



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Friday, March 27, 1992--8:00pm
Christ Episcopal Church Hall
2000 Main Street

PROGRAM: BLACK STRATFORDITES---THEIR MARK ON HISTORY .
Lewis G. Knapp, Town Historian

Traditional historians have consistently neglected or distorted the role of black Americans in developing our nation. Revisionist historians are equally at fault, exaggerating events to build a negro heritage. The true story lies in-between.

There is a hidden history of black residents of Stratford. Records are sparse, but show a centuries-long evolution of the black community toward liberty, well-being, and human dignity. From history books and documents, town land and probate records, court records, biographies and diaries, from word of mouth--even from cemeteries--Town Historian Lewis Knapp has pieced together a story of our black citizens and their contributions to our town and country.

Come to the March 27th meeting and hear the stories of the wench Flora and other slaves, of black patriots in the Revolution, of Jack Arabas's court battle for freedom, of Mrs. Lovejoy's little ward, Hagar, and of Little Mack the shellerman. Hear about Joshua Leavitt and the abolitionists, and of Boss White in the 29th Regiment's fight for glory in the Civil War. Find out how the oldest Baptist church in Fairfield County began. Know Bill Freeman, skilled chauffeur, mechanic and dairyman, and his daughter Susan, first black woman to become a commissioned officer in the Army Nursing Corps.

Lew Knapp will give his illustrated talk at Christ Episcopal Church hall on Friday, March 27, 1992 at 8:00pm. If anyone has any information to add, please contact Lew at 377-0602.

Meetings of the Stratford Historical Society are always open to the public. Please come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served following the program.

ANTIQUUE SHOW

We are still anxious to receive items for the annual Antique Show-- furniture, glassware, dishes, pictures, kitchenware, books -- almost anything. Here is an opportunity to get rid of those things you do not use that take up valuable space.

Call 378-0630 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At other times, call Bonnie Paradise at 377-2332, or Hy Tindall at 377-7361. Remember this year's show is at the David Wooster School on Lincoln Street off Nichols Avenue.

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BUILDING FUND

Total gifts to the fund as of this writing amount to \$17,259.00. Gifts have ranged from \$10.00 to more than \$1,000. Twenty-five percent of the gifts have been for \$25.00. We appreciate each and every one. Remember that each dollar given saves on a mortgage is worth \$2.60.

A number of out-of-town gifts have been received.

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BAKED GOODS

You will be receiving calls for donations for the Food Table at the annual Antique Show. Some prefer a donation of money rather than baking. This is acceptable. The Food table cleared over \$750.00 in 1991.

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KATHARINE HEPBURN

Evidently remembering Stratford pleasantly, Katharine Hepburn sent an unsolicited gift of \$250.00, which we have added to the Building Fund.

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

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

<u>GIVEN BY</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
Mrs. Julia De Angelis	Ernest France
M/M Hiram Tindall	May Wardman
M/M Joseph Moore	Ernest France
M/M Donald Calkins	May Wardman

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR THE BUILDING FUND

Contributions of Memorial Gifts to the Building Fund have been made as follows:

<u>Given By</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
M/M Lewis M. Vail	Andrew J. and Mildred Brown
Mrs. Alma Fowler	Donald W. Fowler
M/M David Wiggins	Edna Viner
Jonan School - Matsuyama, Japan	Its Founder - Cornelia Judson
Harold & Lulu Lovell	Harold & Beatrice Lovell

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

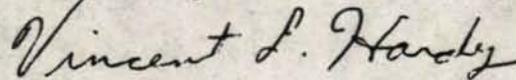
It may be of interest to know that in recent months, the State of Connecticut Historical Commission has approved three (3) home in the Stratford area for the National Register of Historic Places -- the Isaac Lewis House, 50 Paradise Green Place -- The Ephriam Wheeler house, 470 Whipporwill Lane -- The Nathan B. Booth House, 6070 Main Street.

The Building program is moving ahead -- framing is up. A new roof is being put on the old part of the building, as well as the new to keep uniform color and also to extend the time of life for both. We are now fully connected to the town sewer lines.

Some help will be needed in the future to help clean up and move things around. We will look forward to your help.

The next General Meeting will take place on May 22, 1992.

Sincerely,



Vincent Hardy, President
Stratford Historical Society