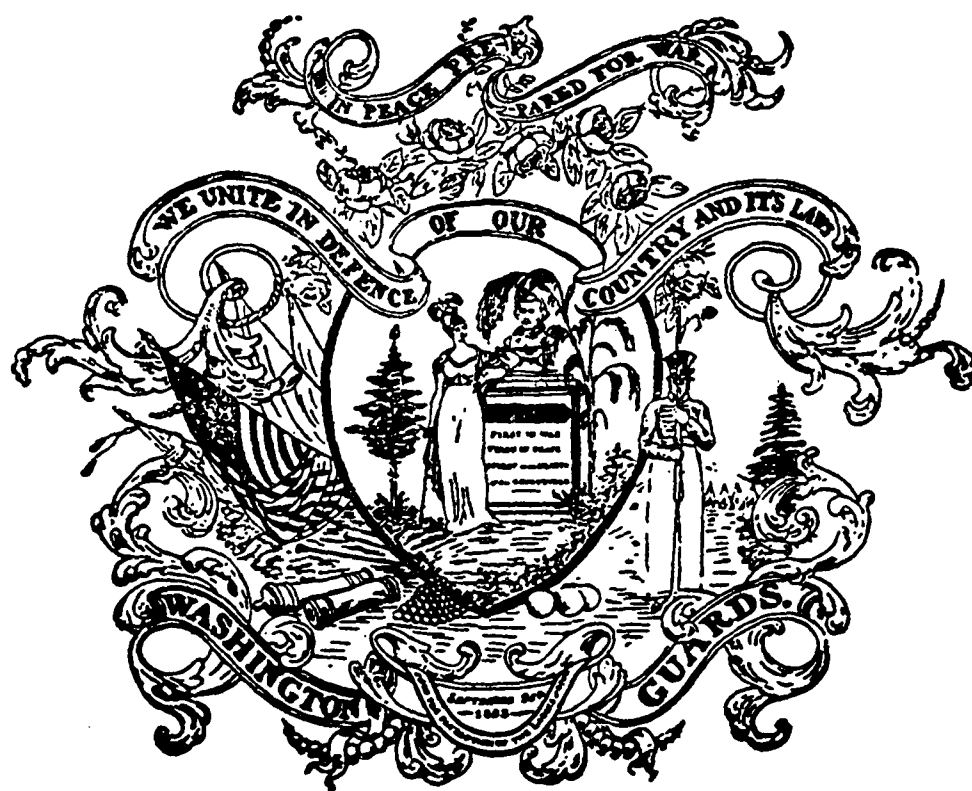


# STOW, MASSACHUSETTS 1683 - 1933

*compiled in honor of*

The Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the Town



PUBLISHED BY  
REV. AND MRS. PRESTON R. CROWELL  
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Copyright 1933  
by  
Olivia S. Crowell  

---

*All Rights Reserved*

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS  
1683 - 1933







THE STOW ACADEMY



---

*To the memory of  
Stow minute-men, "eighty strong,"  
at the Old North Bridge, Concord, 1775,  
and  
Our most honored citizen,  
Henry Gardner,  
First Treasurer of Massachusetts,  
on this our 250th Anniversary,  
we respectfully dedicate this book.*



---

## OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
Indian Deed . . . . .	x
The Country . . . . .	1
Indians, Garrisons, Etc. . . . .	5
Churches . . . . .	10
Churchyards . . . . .	17
The Old Common and Lafayette's Visit . . . . .	21
The Story of the Regicide . . . . .	26
Taverns and Roads . . . . .	36
Schools . . . . .	41
Libraries . . . . .	45
Business Interests . . . . .	47
Organizations . . . . .	61
Wars . . . . .	70
Biographical Notes . . . . .	84
Genealogies . . . . .	93
Errata . . . . .	113
Addenda . . . . .	114



---

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

---

	PAGE
Frontispiece . . . . .	iii
Spindle Valley and Elm Vale Farms . . . . .	4
Abraham Randall and Abijah Wolcott Farms . . . . .	8
First Parish (Unitarian) Church . . . . .	10
The Old and Present Gleasondale Churches . . . . .	12
Union Evangelical Chapel and Union Evangelical Church . . . . .	14
Churchyard . . . . .	18
The Old Common and Flag and The First Parsonage . . . . .	22
The Regicide's Grave . . . . .	34
Stow Tavern, Farm Scene, and The Old Blacksmith Shop . . . . .	38
The Old South School . . . . .	40
The Old Grove School . . . . .	42
The High School, The Pilot Grove and The Little Brick Schools . . . . .	44
The Randall Library . . . . .	46
Pilot Grove Farm . . . . .	48
The Treaty Elm Farm. . . . .	50
The Old Robinson Store and Wheeler's Mill . . . . .	52
The Gleason Residence . . . . .	54
The Little Brick Mill and the "Rockbottom" Factory . . . . .	56
Randall Farm . . . . .	58
Mrs. Minnie Puffer Residence, formerly Squire Hosmer's Residence . . . . .	60
The Old Town Hall . . . . .	68
War Memorial and Waiting Station . . . . .	80
Group of Four Prominent Men . . . . .	86
Group of Four Prominent Men . . . . .	88





---

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

IN the Spring of 1933, Mr. John Gates Peck, President of the Civic Club of Stow, requested the writer to present a paper on the History of Stow, this being the 250th anniversary year of the incorporation of the town. When this paper was read at the May meeting of the Club, a strong desire was expressed by many of the listeners that it be printed. Because of the fact that up to the present, no adequate history of the town has been written, it seemed an opportune time to put into a permanent readable form, the exceptionally interesting history of this early colonial town, so that it might be of perennial gratification to its readers and succeeding generations.

We greatly appreciate the courtesy shown by those at the Registry of Deeds, Registry of Probate, County Commissioners Office, Massachusetts Historical Society, N. E. Genealogical Society and the State Archives for the privilege of consulting their records.

To the State Library, the Congregational Library, Stow Library and Town Clerk of Stow, for their kindly assistance in getting access to available material.

To Mr. William Bradford Goodwin of Lowell, who has furnished from his wealth of research, valuable information concerning William Lord Goffe, we are deeply indebted. Mr. William Gutteridge of Maynard has been most helpful in this work and to him we would express our thanks.

To the many individuals in this little town who from family records or personal knowledge have so willingly assisted. Especially would we mention Mr. Francis W. Hale for the use of his invaluable *Scrapbook*. Also our grateful appreciation is due Mr. Albert H. Gleason for the use of his valuable cuts.

—Rev. and Mrs. Preston Ranney Crowell.



Benj<sup>a</sup> Johnson and others  
Indians  
to  
Stow

Forasmuch as the Gen<sup>l</sup> Court of the  
Massachusetts Colony in New England hath  
granted a tract of land in the County of  
Middlesex unto Secretary of the English for a  
plantation called by the Indians pumpasset  
-cutt & Napanochatick (but the English  
name by order of the Gen<sup>l</sup> Court hath made  
it a Township) is Stow; And whereas Stephen  
Hall & Boaz Brown of the said plantation or  
Town are impowred in the name of the En-  
glish possessor & occupiers thereof to deal with  
it to purchase the same of the Indian peo-  
-ple;



176  
Stow

County of Middlesex in the Massachusetts  
Colony of New England) unto Stephen Hall  
& Dore Browne above, but for & in behalf  
of the only use & behoof of all the English  
planters, possessors, occupants & inhabitants  
- there, containing three thousand & three  
hundred acre, of land (be it more or less)  
containing within the limits & bounds  
as followeth. (viz) the line to begin on the  
west side of what's called (called by the Indians  
Suckasnotick) & from thence the line runs  
northward a little above the ward in the  
river against the first hill in Dorset Al-  
- rocks farm, & from thence the line shall  
run up the side of the river to Marlborough  
& from thence along by Marlborough  
line to Lancaster line & so running on  
by Lancaster line northward over the  
- Assibath brook, & so runs on till it comes to a  
rather little brook that comes out of a  
swamp (by the Indians called Sugganuck)  
which runs into Assibath brook & from  
thence the line runs eastward by the south  
side of Shabakie & from thence runs still  
on eastward upon Marshoboy line to  
- the south side of the hill called Mascowth  
& from thence the line runs on south, east-  
- ly to the corner of the village line & from thence  
runs on by the village line southerly  
to the corner of Concord south corner  
boundary (we corner park the third corner  
of Concord Sedbury & Stow) & in a  
swamp of pine trees (by the Indians  
called young quitt swamp) & from the  
- d corner of young quitt swamp the  
line proceeds & runs on south westerly  
all along by Sedbury line to what's  
called & there closes where it began.

All



Stow  
undry farms covered

All the tract of land within the circuit as  
 above described (comprising the farmed lands of  
 Doct<sup>r</sup> Alcock's house & the farmed lands of the  
 house of Major Willard & Major Lupton & of  
 Major Cookin & the spot near Stophougen  
 & Kottler & Hildrich's farms, though lying  
 within the above mentioned circuits &  
 bounds more or less, being no part of the  
 three thousand & three hundred acre  
 or less, hereby sold; but all the rest of the  
 land lying & being within the above said  
 limits, bounds & circuits) of diverse &  
 upland, valleys, plains, intervals, swamps,  
 meadows, Rivers, Ponds, Brooks, Rivulets, Springs,  
 water courses & streams, Trees, Timber, wood  
 underwood, Grass, & all manner of herbs  
 and feeding for beasts, rocks, stones, minerals,  
 & whatsoever is thereupon & therein above  
 ground & under ground are hereby sold  
 as above to the English planters, Inhabitants  
 occupiers, possessors & proprietors of the  
 sd of Stow (alias Rumpasittacutt & Na-  
 packasattick) with all the rights, members,  
 rents, duties, royalties, liberties, property,  
 privileges, propriety, appurtenances,  
 emoluments, profits, & commodities thereof  
 and of every part & parcels thereof & that is  
 in any wise therunto belonging and apper-  
 taining to have hold, use occupy possess and  
 enjoy, to the only absolute, proper and pe-  
 culiar use, benefit, behoofe & dispose of them  
 the sd English planters, Inhabitants, possessors  
 and occupiers of the sd town of Stow (alias  
 Rumpasittacutt & Nampakasattick) their  
 heirs, Executors, Administrators & Assignes  
 (in a free & full state of Inheritance)  
 from the day of the date hereof till for  
 ever.

reuben





178  
Stow

over. And His abovesd Indian Grantors do here  
by covenant, of record & grant to & with  
thosd Stephen Hall & Boaz Brown & to  
with all the English planters & Inhabitants  
of thosd County of Stow (alias Pouspatitta  
-cutt & n. o. p. o. c. k. a. n. a. t. i. c. k.) that they at the en-  
-foaling & delivery hereof are the only and  
absolute Indian proprietors of the hereby  
granted & bargained premises, & that they  
(& none else) have in themselves just & full  
power & lawfull authority the saids them to  
well make our confirm & deliver, & they do  
hereby engage & bind themselves, their Executors  
and of their Heirs, Executors, Administrators,  
& Assigns from time to time that all their  
heirs after fully & sufficiently to secure,  
save harmless, & for ever defend the hereby  
granted & bargained three thousand and  
three hundred acres of land (be it more or  
less as above bounded, excepting those farms)  
with all the rights, titles, incumbrances and ap-  
-partenances hereto belonging against  
all manner & singular other titles, demands,  
charges & incumbrances that have been  
or may be made or ray/d by any person  
or persons, especially Indian or Indians  
(lawfully having or claiming any  
right, title or interest in or to the premises,  
or any part or part thereof, to the  
trouble, vexation, interruption, damages,  
molestation, disturbance or Ejecution of the  
sd English occupiers & possessors, plan-  
-ters & Inhabitants of thosd County of  
Stow (alias Pouspatitta cutt & n. a. p. o. d. a.  
-v. e. t. i. c. k.) or any one of them, their or any  
one of their Heirs, Executors, Administra-  
-tors, or Assigns & Successors in their

quit



quiet & peaceable possession, free & full use  
 enjoyment & use of thereof and every part  
 parcels thereof for ever: Furthermore  
 the above named Indian Grants do hereby  
 covenant, promise & grant to & with the  
 Stephen Hall & Peter Rownd & to & with  
 all the rest of the English planters and in=  
 habitants of the sd County of How & to  
 and with all & every one of their Heirs Ex=  
 cutors & Administrators Assigns & Successors  
 that they the above named Indian Grant  
 ors & every one of them & all & every one  
 of their Heirs Excutors Administrators  
 Assigns & Successors shall & will from time  
 to time & at all times hereafter upon  
 demand readily do & perform or cause  
 to be performed & do any other fur=  
 ther act or acts thing or things that the  
 Law doth or may require for the more sure  
 making & full confirming of all and  
 singular the hereby granted & bargained  
 promises unto the sd Stephen Hall  
 & Peter Rownd & unto all & every one  
 of the English planters & Inhabitants of  
 How (alias Pauspat itacutt & nepocha=  
 natick) & to all & every one of their Heirs  
 Excutors Administrators Assigns & Success=  
 ors forever & to the end & full perform=  
 unt of all & singular the promises the  
 above named Indian Grants have herein  
 to set their hands & seals: Dated the first 25 April 1684  
 and twentieth day of Aprile in the year  
 of our Lord God one thousand six hundred  
 Eighty & four. Among the parties  
 Benjamin Bobus his mark & seal  
 Sarah Bousiff her mark & seal  
 John Speen his mark & seal

Benjamin Bobus his mark & seal  
 Sarah Bousiff her mark & seal  
 John Speen his mark & seal  
 Sarah



Sarah Speen her mark & Seale  
James Speen & Seale  
Dorothy her mark & Seale  
Mary wife of Dorothy her  
mark & Seale

and a Seale  
Mary Muckamagus her  
mark & Seale  
& a Seale

I Signe Sealed & delivered  
in presence of us

John Ladd  
John Hayward  
John Button  
John Shewamsey  
his mark

Sam<sup>l</sup> Dubblett his mark

John Speen & Sarah his wife James Speen  
Dorothy alia Wumotaw, Mary alia  
Keeparum & Benjamin Bo low & Sarah  
his wife acknowledged the within written  
Instrument to be their act & Deeds  
May. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1694

Before L. Bulkeley of the

Record. & 11. 1694.

By Tho: Sanford. R.



---

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

1683 - 1933

---

### THE COUNTRY

STOW is among the earliest of the colonial towns. It was first settled about 1650 or 1660. Its largest and most notable hills were "*Pompositticut*" and "*Shabbukin*." These are now respectively in the borders of Maynard and Harvard. Besides these two it has eight more: *Long Hill* near the present Bolton line, *Marble*, *Spindle*, *Birch*, *Randall*, *Pilot Grove*, *Gardner*, and *Flagg's Hill*. Charming views may be obtained from these hills. *Flagg's Hill* is near Heath Hen meadow in the northeasterly part of the town. *Gardner Hill* we find in the lower village on the south side of *Great Road*, named for its honored owner, Henry Gardner. *Pilot Grove Hill* was formerly called "*Strong Water Hill*" from the large body of water in its vicinity, but later because of the most beautiful cluster of pines on its top, which were a pilot to the traveller for many miles, it was called *Pilot Grove*. Severe winters, icy winds and heavy storms have destroyed these sentinels, till only a few scraggly trees are left. *Randall Hill* in Gleasondale is on the Randall farm; *Birch Hill*, on which many bon-fires have been made, in honor of celebrations is near the Lyman Priest Farm. *Spindle* and *Marble Hills* are in the west part of the town. In Gleasondale also is a lesser hill known as *Boone's Hill*, bearing on it a stone monument to the first settler from which the hill gets its name.

The principal stream of water is the *Assabet River*; (on the old maps it is called "*Elizabeth*," "*Elsabeth*," "*Eliscæth*," all of which are corruptions of the old Indian name, "*Assabet*"). The river rises in or near Westboro, flows through the southerly part of the town, joining the Sudbury river, near Concord. *Assabet Brook* (commonly known as "*Elizabeth Brook*") rises in the northwest part of the town, near the corners of Harvard and Boxboro, flows southerly around the southern slope of *Spindle Hill*, thence northerly and easterly and empties into the *Assabet River* near the line of Maynard. What was formerly known as "*Strong Water Brook*:" flowed from the northerly side of "*Strong Water Pond*" the little pond near the center of the town, towards South Acton. Many years ago, the Rev. Mr. Newell dug a deep trench on the southerly side of this pond and drained its waters into *Assabet Brook*. This drainage formed a small brook, which is known as "*Potash Brook*," getting its name from the factory afterward located on its banks. The pond is known as "*Minister's Pond*." "*Heath Hen Meadow Brook*" rises in the south part of Boxboro, flows southerly, near to the northern slope of *Pilot Grove Hill*, thence northeasterly into Acton, forming a sort of ox-bow. The only other natural pond is *Boone's*, near which the first settlement was made.

Stow in its original limits was composed of a tract of territory or country bounded by Sudbury, Concord, Groton, Lancaster, Marlboro and the Indian plantation called "*Nashoba*," now Littleton. In 1830, it was bounded on the north by Boxboro and Acton;

east by Sudbury, south by Marlboro, west by Bolton and Harvard. No town touched its borders that did not take something from it,—Harvard, Shirley, Boxboro, Hudson and Maynard have each been anxious for a slice from Stow, taking in most cases citizens with land to make the towns what they are respectively, now. Naturally, Stow remonstrated, but whether like the traditional eel, it had become used to being skinned, or whether, as in the case of Hudson, an amicable understanding existed, or whether the exigencies of population by proximity to an increasing industry were evident, as in the case of Maynard; for some reason, the town acquiesced peacefully in its later divisions. In 1732, a slice was taken from Stow to help form the town of Harvard; this left a small strip of territory west of the Nashua river, known as “*Stow Leg*”; in 1764 this was annexed to Lancaster and soon after became a part of Shirley. About 1783, one-hundred-fifty-four inhabitants and three-tenths of the valuation were taken from the town of Stow to help form the town of Boxboro. In 1866, as no inhabitants were asked for, a few more acres of land were given to Hudson, with no particular opposition. In 1871, 1300 acres and 800 inhabitants, the easterly part of Stow, were taken to form the town of Maynard. This left the town in much better form than originally, but with less than one-half its area.

Much of the land was woodland; the meadow land being of a light soil and poor quality. We do not find the rich meadows that are found in either Concord or Sudbury. In 1665 there was laid out to Mr. Eleazer Lusher 500 acres of land in *Pompositticut* west of Sudbury, bounded on the north by what is now called Acton. Some years later, in 1672, Daniel Gookin, Thomas Danforth and Joseph Cook were sent by the General Court to examine the lands and consider ordering a town here. The committee reported “they found about eleven thousand acres; 500 of it meadow, but the greater part of it *very meanne land.*” Captain Daniel Gookin, Thomas Danforth and Joseph Cooke were appointed a committee to order and regulate the settling of the village, in all respects, until further orders. No immediate steps toward a settlement seem to have been taken; but as the Court required that ten families should be settled upon this land within three years, the committee in charge chose another committee “to lay out in the most convenient places Twelve Lotts, containing fifty acres of land, as near together as may be.” “The petitioners and their associates were to cast lots for these homesteads provided they should be men of good and honest conversations and orthodox in religion. . . . . and Engage accordng to their ability to contribute towards the maintenance of a godly minister amongst them. And so the town right was conceded—provided—the place be settled with no less than “ten families”; arrangements were made for a “pious and orthodox minister to be settled among them,” the lands were also permitted *only* to men of “good conversations and orthodox in religion.”

Captain Daniel Gookin had assigned him 500 acres of land, “bounded on the north by Nashoba and southeasterly by what is now Acton.” This is in the section of what today is called “*Heath Hen Meadow*”. We have no record of this land having been settled, but indications point to the fact that at some very early date there was a large settlement there.

In 1675 the lands were again forfeited by non-settlement; the failure being due to fear of the tomahawk and scalping-knife, more than from lack in the colony of men orthodox



## THE COUNTRY

---

in religion or of good conversations. From a document dated 1681, we learn that the following persons were owners of the twelve original lots drawn by the proprietors:

Lot No. 1—Reserved for the minister—now “Winthrop Robinson Cottage” owned by T. D. Whitney.

Lot No. 2—Boaz Brown—later “Jekyl heirs”—back of “Hosmer” house, now Mrs. Puffer’s.

Lot No. 3—Gershom Heald—“Joining John Buttrick’s”—Gleasondale and Sudbury line.

Lot No. 4—John Buttrick—“Pompositticut Hill”—lands toward Concord and Sudbury.

Lot No. 5—Ephraim Hildreth—Northwest part of the town, George Stow section.

Lot No. 6—Thomas Stevens—Each side of “Strong Water Brook.”

Lot No. 7—Stephen Hall—The “Old Stow” place—sold in 1669 to Boaz Brown.

Lot No. 8—Samuel Buttrick—Lands toward Concord and Sudbury.

Lot No. 9—Joseph Freeman—Next Gershom Heald, Sudbury line (only son of John Freeman an early settler of Sudbury.)

Lot No. 10—Joseph Daby—West part of town, near lands of Stephen Hall and Ephraim Hildreth.

Lot No. 11—Thomas Gates—Most westerly part of Stow—“Old Whitney Farm” and John Gates Peck Farm.

Lot No. 12—Sydrack Hapgood—Over the river near Sudbury.

These homestead lots were on the northerly and southerly sides of the old road laid out in 1646 between Lancaster and Sudbury, passing by the H. H. Warren Homestead.

Besides those having foundation lots, the following had lots assigned them,—

Richard Whitney Sr.	1680	Thomas Stevens Jr.	1684
Moses Whitney	1681	Mark Perkins	1685
Henry Rand	1682	Richard Burke Sr.	1685
Benjamin Bosworth	1682	Roger Willis	1685
Benjamin Crane	1682	Thomas Williams	1685
Richard Whitney Jr.	1683	Stephen Randall	1686
Jabez Utter	1683	John Wetherby	1779

The following persons from Concord also took up lands in Stow,—

James Wheeler	1681	Jabez Brown	1683
Isaac Heald	1682	Boaz Brown Jr.	1684
Israel Heald	1682	Samuel Hall	1684
Joseph Wheeler	1683	Thomas Daby	1684

On October 11, 1681, at the request of the proprietors and inhabitants, the committee appointed Thomas Stevens, Boaz Brown, Thomas Gates and Stephen Hall, overseers of the place, with the power of selectmen, subject however, to instructions from the Court’s committee. The matter of taking their place among the towns of the colony was brought before the Court’s committee, who on the 9th of April 1683, chose Thomas Stevens

clerk. "Mr. Hayward's record book was to be delivered to him." The inhabitants were also directed to meet and choose five selectmen and a constable to order and manage their affairs for the ensuing year. The people were ready and abundantly willing to obey the order of the committee, and on the 19th of April they met and chose Sergeant Benjamin Bosworth, Thomas Stevens, Stephen Hall, Boaz Brown, Joseph Freeman, selectmen; Thomas Gates, constable. As Thomas Stevens had previously been appointed town clerk, it was deemed unnecessary to choose another. A little later the selectmen appointed John Wetherby and Gershom Heald (Hale) tithing-men (assessors). Benjamin Bosworth and Stephen Hall were empowered to present before the General Court the matter of incorporation as a town. The document is quite long and refers to many things.

The General Court, being satisfied that the people could act for themselves, on the first day of the session, May 16, 1683, decreed that the place should become a town. The people had asked that "a suitable and comly name be given" them from among the list sent in to the Court. Among the list of names sent in, was the name "*Stow*." Simon Bradstreet who was Governor at that time came over from England on one of Winthrop's ships on which was also "*John Stow*" a man of much ability and the two formed a close acquaintance. John Stow settled in Roxbury and was a leading man of his time. When the names were presented it is quite natural that Bradstreet's attention be called to the name of his friend. Whatever the reason may have been, the name of "*Stow*" was considered "*comly*" by the Court and the name of this *old English town* was given to the *new New England town*. We have no record of any celebration of this event, but the people doubtless rejoiced that they were considered able to act for themselves. The inhabitants were freed from the country rates for three years to come and allowed the choice already made of selectmen and constable.



ELM VALE FARM  
Built 1760



SPINDLE VALLEY FARM  
Built 1795



---

## INDIANS, GARRISONS, ETC.

BETWEEN the town of Concord and the town of Lancaster lay a tract of land called by the Indian, "*Pompocitticut*." Tantamous, or "*Jethro*," whose home was at Isa-baeth (Nobscot) controlled this region at this time. This section was thickly wooded, the growth being largely of pines, with the various kinds of oaks, that were so prevalent at that time. Later in our history we find these oaks used as marks for boundaries.

Most of the land was "*meanne*" land and of a character not as valuable for raising corn and other foodstuffs as that of Sudbury. It was hilly and rocky with comparatively little "*meadow land*." Yet the Indians found in the woods of "*Pompocitticut*" plenty of game to furnish a good subsistence. With Assabet running below, the *Musketahquid* (Sudbury) not far in the distance, there was good hunting and fishing both of which served to make our Indian friends happy as well as to furnish a good living.

*Tantamous* (also called *Jethro*) was not a praying Indian. Gookin says of him that he had twelve members in his family but never submitted to the Christian profession. He also says that the old man had "the repute to be a pow-wow" and that he was held in great veneration by the natives. It is supposed that a trail ran from the well-known missionary station at Natick, northwesterly to Stow and Nashoba (Littleton). The natives along its course naturally made use of it and had intercourse with these Indian villages. When unfriendly Indians threatened the settlers of this section, the friendly Indians gave warning of their approach, thus aiding the whites. Tantamous, with some other Indians was present at the sale of the territory, which is now Concord. We find in the "Concord Square" a marker, noting the site of "*Jethro's Tree*." Under this oak the agreement was made, the treaty signed and the transaction completed for the sale of the land which is now the town of Concord.

In 1675, while Tantamous was living at Nobscot with his family, he was ordered by the Colony to Deer Island, Boston Harbor, for security. Resenting the ill usage received from those conducting him there, *Jethro* and his family escaped in the darkness of night. He was betrayed by his son, Peter *Jethro*, into the hands of the English, by whom he was executed September 26, 1676.

Peter *Jethro* (also called *Ammatohu*) was connected with several real estate matters. He was with the Indians who conveyed to John Haynes, the 3200 acres of land east of Quinsigamoge Pond, Worcester. In 1684, he was among the Indian grantors of the 2 mile tract granted to the Sudbury settlers. In 1683, he lived at Dunstable, with Mr. Jonathan King, and because of Mr. King's great kindness to Peter and his uncle, he gave a tract of land six miles square, north of Wachusett Mountain and west of Groton, which he had received from his uncle Jeffy. "*Benjamin Bohue*" is the name of an Indian also appearing on the transactions of real estate in Stow.

The Indian wigwam is another interesting feature of Indian life. This wigwam sometimes had a capacity for several residents. It is said that a dozen Indians

lived at Jethro's house at Nobscot. About the house resounded many a merry voice at the coming of the early green corn, or the gathering of berries or nuts; when the shad returned in the spring; or at the fall migration of birds, when the whistle of the water bird's wing was heard and the pigeons made their way over the plain. Thus merry were the places where even a single wigwam stood. We learn of their habits and customs from Mr. Gookin, than whom there is no more reliable authority on the life of the Indian.

These wigwams, or houses, were made by placing poles in the ground and fastening them together at the top by the bark of trees. The best of these structures were covered neatly, and made quite warm, by strips of bark placed upon them. The bark used for this purpose was stripped from the trees when the sap was up, and made into great flakes by the pressure of weighty timbers. By thus getting them and using them when green, the flakes when dry retained the form to which they were fitted. The more poorly made wigwams were covered over with mats made of bulrushes. The Indian houses varied a good deal in size; some were twenty, some forty feet long. Gookin says, "I have seen one 50 or 100 feet long and 30 feet broad." These wigwams were kept warm by a fire or fires made within. In the smaller one, fire was made in the center; in the larger, two, three or four were sometimes made. A door was formed by a mat hung at the entrance, to be raised as the person entered, and dropped when he was within. Gookin also says, "I have often lodged in these wigwams and found them as warm as the best English houses." In the wigwam was a mattress or couch, raised about a foot high. This was covered with boards split from trees, upon which were spread mats or skins of the bear or deer. These couches were large enough for three or four persons to sleep on. They were 6 or 8 feet broad and could be drawn nearer to or farther from the fire as one chose. Mrs. Rowlandson says "that after the Wadsworth fight, the Indians made a wigwam big enough to contain 100 men, as a place in which to celebrate their victory."

The food of the Indian consisted of game,—the streams furnishing an abundance of fish, and the forests a supply of game. Such a diet would be most easily obtained and the methods of getting it, most in accord with the Indian's wild nature and life. But this was not all. According to Gookin, it consisted chiefly of Indian corn boiled. Sometimes they mixed beans with their corn, and frequently boiled in their pottage, fish and flesh of all sorts, either fresh or dry. Bones were also cut in pieces and used.

Again, Gookin tells us, "they are so dextrous in separating the bones from the fish when eating, that they are never in danger of being choked." They also mixed with their pottage various kinds of roots, ground nuts, pompions (pumpkins) squashes, acorns, walnuts and chestnuts, dried and powdered. Some times they beat their maize into meal, and sifted it through a basket made for that purpose. With this meal they made bread, which they baked in the ashes, after covering it with leaves. They also made of this maize meal what was called "*Nokake*," which it was said was sweet, toothsome and hearty,—so much so, that when the Indian was going on a journey, he would often take with him no food but a bag or basket of this.

The corn was planted in places first cleared by fire. It was planted when the oak-leaf was about the size of a mouse's ear, and fertilized by a fish placed in the hill. Gookin states that the Indian was much given to hospitality, and that strangers were given their

## INDIANS, GARRISONS, ETC.

---

best lodging and diet. Their religion consisted in the belief in a Good Spirit called *Kiton*, and a Bad Spirit, called *Hobbamnoc*, and in a happy hunting-ground beyond the grave. They had their pow-wows, and medicine men served the place of a rude priesthood among them, and they conformed to various customs which corresponded to their wild ways of life. Johnson speaks of them as "being in very great subjection to the Divil," and the pow-wows as being "more conversant with him than any others." But it is said these notions were corrected wherever civilization and Christianity were introduced. The money or medium of exchange was *wampumpage*.

Various methods were used in capturing their game. Fish was taken both with the hook and the spear. In the migrations of the ale-wife and shad, the birch-bark canoes, torch and spear, were probably effective means in the catch. The canoes were sometimes forty feet long and would carry twenty men. The larger animals were sometimes caught by the pitfall, a place dug in the ground, and covered lightly with sticks and leaves, through which the game when passing would fall; sometimes by a forest drive by which means a portion of the country was traversed by a company of men deployed at short distances, who moved towards a given point, where was a partial enclosure, through which the animals were forced to pass; at the place of exit, hunters were stationed to dispatch the game as it strove to make its way through."—(*History of Sudbury, Hudson*).

There is no question but that the region of "*Pompocitticut Hill*" was the rendezvous of the Indians. A most sightly outlook may be had from this Hill and the possibility for making a sudden attack on the unsuspecting palefaced settlers in the valley very easy.

Many Indian relics have been found on the farms in this town. It is believed that Indians were very numerous in this section in those early days, as their skeleton remains have been found in that part of Maynard, formerly Stow, on the "Benjamin Smith" and "Lucius Brigham" farms.

On the farm of Lucius Maynard, formerly owned by the Gibsons of Stow, and known as the "Gibson Farm" many Indian relics were found so that he has a large collection of relics and many antiques. Arrowheads were numerous in Gleasondale, many of them now preserved in the Indian Museum of Miss Sears in Harvard. In this Museum may be seen a very wonderful "*Indian Bowl*" which came from the George Stow Farm in this town. On the old Whitcomb farm now occupied by the two Whitcomb brothers, Fred and Clifford Whitcomb, back of Fred Whitcomb's house, we find another one of these curiosities. The granite rock in which we find the bowl is nearly three feet high, about two and one-half feet in diameter. The bowl measures ten inches across the top and is several inches deep. One side of this rock is moss-covered. The Indian squaws used this for grinding their corn. They would take other rocks or stones and with these in this bowl prepare the corn for use.

More than 250 years ago, two adventurers from Charlestown, Mass. with their families, Boon and Kettell settled on lands they had purchased from the Indians "which lands are known to this day." Tradition hath it, that Boon purchased this land, which extends over a vast surface of hills, plains and ponds, of the Indians for a jack-knife. Kettell kept on farther north and settled near the Bolton line on land which was bought of an heir of John Kettell by a member of the Hale family over two hundred years ago, in whose possession it remained till May, 1883, when John Robbins became owner. Here in their



log cabins they lived, the undisputed possessors of the soil, clearing the land, protecting their families from the depredations of the wild beasts of the forests and the more dreaded Indian, till King Philip's War in 1675, when they were both murdered. Matthew Boon about 1660 located on the westerly side of the hill that bears his name. In 1676, during King Philip's War, Boon removed his family to a garrison house in Sudbury, on "*Water Row*"; on returning for his household goods he was murdered by the Indians near the pond that bears his name.

To locate "*Red Slough*", the spot where Boon was found: from Whitman's Corner, follow the high bank (now on Sibley's farm) down on to an intervale land; then follow a "*gravel spit*" beside the current of the river; they crossed the river at the narrowest point to the stone culvert, now under the railroad by a log bridge. From that point the marks of the old road are plainly seen today; thence, diagonally up Boon's Hill, near the monument that bears his name, then down the south side of the Hill to a bridge which crossed the outlet (Bailey's Brook) from Lake Boon; then by a cart path now in evidence to where the so-called "*old Marlboro road*" joined it, going down the bank to the mouth of "*Rams Horn Brook*", across what was then the south side of Boon's Pond on to a sandy beach. This is now the reservoir and was built 71 years ago. From this beach in an easterly direction was a gulley leading to the level of the plain, about twenty feet higher than the pond; from thence to "*Red Slough*" near the Hudson-Sudbury road; getting its name from the tradition that Boon was found on this spot in a pool of blood. The stone monument was placed on the Hill because the old cellar-hole or dug-out was supposed to be the site of Boon's home. Many arrow-heads have been found on the Sibley farm, Gleasondale, at the north end of Boon's pond, also on the Frank Hale farm, giving evidences of Indian canoeing spots in this section. Moreover the most direct trail from Sudbury to this section was by the narrow crossing which we have just described, across country to Pompositticut Hill.

At the bi-centennial anniversary of the town, 1883, stone monuments were erected as near as possible to mark the site of these tragedies. Two deeds of land were conveyed to the town of Stow for this purpose. John Robbins conveyed land to the town of Stow for the erection of a monument to Kettell. This is about a quarter of a mile from the Bolton line and near the road leading to the farm formerly occupied by Calvin Hale. This land which has been in the possession of the Hale family one hundred and fifty years, and who bought it from an heir of John Kettell, passed this month from that family (the last one being Mrs. Sally W. Hale who had lived here half a century) to John Robbins. Jerome Barton conveyed land to the town of Stow for the erection of a monument to Matthew Boon.

Sydrack (Shadrack) Hapgood, another white settler of this plantation and one of those to whom one of the "*twelve grants*" was assigned, was killed by the Indians at Brookfield, August 2, 1675 where he with several others under command of Captain Thomas Wheeler had been sent to treat with a hostile tribe, the Nipmuc Indians. It had been learned that these Nipmucs had been secretly engaged with King Philip to make war upon the English. Hapgood had taken up land on the Assabet river about one and one-half miles from the old Common. A garrison was built on his land overlooking the river and was later burned. His eldest son occupied the grant of land after his father's death and two





ABRAHAM RANDALL HOMESTEAD



RESIDENCE OF ABIJAH J. WALCOTT



## INDIANS, GARRISONS, ETC.

---

younger sons took up land in Marlboro. Shadrack with eleven other men made the first move toward the organization of a town on October 12, 1669; and the plantation was established under the name of "*Pompocitticut.*" It was on Pompocitticut Hill during King Philip's War in 1676, that the chiefs gathered in consultation to decide whether to make Concord or Sudbury their place of attack; but when one of the chiefs said "we no prosper if we go to Concord; the Great Spirit love that people, Great Man pray there," Concord was spared and most of the settlers of Sudbury were killed and their cabins were burned. The "*Great Man*" referred to, was the Reverend Peter Bulkeley, who because of his kindly sympathy, tact and many kindly deeds, had won the hearts of these savages so that the town of his choice was left unharmed and unmolested while her neighbors were burned to the ground. Stow fared to a certain extent in the unhappy fate of the unfortunate towns, so that the warwhoop of the Indians silenced for a time the ring of the settler's axe. In the bloody pages of Indian warfare, crowded with details of burning cabins and inhuman butchery, few acts of horror exceed in atrocity their deeds of cruelty, when the early settlers of Stow became the prey of savage hate. Under the Winthrop Robinson Cottage in lower Stow, the old Whitney House in the west part of the town, may be found two dug-outs; both of these places were used as garrisons. The Joel Parmenter House in Maynard is said to have been a garrison. In the Folsom House (recently burned, and owned by William Parker) and "Gardner Inn" the walls were found to be lined with large bricks, of such size and shape that they are thought to have been brought from England.

---

## CHURCHES

“TODAY we start a town by building a factory; our ancestors started their towns by building ye meeting-house for public worship.”

The first settlers of this town, like most of the people who settled the State, were pious men and women, who deemed it all-important to provide for the stated worship of God, that their children might “*enjoy the means of Grace.*”

A rate was made June 5, 1685, “to pay what ye town are indebted to Mr. Parris for his pains amongst us.” He was never invited to settle, as arrangements were made to pay him for each Sunday he preached. He left town the latter part of August, 1685. This was the Rev. Samuel Parris, who afterward took such a prominent part in the witch-craft delusion. He is buried in the Lower Cemetery.

The first meeting-house was built though not finished in 1686, just two or three years after the incorporation of the town. It was of rude construction, having four windows, each with three lights. Samuel Hunt was to be the builder and was to be paid “ten bushels of Indian Corne, good and merchantable, and to provide nails and boards.” They had no stated minister for some time, but on November 7, 1686, John Buttrick and Gershom Healde were directed to go to Lancaster, to discourse with Mr. William Woodrop, to give him a solemn invitation to come and settle with them and to ascertain his terms. Mr. Woodrop came and preached one Sunday. Negotiations were then opened and he promised “to dwell and settle in town . . . judging ye call of ye people to be a call from God.” The town voted to pay him forty pounds, “half money and half grain.” A committee was chosen to report in writing, December 13, 1686, what should be done relative to full settlement of Mr. Woodrop. The next day they report building with all speed a frame dwelling-house. They desired it to be of such a character that he could invite his wife to come from her English home and abide with them.

But they were doomed to disappointment; in March, Mr. Woodrop informed them his wife would not come to him “so he concluded his call was to go to her.” Discouraged they appealed to the General Court. We read in the “*Province Laws*” (State Archives) dated December 15, 1697, the following petition,—“The humble petition of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town of Stow, within the Province aforesaid”—“the said town being very small and poor by reason of the war with the Indians, to whom the same is a frontier and also for want of a settled minister, hath of late out of thirty-six poor families which were then settled, lost eight of them, by their removal out of the same; whereby together with a great diminution of our crops and the burden of the Rates, the said town is more disabled from allowing meet encouragement to the Ministry. Your petitioners do therefore most humbly pray this Honorable Court, that you would please to grant some relief and help for the support and maintenance of the ministry within said town, whereby more inhabitants thereof will be encouraged to abide and continue therein, many of whom will otherwise desert and leave the same.”



THE FIRST PARISH (Unitarian) CHURCH



## CHURCHES

---

“And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray—  
In ye name and by ye order of ye town.”

The order in the Council for the payment of an allowance was passed November 24, 1688, and the Province treasurer's account contains an entry showing that it was paid to the selectmen of the said town of Stow according to the order. “Voted that there be allowed and paid to the selectmen of the said town of Stow in behalf of said town, the sum of ten pounds, out of the publick treasury, towards the support of the ministry there. Approved, December 17, 1687.”

After many attempts to obtain a settled minister, July 24, 1689, we find this: “Voted and unanimously concluded to give Mr. John Eveleth an invitation and call to ye work of ye ministry in this towne.” Mr. Eveleth came and remained seventeen years. After he left Stow, he preached in several towns in Maine. He was very much beloved by all. Of him it is said “he was not only their minister, but a good blacksmith and farmer and the BEST FISHERMAN in town.”

As the town grew in numbers, a larger and more comfortable place of worship was desired. On June 12, 1711, it was voted that “the meeting-house be built and set up on the little plain, on the northwest side of Strong Water Pond, on the right hand of the county road, between Moses Whitney's and Capt. Stevens' house.” There was some dissatisfaction with this location and March 29, 1712, Samuel Hall, Zebediah Wheeler, Deliverance Wheeler, John Wetherby and Thomas Brown were chosen a committee to decide on some place to set the house. This site was near where H. H. Warren's house now stands. We find no action till January 1713, when it was “voted to set the meeting-house, on the right hand of the country road, on the little knowl between Captain Stevens' barn and the dame at Strong Water Brook.”

The town again being without a minister, 1717-1718, chose a committee to “procure a candidate to carry on the work of the ministry.” He was to have one hundred pounds in land as a settlement and a yearly salary of seventy-five pounds for five years, “then seventy-five pounds, then to add twenty shillings a year till it reached eighty pounds; which thereafter was to be his stated salary to be paid in semi-annual instalments.” On June 17, 1718, Mr. John Gardner was called “to carry on the worke of the ministry.” He was inducted into office November 26, 1718, but there is no account on record to be found of any services. He remained as pastor for fifty-six years; his ministry seems to have been peaceful and prosperous. He is called the “first historian of the town of Stow.” The old meeting-house which was built in 1686, he tells us “having become decayed,” was “torn down” before March 1719 and the money used to purchase a “burying-cloth.” About 1722, January 1st, a small bell was presented to the town by a Mr. Jekyll, an Englishman (and probably one of the “loyalists”) who resided at the lower village; that year a turret was built on the meeting house to hang it in.

