



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

Stratford Historical Society UPDATE

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 4

MARCH 2018

MARK THE DATES:

- May's General Membership Meeting: Saturday, May 19th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library
- Governing Board Meeting, Monday, June 25th at 1pm.
- September's General Membership Meeting: Saturday, September 29th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library

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May's General Membership Meeting

May 19th, 2:00 pm, Stratford Library Lovell Room, 2203 Main Street

The presentation of the Legacy of Igor Sikorsky will be given by Dan Libertino. The presentation covers the three aviation careers of Igor Sikorsky and the Sikorsky Company, starting with the Russian Years 1889 -1918, early American years 1919 - 1938 and the helicopter period 1939 - to his death in 1972 and the current company.

Dan Libertino currently has a 67-year association with Sikorsky helicopters and he is the president of the Sikorsky Historical Archives. He started his career with the U.S.A.F. in 1951 as a helicopter technician on the Sikorsky H-5 and H-19 helicopters. Upon discharge in 1954, he spent a few years with Petroleum Helicopters



Dan Libertino—photo from *Sikorsky Archives News*.

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

during the early phase of offshore helicopter transportation with the S-55, joining Sikorsky in 1956 and retiring in 1997.

During his 41 year tenure with Sikorsky, he spent 30 years (17 years of that overseas) in the field as a technical representative, logistic management and later General Management for Sikorsky Operations in Australia, Korea and Turkey. Since retirement in 1997, he has actively volunteered with the Archives and holds the position of President since 2005.

The Sikorsky Archives was incorporated in Delaware on November 3, 1995 under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (not-for-profit) independent of Sikorsky Aircraft.

“The past in the Internet age has become more intimate yet more remote, readily found but rapidly forgotten.”

David Lowenthal from *The Past Is a Foreign Country - Revisited*.

Miss Flora Goes to Washington

Flora's silhouette is now on display at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. Flora's silhouette has been carefully restored by the Smithsonian for display. We have received an invitation to the opening of the Flora exhibit. The invitation text follows:

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

As we celebrate the National Portrait Gallery's 50th anniversary, we commit to telling an even more complete story of the United States. Through our collections, exhibitions, and programs, we seek to recognize all Americans who have shaped the nation's history, development, and culture.

Black Out: Silhouettes

Then and Now (May 11, 2018, through March 10, 2019) begins to address gaps in the national narrative by shedding light on those who are often absent from exhibitions and collections. As the first major museum exhibition to explore the art form of cut-paper profiles in both their rich historical roots and their powerful contemporary presence, **Black Out** challenges the traditional art narrative by placing silhouettes—and their subjects—at the forefront.

Along with historic cut-paper silhouettes, **Black Out** includes sculptures, media art, and installations by contemporary artists Kristi Malakoff, Camille Utterback, Kara Walker, and Kumi Yamashita.



The Society received this invitation to the black tie opening night reception of the **Black Out** exhibition in Washington D.C.



Docent Class 2018



Judy Kurmay introduces the Revolutionary War

By Dolores Hoxtor
This is only the latest of dozens of docent training classes conducted at the Stratford Historical Society for more than a half century. Every year through persistent recruiting efforts, men and women from Stratford join in learning how to inform third and fifth graders about the town's history and heroes.

This year five more docents will be joining the ranks: Pat Barnish, Sue DelBianco, Katheryn O'Neil, Mary Perille and Maria Walsh. They have spent two hours a week for six weeks preparing for fifth graders and Stratford during the Revolutionary War. Training

continued with practice sessions, a day of observation, and a walking tour conducted by the Society's Assistant Director, Sandy Rutkowski, through the Historic District.

Four members of the Society enhanced the lessons with their expertise – Judy Kurmay for both American Revolutionary War history and Slavery, Joe Dimenno for his interest in and knowledge of colonial house construction, Ray Vermette for his biographical research into prominent local citizens, and Barbara Fiirsin for her interest in the stories that enrich the message of the tours.

Soon 28 classes from the

town's public and parochial schools will be guided through the Judson House and Museum to learn about how local people managed to deal with taxation, raids, disease, provisions, troop recruiting and disagreements between Patriot and Loyalist neighbors.

All tours are possible because of the generous gifts of time and talent provided by our docent team. Training will resume in September for third grade Colonial Life tours. We are always happy to welcome new recruits. Phone the Society office: (203) 378-0630 or e-mail judsonhouse-estfd@aol.com.

Open House Day June 9th

The Stratford Historical Society will participate for the second time in a statewide event, **Open House Day**. **Open House Day**, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 9th. The purpose is to showcase Connecticut's diverse

world of history, art, and tourism to Connecticut residents.

The Judson House, at 967 Academy Hill Road, will be open to all visitors for a free walk-through of the beautiful and historic eighteenth century mansion from 12:00 until 3:00.

Docents, in costume, will be stationed in each room of the house. They will be ready to greet you, talk about the House and the authentic artifacts that furnish it, the Judson family, and what life was like in the 1700s.

An Historical Walk June 2nd

Saturday, June 2nd is the date of this year's **Stratford Main Street Festival**. It also marks National Trails Day. In keeping with both of those celebrations, the Stratford Recreation Department, and the Historical Society, are co-

sponsoring a history walk which will begin at the Judson House at 1pm.

The walk will progress through the historical sites and homes on Academy Hill, down Elm Street to Stratford Avenue, on to Bond's Dock and

the Shakespeare Theatre.

The walk will return to the Judson House via Elm Street and run approximately 2 hours in duration. **Main Street Festival** begins at 10am and continues until 5pm.

July Newsletter - eContacting you

That's right! A July edition of the **UPDATE** will be speeding its way to you this July over the internet. To help keep costs down, and, because there is no General Membership Meeting during the summer months, the July **UPDATE** will **ONLY** be available in an electronic format.

On July 27th, we'll publish the **UPDATE** on the homepage of stratfordhistoricalsociety.info. You'll also be able to download the July **UPDATE** at

july.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.

If you'd prefer to have us e-mail you the July **UPDATE**, please send your request to newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.

We've been requesting your e-mail addresses so we may e-mail you the **UPDATE** electronically. So far, the response has been minimal. By sending your e-mail address you will automatically receive an electronic copy. Electronically e-mailing

you the newsletter saves time, money, and resources.

