



News from Stow Historical Society

A newsletter for all friends of Stow history.

*Please feel free to pass it along to others
who might be interested!*

April 16, 2020

A Request for your Reflections from the Stow Historical Society

The Stow Historical Society strives to document daily life and events through the decades, through the centuries. Since our founding in 1961, the Society has published a number of books and pamphlets. Our collections continuously grow, thanks to donations which enrich Stow's vast history.

The Stow Town Vault has no records of life in Stow during the Spanish Flu of 1918 and into 1919, except a listing of Stow WWI servicemen, who died of the Flu.

With this thought in mind, the Stow Historical Society is reaching out to the community – **from our children to our Seniors** – seeking real-time reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic in their current lives. Submissions can be in the form of written reflections, poems, current neighborhood activities, photographs, videos, artwork – all which are inspired by the present, as we learn to understand and live with a new normal in our lives.

Please share with us. The SHS would be so appreciative to enhance our historical collection with your thoughts. Sharing your reflections in the artist form of choice will be so important to Stow's history.

Please send your reflections, or links to your reflections to info@stowhistoricalsociety.org. Or mail to the Stow Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Stow, MA 01775.

Please contact us with your questions.

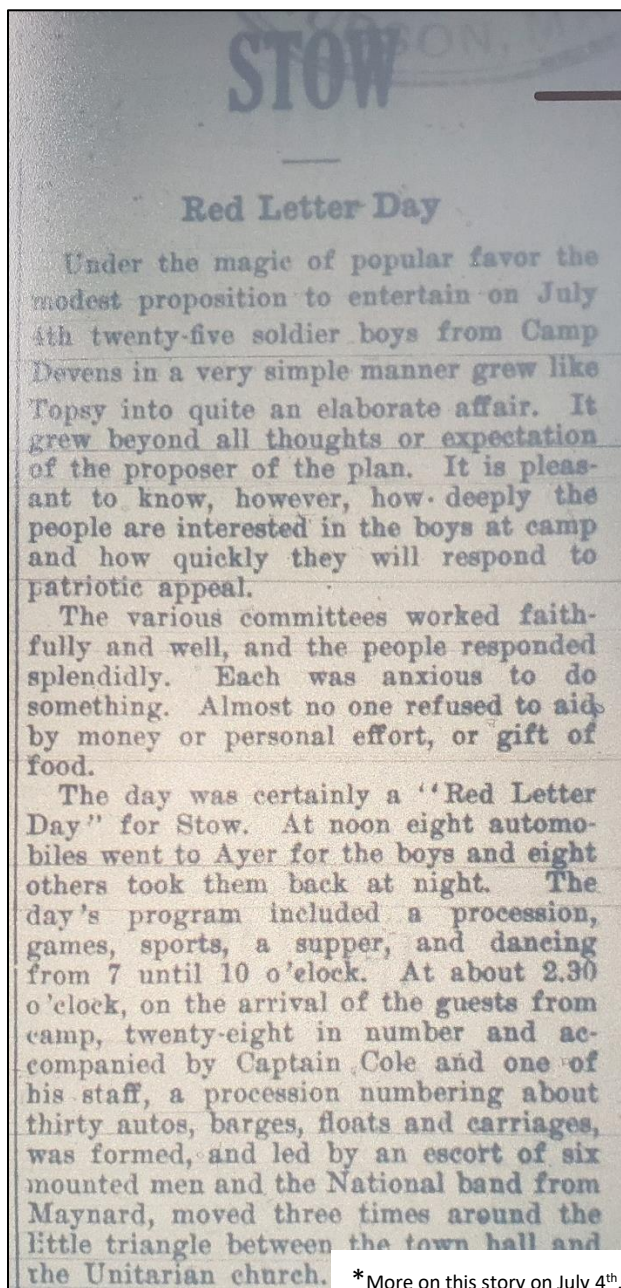
The following four (4) pages of this PDF are news articles from the *Hudson New-Enterprise*, Hudson, MA, dating from July 12 – December 12, 1918. The extracts detail the importance to the local WWI servicemen to the town and then the sudden introduction of the Spanish Flu into the lives of Stow residents. One-hundred and two years later, Stow is facing the same jarring experience with COVID-19.

Let the accounts of 2020 begin in earnest, so that future generations will have the opportunity to hear our voices.

The Stow Historical Society wishes you all good health and resilience.

Friday, July 12, 1918

On July 4, 1918 Stow entertained 28 soldiers from Camp Devens, accompanied by Captain Cole and one of his staff.



*More on this story on July 4th.

Friday July 26, 1918

Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Wheeler have heard recently from their son, Ensign Arthur G. Wheeler, somewhere in France, who is in the Naval Aviation Corps.

Frank Penny sailed for overseas, Friday night.

Warren Robbins is one of the last from Stow to sail overseas.

Donald Lambert with Base Hospital No. 7 has gone overseas.

Friends of the boys in the 76th division are rejoicing transports arrived in Europe.

Friday, August 2, 1918

Mrs. Edna Clustin of Boston visited her father, Benjamin Bemis, last week, prior to her departure for France. She is to be engaged in Y. W. C. A. work and will pursue her duties on the battle line.

Edward Brown of the U. S. navy was in town Saturday.

Friday, August 9, 1918

Word has been received that Raymond Penny has arrived overseas.

Friday, August 23, 1918

Albert Edward Gates, born in Stow, September 9, 1897, son of Francis E. and Fannie M. Gates, enlisted in the Merchant Marines at Boston, August 14.

