



Built 1723

The Stratford Historical Society
Stratford, Connecticut



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NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

Friday, September 23, 1966

Christ Church 8:00 P.M.

Mr. J. Fletcher Lewis will speak at the Society's Annual Meeting Friday, September 23rd on "The Story of the Housatonic River". Mr. Lewis who has served many years as Harbor Master is in a position to relate many interesting stories about the Housatonic - on whose banks a whole saga of Yankee inventive genius and pioneering can be told. This is an opportunity to learn more about your River and those who plied its waters. Plan to attend and as usual bring a friend who may have an interest in this fascinating subject.

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Outdoor Sale a Success

The Society's outdoor sale held August 13th proved to be the most profitable one so far in spite of increased costs. Net profit was over \$1800.

Ninety-four wagons displayed their "treasures". Eighteen hundred and forty-two persons paid admission to the event. Mable Miller, who made all the advance arrangements and then followed thru on the many details has asked me to thank all who helped.

While we hire professionals to handle such jobs as Flea Market Management, Police for parking, catering, rainwatcher (for rain insurance) etc. our net profit would be far less if each year Stanley Johnson did not furnish free of charge a truck and able workmen on his payroll from early morning until after sundown.

It's quite gratifying to end up with a handsome profit - but there is also a very important by-product of these annual outdoor shows; that is the satisfaction of working together in harmony on a common cause.

Last but no least we owe Mother Nature a debt of gratitude for a glorious August day that made one feel good just to be alive.

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Preservation of Paradise Green and Its Trees.

Your president, first vice-president and other members of the Stratford Historical Society spoke at a public hearing in the Stratford Town Council Chambers urging that every effort be made to handle flow of traffic on Huntington Road without demolishing trees or taking any of the land now part of the Paradise Green Common. Strong sentiment expressed on this subject has prompted the town officials to for the present study the problem further and take no immediate action to change this historic site.

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New England Society of Pennsylvanians tour Judson House.

Mrs. John Richardson and a number of hostesses arranged a special visitation to Judson House for 26 members of the New England Society of Pennsylvanians early this month.

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William Howard Wilcoxson Bus Tour Commentator

Howard, our Historian served as commentator on a bus tour of Stratford under a Federal sponsored program for youth.

Without Federal subsidy for the bus (for few of us could pose as needy juveniles) might it not be a good outing some time for our members to charter a bus for a tour of Stratford on condition that Howard would serve as commentator. (Don't ask how he could be on three busses at the same time - but we do have walkie talkies and tape recorders.)

I'd like to buy a ticket for such an event - and you could add a dollar to it for a buffet served at Boothe Memorial not too unlike the fare at our picnic; - well baked beans included.

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Recognition for Service to the Society

All members of a society are expected to contribute in some measure to the society's objectives. A newsletter that set out to record each and every worthy deed would not only be dull but would be certain to overlook a meritorious work.

However, the board of directors at its last meeting felt compelled to let Eloise and Donald Sammis know of the Society's appreciation for all they had done for the Society over the years. This was recorded in the board's meeting minutes of a resolution presented by Harold Lovell. We all wish them good health and happiness in their new home in New Hampshire.

The board also felt it should accept with regret Roy Sanborn's request that he not be renominated for Treasurer. Roy has served well in this post for six years - the Society is solvent - he is not behind bars - we are highly indebted for the many hours of painstaking work he has given to keep the Society in sound financial condition. He deserves a little free time from what is quite a constant responsibility - and from a job well done.

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Old Soldiers Never Die

In the quaint little fishing harbor of Mememsha, not far from the red cliffs of Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard, there is an old fishing shack with a few large sword-fish tail fins tacked to the wall. Fish nets are drying on the fence. All the flavor of the sea abounds. A well weathered sign reads "Old Fishermen never die, they only smell that way."

I mention this because I too, though quite unlike a famous departed General, must "fade away". A very wise provision of the by-laws limits the term of President to two years. This guards against stagnation; it encourages the development and discovery of new talents. It is good.

My thanks go to all who worked for the Society during these two short busy years.

Looking back there are a host of things undone - yet I feel we made substantial progress. If pressed to suggest the most important legacy I leave to my successor it would be, "A membership of good will".

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve.

Hildreth T. Winton
President