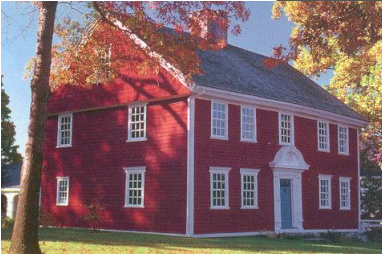

Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

Volume XVI Issue 4

March 2012



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

The Stratford Historical Society Presents

Rick Spencer

Songs of the War of 1812

Friday March 30, 2012 - 7:00pm

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

Rick Spencer's "Songs of the War of 1812" program presents 12 songs which were popular during the conflict or which were written about some aspect of the war. The presentation includes a discussion of the antecedents, causes and significant events of the war.



Included are two songs which were used as recruiting tools to induce young British men to sign up for military service, a song of lament from the perspective of a woman whose husband has been impressed into the service, two songs describing seafaring battles during the war, three songs about the soldiering life during the period and several patriotic songs.

Music has been an important part of every war that humankind has ever conducted. Music has provided encouragement for the cause, patriotic zeal, propaganda and comfort to those whose lives have been changed by war. It has provided documentation (sometime accurate, sometimes not) of the circumstances of the conflicts. This program presents music that was popular during the War of 1812, and gives insight into the personalities and events on both sides of the confrontation.

These songs add an emotional, human and cultural connection to the conflict, bridging the distance in time, and adding color and depth to the facts of this war.

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

Rudy Mastroianni, President

To start this month’s column I conclude the brief history of the Nicoll/Benjamin House on Elm St. introduced in the January issue. Next, I refer to the Constitution/Bylaws of the Society by focusing on the purposes stated therein. More on the latter subject following some concluding remarks about the historical Nicoll/Benjamin House.

Nicoll/Benjamin (White House): Picking up on the legacy of Samuel Nicoll, the Nicoll/Benjamin House on Elm St., Circa 1850, is shown in the graphic to the right (1962 original by Howard Wilcoxson, copy from the Stratford Historical Society file). Nicoll became Stratford’s wealthiest man at the time by plying his lucrative trade as a privateer during the War of 1812. He became one of the first land owners in present day Lordship. There he left behind another landmark known as the Lordship Farm on which he built the Manor House, and remains standing at 139 4th Ave.



The concern for the deteriorated condition and future of the Nicoll/Benjamin House was brought to light in May 2011 in the local newspapers (Stratford Star and CT.. Post). The recent article (CT Post, March 4, 2012) reported on the presentation to the State Legislature for financial backing by Stratford’s Theater local backers



and Town Representatives . The graphic at the left shows a recent photograph of the front view of the House , and the graphic at the right shows the deterioration of the left side.

Mission and Vision – 2012:As it was reported in the March Newsletter, the Constitution/Bylaws, Rev. 1989, our governing document, is undergoing a review for possible amendments by a special committee. The purposes (Article II) stated therein passed the scrutiny of the Committee which spell out our Mission: In modern day thinking for success of an organization, stating a Mission is necessary, but not sufficient. To accomplish the Mission, it must be supported by a statement of Vision. Article II in part states, ‘to carry on an active educational program for children and adults’. Thus, our Vision is to create the finest Education Program of Stratford Town History for school children and families, and to transform the displays in our Catharine Bunnell Museum from static to interactive ones. To be continued.



Book of Remembrance

Donations have been made in

Memory of Basil Nasto

Given by Morris Weintraub

“It’s good for morale if on occasion the manager rolls up his sleeves, goes down to the trenches and does some real work”. – “From Cigars, Whiskey & Winning: Leadership Lessons”
Ulysses S. Grant

Annual Summer History Camp

Campers will have a busy and fun filled week learning about our town history and participating in hands on activities from the 18th Century.

Each day, Monday through Thursday, we will learn about a different aspect of life in the 18th. century. We will use our historical Captain David Judson House c.1750, as a teaching tool. For example when learning about chores and the kitchen and buttery we will churn our own butter to sample and dip candles. Other topics will be slavery in CT, household chores, social graces, the Revolutionary War and town history with a historical walking tour of our town.

On Friday each camper will dress in 18th century clothing from our costume department. Campers will give tours through the Judson House, in costume, to all friends and families. Afterward there will be refreshments and 18th. century dancing and games.

History Camp will be from July 9- 13. Hours are 9:00-12:30. Camp is open to children entering 4th grade through High School. The cost is \$125 plus a \$20 Historical Society one year membership which includes the newsletter. If your child or grandchild is interested please contact the Society by telephone at 203-378-0630, or e-mail at judsonhousestfd@aol.com to hold a spot!

Spend a week with us in the 18th century, it will be a lot of fun!

