
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume VI Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2001



Capt. David Judson House c 1750
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday November 30, 2001 - 7:30pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

GENE HOLMES

Coins and Currency from the U.S. Colonial Period through the Civil War

In ancient times, pieces of gold and silver were widely used in trade, being exchanged for other goods by weight. The weight and purity of the metal had to be tested every time it changed hands. In Asia Minor, sometime around 600 BC the Lydians hit upon the idea of shaping electrum, a natural alloy of gold and silver, into bean shaped lumps of fixed weight and purity and stamping them with official symbols. By 550 BC the practice of striking coins was established in all the important cities throughout the known world.

The Society is pleased that Mr. Gene Holmes, a professional Numismatist, will be speaking to us this evening on coins and currency. Mr. Holmes is the first speaker on this subject that we have had the pleasure to present.

Gene Holmes, a graduate of Bunnell High School and the University of New Haven, started collecting coins at the age of 12. He expanded his collecting experience over the next thirty years to early U.S. and ancients through an avid interest in history. He started selling coins in Stratford, and at coin shows in 1987 as Holmes Historical Coin. Since retiring as a former Benefits Manager at Stauffer Chemical Co., Cheesebough Ponds and lastly the Crompton Corporation of Greenwich two years ago, Gene has turned his numismatic interests into a full time business buying, selling and appraising all coins and currency from ancients to modern U.S. material.

The program will start with a brief introduction to the history of coins and currency via an oral presentation supported by slides of early ancient coinage. The focus of the presentation will be on coins and currency from the U.S. Colonial Period through the Civil War. Featured slides will be of Connecticut Coppers, hard Times Tokens and Civil War Store Cards and Tokens. Part of the discussion will include the aspects of what created the value of coins and currency today. Questions will be encouraged during the presentation.

We are pleased that Gene has consented to give free appraisals, after the presentation is concluded, on any items those attending may wish to bring.

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

Bring a Friend

In case of inclement weather - listen to WICC 5pm

President Franklin Roosevelt and the March of Dimes became so closely identified that after his death in 1945, Congress voted to honor his memory by depicting him on the 10-cent coin.

President John Calhoun

We enjoyed a perfect fall day for our Early American Festival. Everyone agreed it was a big success. We were all impressed with the knowledge and poise of our Judson House Junior Docents. The Juniors are busy now making decorations and preparing Judson House for our Holiday Open House.

Because junior membership is growing, additional colonial clothing is needed. The Juniors will sponsor a bake sale at the Holiday Open House to raise funds for their clothing wardrobe.

Betty Applegate, Chairman of Hosts and Hostesses, has completed her survey of this season's Judson House visitors. In addition to many from Stratford and other Connecticut towns, 21 states and 4 foreign countries were represented. Visitors came from as far away as Australia and New Zealand as well as California, Arizona and Georgia.

Several years ago Hy Tindall asked me to come in to the office to work on a special project. We have worked together ever since. I greatly value his friendship and counsel and wish him the best of everything in his new home. I look forward to seeing all of Hy and Connie's friends at a farewell reception to be held during the Holiday Open House. Refreshments will be served.

Book of Remembrance

Contributions have been
received in
Memory of

MRS. MARGARET ROSS
from: John and Marilyn Ross
and
from Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ross

Curator Hiram Tindall to Retire

In January, Hiram and Connie Tindall will be leaving Stratford and moving to Canandaigua, New York. Hy, as he is known to all, and Connie have been members of the Society since 1972. They moved to Stratford after World War II and resided in an apartment in the Benjamin House on West Broad Street for a short while eventually moving to their home on Elm Street where they have lived for many years.

Hy started his teaching career in 1946 at Stratford High School. Ten years later in Woodbridge CT, he served as Chairman of the English Department at Amity Regional High School and in 1967 moved on to the New Canaan School System. Until his retirement from teaching in 1982, Hy's knowledge, charm and wit influenced many, many students.

He has been active in many of the activities that the Society has sponsored, and as Curator his knowledge of antiques and their value was especially appreciated during the annual Antique Shows that became an event looked forward to by our members as well as browsers and dealers for many years.

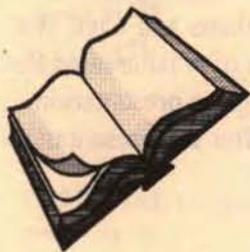
Hy and Connie will be living in a retirement community in Canandaigua where they will be near their family and grandchildren, Emma age four and Matthew age two. Hy is quick to state "I have had to wait 79 years to become a Grandfather, but I have been very lucky. Teaching was most rewarding because so many students who I thought could not possibly succeed did and went on to become stable contributing citizens and at the Historical Society I've been privileged to work with wonderful people and a fabulous collection."

Those at the Society who have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Hy will miss him very much.

