

# THE CUPHEAG CORNER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 4

MARCH 2020



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

## MARK THE DATES:

- March's General Membership Meeting: Sunday, March 29th at 2:00 pm at the Perry House
- Governing Board Meeting, Thursday, March 19th, 6pm, Stratford Town Hall, Room 213
- Governing Board Meeting, Thursday, April 16th, 6pm, Stratford Town Hall, Room 213

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## MARCH'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, March 29th, 2:00 pm, William Perry House, 1128 West Broad Street

**S**tratford Historical Society Presents:

### Naming a Town Forest

In Lew Knapp's monumental tome, *In Pursuit of Paradise*, he wrote, "...They bought a couple hundred acres, then brought in a state forester to mark the diseased trees to cut; the land and trees remaining with thousands of new evergreens set out by the unemployed, became Roosevelt Forest. Don Sammis would never say which Roosevelt it was named for". But, is that really the case?

David Wright has spent a number of hours walking Roosevelt Forest and leading walks through the Forest for Chapel School, Friends of Remington Woods, Friends of Roosevelt Forest, Stratford Recreation Department, the



David Wright at Roosevelt Forest, September 2012

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

Great Stratford Bird Festival, Roosevelt Forest Day, and National Trails Day.

Over the years, many mysteries about the Forest have been uncovered and answers to those mysteries have been sought. How old is the Forest? Are the trees in Roosevelt Forest those the original settlers saw there? Why are there remnants of a rock quarry in Roosevelt Forest? Why is there a police gun firing range in Roosevelt Forest? Is Roosevelt Forest haunted? Are only residents of Stratford allowed into the Forest? For whom, or what, was Roosevelt Forest named?

These, and other questions, will be examined in a lively presentation of **Naming a Town Forest**. Please join us March 29th at the Perry House.

"History is a landscape, and, like those of nature, it is continually changing. Two persons who look at it at the same time do not find in it the same charm, and you yourself, if you had it continually before your eyes, would never see it twice alike."

**The Salt-Box House: Eighteenth Century Life in a New England Hill Town**  
Jane De Forest Shelton, 1900

## "I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU LUCY STONE"

As part of Stratford's year long commemoration of the 1920 enactment of the Equal Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, we have scheduled some wonderful events. The first of which will be held May 28th at Town Hall.

**History At Play** has garnered nationwide attention for their one-woman living history performances, chronicling the lives of legendary women who changed society. The fiery performance **I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone** has received accolades from journalists, actors, and historians alike and was featured on the WGBH Forum, a series of lectures and performances selected by WGBH to be streamed online. Now, in honor of the 2020 centennial celebration for Women's Suffrage, Lucy

Stone travels to Stratford, CT on **Thursday, May 28th, 2020** to the Stratford Town Hall (2725 Main Street, Stratford) to tell her incredible story at **7:30 pm** in a one-time only event sponsored by the Stratford Historical Society and underwritten by the Mayor's Charitable Golf Tournament Fund. This 60-minute presentation is suitable for all ages. Followed by a Q&A session. Free and open to the public. For more information see [www.townofstratford.com/19thamendment](http://www.townofstratford.com/19thamendment) or call 203-378-0630.

In this presentation of **I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone**, History At Play Founder and Artistic Director Judith Kalaora is Lucy Stone: The first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree, a fierce abolitionist, and women's rights activist. Challenging discrimi-

nation is not easy, but Lucy Stone is never one to take the easy road. Even Susan B. Anthony credited Lucy Stone for her involvement in the tumultuous women's rights movement. The fight for suffrage is ferocious, so come along for the ride!



Judith Kalaora as Lucy Stone.  
Photo by Chris Cavalier  
Photography

## STRATFORD'S SUFFRAGE CELEBRATIONS

1920-2020  
**100**

### WOMEN VOTE

Connecticut Suffrage Centennial

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



Paige Hoydick at Stratford's Town Council Meeting, January 13th, 2020.

*"...Stratford is the banner suffrage town in the state."*  
**Bridgeport Evening Farmer,**  
October 17, 1912

And, with the foregoing in mind, Stratford kicked off its yearlong commemoration of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the constitution which gave the vote to all adult citizens of the United States regardless of gender. Stratford was home to many unique and special women, and men, who fought long and hard to obtain equal suffrage for women. Partnering with the Town of Stratford, the Society is hosting several events through the end of 2020 to commemorate the ratification of the 19th amendment.

