



Ellington Chronicles of Change

Dorothy B. Cohen, Historian

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Ellington

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Chronicles of Change

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~ ~ ~ ~ D E D I C A T E D ~ ~ ~ ~

" To Those Who Created A Township Out Of A Wilderness,
And To Those Who Shaped It's Future "

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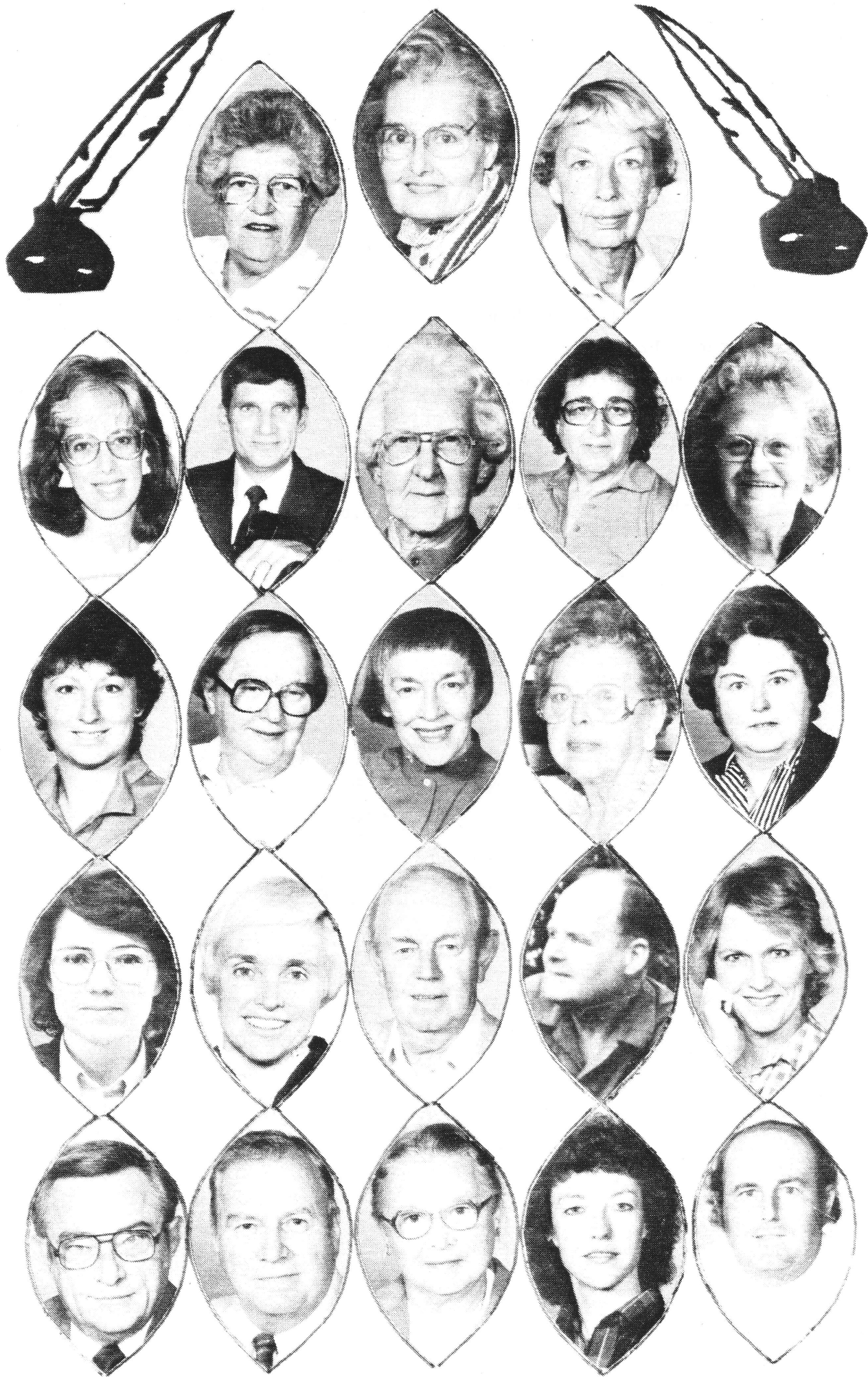
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INTRODUCTION

It is with great humility and great satisfaction that we present to you the "Chronicles of Change." By no manner of means do we attempt to present an all inclusive portrait. We were lured by intriguing people, their sometimes magnificent, sometimes harsh lives, and mostly their contributions to the history of Ellington. What we do have here is a social, historical, and political commentary on what we consider to be some of the highlights of the area's evolution.

Irene Dowd, editor



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is to express my gratitude for the repeated assistance received over the last decade from the staffs of the public libraries (Connecticut State, Hartford, Rockville, and Hall Memorial in Ellington), and from the clerks in the Towns of Bolton, East Windsor, Ellington, Tolland, Vernon and Windsor. From this initial research we have the basis for the present book. Unless otherwise noted, this book was written in cooperation with volunteers who, in most instances, worked from the research files of the historian.

Over the past few years, the frequent visits to the Ellington Town Clerk's office and the adjoining Assessor's office, have met with the cheerful assistance, whenever needed, of Dorothy B. MacIntosh, Rosemary S. Malatesta, William D. Marsele and Marion W. Hoffman.

A special thanks to the long-time residents who shared past recollections with me, or pointed out certain historic sites. Among them are the following: John Basch, Emma and Charles Batz, James Eastwood, Margery Gilbert, Shirley Gross, the late C. Earl Hatheway, Mark Hoffman, Horace and Mildred McKnight, and Agnes and Earl Rich. My gratitude extends to Mildred Dimock for her able assistance wherever needed in the final stages of the book.

IN APPRECIATION:

To the Historic Book Committee for their dedication to fulfill our goal (in spite of set-backs) to complete the Ellington saga.

To the Bicentennial Commission under whose wing the project first started.

To the Board of Selectmen, who saw fit to loan funds for the entire project, and to approve the request that any profits realized would benefit the local Historical Societies.

To the Ellington and Crystal Lake Historical Societies for taking on the challenge to market and distribute the book.

To the Duplicating Department of the Travelers Insurance Company for printing the book free of charge.

To William P. McMillen, owner of WORDCOM in Ellington, for generously donating his time and word processing-typing service.

Throughout it all, I have immeasurably benefited from the criticism

and suggestions from an encourager and sympathizer, my husband, David Cohen, an Ellington native.

Dorothy B. Cohen, Researcher and Historian

N.B. David Cohen passed away June 3, 1987

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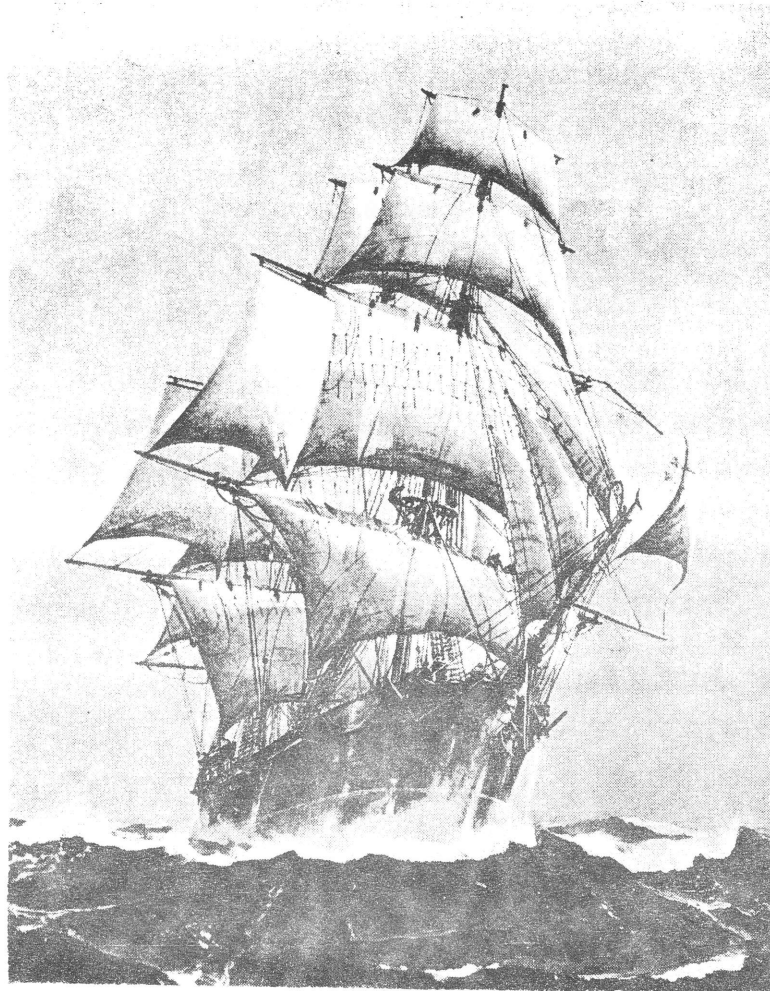
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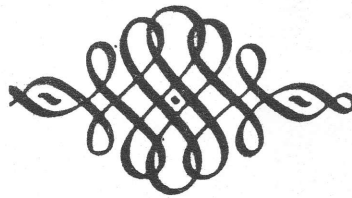
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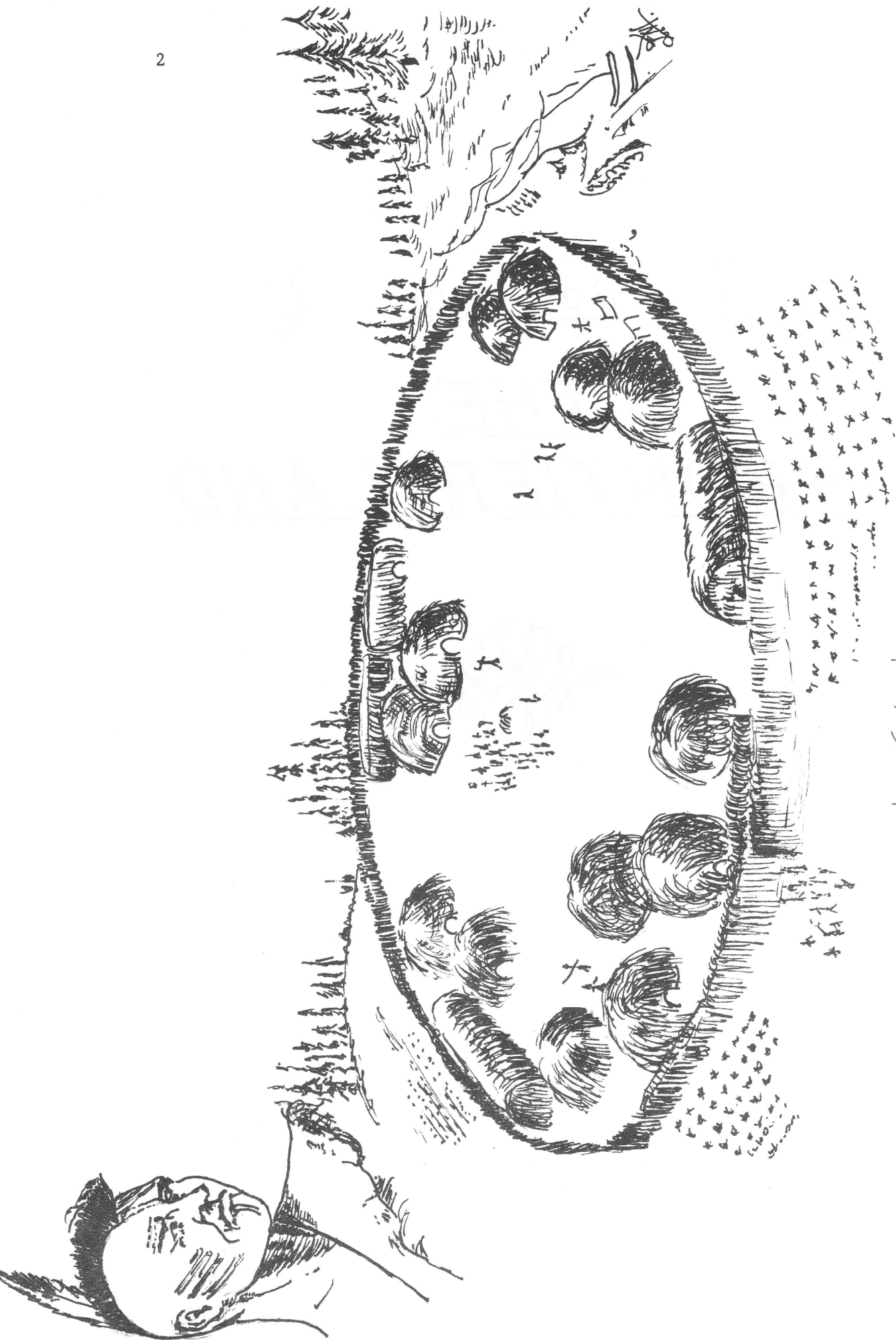
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§ Part One §

THE
FRONTIER LAND





Indian Fort and
Planting Ground.

THE AREA INDIANS

The history of the Indians of Ellington can't be detailed without intertwining the history of the Indian tribes in several other area towns. The Podunk Clan - Scanticooks, Nameroaks, Podunks and Hockanum tribes, seemed to be the most prominent in the area.

An ancient Nipmuck village lay on the north shore of Square Pond (Crystal Lake). The Indians called the pond, as well as the area, Wabbaquasset, which meant Flaggy Pond, or places where flags grow. Here they gathered reeds to make mats to cover their wigwams, to sit on and to make baskets and such.

The main tribes in the area laid the strongest claims to the land up to the large pond that the River Indians called "Meshenips," (Big Pool) and the English called Snipsic Pond. Snipsic Pond was the territorial hunting border for the Nipmucks, to the northeast, the Mohegans to the southeast, and the Podunks to the west. The Nipmucks were considered the true claimants of the pond which was then only one and one-half miles long. It's now more than two miles long. It was a favorite fishing place and campsite for the Indians.

Of course, as in any research there is always conflicting information. Research into the history of the Indian tribes of Ellington didn't prove any different. For instance, historians differ widely in their estimations as to the number of Indians living in Connecticut about 1630. The numbers range from 7,000 down to 2,000.

Podunk territory on the east side of the Connecticut River extended eastward to Hartford or Hanover Mountain and Meshenips Pond. Since the 1730s the settlers called the north range of the mountain, that straddles the present Vernon and Bolton line near its west boundary, "Box Mountain," and called the south range in Bolton, "Birch Mountain." Indian lands included areas along the Scantic, Podunk and Hockanum Rivers. This area would take in the existing towns of East and South Windsor, East Hartford and Manchester, plus parts of Ellington, Enfield, Vernon and Bolton.

The summer villages of the Podunks, along the east side of the Connecticut River, were near the mouths of the Hockanum River, the Podunk River, and Namerick Brook in East Windsor. The largest village was fortified and covered about 200 acres on both sides of the Scantic River

and across the East and South Windsor line.

The source of the Hockanum River is Snipsic Pond (Tolland-Ellington) wandering for 17 miles through Ellington, Vernon, Manchester and East Hartford where it empties into the Connecticut River.

The source of the Podunk River is in the hills north of Wapping (South Windsor) and it winds 10 miles or more through South Windsor, forming Mill Pond (Podunk) on the way before crossing the boundary into East Hartford and emptying into the Connecticut River.

The sources of the Scantic River are Tray Hollow Brook in Monson, Massachusetts, and the Rockadundee Brook out of Culver Pond in the northwest part of Stafford, Connecticut. The main stem of the river wends its way down through Somers past the Somersville dam into Enfield, East Windsor and South Windsor where it empties into the Connecticut River. The Scantic River is 28.6 miles long.

Popular in historic reviews of Ellington is the story of the Rogers family. They lived in a wigwam at the head of Snipsic Pond. Legend has it that in 1790 the father of the family, Isaac Rogers, an Indian, was going to the mill in a boat and, being intoxicated, he fell overboard. When he surfaced he clung to the side of the boat but was unable to pull himself in. His daughter was in the boat but was unable to get him into it. She did, however, put a shingle under his chin to keep his head out of the water.

She is said to have paddled the boat, with her father hanging on to the side, to the shore. He was already dead, but he had so tight a grasp on the boat that a piece of it split off and remained in his hand when he was carried home.

Isaac was the husband of Sarah, a Mohegan Indian, often referred to as "Poor Sarah." She is said to be the only Indian, within the limits of ancient Windsor, who was known to be converted to Christianity, or baptized. She died in 1817.

There is little doubt that all Connecticut Indian clans were offshoots of one great tribe of which the chief branches were the Pequot-Mohegans and Narragansetts. This was probably due to the fact that many of the Indian sons, upon reaching manhood, left home with a few others following, and established their own new family or clan.

The Five Corners area in Ellington had a swamp that was called

Ketchogcook, which means "old people's place." This was in the southeast area of the old Pinney farm where the braves hid their women, children and old people when they were attacked by their enemies, the Mohawks and the Pequots. The Pinneys claimed there is an Indian burial site on the bank of the Hockanum, north of Ketchogcook.

The flat land from Ellington to Talcottville was called Weexcodawasang by the Indians.

Indian relics were found in the Crystal Lake area near the site of an ancient Nipmuck Indian village, as well as at Soapstone Mountain. The Indians were the first to recognize the usefulness of the soapstone, or steatite. They made pots and other utensils from it. Later the colonists used it for the same purposes. Also on Soapstone Mountain grew the rare bearberry, used by the Indians more than 400 years ago, for a medical stringent.

There was another Indian village at the brow of the hill where the Kibbe farm was on Meadow Brook Road. A cart path, still used, was an Indian trail between Warrenville (Ashford) and Windsor. This was part of the old Connecticut Path.

An ancient Indian fort was located on the east side of the north part of Abbott Road, where the outlines of three of the wigwams still can be seen. North of the fort on the west side of Green Road, where the road comes to a point, is the site of a former Podunk Indian winter village where Indian relics were also found.

The large stone at the end of the Ellington Center Green, across from Hall Memorial Library, has a hole in it that's about eight inches deep and seven inches wide. This hole is said to be a mortar used by the Indians for grinding corn.

This stone was originally located on the west side of Route 83. When the old dirt road was widened, graded and graveled (about 1914) the stone was destined to be destroyed. Robert E. Hyde saved it and saw to it that it was moved to its present location. Another such stone was found off the west side of Abbott Road and lies covered over in an old abandoned well.

The Indians of Connecticut suffered some major calamities. Shortly before the Europeans arrived there was a smallpox epidemic that killed a large number of inhabitants. The disease was said to have been brought

into New England by the coastal traders who preceded the settlers.

Thousands of American Indians also died of complications from measles, another disease new to them. The invasion of Connecticut by the Mohican tribes from the Hudson River area also brought disaster to the Indians. The invaders apparently fought their way across Central Connecticut, including the Podunk territory, and settled in the southeastern part of the state where the group became known as the Pequots, ("destroyers of men.")

Later, the Mohicans, an offshoot of the Pequots, were under the leadership of Uncas who had recruited a small band to join him. Uncas was banned five times from the Pequot tribe, only to return and be forgiven each time by the Chief.

Wopogwouit, chief of the Pequot country, was said to have been killed by the Dutch. His son, Sassacus, was approved by the Indian Council to succeed him, which angered Uncas.

Three sagamores of the Podunk Clan and some of their followers were among the Uncas recruits to the Mohegan band. Wonochoke of the Nameroaks, and Foxon or Poxon of the Scanticooks were among the first to join Uncas. Foxon, who reportedly came with most of his people, became Uncas' wisest advisor. Tontomino of the Hockanums joined in 1645. He became alarmed over the sales of huge tracts of Indian land to the English and soon departed. Uncas could never forgive him for leaving.

In 1675, when the Podunks joined King Philip's confederation to drive the "Whites" from New England, they had about 60 warriors according to one estimate, while another estimate gave the number at 200. From that figure it was calculated that the Podunks numbered in all, at the time, about 1500.

The Podunks were described as a generally peaceful tribe, decidedly afraid of the Mohawks of the Hudson Valley and the Pequots of eastern Connecticut.

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) the Connecticut Indians were forbidden to paint themselves or go beyond the hunting ground limits. For their own protection, they also had to wear a white cloth on their heads while hunting in the woods.

The Indians disappeared around Wabbaquasset Pond after a half-breed named George H. Washington, known as Wappa, killed his wife, Margery, who

was black. He is said to have killed her with a heavy blow to her head during an argument in a store in Tolland. Reports claim they were both under the influence of alcohol at the time. He was tried and publicly hung, the first Tuesday in June of 1824, the only prisoner ever to be hung in Tolland. The gallows and coffin were built by Father Coggs well of Tolland, on a hill on the north end of the green. Asa Willey, a lawyer from Ellington and Judge Stearns of Tolland defended the prisoner at the trial held at the Congregational Meetinghouse. John Hall, Peleg Martin and Ebenezer Smith of Ellington were among the 12 jurors.

The Washingtons had lived on the west bank of the pond where a small band of Indian stragglers congregated for powwows. Reportedly, all of the local Indians were gone by the following year.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THEIR HISTORY

- 1631 - Wahginnacut (Welcome to our Lands) alias Tontomino, the one-eyed Sachem of the Hockanums, and a few braves, including Jack Straw who spoke English, went to Boston bearing gifts to see Governor John Winthrop. They invited Pilgrims to settle on their lands and trade with them. The governor turned them down, saying the river was unnavigable most of the year and the Indians there were hostile.
- 1633 - The main Indian River tribes that occupied the upper Connecticut River's central valley were the Podunks and Wongunks on both sides of the river, and the Poquonocks, Tunxis and Sicaogs on the west side.
- 1633-4 - A smallpox epidemic greatly reduced the Indian population all over New England. Nattawanut, a Podunk chief, and his heirs succumbed to the disease. The chief was succeeded by Arramament, who was not related.
- 1637 - A war against the Pequot Indians in the Connecticut valley began after two fortified towns in Mystic were burned out and hundreds of Indians were killed, including women and children. The war ended when the Pequots were defeated and their chief, Sassacus, was killed by the Mohawks, bringing a period of peace between the white men and the Indians.
- 1640 - Uncas, alias Poquaiom, Sachem of the Mohegans, granted the government and magistrates of the Connecticut Colony, "All land that doth belong, or ought by right to belong to me." The planting fields were the exception.
- 1654 - Eight Windsor soldiers joined the Narragansett expedition against

Ninegret, the East Nehantic sachem.

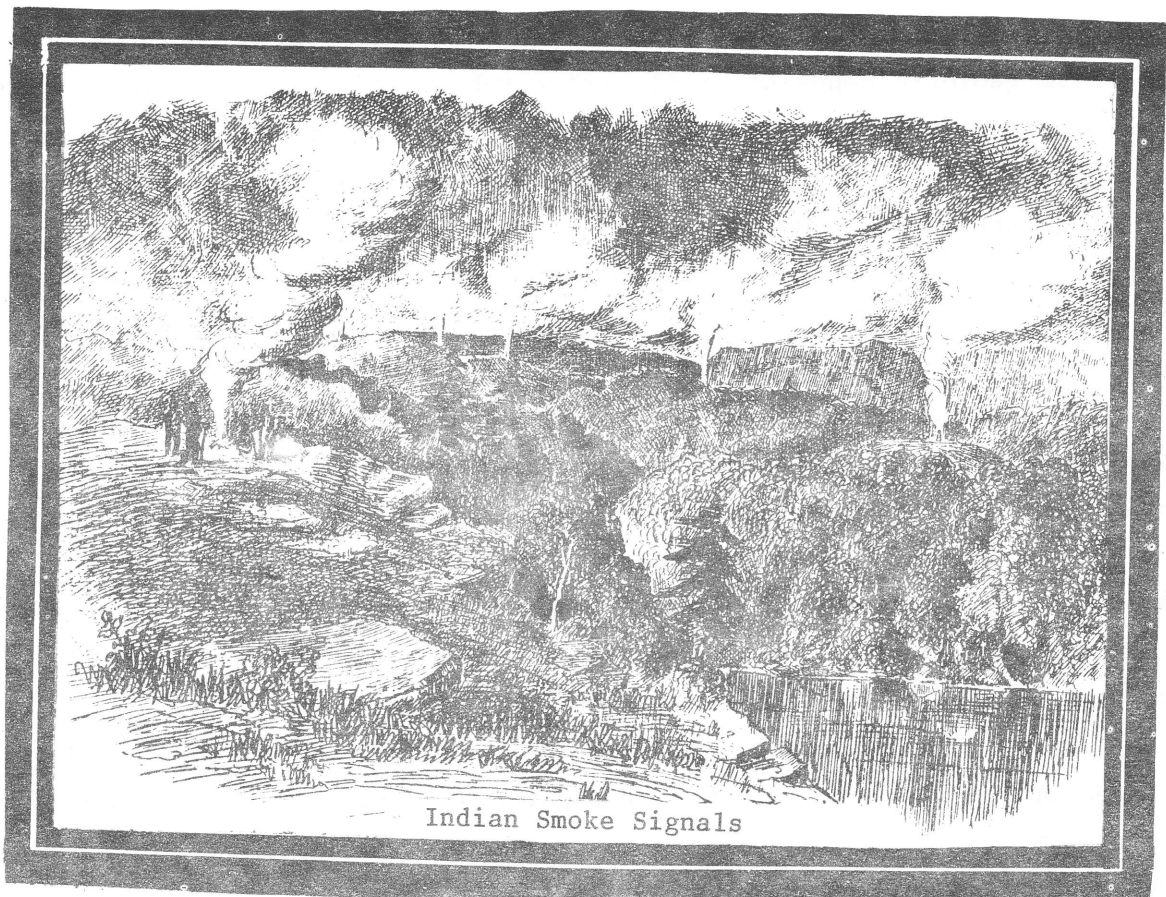
- 1656 - A law was passed that said that no horses, mares, young or old, were allowed to be sold to an Indian, nor any barks, boats or tackling.
- 1657 - The Court ordered the Pocumtuck, Norwootuck and Podunk sachems to cease hostility against Uncas, and that Uncas was to permit the Podunks to return to their dwellings without further molestation from Uncas. (Court restated the same order in 1659). The Podunks stayed primarily with the Pocumtucks near present Deerfield, Mass., when banished or in trouble.
- 1659 - John Mason, the first white overseer of the Pequots, was appointed by the court.
- 1661 - Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoags, died and was succeeded by his son, Metacom (King Philip).
- 1663 - First act in Connecticut passed. "That no person in this colony shall buy, hire or receive as a gift or mortgage, any parcel of land or lands of any Indian or Indians for the future, except he does buy or receive the same for the use of the colony or the benefit of some town, with the allowance of the court."
- 1666 - Hunting ground boundaries were defined in an agreement between Arramament and Uncas. Two white men were appointed as overseers to advise the Indian governors and to protect Indian rights.
- 1670 - Arramament confirmed to the Connecticut Court all the land Nattawanut sold the Plymouth people in 1633.
- 1675 - The King Philip War broke out and continued from June of that year to the fall of the following year, nearly exterminating the Podunk braves. The Pequots and Mohegans were faithful to the English in this war. War ended when King Philip was killed by a bullet fired by an Indian in the service of Captain Church in Mt. Hope, R.I.
- 1680 - The State of Connecticut had only 500 Indian warriors, out of an estimated 2,500 Indians. The Windsor Podunk and Hartford Indians complained to the court that the "Moheags" entrench on their hunting ground contrary to the boundary agreement in 1666.
- 1683 - Uncas, Mohegan sachem, died in March of this year. He was old and alcoholic.
- 1702 - An act was passed that said when land was granted by the General Court, such township alone had the power to purchase from the Indians and all other purchases were illegal.
- 1725 - In this year, all Indians in Connecticut were placed in the care of the Governor and Council.
- 1727 - All persons having Indian children were commanded to teach them

English and to instruct them in the Christian faith. A school was built for this purpose.

1774 - Windham and Tolland Counties contained 142 Indians.

1790 - A federal law, known as the Non-Intercourse Act, was passed to prohibit individuals or local governments from taking or buying tribal lands without express approval of Congress.

writer - Barbara Richmond



GEOLOGICAL TIMES

The land of Ellington holds a record of events that dates far back into the history of the earth. The oldest part of this record is locked in the bedrock of the uplands in the eastern part of the town.

Somewhat younger is the brownstone that underlies the broad expanse of the Connecticut Valley lowlands that make up the western part of the town. However, the 400-million-year-old rock of the uplands and the 200-million-year-old rock of the lowlands are ancient indeed compared to the 10 to 15 thousand year-old glacial sediments that make up both the fertile farmlands of the valley and the rocky soils of the uplands. Each of these geologic deposits -- the metamorphic schists and gneisses of the uplands, the brownstone of the lowlands, the glacial sediments covering all the land -- is a record of an important geologic event in the history of this town and the region.

While the study of these events in the distant past is the realm of the geologist, an understanding and an appreciation of them can belong to each of us as residents of this area. These events are our history.

The bedrock that forms the upland in the eastern part of Ellington was once ocean bottom muds and volcanic debris that lay between the continents of North America and Africa. Geologists now believe that 300 to 400 million years ago these continents collided creating the Appalachian Mountains; squeezing, compressing, and heating these rocks, forming the twisted bedrock that is now visible at the surface in the uplands of eastern Connecticut.

In the passing tens of millions of years, several miles of rock have eroded and we now see just the eroded roots of what were Himalayan-sized mountains. The rocks themselves are named by geologists for the location where they are well exposed.

A glance at the new State Bedrock Geological Map will indicate that the Glastonbury gneiss, Monson gneiss, Middletown formation, Clough quartzite and others lie in or near the uplands of the eastern parts of Ellington.

Of some interest is the soapstone-like rock of which there are a few exposures on Soapstone Mountain in Ellington. Intermittent attempts were made to quarry this rock, prior to the twentieth century, but the rock was

of inferior quality and the quarrying never became extensive.

The ancient bedrock of the uplands records geologic events 300, 400 or possibly 500 million years ago: the earliest events for which there is now a history for Ellington.

A steep drop in the land separates the ancient rocks of the uplands from the 200-million-year-old brownstone of the lowlands. This steep drop lies just to the east of Route 83 and runs in a north-south direction.

Underlying this change in the land is an ancient fault, the Eastern Border Fault, that became active about 200 million years ago as the continents of North America and Africa began to split apart.

The Atlantic Ocean was opening several hundred miles to the east, but huge tensional forces split apart the land forming broad basins which dropped along north-south fractures like the Eastern Border Fault. As the basin floor dropped, mud and debris from the uplands washed westward into the lowland forming layers of red-brown sand and mud. These layers eventually became consolidated to create the brownstone that underlies the Connecticut Valley lowlands.

Primitive dinosaurs roamed this 200-million-year-old landscape leaving their footprints preserved in Rocky Hill and their bones preserved in the Buckland Brownstone Quarry in Manchester. The brownstone of the lowlands and the steep change in land elevation which occurs at the Eastern Border Fault record a second and significant event in the history of this area.

The third, and most recent event in the geological history of the area is the burial of the region by a continental ice sheet. An ice sheet several thousand feet thick advanced southward, 25 or 30 thousand years ago, out of eastern Canada, covering the Ellington area and advancing to Long Island where its forward motion began to fail.

As the ice scraped over the land it smoothed the hills and the valleys depositing the rocky hardpan soils of the uplands and the red-colored hardpan soils of the lowlands. As the ice began to melt about 17 thousand years ago huge streams of melt water reworked the glacial soils creating new deposits of sand and gravel in many of the low lying areas and stream valleys.

A large dam of glacial debris in Rocky Hill formed a huge glacial lake (Lake Hitchcock) which extended northward in the Connecticut Valley

reaching southern New Hampshire. Glacial Lake Hitchcock lasted for several thousands of years covering much of the lowlands in the western parts of Ellington.

Year after year fine muds were deposited in the lake bottom forming the fine grained sand and clay deposits seen in many of the stream banks in the western parts of the town. About 10 thousand years ago the Rocky Hill dam broke and glacial Lake Hitchcock drained leaving the lowlands with their characteristic sand and clay deposits.

Archaeologists believe that Indians were quick to move northward as the melting glacier uncovered new land for them to occupy. Thus, the rounded hills, the rocky hardpan soils, and the lowland clay and sand deposits record the latest dramatic geologic event to shape the land in this region.

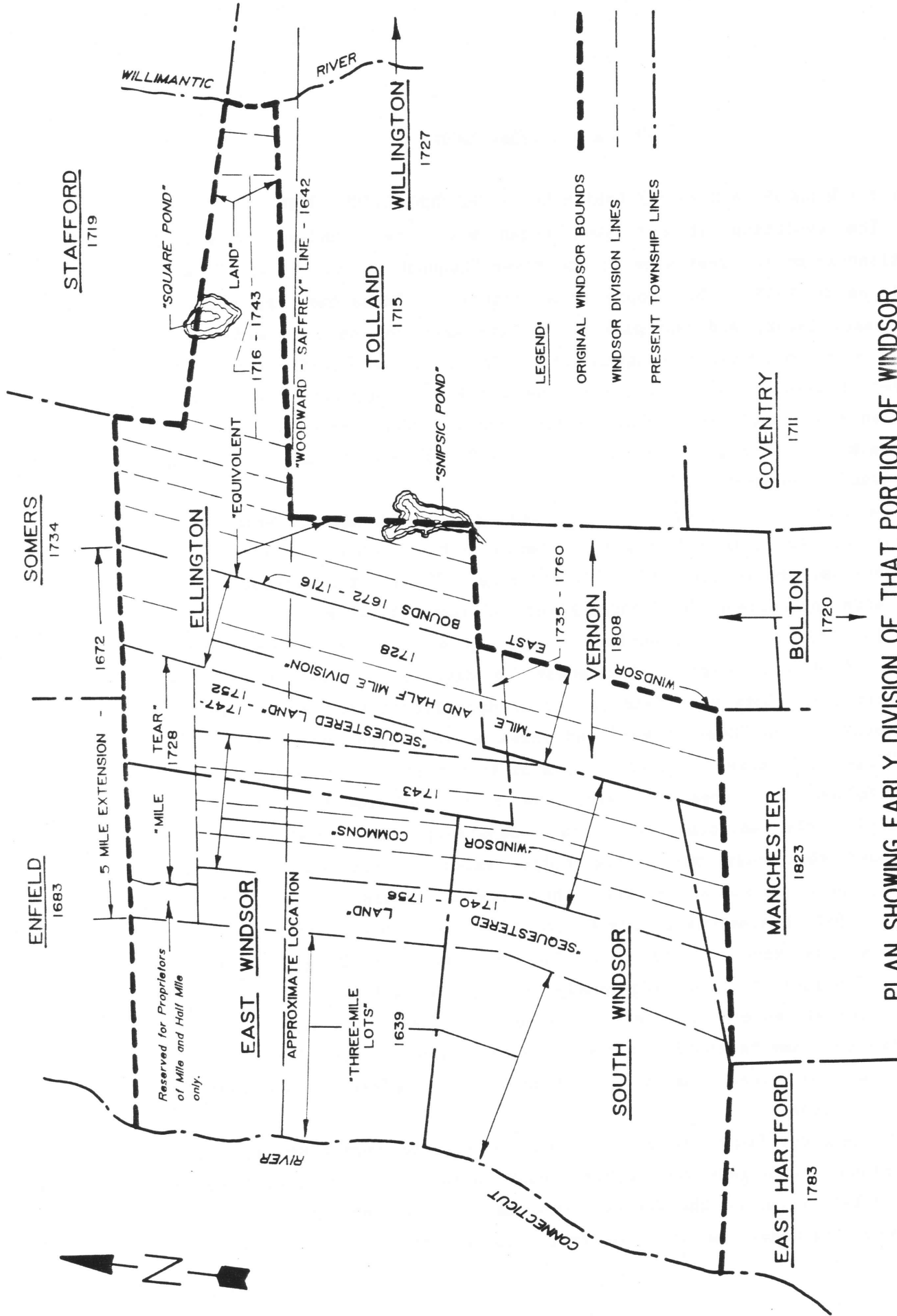
The geologic processes which have brought these great changes to the land of Ellington are not at rest. They continue as rapidly now as ever. However, modern industrial man has come upon the scene with land changes that dwarf the slow geologic processes.

The rich top soils that took several thousands of years to develop in the upper layers of the glacial sediments are easily stripped away by several years of erosion caused by needless land use practices.

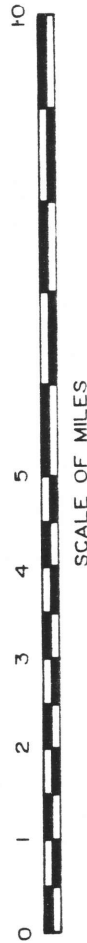
In the bedrock of the uplands, the brownstone of the lowlands and the glacial deposits, is the deep history of the town.

Geologists continue to learn more about this distant past, debating the meaning of new clues as they are found and reinterpreted. The record in the land is long, and it is possible that some small evidences of our fleeting occupation of the land will be preserved to become part of their records.

writers - Sidney S. Quarrier
Geoffrey P. Whittum
Barbara Richmond



PLAN SHOWING EARLY DIVISION OF THAT PORTION OF WINDSOR
LYING EAST OF THE "GREAT RIVER"



WINDSOR'S EASTERN LAND

PART I - WINDSOR LAND ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

The evolution of Ellington began with the founding of Windsor (Matianuck) on the west side of the river "Quannah-ta-cut" by the Plymouth Puritans in 1633. The people from Dorchester, Massachusetts, arrived a few years later, and the push to acquire land on the east side of the river soon followed. On April 15, 1636, they purchased Podunk ground called "Nowashe" (half way between east and west people). The land lay between the Scantic and Podunk Rivers, and eastward "into the country one day walk." The native sachems were given 20 cloth coats and 15 "farthemms of sewan" as payment.

On May 15, 1637, Mr. Thomas Prince, a Plymouth agent, deeded to the Dorchester people land formerly purchased on both sides of the river from the Indians, and received £37, 10 shillings. The tract of woodland on the east side lay between the Scantic River and Namerick Brook.

In 1639, the Connecticut Court gave the towns of Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford the power to dispose of land within their jurisdiction. Lots were laid out to Windsor Proprietors up and down the east bank of the "Great River" and three miles inland, which were called the "Three Mile Lots." In the spring of that year Matthew Grant reported, that following a week of rain, the river overflowed the east bank submerging the adjacent land and endangering the livestock. Grant mentioned that only one little ridge (about a mile south of Scantic River), where his son Samuel lived, had escaped flooding.

In 1642, Massachusetts Bay Colony hired surveyors to run their south boundary line according to their Charter granted by King Charles I in 1629. Connecticut Colony vigorously protested when between four to eight miles were sliced off its claimed northern boundary. The argument between the two governments continued for 70 years. The disputed line was named after the original surveyors, Woodward and Saffery, who made the miscalculations.

Connecticut Colony obtained a Charter in 1662 from King Charles II, of England, which gave them a more secure hold on colony land, besides a vast territory called the Western Reserves. A few years later, New Haven Colony joined under the Royal Charter, which remained in force until 1818.

In 1672, the Bay Colony partially conceded to Windsor's claims and moved their bound line north to Enfield Falls, then eastward four miles, then south back to the disputed line. In May of that year, the Connecticut Court appointed Lieutenant Robert Webster and Nathaniel Standly to view land that some Windsor inhabitants desired to have reserved for a plantation east of their town bounds, and report back to the Court. Five months later, the appointed Windsor agents, Corporal Samuel Marshall, Mr. Joseph Fitch and Jacob Drake, petitioned the court to "grant them some enlargement by reason of an Indian purchase they made, having an eye that in a convenient time it may be fit for a plantation." The Court, wishing to encourage settlement, approved the extension of the line five miles east of their former bounds for a total of eight miles and 20 rods. Their only condition being that all former grants made of any parts of those lands be excepted. The 1672 border line was run from Enfield, Massachusetts, (Somers, Conn. in 1749) nine miles, 36 rods down to Hartford (Manchester in 1823). The following year the first land grant was laid out on the west side of the border to Matthew Grant. In 1729, lasting monuments were placed every 80 rods along the line ending with a "T" ditch. The "Mile and Half Mile" land division completed the previous year was measured out in proprietors' lots (except where there were improved land grants) along the entire length of the west side of the 1672 line.

Toto, a Windsor Indian, who was the grandson of the deceased Poquonock sachem, Nassacowen, resold a tract of woodland on September 26, 1687 lying between "Nomerog" Brook and the River "Scantock" to Windsor agents, Captain Benjamin Newberry, Mr. Henry Wolcott, John Moore, Sr., Return Strong, Sr., Daniel Heydon and Abraham Phelps. A portion of the deed reads as follows "... runs over ye old roade or highway that formerly went to ye lead mines crossing Catch Brooke and soe runs to ye mountain near a place known by ye name of Frogg Hall, and there it butts or ends on the top of the third bare mountain or hill ye northmost of hills, and soe runs along topp or ridg of ye mountains till it comes to ye path that leads to Cedar Swamp..."

On an undated public record, Cogernosset (son of Sheat, late sachem of Poquonock) with his wife, Quashabuck, as witness, testified that the meadow land between Scantic River and Namerick Brook was Nassacowen's, who

out of love for the English "gave it to them for some small matter."

Frog Hall area, referred to in Toto's deed and in later surveys, is the west part of present Ellington ending a little beyond the entire length of Abbott Road. The path leading to Cedar Swamp began at the Connecticut River near Cart Hill (East Windsor Hill) running easterly towards the 100-acre swamp lying in the southwest corner of Tolland and over the border into Coventry. The portion of the path that ran through present Ellington passed the five corners in the direction and vicinity of Windsorville Road.

In 1708, a three-quarter mile wide strip of land containing 800 acres was set aside for sheep commons along the outer limits of the "Three Mile Lots." Further east, a sheep commons also existed between present Abbott Road and Pinney Street. Such areas separated from the owner's property were called "Sequestered" lands. They were part of the common and undivided town lands whose use was controlled by the proprietors' votes. Here the settlers had access to the fallen trees for firewood, a place to hunt, fish and trap, and to allow their livestock to roam free in large fenced areas. After 1665, the horses ranging in Windsor Commons were branded with the letter "I" on the rear quarter. In the early 1700s each animal was identified by a certain cut on a certain ear, which mark was registered in the owner's name. Pigs had to be ringed if they roamed at large. Eventually pounds were maintained for stray animals, and the owners fined according to set fees.

At a Windsor Town meeting on February 3, 1729, it was voted to "lease out any parcel of "Sequestered" land or sheep commons to any person(s) that have already encroached on same for a two-year term next, and no longer." The lease had to be entered on public record within a two-month period. A committee was ordered to pull down fences set up to enclose any of the "Sequestered" lands. In time these lands were subdivided into proprietor's lots.

PART II - LAND GRANTS

Land Grants were awarded by the Connecticut Court or by the towns soon after the colony received its charter. The grants were given to the petitioners for various services they or a relative had rendered to the colony in lieu of a cash payment. The Court stipulated that grants of

land should be taken up where it did not prejudice any previous claim, and was within the common and undivided lands of the colony. Once the site was approved, a court-appointed surveyor was assigned to lay out the acreage specified in the paper grant, and then it was legally recorded. It was not unusual for a paper grant to be sold more than once before the land was actually taken up by the owner of record many years later. A land grant could be relocated if the Court considered the reasons valid.

There were a total of nine Windsor land grants laid out within the present Ellington limits beginning in 1673. Two of the nine grants were eventually relocated after petitions were approved by the Court. Land grants or parts of them were taken when needed if they were not improved or fenced when a land division was laid through the area. The owners of record were compensated with land in a later division, and adjustments were made for any further proven damages.

Matthew Grant, a surveyor, who kept the Windsor town and church records, was awarded 100 acres of land in 1673 which was taken up along the 1672 Windsor line. Matthew assigned the land to his sons, Samuel and John, the following year. In 1715, other owners sold the north half (50 acres) to John Birge of Northampton, Massachusetts, and the south half to Isaac Pinney of Windsor. Mr. Pinney died two years later, and the land was held in trust until his sons, Isaac, Jr. and Oliver of Hebron, came of age. Mr. Birge sold his land in 1727 to Isaac Davis of Windsor for £120 and Davis settled there with his family. The following year some of the Pinney land was taken by a land division that went through the area. The Pinney heirs later sold the remaining land to Davis and Simon Pearson. The site covered an area around the junction of Main Street, Somers and West Roads in present Ellington.

The court awarded land grants to the heirs of 15 Windsor volunteers in the 1637 Pequot War. Two of the heirs of soldiers, Sergeant Benedictus Alford and Thomas Buckland, chose to have the 50-acre grants laid out along the eastern Windsor frontier line in 1674 and 1687 respectively. In 1712, Alford's grandson, Josiah, sold the granted land to Nathaniel Bissell for 50 shillings, but after 40 years they could not locate the site. The Court approved their petition to relocate elsewhere. However, Nathaniel Grant, who came from Tolland, was settled on the Alford site when his daughter, Hannah, was born in 1720. There has been no record

found on how Nathaniel acquired his land. One explanation may be a law passed in 1712, which gave the Court power to dispose of abandoned land.

Thomas Buckland's sons, Thomas, Jr., Timothy and Nicholas, petitioned and received a grant in 1671 out of respect for their father, who died on May 20, 1662.

Sixteen years later the grant of land was laid out to Nicholas Buckland "at ye foot of ye mountain by ye way to lead mine." In 1716, John Elsworth, the new owner, received approval of his petition to relocate the grant site on the east bank of the Willimantic River (Willington).

Mr. William Phelps was awarded a 220-acre land grant in 1663. It was measured out to his son, Sergeant Timothy Phelps, on May 14, 1674 on the east side of the Great Marsh near Lead Mine Path. In 1718, other owners obtained permission to relocate the grant opposite Tolland near the Elsworth site in Willington.

The Town of Windsor was having trouble attracting a minister to fill a vacancy in the First Society. As one inducement, Reverend Mr. Samuel Mather of Branford, Massachusetts, received a 200-acre land grant in 1684 as part of his settlement agreement. That year the grant was measured out in the Great Marsh north of the Lead Mine Path. On July 27, 1692, the Reverend Mather requested and received a patent affixed with the Colony of Connecticut Seal which was signed by his father-in-law, Governor Robert Treat. The property, including a messuage (house), was assigned to his son, Doctor Samuel Mather, Jr., in 1714. The doctor sold the same a few years later to Samuel Gibbs, Jr., who settled there with his family. John Burroughs of Enfield bought the west half or 100 acres from Gibbs in 1718. The grant, with a house, was located north of present Meadow Brook Road (close to where part of the Lead Mine Path passed) on the site of the present Ellington Airport.

In 1686, "Towtops," an Indian gentleman (sachem), sold Lieutenant Joseph Wadsworth of Hartford 340 acres in "Wexkashuck" of which 100 acres lay in a boggy meadow or marsh (Great Marsh). It was taken up outside Windsor's eastern limits by right of a Court grant in 1669 to his father, Mr. William Wadsworth, deceased. Lieutenant Wadsworth sold the tract in 1717 for £55 to Lieutenant John Elsworth of Windsor. The previous year Elsworth paid £540 to acquire a 200-acre paper land grant from the heirs

of Thomas and Nathaniel Bissell, which he had measured out in the Great Marsh. The heirs had received the grant from the Windsor Selectmen, and sold it eight days later to Elsworth.

The 200 acres granted to Thomas Bissell, Jr. and Isaac Bissell, sons of the late Thomas Bissell, and to Jonathan and David Bissell, sons of the late Nathaniel Bissell, was compensation for the release of their father's Indian deed to the Town of Windsor. The elder Bissells had purchased a large tract on September 19, 1671 between the rivers Scantic and Podunk, "east by the hills beyond the Pine Plains" from Nearowanek (alias Will). The Nameroak sachem reserved the "privilege of hunting beaver in the river Scantock."

On October 26, 1720 at the age of 49, Lieutenant Elsworth was killed by a falling tree while clearing his property. His sons, Daniel and John, Jr., had both parcels of land surveyed together on March 16, 1721. Daniel bought out the inherited shares of land from the other Elsworth heirs, after he had settled on part of the land. Daniel sold some of the land before a land division took a major part of the 540-acre tract. He was compensated in the "Sequestered" land division laid out through the west part of the Parish of Ellington many years later.

Deacon Richard Butler, of Hartford, died a year after he was awarded a paper land grant on October 13, 1683 for 200 acres. His son, Joseph, of Wethersfield, sold the grant in 1707 to Thomas Kimberly, a surveyor from Glastonbury. On October 10, 1719, Kimberly sold the grant for £30 to Daniel Bissell, Jr. and Samuel Chapman, both of Windsor, and laid the land grant out to them. Only the southwest corner or about 18 acres fell within the present Town of Ellington. The greater part fell in Stafford and over the Willimantic River into Willington. Benjamin Heath eventually came into possession of the land in Ellington Parish and some in Stafford.

Deacon Job Drake of "Windsor Farmes" (South Windsor) deeded three-quarters of an acre for a Burying Ground to Windsor's Second Society in 1708, adjoining his own land. In consideration Drake received a 30-acre land grant on April 2, 1711 which was laid out south of the Great Marsh on a site where the Hockanum River ran through the middle. The land was resurveyed in 1719, and sold on December 27, 1723 to Samuel Pinney II. The site was on a horseshoe bend in the river in the southern part of present Ellington in an area called Windermere.

PART III - LAND DIVISIONS

The families of the first Windsor settlers were growing, and more land was needed to support their offsprings. As early as 1721, lists of the eligible proprietors, their heirs or assigns were drawn up for the subdividing of the Windsor Commons on both sides of the Connecticut River. The land divisions were proportioned according to the total number of Windsor grantees and the taxable value of their real estate. The proprietors' lots were ranged in "Tears," numbered, and equalized by "quality and quantity." A lottery was held and the eligible Proprietor-Inhabitants (including widows and orphans) drew for their allotment in each new land division. The surveyors made allowances usually from four to twenty rods for projected highways between the ranges of lots. Depending upon the terrain, the allowances for highways were generally spaced from one-half mile to two mile intervals running either in an east-west or north-south direction.

On the east side of the river a land division completed in 1728 was called the "Mile and Half Mile." The three-quarter mile lots (E-W) were ranged in two "Tears" along the length of the west side of the 1672 Windsor line. The "Tears" of lots were separated by a 20-rod highway allowance that was diverted to by-pass the Great Marsh. Lots one mile in depth called the "Mile Tear" abutted the division on the northwest, and lay south of Enfield, Massachusetts (now Enfield and Somers, Conn.). An eight-acre lot was reserved for a school but was never used for that purpose, and a 30-acre wood lot was reserved for the support of a minister. A tax assessment of £100 was levied to defray the surveying costs.

In 1760, a half-mile strip of land across this division on the south end of what became the Ellington Parish boundary in 1735, was transferred to the newly organized North Bolton Society in Windsor in order to provide a more convenient place for worship. North Bolton Society became part of East Windsor in 1768, and part of the town of Bolton in 1789, and the Society is now the west part of Vernon, incorporated in 1808.

The land that is now the east half of Ellington was compensation to the Town of Windsor in 1716 for land taken from its northern borders. It was part of a boundary dispute settlement agreement between Connecticut Colony and the Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1713. The Colony agreed

to cede 6,240 acres of Windsor's land to Enfield, and 1,019 acres to Suffield, and allow both towns to remain under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. The Province relinquished a disputed ungranted tract of land above "Joshua Legatees Claims," lying between Windsor's frontier line and Tolland's west bound. The court-appointed commissioners of both colonies agreed in 1716 that this land was owed to Windsor. The Connecticut Colony agreed that "if at that place there shall not be found sufficient land to make the equivalent, consideration as to the distance of the place and quality of the land, the remainder shall be laid out in its ungranted land above Tolland." That year the petition of the Windsor Proprietor-Inhabitants to take possession of the "Equivolent" land was granted, and a committee was appointed to supervise its layout. In May 1722, Mr. Israel Stoughton, a Selectman in Windsor, complained to the General Assembly that the committee appointed six years ago, though often requested, refused to lay out this land division. Five months later the Court appointed John Hall, Esquire, James Wadsworth and Thomas Kimberly, surveyor, to replace the last committee. On April 19, 1723, the committee completed the surveys, and reported that including the ungranted land eastward to the Willimantic river there were about 8,000 acres in all. The Court then issued a patent to Windsor on April 20, 1723 bearing the "Colony Seal" which was signed by Governor Gurdon Saltonstall.

On April 1, 1725, it was voted to divide the "Equivolent" land reserving sufficient land for highways according to the 1723 public list of Windsor Proprietors. Captain Thomas Stoughton, Ensign Jonathan Elsworth, Colonel Matthew Allyn, Sergeant James Enno, and Sergeant Joseph Phelps were appointed to carry out this order. The Windsor Proprietors were deeply divided over the approval of the 1723 public list. One faction maintained that many named on the 1686 public list had their rateable lands taken in the settlement of the colony line, and therefore only they or their descendants were entitled to draw for allotments. The other faction hired attorney Samuel Mather, Jr. in 1733, and brought suit against the "Committee of Five." The Committee, or part of them, were charged with fraudulently designing to defeat this division by concealing the approved list, and neglecting to proceed with its layout. Captain John Elsworth, Lieutenant Joseph Barnard, and Lieutenant Roger Newberry were then empowered to appoint a person to draw for such proprietors who

could not be present to draw for themselves on the third Monday of July 1733 at 10 A.M. The Committee was also instructed to proceed with the "Equivolent" layout, but neglected to do so until another order was issued six years later. The main differences were resolved and the land division was completed in 1743. It contained six "Tears" of lots or 317 assigned lots. The first four "Tears" were one-half mile wide (except where the contour of the land dictated otherwise) and ranged north and south between 10-rod highway allowances. A ten-rod highway on the west side separated the division from the "Mile and Half Mile" land division. The fifth and sixth tiers, with a ten-rod highway between, ran east and west with the lots conforming to the boundaries between Stafford and Tolland.

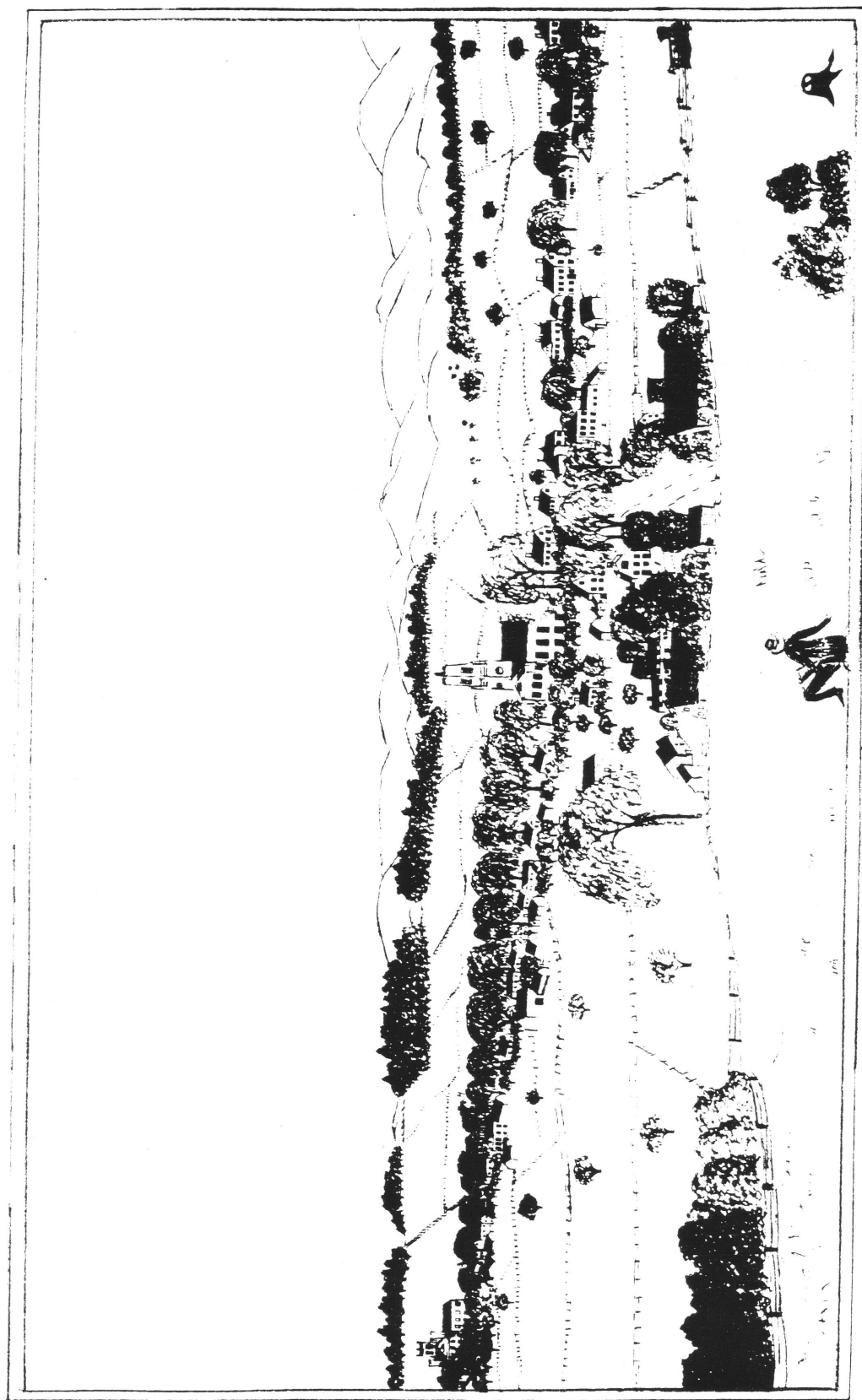
As early as 1725 the "Equivolent" rights to land began to change hands. The proprietors or their heirs became impatient and either sold their rights or exchanged them for other Windsor land.

Windsor Commons was completed in 1743, and was comprised of four "Tears" in one-half mile lot widths that were separated by ten-rod wide strips of land for future highways. Only part of the northeast section of the third and fourth tiers of lots fell within the limits of the Parish of Ellington. It included a 50-acre wood lot reserved for a minister, and several former Indian village sites, as well as Burroughs Sawmill on the south bank of the Broad Brook.

The "Sequestered" land division formerly set aside for sheep commons, was a triangular tract of land wedged between "Windsor Commons" and the "Mile and Half Mile" land divisions. The lots were parceled out piecemeal between 1747 and 1752 mostly to certain petitioners. The allotments were primarily distributed to rectify diverse "wrongs or injuries" that occurred in some of the earlier land divisions. Any common and undivided land left over was later used as an exchange by the town with proprietors whose land was needed for a public highway.

This completed the four land divisions or parts of them throughout the present Town of Ellington. In remote areas the piles of stones marking the boundaries of the useless highways can still be found. Their remains are now silent reminders of this town's humble beginning.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



ELLINGTON From The East

FROM A WILDERNESS TO A TOWNSHIP

Windsor proprietors had visions of a potential plantation carved out of the wilderness claimed by the Podunk and Nipmuck clans. It became Windsor's eastern frontier land and then the Parish of Ellington. The first steps taken in that direction began with the extinction of Indian title, expansion of the Windsor border in 1672 followed by the court or town land grants awarded to certain petitioners. The land grants that were taken up near the border were not settled on until the danger of Indian attacks was minimized. The northeast border of the Connecticut Colony was patrolled as late as 1702. In 1716, land east of the north portion of Windsor's 1672 boundary line called the "Equivolent" land was extended to Tolland. It later included a five mile corridor (formerly part of Nipmuck territory) between Tolland and Stafford, and east to the Willimantic River.

The land grants were eventually passed into other hands either by inheritance or purchase. A few of the families braved the wilderness to make settlement together with any squatters. One of the first to take up homesteading was Samuel Gibbs, Jr., who purchased a land grant from the son of the original grantee in 1716. The 200-acre site lay north of part of a main Indian travel route (near Meadow Brook Road). The trail which led to and from the Connecticut River towards the southern part of the Province of Massachusetts, had branches heading in other directions.

Six years later, Gibbs, John Burroughs, Daniel Elsworth, Nathaniel Grant, and Benoni Blocket (Blodget), all living at East Farms, petitioned and received approval from Windsor to have their four-fold assessment on the tax list reduced to a single rate for their estates. In 1728, an act that passed granted a landowner tax relief for four years once that land was cleared of trees. The settlers' nearest church was in Windsor Farms (now South Windsor) which was organized in 1696 by Mr. Timothy Edwards, who came to the area with his bride of eight days, in 1694.

By 1724, a school was reported in the "Great Marsh." Four years later the first land division called the "Mile and Half Mile" was laid along the west side of the 1672 Windsor border. Provisions were made for a 30-acre minister's lot and an 8-acre school lot. In May 1732, Samuel Pinney and Isaac Davis petitioned the General Assembly for liberty to hire

a minister. Two years later 34 inhabitants of East Farms, commonly known as Great Marsh or Windsor Goshen, having hired a minister signed a petition to be freed of ministerial taxes in the Second Society. On May 12, 1734, the following was signed by 59 Windsor Farms inhabitants: "We, the subscribers are perfectly willing that our neighbors that live in the Great Marsh shall be excused from paying rates to Mr. Edwards so long as they hire a minister amongst themselves." In that same year a cemetery lot was purchased by the town of Windsor near what was to become the center of the parish. A sawmill had already begun to operate on the Broad Brook.

At the request and cost of the settlers at East Farms, the General Assembly appointed Captain Thomas Wells, Ozias Pitkin, Esqr., and Mr. Jonathan Hills to view the lands they wanted set aside for their own society. At the same time, in May 1735, the court confirmed Mr. Daniel Elsworth as Lieutenant, and Mr. John Burroughs as Ensign of the company or trainband at the Great Marsh. The committee's report was favorable, and in October 1735 the court granted them parish powers and privileges as other societies allowed by law in the government. The boundary of the parish was defined as follows:

"To begin upon the colony line between the town of Windsor and Enfield, five and one-half miles east from Connecticut river, and from thence to run south 9^o west until it intersects a west line drawn from Bolton (Vernon) bounds one-half mile south of said Bolton's northwest corner, thence east to said Bolton bounds, thence north to said Bolton's northwest corner, thence east to Tolland bounds, thence north to said Tolland's northwest corner, thence east to Willimantic river, thence north to Stafford bounds, thence west to the southwest corner of said Stafford bounds, and from thence further west by said colony line to the place first mentioned; and that the said society shall be known by the name of Ellington Parish."

The first public road, known as the East Street, was completed in 1738 in the "Mile and Half Mile" division. The following year the first meetinghouse was built.

The common and undivided land within the parish limits was yet to be subdivided. The layout of the "Equivolent" land was held up until 1743 due to a controversy between the Windsor proprietors that had to be resolved by the court. That same year, a land division called "Windsor Commons" was completed which passed in part through the western end of the

parish. East of this division lay the last parcel or wedge of land within the parish which was allotted piecemeal between 1747 and 1752. It was one of several large tracts formerly set aside for sheep commons and called the "Sequestered" lands.

The absentee proprietors, who owned the largest part of the unimproved land in the parish, were becoming a financial burden. In 1747, Daniel Elsworth, an agent, received permission from the court to tax four pence per acre on all unimproved lands for the next four years to pay for settling and support of a minister. Their minister, the Reverend Mr. John McKinstry had submitted his resignation but apparently continued on for several years until he was replaced.

In May 1755, Samuel Watson of Windsor Farms petitioned the court to allow him to use his land to establish a ferry which would cross the Connecticut River. He claimed travel between Ellington Parish and Windsor was increasing, and that it took at least two hours to reach the Bissell Ferry landing place near the mouth of the Scantic River which often overflowed. The petition was denied.

