

Celebrating Stow's Women Who Registered to Vote



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 28, 2020



The Boston Globe, August 23, 1920, page 5

1920 - 2020

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

Part VII



1920 and her Ladies
Remembered

AUGUST 28, 1920 at noon

100 years ago, today, JOY BELLS rang across Massachusetts to celebrate
the proclamation of the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

JOY BELLS

One needs to imagine Stow at noon on August 28, 1920.

The ringing of the churches' bells could have sounded across Stow.
Stow's women were savvy and informed.
33 Stow women registered to vote on this Saturday, August 28th.

The Woman Citizen magazine also announced that the **Joy Bells** rang across Massachusetts & across the country.

The Woman Citizen, September 18, 1920, page 436
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008868782>


The Woman Citizen

Joy Bells from Cape Cod to Seattle


JN Massachusetts, church bells, fire bells, all sorts of bells, rang at noon on Saturday, August 28th, to celebrate the proclamation of the Federal Suffrage Amendment, by the Secretary of State Colby. At Faneuil Hall, the cradle of liberty, which has been connected with historic events marking every epoch in the history of American democracy, a mass meeting to celebrate victory will be held on September 22.


19th Amendment Commemoration Countdown

100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Facts



On August 18, 1920, Mrs. Mary Medbury MacKaye gathered her suffragist daughter Hazel, family members, neighbors, and artist friend Clara Sackett on the steps of the First Parish Meeting House on Shirley Common and tolled the old church bell in celebration of receiving word that day of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.




Courtesy of Shirley Historical Society, Shirley, MA

With archival research on pause, the SHS adds the **Joy Bells** event to our research list.

Boston, August 28, 1920

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE--AUGUST 29, 1920

CROWD IN GRANDSTAND AT BRAVES FIELD RALLY



SOUND AMPLIFIERS AT BRAVES FIELD RALLY



GOV COOLIDGE SPEAKING INTO NEW DEVICE WHICH THREW HIS VOICE TO EVERY PART OF STANDS.

Boston was alive with celebration on August 28th.

Note: Braves Field was the home of the Boston Braves. It is now the site of Nickerson Field, Boston University.

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On Saturday, September 22, 1920 Massachusetts held its *Victory Parade*.



The Boston Globe, September 23, 1920, page 1

As the women marched they sang, appropriately, "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah," written by a great suffrage worker, Julia Ward Howe, and other songs composed for the occasion, suffrage words set to popular tunes.



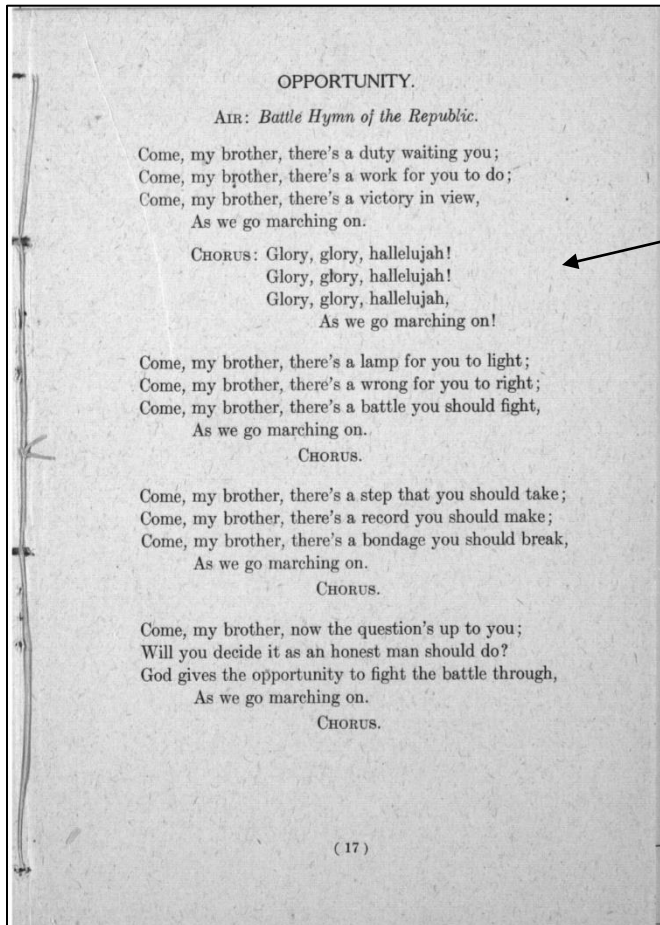
The Boston Globe, September 23, 1920, page 10

Suffrage Songs

The lyrics of popular songs were rewritten for the suffrage movement.