At each Town Council Meeting from January through December, young women from the two Stratford high schools will be highlighting a leader in the Stratford Suffrage Association. In January, Mayor Hoydick's daughter, Paige, described one of Stratford's early Suffrage leaders, Vivanna Snowden. In February, Risa McLaughlin made a presentation to the Town Council on the life of Alice Judson. On March 9th, a Stratford High

School student will make a presentation to the Town Council on well-known Suffrage leader, Edith Hastings.

On May 28th at Town Hall, the one woman play, *I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone*, will be presented at 7:30pm. September 14th there will be a special flag raising and honor roll presentation, followed by coffee and pastries, at Town Hall, honoring Stratford's Suffrage leaders. On October

22nd, there will be a special presentation at 7:30 pm at Town Hall entitled *"African-American Suffragettes and Black Women"*. Lastly, in mid-December, there will be a tea and special Suffrage celebration at Town Hall. More details will be forthcoming on all the foregoing events. All events are being underwritten by the Mayor's Golf Tournament Charitable Fund.



CONNECTICUT WOMEN WHO ATTENDED THE NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONVENTION. Photo from the February 29, 1920 *Bridgeport Herald*. Katherine Luddington, President of the Connecticut Women's Suffrage Association is seated second from the left. Edith Hastings, long time Stratford Suffrage leader, is seated at the extreme right of this photo.

## REMEMBERING MARGE JACARUSO

We lost a good friend and long time Society volunteer in January. We've written about Marge in prior issues of this newsletter, so we won't reiterate our accolades to Marge. In Marge's honor, however, we offer the following paragraphs written about a one-time very active Stratford park, Avon Park. This article was published just a dozen months, or so, after Marge's birth in the neighborhood of Avon Park.

**The Stratford Times**  
July 10, 1914  
**AVON PARK**

*The connecting land between Stratford and Bridgeport on Stratford avenue is one of the best sections of this town but now idle and partly unhealthy for the people on account of its being low*

*with no drainage from the swamps. It is easy and requires only a small cost and good will on the part of a few owners of the land.*

*This land will give a beautiful scenery if we clean it and dig the swamps with dynamite those putting the springs in good condition. The land could be planted over with beautiful trees and shrubs, the fishes would be in the brooks and birds would make the place a home.*

*The price of the land would be raised and the welfare of the people owing the improved sanitary conditions be bettered. A nature center would be cultivated with the home of the flora, and funa [sic] that would he made and would help make our town become a modern city.*

CARL HAMESEDER.

Avon Park was lost, and now, sadly, we've lost one of Avon Park's best friends. We miss your attendance at our Tuesday and Thursday lunches at the Society, dear Marge!



From a Contract Plating Company photo of September 26, 1944. We believe, standing to Ray O'Connor's left, is a 31 year old Marge Jacaruso.



Marge Jacaruso.  
Photo from the *Connecticut Post*,  
January 31, 2020.



# DATELINE STRATFORD FEBRUARY-MARCH 1955

**The Stratford News**

February 10, 1955

**LORDSHIP NOTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lordship PTA will be held on Wednesday, February 16, at 8 p.m., in the school auditorium, at which time the annual observance of Founder's Day will be celebrated. All past presidents of the organization have been invited to attend and the special feature of the evening will be an "Old Fashioned Community Sing" with members of the Father's Club lending their assistance. Stan Heiden will be Master of Ceremonies. Mrs. Carolyn Underhill will conduct the business meeting.

**Sunday Herald**

February 13, 1955

**Bitter Firemen: We'd Strike If We Could**

Stratford's firefighters, bitter over their defeat on the Griffenhagen pay plan at the hands of a "politically dominated group," talked angrily yesterday about a strike they'll never call.

"There'd be a strike today, if the contract didn't forbid it," said Arthur Peterson, vice-president, and George Charak, executive board president of Stratford Firefighter's Local 938.

...The firefighters object to the Merit System on grounds it will lead to apple polishing and dissension. They also object to the six-year pay schedule of the Griffenhagen plan.

In a show of hands, only six town employees voted in favor of the plan, while nearly 200 voted against it.

**The Stratford News**

February 17, 1955

**COUNCIL PLANS PERMANENT BLEACHERS**

The Town Council plans to include an item of \$2,500 in the budget for the next fiscal year as the start of a program to replace the present wooden bleachers in Longbrook Park with permanent bleachers. The Council

arrived at its decision because it felt that instead of construction of a storage building and the annual item of \$1,000 or more for maintenance of the wooden bleachers, it would be better if the replacement program could be started next year. A bid for the metal bleachers will be asked in the near future. It is expected that the seating capacity will be increased to 8,000.

