



# The Cupheag Crier

T H E O F F I C I A L V O I C E O F S T R A T F O R D 4 0 0

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Leasing the airport January 13, 1934  
*Stratford has decided to lease the Mollison airport from the company which owns it, issuing a license in turn to the Northeastern Air Service the present lessees. Stripped of its legal verbiage, the town will lease the airport from its owners and release it to the operating company. The town will pay a nominal fee, \$5 for five years. Various ramifications in preparing the papers are necessary in order to protect the town against suits resulting from damages, or breach of contract.*

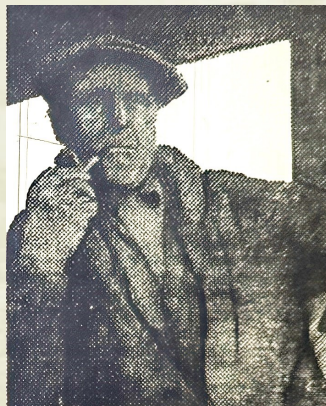
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Boothe Park Begins	2
Esther Vodola	3
David Coe	3
William H. St. John	4
Max Zorn	4
Three Young Heroes	5
Stratford Characters	5
Bond Training Camp	6
Stratford's Museums	6

**STRATFORD: THE STORIES WE TELL**

During our Historical Walks throughout town, some of our walk attendees expressed an interest in holding the walks in a meeting room as a slide show presentation to better accommodate those with limited mobility, or for those for whom the average walk was too lengthy.

We've spent a great deal of time considering this request, and we wanted to respond with a slight derivation of the request, at least initially. Beginning in January, we will be hosting a series of five monthly slide show presentations at the Stratford Library. All presentations will be held in the Lovell



**Theodore Judson, 1919**

Room.

We've determined that the best way to begin this monthly series is to reprise Stratford's

greatest storyteller, and longest serving lighthouse keeper, Theodore Judson.

"Mr. Judson's" presentation schedule follows.

- March 25th, 6:30pm, **Women of Distinction**
- April 29th, 6:30pm, **Homes with History**
- June 3rd, 6:30 pm, **Legions of Legends**

Based on demand, we will present our Candlelight Historical Walks in slide show format in the near future. Let us know what you think, and any suggestions for topics you may wish for "Keeper Judson" to cover.

**LARGEST FUNERAL IN STRATFORD**

If the title "**Mr. Stratford**" could rightfully be applied to any man who called Stratford home over the past 385 years, one of the very top nominees would surely be Charles "Shang" Wheeler.

Shang came to Stratford as a very young man of about 27 years when he arrived in 1899. He rapidly was integrated into the cultural and economic life of town. A former football star at New Britain high, he became a sparring partner at John Bond's training camp at today's Bond's Dock. For several years he led expeditions of men to Kent, Connecticut for the annual rattlesnake roundup.

Shang became an oysterman in 1899 and quickly rose to the position of general manager of

the oyster company, a position he held until 1947. Along the way Shang became one of America's most skilled and artistic duck decoy carvers; a powerful state congressman and senator fighting for the preservation of the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound; an organizer of the town's 300th anniversary; a mentor to Governor Raymond Baldwin; an organizer of the Housatonic Gun Club; a Mason; the town's Town Crier; and, a noted member of the Fairfield Fish and Game Protective Association.

There was very little of Stratford life with which Shang was not intimately involved. Upon learning of Shang's passing, Peter Ring, Town Councilman remarked, "The town has without



**Shang Wheeler's casket leaves Christ Church. Photo from *The Stratford News*, January 25, 1949.**

doubt lost one of its outstanding leaders in the death of 'Shang' Wheeler."

You may read more about Shang's life and funeral at <https://bit.ly/shangwheeler>.

## BOOTHE PARK BEGINS

When David Boothe passed away February 20, 1949, his and his brother Stephen's joint Will left their property to the Town for a town park. Stephen, though the younger brother, preceded David in death. Their Will was almost immediately contested by a cousin, Francis E. Beach, of Trumbull. Beach's claim was that David was of unsound mind when he executed the Will in July of 1948.

After four years of court proceedings and legal wranglings, the Town was finally awarded the Boothe estate. By mid-1952 there was discussion in Town that part of the Boothe estate should be set aside as a home for a proposed Shakespearean theater. Provisions in David and Stephen Booth's Will prevented the proposed theater from being located at Boothe Park.

