



The Stratford Historical Society  
Stratford, Connecticut



Next Meeting

Friday, November 26th, 1965

Christ Church 8:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Old Clocks and Time Pieces

Mr. Dana J. Blackwell, treasurer of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies and past president of the Naugatuck Society will give an illustrated lecture on "Old Clocks and Time Pieces."

Connecticut was the center of the clock industry in the New World. This is a fascinating story - one that you and your friends will want to hear and see illustrated.

While plans had originally been made to meet on the third Friday of the month to avoid the Thanksgiving weekend, the electrical blackout forced Christ Church officials to reschedule the John Stuart Anderson performance. It is hoped that all will eat with temperance and be able to attend the meeting Friday the 26th. If you have house guests bring them along to what promises to be an enjoyable evening.

Speaking of clocks:

Mr. Frederick A. Petrie of Brightwood Avenue, Stratford has put all the clocks at Judson House in good working order. You get a friendly "Lived in feeling" in a house where old clocks tick and chimes ring out the hour. It takes patience, know how and a lot of time to make these old clocks work. We are indebted to Mr. Petrie for his generous help.

A Friend in Court:

The Board of Directors requested the secretary to send a letter of thanks to Attorney Ivan Morehouse for legal services rendered, without charge to the society, pertaining to purchase of the Sammis Property.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1965 - 1966

|                             |                                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| President                   | <del>Hildreth Winton</del>             |
| 1st Vice President          | Lewis Knapp                            |
| 2nd Vice President          | Mrs. Leo Miller                        |
| 3rd Vice President          | Mrs. Frank Sammis                      |
| Recording Secretary         | <del>Mrs. Donald Sammis</del>          |
| Corresponding Secretary     | Mrs. Rexford Nettleton                 |
| Treasurer                   | <del>Mr. Roy C. Sanborn</del>          |
| Assistant Treasurer         | Francis Stosse                         |
| Historian                   | Wm. Howard Wilcoxson                   |
| Directors:                  |                                        |
| For one year                | <del>Stanley Johnson</del>             |
| For one year                | <del>Mrs. H.B. VanGieson</del>         |
| For two years               | Mrs. Ernest France                     |
| For three years             | John Dolyak                            |
| House Committee             | <del>Mrs. John Richardson</del>        |
|                             | Robert Beardsley                       |
| Grounds Committee           | <del>Manning Harvey</del>              |
| Acquisitions Committee      | Mrs. Harold Lovell                     |
|                             | <del>Mrs. Robert Brockway</del>        |
|                             | Leo Miller                             |
| Finance Committee           | <del>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Einar Larson</del> |
| History & Research          | Mrs. Hildreth Winton                   |
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| Library & Genealogy         | Mrs. Clark Lane                        |
| Membership & Fin. Secretary | <del>Miss Harriett Ryan</del>          |
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| Hostess Committee           | Donald Fowler                          |
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| Publicity Committee         | Frederick C. Booth                     |
| Curator                     |                                        |

### Stratford Heritage - Stratford Lighthouse

Stratford is endowed with natural resources which undoubtedly led to its early settlement. Located on the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound which once abounded with fish, oysters, clams and wild life, both land and sea had much to offer. But the coast line is a rocky one and the currents swift. The point of land shown on charts as Stratford Point and known to residents as Lordship at an early date became the site of one of the prominent light houses on the coast.

I have an almost reverent appreciation for the Stratford Light for much of my boyhood was spent in row boats and sail boats at the mouth of the river. When a fog rolled in it was a great source of comfort to hear the voice of the old man of the sea - the Stratford Light Fog Horns. There was, to my knowledge, no other voice like it. It was awesome, friendly and very masculine.

I wonder if anyone recorded it on tape. Within the past few weeks the familiar old Stratford Fog Horns have been silenced - replaced by new efficient electronic devices requiring far less maintenance. (Between you and me, the new voice lacks that certain something.) The Stratford Historical Society should have a recording of the old Stratford Light Fog Horn. We may have missed the boat.

The Board of Directors, at its last meeting, requested Mrs. Harold Lovell, chairman of the Acquisition Committee to inform the United States Coast Guard that the Society would be pleased to receive the old horns. Made of cast iron and weighing several hundred pounds they are made to withstand weather and can be kept out of doors. We have been informed, unofficially, that we could obtain the generators, motors and compressors, however, it was felt that these items which would require housing would not be appropriate to acquire.

In terms of years the horns are not very old, only about 35 years, but they are impressive and represent a period in the life of the Stratford Light House. In preserving these now we will have an irreplaceable relic that few communities in this part of the country can point to as part of their heritage.

At this period of transition at the Stratford Light House the Society is hopeful that it may obtain for safekeeping in its museum a few of the "brass utensils" that were used in maintaining the old light when it was powered by oil. The present light has for years been electric.

Change is ever with us. We now have the grounds and museum space to retain items that may not today be regarded as "antiques" but which tomorrow will be the only relics of a definite period in Stratford History. We need the help of all members to recognize these changes and to determine what should be done before time and our over concern solely for the present finds us looking back helplessly for treasures that should have been preserved.

Hildreth T. Winton  
President