Having your e-mail addresses enables us to keep you better informed more quickly. E-mail is also a way for members to get in touch with the Society with questions and opinions, suggestions, or offers that otherwise would not be known.

If you have been hesitating, please reconsider the benefits that both you and the Society will derive.



Dateline Stratford April - May 1953

Sunday Herald
April 5, 1953

Lincoln Av. Dispute Rages; Officials Ask \$2,500 Refund

The investigation of the Lincoln Av. construction job has involved town officials in one of the hottest disputes in years, with Sixth District Councilman Edward A. Dorne assigned the role of arbiter as probe chairman.

Town Eng. Lloyd Kniffin contended yesterday the little street that leads to the new David Wooster Junior High School was not completed according to bid specifications.

But C. Wellington Walker, who drew up the plans for the job, insisted that it was...

Sunday Herald
April 12, 1953

Business Firm Dickering For Farmers' Market Spot

While Stratford is ogling Sikorsky's expansion plans with envious eyes, and hoping Milford's reluctance will be Stratford's gain, The Herald learns that a new business concern is dickering for the land opposite the airport.

The Banksville Farmers Market, of Bedford Village, N. Y., is interested in leasing this land for a farmer's market...

The Lordship Improvement Assn. would probably fight any application for a spirits permit. Not too long ago the association fought Tim Ahern's attempt to get a liquor license, and the new market will be in close proximity to Ahern's establishment.

Sooo—it could be that Lordship residents' aversion to the sale of liquor, and Milford residents' dislike for helicopters, could cost two towns two businesses...

Sunday Herald
April 26, 1953

Avco Says It'll stay Here Even If U. S. Sells Plant

Reports in the Stratford News that the Bridgeport Lycoming Division of Avco Mfg. Co. might move its operation to its Williamsport, Pa., plant if the government sells the Stratford plant were denied by Avco officials yesterday.

"The report is without foundation," according to a spokesman, adding that no one has been authorized to speak or even indicate that the company would fulfill its defense orders and move.

"The story apparently was built about information that the government is endeavoring to restore to the tax rolls property now removed from them."

Sunday Herald
April 26, 1953

PAL DATA: The Drum and Bugle Corps, using its new valve type bugles for the first time, enters stiff competition next Saturday, when it travels to New York City. Members will compete against all similar bands throughout the country in the 212 Group AA Armory at 62nd St. and Columbus Av. They will be led by Mark Adiletta, 9-year-old juvenile world's champion baton twirler.

Sunday Herald
May 3, 1953

Flood Waters Ebb, Dahl's Sewer Ardor Fades, Also

...Six weeks ago, when Stratford was inundated by the sudden storm that overflowed the drainage and sewer systems, the people demanded something be done.

Blame was placed on everything from the new disposal plant to a

Communist plot.

Now the water has receded, and only the memory remains, and in the case of Councilman Nathan H. Dahl, from the Third District, even that has gone.

This week when the Finance committee, same as the Town Council, voted to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,000,000 to improve the town's drain and sewer lines, Dahl voted against it.

Sunday Herald
May 17, 1953

Jewell: Chamber's Trying To Coax More U. S. \$ Here STRATFORDITES

are resentful of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce's butting into the town's efforts to get some more dough out of AVCO . . . Stratford is not getting too much revenue out of the plane plant because most of the workers live out of town and their dollars don't go into the Stratford storekeepers' hands. Many feel that the neighboring C of C's attitude was unnecessary, and W. Dudley Jewell was thinking only of Bridgeport and not Stratford.

Sunday Herald
May 31, 1953

Stratford '9' Seeks Title

Only the battle for the district championship remains unsettled as the local scholastic baseball teams enter their final heavy week of action with eight games listed.

Stratford assured itself of no less than a tie for district honors with its 5-0 victory over Central last Friday on Joe Vitko's sterling no-hitter. The North Paraders with three contests left on their schedule boast a 7-1 record against local teams...



Alvin Gendal, Wilfrid Hiller, and Robert Rich in Johnson Junior High dark room. Photo from **Sunday Herald**, April 5,



Jenny Lind contestant Mary Caruso. Photo from **Sunday Herald**, May 10, 1953.



Barnum Festival Royalty Patricia Dube, Norman Hermanson, Ronald Primavera, and Ruth Broman. Photo from **Sunday Herald**, May 31, 1953.

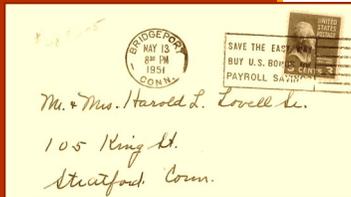


Stratford Theater c 1946

Now Showing April - May 1953

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| April 5th | Come Back Little Sheba | Shirley Booth, Burt Lancaster, Terry Moore |
| April 12th | She's Back on Broadway | Virginia Mayo, Gene Nelson, Steve Cochran |
| April 19th | The Stars Are Singing | Rosemary Clooney, Ann Marie Alberghetti |
| April 26th | Tonight We Sing | David Wayne, Ezio Pinza, Roberta Peters |
| May 3rd | Trouble Along the Way | John Wayne, Donna Reed, Charles Coburn |
| May 10th | Off Limits | Bob Hope, Mickey Rooney, Marilyn Maxwell |
| May 17th | By the Light of the Silvery Moon | Doris Day, Gordon MacRae |
| May 24th | Small Town Girl | Jane Powell, Farley Granger |
| May 31st | Never Let Me Go | Clark Gable, Gene Tierney |

An Historical Society Milestone



The Stratford Historical Society requests the presence of its MEMBERS at a reception commemorating the Twenty fifth Anniversary Year of its founding Judson House Friday, May the Twenty fifth Nineteen hundred fifty one

Bring a Guest

From Eight to Ten o'clock

Looking back into our Society's history, we note May is the month we reflect upon our founding in 1925.

Bridgeport Telegram

May 18, 1951

Reception Scheduled By Historical Society

Stratford Group to Mark 25th Birthday on May 25

The Stratford Historical Society marks its Silver Anniversary with a reception Friday, May 25, from 8

to 10 p.m. in Judson House. Hosts and hostesses, in costumes of historic significance, will escort the two hundred invited guests on a tour of the house.