From *The Stratford News* of February 25, 1949 on the occasion of David's death, "It was the brothers' pleasure to entertain there at huge public gatherings, the most notable of which, perhaps, was that on the three hundredth anniversary of

the founding of Stratford. No one was allowed to smoke in the building. Generous on their own terms, the brothers often set the tables for picnics at which lobster was served, or at strawberry festivals, for which they charged 10 or 13 cents admission. David Boothe was for the last thirty years of his life a vegetarian."

Perhaps what David was best known for was his dispute with the town over the taxation of the clock in the Booth's bell tower. *The Bridgeport Farmer*, April 24, 1919: "Everybody who travels the river road to Derby knows the big yellow mansion, at Putney center, in which David Boothe lives, and the big four dialed clock, in the tower over the barn.

David is well-to-do and generous; also patriotic. When the Whippet tank came along, yesterday afternoon, David said: 'Put the tank through its paces right here, and I'll do the right thing by Uncle Sam.' The tank gracefully disported on the spacious Boothe greensward, and David took \$3,000 in Victory bonds, which was twice the total government asked of Putney. Then he subscribed \$4,000 more for the

credit of Bridgeport, whereby hangs a tale.

David bought the clock, which is worth a great deal of money and it told the time right merrily, for all the public. Along came a Stratford assessor 'with a mean disposition', and put the clock on the tax list of the town, as if it were a luxury instead of a beneficence.

He kept the clock, but disconnected the hands."

David was very upset with the tax collector and stopped the clock from striking the hour saying, "I won't give the town the time of day."

Returning to *The Stratford News* article of February 1949, "Today, as the mourners moved away from the cemetery ceremony, the black wooden hands against the white face read one o'clock. Actually, it was 3:15."

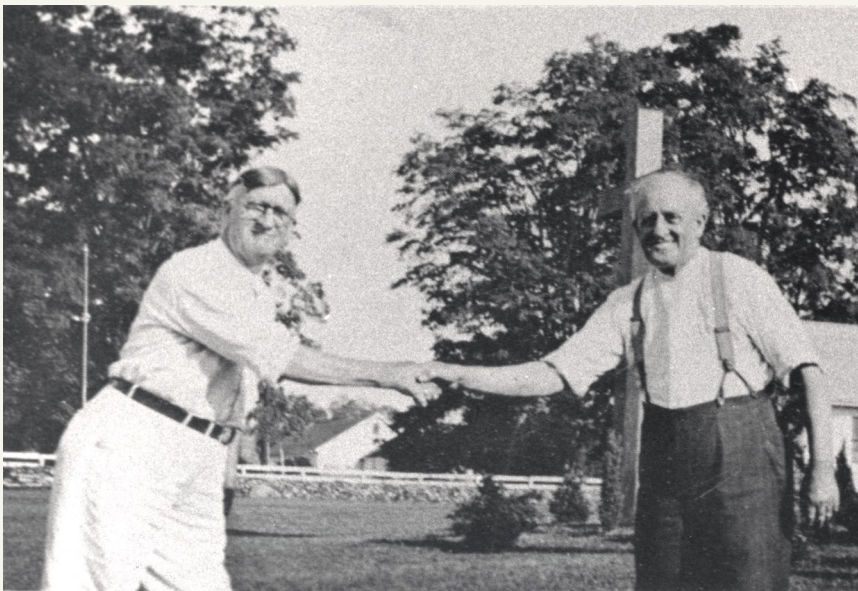
We are very fortunate to have had such generous brothers residing in our town desiring to leave the residents such a precious legacy as Boothe Memorial Park.

*"To the editor:*

I would like to suggest that the *Stratford News* start a bird-watchers' society for Stratford residents.

This morning I looked out my window, and saw this red one; and then a blue one; and then one with a lot of colors and a fat bottom. It is a little hard for me to tell my friends about this in such language, however. I can't say I saw a bird with a fat bottom in my back yard, or they'll think I'm talking about my husband. I would like to know the names of the birds, and since nobody else seems to be telling me, how about the *Stratford News*? There seem to be more birds in Stratford than, anywhere else.

Robin  
"Warwick Avenue"  
*The Stratford News*,  
March 26, 1959



Stephen and David Booth. Photo from the Stratford Historical Society's family photos archive.

