



Town Settled 1639

Society Organized 1925

## 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 1989

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Friday, November 17, 1989--8:00PM  
Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall  
2000 Main St., Stratford

Please note that this is a change of location from the Methodist Church where we have met previously.

"THE THANKSGIVING MYTHOS"--Each November, the familiar Pilgrim stereotypes appear everywhere from classrooms to greeting card shops. They are the tangible evidence of one of America's fondest myths, the Pilgrims of Plymouth. In this talk, Plimoth Plantation Director of Research James W. Baker investigates the many fantastic beliefs surrounding the Plymouth colonists and their legendary "Thanksgiving" of 1621..

Following the meeting, there will be refreshments. Invite your friends to attend with you. All of our meetings are open to the public.

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CALENDARS, COOKBOOKS AND "IN PURSUIT OF PARADISE" will be available for purchase at the meeting of Nov. 17. Think ahead to Christmas.. What wonderful gifts these would make!

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A CHRISTMAS EVENT will be held on Sunday December 3, 1989. This will be our final 350th Anniversary activity. Please join us at Judson House for an Open House between 3 and 5 Sunday afternoon for Christmas 1889 to see how Christmas was celebrated 100 years ago. After viewing Judson House we will have a reception at the Christ Church Parish Hall across the street.

If you are interested in baking for this special event, please call Judy Kurmay (378-8025) or Bonnie Paradise (377-2332).

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1990 CALENDARS with their scenes of old Stratford are now available at the Museum on Tues. & Thurs. (9-3) or by mail. The cost is again \$5.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Please direct any orders to the Post Office Box given above.

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DOCENT TRAINING will begin in January. If you are interested in learning the history of Judson House and its 18th century time period and wish to help show the House for visitors you are invited to join the docent training sessions. (A docent is a volunteer guide.) Dates have not yet been finalized. Please call either Carol Brancato (375-8187) or Betty Hanusovsky (378-4351) for further information. No previous experience or involvement with history is required.

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1989 has been a very busy year for the Stratford Historical Society. Activities directed toward the 350th Anniversary (Tricentquingenary) of the town of Stratford combined with our regular events have produced a full calendar!

We hosted large group meetings of both the Conn. League of Historical Societies and the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society in addition to having the House open for tours by school groups, scout organizations, Park City Hospital, Fairfield Historical Society, etc. In these group tours were approximately 450 students and 96 adults. Our docent volunteer hours totalled 145. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a busy and exciting year! It is important that we continue our successful efforts to present a small part of the history of our town.

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Vivienne Knapp, the editor of our cookbook of recipes of old Stratford, will be on The Fairfield Exchange television program on Tues., Nov. 21 sometime between noon and 1:00 pm. She has been asked to cook a few of the recipes from the cookbook which might be suitable for the holiday season. This is a Cablevision program which is seen on CH 12. Lewis Knapp was on the same program several weeks ago speaking about his book "In Pursuit of Paradise".

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In addition to the Nov. 17 meeting of the Society, there will be other opportunities for purchasing "In Pursuit of Paradise", the cookbook and the calendar for 1990. The Society will have a table at the Nov. 12 Harvest Fair sponsored by the Stratford Women's Club at the Armory from 10 to 5. Also, the volumes will be available at the Sterling House Christmas Craft Show on Sat. & Sun. Nov. 25 & 26 at the Baldwin Center.

Books will also continue to be available in the Museum Office (behind Judson House) on Tues. & Thurs. from 9 to 2:30. Since Judson House is now closed to visiting until mid-April 1990 the Wed., Sat. & Sun. sales days have concluded.

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I hope that you were able to visit both Judson House and the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum this year. One of your membership benefits, of course, is free admission to both buildings. The figures for the numbers of visitors to Judson House were not available at the time of the printing of this letter. They will appear in the January newsletter.

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NEW MEMBERS have joined the Society during this year and are most welcome. There are volunteer opportunities with which you may wish to become involved. Please contact us at 378-0630 for conversations regarding your interests and our needs. Remember that the Society is dependent upon volunteers for its success.

