



Built 1723

The Stratford Historical Society
Stratford, Connecticut



Built 1723

Next Meeting: Friday, January 27, 1967 (Bring a Prospective Member)
Christ Church 8:00 P.M.

Program: Greeting Cards and Valentines of By-Gone Years

Mr. Mark L. Finch will trace the development of Valentines and greeting cards over the years. He has fascinating examples from his own and other collections gathered over the past quarter century. He has a colored movie, "An Old, Old Story", made entirely with antique cards.

Mr. Finch is a retired sales executive of the Hallmark Company and a past president of the Greeting Card Association. He has spent his entire career in greeting card publishing.

March: The March 24th meeting will be a repeat of our enjoyable Show and Tell. YOU will be the speaker(s), if you have an interesting antique or bit of history to show.

Roof: The largest capital expenditure this year will be for the roof. To help determine what kind of roof would be best, we put the History and Research Committee to work. Mr. Slater sent two letters to Dr. Abbot Cummings, at the Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities. Receiving no answer, Mr. Slater finally dashed off a telegram which read in part, "...please advise. Urgent. Doubt present roof will last winter."

The next morning Dr. Cummings phoned. Apparently, he had just completed a survey on the very subject. His advice: In New England, they never used rough hand split shakes on roofs, but usually used a smooth shingle almost exactly like the modern cedar shingle. The Doctor also recommends, for greater endurance and reduced leakage and fire hazard, a new shingle called "Salem" put out by Johns-Manville.

The finance committee will shortly select a roofing contractor, and the new roof will be put on.

Gifts: The society has received a gift of \$100 from Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, and another \$100 from Miss Katherine Judson. This is not the first gift from either of these sources, and we say many thanks to the Lovells and to Miss Judson. Such gifts help tremendously with our current work of restoration, preservation, and education, and can occasionally be added to our trust funds so that some day we will have assured income for our operations.

Long Range Committee: It is wise every few years to review our long range objectives. To this end, I have asked our immediate past president, Mr. Winton, to form a planning committee to present a new long range plan to the executive board later this year.

Historical Sites: During the Center School location controversy, I received several phone calls objecting to the possible destruction of old houses. This is right, as it should be the function of an Historical Society to protect historic structures. I sent a letter to the Town Council recommending establishment of an Historical Commission, to review and recommend sites worth saving, and to replace the defunct Historical District Commission. I haven't received any answers, so if you are interested in such an idea, let your councilman know.

Pending: We're still considering republishing the History of Stratford. Other pending projects are display of Stratford Shoals light, directional signs to the House, construction of a fence, building a bulletin board.

Volunteers for any of these projects, or to serve as hostesses, help with yard cleanup, start a youth group, or perform a myriad of other tasks, are always welcome.

"Reminder - 1967 dues are due and payable on October 1, 1966".

Meanwhile, a Happy and Full 1967 to all of you. It is the 329th year for Stratford, the 245th year for Judson House, and the 42nd year for the Society.

Lewis G. Knapp
President

