



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

# Stratford Historical Society UPDATE

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 6

JULY 2017

## MARK THE DATES:

- Historical Society Governing Board Meeting: Monday, August 21st at 1:00pm
- September's General Membership Meeting: Saturday, September 23rd at 1:00 pm at the Stratford Library
- Civil War Re-enactment at Academy Hill Saturday, September 30th. From 10am until 4pm.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Society Officers 2017-18 2

Dateline Stratford 3

Paradise Lost? 4

Oops! I Did it Again! 5

Our Man of Steele 6

Understanding Islam 7

Striking Out Milford 8

Party Like Its 1969 9

Rev Ives hung in effigy 10

Ashcroft Centennial 11

Battle of Ridgefield 12

Business Members 13

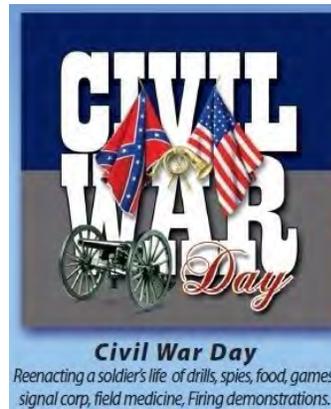
## Civil War Re-enactment

September 30th, 10:00am-4:00 pm, Academy Hill, 967 Academy Hill Rd

Last September the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry camped at Boothe Park and held Civil War battle re-enactments and provided information to the visiting public about camp life during the Civil War. This September the Volunteers will be back and they'll be camped at Judson House. There will be drills, marches, Civil War Re-enactments and food vendors.

The 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry website is at <http://www.cof14thcvi.com>.

You may view photos and



videos of last year's Civil War Re-enactment at Boothe Memorial Park by visiting: <http://civilwar.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.

Step back in history for a bit of Civil War life at The Judson House with reenacting a soldier's life of drills, open fire cooking, field medicine, firing demonstrations, the signal corp.

Enjoy food, sweets, music, and an 1800's baseball game!

SAT, SEPT. 30, 10:00 - 4:00

Adults \$5.00, students \$3.00

Under five free

## Our New Brochure

By Dolores Hocter

For the first time in several years, the Stratford Historical Society has updated its brochure. The new brochure, a three-fold, highlights the activities of the organization as well as featuring a summary of the Judson House through text and photographs showing ongoing activities.

The Stratford Historical Society is an independent and active organization providing services to the community through guided adult tours and school tours of its historic house and adjacent museum building. A History Camp is held each summer for elementary, middle school and high school students letting them experience life in colonial times through arts, crafts, music and dance.

Training for the conduct of tours by docents is provided by the Society in a series of six two

hour training sessions in March and two additional sessions in September. Docents are familiar with activities, events and heroes of Stratford throughout its colonial history.

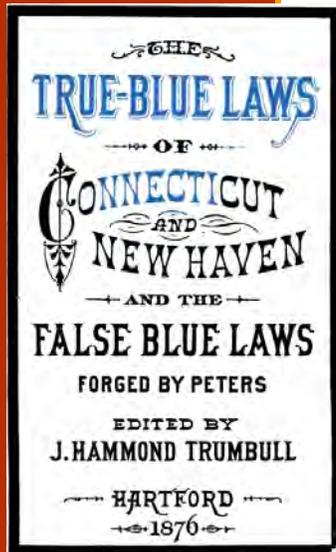
The Judson House is the 'jewel in the crown' of the Society built circa 1750 by David Judson, the great grandson of William Judson, one of the original settlers in 1639. It houses an eclectic collection of artifacts donated by families in the town including a vintage pianoforte owned by the William Samuel Johnson family.

Programs of a historic nature are offered now at the Stratford Library in September, November, January, March and May free and open to the public. Holiday Open House occurs every other December and the Early American Event every other September. The Society also participates in Connecticut Open House day in

June and joins the Stratford Festival Day activities with a walking tour through historic Stratford.



# Those Crazy Old "Blue Laws"



Tithingman illustration from *The Child's World Third Reader*, Hetty S. Browne

Researching the Rev. Joel Ives story (page 10 of this **UPDATE**), it occurred to us that the New England "Blue Laws" have meant many things to many people over the years. Stratford's best known brush with the blue laws is the John Birdseye story (documented in "*In Search of Paradise*" as well other places). Mr. Birdseye, reportedly, kissed his wife on a Sunday in Milford. To avoid being thrown into the stocks, he swam across the Housatonic to seek refuge in Stratford.

There did not appear to be a well-researched, authoritative guide to the original blue laws. Online research uncovered J. Hammond Trumbull's 1876 book "*The True-Blue Laws of Connecticut and New Haven and the False Blue Laws Forged by Peters.*" The book was quite an interesting read. No where are the "blue laws" codified in the Connecticut Colony or the New Haven Colony charters. The blue laws appear to have evolved town by town and, eventually, found their way into Connecticut State Law. These became the various Sunday closing and sales laws that were still in effect in Connecticut until recently with the removal of the Sunday ban on the sale of

alcohol in package stores.

Searching further, online, we came across the following **Sunday Herald** article. The Herald article is interesting because it discusses the "Tithing Men" who were also a bane to the church goers of Stratford in the 1600's.

### Sunday Herald

July 13, 1952

#### "Tithing Man" Walks Again in Ancient Rite

Thousands of vacationers will visit York, Me., this Summer during its 300th anniversary celebration, July 20 to 27.

The little town, one of the oldest in America, is steeped in early colonial tradition, with many of its landmarks dating back to the days of the earliest settlers.

Should you happen to be around on Sunday, July 20, watch for a gentleman with stern and forbidding countenance and attired in colonial costume.

#### KEEPS 'EM WIDE-EYED

You'll find him at the First Parish Church at the famous Father Moody service. The event is a re-enactment by townspeople of an authentic New England colonial church service and opens the week-long tercentennial celebration.

He is the Tithing Man, a fixture of old colonial church services. He will be portrayed by Howard

Moody, who is a descendant of the original Father Moody, a staunch advocate of the "hell-fire and brimstone" school of preachers two centuries ago.

His job will be to keep order in the congregation by brushing inattentive women on the neck with the furred tip of his tithing rod and dispensing sharp raps among sleeping men with the other end of the rod. "Sinners" will be marched to the front of the church where everyone may view their disgrace.

#### CHILD LOVE BANNED

One of the quaintest parts of the service will be the "Charge to the Tithing Man," sternly delivered by Father Moody, actually the Rev. Walter Harold Millinger, present pastor.

Excerpts from these instructions recall a time when the Sabbath Day was indeed a day of worship and rest: "No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep house, cut hair, or shave on the Sabbath Day," and "no woman shall kiss her child on the Sabbath or Fasting Day."

As it turns out, Rev. Ives' Sunday circumscriptions may have been based more on his personal preferences and personal interpretations of the blue laws and scripture than on fact or statutory law.

