



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 1993

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday, September 24, 1993--8:00PM
Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
2000 Main Street

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Stratford Historical Society, including Election of Officers for the 1993-1994 year will be held on Friday, September 24, 1993. Following a brief business meeting, the program will feature the

SEARCH FOR THE REAL STRATFORD

Tradition says that our town is named for Shakespeare's Stratford in Warwickshire, but a 1990 search of its archives by Town Historian Lewis Knapp revealed not one name of any Stratford settler. Nor did a search of records in London's Stratford, a Thameside port of docks and sailors from the time of Chaucer, who says of his nun "and Frensh she spak ful faire and fetisly, after the scole of Stratford att Bowe."

England has many Stratfords--Fenny Stratford, Stoney Stratford, Stratford St. Mary, Stratford St. Andres--wherever a highway crosses a river. Lew is in England now, with a list of our first settlers and background data, in search of clues to their origins and the source of Stratford's name.

After a week in London scouring English genealogical records, he will tour East Anglia towns, where many of our first proprietors embarked from harbors in Essex and Suffolk. He intends to visit county records offices in Chelmsford (where Hooker preached), Ipswich (a port of embarkation), and Bury St. Edmunds, and to photograph historic places at Braintree (Hooker), Bocking, (Butler), Boxford (Coe), Boxted (Phillips), Bures (N. Knapp, first settler arrested for selling patent medicines?), Coggeshall (Nicholls), High Laver (Fairchild?), Little Baddow, Stisted, and two Stratfords.

Lew will report the results of his search in a slide talk at our annual meeting on September 24th. He will discuss historical research facilities in England, and describe the massive emigration from the shires of Essex and Suffolk in the 1630x--who came, and when and why and how. He will show scenes from the hometowns of our earliest settlers--and possibly identify which Stratford was the source.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Come, bring your friends and neighbors!

MADLYN WALTER JUDSON SALTER

A long time member of the Stratford Historical Society, Madlyn Walter Judson Slater passed away at the end of July. Mrs. Salter made many generous gifts to the Society. Very important are the wedding outfits of Edmund Judson, Sr., and Ida Atwood Judson who were married in Stratford in 1896. These are the focal point of our special exhibit "A Judson Wedding".

Mrs. Salter's husband has indicated that he will be donating several antique quilts in her memory.

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JUDSON TRUST

We recently received word that the Stratford Historical Society will be receiving a generous gift from the trust set up by Edmund Judson in 1977. Mr. Judson was a charter member of the Society.

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MOUNTAIN GROVE CEMETARY

Under the will of Katherine Judson of Kennet Square, Pa., the Stratford Historical Society has received a pembroke table, a Queen Anne chair, an antique sampler, a family Bible, and miscellaneous pictures and papers of the Wheelers. Edith Wheeler was a direct descendant of Moses Wheeler and was a former Stratford resident.

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VIRGINIA MUSSLER

Since the last newsletter we have received word of the death of Virginia Mussler. Mrs. Mussler was the first chairman -- in the 1950's we did not say "Chairperson" -- of the Hostesses. She served from the 1950's until 1974. It was during this time that the present Docent system evolved. We were most fortunate to have this gracious, competent dedicated member.

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JUDSON HOUSE CLOSING

A reminder -- Judson House closes for the season at the end of October. If you have not visited the special exhibits -- A Judson Wedding -- Stratford Quilts -- or One Hundred Years of Stratford Post Cards, here is your chance.

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BUILDING COMMITTEE

It is with deep appreciation that we at this time disband the Building Committee. They did a fine and admirable job and were very dedicated in their efforts. We are truly grateful to them for all of their expertise.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Please mark your calendars with the dates of the Stratford Historical Society 1993-1994 meetings.

The dates are as follows: September 24, 1993 - November 19, 1993 - January 23, 1994 - March 25, 1994 - May 27, 1994

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PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

The Stratford Historical Society is planning a Pumpkin Festival to take place on Sunday, October 17. There will be a pumpkin carving contest for the youngsters -- refreshments, including our famous Ham and Corn Chowder -- there will be Craft people displaying and working on their crafts. There will be many pumpkin goodies to purchase -- cookies pies, breads, etc. Please come and have a fun family day.

We will, of course, need help and would appreciate your contacting Mary Hardy, chairman 375-4230 if you can help in any way.

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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>
Joseph Janucik	Velmore Spamer
Margaret Jacaruso	Virginia Mussler
Rosamond and Elden Dustin	Virginia Mussler
Jack Wardman	Mae Wardman
Betty S. Johnson	Howard Smith
Marilyn Gardner	Joseph Moore
M/M Charles H. Lucke, Jr.	Howard Smith
Margaret VanGieson	Madlyn Judson Salter
Nancy & Donald Calkins	Madlyn Judson Salter
Vivienne & Lewis Knapp	Madlyn Judson Salter
Lillian Larson	Madlyn Judson Salter
Nancy & Robert Goodrich	Madlyn Judson Salter
Joyce & Richard Slater	Madlyn Judson Salter

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<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Honor of</u>
Selma & Irving Dobkin	Birthday of David Wiggin

Sincerely,
Vincent L. Hardy
Vincent Hardy, President