**The Hartford Courant**

February 23, 1955

**Britons Are Urged To Aid Stratford, Conn., Theater**

LONDON, Feb. 22 (AP) - The Daily Telegraph urged Britons today to help furnish the American Shakespeare Festival Theater at Stratford, Conn.

"It is worth recalling that Americans subscribed at least a third of the cost of our own Stratford Theater," the Telegraph said in an editorial.

"Currency restrictions prevent any similar generosity on our part, but gifts of costumes, relics and models might be a suitable token of British good will."

**The Stratford News**

February 24, 1955

**STRATFORD RANKED FIFTH IN STATE**

Stratford's basketball team, sporting an overall record of 15-4 and ranked fifth in the Class A tournament ratings, will make its first tournament appearance Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 p.m. against tenth-seeded Hamden of New Haven. The New Haven Arena pairing will be the second game of a twin-bill which will see Hartford Bulkeley and Milford squaring off in the first contest. Coach Ray Needham's crew, making its third straight appearance in the state finals, will be out to make amends for last year's showing when it bowed in its opener to Hartford Public.

**The Stratford News**

February 24, 1955

**New Jewish Community Center**

The new \$100,000 Jewish Community Center will be built on Huntington Road with ground breaking ceremonies to take place March 6 at 4 p.m. The project is scheduled to be completed in July when special exercises will take place in connection with the National Jewish Tercentenary celebration. Contracts for construction have been awarded to the Rizzitelli Construction, Co. with Eaton & Cowperthwait architects. Mrs. Theodore Koskoff is in charge of arrangements for the ground breaking ceremonies and Dr. Theodore Spivack is president of the organization.



Stratford State Rep, Rose Prokop, left; Trumbull State Rep, Beulah Blackman, right. **Sunday Herald**, February 6, 1955.

**Sunday Herald**

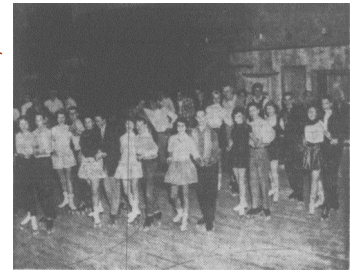
February 27, 1955

**Stratford Shakespeare Boom Fogged by Liquor**

Stratford's dream of a Shakespeare boom was befogged under a liquor haze a few nights ago when the Planning-Zoning Board recessed a meeting after discussing approval of a hotel site without taking action.

W. Forrest Davenport brought up the possibility of the sale of liquor, prompting a discussion that prolonged the meeting until 1:40 A. M.

...Ganim and Koskoff say the liquor talk will not delay building of the hotel. They point out that the \$350,000 structure will be a town asset in taxes and looks, while also upping values in that section.



Long Beach Skateland, 55 Washington Parkway. **Sunday Herald**, March 13, 1955.

**The Hartford Courant**

March 13, 1955

**Philately**

The next meeting of the Connecticut Philatelic Society, will be held at the Booth Homestead, Stratford on Sunday, March 27, at 1 p.m. The new officers of the organization will be presented formally and sworn in at this meeting.



Harry Flood and Barbara Spry, secretary of the SHS Concert Band. **The Stratford News**, February 10, 1955.

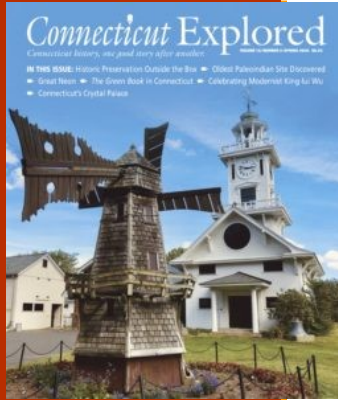
## NOW SHOWING FEBRUARY-MARCH 1955



Stratford Theater c 1946

February 6th	<b>So This Is Paris</b>	Tony Curtis, Gloria DeHaven
February 13th	<b>Green Fire</b>	Stewart Granger, Grace Kelly, Paul Douglas
February 20th	<b>Bad Day at Black Rock</b>	Spencer Tracy, Robert Ryan, Anne Francis
February 27th	<b>The Bridges at Toko-Ri</b>	William Holden, Grace Kelly, Frederic March
March 6th	<b>The Far Country</b>	James Stewart, Ruth Roman, Corinne Calvet, Walter Brennan
March 13th	<b>White Feather</b>	Debra Paget, Jeffrey Hunter, John Lind
March 20th	<b>Vera Cruz</b>	Gary Cooper, Burt Lancaster
March 27th	<b>Battle Cry</b>	Van Heflin, Mona Freeman

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS



Judson House being prepared for painting. Photo courtesy of Jim Shannon.



