



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

January 1991

Next General Membership Meeting: Friday, Jan. 25, 1991 - 8:00PM  
Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street

THE MAGIC OF VICTORIAN AMERICA by Terry Borton

Back in the 1880s, before there were motion pictures and long before there was television, a popular form of entertainment was the Magic Lantern Show. It combined a melodramatic plot, live actors and pictures flashed on a wall by an optical projector using transparent slides.

The excellence of the slides by Joseph Boggs Beale, America's foremost magic lantern slide artist at the turn of the century, is what makes the show outstanding. His technique was to paint a black-and-white print in photographic emulsion to a clear glass plate. Colors were painted on the image before it was covered by a second glass plate and framed in wood.

Terry Borton first learned about the magic lantern from his family where his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had been interested. He has found that it still makes a good show. In the program, Mr. Borton sometimes is the storyteller or actor. The audience participates by providing sound effects when requested.

Public enthusiasm for the magic lantern shows surprised Mr. Borton because the shows had been mostly a hobby. His occupation is editor-in-chief at Field Publications in Middletown which publishes Weekly Reader. His wife, Deborah, who assists in his magic lantern shows, is the principal of Valley View Elementary School in Portland.

At the close of the formal program, Mr. Borton will show some local Stratford slides prepared by Frederick Beach about one hundred years ago. Also on display will be Mr. Beach's projector which is from the collection of the Stratford Historical Society, as are the slides.

This most unusual program has created much interest. Phone calls have been received from New Haven and Darien from persons wishing to attend. This should be an excellent way to celebrate the end of January. Bring your friends for an evening of THE MAGIC OF VICTORIAN AMERICA. Refreshments will be served following the program.

(OVER)



Docent Training Classes will begin on Feb. 7 and continue for 8 weeks. This is an opportunity to learn more about Judson House and Stratford. Call Carol Brancato at 375-8187 or Betty Hanusovsky at 378-4351.

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We have received notice from Probate Court that the Stratford Historical Society is named among other beneficiaries in the Will of recently deceased member, Hilda Trainor.

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Our Flora's fame seems to be spreading. This past year she has been exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and at the Brooklyn Museum. She received very favorable coverage in the New York Times for these shows. Now she will appear in an educational film being made for Gunston Hall Museum, the home of George Mason who was very important in the early years of our nation. Gunston Hall is located in Virginia. Also, she will appear in an about-to-be published book, African American Expressions.

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The Stamford and Greenwich Historical Societies and the Connecticut Ancestry Society are sponsoring a Genealogy Seminar on Saturday, February 23, 1991 in Greenwich. If you are interested, please call the Stratford Historical Society on Tuesday or Thursday - or leave a message on the tape for additional information.....378-0630

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The 30th Annual Antique Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th at Baldwin Center. Please keep this in mind as you clean out. Remember especially repairable chairs, trunks, chests, etc. as well as bric-a-brac. For pick-up call Bonnie Paradise at 377-2332 or Hy Tindall at 377-7361.

ATTENDANCE REPORT - April --- October, 1990

<u>WALK-INS.</u>	<u>TOURS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Adults . . . 272 . . . . .	67	
Students . . . 70 . . . . .	334	
<u>342</u>	<u>401</u>	. . . . . 743
Admission Fees..457.50	401.00	
Donations 33.00	14.00	
Sales <u>171.15</u>	<u>590.60</u>	
\$661.65	\$1,005.60	. . . . . \$1,667.25

We thank the 154 Volunteers who made this season possible.

Report of Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson and Mrs. Alfred Brancata

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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- April 6th . . . . . Antique Show
- April 17th . . . . . Official Opening -1991
- April 27th . . . . . Open House Celebration
- July 14th . . . . . Summer Craft Show

*Vincent L. Hardy*

Vincent L. Hardy, President  
Stratford Historical Society