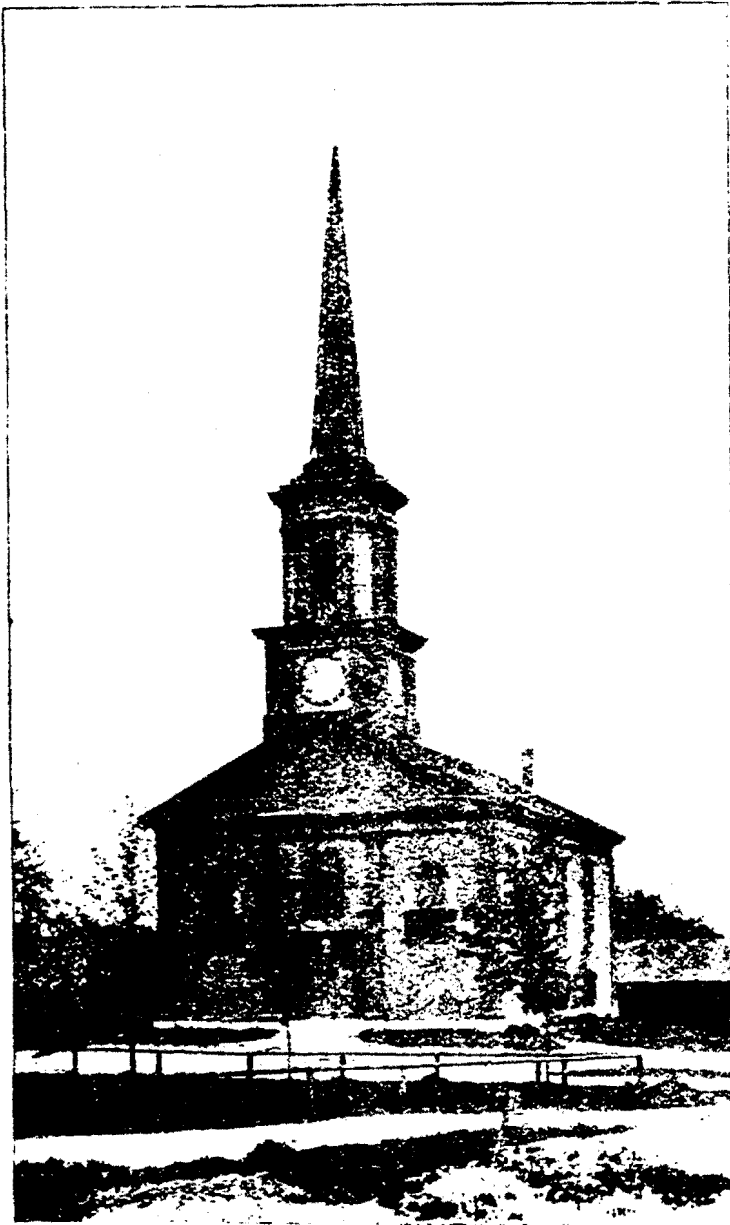
Mr. Gardner was becoming feeble and it was decided best to hire a colleague. Mr. Gardner signified his willingness to receive such a person and measures were taken to procure one. March, 1774, Mr. Jonathan Newell preached his first sermon as a candidate. September 11, 1774, the acceptance of his call was read. Henry Gardner, Jonathan Woods, Deacon Samuel Gates were appointed to carry forward the ordination and to

consult with Mr. Gardner about it. He was ordained October 11, 1774 and remained for about fifty-six years. Fifty years from the date of his settlement he preached a sermon in commemoration of that event; on the one-hundredth anniversary of the town he also preached a sermon in honor of the occasion; both of these sermons are printed. Quoting from the sermon preached on his fiftieth anniversary he says "Of seventy communicants who belonged fifty years ago, one only remains now living and she a woman advanced to her one-hundredth year." This was Mary Brown Gates, who is buried in the lower cemetery, at the age of one hundred years. During the long period of over one hundred years, the records show no troubles to disturb the peace of the Church, save a town mandate that orders the Constables "to kill all dogs that come into the meeting-house on the Sabbath Day, if they can't keep them off without." The circumstance of the occupancy of the same pulpit by two men for one-hundred-twelve years, has probably no parallel in our Church history. We are told that the town was so zealous in the interest of public worship in 1769, it ordered a bridge built across the river that Mr. Abraham Randall might "get to the meeting-house." Mrs. Guttridge, mother of William, related how Mr. Amory Maynard would take all his conveyance would hold, and drive to Stow to attend church Sunday mornings. He played the bass viol, assisted in the services and sang in the choir. He was very greatly interested in church work." About 1880, we find the choir of the old church consisting of William Wood, tenor, Belle R. Miles, and Lizzie Miles, sopranos, Mrs. Dr. Livermore, alto, and Samuel A. Lawrence, bass. They occupied the old gallery and their singing is well remembered today by some of the older residents.

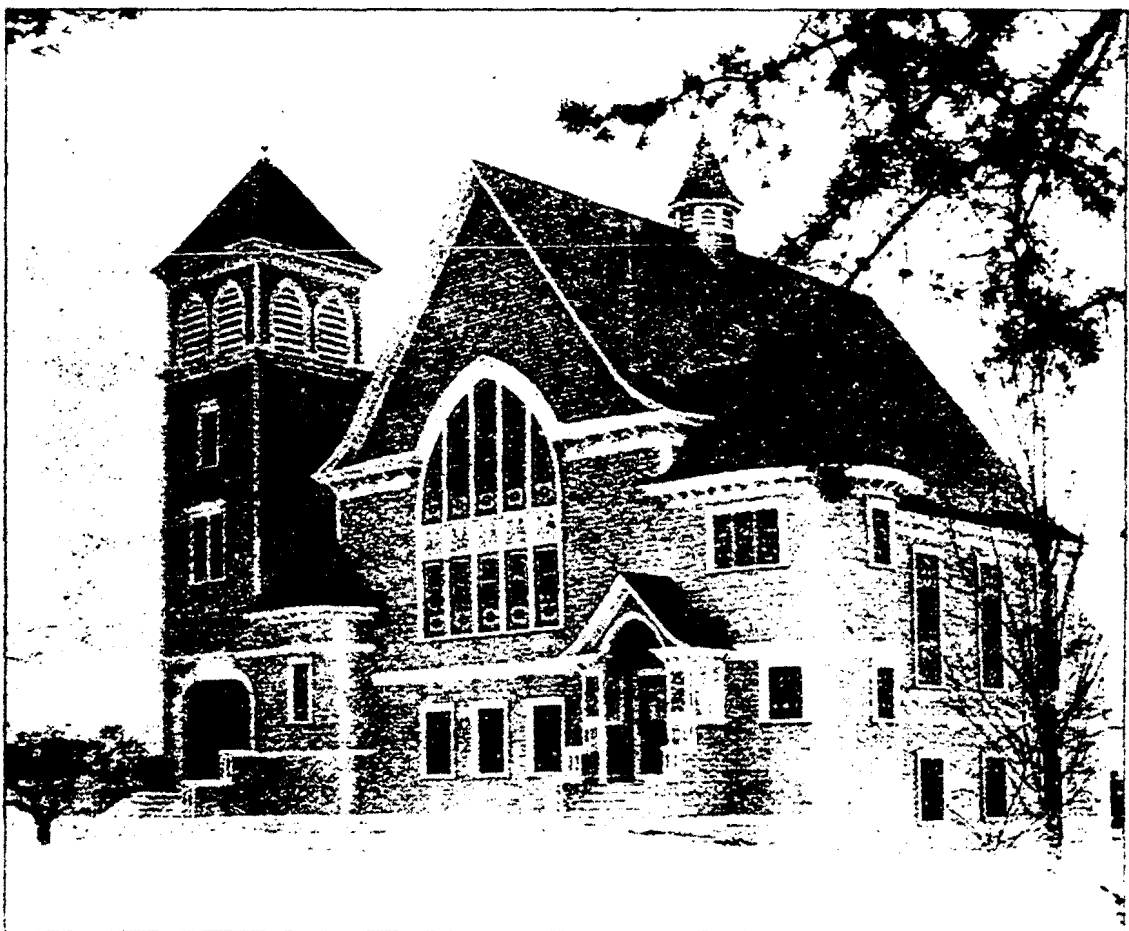
April 6, 1752, "it was voted to built a new meeting-house over the old cellar-place near Strong Water Brook called Captain Stevens old cellar-place." They then reconsidered this location and finally voted to "set the house on the north side of the country road, where Shabbukin road leads into said road." This site was the same as where the Pilot Grove school-house now stands. For some reason, not recorded, the bell that was given to the town was sold in 1823. Among the probate records, we find in the will of Mrs. Abigail (Hagar) Eveleth, widow of Francis Eveleth Jr., and grand-daughter by marriage, of the Rev. John Eveleth first settled minister of Stow, "\$400 for the sole purpose of purchasing a bell for the meeting-house." This bell was purchased and placed in the belfry of the meeting-house in 1827 and was tolled for the first time at her funeral. This bell was presented to the town. At the time of the fire in 1847, when the church was burned, it fell and was cracked. It was repaired and still hangs in the belfry. The movement that was started in 1822 to build a new meeting-house because of the dilapidated condition of the one then in use, was completed in 1827, when the town "voted to convey the old meeting-house, and land connected, belonging to the town, to Moses Whitney Esq., Augustus Tower Esq. and others, to their use, in consideration of their building a new house for public worship for the town;" the pews were to be sold and the surplus money arising from this sale, to be paid into the town treasury. This stood on the site of the present church in the center for twenty years. In 1847 it was burned to the ground. The books, clock, pulpit and communion service were saved. In 1848, a new church building was erected on the same site.

On February 16, 1829, Rev. John Sibley was invited to become minister of the town.





THE OLD GLEASONDALE CHURCH



THE PRESENT GLEASONDALE CHURCH



## CHURCHES

---

He was offered \$500 as a settlement and a yearly salary of \$600 with twelve cords of oak or walnut wood yearly. He was ordained the May following. His ministry was of short duration; soon after a Universalist Society was formed and some persons holding Trinitarian views withdrew from his support. The town accepted his resignation in 1833. He was the last minister settled and supported by the town.

In the latter part of 1833, the First Parish was organized, embracing all who had not withdrawn from the old church. Things were in an unsettled condition; different ministers supplied the pulpit from time to time for some years. Rev. Reuben Bates was installed in 1846, but on account of ill health closed his ministry in 1859. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

In 1839 an Evangelical church was formed and a chapel was built on the lot where the house of Mr. Gage now stands, the following year. About 1850 a large number of the members left and went to help form the Union Congregational Church at Maynard (then Assabet Village). Because of its weakened condition, services were given up, the organization moving to "*Rock Bottom*" on what is called "*Gospel Hill*," about a mile beyond the Gleasondale Mill; the building at Stow was afterwards sold and changed into a paint and harness shop and dwelling; afterwards this was moved to Maynard.

About 1830, a Universalist Society was formed and lived some twenty years. They never had a settled minister and had preaching only a part of the time. They were granted the use of the meeting house a portion of the year according to the amount of money they paid.

In 1885, Rev. J. Sidney Moulton accepted the call to become pastor of the First Parish (Unitarian) Church, Stow Center. Mr. Moulton was a man of highly intellectual attainments, much culture and very artistic in his tastes. He remained as pastor of the church for nearly forty years. As he was becoming feeble, he handed in his resignation as pastor, and the church made him Pastor Emeritus. Since then, the church has had student pastors.

December 30, 1870, Col. Elijah Hale purchased a house and two or three acres of land and presented it to the First Parish Church for a parsonage.

### SUMMARY

The first meeting-house was erected in 1686 in the lower village, on the east end of the "*Old Common*."

The second meeting-house was erected in 1713 on the north side of "*Strong Water Brook*."

The third meeting-house was erected in 1752, near the site of "*Pilot Grove School*."

The fourth meeting-house was erected in 1827 on the site of the present church building.

The bell was presented to the town for the meeting-house by Mrs. Abigail Hagar Eveleth, widow of Francis Eveleth Jr., granddaughter of Rev. John Eveleth and was tolled first at her funeral. This meeting-house was burned in 1847. The bell fell and was cracked, but was later recast and now hangs in the belfry of the present church, which was rebuilt in 1848.

The Church of Stow was organized within a year of the founding of Yale College.

It was organized two years before the printing of the first American newspaper.

It was organized several years before the establishing of the first regular Post-office on this side of the Atlantic.

### ROCK BOTTOM CHURCH

Beginning with 1821, for several years, the "*Needham Circuit Riders*" served the people of Rock Bottom. Services were held in the various homes; sometimes in the saw and grist mill of Phineas Sawyer, a room being fitted up for that purpose.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Rock Bottom (the legitimate successor of the church of the part of Marlboro, on Gospel Hill, now Hudson) was composed of members from several towns. They built a meeting-house in 1827, known as the "*Old Brick Church*" on Gospel Hill, where they worshipped till December, 1852, when this building was burned. In those days, the church-goers either had to walk or ride in ox-teams. Some of the older residents tell of their grand-parents walking bare-foot to this church, carrying their shoes and stockings. When they came to a low bridge which crossed the brook, they sat on this bridge, put on their shoes and stockings and proceeded on their way to church. On the return trip they removed the shoes and stockings at the bridge and walked the rest of the way bare-foot. This was to save the wear on the shoes and stockings.

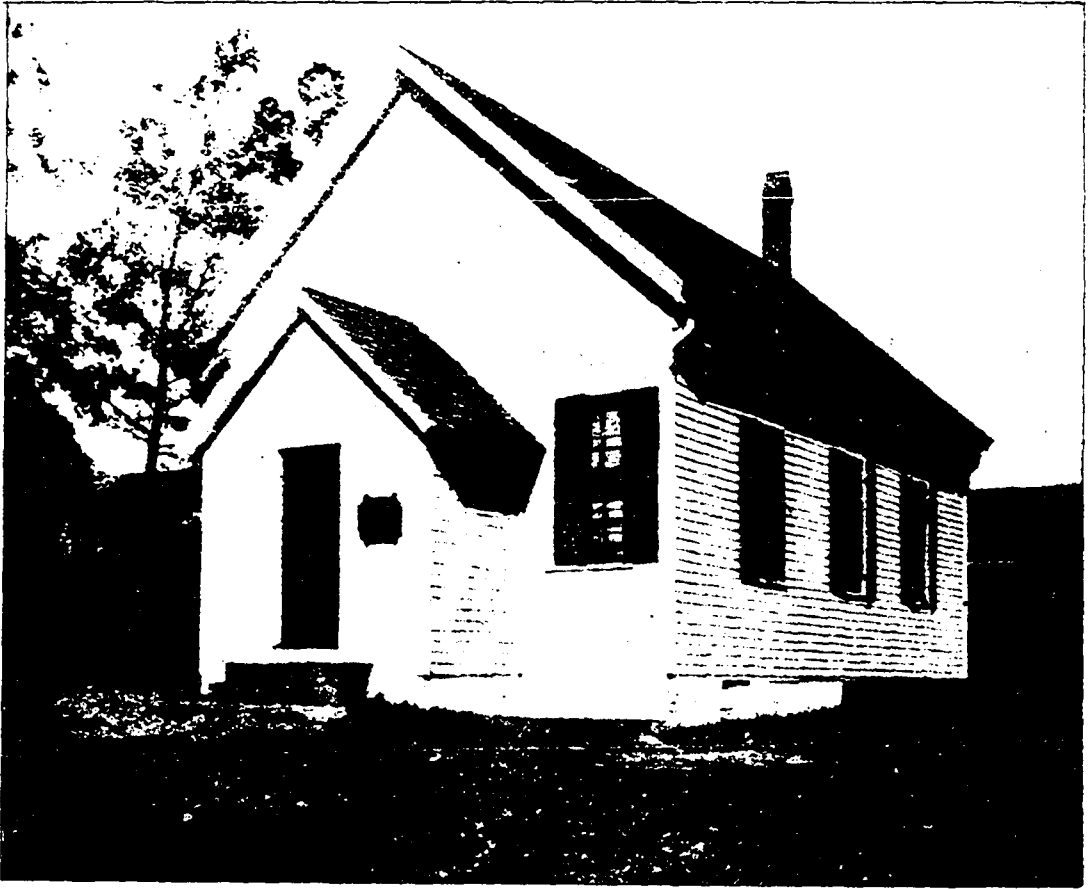
After the burning of their church, a hall was secured at Rock Bottom Village and services were held there. Thirteen of the Marlboro members soon after withdrew to form a new society; the remaining members decided to build a church at Rock Bottom and the corner-stone was laid July 4, 1853, the dedication taking place November of the same year. This building was used till 1898. It had become "a warped and leaky structure, that baffled their skill and ability to repair." At the meeting of the trustees in March of 1896, A. D. Gleason, in behalf of himself and brother, C. W. Gleason, proposed to erect a new church on the site of the old one, if the trustees would remove the old church. The trustees accepted the proposition and on July 16, 1898, the corner-stone was again laid after having served as a corner-stone for forty-five years. On December 31st, 1898, this building, erected in memory of Benjamin Whitney Gleason, was dedicated and presented to the Gleasondale M. E. Church by his sons, Charles Whitney, and Alfred Dwight Gleason. This building on nearly the same site as the old church is two stories high, with a square tower on the northwest corner, a large open entrance and spacious vestibule, stairways to vestry, audience room and bell tower. On the southwest corner is another entrance with porch and large vestibule, having wide stairways leading to the vestry and audience room. The finishings being of cypress, maple, hard pine and oak, give a pleasing effect on entering the church.

In 1884 a parsonage was bought for \$600. In 1885 a new parsonage was built at a cost of about \$2200. Because of a legacy from Mrs. Abigail Priest Smith, this commodious and convenient building was completed without debt.

Culled from the records of the Old Brick Church:

"1830—Voted to see hoo wood take charge of the Meeting House the Cheapest the Ensuing year to build the Fires and Sweep the House and find lights &c.

Mr. Calvin Maynard agreed to take it for Three Dollars."



THE UNION EVANGELICAL CHAPEL



THE UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH



## CHURCHES

---

“1830—Voted to see if the Base Viol be used in the Meeting House.

Twenty two votes for the Base Viol and seven against the Base Viol.”

“1831—Voted not to receive any preacher that is in favor of freemasonry.”

“1835—Let out the care of meeting House to Willard Brown to sweep and find one cord of oak wood build the fires lite the House and sweepit once in two weeks on lock and lock the House for \$7-50 a year.

Chore two to take charge of the Base Viol.”

“1848—All persons are hereby prohibited from croching over the Meeting House common of the Methodist Society in Marlboro by a vote of said Society at their annual Meeting held March 20-1848 and ordered the subscribers which they made their Committee to post up this Notice in the Protection of their Meeting House.

Solomon Weeks,  
Moses Barnes,  
J. L. Jewell-”

### UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The Union Evangelical Church is a comparatively modern enterprise. It had its beginning in 1891 when the central part of the town was without a church of the distinctly Evangelical type. There was quite a group in town however, who were of the Evangelical faith and who, to worship with the church of their choice, were obliged to go to West Acton, Maynard, Hudson or Gleasondale (then called *Rock Bottom*). Those most interested, including Miss May Staples, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Staples, Rev. and Mrs. Corliss, the latter recent comers to town because of ill health, after conferring together called an informal meeting at the Staples' Homestead at which there was an attendance of between twenty and thirty residents of the town. For more than a year stated services were held there and in a large unfurnished room, the use of which was offered by Mr. Hemenway.

About Christmas time, 1892, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the Stow Union Evangelical Mission Society. Five trustees, a clerk and a treasurer were chosen and later a Constitution and By-laws were adopted. Rev. S. W. Whitney (on the place where Donald Lewis now lives), gave a piece of land, situated west of the present lot of the church, on which a Chapel was built in the Spring and Summer of 1893, and at the same time, four double horse-sheds. Many members of the Society gave their labor and Rev. H. G. Corliss assisted by Mr. Hapgood, who built the Randall Library, gave the needed oversight. Mr. Corliss, who gave his services without remuneration for three years, in 1894 removed to a larger field of service. The trustees then assumed charge and for eighteen years the pulpit was supplied by pastors of neighboring churches, at a fee of \$3.50 per Sunday.

From the first the movement was attended with commendable zeal and growth. The Sunday-school was organized, revival services, and a mid-week prayer meeting held.

On February 25, 1904, at an Ecclesiastical Council for the organization of the Union Evangelical Church, thirty charter members, twenty-five by letter and five by confession of faith, received the Right Hand of Fellowship from the late Reverend George A.

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

Tewksbury, pastor of the Trinitarian Church in Concord; Mr. Tewksbury conducted this most impressive service.

The Chapel having become too small, at a meeting of much interest and enthusiasm, March 12, 1904, it was voted to build a more commodious place of worship; the corner stone was laid in August of that year; the dedication taking place February 25, 1905. 300 guests were present. The church was incorporated April 11, 1904. In 1919, they purchased from George Patterson (Miss May Staples' husband) the house on the site of the "*Boyd Tavern*" for a parsonage. This they fitted up with all modern conveniences, through the generosity of Mrs. Susan Gates Peck and Mr. Charles F. Fiske.



---

## "CHURCHYARDS"

IT was the old custom, brought over no doubt from England, to have the burying-ground near the meeting-house, hence, the old English name "*Churchyard*." So we find the first cemetery at the lower village, near where stood the first meeting-house. This cemetery was evidently started soon after the settlement of the town, although we find no allusion to it, till August 21, 1738. On the stone, marking the grave of Edward Browne, we find the date of his death given as "March 5, 1711"; that of Joseph Rice, "December ye 23, 1711"; Deliverance Wheeler, "February 4, 1715." These are the earliest inscriptions, though there are several stones that look older, but on which there is no lettering that can be read. Many of these stones are engraved with old-fashioned figures of urns and weeping willows and winged heads, emblematic of the departing spirits. There are also some quaint epitaphs, quaint not only in expression, but also in old-fashioned spelling.

In this plot of land, sacred to the memory of those who broke up the ground, tilled the soil, made the roads (for this was a barren wilderness, with only "*cattle trails*" or "*cow-paths*") and fought for the preservation of the same, these stones of very early dates, tell silently, though none the less forcibly, the story of their day. One cannot pass these mounds, without a feeling of reverence and awe, as though he were treading on "*holy ground*."

We find near the south side of this plot, a flat, table-like, brown stone, that marks the grave of the Reverend John Gardner and his wife; for many years pastor of the early church of the town, and who also is called the "*first historian*" of the town.

A white stone near this marks the resting-place of the noted and beloved minister, Reverend Jonathan Newell and his wife.

Near the white gate we find the plots of Mrs. John Eveleth, her son, Francis Eveleth and his wife Mary Eveleth. The Reverend John Eveleth rests in Kittery, Maine.

Not far from the cypress trees we find a large, rough, granite slab, with no inscription. Because of its crude appearance, its unusual size, and the mystery surrounding it, it is still an object of great interest. This is the slab covering the grave of which the Reverend John Gardner wrote to the President of Yale University, through his friend Rev. Nathan Stone of Southboro, that it was "*the only remarkable*" thing in Stow. This grave was opened, June, 1930, and an affidavit made as to the findings. Because of the Proclamations sent out by the British Parliament, and because it was the last request of the man whose body lies beneath this stone, no mark has been placed on the slab. Yet the body of "William Lord Goffe," one of the greatest men living in the British Empire, during the time of Cromwell, rests beneath this stone. Well may we be proud that we are privileged to have all that is mortal of this man lying beneath the soil in our "*churchyard*." We find on our early records the death of "Mr. John Green."

We also may find the names of Gates, Conant, Brown, Hale, Warren, Stow, and others of these early settlers of our town. Prominent among the lots are the lots of the Whitney

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

families, generous benefactors of our little town, reposing in this old burying-ground. Their names will be found on the monument in their memory. Also we notice the beautiful steps presented by Miss Adeline Whitney, which lead to the iron gate, one of the entrances to this cemetery.

For more than one hundred years this is the only cemetery of which we have any record. For over two hundred years this has been in use. -

Among the quaint epitaphs we find:

“Behold and see as you pass by,  
As you are now so once was I;  
As I am now so you must be,  
Prepare for death and follow me.”

We find another one, which may have a double meaning:

“Nancy left us, February 19, 1856.”  
“I am happy.”

On the Abijah Warren lot we read:

“Rebekah Warren,  
The amiable consort of Abijah Warren,  
died, March 2, 1791, age 34 years.  
In youth she remembered her Creator;  
In the possession of earthly things, she wisely preferred Heavenly treasures;  
By her social and Christian Virtues, she rejoiced relatives and blessed society;  
By her death, the much unheeded but inspired words are verified,  
‘Man at his best state is altogether vanity.’ ”

“Bezaleel Hale, born 1715-died Dec., 1804, age 89.”

“To the memory of *Mrs. Abigail Hale*, wife of Mr. Bezaleel Hale, who closed this life, Dec. 29, 1791, in the 76th year of her age.”

“Death to the saints is no surprise,  
She views with Faith the heavenly Prize.”

“Sacred

To the Memory of Mrs. Abigail Hale  
consort of  
Lieut. Bezaleel Hale,  
who departed this life  
Dec. 19th, 1794 in the 27th year of her age.”

“Mary wife of Bezaleel Hale,  
died Nov. 26, 1834,  
in her 73rd year.  
Harriet, their dau., died Feb. 7, 1805;  
Age 11 mos.”

“Bezaleel Hale, born 1759  
Died, Oct. 15, 1851, Age 92.”



CHURCH YARD



## “CHURCHYARDS”

---

“In memory of Mrs. Martha Conant, Relict of Mr. Daniel Conant who died Feb. 21, 1815, Age 70.

Retire my friends dry up your tears  
Here I must lie till Christ appears.  
Drest in the robe of righteousness  
Which Christ prepared to be her dress.”

“Mrs. Martha Conant Died Feb. 24, 1795, Age 22.

My flesh shall slumber in the ground  
Till the last trumpets joyful sound  
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise  
And in my Saviour’s image rise.”

## “MEMENTO MORI”

“Here lies Buried the Remains of the Bodys of James, John and Edward Brown, sons of Mr. Edward Brown and Mrs. Mary his wife, who was Burned in his house March 29th 1770. James was aged 10 years 4 months and 15 days; John was aged 8 years 6 months and 3 days; Edward was aged 6 years 2 months and 4 days.” This stone is on the east side of the cemetery and the lettering almost unreadable.

---

In the State Library, Boston, we find in *The Genealogical Advertiser*, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, almost a complete list of those buried in this old cemetery, with the quaint inscriptions, in the quaint spelling. This was compiled by Mrs. Lucy (Hall) Greenlaw, daughter of the late Reverend A. J. Hall, once a minister in Stow.

---

A new burying place becoming necessary, the town voted September, 1812 to take a part of the town’s land near the meeting-house, for a burying-place. At the top of this plot of land, now known as Hillside Cemetery, where the “Robinson” lot is, once stood the old powder-house. In 1849 the town of Stow authorized the selectmen to have it removed. Then the Robinson brothers bought the land, filled it up, and put in the first marble stone. Mr. Jones Warren followed their example, and now there are many others in this cemetery. This cemetery is near the Pilot Grove school-house.

## HILLSIDE CEMETERY

In memory of Lydia S. Osborne

1825-Aged 1 year

“This lovely bud so young and fair  
Call’d hence by early doom  
Just come to show how sweet a flower  
In paradise would bloom.”

Lieut. Abraham Foster Rogers

Oct. 22, 1834.

“A revolutionary pentioner.”

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

Charles Augustus Page 5 mos.  
Iria Edwin Page 3 yrs.  
1848.

“These lovely buds was reared,  
And blighted in their bloom,  
God has a sovereign right to call  
His children ere ‘tis noon.”

Lucy N. Herrick 1849.  
Aet. 13 m’s

“A bud too fair to open  
Amid the scenes of earth;  
An angel prayed in heaven  
To greet its glowing birth.”

John Davidson 1853 Aet. 43

“Stop kind reader, drop a tear.  
Think on the dust that slumbers here;  
And while you read the fate of me,  
Think on the glass that runs for thee.”

Lozina W. wife of  
Charles H. Hosmer, d.Oct.6,1863.  
“A wife so true there are but few,  
And difficult to find;  
A wife more just and true to trust  
There is not left behind.”

Judith, wife of Daniel Tenney  
d. 1875

“The sweet remembrance of her good life  
And deeds of charity and love,  
Shall flourish though she sleeps in dust.”

Daniel Tenney d. 1877  
Aet. 95 ys. 9 ms. 11 ds.

“If ever goodness, truth and soul’s worth,  
Were contained in one human form  
It was in the dear form in this grave.”

On the east side of this burying plot, near Mrs. Oliver’s wall, half-way up the hill, we find a large mound. Also a large rectangular narrow stone block. The name “Eveleth” is on the front. On the top are these two names: “John Eveleth, 1795-1861.”

“Chloe Gates Eveleth, 1807-1853.”

On the Robinson lot we find the name of  
“Winthrop Robinson, 1791-1875.”

1816.

On the Warren lot is the name of  
“Nancy, dau. of Abijah and Ann War-  
ren, age 20.”

### BROOKSIDE CEMETERY

As an additional space was needed for burial purposes, the town in the spring of 1864, purchased “Brookside Cemetery” on the Rock Bottom Road and northerly of Assabet Brook; and on the 1st day of the October following, it was publicly consecrated for this purpose.

The earliest burial on record in this Cemetery is that of Luther F. Reed, 1862. We find also the Hale monument, on which lot reposes the body of one of Stow’s greatest benefactors, Col. Elijah Hale, who died April 21, 1879.

There are in all about 370 lots, most of which are occupied.

In 1922, the town voted to install a water system; Rev. J. Sidney Moulton, Walter S. Lewis, and Lowell Tuttle were the committee. In 1930, money was appropriated to build a tool-house for the purpose of housing the necessary tools for working in the cemetery.

---

## THE OLD COMMON AND LAFAYETTE'S VISIT

IN the days of the early settlement of the various towns, a plot of ground was reserved for serving the public interests of said towns and was known as "*common land*." On this plot they gathered to hold their public meetings, the soldiers drilled and everything pertaining to the business affairs of the town was discussed and decided on this spot till in later years a building should be erected for that purpose. In many towns, cows may be seen grazing on this "*common*." The term at first was "*common land*" or land intended for public or common purposes, to be used for anything that was for their common interest; then it took the form of a park, and was used as such. A small "*common*" is sometimes called a "*green*." In the *Registry* of deeds we find Lot No. 2, which was assigned to Boaz Brown, one of the twelve settlers, bounded on the south by "*common land*."

The first meeting-house was built, though not finished, in 1685 on the east end of this "*Old Common*." Back of this on the hill was built in 1686 "a mansion for the minister." This was Lot No. 1 "reserved for the minister." During the ravages of the Indians this was used for a garrison and we find records of raising money to pay for repairs on "ye Garrison about ye ministry house." The old meeting-house stood on this common till 1719, when as minister Gardner says "it became decayed" and was sold and torn down; the money was used to "purchase a burying-cloth." Later this land was sold and a dwelling-house now stands on the spot. (*Registry of Deeds*.)

During the Revolutionary period, many loyalists or Tories were found in this section. It was a very hard thing for many of the English countrymen to "*go back*" on their Mother Country. Notwithstanding the fact that they had suffered many hardships from her hands, they were very reluctant to sign away their allegiance to her. And so their lot became a very hard one, for the "*whigs*" were very determined. We have found in the history of Stow, about twelve of these "*loyalists*" took refuge in this town. (The list of names has been seen, but is not now to be found). Among these was John Jekyll, an Englishman, who owned land back of the "Puffer" place, formerly owned by Rufus Hosmer. He gave a bell to the town in 1722 and it was sold in 1823. Because of the refusal to pay taxes to the Provincial Treasurer, these lands were sold for the taxes and Henderson Inches, a merchant from Boston, dealing in "West India goods etc." bought the lands.

Rufus Hosmer bought a piece of land, about 18 acres, and built the house known as "*Hosmer's Folly*"; Jacob Soper, a blacksmith, bought a piece of land west of Hosmer's where he plied his trade. Francis Eveleth, bought land west of Soper's. Jacob Soper paid \$625 for this land; he built his house and blacksmith shop. He did not like the idea of his land not being on the main road; so he decided to build a fence all around the "*Common*." This he did. A member of the well-known Tower family watched this proceeding, made a note of the time the fence was built, and waited. Before the twenty year period had expired when the land should become his, a keen lawyer visited Mr. Soper, read the law to him and told him "this fence must come down." Soper made

quite a "*bluster*" but the fence came down and the deeds were never recorded. In the Randall Library we find a painting, given by Miss Cheney, grand-daughter of Rufus Hosmer, of this "*Common*" or "*Training Field*."

In 1902, a road was built across the east end and was called "the new road to Acton." In 1842, a road was put through across the north side of the Common, just south of the "Soper place" and the "Hosmer place." This is recorded as "*the un-named road*." On the west end is a growth of pines.

At the time of Lafayette's last visit to America and to Stow, he was given a reception on this Common.

The Common still remains in its primitive beauty. Because of the many historic traditions connected with this piece of land, in 1933, a large flag-pole was placed on it, and a flag was purchased from the voluntary contributions of residents and school-children. It is hoped that in this way the historic incidents, traditions and associations connected with this Common may be preserved and kept vivid in the memory not only of the present citizens, but of the rising generations of the town of Stow.

#### LAFAYETTE VISITS STOW

One of the red letter days of the town was September 2, 1824, when the Marquis de Lafayette passed from Concord, through Stow, to Bolton. It was nearly sunset when he left Concord, and quite dark when he arrived at the lower village, where he was met by a military company, commanded by Capt. Pliny Wetherbee, grandfather of John H. Wetherbee, of Homestead Farm. For an hour or so there was a general reception at the "*Gardner Inn*," on the south side of the highway at Stow Old Common.

Squire Russell, father of Levi Miles, the latter a soldier wounded in the Mexican War, was landlord where dinner was served. Hon. Rufus Hosmer, whose home was just across the Common, was the marshal of the day, or rather evening, as it was seven o'clock when they arrived at "*Gardner Inn*" and all the houses were brilliantly lighted; a tar-barrel bonfire was lighted on the Common. It is said that General Lafayette complimented the company on their appearance. Miss Abigail Soper, the daughter of Jacob Soper the blacksmith, presented him with a bouquet, and the General, in true French style, stooped and kissed her on both cheeks. It is said, that several years later, when this fact was mentioned in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Moulton, the latter quietly remarked, "As I remember Abigail Soper, she was a very ugly old woman, and it would have taken a hero of *several* wars to have kissed her on even *one* cheek." Miss Soper was about 16, at the time of Lafayette's visit. The flag they carried had been presented to the Washington Guards the previous year and inscribed on the flag is: "Presented by the ladies of Stow, 1823." This would seem to be the first record of a "Woman's Association" in Stow.





OLD COMMON

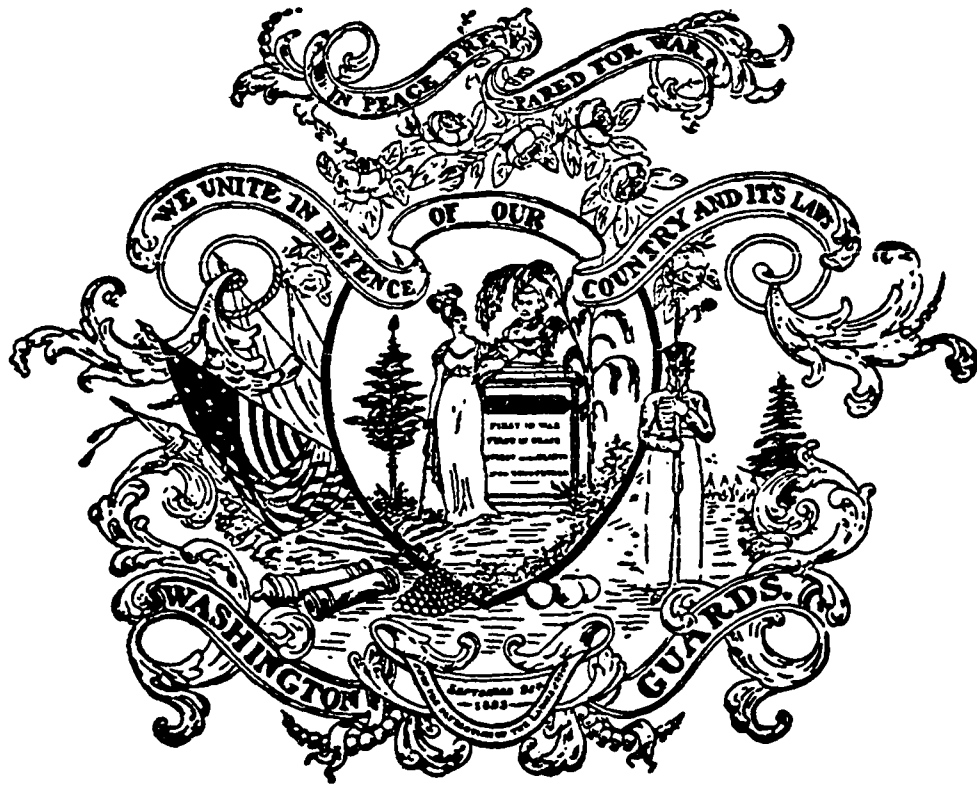


The First Parsonage, built 1686  
now owned by T. D. Whitney



## LAFAYETTE'S VISIT

---



WASHINGTON GUARDS' FLAG

It may be of interest to recall the trip of the Stow company to Concord, April 19, 1875, the centennial of the Concord fight, when they represented the Washington Guards—mentioned in the paper of Mrs. Susan M. Lawrence.

The flag owned in 1875 by John Lawrence, then by Samuel Lawrence, was later sold to Albert H. Gleason for preservation. Full size prints of it are in the Randall library.

In this connection, the account of Lafayette's visit in the historical address of Gen. John L. Swift at Stow's Bi-centennial celebration, May 16, 1883, is of much interest. He said, "Another remarkable thing was the visit of Lafayette to this town in 1824. For one hour Stow had the hero entirely to itself. It was a day of much expectation and excitement for this usually undisturbed place. With us (1883) are the solid and substantial citizens whose years but add to the respect due to their character and standing, who made part of the military escort to receive the distinguished visitor on his way from Boston to Bolton.

Calvin Hale and Mark Whitcomb did duty as soldiers on that animated occasion when roar of cannon and unfurled flag and stirring music and huge bonfires and military parade greeted the almost idolized foreigner. Stow emphasized the words of Everett with regard to the guest of the nation, "Wheresoever, throughout the limits of the Continent your course shall take you, the ear that hears you shall bless you; the eye that sees you shall bear witness to you and every tongue exclaim with heartfelt joy, "Welcome, welcome, Lafayette." Thus did Stow welcome the companion and friend of Washington. As he did not leave Concord till sunset it was late when Lafayette reached here and one of your residents remembers lighting the lamps as he approached the town.

The son of the keeper of the tavern where Lafayette received the people, a wounded soldier of the Mexican War, Levi Miles, is now living and can give as lively an account of the Lafayette handshaking as he can of his adventure in capturing a famous General.

The marshal of the day was Rufus Hosmer, classmate at Harvard with Chief Justice Shaw and Washington Allston. The free-hearted hospitality of Squire Hosmer was known the country round and we can well imagine that his elegant mansion, with its swell front and capacious dining-hall with elevated galleries for music and its painted walls adorned with landscapes and figures nearly life size, was blazing with lights and brilliant with the grace and beauty of Stow in honor of the grand festivity. Squire Hosmer's daughter, Mrs. John Cheney, one of the notable women of Concord, was born here. When Lafayette arrived at the residence of Sampson Wilder at Bolton, it was ten o'clock at night and attended by a cavalcade carrying flambeaux, he passed under an illuminated arch which bore the words: "GREAT JEHOVAH!! WASHINGTON!! LAFAYETTE!!" The reception at Stow was cordial and enthusiastic but did not aspire to that climax of adoration that Bolton seems to have achieved."

Mrs. Susan M. Lawrence in her paper on Lafayette, given before the Stow Woman's Association, on "*Colonial Afternoon*" 1924, the one hundredth anniversary of his visit, thus speaks of his visit and reception at Stow: "At Concord the general was met by Sampson Wilder of Bolton, and at the conclusion of the exercises was driven to the Stow-Acton line, where the Washington Guards of Stow, under command of Pliny Wetherbee (who was said to have greatly resembled Lafayette) waited his arrival. Two of the members of the company were Calvin Hale and Mark Whitcomb. They met the party and escorted them to the Gardner Inn on the south side of the highway to the Stow Lower Common. Squire Russell, or father of Levi Miles, was landlord where dinner was served. Squire Rufus Hosmer, whose home was just across the Common, was marshal of the day, or rather evening, as it was seven o'clock when they arrived at the hotel. All the houses were brilliantly lighted; a tar-barrel bonfire was lighted on the Common. It is said that General Lafayette complimented the company on their appearance. The flag they carried had been presented to the Guards the previous year and it is inscribed on the flag: "Presented by the patriotism of the ladies of Stow, 1823." After leaving the Stow hotel they moved towards Bolton, one of the real pleasure stops of the whole journey through the United States, for Sampson Wilder had spent many years in Paris where he bought European goods for shipment to the American market and while there had made the friendships of many of the leading men of the day. Mr. Wilder gave a reception to General Lafayette at his hill-top home in Bolton which was the event of the nineteenth century in Bolton. Due to the time spent on the way the party reached the Wilder mansion at about ten o'clock and they were escorted by bands of men with flaming torches; while the place was a real fairyland with its lights and people. Supper being ready, the General passed the time with Mr. Wilder's family and the next morning, General Lafayette spoke to thousands who had been gathering all night in order to greet him, and preceded by cavalry, and followed by hundreds of admirers he left for Worcester.

History tells us that Lower Stow was first settled and the hand of time has not changed the old First Common. No paved concrete mars its charm, no sidewalks push its pathways. This was the soldier's tramped earth of glorious memories, hallowed by the footsteps of Lafayette one hundred years ago, the third of September. When anniversaries like this occur they naturally freshen the recollections and deepen the impressions made

## THE OLD COMMON

---

by the events with which they are connected and it would be a fitting tribute if at the lapse of one hundred years, this much cherished spot in Stow could be marked so that future generations may not pass the place unnoticed." The conclusion of Mrs. Lawrence in that paper is also of significance and interest to the generation of today, in its bearing on the suitable marking of a spot of so much historical importance as the Old Common of the Lower Village of Stow.

---

## THE STORY OF THE REGICIDE

AFTER the execution of Charles the First, came the "*Republic*" of Oliver Cromwell. This lasted for a time but the English people again wanted another of "*God's Anointed*" as they called their King. The next in Royal line was Charles the Second. He was very genial and easy going, but very firm in one thing, that each of those who had anything to do with the execution of his father should be punished by execution. In spite of this determined idea, he was very genial and pacific in all his proclamations. In all there were 84 of these men. About 20 fled to other countries. Three came to America after the death of Cromwell, John Dixwel, Edward Whalley, *William Lord Goffe*. John Dixwel went by the name of "James Davids;" Edward Whalley used the name "Edward Penderexter;" William Lord Goffe used several names "*Mr. Cook*," "*Walter Goldsmith*," and "*John Green*."

When Charles II was called to the throne, these three men came over on the "*Prudent Mary*" from Gravesend Port in 1660, Capt. William Pierce, navigator. With them on this ship were Major Daniel Gookin; Johnson a printer, who was on his way to produce Elliot's "*Up Biblum God*" (the Indian Bible) and William Jones, the most prominent citizen of New Haven. Gookin and Jones soon proved invaluable to these refugees. From Charlestown they came to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they were entertained by Gookin for seven months.

When Goffe first came to America, he made no attempt to disguise himself. "To show the dexterity of the Judges at fencing this story is told: While at Boston there appeared a gallant person there, some say a fencing-master, who on a stage erected for the purpose, walked it for several days challenging and defying any to play with him at swords: at length one of the Judges, disguised in a rustic dress, holding in one hand a cheese wrapped in a napkin for a shield, with a broom-stick whose mop he had besmeared with dirty puddle water as he passed along; thus equipped, he mounted the stage.

The fencing-master railed at him for his impudence; asked what business he had there and bid him be gone. The Judge stood his ground; upon which the gladiator made a pass at him with his sword to drive him off; a rencounter (or skirmish) ensued—the Judge received the sword into the cheese, and held it, till he drew the mop of the broom over his mouth and gave the gentleman a pair of whiskers. The gentleman made another pass, and plunging his sword a second time, it was caught and held in the cheese till the broom was drawn over his eyes; at a third plunge, the sword was caught again, till the mop of the broom was rubbed gently all over his face,—upon this, the gentleman let fall, or laid aside his small sword and took up the broad sword and came at him with that; upon which the Judge said, "Stop sir,—hitherto you see I have only played with you, and not attempted to hurt you; but if you come at me now with the broad sword, know that I will certainly take your life." The firmness and determinateness with which he spake, struck the gentleman, who, desisting, exclaimed "Who can you be? You are either Goffe, Whalley or the Devil; for there was no other man in England who could beat me."

## THE STORY OF THE REGICIDE

---

And so the dignified Judge returned into obscurity, leaving the spectators to enjoy the diversion of the scene and the vanquishment of the boasting champion. Hence, it is proverbial in some parts of New England, in speaking of a champion at athletics and other exercises, to say that none can beat him, but Goffe, Whalley or the Devil.

I say nothing on a few variations in narrating this story,—as some say the scene was at New York, where the fencer staked and offered a hat full of silver to the man that should beat him. The place certainly was Boston, for they never went out of New England; and that the fencer discerned and recognized his master in the act of fencing, and desisted instantly, saying, “you are my master, Colonel Goffe, who taught me fencing,—you, sir, and no other man can beat me.”

—(*Stiles' History of Judges*)

Being warned of a requisition for their capture they escaped across country in nine days to Newhaven, being entertained, en route, by Gov. Winthrop at Hartford. At Newhaven they were sheltered by the Rev. John Davenport. The chase warming, they went ostensibly to Milford; returning secretly to Davenport's cellar for a month, later living in an interstice of a rockpile at West Haven; this domicile they called “*Providence Hill*;” it is now called the “*Judges' Cave*.” They were fed by one Sperry for about four months. *Goffe* went by the name of “*Cook*” in Connecticut.

