



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

September 2014 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. After a brief business meeting, Georg Papp Sr. author of *The Authority*, who restores and builds the finest outhouses this side of the 19th century, will discuss his craft and share outhouse lore in a talk entitled “Preserving America, One Outhouse at a Time.”

This event 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

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family of Jim Stoughton, former president of the Ellington Historical Society, who passed away on June 28. Condolences also to Thaddeus Okolo, husband of Mary Okolo, who passed away on July 15. Ted and Mary have been longtime members of the society. Donations have been made in their names to the Hall Memorial Library.

Mildred Arens Dimock’s 100th Birthday

First Selectman Maurice Blanchette has declared September 6th as “Mildred Arens Dimock Day.” Ellington Historical Society member and former Treasurer of the Society, Mildred will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 6th. She was an Ellington Wall of Honor inductee in 2005. A celebration with family and friends was held at the Ellington Congregational Church on Sunday, August 31.

Update on the Pinney House

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House was granted 501(c)(3) status earlier this year. It is calling its new tax-exempt organization the Friends of the Pinney House Inc. Currently it is in the process of fundraising for the next phase of its project, which will be the interior restoration of the historic property built by Eleazer Pinney, who distinguished himself at the Battles of Stillwater and Saratoga in the Revolutionary War. After the War, he was a representative in the Connecticut State Legislature and a Selectman in Ellington. The Committee is also seeking new members. The Committee's membership fees are similar to those of the Historical Society, according to member Gerry Gillung. Anyone interested in becoming a member or who has questions concerning the project should contact: Gerry Gillung, 93 Burbank Rd., Ellington, CT 06029

Ellington's Wall of Honor

The Town of Ellington announced the newest citizen to be named to the Wall of Honor: "Rachel Lee Wheeler-Rossow lived in Ellington from 1970 until her death in 2013. She was deeply involved in her community serving on the Board of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and as the Chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee. She dedicated her life to helping people less fortunate. As President and co-founder of Alpha and Omega, Inc., she raised and cared for more than 50 children and adults born with seriously challenging health conditions." A formal induction ceremony will be held on September 6th at the site of the wall in Arbor Park on Main Street.

John Hall Descendants' Visit

On July 16, Ellington had a surprise visit from two women who are five times great-granddaughters of Judge John Hall, who founded the Ellington School in 1829. Originally a boarding school for boys, it attracted students from other states and countries as well as local ones. Hall was also the author of several textbooks that were widely used. The women, one from New Hampshire and the other from New York, visited the Hall Memorial Library and were given a private tour of the Nellie McKnight Museum by President Tim Fahy. They saw the oil painting of the Ellington School that hangs in the library and perused the book about John Hall's son Francis: *Japan through American eyes: the journal of Francis Hall, Kanagawa and Yokohama, 1859-1866*. It was Francis Hall who donated the money to build the Hall Memorial Library in 1903 in memory of his father John and his brother Edward. The women walked down Main Street to see the apartment house on the corner of Berr Avenue that was the former Edward Hall's Family School for Boys.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

Our visitor numbers at the Nellie McKnight Museum were down for the summer but we are happy to report several visits from third graders who saw our presentation in school this year and wanted to see more of the museum. It is always gratifying to have the students interested in our town history.

Nellie's Birthday

We held a birthday celebration on Tuesday July 22 for Nellie McKnight's 120th birthday. Cookies and lemonade were served at the evening museum opening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We

thank historical society members for their support and appreciate the attendance of the Ellington community.

New exhibit at the Hall Memorial Library

Archivist Lynn Fahy has found some old school books in the archives and these are featured in the case at Hall Memorial Library. The books date from the late 1890s and were owned by the Aborn family. Books from the 1950s from the Crystal Lake School are also shown as a quick fifty-year step ahead in school education. A McKnight family pencil/chalk box and school slate are also part of the display.



Winterfest

The museum will once again be part of the town Winterfest celebration to be held on Saturday, December 6. Our exhibit this year will feature Nellie McKnight, her family and her lasting legacy in Ellington. Our display will include Nellie's yearbooks, writings and crafts in addition to the photo gallery already shown in the upstairs hallway. We will also show Nellie's slide show and personal narration of old houses in town.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

The Ellington Farmer's Market blog now includes the history of the Cohen Family Farm on Frog Hollow Road. Diane Trueb interviewed Sandy Cohen recently. The Cohen family has been farming in Ellington for 99 years. The interview and several current and historic photos is available at <http://ellingtonfarmersmarket.wordpress.com>

Upcoming meetings

Thursday, Oct. 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



Kevin Johnson of the Connecticut State Library will reenact the life and times Jordan Freeman, an African-American servant who served John Ledyard and fought alongside Col. William Ledyard at the Battle of Groton Heights at Fort Griswold during the Revolutionary War.

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