



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

March 1995

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Friday, March 24, 1995-8:00pm
Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main St., Stratford

THE OLD FLAG

A Yankee Newspaper in a Confederate Prison Camp

Robert Berthelson, of Trumbull, will present this slide illustrated lecture of life in Camp Ford, a Confederate prison camp near Tyler, Texas in 1863.

Capt. William H. May of Company I of the 23rd Connecticut Volunteer Infantry was guarding the New Orleans and Opelousas Railway not far from Baton Rouge, Louisiana when, on June 23, 1863, they were captured by a large force of Confederate troops.

For 13 months Capt. May and his fellow officers, interred at Camp Ford, were forced to make the best of a most unpleasant situation. To help while away the hours, Capt. May made use of his previous experience as a newspaper publisher in Bridgeport, CT, to print, entirely by hand, three issues of a four page newspaper he called "The Old Flag".

After being read by, or to, every member of the camp, the paper was returned to Capt. May who preserved it sewn into the shoulder straps of his uniform coat. In 1914, the fiftieth anniversary of his imprisonment, the paper was reproduced in a memorial book by May's comrades of the Elias Howe Jr. Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Bob Berthelson is a member of the Professional Photographers of New England, a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies, State Historian of the Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution, a past president of the Civil War Round Table of South Central Connecticut and a past president of the Connecticut Post Card Club.

This meeting is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please bring a friend.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

DOCENT TRAINING classes began on March 9, but it is NOT TOO LATE to join the group. If you would like to learn about Judson House, the history of Stratford, antique furnishings, etc. and would enjoy sharing this knowledge with groups of adults or school children who visit Judson House, this is the program for you! Call the Society, 378-0630, or Carol Brancato, 375-8187, for further information or to register. Classes will continue each Thursday through April. There will be a "field trip" to a Connecticut historic site. Your Society needs volunteers in this area. Please consider giving a bit of your time.

Our annual ANTIQUE SHOW is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 1995 at the Baldwin Center. Those members who are in the greater Stratford area have found a discount card in this mailing.

Please call 378-0630 if you have items to donate to the Society Booth. The office will be open, as usual, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for donations. It would be helpful if you could schedule your donation with the office.

If you wish, you may send a monetary donation to the Society at the address in the letterhead. Please mark it Antique Show. This event is our major fund-raiser of the year. Please help.

You may receive a telephone call requesting donations for the Baked Goods table. Please try to respond. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE contributions have been received as follows:

Given by:	In Memory of:
Ellen McFarland	Robert Graves

The following persons contributed In Memory of Alma Fowler:

Sonya Taritz Schopick	M/M Donald Calkins
Beatrice G. Grimm	M/M Charles Karpus
M/M Hiram Tindall	Edna T. Bird
Lillian E. McGibbon	Gladys R. France
Jane Lafferty	Margaret Jacaruso
Dorothea DeVault	Esther Wojtul
M/M Harry Wilcoxson	M/M Paul Kurmay
M/M Constantine Chagares	M/M H. Beach
M/M Harold C. Lovell, Jr.	M/M James McCullough
Mrs. Velmore Spamer	Ms. Bette Johnson
M/M Ernest Stone	Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson
Freda M. Chapman	M/M Todd Lovell
M/M David Jenney	Harriet Rawson
M/M Irving Dobkin	Mrs. Robert Fisher
Mrs. Einar Larson	Dr/M Alan Fanslow
M. Louise Miller	M/M Richard Holdt
Anna B. Hogan	M/M Elden Dustin

JUDSON House will open for the 1995 season on Wednesday, May 3 and will be open on Wed., Sat., and Sun. from 11:00AM to 4:00PM with the last tour at 3:00PM. The cost will remain at \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students under 16 years of age.

Group tours (scouts, clubs, school groups, etc.) may be scheduled for other week days by calling Carol Brancato at 375-8187.

HOSTS & HOSTESSES are being scheduled for the 1995 season at Judson House. If you can give three hours of your time on a Wed., Sat., or Sun. (12N to 3:00PM) to be present in Judson House to greet visitors, collect entrance fees and generally assist the guides, please call Mrs. Betty Applegate at 377-4224. These volunteer hours are greatly appreciated. No previous knowledge of Judson House is required. Feel free to sign up for more than one day during the season which runs through October. Many thanks!

Next General Membership Meeting: May 26, 1995.

Judy Kurmay,
President