



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

Stratford Historical Society UPDATE

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 4

MARCH 2017

MARK THE DATES:

- March's General Membership Meeting: March 31st at 7:00 pm at Christ Church
- Historical Society Governing Board Meeting: Monday, April 30th at 1:00pm
- May's General Membership Meeting: Saturday, May 20th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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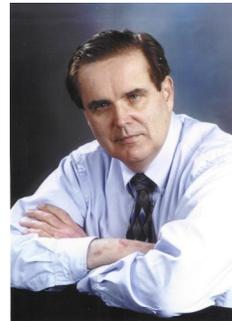
March's General Membership Meeting

March 31st, 7:00 pm, Christ Episcopal Church, 2000 Main Street

Noted Area Historian, John Babina will speak on the construction and history of the Stevenson dam. His illustrated talk will feature many photos taken during construction. Babina's slides will show the construction process which changed forever the Stevenson area of Oxford, Newtown, Monroe and Southbury.

The former Monroe resident now resides in Huntington and is a retired systems engineer, who worked at Sikorsky Aircraft and as an independent consultant. Babina was the founder of WMNR in 1970, now a classical

music public radio station. He holds memberships in the Monroe Historical Society, the CT



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

Society of Genealogists, the Shelton Historical Society and the Danbury Railway museum.

He has given a variety of historic talks around the region, on the Stevenson dam, the Old Housatonic Railroad, searching your Eastern European roots, and Genealogy. He also has given demonstrations of antique electronics, talks on the background of public radio, and given electronics demonstrations of real antique electronics.

John recorded oral histories through interviews with old time Monroe residents. The collection was donated to the Monroe Public Library.

Moving Our Meetings

The last time the Society changed the location of its bi-monthly meetings was in November 1989 when we moved from the Stratford Methodist Church to Christ Church. Back in 1989, our bi-monthly meetings began at 8pm on Friday evenings.

The Stratford Library has been kind enough to offer us the use of the Lovell Room as our new

meeting location. Beginning with September's general meeting, we will begin taking advantage of our opportunity to meet in the **Lovell Room** at the **Stratford Library**. September's meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, September 23rd. Below is a calendar of all our upcoming meetings through 2018.

2017

Saturday	September 23rd	1:00 PM
Saturday	November 18th	1:00 PM

2018

Sunday	January 28th	2:00 PM
Sunday	March 25th	2:00 PM
Sunday	May 20th	2:00 PM
Sunday	September 30th	2:00 PM
Sunday	November 18th	2:00 PM



Stratford Library c. 1910

Book of Remembrance



In January 1980 a very special gift was given to the Stratford Historical Society. Elizabeth Applegate donated to the society a lovely red-bound ledger called "In Remembrance" in memory of her husband Russell Applegate. His name is the first inscribed on the thick white pages.

During the following decades over 600 names have been added to the register. A study

of the register reveals a history of the Society through the recognition of its early strong supporters - Knapp, Fowler, Guion, Mastroianni and Lovell to name a few. So many more names were recorded upon receipt of donations to the Society in recognition of an appreciation of history and work of the Society. Each name of an honoree is inscribed by hand in the book

along with the date and name of the donor.

This beautiful book is a "work in progress", a moving history. We invite all members and non-members to use this opportunity to contribute to the work of the Society by recognizing a friend or loved one with a donation in their name. Elizabeth would be pleased.

Hoop Skirt Manufacturing 1867

In 1867 Stratford wasn't known for its manufacturing activities. That time would come with the arrival of the 20th century. Any sign of manufacturing in Stratford, in 1867, was considered to be a good sign by business people.

Hoop skirt manufacturing had been underway in Shelton for several years prior to 1867. As a matter-of-fact, Shelton became known as the home of the man who first manufactured hoop skirts, Samuel Drew. Mr. Drew's company merged and changed over the years eventually giving rise to the Birmingham corset factory. The building which housed the Birmingham Corset factory can still be seen to the north of the bridge connecting Route 111 with Route 34. The building is now home to condos.

are happy to state, been completed and is now in operation. The manufacturing business is conducted under the name and firm of Booth & Russell, Mr. Walker Booth, the senior partner, is well known to our citizens and the community in general, as a go-ahead business man, having been formerly bookkeeper in The Farmer office, and as lately having been connected with a Birmingham firm as traveling agent for skirts of their manufacture.

