



The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1980, 8:00 P.M., METHODIST CHURCH HALL.

We shall receive the report of the nominating committee from Mrs. Irving Dobkin, chairperson, and elect officers, directors, and committee chairpersons. Please come and meet our newly elected persons who will lead our Society during the coming year.

Each officer and committee chairperson will be asked to give a short summary report of their activities for the year. These reports should be a paragraph long, to be read at the meeting and placed on file with the secretary. More detailed reports may be filed with the secretary and will be available to interested members.

After the business meeting, our program chairman, Hi Tindall, has a very interesting and appropriate program, entitled Volunteers-at Work. Captain David Judson House and the Catherine Bunnell Mitchell Museum 1957 - 1980.

Donald Fowler will present a slide show and talk on how volunteer committee members, with the advice of consultants, have undertaken to sort, research, catalogue, restore, preserve, store and display its increasing collection of priceless artifacts. Other volunteers have sanded, painted and have done all kinds of manual labor both inside and outside of Judson House and the Museum.

To "give credit where credit is due" our Society volunteers include an art director and an advertising manager, both from large corporations; several educators, trained librarians and genealogists, two contractors, several trained in crafts, secretaries, an electrician and a landscape architect. Other volunteers are experts in cataloging, leather restoration, American Indian artifacts, sewing, photography, gardening, painting and general repairs.

A Docent Training Program was instituted in 1973 which has as its object to provide a competent corps of guides for visitors and, especially school children, to show Judson House and the Museum. Approximately 100 women and men have "graduated" from this education program. Other volunteers, from the membership, have been recruited for Hostess and Hospitality Committees. All in all, it is recorded, that well over 17,536 hours have been given, by all volunteers, since 1973.

Society Members are urged to attend the Annual Meeting and to become acquainted with its volunteer program, which has earned the following citations and awards: two awards from the Connecticut League of Historical Societies, one citation from the Connecticut Legislature, and two

awards from the American Association for State and Local History.

The slides to be shown date back to 1957. Some of the more recent ones, taken in 1977 - 1980, have not been shown to any organization. They will be of interest not only to volunteers, but to members and friends who may wish to know that its Society is being carried on by the older as well as a growing number of the younger generation.

The British are Coming! On September 21st at 1 p.m. the Fifth Connecticut Regiment will skirmish against Delancy's Loyalist Brigade on Academy Hill. Each group will set up a separate encampment and join in a common craft line featuring spinning, weaving, dyeing, candle dipping, bullet making, and cooking. The Judson House will also be open for walk-through tours. We look forward to a lively afternoon. Please come (in costume if you wish) - bring your friends - enjoy a lot - maybe learn a little!

In conjunction with the event, the Society will run a bake goods sale. If you can donate a cake, pie or some other goodies, please call Mrs. Margaret Van Gieson at 378-5555. In order to defray the expenses of the day, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moore will be accepting donations. If you would like to help them, please call 378-1749 in the evening.

In case of rain the encampment and skirmish will be held on September 28th.

A NEW EVENT -- COLONIAL HARVEST SUPPER

Gather together your family and friends for a delightful evening of colonial food and music at the new Raymond E. Baldwin Center. For the first time, the Stratford Historical Society invites its members and their friends to participate in a "colonial evening".

Brunswick Stew, a delectable one-dish meal has been an American favorite for two hundred years or more. It was served throughout the colonies but probably originated in Virginia where it was served at many public and private gatherings. A thick stew of chicken, ham, beef, corn, lima beans, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes. Brunswick Stew is sure to become one of your favorite dishes, if it isn't already!

Homemade Injun Rye Bread, accompanying our stew, will be made of corn meal, rye flour, and whole wheat flour. Since white flour in the colonial period was scarce, expensive, and used only for special occasions, bread rarely contained it. Our bread will have a nice texture, marvelous taste and almost irresistible aroma!

The Colonial Harvest Supper will also feature cider (a truly colonial beverage-water was almost never consumed), green salad, cranberry relish, an apple dessert, coffee and tea. Can't you taste it right now?

The evening's program will be presented by "The Pastime Recorder Ensemble", a local group of musicians playing 16th, 17th, and 18th century music upon the recorder (a medieval flute which was very popular in all countries after the middle of the 18th century), and several other antique instruments. It should be very different and most interesting!

Bring your friends---the more people, the better the evening. Don't forget the children. Reserve your place as soon as possible in order that food purchases and final plans can be made.

The cost will be \$4.50 per person for both supper and entertainment-- a real bargain at today's prices!

