



(List of Memorial Gifts Attached)

The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

September 16, 1974

I hope that you had a pleasant summer and that now you will place Stratford Historical Society activities high in your area of interest for the new season.

THE NEXT MEETING, THE ANNUAL MEETING, will be on Friday evening, September 27, at 8:00 o'clock in the Methodist Church Hall. Annual reports will be given by Executive Board committee chairmen, and a slate of officers and committee chairmen for 1974-1975 will be presented by the nominating committee for your consideration. To avoid the possibility of encroaching on the time of an "outside" speaker with the business of the annual meeting, a film has been obtained for the entertainment-education part of the program. This sound-color movie, obtained from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is entitled "EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LIFE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA." You will enjoy it and also the review of a busy year's work by committee chairmen and officers.

THE FOLLOWING MAJOR EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE MAY 13, THE DATE OF THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

At the regular meeting on May 24, Mr. Lewis Knapp, former Society president, gave an excellent illustrated lecture (Mrs. Knapp, projectionist) entitled "Six Captains from Connecticut." Many members of the unusually well-attended meeting expressed the hope that Mr. Knapp would sometime develop the large amount of research he has done on Stratford's maritime history into a book. We are very grateful to him for this outstanding program.

The Stratford Bicentennial Committee toured Judson House and the Museum on June 26 before going into a regular meeting session.

A delightful reception to welcome new members, with special recognition of Mrs. Roger Cole, our active member who has now returned to North Carolina, was held at the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum on July 21. The large attendance (150-200) of both new and "old" members was most encouraging. Great credit is due to Mrs. Irving Dobkin, who, as executive board hospitality chairman, coordinated all arrangements, and to Mrs. Vincent Hardy assisted by Mrs. Richard Slater, who were directly in charge of the reception with the generous help of Mrs. Julie Sullivan, Mrs. Ronald Smith, and Mr. Vincent Hardy. Honored hostesses were Mrs. John W. Richardson, Mrs. Einar Larson, Mrs. G. Wesley Hubbell, Mrs. Harold Cruikshank, Mrs. Leslie Oakman, Mrs. Joseph Moore, Mrs. William Bassett, and Miss Margaret Jacaruso. Mrs. Donald Fowler was consultant for arrangements and Mrs. Garo Ray and her daughter, Mrs. Cynthia Rieke, were in charge of flower arrangements. Special events of the afternoon were the playing of the melodion by Miss M. Louise Miller and the Astor piano by Mr. Garo Ray, who had restored both instruments.

We are also very grateful to the many members who contributed refreshments.

The 13th Annual Antique Show and Sale took place August 10 under perfect weather conditions. Our own "wagon" sales (\$740), Mrs. Fred Motsiff in charge, and the home baked goods sale (\$229.19). Mrs. Ernest France, chairman, never did as well; gate receipts (\$1,350), Mr. Elliot David in charge, were good, but the number of dealers was down to 73 from an average of 100, thus diminishing

our share of dealer's entrance fees, so the overall receipts were \$1,695.84 instead of the \$2,000 expected, but it was still a good day's return, we believe, considering the economic situation. The Society is grateful for the overall coordination Mrs. Leo Miller, Jr. gives this major fund raising event. Other committee chairmen, and the Society thanks all of them, were: Donald Fowler -- flyers and posters, Stanley Johnson -- grounds, Peter Dahl and William Bassett -- finances, Richard Blake -- parking, Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson -- telephone squad.

The visitation season at the Judson House progresses well under the direction of Mrs. Stephen Lawrence. It is likely that her annual report will show somewhat fewer visitors than last year with the cost of gasoline undoubtedly somewhat a factor in reducing the number of out-of-town visitors. The number of visitors from Stratford and the surrounding area has never been as large as it should be. This is a cool, pleasant time of year for you, as a member, to tour the House, if you have not done so recently. If each member brought a friend, October might show our largest number of visitors.

Of great assistance with school group tours (and also on such occasions as the summer reception and the bi-centennial committee meeting) has been the docent group: Mrs. Barbara Olsen, Mrs. Eleanor Winkle, Mrs. Doris Carson, Mrs. Judith Kurmay, Mrs. Sally Martin, Mrs. Laura Anderson, and Mrs. Mary Jane ("Pie") Smith. This last named docent has now moved out of town, but not before suggesting that the flag of the United States be flown at the House on all visiting days, and furthermore, giving the Society a fine big flag and holder. We were glad to adopt her suggestion, and we thank her.

We note with sorrow the deaths of three of our members: Miss Elizabeth Seeley, Mrs. H. Fred Wheeler, and Mr. Theodore M. Perkins, Sr., and sympathy is extended to their relatives. The special contributions Miss Seeley made to the historical research and preservation of artifacts of the entire Bridgeport area are beyond estimate.

The Society received good news in June when the Bridgeport Area Foundation awarded us a grant of \$500 "for equipment and exhibits to provide for the bi-centennial of the founding of the United States of America in 1776." This will help greatly to pay for a free standing picture panel suggested by Mr. Bowditch when he advised us concerning museum exhibits, and for special lighting also suggested by Mr. Bowditch. We are very grateful to the Foundation for their interest in us.

PLEASE NOTE: NEXT MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Elden H. Dustin
President

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE
STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1925-1974

The Society is grateful to the givers and for the lives
of those commemorated.

<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>GIFT</u>
Frank Ernest Blakeman	Mrs. Frank E. Blakeman	\$500.00
Helen M. Beecher Blakeman & Carlos Dwight Blakeman	Miss Harriet Blakeman	7500.00
Selah G. Blakeman (Co. D 17th Reg. Conn. Volunteers)	Miss Harriet Blakeman	200.00
Frederick C. Booth	Ruth W. Worthen	25.00
Susan Plant Bunnell	Friends	280.00
Mr. W. Earl Hawley	Mrs. W. E. Hawley	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G. Judson	By his will and sons Kenneth G. Judson & William H. Judson	5350.00
Mrs. Kenneth G. Judson	W. K. & M. D. Kerr	10.00
Miss Sarah Elizabeth Judson	William H. & Horace H. Judson	1000.00
Beatrice Beach Lovell	Friends	60.00
Beatrice Beach Lovell & Harold C. Lovell	By their wills	10000.00
Georgie S. Moomjian	Mrs. Eugenie Moomjian	5.00
Charles Edward & Elizabeth S. Nixdorff	Mrs. Charles E. Nixdorff	3228.30
Maria Elizabeth Peck	Georgiana Peck LeCount	100.00
Elizabeth French Sammis (Given on the occasion of her 100th birthday.)	Stratford Trust Company	1000.00
Elizabeth French Sammis	Friends	300.00
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander H. Trumbull	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Cruikshank	50.00