
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XV Issue 2

November 2010



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday November 19, 2010 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford



Carolyn Ivanoff as *Dolley Madison*

- as First Lady, Dolley will speak about the founding of our nation, her husband James Madison's role as the Father of the American Constitution, and events of the early Republic.

Dolley Payne Todd Madison (May 20, 1768 – July 12, 1849) was the spouse of the fourth President of the United States, James Madison, and was First Lady of the United States from 1809 to 1817. She also occasionally acted as First Lady during the administration of Thomas Jefferson fulfilling the ceremonial functions more usually associated with the President's wife, since Jefferson was a widower. Of the early First Ladies in the United States, Dolley Madison, has been considered the most colorful. In her eight years in Washington, D.C. (1809-1817), she made the White House a most delightful place to visit. Beautiful gregarious, buoyant, and cheerful, the regular social gatherings she hosted were lively events at which anyone would feel welcome. Through her special inviting manner the often tense political, as well as social, atmosphere of Washington could become wonderfully calm.

Carolyn Ivanoff is an assistant principal at Shelton Intermediate School in Shelton Connecticut. She has over twenty years of experience in a variety of educational settings in public schools: teacher, administrator, departmental chair, teacher leader, adult educator and software trainer. In 2003, Carolyn was named the Civil War Preservationist Trust Teacher of the Year. In addition, Carolyn develops, authors, and presents a variety of historical programs for various organizations and serves as a resource for local history initiatives. She is committed to bringing history and social studies educational programs beyond the classroom and into the community.

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

Rudy Mastroianni, President

Repeat after me: **HUZZAH! HUZZAH! HUZZAH!**, a victory praise used by the Colonial militia, and a fitting tribute to every volunteer in any capacity who made possible the several glowing reports shown on the following pages. Namely, are the successes of the weekly Walk-In and the School Tours of Judson House. In addition, maintaining the herb and flower gardens and "house cleaning" the House are salient key tasks the volunteers performed. I repeat: **HUZZAH!**

Another hearty **HUZZAH!** to our Program Committee for this month's meeting from which we will have the pleasure of enjoying Carol Ivanoff's re-enactment of Dolley Madison. We guarantee you another enjoyable performance by Ms. Ivanoff.

In another unique program, in conjunction with the Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony on Academy Hill, we opened the Catharine Bunnell Mitchell Museum where Docents elaborated on the historical background of the Revolutionary War and Civil War periods with exhibits of artifacts, and made available for review the lists of Stratford residents who served in those Wars.

Walk-In Tours

Judson House this season opened for public walk-in tours on Sundays and Wednesdays at the beginning of June and continued until the end of October with the help of several docents and a long list of dependable hostesses.

Dolores Hctor continued to work each Sunday. Wednesday tours were conducted by Rebecca Arkenberg in June, Debbie Mackbach in both July and October, Dolores in August and Carol Bogacz in September.

Most of our hostesses returned for another season and many came for more than one day:

Ann Eisenger, Basil Nastro, Bob Hctor, Stephany Kirik, Mary Evers, Marjorie Schlosser, Marie Blake, Nancy Goodrich, Janet Jacopian, Barbara Firisin, Dorothy Bobko, Lorraine Jezierny, Barbara Reid, Linda Woods, Shirley Balascak, Christine Constant, Molly Brown, Beverly Tabak, Shirley McCormack and Pat Casenhiser.

Help Wanted

To any member who might be wondering how they might participate in the operation of the Stratford Historical Society, the following paragraphs are for you.

Docents

We have a very worthwhile project in connection with the Stratford Board of Education and the Perry House. In connection with the third grade curriculum study of colonial times, we are attempting to show children an important and different kind of life that established our town and all other frontier towns throughout the history of the United States. The contribution of children was necessary and inestimable.

We also want children to realize the value of the repository of eighteenth century artifacts displayed in the Judson House created and maintained by the Stratford Historical Society.

We have a formidable task ahead of us, and if we want to do it adequately, we need a large pool of docents who are willing and able to enlighten children about the importance of the past.

Anyone who would be interested in taking the docent course on Tuesday mornings in March in preparation for the spring and fall school tours please contact SHS at (203) 378-0630.

Garden

On display at the Judson House grounds is a fine example of a colonial garden replete with many period type herbs and flowers. As to be expected keeping it attractive and healthy throughout the growing season requires doing the usual tasks of mulching, weeding, trimming, cultivating and watering, for example. Our thanks to Gail Liscio who has volunteered to lend the much needed care. But, more help would be welcomed to care for the garden from Spring to Fall. The "garden" includes the bed on the front lawn and the beds around the perimeter of the House. Call the Society to stake your claim on a section!

