



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

September, 1990

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday, Sept. 28, 1990--8:00 PM--Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main St.

The sixty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society will include a brief business meeting during which Mrs. Irving Dobkin, Nominating Committee Chair, will present for election the officers for 1990-1991. Following the installation of officers Program Chair Lewis Knapp will present the program:

"Songs from Capt. Barrymore's Glee Book"

For most of our country's history, people expressed themselves in song. It was entertainment, but education and communication, too. There were folk songs, sea songs, railroad and canal songs and patriotic songs to sing. In the 1800s patriotic songs gave birth to political campaign songbooks. Capt. William Barrymore, commander to Union blockaders in the Civil War, had such a book. It was written in 1856, when the new Republican Party nominated General John Fremont for president. The first song in it is Fremont and Liberty; air Star Spangled Banner. (An 1815 songbook we own includes The Star Spangled Banner; tune Anacreon in Heaven.)

RICK SPENCER collects, sings and composes traditional American folk songs. He plays banjo, concertina, dulcimer, mandolin, pennywhistle and bones. If you were at Mystic Seaport in June for the Eleventh Annual Sea Music Festival, you heard him with the Forebitter group of chanteymen. Rick writes, "If you want to know what the average, everyday people felt...about the...events of their day...the most engaging, fascinating, and insightful sources are their songs and stories."

When we sent Rick a copy of Cap. Barrymore's Glee Book, and asked if he would give our program on September 28, he and his wife Susan immediately set to work arranging and interpreting the music. It will be a unique and thrilling experience to listen to songs not sung for 130 years. Join us!

P.S. We don't know how effective the captin's glee book was, but Stratford voted 208 for Fremont, 175 for Buchanan, and 14 for Fillmore. Fremont carried eleven states, but Buchanan swept the South and won the election.

Lewis Knapp, Program Chair

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