In 1760, the southern boundary of the parish was modified and annexed to the newly formed North Bolton Society (now west part of Vernon). Two years later a meetinghouse was erected in the society, and the Reverend Ebenezer Kellogg occupied the pulpit for the next 55 years.

In 1768, Windsor Farms was granted incorporation and was called "East Windsor." The Parish of Ellington and North Bolton Society, as well as the present South Windsor, were included within its limits. The inhabitants in certain parts of this area gathered 59 signatures in 1781 to push for a more accessible ferry crossing over the Connecticut River. Many were concerned with the hardships often encountered during spring thaws at the old Bissell Ferry landing place in lowlands or the old Roger Wolcott place (now South Windsor) in order to cross the river to Windsor or Hartford. The court granted Mrs. Elizabeth Thrall and her seventeen-year-old son, Timothy, the privilege of operating a ferry on their land in Warehouse Point. The following year, James Chamberlain, of East Windsor, took over the ferry business and put in a street (now Bridge Street) leading to the landing place. It was a family operation for many years after the first wooden bridge was built between Enfield and Suffield in 1808. The following year a bridge crossed the river between Hartford

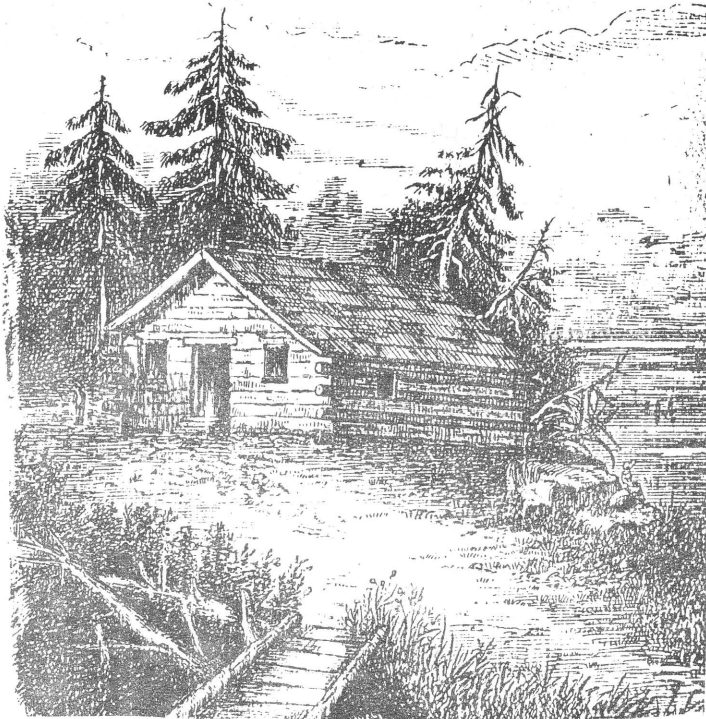
and East Hartford (now Bulkeley Bridge).

On May 11, 1786, Ellington Parish was finally incorporated. Petitions in May 1762 and 1764 presented by agents Abner Burroughs and Stone Mills, were denied by the General Assembly. They claimed the middle of the parish was 10 miles to the river, and 14 miles to a place for holding a town meeting, and any transaction with town officers required an absence of two days from home. In May 1767, Matthew Hyde, an agent for the parish, renewed the petition claiming principal town business in Windsor was 8 miles away, but action was again postponed. The last petition in 1785 added that Ellington Parish was taken out of Hartford County and included in Tolland County, thereby separating it from the Town of East Windsor.

Once incorporated, Matthew Hyde became the first selectman, Nathan Aldrich the second, and Col. Joseph Abbott the third. The population was about 1,000 compared to about 110 in 1735, and the town boasted a total of 57 voters.

Thus, from a wilderness emerged the peaceful farming village of Ellington. Today, or 200 years later, it is undergoing its own set of growing pains brought on by increasing population and demands for services undreamed of by the original incorporators.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



THE BURYING GROUNDS

"Our Little Rose Bud"

"Faithful to the End"

"A Woman of Valor"

"Connecticut Volunteer"

"At Rest"

These legends and other, longer writings in English and Hebrew grace the gravestones in Ellington's cemeteries. Since people first came to Ellington, the old and young have been buried in public and private burial grounds here.

In 1734, the Windsor Selectmen purchased one acre of land located on the brow of a hill in the "Great Marsh" from Benjamin and Nathaniel Grant, Jr. for 40 shillings. They designated that acre as a burying ground, Ellington's first, which has become Ellington Center Cemetery.

The first person buried in Ellington Center Cemetery is not known. A minister of the Ecclesiastical Society (Ellington Congregational Church) touched on this fact in an 1828 sermon, when he declared that probably half the graves in the cemetery were not marked, because some monuments were never erected and some were destroyed. Interestingly, several residents near the center of town discovered in the 1900s that their stone doorsteps were formerly gravestones.

One monument, still in its original place, is the oldest standing gravestone in Ellington Center Cemetery, erected over Joseph Thomson's grave. Born in Scotland, he left for this country in 1716 with his parents and grew up in an area later called Irish Row in the Melrose District of East Windsor. He was 32 when he died in 1741. The cemetery's first marble gravestone marks Colonel Levi Wells' grave. Wells fought in the Revolutionary War and died December 18, 1803 at the age of 63. Also buried in Ellington Center Cemetery is Ellington's oldest resident, Sarah Fenton. She died in 1827 at the age of 110.

The Ecclesiastical Society of Connecticut, organized in 1703, originally maintained Ellington Center Cemetery. Then in 1796, the State of Connecticut gave the Ellington School Society the power to care for the cemetery. Between the two societies, the cemetery grew in size from 1734. Land was bought from Simon Kingsbury in 1759, from Joseph Morris in 1842, and from the estate of Sylvester Morris in 1893. The Ellington

School Society appointed Joel W. Smith in 1844 as the agent to sell the lots of land purchased in 1842. Smith owned the tavern on Maple Street that Jabez Chapman, Jr. built in 1791.

As a result of a town meeting, authority over the cemetery changed again in November 1912. The Ellington Cemetery Association, Incorporated took over the cemetery's maintenance and expansion. Fifty years later, more land was acquired on the cemetery's east side from the Harry Hayden estate.

One of Ellington Center Cemetery's oldest roads was a one-rod wide "pent" road, an enclosed dead-end into the graveyard. Timothy Holton gave it to the town in 1801, but the road was closed in 1856. Perhaps due to the purchase of Joseph Morris' land, an additional road, east of the "pent" road, was put through in 1844 from present Maple Street. Another entrance from Maple Street was built in 1952 and both roads are used today. Sarah Loomis gave the funds to erect the Gillett cemetery gateway over the main entrance (the 1844 road) in 1948, in memory of her uncle, Ralph Gillett. Town records state that Gillett and Roswell Brown owned a store near the meetinghouse and were granted a liquor license in 1833. The wrought-iron part of the gateway was removed in 1984 after being extensively damaged by a truck.

Along with several roads, Ellington Center Cemetery has also had a variety of fences. One was built in approximately 1844. The Ellington School Society paid A. P. Filor \$422.30 for furnishing the materials and building a cemetery fence in 1860. Society records for 1861 state that John Brockway painted Filor's fence.

Other people gave their time and energy to Ellington Center Cemetery. A carpenter named Caleb Hopkins came to Ellington in 1838 from Manchester, Connecticut, and kept the Record of Deaths in town until his death on December 27, 1891 of pneumonia. This book, starting with Robert Hyde's records, lists deaths and burials occurring between 1800 and 1900.

The Ellington School Society appointed Hopkins in 1865 to purchase a hearse not exceeding \$400. (Originally, townspeople carried bodies on poles over a rough cart path to the cemetery.) The hearse was built in 1866, and the Society hired Guy Collins to drive the hearse, dig graves, and attend all funerals in town, for \$65 a year. Other hearse drivers included Orson West and John Hopkins. For driving and grave digging in

1870, West was paid \$60 a year and Hopkins was paid \$19.48 in 1867 to do the same work. (The hearse house was erected on the west side of the present main cemetery entrance in 1839.) John Smith furnished the coffins used in town for many years. Smith was a cabinetmaker whose shop was west of his house on the south side of Main Street, opposite the McKinstry Cemetery.

Another cemetery is the Crystal Lake Cemetery, located atop a hill at the corner of Sandy Beach Road (formerly Square Pond Road) and West Shore Road. This cemetery's name and legal aspects have changed several times during its history. Originally referred to as the East Cemetery, it was named Square Pond Burying Ground when the Square Pond Burying Ground Association formed in 1860. (Crystal Lake was originally named Square Pond.) In October 1881, the town took charge of the cemetery and changed its name to Crystal Lake Cemetery in 1889. The town appointed Orrin D. Newell, as an agent for a year, to sell lots from October 1889, or until a successor could be appointed. The town acquired the land in July 1953.

As with Ellington Center Cemetery, it is not known who was first buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery. The oldest standing stone, though, marks the grave of Jane Pease, who died in 1829.

Some interesting entries appear in Association and town records concerning Crystal Lake Cemetery. In 1860, the Square Pond Burying Ground Association sold 100 shares (plots) at \$5 apiece. The shares went to various members of the Taft, Newell, Pease, Slater, Aborn, Tshuma, Richardson, and Dimmock families. In 1861, the Association voted to give each man who worked in the cemetery for 10 hours a day an allowance of \$1.25. It also voted to give each person providing a yoke of oxen, with tools, \$1.25 a day. Some of the cemetery's workmen included the following people: E. H. Dimmock was paid to dig graves for \$2 each in 1867; R. G. Willis earned \$8 for mowing the cemetery in 1916; and E. H. Preston received \$45 from the town for hearse hire in 1916.

From approximately 1900 to 1980, the price of Crystal Lake Cemetery's four-foot by eleven-foot plots was \$12.50 each. In August 1980, after First Selectwoman Mary Miller discovered the low charge, the Board of Selectmen increased the price 800% to \$100, the price of a plot in Ellington Center Cemetery.

Ellington's third burial ground is the Congregation Knesseth Israel

Cemetery, located in the northwest corner of Ellington Center Cemetery. In September 1909, a group of Jewish farmers bought a small plot of land for burial purposes from Sarah L. and Sylenda B. Morris. Samuel Rosenberg and Louis Franklin, of Ellington, and Samuel Levine, of Vernon, represented the farmers. The group agreed to fence and maintain the land at their expense. In November 1913, the group deeded the land to the Connecticut Jewish Farmers Association, stipulating that all burials be in accordance with Jewish laws, customs, and traditions. The cemetery changed hands one more time in December 1919, when the Association transferred the cemetery to the Congregation Knesseth Israel. Members of the synagogue and their children pitched in on Sundays to maintain the land by clearing it of brush and rock. The next year, Samuel Zipkin was appointed the cemetery's first agent.

After the Congregation Knesseth Israel took charge of the cemetery, a small building, with an attached outhouse, was erected on the east end of the land. This building stored caskets and in it bodies were prepared for burial. It was used until about 1950, when better facilities became available in Hartford. At that point, the Congregation used the building only to store the necessary tools for burial and maintaining the cemetery. The shed was later repaired, painted, put on piers, and moved (without the outhouse) to the west section of the cemetery on newly acquired land. Vandalism prompted Harry Friedman, the cemetery agent, to remove the building to his home lot on Sadds Mill Road in 1980.

The Congregation Knesseth Israel Cemetery has grown in size since 1909. Additional land was purchased in May 1948 from Alice Limberger, and again in 1961 from Alice and Ernest Limberger.

Along with the three cemeteries mentioned, Ellington also has some private ones. Some of the early families had tiny cemetery plots in a garden or cattle field on their land. Such a plot, large enough for six to eight graves, was enclosed with stone walls that had a narrow opening so that cattle could not get through. The markers were often made of piled fieldstone. Some families put in soapstone monuments, but these have since crumbled.

The best known private cemetery in Ellington is the McKinstry Cemetery, located in the center of Ellington on the north side of Main Street. This was the family plot of the Reverend John McKinstry, who was

hired in 1733 and became the first pastor of the Congregational Church. The plot is near the southeast corner of the 50 acres he purchased.

The first to be buried in the McKinstry cemetery were two of the Reverend McKinstry's grandchildren, infant children of Alexander and Sarah Lee McKinstry. The first died in 1750 and the second in 1752. The Reverend McKinstry died on January 20, 1754, at the age of 77 and was buried in this cemetery, too. This was by his order, since he refused to be buried with the rest of his flock in the Ellington Center Cemetery. This request could have stemmed from the circumstances surrounding his retirement in 1749 after 16 years of service. He had retired due to a disagreement with his congregation over church discipline.

The wrought-iron fence surrounding the McKinstry Cemetery was erected in 1859 by William McKinstry, a descendant living in Middletown, Connecticut. William also put up a new monument over the Reverend McKinstry's grave that same year.

The John Charter family also had a private cemetery, located one-half mile east of Charter Brook (also known as Russell Brook). It is set back off the south side of Crystal Lake Road. The cemetery measured two chains north-south by two chains, 50 links east-west.

The first person buried there was reportedly a Charter child in 1750. Twenty years later, the town officially set aside the land when a three-rod wide road was put through east of the cemetery to the Tolland line. The road was discontinued in 1838. Over the years, members of several families living in that part of town were buried in Charter Cemetery. Family names on the gravestones include Day, Porter, Hill, Newell, Slater, Brayman, Frost, Pease, and Baker. The oldest standing stone marks the grave of Ann Ladd, wife of Jesse, who died October 5, 1765 at the age of 34. The latest stone carries a date of 1872. The town took over care of the cemetery in October 1936.

Little remains of the Wadsworth family's cemetery, another private burying ground located on the south side of Blueberry Circle, between Egypt Road and Somers Road. Its soapstone monuments were bulldozed 30 or more years ago, and the stone-enclosed graveyard is currently overgrown. The graves, on Wadsworth land, were across the street from the Wadsworth house, but even that no longer stands. Only the stone doorsteps remain.

Captain Ichabod Wadsworth was born in 1742 and was raised in

Ellington. His first wife, Chloe (Webster) Wadsworth, may have been the first person buried in the Wadsworth Cemetery. She died in 1770. Wadsworth himself died in 1815, aged 73, and was also buried there. His second wife, Lydia (Porter) Wadsworth, died in 1837, but no proof exists to indicate that she lies there.

Individual gravestones are also scattered about town, marking the sites of people's deaths or indicating people's graves. A stone on the west side of Route 83 (West Road) states, "Lieutenant John Elsworth was killed here by the fall of a tree 26 October 1720, age 49 years and 15 days." Elsworth died while clearing his land, but was buried elsewhere. (See chapter on The Elsworths Of The Great Marsh.) Originally, a rough stone marked the location of his death, but a descendant later replaced it with an engraved marker (inscription just quoted). The marker was moved further north to its present location.

Another solitary gravestone marks the grave site of Samuel Field Knight. It is situated on the west side of Pinney Street (northwest of Windermere Avenue). The 10-year-old boy was driving alone in an ox cart to get cider from Colonel Joseph Abbott's cider mill on November 8, 1812. The cider mill was near the present "Five Corners," which is the southern end of Pinney Street. Samuel fell from the ox cart and was crushed under its wheels. He was the son of Stephanas Knight.

writer - Katherine Tardif

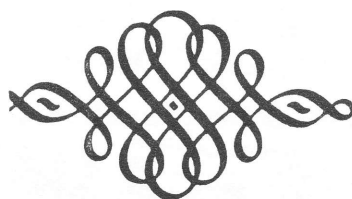


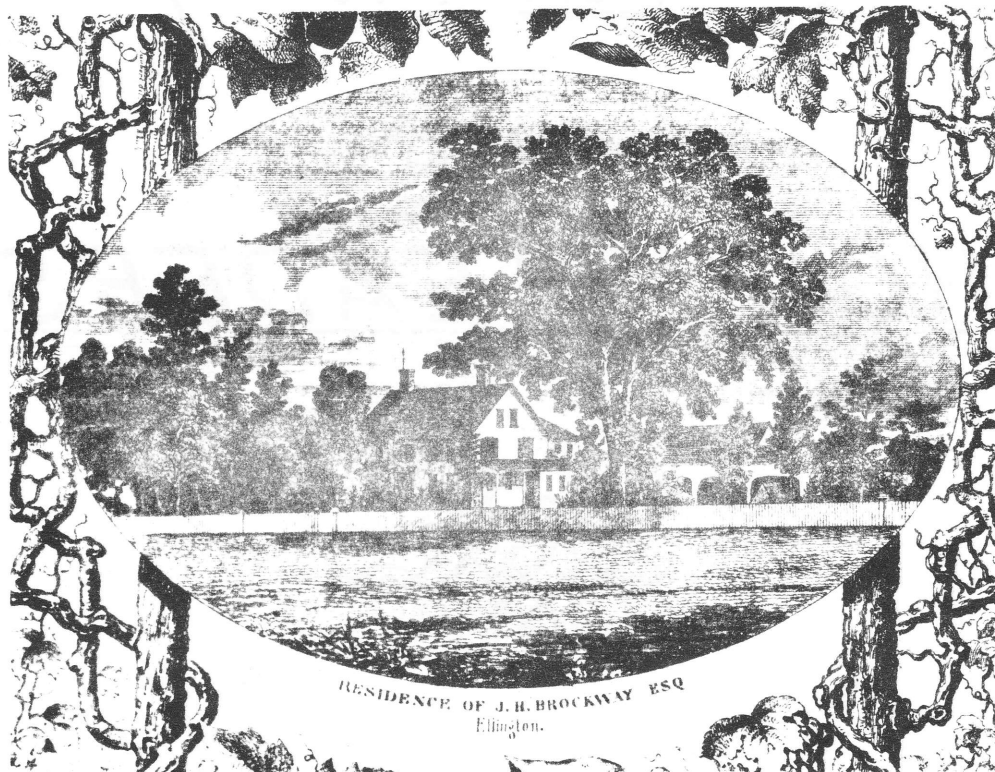


McKinstry Cemetery
Main Street

§ Part Two §

THE
HOMESTEADERS





WE, THE GIBBS, CAME FIRST

"Good day to you!"

"I am Giles Gibbs. Not the first Giles Gibbs which you will soon discover as the tale of the Gibbs family unfolds.

"My ancestor, Giles Gibbs, was married on July 26, 1617 in Alford, Somerset (20 miles northeast of Crewkerne), in England. They arrived in the new world on the ship 'Mary and John,' in 1630 with their son, Gregory, and settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Giles remarried soon after his wife died. He had a son, Jacob, with his second wife, Katherine Carwithee. In 1633, he was given a land grant in Windsor, Connecticut, and a few years later the family settled there. Giles became one of the selectmen in 1634. He died on May 21, 1641. His will directed that his eldest son, Gregory, be apprenticed to some godly man for five years, and to have the lot over the Great River if he faithfully served out his time; to his children, Samuel, Benjamin, and Sarah, he gave £30 each; to Jacob, his house, home lots, and all lots west of the River after the demise of his mother. The mother, Katherine, died on October 24, 1660.

"Gregory operated a river ferry before moving with his wife, Joyce (widow of James Osborne), to Springfield in 1677, and to Suffield in 1683. Samuel and Jacob were fined and corrected for misdemeanors and Sarah was said to have 'carried herself sinfully' and was adjudged to be put out to service in 1651. She was again condemned in 1654, for several misdemeanors, to six days imprisonment. Sarah married John Shear on December 5, 1661 and they had a son the following year. She died in 1689.

"Katherine had a house on the west side of the Great River and probably a 'cellar house' on the east side of this river. In 1659, it is mentioned that a ferry landing place existed between Widow Gibbs and Abraham Randall near the mouth of the Scantic River (South Windsor-East Windsor line).

"Samuel married Hepzibah Dibble on April 15, 1664. They bought the Winchell place from Jacob Drake, the first residence south of Ferry Road. In that year, licenses were granted by the Court to sell wine and liquor. Samuel was granted a license to sell nine or ten quarter casks of wine by the gallon to his neighbors and those that will buy it. He freely presented the Court with an anchor of the best of his wine which the Court

desired him to leave with the Governor.

"Samuel and Hepzibah had ten children: among them, Samuel, Jr., who married Mary Winchell on March 4, 1703. They lived on the west side of the Great River where my uncle, Samuel III, and my father, Giles, were born. In 1716, my grandfather, Samuel, Jr., sold his property and bought a 200-acre tract with a house near Windsor's eastern border line from a neighbor, Dr. Samuel Mather, Jr. That same year Samuel, Sr. died and left a sizeable estate. The Gibbs family moved to the house on the tract and became the first permanent settlers in an area which later became part of Ellington Parish. Within a few years my grandfather built a fine mansion house, and sold the west half of his land to John Burroughs of Enfield. He sold the rest of the land with the mansion house in 1741 to Jacob Redington for a handsome profit. Grandfather built another house on 13½ acres of land on the road to Somers.

"In 1743, the property that included an orchard and fencing was conveyed to his son, (my father) Giles. The following year Giles leased an acre of land (part of a useless highway) from a Committee of Windsor's East Society, for one Indian corn per year to be paid yearly for the next 700 years. Giles, who was recently married, eventually had eleven children born in the parish. His first-born, Giles, was drafted into the army at seventeen. According to the service record, Giles was with General Phineas Lyman (of Suffield) in a camp north of Crown Point in March 1760, during the French and Indian War. A few months later he failed to make a muster call. He had died of camp distemper.

"In May of 1760, another son, or the ninth child, was born to Giles and Rachel Davis Gibbs. He was named 'Giles' in memory of his brother.

"I am this Giles Gibbs and I was a musician. I played the fife. I compiled the book of music for the fife in 1777. Among the songs included is 'Thehos Gendar' the notes of which became 'Yankee Doodle,' the most popular tune of the American Revolution.

"I was seventeen when I first stood at attention at a muster of Ellington Parish militia-men. Among them were my brother, Seth, and my friend, Simeon Belknap, Jr. It was in 1780, that Simeon, myself, and other Ellington families traveled to Randolph, Vermont, in search of land to settle. We cleared land all summer. We were ready to return to Connecticut where Simeon was to marry my sister, Mary. We stopped in

Royalton, Vermont, to help the Kneelands with their house raising. The occasion was festive.

"Before the dawn of October 16, a party of British officers and Indians raided the settlement. By evening, thirty men and boys were captives. Before morning, in the encampment made in the new fields of Kneeland's homesite, Joseph Kneeland and I, Giles Gibbs, were murdered by our captors. Thomas Pember, my friend and neighbor in Ellington Parish, was the first to meet the same sad fate. From home, besides Simeon, were Samuel Pember (Thomas' older brother) and Zaddock (Zador) Steele who were among the survivors taken to Caghnewaga, an Indian village. A year later, Simeon and Zaddock were moved 45 miles up the St. Lawrence River and imprisoned at a fort on the island called Cateau du Lac, west of Montreal. They managed to escape on a raft which was floated down the river. They made their way on foot through forests, swamps and several towns before stopping to recuperate at Bennington, Vermont. The weary travelers arrived home on October 17, 1782, and Simeon soon claimed the hand of my sister, Mary.

"My estate was divided between my surviving brothers and sisters. My brother, Titus, died unmarried in 1777, and my brother, Seth, died two years later. My brother, Oliver, was the last of the family to live in Ellington. He was 71 years old when he died there on June 7, 1829. My surviving sisters were Abigail, Sarah (wife of Elnathan Allen) and Deborah (Mann) Potter.

"My little well-worn leather notebook of songs for my life was given to my eldest sister, Abigail Stanley, who lived in Tolland. She treasured it and passed it on to her children and grandchildren along with the terrible story of my fate."

THEHOS GENDAR

(Yankee Doodle variation)

In Ellington they had a gun
Charged up with wad and powder
It made a fuss like a blunderbuss
Only tarnation louder.

Chorus:

Yankee, Doodle keep it up (repeat)

And every time they fired it off
It made the windows crack some
And Deacon Ben and all his men
Hurrahed for Andrew Jackson.

writer - Irene Dowd



THE ELSWORTHS OF THE GREAT MARSH

Lieut. John Elsworth was among the first proprietors to improve his land, lying in an area later set off as the Parish of Ellington. During his lifetime, this eastern frontier land of Windsor was known as East Farms and the "Great Marsh." Daniel was the only one of John's children to settle on this same land. Born in Ancient Windsor on October 7, 1671, to Sergt. Josiah and Elizabeth (Holcomb) Elsworth, John Elsworth inherited part of his father's land on the "east side of the Great River." His father died in 1689, when John was only 18, and it is believed that he worked clearing his land between then and 1695, when he built his house in Windsor Farms (later known as East Windsor). He and his wife, Esther (White), settled in that house and had six children: John, Jr. (born 11/7/1697), Daniel (born 3/20/1700), Esther, Anna (or Hannah), Martha and Ann.

Most early settlers lived on the west side of the river, but some planted their crops, and pastured cattle, on common land on the east side. Apparently, crows and blackbirds were destroying crops, and it is documented that in 1702, John Elsworth and Samuel Teade were chosen to take care of this problem, receiving a bounty for each bird killed.

Lieut. John made many land transactions and became one of the largest landowners in all of Windsor. In 1701, his brother, Benjamin, died at the age of 14, and John acquired his share of their father's estate. In 1708, his brother, Thomas, transferred 15 acres of his inheritance to John. John continued to acquire property, including rights to 200 acres in 1716, from the sons and heirs of Thomas and Nathaniel Bissell, and in 1717, another 340 acres from Lieut. Joseph Wadsworth. The 540 acres were later laid out in one piece in and near the "Great Marsh." In 1720, the Lieutenant and his brother, Ensign Jonathan Elsworth, were involved in a land transaction (with 10 other Windsor men) in Union, Connecticut. The proceeds of this sale was donated to Yale College. John also bought and sold land in Bolton (now Vernon), Willington, Coventry and Tolland.

During John's life, we know of a few other areas of interest. In 1710, for example, he was involved in a Trespass Action in Enfield regarding kindling fires in the wilderness. Although he was imprisoned, and paid a fine, it was later determined that the judgment process had

been in error. The judgment was reversed and a small remuneration was paid to John.

From records of 1717, we learn that John Elsworth was listed as a freeman and cattle owner. "Ear Mark for his Catle is a Top Cutt on Both Ears."

He became a prominent citizen, serving as Hay Warden, Constable, Lieutenant of the Militia and a member on several committees, including one appointed to determine the boundary line between Windsor, Connecticut, and Enfield, which was then part of Massachusetts.

In 1720, John Elsworth was reportedly working with his two sons, Monday through Saturday, to make a clearing on his land on the east side of the "Great Marsh." They would leave their home at Windsor Farms with their ox team and cart, and work all day, cutting trees, clearing rocks and planting crops, returning home six days later. It was during this project that John Elsworth was killed when a tree, which he was cutting, landed on him. He died alone. His sons, John, Jr. and Daniel, found his body later, and brought it home on a stone boat (runnerless sled).

A stone marker was placed near the accident site. It read: "Lieut. John Elsworth was killed here by the fall of a tree, October 26th, 1720, Aged 49 years and 19 days." A replica of the original stone can still be seen not far from the original site, on the property of present day owner, Ernest Kupferschmid.

Daniel Elsworth was one of five East Farm petitioners in 1721. He requested, and received, tax relief on the 540-acre tract from his father's estate. It took two and one-half years for the Court to settle the estate, finally decreeing on April 2, 1723, that distribution of the two farms among all six children would be disadvantageous. Instead, the farms were set off between John, Jr. and Daniel, and they, in turn, were to compensate their four sisters for their fair share.

In 1728, Sergt. John, Jr., who had been allotted the "Windsor Farms" property, quit claimed his share of the total 540-acre "Great Marsh" farm to his brother, Daniel. Daniel developed part of this land, and by 1730 had settled near the south part of what is now West Road. By 1731, Daniel had obtained release of his sister, Martha Stoughton's, share and in 1734, that of his sister, Anna Hunt.

By 1743, the 540 acres had shrunk to less than 50 acres, which was

the improved land. The rest, which was the unimproved land, was sold by Daniel, or taken to be subdivided into Proprietors' Lots when several land divisions were laid out. Daniel received compensation of over 250 acres in the "Sequestered" land division which was completed in 1752. In time, however, Daniel reacquired parts of the original Elsworth land, and it was later passed on to his sons.

Daniel Elsworth was active in community affairs. In May of 1734, his signature appears on a petition to free Windsor Goshen citizens from the ministerial taxes imposed for the support of Reverend Timothy Edwards at the Second Society. In 1735, he participated in the presentation of another petition to the General Assembly for "...a good Orthodox Minister..." The Assembly later granted to the "inhabitants of the easternmost society in Windsor" the freedom to form their own church body. Thus, the establishment of the Ellington Parish Church, ministered by the Reverend John McKinstry. Also in 1735, Daniel was promoted to Lieutenant in the "Great Marsh" militia. In 1741, he served as Captain in the Ellington Parish militia.

Daniel Elsworth and his wife, Mindwell, had five children: Daniel, Jr., Charles, Jerusha, Gurdon and Chloe. Daniel acquired numerous local properties which he either resold for a profit, or deeded to his sons. Daniel Elsworth died on January 27, 1782, at the age of 82. He is buried in the old part of Ellington Cemetery, along side his wife, who died in 1786.

Daniel Elsworth, Jr., who was born approximately 1727, settled on the land deeded to him by his father. He married Mary McKinstry, daughter of the Reverend John McKinstry.

Documentation regarding Daniel, Jr.'s services include the following: In 1775, Daniel was one of East Windsor's selectmen. His duties included certification of the list of Revolutionary Soldiers in the "North Society of the Scantic Trainband" that marched from East Windsor, in April 1775, for the relief of Boston in the Lexington Alarm. In 1777, he took the Oath of Fidelity to the State, and in 1785, he participated in the decision for the location of the County Courthouse and Gaol (Jail) in Tolland. This was also the year that the area changed from Hartford County to Tolland County. In 1786, during Ellington's organization, Daniel was listed as an elector (voter). Only 57 men (no women voted in

those days) of the 1000 inhabitants were listed. He also served as a Justice of the Peace.

Daniel Elsworth, Jr. lived in three houses during his lifetime. The first house was on a $10\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot deeded to him by his father in 1753. The only road through this property (east of the original improved Elsworth land) was a path, now known as Ellington Avenue. The second was a "salt box" house standing next to the highway (now West Road) that went through the 105 acres of land.

This house and land were traded with his nephew, Ezekiel McKinstry, in 1796, for Daniel's third homestead of 24 acres, on present day Main Street.

Daniel, Jr. and his wife, Mary, had 10 children, and were predeceased by several of them. After Mary died, in 1801, at the age of 74, Daniel married again. Daniel, Jr. died on July 27, 1803, at the age of 76, just one month after his brother, Gurdon, had died. He is buried beside his first wife in the McKinstry Cemetery.

Daniel, Jr.'s total estate was valued at \$2929.45, including 24 acres with a house and barn, 15 acres of pasture, and $19\frac{1}{2}$ acres of woodland. The Court settled Daniel's estate by granting $\frac{1}{3}$ to his second wife, Rachel, as her dower, and the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ to be divided in four equal parts among his three daughters, Chloe Hyde, Lucretia Little, and Jerusha Morgan, and his deceased son, Daniel's, four children. Over time, Jerusha's husband, William Morgan, bought out much of the interests in Daniel's estate. This included the Elsworth residence, which was known as Morgan's Tavern until William's death in 1827. Eventually, the Morgan heirs sold their interests in the land and the house. Today, after a succession of owners, the former tavern stands vacant on about an acre of land, opposite the Center School.

Charles Elsworth, Daniel Elsworth Sr.'s second son, lived only 46 years, but like his brother, Daniel, Jr., was an active citizen. He served as a Justice of the Peace, being first appointed in 1769, and like his brother, served as one of the selectmen for the Parish of Ellington in East Windsor. He was Captain of the Ellington Parish Trainband in 1775.

Charles Elsworth bought and sold land actively from 1769 to 1774. During his marriage to Rachel Hubbard, they reportedly settled on what is now Main Street. Their son, Charles, Jr., died at age 2, just six months

after his father died in 1776. They are buried beside each other in the old part of the Ellington Cemetery.

Gurdon Elsworth, Daniel Sr.'s youngest son, was born about 1737, and lived near his two brothers on land deeded to him by his father. Prior to his death on June 26, 1803, he served as a private in the Ellington Parish Trainband in 1775, was Town Treasurer from 1786-97, and a Deacon of the Congregational Church. He was on the list of electors in 1786, and served on a school committee.

Gurdon was a farmer, operated a "cyder mill" and had a weaving shop. He was considered wealthy for his time, and upon his death, his estate was valued at \$10,761.77, including the home lot, "cyder mill," weaving shop and woodland.

Gurdon married Lydia Makepeace. They had five daughters, and one son, Gurdon, Jr. Lydia died in 1806 at the age of 64, and was buried beside her husband in the old section of the Ellington Cemetery.

Gurdon Elsworth, Jr. married his second cousin, Martha Stoughton, on July 9, 1800, and they had eleven children. Six of these births were recorded in Ellington. The family eventually migrated to Illinois, after receiving letters of dismissal from the Church. (Letters of dismissal were relative to relocations.) It is believed that Gurdon was accompanied not only by his wife and children, but also by Daniel Elsworth, Jr.'s widow, Rachel.

Reverend John Elsworth, born in 1762 in Ellington Parish, was the son of Daniel, Jr. and Mary (McKinstry). He graduated from Yale in 1785, and was ordained in East Windsor that same year. He became the minister of a Presbyterian Church on the Island of Saba in the West Indies, but returned to Ellington due to illness. He died of consumption on November 22, 1791, and was buried in the McKinstry Cemetery.

Daniel Elsworth, 3rd, the Reverend John's brother, was born in 1758. He married Mary Abbott, daughter of Col. Joseph Abbott, on December 2, 1784. Daniel left the area ten years later, settling in Erie, Pennsylvania (then called Presque Isle). After erecting Erie's first frame building, a store, he returned to Ellington to escort his wife and family to their new Erie home. Three of his children died there soon after they had settled, and on March 3, 1798 Daniel, too, passed away. In the fall of that year, his widow, Mary, and her four surviving

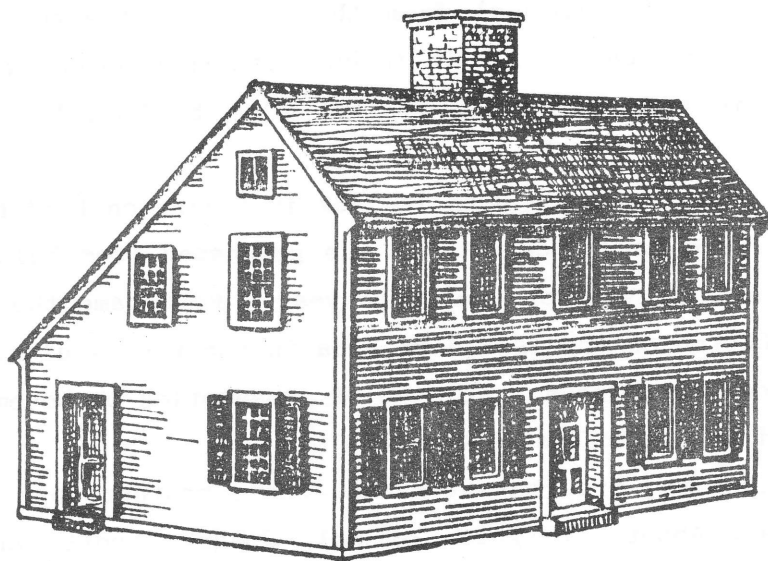
children, returned to her father's home in Ellington. Mary kept a diary of her 51-day trip east, and it was published on December 5, 1885 in "The American Field" magazine. She married Capt. Ebenezer Scarboro two years after Daniel's death, and they moved to Brooklyn, Connecticut, in 1809. The Captain died on October 2, 1813, and Mary, who had since moved to West Hartford, passed away at the age of 76, on Christmas Day, 1835.

A daughter, Mary Elsworth, married Samuel Thompson, and they lived in Ellington.

A son, John Elsworth, who moved to Hartford about 1835, was the last known male, from Lieut. John Elsworth's line, to live in Ellington.

writer - Jeanne LaRose Pinto

collaborated by - Joan L. Ferrier and Esther Niles Landers



Saltbox 1700-1770

THE GRANT FAMILY TIES IN ELLINGTON

Matthew Grant, one of the first land grantees within present Ellington bounds, was born in England (Woodbridge, Dorset) on October 27, 1601. He was the son of John Grant and Alice Tuberville. Matthew married Priscilla Grey on November 16, 1625. Their first child was also named Priscilla.

On March 20, 1630, Matthew, with his wife and daughter, left Plymouth, England with 137 other Puritans on the ship "Mary and John" bound for America. After arriving in Boston they settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts. During the period that they resided in Dorchester two sons, Samuel and Tahan, were born; Samuel on November 12, 1631 and Tahan on February 3, 1633.

In 1635, the Grant family and others left Dorchester and traveled overland to Windsor, Connecticut, where they settled. A stockaded village was erected on the bank of the Farmington River. Matthew, who was a surveyor and carpenter by trade, became Town Clerk and a Selectman of Windsor. On record is the following comment by Mr. Grant regarding his public service, "I have been careful to do nothing on one man's desire."

Two years after giving birth to a third son, John, on April 30, 1642 Priscilla Grant died, and on May 29, 1645 Matthew married Susan Capen Rockwell, widow of William Rockwell.

In consideration for the services performed by Matthew, the Connecticut Colony on May 8, 1673 gave him a 100-acre land grant. It was laid out in Ellington which was then part of Windsor. (Refer to chapter on Windsor's Eastern Land.) Matthew died on December 16, 1681.

Nathaniel Grant, grandson of Matthew, was born on April 14, 1672 one of seven children of Samuel and Mary Porter Grant. Nathaniel was married in 1699 to Bethiah Warner. Seven children were born between 1700 and 1720, three of whom died young. Nathaniel was one of the 59 who signed a petition on February 9, 1713 to found a plantation on a certain parcel of common and undivided colony land, and to open up such land for settlement of families. That same year 17 lots of 40 acres each were laid out in the area of the present Grant Hill Road, south of Gehring Road in Tolland, and Nathaniel was assigned one of the lots. In 1714, Nathaniel moved his family to a mansion house with six acres of land in Windsor that his

father had deeded to him. A few years later, he was one of the 16 inhabitants to settle in Tolland.

In 1720, Nathaniel sold his land in Tolland to Deacon Francis West and moved to East Farms in Windsor where his daughter, Hannah, was born. He settled on a 50-acre tract that had been granted and laid out to Sergeant Benedictus Alford, a Pequot soldier, in 1674. Nathaniel Bissell, who died in 1719, purchased the land from the heirs of Sergeant Alford in 1712. Following the death of Mr. Bissell, Nathaniel Grant acquired it. On public record in October 1712, Nathaniel Grant and Nathaniel Bissell were both reported as having "two Queens Arms which were the Indians."

When Nathaniel's sons, Nathaniel, Jr. (b. 1705) and Benjamin (b. 1708), grew up and married, they purchased land in the center of the village adjoining the Reverend John McKinstry. In 1734, the Grant brothers sold land for a burying place to the Town of Windsor for 40 shillings. This land is now part of the Ellington Center Cemetery.

Jonathan Grant acquired 50 acres of land from his father in 1738 paying £50. The site had a small run of water in the northwest corner. In 1750, Nathaniel deeded his son, Nathaniel, Jr. who was a farmer, 25 acres off the tract he lived on. Nathaniel, Jr. left a widow and three children when he died in Ellington.

Benjamin Grant married Anna Wood Hunt, widow of Joseph Hunt of Somers. They had five daughters and two sons. The last five were born in Ellington Parish. Grant enlisted in the French and Indian War on April 5, 1759, and was assigned to the 9th Company, 1st Regiment. The eldest son, Benjamin, Jr., while in the army, died of smallpox on May 26, 1776 at age 38. The family resided in the parish for more than 20 years before moving to Lyme, New Hampshire. There, a daughter, Dorcas Grant, met and married Colonel Ebenezer Green in 1768. Benjamin died there on April 17, 1795.

Jonathan Grant married Mary Ladd of Tolland. Between 1742 and 1762 they had nine daughters, who were all born in Ellington Parish. One of the daughters married Titus Goodale of Chaplin. Their two sons, Titus, Jr. and Thomas, were raised in Ellington by their grandparents, Jonathan and Mary. A stone monument in the Center Cemetery bears the names of Jonathan Grant who died on December 2, 1797 at age 83, and his two daughters, Miss Katurah Grant who died on March 9, 1826 at age 74, and Prudence, widow of Ebenezer Woolworth, who died on March 17, 1826 at age

72. Jonathan's great-grandson, Rufus, was born on November 30, 1819, son of Thomas and Naomi (Pierce) Goodale, who both died in 1826. Rufus Grant, as he preferred to call himself, never married, and was the last known of Jonathan's descendants to occupy his old farm.

Nathaniel's youngest daughter, Hannah, married Benjamin Brown from Wintonbury Parish (now Bloomfield) in Windsor, and went there to live. They had seven children before Hannah died on August 25, 1759. Little is known of the whereabouts of Nathaniel's other descendants who lived in the area for well over a century.

Samuel Grant (1691-1751) was the eldest son of Nathaniel's half-brother, Samuel (1659-1710), and his second wife, Grace Minor. On January 1, 1719, Samuel married Theophile Bartlett and they raised seven sons and two daughters. Samuel had acquired one-half of a 200-acre tract in Bolton, at the Tolland line, that was originally sold by Joshua, son of the Mohegan Chief Uncas, to Captain Thomas Bull in 1673. The tract was laid out by James Steel near Cedar Swamp and south of Rock Pond. In 1726, Samuel exchanged this land, which the town of Bolton needed for a highway or commons, for a 500-acre tract. It covered the whole breadth of the north end of the town, except for 30 acres on the northeast corner that was under the improvement of Thomas Whipple. The agents for the Bolton Proprietors, Francis Smith, Timothy Olcott and John Bissell, considered the rough, hilly land with the Hockanum River running through it as worthless. The deed making the exchange was signed by the agents in Hartford on April 30, 1726. This tract contained almost all of the land that later became known as Rockville (a section of Vernon).

Samuel selected a plot on the west end of the newly acquired land, in the area of what is now Union Street and West Road, to erect a comfortable log house. The cabin was near the first public road that was built in 1738 in what was called Ellington Parish between 1735 and 1760. Samuel died in Windsor (now East Windsor) in 1751, and his widow died in 1775.

In 1737, Samuel's uncle, Joseph Skinner, Jr. of Windsor, purchased 100 acres from him in the eastern section of the tract for £80. Joseph's wife, Mary, was a half-sister to Samuel's father, and sister to Nathaniel Grant and Sarah Grant Skinner. In the same year, Sarah's son, Ebenezer Skinner, Jr. of Hebron, and partners set up an Iron Works on ten acres of Joseph's land.

Ebenezer, Sr., one of the partners in the new Iron Works had his own Iron Works in Colchester. Because of his interest in the new works he moved his family to Bolton (now Vernon). Shortly after setting up the Iron Works, the Skinners built a gristmill nearby on the Hockanum River south of Snipsic Pond.

Deborah Skinner, daughter of Ebenezer, Sr. and Sarah Skinner, was married to Stephen Paine. In 1739, Stephen purchased a one-third interest in the Iron Works, 10 acres of land, and one-half of a house. Apparently Stephen obtained a half-interest in the Skinner Gristmill after he sold his share in the Iron Works. His father-in-law became his partner when he bought out his son's interest in 1755. Upon the death of Ebenezer, Sr. his widow, Sarah, turned over her late husband's share in the mill to her son-in-law. It became known as the Paine (Payne) Gristmill. It was operated for many generations by descendants of Stephen, who died at age 91, and was buried in Ellington.

Samuel Grant's son, Ozias, born in 1733, came to Bolton in 1761 with his bride, the former Lorana Strong. He built a one-story house which was painted red. It stood on the site of his father's log cabin which had burned. In March 1778, Ozias leased to John Lomis, Jr. of East Windsor the use of the Hockanum stream with liberty to divert it from its natural course at or near the sawmill called Grants Mill, but originally called Chapin Mill. Mr. Lomis also had liberty to build a small dam to turn the stream and erect a gristmill near the highway leading from Ellington Society to Bolton (Vernon).

Abiel Grant, son of Ozias, was killed in an accident at the gristmill on May 25, 1798 at age 36. The gristmill continued to be operated by Grant descendants until 1837. Ozias, who had 13 children, died in 1823 at age 90.

Nathaniel Root Grant lived in a frame house not far from the log cabin site in the 1860s. He peddled milk in a cart drawn by a pair of oxen. His house stood on the last 35 acres of the original 500 acres once owned by his ancestor, Samuel Grant.

Samuel's youngest brother, Ebenezer Grant, was born in 1706, graduated from Yale in 1726, engaged in the shipping trade a few years later, and in 1737 married Ann Elsworth. Ann, who was the daughter of Lieut. John and Esther (White) Elsworth, died in 1783. Ebenezer married

Jemima Elsworth, widow of Capt. David Elsworth and mother of Chief Justice Oliver Elsworth.

Grace Grant, widowed mother of the brothers, was appointed to keep an inn on the east side of the Connecticut River in 1715. Ebenezer took charge of the inn a year before his first marriage. His ships sailed the river to the West Indies carrying mostly grains and tobacco. Ebenezer became a prosperous merchant, and in the mid 1700s built a fine house in East Windsor Hill just north of his store. In 1742, he was commissioned as Captain of the North Company or Trainband, and in 1752 was in command of the 3d Company of Windsor. He served in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. Captain Grant surveyed most of what is now South Windsor. He was a clerk from 1733 to 1767 in the 2nd Ecclesiastical Society, as well as sheriff and selectman between 1776 and 1781. The Captain lost his second wife seven years before he died on March 19, 1797 at the age of 91.

Captain Grant and his first wife had presented a three-piece communion set to the Congregational Ecclesiastical Society of Ellington (Ellington Congregational Church) some time after the first meetinghouse was built in 1739. The pewter set disappeared in 1860. Dr. John R. Smith of Warsaw, Missouri, returned the set to the church in 1922 explaining that his father, John Smith, a sexton in the Ellington church took the discarded set with him when he moved to Missouri.

Ulysses S. Grant, the most famous of all the Grants, was the eighth generation in America, and a direct descendant of Matthew Grant of Windsor. He was the son of Jesse R. Grant and Hannah Simpson, and was born in 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He graduated from West Point in 1843; became commander of the Union Army during the Civil War; and was the 18th president of the United States, serving from 1869 to 1877.

writer - Donald E. Neff

A BURROUGHS BRANCH

A branch of the Burroughs family from Enfield was one of the first settlers in what became the Ellington area. The family dates back to 1718 when John Burroughs, Jr. purchased 100 acres of land (one-half of 200 acres) from Samuel Gibbs, Jr. on the west side of the Gibbs farm and home lot. This land was originally a land grant of 200 acres belonging to the Rev. Samuel Mather of Windsor in 1684. In 1692, the Reverend Mather received a patent and improved the land and built a house. In 1714, it was turned over with a messuage (house) to his son, Samuel Mather, Jr., an attorney and doctor. Neither of the Mathers ever lived in the so-called house. Two years later the property was sold to Samuel Gibbs, Jr., a neighbor in Windsor. Mr. Gibbs settled here with his family and within a few years replaced the small house with a two-story or "mansion" house.

John Burroughs, Jr. was the only son of John Burroughs and his wife, Hannah of Enfield, which was part of Massachusetts until 1749. John, Sr. lived in Enfield on a lot laid out to him along the bank of the Connecticut River. Born in 1685, John, Jr. became an Ensign of the Great Marsh Militia in 1735 where he was operating a sawmill. The Great Marsh became part of the Parish of Ellington later that year. Daniel Elsworth, another notable Ellingtonite, was also a Lieutenant at the same time.

Very little of John's 100 acres was improved when a land division ("Mile and Half Mile") was laid out through it in 1728. The unimproved land was taken and Mr. Burroughs and his heirs were compensated years later with land in another Windsor division.

John, Jr. was twice married; first to Elizabeth Pasco, daughter of John and Rachel, and then in 1718 to Sarah Rumrill, daughter of Simon and Sarah (Fairman). John Burroughs, Jr. had ten children. Among them were Mary, Elijah, Sarah, David, Jonathan, Simon, Abner and John III. John Burroughs, Jr. died on February 14, 1757, aged 72.

Records show that his son, David Burroughs, was born in 1721 and married Sarah Tyler in 1744. They had two children, Anna and David, Jr. Son, Simon Burroughs, was married to Lydia Porter and had five children. Another son, Jonathan, married Judith Webb of Windsor in 1752, and had four children, Zebulon, Jonathan, Jr., David and Stephen. Judith Webb was the daughter of Judith and Lieutenant Zebulon Webb. In 1747, her father,

Zebulon, moved to and lived in the mansion house built by Samuel Gibbs, Jr. In 1751, her mother, Judith, died and was buried in the Ellington Parish Cemetery. Her father then moved to Stafford, remarried, and had three daughters. He died in 1760.

Abner Burroughs, another son of John and Sarah, was born in 1728. Abner married Margaret Harper, daughter of Joseph and Miriam (Thompson) Harper of Ellington in 1752. Abner was well known in town and operated his father's sawmill and later a gristmill as one-third owner with his brothers, Jonathan and Simon. His father, John Burroughs, Jr., had first leased and then purchased one acre of land with a sawmill, on the "Great Brook" from Joshua Booth, which became known as "Burroughs Sawmill." The mill operated within the family continuously until 1773. Between 1763 and 1773, each of the brothers sold their thirds to various individuals including "all utensils and privileges belonging to their one-third part of said mill."

Abner and Margaret had two children, Abner, Jr. and Roxalana, born in 1754 and 1762 respectively. Roxalana was married in Ellington in 1780 to Sanford Richardson of Somers, Connecticut.

The late 1760s, 70s and early 80s proved to be tough years for many members of the Burroughs family. After the end of the American Revolution a severe economic slump followed, leaving many owing taxes and in debt. Many were imprisoned if unable to pay or had their property seized. The Burroughs family was no exception. Abner Burroughs, Sr. and his brother, Simon, were thrown in debtor's jail in Hartford until their debts could be resolved. Many judgments were brought against Abner, Sr. in 1768 and 69. As one report noted - "Captain Joel White of Bolton vs. Abner Burroughs - judgment commanded Sheriff of Hartford or Deputy to take the body of Abner Burroughs and commit him to keeper of ye gaol in Hartford and safely keep him until he pays Joel the full sum owed." Abner was forced to give up much land during those years.

Now Abner's son, Abner, Jr., was darkening the family name on his own time. Story has it that Abner, Jr. was involved with counterfeiting. He managed to escape arrest once by dressing up in his wife's clothing and with milk bucket in hand dashed out the rear door. But he wasn't able to avoid the law forever.

Abner, Jr. was arrested in 1787 on complaint of the State of

Connecticut for passing a counterfeit certificate, for interest of money loaned to the state. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. His attorney asked that his client might be released upon procuring bail. It was then determined that Abner had been convicted of the same crime in Middlesex County, one year earlier. He had been sentenced to a whipping, a fine and sent to a Hartford jail which he proceeded to break out of. It was decided that he could, therefore, not be bailed out as his three-year term for the first offense had not yet expired. Abner, it seems by all reports, broke out of jail and escaped to Royalton, Vermont. He returned to Ellington later on where he lived until his death in 1810.

At the same time Abner, Jr. was in the news, another notorious counterfeiter was making headlines. His name was Stephen Burroughs, but was of no relation to our Ellington Burroughs family. He was the only son of a clergyman from Hanover, New Hampshire. He lived in Canada where counterfeiting of American money was not illegal at the time. There was a constant flow of money into the colonies which was put into the hands of agents for distribution. It is not clear if Abner, Jr. was one of those agents. Stephen wound up, among other places, serving time in Newgate Prison in Granby, Connecticut.

You can guess that the similarity in names may have caused some undue embarrassment to the Ellington Burroughs family, especially to Abner's cousin also named Stephen Burroughs.

Despite their skirmishes with the law many of the Burroughs men served their country and town well. Abner Burroughs, Sr. was an Ensign of the 7th Company. Abner Burroughs, Jr. served in the Revolutionary War, the Lexington Alarm, and in the Ellington Parish Trainband.

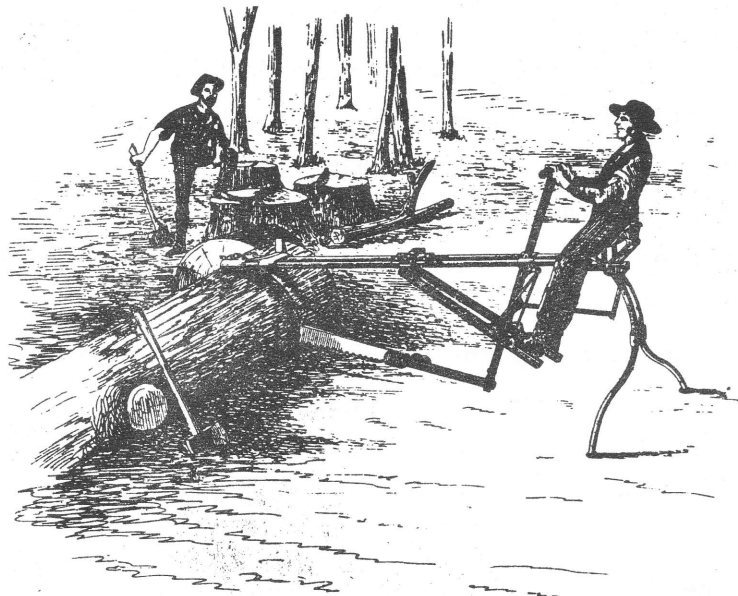
Abner, Jr. married Eunice Read of Ellington in 1773. When Abner wasn't in jail, he owned and operated a blacksmith shop. Estate records show he left the shop to his widow, Eunice, who was to have "use of said shop for carrying on the blacksmith's or any other business during the term of her natural life." Abner and Eunice had two children, Abel and Alfred.

Abel was born in 1775 with Alfred following two years later in 1777. The children grew up in Ellington Parish. Abel left Ellington and moved to Tunbridge, Vermont, when he reached manhood. Alfred married and had seven children, two of whom died early in childhood. In 1801, Alfred

became a freeman. In 1811, Daniel Kimball bought the Burroughs house and barn at a public vendue as the highest bidder for \$101.00. The blacksmith shop was bought by Robert Hyde. Both gentlemen turned the property back to Abner's widow, Eunice. Mr. Kimball gave the house and barn back at his cost, and Mr. Hyde gave the widow life use of the shop before removing it to his land nearby. Upon her death, her son, Alfred, inherited the small house and land which is located near the southeast corner of Somers and Hopkins Roads.

In 1828, Alfred Burroughs sold the old homestead and moved to Plymouth, Michigan, and, it is said, became a highly respected citizen and a Justice of the Peace. The family scattered and moved in many directions. Alfred Burroughs is the last known member of the Burroughs family to reside in Ellington.

writer - Katherine Green



THE PINNEY PIONEERS

It must be realized that in writing of the Pinney family it's not practical to attempt a complete genealogy because of the many generations of Pinneys involved and of the size of the families. Although a good deal of information is available concerning the Pinney family there is much that remains unknown. This account, therefore, will provide as much background as possible concerning what is known of the Pinneys who most influenced Ellington's history.

Humphrey Pinney was the founder of the Pinney family in America. He was born in Broadway, Somerset, England, one of seven sons of John and Johanna Pinney. Because of religious differences and poor economic conditions in England during the early 1600s, thousands of Puritans were leaving England, some going to America and some to the mainland of Europe. Humphrey, with 139 other passengers, sailed from Plymouth in Devon on March 20, 1630 aboard the "Mary and John," a 400-ton vessel commanded by Captain Thomas Squibb. The vessel was said to be a three-masted ship, and that the trip from Plymouth, England to Boston, took 41 days.

Most of the 140 passengers were from West Country families and were of varying social origins. Care apparently had been taken to assure that a good cross section of society would compose the group in order to successfully carry out the task of building a colony in the wilderness. Men were needed who were equipped to govern; men who could efficiently cope with the practical need of the colonists, such as building houses, clearing forests and planting the first crops. Men with military training were needed who could organize trainbands and artillery companies for protection from the Indians, and possibly the French and Dutch. Of chief importance were clergymen to care for the spiritual needs and instruction of the colonists.

It was on the "Mary and John" that Humphrey met Mary Hull, daughter of George and "Thomzen" Hull. Three months after their arrival in America they were married in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Their first child was Samuel who was born on July 19, 1632. On May 14, 1634, Humphrey was honored by being made a freeman in Dorchester. A freeman was a person who had all civil and political rights and was allowed to vote.

In 1635, the Pinney family left Dorchester with others and traveled to Windsor, Connecticut, where they settled. It was reported that between 1635 and 1636 that 124 "Mary and John" passengers moved to Windsor. The Windsor town records of 1640 contain a list of the first 55 settlers and Humphrey is second on the list. Humphrey died in Windsor on August 20, 1683 and his wife, Mary, died on August 18, 1684.

Although seven children were born of the marriage of Humphrey and Mary Pinney, it is their eldest son, Samuel's, descendants who have influenced the history of Ellington. Apparently Samuel was a well-respected individual for, on May 20, 1658, he was named as one of the commissioners of the Colony of Connecticut.

Samuel married Joyce Bissell on November 17, 1665 in Windsor and in 1667 moved his family to Simsbury. Samuel was listed among the 11 freemen of Massaco (Simsbury). He moved his family from Simsbury in 1676 after that town was burned by the Indians. They moved to the east side of the Great River (Connecticut) in Windsor. On January 15, 1689, Samuel Pinney exchanged land in Simsbury with John Pettibone of that town for a parcel in Windsor on the east side of the Great River.

Three children were born to Samuel and Joyce Pinney, but it is the lineage of Samuel Pinney II that will be followed in this account. He was born on November 20, 1668. Joyce Pinney died in 1689 and Samuel married Lydia (last name unknown). Samuel Pinney's death in 1715 was recorded by the church. A Windsor deed contains Samuel's will dated August 1715 in which he conveyed to Samuel II land east of the Connecticut River and north of the Scantic River. From this will we learn that Samuel was a weaver by trade as he left all the tackling he had for the looms or card wheels.

It has long been held that Samuel Pinney, Sr. was the first settler of Ellington, having acquired approximately 1,000 acres by means of an Indian deed, and that in 1717 he built a log cabin on the east side of what is now Pinney Street. The cabin reportedly stood practically across the street from where the Pinney house was built more than half a century later. The land records, however, do not support this belief. Around 1730 Samuel II did build a log cabin on about the same location, but it was on 46 acres of land purchased from Ensign Samuel Burnham.

Actually, the first Pinney to own land in Ellington was Isaac Pinney

II, grandson of Humphrey and first cousin of Samuel Pinney II. Samuel later settled in Ellington and with his three sons purchased hundreds of acres of land. Isaac II was born January 17, 1686, the first child of Isaac and Sarah Clark. Isaac II married Abigail Filley on January 26, 1709. From this marriage, four children were born: Prudence born October 6, 1710; Ann born January 12, 1712; Oliver born March 20, 1714; Isaac III born January 15, 1716.

Isaac II purchased 50 acres of land in 1715 which was the south part of a 100-acre land grant. A part of West Road and Mountain Street now runs through the east section of his purchase. Isaac II died on August 11, 1717 at age 30. The Probate Court in May 1718 appointed Abigail Pinney administratrix of the estate as well as guardian of Prudence and Ann. Joseph Skinner was appointed guardian of Oliver and Isaac III.

Abigail married Nathaniel Phelps at Hebron in 1719 and with her children moved to that town. In April 1734, the Probate Court ordered that Isaac II's 50 acres of land be divided equally between his two sons. Oliver Pinney, of Hebron, sold his share to Isaac Hubbard, of Glastonbury, and on February 15, 1738 Isaac III, of Hebron, sold his share to Simon Pearson of Windsor. Isaac III was granted 18 acres of land laid out in the "Sequestered" land division in 1747.

Samuel Pinney II married Sarah Phelps on October 24, 1698 and from this marriage six children were born including Samuel III, born February 19, 1700; Joseph, born February 12, 1710; and Benjamin, born in 1715.

Samuel II first acquired land in what is now Ellington in 1723 when he purchased 30 acres from Deacon Job Drake. The parcel lay south of the present Windermere Avenue and east of the present Pinney Street with the Hockanum River running approximately through the middle of it. It's interesting to note that Deacon Job Drake received this land as a grant in 1711 in exchange for the present Timothy Edwards Cemetery. It was named after the Reverend Edwards who came to Windsor with his bride in 1694.

In 1713, Samuel II was one of 59 signers of a petition to found a plantation to be called Tolland in the common and undivided colony land. Each signer was obligated to pay a specific amount of money to defray expenses to the treasurer of the Colony of Connecticut. The same year, 17 lots of 40 acres each were laid out in Tolland on the present Grant Hill Road, south of Gehring Road. The second lot on the east side of the road

and near the Coventry line, was assigned to Samuel II.

On March 16, 1721, Samuel II and David Grant assisted in carrying the chain for surveyor Thomas Kimberly at "Wexkashuck" (Indian name for area in and around the Great Marsh). The land was being measured out for John and Daniel, sons of the late owner, Lieutenant John Elsworth.

About 1730, Samuel II moved his family from near the Connecticut River and settled near the present Somers line on the west side of Abby Brook. On May 11, 1732, Samuel Pinney, Isaac Davis and others living at East Farms (as Ellington was then called) completed a memorial (petition) "praying of the assembly to hire a preacher amongst themselves." This occurred during the period that the Reverend John McKinstry was called to minister to the spiritual needs of the settlers.

A memorial of Samuel Pinney and others on May 8, 1735 asked that a parish be set off at East Farms. The request was granted that year and a specified area became known as Ellington Parish.

In 1738, there was a drawing for the "Equivolent" land within the Ellington Parish limits and as a descendant of Humphrey, one of the first settlers of Windsor, Samuel II was entitled to draw a lot number in a lottery. He was assigned lot #46 which was laid out some years later and found to contain 11 acres.

Descendants of the first Puritan settlers who were land owners were initially entitled to draw for a lot whenever a new land division in Windsor was proposed. This later became a controversial issue and, in some cases, had to be resolved by the court. The Humphrey Pinney descendants were numerous, and when the various land divisions went through the present Town of Ellington, there were at least 10 other lots assigned to members of this family. Only the Samuel Pinney II branch actually first settled in the area. The rest of the family members disposed of their lots after the land was surveyed.

In December 1729, Sarah Pinney, daughter of Samuel II, conveyed to her father any land and tenements she inherited from her mother, the late Sarah Phelps Pinney. Mrs. Pinney had inherited the property from her father, Joseph Phelps of Windsor. The deed was filed in March 1730, the same month the will of Samuel II was filed. It provided that his three sons, Samuel III, Joseph and Benjamin, would inherit all land formerly inherited by his late wife, Sarah.

During the 1730s the three brothers bought up a great deal of land mostly along both sides of a street that later bore the family name.

In July 1745, Joseph and Benjamin divided the land they both acquired on each side of the present Pinney Street. Joseph took the southern half or 157 acres, of which part was in Bolton (now Vernon), and Benjamin took the northern half consisting of 103 acres.

Joseph and Benjamin had each been granted lots in the "Sequestered" land division in 1752, the same year that their father passed away. A total of 595 acres of land was known to have been owned at one time by Samuel Pinney II and his three sons. When Samuel died, he left his three sons an equal share in his estate.