**STRATFORD'S REVEREND ESTHER VODOLA**

G. (Geremina) Esther Vodola was born in Hartford in 1911. Her mother was born in Germany and came to America in 1900. Her father was born in Italy and came to America in 1902. The family lived in Hartford into the 1920s when they moved to 1129 Essex place in Stratford.

Esther was the fifth of 14 children. Her father died in 1932 leaving her widowed mother to carry on with her many children the youngest being 5 years old at the time of her father's passing.

Esther became the first ordained female minister of the First Congregational Church of Stratford.

Esther was ordained by the New York Conference of Congregational Christian Churches. There she pastored churches in Kiantone, Stamfordville and Troy and later she served as vice moderator of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. Throughout her life, she served churches in New Hampshire, Franconia, Wakefield, Alstead and Sullivan. Esther served as moderator of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ in 1979 and 1980. She was named Pastor Emerita of the Wakefield United Church of Christ in 2002.

Esther lived to be 95 years old and passed away at Griffin Hospital in Derby in May of 2007.

**The Bridgeport Post**

June 3, 1948

**Rev. Esther Vodola Home Church Guest**

The Rev. G. Esther Vodola, daughter of Mia. Anna Vodola, Essex place, Stratford, will be guest preacher in the First Congregational Church of Stratford, Sunday at the 11 o'clock worship service, the Rev. F. Stanley Selleck, pastor, announces.

The Rev. Miss Vodola, a native of Stratford, is the first woman to be ordained from the First church which is now in its 309th year.

She was graduated from Stratford high school and was active in church work as a Sunday school superintendent and church clerk at the Jube Memorial Congregational church, Newark, N. J., while she was employed as secretary to Commander Lee of the Moore and McCormick Steamship Lines in New York. She resigned from that position and came to her home and took up secretarial work in this vicinity.

She became an active teacher in the Sunday school of her home church, and to help prepare herself for teaching, she attended a Teachers' conference at Waukegan, N. H. There she decided to go into the Christian ministry. She entered Berea college where she made a fine record, graduating in 1945 with a B. A. degree. While an undergraduate she spent her summers doing vacation school work in Illinois. She entered Union Theological seminary in September, 1945.

...The subject of the Rev. Miss Vodola's sermon on Sunday morning will be "Living Waters" the Rev. Mr. Selleck will conduct the worship. The special music for the morning will be an anthem "Thy Will be Done" by Hugo Ward, and a soprano solo "O Give Thanks and Sing" by Horns.

The Rev. Mr. Selleck says of the Rev. Miss Vodola, "I have never known a more inspired and spiritually minded, person to go into the work of teaching and preaching the Gospel than Esther Vodola. Her very countenance radiates her faith."



G. Esther Vodola. Photo from the Berea College yearbook of 1945.

**DAVID COE - FOUNDER'S DESCENDANT**

**The Stratford Times**

March 6, 1914

**DAVID COE WELL KNOWN ABOUT STATE DIES WAS PURITAN DESCENDANT**

David Coe, an assessor of the town of Stratford and one of its leading citizens, died shortly after 5 o'clock last Friday evening at his home on South Main street after an illness of about a week. He was stricken with pneumonia about a week ago and his condition became so serious that two nurses were engaged and a consultation of doctors held. Everything possible was done for Mr. Coe but he failed to rally. He was 69 years of age and was born in Stratford, being the eldest son of Dennis Coe, a direct descendant of Robert Coe, one of the Puritan colonists who settled in New England in 1634.

Mr. Coe was a Democrat in politics and for a number of years has held important offices in

town. He was educated in the Stratford schools and was a graduate of the Sedgwick Academy. After graduation he taught in the public schools of the town until 1868 when he went to New York City as cashier and bookkeeper of the New York News Company. He held the position for 25 years living in Brooklyn during that time.

In 1894 he retired from business and returned with his family to Stratford, where he resided until his death.

Mr. Coe was much interested in genealogical history and was an authority not only on the Coe

family [sic] but many of the other old families of Stratford. He was very familiar with the old estates and it was a common thing of late years to ask Mr. Coe to assist when any important matter pertaining to the finding of certain lines were required. He was a member of Christ Episcopal church and of the Sons of the American [sic] Revolution. On June 16, 1875, he married Marion Holmes of New York city, who survives. There were five sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Coe, four of whom survive, they being David Harold of Torrington, James Robert of Waterbury, George Bertram of Ansonia and Alden, who resides in Stratford. A sister, Julia Evalina Coe also survives.

