

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!

January 20, 2022

In this issue:

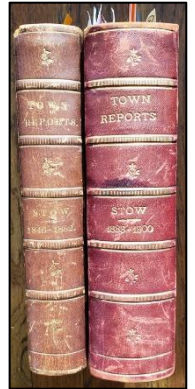
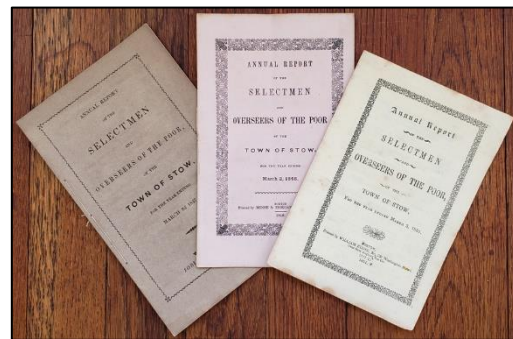
- Viewing Stow through the Annual Town Reports 1846-1930
- *Celebrating Stow's Women*, published by the SHS in April of 2021
- SHS is seeking individuals to help facilitate planning, programming, and writing.

Stow's Annual Town Reports 1846 - 1930

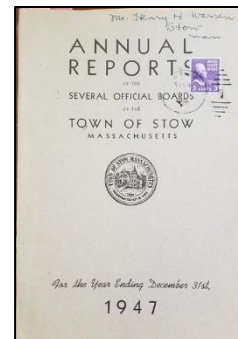
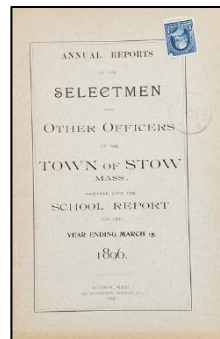
Stow's early Town Reports give the readers of the 21st century a clear overview of town life. Some citizens had their reports leather bound, as did Stow's illustrious Henry Gates.

Early issues were assembled with binding threads.

In the mid-1800s there were separate publications from the *Stow Overseers of the Poor*, the *Stow School Committee*, and from the *Stow Receipts and Expenditures*. Any of these topics would be fascinating research projects.



By 1896 the Annual Town Reports were mailed to Stow residents.



The **1846 and 1847** Town Reports noted who rang the church bells rang for deaths, funerals, and Town Meeting and how much they were paid. Tolling the bell was a common New England tradition. The bell was in the fourth Meeting House, built in 1827 on the present site of First Parish Church, which burned in 1847.



<https://www.facebook.com/fpcstowacton/photos>

The **1846** Town Report stated that “Wm. Withington *supertended* and built West Acton Rd.” He completed the project in 1847.



In **1848** Stow built a new meeting house on the land of Francis Conant. On December 27, 1847, the Town Meeting voted to build a “Town House.”



Every person and organization using the Town Hall paid a fee, including the Selectmen.

First Parish Church was also built in 1848.



Original setting of Hearse House, Sudbury, MA

<http://www.sudbury01776.org/tour3/tour12.html>

In **1849** the wall was built around the burial ground (Lower Village Cemetery).

John W. Lawrence was paid to care for the Town Hall. He lived just a short distance down Gleasondale Road, where he had a home and Woodworking Shop.

T. Walcott built the hearse house and gates at the burial ground.

John Brown was paid to build the horse-drawn hearse in **1850**.



Boxborough, MA hearse, 1880's

<https://www.boxborough-ma.gov/gallery.aspx?PID=19>

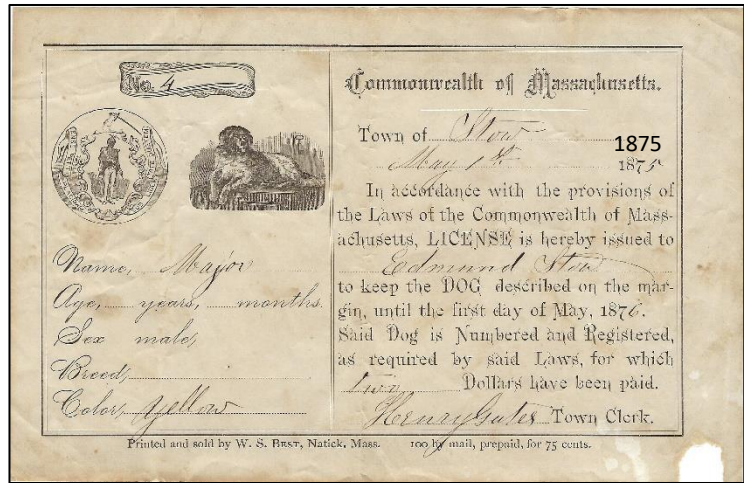
1851 Stow Receipts and Expenditures, pages 4 and 5

This 1851 report was bound with threads.

4		5	
Paid Assessors' Orders,	3 83	Paid F. Conant, for services as Committee on road,	1 50
“ Jeremiah Whitcomb, for Taxes abated,	21 00	“ T. H. Bent, for labor on road,	9 77
“ William Bense, for printing Report, &c.,	8 75	“ Abram. Whitcomb, for labor on road,	14 50
“ David Ray, for services on Town Farm,	69 00	“ E. Withington, for breaking paths in 1850,	8 00
“ E. Whitney, for services as School Committee,	15 00	“ C. Tower, for work on bridge and services as	
“ T. Cook, for “ “ “	16 00	Committee on road,	6 60
“ C. Hale, for “ “ “	15 00	“ J. Miles, for work on bridge,	3 00
“ C. Tower, for taking Invoice and making Taxes	15 00	“ J. Whitcomb, for services as Committee on road,	1 50
“ J. B. Brown, for “ “ “	15 00	“ H. Gates, for labor on road,	3 00
“ E. Hale, for “ “ “	15 00	“ A. Smith, for breaking paths,	3 46
“ J. L. Tower, for building wood-house at Poor		“ Jona. Whitcomb, for raling on bridge,	3 00
Farm,	40 00	“ D. Ray, for breaking paths,	3 00
“ J. Walcott, for recording Births, Deaths, and		“ A. Whitcomb, for breaking paths,	8 50
Marriages,	16 25	“ T. H. Brooks, for breaking paths,	8 62
“ J. W. Lawrence, for taking care of Town House,	9 50		
“ D. Ray, for cash paid for lumber and new shed,	43 31	Am't of Orders for expenses on roads and bridges,	\$1,145 99
“ J. Gates, for services as Treasurer,	6 00	Deduct for am't rec'd of A. Sargent,	100 00
“ W. Robinson, for postage,	1 40	“ “ “ of F. Tuttle,	50 00
“ C. H. Whitmarsh, for oil and stationery	6 39		150 00
“ C. Parks, for services as Committee,	2 00	Total expenses of Roads and Bridges,	\$995 99
“ C. Tower, for “ “ “	2 00	Paid School District No. 1,	110 53
“ W. E. Clark, for “ “ “	2 00	“ “ “ No. 2,	160 90
“ H. Chandler, for medical attendance on Mrs. Allen,	2 50	“ “ “ No. 3,	143 55
“ C. Tower, for services as one of the Selectmen,	8 00	“ “ “ No. 4,	143 84
“ J. B. Brown, for “ “ “	8 00	“ “ “ No. 5,	202 62
“ W. E. Clark, for “ “ “	8 00	“ “ “ No. 6,	240 63
“ J. B. Brown, for Collecting Taxes,	40 00	Whole amount of School Orders,	\$1,002 07
“ J. B. Brown, for Stationery,	65	Total amount of Expenditures for the year ending	
		March 1st, 1852,	2,722 46
Amount of Orders for Incidental Expenses,	\$574 40	Old Debts of Town, but paid this Year.	
“ J. Warren, for land damage of new road,	60 00	An Order to Truman Walcott,	43 89
“ J. Warren, (Guardian for E. C. Houghton),		A Note to D. Stow, principal and interest,	53 50
land damage of new road,	200 00		
“ V. French, for land damage of new road,	67 00	Whole amount of payments,	\$2,819 85
“ Wm. H. Brown, for bridge plank,	19 02	Receipts over expenditures,	860 85
“ J. Whitney, for making road and land damage,	305 85		\$3,680 70
“ G. Walcott, for “ “ “	108 75	Amount due each School District.	
“ J. Carr, for “ “ “	112 50	District No. 1,	169 72
“ F. Tuttle, for “ “ “	118 80	“ “ “ No. 2,	94 56
“ J. B. Tenney, for “ “ “	38 50	“ “ “ No. 3,	128 39
“ A. J. Davidson, for “ “ “	38 50	“ “ “ No. 4,	—
“ J. Davidson, for labor on road,	2 62		

Road and bridge work was 1/3 of the town budget.

In **1852** C. Tower was paid “for Gate, Lock, and Irons for Pound.” A pound was a sturdy enclosure to restrain wandering animals, such as swine, cows, oxen, and horses. A pound on the land where Pilot Grove School was built was torn down in 1928. In 1966 the school, which is on Crescent Street, was remodeled into town offices and later into the police station. Today it is a private home.



In **1859** the Town of Stow began licensing and registering dogs. A dog law was printed.

The Civil War years brought heavy expenses for Stow to shoulder. In **1861** the town paid

- \$572.52 for military expenses for Stow’s soldiers
- \$13137 for citizens for practicing drilling
- \$789.65 for aid to military families

} Stow applied for partial state reimbursement

\$1,886.90 was distributed to all military families in **1862**. State reimbursement was \$1,630.40.

WOMEN OF STOW.

You are called upon to help save from ruin the noble government under which we have so long enjoyed Peace and Prosperity, unparalleled in the history of any nation on the earth. Every one of you can do something. Four hundred thousand men are in arms in defence of the government. It is impossible to supply the sick and wounded soldiers with the following articles, necessary for their comfort, without an appeal to the Women of the Loyal States, to bring out from their surplus stores, Woolen Blankets, Woolen Socks, Quilts about 7 ft. long by 5 ft. wide, Woolen Under Shirts and Drawers, Woolen or Canton Flannel Bed Gowns, small Hair or Feather Pillows and Cushions, for wounded limbs, Slippers, Towels, old and new Pillow Cases and Sheets, Cotton Shirts, Dressing Gowns, Yarn for darning, Buttons and Tape for repairing, Handkerchiefs, Pins, Needles, and Sewing Cotton, old Lincn and Cotton, for bandages, Delicacies for the Sick, Wines, Jellies, Dried Fruit, Cocoa, Chocolate, best Black Tea, Illustrated Books and Magazines for the amusement of wounded men, &c.