## Society Officers for 2017-2018

It's that time of year when we select our officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Nominating Committee has presented its proposed slate to the Society Board and the Board has accepted the slate as presented. The ballot will be presented to the general membership in the September newsletter. (The ballot to the left represents last year's ballot as presented

to the membership by the Nominating Committee).

We are still looking for personnel/chairs for the following positions/committees: Recording Secretary, Nominating Committee and Ways & Means Committee. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these positions, please contact our President, Shirley McCormack.

While we are voting for the chairs of the several committees, we also welcome those of you who may have an interest in participating in one, or more, of these committees. If you would like to be a member of one of our several committees, please contact our President, Shirley McCormack.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2016 - 2017

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Shirley McCormack
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>	Carolyn Stanton
<b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>	Jarlene Evans
<b>TREASURER</b>	Robert Hoozer

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Accession	Carol Lovell	Library	Gloria Duggan
Building	Joseph Bonzabas	Membership	Janette Caron
Education	Dolores Hoozer	Newletter	David Wright
Finance	Joseph Bonzabas	Nominations	
Garden	Dolores Hoozer	Programs	Gal Urico
Grounds	Joseph Bonzabas	Publicity	David Wright
Hospitality	Pam Hutchison	Scholarships	Shirley McCormack
Hours & Meetings	Bertra Frown	Ways/Means	

**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, 2016. If you wish to nominate a candidate, or work on a committee, please attend the September 2016 General Membership meeting.

**STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 - 2017 ELECTION BALLOT**

FOR ALL BY-LAWS CHANGES, OR

FOR ALL CHANGES EXCEPT:

FOR ALL CANDIDATES, OR

FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT:

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

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

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

# Dateline Stratford June - July 1952

**The Stratford News**

June 5, 1952

**Six Principals Are Named**

All Appointments are Effective in September

...Here in capsule form are the appointments:

Albert Morris, principal at Stonybrook school, promoted to principal of the Johnson Junior High school. This is the new school in the south end.

Thomas F. Donahue, Jr., of Marlboro, Maryland, appointed principal of Wooster Junior High school.

E. Wesley Bradle, principal at Center school, promoted to principal at Stonybrook school.

Mrs. Frances Russell, teaching principal at Putney school, promoted to supervising principal at Center school.

Elinor Varney, grade 3 teacher and assistant principal at Stonybrook school, promoted to teaching principal at Putney school.

Mrs. Emma Cowles, teaching principal, Lordship, promoted to supervising principal, Lordship-school...

**Sunday Herald**

June 15, 1952

**Airport Liquor Permit Stymied by Court Ruling**

Perhaps the most far-reaching court decision to affect a section of Stratford was reached this week to directly involve Lordship and its future.

Judge John C. Fitzgerald of Common Pleas Court upheld an appeal by Cliff Hutchinson and the Lordship Improvement Assn. which killed for a time efforts to set up a liquor establishment next to the airport.

**The Stratford News**

July 3, 1952

**Auditors Plead for Caution**

They Find Surplus, But Urge Us Not to Spend It All

The town of Stratford had an operating surplus as of March 31, 1952, of \$141,354.64, it was revealed this week by the town auditors, Allen Cassidy and Company.

The auditors cautioned, however, against spending any of this money. They said:

"We caution against reduction of any portion of this sum by appropriation until the method of liquidating the account receivable from the sewer fund has been determined. It will be noted that we have recommended that \$109,871.55 be charged against this surplus balance, leaving an available operating surplus of \$31,483.00..."

**Sunday Herald**

June 13, 1952

**Congress Must OK Avco Taxes for Stratford: Benton**

Sen. William Benton reported with regret this week that only a special session of Congress could bring Stratford any tax revenue from the Avco plant, owned lock, stock and barrel by the Air Force.

A bill was introduced during the session just ended which would have given Stratford permission to tax the Air Force for the 8 million dollar property represented by the old Chance Vought plant and its machinery. But that bill never got out of committee, Sen. Benton reported.

That means that Stratford can get no taxes for the next fiscal year out of the big plant unless a special

session of Congress is called and acts favorably upon the bill.

**The Stratford News**

July 17, 2017

**Town Post Office Will Be Studied**  
Council's Industrial Committee To Resurrect Idea, After Neary Details Problems of Delivery

The Town Council is not expected to take any immediate action on the request of the Bridgeport post office for more "adequate transportation" within the town so that mail service here can be improved, and so that all Stratford residents are served by the Stratford branch.

At the present time, because of transportation difficulties, the post office has informed the Council "two carriers now serving the Broadbridge and Briarfield area are now assigned to our Hillside station located on Bond street in Bridgeport. There is no means of transportation from the Stratford branch directly to these sections."

**The Stratford News**

July 17, 2017

**Oronoque PO On Way Out**

Local Democrats Try To Give It a Push

The Oronoque post office may go out of business July 31.

Mrs. Leon Baker, postmistress there for 29 years, is retiring as of that date.

No successor has been appointed in Washington, D.C.

In fact, the local Democrat Town committee has gone on record unanimously supporting action to abandon the post office as "a financial burden on the taxpayers."



Memorial Day 1952, **The Stratford News** June 5, 1952



TO APPEAR ON TV — The above three Stratford Knot Hole club members will appear on TV, Channel 9, Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Seating, left to right front row are: Chris Wittwald of Rays; bestie; Lou Horner of Holy Name and Dick Ross of Sterling House. Back row are the coaches of the respective teams: Bill Sullivan, John Delyak and Nelson Breen.

**Knot Hole Club Members**

on Channel 9,

**The Stratford News**

June 12, 1952



**Grace Harford retires,**

**The Stratford News**

June 12, 1952

## Now Showing June - July 1952

June 1st	<b>My Son John</b>	Helen Hayes, Robert Walker
June 8th	<b>San Francisco</b>	Yvonne DeCarlo, Joel McCrea
June 15th	<b>About Face</b>	Gordon MacRae, Eddie Bracken
June 22nd	<b>To Have &amp; Have Not</b>	Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
June 29th	<b>Carson City</b>	Randolph Scott
July 6th	<b>Macao</b>	Robert Mitchum, Jane Russell, William Bendix
July 13th	<b>3 For Bedroom C</b>	Gloria Swanson, James Warner
July 20th	<b>The Winning Team</b>	Doris Day, Ronald Reagan
July 27th	<b>Red Mountain</b>	Alan Ladd, Lizabeth Scott



Stratford Theater from the 1944 Stratford High School Log

# Paradise Lost?

## *The Hartford Courant*

June 19th, 1917

### Stratford's Big Growth.

Within four years the town of Stratford, which is closer to Bridgeport than Wethersfield is to Hartford, has increased in population from 7,000 to 15,000,—at least that is the new estimate. It is changing the political atmosphere slightly, and will in time completely revolutionize it. There are many factors that bring about the growth of old Stratford. The biggest factor, of course, is the establishment of a great many big factories at the east end of Bridgeport. The building of houses to accommodate the workmen took in considerable vacant territory at the west line of the old town. In some places the east end of Bridgeport simply overlaps into Stratford. The second reason for Stratford's growth is that quite a number of smaller factories have established themselves in the town, and that helps some. Another cause, and quite important in its way is that many Bridgeporters have given up their homes in the city and located in the old town. A great many people in this city had an opportunity to sell out at a reasonable profit, and another class went over to Stratford or Fairfield for the reason that their old neighborhood was becoming too crowded. The lure of the suburban town was for more breathing space, a garden, and the escape from a high tax rate. So it is no surprise that Stratford has been growing, and the next census will show some surprising figures. The influx of new blood into Stratford is changing

the political atmosphere—just a little. In the regular order of things it is not an easy thing to suddenly change a system and men who are in control and know the ways of the town are not easily displaced by newcomers who have to learn the ropes....

