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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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Volume VII Issue 5

MAY 2003

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

## NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday May 30, 2003 - 7:30pm

Christ Episcopal Church

2000 Main Street, Stratford

## A Program of Radio Nostalgia

with

**BOB SCHULTZ**

### The "Good Old Days" of radio live again

Bob Schultz, a resident of Woodbridge, will wind his way around Radio's Golden Years as he recreates the "Pictures of yesterday" in his special program "Radio Nostalgia"



More than 45 years in the radio and television profession and many years in community service have given Bob a rapport with people. Ranging from comic and a bit of corn, to the sentimental.

Schultz reminisces about Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Kate Smith, Fibber McGee and Molly and others as he recalls the "good old days of radio."

The nostalgia program gives Schultz an outlet for his lifelong love of radio having become enthralled with the medium as a young teen when his father bought him a microphone and amplifier. He began broadcasting programs throughout the house, reading news stories and with friends taking part in dramas.

He hung around the old WNHG radio station in New Haven doing errands for the disc jockeys which eventually led to station announcing.

In 1954, he joined WELI as a reporter working with Bud Finch and Ron Rohmer interviewing such notables as John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and others. Switching to television production at Channel 8 in 1970, Schultz spent the next 24 years working at his hobby.

Bob will feature segments of comedy, sentiment, and drama which will bring smiles and laughter such as the tarzan yell! Trivia question - What was the number one lead-off program on Sunday Night? Who was the sponsor? How long did cigarette advertising continue? Bob will bring back memories of how families gathered about the radio for *Fibber McGee and Molly* and of the music from radio days, particularly the *William Tell Overture*.

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

**Meeting starts promptly at 7:30 - Bring a Friend.**

**In case of inclement weather - listen to WICC 5pm**

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## Some Highlights of Stratford History

Stratford was settled by a small band of men and women led by Reverend Adam Blakeman in 1639. This territory was visited by Captain Mason and his men in 1637 while they were pursuing the Pequot Indians to Saco Swamp in Fairfield where the "Great Swamp Fight" ended the Pequot War.

A ferry across the Housatonic River, first operated by Moses Wheeler, who was the first man in New England who lived to be 100 years old (1598-1698), was established in 1648, and replaced by a bridge in 1804. It has since been replaced four times.

Soldiers from Stratford took part in King Philip's War when the Narragansett Indians were defeated in 1675.

A great wolf hunt was organized in 1693.

Captain David Wooster, born in Stratford in 1710, took part in the capture of Louisburg in King George's War in 1744. Afterwards he became the first Major of Connecticut troops and Brigadier General in the Continental Army. He was mortally wounded in battle near Ridgefield, April 27, 1777 and is buried in Danbury, Connecticut.

Colonel Frasier's regiment camped on Academy Hill in 1757 at the time of the French and Indian War. The Golden Rooster atop the Episcopal Church spire was used by the men for a target. Stratford men took part in the capture of Fort William Henry.

Jewish services were held as early as 1776 in Stratford when Gershom Mendes Seixas, with his family and congregation, left New Amsterdam for Stratford.

Jesse Lee, pioneer Methodist Evangelist, preached in Stratford on July 4, 1789. the first Methodist Class was organized May 19, 1790.

Gideon Tomlinson, Representative in Congress 1819-1827, Governor of Connecticut 1827-1831, and United States Senator 1831-1837, was born in Stratford in 1783.

St. James Roman Catholic Church was established in Stratford in 1886.

## Early American Festival September 20, 2003

Chairman, Sandy Rutkowski has been once again gathering craftsmen and re-enactors to perform and display at the Fall Festival. The timeline has been increased to include the French-Indian, Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Representing the British during the Revolutionary War will be the Brigadier-General Delancey's Brigade. This group consisted of 1500 Loyalist volunteers (1776-1783) from New York City, Long Island, Westchester County and Connecticut.

Expert craftsman and re-enactor James A. Cook of the 77th Montgomerie's Highlanders will be present (in kilt's) to display 1690-1840 firearms he has built, including a 1690 Doglock with 6' barrel.

There will be a tinsmith, spinner, rug hooker, potter and quilt writer. The Junior Society will be assisting during the Festival. There will be more information about the Festival throughout the Summer and in the September Newsletter.