Mrs. W. Earle Hawley, president, Mrs. Frank R. Sammis, curator of the museum since its inception, and Elliott W. Peck, William H. Wilcoxson, Dr. Frank S. Bunnell, Merritt T. Vanderbilt and Mrs. Georgiana T. Greeley, past presidents, will be in the receiving line.

The reception will mark the

25th year of continued activity of the society since its start when 55 charter members took advantage of the bequest of Miss Celia Curtis to make her homestead a permanent and living museum of Stratford.

The committee arranging the anniversary event are: Dr. Bunnell, Miss Lucy McCabe, Mrs. Clara B. Pierce, Mrs. John W. Richardson, Mrs. Harold M. Sturges, Mrs. Rexford B. Nettleton, and Mrs. W. Earle Hawley, chairman.

Remembering Donald Sammis



Donald S. Sammis from the *Sunday Herald* December 9, 1951

In further reflection on our Historical Society's past, we honor the memory of Donald Sammis who, in addition to serving as Town Manager, was a charter member and President of the Historical Society from 1956 - 1960. Mr. Sammis passed away fifty years ago this month. His accomplishments were legion, and only a fraction of those achievements are recalled here.

The Bridgeport Telegram

May 22, 1968

Memorial Rites Friday for Donald S. Sammis

Memorial services will be conducted Friday for Donald Stuart Sammis, 78, ...died Monday in the Veterans Administration

hospital, White River Junction, Vt...

Long active in civic and political affairs of Stratford, Mr. Sammis served as chairman of the Stratford Town Council [sic] from 1921 to 1924 and as Stratford town manager from 1932 to 1934.

He was treasurer of the Stratford Republican Town committee from 1921 to 1932, and was the first executive director of the Stratford Housing Authority which was organized in 1942. He served that position 16 years.

Mr. Sammis was chairman of the Connecticut Displaced Persons Commission under

Governors Shannon and Bowles and was a life member of the International City Managers association...

He was also a director of Bridgeport hospital, the Acme Shear company and Hanson Whitney company of Hartford. Trustee positions held by Mr. Sammis included those with the City Savings bank and the University of Bridgeport. He was a trustee and founder of the American Shakespeare Festival theater in Stratford...

An avid sailor, Mr. Sammis was past commodore of the Housatonic Boat club and life member and past commodore of the Pootatuck Yacht club...

Trolleys Burden the Town

Bridgeport Daily Standard

May 10, 1893

Railways in Stratford

The Town Carefully Guarding Its Streets

The Old Town Wants Certain Restrictions Placed on the East End Company

...Attorney Stiles Judson, Jr., presented the position of Stratford, whose interests were also looked after by a committee consisting of Selectman Stiles Judson, Thomas B. Fairchild, Albert Wilcoxson, Representative A. L. Judd and Henry Meachem.

Lawyer Judson said that the town did not oppose the plans of the railroad, but that thought that certain re-

strictions should be placed upon the company. The town did not want a repetition of the experience it had already had...Now it is proposed to lay a double track on Stratford avenue, and this will impose upon the town the burden of again undertaking the work unless restrictions are placed upon the company. Stratford protests, and thinks it only fair that this corporation should provide the same facilities which are now enjoyed, a thing which this company is not in the habit of doing. They also ask for the right to single or double track Barnum avenue, a street which has been macadamized within two years, and is

largely resorted to as a drive from Stratford to Bridgeport.

...East Broadway, from Main to Elm street, is too narrow to admit of two tracks, and they ask that only one track shall be laid in that street...The town also desires a forfeiture clause compelling the road to do the work in a limited time, or lose its rights in all streets included in the petition.

...Judge Beers thought that town wished to place an unreasonable burden on the horse railroad, and that it was wrong to load down these companies with restrictions so that no one could build or run a street railroad at a profit...



Stratford Horse Trolley No. 27, 1892. Photo from <https://metro.wikia.com>.

Inside the East Main Shipyard

The Hartford Daily Courant
Sunday, May 1918
Housatonic Yard

The Housatonic Shipbuilding Company's plant at East Stratford near Bridgeport is representative of the wooden yards in the state, although the work there is not so far advanced nor are there so many men as at the Noank plant of the Groton Iron Works. The Housatonic plant has six shipways, however, the same number as the Noank plant, and is a representative yard. The land is well suited to the shipbuilding trade, having a natural slope toward the waters of the Housatonic river where the finished boats will be launched. Where there is not a natural slope

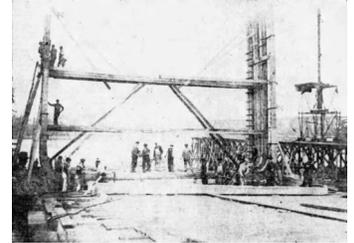
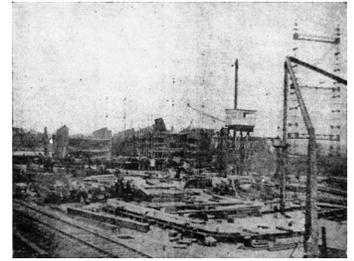
the builders have to sheer up their ways at one end in order that the ships may be slid into the water when completed. The rest of the Housatonic yard is perfectly flat, however, which is an added advantage as it permits the general work of the year to be better carried on...

Organization of the Yard

The yard is charted into a number of squares for the different sorts and sizes of timbers, which are brought in by rail and hoisted to the huge piles by locomotive cranes ever busy about the yard. When a gang working on one sort of wooden part for the ships wants more material, the crane lifts certain timbers and planks

which are marked with numbers that indicate their uses - lifts them [sic] the piles, loads them on a flat car and draws them to the part of the yard where they are needed. The yard is interlaced with tracks reaching every part of the plant, and the cranes carry the heavy timbers to the points where they can easily be put in place.

There is a crew of workers in each square, shaping the timbers to put them on the boat. Some boards go to the band saw, and are sawed according to marks made from moulds [sic] in the mould loft. Each sort of timber is shaped for the particular place it will be used in the boat, and is brought to the builders and left....



Not Time to Annex Stratford to Bridgeport

The Bridgeport Telegram
May 14, 1918

Time Not Ripe to Annex Stratford, is Gove's Opinion
C. of C. Secretary Believes Town Will Eventually Seek to Come in.