Mr. Robert H. Russell, the junior partner, is another of our well known citizens, and is truly an upright and honest business man. He has been concerned in the grocery business in Stratford for a number of years. Praise in behalf of these young men at our hands would not satisfy ourselves or those more intimately connected with them. In behalf of the enterprise manifested by these gentlemen in permanently establishing their business in our midst, too much cannot be said.

This, we believe, is the first attempt at manufacturing business in the town and we hope

that the harvest they will reap will be abundant. We have heard certain aristocratic, prominent and influential men remark that it was a disgrace to the town that a manufacturing establishment should be located in the midst of Stratford. The men who make such like denunciations of public and private enterprise are only worthy of the contempt of all labor loving public spirited men.

We sincerely wish that there were half a dozen more factories to be located in our neighboring town, that there might be employment given to those of the younger ladies and men who, as it is now, are compelled to rush into our cities for means of support, and, in which case, they become connected and initiated into the vices which would there continually surround them. Such are the facts, and we have an instance of the kind on record. Certainly capitalists can find no pleasanter town in the state in which to locate themselves, and property holders are ready to dispose of their land at a fair bargain.

Signed EPHRAIM.



Hoop skirt manufacturing at the Douglas & Sherwood Hoop Skirt Factory in Manhattan as shown in the January 29, 1859 *Harper's Weekly*.

Dateline Stratford February - March 1952

Sunday Herald

February 3, 1952

Hunt Typhoid Carriers Here

An exhaustive epidemiological search in Stratford last night has not yet tracked down the source of the typhoid fever from which a little girl in that town is recovering.

Town Health Officer Dr. Bernard Krug said that all contacts of the youngster were being sought out and not only tested as possible carriers but inoculated for their own protection against the disease.

Sunday Herald

February 3, 1952

3 Area Weeklies Sold for \$110,000

A 30-year dynasty in the country weekly newspaper field came to an end this week when Edward M. Brennan sold his three papers and printing equipment to Arthur W. Pearce of Fairfield for a reported \$110,000.

Pearce on Friday assumed control of The Fairfield News, the Westport Town Crier and the Stratford News with no immediate idea of changing the present personnel.

Sunday Herald

February 17, 1952

Kosher Inn in Stratford

The 125-year-old Housatonic Lodge in Putney district of Stratford will be the first kosher road house in the state.

The new owner is prominent Bridgeport legionnaire Herman Pollock.

He purchased the property this week from Elizabeth C. Coughlin, proprietor of the Paradise Den in

Stratford and sister of Attys. Thomas Coughlin and Mary Coughlin Hausman.

The actual selling price was not divulged but Pollock said he is spending \$10,000 in remodeling the lodge prior to the gala opening this Summer...

"I am converting part of the lodge into a kosher hall, which will be under the supervision of Rabbi Joseph Jacobovitz."

Sunday Herald

February 17, 1952

Terrific Uprouar Rises Against Airport Idea

A terrific uproar among residents of the Lordship area, particularly in the vicinity of the municipal airport, is being raised over the proposal to increase the traffic of air flights in the area.

Earlier this week the Chamber of Commerce requested officials to consider the possibility of converting the airport into an overseas shipment terminal and as a jet locale.

That's all the residents of the Lordship area needed. Now they are blowing their tops.

Sunday Herald

February 24, 1952

Going Up

Stratford schools with a current population of 6,298 figures to hit 9,000 in 1960, according to School Supt. Charles Chaffee, who says the town population will jump from 32,000 to 45,000 in eight years.

So . . . Chaffee is alerting town councilmen about school board needs in the future.

Incidentally, the Board of Education bitingly criticized the council for the \$50,000 slash in the school budget.

The Stratford News

March 7, 1952

Old Town Hall Is Slated to Make Way for Highway

Stratford center, the town's zone-locked shopping section, will have its end near the railroad underpass chopped off, if the proposed thruway route is finally adopted.

Among Center businesses which may be looking for a new home are N. W. England and son, Friedman and Son, the barber shop, Wright's Appliance Center, Housatonic Land and Title Company, Mitchell-Bradford, and possibly Southard's restaurant.

The proposed route, which observers predict may be "it" except for minor variations, would also result in the condemnation of the old town hall. Presently the building serves as quarters for the Health department, the Civil Defense department, and the Visiting Nurse association.