House

Lastly, we strive to maintain a clean House for school tours and visitors during the season. Cleaning tasks involve light mopping, vacuuming and dusting. If you have an hour now and then to spare, call the Society.

Milton Wallace Bond 1918—2010 - Andrew Nelson - (Cont'd. from Sept. '10 issue)

Son of a sea captain, with his early life spent in the family trades of oystering and ship building, Milton Bond turned a probable hobby into a successful career in folk art in 1967 at age 49. His chosen medium, reverse painting on glass, has been traced to 13th century Venice. He noted that it was seldom practiced any more, and likened it to “the Egyptian formula for embalming”.

In 1976 The National Miniature Show awarded its First Place to Milton. Subsequently, in Morges, Switzerland, at their International Folk Art Exhibitions, he earned a Silver Medal in 1983, a Bronze in 1984 and a Gold in 1992, resulting in his being awarded a lifetime membership in the Henri Rousseau Society.

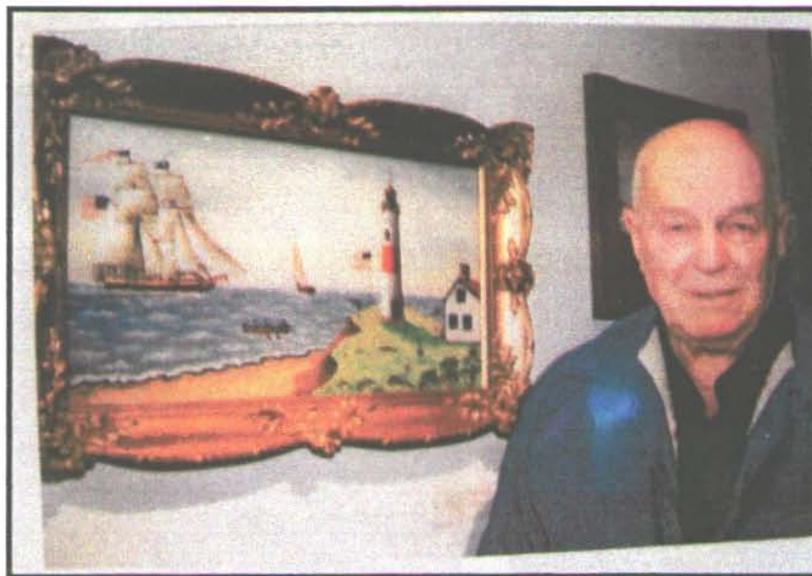
Milton’s works are in the permanent collections of the John Judkin Museum (Bath, England), the Grand Palais (Paris), the New York State Historical Association, the Reagan Presidential Museum, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Discovery Museum, Palace of Versailles (France), and the Museum of American Folk Art (New York), to name a few.

Milton donated the painting for Stratford’s 350th anniversary celebration which is featured on the dust cover of *In Pursuit of Paradise*. His generosity was also shown when the massive Stratford Center flooding took place. He donated a painting of Stratford’s Lighthouse which, along with prints, was sold and the proceeds given to help businesses recover.

March 5, 1998, his 80th birthday, was designated “Milton Bond Day in Connecticut” by the Governor, and The Discovery Museum hosted a birthday reception in his honor along with a selection of 24 of his works.

As time went on, the interest in Mr. Bond’s work increased. His artworks were flown to many places around the world to be exhibited and sold. Mr. Bond himself, however, was steadfast in his love of land and sea. He took great pride to his dying day in proclaiming that he had never set foot in an airplane!

The Stratford Historical Society will soon have a permanent collection of Milton Bond’s work due to the recent notification of a bequest. Anyone wishing to add to this collection should contact the Society.