Every article named is needed. You can furnish them and so fight half the battle.

The following Committee have been chosen to receive contributions:

Mrs. J. B. PORTER,	Mrs. CHARLES TOWER,
“ A. H. COWDREY,	“ E. S. BROWNE,
Miss FRANCENA SMITH,	“ HENRY WILDER,
Mrs. UNDERWOOD,	“ AUGUSTUS RICE,
Miss LOUISA HALE,	Miss DEARBORN,
“ EMILY WHITECOMB,	R. W. DEEBY,
Mrs. JOHN FORBUSH,	A. W. NELSON,
	AUGUSTUS RICE.

Every person in town will be called upon by the Committee, to give something. Let those who can furnish nothing else, give money, and the Committee can buy articles that are needed.

☞ All contributions will be sent to the Sanitary Commission, which is an organization of noble men, who give their time to the cause without pay, and have the warmest support of the President and Commanders of the Army.

Stow, Mass., Oct. 23, 1861.

By **1864** Stow borrowed \$5,951.66 from twenty Stow citizens, ranging from \$100 to \$1,200. By February of **1865** the indebtedness grew to \$8,151.66, as more money was borrowed.

1st Lieutenant Winfield H. Benham Stow Civil War Soldier

Born: Louisville, NY
Occupation: A carpenter in Assabet Village, Stow, MA
Military: 26th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, Company C
Enlisted: October 9, 1861
Died: May 18, 1863, New Orleans, LA of typhoid fever

March 1, **1867**, Stow owed twenty citizens interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The amount borrowed by \$10,130.00.

The Town Report for the year ending March 1, **1870**, included the following statement.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT: Our Highways are not in good condition, and we think are not kept up well enough for the benefit of the town. Owing to the price of labor, we do not get much, if any more work done, than at the old price with a small grant, while travel is largely on the increase. We therefore recommend an increase of grant for Highways. (page 6)

On May 24, **1871**, the Town of Stow voted to accept the offer of Colonel Elijah Hale (\$5,000), Henry Brooks, Esq. (\$100), and Hon. John W. Brooks (\$1,000) towards “the creation of a High School fund.” (after page 20, 1871 Town Report)



1886 Hale High School

In **1872** the Hay Scales were purchased for the front of the Town Hall.



Published by M. P. Lewis

A Farm Scene, Stow, Mass.

1910

Elephalet Tenney's oxen and Arthur Rice's horse were bringing a load of hay to be weighted at the hay scales.

Note the hay was on a sled and the power lines in the background.



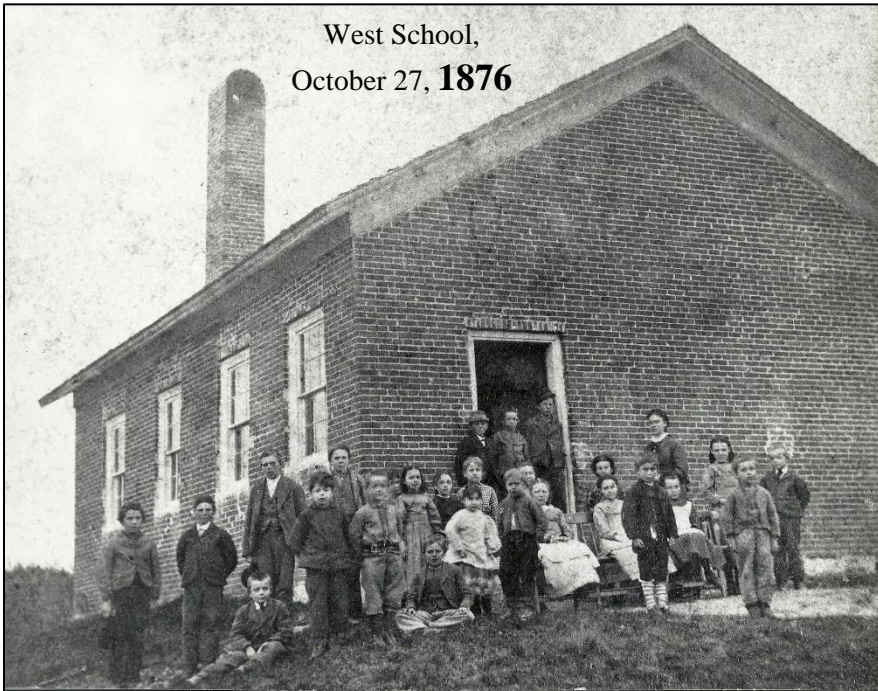
In **1872** there was a Town Meeting warrant article to pay for the care and repair of the public clock, which passed. In 1869 Mrs. Elijah Hale and Mrs. Moses Whitney gave the First Parish Church its clock tower. Each year thereafter there was an article before the Town Meeting to care for the clock.