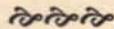
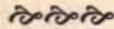
**HAPPY RETIREMENT
HY & CONNIE**



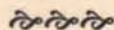
**Remember
Junior Docent
Bake Sale
Holiday Open
House
December 1st**



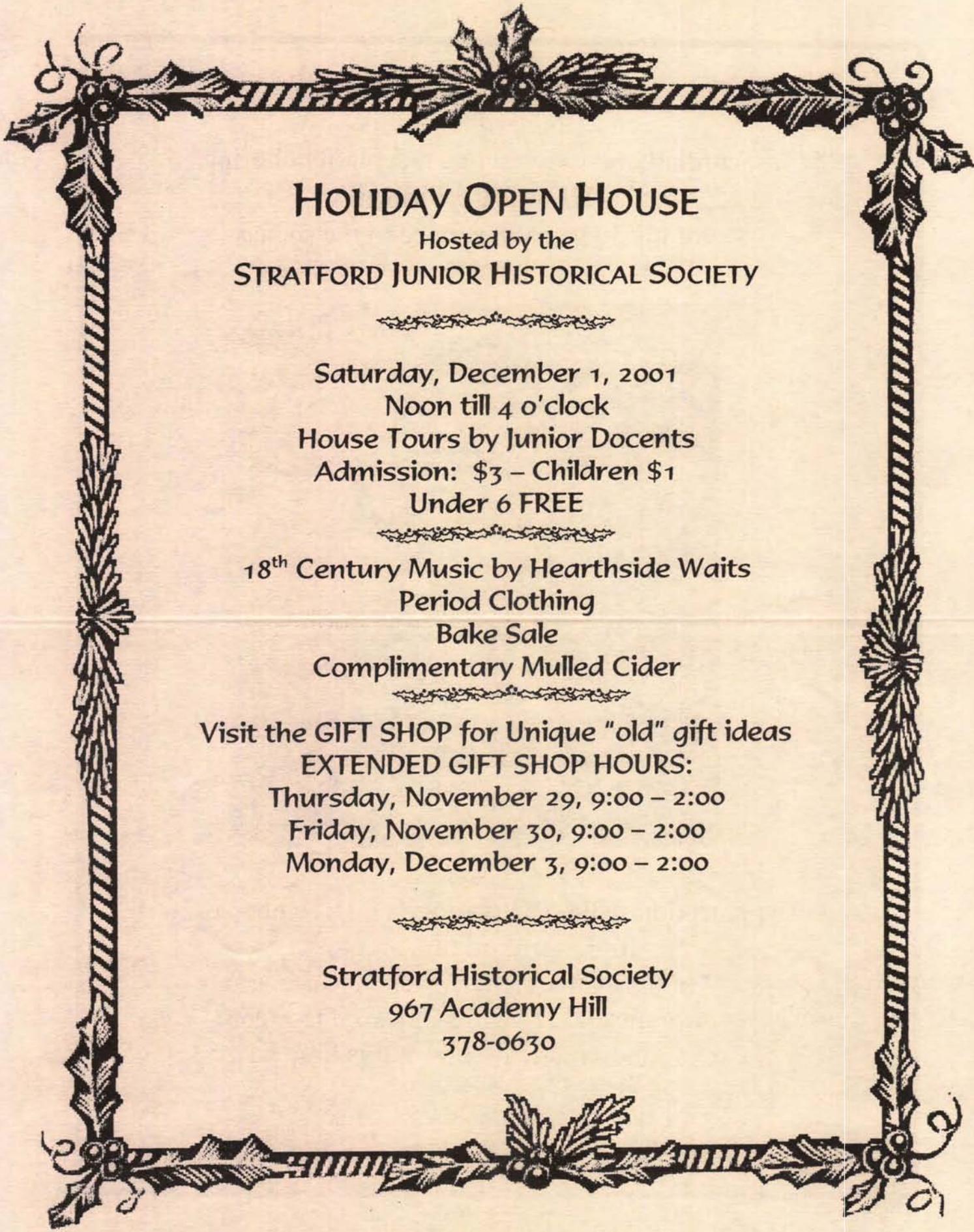
The Stratford Historical Society
Board of Directors
cordially invites you to a reception honoring
Hiram C. Tindall
for his 30 years of service to the society



The reception will be held Saturday, December 1, 2001
from one until three o'clock
in the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum
Connie and Hy will be pleased to greet
their many friends at this time



Light refreshments will be served.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Hosted by the
STRATFORD JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, December 1, 2001

Noon till 4 o'clock

House Tours by Junior Docents

Admission: \$3 - Children \$1

Under 6 FREE

18th Century Music by Hearthside Waits

Period Clothing

Bake Sale

Complimentary Mulled Cider

Visit the GIFT SHOP for Unique "old" gift ideas

EXTENDED GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Thursday, November 29, 9:00 - 2:00

Friday, November 30, 9:00 - 2:00

Monday, December 3, 9:00 - 2:00

Stratford Historical Society

967 Academy Hill

378-0630

Stratford and the Sea

Town Historian Lew Knapp's next history book, **Stratford and the Sea**, will be published next summer by Arcadia Publishing. Like the 1969 edition of Wilcoxson's **History of Stratford**, Knapp's **In Pursuit of Paradise**, and Vivienne Knapp's historical cookbook **Paradise Enow**, the rights to **Stratford and the Sea** will be signed over to the Stratford Historical Society, to be used to augment our Publication Fund.

