



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!*

August 21, 2020

1920 - 2020

100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment: Women's Suffrage



Part VI

STOW's Women

from Whitman's Corner

Where is Whitman's Corner?

If we step back in time, we might hear

“the road to Dr. Whitman’s”

“Whitman’s Crossing railroad station”

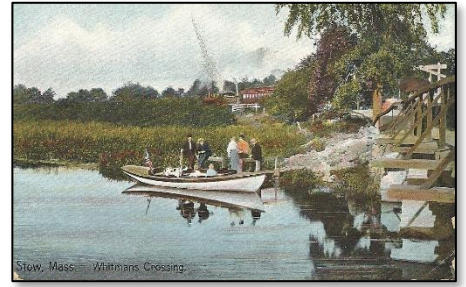
“Whitman Bridge”

“Squire Whitman’s”

“Captain Whitman’s”

“Whitman Tavern”

or “Whitman School.”



Whitman's Crossing Bridge and Assabet R. Looking east on Sudbury Rd. SHS postcard



1902 Whitman's Crossing Postcard – Barton Rd. to the left; Sudbury Rd. looking WEST; Whitman Bridge and Assabet R. in background
Legends of Stow Facebook page

All of these phrases bring us to the current intersection of Boon Rd., Sudbury Rd., and Whitman St.



Looking SOUTH
SHS photo



Looking NORTH
SHS postcard

Today's Honey Pot Hill Orchards



Looking WEST
Boon Rd.

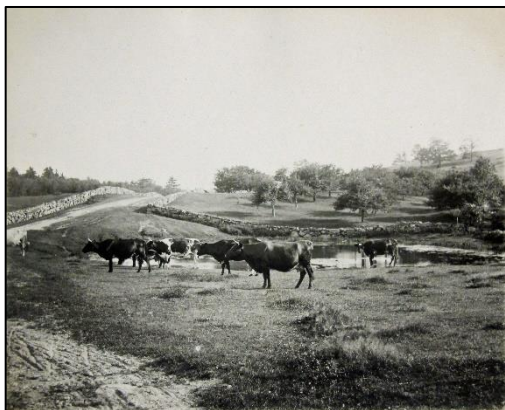


Looking SOUTH
Whitman Rd.



Looking NORTH

In 1971 the Stow Historical Society presented a program about Whitman's Corner and its old houses.



Early Landscape of Whitman's Corner

144 Sudbury Road

SHS photo

The SHS reported that, "The area referred to as 'Whitman's Corner' is bounded by hills and bodies of water – all still present today.

- There is *Birch Hill* on the North.
- Gleasondale is on the South, which involves going up and over *Honey Pot Hill*.
- To the East is the area over the Assabet River, and up Barton Road to *Boon's Hill* arriving at Lake Boon."

The Women of Whitman's Corner

Sudbury Road

Maud L. Whitney Ferguson

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ferguson Maud W.".

- 1862-1924
- Born in Buffalo, NY
- 1897 married Thomas Wells Ferguson in Milwaukee, WI
- Lived at **144 Sudbury Rd** from 1915 to 1926
 - Thomas worked for as a purchasing dept, machine shop
- This house was once **The Whitman Tavern** – built pre-1830 – owned by Capt. Edward Whitman
 - This land has been used as a dairy, poultry, and fruit farm.
- Thomas W. Ferguson was the 8th owner.
- 1919, April 4: The family of T. W. Ferguson are at the home place at Whitman's Crossing. (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 8)
- 1919, May 9: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ferguson are entertaining his mother and sister from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 8)



SHS - ca. late 1800's

Registered Sept 9, 1920



1982 – MACRIS

Massachusetts Cultural Resource
Information System

<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>

- Today this is Honey Pot Hill Orchards.
- The name Honey Pot Hill Farm originally belonged to the farm of Jonathan Priest until about 1912, when Will Parker bought it. (Edith Leland Swaney Parker story on page 6)

Registered Sept 9, 1920

Helen Elizabeth Hearsey Ferguson

Ferguson Helen H.

- 1894-1987
- Born in Medford, daughter of Charlotte and Charles A. Hearsey
- 1919 June 6: Helen reelected teacher at Newton H. S. Hudson News-Enterprise, page 8
- 1919, Nov 24: married Whitney T. Ferguson, son of Thomas and Maud Ferguson
- 1920 Helen and Whitney lived with his parents and siblings at **144 Sudbury Road**. Whitney was a farm laborer.

