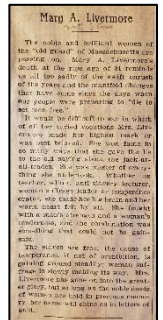


Newspapers afforded Stow's women easy access to local, state, national and world news.

For example, Susan Proctor Lawrence, Stow schoolteacher and first Randall librarian, kept a scrapbook (1896-1920) of events important to her. From an unidentified Boston newspaper, she clipped the obituary of Mary A. Livermore (1820-1905), a renowned woman of her day: a teacher, editor, anti-slavery lecturer, woman suffrage leader and temperance orator. Besides news articles, political cartoons were clipped and saved.



The scrapbook is in the town vault.



This suffrage cartoon was from a 1905 Boston newspaper.



The 18th Amendment, Prohibition, which went into effect January 1920.

Stow's women would have read about the Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C. in 1913.



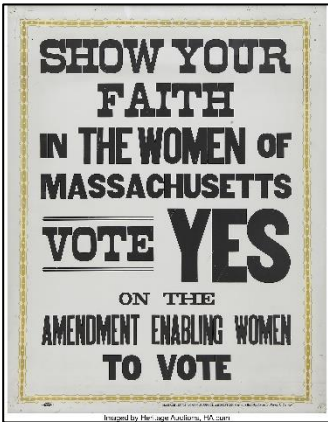
Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.20801600/>



The Boston Globe, Tuesday, March 4, 1913, page 10

The November 2, 1915 Ballot Measure and the "Victory" Parade

"In 1915, male voters in Massachusetts were asked to decide on an amendment to the **Massachusetts Constitution** that would strike the word "male" from the article that gave men the right to vote. In response to the upcoming vote, the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association organized a pro-suffrage parade on Saturday, 16 October 1915, involving some 15,000 marchers and 30 bands." <https://www.masshist.org/database/1892>



<https://historical.ha.com/itm/political/posters-and-broadside/1896-present/massachusetts-woman-suffrage-society-broadside/a/685-70259>



Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Bluebird Sign

100,000 tin, blue bird signs were issued to support the MA November 2, 1915 referendum.

(12 in x 4 in)



The Boston Sunday Globe, Oct 17, 1915 page 10



The Boston Sunday Globe, Oct 17, 1915, page 11

Hudson News-Enterprise October 29, 1915, page 1

Full page coverage of pros and cons of the November 2nd referendum



A short excerpt

Governor Kendrick of Wyoming declares: "We believe that we have a cleaner ballot, and a vote of greater integrity through the influence of woman and her use of the ballot."—Boston Globe.

President Burton of Smith college writes: "I am going to vote for suffrage because I believe in democracy, and because suffrage works." This certainty he found out for himself by visiting twelve suffrage states and investigating conditions.

Educated, conscientious mothers and teachers are daily teaching young men how to become good citizens, yet these same women are debarred equal rights of citizenship, legally given these young men, at the age of twenty-one, however immature their minds may be.

But why is the right denied? Is it "because woman is physically, mentally, or morally weaker than man? No. Because she is not patriotic, pays no taxes, does not obey laws? No. Intelligence and character are possessed in equal degrees by men and women. Simply because she is a woman."—Hon. John W. Abercrombie, M. C. representative from Alabama.

The referendum failed.

STOW Photo: Suffrage Sentiments

This photo is from the Fuller/Gleason SHS collection: Memorial Day 1918.



Women's suffrage poster, 1907-1918.
 Courtesy of Schlesinger Library
<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/news/schlesinger-newsletter/long-19th-amendment>

WWI was ending. The young women on this patriotic Stow float were portraying Lady Liberty and "Columbia."



WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR



Woman on the right might be Alfreda Gleason Fuller. 4 of 11



German actress Hedwig Reicher wears the costume of "Columbia" with other suffrage pageant participants standing in background in front of the Treasury Building in Washington, District of Columbia, on March 3, 1913. The performance was part of the larger Suffrage Parade of 1913.

Library of Congress
<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2013/03/100-years-ago-the-1913-womens-suffrage-parade/100465/#img01>

Vote for Women sashes



October 1915
 Mount Holyoke Students marching in Springfield, MA
<https://feminist.org/blog/index.php/2014/10/24/today-in-1915-suffragists-across-the-east-coast-are-ready-to-fight-for-the-vote/>

Colors used by the US Suffragettes in the 20th century



Early 20th century **photographs** and **media** were **black-and-white**.

