

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER, NOVEMBER 1962

So many things have happened since our annual meeting, it is hard to know just how to start this news letter.

Next Meeting - November 16.

First, because of Thanksgiving, I want to announce the earlier date, November 16th, for our next meeting. Mr. Knapp has announced a most interesting speaker, Mr. Frank Glynn, editor of Archaeological Society of Connecticut, who will speak on "The Challenge of Connecticut Buried History" and will illustrate his lecture with slides. Invite your friends who might also be interested in this subject.

Bridge Dedication, October 23.

As many of you know, our Society was instrumental in sponsoring Special Act 35 in the January session of the 1961 Legislature which officially named the Connecticut Turnpike Bridge, spanning the Housatonic River, the Moses Wheeler Bridge, in honor of Moses Wheeler who started operating the first ferry across the river in 1648, a service that was continued by him and his descendants for three generations. Your Society officers were invited and attended the dedication. We gathered in the lobby of the Shakespeare Theatre where a delightful coffee hour, sponsored by the Shakespeare Guild, was enjoyed. While there, we met State dignitaries and officials, and were introduced to the direct descendants of Moses Wheeler. From the Theatre we drove in police escorted convoy to the Bridge where the dedication ceremony, sponsored by the Stratford Chamber of Commerce, was held and the plaque naming the bridge was unveiled.

An amusing sidelight on the above was that I was first invited to the dedication as a direct descendant of Moses Wheeler, and a flash thought entered my mind that, in his 100 year life span, Moses Wheeler might have done a turn about on the Vikings and sailed his ferry to Sweden and gotten into a bit of mischief; but phone calls brought out that, because of an error at State Highway Dept. offices, similar invitations had gotten to other Society officers.

Teachers

The new teachers in the Town educational system were invited to visit and acquaint themselves with our Museum on October 29 and 30. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Michaelson, as a committee, handled the invitations. Mrs. Oakman was on hand with hostesses and guides, and Mrs. Harvey with refreshments, who, together with our beaming Curator, all handled the situation most efficiently.

Officers and Committees

Your officers and committee chairmen have been very active. All had their committee members named and organized, and their lists forwarded by October 20th.

Finance Committee

On the evening of October 24 the Finance Committee, under Mr. Leo Miller, met, organized, and set up the budget for the year as follows:

Receipts:

Disbursements:

1. Dues	725.00	5. Utilities & Fuel	1100.00
2. Investments	1000.00	6. Salaries	750.00
3. Judson House	700.00	7. Insurance	350.00
4. Fund Raising	1000.00	8. Acquisitions	50.00
		9. Hospitality	40.00
		10. Library	15.00

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11. Printing & Supplies	225.00
12. Program	100.00
13. History & Research	5.00
14. House	300.00
15. Contingency	265.00
16. Museum Painting	225.00
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	3,425.00

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Executive Board Meeting, October 29.

The new board met and organized. All chairmen outlined their plans for the coming year. The Finance Committee presented their budget which was then discussed and approved. Three special committees were appointed. One headed by Mr Fowler to meet with Dr. Cummings on Saturday, November 3rd, to investigate the possibility of restoring the Living Room at Judson House to near its original condition. I am sure we can look for an interesting report from this committee at our next meeting.

A second committee headed by Mrs. Bunnell is to investigate and report on the need for an addition to our museum building. This will take some time and study, so we cannot expect a detailed report for some time.

A third committee will review our progress under the by-laws adopted a year and a half ago and make recommendations for improvement.

Gordon Hiner

We all mourn the death of Mr. Gordon Hiner, former hard working member of our Executive Board, and extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Hiner and family.

Judson House

Mr. Booth reports having 57 visitors during September. Interest and attendance in our House and Museum continues to grow in a most gratifying manner.

Acquisitions

We are all sorry to hear that our diligent Acquisitions Chairman, Mrs. Harold Lovell, Sr., is ill and under doctor's care. Let us all wish her a speedy recovery.

I will end this Newsletter with a story passing around Stratford that our jolly merchant and bank official member was gratified to see President Kennedy get up out of his rocking chair and sit on a Castro, and is now waiting to see how convertible this Castro is!

Don't forget next meeting, Friday evening, November 16th at our usual place, Christ Church Hall. It should be a most interesting evening.



Stanley E. Johnson
President