



## *Ellington Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 73*

*Ellington, Conn. 06029*

### **September 2012 Newsletter**



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. After a brief business meeting, 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 3 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. She will also answer some common questions including: Do you know where Hartford's second oldest burying place is? (Ruth will also share some photos of archaeology projects involving two of those cemeteries!) Where is the first Mayor of Hartford interred? What about the ethical questions of what to do about those non-earth burials in crumbling crypts? Are there bones left to worry about? How about the unmarked graves? The program is free, and the public is invited. New members are always welcome.

Refreshments will be provided by Nancy Long and Tim Fahy. A sign-up sheet for doing refreshments this year will be circulated at the meeting. We urge members to help with baking for our meetings. Our attendance has increased due to the programming from Hall Memorial Library, and we need three bakers per meeting.

#### **News from the President-Tim Fahy**

**2012-2013 EHS Officers**--At our annual meeting and potluck supper on June 28<sup>th</sup> 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, Karyn Kloter, Hilary Brady, Curator Nancy Long, and Archivist Lynn Kloter Fahy.

## News from the President-Tim Fahy, cont'd.

Our archaeological dig on July 14<sup>th</sup> was all we hoped it would be. The day was hot and dry with a soft breeze. We prepared two pits that were divided into 4 workspaces each. We had 8 youngsters for the morning session along with 5 archaeologists to assist them. They learned how to scrape the dirt away with trowels and brushes, and then sift the dirt to uncover small treasures. There were 5 kids and 5 archaeologists for the afternoon session. All of the children reported having a wonderful time while learning how to properly dig. Our thanks to Mandy Ranslow and her FOSA (Friends of the State Archaeologist) team.



At noon, the Sailing Masters of 1812, a fife and drum corps from Essex, performed a half hour concert for us behind the museum. Their performance was a real treat and was enjoyed by all. At this time Alex and Judie Cardoni presented the society with an 1812 flag (the Star-Spangled Banner) to be flown at the museum.



The day was captured in pictures and video by Jim Long, who produced a wonderful DVD chronicling the event, which he made available to the participants. Thank you, Jim.

### News from the Curator-Nancy Long

A hot and humid summer at Nellie's house, but we did have a few visitors and that is always gratifying! We are pleased when third grade students come to the museum having had their curiosity piqued by our program at the elementary schools in town.

Work on the kitchen closet and upstairs hallway closet has been slow, but cooler weather should make the project seem much more appealing. We are grateful for the generous help from Dan and Cody Griffin at Codan Electricians. Cody remembers coming to the museum with his third grade class!

It has been a busy year with our participation at the Farmer's Market and our archaeological dig at the museum. We would like to thank the following members for their attendance and support:

Potluck dinner in June:	Karyn Kloter: flower arrangements and shortcake
Farmer's Market in June:	Don Ellis (loan of trailer) and Herman Dahl (help in moving farm equipment); Tim & Lynn Fahy, Nancy & Jim Long
Archaeological Dig:	Mandy Ranslow and team of archaeologists and FOSA volunteers; Museum volunteers: Debby Wallace, Denise Archibald, Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Shirley Hayden, Lynn Fahy, Nancy & Jim Long. Museum dig coordinator: Tim Fahy
Sailing Masters:	Alex Cardoni
1812 flag presentation:	Alex & Judie Cardoni

### News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Shirley Hayden recently inherited several Rockville High School yearbooks that belonged to her aunt, Catherine Ahern Barone, who graduated from RHS in 1936. Shirley has long been recording information on Ellington schools and realized that since Rockville High was the school for Ellington students up until the 1960s, it could be considered an Ellington school of sorts, too. She is now in the process of compiling information on Rockville High graduates, especially those from Ellington, in the years from 1888, when *The Hartford Courant* started publishing the names of graduates, up to the 1940s. After the mid 1920s, the school started publishing yearbooks with individual portraits of the graduates, and many of these are available at the Vernon Historical Society. Here are six Ellington members of the class of 1928 found in a yearbook at VHS.



Left to right: Esther Aborn, Barbara Backofen, Saul Cohen, Gordon Dimock, Antoinette Edmondo, Edwin Heintz.

## Old House Project News

from Shirley Hayden

Last May, we received an inquiry from a fellow in Florida named Bob Rogers. A Mayflower descendant and Son of the American Revolution, he has been doing the genealogy of his Rogers family for some time, but was stumped by one fact: One ancestor, also named Robert Rogers, was a sea captain, but lived for a while in Ellington. He wanted to know: why would a sea captain from Lyme, CT move to an inland town like Ellington? Unfortunately, we were unable to answer his question, but we were able to tell him that in 1807, his ancestor bought land from Diodate Brockway, the long time (1799-1849) minister at the Ellington Congregational Church, and built a house on it. The house still stands at 42 Main Street, and we were able to send Bob pictures of it. One was taken years ago and included in Nellie McKnight's slide collection and the more recent ones were taken by Shirley Hayden. All this was possible because of the work Nellie McKnight did to record information about the old houses in town, and the work Mildred Dimock and Debby Wallace did to organize and preserve Nellie's work. We were also able to send him a picture of his ancestor's gravestone in Ellington Cemetery. In return, he was able to report to us about the



*Mayflower descendant Bob Rogers visiting the house his ancestor built in Ellington in 1807.*

deterioration of the Rogers stone over the past 20 years. Shortly thereafter, Bob actually came to Ellington to see the house his ancestor built. He sent us this photograph, taken by his wife on that visit.

## Book signing by Mildred Dimock on June 9 at the Hall Memorial Library

Ellington Historical Society members Mildred Dimock and Hilary Brady transcribed letters from Nancy Sikes Porter, a Somers native and a missionary to Gabon, Africa with her husband, the Rev. Rollin Porter in 1851. The letters were found by archivist Lynn Kloter Fahy in the museum archives. Mildred published the letters as a book, *Letters from Nancy to Her Dear Mother*, which is available for \$10 at the museum and the Ellington Congregational Church.



**Upcoming meetings**

**Thursday, Oct. 25**, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

**From Hula Hoops to High Fashion: G. Fox in the 1950s**, a 45-minute presentation by Elizabeth Abbe, Director of Public Outreach at the Connecticut Historical Society



In the 1950s, just about every major city had a landmark department store. In Connecticut, it was G. Fox & Co in Hartford! This presentation will bring you back in time to Fox's heyday as we go from floor to floor and recall departments ranging from accessories on the "street" floor, to designer dresses on 6, and ending at Toyland on 11. You'll also learn about Beatrice Fox Auerbach, the remarkable woman who made every visit to Fox's so enjoyable and set the standard for customer service. We promise to stir pleasant memories of date nut bread in the Connecticut Room, back-to-school shopping, and the wonderful Christmas season at G. Fox & Co.!

The presenter encourages people attending her talks to bring their memories and favorite purchases from the store.

**Membership dues are due in September and we have enclosed a form to fill out and include with your dues payment.**

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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.