



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

March, 1982

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1982 at 8:00 PM
at the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET

Mr. Richard Cunliffe, a Director of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies, will speak at the March meeting of the Stratford Historical Society. His talk is entitled "Dr. William Samuel Johnson, Connecticut's Man of Destiny".

William Samuel Johnson, LLD (1727-1819) is one of Stratford's famous sons. He was the son of Samuel Johnson, DD (1696-1772) the first Episcopalian minister in Connecticut who served our own Christ Church in Stratford preaching the first sermon ever given to that church on Christmas Eve, 1724. Dr. Samuel Johnson was also the first President of King's College in New York serving there from 1754-1763.

William Samuel Johnson, also a minister--serving Huntington, Conn., preferred the Law. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and has been called one of the five "framers of the United States Constitution". The marginal notes on the original Constitution are in the handwriting of Dr. William Samuel Johnson. He was the first United States Senator from Connecticut and the first President (1787-1800) of Columbia College (formerly called King's College--the same King's College over which his father had presided) which is presently part of Columbia University.

Mr. Cunliffe, a resident of Heritage Village in Southbury, is a founder and Director of the Southbury Historical Society. Prior to his retirement in 1973, he was the Director of Education for the New York Historical Society in New York City and active in the New York Chapter of the Civil War Round Table.

He is a frequent contributor to THE LEAGUE BULLETIN, a quarterly publication of the Conn. League of Historical Societies, for which he also serves on the Education Committee. Mr. Cunliffe is also a contributor in the field of American history to the Westchester County, N.Y. Historical Society quarterly and the newspaper VOICES, published weekly in Woodbury, Ct. He is also a frequent speaker at various

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Historical Societies and Library groups throughout Connecticut. His most recent presentation dealt with Witchcraft trials in 17th century Connecticut.

I look forward to seeing you on March 26 at 8:00 PM.

JUDSON HOUSE OPENING---This year, the Captain David Judson House and the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum will open for tours and visitations on Saturday April 17. This is later than our previous opening date of April 1 and was determined to provide more preparation time following our Antique Show (April 3 & 4) and the Easter season.

Plan to visit Judson House this season on a Wed., Sat., or Sun. from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Perhaps an organization to which you belong would be interested in a group visit. If so, call Mrs. Patricia Morrison (377-2146) or the Society (378-0630) to arrange a tour. Wouldn't it be nice if all of our members could visit during 1982?

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY---The Stratford Historical Society is in need of an ASSISTANT GUIDE for Judson House and the Museum from April 17 to Nov. 1, 1982. This part-time but very important position in the Society involves giving visitors a guided tour of Judson House and the Mitchell Museum under the guidance of and in co-operation with the Head Guide. Familiarization with provided study material and willingness to spend time preparing and giving an enjoyable, informative and accurate tour are required. The hours are Wed., Sat., and Sun. from 11:00AM to 4:00PM.

For salary details and further information call Mrs. F. Paul Kurmay (378-8025), Mrs. Irving Dobkin (378-4249) or leave your name and message on the answering tape at the Stratford Historical Society (378-0630). If you prefer, you may write to the Stratford Historical Society, PO Box 382, Stratford, Ct. 06497.

HOUSECLEANING---In preparation for the April 17 opening of Judson House, Ella McCullough has set the dates of April 13 and 14 (Tues. & Wed.) for cleaning and polishing the House and its contents. This is the once-a-year opportunity to handle our precious artifacts. Ella has established a schedule and would love to hear from anyone with an hour or more to devote to the project. Please call her at 375-6203.

EDUCATION---The Docent training program will be ending on March 25. The program has been a great success. The newly trained docents are eagerly awaiting the opening of the House and the school tours. The Docent training program begins every January. Keep it in mind for 1983. It's a very rewarding experience.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES are needed to answer the door and greet visitors to Judson House on Wed., Sat., and Sun. beginning April 17. Please call Mrs. Margaret VanGieson (378-5555) to sign up for the day of your choice.

ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE, APRIL 3 and 4--The discount card enclosed gives you details as to time and place of our 21st Antiques show. The single card will admit you and members of your family at \$1.25 instead of the regular admission of \$1.50. There is no charge for children 12 and under accompanied by a parent. The ticket you receive at the door is good for admission both days of the Show; save your ticket stub purchased Saturday for a return visit on Sunday.

