

THE CUPHEAG CORNER

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

SEPTEMBER 2019



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

MARK THE DATES:

- September's General Membership Meeting: Saturday, September 28th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library
- Governing Board Meeting, Thursday, October 10th, 6pm, Stratford Town Hall, Room 213
- November's General Membership Meeting: Sunday, November 24th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library

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SEPTEMBER'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 28th, 2:00 pm, Stratford Library Lovell Room, 2203 Main Street

Stratford Historical Society Presents:

General James Wilkinson ~ 'Agent 13' ~ A Double Life by local researcher and Norwalk Historical Commissioner, Eric Chandler.

...James Wilkinson, one of the most pivotal figures of the Revolutionary Generation, remains virtually unknown to the vast majority of Americans. Charming and intelligent, he would be a pioneer, a trader and persuader; a confidant of generals and presidents. His military career began with the 1775 invasion expeditions against Canada during the American Revolution and died in the fiascos on the Canadian front during the War of 1812. His ambitions would make him twice General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, Military and



Eric Chandler—photo from Eric's Facebook page.

Civil Governor of the Louisiana Territory, author of the Spanish Conspiracy and a major player in the Burr Conspiracy. His greed would make him a betrayer and a spy for the Spanish Empire. Our teachers taught us

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

about the *Founding Fathers*. Now come hear the story of one of America's *Founding Scoundrels*.

Lecturer Eric Chandler has been involved in American Revolutionary War Living History since 1974. He has been a member of Sheldon's Horse since 1996 and serves as the regimental adjutant. Mr. Chandler has portrayed infantry, light infantry, whale-boat raider and both mounted and dismounted dragoons. He is a resident of Norwalk, CT, a Norwalk Historical Commissioner and a retired land title insurance underwriter. Mr. Chandler's artistic endeavors have included cartooning, working in local theater and decades as a musician playing saxophones in area Rock & Roll and Blues bands.

Hartford Courant
June 13, 2016

“The past is not simply what has been saved; it ‘lives and breathes ... in every corner of the world’”.
From “**The Past is a Foreign Country**”.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall is a busy time of year and there are several upcoming events which will help to fill your overflowing Fall calendar.

William Samuel Johnson Day is scheduled for Monday, October 7th. Christ Church is planning to have costumed actors at Christ Church Burying Ground on Saturday, October 5th from 10am—noon. There will be a flag raising service at Town Hall on Monday morning. Watch the newspapers for additional details.

Stratford's Girl Scout Troop 37470 has a fun Scavenger Hunt planned for children of all ages. See <http://scavenger.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com> for more details.

There will be a presentation on

local lighthouses at the Fairfield Museum and History Center, Wednesday, September 25th at 12:30pm. Pam Hutchinson is putting a group together. If you'd like to attend with the group, please e-mail Pam at reeses234@sbcglobal.net.

The Bethany Historical Society is holding an Oktoberfest, Friday, October 25th at 6pm. The \$25 fee includes a German style dinner and wine or beer. For more details go to <http://oktoberfest.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com>.

There will Ghostly Walking Tours in Woodbury on October 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, and 25th from 7:30pm—9:00pm.. The tours are being led by Ehris Urban and Velya Jancz-Urban. For more details go to <http://ghostly.stratfordhistoricalsociety.com/>.

2019 Meetings Calendar

Saturday September 28th 2PM
Sunday November 24th 2PM

2020 Meetings Calendar

Sunday, January 26th
Sunday, March 29th
Sunday, May 31st
Saturday, September 26th
Sunday, November 22nd

All meetings will be held at 2pm in the Lovell Room at the Stratford Library.

GOODY KNAPP MEMORIAL

On Saturday, August 17th, as one of many events planned for Black Rock's 375th anniversary celebration, the Black Rock Community Council held a commemorative memorial service for Goody Knapp. The memorial service featured several speakers including the pastor of the Fairfield Congregational Church, an author who has done a great deal of research on the witchcraft trials in Connecticut during the mid-1600s, descendants of Goody Knapp, and representatives from the towns of Fairfield and Bridgeport.

Several town and state proclamations were read in an effort to set the record straight pertaining to the witchcraft charges leveled against Goody Knapp. Several members of the Stratford Historical Society attended the ceremony.

Goody Knapp and Goody Bassett were known to each other and, it has been stated, that Goody Bassett, on her way to the gallows, accused

Goody Knapp of witchcraft.

We are hoping to be able to hold a similar memorial service for Goody Bassett, here in Stratford, in the not too distant future. The entire August 17th ceremony was recorded and is available for viewing at gk.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.

A memorial marker for Goody Knapp was unveiled at the conclusion of the ceremony. The inscription on the marker reads:

Near this spot, then part of Fairfield, Goodwife Knapp was hanged as a witch in 1653. She was convicted and condemned to death just six years after Connecticut carried out the first execution for witchcraft in the North American colonies.

Among Knapp's judges were two of the colony's leading citizens, Roger Ludlow, a deputy governor and one of the founders of the Connecticut Colony, and the Reverend John Davenport, a founder



Goody Knapp's memorial marker on the grounds of the Burroughs Community Center in Black Rock.

of the New Haven Colony.

Condemned on hearsay, Goody Knapp refused her judges' demands that she accuse others of witchcraft, stating: "I must not render evil for evil... I have sins enough already." May the horrors she suffered, and the lessons to be learned from them, never be forgotten, and may her soul rest in peace.

Black Rock Community Council
2019



Program from the Goody Knapp Memorial Ceremony.



