



## Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

### March 2011 Newsletter

<http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/>

#### March Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, the program will be: *The Story of the Ellington Congregational Church - 1733—2008*, a presentation of the history of the church by Mildred Dimock and Deborah Wallace.

The script for this presentation was written by Mildred C. McKnight, with credit also to historian Nellie E McKnight. It was originally presented in 1983 for the church's 250th Anniversary Celebration. The script was updated by Deborah and Mildred and pictures were added by photographer Fred Bird and others.



This drawing by John Warner Barber is the view from the west looking toward the eastern hills of Ellington in 1836. The second church building of the Ellington Congregational Church, completed in 1806, stands in Church Park, opposite the present church.

This program was originally scheduled for January, but was re-scheduled because of inclement weather. The public is invited and new members are welcome to join. Refreshments will follow the program.

#### News from the Curator—Nancy Long

##### **Ice Harvesting Exhibit**

The ice harvesting exhibit, shown at the holiday open house at the Nellie McKnight Museum, has moved to Hall Memorial Library. Ice harvesting tools, pictures and a binder of additional research information can be found with the exhibit on the main floor. The donation of a horse drawn ice cutter, horse shoes and ice tongs by Ellington Historical Society member L. James McKnight are a wonderful addition to the display. This exhibit will remain at Hall Memorial Library until the end of April when it will move back to the Nellie McKnight Museum and be on display until the end of September.



Photograph taken at the February meeting at the Hall Memorial Library. The program about ice harvesting was presented by Museum Curator Nancy Long.

### **Flea Market**

The Fair on the Green will be held on Saturday, May 7 and the Ellington Historical Society will once again have a bake sale and flea market on the museum grounds. Several of our steadfast volunteers will be out of town for this event, so your help is really needed. We will need four volunteers for each of the two shifts of the bake sale. Two volunteers will be needed for each of the two shifts in the museum. We also need people to bake for the bake sale. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope you will be there to support our effort. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available at the March 24 meeting or you can contact Nancy Long.

### **200 Years and Counting**

The year 2012 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Nellie McKnight's home which houses our museum. Plans are underway to research the history of the home, the people who resided there and the changes in Ellington over this period of time. This information will be developed into a display for the 2011 Holiday Open House and thus begin the celebration. As part of this effort, we will be reallocating space on the second floor of the museum and plan to restore Nellie's bedroom to be part of the museum area open to the public.



This photograph of the McKnight house and the third building of the Ellington Congregational Church was taken sometime after trolley service from Rockville began in 1906 and before the church burned in 1914.

This anniversary highlights the need for exterior paint and repairs at the museum. We are presently hoping to accomplish these jobs with the help of our members either donating time or money. The museum also needs a new sign, and we could use member help with this also. We are the caretakers of this wonderful and historic old house. Let's work to make this a proud 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the house!

### **News from the Archivist--Lynn Kloter Fahy**

More copies of *Ellington, Chronicles of Change*, the 1987 book by Dorothy Cohen, have been reprinted by Ellington Printery and are available for sale at the Hall Memorial Library. The cost is \$20 each. Proceeds benefit the historical society.