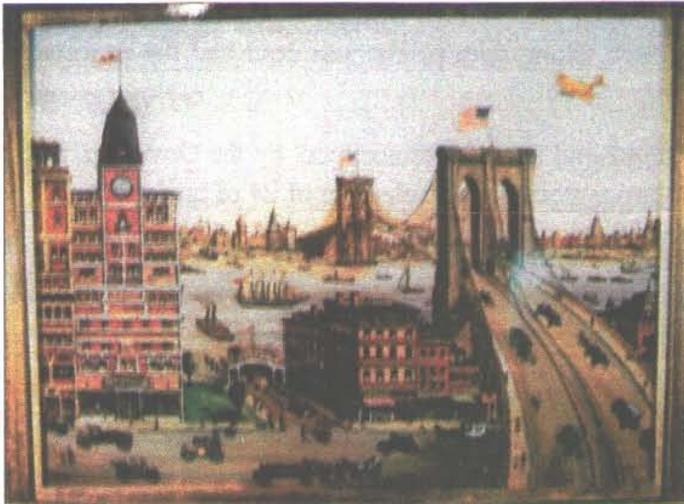
“Milton with his “Stratford Lighthouse”



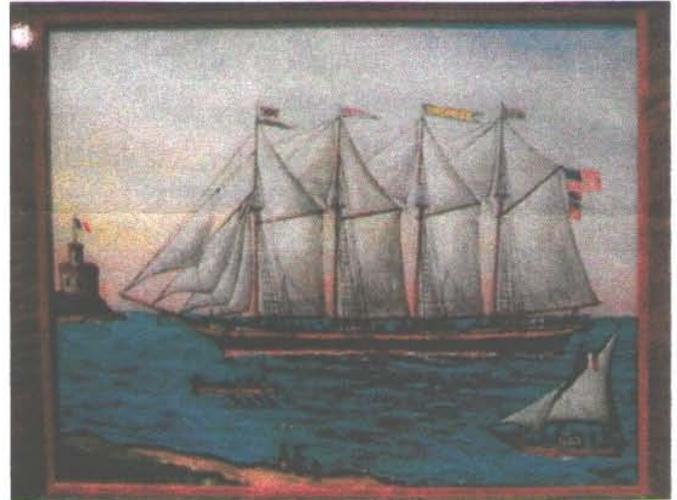
“Main St., Stratford”



“Remington Arms, Bridgeport”



“Brooklyn Bridge, 1923”



“Four-Master off Stratford Point”



“Last Rockets, Titanic Sinking!”



“George Washington Bridge”

School Tours

Approximately 510 third grade children along with their teachers and chaperones from the Stratford public schools and 45 from St. Mark, (combination third and fourth grades) and seven from Boys and Girls Village in Milford were given a tour of Judson House and a story time at the Museum during September, October and November this year.

The tour was in conjunction with the curriculum study of colonial Stratford, showing children artifacts from the colonial period in the appropriate setting with emphasis on the role of children at that time.

For the first time a segment about school days in early America was added using the Museum exhibit as a focal point.

Toys used by colonial children were supplied by the gift shop. The children had a chance to play with Jacob's Ladder, Ball and Cup, Buzzsaw and tops. Cat's Cradle provided another challenge.

At the suggestion of Rebecca Arkenberg, volunteers prepared a weaving project for each child that could be worked on in the classroom. Rebecca uses this activity with children at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City!

Contributing to the success of the tours was the dedicated participation of many talented volunteer docents including:

Carolyn Ross, Debbie Mackbach, Rudy Mastroianni, Dave Schroeder, Carol Bogacz, Fran Eposito, Joan Naples, Gail Liscio, Joe Dimenno, Barbara Firisin, Judy Kurmay, Wyatt Whiteman, Barbara Schroeder, Rebecca, and Pam Hutchinson .



We received many favorable comments and many helpful suggestions from teachers who took the time to complete our evaluation form.

This year SHS worked in co-operation with Perry House where the children went afterward for a picnic lunch and a chance to learn more Stratford history.

Visitors from Near and Far

Town, state, country and international visitors found themselves touring the Judson House and Museum during the 2010 season. We had many people from Stratford, some of whom had never been here, but there were many out of town visitors as well.

Besides coming from England and Scotland, people came from as far away as California and Washington State. In addition we hosted Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, New York and New Jersey.

Connecticut towns represented in our roster were Bridgeport, Trumbull, Shelton and Milford, our next door neighbors. In addition were people from Meriden, Stamford, Orange, Waterbury, Westport, New Haven and Norwalk.

Our season compared favorably with other years in this decade, but overall there were not as many people as we would have liked to have come. We urge everyone to encourage family, friends, neighbors and associates to take a trip back into history and life as it was in the eighteenth century when David Judson lived and built us this beautiful house filled with antiques from Stratford's past.

In addition, during this past season, our library volunteers assisted 120 individuals researching genealogy and/or town history .

September Membership Meeting

Robert Berthelson's presentation of the work done to restore Williamsburg was well received by a large audience. Below, a picture of Bob with Society hospitality hosts Pam and John Hutchinson.