Samuel III inherited the house and 50 acres of land that lay partly in Somers and partly in Ellington with Abby Brook running through it. In March 1752, he sold 100 acres of land in or near the Windermere area, including his house, barn and other buildings, to Timothy Smith of Hartford. In August 1764, Samuel transferred a sizeable tract of land in Ellington and Somers to his sons, Samuel IV, Aaron and John. John conveyed 12 acres of land to his father in the north part of the parish on Abby Brook in 1767.

Benjamin Pinney, son of Samuel II, was married twice. His first wife was A. Ladd and from this marriage three children were born. By his second wife, Susanna Lathrop, six children were born. The second child being Eleazer was born in Ellington in 1752. Benjamin became captain of the 7th Company or Trainband of Windsor and was involved in the French and Indian War in 1755. The Captain died on November 25, 1777 at age 62.

Of all the Pinney men, Lieut. Eleazer Pinney was certainly one of the most prominent and perhaps the most colorful of all. He was a farmer by occupation and also became a distinguished soldier.

He was 23 years old at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. In the campaign against Burgoyne he was a sergeant in a corps of Continental militia which distinguished itself for bravery. He was engaged in the battle fought at Stillwater on September 19, 1777 and also in the battle of Saratoga on October 7, 1777. At this battle he was in one of the divisions that stormed Burgoyne's camp and he witnessed the surrender 10 days later.

After returning to Ellington following the war, Eleazer continued to

carry the title of Lieutenant which was customary in those days.

He was a representative in the legislature and held the office of a selectman for 14 years. Eleazer was often involved in the settlement of estates, guardianships and other responsible trusts, and was often jokingly referred to as the "administrator-general" of Ellington. He was married twice, first to Eunice King who bore him five children, the third child being Benjamin Pinney who was born on July 4, 1780. By his second wife, Anna McKinney, he had six children which included Loring, who was born on April 25, 1802; Nelson born on April 27, 1804 and Andrew, born on February 28, 1807.

In 1775, he started building the Pinney house and finished it in 1778 after his return from the Revolutionary War. The house has been a landmark for generations and at the time it was built it must have been considered one of the most magnificent in the area. The house is of brick and has five large brick chimneys, each having a fireplace. William Pinney, the last Pinney to live in the house, alleged that back in the days when the militia trained on the Ellington Green, they used to ride right through the front doorway, through the hall and into the kitchen to water the horses. There was one very large room or hall that was used as a community room. The first service of the Rockville Baptist Church was held in the hall.

Lieut. Eleazer Pinney died on July 15, 1835 at age 83. Under the terms of Eleazer's will all of the land was left to his sons, Nelson and Andrew, except for 10 acres on the north part of a wooded lot that he left to Loring. All of the other children received a specified sum of money that was to be paid out to them by Nelson and Andrew.

Benjamin, son of Eleazer, was a farmer who became a prominent judge in Ellington. He had an intense interest in town and church affairs. (See chapter on Probate Court.)

Nelson Pinney, son of Eleazer, grew up and continued to live at the Pinney house after the death of his father.

He married Miranda McKinney in December of 1827. Seven children were born of this marriage. The youngest, Loring, was born on April 27, 1844 at the old homestead.

Nelson became a big land owner and engaged extensively in farming and dairying, raising large herds of cattle. He also worked with his brother,

Andrew, at the trade of stone mason and in that capacity they operated a stone quarry located on the farm. Nelson served as a selectman at one time and also held minor offices in Ellington. He died in 1871.

Loring grew up on the Pinney farm and inherited it upon the death of his father, Nelson. His sister, Ann, and he were the only survivors at the time of their father's death.

Loring maintained the farm until he died on April 27, 1875. Loring married Mary Hibbard of Rockville and three children resulted from this marriage. The first child, William, was born on December 21, 1865 at the Pinney house.

William Pinney was the seventh generation of Pinneys to reside in Ellington. In both Ellington and Rockville he had educational opportunities but the death of his father, when he was but 10 years old, ended his school years and made it necessary for him to go to work.

Before settling down to farming in 1888, William worked at many different jobs including a supervisory position at age 17 in the Windermere Mills; operating a tobacco store in Windsor Locks; another mill job as well as a store clerk in Westerly, R.I. In Westerly he met and married Anna L. Lamphear on November 1, 1888. He returned to Ellington the same year and bought out the interest of his mother and his brother, Harry, in the Pinney home farm.

It should be noted that it was Harry Pinney who had the arch-shaped Pinney monument erected in Ellington Center Cemetery in 1915. The monument contains some of the family history starting with Humphrey.

In 1890, William established a milk route in Rockville and ran it continuously. His huge farm was considered one of the most productive in the area. He claimed he was the first man in Ellington to have a silo, to steam tobacco beds to eradicate weeds, and supposedly had a fine herd of white-faced cattle.

William Pinney was very much interested in Ellington and served it in various capacities. He was a member of the District School Committee for two years, tax assessor in 1903, third selectmen for the next year, and in 1905 he was state road inspector. He became first selectman in 1905, the same year that he joined Fayette Lodge, a Masonic Order in Rockville. Mr. Pinney, a Democrat, represented the town in the State Legislature in 1915. He was also very much involved in various business ventures,

including an organizer and director of the Production Credit Association, as well as a director of the People's Savings Bank of Rockville.

In view of the very limited education of Mr. Pinney his accomplishments were indeed remarkable.

Since the marriage of William and Anna Pinney failed to produce children of their own, they adopted two boys, Belmont Rand and William G. Pinney.

Mrs. Pinney died in May of 1951 and the following year when Mr. Pinney was 87 years old and no longer able to work the land, he agreed to sell the land and all of the buildings, including the Pinney house, to Louis and Antonio Gasek.

While William Pinney agreed to sell the property he retained life use of it. The actual sale was by quit claim deed on March 22, 1955 when the land and all buildings were conveyed to the Gasek family.

Two separate pieces of land were involved. The largest piece was on the west side of Pinney Street and contained the Pinney house and all outbuildings. The second, and smaller piece, is on the east side of Pinney Street across from the Pinney house.

From the time of the agreement to sell and the actual sale the Gasek family rented the land from Mr. Pinney. William Pinney died on September 21, 1956 at 90 years of age, the last of the Pinney name living in Ellington.

At one time there were two tobacco sheds, two large barns with an attached silo and some smaller outbuildings that were to the rear of Pinney house. The tobacco shed, which blew down in the hurricane of 1938, was located northwest of the house. The large barn with the silo burned prior to the sale of the property.

Mr. Gasek states that there is visible evidence of the old Pinney brownstone quarry and also traces of the old root cellar which faced north on Pinney Road.

Mr. Gasek relates that long before the purchase of the Pinney farm, he used to enjoy going to the Pinney house to visit Mr. Pinney, as he was a great storyteller. He recalled that as long as he can remember, Mrs. Pinney had been an invalid, confined to bed.

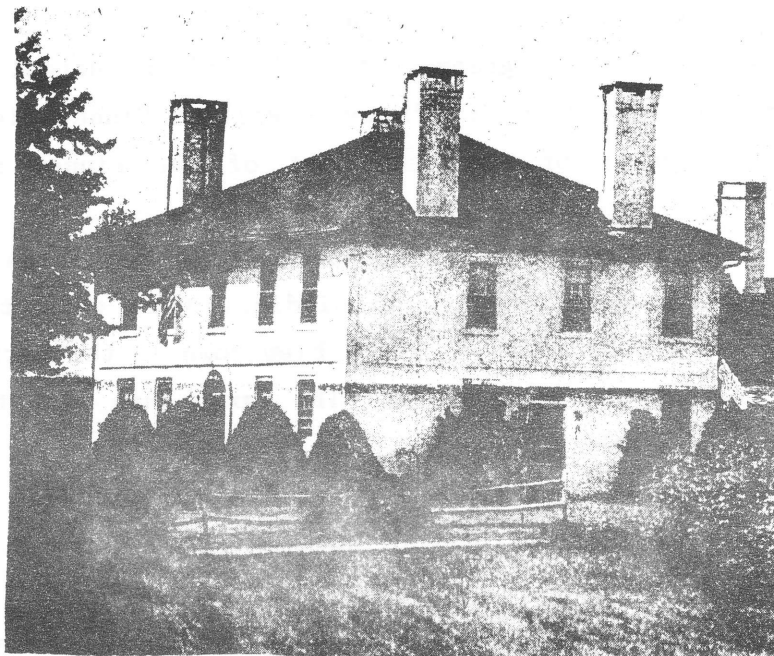
Belmont Pinney and William G. Pinney, the adopted sons of William, are still living. Belmont is now 70 years old, a retired engineer living

in Indiana and Florida. William is 68 years old, also retired, and, after living in Manchester for 38 years, moved to Somers in 1983.

Although there are no descendants known to bear the Pinney name still residing in Ellington, there is at least one family that does descend from Samuel Pinney II. Arthur Heimer, who lives with his wife, Elsie, on the corner of Windsorville and Tripp Roads, descends from Loring Pinney, son of Lieut. Eleazer and Anna Pinney. From this marriage three children were born, one being Bernice who married William Heimer. Arthur, who is now 71 years old, is one of their children. The Heimers have one child, Judith Von Temp, who lives in East Hartford with her husband and three teenagers.

There are undoubtedly many descendants of Samuel Pinney, that carry the Pinney name, scattered throughout the country.

writer - Donald E. Neff



Pinney home

THE MCKINSTRY CLAN

The Reverend Mr. John McKinstry became the first minister of the Congregational Church in 1733, when Ellington was the easternmost part of Windsor called the "Great Marsh." The minister made his first land purchase there in November 1733, and more than a year later, the area in Windsor was set off and called the Parish of Ellington.

The McKinstry family of Ellington had its origins in Scotland. The Reverend John McKinstry's parents, Roger and Mary (Wilson) McKinstry lived near Edinburgh, Scotland, until they immigrated to Ireland to avoid religious persecution during the reign of Charles II. John was born in 1677 in Brode Parish, County Antrim, Ireland. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1712 with a Master of Arts degree.

On August 4, 1718, the Reverend John McKinstry arrived in Boston and stayed a time in Worcester. Two years later, in November 1720, he was made pastor of the Sutton, Massachusetts, Congregational Church. There, John met and married Elizabeth Fairfield. They lived in nearby Oxford. Such a rigid Presbyterian as the Reverend John McKinstry proved to be too much for the Sutton congregation, which dismissed him in September 1728. Consequently, McKinstry decided to relocate his family to New York. But Elizabeth became ill as they were travelling through the East Windsor section of Windsor, forcing the family to stay there for a time. In 1730, the Reverend John McKinstry bought four and one-half acres (with a house, barn, shop, and orchard) from Andrew McKee for £170 making his residency in the area permanent. This property was located in the present Wapping section of South Windsor and was sold in November 1739 to John Bartlett of Windsor at a loss of £10 (£160).

In 1730, only eleven families lived in what became the Ellington portion of Windsor, and they sought McKinstry out as a candidate for pastor. They hired him to preach in 1731. For a salary of £40 and firewood, McKinstry became the area Congregational Church's first pastor in 1733. As pastor, McKinstry was entitled to the use of a 30-acre woodlot (west side of Somers Road) set aside in an earlier land division. After a decade, another land division was laid out, and 50 acres (south side of Frog Hollow Road) was also reserved for a minister's support. The parsonage was built in 1736 on part of McKinstry's first land purchase of

50 acres. Three years later the Congregational Meetinghouse was erected on the southeast corner of the same land.

McKinstry lived in Ellington until his death in 1754 at the age of 77. Elizabeth died at the age of 81 in 1782. Rather than be buried with his flock in Ellington Center Cemetery, he requested burial in his family's plot, located west of the Meetinghouse on his land. The request resulted from his being dismissed by the congregation in 1749 due to a difference of opinion.

The Reverend McKinstry and his wife, Elizabeth, had seven children: John, Mary, Alexander, William, Paul, Elizabeth and Abigail. Little is known about Paul, born in 1734, or Abigail, who lived from 1739 to 1814. Mary was born in Sutton in 1726 and married Daniel Elsworth, Jr., son of Captain Daniel Elsworth and grandson of Lieutenant John Elsworth. Mary died in 1801, two years before her husband. William, born in 1732, left the Ellington area and became a physician in Taunton, Massachusetts.

A grisly story surrounds the death of McKinstry's daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1736. Betsy was visiting her brother, William, and rose early in the morning to attend an ordination in a neighboring town. She was heating a flat iron by the fire and bent over the table for a minute when a slave of the family took the iron and hit her over the head. He hid her body under the stairs and fled. When he was arrested, he confessed to the crime, explaining that he'd been told that if he killed someone and ran away, he would be free. The misguided slave was executed.

John, the McKinstrys' oldest, was also a minister. Born in Sutton in 1723, he graduated from Yale in 1746 and became the pastor of the Second Congregational Church built in Springfield, Massachusetts (now located in present-day Chicopee). He actively served there until 1789. An interesting note about John was his correspondence with a former classmate, Ezra Stiles. Stiles, a clergyman, educator and lawyer, became the seventh president of Yale in 1778. A journal published in 1916 containing Ezra's correspondence included a letter from the Reverend John, who died in Springfield in 1813.

Alexander, the third child of the Reverend John and Elizabeth McKinstry born in Sutton, was the one who maintained the family homestead after his father's death. Alexander lived from 1729 to 1759 and was a

farmer. Alexander and his wife, Sarah Lee, had two children who died in infancy. Their third child was Ezekiel, who was born August 17, 1753 and died November 23, 1803.

Both Alexander and his brother, John, received their father's property, but John deeded his portion to Alexander's son, Ezekiel.

Ezekiel was the last McKinstry to live in the parsonage, since he sold it with a barn, cider mill, and part of the land to Moses Thrall in 1791. Moses' son, Reuben, sold the property in 1805 to Elihu Wolcott, who then sold it all to John Hall in 1810. After that, nothing is known for certain about the ownership and whereabouts of the parsonage.

Mrs. Harriet Delano Fowler of Holyoke, Massachusetts, granddaughter of John Hall, published an account of old Ellington homes in 1900. She described the parsonage as large and square and stated that it disappeared before 1825, when her grandfather erected a school on the site. She also claimed that Mrs. Charity Dow's house once stood on the land purchased by John Hall in "1807" and was removed to its present site (Maple Street). According to a deed in 1804, John Hall purchased 50 acres, with a house, on the corner of what is now Frog Hollow Road and Pinney Street. About 1809, he erected the house currently occupied by Emil and Leona DeBortoli. However, the town tax records for 1786-1819 have disappeared, taking with them information about the McKinstry parsonage. An 1850 sketch drawn by the Reverend Mr. George Wood, that was supposed to be of the McKinstry house, was donated to the library -- this, too, is gone.

To get back to Ezekiel, he married Rosina Chapman and they had six children: The first, Sarah (1777-1813) married James Ross, Elizabeth (1779-1794), Anna (1781-1798), Rosina (1783-1838) married Leonard Dunton, and Alexander (1785-1832), a merchant of Augusta, Georgia. Alexander married Elizabeth Thompson and died in Charleston, South Carolina. Their youngest son, Ezekiel's grandson and also named Alexander, found a place in the History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, written by Thomas McAdory Owen, LL.D. and published in 1921. The entry states that he was born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1822 and died in Mobile, Alabama, in 1879. It describes him as "colonel, 32nd infantry regiment, C. S. Army, lieutenant governor of Alabama, member Alabama legislature, lawyer and jurist." The book also traces his ancestry back to the Reverend John McKinstry and even back to Scotland.

Ezekiel and Rosina's sixth and youngest child, John, was born June 16, 1787 and he followed farming all his life. After the death of his father, he purchased the interest of the other heirs and he remained on the family homestead. Under his able management, the farm became extensive and upon his death on April 25, 1839, his farm was considered one of the most valuable in town.

John married Jerusha McCray (1789-1871) and they had six children: Charlotte, born November 28, 1816, married Edward Reese and lived in Alabama; Lee, born April 6, 1819, went to California and married there and made it his home, dying there October 10, 1881; Rosina, born March 16, 1821, married George Parnell and lived in Washington, D.C.; Fidelia, born March 22, 1823, married W. S. Massie and lived in Tennessee; Jerusha, born April 7, 1825, married Israel P. Holton and resided in Washington, D.C.; and Alexander, the youngest.

Alexander was born November 24, 1827 on the family farm. He went to Ellington schools and attended Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, for a short time. His father died when he was twelve years old and the estate was sold save the one-third interest of his mother. This interest was rented to others until Alexander was fifteen, when he and his mother moved back and ran the farm. Alexander was married March 17, 1869 to Lucy Allen. Two children were born of this union: John, who was born October 6, 1874 and who died in 1968 and George P., who was born February 21, 1878 and who died in 1923.

(On his mother's death, John bought the interest of the other heirs and built the present house in 1878. It is now the Spielman Farm at 112 West Road.)

John attended the public schools and Rockville High School. He was graduated from Huntsinger's Business College in Hartford. He was married in 1899 to Leila Waite and they had one daughter, Ruth (1901-1980). Ruth married Sterling Cooley and they had one son, Sterling Cooley, Jr. (1924-1947). John and his wife lived on the family farm on West Road until he sold it to Fred Spielman in 1931 and moved to Rockville.

John's daughter, Ruth, was an accomplished pianist and a well-known piano teacher. She lived on Orchard Street in Rockville until her death in 1980. Her husband and son had predeceased her and they are all buried in the McKinstry Cemetery, next to her parents.

George P., was also educated in the public schools and Rockville High School. He attended Wilbraham Academy for one year and was also graduated from Huntsinger's Business College in Hartford. He was interested in photography and eventually opened a photography studio in Collinsville, Connecticut, and another one in South Manchester. In 1902 he married Lena Richardson of Ellington.

Their son, John, who was born in 1903, married Faith Anderson. John died December 15, 1985 and his remains are in the McKinstry Cemetery. His widow resides in Kensington, Connecticut. John and his wife had two children: Shirley McKinstry Tooker of Woodbury, Connecticut, and John McKinstry, Jr. of Kensington, Connecticut.

It is of interest that after more than 250 years there is still a John McKinstry, a direct descendant of the Reverend John McKinstry, the first minister of the present Ellington Congregational Church.

writer - Katherine Tardif

THE BLACK SETTLERS

Beginning in the late 1700s names have appeared in the various town records that have been identified with black families living in Ellington -- Chappel, Parkis, Storms, Bement, Johnson, Hardin, Dolphin, Bacon, Ceasar, Morrison, Henry, Quircy, among them.

The first record of a land sale by a black person was in the name of Cato Quashi (Quasy) of Ellington in 1789. The 34 acres of land on lot 249 was purchased from Stephen Stimpson, about two miles east of Square Pond, on the Tolland line.

Quaggery Quircy (Quicy, Quincy) came from Canterbury in 1800 and purchased several parcels of land not far from Cato and the Turnpike Road on the east end of town. He settled with his family on the land with a house he bought from John Bradley.

When Quaggery died on December 9, 1808, at the age of 61, the estate went to his sons, Alpheus, Milcha and Henricy and a daughter, Clarissa. Clarissa was the wife of Onesimus Beebe and they lived in Tolland. Alpheus' wife, Leucinda, died on July 27, 1813 at the age of 30 and was buried in Ellington.

Henricy, who was living in East Hartford, sold part of the land and house in 1819, the same year it was quit claimed to him by his brothers and sister. Alpheus (1774-1875) became a well-known stone mason as did his brother, Milcha. In 1826, the brothers were hired by Samuel Collins, an axe maker, to build a two-story factory in Collinsville. It was the first factory in the town founded by Mr. Collins.

The Quircy brothers were assisted by an all-black crew that quarried the stone and laid the foundation and walls for the factory that took two years to build. In the 1830s Alpheus was credited with the building of three stone houses in Manchester.

Edward Carter Chappel came from Willington with his family. A son, Cyrus, age 21, was the first of the family to be buried in Ellington in 1807. The family later settled on the two acres of land at the east end of what is now called Hopkins Road. His son, Edward Chappel, Jr., bought the land in 1819 from Paul Hamilton and a house was built on it.

In 1773, Edward, Sr. was married to Eunice Williams in Chatham, Massachusetts, and they had a large family. Mr. Chappel lived in Chatham

when he enrolled in the Revolutionary War under the name of Ned Carter. His descendants honored him years later by marching in the Armistice Day and Memorial Day parades.

The area at the east end of Hopkins Road became a black settlement which the natives called "New Guinea." The road was known for many years as "Violet Road."

Violet Williams of Belchertown, Massachusetts, was married to Edward Chappel, Jr., on May 12, 1823, by Robert Hyde, a Justice of the Peace in Ellington. She was remembered as a very old lady who enjoyed sitting in front of her house smoking a clay pipe. In 1884, she was listed as being 101 years old and she reportedly lived to be 106.

During the 1800s the Town of Ellington was reportedly one of the underground railroad links, helping slaves escape to the northern states and Canada. Traveling mostly at night, the slaves were hidden in fields along the route during the day. One of these hiding places, or stations, in Ellington is said to have been in the cellar of a former inn which is still standing at the corner of Jobs Hill and Meadow Brook Roads.

The underground railroad network went through what is now Egypt Road, then called the Back or Black Road. The next stop was the Somers Inn.

Legend has it that Timothy Holton, who opened Holton's Tavern in 1781, owned a slave who lived in a third floor attic room of the inn. The tavern is located on the present Sadds Mill Road. The third-floor room is still called the "Slave Room." According to the 1790 census there were two slaves, one owned by Holton, and the other by Abraham Wallis. A census taken in Ellington in 1850 shows 33 blacks (16 males and 17 females) living in town.

Mary Dolphin was born in Hartford in 1819, but later lived in Ellington. In 1838, she married William Henry Porter (1819-1905) of Belchertown, Massachusetts. They had eight children. One of them, Charles (1849-1923), became a famous floral painter.

Charles Porter set up a studio in a wooden building formerly a refreshment stand where he did much of his work. His brother-in-law, Richard Jeffrey of Meriden, purchased land in the Fox Hill area in Rockville and built a 60-foot observation tower with a stand underneath in 1878. The tower had a platform and was equipped with a telescope where visitors paid 15 cents to view the countryside. Although it gained

popularity, the tower was never replaced after a violent storm in 1880 blew it down. Because of the view, the stand below became Charles' favorite place to paint.

Charles had a showing of his art work at Cheney Hall in Manchester and as a result of the showing, Mark Twain gave Porter a letter of introduction which enabled him to further his studies in Paris. At the present time 100 Porter paintings have been authenticated.

In the early 1800s the George Holden family lived in a small house that once stood on the present site of the Town Hall. Dolly Booth, a beloved servant, lived next door to the Holdens in the home of the Rev. Diodate Brockway family.

A small schoolhouse, built in 1825 by John Hall, was removed from its site on Main Street to the west side of Pinney Street. It became the home of the Johnson family for several generations. It was occupied by the late Austin Griffin, Jr., who was a relative of the Johnsons. His family continues to live there.

An old house, that once stood set back off the north side of Lower Butcher Road in the Windermere Mill area, was owned and occupied for many years by a succession of black families.

A well-respected black "doctor" during the Revolutionary era was Primus Monumit, whose last name meant freed. He was a slave of Dr. Alexander Wolcott. Dr. Wolcott was born in what is now South Windsor, in 1712. The doctor, a son of Governor Roger Wolcott, owned land inherited from his father. The land was partly in Ellington and partly in East Windsor.

Dr. Wolcott practiced in his native town. He was assisted by Primus who helped nurse his patients and prepare their medicines in addition to being his escort and bodyguard. By the time Primus was freed by Dr. Wolcott he was very knowledgeable on herb medicines.

Primus moved to a small cabin north of Stoughton Brook, and started his own practice, which was described as "considerable." He often visited the sick in Ellington and the other surrounding towns, including those across the river. In 1760, it was reported that he was the black soldier who served under the name of Primus Hills during the French and Indian War in General Lyman's Company's expedition to Crown Point, New York.

Andrew Morgan, who still lives in Ellington, came from North Carolina

with his family, to nearby Rockville in 1900. His father worked as a coachman and gardener for Henry Adams, owner of the Minterburn Mills in Rockville (now Roosevelt Mills).

A brother, Charles, worked at Snipsic Grove during the summer months as a pilot on one of the three steamboats owned by "Captain" Alberti T. Thompson. The grove closed in 1909. Andrew, who worked in the Belding Mills until it closed in 1927 (now Amerbelle), believes he may be the only retired black silk dye mixer in the northeast part of the country.

One well-known person who lived and worked in town was Lenzy R. Wallace, Jr. In 1972, he was the recipient of the "Citizen Of The Year" award, given by the Rockville Rotary Club, for his many contributions to the Ellington High School music department. That same year, Mr. Wallace, also received the "Alumnus Of The Year" award from the Hartt School of Music.

Since the era of the black settlers their descendants, as well as many others, continue to make the Town of Ellington their home.

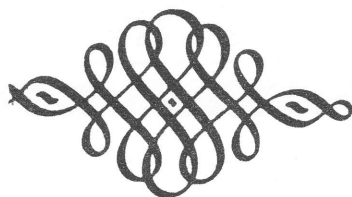
writer - Maureen C. Kosha

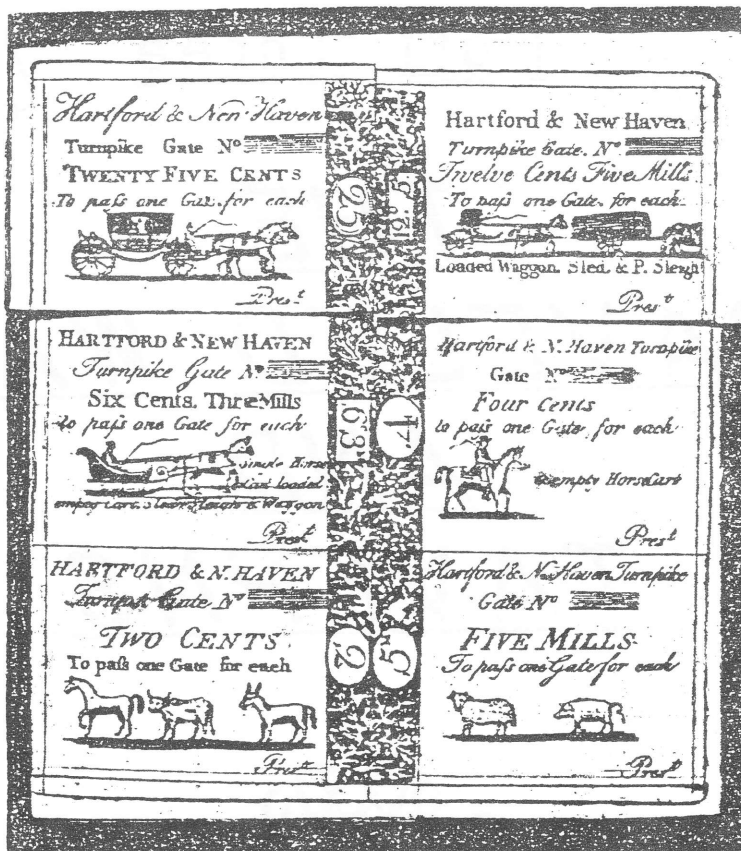


Redington Rock on Manoca Hill

§ Part Three §

THE
TRAVELED WAYS
AND
TAVERNS





Turnpike Ticket Courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society.

THE HIGHWAYS AND BY-WAYS

Ellington roads were originally laid out as allowances for projected highways or "ways" as they were first called. The "ways" passed through four Windsor land divisions that were measured out on the east side of the Connecticut River. Between 1728 and 1752 part of three divisions and one whole division was laid out within the Ellington limits defined in 1735.

The projected highways that ran north-south between the Windsor Proprietors' lots were usually 10 or 20-rods wide and a half to three-quarters of a mile apart. The east-west highways varied from three to six rods in width and were spaced at approximately one and one-half mile intervals. The exceptions to these were dictated by the terrain or contours of the tract of land. The highway boundaries, as well as other border lines, were marked by either heaps of rocks or two by six foot trenches at 40 to 80 foot intervals. The rock piles can still be found in the more remote forest areas. The border markers between towns were subject to inspection and renewal once a year by a committee of at least three appointed by the selectmen.

A Proprietor's Map published in 1985 establishes that the present Pinney Street, Tomoka Avenue, and Jobs Hill Road partly follow a 20-rod wide highway allowance running N-S that by-passed the "Great Marsh." The present town roads that evolved from 6-rod or 10-rod wide paper highways were Abbott, Kibbe, Tripp and Crane Roads. A section of a road which was laid out in the wetland between the latter two roads in 1851 was discontinued two years later. The southern section of Abbott Road was opened as a public road in 1784. The northern section of the road, which opened in 1792, at first ran due north to Holton's sawmill and gristmill located on the Broad Brook stream. About a half mile section of Abbott Road was diverted to the northeast in the early 1830s terminating at a millpond and gristmill further up the stream built by Samuel Belcher in 1825. This section was abandoned when a branch road was laid out to the northwest to meet a new road (Broad Brook Road) in 1891.

The Map also shows a 5-rod wide highway running E-W called the Ellington or Goshen Road, which is the same as the present Frog Hollow Road. This followed in part an old Indian path that led from the Connecticut River eastward toward the mountains.

The generous width of the highways lent itself to gradual encroachments. A few settlers made use of the excess land to cut timber, remove gravel and plant crops. Swine, geese and such often roamed within the fenced parts of the unused highways. The Pent Roads were one-rod wide access paths that crossed a proprietor's lot. They usually led into a town cemetery, a back woodlot, or an enclosed parcel of meadowland used for planting or for grazing animals.

When settlements first began, the well worn Indian paths, both main and secondary, were used to travel from one plantation to another. The entrances to the branch Indian paths were marked by a pile of rocks on each side, and a sapling or tree bent to point out the direction of the path.

Jury or Jurors Roads which were laid out by the surveyors usually followed the more accessible Indian pathways. The Jury Roads were so named after a committee appointed to recommend where a road should be constructed. Some roads, at a later date, were known as a County or Country Road. Certain roads were considered failures and were eventually abandoned, and others have remained unpaved to this day.

The projected highways, or parts of them, were almost all perceived as "useless" or "unnecessary." During certain specified times they were disposed of by a committee appointed either by the town or court. The committee was empowered by the General Assembly or County Court to sell and exchange the common land left for a highway. At first a proprietor was compensated with an exchange of land elsewhere when his land was taken for a public highway, or was given a cash settlement for the damages. After 1771, the damages had to be paid by those that benefited, not the town as a whole. The highway land deemed "unnecessary" was sold in sections to most of the highway abutters. In the early land records the projected highways bordering the proprietors' lots were generally described as an "ancient" or "old" highway. At a town meeting held on January 18, 1796 Colonel Levi Wells was chosen as moderator. A vote was taken "to apply the interest of the money arising on the obligations given for waste land lying in Ellington to support the schools in said society."

Under a law in 1643, maintenance of roads was placed in the hands of the two appointed surveyors in each town. Every able-bodied male between the ages of 16 and 60 and his team was required to give a day a year for

road work, or risk being fined. It was later increased to two days a year, and by 1775 it was up to five days. At one time a minister, magistrate, physician, schoolmaster or one miller from each gristmill was exempted. By the late 1770s a majority of the towns began to change over to a tax system to pay for the upkeep of the public roads. Once a tax system was adopted, the highway districts were established, subject to modification and change.

An ancient Nipmuck trail that led from Sturbridge, Massachusetts, was joined by another path from Union, Connecticut. The trail led to the Indian Springs in Stafford where it turned southwesterly towards present Ellington. The trail through Ellington skirted the south shore of Crystal Lake heading westerly in the vicinity of the earlier Crystal Lake Road that led into Hopkins and Meadow Brook Roads. Here the trail joined the Old Connecticut Path used by Windsor's first colonists that headed toward Warehouse Point on the Connecticut River. The trail became known as Lead Mine Path or Road in 1658 when John Winthrop, Jr. opened a lead mine in Tantuisques (Sturbridge) on a tract of land he purchased in 1644 from the Nipmuck Indians. In 1657, the Bay Colony granted Captain Thomas Clarke, a wealthy Boston merchant, a large tract of land in present day Union which included a high quality lead mine near Mashapaug Pond. Colonel Elisha Hutchinson, son-in-law of Captain Clark, operated the mine after the Captain's death in 1683. The mine was closed by 1699. The Nipmuck trail was one of the principal routes used to transport the graphite back-packed on burros from the lead mines to the river. The lead was generally stored, to await shipment to England, in a warehouse built by the Massachusetts Bay Colony for William Pynchon, a magistrate, fur trader and founder of Springfield. The shipping place was later shifted further south of the warehouse, and part of the route was altered to conform with the change.

A Jury Road replaced a section of the Lead Mine Path south of Square Pond (Crystal Lake) sometime after settlement was made there in 1743. The Jury Road underwent many changes over the years, and at one time the Methodist Meetinghouse built in 1792 found itself sitting on a green when a road passed north as well as south of it.

In order to reach the center or eastern part of the town the settlers took several routes, none of which were very satisfactory. The first

known route to and from the pond closely followed the Lead Mine Path. Going west the route ended at the present corner of Hopkins and Somers Roads. Porter Road, which was surveyed in 1776, ran east from Kibbe Road partly through a swamp and on towards the Stafford line. The road could only be used during the dry seasons, and eventually the lowland section was discontinued. Hubbard Lane, so named in the 1840s, was an earlier path going east from Kibbe Road for a short distance before turning north, then east, then headed south on Manoca Hill to intersect with the east part of Hopkins Road. Hubbard Lane, which is still a dirt road, was used primarily to haul timber out of the back woods to the sawmills standing near Hyde and Kimball Brooks. Other paths branching off it led to the woodlots owned by the settlers. Today most of the old trails are used as bridal paths or by hikers.

In 1834, Gordon Smith and John McKinstry contracted with the town to build a road. It was to extend from Somers Road via Lake Bonair (Tolland) past Webster Road to connect with the old road. When the new road was completed, Webster Road constructed in 1756 was lengthened about 20 feet south to meet it. The extension eliminated a portion of the old road that ran north of it between the end of Hopkins and Webster Roads. A small section of the old path on the east side of Webster Road was discontinued in 1938. The travel on Hopkins Road diminished once the new section was opened.

The early streets in the parish seldom had a permanent name. They were referred to either by location, destination, the name of a family in residence at the time, or were simply called "The Ellington Street." The latter name was often used for present Main Street.

Present day West Road (Rte. 83) was the first public road known as "The East Street." It was laid out in 1738 across several streams and through the lots of Daniel Elsworth, Isaac Davis and Simon Pearson. As compensation they each received small parcels of land adjacent to each other on the "useless" highway on the west side of present Crane Road. The three parcels in "Butternut Meadow" were sold to Samuel Thompson of Windsor. The public road, which began a half mile south of the present Ellington-Vernon line, was within the original parish limits. This portion of the south border was modified in 1760, and was the only town line ever changed. Twenty years later, "The East Street" was continued

northwards through what is now called Kibbe Road to the Somers line. The road which was declared a public highway on May 5, 1784 had undergone alterations before that date and was altered again in 1792. Kibbe Road by now had been by-passed. Many of the early tradesmen owned shops on the road between Rockville and Somers, which became a main thoroughfare and a stage route.

The "Road to the Iron Works" was a common referral to some early streets in the southeast part of the parish. They are presently known as Middle and Upper Butcher Roads and Mountain Street. The Iron Works established by Ebenezer Skinner, Jr., of Hebron, in 1738 was near the source of the Hockanum River in North Bolton (Rockville). Middle Butcher Road during the time the McKinney descendants lived in the area was called McKinney Street. James McKinney purchased land and a three-year old house on the road in 1761 from the estate of Dr. Normand Morison of Hartford. Upper and Middle Butcher Roads were also known for a time as the "Old County Road." The section of Mountain Street that was laid out in 1756 ended at the parish line not far from the Iron Works. The old road was extended to intersect with West Road in 1811.

The names of Lower, Middle and Upper Butcher Roads stemmed from the use of the roads to a slaughter-house built by Deacon John Hall next to his store during the American Revolution. The parish was part of the Town of East Windsor which during the war was known as the "Provision Town." Beef and pork were in great demand to feed the colonial troops.

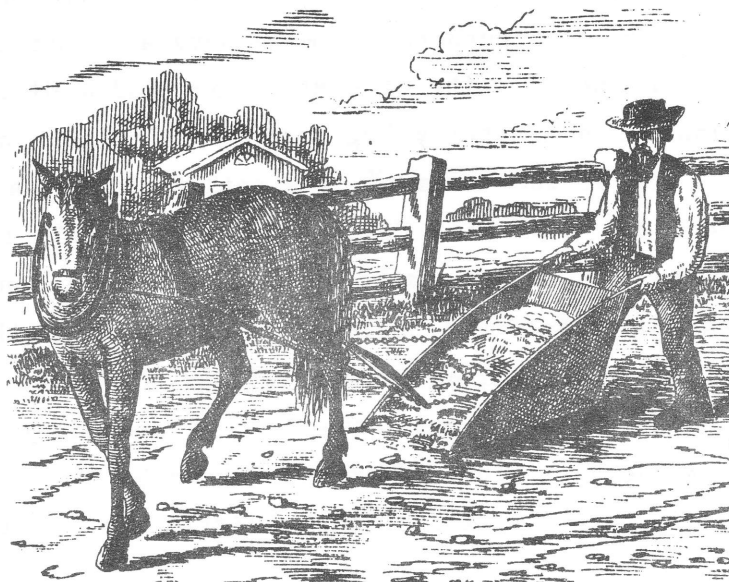
Job Colton lived near Buckhorn Brook on the present Enfield-Somers line in the early 1700s. He purportedly made several paths down the hill to the Broad Brook in the vicinity of what is now Sadds Mill Road. Here Job found good fishing, a cranberry bog nearby, and clams, and if he was lucky a pearl in a few of the "clams." The entire hill area was known as Jobs Hill. Present day Jobs Hill Road, laid out in 1749 to the Somers line, closely follows one of his paths. The Green Road, once a one-rod wide path known as Holton Road was believed to have been another path made by Job. However, a Podunk Indian winter village alongside the southern part of the road indicates it may have been a secondary Indian trail leading to and from Buckhorn Brook. A tavern owned by Timothy Holton from 1781 until his death in 1822 still stands a little west of the south end of Green Road.

The Middle Road, as Hoffman Road was once called, was laid out in 1760. The Back Road or Black Road, renamed Egypt Road, was a short cut from the Middle Road through the woods to the Somers line. By 1789, it was a three-rod wide highway which in the mid 1800s was used as a stage coach route.

For a period between 1803-1847, three toll roads passed through the town only one of which met with limited financial success. In the early 1930s the State Legislature responded to the cries of the towns to "Get Connecticut Out Of The Mud" by apportioning to them part of the state gas tax revenue for the improvement of the dirt roads. Currently the Town of Ellington maintains and supports about 67 miles of improved (paved) and about 14 miles of unimproved (dirt) roadways. There are parts of six (or $21\frac{1}{4}$ miles) of state maintained highways within the town limits. The town normally claims 50-foot rights-of-way and the state between 50 to 100 feet on its highways. There are also eight miles of privately owned dirt roads in town.

The old highways and by-ways that underwent continued upgradings over the years are now the main local thoroughfares as dictated by town growth and development.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



Road-building in the 1880s

THE TURNPIKE ROADS

When the first Massachusetts Turnpike was franchised on June 11, 1796, Captain Levi Pease, called by some the father of the "Turnpikes and Stages," was one of the charter members. Pease, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, established a stagecoach line between Boston and Hartford with another Somers blacksmith, Rueben Sikes, Jr., on October 22, 1783. The trip took four days and cost four pence a mile. The line started in Boston on Monday with overnight stops at taverns in Northboro, Brookfield and Somers reaching Hartford State House on Thursday. After leaving Somers early the next morning, the most likely route taken through Ellington Parish for a stop at Holton's Tavern was down Jobs Hill Road turning west on Muddy Brook Road to the tavern on Sadds Mill Road. The stagecoach then proceeded across the bridge over Broad Brook to a road now unused (west of Crane Road) heading southwest toward Ellsworth's Tavern in Windsorville. The following year, Springfield became an alternate route to Hartford. Eventually the route through Ellington Parish was eliminated in favor of the more profitable route. On September 7, 1785, the United States Post Office Department ordered mail to be carried by stagecoach, and Captain Levi Pease received the first government contract. In 1793, he began a fast mail service between Boston and New York which ran three times a week with only four passengers allowed in each coach. In 1794, Pease sold his interest in the business to his partner, and moved to Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, where he had purchased an inn.

Turnpike corporations were organized in Connecticut in 1792, and the first toll road completed that year (and the second in the country) was the Mohegan Road. It ran between New London and Norwich and followed an old Indian Trail. It remained a toll road until 1849 when a railroad line was opened parallel to it.

Turnpikes were conceived, when travel increased after the Revolutionary War, to provide money for needed repairs of roads already built or to build and maintain new ones. They were toll roads with gates at intervals where travelers were halted to pay for the privilege of passage. "Shunpikes" were short sections of a road leaving the turnpike on one side of the gate and joining it again on the other. They were used to avoid paying the toll. Beginning in 1803, turnpikes were constructed

with private capital. The legislators of the states involved first had to approve the newly formed corporations, and then the plans were submitted. The towns involved had the obligation to acquire and pay for the land and for any small bridge needed. Location of the road, rates, and the number of gates allowed were fixed in the charter, and once determined could not be changed without legislative consent. A person on the way to and from church, town meetings, militia duty, or a farmer going to and from his fields or a gristmill were exempt from tolls. The well-defined Indian Trails were likely choices for turnpikes to follow, as generally they were the best routes and the least costly to build.

The Stafford-Pool Turnpike franchised in October 1803 was later laid out near the east end of Ellington (Old Stafford Road, west of Nye-Holman State Forest). The turnpike ran between Tolland Courthouse and Stafford Center. In 1806, authority was secured to extend the line from the Center to the Massachusetts line to connect with the Worcester-Stafford Turnpike chartered the same year, but not completed until 1810. The newer turnpikes were linked with the Hartford-Tolland Turnpike and they became part of a shorter and more direct through route between Boston and New York. The lines were mainly used as a mail route. It took a post rider two days of night and day travel to deliver the mail between these two cities, and a week of travel over this route by post stages. In October 1813, the name was changed to Stafford-Mineral Springs Turnpike when this company assumed management of a portion of the Windham-Mansfield Turnpike Company chartered in 1800 and completed in 1810. The latter turnpike, which by-passed Ellington, ran from Franklin through Willington to the meetinghouse in Stafford. Alterations were approved in May 1828 for the Mineral Springs Turnpike. Ellington records indicate that the 1.14 mile section was abandoned in 1831 against the wishes of the town. In 1839, the General Assembly annulled the charter, and the entire road became a public charge. Between 1844 and 1854 the road was leased and was not part of the town's highway district during that period of time.

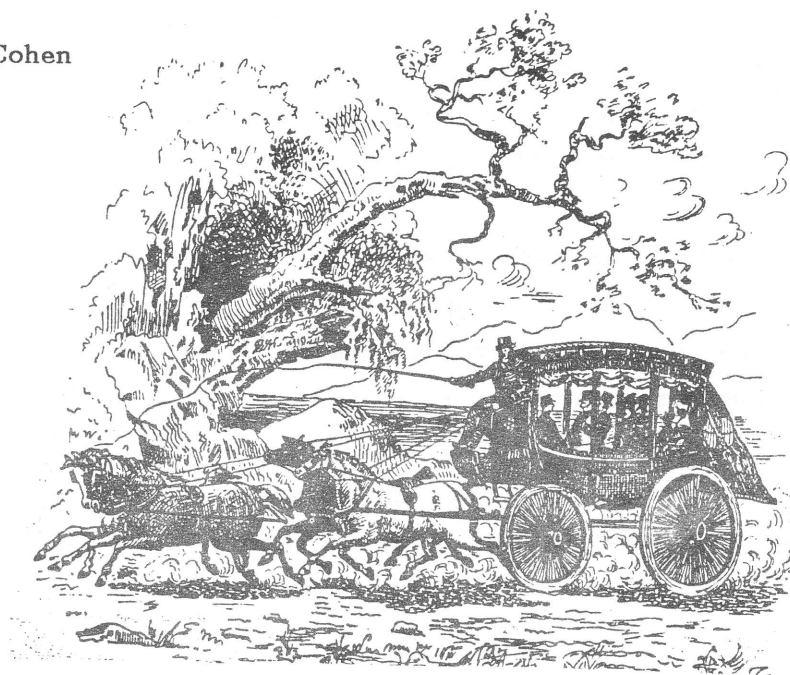
The Burbank Road was laid out from the Massachusetts line through Somers, Stafford, Ellington and down to the Tolland Courthouse by the towns involved in 1805, but the cost seemed prohibitive so the project languished. In May 1828, the Tolland-Mansfield Turnpike Company was formed for the purpose of completing the Burbank Road. The road was

extended from the Tolland Courthouse to the north part of Mansfield where it connected with the Windham-Mansfield Turnpike. A turnpike that was planned in 1820 from Wilbraham, which was to connect with the Burbank Road at the Massachusetts line, was never built. The company was obliged to build its own bridges, except those over the Willimantic and Skungamaug Rivers. Somers voted to assume the burden of the three bridges within its limits which were sanctioned by the court in May 1834. The line proved unprofitable and their charter was repealed in 1847. The Burbank Road, as it is still called in Ellington, is located west of Crystal Lake, and was declared a public highway in 1853.

The Tolland-County Turnpike Company was chartered May 1809 and was opened a year later. It began in Ellington at Foster's Tavern on the northeast corner of Somers and Snipsic Lake Roads running easterly around the head of Shenipsit Lake through Tolland and Willington to Ashford where it connected with the Boston Turnpike. Business was very poor, and the company petitioned for extra gates October 1810, but all that was allowed by the court a year later was a change of one of the gates into two half gates. Their charter was revoked in May 1834. The Tolland-County Turnpike followed the Old Connecticut Path which section was known as the Windsor-Warrenville Path. A part of that path at the head of the lake lies underwater due to the dams later built along the lake outlets.

Turnpikes ceased in Connecticut in 1896 after Derby became the last turnpike to relinquish its rights.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



THE INNS OF THE 1700s AND 1800s

An inn during colonial days was also called an "ordinary," a hostelry, a public house or more likely a tavern. At first innkeepers were appointed by the town and then licensed by the court. Some innkeepers were known to be addressed as "Governor," a title of respect. Inns were also used by a town when space was needed to hold a town meeting, elections, court or for a post office. Records from Ellington in the 1700s show that cider sold for twenty-four cents a barrel, cider brandy cost twenty-five cents a gallon, and gin was called "forty-foot," a reference to its strength. The cost of a drink at an inn in the 1840s was commonly a three cent silver piece.

There were many inns in Ellington in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, some of which are still standing. Most Ellington inns were not built for that purpose. They were remodeled dwelling houses that were conveniently located around the village green, or on a well-traveled stage route near or on a cross road. Details of some of these establishments are sketchy, while in other cases the records offer interesting anecdotal information.

From the 1780s until his death at age 74 in 1815, Captain Ichabod Wadsworth ran a public house. The house which had an underground barroom stood on the east side of Somers Road about a mile from the Somers line. Wadsworth, who was a sergeant in the French and Indian War took part in an expedition to Cuba in 1762, and also served during the Revolutionary War. He wore a three-cornered military hat to church where he arrived in a red wagon drawn by two horses. The original Wadsworth house was destroyed by fire in 1922 leaving only the stone steps at the front entrance to mark its site.

By 1787 there were three other public houses, licensed to Colonel Levi Wells, Colonel Joseph Abbott, and Timothy Pitkin. In 1814, the records show three taverns, Holton's, Foster's, and Morgan's.

The William Morgan tavern, located opposite today's Center School on Main Street, was built during the Revolutionary era. Morgan, who married his second wife, Jerusha Elsworth, the youngest daughter of Captain Daniel Elsworth, was a blacksmith and a Master Mason. He was also the first postmaster of Ellington. In 1822, the town's first post office was housed

in the tavern. Records show that George Collins, a post rider, picked up mail at the tavern beginning in January 1821, after he posted a \$500 bond with the understanding that he would continue to carry mail from Ellington to Somers and Wilbraham, Ludlow and Belchertown in Massachusetts. From 1825 to Morgan's death in 1827, this tavern was also the meeting place of Fayette Lodge #69 of Masons, a chapter which had been organized in Ellington. The barroom was in the northeast corner of the first floor, and the entrance to the house was originally on the east side.

Holton's Tavern, in an area later known as Sadds Mill, was built by John McKnight, formerly of Hartford, who purchased the land in 1767 and built a small house on it that same year. By the time he sold it ten years later to Oliver Hamlin for £60, there was a substantial-sized house on it. The property passed through several owners before Timothy Holton bought it for £300 in 1781 for a tavern. Holton had come from Killingly to Union in 1769, where he was disliked by his neighbors both because he was a Tory and because he was regarded as being "a man of no principle or honor." The Tolland County Leader in 1891 contains an article by Austin Chapman in which he notes that Holton was considered "a person in his dealings much given to intrigue, accompanied by crafty and trickish designs." Chapman states that he "learned some fifty years ago from aged persons who were intimately acquainted with him" the following story to support this. Holton had first owned a tavern in Enfield. An improvement in the roads left his tavern in an area which was seldom traveled and, as his business seriously declined, he was anxious to sell. He found a farmer in Ellington who was willing to swap residences with him, but the farmer had doubts that the Enfield property drew enough patronage to be profitable. Holton solved the problem by inviting the farmer to visit his hotel for a day to see for himself. On the appointed day, he invited all of his former customers to call at the inn and sample his liquors, with the promise of a "future reward." The ruse was successful and the land trade was accomplished, to the benefit of Holton and the obvious detriment of the farmer. Holton, who also owned one-quarter interest in a large distillery in Warehouse Point, became one of the wealthiest men in Ellington. A census list in 1790 noted that he owned one slave. He died in 1822.

In 1783, Levi Pease and Reuben Sikes, two blacksmiths in Somers,

started a stage line between Somers and Hartford. The stage stopped at Holton's Tavern to pick up passengers before proceeding to Windsorville, to the Ellsworth Tavern. The stage stop was short-lived.

In 1801, Gideon Granger of Suffield was appointed Postmaster General of the United States by President Thomas Jefferson, and he went to Captain William Robinson's hotel in Somers to celebrate with his friends. As Robinson's entire stock at the time consisted of a quart of rum, he dispatched his son on horseback to ride to Holton's Tavern for two gallons of choice rum. On the lad's arrival back at Robinson's hotel, the two jugs cracked together and broke, but the men managed to salvage enough of the liquid to enable the party to celebrate.

John Beasley bought Holton's Tavern in 1833. He took out licenses to operate it from 1834 to 1838, after which it ceased to be used as a tavern. It remained in the Beasley family for almost a hundred years.

A house reportedly built in 1784 stands on the corner of Somers and Snipsic Lake Roads. Warham Foster, a farmer and innkeeper, occupied the house which stood on land owned by his father, Abel Foster when Abel died in 1797. Warham encountered financial difficulties, and in 1798 was confined to the Tolland gaol. His house was mortgaged in order to raise the money for his release. After he died in 1817, Gordon Smith (1795-1858) from Enfield kept a hotel there. John Chapman, known as "Old Crackle" had the place until 1845 and then sold to Horace Chapman (no relation). Known as the American House, it was one of the stops on a stage route between Rockville and Springfield. An advertisement from 1854 in the Rockville Library informs the public that the stage will leave Rockville at 6:30 a.m., travel through Ellington, Somers, North Somers and East Longmeadow, arriving in Springfield in time for the noon trains. The stage left Springfield at 2:30 p.m. for the return trip to Rockville. When Horace sold the property in 1888 to Friederick Pierson, a lumber dealer, the inn had already been remodeled into a dwelling house.

Colonel Joseph Abbott, who served in the Revolutionary War from Pomfret, purchased land in the southwest part of the village in 1782. A house on the west side of what is now called Pinney Street near the Five Corners was licensed as a public house in 1787. There were also a cider mill and still house on the Abbott farm. Joseph Bermant owned the house when it was destroyed by fire in 1923.

In 1791, Jabez Chapman, Jr. who was married to Timothy Holton's daughter, Damaris, built a house north of the village green, which is now apartments owned by the Hatheway family. In 1795, it was owned by Timothy Holton who sold it to Joseph Lord. In 1828, John Howe Holton, Timothy's grandson, bought it to be used as a tavern. A room on the second floor was rented by the Masons from May 1, 1828 to September 1, 1829, which was their second home. A year later, John sold it to Elisha Pember of Vernon, and it became known as Pember's Inn. Pember sold the house to Hiram Belcher in 1835, and in 1839 Joel W. Smith of Meriden came to Ellington and purchased the house, which continued to be used as a hotel. Smith was a postmaster, served as Judge of Probate, and had charge of the hearse house that stood east of the hotel. In 1864, this hotel was sold to Fenlow Dow who owned it up until his death in 1904.

Franklin House, which stood on present Maple Street next to Pitkin's store, had quite a few proprietors. It was first known as the home of James Chapman when he married his second wife, Agnes Damon Griswold, in 1820. William L. Ransom, who was a house painter married to Julia Chapman, reportedly was the first proprietor of the hotel. James Chapman owned more than one piece of property when he died at age 72 in 1838. The hotel was then sold to Lucius Chapman, a local merchant. Four years after Henry Gunn, of Springfield, became the proprietor in 1847, the town authorized him to continue keeping a "house of public entertainment." A dance hall was added which in later years was also used as a court room. In 1867, George H. Walker, formerly of Norwich, owned it and renamed it the Ellington Hotel. Charles W. Lay next owned it, and David P. Leonard bought it from Colonel Lay in May 1872. Leonard was a licensed taverner, who ran the hotel until 1877. Edward O'Neil was the owner on November 3, 1907 when the house burned. It was replaced by the former Rockville House, which was built in 1843 by Samuel Rose and Hubbard Kellogg. Rockville House first stood on the corner of Middle Road and Park Street in Rockville, but in 1851 it was moved to the site of the present Sykes Building to make room for a larger hotel. In 1908, it was moved to Ellington to the site of the former Franklin House, and renamed the Colonial Inn. It continued to be used for a number of years, and then was rented as a dwelling. The O'Neil heirs sold the property in 1937, after which the building was converted to apartments.

A three story building set partially into a sand bank near the cemetery on Sandy Beach Road was taken down in 1975. It was built on land owned by the Dimmick family in 1809, and over the years served variously as the Square Pond Hotel and post office, a store and homestead. The building had a double decker attic, a wine cellar, a tavern room with oak beams, and a door on the second floor that could be entered from the back hill. An extra large barn and an ice house once stood on the property.

One of the tavernkeepers, Asa Lewis, Jr., who was also a merchant, learned his trade at the General Lyon Inn in Eastford. Asa's wife, Louisa, was a member of the Lyon family, and his mother, Phoebe, was the daughter of Moses and Mary Slater, who lived at Square Pond. Henry C. Aborn kept a store in the building in the mid 1800s before moving to another store in Ellington Center. Earl Rich bought the property while still in the service in 1943, and after his discharge set up a general store in the building. Today the site bears no trace of its past usage.

An old Newell house that burned down on Newell Hill in the Crystal Lake area in 1933 was reportedly used at one time as an inn. Further east on the west shore of the lake in the late 1800s was the Bowler Hotel which became a popular resort. A brick house built in 1824 on the northeast corner of Jobs Hill and Meadow Brook Roads is thought to have been an inn, and also part of the underground railroad which helped runaway slaves escape to the north. In the 1830s Francis Keeney and his brother, Albert, kept a hotel near the center of town for several years. Francis later became the proprietor of the Rockville House. About the mid 1850s a tavernkeeper, who also called himself a doctor, was nicknamed "Ale and Lasses" due to his principal use of the two ingredients in most drinks he served. In 1870, the vacant Hall school building was leased for a hotel for one year by Lewis W. Ladd. He opened the "Ellington House" and acquired a tavern license. His wife, Jennie, died that year and Ladd and his two children moved to Warehouse Point where he rented and then purchased the Windsor Hotel.

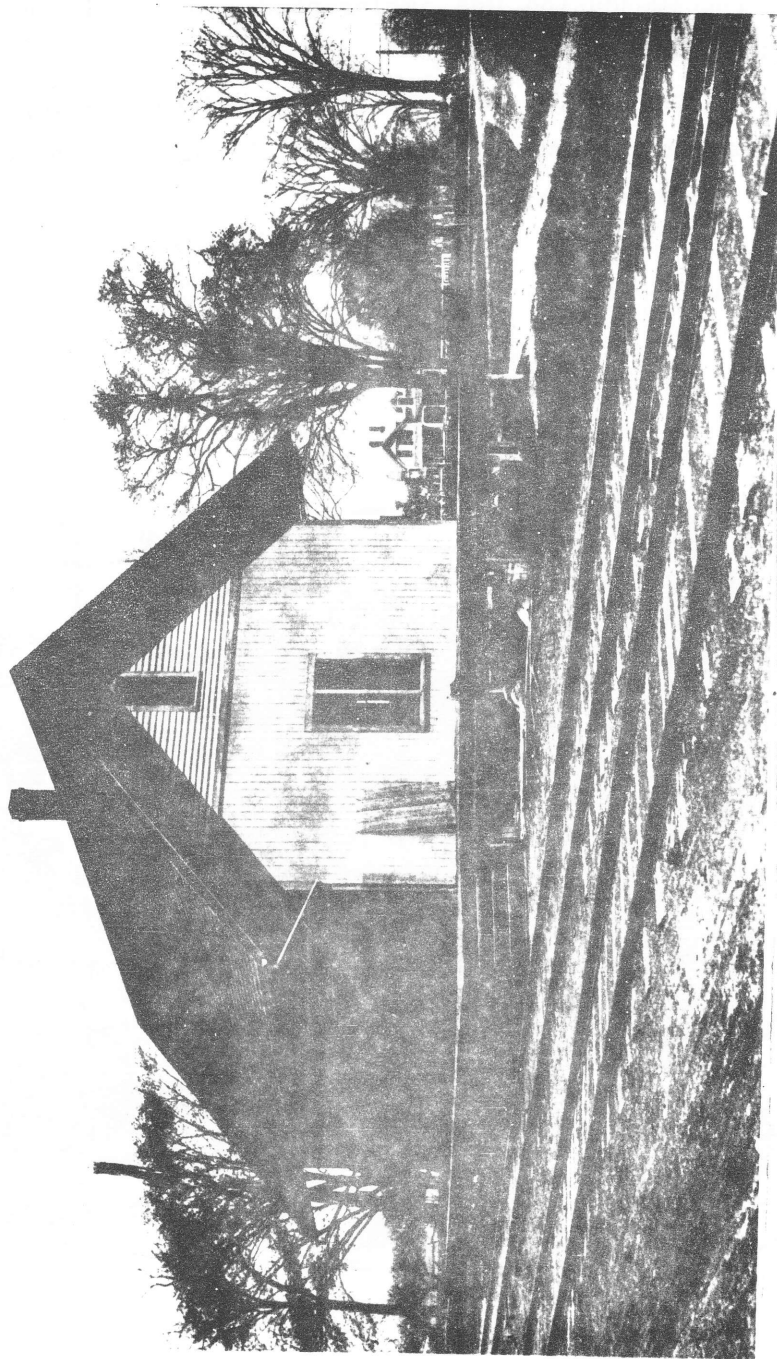
Liquor licenses were apparently not a requirement in the early years, as the first retail license to sell wine and "spirituous liquors" was issued in 1833. The licenses listed in Ellington were T. Pitkin, Lucius Chapman, Roswell Brown, Ralph Gillette and Salathiel Chapman, Jr., who were all merchants. Horace D. Fuller, who came from Monson,

Massachusetts, in 1836, purchased property in the south part of town and the same year took out a liquor license. In 1872, it was voted at a town meeting to instruct the selectmen not to recommend any license for the sale of "spirituous liquors" for the ensuing year. It is not clear whether this recommendation was implemented. There is no record of any licenses issued after 1878.

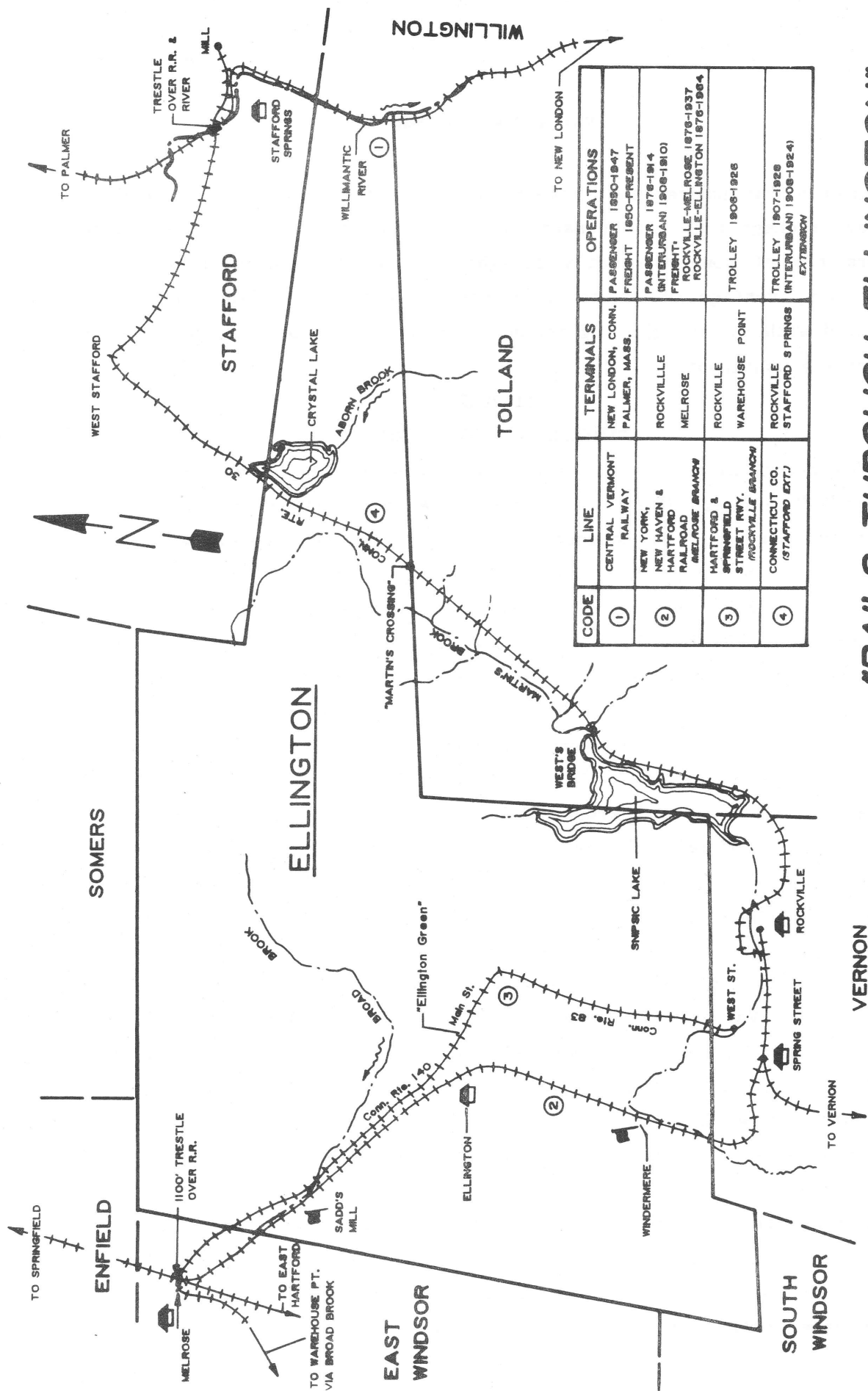
Coming into the latter part of the twentieth century, Ellington has no inns, but many establishments scattered throughout the town where wines or "spirituous liquors" can be obtained.

writer - Ruthanne M. Flaum





RAILROAD DEPOT - Built 1876 (Corner Pinney St. and Frog Hollow Rd.)