Sunday Herald

March 2, 1952

Federal Deal to Buy Parking Lot About Set

A deal whereby Uncle Sam becomes owner of 13 acres of parking lot property South of the Avco plant by buying it from James B. Sniffen is just about closed.

The price and the final signature are still secretly considered but it can be safely predicted that Sniffen made plenty.



Harold Lovell, Charles Murray, and Ray Baldwin preparing to wait tables at the Mardi Gras Dinner Dance at Christ Church. Photo from *The Stratford News* February 15th, 1952.



Steven Ivanovich, Perry V. Hyslop, Raymond B. Rubens, and Charles Wills of Stratford's VFM. Photo from *The Stratford News* February 8th, 1952.



Lordship Cub Scouts Robert Holmgren, Art Ricketts, Roy Booth, William Geer, Edward Finnegan, William Evanko, Fred Marino, George Nothnagle, Charles Wyler, William Solti. *Stratford News* photo.

Now Showing February - March 1952

February 3rd	<i>I'll See You in My Dreams</i>	Doris Day, Danny Thomas, Frank Lovejoy
February 10th	<i>Model and Marriage Broker</i>	Jeanne Crain, Thelma Ritter, Scott Brady
February 17th	<i>Room for One More</i>	Cary Grant, Betsy Drake
February 24th	<i>My Favorite Spy</i>	Bob Hope, Hedy Lamarr
March 2nd	<i>This Woman is Dangerous</i>	Joan Crawford, Dennis Morgan
March 9th	<i>Retreat Hell</i>	Frank Lovejoy, Richard Carlson
March 16th	<i>Phone Call From a Stranger</i>	Shelley Winters, Gary Merrill, Bette Davis
March 23rd	<i>Bugle in the Afternoon</i>	Ray Milland
March 30th	<i>Submarine Command</i>	William Holden, Nancy Olsen, William Bendix

STRATFORD

● NOW PLAYING ●

"I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS"

— with —

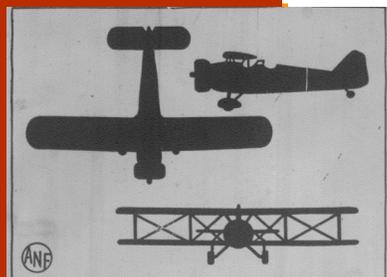
DORIS DAY
DANNY THOMAS
FRANK LOVEJOY

Knowing your “birds” essential in 1942



A DAILY SIGHT OVER STRATFORD

Vought-Sikorsky Kingfishers (OS2U) in one of their daily flights over Stratford. Photo from *The Stratford News* February 20, 1942.



The sixth in a series of enemy aircraft silhouettes prepared by the Aviation News Committee is the Japanese “96” dive bomber, which is being used extensively in the Far East by both the Japanese Army and Navy. A bi-tailed biplane with inter-wing bracing, it is a conventional type with straight wing and rounded top. Equally at home at a land airport or on an aircraft carrier, this dive bomber has a fixed landing gear with wheel flaps, an arresting gear, and possibly a floating gear.

Japanese “96” dive bomber silhouette from *The Stratford News* March 27, 1942.

Prior to 1925, objects taking flight in Stratford would almost always be covered with feathers. Except for a flight or two by Gustav Whitehead, and several attempts at flight by Alfred Beach, Stratford’s airborne objects were all birds.

Once Igor Sikorsky brought his aircraft manufacturing plant to town, Stratford’s skies began to shimmer with metallic wings. All along the lower Housatonic River, near the Sikorsky plant, various seaplanes, and, later war planes, were seen landing and taking off.

Many industries followed and grew in Stratford with the arrival of Sikorsky’s plant such as Contract Plating and Remington Arms. All this aerial activity was great for the business and employment environment in Stratford but, with the onset of World War II, Stratford became a very attractive potential target for the Axis forces.

Realizing Stratford’s vulnerability to air attack Stratford began training its citizens to distinguish enemy aircraft from Allied aircraft. The Stratford News began running

“silhouettes” of various types of planes in flights to assist residents in discerning aerial friend from foe.

Additional practice and training for residents included blackouts of electricity.

The Stratford News

March 27, 1942,

Blackout Test Without a Hitch in Stratford Despite Surprise of Alarm Residents Responded Generally to Douse Lights.

