

# THE CUPHEAG CORNER

VOLUME V, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2022



Capt. David Judson House  
c. 1750

## MARK THE DATES:

- November's General Membership Meeting, Saturday, November 19th, 2pm, Stratford Library
- January's General Membership Meeting, Sunday, January 29th, 2pm, Stratford Library

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Flora Inspires 2
- Sterling Memorial 2
- Dateline October-Nov. 1957 3
- Stratford Characters 4
- Early American Festival 4
- Before BIC 5
- Samuel Johnson 5
- Sunday Movies 5
- Museum Groundbreaking 6
- Stratford Point 6
- Igor Sikorsky 6
- Roosevelt Forest Fire 7
- Books of Note 7
- Votes for Women Trail 7

## NOVEMBER'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, November 19th, 2:00 pm, Stratford Library, 2203 Main Street

Troy entered the world of art restoration in 1977 working as a studio apprentice in Westchester County, New York, under highly respected Dutch art conservator, Yan Vanderviver. It was that unique opportunity that sparked Troy's passion in the craft of art conservation, setting him on a path towards an unyielding career as a fine art oil painting conservator.

As principal conservator, Troy believes that all restorations should be as noninvasive as possible while only performing processes necessary and vital to revive a painting as close to its original state as possible. Troy maintains a strict code of ethics in line with the American Institute for Conservation, and ensures



Troy Amuso. Photo from Troy's website.

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

that all work is archival and reversible. He lectures regularly on the cause and effect of art restoration to groups and organizations throughout New England. Troy Fine Art is located in Fairfield, CT.

Troy's talk will be very informative focusing on some of the environmental effects that can cause harm to a painting, and followed by some of the treatments art conservators such as Troy use to restore them back to good health. Troy's talk will run about 45 minutes to 1 hour with a Q&A at the end. He also includes PowerPoint images that support his topics.

Troy truly enjoys speaking on this subject and his presentation seems to always be well received.

◇

*History isn't a single narrative, but thousands of alternative narratives. Whenever we choose to tell one, we are also choosing to silence others.*

**Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow** by Yuval Noah Harari

◇

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Much activity has been occurring, and more is planned, at your friendly, neighborhood Stratford Historical Society.

We conducted six Candlelight Historical Walks during September and October. The walks were well attended averaging about 17 participants per walk.

We also hosted a number of Lighthouse Property Tours during September and October. They, too, were well attended. We're hoping the Coast Guard will complete the lead remediation of the Lighthouse by next July.

Our School Tours are back and have been carefully retooled by our Education Chair, Mary Ann Vlahac, for more hands-on participation by the students. Feedback from the school teachers on the renewed tours has been very positive.

Specters Galore from Forest to Shore Walks were something new for us. We were able to conduct



two "spooky" walks for about 40 participants. Weather was a limiting factor for these walks.

The Museum refresh is nearing completion. We're hoping to have a Museum Open House in the next couple of months so you can see for yourself all the improvements we've made.

News 12 had an interesting story on Goody Bassett and the Connecticut witch trials recently. You may view the news story at <https://bit.ly/goodybassett>.

The photo above is from one of our **Candlelight Historical Walking Tours** through the Stratford Historical District.

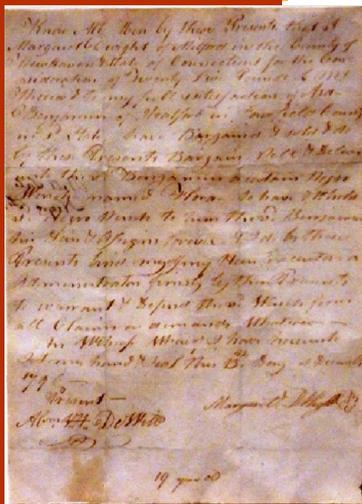
### 2022-23 Meeting Calendar

Saturday	November 19th	2pm
Sunday	January 29th	2pm
Sunday	March 26th	2pm
Sunday	May 21st	2pm

# FLORA CONTINUES TO INSPIRE



Flora's silhouette



Flora's bill of sale

In the late Fall of 2017, the Society was contacted by the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) about the slave girl's, Flora's, silhouette. (The silhouette had unknowingly been hidden away in the Judson House and was discovered in about 1925). The NPG was interested in borrowing the silhouette for an upcoming touring exhibition in Washington, D.C. The NPG indicated they would professionally clean and restore the silhouette if the Society agreed to permit the silhouette to be exhibited by the NPG.

Thus began a long, and fascinating, journey for Flora's silhouette. (You may wish to view the photographic journal we created of the silhouette's journey at [bit.ly/florasilhouette](https://bit.ly/florasilhouette)). Ultimately the silhouette returned to the NPG where it has been safely stored through the pandemic.