...In the demise of Mr. Coe, Stratford loses one of her stalwart sons. He did much for Stratford and was proud of the town of his birth. All over the town expressions of regret have been heard, as he was held in high esteem by



David Coe  
Photo from The Stratford Board of Trade's 1911 History of Stratford.



David Coe's home at 1415 Main Street. Photo from the Sunday Herald, October 29, 1950.

everyone. There was a large attendance at the funeral as there are few men in the town that were as popular as Mr. Coe. Rev. E. N. Cornwall officiated.

## WILLIAM H. ST. JOHN, PHARMACIST

One of the classic historical photos from Stratford's past is the photo shown at the bottom of the column just to the right. William H. St. John's pharmacy was located at 2396 Main Street for many years. The pharmacy was the first location in Stratford where you could purchase an ice cream soda. At the time Mr. St. John opened his pharmacy in 1903 the population of Stratford was 3,657.

In a town shaped by aviation over the past 125 years, Mr. St. John was the quintessential Stratford aviator. With an early interest in aviation, he assisted American Airlines in developing and promoting air travel. Having such an intense interest in airplanes and air travel we can't help but wonder what Mr. St. John might have known, and believed, pertaining to Gustav Whitehead and his flights of 1901. Surely Mr. St. John would have

known of Gustav's longest test flight in Stratford.

### The Stratford News

April 25, 1947

#### Wm. H. St. John Dies Nearing His 73rd Year

Six years ago William H. St. John, whose death occurred last Friday, received a commission from American Airlines, Inc., as "Admiral of the Flagship fleet," in honor of his intense interest in commercial aviation and its development.

Mr. St. John never lost an opportunity to travel by air, if he could. Whenever he found it practicable he would be a passenger on the first flight in a new schedule, or on a new type of



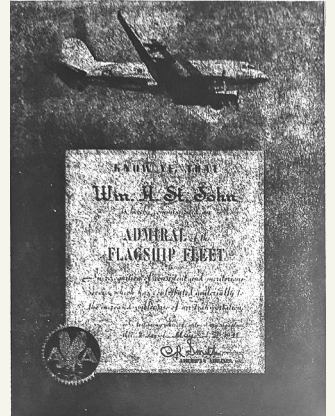
Wm. H. St. John Pharmacy 1911

craft, etc. He did about as much as any citizen, not a pilot, could do to encourage development of air navigation. It was in recognition of this interest that he received the admiral's commission, which is purely honorary but which he cherished nonetheless. The framed certificate ever since he received it has occupied a place of honor immediately behind the prescription counter of his No. 1 store in Stratford Center. It reads:

"Know ye, that Wm. H. St. John is hereby commissioned an Admiral of the Flagship Fleet in recognition of consistent and meritorious service which has contributed materially to the increased public use of air transportation. In testimony whereof witness my signature this 7 day of May, A. D., 1941. C. R. Smith, president, American Air Lines, Inc."



William H. St. John. Photo from the *Sunday Herald*, February 11, 1945.



William H. St. John's Admiral of the Flagship Fleet award from American Airlines.

## MAX ZORN CONSUMMATE LEADER

The story of Max Zorn is an Horatio Alger meets George Bailey type story. Born in Germany, serving in the German army during World War I, Max finds his way to America when he was 26 years old to start a new life as a skilled craftsman and tool maker. Along the way he develops an interest in helping young men learn, grow, mature and become responsible citizens.

### The Stratford News

August 27, 1948

...Max, one of 200 volunteer adult Scouters working with more than 700 boys in various phases of Scouting in Stratford, believes that the work of helping boys become self-reliant, capable and honest is one of the most vital of the Red Feather Services.

Max was recognized for his service to scouting with an awards dinner in February 1949.

### The Stratford News

February 25, 1949

Past, present and future Scouts of Troop 71 and visitors from other troops and out of town, made the rafters of Packard hall ring Monday night with tributes in speech and song to Max Zorn on his 21st anniversary as scoutmaster of the troop. The stocky, one-time Kaiser's rifleman with the bristling grey hair listened with quiet cheerfulness as young men and old testified to the love, affection, admiration and respect they held for the man who took up scouting when he was over 40, and for Ma Zorn, his willing helpmate.