Attendees at the memorial commemoration.

CORSAIR CAR SHOW

Connecticut Air & Space Center

Sunday, September 15th, 2019
10am to 4pm
2 Sniffins Lane
Stratford, CT 06615

The Connecticut Air & Space Center is proud to present the eighth annual:

CORSAIR CAR SHOW
PLANES - CARS - CYCLES -
FOOD - MUSIC - FAMILY
FUN!

A fundraiser for the Sikorsky Memorial Corsair Restoration by the Connecticut Air & Space Center!

We'll see you at the eighth annual Corsair Car Show! See spectacular classic cars, hot rods, imports, dragsters, muscle cars, motorcycles (1980's & older), military vehicles, and of course historic aircraft!
\$5 Spectator Walk-In Entry (12 and Under Free)
\$10 Car Show Entry Fee

Judging: 1pm
Awards: 3pm

(The **\$10** donation pays for the entry fee of the driver. All other occupants will be charged.)

We ask you to consider donating to the Connecticut Air & Space Center, a noteworthy non-profit air museum. The following aircraft will be on display:

1. No.21 Whitehead Flyer "Condor"
2. Vought / Goodyear FG-1D Corsair
3. Sikorsky S-52
4. Sikorsky S-55/H-19B
5. Sikorsky S-60 Flying Crane Prototype
6. Sikorsky S-76A
7. OH-6 Cayuse

But most importantly funds are needed for the important restoration of the Historic 1929 Curtiss Aircraft Hangar. The hangar (located behind The Windsock) needs your donations to bring it back to it's original Golden Age condition when the likes of Charles

Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, Juan Trippe, and other famous aviators visited the field, and hangared their planes there.

<https://www.ctairandspace.org/the-curtiss-hangar>

When finished, the Curtiss Hangar will be a regional educational cultural center dedicated to honoring the pioneers, companies, and workers in aviation, preserving the aircraft and artifacts they used, and educating this and future generations on our rich collective aviation history. Help us make our dream a reality! Give today!

Connecticut Air & Space Center
casc@ctairandspace.org
www.ctairandspace.org
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2140173189407718/>

DATELINE STRATFORD AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1954

The Stratford News

August 12, 1954

ASFTA Group Options Housatonic Club Land For Proposed Theater

Officials of the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy have optioned land off Shore Road, near the Housatonic Boat Club, as a possible site for the proposed Shakespeare Theatre.

The acquisition of the land was made "because of the complications in securing authorization from the Town Council for the Academy to occupy a portion of Boothe park."

...This week an option was obtained on a portion of the former F. C. Beach estate...

The Stratford News

August 19, 1954

Garden Club Selects New Officers

...Club officers for the coming year include: president, Mrs. Robert W. Herb; first vice president, Mrs. Melville Bulmer; second vice president; Mrs. George Kingman; treasurer, Mrs. Ira R. Peterson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Alexander Brock; recording secretary, Mrs. T. Gerald Doherty; historian, Mrs. Frank Mussler; and members at large, Mrs. Ralph Davis and Miss Ann Millington...

The Stratford News

August 19, 1954

Severe Storm Lashes Area, Damage Light

Residents today are still confronted with the huge task of "cleaning up" the town as a result of the disastrous hurricane which struck here Tuesday causing widespread damage.

...The storm, termed by many old-timers as the worse [sic] since the 1938 hurricane did comparatively little damage to this area compared to the havoc caused further north along the New England coast...

Sunday Herald

September 12, 1954

Bardsmen Buy House For Center

A 14-room house on Elm St., Stratford, was purchased this week from Mrs. Phoebe Wallace to become the Shakespearean Academy, twin-project of the theater.

The acquisition will make a total of 12 acres in the tract for America's shrine to the greatest writer who ever lived.

Up to now a roominghouse, the building is the first tangible sight on the space that will be dedicated to Stratford, England's, bard.

The academy site adjoins land near Housatonic Boat Club, high on a bank over the river. Here the Elizabethan theater will rise, possibly within a year.

Elated over the way the plan is moving, Lawrence Langner of Westport and a committee have turned to fund-raising. Collecting the required \$552,000 is expected to be a natural.

It is not too early to envision Stratford as the mecca for world theatergoers. The new center is expected to open brilliant years for Stratford. The non-profit project has received a gift of \$200,000 from the Rockefeller foundation.

Sunday Herald

September 12, 1954

Hurricane Shifts; Damage Here Light

Hurricane Edna, a fickle female with a mind of her own, abruptly shifted course yesterday, but kicked at the Greenwich-to-Milford coastline with gale velocity winds and dumped nearly four inches of rain on the "ghost town" shore.

She never did keep her date with disaster. Even though she jilted the super-prepared area, thousands felt her impact...

No extensive damage was reported anywhere in the area, much of which had been slugged harder by Edna's

sister, Carol, the hurricane that struck Aug. 31.

Sunday Herald

September 19, 1954

STRATFORD students led all Connecticut high, trade and technical school students again this year in winning the 1954 National Industrial Arts Awards. Out of 17 awards made in Connecticut, Stratford students captured 14. William A. Knecht led the group by winning one of the 30 Outstanding Achievement Awards. He will get a \$100 cash award plus an expense paid trip to Detroit, Mich.

The Stratford News

September 23, 1954

Society to Elect Officers

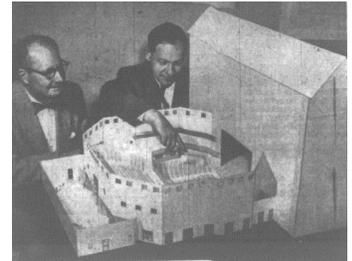
The annual meeting and election of officers for the Stratford Historical Society will take place Friday, September 24 at 8 p.m. in Boothe Memorial Park.

