

# The Stratford Historical Society

Box 382, Stratford, Connecticut 06497  
Telephone 378-0630



Judson House, 967 Academy Hill, Built C1750  
and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, 1958

November, 1988

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Friday, November 18, 1988--8:00 PM  
Stratford United Methodist Church  
2605 Main St.

Our speaker will be William Hosley whose topic will be Beyond the Tyranny of Style: Masterpieces in Regional Furniture, 1675-1830. Furniture and architecture in pre-industrial New England are characterized by the flowering of regional style. Furniture makers were challenged to produce a good version of the current fashion at a price that was affordable. The product and its market were local. New England's small town economy spawned an almost unlimited inventiveness that is revealed in the way new fashions were interpreted. Never in the history of American arts have ideas of fashion and style been so diverse in application. This lecture will explore the dynamics of regional furniture by highlighting masterpieces from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Bill Hosley is the curator of American Decorative Arts at Wadsworth Atheneum. He was responsible for the widely acclaimed Wallace Nutting Collection gallery and was responsible for "The Great River: Art & Society of the Connecticut Valley, 1635-1820", an important reappraisal of the arts of New England's oldest inland settlement region.

Bill is a graduate of Middlebury College and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture where he specialized in the study of 18th century furniture and early history of the upper Connecticut Valley. Bill has lectured widely throughout New England and has contributed articles to Antiques, The Connecticut Antiquarian, Vermont History, and the journals of the Dublin Seminar and Winterthur Museum. He is an authority on Connecticut Valley architecture, furniture and grave-stones and is currently writing American Furniture: The Genealogy of a Collection, about the collections at Wadsworth Atheneum.

Our Society is most fortunate to have the opportunity to hear this knowledgeable and energetic young man. Please make every effort to attend this meeting..and bring a friend or two.

Refreshments will be served by Mrs. Edythe Simons, Hospitality Chair, and her committee following the lecture.

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OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Nominated for

THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1988-1989

President	Mrs. Todd Lovell
1st Vice President	Mr. Vincent Hardy
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Dean Paradise
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Joseph Moore
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. John Hanusovsky
Treasurer	Mr. Donald Calkins
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Velmore Spamer
Immediate Past President	Mr. John Sober

Directors

1 year	Mr. Elden Dustin
1 year	Mr. Robert Cumpstone
2 years	Miss Jane Lafferty
3 years	Mrs. Vincent Hardy

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Accessions	Mrs. Robert Cumpstone
Buildings	Mr. Howard Smith
Education	Mrs. Alfred Brancato & Mrs. John Hanusovsky
Exhibits	Mrs. Craig Hudak
Finance	Mr. Peter Dahl
Genealogy	Mr. Raymond T. Able
Grounds	Mr. Vincent Hardy
Historian	Mrs. Paul Kurmay
Historian Emeritus	Mr. W. Howard Wilcoxson
Hospitality	Mrs. Edythe Simons
Hosts & Hostesses	Mrs. Ralph Brown
Inventory (acting)	Mrs. Robert Cumpstone
Landscape/Colonial Gardens	Mrs. Constantine Chagares
League Delegates	Mrs. Einar Larson & Mrs. Henry VanGieson
Library	Mrs. Einar Larson
Membership and Dues	Mr. Joseph Moore
Nominating	Mrs. Irving Dobkin
Program	Mr. David Wiggin
Publicity	Miss Margaret Jacaruso & Mrs. Wilbur Euerle
Ways and Means	Mr. Stanley Ochman

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Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee

Elden Dustin, Chairman	Mr. Vincent Hardy
Mrs. Russel Applegate	Mrs. Richard Slater
Mrs. Irving Dobkin	Mr. John Sober
	Mr. Velmore Spamer

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS have been taken out by Mrs. Theodore Krueger and Mr. and Mrs. John Hanusovsky. We thank these members for their continued interest and increased financial commitment to the Society. Life Memberships are available for \$150.00 (payable over three years, if desired). These monies become part of our Endowment Fund from which the Society has use of the interest.

MEMBERSHIP in the Stratford Historical Society is open to any interested persons over the age of 18. Therefore, we suggest that you invite your friends, relative, and neighbors to join and become involved with the preservation of the history of our town. Please contact the society for details. This coming 350th Anniversary year of the settling of Stratford is a most opportune time for new members to enroll.

COOKBOOK--Suggested recipes for inclusion in our 350th Anniv. cookbook have been coming in to Vivienne Knapp, chairperson of the cookbook effort, who has set December 1, 1988 as the deadline for recipes to be considered. Her committee asks for additional testers (cooks) who may call to volunteer: 377-0602 is Vivienne's number. It is planned that the cookbook with its accompanying anecdotes and histories will be available in May, 1989.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE donations have been received as follows:

In Memory of:

Given by:

Marjorie S. Irving  
(On her birthday,  
Oct. 12)

Ethel Peck

\*\*Other donations will be listed in  
newsletter for Jan., 1989.

ANTIQUe SHOW donations will be accepted at the Museum on Tuesdays or Thursdays throughout the winter. Please begin to locate those items which you wish to contribute and bring them on those days. If you prefer to have you items picked up, call Hiram Tindall, 378-0630, or Bonnie Paradise, 377-2332 (after 5:00 pm) to make arrangements

1989 CALENDARS are available (in time for Christmas giving) at various outlets throughout Stratford and at the Museum on Tues. and Thursday. They are also available by mail. Use the form below:

(over)

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Send this form with 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.

TOTAL: calendars: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

shipping: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THE NEW HISTORY OF STRATFORD by Town Historian Lewis G. Knapp with 350 pages and over 300 illustrations will be published in 1989 for the Stratford Historical Society and in celebration of the 350th Anniversary (Tricentquingagenary) of our town. Use the form below to order your copy (ies) and enclose your check with the order. Connecticut residents must be sure to enclose \$1.95 sales tax. Non-Connecticut residents should not pay this tax.

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

11/88

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ copy (ies) of THE STRATFORD STORY.

I have enclosed \$26.00 per copy TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sales tax: \$1.95 per copy (Ct. only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping \$3.50 per copy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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THE COLLECTION of the Stratford Historical Society is of such quality that we have been asked by major museums to lend artifacts to their temporary exhibits. In recent years, the items below have been exhibited: 17th century carpenter's plane which had belonged to Levi Curtis: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Heart and Crown chair: Yale University Art Gallery and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Chinese silk apron with exquisite embroidery: Peabody Museum of Salem, Mass; Various Chinese Export items: Connecticut River Museum, Essex, Conn.

Recently, the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. has requested the use of our silhouette of Flora ( a slave owned by Asa Benjamin) for a special exhibition which will travel to two other cities when it leaves Washington. The request reads, "The work requested from your collection is vital to the success of the proposed exhibit."

Always we insist that items are adequately insured, given the highest possible security and great care in transportation.

This is a Society which should engender your pride.

REMEMBER: Nov. 18: General meeting

Sincerely,  
*Carol H. Lovell*  
Mrs. Todd B. Lovell