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# Stratford Historical Society >> UPDATE

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

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Volume XX Issue 1

September 2015

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Capt. David Judson House c 1750

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

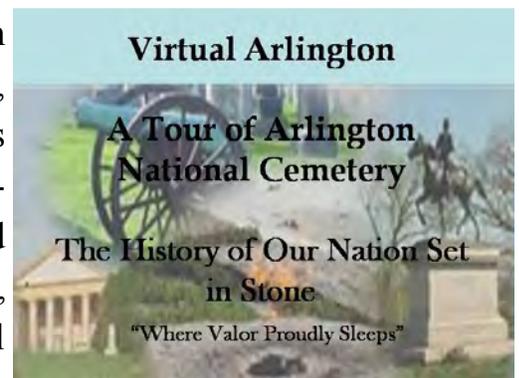
Friday, September 25th - 7:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
2000 Main Street, Stratford

Carolyn Ivanoff will be our speaker for September's General Membership Meeting. Carolyn will be presenting her **Arlington National Cemetery program**. Carolyn is the Housemaster at Shelton Intermediate School and Independent Historian. Carolyn has extensive school and community outreach experience in providing school and community educational programming. She has extensive experience working with and in collaboration with community members and community organizations to provide educational programming, grant writing assistance, achieve grant funding, and provide collaboration to take education beyond the classroom and into the community for students and community members. Several programs have achieved state awards. Programs have been presented at the National Social Studies Conference (NCSS), North East Regional Conference on the Social Studies (NERC), Civil War Trust National Teacher Institutes, and various state and community venues. In 2003, Carolyn was named the CWPT Preservationist 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.



**Carolyn Ivanoff**



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

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## June through September 1950

### New Tenant for Chance Vought plant?

When the Chance Vought plant was vacated in 1949, several attempts were made to locate new tenants. One proposal included turning the abandoned plant into a movie studio. Another proposal was made to force the federal government to take over the plant. Little progress was made through 1950, and in September of 1950, Governor Bowles traveled to Washington to meet with President Truman on this matter.

### MMM Builds a New Stratford Plant



Above, ground is broken on the new Manning, Maxwell and Moore plant on East Main in Stratford in September 1950. The completed plant is shown, below, as it appeared in May 1955. East Main would be at the left border of the photo.



### Council Fights Over Charter Violations

Of course, no time in Stratford's modern history would be quite complete without a good Town Council feud. The Spring-Fall 1950 fight was over the Republican town councilmen attempting to remove Richard Blake as the Public Works Director while the Democrats sided with Town Manager Harry Flood in retaining (soon to be Town Manager) Richard Blake. The Democrats accused the Republicans of over-stepping their authority.



UNFURLING THE COLORS, these members participate in opening day ceremonies on Tuesday's holiday at the Pootatuck Yacht Club. L-R: Otto C. Schoen, Mrs. Frank Stosse, Mrs. Schoen, and Edward J. Morganroth.

Pootatuck Yacht Club holds its opening day ceremonies in June.

### Stratford High Wins State Baseball Title

Sonny Forizs was just an amazing pitcher. He, and his team defeated all challengers. Coach Jim Penders took the state title several more times during his storied SHS career. Sonny Forizs played on the CYO baseball team in 1950, and Sonny's team won the CYO title in Connecticut and also in New England.

Shown below is the 1950 Stratford High School baseball team. Sonny is on the top row, second from the left.



STATE CHAMPS . . . Stratford High's great baseball club which won the state title this year will be honored at a banquet Tuesday night by the Stratford American Legion Post. Members of the state champs are: L-R: Front row, John Lindberg, Ted Bielen, Don Russel, Charles Slosar, Dave Burns. Second row, Charles Karpus, Bill Westman, Tom Gwynne, Steve Michaels, Albert Gould. Third row, Mgr. Russ Sherman, John Forizs, Ronny Barber, LeRoy Tompkins and Coach Jim Penders.

**State Champs...** Stratford High's great baseball club which won the state title this year will be honored at a banquet Tuesday night by the Stratford American Legion Post. Members of the state champs are: L-R: Front row, John Lindberg, Ted Bielen, Don Russel, Charles Slosar, Dave Burns. Second row, Charles Karpus, Bill Westman, Tom Gwynne, Steve Michaels, Albert Gould. Third row, Mgr. Russ Sherman, John Forizs, Ronny Barber, LeRoy Tompkins, and Coach Jim Penders. Photo from the June 25, 1950 Bridgeport Sunday Herald.

Sonny Forizs also played on the Holy Name of Jesus Church baseball team during the summer of 1950. That team went on to win the state and New England CYO titles.