A few of the tunes included "Swanee River," "Three Blind Mice," "Dixie Land," "Good Night Ladies," "Auld Lang Syne," and "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah" (or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic").

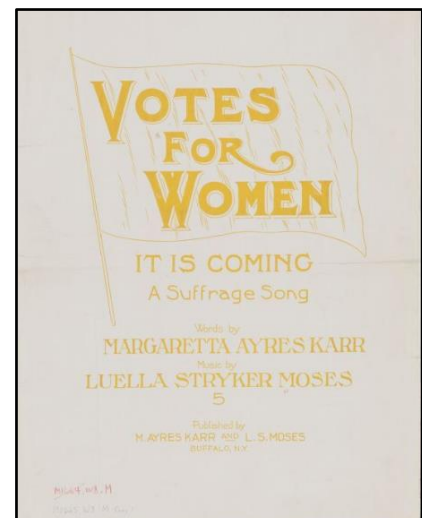
[The Suffrage Song Book](#) by Henry W. Roby was published in Topeka, Kansas, 1909.



Other published songs included:



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017562209/>



<https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=it+is+coming+-+song&new=true>

Another song's chorus, inspired by a suffragist, might have been known in 1920 Stow.

The Original Verses 1908

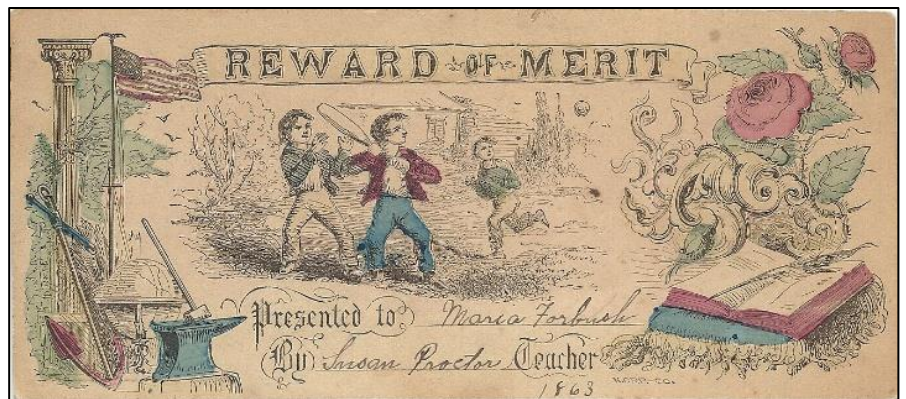
Katie Casey was baseball mad,
 Had the fever and had it bad.
 Just to root for the home town crew,
 Ev'ry sou Katie blew.
 On a Saturday her young beau
 Called to see if she'd like to go
 To see a show, but Miss Kate said "No,
 I'll tell you what you can do:

Take me out to the ball game,
 Take me out with the crowd;
 Just buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
 I don't care if I never get back.
 Let me root, root, root for the home team,
 If they don't win, it's a shame.
 For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
 At the old ball game.

Katie Casey saw all the games,
 Knew the players by their first names.
 Told the umpire he was wrong,
 All along,
 Good and strong.
 When the score was just two to two,
 Katie Casey knew what to do,
 Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
 She made the gang sing this song:

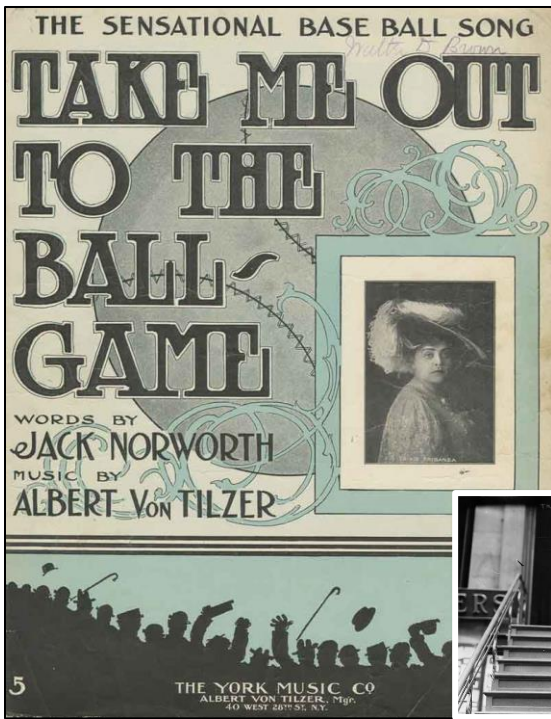
Take me out to the ball game....