The growth of Stratford is raising a question with many of its residents about annexing themselves to Bridgeport. But that question is as widely divided as the Irish question is in Ireland. The old-timers are as strongly opposed to annexing themselves to Bridgeport as the Ulsterites are to having Home Rule. It is the newcomers who want to be a part of Bridgeport. They take the ground that they are paying a small tax rate for nothing and are willing to pay a little more and get something. As a rule, the newcomers live close to the eastern boundary line of Bridgeport, work in Bridgeport, trade in Bridgeport, and have no use for the Stratford end of it, other than the comforts of having a garden attached to their home, and a quiet place to sleep.

Judge Charles H. Peck told *"The Courant"* representative that Stratford would never be annexed to Bridgeport "in your or my lifetime." The remark might be a reflection to the fact that both of us have not much longer to live, but of course, what he really did infer was that there would be no annexation during the average lifetime of the residents of the town. The Judge said that the towns-

people would never allow themselves to be taxed at the Bridgeport rate....The complaint of the new comer is that he is not getting anything for the little that he is paying in taxes. He wants sewers, better schools in his section, police and fire protection. He wants Bridgeport to have jurisdiction of the neighborhood in which he lives so as to get those things. Of course, he has no sympathy with the Stratford tradition.

Stratford's future is a problem. It is destined to be a very much larger place than at present. It has two shipyards, one now in the making, and the new one is going to help in the matter of population. All the water front property on the Housatonic River has been taken up by big manufacturing concerns who intend to build in a short time, because of the splendid water frontage there. No less than three Bridgeport manufacturing concerns have moved over there within the past year. The sewers, the police and fire protection have got to come, and with them taxes to correspond, perhaps in spite of the protest of the old Stratfordite. When those things come the matter of annexation will have been pretty well settled. Today the dividing line separating Bridgeport from Stratford is so vague that in many places it is covered with buildings for in some of the new homes a man may eat in Bridgeport and sleep in Stratford without getting out of this [sic] own apartment.



Man with cow on farm in Oronoque c 1917.



Franklin School being expanded in 1917



Ferry Creek c 1917



Photo: Brian A. Pounds / Hearst Connecticut Media

## Judson House in the News

What a delightful surprise greeted us on the front page of the May 12th **Connecticut Post**. There was a photo of the Captain David Judson house with a very informative accompanying article written by Amanda Cuda.

Sandy Rutkowski, our assistant director, was interviewed by Amanda for the article. Sandy described the Judson House as being a "mansion", in its time, as most houses of the

period (1750s) were very small and contained dirt floors. Sandy described how the red paint of the house was produced (with ox blood) in the 1700s and how Judson House became the site for the headquarters of the Historical Society in 1925.

Sandy also discussed the Beach Carriage House and how it came to be on the grounds of the Historical Society having been moved from 1812 Elm

Street. The slave quarters in the basement of the house were described in the article as were the yearly tours given to school children by Society Docents.

You may view all the photos of the house at <http://www.ctpost.com/realestate/article/Mansion-a-gateway-to-Stratford-s-past-11140293.php>. You may also download a copy of the **Connecticut Post** front page story at [Judsonstratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://www.judsonstratfordhistoricalsociety.info).

# Oops!....I did it again....I'm not that innocent.

"As our evening's main narrator, Igor Sikorsky, put it, 'None of us can escape our character. It clings to us as fiercely in death as in life, reminding us of our frail humanity.'" (From Steven Otfinoski's 1989 play "Stratford Characters). One of the many things that makes Stratford's history so charming is its limitless array of "characters."

George T. Jewell was one such "character". George was born in Stratford in 1864. His great-grandfather and grandfather were both Civil War veterans. George's father, George senior, was in the grocery and meat business in Stratford and died in 1866.

George T. was formally trained at Yale College as a bookkeeper and was in the employ of the Bridgeport firm, W. M. Terry & Co., for several years. George was first elected Stratford's Town Clerk, then, in 1899 was elected Stratford's Tax Collector.

The following **Hartford Courant** tidbit is extracted from a much larger article pertaining to

the growing pains of Stratford in the early 1900's.

**The Hartford Courant**  
June 16, 1917

...An instance of the gradual change was exemplified last week when a member of the old political regime failed to conceal his shortage as treasurer of the Union Cemetery Association.

George T. Jewell, the treasurer, was short in his accounts \$3,500, but his friends on the board of directors agreed to keep the matter quiet, but at the same time, insisted upon restitution. Mr. Jewell is now contributing so much a month to the shortage. His equity in realty holdings is the guarantee. For fifteen years, Mr. Jewell, under the old regime, was town treasurer. He was defeated for the first time last fall. His defeat brought out the fact of his shortage of \$10,000 to the town. That matter was settled through a surety company.

It was the new voters in the town that brought about Mr. Jewell's defeat last fall and consequently the revelation of his shortage. It was the new

element in the town that brought about the expose of his shortage with the cemetery association. So there is undergoing a gradual change.

From all appearances, it looks as if Judge C. H. Peck got from under in time. As to the Jewell incident, the general impression is that the man was grossly careless but not dishonest.

According to [www.saving.org](http://www.saving.org) \$10,000 in 1917 would be worth approximately \$208,000 today. As far as can be determined, the \$10,000 owed the town by Mr. Jewell was never repaid. The defalcation was, as near as can be determined, forgiven, and the Town was made whole by its bonding company.

Mr. Jewell was a very active member of the Stratford community and served as a Captain of the Fourth Regiment of Company K. He was also an active member of Christ Episcopal Church.



Bristol & Jewell Meat Market (the white building, above) c. 1896 on the east side of Main Street in Stratford Center. (The Stratford Post Office is the building just to the left of the Market). George Jewell established the Meat Market along with his partner, William B. Bristol, in April of 1896. William Bristol was Stratford's Postmaster for 30 years until his retirement in 1932.