While some of the members of the Chamber of Commerce feel that it would be a good thing for Bridgeport to take in the town of Stratford Secretary Charles Gove is of the opinion that it would not be advisable to make any such attempt but rather wait until the people of Stratford ask to come in the city.

"Nothing is gained," said Mr. Gove yesterday "in antagonizing any community and in my opinion the best way is to continue to treat all this section without

any thought of dividing lines. That is the method we have pursued in the past and the method that we will continue to use.

"Greater City" Fallacy.

"Many cities have felt," said Mr. Gove, "that they should grab every small town near their borders so that they could say the 'greater city' and the only result has been in increased taxes for the smaller communities without the full benefits of the city for a long time after they were annexed."

In the matter of housing conditions for Bridgeport the town of Stratford has been considered the same as though it were a part of Bridgeport according to Mr. Gove and in all matters pertaining to this center, Bridge-

port, the town has not been thought of as a town as the lines were forgotten the same being true of Fairfield. The natural trading center of this section of Connecticut is Bridgeport and it is the business of the Chamber of Commerce to work along those lines.

Aiding Development.

Bridgeport is naturally growing toward the east practically all of the residents of Stratford securing their living through Bridgeport...

Mr. Gove seemed to be of the opinion that while North Bridgeport was growing the most natural growth would be in Stratford and to the east...



Postcard of downtown Bridgeport looking north on Main Street, c 1920's. Photo from <https://refried-jeans-postcards.myshopify.com>.

July History Camps

History Camp..... July 9-13, 2018, 9:00-12:30.

"Stepping Back Through Time"

What was life like during the 1700's? The camp program portrays home life during colonial days. Butter making, candle dipping, weaving, school work with quill pens, and Native American study are only a few of the topics and activities included in the program. Learn about early Stratford history with a walking tour of the town to see historical sights.

FOR STUDENTS: Elementary (entering 4th-6th grade) Middle

and High School. Campers are grouped according to age. A p - plications can be printed from our website at stratfordhistoricalsociety.org or call the society 203-378-0630.

History Camp.. July 23-27 9:00-12:00.

Exploring Historical Topics

Cost \$150 and for non members a membership also for \$20.

For 5th grade through High School. Campers divided by age groups.

TOPICS:

1. Early Mountain Men and Trappers in the west.
2. Pioneers and western expansion.
3. Ben Franklin and his inventions, we will be trying a few of them!
4. Superstitions, myths and origins of words and sayings we still use.
5. Walking Tour of the Town- Seeing sites of interest, hear tales and legends.

Game after the walk, break into three teams and be the first team to score the most points on questions about our town.

Applications can be printed at stratfordhistoricalsociety.org.



The Bridgeport Evening Farmer

April 7, 1893

Stratford Woods Afire

A red glow in the eastern sky about 9 o'clock last evening attracted the attention of many, who were positive that a big fire was raging in Stratford. Quite a number secured teams and went in that direction fully expecting on arriving there to find Stratford mostly in ashes. They were agreeably surprised when St. Michael's cemetery was reached to discover that the flames were confined to the woods lying east of the cemetery, which had been set on fire by boys.

Officer Larkin was among those who went to the woods, but it was impossible to subdue the flames. The trees are still burning and unless something is done to suppress the fire, a large amount of cord wood is likely to be destroyed.

Field Day at Stratford

Bridgeport Evening Farmer May 6, 1868 "Ephraim's" Stratford News.

THE target practice and Spring turn-out of Company K, Captain Alonzo Gray, of this town, took place on Tuesday, the 5th, in the vicinity of Fresh Pond, in the lower district of the town. After a postponement of a week or more, on account of the unfavorable aspect of the weather, on Saturday, the day appointed for the exercise of good marksmanship, the Company concluded to change the day to Tuesday, which, as all are aware, was not as pleasant as could have been wished for an occasion of the kind; but, notwithstanding the elements, the boys turned out in goodly numbers, under command of their excellent officers, and enjoyed the day in a manner highly creditable to themselves. As will be seen by the following list of prizes, seven of which were presented by the Company, there were some lucky ones among the forty men, who fired three rounds each, and received the prizes in order as annexed to their

names, namely: Charles Sniffin, a large steel-plate picture of "The Trapper's Return," in black walnut frame, very handsome; Asa S. Curtis, a large steel-plate picture of George Washington, surrounded on either side by miniature pictures of the "Surrender of Cornwallis," "Battle of Princeton," "Battle of Trenton," "The First Message of Washington," "Winter at Valley Forge," "Washington in Retirement," from Stuart's painting, and which is a relic that should be cherished very highly; Lucius L. Wilcoxson, a dressing case, comprising everything requisite for an "old bach," to keep house with, turkey bound, with French gilt—very handsome; Henry Booth, a pair of gold sleeve buttons; Burr W. Cozier, a bag of flour, by J. H. Stagg; Otis B. Curtis, five volumes of Dickens' works, comprising "David Copperfield," "Sketches by Boz," "Martin Chuzzlewit," "Dombey and Son," and "Oliver Twist," by David P. Rhodes, of which every one knows the value; Henry M. Blakeslee, a box of genuine Havana cigars; Frank A. Keeler,

stereoscopic views, very pretty; Perry Beardslee, a box of good cigars; Edward P. Allen, order for a hat by Curtis & Middlebrook of Bridgeport; Joseph Jamison, a pair of gold studs, rich in design; George H. Spall, a terra-cotta tobacco vase; F. C. Smith, a pocket-knife; Aug. N., Curtis, a kerosene lamp; and Theodore Judson, a bag of flour by John C. Fairchild. Out of 120 shots at the target by forty men, there were seventy-two holes pierced in the target, which argues well for the correct aim the boys take in such matters. The best shot was made by Charles Sniffin; the poorest by Perry Beardslee, who received the leather medal, which, of course, was greeted with peals of laughter from the quite large crowd of spectators assembled. Did our time and space allow, we would enter into more detail; but let it suffice to say that old Stratford may well feel proud of the military organization we have established among us, and our citizens should endeavor to forward all good undertakings set on foot by this Company.

50+ years of Housatonic Community College

Housatonic Community College observed its 50th anniversary on April 19th. What may have been lost in the commemoration is the fact the College began as a part-time evening school at Bunnell High School in 1966. Housatonic's 50 years actually mark the time when Housatonic became a full-time college on Kenyon street in Stratford where Vazzy's banquet hall is now located. Let's look back to April 1966 when Housatonic opened its doors at Bunnell High.

