

HERITAGE RESERVE NEWS

STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 47, Issue 4

www.stowhistory.org

November 2025

GREAT WEEKEND AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

BY TIM BURNS



We were so happy to hold our Annual Harvest Festival the last weekend of September this year, first held in 1978! We had one of the best weekends of weather ever for the Festival!

We celebrated Stow's history come to life and celebrated with over 50 craft vendors and artisans, old time craft demonstrations, making apple butter over a fire, kids activities, raffles, tons of food, Pure Passions Farm alpaca and other farm animals, entertainment from four great local bands, yard spinning and blacksmithing demonstrations, and so much more! We also welcomed the Model T and Corvair car clubs!

The City of Stow Parks & Recreation Department hosted a great pumpkin painting table for all kids in attendance!

We are proud to have four great Historic Buildings we take care of: Heritage House Museum, Minnie Darrow House, Mary Starr House, Stewart School. This was also our biggest fundraiser to support the restoration of our Heritage House Museum and antiques.

Thank you all again, as well as to all of our volunteers who contributed to the success of the Harvest Festival. See you again next year! ♦



More pictures on page 2

Photos by Tim Burns

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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

Hello everyone,
Welcome to our fall edition of the
Heritage Reserve News.

What a spectacular weekend we had for our 49th annual Harvest Festival held September 27th and 28th from 10 am to 4 pm. We had perfect sunny fall weather, four local bands, over 50 vendors, two blacksmiths, the Morgan family Apple Butter making, and our three museums open for tours, it was great to see so many people visit and enjoy the activities.

Thank you to the volunteers who spent many hours donating their time to enable this year's festival to once again be a great success.

Please support our local sponsor's . We appreciate their generosity in supporting the Historical Society.

To round out our activities for the remainder of this year, mark your calendars for "A Walk Through the Past" in Maplelawn Cemetery in October,

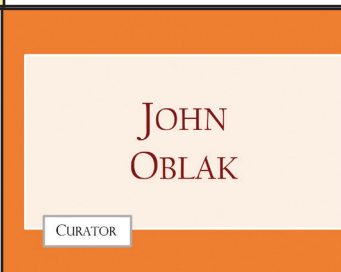
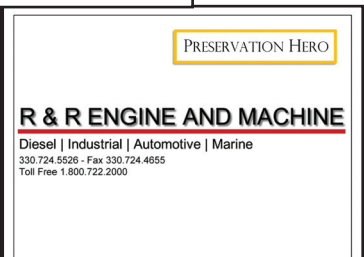
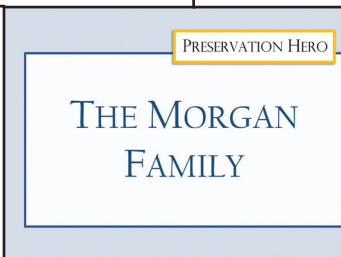
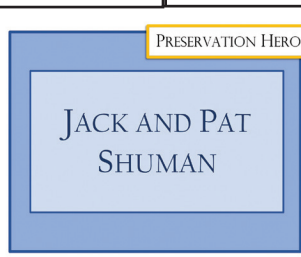
"Remembering Darrowville" in November and our annual "Old Fashioned Holiday Sing-a-Long" in December. See the full list of activities and dates located in this newsletter.

I hope to see you at the next event. ♦

Thank you
Bryan Menke



2025 Harvest Festival Thank you Sponsors!



Calendar

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

October 13th, 2025

Monday 6:00 pm - Maple Lawn Cemetery
4915 Darrow Rd. Stow 44224

Program Meeting

Teri Siroki presents: "A Journey through the past at
Maple Lawn Cemetery"

October 26th, 2025

Sunday 12:00-2:00

Fall Grounds Clean-Up Day

Please stop by to lend a hand!

Water and Snack provided

November 10th, 2025

Monday 6:00 - Stewart School House

Program Meeting

Richard Grell presents:
"Remembering Darrowville"

December 8th, 2025

Monday 6:00 pm - Mary Starr House
Old Fashioned Holiday Sing Along
Cookies will be served!
Bring the whole family!

January 1st 2026!

Happy New Year!

February 14th 2026!

Happy Valentine's Day!

March 9th, 2026

Monday 6:00 pm. - Stow Munroe Falls Public Library
Join us for a fun filled game of "Stow Trivia "
Family fun for all ages!

April 13th, 2026

Monday 6:00 pm. - Stow Munroe Falls Public Library
Larry Long presents:
"Memories of Stow " Part 2

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

Frank Wetmore Featured Guest at Annual Picnic

by Ella Dunmire

On Monday, August 11, 2025, the Stow Historical Society hosted its annual picnic. The picnic was located at the Heritage Barn, and featured guest speaker Frank Wetmore. Frank is a patron of Stow and a valued member of the community. At the meeting, he discussed his family and stories from the past. Although he graduated in 1954, Frank was a wonderful storyteller, entertaining the audience with stories from his childhood, like how he and friends would go across the river on cables, walk along the railroad tracks, and go up through the woods to swim. An audience member quipped, "We call that 'sneaking in,'" and Frank jokingly agreed.