To meet his February 28th submittal deadline, Lew desperately needs more help to locate illustrations. We ask anyone who can

- (1) contact other historical societies
- (2) contact historical museums
- (3) work with the National Archives or the Library of Congress
- (4) do research at local libraries or newspapers
- (5) solicit individuals who may have or be able to locate prints, paintings, postcards or photos

Call Lew at 377-0602 to volunteer. Note: we are NOT asking for suggestions as to where Lew can find these himself, his problem is time. We need People who can locate, obtain, and receive publishing rights for certain necessary illustrations. We're currently missing about forty illustrations out of a total of 180.

Remember: **In Pursuit of Paradise**, **Paradise Enow** and **Images of America, Stratford** make good Christmas gifts and are available at Judson House.

Membership Drive

We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to those who have renewed their membership for the coming year during the recent membership drive. Also, we appreciate the members who included an additional amount as a donation. All members are urged to return the membership form along with their dues by January 1st to insure continued delivery of the Newsletter.

Call the office if you have any questions concerning membership at 378-0630.

Glass Display Cases

Donations have been received in the amount of \$300 each for the six glass display cases in the Museum. Plaques have now been placed on the last three:

In Memory of Robert L. Reyes WWII given by Mary R. & Vincent L. Hardy

In Memory of Alice Lovell Sniffen given by her daughter Elizabeth Birdseye Sniffen Gullander

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Jacaruso given by The Jacaruso Family.

A donation has also been received from Colonel Elizabeth Spamer Enas, (Ret.) requesting plaques in Memory of Velmore Blakeman Spamer and James Blakeman Spamer. The plaques will be placed on the large display case in the museum in response to her request. Also, a plaque in Memory of Claribel Nothnagle Spamer given by Hiram and Connie Tindall will be placed alongside those of her husband and son.

A large bequest has been received from the estate of Lillian Larson. A plaque will be placed in the museum in Memory of Einar and Lillian Larson in recognition of their dedication and generosity to the Society.

Pre-Revolutionary War Chairs

Colonel Elizabeth Spamer Enas has donated two Pre-Revolutionary War chairs that came from the family of her father Velmore Blakeman Spamer. They are said to have been buried before the American Revolution on the property up the hill from Sikorsky on the old family farm to keep them from getting burned by the British. Also, Colonel Enas has donated two paintings by Stratford artist Calvin Curtis. One is a still life of quail and the other a portrait of "Aunt Belle," a Curtis relation.

Calvin Curtis (1822-1893) lived and painted for a short while as a Stratford resident. Best known as a portrait artist his portrait of President James Garfield hangs today in the White House.

WEAVING

Judson House will be open during the winter on Saturdays from 11:00 to 1:00. Anyone interested in weaving will be most welcome on any Saturday. Please call Dolores Hoctor 378-6842.



A Happy High School Family 113 Years Ago

On a Fall morning in 1888 at Stratford Graded School Principal Wilfred M. Peck covered his learned head with his silk stovepipe hat, waxed his large sweeping mustache and emerged to face the camera with an admiring coterie of teachers and students. The photographers hand shot up squeezed a rubber bulb and captured this picture we are able to present today.

Back Row: LtoR: Ms Eliza C. Baldwin, Ms Kate E. Judson, Miss F. Backus, Principal Wilfred M. Peck, Ms E. L. Curtis (Mrs Elmer H. Havens), Ms A. Maria Wakeman and Ms Eleanor Peck.
 The solemn looking pupils are: *2nd Row: George Cory, Grace Hawley, Lillie Judson, Bertha Clark (Mrs George Carey), Nellie Coe (Mrs George Spall), Allie M. Platt, Allie M. Wilcoxson, Edie Allen and George Fairchild (Bridgeport Jeweler).*
3rd Row: Georgie Thompson (Georgianna Greeley of the Bridgeport Business and Professional Women's Club), Amy Taintor, Lewis Russell, Joel Wilcoxson, Nellie Booth, Ida Osborn and Gertie Munson.



Front Row: Walter Curtis (American Trust Company), Ida Atwood (Mrs. Edmund H. Judson), Sadie Powers (Mrs. Robert E Sammis), Elsie Powers, Ben Byington, Will Wheeler (American Chain Company) and Harry Curtis of the International Silver Company.

Stratford Historical Society

(203) 378-0630

967 Academy Hill

P.O.Box 382

Stratford, CT 06615-0382

NOTICE.....
 IF YOU FIND AN "X" ABOVE
 YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS
 YOUR DUES HAVE NOT BEEN
 PAID .

COMPUTER CORNER

e-mail us at:

Judsonhousestfd@aol.com

Fax: 378-2562

visit our webb site at:

www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com

Stratford Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2002 - 7:30 pm

Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

All members of the Society are Welcome to Attend

Please call 378-0630 for information