

2008

Jan 2008 [top](#)

January Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. The business meeting will be followed by a program on the history of iron and iron manufacturing by Jim Klopfer. The public is invited and new members are welcome to join. Refreshments will follow the program.

Thank you to Connie Nichols and Pat Clapp for the refreshments for our October meeting. The bakers for our January meeting are Doris Johnson and Ellen Karadimas.

News from the President Tim Fahy

Winter is here and the Museum is closed until May. We closed just in time, as our oil was about gone. At current prices, it would cost \$ 935 to fill our tank. Heat doesn't last long in a house that has no insulation, but we hope that insulating the steam pipes in the basement next year will help.

We as a society owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our Curator, Nancy Long. Because she is such a good project manager, the holiday open house went very smoothly. Not only does she organize everything, she does the scheduling, publicity, shopping, cleaning, decorating, baking, demonstrations, setup, clean-up, and even finds time to make all the school house ornaments that we sell. Thank you Nancy, well done.

Holiday Open House

The holiday open house was held on Friday evening, November 30 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. for the town wide Winterfest celebration. Friday evening Robert Aborn demonstrated broom-making, David Lehmann caned a chair and Karen Hayes demonstrated weaving on Nellie's loom. On Saturday, Dave returned to work on his chair and Karen continued weaving dish towels upstairs. Nancy Long demonstrated spinning in the kitchen. Rosemary Toth, a musician from Tolland, entertained both days playing the guitar and singing carols.

The museum had a steady stream of visitors both days with the largest crowd coming during the Winterfest hours. A brutally cold day with strong winds on Saturday kept the Winterfest crowd down but those that visited the museum had a good chance to look at the exhibits and chat with the volunteers.

News from the Curator, Nancy Long

We appreciate the help of our volunteers who cleaned, decorated and staffed the museum. Thank you to Dorothy Manner for decorating the Christmas tree, the red and gold ornaments were pretty in the front parlor. Thank you to Mildred Dimock for her many phone calls to enlist our bakers. We served cookies in several locations in the museum and, for the first time, offered one pound plates of cookies for sale. This proved to be a nice addition to our fundraising and will be something we do again next year. Thank you to our bakers for their work, the variety and quality of the cookies were wonderful! Our table of books and ornaments was moved to the dining room where we had better lighting and more room to display our wares. This was a nice change of venue and will be added to the list for next year as well.

Volunteers: Dave Lehmann, Karen Hayes, Debby Wallace, Evelyn & Rudy Luginbuhl, Lennie & Don Ellis, Connie Nichols, Dot Manner, Nancy Lemek, Mildred Dimock, Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Gerry Gillung, Darlene & Ron Hull, Lynn & Tim Fahy, Nancy & Jim Long.

Decorators: Tena Lehmann, Dot Manner, Gerry Gillung, Ellen Karadimas, Tim Fahy, Nancy Long.

As always, special thanks to Tim and Lynn Fahy for their tireless efforts for the society and museum.

News from the Treasurer, Mary Temple

I would like to thank all the members who helped make the wreath sale a success. A special thank you to Lennie and Don Ellis for picking up the wreaths for us. The following people were instrumental in decorating the wreaths: Tina Fiore, Tena Lehmann, Lennie Ellis and Tim Fahy for running back and forth to the shed for us. A special thank you to Doris Johnson who helped make some of the red velvet bows. Once again we had a successful sale and it could not have happened without our many members who purchased a wreath. A thank you to all of you.

A special reminder to members who have not yet paid their dues. Please send your dues payment to: Ellington Historical Society, P.O. Box 73, Ellington, CT 06029. Make checks payable to the society. Individual \$10.00 -- Family \$20.00 -- Senior Individual \$8.00 (Over 62) -- Senior Family \$15.00 (Over 62) -- Patron \$25.00 -- Business \$50.00. Thank you.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Biographical Sketches of Ellington Families by Darius Crane, originally published by the Star Printing Co. in 1889, was re-printed by the Higginson Book Co. at the request of the Ellington Historical Society. It is now available on the Higginson web site at <http://www.higginsonbooks.com> The book number is CT1372, and the price is \$9.95 for the paperback and \$21.95 for the hardcover. You may also contact the publisher at Higginson Book Company, 148 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970, Phone: 978-745-7170.