The troop council presented Max with a hand tooled Florentine leather book signed by all guests at the dinner and inscribed "M. E. Zorn, 21st anniversary as Scoutmaster Troop 71," and a .22 rifle with a specially selected walnut stock and a telescope sight. The firearm was presented by Al Eplett and John Nichols.

Principal speaker at the dinner was "Old Timer" Elmer G. Warner, of Northampton, Mass., former field executive of Pomperaug council and a long time campfire associate of Max. "...Scouting is a game," Mr. Warner said. We've all heard that many times. A man of vivid imagination, Max Zorn makes a great, game of scouting. For 21 years, his Monday night meetings have been the best show in town. May they last another 21 years, at least."

...Responding to the speeches and, gifts, Max said: "A Scout should be friendly. In order to have friends one must be a friend. I have tried to I be that. I never knew I could have as many friends in the world as I have made through scouting. Also, helping other people at all time pays dividends. Look at me tonight. I've hit the jackpot!"



John Nichols, Lester Burdick and Al Eplett presenting award to Max Zorn at testimonial dinner for the man with the longest continuous record in the United States as Scoutmaster of one troop. A round burnished silver plaque on the stock is marked "District 1. Stratford, Conn., Pomperaug Council, Congregational Church, Troop 71" in the circle. Inside the Scout Emblem is the inscription "Presented to M. E. Zorn on his 21st anniversary as Scoutmaster. 1949." Photo from *The Stratford News*, February 25, 1949.

THREE YOUNG HEROES

**The Stratford News**  
 March 11, 1949  
**Allan Nicol, Roger Raymond, Fred Klein Honored For Rescue Feb. 9**

Roger Raymond, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Raymond, Elizabeth terrace; Allan Nicol, 10, son of Mrs. Janet Nicol, Newton avenue, and Freddie Klein, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Klein, Reed street, received medals and citations Wednesday noon when the Bridgeport Safety Council, Inc., devoted its monthly luncheon meeting at the Stratfield hotel to recognition of three separate acts of life saving performed by seven boys from three different towns.

...On the afternoon of February 9, Roger Raymond was riding his bicycle past Matil's pond, in the Paradise Green section of Stratford, when he heard cries, and

saw little Mary Kerr, 6, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Kerr, Hillside terrace, struggling in the water. Playing on the ice with a friend, Mary had walked to the middle of the pond where the ice was thinnest and fallen through. Sliding along the ice, Roger tried to get Mary to take a stick. She refused. He crept, then, closer to the ice where Mary was. Reaching for her, the ice broke beneath him, plunging him into the pond. He managed to tread water and keep himself and the little girl afloat.

Passing by at that moment were Allan and Freddie skirting the pond to see if it was safe. Roger called to them to push a board out to him and Mary. Allen and Freddie found a wide green board at the pond's edge, pushed it out on the ice and

crawled along beside it. Roger threw Mary up out of the water onto the ice. Then, his freezing fingers slipping on the breaking ice, he grasped the board and Freddie and Allen tugged at him to help him out.

...Roger is a member of the Boy Scout Troop 202, Wilcoxson school, and Freddie and Allan are members of Cub Pack 202. Papers have been forwarded for all three boys, Harold A Foote, Cubmaster, said Wednesday, to the Pomperaug Council, BSA, which will consider the papers and send them on, if approved, to national headquarters of the Boy Scout movement. A spokesman close to the Scout movement said that it was possible that Roger would get the Boy Scout life saving medal while Allan and Freddie would get certificates.



Citations and medals for life saving were awarded to Roger Raymond, Allan Nicol, and Freddie Klein in front row. At far left is Captain Patrick Flanagan, Stratford Police Force, and behind him Thomas Webb, Louis W. Raymond, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Nicol and Mrs. Klein are in the second row. In rear is Harry F. Noyes. Papers for national, recognition by the Boy Scouts of America for the three boys' feat have been forwarded to national headquarters.

