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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

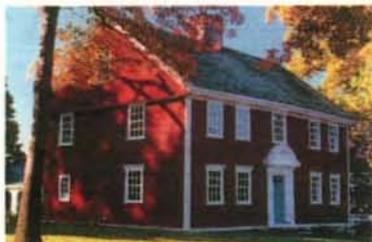
A Hand on the PAST >> An Eye to the FUTURE

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Volume XV Issue 3

January 2013

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Capt. David Judson House c 1750

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, January 25, 2013 - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street, Stratford

### The 17th Connecticut Volunteers During the Civil War Presentation by Keith Miller

One hundred and fifty years ago, during the Civil War's second year, 1000 men from Fairfield County volunteered to form the 17th Connecticut. The regiment's patrons included P.T. Barnum and Elias Howe. From August 1862 to April 1863 they saw little action but were decimated by disease, discharge, dissent, and desertion. In May and July of 1863 they fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, where their record was stained and partially redeemed. The regiment's remnants were sent south: first to the trenches of Charleston, and then the orange groves of Florida where they spent the remainder of the war in relative safety. The letters, diaries, orders, and writings of Major Allen Brady, Captains Wilson French and Albert Peck, soldiers: Manton Bailey, Henry and Selah Blakeman, Anthony Comstock, James Middlebrook, George Phillips, Justice Siliman, William Warren and others and their wives and girl friends give us an appreciation of Civil War: volunteering, marching, tenting, mutiny, food, sightseeing, fighting, hospital life, prison life, raiding, clerking, friendship, love, race relations, politics, dancing, valor, discretion, and occupying and pacifying the South.



Mr. Miller of Ridgefield, has a long-standing interest in the Civil War and has written several articles for Civil War Times. His interest in the 17th Connecticut Regiment was piqued during his successful efforts to prevent a casino from being built two miles from Barlow's Knoll where the 17th Connecticut fought at Gettysburg.

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

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## A Look Back at 2012

The Historical Society welcomed two thousand people throughout 2012. This includes our campers and over 1200 school children. The children all had time with our docents in both Judson House and the museum to learn about life early Stratford. Over five hundred of those visitors enjoyed our special events, from music and speeches at the Friday night presentations to special activities at the Historical Society. The museum hosted a special exhibit highlighting some of our town more recent history with a display of costumes from the Shakespeare Theater. The Society mourned our past President, whom we lost suddenly, but happily welcomed a new full-time assistant to the office. A busy, busy year.

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## November Membership Meeting

Rick Spencer's melodious "Glad Tidings" was a big hit with attendees.

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## Holiday Open House

The Junior Society hosted the Holiday Open House in December. The attendance was steady and a good time was had by all. The Hearthside Waits entertained guests with festive music that set the mood. The Junior Society conducted tours in costume to the delight of families and friends. Al Cawthra delighted children and adults alike with his demonstrations of musket firing and fire making without matches. Cub Scout Troop 177 earned their badges in history by attending and taking part in the scavenger hunt. We would like to thank the many volunteers who made this event possible.



### Book of Remembrance

Victoria Leigh Soto

November 4, 1985 – December 14, 2012

"Her first-grade students told their parents and the police that their teacher died after herding them to safety and shielding them from harm"



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### THE DOCENT TEAM

The Stratford Historical Society invites you to join our docents.

**If** you like to work with children.

**If** you want to share local history.

**If** you have a few hours to perform a real community service.

DOCENT classes are held on Tuesdays in March from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at The Judson House & Museum, 967 Academy Hill. Please call Dolores Hctor at [\(203\) 378-6842](tel:(203)378-6842) or the office at [\(203\) 378-0630](tel:(203)378-0630).

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### Scholarships Available

Our scholarship program is underway. Applicants are asked to submit an essay demonstrating an interest in civics or history, as well as their transcript and recommendations. Applications will be available this month, in the offices of Guidance Counselors of area high schools, for graduating seniors residing in Stratford.

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The Historical Society is happy to introduce Joe Laput as the new chairman of the hosting committee. He will be calling for hosts and hostesses to welcome visitors. If you would like to join us, please call the office or send an email with your contact information.

### Documenting History!

The Stratford Historical Society would like your help in documenting the impact of Hurricane Sandy on our town. If you have pictures or an account of how Hurricane Sandy affected you please share them with us so that we can add them to our archives and preserve this piece of town history. You can send them to The Stratford Historical Society, PO Box 382, Stratford Ct. 06614, [judsonhousestfd@aol.com](mailto:judsonhousestfd@aol.com), or drop off Monday- Friday between 8-2 at the society.

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### Festival Planned

We have received many requests to bring back the Early American Festival. The work has begun to find Revolutionary War groups representing both sides of the conflict. We are also working on finding presenters of skills and crafts such as a blacksmith and spinners. Our own Junior Society will take part in costume. The Junior Society will set up a tent where they will play colonial games with visiting children. The festival will be in the beginning of October. Exact Dates and information to follow.

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**Reminder** that if the Society cancels meetings or special events, it will be listed on [ctweather.com](http://ctweather.com) when clicking onto [IAN](#). Also, announcements will be made on [WICC](#) radio.

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**Stratford Winter Scenes from the Past**



**Chapel Street, Putney, looking toward North Main Street, with Putney Chapel in far right background  
January 1994**



**Church Street, looking east from Linden Avenue  
March 1931**

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

Upcoming Events: Call for Information  
Feb. 24, 2013 - Governing Board Meeting: 1 PM  
Mar. 22, 2013 - Gen.. Membership Meeting: 7 PM

**History is Made Every Day--Don't Miss a Single One!!!  
2013 SHS Membership renewals now due.  
Please send your check and let us be a part of your future.**

**The best we can do about the past is to keep the memories alive!**