January 2010 Newsletter
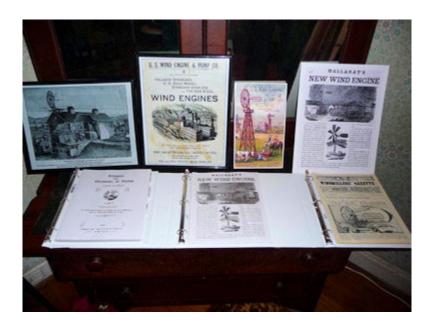

The Halladay Standard windmill, the first commercially successful windmill in North America, was invented and patented in 1854 in Ellington by Daniel Halladay. Photo courtesy of Jim Long.

January Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Members will meet on the main floor of the library for a tour of the Daniel Halladay exhibit. Curator Nancy Long will discuss the exhibit and the connection between Ellington and the Halladay Standard Windmill. The business meeting will follow the program. The public is invited and new members are welcome to join. Refreshments will follow the program.

The bakers for our January meeting are Karyn Kloter and Sharon Czyz.

News from the Curator

The museum open house was held on December 5 during the town-wide Winterfest celebration. Rain turned to snow making it a very picturesque winter scene on the Ellington green but we suspect the weather kept attendance just a bit below the usual standard. The museum was visited

by about sixty people and the crowd was spread out enough to allow for personalized tours and conversations about the museum collection.

We presented our exhibit about Daniel Halladay and the Halladay windmill in the front parlor of the museum. Our own windmill, donated last year by Ed Ricard, was set up with a fan gently blowing to make the blades turn. Pictures of Halladay, his patents, advertisements for windmills and related documents surrounded the windmill making an eye catching display. The most controversial picture came from Lynn Kloter Fahy's book *Images of America: Ellington* showing the workshop on Main Street where Halladay and machinist John Burnham produced the windmill. Members and visitors debated the actual site on Main Street and which buildings still exist.

Thank you to member Bob Dawson who donated material for the Halladay exhibit and answered visitor's questions during the open house. The exhibit will remain at Hall Memorial Library until the spring.

The major change for this year's open house was our decision to not offer cookies and punch. We still wanted to have something to give the children so members Mildred Dimock, Tim Fahy and Nancy Long baked gingerbread men (presented in cellophane bags with a bow) and these were given to our young visitors. We appreciate the support of our members for this event including the following people:

Cleaning and Decorating: Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Angie DeLuca, Hilary Brady, Tim Fahy, Nancy Long. Angie DeLuca also decorated two trees for the Hall Memorial Library tree auction.

Museum Volunteers: Bob Dawson, Shirley Hayden, Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Dave Lehmann, Mildred Dimock, Lynn Fahy, Tim Fahy, Jim Long, Nancy Long.

Special thanks to: Tim Fahy for his help with the museum events and the final shutdown of the furnace and draining of the water system for the season.

News from the President

Our condolences to the family of member Thomas Connelly, who passed away in October. A book will be donated to the Hall Memorial Library in his memory.

Special thanks to: Curator Nancy Long for planning and coordinating every detail of the Christmas open house as well as putting together the Halladay exhibit. The exhibit required research, enlarging pictures, and framing them. Nancy's art background was evident in the attractive display.

We will be having a **history day on Saturday, January 30th**, to allow the public to access the information in the possession of the Historical Society which pertains to old houses in Ellington. This information was arranged by street and number and placed in binders by members Mildred Dimock, and Debbie Wallace. Shirley Hayden then copied these pages to disk allowing for computer access. Society members will be at the **Hall Memorial Library from 2 to 5 p.m.** to help interested patrons find their houses in the binders. Copies can be made of the original pages.

http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/