

Heritage Reserve News

Stow Historical Society

Volume 46, Issue 3

www.stowhistory.org

August 2024

2024 Officers

President

Bryan Menke

330-329-0739

blmrrengine@aol.com

Vice President

Tammie Menke

330-342-9918

menketammie6@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Rachel Brownridge

rkbrownridge@gmail.com

330-968-5708

Treasurer

Tim Burns

330-703-4807

timburns999@gmail.com

Trustee

Houston Morgan

330-688-4108

Trustee

John Baranek

financestow@gmail.com

Trustee

Karen Fritschel

330-603-3983

karenfritschel@gmail.com

Editor

John Duckworth

johnduc@icloud.com

Stow Historical Society

P. O. Box 1425

Stow, OH 44224

stowhistorical@gmail.com

www.stowhistory.org

Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

Oct. 1 for Nov. Jan. 1 for Feb.

Apr. 1 for May July 1 for Aug.

2024 Joshua Stow Festival Recap

by Tim Burns

So proud that we have been about to bring back the yearly Joshua Stow Festival for the first time in over 10 years!



We had over 25 vendors, woodcarving and blacksmithing demonstrations, and had all of our historic buildings open for the public!



We felt this was a great supplement to our efforts to bring our Heritage House Museum back from the devastating fire late last year as well.



On Saturday June 22nd out at the historical Heritage Reserve Park, we celebrated the rich history of our City!



We had great food and welcomed 4H groups, the OSU Agricultural Extension, two great musical groups, and so much more!



Thanks again to the many volunteers from the Stow schools and others who we could not have held this event without all of them!

Thank you all again and see you again in 2025! ♦

Bryan Menke - President Festivals!

Hello everyone!

Welcome to our August edition of the Stow Historical Society Newsletter. In our continuous preparation of the Historical Reserve Park grounds, I would like to thank the many volunteers and their countless hours of weeding and mulching the historical houses. We are proud in maintaining the four houses and continuing to make them look great.

For the first time in 11 years, we brought back the Joshua Stow Festival on June 22nd from 10 am to 4 pm. Our experimental re-introduction of the event went very well. Plenty of visitors experienced 30 vendors, museum tours, ice cream, and strawberries in celebrating our City's founder Joshua Stow.

The next event will be our annual picnic in the Heritage Barn on Monday, August 12th at 6 pm. Drinks and chicken will be provided, and we ask you to bring a dish to share and a friend or two. Our picnic is open to all members and non-members.

Our next open house is Sunday, September 8th from 2-4 pm. Stop in for your personal tour of the Museums and learn more about your Stow Historical Society.

In just a little over a month, we will host the annual Harvest Festival on September 28th and 29th from 10 am to 4 pm. Vendors continue to reserve their booths and preparations are being finalized to make this another successful event. Please pass the word to your family and friends for great live entertainment, apple butter making, blacksmithing, and other demonstrations for adults and children. If you would like to help volunteer with us either in the Museums or on the grounds, please contact Tammie at shsfestival@gmail.com. We would appreciate the extra helping hands.

3rd Grade School tours will return in November. The students will learn about Stow history where it began in some of Stow's oldest homes and the one-room Stewart School House at the Heritage Reserve.

Renovation plans are continuing on the Heritage House. At the time this newsletter went to print, the architectural plans were ready, and a meeting with the Society's Board and our City contacts have been arranged. Our goal as a Board is to have approval by City Council in September and have work begin as soon as possible.

I hope to see many of you at our picnic and the Harvest Festival,

Bryan Menke ♦



Calendar

Times, dates, and locations may change due to the Oct. 15th fire.
Please check the website (stowhistory.org) for up-to-date information.

August 12, 2024

Monday, 6:00 pm

Potluck Picnic, Heritage Barn

Please bring a side dish to share.

The Historical Society will provide
the meat and drinks.

Please join us for an after dinner

Nature stroll around the museums!



September 28-29, 2024

Saturday & Sunday, 10-4

The Fall Harvest Festival

The Heritage Reserve Grounds

October 17, 2024

Thursday 4:00

School House Program Meeting

Bill Morgan - "American Sign Language History
and Performance in Sign"

November 14, 2024

Thursday 4:00

School House Program Meeting

Deny Reiser - "Historic Markers in Ohio"

September 8, 2024

Sunday 2:00-4:00

Open House at the Heritage Reserve

Stop by each of our Historic Museums for a
special treat and a family friendly activity!

September 12, 2024

Thursday, 4:00

School House Program Meeting.

Ron Marhofer - "The History of the
Marhofer Auto business in Stow"

December 12, 2024

Thursday 4:00

Mary Starr House

Please Join us!

Historic Holiday Sing-Along

Stow Historical Society Membership Application

Please accept my membership fee for the following type:

Individual - \$10 Family - \$20 Contributing - \$30 Sustaining - \$50

Business - \$100 Lifetime - \$200

Membership Total Enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Volunteer Interests (circle)

Archives

Building & Grounds

Festival

School Tours

Other _____

Date _____

Mail application and personal check to:

Stow Historical Society

PO Box 1425

Stow, Ohio 44224

Remembering Metz – Part One

by Beth Daugherty

Does anyone remember the little community of Metz? This long-forgotten area between Stow and Hudson, along Hudson Drive, was a thriving farming community in the 1800's. The following article is one I wrote in 2012 for the **Stow Patch**. Two resources used in the article were Fred Long's **Stories of a Stow Native** (for sale by SHS) and the scrapbook entitled "**Metz Womens' Missionary Society, 1834-1977**" which was compiled by Sarah Hibbard Amlung and presented to Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library 1977.

