

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!

July 17, 2020

1920 - 2020

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

1920: Celebrating Stow's Women Who Registered to Vote

During the next seven weeks the Stow Historical Society will be sharing weekly stories about Stow 1920 and some of her women who registered to vote for the November 2, 1920 presidential election.

Celebrating Stow's Women Who Registered to Vote

1920




To date, two of Stow's three Woman's Suffrage Facts have been featured on Freedom's Way National Heritage Area's Facebook page:

[#100Years100Days100Facts](#)

(for those of you on Facebook)

June 3, 2020



19th Amendment Commemoration Countdown
100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Facts


Fact 87

“Woman’s rights is a question always agitated. As we look over Stow and see the home-loving, faithful mothers, this question seems settled, for the ‘hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.’”

— Stow, Massachusetts unnamed correspondent,
Hudson News-Enterprise (MA), February 14, 1919
Courtesy of Stow Historical Society

FREEDOM'S WAY
National Heritage Area

July 12, 2020



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 FreedomWay.org.

Courtesy of Stow Historical Society, Stow, MA



GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF MARRIAGE	DATE OF DIVORCE	DATE OF REMARRIAGE	DATE OF REBURY
Blackburn, Amanda H.	Stow	44	F						
Blackburn, George H.	Stow	44	M						
Blackburn, Mary H.	Stow	44	F						
Blackburn, William H.	Stow	44	M						
Blackburn, Elizabeth H.	Stow	44	F						
Blackburn, Charles H.	Stow	44	M						
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Eighty-five of the registered women had at least one relative registering, too, whether it was a grandmother, mother, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, niece, or in-law. There were numerous family groups. For example:

The Peck/Lewis/Staples/Lambert family included:

Susan A. Gates Peck, 79
Isabelle Leland Staples, 79
Annie Hughes Peck, 61
Martha Lambert, 48
Lillian Lewis Peck, 46
Alice Lewis, 43
Margaret Staples Lewis, 41
Lena Lewis, 37
Dorothy Peck, 22
Mary Park Lewis (1847-1918),
registered in 1895

The Warren/Smith family included

Emma Warren, 70
Lucy Warren Smith, 58
Carrie Warren Smith, 47
Adelia Moore Warren, 45
Eleanor Smith, 28
Jennie Ungethuem Smith, 26
Gertrude Harriman Smith, 25

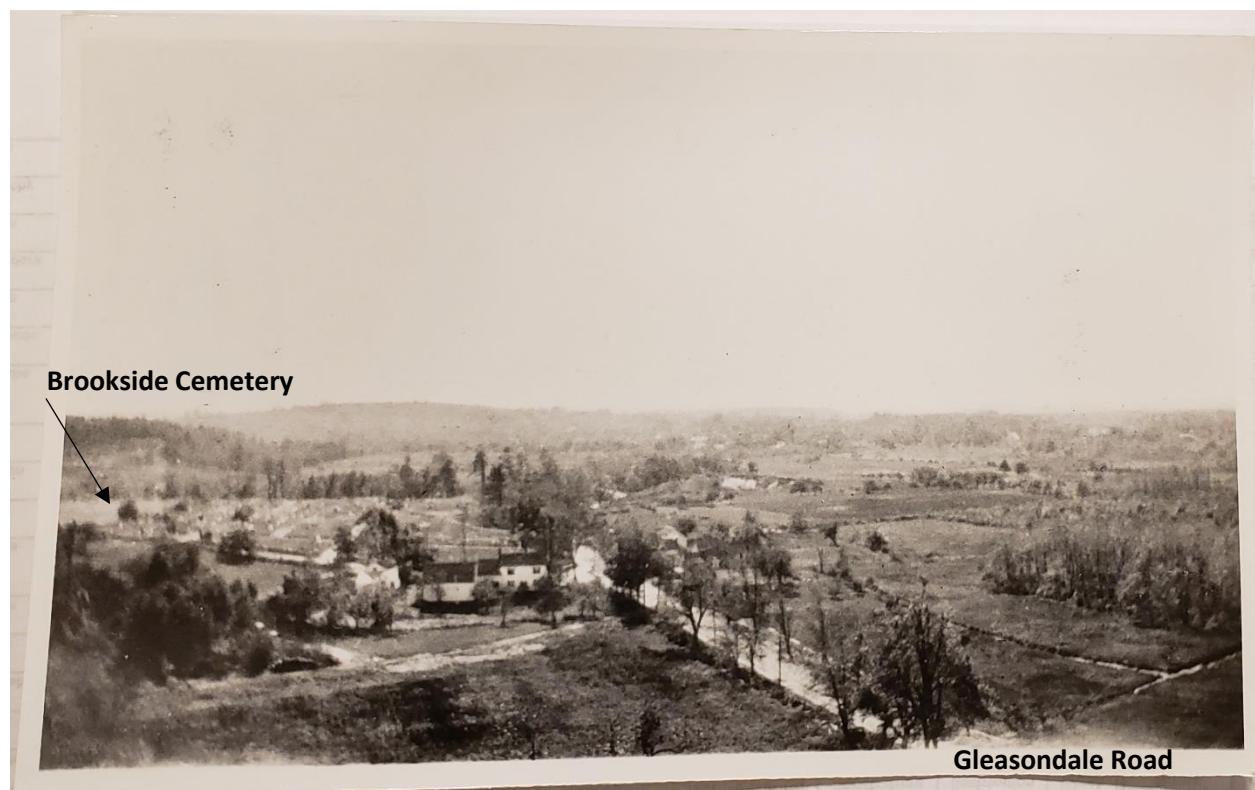
The Taylor/McCarthy/Byron family included

Bridget Delaney Byron, 52
Louisa Taylor McCarthy, 42
Annie Paradise Taylor, 26
Mary Taylor Paradise, 25

