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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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*Volume* XIV Issue 4

March 2010

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Capt. David Judson House c1750  
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

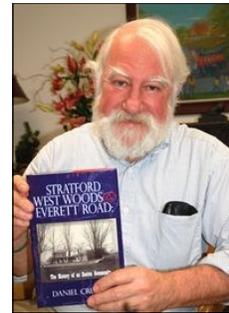
## **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Friday March 26, 2010 - 7:00pm**

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

## **STRATFORD WEST WOODS AND EVERETT ROAD: THE UNTOLD STORY:**

### ***A HISTORICAL LECTURE BY DAN- IEL CRUSON***



Daniel Cruson will present a talk about his recently published book, Stratford West Woods @ Everett Road – The History of An Easton Community. He describes it as a micro history of a small section of Easton that reflects the history and culture of the larger community in which it was imbedded, but at the same time maintained a separate identity that has continued into the present.

This evening we welcome back Mr. Cruson, Newtown municipal historian. He retired as a teacher in the Easton-Redding school system where he designed and taught courses in anthropology and local history. His life-long interest in these fields has led him to do extensive research and writing on the history of the towns of central Fairfield County.

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

**In the event of a cancellation, it will be announced on WICC 660 AM.**

**Also, call the Society at 203-378-0630**

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### Rudy Mastroianni, President

#### History Repeats Itself—Again!

Since 1925 the Governing Board of the Society, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, has worked continuously to provide its members with a strong program consisting of the bimonthly UPDATE newsletter and General Membership meetings. Mainstays have been Judson House Tours for public and school Groups, and the summer History Camps for youngsters. Many special events have also taken place.

I believe you will agree with me that the title of this piece fits as you read on the cover of this newsletter about the: March 26 Program; Scholarship Program; School Tours and History Camp. And, we are encouraged to report that twelve followers of Stratford History are now undergoing training to become Docents; they being the heartbeat and lifeblood needed to relate the history of Judson House and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum for the education and enjoyment of all who enter their doors.



### Book of Remembrance

Donations have been made in

Memory of: **Dorothy P. Euerle**

Given by:

Gloria Duggan

Janet Gillis

Dolores & Bob Hoctor

Carol & Todd Lovell

Sandra K. McFarland

In honor of: **Lynn Hubina**

Given by:

Anne Roberts

### Stratford Historical Society Offers Scholarships

Again this year we are reviewing applications for \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to high school seniors residing in Stratford. Applicants must be Stratford residents, have a favorable academic record and a strong interest in history through participation in related activities.

Information and applications were sent to guidance offices at local high schools. The deadline for application submissions was Monday, March 15th.

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### Library of Congress Oral History Project

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

Participant may be a veteran, an interviewer, or person donating a veteran's collection. Students in the 10th grade and above may also participate and there are special resources for educators and students.

For more information, contact Bob Mastroni at 203-345-7338.

Also, on the Web at:

[Veterans History Project \(Library of Congress\)](#)

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## The Women Founders of New England

Ye grand men of our early day,  
 Who here for freedom made a way,  
 With faith and prayer and quoten Word,  
 Yet coat of mail and girded sword;  
 Who laid in strength the founded State,  
 And o'er it sat to legislate;  
 And oft in magistracy stood  
 Before th' admiring multitude;  
 Who felt th' inspiring sense of power  
 And thrill of the victorious hour;  
 And saw, afar, that grateful fame  
 Would cherish every hero's name;  
 —The schoolboy at his lesson reads  
 Th' inspiring record of your deeds;  
 The public eye on canvas sees  
 Your conflicts fierce and victories;  
 The monumental shaft is reared  
 To keep your names for aye revered.  
 But there were hearts of purest gold  
 Whose tale of courage ne'er was told;  
 True heroes, who no armor wore,  
 Yet shared the perils that ye bore;  
 Braving, with courage none the less,  
 The savage and the wilderness;  
 Clothed with no power in church or state,  
 No word in worship or debate;  
 With faith-lit brow and helping hand,  
 Asking but by your side to stand;  
 Who had no hope a later day  
 Its tribute of renown would pay;  
 Who made their sad self-sacrifice  
 Before no world's admiring eyes;  
 Of men's remembrance thinking not,  
 Content to toil and be forgot.

