



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

November, 1983

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 1983 at  
8 P. M. CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH HALL, 200 MAIN STREET

Our program for November 18th will feature Mike Kachuba, a local folk musician. He will present a program of traditional and not so traditional American and British Isle music for us. Mr. Kachuba utilizes several instruments in his performance including the hammered dulcimer, English concertina, guitar, tin whistle, autoharp and harmonica. In addition he sings unaccompanied ballads, as well as songs that invite audience participation. His repertoire includes early American music used in New England Contra dancing, songs of the sea, songs of the Depression and the Prohibition eras, as well as contemporary songs that reflect the concerns of people and just plain living.

Mr. Kachuba has performed at The San Diego Folk Festival, New England Folk Festival, the Eisteddfod Festival, American Celebration and in coffeehouses, schools, libraries, and historical societies. His Performances are geared for all age levels and invite audience participation. He is a member of Hey Rube! the national traditional musician's cooperative and, with his wife Mary Ellen, runs the Rabbit Hill Coffeehouse in Westport.

Be sure to attend this unusual program. Perhaps a friend who has an interest in traditional folk music would enjoy the evening also. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Our touring season at Judson House and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum has just ended. Carol Brancato, our scheduling secretary, reports that 650 students and chaperones came through both facilities. Docents volunteered a total of 138 hours. Jean Wilcoxson, head guide, has logged 418 visitors during the hours our house and museum are open to the public. We've had over 1,000 visitors! Won't you consider bringing your group to see us next season?

We have a new supply of the 1984 Calendars illustrated by "Old Photographs of Stratford from the Wilcoxson Collection," 500 to be exact, and now need your help to see this useful and attractive collector's item. If you haven't purchased your calendar(s) or if you have already done so but need more to fill out your Christmas list, please do so soon. Calendars are on sale at Catalano's News Store, Hamilton's Drug Store, Jacopian Cleaners, Oronoque Orchards, Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall,

and at the Mitchell Museum on Tuesdays, 9:30 A. M. to 1:00 P. M. They will also be available at the November 18 meeting of the Society and at the Sterling House Fair, November 26 and 27. Please address mail orders to Stratford Historical Society, P. O. Box 382, Stratford, Ct., 06497. If you wish to make arrangements for purchase by telephone, please call Joseph Moore, 378-1749 or Elden Dustin, 378-5997.

Thanks to the efforts of our curator, Hy Tindall, we have received some Grants to aid in two projects. The Bridgeport Area Foundation started us on the large task of organizing and preserving the photographs of the Wilcoxson collection with a grant of \$500.00. While this amount certainly does not fund the entire task, it is a good start. Some of the glass plate negatives are deteriorating. We will try to save as many as possible.

The work on the South Sill and lower kitchen door will begin this month. The following members have contributed toward this project: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dickgeiser, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Dobkin, Mr. and Mrs. Todd Lovell, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wardman. The Junior League of Greater Bridgeport has also given \$250.00 in a matching grant. The generosity of these members and organizations has made our task much easier.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE Since the last newsletter, Velmore Spamer, assistant treasurer, reports that the following contribution has been received: The Chaplowe Family in memory of Isadore and Sophie Chaplowe.

NEW/OLD QUILT During the coming cold winter months, wouldn't you like to work on a square (or two) of a quilt in an eighteenth century design? Our second vice-president, Bonnie Paradise, is organizing the effort to reproduce such a quilt. Mrs. Paula Russell, instructor in quilting, has kindly agreed to guide us. Some people have already volunteered to take home a square; but we know that more of the membership would be interested in the project. Men don't be shy! This is an equal opportunity for all. We will not begin before early January. If all goes well we will sell the quilt by raffle at the Antique Show in April... Please call Bonnie (377-2332) to sign up. Little experience needed!

The NATIONAL HELICOPTER MUSEUM has opened its first exhibit, "Eight Decades of Flight in Stratford." This exhibit will continue until Nov. 23, 1983 from 1 to 4 each afternoon at the museum, 2480 Main St., Stratford. Anyone wishing to become a charter member of the museum may send in \$10 membership fee to the museum at the address above.

Our Reception on Sunday Oct., 24th to honor Einar Larsen, Exhibits Chairman, and Alma Fowler, Historian, was a success. Their combined efforts, along with the support of many volunteers produced "History Repeats Itself Stratford's Elegance of Yesterday Today's Style." In addition they created a companion exhibit entitled "Parisian Elegance in Stratford." It is so nice to be able to show some of our Victorian treasures. We appreciate the fine job done by the reception committee: Mrs. Dean Paradise, Mrs. Gary J-copian, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Hardy, Mrs. Richard Slater,

Mrs. William Decker, Mrs. W. Forrest Davenport, and Mr. Hiram Tindall.

Our Docent program will be starting in January under the leadership of Education Chairman, Betty Applegate. For those docents who have already taken the course, some areas will be studied for enrichment, especially open hearth cooking, and for those of you who are considering the idea of being a tour guide the basics will be covered. Please call Betty at 377-4224 to sign up.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED???

Place: Winterthur and Longwood Gardens

Date: Friday, May 4-Sunday, May 6, 1984

Cost: \$175.00 per person double occupancy  
(price tentative)

The Tour Rates Include: An afternoon at Longwood Gardens  
One day at Winterthur  
Tour of Philadelphia  
2 nights at Hotel Hershey, Philadelphia  
2 breakfasts, 2 dinners (dinner theatre?)  
one lunch

If this piques your interest, please call Marion Herb (375-9573) in the evening (or use the tear off below and send to her at 80 Beard Terr., Stratford). We would love to have a group from the Stratford Historical Society view the fine collection at Winterthur and the Longwood Gardens. Don't delay! If we are to fix our plans, we must know by early January.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for future meetings.

January 27, 1984  
March 23, 1984  
May 18, 1984

Remember the November meeting will be held at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sincerely,

*Judith M. Kurmay*  
Judith M. Kurmay  
(Mrs. F. Paul Kurmay)

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I would like more information on the May trip to Winterthur and Longwood Gardens.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_