Cupheag Club Lounge. Photo from the *Bridgeport Herald*, February 15, 1920.

## Flora Silhouette News

If there's one thing we've learned over the past year of Flora's sojourns abroad, it's that Flora's silhouette has been a much undervalued historical artifact. We've learned that keeping Flora's silhouette in Stratford could be a very costly proposition due to the attendant insurance costs.

Flora's silhouette has been transported from Birmingham, Alabama back to the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. We have hired an independent appraiser who will properly value the silhouette for insurance purposes.

We have received some tentative insurance quotes which would run into the tens of thousands of dollars to properly insure the silhouette were it returned to Stratford.

Depending on the outcome of the independent appraisal of the silhouette, it may prove to be much less costly to house the silhouette at the National Portrait Gallery. We'll know more soon.

## Stratford's Boothe Memorial Park in the News

*Connecticut Explored* is the state historical societies' bi-monthly publication. On the cover of the most recent issue is a photo of Boothe Park. Inside, on pages 34 and 35, is a beautiful article on Boothe Park entitled *The Charms of Boothe Memorial Park*. The article also features some scenic

photos of the park and its buildings.

The opening paragraph of the article reads, "High on a hill overlooking the Housatonic River in the Putney section of Stratford is a collection of structures as strange as any you'll find anywhere in Connecticut."

If you'd like to see more of this article, please visit <https://www.ctexplored.org>.

## Connecticut Open House Day June 13th

The Stratford Historical Society will take part in the statewide **Connecticut Open House Day** on Saturday, June 13th, from 12:00-3:00.

We will feature free walk-throughs of the historic 18th century Captain David Judson House (considered a mansion in it's day). Docents in period dress will be your guides.

Free Refreshments will be served in the museum consisting of homemade cakes, and beverages using the Society's vintage cookbook: *Paradise Enow - Treasures from Yesterday's Kitchens*.

There will be colonial games on the lawn for children, and a scavenger hunt for children in the Judson House.

## Museum & House Renovations

As our beautiful Judson House and Catharine Bunnell Mitchell Museum have aged, and as fire and building codes have evolved, we've found it

necessary to renovate parts of both buildings. As you can see from the photos, below, the Judson House is in the process of being re-painted. Due to weather constraints, the process has taken longer than originally anticipated.

We're also working on updating our firefighting equipment onsite, and improving our building alarms. We've added and replaced lighting in the Museum, and more updates are underway. We're looking to have some repair work done to the Museum's roof. All of these projects eat into our annual budget which is largely dependent on the earnings from our endowment. Should you have the ability at any point, this year, we would really appreciate you considering us in your annual charitable giving. With the recent ups and downs of the stock market, our earnings are being challenged by multiple forces beyond our control. We're also searching for any/all applicable grants to assist us.



Judson House being prepared for painting. Photo courtesy of Jim Shannon.

# CUPHEAG CLUB'S NEW CLUB ROOMS

*Bridgeport Herald*  
 February 15, 1920

**Cupheag Club Of Stratford Opened Its New Club Rooms Last Evening; Veteran Social Organization Now Has Ideal Up-To-The-Minute Quarters**

The Cupheag club of Stratford is one of its most valued local social organizations, ranking with such clubs as the Bridgeport, Seaside and Algonquin clubs in membership and general prosperity.

The Cupheag club was orga-

nized in 1886 by ten men, four of whom are still members. These are: W. H. Crawford, D. L. Rhoades, George H. Morehouse and Frank L. Curtis. Four of the charter members are dead: F. H. Spencer, Edward Wells, Charles E. Beardsley and W. H. Rogers. James Hugh Sammis moved to Bridgeport and G. J. Jewel is no longer a member.

The club was organized for social purposes entirely, and has served these very successfully for about twenty-four years and lately it has grown to such proportions

that the Cupheag club has acquired new rooms in the Lovell building at Stratford Center. The club rooms are up-to-date in every respect and are as pleasant as sunshine, good furniture, and pleasant colors can make them.

...The Cupheag club has always numbered among its members the most prominent of Stratford's men. Practically all of the town and other officials.

...The Cupheag club is a decided addition to the social life of Stratford.



