

STOW-INFO

FEBRUARY 1993

Newsletter of the Stow Historical Society

Is There New History in These Old Rocks?

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BEGIN NEW MEETING SERIES ON "OUR HERITAGE"

Morse Payne of Lincoln, architect historian, will open the new "Our Heritage" series of the Stow Historical Society on Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Randall Library. His topic will be "New England 17th Century Land Strategy."

The speaker, who has done extensive research on early land grants in Massachusetts and the East Coast, will focus his talk on the Boston area in the 1600's. He believes Stow was a strategic point in the land survey structure in this area.

Payne has a large collection of maps and will share these in his visual presentation. His research in the Stow area has concentrated on the time prior to the establishment of Pompositticut Plantation and possibly before the towns we know today were created.

Examination of old surveyors' records and unusual stone markers found on private property in Stow have led him to pinpoint Stow as an important part in structuring early land grants defined by the king.

A native of Massachusetts and long time resident of Lexington and Lincoln, Payne was with the Architects Collaborative, Cambridge, for 33 years, serving as a principal of the firm. He is past president of the Lincoln Historical Society and was on the Harvard faculty for ten years.

For the past six years the speaker has devoted his time to land research projects, with the "eye of an architect looking at history."

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

Mark the dates of March 25 and April 22 for a continuation of the Historical Society's new series on "Our Heritage." In March the program will center on "Our Heritage--Faces and Places." For the past 30 years members of the society have been compiling research papers on every aspect of Stow's history. We'll have a wonderful evening of opening some of those pages to remember how and who formed this community.

On April 22 Stephen Fletcher of Skinner, Inc., will look at "Our Heritage--Antiques" and tell tales about antiques that shaped our past. Another feature of the program will be a "What is It?" quiz. Members are asked to bring an antique item that always evokes the question: "What is It?" We'll try to stump the speaker and one another. Steve is well known to Stow--his aunt is our own member, Thelma Fletcher.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

--Bob and Dee Glorioso duplicated videotapes from last season's Historical Society meeting series on "Landmarks in Stow." If you wish videos of the programs on Stow Shopping Center, Minuteman Air Field, Plantation Apartments and Stow's golf courses, please call Dorothy Sonnichsen, 897-3344. There is a charge for the tapes.

--Ed and Jody Newman hosted the annual Christmas party early in December at their lovely old home, known as the Whitney Home. Photos from the party, taken by Jody, have been placed in the society's scrapbook. The Newman's home is truly a Christmas joy, complete with a beautifully decorated "goody" room which is filled to brimming with cookies and candies during the entire holiday season.

--Stan Snerman has computerized a list of all Historical Society video and audio tapes. These tapes, oral history at its best, are of meetings or programs sponsored by the society. One of the audio tapes includes Frannie Warren and Norman Castle's famous bus tour of Stow in 1974, a treasure indeed.

--Donations of documents and other wonderful old treasures were received last season from Ralph Crowell, Patti Selin, Mary Warren, Dorothy and Emily Perkins, Jack Head, Arthur Tretry and David Smith.

--Refreshments will be provided at the February 25 meeting by Ernie Schontag, Elaine Donaghue and Ginger Pearlman. Many thanks.

NEWS BRIEFS

--Ralph Crowell was in the hospital in January for an angioplasty procedure. He is home now and in good shape.

--Alan Kattelle is hard at work on a book "History of Amateur Motion Pictures in the United States" (commonly called home movies). The book covers the period 1923-1978. He has been invited to present talks on the same subject by a number of organizations, and we hope he will come to Stow at a later date.

--Ken Raina, president of the Lake Boon Association, has plans for a bigger and better Lake Boon Boat Parade and Celebration, August 28-29. A wonderful photo of Lake Boon will grace the cover of the 1992 Town Report.

--Plans are well underway for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Randall Library in 1994. The Stow Historical Society is providing photographs and information for the anniversary calendar.

STOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TO REVIVE SPRINGFEST

The Stow Business Association has enlisted the cooperation of local civic groups to revive Springfest. The date of June 19 has been set for the celebration, and the organizational meeting will be Feb. 8. at the old Town Hall.

What do you think about our society sponsoring an art exhibit, featuring paintings and photos of Stow? In the old Town Hall? The Historical Society received two donations of paintings last season--one by Laurie Kattelle and the other by Walter Stanton.

DO YOU HAVE OLD MAPS?