## Customers Rally to aid bedded barber

**PEOPLE AREN'T SO BAD**  
**Sunday Herald**  
June 1, 1952

Down at the Polo Grounds Sal "The Barber" Maglie is the toast of the town because of his baseball pitching genius.

But in Lordship, Stratford, there's a fellow named Joseph "The Barber" Dubee just as popular and really a barber by trade.

In fact, Joe is so well liked that during the past few weeks his many customers decided to show the 46-year-old trimmer, just where their sentiments lie.

Joe, who has been a Bridgeport area native through the years, was knocked into bed by a virus bug. Well, for a barber, especially when he's a one man shop (The Lordship Barber Shop in Lordship Center) this could be fatal.

Back in his 627 Noble Av. home,

Joe took stock; there'd be no money coming in for weeks, there'd be doctor bills to pay and he wasn't working.

But Joe didn't reckon with his tonsorial fans in Lordship.

Led by Ernie Gerstl, owner of the Gerstl Pharmacy on Stratford Rd., Lordship, Joe's faithful decided to take matters into their own hands. Ernie set up a large glass jar at his heavily frequented soda fountain.

And on the jar was appended a sign which read:

"Your barber and mine is most seriously ill.

"He will not cut our hair this week or perhaps for several weeks.

"To my mind it would be a most cheerful and satisfying gesture if I left my \$1 for the haircut I didn't get this week for a man I like to do business with.

"Signed, Ernie."

There was no reluctance in the

ranks.

While Lordship hairs have been growing longer every day, the glass jar has been filling just as rapidly.

A call to Joe revealed he knew nothing of the nice thing done by his friendly customers.

"They're a wonderful bunch of people. I hope to be back tomorrow. Kinda makes you want to get back," Joe said. An ex-Navy serviceman, Joe is married and has worked at the Lordship Barber Shop for nearly three years.

If the contents of Ernie's jar are any indicator, those three years have been good ones.



Gert's Drugstore on the right side of the building, above, c 1947



Interior of the Lordship Barber Shop c 1938. Photo from the **History of Lordship** website courtesy of Vincent Palacino Jr.

## Our man of “Steele”



Dick Steele. Photo by Brian A. Pounds/Hearst Connecticut Media

For ten years Dick Steele served as our **UPDATE** newsletter editor. Dick has been active at the Connecticut Air and Space Museum and in the Oronoque Village Association. Dick always seems to have a project underway. Dick, also, recently celebrated his 95th birthday.

We couldn't have been more delighted to see Dick honored in the **Connecticut Post** on May 29th. The honor was richly

deserved and humbly accepted by “our man of Steele”. The photo to the left is of Dick attending a Memorial Day Mass at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Bridgeport. The photo to the left appeared in the **Connecticut Post** on the same day as a feature article honoring Dick entitled “Remembering the view.”

Those of us who've had the honor and privilege of being a

bit more closely associated with Dick know that he piloted Corsairs, briefly, during World War II. What we'd not heard before was the story of Dick ditching his SP2C “Helldiver” and living through a harrowing rescue in August of 1945.

You may download your own copy of Dick's **Connecticut Post** tribute at [stele.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://stele.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info).

## B-17G “Yankee Lady” Touches Down

The Yankee Lady, a restored B-17 Flying Fortress, visited Stratford on May 30th and 31st. The event was sponsored by the Connecticut Air and Space Museum located at the site of the former Army Engine Plant.

The Yankee Lady is the property of the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, Michigan, and is one of only 10 B-17s still airworthy. For \$450, it was possible to participate in a 40 minute flight aboard the Yankee Lady. The following is taken from Wikipedia pertaining to B-17 Flying Fortresses.

*The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress is a four-engine heavy bomber developed*

*in the 1930s for the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC)...*

*The B-17 was primarily employed by the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) in the daylight strategic bombing campaign of World War II against German industrial and military targets...The B-17 also participated to a lesser extent in the War in the Pacific, early in World War II, where it conducted raids against Japanese shipping and airfields.*

*...It developed a reputation for toughness based upon stories and photos of badly damaged B-17s safely returning to base. The B-17 developed a reputation as an effective bomber, dropping more bombs than any other*

*U.S. aircraft in World War II...In addition to its role as a bomber, the B-17 was also employed as a transport, antisubmarine aircraft, drone controller, and search-and-rescue aircraft.*

*As of May 2015, ten aircraft remain airworthy. None of them are combat veterans. Dozens more are in storage or on static display. (Foregoing excerpted from Wikipedia).*

You may read the entire **Connecticut Post** “Yankee Lady” article at [B17.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://B17.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info).



B-17G Yankee Lady photo from the Connecticut Air and Space Museum's Facebook page.



Gustave Whitehead from the August 8, 1901 *Bridgeport Sunday Herald*

## Gustave Whitehead - CT Magazine

On September 24, 1999 Andy Kosch, of Fairfield, was our guest speaker. (You may read up on Andy's visit to Stratford at [kosch.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://kosch.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info)). Mr. Kosch spoke to those in attendance of his building a replica of Gustave Whitehead's first “air plane” with test flights in Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Stratford in 1901 (three years before the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk).

Since 1999 much more has come to light on Gustave Whitehead's early flights and accomplishments. Susan Brinchman published a well researched book on the subject,

**Gustave Whitehead: First in Flight**, in May of 2015. Mr. Kosch and Ms. Brinchman, via video conference, spoke to attendees at the Stratford Library in 2016 on this topic.

From the many vested interested in the Gustave Whitehead story come many varying theories and facts. No doubt, the controversy surrounding Mr. Whitehead will battle on for years to come.

Stratford has its own special ties to Mr. Whitehead due to the fact that Mr. Whitehead claimed his longest flight occurred at Long Beach and, also, because of Mr.

Whitehead's ties to Stanley Beach (of Stratford). Mr. Beach claimed he paid Mr. Whitehead to build him an airplane and Mr. Whitehead failed to deliver (even though Mr. Beach altered Mr. Whitehead's proposed design to the point where the resulting airplane became far less airworthy).

**Connecticut Magazine** weighed in on the topic this past June. You may read the article at [whitehead.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://whitehead.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info). The article balances both sides of all Whitehead arguments.

# Understanding Islam

**Wednesday, August 9  
at 1:00 pm**

**At the Baldwin Center**

Imam Sami Abdul Aziz, Wesleyan University's Muslim chaplain and leader at Bloomfield Muslim Community Center, and his wife, Vjosa Qerimi, will speak on the similarities between Christian and Muslim values and beliefs, misconceptions and fears.

Imam Aziz feels that it's important "especially in these times", for people of other religions and Muslims to understand one another. He will talk about the basic principles of the religion, the daily prayers said throughout the day and the cleansing before prayer. In addition, the couple will discuss the misconceptions about women, and the subject of the hijab (head covering).

This program is cohosted by the Stratford Library and Stratford Community Services, and sponsored by the Stratford Rotary Club. Open to all ages. Refreshments will be served. Please register by calling the Baldwin Center - 203-385-4050.