CODE	LINE	TERMINALS	OPERATIONS
①	CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY	NEW LONDON, CONN. PALMER, MASS.	PASSENGER 1880-1947 FREIGHT 1850-PRESENT
②	NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD RAILROAD MELROSE BRANCH	ROCKVILLE MELROSE	PASSENGER 1876-1914 FREIGHT (INTERURBAN) 1908-1910 ROCKVILLE-MELROSE 1876-1937 ROCKVILLE-ELLINGTON 1876-1964
③	HARTFORD & SPRINGFIELD STREET Rwy. (ROCKVILLE BRANCH)	ROCKVILLE WAREHOUSE POINT	TROLLEY 1908-1926
④	CONNECTICUT CO. (STAFFORD EXT.)	ROCKVILLE STAFFORD SPRINGS	TROLLEY 1907-1926 (INTERURBAN) 1908-1924 EXTENSION

"RAILS THROUGH ELLINGTON"

Scale: 1" = 1.2 Miles

LEGEND:

DEPOT

FLAG STOP

MAP BY: ALFRED E. SCHINDLER, L.S.

RAILS THROUGH TOWN

Only a few hundred feet remain of the several miles of railroad and trolley trackage that once passed through Ellington. Through the extreme eastern tip of town the daily freights of the Central Vermont Railway still pass, vestige of an era when the rails were burnished bright and clattered with the movement of townspeople and their goods to and from the rest of the continent.

RAILROADS

CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY

The first railroad to enter Ellington was the New London, Willimantic & Palmer RR in March 1850. The tracks were laid north from New London to tap inland markets. It connected at Palmer with the Western RR in 1850 (later Boston & Albany RR) and at New London with the New Haven & New London RR in 1852 (later part of the New York, New Haven & Hartford RR). Reorganized as the New London Northern in 1861, the line added a direct steamship connection to New York in 1868. The Vermont Central RR leased the New London Northern in 1871 to gain control of a through route between Montreal and New London. Vermont Central reorganized twice, in 1872-73 and in 1898, emerging as the Central Vermont Railway. As part of the 1898 reorganization the Grand Trunk Railway, a Great Lakes railroad seeking access to industrialized New England, acquired two-thirds of Central Vermont's stock and control of its operations. In 1922, transcontinental Canadian National Railway bought control of the Grand Trunk and its subsidiary, Central Vermont, a control maintained in the 1980s. Central Vermont Railway's operational headquarters is St. Albans, Vermont.

Central Vermont's single track mainline follows the Thames, Shetucket, and Willimantic River valleys in its path through Connecticut. Originally laid with 56 lb. (per yard) iron rails, the line was relaid with safer, more durable steel rails in 1883. Today 85 and 100 lb. rail (including several miles of continuous welded rail) ballasted with stone predominates.

Normal freight service on the Central Vermont is six or seven days a week, one train in each direction. Southbound traffic is composed mainly of lumber, paper, grain, and copper, while empties being returned predominate northbound. Passenger service ceased in early 1947, shortly

after express boat operations between New York and New London were ended by labor problems in late 1946. During the prosperous train-boat express operations Central Vermont had run "mixed" trains (express, mail and passenger cars in the same train) on a regular schedule. Express cars were set out and picked up at several points (including Stafford Springs) by trains in both directions and parcels were later distributed by truck. Supplementing the "mixed" trains when patronage was heavy and replacing them in the end were self-propelled Brill cars, often with a trailing coach.

Although never directly important to the town because of its remote location, the section of track inside Ellington has outlived the other lines. It is visible from the highway bridge on Route 32 near the Tolland line less than a mile south of Stafford Springs.

NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD RAILROAD

Despite early arrival of railroads in Vernon (Hartford, Providence & Fishkill RR, 1849), Stafford (New London, Willimantic & Palmer RR, 1850) and Rockville (Rockville RR, 1863), Ellington lacked a bona fide rail connection until the late 1870s. The Connecticut Central RR, connecting Springfield and East Hartford, received approval from Connecticut's Railroad Commissioners on August 24, 1875 to build a branch from Melrose to Rockville via Ellington. Construction began soon thereafter.

From Melrose the line ran southeast, crossing farmland to the center of Ellington, then south along the western edge of the marshes and east into Rockville. The 7.3 mile branch was laid with 56 lb. iron rail and hand hewn ties. It opened for use October 5, 1876. Passengers were accommodated at three locations in Ellington: at the center of town where a modest wooden depot was built near the intersection of today's Pinney Street and Frog Hollow Road and at flag stops in the Windermere and Sadds Mill sections. Passenger trains of the day were limited to 20 miles per hour and freights 15 miles per hour -- air brakes had yet to be perfected and hence not in general use.

In 1880, the Connecticut Central RR was leased for 15 years to the larger New York & New England RR. In 1887, the Connecticut Central was deeded to the New York & New England and a period of improvement began. Steel rails replaced iron ones and cinder ballast was added. In the 1890s

heavier rail was put down. A reorganization of the New York & New England RR in 1895 resulted in formation of the New England RR, which was leased to the New York, New Haven & Hartford RR (hereafter New Haven RR) for 99 years in 1898. The New Haven RR eventually bought the New England RR in April 1908.

During 1906-08, the New Haven RR and its subsidiary, Consolidated Street Railway Co., erected overhead catenary wires on the East Hartford-Vernon-Rockville and Rockville-Melrose railroad lines to permit use of trolley cars over them as parts of the Interurban system. The purpose of the Interurban was to get trolleys off the street lines and onto railroad lines where delays were fewer and greater speed was possible, hence improving commuting times between Hartford and the suburbs. Interurban operations began in January of 1908. Cars for Ellington and Melrose departed the Rockville line at West Street, the site of a car barn and powerhouse. On the Rockville-Melrose line, Interurbans were a last hope for winning passenger patronage from a competing street railway and the insurgence of autos. It failed because of infrequent service and cost factors. In 1914, passenger service on the line was withdrawn.

Freight shipped to and from Ellington was largely agricultural and related commodities: fertilizer, manure, lime, feed, grain, field crops, implements, and timber products. During the late 1930s the financially ailing New Haven RR curtailed or eliminated service on many of its less traveled lines. The Melrose-Ellington section was formally abandoned in December 1937. Most of the trackage was removed by the early 1940s. Abandonment of the Rockville-Ellington segment was authorized in March 1964, and track removal was carried out within the next few years. The station in the center of town was dismantled for its lumber in the late 1940s. The open-faced wooden shelters at the flag stops at Sadds Mill and Windermere had met the same fate. A few sections of the right-of-way are still visible, primarily near Sadds Mill and along Pinney Street.

STREET RAILWAYS (TROLLEYS)

HARTFORD & SPRINGFIELD STREET RAILWAY

(Rockville Branch)

In the early 1900s, railroads began to feel competition for passenger

traffic from street railways (trolleys): light-duty rail lines operating electrically-powered cars on routes that often followed or actually ran on roadways and streets. Trolley roadbeds required less grading, utilized lighter rail and smaller (than railroad) ties, and were usually gravel ballasted. The cars typically operated singly, accelerated and decelerated quickly, handled steep grades and sharp corners with ease, and were competitive because of the frequency with which they often ran. Some street railways carried mail, express, and even freight.

In 1901, legislation was passed chartering the Rockville, Broad Brook & East Windsor Street Railway Co. By 1903, a survey of the proposed line to connect the Hartford, Manchester & Rockville Tramway Co. (at West Street, Rockville) with the Hartford & Springfield Street Railway Co. (at Bridge Street, Warehouse Point), a distance of more than 14 miles and passing through Ellington, was completed. After some haggling among localities along the route, land acquisition was begun in May 1905. The Hartford & Springfield bought out the Rockville, Broad Brook & East Windsor and initiated construction. Carloads of ties, rail, poles, and wire were sent to towns along the route and construction proceeded eastward from Warehouse Point, where a 1000 Hp steam generator provided power for the line. The Rockville Branch was opened to the public on May 20, 1906. Fares were 5 cents per zone or 25 cents between Rockville and Warehouse Point; service was hourly through most of the day.

From West Street in Rockville, the line ran along today's Route 83 to its intersection with Main Street in Ellington, where it turned west toward the Green, crossed it, and left the town center on today's Route 140. Roughly paralleling the railroad tracks to the west, the line ran northwest toward Melrose and left the road to run overland just past Sadds Mill. At Melrose the street railway tracks crossed the railroad atop an 1100-foot wood and steel trestle. After bridging the Scantic River near Broad Brook, the tracks ran past the Piney Ridge amusement park and the site of today's Trolley Museum, crested a ridge near Route 5, and descended into Warehouse Point.

Construction of Piney Ridge, a company-owned amusement park in East Windsor that was accessible only by trolley, was begun by the Hartford & Springfield in March of 1906. Located between Broad Brook and today's Trolley Museum, the park drew huge crowds after its opening on Memorial

Day of 1906. It grew to include a dance hall-roller rink (with large pipe organ), theatre, restaurant, merry-go-round, baseball diamond, and picnic areas. In its heyday, the park generated thousands of additional fares for its owners on weekends and special occasions.

For more than a decade after its construction the Rockville Branch and the Hartford & Springfield Street Railway Co. as a whole did rather well, competing effectively with the New Haven RR and Consolidated Street Railway Co. (later Connecticut Co.) for passengers and managing to retain their autonomy. The New Haven, under J. P. Morgan and Charles Mellon, sought monopoly over New England transportation and had succeeded in acquiring a large portion of Connecticut's trolley lines. During World War I and the years following the Hartford & Springfield's fortunes declined. Coal shortages restricted power generation, jitneys and autos siphoned off passengers, and in some years winter weather closed down operations for weeks on end. Service reductions and fare increases only postponed the end. In 1925, Hartford & Springfield Street Railway reorganized, replacing nearly all trolleys with buses. The Rockville Branch ended service on July 1, 1926 and was dismantled for scrap by the end of the year. In Ellington, the only part of the former grade still visible can be found running through the woods just across Route 140 from the Refuse Gardens.

THE CONNECTICUT COMPANY

(Rockville Interurban -- Stafford Extension)

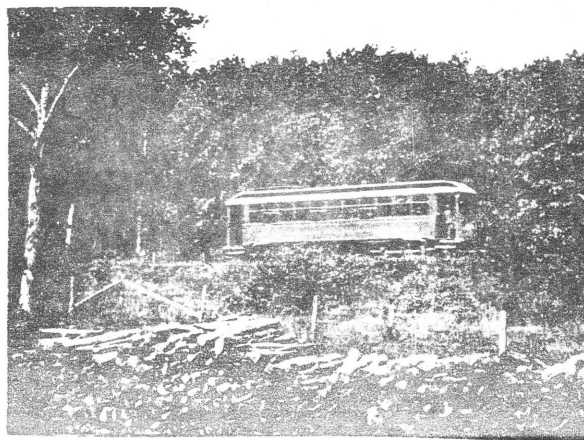
The Consolidated Street Railway Co. connected Rockville and Stafford with trolley service during 1907-08 to enable people north and east of Rockville to make connections for Hartford. The beginning of Interurban service to Rockville in 1908 reduced travel time even further. In addition to passengers, trolley cars on this line also hauled express packages as part of a statewide network.

A car bound to Stafford from Rockville left the depot along Market Street, climbed Park and School Streets, negotiated the reverse curve on the embankment across from Amerbelle (formerly American Dye), went up Grove Street and passed by the cemeteries and old fairgrounds before heading north. Once across Route 74 the line followed the eastern shore of Snipsic Lake to West's Bridge at the northeast corner of the lake.

From there it ran straight for more than two miles before emerging at Martin's Crossing on the Tolland-Ellington line. From that point the roadbed ran along the path of today's Route 30 past Crystal Lake to West Stafford, where it turned east across woodland and fields before crossing Cooper Lane on a bridge. The line passed south of the fairgrounds (now Stafford Speedway), crossed the Central Vermont Railway tracks and a river atop a high, 300-foot long, three-span bridge (piers still standing), and entered the business district on Main Street. The tracks ended at a mill just beyond the railroad station. The New Haven RR reportedly considered extending the line to Worcester via Fiskdale and West Auburn. The direct Hartford-Worcester rail link would have had a running time of about two hours if constructed.

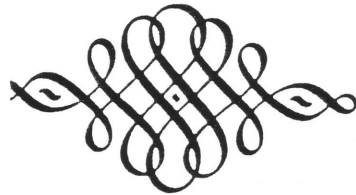
Interurban service to Rockville lasted until 1924, but cars continued to arrive in town on the slower, circuitous street lines. Cars to Stafford via Rockville, Tolland, and Ellington ran until June 1928, when service north of Martin's Crossing was replaced by New England Transportation Co. (another New Haven RR subsidiary) buses. On November 10, 1928 service was cut back to West's Bridge. Buses replaced all trolley service to Rockville on April 27, 1931. All of the former trolley roadbeds in Ellington now lay beneath Route 30, but sections in Rockville, Tolland and Stafford remain obvious even today.

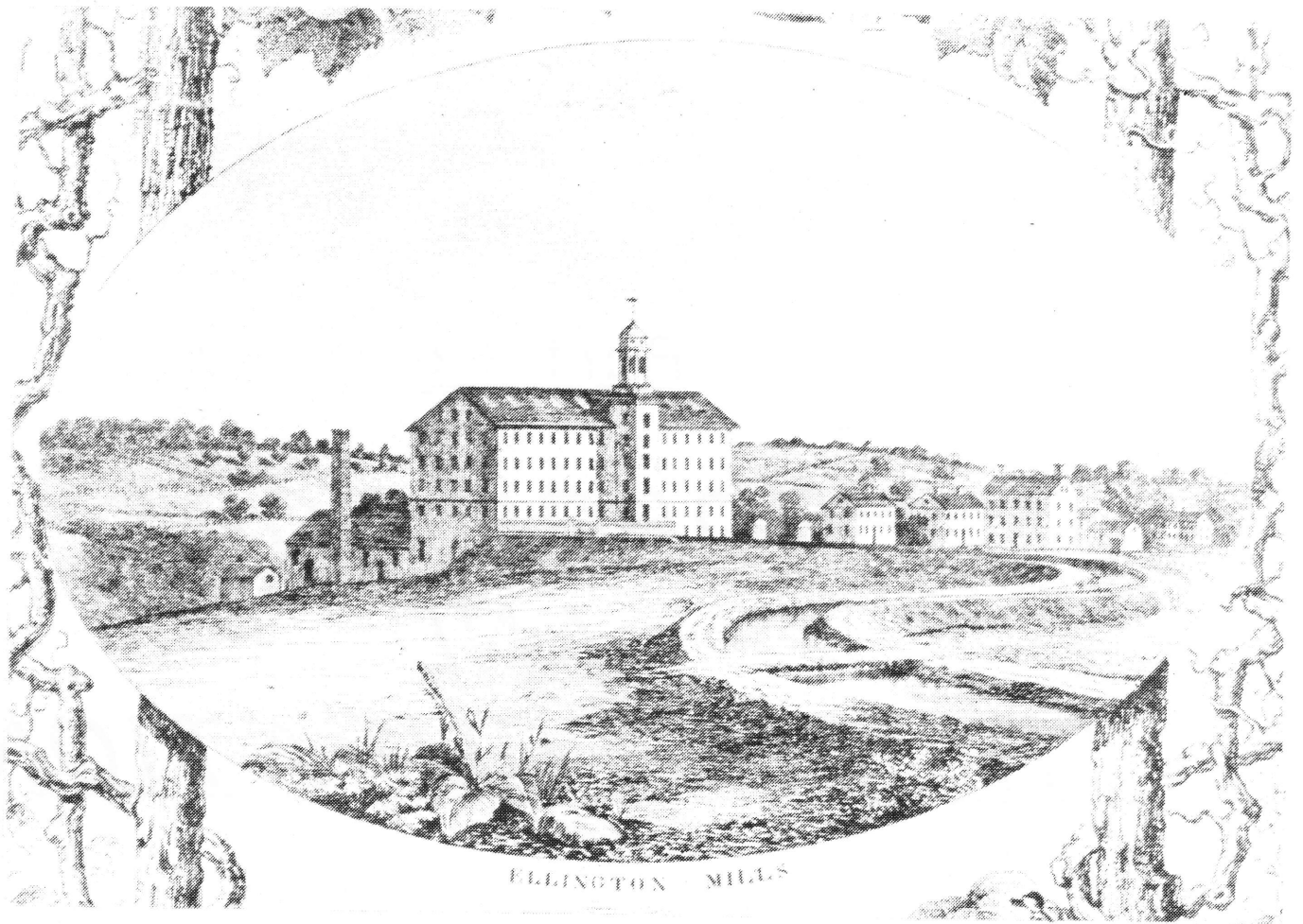
writer - John E. Wraight, Jr.



§ Part Four §

PROPRIETORS
AND
THEIR OCCUPATIONS





Sadds Mill Pond, Dam and Gristmill

THE VILLAGE MILLS AND STILLS

The mills in Ellington date back to that period in time when the area was the eastern part of the town of Windsor. Settlers began to trickle into the area after 1716. By the time it became the Parish of Ellington in 1735, there was enough demand for lumber to warrant a sawmill. The mill was established on the south bank of the Broad Brook in the northwest section of the parish. Other mills were eventually set up on sites along both sides of the stream within a mile of the first sawmill. The section with two mill ponds is presently familiarly known as Sadds Mill.

In the late 1700s a gristmill was erected on the bank of the Hockanum River a few miles south of the center of the town. During the 1800s the area was developed into a manufacturing village which was named Windermere after either the town or lake both in the County of Westmorland in the northwest part of England.

Present day electrical and diesel power were preceded by steam power and in colonial days by water power. A number of dams with spillways and water wheels sprang up along the various water courses that were scattered throughout the area. They powered the local sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills, and shinglemills. Some mills were family operated and others were partnerships which frequently changed hands. Wherever a gristmill or "corn cracker" located, a gin still operation was usually set up nearby. Some still owners depended on the miller to grind the rye which was needed for their product. A farmer would sometimes leave the miller with a certain percentage of his ground grain as payment. The grains grown by the local farmers were used primarily for flour which was bartered or sold by the millers. The great water-powered millstones also produced corn and oats ground into feed for horses and oxen. By the late 1880s grinding wheat by millstones became outmoded due to a Hungarian process introduced in 1870 that eliminated the powdered husks by use of the roller mills.

The fires and freshets reported during the 1800s took their toll of the mills, bridges and dams. Many were repaired or rebuilt near or on their former sites. The mills experienced other difficulties and certain mills had a limited degree of prosperity only during the Civil War era. Production ceased for most of the early mills with the advent of the more reliable electric power in the early 1900s. Today few traces remain of

the original mill sites.

PART I (Sadds Mill and Belcher Mill Ponds)

The Great Brook (Broad Brook) flowed through a one-acre lot about 120 rods east of the mouth of Warner Brook (Creamery Brook). The lot was surveyed in January 1733. Caleb Booth, formerly of Enfield, purchased a ten-acre paper land grant from Joseph Elmor of Windsor Farms (South Windsor), which Caleb divided into two lots. Mr. Elmor had received the grant from the Town of Windsor in 1716 in exchange for his land needed for a public highway. The remaining nine acres were laid out for Caleb on the east side of the Broad Brook Mill Pond near Ammi Trumbull's Mill established about 1710. Caleb deeded the one acre of land to Joshua Booth of Windsor for 40 shillings. Joshua set up a sawmill and logway which he later leased to John Burroughs, formerly of Enfield. In 1745, Burroughs purchased the sawmill, which already bore his name, for £10. He gradually included his sons, Simon, Jonathan and Abner, in the business. A road was laid out just north of the stream in 1749, and the road later underwent many alterations. The Burroughs brothers acquired adjoining land on which a gristmill was erected before their father's death in 1757. Jonathan and Abner sold their combined two-thirds interest to William Pitkin, Jr. of Hartford in 1763-4 for £110. Their brother, Simon, retained his share until 1773 when he sold to John Taylor for £50. Mr. Taylor was the previous owner of a sawmill standing on the north side of the brook further east of the Burroughs site. It was erected in 1747 by William McCarty who owned the mill for 12 years before he sold to Mr. Taylor. The sawmill was passed on to Elisha Kibbe, Jr. of Somers in 1771.

By 1778, the sites with the two sawmills and a gristmill were acquired by Timothy Holton, a tavernkeeper from Enfield with large real estate holdings. Mr. Holton purchased the mansion house standing north of the first mill site three years later and it became a well-known tavern. The mills by this time had either undergone extensive repairs or had been replaced. In 1804, the upper floor of the gristmill was leased for nine years to Joseph H. Kneeland of Vermont for processing of sheep wool. Mr. Holton reserved the use of the blacksmith shop, occupying most of the lower floor, for himself. In 1814, the tavernkeeper sold Samuel Belcher, of Hartford, part of the former McCarty land with a sawmill. Before his

death in 1822, Timothy conveyed the former Burroughs Mills to his son-in-law, Jabez Chapman, Jr. In the spring of 1828 heavy rainfall flooded and damaged the decaying mills, destroyed the dams and bridges nearby, and caused a typhoid epidemic affecting the families living along the banks of the stream.

In 1831, Mr. Chapman deeded the surviving sawmill and one and one-half acres of land to Orrin Bissell for \$600. A shinglemill was added after Alvah Blodgett became a partner. The business was sold to Horace Lathrop and Harvey Parker, and the latter quit claimed his share in 1836 to his partner. William Lathrop gave up his job as boss miller at the Belcher Mill nearby and joined his brother, Horace. A gristmill that they established on the bank of the pond reportedly was burned and then restored. In 1845, the brothers heavily mortgaged the property to Samuel Thompson, 2nd and then quit claimed it to him the following year. James D. McKnight obtained a half-interest in the mills before they were taken over by Augustus Lancaster between 1851 and 1853, and then were leased by Orrin and Benjamin Bissell. The Bissells purchased the mills in 1855 and, as part of the bargain, Thompson and McKnight agreed to erect a "good and substantial" sawmill and gristmill. The new mills were kept busy for the next three years and then sold to Solomon Parsons and John M. Thompson. Mr. Parsons bought out his partner after a few years and, in 1867, he conveyed both mills to Roswell R. Sadd of East Windsor. Mr. Sadd was a former director of a cotton mill that opened in 1838 at Ketch Pond (Windsorville) that manufactured and sold spun and carded cotton goods. In 1869, a spring freshet washed away the dam and damaged the sawmill and gristmill. The dam was rebuilt and the mills repaired before Roswell's son, Sumner H. Sadd, took charge. Sumner, who was a farmer, kept the business from 1871 until his death in 1894. The mills stayed in the family when Clarence R. Sadd, a cousin, purchased the place from the estate for \$2,000. In 1899, the Rockville Water and Aqueduct Company installed a metered service to operate the grain elevator at Sadds Mill. The sawmill had ceased to function and after the turn of the century the gristmill was closed. Albert Blockman, one of the last owners, used the old mill between 1908 and 1910 to manufacture various types of baskets.

In 1825, Samuel Belcher acquired land adjacent and east of the sawmill site he had purchased from Timothy Holton. A dam, eight feet ten

inches high, was erected on the Broad Brook and the Belcher Mill Pond was established. A gristmill was built and the old sawmill replaced. Mr. Belcher came to Ellington in 1803 from South Brimfield, Massachusetts, and contracted to build the second Congregational Church building. He married Parmelia, daughter of Eleazer Pinney of Ellington, before the church was completed in 1806. The Belchers lived in Hartford when Samuel passed away in 1849. His employees carried on the business until it was sold a few years later to Samuel Thompson, 2nd, James D. McKnight and his father, Horace McKnight. One of the idle mills was used by the McKnights to grind plaster.

Albert Olmsted, of Enfield, died shortly after he became the next owner in 1853, and the mills were conveyed to Alfred Denison. It was understood that the premises were "never to be used for the purpose of grinding grain or sawing lumber without the consent of the owners (Thompson and McKnight) of the privilege below on the same stream." The gristmill was converted and used as a wadding factory until it and the sawmill were reportedly destroyed by fire. The factory was replaced and sold in 1859 to Austin C. Dunham, who remodeled it as a fulling mill to wash and prepare wool for the area woolen manufacturers. During the rainy season in 1869 the dam above was swept away by a flood and the building damaged beyond repair. Activity on the Belcher Mill Pond soon came to a standstill and, in 1880, Mr. Dunham disposed of the property. The Dunham millstone ended up in a wall on the front porch of a cobblestone house that was built on the property. In 1908, Doctor Everett McKnight of Hartford, an Ellington native, purchased the property for a summer home which he called "The Millstone." Today it is the residence of Gary and Victoria Mercier.

PART II (Windermere Mills and Village)

Along the Hockanum, on a horseshoe bend of the river that reaches back into the south end of the Town of Ellington, was a gristmill built for Eliakim Hitchcock and his son, William, in 1796. Eliakim was the brother-in-law of Eleazer Pinney, from whom the site was purchased, and the son-in-law of Captain Benjamin Pinney. A dam and canal were built where the Marsh Brook empties into the river. Ownership changed in 1804 when William Hyde of Lebanon bought the gristmill, and five years later

sold it to Joseph L. Hyde of Ellington.

An 1812 map reveals a gin still near the mill site that belonged to James Chapman, then to his son, Aaron. In 1812, a cotton mill was established by Aaron and Salathiel Chapman and David McCray Wallace near the still. Illustrious Remington joined the company and a factory store was built. Further west of the mill site Delano Abbott (1774-1838), son of Colonel Joseph Abbott of Ellington, built a wood screw plant which only functioned for a few years. Mr. Abbott then went into the manufacture of satinet in Vernon and some of the machinery was set up in a wing of his home nearby.

In 1837, a group of about 20 investors took control of the bankrupt cotton mill from Salathiel Chapman, who was replaced by Isaac Parkin of New York. The factory was already equipped with 13 carding machines, 16 broad looms, six threshetts and other relating machinery. The four acres of land also included four tenement houses, a factory store, barn and the former Hitchcock gristmill. Abner Ellsworth, Jr. of East Windsor, who acquired the mill, machinery and six acres of land from the agent of the creditors, sold it on December 1839 to Daniel Chapin of East Windsor for \$3,000.

Timothy Pitkin, his brother, Solomon, and John Hammun owned a blacksmith shop and wood house near the cotton mill. They formed Pitkin and Company and, on January 20, 1844, leased space for five years in the basement, upper floor and garret of a gristmill from Orrin Bissell and Timothy Smith. The lessors agreed to install a new water wheel with buckets six feet in length, to increase the power for the added machinery needed by Pitkin and Company to manufacture pearl and iron buttons.

In the spring of 1848, Lake Mills was organized and Billings Grant installed as president; and Timothy Pitkin, Oliver M. Hyde, Ralph Gillett and Orrin Bissell as directors. The group purchased 15 acres with a sawmill and gristmill standing on the land from Orrin Bissell and Timothy Smith. The following year a five-story stone factory with an attached dye-house and a canal leading to it, was built. The factory, which had 24 looms, burned to the ground in 1853, but the dye-house and water wheels survived. It was rebuilt as a three-story factory made of brick and stone. The "quarrying" stone was taken from Nelson and Andrew Pinney's quarry west of their ancestral brick home.

In 1860, the Lake Mills were sold to John W. Thayer, a former wool sorter living in Vernon, and Albert M. Haling of Ellington for \$60,000. The sale included eight dwelling houses, a dye-house, a sawmill, a gristmill and 16 acres of land. The mill and the community were named Windermere by the owners, and the area still retains that name. A road called Village Street was constructed first, followed by a boarding house, three tenement houses, and a store nearby was purchased from Benjamin Hurlburt. Colonel Thayer moved his family into one of the tenement houses.

The mills prospered during the Civil War years through the manufacture of woolen army blankets. After the war they turned to the weaving of ladies cloaking and fancy cassimeres. In 1871, the Windermere Woolen Company reportedly had 130 employees. Business took a down turn during the next 14 years. Jordan Marsh Company of Boston, one of the stockholders which held a mortgage, took civil action against the owners. At that time, Windermere Village contained over 22 acres of land, a blacksmith shop, machine shop, a barn, a stable for a team of horses, as well as the tenements, store and factory buildings. The factory contained seven pair of rotary fulling mills and 51 six-quarter looms, 12 of which looms were in the main building. There was storage for the wool, cotton, shoddy and yarns they used, and rooms for scouring, finishing, carding, and upper and lower spinning rooms. The Bertram Manufacturing Company acquired all the buildings within the village, including the former Thompson Wadding Company. Lucius E. Thompson, from East Windsor, came to Vernon as a young man to work at the New England Mill and became a designer. In 1860, he built a factory on the old Abbott site to produce wadding for the clothing trade. The business operated for 12 years before the bank foreclosed, and it was taken over and run for a number of years by the creditors.

In 1897, the manufacturing village was sold at public auction to the Alfred B. Pitkin Company of Providence, Rhode Island. Two years later it became the property of the American Enameled Paper Company of New Jersey, which encountered problems with its patent process and shut down in 1904. The building stood idle until the Hockanum Mills of Vernon, whose president was Francis T. Maxwell, assumed control in 1905. The factory was leased to Avery, Bates and Company whose main paper plant was based in Springfield, Massachusetts. The company soon faced financial problems

which led to its demise in five years. The Hockanum Mills used part of the building for storage and, in 1918, leased space for a year to the Collegiate Balloon School, Inc. The school, whose main business was in Vernon, was dissolved in 1922.

The Stafford Lace Company took over the factory in 1920, and machinery imported from England was installed. The stock became worthless and the business was attached by creditors after William Sowter, president of the mill, disappeared with the company funds. Walter Draycott assumed charge and the lace mill was leased to the Bonita Lace Company. In 1925, the name was changed to Draycott Laces, Inc. The business began to falter when the government reduced the duty on imported lace. It was a decade before the mill closed.

The old Windermere Village was acquired by Joseph Lavitt and Jacob Cohen as an investment, and shortly afterward the hurricane of 1938 struck and caused considerable structural damage. The tenement houses were eventually offered for sale, and at least three of the houses were demolished. The Greenfield Pickle Works, which had leased space in the factory for a number of years, resumed business in 1945 under the trade name of New England Pickle Works. The company encountered trouble with the authorities over quality and marketing its product because the pickles wouldn't "bounce," and went quietly out of business. Solomon Ben Kiki purchased the vacant and crumbling factory in 1948 to raise broilers, and later sold to Joseph Pelski. The last owner was Louis Ganzler of Willimantic. The brick and stone factory that had withstood over a century of use met its end when it was condemned and then demolished in 1957.

The shop of the Mancock Soap Company stood near a canal and the Bissell Mill Pond. It was on the east side of a 20-foot wide road (now south half of Windermere Ave.) built by Orrin Bissell in 1847. Robert Mancock built the shop in 1860 on land he first leased and then purchased from Cornelious Farmer. Mr. Mancock was a soap maker and supplemented his income by working part-time at the nearby gristmill. The soap business was passed on to his son, Thomas, who lived in a tenement on the premises. At the turn of the century, Thomas Mancock closed the shop and the equipment and buildings were sold.

On November 12, 1850, the Hartford Courant carried the

following..."Cornelious Farmer of Ellington is one of four persons who own a patent to manufacture woad from carrot tops...woad is used largely in the woolen factories for setting the color of cloths."

PART III (Other Mill And Still Sites)

Besides the mill sites previously mentioned there were others located wherever sufficient water or water power was available. In the 1750s a sawmill stood next to Abby Brook about where the brook crosses the Somers line. The land was owned by Samuel Pinney. In June 1815, Daniel Clark willed his sawmill (further south on Abby Brook) to his sons, Daniel, Jr. and Ebenezer Clark.

Benjamin Phelps' sawmill was erected on the bank of Charter Brook (a.k.a. Russell Brook) on the east side of what is now known as Webster Road. In 1759, he sold the sawmill and 16 acres of land to Deacon John Wilson, but reserved the dwelling house and partly built gristmill for himself. Mr. Phelps also stipulated that both buildings could be removed at any time if he so desired. The 1857 and 1869 Maps indicate that a sawmill owned by the Pease family was on or near the former Phelps site.

One of the two most active sawmill sites was along a stream later known as Kimball Brook. The mill property dates back to 1805, when George Hale, of Ellington, purchased 40 acres of land, and six months later leased three-quarters of an acre to three partners. An agreement was made between them to erect a dam, raise the water level to 14 feet, and establish a convenient logway and passway to and from a sawmill to be built on the leased land. Ownership in the sawmill soon changed. Ebenezer Smith, a brick mason, apparently held one-quarter interest and Wyllys Russell held the remainder. Mr. Russell sold one-quarter interest to Nathaniel Warner in 1809 and one-quarter to Josiah Kimball in 1827. Mr. Kimball then bought out Mr. Warner. In the spring of 1834 the three partners, (Russell, Smith and Kimball), paid \$10 for a lease, giving them the privilege of flowing land for 1000 years, from Eleazer S. Pitkin. The deed specified that the sawmill dam could only be raised six inches higher than the stone work now in place. The owners, also, had the right to take gravel from the pit or hill to replace or repair the dam.

Wyllys Russell had lived in his grandfather, Elijah Pember's, house on the northwest corner of Meadow Brook and Somers Roads since childhood.

He continued to live there after his marriage on July 16, 1793 to Emilia Wolcott, the great-granddaughter of Connecticut Governor Roger Wolcott. Mr. Russell sold his one-quarter interest in the sawmill to Mr. Smith, who then became Mr. Kimball's equal partner.

In 1846, the partners took out a mortgage and set up a shinglemill. The property was foreclosed in 1854 following the deaths of both owners. A year later, Henry Kimball assumed charge and reached an agreement with Daniel Kimball to flow his land in order to raise the sawmill dam another five inches. The Kimballs kept at least one of the mills operating for several generations.

The other active site was along the stream now called Hyde Brook. William A. Gager came from Somers and purchased a ten-year-old sawmill, milldam and floom (sic) near Hubbard Lane (an abandoned section) from Marvin Scripture in 1849. He was permitted to raise the water level 14 inches above the highest rock or ledge located four rods northeast of the mill. At times the mill pond had a depth of up to 32 feet. During the summer seasons, the pond attracted the neighborhood youths who went swimming there. The pond was declared off limits after one of the lads drowned.

In 1855, Mr. Gager leased adjoining land from Jabez Collins who bought it in 1812, with a right to flow same for three dollars a year. The property also contained a gristmill when it was passed on to Mr. Gager's heirs in 1874. It was then leased to Jabez's son, Guy P. Collins, who had taken over his father's farm on Kibbe Road in 1851. Jabez, a carpenter, had set up a sawmill for his own use on the farm. Guy Collins made a lease agreement in 1889 with Louisa Gager Miner for "flowing purposes." Mr. Collins retired in 1894, and moved his family to a house he built in the center of town on Maple Street.

George Limberger acquired the old Collins house and land that year which included the Gager mill site, and undertook the operation of the aging sawmill. In 1912, he sold the property, which included a circular saw, a 1/8th horsepower steam engine and a "bizzard" cutter, but reserved the lumber for himself. George moved to a small farm he purchased on the west side of Pinney Street. After the family settled in the farmhouse, Mr. Limberger traveled to Pennsylvania to pick up a seven and one-half ton self-propelled steam tractor to power his new portable sawmill. The steam

tractor was also used to sterilize his tobacco beds and those of some local farmers. The sawmill, which stood idle for many years, has parts of it stored in a corner of the farm presently occupied by George Limberger, Jr. and his wife, Wanda.

The old Gager mill pond was filling up with silt and the new owners, needing more power for their sawmill, installed a Bradway water turbine that was manufactured in Stafford. Stanislaw Simneski apparently used the mill pond for other purposes between 1930 and 1936. When he sold the property, the sale included a saw outfit, a gasoline engine and water pump complete with all the tools to cut and store ice. The dam, which was weakened by the 1938 hurricane, was removed.

In 1945, Clarence Kibbe started a sawmill west of the unused Gager site then owned by Edwin Richards and George Cooley. Clarence had a circular saw powered by a diesel engine. After Clarence's accidental death his brothers, Arthur and Boyd Kibbe, worked part-time at the sawmill. The mill operation ceased in 1964. Today Boyd owns the property on which he recently built a house.

Richards and Cooley, who also owned the old Collins farm which they named Maple Knoll Farm, sold the property in 1954 to Rita W. Girardini. Mrs. Girardini, now widowed, still retains most of the land including the old mill pond.

There were numerous cider mills set up on family farms with apple and/or pear orchards. Only a few were used for commercial purposes. The gin and cider brandy distilleries in the southern and mid-east sections of town flourished for a number of years. Levi Wells, Jr., who owned a store in the center of town, started a distillery operation on land with a spring owned by Warham Foster. Wells planned to expand the business and in 1810 leased the land near Foster's Tavern for ten years at \$10 a year. Two years later, the still house was acquired by Charles Sexton. Other local merchants who owned a still were James Chapman and his partner, Timothy Pitkin. In 1819, Timothy sold a one-third interest in a distillery house, stills and a half acre of land to George Pitkin of East Hartford. There was a pen or stall west of a still. Four years later George sold his share to John McKinstry. An 1812 Map indicates among others, a distillery in the northwest area on the west side of what is now known as Bradley Brook.

In January 1853, Nathan Pierson, Ambrose Coleman and Anson Treat, all of Glastonbury, purchased a 500-acre tract of land bordering the east side of the Old Turnpike Road leading from Stafford Springs to Tolland Street. The east part of the tract included 190 acres of common land, sold in 1790 by colony appointed agents to Nathaniel Drake, Jr. Mr. Drake bought up much of the adjoining land, and then sold the tract to John Watson. Nye-Holman State Forest now covers the greater part of the tract.

Pierson and Coleman moved to Stafford in 1854 and set up a sawmill on the southern part of their land next to a brook near the Tolland line. In 1870, Ambrose Coleman who was the sole owner, sold the sawmill to Thomas C. Lathrop of Tolland. The sale included one acre of land, a Bone Mill that ground up animal bones for fertilizer, a millpond, and dam on Bonemill Brook. Mr. Lathrop had the privilege of flooding Coleman's adjacent land by raising the dam two feet, thereby increasing the capacity of the pond.

Aaron and Zenas Nash purchased ten acres of land with a building from William Cobb in 1809. The property, through which the Marsh Brook meanders, was near the present northeast corner of West Road and Mountain Street. The Nashes established a fulling mill and a clothier's works in a shop they built with a large lock installed on the door. The Nashes' fulling mill processed hand-loomed woolen cloth made from homespun, coarse and uneven loosely woven yarns. The lengths of cloth were wetted down with water mixed with a small amount of either olive oil or soap solutions, then pummelled with wooden tools to raise the nap to make the cloth "fuller." The clothier's job was to stretch it tight on tenderhooks to dry. The finished cloth was either made up into various articles of clothing by the clothier or sold by the yard. Later in the nineteenth century, with the advent of the power looms, the term clothier only applied to those who dressed or fulled cloth during the process of manufacture.

The Nash Works was sold in 1815 to Elijah Hyde of Ellington. Seven years later, Mr. Hyde moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, then deeded the ten acres of land, with no building, to Daniel Lathrop of Norwich. It appears that a fire, which was common in those days, may have claimed the clothier works and mill.

The Ellington Creamery Company established by a group of area farmers

was a co-operative to produce and market butter. In 1884, a two-story commercial plant, with upstairs living quarters for one family, was erected near the bank of Warner Brook (Creamery Brook) in the northwest section of town. John Thompson became president and three years later E. Morton Bancroft was hired as agent and manager.

Each day an employee made the rounds to the farms in a horse-drawn wagon to collect the milk or separated cream which was stored in covered tin containers. At first the Creamery purchased whole milk from the farmers which was separated at the plant. After farm-sized mechanical separators were introduced in 1890, the farmer was able to market his butterfat in the form of cream rather than whole milk. A test was also developed at the time that enabled the Creamery to give the farmer a cash return on the actual fat delivered rather than on the amount of whole milk. Some farmers were accused of increasing their profits by putting in baking soda to swell the cream, which was measured and sold by space. The farmers used the residual buttermilk to feed their livestock.

At one time there were up to six buttermakers employed at the plant, and over several hundred pounds of butter produced each day. The butter was cut in rectangular blocks of one pound weights, wrapped in a yellow waxed paper, and then packed in butter boxes surrounded by ice. The butter was either shipped by freight to the wholesalers or delivered by horse and wagon to the area retail general stores.

In 1916, the stockholders authorized the sale of the land and buildings to John DeCarli. The directors of the Creamery reserved the privilege of removing all the machinery, fixtures, supplies, safe, circular saw and ice stored in the ice house by January 1917. The tenement upstairs was rented to the DeBortoli family for a few years, and then the creamery plant was dismantled.

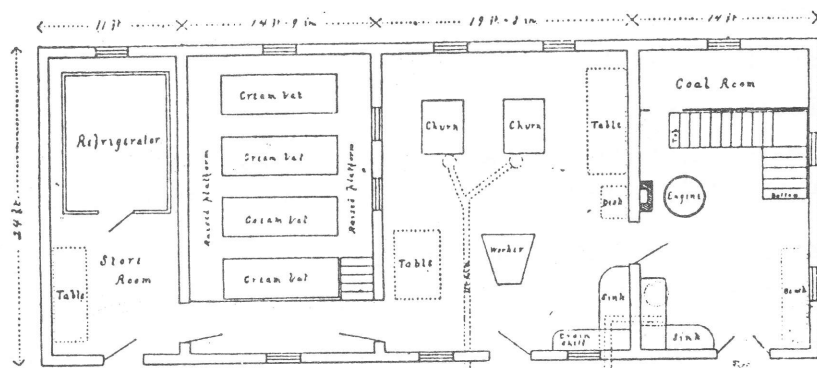
Sources of information covering the past two centuries concerning the history of the village mills and stills with their ever-changing sites and ownership are at best sketchy.

by Dorothy B. Cohen

THE ELLINGTON CREAMERY.



A View of the Factory.



The Plan of the First Floor or Work Room.

built July 1884

THE COLONIAL TRADESMEN

Early Ellington enjoyed many varied trades and trading establishments. As you read through the documentation, you will see that it was not uncommon for a tradesmen to work in more than one area, or to go from one trade to another during his lifetime. After the 1760s, it became a common practice to "bind out" children for a term of years so they might learn a trade, or other vocation.

Blacksmithing involved shaping red-hot iron into simple tools, hardware, horseshoes, cast and wrought iron gates, grilles, railings, locks, knockers, knives and scissors. Although there were blacksmiths who worked at this trade exclusively, often blacksmithing was done by an individual to accommodate other trades. For example, a farmer might have a blacksmith shop on his property solely to produce his own horseshoes. Blacksmith shops were a fire hazard, and often had to be replaced. Some examples of prices charged in the 1770s are: five shillings for shoeing a horse and making shoes; six shillings for an axe; nine pence for mending tongs; twelve shillings for linchpins and washers.

Abraham Barden's was the first documented blacksmith shop, dating 1747. He came from East Haddam, and set up a shop in the southeast section of the parish. Captain Daniel Elsworth later acquired this same shop from Josiah Goodrich.

Other Blacksmith Shops include:

- 1757 - John McKnight built a shop in the northwest part of the parish. It was eventually owned by Timothy Holton, a tavernkeeper.
- 1764 - Ebenezer Phelps' shop was located approximately one mile north of the center of the parish.
- 1770 - Abner Burroughs, Jr.'s shop was sold at public auction in 1811 (after Abner died) to Robert Hyde, who gave Abner's widow, Eunice, lifetime use.
- 1783 - John Newton, a blacksmith and gunsmith, came from Stafford and settled in the northeast part of the village. His father, Moses, willed his blacksmith tools to John's son, Reuben, in 1798. John died in Ellington in 1831.
- 1791 - Ichabod Mudge and his brother-in-law, William Morgan, bought a new shop from Samuel Sessions, on the east side of Somers Road. Five years later, Morgan sold his interest to his partner. In 1820, Mudge sold a smith's shop and coal house to Joseph W. Bissell.

- 1805 - Benjamin White came from Hebron and settled near the south end of Square Pond, where he built a shop.
- 1820 - Jeremiah King set up a shop on the north side of Main Street, next to the house he purchased from Timothy Brown. The shop burned in 1825, and King rebuilt on a site further west. In 1828, it was sold to Joseph Lord, and a year later to Roger Barber, who sold in 1833 to Thomas J. Whiting.
- 1830 - Gordon Smith, and then Joel Potter, and later John and Mortimer Brockway, shared an interest in the same blacksmith shop, in or near the center of town.
- 1831 - Francis Keeney (1805-1887) was apprenticed for seven years as a wagon maker to Marvin Cone of Manchester. Francis married Marvin's niece, Eliza Porter, in 1830, and they came to live in Ellington. Francis built a two-story shop, the upper floor for making wagons and the lower floor for a blacksmith shop. The structure was located on the south side of what is now known as Main Street. Keeney sold the building in 1835 to his brother-in-law, Nathan Doane, when he ventured into the hotel business. Nathan, (1809-1898), the son of harness maker Isaac Doane, came to Ellington at age seven and resided and worked on Elijah Hammond's farm until he was sixteen. At that time he became an apprentice to John Gilmore, a Vernon blacksmith. After Nathan acquired the Ellington shop, he received a contract to complete the Rock Mills in Rockville. As part of his payment, a small mill was removed from the site and given to him. (After Doane sold his Ellington property to Albert Dart in 1841 he used the mill to manufacture satinets for a few years.) Albert Dart used or leased part of the shop for almost a decade before it was passed on to Thomas W. Chapman, Jr., who owned the wagon shop next door. Albert Heusser owned it between 1867 and 1871, then Martin Rickenbacker, who sold to Theodore Berr in 1879. Berr came to this country from Prussia in 1864 and went to work at the New England Mills in Vernon where he learned weaving. He was apprenticed to Horace Treat, a blacksmith, for two years, earning \$50 a year, plus board. Berr, who also did wood repairing, turned the shop over to his son, Gustave, in 1903. One of Gustave's competitors was John Robinson, whose shop stood next to the hotel, north of the green. The Berr shop was removed in 1941.
- 1839 - Ira H. Lewis was born at Devils Hopyard, east of Square Pond, in 1813. He was seventeen, and living in Glastonbury, when he was apprenticed as a blacksmith. He worked at blacksmithing for several years, and then went to Hampton to learn silversmithing and the making of spectacles. While in Hampton, he married Alice A. Foster (1835). He returned to Square Pond, with his family, and set up his own blacksmith shop. The shop was sold ten years later, and the Lewis family moved to a farm in West Stafford, where they remained for eight years. Lewis then formed a partnership with Sterry Taft, and they built a wagon shop on present day Sandy Beach Road, south of Skinner Road. In 1865, Ira purchased a 110-acre farm on South Road, and built a blacksmith shop near the Tolland

line.

1841 - Austin Chapman (1804-1895) was a chain mender, a vital trade in the days of ox teams. His shop was located on Mechanic Street, next to Albert Keeney's wagon shop. Chapman moved to Suffield in 1868.

1869 - A smithy shop stood on land owned by the Martin family, on the south side of present day Crystal Lake Road, near Burbank Road.

Tanning/Shoemaking were often done as one trade, as individuals often handled the entire process of treating the hides and then making them into shoes and boots.

Ebenezer Nash (1744-1823) was three years old when he came from East Longmeadow to the Ellington Parish. He became a tanner, currier and blacksmith, and lived on the east side of Somers Road, where he had a shop. In 1801, Nash leased land to Daniel Jones for the "purpose of setting a blacksmith shop on said land." There is documentation of a house for the manufacture of potash and collecting of ashes, built in 1766 by Patrick Thompson of Windsor, and his son, Andrew, a Hartford merchant. It stood on a one-half acre plot near Bissell Brook (Bahler Brook). Potash and burned ashes (from stumps) were vital to the tanning process. It was also used for fertilizer.

One Tan House existed for over thirty years, but during that time changed hands over ten times. Owners documented between 1791 and the 1830s include Jose Merrick, Elijah Pember, Ebenezer Rogers and Elisha S. Pember. In 1795, Ariel Lombard bought the Tan Works House from Pember, as well as the adjacent land with a Potash, or Bark House, from Reuben Luce. The same was sold over the following years to: Jacob Tuckerman, Richard Strickland, Asa Bowe, Samuel Gaimes, Nathaniel Symonds, Dudson R. Hyde, Horace Newberry and Francis Peck.

Thomas King, a tanner, moved from Suffield to Ellington in 1840.

Shoemaker, Nathaniel Baker of Norwich, was the first of his trade to settle in the parish in 1744. David Read, formerly of Windham, sold a "Shoemaking Shop and Cow House" to Abraham Foster in 1755. Abraham turned it over to his son, Abel, later that year. The shop once stood near the corner of Main Street and Somers Road.

Other Shoemakers include:

1800s - Sylvannus Snow, who was also a farmer, lived at the foot of Buckland Hill (on Frog Hollow Road) with his wife, Sybil Buckland. Her family lived on the top of the hill.

- 1830s - Anthony Gabriel, besides repairing shoes, fixed harnesses and skating straps. He lived in the center of town, and also worked in a brick shop nearby. Samuel Rockwell, an Ellington cobbler, who married Hannah Hyde of Stafford in 1834, later became a merchant in Hartford.
- 1840s - George Mixter, who was a Baptist preacher, came from Massachusetts and purchased three acres of land on the southwest corner of Main and Mechanic Streets. In 1846, a large building, reportedly designed as a shoe shop, was erected on that property; unfortunately, the business failed shortly thereafter. It was sold a few years later to Leonard B. Wright of Wales, Massachusetts, and used as a dwelling.
- 1860s - Michael Mandell opened a Shoemaking and Repair Shop in the Conference Building, north of the church green. He later sold jewelry and gift items. Also during this time, the A. Bennet Boot and Shoe Shop stood near the junction of present day Kibbe and Somers Roads.

Hatters were so numerous in Connecticut that as early as 1732 the London hatters complained about the competition in their trade.

In 1791, Azel Utley opened his hatter's shop, and sold it two years later, including tools and apparatus, to John Thompson. The shop, which stood on Somers Road, changed hands again in 1799, when it was sold to Daniel Kimball for other purposes.

Another hatter's shop was sold in 1829 by John Holton, at the same time his inn was taken over by Elisha Pember. The shop stood in front of the inn, north of the village green.

Edwin Olmsted (1802-1855), a native of East Hartford and a hatter by trade, purchased a house near the center of town in 1830.

Storekeepers sometimes received "country pay," a common method of payment in the 1800s. It was payment with farm produce, or labor (instead of cash) for services rendered by tradesmen (and even doctors). In the early 1900s an interesting method was used to settle grocery bills. Every week a store owner would send a clerk around in his horse-drawn wagon to take grocery orders from the rural dwellers and farmers. The next day, the groceries would be delivered. Once a year, when the crop came in and was sold, the farmer settled his bill.

Some storekeepers took their records quite seriously. Ralph Gillett instructed a new clerk as follows: "If you are in the middle of keeping records and there should be a fire, finish the entry, and then put out the fire."

Deacon John Hall was a prosperous merchant in the southeast part of the town, near the Rockville line. He owned a store, a slaughterhouse, and a third interest in a wrought iron nail works. Hall often went to Boston on horseback, carrying his money in saddlebags, to purchase the supplies and goods needed for his business. The merchandise was delivered by oxcart. Deacon Hall died in 1796.

Erastus Wolcott, Jr. was a trader who lived in the center of town during the late 1700s.

A store built by Levi Wells, Jr. (1760-1828) stood on land he purchased in 1797, located east of the present McKnight Museum. Wells leased the store from 1804-1809 to Beasley, Wolcott and Haskel, and then sold it to Charles Sexton in 1812. Sexton conveyed the store to Roswell Brown of Sandisfield, Massachusetts, in 1832. Brown sold, after five years, to Mathias Armsby, and four years later Ralph Gillett owned it for less than a year. Gillett removed the bleach house, which was east of the store, when he sold in 1841 to Billings Grant of Stafford. The store was moved and attached to the house standing east of it when Grant retired. The Grant heirs sold part of the property (now McKnight Museum) to George A. Phelps of New York in 1862. It was understood that the widow, Eliza Grant, would have the right to live in the house for life. In fact, she did, sharing it with Phelps' spinster sisters, Phoebe and Harriet.

James Chapman (1766-1838), a merchant from Vernon, owned a store in 1812, near the present main cemetery road. Chapman's grounds included a small grain house, and later a bleach house. He sold the store to Timothy Pitkin, his son-in-law and former clerk, in 1825. The sale included an agreement that the grainery be removed within six months, or be forfeited to Pitkin. Four years later, Pitkin built a new store on land he owned adjoining the old store. Part of that land had already been leased to Rufus Taylor for a tailor shop.

Lucius Chapman leased the former James Steele store from widow Jemima Steele in 1829, and kept it for many years. It was located on present day Crystal Lake Road, near the corner of Somers Road. Lucius lived over the store until he purchased property for a new store further south on Somers Road.

Daniel Grover (1802-1874) was a farmer and grocery store owner. Mr. Grover had a wagon with a rear cupboard that read "D. Grover Express." He

made weekly trips to Hartford, peddling his wares there and back. He also stopped at the playground behind John Hall's school every Saturday evening, to sell fruit and sugar cookies to the "scholars." Mr. Grover sang in the church choir for 40 years.

Benjamin Hurlburt owned a store in the south part of the village. In 1860, it was sold to the Windermere Mill owners, and used for a company store.

Henry C. Aborn opened his first store during the 1850s, at Square Pond. His next store, called the "H.C. Aborn and Son" was adjacent to the Ellington Cemetery entrance. The store had changed hands many times since its 1829 origin by Timothy Pitkin. In that year, Mr. Pitkin built the country retail grocery and dry goods store, which also housed the Post Office and had a rental apartment on the second floor. Mr. Pitkin later added a grain warehouse and bleach house, which were attached to the rear of the building. In addition to groceries and dry goods, he was licensed to sell wine and liquor. In 1840, the business was sold to a group of six men, one of whom was Ralph Gillett, who ran the store. Charles Smith acquired it by 1850 and kept it for three years before he sold the business and building back to Timothy Pitkin, the original owner. After ten years, it was conveyed to Elijah Ashley. Subsequent owners were Lucius Dwinnell of Springfield, and Elam Hyde. The building was sold to Alfred Gillett, a former part owner, who leased it to James Eaton of Stafford. Before Eaton's lease expired, the business was acquired by Henry Aborn, in 1884. Henry's son, Miles, served as Postmaster, like his father before him. In addition, Miles was the Town Clerk, and while he served in this capacity, the Town Clerk's Office was housed in the east part of the store. In 1914, after an arsonist set a series of fires, a bell was placed on the porch post to serve as a fire alarm. Charles B. Sikes, Jr. and son, Robert, purchased the store in December 1922, and a few years later it was acquired by Reuben Norwitz of Hartford. Mr. Cooper, Norwitz's brother-in-law, took charge until it was leased to Sam Yazmer in 1925. Yazmer conducted business there for the next ten years, and then built a new store next door. The latter building is occupied today by a liquor store. The old store was standing idle when it was sold to William and Blanche Fournier, in 1939, as a home. After William died, in 1950, Blanche went into the antique business. The lower floor, and the

former grain warehouse were used as a shop called "The Old Store." The antique business was liquidated by Corrine Tilden, who inherited the property, and moved in, after her sister, Blanche's, death in 1978.

Chauncy T. Chapman purchased two acres of land from George Warner with a house, barn and out buildings in 1871. He later built a store on part of the property which after a decade was destroyed by fire. Francis Hall of Elmira, New York, acquired the property in 1900, and it became the site of the town library and town green.

In 1872, Austin Tilden acquired land and buildings from the Griswold heirs. There was a store, with living quarters above, and a hay scale, on Main Street near Tomoka Avenue when part of the property was transferred to his son, Marshall, in 1879. Within a year, William Barrows became the owner, and it was kept in his family until 1903 when Frederick L. Hall, a meat dealer, bought the business. Hall sold out four years later to Isaac Nicholson, and in 1919, John B. DeCarli became the owner. Mr. DeCarli operated a garage to repair cars and trucks in the old building to the rear of the house, and his wife ran a grocery-ice cream store in the front room of the house. The store was discontinued before World War II and converted into additional living quarters.

Mr. DeCarli, who was also a town constable, was shot and mortally wounded in the line of duty in 1935. He had surprised an ex-convict, John Bey, who was hiding out in a barn on West Road (former Gerber Farm).

The old house underwent renovations by the DeCarli descendants who still occupy the premises. The only visible reminder of the early operations there is the remains of a hay scale near the road or a little west of the house.

In 1903, Francis M. Charter was advertising for people to "Get your Thanksgiving supplies at cost" at his Parkview Grocery which he had opened in the large front rooms in his home. (These were the same rooms formerly used as a "dame school" by Emeline Brockway.) In 1908, Mr. Charter built a dry goods, notions and grocery store west of his house (the site of the present Ellington Shopping Plaza). The following year, Parkview Avenue (now Church Street) was opened. The building had an apartment upstairs as well as on the east end, which were rented. Not only was it a general store, but it also housed the Post Office for a while. The store was owned by another party when it burned one Saturday night in 1923.

There are several individual tradesmen whom we know little about, but whose trades tell us something of the times they lived in.

In 1836, Herman C. Griswold, a marble cutter from Enfield, purchased land on the present day corner of Tomoka Avenue and Main Street. The following year, he built a house and a shop on this property, and established a marble business. The front yard was used to display the gravestones. Griswold leased the shop, and the following ad appeared in the Tolland County Gazette in 1855: "Ellington Marble Yard, James L. Culver, successor to H. C. Griswold, Dealer in and Manufacture of Marble, Granite and Freestone Monuments, Marble Mantle Tops, etc. All orders promptly executed." When Mr. Griswold died in 1872, his heirs sold the land and buildings to Austin Tilden.

Not far from the marble yard, a road was constructed over a passway in 1840 by N. E. Chaffee and Nathan Doane. The road, called Mechanic Street (now Berr Avenue), ran North and South between today's Main and Maple Streets. Albert Keeney's carriage-making shop, which stood on the east side of the street, was sold in 1844 to Ebenezer C. Pinney. Ebenezer encountered financial problems, and two years later the contents of the shop were auctioned off to pay his debts. An unfinished buggy was among the items put up for bid at this auction, which took place in a nearby wagon shop owned by Thomas W. Chapman, Jr. A shop was set up on the west side of Mechanic Street by Oscar Ely, who learned his trade from Nelson Chaffee, an artisan. Mr. Ely kept the shop between 1841 and 1849.

Other tradesmen, as well as craftsmen, passed in and out of residence in Ellington. Many devoted most of their time to farming, and little more is known about them than that they were here.

Samuel Pearson, a millwright, married Jerusha Kibbe, of Enfield, in 1740, and the following year bought farmland with a road called the East Street (West Road) running through it. We know that Samuel's brothers, Daniel, Simon and Ephraim, came to the village before him and that Pearson's ancestors were mill owners for several generations in Rawley, Massachusetts.

Daniel Warner was a weaver before settling on David Burroughs' farm, about a mile north of the center of the village in 1770.

Matthew Hyde, a cabinetmaker from Franklin, settled in town after the Revolutionary War.

Isaac Talcott, a harness maker, was the son-in-law of Deacon Medinah Fitch. Talcott lived in the deacon's house near the Congregational Church between 1797 and 1832. In 1805, he was paid \$20 to sweep the meetinghouse twice a month and ring the church bell.

Ichabod Wadsworth owned a Cooper (Barrel) Shop at the end of East Porter Road, near the Stafford line. He sold it in 1805 to Solomon Fuller of Somers who, in turn, sold it to Oliver Phelps of Suffield. A Cooper Shop that stood near Tolland's west line in the early 1800s was owned at one time by Stephen Hare.

Ebenezer Smith (1777-1853) and his brother, Joseph (1789-1862), were masons. Around 1807, Ebenezer moved into a brick house which he was building on the north side of what is now Maple Street. His wife, Hepzibah, died that year, and Ebenezer, who never finished the house, sold it to Doctor Allyn Hyde in 1812.

Brothers, Flavel and Eleazor Whiton, were mechanics in town in the early 1800s and at one time they lived on Maple Street.

Timothy Brown was an active carpenter and house painter when he moved to the center of town in 1813.

Deodate Little, born in 1776, was a coffin maker, and in 1814 he charged \$5 for the coffin of Colonel Joseph Abbott.

Oliver Mather Hyde, who was born in Ellington, was apprenticed as a silversmith. He took over the family farm after his father died in 1855.

John Smith (1790-1878) was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, and later came to Ellington. He was a cabinet and coffin maker, furnishing nearly all the coffins used in town for many years. He also took orders for custom furniture, which a few descendants in town still own. John Smith acquired one of the Keeney shops in 1844 (which once stood on the present day Edward Moriarty land) and used the building for his furniture and coffin making shop. It was described as a one-room gambrel roofed building, and was removed to the north side of Maple Street in the early 1900s. Reportedly, it became the home of John Robinson, a blacksmith.

Stedman Nash, son of Ebenezer, was born on Somers Road in Ellington in 1786. He was a stone and brick mason and lived on present Windermere Avenue.

Obadiah Ward came to town from Middlesex County and purchased land in 1813. He was a wagonmaker and home builder. Several of his homes are

still standing on Main St.

Nelson E. Chaffee, a mechanic and carpenter, built a hot house on his home lot in 1838. It was removed when he sold the property to Francis Keeney. The house, built in 1834, still stands near the west end of Main Street. In 1850, N. E. Chaffee and Company was formed, and a shop, or shinglemill, was built in the center of town. Chaffee also owned an interest in Charles Burnham and Company, a machine shop that stood close by.

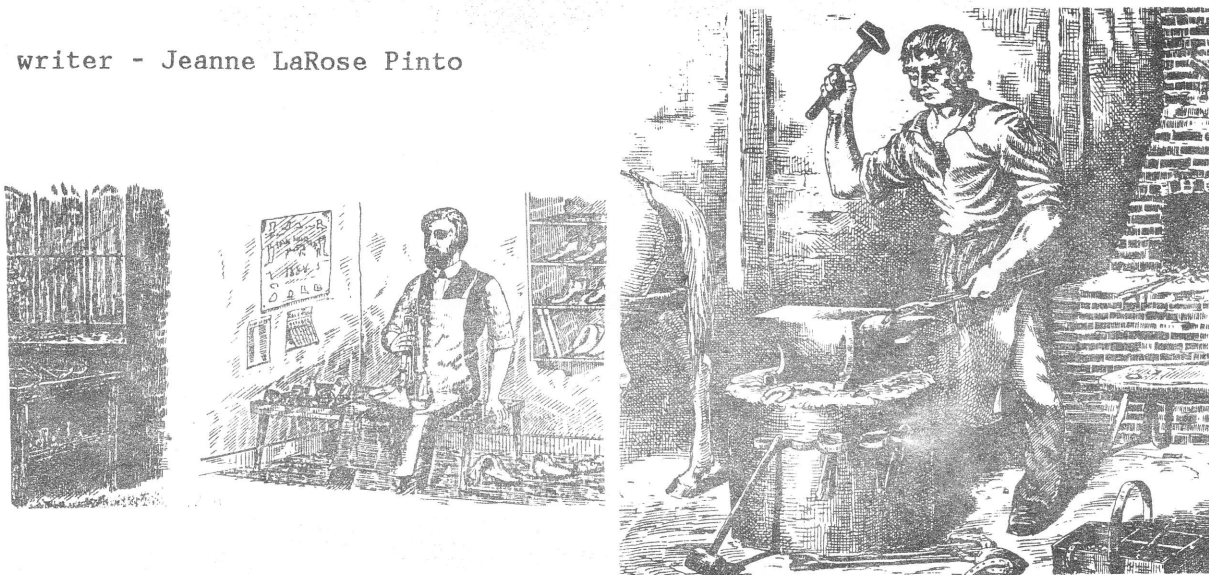
Warren Richardson was a tin plate peddler, as well as a land and cattle dealer. He lived at Square Pond in the 1830s, with his wife, Luna. Luna (Dimock) Richardson braided palm leaf hats for southern slaves, earning enough money to furnish her home.

