



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

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April 2011 Newsletter

April Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. The program will be a member discussion of the current improvement projects underway at the Nellie McKnight Museum and preparations for the 200th anniversary of the McKnight House in 2012. Refreshments will follow the program. The bakers are Tina Fiore and Mary Temple.

News from the Curator—Nancy Long

The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open for the season on Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be open on Thursdays through the end of September. The Ice Harvesting exhibit, currently at Hall Memorial Library, will return to the front parlor of the museum for May 7.

Fair on the Green/Historical Society Flea Market and Bake Sale

On May 7, 2011 the historical society will hold a flea market on the Nellie McKnight Museum grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The rain date is May 14. Spaces are 10' x 20' for a donation of \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. Exhibitors of typical flea market/tag sale items are welcome. Craft and food exhibitors cannot be accepted. Call Dave Lehmann for an application form or call Nancy Long for general information.



Flea Market 2010

The historical society bake sale will also be held on May 7 in the Nellie McKnight Museum from 9:00-2:00. Members will be contacted to bake and help staff this bake sale. In keeping with the guidelines given by North Central District Health, we are asking our bakers to package their baked goods so they are ready for sale. We do not want to handle or repackage the baked items and it really speeds up the bake sale set up if all we only have to price the item. We thank you for your observance of these guidelines-the rules protect us all!



Update on Projects

Work is continuing on the second floor of the museum. Nellie's bedroom, formerly the archive room, has been emptied and the wallpaper stripped. Patching and painting will continue as the weather warms. On the south wall near the ceiling a notation in pencil was found: April 1952, 12 rolls (of wallpaper). Almost sixty years is a long time between redecorating!

As part of the spruce up of the building and grounds for 200th birthday of the building, we are in the process of pricing new sign options for the front lawn. It is likely we will keep the same post but will replace our sign.

As we work on the building inside and out, we are compiling a "wish list" of items we need:

- Full size mattress and box spring for Nellie's bedroom
- Painting supplies (brushes, drop cloths, mineral spirits, spackling compound, etc.)
- Repairs to the front porch (some boards to be replaced, scraping, caulking and repainting)
- Re-glazing all windows (as part of the larger project of painting the museum)



Photograph of the McKnight House from the Connecticut State Library's Digital Collection: "The WPA House Survey." The *Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut*, 1934-1937 was a Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) project.

This anniversary highlights the need for exterior paint and repairs at the museum. We are presently hoping to accomplish these jobs with the help of our members either donating time or money. We are the caretakers of this wonderful and historic old house. Let's work to make this a proud 200th birthday of the house!

News from the Archivist--Lynn Kloter Fahy

The historical society's archives have moved to the west side in the upstairs of the Nellie McKnight Museum. My goal is to get the archives organized in time for the house's 200th birthday. After a 3-month retirement from my day job as a librarian at Trinity College, I was offered a part-time job as an archives consultant. So I welcomed the offers of help from historical society members Shirley Hayden and Hilary Brady. I look forward to getting them started soon.

We are happy to have a local business, Ellington Printery, as the new printer of our newsletter.

News from the President--Tim Fahy

As was previously stated, this month's meeting is a business only meeting. The Executive Board has had some discussions about the upcoming 200th anniversary of the McKnight house, but we wanted to hear ideas from all interested members. This is an opportunity to discuss ideas and try to determine which ideas are practical given the number of active members. This is also an opportunity for members to volunteer to help with this celebration so that we may attract more people to the museum.

I hope many of you will choose to attend this meeting. In subsequent newsletters, I will keep you informed of which ideas we feel we can pursue.