

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 22, 2018

The SHS's May and June Programs

May 14th and 15th – The SHS presented early Stow history to each of the five third grade classes at Center School. This programming complements the 3rd grade social studies curriculum frameworks.



Left: Small group, critical thinking skills in action – Which gifts were from the OLD WORLD? The NEW WORLD?



Above: Viewing Native American arrowheads and tools found in Stow. This is a treasured experience for the students. They have been cataloged by Bob McDonald.

May 19th – Spring Fest: The SHS and Ancient Documents featured Union School and the classwork of Walter Stephenson from 1905-1908.



June 1st – Stow's third graders walked to the Town Hall for the final segment of their Stow history programs.



The SHS's June and July Activities



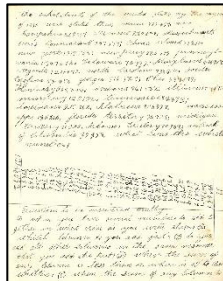
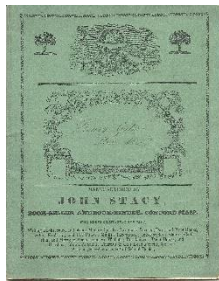
**West School OPEN HOUSE,
Sunday, July 29th
3- 4:30 PM**

Anna Moffat, the SHS's college summer intern.

Meet Anna on July 29th

This original building was one of five district schools in Stow.

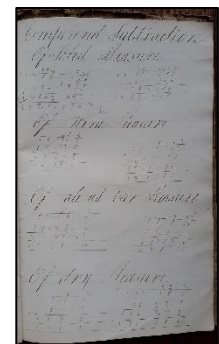
On display will be original photographs, artifacts and school practice books and textbooks used by Stow residents who attended this school.



In 2003 the Gates family donated seven of Henry Gates' West School practice books dated between 1836 – 1844.

Henry Gates 1825-1906, Stow, MA

In 2017 Bob Trumpolt donated the West School practice book from 1827-1829 of George Washington Stow, his first cousin, three times removed. Bob's 4th great grandfather, Stephen Stow, was the first of the Stow family (for whom the town was named) to settle in Stow. The 13" x 8" handmade book is covered with wallpaper. This paper just might have been on the walls of the Boaz Brown/Stow house on Harvard Road.



**George Washington Stow 1812 - 1895,
Stow, MA**

Stow's district schools were closed in 1903 with the opening of centrally-located Union School on Great Road. On display will be an outstanding collection of **Union School** classwork from 1905-1908, all of which were completed before the school burned to the ground on December 4, 1908. Learn about this magnificent school, **which time has forgotten.**

West School is located on Harvard Road at the intersection of Hiley Brook Road. Enter 185 Harvard Road into your GPS and you'll be within 100 feet of the school. There is a parking lot just north of the school on the west side of Harvard Road. Refreshments will be served.

WEST SCHOOL PROGRAMS

August 26th – Stow of the 1890's

On display

- will be some of Lew Halprin's incredible vintage items of the era
- sampling of clothing
- Stow photos and artifacts

September 23rd – Actress Sheryl Faye,

a one-woman show, as **Amelia Earhart**

- West School's illustrious scholar, Willena Peck, was an early 20th century physician.
- Dr. Peck's memorabilia will be on display.



1874-1959



1897 - 1937



“As [Amelia] matures, she is fulfilled by her work as a nurse's aide and begins to consider a career in medicine. This idea “flies out the window,” however, when she pays a pilot \$1.00 to take her up for a short “hop” in his plane. From then on, the science of aviation becomes her passion as flying becomes her career.”

**The SHS extends sincere thanks and gratitude to
Anna Moffat, the SHS intern.**

Anna

1. has created two lovely gardens to enhance the beauty of Stow's 1825 schoolhouse.
2. has lent invaluable assistance in the cataloguing of the West School artifacts and their packaging into 10 archival Bankers Boxes.
3. is part of the team photographing, cataloging and storing the extensive clothing collection of the Gates/Peck/Lewis/Clark family, dating from 1838 to the early 1900's.

4. is entering the data from the John Gates diary (1755-1790) on an Excel spreadsheet. Currently, the data entered is from 1755-1774, 343 line-items.

In the early 1990's Jody Newman meticulously entered the John Gates data on 3 x 5 index cards. The data is being cross-checked and will be available on a searchable spreadsheet.

Example:

Date	Death	Baptism	Church Member	Event	Last Name	First Name	Birth/Death in town records; red = check date; X = no record	Event or further data
1755/10/12	D				Brown	Mary	X - X	wife of Amos Brown, died in childbirth before delivery - dated Oct. 19, 1755, it being the next sabbath after her death [mother of Amos (March 10, 1747/8) and Charles (Nov 9, 1749)]
1755/10/18				E				Between four and five of the clock in the morning in a warm, clam and clear sky everything in all imaginable tranquility there was the most surprising shock of an earthquake that was ever known in North American since inhabited by the English...
1756/05/06	D				Brown	Lydia	X - X	wife of Timothy Brown, 29th year of her age, d. of David and Mary Wetherbee
1756/05/25	D				Whitney	Silas	01/13/1754 - 05/25/1756	son of Daniel [and Dorothy] Whitney was scalded to death
1756/08/28	D				Stevens	Sarah	07/09/1754 - X	youngest d. of the widow Sarah Stevens - born after her father, Cap Samuel Stevens death, died in the 2nd year of her age; 8th child the widow hath buried

SHS researched and added the genealogical data and the info in brackets [].

1761/01/06				E				Was the day King George the 3 was proclaimed at Boston his royal Father King George the 2 died the 25 of October 1760.
1761/02/08				E				The small Pox prevails in many towns in this province and is in two families in this Town oh that this infectious sickness may not prevail in this Town nor any other Towns
1761/03/10	D				Salter	child	X - X	Died the youngest child of Samuel [and Sarah] Salter
1761/03/12				E				At about half an hour after two of the clock in the morning there came a sever shock of an Earthquake it was of short duration
1761/04/04	D				Slave	Girl	X - X	Died a negro girl of Nathan Whitney
1761/04/12	D				Whitney	Nathan	X - X	This day died Nathan Whitney of the small pox.

Late October/early November Program

THE PECK/GATES/LEWIS/CLARK clothing and accessories

In 1988 this extended family donated this extensive collection to the SHS. Records show that some of these pieces were worn in a program in Stow in the 1930's. When Randall Library celebrated its 100th birthday in 1994, a few of these pieces were also worn. Then they were packed away and over the years forgotten.

This late June a team unpacked the trunk in which they were stored. Each article is being photographed and cataloged. All will be recorded in a spreadsheet.



Trunk's manufacturer

<https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/eusn/321819/>



Trunk's owner:

Willena Abby Peck, ca 1900

Many thanks to Phoebe Haberkorn for her expert textile advice and storage demonstration.