
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XIII Issue 5

May 2009



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday May 29, 2009 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church

2000 Main Street, Stratford

The Jackson Pike Skifflers

The Jackson Pike Skifflers will provide us with an evening of tunes from their repertoire of American traditional music ranging from Stephen Foster to Appalachian and old-time country, with good work on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, acoustic bass along with some fine singing.



banjo



Resophonic guitar



autoharp



mandolin



Washboard

Well-known for their performances for over forty years, The Jackson Pike Skifflers specialize in old-time music, primarily from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Their repertoire includes traditional rural and urban vernacular music, early country music, minstrel and vaudeville songs, street ballads, Gospel songs, country dance tunes, railroad songs, mountain music and more, played on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, autoharp, bass, melodeon, washboard and a variety of other instruments. The nostalgic but lively quality of their music has made them very popular with audiences of all ages.

The Skifflers have performed at leading traditional music festivals, and for many years participated in the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors summer concert series. In Connecticut, the Skifflers regularly liven up many country fairs, festivals, concerts, country dances, historical commemorations and private parties. They have also made two recordings featuring a widely varied selection of some of their audiences' favorites.

Organized by Will Tressler of Easton, who is still the group's leader, the Skifflers now include Katie Tressler, and Dan Tressler of Easton, David McCann of Monroe, Roger Whitcomb of New Fairfield, and Dan Carlucci of Fairfield. Tom Reilly of Norwalk, David Auerbach of Redding and Jim Sirch of Hamden also join the group for special events.

The meeting is open to the Public
Refreshments will be served - bring a Friend

Rudy Mastroianni, President

Ah Spring when Mother Nature comes to life! As our members should expect it's the same for the Society in many ways. Our attention turns to the indoors and the outdoors. It is our time to open the doors wide to the Judson House and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum for school tours (beginning in May) and to the general Public beginning with Stratford Day, Saturday June 6 and remaining open through Sunday October 25. Additionally, we begin to put into action the plans for the increasingly popular Annual Summer Camp, as announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

An added attraction for our Stratford Day House tour: Rebecca Arkenberg, the Society's – and Stratford's - renowned weaver will be weaving an interpretation of Venetian stripe carpeting, a popular 18th and 19th century floor covering. The pattern - Hartford Figure - was woven by Silas Burton, Stratford weaver, for the Johnson family.

Stratford Brakettes Softball: At this awakening time of the year we take the opportunity to mention the start of the team's 63rd season, as described in the Saturday April 18, 2009 issue of the **CT Post** titled **"Brakettes to play this season"**. The main theme of this article is General Manager Robert Baird's account of the campaign he waged to form a team and make up a schedule for 2009. The title gives a positive spin to a tenuous financial situation for the famous ball club.

In my humble opinion, Brakettes softball, born in 1947, holds a high place in the 20th century history of Stratford at the tail end of the unforgettable era of the mighty Corsair. Writers of Stratford's history, namely Wilcoxson and Knapp, proudly wrote of the efforts made by Stratford's residents to the Corsair. And, they also saw fit to recognize the institution and success of the Brakettes.

The softball is in our hands, so to speak, to insure that we in the 21st century provide writers a continuity of the Brakettes illustrious history. Immediate help can come from our members by attending the Brakettes home games at Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field. Their 2009 schedule is on the Web at:

www.brakettes.com/schedule.com.

As I write this column, I am following up on a Special Committee's decision to meet with Mr. Baird to discuss in what way the Society can help the Brakettes.

Scholarship Awards

This year the Society will be awarding five \$1,000 scholarship awards to five outstanding seniors from Stratford.

The recipients are

- Courtney Fitzpatrick - Bunnell High School
- Kimberly McCabe - " " "
- Sean Morrisroe - " " "
- Christian Crosby - St. Joseph's H. S.
- Caillin Simon - Stratford H. S.

We will present these awards at our May 29th membership meeting.

This year the Society had quite a few very qualified applicants. The decision making was most difficult. We wish all our applicants a very happy and prosperous future.

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

Gandhi

The Boothe Trolley Station

The car from Derby to Bridgeport approaches Boothe Station on the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company line c. 1905. The Boothe family in Putney built their own waiting room by the tracks. It can be seen today at Boothe Memorial Park. (*Images of America—Stratford*)



Summer History Camp

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Registration time for the 15th annual History Camp is here! Time to don our 18th century costumes and step back into time.

Camp will be July 6th to 10th. The hours will be 9:00 to 12:30. Each day a section of the Captain David Judson House and the way the family used it in the 18th century will be studied. A follow-up craft related to the theme of the day will follow. Examples are candle making, butter churning and quill writing.

A walking tour to Mac's Harbor, where our town of Stratford (once called Cupheag) was founded, is planned. Along the way we will stop to learn stories of various locations.

On the last day we will have a graduation followed by a picnic. Campers will demonstrate what they have learned by giving families and guests a tour of the Captain David Judson house, while in 18th century costume.

Openings are limited to children entering the 4th grade and up. So if you have a child or grandchild who enjoys history give us a call at the Stratford Historical Society's office at 378-0630. (Cost of the camp is \$135 which includes \$20 for one adult membership).

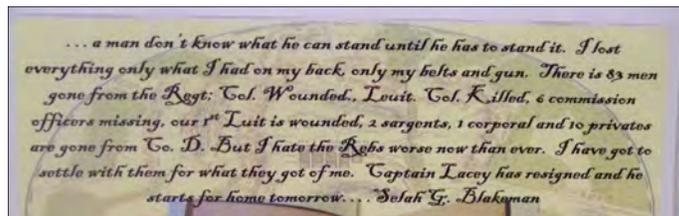


Rudy & Barbara at our Firefighter Festival Booth

Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length. *Robert Frost*

March Membership Meeting

The audience learned of the daily life of four local men of the 17th Connecticut Volunteers in 1862-63, and their fateful day at the battle of Gettysburg. We were again rewarded with an excellent presentation by Carolyn Ivanoff, a Civil War history expert, who researched letters of the Blakeman cousins.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons Nested in Our Backyard Oak



Arrived April 7, 2008 & 2009—on the same day both years!

Stratford Day

The 26th Annual Stratford Day will be held on Saturday, June 6th, 2009 from 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. This annual town-wide event will be held on Main Street from Church Street to Stratford Avenue. Main Street will be closed to thru traffic from approximately 7:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. For assistance, please contact Jean Babis or Sharon Lyman at 1-203-650-3752, or the internet at: www.stratfordday.com.

The Judson House will be open that day from 11am to 3pm. For the season commencing Sunday June 7th, visitation through October will be on Sundays and Wednesdays from 12 to 3pm.

The Indian Stone Posts

This scene of the walkway between the Judson House and Museum shows the rough-hewn stone posts that have come down from the time of the Indians. Used by them for ceremonial and other purposes, many were recovered in the mid-eighteen and nineteen hundreds when the railroad and highway(US95), respectively, were brought through. Some may have come from the maze of posts found near Pembroke Lake, which was in early Stratford, but later in Bridgeport. Handy for many as a hitching posts for the family horse, two were in front of Miss Isabel Jones' place on the south side of Stratford Avenue, east of Elm Street.



Stratford Historical Society

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REMINDER

THE LORDSHIP HISTORICAL TOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

COMPUTER CORNER

e-mail us at: Judsonhousestfd@aol.com

Fax: 203-378-2562

On the Web: www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting

June 29, 2009 7:00pm

Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

All members of the Society are Welcome to Attend

Please call 203-378-0630 for information