Although the surprise blackout test last Monday night caught some localities napping, Stratford appeared to be on its toes with the first blast of the signal alarm. Officials of the civilian defense council expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the result of the test, although they admitted there was still room for improvement.

After hearing reports from all sections of the town, Lawton Cobb, chairman of the local defense council, said that he was well pleased at the way everybody seemed to respond when the alarm was sounded. He said that the mechanical portion of the organization functioned perfectly, but steps will be taken to improve upon

the few things that need correction. While not all the lights were extinguished, Mr. Cobb said, it was probably because some of the commercial buildings allowed their lights to burn after the alarm. This, he said, was excusable because some had not had time install proper night lights. In other cases some of the people failed to hear the signal.

All in all, however, officials say the fact that the blackout was a surprise without any previous warning, the people as a whole responded in a manner which proved they have been properly instructed.



Silhouette from *The Stratford News* February 13, 1942

Rebel Soldier Seeks Voting Rights

Jesse Olney was quite famous and wealthy from authoring the first reliable and teachable geography book in America in 1828. Jesse moved to Stratford in 1854 at the age of 56 where he remained for the rest of his life.

Jesse found himself at odds, at times, with many of his Stratford neighbors. He became a “copperhead” during, and following, the Civil War. “Copperheads” were a vocal group of Democrats who did not support the Civil War and demanded immediate peace with the Southern states.

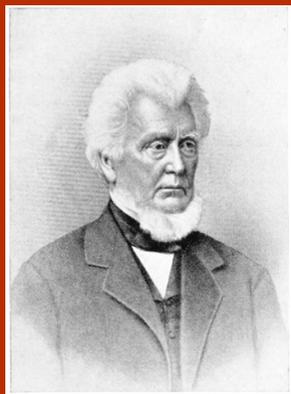
Bridgeport Daily Standard

March 28, 1867

A Rebel in Stratford

In Stratford on Wednesday, one Geo. H. Curtiss, offered himself to be made a voter. Curtiss though formerly a Stratford man, was south when the rebellion commenced. He acknowledged that he joined the rebel army voluntarily – that he was once taken prisoner and could have returned home, but he voluntarily returned south and remained in the rebel army until the evacuation of Richmond. Notwithstanding these facts, admitted

by him, he claimed the right to be made a freeman and Mr. Jesse Olney, the copperhead candidate for controller, was very earnest in insisting that this rebel should be admitted an elector. Such a claim was an insult to the common sense of the Board of Selectmen and they informed Mr. Rebel and his friend Mr. Olney, that he could not vote in good old Stratford. This voluntary rebel is a copperhead of course. Such a man would vote no ticket except the copperhead, and the more rebels that party has the happier it is.



Jesse Olney

Boothe Brothers Bell Silenced

CURFEW SHALL NOT RING THIS NIGHT IN VILLAGE OF PUTNEY

(Special to *The Bridgeport Farmer*.)

February 14, 1917

Stratford, Feb. 14—Curfew shall not ring tonight in Putney. The clock on the old Boothe homestead has been stopped.

David B. Boothe, a public-spirited citizen of Stratford, went to the expense about a year ago of

installing a large clock with chimes in a tower he built on one of the buildings on the homestead. The people of Putney needed some accurate way of telling the time while traveling in the neighborhood. Everybody said it was a fine thing for Putney and why didn't more citizens have the spirit of Mr. Boothe.

Recently, Mr. Boothe began fixing up the building to make it a free museum for the public, and he

designed it to relics of Stratford's settlement and reminders of its development.

Then Mr. Boothe got a notice from the assessors. He was informed that inasmuch as he had made improvements on his place the valuation of it was to be boosted accordingly.

Mr. Boothe thought that if he was to be penalized for public spiritedness, he'd better stop the clock; which he did.



Interesting old papers from 1700's

The Bridgeport Daily Standard
March 8, 1892

Interesting Old Papers.

Mr. Charles Judson living on King street, in overhauling some old furniture in his barn loft a few days since, discovered in an old desk, formerly his grandfather's, a secret drawer, and in it quite a number of old and valuable documents, some of which date back 139 years. What amount of rare gold coin carefully wrapped up in "swingle tow," Mr. Judson found, he does not state. This old piece of furniture was in possession of Mr. Judson's father when he died several years ago, and he no doubt was not aware of the drawer or

contents therein. Receipts in old times were held as of vast importance, and were carefully treasured; one of those found reads as follows:

STRATFORD, DEC. 23, 1766.