Ah! when the heroes of that time  
 Are numbered on God's book sublime,  
 High on the roll of that true fame  
 Many a gentle woman's name,  
 Which earth had cared not to record,  
 Shall stand writ Valiant for the Lord.

*Attributed to John Hooker by his wife,  
 Isabella Beecher Hooker, May 16, 1890*

## January Membership Meeting

Weather conditions led to the unfortunate cancellation of Robert Berthelson's presentation of 'The Restoration of Williamsburg' which we plan to re-schedule at a future meeting.

The Society's officers apologize to those that did not get word of the cancellation.

In the event of questionable weather at future meeting dates, cancellation will be announced on WICC 660 AM, or you may check by calling the Society at 203-378-0630.

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## GOOD NEWS

The History Camp is going to be held again this year the first full week of July just after the Independence Day holiday. It will begin on Monday, July 5 and run through Friday, July 9. Sandy Rutkowski is again in charge.

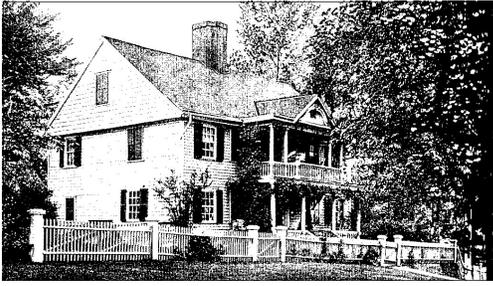
There are some changes this year. The camp day will begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 9:30. There are so many interesting things to do that more time is needed. The sessions will end at 12:30 p.m. as usual.

Another change that we want any campers planning to return to know is that we will be sending home History Camp flyers with children who visit the Judson House on school tours. We are expecting a bigger response, but only the first twenty applicants will be accepted. There will be a waiting list as well.

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## More Good News

A new class of 12 docents has completed training!



The Captain David Judson House before and after it was gifted to the Society

((Postcard History Series))

## Happy Birthday Stratford Historical Society!

### The First Eighty Five Years: 1925 – 2010

A *First Look Back*, through the pages of History of Stratford, 1639—1939, by Wm. Howard Wilcoxson, revealed the following time line of major milestones:

Early Jan., 1925: Judson House and property deed offered by Miss Celia Curtis

Jan. 17, 1925 : Articles of Association were filed under the name Stratford Historical Society Incorporated by Charter members: Mrs. Adelaide Curtis Gunther, Miss Francis B. Russell, Mrs. Margaret Beardsley De Lacour, Rev. George W. Judson, Mr. John C. Wilcoxson and Mrs. Charles H. Welles

Jan. 20, 1925: Miss Curtis transferred deed of trust to Donald S. Sammis, Harold F. De Lacour and John T. Curtis, Trustees

Jul. 10, 1925: 1st Corporate meeting with 55 persons enrolled as members

Sep. 25, 1925: 1st Annual Meeting – membership rises to 134 .

Nov. 14, 1925: Endowment Fund set up - \$13,000 raised in first 5 years

For the March Newsletter, we'll be doing the *Second Look Back*, dusting off the files of the Society in search of the time line for the following milestones:

- ▶ Minutes of first board meeting
- ▶ Constitution and Bylaws Committee formed
- ▶ Constitution and Bylaws adopted
- ▶ Judson House opened to the public for tours
- ▶ First Major Event Held

I invite you to contact the Office to add your recollections of major events for publication in future issues of the Newsletter.

Rudy Mastroianni, President



“A tugboat had the added task of ice breaking as it towed an empty oil tanker yesterday through the Housatonic river floe toward Long Island Sound. The camera of Post photographer Al Mathewson caught this view of the tug and tanker from a Bridgeport Flight Service plane, piloted by Jay Lebowitz, just as the vessels were passing Bond’s Dock in Stratford. The National Weather Service estimated the river’s ice coating as six to eight inches thick in most places.” (Bridgeport Post January 22, 1927)

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On the Web: [www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com)

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board Meeting  
April 26, 2010 7:00pm Please call 203-378-0630  
for more information