Three broadsides issued in 1660 by Parliament, were posted about New England and on April 20, 1678, one John London of Windsor, Connecticut, near Hartford, made affidavit that Colonel Goffe, under the name of Mr. Cook was hiding in the home of Joseph Bull, senior, of Hartford. Gov. Andros of New York ordered Gov. Leete of Connecticut to make a search for said Goffe, but as Gov. Leete was a friend of Goffe, it was unsuccessful. Following are the Copies of Three English Broadsides, issued in 1660; now in YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.



## BROADSIDE No. 1

Die Venerie, 18 Maii, 1660

“Upon Complaint this day made by the Commons in Parliament, It is Ordered by the Lords in Parliament Assembled, That all these Persons, viz.:

“John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law, President of the pretended High Court of Justice; John Lisle, VWilliam Say, Oliver Cromwel, Esqs.; Henry Ireton, Sir Hardresse, VValler; Valentine Valton, Thomas Harrison, Esqs.

“Edward VVhaley, Thomas Pride, Isaac Ewers, Lord Gray of Groby, Sir John Danvers, Kt.; Sir Thomas Maleverer, Baronet; Sir John Bourcher, Kt.; VWilliam Heveringham, Esq.; Alderman Perrington, Alderman of London; VWilliam Purefoy, Esqs.; Henry Martin, John Barkstead, John Blackiston, Esqs.; Gilbert Millington, Sir VWilliam Constable, Baronet, Edmund Ludlow, Esqs.; John Hutchinson, Sir Mich. Livesey, Bar.; Robert Tickbourne, Owen Roe, Robert Lilburne, Adrian Scroppe, Richard Deane, John Okey, John Hewson.

“VWilliam Goffe, Cornelius Holland, Esqs.; John Carey, John Jones, Miles Corbet, Francis Allinn, Peregrine Pelham, John Moore, John Aldred, Henry Smith, Humphrey Edwards, Gregory Clement, Thomas VVoogan, Sir Gregory Norton, Knight; Edmond Harvey, John Venn, Esqs.; Thomas Scot, Thomas Andrews, Alderman of London; VWilliam Cawley, Anthony Stapley, John Downes, Thomas Horton, Thomas Hammond, Nicholas Love, Vincent Potter, Augustine Garland, Esqs.

“John Dixwel, George Fletwood, Simon Meyne, James Temple, Peter Temple, Daniel Blagrove, Thomas Waite.

“Who sate in Judgment upon the Late Kings Majesty when Sentence of Death was Pronounced against Him, and the Estates both Real Personal of all and every the said Persons (Whether in their own hands, or in the hands of any in Trust for their, or any of their Uses) Who are fled, be forthwith Seized and Secured; And the respective Sheriffs and other Officers Whom this may concern, are to take effectual Order accordingly.

“Die Vereris, 18 Maii, 1660.

Ordered by the Lords in Parliament Assembled, That this Order and List be forthwith Printed and Published.

“Jo. Browne,  
Cleric Parliamentorum.

“LONDON, Printed by John Macock, and Francis Tyton, Printers to the House of Lords, 1660.”



## BROADSIDE No. 2

By the King

### “A PROCLAMATION

To summon the Persons therein named, who sate, gave Judgment, and assisted in that horrid and detestable Murder of His Majestie's Royal Father of blessed memory, to appear and render themselves within Fourteen days, under pain of being excepted from Pardon.

“Charles R.

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all Our loving Subjects of England, Scotland and Ireland Greeting. We taking notice by the Information of Our Lords and Commons now assembled in Parliament, of the most horrid and execrable Treason and Murder committed upon the Person, and against the Life, Crown and Dignity of Our late Royal Father Charles the First, of blessed Memory; And that John Lisle, William Say, Esqs.; Sir Hardresse Waller, Valentine Wauton, Edward Whalley, Esqs.; Sir John Bouchier Knight, William Heveningham esq.; Isaac Pennington Alderman of London, Henry Martin, John Barkstead, Gilbert Millington, Edmund Ludlow, John Hutchinson, esqs.; Sir Michael Livesay Baronet, Robert Tichborne, Owen Roe, Robert Lilburn, Adrian Scroope, John Key, John Hewson, William Goffe, Cornelius Holland, John Carew, Miles Corbet, Henry Smith, Thomas Wogan, Edmund Harvey, Thomas Scot, William Cawley, John Downs, Nicholas Love, Vincent Potter, Augustine Garland, John Dixwel, George Fletwood, Simon Meyne, James Temple, Peter Temple, David Blaggrave and Thomas Wait, Esquires, being deeply of that most detestable and bloody Treason, in sitting upon, and giving judgment against the Life of Our Royal Father; And also John Cooke, who was imployed therein as sollicitor, Andrew Brohgnton and John Phelps, Who were imployed under the said persons as Clerks, and Edward Dendy who attended them as Sergeant at Arms, have out of the sense of their own Guilt lately fled and obscured themselves, whereby they cannot be apprehended and brought to a personal and legal Trial for their said Treason according to Law. We do therefore by the Advice of Our said Lords and Commons, command, publish and declare by this Our Proclamation, That all and every the persons before named shall within fourteen days next after the publishing of this Our Royal Proclamation, personally appear and render themselves to the Speaker or Speakers of Our House of Peers or Commons, or unto the Lord Mayor of Our City of London, or to the Sheriffs of Our respective Counties of England and Wales, under pain of being excepted from any Pardon or Indempnity both for their respective Lives and Estates; And that no person or persons shall presume to harbour or conceal any of the persons aforesaid, under pain of Misprision of High Treason.

“Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the sixth day of June, 1660, in the Twelfth Year of Our Reign.

“LONDON Printed by John Bill and Christopher Barker, Printers to the Kings.”

## BROADSIDE No. 3

By the King

### “A PROCLAMATION

“For Apprehension of Edward Whalley and William Goffe.

“Charles R.

Forasmuch as Edward Whalley, commonly known by the name of Colonel Whalley, and William Goffe, commonly called Colonel Goffe, are, amongst others, by an Act of this present Parliament, Entitled, An Act of Free and General Pardon, Indempnity and Oblivion, wholly excepted from Pardon, and left to be proceeded against as Traytors, for their excerable Treasons in sentencing to Death, signing the Instrument for the horrid Murder, or being instrumental in taking away the precious Life of Our late dear Father of Blessed Memory.

“And forasmuch as they the said Edward Whalley and William Goffe, having absented and withdrawn themselves, and fled, as we have been informed, to the parts beyond the Seas, are now, as we certainly understand, lately returned into Our Kingdom of England, and do privately lurk and obscure themselves in places unknown; We therefore have thought fit, by, and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to publish the same to all Our loving Subjects, not doubting of their Care and forwardness in their apprehension; And We do hereby Require and Command, aswell all and singular Our Judges, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs, Constibles and Headboroughs, as also the Officers and Ministers of our Ports, and other: Our subjects Whatsoever, within Our Realms of England, Scotland, Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, and all other Our Dominions and Territories, to be diligent in Inquiring, Searching for, Seizing and Apprehending then, the said Edward Whalley, and William Goffe, in all places whatsoever, aswell within Liberties as without, whom if they shall happen to Take and Apprehend, Our further Will and pleasure is, That they cause them and either of them so Apprehended, to be safely carried to the next Justice of the Peace, to the place where they or either of them shall be arrested, whom we straitly Command to Commit them and either of them to Prison, and presently Inform Us or Our Privy Council of their or either of their Apprehensions.

“And We do hereby further Declare and Publish, That if any Person or Persons after this Our Proclamation published, shall Directly or Indirectly Conceal, Harbor, Keep, Retain, or Maintain the said Edward Whalley and William Goffe, or either of them, or shall Contrive or Connive at any means whereby they or either of them shall or may Escape from being Taken or Arrested, or shall not use their best Endeavor for their and either Apprehensions, aswell by giving due Advertisement thereof to our Officers, as by all other good means; We Will (as there is Just Cause) proceed against them that shall so neglect this Our Commandment with all severity.

“And lastly We do hereby Declare, That whosoever shall discover the said Edward Whalley or William Goffe, either within Our Kingdoms of England, Scotland, Ireland, or Dominions of Wales, or in any other of our Dominions and Territories, or elsewhere, and shall cause them, or either of them, to be Apprehended, and brought in alive or dead, if they or either of them, attempting Resistance, happen to be slain, shall have a Reward of One hundred pounds in money for each of them so brought in, Dead or Alive, as aforesaid, to be forthwith paid unto him in recompence of such his Service.

“Given at Our Court at Whitehall the Two and twentieth day of September, in the Twelfth year of our Reign.”

“London, Printed by Christopher Braker and John Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1660.”

## THE STORY OF THE REGICIDE

---

In the Fall of 1664, they took up residence with "Pastor Russell" at Hadley, Massachusetts. Here they were joined by Dixwel for a while in 1665. Here Whalley and Goffe lived in seclusion. There is a tradition connected with the Indian attack on Hadley in 1775, at which it is said that Goffe magically appeared and by inspirational leadership saved the settlement. Deerfield and Hatfield were attacked but not Hadley. There is also a ghost of tradition that a tall commander appeared at Hatfield and saved the day.

On August 5, 1674, Goffe wrote to Rev. Hooke, Whalley's brother-in-law, "He is very weake indeed. This sentence he uttered with some stops, yet with more freedom and clearness than usual." Whalley lived till between 1674 and 1676. Whalley was more than ten years older than Goffe, who married Whalley's daughter; also Goffe wrote in 1674 that Whalley was "weak and failing" and an old man then. Had Whalley lived till 1689, a proclamation of William and Mary would have relieved him and his friend from all fear. Goffe went by the name of "Walter Goldsmith" in Hadley.

In answer to a letter from Dr. Ezra Stiles to Samuel Hopkins regarding the whereabouts of the regicides, we have the following:

"Both of them were secreted in the town. One of them died in this town (Whalley, those who remember say); the other, Goffe, after the death of Whalley left the town and it is not known where he went. With respect to the one that died in this town, the tradition general is, that he was buried in Mr. Tilton's cellar. Most of those of whom I have enquired say, that when they were here the Indians made an assault upon this town: that on this occasion a person unknown appeared, animating and leading on the inhabitants against the enemy and so exciting them by his activity and ardor; that when the Indians were repulsed the stranger disappeared—was gone—none ever knew where, or who he was."

—"Samuel Hopkins." (*Stiles' History*)

On page 805, *Stiles' History of the Judges*, we read, "the other went off and was no more heard of." Thus *Goffe* disappeared after Whalley's death.

Goffe kept a journal or diary from the day he left Westminster, England, till May 4, 1667; the ship arrived from London in America, July 27, 1660. We quote the following from his journal in 1660,— "We came to anchor between Boston and Charlestown between 8 and 9 in the morning." "We kept Sabbath aboard. To a good Ministers Church in the Towne, was stuck up near ye pulpit a Broom; in token as was by all conceived yt (*that*) ye minister should be shortly swept away from them."

We find in the "*Mather Papers*," now in the *Massachusetts Historical Society*, letters of Goffe to his wife, whom he addresses as "*Mother*," as well as letters to various friends. Also there are letters from his wife to him, whom she addresses as "*Child*."

“13th October, 1671;

Dear Child:

I have ben abundantly refreched by thy choych letter of the 10th of August, as also by the boock you toock the pains to writ for me. I bless the Lord it came in very good time to my hands. I being now with my deare Aunt Jane, to home we are ingaged for her kindness, she tock it very kindly that you wrote and returns thanks; throw mercy we are all in health and dooe experance much of the love and care of our good God, in soporting and providing for us in such a day of tryall as this is. Irejoyce to heare that the country agrees so well with you and that you thrye (thrive) so well; it is the Lord's blessing, and it is marvosly in our Ies (eyes), that we should be provided for, when many of us dear children want. The Lord make us truly thankful and give us hearts to be willing without what he will have us to inioy (enjoy); thou never so much desiered by us we are to be at the dispose of our Heav- enly Father and tho he exersise us heare with hard things,” etc.

Your dear and loving Mother to my pore,

Fra: Goldsmith.

“Shorely tobacco is very good for your friend, but by the next I hop to send som perticeller derecsion, for I purpose to ask advise of an ould friend, but this is so sudden that I have not time. Your friend that hath not wrot so long intends to writ at the Spring, if the Lord permit; many friends desire to be remembered to you and prays daly for you. The church enjoy much pes (peace) att London, but are sorely parsecuted in the Country, the Lord appear for deleverance.

By reason of the cold if you wore a perrewig, you most inioy more of the Aire, if so, pray send for one. I hear the Ingens have chalenged the English into the field, the Lord stand by his pepell.”

From the “*Mather Papers*” page 139—Mass. H. S.

“Ebenezer, July 5, 1672.”

“Goffe to his wife speaks of his daughter “Frank.”

page 140—“of the other two also.”

“I must not enlarge further at this time, least my letter grow too bigg, neither do I know when I shall get it convayed: it may be before it go out of my hands I may have something else to write for we are in daily expectation to heare from England and we are even trembling to think what wee shall heare.

I must tell you the Aire of this country is exceeding pearcing, that a sickly person must not dare to venture out of Doors tho' ne'er so well clothed, except the Lord be pleased to make the Climate a little more temperate.”

## THE STORY OF THE REGICIDE

---

Major General William Lord Goffe, as he is styled by Cromwell, was the son of Reverend Stephen Goffe, a puritan divine, Rector of Stanmer in Sussex, England. In 1642 he was "impressed" by the army and in the Civil War rose to a Captain's rank in 1645. Oxford made him M.A. in 1649. After fighting at Dunbar and Worcester he assisted in expelling the "*Barebone's Parliament*" in 1653; was made Major General in 1655; was included in the House of Lords, 1654-1656. He endorsed the idea of Cromwell for King. He was one of the Judges who signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I, January 1648-49. Such was Goffe's prestige, that he was mentioned for "Protector" as Cromwell's successor. William was too wary in spite of the benial and pacific proclamations of Charles II, and in 1660 left with his father-in-law, Whalley (Whalley was cousin to Oliver Cromwell), his sister and husband Thomas Stevens, for America.

Goffe received financial help from time to time from the old country. He carried on quietly a small trade and so was no burden to any one. He was in correspondence with England and in three letters from his wife she told him of her welfare and that of his three children. He wrote her the last definite record of his life. He was evidently a man of much wealth, owning much real estate in Sudbury. His library alone was valued at twenty pounds and was an unusually large collection of books for those times. He lived and died in Stow under the name of "John Green." His will was probated 1688-1689 and may be found in the records at the Registry of Probate.

In the year 1767, Dr. Ezra Stiles, President of Yale University, wrote Rev. Nathan Stone of Southboro, asking him to get from the clergymen of the towns in his district anything of a remarkable nature connected with each respective town. The Reverend John Gardner replying to this letter, wrote as follows,—“Rev. sir: The Indian names of this place were *Pompocitticut* and *Shabbukin* from two notable hills. It was granted for a township May 13, 1670 and incorporated May 16, 1683 by the name of Stow. It was then, and is yet, in the ancient county of Middlesex after which I find there was ordinary preaching among them but do not find any called to the pastorate till the 13th of May 1700; when Mr. John Eveleth was called to the ministerial work; the things I have from the town's *book of records*, but as to his ordination, and the gathering of the church, I cannot be so precise with regard to the time, but as nearly as I can collect, it was three or four years after his call. The number of males was about eleven. As to record, Mr. Eveleth was dismissed from his office, the latter end of the year 1717. I was ordained to the pastoral office here, November 26, 1718 and the church then consisted of fifteen males and about the same number of females. As to the number of males I can be precise, for the ordination council advised us to covenant anew, the foundation covenant being lost. The number of members in full communion at this day is 40 males and 59 females; having dismissed 40 at several times to other churches, the most of whom are yet living. As for men of liberal education among us, there have been but very few; only three sons of mine; Samuel, who was graduated from our College, A.D. 1746; Henry, in 1750 and Francis in 1755. You may see their names in our Catalogue. As for any other remarkable, I am of the mind there have been the fewest of any town of our standing in our Province. It is one of our smaller towns, and besides this have set off a fifth part of our land to build up other towns. I can't call to mind above one thing worthy of publick notice, and that is the grave of Mr. John Green; once an inhabitant of Charlestown in

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

this Province, but returning to England, being a man of great abilities, was in high favour under the lord protector Cromwell and was made captain of the guard at the King's dock-yard at Deptford and clerk of the Exchequer, as appears from his commissions which I have seen and had by me. He upon the restoration of Charles II, came again to New England with his sister and her husband (whether he was excluded by the Act of Oblivion or not I cannot tell) but sometime after his arrival, he came with them to Stow, and here lived and died and lies buried in this place.) This is what I have collected toward a chronology as is proposed, agreeable to the minutes you left with me; and you may give this letter to the Doctor, or extract such particulars, if any you find, as are worth transmitting to him."

To Rev. Mr. Nathan Stone,  
Southboro, Mass.

This with all due regard, etc.,  
John Gardner.

When this GRAVE was opened, July 15, 1930, the following AFFIDAVIT was made:-

This is to certify that we, Frank Robbins of Stow, Middlesex county, Massachusetts, cemetery commissioner of said town of Stow; Robert E. Hartin of Maynard, formerly of said Stow, and F. Robert Hartin of Maynard, formerly of said Stow, did on July 15th, 1930, open a grave in Stow Lower Village cemetery, believed to be the grave of one William Goffe.

We found a rough stone placed upon the grave, said stone measuring nine feet long and four and one-half feet wide, and owing to the fact that the position of said stone was slightly cross-wise, we believe that the stone had been removed at some previous time and then replaced.

The belief that the grave had been previously opened is further strengthened by the fact that upon opening the grave we found remains of vertebra and other bones, including those of the feet, toes and arms. It is our opinion that the head had been removed, as we found no remains of any part of the same. Two feet higher in the earth than the rest of the remains we found a rib.

The grave was wider at the head than at the foot, apparently the shape of an old-time coffin. Nothing remained of the coffin but a formation of pulp, with the exception of a knot which had a nail driven through it. We found also several hand forged nails, which were oxidized to such an extent that they were hollow.

FRANK ROBBINS,  
ROBERT E. HARTIN,  
F. ROBERT HARTIN.

We, Frank Robbins, Robert E. Hartin and F. Robert Hartin, being duly sworn, do hereby certify that all of the statements hereto subscribed by us are true.

LESLIE W. SIMS,  
Notary Public.  
(Com. expires April 23, 1937.)





REGICIDE GRAVE  
WILLIAM LORD GOFFE





## THE STORY OF THE REGICIDE

---

The early settlers of Stow say there came to Stow, near the end of the 17th century, an elderly man who settled near the foot of *Pompositticut Hill*. He avoided publicity, and when the end approached, told his friends that he was one of those who condemned Charles the First. When buried, he wished this tremendous, unmarked slab laid over his body, as he feared evil-disposed folk might "*dig him up.*" Goffe went by the name of "*John Green*" in Stow.

Near the cypress trees in the Old Lower Cemetery, we find this historic, granite slab, with no inscription. Because of the mystery surrounding it, its unusual size, its crude weather-beaten appearance, and until the recent opening, was a "moss-covered slab," it is still an object of great interest. We find on the town's records that "Mr. John Green died November 10, 1688."

---

## Taverns and Roads

ONE of the interesting and outstanding features of this town, as well as most of the old New England towns, is the provision made for the entertainment of visitors and guests from various parts of the country. It has been stated that one could find a tavern or Inn, at a distance of not over a mile. These taverns were not only for the accommodation of the drivers of Stage Coaches, but for the change of horses, at different distances, during the "*Stage Coach period.*" At one time Stow is said to have had sixteen taverns, all doing a lively business.

The Vose place on the Puffer Road, near Vose's Pond was formerly known as the Rice Tavern and was a general place of meeting with the early settlers and many matters of importance to the district were discussed. It was purchased from Benjamin Crane of Stow in 1685 and was for a hundred years a tavern and as such it was closed in 1815. Since then it has been a farm house, for years owned by Jonathan Vose and his brother. The Vose Pond has been secured by the Finnish people, and with the grounds has been used as a summer resort. Years ago a line of stage coaches passed the hotel going from Boston to Lancaster, over what we now call the Puffer Road. This house is still standing, near the junction of the "Old Marlboro and Concord Great Road" and the "New Lancaster Road."

Farther along on the "*Great Road*" we come to the famous "*Gardner Inn.*" This was built in 1723, the same period as the Rice Tavern. This was the birthplace of Henry Gardner, the only Provincial treasurer, and also the first treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was a frame building. The space between the outer and inner walls was packed solid with brick; these bricks were much larger than the usual bricks and were said to have been brought from England. In the Randall Library at Stow, may be found a piece of blue and white tile which came from the fireplace of this old Inn. It was to this Inn that Lafayette was escorted when he made his last visit to America, and was so gloriously received at Stow. At that time "Squire Russell" father-in-law of Levi Miles, the soldier wounded in the Mexican War, was landlord. The old well from which he so often quenched his thirst, with its rustic well-sweep in olden days, typical of our forefathers, still supplies cool, refreshing water from its depths. No beer, wine, or even the old New England Rum, could, to the taste of the Marquis de Lafayette, compare with these crystal waters. At one time it is said that Seth Wilder and his capable wife, Dolly (Tucker) Wilder of Milton, (afterwards Mrs. Jonas Warren) occupied it. After the death of Mr. Wilder, Mrs. Wilder acted as matron for a time. She was known far and wide for her cooking. She is reported to have said she could look out of one of her windows upon her husband's grave. When the building was torn down, in 1875, by George W. Bradley and his father, they found morticed in the corner post, at the southwest corner of the building, an English half-penny, dated 1723. One of the bricks was shown to an old resident, which had the print of a cat's paw imbedded in it. The cellar-hole of this old Inn, may be found on the place now owned by August

## TAVERNS AND ROADS

---

Fors, midway between the Fors' barn and the old well, on the "Buckley-Crowell" place, a little to the west.

The "George Thorndike" place was enlarged for a Hotel or Inn. It was called "*Pompositticut Inn*" and was managed by John Forbush, grandfather of Silas Hammond Taylor now living at the age of 86 in Acton. The sign was found in the cellar of one of the buildings when Mr. Wanhatalo bought the place. The word "*Inn*" was painted over with "*Farm*" and the place is now known as "*Pompositticut Farm*."

On the map of Middlesex County, 1850, we find in the lower village, where the home of Mr. Samuel Tay now stands, "*Pompositticut Hotel*," "*Livery Stable*," "*M. Davis*." This was managed and owned by Mr. Davis, and was one of the regular places where the Stage Coaches halted to change horses and rest. After a time it was burned and replaced by Mr. Faxon, who built the present home of Mr. Tay.

We have been told that Nathan Putnam, who came to Stow from Salem in 1779, kept a Public Inn, in a building where the Randall Library now stands. This Putnam is said to have been a relative of General Israel Putnam.

Just a little farther on, we find "*Conant's Inn*," later known as "*Boyd's Tavern*." This was on the site of what is now the Union Church Parsonage. This was a large building with two stories. The building is said to have been at least 150 feet long and 40 feet wide. There were two or three stores connected with this building,—a general store, shoe-shop, and whip-maker's shop. Besides, the Post-Office was there. There was a large piazza across the front, and another on the west side, with a door on each of these two sides leading into the bar-room. On the east side, the patrons of the Tavern could drive into the spacious open sheds which were under the building. It had a large hall arranged for dancing parties and public gatherings. It had a fine open fire-place at the east end and a raised platform on the left side of the same for an orchestra; wooden box seats on each side of the Hall, its entire length; also "*foot-steps*" about five inches above the floor. It had two fine chandeliers, which, when lighted, gave the room a very attractive appearance. The public entrance to the Hall was from the west end, as was also the private entrance, where the retiring rooms were located. This Tavern had a wide reputation for the gala times when liquor flowed freely. The large barn was across the road, and after the fire, was made into a residence by Mrs. Susan Conant. Mrs. Conant also built the present parsonage, selling it to George Patterson and he to the Union Church for a parsonage. "*Boyd's Tavern* was totally destroyed by fire in 1886, while it was occupied by a Mrs. White.

It is said there was a tavern in a house that stood where Mr. Herrick's house now stands. A large Hall, connected with this, was used for social affairs and called "*Macomber Hall*."

On the corner of the Boxboro Road, we come to what was once known as the "*Joel Richardson Tavern*." This is now owned by the "William Wood" family.

In the western part of the town, on the George Stow place, was the "*Stow Tavern*." This was owned and kept by Abraham Stow. This had a great reputation for the many hilarious gatherings held there. It has always been in the hands of the Stow family and is at present occupied by the descendants of Abraham Stow. This house is standing today, the only one of all the Taverns that is left.

In the *Registry of Deeds*, Cambridge, (*Book 61, page 410*), we find that on December 12, 1669, a deed was given by Stephen Hall to Boaz Brown of lands, etc., that were afterward purchased by Ichabod Stow. In the early part of 1700 we are told this was also used as a Tavern. The chimney, which is unusually large, is laid in clay and chopped stone. In 1787, the house was in such poor condition it had to be repaired and new sills put under the house. This old deed is now in possession of George J. Stow.

The "Clifford Martin House" was built for a hotel. It had a large barn with spacious open sheds, for housing and accommodating large loaded teams. These sheds were thought to have been facing the north-west. One time there came a very high north-west gale, with such force, it raised the barn from the foundation and carried it across the road.

The "*Elmbrook*" was built about 1877 to 1878, by John P. Hildreth, for eight years treasurer of the Town of Stow. The foundation was on the site of the place now owned by August E. Fors, and near the site of the old "*Gardner Inn*." It was a frame building and was painted white. It was four stories high. A large circular driveway, was in front of this structure, both entrances leading to the main highway, known as "*Great Road*." So elaborate and imposing was this structure, that persons came from towns and cities for miles around just to see this wonderful building. It is said that they even came from Boston. Dancing parties were in vogue and a great attraction. Very mysteriously in the winter of 1883, the building took fire and was burned to the ground.

#### ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The primitive highways of this country were very rude, being as in every new country, mere woodpaths or trails to the scattered homesteads and meadow lots and as in this case centering in a "*Great Road*," which led to a meeting-house, tavern and mill. As these public places lay in a southerly direction it is probable that one of the earliest main highways was the "*New Lancaster Road*." This road probably existed before 1725 and its course, as given on the Matthias Mosman map of 1794 of Sudbury (*Mass. Archives*), was from the Sudbury meeting-house northwesterly, passing south of Vose's Pond by the old *Rice Tavern* into Stow. The present "*Great Road*" from Sudbury Center by J. H. Vose's is supposed to be a part of that road. This is called the "*New Lancaster Road*" to distinguish it from the "*Old Lancaster Road*" of Sudbury, which was laid out between 1646 and 1653 and which is called on the Mosman map the "*Old Lancaster Road*."

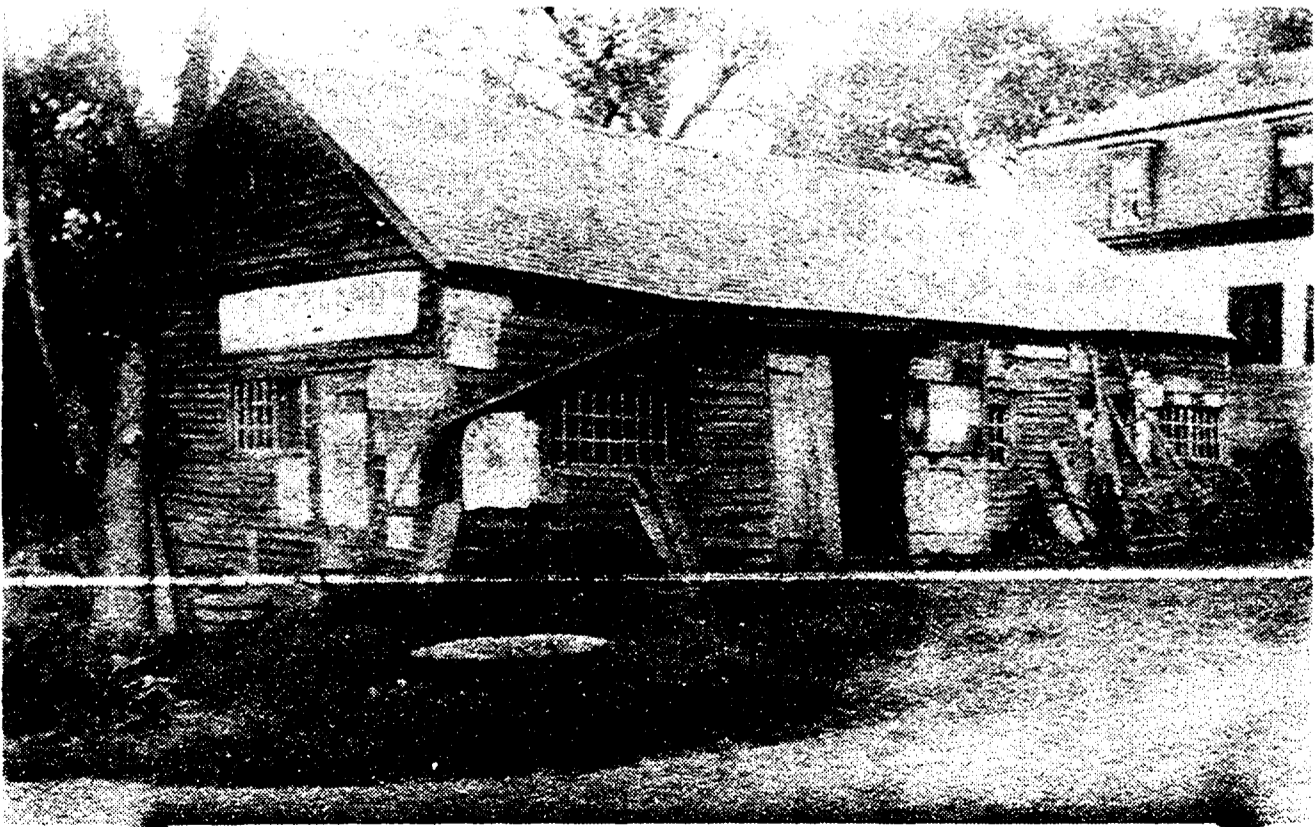
As the "*New Lancaster Road*" was long considered ancient by the inhabitants of the north-west district it has been called the "*Old Lancaster Road*" and hence has been considered by some to have been the only Lancaster road. The "*Old Lancaster Road*" passed out of Sudbury some distance south of the new one, and is that mentioned in connection with the laying out, apportionment and location of the "*New Grant Lots*." As the "*New Lancaster Road*" is intersected at Sudbury Center by a way that led to the "*Hop Brook Grist Mill*" at South Sudbury, the settlers of this district would naturally go to mill by this way, before the erection of a mill nearby. A highway that early passed diagonally through the Sudbury part of Maynard is what was known as the "*Old Marlboro and Concord Great Road*." This was a much travelled highway in the last quarter of the last



STOW TAVERN



A FARM SCENE, STOW, MASS.



NATHAN TURNER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP



## TAVERNS AND ROADS

---

century. At its intersection with the New Lancaster Road stood the old Rice Tavern; along its course a little to the northerly were some of the old estates of this district.

Courts were first held in 1692 at Concord; till 1719 they were held in the old meeting-house. On November 9, 1775, the Charlestown sessions of courts were held at Concord. Concord was the shire town till May, 1867. Citizens wishing to go from Stow to Concord, went down the old road to Concord, starting from the lower village near the Old Common by what is now known as the "*back road to Maynard*," along the southern side of *Pompositticut Hill* to "*Concord*" street in Maynard, from there on to Fletcher Corner to Concord, not crossing the river except by fords, until reaching the Old North Bridge in Concord. Previous to this a trail or bridal path from Pleasant Street, Maynard, skirted the south side of *Pine Hill* near the river; traces of this may still be found; this was doubtless used by the Indians and early settlers. In 1847 a direct road was opened from Parmenter's Crossing to South Acton, traffic having previously been over the old road via the Conant place, and the old road leading from South Acton to the Powder Mills.

In going to Concord from the section of Stow below the lower cemetery, what is now the "*Great Road*" was used as far as William Litchfield's. From there we turn to the left, following a very narrow lane-like road, along the course of the Assabet river, coming out on Summer Street and not crossing the river at any point. From here we follow the same route as before described.

Years ago a line of stage coaches passed the hotel known as "*Rice Tavern*," going from Boston to Lancaster, over what we now call the *Puffer Road*, (sometimes called the old Sudbury Road) to the corner known as "*Harriman's Corner*," thence turning to the right near the Augustus Tower place, now "*Apple Lane Fruit Farm*," over what is now called "*Crescent Street*," past the H. H. Warren homestead, Pilot Grove School and High School to the Post Office and store. The drivers and horses rested and dined at "*Conant's Inn*," later "*Boyd's Tavern*," the horses quenching their thirst from the watering-trough standing at that time on what is now the lawn of the parsonage. The well on this lawn was the source of supply for this drinking-place.

In 1810 we find the road was straightened from the old Tower place to the Post-office, and after this time the stage coaches, as well as all other traffic, used this road. Because of this change many of the taverns were closed as taverns, the traffic going in other directions. Among these was the old *Rice Tavern*, which was closed as a tavern in 1815.

*Great Road*, below the *Ben Smith Bridge*, was built in 1800; the *Ben Smith Bridge* being built in 1816. *Great Road* was opened for traffic just after the building of this bridge. Two coaches going each way passed over this road daily. The *first* bridge built in this section across the Assabet river was the "*Dr. Wood's*" bridge built in 1715 and the "*New Lancaster Road*" crossed it and carried the traffic west. This bridge is now known as "*Russell Bridge*," about one-eighth of it being in Stow. Travellers now take the *Great Road* over the *Ben Smith Bridge*, built in 1816.

November, 1802, a new highway was built from Stow Lower village to Acton. This is now known as "*Red Acre Road*." In giving the westerly boundary of "*Robinson Cottage*" it is spoken of as "*the new road to Acton*." (*Registry of Deeds*).



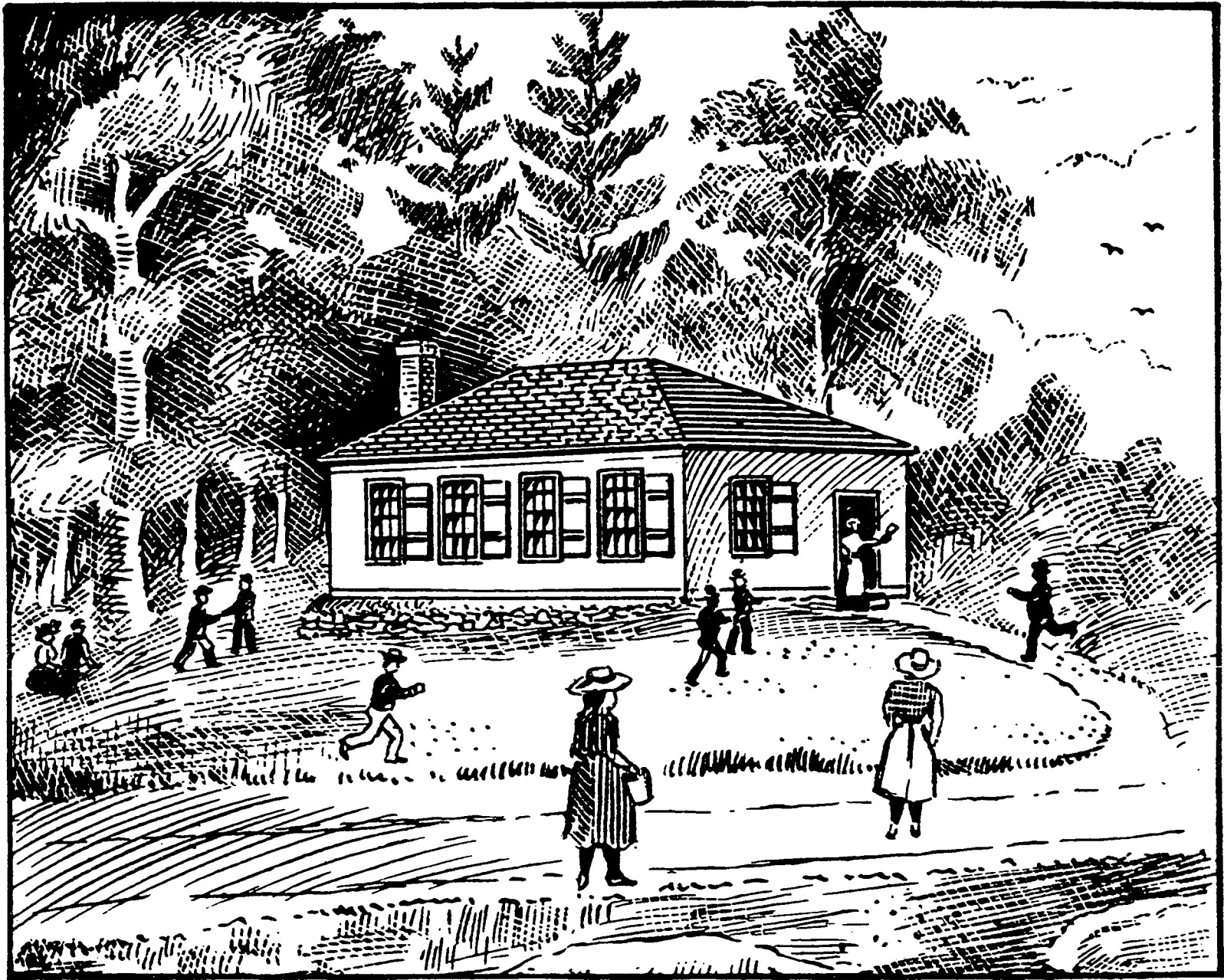
In 1842, a road was built on the north side of the old Common, passing the "Soper" place and the Puffer place, joining the Red Acre Road. This is spoken of as "*the unnamed road.*" (*County commissioners records, Cambridge*).

After the stage coach came the Railroad. Much interest prevailed in the town over the prospect of this new method of transportation. The route through the town of Stow was considered the best and shortest, and land was surveyed for that purpose. But one "General Holman" who had very large interests in the stage business, a man of very great influence, was bitterly opposed to the railroad. His strong feeling did not revive the lagging business of the stage coach; it was passing, as all methods of transportation do, only to be replaced by some new method. And so, though the main road never went through the town of Stow, the Marlboro Branch of the Fitchburg Railroad was laid from South Acton, through the borders of Stow (now Maynard), Whitman's Crossing (now Lake Boon flag station), and Gleasondale, giving service to the Gleasondale Mills, thence to Hudson, and terminating at Marlboro. This was accomplished in 1849. The town had the advantage of Railroad service from South Acton, a distance of about three miles, Maynard, about two miles, and Gleasondale, a little over three miles to the Fitchburg Railroad, and about four miles to the Massachusetts Central Railroad, the latter station being located in the Hudson part of Gleasondale. At the time the Railroad was to be built in the "*Rock-bottom*" part of the town, it was necessary to go across the land of Squire Ed. Whitman. Mr. Whitman gave his permission on one condition: that they would put a station there and call the crossing "*Whitman's Crossing.*" They agreed and he sold the land. This is still known as "*Whitman's Crossing*" and Lake Boon flag station. The railroad was followed by the trolley.

On August 19, 1901, the first electric trolley car was seen on the streets from Concord through Maynard and Stow to Hudson. This seemed to be a gala affair; many citizens of these towns had the first ride on this car. From Stow we find the name of Roland P. Harriman of Stow Lower Village, "*Harriman's Corner.*" Much discussion prevailed over the expense and the feasibility of getting the tracks past the corner of the "Andrew Smith" place. Many conferences were held under the "*monarch elm*" now known as "*Treaty Elm,*" but finally an agreement was made and the treaty signed under this historic tree. The tracks were laid through the woods thus avoiding the many curves on the main road. This service was continued for many years, and was found to be very satisfactory.

About 1920 the cars began to be irregular in time, due to the fact that the machinery was getting worn and to repair was found to be too expensive for the fares then charged. So a new method of transportation was instituted. On January, 1923, busses were run between Maynard and Acton; in February of the same year, they were run from Maynard to Concord; in April of the same year, 1923, busses were run from Concord through Maynard, and Stow to Hudson. This line was then known as the Woburn & Reading Bus Line. It had previously been used from Woburn to Reading by Mr. Lovell (John) and had been found to be very satisfactory. In February 1924, the name was changed to "Lovell Bus Lines Incorporated" and is still the present public means of transportation. The old trolley tracks were either removed or covered.





THE OLD SOUTH SCHOOL - DISTRICT No. 2



---

## SCHOOLS

THE first reference made to schools on the town books was December 13, 1714, when Thomas Brown was chosen schoolmaster. There must have been schools of some character at an earlier period, tho' perhaps not at public expense. Thomas Brown taught one or two quarters. January 17, 1716, John Whitman was chosen schoolmaster for one quarter. May, 1715, John Gardner was paid 7 pounds, 13 shillings and 4 pence for keeping school the previous winter. January 17, 1718, Rev. John Eveleth was engaged to keep school for one quarter, for one pound ten shillings per month. March, 1720, Mr. Eveleth was paid 6 pounds, ten shillings for keeping school the previous year. October 24, 1721, it was voted to keep the school "*at ye Capt.'s house*" for the rest of the half year. This was probably Captain Stevens' house.

The schools were at first kept in private houses; the first vote to build a school-house was in January, 1731-32, and the following year three school-houses were built.

The legislature of 1789 ordered that the towns should be divided into districts. The town already had five school-houses and it was therefore divided into five districts. Liberty was given to the "Squadron" in the middle of the town, May 12, 1794, to hang the town's bell on their school-house and to set a school-house at the east end of the meeting-house on the town's land, but not nearer than the white oak trees. Rev. Mr. Newell, March, 1795, gave the proprietors of the Center school-house, the privilege of erecting a school-house on his land, southerly of the "*Great Road,*" so long as it was used for school purposes.

At a legal town-meeting was passed the following vote:—"Voted, November, 1795, to draw up something to send to the Grand Jury *consarning* our having a Free school in this town." Chose Rev. Jonathan Newell, Capt. Thomas Whitman, and Lieut. Jonas Hale, a committee to attend to this matter.

