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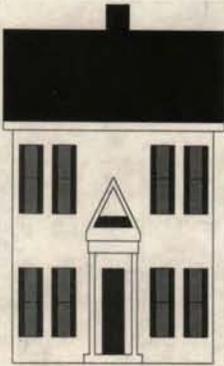
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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

A Hand on the PAST >> An Eye to the FUTURE

Volume II Issue 5

Sept 99  
May 1998



## NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, May 22, 1998-8:00 pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street Stratford

### “A Look at 18th Century Connecticut Architecture”

**Karin Peterson**

**Associate Director-Curator**

**Antiquarian and Landmarks Society**

A native of Washington, D.C., Karin Peterson came to Connecticut in 1986 to work for the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society where she presently fills the combined position of Associate Director and Curator. As such she oversees the organization's thirteen historic properties, nine of which are open as museum sites, and is directly responsible for the Society's artifact collections.

Karin has an undergraduate degree in archaeology from Beloit College in Wisconsin and worked for the Nation Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation before deciding to come indoors. She has a master degree in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and after completing a year's internship at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware, worked for Historic Annapolis, Inc., and the Historical Society of Delaware.

Karin has continued to expand her background by attending the Museum Management Program at the University of Colorado in Boulder and several European programs sponsored by the Attingham Summer School.

Ms Peterson has carefully selected slides of twelve subjects for their unusual architecture. They are all in Connecticut, of the 18th Century and not generally open to the public.

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*Coming Event...  
Early American  
Festival...  
Saturday,  
September 26,  
1998*

The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

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## A Word From The Vice-President

Thanks to Bette Johnson and Hi Tindall for acting so quickly to reschedule our General Meeting speakers after the cancelled January meeting. They succeeded in retaining them all and moving each one meeting ahead. Also, much thanks to Dick Blake, who is not only painting our new decoy exhibition case but is also building name card stands and a large display platform for the upcoming flag exhibit.

The 10 House Committee is circulating the 10 House brochures throughout Connecticut and is developing programs to promote our societies and programs. Coastal Fairfield County Tourism has offered the assistance of its advertising agency in this effort. Did you see the full page 10 House presentation in their Winter Events Calendar? The calendar was inserted in all the local papers.

Our Judson House brochure will be included in a special New England Summer Tour Package which AAA is preparing for its members. The package will be available in April.

Hundreds of books have been donated for the Antique Show book sale. This is an important source of funds for us. Anyone wishing to help sort, please call the office (378-0630). (You will also get first choice of the books.)

We have many events planned for the coming season. I hope you will all participate.

John Calhoun

## Children's History Camp

From July 6th through 10th, a special group of children will travel back to the 1700's as part of the 2nd Summer History Camp. It will be a week filled with activities designed to bring alive Stratford's past. Among the many projects planned are butter and candle making, quill pen writing, beadwork and Indian sign language. While touring Judson House they will see how our forebears cooked and did household chores.

On graduation, the young people will become part of the Junior Historical Society, and those who wish can become guides in future Society programs. Last year's graduates took part in the September Early American Festival, the Milford Peddler's Fair and the National Children's Day at Sikorsky Airport in October.

Any young person old enough to enter the third grade in September, 1998 is eligible. For information call Sandy (377-2158), Cindy (378-3747) or the office (378-0630).

## Antique Show

Saturday, April 18th is the date for the Antique Show.

Please put aside articles you wish to donate. We are eager to receive all salable items: glassware, china, kitchen ware, rugs, pictures and picture frames, books, jewelry, bric-brac, tinware, etc. If you have items needing repair, we must receive them promptly. Let us decide whether your treasures should be thrown out. If you need items picked up, please call the office, 378-0630, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9am to 2pm.

*The Antique Show is our major fund raiser, your donations are gratefully appreciated.*

## Red, White & Blue – Book of Remembrance

Members are now working Tuesdays and Thursdays inspecting and organizing the items to be used in this new exhibit to be presented in the Museum in June.

Entitled "Red, White & Blue," it will feature the Society's extensive collection of flags. Beginning with our 17 star 1812 flag, flags will be arranged chronologically noting the state entering the union with each additional star. The exhibit will show the development of the American flag from early handmade banners with individuality through its development and standardization.

The flags will illustrate that through much of the 19th century flags were handmade and varied greatly as to proportion and arrangement.

