

HERITAGE RESERVE NEWS

STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 48, Issue 3

www.stowhistory.org

August 2026

Joshua Stow Festival 2026 Celebrating America's 250th

The Stow Historical Society celebrated American history on June 20th at the Heritage Reserve Park with musicians, children's activities, museum tours, food, and more. There were an historic scavenger hunt, scooter races, chicken limbo, and a duck pond.

The highlight was the 1976 Time Capsule reveal with Stow Mayor John Pribonic and



Left to right back row:
John Baranek, Tim Burns, Mayor John Pribonic, Tom Stephan
L-r front row:
Denny Reiser, Karen Fritschel, Tammie Menke, Bryan Menke

to try out. Both young and old enjoyed visiting and playing the instruments.

Jesus Castilla Gutierrez from Peru



Jesus Castilla Gutierrez



Maseh Ncheng in the Trust Drum Circle

Stow Historical Society President Bryan Menke. Maseh Ncheng founder of the **Trust Drum Circle** played and invited visitors to join in the Circle.

Andrew Shahriari a professor of Ethnomusicology at Kent State had a Instrument Petting Zoo of international instruments

played guitar while singing songs both in English and Spanish. He is employed by Akron Children's Hospital.



Blacksmith Bob Reed

Bob Reed, our long- time blacksmith was there to demonstrate and teach about blacksmithing helped by Meredith Morgan.

We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym in Stow brought many hands-on sensory friendly activities for children. Students from the Stow-Monroe Falls High School



Judy Griggs and Andrew Shahriari present the Instrument Petting Zoo.

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Heritage Reserve News

Deadlines:

Jan. 1 for Winter. Apr. 1 for Spring
July 1 for Summer. Oct. 1 for Fall.

Bryan Menke - President

Welcome to our summer Stow
Historical Society newsletter.

In preparation of America's
250th anniversary, many volunteers were
busy cleaning, weeding, and mulching our
historical houses.

On June 20th we held the annual Joshua
Stow Festival to celebrate our city's founder
and share the history of Stow with visitors.
Now we will turn our attention to our annual Stow Harvest
Festival scheduled for September 26th and 27th from 10am to 4pm.
We could use extra hands helping in any capacity throughout both
days.

Our annual picnic will be held on August 17th at 6pm in the
Heritage Barn. We will be welcoming four special Stow alumni
guests who will be presenting their memorabilia and reminiscing
about old times. The Society will provide the main dish and
drinks. Please bring a side dish to share.

The Heritage House restoration project continues to move
forward slowly. The fourth revision of the architect plans have
been received and approved. Disassembly of the historical house
will start soon. Interior window trim, stairs, fireplace mantle, and
a large portion of the hard wood flooring has been removed and
stored. The structure will be dismantled all the way down, and
new foundation walls will be installed. The renovation will be ADA
compliant to allow access to the museum to everyone.

I hope to see you at one of our events.

Thank you

Bryan Menke ♦



"History never looks like
history when you are
living through it."

John W. Gardner

Calendar & Volunteer Opportunities:

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

August 9th 2026

Sunday, 2:00-4:00
Heritage Reserve Park
Museums open/ Grounds Day

August 17th 2026

Monday 6:00
Heritage Barn

Stow Historical Society's Annual Picnic

Please join us for an evening of food and friendship!
We will feature special guests to share some Stow
memories with us.
The Society will provide the meat and drinks, please
bring a side dish to share.

September 12th 2026

Saturday 10:00-12:00
Heritage Reserve Park
Museums open/ Grounds Day

**We also need student photographers and
journalists to document our meetings and
events for volunteer hours.**

September 26-27th 2026

Saturday & Sunday 10:00 - 4:00
Heritage Reserve Park

Harvest Festival

We welcome new volunteers!

October 12th 2026

Monday 6:00
Stewart School House
Fun Fall Bulb planting night

November 9th 2026

Monday 6:00
Stewart School House
Who keeps us safe?
History of Stow's original Safety Center!