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VISIT IN TOWN

### The Stratford Times

February 14, 1913

#### Abraham Lincoln's Visit in Town and Subsequent Events in 1860

By Miss Jeannette Booth

The second of a series of articles written especially for the Times by Miss Booth and being a recalling of a few incidents which occurred in Stratford during Mr. Lincoln's Presidential campaign of 1860

The anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth was observed throughout the States of the Union Wednesday. Card pictures show the humble log cabin in which he was born, Feb. 12, 1809 at Rock Spring Hardin County, Kentucky. History claims that his entire school life did not cover more than one year; yet he constantly struggled to climb the hill of fame in his eager attempts to gain knowledge.

Lincoln passed through Stratford twice in March, 1860 going to Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire where his son, Robert, was at school preparing for college. On his return trip he made campaign speeches at Hartford, Meriden, New Haven and Norwich. It was in New Haven that Lincoln consented, through the urgency of two Bridgeport gentlemen, to honor

their city with his presence. He sent word that he would stop off the train Saturday evening, March 10, 1860 and make a speech at seven o'clock—provided they would get him to the 9:07 for New York.

...Stratford was aroused with enthusiasm that this cabin boy, this self-educated boy, this rail spinter [sic] of the West should compete with Stephen Douglass and Seward and Cassius M. Clay. The quiet old farmers and stay at homes of Stratford were aroused. Political discussions of the vital question ran high. Whig had changed to Republican, and Abolitionist. The Locofocos became Democrat and Secesh. All were awake to see and hear this wonderful orator, the Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois.

...The Stratford men have all passed away except one, Dr. Lemuel J. Beardsley, who was eighty years old a few months since. In the days following, these men were never weary of recalling this never-to-be-forgotten speech of Lincoln's. It was related after the meeting that James Booth — a very positive man — and Seymour Curtis — a very enthusiastic man — both life-long residents of Stratford, sat together at the meeting. When Lincoln arose before his audience Booth said: "Seymour, he is the

homliest [sic] man I ever saw in my life." As Lincoln warmed up in his speech, Mr. Booth became very excited and brought his hand down with a whack on Seymour's knee and said, "I swear, Seymour, he is not as homely as he first looked. He is good looking — he is handsome; and I swear he is the smartest man I ever heard."

Seymour Curtis and Lemuel J. Beardsley hurried to the old depot at the foot of Union street to get a chance of seeing the Westener [sic] again. While sitting there Lincoln came and sat down near them. Seymour Curtis at once grasped his hand and shouted, "I hope you will be the next President of the United States." Lincoln's reply was "O, that is a long way off." Mr. Beardsley grasped his hand ... (unreadable)... not the President ... (unreadable)... be." Lincoln answered ... (unreadable)... got to be? There are many men who are able and capable of being President of these United States, but there are few who can place their hands on the pulse of the Nation and recognize the wants of all its people, North, South, East and West and deal justly and wisely with them."

Then a crowd rushed in the depot

and until the train left Lincoln was busy shaking hands.

The writer of this article saw a tall man without a beard alight from a train at about three o'clock that Saturday in March, 1860. It was Lincoln. Gentlemen met him and they left the depot. The writer also recalls the gloom and solemnity five years later about the town when the news of President Lincoln's death reached Stratford that Saturday morning, April 15, 1865. An extra New York daily paper was sold from the train stopping in Stratford at 9:45 A. M. Everyone was anxious to know the contents of the paper outlined in broad black bands. It was appalling for a president to be shot.

The writer was in New York the following Saturday and saw Abraham Lincoln's body lying in state in the City Hall. All that wished passed in single file by the coffin of the martyr. Later in the afternoon the funeral cortege slowly passed up Broadway on the way to the depot en route for his western home.

Thus passed from his people the remains of the illustrious Abraham Lincoln.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON DID SLEEP HERE

### Sunday Herald

February 20, 1955

#### George DID Sleep Here!

George Washington's birthday Tuesday recalls that the father of our country slept here—about 199 years ago—several times in fact. Only way back then, it wasn't Bridgeport, it was Newfield.

As Newfield, Bridgeport wasn't very much, just another rural community in Fairfield County on the famous Kings Hwy. between New York and Boston.

There are some interesting legends about the number of houses in Fairfield County in which George Washington spent a night.

Not even a traveling salesman in his whole career, could have slept in so many beds as are claimed to have lodged the first president.

A fact beyond dispute is that Washington made six trips through the county between 1756 and 1789.

And during those three trips he apparently stopped for the night in

at least three places in Bridgeport: Nichols Tavern at 2554 North Av.; the Pixlee House at East Main St. and Boston Av.; and the house at 1795 North Av.