The Bridgeport Telegram March 15, 1966

Stratford College Brank To Open Office April 1

The office of the Stratford center branch of the Norwalk

Community college in Bunnell high school is expected to be open April 1, Everett I. L. Baker, dean of the college, has announced.

The Stratford regional Community college will open its doors to students in September, 1966 at Bunnell, Dean Baker said.

During the first year, the college will be operated as a division of the Norwalk Community college, but it will eventually become an independent regional community college serving the Bridgeport-Ansonia area, the State Board for Regional Community Colleges has ruled.

An appropriation of \$100,000 has been made under state regulations for the specif-

ic purpose of providing education for full-time students.

150 Full-Time Students

Strict economy and the cooperation of the Statford Board of Education, Dean Baker said, will make it possible to accommodate 150 full-time students.

He said he also considered the cooperation of Bunnell high school officials extremely important in making facilities available and in lending library books, office equipment and furniture.

A considerable number of part-time students, perhaps as many as 150, may also be accommodated since fees paid by part-time students are retained by the college and will probably cover the cost of instruction...

Thomas Fairchild's legendary chicken eggs

Thomas Fairchild was one of the very earliest settlers of Stratford. He was a man of great renown, a Deputy to the General Court of Stratford, and had a son named Thomas, Jr. Samuel Fairchild, eldest son of Thomas, Sr., is believed to have been the first white child born in Stratford on August 31, 1640. Apparently, several generations later, the Thomas

Fairchild's were still making their presence known in Stratford.

Editor's note: a jumbo chicken egg purchased at the grocery store today would weigh 2.2 ounces.

Bridgeport Daily Standard
April 14, 1867

- Mr. Thos. B. Fairchild of Stratford, claims the championship of the world, on large eggs. He

showed us an egg laid by one of his Tycoon hens—which by-the-by are great layers—which weighs four and a half ounces and measures 8-3/8 inches in length by 6 3/4 inches in circumference. We understand that Mr. Fairchild has a few of the eggs to sell. Those in want of some rare and proffitable [sic] hens will take notice.



Egg on left weighed 6.4 ounces; normal egg on right. Photo from www.tractorsupply.com.

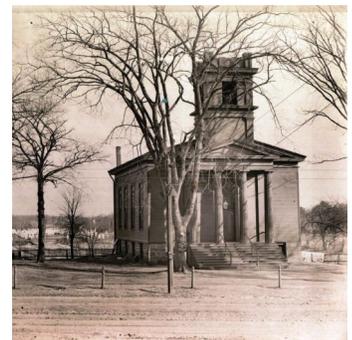
One Big April Storm

Tea Party Lane ran in a southeasterly direction from the Longbrook and Barnum Avenues area to Ferry Boulevard. The "lower wharf" is known as Bond's Dock today.

Bridgeport Daily Standard
April 23, 1893
STRATFORD

Thursday's storm brought in a tide that was higher than has been known in 40 years. No serious damage is reported, but many of the roads are badly washed. Tea Party lane is impassable for teams. Many of the boats along the shores were sunken and filled with the immense quantities of sedge blown ashore. The lower wharf is badly

washed and there is an unverified report that the land improvement dykes are washed out. Fences are leveled and trees blown down in many places. One of the chimneys of the Methodist church was blown down and a portion of the tin roof ripped up.



Methodist Church 1839—1902.

Memorial Day Observance 1918

Bridgeport Telegram
June 3, 1918

Heat Prostrates two in Exercises at Academy Hill

Stratford Sunday School Girls Collapse During Patriotic Ceremony.

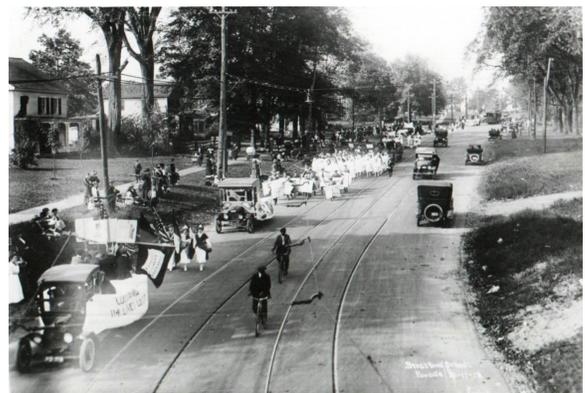
STRATFORD, June 2. (Special) Two young women pupils of Sunday schools of Stratford fainted while the exercises at the monument at Academy Hill at the mon—g held yesterday noon. They were soon revived and taken to their homes. Their collapse was due, it was said, to the fierce heat and to their exertion in taking part in the march to the monument.

The exercises yesterday were in place of the annual June walk of the Sunday schools and the day was known as Memorial patriotic Sunday. It was conducted by the members of the G. A. R. and the Sons of Veterans.

Preceding the ceremonies at the soldiers' monument there was a parade from the center, led by Company L, Fourth Infantry, Lieutenant Atwood commanding. Following the company was the Wheeler and Wilson band, followed by the members of the G. A. R., Voloney J. Henry Blakeman in command, The Red Men, Boy Scouts and the Sunday schools of the town were in line. Major Louis Herrman was grand marshal.

The exercises at Academy Hill consisted of the singing of "America" by the audience, then a prayer by the Rev. E. C. Carpenter. The Liberty chorus sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful."

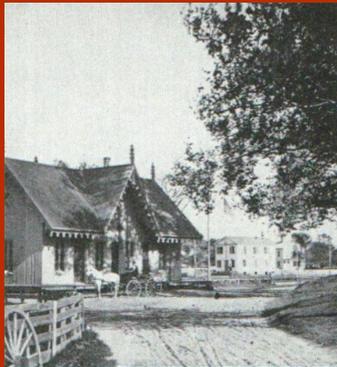
Lynn W. Wilson of Bridgeport, gave a short address on what is meant by patriotism and then the audience sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "The Star Spangled Banner". The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. R. C. Whitehead.



We lack a photo of the 1918 Memorial Day Parade, but here is a photo of the Stratford School Parade October 18, 1918, looking north from the train station on Main Street.



