



Built 1723

The Stratford Historical Society
Stratford, Connecticut



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NEWS BULLETIN

May 1969

The next meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall, on Friday, May 23 at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Mason P. Andrews, Professor of History, Northwestern Connecticut Community College, will speak on Connecticut Folklore. Mr. Mason comes from a family long associated with Connecticut history and his own writings have been on Indians of Connecticut and New England Witchcraft.

General Notes on the Society's Activities

Miss Ruby Wheeler has kindly consented to develop an herb garden on the south side of Judson House.

Mrs. Andrew Harding, Jr., who has been reorganizing the Museum Library for the past several months has nearly completed filing and cataloging historic documents and deeds, family geneology including the Judson papers, pictures, etc. The files are now useable. Mrs. Harding has spent some 300 hours on this project.

The lawns to the sides and back of the Sammis property have finally been graded and seeded. This should add to the property value as well as enhance the beauty of our lawns.

Through the generosity of three members of our Society the dining room of Judson House has been painted. The outside of the house is in the process of getting a new coat of paint, the first since 1962.

The Acquisitions and Inventory Committees have found it necessary to curtail their work on inventory in order to have the House open by June 1st. For the past three months these committees and volunteers, numbering twelve to fifteen, have worked twice a week sorting, cataloging and cleaning. It has been impossible to hire this work done because the possessions of the Society are priceless.

During the past several weeks 24 different members of the Society have done volunteer work in the Museum, Judson House and on the lawns. Four young girls, one young boy and Guadalupe, a young man from Mexico visiting Mr. Winton, also offered their services.

Flea Market

Mrs. Leo Miller has asked for green and blue stamps either in book form or loose, for the purchase of a canopy and a folding table for the Society's Flea Market Wagon. If there are enough stamps left over, folding chairs for the Museum's meetings can be purchased. If you can spare any stamps will you please bring them to the next meeting or send them to Mrs. Miller at 1670 Elm Street.

Executive Board Resolutions

Two items of interest to all members were proposed by Mr. Lewis Knapp at the Executive Board's April meeting. The first motion deals with the sale of articles. It was moved, seconded and passed:

That a committee of five be elected by the board to determine what articles be sold.

That a committee consist of two board members, two general members, and one member from another local Historical Society, all with interest as diverse as possible.

That the prime consideration for sale be that the item is one of three or more, OR that it does not pertain to the history of Stratford.

That the definition of "pertain" be "used by or could have been used by Stratford people or in the town or could have been of importance to the town".

That nineteenth and twentieth century articles be given as much consideration as eighteenth century articles.

That value at an antique dealer's not be a prime criterion; in other words, historical importance, not antique value, shall govern.

That decisions to sell be unanimous.

That a list of items or groups of items to be sold be presented to the board, and that at the request of three board members any item on the list may be reviewed by the board and removed from the list by majority vote.

That this motion be published in the next newsletter.

The second motion which was passed by the Board deals with the republication of Howard Wilcoxson's book, The History of Stratford, and it is as follows:

At the March Executive Board Meeting, the board discussed republishing Wilcoxson's book and commissioned the Finance Committee to determine how to fund the printing. However, there are no obvious or ready sources of funds.

In sampling the desire for the book we have received 175 requests for copies within three weeks of publication of a single announcement in the paper. This indicates that we can successfully dispose of 1000 copies.

To clarify some confusion, the multifold reasons for the Historical Society to sponsor this effort are:

1. To perform a service for the townspeople, in line with our purposes as outlined in our constitution.
2. To publicize the society and significantly increase our membership. For this reason I think this is the most important single project we can undertake this year.
3. To attain some income from the project, part or all of which will form a Wilcoxson trust fund.

Now that we've begun, it is important to move fast while interest is high. Therefore, I propose that we proceed as follows:

1. Obtain funds - \$9,600 - for publication. I want to emphasize again that this is an investment, not an expenditure, and that the funds will be returned to their source when we have sold 800 of the 1000 books.
 - Step 1. Mr. Fowler appoint a committee to solicit members for interest-free loans, to the minimum goal of \$4,000.
 - Step 2. When we have \$4,000, and \$5,600 reserve in the general fund, set the date for printing. Goal should be:
August 1 to printer - pay printer \$2400
September 1 approve proofs - pay printer \$2400
November 1 receive books from printer - pay \$4800
 - Step 3. When we set the date for publication, then bill the people who have stated they want the book. Also advertise locally and in historical periodicals for additional subscribers. Objective will be to obtain as many subscriptions as possible early, to use this as the prime source for funds. (Also send subscribers membership forms).

To summarize, funding will be from

1. Subscriptions - as much as possible
2. Loans - all the rest if possible
3. General fund - only that which is temporarily needed to complete funding; from nothing to \$5,600.

This motion to accept the proposal was seconded and passed by Board Members.