
Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XV Issue 4

March 2011



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

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday March 25, 2011 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
2000 Main Street, Stratford

PRUDENCE CRANDALL: VOICE OF CONVICTION

Presented by Donna Dufresne



Prudence Crandall (1803-1890) was a Connecticut resident who tried to establish a school for African-American girls. In 1833 she established the first Academy for African American women in New England. It only lasted 18 months. During that time Crandall and her students suffered tremendous persecution and hardship. She was put on trial twice in an attempt to close the academy and in the fall of 1834 such efforts succeeded and it was finally closed. Her courage and moral strength in the face of such adversity, however, led the state legislature to vote her an annual pension of \$400. More recently, she has been designated the State Heroine and her house in Canterbury, which she attempted to turn into a school, has become a National Landmark. Join Ms. Dufresne to find out why the status of State Heroine is so appropriate for Prudence Crandall.



Donna holds a bachelor's degree in American History from Lesley University and a master's degree in Gifted and Talented Education from the University of Connecticut. While working on her undergraduate degree in history, she developed several historical characters which she performs as one woman shows, including Connecticut State Heroine, Prudence Crandall.

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

Rudy Mastroianni, President

Spring is the current operative word, being that the season of Spring is set to begin a few days before our meeting on March 25.

In a more relevant and active sense, the volunteers of your Society are clearly poised to 'spring' into action as you will read in the following pages, and as concisely reviewed below:

At the March 25 meeting Ms. Donna Dufresne will describe the rise and fall of Prudence Crandall's quest to introduce a school for the education of African-American women in Canterbury, Connecticut.

Also, Rebecca Arkenberg, the Society's resident expert weaver previews her future presentation at the 2011 Weaving Conference, May 14 and 15 in Clayton, NY.

And, tireless volunteer Dolores Hctor had great success in attracting a new class of 10 docents, who are in the process of being trained. We thank Carol Bogacz, a Docent since march 2010, for sharing her "Docent Experience".

A March 14 meeting will take place at the Society with Perry House and 5th grade teachers to review the Revolutionary War period school tours scheduled for April and May.

A look ahead to a historical event to be remembered in April, that is the Civil War. April 12, 1861 is the 150th Anniversary of the start of the hostilities. It is often referred to as 'A Call to Arms', that was a call for volunteers to the Union States. Stratford made major contributions of men, armaments, clothing and food. The Society is planning to offer, in the near future, a special presentation centered around its extensive collection of Civil War artifacts.

Women's History Month

Belva Ann Lockwood

Attorney and activist Belva Ann Lockwood was the first woman admitted to the Supreme Court Bar in March 1879. After winning her four-year battle with Congress for a woman's right to argue before the high court, Lockwood, known around Washington, D. C. for her habit of riding a tricycle, becomes the first woman to run for president in 1884.



Smithsonian Mar 2004

DOCENT CLASS 2011

On the first of March, ten ladies and gentlemen assembled in the Museum to begin a five week training course for docents. They included:

Mary Evers
Peggy Habonak
Al Hendrickson
Jamie Johnson
Bob Mastroni
Laureen Pekar
Elizabeth Rivera
Nancy Sirois
Pat Stone
Zoltan Toman

We are looking forward to their joining our already illustrious band of docents dedicated to guiding school children through Judson House and Museum to view and learn about the amazing resources of the Stratford Historical Society.

The Docent Experience

Carol Bogacz

I joined the docent class in March of 2010 after reading an article in our local Stratford newspaper. At first I wasn't sure I would be able to do this as we had just recently moved to Stratford. It wasn't a problem at all. I was able to learn much about the history of Stratford and the Judson House. I would encourage any one thinking about joining the Judson House docent class to do so. You will be rewarded when you see the faces of the children as they step off their buses and see all of the docents standing in front of the Judson House dressed in colonial costume. It has been a wonderful experience for me.

Weaving History Conference

Rebecca Arkenberg will be one of the presenters at the 2011 Weaving History Conference in Clayton, New York, May 14 and 15.

Her topic is "Very Costly Things: Textile References in the Letters of Susan Edwards Johnson," a topic that arose from her research into Stratford weaver Silas Burton.

Susan Edwards Johnson's letters are in the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and date from 1792 to 1851. She was the granddaughter of theologian Jonathan Edwards and the daughter of the Honorable Pierpont Edwards. She married into the Johnson family of Stratford: her husband Samuel William was the grandson of Samuel Johnson, first rector of Christ Episcopal Church and first president of King's College. William Samuel Johnson was Susan's father-in-law. Susan's sister Henrietta married Eli Whitney, and she was also related to the Verplancks, Dwights, and Burrs.

The letters contain a wealth of information about Stratford, including references to the War of 1812, as well as the details of every day life, gossip, marriages, births, and deaths.

Rebecca's presentation will focus on the purchase and care of textiles, clothing, and home furnishings, as well as descriptions of bonnets, the sewing and fitting of bed curtains, clothing and textiles handed down to family members, and the alterations made to dresses worn to a New York City wedding.

This is Rebecca's third presentation at this Weaving History Conference--in 2008 and 2009 her presentation centered on Silas Burton.

In a Colony of the King

It is a beautiful place, and from the water has an appearance not inferior to that of Canterbury. The people are said to be the most polite of any in the colony.

Reverend Samuel Peters, London, 1781

(Pg 39, In Pursuit of Paradise)

January Membership Meeting

Another January cancellation due to weather. We expect to re-schedule *Robert Renkowsky - Antique Lamps & Lanterns* at a future meeting.

Oronoque Village's Fortieth Anniversary

Residents began moving into the Village in 1971 after Chris Bargas and his partners had acquired the land, commenced building and received permission from the Town to proceed. "It was envisioned as a golf-oriented village with condo units disbursed along the fairways, similar to the chalets that line the ski trails in the mountains; a community combining the delights of country living, golf club activities and the convenience of town amenities."

Early unit owners had to be at least 35 years old and children, if any, had to be seventeen or older. In 1990, villagers voted in favor of an adult 55+ Village.

For those early villagers moving in during the throes of construction, and for those inhabiting the condos to and in this anniversary year, the experience has been successful one for most. The Village has been kept in prime condition, there have been multiple activities in which to participate, and the location, though just up the hill from the Sikorsky plant and not far from the Merritt Highway, has still been relatively quiet and peaceful.

Major Events of 1911

Italian-Turkish War (1911-1912). Italy defeats Turkey and occupies Dodecanese Islands in Aegean Sea, and Libya.

Roald Amundsen beats Robert F. Scott to the South Pole.

New York Public Library opens.

The Computing Tabulating Recording Corporation - now known as IBM - is incorporated..

1st US federal cemetery with Union & Rebel graves opens in Missouri.

Brewster Pond



A 19th century dam in Long Brook created Judson's Pond which provided water for making steam at Woods Lumber Mill and ice for the Judson family . When Bill Brewster bought the pond it took his name. At the time Ray Knapp fishing from Brewster's canoe, kept by their ice house, was taking two-foot pickerel from the pond.

Source:Stratford Post Card History Series

Stratford Historical Society

(203) 378-0630

967 Academy Hill

P.O.Box 382

Stratford, CT 06615-0382



Coming Events

May 27 - Membership Meeting

June 5 - Judson House opens to public

July 11 - 15 - Summer History Camp

Sept 30 - Membership Meeting

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

April 25, 2011 1:00pm

Please call 203-378-0630 for information