



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

NEWS LETTER

Sept. 7, 1978

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held at the Methodist Church Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 1978. Committee Chairmen will summarize their reports of the past year's activities and the President will make his report. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the coming year, and an election will be held.

Following the business meeting we will be treated to "Living History - The Fifth Connecticut Regiment." Members of the Fifth Regiment in Revolutionary uniforms will accompany Mr. Lee Betz who will present a slide show on the activities of the Regiment. Mr. Betz is Secretary and Historian of the present Regiment. The Fifth was organized in May 1775 and began its career at Lexington and Concord. It served during the next eight years at New York City, Lake George, Lake Champlain, and under General Wooster at Montreal. Today's regiment is a "living history" keeping alive the memory of the Fifth and providing examples of 18th Century life.

A SOURCE FOR RESEARCHERS - This past year Winterthur Museum in Delaware and the Boston Fine Arts Museum have taken an interest in Judson House. Researchers from these outstanding museums spent many hours this summer photographing and measuring select pieces of furniture and studying account books in our library. Several private homes in Stratford were also graciously opened to these researchers, all of whom were most pleased with the historic information available in Stratford.

AND MORE CASUAL TOURS - The Judson House and Museum have been open to the public on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays since April 1 with Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson (Jean) as Head Guide and Donna Hinds as her assistant. By August 31, 485 adults and 113 children have visited. Attendance was particularly good in July and August - perhaps due to the reopening of Shakespeare Theater. The knowledge and graciousness of the guides and the attractiveness of the House draw many favorable remarks.

Each day that the House is open to the public, members of the Society serve as hosts or hostesses at the front door. Mrs. Russel Applegate (Betty), chairman of the Hostess Committee, has enrolled 90 members in this activity so far. The Hostess program was initiated by Mrs. Frank Mussler and carried on last year by Mrs. Harold Lovell Jr.

During April - June, student tours were arranged by Mrs. William Morrison (Pat), Executive Secretary of the Society. A total of 657 students, most Elementary and Junior High students from Stratford, were taken through the House and Museum by the Society's trained docents.

old houses. He is presently in charge of moving the 18th Century John Brooks Sr. house to the property of the Museum of Art, Science and Industry. Consultants for our project have been Carl Stearns, Technical Advisor to Historic Sites for the State of New York, and Morgan Phillips of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

The restoration project has now been partially underwritten by a \$2,000 grant from the Junior League of Greater Bridgeport. Presentations on the project were made to the League by Jack Wardman, Mrs. Todd Lovell and Donald Fowler. On Nov. 29th docents of the Society entertained 30 Provisional members of the Junior League at the Museum for a tour of the House and slides of the restoration work.

A Boost for the Trust Fund

The last Newsletter pointed out the importance of trust funds to the Society. This fund received a major boost in December with receipt of \$5,900 from the estate of Mrs. Roy Sanborn.

Welcome Our New "Staff"

Mrs. William Morrison (Pat) has been appointed to a new position as a part time Executive Secretary for the Society for 1978. Pat will organize student and adult tours, coordinate the docent program and generally assist several standing committees.

Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson (Jean) will take over as head guide when the House and Museum opens on April 1. Mrs. Linda Iannone will assist her on Sundays, and an additional assistant is needed yet for Wednesday and Saturdays. This is a paying position (modestly) and requires attendance at docent training sessions. If you are interested, call me or Don Fowler or Mrs. David Olsen, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Volunteers will also be recruited from the membership to greet visitors at Judson House on those days it is open to the public.

The Antique Show is Coming

Save the dates - May 6 and 7, 1978. Our Antique Show and Sale will be held at the Legion Hall in a format very much like the successful one of the past two years. Mr. Jeffrey Williams is Chairman of the event. It is not too early to set aside items for the Society's table. When that weekend arrives, the baked goods table can also use contributions from as many as possible.

Reminder

The January 27 meeting should be a good one to bring along a neighbor as a potential new member.

David S. Jenney
President