
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XI Issue 2

November 2006



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday November 17, 2006 - 7:30pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

GEOFF KAUFMAN

Acoustic music with a pinch of salt

Geoff Kaufman, who resides in New London, CT, is a talented musician and singer whose focus is presenting programs of historical interest. For fifteen years Geoff worked as a musician and interpreter at Mystic Seaport, running music programs and festivals. He has now turned over administrative duties to someone else so he can perform on his own. Music has taken him from Maine to Louisiana, Alaska and Hawaii, but he still has a particular fondness for the Northeast and Connecticut where he has spent the last twenty-two years.

Geoff's performance is one of the finest, and his strong tenor voice can interpret a song with strength and sensitivity. Accompanied by guitar or a simple sailor's "squeeze Box" he offers an educational presentation of song and recitation that brings a new dimension to our understanding of American History.

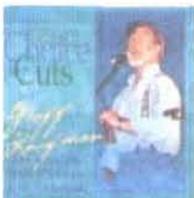
Geoff has several programs to offer Historical Societies such as:

"A Sailor's Christmas Day." - Imagine a bitter cold day on the North Atlantic, with squalls of snow as you try to fill the hold with enough salt cod to pay the bills. It's a long way from home when it comes on Christmas for a sailor at sea.

"The Spirit of Coastal CT and New England." - From early Dutch exploration to tales of twentieth century sailors along our coast, this special program was developed to illuminate events and people that reveal the strength and struggles of this coastal culture.

Songs of farming and the land and songs of labor and the industrial Revolution. Here are songs that celebrate working folks in many trades and their struggles in responding to change from earlier times through the modern day.

The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.
Meeting starts promptly at 7:30—bring a friend



Ted Iott President



Late October and early November is a transitional time for the Historical Society. The Judson House is swept and covered to make way for the inactivity of winter. Gone are the bright eyes of the students and visitors as they gaze on the hundreds of artifacts. The grounds are empty of campers as they scurry from one craft activity to the next.

Over the last several years, it's been a transitional period for me also. I've gone from full time work to semi-retirement. This transition has proved more time consuming than I had envisioned. Therefore, I've resigned my office and position on the board effective October 31, 2006.

I must say the Society is in very good hands. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people.

Book of Remembrance

Donations have been made in

Memory of:

NICHOLAS TOMASCO

PAUL TOMASCO

Given by:

Mary-Joan Donahue



DAVID GUION

Given by:

Eleanor Guion

Robin and Chris Mojcik

Joseph DiMenno

BARBARA MASTROIANNI

Given by:

The Governing Board

Of

The Stratford Historical Society

Todd Lovell Vice President

Another Summer has passed. A busy Summer highlighted by the opening of our newly completed "Beach Carriage House," the arrival of our white horse "Kansas" and his three stable mate chickens "Henry, Henrietta and Buffy."

All four of the residents in the Carriage House became instant favorites of the children who were greeted with loud crowing and clucking when they entered. Adult visitors and children then learned the history of this 1885 wonderfully restored historic building.

A bronze plaque has been cast and will soon be affixed to the building designating it "The Beach Carriage House" with the names of the largest donors. Contractors Eric Iott and crew were responsible for the dismantling and restoration which continued through Snow, Heat, Cold and Rain for almost two years. Thank you Eric for a masterful job well done.

With the arrival of Spring, Kansas and his stable mates will still be here to greet young and old. Please come and visit! Bring a friend.

Bunnell High School Yearbooks

Thanks to Dr. Dudley Orr, Principal, the Society is now in possession of copies for 34 of the 47 volumes of "The Laurel."

Hand delivered by Dr. Orr, the books are cataloged and available for use by our genealogist Mrs. Gloria Duggan. High School Yearbooks are very useful not only at present but for families tracing relatives in the future.

Volumes needed to complete the collection are the years: 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1999 and 2003.

The Suffrage News Bulletin

Monthly Organ of The Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association.

