



The Stratford Historical Society
Stratford, Connecticut



Built 1723

NEWSLETTER

Built 1723

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1967
CHRIST CHURCH 8:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: SHOW AND TELL

"On September 15, 1687, a Venetian bomb fell on a Turkish powder keg and blew the Parthenon to pieces. The Venetians who did the bombarding and the Turks who used the Parthenon for a powder magazine did not intend its destruction. But the act of war was decisively final. An edifice which had stood for over 2,000 years as one of the supreme works of Athenian culture, lay in ruins.

We do not use bombs and powder kegs to destroy irreplaceable structures related to the story of America's civilization. We use the corrosion of neglect or the thrust of bulldozers. The result is the same as in the case of the Parthenon."*

Connecticut Senate Bill No. 425 and House Bill No. 2994, Preservation of Historic Structures and Landmarks will be up for hearing very soon - in days or weeks. This bill provides funds, up to \$1.5 million for two years, to the State Historical Commission to provide grants-in-aid to local historical commissions and historical societies to purchase and restore certain historic sites. The list of historic sites is now being prepared, and Judson House is rated B+ in the list. If Federal aid provides half the funds on an approved project, this bill will allow the State to provide up to half the remainder. The private historical society's dollar spent on a worthwhile project, will go four times as far.

Last Wednesday, your president, your immediate past president, and your state delegate attended a luncheon meeting in Hartford and listened to Mr. Hatch of the Connecticut Historical Commission and others explain the reason for the bill. Based on what we heard, we urge you to aid passage of this bill by writing to the legislative committee which will be conducting the hearings. Its chairman is Rep. Victor Tudan (D) 63 White Rock Drive, Windsor 06095. Our Senator on the committee is: Sen. Dr. George L. Gunther (R) 890 Judson Place, Stratford 06497. Write to both.

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To aid the Conn. Historical Commission in listing historic sites, and to provide such a list to the Stratford Cultural Commission which asked for it, your board has voted to establish a committee to list historic sites in town worth saving.

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It's been a busy winter at Judson House. In January, Mr. Booth reports, we had 154 visitors. The board has selected a bulletin board for the front yard, and Mr. Fowler is having it made. A tree blew down in an adjacent yard and damaged our wire fence, but it's being repaired. With spring on its way, the new roof can go onto the house.

We welcome Miss Lucy McCabe into the Society. Miss McCabe was a member for years when she lived in Stratford.

Thanks to Rachel Axtel for \$10.00 to the Society in memory of Natalie Wilcoxson.

* from With Heritage So Rich, Random House, 1966.

The Acquisitions Committee has good news for us: We have received the pictures, shawls and such left to us by Miss Edith Holden, but in addition, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has turned over to us an oval mirror and a Hepplewhite sideboard from Miss Holden, and Mr. Kenneth Judson has promised us a Hepplewhite chair, a Lowestoft cup and saucer, twelve rat tail spoons, and a manuscript book from Miss Holden. All of these are Judson heirlooms.

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The Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society hopes to visit Judson House - tentatively, on April 8 - to learn from us how to operate a historical home and museum. They have just been given the old Darling Tavern in Woodbridge.

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Our fund raising effort to purchase Sammis House and expand our property has been so successful that Mr. Lovell has put forth a new suggestion. Read his note, which follows, and think about. If you agree, let's act on it.

"Dear Loyal Members of The Historical Society:

Two years ago your Society voted to buy the Sammis property east of our Historical Society Judson House for \$25,000.00. We didn't have a nickle but realized that we must obtain the property for expansion and for posterity.

There is no more historic site in Stratford.

So with faith in our members we arranged to buy the house. From our membership. 120 pledged \$15,267.00 over a period of three years. The period is not up for ten months and \$15,067.00 has been paid in. Your members may each be proud of each other!

A \$10,000.00 mortgage at 5% has been placed on the new property. The balance is now \$9,000.00 and the baby is "ourn."

How would you members feel, if, within a year or two, a drive was put on to pay off the balance of the mortgage?

We have nothing else than a solemn duty to preserve the "modus vivend" fo those unblievably fearless people, who came to a wilderness with their family bible, a few seeds, and a sublime faith.

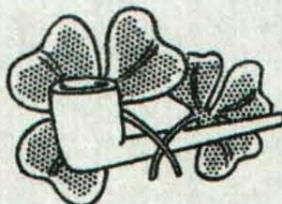
H. C. Lovell"

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Don't forget that the March 31 meeting is a member participation meeting. If you have any items of antiquity you'd like to Show and Tell about, please call or write Mrs. Miller (378-1447), before March 20.

See you there.

Lewis G. Knapp,
President



THE MEMBERS
of the
STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will present a program
of most unusual merit

on

Friday evening March 31, 1967 8 P.M.

Christ Church Parish Hall

The title of the program

SHOW AND TELL

In order to accomplish this unique and rewarding evening of entertainment, your Program Committee asks that you hunt around your home and select one or two (or more) items of antiquity that you have enjoyed over the years. They need not be of museum quality or from the 17th or 18th century. Like the teacher does in the primary grades, you will be called upon to tell in a sentence or two (no more than 3 minutes) something about your treasure or treasures. (If you have stage fright, we will be happy to do it for you.)

There will be tables for display. No commission will be charged if you sell your item that evening. Trades or swaps also acceptable.

It should be a great deal of fun, and a chance for us to share some of our antiques. The success of the meeting depends upon YOU and YOUR ANTIQUES.

Please return the tear-sheet below no later than March 20 to Mrs. Leo Miller, Jr., or, if you prefer, call Mrs. Miller at 378-1447.

(Detach here and return)

To: Mrs. Leo Miller, 1670 Elm Street, Stratford, Conn.

I will bring the following items to the SHOW AND TELL meeting on March 31st:

- | | |
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| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Signed _____

Telephone _____