"Little Ireland"

Although the name was considered unofficial, the area in the northwest corner of Stow Township and southwest corner of Hudson Township was known as "Little Ireland" for nearly 100 years, according to Fred Long, author of **Stories From a Stow Native**.

The portion of land that included "Little Ireland" surrounded McCauley Road, west of Hudson Drive. Many Irish immigrants settled within this five-mile radius on the border of Stow and Hudson Townships in the early and mid-1800s.

Although many Irish came to Ohio to work on the canals, the families that settled in this area were Protestant farmers. They bought large tracts of land from the Connecticut Land Company and established their farms.

Familiar family names included O'Brien, McCauley, Ritchie, Hibbard, Sadler, Galloway, Calkins, Darrow, and Steel.

"Little Ireland" had its own church, school, and post office, with the Cleveland, Akron, and Columbus railroad running through the heart of it in the 1880s. Because the railroad conductors felt that the name "Little Ireland" was too long to call out when going through the town, the name was shortened in 1886 to "Metz."

O'Brien Cemetery

O'Brien Cemetery is located on the west side of Hudson Drive in Hudson Township, just north of the Stow border. Although the cemetery wasn't officially platted until 1880, most of the burials took place much earlier. The first known burial was of Mary Deacon on August 15, 1806. Mary was born in 1766 and died at age 40.

The original platting for the cemetery took place on June 19, 1880. The plat was recorded in Summit County by Edward McCauley acting for the O'Brien Cemetery Association as a section of land in Great Lot 14 of Hudson Township. The O'Brien Cemetery Association was formed to take care of the cemetery.



O'Brien Cemetery

United Presbyterian Church

The United Presbyterian Church was first organized in "Little Ireland" in 1833 at the home of William Galloway on Allen Road in Stow Township's northwest corner.

A church building was erected in 1834 at the corner of what is now McCauley Road and Hudson Drive. Another church building was put up in 1849 and still another in 1906. Because of declining attendance, Metz United Presbyterian Church was disbanded and the building sold to North Hill United Presbyterian Church in the early 1920s. The Metz Missionary Society, however, continued to serve the community until 1977.

Metz Women's Missionary Society

Metz Women's Missionary Society was first organized in 1885 by Mrs. William Wallace, wife of the minister of the United Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the society was to support the community in various ways. The society continued until 1977. The members by that time were not all Presbyterian, but of many denominations. They met the first Thursday of every month in members' homes. Several projects in the 1970s were financial support for an exchange student, eye-glasses, toys for Summit County Children's Home, layettes for newborns, and holiday food baskets for the needy. The society continued until 1977.

Metz Post Office

The first postmaster of Metz was Edwin Seasons, who served from 1886 until 1893, when Harry Darrow became postmaster. The small, one-room post office was located in his home. It had only a desk and a cubbyhole for mail. Residents from nearby communities came by wagon and horseback to pick up their mail.

Darrow remained the Metz postmaster for 42 years, at one time having 50 post office box patrons. When Harry retired in 1935, Herbert Sadler became postmaster.

Sadler recalled hanging his mail bag on an outside post, waiting for the train to come by and hook it, while incoming mail was thrown out of the car. The train stop for the post office was alongside the northwest side of the tracks on McCauley Road. Due to a decline in patrons, the Metz Post Office was discontinued in 1936, and resident's mail was then handled through the Cuyahoga Falls Post Office. ♦

Read about Sarah Amlung's reminiscences of Metz in the next issue of Heritage Reserve News!

June Meeting by Tim Burns

Our June program meeting was held at the historical Stewart-Hanson House. We are so grateful to current owners Jacqueline and Mark Ashworth for hosting the Stow Historical Society at their home! They have been constantly looking back into the history of their house and the surrounding buildings support-

ing the farm. They allowed all of our attendees walk through and hear about how the family and buildings supported farm life over the last 150 years. Their dedication to the preservation of this home and buildings is a true testament to them and those that appreciate what life was like more than 150 years ago! Thank you again! ♦



The Stewart - Hanson House from Call Road



Mark Ashworth giving tours in the second floor of one of the barns



Mark and Jacqueline Ashworth describing the history of each building



More of the refurbished buildings on the property

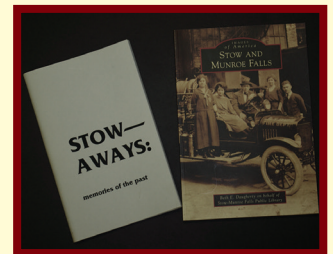
Heritage Reserve Store

Stow Historical Society offers products for sale with proceeds going toward the maintenance and preservation of the collection. Contact a Board Member if interested. Items include:

Heritage Plates: \$4 each



Images of America: Stow and Munroe Falls
by Beth E. Daugherty: \$22.
Stow-Aways: Memories of the Past
by Garnet Byrne: \$3.



*Recollections of Living and Working in Stow, Ohio
1936 to..."* by Fred Long: \$15.

Stories of a Stow Native
by Fred Long: \$25.

Note Cards: 6/\$5

