



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

January 2016 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.

After a brief business meeting, Kevin Johnson will portray Private Webb, who was an actual soldier and a native of Hartford and was recruited in 1863 to serve in the Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in several battles in Virginia.

Johnson's presentation of Webb is told from an emotional and exciting first-person perspective that vividly illustrates the struggle of the African-Americans in the Colored Infantry during the Civil War. The presentation is based on extensive research in the collections of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History.

The program is free, and the public is invited. Pre-registration is required for the public but NOT for our members, so that the library will know how many to expect at the program. Refreshments for the January meeting will be provided by Debby Wallace, Lennie Ellis and Denise Archibald.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

Thank you to member Denise Archibald, who made a very generous donation to the society in memory of her mother, longtime member Sue Krowchenko, who passed away in August.

Our condolences to member Jim McKnight on the passing of his daughter, Anora McKnight Bliss, in December.

Those members on our email list received the following information in the fall. For those who receive the newsletter only in print: The Community Voice Channel came to the Nellie McKnight Museum on October 8 to film a tour, which is now available online and on Channel 5,

the CVC channel. Melanie Merkel and Marc Diwinsky and his wife toured the house and yard with Nancy Long, Tim Fahy, and Jim Long. The inside tour was a detailed look at the museum and its collections, and Nancy included a lot of information about Nellie and the McKnight family. Outside, Tim demonstrated the cider press, corn sheller, and feed chopper, as well as giving a tour of the items in the barn.

To watch the film on demand, go to <http://www.cvcct.org/on-demand.html> Scroll to the right to the “Ellington Historical Society” to start the tour. You can also find the schedule on the CVC web site of when it will be shown on TV.

We welcomed two new members to the historical society, Mr. & Mrs. Marc Diwinsky.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

Mild weather made our Winterfest celebration a day to remember this year! We estimate we had close to two hundred people come to the museum and enjoy a relaxed visit with Ellington history.



Thank you to our members who helped clean, decorate and volunteer for the day's events: Tina Fiore, Dave Lehmann, Nancy Lombard, Don Ellis, Lennie Ellis, Denise Archibald, Mary Temple, Karen Hayes, Lynn Fahy, Tim Fahy, Jim Long and Nancy Long. We extend a special thank you to Tim Fahy and EHS member Jack Hagopian for draining the pipes and winterizing the museum for the winter season.

New Feature from the Curator

This winter I am reading Nellie McKnight's diaries for details about her life in the center of Ellington. I have a long list of things she baked (we have her recipe box too), what she planted in her garden and how she filled her days. I am interested in any information from society members or the general public about their interactions with Nellie and welcome any recollections about her. Please contact me through the EHS website or at njlong@comcast.net.

As part of keeping the past alive, in each newsletter I will include an entry from one of Nellie's diaries. This month's entry is from Thursday, January 20, 1977 and Nellie 82 years old:

Mostly sunny-milder. I got my mail and got loaf of bread for sandwiches for tomorrow. Listened to inaugural address - James Carter is now our President instead of Gerald Ford. In p.m. watched inaugural parade-mostly band and school bands. Made lime gelatin/pineapple gelatin. Got my mail after Carter took oath of office before I cooked dinner. Annual church meeting with potluck supper tonight. Pressed hems on new two piece dress and wore it tonight.

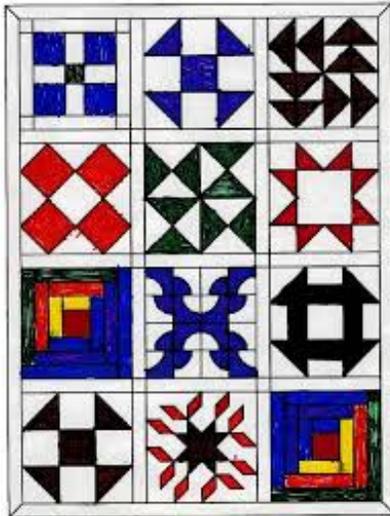
News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

We had a visit during our Winterfest Open House from a man who lives on Windermere Ave. He wanted to know something about the history of his house. Nellie McKnight's records indicate that the house was built in 1870. He found bottles and a sign in the house from a bottling company. Census records show that Thomas Lutton of Windermere Ave., who was born in Ireland in 1860, was the proprietor of a bottling works. His son William, who was born in 1892 in Ellington, took over the business.



Upcoming meetings

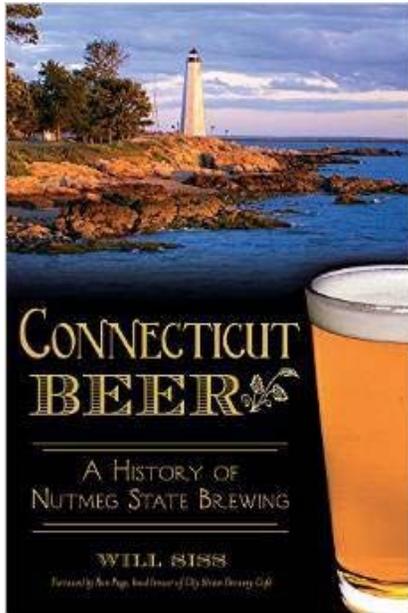
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



Quilts and the Underground Railroad □ Presented by **Bev Russo**

The quilt code theory is the idea that African American slaves used quilts to communicate information about how to escape to freedom. Women created quilts to use as signs for escaped slaves travelling north on the Underground Railroad. Bev Russo has a degree in American Studies and Education and has done extensive research on this topic.

Thursday, April 28, 2016 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



Connecticut Beer- A History of Nutmeg State Brewing □ Presented by author **Will Siss**

Will Siss, author of Connecticut Beer: A History of Nutmeg State Brewing (The History Press), will discuss his book and provide a presentation that takes you back in time. He'll talk about beer in Connecticut from its colonial roots to breaking news about the ongoing brewery explosion in the state.

Thursday, June 23, 2016 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library
Potluck supper (Members Only)

Visit our web site at <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org>