



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

Stratford Historical Society UPDATE

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2016

MARK THE DATES:

- November's General Membership Meeting: November 18th at 7:00 pm at Christ Church
- Historical Society Governing Board Meeting: Monday, January 9th at 1:00pm. All meetings are open to the general membership.
- January's General Membership Meeting: January 27th at 7:00 pm at Christ Church

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November's General Membership Meeting

November 18th, 7:00 pm, Christ Episcopal Church, 2000 Main Street

A Journey to The Gallows is the name of the new book by Tom Coletti and Vic Butsch. The book is based on the John Brown and Harpers Ferry Incident of 1859. Aaron Dwight Stevens is the subject of the discussion by bringing his convictions to light in the abolishment of slavery. This should prove to be most enjoyable. Their books will also be available for purchase.

During the Vietnam War, Coletti enlisted into the United States Air Force and spent four years from 1968 until 1972 as a medic. Honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant, he then married his high school sweetheart, Donna Jean; they've been married for 42 years. Going on to receive his Bachelor's Degree, with Cum Laude distinction in History from Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut in 1976, Coletti applied to law school and was accepted.

With a passion for writing, Coletti has authored 3 published works thus far- *Special Deliv-*



Thomas Coletti (photo by Khoi Ton of the *Norwich Bulletin*)



Victor Butsch

All meetings are free and open to the general public. Please bring a friend! Donations gratefully accepted.

ery, Dishonorably Interred and Liam's Story. The fourth addition to his literary repertoire 'A Journey to the Gallows' will launch early 2015 through Next Century Publishing. He lives in Sprague, Connecticut with his wife Donna, and their four children.

Vic Butsch was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, attending John Adams High School. Gifted with some ability in sports, Butsch enjoyed playing Football, Baseball and Basketball all four years.

Graduating from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, in 1969, Vic prepared to be a teacher, and instead joined the Army Reserves. He has gone on to teach Civil War classes in the Norwich adult education program, is a board member of the Norwich Historical Society, and is the Program Director for the Norwich area Civil War Round Table.

Currently, Vic lives in Norwich, Connecticut with his wife Gail, and has four children- three sons and a daughter who are now all adults with families of their own.

President's Message from Shirley McCormack

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of The Stratford Historical Society for their continued support in our endeavor to preserve the history of Stratford.

We have many new families and businesses that have joined the Society this past year and we welcome them and their suggestions in maintaining our Town history.

Our main goal is to get more residents of Stratford interested in learning and preserving our history. We are doing this through our school tours for 3rd and 5th graders in the Fall and Spring; our tours of the Judson House and the Museum, our Genealogy to Stratford decedents, History Camps and various other historical functions.

We would appreciate any ideas you may have that would help us to continue with the preservation of the history of Stratford.

I thank you once again and hope to hear from you in the future.

I wish all of you A HAPPY THANKSGIVING and a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Shirley

Civil War Re-enactment



Yankee soldier re-enactors preparing for battle

On Saturday, September 17th, the Company F, Fourteenth Volunteer Infantry set-up camp at Boothe Memorial Park. The volunteer group is comprised of Civil War re-enactors who do their best to replicate a Civil War era encampment demonstrating uniforms, fire arms, tents and foods as true to the Civil War era as possible.

During the day, the re-enactors explained their roles and conducted a mock battle on the Boothe Memorial Park grounds. Many people attend-

ed the re-enactment and had the ability to interact with the re-enactors and ask questions.

Company F will be setting up camp at Academy Hill in September of 2017, so save a place in your September calendar for this event. We have photos and videos from throughout the day which you may wish to view at <http://civilwar.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>. For more information about Company F, please visit http://www.cof14thcvi.com/Re-Enacting/re_enacting.htm.



Confederate soldier re-enactor



Visit our newsletter website at www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info

So many stories...So little space

Being editor of the *UPDATE* is both a rewarding and disappointing assignment. It's rewarding because Stratford's history is so rich, detailed, diverse, and voluminous. It's discouraging because with each issue tough decisions must be made as to what to exclude due to the space limitations of our printed newsletter.

That's where the World Wide Web becomes an editor's dream assistant and rescue! We have created a website for our newsletter which allows us to include an unlimited amount of material we would otherwise omit due to printing constraints. For instance, our online newsletter archive dates back to 1958 and

each month we publish additional historic details which we're forced to omit from our printed newsletter.

We hope you'll visit our website, www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info, and begin to use it as a supplement to our printed newsletter!

Docent Appreciation Luncheon



Diane Stackpole, Dennis Brunnell, and Jeanette Caron facing forward

Barbara Firisin (Corresponding Secretary) and Pam Hutchinson (Hospitality Chair) took charge of arranging the 2016 Docent Appreciation Luncheon held on Friday, August 26 in the Stratford Historical Society Museum.

Twenty-five dedicated volunteers were treated to a catered lunch by the Society followed by a Pot Luck dessert table laden with an incredible assortment of goodies from docent ovens.

As if that were not enough, docents were treated to an amazing history lesson about one of Stratford's early heroes, Jabez Huntington Tomlinson, by Ray Vermette.