The proposal for a pictorial history of Crystal Lake in Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series is at the publisher now. We should know soon if the proposal is accepted, and what the scheduled publication date will be. I am still looking for photos of the Crystal Lake Ballroom and Crystal Lake schools up to around 1960. If anyone has any, please contact me. I will arrange to scan your photos and return them to you.

Shirley Hayden has taken on another project for us. She is scanning slides from Nellie McKnight's collection, which will preserve them and make it possible for us to present a digital slide show. The slides were made in the 1970s and many of the images have faded and deteriorated. Shirley will try to correct and enhance the images, many of which are photos of Ellington's historic houses.

Ellington Historical Society Programs, Spring 2008

Thursday, February 28th —Angie DeLuca will speak on 19th century painters. **Friday**, April 18th —Andrew Carnegie. Thursday, June 26th -- Annual meeting and potluck. Check our website at <http://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/> and future newsletters for details.



Broomsquire Robert Aborn demonstrating broom-making at the Holiday Open House

Feb 2008 [top](#)

Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. The business meeting will be followed by a program by Ms. Angelina DeLuca on Connecticut Itinerant Painters of the 19th Century.

Ms. DeLuca is a thirty five year veteran art teacher in the West Hartford School System. She received her BA from Central CT State University and her Masters from the Hartt Art School University of Hartford. She has received two Fulbright scholarships.

The public is invited and new members are welcome to join. Refreshments will follow the program.

Thank you to Doris Johnson and Ellen Karadimas for the refreshments for our January meeting. The bakers for our February meeting are Tina Fiore and Mary Temple.

Storm Cancellations

We have arranged to have our storm cancellations announced on WFSB Channel 3. If you have any questions about whether a meeting has been cancelled, please contact Tim Fahy.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

Arcadia Publishing has accepted my proposal for a new pictorial history of Ellington. The new book in Arcadia's *Images of America* will be titled: *Crystal Lake: Tolland County*. The finished manuscript and approximately 200 photographs are due at the publisher's in November, and the scheduled publication date is spring 2009.

Shirley Hayden has finished scanning slides from Nellie McKnight's collection. Shirley corrected the color and enhanced the images on the faded and deteriorated slides, which we hope to present to the society at a future program. This is one of the slides, a photograph of the stone house known as the Millstone on Route 140, Sadds Mill Road.

An article in the May 23, 1908 Hartford Courant reveals the origin of the house: "Dr. Everett J. McKnight has bought of George L. McLean a part of the old Dunham Mill Property in Ellington opposite the residence of Carlos Bradley. This property is situated near Dr. McKnight's boyhood home. The mill canal, along which he traveled to the swimming pond in his boyhood days, now has magnificent elms on either side, making a delightful walk. Dr. McKnight contemplates putting up a bungalow and reconstructing the pond, which will cover several acres of land. The whole, when completed, will make a most attractive summer home."



Apr 2008 [top](#)

Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on **Friday, April 25, 2008** at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street where we will attend a program presented by the library, "Great Scot! It's Andrew Carnegie!" performed by veteran actor Richard Clarke. Clarke is a graduate of Clark University in English and Theatre and has appeared in many productions at regional theaters, as well as on television shows and on film. Free. All are welcome.

Carnegie rose from humble beginnings to become "The King of Steel and the richest man in the world. He was called the "greediest little devil that ever lived," yet gave away billions of dollars building thousands of libraries. He warred with labor yet passionately advocated world peace and counted Mark Twain, Helen Keller and Booker T. Washington as his friends.