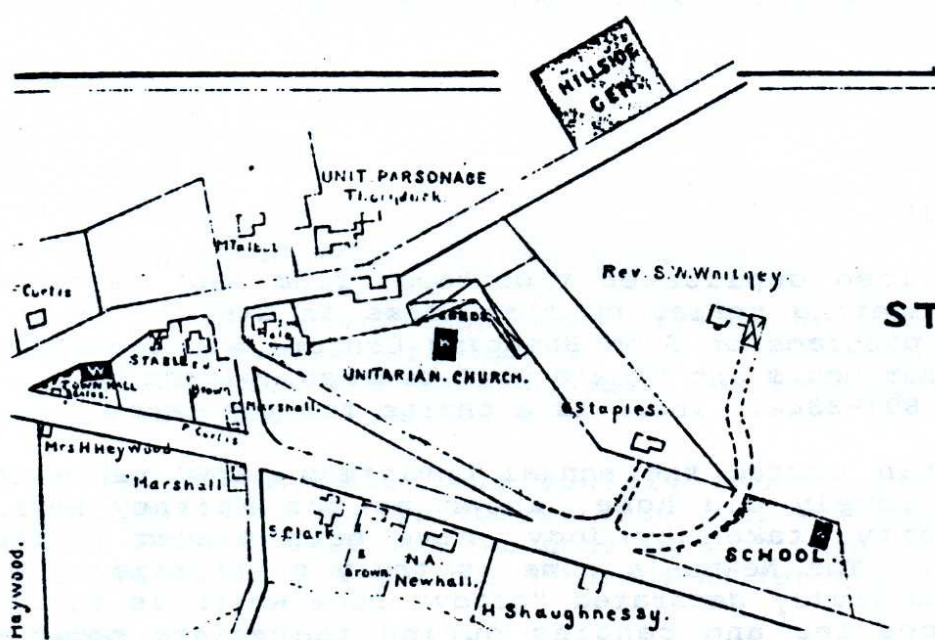
We would love to see old maps of Stow that might be lurking in your closets or under your bed. May we ask you to bring these maps to our meeting on February 25, a most appropriate time because the topic is on mapping. We are having mylar copies of old maps made for our archives, and it is our plan to make maps available on our sale tables along with Ellie Childs and Frannie Warren's history books. By the way, Dorothy Sonnichsen reports a good sale of the latter two history books during Christmas--they make fine gifts for any occasion.

REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO MEET AT LOWELL IN APRIL

Good news has been received from the Minuteman Area Historical Societies. A tentative date of Sunday, April 25, has been set for the meeting to be sponsored this year by the Lowell Historical Society. Highlight will be a tour of the new Civil War Exhibit which will open in April in the Boott Mill and a tour of the Center for Lowell History housed in the Mogan Center, a reconstructed boarding house. The group meets once a year, and area historical societies take turns as hosts. This is a wonderful way to have a special tour of parts of the Lowell Historic Park. All are invited.

JOHN MAKEY NAMED NEW HEAD OF STOW HISTORICAL COMMISSION

John Makey is the new chairman of the Stow Historical Commission succeeding Jack Head, who has so ably headed the town-appointed committee since 1987. The group continues its work in updating the index on historic houses in Stow. The State Historical Commission recently completed its inventory on the Town of Stow's cultural and historical resources, and the information has been entered into the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System database.



STOW CENTRE
TOWN OF STOW
1889

*Do you
have old
maps?*

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE INVITES GENEALOGISTS TO WORK SESSIONS

The Ancient Documents Committee, a town-appointed committee, is continuing to catalog and preserve the old documents in the Town Vault in the Police Station. The committee meets alternate wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the research room upstairs at the Randall Library.

Townspiece or genealogists searching for old family records are invited to meet with committee members at that time. The dates are February 17, March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9 and June 23.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Open Barn at Pilot Grove Farm will be held Sunday, April 18, this year. The Historical Society has been invited to have a display and sale table during the day. Last year was the first year that the society had a display table, and there was a great deal of interest in the Historical Society books, postcards and pamphlets.

DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dorothy Sonnichsen, Treasurer, would be happy to hear from you if you have not submitted your dues for this year. Checks may be made out to the Stow Historical Society and sent to her at 101 Packard Rd., Stow, MA 01775.

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| () Individual \$10 | () Retired Individual \$5 |
| () Couple \$12 | () Retired Couple \$7 |
| () Associate (Individual) \$5 | |
| () Associate (Couple) \$7 | |
| () Lifetime Membership \$100 | |

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____