



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

January 1996

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Friday, Jan, 26, 1996--8:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church Hall, 2000 Main St., Stratford

“CONNECTICUT CHANGES: A LOOK AT THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY”

Nicholas Bellantoni, CT State Archeologist, Speaker

Do you know Connecticut's Industrial Archeology? Nicholas Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archeologist, well-known in Southwestern Connecticut and long-time friend of the Stratford Historical Society, will be with us Friday, January 26, 1996.

This year he has gathered information about the area's industrial past and we can hear him relate this background to events surrounding us today.

“Nick” is eminently qualified in his field having obtained his undergraduate and Master's degrees (Magna Cum Laude) in Anthropology at Central CT State College and a doctorate in Anthropology at University of CT. Many years of research and analytical experience combined with his university teaching and writing, have merited his current position as State Archeologist at the CT State Museum of Natural History in Storrs.

We look forward to his enthusiastic presentation of industry's changes so plan to come to welcome his return as speaker at this meeting.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

STRATFORD'S WILLOW TREES CAME FROM ALONG THE ENGLISH RIVER THAMES--When in England, he, Samuel Johnson of Stratford Connecticut, first president of Columbia College, saw (Alexander) Pope, who gave him cuttings from his Twickenham Willow. These he brought from the banks of the Thames and planted on the wilder borders of his own beautiful river the Housatonic, which at Stratford enters the Sound. They were probably the progenitors of all the Weeping Willows which are seen in this part of the country where they rapidly grow to a size which I have never seen them attain in any other part of the world." William Cullen Bryant Orations and Addresses. Pope, who wrote "A little learning is a dangerous thing", died in 1744 so this must have occurred in 1722-23 when Johnson was in England.

ALMA FOWLER BEQUEST--The Society has just received a check for \$5,000, a bequest from Alma Fowler's estate. Mrs. Fowler was a long time very active member of the Society.

STRATFORD GIRL ATHLETES--The Raybestos Brakettes aren't the first Stratford girls with athletic prowess! Recently member Louis Snyder gave us the adjacent photo of his mother Agnes T. Snyder in her early 1900 tennis garb. She won a silver loving cup (which he donated) won by her for winning the tennis singles in 1917 at the Weatogue Club, the forerunner of the present Mill River Country Club.



RECENT GIFT--Robert Weathered of Stratford recently presented the Society with a beautifully mounted section of track taken from the Stratford Avenue street car line, along with two spikes. The track was recently removed during construction on Stratford Avenue. The trolley system was last used in 1937.

ANTIQUE SHOW--This year's antique show is scheduled for Saturday April 13, 1996. We are willing to pick up items at any time so please keep us in mind. If you have chairs, chests or items needing repair or refinishing we like to get them early. Call 378-0630. If we are not in, leave a message. We take almost anything including books.

LIFE MEMBER--Mrs. J.O.(Doris) Carson who for many years was very active in the Society passed away recently. We are most appreciative of her many years of service and extend our sympathy to her husband also a life member.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE--Contributions have been made as follows:

Given by
Mr and Mrs Hiram Tindall
Ruth Beardsley Parker
(Beardsley Fund)

In memory of
Mrs Stillman Munger
Her father and brother,
T.B. and H.R. Beardsley

PLEASE NOTE: If it should be necessary to cancel the Jan. 26th General Membership Meeting because of inclement weather, please listen to radio station WICC for details.

Judith Kurmay, President