



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

January 2017 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.

Mariann Millard will present “Hail to The Chief: The Inauguration of a President” about Presidential inaugurations past and present and how we have the traditions and requirements that color our inaugurations today.

Refreshments for the January meeting will be provided by Hilary Brady and Nancy Long.

News from Past President-Tim Fahy

Last year brought a couple of major changes, and expenses, for the Nellie McKnight Museum. We had to remove the big, old, tree from the side yard for safety reasons, and replace the roof to maintain the integrity of the building. The new roof looks great, but we really miss the tree.

I want to acknowledge and thank our curator, Nancy Long for all the work she did this year. I don't think most of our members realize, or appreciate, just how much she does. Nancy arranges for bakers for all our meetings, as well as the bake sale in the spring. She coordinates our visits to the schools for our annual history lessons. She writes the EHS contribution to the town newsletter. She is responsible for the EHS displays at the library. She maintains the gardens behind and around the museum. Nancy researches, creates, and exhibits new displays every year at the museum. This year she decorated the museum for Winterfest almost single-handed. This is only a partial list of what she does, but it will give you some idea of why we are still in business. On behalf of all our members, I say, thank you Nancy.

While we don't have many museum visitors during the summer, we often have interesting, and interested, visitors. This summer was no exception as Ed and Anne Clowes of Virginia Beach, Virginia came to visit. Ed is the grandson of Emily McKnight Davis, Nellie McKnight's sister. We spent a delightful afternoon reminiscing. They were so happy that we were able to keep the museum open that they recently sent us a very generous donation toward that end.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

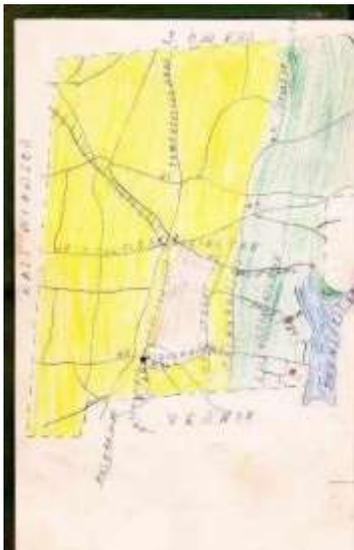
We enjoyed a clear and brisk day on December 3 for the town Winterfest celebration. We had a steady stream of visitors from 2:00 till about 6:30 and many opportunities to chat about Ellington and our museum collection. This year the most asked about item in the house was the Edison music phonograph in our front parlor. The number of questions and interest in the item make it a priority for more background information and make the phonograph an exhibit by itself.

Thank you to our members who helped set up and volunteer for the day's events: Tina Fiore, Don Ellis, Joe Ouellette, Hilary Brady, Mary Temple, Karen Hayes, Lynn Fahy, Tim Fahy, Jim Long and Nancy Long. We extend a special thank you to Tim Fahy for draining the pipes and winterizing the museum for the winter season.

The museum may be closed, but the research goes on! As mentioned above, we will have a new exhibit about the Edison phonograph. Work continues with the Charles Price diaries also on display at the museum. A recent article about the diaries in the *Journal Inquirer* has inspired us to continue our work to decipher the entries and find out more about Ellington, as seen through the eyes of Price. Our next exhibit at Hall Memorial Library will feature several objects from Rev. C.M. Perry who retired to Ellington in 1909. Of special interest are souvenirs from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

Dorothy Cohen's 1987 book, *Ellington, Chronicles of Change*, which was reprinted in 2010 by the Ellington Historical Society is still available for sale for \$20 from the society. Also, it is now available as a downloadable PDF document from our home page at <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org> In the paragraph about the book click on the underlined word "link." It takes a long time to download, but once downloaded, you can save it to your computer. It is keyword searchable using "Ctrl + F" or the "Find" feature in Adobe Acrobat Reader if you have downloaded it.



A September donation to the Archives was a 1911 booklet, "History of Ellington," by 12-year-old Ernest Lippmann. Reading the 1911 Town of Ellington Annual Report, I learned that this was written as a class assignment. It was donated by Richard Bowman of Vernon, who found it in his brother-in-law Stu Magdefrau's collection. Stu passed away in 2015. I scanned the booklet, which includes Lippmann's handwritten text, photos, and maps and cataloged it in our online PastPerfect catalog. Click on <http://ellington.pastperfectonline.com> and do a keyword search for Lippmann. You will be able to see all the pages of the booklet.

Upcoming meetings

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



Ed Parry, master gunsmith, will present a program about making reproduction guns and how he came to own a gun made for a McKinstry from Ellington. Mr. Parry is a Revolutionary War re-enactor with Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia.

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library



T Barnum - The Prince of Humbugs

Presented by our own member, Joe Ouellette

American showman, businessman, entertainer, promoter of hoaxes, founder of the circus as we know it today, author, publisher, politician, philanthropist and the first show business millionaire. He left a great legacy. Don't miss this one!

Thursday, June 22, 2017 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library
Potluck supper (Members Only)

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