



Ellington Historical Society

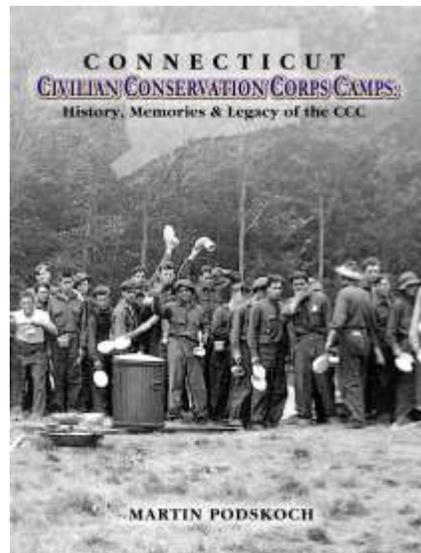
P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

January 2018 Newsletter

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.

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



Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by Debby Wallace, Lennie Ellis and Doris Johnson.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

Our deepest condolences to Doris Johnson and her family on the passing of her husband, Len Johnson, on November 26th. Len was a longtime member of the society and was elected to the Ellington Wall of Honor in 2007 “in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the community, youth, and military veterans.” We will donate a book in his memory to the Hall Memorial Library.

Welcome to new members Jen and Christopher Wells of Ellington.



When I moved to Ellington in 1998, an Edison phonograph machine was one of many interesting items I found in one of my barns. It obviously needed some repairs to make it work. I donated it to the museum and put it on display in hopes that someone would see it and give me some expert guidance. The years passed and that never happened. Sometime in October I happened to be in Zahner's Men Shop talking with Scott Zahner when I mentioned the Ellington Historical Society owned the Edison machine, but it didn't work. He told me he used to be in the business of buying and selling these machines and he would be happy to take a look at it.

After an initial assessment, Scott called on his old business partner Bill Kocher, who still repairs these things, to take a look at it. A new drive belt was needed, which revealed a 19-tooth gear was worn out, but fortunately Bill had a new one. With that fixed, Bill wound it up and the spring broke. Bill was able to fix that too, and in time for Winterfest. The night before Winterfest, Scott met me at the museum at 10 p.m. with some records from his collection and a crane to support our "Morning Glory" horn. The records are wax cylinders and very fragile. At about 10:30 PM, music issued forth from our machine for the first time in many decades.

Our thanks to Scott and Bill for fixing our machine, and having it ready for our event too.

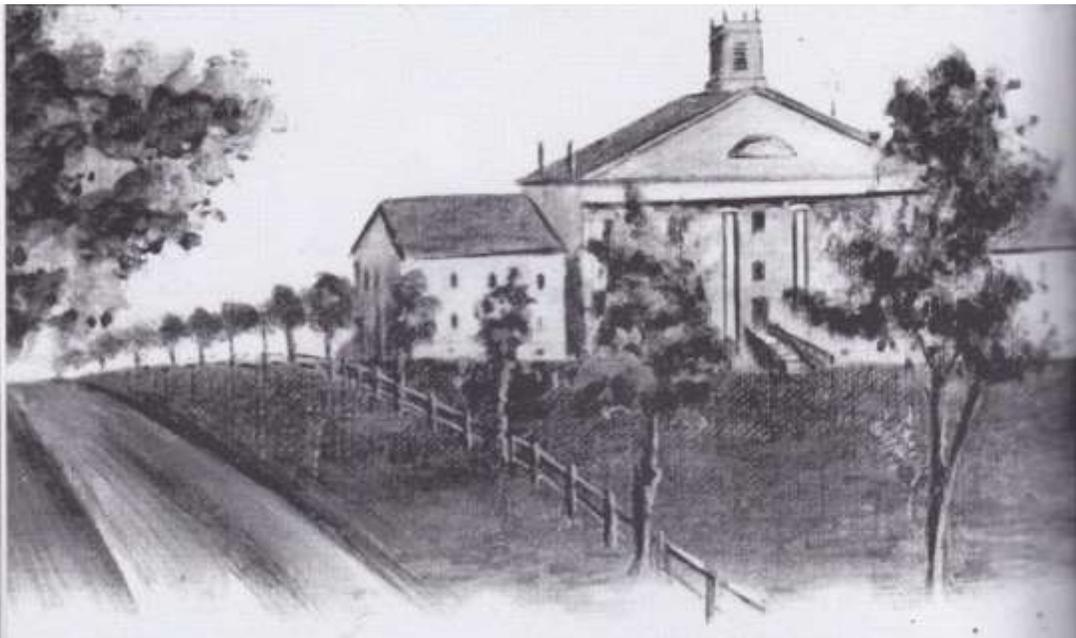
The Edison phonograph was invented by Thomas Edison in 1877. The record was a wax cylinder with grooves that corresponded to the frequency of the sound recorded on it. A reproducer consisting of a stylus and diaphragm picks up the very weak sound, and it is magnified by use of a horn. Our machine was probably built between 1903 and 1910. It was made for home use and is probably the "Triumph" model.