Boston Suffrage Parade, October 16, 1915



<https://www.wellesley.edu/events/node/171991>



The Boston Sunday Globe, October 17, 1915, page 1

The suffragettes realized that when marketing their cause, they required a sharp contrast from men's dark suits.



<https://www.etsy.com/listing/661847740/american-suffragette-protest-sash-votes>

WHITE – “...suffragists sought to present an image of themselves as beautiful and skilled women who would bring civility to politics and cleanse the system of corruption.”

BY EINAV RABINOVITCH-FOX <https://www.fastcompany.com/90309194/progressive-women-are-wearing-white-they-should-wear-purple-and-yellow-too>

NOTE: White dresses were easier and cheaper to buy.

Campaign colors: Purple, white and gold

- **YELLOW:** Hope - a “tribute to Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who used the sunflower – Kansas state flower – when they campaigned for a failed statewide suffrage referendum in 1867.
- **PURPLE:** Loyalty and dignity
- **WHITE:** Purity



Hazle Buck Ewing's National Woman's Party sash and ribbon, circa 1916-1919

<https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2019/12/newly-digitized-collection-highlights-bloomington-normal-womens-suffrage-history/>

August 14, 1920

Stow, Massachusetts

Excitement and Tension were in the air!

Would Tennessee be the 36th state, the last state needed to ratify the constitutional amendment Congress passed on May 19, 1919?

It had been 16 months! Plus, it had been over 70 years to receive this right on the national level!

ANXIOUS MOMENTS

“Casting a line that gets snared in a tree, the women’s suffrage cause tries to reel in the right to vote. After the Tennessee General Assembly ratified the 19th Amendment, anti-suffragist legislators tried to derail the vote, represented by the snares ‘technicality,’ ‘injunction,’ and ‘filibuster.’”

<https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15138coll27/id/40/>



Neither the *Hudson News-Enterprise* nor the *Maynard News-Enterprise* published dates for Stow women to register to vote in 1920. The Hudson newspaper did give detailed information for Hudson residents for late August through October registration dates.

The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920.

Stow’s first registration date was four days earlier.

Did STOW post signs as was done in Minnesota?



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-first-women-voters-experienced-when-registering-1920-election-180975435/>

Here is the source which defined August 14, 1920: **Stow Selectmen's Minutes**

-Stow Town Vault-

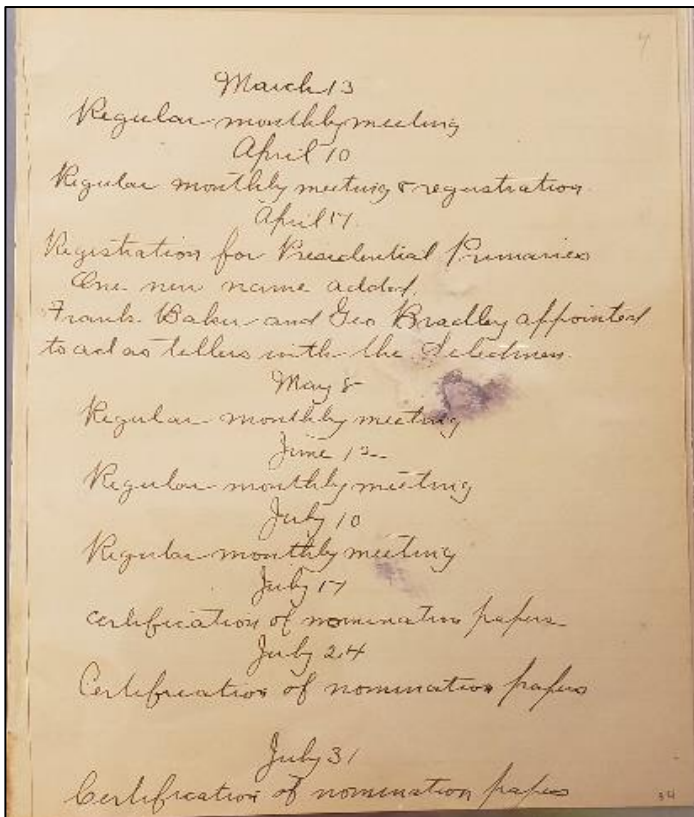
The 1920 Selectmen were: James F. Croft
Edward A. Warren
Charles A. Hearsey

The 1920 Town Clerk was: Henry P. Smith

The minutes of 18 meetings were recorded on four pages. Brief, yet informative!

