



Built 1723



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STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

May, 1968

Next Meeting: Friday, May 24, 8:00 P.M., Methodist Church

Program: Mrs. Vincent Morris will talk and present slides on "China Our Ancestors Used". Mrs. Morris and her husband run an antique shop called "Morris House" in Stamford. I'm sure you all remember Mr. Morris' talk on "How to Buy Antiques" last September. Mrs. Morris gives as interesting a talk as her husband. She will be happy to look over any china you'd care to bring in for identification.

Membership: Our new Membership Chairman, Mrs. Johnston, reports one new member, Mrs. Arlene Hunt.

Acquisitions: The Acquisitions Committee is hard at work starting a new Object Card System to catalogue items by type. Since we have over 10,000 items, this is, needless to say, a long task.

House and Grounds: Mr. Johnson has again engaged Sherwood Service to clean and maintain the grounds this year. Mr. Winton is arranging for a contractor to lay new waterpipe from the street to the house. The Safety and Security Committee is about to finish its investigations of security systems. We also intend to remove the old garage and clean up the rear of Sammis House this summer.

Picnic: The annual July picnic of the Society will be held July 26th at Booth Park. Supper will be catered by the Universalist Church ladies at 6:30, followed by songs by Dick Meinsen and his Barbershop Quartet, the East Coasters. They'll give us an explanation of Barbershop singing, and, if you're all in good voice, will include a community sing.

Flea Market: Save Saturday, August 10th for the Stratford Historical Society's Annual Fleamarket. Have your friends circle the date on their calendar, too. Look through your attic for choice items you no longer need, and bring them down to Sammis House for storage. Old china, old tools, or other antiques are welcome. You may also be called on to help or to make something for the bake sale.

Other Museums: Mrs. Knapp and I just returned from a trip to Washington, and we stopped in at several museums. We saw a beautiful display of a bedroom from the Wheeler Mansion at the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology, where we overheard a young man exclaim, "1957? Why did they tear it down, then?" We didn't tell him it was for a highway. It is our observation that the things on display at the Smithsonian are no better than - not always as good as - our own acquisitions, and many of their best presentations are made with a few simple items no grander than ours.

At Mount Vernon, the china and silverware in the museum are displayed in illuminated wall cases quite effectively.

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum at St. Michaels, Md. has a complete cottage lighthouse moved at a cost of \$20,000 to the grounds. While we will never need to do anything like this, we did get some ideas as to how our lens from Stratford Shoals might someday be displayed in a cupola. The brochure for the Maritime Museum has membership application forms printed on it, and they also hand out a printed "Walking Tour of St. Michaels", with local advertising on it.

The Milford Historical Society sponsored a tour of ten historical houses on May 12.

Remember These Dates:

- Meeting: Friday, May 24
- Picnic: Friday, July 26
- Flea Market: Saturday, August 10
- Annual Meeting: Friday, September 27

See you on the 24th.

Lewis G. Knapp, President