Then received of Benjamin Judson five shillings, in full of all accounts from the beginnings of the world to this day, as witness my hand. (Signed)

NATH'L HAWLEY.

Among the papers is a writ; Mr. Judson sues John Lampson in 1774, in the fourteenth year of his majesty's reign for only ten shillings lawful money. John Brooks was then justice of the peace, Joseph Curtis was constable and his fees were

only four shillings. We find also that Arnold Glover of Newtown also sued in 1767 "in the seventh year of his Lord and Majesty's reign," a man in Stratford for ten shillings and nine pence. Richard Fairman, Esq., was one of his majesty's justices of the peace and Daniel Fairchild issued the writ. Only think of a man being sued for such a small amount as mentioned above and compelled to ride on horseback to Newtown to attend court at the dwelling house of the justice, on a cold winter's day in January. Although he had a "Fairman" to try the case and the "Lord" reigned, it's doubtful if he rejoiced much.



Charles Judson
Photo from *The Bridgeport Telegram* December 31, 1919

Landmarks - King Street

The Bridgeport Daily Standard
March 29, 1892

Certain old landmarks that have at times been unearthed, indicate that King street was once at least ten feet wider than it is at present and was a beautiful and important thoroughfare. Two old houses which are now several feet inside of the street fence once, it is asserted, stood on the line. This has been the subject of much contro-

versy for several years, but now it seems likely to culminate in a decisive effort to have this street widened to its original layout, and Messrs. D. L. Rhodes and Chas. Judson are a committee to investigate the matter thoroughly and report to some future meeting of the Stove club such facts as may come to their notice and some plan for adjusting the difficulty.



King Street looking north from Broadbridge c. 1890

Fishy Water Problem



WILLIAM H. SHEA

William H. Shea,
Town Manager.
Photo from *The*

Stratford News, Febru-
ary 13, 1942

Hartford Courant
February 7, 1867

Capt. Isaac L. Wheeler, of Stratford, bagged three wild geese with one shot the other day. He approached them on the ice with a sled carrying a screen of cotton cloth.

Hartford Courant
February 15, 1867

A man in Stratford named John Beardsley, amused himself the other day while enraged by his wife, by turning over the baeksfast (sic) table, and splitting up the furniture with an axe, ending his sport by turning his family out of doors.

Hartford Courant
February 25, 1867

A human skull has been picked up on the beach at Stratford, near the spot where Kidd's money is supposed to be buried.

The Stratford News
March 13, 1942
Council Moves to Eliminate Fishy Taste in Water
Town Manager Instructed to Ask Water Company to Connect With Bridgeport Hydraulic Company Head Says Water Flowing Under Ice Causes Unpleasant Taste—Believes Difficulty Will Be Cleared Up Soon—Other Discussions.

Water was the chief subject under discussion by the Town council at its meeting Monday, but aside from instructing Town

Manager William H. Shea, to ask the Bridgeport Hydraulic co. to connect Stratford's water supply with Bridgeport's source of supply nothing was done about it. The discussion was the result of a number of complaints from residents regarding a "fishy" taste which they claim was far from appealing to water drinkers.

The matter was brought up by Councilman Thomas L. Joyce, who said that he had heard many complaints concerning the water supply. No reply has been received as yet

from the water company, aside from the statement made by Samuel P. Senior, president of the Hydraulic Co. last week, who tried to explain the cause of the objectionable taste of the water. Mr. Senior said it was caused by the water coming in to the reservoir under the ice stirring up vegetable matter, and because of the lack of oxygen when the reservoir is covered with ice. He said, at the time, that steps have been taken to eliminate the taste and that the people would soon find relief.

Washington Bridge Replacement

Bridgeport Evening Farmer
February 8, 1917

New Washington Bridge Project Gaining Ground
Advocates Must Now Press Their Claims Upon Appropriations Committee

(Special to *The Farmer*.) Hartford, Feb. 8—If the good people of southwestern Connecticut continue to drive across Washington bridge, with their hearts in their mouths, for fear the structure may collapse into the Housatonic river, it will be through no fault of the committee on roads, bridges and rivers of the general assembly.

