

HERITAGE RESERVE NEWS

STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 47, Issue 2

www.stowhistory.org

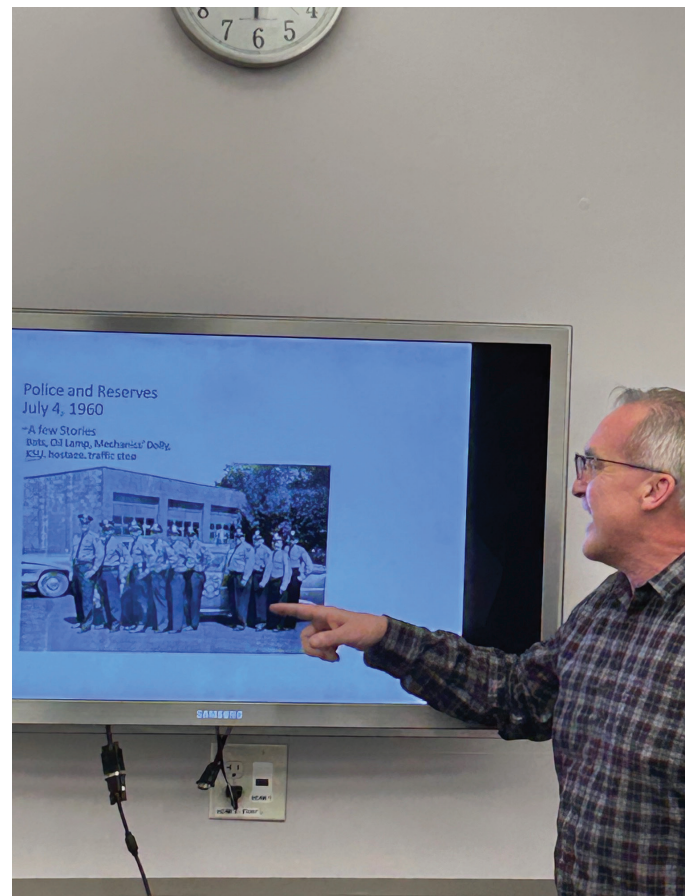
May 2025

What We've Been Up To



The Stow Historical Society and the Stow Players shared a table at the Stow-Monroe Falls Business & Community Expo on Saturday, March 11. We are neighbors in the Heritage Reserve Park. Tammie Menke of SHS and Adrienne Wise of the Stow Players are pictured here answering questions. The information table is a good way for the SHS to share our mission of "Preserving Yesterday for Today". If you would like to help, please let one of the board members know. ♦

At the March 10th meeting of the Stow Historical Society, Larry Long gave an entertaining and informative presentation called "Memories of Stow as recalled by the Long Family". Do you remember when you could get worms and buy a bike at Eddie's Bike shop? Did you remember the Workman High School on the corner of Graham and Darrow Rd? These are just a couple of the stories that Larry shared with us. If you would like to learn more, the Society has several books for sale that will help you journey back into Stow's History. Hope to see you at the next program on April 14th. ♦



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Heritage Reserve News Deadlines:

Jan. 1 for Feb. Apr. 1 for May
July 1 for Aug. Oct. 1 for Nov.

Bryan Menke - President

Welcome Spring

Hello everyone and welcome to our spring newsletter.

In this edition you can read about our recent monthly meeting and all the upcoming events your Stow Historical Society is planning. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Joshua Stow Festival in June and our Harvest Festival in September.

Our spring clean-ups of the exterior and interior of the museums are scheduled. Please consider stopping by to lend a hand in maintaining and improving the museums. See the calendar for dates and times.

At this year's Community Showcase, the Historical Society and Stow Players shared a booth to help promote each others' organizations. Stow Players and our Society have a long relationship over many decades. It was good to see so many people stop by and say hello.

The Stow Historical Society and the Darrow Street Grange along with the City of Stow and Stow Munroe Falls Library continue our efforts to pursue an Ohio Historical marker for Stow. The detailed application is being finalized shortly and submitted for consideration.

Well, here is the update on the Heritage House fire restoration. Waiting, waiting, and more waiting. As soon as we know more from the City, we will keep you updated. Meanwhile our most famous historical museum continues to get battered by the weather inside and out.



Gofundme Fire Restoration Donation: \$6,076.65

If you have ideas for future meeting topics or would like to share with the Society a piece of your Stow history, contact our program chair Tammie at shsfestival.com.

I hope everyone enjoys their Spring. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our events.

Thank you
Bryan Menke



Calendar

Please check the website (stowhistory.org) for up-to-date information.

April 14th, 2025

Monday 6:30

School House

Program Meeting

Bill Starcher presents "Bringing Art and Inspiration without the Need for Greed"

May 4th, 2025

Sunday 2:00-4:00

Museums open!

May 31st, 2025

Saturday 10:00-12:00

Museums and Grounds day

Please stop by to lend a hand!

Water and doughnuts provided!

June 9th, 2025

Monday 6:30

School House

Program Meeting

Peter Shand presents "Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron"

June 20th, 2025

Friday 3:00-7:00

Heritage Reserve Grounds

Joshua Stow Fest preparation

Please stop by to lend a hand!

Water and snacks provided!

June 21st, 2025

Saturday 10:00-4:00

Heritage Reserve Grounds

Joshua Stow Festival

August 11th, 2025

Monday 6:00 pm

Heritage Barn

Picnic

The Stow Historical Society will provide the meat and beverages. Please bring your place settings and a side dish to share!

