was Bob's 4th great grandfather.

Descendants of Stephen Stow continued to live in the Boaz Brown house. Through the generations family members also owned and ran the **Stow Tavern** on Great Road near Hudson Road.

A 4th great uncle built the Ichabod Stow, Jr. house on Harvard Road in 1844, which is today across the street from Partridge Lane.

Being an only surviving child, Bob's grandfather,

George Jason Stow, inherited both the Boaz Brown house/farm and the Stow Tavern properties.



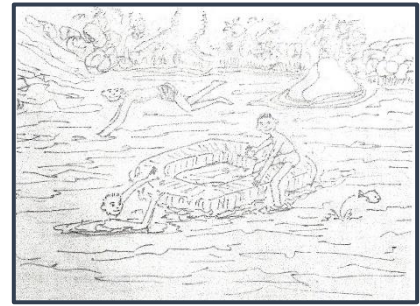
1942, Stow Tavern on Rte. 117, from Hudson Rd.

Bob Trumpolt's photo of his grandfather's farm

Bob Trumpolt has written many stories about his youth and those told by his mother, Ruby Stow Trumpolt, the daughter of George Jason Stow. Since Bob's father, Bill Trumpolt, was an excellent farmer, George gave Bill 7 fertile acres of the Stow Tavern land at the intersection of the south side Great Road and Hudson Road. In 1942 Bob grew up on land now occupied by the Gulf Gas Station, Ken's Liquor Store and D & D Farms, Inc. Bob wrote, "In September 1940 I entered first grade at Pilot Grove School on Crescent Street. Besides myself there were six girls" and four additional boys, two of whom were **Billy Wickey** and his cousin Fred Urgaitis.

Bill Wickey (now of New Jersey) sent to the SHS a fabulous illustrated story the same week Bob's box arrived. One paragraph in Bill's 1947 story reads, "One morning a World War II Navy raft floated downstream on the Assabet Brook and entered the scene at our swimming hole. The raft was a square donut shape made of balsam wood and wrapped with heavy military tape. This became the focus of our swimming pleasure that summer. By the following spring the raft had disappeared and we all surmised that the US Navy had reclaimed it."

STOW – the Summer of '47



James Loomer of Stow, who works for the US Army Natick Labs, contacted the SHS that he is now the caretaker of the Natick Labs 1950's photo albums, which documented the surviving homes and buildings taken by eminent domain in 1942 by the Federal Government to build the WWII Ammunition Depot. James had read about the SHS's October 2016 program about this 1942 land taking of homes and property in Stow, Maynard, Sudbury and Hudson.

Those quietly evicted in 1942 from their homes on Lower White Pond Road, included the families of **Bill Wickey** and **Sylvia** (Estabrook) and **Vivian** (Dean) **Wanhatalo** and their extended families.

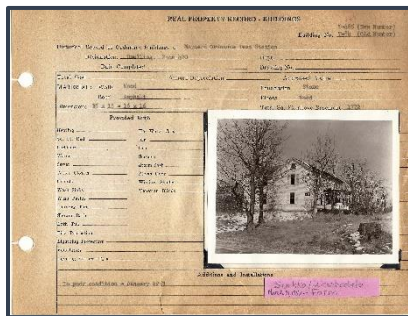
The SHS knew that Bill Wickey's childhood home had been moved to Maynard before the Ammo Depot was off limits to the public in 1942. His grandparents' home had been demolished by the government.



**1942, White Pond Road
John Wanhatalo
with brother, Elmer, and
daughters Sylvia and Vivian**



1953



1953, Wanhatalo/Suikko house

The Wanhatalo/Suikko house had remained standing.

And there it was, included in the album as one of the surviving, abandoned houses!

The Wanhatalo house was struck by lightning and burned in the late 1950's.

All pages of the Natick Labs albums have been scanned.

Clare Tozeski, former Stow resident and Randall Library aide, donated to the SHS the 2003 wooden Stow Quilt jigsaw puzzle, hand-cut by Melinda Shebell of Jardin Puzzles on Circuit Drive, Stow. This 8.25" x 8.25" puzzle has 157 pieces and is an excellent challenge for even the most sophisticated puzzle enthusiast!



Thank you all for your donations.