<https://www.facebook.com/fpcstowacton/photos>

In **1874** at the age of 26 Stow's Town Hall was in need for major repairs. At the same time Stow continued to borrow money for town citizens.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPAIRING TOWN HALL.	
Paid Henry Carpenter & Co., furnace, and labor on the same,	\$324 25
Freight on furnace to South Acton,	2 75
“ of furnace and lime from South Acton,	3 00
13	
Paid Freight on 2,100 bricks at 60 cents per hundred,	\$12 60
“ 400 “ 85 “ “	3 40
“ 1,220 bricks from Lancaster, at 50 cents per hundred,	6 10
1 load of sand, and drawing,	2 50
Horse and wagon, 3 hours at 18 cts. per hour,	54
Hinges, nails, screws and glass,	2 27
Planing and matching boards,	1 80
562 feet of lumber, at \$22 per M.	12 36
50 “ “ 35 “ “	1 75
6 6-10 days' labor at \$2.75 per day,	18 15
Man 2 days, at 2.00 per day,	4 00
Board of mason,	4 00
L. W. Forbush, for mason work,	2 00
John Morrissey, for tending mason, and labor 6 days,	12 00
John W. Lawrence, for labor on Town Hall and privy,	39 62
J. S. Fletcher, nails, paint, oil and freight, as per bill,	22 85
H. M. Wetherbee, for transport of 1,280 bricks from Lancaster,	6 40
Tuttles, Jones & Wetherbee, for cloth for doors,	11 79
Loyal Lovejoy & Co., for 30 M. shaved shingles at 7.25 per M.,	217 50
Freight on shingles to South Acton,	7 42
“ of shingles from South Acton,	6 00
Robert Clark, for laying 26½ M. shingles, at 2.00 per M.,	53 50
Wm. Lucas, for painting outside Town Hall,	61 00
Hiram Bruce, for painting inside “ “	46 00
Bragdon & Tavener, for paint and oil,	105 45
Francis Conant, for whitening Town Hall,	32 91
A. J. Smith, labor on Town Hall,	4 55
Orlando Smith, labor on Town Hall,	1 00
Freight on paint and oil,	1 10
M. Smith & Son, for lumber,	5 77
J. E. Read, for 131 feet sheathing,	7 20
M. Smith, for services as Committee on Town Hall,	8 00
Wm. H. Brown, for services as Com. on Town Hall,	8 00
	\$1,059 21
Received for new and old shingles,	\$28 31
oil,	15 00
	\$43 31
MICAH SMITH, } Committee. WM. H. BROWN, }	

Stow's oldest surviving public building is West School on Harvard Road. The 1825 brick structure sits on a granite foundation which goes back to at least 1789, when Stow recorded that the Town "had five school houses in five different school districts." (Childs, page 3)



January 2022
Watch throughout 2022 for the six changing wreaths with West School's story on the door.

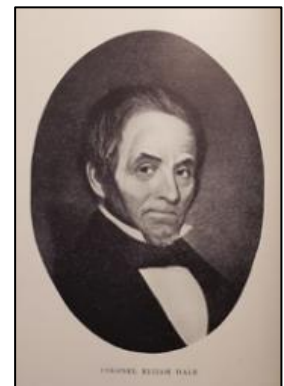
1876 examples from *Valuation of Property and Taxes, in the Town of Stow* are below.

The Gleason's of Gleasondale Mills, known as **B.W. Gleason & sons** in 1876.

Gleason, B. W.	5 horses, 675; 2 cows, 125; 2 two-year-olds, 65; 2 swine, 25; 3 carriages, 550; cabinet shop and machinery, 1500	..	2,940		
	Buildings, 4800; land, 2300	.. ..	7,100	66	26
Gleason, A. D.	1 horse, 200; 1 carriage, 200		400	4	56
Gleason, C. W.	1 carriage, 200	.. ..	200	3	28
Gleason, S. A.	1 horse, 150; 1 carriage, 150		300		
	Buildings, 950; land, 225	.. ..	1,175	11	44
Gleason, B. W. & Sons.	Stock in trade, 12000; machinery, 12000; 1 horse, 100; 2 oxen, 160; 22 three-year-olds, 1050	.. ..	25,310		
	Buildings, 31950; land, 7975	.. ..	39,925	417	50

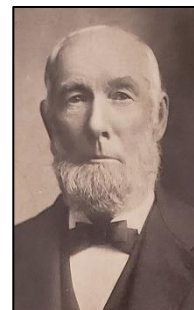
- Benjamin W. Gleason
1806-1884
- Alfred D. Gleason
1846-1914
- Charles W. Gleason
1841-1914
- Stillman A. Gleason
1843-1888

Colonel Elijah Hale (1788, Stow-1879, Stow, MA) "He was, for a number of years, in trade with Cranston & Hale at Feltonville (Hudson). He was also associated with Joel Cranston, Esq, in building up the manufacturing village of Rock Bottom in Stow. In 1825 he removed to Stow, where he has been one of the prominent men in the town and church." (Charles Hudson's *History of Marlborough*, p. 449, 1862) (1871 Town Report, pages 78-83)



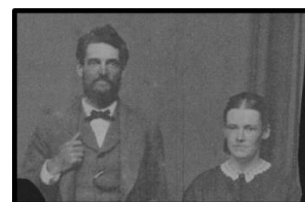
Hale, Elijah.	140 shares C. B. & Q. R. R., 16100.		16,100		
	Buildings, 1800; land, 1700	.. ..	3,500		

Henry Gates (1825, Stow-1906, Stow) was a descendent of Thomas Gates, one of twelve first proprietors of the Planation of Pompositicut in 1681. He was a graduate of West School, a wheelwright by trade, a farmer, a Stow Town Clerk for 37 years, an assessor for 18 years, a selectman, a tax collector, a trustee for the Hale High School Fund, and a trustee for the 1903 Randall Fund.



Gates, Henry.	2 horses, 200 ; 14 cows, 500 ; 1 yearling, 12 ; 2 two-year-olds, 60 ; 2 swine, 22 ; 1 carriage, 70	..	..	864	
Buildings, 2775 ; land, 4400	..	..	7,175	53	45

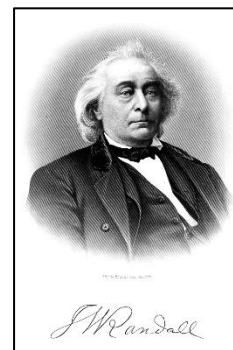
Susan Ann Gates Peck (1841, Stow-1922, Alabama) was a descendent of Thomas Gates, one of twelve first proprietors of the Planation of Pompositicut in 1681. Susan was a graduate of West School. She inherited the farm from her parents, John Gates 4th and Susan W. Gates. Widowed in 1873 with three children, she had tenant farmers keep the farm running and provide a small amount of income. She was a political person and was among the seven Stow women who registered for the 1895 non-binding referendum to allow women to vote in municipal elections. The vote did not pass.



William and Susan Gates Peck, pre-1873

Peck, Susan A.	Buildings, 1150 ; land, 2855	..	4,005	25	63
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John Witt Randall (1813-1892) was one of five children, the only son, of Dr. John and Elizabeth Wells Randall of Boston. He grew up on the family farm in Stow. He earned three degrees at Harvard but preferred a more solitary life. He amassed an invaluable art collection. He prepared no will. Belinda, his surviving sister, inherited his estate. She followed his wishes and bequeathed to Stow a gift of \$55,000: \$25,000 for the construction of a town library, \$20,000 for general purposes, and \$10,000 for relief of the worthy poor. The Randall Library was constructed in 1893 and dedicated in February 1894.



Randall, John W.	Money, 60000	..	..	60,000	
Buildings, 1675 ; land, 4875	..	..	6,550	427	92

Jonas Warren (1794, Stow-1882, Stow) His father, Abijah, bought and established the Pilot Grove Farm in 1782. Jonas is the great, great grandfather of Skip Warren.

Francis Worland Warren (1819, Stow-1896, Stow) Francis, the son of Jonas, and family lived at the farm and worked the farm in 1876. Francis was the great grandfather of Skip Warren.



*For further information about Pilot Grove Farm watch *Stow Oral History: Talk given on June 28, 2014 at the West School House Museum by Skip Warren.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZAVH-7dpXY&ab_channel=StowTV

Warren, Jonas.	15 Shares C. B. & Q. R. R.				
	1725 ; money, 300	..	..	2025	
Buildings, 2850 ; land, 8580	..	..	11,430	88	11
Warren, F. W.	12 Shares C. B. & Q. R. R.				
	1380 ; 4 horses, 365 ; 2 oxen, 185 ; 13 cows, 465 ; 1 yearling, 15 ; 3 two-year-olds, 80 ; 10 swine, 175 ; 1 carriage, 125	..	..	2,790	
Land, 150	..	..	150	20	81

In **1885** Samuel A. Lawrence took over the care of the Town Hall from his father, John W. Lawrence. John had been the Town Hall steward for 37 years. Samuel, a Civil War veteran, married Susan Proctor, a Stow school teacher, when he was home on furlough in 1864. Susan Lawrence would be appointed Stow's first librarian.



The Lawrence Homestead at 27 Gleasondale Road, 1897

→ ALFRED D. GLEASON,	} Trustees of Randall Funds.
→ HENRY GATES,	
→ F. W. WARREN,	
→ LEWIS PARKS,	
→ SAMUEL A. LAURENCE,	
→ LYMAN F. PRIEST,	

1893 Town Report, pages 24 and 25

On May 24, **1892**, the Town of Stow received \$55,000 from the estate of John W. Randall to be divided into three separate funds: \$20,000 for a general fund, \$10,000 to assist the deserving poor, and \$25,000 for a public library and books.

**1893, Feb. 22
Town Warrant**

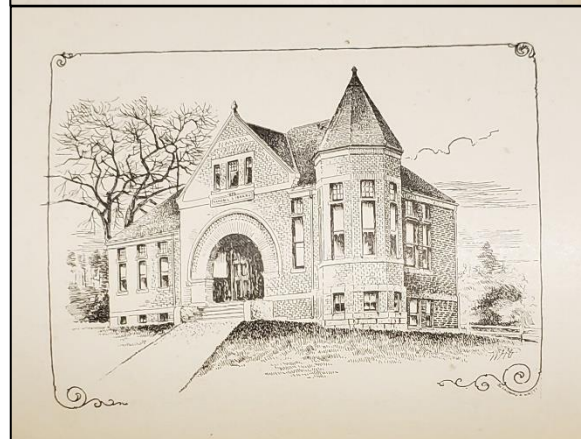
ART. 12. To see if the Town will remove the memorial tablets from the Town Hall to the Randall Library, or do or act thereon.

The two 1883 marble tablets honoring those who died in service during the American Revolution and the Civil War were moved from the Town Hall to the outside entrance of the Randall Library.