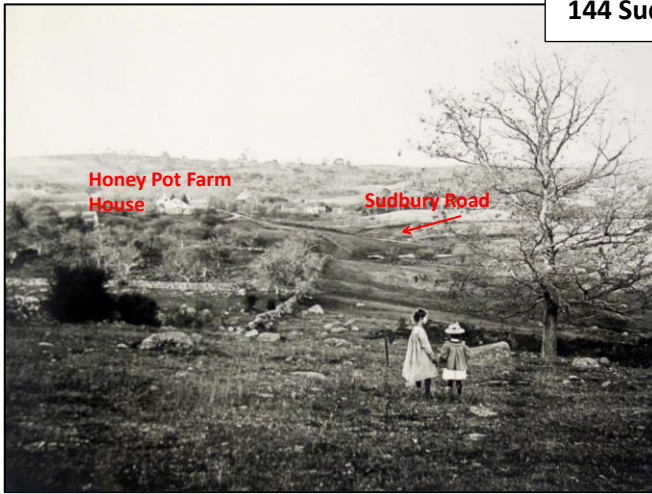


Hale High School
ca. 1911
SHS

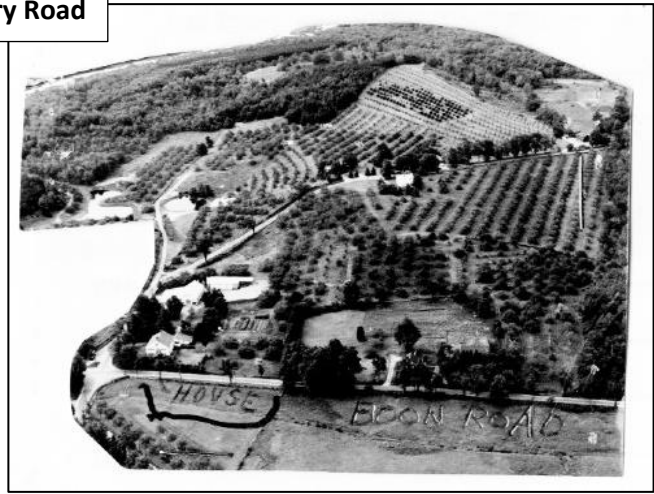


Helen Ferguson
1915
SHS photo

144 Sudbury Road



SHS photo



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>
- photo between 1977-1982

Charlotte F. Saul Hearsey

Hearsey Charlotte F.

- 1863-1946
- Born in Cambridge
- 1886 married Charles A. Hearsey
- The **mother of Helen Hearsey Ferguson**
- The family most likely built their house at **387 Gleasondale Rd** in 1904-1905, where Charles farmed.
- 1913, March 21: Charter member of the Stow Woman's Association
- 1917: Worked with the Red Cross Unit in Hudson (Crowell, page 79)
- 1918, May 17: Treasurer of the Stow Civic Club (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 5)
- 1918, June 21: On the Grange's dinner committee to entertain soldiers from Camp Devens (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 4)
- 1919, April 11: Hosted the Ladies' Circle of the Unitarian Church (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 7)

1909 Whalom Park
Church Picnic
SHS



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>
2017

Stow Massachusetts 1683-1933
By Rev and Mrs. Preston R. Crowell, 1933 page 63

Registered August 28, 1920

Many a Stow youth, who biked down HEARSEY'S HILL, had a STORY.

"I rode my bike down Hearsey's Hill many a time going to the Gleasondale School. It was a great ride going down...feet off the pedals and let 'er rip!! Getting back up the hill on the way home was another matter entirely. It was a hard pump and often I ended up walking the bike

4 of 9

to the to the top. No gears on my fat tire bike back then. "The wildest part of the ride was making the turn on the curve at the bottom of the hill. If you got into the sand on the edge of the road it was a complete wipeout with skinned legs and torn pants."

Written by John H. Peck, August 18, 2020

Bill Wickey and Bob Trumpolt have similar memories!

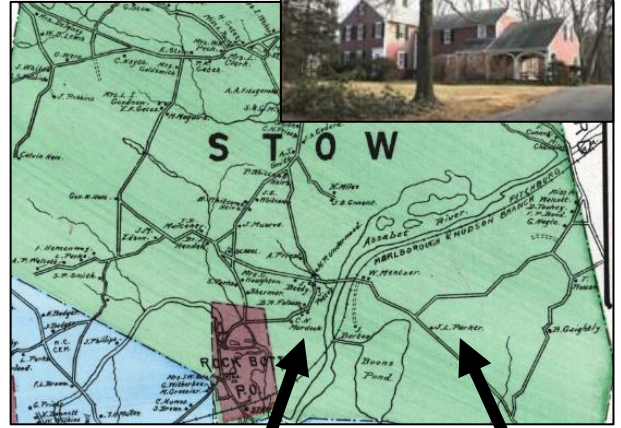
Registered Sept 9, 14, 1920

Nellie C. Wade Murdock

Murdock Nellie C.