On most of his trips through Bridgeport, he sought out public taverns for rest and food although the entire country-side was willing to place the best homes at his disposal.

The chief reason for this is probably that Washington, as head of a democracy, wished to avoid all show of privilege in a new nation founded on principles of freedom and equality.

Many home owners claim title to having had George Washington as a guest. But of them all, probably the most authentic in Bridgeport is the Pixlee House legend.

Washington was returning, so the story goes, from Boston with troops recruited and ready to serve. They passed the Pixlee Inn, a simple, squarely-built tavern.

The General probably took a liking to the place, stopped there for the

night, and quartered his troops across the road where now lies Old Mill Green.

Washington stopped at this Inn on several occasions, once staying there for six days.

Washington also stopped several times at the old Nichols Tavern on North Av. Old John Nichols, farmer, blacksmith and innkeeper, kept the place.

It was convenient to fix the horses at John's place and so the General made a point of stopping off in Bridgeport several times, it is believed, at this tavern.

Once he just stopped there for light refreshments, having already slept at Greenwich and eaten a lunch at Fairfield. Twice he slept there on his way to Massachusetts. It is known that in March, 1781, he stopped off there on his way to meet Count Rochambeau in Newport.

The first president also stopped at 1795 North Av., a house built in 1759, which once served as the

Samuel Cable tavern.

He frequently passed through Stratford and stopped off at Bulkeley's Inn, once to eat a meal while on his way to meet Gen. Lafayette in Massachusetts.

Washington left many landmarks here in addition to those which remained in the minds of those who saw him. Sam Wheel-er's ferry from Milford to Stratford was later named Washington's ferry because he used it so often, and later still Washington bridge.

In the early days of P. T. Barnum, he met an elderly colored lady who calmed [sic] to have been the mammy of George Washington in Virginia.

Prompt to seize upon the opportunity, Barnum championed the popularity of the mammy, Joyce Heath by name, and displayed her around the country until she died, supposedly at the age of 161.

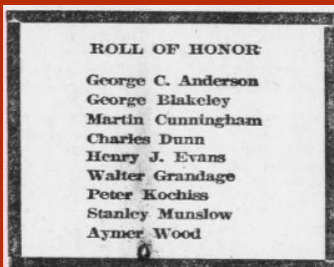


Red Men's Hall c 1911.

### Bridgeport Evening Farmer

February 23, 1920  
CONN. OYSTERS ARE  
DISAPPEARING; INDUS-  
TRY NOW IN DIRE  
STRAITS

It seems hardly necessary to point out, much less prove, that the oyster industry of Connecticut is dwindling and failing year after year. Everyone connected with the business has seen the steady lessening of values, until now nobody can deny the seriousness of the situation. It is almost capable of proof, and certainly of convincing demonstration, that if the same neglect of our industry continues, it will be a very short time before every oysterman in the State is driven out of business.



#### ROLL OF HONOR

George C. Anderson  
George Blakeley  
Martin Cunningham  
Charles Dunn  
Henry J. Evans  
Walter Grandage  
Peter Kochiss  
Stanley Munslow  
Aymer Wood

## CELEBRATING WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

### Bridgeport Evening Farmer February 24, 1920 Okenuck Tribe Hears Splendid Patriotic Talk (Special to The Times)

Stratford. Feb 24—Not a man of the nearly 200 members of Okenuck tribe who gathered in Red Men's hall last evening will ever regret the time spent after listening to the masterly address of J. Erwin Jacobs of New Haven, who was the speaker of the evening and who gave one of the most interesting patriotic addresses ever heard in the town of Stratford. Mr. Jacobs who gained the closest attention of his audience from the very start by telling a humorous story dwelt at length on the life of George Washington, telling many of the stories of the life of the father of his country which all had heard many times but which were listened to with the closest attention and which are always interesting when told by orators of Mr. Jacob's caliber [sic]. Mr. Jacobs classed Washington with the sun which sheds its light for 12 months of every year on the people, saying that the great American whose name was heralded everywhere made manifest his great principles and all were ever ready to accept his advice, unselfish as he was and

with a character unblemished his spirit shines upon the people of the earth today. He pictured the sufferings of Washington and his men at Valley Force and told how under the suffering conditions Washington catered to his men in preference to his own self and how as he had been taught to paddle his own canoe so Washington in a most successful manner taught his men to paddle their own canoes. In closing on the life of Washington, Mr. Jacobs told his hearers that the music this great American made when he caused the Liberty Bell to be rung will ever be heard all over the world and is today as clear in the atmosphere as it was in 1776.