Officer T. B. Fairchild, 1859. Photo from *Stratford and the Sea*.



Train station on Linden Avenue 1869. Photo from *In Pursuit of Paradise*.



Photo from the *Stratford Patch*.

David Fitzgerald Robbed

David Fitzgerald is remembered in Stratford for working with Patrick Burns, a fellow Irish Catholic, to establish the first Catholic Church in Stratford on Broadbridge Avenue.

Bridgeport Daily Standard
May 22, 1868

ROBBERY IN STRATFORD— THE THIEVES CAUGHT

- A week ago, last Sunday, the dwelling of Mr. David Fitzgerald, of Stratford, was robbed during the absence of

Mr. F. Suspicion fell upon two men in his employ, and he acquainted officer T. B. Fairchild of the facts, who at once set about working the job up. The parties were kept employed on the premises, as if nothing had happened, until yesterday, when their time was up. They were paid off, and left. Mr. Fairchild proceeded thence to Bridgeport, whither they had gone, and after calling to his assistance W. C. Marsh, succeeded in arresting the two

men on Water street, and upon being searched, on one of them was found a valuable silver-mounted seven-shooter, the property of Mr. Fitzgerald, and two tickets for New York, on the steamboat Stamford, and on taking them to the boat, a carpet bag was found, with wearing apparel. One of the young men was an Englishman, and the other an American; both about eighteen years of age.

Lizzie Chesley Runs Away

New Haven Morning Journal and Courier
May 25, 1893

RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

Pretty Lizzie Chesley, an Eighteen Year Old Stratford Girl, Dressed Boys Clothes, Arrested at the Union Depot—She Only "Did It for a Lark"—Her Family Notified.

Lizzie Chesley, a pretty eighteen year old girl residing in Stratford, was discovered at the Union depot late yesterday afternoon masquerading in male attire by Officers Bixby and Reynolds, and sent to police headquarters where she was held on the charge of being a runaway from home.

Upon her arrival at police headquarters Miss Chesley stated to the matron, Mrs. Ireland, that she was the daughter of William Chesley, a commercial traveler residing in Stratford, that her mother was sick and away from home, and that she had a brother William at home.

...The police authorities of the city immediately sent word to Stratford and also to the Bridgeport police to the effect that Miss Chesley was detained here and asking that some of her relatives be sent here after her. She was not confined with the other women prisoners, but kept in a room by herself, where Mrs. Ireland made her as comfortable as

possible.

About 11 o'clock last night her brother came to this city and took her home. As she left the police station she said in answer to a question from Sergeant Crocker at the desk: "I feel twenty-five years older and fifty years wiser." Her brother said that she had been partially demented for several months past and had indulged in erratic actions heretofore. Her brother was notified of her predicament by a man named Smith, who recognized here on her arrival at the depot and went to Stratford and brought her brother up to this city.

Mosquito War at Lordship Meadow

The Bridgeport Telegram
May 14, 1918

Mosquito War at Lordship Meadow Hotter Than Ever

Kerosene Bath for Little Nippers - Dikes Now Being Built Up.

Every effort will be made this summer by Superintendent Edward Thompson of the Stratford Land and Improvement company to do away with the hordes of mosquitos that breed on the meadows just west of Lordship park. Over 100 barrels of kerosene oil are to be used on these meadows in an effort to keep

down the pests. Dikes are being repaired so as to keep the tide out and it is hoped that a great difference in the number of mosquitos will be found this summer [sic] in Bridgeport and Stratford.

Is Offending Section.

This section is the greatest offender in the breeding of mosquitos notwithstanding the fact that every year an effort is made to keep them down. Considerable oil has been used and dikes have been built but still the buzzing insects have been found to multiply and to annoy.

Last year was a year that furnished many mosquitos the

reason being, according to Mr. Thompson, that it was a very wet season and the tides came over the dikes onto the meadows and left pools where the pests bred. If the season this year is not so wet and enough oil can be secured a vast difference will be found.

Repairing Largest Dike.

At present Mr. Thompson and his men are at work on the repairing of the largest dike which was damaged by boys. It will take at least one more week before this dike is repaired and the work will be started on the other dikes and on the oiling.

“Illegal Voting” in Stratford

Bridgeport Daily Standard
April 16, 1868

EDITORS STANDARD—

We Republicans of Stratford, are forced to the conclusion, that in this State there is no punishment for “illegal voting.”

At the late election, there were cast five illegal votes here, but none of them can be prosecuted, because, forsooth, the “Board” that admitted them is to blame, and no “Board” in this State was ever fired or imprisoned.

I will mention the circumstances. One gentleman resides in New York, and acknowledges that he voted within the year in

New York, but our honorable Board admitted him and he voted. Another moved into this town in February last but he was admitted and voted. (I believe he was registered in the town he came from.) Another was registered in another town, has not lived in this town since last June, but because the Copperheads of the first named town could spare his vote, and the Copperheads of Stratford needed it, he was admitted and voted.

I have given instances enough. Now what can we do? If we prosecute the voters, they will say they voted by authority of the Board. If we prosecute the

Board, they will say they acted according to their best judgment. Mind you, they put none of these men under oath, so that no one can be prosecuted for perjury.) As it is, what is the good of challenging [sic] a voter? He votes in spite of you, and helps to swell the majority for State officers. I’ll grant, that in a contested election, the Legislature may throw them out, but that does not punish the culprits. In addition to the illegal votes, the representative candidates received 546 votes, while but 539 voters were checked as having voted. The Democrats had sole

charge of the box. Draw your own inferences.

Now, brother Republicans, in my opinion, our only remedy is to petition the Legislature from every town in the State, to pass a law, demanding that when a vote is challenged, the person offering to vote shall be put under oath, and then he can be punished for perjury. Loyal citizens of Connecticut, unless you awake to this perilous state of affairs your liberties are a sham, and your voting a farce.

ASA S. CURTIS

Paradise Green Scandal Halted

The Bridgeport Telegram
May 17, 1918

Paradise Green Scandal Halted by Two Arrests

Fairfield Man and Woman Held on Serious Charges—Captured in Hut.

Jordan Kenney and Mary E. Gerald who claim their residence as Fairfield were arrested by police of Stratford early last evening on a serious charge. The couple were released under bonds of \$100, each put up by Kenney, for appearance in the

town court Monday morning at 9:30.

