



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

January 2012 Newsletter

January Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, Rick Spencer will present his program, "The Boys of the Battlefield: The Civil War As Told By Its Popular Songwriters," accompanied by the guitar and banjo. Events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War began last year, and we are pleased to be able to present this timely program.

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

Note: The Hall Memorial Library has scheduled some of their adult programs on historical topics in conjunction with our meetings. Our January program is one of these. Press releases about these programs say to call the library to register. Registration does NOT apply to Ellington Historical Society members.

News from the Curator-Nancy Long



Open House/Winterfest

A wonderfully mild and sunny December 3 made all the town activities a pleasure! We had a steady stream of visitors at the museum from mid-afternoon until closing at 7:00 p.m.

To herald the coming of 2012 and the 200th anniversary of the house that would become our museum, we displayed photographs dating from the late 1800s to the 1940s. The many changes to the house over the years were apparent in the display including the realization that there was an ell attached to the rear of the house on the west side (facing the Congregational Church).

A house model, done by Hilary Brady while in the Ellington School system, was decorated for the holiday season by Tim Fahy and included skaters, carolers and even Nellie peeking out of an upstairs window.

We were treated to Christmas carols played on the piano by nieces of Karyn Kloter. Karyn and her daughter Emma decorated a tabletop tree in the dining room with little aprons and thread spools found in a dresser drawer during the refurbishing of Nellie's bedroom.



Visitors came to see Nellie's bedroom, open to the public for the first time. The room is decorated with memorabilia from Nellie's life in town and showcases her furniture and some pieces of her weaving. The public was intrigued at having access to a previously closed area of the house, and walking through the closet connecting the two bedrooms was of added interest.

Our members cleaned, decorated and acted as docents for the open house and we appreciate their talents and time spent at the museum. As always, special thanks to Tim Fahy for lending a hand wherever needed from decorating to feeding the volunteers. Tim, with the assistance of his friend Rick, drained the pipes and winterized the house for the season. Thank you Tim for all you do!

Volunteers: Mary Temple, Tina Fiore, Angie DeLuca, Don and Lennie Ellis, Dave Lehmann, Nancy Lombard, Shirley Hayden, Karyn Kloter and nieces, Dave Danforth, Tim and Lynn Fahy, Jim and Nancy Long.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

I had a request recently for information about the origin of the name "Jobs Hill Road." Who was Job? Dorothy Cohen's 1987 book *Ellington: Chronicles of Change* has a section called "Place Names to Remember" that gives the history of many names. This is the entry for Jobs Hill:

"Proximity of Green Rd. and Jobs Hill Rd. in the northwest part of town. Jobs Hill Road from Morris Corner north-northwest to Somers line (laid out in 1749). Legend has it that Job Colton, who lived near Buckhorn Brook on top of the hill near the Somers-Enfield line made paths down the hill to Broad Brook, one of which Jobs Hill Road closely follows."

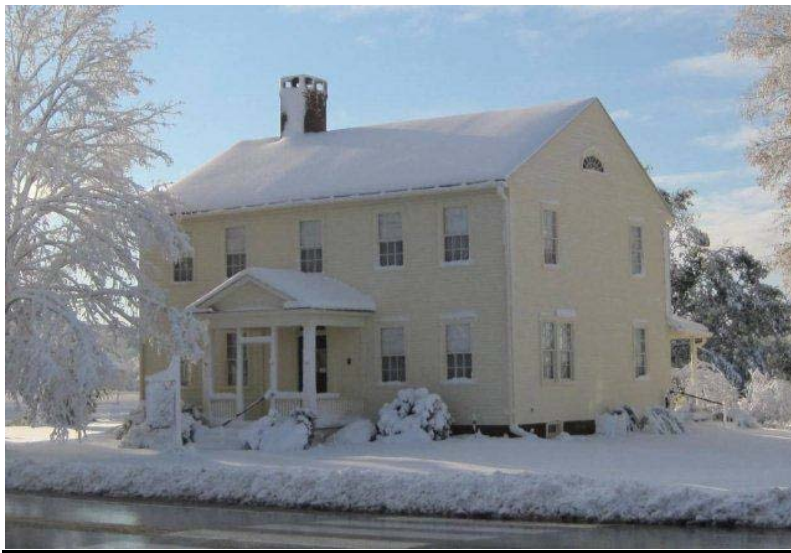
Ellington: Chronicles of Change was reprinted in 2010 by the Ellington Historical Society, and copies are still available at the Hall Memorial Library for \$20. Out-of-towners can order copies by sending a check for \$22.50 (includes shipping), payable to Ellington Historical Society to our P.O. Box.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

It's 2012 and Nellie McKnight house is 200 years old. She will celebrate her 200th anniversary dressed up in a new coat of paint, Hepplewhite Ivory, which was applied in October, just before the surprise snowstorm. Most folks in town think the house looks great.

We hope to have a few special events this year including an archaeological dig. To showcase the house, we will be open a few times on weekends during the summer.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Nancy and Jim Long for all they did to get the house and yard in shape. They seemed to spend more time at the museum than they did at home.



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February 2012 Newsletter

February Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, Susan J. Jerome, the Collections Manager at the University of Rhode Island Historic Textile and Costume Collection will present a PowerPoint program that will explore the ways in which quilts have become part of American culture. The audience is encouraged to bring one quilt or quilted object with them. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by David Danforth, Nancy Long, and Tim Fahy.



