



History Reclaimed:

Authentic American Vintage
Lumber from the Stowell Bros.
1830's Barn in Schroon, NY



Floating logs down the Schroon River in the Adirondacks

Schroon

At the turn of the 19th century the town of Schroon was first settled by individuals seeking untouched land, access to plentiful fish and game, and beautiful scenery amongst old growth forests. The Schroon River, which flows through the town and winds 60 miles within the Adirondack Mountains, contains an eight square mile lake that ultimately empties into the mighty Hudson River in Warrensburg, NY.

In 1813 the Fox Brothers, Norman and Alanson, began the practice of floating logs down the Schroon to the Hudson and on to the mills of Warrensburg and Glens Falls. For the next 140 years this practice remained the key economic driver of the region.

For virtually that entire 140 year period, and 70 more, on the banks of the Schroon River stood the Stowell Family Barn.

Immigration

The Stowell family of Quantock in County Somerset on the southwestern coast of England is traced back to 1066.

In 1635 Rev. Peter Hobart emigrated with a collection of families from Hingham, England and named their new town in Massachusetts after their old English home. Within the group of colonists was a boy, about 10 years old named Samuel Stowell. It is unknown with whom he traveled to the new world, as he was not on the ship's registry. Some scenarios place him as an orphan apprentice to one of the immigrants, or accompanying a close family friend onboard.

Samuel was a blacksmith by trade, becoming well known in the region for shoeing horses, building and repairing wagons and producing firearms. The Hingham, MA church where Samuel worshiped holds the first definitive record in the New World of Samuel, when in 1649 he married Mary Farrow.

Mary, who at age two emigrated with her parents from Norfolk, England, raised their six sons: Samuel, John, David, William, Israel and Benjamin. Of the first three generations of the Stowell family, the majority remained in Hingham or Watertown, MA, while a few relocated to Pomfret, Connecticut.



The Stowell House, Quantock, England

The Sixth Generation and the War of 1812

By the mid 1700's sixth generations of the Stowell Family had fanned out across the New England and New York. On February 15, 1780 John Stowell was born in Walpole, NH to parents David Stowell and Molly Hodgkins. Over the course of the next twenty years while residing in VT, David and Molly had three more sons: Henry, born July 26, 1792; Stephen, born September 22, 1797 and William, born February 28, 1800.

As the Stowell brothers grew farming off of the land in Clarendon, VT, the United States was struggling with the Britain's continued meddling within the region, even after America's successful war for independence. The diplomatic relationship reached its breaking point when the British Navy seized American ships trading with France and impressed American merchant sailors into service with the British Navy against their will.

On June 18, 1812, the United States President James Madison signed into law Congresses' Declaration of War against Great Britain -- the War of 1812 had begun.

Called into action to fight against the British tyranny where the four Stowell brothers: John, Henry, Stephen and William. William, too young to take up arms, was enlisted as a drummer boy in the American Military. On September 11, 1814 The Battle of Plattsburg was fought, which Theodore Roosevelt, later called, "the greatest naval battle of the war." Present where the brothers.



Naval battle on Lake Champlain. 1816 engraving by B. Tanner.

The Battle of Plattsburg

The Battle of Plattsburg was in many ways, the most decisive engagement of the War of 1812. Sir George Prevost's failed invasion of the United States put an end to British plans to seize more American territory. It also had a significant effect on the peace negotiations which were being held in the Belgian town of Ghent. News of the outcome of the battle strengthened the American position at the talks. As a result, any remaining British hopes of creating a homeland in the northwest for its First Nations allies were abandoned.

By the end of the summer of 1814, Prevost had assembled a massive strike force of close to 10,000 soldiers near Montreal. Many of these soldiers were well-trained, battle-hardened regular troops inspired by Wellington's victory over Napoleon in Europe. On September 3, 1814, Prevost's army crossed the border into New York State.

While the British army moved down the western side of Lake Champlain, the American troops fell back to Plattsburg and prepared to make a stand. At the same time, the ships of the British Navy under Captain George Downie, moved slowly down the lake.

The U.S forces at Plattsburg were commanded by Brigadier General Alexander Macomb. The Americans were badly outnumbered but had the support of the US fleet under Thomas Macdonough. Realizing that the British had bigger ships and longer range guns, Macdonough anchored his squadron in Plattsburg Bay and waited for the British Navy to come to him.

