



## *Ellington Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 73*

*Ellington, Conn. 06029*

### **October 2018 Newsletter**

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



After our business meeting, “First Ladies: An Adventure in Glamour, Guts, and Gumption,” will be presented by Mariann Millard, whose experience as a licensed tour guide in Washington, DC enhances her lively presentation.

The library arranges for our programs, and they are also open to the public. Registration is required for the public on the library Events Calendar or by phone, but members of the Ellington Historical Society don’t need to register for our meetings and programs.

#### **News from the President-Tim Fahy**

The Executive Board and I would like to thank Hall Memorial Library Director Sue Phillips and Reference/Adult Program Librarian Francie Berger for their continuing part in helping the Ellington Historical Society with its mission. They allow us access to the upstairs meeting room for our meetings and annual potluck dinner. In addition, Francie always tries to select historical topics which would be of interest to all.

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



The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open for Winterfest on Saturday, December 1, 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**

Sherwood Merk was inducted posthumously to the Ellington Wall of Honor in Arbor Park on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Merk passed away in July 2017. Among his many contributions to the town, he dedicated twenty years to the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps and mentored many young people as the advisor to Rescue Post 512. He was active in the Crystal Lake Water Skiing Club, and his friend Marjorie Hill donated a binder of photographs of the club to the Historical Society in 2017.

Southern New England endured one of the most powerful and destructive storms in its history 80 years ago on September 21, 1938. In this photo, poplar trees which were between the McKnight Family home and the east side of the Ellington Congregational Church fell. Many other full-grown trees on Main Street and Maple Street were broken off or uprooted, changing the look of the town forever.



Sustained hurricane force winds of 91 m.p.h. with gusts to 121 m.p.h. caused extensive damage to buildings and crops. Storm tides of 14 to 18 feet hit most of the Connecticut coast. Ten to 17 inches of rain fell across most of the Connecticut River Valley.

It took almost a month to open Frog Hollow Road to traffic and even longer to restore electricity and telephone service.

Photo and adapted text from Arcadia Publishing's Images of America book, *Ellington*, by Lynn Kloter Fahy, © 2005.

## **January meeting, Thursday January 24, 2019 at the Hall Memorial Library, 7:00 p.m.**



“The Golden Age of Television Comedy”

With Carol Burnett, Tim Conway, Harvey Korman, Jonathan Winters, Foster Brooks, Abbott and Costello, Phyllis Diller, Don Rickles, Lucille Ball and John Belushi.

Presented by EHS member Joe Ouellette

**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.