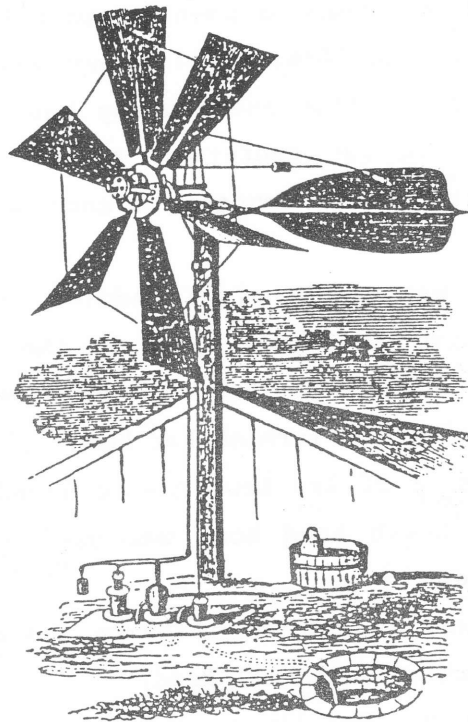
Jennie Neff, daughter of Ira Lewis, also lived at Square Pond. The cloth she wove in her South Road home was used to make bonnets by the Shaker Colony in Enfield.

George W. Street was an active craftsman and carpenter when he came to town in 1866, settling on Jobs Hill Road.

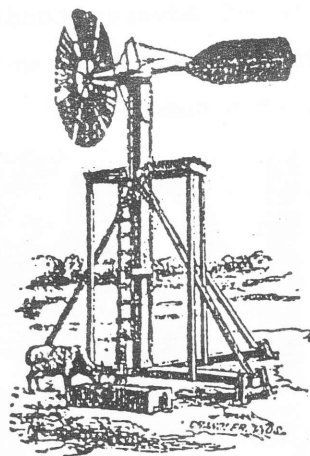
About a hundred frame dwellings, and a few of brick, survive the colonial period, attesting to the skills of the joiners and brick masons. The handmade furniture of the local artisans have been passed down from generation to generation, or are the treasured antiques of collectors. Tucked away on local farms, possibly forgotten, are products of the blacksmith and wagonmakers' trades. In spite of adverse conditions, the colonial tradesmen's perseverance, resourcefulness and hard work, insured that Ellington could succeed, thrive and grow as a community.

writer - Jeanne LaRose Pinto





Halladay's Patent Wind Mill, or Engine



HALLADAY'S
IMPROVED
Wind Engine
FOR
PUMPING WATER,
AND
GRINDING GRAIN.

The Cheapest Power Known to the World!

DANIEL HALLADAY, INVENTOR

In 1853, two machinists in Ellington, Connecticut, engaged in a conversation that would lend to the shaping of Twentieth Century America.

Daniel Halladay, who should probably be Ellington's most famous resident, is known to a very limited circle. If you are speaking with someone who is knowledgeable about the Industrial Revolution, however, or the settling and irrigation of the Great Plains, the success of the Steam Engine, and especially Windmills, it is likely they will know who Daniel Halladay is.

Daniel Halladay was born in Marlboro, Vermont, on November 24, 1826. He lived there until he was 19, at which time he was apprenticed as a machinist in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Two years later, in 1847, he was working in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, supervising installation of machinery at the United States Government Armory. He returned to Ludlow to marry Susan M. Spooner on May 3, 1849, and they had one son who died in infancy, and one adopted daughter. An invoice for the repair of the Congregational Church clock by Daniel indicates he resided in Ellington, Connecticut, as of 1850. The following year he attended the Crystal Palace Exposition at the World's Fair in London, England, as a representative of Captain Ericson's Caloric Engine. He returned to Ellington, and then purchased an interest in a three-year-old machine shop owned by Nelson E. Chaffee and Charles Burnham, Jr. The shop was built near the center of town on a site consisting of over ten acres of land formerly owned by Asa Willey.

It was during 1850 that Daniel Halladay crossed paths with another machinist, John Burnham, Jr. Burnham was also a native of Vermont, ten years Halladay's senior. Although Burnham wanted to pursue an interest in philosophy, his father insisted that he participate in the family business. While working for his father, a coppersmith who also worked with brass, silver, and gold, John, Jr. invented an engineering truss design which he personally sold throughout the east. Upon his return from one of these sales trips, John learned that his father had begun manufacturing water pumps. John took an interest in this, and moved to Ellington in 1847 to form his own pump manufacturing business with a partner, Henry McCray. The partners leased an upper south room that was reached by an outside flight of stairs on the east side of the blacksmith

shop owned and operated by Albert Dart. The shop stood on the south side of present day Main Street next door to Dart's house and orchard. Dart agreed to erect a barn on the property for their mutual use to be completed within four months, and also lease his house for two years, all for \$125 a year.

John and Henry produced a hydraulic ram which enjoyed wide distribution in New England and elsewhere. This device was not always sufficient, however, in areas that did not have enough fall, and John Burnham, Jr. set to contemplating the invention of a windmill that could pump water. Tower mill and post mills were in use at that time, but they were used for grinding grain. They not only required constant supervision by the millers, but they were awkward and were not adaptable to pumping water or operating machinery. The European designs either fell apart or chopped themselves up.

In 1852, John Burnham, Jr. purchased an interest in Daniel Halladay's firm. John felt that he lacked the practical expertise to design a pumping windmill that could move well water, so he challenged one of his new partners, Halladay, to do it. Daniel Halladay replied that he could, but that he didn't know of "a single man in the world who would want one."

In 1854, Daniel Halladay's "Wind Mill" design was patented. Although the U.S. Patent Office issued over 50 patents for windmills, Daniel's model, the Halladay Standard, was considered the first successful self-propelled water pumping windmill. Within six weeks of the August 29, 1854 patenting of the Daniel Halladay's Wind Mill, Halladay, John Burnham, Jr. and Henry McCray formed the new partnership of Halladay, McCray and Company of Ellington to manufacture the Halladay Standard. In October of that year the company entered a model of the Halladay's Wind Mill at the New York State Agricultural Society's 14th annual exhibition held at Hamilton Square in New York City. The company was awarded a diploma and a silver medal for the most valuable newly invented machine for the farmer. It also received coverage in national magazines. One agricultural magazine reported: "Daniel Halladay, a mechanic in an obscure country village . . . had done what the world of mechanics have sought in vain for centuries. He has invented and put in successful operation a windmill with self-furling sails." Halladay's Mill could automatically turn to face the wind, and was able to govern its own speed

to prevent its destruction by centrifugal force.

A record book kept by Daniel Halladay is now in the Ellington Town Hall vault. An entry on February 9, 1855 shows that 1200 shares of stock worth \$30,000 in the Halladay Wind Mill Company was issued to eight stockholders, including Daniel who owned 256 shares. The reorganized company then relocated to South Coventry, Connecticut. Four models were manufactured at this plant, ranging in price from \$130 to \$275.

By 1856, the potential of the midwestern market was apparent. John Burnham moved to Chicago to reach this market more effectively, and in 1857 he organized the U. S. Wind Engine and Pump Company to distribute the products made by the Halladay Wind Mill Company. The Illinois Railroad Company of Chicago was using the windmill in 1855 for boiler supply, and the need and usefulness of the mills in the Railroad Industry was becoming more evident. The Halladay model enabled steam engines to be replenished while crossing arid lands. In addition, the mill was paramount in making the High Plains of the West farmable. Farmers and cattlemen were no longer restricted to nearby waterways. In 1861, the onset of the Civil War further increased the need of mills to service steam engines. With production based in the east, the shipping costs were expensive and delays considerable.

In 1863, Daniel Halladay sold the Halladay Wind Mill Company to the U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Company, occupying that company's position as Director, Secretary and Superintendent. The manufacturing of the windmills was located at Batavia, Illinois, 35 miles outside of Chicago. Batavia was an excellent choice, based on its access to the Fox River, the railroad connections through Chicago, vast amounts of limestone used for plant building material, and the availability of investment capital. When Daniel Halladay and John Burnham moved their families to Batavia, it already housed a paper mill, carriage factory, two flour mills, a sawmill and several lime kilns. Batavia later became one of the most significant centers of industry in the U.S.A. Daniel Halladay served as Village Trustee, and as School Director for 13 years, in Batavia. He was concerned with local improvements and the working conditions of his employees. Both Halladay's and Burnham's homes are still preserved, by private owners, in Batavia.

The U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Company came to produce many styles of

mills for varying purposes. The "Halladay and Wheelers Patent Wind Mill," a completely different design from the Halladay Standard, was the most prominent of the large mills used to operate flour mills. Up to 60 feet in diameter, and useful, also, for ore reduction, powering factory equipment, and heavy milling and industrial purposes, this model was available from about 1870 to the early 1890s.

Daniel Halladay continued to improve his original design of the Halladay Standard, substituting wooden blades for steel, and manufacturing the first Rosette designed windmills. In 1868, Halladay changed his design from paddle shaped blades to sections of thin wooden blades. The Halladay Standard remained the archetypal example of the major style manufactured through the early twentieth century. Halladay's "Sectional Wheel," which sold into the 1920s, allowed individual sections to pivot, regulating the amount of their surface area exposed to the wind. This enabled a valuable equilibrium between the tendency of the section to pivot away from, and toward, the wind. Halladay's principal competitor was the solid wheel windmill (the Eclipse) invented by Rev. Leonard Wheeler. Halladay, in turn, developed the "U. S. Solid Wheel" in 1887, on which a weighted lever regulated the speed of operation.

In 1887, the U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Company was the largest factory engaged in manufacturing windmills. It employed 100 men at that time. The Company encountered a decreasing share in the market through the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, but it was impressive that its product line remained before the public for 90 years. When electricity reached rural farms in the 1930s the Windmill Industry was up to \$10,000,000 per year. Unfortunately, electricity outmoded what was thought to be, from an ecological point of view, a near perfect device.

Ellington, Connecticut, was home to, if only briefly, a man whose expertise and hard work were instrumental in not only the westward movement, but the Industrial Revolution. Coupled with John Burnham's vision and business sense, Daniel Halladay's invention of the self-propelled water pumping windmill made Ellington a significant setting for history.

FARMING AND INDUSTRY

The face of Ellington has changed greatly over the past 200 years. Many of the extensive fields, once occupied by large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, are now occupied by large apartment complexes and business and industrial buildings.

Most of the small farms have disappeared and the growing of tobacco in Ellington has dwindled also over the years. Moser and Bahler Farms as well as the Spielman Farms are about the only ones that have greatly expanded. The Spielman family still operate their dairy farm on Route 83.

Bahler and Moser Farms are businesses located on Route 83 being operated by the fourth generations. Both started as family farms at the turn of the century and they became the largest fluid milk operations in Southern New England.

They were among the few dairies that still milked cows and pasturized and bottled the milk, which was delivered throughout most of New England. The Mosers also used milk from other farms, including Spielman's.

Originally the Moser family raised products for family use. Then they started to sell milk door-to-door in a horse-drawn wagon. In 1959 a milk plant was built, where it still stands. However, it has been greatly expanded since then. The latest addition, completed in 1982-1983, made Moser Farms one of the most modern plants in the country. At that time, the business employed more than 200 people and had a fleet of 75 to 100 large refrigerated trucks. Recently most of the operation was sold to Hoods, Incorporated, in Massachusetts.

The company still maintains plants in Coventry and Enfield where juice products are produced. Plans were recently completed for a limited partnership with a Connecticut investment company to allow the firm to sell its juice products nationally.

Kup's Inc., doing business as Ellington Agway, is another family operated local business. Although it has been operated by the Kupferschmid family for many years, it was started by the father of Horace McKnight and the late Nellie McKnight, as the Ellington-Vernon Farmers Exchange.

From a small operation in a house on Route 83, after Werner Kupferschmid took it over, it was moved to Spring Street in Rockville in

the late 1940s and was primarily a feed supply market for area farmers.

The business was moved to its present location on Route 83 in 1968. It was still known then as the Ellington-Vernon Farmers Exchange. It later became Ellington Agway and then in January of 1973 it was incorporated as Kup's Inc., doing business as Ellington Agway.

The business is now operated by the sons of Werner Kupferschmid. Due to the decline in the number of farms over the years, the business no longer has feed as its prime product. It has expanded to sell a large variety of farming and gardening needs, plus pet products and small machinery such as mowers, garden plows and snow removal equipment.

Two new warehouses have been added over the past few years and the repair shop for equipment has become a full-time operation. In March of 1985, Kup's Inc. took ownership of Putnam Agway.

Acromold Products Corp., located in the town's industrial area on Windermere Avenue, has been in that location for 20 years and now has as its sole owner, Donald Pelham.

Acromold was started January 2, 1960 to do custom plastic injection molding. The object was to mold plastic components as required throughout industry. It started at 95 Brooklyn Street in Rockville in an old mill building. Mr. Pelham and Clifford H. Hawley started the business. In 1962, the company merged with Triangle Manufacturing and acquired a third partner, Harry B. Zashut. Hawley decided to leave the company in 1965 but remained as a company representative until his death in a car accident about a year later.

Because of the proposed redevelopment of Rockville, which would include removal of the building occupied by Acromold, the company acquired the Windermere Avenue site and moved in April of 1966. From a three press operation it has expanded, over the years, to a total of 17 presses and the building has also been expanded. The third addition went on in 1982. It is a three-shift operation employing about 65 people.

Another business that continues to grow is K & R Printers which was established in 1970 by Ronald Luginbuhl as a part-time operation in rented space. Mr. Luginbuhl taught printing at Tolland High School as his full-time occupation.

A year later he went into the printing business as a full-time operation and in January of 1973 he moved into his own building at 32 Main

Street. Since then the business has steadily increased and the physical plant has been enlarged. The company has a complete printing service, composition, lithography, letterpress, and bindery.

Another industry located in the industrial area, off Windermere Avenue on Village Street, is fairly new in town. It's Merrill Industries, Inc., a complete packaging plant operated by Merrill and Bernie Leiberman.

The business started in West Springfield as a broker operation for corrugated containers. It was moved to Vernon in 1975 where the business was expanded. It moved to Ellington in January of 1985 and was further enlarged.

The firm manufactures corrugated boxes, wooden containers, foam cushioning, bags, bar code labels and other related packaging materials. It also stocks barrier materials, cushioning, dunnage, and other such items to all federal and military specifications.

Rice Packaging Inc., another of Ellington's largest industries, was founded in 1964 by William A. Rice, president, and Jack Fleagle, vice president.

The firm occupied the Robert E. Hyde barn on Somers Road. This barn has become its trademark, even though the building has been greatly enlarged and modernized.

Rice and Fleagle combined some 50 years of experience in the packaging industry when they saw the need for a new concept in this field. The firm offers a complete packaging service for large and small companies. This service includes box forming machinery, electronic counting machines, automatic labeling equipment, imprinting machinery, and customized packaging equipment.

Ellington can also boast its own airport which was started in the fall of 1965 by the Hyde family. Actual operations began in 1966 with an 1800-foot north-south paved landing strip, two gasoline pumps and a small office building. The landing strip, with taxi strips on each side, totals 300 feet in width.

Operations at the airport have increased over the years and in 1968 landing lights were installed and an addition was placed on the office building. Later a hangar was built for repair and maintenance of the planes and a "flight" school was started.

Still later another building was erected and rented to Meridian

Propeller and to a company that painted planes.

In December of 1979 the Hyde family leased the airport operation to Theodore and Robert Sapoznik who now operate it under T & B Enterprises.

Another boon to the town was the Ellington Shopping Center that nestles in the center of town. It was completed in 1962. Since then many small shops have come and gone. The Ellington Post Office, one of the first occupants, is still in operation, as is, the Scandanavian Shop, another long-time tenant. The Ellington Supermarket, one of the original tenants, has recently moved to the new Meadowview Plaza on Route 83 which opened in 1987. Besides the market, the new Plaza boasts a variety of specialty shops, restaurants, a pharmacy and a bank.

There are other small shopping areas in the south and southwest parts of town near the Vernon line. Several shopping sites are in the works or planning stages, including Ellington Commons now under construction on Main Street.

Gardner Chapman's Johnny Appleseed operation is another business that has flourished over the past decade. Chapman planted his first tree in 1977. He now has more than 23,000 apple and peach trees. He said his mother, Mrs. Esther Chapman, did some research and he is almost certain that they are related to the real Johnny Appleseed whose last name was Chapman.

While the company does ship out some gift packages, for the main part the operation is a "pick-your-own" one that attracts people from miles around.

While the Crystal Lake area of town doesn't have much industry, it does have a printing firm called Specialty Printing Company on Crystal Lake Road. Francis E. Poirier started the business in 1977. The prime product is the printing of pressure sensitive labels. The business employs about 12 people.

And not to be forgotten are the many other small businesses and industries that have sprung up in town over the years and that contribute toward making Ellington a nice place to work and live.

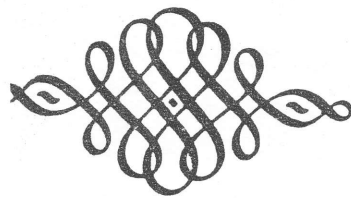
writer - Barbara Richmond



Part Five



THE COMMUNITY
AND
ITS ENVIRONS





Village Green

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ELLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The Ellington Congregational Church, located on 72 Main Street, is the fourth church building.

The first meetinghouse built in 1739 faced south. It stood on the southeast corner of 50 acres of land which the Rev. John McKinstry purchased on November 28, 1733. The clapboard unpainted building that some called the "Lord's Barn" was 45 feet long by 35 feet wide with 20-foot posts. Every man (29) in the parish assisted in the raising of the building. The congregation was seated on wooden benches according to age and social

standing, and the deacon was seated close to the pulpit. A few brought their own chairs. The pastor kept an hour glass on the pulpit. After much opposition, a wood stove was installed. The building was abandoned two days after the new meetinghouse was dedicated on June 27, 1806.

The second meetinghouse, that was designed and built by Samuel Belcher, stood on 1-1/2 acres of land (present Church Park) purchased from Levi Wells for \$200 in 1803. The church which faced south had two stories, and was fitted with box pews. The operating expense was met by the rental or sale of the pews. In 1839, the tall spire was removed and taken down to the bell deck, which was later enclosed and topped with a cupola. The old box pews were replaced by benches and the long galleries were removed. In 1868, the church building was sold to Cyrus White for use as an Opera House. The building was relocated to the southeast corner of Market and Brooklyn Streets in Rockville where it was destroyed by fire in 1941.

The third church edifice that was completed in 1868 stood opposite the previous church site on land donated by Francis Hall. It was a

commanding building with a 165-foot spire. The brick basement contained the Town Hall, the selectmen's room, as well as a lecture room. The Town appropriated \$5,000 toward the cost including furnishings. The church had the use of the Town Hall for Sunday school classes. The church and its entire contents were destroyed by fire on the night of October 3, 1914. Dr. Everett J. McKnight retrieved the rod that held the gilt ball and vane atop the steeple and it is presently being used as part of a coat rack.

Work on the present fourth church building commenced in 1915. A piece of the hand-carved molding from the second church is over the center window at the west end of the church's dining room. Land to the rear of the church was purchased in 1957 to make room for an educational wing and additional parking.

The church did not own a parsonage until 1898. Miss Sarah Gilbert willed her family home on the north side of Maple Street to be used as the Gilbert Memorial Parsonage. It was sold in 1973, and a home at 17 Middle Road was purchased for a parsonage by the church.

In 1961, the parishioners voted to become a member of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Dr. Sheldon T. Smith is the present pastor.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Square Pond, as Crystal Lake was formerly called, witnessed the formation of the Methodist Episcopal group when Rev. Jesse Lee, the New England circuit preacher, came to Square Pond in the spring of 1790. Later that year N. B. Niles, a Methodist preacher on the Hartford circuit, began services at Square Pond.

According to town records dated May 19, 1792, Allen Charter leased 50 rods of his home farm to the Methodist Society belonging to Stafford, Tolland and Ellington. Reuben Marshall represented the committee, and the lease was witnessed by Solomon Lewis and Nathan Aldrich. The first Methodist Meetinghouse was built, and although not

quite finished, was dedicated in 1792. Rev. Hope Hull was the minister. Rev. Abner Wood of Stafford was known to have preached there between 1800 and 1804. The second Methodist Camp Meeting in Connecticut was held at Square Pond near Stafford in 1806. In the fall of 1810, a "very wild and extravagant" camp meeting reportedly took place in Ellington. Tents were pitched to accommodate the large gathering.

The meetinghouse stood on a green when a new County Road constructed in 1814, passed north of it, and the old Jury Road to the south was by-passed.

A small building that stood next to the District 7 schoolhouse was purchased from Benjamin White in 1812. White obtained the property on the north side of the road, except for the schoolhouse, from Elihu Day in 1805. The building was "outfitted" and used to house the preachers who rode the circuit. In 1828, the parsonage was sold to Elisha Frink for \$100, and he resold the same year to Lorain Manly for \$150. Lena Cady Webster was the last occupant before the vacant old parsonage was moved further west in 1965 to its present site across the road.

In 1833, the meetinghouse was destroyed by fire. The present structure was erected the following year on the opposite side of the road on Ephraim Dimmick, Jr's. land. In 1845, a horse shed was built behind the meetinghouse.

A division arose among the church-goers at Square Pond, and as a result, the Advent Church was organized and a chapel built in 1840. The small community in the long run was unable to support both churches.

After 1887, Rev. O. E. Thayer, living at Square Pond, held services regularly, then intermittently until discontinued in 1895. The Advent Church across the road had closed its doors long before.

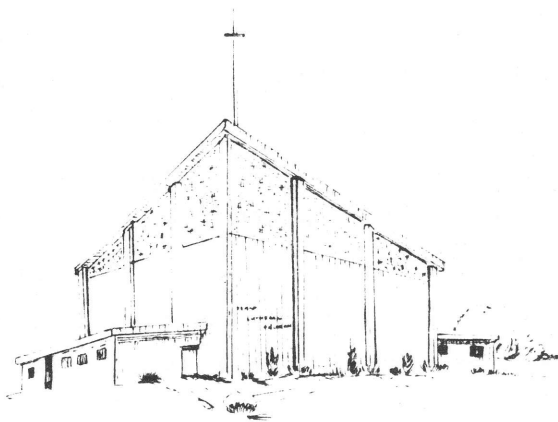
In 1897, Rev. James I. Bartholomew of Stafford was the moving force in reconciling the two churches as one, and placing both under the supervision of the Methodist Church in Stafford Springs. The following year a religious school was organized, and church services were held twice a month on Sunday afternoon.

In the early 1900s the Advent Chapel was remodeled for use as a Sunday School and for the purpose of putting on suppers and other entertainments by the Ladies Aid Society. This arrangement was kept until 1952 when a decision was made to move the Community House next to the

meetinghouse.

The present pastor, Rev. Daniel D. Allen, divides his time between the churches at Crystal Lake and Stafford Springs.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



The origin of the Congregation of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church can be traced back to 1856 when a small group in Rockville, known as the Lutheran Society, held services in the German language. They could not support a minister until 1864 when Rev. Otto Hanser, from Boston, arrived. On

September 23, 1866, the congregation of The Lutheran Society was formally organized.

Services were held in the Sunday School rooms of the Second Congregational Church until a building was purchased from the Methodists in 1867. The building at West Main Street in Rockville was built by the Baptists in 1850. The congregation then became known as the West Main Street German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. N. Soergel that a disagreement occurred that led to his resignation. Others who shared the pastor's views withdrew as members, and together they formed their own church in 1882.

Rev. C. A. Graepp was called to serve the remaining congregation. Land was purchased on Ward Street and a parsonage was built. Through the years many improvements, including an addition, were made to the church building.

In 1928, the name was changed to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and incorporated as such. By 1938, all services in the German language were discontinued.

A new parsonage was built in 1958 at 62 Talcott Avenue, Rockville, on an acre of land purchased from the Congregation B'nai Israel. The following year the old parsonage on Ward Street was sold.

In 1963, three acres of land on Fairview Avenue and a half acre of adjoining land fronting on Orchard Street were acquired in Ellington. A new church was built and dedicated in December 1969. The old church on West Main Street was destroyed by fire in 1975.

Rev. George J. Koch, Jr. is the present pastor.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH



During the mid and late nineteenth century, immigrants from Switzerland settled in Rockville and on farms in Ellington. During this period services were held in various homes until 1891 when they formed the Apostolic Christian Church and built their first church on Fox Hill in Rockville. A decade later, a church seating 200 people was built on Orchard Street in Ellington. A fire destroyed the building in 1908 and the church was rebuilt on the same foundation.

By 1954 the building was deemed too small to accommodate its members and a new 600 seat church was built at 34 Middle Butcher Road.

A congregate living facility, known as Longview Village, was built behind the church in 1980. The 27-apartment complex for the older church members was built with donations from members of the church. The emphasis on family prompted the church community to make caring for its own members one of its goals.

The Apostolic Christian Church of Ellington is affiliated with the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Elder Corbin Bahler is the present head of the congregation.

CONGREGATION KNESSETH ISRAEL



The Congregation Kneseth Israel evolved from the Connecticut Jewish Farmers Association which was organized in 1905. The members were European immigrants who were granted loans by the Jewish Agricultural Society enabling them to buy land, and settle on the farms in and around Ellington. The society was funded by Baron Maurice deHirsch (1831-1896), a Jewish philanthropist from Germany.

His foundation, established in 1891 in America, aided the resettlement of thousands of refugees fleeing the pogroms in Czarist Russia and other countries.

The farmers first met in the home of Aaron Dobkin for Sabbath Services, and soon after they met alternately in the homes of Samuel Rosenberg and Louis Franklin, all of whom lived on or near Abbott Road.

In 1913, Julius and Molly Sugarman donated a 60 foot by 100 foot parcel of land on the southeast corner of Abbott and Middle Roads to construct a synagogue. The plans called for a 30 foot by 40 foot modest wooden structure with two rooms partitioned off by a four foot high wall topped with a row of windows. In keeping with the orthodox tradition, the room that would contain the ark with the torahs was for the men, and the other was for the women. The women's section would also be used for recreational purposes, and contain a pot bellied stove.

William Kibbe, a friendly neighbor, donated the chestnut lumber for the frame, and some of the members pitched in and helped with the construction, which held the final cost down to \$1,500.

Rev. Israel Cor served as the spiritual leader until his death in November 1940, at age 77. Since that time rabbis have been hired for the High Holiday Services, except for a two-year period in the 70s when Rabbi Mac Portal moved to Ellington and served the congregation on a part-time basis. The learned men of the congregation conduct Sabbath as well as other holiday services, and assist the hired rabbis.

In 1954, the building was moved to its present site at 236 Pinney Street, but the former site has been retained. The land on Pinney Street was donated by Eva and Calmun Myerowitz, who at that time lived next door. The synagogue underwent extensive renovations and modernization which included bathrooms, kitchen facilities, and a recreation room in the basement. Eventually a parking lot was laid out on the south end of the land, and hemlocks and arborvitae planted as a screen.

The Ladies Auxiliary was reactivated as the Ellington Sisterhood in 1955. The Sisterhood, which is still active, organized a Sunday and Hebrew School and started a children's library in addition to fund raising.

In the 1960s Rabbi Samuel Levenberg of New Haven began a Bible Study Class which still meets under the guidance of Rabbi David Edelman of Springfield, Massachusetts.

The synagogue continues to fill the spiritual, cultural, and social needs of the Jewish community in the traditional manner. Gene Tick was recently installed as president. He replaced Dr. Harold A. Kadish who moved to West Hartford.

SAINT LUKE CHURCH



The growth of Ellington as a suburban town brought many more Catholic families here to establish roots. The Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Norwich was petitioned to establish a church in Ellington.

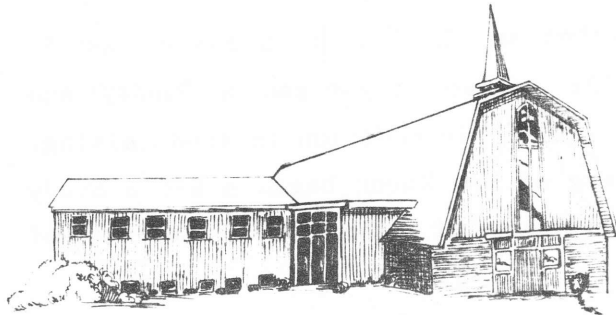
The Diocese, needing a rectory, purchased "The Plantation" on Maple Street from George Wendheiser's estate in 1961. It was built by Miles H. Aborn in 1915 on land he purchased in 1907.

In March of 1961, Rev. Maurice Sullivan was appointed the first pastor of Saint Luke Church and two regular Sunday masses were held at

Ellington High School. Ground breaking for the church occurred in April 1962 and the church was dedicated in December 1962.

Rev. Norbert Belliveau is the present pastor.

ELLINGTON WESLEYAN CHURCH



The Ellington Wesleyan Church was established in 1964 when the Rev. Hervey W. Taber and his family came to this area from New York and held the first services in their home on Cider Mill Road. However, its roots go back to England where John Wesley founded Methodism.

In its two decades, the Ellington Wesleyan Church has grown from a small group in the pastor's parsonage to a congregation of about 125. While the church was being built, the congregation met briefly at the Skinner Road School in Vernon. The contemporary-style church, located at 77 Cider Mill Road, was officially dedicated on May 30, 1967. Five years later an education wing was added, and the sanctuary was enlarged.

Pastor Taber, after serving the church for 21 years, left in 1985 for missionary service in Australia.

The Rev. Edwin A. Roloson has been installed as pastor, and a new parsonage was built near the church site.

writer - Maureen C. Kosha

BAPTIST MOVEMENT

In New England some Congregational Churches became Baptist, especially in Connecticut towns between 1750 and 1760.

A public record in 1760 reveals that a meetinghouse stood atop a hill (Newell Hill) in the Parish of Ellington in Windsor. However, no records to date have been uncovered to show that it was ever a Congregational Meetinghouse.

It was known, in 1741, that Shubael Stearns became a Baptist convert when he was baptized in Tolland by the Elder Wait Palmer. In July 1754, the Elder Stearns baptized Noah Alden of Stafford before he departed to North Carolina where he became a noted evangelist. The next year Noah Alden became the elder.

Noah was the son of Deacon Joseph Alden and the grandson of John Alden and Priscilla (Mullens) of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Noah Alden was the elder and minister of the Baptist Church or Society in Stafford for a decade. During that time, followers came to services from the neighboring town of Tolland and Windsor's Ellington Parish. It is possible that the Elder Alden also used the meetinghouse atop the hill.

In May 1764, the Baptists met at a public service held in Enfield which was attended by Noah and his brother, Daniel, from Stafford. Some of the members came from Tolland and Ellington Parish. Nathan Aldrich and Josiah Bradley, mentioned as Baptists, were from the parish. They both were later known to have affiliated with the Methodists near their homes in Square Pond.

Nathaniel Drake, who lived near Drake's causeway on Jobs Hill in Ellington Parish in the 1750s, was a Baptist by profession and practice. In 1771, he was confined to jail and taxed for building a new meetinghouse in the First Society of East Windsor. However, the Elder Drake was soon discharged and exonerated.

For almost a century, nothing further has been found on local records concerning the Baptists.

On March 8, 1842, a meeting was held in the Ellington home of Thomas King, a tanner by trade, and a Baptist Church was formally organized. The 32 members were mostly from Rockville. Their minister was George Mixter, who spent six years at Wales, Massachusetts, before settling in Ellington

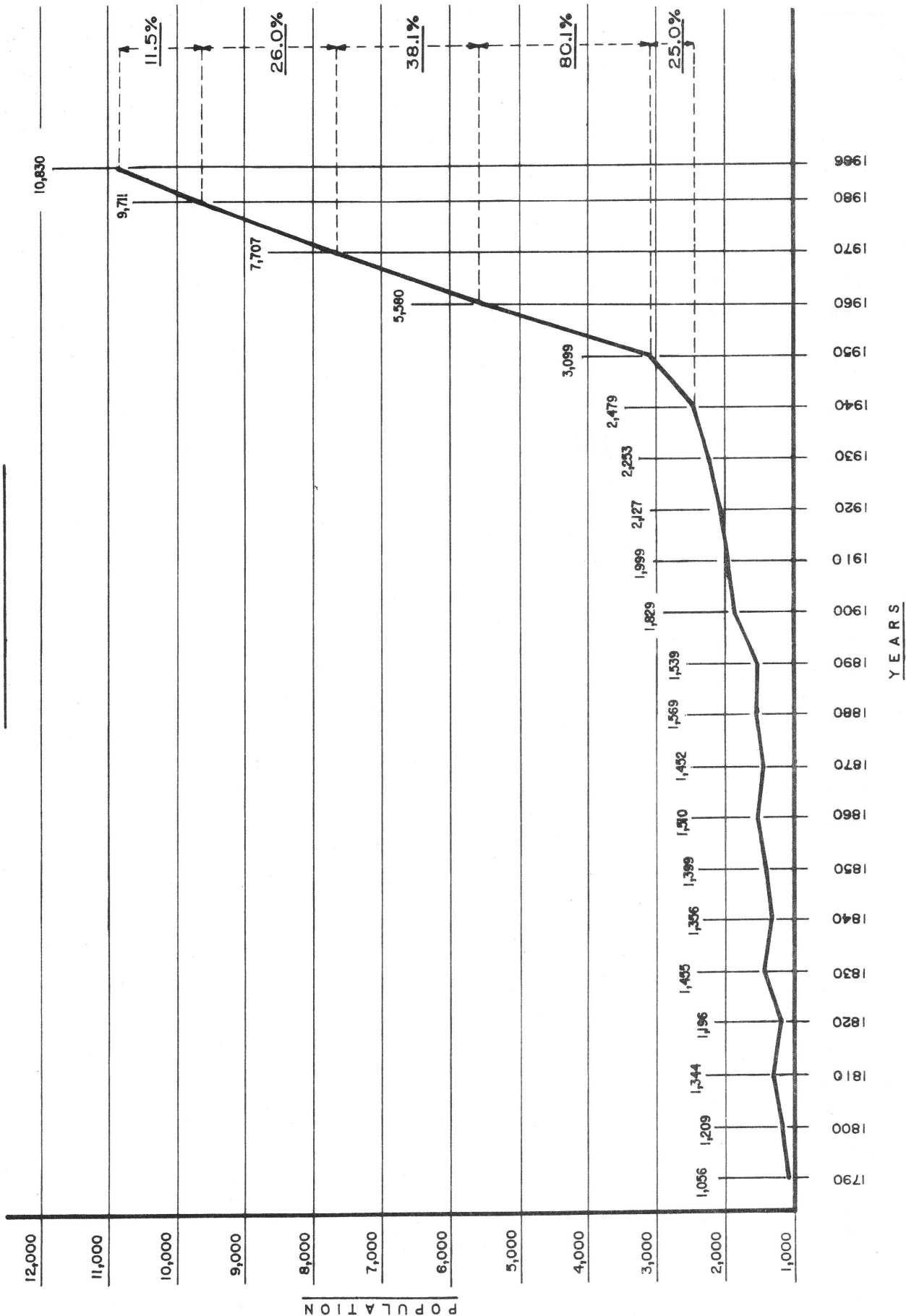
in 1842. He bought land on the southwest corner of Main and Mechanic Streets where he built a house. He lived there with his wife, the former Chloe Calkins, and their five children for a few years after the church disbanded in 1845. The Baptists met for the three-year period in the Conference House built for the Brockways in 1835. The building still stands on the north side of Maple Street opposite Church Park.

The ancestral Pinney house in Ellington was used on July 17, 1849 by a group of 14 Baptists from Rockville who met there for their first service. The minister was D. D. Lyon.

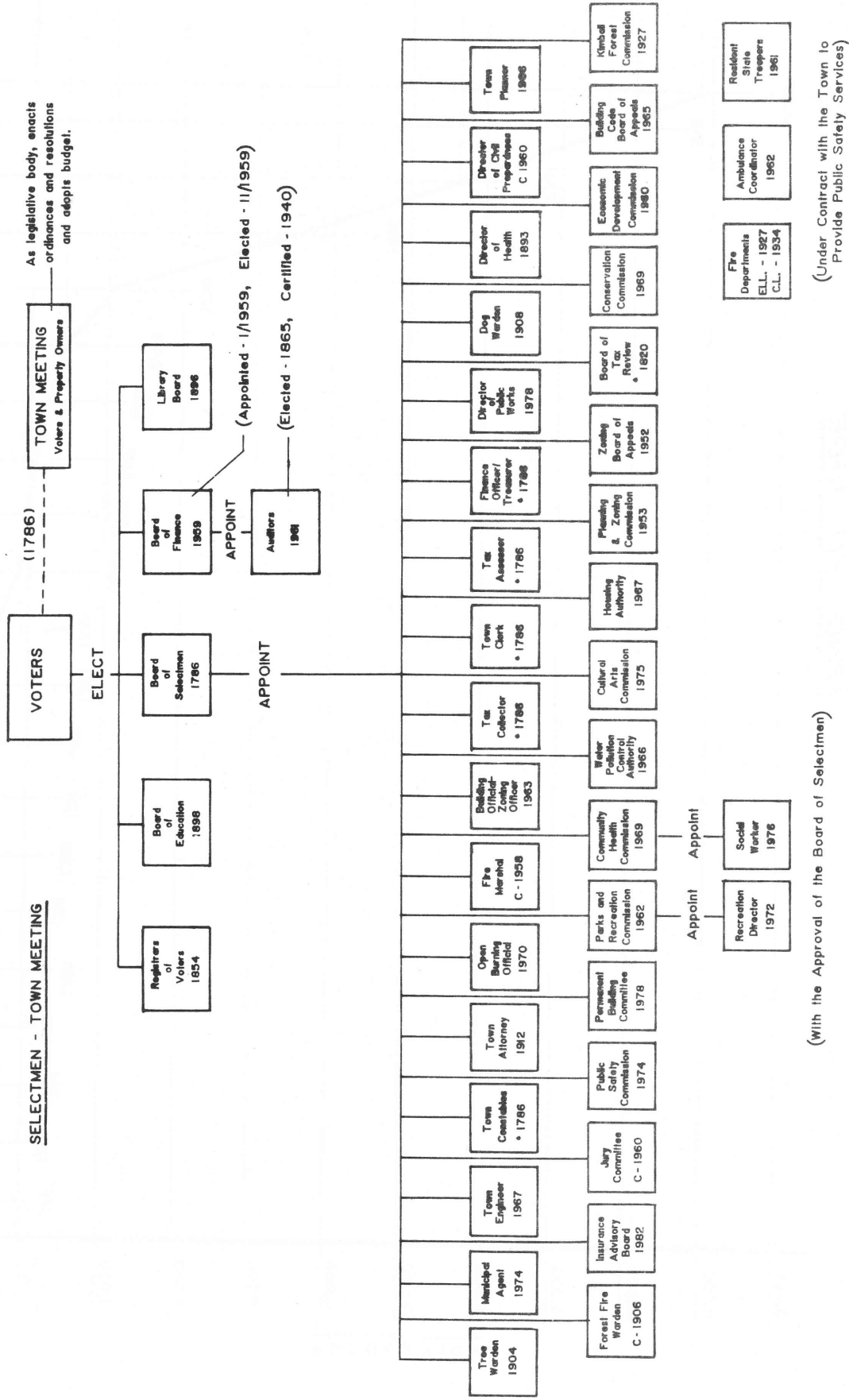
To this day there are no Baptist church buildings in Ellington, except possibly the Meetinghouse that once stood on Newell Hill.

By - Dorothy B. Cohen

ELLINGTON POPULATION GROWTH 1790 TO 1986



BRANCHES OF TOWN GOVERNMENT



* FORMERLY ELECTED OFFICES UNTIL TOWN CHARTER WAS ADOPTED IN 1975 AND IMPLEMENTED IN 1978.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

The government of Ellington can be traced back to the year 1639 and to the founder of American democracy, Thomas Hooker. In 1639, the leaders of the river towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor joined together to form a Commonwealth based upon the principle of democracy that:

the foundation of authority is laid

in the free consent of the people,

as articulated by Rev. Thomas Hooker in his famous sermon delivered in the year 1638. This agreement, outlining the rights and responsibilities between the leaders and the people, was named the "Fundamental Orders" which is considered to be the first written constitution, and explains why Connecticut is known as the Constitution State.

All free men, who agreed to take a loyalty oath, were given the right to vote. The Fundamental Orders were approved by the voters of the Towns of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor at a mass meeting. The Fundamental Orders provided for the executive, judicial and legislative separation of powers. The governor and his six assistants were elected annually in a general assembly of all the free men and were specifically authorized to exercise the executive and judicial powers of the Commonwealth. The legislative branch of the government was initially composed of four representatives from each of the three towns, in addition to the aforementioned duly-elected governor and six assistants.

Ellington's link with these origins of democracy is by virtue of the fact that Ellington became part of the eastern portion of the Town of Windsor. Ellington, located east of Windsor and across the Connecticut River was referred to as the "Great Marsh."

From the year 1716, when the first settler of record moved to Ellington, to 1735, the residents of Ellington were required to attend and to financially support weekly Sunday church services in what is South Windsor today in addition to attending town meetings across the river in Windsor.

In 1735, Windsor recognized the petition of the Ellington residents to establish their own church and released them from their obligation to support the "Windsor Farmes" Parish. However, Ellington residents were still required to attend town meetings in Windsor.

This all changed in 1768, when East Windsor was authorized by the General Assembly to become incorporated and thus separate from Windsor.

From 1768 to 1786, the date of Ellington's own incorporation, Ellington residents attended required town meetings in East Windsor. During this time residents of the Parish of Ellington petitioned the State of Connecticut General Assembly to grant them political sovereignty on at least three separate occasions. However, when the General Assembly, in October of 1785, created a new County and included the Parish of Ellington in it, the logic of filing yet a new petition was as follows:

"To the Honourable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut...The Memorial of the Society or Parish of Ellington in the Township of East Windsor...That the circumstances of said Parish are very peculiar; situated in the northeast extremity of said Town--the Meeting House in Ellington being about ten miles distant from that in the First Parish and about five from the North Parish; and as town meetings are held at the three parishes by rotation it is very inconvenient not only for the inhabitants of said Ellington, but also for the others in their towns. Your Memorialists beg leave for them to observe that the Honourable General Assembly at their sessions in October last erected a new County, and annexed said Parish of Ellington to said new County, which circumstance renders it peculiarly inconvenient for said Parish to continue to remain part of the Town of East Windsor. Wherefore your Memorialists pray to be erected and made a distinct Town with powers and privileges as other towns in this state have (excepting being allowed to send only one representative to the General Assembly) and your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray."

Dated at East Windsor the 29th Day of March 1786.

The following action was taken by the General Assembly in 1786:

"On the Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Parish or Society of Ellington in East Windsor praying to be incorporated and made a distinct Town as per Memorial on File.

Resolved by this assembly that the Inhabitants of said Society of Ellington be and they are hereby constituted and incorporated into one entire and distinct Town by the name of Ellington, And that they shall have and enjoy all Liberties Powers and Priveleges which other Towns in this State have and do enjoy, excepting and reserving that the said Town of Ellington shall not have Liberty to send more than one Representative to Represent them in the General Assembly at one and the same Sessions they the Inhabitants of said new Town paying their proportion of the Debts that are now due from the said Town of East Windsor, and also take their part of the Town Poor and that they be entitled to their part of all Moneys and Debts the property of said Town all to be computed according to

the General List, and Daniel Elsworth Esq. is hereby Authorized and impowered to warn the Inhabitants of said New Town to meet at the Meeting House in said Town at such Time as he shall appoint and as soon as may be by setting up a written Notification for all purpose on the Sign Post in said Town at least four days before the holding said Meeting, And the said Daniel Elsworth Esq. is hereby appointed and Authorized to preside as Moderator of said Meeting and to lead the inhabitants to the Choice of a Town Clerk and all other necessary Town Officers, and all Officers so Chosen shall continue in Office until the first Day of January next, or until others are Chosen in their room & sworn."

Thus Ellington became a separate town authorized to exercise the powers delegated to it by the General Assembly. In summary, Ellington received religious freedom in 1735 and political freedom in 1786.

On June 22, 1786, the First Town Meeting of the newly created Town of Ellington was called by Daniel Elsworth, Esq., as directed by the General Assembly.

One of the primary functions of the Town Meeting, during this period of history was to elect Town Officers. The following interim Town Officers were elected:

<u>Town Clerk</u>	Matthew Hyde
<u>Selectmen</u>	Matthew Hyde Mr. Nathan Aldrich Colonel Joseph Abbott
<u>Constable and Collector of State Taxes</u>	John McCray
<u>Treasurer</u>	Gurdon Elsworth
<u>Surveyors of Highways</u>	James McKinney III Samuel King Hezekiah Russell Elijah Pember Aaron Damon Ebenezer Nash
<u>Listers</u>	Captain Samuel Sessions Reuben Porter Captain Ichabod Wadsworth
<u>Collector</u>	Hezekiah Russell
<u>Grand Jurors</u>	William McCray Nathaniel Newell

Tything Men

John Hall
James Steele

Packers of Tobacco

Gurdon Elsworth
Captain Ichabod Wadsworth

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Jabez Chapman

Leather Sealer

Ebenezer Nash

The Town Meeting furthermore complied with the General Assembly directive by appointing the following committee to meet with East Windsor officials to determine which individuals on the East Windsor Poor List were properly Ellington's responsibility:

Joseph Abbott
Daniel Elsworth
Nathan Aldrich
John Hall
Matthew Hyde

By July 4, 1786, agreement had been reached regarding persons to be transferred to Ellington's Poor List.

On July 20, 1786, the second Town Meeting was held in Ellington for the purpose of levying a tax on the inhabitants based on the list of 1785 (Grand List).

As was the practice at the time, the Town of Ellington held its Annual Town Meeting in early December (December 4, 1786) for the purpose of electing the various town officials to serve for the next calendar year. It is interesting to note that the Town of Ellington was served by a Board of three Selectmen from the time of its incorporation to January, 1978, when Ellington became a chartered Town served by a seven-member Board of Selectmen.

Although two hundred years have passed, the role of the Board of Selectmen remains the same, which is to carry out the actions of the Town Meetings.

The needs of an agrarian society spearheaded the development of the hinterland into more farmland. It was the custom for a farmer to divide his farmland among his sons when he was no longer able to farm it or when his son/sons were desirous of establishing their own home. This method of dividing farmland created a need for acquiring additional farmland. Hence

the motivation for the residents of Windsor to cross the Connecticut River and establish holdings in East Windsor and Ellington.

Ellington's population remained fairly stable from the date of its incorporation and the subsequent first recorded census of 1790 (see population chart) to Post World War II. Since the primary occupation of the residents of Ellington was farming, the duties of a number of town officials were related directly to farming; such as haywards, pound keepers and fence viewers. Local residents looked to these town officials, whom they elected each fall at the Annual Town Meeting, to keep their neighbors' livestock out of their fields.

The elected haywards were responsible for impounding stray cattle or other animals. Elected pound keepers were responsible for maintaining the public pastures (pound) where the stray animals were kept until they were claimed by their owners. Today, Ellington's appointed Canine Control Officers exercise the responsibilities formerly held by haywards and pound keepers but only in regard to dogs. Fence viewers were elected from 1789-1875 to provide assistance in settling disputes over division fences.

Other elected town officials such as: Packers of Tobacco, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Leather Sealer and later on Inspectors of Lumber and Flour were in time replaced with state inspectors.

Town Clerk: Recording births, marriages, deaths, land transactions, town meeting warnings and minutes.

Selectmen: Responsible for carrying out town meeting directives.

Constable and Collector of State Taxes: Responsible for collecting portions of State Tax owed by each individual. If the individual refused to pay, this town official had the authority to physically put the individual in jail.

Treasurer: Keeper of town funds and financial records.

Surveyors of Highways: Responsible not only for laying out highways but also for maintaining them.

Listers: Responsible for listing every taxable property and assigning a value to it. Later called Assessors.

Boards of Relief: Forerunner to present Board of Tax Review, first appear as elected town officials in 1820.

Collector: Responsible for collecting taxes levied by Annual Town Meeting.

Grand Jurors: Duties included serving on the Grand Jury at the County or Superior Court; investigating Breaches of Law, and the subpoena of witnesses; reporting every three months at a meeting held at the Courthouse. A Grand Juror was fined if he failed to perform his duties or refused to serve when elected.

Tything Men: A unit of civil administration developed in England originally consisting of ten families, which provided for a system of law enforcement based on citizen responsibility much like the Neighborhood Watch Programs currently in operation in a number of Ellington neighborhoods.

In 1896, the first Annual Report for the Town of Ellington was printed. At this point in time, the voters were electing the following town officials at the Annual Town Meeting held in early October:

Assessor for 3 years, 1 member of the Board of Relief for 3 years, 3 Selectmen, Town Clerk for 2 years, Town Treasurer for 2 years, Agent of Town Deposit Fund for 2 years, 6 Grand Jurors, Collector of Taxes, 7 Constables and 2 Registrars of Voters.

At the October 5, 1896, Annual Town Meeting, the Free Town Library was approved, three directors were appointed and a \$200 appropriation was authorized. In 1905, the number of directors increased to six, with these directors being elected each year.

On the first Monday of July 1898, "Town management of schools went into effect" (1899 Annual Report pages 16-18). This marks the beginning of the School Committee of nine members, to which three members were elected each year. With the election of the School Committee all school property, including the ten district schools, became town property and the district tax was eliminated. Henceforth, the Annual Town Budget would support the cost of educating Ellington's children.

In addition to elected officials, the Board of Selectmen appointed a Tree Warden, Dog Warden, Town Attorney and Director of Health. New Health Rules were adopted by the Town of Ellington in 1896 and regulated in addition to "malignant or contagious diseases;" funerals, privy vaults, cesspools, drains, garbage, drainage, sewerage, swine, goats, markets as well as "bone boiling and fat rendering establishments" (1897 Annual Report).

Tree Warden expenses are first reported in the 1904 Annual Report.

In 1911 and 1916, as well as successive years, the cost of spraying the elm trees in the center of town is recorded. It is interesting to note that Marshall E. Charter was listed as the Town Tree Warden in 1907, which was four years before he was first elected Town Clerk -- a post he held until his death in 1950.

Effective in July 23, 1867, the State of Connecticut required that dogs be licensed in order to help control the spread of rabies which was prevalent in the domestic dog population at that time. Although dog license receipts were listed annually by the Town Clerk, it was not until 1908 that reference is made to paying \$12 to J. W. Watkins for "looking up dogs."

Although it had been the practice of the town to hire lawyers to represent the town in required legal matters, it wasn't until 1912 that the Annual Report listed John E. Fisk, as attorney for the Town of Ellington for one year at a cost of \$26.35. Coincidentally, this same law firm, presently DuBeau and Ryan, has represented the town since 1912 to the present with the exception of only eight years.

It should be noted that although three Selectmen were elected each year, the highest vote getter assumed the responsibility of conducting the day-to-day business of the town. First mention of the office of First Selectman appears in state law in 1860 and in Town of Ellington meeting minutes October 3, 1881. At this Annual Town Meeting the First Selectman was appointed to be the cemetery agent. In 1915, state law required that the minority party be represented among the Selectmen.

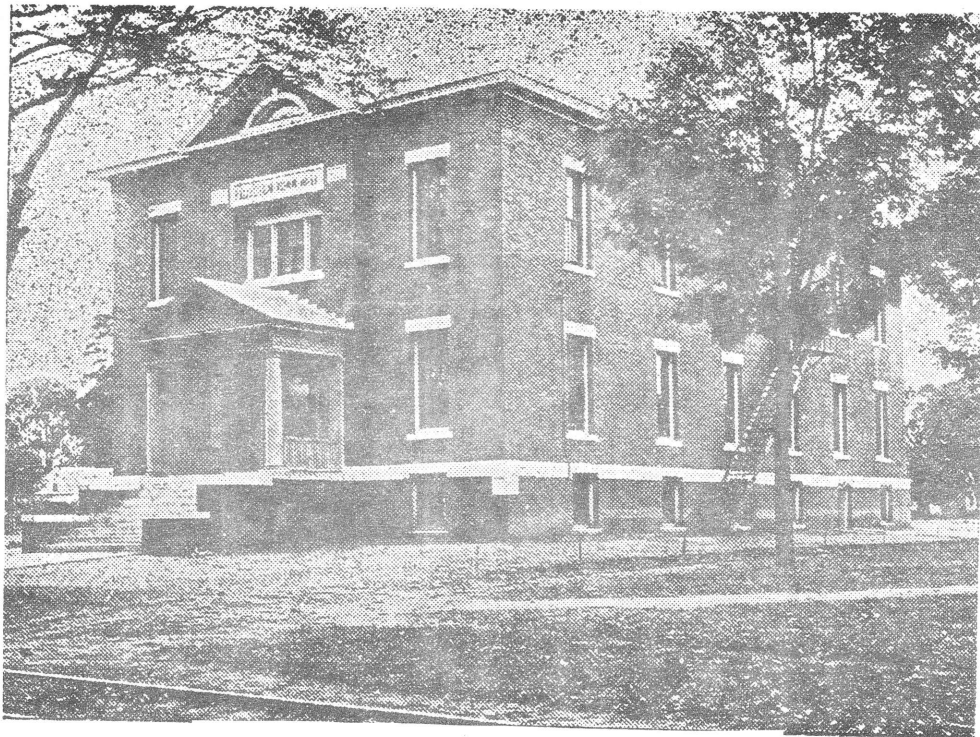
From 1927 to 1940 the annual ballot was printed in the Town Report listing Democratic and Republican nominees for all elected positions. Since 1786 and for many years thereafter, town officials were elected at the Annual Town Meeting. The polls would be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the business meeting would commence at 2:00 p.m.

In addition to voting on the proposed Town Budget, the Annual Town Meeting would also authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer to borrow money to renew current indebtedness and to pay current expenses. The reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer and other officers were heard at this time.

From at least 1888 to 1918 voters were given the opportunity to: see if the Town will vote to license the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors.

Ellington can be described as being a "wet town" with voters annually approving the sale of liquor in town.

writer - Mary A. Miller



Ellington Town Hall - Built in 1915

(APPENDICES)

THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The American Legion Post No. 62 organized a Fire Department in 1927 when the Rockville Fire Department discontinued service locally. Theodore A. Palmer was the first fire chief. The Legion raised funds and purchased a used fire truck which was kept for eighteen years. It was housed at the former John DeCarli property on the northwest corner of Main Street where a siren was later installed. The siren replaced the church bell to summon the firemen in emergencies.

A large concrete water tank, which is still available for use, was constructed under the Town Green to take care of the water shortage in the center.

In 1932, the late William Pinney donated his Packard sedan and it was converted into a tank truck with a portable pump. The pump could be hand carried to places inaccessible to the heavy pumper. The Packard was sold after a new Chevrolet chassis was purchased in 1937, and the new truck was housed in the Town Hall basement. The basement also had a Boy Scout meeting room which the firemen used.

In October of 1941, the Town appropriated \$7,000 for a new American LaFrance pumper which wasn't delivered until after World War II ended in 1945. A new combination firehouse and town garage was completed on land previously purchased on Main Street in 1946.

One of the firemen's most successful fund raisers is a variation of the "Lawn Party" that was first tried in 1934. In the 1950s the Town began annual appropriations, and the profits from the "Lawn Party" went toward needed equipment.

In 1957, a used milk truck was converted for rescue service, and after five years was replaced by a new service truck. The Town's first water tanker (a used oil tanker) was replaced in 1970 with a custom-built Brockway-Farrar fire tanker. It is being used as a back-up since a new one was purchased in 1985. Other purchases included a new American LaFrance pumper in 1966 and one in 1975. A custom-built Ford-Saulsbury fully equipped rescue truck to handle any emergency was delivered in October of 1981.

A seven-bay garage was built in 1969 to house the highway equipment, and the old garage was turned over to the Fire Department. An old tobacco shed adjoining the town garage was used for storage for several years until an addition to the firehouse was completed in the spring of 1983. Besides the three-bay station with an upstairs training room, a parking lot was constructed north of the building. The firehouse presently has eight bay stations.

The apartment over the firehouse was used at first for a fireman and his family. The fireman was required to answer the emergency phone, sound the alarm, and drive one of the fire trucks. In 1974, the department took over the apartment for offices. The phone answering and alarm dispatching was transferred to the County Dispatch Center in Tolland.

The firemen sponsor public safety educational programs for nursery, kindergarten, and elementary school children as well as scout groups. In June of 1979 they began the "Junior Firefighter" program for those between sixteen and eighteen years old. At age eighteen the trainee is automatically transferred to the regular fire department for a probationary period before acceptance as a full-fledged member.

The fire police detail consists of five members appointed by the chief to deal with traffic problems and crowd control at scenes of fires and emergencies. There are currently four certified fire service instructors and twenty-five medically trained personnel.

Plans for the future call for an Enhanced 911 Statewide Emergency Telephone service number (E-911) on or before 1989.

THE CRYSTAL LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Company No. 2, Inc., which was organized on August 27, 1934 had 35 charter members. Edward A. Ludwig became the first fire chief, and served for the next 10 years. The first fire fighting trucks were a donated "Reo" and an old dry cleaning van. The "Reo" was converted by adding sprayers, shovels, brooms and other needed equipment. The van was cut down into a small fire truck that included the additions of a 100-gallon water tank, a power take-off pump, and 500 feet of 1 1/2 inch double jacket water hose.

In October 1936, a little over a half acre of land on the south side of Sandy Beach Road was leased, with the Town's approval, from the State of Connecticut to erect a building. A few years later, the former Crystal Lake Hotel ice house, donated by William Bowler, was moved to the leased site and rebuilt into a one-bay fire station. Members, using personal assets as collateral, obtained a loan to purchase a new Ford fire truck.

On July 26, 1947, the Crystal Lake Fire District was incorporated by a special act in the State Legislature. A board of five Commissioners presently oversee the district's operations which include a water rescue squad. The squad responds to local and out-of-state water related emergencies. The district provides a diving boat and motor and a used army ambulance for their use. The Fire Company provides service outside the district in West Stafford and Tolland near the Ellington line. A few of the volunteer firemen live in these towns.

The firemen hold regular monthly drills in rescue procedures besides attending training courses offered in and out of the state. The volunteer firemen sponsor various fund raisers and have solicited donations to cover expenses. They helped build, maintain and finance the additions to the original station. In 1958, a group of 15 women organized the Women's Auxiliary to aid and support the firemen in their endeavors. In addition the Fire Company receives an annual appropriation from the town.

In 1982, a special Fire Police Committee and a Dry Hydrant Committee were appointed. That year a generator was installed at the station to enable the department to function during power failures.

At the present time, the fire station has four bay stations, a meeting hall upstairs, and among the six pieces of emergency equipment are one rescue and three fire trucks.

The numerous auxiliary and volunteer members associated with the Fire Company continue to carry on in the traditional way of the original organizers. The Community further benefits from their teaching programs; such as, courses in advanced first aid and emergency care as well as a fire-fighting program for teenagers between sixteen and eighteen years old.

THE AMBULANCE CORPS AND RESCUE POST 512

The Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. (EVAC) founded by five

members in 1962, was incorporated in March 1977. A used 1952 Cadillac hearse purchased for \$400, was converted into an ambulance. During the winter months it was housed at the former Pearl Oil Company garage on West Road. George and Samuel Pearl gave the use of the garage to the Corps for the next seventeen years. In August 1966, a new ambulance was purchased. The Town gave \$4,000 toward the cost, the drivers donated their pay of \$2,150, and the remainder came from private contributions.

The ambulance was manned during the day for the next four years by certain employees of Duo-Set, a local textile plant, until it was sold.

The Ellington Explorer Rescue Post 512, a co-ed Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America, was formed by a group of high school students in 1966 to fill the void. Volunteers between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one meeting certain standards, could join this group or the Corps. The Post volunteers between the ages of fourteen and sixteen begin training as Medical Response Technicians. After a few years the trainee is assigned to a crew on the ambulance in order to gain field experience. The trainee must then complete the Emergency Medical Technician course before becoming a member and associate member of the Ambulance Corps. An applicant must be at least eighteen years old to become an Ambulance Corps member, and to begin training.

In 1973, the first prize in a National contest sponsored by Parent Magazine, for young people in the United States engaged in worth while projects, was awarded to a group of Ellington High School students for assisting in the Ambulance Corps. They received an engraved plaque and \$500, which was presented by Governor John Dempsey at the State Capitol in Hartford. The prize money went toward additional ambulance equipment.

In 1974, the Post volunteers financed and built the first of three training and emergency trucks. The Post later received nationwide recognition when "That's Incredible" televised a simulated version of their emergency medical assistance in action.

In October, 1979, construction was started on a building, west of the Ellington High School, to house the vehicles and provide a meeting place for the Ambulance Corps and Rescue Post. Seventy-five percent of the work on the building was done by volunteers, and the building was completed February 1980.

In March 1985, the Corps received the William H. Spurgeon III award

from the Boy Scouts of America for their sponsorship of Explorer Rescue Post 512, which encouraged young people to participate in community service.

The Ambulance Corps is staffed evenings and weekends by an adult group, and during school hours by the Rescue Post and Ellington High School teachers to provide 24 hours of service to the town. The Rescue Post also provides service to other towns by standing ready at parades, fairs, etc. to give first aid and to direct traffic.

Robert C. Sandberg is the current president of the Ambulance Corps that has a roster of thirty-two Corps members, and fourteen associate members. Membership varies between 30 and 45 due in part to the seniors in high school graduating and leaving.

This fine group also sponsors a Junior co-ed fire-fighting training program for those between sixteen and eighteen years old.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The principal function of the police personnel is to protect life and property. This is being accomplished by a team consisting of five resident State Troopers headed by a Sergeant, 19 part-time Ellington constables (10 of whom are marine constables at Crystal Lake), and members of Troop C of the State Police Barracks in Stafford Springs.

The town's first State Trooper began work on October 1, 1961. The following June, office space was set aside for police use in the Town Hall. In 1984, the Police Department moved into larger quarters in the remodeled basement.

The first police cruiser was put into service in September 1967, and another two years later. Today, there are two town cruisers and a fleet of five State Police cruisers.