Vol. 5



Hartford, Connecticut, August, 1918.

No. 5



Left to Right — Miss Grace Murray, Miss Stella Worth Jones, Mrs. Will Seeley, Miss Katharine Ludington, Mrs. Clement Fuller, Mrs. M. Willard Fleck, and Miss Edith Hastings.
(Photographed by Bridgeport Sunday Herald.)

From a paper by Mrs. Charles Downing Lay

As I remember them, the organizers and charter members of the Stratford Woman Suffrage Association were a group of exceptional women, educated probably above the average. Most of them, I believe, housewives rather than the professional or working class, with some time to devote to civic affairs and a keen appreciation of the possible value of a woman outside as well as inside the home. Not one of them was of the militant suffragette or feminist type and, as I said before, they responded to the call and became an inconspicuous perhaps but none the less necessary cog in the machine which they believed necessary to strengthen and enlarge their sphere of usefulness. Among them Mrs. LeRoy Lewis started her political career as first president, Miss Edith Hastings, never to be forgotten for her devotion, seldom holding office but always a power and drive behind those who had to do the difficult jobs. Mrs. Sherwood Day, one of several who had a mind of her own besides a family to care for, and the invaluable unmarried women, Miss Alice Judson and Miss Maude Hull. I could go on recalling the splendid work of Mrs. Frank Sammis, Mrs. Rosella Lovell, Miss Frances Russell always active in town affairs, and Mrs. Sterling Filmer who later served on the school board. All these and their successors did much that was like missionary and teaching work to bring about the ratification in Connecticut of the Federal Amendment for equal suffrage.

Automobiles were not so numerous in those days and the few of us who could drive spent many hours calling from house to house with petitions to be signed and sometimes stopping to argue. Others attempted to talk to people at the county fairs and make appearances before the legislature in Hartford where we were always at least courteously listened to. This sort of thing was of course going on simultaneously all over the country and when one stops to think of it, one can account for the rapid increase of knowledge in the field of practical politics women were acquiring and how they were preparing themselves for the recognition which some of them have received.

A Century Ago

A little over a century ago—the year was 1901. What a difference a hundred years has made

1. The average life expectancy in the US was 47.
2. Only 14 percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.
3. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
4. There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph .
5. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were more heavily populated than California.
6. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
7. The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
8. More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.
9. Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned as "substandard".
10. Sugar cost four cents a pound. eggs were fourteen cents a dozen, and coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.
11. Most women washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
12. Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.
13. The five leading causes of death in the US were: a) pneumonia and influenza, b) tuberculosis, c) diarrhea, d) heart disease, e) stroke.
14. The American flag had 45 stars.
15. Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.
16. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
17. One in ten US adults couldn't read or write.
18. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

And last, but not least, no woman in the United States of American could vote in a national election.

Reception for Hosts and Hostesses

Docents Dolores Hocter, Diane Matthews, Barbara Firisin, Ted Iott and Rudy Mastroianni honored the members of the Society who served as Hosts and Hostesses at the Captain David Judson House and Museum during the past season. A reception was held in the Museum on Sunday afternoon November 5th.

Those who gave of their time on Wednesdays and Sundays are as follows:

Renee Basso	Marie Blake
Dorothy Bobko	Gail Bowman
Christine Constant	Dorothy Eaurle
Nancy Goodrich	Joyce Iott
Stephany Kirik	Judy Kurmay
Carol Lovell	Barbara Mastroianni
Gail McCarthy	Shirley McCormack
Brabara Reed	Carolyn Ross
Myra Sampson	Jane Smith
Florence Steele	Edith Tolomeo
Robert Hocter	

Also attending was Betty Applegate, retired Chairman for many years of the Host and Hostess program.

Members of the Society may not be aware of the number of persons visiting the Judson House the Museum and the office. Over the last ten months, approximately 755 adults and children have participated in tours, programs, or as walk-ins on Wednesdays and Sundays and into the office for information.

