



Built 1723



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THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Stratford, Connecticut

News Bulletin
March 1969

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall on Friday, March 28, 1969 at 8:00 P.M. The program will be Show and Tell. Members are asked to bring some interesting antiques to identify and explain its history and significance. These Show and Tell programs in the past have proved to be most informative and enjoyable.

The second part of the program will be devoted to showing slides of the interior and exterior changes in Judson House from 1884 to the present time. Some new slides will be shown for the first time.

GENERAL NOTES ON THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES: At the last meeting of the Executive Board on March 3 held in the Museum two special committees were announced:

Inventory Committee Co-Chairmen, Mrs. Vincent Chapman and Mrs. Samuel Nettleton.

Education and Slides Committee Co-Chairmen, Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Judson.

Your President complimented past acquisitions chairmen and committees, beginning with the late Mrs. Sammis, for collecting, labelling and cataloging the many thousands of historical items which we now have in the Judson House and Museum. He pointed out that as in 1957 our Society had to pause and make plans to expand into the Museum, so now the time has come to evaluate our present needs. As a result of a study over several months the Acquisitions Committee concluded that an inventory must be made of all items in the House and Museum by category, card indexed, and definite steps be taken to scientifically preserve perishable items.

In the past few years we have had increasing requests for information on our artifacts which has shown the need for an inventory according to categories. As a result a special Inventory Committee was organized. This inventory will take an unknown amount of time to do because it entails sorting, cleaning for preservation purposes, rechecking for identification, and typing a card index for each item. A beginning has already been started on genealogy, books, deeds, documents, silver, Indian baskets, pictures and clothing.

Due to the need of an inventory, your President recommended that Judson House and the Museum be closed to accomplish this tremendous task, a task which the late Mrs. Lovell mentioned in her last annual report to the Society. The Board passed a motion to close the House to no later than May 1, and the Museum to no later than July 1, 1969.

We have been discussing with the Connecticut State Historical Commission the possibility of erecting an historic marker commemorating the founding of Stratford. The Commission would provide the marker, and our hope is that the erection costs could be met by private subscription. Mr. W. Howard Wilcoxson, our historian, has prepared a suitable text, which would read as follows:

"MAC'S HARBOR"

Traditional Landing Place of Stratford's First Settlers in the Spring of 1639, under leadership of the REV. ADAM BLAKEMAN. On the left stood the First Church & Burial Place and to the right was erected the First Tide Mill, in this, the Indian Village of CUPHEAG. Then, in 1643, renamed STRATFORD after Stratford-on-Avon, England.

We'd be glad to hear from any member who would like to contribute to this worthwhile project.

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Speaking of Mr. Wilcoxson, he is now devoting his time to a very exciting enterprise: the preparation of a supplement updating his famous "History of Stratford". The Ways and Means Committee has discussed the possibility of

republishing this now unavailable work with the Board of Governors and the Finance Committee, and we hope to do so before the end of the year. The special pre-publication price for this limited edition would be about \$12.00. Mrs. Lewis G. Knapp is now taking orders, and would be glad to hear from you at 377-0602.

Mrs. Frank Mussler, Hostess Chairman, has resigned due to the serious illness of her son-in-law. Mrs. George Newell, telephone 377-2040, has been appointed to succeed her.

Members of the Society will be happy to learn that the Finance Committee has recommended to the Executive Board that the bid for shoring up the floor of the dining room and kitchen be awarded to Mr. Jack Wardman. Your President contacted several members of the Executive Board by telephone for approval. Mr. Wardman has been notified that the contract has been awarded to him. Much work will have to be done on the cellar exhibits after the completion of this job.

Mrs. Leo Miller, Jr., Flea Market Coordinator, has asked that members donate books of Green Stamps for the purchase of a canopy and a folding table for the Society's Flea Market Wagon. 16 books are needed - please bring them to the General Meeting on March 28.

Mrs. Miller has also requested that members search through their homes for items which might be sold at the Flea Market in August. Articles in good condition such as white elephants, small pieces of furniture, etc. are acceptable.

The Acquisitions Committee has offered four large, glass show cases to any member of the Society who may wish one for exhibition or storage purposes. These are taking up much needed space in the Museum. Perhaps you may know of some organization which could use one? They may be had for carting them out of the Museum. Sizes: 95" long, 24" wide, 41" high. If interested please call Mrs. Cox, telephone 378-4084.

Mrs. Lewis Ice, Library Chairman, announced to the Board on March 3 that valuable storage space is being taken up by a large number of Bibles. She recommended that these be offered to Society members or any organization which could use one or more large-sized Bibles. Permission to remove vital statistics written within these Bibles was granted and the information has been filed in the Library. If interested in one or more Bibles, contact Mrs. Ice, telephone 375-6182.

Several items of furniture are now stored in the Sammis House, presumably donated for use in the house. If there are any restrictions on the furniture so designated for use in the Sammis House will the donors please contact Mrs. Cox before April 21. Otherwise the Board will consider the sale of such items to achieve its goals for much needed space and money to preserve better our very rare and valuable artifacts.

We have used for our guide, the Twenty Year Plan, as set up in 1968 by Mr. Lewis Knapp and his committee and approved by the Executive Board.

Donald W. Fowler,
President