STRATFORD CHARACTERS

Florence Lewis was a force of nature in her own right. Former Stratford Historical Society President, Todd Lovell, described Florence as an "accomplished carver". Long before Florence was known for her Shang Wheeler mentored carving skills, Florence was recognized by Harold Lovell, Todd's father, for her service to Stratford's Red Cross Chapter in 1959.

Florence was employed by Warner Brothers, of Bridgeport, as head nurse, for 38 years. As the United States was pulled into World War I, Miss Lewis attempted to enlist as a nurse. When that proved impossible, she signed up with the Red Cross and left for training in Oswego, NY in August of 1918. She rapidly rose to the position of head nurse at her station in Oswego.

Florence was responsible for administering to the inductees during the "Spanish Flu" pandemic of 1918. She was one of the first nurses deployed to Europe during World War I, and she was one of the last nurses to return to the U.S. at the end of the war.

At Warner Brothers, Miss Lewis organized the first women's bowling team and served

as a governor of the Warner "20 Year Club". She passed away at the age of 91 in 1977.

Florence's brother-in-law was an expert duck decoy carver, and Florence decided to become a carver herself since she'd never learned to sew. She was also mentored by world famous Stratford decoy carver Shang Wheeler.

The following was excerpted from the February 26, 1951 **New York Herald Tribune**.

"Miss Florence Lewis, who took a first prize' in the North American Decoy Makers Contest at the National Sportsmen's Show in Grand Central Palace, New York, with a pair of blue-wing teal, explained her unusual talent today with the modest apology, 'I can't sew.'

Miss Lewis' talent—she won the 1948 contest with a pair of green-wing teal—makes parlor conversation in the homes of all the amateur decoy makers in the land. She is the first woman to break into the business, they say, and they wonder why and how she does it.

Miss Lewis, sixty-four, lives here in a canary-colored house 150 years old, where she was born. The house is shielded from the road by a row of blue spruce, with a wide view of the Housatonic River across a half

mile of flatland where her pointers, Fly Gal and Hannah, skitter after rabbits, mice and pheasants.

...'I don't make mantel models,' Miss Lewis said, accounting for the absence of meticulous coloration on her decoys. 'With decoys, the silhouette is the main thing.' Nevertheless, she prefers to carve teal, one of the most handsome ducks, to the relatively drab black duck, which her brother carves.

...Stephen Lewis, her great-great-grandfather, a settler of Stratford, 'grew rocks and raised sheep—the only, things that could get between the rocks,' she said. The field had been cleared, but the riverfront is hemmed with sedge and cattail. Miss Lewis used to hide in this natural blind on days when an east storm pressed black ducks upriver from Long Island Sound, three miles away.

She shot many ducks and dressed them for the dinner table. She held many in hand, and with an innate skill and some prodding and a set of knives from the late Charles E. Wheeler, the sportsman, took to carving ducks the way they take to water.

That was four years ago. In 1948, Miss Lewis scored her success, with her green-wing teal and hen, and in the contest that ended today, with the blue-wing."



Florence M. Lewis

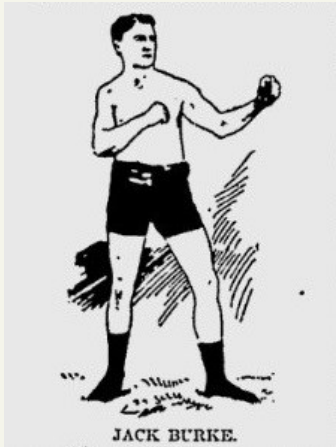


1344 East Main built in 1900. Florence's home in 1951.

## JOHN BOND'S TRAINING CAMP



John Bond's Training Camp 1889.  
Photo from *In Pursuit of Paradise*.



Jack Burke trained at John Bond's for  
fight with Dick Murphy in 1898.  
*Bridgeport Herald*, May 22, 1898.

Stratford has been famous for many people, places and things over the years. Bond's Dock, the peaceful fishing hole of today's Stratford, was once the site of John Bond's boxer training camp where some of the finest boxers in America trained. We don't think much about the Bond training camp today, but you may be interested in reading one of the more in-depth newspaper articles written about John Bond's camp from 1914 in *The Stratford Times* at [https://bit.ly/john\\_bond](https://bit.ly/john_bond).