Remember: Stratford Historical Society's "Colonial Harvest Supper"
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1980, 6:30 p.m.
Raymond E. Baldwin Center
\$4.50 per person
Musical program to follow supper

Reservations may be made at the Stratford Historical Society General Meeting on Sept. 26, 1980 Or mailed to Mrs. Russel Applegate, 6080 North Main St., Stratford...Before Nov. 1, 1980, please.

We are excited about this new venture and hope that you will plan to attend and have a most enjoyable evening.

REPAIRS TO JUDSON HOUSE

Repairs to the Judson House are being carried out with the support of the Connecticut Department of Economic Development and the Connecticut Committee for the Restoration of Historical Assets. We were awarded a grant of \$10,000 without which we would not have been able to do the necessary repairs. The house exterior had not been painted in more than ten years and was in poor condition. Painting is completed and the House and Museum looks beautiful. Credit is given to the H.C. Lovell Hardware, Todd B. Lovell and Harold C. Lovell, Jr. who donated all the paint necessary for both buildings.

Jack Wardman and Howard Smith are working on the thirty-two windows. Mr. Wardman will take out all window sashes, remove paint, putty and glass, repair sash as necessary, treat sash with Woodlife insect and damp repellent, replace glass and reputty, repaint the outside of sash with two coats of paint, install sash and then install a cover of polycarbonate. At this time, Mr. Wardman has just about finished with the fourteen first floor windows and is ready to start the second floor windows.

Mr. Smith has been ill but has been able to complete the work on the outside of the windows on the first floor. This included removing the paint from the outside casings, blind stops, heads and sills using a heating iron to soften the paint, treating with Woodlife, repairing as necessary, and providing prime and finish coat of paint. When the house is closed, we expect Mr. Smith to spot prime and paint the inside trim, matching existing room colors.

Starting on October 1, we expect to carry out extensive work in removing and replacing the house sill from the North Wall of the Parlor and entrance hall. This area is in bad condition and should be replaced with new joists and a fire resistant ceiling of the furnace room which is directly below the entrance hall. An inspection of this area revealed that the two posts flanking the entrance hall were rotted at the bases and need repair. This work should be completed in a month or two.

In the meantime much work has been done at the Museum - a new porch floor and railing, new gutters, rearranged work area in basement, with new lighting to fit the new arrangement.

Please come on Sept. 21 - see the "Skirmish and Encampment" and see how the Society is improving and preserving our property.

THE LARGEST TOUR GROUP

The largest tour group ever scheduled visited Judson House and the Mitchell Museum on Saturday, July 12, 1980. 102 members of the Hartford-based Antiquarian and Landmarks Society were given a one-hour walk-through visit, for which several members of our Executive Board served as host/hostess. Our offer of lemonade and homemade cookies on the lawn was a lovely culmination to a full day of touring historic sites in Southwestern Connecticut.

Many compliments were extended to our Society, such as this from a college student planning a career in museum education...."It felt so good to see an historical organization operating as it should-with love, care, and devoted people."

INTERESTING EXCERPTS FROM THE DAY BOOK OF ABNER JUDSON III, b. 1791,d.1867.

Abner Judson who was born and lived in the Captain David Judson House until his death in 1867, was a well-known merchant in Stratford. It is presumed that he had a store on the corner of what is now known as Main Street and Academy Hill. From his Day Book, 1823-1856, Abner sold produce from his extensive gardens and fields, made boots and shoes, and sold lumber much of which was bought from New York State. During the depression years of the 1830's Abner lent cash to his friends at 3%. His Day Book shows who purchased goods or who rented his farm equipment or his horse and carriage. Abner speaks of the shad running in April and May, 1834. But in 1834 he notes "bad fishing".

In reference to weather, a topic of conversation even then, Abner makes the following comments:

December 15, 1839. Severe snow storm on the Sabbath. Two churches closed all day.

Winters of 1841 and 1842 the most pleasant ever known. Hardly any snow.

June 12, 1842. Severe frost.

June 2, 1843. Severe frost killing beans and "making ice nearly as thick as glass".

Sept. 29, 1844. Remarkable storm with high tides. Churches closed.

Oct. 26, 1845. 6:30 p.m. a "severe shock of an earthquake".

April 15, 1849. Very cold, "making ice an inch thick".

April 6, 1850. "9 inches of snow on the level".

April 15, 1854. "1 foot of snow on the level of the ground".

1849. "Account of coat of paint to paint Judson House". Charge of paint? (\$22.06).

Other interesting items from Day Books owned by the Stratford Historical Society will follow in Newsletters.

