



Ellington Historical Society 50th Anniversary

As we begin 2017 it is time to look back fifty years to the formation of the Ellington Historical Society. Selections from minutes will be featured this year to commemorate those who organized the society and remind us how important history is to our community. Nellie McKnight was a driving force in the formation of the historical society and it is not surprising that she bequeathed her home to the society to be used as a museum after her passing in 1981.

The first minutes were recorded on December 15, 1966. An organizational committee met in Hall Memorial Library with eleven attending: Miss Nellie McKnight, Ed Myer, Mrs. Dorothy Hartman, Clyde Cordtsen Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hein, Mrs. Beatrice McConville, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Friedman, M. Harrington, and Mrs. Eva Bordua. Two temporary officers were elected to serve until the society was formally organized: Miss McKnight, Chairman, and Mrs. Eva Bordua.

The American Association of State and Local Historical History provided a guideline for organizing historical society. A committee meeting discussed and personalized these guidelines and the results were presented to the members on January 19, 1967. They were as follows:

The purpose of this society shall be to create interest and activity in the field of local history through:

- Conducting a program of meetings on subjects of local history or historical interest;
- Providing an educational program in cooperation with local organizations by means of exhibits, publications and talks relating to Ellington;
- Acquiring and maintaining for preservation and research a collection of records, facts and material, past and present, relating to the history and to the citizens of Ellington;
- Preserving, identifying and marking buildings and sites of historic interest;
- Carrying on in general any and all activities appropriate for a historical society.

The first open meeting of the Ellington Historical Society was slated for March 1967 and a speaker from the State of Connecticut would be found for the meeting. Meetings were scheduled for Thursday evenings. A committee would be organized to draw up by-laws and set dues.

The next installment of the beginning of the Ellington Historical Society will follow in February.