**1894 Town Report –
Randall Library Building Costs, pages 24 -26**

TOWN OF STOW.		25
Report of Trustees of Randall Library.		
RECEIPTS.		
Received for old buildings,	\$ 44 50	
“ from Lewis Parks, treasurer,	12,034 23	
“ from Town of Stow on account of vault,	500 00	
“ interest on Boston & Lowell R. R. bonds,	600 00	
“ from Miss Belinda Randall,	200 00	
		\$13,378 73
EXPENDITURES.		
Paid Land,	\$ 800 00	
Library building, including vault, and book racks,	9,502 91	
Grading lot,	287 09	
Concreting walk,	44 68	
		\$10,634 68
Magee Furnace Co., for furnace Stove,	\$223 00 5 80	228 80
Building division fence, Tie posts and setting,	\$35 01 10 50	45 51 84 07
Coal and wood, Insurance on building, Insurance on books and furniture,	\$112 50 45 00	157 50
Furniture, Freight on same,	\$154 10 3 72	157 82

ANNUAL REPORTS		
Curtains and fixtures,	\$40 91	
Freight on same,	55	41 46
Lamps and fixtures,	\$1,686 19	59 75
Books,	10 20	
Freights,		1,696 39
Record books and stationery,	\$23 35	
Printing,	10 20	33 55
J. S. Fletcher, supplies,	\$13 24	
Express, postage and other supplies,	24 36	37 60
Two years' rent of safety vault,		20 00
		\$13,197 13
Cash in treasurer's hands,		181 60
		\$13,378 73
FRANCIS W. WARREN, HENRY GATES, ALFRED D. GLEASON, Trustees.		



February 24, **1894**, the Randall Library was dedicated with Susan M. Lawrence as librarian. She held this position for 25 years, submitting yearly a detailed Librarian's Report to the Annual Town Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN M. LAWRENCE,
Librarian.

Susan M. Proctor Lawrence (1846-1927) began teaching at West School at the age of 16. She taught in Stow school's for over 25 years.

In 1895 she was among Stow's seven influential women who registered to vote registered for the 1895 non-binding referendum to allow women to vote in municipal elections. In 1920 Susan registered to be among Stow's 171 women who voted in a presidential election.

Her obituary in the *Hudson New-Enterprise*, July 1927 stated: "She was a woman of sterling worth and was for many years a prominent factor in the education, social and religious life of the town, thoroughly posted in its history and interested in its welfare."

April 28, **1894**, the Town Meeting appropriated \$3000 for an addition to and remodeling of the town hall.



Hudson News-Enterprise

Large timbers have arrived at the town hall and work will begun at once. Mr. Jewett of Clinton will raise the hall two feet as the plans call for. June 23, 1894

The grounds around the town hall at the present time look as though a cyclone had passed through town. July 4, 1894

The town hall and First parish church were built the same year 46 years ago and this year they are both having an addition built on. August 4, 1894

Stow Town Reports, Excerpts from Susan Lawrence's library summaries.

1901, page 54

In the early part of the year a cabinet was purchased by the Trustees for the preservation of historical relics. The first contribu-

1904, page 50

Do we ever consider that this old town once threaded with Indian trails and bridle paths must contain much which, if collected and preserved, would be of great interest to future generations?

We can but hope that ere long some public spirited citizen will furnish the means whereby we may gain more room for books and at the same time provide for a Memorial room as many of the towns about us have done. And while providing for present needs look to those for years to come. Such memorials will be honored when stone shall have crumbled into dust.

1912, page 89

The installing of electric lights was also a necessary expense, which could not be avoided. Repairs and improve-

I hope that an attempt will be made to induce older families of the town to deposit notable gifts in the form of manuscripts. This is a growing importance, as it will bring together the papers of many old families of the town. Such material of the old families, some of which have been prominent in public life for more than a century, is unusual. As a family history, their contents would be valuable, as these old documents cover a very important period. In after years a letter even may remain as a memorial to the man and to the spirit of the times. The library desires to possess examples of the writings and manuscripts of our early settlers. Such material will be gratefully received and carefully guarded.

HISTORICAL MEMENTOS

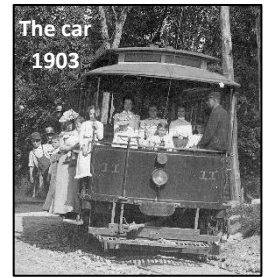
During the summer a friend offered to pledge \$50.00 towards the finishing of a room in the library basement for the preservation of any historical relic of our town that may be offered. On investigating the room was considered inadequate. While we believe that a library should be the treasury of the town's history, there seems to be no department or alcove that can be spared. Perhaps in the future we may secure a room for this purpose.

1906, page 64

1913, page 92

In **1915** (page 76) the library adjusted its hours.

In order to accommodate those pupils who ride on the barge or car, the library will open at twelve and close at five o'clock on Wednesdays. If the pupils would take time



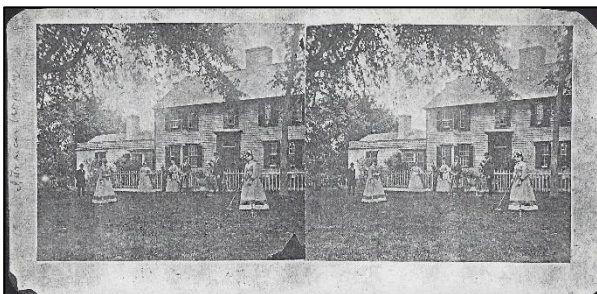
Four of the Susan Lawrence's excerpts on page 9 encouraged the community to donate their historical *relics* and documents. The Town of Stow is greatly indebted to her foresight and vision that at the turn of the 20th century *public spirited citizens* must think about the future generations and donate to the town manuscripts and relics (artifacts) to be carefully guarded.

