



The Stratford Historical Society

## NEWS LETTER

The next meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held on Friday, January 31st at 7:45 P.M. We will meet at the Stratford Methodist Church Hall and for the benefit of our new members I would like to point out that there is plenty of off street parking close to the entrance. This meeting will mark an important milestone in the life of your society. It is our fiftieth anniversary. There will be refreshments as usual and in addition a birthday cake, although I doubt that there will be fifty candles on it.

The program will be conducted by past presidents Dustin and Fowler and their topic will be "The Stratford Historical Society: It's First Fifty Years." Mr. Dustin will talk about the growth of the society from 1925 to 1975 and Mr. Fowler will show slides of the Judson House taken at various times between 1880 and the present.

Thinking in the time frame of our Nation's history fifty years seems like a short time, but when we look at the growth of other historical societies we find that The Stratford Society was one of the early ones. From History News which is the publication of the American Association for State and Local History, we find that in 1940 there were just over one thousand local history societies in the United States and Canada. Now there are over five thousand. How many do you think there were in 1925?

The winter is a time of reduced activity at Judson House but the work at the museum goes on and now that the holiday season is behind us the work of cataloging, classifying and art work has been resumed. We have a rather large collection of Indian artifacts and Mr. Franz Goldbach is spending many hours in sorting and classifying as to type and age. From his work it appears that Stratford is an "Ancient" site of Indian dwellings and hunting grounds. We have artifacts from local sites which have been Carbon 14 dated back to 8500 B.C.

Coming to more recent times, we have acquired a hand loom. It is made of wood with two harnesses and may be easily disassembled. It is capable of weaving carpet runner and simple homespun. It was made and used in Maine, (circa 1810). Some of the young ladies are quite enthusiastic about it and before long we hope to start a class in hand loom weaving.

For those of you who are interested in geneology, Sterling House will offer a course in that subject. It will be taught by Mr. Charles W. Hawley of Trumbull. Interested society members should watch for an announcement in the local papers or you might call Sterling House for more information.

Sincerely,

Jack Wardman, President