Please share your Stow stories and memories with the SHS!

Fall Happenings in Stow!

Heroines on the Home Front

Sunday, September 17, 2017

West School

3 PM

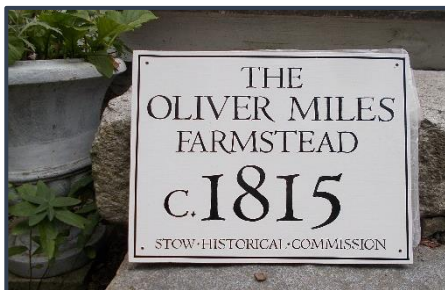
The community is invited to Nancy Bell's *Heroines on the Home Front* program on Sunday, September 17th at 3 PM at Stow's 1825 West School Museum.

Nancy Bell, a storyteller, historian, and hand-spinner will delight the audience with her fun, hands-on, *Historical Edu-tainment*.

Dressed in carefully researched, hand-sewn, historically accurate clothing, she demonstrates three kinds of spinning from "the Great Wheel" to the "drop spindle" and sings propaganda songs, used during the Colonial Revolution, to entice young female rebels to learn to spin. Learn that true "Independence" came about in part because women were instrumental in creating and replacing the existing textile economy in the colonies by learning to spin, something not many women did before the war.



This program for all ages is sponsored by the Stow Historical Commission and funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Refreshments will be served.



After this program on **September 17th**, the Stow Historical Commission will be unveiling the two updated volumes of **Inventory of Stow Historic Houses**, which were completed this spring and funded by Community Preservation funds.

House owner information to participate in the SHC Historic House Plaque program will be available this day.

THE APPLICATION IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

October 11, 2017 7 PM at POMPO

Massachusetts Historical Commission Workshop on Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning. For more information, please contact Christopher.Skelly@state.ma.us. **open to the public**

The Stow Historical Society presents

A Silver Dagger:

Exploring Women's History Through Folk Songs

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Stow Town Hall

7 PM



Diane Taraz



a New England folk and traditional singer and songwriter

Passed down for generations, folk songs provide insights into the lives of ordinary people in centuries past. Diane mines these traditional songs for clues to the inner lives of people in Europe and America from about 1500 to 1850, especially women. Audiences are fascinated by the way attitudes and beliefs from the past still echo in our lives today.

Women left few written records, but we can learn much about them through the music that they used to speed their work, lift their spirits, or ease an aching heart. With a sparkling voice and wry humor, Diane performs songs of love, childbirth, marriage, and adventure.

Diane performs in traditional dress and plays lap dulcimer and guitar. She often sings with voice alone, the most authentic style. These are songs that brim with energy and humor, determination and despair, and all the joys and sorrows of a world lit only by fire.

Refreshments will be served.

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

Exploring Women's History Through Folk Songs

<http://www.dianetaraz.com/h-dagger.html>



STOW HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Historic House Plaque Program Application Form

To recognize the historic structures in our town, the Stow Historic Commission established the Historic House Plaque Program enabling property owners to purchase plaques that identify the historic name and construction date of their historic house. Property owners interested in participating in this program must complete and submit this application form to seek approval by the Stow Historical Commission. Houses included in the Stow Historic House Inventory are eligible if they retain the integrity of the original construction as judged by SHC.

Step #1

Property Owner's Name _____

Address of site _____

Telephone & email _____

Step #2 - Plaque Information

Historic Name of Property _____

Optional second line _____

Construction date _____

Sample

RANDALL – HALE
FARMSTEAD

c. 1710

Stow Historical Commission

The size of the plaque is 12 "x 16". It is white with black lettering, and has the words "Stow Historical Commission" at the bottom.

This application and a check for \$63.00 made out to "Ould Colony Artisans" should be mailed to: **Stow Historical Commission, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775** for approval at their monthly meeting. You will be notified by phone or email within 4 weeks to inform you if your wording is approved or changes need to be agreed upon.

Step #3 Owner's mailing address for sending finished plaque:

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip Code _____

Allow 4-8 weeks for delivery. Plaque should be installed by owner to the left of the front door, or in a clearly seen (street view) place in the front of the house, and then please send a letter to: **Stow Historical Commission, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775** in order that a SHC member may personally verify the plaque's installation.