In **1901** the trustees had purchased a cabinet "for the preservation of historic relics." Susan had a vision that Stow would have "a Memorial room as many of the towns about us have done." (1904)

Susan Lawrence, who retired in **1919** to care for her ill daughter, lived to see a "Memorial Room" added to the Randall Library in 1926.

1923-1930

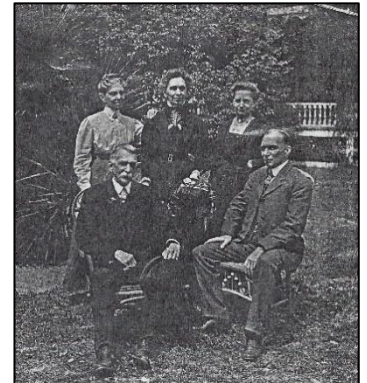
The Whitney siblings, Cyrus, James, Adeline, and Martha, who owned the family's Old Gates Whitney Homestead and the Whitney Homestead, all bequeathed substantial funding to the Town of Stow.



Gates Whitney (old) Homestead Stereograph
Civil War era - 27 Whitney Road



Whitney Homestead
485 Great Road



The Whitney Family
Martha, Adeline, Mary (James' wife)
James, Cyrus

An Article in each will bequeathed: "...to the Randall Library in the Town of Stow, Massachusetts to be used in building and furnishing a suitable addition to the library for the purpose of housing and preserving historical works."

1923 James Whitney' will bequeathed \$3000 to the library addition, \$500 for a memorial for Edwin Whitney, Esq. for his years as the school superintendent, \$2,000 for improvement of the Central Common, and gave the town a parcel land on the eastern side of Lower Village Cemetery. (1924 Town Report, page 6)

1924 Martha Whitney's will bequeathed \$5,000 to the library addition. (1925 Town Report, page 44)

1927 Cyrus Whitney's will bequeathed - see page 11

1928 Adeline Whitney's will bequeathed \$5,000 to the library addition, the "Moses Whitney home farm in said Stow to be used by said town for some appropriate public use, or if sold by said town, the proceeds thereof to be used in or in connection with the building a new town hall..." (1931 Town Report, page 23, Feb 9, 1931, Town Meeting)

REPORT OF THE WHITNEY MEMORIAL HISTORICAL ADDITION

Receipts	
Martha Whitney balance last report	\$5,035.56
Interest, 1926	121.77
James F. Whitney estate	750.65
	\$5,907.98
Expenditures	
G. F. Matthews, contractor	\$4,663.11
George H. Adams, architect	324.48
Tower Brothers, heating	748.62
Walter A. Moore, water piping	83.00
Walter A. Moore, removing earth	10.00
Grace Lawson, cleaning	17.20
Gruber Brothers, curtains	23.50
C. W. Crandall, supplies and labor on water piping	38.07
	\$5,907.98

EMILY C. PACKARD,
W. H. PARKER,
H. H. WARREN,
Trustees.

January 15, 1927.

Examined and approved. HARVEY E. WEIR, Auditor.

The Whitney Historical Room was completed in **1926**.

COPY

T 1574

WILL OF CYRUS H. WHITNEY

I, Cyrus H. Whitney, of Brookline in the County of Norfolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all wills and codicils by me at any time heretofore made.

Article One. I direct my executor as soon as may be after my death to make full payment of my debts and all just charges against my estate.

Article Two. I give and bequeath the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to the First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Stow, Massachusetts, in memory of my mother, Mary G. Whitney, my grandmother, Lucy Whitney, and my aunt, Lucia M. Whitney, all late of Stow, the income thereof to be used and expended for public worship in said church.

Article Three. I give and bequeath the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Randall Library in the Town of Stow, Massachusetts, to be used in building and furnishing a suitable addition to the library for the purpose of housing and preserving historical works. The income of this gift may be accumulated by said Randall Library until the fund with its accumulations and any other moneys available for the purpose, is sufficient to pay for such addition.

Article Four. I give and bequeath the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to the Civic Club in said Stow.

Article Five. I give and bequeath the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to the Town of Stow, Massachusetts, for the maintenance, care and improvement of the Center Common, so-called, in said town.

In **1927** Cyrus H. Whitney's will bequeathed \$10,000 to fund organizations in Stow, \$5,000 of which went to the addition to the Randall Library.

1930 Randall Library Trustees page 81 and 82

There's enough money for two historical rooms.

There is another matter which should come up at this time and be made clear to everyone.

Under the wills of the late Adaline Whitney and Cyrus H. Whitney \$10,000 was left to the Randall Library to build an addition for the housing of historical relics. This bequest was received after the present historical room had been completed.

We felt sure that the library would never need another room for that purpose, the present one being large enough to take care of anything we might acquire, so we were very anxious to have the wills altered in such a way as to enable us to use the interest on the money for the purchase of

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books. Mr. F. Keeler Rice has handled this for us and has been instrumental in carrying it through, so that now only the vote of the town is necessary to insure a yearly income to be used for the purchase of books. This should be of great interest to everyone.