Mrs. Georgiana T. Greeley, chairman of the nominating committee will present the slate of officers. The nominating committee also consists of Miss Lucy McCabe, Mrs. Clark P. Lane, Mrs. Rexford Nettleton and Robert Beardsley.

Harold M. Sturges will preside at a business meeting which will consist of brief reports from all chairmen.

Miss Lucy McCabe, program chairman, has announced that her committee will be in charge of an audience participation "quiz" program entitled "Old Stratford Revisited." Mrs. W. E. Hawley will serve as quiz master assisted by Harold Warren, Miss McCabe, Miss Anne Richardson and Elliott Peck.

Mrs. Charles Davis, hospitality chairman, announces the following hostesses will assist for the social hour: Mrs. Earl Garlick, Mrs. John S. Richardson, Mrs. Harold C. Warren, Mrs. Roy Sanborn and Mrs. Arthur Hart.



Ray O'Connor and William Simpson examine Shakespeare Theatre model, **Sunday Herald**, August 15, 1954.



Second Hill Lane School opens, **The Stratford News**, August 19, 1954.



Stratford Community Chorus begins under the directions of Edward Ryglewicz, **The Stratford News**, August 19, 1954.

NOW SHOWING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1954



Stratford Theater c 1946

August 1st	Man With a Million	Gregory Peck, Jane Griffiths, Donald Squire
August 8th	Living It Up	Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis
August 15th	Gone With The Wind	Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh
August 22nd	Magnificent Obsession	Jane Wyman, Rock Hudson
August 29th	Apache	Burt Lancaster, Jean Peters
September 5th	Seven Brides for Seven Brothers	Howard Keel, Jane Powell
September 12th	Broken Lance	Spencer Tracy, Richard Widmark
September 19th	The Black Shield of Falsworth	Tony Curtis, Janet Leigh
September 26th	Betrayed	Clark Gable, Lana Turner, Victor Mature

Stratford Crier

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Connecting Stratford from the North End
to the Lower Loop... and every Green in-between

PREPARED BY Stratford Forward
A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRE MCNEILL

When we lost *The Stratford Star*, we lost our last vestige of printed local news. We now have a new, strictly online, source of local news: **Stratford Crier**.

<http://www.stratfordcrier.com/>

The Stratford Town Crier is a publication of Stratford Forward, a non-profit, grassroots citizens group founded in 2018

to make Stratford, Connecticut a sustainable, resilient community. With the absence of a local paper, Stratford Forward sought to create an organ of communication to share local news and events, educate and inform the public, promote civic engagement, and reach every household in Stratford.

STRATFORD HONORS ITS MINUTE WOMEN

Bridgeport Herald
September 7, 1919

Stratford Honors Its Famous Minute Women Who Did Such Notable Work During The War DISBANDING ORGANIZATION WELCOMES NEW RED CROSS NURSE

It was pouring down rain at a great rate Wednesday afternoon, as it did most of the week, but the women of Stratford, who composed the nation-wide famous Minute Women of Stratford during the war, having tasted of work and privation, did not mind such a thing as a heavy shower. By 3 o'clock, the town hall auditorium was filled with them—eager to talk to one another once more, but sorry that this was to be their last meeting. For they had met to disband—the need for them being ended.

Mrs. Thos. B. Taylor presided. She was the capable and untiring commanding officer during the time of work and harassing worry, and the ladies all love her dearly, evidencing their appreciation of her services by a hearty rising vote.

Mrs. Taylor never made a speech before, she said, and she didn't make a speech Wednesday. She just talked, infinitely better, as the whole meeting was

put on a basis of informality and friendliness.

"We did what we did for the love of our town as well as for the love of our country," she said, "and so successful were we that the Minute Women of Stratford are known throughout New York. 'Oh, yes,' they say, 'they are the women who put the Liberty loan over fourfold.'

"There are still big things to do for Stratford," she went on, "and while we won't do them as an organization, we will individually. There's one thing that the women did here that was done in very few other places — we got along with the men's committee and at the end of the war, we were better friends than when we started."

Mrs. Taylor, in spite of her promise, "not to begin on my Minute Women," couldn't resist the temptation of reminiscing a little.

"Do you remember that time," she asked them, "that Mrs. C.G. Greenwall hearing how desperately hard up the hospital [sic] was, came over with a bag of potatoes over her shoulder? And the time that Mrs. Jeremiah Kennedy wanted to see some people that she thought could be induced to buy bonds, and not having a

way, went in the patrol wagon? The people were so impressed, with the patrol wagon that they all bought bonds.

"Then there was the time that we had a family in the hospital and when they were cured they had no clothes. I called up Mrs. Robert Sandis and asked if she could help me out. Of course, she could. And the next morning before the time for them to be discharged she was there with a complete outfit of clothes for every member of the family.

...Mrs. Taylor told about the wonderful work that Mrs. Gunther is doing in the home service of the Red Cross and bespoke for her the help of all the women. Then she introduced the new Red Cross nurse for Stratford, who began work the past week and has her office in the town hall. She is Miss Beatrice Olson, and all the men in Stratford are already planning to get sick—all that have seen the new nurse.

...Then the women dispersed—no longer Minute Women—but with some of the most precious memories possible stored away, represented by their medals and testimonials—memories that will not fade from their own minds nor those of the people of the town.