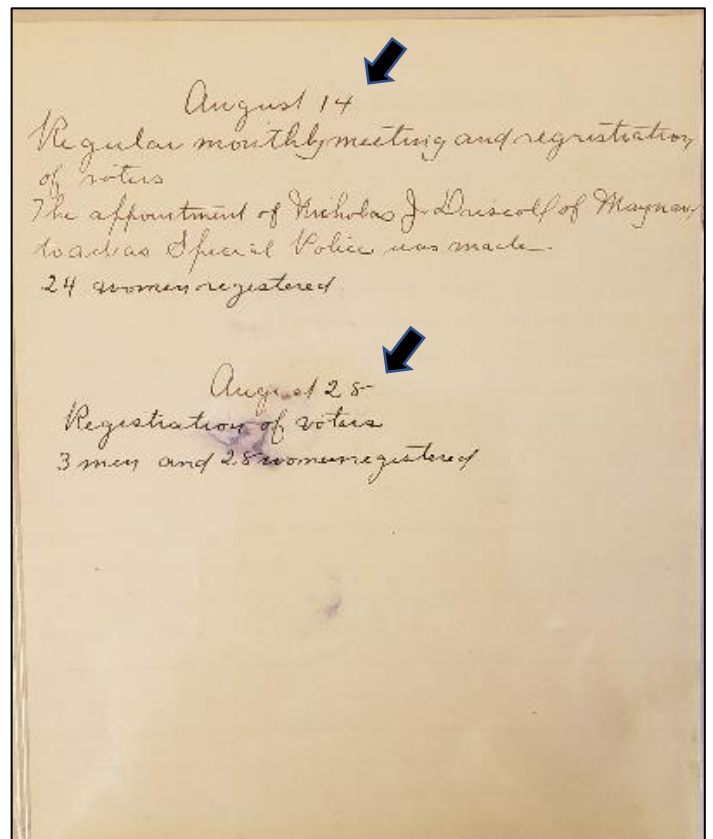
**The Stow Selectmen met at the Town Hall
on Saturdays.**


Two special meetings were held: Wed,
Sept 8th and Friday, Sept 10th.



Town Clerk, Henry P. Smith, was the
husband of Lucy Ann Warren Smith.
Lucy Smith was featured last week.

**These are the great grandparents of
Jeffrey Smith.**



September 4. 
 Registrations of voters from 2 to 4 P.M. also
 7 to 9 P.M.
 7 males 57 females registered.

September 8-
 Hearing at the Town hall in regard to the
 proposed laying out of the road leading
 from Great Elm towards New center.

September - 10.
 Meeting at the car barn in Maynard in
 regard to the Town's helping the Co.

September - 11
 Regular monthly meeting.

October 9.
 Regular monthly meeting and registration
 6 males and 3 females registered -

October 22
 Registration at Gleasondale
 23 females 4 males registered.

October 23
 Registration Town Hall
 33 females and 19 males registered.

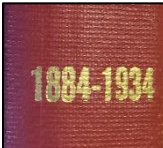
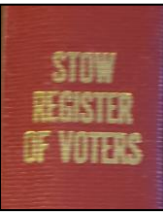
**On SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1920 the Selectmen held two registrations for voters:
 2 – 4 PM and 7 – 9 PM.**

The Selectmen's tallying of registrants does not match the number of signed and documented registrants in the *Stow Register of Voters*.

