



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

September 2017 Newsletter



The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.

After a brief business meeting, Patricia Perry will present “Dolley Madison Remembers,” a historical interpretation in an engaging first-person monologue by the wife of the fourth President of the United States.

The program is free, and the public is invited. New members are always welcome.

Refreshments will be provided by Nancy Long and Tim Fahy. A sign-up sheet for doing refreshments this year will be circulated at the meeting. We urge members to help with baking for our meetings. Our attendance has increased due to the programming from Hall Memorial Library and we need three bakers per meeting.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

Those members who receive mailings via email were notified in June of the passing of lifetime member and former treasurer Mildred Arens Dimock at the age of 102. Mildred’s name was added to the Ellington Wall of Honor in 2005 for “over 60 years of exemplary community service.” She will be missed by her family, friends, and community.

A belated welcome to new member Peg Busse of Ellington, who joined in February. Thank you to Karyn and Bruce Kloter, who donated 5 3’x5’ door mats to the museum. They will be especially useful when we have visitors during inclement weather.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

Our open season at the Nellie McKnight Museum will draw to a close at the end of September. We have had several Thursday afternoons when we were very busy and a few afternoons when time stood still. For next year, we are considering being open on Thursday afternoons in June, July and August only and by special appointment when requested.

Work has begun on a new exhibit for the Hall Memorial Library display case featuring newly acquired material about the Edward Hall School and Dr. Eli Warner who taught there. This same subject will be expanded for an exhibit in the museum next year. We are grateful for the donation of family letters and memorabilia from David Warner of Simsbury.



Edward Hall's Family School for Boys still stands, and is now an apartment house at the corner of Main Street and Berr Ave.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Ellington Grange No. 46

In June, Len Schlude, son of Wes and Stephanie Schlude, donated many documents and items that his parents had collected relating to Ellington Grange No. 46. They date from the establishment of the Grange in 1886 to its disbandment in 2002. The museum Archives also has the Grange's records from 1941-1985.

Henry Billings Brown

I have been corresponding with Baltimore resident Steve Luxenberg, who is on leave from his job at the Washington Post to finish researching and writing *Separate* about people behind the controversial 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court case that permitted "separate but equal" treatment based on race. One of those people is Henry Billings Brown, an Ellington native who became an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I was able to locate the transcription of a letter from Brown to Dr. Robert Patton, a dentist, of Ellington, dated January 31, 1891.

My dear Dr., That recommendation to St. Paul which you promised me last fall when we separated in front of the Griswold's House, seems to have borne very speedy fruit, as within 60 days after that I was appointed, not exactly by St. Paul, but by the President and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and have taken up my residence in Washington for the rest of my life. If you have any more blessings of a like character to distribute among your friends, i think they will be very glad to hear from you. They are working me pretty hard here, but I am having a pretty good time in the evenings, when I am generally invited out to dinner. I am obliged to sell my place in Detroit, but I expect of make a new home here, and shall hope to see you some time when you have nothing better to do than to visit Washington. Give my love to all the girls I used to know in Ellington—they must be pretty well grown by this time, and believe me, Very truly yours, H.B. Brown

October meeting, Thursday 26th at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m.

Henry Ford didn't just revolutionize the automobile industry; he also revolutionized camping trips! Calling themselves "The Vagabonds," Ford and his pal Thomas Edison took a luxurious camping trip almost every year from 1914 to 1924, showing the world how much fun it could be to pack up the car and head into the great outdoors. This program will be presented by member Joe Ouellette.



Henry Ford fishing with Harvey Firestone, Christian, and Thomas Edison

Photo from the Library of Congress

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER. SEE P. 4

Membership dues are due in September and we have enclosed a form to fill out and include with your dues payment.

Ellington Historical Society Membership Dues

Class of Membership	_____	Individual \$10.00
	_____	Senior Individual \$8.00 (Over 62)
	_____	Family \$20.00
	_____	Senior Family \$15.00 (Over 62)
(Check one)	_____	Patron \$25.00
	_____	Business \$50.00

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____
*E-mail address _____

Make check payable to: Ellington Historical Society

Mail this form and payment to: Ellington Historical Society
P.O. Box 73
Ellington, CT 06029

* If you would like to receive your EHS newsletter by e-mail as a Microsoft Word file instead of "snail mail," please include your e-mail address.