West School - 1863



Reward of Merit given by Miss Susan Proctor

SHS artifact



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/feminist-history-take-me-out-ball-game-180973307/>

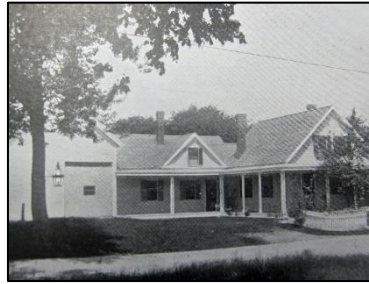
Gleasondale Baseball Club

Gleasondale Wins									
GLEASONDALE									
	ab	r	bh	po	a	e			
Beavis cf	4	1	2	0	0	0			
G. Wetherbee c	5	1	2	14	0	0			
E. Wetherbee 3b	4	1	1	1	5	0			
Parker 2b	5	0	0	1	1	1			
Sheehan lf	5	0	1	0	0	0			
Clark 1b	3	1	0	7	0	0			
Kendall ss	4	1	2	1	0	0			
Pearce rf	4	2	2	2	0	0			
Darling p	4	0	0	1	2	0			
Total	38	7	10	27	8	1			
BERLIN									
Marble 2b	3	0	1	1	2	1			
C. Wheeler p	3	0	0	3	2	2			
Cole ss, p	3	0	0	3	2	1			
L. Wheeler ss	1	0	0	0	1	0			
Keizer c	4	0	1	10	0	0			
Sawtelle 1b	4	0	0	5	0	2			
Poland lf	4	0	2	1	0	0			
Quinn cf	4	0	0	0	0	1			
Barter 3b	3	0	0	1	2	2			
Ross rf	3	0	1	0	1	0			
Total	32	0	5	24	10	9			
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gleasondale	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	x	7
Berlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two base hits, Beavis, G. Wetherbee, Sheehan, Poland 2. Three base hits, G. Wetherbee. First base on errors, Gleasondale 7; Berlin 1. Stolen bases, G. Wetherbee, E. Wetherbee 5, Clark 3, Kendall, Pearce. Double play, Cole and Barter. Left on bases, Gleasondale 10; Berlin 8. Base on balls, by Darling 2; by C. Wheeler 2. Struck out, by Darling 14, by Wheeler 5, by Cole 2. Hits off Wheeler 8 in six innings; off Cole, 2 in two innings. Hit by pitcher, by Darling, Barter; by C. Wheeler, Darling. Wild pitch, Cole.

Two Women of Immense Influence in Stow

Lawrence Homestead: 27-29 Gleasondale Road



Bertha and Susan Lawrence ca. 1910
Strolling past the neighboring house,
33 Gleasondale Road