Ray lead the audience through a maze of genealogy connecting many early Stratford families (whose names are familiar today as names of streets and schools in town) to this hero. Jabez Tomlinson gained fame as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He guard-

ed English Major John Andre the night before his execution as a spy caught carrying plans of the American fortification at West Point from Benedict Arnold to the British command. Jabez received the self-portrait Andre drew of himself that night to bring back to Stratford and eventually to hang in Yale University's Art Museum. Ray included many more details of Jabez's early and later life as a prominent citizen.

Dateline Stratford October-November 1951



MRS. WILLIAM O. GARDINER, Protestant council president.



Bruce Schow, Building Inspector



Fred Young, Tax Assessor

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 7, 1951
Central-Stratford Game Tops Docket

A battle between Central and Stratford, bearing on district title honor and set for 7:45 P.M. Saturday at Longbrook Park in Stratford, will highlight the week's docket of scholastic football activity in this area.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 7, 1951
United Church Council Honors Stratford Woman

The first colored woman in Connecticut and all the other states to head a United Church Women's Council is Mrs. William O. Gardiner of Stratford, who has been elected president for this state.

There was no opposition when the well-known Bridgeport dentist's wife was nominated and elected, at the state conference in Hartford.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 14, 1951
Our First Jet To Leave Avco

The first jet propulsion airplane to be tooled and assembled at the Avco plant in Stratford will be on its way to Detroit and military service tomorrow morning.

The first gold star in produc-

tion record that is scheduled to reach staggering figures in 1952 came from an emergency sub-contract.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 14, 1951
Raybestos to Fete Little Leaguers

The Raybestos Division, league sponsor, will play host to 72 players and guests at the second annual Stratford Little League banquet set for Thursday at 6:30 P. M. in the Raybestos cafeteria. Joe Barber, former sportscaster, will be master of ceremonies.

Awards will be made to champion Raybestos team and runnerup Holy Name squad; members of the league all-star squad; leading pitchers Buddy Cullen (Raybestos) and Bob Kurimsky (Sterling House), with 9-2 and 9-3 marks, respectively, leading hitter Lou Horner (Holy Name) with .377 and runnerup Buddy Cullen with .355.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 7, 1951
Stratford Turns Back Norwalk High by 19-6

An aggressive Stratford High football team registered its second County A conference victory yesterday afternoon when it defeated Norwalk, 19-6, before 900 spectators at Longbrook Park.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
October 21, 1951
Ingredients of Whodunit Spark Stratford Life

Midst threats of murder, charges of maladministration, and suspended town attorneys, Stratford's law makers meet tomorrow night to try to establish some order out of chaos.

Three major problems have arisen during the past month which have been of a sensational nature:

Councilman Ed Pratt's report of an attempt on his life, charges that Town Mgr. Harry Flood has been derelict in his duty and attempts to unseat Henry P. Lyons as town attorney.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald
November 11, 1951
Flood Ruled Out of Office in Stratford

Stratford is technically without a town manager according to a legal finding, no yet released publicly, by Town Atty. Hugh A. Hoyt, The Herald learned yesterday.

The finding stipulates the town's highest office must be filled every two years by the Town Council, although the practice has been to give the town manager an indefinite term of office.

Now Showing October-November 1951



October 7th	Captain Horatio Hornblower	Gregory Peck, Virginia Mayo
October 14th	People Will Talk	Cary Grant, Jeanne Crain
October 21st	Tomorrow's Another Day	Steve Cochran, Ruth Roman
October 28th	Painting Clouds With Sunshine	Dennis Morgan, Virginia Mayo
November 4th	No Highway in the Sky	James Stewart, Marlene Dietrich
November 11th	Let's Make it Legal	Claudette Colbert, MacDonald Carey, Zachary Scott
November 18th	Come Fill the Cup	James Cagney, Phillis Thaxter, Raymond Massey
November 25th	Tanks Are Coming	Steve Cochran, Philip Carey

Red Roof Inn Popular with Students

Sunday Herald
 November 25, 1951
Red Roof Owner Real Pal To Stratford Hi Students
 By BETTY ANGESKI
 Stratford High School

Almost everyone in Stratford High School has at sometime or another been in Gene's Red Roof, the familiar luncheonette located near the high school.

Maybe it was after school with the rest of the gang when you gathered to talk of the events of the day over a coke.

Or maybe it was with that special date after a school dance, when you stopped in for hamburgs and frosts.

Or then again, it may have been on a rainy afternoon when the fellows stopped in to play the pin ball machine and meet the rest of the kids to make future plans.

Whatever the case, you may be sure everyone in S. H. S. knows the

Red Roof and Gene Quiriconi, its owner.

The Red Roof is not only a second home to Stratford Hi students, but it is also doing much to emphasize sports.

Gene, as all the kids have learned to call him, sponsors a baseball team and a basketball team on which many of Stratford High's star athletes participate.

Through advertising, the Red Roof supports the **Clarion**, school paper, and the **Log**, the senior year-book.

Gene bought all the tickets for the Athletic Association and gave a free coke to all students who bought one.

He also scores a hit with the football players when he awards free sundaes to the boys who actually score the touchdown.

Appreciated most of all, is the trophy which the Red Roof awards each Thanksgiving to the best lineman in the Thanksgiving Day game.

