



The Stratford Historical Society

# NEWS LETTER

September 8, 1977

The Annual Meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall at 7:30 on Friday, September 30. The President will summarize committee reports of the past year's activities. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the coming year, and an election will be held. Following the business meeting, Mr. Hiram Tindall will present a program entitled "A Trip Through the Orient". His talk, illustrated with slides, will trace the Oriental influence on American crafts. Refreshments will follow.

The Executive Board of the Society has officially launched the effort to structurally restore the base of the East wall of Judson House. That sill has been slowly sinking for years. The nature and extent of the deterioration can't be clearly known until the area is opened up for repair. Mr. Jack Wardman has agreed to supervise the restoration work. In order to get the work done before cold weather arrives, the House and Museum will close for the season after September 18.

For the past six months, the resources of the Society's library have been under study for inclusion in a catalog of Stratford history materials. This project, conducted by the Stratford Library with CETA personnel, will list historical and geneological sources in the society library, the Stratford Library and other library collections in surrounding towns. Miss Pauline Gravel is the writer-researcher conducting the survey of the Society library.

Last winter, the Society was given a sizeable collection of Indian artifacts from the Ryan Farm Site in the Frash Pond area. Since then, under the direction of Prof. Ernest Wiegand, Director of the Archeology Dept. of Norwalk Community College, much of the collection (over 400 artifacts) has been studied and cataloged. Phyllis Baxter and Franz Goldbach of our Society and a number of Norwalk students have worked Wednesday evenings to identify, weigh, measure, sketch and describe each piece. When they finish, we will have a complete archeological record of the collection together with the artifacts themselves for preservation and display.

Finally - membership renewal notices are in the mail for the year starting October 1. While renewing, why not enlist a friend or neighbor; bring them to the meeting; sign them up.

David S. Jenney, President

Mrs. David Olsen (Barbara), Education Chairman, has announced that a new class for docent training will start in early winter. Anyone interested in learning to show parties through the House and Museum should call Mrs. Olsen, 378-3354.

SOCIETY PICNIC - A SUNNY SUCCESS - Over 100 adults and children attended the second "annual" Society picnic on the grounds on August 27. Mrs. Paul Kurmay (Judy) and her committee arranged a varied program, and the weather was perfect. Colonial games, cooking, weaving, spinning and dying were demonstrated, two House tours were conducted, and the Huntington Fife and Drum Corp performed. A high light was the first appearance in 100 (?) years of sheep on the Judson land (Courtesy of the Todd Lovell Family).

The lawns and gardens were at their best for the occasion thanks to Howard Smith, John Dolyak, Elden Dustin and the Stratford Garden Club's efforts.

MEMORIAL FUNDS - Enclosed with this letter is an updated list of contributions to the Society Memorial Funds. These funds have been the beneficiaries of over \$11,400 in new gifts this year, substantially increasing the stability of the Society for years to come. The interest on Trust accounts (none of the principle) is used to help support Society programs.

We have been saddened to learn of five recent deaths among loyal Society members:

Mr. Henry B. Van Giesman II  
Mrs. Roger Cole (Elizabeth)  
Mrs. Raymond J. O'Connor (Veronica)  
Miss Laura Tubbs  
Mrs. James Buckley (Dorothy)

Memorial funds in their names have already been started for Mr. Van Giesman, Mrs. Cole and Mrs. O'Connor.

MEMBERSHIP - Mrs. John Andrews (Wilma), Membership Chairman, reports that we now have 478 members. Membership renewals are due this month and may be sent to P.O. Box 382 or brought to the Annual Meeting. Also note that permanent memberships are available for \$150 or for \$50 a year for three years. While you're at it, sign up a friend. Dues are kept low by keeping membership high.

FINALLY, A REMINDER - The Society's Gift Shoppe at Judson House is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. How about early Christmas shopping of a historical sort. Or, if you'd like to volunteer to man the store for an hour or more, call Mrs. Muriel Compstone, Chairman, 377-6539, Mrs. Florence Feher, 378-7730 or Mrs. Bonnie Paradise 377-2332.

Hope to see you on the 22nd for a fine program.

David S. Jenney  
President