



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

January 1990

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Friday, January 26, 1990, 8:00PM  
Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall  
2000 Main Street

### "THE AMISTAD INCIDENT"

In August 1839, the schooner Amistad dropped anchor off Long Island.  
Over the next several months

Henry Green tried to seize the vessel as a prize.

Lieutenant Thomas Gedney filed a salvage claim in admiralty court.  
Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montes claimed the 53 blacks aboard the vessel  
belonged to them, as slaves.

Joseph Cinque insisted he was kidnapped from his Mende homeland in  
Sierra Leone, Africa.

President Martin Van Buren exceeded his presidential powers by  
attempting to return the blacks to the Spanish authorities.

Ex-president John Quincy Adams fought the government as lawyer for  
Cinque and his group.

Judge Andrew Judson surprised the court by ruling in favor of  
Cinque and his friends.

Lewis Beers and Asa Seymour Curtis of the Stratford Anti-Slavery  
Society must have helped raise money for the abolitionist  
cause.

The journey of the Amistad was extraordinary; the Amistad trial was  
even more so. It fired the zeal of abolitionists that led to civil war  
in this nation "conceived in liberty".

On Friday, January 26 at our membership meeting at the Episcopal Church,  
Richard Hudson will present a slide talk on the Amistad Incident, as it  
came to be known. Professor Hudson is professor emeritus of history at  
New England College, an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac College and at  
Post College, and a docent of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.  
His talk was planned by the society in commemoration of the 150th  
anniversary of the event.

All membership meetings of the Stratford Historical Society are open  
to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE have been received as follows:

In Memory of Donald Fowler

Velmore Spamer

Given by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dahl

Mr. & Mrs. Elden Dustin

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dahl

Mrs. Betty Sanders

Mrs. Janette Fichtel

Mr. Albert Hansen

(OVER)

Book of Remembrance (continued)

In Memory of:

Given by:

Fred Wilcoxson

Stratford Firefighters

Her father and brother

Ruth Beardsley Parker

Donald W. Fowler

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bradbury

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Bonnie Paradise, chairman of our successful "Christmas 1889" celebration in December wishes everyone a healthy and happy new year. Even though 1990 is here, "Christmas 1889" will not be forgotten. Bonnie and her co-chair Judy Kurmay wish also to thank everyone who baked, participated and attended our Victorian Christmas on Dec. 3. More than 400 people visited Judson House and participated in the "social" held across the street at Christ Church Parish Hall.

The Society wishes to express thanks to Bonnie and her entire committee for an event which will not soon be forgotten..a fitting climax to our celebration of Stratford's 350th anniversary (Tri-centquingenary)!

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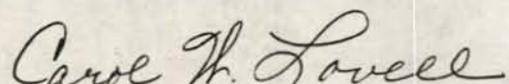
DOCENT TRAINING will begin on Thursday Feb. 1, 1990 and extend through Thursday March 22, 1990. Classes will be held at the Judson House and/or the Museum from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Co-chairmen Carol Brancato (375-8187) and Betty Hanusovsky (378-4351) have planned an interesting series of talks, lectures and trips.

A Docent is a volunteer guide who is trained in the interesting historical aspects of life during the period of Judson House and during Stratford's later history. Docents give guided tours to school groups, scout groups, senior citizen groups and also to other groups who have made tour arrangements. If you are interested in being a docent or in learning more about Judson House and its place in the history of our town, please call either Carol or Betty and tell them that you would like to attend the training sessions. You will be warmly welcomed.

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THE ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW will be held on April 7, 1990. Connie Guggenheim will again be our Manager. Remember that the Society always has a booth of items for sale..which have been donated by the membership. Some of our members who are planning to move from their current residences have begun to bring donations to the Museum. If you have items you wish to donate, please bring them to the Museum on Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 and 2:00 weekly. If you have items you would like to have picked up at your house, please call Bonnie Paradise (377-2332) or Hiram Tindall (378-0630 or 377-7361) to make arrangements. Remember also that "almost anything sells" for the benefit of the Society. This event is one which involves many people. If you wish to be involved call the Society at 378-0630.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Todd B. Lovell, President