

Stratford History - Always Amazing

By David Wright, Editor
Stratford Historical Society's

UPDATE

Living in Stratford, it's easy to take for granted, and to forget, all the many things that make Stratford a unique and special place. One such unique, special place is the Christ Church Burying Ground.

Located behind St. James Roman Catholic Church is a cemetery dating from 1723 which is the oldest Episcopal burying ground in Connecticut. The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of John Johnson who died in 1725. The last person buried in the cemetery was Susan Edwards Johnson Hudson who was buried in 1913.

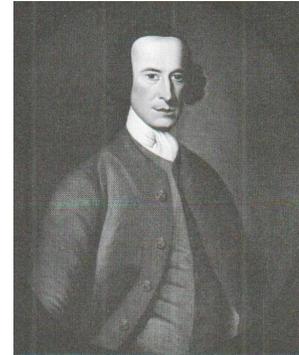
Teddy Roosevelt's aunt, Mary Wells Roosevelt, was buried in

the cemetery in 1863. Stratford's "Most Distinguished Native Son," William Samuel Johnson, also lies in Christ Church Burying Ground.

William Samuel Johnson was the most influential editor of the Constitutional Congress. A remarkable man, Johnson navigated the very turbulent waters of supportive Anglican and Patriot loyalist. His influence was so powerful in our country's early history that the Stratford Town Council declared October 7th a town holiday, in 1952, in remembrance of Johnson's birthday. It's unknown whether this holiday was ever, formally, observed by the town.

On August 26th, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution were in Stratford for a grave marking ceremony at the

burying ground. A formal program was held that day. You may download the memorable program from that ceremony at cemetery.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.



William Samuel Johnson Stratford's "Most Distinguished Native Son".