# Grave Marking Ceremony at Burying Grounds

**GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION PATRIOTS AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CEMETERY**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26,  
2017 @ 10 a.m.**

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) of the David Humphrey's Branch No. 1 along with Freeloze Baldwin Stow and Sarah Riggs Humphreys-Silliman

Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are jointly working together on a community project to revitalize the historical Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery in Stratford that is located on Broad Street.

The cemetery dates back to 1723 and is the oldest Episcopal burial ground in the state. The oldest grave is 1725. William Samuel Johnson, 1st President of Columbia University and also one of the two signers (Roger Sherman) of our

United States Constitution is buried here. Also, buried here are 18 Revolutionary War Patriots.

We are planning to conduct a State SAR and DAR Grave Marking Ceremony along with Mayor Harkins and several other local groups on August 26, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m. to honor the Revolutionary War Patriots.



# Mayor of Maastricht Visits Stratford

*The Stratford News*  
June 26, 1952

**The Mayor of Maastricht Visits Stratford on Friday**

The mayor of Maastricht, the Netherlands, Baron Willem Michiels van Kessenich, will be in Stratford tomorrow (Friday) as the guest of Msgr. John H. Anderson, D.D., pastor of St. James' church.

Baron van Kessenich, 49, was appointed mayor of the city of Maastricht in 1937, after having previously been mayor of a small village near Maastricht for four years. During the war he was dismissed by the German occupa-

tion authorities because he refused to execute their orders. The day after the liberation of Maastricht by the U.S. Army 30th Infantry Division, in September 1944, he was re-appointed mayor by Queen Wilhelmina. During the winter of 1944-45, he worked closely with the U.S. Army authorities, especially with Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson, whose Ninth Army headquarters were in Maastricht.

Baron van Kessenich and his wife, Emily, have 12 children of their own. They adopted two young war orphans five years ago.

This is the baron's second visit to

the United States. In 1947 he lectured in this country on the work of the Dutch War Graves committee. Some 18,000 American soldiers are buried in the U.S. Military cemetery at Margraten, near Maastricht, and their graves are being cared for by Dutch citizens in the neighborhood.



BARON WILLEM

# Stratford Strikes Out Milford

**Bridgeport Daily Standard**  
July 30, 1867  
**STRATFORD (NOT ON AVON)**  
**BASE BALL**

There was a game of base ball played in this town on Saturday afternoon, between the Orientals of Milford and the Osceola Base Ball Club of Stratford, which was won by the latter club by the healthy old score of 78 to 27. One remarkable feature about this game was the making of 31 tallies in the last innings by the Osceolas, including two home runs by one man. The Champion Clubs will have to sell out, for this beats their

late performances at New Britain. Another remarkable feature was the growling at the Umpire, by the Orientals. The Umpire, Mr. H. Stagg, of the Bridgeport Club, discharged his duties with perfect fairness and with excellent judgment, and the fault-finding and growling were entirely out of order. It is bad enough to hear grumbling from outsiders, but when members of clubs come to that pass that they can't play a game with an Umpire of their own choosing, and abide by his decisions quietly like gentlemen, they had better disband, for

they are not fit to play base ball, or anything else. They might organize growling clubs, choose a cast iron Umpire, and growl for the championship, which would be healthy business and might restore them to good temper again.

CENTERFIELD

We heartily endorse the above remarks of our correspondent, relative to grumbling at an Umpire. We are happy to believe that it is not a characteristic of any Bridgeport Club.

ED.



Stratford Alerts baseball team 1889.

**Bridgeport Daily Standard**  
June 7, 1892

At their ball game in Milford Saturday, the Osceola's defeated the Milford club.

...It is said that a number of years ago, Stratford was visited with an epidemic of typhus or typhoid fever, of a very malignant type. The number of deaths were so great that the citizens became terrified, and a town meeting was called, at which it was thought that the epidemic was caused by stagnant water at the upper end of Macks' harbor creek...

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** By the mid-1890's a clear link had been established between the spread of typhoid fever and the consuming of sewage contaminated shellfish. Raw sewage was being discharged into the Housatonic River throughout the 1800's. The citizens mentioned, above, were likely sickened by consuming sewage contaminated shellfish.



**Bridgeport Sunday Herald**  
July 1, 1917

Pupils of the Eighth grade held their graduation exercises on the lawn opposite the home of Mr. Walter W. Wheeler, Academy Hill, Thursday afternoon.

## Stratford 1892

**Bridgeport Daily Standard**  
June 1, 1892

The Memorial day services were impressive. Flowers had been collected by the young people and arranged on Saturday for the occasion. At the hour appointed the Veterans and a large delegation of the order or United American Mechanics assembled at the Town hall and formed in procession, marching first to Union cemetery, where the Veterans placed flowers on the graves of soldiers and then to the Soldiers' monument on Academy

Hill where the flowers were placed. In the evening the Veterans and O.U.A.M organization attended the M. E. church and listened to a very interesting sermon by Rev. E. D. Basset, the pastor.

One of the Hughes boys came very near losing his life Saturday. He was engaged on the steamer Annie, dredging for the Stratford Oyster Col, and in attempting to walk along a narrow gunwale slipped and fell overboard. He was encumbered with a pair of hip rubber boots which made it impossible

for him to swim. He succeeded in divesting himself of these, but not until he was nearly exhausted. Fortunately he was discovered and a buoy thrown to him with which he kept himself above water until they could back the steamer and pick him up.

The Osceolas and Eagles played seven innings Monday and the former won with a score of 16 to 7.

## Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls

**Bridgeport Sunday Herald**

July 22, 1917

Rev. and Mrs. Whitehead of Stratford are doing a great work in teaching boys and girls the benefits of outdoor or camp life. At Zoars they have a camp, and while Rev. Mr. Whitehead looks after the comfort and instruction of the Boy Scouts his estimable wife cares for the Camp Fire Girls.

The Herald photographer visited the camp the past week, and with his camera caught the young people

at their various lines of enjoyment. The boys are being taught army work and they are getting proficient in that line.

Both girls and boys will be the better for this outdoor life when the season ends. They will be better prepared for their studies for the long winter.



Mrs. Whitehead and the Campfire Girls



Boy Scouts at the Main Camp

# Community Service Medal

By Dolores Hocter

The Stratford Historical Society was recognized by Stratford Community Services with a medal and two certificates at the Town Hall on the evening of June 15, 2017. The medal recognizes the Society as making extraordinary differences and leading Stratford. In the center is the seal of Stratford, a

tree and above it Settled 1639. In addition, there is a certificate signed by Mayor John. A. Harkins and one from United States Congress in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community signed by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and containing the Congressional Seal.

There was standing room only in the Council Chamber for the cere-

mony that began with remarks from a representative of Rosa DeLauro and of Laura Hoydick, State Representative of the 120th District. Members of the Youth Council made a presentation of \$200.00 to several town organizations including Sterling House, the Library, the Recreation Department, PAL and several groups from town schools to help them continue to promote their programs.