CAPTAINS OF STRATFORD MINUTE WOMEN.

Bridgeport Herald,
September 7, 1919.

SKELETON FOUND WHILE DIGGING SEWER

Bridgeport Herald
September 4, 1919

SKELETON 240 YEARS OLD FOUND

While excavating for a sewer in South avenue, Stratford, yesterday workmen uncovered a skeleton about five feet below the surface of the ground.

The bones were in fairly good condition although they must have been in the ground for

about two hundred and forty years.

According to the history of Stratford the piece where the skeleton was found was the site where Stratford was first settled at Sandy Hollow. The old meeting house stood near the corner of South avenue and Elm street and in the yard of the meeting house was the cemetery. No bodies were buried in the ceme-

tery after 1677, the bodies being removed from the old cemetery to the one back of the Stratford library. The fact that the bones of the skeleton were so well preserved after being in the ground for two hundred and forty years speaks well for the brand of bone used in Stratford's early settlers or else it may be that the ground is this particular locality acts as a preservative of bones.



Photo from the Stratford Historical Society archives.

CAROL LOVELL RETIRES AFTER 46 YEARS

Stratford Historical Society Governing Board meetings can be lively, busy, fluid, boisterous, and, at times, bombastic affairs, so, when it was Carol Lovell's turn to speak at our August 22nd board meeting, she made the succinct, considered observation that she'd been actively involved in our Society for the past 46 years, and now she was leaving us! Which saddened us, and made us think, what all has Carol been involved with over those 46 years at the Historical Society? We decided to take a look.

Carol was our Society President on two separate occasions for a total of six years. Carol served on several nominating committees, and on the by-laws committee. She's been Program Chair and Accessions Chair. She was appointed Curator in March of 2002, and continued to serve in that role up to the present. Carol organized the summer picnic of 1977. She conducted basket making classes in the early 1980's, and helped stitch a quilt in 1985.

Carol helped organize excursions to Plymouth Plantation and the Shaker Village in the early 1990's. She assisted Lew Knapp in procur-



Carol Lovell at Stratford Town Hall, Thursday, August 22nd. Photo courtesy of Pam Hutchinson.



After our storage shed was damaged in November, 2016, Carol worked on the cleanup.

ing images from the Society's archives for the book "Images of America." Carol worked on the program "Teaching American History as a Dynamic Discipline" with other Society members in 2006. Carol has also served as a Director, and an Executive Director, of the Historical Society.

There are, likely, other activities at the Society in which Carol was involved which our cursory survey missed. If so, Carol, we apologize. For all your assistance with this newsletter, Carol, we are indebted for your masterful editing. When I assumed the role of newsletter editor, several years ago, Dick Steele sagely instructed me, "send out no newsletter until Carol has gone through it to check for errors."

After 46 years, Carol is leaving us for Ashlar Village in Wallingford. We wish you the very best, Carol, and we will miss you. We hope your next 46 years bring you as much success as your contributions have brought this Society the past 46 years!



Mayor Harkins, Dave Killeen, Carol Lovell, and Carol Adzima at the Stratford 375 kickoff, Sunday, April 6, 2014.



President Carol Lovell and Vivienne Knapp working on recipes from Mrs. Knapp's historic recipe book, *Paradise Enow*. Photo from *The Bridgeport Post*, May 24, 1989.

STRATFORD'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT HAD DEEP ROOTS

The Temperance movement arrived in Stratford in the mid-1860s. By 1867 Stratford had its own "Temperance Hall." As temperance movements grew throughout America, so grew the women's suffrage movement. Leaders at the helm of the various temperance organizations were almost always promoters of women's suffrage.

Stratford's temperance leaders were both men and women. Stratford had its own "Sons of Temperance" organization. Many of these same leaders had been avowed abolitionists, but following the conclusion of the Civil War, the temperance leaders focused their energies on suffrage: first for black men, then, following the adoption of the 14th amendment, for women.

The first newspaper story we can locate pertaining to Stratford's Suffrage movement was printed in *The Bridgeport Evening Farmer* January 30, 1919.

The headline read "WOMAN SUFFRAGE WAKES AFTER 50 YEARS SLEEP". The article goes on to detail the organization of the Stratford Suffrage Association.

One of the very first presidents of the nascent Stratford Suffrage Association was Lillian Snowden. Lillian Snowden was the niece of one Anna Snowden (aka Anna Oliver). Anna Snowden was the first woman to ever attend Boston University, and was the first woman to ever lead a religious congregation. Anna Snowden, born in 1840, was a devout Suffragette. As best we can determine, she came to Stratford sometime after 1884, and spent the remaining years of her life in Stratford.

Anna's mantle of Suffrage leadership apparently fell on the shoulders of her niece, Lillian, following Anna's death in 1892. Twenty years would pass before Lillian would emerge as a recog-

nized Suffrage leader in Stratford, but, when she did assert herself, she had the support of the Stratford community: women and men! If there was any opposition to women's suffrage in Stratford it was all but invisible.

The first organizing meeting of the Stratford Suffrage Association was held at Stratford Town Hall. The next meeting was held at Red Men's Hall on Church Street behind the Congregational Church. The Red Men's Club was comprised of the most prominent, successful, and wealthy men in Stratford. Had there been any opposition to the Suffrage movement in Stratford, the Association would have never been permitted to meet in Red Men's Hall.

Stiles Judson, one of Stratford's most influential and powerful men in the late 1800s and early 1900s threw his full support behind the movement.



Anna Oliver (aka Anna (Vivianna) Snowden. Image from the Methodist Church General Commission on Archives and History.

HURRICANES REMEMBERED

By all accounts, the hurricane of 1954, Carol, was as destructive a hurricane as anyone could remember. However, **The Hartford Courant** ran an article in the September 5th, 1954 edition documenting the severity of a hurricane striking Stratford in 1682 and documented by Stratford's second Congregational Church minister, Israel Chauncey.

The Hartford Courant

September 5, 1954

Courant Files Carry Facts Of Other State Hurricanes

Hurricane Carol, which slammed into Connecticut last Tuesday causing damage estimated in the millions, was one of the worst summer storms ever to hit the state. And yet it was no oddity, for the files of *The Courant* carry accounts of summer hurricanes and tornadoes dating back as far as 1682.

Perhaps the worst storm in state history from the standpoint of loss of life was the Wallingford tornado of Aug. 9, 1878. Twenty-nine persons were killed and 37 injured in the brief but violent storm.

33 Houses Destroyed

The *Courant's* correspondent reported that 33 houses were entirely destroyed and those which lost roofs or suffered minor damage could not be counted. A scrap book of one Wallingford resident was found eight miles away in Durham and winter clothing carried off by the gale from attics and upstairs rooms were never found.

So great was the public's interest in that fateful tornado that the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad offered half fare tickets to travelers between New York and Springfield to the site of the disaster.

One *Courant* report has this to say: "Newspapers are sought after (in Wallingford) and one news-dealer sold yesterday 1,350 papers. The *Courant* was eagerly sought for, and upon its arrival quickly sold. Every one who visits the ruins is shocked, and thousands have said 'they expected

devastation, but made some allowance for newspaper exaggeration, but the newspapers have not told one half.'"

Wethersfield Storm

The files of *The Courant* also have graphic accounts of the Wethersfield "hurricane" of Aug. 20, 1787. From the description of this storm, which started in the vicinity of New Britain and then swept through Wethersfield farmland, it, too, was a tornado.

Four people, a Mrs. Robbins and her three children, were killed in the violent storm but only the fact that the black funnel bypassed heavily populated areas kept the death toll at the low figure. Damage to crops and woodlands was tremendous.

There is an account of another tornado which passed close to Wallingford on Aug. 7, 1839. This one, like the Wethersfield "hurricane," swept across uninhabited land and there was no loss of life at all. However, damage to trees and crops was considerable.

Perhaps the most interesting account of any Connecticut storm is that contained in a letter of one Israel Chauncey of Stratford to the Rev. Increase Mather, "the celebrated divine of Boston" and dated Feb. 6, 1683.

It contains a complete description of the hurricane of June 10, 1682 which passed through Stratford, Milford, Fairfield and New Haven and while it did not appear in *The Courant* until 1878, the letter is one of the first accounts of a summer storm in this state and nation.

The letter follows:

"These for the Reverend Mr. Increase Mather. Teacher to a Church of Xt in Boston;

"Rev'd Sir. — Since the receipt of yours I have not had any opportunity to send an answer, eyther by sea or land: till now.

Two-Hour Storm

"The storme happened upon the tenth day of June (1682, Mather) that were in it could not heare it began between two and three of the clocke. It continued about, two hours. The storme reached Stratford, Milford, Fair-

field. N. Haven; and it was very violent in every one of these places, but especially in Milford, where three barns were blown down by it, and one house new-built, that was forty foot in length, well enclosed, was moved from the foundation at one corner, near two foot and a halfe; but the great strength of the storme was about six miles above Stratford, as is evident by the dreadful havock that it there made, for the compasse of halfe a mile in bredth scarce a tree left standing, which is not greatly shaken by the storme. The strongest oakes are torn up by the rootes, some two foot, some three foot and more over. Young saplings that were not so big as a man's middle were broken off in the midst. The storme came out of the West, and the wind did before the end vere somewhat to the north. It was attended with a violent rain. The very noise of the wind in the woodes was such that those the fall of a tree a few yards beyond them. Great limbs of trees were carried like feathers in the air, an incredible distance from the trees they were broken off from. Many that were at worke in the woodes were in great danger, (and) had no way to preserve themselves but by running into the open planes where there were no trees.

"The strength of the storme passed, along east and south over Stratford river, and so between Milford and N. Haven, and there it passed away into the Sound towards Long Island. Many thousands of trees are blown down, both above and below the place before specified, but in compasse of that halfe mile the greatest strength of the storme was, for hero there was almost an universal destruction of all the trees, leaving the place upon hills so naked, that very few trees are found standing: And this is a description of the storme.

"Your ever obliged friend and servant.

"Is: Chauncey
Stratford, February 6th, 1682-3."



On the float at the Housatonic boat club yesterday after securing their craft, the *Allegro* and the *Rascal*, respectively, are John Ross (left), of 1721 Elm street and Vernon Randall, of 261 Fourth avenue, **The Bridgeport Post**, September 1, 1954.



FLOOD WATERS FROM the Housatonic River pour over property off Elm St. at the high tide peak. Many backyards along the river were completely covered by the trubulent waters., **The Stratford News**, September 2, 1954.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLEA MARKET

The Bridgeport Post

August 7, 1969

Stratford Historical Society Sets Antique Flea Market Saturday

Chairman, Aides Listed for Event at
Bunnell High School

An Antiques Flea Market will be conducted by the Stratford Historical society Saturday on the grounds of the Frank Scott Bunnell high school. This is the eighth show and sale to be sponsored by the society, with dealers from all New England states showing their wares.

The gate will open at 10 a.m., rain or shine, to permit the public to browse through booths showing furniture, lamps, silver, pewter, woodenware, old documents, paintings, chests and fireside equipment. Closing time will be 5 p.m.

Miss Betty Forbes of Higganum, a member of the New England Antique shows, will serve as director of the market.

Mrs. Leo E. Miller, Jr. and Mrs. Lewis G. Knapp are serving as co-chairmen of the event. J. Oliver Carson and his committee will oversee the free parking.

Mrs. Manning Harvey has charge of the wagon showing antique items donated by members of the society. She will be assisted by Mrs. Allan Barrows, Mrs. Harold Cruikshank, Mrs. Donald L. Johnston, Mrs. Glen K. Maresca, Mrs. John S. Michelson, Mrs. Grace Morgan, Mrs. Robert N. Brockway, Jr., Mrs. Donald W. Fowler, Mrs.

Edmund H. Judson, Mrs. Fred Matsiff, Mrs. Leo E. Miller, Jr., Mrs. George Newell, Mrs. John W. Richardson, Mrs. Richard Slater, Miss Shirley Treadwell, Miss Edna Viner, Mrs. William G. Slack, Mrs. Joseph J. Slosar, Miss Laura Tubbs, Mrs. Robert Webber and Miss Ruby Wheeler.

The telephone committee is under the direction of Mrs. Alvin Burt, assisted by Mrs. Barrows, Mrs. Allen M. Beardsley, Mrs. Stanley W. Meachen, Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Harold J. Phillips, Mrs. John W. Ross, Mrs. Slack, Mrs. William E. Bassett, Miss Jane E. Calkins, Mrs. Jessie Murphy, Mrs. Andrew G. Patrick, Mrs. Edgar A. Reiss, Miss Harriet Ryan, Mrs. William R. Towse and Mrs. T. A. D. Weaver.

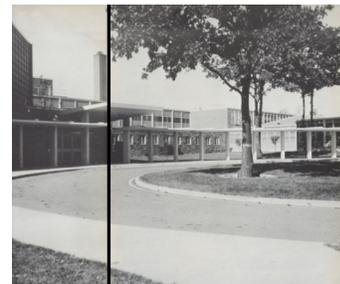
Mrs. Knapp is chairman of the baked goods committee. Her aides include Miss Harriet Allen, Mrs. Ernest A. France, Mrs. Edmund H. Judson, Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Richard C. Peck, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Henry B. VanGieson, Jr., Mrs. Fred W. Wilcoxson, Mrs. Burt, Mrs. George F. Holland, Mrs. Paul F. Mulcher, Mrs. F. Renton Newport, Mrs. Vincent Persico, Mrs. Carl E. Schreyer, Mrs. Jack Wardman and Mrs. Hildreth T. Winton.

The information booth will be attended by Mrs. Donald L. Johnston, chairman, Mrs. Rexford H. Nettleton, Mrs. Russel C. Applegate, Jr. and Mrs. Arthur Erickson. Guests may register at the booth, obtain membership in the society and subscribe to the book, "The History of Stratford," by W. Howard Wilcoxson, to be re-printed by the society.

Manning Harvey will be in charge of the gate, assisted by Robert J. Baptist, Alfred B. Beach, Isadora Chaplowe, Leslie Fritz, George F. Holland, Donald L. Johnston, A. Roger McNeil, William G. Slack, Velmore B. Spamer, David White, William E. Bassett, Robert N. Brockway, Jr., Donald W. Fowler, John W. Hodgson, Constant H. Jacquet, Oliver Lay, Charles L. Shearer, Joseph J. Slosar, Henry B. VanGieson, Jr. and Hildreth T. Winton.

Directional signs for the event will be posted by Edmund H. Judson. The committee setting up equipment will be headed by John Dolyak and Nicholas Proctor. The grounds committee is under the direction of Elden H. Dustin.

The finance committee consists of Leo E. Miller, Jr., Donald L. Johnston and William E. Bassett.



Bunnell High School, *Laurel* yearbook, 1963.



Closing Up

Judson House and the Historical Museum on Academy Hill will be closed before May 1 for an indefinite period so that inventory and cataloging of the contents can be done by members of the Stratford Historical Society.

Judson House, *The Stratford News*, April 10, 1969.

ONIONS: A CURE FOR FOUL BREATH?

The Bridgeport Farmer

August 21, 1869

"Ephraim's" Stratford Gossip.

To what extent the "girls of the period" make use of the internal or external applications of the so-called "beautifiers of the skin" we know not—the girls themselves could tell, if they would - but we venture to say that very many such expedients are resorted to. A dangerous case of the kind recently occurred in this usually quiet town, in which a young lady was nearly a victim to her folly and infatuation. How many are the husbands and fathers, mothers and grandmothers, who have remonstrated with those of the weaker sex in relation to this vile and pernicious habit? We

have seen the effects of the internal application of those momentary benefits to the skin, such as vinegar, cloves, chalk and nutmegs, while onions have been enormously used as a remedy for foul breath. Many have been the times we have looked on with astonishment at the agreeableness and rapidity with which a woman swallows a half tumbler of vinegar for this purpose, and then grumbles because some one else has taken "a little water with a stick in it," which is by far less detrimental to health, as all must acknowledge. But the poisonous remedies which are thus applied we will not further enumerate. It is painful to believe that the women, who are renowned for their beauty in this latitude, cannot maintain

their "spotless garment" without resorting to the use of these ingredients. We have said that a case, which might have proved fatal, has occurred resulting from the too frequent and extensive use of nutmegs. The victim is a promising young lady, and we could hardly believe she was so unwise as to attempt to add to her personal beauty by the use of any such means. "Nature unadorned" is far preferable to an artificial complexion, which all know is "manufactured for the occasion." Let those using any preparations for that purpose seriously reflect on their danger before it is too late.

LARGEST STRATFORD WEDDING

The Bridgeport Farmer

September 18, 1869

As the morning passenger train down on the Naugatuck road was approaching the depot at Stratford, this forenoon, and then about thirty rods distant, the boiler of the engine—the "Waterbury"—exploded with a terrific noise, throwing the engine off the rails between the two tracks, and frightening the people in the depot and cars almost out of their wits...All the morning trains were more or less delayed by the wreck...

The Bridgeport Farmer September 11, 1869 "Ephraim's" Stratford Gossip. A Grand Wedding.

—The brightness and warm rays, of old Sol, and the cool fanning breeze, on the morning of the 9th instant, glad-dened more than one heart. The day, or rather the afternoon, was one of more than general interest to the citizens of this town, owing to the marriage of one of her fairest daughters to a wealthy New York physician, whose names are respectively Mr. Walter D. Day of New York, and Miss Sarah E., daughter of Ezra Wheeler, Esq., one of our very wealthy citizens, and whose quite attractive residence is located on Hamilton Avenue. The ceremonies were performed at Christ Church, at about three o'clock, by Rev. Dr. D. C. Weston, Rector, assisted by Rev. George D. Johnson of Boston, in the Episcopal marriage service. The bride was clad in a very heavy Tulle white silk

dress, regularly escalated in a trail of a yard or more, which was bound with white satin, and the front of the skirt artistically trimmed with Valenciennes flounced lace and a profuse number of orange blossoms, was at least three yards in length, and the entire toilette was of exquisite taste. The bridegroom wore a handsome suit of black, and both, as they approached the chancel through the broad main aisle, while the organ was giving utterance to inspiring strains under the control of Professor Huber of Bridgeport, kept the immense concourse of guests and spectators (only once excelled in numbers, and then when the centennial anniversary of St. John's Lodge, No. 8, F. and A. M., took place,) almost breathless until after the solemn pronouncement of "man and wife" was made by the Rector. At the chancel, there stood beside them one bridesmaid, a little fairy, Miss Ethel

Carmalt, the granddaughter of Wm. S. Johnson, Esq. of this town, and the affectionate daughter of Doctor Carmalt of New York City. The beautiful chandeliers and chancel railing were handsomely decorated with sweet flowers, while the communion table within the chancel was literally overburdened with roses plucked from beneath the scorching rays of the morning sun. Never before have we witnessed a larger or more elegantly dressed assemblage — it seemed, really, as the guests were relieving the church of their presence, that the beauties of nature were more than exemplified. Hither and thither a bell, accompanied by her beau, would enter a carriage and be driven to the residence of the bride, all of which occupied the attention of our more quaint and restrained "old maids and bachelors" for about an hour...

STRATFORD ISSUES THEATER PERMIT

The Bridgeport Post August 25, 1954

Shakespearean Group Expects to Break Ground Within 2 Months

Construction of a replica of Shakespeare's original Stratford Globe theater on the seven-acre tract recently purchased on Shore road, Stratford, by the American Shakespearean Festival Academy and Theater became a reality yesterday when a building permit was issued to the organization by building inspector Edward C. Goudreau.

The permit calls for construction of a building to cost \$306,594. Ground-breaking ceremonies are expected to take place within the next two months on the site oppo-overlooking the Housatonic river.

Mr. Goudreau issued the permit to Richard Grayson, associate of Lawrence Langner, chairman of the board of trustees of the Shakespeare foundation after receipt of an opinion from Town Attorney Henry J. Lyons, who ruled that the academy theatre building could be constructed and operated in a residence zone under the existing regulations without necessity of waivers.

The theater building is one of

several planned by the Shakespeare organization on the site which when fully developed will include approximately 12 acres with ample off-street parking. The plan calls for the theater and academy school building, a museum, library and other accessory structures.

Although no official announcement has been forthcoming, it was learned that the Shakespeare organization has completed negotiations for the purchase of the Maynard S. Wallace property at 1843 Elm street, which adjoins the acreage acquired from the Housatonic Properties, Inc.

The 14 room house on the Wallace land it was said, will be used as the academy building with classrooms and general offices of the organization. Additional classrooms and rehearsal halls will be located in the theater building.

Title searching is reported as completed and transfer of titles are expected before Sunday. Official announcements of future plans will be made during the "Celebrity-Nite" program Sunday in Stamford.

Issuance of the building permit brings to a close a controversy

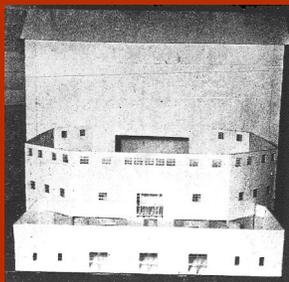
which has continued for the past six months within the Town Council as to the legality of the town leasing a tract of land in Boothe Memorial park to the theatrical group. The council had agreed to the leasing of the land in a general resolution adopted several months ago when Councilman George F. Wright, Fifth district, questioned the right of the town to lease park property without permission of the General Assembly.

