



# 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!*

September 29, 2015



## Old West School Museum Program

On September 27, a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon, a standing-room only crowd enjoyed learning about the fascinating story of *Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher*. Actor Kate Carney brought to Old West School Museum the inspiring story of how Annie, who was a partially blind and a destitute, uneducated child living at Tewksbury State Almshouse, ended up at the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston. After graduating valedictorian of her class, she took the position in Alabama as the teacher for blind-deaf, 6-year-old Helen Keller.

Kate Carney, portraying Annie Sullivan  
Marilyn Zavorski, Stow Historian



**Stow Historical Society  
Catered Fall Dinner  
Saturday, October 24, 2015**

**Stow Town Hall**

**6:30 PM**



**To make reservations for this evening dinner and program, please contact by Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>,**

**Dorothy Sonnichsen: 978-897-3344**

**[dorthe@comcast.net](mailto:dorthe@comcast.net)**

Donations will be graciously  
accepted at the door.

**Guest Speaker is Jake Kuykendall**

**How the Search for the BEAVER Drove the Exploration of North America**

Jake Kuykendall, now living in Sudbury, MA, is a member of the La Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. He spent his growing up years on the LCO Indian reservation in Northern Wisconsin, living on a small farm built by his Dutch grandfather in 1900. The area did not have electricity or running water until after Jake left.

Jake's Dutch, French and English ancestors traveled to North America in the early 1600's, some before the landing of the Pilgrims, and were pioneers in developing the fledging fur trade. They established trading posts, learned the Native American languages, served as interpreters, married into the tribes and sired large multi-cultural families.



The fur trade spawned the world's largest corporation at the time, the Hudson Bay Company in Canada as well as enabled John Jacob Aster, founder of the American Fur Company to become the richest person in America. Lasting nearly a century before the beaver stocks were depleted, the quest for the beaver was

the engine that drove the exploration of North America. Many in Jake's extended family during his youth still depended on trapping as a major source of income.

Jake has assembled a slide presentation that provides an overview of the North American fur trade starting in the mid 1600's, its impact on the exploration of North America and on the Native American populations. He will also talk about his own experiences of growing up on an Indian reservation and his journey since leaving to launch a professional career.

**The installation of the new president of the Stow Historical Society will take place before the evening's presentation.**