

STOW-INFO

Newsletter of the Stow Historical Society

February 1997

Stow, Massachusetts

IT'S A YEAR OF GREAT EVENTS

Thursday, February 27 Great Events Series: "We All Came to America." True tales of how some families got to these shores and then what happened next. If we didn't know Eric Sonnichsen, Nancy Shepherd, Dwight Sipler and Ellie Beaudette, our guest speakers, we'd say they were embellishing the truth about their ancestors. Come hear about imprisonments, shipwrecks, pirates, and narrow escapes.

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: Town Hall

BRING FINGER FOOD. Beverages provided.

March and April

WORK PARTIES in the Town Vault. Signup sheets will be available for you to help the Ancient Documents Committee get old records in shape. In 1996 all town records, dating to 1669, were moved from the old Police Station to the spacious vault in the Town Building.

Thursday, May 22

Great Events Series: "One Hundred Years of the Car in America." Bob and Caroline Collings have a outstanding collection of antique carriages and automobiles in a beautiful barn at their home. We'll tour the collection and hear a talk on these cars.

TIME: 6 p.m.

PLACE: Collings Museum

137 Barton Rd., Stow

POT LUCK SUPPER. Beverages provided.

Sign up with Patti Selin, 897-5357

FOGG ART MUSEUM PREPARES EXHIBIT OF RANDALL PRINTS FOR 1998

Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University has started work on an exhibit of an edited selection of prints and drawings given to Harvard by John and Belinda Randall at the turn of the century. The exhibit is scheduled during the summer of 1998.

This collection, unique for its day, numbered more than 20,000 prints, drawings and photographs including works by Durer, Rembrandt, other old masters, and American artists. The Randalls, spent much time educating themselves in the fine arts. After John died in

1894, his sister Belinda carried out his wishes and Harvard received the art collection.

The gift to Harvard, John Randall's alma mater, was one of many bequests including \$25,000 for the library in Stow which bears his name--Randall Library. Other gifts to Stow included \$10,000 to aid "the most worthy poor"; and \$20,000 for general purposes. These last items can be found today in annual Town Reports under the headings, "Randall Relief Fund" and "Randall Town Fund."

The Randall home is the present clubhouse of Stow Acres Country Club on Randall Rd.



HURRICANE OF 1938--Endless rows of lumber fill the present Carver Hill Orchard site after the 1938 hurricane. Linda Mansfield shared this photo for recopying for the photo collection in the Town Vault.

Do you have old photos you'd like to donate or have us reproduce? Thelma Fletcher has shared old newspaper clippings about the same hurricane. What do you have?

MAP PROJECT GETS STARTED

Bob Walrath has taken on the project of sorting, organizing, and labeling old maps in the Town Vault. A computerized list of these maps will then be compiled. The oldest map dates to 1794; others are 1830, 1856, 1875 and 1889.

The Historical Society is making plans to preserve, frame and hang the old maps in the Town Building. The funding for this project will be made possible with gifts from the Charles Childs Memorial Fund. What better way to identify Stow as an old historic village!

BIRTHDAY BASH CONTINUES

We have been so spoiled by Lew Halprin who has celebrated his 60th birthday with us for three years. We hope you enjoyed the December Birthday Bash featuring Charlie Chaplin in City Lights and the extraordinary pianist Robert Legon. It was a snowy night, but a large crowd turned out to thoroughly enjoy the evening. Lew wants to do it again next year--it will be the third anniversary of his 60th birthday.

POTLUCK WINNERS

Recipes from the files of two great cooks, Bobby Head and Lawnie Roberge, were selected for inclusion in Yankee Magazine's Church Suppers & Potluck Dinners Cookbook. The recipes are Bobby's Wild Rice Casserole, and Lawnie's Cranberry Pork Chops. Practical pot-luck recipes were submitted by members of churches and organizations in New England--Bobby and Lawnie represented the Stow Historical Society. It's a good cookbook to own--\$19.95 discounted price--call Barb Sipler, 897-5996.

SOCIETY RECEIVES GIFTS

The Stow Historical Society has received a gift of \$250 from Marcia Duffy of Columbia, S. C., in memory of her grandparents, Clifton and Blanche Fletcher, and in honor of her aunt, Thelma Fletcher.

Thelma, 94, is our oldest member and knows just about everything about Stow. Mrs. Duffy also sent a 1950's photo of the Box Shop and nearby red house, both gone now. She noted that her grandfather was born in the house and managed the Box Shop for many years. She also sent photos of the old stone bridge and dam at the Box Mill site.

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS GET NEW HOME

Old town records--the oldest is 1669--have a new home. Contents of the vault in the old Police Station have been transferred to the vault in the Town Building. The transfer was made by the Ancient Documents Committee (ADC) with the help of the Highway Department.

The ADC seeks additional volunteer help this year in reorganizing the collection at the new location. The larger vault makes accessibility to these records much easier. Focus this year will be on continuing to preserve and catalog special collections of diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, maps, church records and other materials.

The committee will meet at the vault on the first and third Wednesdays, February through June, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For information on volunteer opportunities, contact Barbara Sipler, ADC chair, 897-5996.