Chief Nichols of the Stratford police stated last evening that this couple had been under surveillance for the past two weeks as complaints had been entered by residents of the Paradise Green section of the town that they were spending hours on different evenings in a hut that Kenney had erected on Wilcoxson Lane, a lonely thoroughfare running east from the green

Visit Cut Short.

A patrolman was assigned by Chief Nichols with the result

that after the couple had been in the hut about a half hour last evening Officer Hanford Bigelow entered the place and took them into custody.

Little is known of the couple by the Stratford police except that they have been at the hut on many occasions. The statement that they live in Fairfield comes from the accused parties. An effort will be made by Chief Nichols tomorrow to ascertain if Fairfield is their correct address.



Wilcoxson Avenue looking toward Main Street c. 1920.



EMMA M. BREYER

Miss Emma M. Breyer, sergeant in the Stratford American Red Cross Motor Corps, expects to leave next Monday for Washington, D. C. (Photo from *The Stratford News*, May 21, 1943).

World War II Recipes for War Time

The Stratford News

April 30, 1943

POTATO AND CHEESE CAKES WITH TOMATO SAUCE

- 5 large potatoes
- 2 tablespoons fat
- Salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons grated cheese
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarin
- 3 small onions
- 1 small can of tomatoes or 3 tomatoes sliced
- Poached eggs

Mash the cooked potatoes and add 2 tablespoons of fat.

Season to taste and stir into the mixture grated cheese.

Shape flat cakes and set aside until sauce is cooked. Make a sauce by frying chopped onions in butter or margarin [sic] and when brown add the tomatoes; simmer slowly about 20 minutes. Now fry the potato cakes in hot fat. When nice and brown serve with the tomato sauce poured over them and top each cake with a poached egg.

INDIVIDUAL OYSTER PIES

- 2 doz. Oysters
- 4 sliced large mushrooms
- ¼ cup margarin
- 2 tablespoons horse-radish
- ¼ teaspoon salt

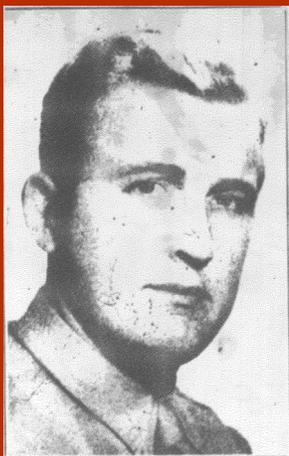
- 3 tablespoons flour
- ¼ cup of milk
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 6 baked tart shells

Fry the mushrooms in margarin [sic]. Turn fire down very low and add oyster and horse-radish. Cook until edges curl. Remove from fire. Make white sauce of melted margarin, flour, salt and milk. When smooth add lemon juice and oysters. Remove immediately from fire and serve in tart shells at once.

This week’s recipe comes from Mrs. Charles H. Demarest, of 493 California Avenue, Stratford.



Igor Sikorsky in a helicopter sling. Photo from the Archive United Technology Corporation, Hartford, CT 06101



CORP. WM. E. LAUTALA

Corporal Lautala is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lautala, of 323 Honeyspot Road. (Photo from *The Stratford News*, May 21, 1943).

20th Anniversary of Sikorsky

The Stratford News

April 2, 1943

TRIBUTE TO FOUNDER ON ANNIVERSARY OF SIKORSKY COMPANY

High tribute was paid to Igor I. Sikorsky last Friday evening when a testimonial dinner was held by friends and associates at the Algonquin Club, in Bridgeport, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Sikorsky Aircraft Division of the United Aircraft Company. The local plant was founded by

Mr. Sikorsky in 1923 as the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation.

In the assemblage were Charles A. Lindbergh, long a friend of the local man, and four workers who were on the force when the plant was opened in 1923—Alexander Krapish, B. P. Labensky, Nick Glad and Dmitri D. Viner.

E. E. Wilson, president of United Aircraft, was the principal speaker of the evening. He presented Mr. Sikorsky with a

20-year service pin. Mr. Sikorsky presented a 20-year pin to Mr. Labensky.

B. W. Ainsworth, on behalf of company employes [sic], presented Mr. Sikorsky with a matched suitcase and briefcase, in appreciation for what he has done for the organization.

Much emphasis was laid during the evening on recent development of the Sikorsky helicopter and the part it will play in aviation in the future.

Victory Garden Plots

The Stratford News

April 2, 1943

Plowing Started by Town For Victory Garden Plots

State Grants Abandoned Parkway - Legion Post Asks An Acre - Others Apply.

Town officials are being besieged with applications for Victory Garden plots, and for general gardening assistance, in a way which has surprised them and likewise surprised merchants and others who are more or less directly affected by the general movement to

produce garden truck at home for use during this year's growing season and for preservation for next fall and winter.

Some hundred or more applications for Victory Garden plots on public property already have been received at the Town Manager's Office. Others are coming daily. In addition to these applications, many inquiries are being received from citizens who have their own ground and plan to use it.

Area for Victory Gardens available to the public received two boosts during the past week, plus those formerly

announced.

The Union Cemetery Association placed a plot of ground adjoining its graveyard at the disposal of the town, and the state did the same with the stretch along Nichols Avenue, from Barnum Avenue up to Trumbull, which formerly was projected as a part of the Merritt Parkway. The Victory Garden Committee of Town Council has had its eye on this land from the start and one of the members, Councilman Herman A. Leveen, went to see Governor Raymond E. Baldwin about it. The state's consent soon followed...

A Memorial Day Poem

The Stratford News

June 4, 1943

Memorial Day A DAY OF DAYS

By George W. Carey, of Stratford

O, the charm of the day,
That proclaimed freedom's way;
A new Declaration,
That made us a nation.
Formed for a time like this,
For a world gone amiss,
In a moral blackout,
Where despairing souls shout,
A cry for liberty,
Still longing to be free.
Hell's baptism of fire,
Our solemn thoughts inspire.

O, the gloom of the day,
When the boys march away,
To bear the service cross,
To be soldiers for us;
Answering our hearts call,
In the dare of it all;
Only one life to give,
That America live.
With a Spirit sublime, -
We remember the time, -
The lovers that grieve,
And fond memories leave.