# Boothe Park Transfers to Town Officially

*The Stratford News*

July 31, 1952

**Boothe Park**

The Town of Stratford is soon to have dropped in its lap the 39 acre Boothe Memorial Park in Putney.

There is some feeling that the town should merely accept the park, and let the trustees develop it to the extent allowed by the finances in the Boothe will. Such development, we understand, is limited to the setting up of museum rooms featuring the various collections made by the Boothe brothers.

We do not favor the idea of developing the park to the hilt, and opening it up to people from all sections of the state.

We do think that the facilities at Boothe Park should be retained for the people of Stratford. Such seemingly-selfish example is given us by the towns of Milford and Fairfield insofar as their beaches are concerned, and we don't see why we should be magnanimous in light of the attitude of those around us.

We do think, however, that the facilities at the park should be stud-

ied, and eventually expanded and developed for "the enjoyment of the people of Stratford." The establishment of a Park commission, as suggested in The News story last week, seems the best way to take advantage of the park, and of having it eventually open to and utilized by the people from all sections of town.



Boothe Park c. 1970 from the SHS photo collection.

# Party Like It's "1969"

As we mentioned in May's newsletter, this is the first **July UPDATE** newsletter published since July 1969. We're able to publish a **July UPDATE** this year, at no cost to the Society, as a result of another event that occurred in 1969: the advent of the internet. We thought it would be interesting to take a brief look back at the "roots" of the internet since the internet's inception occurred, roughly, in tandem with the demise of our **July UPDATE**.

**EDN Network**

**ARPANET establishes 1st computer-to-computer link, October 29, 1969**

By Suzanne Deffree

The first-ever computer-to-computer link was established on ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), the precursor to the Internet, on October 29, 1969.

Originally funded by ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency), now DARPA, within the United States Department of Defense, ARPANET was to be used for projects at universities and research laboratories in the US. The packet switching of the ARPANET was based on designs by British scientist Donald Davies and Lawrence Roberts of the Lincoln Laboratory.

About an hour after the crash, the system was recovered and a full "login" message was sent as the second transmission.

The first permanent ARPANET link was established weeks later on November 21, 1969, between the IMP at UCLA and the IMP at the Stanford Research Institute. By December 5, 1969, the entire four-node network was established.

You may read the entire ARPANET article at: [arpnet.stratfordhistorical.info](http://arpnet.stratfordhistorical.info).

29 Oct 69 2100	LOWARD	OP. PROGRAM	CSK
	FOR BEN BARBER		
	BBV		
22:30	Talked to SRI		CSK
	Host to Host		
	Left imp program		CSK
	running after sending		
	a host dead message		
	to imp.		

The above image, transcribed, represents the first message broadcast over the "internet" in 1969. The caption, below, accompanied the image above.

"An IMP log excerpt kept at UCLA that describes setting up a message transmission from the UCLA SDS Sigma 8 host computer to the SRI SDS 940 host computer. The initials "CSK" to the right stand for Charles S Kline".

# Season Opening 2017

By Dolores Hctor

The Captain David Judson House at 967 Academy Hill Road in Stratford will open for the season on Sunday, June 4. There will be walk-in tours from noon until four with the last tour at three on Sunday afternoons from June through October. Wednesday tours this year

are by appointment. Please schedule a tour at least a day in advance.

Guests will be greeted by a host or hostess and tours will be conducted through the House by a docent in period dress discussing the history, architecture and Judson family as well as customs of the eighteenth century. The Museum is part of

the tour and available for browsing.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for Senior Citizens and \$2.00 for school age children. There is no charge for pre-schoolers or members of the Society. Group tours may be arranged by contacting the Stratford Historical Society.



Captain David Judson House, 967 Academy Hill Road

## Rev. Joel S. Ives Hung in Effigy

*The Hartford Courant* published an interesting item on July 6th, 1892. "An effigy of the Rev. Joel S. Ives, pastor of the Congregational Church in Stratford, was hung in front of his dwelling by boys the morning of the Fourth. Mr. Ives was awakened by a tremendous din, and observed the performance with some interest."

The foregoing was followed on July 7th with this further installment. "The hanging in effigy of the Rev. J. S. Ives by boys at his home in Stratford, already noted in *The Courant*, is explained by the fact that he recently publicly rebuked some of his Sunday school scholars for dissipation and profanity. He also preached against the Sunday sale of soda and cigars, and this was a further impulse to the act. The affair is generally condemned in the village."

An even livelier account of this incident appeared in *The New York Times* on July 5th, 1892.

**PARSON IVES HANGED  
IN EFFIGY  
CITIZENS OF STRATFORD  
DISSATISFIED  
WITH THE MINISTER'S  
CONDUCT.**

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., July

4. — The residents of the village of Stratford, three miles from this city, are greatly excited over an incident which occurred there during the early hours of this morning. The Rev. Joel S. Ives, pastor of the Congregational Church of that town, was hanged in effigy on a large elm tree standing in front of the handsome residence he occupies, on the main street of the village.

Within the past few days there have been rumors that efforts would be made to enforce the blue laws in the village, and the closing of the drug stores and stopping the sale of Sunday papers were contemplated. The village is connected with the city by the East End Street Railway Company, and on Sundays during the summer hundreds of residents of this city enjoy the ride over the shade-lined streets to Stratford.

It was also intended to stop the running of the street cars. Parson Ives was the leader in the movement. It has not met with favor, especially among the younger element.

During the early hours this morning, while the celebration of the Fourth of July was in progress, Parson Ives's residence was visited. The visitors, it is reported to-night, composed some of the well-

known people of the village, but that did not deter them from hurling huge firecrackers on the stoop of the parson's residence. This was but the first step.

This morning when daylight came, hanging from a large tree, was what appeared to be the form of a man. The figure swung to and fro in the breeze and was viewed by hundreds of people. It was taken down some hours afterward, but it is not known who took the trouble to remove it.

Mr. Ives has been pastor of the church for the past five years. A well-known resident of the town said to-night that Mr. Ives had made himself very much disliked of late, and the affair of last night is a polite invitation for the parson to leave town.

While the "blue laws of Connecticut" made no mention of such things as drug stores, street cars, summertime at the beach, or newspapers, apparently, Rev. Ives' interpretation of the "blue laws" did include all these much more contemporary innovations. It seems to us it would have been much better for the good Reverend had he kept his private musings on Sunday decorum to himself.



Rev. Joel S. Ives  
Photo from  
[www.hymntime.com](http://www.hymntime.com)

# Ashcroft Centennial

**Ashcroft Centennial at Manning, Maxwell and Moore**  
A Brief History of Stratford's M-M and M

**The Stratford News**  
June 6, 1952

The story of the Ashcroft valve begins in 1851 when, in London, the first International Industrial exposition was opened by Queen Victoria. At the time, America was a country of 29 states with a population of about 23,000,000.

