

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, 1988

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Friday, Sept. 23, 1988, 8:00 PM
Stratford United Methodist Church
2605 Main St.

This will be the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Stratford Historical Society. During the business meeting officers will be elected for the 1988-1989 year.

Following the business meeting our speaker will be Blaine A. Cota, Jr. whose program Fayre Houses of New England is a survey of the domestic architecture of New England from 1620 to 1820 using colored slides.

Mr. Cota received his BFA and MFA Degrees from Yale Univ. School of Fine Arts. In addition to his profession as a painter, he is an antiquary with a background of research in the social history and architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries in New England.

As a lecturer he shares this information through seminars and courses of study which he has presented at U-Conn and its branches, Eastern Connecticut State University, the Bartlett Arboretum, Mohegan Community College and through programs for historical societies and various other organizations. At ECSU he held the Arthur W. Crosbie Chair in Museum Studies.

Mr. Cota is also cō-founder, President and Director of Heritance House, In., a non-profit history project, dedicated to the preservation of New England's heritage, which functions at the Cotas' home, the Deacon Peter Buell House raised in 1723 in Litchfield.

This house is the only surviving example of the first permanent dwellings in Litchfield. It narrowly escaped demolition in 1961 when the Cotas rescued and moved it for restoration in the northwest corner of the town.

This program should prove to be an excellent beginning for our 350th anniversary of the Town of Stratford. It will direct our thoughts to the early days of life in New England and in Stratford.

Remember, please, that all of our General meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend (or several friends) with you on Sept. 23. Refreshments will be served following the program.

(OVER)

JUDSON HOUSE HAS BEEN PAINTED RED--The Executive Board of the Society voted recently to paint Judson House a dark red, its original 18th century color. There is both documentary and physical evidence that the house was red in its early days.

"Aunt" Hagar Merriman, in her autobiography published in New Haven in 1860, when she was in her eighties, wrote "Down the street on the high hill was the red mansion of Mr. Admah (Abner) Judson."
"Aunt" Hagar came to Stratford as an infant, a slave belonging to Mrs. Lovejoy whose house stood where St. James School now stands on Main Street. She was raised almost as a daughter by the childless Mrs. Lovejoy.

Paint chips from the early shingles on the east gable of Judson House reveal red, the original color, covered by yellow which was then covered by white. In 1837 Mr. Judson bought clapboards to replace many of the shingles and, at that time, painted the house yellow. Sometime later the house was repainted white which it has been for as long as anyone can remember.

Abbott Lowell Cummings, Phd, the Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Arts at Yale, has done research for the Society and verified that red is an appropriate color. As a result of his research Judson House now stands proudly on Academy Hill, an 18th century jewel with red as its main color, white architectural features and trim and a wonderful blue door!!

If you have not already come to visit the "new" Judson House, I strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible. I am sure that you will be very favorably impressed.!

This new look for Judson House was precipitated by the soon-to-be here 350th anniversary of the Town of Stratford in 1989. It (the paint change) makes an important statement from the Historical Society in terms of representing an historically accurate house/museum for the 20th century citizens of our town.



Photo by Ruth Tabor

Judson House Changes Color

350th ANNIVERSARY: Another activity for the tricentquingenary of the Town of Stratford in 1989 will be a cook book of old Stratford recipes. Mrs. Vivienne Knapp has offered to compile this book and has already begun to gather and test recipes. She requests from you, the membership, recipes that were used in Stratford, at least fifty years old (with some exceptions possible), and accompanying anecdotes connected with the recipes or the people who created or enjoyed them. Two other considerations are that these dishes should taste good and possibly be a bit out of the ordinary.

Vivienne is also hoping for volunteer testers: two sorts, some who will follow a recipe exactly and report on the results, and some more adventurous souls who would enjoy working with the kind of recipe that calls for "butter the size of a walnut, sugar to taste, and cook until done".

If you wish to be involved in this project, contact Vivienne Knapp, 320 Shore Road, Stratford, 06497 or telephone 377-0602.

ANTIQUÉ SHOW: Our 1989 Antique Show will be held on April 1, 1989 (Saturday) at the Baldwin Center. Please mark this date on your new Historical Society Calendar (mentioned below) and begin to gather your donations for the Society Booth. You will hear more about the Antique Show as the year progresses.

1989 CALENDAR; Our 1989 calendar is ready for purchase at Judson House and several outlets throughout Stratford. Posters will be visible in many storefronts in town to advise you of the sales points. However, calendars will be available, as usual through the mail.

Send this form plus payment to: 1989 Calendar, Stratford Historical Society, Box 382, Stratford, CT 06497

I wish to order _____ copies of the 1989 Calendar @ \$5.00 each.

Please enclose \$ 1.50 per calendar for shipping.

NAME _____ \$\$\$ TOTAL calendars \$ _____
ADDRESS _____ Shipping \$ _____
ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Sept., 1988 Page 4

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE DONATIONS have been received as follows:

In Memory of:

Given by:

Imogen Lovell Corcoran

Elizabeth Sniffen Gullander
Ruth Lathrop Stone

Harriet B. Blakeman

Jack and May Wardman
Freda and Vincent Chapman

Marjorie Silliman Irving

Alice Turner
Clare and Vel Spamer
Madlyn N. Salter

Dorothy Coutant (Mrs. Edward)

Selman and Irving Dobking

THE 350th ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION is offering for sale several items: tee shirts, buttons, posters, bumper stickers, post cards, etc. If you are interested in obtaining any of these souvenir items, please come to Judson House on Wed., Sat. or Sun. between 11:00 and 3:30. The income from the sale of these items goes to the 350 Commission to help defray some of the expenses of the activities scheduled for 1989.

