



## Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

### June 2014 Newsletter

#### June Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper for members on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Those with last names beginning with A-J are asked to bring a salad *or* side dish. Those with last names beginning with K-Z are asked to bring a main dish. Beverages will be provided. Our traditional strawberry shortcake will be served for dessert.

Following the supper, we will hold our annual meeting during which we will elect officers for 2014/2015. A slate of officers will be presented and nominations can also be made from the floor. A presentation created from a slideshow by Nellie McKnight in the late 1960s or early 1970s and narrated by Nellie herself will be playing on a laptop during the evening. After we had the 8-track reel-to-reel tape converted to digital, we discovered that Nellie had an accent characteristic of the Worcester, MA area, perhaps acquired during her years as a college student at Mount Holyoke in South Hadley or her years teaching in Rutland, MA. Thanks to Jim Long for creating a DVD version.

The family of Mildred Dimock has invited all of her friends, family, and members of the Ellington Historical Society to a celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> in the Social Room of the Ellington Congregational Church at 72 Main Street. Drop in anytime between 2:00 and 5:00. The family has requested no gifts, just your best wishes.

If you can't attend, but would like to send Mildred a card, her address is:

White Oaks  
230 Deming. St, Apt. 324  
Manchester, CT 06042



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

### **Museum Season**

The Nellie McKnight Museum is open for the season on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 through the end of September. We are continuing our work updating and digitizing the museum collection.

### **Flea Market/Bake Sale**

We were indeed lucky when the skies cleared and the sun came out for our flea market and bake sale on Saturday, May 17. The flea market featured twenty booths offering a good variety of tag sale items and crafts. Our bake sale was well attended and we thank all of our members who took the time to bake and wrap their baked goods for sale. A special thank you to our volunteers: Hilary Brady, Pat Szemplinski, Pat Clapp, Connie Nichols, Bev Nichols, Lennie Ellis, Mary Temple and Tina Fiore.

The museum was open for tours on May 17. Thank you to our volunteers: Dave Danforth, Tim and Lynn Fahy, Shirley Hayden, and Nancy and Jim Long. Tim Fahy set up the flea market field and Dave Lehmann checked in vendors on Saturday morning.

### **School Tours**

Tim Fahy and Nancy Long have completed the visits to the third grade students in town. The Crystal Lake School tour was on May 21, Center School tour on May 29, and Windermere School tour will be on June 6. The students were very attentive to our display of vintage items from the Nellie McKnight Museum. We routinely invite students to visit the museum and hope we will see some of the students on Open Museum Day.

### **Herb Garden**

The herb garden on the museum grounds has been readied for the growing season. Thank you to the Tussie Mussies from the Ellington Women's Club for their efforts in maintaining the garden through the summer.

### **Hall Memorial Library**



Vintage items from Nellie McKnight's medicine cabinet are featured in the display case in Hall Memorial Library. Topical skin treatments, bandages and medicine bottles are among the objects dating back fifty or more years. The product description from the packaging or a statement of use is included with each object.

## News from the President-Tim Fahy



### **Open House and Archaeological Dig**

The Nellie McKnight Museum, 70 Main Street, Ellington will be open on Saturday, June 14th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate Connecticut Open House Day at Connecticut museums. This event is sponsored by the Connecticut Office of Tourism. Admission is free.

The Open House will also feature an archaeological dig on the grounds of the Museum. Participants and observers will learn the techniques of excavation and will participate in ongoing research of the property. If you like the excitement of uncovering history, and don't mind getting dirty, this is for you. Archaeologists from the Friends of the Office of State Archaeologists will give instructions on how to dig, and what to look for. This event will be held rain or shine unless the ground is too saturated. The dig will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and will be free of charge. We will be limited to 8 participants at a time, but will make an effort to insure that all who attend have a chance to dig. Young people ages 7-16 may sign up by calling Tim Fahy. All participants must be accompanied by an adult. Observers are welcome. Questions may be directed to Tim.



The Ellington Farmers Market theme on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be "Farming Through the Years" and will feature a selection of items from the kitchen of the Nellie McKnight Museum. They are representative of what would have been in a farmer's wife's kitchen. Try your hand at churning butter or washing clothes in a tub with a washboard. We will be at the market at Arbor Park on Main Street from 9:00-12:00.

## News from the Archivist- Lynn Kloter Fahy

### **Online catalog**

Cataloging the museum collection and archives is continuing on PastPerfect Museum Software. An upgrade to Version 5.0 has enabled us to upload images to the PastPerfect server at 1200 pixels per inch, up from 950, so the images are clearer. Go to [www.ellingtonhistsoc.org](http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org) and click on "Search Our Collections" under the "Resources" tab.

I recently cataloged a local weekly publication, *Ellington Town Talk*. We have issues from its first issue in June 1959 until May 1962. If you would like to see the publication, stop by the museum on Thursday afternoons.

### **High school yearbook project**

Shirley Hayden has completed a study of Rockville High School graduates from 1873 to 1950, and she will print it in time for the June annual meeting and potluck. There are two years in the 1880s that are missing, but otherwise, there are lists of graduates from 1873 to 1950, with yearbook pictures from 1927-1950. Ellington students attended Rockville High School until Ellington High School was built, with the first class graduating from Ellington High in 1960.

### **Ellington Farmers Market Blog**

The blog on the Ellington Farmers Market web site has new articles about farming in Ellington. The most recent one is about Greg Hazelton, first generation farmer at Copper Hill Farm, and an earlier one is about the Edward Luginbuhl Farm, in the family since 1904. There are many vintage and current photos. Check them out at <http://ellingtonfarmersmarket.wordpress.com>

### **Oral History Grant**

Francie Berger of the Hall Memorial Library has announce that the library is one of only five libraries in Connecticut this year awarded grant monies from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The money will be used for an oral history project in Ellington. We will hear more about this in the coming months.

Enjoy your summer! The September newsletter will have details of our first meeting of the 2014-2015 year on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Like the Ellington Historical Society on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ellington-Historical-Society/537500529657452>