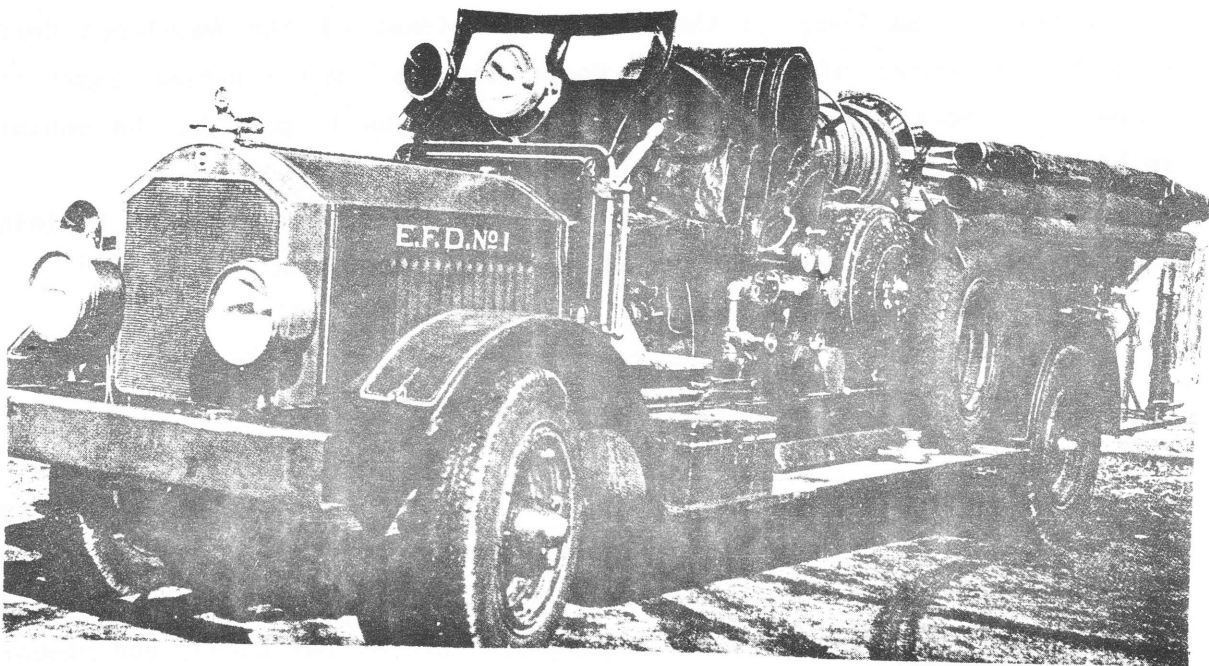
By 1978, the Town had three resident State Troopers, one full-time constable and six part-time constables. On February 1, 1985, a fourth State Trooper was assigned to the force. The Town pays 60 percent of the total cost of maintaining the local troopers and the State pays the balance.

This year (1987) Ellington became the first town in the State to be

assigned a Sergeant. State Trooper, Sergeant Walter Nieliwocki, was placed in charge of the local Police Department, and a part-time secretary was hired September, 1986.

The police department has outgrown its quarters and the Town is investigating space in an adjacent shopping center.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



Ellington's first pumper, purchased used in 1928.



THE ELLINGTON DISTRICT PROBATE COURT

The first Probate Court in the colonies was established in the Connecticut Colony in 1638 as part of the General Court system. The Probate Court was the first to recognize the property rights of women in 1639 when it rejected the English "eldest son" inheritance law known as "primogeniture." The court decreed in this particular case that the estate of the deceased must be divided among a surviving spouse and children of both sexes. The Probate Court became separate in 1698 from the General Assembly (General Court to 1664) when the Governor and Counsel, as one house, and the deputies, as the other house, became distinct entities. The first Probate Districts originated in 1719 in Hartford, New Haven, New London, Fairfield, Woodbury and Windham.

Ellington was in the Hartford Probate Court District when it was named and became the eastern frontier Parish of Windsor in October 1735.

The Stafford District was established in May 1759 and the Parish was included along with Stafford, Tolland, Willington, Somers and Union. Zebulon West, Esquire, of Tolland, was the first judge appointed by the General Assembly for the first one year term. The judge in turn appointed a clerk who was sworn in to that office. Mr. West had also served as Justice of the Peace from Tolland since 1744. He held this office and that of Judge of Probate until his death in 1770. Isaac Pinney, of Stafford, succeeded him as judge, and served until 1791.

In 1768, East Windsor was incorporated and Ellington Parish, North Bolton Society of Windsor (1760-1789, west part of Vernon), and the present South Windsor were included as part of that township. In 1782, the Probate Court was constituted for East Windsor District which included the Society, west part of the Parish and the Town of Enfield. The latter was removed from the district on May 26, 1834. The meridian line drawn from the northwest corner of Tolland due north to Somers line divided the Parish in 1782 into separate probate districts. The section east of this line remained in the Stafford District, and the west section became part of the new East Windsor Probate District.

A year after the Parish of Ellington was taken out of Hartford County (established in 1666), and included in Tolland County formed in 1785, the Parish was granted incorporation. A County Courthouse and jail were then

erected in Tolland.

On May 31, 1826 the Town of Ellington Probate District was established which took in the towns of Somers and Vernon. In 1834 Somers was made a separate district.

JUDGES OF PROBATE

Ellington Probate District

The following were appointed by the General Assembly for one year terms.

Asa Willey -- 1826-33 (Ellington)	Oliver H. King -- 1841-42 (Vernon)
Benjamin Pinney -- 1833-34 "	Thaddeus C. Bruce -- 1842-44 "
Asa Willey -- 1834-35 "	Phineas Talcott -- 1844-46 "
Benjamin Pinney -- 1835-38 "	Joel W. Smith -- 1846-47 "
Asa Willey -- 1838-41 "	Phineas Talcott -- 1847-50 "

In October of 1850, the constitution of 1818 was amended to provide for the popular election of Probate Judges by the electors of their respective districts; the one-year term was maintained.

Thaddeus C. Bruce -- 1850-51 (Vernon)	Phineas Talcott -- 1857-58 (Vernon)
Phineas Talcott -- 1851-54 "	Caleb Hopkins -- 1858-69 (Ellington)
Dwight W. Loomis -- 1854-55 "	Gelon West -- 1869-76 (Rockville)
Frank W. Perry -- 1855-57 "	

In October of 1876, a further amendment to the constitution mandated a two-year term of office.

Gelon West -- 1876-90 (Rockville)	C. Denison Talcott -- 1929-37 (Vernon)
Lyman T. Tingier -- 1890-95 (Vernon)	Francis T. O'Loughlin -- 1937-47 "
Lester D. Phelps -- 1895-1903 "	Nelson C. Mead -- 1947-49 "
Edward P. Reiser -- 1903-05 "	Thomas F. Rady, Jr. -- 1949 "
John E. Fahey -- 1905-29 "	" -- d. 4/10/66

The Constitution of December 1965 again changed the tenure of office to the present four-year term.

Ruth Myerhaver, Apr. 1966 - Nov. 1966 (Probate Judge for the District of Tolland appointed to fill a portion of Judge Rady's unexpired term)

Antoni N. Sadlak, Nov. 1966 - Jan. 1967 (Elected to fill in the balance of Judge Rady's unexpired term)

Antoni N. Sadlak, Jan. 1967 - Oct. 1969 (Elected to regular four-year term, but died in office)

Ruth Myerhaver, Oct. 1969 - Nov. 1970 (Appointed to fill a portion of Sadlak's unexpired term)

Thomas F. Rady III, Nov. 1970 - Jan. 1971 (Elected to fill in the balance of Sadlak's unexpired term)

Thomas F. Rady III, Jan. 1971 -

PROBATE DISTRICT OF ELLINGTON

MAY 1666 to	HARTFORD - NEW LONDON		Constituted as a County Court
OCT. 1719 to	HARTFORD	WINDHAM (From Hartford and New London)	
MAY 1747 to		PLAINFIELD (From Windham)	
MAY 1752 to		POMFRET (From Windham and Plainfield)	
MAY 1759 to		STAFFORD (From Hartford and Pomfret)	
MAY 1782 to	EAST WINDSOR (From Hartford and Stafford)	<i>East part of Parish remained in Stafford</i>	Pomfret records destroyed by fire Jan. 5, 1754
MAY 31, 1826 to date	ELLINGTON (From East Windsor and Stafford)		May 11, 1786 Ellington incorporated
			For Ellington, Vernon and Somers (Somers separated June 3, 1834)

PROFILES: ELLINGTON PROBATE JUDGES

Asa Willey (1774-1851) was the first to be appointed from the new Ellington district. Judge Willey was born in East Haddam, and admitted to the Tolland County bar in 1801. A few years later he came to Ellington and was the only practicing attorney until John Hall Brockway passed the bar in 1823, and set up an office in the wing of his home. Besides serving as Judge of Probate for three separate terms, Willey was appointed Chief Judge of the County Court in Tolland. He also served as Justice of the Peace, and was elected to the General Assembly in 1810. Attorney Willey married Roxalana Thompson on May 10, 1807, and purchased a dwelling house on Main Street. An office was soon added onto the west side of the house. The judge retired from all activities in 1843.

Benjamin Pinney (1780-1860), eldest son of Eleazer and Anna Pinney of Ellington, was a farmer. He married Susan McKinney on February 23, 1803, and they had five sons and five daughters. He was appointed associate judge of the County Court from May 1835 to May 1838, the same years as Zelotes Long of Coventry. Pinney was also serving as Judge of Probate

during the same three year period. In 1838, an act was passed which provided that the duties of associate judges be performed by one appointed chief judge living in the county. Mr. Pinney was appointed chief judge of the County Court consecutively from May 1842 to May 1847. He also served as selectman, representative to the General Assembly for four sessions, and was elected to the State Senate from the 20th District in 1833. At one time, Pinney was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor but failed to be elected.

Joel W. Smith (1794-1878) came from Meriden with his wife, Betsey, and two daughters. He purchased an old tavern opposite the green from Hiram S. Belcher in 1839. Besides one term as Judge of Probate, Smith served for many years as postmaster and agent for the Center Cemetery.

Caleb Hopkins (1813-1891), son of Joseph and Hannah Hopkins, of Springfield, Massachusetts, was a carpenter by trade. He married Damaris H. Holton on September 4, 1834, daughter of John and Abigail (Wolcott) Holton of Ellington. He settled in town and worked at his trade until he was elected Judge of Probate in 1858. Mr. Hopkins also took charge of funerals, and kept records of the deaths. He was employed for five years as a station agent when a branch railroad line opened in 1876.

It took 100 years before the Ellington Probate District had its fifth and present Probate Judge elected from the town. Attorney Thomas F. Rady III of Ellington first took the oath of office in November 1970, and is serving out his fifth four year term. He has followed in his late father's footsteps, the only father and son to serve in this office. Mr. Rady graduated from the Connecticut School of Law in 1958, and passed the bar the same year. He settled in Ellington after his marriage to Dolores Pelczarski.

A public act approved on June 29, 1855 specified that a judge of probate was not to act in any case where he had been a counsel or attorney such as the settlement of an estate or insolvent debtor. A judge in an adjacent district then had to act in his stead. In 1863, trust accounts were decreed by Probate Courts to be open to public inspection as they were managed by public officials. Probate Judge M. H. Bancroft of Tolland founded the present Connecticut Probate Assembly in 1883. The County Courts were abolished in 1955, and the County government ceased in January

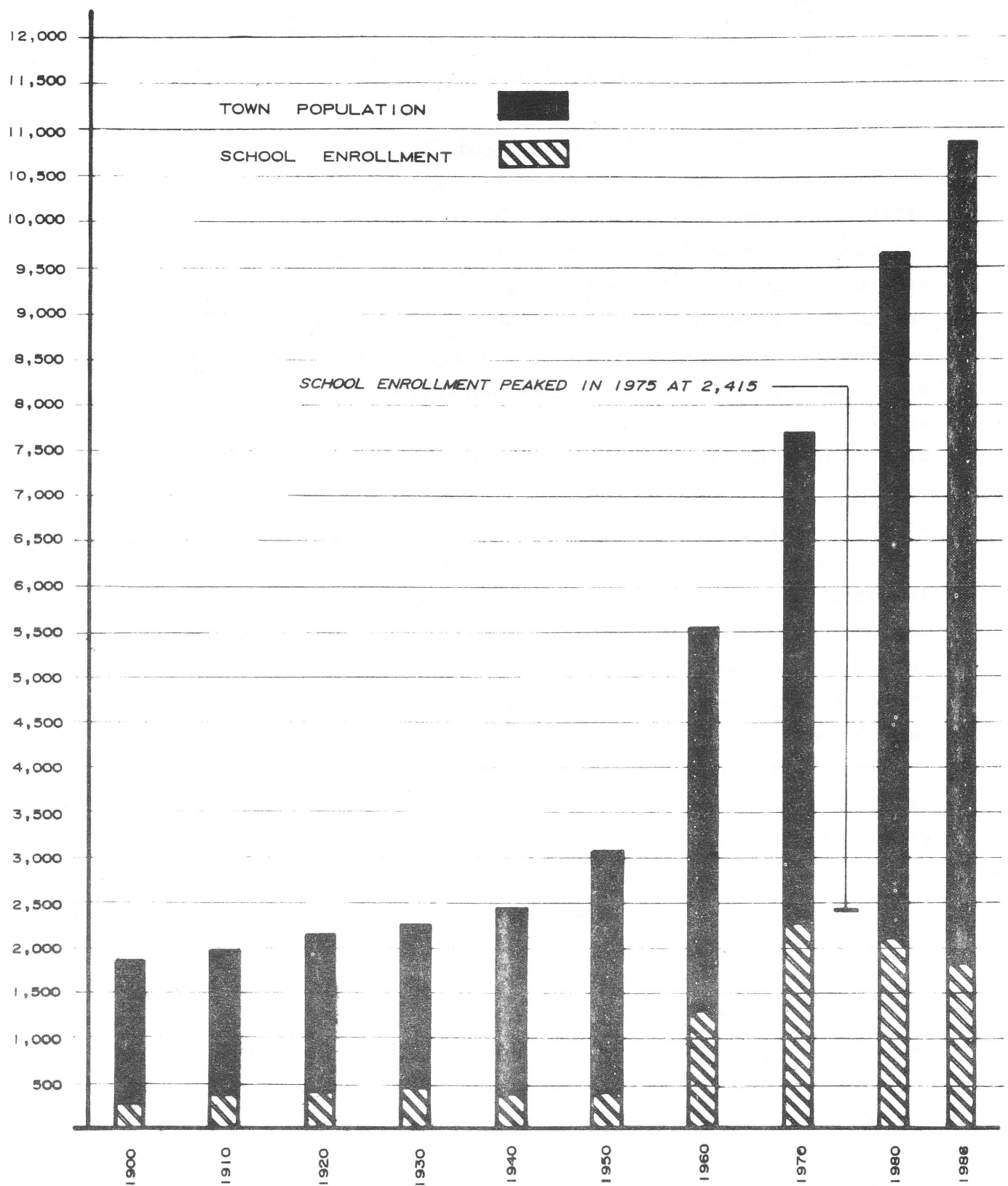
1960. A statute in 1967 created the office of Probate Administrator to oversee the function of the Probate Courts.

Probate Courts cost taxpayers very little. They are paid by those who want to settle estates, adopt children, get marriage waivers, obtain appointments as conservators or guardians for minor children, and to petition for commitment of mentally incompetents. The duties of the court were further expanded to include supervision of trustees for various forms of Trust Estates and custody of displaced or abused children, and in 1978 name changes was added.

The Ellington Probate Court has been housed in the Memorial Building on Park Place in Vernon since it was built in 1889, the same year Rockville was chartered as a city.

In 1775, there were 50 Probate Courts in Connecticut, and in 1900 there were 100. Today there are 131 Probate Courts serving the public.

by Thomas F. Rady III and Dorothy B. Cohen



A COMPARISON OF TOWN POPULATION
AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
1896 - 1986

ELLINGTON GOES TO SCHOOL

Education Through The Years

Ellington's beginnings were like those of most New England towns. Typical of these was Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose beginnings were described in New England's First Fruits (1643): "After God had carried us safe to New England, and wee had builded our houses, provided necessities for our liveli-hood, rear'd convenient places for God's worship and settled the Civill Government; One of the things er longed for, and look after was to advance Learnin and to perpetuate it to Posterity." So, more or less in this order, was Ellington a-borning to establish (1) homes, with their farms (1716), (2) a church (1733) and (3) a "Civill Government" (1786). But schooling was thought of when this area was still a part of Windsor, 100 years before the founding of this town.

As early as 1650, a state law had been passed requiring any town with 100 families or householders to set up a grammar school. Failure to comply resulted in a £5 per annum fine. A mere 43 years after the first settlement at Jamestown and 17 years after colonists reached Connecticut, while survival was still extremely chancy, education for children was being ensured.

The first mention of schooling in this area, east of the Great River, was in 1698 when a schoolmaster was hired at public expense in a part of Windsor which is now South Windsor.

Public Schools

By 1724, there were schools in six places in the area, including one at Great Marsh. Classes generally met in private homes with a "male resident" acting as teacher. As early as 1728 eight acres of land was reserved for a school a little northeast of the Great Marsh in a land division. It was low land and unsuitable for any building.

In 1785, the first School Committee was appointed for the Ellington Parish in East Windsor. The eight men were obliged to take care of the tax money collected for schools. That year the budget was £6,617 and 9d. The rate of taxation for education, as established by law in 1702, was 40 shillings upon every £1,000.

In 1791, there were seven school districts: District 1, east of the

Great Marsh; District 2, west of the Great Marsh; District 3, northwest of the center; District 4, northeastern section; District 5, near center of town; Districts 6 and 7, west and southeast of "Square Pond," now Crystal Lake.

The schools were placed near clusters of houses which were, of course, built wherever possible on arable land near brooks or streams. No provision was made for a school district on the main street in the center. The first petition for a Center School presented on November 17, 1797 was voted down as were similar petitions in 1808 and 1810.

In 1798, school oversight was transferred from the town to its districts. The districts organized committees to raise money for schools and to hire teachers. Each district was quite autonomous at this time.

It was not until 1812 that Districts 6 and 7 were divided and District 6 rose in the middle of town. The former home of William Morgan where the school had been meeting in 1812 was purchased and moved in 1813. This District was made up of parts of Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5. Between 1816 and 1825 there were 11 school districts, and in 1826 there were 9.

A school record on April 29, 1824 noted that a school "ought to be built on adjacent land which present schoolhouse stands on." That year a one-room school was erected on land, part of which belonged to the Rev. Diodate Brockway and Levi Wells, Jr. It once stood on part of the present Center School site. In 1824, there were 9 districts known to have school houses, as opposed to private homes used as schools.

A glance at the school reports of 1839 shows that education in the nineteenth century was very different from the education we know today. For example, the school year was divided into winter sessions and summer sessions, the long summer vacation coming many years later. In District 7, Thomas Mudge taught 24 pupils for a 12-week term. In District 1, Joshua Griggs taught 25 pupils for the 13-week winter session and Miss Elizabeth Bull taught the summer session. The Center School district had two teachers during a 21-week period; perhaps because there were 67 students. Even if they were extremely well-behaved, 67 students in a one-room school might be more than a teacher could stand. In this time, school populations ranged from 24 pupils in District 7 to 67 in the Center District. It is worth noting that District 7, with the smallest

student body (24) was considered the best school in town. The students were not all in one grade, but ranged from the very young to those almost finished with schooling.

The wage-scale and its differentiation is interesting. "Male" teachers sometimes received as much as 25 dollars a month, while "female" teachers could be hired at 12 dollars a month. Teachers both "male" and "female" generally had the duty of building the fires and sweeping the schoolroom. The water-pail had to be replenished; in winter it sometimes meant breaking the ice in the brook nearby.

How education was to be paid for was a problem met in various ways. For example, in 1806 District 6 ran three terms for a total of 40 weeks. After the public money was expended the balance was to be collected by subscription. By 1862, the districts had to raise taxes and decrease the school year to 36 weeks. In 1868, the teacher was paid five dollars a week and parents were taxed at three mills on the dollar.

In 1870, the Center District had 30 weeks of teaching at nine dollars a week. Firewood cost \$35, plus \$7 for cutting. In 1873, the district voted to build an addition to the present school at a cost not to exceed \$1500, exclusive of land and furniture. Tax dollars steadily increased, skyrocketing in recent years to a 1985-1986 approved budget of \$9,874,855.

Getting to and from school is an evolution in itself. At first the children walked, regardless of the depth of the snow. Sometimes men were hired to clear a path leading to the school. Then in the compassionate nineteenth century drivers were hired to carry the children in horse-drawn wagons or sleighs. In the 1920s there was a trolley to Rockville for the high school bound, and in due course school buses came in, gradually expanding to the splendid fleet of yellow carriers we have today.

In the old days children (scholars) between the ages of 8 and 16 were required to attend school. Parents could be fined as much as five dollars per week for a child's absence without a good excuse. Children 14 years of age and older were exempted from attendance if they were lawfully employed. A child of any age was excused without penalty if he or she had no suitable clothes and the parents were not able to provide them.

It was not until 1908 that schools came under state supervision and classes were graded for the first time.

The old one-room (or two-room) school was as slow in disappearing

here as elsewhere. In 1938, a School Building Committee was appointed for the purpose of constructing a consolidated elementary school. The Committee had interviewed several architects and a meeting was scheduled to interview another one. Even an application had been filed for a grant from the P.W.A. It was September 21, 1938, the date of the scheduled meeting, that during the afternoon the tragic Connecticut hurricane struck causing severe flooding and loss of buildings. Especially hard hit were the tobacco farmers who not only lost their tobacco sheds but their year's crops that were hanging in them. The School Building Committee did not meet again until February 16, 1939 at which time it was agreed the townspeople had suffered such severe loss from the hurricane that the idea of building a consolidated school should not be pursued. One selectman expressed the sentiment of all present at this meeting when he said that at this time he felt that bread was more essential for the people and the children than education.

It wasn't until 1944 that a Postwar Planning Committee was appointed to produce data and figures on a new school building, and to look into the possibility of a combination town garage and fire house.

September 1949 found the boys and girls of the town of Ellington, who attended the local elementary schools, attending school in three buildings: grades 1 through 8 at the new Center School, grades 1 through 6 at the old Crystal Lake School and grades 1 through 5 at the old Longview School. Eventually, as the population increased the present Longview, Crystal Lake and Windermere Schools were built, as well as an addition put on the Center School. Then, in 1959 Ellington had its own high school.

Private Schools

Even in Connecticut, before schools came under state supervision, private schools were very common. Judge John Hall (1783-1847) opened a school called the "Academical Schoolhouse" for boys and girls in 1825 west of the center of town. In 1829, Judge Hall built the Ellington School which at first was called the Atheneum, and began accepting only boys between the ages of 8 and 16. It was a boarding school and cost \$9,000 to build. During the ten years that Judge Hall ran his school over 300 students from as far away as Louisiana, Brazil and the West Indies

attended.

The 1831 records show that tuition ranged from \$90 to \$150 per year. There were two terms of 22 weeks each. Most of the teachers were Yale graduates, as was Judge Hall. According to a brochure for parents the following subjects were taught: Comprehensive reading, spelling and penmanship, English grammar, Composition, geography, elements of history, natural philosophy (biology), chemistry, mental philosophy, elocution, rhetoric, Latin and Greek languages, and French, taught occasionally.

Judge Hall was noted for his green glasses (his eye-sight was poor due to typhus in 1808) and his harsh temper. But under his direction Ellington School was regarded as one of the foremost classical schools in the country. After it passed into other hands it came to have more the character of a village academy, accepting pupils of both sexes and preparing a few boys for college. On April 20, 1854, in the Tolland County Gazette's first issue, the following item appeared: "Morris R. Barteau announces commencement of a semi-annual session of his family boarding school at Ellington...the boys in his school occasionally publish a little paper 'The Ellington Star.' Entire expense \$80 a session at Barteau's School." In the spring of 1867, an ad appeared in the Rockville Journal as follows: "Ellington School for sale - main building three stories, wings two stories, splendid grounds with fruit trees. Ideal for an academy, summer hotel or hospital. If not sold before April first premises will be rented for a summer hotel." In 1872, the building was leased for a hotel which operated only one year, and on October 1875 the building was destroyed by fire. The newspapers hinted it was arson.

Judge Hall's oldest son, Edward, opened a school for boys on the southeast corner of Main and Mechanic Streets (Berr Ave.) in 1844 which continued until 1891. Both schools, the father's and the son's, had excellent reputations and were the only schools in the town of higher rank than the district schools.

In addition to the two Hall Schools the small town of Ellington also had a few lesser known private schools. A "select boarding and day school for young misses" or dame school was opened by Miss Emeline Brockway in 1867. Classes with up to 17 students were held for the next seven years in a wing of the Brockway home in the center of town. Another such school was conducted earlier, also in the center, by Mrs. Eliza T. (Dixon)

Marsh. She married the Rev. Ezekiel Marsh, an Ellington pastor, who died at age 36 in 1844. Eliza left town in 1856 and returned to her home town of Enfield.

A lyceum was operated from 1834 to 1840 whose members met in the lecture room of the Ellington School. The members included the town's intellectuals, teachers and some of the older students in the school. The Lyceum Movement was part of the general education reform movement of the 1830s. The original lyceum was a grove of trees in which Aristotle walked and talked. By 1834, there were nearly 3,000 such groups in this country. Among famous lyceum lecturers were Emerson, Thoreau, Daniel Webster, Henry Ward Beecher and Susan B. Anthony.

The Ellington High School

As elsewhere, public secondary school education came late to Ellington. The private school evidently sufficed for the nineteenth century. Ellington students, with those from Tolland, Somers, East Windsor and part of South Windsor went to the Rockville High School at the first half of this century until their own high schools were a reality.

Ellington High School was built on the north side of Maple Street, and opened September 1959. Tolland High School students came here for a few years.

In the 1960s Ellington High School basketball players were very good, and whole streets of houses would empty out to go to the tournament in New Haven. The walls of the gymnasium are almost covered with banners proclaiming famous Ellington High School victories. In 1968, the school won the Scholar-Athlete Award conferred by the Connecticut Council of Interscholastic Sports.

Mention must be made here of Gordon Getchell, the principal of the Center School when he came to Ellington in 1951. He was supervising principal in the Junior High School system in 1952. As first principal of the high school, he saw many necessary new features added to the school's resources, like the guidance program. Mr. Getchell combined good nature with firmness. In the 1970s the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that dress codes imposed on students by the school administrations were illegal. Mr. Getchell replied "I reserve the privilege of measuring." He died in 1975 and the facade of the high school auditorium proclaims his

name in large, bold letters.

Schools: Vignettes from the Past

In 1793, 500,000 acres of Connecticut's Western Reserve (part of Ohio) was sold. The preceding year an equal amount had been set aside for the benefit of those Connecticut families whose property had been destroyed by the British during the Revolution. The Western Reserve was sold for \$1,200,000 and in 1795, after some debate, the money was earmarked for education. The interest on the money was to be paid to the school districts in the state with each getting about \$600 annually. The same provision was written into the Constitution of 1818.

As the first purpose of schools in New England was to educate future ministers, the Ecclesiastical Societies of the churches controlled the management of the earliest schools. The societies were the boards of each church, made up of town businessmen who were not orthodox enough to belong to the church. After 1795, the Congregationalists lost their monopoly and school management became non-denominational and soon wholly secular.

Early school books included the New England Primer, the Psalter and the Bible. At about 1786, Webster's Spelling Book was introduced, and single-handedly shaped the American language into what it is today.

School visitors were appointed to look into the schools; first by the Ecclesiastical Society, later by the District, finally by the Town. They were required to visit the schools four times a year, to see to the well-ordering of the school, to check on the doings of the District School Committee, and to look after the textbooks and other supplies.

From the Diary of Parish Bowers

Parish Bowers was born in 1803. He started teaching when he was 17 and taught for 57 consecutive years.

His first job was in Ellington where he found that his predecessor

had been thrown out and locked out of his school by unappreciative students. Bowers, in an ensuing scuffle, was able to defend himself and the ring leader went home with a bloody nose. He expected to hear from an angry father, but instead was complimented, and remained for some time.

Bowers was principally self-taught. He had two books, the Bible and Shakespeare. According to his diary there were more would-be teachers than jobs. He tells of passing three men on one horse (horse pooling) all seeking the same job as he was. He had students of third and fourth grades through teenagers who only attended when they could be spared from the farms. Tots of three and four who were supposed to be learning their ABC's would fall asleep, and fall off their benches, when not making trips to the ever-present water pail....

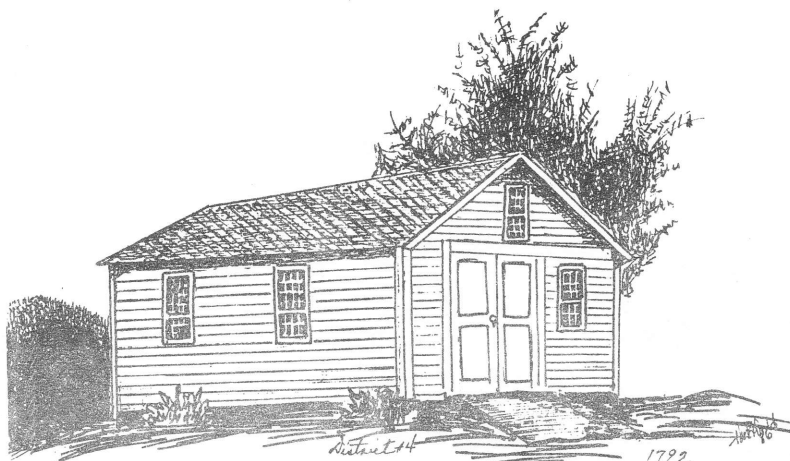
An article entitled "Schools of State" by Charles S. Greer, editor of the Rockville Journal was published February 1903. Excerpts:

There were 4,228 teachers in the state and only 854 certified. They were paid an average monthly wage of \$45.32 for women, and \$95.12 for men. It cost \$25.00 per capita to educate a child.

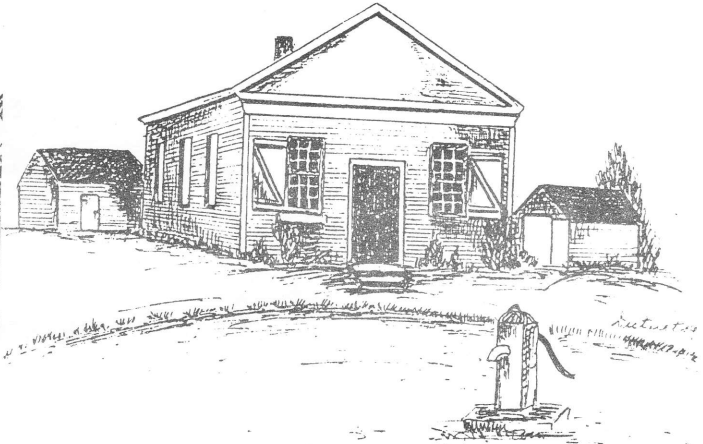
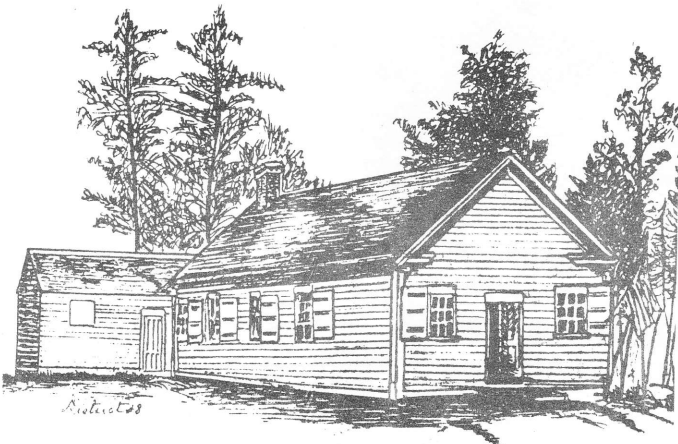
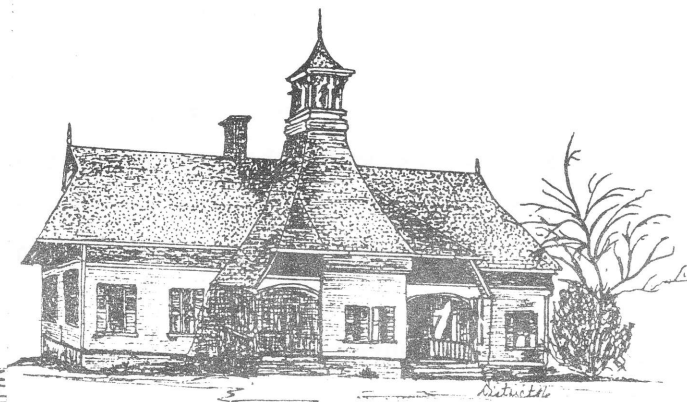
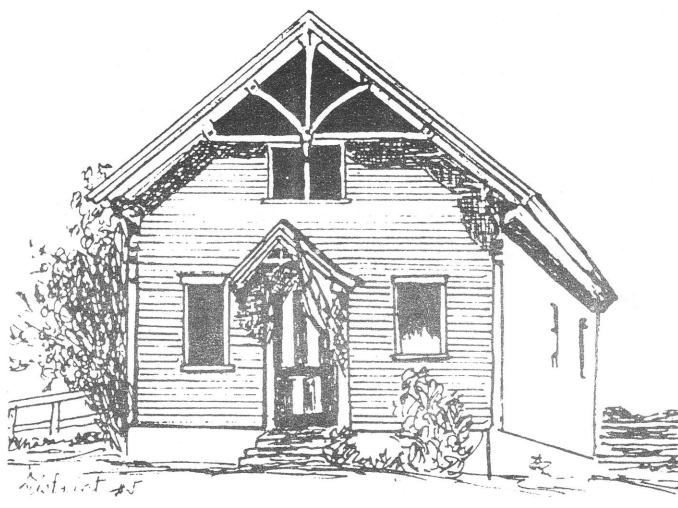
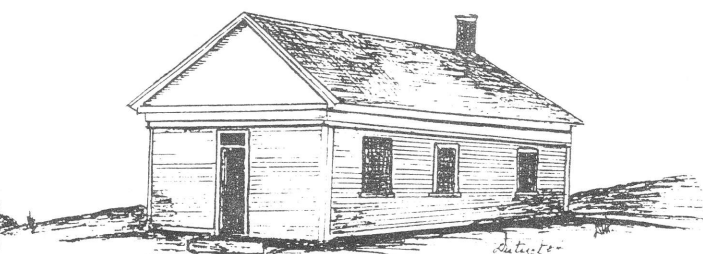
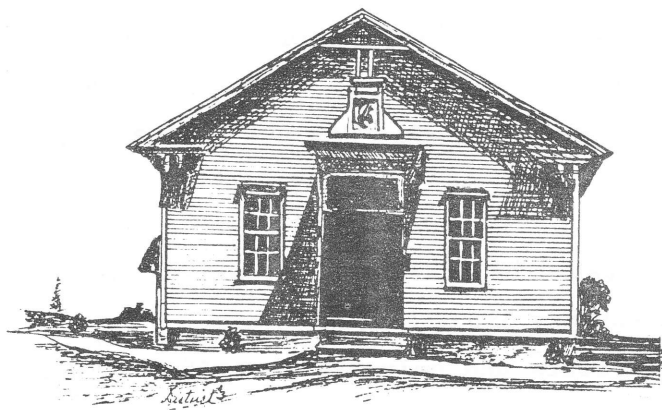
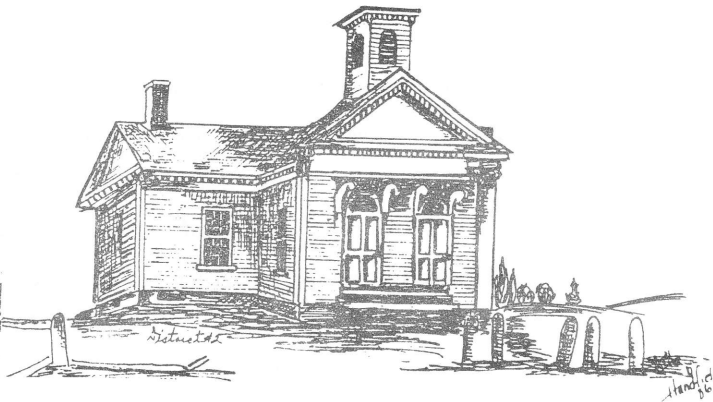
"No one pretends that the ability to read and write is assurance of all civic and private virtues. Reading, writing and arithmetic and even mild humanities of our best schools, will not provide the possessor against the evil that is wrought by bad parents, by stifling and crowded homes, and by temptations to vice and drunkenness."

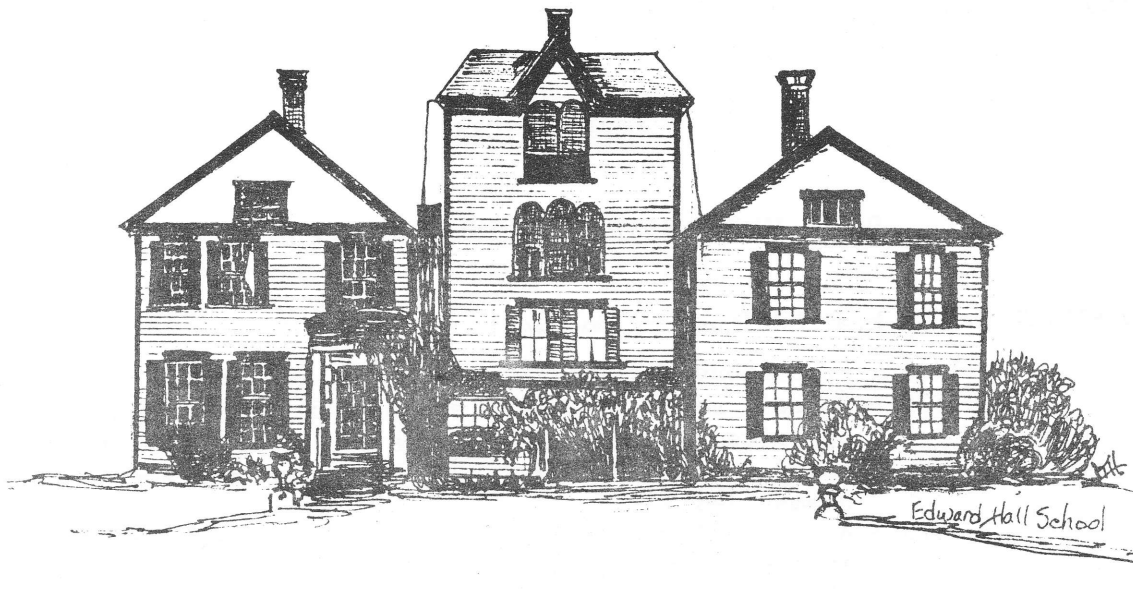
The paper sold for 3¢ or \$1.50 a year.

writer - Laurel Best



Ellington's first schoolhouse





(APPENDICES)

DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

DISTRICT 1 - a.k.a. McKinney or Cogswell

- 1817 - Schoolhouse built on west side of West Road.
- 1828 - School moved further south near a brook, and opposite A. McKinney's house. (After 1875 it was moved across the road and used for storage until dismantled.)
- 1875 - A new schoolhouse was built on 73 rods of land further south purchased from Sherman West for \$500. (The school was across the road from William Cogswell's brick house since destroyed by fire.)
- 1898 - Transfer of school property to the town of Ellington.
- 1926 - Electric lights and a new steam boiler installed.
- 1929 - Indoor bathroom installed.
- 1949 - School sold. In 1972 it was renovated and is the Valley Fish Market currently owned by Chris Deabill.

DISTRICT 2 - a.k.a. Pinney or Windermere

- c1812 - A brick schoolhouse stood on west side of Pinney Street.
- c1880 - A new schoolhouse was built on 1/3 acre, north of old site.
- 1898 - Transfer of school containing 24 seats, 2 wood stoves and a settee to the Town of Ellington.
- 1949 - School sold. Since 12/76 it has been the home of Henry and Lucy Knybel.
- 1964 - Windermere School built on land on corner Windsorville and Abbott Roads.

DISTRICT 3 - a.k.a. McCray or Jobs Hill

- c1800 - Schoolhouse on north side of Muddy Brook Road.
- 1831 - A new schoolhouse was built on land leased for \$5 from William McCray. It was 40 rods east of old school. (Sold after 1873 for a house. In 1900s a 2nd story was added. Now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Flint.)
- 1873 - A larger one-room schoolhouse was built on a corner lot east of the 1831 school.
- 1898 - Transfer of the school property to the Town of Ellington.
- 1949 - School sold. Since 11/80 has been home of Catherine and William E. Coleman.

DISTRICT 4 - a.k.a Kibbe or Rider

- 1792 - First schoolhouse in town built on Abraham Wallis' land on southwest corner of Hoffman and Somers Roads. (Removed in 1866 to the west end of what was part of Wallis farm. Now owned by James W. Hoffman. Old school underwent many repairs, and is used for storage.)
- 1866 - A new schoolhouse was built on the old site from plans drawn by Samuel M. Darby.
- 1894 - A team was hired to transport the few students to and from District 5 school.
- 1898 - Transfer of the one-room school to the Town of Ellington as voted in 1894.
- 1903 - School closed until 1907, then reopened.
- 1926 - School closed permanently.
- 1939 - School sold with 36 rods of land to William D. Loethscher for \$200 after approval at a special Town Meeting. Presently owned and rented by Michael Hoffman whose family acquired same as a dwelling in 1955.

DISTRICT 5 - a.k.a. Middle or Kimball

- 1798 - Schoolroom "outfitted" in a gambrel roofed house purchased by 20 families on Somers Road near corner of Maple Street. The deed stipulated that if it was not used for school purposes it would revert back to them or their heirs.
- 1835 - A schoolhouse was built on land leased from Calvin McGray on a site next to the old house. (In 1891, the school was sold at public auction to Mary Holton, a teacher in Dist. 1, for \$56. It was moved across the road and became her home. In 1918, the building was moved to Robert Hyde's land next to present airport. His son, E. Foster Hyde, had the rental house taken down 7/85.)
- 1856 - School opened May 1st for 16 weeks, allowing one or two weeks for vacation
- 1882 - School and library are insured.
- 1891 - A new one-room schoolhouse was built on Kimball land on the east side of Somers Road. (See 1835 school.)
- 1898 - The only school district that refused to be transferred to the Town.
- 1905 - Transferred by deed to the Town of Ellington.
- 1926 - Electric lights installed.
- 1949 - School sold. Since 1970 it has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cheney.

DISTRICT 6 - a.k.a. Middle or Center

- 1812 - A classroom "outfitted" in William Morgan's house. Middle district established.
- 1813 - Morgan's house moved west of George Holton's house (north side of Main St.) partly on land of Rev.

- Diodate Brockway and of Levi Wells, Jr.
- 1814 - Voted to build a "necessary" (out-house) with a vault north of the school on Rev. Brockway's land.
 - 1824 - A one-room schoolhouse was built on 9 sq. rods of land deeded by the Rev. Brockway with condition that fence between be kept in repair.
 - 1852 - A new schoolhouse was built, and more land was deeded by Mortimer and John H. Brockway for \$40.
 - 1872 - Overflow classes held in Selectman's room in the Congregational Church basement.
 - 1873 - Voted to build a one-room addition which would form a letter "T" with entrances on each projection of 24' x 36'. The cost with furnishings was not to exceed \$1,500.
 - 1874 - "Fit up an infant school" during the winter term.
 - 1882 - Voted to dig a well, install a chain pump, and place a small fountain on ground in front of the school.
 - 1890 - Voted to add one more room.
 - 1892 - Voted to charge scholars from outside the district \$1 per term for tuition.
 - 1899 - School with out-buildings quit claimed to Town of Ellington along with 26 primer room seats, 34 grammar room seats and 3 settees.
 - 1916 - Mrs. J. B. Talcott was paid \$1,400 for land to be used for a new schoolhouse in the center.
 - 1922 - The first three grades moved to the main floor of the Town Hall.
 - 1949 - Old school dismantled, and new brick Center School became the consolidated districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.
 - 1963 - Additions made costing \$315,000. Three elementary classes were housed in the Apostolic Christian Church.

DISTRICT 7 - a.k.a. Charter or Pease (See District 8)

- 1799 - A schoolhouse was built on north side of a highway on Elihu Day's land, east of a brook (Aborn) and the meetinghouse. (Becomes Dist. 8 in 1812)
- 1812 - District was divided. Schoolhouse on road of the same name became District 7.
- 1824 - Renovations made as indicated on tax list.
- 1834 - A new schoolhouse was built.
- 1847 - George W. Taft leased inhabitants of District 7, 17 sq. rods of land north on a highway for \$5.
- 1852 - A new schoolhouse was built.
- 1898 - School transferred to the Town of Ellington.
- 1901 - Teams hired at a \$1 a day to transport children from District 7 limits to No. 8.
- 1903 - School closed permanently, and District 8 became No. 7 again.
- N.B. - Between 1814 and 1820 there were 3 districts (nos. 7-8-9) known as Equivalent District. District 9 a.k.a. Birch was united with No. 8 in 1820.

DISTRICT 8 - a.k.a. Square Pond or Crystal Lake (See District 7)

- 1799 - First schoolhouse built in area was in District 7 until 1812.
- 1812 - District 7 was divided into two districts - 7 and 8.
- 1842 - Ephraim Dimmick quit claimed for school use only a piece of land 16 ft. west of school on north side of highway near Square Pond for 25 cents.
- 1861 - A new schoolhouse was built on 1/4 acre of land leased from Joseph Blanchard on northwest corner of Sandy Beach and White Roads.
- 1899 - School quit claimed to the Town of Ellington including out-buildings, 16 seats, stove, bell and a teacher's desk and chair.
- 1903 - Recombined with District 7.
- 1929 - Addition built and indoor bathrooms installed.
- 1933 - P.T.A. purchased a new Civic Organ.
- 1936 - Branch library was moved to the school. (Started in 1934 at Celia Lipman's store on Rt. 30 with her daughter, Frances, in charge.)
- 1948 - Addition built with indoor bathrooms.
- 1957 - A new schoolhouse was built (\$250,000) further west of old school which still stands vacant, except for storage by the town.

DISTRICT 9 - a.k.a. Frog Hall or Frog Hollow

- 1824 - One-room schoolhouse was built on Harvey Buckland's land on north side of Frog Hollow Road just east of a frog pond.
- 1860 - Old school moved further west to higher ground on 1/4 acre of land leased from Franklin Miller. (This site was formerly owned by Paul Hamilton, and was the same site rejected in 1822 for a schoolhouse.) A picket fence enclosed the new grounds, and a woodshed was added on the northwest corner of the refurbished old school. An outhouse stood next to the shed, and another stood further east.
- 1897 - Samuel Thompson left a fund with interest to be used for the support of No. 9.
- 1899 - School transferred to the Town of Ellington including 10 seats, teacher's desk and chair, and 34 volumes.
- 1901 - A well with a pump installed in front of school, and a new fence built for \$18.77.
- 1940 - New artesian well on west side of school (Well drilled in 1936 was unsatisfactory.)
- 1945 - School closed. Property reverted back to the owner in 1947, who at that time was Joseph Cohen. (In 1949, Cohen's son, David, built on an addition for a dwelling. Other additions 1956 and 1959.)

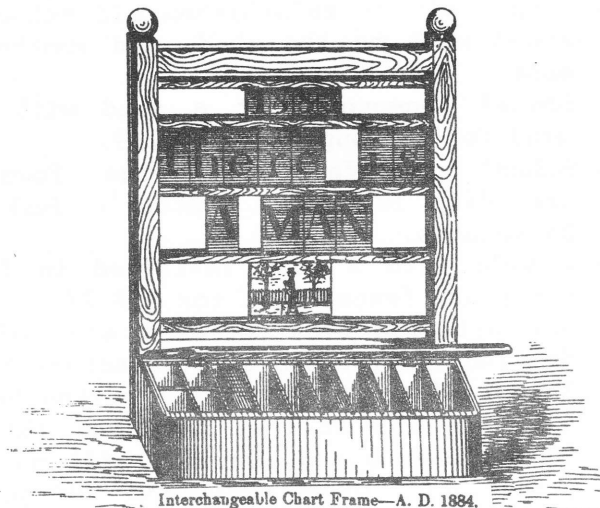
DISTRICT 10 - a.k.a. Longview

- 1894 - A new schoolhouse was built on north side of North Park Street on a tract given by Nathan Doane. It contained four large rooms with high ceilings. At first only two rooms were used.
- 1900 - One room was closed.
- 1903 - Heated by a coal furnace.
- 1950 - Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lanz prepared hot lunches in their home for Longview pupils.
- 1954 - Longview Junior High School built by town on north side of Middle Butcher Rd.
- 1971 - Old school was called Longview Annex in 1967 when it was used by the School Administration for offices before it burned down on October 4, 1971.
- 1977 - Addition to Junior High School.
- N.B. - This district was the last to be established in town. It served Mountain, Snipsic and Orchard Streets whose children formerly attended Cogswell School. To reach the school on North Park Street, one followed a path through Doane's Grove or Woods. In 1895, a road was put through to Upper Butcher Road.

DISTRICT 11 - a.k.a. Melrose (East Windsor)

- 1816 - The schoolhouse in Melrose (later converted to a public library) was shared with the East Windsor school district until 1825.
- N.B. - Records show that some scholars living near the town borders enrolled in the nearest school in a neighboring town.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



Interchangeable Chart Frame—A. D. 1884.

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Sons of Temperance Library had its start with five gentlemen from Ellington after the Women's Christian Temperance Union organized in 1852. Some 15 years later the same gentlemen, plus six others, reorganized as the Ellington Library Association under the guidance of the Reverend Hiram B. Woodworth. The Hall Memorial Library has money in trust left by the WCTU to purchase books opposing the use of alcohol.

Thirty-three ladies formed the "Ladies Book Club" on December 2, 1874. They contributed \$1.50 each to purchase 36 books from Brown and Cross, a Hartford, Connecticut publishing firm, to be read by oil lamps in the evenings. Before the club disbanded 18 months later, a vote was taken by the ladies in favor of turning their (58) books over to the Ellington Library Association. The association had promised to reduce the yearly membership fee of \$5 to \$3.50 if they received the books.

In 1881, the Ellington Library Association reorganized for the third time, and on February 7, 1887 it was incorporated. There were 36 members, 18 of whom became Life Members at \$5 each, and 18 Annual Members at \$1 each. The following year the 11 original organizers were made Life Members after they transferred about 140 volumes (including 30 left over from the "Ladies Book Club") to the association. The books had been kept in the home of Sylvester Morris on the corner of Jobs Hill Road and Maple Street.

At a Town Meeting in 1896, residents voted to establish a Free Town Library, and appoint three directors. Miss Lizzie Kibbe, who lived in the Jobs Hill area, was the first librarian. She received an annual salary of \$50 for rental of a room in her home, including fuel and lights. Resident members paid 50 cents a year, in advance, for the privilege of borrowing books.

To start and maintain a Free Town Library, \$200 had to be appropriated the first year, and \$100 was required every year to receive the same value in books donated by the State. The Ellington Library Association voted to turn over their 668 volumes to the library director on condition the town continue the appropriation for at least five years. The 1,080 books on hand were catalogued and numbered, and the library opened its doors to the public on March 17, 1897. There were 209 card

holders. The Reverend L. P. Hitchcock was a director in 1896-7, Dr. E. T. Davis in 1898, and J. T. McKnight in 1899. Mr. McKnight became the board secretary and served for almost 40 years.

In 1900, Mrs. Mary (Work) Graham of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the first to announce intentions of gifting her home town of Ellington with a library. She soon found out that Francis Hall of Elmira, New York, expressed a strong desire to do likewise, thus forestalling the offer. Hall wanted a library to honor the educational work of his late father, Judge John Hall, and his brother, Edward, and plans were already in progress.

From 1825 until 1891, Ellington was the site of several prestigious private schools. The first had been conducted by John Hall, a Yale graduate, writer and teacher, and the other, a boys' school, by his eldest son, Edward. Many of the graduates went on to distinguish themselves in public life.

Francis Hall died on August 6, 1902, and in his will \$30,000 was left in trust for the purpose of purchasing a suitable site and erecting a library thereon. The income from certain securities was also left in trust to his sister, Eliza Hall Baird of Ellington, for her lifetime use. Mrs. Baird passed away a year later, and, according to the terms in the will, the securities were turned over to the town for the benefit of the library.

Francis, who had no children, named three of his brothers, Frederic, Charles C. and Robert A. Hall, as trustees to carry out his wishes. The construction of the library had already begun on a part of two-acres of land in the center of town. Francis had purchased the land with buildings in 1900 from Chauncey T. Chapman. The town was given the east end of this land for a Town Green with the understanding that curbs would be installed, and the land maintained. A watering trough was later set up on the east end of the green, and hitching posts installed in front of the library.

Wilson Potter, a New York architect, had been selected to design the building, and Carpenter and Williams to build it. John T. McKnight supervised the landscaping. The library, built to accommodate 16,000 volumes, is fire-resistant as exterior walls are Milford granite and white limestone, and interior walls are brick. The original roof of red clay

tile was flat with a sky-light over the upstairs hall. The existing roof is more steeply pitched and is covered with green asphalt shingles. In a triple transom stained glass window, above the main staircase's first landing, are portraits on glass of three Halls, Judge John and his sons, Edward and Francis. The family eventually donated part of Francis Hall's oriental collection to the library.

One of the renowned graduates of Edward Hall's School was a Japanese statesman, Baron Yanosuke Iwasaki, of the Mitsubishi firm. The Baron lived at the Hall Family School during 1873 and 1874. On a visit to the United States in October 1901, the Baron contributed \$2,000 to establish a Japanese exhibition and to purchase books. The library has a portrait of Baron Iwasaki and his wife.

The Hall Memorial Library was dedicated November 11, 1903, and Ernest H. Bancroft started as librarian the next day. His sister, Ida Bancroft, succeeded him in 1905, serving until Miss Alice Pinney became the third librarian from December 1, 1916 to August 31, 1929. Miss Nellie McKnight who followed held the post for the next thirty-eight years.

A small branch library was opened on October 20, 1934 in a corner of Celia Lipman's store on Route 30 in cooperation with the Crystal Lake P.T.A. Celia's daughter, Frances, a high school senior, was placed in charge. The library was open three days a week during the year, and only on Wednesdays during July and August. In the late spring, because more space was needed, the volumes and magazines were moved to a room in the home of Mrs. John Bohn. By September 1936, the library was transferred to District 7 school at Crystal Lake under the guidance of Mrs. Helen Quinn. The library operated for many years under her supervision, and an estimated 189 Bookmobile trips were made each year. In 1904, the main library had issued special cards to teachers on which books could be drawn for classroom use. However, long before a library was opened to the general public, most district schools maintained their own small lending libraries. Today, the main library and the school libraries function independently.

On March 23, 1946, Harriet Delano Fowler, a granddaughter of John Hall, died in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and left a bequest to the library. A citation was given Mrs. Fowler posthumously by the Editors of Who's Who in America on March 1, 1948 "for having given so generously to the

library." The framed citation hangs on one of the library walls.

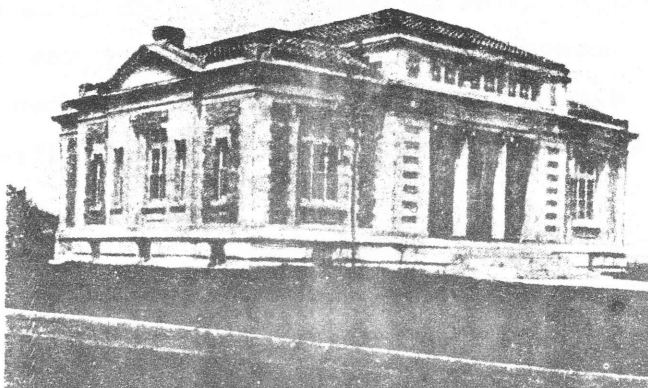
In 1946, the Library Board requested and received additional annual financial support for the library from the town. Today 80 percent of its budget comes from taxes in the Town's General Fund, and the rest is matching grants and bequests.

The library has undergone periodic improvements, such as; installation of flourescent lights, book drop, modern heating system, parking lot, an access ramp for the handicapped, and a fire escape.

Today, the Hall Memorial Library with six elected directors to oversee its operation is much more than a depository for books. It is a participant in Connecticard, allowing a Connecticut resident to borrow from any library in the state. Programs, both educational and entertaining, for children and adults, are offered on a regular basis. Magazines, records, compact discs, audio and video cassettes are all available for circulation.

For the future, the library administration is looking into an automated circulation system and computers for public use. The "Friends Of The Library" was formed in May 1986 with the Reverend Robert L. Eddy as its leader. The members of the group have been cooperating in various ways with the Board of Library Directors, and the present librarian, Laurel Best, to achieve such goals.

writers - Rita A. Hambach and Dorothy B. Cohen



THE RURAL POST OFFICES

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" is a quote from Herodotus in 400 B.C. carved over the doors of some post offices around the country.

The first postal system in the colonies was legalized in 1639 by the Massachusetts General Court by special authority received from the Crown. Governor William Penn set up the first post office in Philadelphia in 1683, and its first advance toward organized colonial service came after a patent was granted by the Crown on February 17, 1692.

The postal system in the rural town of Ellington began in the days of the post rider and stagecoach. It was during a time when such things as the adhesive postage stamp, a post card or an envelope were unheard of. Letters were written on a single sheet of paper folded and sealed with wax and addressed on one of the folds. At that time the mailing cost of a letter weighing less than an ounce was six cents for a distance not exceeding 30 miles, and a maximum rate of twenty-five cents for more than 400 miles. Postage was paid in cash, sometimes by the sender and sometimes by the receiver. Most letters went through the post with postage due on delivery. Some letters were refused or went unclaimed upon reaching their destination, and had to be returned. Often the same was repeated when the letters were returned, resulting in a loss of revenue. Later, no mail, except for a certain class, would be sent unless it was prepaid.

As postal routes were gradually established in Ellington, space in public houses, private homes or general stores first served as post offices for more than a century. Most of the post office sites were near or around the center green, and a few were at crossroads on stage routes.

George Collins was bonded in Ellington as a post rider for the years of 1821 to 1825. He carried mail on horseback, once a week, starting in East Windsor. From there he stopped by Ellington at Morgan's Tavern (on today's Main Street), then went on to Somers and the Massachusetts towns of Wilbraham, Ludlow and Belchertown. Asa Bowe, a cobbler by trade, later took over the mail route for several years.

William Morgan, who owned the tavern from 1807, was appointed the

first postmaster to serve the town of Ellington in 1822. The mail was picked up and delivered to the tavern, which also then served as the official post office.

March 9, 1835 saw the establishment of the Square Pond post office at the east end of town. Ephraim Dimmick was appointed postmaster, and the post office was in part of his house which at various times also served as an inn or a general store. The building, taken down in 1975, stood on Sandy Beach Road near West Shore Road. Between 1838 and 1880, the mail was delivered and picked up once a week. In 1889, the name of the post office was changed from Square Pond to Crystal Lake. The post office was discontinued in 1908 when Myron H. Dimock was the postmaster, as were his grandfather and father before him. The mail service was then taken over by the Rockville post office for the next 63 years. During the Dimocks' service in the post office many significant advances took place in the postal system such as: in 1847 the first prepaid adhesive postage stamp; in 1855 the registry system; in 1864 the U.S. postal money order system; between 1863 and 1879 mail matter was divided into four classes; in 1873 the penny post card; by 1885 parcel post and special delivery service.

By 1901, the center post office was moved out of the old Pitkin store to M. H. Mandell's place of business in the Conference House building, and additional post office boxes were installed. In those days a stamp book sold for one cent over the face value of the stamps it contained.

The first delivery on the Ellington rural free delivery route was made on Saturday, August 26, 1903 by Leon C. Leach. A horse and buggy was used to deliver mail to the 96 families on a route covering 27 miles. During the winter, when snow covered the ground, the mail was carried on a horse-drawn sleigh. This mode of transportation was used during inclement winter weather well into the 1930s. Mr. Leach eventually used a car which, during the rainy season, often had to be pulled through the muddy dirt roads by a farmer and his team of horses.

C. Earl Hatheway, was postmaster in 1962, when the post office (class No. 2) was last moved from Edward Charter's old store that stood on the present site of the Ellington Pharmacy to space leased on Church Street. There were 375 post office boxes to accommodate the growing number of patrons which, as of today, are all rented. The parcel post service had expanded, and other special services include express and airmail, as well

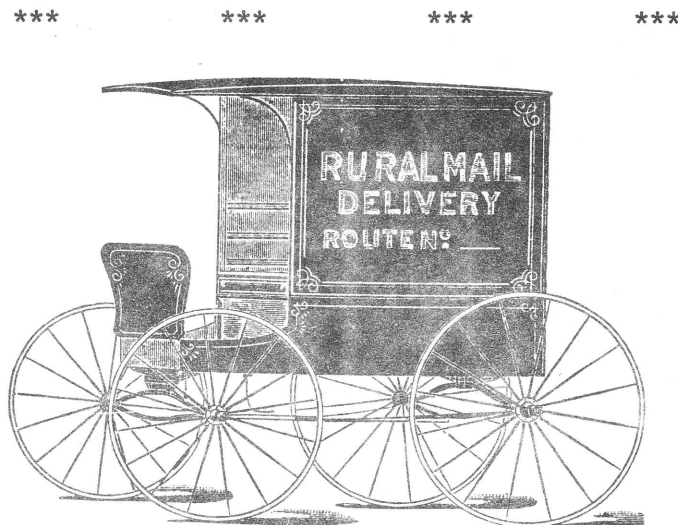
as distinctive stamp issues sought after by the stamp collectors.

A major change occurred in 1971 when Crystal Lake postal service from Rockville was transferred to the Church Street post office. By 1975, the RFD route numbers were abolished in favor of address delivery and the zip code. Beginning December 1986, some mail was sorted and delivered according to a four-digit number added to the zip code. The digit numbers are being assigned to residents according to their street and house number. However, there are residents in the southeast corner of Ellington who live on parts of roads leading into the Rockville section of Vernon who are still serviced from that town.

Besides the postmaster, there are currently 20 regular postal employees, six of whom are mail carriers. The carriers, who use their own vehicles, are each backed, as needed, by an auxiliary carrier. They service 3,112 mail boxes a day, that are strung out along their routes covering an average of 140 miles of mostly paved roads.

Postmaster Lewis E. Wagner was transferred back to the Stafford Springs Post Office in November 1986. Frank Pelkey was the officer in charge in the interim. John G. Koperniak, the present appointed postmaster, took over at the end of February 1987.

The recent spurt in new businesses, housing and population may soon call for further expansion in what no longer can be called a rural post office.



POSTMASTERS

ELLINGTON POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED 1822

William Morgan	1822-1826
Charles Sexton	1826-1829
Timothy Pitkin	1829-1837
Hiram Belcher	1837-1839
Francis Keeney	1839-1841
John Hall	1841-1844
Joel W. Smith	1844-1853
Edwin Olmsted	1853-1855
Henry Gunn	1855-1861
Joel W. Smith	1861-1868
Lucius Dwinnell	1868-1869
Charles Smith	1869
Henry Bissell	1869-1874
Elam S. Hyde	1874-1879
James W. Eaton	1879-1883
Arthur Allyn Hyde	1883-1886
Henry C. Aborn	1886-1890
Michael H. Mandell	1890-1894
Miles H. Aborn	1894-1897
Charles B. Sikes	1897-1901
Michael H. Mandell	1901-1907
Francis M. Charter	1907-1940
Edward Charter	1940-1961
C. Earl Hatheway	1961-1983
Lewis E. Wagner	1983-1986
John G. Koperniak	1987-present

SQUARE POND POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED 1835

(Name changed to CRYSTAL LAKE POST OFFICE
July 20, 1889)

Ephraim Dimmick	1835-1853
Henry C. Aborn	1853-1873
Ephraim H. Dimock	1873-1884
Myron H. Dimock	1884-1908

by Dorothy B. Cohen

Maureen C. Kosha - collaborator

THE "SNIP"

The "Snip" is what most people fondly like to call "the beautiful natural resource." Its shores touch Ellington on the west, Tolland on the east, and Vernon on the south. Shenipsit Lake, which is the present name, purportedly now covers 585 acres of land and has an elevation of 507 feet above sea level. The lake is used to supply power and process water for the mills in the area and drinking water for customers of the Connecticut Water Company in the three surrounding towns. The lake has had very limited recreational use since a treatment plant went into service in April 1970.

