

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 15, 2016

JUNE EVENTS

On **June 2nd** the SHS and the SHC hosted programs for Center School's five third-grade classes. The students traveled by school bus to visit the **West School Museum**. To accommodate the third grade, four back-to-back sessions were held. Once the children stepped off the bus, they entered the world of the late 1840's, participating in many activities, including slate board lessons and oral recitation. Many thanks to the numerous



SHS and SHC volunteers, the teachers, and parent chaperones. With the success of this pilot program, Center

School and the SHS plan to make this an annual late October event for the third grade, beginning next month.

Calling all Volunteers

- Are you interested in volunteering for occasional SHS events?
- Do you enjoy interacting with children?

Please contact Marilyn Zavorski at marilynzavorski@gmail.com or at 978-897-5588.

On **June 8th** the third graders walked to the **Stow Town Hall** for the second half of their Stow history unit. Both the morning and afternoon groups learned about Stow's 18th and 19th century's history, including Town Meetings and bartering. Six students demonstrated the importance of bartering in the 18th century by reading short entries from *fictional 1768 logs or diaries*, as they sought specific goods or services. A *then-and-now* slideshow featuring



photos of early Stow, followed by 2016 photos of these sites captivated everyone. During the latter half of the program the students were divided into nine groups as they toured the tables of *artifacts* which lined the four walls of the Town Hall.

Artifacts ranged from antique stereoscopes, toasters and coffee grinder to a 1940 typewriter, View Masters toy



and 1970's rotary phone. Again, many thanks to the SHS volunteers, the teachers, and parent chaperones.

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER EVENTS


West School hosts Stow's Ray LaChance

Please join us on **Sunday, Sept. 25th at 3 PM**, when Stow's West School Museum will host a program about the Native American's *Web of Life*. Stow-educated Ray LaChance – Pilot Grove School, Gleasondale School, Center School, Hale High School and NRHS (1st graduating class) – will captivate all ages with his stories about growing up in two cultures: Algonquin Abenaki and contemporary Stow (late 1940 - 1962). A gifted orator and educator, Ray will speak about the *Web of Life* and the value structure it presented in the past and it presents today. All ages will be mesmerized as he also relates a couple of Native American folk tales, plays the wooden flute, and gathers a few participants to play several Native American games. On display will be Native American artifacts. The hour's program will conclude with a question and answer session. Refreshments to follow.

The Web of Life

A program for **ALL AGES**

Ray LaChance, Stow native, presents stories about growing up in two cultures: Algonquin Abenaki & contemporary Stow.



Native American
➢ Folk tales
➢ Wooden flute music
➢ Games
➢ Artifacts on display

Refreshments

Stow's West School Museum
3 PM
Sunday, September 25, 2016

Directions to West School Museum: on Harvard Road at the intersection with Hiley Brook Road, Stow. The parking lot is located across the street from the museum on Harvard Road at the crosswalk signs.

Sponsored by the Stow Historical Society and the Stow Historical Commission

Contribute a dessert:
contact Dorothy
Sonnichsen at
978-897-3344

1942 – How Preparations for WWII Changed Stow

This special October event begins at **7 PM on Saturday, October 22, 2016** at the **Stow Town Hall**. Desserts to follow.

By December 9, 1941, U.S. newspapers were headlining *Japan at War with U.S.- Congress to Act*. Pearl Harbor had become part of history, as civilians across the US stepped up their recycling and rationing for the war effort.

NOT ONLY did the citizens of Stow recycle metal and tires, shop with ration coupons, buy War Bonds, and send their young men and women to the frontline, they witnessed the Federal Government's quiet and forceful takeover of 3100 acres of land in Stow, Maynard, Sudbury and Hudson. Nearly half of this land was within Stow's boundaries. Some families had ten days to vacate their property, their homes and their farms!

Step back into 1942 and meet two of Stow's multi-generational families who had their farms taken by eminent domain, as the Federal Government scrambled to build up the country's defenses.


For Stow, it was the construction of the Army's Ammunition Depot off White Pond and Sudbury Roads. Using maps, photos and family stories, learn about the Urgaitis/Wickey family and the Suikko/Wanhatalo family (Stow's Sylvia Estabrook and Maynard's Vivian Dean). Plus, hear brief stories about the Paakki/Sippo and Parker families.

Stow's Jim Sauta will narrate his experience of the air raid drills, the black outs, the secret trains running at night, and of touring the secure military compound as a young teenager.

Today this area is the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

The Stow Historical Society presents

1942 – How Preparations for WWII Changed Stow



**Saturday
Oct. 22, 2016**

7 pm

Stow Town Hall

Step back into 1942 and meet two Stow, multi-generational families, who had their farms – homes and lands – taken by eminent domain, as the Federal Government scrambled to build up the country's defenses.

Desserts will be served.

Today this area is the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

Government Takes Over Many Homes In Sudbury Area

Need 3100 Acres, Four Square Miles,
for Construction of Transit
Ammunition Depot

WALTON 17 50 EMBERTON 17 50 BARNES, AND 2 1/2

JUST UNDER HALF
OF THESE 3100 ACRES
WERE WITHIN THE
BOUNDARIES OF
STOW, followed by
Maynard, Sudbury and
Hudson.