The committee cut short a hearing on the bill introduced by Representative Ivan L. Morehouse, providing for the construction of a bridge between Stratford and Milford, yester-

day, by recalling to the persons who appeared in favor of the measure that the committee last session had favored the measure, and that the place for the advocates of the new bridge to press their claim was with the committee on appropriations

Representative Morehouse's bill calls for a state appropriation of \$300,000 to carry out the project. This means a \$900,000 structure, for the state must pay one-third of the total cost. Of the total cost the Connecticut Co., the tracks of which run over the bridge, must pay one-third, and the two counties—Fairfield and New Haven—must pay one-sixth each.

Representative Morehouse was not able to attend the hearing

yesterday, owing to a death in his family. There were present, to favor the project, Col. Charles L. Gaylord of Bridgeport, representing the State Business Men's association, and David W. Nichols of Bristol, executive secretary of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and legislative agent of the two score chambers of commerce united in the state organization.

In view of the favorable attitude of the committee, as announced by its chairman, Senator MacDonald, and Representative Waitt of Sharon, the delegation reserved its ammunition for a future date before the appropriations committee. No opposition developed.

Superintendent Kelsey Resigns

Sunday Herald
February 7th, 1917

Superintendent of Stratford Schools Resigns Position

(Special to *The Farmer*.) Stratford, Feb. 7—At a meeting of the town school committee held last evening at the Center school. William B. Kelsey, M A., for the last seven years superintendent of the Stratford public schools, tendered his resignation to take effect Friday, Feb. 16. After a resolution of regret had been read by Dr. De Ruyter Howland president of the board, it was voted to install as superintendent pro tem. Prof. Edgar Fisher, at

present principal of the Stratford High school.

Mr. Kelsey has accepted a position of field secretary of the Universal Military league. His duties will include the institution of a campaign to arouse sentiment in favor of general military training.

Mr. Kelsey has been known as a firm advocate of the Chamberlain bill, which requires six months' intensive military training for all men in their 19th year and he now intends to utilize every effort possible toward bringing about such service from all alike, rich end poor, employer and employed, foreign

and native born. He believes such a movement will be a strong factor in perpetuating American democracy.

An ex-militia member, having served in the Tenth regiment, N. G., of New York, Mr. Kelsey has always been active in military movements. For more than four years he was principal of the Waltersville school in this city where he organized the school drum corps. He went to Stratford in 1910 as superintendent of schools.

Mr. Kelsey's headquarters for the present will be in Bridgeport. He intends making his residence in Milford.

Remembering a Civil War Veteran

The Bridgeport Farmer

March 24, 1917

HARRY G. STEVENS, CIVIL WAR VETERAN, DEAD AT STRATFORD

Henry G. Stevens, 80 years old, a veteran of the Civil War, highest pensioned soldier in Connecticut and formerly one of the best known journalists and missionaries in New York died this morning at his home, 699 Long Brook avenue, Stratford. Death was due to the infirmities of his age.

Mr. Stevens was born in Freehold, N. J., in the year 1837. As a young man he was connected with the

New York Herald and later with the New York Press. During the Civil War he enlisted in the 21st New York Volunteers having seen service in some of the largest battles of the Civil War.

As a result of typhoid fever contracted in one of the detention camps of the South he was stricken with deafness about 37 years ago, while in charge of the Five Point Mission at New York. He came to Stratford to live in retirement. About 10 years ago after a lingering approach he became totally blind. Through this incapacity and because of his valorous service the United

States government largely increased his pensions until he became the holder of the largest warrants in Connecticut.

Though both blind and deaf he has contributed widely to newspapers and periodicals both in this city and widely throughout the country.

He is survived by one son, David Kimball Stevens of Detroit, two grandchildren, Adelaide and Gladys of Detroit, a niece, Lillian MacIlroy, of Warwick avenue, Stratford, and a nephew, Fred Myers of Bridgeport. Funeral services have not as yet been arranged.

Hartford Courant

February 15, 1867

At the conclusion of the prize fight near Bridgeport, on the crowd being disappointed in having so little sport for their money, an impromptu fight was got up when a scene of brutality and savageness was exhibited disgraceful to humanity, one of the men having his lip bitten off.