Last year Jim Gallick was presented with the trophy. The year before, which was the first year the Red Roof awarded a trophy, Ronnie Kopchik, this year's co-captain, was voted the best line-man of the day.

Gene, although not a graduate of S. H. S., attended this high school in his earlier years.

Gene says, "As long as I am the proprietor of the Red Roof, I will continue to make an award each year to the best lineman in the Thanksgiving Day game,"

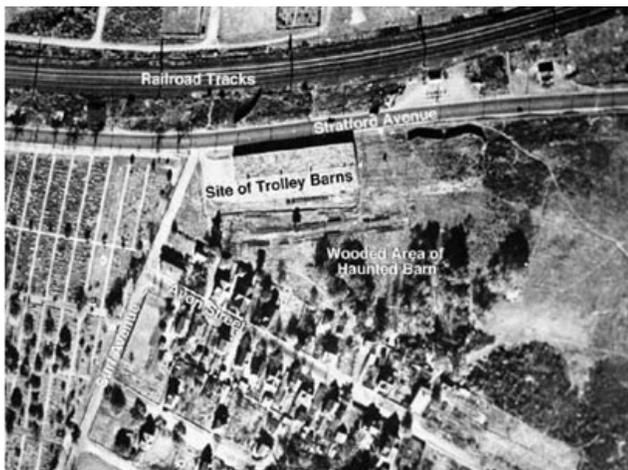


Gene Quiriconi, Red Roof Inn owner



Red Roof Inn with "DINNERS" sign on the roof

Shoot Out at Avon Park



Avon Park neighborhood where Honey Budlong made his "last stand." Courtesy of Stratford's Engineering Department and Michael Bielawa.

One hundred years ago, Avon Park was developing a bit of a reputation as a rough, crime prone area. Car races, horse racing, and boxing matches were held on the old park grounds and these events tended to attract the local "roughs." The Stavola bar had a troubled reputation and Stratford Avenue had become an unofficial drag racing venue. Auto accidents were frequent and off-times fatal.

Avon Park's boundaries ran from the end of Connecticut Avenue around St. Michael's Cemetery and southward to about Birdseye Street. The Avon Park, from which the neighborhood had taken its name, was located at the intersection of Stratford, Honeyspot and South Avenues.

Against this backdrop, a young

former bank teller, who had embezzled funds from his Rhode Island employer, decided to make his "last stand" on November 1, 1915. The events leading up to the gun battle, which occurred at the trolley barns located at the corner of Surf and Stratford Avenues, included several robberies in Rhode Island and New Haven, and a murdered policeman in New Haven. Lyndel V. Bosworth, aka Honey Budlong, was the perpetrator of all these crimes.

Bosworth had organized a gang of thugs and they were preparing to rob the First Bridgeport Bank at the time Bosworth was engaged in a final, fatal gun battle with Bridgeport and New Haven police who were pursuing him. Read all the shoot out newspaper articles at <http://budlongstratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.

Holiday Open House

**Presented by the Stratford Junior Historical Society
December 3rd
11:00-3:00**

Admission: adults \$3-
children \$1-
under 5 free

The Captain David Judson House

Built circa 1750 by Captain David Judson on the site of his grandfather's 1639 stone house.

Christmas would not have been celebrated by our town's early settlers; religious custom forbade it. Early accounts record December 25 as any other day. Christmas celebrations became popular in the Victorian era.

In this spirit we have decorated

the house for the 2016 Christmas season. We have tried to remain true to our forefathers' resourcefulness, using spices, nuts, berries and greens to add a festive touch to our holiday tour.

As you tour our historical house, look for displays that tell the origins of many holiday traditions.

For the children there is a special Holiday Scavenger Hunt. Find all of the items listed on the sheet in the house and receive a candy cane.

Please also visit our Catharine Bunnell Mitchell Museum for more Holiday Festivities!

- Visit with Santa and take a picture, he will be here from 11:30-1:30 .

- Crafts for children to make and take home.
- Holiday Carolers
- Raffle of handmade Holiday Wreath
- Looking for a special Holiday gift? Stop in at our Gift Shop!
- Our Gift Shop will be open and has many delightful holiday gift selections for adults and children.

Driving directions on our website at

www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org
or call 203-378-0630.

We need volunteers to assist us on December 3rd. If you can help out, please call 203-378-0630.



Bernard Baruch Visits

Financier, stock investor, philanthropist, statesman, adviser to Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt, and representative to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, Bernard Baruch came to Stratford November 14, 1951, and answered questions from those attending a VFW Ladies' Auxiliary event.

The question and answer session was published on November 16, 1951 in *The Stratford News*.

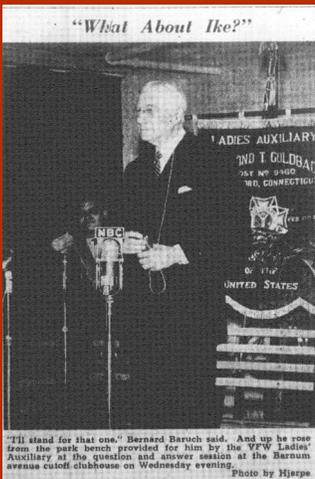
The first question posed to

Mr. Baruch was "Is it still possible to avert another world war?"