**Bridgeport Evening Farmer**  
June 9, 1921  
**HITTING THE SPORT TRAIL**

With Geo. E. Firstbrook  
Lee Meldin, well known prize ring critic, was one of the regulars at Capt. Bond's old road-house and training quarters in Stratford only a few years ago,

becomes reminiscent of the old days here when he attempts to make a comparison of the old Bond place to the training camps of Dempsey at Atlantic City and of Carpentier at Manhasset. Says Lee:

"I think of the old days at John Bond's place in Stratford and wonder if in present day training quarters there's such a company of genial souls as gathered at Bond's long ago. John L. Sullivan was frequently there, and Terry McGovern, Tommy Ryan, Packy McFarland, Jack Kritton, Joe Humphreys, Sam Harris and a host of others. And when Willie Cobb, who composed "School Days," came up, they sang songs around the piano. Capt. Bond's dog Tessie, given to him by Tom O'Rourke, was there last summer. That's all the old crowd, but perhaps in Carpentier's and Dempsey's camps there "are just as interesting folks, if one knew it."

Meldin contends that most

distinguished men of a country have been followers of the prize ring. But the improvement among the fighters themselves is that they have learned to manage their pocketbooks, as well as their fists. Lee, who is still remembered by the old sport gallery in Bridgeport, has taken the time to dig up some ancient history on ring matters which will no doubt prove interesting as fight talk is saturating the air as a result of the public interest in the pending Carpentier and Dempsey go which will be staged in Jersey City, July 2.

To shudder at boxing is to show that you have no right appreciation for the manly art is associated with the most famous names of the heroic age, says Lee. Kings, and even demi-gods, did not think it beneath them to witness or participate in a good fight.

## STRATFORD'S MUSEUMS

Stratford is blessed with many wonderful resources and one group of Stratford's resources is its 10 museums and historical venues. We will use this space with every newsletter issue to highlight these resources. You may also learn more about Stratford's museums at <https://bit.ly/stfdmuseums>.

**The Friends of Boothe Park** cordially invite you to a FREE day of fun at the 2024 Park Opening and Antique Car Show at 5800 Main Street, Stratford, CT on Sunday, May 19, 2024. ([boothememorialpark.com](http://boothememorialpark.com)).

**Boothe Memorial Railway Society** has open houses planned for April 20th, May 18th, and weekends through Labor Day. ([bmrailways.com](http://bmrailways.com)).

**Connecticut Air & Space Museum** has events throughout the year. Their next events are April 28th *The Bloody Hundredth* at 1:00pm and May 1st at 5:00pm: *Evening with a Rosie the Riveter*. (<https://www.ctairandspace.org/events>).

**The Merritt Parkway Museum** is located at Ryder's Landing Shopping Center and is open Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm (<https://www.merrittparkway.org/>).

**The National Helicopter Museum**, in the New Haven bound side of the train station is closed for the winter due to a lack of heating facilities in the building. They will reopen on Memorial Day (<https://nationalhelicoptermuseum.org/>).

**The Putney Chapel Association** is generally only open to the public as part of Boothe Memorial Park events, but is also available for special events (<https://www.putneychapel.org/about>).

**The Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum** is located at 852 East Broadway, Stratford Center. The Museum is generally open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Check their website for their operating hours each day (<https://africanamericanmuseumct.org/>).

**The Stratford Historical Society and Museum** is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm, and by appointment (<https://www.facebook.com/StratfordHistoricalSociety>). The Society has a Women's History Month on display, currently, at the Stratford Library.

**The Stratford Veterans Museum** is located next door to Putney Chapel at Boothe Park. The Museum is open Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (<https://stfdveteransmuseum.org/>). The museum is currently looking for volunteers

**The Historic William Perry House** is hosting an Easter Hop for children on March 30th from noon to 2pm. (<https://www.perryhousestratford.org/programs-events>).

### Perry House Easter Hop Saturday, March 30

1128 West Broad Street • Stratford

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm • \$6 per child

As you walk around the Perry House grounds to spring-time themed stations, each child will receive 12 Easter Eggs filled with treats, a take-home craft, and an opportunity to take your picture with the Easter Bunny!

\*This event is intended for children 12 or under.

\*Please bring your own bag or basket to collect eggs.

Must register to attend at [www.perryhousestratford.org/easterhop](https://www.perryhousestratford.org/easterhop) or call 203-377-3779.

Space is limited, attendees must register for a specific time slot and pay online.