## Volunteer Activities

Our small but very active volunteers have been busy throughout the winter and spring. Lew Knapp's new book *Stratford and the Sea* sold like "hot cakes" in December. January and February were two of the coldest months in many years but was a perfect time for Carol to start thinking about the new displays for the museum. In March the office floors (not scrubbed and polished in years) were refinished and now shine. In April Todd saw that the grass was cut and fertilized and the gutters cleaned. Dolores and Bob weeded, fertilized and mulched the gardens. Diane Matthews made arrangements for the coming school groups and Sandy Rutkowski made plans for the Early American Festival. Gloria answered all inquiries concerning genealogy and Diane Wright continued listing artifacts on the computer. The tag sale ladies were overwhelmed and thanks to all our friends Frances has more jewelry than she bargained for.





## **The Junior Society Invades Sturbridge Village!!!**

As promised several months ago our students embarked on a road trip to Sturbridge. Our luck was with us as the date of our trip fell in between snow storms and we enjoyed the only "spring day" the season has shown us so far this year. On March 22nd we had 45 society members board an ABC Bus and head to Massachusetts. Our society was well represented by our Juniors wearing the burgundy Judson House tee shirts and black Stratford hooded sweat shirts which are sold in our gift shop. As we toured the village in our small groups we were frequently asked about the Judson house by visitors and staff alike. The village workers were rather impressed by our children's knowledge and good manners. As we rode home on the bus that evening the chatter and stories about what everyone enjoyed ensured us that the day had been a success. The following quotes from the day will share some of the children's thoughts.

Sturbridge Village's time period (1840's) differed a lot from the Judson House's time period. Different styles of clothes were worn. There were different tools for cooking and repairing. Yet, some things in both time periods were the same. Furniture was built in the same way and there were many of the same styles of buildings.

The part of Sturbridge Village I enjoyed the most was visiting the baby lambs at the farm next to the Towne House and watching them get fed with a milk bottle. I liked the fact that there was a bank originally built in Connecticut that was moved to Sturbridge! I saw an early lighting exhibit around outer Sturbridge and admired the section which showed the amount of light 1, 10, and 650 candles produce. At the Pottery Shop, I watched a man make a couple of vases out of clay from the surrounding area. The room was very dark inside. The Schoolhouse was just one room for about ages 5 to 16. The seats were fixed, everyone had to write on slates, and teachers were allowed to hit children.

Later on we all arrived at the Education Building for a hands-on cooking experience. We cooked batter cakes and lemonade. One thing we were taught-no eating until everyone has taken a batter cake! The proper way to eat was with the tips of our knives. They tasted great! ~~~~ Emma L.

I liked that I got to learn how to cook on the fire but not the taste of the tea cakes. I liked watching the potter turn clay into a tall pitcher.

~~~~~ Jessie M.

My favorite parts of the trip were looking at the new born sheep and cooking some of the recipes in the workshop.

~~~~~ Carmen

I liked cooking with the spider pan and how the fire coals were placed on the hearth. In the old days they called baking powder pot ash and baking soda had another name too. They grew their down yeast to make the bread.

~~~~~ Kim M.

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The Stratford Junior Historical Society  
Sturbridge Village, March 22, 2003

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The trip to Sturbridge was a blast. The bus ride was great; we had a trivia game with questions that related to the period of time we work in (1700). After the game we watched the movie Shrek and just sat back and relaxed until we got there. When we got there we were on our own in groups for some of the day. My group went to the tavern for lunch and the meals were good. Next we walked up a long hill and went to the center of town where we went to the Potter House. The man working there was making a pitcher and it was really cool watching him make it. Next we went to this little house where we played games. To me the house looked like a larger version of a doll house. We wandered around learning interesting facts and our group went back to meet the rest of the class. We were going to a lesson that taught us how to cook tea cakes and how to make lemonade by scratch. It was really fun. I got to put the batter on the spider pan for the cakes to cook. After they were cooking we made the lemonade. When the cakes were ready we ate. Everyone was sure hungry! The cakes were pretty good but I really loved the lemonade. After the cooking lesson we were back on our feet walking around the village where we hadn't covered before. My group went to the candy store. There I got some home made peanut butter cups that were to die for. Then we walked up to the farm to look at the new born lambs that were so cute. One came up to me and let me pet him. The fur was so soft. Later we joined the others once more to say farewell to this wonderful place. I wish we could stay longer but of course we couldn't. We got on the bus and watched the hilarious movie Ice Age. When we got home I was tired from that great day. I had the time of my life.