Stratford During The War of 1812

The Fourth brigade of the State Militia was assigned to protect Fairfield County. It's commander, General Enoch Foote, had three companies in Stratford township. Every able-bodied man from seventeen to fifty was enrolled. Captain Joseph Stephen Porter lived at the lower dock (in a home later owned by decoy carver Laing. His company drilled on the old parade ground at Academy Hill and his men lived within a few blocks of the assembly point. Uptown, Captain Elijah Booth trained his men on the North Parade, south of the present town hall. Booth's house was up Main Street, about where Barnum Avenue cutoff is, and his troops, mostly Booths and Curtises, were a few minutes walk of the parade grounds. On the Sunday before May training exercises, both companies attended the Episcopal Church in uniform. They sat in the gallery, the uptown company clad in blue coats faced with red, the downtown company in red coats with white facing.

In Pursuit of Paradise

Our Museum Donor

CATHARINE TOMLINSON (BUNNELL) MITCHELL

1871-1955

Catharine Tomlinson (Bunnell) Mitchell was born in Stratford in 1871. She attended Bryn Mawr (1894-1897) and studied journalism and literature at Yale (1896-1898). While pursuing a writing career, she worked as a copyholder and editor for a number of New York publishing houses including The Century Company.

On January 23, 1915 she married James Mitchell, a childhood friend of her parents. She and her husband moved to Torrance, California where James Mitchell was involved in agriculture and oil businesses. They had no children. Catharine T. (Bunnell) Mitchell died in Stratford, Connecticut in 1955.



The large —?—, on Academy Hill, across from the Society; planted by The Stratford League of Women Voters in November 1925, *In Memory of Edith Hastings*.

Stratford Historical Society

(203) 378-0630

967 Academy Hill

P.O.Box 382

Stratford, CT 06615-0382



May 25th Presentation

This Old Hat—Patty Carver

COMPUTER CORNER

e-mail us at: Judsonhousestfd@aol.com

Fax: 203-378-2562

On the Web: www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board
Please call 203-378-0630 for information



The Connecticut Air & Space Center - a museum celebrating Stratford's prominence in the history of Aviation - from sea planes to helicopters, to WWII era aircraft, and more, including engines and tank parts; produced by Sikorsky, Chance Vought and AVCO.

Located in Bldg. 6 of the Army Engine Plant off Sniffen's Lane; and maintained by volunteers who restore and showcase artifacts. Contributions are needed to cover insurance, operational costs, and the materials and supplies required for restorations.



1930 - Air mail delivery - Sikorsky S-38 Flying Duck

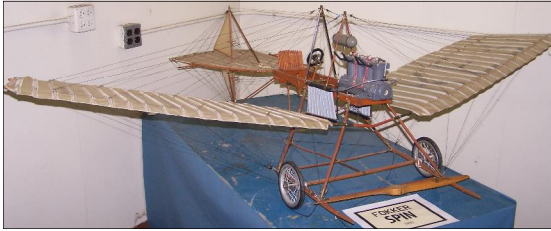
1930 - Sikorsky S-40 NC-80V "American Clipper"

1935 S-42



AVCO





Fokker Spin 1910



Douglas O-46 1937



Sikorsky S-39 1929



VS-44 1942

CASC - The Bill Wargo Model Room

Within this room are the results of hours upon hours of labor, research, technique, and patience; to create unique model replicas of famous aircraft. The majority of the models you see before you today were built by an engineer in Redding named Bill Wargo. He masterfully created his own drawings to scale down the aircraft and truly did them justice with the finest of details. Other aircraft models have been submitted by other expert builders as well that are also on display.

The majority of the models here represent aircraft that have either become extinct or are too rare to acquire an original. That's where the strengths of building a museum quality model comes into hand. It gives the viewer the impression and understanding of what the particular type of aircraft was like as far as size, dimensions, shape, etc. Some of these aircraft were built with the intension of flying them, as they are remote control aircraft models. Others were strictly built as display quality models. Today they all share a common thread and are on display for all to see.



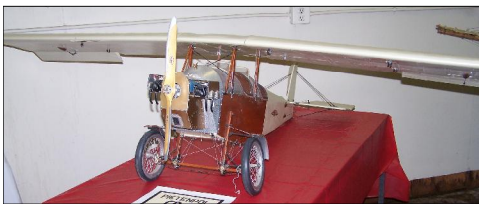
Boeing Sikorsky Comanche



Work Bench



Carrier with Corsairs



Piennopol CB-1 1967



Lockheed Vega 1928



Sikorsky S-35 1926



Lockheed P-38 Lightning



Corsair F4U/FG



Grumman F9F Panther

1929

Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corp.

S-39, S-40, S-41, S-42 & S-43

1938

Vought Sikorsky Co.

Vought-Sikorsky VS-44, VS-OS2U Kingfisher, VS-F4U Corsair, VS V-173

Vought

TBY Sea Wolf, XF5U, F6U Pirate
& prototype F7U Cutlass

Sikorsky

Helicopters: VS-300, VS-316 R-4,
VS-327 R-5, VS-316B R-6

1951

Airforce Plant #43

Avco Corp.

1976

Stratford Army Engine Plant