Under tremendous pressure from George Prevost, who was waiting outside Plattsburg with his army, the British fleet sailed into battle before it was ready. For two hours the ships pounded each other with equal fury. Fifteen minutes into the battle the British commander, George Downie was killed.

At a critical moment in the engagement, the Americans surprised the British. Macdonough was able to winch around his flagship to bring a fresh broadside against the British fleet. This move made the all difference. The British realized they were beaten and surrendered.

When he learned of the defeat of his navy, the ever-cautious George Prevost called off his land assault and retreated back to Canada. There was much anger and resentment amongst his army and the decision turned out to be politically disastrous. After the war, Prevost's conduct during the campaign was criticized by a naval court martial. He died before he could clear his name.

For the United States, the victory against overwhelming odds at Plattsburg provided an important boost to national morale.

From: Lewis, Dennis M. *British Naval Activity on Lake Champlain during the War of 1812*. Plattsburgh, N.Y: Clinton County Historical Association, 1994. Print.

The Barn

The Stowell Brothers, aiding in America's amazing win, escaped physical harm. Just 3 months later the War of 1812 ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. Heading south on the way back home through New York, the brothers never managed to make the turn west to Vermont. They settled in the newly formed town of Schroon, NY.

Stephen and William married local girls, in 1818 and 1819 respectively. Over the following years a home was constructed, which channeled water from the Tip Top Brook and was one of the first homes in the area to have running water. To produce food and earn a living, John and Stephen took up what they new best from Vermont: farming. On the banks of the Schroon River in the 1830's a barn was constructed.

The barn was typical of the period: English style, massive hand-hewn oak and pine formed its frame, which sat with on a 30' x 40' footprint. Large double doors on either side of the barn swung outward and were used for cross-ventilation while thrashing grain. The practice of using swinging doors was discontinued and replaced with sliding doors in the coming years as the risks associated with wind gusts catching large, heavy doors necessitated the need for change.



The Stowell Bros. Barn in 2008 from Route 74

The Move & The Silo

With their settlement of the area, the Stowell family planted its roots and grew within the region. As generations passed, the logging industry declined and the property changed hands, but the barn stood strong. In the 1920's Route 74 connecting Route 9 to Ticonderoga was modernized, cutting the former Stowell homestead down the middle with a raised road. Before construction was begun the barn was moved from its original foundation, to a spot on the opposite side of the road, for easier daily access. It is believed a small addition on the west side of the barn was added at this time. Found in the walls during StoriedBoard's deconstruction of the addition were newspapers used for insulation that date back to 1892.

In the 1940's a grain silo was built next to the barn. Manufactured by Griffin Lumber in Hudson Falls, it was constructed from 1 ½ inch thick spruce and stood 30 feet tall and ten feet in diameter. Griffin's Lumber is still in operation today.

The Fire

In the 1980's the property was purchased along the Schroon River and turned into a campground that is presently in operation during the summer season. Still the barn was actively worked, with sheep, chickens and turkeys raised on the property.

In 2010, after over 170 years standing, an electrical short triggered a hay fire and before the local firefighters could put out the blaze, nearly the entire north side and roof of the barn was destroyed. Miraculously, with a barn full of animals the only causality was one sheep in the loft. StoriedBoards began the reclamation of the remaining barn and fully intact silo in October 2011.