SHS photos



Bertha Lawrence
1866-1919

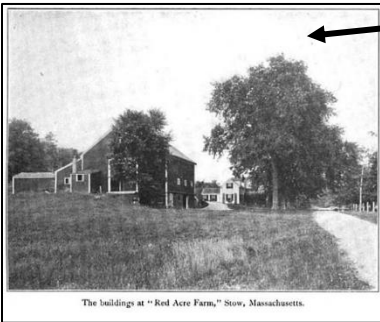
Susan M. Proctor Lawrence

- 1846-1927
- Born In Carlisle
- 1862 began teaching at West School (at age 16)
 - Taught in Stow more than 25 years
- 1864: Married Sgt. Samuel A. Lawrence in Stow, who was home on furlough during the Civil War
- Lived at 27-29 Gleasondale Road, the former home of her father-in-law, J. W. Lawrence. Six acres of her estate is now owned by Stow, the Susan Lawrence Land, where the Town Building was built on Great Road.
- Children: Eugene (1865-1969), Bertha, and two who died in infancy
- Member of the First Parish Unitarian Church
 - Sewing Circle president
 - Sunday School teacher
 - Solicitor and Collector of First Parish Church's endowment fund (Liz Moseley, First Parish Church historian)
- For years, she and Frank Stevens managed the the Memorial Day exercises.
- 1892: First librarian at Randall Library
- **1895: Registered to vote in Stow**
- 1900: Death of Samuel A. Lawrence (Hudson News-Enterprise, Sept 6, 1900, Susan Lawrence scarpbook, Town Vault)
- 1903: Chairman of the Finance Committee, Old Home Week (Hudson News-Enterprise, undated, scarpbook)
- 1908: Executive Committee of the Veteran's Soldier's Association, Stow (Hudson News-Enterprise, undated, scarpbook))
- Member of the Isaac Davis chapter of the Women's Relief Corp (Obituary)
- 1917: Worked with the Red Cross Unit in Hudson Stow, Massachusetts 1683-1933 by Rev. and Mrs. Preston R. Crowell, 1933, page 79
- 1919: Retired from Randall Library to care for her daughter, Bertha, during her illness. (Hudson-News Enterprise, Feb 14, 1919, page 5) Bertha died in March 1919.
- 1927 Obituary: (Hudson, Berlin, Bolton, Stow News-Enterprise, July 27, 1927, page 43)
 - "Mrs. Susan M. Lawrence, for many years the **correspondent for the News-Enterprise, died...**"
 - "She was a woman of sterling worth and was for many years a prominent factor in the educational, social and religious life of the town, thoroughly posted in its history and interested in its welfare."

Registered October 30, 1895 and August 28, 1920

Harriet Gertrude Bird

- 1873-1965
- Born in Stow, the daughter of John Quincy Bird and Mary Still
 - 1902: Acquired her father's 90-acre farm – [Red Acre Farm](#) – transformed "it into a charitable home for horses" (source Red Acre Foundation, above hyperlink)
 - 1903, May 8: Red Acre Farm opened with one old black horse.
 - Secretary for Boston Mayor Curley's committee to make streets safe for animals in the winter. She brought Boston work horses to Stow, via train, for two weeks of rest.
 - 1906 and 1908 articles in the *Hudson News-Enterprise* about the care given horses at Red Acre Farm. (Susan Lawrence scrapbook, Town Vault)



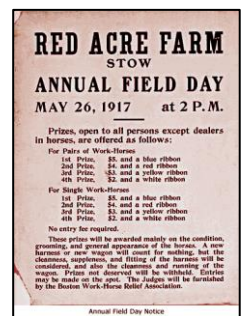
- The November 1908 [Outing Magazine](#) had a long article about Red Acre Farm.
- WWI: "...by authority of the federal government, she traveled among cavalry and artillery posts to see that the horses were properly fed and sheltered, and she also was responsible for Army veterinarians and cavalry sergeants having adequate supplies of medication in the service known as Red Star."

(Obituary, *Assabet Valley Beacon*, June 17, 1965) [Harriet Bird and the American Red Star Animal Relief](#)

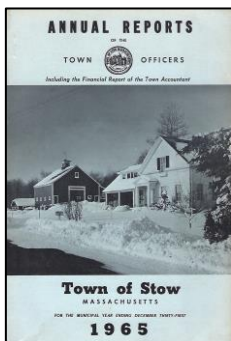
- 1918: In charge of invitations for the Grange's July 4th entertainment of soldiers from Camp Devens (*Hudson News-Enterprise*, June 21, 1918, page 4)
- 1918: Member of the Civic Club – member of the Executive Committee and on the committee to welcome home Stow's boys (*Hudson News-Enterprise*, December 13, 1918, page 3)
- 1919, Feb: Appointed at the Town Meeting to be part of the town's Welcome Home Committee (*Hudson News-Enterprise*, Feb 21, 1919, page 6)
- 1919, July: Red Acre Farm hosting Field Day (*Hudson News-Enterprise*, July 18, 1919, page 7)
- Following WWII built 11 homes, Red Acre Village, for veterans
- The following were included in her 1965 obituary:

(Obituary, *Assabet Valley Beacon*, June 17, 1965)