COIN COLLECTION: The Society has in its collection a coin collection which was given several years ago. Is there a member of our society who is a knowledgeable coin collector who might be willing to evaluate this collection? We have no idea of the history or the worth of this collection. If you can help, please call the Museum at 378-0630 on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or leave a message on the answering machine any other day. Thank you.

I have left this space free in order for you to use the Calendar Order Form on the reverse.

JUDSON HOUSE has been advertised in the LOCATOR, Connecticut's state-of-the-art video information service for visitors. These video machines can be found in Visitor Information Centers, Interstate 95 service areas, Bradley International Airport, and many hotels. If you have the opportunity, look for JUDSON HOUSE under "18th Century" and also "Art & Museums". This is a novel approach to advertising which we are doing as part of the 350th celebration.

MEETING DATES FOR 1988-1989: November 18; January 27; March 17 and a membership dinner on May 19, 1989. Mark your calendar and hold these dates. The programs have been planned and will be excellent!

BASKET MAKING CLASSES:

Special two-day class: Saturdays: Oct. 15 and 22, 1988: Very large Bushel-type basket
Cost: \$40 plus \$15 material fee

Sat. Nov. 5: Choctaw Indian Elbow basket:
Cost: \$15 plus \$8 material fee

Mon. Nov. 14: Provender Basket
Cost: \$15 plus \$8 material fee

All classes will be held at the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum of the Stratford Historical Society.

TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM (approx.)

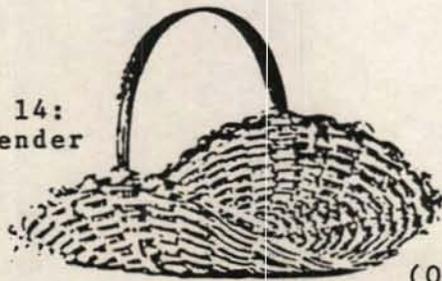
WHAT TO BRING: scissors, tape measure, pencil clamp-type clothespins, hand towel, awl, utility knife, lunch

\$10 DEPOSIT REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION. Call Muriel Cumpstone(377-6539)
or
Carol Lovell (375-3569)

Nov. 5:
Elbow



Nov. 14:
Provender



(OVER)

Sept., 1988 Page 6

BEARDSLEY MEMORIAL FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Parker of DeWitt, N.Y., recently established the Beardsley Memorial Fund in memory of Mrs. Parker's father, Theodore R. Beardsley and her brother, Howard R. Beardsley. The most recent gift was for \$500. For several years Mrs. Parker has honored their memories with gifts to the Book of Remembrance. We thank her for her involvement and support.

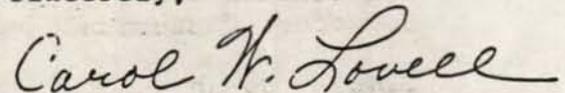
MATCHING FUNDS: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schlosser have contributed \$100 which, under the Matching Gifts Plan of the Southern New England Telephone Company, was doubled with a \$100 check from SNET. Many thanks to both the Schlossers and the phone company.

ANOTHER THANK YOU: For six years, our calendar sales posters have been donated by Bellrock Color, Inc. through the company president Matt Wailgum who makes this annual contribution in memory of Ralph Parker who was brother-in-law of Walter Rugg, founder of Bellrock. We are grateful to Mr. Wailgum for this generous donation.

YET ANOTHER: We acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of Henry "Hank" McLaughlin for creating the original poster lay-out and its 1989 revision.

Remember: Friday, Sept. 23, 1988, Methodist Church Hall, General Membership meeting: Fayre Houses of New England.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Todd B. Lovell, President

P.S. Membership renewal invitations will be in your mail soon. Please accept these invitations and send your renewal payments as soon as possible in order to help us keep our membership list up-to-the-minute. Membership in the Stratford Historical Society is open to any and all persons interested in the preservation of the documentary and physical reminders of our past. Especially during the 1988-1989 celebration of the 350th anniversary of the settlement of the Town of Stratford every citizen of Stratford is urged to become a member of the Historical Society. Please extend this invitation for membership to your friends, neighbors and relatives. Thank you. CWL

The New History of Stratford

** THE STRATFORD STORY **

350 years

1639 to 1989

with 350 pages and over 300 illustrations
by Town Historian Lewis G. Knapp and fourteen other authors

will be published in 1989

our TRI CENT QUINQUA GENARY year

for

THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and sponsored by

PEOPLE'S BANK

PREPUBLICATION PRICE: \$26.00 per copy

1.95 per copy sales tax (CT residents)

TOTAL: \$27.95

If you wish your copy mailed to you when it arrives from the
publisher, add \$3.50 for mailing.

Telephone orders will be taken at 375-1639 (Stratford 350th
Anniversary Committee) and at 378-0630 (Stratford Historical
Society). The order will be considered firm upon receipt of
your check.

You may use the form below to order your book(s) and include
your check.

Mail to: Stratford Historical Society Attn.: History
Box 382
Stratford, CT 06497

I wish to order _____ copy (copies) of THE STRATFORD STORY.

I have enclosed \$27.95 per copy.....Total:\$ _____

I have enclosed \$ 3.50 per copy for mailing.....Total:\$ _____

Enclosed Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

You will be informed when copies are available for you to pick up
if you do not wish to have them mailed.

_____ I wish to become a member of the Stratford Historical Society.
Please send information.