Thank you to Mary Temple and Tina Fiore for baking for our February meeting.

Happy Birthday Windsor

The Town of Windsor is celebrating its 375th birthday and Ellington, as one of the "daughter" towns, is included in the celebration! Lynn Fahy and Nancy Long attended a reception at Loomis Chaffee School on March 6 honoring daughter towns and their historical societies. Ellington Historical Society was presented with a commemorative coin made for the 375th anniversary. Visit the 375th website at: www.windsor375.com for updates and information on the year-long celebration. Of special note is a parade and fireworks scheduled for September 27, 2008. Plans are being made by the town and the historical society for our participation in this event.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board, historical society member Ellen Karadimas presented some ideas for fundraising and will be working on raising money for the refurbishment of the Nellie McKnight Museum.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long

The Nellie McKnight Museum will officially open for the season on Thursday, May 15, 2008. As in past seasons, the museum will be open each Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through the month of September.

The museum will be open on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the Fair on the Green and Flea Market on the museum grounds. Our annual bake sale will be held indoors in the dining room on that day also. We hope members will support us as in the past and bake for the sale. Volunteers to staff the bake sale and museum will be needed for this day. Since our April 25 meeting will be part of a program at Hall Memorial Library, please contact Nancy Long if you would like to volunteer or bake.

Flea Market

Saturday, May 10, 2008 the spring flea market will be held on the museum grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The spaces for exhibitors are 10' x 10' and available for a donation of \$20.00 from non-members and \$15.00 from members. If you are interested in reserving a space, please contact Tena Lehmann.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Kloter Fahy

Charlotte Lanz has donated some newspaper clippings and photographs, including some of the Hurricane of '38.

I have scanned almost all the photographs that I need for the Arcadia Images of America book, *Crystal Lake: Tolland County*. I will begin the photo layout soon and write the captions. The book remains on schedule for publication in spring 2009.

Research for the book has led to some interesting discoveries. There was a reference in Crystal Lake resident Ella Newell's 1895 diary to her husband Frank cutting alders and taking the logs to Hazard Powder Company in Enfield. I learned that gunpowder is composed of saltpeter, sulphur, and charcoal, and that alder charcoal was preferred.

Ellington Historical Society Program, June 2008

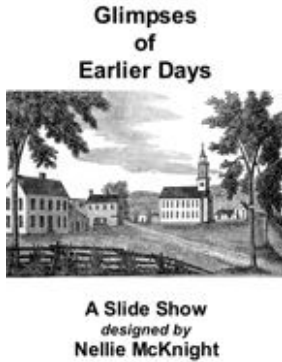
Our annual meeting and potluck will be held on Thursday, June 26th at the Hall Memorial Library. The program will be a presentation of a slide program originally created by Nellie McKnight in the 1970s. Lynn Fahy will show these historical slides of Ellington that Shirley Hayden scanned into digital format. Shirley corrected the color and enhanced the images on the faded and deteriorated slides.

Jun 2008 [top](#)

June Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Those with last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring a salad. Those with last names beginning with N-Z are asked to bring a main dish. Hot and cold beverages will be provided. Our traditional strawberry shortcake will be served for dessert.

Following the supper, we will hold our annual meeting during which we will elect officers for 2008-2009. A slate of officers will be presented and nominations can also be made from the floor.



A slide show designed by Nellie McKnight in 1970s will be shown after the election. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared by Lynn Kloter Fahy using Nellie's slides and notes. Thanks to Shirley Hayden for converting the slides to digital format and to Jim Long for his technical assistance.

News from the President, Tim Fahy

Renovations of the historic Pinney House have been put on hold after a meeting of the Ellington Board of Selectmen on May 19th. The town received a \$500,000 grant from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program for the restoration of the house. Estimates to restore the house exceeds this amount. The town now has until August 25 to decide how to proceed, after the owner of the property from which the town leases the property, Deer Valley LCC, agreed to the extension.

