



Built 1723

The Stratford Historical Society
Stratford, Connecticut



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Newsletter

November 10, 1969

The next general meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall on Friday evening, November 21st at 8:00 P.M. Mr. Robert L. Berthelsen of Trumbull will be the speaker: Connecticut Goes to War, 1861-1865. Mr. Berthelsen is an authority on the Civil War period.

The Executive Board, at its meeting in October, selected the following committee to study the future staffing, maintenance and financing of Judson House and grounds: Valmore Spamer, William Bassett, Lewis Knapp, Manning Harvey, Mrs. Lewis Ice, and Mrs. Harold Cruikshank. Mr. Fowler appointed at-large, Ronald Rader and Mrs. Stanley Johnson. The first meeting of the committee was held in the conference room at Judson House (Mr. Booth's room) on Monday, October 27th. Mr. Spamer was chosen chairman, and Mrs. Cruikshank, Secretary.

The Acquisitions and Inventory Committees were asked by the Executive Board to study the future plans for the use of the Museum.

Mrs. Leo Miller, Jr., Ways and Means Chairman, and Lewis Knapp, who is in charge of the republication of Howard Wilcoxson's book, have announced the dates when ordered copies may be picked up at the Museum. These dates are: Saturdays and Sundays, November 15, 16, 22, 23 from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Wednesday, November 19th from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. It is expected that Mr. Wilcoxson, author of the History of Stratford 1939-1969, will be present on Sunday, November 16th from 2-4 o'clock in the afternoon. We hope Mr. Wilcoxson will find it possible to autograph some of his books.

Mr. Knapp wishes to thank all of those who so generously offered to help finance the republishing of Howard Wilcoxson's book. At the present time 630 books have been sold, and if 190 more are purchased within the next two months, outside sources will, in all probability, not be needed.

Brief Notes on our Society's activities.

Mr. & Mrs. Fowler attended the 7th Annual New England Historical Societies meeting held at Peterborough and Joffery, New Hampshire, October 31-November 2. Dr. Abbott Cummings, who advised us on the restoration of Judson House, 1957-1962, was one of the principal speakers. Topics for discussion included such problems as those dealing with acquisitions, inventory, restoration, preservation, photography, publicity and youth programs.

Mrs. George Newell and Mrs. Frank Mussler are busily engaged in scheduling and seeking volunteers to show Judson House to students from the elementary and junior high schools. The House and its contents readily relate to the colonial

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period which these young students are now studying.

Mrs. Vincent Chapman, Mrs. Lewis Nettleton, Mrs. Donald Fowler and Mrs. Frank S. Bunnell attended a two day workshop at Topsfield, Massachusetts in October run by Mr. George Cunha, Conservator from the Boston Athenaeum. Mr. Cunha, who last June advised us on the immediate need of preserving and restoring our 18th century prints and documents, showed the four ladies preservation techniques used at his laboratory. Some of this work can be done in our own Museum as soon as a work room and storage areas are provided.

Judson House will be closed during December, January and February as an economy measure. By board action the Museum is closed until a later date in 1970. Volunteers, however, will continue to accession, and inventory historic items in both the House and Museum. Work space and storage areas are vitally needed in the Museum and the interior needs painting. Plans are already underway to repaint Mr. Booth's rooms. All we need are volunteers and money and both will be gratefully accepted.

Donald Fowler,
President