



The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1979, 8:00 P.M., METHODIST CHURCH HALL.

Please come, meet and talk with friends and enjoy another interesting program. Edward S. Cooke, Jr., will talk about cabinetmakers of the 18th Century, Stratford, Connecticut. Mr. Cooke, a resident of Madison, Ct., earned his BA degree with a major in American history at Yale University in 1977, and for the past two years has been a Master's candidate in the WINTERTHUR PROGRAM in Early American Culture, University of Delaware. Hiram Tindall, program chairman, has again presented a speaker who will be just right for our general membership meeting. Do come and bring a friend!

ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE

Our 18th (can you believe - 18 years? It started as a flea market in 1961) will be held in the fine location of Wooster Junior High School gym and cafeteria, Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, AND THIS TIME IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. The coordinators for this event are Elden Dustin, Donald Fowler, and David Wiggin; the director for professional dealers will again be Mrs. Betty Ezarik, and committee chairmen are as follows: society booth - Mrs. Bonnie Paradise and Hiram Tindall; general arrangements, table set-up and take down, and dealer assistance - Manning Harvey, Ch., with co-chairmen Elliot David, Howard Smith, and Henry Fagan; refreshments - Ronald Rader; baked goods - Mrs. Henry Van Gieson; gate - Mr. and Mrs. Velmore Spamer; publicity - Miss Margaret Jacaruso; financial - Donald Calkins and Peter Dahl; photography - Jeffrey Williams; general sales - Mrs. Muriel Cumpstone; telephone squad - Mrs. William Breetz. Including our own booth, there will be 50 dealers.

A coupon card is enclosed with your Newsletter. This one coupon card, presented at the door when you attend the Sale, admits all family Society members at the discount price of \$1.25 instead of \$1.50 charged this year as regular admission.

Do please plan to attend the Sale and Show if you are able. If ALL Society members attended who can, this would put us 400 to 500 dollars on the way to a successful event. We must all work together to make this, the only potentially big money making affair of the SHS, a success. The \$2500 we budget as profit from this annual event is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL to help meet the operating expenses of the Society.

Many of you are already helping or will help in this project as committee members. We can all help in one way or another. Along with ATTENDANCE at the Sale, there are two things nearly every member or Society family can do:

(1) CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO BE SOLD AT THE SOCIETY BOOTH. It does not have to be a valuable antique. Almost anything sells; flea market items are most welcome, - anything in the category of the common tag

sale nature is all right. Of course, the older and more interesting "antique" the better, but don't feel that your contribution must be in the family heirloom class. Random suggestions: kitchen utensils and equipment of glass, wood, or metal; old laundry equipment - clothes "sticks", plungers, washboards; chinaware, tinware including old tobacco, cocoa etc. tins; furniture items (golden oak sells well); sheet music for old popular songs, old post cards, copper items, tinted canning jars, old books but no modern ones or paperbacks, old magazines such as Literary Digest, Adventure, old Saturday Evening Posts, old comic books etc., etc. ... just suggestions. Search your attics, closets, and cellars..it's spring cleaning time. If everyone in the Society contributed even one item, we would be over 400 items on our way toward the success of our booth.

If you can, please bring items to the Museum on Tuesday mornings, 10:00 to 2:00 or bring them to our general meeting March 23. However, our Society Booth chairpersons, Mrs. Bonnie Paradise (377-2332) or Hiram Tindall (874-1819) will gladly arrange to pick up items if you will call them to make arrangements.

(2) CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO BE SOLD AT THE HOME BAKED GOODS TABLE, (Mrs. Henry VanGieson (378-5555), Chairperson).

We never fail to sell all that is contributed in this department; it is a very good money maker and we should do all we can to realize its full potential. Home baked goods of all kinds, jams, jellies, other preserves, and even small ready-for-oven casseroles - all are needed. These items should be brought to the Baked Goods Table by 10:30 A.M. on the days of the sale or at other times by arrangement with Mrs. Van Gieson.

GALA EVENT

Circle Sunday afternoon, May 20, on your calendar! The Stratford Historical Society is planning to entertain you and your guests at a gala event which will take place in the social hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Watch for further announcements of this affair.

REMEMBRANCE BOOK

Plans for the Remembrance Book are now finalized. Anyone caring to make a donation in any amount from \$1.00 up is invited to send it to the Stratford Historical Society, P.O. Box 382, Stratford, Ct. 06497, c/o Assistant Treasurer. Acknowledgement cards have been printed to be sent to the donor, and notification cards to be sent to the designated persons. All funds are deposited by the Treasurer and held in trust in perpetuity for the Society, with the income used only for current expenses. A Memorial Book will be in the Judson House for all to see this season.

COMMITTEES

How many of our members give thought to how dependent our historical society is on the energy and enthusiasm of our chairpersons and committee members? There is so much to do and so few doing it. I urge everyone of our members to commit even a minimum amount of time to assist a committee of his or her choice in one of our very valuable and worthwhile projects. Talk to a committee chairperson or member during the refreshments following the meeting or make a telephone call.

LIBRARY REPORT

As the Stratford Historical Society Library is now listed in the National Historical Publications and Records Commission Director of Repositories of Historical Records, The National Archives, Washington, D.C., and the Directory of Selected Reference Materials on Libraries and Historical Societies in Fairfield County we seem to be getting more requests than ever on the contents of our Library.