~~~~~ Hannah P.

**Once again we would like to thank the families that donated funding for this trip. The children have asked if we could "go somewhere again" .....if anyone has any suggestions how we might find funding for another trip please let me know!!!**

~~~~~ Thanks,  
Diane Matthews  
Education Committee

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**David Guion  
President**

Our thanks to Diane Matthews for cleaning and reorganizing the Judson House Gift Shop in time for the seven large school groups that will visit starting May 5th. John Calhoun also helped Diane in this project.

We have been overwhelmed by the wonderful support from members and friends who so generously contributed items of all variety to the upcoming Tag Sale. Sorting, pricing and storing has been a tremendous job, all those who helped know their efforts are much appreciated.

The Sister City Concert, sponsored by the Stratford Historical Society, will be held on August 22nd, at the Stratford Congregational Church. Watch for further details.

**Curator's Corner  
Carol W. Lovell**

The new exhibits for "Stratford and the Sea" are complete. They look great! Many thanks to Marie Blake and Dave Guion for their invaluable help over many days.

When you visit the museum, be sure to stop into the other new exhibit in the lavatory!!! 19th Century Toiletries contains hair combs from the early 1800's which were made here in Stratford, real curls (hairpiece from 1890's), tiny perfume bottles, gloves, straight razors for men, a very ornate chamber pot and other unique items. We decided to use all of our available exhibit space!!

The wonderful collection of paperweights which belonged to Jane Calkins has been moved upstairs and now glistens in the lights of the new display case! Thanks to Marge Jacaruso and Joanne DiMenno for creating this beautiful spot!

This has been an exceptionally busy winter season for our volunteers! Much has been accomplished and plans are in the works for further events and activities throughout the summer/fall season.

Please call if you would like to become involved on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays.

**Todd Lovell  
1st Vice-President**

Thanks for the many good wishes during my recent recovery from hip replacement surgery. Things are going well. I'm almost back to normal!

A few reminders: Giant Tag Sale will be held May 16 and 17 on the grounds of Judson House and in the Museum building. Judging from the number of donations to date, this should be a "doozie"!! Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! We have many treasures!

The Roof Fund is growing slowly. There have been numerous donations, but there is a long way to go. The roof, however, is more rapidly deteriorating and will be in need of repair probably within the next year. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and you will receive a letter from the Society as proof of your contribution. Please be as generous as you can be.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution in the amount of \$300.00 from the family of S. Richard Basso for a plaque to be placed on one of the three remaining glass display cases in the Museum. All donations received so far have helped the Society recover the cost of these cases and also supply space to display many of the artifacts in our collection.

Remember: Tag Sale - May 16, 17

Roof Fund donations

Display Cases available

All of these contributions are tax-deductible.

**Book  
of Remembrance**

Contributions have been received  
in Memory of

**Harold C. (Bud) Lovell, Jr.**

Given by:

Mr. Hiram C. Tindall

and

Todd and Carol Lovell

Sister City Concert  
August 22, 2003  
Congregational Church

Stratford Sister City  
Chorus  
Prince Edward Island  
Sister City Chorus  
Hearthside Waites

Sea Shanties  
Songs of the Sea





Captain David Judson House and the Gift Shop will open June 7, 2003

Plan for your summer visitors - put a visit to Judson House on your calendar now The Museum has many new articles on display highlighting Stratford's connection with the Sea.

GET READY TO CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY BUY YOUR PARTY SUPPLIES HERE



LARGE AND SMALL AMERICAN FLAGS RED WHITE AND BLUE CANDLES A COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS WHICH FORMED OUR NATION NEON PATRIOTIC GLOW NECKLACES PRESIDENTIAL GOLD COINS COLONIAL CAPS AND HATS

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COMPUTER CORNER e-mail us at: Judsonhousestfd@aol.com Fax: 378-2562

Stratford Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting June 30, 2003 - 7:00 pm Catharine B. Mitchell Museum All Members of the Society are Welcome to Attend Please call 378-0630 for information