Attendees will learn about textile history and how the development of cheap, printed cotton fabrics and synthetic dyes influenced quilt making in 19th century America; explore the different meanings of the word “quilt” and why quilting today is considered to be a “leisure time” activity; learn how to properly store textile heirlooms for future generations; learn something about family quilts and/or quilted objects; and be able to ask questions relevant to textile and quilt history.

Obituary: We note with sadness the passing of former Ellington Historical Society President Homer R. Peckham on January 31 at the age of 89. Homer was very active in the community and will be missed.

Upcoming Programs

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Diana Ross McCain, author of the book, [*It Happened in Connecticut*](#), will tell these amazing yet true stories and more....! Back cover: “From a hostile takeover, colonial style, to the first lady governor who was never a governor’s lady, *It Happened in Connecticut* tells the stories of intriguing people and events from the history of the Nutmeg State. Find out where that dubious Nutmegger nickname originated. Discover what a Windsor boardinghouse owner did to inspire the dark comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*. And be inspired by Abby Smith and her cows—a roller coaster ride of a story from the early days of the women’s suffrage movement.”

Thursday, June 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Potluck supper and annual elections (Members Only)

Thursday, Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library

Ruth Shapleigh Brown, Founder and Executive Director of [Connecticut Gravestone Network](#) and a member of the Connecticut State Library staff, will present a thought provoking discussion filled with surprising tales and mysteries about the three earliest burying grounds of Hartford. Shapleigh Brown's illustrated talk will explain the beginnings of these three historic cemeteries, mentioning some important local colonial residents and stone-carvers.

News from the Archivist-Lynn Fahy

Erin Quinlan of Ellington-SomersPatch at <http://ellington-somers.patch.com> has started a new feature: "Can You Identify This Historical Photo?" She plans to use weekly photos from the archives of the Ellington, Crystal Lake, and Somers historical societies. The first photo, on Tuesday, February 7th, was from my Images of America book, *Crystal Lake, Tolland County*. Several readers correctly identified it as the fire tower on Soapstone Mountain.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

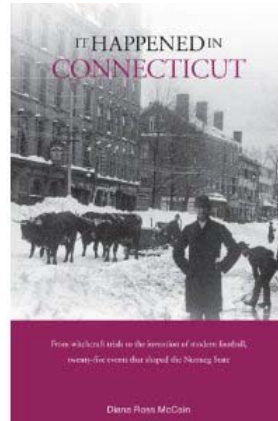
The mild weather and a scheduling opportunity allowed Nick Bellantoni, the state archaeologist, to bring a ground radar unit to the museum this week to enable us to look for interesting locations for our dig this summer. While we didn't find anything noteworthy during the scans, we did identify some areas that look more interesting than others. Mandy Ranslow, our EHS archaeologist, will help us pick the sites.



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April 2012 Newsletter

The Ellington Historical Society will meet on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library at 93 Main Street. Following the business meeting, Diana Ross McCain will talk about her book *It Happened in Connecticut*, which “tells more than two dozen true tales of famous--and infamous--people and events from the state’s past, ranging from witchcraft trials to the Wiffle ball, from mass murder for profit to the modern game of football.”—amazon.com Bakers for our April meeting 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 3, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be open on Thursdays through the end of September. The featured exhibit in the front parlor celebrates the 200th anniversary of Nellie McKnight’s home. Pictures from the late 1800s through the 1940s chronicle the changes in the building including the ell addition on the west rear side of the house.

Ellington Historical Society Flea Market and Bake Sale

Our annual Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held on May 19, 2012 on the Nellie McKnight Museum grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fair on the Green is not being held this year and thus we are hoping for a busy morning in the center of town. The Ellington Congregational Church will hold their indoor tag sale on this same date and the Farmer’s Market will be open at Arbor Park. There is no rain date for our event. 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 860-875-1136 for an application form or call 860-875-7160 for general information. Applications are also available on our website: www.ellingtonhistsoc.org

The historical society bake sale will also be held on May 19 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. If we only have to price the item, it really speeds up the bake sale setup. We thank you for your observance of these guidelines--the rules protect us all!

The museum will be open for tours on May 19. We hope you will stop in for a visit and see Nellie’s bedroom if you missed the open house during the town Winterfest celebration.

News from the President—Tim Fahy

On April 2nd, we had a visitor at the museum. Jennifer Schaller, a student at ECSU and a former resident of Ellington, came to film an interview at the museum. Jen is also an intern at Charter CTV14 where the interview will air. She interviewed Nancy Long and Lynn Fahy as well as filming every room in the house. We don’t get Charter cable in our area but Jen promised to send us a copy of the DVD.

The date for the archaeological dig has been finalized. EHS member and archaeologist Mandy Ranslow will oversee the dig on July 14th, rain or shine. We are encouraging kids 10-16 to sign up. Donations are \$15 and \$10 for members. We hope to have enough participation to have 2 two-hour sessions. Visit our website for more information. www.ellingtonhistsoc.org

The Ellington Farmer's Market theme on June 30th will be "Farming Through the Years" and will feature the Ellington Historical Society. We will have antique farming equipment on display at the market at Arbor Park. Visit www.ellingtonfarmersmarket.com for more information.

Upcoming Meetings

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Thursday, Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Hall Memorial Library--Ruth Shapleigh Brown, Founder and Executive Director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network and a member of the Connecticut State Library staff, will present a thought provoking discussion filled with surprising tales and mysteries about the three earliest burying grounds of Hartford. Shapleigh Brown's illustrated talk will explain the beginnings of these three historic cemeteries, mentioning some important local colonial residents and stone-carvers. www.ctgravestones.com

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