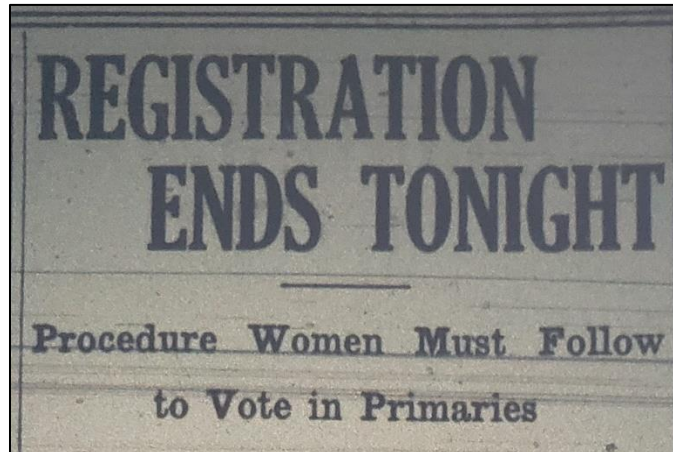
- The Saturday, August 14th minutes stated 24 women registered. The register was 26.
- The Saturday, August 28th minutes stated 28 women registered. The register was 33.
- The Saturday, September 4th minutes stated 57 women registered. The register was 55.
- The Saturday, October 9th minutes stated 3 women registered. The register was 03.
- The Friday, October 22nd minutes stated 24 women registered. The register was 25.
- The Saturday, October 23rd minutes stated 28 women registered. The register was 29.

171

Women registered
to vote in Stow



On September 3, 1920, the *Hudson News-Enterprise* (page 3) printed the state registration procedure.



This headline was directed to Hudson registrants, who might desire to vote in the Hudson primaries.

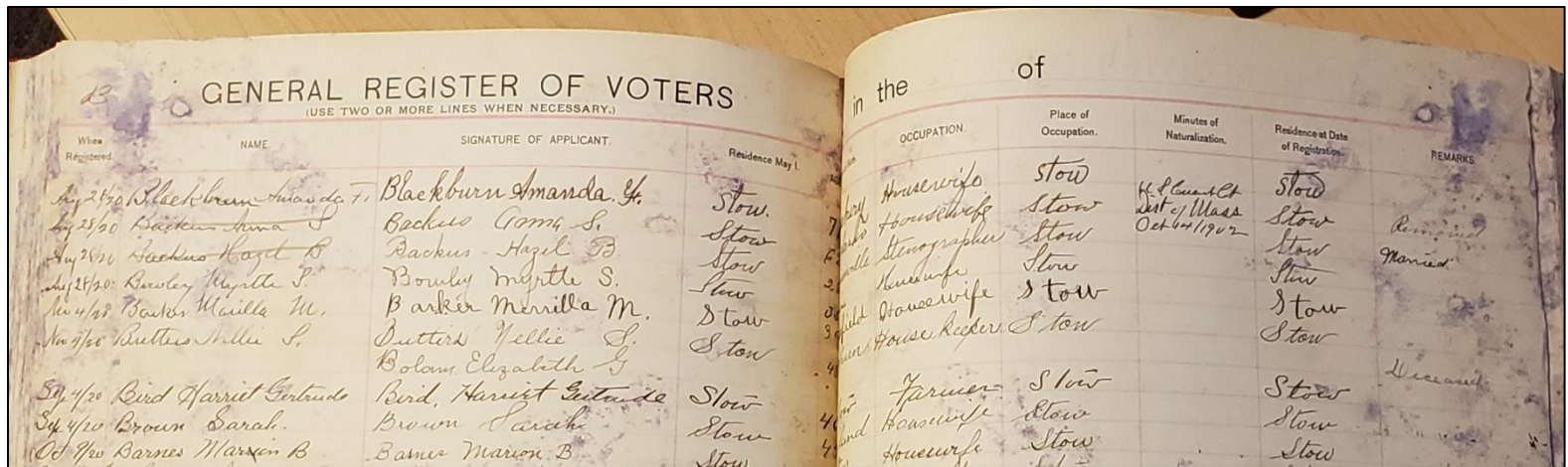
Applicants must be citizens. They must be at least twenty-one years of age. They must not be paupers, or under guardianship. They must be able to read and write the English language. They must show proof of at least one year's residence in the state, and six months' residence in their voting district. Other questions regarding parentage and nationality are asked, and if the applicant is a naturalized citizen he must show his certificate of naturalization. The wife of a naturalized citizen must show her husband's certificate of naturalization. Every registered voter should make sure, before the date of election, that his or her name is on the voting list of the district in which he or she votes. If omitted he or she must apply to the Board of Registrars to have the mistake rectified. No new names can be added to the voting list after registration legally closes.

