



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

October 2017 Newsletter

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

Member Joe Ouellette will present a program, “Ford and Edison's Excellent Camping Adventures.” 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.



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

Photo from the Library of Congress

After the program, refreshments will be provided by Dave Lehmann and Nancy Lombard.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

The Ellington Historical Society will donate a book to the Hall Memorial Library in memory of member Mildred Dimock.

Welcome to new member Tom Palshaw of Ellington.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long



The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open for Winterfest on Saturday, December 2, from 2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to serve as docents will be passed around at our October meeting.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy



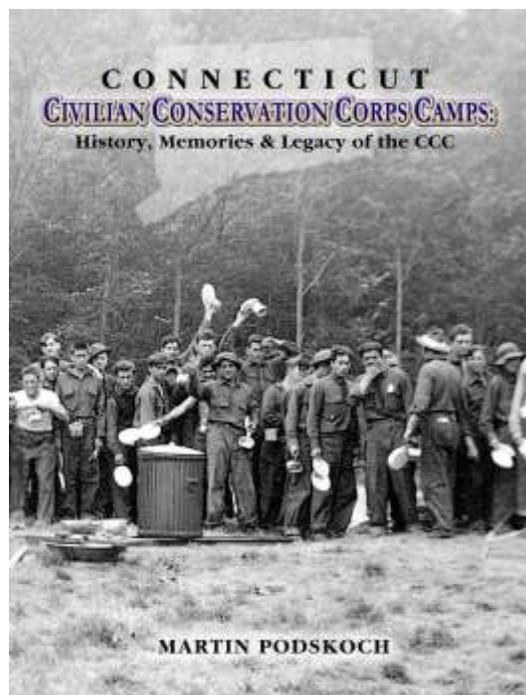
The following article is from the *Hartford Times*, reprinted in the periodical *Fibre & Fabric: A Record of American Textile Industries in the Cotton and Wool Trade*, v. 9, 1889: Photo above is from *Images of America, Ellington*, published 2005, Arcadia Publishing.

Lake Shenipsit, as the proper authorities spell it, hangs as high over Rockville as the Johnstown reservoir hung over its fated valley. It is a beautiful sheet of water surrounded by gentle slopes, which are dotted far and wide with fruitful farms. There is no bold feature but much grateful beauty in the landscape. The lake is placid and clear, the shores but little wooded, the hillside of changing color and aspect, and the summits moderate in height and even in outline. Two or three

splendid little steam barges await one at the landing and for 5 cents carry the passenger to the grove. It is a two mile trip, possibly, and accomplished with great rapidity. These little vessels shoot over the water with remarkable grace, and it would be a pleasure to make the entire round of the lake in them. They land at "The Grove," kept by Mr. Thompson, a charming pleasure ground, about two thirds of the length of the lake from Rockville, and visited by great multitudes on Sundays. It seems as if it were the resort of work people, and a nicer, more decent crowd could hardly have been gathered. Every barge was full of neatly dressed girls in parties, of groups of young men, or of pairs that evidently were more interested in each other than in the scenery. We waited for the shore dinner until the dentist grew impatient. "Bring whatever is cooked, and stand not in the order of its coming," he cried. The waiter rushed out of the kitchen, and under the sailcloth that served for a dining room we sat down to piping hot clam chowder; then to cold and clammy lobsters; and then—then came the long clams. Poor things, they had traveled in the sun and the rain from New London to Hartford, from Hartford to Rockville, from Rockville to Snipsic, and though they were, like the great Bayard, without fear, they could not be said to be entirely without reproach. The hungry crowd that had been kept at bay until now, rushed in to the sound of the bell, and the shore dinner was in full blast. A very large dancing hall, and a museum of Indian relics that look as perfect as if they had been made to order in New York state, are among the attractions of "The Grove." But its chief attractions are the wooded slope, the shady greensward, the beautiful lake view, and the accessibility from Rockville. It is a veritable blessing to the working people of that town, and many had driven hither from adjoining places to enjoy the view and the shore dinner. If only the shore was nearer.

January 2018 meeting, Thursday 25th at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m.

Martin Podskoch will discuss his book, *Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories, and Legacy*.



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