- Member of the Stow, Maynard and Concord Woman's Club
- Member of the Stow Garden Club
- Honorary vice-president of the American Humane Association
- Director of the Massachusetts and New England Federation of Humane Societies
- Founder and director of the Merwin Memorial Free Clinic for Animals in Allston
- 1954: Received the Outstanding Humanitarian Award of the American Humane Association



Registered September 4, 1920



SHS photos



1912 – Red Acre Farm
267 Red Acre Road

6 of 9



<http://redacrefoundation.org/history.htm>



1954

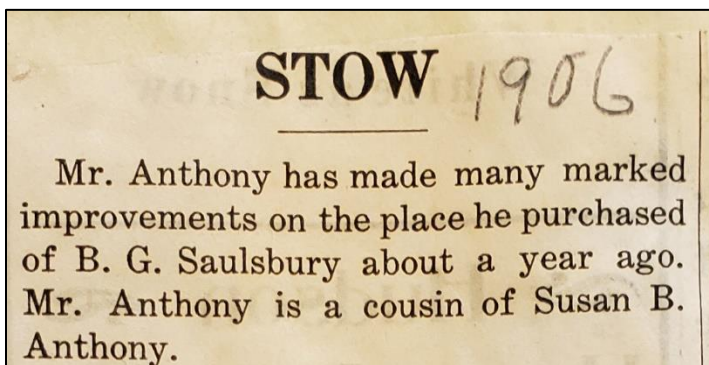
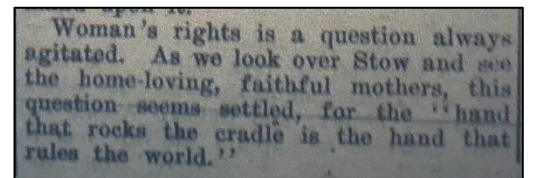
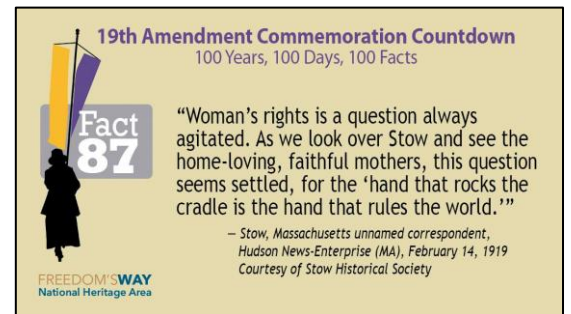
Stow 1920

For a small town of 1,100 residents, her ladies' vibrant, unwritten history, leading up to the passing of the 19th Amendment, has been awe-inspiring and is now celebrated.

There were so many extraordinary moments, as research brought to life what had been forgotten for the past century.

One example was the 1919 statement under the STOW heading in the *Hudson News-Enterprise*, which was featured by Freedom's Way.

This declaration was at the bottom of page 9 of the February 14, 1919 newspaper and most difficult to photograph on the microfiche machine at Hudson Public Library.



Another example was a 1906 article, which Susan Proctor Lawrence pasted into her scrapbook. (Stow Town Vault)

Remarkable: Stow's connection to Susan B. Anthony!

The Anthony cousins were both born in Adams, MA.

Susan B. Anthony 1820-1906, the 2nd of 8 children of Daniel Anthony

Albert Anthony 1854-1941, the 9th of 9 children of Abram Anthony, Daniel's younger brother

The B. G. Saulsbury in the above 1906 article was **Bowman Galushia Salisbury**.

