

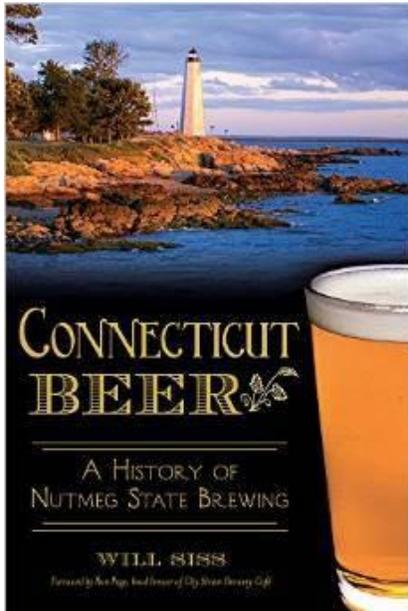


Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

April 2016 Newsletter



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

After a brief business meeting, **Connecticut Beer- A History of Nutmeg State Brewing** will be presented by author Will Siss.

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.

The program is free, and the public is invited. The bakers for our meeting are Tina Fiore and Mary Temple.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open for the season on Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be open on Thursdays through the end of September.

School Tours

Tim Fahy and Nancy Long have completed third grade school programs about Ellington history at Windermere School and Crystal Lake School. Center School will also be visited but a date has yet to be determined.

Hall Memorial Library Display

Museum Curator Nancy Long has installed a new exhibit at Hall Memorial Library featuring sewing notions from the museum collection. Vintage buttons, trims, thread, needle cases and a toy sewing machine (pictured) are on display.



Connecticut Open House Day



Plans are underway for our participation in the Connecticut Open House Day on Saturday June 11. Museums across the state will participate in this event to help visitors discover local history. We are planning events for children such as weaving, washing clothes and beating rugs. *We need volunteers* for the day and hope our members will help support this event.

Call Nancy Long to volunteer.

EHS Flea Market and Bake Sale

Our annual Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 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. Applications are available on our website: www.ellingtonhistsoc.org

The historical society bake sale will also be held on May 21 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 District Health, 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 all 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 21. A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the bake sale and museum staffing will be available at our April 28 meeting.



From the Curator, Nancy Long -- Nellie's Diary

This past winter I have been reading Nellie McKnight's diaries for details about her life in the center of Ellington. This month's entry is from Wednesday, April 28, 1976 and Nellie is 81 years old. The Liberty Bell plaque mentioned in this entry is on display at the Nellie McKnight Museum in Nellie's bedroom:

Had a telephone call from (Attorney) Joe Ryan that the Tolland County Bar Association had decided to present me with a Liberty Bell plaque for my service to the town of Ellington in connection with their observance of Law Day on May 1.

Thursday, April 29, 1976:

Mostly sunny and a bit warmer. Joe Ryan picked me up a little after 9:30 a.m. and took me down to the Court House (in Rockville). I was amazed at the Ellington people there



News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

We recently acquired on eBay eight diaries for the Archives. They belonged to Charles A. Price, who lived in Ellington from his birth in 1857 to his death in 1939. The diaries cover the years from 1917 to 1933, although several years are missing. Price was also a member of the Ellington Grange and town assessor for thirty years until his retirement in the 1930s.

There has been increased interest in primary sources as a way to learn about history. History is not just the study of famous people, but of men and women who lived in small towns and whose contributions were overlooked in history books. Diaries, in which someone writes about his or her daily life as it is happening, is a great way to learn about what life was like for that person living in a certain place at a certain time.

Curator Nancy Long is creating an exhibit that will display the diaries, as well as photographs of Price and his family, and a scrapbook created by Price's wife, Mary Louise Hancock Price. The exhibit will be on display in the Nellie McKnight Museum when it opens for the season on Thursday, May 5.

Upcoming meeting



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>