



The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978

8:00 P.M.

Methodist Church Hall

The program for our May meeting will be an illustrated talk by Mr. Lyent W. Russell of Hamden on Connecticut Indians - particularly their baskets. Mr. Russell has long been active in the Conn. Archeological Society. He served as its president from 1944 to 1948, and he chaired its Education Committee for 22 years. He is still actively "digging" and studying. His talk will be illustrated with slides and artifacts.

Note that the May meeting is being held a week early to avoid the long Memorial Day weekend. Refreshments will be served as usual.

Second "Annual" Picnic

A picnic for members and their guests will be held on the Judson House grounds on Sunday, August 27. The day will include a performance by the Huntington Fife and Drum Corps and other features to be announced later. If you have suggestions for activities or would like to help that day, please call Judy Kurmay at 378-8025.

The Fair is Over

Ways and Means Chairman Jeff Williams extends his thanks to all who gave their time and hard work to the Antique Show and Sale. Our Society can be proud that the show's success reflects each members support and contribution. In return, on behalf of the Society, our thanks to Jeff for the special efforts, enthusiasm and organization he's thrown into the project. Well done!

Judson House Improvements

The new rag rug for the front stairway in Judson House is done. It is 26 inches wide and over 9 yards long. The weaving group thanks all who donated rags for use in the rug. Weavers were Rosamond Dustin, Ella McCullough, Doris Carson, Gail McCarthy, Louise Brandt, and Selma Dobkin. The next project for the loom will be a small blanket woven of hand-spun wool from our own spinners. The weaving group would welcome new members to its Tuesday morning sessions in Judson House.

The Gift Shop in the "new kitchen" is now open. Anyone interested in helping in the shop during regular visiting hours Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday, please call Bonnie Paradise, 377-2332.

The House did open on April 1, as scheduled. Howard Smith's Buildings Committee worked with the Display and Accessions Committees to get everything cleaned up and ready for the public. A massive job.

Jack Wardman has documented the restoration work that was done in a written report. Grateful thanks are extended to all who gave so much of their time and their talent.

Just 197 Years Ago

A news item of May, 1791 appears in the Account Book of Ebenezer John Coe, on file in the Society Library. "May 13, 1791 - the enemy landed on the Great Neck and killed a valuable young horse of three years old, this being the Lord's day..." The Town Records of Dec. 31, 1791 show Ebenezer Coe given a horse in compensation for the "loss occasioned by the enemy landing on Stratford Point (Great Neck) last summer."

And From California -

The Society has received \$2000 from the estate of Mrs. Frances Balsam of Carmel, California. Mrs. Balsam, who was a descendent of Joseph Judson (1638), son of William, has sent us several charming, informative letters over the years. One told of the boyhood of her grandfather, Henry Isaac Judson (born in Judson House), who told that "... an Indian would come quite frequently to the back door, and the family tried their best to keep on his good side."

It is sad to know that Mrs. Balsam can no longer write to us, but we greatly appreciate her final remembrance of the Society.

David S. Jenney

President