
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XIII Issue 2

November 2008



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday November 21, 2008 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

Bob Berthelson

"THE PRESIDENT DID WHAT?"



Bob Berthelson returns with an illustrated program featuring portraits and other pictures of the Presidents, their First Ladies, and the events that touched their lives. He's got the answers to such questions as - *Which Presidents were born in Connecticut?* - *Who was the 1st President to wear a beard?* - and, *Which President is credited with inventing the coffee break?*

Bob, of Trumbull, is a photographer with a lifelong interest in American history and nostalgia. By combining these interests he has produced over 45 color slide programs which include several historical documentaries on Connecticut history, the American Revolution, the Civil War, post card collecting, early photography, stamp collecting and nostalgia.

He has presented color slide illustrated lectures to more than 1500 audiences in Connecticut, including senior centers, libraries, schools, civic organizations, historical societies, independent living communities and others.

A past president of the Civil War Round Table of South Central Connecticut, and a facilitator at the Norwalk Community College Lifetime Learners Institute, he is also a founder and past president of the Connecticut Post Card Club. He has received the Award of Merit of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies and a Certificate of Commendation of the American Association of State and Local History. Bob's illustrated article, "Cards With A Flip Wiggle and a Twist", concerning mechanical post cards from the early 1900' s, appeared in Yankee Magazine.

The meeting is open to the Public
Refreshments will be served — Bring a Friend
Note starting time now 7:00pm

Rudy Mastroianni, President

Governing Board (GB) Election Results

The good news is that the final tally of your ballots shows that we do have a duly elected GB for the 2008-09 year.

With 92 ballots returned as of October 28, it was a landslide (bipartisan) in favor of the slate of candidates that was published in the September Newsletter. Our thanks to the Board Elect for stepping in to serve and offer their talents and leadership for the good of the Society and its members. As time passes we'll learn about their ideas and plans during 2009. Congratulations and best wishes to my Fellow GB members. Thanks to all that participated in the election process.

An observation about the ballot returns. The low number is likely due to the membership being a mix of husband and wife (48), families and single males and females. It was not possible to determine if that was the case. Many ballots had no names imprinted and some had one name only when it should have been a family or husband and wife. I hope you agree with me that our ballot replies need a bit more attention.

The 2008 activity reports included herein of our various committees show in a very positive way of the efforts put forth by our dedicated volunteers. Join me in extending thanks to them for a job well done!

Upcoming Events in 2008-09

November 21 – General Membership Meeting

December 7 – Sterling House Historic House Tour

December 29 - Governing Board Meeting

History Camp 2009 is in the planning phase as is the forthcoming calls for Scholarship candidates and for school tours.

Academy Hill in the Fall



Black Rock School Tour - Oct. 28





Book of Remembrance

The following donations have been made in Memory of:

David Guion

Given by:

Robin & Chris Mojcik
Eleanor Guion

Holiday House Tour

We are pleased to announce that the Stratford Historic Society will participate in the Sterling House Holiday House Tour. On Sunday, December 7, 2008 the Judson House will be open to the public along with five other homes around Academy Hill. From 12:00pm to 3:00pm the House will be open to the public for their viewing. Designers and florists will decorate each home in holiday themes. Our loyal core of docents will serve as hosts and hostesses. It has been several years since the Judson House has been dressed for the season and opened to the public. We are pleased and excited to be invited to participate in this special event.

Tickets are available for \$25 each at the Sterling House. During the tour refreshments will be for sale in the Catherine Mitchell Museum directly behind the Judson House. Our junior docents are invited to call Mrs. Sandy Rutkowski at 378-8188 to volunteer to help with refreshments.

“The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of Thanksgiving.” H. U. Westermayer

School Tours Conducted in 2008

Wilcoxson

Stratford H. S.

St. Marks

St. James

Black Rock, Bridgeport

Chapel St.

Stratford H. S. - Summer Session

September Membership Meeting

Our guest speaker, John Hourihan (shown with wife Linda), *Connecticut Post* columnist and author, told of his early recollections and experiences as examples of how we might learn to solve and not repeat the errors of the past, a new take on how history repeats itself, much of it from his new unpublished book "Parables for a New Age".



Our refreshments are always delicious and refreshing, thanks to Pam and John Hutchinson.

Christ Episcopal Church Built in 1858

A celebration of the building's 150th year anniversary was held on Saturday, November 1st. This third (and present) church building was done in Carpenter Gothic Style at a cost of \$16,000. The rooster weathervane and bell were carefully installed but, sadly, the elaborate chandelier didn't survive the transition. Supposedly, it was cut from the ceiling and allowed to crash to the floor. Only a few prisms remain today.