In touching upon the life of Lincoln the speaker spoke briefly of the great Gettysburg address of Lincoln and how it today stands out to the world as the greatest address in history. How it has been revived again, and again, and again until it is in our memory all our own. Mr. Jacobs classed Lincoln as the greatest man that ever stood on American soil, a man who gained wealth by deeds of honor and not by profiteering from the sorrows and sufferings of others.

Speaking of Theodore Roose-

velt, Mr. Jacobs said that he was a different type of a man than either Washington or Lincoln because he lived in different days and that he was the only man who had courage to stand up and tell what we are and what we should be. He was an American, said the speaker, for Americans, and not for the type of men known as the Bolshevik.

Mr. Jacobs paid high tribute to the Improved Order of Red Men. speaking with much pride to his own membership in the order because its members are Americans as he is. He referred to the order's origin when the first tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men emptied the tea overboard in the Boston harbor during the Revolutionary days...

...Mr. Jacobs address which was about an hour in length, was interrupted time and time again by deafening applause from his appreciative audience and at its close a most rousing vote of thanks was extended to him by those present.

William Howard Wilcoxson, sachem of Okenuck tribe, presided at the meeting and William Hart, whose talent as a leader would be envied by Sousa, the great band master, led the community singing...

## HONORING WWI WAR DEAD

### Bridgeport Evening Farmer February 23, 1920 FITTING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR

Stratford Honors Her Soldier  
Sons Who Made Great  
Sacrifice.

(Special to The Times.) Stratford. Feb. 23—A most fitting tribute was paid to the sons of Stratford who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War by their comrade members of the Stratford Post, American Legion in the Congregational church last evening when the church was filled with relatives and friends of the local heroes. The services opened with an orchestral number by Prof. J. Henry Hutzel's orchestra which played a medley of patriotic airs followed by "Reveries." Captain Howard W. Curtis who was chairman of the meeting was heard in a few well chosen words appropriate to the

occasion, the 'scriptures being read by the Rev. R. C. Whitehead and prayer was offered by Rev. Andrew F. Chamberlain of the Stratford Methodist church. Miss Florence Davidson recited "In Flanders Fields" in a most impressive manner and the address of Rev. C. Clark Kennedy, rector of Christ church, who touched briefly on the men who paid the supreme sacrifice during the war added much to the exercises. The pageant scene in which Miss Dorothy Bamum took the part of Columbia, Mrs. Richard Howell represented France, Miss Eloise Brague, Alsace and Vernon Bond representing the American soldier was a scene where the loyalty of France to the United States was represented in its truest form. Columbia in words of affection and love welcomed the appearance of France who replied to the warm welcome with words of gratitude and affection, pre-

senting to Columbia testimonials of the faithfulness and heroism of her sons who paid the supreme sacrifice to assist a nation in distress naming them (as shown to the left).

The singing of The Marseillaise by the audience touched the heart of France at whose request the Star Spangled Banner was sung. Miss Alice Hill sang "The Americans Come," and the exercises closed with the benediction being offered by Rev. William H. Nicholl of the Bethany church.

The ushers who are members of the Stratford Post American Legion, under whose auspices the exercises were held, were Arthur Beardsley, Henry Wells, David Hughes, William Haggerty, Edward Bierholm, Wayne Austin and John Bortnick.



# WENTWORTH W. ROGERS RETIRES

**The Hartford Courant**

March 21, 1945

**Principal W. W. Rogers of Stratford Retires**

Bridgeport, March 20. - (AP) - the Stratford Board of Education today announced that it had accepted the resignation "with many regrets" of Wentworth W. Rogers, principal of Stratford High School for 25 years.

Rogers came to Stratford in 1918 to become head of the Center School, at that time a combined elementary and high school, after earning his master's degree at Columbia University Teachers College.

Rogers said that he plans to retire to California with his wife and youngest son, Howard. He is a native of Los Angeles.

**The Bridgeport Telegram**

August 27, 1918

**Stratford Engages School Principal From Washington**

STRATFORD, Aug. 26 (Special).—W. W. Rogers, a native of the state of Washington is to be the principal of the Center school for the coming year. He has arrived in town preparatory to taking up his duties. For the past year Mr. Rogers has been doing

graduate work at the Columbia university of New York and previous to that was the principal of a high school in his native state.

**The Stratford News**

June 11, 1943

**HERE 25 YEARS**

Wentworth W. Rogers next September will mark the 25th anniversary of becoming principal of Stratford High School.