Frank was drafted in 1959 and signed up for 3 years of school. At 89, Frank is full

of life and was exciting and open to the audience. Frank mentioned many landmarks of Stow that are still around today, like North River Road, which he said has been paved all throughout his lifetime, showing an example how some things never change.

Along with the stories he told, Frank showcased heirlooms, items from his childhood, school projects, and family photos featuring himself and his wife, Linda. Frank



spoke at the meeting because he is not only a valued member of the community, but a member of the Wetmore family, a pillar of Stow's history. Most special of all, Frank and Linda were attendees of the first Harvest Festival! At the picnic today, Frank honored his family's legacy by sharing a family tree.

Along with Frank's presentation, the picnic featured both homemade and catered food. Mayor John Pribonic also made an appearance.

Another topic featured at the meeting was that of the annual Harvest Festival that is on September 27 and 28.

Overall, the annual picnic was a smashing success, and the community extends its thanks and gratitude to Frank Wetmore and everyone who attended or helped to put together the picnic.

◆



MEMORIES OF HARVEST TIME

BY BETH DAUGHERTY



Theron Geistweite of Munroe Falls shown using a corn binder machine circa 1919

Onions, celery, corn, tomatoes, wheat, oats, berries, apples, and let's not forget popcorn – these were all grown and harvested by local farmers during Stow's peak agricultural days. We are reminded of the hard work and dedication involved in growing and harvesting the crops when we read the reminiscences of three of Stow's old-time farmers in *Stow-Aways, Memories of the Past*, published in 1978.

Floyd Darrow, owner of Darrow's Popcorn, once located on Route 91 near Norton Road, recalled harvesting his corn: "During the first two weeks of October some of the earliest corn is ready to pick and store. This is done with a two-row picker which picks and loads the ear corn into a wagon, pulled behind the picker. The floor of the wagon is covered with canvas with one end attached to a roll at the rear of the wagon. By turning the roll with a very slow gear box, the farmer pulls the corn from the wagon and onto a belt-sorting table, where

the unhusked ears are husked and any poor ears discarded. The sorting table empties into an elevator which carries the corn into the storage cribs. Each crib has a slatted floor and a fan, which is operated on dry days to bring the moisture in the corn down to safe storage levels." The corn was picked damp in the morning and sorted and cribbed in the afternoon and it took two weeks of good weather to complete the harvest. Generally, the new corn dried naturally and was ready to shell and process by the following June. Darrow's Popcorn operated on Darrow Road (Route 91) from 1932 to 1978.

Harry Olson, of Munroe Falls, born May 2, 1899, married Mary Marhofer in 1920. He remembered helping Mary's father, J.W. Marhofer, run his roadside fruit market. J.W. opened the stand in 1916 and sold a variety of fruits and vegetables. Whole loads of muskmelons and sweet corn were hauled and dumped in the yard near the stand. Corn

sold for 50¢ a dozen; peaches sold for \$1.25 a half bushel; and apples for 75¢ to \$1.25 a half bushel. Marhofer also sold strawberries, red and black raspberries, and black berries. One of the biggest sellers was the fresh cider that was made daily in the fall season. It was a dawn to dusk job!

Harley Lappin, Jr.'s family had a long tradition of farming their property on Newcomer Road in Stow. In his **Stow-Aways** interview Harley talked about his father raising 40 acres of onions in the early 1900's. At times there were 10,000 bushels of onions in the onion shed at one time. "Raising onions was all hand work. Prior to harvest the farmers would lay the onions all one way; then let them dry. Next, they'd cut the tops off with a pair of shears. Then they'd put them in crates and stack them up in the onion shed, a building with a roof and slats on the sides similar to a corn crib. Here the onions would continue to dry. Then in October or November they'd haul the onions to the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad by horses, where they'd be shipped to Cleveland and Chicago and all the big cities. The Lappins received premium prices for their onions." Over the years, the Lappins grew celery, tomatoes, leaf lettuce, and corn. As one crop became unprofitable, they switched to another. Lappins were most recently known for their beautiful flower plants.

Stow Historical Society's annual Harvest Festival, originating in 1978, is a

celebration of the abundance of the harvest and of Stow's rich agricultural history, as well as a chance to have some delicious, homemade apple butter! ♦

Harvest celebration at the Darrow Street Grange Fair in 1943

"History is important. If you don't know history it is as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, anybody up there in a position of power can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking up on it."

~ Howard Zinn

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