The silhouette will be relocated next Spring to the National Museum of African American History and Culture where it will be exhibited for the foreseeable future. As we have additional details, we will share them with you here in our newsletter.

Additionally, the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative (<https://s.si.edu/3sG658C>) has funded

the publication and distribution of a teaching poster featuring Flora, together with a curriculum for sharing her history in schools. The project was just announced, but the poster will eventually be distributed to classrooms throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia as a pilot project, with the intention of expanding the project to the rest of the country in due course.

In February of 2021 we were contacted by a Phillip Troutman of George Washington University who was looking to acquire photos from the interior of the Judson House for a project which he was about to undertake. We didn't have many more details about Mr. Troutman's project, but we did assist him as best we could with photos and other information he requested pertaining to the David Judson house.

Several months passed and we didn't hear, again, from Mr. Troutman. Then, coincidentally, in September of this year, our Publicity Chair, Margo Paquette, came across a recently published article about Flora's silhouette in *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art* entitled "Seeing Flora's Profile as Portrait".

The article is an intriguing one which basically posits that

Flora's silhouette may not have been drawn for Flora's sale to Asa Benjamin, but may have been drawn by a fellow African American for Flora's benefit. The article is a lengthy one, but extremely, and thoroughly, well researched.

There is much food for thought, and reconsideration, in this article which you may read in its entirety at [bit.ly/floraportrait](https://bit.ly/floraportrait). We have also placed a link to this article on our newsletter's home page.

## Seeing Flora's Profile as Portrait

...The silhouette has long been associated with the December 13, 1796, bill of sale marking Flora's legal transfer, at age nineteen, from Margaret Dwight of Milford, Connecticut, to Asa Benjamin of Stratford, Connecticut, for twenty-five pounds. The two pieces have been framed together for decades, forming a perverse pendant, an image of an individual woman and a text documenting the terms under which she was sold as a commodity (Linking them causally, scholars typically envision a scene of destructive creation)...Yet there is no evidence to indicate that Flora's silhouette was made to serve the bill of sale, and no reason to assume that it was. Enslavers in general did not create visual images for purposes of sale...



The Bridgeport Telegram, December 13, 1922.



The Bridgeport Telegram, August 8, 1922.

# STERLING MEMORIAL OPENS

Before there was a Sterling House Community Center there was a Sterling Community Center. The Sterling Community Center was built for the American Legion and, eventually, became the southern wing of the Stratford Library.

The building that housed the one-time Community Center (1922) was named the Sterling Memorial Building in honor of John Sterling whose money also built the home that today houses the Sterling House Community Center.

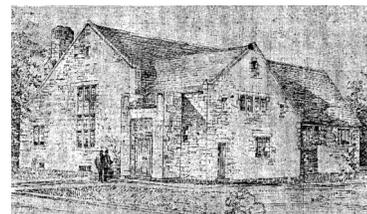
In his time, pre-1918, John Sterling was considered to be the wealthiest man in America.

The Bridgeport Telegram December 13, 1922  
Stratford Veterans' Home,

## Sterling Memorial, to Be Open to Public Tomorrow

American Legion Bazaar to Be First Event to Take Place in New Building. Adjudged One of Finest of Its Kind — Structure a Home Product — To Be Used by All Ex-Service Men as Well as a Community House.

STRATFORD, Dec. 12.— (Special) The Sterling Memorial building, new \$50,000 home of Anderson-Dunn-Kochiss post of the American Legion, stands completed today—just seven months to the day after work was started on the structure. The building, erected as a memorial to the high courage and patriotism of the young men of Stratford, with funds left by John Sterling, multi-millionaire, corporation lawyer of Stratford and New York, was one of several benefac-



The Bridgeport Telegram, July 5, 1922.

tions provided for in the will of the deceased philanthropist, the Sterling bequests to Yale university, aggregating 18 millions, being the largest of these gifts.

The building opened in 1922, but by 1957 the American Legion was beginning to consider selling the building. Read this article, in its entirety, on our newsletter website home page.

# DATELINE STRATFORD OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1957

## The Bridgeport Post

October 3, 1957

### Bard's Theater Shows Profit: Announces '58-'59 Offerings

With a gross revenue of \$400,000 attesting to the success of the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford has announced its scheduled programs for 1958 and 1959.

...Groups came from as far as Texas and California this summer to see America's own Shakespearians in action. The Festival staff handled some 17,000 requests for overnight accommodations.

## The Bridgeport Post

October 6, 1957

### Stratford Astronomers Hope to Track Russian Satellite

The Boothe Memorial Astronomical society in Stratford, using a collection of powerful telescopes owned by some of its 125 members, will attempt to track the Russian-launched satellite "if Russia releases information on when and where to look," it was disclosed by Phillip Stern, an officer of the society.

Mr. Stern said that Russia's announcement of the first man-made earth satellite to be rocketed 560 miles into outer space to streak around the globe, "caught us with our telescopes down." He said that eventually the society will have the largest telescope in this area set up in the Booth Memorial plantarium [sic]; but the huge scope is now under construction.

## The Stratford News

October 17, 1957

### Six Historical Homes on Display Saturday

Six of Stratford's historical old homes will be opened as part of a Fall tour scheduled for Saturday and sponsored by the Stratford Historical Society. The tour is under the chairmanship of Miss Lucy McCabe, fund raising chairman, assisted by Mrs. Frank Bunnell, Mrs. Robert Scott, Mrs. Mrs. Olaff Solomonson, and Mrs. Josef Rydmark,

and will be conducted from 1 to 6 p.m. The tour is open to the public at a charge of one dollar.

Included in the tour will be the General Walker Home, the "Shelton Homestead," the Tomlinson-Judson house, the David Plant home, all on Elm St., the Captain David Porter house, Shore Road, and the town's most celebrated historical site, Judson House, home of the Historical Society on Academy Hill, where the tour will end and tea will be served.

## The Bridgeport Post

October 20, 1957

### Stratford Democrats Ask Wilcoxson Scalp in Council Chair Deal

The Stratford Democrats want to oust Town Clerk W. Howard Wilcoxson, veteran of 23 years of service in the office, as part of a proposed "deal" under which the Republicans would get the chairmanship of the Town Council.

...Republicans have flatly rejected the proposal, and declare they will continue the balloting for chairman "if it takes two years."

...The veteran Town Clerk, who was given his original appointment by the Town Council in June, 1934, and has been reappointed each two years since, is presently a patient in Bridgeport hospital where he under went surgery on Oct. 9, two days after election. Although urged by his doctor to enter the hospital Oct. 1, Mr. Wilcoxson had refused "because of the work necessary on Election Day."

## Sunday Herald

October 20, 1957

### 'Cathedral' Next Effort Of Dotters

Taking the entire church as their stage, the Polka Dot Players are rehearsing their most ambitious work, "Murder in the Cathedral," in Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford.

With Mary Graham Fern the rector's daughter and a leader of the Dots, art

and the church were never so integrated while David Reed runs the large cast through T. S. Eliot's play, in the aisles and at the altar, etc.

## The Stratford News

October 31, 1957

### Championship Yankees Real Pros in Drum Corps Show

It takes practice, precision and experience to make a drum corps of champion caliber. That's what the Stratford American Legion "Connecticut Yankees" are made of.

...THE YANKEES do not just compete in one or two contests during the year, averaging six inter-circuit competitions and 20 or 25 parades. "It all takes time and lots of hard work," says business manager, Lou Roviello, who makes arrangements for quarters and on time arrivals and departures.

"We work hard all Summer and we work hard all Winter," he adds, "and we'll keep on working in preparation for next year's this stuff and expect to stay on competition. You can't sit still in top."

## The Bridgeport Post

November 20, 1957

### Stratford Council Faces Need Of Acquiring High School Site

When the Stratford Town Council convenes for its Dec. 9 meeting it will be asked to approve condemnation of a good part of a six-acre site needed for a proposed new senior high school in the north end of Town.

...The (town) manager said he has written to all the owners of 60 building lots and six acres of open land in the Huntington road site area that must be purchased or condemned before site preparation can get started, but has received answers from only about one-half. Five or six agreed to sell, he said, but the balance through counsel, have disagreed on the sale price.



Friends of the Connecticut Symphony: Mary Hardy, Edythe Simons, Ruth Friedman, Ella Fleck (seated), Annette Albren, Mrs. Al Mathewson. Photo from the *Sunday Herald*, November 10, 1957.



Polka Dot Playhouse play, "Murder in the Cathedral", at Christ Church. Nina Derman, Evelyn Galla, Karen Lesneski, Tihman Busch Photo from the *Sunday Herald*, 11/3/57.



Mrs. George Peluso, Mrs. Edmund Judson. *Sunday Herald*, 11/3/57.

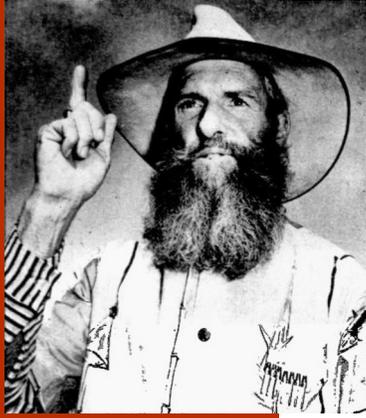
## NOW SHOWING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1957



Stratford Theater c 1934

October 6th	<b>Man on Fire</b>	Bing Crosby, Inger Stevens
October 13th	<b>Interlude</b>	June Allyson, Rossano Brazzi
October 20th	<b>High Society</b>	Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly
October 27th	<b>Johnny Tremain</b>	Hal Stalmaster, Luana Patten, Jeff York, Sebastian Cabot
November 3rd	<b>The Black Scorpion</b>	Richard Denning, Mara Corday
November 10th	<b>Mr. Rock 'N' Roll</b>	Rocky Graziano, Allen Freed
November 17th	<b>The Helen Morgan Story</b>	Ann Blyth, Paul Newman, Richard Carlson
November 24th	<b>Time Limit</b>	Richard Widmark, June Lockhart

# STRATFORD CHARACTERS



Stratford's Elwood D. Howe Carson, kin of Elias Howe, is hustled out of Newport, RI, by Secret Service men who tamed him "too colorful" for President's vacation spot. Photo from the *Sunday Herald*, September 29, 1957.



Elwood Howe Carson mailing a protest letter to Attorney General Brownell. Photo from the *Sunday Herald*, October 6, 1957.



## **Sunday Herald** September 29, 1957 **Ike's Guards Tell Kin of Howe Hit the Road**

U. S. secret service men guarding the safety of President Eisenhower during his sojourn in Newport, R. I., took into custody Bridgeport's bearded, most colorful character, Elwood D. Howe Carson, and after a thorough investigation, threw him out of that city on the ground that he was "too conspicuous for the President's visit."

Carson back at his home, 2 Bennett Ct., Stratford, with his wife and two children, yesterday was still fuming with outrageous indignation and taking the matter up with Cong. Albert P. Morano, and U. S. Sen. Wayne Morse.

### **RAPS TREATMENT**

"That's no way for a real, red-blooded American citizen to be treated," Carson opined to this reporter.

Stemming from the John Howe who arrived in 1640 from Warwickshire, England, to the Massachusetts colony, Carson consoles himself thinking of his great grandfather, Elias Howe, inventor of the first practical sewing machine.

"You'll find Elias Howe's statue in Seaside Park, in the Hall of Fame, in the Smithsonian Institute and in the name of GAR Elias Howe Post and Elias Howe School.

But great-grandson Elwood D. Howe Carson didn't have his glory sewed up properly when he appeared in the vicinity of President Ike's vacation quarters in Newport, R. I.

The moment the stranger from Bridgeport rode through Newport on his bicycle [sic], his multicolored red-brown-gray beard waving

softly in the breeze beneath his 10-gallon straw hat, he attracted attention.

His arms, covered by the long sleeves of a striped jersey, clutched bundles. Over his myriad-colored shirt he wore, as a jacket, a short-sleeved one of bright red flannel. His slacks were a striped rayon cord, and they tapered down to his black high-heeled western style, but English-made Acme riding boots.

And he wasn't traveling incognito. His name was on a sign flapping on the rear of his bike.

...He's crashed many television shows and has appeared on Steve Allen's television shows four times.

## **Sunday Herald** October 13, 1957 **Carson Tells Why He'd Talk to Ike**

STRATFORD: "To bring out my real purpose of wanting to be in Newport when the President arrived was this: To tell Mr. Eisenhower about the fraud perpetrated on my great grandfather Elias Howe while he was in London, England, introducing his sewing machine invention. He could not get anyone to recognize him in the United States.

Isaac Singer, Wilcox & Gibbs and others were manufacturing sewing machines in the U. S. and selling them, using Howe's patent without permission.

Elias Howe sold the right for manufacture of his invention to a man by the name of William Thomas, a corset maker in London, England, for \$1,250. After using this money to improve his machine he had to pawn his patent papers to get back to the U. S.

Arriving on U. S. soil, he found

his wife gravely ill. She succumbed to her illness. Elias Howe was so poor he had to borrow a suit of clothes to go to his wife's funeral. After the sorrow of losing his wife, he went into the courts of the U. S. and fought Ins infringers, and made them pay him \$30 for every sewing machine they had put on the market.

When John Davis Lodge was congressman he introduced private legislation for me, a bill for the restoration of the early Howe Sewing Machine. When he became governor, he turned my file over to Cong. Albert P. Morano. Two bills were drawn up. One was acted upon, got to the Judiciary, and was knocked down before it got to the House of Representatives.

"When I went to the inauguration of Eisenhower, I had a second bill introduced and this one went to the Judiciary Committee and was knocked down before it got to the House of Representatives.

My mother, who will be 90 on her next birthday, says that for either of those bills to get to the House of Representatives it would require \$20,000 and an act of Congress.

My dear mother is entitled to what is rightfully hers. Mother was educated in Europe, went to English schools and was only a minor and had no way to protect her interests.

Due to unscrupulous operations, she lost 23 building lots in Brooklyn, now worth \$10 million. For my mother's sake, I wanted to see Pres. Eisenhower. But you know how miserably I failed in my mission.

ELWOOD D. HOWE CARSON

# EARLY AMERICAN FESTIVAL

## **The Stratford News** October 2, 1997

### **Celebrating Early America**

Colonial settlers and native American Indians celebrated together during the Stratford Historical Society's Early American Festival Saturday at Academy Hill and Judson House.

At the far right, Matt Stockley of the Medicine Wheel Dancers performs an Eagle Dance. At the left, Michael and David Maniscalco perform another native American Dance. Middle, Theo-



dore St. Amand tells visitors about the firearms used by soldier's of General Rochambeau's French infantry during the 1700's.



# BEFORE THERE WAS A BIC PEN FACTORY

It seems ironic that the President of the Thomas Manufacturing Company was named "Bic"klely.

**The Bridgeport Telegram**  
November 2, 1947  
**Small Stratford Plant Produces 5,000 Ball Pens a Day**

Four men "just got together" one day in May, 1941 and decided to start manufacturing screw machine parts. Louis Bickley, president of the organization, was a machine trades teacher at Bullard-Haven; Julius Lieberman, vice president, operated a paint store; Gino Thomas, treasurer, was in the tire business and David Glantz, secretary, was in the

used car business. They called their outfit the Thomas Manufacturing Company and moved into a plant on Bruce avenue in Stratford.

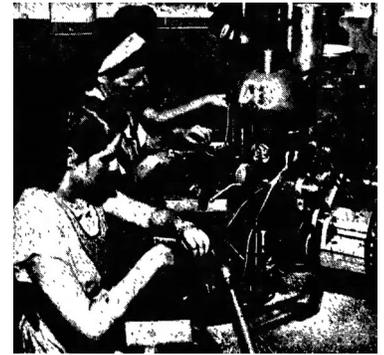
After several war years of manufacturing high precision valves and bomb parts, the four partners turned to novelty items, cigarette lighters, knife handles, plumbing supplies and parts for moving picture machines.

About a year ago, under the direction of Chief Engineer Bickley, the company began to develop a new type of ball pen, and it resulted in a minor revolution for the four manufacturers. Working closely with Carter Ink Company engineers, they developed a pen with all the high priced features

such as "writes dry," "don't have to fill it," "life time guarantee" and the famous "writes under water," all for the low-price pocket-book.

Since the day, eight months ago, when the first pen cartridge ground through its 17 operations and passed its three writing tests, the Thomas Manufacturing Company has sold well over five million pens and is rapidly approaching the desired 10 million mark.

...Mr. Bickley agrees that the ball point pen is not new. "There are three hundred other manufacturers making this same type of pen" he confessed; then added quickly, "But not as good as ours!"



Women assembling pens in the Thomas factors. Photo from **The Bridgeport Telegram**, November 2, 1947.

# SAMUEL JOHNSON EPITAPH

**New Haven Journal & Courier**  
October 19, 1897

**Some epitaphs characteristic of this common wealth**

...Connecticut is the repository of thousands of historically interesting, ancient, brier-buried and epithaphed [sic] gravestones. Perhaps none of the original states has a larger store of them.

...in the whole collection, no entry is more interesting than that concerning the epitaph on the tombstone of that eminent divine, Dr. Samuel Johnson of Stratford. Dr. Johnson was the man whom Dr. Dwight called the father of Episcopacy in Connecticut, and who was at one time president of Columbia college.

He was the Yale graduate and Presbyterian clergyman who, early in the seventeen hundreds, changed his religious faith from Presbyterianism to that of the English church. Stratford was the spot chosen for the first assault on "that stronghold of Presbyterianism," as Connecticut was then regarded, and in those days of fierce religious conflict and animosities the young apostle is said to have borne the brunt of them. At any rate there was much feeling against Dr. Johnson in some quarters. He was buried in Stratford and his grave is especially attractive from the fact that the inscription has been removed from the weather-worn and

mossy sandstone table over it. This inscription was engraved on a leaden plate let into the tombstone, after the manner of ante-Revolutionary times, and which some accounts say, was taken and cast into bullets for the patriot army during the Revolution. On the other hand others asserted that the plate was removed by the Presbyterians, whose hatred of the doctor extended to the rifling of his tomb. The former hypothesis is doubtless the correct one, for in most of the ancient church yards of Connecticut where this form of memorial occurs, the plates were in nearly every instance taken for melting into Revolutionary bullets.



Rev. Samuel Johnson's tomb in Christ Church Burying Ground. Photo courtesy of Ethan Stewart.

# SUNDAY MOVIES "YES" PLEASE

The battle over Sunday movies raged on all through 1922. The general consensus by year's end was that Sunday movies would be a good thing to continue. What were movie nights like in 1922? For that answer you might wish to check out <https://bit.ly/movies1922>.

**The Bridgeport Times**  
February 13, 1922  
**Stratford**

A "free show" was given in the Stratford theatre last night. A lot of the opponents of Sunday shows will think them O. K. as long as they are free. No one in Stratford is being deprived of Sunday movies as long as they

can go to Bridgeport and Milford and have their fill. This is one thing that Stratford could become up-to-date in without costing anything, so that should make the proposition appeal to some. About the largest opponent to Sunday movies in Stratford is probably the Connecticut (trolley) company. Lots more profit charging ten cents to ride to Bridgeport or 20 cents to ride to Milford, for seeing said movies.

**The Bridgeport Times**  
November 24, 1922  
**OPPONENTS OF SUNDAY MOVIES OUTNUMBERED**  
Stratford. Nov. 24-Ministers

and numerous church people appeared before the Town Council in the Town Hall last night and presented a petition, signed by approximately 800 persons, protesting against Sunday movies in Stratford. This delegation, however, was considerably outnumbered by those present who favored Sunday night motion pictures. The Council received a petition signed by 1,024 citizens in favor of the movies several days ago. A showing of hands at last night's meeting disclosed that those in favor of Sunday movies outnumbered by 5 to 1 those who were opposed.

Spokesman for the movies included Judge Thomas C. Coughlin, former Councilman Ralph C.

Sherwood and Harry Feldman. Those who spoke against these Sunday night performances included Dr. G. F. Lewis, Rev. Andrew F. Chamberlain of the Methodist church, Rev. R. C. Whitehead of the Congregational church, Elliott W. Peck of the Stratford Trust company.



Stratford Center 1920. Stratford Theater would have been on the right side of the street.

## MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING



Elizabeth Sammis; Melville Bulmer; Stanley Johnson; O. Solly Solomonson, President; Edna Sammis Richardson; and, Robert Scott. Photo from *The Bridgeport Post*, October 29, 1957.

The Catharine Bunnell Mitchell Museum opened to the public in September 1958.

### **The Bridgeport Post** March 24, 1957 **Stratford Society Plans for New Museum Building**

The Stratford Historical society has voted to proceed with construction of a two-story museum building on property in the rear of the Judson House on Academy hill, O. S. Solomonson, president of the society has announced.

Mr. Solomonson said that the building which will cost approximately \$30,000 will house the antique exhibits owned by the

society and will be separate from Judson House, to be maintained as an authentic Colonial home.

It is expected that plans for the new building will be ready for bids within a month and construction will be started, Mr. Solomonson said, so that occupancy can be taken in the early fall.

The new building is necessary, Historical society members said, because of the hundreds of antiques now in possession of the organization which cannot be displayed because of lack of space.

A major remodeling of the Museum was undertaken in

1970. The following was written in the September 26, 1976 *Bridgeport Sunday Post*.

In ceremonies on Sept. 12 the Catharine Bunnell Mitchell museum, adjacent to the Capt. David Judson house on Academy hill in Stratford was re-opened. It was originally dedicated on Nov. 8, 1959 as the result of a bequest of \$25,000 in the will of Mrs. Catharine Bunnell Mitchell for its construction. However during the 1960s the decision was made to bring the basic interior layout, exhibits and lighting up to date, a task which took six years of painstaking work while the museum remained closed.

## STRATFORD POINT ON THE SILVER SCREEN

It's not often Hollywood pays a visit to Stratford, but in 1960 Stratford Point was the backdrop for a movie for which Elizabeth Taylor won an Academy Award.

For me, the highlight of the movie was not Elizabeth Taylor's, or Eddie Fisher's, acting. It was the 90 second view of Stratford Point in 1960. You don't see much of the Point in the movie's scene involving Remington Gun Club and the Lighthouse, but it's revealing nonetheless. We've clipped those 90 seconds, or so, for your viewing at <https://bit.ly/butterfield8>. The lighthouse keeper's cottage is visible.

### **The Bridgeport Post** February 18, 1960 **SCENE IS FILMED ON**



Lawrence Harvey at Remington Gun Club in 1960.

### **LORDSHIP SITE**

The Remington Arms company's skeet shooting facility in Lordship yesterday became the setting for a scene in MGM's forthcoming motion picture, "*Butterfield Eight*."

Present for yesterday's shooting of the film, which stars Elizabeth Taylor and her husband, Eddie Fisher, were the two other principal actors of the cast, Lawrence Harvey and Dina Merrill, who play the part of an estranged couple. The picture is based on a story written by novelist John O'Hara and the title is a New York city telephone exchange.

In addition to the two actors, there was a technical crew of about 50 persons present to arrange the skeet shooting sequence and operate several pic-

es of equipment and power lines. The entire group arrived on location about 7:15 a. m. and they remained at the skeet club most of the day.

Daniel Mann, picture director, said the actual shooting of the film began Feb. 8 and will continue 46 days if all goes as scheduled. All the scenes will be filmed in New York city and in locations such as Lordship.

Remington granted use of the skeet club grounds after a request had been received from the MGM studios.

In the film. Miss Taylor portrays "the other woman" who schemes to steal Lawrence Harvey away from Dina Merrill. However, before the film ends, marriage triumphs and Liz Taylor is killed in an auto accident.

## IGOR SIKORSKY'S PASSING

### **The Hartford Courant** October 29, 1972 **Igor Sikorsky Dies; Pioneer In Aeronautics**

EASTON—Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky, 83. Russian-born designer of the first practical helicopter and pioneer in fixed-wing aeronautics, died Thursday apparently of a heart attack at his home on Morehouse Road. He had complained Wednesday to his wife of chest pains.

Mr. Sikorsky, who founded in 1923 on Long Island what is now Sikorsky Aircraft Division of United Aircraft Corp. in Stratford,

combined a 63-year career of technical innovation with a strong belief in the spiritual worth of the individual.

Though he retired in 1957 as engineering manager of the UAC division, he continued as a consultant and adviser until his death. He maintained a biweekly schedule at the Stratford plant despite an affliction with glaucoma the last two years.

...Mrs. Sikorsky often said he was proud the first practical use of the helicopter was for humane purposes, to bring plasma to victims of an explosion in 1941.

Mr. Sikorsky was born in Kiev, Russia; his father was a psychology professor and his mother trained as a physician.

He was graduated from the Naval College in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1906 and the Polytechnic Institute in Kiev in 1908.

He developed his first successful prototype helicopter in 1910. He then turned to fixed-wing craft and soloed the same year in a craft of his own design.

He won many awards, including the First Fawcett Aviation Award...



Igor Sikorsky. Photo from *The Hartford Courant*, October 29, 1957.

# ROOSEVELT FOREST FIRE

Fire burned much of the Forest in the Fall of 1947. The Forest had largely been neglected since its creation in 1934. Many neighbors helped in fighting the October blaze. A forester subsequently recommended that the town undertake a serious brush cutting effort in the Forest to prevent future brush fueled blazes.

**The Bridgeport Telegram**  
October 22, 1972

**Woods Burn Again Near Beaver Dam**

Stratford Forest Blaze Rekindled Overnight; Reported Under control.

Fire broke out again today in Stratford's town-owned Roosevelt Forest where yesterday 80 acres of

woodland in the Beaver Dam lake - Shelton - Trumbull - Stratford town line area were destroyed but Assisting Fire Chief Theodore Lockwood said the blaze is under control and there is little danger of its spreading.

Chief Lockwood said the fire, which started up again about 7 o'clock only 11 hours after firemen and hundreds of volunteers had extinguished yesterday's 10-hour blaze, is burning dry timbers, leaves and underbrush about eight inches thick but is under the control of one piece of apparatus and 15 firemen.

He said that today's fire, which he believes was started from yesterday's blaze working its way underground, will be much easier to control because there is no wind to fight.

In yesterday's fire, which was

fought from 9:45 a. m. to 8 p. m. under the direction of Chief Lockwood, more than a score of large summer homes on the banks of Beaver Dam lake were endangered, but damage was confined to woodland and brush.

Hundreds of townsfolk joined the Stratford Fire department, employees of the Public Works department and State Forest rangers in bringing the fire under control. Town Manager Harry B. Flood made good use of his years of experience as a volunteer fireman for five and a half hours when he assisted the firefighters.

"Backfires" set between noon and 1 p.m. began to take effect by 2 p. m. These were started from James Farms road westerly into the forest, ...



Gwendoline Goode (left) and Helen Larson clearing brush in Roosevelt Forest. **The Bridgeport Post**, June 12, 1955.

## BOOKS OF NOTE

**The King's Best Highway: The Lost History of the Boston Post Road, the Route That Made America**

Although we drive some part of it nearly every day, we rarely give much more than a passing thought to the "Boston Post Road". Today's Post Road through town does not follow the original route marked by Ben Franklin. However, parts of the postal route are still actively utilized such as Boston Avenue, West Broad Street, and Ferry Boulevard.

We're are very fortunate to have some visible reminders of

the original route through town at Rockwell and West Broad Street, Elm Street and East Broadway, and Ferry Boulevard near the Blue Goose Restaurant.

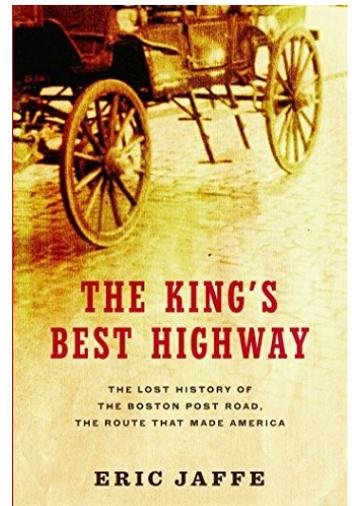
This book is really quite a fascinating read dealing with the Post Road from Boston to New York City. Unknown to most of us, one leg of the Post Road ran from Boston to Springfield/Hartford, then to New Haven, and on to New York.

...those who ventured far out along the road tempted hazard and mayhem. The great path often slipped into narrow stretches no wider than a foot and a half—wilderness corri-

dors filled, come night, with "terrifying darkness." Some of the river crossings, though not impassable, were dangerous.

...Heavy snows would have camouflaged the course; rains and spring thaws would have muddied it beyond all hope for speed.

...Taken as a whole, the road represented a conduit of cultural progress. A meetinghouse would appear, then a tavern, then a marketplace—and soon the route had conferred upon its New World residents a sense of permanency, safety, and hope.



## NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL

We recently discovered this website: <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>. The sponsoring organization is "20 years of supporting and promoting the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women's participation in American life. NCWHS has built the National Votes for Women Trail, a massive project to document the suffrage campaign in every part of the United States in an online database. This virtual repository saves the stories of the women and men who fought to give an equal voice to all citizens in

our country. In partnership with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, we are installing up to 250 roadside markers in towns across the country to share the little-known stories of the fight for the vote. We will continue to develop the database to uncover more stories, particularly those of women and men of color whose struggle for voting rights continued long after the 19th Amendment's passage in 1920."

Of course checking the online Trail you immediately notice that none of Stratford's 80+ Suffragettes is listed on the website

trail. This is an effort we really need to become involved in. Of Connecticut's 169 towns, 163 of them were opposed to women's equal suffrage. Stratford never was, and several ardent leaders in the Suffrage movement resided in Stratford including one of the founders of the Historical Society, Elizabeth Sammis.

Here's what we can do:

1. Identify sites in your state. Many ideas on where to get started can be found below.
2. Add the name, address and significance of the site to our data-



base: National Votes for Women Trail Entry Form

3. Encourage others to join this effort! Our goal is to enter 2600 sites by August 26, 2021.

If you're interested in participating, please drop us a line at [newsletters@stratfordhistorical.society.org](mailto:newsletters@stratfordhistorical.society.org).

# "CURB APPEAL" AWARDS 2022

Each September the Stratford Beautification Committee recognizes homes, businesses and properties that have been particularly, and beautifully, landscaped. No property may win a "Curb Appeal Award" more than once. This year, the Pollinator Gardens at the Historical Society were recognized with a Beautification Committee award. The awards ceremony was held Thursday, September 15th in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. You may watch the video from the awards ceremony at [bit.ly/shsgardens](https://bit.ly/shsgardens). Special thanks to Kevin Moore, our Gardens Chair, and all Kevin's volunteer gardeners who've done a terrific job of beautifying the Historical Society's little Stratford acre.

In the photo to the immediate right are (l to r) the Mayor's representative, Gail Liscio (President, Stratford Historical Society), Carol Hamilton, Kevin Moore, and Christine Griffin (Beautification Committee) during the awards ceremony at Town Hall on September 15th. Below, left and right, are photos from the Beautification Committee's awards presentation in the Town Council Chambers.



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*Our mission is to preserve,  
protect, cherish, and  
celebrate the history of the  
Town of Stratford.*

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