Like all others, the United States is primarily agrarian. Life is peaceful. There are no riveting hammers or steam shovels - no "cold" war headlines in the nation's papers. Abraham Lincoln is 41, a circuit judge traveling from county to county in a rattle trap buggy and, he says, "through with politics."

To this first International Industrial exposition came Edward H. Ashcroft from Boston, Mass. Interested in buying "some article of a mechanical nature that could be

manufactured in America." Mr Ashcroft was playing his small but important part in a period that was to mark the advent of the industrial expansion of the United States.

From a number of interesting patents, Mr. Ashcroft chose the Bourdon tube, named after its inventor, M. Bourdon of Paris, France.

...Mr. Ashcroft then formed the American Steam Gauge company and, in 1879, the Ashcroft Manufacturing company from which Manning, Maxwell & Moore's Ashcroft pressure gauges derive their name. One of Mr. Ashcroft's early associates was a young man named Charles A. Moore.

In 1880, Mr. Moore joined the H. S. Manning company which was founded in 1871. This company acted as manufacturers' agents and also manufactured industrial products such as taps, dies and bolt cutters. The following year, a partnership was organized that included Mr. Moore, Mr. Manning

and E. L. Maxwell who had become associated with the H. S. Manning company in 1873.

Through Mr. Moore's previous business connections, this new partnership acquired the assets and good will of the Ashcroft Manufacturing company, incorporated (sic) in Massachusetts in 1879, and the Consolidated Safety Valve company, incorporated in Connecticut the same year.

During 1881 to 1905, when Manning, Maxwell & Moore became a corporation, four other manufacturing companies became part of M. M. & M...

You may read this news story in its entirety at <http://ashcroft.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.

**EDITOR'S NOTE;** Ashcroft Inc. still operates from its plant just north of I-95 on the east side of East Main Street. Ashcroft (MM&M) began relocating operations from Bridgeport in 1950 and completed construction on the existing facility in 1955.



EDWARD H. ASHCROFT



The Ashcroft Plant in Bridgeport c 1916 from *The Stratford News* June 5, 1952

# Open House Day

By Dolores Hctor

The Stratford Historical Society participated, again this year, in a statewide event, **Connecticut Open House Day**, Saturday, June 10. The purpose was to showcase Connecticut's diverse world of history, art and tourism to Connecticut residents.

The Judson House was be open to all visitors for a free walk through of the beautiful and historic eighteenth century mansion.

Costumed docents were stationed in each room of the Judson House. The docents greeted visitors, talked about the House, the authentic artifacts that furnish it, the Judson family, and what life was like in the 1700s.

Homemade cakes, cookies and beverages taken from the Society's vintage cookbook "**Paradise Enow... Treasures from Yesterday's Kitchens**" were served. The items served included Abner Judson's Pork Cake, Cornelia Curtis's

Scripture Cake, Putney Homemakers' Cinnamon Cookies, as well as Aunt Pearl's Drink and Haymakers' Switchel.

"All of the recipes in this book were cooked in Stratford kitchens more than fifty years ago", retested in 1988-89 in celebration of the town's 350th anniversary and issued in conjunction with the publication of Lewis Knapp's "**In Pursuit of Paradise**" an updated history of Stratford.



# Lighthouse sculptures around town

Approximately two years ago, two Stratford art teachers, Aubrey Booska and Michelle Genuario, formed a sub-committee of the Stratford Arts Commission called the Stratford Street Sculpture. The objective of the sub-committee is to create beautiful art around town which can be auctioned off to raise money for

the art programs at Stratford and Bunnell High Schools.

In 2015, Ms. Booska and Ms. Genuario, created beautiful benches which were placed at various locations on Main Street from Paradise Green to West Broad.

This year, they have created amazing lighthouse sculptures. The lighthouse at the right is currently

located at Town Hall. You may view a slide show of all these gorgeous lighthouses at [lighthouses.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](http://lighthouses.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info).

If you have an interest in the volunteer work Ms. Genuario and Ms. Booska are putting together around Stratford, their website is [www.townofstratford.com/stratfordstreetsculpture](http://www.townofstratford.com/stratfordstreetsculpture).



# Baldwin Men's Club Visits

## MEN'S CLUB MEETING

By Dolores Hoctor  
May 5th, 2017



The Stratford Historical Society hosted 30 men from the Baldwin Center Men's Club on Friday, May 5, 2017. Bob Mastroni arranged for the group to hold their meeting in the Society's Museum first and after some light refreshments, have a guided tour of the Judson House. It was a chance to show off the Museum exhibits as well as the House and its treasures.

The large group was divided into three segments led by Bob

who is a longtime docent himself, Dennis Brunelle, docent and Vice President of the Society, Dolores Hoctor, docent and Education Chair and experienced docents Betty Minaudo and Carolyn Ross.

The focus of the tour was the Revolutionary War emphasizing the issues of that day – taxation, raids, disease, recruiting and supplies argued back and forth by the Patriot guide and the Loyalist. Supplementing the issues were stories of actual Stratford residents, William Samuel Johnson, Abner Judson, Mary Edwards, John Brooks and Jack Arabus

living in Stratford at the time of the war and incidents involving them that brought the problems to the fore. Each room in the Judson House acted as a suitable venue for a given story and discussion.

What makes the tours so real and immediate is that the House, the town and the people of that time can actually be tied to historic events that were occurring elsewhere on a larger scale. Those are the happenings we read about in history books. We can be proud that our town has its own record that becomes our immediate heritage.



# Battle of Ridgefield Re-enactment

## ON TO RIDGEFIELD!

By Dolores Hoctor  
May 7th, 2017



It was on one quiet Connecticut Sunday in late May 1777 when the peace was suddenly broken by an alarming cry, "British forces led by General Tryon have landed at Campo Beach headed for the American supply depot in Danbury!"

There to receive the news were General Benedict Arnold in New London, General David Wooster in New Haven and General Gold Silliman in Fairfield. All three hastily gathered local militiamen and began the frantic chase to head off the British army and save the poorly guarded supplies.

It was on a fair Saturday morning in May 2017, 240 years later, that six members of the Stratford Historical Society traveled to Ridgefield to witness the reenactment of

the battle that took place there.

Allen Fanslow, Shirley Clevenger, Christine Lesko, Mary Ann Vlahac, Gail Liscio and Dolores Hoctor representing Stratford stood on the sidelines while British uniformed soldiers marched in formation down the main thoroughfare of the town, flags flying, fife and drum providing the cadence, only to be temporarily deterred at the barrier hastily thrown up across the street to deter the British retreat.

By this time the soldiers were on their return from Danbury where they set fire to the supplies causing a huge conflagration that could be seen for miles. By this time, too, a small force led by General David Wooster had fought twice to deter a small contingent of British from joining up with the main force on its way

back to the ships. Unfortunately, not only was this plan unsuccessful, but it took the life of the general in command, David Wooster who was shot from his horse as he attempted to rally his troops.

