



Town Settled 1639

Society Organized 1925

The Stratford Historical Society

Box 382, Stratford, Connecticut 06497
Telephone 378-0630

January 1993

Judson House, 967 Academy Hill, Built C1750
and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, 1958

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: January 22, 1993--8:00pm
Christ Episcopal Church Hall
2000 Main St. Stratford

THE LEGACY OF MATHEW BRADY Photography in the Civil War Era

Robert Berthelson of Trumbull will present this month's slide illustrated program.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in April of 1861, the science of Photography was only 22 years old. Its history began with the introduction in Paris in 1839 of the Daguerreotype, a mirror-like image produced on a silvered copper plate.

Mathew Brady was a New York Daguerreotypist who had established his reputation as the photographer of famous people. When he opened his Washington, D.C. gallery in 1856 he expanded his operation to include the capitol's politicians and statesmen, military leaders and presidents.

When the Civil War began, Brady resolved to photograph it for posterity. He personally sent into the field as many as 20 photographic teams working in specially built wagons supplied with his own finances.

The success of his vision and keen sense of history has provided future generations with a legacy of inestimable value in the magnificent collections of glass plate negatives which have been preserved in countless museums and private collections. Two projectors are used throughout this program with a unique image blending technique to present the works of many of the Civil War photographers on both sides who recorded the great war.

OUR MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. BRING A FRIEND.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM.

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JUDSON HOUSE ATTENDANCE

The student group attendance for the 1992 season comprised 528 students and 101 adults. Non-group attendance (Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) 150 adults, 49 students and family groups comprised twelve groups, including 32 adults and 18 students.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES

Hosts and Hostesses will again be needed on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at Judson House, from mid-April through October 1993. If you can give three (3) hours of your time on any of these days, please contact Betty Applegate 377-4224. Previous volunteers are encouraged to call.

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DOCENT TRAINING

Docent training classes will begin on Wednesday, March 3, 1993, and will continue for approximately six weeks, in the Museum building from 9:30 AM to 11 AM.

Docents are given all the information necessary to show Judson House to school children, scout groups, or adult visitors. If you are interested in the history of Judson House, the Judson family, or the history of Stratford in general, why not become a docent.

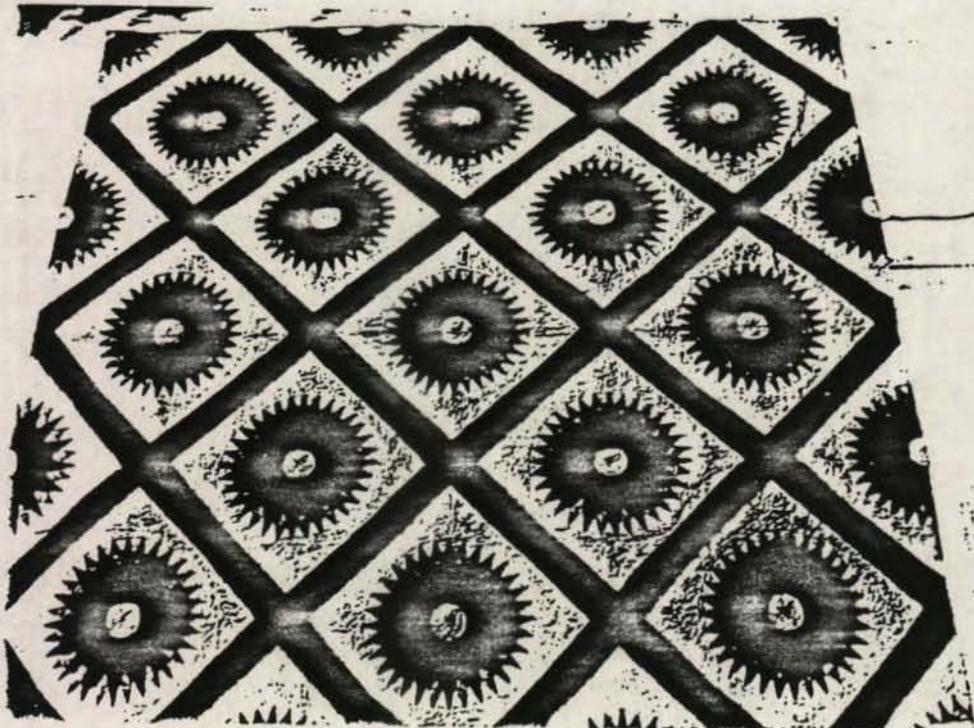
For information call Carol Brancato 375-8187, or the society at 378-0360.

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RECENT GIFT

The Stratford Historical Society was recently presented with the Curtis quilt, by the Curtis Society. It is absolutely magnificent and in excellent condition. It was made by Mary A. Beers, a Stratford woman who was a great aunt of Walter Curtis, who lived on Longbrook Avenue. It dates about 1840. In 1910 it was the winner of a quilt contest, entered by Mrs. Otis B. Curtis of Stratford. Mrs. Curtis received a check for \$100.00. The national contest was sponsored by the Goodin, Reid & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio.

PREDOMINANTLY REDS AND GREENS WITH
A WHITE BACKGROUND.



BEARDSLEY FUND

Several years ago Ruth Beardsley Parker a member from Dewitt, N.Y. established the Beardsley fund. She has recently added to this fund in memory of her father, Theodore R. Beardsley, her brother Howard R. Beardsley, her Aunt, Mary T. Beardsley Pinckney and her cousin Dwayne Beardsley.

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ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW

The one big annual fund raiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 3. It returns this year to the Baldwin Center. As usual, we will be calling for contributions for the baked goods table, and the society booth.

When looking over your unwanted treasures, please remember us. If you need someone to pick up your donations, call Bonnie Paradise, 377-2332 or Hy Tindall 377-7361. Please let us decide if your treasures are saleable.

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THANKS

The Society wishes to thank member Robert Dickgiesser for his continued generosity. His matching of Edna Viner's bequest gave us the impetus to add to the museum. Now his recent additional gift of \$25,000 insures that no borrowing will be necessary.

THANK YOU BOB!

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GRAND OPENING

There will be a formal grand opening of the new wing with new exhibits on Sunday, May 23rd. Please keep this date in mind.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (Memorials and Honorary Gifts)

Book of Remembrance:

From: Stanley W. Bassett

In memory of William E. Bassett, Arthetta Bassett and Stanley W. Bassett

BUILDING FUND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ross:

In memory of Joseph Moore

Jonan School, Matsuyama, Japan:

In memory of its founder, Cornelia Judson

FROM AN ANCIENT TOMBSTONE:

To continue with our segment on memories, etc., of 'Old Stratford'.

Here lies our wife, Samantha Proctor
Who ketch'd a cold and wouldn't doctor
She couldn't stay, she had to go
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Sincerely,

Vincent L. Hardy

Vincent Hardy, President

*Whereas
Howard Smith* has disappeared from the Academy Hill scene
and we miss him and his cigar, and

*Whereas he kept the Grounds and House
neat and orderly, and*

*Whereas he set up chairs
for the Executive Board meetings, and*

Whereas he replaced all dead light bulbs immediately, and

Whereas he took care of plumbing problems immediately, and

Whereas he "voted" junkie for the Annual Antique Shows, and

Whereas he carted things to the dump, and

*Whereas he helped the contractors as
they built the new addition, and*

Whereas when there was no one else to do it Howard did it, and

Whereas Howard left town without a proper send-off,

*The Executive Board of
Ye Olde Stratford Historical Societee
unanimously voted that we send Howard Smith
a formal vote of thanks
for his many years of faithful service.*

We miss you!