We feel deeply indebted to Mr. Rice, who has given his services in this matter, and conferred a real benefit on the reading public.

EMILY C. PACKARD,
WILLIAM H. PARKER,
HENRY H. WARREN.

November 25, 1930

Article 43. To see if the town will approve and ratify the action of the selectmen and the trustees of the library funds in instituting a proceeding in equity in the Supreme Judicial Court on November 25, 1930, to wit: The town of Stow against the Attorney General et al, to secure a change in the use of the income on the

25

legacies received from the estates of Adeline Whitney and Cyrus H. Whitney, so that the same may be used for the purchase of books for library circulation in place of its accumulation for use in building an addition to the library for housing and preserving historical works and to take any other action relative thereto.

Voted unanimously that the town approve and ratify the action of the Selectmen and the Trustees of the Randall Library Fund in instituting a proceeding in equity in the Supreme Judicial Court on November 25, 1930, to wit: The Town of Stow against the Attorney-General et al, to secure a change in the use of the income on the legacies received from the estates of Adeline Whitney and Cyrus H. Whitney, so that the same may be used for the purchase of books for library circulation in place of its accumulation for use in building an addition to the library for housing and preserving historical works.

Data from the Town of Stow files

“November 1930 legal proceedings in the Supreme Judicial Court secured a change in the use of income of the legacies received from the estates of Adeline Whitney and Cyrus H. Whitney, so that the same may be used for the purchase of books for library circulation and preserving historical works.”

James F. Whitney legacy

<p>1925 \$026.93</p> <p>→ \$068.48</p> <p>1926 \$750.65</p> <p>1927 \$480.00</p> <p>1929 \$128.82</p> <p>1931 \$244.40</p> <p>1932 \$035.00</p> <p>1937 \$1,280.29</p> <p>1950 \$079.20</p> <p>1970 \$1,382.20</p>	<p>book rack</p> <p>brass railing installed along the entry steps. It is stored in the Randall Library attic.</p> <p>toward the completion of the Whitney Historical Room</p> <p>balance on contract for the addition</p> <p>for the walk</p> <p>for two rugs and andirons</p> <p>for library table</p> <p>to finish the attic floor for a reference room</p> <p>for Reggie Nichols</p> <p>for library consultant, Jack Bryant</p>
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1993 Investment Reports for the Whitney Funds, the last time they were reported separately

Investment Trusts	Balance: 1/1/93	Balance: 12/31/93
Adeline Whitney Fund	\$27,582.42	\$24,282.22
Cyrus Whitney Fund	29,853.13	32,883.39



Historical Room in Randall Memorial Library where the Stow Historical Society holds its monthly meetings and where historic artifacts are encased for viewing.

In 1971 Laurie Kattelle drew this sketch of the Whitney Historical Room for the brochure celebrating the Stow Historical Society's 10th Anniversary.

Does anyone have a photo of this room before the Common Road addition was built in 1975?

Benefactors who enriched the Town of Stow

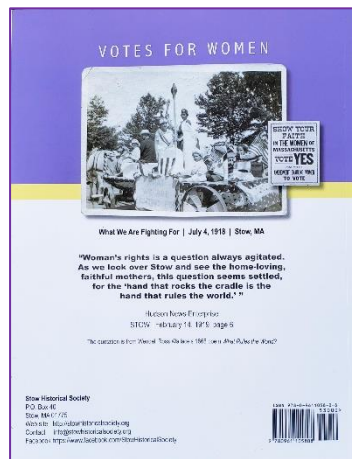
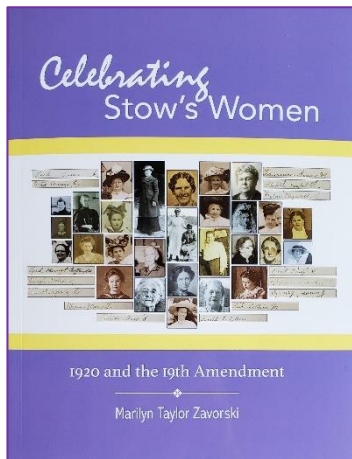
- 1848 Town Meeting voters to build a Town Hall

- 1871 The Hale High School fund:
Colonel Elijah Hale (\$5,000),
Henry Brooks, Esq. (\$100),
Hon. John W. Brooks (\$1,000)

- 1892 Miss Belinda Randall who carried out the expressed wishes of her brother, John Witt Randall to donate \$25,000 for the construction of the Randall Memorial Library.

- 1924 -1928 James Francis Whitney
Martha Gates Whitney
Cyrus Henry Whitney
Adeline Whitney
They collectively donated \$18,000 to build the historical room addition to the library. Besides the Whitney Historical Room their legacy continues in investment funds for the library.

The Stow Historical Society's newest book was published in April 2021.



The SHS continues to look forward to the time when in-person programming will be an actuality to truly celebrate Stow's women in 1920 who registered to vote.

This limited-edition, 146-page book is printed in color and priced at \$20 – cash or check made out to the Stow Historical Society. Reply to this email or to info@stowhistoricalsociety.org. The books are also for sale at the Stow COA Gift Shop and the Randall Library.

The Stow Historical Society encourages interested Stow residents to join our core group to help facilitate planning, programming, and writing.

The SHS is seeking a treasurer and a webmaster.

**Watch for the next
issue of Stow through
Town Reports.**