

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Built 1723

MARCH 1964

Next meeting - Friday, March 20th  
Christ Church Hall



Built 1723

Program: The Victorian Era

Our program chairman, Mrs. Leo Miller, has secured for us the most interesting illustrated talks on costumes, articles and Victorian culture. Our speakers are both experts in this field. Mr. J. Herbert Callister, Curator at Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, who has a personal collection of period clothing, millinery and related accessories, will speak on clothing. Mr. Paul Durrie, Director of Adult Education for the Stamford Public Schools, will show and talk on various articles used in that period. Included in his collection are about 600 patterned glass pitchers and over 100 fans and paper weights, all rare and beautiful.

Because of Good Friday, our meeting has been moved up one week to March 20th.

- By-laws -

Enclosed with your Newsletter is a copy of the present By-laws together with revisions that our hard-working By-laws Committee, headed by Mr. Donald Fowler, have been meeting and working on for a long time. On March 2nd at a special meeting of your board, Mr. Fowler presented the revisions and the board went over them in detail and voted to present them to the membership at this March 20 meeting. Please take time to read and study them so we can take first action on them at this meeting without spending too much time on detail review. Final action cannot be taken until our May meeting.

-Library-

Mr. Selleck, our Librarian, plans to bring to the meeting early photograph albums in the hope that some members can identify the subjects. Also, if you have borrowed any of the following books from our Library, will you please bring them to our meeting and return them to Mr. Selleck:

#369 "Picture Playmates" by Warne

#382 Recipes "(Court Square)" by Eva Davis, Vicksburg, Miss.

#1199-27 "Early Silver of Conn. and its Makers" by Geo. Munson Curtis

It would be nice to make them available to other members who ask to borrow them.

-Harold Sturges-

At the last meeting of the Board it was voted to have Mrs. Knapp write a memorial resolution in honor of the late Mr. Harold Sturges, our Past President, and set aside a page in our records for its insertion.

-Curator-

Mr. Booth reports 138 visitors during December, January and February.

-Acquisitions-

Mrs. Lovell has acquired some unusual newspapers printed on the back of wallpaper during and after the battle of Vicksburg, which were given to us by Mr. Lay. They are interesting to read. Her committee is also planning to sell deeds, maps, etc. from the State of Missouri donated by the Judd family. Any members interested have first opportunity to buy. See Mrs. Lovell.

- History and Research -

The History and Research Committee has been working hard since our last meeting and should have a very interesting report.

- Harold C. Lovell Reception -

On February 23rd we held a reception and tea in honor of Harold C. Lovell, Sr. Over 200 members and friends attended. Your President received the following letter from Mr. Lovell:

February 24, 1964

Dear Stanley:

"The violet, by the shadow that it casts, protects the lingering dew drop from the sun."

How wonderfully kind all you "violets" were to your antique and lingering "dewdrop". Last night I carefully examined that beautiful guest book with its so appropriate data, and the house key on its historic setting.

The Stratford Center picture is rare. It shows the center as I remember it in 1893 before the tracks were raised and the railroad bridge built. The artistry of our store front was indeed fine .

As I thought of your graciousness to Beatrice and to me, I admit that my ancient and neglected tear ducts opened and released a tear.

We are forever grateful to the efficient officers and committee chairmen, and to all the kind and thoughtful friends who labored to make the occasion, for Beatrice and for me, an unforgettable one.

I can only say two simple words, Thank You.

In all sincerity,  
Harold C. Lovell, Sr.

The success of the reception was due to the hard work and planning of Co-Chairmen Mrs. Leo Miller and Mr. Donald Fowler and the following committees: The beautiful guest book by Mrs. Raymond Carpenter; the Plaque presented was made from part of a chestnut board that came from the Judson house floor, on which was mounted a brass key to Judson house made by Mr. Alex Grasso and a commemorative plate engraved by Mr. Paul Wagner. Your President had a hand in assembling it. Invitations were printed and mailed by Mrs. Glen Maresca, Chairman, and Natalie Wilcoxson, Gertrude Heisler, Edna Viner, Helen Stone, Mrs. Grace Harford, Mrs. Wendell Holmes and Mrs. Stanley Meacham. Responsible for the good publicity was Mary MacDonald. Co-chairmen for refreshments were Mrs. Keith Arbogast and Mrs. Hildreth Winton aided by the following ladies: Phone caller, Mrs. Robert Novey, Mrs. T.A.D. Weaver, Mrs. Richard Slater, Mrs. H.F. Wheeler, Laura Tubbs, Mrs. Laird Savacool, Mrs. H.N. Phillips, Mrs. Jessie Murphy; Serving were: Mrs. H.W. Bristol, Mrs. Roger B. Briggs, Mrs. Frank Bunnell, Mrs. J. Oliver Carson, Mrs. Edwin Cox, Mrs. Thomas M. Clinton, Mrs. E. Earle Garlick, Mrs. Einar Larson, Mrs. George Charlesworth. Flowers procured and arranged by Mrs. Donald Fowler, Chairman, aided by Ruby Wheeler, Mrs. Frank Mussler. The beautiful tea tables were set by Mrs. Manning Harvey, Chairman, and the following committee who also helped pour: Mrs. Rexford Nettleton, Mrs. Clark Lane, Jr., Mrs. Helen Youngs, Mrs. Frank Bunnell, Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Mrs. John Richardson, Mabel Wilcoxson, Mrs. Allan Beardsley, Mrs. Robert Brockway, Mrs. Lewis Knapp, Mrs. Elden Dustin, Mrs. Francis Stosse, Mrs. Robert Beardsley, Mrs. John Ross, Mrs. Charles Wilson, Mrs. Roy Sanborn, Mrs. Richard Slater, Mrs. Joseph Schlosser, Mrs. Leslie Oakman, Mrs. Alfred Beach, Mrs. Martha Scribner, Mrs. Willis Newbold, Mrs. John Welsh.

The genial host at the door was Mr. Lewis Knapp. Many interesting pictures were taken by Mr. Howard Wilcoxson and Ruby Wheeler. And the mountain of dishes were washed by the men headed by co-chairmen Leo Miller and Manning Harvey with the able assistance of J.O. Carson, Elden Dustin, John Roas, Joseph Schlosser, Alfred Beach, Raymond Carpenter, Richard Slater, Hildreth Winton, Roy Sanborn, H.C. Lovell, Jr., Francis Stosse and Leslie Oakman.

As is always usual with our Society, all committees functioned and the coordination was perfect. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Fowler are to be congratulated for their planning and execution of a delightful reception.

It was a most gratifying indication of the high esteem held for our guest of honor, Mr. Harold C. Lovell, Sr., when over 200 of his townspeople came out to honor him.

- State Meeting -

The Connecticut League meeting will be held Saturday, March 21st at the Connecticut Historical Society, Elizabeth Street, Hartford, starting at 10 A.M. Bring your own lunch; coffee and dessert will be served by the Historical Society.

Dr. S. K. Stevens, Director of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, will speak on "Historic Conservation Becomes Big Business." There will be tours of the Connecticut Historical Society museum collection conducted by Mr. T. R. Harlow, Director and Mr. W. Warren, Assistant Director. As a member of our Society you are automatically a member of the Connecticut League and are invited to attend all League meetings. For further information contact Mr. and Mrs. Einar Larson, our League delegates.

- Finale -

There is so much more to tell, but my letter is getting long and dull. Best to come to the meeting and listen to your committee heads tell all. Don't forget to look over the By-laws changes and come ready to vote.

Stanley E. Johnson  
President