Nellie McKnight Museum open for the season

The Nellie McKnight Museum is open for the season on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through the month of September. Stop in and visit.

May 10 Event

Our event on May 10 which included a bake sale and flea market went off successfully in spite of threats of bad weather. We sold out all of the flea market sites and sold out all of the baked goods too. We had a modest crowd come through the first floor of the museum but the main focus for our visitors was the bake sale. We wish to thank all of our members who baked for the sale-we couldn't hold this event without your support!

Thank you to our bake sale volunteers: Connie Nichols, Pat Clapp, Helen Dahl, Ann Berak, Wendy Peterson, Mary Temple and Nancy Lemek.

Thank you to our museum volunteers: Mildred Dimock, Nancy Long, Lynn Fahy, Tim Fahy and Lennie and Don Ellis.

Special thanks to Mildred Dimock for calling all of our bakers and to Tena and Dave Lehmann for publicizing the flea market, handling the applications and setting up the field for the event. Dave has also completed caning another chair for the museum and we extend a thank you for his skill and patience in restoring these chairs.

The event would not have happened without the efforts of Nancy Long, who coordinated everything. She made dozens of calls, cleaned the building, got the gardens in shape, purchased the supplies and took care of things no one else even thought of. Thank you, Nancy.

Local Historians Meeting

On Thursday, May 9, Nancy Long and Tim Fahy attended a meeting with local historians at the Somers Historical Society. This group of historians meets twice a year to discuss common concerns and efforts in promoting local history. The meetings move to a different historical society each time so we all benefit from seeing each other's displays and locations.

School Tours

Nancy Long and Tim Fahy visited Windermere School on Wednesday, May 28, Center School on Friday, May 30, and Crystal Lake School on Wednesday, June 4. A selection of museum items such as ice tongs, candle molds, popcorn popper, bed warmer, etc. are brought to the schools and a narrative of each item is given. We have found this format encourages the children to focus on a particular item and how it was used in a lifetime very different from today.

Fund-raising

Ellen Karadimas has sent out letters to local contractors asking if they would be willing to donate items or labor for the upkeep of the Nellie McKnight Museum. Dave Taylor from Preferred Painting Services has completed repairing and painting the walls and trim in the upstairs back hallway of the museum. He and his staff also repaired loose wallpaper throughout the museum. We greatly appreciate his generosity in donating both time and materials for these projects.

John Luginbuhl of Nutmeg Stair & Cabinet is going to stabilize the stair railing, and add shelves to two upstairs closets.

Garden Tour

The Ellington Women's Club will be holding a garden tour on Saturday June 21 from 10:00-4:00. The museum herb garden, maintained by EWC, is featured on the tour as well as the perennial gardens at the museum. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the event and are available at Hall Memorial Library, Ellington Agway and the Ellington branch of Rockville Bank.

Sep 2008 [top](#)

Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. A program about the plight of the American Chestnut tree will be presented by Mike McGee of Tolland. Mr. McGee is vice president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. He will describe his research and efforts to have a blight-resistant American chestnut tree. Free. All are welcome.

Refreshments will be provided by Nancy Long and Tim Fahy. A sign-up sheet for doing refreshments this year will be circulated at the meeting.

2008-2009 EHS Officers

At our annual meeting and potluck supper on June 26th at the Hall Memorial Library, the following officers were re-elected: President, Tim Fahy; Vice-President, Denise Archibald; Treasurer, Mary Temple; Recording Secretary, Santina Fiore; Corresponding Secretary, Tena Lehmann. Karyn Kloter agreed to serve as member at large and replaces Mildred Dimock who has served for three years. Thank you Mildred for your help on the board. The Executive Board includes current officers as well as members Dave Lehmann, Jim Stoughton, Don Ellis, Curator Nancy Long, and Archivist Lynn Kloter Fahy.