Mr. Baruch responded, "It is still possible, but it depends on us. It depends on our wisdom. To avert war, we must show a great deal more wisdom militarily, economically, and politically that we have show. We can't avoid war unless we are strong enough to defend ourselves against aggression in the world today. But we must show more competence than we have shown. We must show more courage than we

have shown. I do not think that we have militarily proceeded intelligently or quickly enough. I do not think that we have economically proceeded intelligently or quickly enough."

Stratford High student, Betty Angeski, was working for *The Sunday Herald* as a student reporter at that time. Betty was the only reporter granted an interview by Mr. Baruch. Mr. Baruch spoke with Betty for 30 minutes. You may read Betty's entire interview at <http://baruch.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.



Bernard Baruch taking questions at the Stratford VFW Hall in 1951.

School Tour Time at Judson House

Just as the first leaves begin to fall, third graders arrive at Judson House and Museum for a tour to learn about life in colonial days. They are fortunate to be able to spend the morning going from room to room in a beautiful house build during the colonial era learning how people lived in those days.

In the House, docents in colonial garb

show them how to make pomanders, how to grind herbs, how to card wool, and how to put house joints together. In the Museum they hear stories of two very different women, learn about colonial school days and get to weave a bookmark on a small cardboard loom.

Before moving from one building to the other they have a chance to roll

hoops on the grass just as children did hundreds of years ago.

This year there were 13 days of tours that included 24 classes with almost 500 visitors including children, their teachers and chaperones. Each tour day involved ten volunteer docents working in teams of two to make this a very enjoyable and worthwhile educational experience.



Russian Orthodox Church Cornerstone Laid

The Bridgeport Telegram

October 13, 1941

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEADERS LAY CORNERSTONE

Prelates Participate in Ceremonies at New Building On South Avenue.

Leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church in the United States participated in ceremonies held yesterday in connection with the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox church at Honeyspot road and South avenue, Stratford.

Metropolitan Theophilus, head of the Russian church in the United States and Canada, was unable to attend because of illness, but sent a telegram in which he expressed his congratulations and conveyed his blessings.

Archbishop Vitaly, archbishop of Eastern America., and Archbishop Tikhon, of Seattle, Wash., archbishop of Western America, headed a large group of church dignitaries assisting in the ceremonies.

Among the guests was the Rev. P. Nijnik, of Jordansville, N. Y., who was the first pastor of St. Nicholas parish. The Very Rev. Stephen Antunuk is the present pastor.

The divine liturgy began at 11:30 at the present church on Lake street with the heads of the church and several pastors officiating. Following the mass there was a procession from Lake street to the new church where several hundred persons

watched the cornerstone ceremonies.

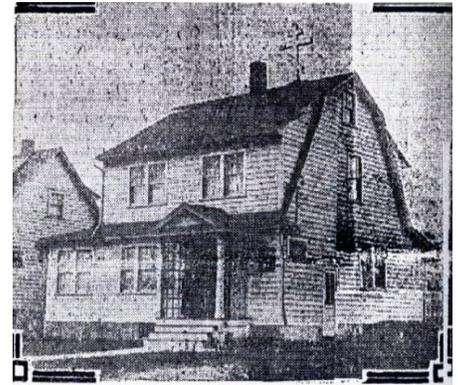
After the ceremony, more than 200 persons attended a dinner at . American Legion hall, Stratford. Numerous congratulatory telegrams were received and read at the banquet.

A special program of religious music was presented during the morning and afternoon ceremonies by a choir directed by V. V. Koodroff.

The cornerstone was donated by Charles Pisey, undertaker, and was fashioned by Henry E. Primavera of the Lakeview Monument Company. The front stone was presented to the church by N. J. Torsiello of the Honeyspot Monument works.

Assisting the bishops in the mass at St. Nicholas and at the cornerstone laying were the Very Rev. Alexander Kukulevsky; rector Of Holy Ghost church of Bridgeport; Very Rev. Jacob Gregorieff, dean of all Russian churches in Connecticut and rector of the Three Saints church in Ansonia; the Rev. Daniel Gilevich, of Danbury; Very Rev. Joseph Dankevich of New Britain; Very Rev. Joseph Fedoronko of Teptryville; Very Rev. Nicholas Wasilieff of Hartford; Very Rev. Prokopius Marchenko of Norwich; Rev. Alexander Pogrebniak of Meriden; Rev. Victor Nedzeinitsky of New Haven: Rev. Dimitry Ressetar Stamford.

The building committee is composed of Father Antonuck, chairman; Igor I. Sikorsky, Mrs. Helen Viner, Nichols Alexander, Capt. Boris Sergievsky, Alexander Petroff, Michael Lukas, Alex Boldakoff, designer of the church; Mrs. Pauline Saksa, George Markoff and Leonid Lapin.



