

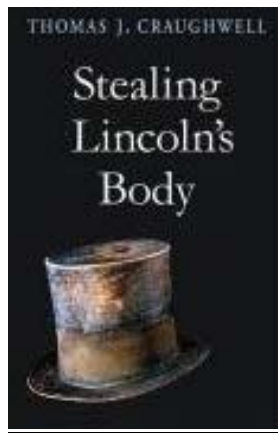


## Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

### September 2013 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. After a brief business meeting, Thomas Craughwell will talk about his book, *Stealing Lincoln's Body*. amazon.com: "On the night of the presidential election in 1876, a gang of counterfeiters out of Chicago attempted to steal the entombed, embalmed body of Abraham Lincoln and hold it for ransom. The custodian of the tomb was so shaken by the incident that he willingly dedicated the rest of his life to protecting the president's corpse."

This program was arranged by Francie Berger of the Hall Memorial Library and is made possible by a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services. 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

**2013-2014 EHS Officers**--At our annual meeting and potluck supper on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hall Memorial Library, members accepted the slate of officers as presented: President, Tim Fahy; Vice-President, Hilary Brady; Treasurer, Mary Temple; Recording Secretary, Santina Fiore. The Executive Board includes current officers as well as members-at-large Dave Lehmann, Karyn Kloter, Dave Danforth, Curator Nancy Long, and Archivist Lynn Kloter Fahy.

**New members**--We welcome two new members to the historical society: Phyllis Baltaks and the Ellington Congregational Church.

**Ellington's Wall of Honor**—Homer R. Peckham, longtime member and former president of the historical society who passed away in 2012, was selected for the Wall of Honor in Arbor Park. At a ceremony on **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**, the following inscription will be unveiled: "50+ Years of Activism to Preserving Ellington's History & Beauty."

**Fall Flea Market--** On **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** we will have a Fall Flea Market and hope for good weather and a good crowd for the day. The museum will not be open for tours.

**Archaeology Fair**—The Ellington Historical Society will again participate in the Archaeology Fair, which will be held on **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** from 10am-4pm at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center in Wethersfield, CT. This year the Fair will be co-sponsored by the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. The event will be free to the public with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults. The proceeds will support the on-going work at the Office of State Archaeology.

**Connecticut Open House Day--** On June 8<sup>th</sup>, The Connecticut Office of Tourism sponsored the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Open House Day. The Nellie McKnight House was open for tours, but an archaeological dig that was to be held that morning had to be cancelled because of heavy rain in the days before the event. Thanks to docents Tim and Lynn Fahy, Nancy and Jim Long, Hilary Brady, Shirley Hayden, Mandy Ranslow, Debby Wallace, Alex Cardoni, Tina Fiore, and Mary Temple for helping out. Despite the rained out dig, Mandy had a table set up displaying items from the summer 2012 dig at the museum. It proved to be a popular display.

**Ellington Farmers Market**—On June 29<sup>th</sup>, we set up a booth at the Farmers Market that featured items from “Nellie’s Kitchen.” They represented a typical farmer’s wife’s kitchen as it used to be. Activities for children included scrubbing clothes in a washtub, churning butter, and beating rugs. Thanks to members Tim and Lynn Fahy, Herman Dahl, Hilary Brady, and Mary Temple for helping out with the day’s activities.



### **News from the Curator-Nancy Long**

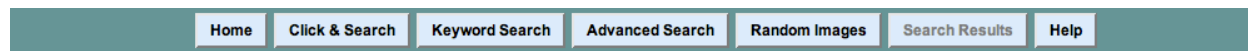
This summer Tina Fiore has joined us at the museum on Thursday afternoons. We have worked on accessioning items from the Hall Memorial Library collection, which came to our museum when the library expanded in the early 1990s. These items were photographed by Jim Long and then added to our PastPerfect records maintained by Lynn Fahy and are now available for viewing on our website. <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org> Click on “Search Our Collections.” Our efforts will continue to be focused on photographing items from the original inventories as well as numbering and accessioning those items that were not previously documented and items donated in the past few years.

The museum will once again be part of the town Winterfest celebration to be held on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Our exhibit this year will honor the Ellington Parish Train Band and offer material about the original group formed in 1776 and the revival of the train band for the country's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1976. We are very lucky to have pictures, uniforms, equipment, trophies and even a film from the 1976 group to use for our display.



### News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Long, Nancy Long, and Tina Fiore, many more objects in the museum collection are now represented in our PastPerfect-Online catalog. In June, PastPerfect submitted our online site to Google for indexing. It's a free service and helps more Internet users find our online records. I just received the September report of usage statistics, and 840 Google searches have been recorded in 2013, compared to 33 in all of 2012! Since making our collection more accessible is our goal, these results are very encouraging. See sample record below.



#### Object Record

Print

Zoom All Images



Chase & Sanborn coffee can, front view



Chase & Sanborn coffee tin, back view



Chase & Sanborn coffee tin, left view

<b>Catalog Number</b>	1982.001.0401
<b>Object Name</b>	Can, Food-storage
<b>Description</b>	Small coffee can. "Chase & Sanborn High Grade Coffee. Red & gold label. Directions printed around sides.
<b>Collection</b>	Nellie McKnight Collection
<b>Accession number</b>	1982.001
<b>Old ID number</b>	82-401
<b>Material</b>	Metal
<b>Image</b>	<a href="#">Chase &amp; Sanborn coffee can, front view</a> <a href="#">Chase &amp; Sanborn coffee tin, back view</a> <a href="#">Chase &amp; Sanborn coffee tin, left view</a> <a href="#">Chase &amp; Sanborn coffee tin, right view</a>

## **News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy, cont'd.**

I found an 8-track reel tape in the Archives that was recorded by Nellie McKnight in the 1970s. With the help of NEDCC (Northeast Document Conservation Center), I found a company in Pennsylvania who can transfer this now rare format to an archival preservation master file for long-term storage, a CD-quality mezzanine file, and a streaming file for digital distribution. Nellie's narration is about early Ellington, especially some of the houses, according to the label on the tape. We plan to make this narration available at the museum, a meeting, and perhaps in our online catalog.

There is a collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century deeds in the Archives collection. Most are concerned with property transfers involving William Thrall. I am in the process of preserving them by scanning them to digital files after removing them from the archivally-unsafe plastic bags in which I found them. They will be stored in acid-free folders and boxes for permanent storage. One of the signatures on the documents is that of Lt. Eleazer Pinney, who served in the Revolutionary War and was a representative to the Connecticut legislature after his return to the house he built in Ellington, the landmark "Pinney House" on Pinney Street.

## **Upcoming meetings**

**Thursday, Oct. 24,** 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



T. Garth (Tim) Connelly, a noted and award-winning naval historian and author of books and articles, will discuss different types of PT boats, their armament, radar and camouflage and will give an overall view of how they were used in combat.

Photo from the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division. U.S. Navy, 1940-1946.

**Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014,** 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library—Storyteller Vicki Graw

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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 by "snail mail," please include your e-mail address.