



Town Settled 1639

Society Organized 1925

The Stratford Historical Society

Box 382, Stratford, Connecticut 06497

Telephone 378-0630

Judson House, 967 Academy Hill, Built 1723
and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, 1958

NEWSLETTER

The next meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall on Friday, January 30th at 7:30 P.M. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Howard Stiles. His talk is entitled "The Valley of Love and Delight". This is a story of the Shakers. A religious people who influenced the lives of millions who never read the bible. Dramatically told in color pictures, narration, music and sound effects. The writing and photography are by Mr. Stiles.

It's finally here; The Bicentennial year. Your Society has been flooded during the past year with offers of things to sell on commission or otherwise, mostly of doubtful value. There is a worthwhile article however which may be obtained at the Seasonal Gift Shop in Stratford Center. This is a pewter plate on which a line drawing of the Judson House is reproduced. This is by permission of the Executive Committee. The Society will benefit financially from the sale and Miss Margaret E. Scott will appear at the meeting to present a plate to the Society and to report on progress of the project to date.

Work has shifted into high gear at the museum in preparation for the coming season. Lighting will be improved due largely to a grant from the Wahlstrom foundation. In addition to all new exhibits at the Museum we shall have a new working exhibit in the Judson House in our new (to us) foot powered loom. Mr. Dustin has made a warping board, spool rack and raddle. The warp for a rug has been prepared by Mrs. Dustin and is ready to be placed on the loom. Soon we shall be ready to weave. This exhibit is not unique but there are not many places where you can see a foot powered loom in operation which dates back to colonial times.

We are happy to report the recovery of 192 of the 283 copper plate engravings used in the printing of Mr. Howard Wilcoxson's History of Stratford. This involved an apparent theft from the printers shop, a long period of neglect in the trunk of an old car and the sale of 91 of the engravings at a tag sale, where they were noticed by a person interested in our Society. These valuable plates have been listed, indexed and prepared for storage in the Museum.

Enclosed you will find a brochure and letter from the fund raising committee. They suggest a way in which you may help to make this Bicentennial year most meaningful both to the Society and to yourself.

Jack Wardman
President