

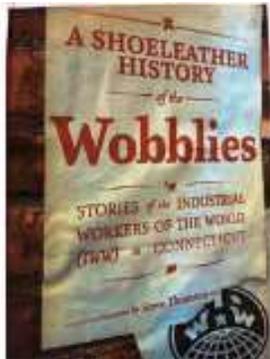


## Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

### January 2015 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. After a brief business meeting, Steve Thornton will discuss his book, *A Shoelather History of the Wobblies: Stories of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in Connecticut*. The program is free, and the public is invited. New members are always welcome. Refreshments for the January meeting will be provided by Debby Wallace and Nancy Long.

#### News from the President-Tim Fahy

I had intended to write about staff accomplishments this month, but we have too many other things to include in this newsletter, so I'll do that another time. Now that the holidays are over, the Executive Board will once again take up the problems facing the Ellington Historical Society and the Nellie McKnight Museum.

Our thanks go out to Homestead Fuel for their donation of oil, and to Jim McKnight for his very generous monetary donation to the museum. We also received a donation from Rob and Debbie Wallace in honor of Mildred Dimock's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Mr. and Mrs. John Wraight made a donation in memory of Duane Aborn.

In December, we presented a program about Ice Harvesting for the Better Age group at the Ellington Senior Center. After the program we signed up 5 new members. They are as follows:

Morris and Maureen Webber  
Tom and Dottie Curtiss  
Carolyn Cook

Welcome!

### **Oral History Project**

Volunteers from the Library, Historical Society, Senior Center and Farmer's Market have undergone training in oral history interviewing techniques and will be anxious to begin putting their new skills to use. They are recruiting folks who would like to be interviewed. Contact Francie Berger at the Library at (860) 870-3160 if you would like to participate. Francie says "Interviews will take place at the Library, the Senior Center, or any location that is convenient for you; we'll even come to your home to chat! Our goal is to preserve your stories for the benefit and enjoyment of the current residents of Ellington as well as future generations who would like a glimpse of life in Ellington in the 20th and 21st centuries. Please consider sharing your stories!"

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

A rainy, cold day was not what everyone pictured for Winterfest but that is what we got anyway! We were grateful to be indoors and not marching in a parade. The crowd was smaller due to the weather, but many remarked how much they enjoyed their visit and the chance to really view the museum without the crush of people.

Thank you to our members who helped clean, decorate and volunteer for the day's events: Tina Fiore, Dave Danforth, Shirley Hayden, Dave Lehmann, Karen Hayes, Lynn Fahy, Tim Fahy, Jim Long and Nancy Long.

Our exhibit this year featured Nellie McKnight and included memorabilia from her school years and teaching. We were pleased to have an extended visit from Jim McKnight, Nellie's nephew, and enjoyed his reminiscences of Ellington when he was growing up. The Nellie McKnight display will remain in the museum for the 2015 season.



### **Who was Nellie McKnight?**

She was one of the founding members of the Ellington Historical Society and in 1981 donated her home to be used as a museum. But who was she? Librarian, historian, teacher and hand-weaver are among the descriptions of the quiet New England lady who was so active in our town. Born in 1894, her lifespan saw electricity coming to Ellington and man landing on the moon! Our exhibit will feature pictures and memorabilia of her life as well as many hand-woven pieces Nellie created on her floor loom housed in the museum and still in use today.

## **Hall Memorial Library Exhibit**

In keeping with the winter season, our Ice Harvesting exhibit has been installed in the display case at the library. We have included photos of ice harvesting here in town as well as an overview of some of the methods and tools.

## **News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy**

The Ellington Farmer's Market blog now includes the history of the Moser Dairy, which has been in Ellington since 1900 ... "and all who grew up in town can surely remember warm summer evenings lined up waiting for ice-cream while petting the baby animals in their mini-farm in the 1960s and 1970s. This is a story that spans four generations, and of remarkable achievement through hard work and the willingness to take chances and embrace change." The interview by Dianne Trueb and many historic and contemporary photographs are available at <http://ellingtonfarmersmarket.wordpress.com>

## **News from Shirley Hayden**

"Old Houses of Ellington Revisited"

Several years ago, I attempted to photograph all the houses in Ellington that were built before 1900. When I coordinated the photographs with the wonderful work Debbie Wallace and Mildred Dimock did gathering all the information that the Ellington Historical Society had on old houses up to that time--together with information from the online Assessor's database. Some of you may have seen the notebooks with the pictures and information when I brought them to a meeting a few years ago.

At a recent Society meeting, however, I learned that I had omitted the house on Cliff Street now owned and recently renovated by Francie Berger. Looking into this, I discovered I'd omitted all the old houses on Cliff Street as well as those on Walnut Street. These two streets are very close to Rockville, and Francie generously suggested I may have thought they were in Rockville. However, I'm pretty sure it was just an oversight. Odd that I should omit the houses on Walnut Street in particular since my great grandfather lived there and I had photographed his house when I did my family research!

In any event the "new" old houses are the houses at:  
4 Cliff Street--built in 1890



5 Cliff Street—built in 1891. This is Francie Berger’s house after she recently renovated it. She shared a picture of the results of the renovation.



7 Walnut Street – built in 1890



8 Walnut Street – built in 1889



9 Walnut Street – built in 1877



## Upcoming meetings

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



### **Mathew Duman**

What facet of a building is most effective at making you smile? Is it expert craftsmanship? Handsome materials? Pleasing proportions? For Mathew M. Duman, the answer is: gargoyles and grotesques. Five years ago, Duman, a photographer and graphic designer at the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven, became fascinated with creatures that had been carved into walls, arches, cornices and towers of Yale University buildings.

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



**Arnie Pritchard** performs "*This Business of Fighting*," a live performance story, based on Tony Pritchard's letters to his parents in Rhode Island between his sailing for Europe in February 1944 and Germany's surrender about fifteen months later. You will hear him describe crawling through the freezing, snow-covered woods of the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge. You will hear about crowds of released forced laborers wandering the roads of Germany as the Nazi regime was collapsing. You will hear about women desperately trying to preserve their homes as the tide of battle washes over them.

Thursday, June 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library--Potluck supper and annual elections (Members Only)