School groups and their chaperones account for the largest number, followed by the interested visitor and the many looking for keys to family history.

Have you made a visit lately? The Judson House and Museum are now closed for the season, but make it a point to come next May. The office is open year-round on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 until 3:00.

September Membership Meeting

Our guest speaker, Mrs. Carolyn Ivanoff, presented an interesting capsule review of the 70 year struggle by the NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association) to bring about ratification of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote.



The Stratford Historical Society acknowledges:

A Bequest has been received in the amount of \$1000. from the Estate of Arthur N. Hale.

A sampler made by Mary E. Curtiss in 1823 at the age of 12 was presented to the Society by Mrs. Ann Wardman.

A donation of \$118, proceeds from a Bake Sale, was presented by students Victoria Regensburger, Gina Mariano, Claudia Regensburger and Angela Mariano. This is the second year the students have raised monies for the Carriage House.

Arcadia Press has forwarded the amount of \$125.60, royalties for *Stratford and the Sea, Images of America and Postcards History Series.*

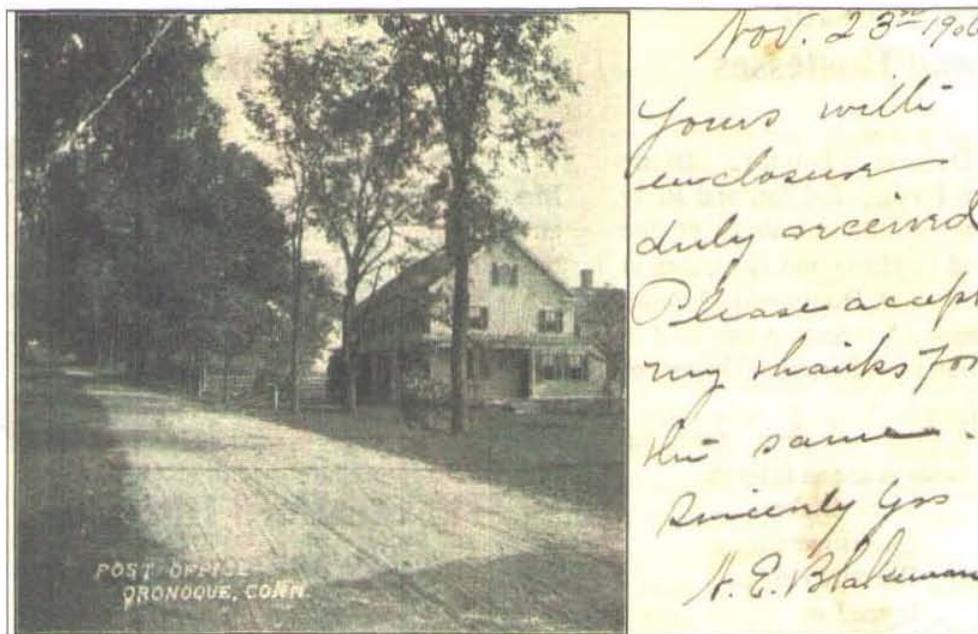
STERLING HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Thousands of lives have been impacted since the center first began as a result of a gift to the town in trust from Cordelia Sterling.

A committee of 75 volunteers is being organized under the leadership of Diane Sheridan and Don Semanchik to plan and implement programs. Volunteers and donations are most appreciated.



Post Office at Oronoque



Card from an album compiled by Margarita (Holmes) Hale. Donated by Mrs. Janet H. Cordts.

Stratford Historical Society

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Stratford, CT 06615-0382

Reminder
If the year 2006 is above your name on the
address label your dues for the year
2006-2007 have not been paid.

COMPUTER CORNER
e-mail us at:
Judsonhousestfd@aol.com
Fax: 203-378-2562

Stratford Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting
December 18, 2006
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum
All members of the Society are Welcome to Attend
Please call 378-0630 for information