



Built 1723

NEWSLETTER



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The Stratford Historical Society

Writing the Newsletter is one of the more pleasant tasks of the President. Recently I have been taken to task for not signing it. Your comments are noted and I will do so from now on.

The regular meeting will be held Friday, March 26th, at 8:00 P.M. in the Methodist Church Hall on Main Street. We are pleased to have two Stratford Folks, Mrs. Patricia Young Brown, accompanied by her Mother, Mrs. Dorothy Flanders Young. They will present a program of "Music in the Early Colonies" covering the period from when the Pilgrims first settled thru the American Revolution. Explanatory notes which Mrs. Brown has compiled will be used. She will also use an autoharp and an alto recorder. An enjoyable evening should await all members and their guests.

Mrs. Chapman has also kept me informed about the Ansonia Melodian Accession #649 which was given by Mr. and Mrs. H. Fred Wheeler. This instrument was in an unplayable condition when Mr. Garo Willard Ray of Orange saw it. He offered to study it and undertake repairs if we wished him to do so. We did - and you will see it at the meeting when Mr. Ray will play the instrument. We greatly appreciate his hours of work in restoring this melodian to its original beauty.

We have been fortunate to receive three checks recently. Two are for restoration. One for \$200.00 is anonymous, and one for \$100.00 was received from Mrs. Katherine Judson Winchester, New Hampshire.

The third is for \$200 given by Miss Harriet B. Blakeman as a memorial to her uncle, Selah Gould Blakeman, son of Gould and Harriet Birdseye Blakeman. He was born in Oronoque on May 23, 1841. He enlisted in Co. D 17th Conn. Volunteers and fought in the Civil War. He died in Shelton Dec. 18, 1924. This money will go into our endowment fund as a memorial gift from Miss Blakeman.

We are most grateful for these checks, which are so greatly needed to continue maintaining our House and Museum.

Judson House will reopen on April 3rd for the Spring, Summer and Fall months. Reservations for attendance can be made by calling Mrs. Frank Mussler 375-1925 who will be only too happy to arrange for a guided tour thru the House. It is planned to continue our opening on Wed., Sat. and Sunday from 11 to 5. Should anyone care to help Mrs. Mussler as a hostess, will they call Mrs. Mussler. It is a tremendous job that Mrs. Mussler does, and extra help is needed. Our budget was based on the assumption that we will have as good an attendance as last year. This is an important part of our income.

See you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Velmore Blakeman Spamer,
President