Happy Birthday Windsor

Preparations are being made for our float in the Windsor Parade to be held on Saturday, September 27. The use of a truck and trailer are being donated by Peter Pagani of Pagani Construction. The float will feature Mildred Dimock portraying Nellie McKnight reading to the children of Bruce and Karyn Kloter. We will have a windmill representing Daniel Halladay and his invention. Rob Wallace, Alex Cardoni, Dennis Carroll, Basil Stone and several members of the 1976 Train Band will be playing marching tunes. Decorations will include town flags, corn stalks, mums, pumpkins, apples and hay bales. The parade begins at noon on that day and we hope you can join us in celebrating Windsor's birthday.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

Update on fund raising campaign and donations

In June Ellen Karadimas, Restoration Chairman, sent out letters to local businesses and members asking for help with improvements to the Nellie McKnight Museum. We are very grateful for the following donations and appreciate the time and effort given to the museum:

Preferred Painting Services: Re-pasted loose wallpaper; prepped, repaired, painted upstairs back hallway walls and trim.

Greg Lanz Plumbing: Replaced and relocated pipe for outside faucet at back of museum.

Herman Dahl: Donated steam valve fittings for radiators in museum.

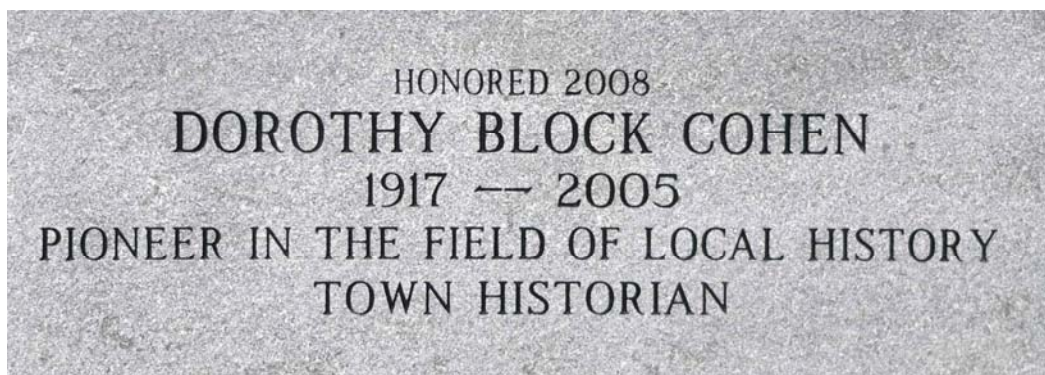
Ameritas Life Insurance Group (Paul Policella): Donated postage for mailing 250 letters and membership forms.

Jim McKnight: Donated money for "Nellie's Facelift"

Nutmeg Cabinets: Put a brace on stair banister; put shelves in two upstairs closets.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Ellen Karadimas for her work on this project. It took many hours to compile the list of local businesses, compose letters, make copies, do mailings and press releases. Thank you Ellen!

Wall of Honor



Dorothy Cohen is this year's appointee for the Wall of Honor. The ceremony was held on Saturday, September 6, 2008. Michael Stupinski, First Selectman, read a proclamation and the Fire Department Honor Guard was in attendance. Jim Stoughton read a passage from *Ulysses*.

Many thanks to Jim Stoughton, who, on behalf of the society, completed and submitted an application to the Wall of Honor to the Board of Selectmen, nominating Dorothy Block Cohen, former town historian and author of the 1987 book: *Ellington: Chronicles of Change*. She was also the creator, along with Al Schindler, of the "Proprietor's map of a portion of the town of Windsor, Connecticut, lying east of the "Great River" and within the present bounds of Ellington, Connecticut as the land was originally laid out during the period 1728-1752." Mrs. Cohen passed away in 2005.

