



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

September 2009 Newsletter

September Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at **7:00 p.m. (NOTE THE EARLIER STARTING TIME)** at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. The business meeting will be followed by a program on Dutch Belted cattle, which are admired for their peculiar and striking marking. Kathy Bach of Tolland will talk about how she and her husband, veterinarian Louis Bach, are restoring a herd of this nearly extinct cattle breed to the Lakeview Farm at Leonard's Corner. The Bachs' herd is one of two nationally renowned herds in America. This is a story of cows, family, local history and the importance of diversity in our nation's food and dairy industry. This program was originally scheduled for February, but was postponed until the September meeting. The public is invited and new members are welcome to join. Refreshments will follow the program.

Take time before the program to view the display in the case on the first floor near the elevator. Nancy Long has recognized Ellington's long history in dairy farming with a display using items from the Nellie McKnight Museum.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

Nellie McKnight Museum Seasonal Opening--It has been a very quiet summer season at the museum. There were fewer than a dozen visitors in spite of the museum being open each week from the beginning of May. Consideration is being given to new means of reaching the public as well as changing museum hours or having tours by special request only.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

2009-2010 EHS Officers--At our annual meeting and potluck supper on June 25th at the Hall Memorial Library, members accepted the slate of officers as presented: President, Tim Fahy; Vice-President, Denise Archibald; Treasurer, Mary Temple; Recording Secretary, Santina Fiore. The Executive Board includes current officers as well as members Dave Lehmann, Jim Stoughton, Don Ellis, Karyn Kloter, Curator Nancy Long, and Archivist Lynn Kloter Fahy.

Farmer's Market--Karyn Kloter arranged to have an Ellington Historical Society booth at the Farmer's Market at Arbor Park on the 3rd Saturday of the month through September. Karyn and Tim and Lynn Fahy staffed the booth. Lynn sold about a dozen Ellington and Crystal Lake books as well as maps, ornaments and other publications. Karyn engaged people with her "what is it" display of old items one week, and had children help make hand cranked ice cream on another. On our last appearance we demonstrated early American punishment using stocks and pillory.

Stop by on our final Saturday, September 19th and support our efforts to increase the community awareness of the historical society. Thank you Karyn for your ideas and efforts with this booth!

Ellington Wall of Honor – Nancy Way, former Vice-President of our society who passed away in July 2006, is this year's appointee to the Wall of Honor. A ceremony will be held in Arbor Park on Saturday, September 12th.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Old Houses of Ellington—Susan Phillips, Hall Memorial Library librarian, passed this information on to me. In 1934, a small group of people began visiting every town in Connecticut to survey its "old buildings." A Work Projects Administration (WPA) project, the staff of the *Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut* completed forms with information about the buildings, and often also took photographs of the buildings. The survey forms and photographs were deposited in the State Archives, with additions coming in as late as 1942.

The Connecticut State Library has transcribed the forms, digitized the photographs, and is presenting them online as part of the CSL Digital Collections. To date, this information is online for Andover through Fairfield. There are 42 photos of 18th and early 19th century Ellington houses. View the WPA Architectural Survey Census of Old Buildings at <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/custom/wpaarchsurg.php>

If you don't have access to the Internet, Shirley Hayden has created a "book" of all the pictures and information which she will bring to the September meeting. She created one page for each house with the picture of the house, the information specific to that house, and its identification by address. Also, Debby Wallace is printing them and adding them to the books that she and Mildred Dimock created about old houses in Ellington.

Books--Copies of the Arcadia pictorial histories *Crystal Lake, Tolland County* at \$21.99 and *Ellington* at \$19.99 are available at the Hall Memorial Library, Crystal Blueprint in Rockville, and other retail outlets.

Shirley Hayden

Shirley has been working on some projects for the society. The first was to photograph all the old houses in Ellington. For the project, she considered any house built before 1900 "old." Shirley brought notebooks with these photographs to a meeting. She is finishing this project by photographing houses previously missed and hopes to complete the project in late fall or early winter. The completed project will be available on a DVD.

The second project was to scan all the pages of Mildred Dimock's and Debby Wallace's notebooks. Shirley did this to make sure that we did not lose any information when we make the notebooks available to the public.

Finally, Shirley has been working on genealogies of Ellington families, which webmaster Jim Long has put on the society's web site. Check out the McKnight and Richardson family genealogies at <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/> Shirley has been working on a number of other families over the years and hopes to add more of them to the web site. There is an e-mail link on the Genealogy section of our web site, so that people can contact Shirley.



President Fahy at the Farmer's Market, August 2009

It's that time again! Membership dues are "due" in September and we have enclosed a form to fill out and include with your dues payment.

Ellington Historical Society Membership Dues

Class of Membership	_____	Individual \$10.00
	_____	Senior Individual \$8.00 (Over 62)
	_____	Family \$20.00
	_____	Senior Family \$15.00 (Over 62)
(Check one)	_____	Patron \$25.00
	_____	Business \$50.00

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____
*E-mail address _____

Make check payable to: Ellington Historical Society

Mail this form and payment to: Ellington Historical Society
P.O. Box 73
Ellington, CT 06029

* If you would like to receive your EHS newsletter by e-mail as a Microsoft Word file instead of "snail mail," please include your e-mail address.