



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

April 2015 Newsletter

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** at Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. After a short business meeting, there will be a program presented by **Arnie Pritchard**: *"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.

The program is free, and the public is invited. New members are always welcome. Refreshments will be provided by Tina Fiore, Mary Temple and Lennie Ellis.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Russell Ballard, whose wife Julianna passed away in March. The Ballards were lifetime members of the society.

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ELLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015 AT 2:00 AT HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ELLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE NELLIE MCKNIGHT MUSEUM.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open for the season on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be open on Thursdays through the end of September.

EHS Flea Market and Bake Sale



Our annual Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held on May 16, 2015 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. Call 860-875-5804 for an application form or call 860-875-7160 for general information. Applications are also available on our website: www.ellingtonhistsoc.org

The historical society bake sale will also be held on May 16 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 Health District, 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 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 16th. A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the bake sale and museum staffing will be available at our April 23 meeting.

Upcoming meeting

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

News from the Archivist—Lynn Fahy



The words “Ellington Remembers” are on the granite and bronze monument on the Ellington Green. Dedicated on May 31, 1926, Memorial Day, it lists on its west face those from Ellington who served in the Colonial Wars (1675-1763), the War with England (1812-1814), the War with Mexico (1846-1848), War of the Rebellion (now known as the Civil War, 1861-1865), and the War with Spain (1898-1902). On its east face it lists the War of the Revolution (1775-1783), and World War (now known as WWI, 1917-1918). All of the 359 listed are men except for one woman, Pauline West, who served in WWI.

A Memorial Committee was appointed, consisting of Capt. Robert E. Hyde, George Hatheway, and John T. McKnight. The \$1,000 appropriated by the Town wasn’t enough to cover the cost, so an additional \$678 in private donations was raised. McKnight spoke at the dedication. Hatheway turned the memorial over to the Town and unveiled it.

We have a copy of the two speeches in the Museum Archives. This is an excerpt from Hatheway’s speech:

As when this park, upon which we now stand, took shape and form from what was before an untidy net of cross paths and roadways running hither and thither, helter skelter – on a November week in 1903, following the dedication of yonder library and the good people of Ellington turned out in mass and for two full days gave freely of their time, their strength, and their teams, and the little park took on its shape and became what it has since been and the library grounds were graded, everybody said those days ‘this is our library, this is our park’; so now let every person old and young in our community and Town claim this memorial.

This year’s Memorial Day services and parades will be held on Monday, May 25, 2015. The Ellington Center services will be held at 10:30 at Ellington High School. Afterwards, the parade begins at approximately 11:30, proceeds to the Town Green, and then to the Ellington Center Cemetery. A memorial tribute will take place at the monument.