

Stratford History - Always Amazing

By David Wright, Editor
Stratford Historical Society's
UPDATE

The Wilcoxson family must have possessed some very special farming knowhow. Long before there was a shopping and residential district at Paradise Green, there were farms—apparently very productive ones. There must also have been a friendly rivalry between the Stratford farmers and the Trumbull farmers as the following 1867 newspaper article illustrates. (The “Salt Hay boys” is a reference to the Stratford Wilcoxson farmers).

Bridgeport Evening Standard
December 11, 1867
Stratford.

HOLD ON THERE! — Our Nichol's Farms friends, E. W. Plumb and Capt. E. P. Curtiss, will no doubt be as much astonished as we were, to hear from Old Stratford on the corn question, in the following shape: John Wilcoxson and Sons, practical farmers, have forwarded to our of-

fice, three ears of corn, of a crop raised the past season with no other than ordinary cultivation, the kernels on which count up as follows: 995, 1002, 1004: aggregate 3001! Now as Mr. Plumb's aggregate was 1,825, and Mr. Curtiss' 2,739, and the most *seedy* ear produced by either of the gentlemen, numbered only 959 kernels, 36 less than Old Stratford's *short cob*, it appears to the Court as if Old Trumbull would have to hoe those rows over again next year. The Salt Hay boys further allege that their three ears were not selected at all, but merely grabbed for in the dark, out of a large crib full of the same sort, only more so. This last statement Old Trumbull, will be allowed to question if she sees fit, but as for the corn, we have it on exhibition and are prepared to *amaize* our friends with a sight of it. Furthermore, the Messrs. Wilcoxson offers to count, weigh or measure their *ears* against Old Trumbull or any other man.



Ox Pasture Lane (today Wilcoxson Avenue) c 1920 looking west towards Main Street. Wilcoxson farmhouse on the right.

Now for the next “nubbin.”

... Messrs. Clark & Smith, butchers, of this place (Bridgeport) slaughtered a porker raised and fatted by Mr. Dykeman, which weighed 604 lbs. They also killed, the same day, twelve other hogs weighing over 400 lbs. each. We think they must have been raised on the Messrs. Wilcoxson's corn.