



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!

The HEMLOCK ACRES 1937 Story:
see page 3 - 4

March 23, 2019

Stow Historical Society Presents

1942 –

How Preparations for WWII Changed Stow



Sunday
March 31, 2019
2 PM

at the **Assabet River National
Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**

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.

Not only did the citizens of Stow recycle metal and tires, shop with ration coupons, buy War Bonds, and send their young men and women to the frontline, they 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!



“CHILDREN AND GRANDPARENTS give up home in Stowe to U.S. as patriotic duty”
Boston Globe, April 1942

Step back into 1942 and learn about 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. With maps and photos projected on the screen, **Bill Wickey** of Morristown, NJ will tell his and his family story, while Marilyn Zavorski, of the SHS will present the Suikko/Wanhatalo family story. Plus, brief stories about the Paakki/Sippo and Parker families will be shared.



Stow’s **Jim Sauta** will narrate his experience of the air raid drills, the black outs, the secret trains running at night, and of touring the secure military compound during the war as a teenager.

Today the Ammunition Depot is the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.

Bill Wickey Ceramic Sculpture Exhibit at the Randall Library through mid-April

Bill Wickey was born on a farm on Lower White Pond Road, Stow, which is now part of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.



He began to draw as a young boy and hasn’t stopped since. After graduating from high school in Stow he attended Boston Fine Arts School and then transferred to Northeastern University where he received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1957. After graduation he was immediately drafted in to the Army.

Bill began working as a Mechanical Engineer for the US Government in 1962. In 1964 Bill and his wife purchased a home in Morristown, NJ, where he resides today. While working as an engineer, Bill spent nights and weekends developing his sculpture and pottery skills. He is an accomplished ceramics sculptor and an avid historian. Currently, six of his *famous person’s series* of sculptures are on display in Stow’s Randall Library.

<http://wickeypottersculpture.com/index/>

RECENT SCULPTURES BY BILL WICKEY
of
Historic, Literary & Political Figures of the Past
February 11 - April 20
RANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY
19 Crescent Street
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
878.897.8572

Wickey Pottery & Sculpture
wickeypottersculpture.com

Stow's Hemlock Acres 1937 Story



December 2018 the granddaughter of John Samuel Miller (1889-1949) of Waltham sent two photos of John Miller's apple orchard, which were labeled *Hemlock Acres Stow, MA 1937*.



WHERE WAS IT?

March 2019 the SHS received three additional photos.



Bravo! The farm was located!

NOTE: The 1937 barn was not standing in 1948.



2019 a huge Hemlock stands in the front lawn.

Jim Sauta immediately recognized the house as the former home of his wife, Betty Jones Sauta. Betty's father, Fred Jones, bought the house and ten acres in 1948. When Jim returned from service in the Coast Guard in 1953, he and his father-in-law removed the apple trees.

The Jones family named the land



March 18, 2019



**722 Great Road,
Stow, MA**



Stow's Historic Housing Inventory states this is the Levi Wetherbee House, ca. 1820.



HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Wetherbees are an old Stow family, tracing back to John Witherby, who according to the 1982 survey, was granted a lot of 65 acres as the 13th Stow Proprietor in 1679. In 1740, Thomas Wetherbee purchased 150 acres on Kettle Plain.

In 1830 this house belonged to L. Wetherbee, who was Levi Wetherbee (1779-1844), son of Ephraim and Olive Gates Wetherbee. In 1825 Levi married Betsy Haws (b. ca. 1800) from Weymouth (daughter of John Haws). They had a son, Marshall Spring Wetherbee (1835-1913). Levi died in 1844 and Betsy was remarried the following year, to James Bingham (b. ca. 1799-1879).

In the 1855 state census, Marshall Wetherbee was 18 and listed in Marlborough, living in a boarding house and working as a shoemaker. By 1856 this property belonged to him; the 1860 census lists him living with his mother, stepfather, and another shoemaker. He married Elizabeth Abbie Lincoln (b. ca. 1848) in 1869 in Somerville. Their son Levi Lincoln was born in 1870, and their daughter Addie Florence was born in 1872. In the 1870 census, Marshall continued to work in shoe making, and the 1875 map depicts a shop adjacent to the house. Marshall and Elizabeth later moved to Taunton, where Marshall died in 1913.

In 1889, the property belonged to C. Keyes, who was likely Charles E. Keyes (b. 1863 in Hillboro, New Hampshire). He married Charlotte "Lottie" M. Brown (1867-1920) in 1890, and they had 7 children: Everett, Hattie, Clarence, Clifford, Eva, Evelyn, and Reba.

According to the 1982 survey, the shoemaking shop closed around 1879 and the building was moved and attached to the house. In the 1940s, it was removed and replaced by the current 2-story ell.



Wooden Lasts
Donated by Mrs. Addie Wetherbee Syner
Cat. #88
Marshall Wetherbee's shoe shop,
which was located at present junction
of Great Road and Lantern Lane

Addie = Granddaughter of Levi Wetherbee



The wooden lasts and another Wetherbee artifacts are on display in the Whitney Historical Room of the Randall Library.

- **1820:** This land dates back to **Levi Wetherbee (1779-1844)**; house being built ca. 1820
- **1880 Marshall Wetherbee** (son of Levi) to **Eliza Stow** (widow of David Stow)
- **1884 Samuel Staples** to **Henry W. and Almira Sawyer** of Stow
 - guardian of **Laura Etta (Lauretta) Stow** (b. 1866, daughter of David and Eliza Stow)
- **1887 Sawyer** to **Charles E. Keyes** of Stow
- **1894 Keyes** to **Malvina D. Pingree** (Farnum)
- **1929 Farnum** to **Ture and Sally B. Johnson** (tenants)
- **1934 Linea C. Miller** paying mortgage on **Ture and Sally B. Johnson** land
- **1940 Miller** to **George A. Campbell** of Stow
- **1944 Campbell** to **G. Lloyd Sullivan** of Sudbury
- **1948 Sullivan** to **Frederick H. and Emily A. Jones** of Waltham
- **1958 Jones** to **George E. Dewey** of Marlborough – March 11, 1958
- **1958 Dewey** to **Jones** – March 11, 1958
- **1970 Jones** to **John E. and Elizabeth E. Erickson** of Stow
- **1971 Erickson** to **Allan A. and Janet S. Tyler** of Stow
- **2008 Tyler Agricultural Preservation Restriction**
- **2014 Tyler** to **Applefield Farms** – 8.162 acres
- **2015 Tyler** to **Allan A. Tyler Family Trust** – 1.537 acres

} Hemlock Acres

} Ten Acre Farm