In the center of the room, on a raised platform, will be the 10 x 16 foot Confederate flag in red, white and blue captured by Stratford's Captain William Barrymore on the blockade runner "Julia" in Charleston harbor in 1862.

With the flags will be a 20 foot ship's pennant of 1862 in red, white and blue. The exhibit will include bunting, patriotic banners, badges and posters.

This will be an exhibit not to be missed.

### Judson House Herb Garden

#### DO YOU ENJOY GARDENING?

We are looking for volunteers to help get the herb garden at Judson House into shape. You do not have to have a knowledge of herbs, just a willingness to devote some time to the maintenance of this project. If you are interested, please call Sandy Rutkowski at 377-2158 for more information.

The following persons have contributed in memory of Mr. Irving Dobkin:

Esther Wojtul  
Hiram Tindall  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lovell  
Mr. & Mrs Howard Lounsbury  
Mrs. Betty Applegate  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Lovell  
Ms. Eleanor Anton

Irving Dobkin, known to all as "Dobby" was a longtime Stratford resident. He opened Dobby's Men's Shop in Stratford Center in 1938 and served his customers for 50 years until his retirement in 1988. He was the greatnephew of Sir John Franklin, British Explorer, who opened up many sea routes for Britain.

### Mrs. Evelyn Harvey

Mrs. Evelyn Harvey died recently in New Hampshire. Mrs. Harvey and her husband Manning Harvey, Jr., a former President of the Stratford Historical Society, were both long time members. A former Home Economics teacher, Mrs. Harvey researched and was responsible for the hanging on the Canopy bed in the Parlor Chamber of Judson House.

### Coming Events

Docent Training in March  
Antique Fair - April 18th  
Judson House Open - Saturday,  
May 23rd  
Flag Exhibit - June  
Children's Summer Camp-July 6-10  
Early American Festival-Saturday,  
September, 26

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*A Giant Step for  
Mankind:*

*The flag that flew  
on the moon in  
July 1969 was  
made of metal. It  
needed to  
withstand  
bombardment by  
rock and dust  
particles.*

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## Soldiers and Sailors Monument

In 1889 the Town of Stratford celebrated its 250th Anniversary with a great celebration. The most lasting evidence of this celebration, however, is the Soldiers and Sailors Monument which still stands on Academy Hill today.

In June of 1885 twenty-seven Stratford veterans held a meeting in the town hall "for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization whose aim and object shall be to cement the bond of union between the veterans of the town, and to take the initial steps towards erecting a suitable monument to the memory of the deceased soldiers and sailors who represented the town in the rebellion." The result was the formation of the Stratford Veteran Association with the common objective to commemorate the veterans of the great war and promote the idea of a monument.

A Citizen's Monument Association was formed to help the veterans raise the needed funds. Fred Benjamin, not a veteran but the richest man in town, presided. The money would be raised by selling memberships in the CMA. It didn't work. By the end of 1887 they had collected just a hundred dollars. It was decided to hold a fair. The committee of ten prominent men enlisted lady volunteers whose "response was of a character to convince the most skeptical of their loyalty and zeal. Busy hands soon fashioned the intricate pieces of needlework without which the ideal and popular fair would be impossible, and before the day fixed upon for the beginning of the fair had arrived a bewildering array of every description were placed at the disposal of the Committee." The

week-long fair, held in April, 1888, was a rousing success. Governor Lounsbury came, Colonel Watson of the 4th Regiment was there, and most important, hundreds of buyers came. There was now \$2200 for the monument.

On September 22, 1888 a five-member committee was formed to look into celebrating the Quarto-Millennial Anniversary of the founding of the town. A grand plan for townwide celebration was set in motion and it was voted to spend a thousand dollars to make it happen.

On April 19, 1889, the Veteran Association voted to have the Monument Bronze Company, a foundry in East Bridgeport, provide the monument.

In October, 1889, Stratford celebrated its 250th year. There was a "Grand Illumination," a large parade, historical tableaux, identification of historic sites, decoration of public buildings and private homes with flags, banners and bunting, and a large "Loan Exhibit" of historical artifacts which was held in the old Town Hall in Stratford Center.

On October 3, 1889 dedication of Stratford's Soldiers and Sailors Monument took place. The total cost of the monument was \$3700, in stark contrast to its repair in 1987 which took over a year and cost more than \$100,000.

There are now three additional monuments on Academy Hill in memory of all Veterans who served in all wars and conflicts of the United States. In the 1960's, a Veterans Memorial was placed on the Town Hall green.