One inquiry was from the Resources of American Music History Project of the University of Illinois. They are compiling a national directory of American musical and social history which will enable scholars to easily pinpoint collections of American music of regional character.

Miss Jane Lafferty and Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson found that we have 87 music books dating from 1801 to 1897 and a collection of sheet music from 1865 to 1910.

Requests for information on Stratford's history continue to come from authors and students. One student recently wrote, "Send me all you know on Stratford history, immediately." Genealogy requests have greatly increased since the publication of "Roots" and its showing on television.

A request for information on the life of Augusta Huiell Seaman, (1879-1950) who wrote a book with Stratford as the setting in the 1920s, came from her biographer, Mr. Donald J. Summar. Mrs. John W. Richardson, Mrs. Stephen Lawrence and Mrs. Velmore Spamer were very helpful in their recollections of her visits to Stratford but if anyone else would like to contribute to Mr. Summar's project, please call me (Mrs. Larson, 929-6120 or Mrs. E. Wojtul, 375-8833) so we can give you Mr. Summar's address.

We sincerely appreciate the work of our member, Mrs. Stephen Stancisko, who is an authority on Rare Books. Mrs. Stancisko has completed the evaluation of the book collection in Judson House and is in the process of looking over the books in the Library.

A greatly appreciated recent addition to the library is the collection containing numerous photographs, a scrapbook, military and other papers that belonged to former Town Manager, Harry B. Flood. The donor is Mr. Jesse Hebbard of Stratford.

I also wish to thank the following members for their assistance in the library work: Mr. Raymond Cable, Mrs. Donald Coulson, Mrs. Robert Cumpstone, Mr. and Mrs. Elden Dustin, Mrs. Allen Fanslow, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fowler, Mrs. Marion Herb, Mrs. Henry Hillson, Miss Jane Lafferty, Mr. Einar Larson, Mrs. Todd Lovell, Mr. Marshall Nye, Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson and Mrs. Esther Wojtul.

(Mrs. Einar M. Larson)
Acting Librarian

The next meeting of the Conn. League of Historical Societies will be held March 24, 1979 at Glastonbury, Conn. No other details are available at present but hopefully details can be reported at our next meeting, March 23.

TABLES AND FLOOR LAMP

We would appreciate the donation of a sturdy card table and a folding aluminum table. The workspace in the Museum is at a premium, with several people attempting to use the same space simultaneously. These additional tables would expand our upstairs work area considerably.

Until we can redo our lighting system, we would also appreciate the gift of a good workable floor lamp. Any donations would be acknowledged and a tax deduction will be issued, also.

ACCESSIONS

Accessions chairperson, Carol Lovell, lists some recent acquisitions:

<u>Gift</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Wooden sandshaker:	Miss Harriet Blakeman
Wicker rug beater:	Miss Helen Foland
Fur Cap	
2 wooden canes:	Mr. Marshall Nye
Account book, 1772-1855 (Nehemiah & Freeman Curtis)	
Account book, ca. 1824:	Mr. & Mrs. Carl B. Robbins
Photos & scrapbooks belonging to Harry B. Flood:	Mr. Jesse Hebbard
Library items:	Mr. Ernest Wilcox
Morning gown, ca. 1890	
Glass Candlesticks, ca 1830:	Miss Marjorie B. Morgan
Book: <u>Exploring the Housatonic River and Valley</u> : A.S. Barnes & Co., pub.	
<u>Life and Letters of Emily C. Judson</u> , by A.C. Kendrick, 1861	
The Campaign in Russia, 1812, by Sir Robert Kerr Porter, 1814:	Miss Katharine Judson
<u>Fanny Pierson Crane, Her Receipts-1796</u> : Junior League of Greater Bpt.	

WEAVING GROUP

The weaving group, having completed its rug making project, installed this fall a new warp on the Society's 1806 State-of-Maine loom in Mr. Booth's room and completed the weaving of a crib blanket large enough to fit the trundle bed. The weft of this blanket is entirely of wool carded and hand spun by Mrs. Carol Lovell and left in natural color; a stripe decoration was made from wool of a black sheep. As a further step in finishing this blanket, the weavers have practiced on it the ancient art of fulling, a washing and kneading process to give the blanket a proper texture.

Currently, the weavers are at work on table mats also made from from home spun wool. These will be sold in the Judson House gift shop, and the proceeds will be used for buying materials for the next project, which will involve four harness pattern weaving.

The participants in this year's weaving project are: Mrs. Louise Brandt, Mrs. Doris Carson, Mrs. Rosamond Dustin, Mrs. Virginia Crory, Mrs. Gail McCarthy, and Mrs. Ella McCullough. New weavers are welcome. The group meets on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30.

JUDSON HOUSE AND MUSEUM

Will be open for the season through October on Sunday, April 1, and will be open thereafter on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Mrs. Jean Wilcoxson will again be head guide assisted by Miss Dawna Hines, assistant guide.

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I am looking forward to seeing you at the General Membership meeting on March 23rd and also at the Antiques Show and Sale, April 7 and 8.

David C. Wiggin, President