History tells us it was a favorite fishing and camping place for the Massachussetts Nipmucks, once considered the owners of the pond, as well as the Pequot-Mohegans to the southeast and the Podunk Clan to the west. In 1666, the pond was the agreed hunting boundary line between the three tribes, who called it a variation of "Meshenips" meaning big pool. It was recorded as "Snipsic Pond" on a 1630 English map, which name was used until changed in the present century. A section of the Old Connecticut Path which the early settlers called the Windsor-Warrenville Path passed around the head of the pond. The section became part of the Tolland County Turnpike which existed between 1809 and 1834. Part of this path disappeared when a dam at the outlet of the pond was later raised.

Three paper land grants totaling 1,050 acres, dating back to 1672, were acquired by Mr. Joseph Whiting of New Haven. In February 1714, he had the land grants laid out in one piece along the east shore of the pond which was then only one and one-half miles long from the north end to the south end. The following year the area became part of the Tolland plantation, and the land with its water privileges was divided between William Whiting of Hartford, Samuel Whiting of Windham, John Eliott of Windsor, and Joseph Bradford of Lebanon. A tract of land called the "Equivolent," that in part bordered on the west shore of the pond, was turned over intact in 1716 by the Connecticut Colony to the town of Windsor. The tract which became part of Ellington Parish in 1735 was scheduled to be allotted to certain Windsor proprietors, but this was not accomplished until 1743.

A dam was erected on the river the Indians called "Hockanum" (hooked

or crook-like) near the outlet they called "Moshenupsuck" in Bolton (Rockville). Ebenezer Skinner, Jr., of Hebron, with a few others set up an iron works and gristmill on land formerly owned by Samuel Grant III. It was mostly a family operation. Skinner's father and brother-in-law, Stephen Paine (Payne), who both lived in Bolton soon held an interest in both operations. His mother, Sarah (Grant), was related to Samuel. In 1761, Stephen Paine inherited control of the gristmill which remained in the family until the heirs sold to the Rock Manufacturing Company in 1834. The site of the iron works was taken over by Simeon Cooley in 1803, on which he established a clothier works.

In 1811, Enoch Meacham of Tolland began business with a sawmill on the stream northeast of the pond. It expanded to include the manufacture of wooden spools as well as a gristmill and shinglemill. The family carried on the business until it was destroyed by fire. The heirs sold some of the original 250 acres of land and the water rights to the Rockville Water and Aqueduct Company in 1902. The company hired W. H. Olmsted, of East Hartford, to build a larger dam across Meacham Brook. Colonel Francis McLean, of Vernon, was credited in the 1820s with developing the upper Hockanum River as a major source of power for his new factory, the Rock Manufacturing Company.

The size and shape of the pond was affected by the dams needed to accommodate the new mills springing up along the river that required power. On October 18, 1847, the mill owners organized and formed the Snipsic Aqueduct Company. Their agents proceeded to purchase land skirting the pond or to lease flowage rights. The land was required to raise the dam ten feet higher from the three and one-half foot high rough stone and gravel dam (built by the Rock Company in 1834) in order to create greater water holding capacity. The dam was heightened and the new company began limited water service. The Rockville Water Company was organized on August 23, 1864 and the Snipsic Aqueduct Company re-organized on August 28, 1866 under a new charter. That year, the old dam was blasted down to bedrock and a 21-foot high dam was built on the old site. In 1871, the dam was raised to 24 feet, 2 inches and the town of Ellington relocated the old road and bridge crossing into Tolland further north. In 1886, a new dam 20 feet, 6 inches high was built on the last site. The companies merged when a charter was granted in April 1893, and the name

was changed to Rockville Water and Aqueduct Company. The dam was last raised to 26 feet, 6 inches in 1903 making Shenipsit Lake two and one-quarter miles long, and about one mile at its widest point.

A peninsula on the west shore of the lake, called Isham's Point, became an island due to the raisings of the dam. In 1880, Frederick Thompson of Vernon purchased 35 acres of land that included the peninsula, later called Pine Island. He then acquired a 35-foot steamer which he named the "Escort." Between Memorial Day and Labor Day he took passengers for excursions around the lake, charging each from 15 to 25 cents. Mr. Thompson also established "Snipsic Grove," a picnic area which at first only offered benches and swings. The grove was developed over the years into a fair-sized amusement park under his brother, Alberti's, supervision and subsequent ownership. A pavilion, the first to be built, later included a dining room, dance hall, bowling alley, and the very necessary ice house. For amusements other than bathing and rowboats for hire, there was a merry-go-round, a shooting gallery, a tintype photo gallery as well as various games of chance.

As the business grew it provided employment during the season for many people in the area. Two more steamers were acquired, one was the 41-foot "Spray," and the other the 61-foot "Yumuri." The boats docked at the Lower Landing at the south end of the lake where passengers were picked up and taken to the Upper Landing near the grove, after each paid a five cent one-way fare. However, some chose to walk. The steamers were also "hired out" for moonlight excursions.

In 1894, bathing was prohibited and an application for a liquor license was withdrawn by Alberti T. Thompson when the Water Company objected. The entire operation ceased in April 1909 when the Water Company purchased the property, including 20 rowboats and the steamers, and then liquidated the business. Alberti went to work as their plant superintendent, and a few years later the company hired his son, Robert.

Ellington's first golf course was opened before the turn of the century, south of "Snipsic Grove" by a group of Rockville businessmen. The land was leased from one of their members, William H. Prescott. The property, including the adjoining grove, formerly belonged to the Isham family for generations. A private nine-hole golf course and a club house on a high point overlooking the lake was built. A tennis court was later

constructed on a level strip of land along the east side of Mountain Street, not far from the entrance to the road leading to the golf course. The club disbanded shortly after the grove closed, and the property was later sold by the Prescott heirs.

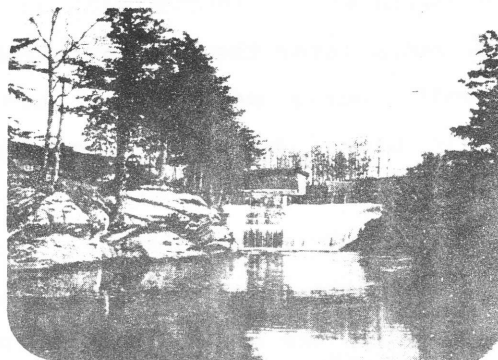
In the early 1900s, Howard West, a dealer in Shenipsit Lake ice, cut the ice from the lake during the coldest days in winter. It was then stored in his ice houses along the southwest shore line. The ice, packed in straw and sawdust, was loaded on a horse-drawn wagon to be delivered to his customers. The business continued in the West family until the icebox was replaced for good by the refrigerator.

Although swimming was prohibited in 1894, town records show the same notice was posted in 1921. At that time, fishing and skating were allowed only in a specified area of the lake. Town records also reveal a notice posted on August 11, 1869 warning that the pond was stocked with black bass and fishing would be prohibited from March 1 to November 1 for the next three years. A brochure published at the turn of the century claimed the lake was stocked with bass, perch, land-locked salmon, lake trout and pickerel.

There are still trails around the lake that people on horseback are allowed to use. Access to the lake itself is limited to shore owners and one public right-of-way and boat launch at the head of the lake. The Rockville Division of the Connecticut Water Company, which now controls much of the lake shore property, tries to protect the purity of the drinking water by restricting the use of the lake.

by Dorothy B. Cohen

Shnipsic Dam — February 14, 1886



"WABBAQUASSET"

Crystal Lake lies in the northeast part of the Town of Ellington and extends slightly into the north bordering Town of Stafford. The lake of natural origin has a depth of up to 50 feet, and is partially spring fed. It covers about 171.46 acres and is 636 feet above sea level. There are two south inlets, the larger one was once called Sucker Brook, then Aborn Brook. The smaller of the three inlets is near the north outlet known as Crystal Lake Brook, which outlet flows into Stafford. The five mile stretch of land above Tolland on which the lake is situated officially became part of Windsor's "Equivolent" land in 1723.

An ancient Nipmuck Indian village once stood on the north shore of the lake near the site of the present dam in Stafford. The Indian name for the lake and the surrounding area was "Wabbaquasset" which meant places where flags (cattails) grow. It was called Square Pond by the early settlers which described the shape of the pond at that time. The garnet outcropping in the rocks in the vicinity of the pond prompted some residents to call it Ruby Lake. In 1889, the name was officially changed to Crystal Lake.

An ancient Nipmuck path that passed south of the pond became part of the Lead Mine Road. It was used as early as 1658 to transport graphite from the Sturbridge and Union lead mines to England's boats on the Connecticut River. The path underwent many alterations after settlement began in 1743 to accommodate traffic patterns, and raisings of the pond's water level. The altered path was first called Jury or Jurors Road after the committee who plotted its course. Among other names used were Square Pond Road, the Road to Stafford Springs and presently Sandy Beach Road.

In 1816, there were four families reported living around the pond which had changed very little since all but a few Indians left the area. In 1836, George Dimmick, of Stafford, obtained leases from the property owners for flowing their shore land. A hole was drilled in boulders on the east and west waters edge to monitor the water level of the pond. Soon after, an eight foot high dam about 50 feet long by 40 feet wide was constructed of natural stone at the north outlet in Stafford. Conklin Road now crosses over a newer concrete dam, and replaces a road presently submerged to its south. The road underwater, built in the 1840s, once led

to Syndicate Point on the northeast shore of the pond. After a land lease was negotiated in 1848 the water was allowed to be raised up to one foot above the hole in West Rock. The shore land was either leased anew or purchased by the mill agents in the 1850s and in 1870. The Stafford Printers have retained the flowage rights purchased from the Rhode Island Worsted Company in Stafford in 1952. The control of the water rights conveyed to the Worsted Company in 1906 dates back to the Dimmick family.

In 1890, William Bowler and Joseph Coogan purchased Dimmock's Grove and the adjoining land on the west shore of the lake. They built the Crystal Lake Hotel on the property, and other commercial ventures followed. The hotel stood just south of the present State Boat Launching site. Mr. Coogan died in 1895 and the Bowler family assumed charge. In 1922, the hotel was leased to Louis Koelsch of Vernon with a dance pavilion that stood north of the hotel, two candy kitchens, three bath houses, a merry-go-round, a barn and an ice house. The popularity of the summer resort waned with the demise of the Interurban trolley line in 1928. A fire destroyed the hotel in 1935, but the basement barroom containing the pool and billiard tables survived. The basement was roofed over and a snack bar was installed. The ice house, removed in 1938, is part of the present Crystal Lake fire house. The dance pavilion, which was last used as a roller skating rink, was taken down about the same time.

The Surdell family took over the remaining buildings and built the Crystal Ballroom in 1946. It became a popular place for polka dances with music furnished by the John Henry Orchestra. The ownership changed after 20 years and it became Pagani's Food Catering Service for the next five years. The old ballroom was then reopened as a restaurant by Mr. LaPlante. Since 1975 the building has been standing idle, and is the last evidence of a bygone era.

In the early 1900s, Mr. Bowler purchased more land near and around the lake. Summer cottages were built on most of the lots with a few access lake roads. On summer mornings a hotel employee would deliver fresh bread, milk and other staples in a row boat to be picked up by waiting residents on the opposite shore.

In 1923, Mr. Bowler leased Sandy Beach, once part of the Lucius Aborn farm, to George Bokis who purchased it a few years later. The land was first cleared of the pine trees, then developed into a public beach and

amusement park. A dance hall was built, followed by a penny arcade. Mr. Bokis and a partner added a boxing arena that featured amateur boxing matches. "Pop" Frazinelli from Stafford, who later became Lieutenant Governor of the State of Connecticut, was one of the referees. The winner of the match received the better of the two watches awarded, which could be cashed in for about \$5. In 1933, the Rockville Leader carried an announcement that the enlarged and newly renovated Sandy Beach Ballroom would open the season on Saturday evening, May 13, with "Phil Emertone Original Diamonds." Other big name bands that performed there were Duke Ellington, Guy Lombardo and Cab Callaway. In later years, the ballroom was converted into a roller skating rink when dances were not held. A canoe locker standing next to the ballroom was leased to "Red" Tolisano, who converted the building into a tavern. Mr. Bokis died in 1952, and his family continued to operate Sandy Beach Park. However, the character of the facility changed as the buildings deteriorated and finally closed for public use.

One survivor of this era is a small refreshment and hot-dog stand known for generations as "Jimmies." It was first opened during the summer season in the early 1900s by James Gross and his wife in front of their cottage on Sandy Beach Road, opposite Lake Street and the old parsonage site. Shirley Gross, their daughter, carries on the summer business in the family tradition.

The Town of Ellington purchased Sandy Beach Park in 1971, and the old buildings were razed. The lake bottom adjacent to the town beach was dredged, and the beach front was tripled in size and fenced. A child's playground, picnic tables, and a gravelled parking lot for over 100 cars were among the other improvements made to better serve the residents of the town.

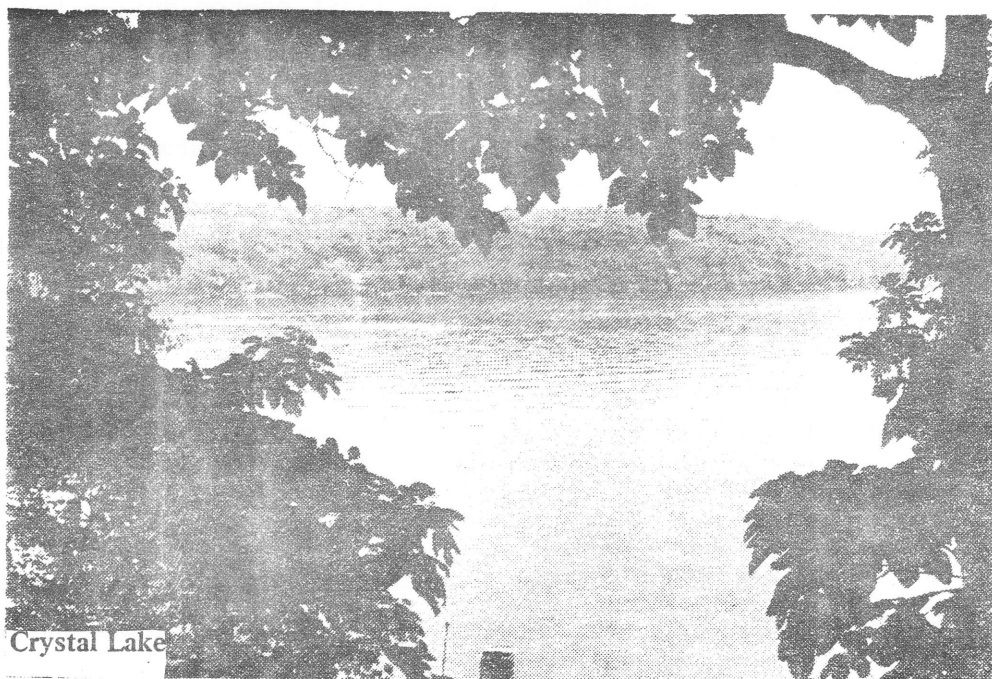
In 1915, Conrad Rau purchased four of the Bowler lots on the northwest shore of the lake. A food concession, boat house and dock were built. The dance hall, that was later added, drew large crowds during the summer when name bands of the 30s performed on Saturday nights. A fire in the winter of 1940 completely destroyed the building. It was rebuilt on a smaller scale and operated by Conrad's son, Clemens. The business was later sold, and the name changed to Clearwater Beach Club. It became a private club under the new management. When the club was sold in 1976 to

Gene Pitney, a well-known singer living in Somers, and Philip Volz, of Ellington, it was renamed Crystal Lake Beach and Boat Club. It has continued to operate as a family-oriented membership club.

Many of the cottages that were built in the 1920s have since been taken down or modernized and converted to year round use. The population and business shift to the suburbs in recent years have sparked renewed interest in the lake area. New homes are being built, and inadequate septic systems are scheduled to be replaced by sanitary sewers.

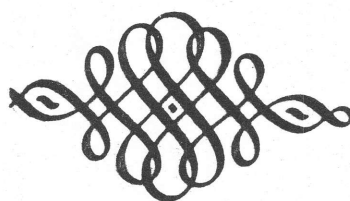
In the summer, besides fishing and swimming, the lake attracts sailing enthusiasts, and in the winter ice skating and ice fishing remain the favorite sports.

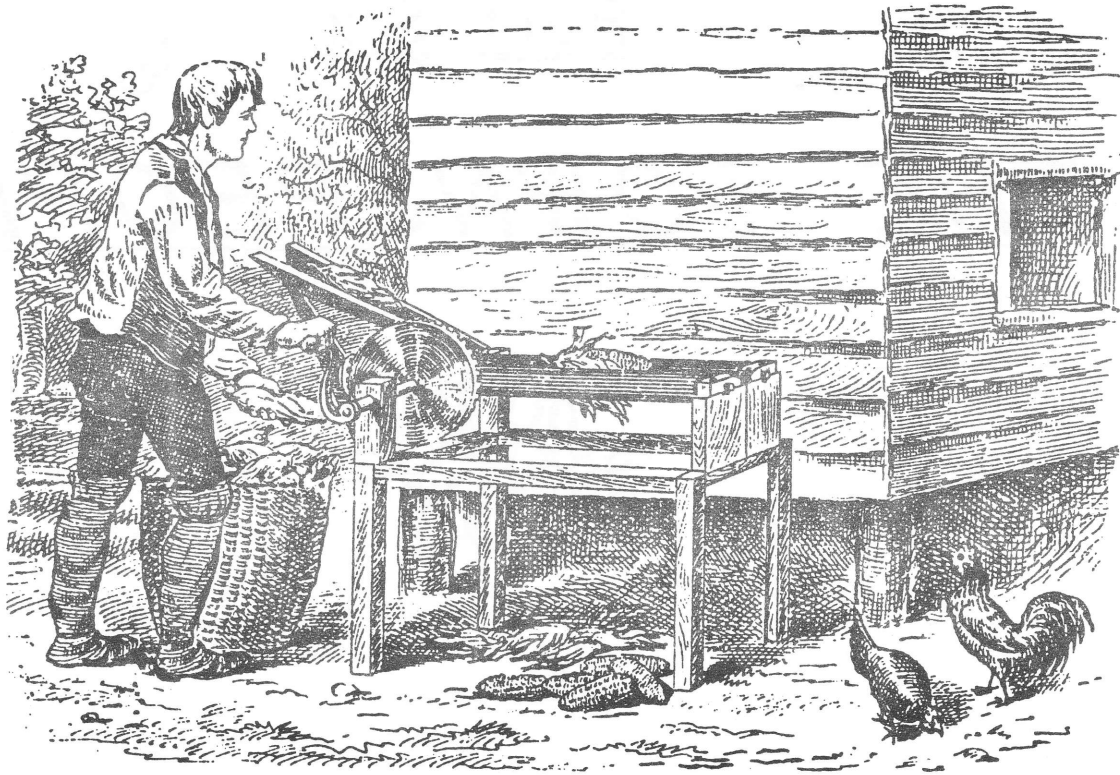
by Dorothy B. Cohen



§ Part Six §

THE TOWNSPEOPLE





THE DOCTORS - PAST AND PRESENT

In the early days of our country there were no medical schools and doctors were mostly self-taught or had served as apprentices to established practitioners who were themselves self-taught. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries medicine was in the hands of "barber-surgeons," midwives and clergymen. Every educated man was presumed to have absorbed enough knowledge in the village schools to qualify as a medical doctor. Hence the clergyman, as the most educated man in town, was often called upon to care for the bodies as well as the souls of his parishioners.

There were no regulations and no examinations so almost anyone could set himself up as a physician, surgeon or apothecary. The treatments prescribed dated back to the ancient Greeks and were often so drastic as to cause the patient to dread the doctor's visit as much as the disease he sought to cure. Bloodletting with unsterilized instruments, blistering and purging were common treatments for anything from an upset stomach to yellow fever or cancer. Many quacks made money on the gullible public with horrendous remedies such as roasted and powdered frogs and toads, pulverized crab's eyes in vinegar, and the dung of a wolf in white wine. And, of course, there were the folk remedies using roots and herbs as learned from the American Indians.

Dentistry was even more primitive for no one seemed to consider it profitable enough to set himself up in practice. The usual cure for a toothache was to pull the offending tooth using the time-honored method of string and a good swift jerk. If all else failed, the local barber or blacksmith would perform the deed. A distinct lack of the times was that there were few technicians to make dentures. There must have been a lot of toothless people in those early days for the few gutta-percha or wooden models were both painful and expensive. It is said that George Washington's unsmiling portraits were due to ill-fitting dentures made from hippopotamus ivory to which human teeth were attached!

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries settlements were small and widely scattered, and the doctors traveled the rough terrain by horseback carrying their medicines in saddlebags. Many even found it necessary to carry a musket and an axe. It was under conditions such as

this that the doctors of our town labored in those days.

The first resident physician in Ellington seems to have been Dr. Joel Carpenter who came from Ashford in 1765 with his wife, Mary Ruggles, who was born in New Britain. They came with four children, and another four (Eli, Ruggles, Lucy and Mary) were born in Ellington. That year, Dr. Carpenter purchased 70 acres of land with a house just west of Snipsic Pond as the lake was called by the settlers. The doctor died in Ellington in 1789.

Two of Dr. Joel Carpenter's sons, Eli and Ruggles, became doctors. Dr. Eli was on the 1775 roster of the Ellington Parish Trainband and one of the participants in the Lexington Alarm. After the Revolution, he settled in Oxford, New Hampshire, and, in the year 1811, he was reported drowned in the Connecticut River. His brother, Dr. Ruggles, remained in the area and became a charter member of the Tolland County Medical Society which was formed in 1792. He married Juliana Pearce and had three children. The doctor also served as Collector of Taxes. He was far-sighted enough to see the future need for a hospital. Town records show that, at an Ellington Town Meeting on April 7, 1794, it was voted to "give liberty to Dr. Ruggles Carpenter to build a convenient hospital on his own land near Snipsic Pond." Little is known of this, but it is presumed that it was more like a clinic in part of his home where he also gave inoculations for small pox.

The doctor sold his property in Ellington after he moved to Tolland in 1813. The family was back in Ellington in 1825, and two years later moved to Somers. Records show that, in 1833, they were living in Stafford, and that the doctor was in debt. Still his odyssey was not ended, for some time later he is known to have moved to Massachusetts and from there to DeRuyter, New York, where he died in 1840.

Dr. Normand Morison received his medical diploma from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and came to Hartford to settle in 1736. He was a learned physician and instructed many young men in the Connecticut Colony. He was noted for an important advancement in the practice of medicine by being the first doctor in the colony to separate the practice of medicine from pharmacy, and he encouraged the establishment of an independent apothecary in Hartford.

He owned large tracts of land in Hartford, and a house with over 40

acres in Ellington Parish which he purchased in 1757. Dr. Normand's son, Dr. Robert Morison, set up his practice in this house which once stood on a path now called Middle Butcher Road. Dr. Robert's wife, Margaret, died in childbirth in January 1761 and was buried in Ellington. That was also the year of his father's death, and his move back to Hartford. The parish property was sold after Dr. Normand's death to James McKinney, and the money left in trust to his granddaughter, Margaret, until she reached the age of 18.

The Morison property in Hartford was contained in what now includes the sites of G. Fox & Co. and the Archdiocese of Hartford property and comprises the present city block bounded by Main, Market, Temple and Talcott Streets. And thereby hangs a tale of a stormy battle between Dr. Normand Morison and the Hartford town fathers, a battle that is still reverberating to this day.

It began in 1759 with the death of Allan, Dr. Morison's other son. Allan died of smallpox and because of the fear of contagion he was refused burial in the public graveyard. So the good doctor buried his son in his orchard and in 1761 he was himself buried there. The two graves are still on Archdiocese property with the gravestones intact. Now, due to stipulations in the doctor's will that they remain undisturbed, they are threatening to thwart plans to build a multi-million dollar mall on the site. Thus, down through the years the voice of Dr. Normand Morison is still being heard.

Dr. Joseph Bissell Wadsworth was born in Hartford in 1747, but spent part of his boyhood in Windsor. He graduated from Yale College in 1766 and became a surgeon in the Revolutionary Army. He married Roxanna Allyn of Windsor and the couple moved to Ellington where he was held in high regard as a physician and surgeon. He died in 1784 at age 37, and was buried in the family plot on a hill above town.

Dr. Joseph Kingsbury, who took over Dr. Wadsworth's practice with his own, was born in Ellington in 1756, the son of a farmer. In spite of the disadvantages of the schools of that day he acquired a good education and learned to write an elegant hand on birch bark which was in general use as a substitute for paper. At the age of 21, he enlisted in Washington's army as an officer, and also served in the state troops as an officer. After the war, he returned to Ellington and studied medicine

under Dr. Wadsworth and soon started his own practice. Four years after Dr. Wadsworth's death Dr. Kingsbury married the widow. As a doctor he was partial to the simple botanic remedies, and many of his ideas about the science of medicine were quite original. He was considered an excellent physician and was one of the charter members of the Tolland County Medical Association. He was a deacon of the church during the last 25 years of his life. He died in 1822.

Dr. Kingsbury had two children, one of whom became the first wife of Judge John Hall who founded the famous Ellington School for Boys.

Dr. James Steele, Jr. was a grandson of the Rev. Stephen Steele, the first minister to settle in Tolland. James purchased land in Ellington in 1786 and, although Stiles' History lists him among the physicians in town, he was a merchant. Probably he, like the clergymen at that time, was considered "educated" enough to deal with medical problems. His store was located over a mile northeast of the center of town.

Dr. Steele married Sarah King and they had two children, Aaron born in 1777 and Solomon born in 1780. After Sarah died in 1782 he married Jemima Wolcott, and they presumably lived in quarters over the store. The children were placed with the Shaker Colony in Enfield, Connecticut, to be educated.

James died in 1819 and Jemima died in 1850 at the age of 85.

Dr. Isaac Davis, Jr. was born in Colchester, Connecticut, on June 13, 1716, the fifth child of Isaac and Deborah (Johnson) Davis, both formerly of Roxbury, Massachusetts.

In 1722, Isaac, Sr., moved his family from Colchester to Windsor, and in 1727 he purchased 50 acres of land in Windsor (now Ellington) where he settled his family. Parts of Route 83 and Main Street ran through what was then his property.

On May 15, 1745, Isaac, Jr. married Rachel Sheldon of Suffield, and practiced medicine in Somers until his death in 1777. Although he was a medical doctor he was best known for being the founder of the "Davisonians," a religious sect which apparently disbanded after he died.

Dr. Allyn Hyde, who was born in Ellington in 1773, was probably the first horse and buggy doctor in town. In 1805, he married Jemima Mather, daughter of Oliver Mather and niece of Chief Justice Ellsworth. His home,

and presumably his office, was a large brick house that still stands on the north side of Maple Street. Dr. Hyde received an honorary degree of M.D. from Yale College in 1824. He was practicing at the time a typhus epidemic hit the families living along the Broad Brook stream in 1828.

Dr. Hyde had two daughters, Fannie and Jemima M. The doctor's failing health forced his retirement and he died in 1855.

Dr. Milo North was born in Sharon, Connecticut, and graduated from Yale College in 1813. The following year he took charge of the Academy at East Windsor Hill. In 1823, he settled in Ellington with his family where he started the practice of medicine from the home he purchased, which still stands on the north side of Main Street. The couple joined the Congregational Church, and their two sons, Thomas and Henry, were baptized there.

The family moved to Hartford in 1828 where they joined the North Church. In 1834, Dr. Milo North received his medical degree from Yale, and soon after joined the Hopkins Medical Association in Hartford as one of the original 15 members. In 1846 this organization became "The Hartford Medical Society." Dr. North and his family moved to Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1838.

Dr. Frederick Morgan was born in Groton, Connecticut, in 1792, and graduated from Yale College in 1813. He tutored at a college from 1816 to 1818, and in 1819 he received the degree of M.D. The doctor began to practice in Colchester in 1820, and removed in succession from there to East Haddam, to Middletown, and to Ellington where he remained only one year. He returned to Colchester in 1830 where he practiced until his death in 1877.

Dr. Horatio Dow was born in Ashford in 1793. He studied medicine with Dr. Joseph Palmer of Ashford and Dr. Gilbert of New Haven. In 1818, the Connecticut Medical Society licensed him to practice, and that year he opened an office in Vernon. Dr. Dow married the sister of Dr. Alden Skinner who lived at Vernon Center. Dr. Dow was a member of the Masons Lodge and attended the first meeting held in 1825 in Morgan's Tavern on Ellington's Main Street.

Dr. Dow moved his practice from Vernon to Ellington in 1832 and a year later he received an honorary degree of M.D. from Yale College. The doctor owned the large house with the gingerbread trim which still stands

on West Road opposite the foot of Mountain Street. He moved to the state of New York where he stayed between 1846 and 1849. He then returned to Ellington where his son, Fenlow Dow, lived, and he practiced in town until his death in 1859.

Dr. Joseph Clark Dowe (Dow) was born in Ashford in 1805 and studied medicine with his brother, Dr. Horatio Dow, and at Yale Medical School. His practice began elsewhere, but in 1846 he received an honorary degree of M.D. from Yale and then came to Ellington. After two years he moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he died in 1857.

Dr. Joseph Partridge was a botanic physician, one who used natural remedies such as roots and herbs. He was born in Cheshire, Massachusetts, in 1812 and studied with a private teacher in Pittsfield. He first practiced in Stonington, Connecticut, and came to live in Ellington Center in the fall of 1856. He practiced here until his death in 1864.

Dr. Calvin Pease, who was born in Ellington in 1820, studied medicine with Dr. Fisk in Broad Brook. About 1850 he moved his practice to Lebanon and seven years later returned to Ellington. In 1862, he was elected representative to the General Assembly from this town, and in the later part of that year became Assistant Surgeon of the 22nd Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, which served in Norfolk, Virginia. After being mustered out in 1863, he settled in Mississippi where he eventually died.

Dr. John Manning was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, in 1819 and graduated from the Berkshire Medical College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1843. He came to Ellington in 1848 and purchased a house from Oscar Ely on the west side of Mechanic Street (Berr Ave.). He practiced in town for the next eight years before moving to Pittsfield where he died in 1863.

Dr. Levi Pease was born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, in 1823, and married Susan C. Stebbins, a Somers school teacher, in 1842. He graduated from the Pennsylvania Medical School in 1846. The following year he bought Dr. Steele's store, for his practice, and lived in the upstairs apartment. In 1850, he moved to Thompsonville where he remained until the Civil War interrupted his career. He served as Assistant Surgeon in the Army from 1862 to 1866.

Dr. Pease returned to Thompsonville where he died in 1872.

Dr. Oliver Wolcott Kellogg was born in Hartland, Connecticut, in 1817, the son of Ezekiel and Luna (Clark) Kellogg. He graduated from

Hobart College in Geneva, New York, and from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, graduating with a medical degree in 1842. He was married in Southwick, Massachussets, and began the practice of Medicine in West Suffield, Connecticut, where he remained until 1859. In that year he moved his practice to Suffield Center where he stayed until 1863. He then moved to Ellington where he purchased a farm and lived for the next few years. In 1866, he returned to Suffield where he died in 1891.

Dr. Robert Patton was the first dentist known to have practiced in Ellington. He was born in East Windsor in 1817, the son of Seth J. Patton. He studied dentistry with Dr. Keys of Boston and started the practice of dentistry in Ellington in 1842. He married the daughter of Novatus Chapman of Tolland, and, upon her death, married Mary Comstock, also of Tolland. The Pattons lived in a large house south of the village green which now stands on Beechwood Farm. The doctor was also a farmer and was elected senator from the 20th District in the State Legislature in 1878. He died in an epidemic of influenza in December of 1891 and is buried in the Ellington Center Cemetery where a natural boulder marks his grave.

Dr. Joel Warren was born in Irasburg, Vermont, in 1834 and studied in Hanover, New Hampshire, and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, graduating in the class of 1860. He came to Ellington in June of that year, and his office was a free standing building which stood near the cemetery.

During the last three years of Dr. Warren's life he was considered "insane" and arrangements were being made to commit him to the State Hospital in Middletown, but he died on Christmas Day, 1890 before arrangements were completed. He had no family to claim his estate of \$30,000, and his body was returned to his birthplace for burial.

Dr. Everett J. McKnight was born in Ellington in 1855 and graduated from Yale College in 1876 and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City in 1879. He settled in East Hartford after graduation, where he practiced for the rest of his life. In 1894, Dr. McKnight was called in consultation by Dr. Davis, the resident physician in Ellington. The patient in the case was John T. McKnight, Dr. McKnight's own brother, and the medical problem was appendicitis about which little was known at the time. Together with Dr. Davis and Dr. Storrs from Hartford the

momentous decision was made to operate. The procedure was successful and it became a landmark case in the annals of local medicine.

Dr. McKnight owned a summer home called "The Millstone" on Sadds Mill Road in Ellington. It was here that he sometimes hosted meetings of the Tolland County Medical Society.

Dr. Edwin T. Davis was born in Richford, Vermont, in 1863 and graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School in 1888. At age 14 he left school to manage the family farm because of his father's impending blindness. At the first opportunity he returned to school and, in October of the year he earned his medical degree, he set up practice in Rockville. In January 1891, he took over the practice of the late Dr. Warren in Ellington. The following year Dr. Davis married Charlotte A. Clapp of Montgomery, Vermont, and the couple purchased a house on the south side of the village green where he also moved his office. The doctor made house calls with a beautiful Morgan horse and buggy until he bought his first car, a Ford Runabout, in 1909. He enjoyed farming, and his patients' payment "in kind" often was in the form of labor on his little farm. The doctor was active in town affairs and in 1905 he was elected to represent the town in the State Legislature.

The basic fees for physicians were set by the Tolland County Medical Society. At first Dr. Davis collected 50 cents for an office call, one dollar for a house call, and five dollars to deliver a baby -- if he arrived in time. By 1902 the rates had doubled.

In 1911, due to failing health brought on by diabetes, Dr. Davis resigned the last of his town offices, but continued his practice until his death in June 1912. There were four children, Harold, Edwin, Mary and Elizabeth.

Dr. Edward A. Brace was born in West Hartford in 1884. He was educated in his hometown, and later graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School. In 1911, he married Henrietta G. Segur whom he courted while still in medical school. He would sometimes ride his bicycle all the way from Vermont to the Hartford Hospital where she was in nurse's training, and from which she later graduated.

The couple settled in Ellington, and the doctor opened an office in the Charter house which once stood west of the Ellington Pharmacy. In a few years he moved across the street to the house now known as the

McKnight Museum, and later made his home on Maple Street not far from the library.

Dr. Brace made his house calls by horse and buggy, and in the winter by sleigh until he purchased a Wyllis Overland car. His wife often accompanied him when a baby was due to be delivered. The doctor developed his own treatment for polio that resulted in the complete recovery of his patients.

Dr. Brace served as Captain in World War I, and was regarded as a true "country doctor." He died of cancer in the Veterans Hospital in New York in 1936, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. His grave is a few feet from the eternal flame at John F. Kennedy's grave.

His three children were Virginia, Edward, Jr., and May.

There is little known about the following doctors who came and went during the early nineteenth century. Dr. Epapras Bissell served as a treasurer of the Ellington Ecclesiastical Society in 1802. Dr. Benjamin Potwine, thought to be the grandson of the Rev. Thomas Potwine of East Windsor, lived in Ellington from 1822 to 1825. Dr. Chauncey Brown was born in 1802 and came to Ellington about 1830 where he practiced medicine for almost three years. He moved to Farmington where he remained until his death in 1879.

After World War I a few general practitioners, including dentists, came to town but none stayed very long and little is known about them.

Dr. W. G. Sheperd came from Hazardville and opened an office in his home north of the church green. In the early 1920s he returned to his former office and practice.

Dr. Samuel Wainer came from New York in 1918 and purchased a house on the north side of Frog Hollow Road where he set up the practice of dentistry and a laboratory for making dentures. He left town four years later, presumably going to New York.

Dr. Morris B. Whitman was admitted as an elector in Ellington in 1937. He opened an office for general family practice in a former tavern that still stands north of the village green. During World War II he enlisted as a career Army Officer, and was stationed in Veterans Hospitals around the country. Dr. Whitman retired to Storrs, Connecticut, where his daughter lived and in 1967 he came out of retirement to work as a

radiologist for Dr. Kummer. He stayed seven years and still resides in Storrs.

Dr. Reginald Cline, a dentist from Hartford, rented Dr. Whitman's former office in town. In 1959, he was in charge of the dental care for students at the Center School. He held office hours in Ellington for a few days a week as his main office was near the Hartford Hospital. He finally settled his practice full time in Wapping, and then retired to Florida where he has since passed away.

Dr. Wilfred J. Robinson and wife, Julia, purchased the "Millstone" for their home on Sadds Mill Road from Dr. James H. Naylor in 1952. Although Dr. Robinson maintained an office in Broad Brook he had patients in Ellington, and became an assistant to Dr. John E. Flaherty, Ellington's Health Officer, in 1957. Dr. Flaherty, whose office and home were at 42 Elm Street in Rockville, served the town of Ellington for over 40 years. Dr. Robinson, a veteran of World War I and II, took charge when Dr. Flaherty died, and then retired in 1967. The doctor and his wife moved to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands where he spent his last days.

Dr. Luke E. O'Connor graduated from University College in Galway, Ireland, and trained in St. Vincent Hospital in New York City. He served as an Army doctor for three years before opening an office on Elm Street in Rockville in 1961, and moved to his present office on Union Street a few years later.

The doctor and his wife, Betty Jane, purchased their present home in Ellington at the corner of Ellington Avenue and Walnut Street in 1965. They have nine children. Dr. O'Connor served as Ellington's Health Officer from 1972 until the town changed over to the Northeast Health District services in 1975.

Dr. Leonard Levine graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1939. He began the practice of family medicine in Ellington in a few rented rooms in the old McCray house at Morris Corner. He married Sylvia Reichlin of West Hartford, and a few years later they built a house with an office at 151 Maple Street. They had two daughters, Terry and Beth.

The young doctor wrote articles for the Tolland County Medical Society, and gave up his free time on Thursdays to the Hartford Dispensary. He was also a talented pianist who wrote music that was

published.

A year before Dr. Levine's death of a heart seizure, while sawing wood on January 2, 1949, he attended Rutgers University, and started work as an anesthesiologist at the Rockville General Hospital.

Dr. Seymour I. Kummer was born in New York City in 1926 and moved at age three to Wallingford. He graduated from Wesleyan University in 1945, and from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia in 1949. He interned at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford for one year before coming to Rockville where he opened an office at 62 Park Street. Five years later he moved to his present office in a remodeled mansion at One Ellington Avenue. The doctor served as a part-time physician in the Ellington Schools between 1954 and 1963.

Dr. Kummer married F. Ruth Lavitt of Ellington in 1951, and four years later they built a house in town on North Park Street. They raised three children: Bart, Corby and Merle. Bart is presently a doctor in New York City who specializes in gastro-enterology.

Ruth died in 1981, and two years later Dr. Kummer married Joan Hyde Kapor, an Ellington native. They reside in the Kummer home.

Dr. Ronald H. Scherick was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1946 and earned his B.S. degree from Morris Harvey College in Charleston, West Virginia. He earned his D.D.S. degree from West Virginia University in Morgantown in 1972, and practiced dentistry in Fort Lee, Virginia, for the next two years. He came to Ellington in June 1974 and started his practice at the Tic Toc Towers at 31 Main Street. He served as the school dentist. A year later he moved to 238 Somers Road remodeling the house to accommodate an office.

Dr. Scherick and his wife, Susan, have two daughters, Jennifer and Amy.

Dr. Mark J. Decker was born in Queens, New York, in 1949. He received the degree of B.A. from the University of Rochester in 1971 and the degree of M.D. from Georgetown University in 1975. During the next three years his internship and residency was served at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Southside Hospital, Bay Shore, New York.

He opened an office in Ellington at 18 Main Street, and in 1984 he moved into his modern new office building at 16 Main Street.

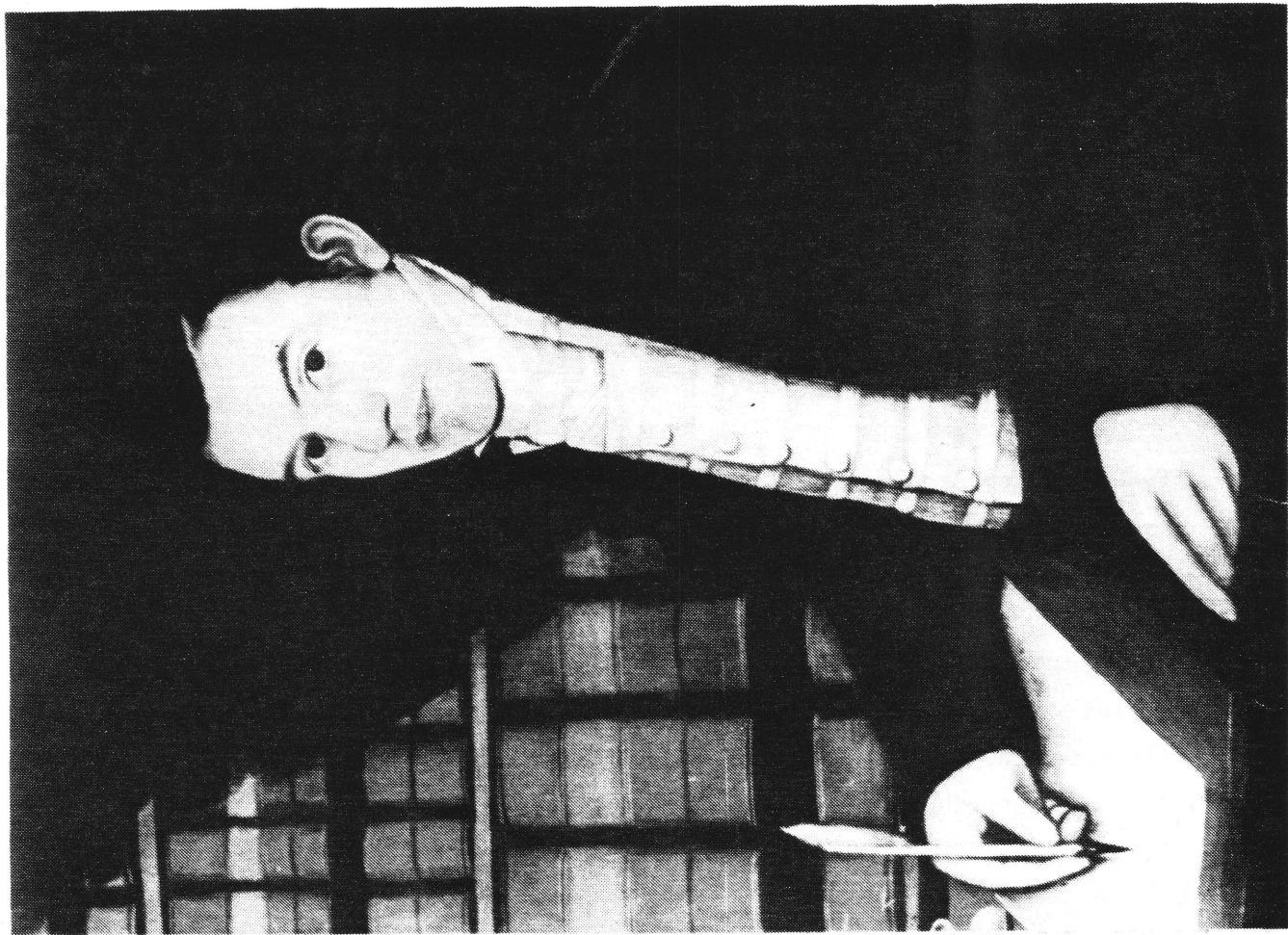
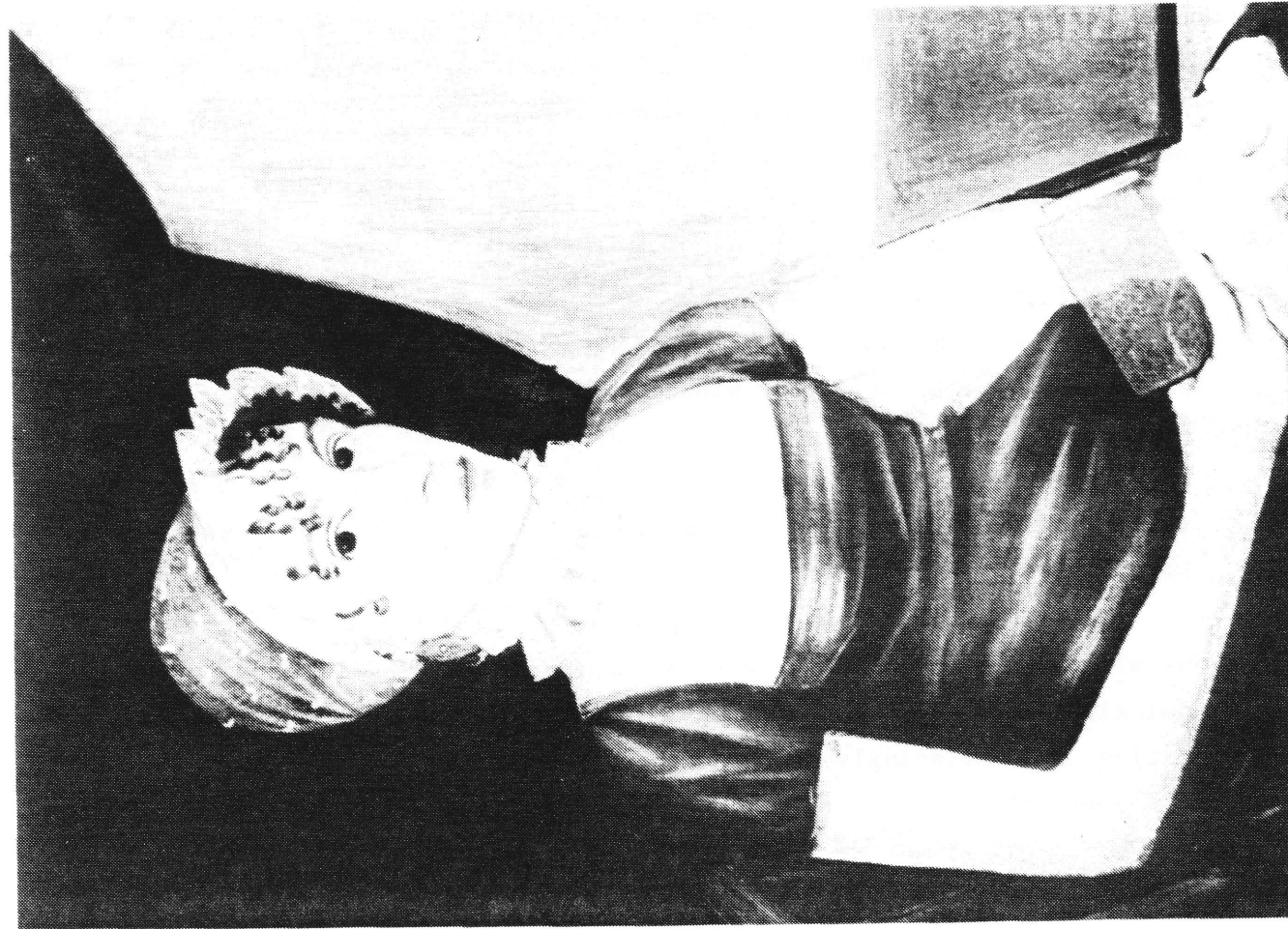
Dr. Decker and his wife, Loretta, live on Pinney Street in town with their two children, Joshua and Melissa.

Dr. Jill Robertson earned her undergraduate degree at Muhlenberg College at Allentown, Pennsylvania, and her degree of D.D.S. at the University of Connecticut in 1981. She started the practice of dentistry at 31 Main Street in Ellington in June 1984.

Dr. Robertson was married to David Inouye in December 1985 and they make their home in Glastonbury.

writer - Elizabeth Davis Goddard





Roxalana and Asa Willey - Courtesy of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Va.

PORTRAITS IN WILLIAMSBURG

ASA WILLEY (1774-1851)

MRS. ASA WILLEY (1785-1851)

Sometime between 1807 and 1815, Dr. Samuel Broadbent, an itinerant limner of Wethersfield, painted the portraits of Asa Willey and his wife, Roxalana Thompson Willey. These portraits are now part of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection at 307 South England Street, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Asa Willey, a lawyer and the first probate judge in Tolland County, married Roxalana, daughter of Samuel and Eleanor McCray Thompson, of Ellington on May 10, 1807. The Willeys lived in the beautiful gambrel roof house on Main Street in Ellington which Asa purchased in 1810 along with two acres of land. The ell on the west side of the house was added by Asa and used as his law office. The house at 36 Main Street is now owned by Peter H. and Sally Vaughn.

The portraits of Asa and Roxalana are said to appear to date from the first eight years of their marriage; Roxalana, born in 1785, would have been between 22 and 30 years of age and Asa, born in 1774, would have been between 33 and 41 years of age. The Willeys died in 1851, within 10 months of each other.

From information received from the Folk Art Center, it was learned that the portraits are well-balanced in terms of color and design and include a surprising amount of background detail. The Willeys are seated in identical green hoop-back Windsor armchairs beside small red tables.

"Sir" is written on the sheet of paper shown under Asa's right hand and lettered on the spines of the books behind him are Spirit of Law, two volumes, Grange Reports and three numbered volumes of Durnford and Eastis Reports.

It was learned that the compositions are not executed in Broadbent's usual careful manner, however, as the paint appears to have been applied quickly and in several areas too thinly. The embroidered net worn by Mrs. Willey is convincingly rendered but elsewhere, the brushwork is sketchy and somewhat coarse.

There was an attempt to soften the sharply outlined features with shaded flesh tones, but the colors were poorly blended and the effect is blotchy. The sitters' tense poses and intent, sidelong stares give both subjects a wary look.

The portraits were done in oil on canvas measuring 32½ by 27½ inches. However, if you should visit the Folk Art Center, you will find these canvases have been backed with fiberglass and remounted on modern expandable stretchers. Small canvas tears were repaired and both portraits were cleaned and inpainted. Both were acquired unframed with hanging rings attached to the center top stretchers.

Now, gentle readers, on your visit to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Williamsburg, Virginia, you will find portraits of interest from your own hometown -- part of the Ellington heritage.

by Virginia A. Hambach

PHOEBE HINSDALE BROWN

The weariness and hurt of a sensitive young Ellington mother produced one of the popular hymns of the nineteenth century, which has been sung for more than a century in America and England.

Phoebe Hinsdale Brown found herself at dusk one August day in 1818 in her small house with four children, the oldest 12, the youngest barely 2, and a sick sister in the only finished room. Brown, a deeply religious woman, left the house in search of a place where she could "retire for devotion."

She approached a neighbor's fine garden, where she recalled later, she liked "to smell the fragrance of fruit and flowers, though I could not see them."

The mistress of the house, who apparently misunderstood the young woman's behavior, appeared that August twilight to demand sharply, "Mrs. Brown, why do you come up at evening so near our house, and then go back without coming in? If you want anything, why don't you come in and ask for it?"

The woman's harsh manner stung Brown. She went home and that night, sitting in her kitchen with her youngest child in her arms, she recalled "the grief of my heart burst forth in a flood of tears. I took pen and paper, and gave vent to my oppressed heart."

The verse she wrote was "An Apology for my Twilight Rambles, addressed to a Lady, August 1818."

But it came to be known best by the first line of the second stanza: "I love to steal awhile away/From little ones and care,/And spend the hours of setting sun/In gratitude and prayer."

The song was published in 1824 in the book "Village Hymns," compiled by Asahel Nettleton, who met Brown during an evangelical tour through New England. As it appeared in the book in an edited version, "its popularity was great from the first," notes A Dictionary of Hymnology.

Behind this creativity was a life that had experienced tragedy, poverty and deliberate cruelty.

Born in 1783 in Canaan, New York, Brown lost her father when she was less than a year old. Her mother did not die until Brown was 8, but the girl spent most of her early childhood with her grandmother. During this

period it is reported Brown read the Bible completely three times, although other sources say she did not even learn to read until she was 18.

At 9, Brown went to live with her sister, where, dominated by her sister's tyrant of a husband, she was "deprived of instruction, forbidden books and made to work like a slave," the Dictionary of American Biography says.

Escape from this terrible existence came in 1805 when the 18-year-old woman married Timothy Brown, a carpenter and painter. The couple moved to East Windsor, where they made their home for eight years, then to Ellington, where they spent another five years.

The misfortune and misery of much of Phoebe Brown's early life did not leave her bitter. She became a very devout woman who wrote a number of hymns published in the first half of the nineteenth century while raising four children in relative poverty. One of those four children was Samuel Robbins Brown, born in East Windsor in 1810, who would grow up to become a renowned educator and missionary, one of the first to carry western education and the gospel to China and Japan.

To obtain an education for Samuel they moved to Monson, Massachusetts, in 1818, where he attended the Monson Academy. Phoebe Brown lived there until the death of her husband in 1853, after which she moved to Auburn, New York, to live with Samuel.

She died in 1861 at her daughter's home in Illinois.

"One of the rare shining lights that beautify the New England sky" is how Brown was described by Yung Wing, who, as one of the first Chinese students to study in America, boarded with her while attending Monson Academy.

The spontaneous expression of her soul that twilight in Ellington was the best known of a collection of hymns, which were "superior to those of any other early female hymnist of America" in the judgment of the Dictionary of Hymnology.

by Diana Ross McCain

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N.B. Phoebe joined the Ellington Congregational Church in 1813, and on July 18, 1816 the Brown's infant daughters (Hannah Whiting and Mary Colton) were baptized there. Mrs. Hannah Brown of Westmorland, New York, mother of Timothy, joined the Ellington church in 1819. The family lived in a house Timothy built in 1815. It was sold in 1820 to Jeremiah King. The house which still stands on the north side of Main Street is owned and occupied by W. D. Wilcock.

D.B.C.

SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN

Newly married and freshly ordained, East Windsor native Samuel Robbins Brown boarded a ship in October 1838 that would take him to the fulfillment of his lifelong ambition.

A week after exchanging wedding vows with Elizabeth Bartlett in East Windsor, he rushed to New York to be ordained a minister. Then the newlyweds embarked on their honeymoon: a 129-day sail to China. There, Brown began his career as one of the pioneer Christian educators in China and Japan.

The 28-year-old Brown had been selected to join the Morrison Education Society in Canton, China, named after the first Protestant missionary to that country. He had yearned since childhood -- "I scarcely know why or how" -- to become a foreign missionary.

Although he said his parents did not attempt to influence his youthful decision, he undoubtedly was inspired by his mother, Phoebe Hinsdale Brown, of whom he said: "I attribute all my success in life, and whatever good I have been enabled to do, to the home of my childhood and its hallowed influences." Phoebe Hinsdale Brown was an ardent advocate of foreign missions.

His childhood home originally was East Windsor, where Brown was born in June 1810 into a family of very modest means. When he was two, the family moved to Ellington. In 1818, they settled in Monson, Massachusetts, so that young Samuel could receive a good education at Monson Academy.

Through the generous assistance of a benefactor and his own hard work, Brown graduated from Yale in 1832. He studied for the ministry, graduating from Union Theological Seminary in August 1838. Two months later, he set sail for the Orient.

A problem immediately arose when the missionaries arrived at Macao, because foreign women were barred from entering Chinese ports. Elizabeth Brown and other women on the ship came into the country as "goods" or "freight."

Trouble broke out between China and Great Britain not long after the Browns arrived in China, making Brown's task even more difficult, for "the people were not eager to have their sons educated by a foreigner."

Nonetheless, Brown opened his school in the autumn of 1839 with six students.

The school grew during the eight years he taught there, then his wife's poor health forced their return to the United States. Brown brought back with him three Chinese youths, the first of their nation to seek an education in the United States. They attended Monson Academy and boarded with Brown's parents.

For 11 years, Brown remained in the United States, teaching and ministering in New York State. But his missionary urge flared again when he learned, in 1859, of plans to send a mission to Japan, which finally had opened its ports to foreign trade after centuries of isolation from the rest of the world. Brown volunteered for the mission, and he and his family traveled there that same year.

The challenge of Japan for the Christian missionary was perhaps even greater than that of China. "In all parts of the country edicts were posted by the government offering rewards for the detection of a Christian and threatening the severest penalties for being a Christian, or secretly harboring one," Brown recalled. "For eight years or more from the time of my arrival there I knew of but one Japanese who embraced the Christian faith."

But Brown persevered, teaching in several schools and locations and heading a group translating the Bible into Japanese. At the end of his 20-year stay, he noted with satisfaction that there were an estimated 4,000 native Protestant Christians in Japan. Many of his students went on to hold important positions in their native country, and some entered the ministry. On the one trip he made home to America, in 1867, Brown brought six Japanese students to study at Monson. Like their Chinese predecessors two decades earlier, they were the first from their nation to study in America.

In 1880, within a year of returning to the United States from Japan -- of which he once declared, "If I had a hundred lives I would give them all for Japan" -- Brown died. He had fulfilled the dream formed by a little boy from the countryside of Ellington.

Diana Ross McCain

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A PORTRAIT FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

Reserved, quiet, independent, self-sufficient, dedicated, hard-working, capable, talented, interesting, soft-spoken but well-spoken and knowledgeable are all adjectives one might use to describe Nellie Elizabeth McKnight, the unofficial historian of Ellington.

Nellie, I prefer to call her rather than McKnight as present reporters might, was born on July 22, 1894 on her father's farm in the house her grandfather had built in 1850 at the intersection of Sadds Mill Road and Muddy Brook Road. Now, the fourth generation of the McKnight family still lives in the house and operates a successful dairy farm. Nellie was the second of six children born to her parents, Howard Horace and Clara Sikes McKnight. After the birth of four girls, when a baby brother arrived, Nellie, then seven years old, recounted a few years ago to a friend of mine that she remembered exclaiming in excitement, "I've got a boy sister!"

Educated in the local schools, she was graduated from Rockville High School in 1913 with high honors in the Latin-Scientific course. Nellie went on to Mt. Holyoke College, from which she was graduated in 1917, having majored in Latin, minored in German and took a year of Greek "just for fun."

Certified to teach German and Latin in the State of Massachusetts, she signed a contract to teach English and Latin at the Rutland (Mass.) High School for the sum of \$500. She left Rutland to accept a position at the Milford (Ct.) High School where she taught for three years. Her next position was at the Torrington (Ct.) High School where she again taught English and Latin and some years German.

The diary she faithfully kept while in college and most of the years she taught school indicates she was ever the romantic but was destined to spend her life as a spinster.

During this period, her life was far from dull as she took violin and dancing lessons, played tennis, attended plays, concerts, lectures and movies, played bridge, whist, pinochle and mah-jongg when it was in vogue. Of course, she always attended church services. She constantly took nature walks, tatted, crocheted, knitted, sewed and painted, even expressing an interest in running a gift shop. She took several

interesting trips with women friends or family members.

Early in her freshman year at college, she wrote in her diary that all the students were named at the table at dinner. She was "The Silent Partner."

On December 22, 1922, Nellie's parents bought the 8-room Federalist style house at 70 Main Street. Charles Sexton had bought the land, where this house stands, in 1812 and presumably started building soon after. Nellie's parents immediately commenced extensive repairs and renovations removing two fireplaces, installing new floors and ceilings and generally updating the heating, plumbing and electrical systems to make it a comfortable, attractive home.

When Nellie gave up teaching in 1929, she came back to Ellington permanently to her parents' home. Apparently she assisted her father by "helping with the books" for the business he had undertaken some years earlier as manager of the Ellington-Vernon Farmers' Exchange. This business involved purchasing carloads of fertilizer, grain, etc. for member-farmers and then arranging to dispense same from the various railroad sidings when the cars came to the Ellington Center, Sadds Mill, Melrose or Rockville stations. This business was the forerunner of the local Agway.

The next step in Nellie's career was as the fourth librarian of Hall Memorial Library, a position she capably filled from September 1, 1929 until she retired 38 years later on August 31, 1967. The library advanced under her direction from the musty, dusty, "speak in hushed tones" establishment I remember. Because of her love and concern for children, she not only carried on the practice of taking books from the library to the schools, she selected special books to widen their horizons. Also, on her monthly visits she would tell a story to the children. During her tenure, the circulation of books yearly increased from 4500 in 1929 to 48,000 - 50,000 the years before she retired.

While her interest in the town's past, as well as its future, spanned a lifetime it was not until her retirement as librarian that she began in earnest to chronicle the town's history.

Emily McKnight Davis, Nellie's oldest sister, was also interested in local history and had done a great deal of genealogical research. She had been involved in researching and marking houses in Ellington that were

over 100 years old for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. She had extensive records and on her death in 1962, Nellie inherited them. Emily filled a need when inquiries came to the Town Clerk's office from literally all over the country and Nellie continued this service.

During these years, Nellie wrote many pamphlets for publication for the Ellington Congregational Church, which she served as historian, as well as brochures for various community organizations. In 1974, from her extensive research she compiled the information for her historical pamphlet, "ELLINGTON, Glimpses of Earlier Days." This time-consuming effort was published with the cooperation of the Ellington Historical Society which received all the proceeds from its sale.

She was a valuable, resourceful and energetic member of the Bicentennial Commission in 1976. She spent days and weeks in the Town Clerk's office documenting dates and original owners of houses to be suitably marked. In recognition of all her efforts, Nellie was Guest of Honor at the town's Bicentennial Ball. She was one of the leaders of the Grand March, at 81 years of age, wearing a colonial green taffeta gown from her family's extensive collection of items from yesteryear.

Coming from an agricultural background she never lost touch with the earth. The Grange was always part of her life. Every year, beginning in 1936 after her father's death, she maintained a large vegetable and flower garden in her backyard. She was known for her beautiful and creative flower arrangements. Even in her later years, when a deteriorating bone condition took its toll, she would use her cane to make a hole in the ground and drop a seed. Her cane would help her keep her balance while she picked her strawberries, currants and quinces to make jam and jelly. A meticulous person, she could tell you how many peaches her peach tree bore or how many jars of jelly she put up from her currant bushes.

Living alone after the death of her parents, she did not entertain a great deal but one annual event brought friends to her home when she anticipated that the bud on her night-blooming cereus plant was about to open. She would telephone a few friends, usually different ones each year, to tell them she expected the bud to open that evening. Then she might call back and say, "No, I guess it will be tomorrow night." It was a spectacular event and, as you all know, the blossom would be wilted by morning.

Another story Nellie told which brought smiles to friends' faces and showed her resourcefulness was when she found a woodchuck inside the low fence she had installed around her vegetable garden. She exterminated the woodchuck, all by herself, with a rock.

In April 1976, Nellie was presented the prestigious Tolland County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award at ceremonies at the Courthouse in Rockville, Connecticut. The award is presented annually to honor citizens, other than lawyers or judges, for distinguished public service. Her award was in recognition of "devoting her life to the betterment of the area and its children."

Her hands were never idle and she kept her 4 foot x 4 foot loom busy weaving bed coverlets, rugs for her floors, pillow coverings, runners, etc. She was a craftsman in many fields, the fruits of which she shared generously with others. Who can forget her delicious, delectable candied orange peel?

Proud of her heritage, her great-great-great grandfather, John McKnight, came to America from Scotland in 1731. He first went to New Haven where he became a merchant, then moved to Hartford and finally settled in the northwest section of Ellington in 1755 or soon thereafter. While on a trip to England to purchase goods, he married Jerusha Crane. They had six children, the second being named John.