St. Nicholas Church Lake Street - 1931
Church on Lake Street 1931



Cornerstone Laying Ceremony at St. Nicholas Church
Several hundred persons looked on yesterday afternoon at the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox church at South avenue and Honeyspot road, Stratford. Shows officiating at the ceremonies are: (l to r) Deacon Mousin Poushin, the Very Rev. Jacob Gregorieff, dean of Russian churches in Connecticut, the Very Rev. Stephen Antunuk, pastor; Archbishop Vitaly, head of the Russian church in Eastern United States, and Archbishop Tikhon, of Seattle, Wash., church head of Western United States.

Strange Stratford

Sunday, October 16 was a nice day for a walk with Mary Ann Vlahac for a look at Strange Stratford. Mary Ann, who has recently become a docent giving school tours at the Stratford Historical Society, knows quite a bit Stratford's history and its secrets including ghost squirrels (the white ones we sometimes see around town), secret tunnels (that have never been found), pirate (and the illusive hidden treasure), poltergeists (in the long gone Phelps Mansion), mermaid sightings at the Lordship lighthouse and a pre-Salem witch (Goodie Bassett).

The tour began at the Congregational Cemetery with about ten people in attendance. Mary Ann began the tour with the one documented witchcraft story concerning Stratford and Goodie Bassett in the

1650s, long before Salem. Next everyone moved on to the mystery of the tunnels. Were they dug from houses to the protection of the stockade, or were they part of the Underground Railroad? Where were they?

Walking along Elm Street, the group found themselves in the nineteenth century and the hauntings in the Phelps Mansion that drew crowds of people to the town in those days to have a look at the house designed with staircases resembling those of a ship for the original sea captain owner.

Halloween is the time of year that brings up strange happenings. Mary Ann gave one more of these tours on Sunday, October 30. There was no charge, but donations were accepted and the proceeds were to benefit the Stratford Historical Society.



The map showing the original settlement boundaries. Mary Ann Vlahac on the right.

Holiday Medallion available



packaging



Send this order form along with your check for \$10.75 per medallion to:
Stratford Historical Society
 967 Academy Hill Road
 Stratford, CT 06615

OR

Charge to your Credit Card: MC VISA AMEX Discover
 Credit card number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____ CCV#: _____
 Name on card: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
 No. of medallions ordered: _____ Total amount: \$ _____

This new medallion is first in a series that The Society is producing in an effort to increase public awareness of our connection to the community and the history of Stratford. This first one is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Air & Space Center. They will be available for purchase at the next general meeting and at the Christmas Open House for \$10.00 each.

You may also order a medallion using our order form at the left by enclosing \$10.75 per ornament (which includes the cost of shipping and a gift box).

Alternatively, receive one medallion free with a Family Membership to the Stratford Historical Society for \$30.00.

Join today and receive our newsletter & invitation to our educational Program Meetings.

The Stratford Historical Society presents the first in a series of Commemorative Medallions to honor Stratford's past. This one honors the heroes who flew in WWII to keep our nation safe.

We appreciate our business members and their support in preserving Stratford's history.

WELCOME TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Exact Printing & Graphics	exactprinting@snet.net	(203) 377-6571
Colonial Square Art Shop	colsquartshop@sbcglobal.net	(203) 375-3764
JM Home Improvement Group		(203) 556-8632
Law Offices of Kurt Ahlberg	cglad.kmalaw@gmail.com	(203) 377-1311
Joel F. Pleban, CPA, LLC	joel@joelplebancpa.com	(203) 375-1040
Pickle Barrel Deli & Catering		(203) 380-0338
Scott Insurance	bscott@scottinsurance.com	(203) 375-5847

1866 dateline - Bridgeport Evening Farmer

November 21, 1866
IN STRATFORD

We understand that Mr. Walker S. Booth, formerly bookkeeper in The Old Farmer Office, is about to erect a three story wooden building 24x75 feet, located near the post office for the manufacture of hoop skirts, the foundation of which is now completed. We are glad to see this one sign of manufacturing in Stratford and trust that other parties will follow Mr. Booth's example. We wish him success and prosperity in his undertaking.

November 23, 1866
FLAG FOR CO. K.

Company K, 8th Regiment, C. N. G., of Stratford, are to have a flag presentation and flag staff raising on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, so "Ephe" informs us. Speeches are to be made and a grand time generally is expected. After the erection of the pole the company will make a parade through some of the principal streets, affording the citizens of witnessing their improvement in military evolutions. On Wednesday evening, next, the company will give a Military Soiree, at their Armory, when it is expected that a large crowd will be gathered together. The officers, who are a courteous

and genial set of fellows are as follows: Captain Alonzo Gray, First Lieutenant Robert H. Russell, Second Lieutenant Lewis Judson.

November 23, 1866
NEW LOCKUP.

The town hall of Stratford has been converted into a lockup where suitable accommodations will be afforded to tramps and respectable bummers.



Stratford Town Hall 1844 - 1872

“Avon Park was a favorite spot for picnics and church parties more than a quarter of a century ago... There were dance halls, refreshment booths, meeting halls, weekly band concerts, balloon ascensions and daring feats on high wires.”

Avon Park Sold November 1915

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer
November 30, 1915
AVON PARK SOLD AT AUCTION FOR CONNECTICUT CO.

Purchaser Expects to Develop Property at Once for Residential Purposes.

Avon Park, Stratford, owned for the last quarter of a century by the traction interests of Bridgeport, has been sold by order of the Connecticut Co. trustees, and will probably be developed for building purposes.

