



The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1979, AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Dear Friends,

Hy Tindall, our newly elected first vice-president, has agreed to stay on as program chairman for this year. We are very appreciative of Hy because he has done such a good job during the past years and for this meeting he has another program that will be worthy of a large attendance. Carolyn Platt Walsh, a graduate of Elmire College and library degree from Columbia University, a librarian first in Milford and then in Fairfield, will talk on "Our American Heritage." This will be a slide lecture, with colored photographs from all over the country. I am sure you will remember how well Mrs. Walsh was received last year with her slide lecture on "Colonial Connecticut." There will be refreshments--I hope to see you there.

This newsletter was prepared in a short time in order to meet the early in the month meeting date. I am very appreciative of the assistance of the committee chairpersons and board members and my coordinator, Judy Kurmay, second vice president, for their cooperation in this effort. Many thanks!

CONNECTICUT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORS THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

A highlight of the September 28 general meeting was the presentation by Representative Robert Frankel of the 121st District of a copy of a congratulatory resolution introduced by Representative Frankel and adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly on June 1, 1979. This House Resolution No. 469 reads in part: "...The Connecticut House of Representatives hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to the Stratford Historical Society in recognition of receiving the 'Award of Merit' from the American Association for State and Local History and the designation of 'The Captain David Judson House' in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. The entire membership extends its very best wishes on this occasion and expresses the hope for continued success..."

We are very grateful to Mr. Frankel for his work in obtaining this recognition from our state governing body.

ANTIQUe SHOW AND SALE: Our 19th Annual Antiques Show and Sale is scheduled on April 12 and 13 at the David Wooster Junior High School where it was so successful last year. Donald Fowler, Elden Dustin and your president will again act as co-coordinators of the Sale and are depending on the help of willing workers. Committee chairpersons will be announced soon. Mrs. Betty Ezarik will again recruit and direct the 45 professional dealers our new quarters at the school will accommodate.

Over one-fourth of our record \$4,000 plus profit from the Sale last year resulted from sales from our own Society Booth -- and this is the area where every member can play a part. Please begin now to set aside items to contribute to the Society Booth. These items need not be heirloom antiques and may indeed be of the tag sale, flea market type, but, of course, items earlier at least than the 'plastic era' are best, and the more even borderline antiques we have the better. It is certainly true that almost anything sells, and if every member-family contributed even one item, our booth would be well on the way to success.

Please call our Ways and Means chairperson, Mrs. Bonnie Paradise (377-2332) or Hiram Tindall (874-1819), co-chairpersons of the Society Booth, if you have items you would like to have picked up even now, or if you know of anyone in the community who may be moving from a house and has desirable antique sale items he or she would donate to us.

FUND DRIVE	Total Raised to Date -	\$10,353
	Goal	\$25,500

One hundred and seven members of the Stratford Historical Society have contributed \$6,620, or roughly one-fifth of our members gave that amount. The balance, \$3,733 came from the community, two grants, totaling \$1,500 and pledges.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT GRANT OF \$10,000

Your president is pleased to announce that our application for \$10,000 submitted to the Restoration of Historic Assets in Connecticut, Connecticut State Department of Commerce, has been accepted. This grant will be used to complete the restoration of Judson House, including an expensive paint job. You will recall that the paint for Judson House and the Museum will be supplied, as a gift, by H. C. Lovell and Company. The \$10,000 will not be given to the Society until certain documents (contracts) have been submitted. Final approval by the State Department of Commerce and the Attorney General will undoubtedly take many weeks.

Even with the grant of \$10,000, it does not mean the end of the Fund Drive. Our goal is \$25,500 and must still be met to permit Museum renovation and future restoration projects. To reach our goal will require the raising of an additional \$5,147.00. For members who have not yet contributed to the Drive, please remember, if every member made a contribution, we shall succeed. Also, supplemental gifts would be welcomed.

Do you need a tax deduction for 1979? December is the last month for one.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES for the Spring and Summer seasons at the Judson House and the Catherine Bunnell Mitchell Museum (April, May, June, July and August)

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Adults	565	409
Students	827	530

The drop in adult attendance has been due to the gasoline shortage, the unusually hot weather, and inflation. Student attendance was down due to the earlier dismissal of schools in June and the expense of bus transportation.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who have given their time to conduct tours throughout Judson House and the Museum. The Education Committee, with Mrs. David Olsen as chairperson, not only supplied background materials, but the training of docents for the showing of Judson House and the Museum. The new class for docents begins in January. We need additional docents for next year. Do you know of any person or persons whom we may recruit?

We are also appreciative of the many hostesses who gave of their time in welcoming visitors and covering the entrance while guests were being guided through the Judson House and Museum. Mrs. Betty Appligate (377-4224) will welcome calls from volunteers for Hostesses for the 1980 season. Betty has done such a good job for our Society and she deserves our cooperation.

While on the subject, I do want to express our appreciation to Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson, head guide, and her assistants, Dawna Hinds and Bette Briggs and Mrs. William Morrison, secretary, who has worked with the school groups.

"FUNNY OLD PAPERS Reveal New History of Ogdens"

Carol Lovell, Chairperson of the Acquisitions Committee came across the following article of interest to us in the Fairfield Historical Society's Newsletter under heading of OGDEN HOUSE.

" Thanks to the inquisitive nature of a 12-year-old boy and the Stratford Historical Society, the Ogden House has acquired an important collection of fascinating manuscript material which once belonged to the David Ogden family .

As he explored the basement of his parent's new home, young Gary Feduik came upon a box of "funny old papers" which turned out to be a treasure trove for Ogden House. First given by the Feduik family to the Stratford Historical Society, they have subsequently been passed on to us.

Among the more than 20 items in the package are contemporary copies of David Ogden's last will and testament, an inventory of his estate and account of its distribution, and a 1769 map depicting the inheritance of David and his brother Jonathan including a miniature sketch of the house."

- See you on the 16th -

Sincerely,

David C. Wiggin, President