



Judson House, 967 Academy Hill, Built C1750
and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, 1958

The Stratford Historical Society

Box 382, Stratford, Connecticut 06497
Telephone 378-0630

September, 1981

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1981
7:30 PM at the Parish Hall of CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2000 Main St.

Please be sure to note the change in time and place for the meeting. For this evening, the program will precede the Business Meeting in order to allow children to attend. There are several items of business to come before the Annual Meeting which will take place following the program and refreshments.

We are fortunate to have with us as our speaker Dr. John Nicholas of the Geology Department of the University of Bridgeport who will present a slide tour of Mt. St. Helens, Summer, 1980.

His slides, commentary and presentation are excellent..A marvelous first-hand accounting of a well-publicized natural phenomenon.

Be sure to attend with friends, relatives and, especially, children.

Don't forget the 7:30 PM starting time at Christ Church.

COLONIAL CRAFTS--COLORS--CONCERTS Come join us for an unusual afternoon on Sunday, September 27 at Academy Hill. The Fifth Connecticut Regiment, Continental Line will show their colors in a new "Salute to the Flags of the Revolution". This precision drill features assorted flags designed for specific battles.

The women and children will accompany the men to for a Crafts Line as well as a Field Kitchen. An Adzman (beam hewer) will make his first Stratford appearance. He will hew beams to special order..mantlepieces, perhaps? Also new to Stratford this year (weather permitting) will be an Ironmonger as part of the Crafts Line.

The Germantown Ancients, a fife and drum group from Danbury, will present two concerts during the afternoon. They, too, will be in colonial dress and will re-create the martial music of the period.

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The lunch wagon, complete with hot dogs and hamburgers, will be there to satisfy twentieth century appetites as will a Baked Goods table. Mrs. Margaret VanGieson will be in charge of the Baked Goods again this year. Please call her if you will bake (378-5555, after 5 PM, please). The telephone squad will be making calls regarding this Bake sale but please don't wait for them to call you. Volunteer your efforts, please.

Judson House will be open for walk-through tours at a reduced rate. Come see the newly re-exhibited East Chamber and the Tool Room off the Lower Kitchen.

We are in need of interested volunteers (docents or those without docent training) to stand in each room during the afternoon. If you will give an hour or two, please call Patricia Morrison (377-2146).

Join us for an unusual Sunday afternoon! Bring your friends.

Sunday, September 27, 1981--1 PM to 5 PM

Rain date: Sunday, October 4, 1981--1 PM to 5 PM

CONSTITUTION REVISION The newly revised Constitution and By-Laws of the Stratford Historical Society are ready! Thanks to many hours of thought by the Revision Committee and the Executive Board, presentation to you will be made at our Annual Meeting on Friday, September 25.

Due to expense involved, we are unable to mail a copy to each member. Those who wish a copy may pick one up at Judson House any Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. If you are unable to do that, please call Judy Kurmay (378-8025) who will see that you get one. Copies will also be available at the Annual Meeting.

Thanks to Selma Dobkin, Carol Lovell, Donald Fowler and John Sober of the Revision Committee and to the Executive Board who spent several hot summer evenings going over the draft. A special thank you to Jane Lafferty who typed the final version.

Judy Kurmay, Chair

PHOTOS OF OLD STRATFORD Several hundred photographs of old Stratford taken by W. Howard Wilcoxson, our Historian Emeritus, were acquired from his estate which has been liquidated at court order due to Mr. Wilcoxson's confinement to a convalescent home.

Many of these photos are unidentified and have curled due to improper storage. Several of our members have undertaken the task of identifying and classifying. If you would like the opportunity to see this photo collection in its present unorganized condition and, perhaps, help identify and organize, please call.

The Society also acquired from the estate of Mr. Wilcoxson several items of historical importance and items of quality which will be added to our collection and exhibited in Judson House where appropriate.

Many hot summer days were spent in culling these items from Mr. Wilcoxson's home before the Estate Sale was held. The Society wishes to express its thanks to all who were involved in this effort.

HISTORY OF STRATFORD Two unsigned copies of Wilcoxson's History of Stratford (one copy is the 1939 edition, one is the 1969 edition) were acquired from the estate of Mr. Wilcoxson. Since these were Mr. Wilcoxson's private property, they will be sold to the highest bidder at a minimum bid of \$65 for each copy. Please use the enclosed form if you wish to bid on one or both copies.

Mrs. Willard C. Baldwin has donated a copy of Wilcoxson's History of Stratford to be sold for the benefit of the Historical Society. It is a 1939 edition, signed by Willard C. Baldwin July 2, 1947, but not signed by the author. The minimum bid for this copy is \$65.00 Please use the enclosed form if you wish to bid.

BEQUEST We have been advised that the Stratford Historical Society has been named a beneficiary in the will of Mrs. Edna M. Wood. When the estate is settled the funds left to the Society will become part of our Endowment Fund in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wood. This was an unexpected occurrence which has pleased us greatly.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

In memory of

Francis James Trainor
Miss Marjorie Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Richardson
Edmund Judson, Jr.

Given by

Hilda M. Trainor
Stratford Visiting Nurse Assoc.
Vincent and Mary Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Einar Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Velmore Spamer
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fowler

If you wish to make a contribution to the Book of Remembrance, please mail it to the Society at Box 382, Stratford with the notation "Remembrance" on the envelope.

JUDSON HOUSE Judson House has undergone several major repairs this year: North sill (front of the house), Window sash reconstruction, Lexan covering for each window, Coat of paint, New roof which is just finished, and now, most unexpectedly, a Chimney reconstruction is required!

Your Executive Board has authorized work on the chimney which has

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already begun. It is possible that, by the time you read this, the work will have been completed. The unexpected costs of both roof and chimney have left our treasure dented.

Would you like to make a special contribution to help replace the monies necessarily spent for the roof and chimney? Donations of any amount will be most appreciated. Please consider this most important need and use the enclosed form when you make your decision. Thank you.

STRATFORD'S DECOY CARVERS A loan exhibit of decoys carved by Stratford men in the nineteenth and early twentieth century will be open for viewing approximately September 1. Remembering the excellent program on decoys given last November, we invite you to visit this special exhibit Before Nov. 1. In waterfowl hunting history and decoy collecting, Stratford holds a very important place. Be sure to see these reminders of a gone-forever part of the history of our town.

Remember that our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on Friday Sept. 25 at Christ Church Parish Hall..following the Mount St. Helens program which will begin at 7:30 PM.

This has been such a productive, busy and pleasant year for me as president. There are not words enough to thank all of you who have been so loyal in your participation in the wide variety of activities with which we have involved ourselves. The members of the Executive Board have been superb in their dedication, concern and willingness. The membership has been wonderful in its responses. Thank you for such a fine year.

Sincerely,

Carol W. Lovell
Mrs. Todd B. Lovell

DATES OF GENERAL MEETINGS 1981-1982

November 20--Friday
January 29---Friday
March 26-----Friday
May 26-----Wednesday

All of the above meetings are scheduled in the Methodist Church.

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to help lessen the financial burden created by the need for a new roof and chimney reconstruction at Judson House.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I wish to bid the amount indicated below for a copy of Wilcoxson's History of Stratford.

Copy No. 1--1939 edition, unsigned (Wilcoxson estate) \$ _____

Copy No. 2--1969 edition, unsigned (Wilcoxson estate) \$ _____

Copy No. 3--1939 edition, (Baldwin gift and signature) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____