The sale was completed in the offices of the Connecticut Co. at New Haven yesterday, where bids were opened. The purchase price is said to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 for 12 acres, not including the trolley barns on Stratford avenue, but including frontage on Stratford and South avenues and Honeyspot road, Stratford.

The name of the successful bidder is withheld at present from the public until a deposit of \$1,000, required to hold the bid, is made formally at the offices of the company tonight. It is said that New

York realty firm successfully outbid several local firms. A rumor to the effect that a new munition factory will be erected on the site is today denied by those closely identified with the building. The inference is that the tract will be cut up into building lots quickly and sold to ready purchasers.

Many demands have been made upon the Connecticut Co. for the release of this land. Up to a few weeks ago it was reported "not for sale." Consideration of the value of this land to the Connecticut Co. was given much time recently by the trustees, with the result that it was decided that the semi-swampy land adjoining the car barns at the easterly end is not of great value and that the top price could be procured in the present market. Bids were acceptable and Saturday, Nov. 27, set the final time limit to acceptance. The directors set minimum price of \$19,000, one thousand to be paid upon acceptance of bid and forfeited if purchaser fails to take title. The balance is to be paid in cash upon delivery of the deed. Several formalities are to be

complied with by the Connecticut Co. directors before the deed can be delivered and the rest of the purchase price will not be required before March 1, 1916.

The release is to be by quit claim and not by warranty deed, owing, it is said, to the circumstances of former purchase by the Connecticut and old Bridgeport Railway & Lighting Companies.

Avon Park was a favorite spot for picnics and church parties more than a quarter of a century ago. On June 5, 1895, when the late Andrew Radel assumed the presidency of the new trolley lines, he conceived the idea of making it a real mecca for the church societies, the children and the Bridgeport public generally. On that date he opened Avon park in a blaze of fireworks that cost many hundreds of dollars. There were dance halls, refreshment booths, meeting halls, weekly band concerts, balloon ascensions and daring feats on high wires. Thousands flocked to the grove which flourished for a considerable time.

Stratford Hospital Opens



SIMPLE BEAUTY An architectural artist's conception of the new Stratford convalescent hospital showing the full landscape endorsement which will adorn this gracious edifice that soon will open its doors to a well-deserving, hitherto a part of the BRICK FOREMOST society.

Stratford Chronic and Convalescent Hospital at 959 Main Street drawing from the *Sunday Herald*

"No other is known, that is in a brand new building put up for the purpose, and independent of other institutions."



The hospital (as it appears today) is a church

SUNDAY HERALD Sunday Nov. 18, 1951 **Streamlined Hospital Opens Today**

By ETHEL BECKWITH

In Stratford today the doors open to a new type of hospital. For chronics and convalescents, it is brand new and modern, offering 90 beds as the first large-scale relief to the general hospitals.

So new, its believed to be the first enterprise of its kind to the nation, the hospital is being welcomed officially, and by hundreds of families with long-sickness problems.

PUBLIC INVITED

State-wide physicians, mayors and welfare leaders will take part in the opening exercises. Time 2 o'clock today.

The general public is invited, while the program will be broadcast entirely over Station WNAB, in charge of that station's Perk Richards.

The dream of two old time friends, who at this moment see it completed as a \$250,000 enterprise - yes, a business, but a most needed and humane one—Stratford Chronic and Convalescent Hospital will be teen by the visitors as unique.

FINE WINDOW VIEWS

On Main St, one mile North of AVCO, it is an all-masonry three-story building of 60 rooms. Front windows face on the Housatonic River. Back windows, the landscaped Woodend section.

The site was originally the well known Timothy Ryan

farm.

Looking in: Carl Caserta and Joseph J. Lupe, the co-administrators, can be proud of the inviting effect of both the entrance and the individual rooms.

The building also is fireproof and vermin-proof by the manner of its construction.

In each room is indirect lighting with overhead bed lamp. Also, a call system for nurses which can only be turned off by the nurse coming to the bedside. The hospital covers 42,000 square feet

SOLARIUM AND TV

One of the features is the solarium.

This has an indoor garden designed and developed by Emil Haas of Milford.

A television set and writing desks are there for patients taking the sun.

The only standard equipment this hospital doesn't have is a surgery and a maternity ward.

But how it began is the interesting story.

This dates to a meeting in Stratford when Lupe, as a member of the planning board, joined a discussion on "How can Stratford have its own hospital?"

Most needed, said several of the minds present, was a place for chronics. Said Lupe, "If I tried to build such a hospital, would you all co-operate?"

FOURTEEN ON BOARD

As Caserta, a registered nurse, became his enthusiastic partner, and Paul Deegan of the Chamber of Commerce

hailed the plan, and these joined as members of the board; Judge Milton Hausman and brother Robert, Anthony and John Riccio, Samuel Schine, Joseph Gold, James V. Massey, Jr., Dr. William Corbett, Dr. Joseph Lesko and Dr. Michael Brodsky the psychiatrists. Dr. Frank Turchick the famed plastic surgeon, and Lawrence Colman, CPA and controller of the company.

