



## *Ellington Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 73*

*Ellington, Conn. 06029*

### **January 2019 Newsletter**

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street.



After our business meeting, “The Golden Age of Television Comedy” will be presented by Society member Joe Ouellette. Do you remember Carol Burnett, Tim Conway, Harvey Korman, Jonathan Winters, Foster Brooks, Abbott and Costello, Phyllis Diller, Don Rickles, Lucille Ball and John Belushi?

Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by Doris Johnson and Nancy Long.

### **News from the Curator-Nancy Long**

#### **Winterfest**

Once again, nature smiled on the town of Ellington on Saturday, December 1 for the Winterfest celebration. Sun and seasonable temperatures made strolling through the town a pleasure. We had over a hundred visitors to see the museum before the parade. Our new exhibits included a “then and now” look at our local schools and a display of the Warner family.

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

The museum is closed for the season and all remnants of the holiday tucked away. Thank you to Tim Fahy and his friend Rick who drain the pipes and shut down the building. See you in the spring!

## **Warner Family Exhibit**

We have previously mentioned the donation of family letters and memorabilia from David Warner of Avon. His family has been a part of Ellington for several generations, and of particular interest is Dr. Eli Warner, who was a student at Edward Hall's School. Mr. Hall was Eli's guardian and eventually a family member by marriage. The letters now in our collection date from Eli's graduation from the Hall School, through medical school, and into practice in Hartford. For the exhibit, David Warner loaned the society a large portrait of Dr. Eli, his diploma from Columbia School of Medicine, and several other personal effects from Dr. Eli and the family.

We appreciate this donation for all of its historical significance and view into life in the mid to late 1800s. We are still examining the material and plan to continue the exhibit through this summer with new information. The Warner family came for a viewing of the exhibit in November and posed for a family picture.



Left to right standing: David C. Warner, Tucker Warner, David S. Warner, Paul Romano  
Left to right sitting: Lisa Romano, Britt Warner, Lisa Warner

## **Hall Memorial Library Exhibit**

Currently on display in the case near the entrance to the old library, we have installed a collection of license plates dating from 1917 to the late 1950s. It is an interesting progression in size and numbering, and some of the notable changes are explained in the case. As an added dimension to the coming of the automobile to Ellington, excerpts from "Early Ellington Village", published by the Ellington Congregational Church, highlight who bought a new car and how the town grew as a result of this mode of transportation.

Excerpts from "Early Ellington Village" first published in 1952  
by Ellington Congregational Church

1903



Oct. Already Rockville automobiles are seeking out and watching the progress on the new state road on Pinney Street which when completed will be one of the finest pieces of road in this county  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long. When joined to the macadam and state gravel road, through Ellington street, it will be a fine stretch for driving.

In December there were  $414\frac{3}{4}$  houses in Ellington, valued at \$473,889.

C. A. Price has purchased a Stanley Steam runabout from John Raiche of Springfield.



1903

1914

October. The list of automobile owners in this town is constantly increasing. Morton E. Thompson has bought a 5 passenger Buick and Henry Beebe, a 5 passenger Overland.

#### POPULATION JUMP

With the construction of the Wilbur Cross Highway in the 1940's and the need for new homes for men returning from World War II, Ellington's status as a bedroom town became obvious. The population jumped from 2479 in 1940 to its present 8000.



## News from the President-Tim Fahy



The Executive Board arranged the donation of the tavern sign from the American House in Ellington to the Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford. CHS has a collection named “Inn & Tavern Signs of Connecticut,” which is the largest collection in the United States, numbering more than sixty signs. CHS arranged to pick up the sign and transport it to a conservator, who will restore it before it is put on display at CHS. The sign, circa 1817, hung on the American House hotel at the corner of Somers and Snipsic Lake Roads. It was one of the stops on a stage route between Rockville and Springfield. The hotel was later turned into a home and was demolished a few years ago.

## **Homestead Oil**

Homestead of Ellington once again donated a tank of heating oil so that the Nellie McKnight Museum could be heated for the Winterfest celebration on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A thank you note was sent to Jeff Gerber.



The Town of Ellington Ad Hoc Beautification Committee holds an annual Scarecrow Contest. This year, Ellington Historical Society member Debby Wallace created a scarecrow, which sat on the sidewalk in front of the Nellie McKnight Museum. Although the old woman in the apron and bonnet was not identified, Debby said that it “could be Nellie.”

## **News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy**

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Tim and Lynn Fahy presented a program to English as a Second Language students and their parents at the Windermere School. The invitation was extended by teacher Allison McKeegan. We recently received a donation of vintage photographs of old Ellington schools and students from Ruth Schneider. They were a welcome addition to our collection. We decided to show the ESL class “Then and Now” photographs of three old Ellington Schools, as well as an enlarged 1942 map that showed their locations. For example, see the photos below of the old Cogswell School on West Road, which was later Valley Fish Market, and is now part of Agway. Several parents told stories of their memories of attending school in their home countries, including Brazil, India, China, Japan, and South Korea. Museum Curator Nancy Long was able to use these and other old photographs in her display for Winterfest.



## **February meeting, Thursday February 28, 2019 at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m.**

“Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood”



“With a stage and film career that spanned six decades, Katharine Hepburn is an American icon. Born and raised in Connecticut, Hepburn had a career in stage, film and television that reflected the changing role of women in American society. Challenging the norms of the day, she took control of her image and identity by establishing a unique sense of style, which influenced countless women, fashion designers, and the informal, elegant approach to American style that continues to resonate today. The story of her life-long ties to Connecticut offers a complete picture of how Hepburn became the woman and the star she was. This presentation will link her career and legacy to her roots in Connecticut to ask how she achieved her truly extraordinary legacy.” ... From the website of the Connecticut Historical Society, which will present the program.

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