



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

May, 1982

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1982 at 7:30 PM
at the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET.

We are pleased to have been able to re-schedule Dr. John Nicholas of the Geology Department of the University of Bridgeport who will present a slide tour of Mount St. Helens, Summer, 1980.

Dr. Nicholas was a member of the first group of non-government observers of this most active volcano on the U.S. mainland. His slides, commentary and presentation are excellent--a marvelous first-hand accounting of a well-publicized natural phenomenon.

Mt. St. Helens has been kept in the news with its frequent stirrings in the two years which have passed since its initial violent eruption.

Be sure to attend this talk with friends, relatives, and especially children. We have scheduled the meeting for 7:30 PM, rather than the usual 8:00PM hour in order that children might come. A brief business meeting will precede the program.

JUDSON HOUSE and the CATHARINE B. MITCHELL MUSEUM are sparkling clean and open for visitors. Many thanks to Ella McCullough for taking charge of our annual spring cleaning. She and a group of hard-working volunteers have scrubbed, dusted, and polished our historic House and Museum in order that our Society can again be justly proud of our appearance as we greet visitors.

Have you visited lately? You really should, you know. It's a marvelous place. Why not bring your summer guests? They would be impressed, I'm sure.

Jean Wilcoxson, our Head Guide, and Ramona Garcia, our Assistant Guide, are ready to show you and your friends through our two buildings on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

If you belong to a group which would like to visit, please make arrangements with Patricia Morrison at 377-2146. Our docents are trained and have begun guiding groups. We would love to have everyone in Stratford experience the Captain David Judson House.

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GARDENS and GROUNDS--These two committees have been working on a new herb garden at the kitchen door. Planting Day was held on May 1 when donations of plants for this garden were received. If you have some herbs or flowers to donate please let us know or bring them on Wednesdays, Saturdays, or Sundays. It would be lovely if many Stratford gardens were represented at Judson House.

The "meadow" area is growing nicely and is presently blooming with asphodel. The stone walkway connecting the House and Museum has been re-constructed, and the sun dial re-located. The old stockade fence, which belongs to our neighbor, the Duchess Diner, has been removed and a new one erected. We are most appreciative of this work by the owner of the Diner. The appearance of our backyard is greatly enhanced.

DECOYS--Due to expressed interest in our loan exhibit of decoys and dismay over its brief availability before our season closed last November, we have returned the "Decoy Carvers of Stratford" exhibit to our case for temporary exhibits in the Museum. You are encouraged to see this special exhibit before August. In waterfowl hunting history and the world of 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.

PUBLICITY--Thanks to Marge Jacaruso for overcoming our previous publicity difficulties. Both the Bridgeport Post and the Newtown Bee have co-operated beautifully for the beginning of our 1982 season.

THE ANTIQUE SHOW was again a success in spite of the economy. So many people worked so very hard that it would be impossible to name each one. Be assured, however, that the mighty efforts expended on this endeavor were worth it! Thank you all for an excellent weekend!

LONDON--October 8-16, 1982--Some vacancies exist in our London Antiques Tour. Please call Carol Lovell at 375-3569 or Elvira Ludford at 377-4988 for details. Perhaps your vacation plans are now more definite and you can see October more clearly. We would love to have you join us!

MEMBERSHIP--A few people have not yet sent in dues for 1981-82. (They were due in Oct., 1981, remember?) However, the majority of our loyal members have renewed their faith in and support for the Stratford Historical Society.

The following people have chosen to contribute \$150 each for a Life Membership, a sign of their continuing interest and support. The monies received from Life Memberships are added to our Endowment Fund. We thank the following who are current Life Members:

Mrs. Russel Applegate
Judge Raymond E. Baldwin
Miss Mary Barker
Miss Helen Barker

Miss Harriet Blakeman
Mrs. Henry Bradbury
Mrs. Thomas Bradbury
Mr. Raymond Cable

(Continued)

Mr. & Mrs. J. Oliver Carson
Mr. & Mrs. M. Lewis Chaplowe
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Chapman
Dr. Harold R. Connelly, Jr.
Mr. Thomas C. Coughlin
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DiMenno
Mr. & Mrs. Irving Dobkin
Mr. & Mrs. Elden H. Dustin
Dr. & Mr. Allen Fanslow
Mr. Raymond Ganim
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Hardy
Mr. Kurt Hoefflinger
Mr. Joseph Janucik
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Johnson
Miss Katherine Judson

Mr. Michael Judson
Mr. William H. Judson
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis G. Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kryzanski, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Einar M. Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Todd B. Lovell
Mr. E. T. Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Miller
Dr. Ross Roby
Mrs. John Ross
Mr. T. Donald Rowe
Mrs. Donald Sammis
Mr. & Mrs. Velmore Spamer
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wardman
Mr. Wm. Howard Wilcoxson
Mr. & Mrs. Hildreth Winton

JUST FOR FUN--Stanley Johnson has recently presented to the Stratford Historical Society library an account book which was recycled as a scrapbook for news items from the Bridgeport Post 1891-1897. Some of the many items of interest:

May 1, 1892: Miss Brown the lady operator at the railroad is the possessor of a new caligraph type writer and is quite an expert in its manipulation.

Sidewalks: crushed stone is not the answer to good sidewalks. Walking on them is very hard. A year ago the mud was ankle deep.

May 21, 1892: Oystermen on trial before Justice Peck for taking oysters from the grounds of the Stratford Oyster Assoc. They paid \$35.65 each as a fine.

May 27, 1892: People driving in the lower part of town are considerably annoyed by cattle pastured in the street. They are fastened to a rope which is generally stretched across the street, preventing further progress until some cattle driving is done.

May 18, 1892: One of the prettiest spots in town this summer is Paradise @green. It is becoming quite a resort for tennis playing, with two courts and the possibility of more during the summer. "With all the shade trees in near locality a more suitable place for such outdoor exercise cannot be found in town."

Be sure to note the change in day of week and meeting time for the program on Mr. St. Helens---Wednesday, May 26, 1982---

Sincerely,

Carol K. Lovell
Mrs. Todd B. Lovell