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Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of the Officers of the Society who were elected on Sept. 15. Since that time, Velmore Spamer, Assistant Treasurer, has passed away. Now filling the position is Mrs. Rosamond Dustin (Elden). It is the Assistant Treasurer who is in charge of contributions to the Book of Remembrance.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE Book of Remembrance have been received as follows:

In Memory of:

Donald W. Fowler

Wm. Howard Wilcoxson

Mrs. Tillie McCune

Velmore B. Spamer

Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. Hildreth Winton

Mrs. Einar Larson

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DiMenno

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Calkins

Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Lovell, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Irving Dobkin

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Barnish

Mrs. Morton Judd

Jane F. T. Lafferty

Mr. & Mrs. John S. Richardson

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Calkins

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Sherry

Mr. & Mr. Hiram Tindall

Mrs. Margaret Ross

Fifth District Court, Dallas, TX

Mr. & Mrs. William Carroll

Mr. & Mrs. David Bramen

Mr. Bert Calkins

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tamas

Mrs. H. B. VanGiesen, Jr.

Royden Pratt

Mr. & Mrs. William Bercowitz

Mrs. Jean K. Wilcoxson

Mrs. Nelson Camp

Family Dental Group

Robert Edwards

Ernest E. Machabel

Margaret Jacaruso

Mrs. Donald W. Fowler

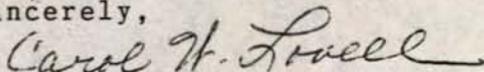
Dorothy Gamble

Mr. & Mrs. William Rutan

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Please mark the following dates on your calendar for our 1990 meetings: Jan. 26 (The Amistead Incident), Mar. 23 (Wallpaper in America), May 18 (Christopher Collier-CT State Historian).

Sincerely,



Mrs. Todd B. Lovell, President

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OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS  
 Nominated for  
 THE STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1989 - 1990

President	Mrs. Carol Lovell (Todd)
First Vice President	Mr. Vincent Hardy
Second Vice President	Mrs. Bonnie Paradise (Dean)
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Kay Moore (Joseph)
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Elizabeth Hanusovsky (John)
Treasurer	Mr. Donald Calkins
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Velmore Spamer
Immediate Past President	Mr. John Sober

Directors

1 Year	Miss Jane Lafferty
1 Year	Mr. David Wiggin
2 Years	Mrs. Mary Hardy (Vincent)
3 Years	Mr. Jack Wardman

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Accessions/Inventory	Mrs. Muriel Cumpstone (Robert)
Buildings	Mr. Howard Smith
Education Co-chairpersons	(Mrs. Carol Brancato (Alfred) (Mrs. Elizabeth Hanusovsky (John))
Exhibits	Mr. George C. Lay
Finance	Mr. Peter Dahl
Grounds/Gardens	(Mr. Vincent Hardy
Co-chairpersons	(Mrs. Helen Chagares (Constantine) (Mr. Elden Dustin
History	Mrs. Judith Kurmay (Paul)
Hospitality	Mrs. Sophie Lounsbury (Howard)
Hosts/Hostesses	Mrs. Catherine Lawrence (Stephen)
League Delegates	(Mr. Raymond Cable (Mrs. Lillian Larson (Einar) (Mrs. Margaret VanGieson (Henry) Mrs. Lillian Larson (Einar) Mr. Joseph Moore Mrs. Selma Dobkin (Irving) Mr. Lewis G. Knapp
Library	(Mrs. Dorothy Euerle (Wilbur)
Membership	(Miss Margaret Jacaruso
Nominating	(Mr. Robert Cumpstone
Program	(Mr. Stanley Ochman
Publicity Co-chairpersons	
Ways and Means	
Co-chairpersons	

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Mrs. Irving Dobkin, Chairperson	
Mr. Vincent Hardy	Mr. Howard Lounsbury
Mrs. Judith Kurmay	Mr. Hiram Tindall
Miss Jane Lafferty	Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson