

THE CUPHEAG CORNER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2019



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

MARK THE DATES:

- November's General Membership Meeting: Sunday, November 24th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library
- Governing Board Meeting, Thursday, January 9th, 6pm, Stratford Town Hall, Room 213
- January's General Membership Meeting: Sunday, January 26th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library

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NOVEMBER'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, November 24th, 2:00 pm, Stratford Library Lovell Room, 2203 Main Street

Stratford Historical Society Presents:

Christopher Wigren as he discusses Connecticut's architectural gems.

Christopher Wigren doesn't want people to merely read his new book, **Connecticut Architecture: Stories of 100 Places**. He hopes we will go out and see for ourselves the state's rich variety of sites and even discover some we never knew existed. Perhaps even some that didn't make it into the book.

While Wigren was working on this 304-page compilation, a project of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, he often thought of architectural historian and preservationist Elizabeth Mills Brown. She wrote in one of her books: "Architecture is for everyone, and



Christopher Wigren

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

there's enough to go around if we'll only learn to take care of it."

Brown added: "Go out and keep your eyes open. Enjoy every bit of it, whether it's on somebody's list or not. And above all, guard it."

Wigren dedicated his book to Brown, noting she had intended to write it. But after their decades of research together, she died in 2008.

"I kind of inherited it," Wigren says during our talk in his office at the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation in Hamden. Wigren, an architectural historian, is the Trust's deputy director. He and his colleagues work out of what was once a boarding house for Eli Whitney's workers, who walked across Whitney Avenue to his factory.

Foregoing from the **Connecticut Magazine**, October 22, 2019, by Randall Beach.

"Historical training should begin not in town archives, advised a popular historian, but in the quaint old streets where men had lived."

John Richard Green, **Stray Studies from England and Italy** (London, 1876)

SOCIETY NEWS: FLORA AND MORE...

We have much news to share from 967 Academy Hill Road. First off, Flora's silhouette has been transported, as part of NPG's **Black Out** exhibit, to Birmingham, Alabama. We'll be traveling to Birmingham in November to take pictures of the exhibit. In the meantime, should you be so inclined, you may find Birmingham's online description of Flora and the **Black Out** exhibit at <https://www.artsbma.org/exhibition/blackout>.

This newsletter has been printed, intentionally, in black and white. We're hoping to save a bit of money for the society on printing costs. Should you wish a color copy of the newsletter, you may download a copy at www.stratford.historicalsociety.info.

The Society participated in the town's celebration of William Samuel Johnson Day on October 7th. Additional detail are available on page 2 of this newsletter.

The Society hosted members of the Hawley family during their reunion the first weekend of October. The Society provided a tour of the museum, Judson house, and historical Stratford sites. But for the rain, it was an enjoyable weekend.

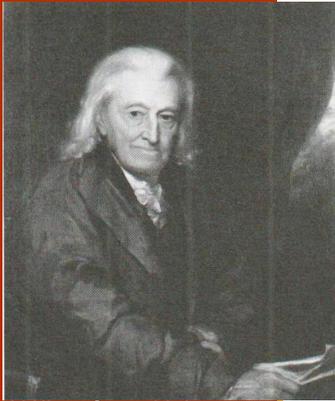
The Society participated in the Town's Arts and Culture Festival the weekend of September 7th, and the Great Pumpkin Festival on October 19th. We were able to meet a number of Stratford residents and make some new friends for the Society.

We're once again participating in Stop & Shop's Community Bag pro-

gram. Stratford Historical Society will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 Community Bag sold at Stop & Shop located at 200 East Main Street, Stratford, in the month of November. We hope you can help support this fund raiser for the Society.



WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON OBIT



William Samuel Johnson c. 1800. Photo from *In Pursuit Paradise* by Lewis Knapp.

The Bridgeport Post October 8, 1954 SERVICES HONOR DR. JOHNSON, SON

Services commemorating the birthday anniversaries of the late Dr. Samuel Johnson and his son, William Samuel Johnson, pioneers in education, and former Stratford residents, took place yesterday in Christ Episcopal church, Stratford, and at the burial ground on Monument place...



Raymond J. O'Connor, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Dean Lawrence Chamberlain of Columbia college; Patricia Cook, the Rev. Loyal Y. Graham, III, and Donald Vitko marking William Samuel Johnson's birthday. Photo from *The Bridgeport Post*, October 8, 1954.

Christ Church and the Town held wonderful commemoration services for William Samuel Johnson on October 5th and October 7th. The Society participated by opening the Judson House on October 5th.

The Town's ceremony, at Town Hall, included a recounting of Dr. Johnson's life by State Senator Kevin Kelly, a reading of a town proclamation by Mayor Hoydick, musical numbers by the Stratford High Chorus and Band, and a special flag raising lowering the Union Jack and raising the US Colonial flag of 1783.

We also located William Samuel Johnson's obituary from 1819.

Connecticut Courant

November 23, 1819

DIED—On Sunday morning, Nov. 14th, at his residence in Stratford, (Conn.) in the 93d year of his age, WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON, L. L. D. late President of Columbia College, &c.

Dr. Johnson was the eldest son of the Rev. Dr. Johnson, the first President of the College of this city, a man to whom the religion and learning of this country are indebted for many important services. He was born at Stratford, (Conn.) in 1727, and was educated at Yale College, where he received the degree of A. B. in 1744. He afterwards pursued his studies for some time at Harvard University, where he was admitted to the degree of A. M. in 1747, and his name has for several years appeared in the catalogue of that institution, as the oldest living graduate. He then applied himself to the study of the law, and his first appearance at the bar, forms an epoch in the legal history of his native state. The legal system of Connecticut was at that time, exceedingly crude, and the irregular equity by which the courts were guided was rather perplexed than enlightened, by occasional recurrence to a few of the older common law authorities, which were respected without being understood.

Dalton's Sheriff and Justice of Peace, and one or two of the older books of Precedents, formed the whole library of the bar and

the bench. General literature and taste were, if possible, at a still lower ebb among the profession. Mr. Johnson, gifted with every external grace of the orator, a voice of the finest and richest tones, a copious and flowing elocution, and a mind stored with elegant literature, appeared at the bar with a fascination of language and manner, which those who heard [sic] him had never even conceived it possible to unite with the technical address of an advocate.

At the same time, he rendered a still more important service to his countrymen, by introducing to their knowledge the liberal decisions of Lord Mansfield, the doctrines of the civilians, and afterwards (as more general questions arose) the authorities and reasonings of Grotius, Puffendorf, and the other great teachers of natural and public law.

He soon rose to the highest professional reputation, and after passing with honour through almost all the respectable elective offices of the colony, was sent in 1766 by the colonial legislature, to England, as their Agent Extraordinary, for the purpose of arguing before the royal council, a great land cause of the highest importance to the colony. He remained in England until 1771.

...During this period, the University of Oxford conferred, upon him the degree of Doctor of Civil Law, and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, on the recommendation of Sir John Pringle, who was at that time its president.

After his return to his native country, he again applied himself to his profession, and some time after was appointed one of the judges of the superior court of Connecticut. He also represented the state for some years under the old confederation. Upon the calling of the convention at Philadelphia, for the purpose of framing a new constitution for the U. S. Dr. J. was sent as delegate from his native state, in company with Ellsworth and Sherman. Here he was eminently useful. Great as the talents of that illustrious assembly were, yet its deliberations were often impeded by jarring interests and local feelings. Dr. Johnson's views were all liber-

al and national, and "seeking peace in the spirit of peace," he was frequently the happy instrument of conciliation between the jealousies and tears of the smaller states, and the claims of the great ones. The most peculiar and original feature of our government, is understood to have been suggested by him. He first proposed the organization of the senate as a distinct body, in which the state sovereignties should be equally represented and guarded, while the weight of population might be felt in the house of representatives.

On the first organization of the new constitution, Dr. J. was elected a senator in congress, and in that station largely contributed to form those institutions and to lay down those rules which were hereafter to give to the new government its energy and direction.

Among other acts of great public importance the bill for organizing the judiciary establishment of the U. S. was drawn up by him in concert with his colleague Oliver Ellsworth. This was not only a work of much labour, but of some address, as it was necessary to form a system which might not only answer the great ends of public justice, but at the same time preserve a great uniformity in the mode of its administration and maintain the authority of the national government, without encroaching upon the state jurisdictions or rudely innovating upon their established forms of practice.

About this period Columbia College which had fallen into decay during the war, was reorganized and began to attract some share of public attention and patronage. In 1792 Dr. Johnson was elected to the presidency and continued to fill that station with great dignity and usefulness until 1800, when in consequence of the infirmities of advancing age he resigned his office and returned to his native village, where he has ever since resided.

...His name is strongly associated with many of our most valuable institutions, and will continue to be venerable, as it has long been dear, to his countrymen.

N. Y. Evening Post.

DATELINE STRATFORD OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1954

The Hartford Courant
October 12, 1954
1755 Johnson Letter Among
Items to be Presented to DAR
Tuesday

Washington, Oct. 11—A letter written by William Samuel Johnson of Stratford to Oliver Wolcott at Litchfield, and a receipt for a debenture of the Superior Court signed by Roger Sherman are the two Connecticut items in the collection of letters and papers by signers of the United States Constitution to be formally presented to the national society DAR here Tuesday.

The Stratford News
October 21, 1954

PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR the Shakespeare Theater and Academy have been released this week by theater officials. The plans call for the theater site in the center of the Shore Road area surrounded by the Elizabethan Gardens and adequate parking areas. Seventy-five percent of the project funds have been raised to date with the remaining funds needed by January 1st in order to have the theater operating by next Summer.

Sunday Herald
October 24, 1954
Gold Shovels to Start Shakespeare Theater

Katharine Cornell and Mrs. Francesca Lodge will turn the Stratford soil today at 4 o'clock in a co-starting, historic performance to mark the birth of America's Shakespeare Theater.

"Digging Shakespeare the most," the distinguished actress and the Governor's wife will each operate a beribboned, all-gold shovel, before a super-celeb audience.

The Hartford Courant
November 4, 1954
Army Approval Asked For Housatonic Bridge
BOSTON, Nov. 3 (AP) - The New

England Division of the Army Engineers Corps announced today that the Connecticut State Highway Department has asked approval of plans to build a fixed highway bridge across the Housatonic River between Stratford and Milford, Conn.

...The bridge apparently will be part of the \$400,000,000 expressway Connecticut is building between Greenwich and Killingly.

Sunday Herald
November 7, 1954
Good Living Homes

There's a new kind of home development debuting today in Stratford—Good Living Homes, which despite their amazingly low prices include features never before offered in Connecticut.

Two model homes—a split level and a ranch—will be open for your inspection today from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and continuing throughout the week during the same hours. (Freeman and Ferndale Avenues).

The Stratford News
November 18, 1954
Theater Exec. To Address Historians

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Stratford Historical Society will be held Friday, November 19 at 8 p.m. in the Methodist Hall.

New officers scheduled to take over their duties at the meeting include: Robert W. Scott, president; Mrs. W. Earle Hawley, first vice-president; Elliott W. Peck, second vice-president; Mrs. G. T. Greeley, third vice-president; and Anne Richardson, recording secretary.

Also Mrs. Rexford Nettleton, corresponding secretary; Edmund H. Judson Jr., treasurer; Mrs. Clark P. Lane, membership chairman; Lucy McCabe, program chairman; Mrs. Herbert Parsons, hospitality; Mrs. John Richardson, memorials; Mrs. Frank Sammis, house chairman; Mrs. Edmund H. Judson Jr.,

publicity; and W. Howard Wilcoxson, historian.

Guest speaker will be Richard Grayson, who will discuss "Shakespeare Comes to Stratford on the Housatonic." Mr. Grayson is the Executive Coordinator of the American Shakespeare Festival Theater and Academy. He has had wide stage experience and recently appeared on the United States Steel Television program.

Mrs. Herbert Parsons, hospitality chairman, will be assisted by Mrs. Rexford Nettleton, Mrs. Arthur Amiott and Mrs. Clarissa Wilson.

The Stratford News
November 26, 1954
Paraders 19, Milford 13

Stratford's North Paraders, behind a hard-running running ground attack and a rugged defense, handed Milford High School a 19-13 defeat in the annual Thanksgiving Day duel witnessed by more than 5,500 fans at Washington Field.

The win marked the 13th time in the 32-year old series that Stratford has won. They have also lost 13 games and tied seven.

A steady ground attack led by Tony Carbone, Joe Butovsky and John Hajus netted a total of 175 yards and kept the Paraders in charge throughout.

Sunday Herald
November 28, 1954
Stratford Society Offers To Erect 16-inch Telescope

Stratford star-gazers will get a brand new observatory, complete with a 16" telescope, if the town council accepts a proposal made this week by the Boothe Memorial Astronomical Society, Inc.

Albert Farian, Society president, has announced that the group has offered to construct an observatory and telescope on the Western-most edge of town-owned Boothe Memorial Park.



Lions Club and Pattie Gunther, **The Stratford News**, October 14, 1954.



Holy Name Doves Little League Title Winners, **The Stratford News**, October 14, 1954.



Polka Dot Playhouse actors rehearsing for "Mrs. McThing" play, **Sunday Herald**, October 31, 1954.



Tony Carbone scores winning TD against Milford (19-13) in Thanksgiving Day game, **The Stratford News**, November 26, 1954.

NOW SHOWING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1954



Stratford Theater c 1946

October 3rd	Egyptian	Edmund Purdom, Gene Tierney, Gene Simmons
October 10th	Rear Window	James Stewart, Grace Kelly
October 17th	The Shanghai Story	Ruth Roman, Edmund O'Brien
October 24th	Sabrina	Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, William Holden
October 31st	Woman's World	Clifton Webb, June Allison, Van Heflin, Lauren Bacall
November 7th	Brigadoon	Gene Kelly, Van Johnson, Cyd Charisse
November 14th	Sitting Bull	J. Carrol Naish, Dale Robertson
November 21st	Bengal Brigade	Rock Hudson, Arlene Dahl
November 28th	Four Guns to the Border	Rory Calhoun, Colleen Miller, Walter Brennan

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1920-2020

WOMEN VOTE

Connecticut Suffrage Centennial

The official website for Connecticut's celebration of the Suffrage Centennial is <https://votesforwomenct.com>.



Edith Hastings photo from *The Suffrage News Bulletin*, August 1918, Hartford.



Plaque (above) reads:
In Memory of
Edith Hastings
Planted by the Stratford
League of
Women Voters
November 1925.

Plaque and oak tree dedicated to Edith Hastings on Academy Hill facing the Judson House.

CT STATE SUFFRAGE CELEBRATIONS

The year 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th amendment giving all female U.S. citizens the right to vote. Your Historical Society plans to participate with the state in observing the centennial celebrations. Among other things we will be doing, we will be recognizing, here in our newsletter some of the Stratford women who made significant contributions to our town and country.

You may be interested in what other towns in Connecticut will be doing to mark the centennial Suffrage year. Connecticut's official Suffrage Centennial website is <https://votesforwomenct.com> where you may follow along with what the state and towns are doing in observance of the Centennial.

One fun way to mark the Centennial Celebration would be to participate in the 19th Amendment Centennial Scavenger Hunt. You may learn more about the scavenger hunt at <https://www.ctbar.org/events-education/19th-amendment-centennial-scavenger-hunt>.

For the month of November, we'd like to recognize Stratford's best known "Suffragette", Edith Hastings. Edith was involved in every aspect of Stratford's Suffrage movement. She went on to become one of the founders of the Connecticut League of Women's Voters.

In the Historical Society's March 1999 *Update* Newsletter page 2 reads:

In 1925 the Stratford League of Women Voters planted an Oak Tree on Academy Hill...We are interested in learning more about Edith Hastings, and would appreciate receiving information concerning her and the League.

While it may be 20 years later, we have found much information about Miss Hastings. Her name appeared with regularity in our local newspapers. Her fellow Stratford Suffragette's fondly remembered her with a monument on Academy Hill which stands to this day facing the Judson House.

From a paper by Mrs. Charles Downing Lay

As I remember them, the organizers and charter members of the Stratford Woman Suffrage Association were a group of exceptional women, educated probably above the average. Most of them, I believe, housewives rather than the professional or working class, with some time to devote to civic affairs and a keen appreciation of the possible value of a woman outside as well as inside the home. Not one of them was of the militant suffragette or feminist type and, as I said before, they responded to the call and became an inconspicuous perhaps but none the less necessary cog in the machine which they believed necessary to strengthen and enlarge their sphere of usefulness. Among them Mrs. LeRoy Lewis started her political career as first president, **Miss Edith Hastings, never to be forgotten for her devotion, seldom holding office but always a power and drive behind those who had to do the difficult jobs.**

Mrs. Sherwood Day, one of several who had a mind of her own besides a family to care for, and the invaluable unmarried women, Miss Alice Judson and Miss Maude Hull. I could go on recalling the splendid work of Mrs. Frank Sammis, Mrs. Rosella Lovell, Miss Frances Russell always active in town affairs, and Mrs. Sterling Filmer who later served on the school board. All these and their successors did much that was like missionary and teaching work to bring about the ratification in Connecticut of the Federal Amendment for equal suffrage.

Automobiles were not so numerous in those days and the few of us who could drive spent many hours calling from house to house with petitions to be signed and sometimes stopping to argue. Others attempted to talk to people at the county fairs and make appearances before the legislature in Hartford where we were always at least courteously listened to. This sort of thing was of course going on simultaneously all over the country and when one stops to think of it, one can account for the rapid increase of knowledge in the field of practical

politics women were acquiring and how they were preparing themselves for the recognition which some of them have received.

Edith Hastings

The Bridgeport Telegram
February 18, 1925

WOMEN VOTERS TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF MISS HASTINGS

STRATFORD, Feb. 17.—(By Telegram Service.) ... Miss Edith Hastings,...who for many years played an active role in the movement for equal rights...

Miss Hastings was one of the pioneers in the woman suffrage movement in Connecticut. For many years, she worked in the movement to secure the vote for women and after equal suffrage had become a fact, she continued her activities as a member of the Stratford League of Women Voters. She was well known throughout Fairfield county and the state for her active work in the woman's political movement, attended many conventions and meetings, and even when the infirmities of age came upon her, maintained an active interest in the woman's movement.

Miss Hastings was also interested in the parish work of Christ Episcopal church,... She lived for years in the beautiful old Hastings mansion at Elm street and Stratford avenue, where many gatherings of women interested in the subject of the participation of women in politics were held.



A bronze tablet located on the ground floor inside the south entrance to the Connecticut Capitol building honors the women from Connecticut that led the fight for women's suffrage. **Edith Hastings** is the only Stratford woman named on the plaque (center column, top row).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE GROUNDBREAKING

Sunday Herald

October 24, 1954

Gold Shovels to Start Shakespeare Theater

Katharine Cornell and Mrs. Francesca Lodge will turn the Stratford soil today at 4 o'clock in a co-starring historic performance to mark the birth of America's Shakespeare Theater.

"Digging Shakespeare the most," the distinguished actress and the Governor's wife will each operate a beribboned, all-gold shovel, before a super-celeb audience.

MAURICE EVANS HERE

Maurice Evans will speak. He is expected also to close the ceremonies with a reading from the Stratford, England-born bard.

Almost as historic as the ground-breaking will be the watchers: Judith Anderson, Basil Rathbone, Blanche Yurka, Betty Field, Madeleine Carroll, Studio One's Worthington Miner, Jean Dalrymple, Peggy Wood.

Lawrence Langner, father of the non-profit project what will build a theater on the Housatonic River exactly like the one over the Thames where Shakespeare was first played, will speak.

The assemblage include William Gaxton, Clarence Derwent, Frances Fuller, Viveca Lindfors, and Gladys Swarthout.—E.B.

The Hartford Courant

October 25, 1954

Stage Stars Break Ground For Shakespeare Theater

STRATFORD, Oct 24 (AP)- Prominent stage personalities took part today in ground breaking ceremonies for the American Shakespearian Theater and Academy, hailed as an institution that will make Stratford "a mecca for theater lovers throughout the world."

A modernized version of London theater of Shakespeare's time is to be built in a natural, broad amphitheater on a 12-acre site overlooking the Housatonic River.

500 Attend Ceremonies

Lawrence Langner of the Theater Guild chairman of the board of trustees of the Shakespeare Foundation, told a crowd of 500 at today's ceremony that if money-raising plans go as expected, the theater will see its first production next summer.

Three - quarters of the necessary \$500,000 already has been raised, he said, and if the balance is received by Jan. 1, the theater can begin operating next summer.

Maurice Evans, noted for his portrayals of Hamlet, Richard II and MacBeth, expressed confidence the schedule would be met.

"Stratford will become a mecca for theater lovers throughout the world

when the new Shakespearian Theater is opened next summer." he said. "The great thing about this theater is that actors and actresses will, at long last, have a place in which to practice their craft."

Lodges Have Part

Gov. Lodge and his wife, the former Francesca Braggiotti, both former actors, had a part in the ceremony. Mrs. Lodge and Katharine Cornell, introduced as the first lady of the American stage, turned the first shovels full of earth.

The Governor, unable to attend, sent this message, read by Mrs. Lodge:

"The influence of Shakespeare in America has been profound, and we in Connecticut take special pride that the great dramatist, the creator of so much beauty, is to be specially honored in our state."

Settled On Site

Noting that in 1639 the original settlers of Stratford disembarked on the theater's site, Miss Cornell said:

"They brought with them as a heritage the King James version of the Bible and the language of William Shakespeare. Today, we of the American theater dedicate this land to the genius of the poet whose immortal plays will serve forever as a bond among the peoples of the world."



Actress Katharine Cornell, Council Chair D. James Morey, and actor Maurice Evans break ground for the Shakespeare Theatre. Photo from **The Hartford Courant**, October 25, 1954.

PROPOSED NEW BLUE GOOSE INN

The Bridgeport Post

October 1, 1954

Thruway Moves Blue Goose Inn

Stratford's oldest eating place and meeting room for civic, fraternal and social organizations is to be torn down to make way for the thruway, the Spada family, owners of Spada's Blue Goose Inn, on Ferry Boulevard, announced today.

Louis Spada and his four sons, E. Frederick, Frank, Andrew and Ernest, who have operated the inn many years, hope to replace it with a modern structure to cost \$125,000 and have applied to the Town Planning and Zoning board for necessary zone changes on Ferry Boulevard south of Willow avenue...

The plan calls for a building of modern structure, with a seating capacity of 500 person. There will be a cocktail lounge, two dining rooms, tavern room and director's room.

Provision has been made for off street parking of 225 autos. The place will be completely air conditioned and the exterior will be landscaped.

The present building housing the Blue Goose Inn was erected late in 1700, according to the town history, and has been used as an eating place more than a quarter of a century.

Sunday Herald

October 3, 1954

Council's on Spot In Liquor Bottle

Stratford's "battle of the petitions" is headed back to the Town Council with 2,000 checked, re-checked and triple-checked signatures still demanding that the Council rescind its action in eliminating a liquor-outlet provision from the zoning regulations.

Town Clerk W. Howard Wilcoxson admitted yesterday that all the extra

checking was for naught and that the backers of the petitions have more than enough legitimate signers.

TEST WEDNESDAY

The Council meets Oct. 11 and will have to decide whether to change its position or throw the entire liquor question open to a referendum.

Before the Council eliminated it, the controversial provision made it impossible to establish any liquor business in a residential zone.

The first test of the Council action may come Wednesday evening when the Planning and Zoning Board hears the application of Ernest Spada of the Blue Goose Restaurant.

He is seeking a change in zone for property on Ferry Blvd. so that he can erect a new liquor-serving restaurant, which would replace his thruway-kayoed eatery.

Carl Tuthill, president of the Lordship Improvement Assn., said that his group discussed the Spada appli-

cations at meeting late in the week.

"Several Lordship residents will question the legality of the Planning Board hearing while no decision has been reached on the petitions," he said.



Spada's Blue Goose Inn c. 1933.

UNCHARITABLE TOWN SELECTMEN

2020 Calendar of Meetings

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

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

New Business Member

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our newest business member:

American Rosie the Riveter Association—Corsair Chapter

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer

October 22, 1869
"Ephraim's" Stratford Gossip.

We have striven ever since we assumed the cognomen of "Ephraim" to avoid all personal or degrading allusions in that which we have so feebly written; but, notwithstanding this we have done what seemed to be our duty in recording events of interest to the public and in censuring that which is wholly wrong. A case has been related to us which happened recently, in which it is reported our newly-elected Republican selectmen forgot the golden rule and the practice of the duties which one man owes another when placed in imminent peril. It seems, as our informant relates, that a respectable young man (probably without a friend in this section of the State,) was walking upon the New Haven railroad, some rods east of the depot, and was taken violently, and, it was feared, dangerously sick, and was forced to lie down upon the bank. At this time, one of those honest, christian people who live up to what they preach, discovered and approached him with "What is the matter, my friend?" But the upturned face of

the invalid gave expressions of pain and sickness which the tongue could not describe, and he was accordingly assisted into an adjoining building, when this charitable person immediately set to work applying remedies to relieve the distressed man. Believing that the aid of a physician was necessary, he wended is way to the residence of the selectman in his district, informed him of the case, and requested that Dr. Gray be called to attend the unfortunate man. As might have been expected, the only consoling words be received were in substance: "The case is beyond my jurisdiction - I have no power vested in me to employ a doctor for an unknown traveler, and besides it will cost the town three dollars, perhaps." This took our good hearted citizen by surprise—confounded him to almost speechlessness, and after a few unavailing remarks started for another one of these "great moral idea men" in another section of the town, only to be to a like manner repulsed in his errand of mercy. He immediately turned upon his heel and started for home where he arrived to find fortunately that the stranger had become greatly relieved and invigorated by his applications

and was indeed comfortable. We will not go into further details in regard to his medical care, but will say that the gentleman who manifested his good will toward a fellow sufferer went about among the neighbors to raise a subscription to aid in defraying the stranger's expenses to the east, and that he was quite successful at a house near the Methodist Church, where lives a lady who is the treasurer of some fund for the benefit of the poor, and who, upon learning the circumstances, with an heart overflowing with sympathy, untied the purse strings, and out rolled the money sufficient for the sufferer. The young man, when able, took his departure, feeling immeasurably [sic] grateful for the kindness. There are four of our townspeople alluded to in this article; draw the contrast between the two functionaries and the two latter models of human society. There is room for an abundance of comment, but it is useless to waste valuable space in decrying the purity of the Radical office holders. Just let us see, Messrs. Selectmen, should another such case happen, a spark of humanity in your conduct.

FRANCIS BRENNAN FOLLOWUP

As a follow-up to our January 2019 newsletter story, "**It's a Wonderful Life—Stratford Style**", we were pleased to come across the following news story of Mr. Brennan being recognized for his heroic efforts in rescuing three boys from drowning late in 1943 and early 1944.

The Hartford Courant October 28, 1944 Stratford Housing Director Awarded Carnegie Bronze Medal For Heroism

Pittsburgh, Oct. 27.—AP.—Francis J. Brennan of Bridgeport, Conn., director of the Stratford, Conn., Housing Authority, has been awarded a Bronze Medal for saving two boys from drowning in a Stratford pond two days before Christmas last year, the Carnegie Hero Fund Association announced today.

Brennan, who is 60 years old, is

head of a stone contracting firm, a former Bridgeport fire commissioner and was Democratic candidate for Fairfield County Sheriff four years ago.

A resume of the deed for which he was awarded the medal, released by the Carnegie Commission, reads:

"Brennan saved Kenneth A. and Robert E. Mackas, aged seven and nine, respectively, from drowning at Stratford, Conn., December 23, 1943.

Robert walked on ice on a pond close to an area of open water that extended 20 feet from the bank; and the ice broke under him. He got hold of the ice. Kenneth ran on the ice to Robert, broke through, and got on Robert's back.

"Brennan, fully clothed, waded from the bank and then swam 12 feet, took hold of Kenneth, and swam 15 feet to wadeable water. Brennan then swam toward Robert. When he was 10

feet from Robert, the ice which Robert held broke; and Robert was submerged.

"Brennan swam under the surface to a point a foot under the ice, took hold of Robert's jacket, swam backwards, and rose in the open water. He then swam with effort, towing Robert to wadeable water."

We also, recently, found a **Bridgeport Evening Post** report of an earlier pond rescue in Stratford. On October 29, 1894, one Lewis Burritt, a clerk in the employ of the L.H. Todd & Co. (forerunner of the H.C. Lovell Co.), rescued a young daughter of W. E. Hine's from a watery grave in "Silbys pond". Mr. Burritt bravely jumped in and rescued the girl. The parents are very grateful to the young man.

Stratford has raised some amazing citizens over its long history!



FRANCIS J. BRENNAN.

Francis Brennan from the October 28, 1944 **Hartford Courant**

HOW ABOUT SOME THANKSGIVING DAY FOOTBALL?

Bridgeport Evening Post
November 30, 1894
SUBURBAN NEWS
The Foot Ball Game

If as is reported the Seaside of Bridgeport expected a "cinch" in their game with the Osceolas yesterday they got it in the neck instead, and scored only one touchdown, through a fluke failing to kick goal. The two sides lined up at 9:30, Stratford holding the ball. Seaside tried to get it but Stephens, F. B. to Osceolas, passed it to Captain Coe who flew over the field and got a touchdown in splendid style. Seaside took the ball but lost it and the Osceolas got it almost to goal but fumbled it; Seaside recaptured it and carried it easily over their goal, this was the only

score they got and it counted for four. The next touchdown went to Osceolas but they had to fight for it; the Seaside did some of their heaviest playing in this bout and several of the Stratford boys were put to sleep, but the ball kept moving yard by yard toward Stratford goal until by a skilful [sic] manouver [sic] Stephens made a touchdown with Seaside in hot but hopeless chase. J. J. Chaffe was referee and Edwin Moore of Bridgeport umpire. The game was witnessed by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, several of the latter were between 60 and 75 years old.

Another Match.

Immediately following the foot ball game between the Osceolas and

Seaside on the Warwick avenue grounds was a match between the T.A.C.'s of Bridgeport and the Eagle Athletic club of this town on the Bunnell grounds. Play was called at 11 o'clock with the kick off by the visiting club. The home eleven soon returned the ball to the centre of the field where it remained for most of the first half. At the sound of the referee's whistle the ball was in the territory of the home team, with no score to either's credit. The friends of both teams were present in large numbers and at the beginning of the second half they made the air resound with cheers for their respective teams.

The battle was fiercely waged and after about fifteen minutes the ball

was carried by the Eagles into the T.A.C.'s territory. At one time the Eagles only lacked about five feet of making a touchdown but their opponents put forth every possible exertion and by almost miraculous play worked the ball down into the Eagle's territory where it remained until the end of the half neither side having scored.

With the exception of a trifling scrapping match between two of the players at the latter part of the game, the contest was a very clean one. Both teams evidently were well matched. Especially good was the tackling of Will Wheeler who without doubt at two different stages of the game prevented the T.A.C.s from scoring...

VEEP VISITS STRATFORD

While the story of Vice-president Henry Wallace's visit to Stratford was a full-page story in the **Sunday Herald**, it received scant notice in **The Stratford News**.

The Stratford News
November 3, 1944

Vice President Wallace and Party Stop in North Parade

Touring Fairfield County in the interests of Democratic candidates, Vice President Henry A. Wallace made a brief pause in North Parade late Thursday morning, being greeted by a crowd of voters and about the entire population of Stratford High School.

The vice president was received formally, by Council Chairman Carleton

C. Schwable, as head of the town government.

Mr. Wallace's motorcade started from Bridgeport for a general tour of the county. The vice president was accompanied by Miss Margaret Connors, candidate for congress, and by other local nominees.

Dismissal of the High School pupils in order that they might see Mr. Wallace threw recollections back for four years; the student body was released briefly in 1940 when Wendell L. Willkie stopped at the same spot.

Sunday Herald
November 5, 1944

Wallace Tells Why FDR

Needs Maggie

Vice Pres. Henry A. Wallace came to Fairfield county Thursday..From the campus of Stratford High school, where Maggie (Margaret F. Connors) tossed her flowers among 2,000 deliriously happy school children, to Greenwich, where they addressed a packed auditorium, the Democratic congressional nominee and her guest presented a picture of wholesome sincerity.

Here was a man whose practical achievements as a farmer, and whose unquestioned Americanism have won for him the respect and admiration of his bitterest political foes...



Margaret Connors, VP Wallace chat in Stratford with, l to r, Atty. Mary Coughlin Hausman, Mrs Dennis Kellen, and James Paul Warburg. **Bridgeport Herald**, November 5, 1944.

REMEMBERING JOHN D. POOLE

It is with a great deal of remorse that we announce the passing of our friend, and Building & Grounds chairman, John D. Poole. John came to our Society Governing Board a couple of years ago to offer his support and advice as the President of the Derby Historical Society. John's expertise in fund raising, governance, and old buildings was much welcomed by the Governing Board. John always had helpful suggestions when called upon for his opinion, or advice, on matters related to running the affairs of an

historical society.

John's interests and talents were many and varied. We offer the following from John's obituary in the Connecticut Post:

John D. Poole, age 59 of Milford, passed away at home with hospice care on October 26, 2019. John was born in Bronxville, NY, September 25, 1960, son of the late John R. and Josephine Chmiel Poole. John was a lifelong Stratford resident and graduated from Stratford High School class of 1978, SCSU class of 1983, and NYU Tandon School of Engineering

class of 1988. He recently retired from a long career as a Computer Software Engineer, most recently with Oracle Fusion Adaptive Intelligence. Among his many activities and interests were rowing as a member of the New Haven Rowing Club, and historic preservation as a member of Milford Preservation Trust, the Stratford Historical Society, and as President of the Derby Historical Society. He also had a passion for Colonial-era Timber frame homes and Sustainable Green Energy Home Restoration.



John Poole at the Judson House September 2015. Photo from John's Facebook profile pictures.

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. Below 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 committee 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 Pupils Are Awarded Pins



Oct. 20, 1934 Post-Telegram photo—Matthewson
Those who have received scholarship-leadership pins at the Stratford high school are: (left to right) First row: Paul Lips, Murray Owen, Alan Storrs, William Lawrence, Thomas Gleason, Donald Cowdery. Second row: June Len, Selma Bliss, Lillian Bassette, Dorothy Stegeman, Eleanor Swanson, Cornelia Goddard. Third row: Jennie Blonde, Rita Coughlin, Evelyn Happel, Dorothy Cotton, Kathryn Hall, Edith Caswira, Evelyn Piepenbring, Louis Kramer, senior, also received a pin, but was not present when the picture was taken. Mrs. Laura Osterlund of the Stratford League of Women Voters made the presentations.

Arranging Stratford High Social



Oct. 23, 1934 Post-Telegram photo—Matthewson
Officers of the Senior class of Stratford high school are members of the committee arranging for a Hallowe'en masquerade dance in the school auditorium Thursday evening. The class officers are: (left to right) Katherine Frazier, treasurer; Richard Mitchell, president; Dorothy Cotton, vicepresident; Eleanor Swanson, secretary. Miss Imelda Goyette is the senior advisor.



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

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