The Seniors who will be graduated on Monday make up the twenty-fourth class whose members have received diplomas under him.



WENTWORTH W. ROGERS

*Less of a principal, more of a friend*

## BOOKS OF NOTE

In March of 1945, The **Hartford Courant** carried a brief review of a book published in August of 1900 entitled **The Salt-Box House: Eighteenth Century Life in a New England Hill Town**. The book is an interesting read of life in Huntington, Connecticut both before and after Huntington split off from Stratford. In the book, Jane Shelton, author, describes a customary excursion to Stratford's shoreline in 1750 by Huntington families after completing their season of haying..

"In lives unstirred by great matters, these diversions were hailed with a delightful excitement. Still another in the same line was the annual camping out on Stratford beach at Point-no-

Point, to rake oysters, to dig clams, to catch striped bass, white perch, and yellow-fin".

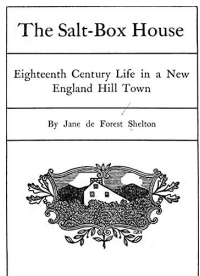
There are many other fascinating insights into early Stratford-area life both before and after the Revolutionary War. The book is available in electronic format from Amazon for \$1.

Shown at the right are Louise Pierson (left) and Rosalind Russell. In 1945, Louise Pierson wrote about the time she spent in Stratford in the 1920's just as Sikorsky Memorial Airport was opening. Louise's book, "**Roughly Speaking**", was made into a movie in which Rosalind Russell starred in her portrayal of Louise Pierson.

Louise describes in her book renting "the Woodruff Seed farm for a flying field and it turned out to be too muddy for safety in taking-off and landing...The Pierson daughters, Louise and Barbara, attended Stratford High school, and Barbara was graduated and took a job at Howlands'.

The Pierson boys, Roddy and John, went to work at the Bridgeport Brass, and Roddy's job so inspired him that he went to engineering school and is now a process metals engineer."

You can still find used copies of **Roughly Speaking**, and the Rosalind Russell movie version is available for a small fee from Amazon video library.



## RECOMMEND MOVING TO STRATFORD

**Bridgeport Daily Standard**  
January 18, 1870

—Where shall those with moderate incomes locate their homes, is becoming a serious question with many of our citizens. Shall the hard-earned wages of labor be invested within the limits of the city, —present or prospective, where a thousand dollars will scarcely purchase a piece of land on which to erect a modest cottage, or shall the man with moderate means go farther away from high taxes, and from land held at speculative prices? Many are turning attention to

the advantages of a residence in some of our adjoining villages, where land is held at lower rates; where the expenses of living are more easily carried; where town taxes are light and the conveniences of churches and schools are to be found; where the air is pure, and where more room for exercise and labor on their own homestead can be enjoyed. In view of these advantages, it is no wonder that each month finds some new family looking for a home in the quiet village of Stratford, between which place and Bridgeport eleven trains each

way, daily carry passengers at commutation rates that are quite low. Upon trial it is found that a mechanic who works at any of the manufactories in East Bridgeport, and who lives within seven minutes' walk of the depot in Stratford, can reach his shop in less time than he could if he lived at the corner of State and Broad-sts, or at any point equally distant from the factory. The village of Stratford being but eight minutes' ride by rail, from Bridgeport, offers within its bounds every inducement in the matter of diversity of location, there being

many eminences and undulating fields in close proximity to the railway station, some of them commanding most ravishing views of the Sound for twenty or more miles, with the Island beyond, while the village with its spires, divers colored houses and noble elms lies in the foreground. The writer knows whereof he speaks, when he recommends the looker for a home to investigate the merits of a residence in Stratford, and calls the attention of such an one to the advertisement in this paper headed "Building Sites in Stratford."

# ANNAMAE ANDREWS' SCRAPBOOKS

**A**nnamae 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 October 1934 of the recipients of scholarship-leadership pins at Stratford High, and the Stratford High Senior Class

officers. Stratford pupils awarded scholarship-leadership pins are, *First row* (left-right) 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 Bionde, Rita Choughlin, Evelyn Happel, Dorothy Cotton, Kathryn Hall, Edith Cawthra, 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.

dance in the school auditorium Thursday (October 25, 1934) evening. The class officers are: (left to right) Katherine Frazier, treasurer; Richard Mitchell, president; Dorothy Cotton, vicepresident [sic]; Eleanor Swanson, secretary. Miss Imelda Goyette is the senior advisor.



Officers of the Senior class of Stratford high school are members of the committee arranging for a Hallowe'en masquerade



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

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