All women who had registered before the passage of the act and all who have registered since its passage will have their names automatically transferred to the regular voting lists, without re-registration. This will entitle them to vote not only for school committee alone, but at the primaries and at all national, state and local elections within the Commonwealth, and for all officers from the President of the United States down to constable and fence viewer. It will give them the right to enter upon the floor at town meetings and take part in the discussion and deliberations of the sessions.

The above applied to Stow's women who registered in the 1895 referendum.

Interestingly, in Stow, these women all came in and re-registered.

The 26 Stow women honored to have registered on August 14, 1920 included



The **General Register of Voters – B** – a quarter of the page is shown
Stow Register of Voters, bound ledger

Occupation
is recorded as written
at registration.

The SHS master spreadsheet has 18 columns of data.

Last Name	Maiden Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	Place of Birth	Birth-Death Dates	Occupation
Crowell	Murray	Olivia	Stockton	50	Hackensack, NJ	1870 - 1945	Housewife
Dexter	Dodge	Frances	Ella	35	S. Dakota	1885 - 1947	Housewife
Dudley	Merrifield	Ida	May	47	Effingham, ME	1873 - 1929	Housewife
Fillmore		Mabel	Gertrude	36	Boxboro	1883 - 1973	Clerk Bookkeeper
Fletcher	Longard	Eleanor	Blanche	45	Halifax, NS	1875 - 1960	Housewife
Hall	Goodell	Sarah	Andrews	76	Hillsboro, NH	1843 - 1934	Housewife
Harriman		Gertrude	Priscilla	25	Maynard	1895 - 1976	Stenographer
Herrick	Randall	Ethel	Adelle	31	Chicago, Ill	1888 - 1984	Housewife
Lewis		Lena	Belle	36	Stow	1883 - 1975	Bookkeeper
Lewis	Staples	Margaret	S	41	Stow	1879 - 1973	Housekeeper
Oliver	Wetherbee	Lizzie	Maria	58	Stow	1862 - 1946	Housewife
Otterson	Hartshorn	Mary	Grace	48	Berlin	1871 - 1942	Housewife

Last Name	Maiden Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	Place of Birth	Birth-Death Dates	Occupation
Priest	Ashworth	Emma		48	Shaw, England	1872 - 1949	Housewife
Priest	Graversen	Sarah	Cecilia	27	Concord	1893 - 1974	Housewife
Rich	Barteaux	Matilda	Gertrude	47	Nova Scotia	1873 - 1933	Housewife
Robbins	Stone	Carlotta	Young	33	Newton Highlands	1886 - 1971	Housewife
Schofield (divorcee)	Thompson	Ethel	Florence	32	South Acton	1888 - 1961	Rubber Maker
Smith (divorcee)	Warren	Carrie	Louise	47	Stow	1872 - 1952	Housewife
Smith		Eleanor	Louise	28	Stow	1891 - 1986	Librarian
Smith	Ungethuem	Jennie	M	26	Westfield	1894 - 1993	Housewife/Jan 1920 teacher in Hudson
Smith	Warren	Lucy	A	58	Stow	1862 - 1954	Housewife
Smith	Schwartz	Marguerite	Ruth	28	Waltham	1892 - 1974	Housekeeper
Tatler	Dudley	Dora	Inez	25	Charlestown	1895 - 1964	Housewife
Tay		Winifred		41	Bedford	1879 - 1961	at home
Thompson	McNeil	Aleada	Violet	32	Nova Scotia	1887 - 1972	Housewife
Wilmot	Tay	Dorothy	T	43	Medford	1877 - 1929	Housewife



Mark your calendars



The culminating event for the SHS's **1920: Celebrating Stow's Women who Registered to Vote** will now be virtual. Actress Sheryl Faye will present **Susan B. Anthony – Failure is Impossible**.

The 43-minute performance will be on
STOW TV

Sunday, September 13, 2020
Available between 4 – 6 PM

Or online with a link and password emailed to you upon request
12 - 24 hours in advance.

The program will be continuously run between 4-6 PM on **Stow TV**. There will be no rebroadcasts.

1920: Celebrating Stow's Women Who Registered to Vote

11 of 11

Part VI: Stow Ladies
Coming August 21, 2020