Chronic convalescent homes have become so scarce that Lupe and Caserta are being greeted like inventors, by delegations who from various towns have been calling, hoping to model from this hospital.

No other is known, that is in a brand new building put up for the purpose, and independent of other institutions.

Only adults are to be admitted.

Among the first on the waiting list is a former college president.

(View a complete copy of The *Sunday Herald's* 1951 hospital supplement at <http://hospital.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.



STRATFORD
Chronic and Convalescent Hospital

Fireproof building — modern medical facilities. Dedicated to the attentive care of chronically ill and convalescent persons.

RATES:	
Semi-Private	\$55.00 per week
Private Room	\$75.00 per week

Write Or Phone For Complete Information
959 MAIN STREET • STRATFORD, CONN.
Phone DRexel 8-0400 or DRexel 8-0409

Bernard Baruch Visits Stratford

Baruch: Youth's Okay *Sunday Herald*

Sunday, November 18, 1951

Normally, I'm not the real serious type and world affairs have always taken a back seat to current school studies and the fate of the Stratford High football team.

Thus, it was with unconcerned emotions that I received an assignment from our Hi Life editor to "get an interview from Bernard M. Baruch during his visit to Stratford."

DAD EXPLAINS

In the first place, I'll admit that I didn't fully realize just how important Mr. Baruch really was in U.S. and world events.

My dad straightened me out on that one in a flash. When he got through explaining Mr. Baruch's position, I felt butterflies in my tummy as the full realization of the importance of this interview penetrated my teen-age head.

What a thrill when I watched the Veteran of Foreign War Auxiliary escort Mr. Baruch to a park bench imported the occasion.

I soon learned that a park bench was associated with the distinguished visitor much in the same manner that bobbysox are with high school girls.

During the formal question and answer period that followed, Mr. Baruch answered all queries with an ease and informality that made it difficult to keep in mind just how famous a man he was and what an authority on world affairs.

Made it easy, that is, for all in the hall except your reporter who couldn't forget that after his talk I had to "get an interview."

During the question period, I was even further excited and,

if possible, a bit more nervous about the coming meeting when, in answer to a remark about Winston Churchill, Mr. Baruch explained how personal a friend he was of Mr. Churchill for the past 35 years!

BARNIE, WINNIE AND BETTY

That did it! I certainly realized now what an assignment I had.

Imagine, Baruch, Churchill and Betty Angeski from Stratford!

The big moment finally came. Mr. Baruch was escorted to a room off the main floor and I made my way to "get my interview."

Just ahead of me, a most important-looking adult newspaperman approached my target and asked something about Gen. Eisenhower.

In an authoritative tone, Mr. Baruch informed him, "You were told that I am not saying anything."

My heart dropped, because surely that included me.

I edged over to the great man and, I suspect, my nervousness must have been apparent when I requested the "answers to my few questions."

INVITATION ACCEPTED

When a relief when the distinguished gentleman broke out in a broad smile and invited me sit alongside him!

Remember, I'm the one that was supposed to ask the questions, but soon discovered that I was answering more than I could ask.

He seemed most interested in what they were teaching in our high school.

In answer to my question concerning his opinion of the youth of today, Mr. Baruch replied, "Nothing's the matter

with them."

"They have had some mighty poor examples to follow, but they'll come through when needed. The youth of today is all right."

Next I asked what he thought we, the youth of today, could do to improve world conditions.

He replied, "The most important thing is to learn to think."

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."

"Much of what you are learning today isn't as useful as what I was taught in my school days."

"The young people fighting in Korea, though, are doing as good a job at their forefathers had ever done in their wars."

At this point, Mr. Baruch again returned to the subject of thinking, and stressed even further the point of learning to think.

"Taught to think - that's the whole thing."

When asked if he thought that a boy of 18 who is considered old enough to fight shouldn't be allowed to vote, the elderly statesman answered with a "No." That's just like saying a man who can run fast is better than another man."

There were ever so many other things I had to ask but I had already taken more than 20 minutes of his time and had perhaps been responsible for delaying his departure.

All of which is a nice way of saying that the lump in my throat wouldn't allow me to ask any more questions.

That's the story of Mr. Bernard Baruch, one of the greatest Americans to ever live, and Betty Angeski, a Stratford High student.



BETTY ANGESKI of Hi Life authors today's biggest scoop - an exclusive interview with Bernard Baruch.

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."



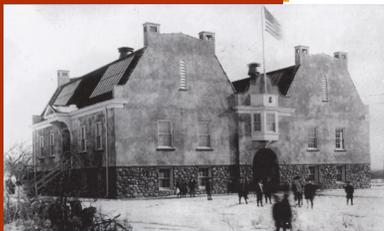
ELDER STATESMAN Bernard Baruch enriches the atmosphere of Stratford with his presence at a meeting of the Ray Goldbach VFW auxiliary post after the ladies on a chance invited him up for a chat. L-R: Mrs. Edmund Lawrence, Mr. Baruch and Mrs. John Allen, auxiliary president.

Dateline Stratford 1916



1914

Looking north towards the railroad tracks from Stratford Center in 1914



Huntington Road School (Eli Whitney) ca. 1913

Fighting the Flames

The most stupendous spectacle of modern fire fighting methods ever shown in the state. Not a scenic show but a whole city block of real buildings actually destroyed. Benefit of sick and injured firemen.