"FAMILY TREE" INQUIRY

Are you descended from Thomas Ufford (Uffoot) who came from England, 1632 in the ship Lion and died in Stratford in 1660? Mrs. Patricia Walker of California is interested in hearing from anyone of the family of Ufford, Peabody, Lewis (descendant of Edmond Lewis), Moss, Gold, Judson, etc. who is descended from Thomas Ufford. She is "very anxious to see if I have any relatives through my great-great-grandfather Edmond Lewis Ufford, born in Stratford in 1816, son of Elijah and Percy Peabody Ufford, who went to Galveston, Texas, raised a family and died there in 1874.

If you have any pertinent information, please write to:

Mrs. Patricia Walker
22533 Highway 41
Templeton, Ca. 93465

REMEMBRANCE BOOK

On March 12th the first memorial to the Stratford Historical Remembrance Book was made. To August 31, 1977 \$50.00 was received together with \$.49 in interest for a total of \$50.49. Memorials were made remembering Jeanne Goddard, Florence Vanderbilt, Henry Van Gieson and Ida Raulmeier. Gifts were made by Selma Dobkin, Marion Finn and Dr. Allen Fanslow.

For the current year, \$347. was received together with 7.82 in interest for a total of \$354.82. Memorials were made as follows:

Helen May Beardsley Youngs by Donald Fowler and Mr. & Mrs. E. Dustin.
C. Ralph Welles by Mr. & Mrs. Earl B. Gear Jr. & Mr. & Mrs. T. Murphy.
Isadore Chaplowe by Mr. & Mrs. Dobkin
Willard Baldwin by Todd & Carol Lovell
Ruby Wilcoxson & Mrs. T.A.D. Weaver by the Stratford Visiting Nurses
Rev. George W. Judson by Margaret A. Judson
Chester Allenson by Mr. & Mrs. Irving Dobkin
Ira R. Peterson by Margaret Van Gieson, Vel & Claribel Spamer,
Don & Alma Fowler

Elsie W. Fanslow by Don & Alma Fowler
Edna Sammis Richardson by the Executive Board of the Historical Soc.
John B. Elwood by Mr. & Mrs. Todd B. Lovell
Ethlyn Lovell Walsh by Mr. & Mrs. Todd B. Lovell

and gratefulness for the recovery of Alma Fowler by the ladies of the Executive Board of the Historical Society.

To date a total of \$397 in Memorials and \$8.31 in interest, or a total of \$405.31 has been received. Altho slow in starting, it is already a strong resource for the financing of the Society. The interest may be added to our income for the year, while the principal will continue

to grow and return a higher amount each year. We recommend you consider this as a Memorial gift in the future.

Velmore Spamer, Asst. Treas.

HOUSE TOUR

The Huntington Historical Society is having a House Tour on Sunday, September 14, 1980 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets at \$5.00 each for adults and \$3.00 each for children may be purchased at the Huntington Green, Ripton Road and Huntington Street the afternoon of the tour.

Five homes, a privately owned tool museum and St. Paul's Episcopal Church - all within walking distance of the Green are included in the tour. The Huntington Historical Society Complex (The Hezekiah Marks House and the Country School) 70 Ripton Road will also be open to visitors. Mr. Michael Scanlin will demonstrate wood carving at the complex.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by telephong Mr. John Cessna, 929-7525.

I hope to see you at our three big events:

1. Sunday, Sept. 21, 1:00 p.m. The British Are Coming!
2. Friday, Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
3. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m. Colonial Harvest Supper.

This is my last Newsletter as a new president will be elected on Sept. 26. I thank all of you for your support and assistance during my two years as your president. I enjoyed every minute of it. I ask you to cooperate with the new president to make it as interesting as I found it.

David C. Wiggin

tear off

Reservation for COLONIAL HARVEST SUPPER AT BALDWIN CENTER, 6:30 p.m.,
November 12, 1980, \$4.50 per person.

Number of people in party _____

for members and guests

Please make checks payable to Stratford Historical Society.

If you are unable to come to the Annual Meeting, send Reservation to Mrs. Betty Applegate, 6080 North Main Street, Stratford, CT 06497 by November 1. Please

COLONIAL HARVEST SUPPER

presented by

The Stratford Historical Society

November 12, 1980

6:30 pm

**Raymond E. Baldwin Center
Main Street
Stratford, Connecticut**

MENU:

Homemade

*Brunswick Stew
Injun Brown Bread
Cranberry Relish
Green Salad
Apple Dessert
Cider -- Coffee -- Tea*

ENTERTAINMENT

The Pastime Recorder Ensemble

*IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESERVED
YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CONSIDER
THIS A REMINDER.*

THANK YOU

*MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH:
MRS. RUSSEL APPEGATE
6080 N. MAIN STREET
STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT
06497 TEL. 377-4224*



Wednesday, November 12, 1980

6:30 pm

Raymond E. Baldwin Center

Main Street

Stratford, Conn. 06497

