



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, 1984

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY MAY 18, 1984 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET, STRATFORD 8 P. M.

Following the drawing for our hand made quilt and a brief business meeting, Dr. Abbott Cummings and Mrs. Amelia Miller will present a program entitled "Stratford and the Judson House-Colonial Pacesetter?" Dr. Cummings received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and PhD from Ohio State University. From 1951-1955 he was Assistant Curator at the American Wing of the Metropolitan. From 1955-1983 Dr. Cummings was the Director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in Boston and Editor of "Old Time Magazine." Currently he is a Professor of American Decorative Arts at Yale. Dr. Cummings has had a long association with our Society. Under his expert guidance much of our Judson House was restored in 1959.

Mrs. Amelia Miller too has a long association with our Society. She studied the Judson House doorway in 1959 as well as the records and paintings of Christ Episcopal Church pertaining to the 1743 church building. All of her research has culminated in the recently published Connecticut River Valley Doorways: an Eighteenth Century Flowering. The Judson House is mentioned in the book as well as the Walker House (Elm Street) and the William Samuel Johnson House (West Broad Street). Unfortunately the Johnson House is now demolished. Mrs. Miller is a resident of Deerfield, Mass. and a graduate of Smith College.

Both Dr. Cummings and Mrs. Miller presented a joint program to the Society on Nov. 20, 1959. We will be delighted to hear them again on May 18, 1984. Anyone with an interest in architecture will find the evening a rewarding one.

As I mentioned earlier our hand sewn eighteenth century quilt will be given away at the start of the meeting. Mrs. Paula Russell has our special thanks for the generous donation of her expertise in guiding the project. The quilt represents the time and talent of over twenty-five of our Society's ladies and we appreciate their contribution.

The Photography Committee is busily assembling the Society's 1985 calendar. At the end of this newsletter you will find a tear off for ordering as many as you need. They are a unique gift-especially for those who may have left Stratford. The price has remained the same as last year (\$4.00; \$5.00 if mailed). The calendar may be picked up at Judson House after July 1st.

Our Twenty-Third Annual Antique Show was quite a success. Such a success that we will continue with the one day format for next year. Our Society's Booth and Book Stall was full to overflowing as was the Baked Goods Table. Two popular (and quick selling) items were chairs that the weavers caned. Do you have any chairs (in need of canning) that you would care to give? Since it is a time consuming task, any early donations would be most appreciated. You may call the Society at 378-0630 and arrange to have the chair(s) picked up, or leave them off any Tuesday between 9 a. m. and 1 p. m.

While the work of the Accessions and Inventory Committees remains forever incomplete, these two industrious groups have completed a major task. They have gone through over fifty large clothing boxes and sorted through the dresses, hats, shoes, suits, undergarments, assorted accessories, and quilts. The end result is that our clothing and textile collection is now expertly stored and catalogued.

The Capt. David Judson House and Mitchell Museum have opened to the public on April 14th. Our school tours are busily humming along. While we welcome the school children, we also encourage groups of any kind. A tour of our house and museum would make an unusual and inexpensive outing or program for your club. Carol Brancato, scheduling secretary, would be able to give further details (375-8187). We are open until November 1st.

I am looking forward to seeing you on May 18 to hear Mrs. Miller and Dr. Cummings.

Sincerely,

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

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ORDER FORM      1985 CALENDAR

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CALENDARS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$4.00 ea. or (\$5.00 if Mailed) \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Stratford Historical Society)

Mail to Box 382, Stratford, Ct. 06497

On May 18, 1984, Dr. Abbott Lowell Cummings and Mrs. Amelia Miller will speak at the public meeting of the Stratford Historical Society. Their topic will be "Thomas Salmon "architect" (in Stratford: 1743-1748) and his Influences."

The discussion with slides of British houses, will deal with English architectural styles and their relationship to Stratford's 18th century structures, including houses and Christ Episcopal Church.

Dr. Cummings received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and PhD from Ohio State University. From 1951-1955 he was Assistant Curator at the American Wing of the Metropolitan. From 1955-1983 Dr. Cummings was the Director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in Boston and Editor of "Old Time New England Magazine." Currently he is a Professor of American Decorative Arts at Yale. Dr. Cummings has had a long association with the Society. Under his expert guidance much of the Judson House was restored in 1959 and he has continued to guide interpretation.

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