Early in the 19th century there were two school-houses in this district. One of these stood on the top of Dr. Whitman's hill standing by the road leading towards Stow Center; Dr. Whitman then lived nearly on the same location that Lyman' Priest's house now stands. Deacon Calvin Hale told the story that one Sunday while worshiping at the old church at Stow center, Elisha Gates rushed into the meeting-house crying: "Turn out! Turn out! Doctor Whitman's house is all on fire!" Dr. Whitman was at that time a very influential man and in the year 1800 a representative of the town in the legislature. The old stone step of this school-house may be seen on the right hand side of the road going from "Treaty Elm" to the Lyman Priest farm, in the stone wall, about 50 rods from the Priest buildings. This school-house was bought by Arad Smith, father of Andrew Smith, and moved down to his house and used as a cooper's shop. It now stands at the south end of the "Andrew Smith" place now owned and occupied by Louis Estella. It is seventeen feet square and has one window on each side of the room; the fireplace, being of generous proportions, was at one corner of the room. The walls and ceiling were plastered, the laths being the old-fashioned type, made by splitting the boards, as can be

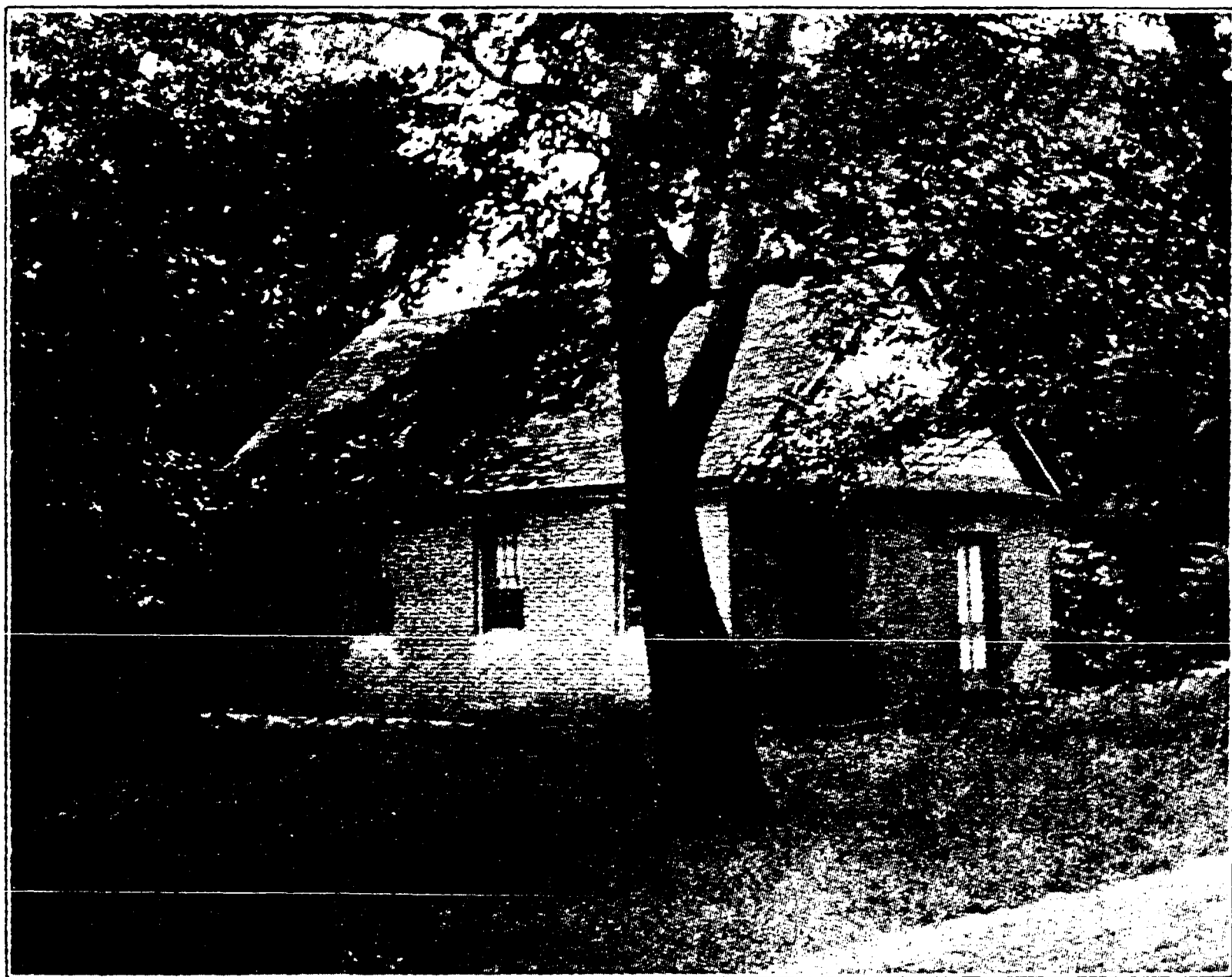
seen by the irregular shape and varying size. The hand wrought nails of such a shape and size that it makes us wonder if they were made in the shop and by the Rev. Mr. Newell. The door with its very old hinges and irregular boards on one side and panels on the other, also speak of the age of the building. This building is seventeen feet square and is still used as a shop. Polly (Stow) Smith, mother of Andrew Smith, Deacon Calvin Hale, George Parks, Mark Whitcomb, Abraham Priest 2nd, were among the pupils of this old school.

Another school-house which was built about the same way, both wooden, stood by the old oak tree standing by the roadside opposite the "George Edson" house. Early in the 19th century the "Edson house" was occupied by John Hawes, a cobbler. These two school-houses were standing at the same time. The schools were at this time supported by the persons living in that particular section of the town and not by the town. This latter school was known as the "Randall" school because it was on land of Dr. John Randall, father of Dr. John Witt Randall. The Gates family, then living in the vicinity of the Stow Tavern, including David Stow; the Wolcott families; and sometimes those from the Whitman school, came here.

Because of various difficulties which arose it was thought to consolidate. A neat building was erected just a few rods from Dr. Randall's house in an easterly direction, near the junction of two roads, the one leading from "*Rock Bottom*" (now Gleasondale) past the Doctor's house, and the other leading from Stow Center by the north side of the school-house into the first named road. It was almost a square building built of brick, a hip roof, sloping gently in four directions, one side towards the doctor's house, four windows on that side, with wooden blinds. The outside door was on the south end of the building and near the east corner, the west end of the entry being used for the housing of wood. In the school-room there was an open space in the center, for class recitations. The seats and benches were on inclined planes, on the east and west sides of the room, the highest seats being in the rear. The girls occupied the east side and the boys the west side. The teacher's desk was near the middle of the north side; the stove on the south side. The brick with which this house was built was furnished at the brick kiln of Samuel Parks, 1st. The foundation stones, showing the site of this building, almost hidden from view by the growth of under-brush, may be found (1933). After a time this was very mysteriously burned.

In 1803, a committee was chosen to re-district the town, and in 1811 there appear to have been eleven districts. In 1829, the town was again divided into five districts. In October, 1823 twenty-seven of the prominent citizens met to consider what could be done to improve the educational advantages of the town. The result was the formation of an association for the establishment of an academy where the languages and higher branches of English should be taught. Under the existing state of things it was a wise movement and reflects great credit upon its projectors. A building spot was soon purchased and a contract for the erection thereon, of a suitable building was made. The grounds were graded by voluntary labor and the house was ready for occupancy the following spring.

The Stow Academy proved a decided success. So popular was it, that pupils came from neighboring towns, as well as from New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Maryland and the Province of Canada. After a life of about twenty years, probably because of the



THE OLD GROVE SCHOOL



## SCHOOLS

---

improved condition of the common schools, this school was less popular and finally ceased to be. John Milton Cheney was its first preceptor.

March 23, 1847, a meeting was called at the home of Gibson Willard (Randall Place). A committee of 13 was chosen to examine and report a spot of land upon which to erect a school-house. After an adjournment, they reported they could not agree. It was then voted to divide the district into two districts, north and south. On the twenty-fifth they reported they had the refusal of suitable land on which to erect a school-house. The committee of the north division proposed the south corner of a lot of land, near the remains of the old school-house and bordering on the *Rock Bottom* and *Boone Plain Roads*. April 20, the plans were brought in for a brick building, 36 feet x 26 feet, the estimated cost of which would not exceed seven hundred dollars, including the purchase of land, foundation, and grading. They accepted the plan and voted to use the bricks from the old school-house, unless it was wiser to dispose of them. This building was known as the "*Old Grove*" school-house and was one of the old landmarks of the town. On July 4th, 1928, at 2.20 A.M., this building was burned. The school-house in Gleasondale was built at the same time.

At the easterly part of the town, on the Sudbury road leading from the Old Common, by the Town Farm, about one-eighth of a mile beyond the bridge on the Assabet River, was the residence of Mr. Henry Brooks. It was a pleasant New England home, with its shrubs and flowers in the garden. Many fine shade and ornamental trees were also about the place. This, was a lovely spot with its white buildings and white blinds. Here was a "Young Ladies' Boarding-school," widely known and kept by Miss Hannah Wood, sister of Mrs. Henry Brooks. This house was always full with pupils from Boston and other cities. Day scholars were also included. It was a "finishing" school.

A few rods to the right of the road leading to the Daniel Conant place and one-quarter of a mile below the No. 4 school-house in 1889, stood the old stone school-house in District No. 4. It was situated within the boundary lines of the Town Farm Hill pastures, where it joined the Charles Tower pasture. Previous to 1834, the school-house in this district was half a mile below, nearly on the site of the Joel Carr farm. It was removed in 1834 and used in the construction of the Vose house, the second house above the site of this old school-house. Tradition says that a school-house once stood on the yellow sand bank at the corner of the lane leading to the Nathaniel Hapgood buildings. The old school-house was built in 1834. It was a large square building, the walls being made of stone. Situated on a side hill, the back was so low that the boys could easily climb on the roof. One noon they filled the chimney with snow, which made things very uncomfortable for the afternoon. The roof sloped in four directions and the chimney was in the center. There were two windows on the back, one on the front, four on one side and three on the other side. Solid board blinds secured the windows during vacation. The front of the school-house was occupied on the left side by the entry, as you faced the building, and by the woodhouse on the right; there was an unoccupied space between and open to the weather on the front, somewhat after the fashion of an "Eastern Court," serving as a protection for the scholars in inclement weather.

In 1871, Elijah Hale, a very public spirited citizen, gave the town \$5000 as a fund. Hon. J. W. Brooks added \$1000; his father, Henry Brooks added \$100, on condition that

the town also appropriate an equal sum for the same object and never abandon the school; if they did, the money was to revert to the donor or his heirs. The town voted with "great unanimity" to accept the offer of these men and also gave them a vote of thanks for their "generous donations for the creation and support of a High School for the town of Stow." "Voted that the old Academy building and grounds be appropriated for the use of said school and that it be under the care of the School Committee and be put in order by them." Seven trustees were elected by ballot, namely,—Edwin Whitney, Theodore Cooke, A. C. Livermore, Charles W. Gleason, Francis W. Warren, Henry Gates and Micah Smith. The school was opened the first of September and for some time was in a flourishing condition.

About 1903-1904 this building was torn down and a new one built on the same site. In 1908, this new building was burned to the ground. For a time the school was kept in the vestry of the Unitarian Church or in the Town Hall. In 1909, the new brick building was erected on the present site. The cellar-hole of the old Academy building and also the first High School building may still be seen, next the Union Church grounds; a silent, forcible testimony of the destructive work of fire.

Another one of the old landmarks was the "*little brick school-house.*" Because of the increased attendance, the sanitary conditions were impossible. In April, 1929, this building was torn down and replaced by a new brick building, now standing, known as the "*Pilot Grove School.*" The building took place during the spring and summer of 1929, and in the Fall of the same year the pupils returned to their studies in a brand new Building.

Thomas Brown was the first teacher of whom we have any record, 1714. In 1716, John Whitman; 1717, John Gardner; 1718, Rev. John Eveleth; later, his son Francis Eveleth, who is counted among the "famous teachers of the past," and who for many years was "a prominent instructor of the young" and died at the age of seventy-four years. About 1824, John Milton Cheney was preceptor of the Stow Academy. Mrs. Susan Lawrence, for more than twenty-five years was almost constantly employed as a teacher of the town schools. Miss Josephine Newhall is also to be counted among the much loved and successful teachers of long standing.

From the map of 1830,—District No. 1,—site of Pilot Grove school.

Academy, on site of cellar-hole next Union Church.

Academy boarding-house,—site of "Staples' residence."

Store for boarding-house supplies,—Frank Baker's house.

District No. 2,—site of Old Grove school-house on Gleasondale road; burned July 4.

District No. 3,—site of the late William Francis' house, on road to Harvard.

District No. 4,—lower village, below poor farm; was burned.

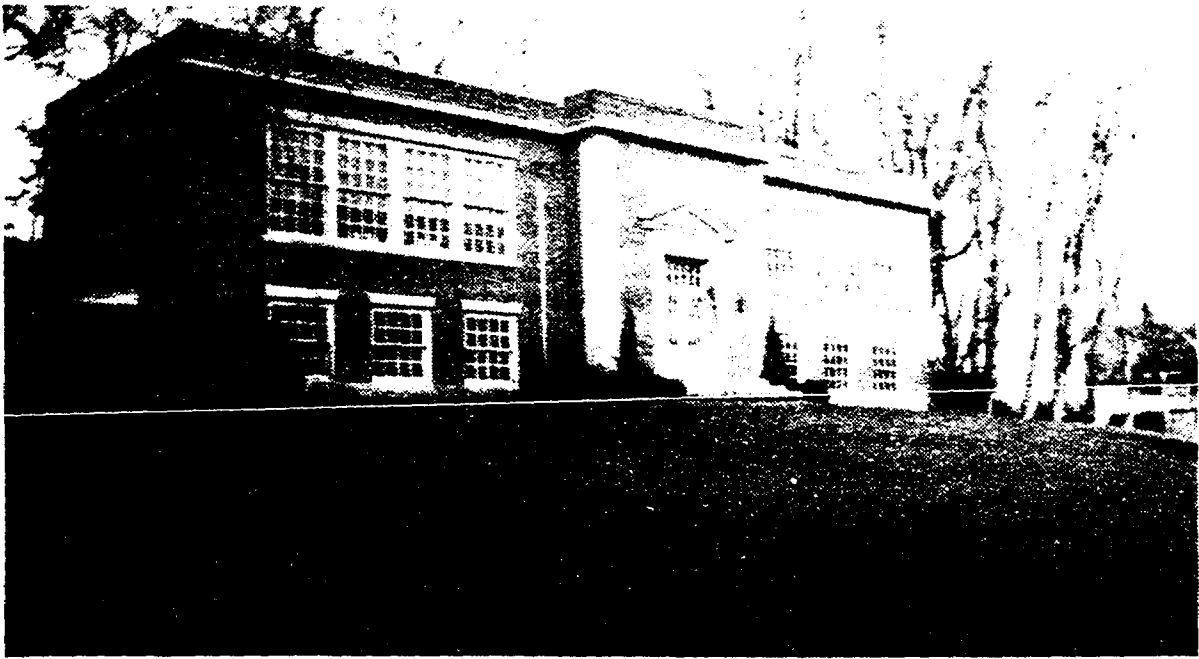
District No. 5,—on back road to Maynard; used for a dwelling; lower part, brick; upper, wood.

Boarding-school,—very select finishing school, kept by Miss Hannah Wood, at what is now Chris Nelson's house.





HIGH SCHOOL, STOW, MASS.



PILOT GROVE SCHOOL



LITTLE BRICK SCHOOL  
Stow Center



---

## LIBRARIES

ABOUT the time of the Academy, it was decided that a Library was needed in the town and such good success had attended the Academy enterprise that they resolved to have one. The "Proprietors of Stow Social Library" was organized before 1827. In that year the Library had been gathered and was kept at the store of Jonas Warren. It remained there until about 1838, when it was removed to the store of Winthrop Robinson. In 1846 it was removed to Mr. Robert Derby's Tailor Shop just beyond the store. It remained in his charge for some years. The Proprietors were the only ones who could take books from the Library, and they could keep them two weeks time. The books were kept in two cases, about 6 x 3; a good proportion of them were standard works, such as, *Scott's Novels*, *Humes' History of England*, *Buckminster Sermons*, *Ferdinand and Isabelle* and other like books. The plan for adding new books was to rely on contributions from Proprietors and from the amount received from fines. After 1850, no trace could be found of the books.

The "*Rock Bottom Library Association*" was formed about 1880. It consisted of 1000 books for which there was a ready demand. These books are still in use through the Sunday-school Library of the Methodist Episcopal church in *Rock Bottom* (Gleasondale).

## RANDALL LIBRARY

Before the gift of this library, the town had no public library. In the Sunday-schools of the different churches were small libraries, affording their young people something in the way of good wholesome reading, though somewhat meagre. There were however, several private libraries, among which was that of Dr. John Witt Randall. After his death, his sister Miss Belinda Randall, according to his wishes, sent the town of Stow \$55,000 desiring \$25,000 should be used for a public library, and the rest for other worthy purposes which she designated. June 8, 1892, the town voted to appropriate an amount not exceeding \$10,000 to purchase land for a site for the library building.

At a town meeting held in July of that year it was voted to buy "the Hale lot." The lot was purchased from Silas W. Hale, July 9, for \$800. George G. Adams of Lawrence was engaged as architect. The buildings on the lot were sold for \$44.50. The contract was awarded to A. P. Powers, of Hudson, for \$8175. Mr. Powers also put in the cases and counter and concreted the cellar. The frescoing was done by Joshua Sears of Boston and the grading was done by Henry Gates. The whole amount paid to Mr. Powers was \$8866.65.

The building is of pressed brick, with red sandstone and terra cotta trimmings and slated roof. The main entrance is on the westerly side, through a wide Roman arch and vestibule to the delivery room. The vestibule is finished and panelled in quartered oak, and has a tiled floor. Memorial tablets of marble are placed on each side of the vestibule, in commemoration of the citizens of Stow who died in the service of their country during the wars of the Revolution and the Rebellion.

The delivery room has an abundance of light from the windows opening to the porch and through the large arches connecting with the reading and book rooms. The book room is at the north of the delivery room, and finished high enough for two tiers of book stacks having a capacity of 15,000 volumes. In the rear of the delivery room is a room 10 x 16 feet for the reference library, the librarian and the trustees. Opening from this room is a fireproof vault 8 feet square, built for the use of the town.

The reading room on the south is the strong feature of the building, with its alcove on the east and the large octagon bay on the corner. All the interior finish is of brown ash, with panelled dado on the walls. The wall decoration is in salmon tones which, together with the frieze, are in perfect harmony with the creamy tones of the ceiling. Over the arched entrance to the building appears the name of "*Randall.*"

After the death of the Whitney brothers and sisters (James, Cyrus, Adeline and Martha) money was given for the building of a historical room. As this had already been done and money was very much needed to purchase books, an arrangement was affected whereby the income from the money left could be used to purchase books. The library at present has about 6,000 books.

An honest pride, commendable to the better instincts and judgment of our natures, is in the heart of all the people of Stow for these generous gifts and this constant manifestation of noble generosity and perpetual reminder of thoughtfulness of others. The dedication of the Library took place February 22, 1894 and was a day long to be remembered. A. G. R. Hale was present and referred to the removal of the soldiers' tablets from the town hall to the library building. He traced the history of the Randall and Hale families whose names are perpetuated in town by the Randall Library and the Hale High School.

Mrs. Susan Proctor Lawrence was for many years librarian. She was followed by Miss Eleanor Smith, who still acts in that capacity.



RANDALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY



---

## BUSINESS INTERESTS

THE principal employment of the citizens has from the first been Agriculture. At one time a great deal of attention was given to the raising of Hops. The Hops were taken from the field in boxes to the various "hop-houses;" there they were spread on large flat covers (open spaces in the covers) over a slow charcoal fire to dry; when dry, they were put down a "shoot" into bags, ready to send to the various breweries. These bags were stored in the "hop-houses" till the time of sale. At the breweries, they were made into different kinds of liquors."

There were several "hop-houses" in the town. One of these is still standing near the Town Hall, and is owned by Mr. Eugene Lawrence; it is now used for a dwelling. Others were located in various parts of the town, two or three having been in Gleasondale.

"Silk-worm raising" was also attempted. Quite a number of mulberry trees were planted in different parts of the town. One was planted on the lawn of the place now occupied by Marshall P. Lewis. This enterprise did not prove successful, as the seasons were too cold; so the work was abandoned.

A large tannery was started two or three hundred years ago, by Phineas Gates, near what is now the H. H. Warren homestead. In 1782, when Mr. Abijah Warren came to town, he bought this tannery for 307 pounds and carried on this business. In 1814, Peter Fletcher, a lad of fifteen, a native of Phillipston, came to work for Mr. Warren. He began to learn tanning and currying. After completing his apprenticeship, he became Mr. Warren's "right-hand man," and had charge of the business. After Mr. Abijah Warren retired, he formed a partnership with his son, Jonas, under the name of "Warren and Fletcher." The buildings connected with this business were on the north side of the space occupied by the Tannery. The Tannery was about 40 feet east of the new house built by Mr. Warren, and ran as far as the little brook. The buildings were about 150 feet north of the street line. This area was filled with Tan Vats that were sunk in the ground. "Warren and Fletcher" continued this business till about 1840, when they bought another tannery in Ashburnham.

Following this, the store that was vacated by Mr. Francis Warren in 1839, was used for currying and finishing of leather, till near 1850, when Mr. Warren retired from the business. They made all kinds of upper leather and had salesrooms in Boston. The Tannery in Ashburnham had been in existence about 18 years, when the plant was swept away by a flood caused by the bursting of a reservoir in Ashburnham, and the place was completely wrecked. Selling the land on which it stood, Peter Fletcher with Nehemiah Newhall as partner, built another Tannery in Stow, at the site of the old grist-mill just below Brookside Cemetery. After this, all the work was done in the new shop, which they maintained for about twenty years. Mr. Newhall retired from the business in 1868. Mr. Fletcher retired in 1870, selling his plant for other purposes, to Benjamin Folsom of Rock Bottom. Later Benjamin Folsom sold to Ed. Wheeler.

About 1811, Mrs. Lucy Wood Fletcher, widow of Peter Fletcher Sr., moved to Stow from Phillipston, with ten children, of whom Peter Fletcher was the oldest. She lived in the "little red house" which stood on the site of the garage now owned by Mrs. Carrie Smith. She supported her family by "making men's clothes." After Mr. Abijah Warren built his new house in 1808, Peter Fletcher occupied the house vacated by Mr. Warren, known as the "*red-lean-to*."

On what is known as "*Heath Hen Meadow*," may be found traces of quite a settlement. We find several cellar-holes, a lye-house made of bricks, larger than the bricks used in this country; it is thought these bricks were probably sent over from England. There is also the site of an old log school-house, which until recently was standing. Besides these we find three dams—one very large—the ground all round seems to be filled with pieces of bark and hide, indicating that there had been a very large Tannery there. Quite a business of "picking cranberries" was carried on in that section some years later, as the place is a large cranberry bog.

The stores in the town in 1816, were in the lower village. One was on the north side of "*Great Road*", called the "Squire Russell Place", and had a store attached to the house. The one on the south side, was occupied in 1816, by Jonas Warren, and was just beyond, or east of the "*stucco*" house. March 18, 1816, Jonas Warren formed a partnership with Charles Newell, son of Parson Newell, under the name of "Warren and Newell." In 1821 he bought out Mr. Newell and continued the business; in 1823 he moved to a new store that he built a little west of his father's (Abijah Warren) house. This he occupied till 1836, when he sold his stock and business to his son, Francis Warren, who carried on the business in that store till 1839. The store on the north side of the road in the lower village, was rented by Winthrop Robinson, in 1816, and occupied by him till the winter of 1823, when he purchased of Rev. Joseph Willard of Boxboro, a homestead in the center of the town of Stow. This was the house now owned and occupied by Marshall P. Lewis. As this was only partly finished, he completed it and occupied it. He built at once on the lot just west of the house, the store now owned by M. P. Lewis. While it was being built, he occupied a part of the house which stood where the Library now stands, having removed his stock from the lower village. The business was continued in his name until 1852, when he sold to Mr. Charles Whitmarsh, his son-in-law. The store from which Jonas Warren moved, in 1823, remained vacant for some time, till Charles R. Wetherbee of Concord, started a business there. He was followed by Thomas Whitney for a short time; then it was occupied for some time by Silas Brooks, but was eventually destroyed by fire.

John Brooks, whose home was in the lower village, assisted in the engineering of the Hoosac Tunnel and was made President of the Michigan Central Railway, at the age of twenty-one; this position he held for many years. He was a very poor writer. Once, it is said, he wrote a business letter, and the person to whom the letter was written, thinking it a Railroad Pass, used it successfully for a whole year.

An interesting story is told of Amory Maynard, the founder of the large mill in what is now Maynard, then, Stow. Amory Maynard was a carpenter by trade; he was employed in a mill in Marlboro, now Hudson, and made frames for buildings. A man by the name of "Knight" came from Saxonville from time to time, noticed young Maynard, and con-





THE PILOT GROVE FARM



## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

sidered him a most promising young man. So he told Maynard if he would select a suitable site, he would furnish him money to build a mill. Maynard looked up and down the Assabet River for sufficient water power, as there was no electricity in those days, to run his mill. After some deliberation, he selected the present site of the Maynard Mill. Dams were accordingly built, and business was flourishing. In 1846, he purchased land on both sides of the "Assabet" river, and from time to time, from individuals owning land along the river, till he controlled all the available water power, water rights and mill sites in this vicinity. Within a few years he enlarged his possessions in order to control water rights up the river to Boone's Pond and Fort Meadow. His father, Isaac Maynard had a saw-mill at the foot of Fort Meadow in which he had worked, having left school at the age of fourteen. When sixteen, his father died, and Amory took charge of the business, till at one time he had sixty men in his employ. In this way he came in contact with Mr. Knight, for whom he had done some building, and this resulted in their partnership for the manufacture of carpets.

In 1847, the City of Boston, needing a larger supply of water, Mr. Maynard was deprived of his water supply—Fort Meadow Pond in Marlboro—and was obliged to seek a new location.

To make good the damage the State had done to Maynard's mill, they built two dams on the stream; one at Fort Pond, in Marlboro; the other on Lake Boone in Gleasondale. These dams have greatly enlarged both of these ponds. Boone's Pond was very small before this was done, but is now a most beautiful and attractive lake, with many cottages on its banks and known far and near as "*Lake Boon.*"

Artemus Wolcott, of Rock Bottom, now Gleasondale, turned over the first shovel of dirt for the mill, a fact of which he was always very proud.

### THE TOWN "POUND"

March 5, 1705, a three pound rate was voted to build a pound. As early as 1698, the General Court decreed "that there shall be a sufficient Pound or Pounds made and maintained from time to time, in every Town and Precinct within this Province, for the impounding or restraining of any Swine, Neat Cattle, Horses or Sheep, as shall be found *damage-feasant*, in any corn-field or other inclosures, or going upon the Common without authority." So the town felt obliged to comply with the law.

The pound was to be set "on a small knowel, Betwixt the meetinghouse and Thomas Whitney's house." It was to be "thirty foot square, seven foot high, with good white oak posts, the railes to be Eyther sawed or hewed timber."

In the progress of years a new pound was deemed necessary. October 21, 1721, it was voted to "erect a good and substantial pound which shall be according to Law . . . . . on the edge of the highway between the *Capts* house and the meetinghouse." This was maintained there many years, till the one was erected near the "*brick school-house,*" now the site of Pilot Grove. This was for many years an old land-mark for many of the older citizens of the town; but as it had not been used for many years, after the building of the Pilot Grove School-house, it was removed to give the school children a larger space for a play-ground.

### THE OLD "POWDER-HOUSE"

For many years after 1693, the towns were required by law to keep a supply of powder, ammunition and other military stores, to be drawn upon in case of any emergency. These materials of war were sometimes kept in the loft of the meeting-house, and later a special building or "*powder-house*" of brick was erected for their safe-keeping. In 1814, on the plot of ground now known as "Hillside Cemetery," was built a powder-house, where the Robinson lot now is. For over thirty years this building was standing, another landmark calling to mind the perilous times of our ancestors. But on October 22, 1849, the town of Stow, authorized the selectmen to sell the "powder-house and have it removed from the burying-ground." Then the Robinson Brothers bought the land, filled it up and put in the first marble stone. Mr. Jonas Warren followed their example and now, "Hillside Cemetery" marks the place.

In Stow Center, Levi Warren, brother of Jonas Warren, had a shop on his estate, just west of Winthrop Robinson's store; he was a furrier, military hat and cap manufacturer. Mr. Francis Conant had a store in part of Conant's Inn; Mr. Samuel Sawin (whip-maker) had a store in part of this Inn. He was a fine workman and had all the business of the Stage and Coach Company Contractors. Mr. Horace Hayward had quite a large shoe business in the Tavern building.

There was a wheelwright and carpenter's shop where Fred Townsend now lives; also a Butcher's Shop. And on his corner stood the blacksmith shop of Mr. Nathan Turner; the tailor shop, of Mr. Robert Derby, was at the house now owned by the "Wood" family, once the "Joel Richardson" tavern, just opposite the home of Mr. John Derby. At the corner of the Harvard Road, stood the house of Joseph Rogers; just east of it, was his blacksmith shop. He had a great reputation in all this region, as an edge tool maker. His axes were considered superior to any others. It was said his great skill lay in his ability to temper them in a superior manner. Wood-choppers, of that day prized them so highly that they would walk a long ways to secure one of them. A saw and grist mill stood on the Harvard road, called "Brown's Mill." On the Goding place, now the home of S. H. Peck, stood the shop of Brown, the carriage-maker. Janes Brown was the son of Capt. J. B. Brown. He was an expert wheel-wright and builder of carriages. Everything turned out of the shop, either a light pleasure wagon or a substantial one for farm work, was sure to be of good design and made in the best manner.

The Reverend Jonathan Newell, who at one time owned a great deal of land in the lower village, later purchased land nearer Stow center. He lived on the place now owned by Clifton Fletcher, which according to the map of 1830, was occupied by Dr. Newell's widow. Dr. Newell, being of a scientific mind, and having great interest in the town of his choice, made many improvements. At this time on the corner lot, opposite Henry H. Warren's, was a very large pond of water. This was supplied by a brook, known as "*Strong Water Brook*," and the pond known as "*Strong Water Pond*." So great was this body of water, that at times it reached to the Center school-house road (Pilot Grove School). Dr. Newell dug a trench deep enough to turn the course of this stream from the north to the south, causing it to flow through a culvert, under the road below Union Church, till it joined "Assabet" brook which flows into Assabet river. The land was well



THE TREATY ELM FARM



## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

drained also. For this he received great reward from the Middlesex County Horticultural Society, for the greatest achievement in Middlesex County. From that time on, the pond below Union Church, is known as "*Minister's Pond.*" This reward was a large silver porringer and a silver urn. When Dr. Newell's house burned, among the ruins was found a large mass of silver, supposed to be these two pieces. Dr. Newell saved it and gave it to Peter Fletcher; the latter had it made into silver teaspoons, which he gave to his daughter, Lucy Ann Fletcher, when she was married to Abbot Newhall. Mrs. Abbott Newhall, was mother to Josie Newhall, and aunt to *our* Miss Lucy Fletcher. At the entrance to Clifton Fletcher's driveway, we find a very large rock, which was brought from Leominster by oxen in 1794. The date is marked on the back. Outside this driveway is a flat rock, with two or three flat steps leading to it. This looks as if it were a mounting-step for horse-back riders. It is marked, "1801—S.N."

Dr. Newell also invented a machine for cutting nails, which was found very useful, and was said to have been in use, with "*modifications*" till 1883. His shop was located on the stream he caused to flow into Assabet Brook, near the junction of these two streams. Mr. Charles Staples has seen the foundation stones. The two brooks are Assabet and Potash Brook.

Some years later, back of what is now the "John Robblee" place, was a factory where large quantities of potash were made. From this the stream was given the name of "Potash Brook."

On Assabet Brook, in 1830, was Conant's Mill. The remains of this mill, the dam and pond, make an ideal and well-patronized "Old Swimming-hole." The land is now owned by Charles D. Fletcher, grandson of Peter Fletcher, and the site is near the home of Willet Dexter.

On the corner of the Ralph Crowell lot, next the Keyes Hall place, in the lower village, was Jacob Soper's blacksmith shop; a cooper's shop, on the place now owned by Mrs. M. Grace Otterson; a carpenter's shop of Nathan S. Robinson; also the shop of Captain Charles Tower on the Village Farm estate.

Just below the Haman Smith estate, in what is now Maynard, leading off the Boston Road, was Asa Smith's saw, grist and cider mill combined; this was considered old in 1821; afterwards it was called "Jewells' Mill," and spindles were made there for textile mills.

Some interesting entries we find in the "Stow Proprietors' Book":

1743, May 20,—“Samuel Hall sold to Francis Eveleth, a parcel of land, on the south side of a brook, that cometh out of a *crooked meadow.*” This he paid for in English money.

1759—A committee was appointed to sell the “burying pond,” so-called, to the highest bidder; this seems to have been the Rev. John Gardner, to whom it was sold, “with ten acres of land.”

1738—“Stow, Oct. ye 30, 1738. Voted on said day, that Ephraim Gates have one acre and three-quarters of upland in the common land, in Stowe, lying on the west side of said Gates' house-lot, for consideration of ten shillings and One Quart of RUM.”

“In 1736, John Wilkins of the town of Marlboro, Mass., to Jabez Wolcott from Salem, a certain tract of land in that part of Marlboro called the “*Indian Land*”, known by the name *Agogonquamosot* situate on the north side of a brook, known by ye name of *Wotars Brook*, etc.” This is part of the Hallock farm and this deed is still in possession of the Hallock family. The original Wolcott house stood in front of the present one. This was a low house with the roof sloping almost to the ground. The present house was built by Jonathan Wolcott in 1840 and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hallock, grand-daughter of Jonathan Wolcott. The floor to the piazza is one large, flat, slate slab measuring about four feet wide and twelve feet long.

Nahum Smith came to Stow from Sudbury and settled on what is now known as the “*Treaty Elm Farm*.” It is quite probable that he built the dwelling-house and that the monarch elm which shades it now was in its robust youth in his day. This tree is sixteen feet in circumference, one hundred feet high and has a spread of over one hundred feet. This tree is nearly two hundred years old.

Nahum had three sons, Reuben, Micah and Arad; all of whom settled in Stow and reared families, and 3 daughters, who lived and died with Arad.

Arad remained on the old farm; Micah had a farm adjoining, and he and Reuben worked at the carpenter’s trade.

Arad Smith was a cooper and had a shop on his farm. He married Polly Stow, daughter of Stephen Jr. on October 23, 1831. She lived to be ninety years old, dying in 1897. They had two children, one dying quite young.

Andrew J. Smith learned the carpenter’s trade from his uncle Micah, and worked in Marlboro, Worcester and other places. He was the son of Arad Smith, and later lived on the old homestead. In 1856, he built a dam, erected a saw-mill, grist-mill and box-mill on Assabet Brook, within the confines of his own farm. This plant he sold in 1864 to his uncle Micah Smith, who had a farm adjoining. After a time, Micah Smith sold this plant to Abraham Priest and Benjamin Folsom, who had a very successful business for some years. Mr. Folsom bought out Mr. Priest and hired Ed. Wheeler; he finally sold to Ed. Wheeler, and as long as Mr. Wheeler lived, quite an extensive lumber business was carried on. This plant is still known as “Wheeler’s Mill.”

About 1908, Charles D. Fletcher, grandson of Peter Fletcher, bought from Ed. Wheeler the mill which his grandfather had built in 1850. Because of the increased apple business, he has been very extensively engaged in the manufacture and sale of “apple boxes,” besides many kinds of rough lumber. This plant is now known as “Fletcher’s Box-shop,” located on “*Elizabeth*” (Assabet) Brook.

There is a mill in the west part of the town, owned by Carl Zander, now used for a cider-mill; on the same brook, farther up the stream, was the Withington saw and grist-mill, which is said to have done at one time a very large business.

The home of Mrs. Edward J. Donahue, in the western part of the town has an interesting incident connected with its history. A part of this house was once the three room cottage standing on the old “Merrifield Farm” on the South Acton Road. Its hand-hewn beams, on one of which is carved the date, 1818, when the house was built show its age. It was moved from the South Acton Road to its present location. The land on which it





THE OLD ROBINSON STORE



WHEELER'S MILL



## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

stands was purchased by Mr. Jennings, great-uncle of the late Edward J. Donahue, from the heirs of Abraham Stow, the original owner. The cottage and premises were deeded by Mr. Jennings to a niece Mary Cosgrove, who in turn deeded to her niece, Alice Harris, in 1862. It was purchased by Mr. Donahue from Miss Harris, in 1897 and four rooms were added to the original structure. One of the land-marks of the place is a row of nine pine trees planted by Mr. Donahue's great-uncle, 85 years ago.

### TOWN FARM (POOR FARM)

The first reference to a pauper was March, 1724-25, when widow Mary Hewes was voted to be one of the poor and provisions were made for her support. It was voted, December 20, 1784, to build a work-house to put the poor in. It was to be thirty feet square and seven feet stud. On April 14, 1788, money was granted to build a poor-house to be set on the side hill near the burying-place. Oliver Blood was chosen overseer of the work-house in May, 1790. In April, 1796, it was decided that the children in the work-house should go to school near Esquire Wood's and twelve shillings were to be paid to that quarter. A committee was chosen to buy a farm for the poor. We find that December 20, 1828, Roland Morse, sold pasture, woodland and farmland, deeding it to the town of Stow. This was used for a Town Farm. One of the early wardens was Benjamin Clark. Many different ones followed. They let the farm to Cyrus Whitney, who came from Marlboro to Stow, for about a year, as they had decided to board the "poor" out. After his death the property was sold at public auction. Charles D. Fletcher and William H. Parker bought it together. They sold the farm to Victor Wilgren, keeping the pasture and woodland. Later C. D. Fletcher bought the woodland from Parker and the pasture which is on the south side of Great Road, is still owned by these two men.

Among the most note-worthy of the olden traders in Stow may be mentioned Mr. Winthrop Robinson. Having a small shop in the Lower village for the manufacture of women's shoes, he conceived the idea of becoming a merchant. He bought a small quantity of peppermints and when women came for their shoes, he would induce them to buy four penny's worth to take home. Being successful in this he added coarse earthen ware to his goods. He soon removed to a larger building and opened a store for the sale of West India goods. He subsequently became owner of the center store and house near by. Both of these are often spoken of as the "*Robinson House and Store.*" In his journeys to and from Boston for the purchase of goods he invariably rode in a one-horse chaise, bringing his goods up with him. Later he sold out to his son, H. W. Robinson, later proprietor of one of the largest stores in Brockton, and he in turn sold to Robert Derby in 1856-1857. After several changes it became the property of John Sibley Fletcher, who sold to Marshall P. Lewis, the present owner and occupant.

From the "*Haletonian*, 1889"—"The highways are in good condition, the distances on the street from Rock Bottom to Stow center were marked by Elm trees, the space from tree to tree being one-half of a mile. The first from Rock Bottom, being the one in front of "Minister" Randall's, now owned and occupied by Joseph Hale. The second, a little to the west of Grove School, on the site of the old school-house. The third, at Mark Whitcomb's. The fourth, at A. J. Smith's. The fifth, at Robert Carr's, and the distance from there to the store being one-half of a mile. On the main street, flat stones, one mile from each to each, were erected. The soil of Stow varies, some parts being light and

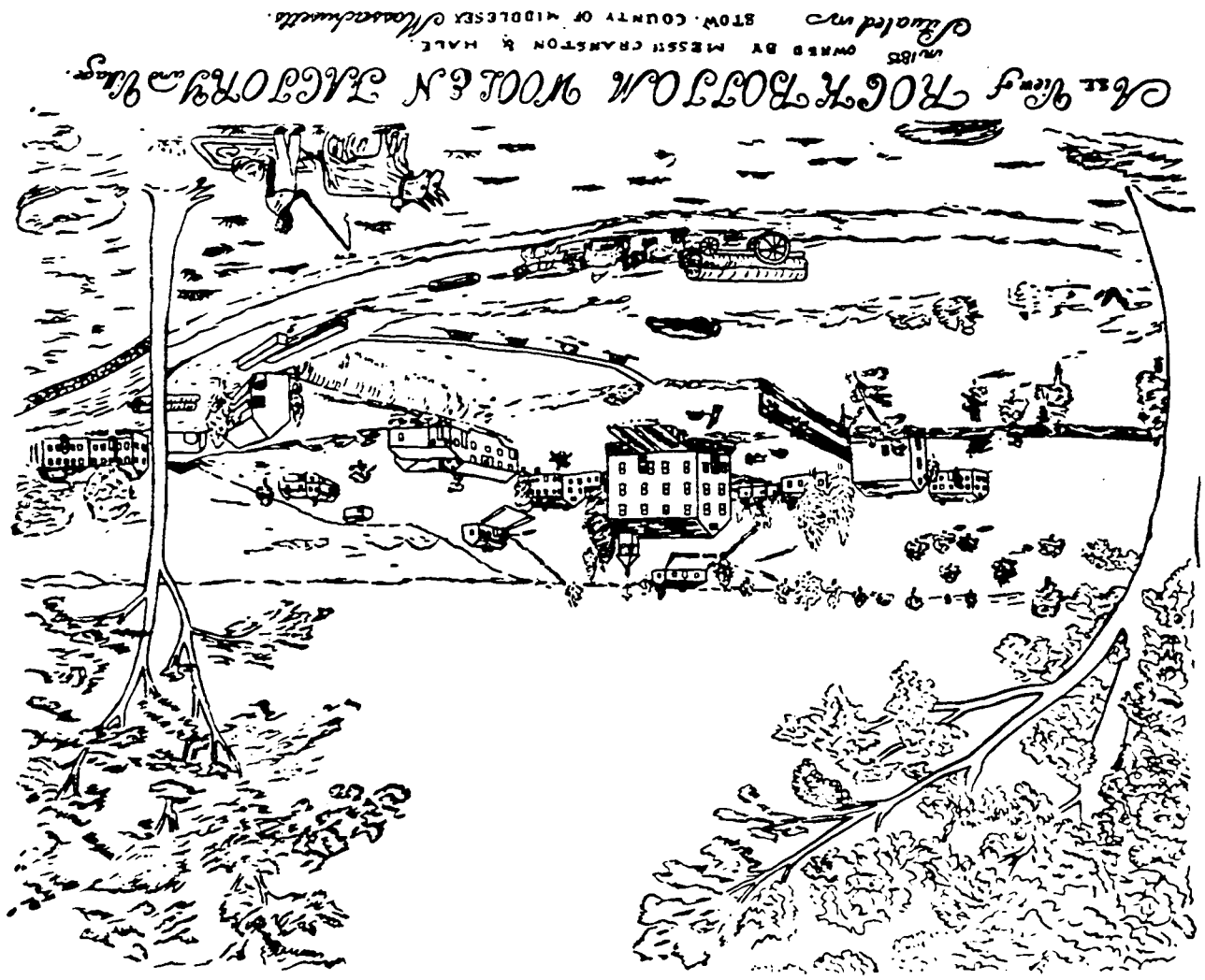
sandy, others hard and stony, but most of it well adapted for pasturage and the raising of hay, corn, grain and vegetables. It produces an abundance of good fruit, particularly apples. The inhabitants have always been mostly farmers with such numbers of traders, tavern-keepers, blacksmiths, carpenters and shoe-makers, as were needed for the wants of the other inhabitants."

Squire Hosmer's elegant mansion in the lower village, was from 1820 to 1840 and perhaps longer, one of the notable ones of the day. The wall paper in the parlor was imported from London about 1800, and cost \$450. The pattern represented scenes on the Bay of Naples. They owned the first carpet ever brought to town. The first stove was bought by Col. Elijah Hale, about the year 1840, Mark Whitcomb and Silas Stow having each purchased one soon after. A neighbor, living near them, made the remark that he would never need one as he would receive sufficient warmth from theirs.

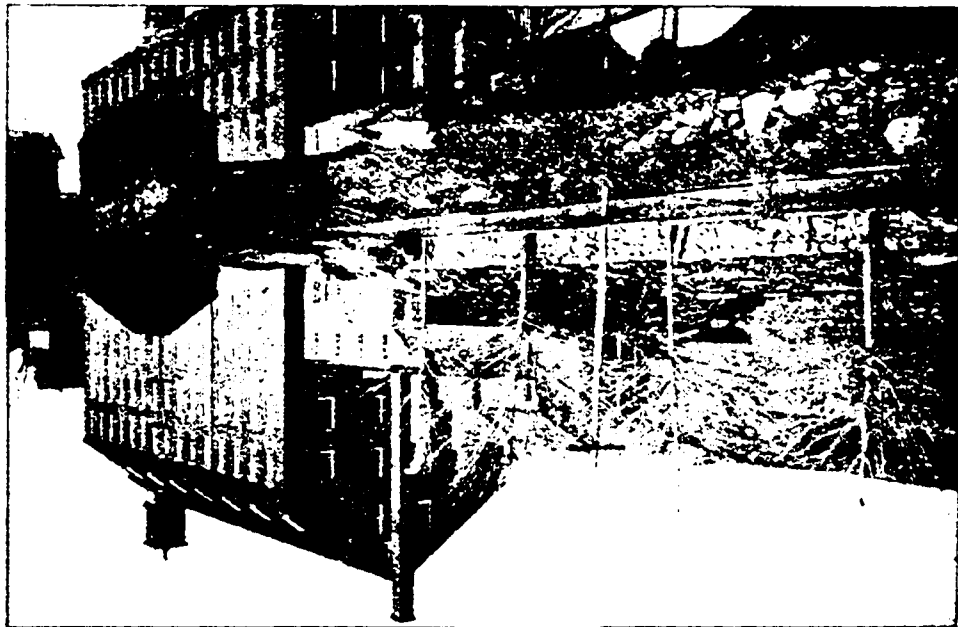
In 1834, the Post-office was moved into the store of Winthrop Robinson at Stow center. He sold the business in 1852, his successor assuming the duties of Post-master. Many changes have taken place since Mr. Robinson retired, but the Post-office has been continued in the same building covering a period of one hundred years next year. Mr. Marshall P. Lewis, the present Post-master has held this position since December, 1902. Very few New England towns have a record of housing "Uncle Sam's" property in the same building for one hundred years and having the building in such excellent condition. April 1st, 1898 is the date named by the Postmaster-General of the United States for changing the name of the post office from Rock Bottom to Gleasondale, in response to a petition from citizens of the village. In Hudson's *History of Marlboro*, we read "The Post-office in the south-east part of Stow is called Assabet, which will give the name a permanent character." (1861). This is now Maynard, formerly known as "Assabet Village."

About 1823, business began to move towards Lancaster; after the building of the new church in 1847, the land around the church was improved and became finished for a "Green." After the arrival of the trolley cars in 1901, a waiting-station was needed and the neat little cobble-stone building was erected. All of these together present today a very pretty picture; the church of colonial style, its tall white spire and clock (with face lighted at night), the cobble-stone waiting-station, artistic monument, "church green," and in the back-ground, the Randall Library and Hale High School. It is hoped that nothing may transpire to mar the picturesque beauty of this spot. The "Whitney Family" generously provided for the care of this "Green" around the church of their choice.

The first telephones were installed in the town of Stow in 1887. The "Winthrop Robinson Store" at Stow Center, then owned by John Sibley Fletcher, and the residence of Dr. Abel Livermore, in the Lower Village, the well-loved and only resident physician, were the first two to adopt this innovation. Having been found very useful and successful, the number of subscribers continued to increase, till it was found to be not a luxury but a necessity and today the house not having a 'phone is an exception. Electricity was introduced in 1911, by the Hudson Light & Power Department, Hudson, Mass. Gas was installed in many of the homes in 1912, by the Marlboro-Hudson Gas Company, Marlboro, Mass.



THE LITTLE BRICK MILL, GLEASONDALE





## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

Since the death of Dr. Abel C. Livermore in 1891, the town has had no resident physician. In 1928, the town voted to employ a town nurse. Mrs. Maurice Gregory was the first to hold this position. After serving for a little more than a year, Miss Evelyn Wright filled the place. Mrs. Genevieve Creeley was chosen in 1931. She still serves in this capacity giving generously to those in need at any time when called.

Stow lies in what is now known as "The Nashoba Fruit Belt." For many years apples, as well as pears and other fruits, have been sold in large quantities. In season, trucks are daily carting apples into Boston, Worcester and New York City. Before the World War, apples were shipped to England by some of our big fruit growers. Jonathan Priest was the pioneer in apple culture; the orchards were planted by him. Many others followed and today the fruit industry is the big industry in Stow. "Fruit Acres" is the largest apple farm, having 4000 apple trees on the farm. Peaches, quinces and plums were at one time raised to quite an extent; but the severe winters, with the untimely hail-storms have curtailed this branch of fruit raising. Lyman F. Priest was pioneer in this particular fruit. James L. Parker of Gleasondale, father of W. H. and J. Frank Parker, was pioneer in marketing vegetables. In season, with his horse and wagon, he daily marketed his vegetable produce in Hudson and other surrounding towns. Others followed his example and today, trucks from many farms are not only selling to near-by towns, but garden produce of all kinds is carried to Boston and Worcester markets daily. He also built the first green-house in which he raised cabbages and tomatoes. This green-house was on the place now occupied by his daughter, Miss Emma Parker. Later, others followed his example. Herbert P. Underwood carried on quite an extensive business in this line for some time. W. H. Parker now uses those green-houses, to raise early tomato plants for marketing.

For the preservation of apples, it has become necessary to have plants for "cold storage." At first our farmers, many of them, availed themselves of the opportunity provided in the cold storage plant at Cambridge. Today we find cold storage in the barn of C. D. Fletcher, with a capacity of 13,000 bushels. He also purchased in 1933, the old "Strathmore Mills" in West Concord, and has installed electric refrigeration with a present storage capacity of 60,000 bushels. The total storage capacity of the building when completed is between 100,000 and 200,000 bushels. Some of these rooms are rented by farmers for storage of apples in order that they may get better prices for their fruit later, when it is not as plentiful. Clemens Bros. have a private storage plant, with a capacity of 1,000 bushels.

We have a local florist supplying flowers and plants for all occasions. Clarence Neal has his green-house located on Great Road, nearly opposite "*Stow-a-way Inn.*"

For many years Charles W. Crandall has been the local plumber; attending to the wants of the townspeople in summer as well as winter, when bursting pipes and various forms of freeze-ups called for the immediate attention of a plumber, even disregarding the "Sabbath Day." Heating and water systems have also been installed by him, not only in town but in the surrounding towns.

The blacksmith shop of Peter Larsen, located on Great Road just beyond the Post-office and store is still in use.

Poultry raising is also an increasing industry. Henry Erickson of the Lower Village is the largest poultry raiser today.

Some of our farmers are still engaged in dairying. Milk and cream are sold to large milk dealers. A very successful pasteurizing plant is maintained by Hans Erickson, who also has a large milk route.

Massachusetts State College, at Amherst, has given our young men the advantage of its excellent training in agricultural pursuits; many of our young men are graduates. Others availed themselves of the two-year courses.

Our young ladies are taking courses at Simmons College, Wellesley, Boston University, Mt. Holyoke, Business Colleges, Normal Schools; also training at Hospitals, thus fitting themselves to enter the business world with greater efficiency.

### GLEASONDALE

The village of Gleasondale is of no small importance to the town, not only in its early historical interest, but in its later industrial and business development and connection with the cherished names of its patriotic and enterprising citizens, indicated in the village names, "Randall Mills" (1776-1815); "Rock Bottom" (1815-1898); "Gleason-dlae" (1898-1933).

The first certain record of the establishment of mills of any kind is in the deed of February 19, 1770 by which John Gordon and his wife Mercy conveyed to Timothy Gibson for \$300, land with a grist and saw mill, previously the property of their father, Ebenezer Graves—land purchased by him September 17, 1716 from Zachariah Whitman. The dam and mills were built by Mr. Graves before 1750.

Timothy Gibson sold this property (sixty acres with corn and saw mill) to Abraham Randall for \$462; from whom it received its name, by which it was known for more than half a century.

These mills were located on the east side of the Assabet river; the dam being some five or six rods below the present dam of B. W. Gleason & Sons.

On the death of Mr. Randall early in 1815 these mills became the property of his two sons Abram and Paul, who deeded them; one, August 20, 1819 for \$471.50, and the other February 12, 1822 for \$1200; to Joel Cranston, Silas Felton and Elijah Hale, enterprising merchants of that part of Marlboro, now the town of Hudson. These gentlemen together with Silas Jewell, an old resident of the vicinity, are chiefly responsible for the early development of the cotton manufacturing enterprise, which was finally conducted under the name of the Rock Bottom Cotton & Woolen Company. The first record of the name of "*Rock Bottom*" is in connection with this factory. According to tradition, the name had its origin with the remark of Joel Cranston who, when his men were digging the foundation of the factory and came to solid rock, said to them, "*you've reached rock bottom.*" At first this was a by-word, but soon this chance remark became the permanent designation of the locality.

After being conducted with varying success and passing through the hands of different operators, the manufacturing interests of the village were absorbed February 14, 1849 by B. W. Gleason & Co.; the firm included Benjamin Gleason of Andover, Mass. and Samuel Dale of Ware, Mass. Both were fitted by experience and executive ability to handle an





THE GLEASON RESIDENCE



## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

enterprise of the kind and under these new auspices, the business soon assumed a new aspect of vigor and energy. In the next year an addition and improvements were made. A serious interruption was caused by a fire May 9, 1852 which entirely destroyed the mill. Out of the ashes however, arose a new brick mill, 125 feet long, 50 feet wide and 5 stories high, ready for operation in 1854.

On the death of Mr. Dale, March 1, 1853, his brother Ebenezer Dale became a partner with Mr. Gleason; the name of the firm remaining as before. Thereon J. Dale youngest brother of Ebenezer Dale became a partner in 1850. In 1860 the firm name was changed to Dale Bros. & Co. On the death of Ebenezer December 3, 1871, Mr. Gleason purchased from his heirs their interest and on June 1, 1872, received into partnership his three sons, Charles Whitney, born April 9, 1841, Stilman Augustus, born August 12, 1843, Alfred Dwight, born February 7, 1845; all of them in North Andover, Mass. The business was continued under the name, B. W. Gleason & Sons. After the death of Benjamin W. Gleason, the firm was known as B. W. Gleason's Sons; later, C. W. & A. D. Gleason; then Gleasondale Mills and the prestige and substantial prosperity of the concern has been continued to be maintained throughout.

The Humphrey Brigham Shoe factory, located near the Fitchburg Railroad Station, carried on a large business for many years. This four story building, with cupola, was burned to the ground in 1878.

From 1875-1878, we find "Reed Bros.," cabinet-makers, manufacturing chairs, frames and doing all kinds of upholstering work, in this section of Gleasondale.

In the early days there was no railroad, and wool and all supplies for the mills and stores were brought from Boston by teams of horses. Gilman Hapgood of Feltonville was a familiar sight to the villagers as he drove in with his large four-horse team loaded down with wool, and later on loaded up with bales of flannels as he started off over the hills for Boston. Another familiar sight was Amos Sawyer of Berlin as he drove his four horse mail coach over the road from Berlin to South Acton, in the early morning, returning at nightfall, always stopping at the store to take and leave the mail bag. Daily papers were scarce in those days and Sunday papers unheard of.

To protect the fish, laws were passed obliging all mill owners to provide fish ways. By this means a direct communication was made from the ocean to Boon's pond by way of the Merrimac, Concord and Assabet rivers. Capt. Thomas Whitman, being at "Ram's Horn Brook," so-called from its crookedness, saw a large quantity of fish. He came home, took his team of four oxen, and with his boys, dipped up over sixty bushels, making the largest amount of fish ever caught in one day in town.

In the more prosperous days of the town, we find a physician living in Gleasondale, named Dr. John Whitman. He had a very fine house, said to be three stories high. This house was burned and the ruins were in what is now Herbert Underwood's door-yard.

In 1830, there was a store in Rock Bottom, kept by Col. Elijah Hale. He was succeeded by his nephews for a time.

Opposite the place now owned and occupied by Clifford Martin, is the "Sibley Place." At one time there was a saw-mill on this place.

Just below the home of F. Keeler Rice, opposite Mrs. Charlotte Hearsey's house, was a brick-yard owned by Abijah Parks, great-grandfather of Miss Clara Houghton, of

Hudson. He lived in a house on the site of the Whitney Ferguson homestead. Abraham Priest 2nd began working there when 16 years old. Quite a lively business was carried on there about 1830-40.

On the Hallock farm, formerly the Wolcott farm, stood a building which was started for a hotel thinking the main road to Boston was going past the place. As the road went in another direction, this building was never finished and was later used for a cider-mill. Ox-teams carted cider from this mill to Boston, over the old road that goes past the Lake Boon monument. On more than one occasion the oxen were so tired on the return trip, that they were unyoked, so they could climb the hill.

In colonial days ox-teams were used for all trucking and carting. The oxen were also used for ploughing and other farm work.

About 1880, horses began to be used on the farms; they were quicker in motion and because of this were considered to be more advantageous, as more could be accomplished in one day. But many of the farmers reluctantly changed to this new method, as the steady pull of the oxen and their ability to haul greater loads, could not be replaced by horses. The "gee" and "haw" of the farmer is no longer heard and we find no yoke of oxen in town today.

About 1920, tractors were seen ploughing and hauling out the big rocks and boulders in parts of the town. Today, tractors are in common use.

#### PLEASURE RESORTS

The coming of the automobile has brought with it a demand for stopping-places. This has been met by the various towns through the country with roadside stands, gasoline filling stations and "over-night cabins." The stand on "Ermadale Farm" was the pioneer in variety of produce. Many others have since arrived. The Central Garage, where the "Marshall Shop" used to be, carries on a large business in repair work, while opposite you may refresh yourself till the work is done, at their stand. In the lower village we find the "Village Green"; one is served here to tasty, satisfying lunches, while your car is filled with gas and oil, thus equipping you for further journey. The "Blue Wheel" caters to the travelling public night or day. "Stow-a-way Inn" will care for you with "three square meals a day" at a nominal price. Since the passing of the stage-coach, the time has been, when the traveller could find no lodging-house; not so today.

We have also three recreational resorts. A far-famed pleasure resort of long standing is Lake Boon. This beautiful sheet of water, lined with attractive cottages, a fine bathing beach, equipped with rowing and motor boats, offers abundant facilities for both transient and season through guests. It has between 300 and 400 cottages.

On the 10th of March, 1685, Stephen Randall of Watertown applied for a grant in the town of Stow; the place was for many years in possession of his descendants, among whom was the great-great-grandson of Samuel Adams. Since their death the place has been subject to many changes. This well-known place, called the "Dr. Randall Place," with its palatial residence, after being subject to numerous ventures as a pleasure resort, is now known as the "Stow Golf Course" and under the dextrous and versatile hand of Charles M. Cox of Boston, has been transformed into a most charming Mecca, attracting



THE RANDALL FARM



## BUSINESS INTERESTS

---

patrons from far and near. A Center for outing, sporting, dancing, luncheon and Conference parties of every kind.

In the lower village, on land formerly owned by Daniel Conant, we have the "Assabet Lodge," or "Assabet Country Club." This is a settlement of 101 cabins. Bathing, fishing, canoeing, tennis, and golf are enjoyed. A large pavilion furnishes ample room for dancing parties. It is beautifully located, the golf grounds sloping to the river and the wooded lands in the back-ground. Mr. Maurice Morse has been manager and treasurer since 1925 and the popularity and success of the place bespeaks his ability in this line.

About a mile from the center of Stow, lies the "Moses Whitney Farm." This comprises 129 acres of rolling pasture-land, woodland and a high hill from which all the surrounding country may be seen. Upon this farm stand two substantial homes,—the original Whitney house built in 1760 or earlier and a larger house in the style of 1825. These two homes, in their remodeled form, constitute what is now known as "The Whitney Homestead." In times past they have been included in the joint ownership of Cyrus Henry, James Francis, Adeline, and Martha Gates Whitney and were given to the American Unitarian Association by the will of Cyrus Henry. It was the wish of the Whitneys that the women of the General Alliance of the Unitarian church should use the older house and that the newer one should especially contribute to the welfare of Unitarian ministers and laymen. It was their hope that the gift would minister to the comfort, rest and spiritual life of workers in the denomination they had so long and faithfully supported. The houses were opened to the public in May, 1932 and so far have been closed in winter. As the demand increases the seasons will be lengthened. It is at present undenominational. All tired workers are welcome to the limit of its capacity if they are seeking peace and quiet in beautiful rural New England. Its mission is to pass on the spirit of Good-Will involved in the administration of this bequest of the Whitneys to the public. As the president wrote in the first descriptive leaflet—"From Spindle Hill, our hill, we see the two Whitney houses set in their ample fields and yonder a mile away the white tower of the village church, which for generations the Whitneys loved and supported and attended. The whole story is a romance, a dream of usefulness. With humility and patience and faith, it will be our aim to make the dream come true." Thus far in its history Reverend Minna C. Budlong has been its hostess.

A HOME ROMANCE

“OTTO M. GEERS is one of our solid farmers and a very enterprising man. There is a little romance mixed up in his advent to this town, which is rather interesting. He was born in Finland in the year 1837 and had been a seafaring man for twenty-six years previous to his coming to this town. About seventeen of these he served in the U. S. Navy, and it may well be supposed that he has visited nearly every seaport on the globe and has travelled very extensively inland in the U. S. and the countries of Europe.

He came to this country in 1862 and enlisted as a sailor in the Navy for three years, entered the blockade service and was in several engagements, being constantly in active service during the war and at its close immediately re-enlisted and continued in the naval service until 1878 being promoted to the quarter department during the war. He first visited this town and his present home in 1877; being on a drive with a friend from a neighboring town, he called at the house for a drink of water, but left the next day for another voyage at sea, taking with him pleasant memories of a day's experience in Stow and particularly at the home of Mrs. Whitman. Some way the sea did not appear as formerly, but he continued through another year with pleasant memories of the beautiful harbor, and snug home of Mrs. Whitman constantly in his mind; resolving to take the first opportunity to come again and visit the country.

Accordingly taking a team at South Acton, he bethought himself how he could play the role of a marketman and purchase fruit of the widow. Not to partake of forbidden fruit, but some of those nice apples which hung so temptingly upon the trees on the farm. Arriving at the house with barrels provided, he at once made known his business or pretended errand. Of course, like most women in her situation, she told her troubles; the principal of which was that she had been obliged to incur a debt in settling the estate of her husband. Also the great care of managing the farm, etc.

After hearing this and coming a little nearer the point, Mr. Geers remarked that he would cancel her debt if that was all her trouble and take his security on herself if there no incumberances. She informed him there were none except the care of her aged father. And then he thought no higher recommendation could be had.

The subject was left for her consideration and proper investigation, and everything being then found satisfactory, in due time, as may well be supposed, they were married and greatly to the advantage of both; Mr. Geers having proved himself not only a man of his word but also of ability, having made improvements on farm and buildings which would be a credit to more experienced farmers.

The principal of these is the sinking of boulders, at which he has done a great deal; so that he can now drive his mowing machine upon nearly all the mowing land, which was once very rocky. Mrs. Geers is too well and favorably known here to require any further mention. The manner in which she took her aged parents to her own home and cared for them is worthy of praise and all such acts should be brought before the public in order to induce others to go and do likewise.

“Now Mrs. Geers can have no fears,  
Of rocks or storms or swelling tide,  
While Mr. Geers the ship he steers  
Will land her safe on the other side.”

—A reprint from the “*Stow Sentinel*” of 1883.





MRS. MINNIE PUFFER'S RESIDENCE, FORMERLY SQUIRE HOSMER'S RESIDENCE



---

## ORGANIZATIONS

### STOW GRANGE

ON February 15, 1877, a small number of the enterprising farmers of Stow, realizing the need of improving local problems and developing a more satisfactory rural community life, met in the Town Hall, Stow, for the purpose of organizing a Grange. This Grange to be called "Stow Grange No. 103 P. of H." The charter members numbered thirty-one and were as follows:

D. N. Goding, W. S. Lewis, G. N. Hale, A. M. Goding, A. M. Teele, T. N. Bent, C. A. Whitney, Edwin Stow, Addie Whitney, S. J. Hale, Emma F. Brown, Fred Conant, H. E. Reed, G. H. Brown, J. H. Davidson, W. H. Hale, H. B. Miles, E. M. Miles, J. Robins, Edwin Whitney, S. White, E. F. Wheeler, R. Wetherbee, Elizabeth Brown, Georgianna E. Brown, Mrs. D. N. Goding, Susan Miles, J. E. Sanborn, M. E. White, Emiline Reed, and Annie Wheeler.

The organization was completed when the following officers were installed by Thaddeus Graves, Master of the Mass. State Grange:

<i>Worthy Master</i> , D. N. Goding	<i>Worthy Overseer</i> , W. S. Lewis
<i>Worthy Lecturer</i> , J. E. Sanborn	<i>Worthy Asst. Steward</i> , A. M. Goding
<i>Worthy Chaplain</i> , A. M. Teele	<i>Worthy Treasurer</i> , T. H. Bent
<i>Worthy Secretary</i> , C. A. Whitney	<i>Worthy Gate-keeper</i> , E. Stow
<i>Worthy Pomona</i> , Addie Whitney	<i>Worthy Flora</i> , S. J. Hale
<i>Worthy Ceres</i> , Emma F. Brown	<i>Worthy Lady Asst. Steward</i> , H. E. Reed

The first regular meeting was held March 1877, in the vestry of the Unitarian Church. Stow Grange was prosperous and gained in membership until 1880. Then there were two trying years, but even in those dark days there were those who had faith in themselves to do the things they hoped to do. Theirs was a challenge, but they had faith in their ability to carry on, not as individuals, but as an organization, Stow Grange. Among these men, was our Worthy Brother, Walter S. Lewis; he clung, hoping and believing there were (as has been proved) better days ahead. He filled the Master's chair, five consecutive years and much credit is due him for patience and perseverance.

Francis H. Stevens was elected Master in 1889, and served the Order nobly for five consecutive years. In those five years he worked vigorously for the advancement and prosperity of our Order, sparing neither time nor work, as both Officers and Members working with him will testify.

We might mention here our Worthy sister, Nancy S. Lewis, who served the Grange as Secretary, for twenty consecutive years, so faithfully and conscientiously.

There are at present 110 members of the Grange, who believe as Harry Caton, Sec. of the National Grange, that the Grange is an ideal organization; that it has tremendous

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

influence from the local community to the National Capitol. At present the officers are:

*Worthy Master*, William Newsham;

*Worthy Asst. Steward*, Robert Smith

*Worthy Treasurer*, Harriet A. Geers

*Worthy Gate-keeper*, Febo Di Angelis

*Worthy Flora*, Ventla Wanhatalo

*Worthy Lady Asst. Steward*, Miranda Lund

*Worthy Overseer*, Eugene Stevens

*Worthy Lecturer*, Martha E. Parker

*Worthy Chaplain*, Elsie Newsham

*Worthy Secretary*, E. Francis Dexter

*Worthy Pomona*, Anna Lund

*Worthy Ceres*, Mary W. Downey

### THE STOW CIVIC CLUB

In the number of years of active history, the sustained interest, attendance and membership, including all shades of religious and political opinion and every rank of social standing, the Stow Civic Club may be truly said to be one of the most important organizations in the history of the town. It had its inception in the fertile minds of Charles W. Robinson, Rev. J. Sidney Moulton and other like-minded leaders. From the first, it met with most hearty response from the public.

The year 1902 is the date of its organization and Rev. J. Sidney Moulton was elected as its first president. He continued in that capacity for twenty-five years. On his removal from town, after relinquishing his pastoral office, he was made honorary president.

George Washington Bradley was for many years its secretary and in his "*minutes*" may be found almost a complete record of the addresses given during his term of office. Mrs. Charlotte A. Hearsey has been its treasurer for many years, relinquishing this office in 1933, the thirty-first year of its history.

To this little town, not privileged with the advantages of education and culture, has come inspiring addresses from men of note; whose minds were broadened with large visions and practical knowledge. Lectures with pictures of colors, telling us of scenes and lands and peoples, we can see and know in no other way. Musical treats, from artists of great ability. Thus has this organization brought to the citizens, the many things worthwhile and inspired a taste for greater things.

The Club has been criticized for not undertaking more community service and sometimes has been ridiculed as the "gormandizing Club,"—having especially in mind its monthly suppers. In justice to the Club however, it may be said that its originators builded better than they knew. To have brought together at its monthly meetings, during eight months of the year for thirty-one years, with a uniform membership and attendance of nearly one hundred of its citizens, of varying opinions, religious and political beliefs, is a service of no small value to a country town.

To sit together at a table with a menu of uniform excellence, where good fellowship abounds, has been a social influence much to be desired. With speakers of authority and influence, on themes of timely interest and importance, the Stow Civic Club has been both a moulder of thought and opinion, as well as a generator of a commendable spirit of comradeship and good cheer.

Following Rev. Mr. Moulton as president came James P. King, then principal of Hale High School in Stow; then John H. Wetherbee of Homestead Farm and Chief of Fire Department. John Gates Peck, a descendant of the early settlers, a fruit and dairy farmer, still carries on the good work as its president at the present time.

## ORGANIZATIONS

---

### STOW WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

On Friday, March 21, 1913, seventeen women met in the Center School for the purpose of forming a club "to unite the interests of the different sections of the town for the improvement of all." For various reasons a few of the names were withdrawn, leaving twelve to become charter members:-

Mrs. Joseph Dudley  
Mrs. John Derby  
Miss Lucy Fletcher  
Miss Mabel Fillmore  
Mrs. Harold Everett  
Miss Mary Lyman  
Miss Dora Dudley  
Mrs. William Hendy  
Mrs. Grace Snell  
Mrs. Wallace Lambert  
Miss Josephine Newhall  
Mrs. S. H. Peck

This was the beginning of the Stow Woman's Association, which this year celebrates its twentieth birthday, having a present membership of about seventy-five.

It became affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1924 and has always done its best to uphold the traditions of Stow. It has stood for progress and improvement, and has become an outstanding organization in this little town.

Its presidents have been representative women, trying always to develop its latent power and to further its interests. Their names are as follows:-

Mrs. Wallace C. Lambert	1913-1917
Mrs. Pearl W. Packard	1917-1919
Mrs. William Hendy	1919-1920
Mrs. Alfred G. Wilmot	1920-1923
Mrs. Albert H. Gleason	1923-1925
Mrs. Charles A. Hearsey	1925-1927
Mrs. Walter T. Stanton	1927-1929
Mrs. Leon A. Wetherbee	1929-1931
Miss Dorothy T. Warren	1931-1933
Mrs. Anthony A. Hilferty	1933-

The work of the Stow Woman's Association has been wide and varied. When help was needed it has been freely given as far as possible, not only at home, but for many worthy causes. The Club has grown and prospered. May its daughters and its daughter's daughters carry on its tradition of service and improvement through many happy, helpful years.

STOW NEWS-ENTERPRISE - MAY 16, 1933

---

## FLAG RAISING and PAGEANT

are Features of 250th Anniversary of Incorporation of Stow.

MOTHER'S day in the churches, this year, was unique, as it included not only an estimate of mothers of the present immediate past, but of pioneer days. The feature of special note in the sermon by Rev. Ivan Nowlan was not only the home keeping type of motherhood, but the giver of men of influence to the world. He included also the testimony of great men of their debt to their mothers in making them what they were. Rev. Mr. Miller pictured the life of the pioneer mothers and drew lessons of value from them. Vespers in the evening at the Gleasondale church, with the organ, the 'cello and the Martha Washington quartet were a fitting close to this, the first day of the "250 years."

Monday, promptly at 2.15 in the afternoon, the group of high school children gathered on the "*Pompositicut*" Common in the Lower Village, under direction of Principal Clark and Miss Dow, music supervisor, sang "America, the Beautiful," accompanied on the trumpet by Keith Martin of Gleasondale, and Carl Thompson Jr. of Stow. Rev. Ivan Nowlan, Union church, Stow, offered the invocation; George McCormack, of the Lower Village, read a selection on "The Flag;" this was followed by singing "America," after which Selectman George Wetherbee, great-grandson of Captain Pliny Wetherbee, raised the flag, while the trumpeters played "The Star Spangled Banner." The flag-pole was the gift of William H. Buckley, of the Lower Village, and through the generous courtesy of the Hudson Light and Power department was placed in position on the Common. Tuesday morning, flags were seen all over the town floating in the breezes, reminding everyone that this was the "birthday." Especially to be noted, was the flag high in the air; almost above the trees, marking the site of the "Gardner Inn;" famous because it was at one time the residence of Henry Gardner, the provincial treasurer. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, a large gathering met at the town hall and listened to selections by Mrs. Herbert Clark and Mrs. William Peck on the violin, and Mrs. David Clemens at the piano. Vocal selections were also given by the club trio. Mrs. Albert Gleason, president of the occasion, called on Mrs. Anthony Hilferty, president of the club, who very interestingly reported the progress of the club in Stow.

After this Mrs. Wallace Lambert introduced the various "brides" as they appeared on the platform, Mrs. Howard Case of Maynard, presiding at the piano. The oldest gown was that of 1780, worn by Mrs. Helen Stow Smith, belonging to Mrs. McKelvey, great-grandmother of Mrs. Fred Hunter, Stow; 1834 was the gown of Mrs. Whitney, "Whitney Homestead," worn by Miss Ruth Huntington; 1838 was the gown of Mrs. Susan Wyman Gates, and worn by Eleanor Warren Peck, wife of the great grandson; 1848 the gown of Sara Ann Warren Robinson, worn by Dorothy Warren; 1856, gown of Mrs. Abraham Priest, worn by her great-granddaughter, Barbara Priest; 1866, Susan Ann Gates Peck, worn by her granddaughter, Dorothy Peck Lambert; 1868, Mrs. Harvey B. Wilmot, worn by Mrs. C. Warren Smith; 1869, gown of Lucinda Hartshorn, mother of Mrs. Grace Otterson, worn by Florence Otterson; 1870, Isabella Staples, worn by Audrey Lewis, granddaughter; 1875, Annie Clark, worn by her daughter, Mrs. Byron Woodman; 1881, Emma Keeler Rice, worn by her granddaughter, Ruth Rice; 1888, Mrs. Frank Hallock, who wore her own wedding gown; 1895, Martha Bowles Lambert, worn by Betty Priest; 1896, Mabel Campbell Stow, worn by her daughter, Alice; 1900, Margaret Staples Lewis, worn by her daughter, Dorothy Lewis; 1901, Caroline Clark, worn by Evelyn Herrick; this was also the gown of Mrs. Walter Lewis dated, 1873; 1902, Mary Barnes Crowell, worn by her sister, Marion Townsend; 1904, Mrs. Nellie Coughlan, worn by her friend, Mrs. Hilferty; 1911, this gown was first worn by Mrs. Eleanor Greeley, next in 1913 by Mrs. Marion Miller, 1921 by Mrs. Olive Wetherbee (three Stratton sisters); 1914, Mary Patterson, worn by her daughter, Elizabeth Patterson; 1916, Marguerite Smith, who wore her own gown; 1925, Carolyn Cook Lewis, wearing her own gown; 1930, Mary Coburn Warren, in her own gown; 1931, Lillian Clemens, in her own gown, with veil and train; 1932, Julia Warren Fogg, wearing her own gown.

After this beautiful display of gowns, an original poem was read by the president of the club; a reception followed with music by the "Stow Sisters" orchestra. Refreshments were served, with Mrs. Mary Driscoll and Mrs. Emma Haynes pouring; a beautiful birthday cake, made by the past president, Miss Dorothy Warren, with "250" in the decoration; a wedding cake from Mrs. Gleason, chairman of the committee. Too much cannot be said in commendation of the painstaking work of the various committees.

Conspicuous on the platform was the flag presented the Washington Guards, and made by the women of Stow. The state flag, and the "flag of the free," the stars and stripes, were side by side. Greetings were read from Hon. David Walsh.

The photographer was waiting outside for the pictures of the "Bridal Party." The committee in charge was Mrs. Albert Gleason, Mrs. Carrie Smith and Mrs. Lillian Peck. Hospitality, Mrs. Harry Herrick.

Original poem as read by the president of the Woman's association:

## ORGANIZATIONS

---

TO STOW, MAY 16, 1933

Home of our Fathers, we love thee still,  
Thy years but make thee dearer.  
And all who come within thy bounds  
Find God and Nature nearer.

You wear the years with matchless grace,  
Time has not changed your features,  
Your rolling fields and noble trees  
Present still charming pictures.

The rippling brook, the pine-topped hill,  
The shaded roads, the pastures  
Survive the hectic guest for change,  
Which many towns now masters.

You gave the land for other towns  
In answer to petition,  
A Mother granting Youth its chance  
To seek self-recognition.

No more the coach-and-four is seen,  
Nor post-boy e'er so nimble;  
Great Road is now the bustling way  
Of modern automobile.

Here now the Alien finds a home,  
Where once a Pilgrim builded.  
And transient pilgrims find relief  
From marts and cities gilded.

Here learning lives and Health is sought,  
And still the tall white steeple  
Points up to Heaven where God looks down  
Upon a loving people.

Dear God, protect, provide,  
And make our hearts to grow  
In love for Thee and fellow-men.  
And shed Thy grace on Stow.

At 8 o'clock, Tuesday evening, the Grange, high school, American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Sons of Veterans, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts united in the following program: Massing of the colors, this by all the town organizations; the chaplain of the Grange, Mrs. Elsie Newsham, placed flowers on the altar in memory of the departed members, during which Carl Thompson sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere;" opening prayer, by Rev. Wilburn Miller, pastor of Unitarian church of Stow; the lecturer of the Grange, Mrs. William Parker, read a paper on the "History of Stow Grange;" solo, "Grandfather's Clock," Carl Thompson; Stanley Marsh of Hudson Sons of Veterans, spoke for the Grand Army; Commander Walter I. Gage spoke for the Spanish War Veterans and the American Legion; Mrs. Clara Gage, president of Legion Auxiliary, read a selection; solo by Mrs. Carlotta Robbins, Hudson, for many years a teacher in Stow; a paper on the "History of the Boy Scouts in Stow;" a paper on the "Girl Scouts of Stow, and Their History;" solo, "When the Boys Come Home," Carl Thompson; address by Rev. Spurgeon M. Hirtle, of Hudson; ceremony of retiring the colors. Following this a light lunch was served. The appreciation of those assembled was shown by the hearty response and the close attention given to each part of this excellent program.



Another organization in this town, which is of no small importance, is our volunteer Fire Department.

Previous to 1924 the fire protection consisted of a few hand extinguishers located at different points about the town. In 1924 the town purchased a two tank chemical mounted on a Ford chassis. In 1929 the town purchased a Guptill forest fire pump and two thousand feet of small hose, and replaced the Ford with a two ton Reo. In 1931 a 500 gallon Barton pump was installed on the truck and some 2 inch hose purchased; the chemical tanks being discarded in favor of a booster tank. In 1933 a Ford AA chassis was purchased and all of the forest fire equipment transferred to it, together with a booster tank and pump, the Reo being remodelled into a modern 500 gallon combination truck. A call fire department of twenty-three men and three engineers was also organized.

Since 1916 the town has been fortunate in having Mr. John H. Wetherbee, for many years chief of the Hyde Park Fire Department, to head the activities in this line; first as a member of the Fire Wardens and at present as Chief of the Department.

These two pieces of apparatus are housed at Homestead Farm, where day and night, telephone and driver service are maintained.

## BOY SCOUTS OF STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

### Troop No 1, Boy Scouts of America

January 30, 1916, a group of boys from the Union Evangelical Church registered as Boy Scouts of America with Rev. Clyde Pearce as Scoutmaster.

For at least three years previous, the group had been meeting as Scouts but were not registered. The first Troop Committee sponsoring the troop comprised, S. H. Peck, M. P. Lewis and Francis H. Stevens.

In 1919, the troop, under Allison P. Smith, as Scoutmaster, registered as a town troop. At this time the selectmen of Stow granted the troop the use of the Town Hall as a meeting-place. In 1929 James P. King, at that time Principal of Hale High School, took over the duties as Scout Master, with Allison Smith as his assistant.

In February 1929, occurred the first break in the onward course of Scouting, when our Troop Committee-man, Francis H. Stevens passed away. Mr. J. A. Addy was chosen to succeed him. During May of this year, the troop was re-shaped and Mr. A. P. Smith again became Scoutmaster with Richard Herrick as his Assistant.

This year the troop was given the use of four acres of land by the Unitarian Society, for a Camp-fire Circle. Up to this period the troop, had been a "lone wolf" troop with only National affiliations. The year 1929 also saw their affiliation with Algonquin Council.

The year 1932 was a big one for Scouting in Stow. During this year a pack of Cubs was organized with Rev. Ivan S. Nowlan as Cub-master. Scout Clifford Wetherbee attained the distinction of being the first Eagle Scout in Stow, closely followed by Robert Patterson. This year also saw the enlargement of the troop committee with Leon A. Wetherbee and Francis Warren, a former Scout, becoming members. In 1933 J. A. Addy resigned and William Peck, another former Scout, took his place. 1933 also saw Richard Herrick taking the Sea-Scout Course with a view of taking charge of the Sea Scout Ship.



## ORGANIZATIONS

---

From a group of eleven Scouts in 1916, the Troop has had a healthy growth until it now has twenty-five.

### STOW GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouting in Stow started in the late spring of 1928 upon the request of a group of girls for a program which would be both interesting and instructing. For several years previous to this the Camp-fire Girls under able leadership had fulfilled this need for the girls of Stow. At this time because the girls desired a change, the Girl Scout program was offered for the first time. Fifteen girls and three officers were registered with national headquarters as Troop 1 in June of that year.

From that time there has been a steady gain in Girl Scouting in Stow until today there are forty registered Scouts and six officers, as well as nine new girls working hard to pass the tests which will give them the right to wear a Scout pin.

The activities of the troop during the five and one-half years which have passed since the first meeting have been many and varied. Girls ten years of age through Senior High School have been gaining knowledge of first aid, home nursing, nature lore and the household arts; including cooking, canning, sewing, housekeeping and handicraft, and at the same time the best ways to live play and to help others.

The promise, which is taken voluntarily, means much to a real Girl Scout for it is a code of right living which is practiced by girls throughout the world.

### WARREN WHEELER WETHERBEE POST, NO. 272, AMERICAN LEGION

Organized June 20, 1921, this Post functioned under a temporary charter till March 1, 1922. The name of "Warren Wheeler Wetherbee" was chosen because he was the only Stow boy killed in action, who was a resident of the town at the time when leaving for service. With the closing of the charter in 1922, the following men have been enrolled as charter members:-

Warren Wheeler Wetherebee  
Charles W. Penny  
George R. Wetherbee  
D. Frank Penny  
J. H. Round  
R. S. Dudley  
W. H. Peck  
C. A. Lund  
A. L. Underwood  
W. R. Hendy  
W. H. Donahue  
F. Sundberg  
G. H. Patterson  
W. H. Newsham  
D. C. Lambert  
S. P. Crowell

Perry Wolcott Hallock  
Richard E. Trumpolt  
William E. Hutchby  
R. C. Penny  
W. E. Clark  
A. G. Wheeler  
W. T. Stephenson  
E. J. Donahue  
R. B. Lambert  
B. E. Weaver  
C. W. Hansen  
W. T. Ferguson  
R. B. Warner  
H. H. A. Erickson  
W. B. Robbins  
N. R. Roeder

S. T. FiLondon

The Legion and Auxiliary have been fairly active. From its formation in 1921 through 1926, the civic activities of the American Legion Post included a contribution of money to the "Graves' Endowment Fund" (for up-keep of veteran's graves in foreign lands); also a drive for the American Legion Endowment Fund, the income of which is used for needy veterans' children. A sum of money was sent to St. Nazaire, France, for a Veterans' Memorial. The Legion also was in charge of the Massachusetts General Hospital drive and "went over the top." Several Boy Scout nights were held during this period. Patriotically during this period, the Post has taken part in the school exercises and Memorial Day exercises at Town Hall and cemetery.

From 1927 to 1933, the Post has sponsored dental clinics two years in the schools; sponsored Boy Scout Nights in various years; has given to the disabled veterans' Christmas committees; has sponsored Christmas parties for children, and in 1932 won the Middlesex Drive for new members. During the last period of years the Post has observed Memorial Day in the schools, churches and in the Town Hall and Cemeteries. During its entire life, the Post has observed each year, Armistice Night, November eleventh. In 1930, eight members of the Post marched in the American Legion Convention Parade, in Boston.

#### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary was formed for the one purpose of aiding The American Legion in carrying out the great program of peace-time service to America to which the Legion is dedicated. All of its activities are designed to promote the work of the Legion and to help the Legion reach its objective. Although often working independently on projects of its own, the Auxiliary has no purposes that are apart from the aims of the Legion. It is in all senses an "auxiliary" of The American Legion and its members serve side by side with the men of the Legion in a spirit of unselfish devotion to the well-being of the American republic.

The Warren Wheeler Wetherbee Post, Unit No. 272 American Legion Auxiliary was organized at a meeting in the Stow Town Hall on November 3, 1924. The Auxiliary elected the following temporary officers, which functioned under a temporary charter:

*President*—M. Ella Wetherbee  
*Secretary*—Blanche Roeder  
*Historian*—Carlotta S. Robbins

*Vice-president*—Bertha Wetherbee  
*Treasurer*—Sylvia Erickson  
*Sergeant-at-arms*—Lillian Underwood

The charter was granted early in 1925 with the following names enrolled:-

Ida Dudley, Mary B. Erikson, Mary E. Erikson, Sylvia Erikson, Gertrude FiLondon, Mary Hansen, Martha B. Lambert, Elma B. Lund, Edith M. Newsham, Dora I. Tatler, Lillian Underwood, Carlotta S. Robbins, Anna A. Wetherbee, M. Ella Wetherbee, Mary Weaver, Carrie Wheeler, Bertha Wetherbee, Mabel W. Hallock.

Since its inception the Auxiliary has been interested in Welfare work in the community. In the Pilot Grove school the Auxiliary has shared in the expense of serving hot cocoa and soups to the underweight children.

In another instance the organization purchased saccharine tablets and insulin over a period of several months to a diabetic sufferer in the town.



THE OLD TOWN HALL



## ORGANIZATIONS

---

In the years 1927-28 the Auxiliary shared the expense with the Legion Post in sponsoring a dental clinic for the school-children.

In 1927, the Auxiliary presented a medal and five dollar gold piece to the one in the eighth grade of the schools, who stood highest in scholarship, honor, service, courage, leadership and Americanism. A medal and gold piece was awarded in 1928, 1929, and 1930 for the same qualifications.

The Auxiliary has also presented the Girl Scouts with a Troop and American flags, as well as a gift of money.

In recent years the Auxiliary has worked with the Legion Post in arranging remembrances for the children who were in need.

---

## WARS

### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

**D**URING the French and Indian War, from 1755 to 1763, the town furnished soldiers for the army at Fort William Henry, Crown Point, Canada and Nova Scotia. Sometimes when the soldiers were leaving for the seat of war, services were held by the resident minister. Thus, on the 23rd of June 1755, Rev. Mr. Gardner preached "at the desire of Capt. William Pierce, being the day he began his march with his company for Albany, in the expedition against Crown Point." Samuel Preston was a captain in the army in 1756. In Capt. Pierce's company, Michael Law was sergeant, John Law was corporal, Jonathan Farr was drummer, Nathan Whitney, Solomon Taylor, Josiah Wetherbee and Jonathan Pierce of Stow, were privates. Ephraim Powers was sergeant in Capt. Preston's company, and Ezekiel Davis in another company. May 22, 1758, Ensign Jabez Brown, and others of Stow, whose names are not known, started to join the army destined for Canada. In April, 1760, others started for Crown Point.

The following Stow soldiers went to Canada in 1760:

Joshua Brown, Jonathan Farr, Phineas Fuller, Amos Gates, Simon Gates, Abraham Gates, Paul Graves, and Solomon Savcas, a servant of Mary Hapgood. None of the Stow men were killed in the army during the war, but the following died while in service or from diseases contracted in camp: January 4, 1756, Capt. Ephraim Brown, a few days after his return from the army; July 23, 1758, Ebenezer Gates died at Lake George; May 24, 1760, Abel Ray died at Shrewsbury, on his march to the army; November, 1760, Isaac Taylor died at Crown Point; November 23, 1761, Stephen Houghton died, while returning from Crown Point.

Robert Lawrence held a garrison a short time; was promoted Captain; was mortally wounded in an attack on the fort in 1690, by the French and Indians.

Captain Thomas Lawrence, commander of a company, enlisted in the French War in 1758, from Pepperell and vicinity.

### WAR OF 1812—1814; OR MEXICAN WAR

We find but little action of the town relative to this matter. The war was generally unpopular in this State, and no great zeal was manifested in most of the towns to furnish the men and the means of carrying it on. On the 22nd of May, 1812, it was voted to pay each volunteer soldier two dollars down and three dollars when called into active service, and make up ten dollars per month, with what the government pays them. A Committee of Safety was chosen. September 12, 1814, voted to make up the three soldiers that were detached twenty dollars per month, with what the government pays them. March 1815, the soldiers were to have sixteen dollars per month with what the United States pays. None of the Stow soldiers were killed in this war, and we know of none who died in service. Levi Miles was wounded, and at the time of Lafayette's visit to Stow, was

## WARS

---

mentioned as "a wounded soldier of the Mexican War." Peletiah Whitcomb served in this War. He was buried in Brookside Cemetery, 1882, at the age of 92 years. He built for himself the crude house, known as "Spotted Tavern."

Captain James Lawrence, of the "Chesapeake" in Boston Harbor, was mortally wounded and being carried below, issued a last heroic order, now famous in American history,—“Don't give up the ship.” These words which animated the men with courage were inscribed on the flag that Perry carried to victory on Lake Erie, 1812-1813.

