



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 1991

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Friday, November 22, 1991--8:00 PM  
Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall  
2000 Main St., Stratford

### PROGRAM TOPIC:

#### VOYAGE OF THE ANT:

A Stone Age quest in a birchbark canoe  
built with tools of stone and bone

Several summers ago James Dina, of South Windsor, launched into the Connecticut River a birchbark canoe called Ant which he had made using stone tools. He completed the arduous trip against both wind and current to the headwaters of the river in Canada. But his real adventure had begun long before, when he determined to rediscover the world of the Indians who once paddled these waters.

He started by making his own flint knives and basalt axes using Indian techniques. After harvesting native materials, he built his birchbark canoe, carved paddles, fired clay pots, and wove baskets. His M.I.T. engineering degree was not enough: many of the special skills of Stone Age peoples had been lost, forcing him to reinvent their technology. He set off with nothing made in the 20th century which was not made by himself. The only food he carried was a little dried beef and some dried corn.

During his voyage he lived as the Native Americans did before the Europeans arrived: digging roots, catching fish on bark line with bone hooks, starting fire without matches, living at one with nature ...truly recreating the spirit of forgotten ages.

As well as narrating a vivid slide presentation, Mr. Dina will bring along a pack basket of the artifacts which he made for use on the voyage.

The story of the VOYAGE OF THE ANT combined with Mr. Dina's description of the 20th century's reaction to him will make this a uniquely entertaining and instructional program.

THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.  
Refreshments will be served following the program.

Carol W. Lovell, Program Chair

OVER

BUILDING FUND

Shortly you will be receiving letters regarding a building fund. With the bequest from the estate of Edna Viner, plus a very generous gift from a member, we have a good start. There will be opportunity to make memorial gifts, or gifts honoring relatives.

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BUILDING COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

The committee, under the direction of chairman, Todd Lovell, is hard at work on the plans for the addition to the museum. Bids on all aspects of the addition have gone out.

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SHAKER VILLAGE TRIP

There are still a few openings for the Shaker Village trip. If you are interested, please contact Carol Lovell, 375-3569.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will present its report at the annual meeting on September 27th, at which time voting will take place, during the business portion of the meeting.

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STRATFORD HELICOPTER MUSEUM

A note of interest to all of our members. The Stratford Helicopter museum, at the South Side Railroad Station in Stratford will host an open house on Sunday, October 6th from 1 pm to 4 pm. All are invited to visit their new location.

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GIFTS

Ruth Beardsley Parker of Dewitt, N.Y. has just made a gift of \$100.00 to the Beardsley fund, which she established in honor of her father and brother -- T.R. and H.R. Beardsley.

The Probate Court has notified the Society that we are to receive the Stratford Indian Collection of Franz Goldbach, a member, who died recently. Many of the artifacts used in our permanent exhibit are gifts of Franz Goldbach.

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WILCOXSON HISTORY BOOKS

The Stratford Historical Society will be pleased to purchase, for re-sale, any Wilcoxson History of Stratford books for \$90.00. We receive frequent requests for this very valuable book which is out of print.

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EARLY AMERICAN FESTIVAL

The Early American Festival held on the grounds of Judson House last July 14th was a wonderful success. Thank you to all who participated in any capacity

FOR SALE

There are available for sale two (2) sets of four (4) Pewter Plates each, of Stratford by P. Scott Andrews -- the Lighthouse - Judson House - the Railroad Station and Boothe Park. If you are interested please contact Elden Dustin - 378-5997 or Mary Hardy - 375-4230 for further information.

There is also for sale one (1) pewter plate of Judson House, by the same artist. If interested, please contact Lillian Larson, 929-6120.

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Contributions to the Book of Remembrance have been made as follows:

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given by</u>
M/M William E. Bassett	Stanley Bassett
Franz Goldbach	Hiram Tindall

Sincerely,

*Vincent L. Hardy*

Vincent Hardy, President  
Stratford Historical Society