Front of the Stowell Bros. 1830's Barn in 2011



Front of the Stowell Bros. 1830's Barn in 2011



Inside the second story of the Barn



Hayloft with rafters and roof Deck

Storyed Beards



1940's silo in 2010



Griffin Lumber silo turn buckle



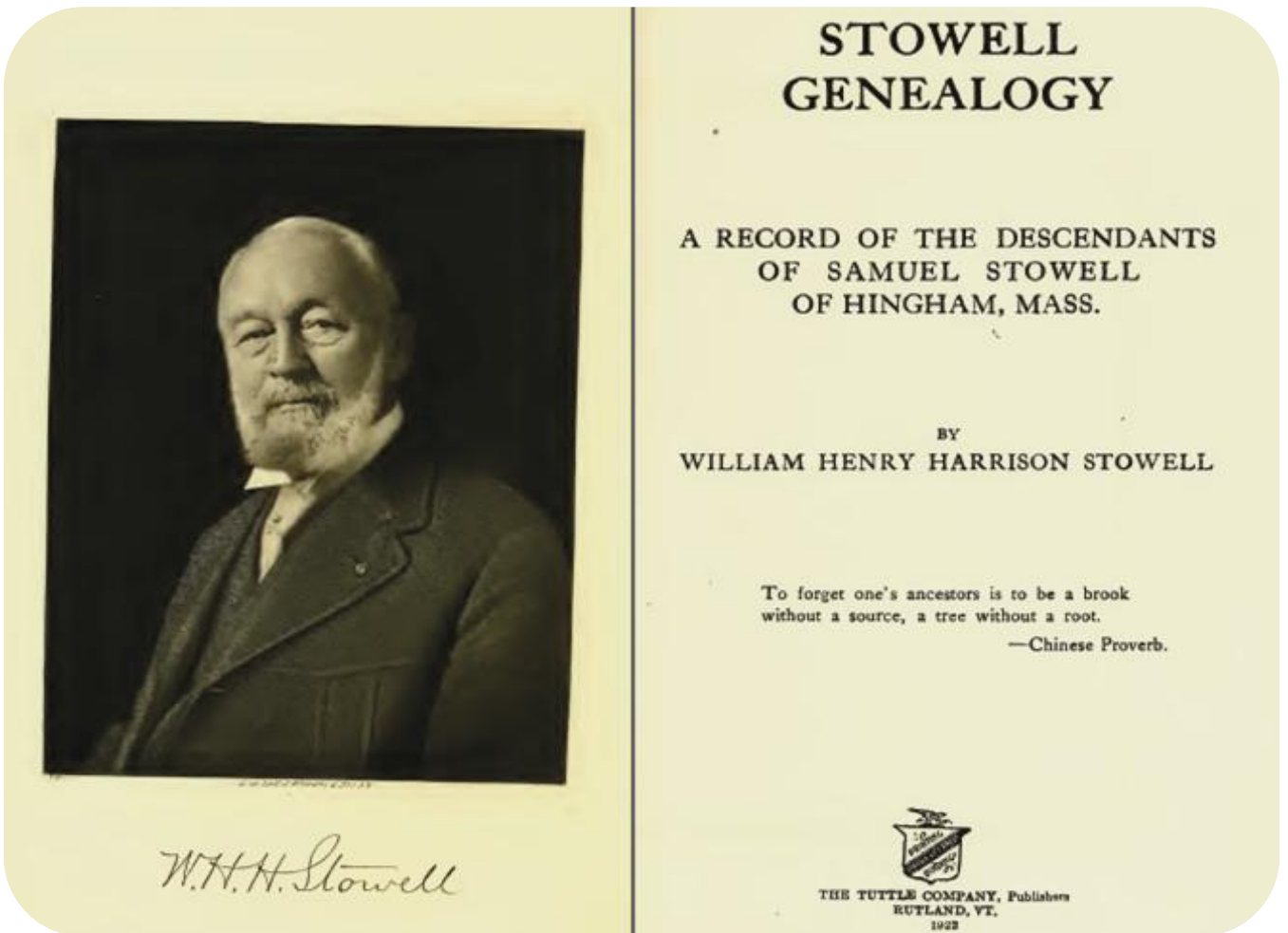
Top of the silo



Inside silo looking upward



Inside barn wall with hand-hewn beams and wide barn board siding



Stowell Genealogy inside cover – StoriedBoards' primary reference source

What We Believe

Preserver of History

StoriedBoards was founded on the simple idea that history should not be lost when materials are reclaimed from their original source.

That is why every product StoriedBoards sells is exhaustively researched, thoroughly documented and passed on to our customers.

We are dedicated to giving our products a voice, telling the stories of their past and allowing you to write the next chapter of their life.

Devoted to Green

StoriedBoards products are 100% recycled, sustainable, eco-friendly and perfect for your green or LEED certified building.

We sell only reclaimed antique lumber and timber, and do not offer any “conventional” wood products that are cut from modern forests.

StoriedBoards reclaims its materials solely via the hands of its own team. This ensures that proper care and respect is employed to both the structure and the surrounding land, while minimizing our waste, increasing the quality of reclaimed materials and returning the land to its original state.

100% Transparent

StoriedBoards lists every product we have, online and with our price clearly stated. No price ranges, no up sells and no requirement to call or write for a quote. We can't find anyone else who offers that transparency in the reclaimed market.

In addition, we promise to always:

- Work one-on-one with you to provide the highest quality customer experience
- Answer all the questions you have, any time you have them
- Provide a pressure-free sales experience



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