December 14th 2026

Monday 6:00
Heritage Reserve
Old Fashioned Holiday Sing Along
Cookies will be served!
Bring the whole family!



Joshua Stow Festival 2026 Celebrating America's 250th

National Honor Society helped with the duck pond, chicken limbo, hula hoop, jump ropes, hopscotch, scooter races, and the Children's Activity table with patriotic stickers, temporary tattoos, and crafts. National Honor Society student Alexis Brzuski created the Historic Scavenger Hunt for the society. Families could pick up a sheet and do the scavenger hunt together. There were prizes at the end.



Martha Urbank (right) with Michael Cryst talk about the Darrow House

Claire Borquet came to share her weaving talents in the Starr house. Teri Siroki brought displays representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812, and United Daughters of the Confederacy. Cub Scout pack 3177 had a display.

Thanks to all the Members of the Darrow Street Grange who assisted wherever they were needed. We appreciate the Many friends and family who helped out throughout the festival to make it possible.

And thanks to all the presenters, volunteers, and visitors who made the Joshua Stow Fest a success. ♦



Claire Borquet with a spinning wheel



Trust Drum Circle and Instrument Petting Zoo



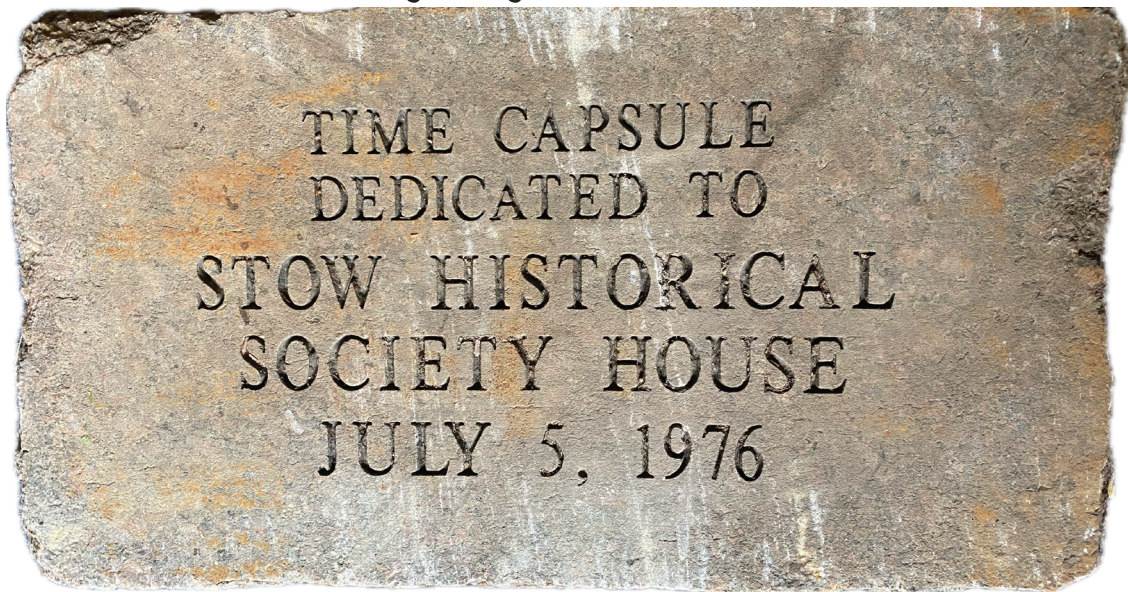
Children's activities



Photos by Tim Burns and Tammie Menke

Opening of the July 5, 1976 Time Capsule

by Bryan Menke



On July 5th 1976, the Stow Historical Society with the help of the Stow JC's wives buried a time capsule in the front of the newly restored 1838 Heritage House Museum located at 5120 Young Road in Stow.

