



The Stratford Historical Society

# NEWS LETTER

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1979, 8:00 P.M., METHODIST CHURCH HALL

We hope to see you there. After a short business meeting, Hiram Tindall, program chairman, has another interesting evening for us. John Rogers of New Canaan, will give an illustrated lecture about his grandfather, who was a very famous maker of small statuary, known as the Rogers Groups. They depict every day life of Americans during the last half of the 19th century. Mr. Rogers is President of the New Canaan Historical Society.

Our committees have been active and this Newsletter will include reports that I am sure will interest you. Why not call the chairman of one of these committees and volunteer to join in one of our very valuable and worthwhile projects. Do it now!

## NEW STORAGE AREA IN JUDSON HOUSE

Do you remember the bathtub room off the upper kitchen bedroom? It is no more! Guess who smashed up the enamel tub? No less than our famous Howard Smith who was asked by the Accessions Committee to provide storage room in that area. Thanks to Howard and Elden Dustin, the Society now has a fine looking storage room with shelves and cupboards. Just another example of how volunteer labor saves the Society hundreds of dollars.

## MUSEUM PORCH AND IRON GUARD RAILINGS

The Executive Board and the Finance Committee have approved of an expenditure of \$750 to replace the porch floor of the Museum and install additional guard railings. This work will be completed by the first of February.

## UPDATING THE SECURITY SYSTEM

As a result of the theft of \$3200 worth of Chinese Export Porcelain on last May 28, 1978 from the dining room table, the Executive Board approved the expenditure of \$1,067 to update the security system in the Judson House and the Museum.

## STRATFORD GARDEN CLUB PROVIDES SPRING BULBS

The Stratford Historical Society is grateful to the Stratford Garden Club for a gift of \$20.00 to purchase spring bulbs. Some 200 bulbs of different varieties were purchased and planted by Alma and Donald Fowler and Einar Larson. What a show next Spring.

## TWIN RIVERS AND TOURISM IN CONNECTICUT

The Stratford Historical Society has accepted an invitation to join the Twin Rivers Tourist Council which is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Commerce. The Twin Rivers Council includes all towns on or located near the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers with its object to promote tourism in these two areas. This should attract more visitors to Judson House and the Catharine Bunnell Mitchell Museum.

### RESTORATION PROJECTS, 1977, 1978 and 1979

From October 1, 1977 to April 1, 1978, approximately \$9,000 was spent on Judson House to replace the sills and repair the damaged corner posts on the East side of Judson House and a portion of the sills on the north side. Removal of some of the cupboards in the same areas revealed that the vertical boards had also been damaged by powder post beetles, termites and dry rot. The Society is grateful to the Junior League of the Greater Bridgeport Area for a grant of \$2,000 toward the project.

To repair this damage the 19th century hardwood floor and both corner cupboards had to be removed. This provided an opportunity to restore the original 18th century corner cupboard to its former splendor. The supervisor of the whole project, with both professional and volunteer labor, was Jack Wardman, a member of the Society and a well known building contractor in Stratford before his retirement. Elden Dustin, Howard Smith, and Einar Larson did considerable volunteer work in the dining room area, as well as the installation of a gift shop where the "new" kitchen used to be. The project is a long story -- come to see the restoration and we shall tell you all about it.

The money for this project had to be taken from the capital account. The Society is faced with approximately \$16,000 in additional expenditures for further sill work, a very expensive paint job on the old windows of the Judson House and the house itself, painting of the Museum and new lighting fixtures on the lower floor of the Museum.

How to raise the money? It is proposed that we approach our members for gifts or pledges, business, organizations and explore the possibility of grants from State and Federal agencies. A Fund Raising Committee has discussed how to raise even more than \$16,000 to provide for future expenditures on Judson House and the Museum. A challenge gift of \$1,000 has already been given to the Society.

### EDUCATION

In November the docents met at the home of Mrs. David Olsen for a lecture on "Cooking with Herbs" given by Mrs. Nancy Moore.

A tea was held on November 14 at the Museum for prospective docents. The program included slides of the house shown by Mr. Donald Fowler as well as information concerning the duties and responsibilities of the docents. The tea was a big success. A special "thank you" to all those people who helped with it.

The Docent Training Program will begin on Thursday, January 25 at 9:15 a.m. in the Museum. We would like new people to join our program. If you know someone who would be interested, please call Barbara Olson or Donald Fowler.

MEMBERSHIP

The following are new members since September:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. J. Walton Shrader    | Miss Whitney Paradise  |
| Mrs. George E. Roberge    | Mr. Stephen T. Bryan   |
| Mrs. Mary A. Forbes       | Mrs. Robert Burkholder |
| Mrs. Jonathan Pincus      | Mrs. Edward Hammond    |
| Mrs. Kathryn Purinton     | Mrs. John W. Russo     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Clark | Mr. David Olsen        |
| Mrs. Alfred Brancato      | Miss Donna Hinds       |
| Mrs. Mary M. Fasold       | Mrs. Esther S. Wojtul  |
| Mr. Russell P. Stockman   | Mr. Michael Judson     |

We now have 503 members!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 7 & 8, 1979      Antique Show - Wooster Jr. High School  
Please set aside collectibles and other items for the Society's Booth.

March - Month for Fund Raising Drive for Continuing Restoration -  
Judson House and Museum. \$1,000 "Challenge Gift" already received.

See you on the 26th.

David C. Wiggin, President

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STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTESS COMMITTEE:

Volunteers are asked to complete and mail the following tear-off notice:

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I wish to serve as a Hostess-Host at the door of Judson House on:

Wednesday	_____	_____
	Month	Day
Saturday	_____	_____
	Month	Day
Sunday	_____	_____
	Month	Day

April 1 through October - Hours 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Kindly mail to:                      Mrs. Russel C. Applegate, Jr.  
6080 North Main Street  
Stratford, Conn. 06497

OR call (evening only) 377-4224

Volunteer Hours are Useful, Happy Hours.

Elizabeth P. Applegate, Chairman