



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

June 2017 Newsletter

June Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper for members on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Those with last names beginning with A-J are asked to bring a main dish. Those with last names beginning with K-Z are asked to bring a salad *or* side dish. Beverages will be provided. Our traditional strawberry shortcake will be served for dessert.

Museum Season



The Nellie McKnight Museum is open for the season on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 through the end of September. Stop in and visit or take some time to really explore our exhibits. We have been trying to keep busy on Thursday afternoons doing jobs inside and outside the museum. Your help is always welcome and we can find a job to fit your interests!

Flea Market/Bake Sale

We had about twelve vendors this year and good participation from the public visiting our flea market. Our bake sale was well attended and we thank our members who took the time to bake and wrap their baked goods for sale. A special thank you to our bake sale volunteers: Pat Clapp, Denise Archibald, Dot Manner, Hilary Brady and Shirley Hayden.

The museum was open for tours on May 20, and several visitors took advantage of them to learn more about the town and museum. Thank you to our volunteers: Tim Fahy, Lynn Fahy, Nancy and Jim Long. The flea market field was set up by Tim, Jim, and Nancy. Tim and Jim checked in vendors early in the morning.

Connecticut Open House Day

On June 10th we will be participating in the Connecticut Open House Day sponsored by the Connecticut Office of Tourism. Museums statewide will open their doors to the public for free tours and programs and we are happy to participate in this effort. Our museum will be open for tours, and children will have an opportunity to use a rug beater, wash clothes in a galvanized washtub and hang the clothes to dry. Nellie's floor loom will be available to try weaving material for those clothes! Open 10:00 to 4:00.



We hope our members will stop by to say hello and check out some of our new exhibits. This year is the **50th anniversary of the Ellington Historical Society** and we will have a special exhibit of past programs and events sponsored by the society. Cake will be served to celebrate the occasion.

Herb Garden

The herb garden on the museum grounds has been readied for the growing season. Thank you to the Tussie Mussies from the Ellington Women's Club for their efforts in maintaining the garden through the summer.

News from Past President-Tim Fahy

Welcome to our new members, Kerry and Ann Williams of Ellington. Also, thank you to the members who had been delinquent but have now paid their dues.

"20 Towns in 20 Days" Nicole Nalepa from WFSB, Channel 3, visited the Nellie McKnight Museum and other locations in Ellington for a program that was broadcast on the evening news. Museum curator Nancy Long talked to Nicole and a brief piece of the interview was part of the program, which can be viewed online at <http://www.wfsb.com/clip/13343335/nicole-nalepa-takes-a-trip-to-ellington-extended-edition>

Batz Nature Preserve



On Saturday, June 3rd, there was a ribbon cutting at the Batz Nature Preserve to celebrate the recently completed trails upgrade. Lori Spielman, the First Selectman, was present along with BSA Troop 96 Eagle Scouts, who use and maintain the property. The preserve is located at 97 Shenipsit St., Ellington.

Charles Batz is remembered especially this year, the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. Museum curator Nancy Long created an exhibit of Batz's army uniform and accessories, which was on display in the museum and the Hall Memorial Library. They were donated by the Batz Family and are part of the museum's collection. Nancy wrote this to accompany the exhibit:

Born in 1894, Charles lived on the family farm on Shenipsit Street in Ellington Connecticut. He was a farmer and a carpenter (according to the Connecticut Military Census of 1917) and finished one year of high school.

While serving in the Army's 82nd Division in World War I, he managed to survive the war, but inhaled phosphine gas and suffered a burned elbow from mustard gas.

Charles came home and farmed his land, served as the Democratic Registrar of Voters, and helped organize the town's volunteer fire department, as well as American Legion Post 62.

He and his sister Emma, also an active community member, left their 45-acre property to the town of Ellington to be used as a nature preserve, and passive recreation area. Their names were added to the Ellington Wall of Honor in 2004. Charles Batz died in 1992.

News from the Archivist—Lynn Fahy

In May, Gary Neff of Coventry donated six post cards of Ellington. He is descended from the Neff family of Crystal Lake.



The Ellington Farmers Market theme on Saturday, June 24th will be “Farming Through the Years” and will feature a selection of vintage items from the kitchen of the Nellie McKnight Museum. They are representative of what would have been in a farmer’s wife’s kitchen. Try your hand at kitchen chores. We will be at the market at Arbor Park on Main Street from 9:00-12:00.

<http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org>

To contact the Ellington Historical Society, click on the link above and under “Resources,” you can email the President, Archivist, Curator, or Genealogist.