## The Curtain Crew

**June 2015**

In case you have not visited Judson House recently, you might not have noticed that the beautiful silk screen linen curtains that have graced the West Room for about thirty years had seen better days.

After years of witnessing visitors from all over the world and hundreds of school children there to learn about Stratford, the curtains gradually yellowed and finally began to shred. So what to do?

Sewing Bees to the rescue! A recently formed group of sewers who gathered to make short gowns for do-cents, descended upon the Museum in June to do something about the problem. Upstairs in the House, stored away in a closet for many years, was a roll of linen fabric – the remnant of the original curtains. Miraculously, the roll held just enough of the beautiful blue on white design to replace the six panels on three windows in the “company room”. And it was in pristine condition.

Enter Laureen Pekar, sewer extraordinaire! She enthusiastically embraced the project and with help from what soon became the Curtain Crew ( Peggy Haborak, Virginia Millington, Dolores Hctor, Tina Vermette, Nancy Sirois and Linda Woods), a new set of curtains appeared.

To prevent sun damage to the fine linen, the new curtains were lined with muslin and there they are today, hung with tabs over wooded dowels, hoping to last as long or maybe longer than their predecessors.



Peggy Haborak stitching the fabric



Virginia Millington ironing the tabs



Laureen Pekar trimming the seams



Dolores Hctor and Linda Woods admiring the finished product.

## May's General Membership Meeting

On Friday, May 29th, Patty Carver brought her one woman show, “*This Old Hat—Patriots of Liberty*”, to our monthly membership meeting. Patty portrayed Betsy Ross, Deborah Sampson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Amelia Earhart. Patty demonstrated the time and effort it took for a woman to dress for any occasion in the 1700’s. The real surprise of Patty’s performance was learning that Deborah Sampson had dressed herself as a male soldier during the Revolutionary War and fought alongside the men in the Continental Army. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a Suffragette who wrote speeches for Susan B. Anthony. The evening was filled with learning, refreshments, music and a surprise, or two, along the way. For additional information on the amazing women Patty portrayed during her night in Stratford, please visit [http://www.pattycarver.com/Patty\\_Carver/Study\\_Guides\\_files/patriotsliberty-eg.pdf](http://www.pattycarver.com/Patty_Carver/Study_Guides_files/patriotsliberty-eg.pdf).



Patty Carver's stage setup



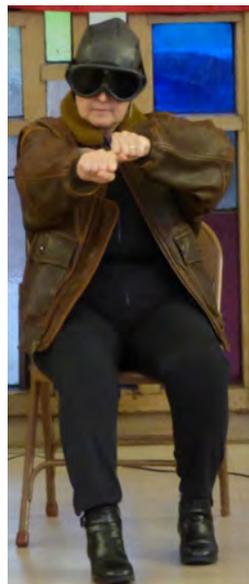
Patty Carver portrays Betsy Ross



Patty Carver portrays Deborah Sampson



Patty Carver portrays Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Patty Carver portrays Amelia Earhart



Patty demonstrates the difficulty for women in dressing during the 1700's

## Historical Society Summer Camps

Two summer camps were held this year. The first camp, *Colonial Life History*, was held from July 6th to the 10th. The second camp, *Exploring Historical Topics*, ran from July 27th until the 31st.

**Camp 1** offered hands on activities each day and explored life in the 1700's, such as cooking, weaving, candle making, schooling as well as other aspects of family life.

**Camp 2** covered topics such as: Eastern Woodland Indians, Native American Re-enactor presenting demonstrations, Vanishing Milestones- walking tour of Stratford, and, Customs and Sayings - "Why do we say and do that"?



## Tribute to Todd Lovell by his son Christopher

Saturday, Lisa was looking for a dress for Todd's funeral and I was wandering around the women's shop when I found a rack of "quotable cards." The first one I saw practically jumped into my hands. The card read: LIFE DOESN'T COME WITH AN INSTRUCTION BOOK. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE FATHERS. Rather timely and surely a sign from God and/or Dad.

It got me to thinking about what Dad taught me over the past 48 years. When I was young the teachings focused on things and processes. Many of them were outdoor, natural things. He was passionate about birds, fish, animals, flowing water, etc.

He taught me how amazing a bird's nest is. He showed me a bluebird nest in a nest box on a fence post on the south boundary of the yard. The box was less than 3 feet off the ground but I still needed a boost to see inside. Sadly, that was the last bluebird to nest in his yard.

He taught me how good a long drink from the garden hose tastes.

He taught me how nice it was to have a dog and that it was ok to cry when my bassett hound "Putney" had to be put to sleep.