Although Mr. Langner agreed to defray necessary court costs to seek a declaratory judgement in Superior court to interpret the wills of the late Stephen and David Boothe who had bequeathed [sic] the property to the town. The Shakespeare organization immediately sought a new location and completed the purchase of the new site last week.

The Shakespearean [sic] organization, chartered under the State of Connecticut as a non-profit organization will present an annual festival of Shakespeare plays similar to Stratford-on-Avon, and the festival in Stratford, Canada, as well as other classical productions.



A SECTION OF the seven acres acquired this week by the ASFTA as the probable site for the proposed Shakespeare Academy. The land is located off Shore Road and is owned by the Housatonic Boat Club.



A MODEL EXHIBIT of the proposed Shakespeare Theatre by Edward Makara. Photo from *The Stratford News*, August 12, 1954.

STRATFORD SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION BEGINS

The Bridgeport Farmer

January 30, 1912

Stratford

WOMAN SUFFRAGE WAKES AFTER 50 YEARS SLEEP.

Stratford, Centre of Movement Before the War Welcomes Speakers in Enthusiastic Meeting.

(Special to the Farmer)

Stratford, Jan. 30—After sleeping over fifty years the woman suffrage movement awoke in this town last night with a whoop and bounded into immediate popularity. In spite of the bad weather and the fact that there were other attractions in the town last night, every seat in the town hall was filled and many stood through the meeting which opened the campaign of the suffragists in this town. Over half of the audience were men and they evinced as much interest as the ladies. Mrs. William T. Hincks, of Bridgeport, president of the Connecticut Association opened the meeting and presided during the evening. She made a stirring address and was received with enthusiasm. She first introduced Edward Porritt, an Englishman who has devoted his life to suffrage for women. He told of the causes which were back of the militant suffragette movement in England and the results already

obtained. He was listened to with interest. Mrs. Porritt, his wife, followed with an elucidating talk on the aims and objects of the suffragists in this country and their methods. Miss Emily Pierson took the town audience by storm. She was applauded frequently through her address and when she finished everyone in the hall was sorry. Miss Pierson, besides having an attractive personality and a ready command of language, is apt and witty and she was frequently interrupted with enthusiastic applause. Before the close of the meeting over fifty signatures were affixed to the roll of those who favor votes for women in this town. Strange to say over half of this number were men.

Those who came to the meeting expecting to see the regulation suffrage speakers as pictured in the humorous prints, found a company of handsome, gracious and elaborately dressed women in dead earnest. There were no ranters clad in bloomers ready to bury their claws in the hair of the horrid men. The speakers immediately gained confidence and respect of the audience and retained it throughout the meeting.

The Chairman, Mrs. Hincks, read a letter from Senator Stiles Judson who is now in the Bermudas, regretting his inability to be pre-

sent at the opening meeting in this town and promising to speak for the ladies at any future meetings which he is able to attend.

This meeting was part of the trolley campaign which has been inaugurated and which covers Fairfield, New Haven and Hartford counties. Later a league will be formed in this town as enough names have already been signed to warrant such a move. The town of Stratford was one of the first to take up the movement half a century ago, but the Civil war and the questions which it involved crowded the women's movement into the shade. The hearty response which the town has made to the effort to revive it has gratified the promoters very much and the people here will have an opportunity to hear the best speakers that the country affords in the future. Had there been no other attractions billed ahead of the suffrage meeting the hall would have been too small to hold the crowd which would have been present.

The patronesses were Mrs. Arthur DeForest Wheeler, Miss Fannie Russell, Miss Myra Curtis, Mrs. D. T. Winton.

The hall was handsomely decorated with American flags and the colors of the suffragists which are purple, white and green.

STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 382, Stratford, CT 06615 • Tel. (203) 378-0630 • judsonhousestfd@aol.com

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ANNAMAE ANDREWS' SCRAPBOOKS

Annamae Andrews graduated from Stratford High in 1937. From 1932 until 1945, Annamae kept scrapbooks of newspaper photos and articles she found important or interesting. At the right are newspaper photos from June 1934 of Alice Small, Donald Cowdery, and Emmy Lou Nothnagle. Below, is one of Annamae's saved newspaper articles describing a Stratford High party. Perhaps because she retained this newspaper article, we may assume Annamae attended the party. (Note the reference to Miss Gladys Jubb as faculty adviser even at this early date in her long Stratford career).

Stratford High June 21, 1934

A "Gay Nineties" party was held at the Stratford high school recently. It was given by the U. S. History club, under the leadership of Miss Marguerite Kollar, president; Miss Gladys Jubb, and Miss Anne Paris, faculty advisors.

The entertainment was headed by Miss Suzanne Gregory. The popular songs, satire poems of that period were revived. A satire poem was given by Helen Perkowska. Marguerite Kollar sang one of the songs common in the period. A reading was presented by Jean

Sturrock. Mountaineer melodies were played and sung by Michael Bilchak. Viola Day did one of her unique dances.

Games were played and the persons with the highest scores received prizes. They were Edward Cranson and Edgar Pritchard. The commit-

tee was headed by Helen Perkowska, assisted by Miss Elsie Eklund.

The Latin club of Stratford high school enjoyed an automobile trip to New York last weekend. The Metropolitan Museum of Arts was visited. The U. S. Navy Fleet was also visited. The group enjoyed a show and supper.



Stratford Historical Society

967 Academy Hill Rd
P.O. Box 382
Stratford, CT 06615

Phone: (203) 378-0630

Fax: (203) 378-2562

E-mail: Judsonhousestfd@aol.com

newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info

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is to keep the memories alive!*

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