- 1870-1931
- Born in Bridgewater
- 1907 married Charles H. Murdock - whose farm was on **61 Sudbury Road**
- Son, Charles Curtis Murdock, was born Dec. 1909
- “Beyond the Woodman’s was the only other house, that of the Murdock’s which all the kids were afraid to pass although I know nothing Mr. Murdock ever did to get this reputation. They had one son who went to the Gleasondale School.”
(Thomas W. Ferguson’s *Recollections*, a Stow Historical Society Research paper)

<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>



Murdock Parker
1889 Stow Map

Registered Oct 23, 1920

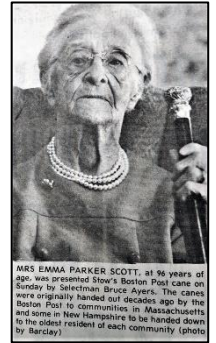
Emma May Parker

Parker Emma M.

- 1876-1973
- Born in Stow, the daughter of James Lloyd Parker and Frances E. Goding
- Treasurer Methodist Episcopal Church
- Ran the family farm store on **310 Sudbury Road**
- Family farmed, had greenhouses, cider mill, icehouse...
- 1936 married Edward Scott
- She lived 96 yrs, 7 ms, and 24 ds.



Halprin, Lewis, and Alan Kattelle. *Lake Boon*.
Charlestown, S.C.: Arcadia, 1998.



MRS. EMMA PARKER SCOTT, at 96 years of age, was presented Stow's Boston Post came on Sunday by Selectman Bruce Ayers. The canes Boston Post is communities in Massachusetts to the oldest resident of each community (photo by Hersey)

SHS – vertical file

Registered Sept 9, 1920

Elizabeth Gillespie Bolam

Bolam, Elizabeth G.

- 1851-1923
- Born in Paisley, Scotland, arriving in the US in 1857
- 1879 married George Bolam, who farmed near **218 Sudbury Road**
- Naturalized in 1879
- President of the Ladies’ Aid of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Gleasondale
- Superintendent of the primary department of the Sunday School, ME Church
- For many years, a member of the Grange, serving as lecturer
- From 1912-1923 she had been in poor health

Hudson News-Enterprise, Nov 1923 obit

Registered Oct 22, 1920

Edith Leland Swaney Parker

Parker Edith L.

- 1872-1921
- Born in Lubec, ME, the daughter of George W. Swaney and Laura J. Newman
- 1896 married in Stow William Henry Parker, a farmer on **98 Sudbury Street**
 - Wm Henry was the son of James Lloyd Parker and Frances E. Goding
 - **Sister-in-law of Emma May Parker**



Edith Swaney Parker, circa 1890



William Parker and Edith (Swaney) Parker. The photograph was taken by Robert Clayton Swaney, Laura's son, in 1904 in Gleasondale, Massachusetts

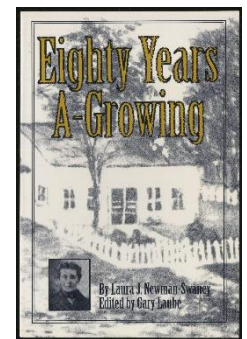
The Parker/Swaney photos are from *Eighty Years and A-Growing*, Dorrance Pub. Co., 1994 Family published book, SHS Genealogy Folder under *Parker*

Laura J Newman Swaney

Swaney Laura J.

- 1853-1953
- Born in West Lake, ME
- 1871 married George William Swaney
- **Mother of Edith L. Swaney Parker**
- 1919, Jan 10: President of M.E. Church's Ladies' Aid
- 1920: George was a wool sorter at the Gleason Woolen Mill
- Lived 100 years

Hudson News-Enterprise, page 8



Eastport, ME 1863



Laura and her husband, George Swaney, circa 1900.



Laura in 1951, at age 98.



Laura on her 100th birthday, 1953.

Registered August 28, 1920

Boon Road

Edith M. Clark Woodman

Woodman Edith M.

- 1876-1959
- Born in Uxbridge
- 1904 married Byron Woodman, a farm truck driver
- Lived on **Boon Road**



SHS - vertical file ca. 1948-1953

Registered Oct 22, 1920

Whitman Street

Registered October 22, 1920

Hannah Priest Ridley Underwood

Underwood Hannah P.