He taught me how soft and vulnerable a baby cottontail rabbit was by showing me a nest he found in the field behind the house. He showed me that he cried too, the time he accidentally hit a similar nest with the lawnmower.

He taught me how to plant a shrub and this knowledge was put to use every Mother's Day when we planted Mom's new azalea.

He taught me how to mow a lawn. He taught me how to keep bees. He taught me how to fly fish. He taught me how to shoot with a bow. He taught me you could share a telescope, but you really need your own binoculars. He taught me how to drive a boat in the Housatonic River where he himself learned from his father.

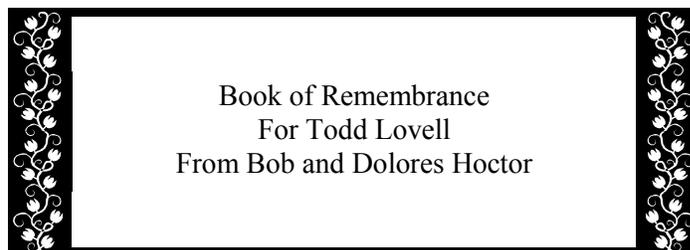
He taught me how to "firelight" at night, for crabs, eels and whatever else we could find while drifting the creeks of Knell's Island, where he spent a large portion of his youth.

He PROVED to me that the sky really was bigger in Montana and that the mountain air of the Rocky Mountains really did smell and feel differently.



**Todd Lovell March 31, 1929—July 10, 2015**

See Todd's obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ctpost/obituary.aspx?n=todd-lovell&pid=175267328&fhid=6429>



In his later years, as he failed physically, the teachings became more philosophical. Kindness matters.

Family is the most important thing. Stairs are no good when you have arthritis. Walkers are a necessary evil. Hearing aids are indispensable but are a giant pain in the ass. Childhood memories really do last a lifetime. And so many more...

But the most important lesson so far has been that death with pride and dignity, on your own terms, having said your "goodbyes", "see you later" and "I love you" to all who matter, friends and family alike, really is important and is truly a peaceful, beautiful and enviable end to a life that was so valued by so many.

Todd doesn't want us to grieve for him. He wants us to be happy for him, because he finally got to go home.

Executive Director & Curator: Carol Lovell

Assistant Director: Sandy Rutkowski

### THE PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015—2016

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Shirley McCormack
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Joe Dimenno
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	Carolyn Shannon
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>	Barbara Firisin
<b>TREASURER</b>	Robert Hoctor

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012 - 2016 Joe Dimenno

### STANDING COMMITTEES (Chairperson - First Name Listed)

<b>Building/Grounds</b>	Joseph Bonitatebus	<b>Library</b>	Gloria Duggan
<b>Education</b>	Dolores Hoctor	<b>Membership</b>	Carol Bogacz
<b>Finance</b>	Shirley McCormack	<b>Newsletter</b>	Dick Steele, David Wright
<b>Garden</b>	Dolores Hoctor	<b>Programs</b>	Gail Liscio
<b>Hospitality</b>	Pam Hutchinson	<b>Publicity</b>	David Wright
<b>Hosts &amp; Hostesses</b>	Joseph Laput	<b>Scholarships</b>	Shirley McCormack

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To cast your vote, please use the mail-in ballot printed below and return it to the Society Office before October 16, 2015. If you wish to nominate a candidate, or work on a committee, please attend the September 25th General Membership meeting.

**STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**                      **2015 - 2016 ELECTION BALLOT**

FOR ALL CANDIDATES, OR

FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATIONS FOR:

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

The By-Laws of the Society have been revised and need to be approved by the General Membership. We have copies for you to take with you at the General Membership meeting or you can stop at the Society and pick one up. If necessary, we can send one to you.

Please fill out the form on the right and return it to the Society. You may leave your form at the Friday night General Membership meeting.

Thank you,

Shirley McCormack  
President

**By-laws Ballot**

I have read and accepted the new By-laws

I have read the new By-laws but do not accept them.

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Signed

**Stratford Historical Society**  
**967 Academy Hill**  
**P.O.Box 382**



**E-mail us at: [Judsonhousestfd@aol.com](mailto:Judsonhousestfd@aol.com)**

**Phone: (203) 378-0630 Fax: 203-378-2562**

**Upcoming Events:** Call for Information

- Sep. 25 - General Membership Meeting - 7pm
- Oct. 30 - Board of Governors Meeting - 1pm
- Nov. 20 - General Membership Meeting - 7pm

If you would like to receive your Stratford Historical Society Newsletter in your e-mail Inbox, please e-mail your preferred e-mail address to [newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](mailto:newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info).