Army Aviator Killed in Crash

The Stratford News

February 20, 1942

Army Aviator Killed When

Plane Crashes in Lordship
Witness Heard Engine Sput-ter Before Ship Plunged Into Marsh.

An atmosphere of gloom is still hovering over the town of Stratford as the result of the death of Second Lieutenant Harry L. Matthews, of Gates, AM. C, a member of a U. S. Army Pursuit squadron, which is stationed at the Municipal airport in Lordship. Lieut. Matthews met his death when a P-39 pursuit plane, which he was operating, plunged into the Lordship marshes shortly before 11 o'clock Sunday morning. The accident occurred a few hundred yards south of Lordship Meadows Road.

Although the cause of the accident has not been officially determined, witnesses declare that the plane over-shot the airport in making a landing, and crashed into the meadows. This announcement was made by Lieut. A. R. Ames, commanding officer of the squadron to which Matthews belonged. He

said that the ship spun out of a turn when the engine began sputtering at an altitude of about 100 feet, and crashed to earth.

The first to reach the scene were the volunteer firemen of the Lordship firehouse and it was they who found the body of the lieutenant under the wrecked plane. He was dead when extricated by soldiers from the field a few minutes later. All entrances to the airport were blocked by police from Stratford and Bridgeport and only those who had official business and soldiers were allowed to be near the scene. Police Chief William B. Nichols, of the Stratford Police and Capt. John E. Barton of the Bridgeport police department, were at the scene soon after the crash was reported. Five minutes after the report of the crash reached police headquarters here the ambulance arrived, but the victim was already dead and nothing could be done for him.

Lieut. Matthews had only been married a short time to Mary Mac-Matthews. The wedding took place on December 18,

1941. They resided at 1543 West. Broad Street during the past month. His parents also survive.

Lieut. Matthews was a graduate of Wake Forest College. He was a school teacher - before entering the air corps last April. His basic flight training was received at Randolph Field, Texas, and he graduated from the pursuit training school at Victoria, Texas, December 12, 1941.

The spot where the plane struck is about half a mile to the southwest end of the airport's southwest-north-east runway on which the plane was about to land. Mrs. Charles O. Hubbard, of 491 Washington Parkway, Lordship, says she saw the accident from her window. She said she saw the plane in a left turn when only about 100 feet high, when suddenly it dived out of control and plunged into the marsh on its left wing and nose. She said she heard the engine sputtering previous to the crash.

Bridgeport Daily Standard

February 15, 1867

For Burglarizing the Stratford Depot.

Otto Weistermer was yesterday brought from Essex to Stratford by Sheriff M. B. Preston of Hartford county and locked up, charged with burglarizing the Stratford depot about three months ago. Weistermer with a companion was arrested at Essex a short time ago for entering the depot at that place. On his person were found a number of articles stolen from Stratford, and word was at once sent to the Stratford authorities who asked that he be held. His pal was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, but the case against Weistermer was nolle. A hearing will be given him Saturday before Justice C. H. Peck.

Steel Rail Salvage from the Streets

*Bridgeport Daily
Standard*

March 1, 1892

Stratford

The large button-ball tree which stood in front of the residence of R. W. Curtis was so decayed it had to be cut down. D. C. Wood took it to his saw mill. Its diameter was five feet and was the largest Mr. Wood had ever handled.

The Stratford News

March 27, 1942

Steel Rail Salvage To Start Soon

Council Expected To Approve Project At Next Meeting.

With only the approval of the Town Council holding up the project, it is almost certain that the work of resurrecting the trolley rails from the streets of the town will be started in the very near future. No opposition is anticipated from the town fathers when the matter is brought up there it is believed that it will be adopted.

According to the estimate of the town engineer, Matthew J. Jankowski, the work of salvaging the rails will result in producing in the neighborhood of

816 tons of steel which are to be used in war work for which plenty of steel is needed. Town officials hesitated at first about digging up the rails, fearing that the cost would be prohibitive, but it has been learned that the town will only be called upon for part of the expenses. Most of the rails are buried under state maintained roadways, and with the promised assistance of W.P.A. labor, the cost will be considerably reduced.