When we next open in the summer, come to the museum and hear it for yourself.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

The town Winterfest celebration on Saturday, December 2, 2017, had wonderful weather with no wind, snow or unbearable temperatures. Our visitors to the museum began shortly after 2:00 p.m. and continued at a steady pace until well after the parade. Our special feature this year was the Edison phonograph, which was given a “tune-up” just prior to Winterfest. Thank you to Tim Fahy for his efforts to find help locally to bring this phonograph back into operation and playing music once again.

Thank you to our members who volunteered at the museum: Dave Lehmann, Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Jen Wells (a new member), Karen Hayes, Eliza Hayes, Tim and Lynn Fahy and Nancy and Jim Long.



The Ellington School

“Local Private Schools,” written by Nancy Long for the Ellington Events newsletter published by the Town of Ellington and shared here for those who don’t receive the newsletter.

In the era before the public school system, local private schools were prominent in Ellington. Mr. John Hall opened a school in 1829 for the education of his own children and eventually included children from outside his family. Located on Frog Hollow Road, the Ellington School was initially for boys only and the students came from the surrounding states as well as the West Indies and Brazil. When Hall’s health failed, the school became more of a village academy and admitted girls. The school closed in 1870 and burned down in 1875.

John Hall’s oldest son Edward founded Edward Hall’s Family School for Boys in 1844. This school was located on Main Street and offered living in a family setting while attending school. Classes were comprised of about 12 students who stayed from three to five years. The classics, including Latin, were emphasized and students enjoyed life in the rural community with

activities such as sledding and skating in the winter. The school closed in 1875 due to Edward Hall's failing health and eventual death.

Yanosuke Iwasaki of Japan was a student at Edward Hall's Family School for Boys in the early 1870s. The family-like setting was an opportunity for him to learn English and socialize with American boys. Yanosuke returned to Japan and became the second president of the Mitsubishi Corporation in 1885. The corporation was originally a shipping company but modernized and diversified under Yanosuke's leadership to become the company we know today.



Edward Hall's School for Boys

The school pictures are from *Images of America Ellington* by Lynn Kloter Fahy, historical society archivist.

February 2018 meeting, Thursday the 22nd at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m.



Master gardener and herbalist Carole Barber will present "The Role of Herbs in an Early American Household."

April 2018 meeting, Thursday the 26th at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m

Water Powered Mill Sites

in
Ellington, Connecticut.

Part of the Series of Documents on Lost Mill Sites
in Tolland County



Sadd Mill

by

Richard N. Symonds, Jr.

for the

Ellington Historical Society

Richard N. Symonds, Jr. of Tolland will discuss the latest book in his Lost Mill Sites in Tolland County series, *Location of Water-Powered Mill Sites, Ellington, Connecticut*. The mills played an important part in local history, but the history and many of the locations have been lost. Symonds visited many of the sites in Ellington to document them and record their locations. His book includes maps and photographs. Copies of the book will be available for sale, and Symonds will generously donate the proceeds to the Ellington Historical Society.

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