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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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

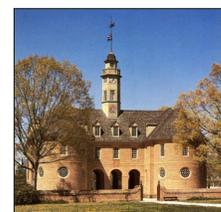
## **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Friday September —, 2010 - 7:00pm**

**Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street, Stratford**



### **The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg A Journey Through Time** by Robert Berthelson



We thank Mr. Berthelson for providing us with the lecture missed in January due to the poor weather that night. A photographer with a life-long interest in American history and nostalgia, Bob has presented programs to over 1600 Connecticut audiences including libraries, historical societies, schools, social groups, retirement communities and other organizations.

In this program, he compares early paintings and 1920 era photographs with modern pictures of the magnificent restoration work done to bring this city back to life. Frequently, “before” and “after” views are shown with explanations of the work that was required. Often, nineteenth century remodeling had to be removed before restoration could begin. The colonial Capitol and the Governors Palace had to be restored “from the ground up” since all that remained were foundation ruins.

By 1607, a new settlement at Jamestown, in Virginia, became the first successful English colony in America. The discovery of a local strain of tobacco proved to be the life-blood the colony needed to survive. By 1615, exports to England attracted more settlers who built additional plantations along both sides of the James River. Unfortunately, relations with the local natives were often strained. In 1622, all of the James River plantations were burned and many settlers were killed in an Indian uprising. Subsequent political upheavals forced the colonial legislature to establish itself in an area further inland - Williamsburg. Williamsburg soon became the prosperous colonial capital of Virginia. When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, a British warship threatened the government and it was moved to a safer location further west to Richmond. In the late summer of 1781, Williamsburg became a battleground as thousands of American and French troops closed in on the British army a few miles away at Yorktown. Fortunately, a French engineer drew an accurate map of the layout of the city to find quarters for the troops. This map would later prove invaluable in locating many of the buildings that, over the years, were lost to time.

In 1923, Dr. William Archer Rutherford Goodwin accepted the position of rector of the Burton Parish Church in Williamsburg. Then, realizing that here was a chance to restore an entire city to its former splendor as a monument to colonial America; he contacted John D. Rockefeller and told him of his vision to restore Williamsburg to its former glory. The rest is history.

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**The meeting is open to the Public  
Refreshments will be served — Bring a Friend**

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## **Book of Remembrance**

Donations have been made in

Memory of: **rl**

Given by:

In honor of

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For a year filled with P. T Barnum festivities we are fortunate to have Kathleen Maher as are guest speaker this evening. Ms. Maher is Executive Director and Curator of the Barnum Museum Foundation.

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### **Connecticut Air & Space Museum Restoration Project**



This H13E/Bell 47-E Helicopter, on loan from the Ellis Vocational Tech School in Danielson, Ct., awaits funding for radios and a cockpit bubble. Its fame and recognition come from the MASH TV show. Like the Corsair, it is one of many ongoing projects.

## Stratford Yacht Clubs– Then & Now

**Housatonic Boat Club**



**Pootatuck Yacht Club**



**Stratford Historical Society**

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### COMPUTER CORNER

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**Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting**  
**October ??, 7:00pm Please call 203-378-0630**  
**for more information**