



## Ellington Historical Society

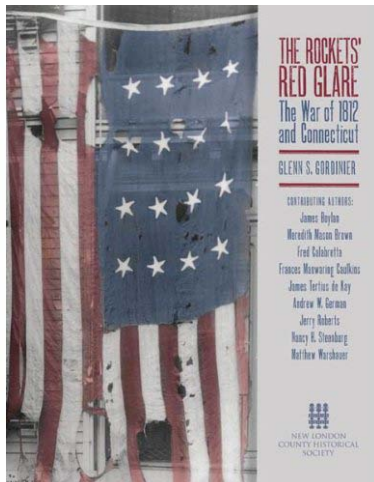
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### January 2013 Newsletter

#### January Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, Glenn S. Gordinier, Ph.D., Robert G. Albion Historian at Mystic Seaport and author of *The Rockets' Red Glare: the War of 1812* will present a program on "Connecticut and the War of 1812."



Refreshments for the January meeting will be provided by Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, and Hilary Brady.

Note: The Hall Memorial Library has scheduled some of their adult programs on historical topics in conjunction with our meetings. Our January program is one of these. Press releases about these programs say to call the library to register. Registration does NOT apply to Ellington Historical Society members.

#### News from the Curator-Nancy Long

##### **Open House/Winterfest**

We had cold but clear weather for the Winterfest celebration so a good crowd was guaranteed for all the activities. A steady stream of guests came to the Nellie McKnight Museum for tours and we enjoyed a profitable day in the museum store.

The front parlor display celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the McKnight house was left in place, with the addition of samples from our archaeological dig this past July. The pantry closet in the kitchen was refurbished this year and displayed china and other kitchen pieces from the museum collection. The upstairs hall closet is not yet painted, but was open for viewing with some vintage clothing on display.



We sent a photo to the Journal Inquirer of Tim Fahy, Lynn Fahy, and Mary Temple greeting guests in the front hallway. The picture was published twice and we are happy for the publicity! Our exhibit from the archaeological dig is presently on display at Hall Memorial Library. Thank you to Mary Temple and Angie DeLuca for their decorated trees and center pieces for the Hall Memorial Library silent auction.

Thank you to our members who helped clean, decorate and staff our museum for this event: Tina Fiore, Mary Temple, Dave Danforth, Don and Lennie Ellis, Tim and Lynn Fahy, and Nancy and Jim Long. We extend a special thank you to Tim Fahy and his friend Rick who drained the pipes and winterized the museum at the close of the season. For more photos of the Open House, check out our website at <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/>

See you in the spring!

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

I want to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work done at the museum in 2012 by Jim and Nancy Long. At the first sign of spring they were cleaning up the yard and gardens, which they maintained throughout the year. They both help plan every event and act as docents for the entire time of the event. In addition to being our webmaster, Jim recorded and produced a DVD of our archaeological dig and supplied it free to all participants. He is also responsible for the timeline that accompanied the history of our 200-year-old house. Nancy, as Curator, creates both the museum and library displays. After cleaning the building, she finds staffing for each event. She teaches history to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders by bringing artifacts from the museum to their school. She makes sure we have all the supplies we need for each meeting. She contributes to the newsletter. She is at the museum for 3 hours each Thursday afternoon from May through September. This year, she refurbished the upstairs hall closet and the pantry off the kitchen. She had shelves put in the closet. Most of the supplies used for these projects are paid for by Jim and Nancy. On occasion, they get to go home! So, thank you Jim and Nancy, when people tell me the museum looks great, I always tell them why.





**The gravestone of Collins Richardson in the Crystal Lake Cemetery in Stafford.** The headline of an article in the July 23, 1894 issue of the *Hartford Courant* read “Hundreds Saw Him Die. Collins R. Richardson Killed at Crystal Lake.” Twenty-four-year-old Crystal Lake native “Collie” Richardson had jumped to his death from a 120-foot-high tower into 12 feet of water, which was actually at Pine Point Grove, Shaker Station, Enfield, before a paying crowd of 700 people.



### **Rockville High School Project**

Shirley Hayden has also found a few more Rockville High School graduates from Ellington. This time, we have the six Ellington students in the class of 1901. This appears to have been before yearbooks, but many students had individual portraits taken. The six students were:

1. Betsey Ellen Crane, the daughter of William and Etta Crane, was part of the Crane family, who lived on Crane Road, which was named after them. You can find a picture of Betsey as a young girl in Lynn Fahy's *Images of America: Ellington* book. After high school, Betsey became a schoolteacher.
2. Mary Josephine Davis was the daughter of George and Sarah Davis.
3. Mary Angie Elliott was the daughter of Thomas and Maggie Elliott. She became a schoolteacher.
4. George Burnside Maynard, was the son of Alonzo and Etta Maynard. (Alonzo was the most severely injured soldier from Connecticut to survive the Civil War). After graduation, George worked in the insurance industry and lived with his family in West Hartford.
5. Lawrence John McCarthy, the son of Johanna McCarthy, became a doctor. He died in 1915 in Rockville at the age of 33 and is buried in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Rockville.
6. Edith Maud Slater was the daughter of Merrill and Lurancy Slater, and also the grandmother of EHS member Shirley Hayden. She was a schoolteacher before marrying. She raised her family on Sadds Mill Road in a house next to the McKnight farm. She died in 1932 at the age of 49.

### **February Meeting**

Thursday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. Steve Marshall, a restoration specialist, will talk about the restoration of the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London.