STOW 1920

1,100 Stow citizens were recorded in the 1920 Federal Census

View looking South from the First Parish Church Steeple (SHS)



View looking North from the First Parish Church Steeple (SHS)



Center School (SHS)
– torn down in 1929
to build
Pilot Grove School



Pilot Grove Farm (Warren Family)
– the Warren Homestead
on Crescent Street



Lake Boon (SHS)



Elizabeth Brook at 117

(Stow Family Archives – SHS)



Bicycles at Stow Tavern



Gleasondale Mills



Gleasondale

(Gleason/Fuller Family Archives – SHS)



The March 2020 Stow Historical Society Newsletter detailed the Society's behind-the-scenes quest to research Stow's women in 1920. This issue is posted on the Stow Historical Society's webpage: <http://stowhistoricalsociety.org/Newsletters/2020%20March%20Stow%20Historical%20Society%20Newsletter.pdf>.

1895 - Our first Stow women to register to vote included:

Name	Age	Place of Birth	Birth/Death Dates	
Susan Ann Gates Peck	54	Stow	1841-1922	Susan Gates Peck is John Peck's great grandmother. These women all are related by marriage.
Isabelle Leland Staples	54	Westborough	1840-1933	
Mary C. Parks Lewis	48	Stow	1847-1918	
Susan Proctor Lawrence	51	Carlisle	1844-1927	→ school teacher & 1 st Randall librarian
Elizabeth Gillespie Bolam	44	Scotland	1851-1923	
Annie C. Gates	34	Stow	1861-1940	related
Fannie Robinson Gates	23	Groton	1872-1945	

Susan Ann Gates Peck registered to vote October 30, 1895

Mrs. William Henry Peck, widowed in 1873

1841-1922

Susan Gates Peck registered to vote on October 30, 1895, so that she could cast her vote in the November Massachusetts election, which included the Massachusetts referendum to adopt women's enfranchisement in the state.



William and Susan Peck
pre-1873 (SHS)

In the fall of 1895 voter registration was open to women across the state.

Seven women registered in Stow on October 30, 1895.

The voters in MA overwhelmingly defeated this 1895 referendum. The MA suffrage organizations continued to lobby for women's suffrage in MA through 1915, when the suffrage referendum was again defeated. At this point, they turned their energies to campaign for national enfranchisement.

Susan's 1895 registration automatically included her with the 1920 registrants. Up until 1920 she could have voted for school committee members.

There are no known Stow records for these early voting dates.

Susan Gates and her children, John, Samuel, and Willena, all attended Stow's West School.

Willena Peck graduated from medical school in 1900.

Willena practiced medicine in Stow and in the state of Mississippi and Alabama, where she was school physician at the University of Montevallo.

"Susan Ann (Gates) Peck was my great grandmother. She certainly would have registered to vote because she was a political person. Her sons and daughter were also political people and instilled in their offspring (none for Willena) the sense of duty to vote...Republican!! Susan saved everything and I am sure that she was instrumental in having her daughter-in-law, Lillian Lewis, register to vote, too. Lillian's sisters, Lena and Jessie, were not married but they were certainly in tune with the suffrage movement."

Did Susan Gates Peck vote in 1920 federal election?

- **The Hudson News-Enterprise** weekly articles answered this question.
- The news accounts between May 10, 1918 and December 26, 1919, plus September 10, 1920 gave the Society the answer.

June 7, 1918, page 7

Mrs. Susan Peck and Dr. Willena Peck returned from the South this week and will spend the summer at their home here.

September 13, 1918, page 5

Mrs. Susan Peck and Dr. Willena Peck have returned South for the winter.

May 9, 1919, page 2

Mrs. Susan Peck and Dr. Willena Peck arrived home from the South last week, and greeted friends Memorial day.

June 6, 1919, page 8

Mrs. Susan Peck and Dr. Willena Peck are expected home from the South the last of this month.

Extended Peck/Lewis/Staples/Lambert family members who registered in Stow:

Susan Gate Peck:	Oct 30, 1895
Mary Parks Lewis:	Oct 30, 1895
Isabella Leland Staples:	Oct 30, 1895
Lena Lewis:	Aug 14, 1920
Margaret Staples Lewis:	Aug 14, 1920
Alice Lewis:	Aug 28, 1920
Martha Lambert:	Aug 28, 1920
Annie Hughes Peck:	Sep 04, 1920
Dorothy Peck:	Sep 04, 1920
Lillian Lewis Peck:	Sep 04, 1920

July 25, 1919, page 7

Mrs. Julia Crandall and Miss Adina Crandall were the guests of Mrs. Susan Peck and Dr. Willena Peck, last week. Wednesday evening, Mrs. Julia Crandall's and Mrs. Charles Crandall's birthdays were celebrated by a family party held at Mrs. Susan Peck's.

Miss Dorothy E. Peck, Miss Ruth Peck and Miss Louise Harriman underwent operations, when tonsils were removed, Saturday, at the Clinton hospital. Dr. Willena Peck was present and has charge of the patients, who came to their homes, Sunday, and are getting along well.



Susan Gates Peck's
Wedding dress
February 13, 1866 SHS

Hudson News-Enterprise weekly articles between January 2, 1920 to August 6, 1920 were not read. The microfiche was fast-forwarded to August 6, 1920, searching for information about women's voter registration.

The Hudson News-Enterprise had no coverage of the June 25, 1919 Massachusetts ratification of the 19th Amendment.

September 10, 1920

Dr. Willena and Mrs. Susan Peck have closed their summer home and returned to Montevallo, Ala.

SUSAN GATES PECK did not vote in the November 1920 election.

1920: Celebrating Stow's Women Who Registered to Vote

Part II

Coming on July 24, 2020