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The people had hardly recovered from severe losses from the French and Indian Wars, when the Stamp Act and other arbitrary measures of the government of England so alarmed the people that they came together October 21, 1765, to consider the state of affairs and to chose a committee to give instructions to their representative, Henry Gardner Esq., relative to the imposition of duties and taxes upon the colonies by Parliament. The committee recommended that their representative, "should use the strictest care and the utmost firmness to prevent all unconstitutional draughts on the publick treasury." They instructed the assessors and the constables to pay all moneys to Henry Gardner Esq., who had been chosen by the Provincial Congress to be their treasurer and not to Harrison Gray, the Royal Treasurer. This was an open act of defiance to the constituted authorities. But the time had come for such action.

The raid of Lexington and Concord aroused the patriotism of the people to the highest pitch. "Starting from their beds at midnight, from their firesides and from their fields, they took their cause into their own hands. Without discipline and almost without orders they rushed forth to meet the foe." The names of Gates, Lawrence, Whitney, Conant, Gibson, Brown, Parker, and many others from Stow were among those who responded to the Lexington alarm. Anticipating the attempt on the part of the "red-coats" to seize the military stores at Concord, they sent a large quantity of them with "four Cannon" to Stow, where they were hidden in the woods north of the lower village, not far from the residence of Henry Gardner Esq. These woods, on the north side of Great Road, were back of the "Hosmer" place, now Mrs. Puffer's. Henry Gardner's residence was on the south side of Great Road, a little north of the "Fors" barn. The ammunition was stored in the loft of the old meeting-house, which stood near the present site of "Hillside Cemetery." Harrison Gray, the Royal treasurer, is said to have had a room in Bigelow's Tavern, Main Street, Concord, "beyond the mill and beyond the burying-ground" where he kept his papers and moneys. Henry Gardner, provincial treasurer, also had a room in this same tavern, where he kept papers and moneys belonging to the provinces. As the soldiers were about to search this room, where Gardner's papers and moneys were stored in the chest for that purpose, a maid remonstrated, declaring that the room was hers and contained her property. Her manner and the emphatic statement concealed the fact, and the chest was left untouched.

Though Stow had no man mortally wounded in the Concord fight, her citizens are always proud of the fact, that though many of those in the fight were not Stow residents, their immediate ancestors were of this town. Captain Isaac Davis, who, though a private, so unflinchingly led the men against the enemy, was the son of Mary (Gibson)

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

Davis of Stow lower village. His tragic death so roused the officers, that they led their men to victory. Captain Davis was the first to fall at the old North Bridge in Concord, April 19, 1775.

While we have no record of our men dying on the battle-field, several are known to have died in the country's service,—John Gordon of Captain Joshua Parker's Company; Ephraim Gates, of Capt. Whipple's Company; Benjamin Gates, Capt. Joshua Brown's Company; also Daniel Gates and Stephen Hale. Captain William Whitcomb (born in Stow, on the Harvard Road) led a company of men to Concord, April 19, 1775; Daniel Conant, one of the company, was wounded at the old North Bridge.

We learn from the "*Lawrence*" geneology that a Deacon Samuel Lawrence, at the time of the Revolution. was married to a Susanna Parker at Groton. While the ceremony was in progress, the tolling of the meeting-house bell called out "*the minute men;*" whereupon he parted from his bride as soon as the rite was finished and marched to Rhode Island but shortly returned on furlough for a few days, after which she did not see him again until the last of the year. They were married in July. He was one of those who rallied at Concord to oppose the British troops; he was also at the battle of Bunker Hill where he was wounded. He afterwards became Major. Mr. Elijah Lawrence served in this war; was at one time a prisoner and was honored for fidelity and bravery with a place in General Washington's Life Guards.

John Smith is also named as having been in the battle of Lexington. Cyrus Gates, who married Ruth Bruce of Bolton, responded to the Lexington alarm and served twelve days. Micah Gates served in Col. Prescott's regiment at siege of Boston for several months in 1775 and in 1778 he was on the rolls of Capt. Moulton's company of Col. Poor's regiment and was on duty under Lieut. Hastings at King's Ferry, N. Y. He married Phebe Whitcomb of Stow. Micah Jr., his son, enlisted in the Continental army when sixteen years old, for six months service. Thomas Gates of Stow, whose service has been credited to Worcester, responded to the Lexington alarm from Stow and from it enlisted into the army before Boston, and is on the rolls returned at different times from Siege of Boston, 1775. Oliver Gates responded to the Lexington alarm in 1775. He was afterward in Capt. Rice's Company, "Northern Army."

According to the records, Stow furnished over two hundred men for this War; eighty of these were at the Concord Fight; forty of them at the battle of Bunker Hill.

From A. G. R. Hale's address delivered at the celebration in 1883:

"Stow was ready when the Lexington alarm was sounded and 80 men, under Captain Whitcomb, marched in one company to old Concord, where Davis, Hosmer and Hayward fell and where Conant of Stow was wounded in the first organized resistance to the troops of George the Third. The farmers of Stow, in common with the patriotic impulses of those times, forgot their farms and remembered that the liberties of their country were in danger. She was represented in at least three companies in Col. Prescott's regiment; in Captain Joshua Parker's company she had John Gordon, her single, solitary representative, who died in Camp at Cambridge. Ephraim Corey, a Stow captain, had several Stow soldiers with him on that day. Capt. Samuel Patch and Lieut. Joshua Brown, both Stow officers, had 30 Stow men under their command and bore a conspicuous part in the struggle, as two of Capt. Patch's men were killed, Bote of Winchester and Lowker of Sud-



## WARS

---

bury. The Stow men contested their ground inch by inch with the red coats and when powder and bullets failed, emulating the example of Lieut. Brown, the Stow men gave them stones. It is a noteworthy fact that three other Stow soldiers, whose names appear today with that of John Gordon and Benjamin Gates, were in that battle, Daniel Gates, Ephraim Gates and Stephen Hale; they enlisted again under Capt. Brown in 1777 for three years service; but by midsummer of 1778, they, together with Ephraim Gates of Col. Putnam's regiment, yielded up their lives in their contest for liberty. Up to March, 1778, covering a period of three years, Stow had sent 260 men to the war for periods varying from three weeks to a year. During the next four years she was liberal with her supply of men and money until 1783 brought Peace, Liberty and Independence to our troubled land."

Stow was an earnest and active town during the Revolutionary War in furnishing men and means for the successful prosecution of the great struggle for liberty. Not for a day during that entire period did its patriotism lag. Provisions were furnished, fire-arms supplied, clothing provided, and the needy families of the soldiers were cared for.

The Lexington alarm aroused the intense patriotism of the inhabitants and in the battle of Bunker Hill, which followed a few weeks later, nearly forty men of Stow took part. It might be added that the liberty-loving citizens of this patriotic town voted in favor of a government independent of Great Britain, July 1, 1776, three days before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

### CONCORD FIGHT

April 19, 1775

Capt. William Whitcomb's Company, Col. James Prescott's regiment:

Jonas Adams	Noah Gates	Daniel Jewell
Philemon Allen	Oliver Gates	Ezra Jewell
Nehemiah Bachelder	Phineas Gates	Israel Loring
Daniel Barker	Samuel Gates	Morris McCleary
Luke Brooks	Thomas Gates	Benjamin Monroe
Stephen Brooks	Abraham Gibson	Samuel Osborn
Benjamin Brown	Arrington Gibson	Jonas Piper
Charles Brown	Stephen Gibson	Josiah Piper
Thomas Brown	Josiah Gilbert	Benjamin Poole
Jonas Chase	William Graves	Jonathan Puffer
Ephraim Conant	Jacob Hale	Simon Puffer
John Darling	Jonas Hale	Abraham Randall
James Davidson	Jonathan Hale	Josiah Randall
John Davidson	Stephen Hale	Samuel Randall
Francis Eveleth	Samuel Hapgood	Amos Ray
John Eveleth	Samuel Hapgood 2nd	Israel Robbins
Daniel Gates	Francis Hemmenway	Jonathan Robbins
Israel Gates	William Hoit	Nathaniel Sargent

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

Joseph Skinner	Phineas Taylor	Judah Wetherbee
Ashael Smith	Solomon Taylor	Levi Wetherbee
Jacob Stevens	Augustus Tower	Silas Wetherbee
Phineas Stevens	Joseph Ulet	Thomas Wetherbee
Stephen Stow	William Walcott	Abraham Whitcomb
Abel Taylor	Amos Wetherbee	Isaac Whitney
Ephraim Taylor	Charles Wetherbee	Jason Whitney
John Taylor	Ephraim Wetherbee	Oliver Wyman
Joseph Taylor	Joseph Wetherbee	

### MEN OF STOW AT BURGOYNE'S SURRENDER—1777

Probably there are few in town aware that a company from Stow marched to Saratoga and participated in the events leading up to Burgoyne's surrender, October 17, 1777.

Roll of Captain Silas Taylor's company, Stow, Massachusetts Bay; Col. Jonathan's Reed's Regiment, who turned out from the town of Stow and marched September 22, 1777: Silas Taylor, captain; Abraham Randall, first lieutenant; Ephraim Russell, sergeant; Ephraim Wetherbee, sergeant; Oliver Taylor, corporal; Edward Davidson, fifer; Phineas Taylor, drummer; Thomas Whitman, 2nd lieutenant, militia; Daniel Hapgood, sergeant, militia; Richard Wetherbee, corporal, militia; Oliver Wyman, corporal, militia; Privates, Israel Hall, Joseph Stone, Isaac Whitney, William Wolcott, John Taylor, Samuel Jewell, Levi Wetherbee, Levi Gates, Amos Wheeler, William Graves, Ezekiel Smith, Robert Coolidge, Isaac Conant, Abraham Whitcomb, Ichabod Stow, Charles Whitney.

### MEN WHO SERVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Jonas Adams	Jabez Brown	John Darling
Philemon Allen	John Brown	Edward Davidson
William Allen	Joshua Brown	James Davidson
Nehemiah Bachellor	Thomas Brown	John Davidson
Noah Bailey	John Bryant	John Dollarson
Daniel Barker	Solomon Burges	Benjamin Durant
James Barker	Micah Bush	Benjamin Edgel
Sam Barnard	Jonas Chase	Joseph Eliot
Nehemiah Batcheldor	Daniel Conant	James Ely
Noah Bayley	Ephraim Conant	Francis Eveleth, Jr.
John Beman	Isaac Conant	John Eveleth
John Bent	Peter Conant	William Freeland
Luke Brooks	Augustus Cooledge	Amos Gates
Stephen Brooks	Robert Cooledge	Benjamin Gates
Benjamin Brown	Ephraim Corey	Daniel Gates
Charles Brown	Philip Corey	Ephraim Gates
Daniel Brown	Silas Corey	Israel Gates
Elisha Brown	Stephen Corey	Jonathan Gates

## WARS

---

Levi Gates	Joshua Hemenway	Jonathan Mores
Micah Gates	Elijah Heywood	Benjamin Munro
Noah Gates	Daniel Hiley	William Nutt
Oliver Gates	Isaac Hiley	Samuel Osborn
Phineas Gates, Jr.	John Hiley	James Parker
Samuel Gates	Joseph Hodsdon	Asa Parmenter
Samuel Gates, Jr.	William Hoit	Eleazer Parry
Silas Gates	Benjamin Holden	Samuel Patch
Timothy Gates	John Hooker	Richard Pattin
William Gates	Levi Houghton	Joseph Pepper
Abraham Gibson	Oliver Houghton	James Pierce
Arrington Gibson	—————Hovey	Jonas Piper
Stephen Gibson	Jonathan Hunt	Jonathan Piper
Josiah Gilbert	Edward Hunter	Josiah Piper
Eliab Gleason	Uriah Huntt	Jacob Pipper
Eliab Goodenough	John Jackson	Benjamin Pool
Benjamin Goold	Oliver Jackson	Reuben Priest
John Gordon	Jonathan Jewell	Elijah Proctor
Elijah Gould	William Jewell	William Proctor
Jonathan Graves	Daniel Jewell	Jonathan Puffer
William Graves	David Jewell	Simon Puffer
Thomas Greenough	Ezra Jewell	David Rand
Abel Guy	Joseph King	Abraham Randall
Asahel Hale	Thomas Law	Josiah Randall
Bezaleel Hale	Edward Stow Leeds	Samuel Randall, Jr.
Bezaleel Hale, 2nd	Ebenezer Leland	Amos Ray
Charles Hale	Peter Leno	Israel Robbins
Israel Hale	Abraham Littleale	Jonathan Robbins
Jacob Hale	Benjamin Longley	Jonathan Roberson
Jonas Hale	Israel Loring	Jonathan Robinson
Jonathan Hale	Thomas Loring	Solomon Rogers
Samuel Hale	John Love	Ephraim Russell
Stephen Hale	Jabez Marble	Samuel Sargent
Jonathan Hall	Oliver Marble	Nathaniel Sergeant
Daniel Hapgood	Daniel McCarthon	Joseph Skinner
Dec'h Hapgood	Morris McClary	Asahel Smith
Jonathan Hapgood	Daniel McCorthern	Ezekiel Smith
Samuel Hapgood	John McCoy	John Snow
Shadrach Hapgood	Dougal McPherson	Stephen Snow
Nathaniel Harries	Samuel Molton	Richard Stanford
Oliver Hartwell	Jonathan Moor	Jacob Stevens
Francis Hemenway	Isaac Moore	Phineas Stevens
Elias Hemenway	Jonathan Moore	John Steward
Ira Hemenway, 2nd	Timothy Moore	Jonas Stone

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

Joseph Stone	Amos Wetherbee	Isaac Whetcomb
Zubal Stone	Ammi Wetherbee	Abraham Whitcomb
Ichabod Stow	Caesar Wetherbee	Isaac Whitcomb
Silas Stow	Charles Wetherbee	William Whitcome
Jonas Stratton	David Wetherbee	Jonathan White
John Stuart	Edward Wetherbee	Robert White
Abel Taylor	Ephraim Wetherbee	Thomas Whitman
Ephraim Taylor	Joseph Wetherbee	Charles Whitney
John Taylor	Judah Wetherbee	Isaac Whitney
Joseph Taylor	Jude Wetherbee	Jason Whitney
Phineas Taylor, Jr.	Levi Wetherbee	Lemuel Whitney
Oliver Taylor	Reuben Wetherbee	Silas Whitney
Silas Taylor	Richard Wetherbee	Zelotes Whitney
Solomon Taylor	Silas Wetherbee	Oliver Wiman
Augustus Tower	Thomas Wetherbee	William Wolcott
Samuel Tuell	Levi Wheeler	Ephraim Wood, Jr.
John Tuwel	William Wheeler	William Wood
Joseph Ulet	Abel Whetcomb	Oliver Wyman

### CIVIL WAR

April 1861—April 1865

Immediately after the assault of the Rebels upon Fort Sumter and the call of President Lincoln for volunteers to defend the attack upon the nation's life, some of the Stow boys, members of the "Davis Guards" of Acton, promptly responded to the President's proclamation, and were in the famous Sixth Regiment when it passed through Baltimore, on the 19th of April, 1861, just 86 years after the Concord fight. At once the selectmen issued a call for a "town-meeting" and it was voted to appropriate \$1000 to uniform and equip those who would volunteer into the service of the country, and also to assist their families while absent. Twenty-eight enrolled for duty. In the fall of 1861 an appeal was made to the women of the loyal States to furnish hospital stores for the sick and wounded soldiers. A public meeting was held and a committee consisting of R. W. Derby, A. W. Nelson and Augustus Rice was chosen to obtain and forward contributions. Previous the ladies had purchased a sufficient amount of cloth to make nearly one hundred garments. The ladies in each school district collected a large amount of articles for sanitary stores, that were forwarded to the proper authorities. There were frequent meetings during the war to encourage enlistments and to uphold the nation's arm. The Stow men entered in twenty-five different regiments which made it difficult to look after and assist those who were in need. The whole amount of money expended by the town on account of the war was \$15,991.70, exclusive of State aid to soldiers' families, amounting to \$8000, that was re-imbursed by the State. A large amount of sanitary articles was furnished by the Soldiers' Aid Society, to the value of neary \$1500. Every one was ready to respond to the call of the needy at this time. On December 1864, a Fair was held to raise funds for the needy soldiers. The net receipts were \$617.58. The interest taken in

## WARS

---

it by the ladies is shown by the fact that two young misses called at the grist-mill about a mile south of the village, and solicited a bag of meal. The young man in charge at the time said he would give it, if they would drag it up to the Town Hall. They assented to the proposition and, loading it into a little handwagon, they soon accomplished the task. Not long afterwards this young man married one of these young ladies. A wheelwright gave a wheelbarrow, which was sold on shares for \$17. It was then given back and sold two or three times at auction, and netted over \$46. The contributions to the Sanitary Commission, and directly to the soldiers of the town, amounted to over \$2000, quite a generous sum for so small a town.

April 3, 1865, the joyous intelligence reached the town, that Richmond was captured and that the members of the Confederate Government were fleeing for their lives. Great enthusiasm was manifested. The bell of the village church was rung, flags were displayed, and in the evening the house of the pastor of the First Parish was illuminated. Just one week later the most welcome news of the surrender of General Lee and his army was received with every possible demonstration of delight. The church bell rang for an hour, and almost all business was suspended. In order to accommodate all parties, a general illumination of the houses was deferred till the next evening, when a most brilliant exhibition was witnessed by crowds of people. An extemporized band of musicians paraded the streets, and finally came to the Town Hall and listened to some patriotic songs. Yet many hearts were sad at the recollection of friends whose lives were sacrificed in the "cruel war."

Sergeant Samuel A. Lawrence was in Co. D, 53rd regiment, Civil War. This regiment took an honorable part in the charge on Port Hudson.

On one side of the entrance to the Randall Library, we find marble tablets, telling the story of the lives of the Stow boys who were lost in this war.

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—APRIL, 1898—DEC., 1898

But little interest was taken in this war in this town. Hostilities lasted only 113 days. The immediate occasion was the destruction of the U. S. battleship Maine while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, February, 1898. Stow had two soldiers in this war so far as can be learned. The sad thing about this war was the loss of lives, due not to death on the battle-field, but because of diseases due to poor food and unsanitary conditions; many of these men never saw the battle-field.

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

MEN WHO SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR

Joseph Adams	A. G. R. Hale	Henry Pauleson
Amasa Arnold	<i>A 45th Mass. Vol.</i>	Charles S. Penny
William Barr	Samuel Hampton	Narcisse Plamondon
Winfield S. Bemis	Timothy Hartwell	Abram F. Rogers
Winfield H. Benham	Charles E. Haynes	George F. Rogers
Ebenezer L. Blood	D. H. Hemenway	Albert Sawyer
Charles G. Brett	George N. Herrick	Oliver Sawyer
Albert H. Brown	Nathaniel Holman	Thomas J. Sawyer
Emory I. Brown	Samuel E. Humington	Charles A. Sears
Henry O. Brown	James Keene	Eliphalet Sears
Nathan F. Brown	Charles F. Kimball	David Sloss
Frank Burns	Albert M. Kingsbury	Charles E. Smith
John Callihan	Joseph W. Kingsbury	Charles H. Sargent
Thomas Carter	Paul Kittredge	Matthew Smith
Joseph O. Chapman	Samuel A. Lawrence	Edwin W. Stevens
Philo Clapp	John Lee	Daniel Sweeney
Reuben Clapp	Cornelius Long	George L. Swift
Emory Clark	Daniel A. Lovering	John Swift
Cornelius Collins	William Lucas	Joseph A. Swift
Arthur H. Cowdy	Francis Maher	Owen Taylor
Robert Cowrie	Matthew McCauley	Hosea E. Tinkham
James Cullen	Thomas McLaughlin	William H. Trow
Richard H. Cullen	Moses H. Mentzer	William Tullock
E. B. Cunningham	<i>A 39th Mass. Vol.</i>	George F. Whitcomb
George E. Day	Lucien Messenger	James H. Whitcomb
John L. Day	Edward Miles	Marshall Whitcomb
William H. Dunlap	George Miles	William H. Whitcomb
Amos Eastman	Charles E. Mills	Thomas Whitman
John M. Edson	Francis W. Moore	Granville W. Wilder
Eugene Fairbanks	Michael Mullin	Henry W. Wilder
Sanford Fairbanks	Albion Nutting	Eli H. Willis
Isaac W. Fletcher	Dennis O'Brien	George Willis
Daniel B. Flynn	James O'Brien	Silas Willis
(Joel) Franklin Gates	John O'Connor	Albert Wolcott
Charles Gibbs	Richard E. Parker	Charles D. Wolcott
C. Frank Hale	George K. Parks	John Wouldhave

*Men hired from Boston by the town to fill  
quota at \$1.25 per man.*

Daniel J. Collins  
George Fox  
Lawrence Fagan

*Colored men hired by the Town of Stow  
at \$1.25 per man.*

Willis Page  
Patrick Johnson  
John H. Farrar

## WARS

---

### THE GREAT WORLD WAR

After having watched the inhuman atrocities of the Kaiser Wilhelm and his German associates, which they practiced in Belgium for about one year, America was roused to the sense of her own dangerous position, when in May, 1915, the Lusitania with 1100 passengers on board, was sunk off the coast of England, in the Atlantic, by a German submarine. 124 American lives were lost. Not seeking to engage in war at that time with America, Germany lessened her activities for a while; but in February, 1917, she renewed her ruthless submarine warfare, declaring that any ship entering the war zone, as described by her, would be destroyed. A note was also sent to President Wilson through the German Ambassador, declaring that America would be allowed to send only one ship a week to England. This was an open insult to the United States and on April 6, 1917, war was declared. Many Germans holding responsible positions were sent out of the U. S. A., as they would not break allegiance with their Mother Country. Military Camps were built and young men were sent to these camps to train for military service. Such a camp was built at Ayer, and known as "Camp Devens."

The "Red Cross" was ready and active in making preparations for the comfort of the "boys." Units for work were organized in many of the large towns and the smaller towns worked with them. This was the case with Stow. Many of the Stow ladies worked with the Red Cross Unit at Hudson, while others joined their efforts with Maynard. Mrs. Charlotte Hearsey, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Wallace Lambert, Mrs. Carrie Smith, Miss M. Ella Wetherbee, Miss Emma Warren, and many others were active in leading the Stow ladies in the work. Mrs. Albert Gleason was buyer for the Marlboro Unit. Knitting was in vogue everywhere. Church societies, The Woman's Club, The Grange, and every organization in town, worked as they never worked before. "Service bags," fitted with needles, thread, and other items likely to be needed were given each boy. Sweaters, khaki for those in the army, and dark gray for those in the navy, helmets, fingerless mittens, mufflers 56 inches long, and socks innumerable, were furnished. On some of these sweaters was placed a note, asking the recipient for a letter telling of their experience and condition. In reply, individuals were kept in touch with these soldiers in a foreign land, and the heart of many a boy was cheered and the ones at home were comforted with the thought that all was well "over there." Quilts were made; shirts, also.

We find among the records of the "Ladies Aid," 1917, on April 18 the ladies helped on "Miss Warren's work for the Navy, knitting." Also "it was thought best to take up Red Cross work or some work that would be helpful in these times." On January 23, 1917, the ladies met to "start a bed quilt for the Red Cross Hospital." March 6th, they "met at Miss Emma Warren's to hem handkerchiefs for the Navy Hospital." June 12th, Miss Emma Warren was chosen director of the Red Cross to work with Mrs. Scott. They decided to make a layette for the French babies. Flannel for a blanket was given. Also "many of the ladies have knitting and work which they are doing in their homes." At another meeting "time was spent in looking for and copying new war recipes according to the new laws of cooking." Only a limited amount of sugar was allowed each family, Karo being used as a substitute. "Meatless meals" were also recommended and cheese was used as a substitute. "Yum-yum," a dessert made of oatmeal and raisins and many other recipes for the strictest economy were used.



On February 27, 1917, the minutes of The Stow Woman's Association, Mrs. Wallace Lambert, president, stated that Mr. Howe of Marlboro spoke of the probability of a Red Cross Chapter being formed and that Stow would be invited to join. Also that all work done in time of War must be done under the direction of the Red Cross. The Red Cross of the U. S. he stated is a national organization, with the President of the U. S. as its president. He said it was more desirable to belong to a Chapter than a Branch. The fee to join was \$1; one-half going to the nearest Chapter and one-half to headquarters at Washington. May 29, 1917, Mrs. Pearl Packard, president, a special meeting was called for discussing Red Cross work. After this several meetings were held for sewing on Red Cross Work. Two dozen surgical shirts, 26 fracture pillows, 11 bedside bags, 9 hot water bottle cases, 4 stump coverings, 2 pairs hospital bed socks, 4 hospital sponges and a bath mitten were sent to the Hudson Branch of the Red Cross. This with a membership of 39 women. Later it was decided to "make quilts for the French babies." Mrs. Hearsey was chosen to look after the work of making comfort bags and other things concerning "the welfare of our boys about to enter the service." In October, Miss Howe of Concord told of the excellent work being done by the "Smith College Unit." In December they voted to have Mrs. Lambert act as chairman in Gleasondale, Mrs. Carrie Smith in Stow, to take charge of sewing units. On January 1918, we find these consignments have been forwarded to the Smith College Unit.

No. 1—33 quilts, 6 linen shirts, 3 infant dresses, 2 infant blankets.

No. 2—17 quilts, 10 pairs bootees, 4 pairs woolen stockings, 18 blankets, 7 women's petticoats, 4 children's petticoats.

No. 3—16 children's dresses, 1 woman's dress, 1 blanket, 5 pairs bootees.

"Patriotism in The Kitchen," a talk by a representative of the Food Administration, was given.

Mrs. Carrie Smith gave a musical and the proceeds went toward adopting a little French orphan, named, "Paulette Dolle."

The Club sent in all to the Smith College Unit, 161 articles:

50 quilts, 6 linen shirts, 41 children's dresses, 3 infants' dresses, 21 blankets, 5 children's petticoats, 8 women's petticoats, 22 pairs bootees, 4 pairs woolen stockings, 1 nightdress.

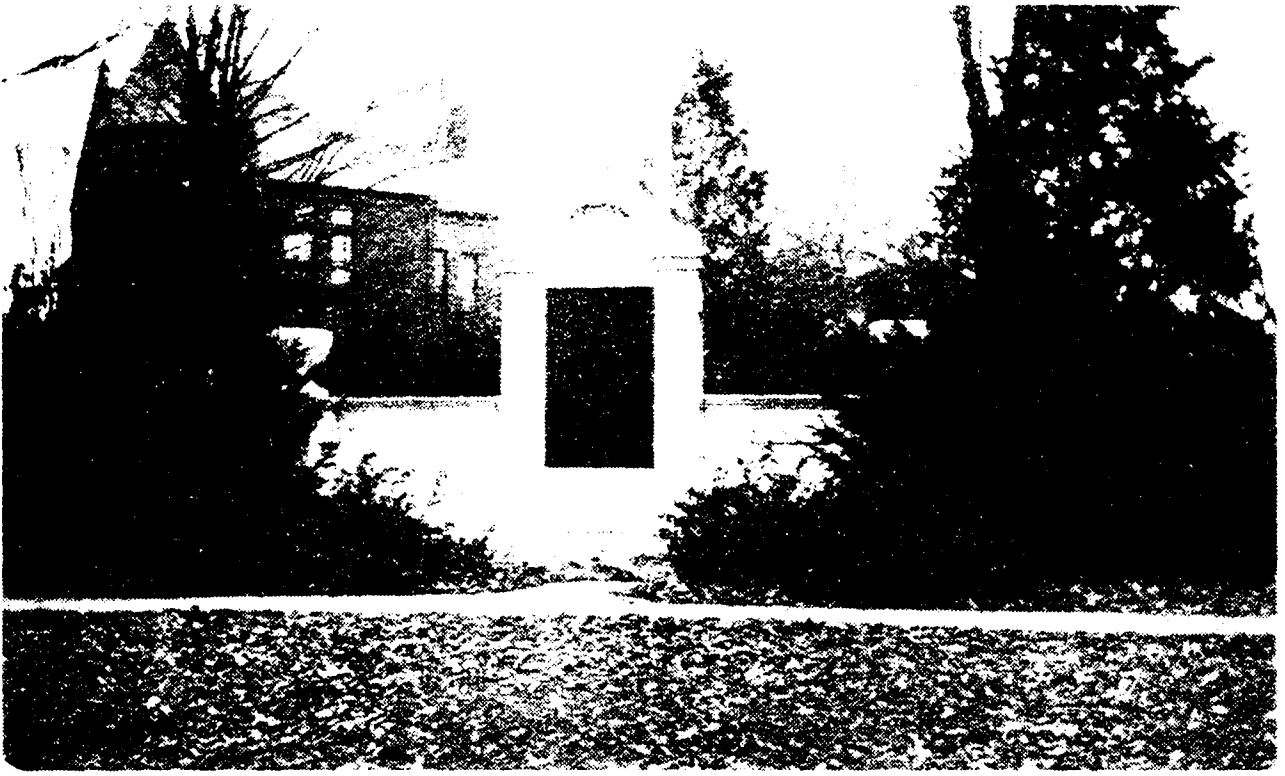
The different organizations of the town all worked together in a common cause.

The New England Saw-mill Industry fitted out 10 units to aid England in the World War. Mr. Arthur Blanchard of West Acton was one to send one of these units, in 1916. From Stow, Donald Priest and Walter Underwood joined this Unit and left for England that year. They worked in the forests of Scotland and when the work of the Unit was finished both these boys enlisted for service in the army. They served till the Armistice was signed in 1918.

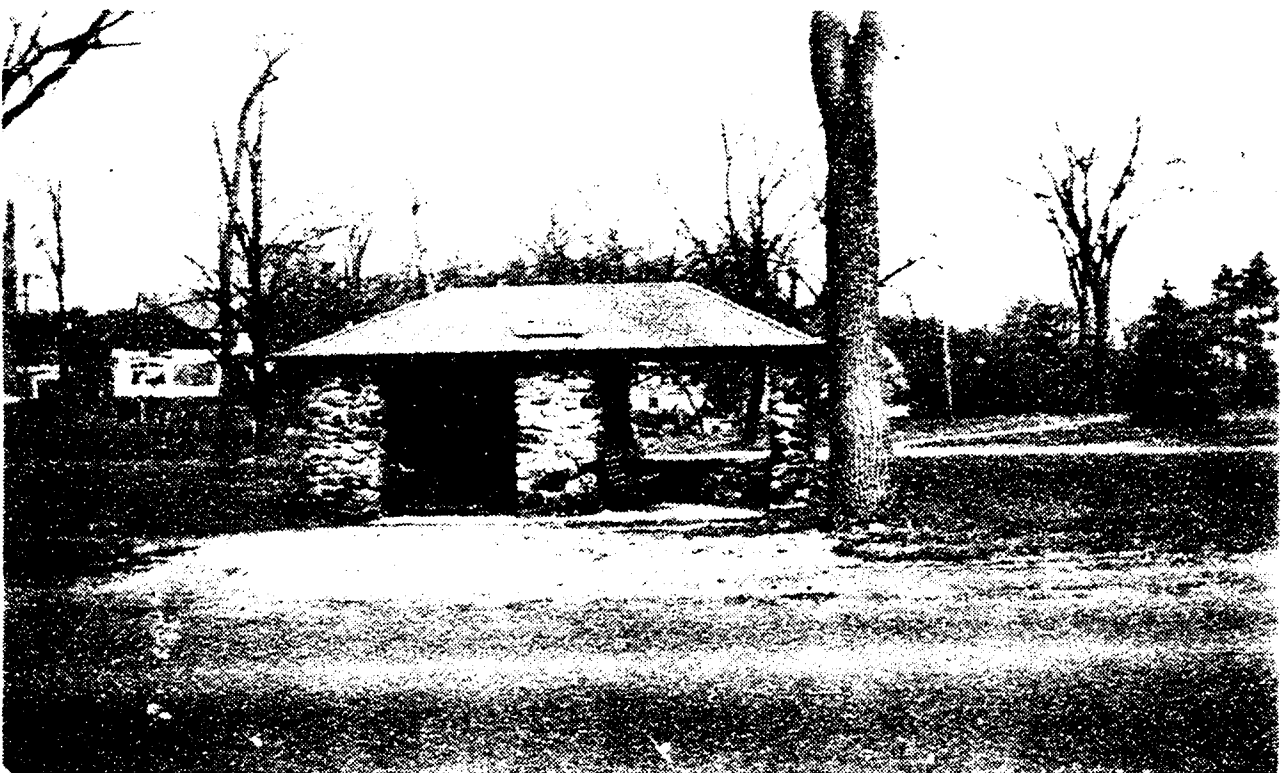
The first group of men left Stow for Camp Devens in September, 1917. There were only four boys in this group: George Wetherbee, William Hutchby, John Clayton, Frank Taylor.

The second group left in October, 1917. The ladies of Stow gave them a "send-off," in the form of a supper at the Town Hall, with remarks and good wishes for the "boys." Rev. A. J. Hall, who held such a warm place in the hearts of Stow people, was present and





WAR MEMORIAL, STOW



WAITING STATION, STOW



## WARS

gave one or more of these boys a Bible. One of them still has this Bible. Only three boys were in this group,—Carl Lund, Frank Penny and Hans H. A. Erickson.

From time to time other groups were sent to Camp Devens and from there were transferred to other stations. As Camp Devens was so near, many of the “boys” stationed there, came to Stow, when they had a “furlough” and parties and good times were given them.

### STOW BOYS IN THE WORLD WAR

Roland T. Addy	Whitney T. Ferguson	David F. Penny
<b>Julius Lester Barnes</b>	William E. France	Raymond C. Penny
Battles—	Howard F. Gleason	Donald L. Priest
<i>Chemin Des Dames</i>	Albert Halliwell	Fred Elmer Richardson
<i>Toul</i>	Henry B. Halliwell	Warren B. Robbins
<i>Chateau-Thierry</i>	John A. Halliwell	Charles Warren Smith
<i>Marne</i>	<i>Perry W. Hallock</i>	William F. Smith
<i>Champagne</i>	Charles W. Hanslip	Leon M. Snell
<i>Aisne-Marne</i>	Carl W. Hanson	Alexander John Stanley
<i>St. Mihiel</i>	Austin M. Harney	Walfred Stein
<i>Meuse-Argonne</i>	William R. Hendy	Walter F. Stephenson
James J. Beavis	John W. Hutchby	Albert G. Stilphen
Norbert Brannan	William E. Hutchby	Lewis A. Stone
Edward T. Brown	Clifford P. Keyes	Frederick Sundberg
Harry C. Burke	Everett E. Keyes	William Sundberg
James C. Byron	Donald C. Lambert	Ernest L. Taylor
Francis M. Byron	Richard B. Lambert	Frank Taylor
Carl H. Christensen	Herbert W. Lowell	Lugi Tiberio
Walter E. Clark	Carl A. Lund	<i>Richard E. Trumpolt</i>
John Clayton	Oscar C. Lundberg	William H. Trumpolt
John E. Derby	Edward V. Lynch	Arthur L. Underwood
Robert W. Derby	Joseph N. Lynch	Walter H. Underwood
Arthur J. Donahue	William A. Lynch	Edward A. Warren, Jr.
Edward J. Donahue	Timothy F. Mulcahy	Blanchard Weaver
Walter H. Donahue	Louis Napolia	George R. Wetherbee
<i>Frank E. Doyle</i>	William F. Paradise	John E. Wetherbee
Roy S. Dudley	George H. Patterson	<i>Warren W. Wetherbee</i>
Hans H. A. Erikson	William H. Peck	Arthur Gates Wheeler
	<i>Charles W. Penny</i>	Ralph E. Whidden

### WAR MEMORIAL

Monday, May 30, 1921, was a great day in the history of Stow, when the memorial to the veterans of the World War was dedicated. The weather was perfect and the whole town turned out “en masse” and there were many from neighboring towns also.

The program opened with a concert by the Maynard band from 2.30 to 3 p. m. after which Rev. J. S. Moulton, chairman of the day, called the meeting to order. The prayer

of dedication was offered by Rev. Preston R. Crowell, pastor of Union Church. Rev. Mr. Moulton in introductory remarks, gave the story of the inception and progress of the movement, showing that the town of Stow had taken the lead of the towns of Massachusetts in the erection of a memorial to the World War veterans.

A very attractive feature of the program was the unveiling of the monument, the veterans of the World War having charge; Frank Penny and Carl Lund lowering the flag at one end of the monument, George Wetherbee and Arthur Wheeler at the other end, and the central flag lowered by Lester Barnes assisted by Elizabeth Fletcher and Laura Geers. George Patterson unfurled the flag on the liberty pole while the band played the "Star Spangled Banner." The Lotus Quartet, Boston, sang "Never Let The Old Flag Fall."

Lester Barnes very appropriately received the Croix de Guerre decoration at this service. Senator John M. Gibbs was the orator of the day, giving a very fine and finished address. Other speakers were: Representative F. P. Glazier, Lieutenant Harry Spofford, commander American Legion, Hudson; Attorney Shaughnessy of Marlboro, a native of the town.

Program closed with the selection "Rock of Ages" by the quartette and the benediction by Rev. F. R. Cubit of the Gleasondale M. E. Church. The whole program was a well conducted affair; traffic was detoured to avoid disturbance from passing automobiles.

The committee chosen by the town to have charge of building and dedicating was: Lyman F. Priest, chairman; Rev. J. S. Moulton, secretary; Frank R. Hallock, William H. Warren, Charles D. Fletcher, Samuel H. Peck. The monument is made of Barre granite, the contractor being John Yule of Leominster Granite and Marble Company. The concrete work was done by G. Woodbury Parker of Hudson.

The new flag-staff and flag at the rear of the monument was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Hallock, in memory of their son, Perry Wolcott Hallock, who died in the service. The first flag becoming torn from use, they have since replaced this by a second new flag.

The planting of shrubs and evergreens with urns on either side filled each Spring with new plants, add much to the beauty of the monument. A word of kindly testimony should be spoken of Mr. Edward Whitall, an old English gardener, and janitor for many years of our public buildings, till overtaken by ill-health and of his successor Harold J. Priest, who have cared for them so faithfully, that now the spot is very attractive.

During recent years a spot-light has been installed so that the Memorial, always lighted by night, stands there through sunshine and storm, day and night, a silent yet beautiful tribute to those who loved their town and country enough to offer their lives in its defense.

### THE HOME WELCOME

While the home welcome of the World War Veterans in large centers like Boston and New York may have been more spectacular and enthusiastic, that of the Stow boys was no less genuine and heartfelt. All the fuss and feathers of parade and noisy demon-

## WARS

---

stration were seemingly distasteful and almost annoying to our returning heroes. The War was like a nightmare to them. They disliked to talk about it; to forget it was their strongest desire and yet how could they ever forget it! Would the home folks ever let them forget it?

They were accordingly welcomed home, both formally and informally. The informal welcome is not easy to describe, only the imagination can picture it,—the welcome of hearth, home and heart of friend, neighbor and sweet-heart. There was exultance for those returned safe and sound; distress for those returned, but with physical health shaken and nerves shattered by the direful effect of shot and shell; the heart-ache, the grief of those bereft of all but the bodily form, broken and shapeless, or wasted with disease, home again to find its last resting-place in native soil, “where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.”

Among those thus returning were: Perry Wolcott Hallock, who died September 30th, at Camp Jackson, South Carolina, and was given private burial in Brookside Cemetery; Richard Trumpolt who died of pneumonia over-seas October, 1918, but whose body was not returned till three years after the Armistice; services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Gleasondale and he was given a military burial in Brookside Cemetery. Lieut. Frank E. Doyle, stationed at Garden City, Long Island, N. Y., was home on a furlough; he contracted the “Flu,” developed pneumonia and died October 14, 1918, at the Marlboro Hospital. He was buried from St. Michael’s Church, Hudson, with military honors. Charles W. Penny died September 26, 1918, at Camp Dix, New Jersey with pneumonia. His body was brought to Stow, and he was buried at Brookside Cemetery with a military service.

On the return of the body of Warren Wheeler Wetherbee, killed in action at the second battle of the Marne, and for whom the American Legion Post of Stow was named, a service was held in the First Parish Church, Sunday afternoon, June 26, 1921, and was conducted by its veteran Pastor, Rev. J. Sidney Moulton. The Hudson Post of the American Legion, of which the fallen hero was a member, acted as a military escort. He was buried with military honors in Brookside Cemetery.

The distinctive and formal welcome home celebration was held in the Town Hall, Saturday evening, June 28, 1919. There are no records which disclose the details of the evening. The occasion is recalled however, as one of gayety and good humor; the singing of popular war songs, with happy responses of the boys depicting the more humorous side of warfare and camp life. Following the program, the hours were spent in dancing.

Among the formal expressions of welcome and memorial should also be included the dedication on May 30, 1921, of the monument erected to the memory of the soldiers and sailors, on Stow Center Common. Senator Gibbs of Waltham was the orator of the occasion.

---

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Ministers

**REV. JOHN EVELETH** was born February 18, 1669, the son of Joseph Eveleth, of Gloucester, Mass. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1689. He married, December 2, 1692, Mary, daughter of Francis Bowman, of Cambridge. He was pastor of the church in Stow from 1701-1718. He organized the church with about eleven members. He also taught school at different times. After leaving Stow, he was pastor of a church in Arundel, Maine, for about nine years. The people there were unwilling to have him leave. He was very much loved and highly thought of in this parish. He is said to have become an Episcopal minister after leaving Arundel, and served an Episcopal church, at Kittery, Maine. He died August 1, 1734, and was buried at Kittery, Maine. His wife, Mary (Bowman), died in Stow, December 2, 1747, and is buried in the lower village cemetery.

**Rev. John Gardner** was born July 22, 1696, in Charlestown, Mass. Graduated from Harvard College in 1715. He married Mary Baxter, of Medfield, when she was only 19 years old. She died December 30, 1784, in the 84th year of her age. Mr. Gardner is represented as being very stern in his demeanor, so that the children greatly feared him; yet he was a gentleman of good intellectual abilities, sound in principles of religion, and very faithful in his discharge of his pastoral office. His ministry was peaceful and prosperous. Because of a letter he wrote to his friend, Nathan Stone, he is regarded as the "first historian" of the town of Stow. He was pastor of the church from June 17, 1718—January 1775. He died in his eightieth year, and in the fifty-eighth year of his pastorate.

**Rev. Jonathan Newell** was born at Needham, December 13, 1749. He was fitted for College at Hatfield, Mass. and graduated from Harvard College in 1770. He studied theology with his pastor, Dr. West, of Needham, and commenced preaching in the autumn of 1773. We are told he was a man of "strong mind, of sound judgment, exceedingly well acquainted with human nature, benevolent and generous to the poor, almost to profuseness; he had a great deal of shrewdness and wit; his passions were naturally very strong, but he kept them under control; his whole ministry was marked with consummate prudence; his conduct was that of a gentleman to everybody; he was a very social companion and was universally beloved; he was remarkably fond of mechanical studies." He invented a machine for cutting nails, which proved a great success. He was a large and well proportioned man, and when fifty years old, is said to have carried ninety-four bricks in a hod to the top of his two-story house at one time. On November 24, 1774, he married Sarah Fiske, of Watertown. There was great rejoicing when he and his bride came to town; but in less than two years their joy was turned to mourning, for she "passed on from earth," September 14, 1776, aged about twenty-five years. The town greatly

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

---

sorrowed at her departure. "Her singular good temper and courteous conduct endeared her to all." Mr. Newell remained a widower a little more than five years. October 11, 1781 he married Lucy Rogers, daughter of Rev. Daniel Rogers, of Littleton. She survived him more than fifty years and died May 26, 1846, at the age of 90. Mr. Newell was pastor of the church from 1775-1828. He died October 4, 1830, almost 81 years old.

**Rev. Joseph Sidney Moulton** was born in Plainfield, New Hampshire, April 13, 1851. His early education was obtained at Kimball Academy, Meriden, New Hampshire, where he prepared for Dartmouth College. His training for the ministry was obtained at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge. In 1884, he came to Stow from Westford, Massachusetts, where he had held a pastorate for nine years previous, to serve as its pastor, The First Parish (Unitarian) Church; this he held till 1925.

During his life in Stow, he was most ardent in the best interests of the town. He served the town ably as Superintendent of Schools for twenty years. For a number of years he served as Chaplain of the Local Grange.

