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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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Volume XVIII Issue 1

September 2013

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Capt. David Judson House c 1750

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Friday, September 27, 2013 - 7:00pm**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**2000 Main Street, Stratford**

**Keith Miller**

## **The 17th Connecticut Regiment**

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, dissention, and desertion. In May and July of 1863 they fought at Chancellors Ville 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 Silliman, 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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### 75 Years Ago This Month - *The Hurricane of 1938*

On September 21 the Hurricane of 1938 battered Stratford. After five days of rain, the morning had been changeable, dashes of rain alternating with clearing skies. By early afternoon a solid sheet of rain was falling, whipped by fiercer winds than anyone remembered. By 2:30, WICC announced that a hurricane was on its way. Wind speeds were measured to 121 miles per hour, and gusts to 183. High tides swept over the shore-line and towering waves lashed cottages and roads. Cottages at Short Beach, Lordship, and Long Beach were smashed or swept away. Paul Castelot was drowned attempting to save a boat from drifting onto the jetty in the river, and Charles Krolinowski died of injuries received when part of his roof crashed down on him. Power went out and phones went dead when trees came down on wires. Roads were flooded and for six hours Lordship was cut off from the world.

Late in the afternoon, the wind died completely and the sun beamed down from a bright blue sky on an eerie, quiet scene. It was the eye of the storm. As darkness fell, the wind and rain returned, and homes were lighted by oil lamps and candles. Acting town manager Howard Wilcoxson stayed at his desk until midnight directing rescue efforts.

The next day, residents looked out on devastation. Fifteen hundred trees were down, and Public Works with WPA crews took five days to clear the streets. Helen and LeRoy Lewis had been swept off their little island in the Thimbles and drowned. Only the week before, Helen Lewis had been nominated secretary of state on the Baldwin ticket.

Digging out took weeks. Shoreline trains on the New Haven Road were restored after some days, and power was returned in most of the town. Even without power, the *Stratford News* was able to use its old hand press to publish the news of the storm. Red Cross chairman Warren Beach asked for donations for hurricane victims, declaring other places were harder hit. Most beach cottages were never restored.

Source: *In Pursuit of Paradise* – Lewis G. Knapp



After -  
at  
Long Beach



### Summer History Camps

Our two history camps this summer have just wrapped up.

First, those newly graduated from camp **Stepping Back In Time**, learned about life in the 1700's, did related projects each day, and learned to be guides in the Captain David Judson House. They have now joined the ranks of the Stratford Junior Historical Society.

Our second and newest camp, **Exploring Historical Topics** was also a success! Campers had a great time learning about five interesting topics and doing related craft projects. Many new friends were made and a good time was had by all.



First



Second



For more pictures of both camps visit [stratfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://stratfordhistoricalsociety.org) and our face book page.

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“In America, our origins matter less than our destination, and that is what democracy is all about.”

Ronald Reagan August 17, 1992

**Our May meeting** was a musical treat provided by the Ash Creek String Band.

### Victorian Crazy Quilt

This quilt was donated to the Society by Billie Marie Biederman, a descendant of William Judson. It was quilted in 1886 by Ella Diana Stafford Judson, wife of Lewis Brinsmaid Judson, for their first son, Frederic Carlton Judson, Frederic was the youngest of their 8 children.



It is a Victorian Crazy Quilt with exquisite fabrics and embroidery. Ella put the year **1886**, her initials **EDJ**, and the initials of her son **FJ** for Frederic, in the corners.



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### Membership

Membership dues for the coming year must be received by 12/30/13 for you to remain on our membership list. Please use the enclosed envelope.

**The front entry of the Judson House** has the original door with the original latch and hinges, and the **bullseye glass** inserted in the door. The glass so name because its appearance resembles a bull's eye. It appears slightly blue because the minerals in the sand from which it was made. The thick part where the pontil or rod molten glass was placed pontil and blown. Then so that the glass flared Small panes used for from the edges and the too thick to see through discarded, but in this a decorative fashion be-even if you could not see



in the center is was. The blob of on the end of the the rod was spun out and flattened. windows were cut center, which was might have been case it was use in cause it let light in through it clearly.

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

Upcoming Events: Call for Information

Executive Director & Curator Carol Lovell

Assistant Director

Sandy Rutkowski

**THE PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Shirley McCormack</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Todd Lovell</b>
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>	<b>Carol Bogacz</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Robert Hocter</b>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rebecca Arkenberg 2011-2014

Molly Bailey Dillon 2012-2015

Joseph Dimenno 2012-2016

**STANDING COMMITTEES (Chairperson - 1st Name Listed):**

Buildings/Grounds	Todd Lovell, Joseph Bonitatebus
Education	Dolores Hocter
Finance	Todd Lovell
Garden	Dolores Hocter
Hospitality	Pam Hutchinson
Hosts & Hostesses	Joseph LaPut
Library	Gloria Duggan, Marie Blake
Membership	Carol Bogacz
Newsletter	Dick Steele
Programs	Gail Liscio
Publicity	
Scholarships	Shirley McCormack
Town Historian Emeritus	Lewis G. Knapp

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

To cast your vote, please use the mail-in ballot printed and return it to the Office before October 16, 2013. If you wish to nominate a candidate or work on a committee, please come to the September 27, 2013 meeting.

**STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **2013-2014 ELECTION BALLOT**

\_\_\_\_\_ FOR ALL CANDIDATES, OR

\_\_\_\_\_ FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

NOMINATIONS FOR:

POSITION _____	NAME _____
POSITION _____	NAME _____

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### Docent Luncheon

A special luncheon for the docents was held on July 7<sup>th</sup>. in appreciation for the time they donated to giving our town's third and fifth grades tours of the Judson House and museum. Wyatt Whiteman cooked a fantastic meal for them as it would have been done in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century. The meal was delicious and everybody had a wonderful time.



### A Few of Your Friends and Neighbors in their Docent Attire



L to R:

