

History comes alive in cemetery Oct. 30

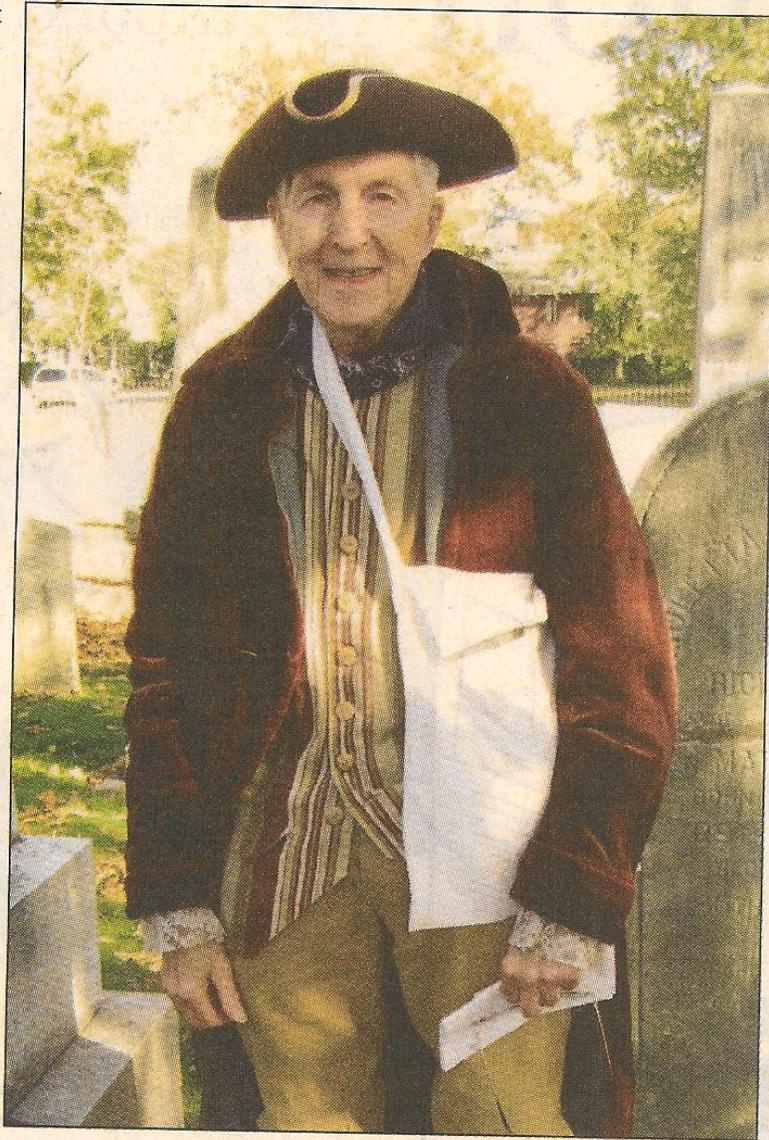
Spirits of Stratford's past will walk among their grave-stones Saturday, Oct. 30, as Christ Episcopal Church opens its historical burying ground to the public from 2 to 4 p.m.

Located at the corner of Broad Street and Elm, behind St. James Catholic Church, the graveyard contains the remains of William Samuel Johnson, who signed the U.S. Constitution, served as the first Connecticut senator and as president of Columbia College (now Columbia University); his father, Samuel Johnson, first rector of Christ Episcopal Church and the first president of King's College (Columbia University); and his daughter-in-law Susan Edwards, granddaughter of theologian Jonathan Edwards and daughter of Pierpont Edwards, are also buried in the family vault.

Costumed re-enactors representing these three Johnsons, early church notables, ship captains and their wives, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans, the architect (joiner) of the 1724 church building will be stationed in the cemetery to greet visitors and share a little about their lives.

This year Benjamin Franklin, a visitor to Stratford and friend of Samuel Johnson, will make an appearance, although he is not buried in the graveyard.

In order to protect the fragile stones, a limited number of visitors will be allowed in the graveyard at one time. Those who are waiting for the tour are invited to visit Christ Church old parish hall, a short walk from the burying ground, for refreshments. A timeline



Rudy Mastroianni, president of the Stratford Historical Society, portrays Samuel Nicoll, captain of The Scourge. The ship took more enemy vessels than any other privateer during the War of 1812. The photo was taken during last year's historic tour of the Christ Episcopal Church burying ground. This year's event is set for Saturday, Oct. 30.
(Submitted Photo)

of the 300-year history of the parish will be on display.

Tickets may be purchased at the event. Adult tickets are \$5, children are \$2.50, and family tickets are \$15.

Additional information is available from Christ Episcopal Church at 203-375-4447.

The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 31, 2-4 p.m.