He was instrumental in the founding of "The Civic Club," in which, aside from his ministry, was his most conspicuous service to the town. He was president of this organization for twenty years and to it he brought speakers of a very high standing thereby contributing, as no one else could, to the culture of the town. The beautiful World War Memorial, on the Center Common, is a testimonial to his discriminating taste; he being the one of the committee chosen for the selecting of such a tribute, upon whom the other members relied in making the choice of design and setting.

He was a man of scholarly attainments, well read, and thoroughly posted on public affairs; of a judicial temperament, unostentatious, rendering in his quiet way many a kindly service. On account of failing health, he resigned his pastorate, the resignation taking effect November 1, 1925. The Parish made him Pastor-Emeritus when the resignation was accepted. He passed away on January 24, 1927, at the home of his niece, Mrs. Carl Lloyd of Plaistow, New Hampshire, where the funeral service was held on the twenty-seventh. After being in the Receiving-tomb in Haverhill, the burial, later in the Spring, was in the family lot at Meriden, New Hampshire. On February 13, 1927, a Memorial Service was held in the First Parish Church, Stow, Rev. Alvah J. Shaller, minister, conducting. Letters were read from Rev. William Channing Brown, of Wheeling, West Virginia, and Rev. Samuel W. Adriance, Winchester, Mass., a class-mate at Dartmouth. Rev. Joseph Pardee of Bolton, a class-mate at Harvard Divinity School, Rev. Benjamin R. Bulkeley, Pastor-Emeritus of The First Parish Church, Concord, Massachusetts and Rev. Preston R. Crowell, a former pastor of Stow Union Evangelical Church, each spoke, giving his tribute.

### Prominent Men

**Hon. Henry Gardner** is probably the most distinguished native of this town. His residence in Stow was in the lower village, in the house known as "Gardner Inn," situated on the south side of the lower Common. It was famous not only for its honored owner, but visits from Lafayette and other dignitaries. This building was torn down in 1875 by George Bradley and his father. He left Stow about 1778.



Hon. Henry Gardner, 4th Gen. (John 3, Henry 2, Richard 1,) of the Woburn Gardner family, was born in Stow, Massachusetts, November 14, 1731, the sixth child, and fourth son of Reverend John and Mary (Baxter) Gardner, the minister at Stow. He was an alumnus of Harvard College, where he received his A.B. in 1750. Alden Bradford wrote of him that he "possessed an ardent spirit and a good degree of information on public affairs; and had a great influence with the people in his vicinity." In August, 1774, he was chosen a member of the Middlesex Convention, which met in the following month to consult for the common defence and welfare. It consisted of one hundred and fifty delegates. In October of that year, he represented Stow in the First Provincial Congress, which met at Salem on the 7th of the month, and on the day after adjourned to Concord. October 13th, he was a member of a committee to wait on Governor Gage. He was appointed Receiver General of the Congress October 28th, 1774 and December 7th following, the Hon. James Russell, import officer, was directed "to pay moneys in his hands to Henry Gardner, Esq., and not to Harrison Gray, Esq.," the provincial Receiver-General, who adhered to the British ministry. He represented his native town in the Second Provincial Congress, which met in February, 1775. On the 7th of that month, the province taxes were ordered paid to him, and on the 30th of March, the towns were ordered to pay "the public monies immediately" to him. April 26, 1775, he was chosen one of a committee of three "for regulating the regiments of the army." He represented Stow in the Third Provincial Congress, held in Watertown, May 31st, 1775.

"HENRY GARDNER. Official record of a ballot by the House of Representatives, dated February 15, 1776; said Gardner chosen Colonel, 4th Middlesex County regiment; appointment concurred in by Council, February 15, 1776; reported declined to serve and Ezekiel Howe chosen in his place May 10, 1776." The name of his office was changed from Receiver-General to State Treasurer, and he continued to hold that office until his death, which occurred on October 8th, 1782, at his residence, the old Province House, in Boston.

He married in Dorchester, September 21, 1778, Hannah Clapp, daughter of Col. Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Hall) Clapp. They had two children—Henry, who graduated at Harvard, in 1798, and became the father of Hon. Joseph Gardner (1818-1892), Governor of Massachusetts (1855-57), and received the honorary degrees of A.M. from Bowdoin College in 1851, and LL.D. from Harvard in 1855.

Alden Bradford, LL.D., in his "Biographical Notices of Distinguished Men of New England" says of Henry Gardner, the Receiver-General and State Treasurer, "He was a sincere patriot, and rendered very important service to the province by his diligence and fidelity. He was afterwards a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and had the character of a learned man.

Authorities:—*Journals of the Provincial Congresses of Massachusetts*; Alden Bradford's *New England Biography*; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, etc.

Frank A. Gardner, M.D.,

Salem, Massachusetts, September 26, 1933

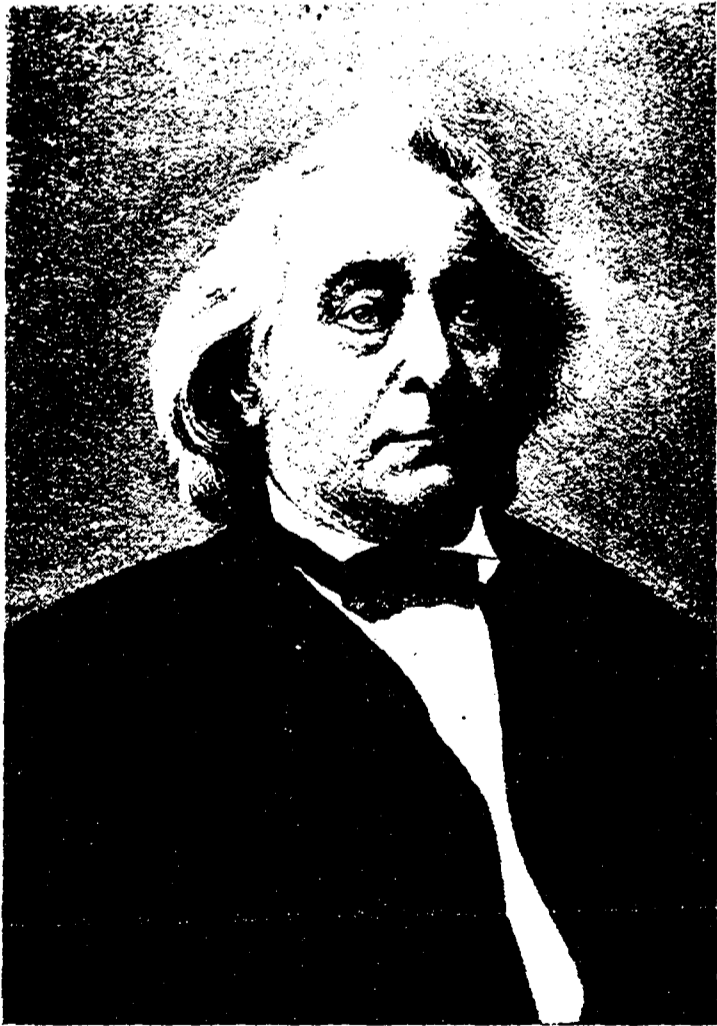




COLONEL ELIJAH HALE



'SQUIRE EDWIN WHITNEY



DR. JOHN WITT RANDALL



*B. M. Mason*  
1851



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

---

**Abraham Randall** was born in Stow, September 9, 1741. He was a descendant of Stephan Randall, one of the original proprietors of Pompositticut Plantation. For many years he conducted a saw and grist-mill, in what was known as Randall Mills for over fifty years, now known as Gleasondale. As a private in Capt. William Whitcomb's Company, Col. James Prescott's Regiment, he responded to the alarm of April 19, 1775, participating in the Concord Fight. He was commissioned First Lieut. of the Sixth Company, 4th Middlesex Regiment on December 16, 1776. He was also First Lieut. of Capt. Silas Taylor's Company, Col. Jonathan Reed's Regiment, which participated in the events leading up to the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, N. Y., October 17, 1777. As chairman of Selectmen in Stow, he was very active in obtaining recruits. He died on March 1st, 1815, as the result of exposure incident to his duties in receiving the returning soldiers of the War of 1812. He was 73 years of age.

**Co. Elijah Hale**, son of Lieut. Bezaleel and Abigail (Eveleth) Hale, was born at the old Hale homestead, in the west part of Stow, near the Bolton line, where several generations of the Hale family had lived before him; his first paternal ancestor having come into possession of it in 1706. In his early years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits at Feltonville, now Hudson, and was partner of Joel Cranston in the woolen factory at Rock Bottom village, which for a number of years has been operated by B. W. Gleason & Co. This was the fourth factory of the kind started in Massachusetts. Col. Hale earned his military title in the service of the State, while actively engaged in business. He was a member of the legislature for several years and while there was one of the promoters of the institution for the deaf and dumb. During his long life he frequently manifested his interest in the place by efforts to advance the causes of religion and education. He was the means of influencing his friend, Hon. Edwin Whitney, to leave New York and make his home in Stow. He not only gave the parsonage and grounds to the First Parish, but the generous fund of \$5000 to establish and help support the High School, which bears the honored name of its donor. He also left in his will \$5000 to this school. The funeral services were participated in by a large assemblage, including many people from adjacent towns, the pupils of the High School attending in a body, and the Masonic Lodge of Hudson, of which the deceased was a member.

He died in Stow, April 21, 1879, at the advanced age of 90 years, 9 months and 26 days, and is buried in Brookside Cemetery, where a monument is erected to his memory.

“**Benjamin Whitney Gleason**, was born in Petersham, Massachusetts, October 12, 1806. He was descended, in the seventh generation, from Thomas Gleason, who was an early settler of Watertown, Mass. having located there previous to 1640, when his second child and oldest son, Thomas, was born. The fourth child and second son of this Thomas was Isaac who, on reaching manhood, removed to Sherborn, Mass. His oldest son, was also named Isaac. In early manhood he removed to Framingham, and thence in 1757, to Petersham, Mass. His eighth child and fourth son was Joseph, who always after the removal of his father thither, resided at Petersham, where he died in 1814, at the age of seventy-one years. His second son and eighth child, also named Joseph, was born in

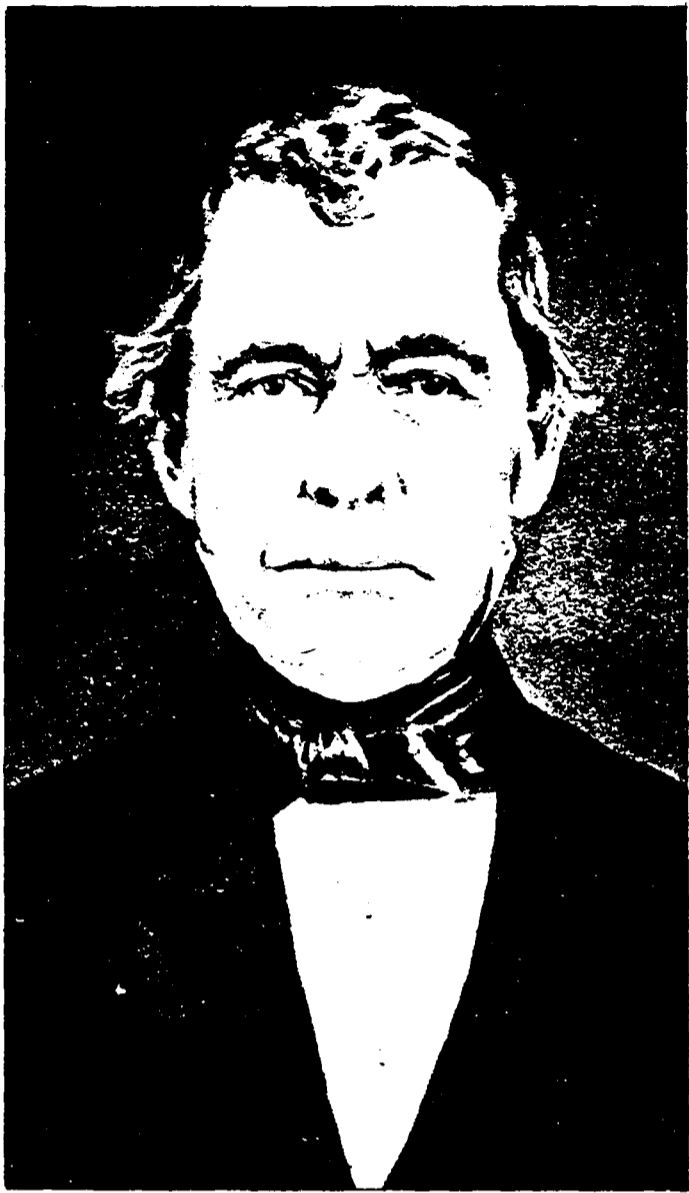
Petersham, April 7, 1781, and married, October 24, 1802, Susan Whitney, daughter of Benjamin Whitney, a descendant of the sixth generation, from John Whitney, who settled at Watertown, June, 1635, where he became one of the most influential citizens, and is supposed to have been the ancestor of all, or nearly all, of the numerous family of that name in the country. The Joseph last named, the father of Hon. Benjamin Gleason, was a farmer by occupation and died when the subject of this sketch was but two years old. Hence, the young lad was deprived of paternal care and influence during his childhood and youth, and he had only the meagre opportunity for an education then afforded by the common schools of a small hill-town in Worcester County.

Mr. Gleason was altogether dependent for his honorable career upon his native talent and great strength of character, together with such self-discipline and culture as he was able to secure in a life characterized, especially in its first forty years, by repeated changes of business and location.

He was most emphatically a self-made man. When about fourteen years old, he entered an establishment in his native town, to learn the trade of cabinet making, and served through the whole term of apprenticeship with great fidelity, gaining an expertness in the use of tools and a general acquaintance with mechanical operations, which were of great value to him in after life. Mr. Gleason came to "Rock Bottom" (Gleasondale), in 1849. The account of his work here is recorded in another place. In 1875, he suffered a slight stroke of paralysis, partially disabling him. But he continued to superintend his business till 1880, when he was compelled to lay aside all business cares and responsibilities. He died January 19, 1884. In 1859, and again in 1872, he represented the town in the lower branch of the Legislature, Massachusetts. He was also a member of the Massachusetts State Senate, 1860 and 1861.

By his efficient management of a large and growing industry, his remarkable success in that department, together with his unwavering fidelity in all the positions he occupied, Hon. Benjamin Gleason most completely established his claim to an honorable place among the representative textile manufacturers of the United States.

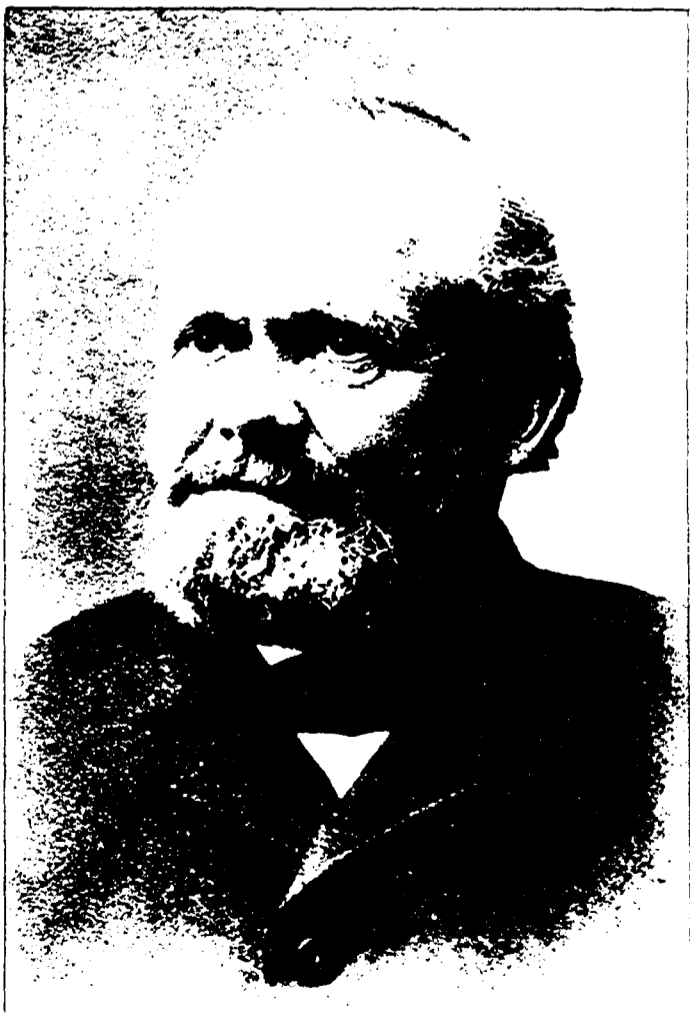
**Hon. Edwin Whitney**, was born at Harvard, Mass., October 2, 1812. He was the son of Cyrus and Mary (Whitney) Whitney, grandson of Isaiah and Persis (Randall) Whitney, great-grandson of Isaiah and Elizabeth (Whitney) Whitney. He was born on the old homestead occupied by his ancestor, one of the first settlers of what is now the town of Harvard, and which has remained in possession of the family almost to the present day. Having grown up on a farm, he was early inured to labor. While residing at the family estate, he attended the common schools of his native town till he was prepared to enter those of a higher grade, when he went to Brattleboro, Vermont, and became a student of the Academy of that place. Here he applied himself with great diligence in preparation for the study of his chosen profession of law. About 1834 he began reading law in the office of Judge Cheever, of Albany, N. Y., where he remained about two years. From there he went to New York City, and completed his studies with Judge Morrell, of that city. For some years he was constantly employed as public administrator of that city, and was very successful. At the urgent solicitation of Col. Elijah Hale, he left New York in 1844, and removed to Stow. He continued to remain



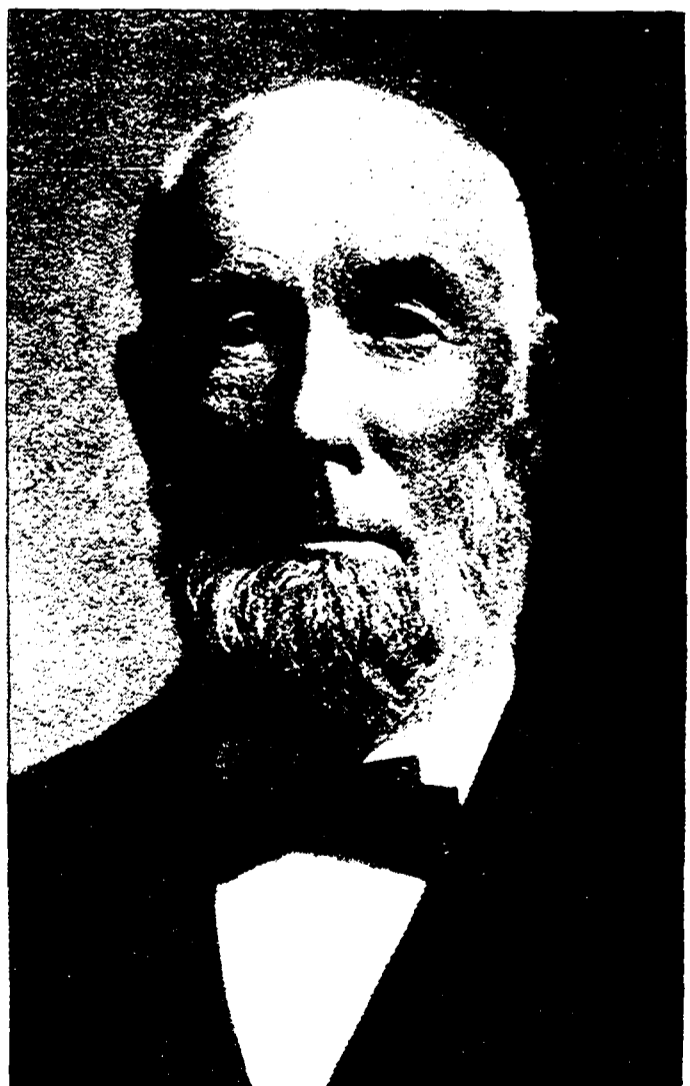
MOSES WHITNEY, ESQ.



WINTHROP ROBINSON



ABEL LIVERMORE, M. D.



HENRY GATES



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

---

here as long as he lived. He was one of the most prominent citizens of the town, always ready to do whatever he considered for the best interests of the community. He was very unassuming, but possessed those sterling qualities of heart and mind, that prepared him to take a leading position in the community where he resided. For a series of years he was an active member of the School Committee; part of the time he was also Superintendent of Schools, in which he was deeply interested. He was an active member of the First Parish Religious Society, and for a long time was a member of the Standing Committee and a prominent supporter. He was largely instrumental not only in inducing his friend, Col. Elijah Hale, a man of wealth and yet childless, to present to the First Parish the parsonage house and grounds now owned by them, but also to give the generous fund of \$5000 to establish and help support the High School, which bears the honored name of the donor. Few towns have a truer or more loyal adopted son than he. He was Representative of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1846 and 1847, and again in 1879. He was a member of the State Senate in the year 1850. He married, October 26, 1841, Lucia Mead Whitney, daughter of Moses and Lucy (Gates) Whitney, of Stow. She was a lineal descendant of Thomas Gates, one of the original twelve settlers of the town, and was born on the farm that he occupied. They had no children. For some years before the bi-centennial of the town in 1883, he was gathering material to show the progress of the town during the two centuries of its existence. He was chosen chairman of a committee of fifteen by the town, in 1882, to arrange for the approaching bi-centennial celebration. But he was not destined to see the long-looked for day; for on the 7th of March, 1883, a little more than two months before the celebration was to take place, after an illness of a few days of pneumonia, he passed away. The committee, in rendering their report of the celebration to the town, in 1884, speak of Mr. Whitney in these words: "His long and minute acquaintance with the history of the town, together with the large amount of statistical, biographical and other valuable information which he had gathered, made his death a great loss to the committee and the town."

*(Middlesex County History).*

### **Dr. Abel Cutting Livermore**

*"He was a man to all the country dear"*

Abel Cutting Livermore was born in Sudbury, Mass., in 1824. He was killed by a moving train, Sunday evening, March 15, 1891. He was the son of Daniel Livermore, who was born in Weston, in 1795, and died in 1874. His mother was Hannah Cutting of Sudbury. He was a graduate of Harvard medical school.

*"From The Boston Daily Advertiser, March 17, 1891."*

*"Prominent Stow Physician Killed on Track."*

*"Dr. A. C. Livermore of Stow was struck by the 8.30 train last evening, at the Russell Crossing, Maynard, while returning from Sudbury. He was brought here and medical aid summoned, but he lived only an hour. He was 67 years, 5 months of age, and had a large practice. He left a wife but no children."*

Many a home, not only in Stow, but the towns around, was saddened by the tragic and untimely death of this much loved physician. While no one can tell of any prominent characteristic, except cheer and comfort, all admit the vacant place left by his death. He was unostentatious in manner and unassuming, yet ministered to the needs and comfort of his own town, going at call, any time, night or day. Travel at that date was not made with automobile, but after harnessing a horse, driving in cold and storm for miles. To see him enter the door was to bring relief, no matter what the situation. He occupied a place in the hearts of the people that has never been filled. Full of cheering stories of which his fund never failed; a big heart full of sympathy for every one. Thus was this physician "*a man to all the country dear.*"

### Francis H. Stevens

Francis H. Stevens was born in Boxboro, June 11, 1839, the son of Moses and Maria (Stearns) Stevens, direct descendant of Samuel Stevens who settled in Marlboro about 1671.

When two years of age, his parents moved to Stow and purchased the farm in the north part of the town on which Mr. Stevens passed nearly seventy years of his life.

Mr. Stevens enlisted in Co. E. 26th Massachusetts infantry, April 15, 1861, and served with the company till the close of the war, and was mustered out of the service on September 23rd, 1865, with the rank of first sergeant. With his company, he took part in the major engagements at Lafauche, La., Winchester, Va., Fishers Hill, Va. and Cedar Creek, Va. Obtaining a furlough in the spring of 1864, he returned to Stow, and on April 13th was married to Frances A. Mead, of Boxborough, and rejoined his Regiment a few days later. At the close of the war he bought the home place from his father, where he remained till 1910, when he retired from active life and moved to the center of the town, where he lived till his death.

Mr. Stevens took a keen interest in the welfare of the town and was active in its affairs for many years. The townspeople placed him in responsible positions in the town government. For twenty years he held the position of treasurer; for twenty years he was the town moderator, and had been a member of the board of selectmen and chairman of the board for several years. He was trustee of the Hale High School fund, and trustee of the Randall funds, holding these positions till within three years of his death.

In 1911, Mr. Stevens was the Republican candidate for representative in the tenth Middlesex district, but was defeated by the Democratic nominee.

His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln.

He was a charter member of Isaac Davis Post, G. A. R., of Acton, and held all the offices, being adjutant for fourteen years. After his removal to the center of the town, he transferred his membership to the Hudson Post, G. A. R.

He was a member of Stow Grange, in which organization he held the position of Master for six years. He was the first Master of Borough Pomona Grange, and for twelve years served as Deputy of the State Grange.

During the World War, although advanced in years, he was active in the Liberty Loan drives. Every movement of a Patriotic nature received his best efforts in their behalf. After a long and useful life, he died in his ninetieth year, February 28, 1929.



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

---

### TEACHERS

#### Francis Eveleth

Son of Rev. John Eveleth, was said to be among the "famous teachers of the past. He was for "many years a prominent instructor of the young." While we may not be able to find any outstanding characteristic, yet the silent, potent influence among his pupils was so strong, and his influence among the youthful generation so marked, that he was considered a "famous teacher." He died November 23, 1776, at the age of seventy-four years, and is buried in the lower village cemetery beside his mother and his wife, Mary (Hunt) Eveleth.

#### John Milton Cheney

Son of Hezekiah Cheney, of Concord, Mass., was born about 1801. He married Louisa P. Hosmer, daughter of Rufus Hosmer, Stow, on October 17, 1883. He was chosen Preceptor of the Stow Academy, which for many years was in a most flourishing condition. He later settled as a lawyer in Concord. He was appointed Cashier of the Middlesex Institution for Savings in Concord, which position he held from April, 1832, as long as he lived. He died in Concord in 1869.

#### Josephine Newhall

Among the teachers of Stow, whose memory is warmly cherished, both by pupils and townspeople, is that of Miss Josephine Newhall.

She first taught in the Grove School in the west part of the town; after which she moved West, and from there to Littleton, Mass. On account of the illness of her mother, she returned to Stow; on whose recovery she became the teacher of the Primary School at Stow Center and remained as such for fifteen years. She was born in Stow, in the house where Charles D. Fletcher now lives, on May 24, 1854. Her death came in the midst of activity, very unexpectedly, and with less than twenty-four hours of illness, on October second, 1915.

#### Susan Proctor Lawrence

Was born in Carlisle, Massachusetts, September 29th, 1846. She died in Stow, Massachusetts, July 18, 1927 at the age of eighty years, nine months, and nineteen days.

She was the second of five children to be born into the home of Elbridge and Hannah Proctor. She attended school in Carlisle and Howe Academy at Billerica.

In 1862, before she was sixteen years of age, she came to Stow and began teaching in the West side school. Thus began a career of teaching which lasted more than a quarter of a century, all of which was experienced in three of the schools in Stow. During her later years as teacher, she taught some of the children of her earlier pupils. She served under the superintendency of Rev. J. S. Moulton.

One Friday afternoon in July, 1864, this young teacher confided to her pupils, that when the school next met, her name would no longer be Miss Proctor. This caused some

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

surprise and excitement, for no one seemed to know of her romance. But on the following Sunday, July 24, 1864, Miss Susan Proctor was married to Sergeant Samuel A. Lawrence, of the United States Army, and of Stow, Mass. Sergeant Lawrence was home on a furlough from the war for the preservation of the Union, and on the day following their marriage, Sergeant Lawrence departed to report for duty in New Orleans; where he was in the same department with Sergeant Francis Stevens.

On the day following her marriage, Mrs. Samuel Lawrence was back at her desk, in the little red school-house.

After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence established a home in Stow. To this union four children were born. Mr. Lawrence died in 1900. Two of the children died in infancy; one daughter, Bertha F. Lawrence, followed her mother's profession as teacher, until her death in 1919; one son, Eugene Lawrence, is Vice-Principal of the Bulkley High School, New London, Conn.

Mrs. Lawrence was the first librarian of Randall Library, holding that position from 1892 till 1919, when she resigned. She was a member of the First Parish Church and of the Isaac Davis Chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps, the only officially recognized auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. During the World War she was very active in all the work for the soldiers.

Her life was one of tireless energy and results are still in evidence.

She was represented in the World War, by her two grandsons, Samuel Eugene Lawrence, of the Marine Corps, now living in Braintree and teaching in the High School; and John Valentine Lawrence, State Militia, and 28th Inf., U. S. A., who served in the major battles of the war and received the French citation for bravery. He is now living in New London, Conn.

---

## GENEALOGIES

### Gates Family

**S**TEPHEN GATES, No. 1, the first of this name to settle in America. Came to Hingham 1638, died 1662.

Children,—Elizabeth, Mary, *Stephen, Thomas, Simon*, Isaac, Rebecca.

**Stephen, No. 2**, the eldest son, was born about 1640; married Sarah Woodward of Watertown; died 1706. He received the house and lot in Lancaster by his fathers will.

Children,—Stephen, Simon, Thomas Isaac, Nathaniel, Sarah, Rebecca, *Daniel*.

**Daniel Gates**, born at Marlboro, 1685, died 1729. He was tything-man, 1720, fence-viewer 1721; He was appointed one of a committee, December 9, 1724 “to agree with and procure a man to keep school for said town (Stow) for one-quarter, to teach children to read and write; on said day it was voted and the school is to be kept one month at Phineas Rice’s house and the 2nd month at Daniel Gates, and the 3rd month at John Taylor’s house. In 1736, the town voted to give Rev. John Gardner a gratuity and it is gratifying to learn that the name of Daniel Gates does not appear among those who “entered their Desents against the vote of sixty pounds.”

Married, Anna (Eveleth) Gates; children,—Thomas, Reuben, Paul and *Silas* (twins), Margaret, Elizabeth, Anna.

**Silas Gates**, born 1718, married (1) Mary Whitcomb of Bolton; she died early in life date not recorded.

Children,—Elizabeth, Anna, Daniel, Jonathan, Silas Jr., Oliver.

Married, (2), 1756, Mary, widow of Thomas Wheeler, daughter of John and Hannah (Buttrick) Daby.

Children,—Mary, born June 28, 1757.

Married (3), 1760, Anna, widow of Samuel Hammond.

Children,—Eunice, Catherine.

Married (4), 1769, Mary, widow of Jonas Brown.

Children,—Silas, born 1770, *Paul*, 1772, Reuben, Thomas.

**Paul Gates**, born 1772, married 1800, Elizabeth Hayward of Boxboro; moved to Ashby;

Children,—*Howard*, Elizabeth, Paul, Pearly, Mary, Anna White, Susan Hartwell, Paul, Cyrus Pierce.

**Howard Gates**, born 1801; married 1824, Clarissa Kendall; died, 1877.

Children,—*Elizabeth Howard*, Susan Hartwell, died 1837. Julius Kendall, Clarissa Rebecca, Susan Hartwell, Mary Caroline, Edward Howard.

**Elizabeth Howard**, born 1824, married 1849, William Henry Saul;

Children—William Brooks Saul, Clarence Augustus, Elizabeth Clarissa, *Charlotte Foye Saul*.

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

**Charlotte Foye Saul**, born 1862, married 1886, Charles Augustus Hearsey.

Children,—*Alice Gates Hearsey*, Evelyn Hearsey, *Helen Elizabeth Hearsey*.

**Alice Gates Hearsey**, married Mendonca

Children,—Manuel Leo Mendonca.

**Helen Elizabeth Hearsey**, married Whitney T. Ferguson.

Children,—Alan Hearsey, Whitney Thorne, Charles Edward Ferguson.

---

**Gates Family**

**Stephen Gates, No. 1** came to Stow from England.

**Thomas Gates** was the second son of Stephen; married Elizabeth Freeman, in 1670 in Stow.

**John, 1st**, son of Thomas, was the first of that name of descendants from Stephen; born 1678. Lived in Stow.

**John, 2nd**, born in 1713, married Mary; kept a diary from 1755-1789. Died soon after he was 76.

**John, 3rd**, born 1748, died 1814; married Catherine Wetherbee of Stow.

**John, 4th**, born 1791, died 1866; Married Susan W. Gates. He was a brother of Hezekiah Gates.

**Susan Ann Gates**, daughter of John and Susan W. Gates, born - - , died - - , married William H. Peck, of Yantic, Conn.

Children, *John Gates Peck*, William Grant, Samuel Hyde, Willena Abbie.

**John Gates Peck**, born March 1867, married Annie Hughes; one daughter, *Dorothy*. Annie Hughes Peck died March, 1924.

2nd married Martha Waterman, September, 1925.

**Dorothy Peck**, married Richard Bowles Lambert of Stow.

Children,—*John Wallace*, *Nancy Ann*.

---

**William Grant** died while young.

**Samuel Hyde**, married Lillian Lewis, daughter of Walter and Mary Parks Lewis.

Children,—*William Henry*, *Ruth Eleanor Peck*.

**William Henry**, married Eleanor Warren, of Chelmsford. Had three children.

Children,—William Henry, Jr., Warren Emerson, Willena Hyde Peck.

**Ruth Eleanor**, married Francis Doyle of Liberty, N. Y.

---

**Hezekiah Gates**, eldest son of John 3rd, born 1790 at Stow, married Mary Houghton 1825, died 1861.

Two children; *Henry* and Mary, the latter died at age of 35 at Stow.

**Henry Gates**, born December 12, 1825, at Stow; married Frances Ann Taylor, Stow; died December, 1906. 2nd, married Rose Wheeler.

He was Town Clerk of Stow for over 35 years; was the last man bearing the name of "Gates" in the town.

## GENEALOGIES

---

**Samuel Gates**, son of John 1st; Had *Samuel, Jr.*, twin brother of *Levi Gates*, born 1756, at Stow.

**Samuel, Jr.**, married 1st, Mary Rand of Stow, 1779; 2nd, 1797, married Sarah Lawrence of Fitchburg.

*Two* children,—Daniel, born 1780, not married; died 1805 at Stow. Lucy, born 1787, married 1806, Moses Whitney.

**Levi**, (twin) born 1756, married 1779, Betty Brooks of Stow. A Revolutionary soldier.

---

### Gates Family

#### STEPHEN GATES, No. 1.

**Simon**, the 3rd son, born 1645; died at Brockton, 1693; married Margaret ——— Cambridge, Mass. He inherited his father's estate at Cambridge. Had eight children.

**Amos**, the 4th son of Simon, born 1681, died at Framingham, 1754; married 1703, Hannah Oldham. Had nine children.

**Samuel**, the 2nd son of Amos, born 1724, died 1803, at Rutland, Mass. Married 1751, Abigail Blodgett of Framingham. A Revolutionary Soldier. Had seven children.

**Samuel, Jr.**, 1st son of Samuel, born 1757, died in 1828. Married, Susannah Laughton, 1782. Had seven children. He responded to the Lexington alarm and served four days. He is also credited with fourteen days from December 31, 1780, in Capt. Welles' Militia Company, escorting the prisoners from Rutland prison Camp for exchange. He was a cooper, transferring his farm to his son, Joel.

**Joel**, the 1st son of Samuel, Jr., born 1792, died 1877, at Keene, N. H.; married 1815, Eliza Whitcomb. Both are buried in Hancock, N. H. Had nine children.

**Joel Franklin**, 1st son of Joel, born 1827, probably in Hancock, N. H. died December 1, 1886. Married Hannah Maria Walcott, May 30, 1848. Had eleven children.

1st—**Amanda Fitzalan**, born July 5, 1849; married Henry Lewis Blackburn, January 17, 1888.

2nd—**Elvin Oscar**, born September, 1850; married Almira Stow, August, 1878.

3rd—**Lucius Gates**, born November, 1852, died in infancy.

4th—**Georgiana Gates**, born April 4, 1855, died August 9, 1891.

5th—**Francis Edmund**, born December 24, 1856; married Frances Robinson, June, 1888. Had four children. *Henry Clarence, Warren Everett, Albert Edward, and Jesse Alfred Robinson.*

6th—**Hobart Wilbur Gates**, born December 14, 1859; died April 30, 1874.

7th—**Anne Clementina Gates**, Gleasondale, the last in town with Gates for *surname*, born January 18, 1861.

8th—**Frank Gates**, born March 15, 1862; died August 20, 1867.

9th—**Emma Frances Gates**, born May 2, 1864; married April 12, 1887, Joseph Brigham Brown. One son, *Ralph Walcott Brown*, born December 5, 1892.

10th—**Eveline Gates**; died in infancy.

11th—**Warren Gates**; died in infancy.

**Eveleth Family**

**Rev. John Eveleth**, son of Joseph Eveleth, Gloucester, born February, 1669-70, graduated at Harvard, 1689. He died at Kittery, Maine, August 1, 1734. He married Mary Bowman, of Cambridge, December, 1692. She died in Stow, December, 1747.

Children,—*Francis Eveleth*, born September, 1701. Taught many years in Stow. Died, November 24, 1776.

**Francis Eveleth**, married Mary (Nancy) Hunt of Concord, February 7, 1726-7 in Concord. Had eight children.

Children,—*John, Francis, Jr., Joseph, Mary (Adams), Sarah (Bigelow), Katy (Faulkner), Lucy (Russell), Elizabeth (Richardson)*.

**John Eveleth**, born May, 1729; married July 12, 1762, Abigail Knowles of Sudbury, in Sudbury. He died 1794.

Children,—*Daniel*, born 1763; *Lucy*, born 1765; *Sarah*, born 1768; *John*, born 1772.

**Daniel Eveleth**, married Betty Hale of Stow, 1788. He died 1844, age 81; she died 1847, age 87. Both in Stow.

Ten children,—*Daniel, Jr.*, died 1795; *Betssa, Oliver, Nabby, John, Daniel*, died 1820; *Sally, Francis*, died 1819; *Silas, Lucy*.

**John Eveleth**, married 1st, Chloe Gates, daughter Capt. Elisha and Betsey Gates. Had two daughters. Died April 1, 1853; married 2nd, Nancy H. Gilman, of Chelsea, Mass. in 1857. Daughters, *Sarah (Green)* and *Emeline (Derby)*.

**Emeline Eveleth**, married Robert W. Derby of Stow. Had four children.

Children,—*Warren Eveleth Derby, John Derby, Gertrude Derby Prosser, Frederic Barry Derby*.

**John Derby**, married Florence Beattys of Brooklyn, N. Y. Had two sons, *John Eveleth, Robert W.*

**John Eveleth Derby**, married Emily H. Priest, daughter of Lyman F. and Emma A. Priest. Two children.

Children,—*Ann Derby; John Eveleth Derby, Jr.*

**Robert W. Derby**, married Eleanor Fletcher, daughter of C. D. and Mary Fletcher; had three children.

Children,—*Robert Fletcher Derby; twins, Roger Newhall Derby and Elizabeth Derby.*

---

**Francis Eveleth, Jr.**, married Abigail Hagar of Watertown, November 4, 1767. She died in 1827, and left \$400 in her will for the meeting-house bell.

---

**Joseph Eveleth**, married Ruth Wetherbee; went to live in Princeton.

Children,—*Joshua, etc.*

## GENEALOGIES

---

### Fletcher Family

**Peter Fletcher** of Phillipston, married Lucy Wood, of Littleton, November 10, 1794, in Phillipston.

Children,—born in Phillipston, Massachusetts.

August 1, 1795, a daughter, *Lucy*.

September 29, 1796, a daughter, *Sarah*.

December 4, 1797, a daughter, *Martha*.

February 22, 1799, twin sons, *John* and *Peter*.

July 11, 1800, a son, *John*.

March 30, 1802, a son, *Frederick*. Died, September 1, 1831.

September 14, 1803, a son, *Dire*.

February 10, 1806, a son, *Martin Wood*. Died, in Baltimore, March 30, 1837.

May 22, 1807, a daughter, *Carshena*. Died, August 30, 1825.

September 22, 1809, a daughter, *Cynthia*.

October 29, 1811, a daughter, *Eunice*.

Died,—September 11, 1799, John, twin son of Peter and Lucy Fletcher.

November 21, 1811, Eunice, daughter, age 3 weeks, 3 days, in Phillipston, Mass.

November 21, 1811, Peter Fletcher, age 44 years, in Phillipston, Mass.

February 8, 1856, Lucy (Wood) Fletcher, age 85 years, in Stow.

**Peter Fletcher**, married Mrs. Betsey (Warren) Patch in 1820. She died in 1856. He married Mrs. Harriet (Tower) Whitney.

Children,—*John*, who was drowned in childhood.

*Isaac*, a farmer in Stow.

*Lucy*, wife of Nehemiah Newhall.

*John Sibley*, Postmaster from 1867 to 1900, at Stow Center.

*Betsey M.*, who died when eight years old.

**Isaac Fletcher**, married Sophia Heywood; they had one son, George who has died. She died. He married for his second wife, Eliza J. Newhall. They had seven children.

Children,—*Carrie*, *Mary*, *Lucy*, *Herbert*, *Frank*, *Charles D.*, *Clifton N.*

**Charles D.**, married Mary Moore of Stow. Had four daughters,—*Ethel*, *Evelyn*, *Eleanor*, *Elizabeth*.

1—**Ethel Fletcher**, married John Lord of Stow. Had one son, *Charles Harding Lord*.

2—**Evelyn Fletcher**, married Donald Lyman Priest of Stow. Had one son, *Richard Fletcher Priest*.

3—**Eleanor Fletcher**, married Robert W. Derby of Stow. Had three children.

*Robert Fletcher Derby*. Twins,—*Roger Newhall Derby* and *Elizabeth Derby*.

4—**Elizabeth Fletcher**, attending Boston University.

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

**Clifton N. Fletcher**, married in 1900 Eleanor Blanche Longard of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Had four children.

1—**Robert**, married in 1926, Anna F. Coley, Hudson. She died 1929. Had one child, *Jean Frances*, born February 4, 1929.

2—**Thelma**, not married. A teacher in Wakefield High School.

3—**Kathryn**, married in 1928, Albert Tinkham of Mattapoiset.

Children,—*Eleanor Longhard Tinkham*, born 1931.

4—**John Abbot Fletcher**, not married.



## GENEALOGIES

---

### Lawrence Family

**JOHN LAWRENCE** of Ashton Hall married in 1252, Matilda de Washington, an heiress, daughter of John de Washington. A son by this marriage and successor of James of Ashton Hall was John Lawrence, said to have lived in the 32nd year of Henry the Third. Respecting the names, Lawrence and Washington, it may be noted that Lawrence Washington was brother of President George Washington and one of the earliest proprietors of Mount Vernon.

**Henry and Mary Lawrence**, of Wissett, England, came to Charlestown in 1635.

**John**, son of Henry and Mary came to New England and settled in Watertown, Mass. married Elizabeth.

**Peleg**, 7th son of John and Elizabeth, born 1647; married Elizabeth Morse.

**Eleaser**, son of Peleg and Elizabeth, born 1674; married Mary.

**Samuel**, son of Eleaser and Mary, born 1714; married Mary Hildreth of Westford.

**Samuel**, son of Samuel and Mary, born 1738, married Rebecca of Groton.

**Jabez**, son of Samuel and Rebecca born 1767, married Lucy Kendall of Ashby.

**John W.**, son of Jabez and Lucy, born 1818, married Emily Gates of Stow, Mass., 1839.

**Samuel A.**, son of John and Emily, born at Ashby 1841; married Susan M. Proctor.

**Bertha F. Lawrence**, daughter of Samuel A. and Susan Proctor.

**Eugene B. Lawrence**, son of Samuel A. and Susan Proctor Lawrence, married Lillian F. Brown. Is Vice-principal of Bulkley High School, New London, Conn.  
Children of Eugene B. and Lillian (Brown) Lawrence,—

**Samuel Eugene Lawrence**, served in the Marine Corps, World War; married, lives in Braintree. A teacher in the High School.