Today a marker has been erected in Ridgefield at the spot where Wooster received his mortal wound. The significance of this event is important to Stratford because it is the town where David Wooster was born, raised and educated. He served honorably in both the French and Indian War as a British soldier fighting the French and in the Revolution as an American officer defending Connecticut on the New York border and farther afield in Montreal during the American attempt to take Canada from the British early in the war. Sadly, his career and his life ended at the Battle of Ridgefield.



# Docents Talk It Over

By Dolores Hctor  
June 10, 2017

Thursday morning at 9:00 Stratford Historical Society docents met in the Museum of the Society to discuss and evaluate the fifth grade Revolutionary School tours that concluded at the end of May. Among the items of discussion at the meeting were answers to the questionnaire each teacher is asked to fill out. The questions concerned what teachers knew or would like to know about the Stratford Historical Society aside from School Tours. It gave the Society a chance to inform teachers of the advent of the Society, what services it provides the town and what it entails to become involved.

Each year the Society gives all public and parochial school fifth graders a look at the local scene during that critical period in history. There was some discussion of procedural and substantive matters concerning conduct of the tours and the need for retraining and refocusing for docents.

Docent training initially takes six weeks for the Revolutionary War tour, one two hour class each week and an observation day.

Volunteers are trained to take the side of a Loyalist or a Patriot to debate the issues of taxation, raids, disease, raising troops and providing supplies. Approximately 25 volunteers give an average of four mornings in late April and early May. Nine docents are on hand each day, 28 classes come, usually two at a time, for 16 days.

Docents introduce children to Stratford natives who played an important part in American history including William Samuel Johnson, Loyalist turned Patriot; General David Wooster killed in the battle of Ridgefield; David Hawley, the Stratford privateer who captured 20 British supply ships in Long island Sound; John Brooks, unwitting victim of the smallpox epidemic of 1777; Alice Benjamin, present at the meeting of General George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette; and Jabez Tomlinson, American soldier who guarded Major John Andre, Benedict Arnold's accomplice in Arnold's act of betrayal.



Photo by Eileen Salamon



**Law Offices of Kurt M. Ahlberg**

cglad.kmalaw@gmail.com | 203.377.1311

**Colonial Square Art Shop**

colsquartshop@sbcglobal.net | 203.375.3764

**Robert Dains, CPA, CFP**

203.383.4411

**Exact Printing & Graphics**

exactprinting@snet.net | 203.377.6571

**Chris Fasanella Graphic Design**

chrisfasanella@gmail.com

**Andy Glad Graphic Design**

andyglad@optonline.net | 203.377.2845

**JMHome Improvement Group**

203.556.8632

**The Mellow Monkey**

202 379-1860 | Howard@mellowmonkey.com

**The National Helicopter Museum, Inc**

203 375 8857 | www.nationalhelicoptormuseum.org

**Oronoque Apothecary LLC**

Bethel, CT | 973.885.2793

**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

# Historical foods and facts...

## CORNELIA CURTIS'S SCRIP-TURE CAKE

### I KINGS XVII - 13

1 cup of Judges - 5 - 25  
2 cups of Jeremiah 6 - 20  
3 and 1/2 cups of I Kings  
4 - 22  
2 cups of I Samuel - 25 - 18  
2 cups of I Samuel - 30 - 12  
1 cup of Genesis - 43 - 11  
1 cup of Genesis - 24 - 17  
6 of Isaiah - 10 - 14  
Little of Leviticus - 2 - 13  
1 large tablespoon of Judges  
14 - 8  
Season to taste of I Kings - 10 - 2  
3 teaspoons of Galatians - 5 - 9  
Follow Solomon's advice for mak-  
ing good boys - Proverbs - 23 - 14  
This recipe was handwritten by  
Hiss Cornelia Curtis, and placed in  
the collection of Adelaide Curtis  
Gunther. It is an example of a pop-  
ular puzzle in Victorian recipe col-  
lections. The reader was expected to  
be sufficiently familiar with the  
Bible to recognize the reference.  
For those of us not qualified, here  
are excerpts from the appropriate  
verses.

**TITLE:** "Make me thereof a little  
cake first"

"She brought forth butter in a lordly  
dish"

"The sweet cane from a far country"

"And Solomon's provision for one day  
was 30 measures of fine flour"

"Then Abigail made haste and took ...  
a hundred clusters of raisins"

"And they gave him a piece of a cake  
of figs"

"Carry down a present ... nuts and  
almonds"

"Let me, I pray thee, drink a little  
water of thy pitcher"

"As one gathereth eggs that are left"

"and every oblation of thy meat offer-  
ing shalt thou season with salt"

"There was a swarm of bees and  
honey in the carcase of the lion"

"And she came to Jerusalem ... with  
camels that bare spices"

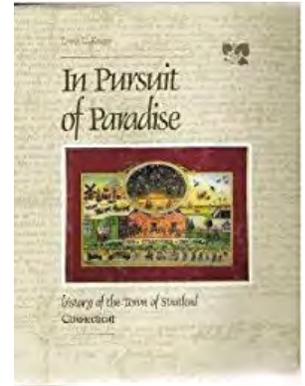
"A little leaven leaveneth the whole  
lump"

"Thou shalt beat him with a rod"

sugar. Add 1 tablespoon honey and  
6 eggs, one at a time, beating well  
after each addition. Sift together  
3&1/2 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt,  
1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon  
mace, 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, 1/4  
teaspoon cloves, and 3 teaspoons  
baking powder . Add to egg mix-  
ture alternately with 1 cup water.  
Add 2 cups raisins, 2 cups figs, and  
1 cup nuts. Grease and flour pan. (I  
used 1 5"x5" loaf pan and one  
smaller loaf pan.)

Pour batter into pans. Bake at  
350 for 60 minutes. (I would bake  
at for about 1 hour and a half next  
time. It was a bit too brown.) It is a  
light fruit cake, quite dense but  
moist. The Tuesday group at muse-  
um ate it up. (C.L.)

Misses Cornelia and Celia Curtis  
lived on Academy Hill from 1890  
to 1925. Miss Cornelia (1840-1924)  
wrote this recipe; her sister Celia  
(1836-1925) was the survivor and  
left their home to be used as a base  
for the Stratford Historical Society,  
which now operates it as the Cap-  
tain David Judson House and Muse-  
um.



"*In Pursuit of Paradise*" is  
the quintessential authority  
on Stratford's history. Incor-  
porating elements of past  
historical volumes, Lew  
Knapp's tome brings us to  
1989. This volume is avail-  
able for purchase from the  
Historical Society office.



## Stratford Historical Society

967 Academy Hill

P.O. Box 382

Stratford, CT 06615

Phone: (203) 378-0630

Fax: (203) 378-2562

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

[newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info](mailto:newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info)

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

[www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org)