While it is believed that the fund which will be received for the salvaged rails, will fall far short of the cost of removing the tracks and repaving the roadways, the feeling seems to be that it will be worth it to get rid of the buried steel and the aid it will give production

efforts. Only a few months ago the rails along Stratford Avenue were covered as a safety measure and while it seems too bad to have to rip up the streets again it will probably make for safety after the work is completed, officials say.

The only place where the tracks are on town property is along Main Street from the viaduct to the Barnum Avenue cutoff. The state maintained roadway where tracks are located extends along Stratford Avenue from the city line to Hard's corner, along Main Street from Barnum avenue cutoff to Paradise Green, in two locations along Ferry Boulevard and a short stretch on Barnum Avenue, near the city line.

Boxer Trains at Bond's Dock 1917

After John Bond died in 1915, his boxing camp remained in business under new ownership. Famous boxers continued to frequent the training camp at Bond's Dock.

Johnny Kilbane was a boxer of some renown and made an appearance at the camp before his big fight at the Park Theatre in Bridgeport in 1917. Although Johnny went on to win his Bridgeport bout with Eddie Wallace, fight fans were of the opinion he didn't put up much of a fight. Fans believed Johnny could have put on a much more aggressive show had he exerted himself just a bit.

The Bridgeport Farmer

March 22, 1917

Kilbane to Work Out for Fans in Stratford Camp

So great has been the advance sale for the Clover A. C. boxing show at the Park theatre next Monday night that it looks as if the house will be crowded when Champion Johnny Kilbane meets Eddie Wallace in the star bout. Matchmaker Bernard Lee says the sale has already amounted to \$1,600 but the expense of running the show is so great that a packed house will be necessary to clear expenses. In spite of the fact that Kilbane demands a \$1,000 guarantee

the club will not change the prices.

Kilbane leaves Cleveland, O., tonight and will work out at Lewinsky's camp in Stratford Saturday and Sunday. A large number of fans will probably visit the camp Sunday to watch him train. Eddie Wallace has met Kilbane before and has always made the champion extend himself to get a shade. Reservation for seats are coming in from all over the state. The remainder of the card looks good so the fans will undoubtedly see a rattling show.



CHAMPION JOHNNY KILBANE

Champion Johnny Kilbane

Tales and tastes of ye olde Stratford...

During our town's 375th anniversary celebration, the 375th celebration committee received many requests for publication of a book containing old Stratford photos. John Calhoun and Lew Knapp published just such a book in 2004. The book is entitled "**Postcard History Series: Stratford**", and is available for purchase from the Historical Society office. There are many delightful and long forgotten photos in this concise volume. Every Stratford home library would be enriched with a copy of this small volume of historic photos.

Also available from our Society office, and also available for purchase, the following is a recipe selected from our historic cookbook,

"Paradise Enow ... Treasures from Yesterday's Kitchens."

Sara Alexandra Fomenko's Baked Stuffed White Fish

1 white fish or 2 white fish filets
1 pound cod fish or blue fish filets
1 carrot
1 small onion
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
1 egg
Cracker meal
Salt and pepper

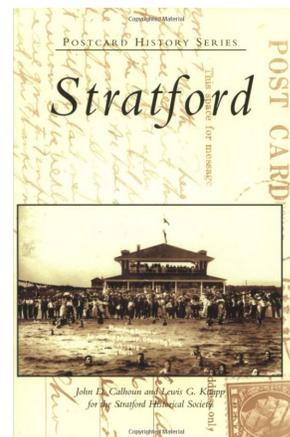
Clean, bone, wash, and dry 1 white fish. Salt and pepper inside cavity. Fill with the following stuffing.

Grind cod fish or blue fish, carrot and onion. Add parsley, egg, salt

and pepper and enough cracker meal to hold mixture together. Put a little cooking oil in bottom of baking dish and put fish in dish. If fillets are used, place one fillet on oblong dish, spread stuffing over top; place second fillet over top of stuffing. Slice whole onion over top of fish. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Baste with oil while baking.

Tester's note: "I used a beaten egg and two tablespoons of cracker meal. I used cod fish, 2 fillets, plus another fillet for stuffing, 3 pounds in all. Baked exactly 55 minutes.

This is a wow! My family loved it, and they are not particularly fish lovers."



This attractive paperback volume of historic photos is available for purchase from the Stratford Historical Society office.

To view past editions of our **UPDATE** newsletter, and/or to view current as well as historical photo slide shows and videos, visit www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.

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

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