We will have a special guest presentation!

September 27th-28th, 2025

Saturday & Sunday

Heritage Reserve Grounds

Harvest Festival

OUR JUNE 9TH PROGRAM:

PROGRESS THROUGH PRESERVATION 40TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

For 40 years, Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron has been a passionate advocate for the preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods with historic or architectural significance in Akron and Summit County. This video takes you through our rich history, showcasing the impact we've made in protecting and revitalizing our community's heritage.

Peter Shand, born and raised in Cuyahoga Falls, is an accomplished video production professional with seven years of industry experience. After graduating from Kent State University, he honed his craft through work on short films and producing video content for notable organizations such as Goodyear, Stark State University, and Playhouse Square. Peter currently serves as the Multimedia Specialist for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, where he continues to blend creativity and technical expertise to bring compelling stories to life. ♦

It is very hard to remember
that events now long in the past
were once in the future.

- Maitland

Silver Lake Aquarium

by Beth Daugherty

Have you ever been curious about the round church on Elm Road in Stow? What is its history and why is it round? The answer to those questions goes back to the early 1900's when Ralph Lodge operated Silver Lake Amusement Park. Ralph had purchased Stow Lake (also known as Wetmore Pond) from Joshua Stow's descendants circa 1876. He later purchased land bordering the lake and opened the area to picnickers and those seeking amusement and recreation. Ralph's family was involved in park operations and in 1902 the Silver Lake Park Company was incorporated by members of the family. Because of incorporation, the Company was able to finance new features for the park, including an aquarium!

The Silver Lake Aquarium, built in 1907, is believed to have been the first public aquarium in the state of Ohio. The walls were made of "granite block," a cement block made of ground slag, sand, gravel, and cement. A fourteen-foot pool was built to house sea lions (for one season only since they required a lot of food), beavers, muskrats, and waterfowl. There were also 12 fish tanks that contained water grasses, plants, and more than 20 varieties of fish found in Silver Lake. The aquarium was approximately 52 feet in diameter and cost \$5,000. To see photos of the interior of the aquarium, please



refer to *Images of America, Silver Lake Park*, by Mary L. McClure.

Silver Lake Amusement Park became one of the biggest attractions in Ohio during its peak years of 1906 to 1911. Along with the aquarium, features included a dance hall, a stable, boating, fishing, swimming, a miniature train, roller coasters, a baseball diamond, elk and deer grounds, bear pits, and a hotel. There was also a train station for the thousands of folks arriving from Akron, Cleveland, and surrounding areas. In 1912, the railroads discontinued their excursion



service, which proved detrimental to the park, although the Lodge family successfully managed the park until 1917. By then attendance had dwindled due to World War I and lack of transportation. At that time, the majority of shareholders voted to sell the property.

The Silver Lake Improvement Company then developed the 542 acres, selling residential lots in Silver Lake Estates. The Village of Silver Lake was incorporated in March 1918 and William R. Lodge, Ralph's son, became the first mayor of Silver Lake.

So what happened to the aquarium? After Silver Lake Park closed in September, 2017, the aquarium was dismantled and remained in the Lodge family. William Lodge paid mover Henry Baker \$600 to take it down and store it on the Lodge farm, thinking he would build a circular barn out of it. Around the same time (1917), a group of about 40 Stow residents met to organize a nondenominational church for those not affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. Services were held in the high school as there was no church building. Notably, the first minister of the church was a female – Winifred Dague.

On April 8, 1919 William offered to give the aquarium to the Advisory Board of the Community Church



for a new church building. Work began at once, with men of the church grading and excavating the basement. The building was rebuilt and the cornerstone was laid May 2, 1919. The church was dedicated September 26, 1920. The Stow Community Church has since moved to another location, but the round church remains at 3541 Elm Road. ♦



To view images of the 1920 dedication, see the Stow Community Church website at <https://stowcommchurch.org>.

Sources for this article include the Village of Silver Lake website; the Stow Community Church website, *Images of America, Silver Lake Park* by Mary L. McClure; *Images of America, Stow and Munroe Falls* by Beth E. Daugherty; and the Writings of William R. Lodge, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library special collection.

HERITAGE RESERVE NEWS

STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1425
STOW, OH 44224

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 _____

Stow Historical Society
PO Box 1425
Stow, Ohio 44224

Mail application and personal check to:

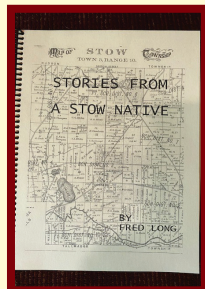
Heritage Reserve Store

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



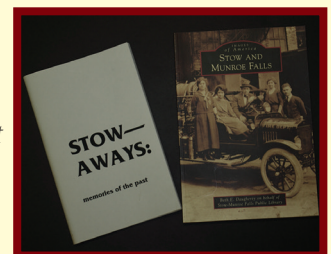
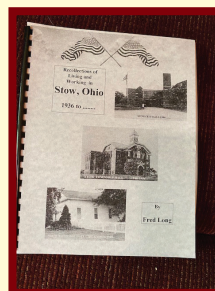
Stories of a Stow Native
by Fred Long: \$25.



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

Images of America: Stow and Munroe Falls
by Beth E. Daugherty: \$22.

Stow-Aways: Memories of the Past
by Garnet Byrne: \$3.



Note Cards: 6/\$5