- 1860-1924
- Born in Jay, ME
- 1879 married Herbert P. Underwood, fruit farmer, **170 Whitman Street**
- 1919, July 18: Walter and Arthur Underwood arrived home from overseas (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 7)
- 1919, August 1: Active in the Ladies' Aid of the M.E. Church (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 5)
- Member of the Stow Woman's Association, the Stow Circle Club, and the Grove School Association



Hannah Underwood
contributed by Rosemary Bawn



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>

2017

170 Whitman Street



copied from Neil Phalan Stow postcard collection

SHS - ca. 1900

Registered October 23, 1920

Lillian N. Newsham Underwood

Underwood Lillian N.

- D1897-1987
- Born in Allston
- 1919-1920 married Arthur L. Underwood, the son of Hannah and Herbert Underwood, upon his return from France (WWI)
 - Arthur was a laborer on his father's fruit farm
- Lived at **170 Whitman Street**
- 1924: Sergeant-at-Arms of the American Legion Auxiliary in Stow
- **Daughter-in-law of Hannah Underwood**



Art and Lillian Underwood
contributed by Rosemary Bawn

Registered August 14, 1920

Emma Ashworth Priest

Priest Emma



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx>

2017

- 1872-1949
- Born in Shaw, England
- Immigrated in 1887; naturalized in 1890
- 1892 married Lyman F. Priest, fruit farmer,
149 Whitman Street
- 1918, June 21: On the Grange's dinner committee to entertain soldiers from Camp Devens (Hudson News-Enterprise, page 4)

- 1919, May 9:

The peach orchard at Lyman Priest's farm has been attracting visitors from all directions during this past week since it has been in bloom.

(Hudson News-Enterprise, page 8)

- 1919, Aug 22: 150 automobiles, 650 people, toured orchards in MA and NH

at Homestead Farm were visited, then a call at the Lyman F. Priest place, where his apple and peaches were viewed with great interest. Mr. Priest's method of grading claimed attention.

(Hudson News-Enterprise, page 1)

Registered Sept 9, 1920

Florence G. Hill Phipps

Phipps Florence G.



West elevation, camera facing southeast.

<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx> - 2017

- 1879-1964
- Born in Batsford, England
- Immigrated in 1894; naturalized in 1900
- 1899 married John H. Phipps
- 1920 lived at **150 Whitman Street**, where John was the manager of Fruit Acres and a shoemaker. This was the foreman's house.

Registered Aug 14, 1920

Sarah C. Graversen Priest

Priest Sarah G.



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx> - 2017

- 1893-1974
- Born in Concord
- 1915 married Harold A. Priest, son of Emma and Lyman Priest, Orchardist
- Fruit Farm on **160 Whitman Street**
- **Daughter-in-law of Emma Priest**



1962 - SHS photo

THE FINALE

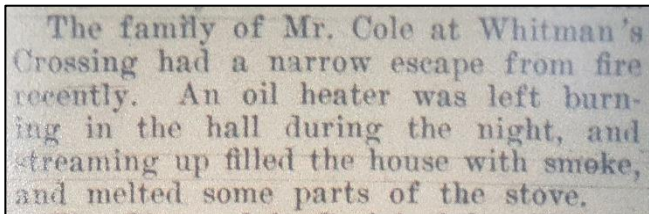
Vera A. Warren Cole

Cole, Vera A. Warren



<http://mhc-macris.net/Results.aspx> - 2017

- 1889-1981
- Born in Montreal, Canada
- Naturalized in 1905
- Her brother, Wilfred G. G. Cole, bought the farm at **149 Sudbury Road**, which was also called **Lake Boon Road** in 1921.
 - 1897 graduate from Harvard College
 - Head of a tutoring school in Cambridge
 - **“I have a farm in the country and enjoy raising apples and poultry.”**
(Harvard College Class of 1897, Twenty-fifth Anniversary Report, 1897-1922. Cambridge, MA: The Riverside Press, 1922 <https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=qsgnAAAAYAAJ&hl=en&pg=GBS.PR10>)
 - Vera was a *spinster*, who was allowed to live independently in Stow.
- October 24, 1919



Hudson News-Enterprise, page 4

- Mid-1920's Vera married Henry W. Ley and they lived in St. Paul, MN.



New from the Stow Historical Society



Sheryl Faye will present
Susan B. Anthony- Failure is Impossible

Sunday September 13, 2020
4pm on STOW TV
or online
with a link and password
emailed to you
upon request
12-24 hours in advance
info@stowhistoricalsociety.org

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

Part VII: Stow 1920 and her Ladies Remembered

Coming August 28, 2020

Registered October 23, 1920