



STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER



DECEMBER 1964

Built 1723

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Next meeting Friday, December 4  
Christ Church Hall - 8:00 P.M.

Program: MUSIC FROM THE ATTIC - demonstration by Wesley B. Reed of North Woodstock of 15 obsolete musical instruments used over the last century and a half; most of them used for home entertainment during the last part of the 19th century. An engineer by profession and an amateur musician, Mr. Reed has reconstructed many of the instruments and has learned to play them. This will be a very enjoyable evening. Invite a friend who might be interested in becoming a member, to come with you.

A Challenge; an opportunity accepted!

FUND RAISING TO PURCHASE SAMMIS PROPERTY

Your executive board at its recent meeting voted to acquire the Sammis property as soon as 80% of the purchase price could be obtained. This action was taken in the light of returns from the membership questionnaire which were mostly in favor of the purchase so long as the Society did not burden itself with a large debt.

It felt that the Society could if necessary, take in stride a \$5000, 5% mortgage on the property. There then remains the task of raising from within the Society membership at least \$10,000 and from non members, banks, utilities, businessmen and industry at least another \$10,000 toward the purchase price of \$25,000. It would be wonderful - and it's not impossible - to raise the entire "twenty-five grand."

While the questionnaire did not seek a pledge, it did ask about how much those in favor of purchasing the property might be willing to contribute. With the generous offer of \$5,000 from Miss Adelaide De Groot a total of over \$9,100. was shown. This leads us to believe that we can quickly within our membership raise \$10,000.

A start has already been made toward raising funds outside the membership. Mr. Donald Sammis, and non members Warren Faust, retired Treasurer of Bridgeport Brass, and William Simpson, President of Raybestos Co. met with me for luncheon at the Mermaid Tavern to explore ways to best raise the funds needed. Harold Lovell, Sr. has accepted chairmanship of the "Property Committee" (a committee dedicated solely to raising funds to purchase the Sammis property). A dozen business leaders accepted an invitation from Mr. Lovell and myself to have lunch at the Shakespeare Inn, November 18th. We told them of the Society work and its need and then took them over to Judson House where Mrs. Harold Lovell and Mrs. Ray Carpenter showed them through the House and Museum. The place was really spic and span - a Museum to be proud of.

Not a person we have talked with has thought our need unworthy. We plan to ask modest giving from a large number of sources without the fan fare and pressure that sometimes is used in fund raising.

With cooperation of the full membership we should be able to complete the task in 30 days.

It would be sort of nice, along side of Fred Booth's stocking hung from the mantle of the great fireplace in the Judson House Kitchen at Christmas time, to have a big, big, well-filled stocking for the Societies Fund to acquire the Sammis Property.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1964-65

President.....	Mr. Hildreth Winton
First Vice President.....	Mr. Lewis Knapp
Second Vice President.....	Mr. Richard Slater
Third Vice President.....	Mrs. Susan Bunnell
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Donald Sammis
Corresponding Sec'y.....	Mrs. Mabel Nettleton
Treasurer.....	Mr. Roy Sanborn
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mr. Francis Stosse
Historian.....	Mr. W. Howard Wilcoxson
Directors:	
For one year.....	Mr. Edmund Judson
For two years.....	Mr. Stanley E. Johnson
	Mr. Raymond Carpenter
For three years.....	Mrs. Ernest France



Standing Committees:

House Committee.....	Mrs. John Richardson)	co-Chairmen
House Committee.....	Mr. Robert Beardsley)	
Grounds Committee.....	Mr. Manning Harvey	
Acquisitions.....	Mrs. Harold Lovell	
Finance Committee.....	Mr. Leo Miller	
History & Research.....	Mrs. Vivienne Knapp	
Hospitality.....	Mrs. Hildreth Winton	
Library & Geneology.....	Rev. F. Stanley Selleck	
Membership & Financial.....	Mrs. Clark Lane	
Program Committee.....	Mrs. Leo Miller	
Hostesses.....	Mrs. Keith Arbegast	
Education.....	Mr. Donald Fowler	
Publicity.....	Mrs. Frank Mussler	

GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Manning Harvey's committee has ably followed thru on projects that were well started by last year's committee.

Thanks to the Town the large maple tree in the back yard has been removed. Fred Booth observed with a smile and his familiar chuckle "and all the leaves stayed on the tree." The beech tree now stands in all its glory and the sun pours in where an old fashioned garden could grow.

The Page wire fence has been installed and paid for. Prior to erection of the fence a survey was made. Steps are being taken to have the map filed

There are more things to tell about but News letters should not be long.

See you Friday, December 4 at Christ Church Hall. Don't forget to bring a friend and potential member. It will be an enjoyable evening.

Hildreth T. Winton  
President