## Super Bowl-Civil War North vs. South

According to the 1860 Census, this is how the opponents line up:

North - 23 states and 3 border states. Population - 22 million (4 of combat age). Economy - 100,000 factories, 1.1 million workers, 20,000 miles of railroad (70% of the U.S. total). \$189 million in bank deposits (81% of all U.S. deposits). \$56 million in gold specie.

South - 11 states. Population - 9 million (3.5 million slaves; only 1.2 million men of combat age). Economy - 20,000 factories, 101,000 workers. 9000 miles of railroad. \$47 million in bank deposits. \$27 million in gold specie.

In addition, the North vastly outproduced the South in agricultural products and livestock holdings. The only commodity that the South raised in greater quantity was cotton. The South would have to purchase weapons, ships, and arms from foreign sources, exposing itself to a Union blockade.

On the South side were several small but significant factors. The U.S. Army was largely led by Southerners who immediately defected to the South. Southerners for the most part were better riders, more at home with weaponry, owned their own rifles, and showed a greater martial spirit than Northerners. The armies of the north were mostly conscripts from urban areas, immigrants who spoke little or no English, they were fighting on "foreign" soil, and for dubious goals. In addition the war was to be fought primarily in the South. all the advantages of fighting at home-terrain, partisan support and, defending the homeland.

What side or odds would you pick!

## The Pope's Stone

Funds for building the Washington Monument were so scarce that the sponsors came up with the idea of donation stones, individuals, states, schools, all contributed. But one stone, called the Pope's Stone, caused a problem. It was donated by Pope Pius IX and came from the Temple of Concord in Rome. This roused strong anti-Catholic sentiment, particularly among a political party called the Know Nothings, who denounced the "papist gift." On March 5, 1854, masked men attacked a watchman at the monument construction site and stole the Pope's Stone. It was never seen again and the controversy delayed construction.

## Flags

### Thirteen Stripes And A Rattlesnake-

In 1778 the king of Naples opened his ports to American ships and asked U.S. representatives in Paris, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, to give him a description of the flag for identification. They described the Stars and Stripes, but then admitted that some of the ships might be flying other flags such as "a pine tree" by the "State of Massachusetts Bay" and a "rattlesnake in the middle of the thirteen stripes" by South Carolina.

Up And Down The Flagpole- On April 14, 1861, Major Robert Anderson lowered the U.S. flag over Fort Sumter, surrendering the fort to the Confederacy in the first battle of the Civil War. Exactly 4 years later, April 14, 1865, Maj. Anderson, now a General, returned with the same flag. He had saved it for just such a day. It was raised again over Fort Sumter, a symbolic ending to the Civil War. When Anderson died the Sumter flag draped his coffin.

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*It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.*

Robert E. Lee  
(at Fredricksburg)

*To his overly cautious Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan: If you don't want to use the Army I should like to borrow it for a while.*

A. Lincoln 1862

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**COMMING EVENTS: Travel Opportunities**

**"THE QUIET CORNER" OF CONNECTICUT**

The Trumbull Historical Society has planned a one day trip on Saturday, May 16, 1998. Springtime in Northeast CT's Quiet Corner with its blossoming trees and spring bulbs. Your visit begins in Lebanon around the Town Green. Learn about plans for the new \$800,000 Historical Society Museum and then tour the Jonathan Trumbull House, a marvelous 1735 home of the only Colonial Governor to support the War of Independence. Your day will continue with a tour of Nathan Hale's 1776 Homestead in Coventry. Then, travel 100 years in time and find yourself in Willimantic at the Windham Textile Museum, the old company store of the American Thread Company. A midday lunch is included.

Cost \$52pp Members - \$55 Non Members.

For more information call Elvira 261-3360 or Trumbull Hist. Soc 377-6620

**SPRINGTIME STEAMBOATING ON THE AMERICAN QUEEN**

Discover the romance, adventure and nostalgia of Steamboating aboard the *American Queen*, one of America's only three authentic steam-powered overnight paddlewheelers, May 6-13, 1998. Dine on 4 sumptuous meals each day, enjoy professional nightly entertainment, relax in gracious Victorian-style accommodations.

Discover Mark Twain's America.

For information call Elvira at the Professional Club (203) 261-3350

*On Travel....*

*Some good advice  
From one who knows;  
Take twice the cash  
And half the clothes.*

*Ben Franklin, 1734*

**Stratford Historical Society**

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