



STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 1963

Built 1723

Next Meeting, Friday, September 27th 1963

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Christ Church Hall -- 8:00 P.M.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers to serve you for the coming year. Important you come and take part.

The annual reports of all officers and committee chairmen will be in printed form for you to read, both at our meeting or to study if you wish when you have time at home. That way, we can all become acquainted with the amount of time and hard work put in by your officers and committees.

Mr. Knapp has an interesting and unusual program lined up for us. No imported talent -- our own Leo Miller and Don Fowler are going to introduce you pictorially to all the ladies and men who worked on the parlor restoration. You will see them in action and the different stages of progress of the work from beginning to end. Along with the seriousness, there will be interesting humor. We hope, also, to include a few shots of the Flea Market!

LAWN PARTY

Our July meeting Lawn Party was well attended and a success, thanks to Mrs. Harvey's Hospitality Committee, especially Mrs. Harding who personally baked all that good shortcake, and to our faithful ladies who spent the afternoon peeling fresh peaches! If you stayed away, you missed a delightful evening.

FLEA MARKET

Our Flea Market was a howling, exciting success both weatherwise and financially. It is hard to restrain myself from telling all about it, but it would be most unfair to our Ways and Means Committee Chairmen, Mrs. Leo Miller and Mrs. Harold Lovell, Sr. to steal their thunder. They and their committees worked hard and long planning and executing every detail. It was wonderful! I promise the report will be most interesting and exciting.

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Lovell are very grateful to the many hands that so willingly and faithfully made the Flea Market such a great and rewarding success.

Did you know that the Rotary Diner made and supplied all the coffee we sold for the cost of the coffee alone? A good friend of the Society!

JUDSON HOUSE

Through the generosity of the Bridgeport Gas Company, we are installing a new, gas-fired heating furnace in the basement of Judson House. The complete job, including removal of the tank and old furnace, will be done at no cost to us. In my opinion, we will have cleaner, safer heat at no extra cost, and have more space in the basement as a result of removing the oil tank. We will need a volunteer to clean up and whitewash the wall where the tank stood.

CURATOR

Mr. Booth says visitors are still coming in increased numbers and keeping him and our Hostesses busy. His annual report for the year will be most interesting and enlightening.

HOSTESSES

Many thanks from the Society and from the Hostess Committee Chairman to all willing members who served as Hosts and Hostesses to visitors to Judson House and Museum all during the year. Several letters have been received from groups visiting Judson House expressing appreciation for gracious reception and interesting tours.

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE

The League of Historical Societies will hold its next meeting on September 28th, with the Torrington Historical Society acting as the host. Of special interest here is the Hotchkiss-Fyler House, the headquarters of the society located at 192 Main Street. It was constructed in 1900 for Orsamus R. Fyler, a leading Torrington industrialist, and is still furnished with the many lovely pieces, just as it was at the time of the death of Mr. Fyler's daughter, Mrs. Edward Hotchkiss. At the rear of the house is a carriage house, recently converted into an attractive auditorium by the society, and the colorful flower gardens. Next door is an older Fyler house owned by the society where many items of interest in the history of the town are displayed.

Included in the program will be a talk on "Industrial Torrington's Background" by Miss Catherine Calhoun, vice president of the society.

Did you know that for many years our Stratford Society held the record for the greatest number of members from one society attending all the League meetings! It's in the record!

All our members are welcome to attend. Bring your lunch. The host society will serve coffee and dessert. Mr. and Mrs. Einer Larsen will be the Society delegates to the meeting.

HISTORY WORKSHOP AT STURBRIDGE

The American Association for State and Local History and Old Sturbridge Village announce a local history workshop to be held November 9-10 at Old Sturbridge Village, Mass. The program will begin Saturday morning at 10 o'clock with a welcome and reports from six New England states, followed by a session on collection policies. Afternoon sessions will include use of libraries, archives, and manuscripts for research; writing for publication; and documenting objects for interpretation.

Charles van Ravenswaay, president of Old Sturbridge Village, will give the dinner address Saturday evening on the impact of New England on the West. Sunday morning sessions will be on evaluating historic structures and building a new museum; afternoon sessions will take up the conservation of collections and exhibit materials and techniques. Our Mr. Don Fowler will take part as a panel member Sunday morning on evaluating historic structures and building new museums.

All our members are invited to attend. It should be most interesting and educational. I hope to have more detailed information by meeting time.

V.I.P.

On August 3rd last, Dr. Cummings came down from Boston to spend a half hour or so to show our Judson House and Museum to a group of his friends, namely Mr. David McKibbin, librarian Boston Atheneum; Mr. Richard Candee, Gore Place Society, Waltham, Mass.; Mr. Daniel M. C. Hopping, architectural historian of Bronxville, N.Y.; and our own Mr. Elmer Keith. Their interest in our restoration and exhibits, especially our old fabrics, was so great that the half hour visit stretched into nearly six hours. Their enthusiastic comments have been recorded by the Acquisition Committee.

MISCELLANY

Mrs. Harold Lovell, Sr. suggests that you take time to visit a very interesting curator, Mr. Dole at Ellis Stowe House, Milford, and see his collection of photostatic copies of old historic records and documents.

This is the last Newsletter for this year. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed writing them.

Stanley E. Johnson
President