AVON FIELD, SATURDAY, OCT. 16.

PRICES: General admission 50 cents, Grand stand 50c extra. Box seats \$1.50. /

TICKETS AT HARTIGAN'S FAIRFIELD AVENUE DRUG STORE.

The Bridgeport Farmer ad for October 10, 1916. "The most stupendous spectacle of modern fire fighting methods ever shown in the state. Not a scenic show but a whole city block of real buildings actually destroyed. Benefit of sick and injured firemen."

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer

ARREST PROMINENT MILFORD RESIDENT FOR LITTERING CAR

Trolleyman Takes Tooker to Task For Throwing Peanuts Shucks on Floor.

Stratford, Oct. 2—Libbaeus E. Tooker of Milford, a civil engineer, prominent fraternally, was a prisoner in the Stratford town court today, for throwing peanut shucks on the floor of a Derby-Bridgeport car, passing through Stratford at 10:30 Saturday night.

Conductor Andrew McGuire of Bridgeport said that when he protested with Tooker against his throwing the shucks on the floor, the passenger declared he was within his rights, and added that he was prominent in his home town, and that if McGuire molested him further he would "do him up." The conductor caused the passenger's arrest on arrival of the car at Stratford center, Breach of the peace was the charge.

Judge Curtis suspended judgment.

HUNTINGTON ROAD SCHOOL STUDENT ARRAIGNED

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, Oct. 4—Archibald McDonald, aged 13 years, a pupil at the Huntington Road school, and son of Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald of Cut Spring Road, was arraigned before Judge Howard M. Curtis in the Stratford town court today charged with breaking into the home of Mrs. Emil Anderson, a neighbor, and stealing a bank containing \$2 in change. Judge Curtis placed the boy under the care of Rev. Ernest C. Carpenter, probation officer for six months.

HALF STRATFORD SCHOOLS ARE ON PART TIME NOW

Buildings Congested, Voters Will Be Asked to Approve Another.

(Special to The Farmer)

Stratford, Oct. 6.—Nearly one-half of the school children in the various public schools of Stratford are on part time, according to William B. Kelsey, superintendent of schools. The school registration is estimated at 2,100, (of which 1,000 are on part time, he said today. This is due to the unprecedented growth and the tremendous influx of families into the town during the last year. Some of the schools, especially the Center and the Sedgwick, are so congested that almost every grammar grade has been affected.

This problem was discussed at the meeting of the town school committee held last evening at the Center school and it was recommended that the board attend the annual town meeting which will take place Tuesday evening, Oct. 17, and make an urgent plea for a new school, which the board of finance recommend in its report, to be located on Honeyspot road.

October 16, 1916

FIREMEN'S SHOW AT AVON FIELD ATTRACTS TREMENDOUS GATHERING

Nearly 10,000 persons, one of the largest crowd ever assembled in Bridgeport at an outdoor attraction at which admission was charged, witnessed the spectacle "Fighting the Flames." which the local firemen gave at Avon Field, Saturday afternoon. Every seat

in the grandstand was taken. The big four story building, "Hotel Dan Johnson," made an awe inspiring sight as it burned down. Before the fire really gained hold on the building, however, the young men and particularly the young women jumping from the top stories of the building were the hit of the show. The firemen gave an interesting demonstration of the use of all sorts of modern fire apparatus. The ambulance, too, was on hand. No one was injured and not a single incident occurred to mar the production. A fine program of sports and vaudeville was given before the fire fighting spectacle. A large sum was realized for the benefit of sick and injured firemen.

STRATFORD BOYS DRIVE HEALTHY PIG TO SUICIDE

Pursue Porker Through Fence Into Housatonic Where It Drowns.

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, Oct. 31—Twenty-three boys, members of two football teams, ranging from 7 to 14 years, were arraigned before Judge Frank K. Blake-man last evening in the Stratford town court for breaking into the pig pen of John MacEwen, South Main street, Saturday afternoon, and allowing one of the swine to escape. The pig later drowned itself in the Housatonic river channel. The animal has not yet been recovered. It is valued at \$45 and weighed 300 pounds.

Following a severe reprimand by the court, Prosecuting Attorney Ivan L. Morehouse was ordered to conduct an investigation into the affair and see that restitution is made the owner.

A note to our current and past members

It's membership renewal time. If you've not done so already, we hope you will choose to continue your membership for the coming year. Please remember that your paid membership entitles you to the following benefits:

1) **VISITATION PRIVILEGES** at the Captain David Judson House and the Catharine B. Mitchell Museum during regular visitation hours.

- 2) **PROGRAMS**, at least five each year.
- 3) **NEWS BULLETINS**, at least five each year.
- 4) Most **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**.
- 5) **GIFT SHOP DISCOUNTS**.

Please use the form at the right to renew your membership today. This could be your last newsletter and we would not like you to miss out on future news and events.

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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May be paid in three consecutive installments.
(Dues and contributions are tax-deductible)

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Annual Dues are Due and Payable Oct. 1
Please make checks payable to Stratford Historical Society. Please send a GIFT MEMBERSHIP in my name to:

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

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