It just so happened that the 50-year opening of the time capsule was the same year that the capsule would need to be moved to facilitate rebuilding of the Heritage House museum structure and foundation.

It all started in early June of this year when Dan Brown from D & S Landscaping helped us retrieve the capsule under the right front sidewalk. Dan carefully picked up and turned over the sidewalk to reveal a two-foot by two-foot concrete box molded as one piece into the sidewalk. All we needed to do now was to come back later and break the box apart to reveal the capsule. Well, that was much easier said than done. After a week of sledgehammering and chipping away at the hardest concrete box

ever attempted, progress was very slow. Dan Brown again volunteered to help saw the concrete away from the capsule. Eventually the box was dismantled into small pieces, but no sign of a time capsule was ever found. On June 19th, one day before the opening date of the capsule, we dug down further in the dirt where the sidewalk was removed and finally came upon a white plastic box measuring approximately 12 by 24 inches.

On June 20th at 1pm during the Joshua Stow Festival, a large crowd gathered around as the time capsule was opened. The contents were perfectly intact with no signs of damage. A few of the items included a key to City Hall, photographs, magazines, the Heritage House Museum Dedication Letter, commemorative plates, local fliers of Stow's businesses, bicentennial coins, local newspapers from the surrounding areas highlighting the bicentennial and much more.

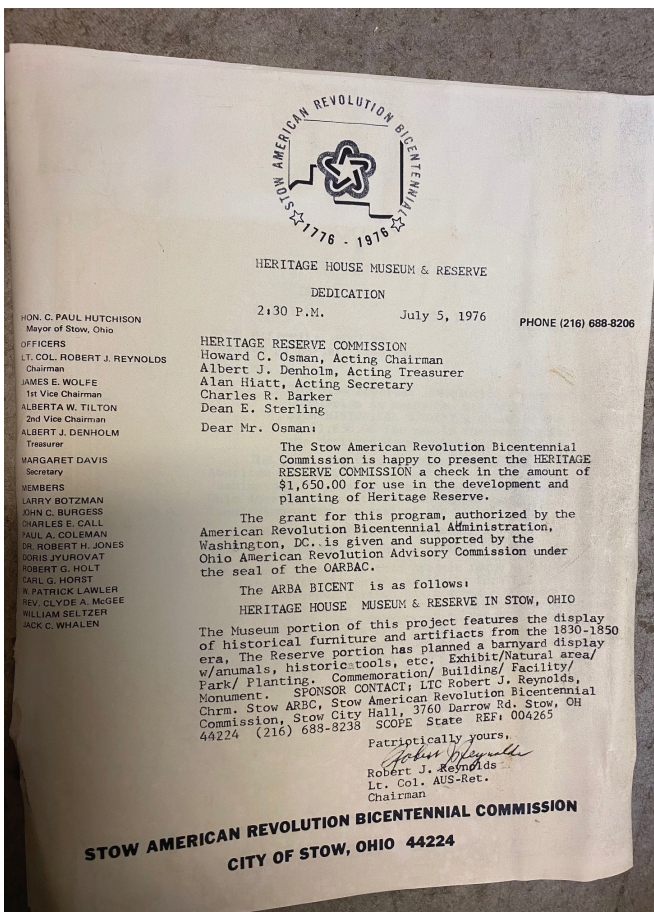
The Stow Historical Society is planning to have the time capsule on display at the Harvest Festival September 26th and 27th from 10am to 4pm. Plans to bury another time capsule during the re-dedication of the restored Heritage House Museum are underway for the late fall of 2026 with an opening date set for 2076. ♦

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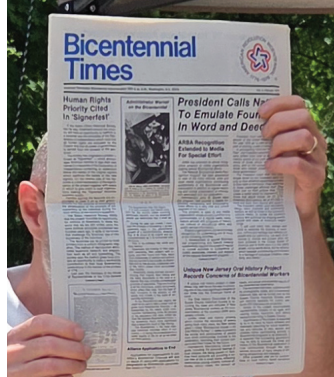
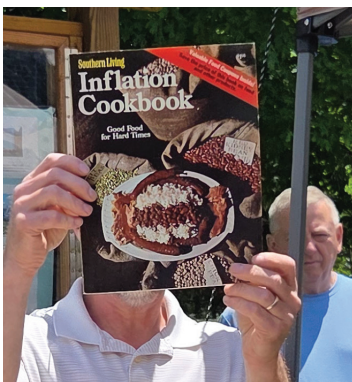
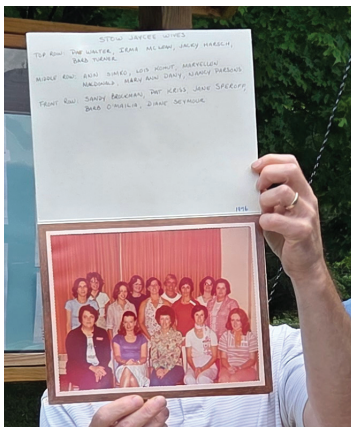


Former Mayor Karen Fritschel
plays the drums



Photos by Bryan Menke

What We Found Inside



Photos by Ammie Brigger



STOW HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT by Denny Reiser

For people to appreciate history, they need to be informed. The Ohio Historical Marker program does that very well. To learn more about the program visit remarkableohio.org (and see the application)

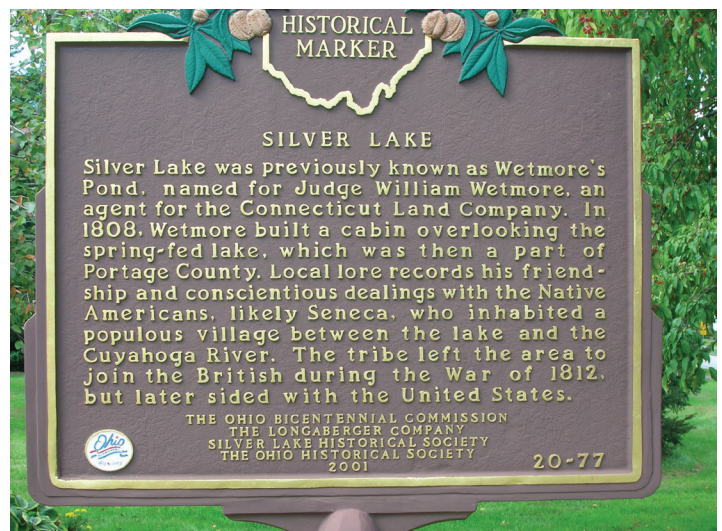
Following the mission of the Stow Historical Society, a committee was formed to apply for an Ohio Historical Marker. Thank you, committee members for your many hours of research and conversation. I know that I learned a lot of neat Stow History in the process.

The committee was made up Suzanne Cryst, Jill France, Allie Joyner (Stow-Monroe Falls Library), Tammie Menke, Teri Siroki, and Denny Reiser. We meet at the library about once a week for about 10 weeks. We gathered information and filled out the 10 plus pages of the applications. We decided that one side of the marker should be about Joseph Darrow and that the other side should be about Darrowville. The goal was to have the marker placed in the new Stow Community Amphitheater Area.

Our application was sent in May 1, 2025, with the help of Tim Burns. On August 16, we received an email stating that our application was not accepted. The competition was strong this year with 76 applications and only 28 being accepted. They have said that we may apply again, if we wish.

The committee is planning on meeting again in 2026 to decide if we apply again or come up with another method of communicating Stow's interesting history. Suggestions are welcome. For more information about the Ohio Historical Marker program, search Remarkable Ohio.

Pictured here is the marker in Silver Lake. ♦



Stow Historical Society Trustee Wins Acting Award



Joanna Lynn Bratt and Tom Stephen from **Over the River and Through the Woods.**



Congratulations to Stow Historical Society Trustee **Tom Stephen** for his Excellence in Acting Award from Ohio Community Theatre Association NE Regional competition. The Silver Lining Players came in First Place for their short performance of **Over the River and Through the Woods**. Tom is the director of the Silver Lining Players. He also played Frank in that production.

Tom performs in many other roles in our community. He serves on the Board of Stow Players where you can also see him perform in local theatre. You may also recognize him as the “Voice of Stow” where he announces many events throughout the year.

Tom volunteers at Holy Family Catholic Church, the Kiwanis Club, and many other organizations. We appreciate his smiling face and generous support of everything Stow. ♦

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

Stow Historical Society
PO Box 1425 Stow, Ohio 44224 shsfestival@gmail.com
2026 Harvest Festival

Dear Artisan or Craft Person,

This year the Stow Historical Society will hold our annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 2026. The Stow Historical Society Harvest Festival is held at Heritage Reserve Park at Silver Springs Park located at 5120 Young Road in Stow, Ohio. Our three furnished Historical Houses and one-room Schoolhouse will be open to all guests to tour. There will be other activities and events on the grounds as well as food for sale by our members. All Festival profits are used to preserve the history of Stow in the Heritage Reserve.

We do accept food vendors for outdoor spaces if the offerings do not compete with our kitchen. We have two areas for vendors:

1. Inside Spaces are 10 x 7/8 foot deep. Includes an 8 foot table and two folding chairs. Cost is \$75.00 for both dates.

2. Outside in your own tent – spaces are 12 x 14 foot. Bring your own table, chairs, and display setups. Cost is \$55.00 for both dates. There is no water or electric hookup.

Food vendors (not trucks, carts, or trailers) can be located: Outside your own tent – spaces are 12 x 14 foot. Bring your own table, chairs, and display setups. Cost is \$70.00 for both dates. There is no water or electric hookup.

We have a limited number of pre-set up canopies available for a small fee in addition to the outside space reservation. If you are interested in this option please contact us with questions.

All reservations are payable in advance and enclosed with the application form below. All fees are payable with a check or money order. Please make your check payable to “Stow Historical Society” and mail to **PO Box 1425, Stow Ohio 44224**. Keep this page for your information.

By applying, vendor agrees to the following: **VENDOR AGREEMENT**

- Reservations with payment must be received by September 18, 2026.
- This is a rain or shine event. No refunds will be given.
- All items must be hand crafted – no commercial products.
- Vendor agrees to accept the space assigned. Spaces are assigned at the discretion of the vendor coordinator.
- Displays and set-ups should have a professional appearance.
- We kindly ask that you leave your pets at home.
- Vendors must park in designated area after drop-off.
- Set-up is between 8:00 - 10:00 am. No early tear down permitted.
- Thank you for your interest in our Harvest Festival. Please email shsfestival@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Stow Historical Society
 PO Box 1425 Stow, Ohio 44224 www.stowhistory.org
 2026 Harvest Festival
 SHS Harvest Festival Arts and Craft Show Application

Contact Name	
Vendor Business Name	
Mailing Address :	
Phone :	
Email:	
Website:	
Publicity: Please describe your artisan work so that we may understand and relay it to everyone before the Festival.	
Additional Publicity: Please include 2 to 3 more detailed sentences of what you will be presenting in your Vendor Space, including 1-2 pictures sent to our Vendor Coordinator at shsfestival@gmail.com and the Festival Coordinator and our Media Publicist will help promote you and the Festival leading up to our event. This is new for us in 2026 and we hope it will help all of us promote you and our event. Thank you!	
Please circle one: • I was / was not at last Year's festival. • I have been to the Festival in the past	Comments or Suggestions: How did you hear about us?

Inside Barn space \$75 per space	Total _____
Food Vendors \$70 per space	Total _____
Outside space \$55 per space _____ Number of spaces _____	Total _____
Pre-set up canopy \$30. In addition to outside space. _____	Total _____

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STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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