Our thanks to the members who have already brought items for sale to the museum. We need more, not necessarily heirloom quality antiques but "collectible" and even flea market items are saleable and gratefully accepted. At your request the committee will gladly give you a written statement for IRS "Contributions other than cash" indicating the appraised value of your contribution(s). Bring your contributions to the museum on Tuesdays, 10:00AM to 1:00 PM, as soon as possible, or call Hi Tindall (874-1819) or Bonnie Paradise (377-2332) to arrange for pick up of items.

Your contribution of baked goods for Margaret VanGieson's department and/or sandwich makings for Alice and Ronald Rader's refreshment area are extremely important for these other active and successful parts of our show.

Other ways of helping greatly are your work on committees if this is possible, your presence at the affair as a visitor-prospective customer, a financial contribution to Donald Calkins, Tres., 35 Edgemont Rd., Devon, Ct. 06480, as a patron, and your invitation to non-member friends to come to enjoy the event, our most important money-making affair.

SECOND ANNUAL SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT DINNER DANCE will be held on Saturday, March 27, 1982 at Liedle's on Kenyon Street, Stratford. Social hour will begin at 7:00 PM followed by a roast beef dinner. Dancing, a brief award ceremony and prizes are also part of this evening. Donation for this event is \$17.50 per person.

The Society had a table last year and we all had a marvelous time. Please join us this year for a fine evening of recognition for all those who give their time and talent to make Stratford a better community. Call Judy Kurmay (378-0630) for tickets.

COLONIAL GARDENS--During colonial times herbs were important to the health and hearth of early settlers. The addition of an herb garden to Judson House this spring will provide visitors with a display of a variety of specimens which were used for medicinal and flavoring purposes. Renovation and extension of the flower beds is in progress.

All members of the Historical Society are encouraged to participate in this effort. The Landscape and Colonial Gardens committee is planning a "Planting Day" during which donations of appropriate seedlings will be accepted. Flowers, bulbs, small shrubs, and appropriate wildflowers are needed to fill in. Please consider such specimens as lemon day lilies, Memorial Day peonies, witchazel, chamomile, crown imperial, foxglove, Jacob's ladder, hyssop, Sweet Cicely, sage, rue, rosemary, tansy, chicory, or any others you feel are appropriate.

Further plans and a definite date for "Planting Day" will be announced.

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HISTORY OF STRATFORD--Requests for Wilcoxson's History of Stratford continue to arrive. In order to update our lists, please notify the Society if you have a copy for sale or if you wish to purchase one.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE--There have been no contributions since the last newsletter. How about thinking of the Book as a place to remember and celebrate the happy occasions in your life? The Society does indeed appreciate the support shown in this manner.

LONDON--Oct, 1982--Plans continue and several persons have signed up to go to London on Oct. 8, 1982. There has been an increase in the air fare portion of the trip to \$630 from \$549, thereby creating a total price of \$974 per person for those who have not already paid for their air fare. Participation in this tour is not limited to members of the Stratford Historical Society.

DETAILS--ANTIQUÉ TOUR for Stratford Historical Society
October 8 - 16, 1982 7 nights, 8 days
Hosted by Carol Lovell and Elvira Ludford

Price: \$974 per person (double) Single supplement--\$105

Tour rate includes:

Round trip jet transportation via Air India
Meeting and assistance upon arrival, Transfer and baggage handling
7 nights accommodations at the deluxe HOTEL PARK LANE
Continental breakfast every morning
One theater ticket
One full day browsing through rare antiques at Portobello Road, Silver Vault, and Mayfair
One half day sightseeing
One half day visit to Stratford-on-Avon and Windsor Castle
Visit to London's National Theater--similar to our Lincoln Center
CASTLE TOUR--Historic HATFIELD CASTLE, 15 miles from London, giving us the opportunity to enjoy some of London's beautiful countryside... The home of the first Queen Elizabeth who lived and reigned here during her time as Queen. Time will be allowed to view the castle and some of its treasures. Our dinner will be served to us in the same dining room used by the queen for many functions during her reign.

A deposit of \$50 will hold your reservation--refundable up to 60 days before departure.

Final payment must be made at least 6 weeks before departure.

Deposit checks should be made out to BIEBEL TRAVEL, 2362 Main St., Stratford, Conn. 06497 Attn.: Elvira Ludford

For further information phone: Carol Lovell (375-3569) or
Elvira Ludford (377-4988)

Be sure to come to our next meeting:
March 26.

Sincerely,

Carol W. Lovell
Mrs. Todd B. Lovell