**John Valentine Lawrence**, belonged to State Militia, in 28th infantry, U. S. A. Was in the major battles of World War; received French citation for bravery. Married, lives in New London, Conn. Is a Railway Clerk.

**Eugene Burtt Lawrence, Jr.**, married Frances Porter of New London, Conn. Lives in Stow. Is a printer in N. E. Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass.

**James Brown Lawrence**, married, lives in New London, Conn.

**Emily Ann Lawrence**, deceased.

**Carl Eugene Lawrence**, deceased.

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

**Gates and Lawrence**

**STEPHEN**, who came from England to America, the first of that name to settle here.

**Stephen, No. 2**, married Sarah Woodward, Watertown, Mass.

**Simon, 2nd**, son of Stephen and Sarah, born in Stow, married Hannah Benjamin of Stow.

**Amos**, son of Simon had seven children.

**Oliver**, eldest child of Amos Gates, married Lucy.

**Israh**, son of Oliver and Lucy, born May 4, 1771, married Susannah.

**Joel**, son of Israh and Susannah, born May 10, 1795, married Eunice.

**Emily**, daughter of Joel and Eunice, born July 1, 1818, married John W. Lawrence.

**Samuel Augustus**, son of John W. and Emily, born March 13, 1841.

**Sarah Elizabeth**, daughter of John W. and Emily, born December 14, 1839.

## GENEALOGIES

---

### Priest Family

**Abraham Priest, No. 1**, came from Wilkinsville, Marlboro, January, 1818, and bought land in Stow. He married Mrs. Abigail Whitcomb.

Children,—*Jonathan, Abraham, Jr., Joseph, Abigail, Comfort, Dolly.*

**Jonathan Priest**, married Eleanor Fay, from Marlboro.

Children,—*Abraham, Sarah.*

**Abraham Priest**, married Mary Wilder. **Sarah** married Benjamin Folsom.

Children,—*George, Alice*

Children, *Viola, Marion, May.*

**Abraham Priest, Jr.**, married Hannah Wolcott, daughter of Jonathan Wolcott.

Had one son, *Lyman F.*

**Lyman F. Priest**, married Emma Ashworth.

Children,—*Harold A., Donald L., Emily H.*

**Harold A. Priest**, married Sarah Gravesen of Concord, Mass.

Children,—*Barbara, Betty, Harold Abraham Priest, Jr.*

**Donald Priest**, married Evelyn Fletcher of Stow. Is a large fruit grower in Groton.

One Child,—*Richard Fletcher Priest.*

**Emily H. Priest**, married John Eveleth Derby, of Stow.

Children,—*Ann Derby, John Eveleth Derby, Jr.*

**Joseph Priest**, married

Children,—*Henrietta, Charles.*

**Henrietta Priest**, married Amon Wetherbee of Stow.

Children,—*Fannie, Clinton, Warren Wheeler.*

**Charles Priest**, married Alice Thompson of Stow.

Children,—*Harold, Margaret, Gertrude, Clarence, Robert, Kenneth, Grace, Howard W. Laura.*

---

### Underwood Family

**Jeremy Underwood**, married Abigail Whitmarsh Stow, December 26, 1840.

Children,—*Maria, Horace, Laura, Herbert, Charles.*

**Herbert Underwood**, married Hannah Ridley from Jay, Maine.

Children,—*Viola, Mary, Bessie, John, Bertha, Walter, Arthur.*

**Mary Underwood**, makes her home with her father on the old homestead.

**Warren Family**

**JOHN WARREN** came over from England on the *Arbella* in 1630 and landed at Salem; his company settled in (Charlton) Charlestown; later in Watertown. They bought "remote meadow land," which afterward was Weston.

**Abijah Warren**, one of his descendants was born in Weston, Massachusetts, in 1754. He went into business for himself at the age of 25. He came to Stow from Weston in 1782. Died September, 1824.

He married Rebecca Hubbard of Concord who died in Stow, March 2, 1791.

He married Ann Hayward, February 28, 1793. She died February 11, 1835.

Children,—*Rebecca, Nehemiah, Lucy, Dorcas, Lois, Levi, Jonas, Nancy, Betsey.*

**Rebecca**, married Levi Whitney of Stow, May 10, 1804; she died July 19, 1835.

**Dorcas**, married Levi Whitney of Stow, as 2nd wife.

**Nehemiah**, never married.

**Lucy**, married Jonas Wetherbee of Stow, February 1, 1823.

**Lois**, married Josiah Patch of Stow, 1806; he died; married 2nd, Richard Hastings, 1814.

**Levi**, married Lucinda Hale of Stow, 1818.

**Jonas**, married Mrs. Dolly Tucker Wilder, 1817; she died, 1867; he died May 16, 1882.

Children,—Charles, Francis, Sarah Ann, Albert; two children died while quite young.

**Charles Warren**, married Myra Aldridge of Kentucky, and afterward lived there.

**Francis W. Warren**, married (1) *Lucy Ann Forbush*; she died November 14, 1859.

married (2) *Eleanor Maria Derby*; she died 1919. He died, July 6, 1896.

**Sarah Ann**, married Charles W. Robinson of Stow, she died 1902 in New York City; he died 1918, in Stow.

**Albert Warren**, married (1) *Emma Sophia Kendall*; 1848;

Children,—Emma Sophia, Joseph Warren.

Married (2) *Mary White* of Wisconsin.

Children,—Mary Warren, Charles R. Warren.

**Nancy Warren**, died while young.

**Betsey Warren**, married (1) John Patch; married (2) Peter Fletcher.

**Francis Warren and Lucy Ann (Forbush)**, had 3 children—Charles, Frank, Herbert, Walter. She died.

**Francis Warren and Eleanor Maria Derby**, had 4 children; *Henry W., Lucy, Sarah, Carrie L.*

## GENEALOGIES

---

Henry W., married Adelia Moore, 1901; had 3 children; *Dorothy, Francis, Charles.*

Francis, married Mary Colburn, 1930; had one son, Francis Jr.

Lucy, married Henry Smith; have two children,—*Charles Warren*, and Eleanor Smith.

Charles Warren Smith, married Jennie M. Ungethuen of Westfield, Mass; have one son, David Smith.

Sarah, married William Brown of Littleton, Mass.; had two children, *Ethel, Clarence.*

Ethel, married Edward Prouty of Littleton, Mass.; had three boys;—Gardner Prouty, Donald Prouty, Roger Prouty.

Clarence, married; had 2 children,—Richard and Lois.

### Wetherbee Family

**WETHERBEE** (Witherby, Wetherby, Weatherbee) of ancient English origin in Yorkshire. Has Coat of Arms (Vert a chevron ermine between three rams passant argent attired or).—"The crest is a wether with a bell under his neck. There are three animals upon the shield, also wethers." The history of the chevron and motto is as follows:

"Robert Wetherby, the martyr ancestor, was the one upon whom it was conferred by Queen Elizabeth. He was condemned to die at the stake by Bloody Mary, November 20, 1558. Three days before the time for the execution of the sentence, Bloody Mary was executed and Elizabeth conferred the Royal Chevron on his arms and gave him the motto, Terrax in Fido, (Strong in the Faith.)"

John Wetherbee, the immigrant ancestor, was born in England about 1650. He was a descendent of the above Robert Wetherby. He settled first in Marlboro, Mass. (in the now town of Southboro) and later moved to Stow, Mass. where he died in 1711. On June 7, 1684 he sold land in Stow, Mass. to Thomas Ward and on August 22, 1701 he sold 30 acres to Joseph Daby. His will dated October 13, 1707, with codicil dated April 11, 1709, was proved in 1711.

**John Wetherbee 1**, born about 1650, England, died 1711, in Stow, Mass. Married (1) September 18, 1672, Marlboro, Mass. Mary Howe, born June 13, 1654, Sudbury, Mass., died June 5, 1684 in Stow. (daughter of John and Mary Howe of Marlboro.) Married (2) September 16, 1684, Stow, Mass. Lydia Moore, born April 6, 1660, Lancaster, Mass.

**John Wetherbee (1)**, and Mary Howe.

Children,—*Joseph*, married Elizabeth Johnson.

*John*, married Catherine Whitcomb, 1698 in Concord, Mass.

*Thomas*, married Hannah Woods.

**John Wetherbee** and Lydia Moore.

Children,—*David, Jonathan, Ephraim, Mary, Lydia, Anne.*

**John Wetherbee, (2)**, and Catherine Whitcomb.

Daniel, married (1) Rachel Hall, (2), Mary Stow.

John, married Elizabeth Whitney.

Josiah, married Sarah Hall.

Hezekiah, married Huldah Martin.

Isaac, married Mary Graves.

Micah, married Sarah Hinds.

*Thomas*, married Elizabeth Hale.

Catherine, married Aholiab Wilder.

## GENEALOGIES

---

### Wetherbee Family

**Thomas Wetherbee (3)**, (John 2, John 1) and Elizabeth Hale on March 23, 1736, Lancaster.

Children,—Joseph, married Sarah Gates of Leominster.

Mary (or Mercy), married William Whitcomb.

Olive, married Jacob Whitcomb.

Elizabeth, married William Wolcott.

Sarah, married ———Josselyn.

Thomas, married Mary Gates.

Katherine, married (1) Oliver Gates, (2) John Gates.

*Ephraim*, (Lieut.) born June 3, 1756, married Olive Gates 1772.

Died 1852, age 96 yrs.; she died 1836, age 82 yrs. Buried in Hillside Cemetery, Stow, Mass.

**Ephraim Wetherbee (4)**, (Thomas, John, John), and Olive Gates.

Children,—Lois, born 1773.

Thomas, born 1774.

Dorcas, born 1775.

Samuel, born 1777.

*Levi*, born 1779, married *Betsy Hawes*, 1825;

Olive, born 1781.

Betty, born 1783.

*Pliny*, born 1788, married *Alice Law* of Sharon, 1809;

Peggy, born 1790.

Milly, born 1794.

**Lieut. Levi Wetherbee (5)**, (Ephraim, Thomas, John, John), and Betsy Hawes.

Children,—Thomas Jefferson, (died when a child), born 1827; died 1834.

*Marshall S.*, married Elizabeth Lincoln, born 1835.

**Marshall S. Wetherbee (6)**, (Levi, Ephraim, Thomas, John, John), and Elizabeth Lincoln.

Children,—Levi L., married Annie Coddington of Dighton.

*Addie F.*, married Albert J. Syner of Taunton.

**Addie Wetherbee (7)**, and Albert J. Syner.

Children,—*Clarence M.*, married Eleanor Wilbur of Taunton.

Marguerite F. A teacher in Boston University.

**Clarence M. Syner (8)**, and Eleanor Wilbur.

Children,—Alan L., born in Mexico.

David A., born in Mexico.

Mary E., born in San Antonio, Texas.

**Wetherbee Family**

**Lieut. Ephraim Wetherbee**, born June 3, 1756; married Olive Gates (daughter Samuel Gates) 1772; she was born 1754. "Ephraim Wetherbee, a native of Stow, was residing there when news of the skirmish at Concord reached him; whereupon he marched for the scene of the hostilities without delay. He served afterward in the army and other places."

Children of Lieut. Ephraim and Olive (Gates) Wetherbee.

**Pliny**, eighth child, born April 23, 1788; married Alice Law of Sharon, December 3, 1809. She was born 1780. "Alice wife of Pliny died September 12, 1843, age 63 years." He died May 2, 1868, age 79 yrs. Buried in Hillside Cemetery.

**Reuben Law Wetherbee**; born May 5, 1820; married Mary Wolcott, April 28, 1842; she died February 14, 1897. He died, December 16, 1900.

**John Herbert**, sixth child, born June 15, 1858; married September 5, 1881, Anna Augusta Pike; had five children, *Leon Augustus, Ida May, Arthur Everett, Mary Ella, George Reuben Wetherbee*.

**Leon A.**, married Margaret Fiske, June 9, 1908, Hyde Park. Born June 16, 1884, died February 23, 1918.

Children,—Mary Elizabeth, Anna Margaret, Priscilla Wetherbee.

Married 2nd, Olive Stratton of Hudson, September 15, 1921.

Children,—Frances Marion and John Herbert (twins), born August 19, 1922. Lois Folsom, born July 20, 1925; died April 29, 1927. Virginia Stratton, born February 2, 1927.

**Ida May**, married September 29, 1909, Hyde Park, Clarence Edward Tucker.

Children,—Miriam born November 7, 1912; Donald Kent Tucker, born December 3, 1916.

**Arthur Everett**, married April 21, 1914, Hyde Park, Ruth Adams Tourtellotte.

Children,—Arthur Everett Jr. born August 16, 1918.

**Mary Ella**, born June 6, 1889; died February 25, 1928.

**George Reuben Wetherbee**, not married.



## GENEALOGIES

---

### Wolcott Family

**Jabez Wolcott** was born in Salem Village, September 21, 1711. He married Lydia Flint in 1733. In 1735, he moved to Stow, buying a farm near the Marlboro line, where the Hallocks now live. He died in Stow, November 27, 1781. She died February 4, 1816. Both are buried at "South Stow Village," (as it was called), now Stow Lower Village.

Children,—Jessie, Ruth, Frederick, *William*, Lydia, Susannah.

**William**, was born February 27, 1745 in Stow. He answered the Lexington Alarm, April 19, 1775; took part in the War of The Revolution, as a private in Capt. William Whitcomb's company. He married, Elizabeth Whitcomb of Stow, 1st; his 2nd wife was Mary Whitney of Harvard, Mass. He died November 28, 1827; she died November 28, 1837; both are buried at Stow Lower Village.

Children,—*Jonathan*, Jabez, Artemas, Elizabeth, Hannah Sargent, Hiram William, George Washington.

**Jonathan**, was born in Stow, June 15, 1790. He married Sarah Bigelow Parks. He died December 23, 1862. She died December 8, 1814. Both are buried near the Pilot Grove School, in Hillside Cemetery.

Children,—Artemas, Hannah, Charles, Lorenze, Samuel, *Abijah Parks*, Martha Maria, Sarah Elizabeth, Ann Maria, and Jonathan.

**Abijah Parks**, was born in Stow, November 23, 1832. He married Lucy Delia Perry, May 13, 1863. He died March 4, 1904; she died September 4, 1910. Both are buried in Brookside Cemetery.

Children,—*Mabel Annie*.

*Mabel Annie* was born in Stow, December 28, 1864. She married Frank Hallock, January 24, 1888.

Children,—*Perry Wolcott*; born March 19, 1896.

He died September 30, 1918, at Camp Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina. Is buried in Brookside Cemetery, in Stow, Massachusetts.

### Whitney Family

**JOHN WHITNEY** was born in England in 1589—settled in Watertown in 1635; died in Watertown, 1673.

**Richard Whitney**, son of John, was born in England 1626; in 1650, he married Martha Coldham.

He became a freeman May 7, 1651. Had eight children born in Watertown. He became a "Proprietor of Stow" June 3, 1680. Moved there when it was "the plantation beyond Concord." April 7, 1697, we read, "Richard Whitney of Stow, being 70 years of age, was released from training, by the Court."

Children,—Sarah, born 1652; *Moses* born 1655; married Sarah Knight of Stow. *Johannah*, born 1656; *Deborah* born 1658; *Rebecca* born 1659, died 1660. *Richard* born 1660, married Elizabeth Sawtelle. *Elisha* born 1662, (did he go to Conn.?) *Ebenezer*, born 1672, married Anna — .

**Moses**, born 1655, married 1686, Sarah Knight of Stow; Had eight children,—

*Sarah*, married 1734, Jonathan Wood of Stow, *Moses*, *Abraham*, *Jonas*, *Jason*, *Lemuel*, John, Ephraim.

He served as a soldier in King Philip's War, 1676. Had land granted him at Stow, 1681. In 1708, he purchased lands (30 acres) swamp and meadow, of Richard Burck of Sudbury, which had been granted him by the town of Stow. In 1692, he sold 4½ acres of upland in Sudbury as per deed to Benjamin Whittemore.

**Abraham**, married Mary Stone, 1st; married 2nd, Elizabeth ——. In 1749 gave his son, Abraham Jr., land given him by his father, Moses. Died in Stow, 1782. Had 4 children.

**Abraham 2nd**, married Marcy Perry of Sudbury, in 1745. Had nine children.

**Jacob**, married Esther Walcott; **Isaac** married Lucy Mead, Abraham 3rd had 4 wives; Levi died 1770.

**Ruth**, married *Ichabod Stow*, 1781; **Molly** married *Nathan Brooks* of Stow, 1784; **Levi**, **Mary**.

**Jason**, son of Moses 1, born in Stow 1704, died in Stow, 1785. Was one of committee of four to seat the meeting-house at Grafton, 1738; Served in the Revolutionary Army in the Company from Stow, under Capt. Whitcomb.

**Lemuel**, son of Moses No. 1, married Dorcas Gates; **Isaac**, son of Lemuel, born in Stow, 1747, married Lydia Taylor. Served in Revolutionary War in Capt. Cranston's Company, Stow. Had 3 children.

**Isaac**, son of Moses No. 1, married Lucy Mead of Harvard, May 1774. He was an extensive farmer in Harvard.

Children,—*Moses*, born 1782.

## GENEALOGIES

---

**Moses No. 2**, son of Isaac and Lucy Mead, married in 1806, *Lucy Gates* of Stow, daughter of Samuel and Mary Gates, of Stow. He came to live in Stow when 24 years of age. He was a farmer, but very active in town matters. Was Capt. of a company of troops or home guards for several years. For two years he was Representative and for several years, Justice of Peace. Died at Stow, October 1, 1856. She died November 5, 1875.

Children,—*Mary Gates*, wife of James Fordyce Whitney; died, June 30, 1886.

*Lucia Mead*, wife of Hon. Edwin Whitney, born, October 6, 1810.

*Moses Whitney*, came to live at the Gates Homestead when he married *Lucy Gates*. When his daughter Lucia Mead, married Edwin Whitney of New York, about 1840, he built the new house for his daughter. They made their home in this new house which is now in possession of the American Unitarian Society of Boston, Mass.

---

### Whitney Family

**THOMAS WHITNEY No. 1**, son of John, born in England, 1629; married in Watertown, 1654, Mary Kettle; died in Stow, 1719.

He was admitted freeman, March 18, 1690. "May 10, 1642, ordered that six pieces of common called Pequusset, shall be laid out for the present necessity of John Kettle." (*Watertown Record*).

**Thomas Whitney No. 2**, (Thomas, John) born in Watertown, 1656; married in 1679 Elizabeth Laurence who died 1741.  
Had eight children.

Resided in Watertown, Stow, Lancaster, and the part of Lancaster, now Bolton. In 1719, he bought for 300 pounds, 52 acres in Lancaster. February 26, 1721, he deeded one-half of this purchase with buildings (the homestead) to his son John of "Stow and now designed to remove to Lancaster." He mentions all his children in his will, except Thomas to whom he gave 21 acres in Stow, 1711. He was a soldier in King Philip's War and was in the garrison at Lancaster, October 19, 1675. Died 1742. Residence, Watertown, Stow, Lancaster and Bolton. Daughter, *Abigail*, married in 1723, Jonathan Rand of Stow.

**Isaiah Whitney No. 1**, 10th child of Thomas (No. 1); married Sarah Woodward Eddy. Died. Had — children,

**Isaiah Whitney No. 2**, born 1700; married Elizabeth Whitney. He moved to Harvard and purchased lands of Caleb Sawyer on "Bare Hill" 1722. Was a blacksmith. Joined the Harvard church in 1733; his wife in 1734. She lived to be 106 years old. Had 2 children,—Betty, *Isaiah*, No. 3.

**Isaiah Whitney No. 3**, married Persis Randall. He was born in Harvard, lived and died on his father's farm on "Bare Hill." He was in the Revolutionary Army. Had five children,—Jonah, Dorcas, Isaiah, Amos, *Cyrus* (No. 1).

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

**Cyrus Whitney (No. 1)**, son of Isaiah and Persis (Randall) Whitney, was born on the Whitney Homestead, on Bare Hill, Harvard, Massachusetts, 1771. Married, 1st, Asenath Harris; 2nd, Mary Whitney, daughter of Deacon Isaac and Lucy (Mead) Whitney. Had twelve children.

He was a good farmer and business man. Started a cotton factory in Stow, but it was not successful, and was given up. He was much interested in a gold mine in Harvard. A hole said to be 100 feet deep is shown in side hill now. He helped build Union Turnpike from Concord, through his farm, to Harvard and Lancaster, which joined the road to Fitchburg. Built a substantial, brick mansion after the 2nd marriage, over which his wife presided with dignity and grace. She had the first piano in town, also the first carriage. She left in her attic a loom for weaving homespun cloth and carpets, as well as flax wheels, wool spinning wheels and other evidences of her industry, skill and thrift. A well worn copy of the Scriptures and "*Baxter's Saints Rest*" witness her piety; well did her grand-children remember her cooking, cheery tones, and loving care. Cyrus was very ingenious. Besides his blacksmith shop, he had a cider-mill where native fruit was ground. His cellars had the best of bottled cider. His barns were crowded with hay. His lands were surrounded by heavy walls. In his fields, was an artificial pond well-stocked with fish and lilies.

**Hon. Edwin Whitney**, (first child of Cyrus (No. 1), born in Harvard, October 2, 1812; married *Lucia Mead Whitney*, daughter of Moses Whitney (No. 2), October 25, 1841. Had no children. He died, May 6, 1883; she died, March 11, 1894.

**James Fordyce Whitney** (seventh child of Cyrus Whitney and brother of Hon. Edwin Whitney) was born in Harvard, 1806; married *Mary Gates Whitney*, daughter of Moses Whitney (No. 2). She died in Stow, 1866. He died from pneumonia, in his 68th year in Stow, 1874. His residence was Albany, New York.  
Had 7 children,—

*Charles Augustus*, born 1836; died suddenly, 1892. *Lucia Caroline*, born 1838, died 1851.

**Cyrus Henry**, born 1839, residence Quincy, Ill., later Brookline, Massachusetts. Died February 1, 1927.

**James Francis**, born 1842; married Emma F. Chamberlain, residence Detroit Mich. Connected with Michigan Central R. R.

*Mary Elizabeth*, born 1844, married, 1869, Charles A. Warren, residence Detroit, Michigan. Died —.

**Adeline**, born 1846, residence Stow, Mass. Died, August 25, 1928.

**Martha Gates Whitney**, born 1848, residence Stow. Died, October 12, 1924.

## GENEALOGIES

---

In the lower village cemetery may be found the Whitney monument, on which are inscribed the names: Moses Whitney; Lucy, his wife; Charles Augustus, his grandson; Edwin, his son-in-law; Lucia Mead, wife of Edwin and daughter of Moses Whitney; Lucia C., niece; James Fordyce, son-in-law, brother of Edwin, and Mary Gates, wife of James and daughter of Moses. On a newer monument are the names: Cyrus Henry, died February, 1927; Adeline, August, 1928; Martha Gates, October, 1924.

James Francis, brother of the last three, is buried in Brookside Cemetery.

This family will be held in lasting remembrance for their generous gifts to this little town, and the "*church of their choice.*"





# STOW MASSACHUSETTS .





STOW, MASSACHUSETTS  
1683 - 1933

(ERRATA AND ADDENDA)



---

## INTRODUCTION

The cordial reception and wide circulation of the book "*Stow, Massachusetts, 1683-1933*" has been most gratifying. Since its publication, however, some errors and omissions are apparent which make additional notes desirable in order that the book may be of the greatest possible value to the public.

—Rev. and Mrs. Preston R. Crowell.

---

## ERRATA

Page 19—Mr. *Jonas* Warren (not Jones).

Page 33—*genial* (not benial).

Page 34—Act of *Oblivion* (not Oblicion).

Page 42—thought *best* to consolidate.

Page 54—installed in the Spring of 1883 (not 1887).

Page 55—in 1891 (not 1921).

Page 56—300 *pounds* (not \$300).

Page 56—426 *pounds* (not \$462).

Page 82—Lester Barnes, who recently received the D. S. C. was present at this service, (the citation was not Croix de Guerre).

Page 82—*William H. Parker, Henry H. Warren, Charles D. Fletcher, Samuel H. Peck.*

Page 91—1833 (not 1883).

Page 94—Alice Gates Hearsey married *Manuel Leo Mendonca. No children.*

Page 101—Children; Harold, Margaret, Gertrude, *Edna*, Clarence, Robert, Kenneth, Grace, Howard, Laura.

Page 102—4 children; Henry *H.* (not Henry W.).

Page 103—Henry *H.* married Adelia Moore, 1901.

Page 103—Francis W. married Mary *Coburn* of Chelmsford (not Colburn).

Page 111—James Francis Whitney, brother of the last three, died October 25, 1923; is buried in Brookside Cemetery.

Page 103—*Carrie Louise Warren* married W. Frank Smith, March 1, 1896.

Children, William Frank Smith, born in Roxbury, February 22, 1897.

*William Frank Smith*, married Gertrude Priscilla Harriman, daughter of Roland P. Harriman, October 25, 1922.

---

## ADDENDA

---

### CHURCHES

In the chapter on "Churches" that of the Union Congregational Church of Maynard may rightly be included, not as an off-shoot but as an independent organization. It had its beginning in the south-east part of Stow, then known as "Assabet Village." The story of its beginning is interestingly given by William Gutteridge, for fifty-seven years its deacon, in the Year Book and Church Directory issued by the pastor Rev. Matthew A. Vance in 1933. "It was rather inconvenient in those days," he writes "for the increasing number of residents to attend the Stow Church regularly. Thus arose the necessity of providing church services at home. The first serious consideration of this problem was given by a meeting of interested men, called July 23, 1850, at which eight men attended. It was here decided to begin by the organization of a Sunday-school, and to meet the initial expense, \$10 was subscribed for paper and supplies. Amory Maynard was chosen as the first Superintendent. At the next meeting held August fifth, other men joined the movement and such names as the following are recorded: Amory Maynard, William H. Knight, John J. McKay, Thomas H. Brooks, James H. Cheney, Artemas Whitney, Daniel Whitney, Haman Smith, Benjamin Smith, George Smith. Thirty-one settees were purchased at a cost of \$2.76 each and paid for by interested individuals. These were placed in the railroad station and everything was ready for the holding of a service. Before the month of August had passed, Rev. George W. Frost was engaged for the Sunday preacher.

About the same time the women got together and organized "The Ladies Benevolent Society." The first meeting was held in the Smith house where William F. Litchfield now resides on Great Road. The date of this first meeting was October 2, 1851. Rev. Mr. Frost continued to minister to the people for more than three years. By 1852 it was decided that the time had come to organize a Church and this was accomplished September 23, 1852. Four men and six women offered themselves for membership, namely; Amory Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Haman Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilder, Sybil Smith and Lydia Stone. The Council by which the organization was formed was attended by neighboring churches of Stow, Sudbury, Acton and Marlboro. The Church was organized as a "Union Church" under Congregational usage. A new meeting-house was built and dedicated on March 24, 1853. In 1855 a bell was purchased for \$439. In 1859 a pipe organ was installed in the rear



RED ACRE FARM



A FIRE HORSE AND PENSIONER



## ADDENDA

---

gallery. In 1866 the church was enlarged by adding 20 pews making the seating capacity 360. The list of pastors up to 1870, includes:-

Rev. George W. Frost	1852-1854
Rev. J. K. Derring	1854-1856
Rev. A. Morton	1856-1859
Rev. E. P. Tenney	1859-1860
Rev. F. Wallace	1860-1862
Rev. A. H. Fletcher	1862-1864
Rev. Thomas Allender	1864-1866
Rev. O. Hall	1866-1867
Rev. Timothy D. P. Stone	1867-1870."

In 1871 "Assabet Village" was incorporated as a town under the name of the man who had been so vital to this little village, namely "Maynard."

## BUSINESS INTERESTS

### Red Acre Farm

The one humane and philanthropic institution of which Stow can boast, and of which she has great reason to be very proud, is Red Acre Farm. This birthplace of one possessing great love and fondness for horses from childhood, has become an institution known all over the State and farther because of the humanitarian work it has accomplished.

The original buildings, which were painted red, stood on one acre of land, hence the name, "Red Acre." It was established in 1902 as a Charitable Home and Hospital for overworked horses. Here old family horses might be pensioned, free vacations given to poor horses, also treatment for lame and sick horses.

It was the first of its kind in Massachusetts, the second in the United States of America. A similar Home had been successfully established in London, England for several years and many had desired to see such a Home established in the vicinity of Boston. Stow is only 25 miles from Boston. The Advisory Board consisted of Mr. George T. Angell, Franklin H. Beebe, Dr. Edward W. Emerson, Henry C. Merwin and Miss Harriet G. Bird, treasurer.

And so the enterprise started on May 8, 1903 with one old black horse as a patient and guest and with little or no money in the treasury. It seemed a rash adventure but friends of the horses were soon attracted, an informal association was formed and money was collected in small sums. The charity steadily grew and on January 20, 1906 it was incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, its legal title being "Red Acre Farm Incorporated," with the following officers: Dr. Edward W. Emerson of Concord, President; Mr. Henry C. Merwin, State House, Boston, Secretary; Miss Harriet G. Bird, Stow, Massachusetts, Treasurer.

Its objects were:

To provide hospital treatment, rest and veterinary oversight for horses belonging to poor men.

To provide rest and opportunity for recuperation for cab horses, express and teaming horses.

To provide ambulance service whenever necessary.

To treat sick and injured horses as out-patients when necessary.

To rescue old, worn-out and abused horses.

To make comfortable, or cure, horses taken away from cruel owners.

To offer an asylum to old favorites.

To find good homes for horses limited in usefulness, coming from private owners.

To assume custody and provide a comfortable old age for fire engine horses and horses from the police, street and other city departments.

In some cases to loan a strong horse to take the place of a sick horse under treatment.

To stop the traffic in old and painfully unsound horses.

To see that the laws against selling and using decrepit and incurably lame or ill horses is enforced.

To hold a field day each June and a neighborhood "Horse Show," displaying well cared for horses, especially old horses that have belonged to one owner for a number of years, and colts that have been raised and used by owner.

To take charge of disposing of pet horses when it becomes necessary to have them painlessly killed and buried.

To release by death, suffering horses that are rescued in a sad and painfully hopeless condition.

Through the kindness and interest of the late George T. Angell, President of The American Humane Education Society and The Massachusetts Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, such horses as most needed help were found and sent here.

In 1908 the following law was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature:

[Chap. 133.]

**An Act Relative to the Disposition of Certain Horses Owned by Cities and Towns.**

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows)*

Section 1. Whenever any horses used in the fire department, the police department, the street or sanitary department, or any other department of any city or town shall, by reason of disability or disease, become unfit for use therein, the commissioner or other officer having charge of such department, in cities with the approval of the mayor, and in towns with the approval of the selectmen, instead of causing such horses to be sold, may transfer them to the custody of the charitable society, incorporated under the name of Red Acre Farm, Incorporated, or to any other charitable society incorporated in this commonwealth for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or for the care and protection of dumb animals, if the society is willing to accept the custody thereof, to be disposed of in such manner as the said society may deem best: *provided*, that the society upon receiving any such horse shall give a written agreement not to sell the horse or to let the same for hire. If any horse so received shall thereafter be



## ADDENDA

---

sold or let for hire, the proceeds of such sale or letting shall be the property of the city or town, and custody of the horse shall revert to the city or town.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved February 27, 1908.*]

It is a fact worthy of notice that all officers and committees have given their services, no salary ever having been paid; also these same individuals are the Directors today after thirty years of untiring service and interest in this work.

Over 6,000 horses have received benefit from this Farm of 120 acres.

Many of the residents remember the wonderful "Annual Field Day" held in June, when parades of Fire Horses, Work Horses, Farm Horses, and horses of all sorts and descriptions were held and a gala day was made with bands of music and many other attractions.

Today the automobile, tractor and truck take, in many instances, the place of the horse, and yet there are times and places when nothing can take the place of this faithful animal. So while we do not find as many horses needing such a home, there are some who may be found on this beautiful farm enjoying the freedom of the pastures and the soft cooling turf for their feet. This is still a "haven of rest" for the tired, worn horse; a place where he may prolong his days of usefulness.

## WARS

Between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and probably before, companies of men in the different towns of Massachusetts were formed to provide protection in time of emergency. These companies were called "standing companies" and belonged to the State Militia. They were named for the various counties which they represented. In the town of Stow, as far back as 1781, we find on record these names belonging to the State Militia, Cyprian Howe's Regiment, which was the 4th regiment of the 3rd division of the "Old North Company":-

Captain Nathaniel Sargent; 1st Lieutenant, Josiah Brown; 2nd Lieutenant, Ephraim Russell. July, 1787—3rd and 6th Companies of the 4th Regiment of the 3rd division (Middlesex Division of the State Militia in the County of Middlesex). Third company, Colonel Jonathan Rice's Regiment): Captain Ephraim Russell; Daniel Whitney, Lieutenant; Abraham Whitcomb, Ensign (2nd Lieutenant).

Sixth Company:—Captain Thomas Whitman; Lieutenant Bezaleel Hale, Jr.; Charles Hale, Ensign (2nd Lieutenant). This was the "Old North Company." July 20, 1787, these names are enrolled:—Ephraim Russell, Daniel Whitney, Abraham Whitcomb, John Dexter, Thomas Whitman, Bezaleel Hale, Jr., Charles Hale, Abraham Holden, William Loring, Samuel Gibbon, Solomon Taylor, Timothy Crouch, David Curtis, David Baldwin, William Wyman, Peter Johnson, John Tilton, Timothy Emes, Timothy Jackson, Thomas Curtis, Sampson Woods, Aaron Brown.

July 1st, 1781:—Noah Gates, Captain; Ephraim Conant, Lieutenant, Ephraim Wetherbee, 2nd Lieutenant of the "South Standing Company." 1791, Captain Daniel Eveleth; Lieutenant Asa Putnam; Josiah Brown, Ensign (2nd Lieutenant). Also the

names of Hezekiah Hapgood, Elisha Gates, Jr., Samuel Jewell. In 1817, we find Noah Gates, Captain; Pliney Wetherbee, Ensign. In 1821, Noah Gates, Captain; Pliney Wetherbee, 1st Lieutenant; Zachariah Whitman, 2nd Lieutenant.

In response to a petition from the three officers last named to the "committee on military affairs" at the State House, we find this record:—"The Committee on Military Affairs have had under consideration the petition of Noah Gates and others, inhabitants of Stow, within the bounds of 1st Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 3rd division of Militia, praying that Noah Gates, Pliney Wetherbee, and Zachariah Whitman be a committee to organize a company of Light Infantry, and that the Old South Company be disbanded, etc." This petition was granted "provided however, that said associates shall not be authorized to organize said Company till the number shall amount to 45, and the enlistment of that number shall have been made to appear to the satisfaction of the Colonel of said regiment." Further, "The Commander-in-chief having approved the foregoing advice of Council declares the Company of Militia in the town of Stow disbanded July 5, 1822."

By disbanding the South Standing Company in Stow, a Company of "Light Infantry" was organized August 15, 1822 of which Pliney Whetherbee was Captain, Zachariah Whitman was Lieutenant, Abraham Conant, Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant. This Company continued to serve till about 1825-1827 when those in command received their discharge and so far as we have been able to ascertain the company was disbanded. During their activities all military practice was held on the "Old Common" which we find on the old town records was also called "training-field."

In looking over the records of those serving in the "World War" we find one living who was in every battle of this War,—J. Lester Barnes,—to whom was awarded in the Spring of 1920, the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the highest awards given a soldier for bravery. The first citation came from Major General C. K. Edwards, commanding the 26th Division, and is as follows: "Pvt. Julius L. Barnes, Co. M. 101st Inf. I have read with much pleasure the reports of your regimental commander and brigade-commander regarding your gallant conduct and devotion for duty in the field on July 18-25, 1918 in the attack under heavy enemy fire,—2nd Battle of the Marne,—and have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the record of the Yankee Division.

C. K. Edwards, Major General, Commanding 26th division."

The second citation came from First Lieutenant Frank E. Bolin, 101st Infantry A. E. F. as follows:

"I hereby certify that, as an eyewitness, I am personally conversant with the details of the act set forth below, as a result of which Julius L. Barnes, Private Co. M. 101st Inf. 26th Div. A. E. F. was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross."

"Private Julius L. Barnes (62418) Company M. 101st Infantry, A. E. F.: is recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, by First Lieutenant Frank E. Bolin, 101st Infantry, American A. E. F. for extraordinary heroism in action at VAUX, northwest of Chateau-Thierry, on July 15, 1918. During the German attack on VAUX on that date, Private Barnes voluntarily joined a small group who were about to attack a superior force of the enemy. They advanced across a machine gun swept area, attacked the enemy and took eight prisoners. Two of our number were mortally wounded, and

## ADDENDA

---

Private Barnes, with great bravery and absolute disregard for his own safety, made two trips bringing these wounded comrades to a place of comparative safety. His zeal and devotion deserve the greatest praise and reward. Next of kin: Mrs. Charles W. Barnes (mother) Box No. 58, P. O. Stow, Mass."

This Cross was received by mail, at his home in the Spring of 1920.

We also have the following communication concerning Warren Wheeler Wetherbee from his comrade and pal, Lester Barnes:-

"To whom it may concern:

Warren Wheeler Wetherbee and I (Lester Barnes) enlisted in the National Guard at Hudson, Mass. We believed Company M would be one of the first called. The Company sailed for France September 8, 1917 after a short training. We stayed together as much as possible and though we fought in different platoons, we managed to see each other a great deal. Warren was a likable sort of fellow and with his amusing sayings helped to pass many hard hours. He was one of the finest types of soldiers and fought in every engagement in which Company M participated, including Chateau-Thierry where he was mortally wounded as a shell burst.

Stanley Valacia of Milford, who was picked up with Warren, when the ambulance arrived after considerable delay, told me that he heard a groan in the cot below and said, "Is that you, Warren?" He answered "Yes." Stanley then asked him how he felt and Warren said, "Terrible." We heard that on arriving at the hospital gangrene had already set in and Warren died within a few days."

Signed,  
Julius Lester Barnes.

It might well be added that both of these Stow boys served as "runners" or messengers and so were placed in most dangerous positions during the battles. It was during this service, while in action, the shell burst mortally wounding Wetherbee.

## BIOGRAPHICAL

One of the pleasing bi-products has been the disclosure of the names of some, the birthplace of whom Stow is proud to affirm. Thus the broadening, deepening river, "the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God" often overshadows and eclipses the acquaintance of its more remote and humble source. Even so has the name of John Timothy Stone, escaped notice as a son of Stow. The connection was brought to light in the following interesting manner. In a letter of March 30, 1934, Dr. Stone writes, "Recently when preaching at Culver Military Academy in Indiana, Major Crandall and I were breakfasting together; he asked of my New England ancestry and I told of my birthplace, Stow, Massachusetts. Laughingly, he said he was born in the same town and within a month of my own birth, September, '68. My father was a pastor in the Congregational Church and a great friend of the Maynards. I'm glad to have the book even if it does not know two of its unknown sons.

Ever Cordially,  
John Timothy Stone."

## STOW, MASSACHUSETTS, 1683 - 1933

---

In a postscript Dr. Stone adds, "Major Crandall and I had known each other at Amherst, he being '92, and I '91 (Class).

A little research disclosed the fact that in 1867-1870 Rev. Timothy D. P. Stone, the father of John Timothy Stone was pastor of the Congregational Church of Maynard, when Maynard was then known as Assabet Village and was a part of Stow. He was the last pastor before the incorporation as the town of Maynard, in 1871. Quoting parts from a second letter he continues:—"Yes, Timothy D. P. Stone was my father. I am glad to get that data about him. I had never known exactly whether I was born in Maynard or Stow. I should love to see the place again."

Along with the name of John Timothy Stone should be accorded also a high place in the annals of Stow, the name of its son, Major George Halliburton Crandall, distinguished for his services in educational work. For thirty years he has held the position as professor of Mathematics and English in Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana. He was a graduate of Stow High School. Major Crandall graduated in the Class of 1892, and was a co-temporary of Calvin Coolidge in his student days at Amherst College. And so, it must be confessed that Stow on her 250th birthday has a feeling akin to the Psalmist who sang, "Of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her." The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

## ADDENDA

---

### Stow Family

**STEPHEN STOW**, son of Thomas and Hannah (Johnson) Stow, of Marlboro, Mass., married Abigail Smith of Stow, Massachusetts, May 23, 1753. After the birth of their second child, Silas, they moved to Stow in 1756. They had six children,—Lydia, born 1754; Silas, born 1756; *Ichabod*, born 1759; Abigail, born 1762; Stephen, Jr., born 1766; Mary, born 1768.

**Ichabod Stow**, married Ruth Whitney, December 1781. They had twelve children,—Stephen, born 1782; *Abraham*, born 1784; Ichabod, Jr., born 1785; Daniel, born 1788; Lydia, born 1790; Joel, born 1792; Lotta, born 1794; David born 1795; Luke, born 1797; Silas, born 1799; Levi, born 1801; Moses, born 1803.

**Abraham Stow**, born April 12, 1784; married Eliza Rogers October 21, 1819. He died January 21, 1863; She died January 12, 1871.

*Children*,—Eliza Stow; Miranda Stow, Mirah Stow, *Edmund Stow*.

**Edmund Stow**, married Judith Anne Tenney April 16, 1863.

*Children*,—Emma L. Stow, *George J. Stow*, born March 1, 1870; Sarah M. Stow.

**George J. Stow**, married Mabel Persis Campbell of Windham, N. H., December 9, 1896.

*Children*,—*Harold Jason*, *Mabel Campbell*, *Ruby Josephine*, *George Tasker*, *Basil Tenny*, *Allan Edmund*, *Helen Viola*, *Marion Luella*, *Alice Margaret*.

**Harold Jason Stow**, born October 28, 1897—died September 21, 1918.

**Mabel Campbell Stow**, married Charles William Carvill, October 30, 1920.

*Children*,—Gordon Stow Carvill, Arnold Charles Carvill.

**Ruby Josephine Stow**, married November 10, 1922, William Henry Trumpolt.

*Children*,—Clayton William Trumpolt.

**George Tasker Stow**, married Arzyle Hubbard Webber, May 23, 1926.

*Children*,—Richard Harold Stow, Dorothy Helen Stow.

**Basil Tenney Stow**, married Margaret Chrystie Drysdale Reed, September 12, 1931.

*Children*,—Betty Lou Stow.

**Allan Edmund Stow**, married Helen Elizabeth Kytola February 28, 1930.

No children.

**Helen Viola Stow**, married George William Smith, July 3, 1930.

*Children*,—Ralph Irving Smith, Ronald Ainsly Smith.

**Marion Louella Stow**, not married.

**Alice Margaret Stow**, not married.

### Priest Family

**CHARLES H. PRIEST**, married Alice Thompson. They had eleven children,—  
*Francis Henery, Harold J., Margaret, Gertrude, Edna, Clarence, Robert, Kenneth,*  
*Grace, Howard, Laura.*

**Harold J. Priest**, married Marguerite F. Ellison. They had two children,—  
Robert Stillman, Durward Wendell.

**Margaret Priest**, not married.

**Gertrude Priest** married Howard Evers. No children.

**Edna Priest**, not married.

**Clarence Priest** married Dorothy Braman. They had four children,—Clarence,  
Jr., Elmer, Russell, Mabel.

**Robert Priest** married Grace Rosetti. They had two children,—Charles Robert,  
Robert Raymond.

**Kenneth Priest** married Ella Anderson. No children.

**Grace Priest**, married Louis Boeske. Had two children,—Pauline Louise, Sarah  
Ann.

**Howard Priest**, not married.

**Laura Priest**, not married.

---

### Gates Family

In the Lower Village Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in town, we find a marble monu-  
ment, on which are inscribed the following names of the Gates Family—

Isaiah Gates, died March 31, 1822; Susanah Hapgood, his wife, died May 15, 1847,  
age 69 years; Rufus Gates, their son, died September 15, 1853, age 40 years.

Joel Gates, died December 16, 1869, age 75 years; Eunice (Piper) his wife, died  
February 22, 1863, age 73 years.

We find no record of these names in the "*Gates Genealogy*" to which we are indebted for  
much of our record concerning the early history of this old family. We trust this  
may aid some one to find where the missing link fits in, so that the record may, at  
some future date, be complete.