Albert's mother, Fannie M. Robinson Gates was the youngest of seven Stow women who registered to vote in 1895 MA non-binding referendum concerning municipal suffrage for women.

Friday, August 23, 1918

Lester Barnes writes to his parents that Private Thomas of Harvard and another soldier, both members of his regiment, the 101st, died in his arms. A sad experience, but pleasant to remember he was able to comfort the dying comrades.

Friday, August 30, 1918

Arthur Wheeler, ensign in the Navy Aviation Corps is flying on the western coast of France, hunting submarines.

Henry Larsen registered at Ayer, Monday, as he had reached twenty-one years of age.

Friday, September 6, 1918

Henry Larsen went to Camp Devens, Tuesday, to take examination for service.

Friday September 13, 1918

Thomas Ferguson has won a commission in the U. S. army. Private Joseph Hanslip of Fort Andrews was at home, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Tibbets and Mrs. Freeman Cary were visitors in Camp Devens last week.

Friday September 20, 1918

There are thirteen cases of Spanish grip in town.

Friday, September 27, 1918

STOW
Evelyn Hamblen
Evelyn, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Hamblen, passed away Saturday afternoon at the age of twelve years and five months. She was taken ill Wednesday afternoon, and death was caused by the same disease, influenza.

Harold J. Stow
Harold J. Stow, oldest son of George and Mabel Stow, died at his home, Monday afternoon at five o'clock. He was nearly twenty-one years old, and leaves a father, mother and eight brothers and sisters. He was taken down with the grip, which turned into pneumonia. He was only sick eight days. He will be missed by his townspeople and his many friends. He was buried at Brookside cemetery, Wednesday afternoon.

* The Spanish Flu – early September 1918

The origin of the Spanish Flu is unknown. When it appeared, the end of WWI was in sight. The deadliest strain of influenza in modern time broke out in Europe during the spring of 1918. Both the Allied and Central Powers nations did not report the sickness. However, Spain was neutral and the Spanish media in Madrid reported it in graphic detail late May 1918. Therefore, it was called the SPANISH FLU.

By the beginning of September 1918, early cases were being reported at **Camp Devens**, Ayer, MA. Camp Devens housed on average between 45,000 to 50,000 men. It was also the base hospital for the Division of the Northeast.

Read the September 29, 1918 **A Letter From Camp Devens**, written by a doctor stationed at Camp Devens, which is part of PBS, American Experience:

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/influenza-letter/>.

Friday, October 11, 1918

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* PERRY HALLOCK

Among the victims of the epidemic, is chronicled the death of Perry Walcott Hallock at Camp Jackson, Base hospital, Columbia, S. C. The deceased, only child of Frank R. and Mabel Wolcott Hallock, was born at the Wolcott homestead, March 19, 1896, he being the seventh generation to live there.

Perry Hallock's mother, Mabel Wolcott Hallock, died in 1959. In her will she bequeathed:

- 1) "To the said Town of Stow, the sum of \$2,000.00 dollars, the income only thereof to be used for the car and maintenance of Brookside Cemetery in said Stow.
- 2) To the said Town of Stow, the sum of \$1,000.00, the income thereof to be used for the care and maintenance of the Memorial Monument and Flag on the Common."

To this day, the income bequeath from Hallock's number one request is used for the Memorial Day flowers planted at Brookside Cemetery around the Veterans Memorial, the Perry Hallock's family gravesite, and the Veterans Memorial along Great Road in front of Randall Library.

* Stow's service men who died from the influenza included:

- 1) Perry Walcott Hallock
- 2) Frank Edward Doyle
- 3) Charles Walter Penny
- 4) Richard Ernest Trumpolt

* The epidemic of Spanish influenza seems to be abating in this village. Nearly all of the sick ones are now convalescent. The Gleasondale people firmly believe that the deeds of the Good Samaritan were not over two thousand years ago, but are still being done in this year of Our Lord 1918. Mrs. William McCarthy, with nine of the family at the boarding house ill, took in two other sick ones to care for; one, who has since died, even then, at the point of death. Surely it is for such acts of kindness that the "Well done" of the Master will be pronounced. Nearly all are now well, and about their usual occupations.

* Miss Evelyn Trumpolt, who is ill with influenza, came home from the Framingham hospital, where she has been studying, to care for the sick ones in the family, of whom there were nine. The others have made a good recovery, owing to her excellent nursing.

Lieutenant Chester Churchill has gone overseas.

Charles W. Hanslip arrived home Saturday on a ten days' furlough. He has been for four years in the U. S. service on a submarine, and is now chief engineer, with the rate of chief machinist's mate on the U. S. Submarine K-3. For two years he was on duty at the Hawaiian Islands. For the last nine months he has been in southern waters patrolling the Florida Straits. This year completes the term of his enlistment.

* William Trumpolt of the U. S. Calvin Austin, who has been ill at home for the past two weeks, will return for duty, Monday.

* Miss Evelyn Trumpolt is quite ill with the grippe.

Friday, October 25, 1918

Schools and Churches reopen – had been closed for four weeks

After being closed four weeks on account of the epidemic, the schools reopened on Monday.

The Union Evangelical church held services for the first time in four weeks, Sunday. A good audience greeted the pastor.

Friday, December 12, 1918

Influenza returns

* The influenza has been paying a return visit to this village the past week. The sickness is not severe this time, as on the first epidemic. Five of Mr. Robbins' family have been ill, but are making a good recovery, two of them are outdoors. Three of the young people at Mrs. Christie Hanscom's have reached the stage where they want to be amused.

* Mrs. John Taylor is quite ill with the influenza.