Gravestone on Pinney Street

We are grateful to Michael Halloran for trimming and weeding the gravesite of Samuel Field Knight on Pinney Street. Mr. Halloran lives across the street from the gravestone and has generously taken on this task for us.

Gordon Dimock

_____ Business \$50.00

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

*E-mail address _____

Make check payable to: Ellington Historical Society

Mail this form and payment to: Ellington Historical Society
P.O. Box 73
Ellington, CT 06029

* If you would like to receive your EHS newsletter by e-mail as a Microsoft Word file instead of "snail mail," please include your e-mail address.

Oct 2008 [top](#)

Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Free. All are welcome.

Our program this month is The History and Joy of Cloth Doll Collecting. The program will be presented by Renee Irvin of Vernon. Ms. Irvin has been collecting cloth dolls and studying vintage textiles for over twenty years. She has written a children's book on the subject, "The Rag Dolls of Rockville", describing her efforts to keep cloth dolls on the list of cherished childhood toys. The program will present a history on cloth dolls and New England's contribution to the cloth doll industry. She will bring examples of significant dolls from her collection. Her book will be available for purchase and signing after the presentation. All proceeds from the sale of her book are given to Hockanum Valley Community Counsel, of which she is President of the Board of Directors.

Attendees are invited to bring a favorite cloth doll to the meeting!

Thank you to all who signed our refreshment list for meetings this year. Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by Connie Nichols and Karyn Kloter.

Windsor Parade

The Windsor Parade was scheduled for Saturday, September 27 but predicted heavy rain postponed the parade until Sunday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m. The float was decorated with town flags, corn stalks, mums, pumpkins, apples and hay bales and assembled on site in Windsor.

Special thanks to Tim Fahy who arranged for the float, planned the decorations and marched in the parade. Tim and Lynn also hosted an "after the parade" cookout for all who rode or worked on the float.

We would like to thank the following people: Mildred Dimock who portrayed Nellie McKnight and sat on the float reading to Owen, Luke and Emma Kloter, children of Karyn and Bruce Kloter. The Ellington Parish Train Band represented by Alex Cardoni, Rob Wallace, Dennis Carroll, Kenneth Carroll, and Basil Stone. Local craftsman, Ed Ricard, donated a windmill to the museum and this windmill represented the Halladay windmill on the float. Thank you to Denise Archibald for her efforts in arranging for the windmill.

Peter Pagani of Pagani Construction donated the use of his truck and trailer and his time for the day to drive the float in the parade. Mary Temple contacted Johnny Appleseed who donated the mums, pumpkins and apples for

the float. Don Ellis donated hay for the float, helped decorate and marched in the parade. Sue Phillips arranged for the use of two town flags, decorated, and made the book for Mildred to read to the children and marched in the parade. Nancy Long arranged for the banners, made the float signs, decorated and marched in the parade.

Pictures of the parade and our float can be seen on our website www.ellingtonhistsoc.org and will also be circulated at this meeting.

Click on the photos below to see a larger view.



News from the Curator-Nancy Long

It may be October but plans are already underway for the holidays. The museum visiting hours on Thursday afternoons are officially over but museum tours are still available by appointment by contacting Nancy Long or Tim Fahy.

Wreaths

We will once again be offering wreaths for sale this year. Advance orders will be taken at this meeting or by calling Mary Temple . The price will remain the same as last year: \$10 for a wreath and bow; \$12 for a wreath with a bow and decorations. All proceeds benefit Ellington Historical Society.

Open House/Winterfest

Saturday, December 6 we will have a holiday open house as part of the town wide Winterfest celebration. The museum will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will be featuring a newly discovered wardrobe trunk in the front parlor and use this trunk as the foundation for a display of early 1900s clothing. Holiday decorations and lots of homemade cookies will be offered to all and we hope for a good crowd for this open house.

Membership

It's that time again! Membership dues are "due" in September and we have enclosed a form to fill out and include with your dues payment. Link to [form](#).
