



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

April 2014 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.

After a brief business meeting, Matthew Bartlett will present **For the Sake of the Country: Female Spies in the Civil War**. Connecticut resident and American military historian Bartlett will discuss his new book, which tell the stories of four extraordinary women who risked all for their countries during the American Civil War as spies.

Belle Boyd, Confederate spy.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

The program is free, and the public is invited. New members are always welcome. The bakers for our meeting are Tina Fiore and Mary Temple.

The 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.

Upcoming meeting

Thursday, June 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library--Potluck supper and annual elections (Members Only)

News from the Curator—Nancy Long

The **Nellie McKnight Museum** will be open for the season on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be open on Thursdays through the end of September.

Ellington Historical Society Flea Market and Bake Sale

Our annual Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held on May 17, 2014 on the Nellie McKnight Museum grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Ellington Congregational Church will hold their indoor tag sale on this same date and the Farmer's Market will be open at Arbor Park. There is no rain date for our event. Spaces are 10' x 20' for a donation of \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members. This donation is nonrefundable. Exhibitors of typical flea market/tag sale items and crafts are welcome. Food exhibitors cannot be accepted. Applications are available on our website: www.ellingtonhistsoc.org

The historical society bake sale will also be held on May 17 in the Nellie McKnight Museum from 9:00-2:00. Members will be contacted to bake and help staff this bake sale. In keeping with the guidelines given by North Central District Health, we are asking our bakers to package their baked goods so they are ready for sale. We do not want to handle or repackage the baked items and it really speeds up the bake sale set up if all we only have to price the item. We thank you for your observance of these guidelines.

The museum will be open for tours on May 17. A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the bake sale and museum staffing will be available at our April 24 meeting.

News from the President—Tim Fahy

We welcome two new members: Judy Ellington Stainback of Manson, NC & Makiko Goto-Wideman of Newport Coast, CA. Makiko is going to begin the project of reconstructing the former Hamilton/Clark house on Frog Hollow Road that was dismantled and shipped to California. She is a floral designer and will use it for her studio. Makiko sent us a dried floral wreath, which will be on display at the museum.

I want to thank the 19 out-of-town, and 15 out-of-state members who continue to support the Ellington Historical Society. Their continued membership is very important to the health of our society.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

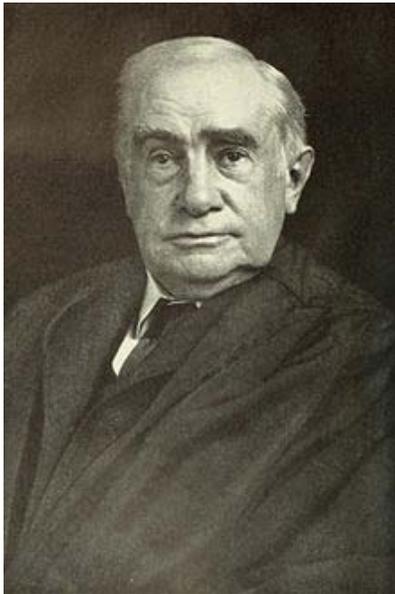
Dianne Trueb and others have begun to interview farming families in Ellington for the Ellington Farmers Market blog. Dianne's blog about the Hoffman Farm includes a new photo of the homestead, which was built in 1814. Behind it is the first schoolhouse in the town of Ellington. According to Dorothy Cohen's *Ellington: Chronicles of Change*, it was built in 1792 at the southwest corner of Hoffman and Somers Roads. It was known as District 4 or the Kibbe or Rider School. The schoolhouse was moved in 1866 to the Hoffman Farm. I have supplied her with some vintage photographs to use with future stories.



Ellington's first schoolhouse

Visit the Ellington Farmers Market web site to read the blog at

<http://ellingtonfarmersmarket.com>



A few months ago, I received a phone call from Steve Luxenberg, an associate editor at *The Washington Post* and author of the award-winning *Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into a Family Secret*. Luxenberg is working on a new book and was researching Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Henry Billings Brown's early life and how it shaped him. It seems that Brown studied with Ellington lawyer John Brockway for just a year in the late 1800s, but Luxenberg says that it was a year in which Brown also spent time expanding and solidifying his social circle. He is best known for the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* "separate but equal" decision, for which he was vilified. The 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* reversed the 1896 decision.

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