



## *Ellington Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 73*

*Ellington, Conn. 06029*

### **February 2012 Newsletter**

#### **February Meeting Notice**

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, Susan J. Jerome, the Collections Manager at the University of Rhode Island Historic Textile and Costume Collection will present a PowerPoint program that will explore the ways in which quilts have become part of American culture. The audience is encouraged to bring one quilt or quilted object with them. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by David Danforth, Nancy Long, and Tim Fahy.



Attendees will learn about textile history and how the development of cheap, printed cotton fabrics and synthetic dyes influenced quilt making in 19th century America; explore the different meanings of the word “quilt” and why quilting today is considered to be a “leisure time” activity; learn how to properly store textile heirlooms for future generations; learn something about family quilts and/or quilted objects; and be able to ask questions relevant to textile and quilt history.

**Obituary:** We note with sadness the passing of former Ellington Historical Society President Homer R. Peckham on January 31 at the age of 89. Homer was very active in the community and will be missed.

## Upcoming Programs

**Thursday, April 26**, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Diana Ross McCain, author of the book, [\*It Happened in Connecticut\*](#), will tell these amazing yet true stories and more....! Back cover: “From a hostile takeover, colonial style, to the first lady governor who was never a governor’s lady, *It Happened in Connecticut* tells the stories of intriguing people and events from the history of the Nutmeg State. Find out where that dubious Nutmegger nickname originated. Discover what a Windsor boardinghouse owner did to inspire the dark comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*. And be inspired by Abby Smith and her cows—a roller coaster ride of a story from the early days of the women’s suffrage movement.”

**Thursday, June 28**, 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Potluck supper and annual elections (Members Only)

**Thursday, Sept. 27**, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Ruth Shapleigh Brown, Founder and Executive Director of [Connecticut Gravestone Network](#) and a member of the Connecticut State Library staff, will present a thought provoking discussion filled with surprising tales and mysteries about the three earliest burying grounds of Hartford. Shapleigh Brown’s illustrated talk will explain the beginnings of these three historic cemeteries, mentioning some important local colonial residents and stone-carvers.

## News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

Erin Quinlan of Ellington-SomersPatch at <http://ellington-somers.patch.com> has started a new feature: “Can You Identify This Historical Photo?” She plans to use weekly photos from the archives of the Ellington, Crystal Lake, and Somers historical societies. The first photo, on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, was from my Images of America book, *Crystal Lake, Tolland County*. Several readers correctly identified it as the fire tower on Soapstone Mountain.

## News from the President-Tim Fahy

The mild weather and a scheduling opportunity allowed Nick Bellantoni, the state archaeologist, to bring a ground radar unit to the museum this week to enable us to look for interesting locations for our dig this summer. While we didn’t find anything noteworthy during the scans, we did identify some areas that look more interesting than others. Mandy Ranslow, our EHS archaeologist, will help us pick the sites.