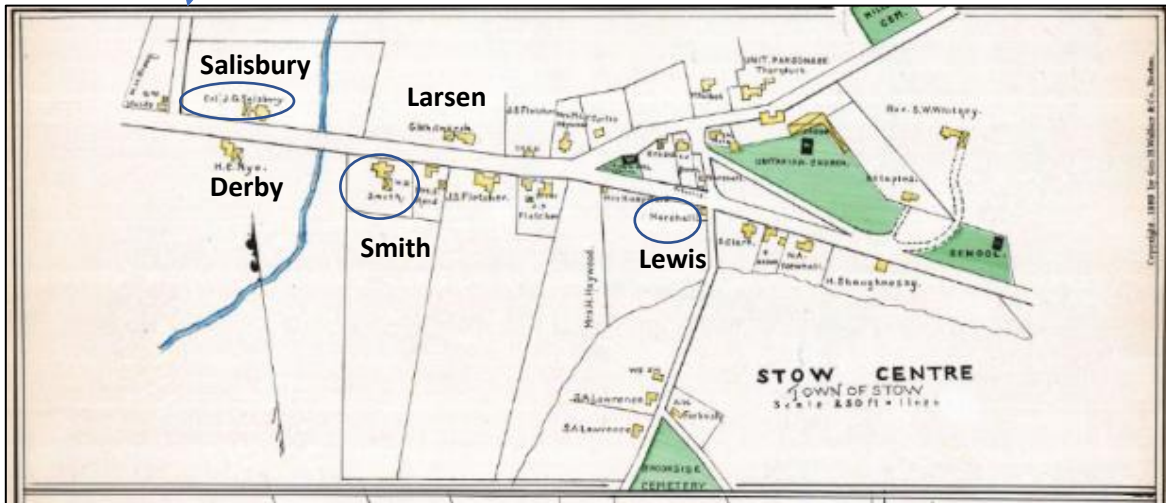
- 1845-1911 – who is included among Stow's Civil War Veterans
- Documents placed him in Stow at least between 1880 – 1900.

Where did B. G. Salisbury live?

The extended family of B. G. Salisbury (parents, wife, and sister) removed from Newton to Stow before 1879. In 1880 and 1900, census data located their farm near Alden Packard and Calvin Packard.

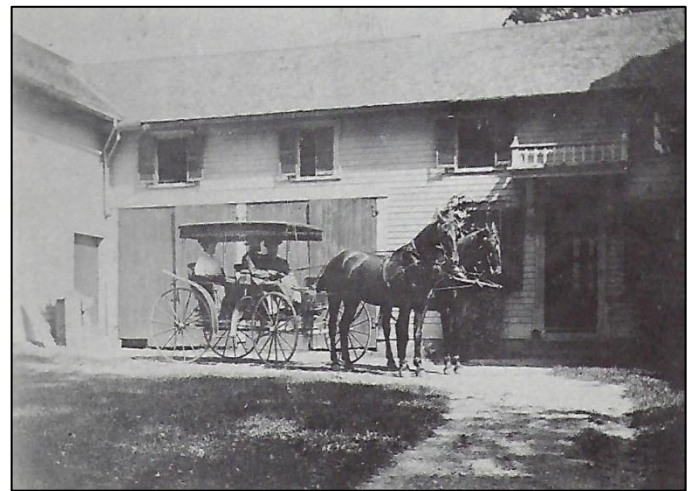
The census taker in 1910 listed Albert Anthony's farm near Peter **Larsen**, Henry P. **Smith**, John **Derby**, and Walter **Lewis**.

The 1889 Stow map



Packard Road
A. Packard &
C. Packard

The Salisbury/Albert Anthony farm is now the site of St. Isidore's Catholic Church. **Harry and Edith Herrick** lived there for nearly 50 years before it was demolished in 1960. They most likely bought the house from Albert Anthony.



Undated photographs from the SHS. The horse and carriage photo could either be of the Salisbury or Anthony family.

Many thanks to Skip Warren for his in-depth Stow knowledge, which helped to unravel this mystery.

Ethel Herrick, 1888-1984, registered to vote on **August 14, 1920**.



1941



1975

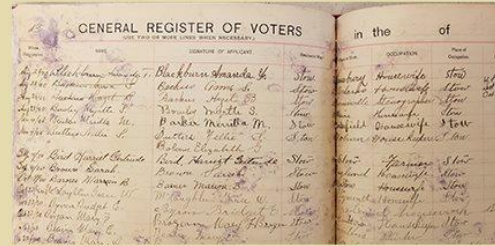
19th Amendment Commemoration Countdown

100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Facts



Fact
48

In 1920, 171 women from Stow, Massachusetts registered to vote between August 14th and October 23rd. At the time, this represented 62% of eligible women out of the Town's 1,100 residents. The women ranged in age from 22 to 82 years old. Numerous family groups registered. View the families at FreedomsWay.org.



Courtesy of Stow Historical Society, Stow, MA

FREEDOM'SWAY
National Heritage Area

There are so many more stories and family groups to celebrate in the future.

Please join the Stow Historical Society virtually, for Sheryl Faye's performance of *Susan B. Anthony – Failure is Impossible* on September 13, 2020.

New from the Stow Historical Society



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

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

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