

# Stratford History - Always Amazing

**By David Wright, Editor**  
Stratford Historical Society's  
**UPDATE**

William Howard Wilcoxson, Town Historian and Town Clerk for many years, in preparing for Stratford's 300 year anniversary in 1939, reflected on his various recollections of town 50 years earlier.

*Our Stratford of half a century ago was a delightfully pretty village. Its quiet grass bordered streets—almost lawns in themselves—its immemorial elms arching silently above the walks; by whom or when planted no historian has yet discovered; its venerable old houses displaying all the dignity and charm of their colonial simplicity; its glimpses of the wide majestic river, the harbor and sound, with the blue shores of Long Island on the far horizon, all had as many suggestions to*



William Howard Wilcoxson, Town Historian, c. 1937

*the mind and the imagination as to the senses.*

*Main Street was canopied by a leafy dome of elms running the entire length of the town and was originally laid out from 8 to 10 rods wide. In spite of the*

*many encroachments of each succeeding generation, it remains of wonderful width, but the advent of the trolley cars, and the unsightly telephone and electric light poles, with their attendant network of wires as they cross and re-cross, have destroyed much of its natural beauty and it is lost forever.*

*...Nichols Avenue and Huntington Road, which today present quite a metropolitan atmosphere and resemble city streets were until little more than a quarter of a century ago, picturesque rural country roads wending their way into the shadows and silences of the forests, the one leading to "Old Farms" now Nichols village and the other to Huntington Centre. Less than half a dozen houses could be noted in the four mile stretch between Tory Hill and Beaver Dam on Huntington Road and an equal number along the road to "Old Farms."*