Seventy Years Ago

On November 8, 1938, Raymond E. Baldwin of Stratford was elected Governor of the state of Connecticut. Ray Baldwin had been judge of the town court and representative in the General Assembly, serving as Republican floor leader and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. When Baldwin beat the incumbent Wilbur Cross by a few thousand votes, Stratford was ecstatic.. Baldwin was sworn in on January 4, 1939, Stratford's tercentenary year. He went on to be the only man to be Governor, U. S. Senator, and Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court.

Stratford Historical Society Publications Available:

(all prices given do not include shipping)



The Autobiography of Aunt Hagar Merriman, 1861
(recollections of a slave who grew up in Stratford and Milford)-\$5.00

Stratford-Images of America Series

(a pictorial history, 1850-1970)-\$19.00

In Pursuit of Paradise: a History of Stratford, CT by Lewis G. Knapp-\$30.00

Paradise Enow, Treasures from Yesterday's Kitchen

(old Stratford recipes modified to modern taste)-\$8.00

Lippincott Mag., July 1879

(reprint: Stratford on the Sound article, illustrated)-\$5.00

History of Stratford, 1639-1939

by Wm. Howard Wilcoxson

(occasionally available, price on request)

Strip of Post Cards from Old Stratford

price-\$2.00

Maps of Old Stratford

1824, 1867, 1888-\$2.00 each

Stratford and The Sea

The influence of the sea on Stratford's evolution, \$27.00

Post Card Views

An album of images showing how the Town has evolved from the early 19th century, \$20.00

Judson House Tee/shirts - \$10.00



CD of History Camp

2006, 2008-\$5.00 each

To purchase & for S/H Costs, contact the office at (203) 378-0630

Corsair Restoration Update

Move from Aviation School to Connecticut Air & Space Center



Lodged in CASC for Repair

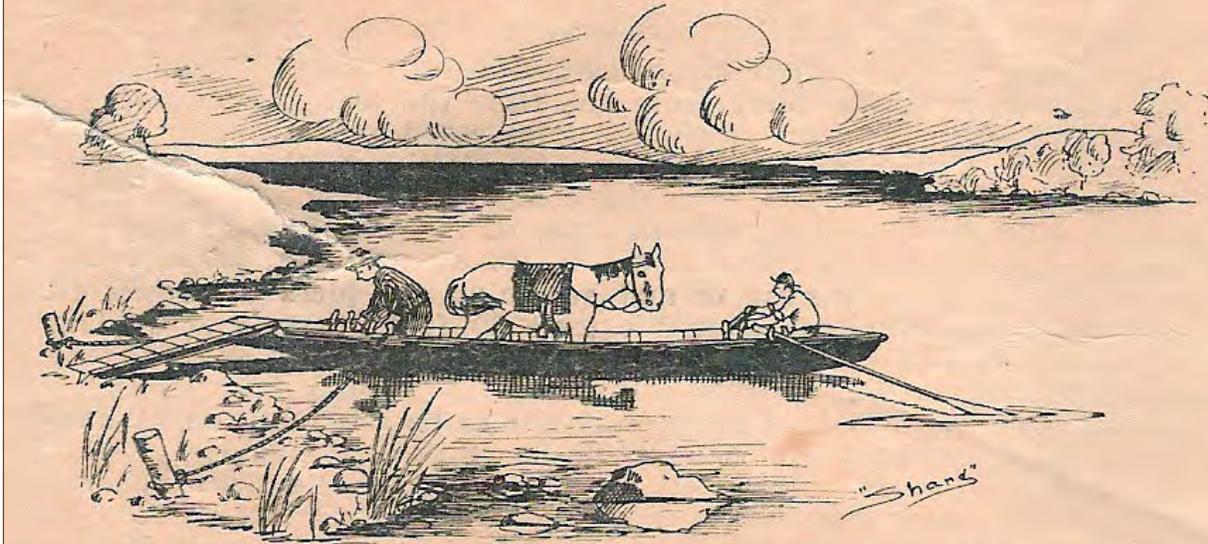


Condition of Cockpit



Those wishing to contribute may send checks to the
Corsair Restoration Fund, 890 Judson Place, Stratford, Ct. 06615

THE MOSES WHEELER FERRY



Prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century, the only means of crossing the Housatonic River was by ferry. This Stratford Puritan was first licensed to run his charon business 84 years before the birth of George Washington, who writes in 1789: "The ferry is near half a mile across * * * and is much incommoded by winds and cross tides."

The Stratford Times, November 11, 1921

Stratford Historical Society

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Reminder

If the year 2008 is above your name on the address label, your dues for the year 2008-2009 have not been paid.

COMPUTER CORNER

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Fax: 203-378-2562

On the Web: www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting

December 29, 2008 7:00pm

Please call 203-378-0630 for information