O, sacred is the day,
Humbly we kneel to pray,
Martyrs of old revere,
As the years disappear.
Ah, grim war takes its toll,
While battles onward roll,

And the sad requiem,
That shall be sung for them, -
For the heroes that fall,
Whose names are immortal,
Speed freedom on and on,
Down the wide horizon.

O, the joy of the day,
When the gleam sends its ray,
From the torch in our hands,
To shine upon all lands,
Then, freemen shall sing,
As thrilling echoes ring,
Help us the world to teach,
A better state to reach,
And speak the language meant,
By freedom's testament;
Our faithful tribute pay.
On this Memorial Day.

Library Annual Report 1943

The Stratford News

April 16, 1943

Fewer Books Circulate And Overtime Fines Are Doubled

War Conditions Sharply Reflected In Work Of Stratford Library - Trend Away From Fiction Continues - Employment Cuts Reference Work.

Results of war conditions on the work of the Stratford Library form an interesting study in the annual report of Miss Frances B. Russell as submitted to the members of the board of the Library Association at its annual meeting last Friday.

For instance: Circulation of books during the past year fell off some 12 per cent—probably because folks to not have so much time to read as in former years. Fines for books kept overtime (2¢ per day) amounted to more than \$1,000, compared with a normal \$500 income per year from such a source—perhaps because patrons were so busy that they hadn't finished a book or didn't have time to return it within the specified limit.

The general and statistical reports by Miss Russell are dotted with such items of interest. Following is her summary:

General Library Work

"The total circulation at the library is 88,045 as compared to 100,210 of last year, the reason being, as far as we can see, due to

the stress of the times, when too may war activities and long working hours cut down on reading time.

"Fifty per cent of the total circulation at the library was adult fiction; 23 per cent non-fiction; 23 per cent juvenile and 4 per cent, rental.

"These figures, while following almost exactly last year's, show a continuing trend toward reading more non-fiction and juvenile books and less fiction.

"The books most used in the library in the non-fiction category are the technical books, with the biography and history books in second place.

"Our reference work has been less. Most of this work came from requests from high school students, and this year more and more of them have been employed at part time jobs, leaving less time to frequent the library.

"The stations serve a real need and the number of them has increased to 7. Circulation there reflects in general the trend toward activity and less reading, except in Putney, where the circulation jumped 600 over last year.

"Work with the schools has increased over last year, both in the number of books loaned to teachers and in the circulation of these books. We find most of the elementary school teachers using the library a great deal and have approximately 95 teachers on our active list.

"The signs of the times are reflected in the amount of fines received during the year. The average amount collected annually used to be \$500; this year we collected over \$1,000.

"Regarding the Victory Book Campaign: Up to March 18 we had received 658 books, which when sorted yielded 133 fiction books and 37 non-fiction and 32 paper bound books—total of 202 books, which will be sent to the place designated by campaign headquarters. Books are still coming and we will continue to receive them as long as people will give them..."

Magazines Donated

The library receives the following magazines by donation of those mentioned:

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary—National News of the American Legion Auxiliary.

American Foundation for the Blind—Outlook for the Blind.

Anonymous—Changing World Jewish Veteran; National bulletin of the American Society for the Control of Cancer; Opportunity; Specialty Salesman; Watchman.

Bethany Church, Young People's Society—Alliance Weekly.

Mrs. C. E. Booth—Signs of the Times.

Bridgeport Rotary Club—Rotarian.

Edward C. Burritt—Catholic Transcript; Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Dr. J. T. Calmar—Osteopathic Magazine....

JUST WHEN YOU WANT TO WORK IN YOUR VICTORY GARDEN

There is no need to let a heavy week's wash interfere with your Victory Gardening when you treat yourself to a 10 minute washday . . . the Laundry way! Merely collect your things and our driver will pick them up on his regular route. You are assured of satisfactory laundry service when we do your wash. Only safe cleaning methods are used to get fragile lingerie and grimy work-clothes alike healthfully clean . . . to make them last longer.

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Stratford Laundry
150 FERRY BOULEVARD at the Cut-Off STRATFORD, CONN.

Ad from *The Stratford News*, April 30, 1943.

Francis Russell Librarian 48th Year

The Stratford News

April 16, 1943

Miss Russell Librarian For Her 48th Year

She and Her Staff Unanimously Re-elected Last Friday Evening.

Miss Frances B. Russell last Friday evening was elected to the post of librarian of the Stratford Town Library at the annual meeting.

News?

Not particularly.

Except that the Library

Board first elected Miss Russell to this position in 1896 and has repeated the operation ever since.

Walter E. Goddard, president was in the chair at last week's meeting. Other officers include Frank H. Fargo, vice president; Mrs. Charlotte S. Moore, secretary; Miss Emma G. Allen, treasurer.

Members of the Library Board include the following:

Life members: Miss D. Winifred Todd, Mrs. James McD. Mitchell, Walter E. Goddard,

Donald S. Sammis, Mrs. Alice Lovell Sniffen, Miss Emma G. Allen, Wallace A. Smith, Frank H. Fargo, Mrs. Charlotte S. Moore, Mrs. Raymond E. Baldwin, and Frank S. Bunnell.

Town members: Joseph LeBash, Lawrence B. Marinoccio, Merritt Vanderbilt, Harry Miller, John M. Richardson, Mrs. Eva J. Beardsley, Tom Johnson, George W. Carey, Mrs. Ruth B. Stafford, Mrs. Frances C. Wilcox, and Mrs. Huldah Totten.



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Goody Bassett's Ice Cream
2404 Main St. | 203.612.8075

JM Home Improvement Group
203.556.8652

The Mellow Monkey
203.379.1860 | Howard@mellowmonkey.com

Milford Bank
3651 Main St. | 203.783.7000

The National Helicopter Museum
203.375.8857 | nationalhelicoptermuseum.com

Open Door Tea
3552 Main St. | 203.345.9659

Joel F. Pleban, CPA, LLC
joel@joelplebancpa.com | 203.375.1040

Pickle Barrel Deli & Catering
203.380.0338

Rotary Drug
1030 Barnum Ave. | 203.378.9394

Scott Insurance
bscott@scottinsurance.com | 203.375.5847



Volunteers Needed: The Society can use your talent and energy. If you have some time to share, please contact the Stratford Historical Society at 203-378-0630.

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

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