John, the second, was married a second time after the death of his first wife. He had thirteen children, among them a twin named Horace.

Horace was born in 1790 and married Asenath Kimball in 1817. They moved to Enfield for a while and their fourth child, James Dixon McKnight, was born there in 1826. By 1839 the family had returned to Ellington, settling in the Sadds Mill area.

James married Mary Fidelia Thompson in 1850 and built the house where John Dixon McKnight, his great grandson, now lives. Of the five children born to James and Mary, the youngest, Howard Horace McKnight, took over and ran the large dairy enterprise his father had started.

Howard married Clara S. Sikes in 1891 and six children were born of their marriage. Emily, who was mentioned earlier; Nellie, whom this story is about; Dorothy; Frances; Horace, who after his marriage continued the farm his grandfather and father had operated; and Margaret, who died when not yet two months old of whooping cough.

With a family background of well-educated teachers, legislators, innkeepers, mill owners, town officials, merchants and farmers we come to Nellie E. McKnight. Upon her death on October 27, 1981 she bequeathed her home with all its furnishings and records to the Ellington Historical Society to be maintained as a museum. A charter member of the Society, "a Yankee, maybe a little on the stern side and taciturn, too," as she once described herself, an ardent historian, this memorable lady has left her mark on this town.

writer - Mildred Arens Dimock



McKnight Homestead

VETERANS OF THE WARS

In anticipation that a separate parish would be approved on the eastern frontier land of Windsor, the General Assembly, on May 1735, commissioned Daniel Elsworth as lieutenant, and John Burroughs as ensign in the "Great Marsh" militia. A few years later, Daniel and his brother, Capt. John Elsworth, were placed in charge of the seven companies in Windsor. In 1741, Daniel was promoted to captain. The militia was an effective way for the Colonies and the colonists to maintain a "Trainband" for their own protection.

From within the limits of Ellington Parish in Windsor there were those who were among the first 85 Windsor recruits in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). On a muster-roll of the 4th company, 3rd regiment taken August 1755, at Crown Point, New York, of those serving under Capt. Benjamin Allyn, Esquire were: Sgt. Jonathan Buckland, Daniel Eaton, Ephraim Parker and possibly others from the parish. Capt. Benjamin Pinney, son of Samuel, and 1st Lt. Medinah Fitch, a deacon in the Congregational Church, served in the 7th company, 2nd regiment of Windsor in 1755. In March 1756, Ithamar Bingham was appointed to be commissary of the hospital for the forces to be raised by the Colony for the intended expedition against Crown Point. Lt. Fitch saw service again in 1758 with the 9th company, 1st regiment under Capt. David Parsons of Enfield. Others who served in the same company and regiment were Benjamin Grant, who enlisted on April 5, 1759, and Ichabod Wadsworth and David Belknap. In the spring of 1760, the death by "camp distemper" of 17 year old Giles Gibbs, Jr., a draftee, was reported to have occurred north of Crown Point. Gibbs was attached to the regiment under Gen. Phineas Lyman of Suffield, whose company was on its way to Montreal, Canada. Sgt. Ichabod Wadsworth and Isaac Hubbard were volunteers with Putnam's regiment during the expedition against Martinique and the French posts in the West Indies in 1762. Both returned to their homes in the parish, but others, less fortunate, were victims of pestilence and the war. In November 1762, Joseph Pinney, Jr. died in Havana and Benjamin Pierson, son of Simeon, and Benjamin Pinney, Jr. both died in New York while enroute home. This war claimed many lives, drained the Colony Treasury, and adversely affected the farming communities.

The American Revolution (1775-1783) involved many of the able-bodied men of the parish, then part of East Windsor. In December 1774, a group of local merchants and farmers organized themselves for the purpose of being prepared to defend their property against the British. At the onset of the war, the militias from various towns were combined to form a regiment. Ellington Parish Trainband was one of four companies of militia from East Windsor which answered the Lexington Alarm of April 1775 "for relief of Boston." The 38 men of the Trainband, mounted on horses, were under the command of Capt. Charles Elsworth with Lemuel Pinney as fifer. They served either five or eight days, except for John Wallace who served 35 days and received £2, 6s, 8d. The company was reimbursed £51, 16s, 10d, which included two pence a mile. The men were each equipped with firearm, powder horn and shot-bag. Many of the 148 East Windsor men returned to serve their country for longer periods in the Continental Army. One later recruit, Corp. Samuel Pember, a Stafford native, was imprisoned in Canada. His father, Elijah Pember, of Ellington Parish obtained his release with an exchange of a British prisoner and 30 silver dollars. On September 13, 1777 the East Windsor records show that Elijah Pember paid for a substitute for two of his sons for three years or duration of the war.

Capt. Charles Elsworth's Ellington company, the 5th company of the 8th Continental regiment, under Col. Jedediah Huntington served between July and December of 1775. The first few months they saw duty along Long Island Sound, and in early September were ordered to Boston camps and stationed at Roxbury in Gen. Spencer's brigade until their terms expired. In January 1782, Ellington Parish was assigned a quota of 11 men to fill a regiment of State Troops to defend the western frontiers. The State Troops were the replacements for those with limited terms in the field. The Revolutionary War ended on September 3, 1783 when a treaty was signed in Paris.

November 1974 saw the reorganization of the 1774 Trainband as the "Ellington Parish Trainband Ancient Fifes and Drums." The new band plays music of the 1760 and 1860 periods in the ancient style, using old style fifes without keys and rope tensioned drums. While marching to the music of the fifes and drums, volleys are fired by the musket bearers.

The War of 1812 saw soldiers being summoned to New London to protect

the inhabitants of that town. The conflict began June 18, 1812 when the United States declared war against Great Britain. Ellington men who answered the call were reportedly the following:

Buckland, Timothy	Foster, Lyman
Collins, Jabez	McCray, John
Foster, Clark	Newell, Nathaniel F.
Truman, Risley	

The war ended when a peace treaty was signed in Ghent, Belgium on December 24, 1814.

The Connecticut official records list the name of Henry Buckland who enlisted April 1847 for the Mexican War (1846-1848).

There were 143 men from Ellington who served in the Civil War (1861-1865). On July 28, 1862 the town voted to pay \$100 from the Town Treasury to every resident who voluntarily enlisted on or before August 20, 1862. This was not a sufficient inducement and it was voted to increase the bounty to \$200, if an able-bodied man enlisted under certain terms for a nine-month period. A committee of five citizens was formed in 1864 to encourage enlistment. The sum of \$300 was offered each person subject to draft who volunteered for three years, or would furnish an acceptable substitute. At the end of the war a \$100 bonus was granted to those who had enlisted to fulfill the town's quota.

Rev. Adelbert Putnam Chapman, an Ellington native, was a private during this war. He was disabled at Brandy Station, Virginia, in October 1863 "by a horse throwing me when shot." The Rev. Chapman was taken prisoner but managed to escape within an hour.

During the Spanish American War in 1898 the following men from Ellington served their country:

Aborn, George N.	Lehmann, Robert H.
Bancroft, George D.	McClellan, George B.
Charter, Perlín L.	McCray, Walter P.
Hefferon, William M.	Miller, Carl
Waidner, Charles J.	

In 1908, the Sarah Trumbull Chapter of the D.A.R. placed markers on the graves of the Revolutionary War veterans.

In 1923, the town voted to place a permanent roll of honor "to commemorate the deeds and perpetuate the names of those persons from Ellington who participated in the World War." The stone monument with the

inscribed veterans' names on bronze plaques was unveiled on May 31, 1926. One side lists the names of those who served in the Revolution and World War I. On the other side are the lists of veterans of the Colonial Wars, War with England, War with Mexico, War of the Rebellion and the War with Spain.

World War II began with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The Ellington Defense Council was organized, and in February 1942, the town voted to appropriate \$2,000 to be expended exclusively for defense purposes by the Council. An alarm system was set up in conjunction with the fire department sirens in different sections of the town. The Control Center was monitored by volunteers day and night from March 25, 1942 to October 15, 1943. From 1942 through 1944 Red Cross surgical dressings were made in the emergency hospital room set up at the library. According to the annual Town Report ending September 1945, the school children in Ellington participated in a nationwide campaign to gather milkweed pods to be used in life preservers. The war ended on August 14, 1945 when Japan unconditionally surrendered.

There were other wars involving the townsmen: the Korean War that began in 1950 and lasted until 1953, and the Vietnam War from 1957 to April 30, 1975.

The American Legion Post #62 placed a stone monument on the Town Green the following year: "In Memory of Those Who Served Their Country -- World War II, Korea - Vietnam."

During the nation's Bicentennial the Town Report was dedicated to the Ellington residents who "made the supreme sacrifice."

Vito Bagdonovich 1-1-45	Thomas J. Laboc 8-10-42
George J. Bolles 12-23-43	Edward Loethscher 11-9-44
Francis M. Brigham 1-9-43	Stephen L. Lukasiewski 12-18-65
John E. Hatheway 10-14-18	John C. MacMahon 9-2-44
Ernest Hoffman 9-18-18	William C. Miller 7-23-18
Arthur T. Kelley 4-7-44	Lewis White 7-9-44
Karol B. Kolesinski 7-15-52	Joseph Wichniewicz 4-8-45

Missing In Action

Midel Hansen 7-1-52

Howard J. Thompson 12-1-44

October 11, 1976 was designated Ellington Freedom Festival Day. The liberty pole was raised on the Town Green by members of the Ellington

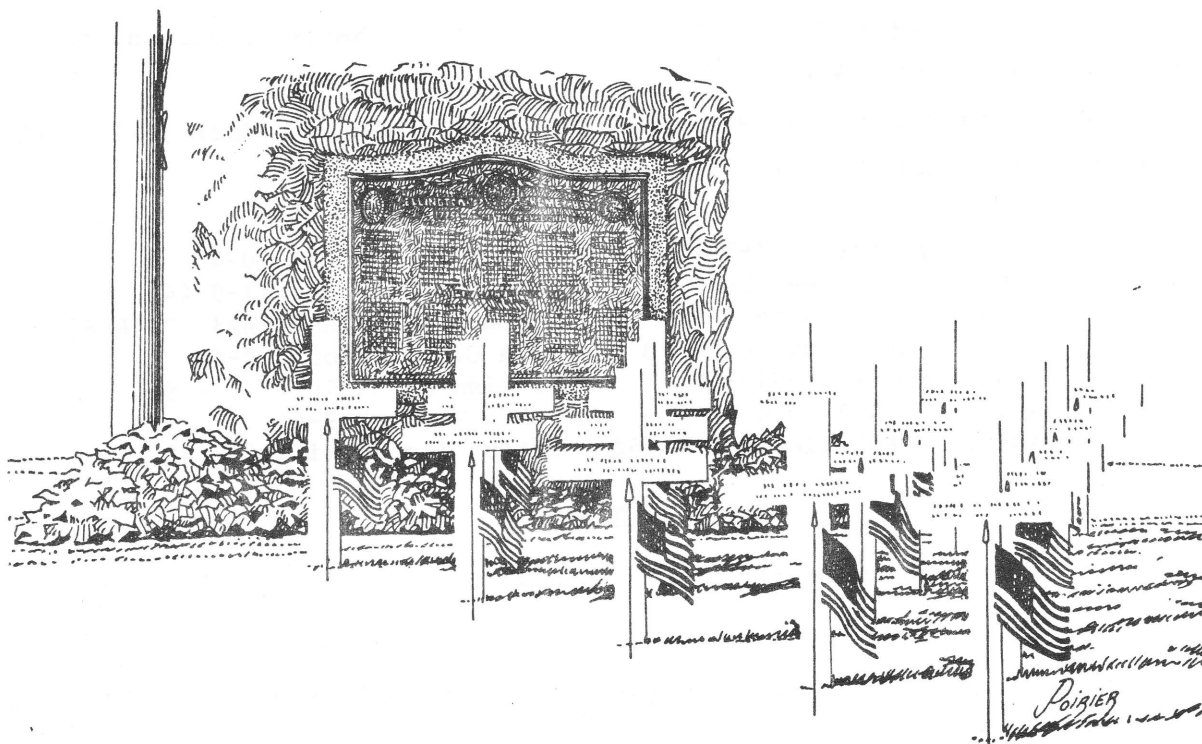
Parish Trainband. The cedar pole, locally grown, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Percoski.

On his 21st birthday, another Ellington man "made the supreme sacrifice." PFC Stephen D. Tingley was killed in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983. A Memorial Field behind the Ellington High School was dedicated December 1984 in memory of the Marine.

Each year on Decoration Day, Ellington honors its veterans with a memorial service and cemetery decoration. This custom was observed for the first time in 1883 with the Rev. Mr. Wood officiating. Two schools in town were represented. The children, accompanied by their teachers, took part in the ceremony by placing flowers in the baskets on the three graves. "Hold the Fort" was sung at the conclusion of the ceremony. In addition to Memorial Services at both Crystal Lake and Ellington Center Cemeteries, a service is held at the High School. Townspeople of all ages participate in this solemn annual service in memory of all war veterans.

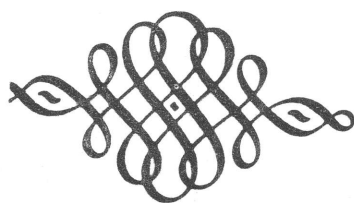
by Dorothy B. Cohen

Collaborated by Maureen C. Kosha



§ Part Seven §

LOOKING BACK



ELLINGTON GRANGE

#46 P of H (1886-1986)

On the evening of April 27, 1886, Mortimer Whitehead of New Jersey delivered a lecture in the Town Hall (Third Congregational Church) on the subject of the Grange. A fair-sized audience paid the speaker very flattering attention; and so much interest in the subject was awakened that at the close of the lecture, John Thompson, Elbert F. Hyde and Frederick A. Pierson were chosen as a committee to canvass the town with the view of organizing a Grange.

At a special meeting held in the Town Hall on May 7, S. J. Johnson, chairman, and S. J. Kimball, secretary pro tem, reported that a sufficient number of people showed interest to warrant the organization of a Grange. It was voted to instruct the committee to call the state deputy to organize it.

The meeting was called Saturday evening of May 15, 1886, and the following persons met at the Town Hall and associated themselves as charter members: Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert F. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. William Crane, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Miller, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McKnight, Charles Thompson, Milo Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Orson S. Wood, S. T. Kimball, Frederick Warner, Edgar G. Pease, L. N. Charter, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Pinney, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Sikes, S. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Kibbe, Matthew Barr, Miss Grace Hall, Miss Myrtie Hyde, Miss Alice E. Pease, Mrs. C. M. Loomis, Mrs. E. H. Little, and Mrs. E. F. Miller.

The first order of business was to elect officers: John Thompson, master; Charles B. Sikes, overseer; O. S. Wood, lecturer; H. W. Kibbe, steward; Charles A. Thompson, assistant steward; Mrs. E. F. Miller, lady assistant steward; J. D. McKnight, chaplain; S. T. Kimball, treasurer; F. L. Warner, secretary; E. G. Pease, gatekeeper; Mrs. H. W. Kibbe, ceres; Miss Grace Hall, pomona; Miss Alice E. Pease, flora.

After receiving the obligation, the officers were installed and it was voted to have the meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 p.m. It was later changed to 7 p.m. during the winter months. So much interest was shown the first year that new applicants were taken

in every other meeting, making a total of 94 members by the end of the year.

Coal, flour, grain, fertilizer, and later seed potatoes, were purchased in bulk form and sold to the members. They were given trading cards which gave a discount on purchases of any kind in Rockville and Hartford.

The literary programs of the meeting usually contained a debate dealing with some aspect of farming, such as: Is it profitable to use commercial fertilizer? The advantages of a creamery. Can corn be raised profitably? One debate, not dealing with the farm, was on the subject, Are old maids a burden to the community? Music and readings were also on the programs. The Connecticut Farmers Mutual Insurance Company was formed.

On May 25, 1887, three delegates were appointed to go to Manchester to organize a Pomona Grange. A Pomona Grange constitutes a group of local Granges in one area. East Central Pomona #43 was organized with an Ellington member, John Thompson, as the first master and Orson West as lecturer.

Labor-saving machines were introduced, such as the potato digger, potato planter and tobacco setter. In 1901, the Grange pushed for legislation for rural free delivery of mail, and debated that a horse railroad to Rockville would be a benefit to the town.

Interest in community affairs started early in Grange history, as the records show. When meeting in the old Town Hall, which was the third Congregational Church basement, it voted to enlarge and repair the stage platform and let other organizations use the Grange lamps.

Besides purchasing kerosene for the lamps, 225 wooden plates were bought. A blue spruce tree was planted in the public park and was decorated and lighted each Christmas season to bring cheer to those in the community and those passing through. The tree is still being lit but had to be replaced in 1985 for the third time. The first tree was taken down because it became infested with mites and the second was taken down because it was in the way of a car that ran through the park.

The nature of the programs has changed from agricultural, as social relationships have changed with the mixed population and varied interests. The Grange is an educational organization for the mutual benefit, cooperation, and social advantages of everyone, as well as the

farmer.

In 1891, Charles A. Thompson was elected master of the Grange, but resigned the following month, due to the mud -- it was too deep on the roads. One feature on the program of February 14, 1894, was the shearing of the Grange goat.

The church burned in 1914, at which time most all of the Grange equipment was lost and then meetings were held in the library hall. The cost there was \$1.50 a meeting, including heat and light. For rehearsals, if before 9 p.m., the cost was 75 cents. The Grange installed a water-heating system in the library kitchen. They also bought dishes, glasses and silver which was used by all organizations that met there.

In June 1913, a discussion took place on how much a telephone was worth to the farm family. In 1914, the Grange was entertained with the phonograph operated by Mr. Greetlemeyer.

When the Town Hall was built, the meetings were moved there at a cost of \$50 a year. In 1919, the secretary and treasurer were bonded for \$250 each. In 1921, the Grange voted to prohibit smoking in the public hall. A memorial plaque was obtained for John Earl Hatheway, the only known past master to have been killed in World War I, and buried in Flanders Field in France. With the large hall and kitchen available in the Town Hall, the Grange put on many dinners for outside organizations. A Dramatic Committee was formed and they put on shows and minstrels. The meetings became more entertaining with square dancing and card playing after the meetings. The membership had risen to just under 300. Degree teams were formed with tableaux to initiate new members and they have continued to the present day.

An exhibit is displayed at the 4-Town Fair each year and occasionally a float for the parade. Whist parties were held and an oyster stew supper after every installation of new officers. A public supper in June of 1936 cost 35 cents for adults and 20 cents for children, including strawberry shortcake for dessert.

In 1938, softball teams were made up among the different Granges and the competition brought in many young members. This was under the able leadership of Ed Miller and Ed Heintz.

In February 1942, the Home Economics Committee made plans and prepared to feed and care for 150 refugees in case of a disaster for the

duration of World War II. The Grange bought savings bonds. Volunteers manned the control center in the Town Hall for 24 hours a day under the direction of Milo E. Hayes.

A service flag was procured and stars were sewn on when a Grange member went into the service. The Grange collected tin, rubber and grease. Members, also, collected canned goods for disaster areas. Collections were taken for the USO and gifts were sent to local boys in the service for Christmas. A blood bank was set up. One of the Grange members, Joseph Bolles, was reported missing in action. In July 1944, the treasurer purchased a \$1100 bond which would receive interest of 2.5 percent each year until maturity.

In March 1951, the men of the Grange presented a circus for the program. It included a parade, band, circus acts and animals in cages, as well as clowns, a hula girl and acrobats. The women were so surprised at the effort put on by the men that the men had to soothe their feelings by giving each lady a lollipop. This was in conjunction with the competitive programs.

On June 28, 1967, a commemorative stone was placed beside the Ellington Constitutional oak tree in the center of town. This oak commemorates the tiny pin oaks given to the 168 delegates at the close of the General Assembly in May 1901. Mr. Francis M. Charter was Ellington's delegate and planted the tree there. Since there are so few of these oak trees left, the Grange thought this would be a good living memorial.

In September 1970, the Grange was left without a meeting place, due to the renovation of the Town Hall and the meetings were held at the homes of members with only one meeting a month. In October 1971, the Lutheran Church on Orchard Street offered the use of a room and Grange met there until December of 1976. In January of 1977, meetings began to be held at the Ellington Congregational Church where they are held at the present time.

In honor of the Nation's Bicentennial in July 1976, the Grange erected a memorial stone in the Town Park, marking the location of the first Congregational Church in Ellington.

The Grange is the only order in the world to admit the whole family on an equal basis. Orson Wood was the first lecturer of Ellington Grange, the first lecturer of East Central Pomona, master of the State Grange for

four years, and chaplain of the National Grange for two years.

Jennie Holton, also an Ellington resident, was pomona of the State Grange for many years. Many of the members today are third and fourth generation members. In later years, East Central Pomona divided into East and North with Ellington members being in North Central Pomona #13.

The State Grange comprises all of the Granges in Connecticut and the National Grange comprises all of the State Granges. The National Grange meets once a year in different states, while the State Grange meets once a year, usually in Meriden. They are active in promoting legislation in Congress.

The Grange has its own insurance of all kinds, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield, for its members. The State Grange has a camp in Winchester called Camp Berger for its members and their children. Scholarships are given each year to children of members who attend the University of Connecticut. There is also a Credit Union for members.

On May 14, 1986, Ellington Grange celebrated its 100th anniversary. Part of the festivities included a dinner at the church.

The present officers are: Stephanie Schlude, master; Edwin Heintz, overseer; Ada Pease, lecturer; Joe Ricard, steward; Michael Woodin, assistant steward; Terry Edwards, lady assistant steward; Anne Loos, chaplain; Edna Edwards, treasurer; Pat Woodin, secretary; Walter Schortmann, gatekeeper; Ruth Schortmann, ceres; Ada Arnold, pomona; Leona DeBortoli, flora; Doris Heintz, pianist; and Mildred Cook, Julianna Ballard and Rachel Pease, executive committee.

by Stephanie R. Schlude



MEMORIES OF THE GREAT HURRICANE OF 1938

The story was told of a Long Island (New York) man who, on the morning of September 21, 1938 had delivered to his home a long-desired barometer. When the wrappings were removed, the barometer was registering "hurricane." Knowing that such storms occur only in the tropics, the instrument was returned to its manufacturer. That man's disbelief undoubtedly was shared by the vast majority of New Englanders. It was about noon when the great storm struck Long Island.

As a junior in Rockville High, I had gone to school as usual that morning. It had rained heavily during several previous days and many streams were overflowing their banks. Shortly before noon, the high school principal sent all students home without explanation; perhaps, we surmised, because a flood hazard was developing. Surely, the principal had been informed by telephone of the storm's approach but he wished to avert a panic. The sky was darkly clouded, the air heavy and still as we walked unconcerned to our hilltop home on Frog Hollow Road. We had no way of knowing that Long Island had been devastated and that the hurricane was roaring northward, in the language of the time, at the speed of an express train.

Early in the afternoon, the onset of heavy rain was accompanied by rising wind out of the southeast. Our father being at work, mother ordered me to bring home the family cow, tethered about half-a-mile away on the Kelley farm (now Epstein). The cow was standing tail to the wind, then blowing with great force, and I had some difficulty to keep her moving into the stinging rain. It was a slow trip home and nearly impossible to open the barn door, but finally the cow was in the barn and I in the house, with a badly scared mother and four younger children.

The wind rose steadily and rain fell so hard that the Kelley farm, scarcely one-tenth mile away, was visible only when powerful gusts momentarily swept aside the teeming rain. Perhaps we first appreciated the wind's force when young maple trees in front of our house actually were pressed almost to the ground, then sprang erect as the gusts diminished. The wind roared so loud that normal conversation was impossible. As the storm increased in violence, we children ran from window to window, trying to miss nothing that might take place. There

were several tobacco sheds on the Kelley farm, and if one happened to be looking that way, a great gust might be seen to blow aside the rain, revealing a shed lifted straight up, then smashed to the ground. Many buildings, crops, trees, and telephone poles blew down during those two or three hours of atmospheric fury. Branches from the large horse chestnut on the east side of our house blew off the tree and scraped noisily across the roof. We thought surely the roof would detach from the house. On the whole, we children had a grand time but I suspect all that sustained our poor mother's sanity was the constant need to deal with large amounts of water pouring in through every east-facing window, intact but hardly proof against rain driven at such velocity.

During those years, bathrooms were virtually non-existent in Connecticut farmhouses. Most rural families resorted to the outhouse, and our's was demolished near the storm's height. No sooner had that loss been discovered than our youngest sister proclaimed urgent need of the facility. Other arrangements were made.

By about 5 p.m. the wind and rain were moderating and by 6 p.m. all was relatively calm. Our tobacco shed, corn crib, and two hen houses were reduced to splintered junk. Most of the apple trees in our small orchard were flattened. The new tin roof on our barn was gone. Assigned later to find and return those roof panels, I located all but two of them, scattered about in the woods behind Kelley's barns, about a quarter-mile away. Most of the upper branches of the horse chestnut tree were gone. We had neither telephone nor electricity. The latter, having been installed only a month or so earlier, was not greatly missed as we still had kerosene lamps and were accustomed to them.

Everywhere, most of the large trees exposed to full force of the wind either were broken off or uprooted. Probably it is safe to say that no road was passable to cars on the evening of September 21. As darkness approached, neighbors began to visit neighbors. No one had been hurt and everyone's home was more or less intact but all experienced some sort of difficulty and all wondered if the storm really was over. Our father worked for the State Highway Department and it was several days before he got word to us and two weeks before he returned home. Almost a month would pass before our road was open to traffic and longer before electricity and telephone could be restored.

I always enjoyed roaming in the nearby woodlands and was appalled at the destruction in them. No large trees were left standing in our woodlot. My brother and I devised a game, to see how far we could travel on the flattened trees without stepping on the ground. We often went clear across our woodlot and indeed, could so travel for as far as the trees had been subject to full force of the wind. The Smithsonian Report of 1939 described such destruction eloquently:

"The gale broke off or uprooted some 275 million trees. Damage was most extensive on the tops and flanks of hills, in and beyond which the wind was funneled. There were also lanes of destruction where a succession of vicious gusts had plowed into the woods, breaking off first trees or uprooting them from the sodden ground, thereby opening the then unprotected to leeward to the destructive attacks of subsequent blasts."

It may be safe to claim that no storm within historic time had caused such damage in New England, and certainly none since 1938 has approached such destructiveness. No one knew how much rain fell or how hard the wind blew in Ellington. Over 10 inches of rain fell during the storm's passage over Hubbardston, Massachusetts. Though the storm had weakened when it reached northern New England, Mount Washington experienced steady winds of 118 miles per hour and gusts as high as 163 miles per hour. Fifteen million acres of forest were damaged and windfall was complete on 600,000 acres. Years later, I would analyze the U.S. Geological Survey's hydrologic data to find that post-hurricane flows increased substantially in the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. Such flow increase is commonplace after clearcutting small watersheds but was, and remains, unprecedented in such large river basins.

The work of cleaning up and rebuilding went on. I suppose it took our father and me almost two years of part-time work to clean up the wreckage of our buildings and longer to clean up the woodlot. Some people rebuilt destroyed structures; others, like us, merely repaired those left standing. Despite such anticipation to the contrary, few people seemed to have been forced into radically changed life styles. Perhaps the economic upsurge preceding World War II helped cushion the great economic losses that few of Ellington's farmers were spared.

Today, only the students of forest history will see evidences of the

great storm. On almost any east or south facing slope, mounds of soil fallen from upturned tree roots, all oriented in the same direction, mutely testify to the wind's force. The wrecked buildings and broken trees have vanished except from memory and from yellowing records. During a recent trip to New England, I was amused to hear a young lady express keen disappointment that, after all her preparations, Hurricane Charlie had veered eastward into the Atlantic Ocean. Few who experienced the hurricane of 1938 would share her disappointment.

by James H. Patric



Scenes in Ellington
after the
1938 Hurricane

THE FOUR-TOWN FAIR

Let us go back in time to when farming was the principal occupation in Somers, Connecticut. It is the winter of 1838-39 and the local farmers are discussing their oxen and steers. To own these animals was a mark of distinction. So much so that the farmers decided to hold an exhibition to see which school district would show the largest number of cattle.

The exhibition of 210 yoke of oxen and steer was very successful and attracted not only the Somers folk but also those from neighboring towns. Interest was intense and sincere. It followed that a group of men met at the house of Daniel Gowdy of Hazardville (Enfield) and later formed an organization at the Inn of Alpheus Billings in Somersville. They named the newly-organized society, "The Cultural and Mechanic Arts Society."

While the name was "The Cultural and Mechanic Arts Society," to the people, it was "The Cattle Show."

The first cattle show was held at Somers on October 23, 1839. At that time membership in the Society was limited to the towns of Somers, Ellington and Hazardville. Then in 1840, the society admitted Broad Brook (East Windsor).

The fair rotated annually thus: Broad Brook, Hazardville, Ellington and Somers. In only seven years since its inception has the society failed to hold a fair: Civil War stress in 1862 and 1864; epidemic of influenza in 1918 and World War II years, 1942 to 1945.

It is of real interest to learn, however, that the fair was held in Ellington in 1863, at which the ladies appeared "in great beauty and loveliness." Picture, if you will, ladies in taffeta and silk dresses and bonnets trimmed with fine lace and velvet. It was the period when hoop skirts were the fashion. Gentlemen proudly escorted their wives, dressed in their Sunday attire. Children walking hand-in-hand remained with their parents for the entire day.

The annual exhibition at first was primarily cattle but with the ever increasing interest, classes for sheep, poultry, pet stock, and agricultural and horticultural produce were gradually added.

Women began exhibiting at the fair in 1843 and thus came needlework, canning, baked goods, braided rugs and such.

On January 14, 1861, the name of the Society was changed to the Union

Agricultural Society of Enfield, Somers, Ellington and East Windsor. However, as it revolved around the four towns, it was commonly referred to as "The Four-Town Fair" and to this date this is still true.

Charging admission to the fair was not done until 1850 when it was voted to charge five cents admission. This was not a permanent matter as, in fact, the plan of charging admission in 1909 and 1910 was revised: Ellington threatened to secede if the plan was adopted. The fair was largely financed through generous gifts from private individuals of means and aided by annual appropriations from the state since 1874.

The fair continued to grow -- to have a social side -- excellent dinners served in local hotels or inns, fine band music and colorful parades. It became for many "the social event of the year."

Although the fair rotated its site each year, as early as 1850 it was proposed to hold the fair in a fixed place. However, not until 1960 did this finally take hold when the society bought its first piece of land consisting of about 51 acres in Somers, for a permanent fair grounds.

Having "permanent fairgrounds" allowed for many improvements to meet the changing times. Utility poles were put up for electric power in 1960 and two years later a permanent restroom facility was built. Also a well was drilled, and in 1977 another well was provided to keep pace with the expansion of all the fair's demands.

There are now two wells supplying the needs for all fair activities. Chain link fences with gates were installed around the power poles including boxes for the safety of the fair-goers. Multiple changes are always being made to enhance the activities, and the work has been done by dedicated individuals who give willingly of their materials and labor.

In 1964, at the permanent site in Somers, the first three-day fair was held -- the first was held on a weekend.

Today, the fair still has its "cattle show" but it has an outstanding horse show as well. The premium classes in the boys and girls departments and adult departments are of wide appeal, featuring a multiple of interests.

Exciting contests are held such as doodlebug pulling, frog jumping and largest frog contests, and even a doll carriage contest. Rules and regulations are clearly stated in the Fair Premium Book each year, covering all areas including exhibits, contests and activities.

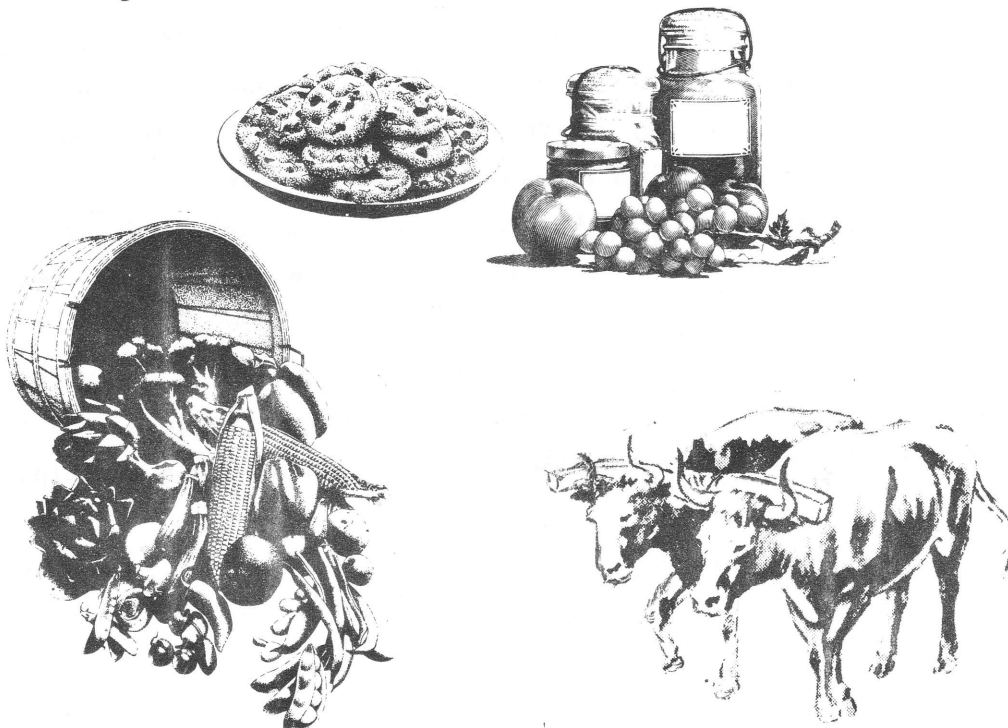
Due to the sharp increase for goods, insurance coverages, utilities, and such, it became necessary for the Board of Directors to institute a "per person" admission charge in 1979, thus becoming the last fair in the state to do so.

It is to be noted that the fair had its roots in Somers and after all the years of rotating through the four towns, Somers became its permanent home.

The fair thus returned to its roots. The fair is held in the autumn of the year. It is not possible to adequately describe the beauty of it all -- the loved animals all deserving "Blue Ribbons," the shining glory of the carefully selected fruits and vegetables, the skilled needlework, the perfectly prepared home-baked pies, cakes, breads and cookies, the laughter and excitement of children, people meeting people, as well as renewing friendships . . .

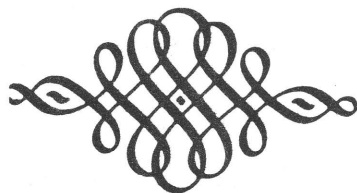
A time when leaves are turning
to scarlet and gold,
And the sun shines warmly
on the young and the old,
Leaving memories to all
forever to hold.

writer - Virginia A. Hambach



§ Part Eight §

MATTERS
OF
HISTORY



ELLINGTON CHRONOLOGY

1600s to 1800s

- 1600 - A wilderness criss-crossed by game and Indian trails claimed mostly by the Podunk and Nipmuck clans. The area included their villages, camp sites, fishing waters, hunting and planting grounds.
- 1635 - Pilgrims from Dorchester, Mass. led by Rev. John Warham followed the Old Conn. Trail westward towards Windsor, Conn. They passed around the head of Snipsic Pond following the trail W, NW towards the Indian fording place at Warehouse Point in E.W.
- 1642 - Mass. Bay Colony claimed Conn. Colony land above a boundary line run between the colonies determined (incorrectly) by their surveyors, Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery. (included N half of Ellington - see map)
- 1658 - Lead Mine Path (a section of a Nipmuck trail) so-called when mines opened at Sturbridge and Union, and the path was used to transport the lead, back-packed on burros, to English ships on the Conn. River. The path leading W skirted the S shore of Crystal Lake, past Hopkins Rd. to Meadow Brook Rd. where it joined the Old Conn. Trail leading NW towards Pynchon's Warehouse on the river.
- 1665 - The horses in Windsor were branded with a letter "I" on the rear quarter.
- 1672 - A certain tract of land purchased from the Podunk Sachems by Windsor Agents extinguished all Indian rights. The Court then decreed that the Windsor boundary be extended from the "Three Mile Lots" an additional five miles eastward. (E line ran N-S from Somers line, passing through Kibbe Rd. and Vernon to the Manchester line.)
- 1673 - A 100-acre Land Grant which was awarded to Matthew Grant was taken up along the west side of Windsor's 1672 eastern border line. (vicinity of the junction of West and Somers Rds.)
- 1684 - Capt. James Fitch purchased a vast tract of Nipmuck land (Wabbaquasset) from their Pequot-Mohegan conquerors. (In addition to Stafford and part of Tolland on the W end of the tract, it included the Crystal Lake area between the two towns.)
- 1686 - Lt. Joseph Wadsworth of Hartford purchased 340 acres outside of Windsor's east limits from the Nameroak Chief "Towtops;" 100 acres lay in the "Great Marsh" and the rest extended east into "Wexkashuck." (land in the SE section of town)
- 1692 - A patent was granted to Rev. Samuel Mather of Windsor for a 200-acre Land Grant, laid out to him in 1684, west of Windsor's eastern border. The patent was signed by the Rev. Mather's father-in-law, Gov. Robert Treat of Conn. (area in and around the Ellington Airport)

- 1713 - The dispute over the boundary line between the Colonies of Mass. and Conn. was settled. As part of the agreement Mass. relinquished claims to certain unimproved lands (called the "Equivolent"), and in exchange Conn. agreed to cede 7,259 acres off Windsor's north boundary to Enfield (6,240 acres) and Suffield (1,019 acres) in Mass. (since 1749 in Conn.)

- 1716 - Conn. Colony deeded the "Equivolent" land to the Windsor Proprietors. (all Ellington land E of the 1672 Windsor border)
 - Samuel Gibbs, Jr. settled on 200 acres with a house he purchased from Dr. Samuel Mather, Jr., who was deeded same in 1714 by his father, the Rev. Mather.
 - Lt. John Elsworth purchased a 200 acre paper Land Grant from the heirs of Thomas and Nathaniel Bissell, which the Lt. had surveyed out in the "Great Marsh."

- 1720 - Hannah Grant, daughter of Nathaniel and Bethiah Grant, was born at East Farms shortly after her parents settled there. (family lived on the E side of Somers Rd. not far from the center of town)

- 1721 - Samuel Gibbs, Jr., John Burroughs, Nathaniel Grant, Daniel Elsworth and Benoni Blocket (Blodget) petitioned the court for a tax abatement on their property at East Farms. The abatement was granted in order to encourage settlement.

- 1723 - Windsor was issued a patent under the Colony Seal for an estimated 8,000 acres of "Equivolent" land which was signed by Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall.

- 1724 - A school was reported in the "Great Marsh."

- 1728 - The "Mile and Half Mile" land division that was completed was laid out in two "tears" N-S along the west side of the 1672 Windsor border line. A "Mile Tear" was connected to the northwest corner of the division.

- 1732 - A petition was sent to the General Assembly for "liberty to hire a minister."

- 1733 - A sawmill was erected by Joshua Booth on a one-acre lot on the bank of the Broad Brook which was later leased to John Burroughs. (Sadds Mill Pond)
 - Rev. John McKinstry, who lived in Wapping, was hired for £40 a year and kindling wood.

- 1734 - A one-acre plot was purchased by the Windsor Selectmen from the Grant brothers for 40 shillings for a Burying Place at the "Great Marsh." (old section of the Ellington Center Cemetery)
 - Inhabitants (34) of the "Great Marsh" signed a petition to be freed of ministry taxes in the Second Society. (became South Windsor in

1845)

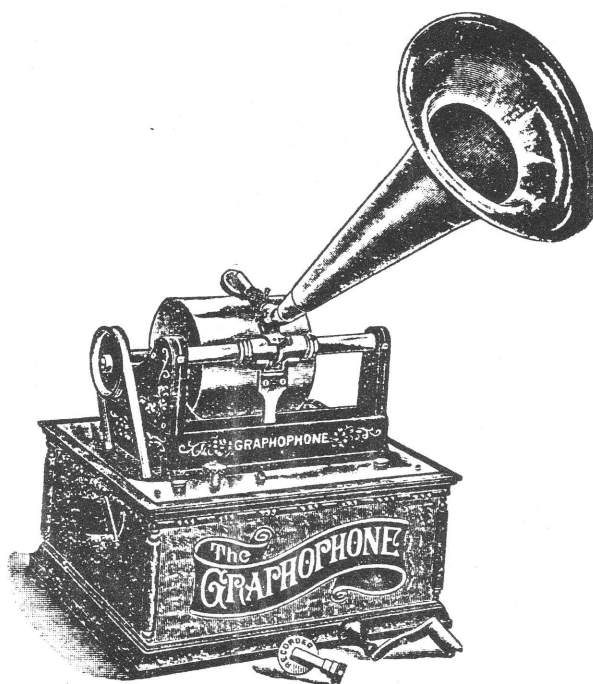
- 1735 - Daniel Elsworth was commissioned as Lieutenant and John Burroughs as Ensign in the "Great Marsh" militia.
 - The General Assembly granted a certain petition for a separate parish in Windsor which was named Ellington Parish.
- 1736 - Rev. John McKinstry had the parsonage built on 50 acres of land he purchased a few years earlier.
- 1738 - The construction of a Public Road called "The East Street" began on the south line of the parish and ran north for about three miles. (The road began in Vernon a half mile S of the Ellington line on West Rd. up to Somers Rd.)
- 1739 - The Congregational Church was built on the southeast corner of the Rev. McKinstry's land.
- 1743 - The land divisions called Windsor Commons and "Equivolent" were completed. The latter division had 317 Proprietors' Lots. (W part of Ellington up to Abbott Rd., and the entire E half of Ellington)
- 1745 - Joseph Rockwell grew tobacco on a farm which was laid out to him more than a mile west of Square Pond. He died a few years later.
- 1752 - The "Sequestered" land division that was completed was wedged between the "Windsor Commons" and the "Mile and Half Mile" divisions.
- 1755 - A gristmill was erected by the Burroughs brothers, Simon, Abner, and Jonathan, near the Burroughs Sawmill.
- 1760 - The south boundary line of the parish was modified; $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N-S by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles plus 40 rods E-W. (now part of Vernon)
- 1762 - A petition by the inhabitants of Ellington Parish for a township was denied by the Court.
- 1765 - Dr. Joel Carpenter came from Ashford and set up his practice in a house he purchased not far from Snipsic Pond.
- 1768 - East Windsor was incorporated and Ellington Parish became part of that town as did North Bolton Society. (So. Windsor, {inc. 1845} was included. The Society is now the W part of Vernon.)
- 1774 - The Ellington Parish Trainband was organized.
- 1781 - Timothy Holton opened a tavern in the northwest part of the parish.
- 1785 - Ellington Parish in Hartford County was transferred to the newly organized Tolland County.
 - The boundaries were defined for the new school districts.

- 1786 - Ellington Parish became a township when it was granted incorporation.
- 1788 - Mr. Ebenezer Nash, the delegate representing the Town of Ellington at the Convention held in Hartford in January, voted against ratifying the Constitution.
- 1790 - Doctors Asa Hamilton and Ruggles Carpenter were given permission to set-up and carry on innocations for small pox under proper regulations.
- 1792 - District No. 4 schoolhouse was built on the southwest corner of present Hoffman and Somers Roads. (school moved further down Hoffman Rd. and is now used as a storage shed)
- 1794 - At a town meeting, Dr. Ruggles Carpenter was given "liberty to build a convenient hospital" on his land near Snipsic Pond.
- 1798 - The oversight of the schools was transferred from the town to the districts.
- 1800 - Aaron and Zenas Nash established a Clothier's Works that included a Fulling Mill and Shop on Marsh Brook. (corner of Mountain St. and West Rd.)
- 1803 - The Stafford-Pool Turnpike was franchised. (Old Stafford Rd. bordering E on Nye-Holman State Forest)
- 1812 - A Cotton Mill was built near the bank of the Hockanum River at the southern end of the town. (area known as Windermere Village since 1860)
- 1822 - William Morgan was appointed Postmaster, and the post office was in his tavern. (S side of Main St. opposite Center School)
- 1825 - A chapter of the Masonic Order was organized at a meeting held at Morgan's Tavern.
 - John Hall (1783-1847) opened the "Academical Schoolhouse" west of the center of town.
- 1839 - The Cultural and Mechanic Arts Society was organized; later known as Union Agricultural Society or more familiarly as the Four-Town Fair. (Somers, Enfield, Ellington and East Windsor)
- 1876 - A freight station and depot was built for the N.Y.N.H. & H branch railroad line through Ellington. (building stood on corner of Pinney St. and Frog Hollow Rd. until it was dismantled around 1950)
- 1886 - The Ellington Grange #46 was organized and John Thompson was elected Master.
- 1897 - A telephone was installed in the home of John T. McKnight for \$18 a year, in advance, by the So. N. E. Telephone Co. of New Haven.

1898 - The district schools were transferred back to the town.

The advent of the telephone led Ellington from an isolated rural farming village into twentieth century suburbia with electricity, trolleys, motor cars, oil furnaces, rural free delivery, paved roads, airplanes, tractors, refrigerators, television, consolidated schools, new churches, shopping centers, an airport, condominiums, etc, etc., and up to the present Space Age.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Named ELLINGTON PARISH by the General Assembly in 10/1735. Probably from Great Ellington (Ellingham), County of Norfolk, England. Norfolk, East County of England; N & E by North Sea, S by Suffolk, W by Cambridge & Lincolnshire, NW by Wash.

Present Ellington land E to Shenipsit Lake ("Meshenips" or Snipsic Pond) was once Windsor territory originally claimed by the Podunk Clan (Podunks, Scanticooks, Nameroaks & Hockanums) on the E side of the Great River (Ct. River). At one time or another before the 1637 Pequot War most of the River Tribes were subject to the Pequots (destroyers of men), and later to the Mohegans (wolf clan).

The Mass. Nipmucks (Freshwater People) claimed "Wabbaquasset Country" which was the S part of their territory extending into Ct. Colony. The W line ran to the S end of "Meshenips Pond" (an Indian hunting ground boundary), then E beyond the Quinibaug River. The pond, originally 1½ miles N-S is now 2¼ miles long due to subsequent dams built on its outlets. Uncas, a Mohegan sachem, who was instrumental in helping the English conquer the Pequots was permitted to lay claim to most of the Nipmuck territory. In 1684, Oweneco, the eldest son and successor to Uncas, sold almost the entire Nipmuck territory to Capt. James Fitch of Norwich, a land speculator. The sale (W part of tract in Ct.) included what is now the N half of Tolland, a strip of land in Ellington E to the Willimantic River, the E end of Somers, and the town of Stafford.

The present TOWN OF ELLINGTON was granted incorporation 5/11/1786. The town contains 34.8 sq. miles, and its highest elevation on Soapstone Mountain is about 975 ft.

The town began as Ellington Parish which was set off from Windsor's NE frontier land variously referred to as East Farms, Great Marsh or Windsor Goshen in 10/1735. Between 1728 and 1752, parts of 3 land divisions known as "Mile & Half Mile" (1728), "Windsor Commons" (1743), "Sequestered" (1747-1752) were all laid throughout the W area. An entire division on the E called "Equivolent" land was compensation to Windsor in 1716 for 7,259 acres taken from its N bounds as part of a boundary dispute settlement between Province of Mass. Bay and Ct. Colony in 1713. When an acreage shortfall was determined by surveyors in 1722, the Ct. Colony

honored a prior agreement to offset this with a strip of its ungranted land E to the Willimantic River above Tolland. On 4/20/1723 Windsor was issued a patent for an estimated 8,000 acres which was signed by Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall. A legal issue soon arose between the Windsor Proprietors over which tax list (1686 or 1723) the names should be drawn from to assign lots. This delayed the completion of the layout within the "Equivolent" until 1743.

In 1760, a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N-S was transferred from the S end of the parish in the "Mile & Half Mile" division to part of the newly formed No. Bolton Society in Windsor in order to provide a more convenient place for worship. The Society (W part of Vernon) was annexed to the town of Bolton in 5/1789. The last petition to the court for a township listed among previous reasons that the parish was separated from East Windsor when it was taken out of Hartford County, and included in Tolland County when it was formed in 1785. When East Windsor was incorporated in 1768, No. Bolton Society and the present South Windsor were part of that town as was Ellington Parish until its own incorporation.

PLACE NAMES TO REMEMBER

ABBOTT ROAD - Fr. Windsorville Rd. NNW to Broad Bk. Rd. in W part of ELL. S half was pub. rd. in 1784, & N part in 1792. The N part (dirt rd.) was orig. laid due N to Holton Mills, then c $\frac{1}{2}$ m. at the N end was altered 1819, 1833, 1871 & 1891. Proximity of E bd. line in 1687 Indian deed of sale. (See Frog Hall). Col. Jos. Abbott (1736-1814), a Rev. soldier fr. Pomfret, Ct. bgt. land in SW part of ELL in 1782. He was licensed for a pub. house in 1787. His house that stood on Pinney St. cor. Windsorville Rd. burned in 1923.

ABBY BROOK - Flows NW into SOM fr. its origin in N cent. part of ELL. Obadiah Abby was one of the 1st settlers in ENF. (SOM was E precinct of ENF, Mass. until 1734; in Ct. 1749). In 1750s there was a sawmill nr. bk. on Sam'l Pinney's land nr. SOM line. Dan'l Clark owned a sawmill further S nr. bk. in early 1800s.

ABORN BROOK - Flows WNW into Crystal L. a.k.a Sucker Bk. John Aborn (Eborn) of TOL bgt. land nr. Sq. Pond as early as 1747. Lucius Aborn had a house nr. bk. inlet (1857 map) & A. Aborn the same (1869 map). Aborn Rd. & Aborn Priv. Rd. are short rds. SE of Crystal L. Fr. Sandy Beach Rd. the 2 rds. meet & join E. Shore Rd. to the N.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN - Swiss community for elderly (Longview Village) blt.

1980. c 2 m. SE of ELL ctr. on N side of Middle Butcher Rd. behind A C Church bldg. 1954; 20 unit addn. in 1979. 1st church (1891) on Fox Hill in Rockville. Moved in 1900 to new bldg. on 135 Orchard St. in ELL. Destroyed by fire in 1908 & rebld. Now home of Masonic Temple (Fayette Lodge #69) formed 8/10/1825.

BAHLER BROOK - Flows S into Broad Bk. 1 m. N of ELL ctr. a.k.a Bissell Bk. in 1766 deed. A potash factory was bld. nr. bk. by Patrick Thompson of NYC & son Andrew, a Htfd. merchant. Bankrupt in 1767. Aaron & Ebenezer Bissell, Jr. owned house & land S of bk. in 1751. John & Hezekiah Bissell had land in 1759. Adolph & Gottfried Bahler settled on Meadow Bk. Rd. in 1896 where desc. still farm.

BELCHER MILL POND - $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW of ctr. on Broad Bk. stream. Sam'l Belcher of Htfd. bgt. former Wm. McCarty sawmill on Broad Bk. fr. Timothy Holton in 1814. In 1825, Belcher bgt. adj. land fr. Holton & erected an 8' 10" high dam & created a millpond. A gristmill was bld. Belcher d. 1849 & bus. was sold. Mills destroyed by fire 1850s.

BELDING BROOK - Flows W into Marsh Bk. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S of ELL ctr. Betw. 1860 & 1926 the Belding Bros. of Michigan owned a lrg. silk mill in Rockville, now occupied by Amerbelle. Alvah N. Belding, b. 1838 in Ashfield, Mass. bgt. land with bldgs. on ELL/VER line in 1885, & the former Asaph McKinney farm on E side of West Rd. a few yrs. later.

BERR AVENUE - Fr. Main St. N to Maple St. W of ctr. a.k.a Mechanic St. in 1843 where several tradesmen had shops. Theodore Berr, a blacksmith, bgt. a house & land on cor. Main & Mechanic Sts. in 1879. His shop once stood across the st.

BICENTENNIAL ARBOR PARK - In ctr. on N side of Main St. Est. 1986 to commemorate the town's 200th birthday. Dedicated Sun. 6/7/87

BONEMILL BROOK - Source nr. STAF line & flows SE through Nye-Holman State Forest into Sweetheart L. in TOL. Named in 1860s after Bone Mill nr. bk. on ELL/TOL line that ground animal bones for fertilizer.

BOWER HILL - $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW of Crystal L. on Rt. 140. Twin hill of Charter Hill. Leroy & Sarah E. Bower bgt. 60 Ac in 1883, S on hwy.

BRADLEY BROOK - Flows N into Broad Bk., S of Sadds Mill Rd. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m NW of ctr. a.k.a Parsons Bk. Josiah Bradley (1730-1826) settled in Sq. Pond 1753. Desc. Elijah Bradley (1808-1872) m. Lorenza Taylor & settled in NW part of town on farm with bk. in 1837. Dan'l Parsons lived N of bk. in 1795. A Podunk Indian fort site off SW side of bk., which has since changed course.

BROAD BROOK - Originates in hills or mtns. in N cent. ELL. a.k.a Grt. Bk. Flows SWS then W over E.W. line into Scantic R. at B B Pond. Ammi Trumbull owned a sawmill there in early 1700s. (See Burroughs Sawmill). Abraham Wallis settled nr. bk. origin in 1741, & that part was called Wallis Bk. (See Wallis Bk.). B B Rd. c 2 m. NW of ELL ctr. was partly altered in 1891.

- BROOKSIDE PARK - 1 m. NW of ctr on N side of Sadds Mill Rd., Rt. 140. Town bgt. 41.42 Ac in 1969, & E half was developed as a recreation area in 1971. In 1985 a baseball field was added. Broad Bk. N of park.
- BUCKLAND HILL - $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of ctr. on Frog Hollow Rd. Jonathan Buckland, Jr. (1761-1855) bgt. 11 Ac on top of hill in 1791 & blt. a house. His father settled in SW cor. of ELL in 1746.
- BURBANK ROAD - $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of Crystal L. Dan'l Burbank of ELL bgt. land in 1805 the same yr. a tnpke rd. was begun, which ran N-S through his land. Work was abandoned due to high costs. The Tolland-Mansfield Co. chartered in 1828 completed the rd. The charter was revoked in 1847. Stages ran fr. Mass. border S through SOM, STAF, ELL to TOL courthouse.
- BURROUGHS SAWMILL - 2 m. NW of ctr. Joshua Booth was the first to set up a sawmill & logway on 1 Ac on Broad Bk. in 1733. John Burroughs of ENF leased & then bgt. same. His sons Simon, Jonathan & Abner ran the bus. & c 1755 added a gristmill & heightened the dam. John d. 1757, & his sons later sold the bus. By 1778 both mills were owned by Timothy Holton, a tavernkeeper. (See Belcher Mill Pond & Sadds Mill).
- CHARTER BROOK - Source in Shenipsit State Forest. Flows SE through ELL to TOL, then SSW into Shenipsit L. a.k.a Russell Bk. 2 m. W of Crystal L. Benj. Phelps had a sawmill on bk. in 1757 & a gristmill in 1759. John Charter bgt. "Equiv." land in 1753. C Cem. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E of C B; land (2 ch. N-S x 2 ch. 50L E-W) was set aside on John's property in 1770. Earliest stone standing 1765. Town took over care of C Cem. 10/1936. C Hill twin hill of Bower where Nathan Russell lived. (See Russell Bk.). Pease's sawmill on C B (1857 map). C Rd. nr. ELL/VER line off E side of West Rd.
- CHURCH PARK - ELL ctr. Col Levi Wells bgt. land in 1786 which he sold to the Ecclesiastical Society (Cong. Ch.) in 1803. The 2d Meetinghouse dedicated 6/25/1806 was blt. on site, & removed to Rockville in 1867. Converted to an opera house & burned 1941. A park fence with 82 iron bars, 10' lg. was bgt. by Eccl. Soc. 1/1875. A bandstand/gazebo was blt. on C P by Bicentennial Com. in 1976. C St., a.k.a Parkview Ave. in ctr. in 1909. Constitution Oak planted 1902 (N triangle of C St.) & a stone marker placed next to tree by the Grange on 6/28/1967.
- CONGREGATION KNESSETH ISRAEL CEMETERY - In ctr. off N side of Maple St. on NW cor. of town cem. Land bgt. fr. Sylenda & Sarah Morris in 1909. Addn'l land in 1948 & 1961 fr. Alice & Ernest Limberger. C K I formed in 1905 & syn. blt. 1913 on cor. Abbott & Middle Rds. on 60' x 100' of land donated by Julius Sugarman. Bldg. removed in 1954 to W side of Pinney St. to land donated by Calmun & Eva Myerowitz.
- CRANE ROAD - 2 m. W of ELL ctr. nr. E.W. line. Fr. Frog Hollow Rd. N to Broad Bk. Rd. Wm. Crane (1767-1838) m. Hannah Hamilton of ELL in 1801 & had 7 ch. Son Darius b. 1816 m. Pamela Phillips in 1845 &

had 4 ch. They lived on C R. Darius was a teacher, farmer & author of an 1889 booklet on ELL Families. He was the only successful grower of Woad or Indigo Plant (blue dye for coloring cloth or glass).

CREAMERY BROOK - Fr. ENF it flows SW into Broad Bk. in ELL. $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW of ctr. a.k.a Warner Bk. in 1733 deed. Ebenezer Warner of WNDS was assigned lot #147 in "Mile & Half Mile" div. (1728) on SOM/ELL line (1985 Proprietor's Map). The Ell. Creamery organ. 1884 & est. a plant next to bk. Sold in 1916 to John D. DeCarli & land now used for farming.

CRYSTAL LAKE - 171.47 Ac L. & Community in E part of ELL. a.k.a Sq. Pond & Ruby L. Indians called the L. & area "Wabbaquasset" (places where flag grows or Flaggy Pond) Ancient site of a Nipmuck village on N shore of L. (STAF line). Community & P.O. name changed fr. Sq. Pond to C L on 7/20/1889. P.O. est. 3/9/1835 was closed 3/31/1908. C L Cem. a.k.a the East Cem. & Sq. Pond Burying Ground in 1860. Town acquired Cem. in 7/1953. C L School bldg. 1957 & C L Vol. Fire Dept. est. in 1934 (bldg. 1936) are both located on S side of Sandy Beach Rd. C L Rd. a.k.a Lake Bonair Road & Rt. 140; it runs E-W betw. Rt. 30 & Rt. 83. (See Sandy Beach Rd., Lake Bonair & West Rock). C Rd., SW of C L; C L Ext. (dirt rd.) $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S of C L, off S end of White Rd.

DAILEYVILLE - SE part of ELL. a.k.a Longview James Dailey of VER bgt. 15 Ac on Old County Rd. (Upper Butcher Rd.) & bldg. a house on N side of rd. in 1856.

DAVIS BROOK - A branch of Belding Bk., W of Shenipsit L. In 1727, Isaac Davis bgt. 50 Ac on N half of a 100 Ac land grant laid to Matthew Grant of WNDS in 1673, where Davis family settled (just E of ELL ctr.). (1985 Proprietor's Map). D Rd. (dead-end) off N side of Mtn. St.

DEVILS HOPYARD SWAMP - c $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E of Crystal L. A boggy area, part in ELL & part in STAF. Iron ore was carted fr. area in 1770s until depleted by the mills in STAF.

EAST CEMETERY - (See Crystal L.). East Mtn. E of Somers Rd. (See Soapstone Mtn.). East St. (See West Rd.) East Shore Rd., E of Crystal L., fr. Aborn Rds. N to STAF line. East Porter Rd., fr. Webster Rd. NE to STAF line.

EGYPT ROAD - 2 m. N of ctr. fr. Hoffman Rd., N to SOM line. a.k.a Back Rd/Black Rd. Legend has it that runaway slaves hid in the fields along the rd. during the day, & proceeded N to a station in SOM at night. (Prob. Somers Inn bldg. by Amariah Kibbe). Stages fr. SOM used the rd. in 1830s.

ELAIT - (Elat) = toward the hills. NE cor. of ELL. Mohegan Indian name for a W bd. line in a 1684 deed. Nr. Soapstone Mtn. a.k.a East Mtn. (See Soapstone Mtn.).

ELLINGTON - Community Ctr. 1st P.O. in 1822 in Wm. Morgan's tavern on S side of Main St. P.O. in ctr. 1961. RFD changed to ELL 06029 in

1975. E Ave. fr. VER line N to Mtn. St. (pub. rd. c 1860) E Town Hall blt. 1915 by J. Henry McCray; remodeled 1971; elevator added 1984; basement remodeled 1985. E Ctr. Firehouse blt. 1946; addn. 1983; on N side of Main St. E Ctr. School blt. 1949; addn. 1963; E Administration Bldg. blt. 1972 E of school on N side of Main St. E High School opened 9/21/1959 on N side of Maple St.; 4 rm. addn. 1971; E Ambulance Bldg. blt. 1980 W of E.H.S.; Albert "Goldie" Spielman Athletic Field adj. to E.H.S. (all weather track) dedicated in mem. of "Goldie" 6/18/83; Stephen Tingley Mem. Field behind E.H.S. comp. 12/84, in mem. of Marine killed in Beirut in 1983. E Ridge Golf Course & Country Club (1959) c 2½ m. SW of ctr. on W side of Abbott Rd. E Shopping Plaza blt. 1961 on Church St. E Airport blt. 1965 on W side of Somers Rd. E Industrial Park blt. 1973 next to airport 1½ m. NE of ctr. E Landfill Mid-Ct. Project (CRRRA 1986) formerly Refuse Gardens est. 1974 on N side of Sadds Mill Rd. c 3m. NW of ctr. E Commons on Main St. cor. of West Rd. (1987).

ELLINGTON CENTER CEMETERY - N of ctr., one acre of land bgt. 1734 fr. Benj. & Nath'l Grant on brow of a hill in Grt. Marsh for 40 shillings by Windsor Sel. Addn'l land in 1759, 1842, 1893 & in 1952 when the Ell. Cem. Assn. (formed in 1912) had chg of the cem. Sabra Trumbull Chapter (DAR) placed markers on graves of Rev. soldiers in 1908. Gillett Cem. Gateway, a bequest by Sarah Loomis in 1948 in mem. of Ralph Gillett. Gateway (wrought iron) taken down in 1985. R G granted liquor license for store nr. meetinghouse in 1833. Pent Rd. to Cem. 1801, disc. 1856; entrance to Cem. 1844, & new one 1952 - both run N off N side of Maple St. in ctr.

ELLINGTON SCHOOL - W of ELL ctr. Priv. boarding school for boys aged 8-16 fr. 1829 until girls were accepted in 1839. Founded by Judge John Hall (1783-1847), a Yale grad., who was headmaster for 10 yrs. before changing to others. The 56 rm. school was vacant by 1866 & destroyed by fire in 1875 (See Hall Family School for Boys).

"EQUIVOLENT" - (See introd.) Land E of Kibbe Rd. & Rt. 83, or N half of WNDS 1672-1716 bd. line. Includes stretch of land (panhandle) extending E c 5 m. betw. TOL & STAF & is betw. ¾ m. to 1½ m. N-S. (See Crystal L. & 1985 Proprietor's Map).

FIVE CORNERS - S of ctr. nr. VER line. Junction of Windsorville Rd. (E-W), Pinney St. & Skinner Rd. (N-S), & Wappingwood Rd. (SW). (See Path to Cedar Swamp).

FROG HALL - i.e. Frog Hall Brook, Frog Hall Plain, Frog Hall Hill = Fr. a 1687 Indian deed of sale confirming to WNDS agts. land sold 1637 betw. "Nomerog Bk. & River Scantock," "crossing Catch Bk. & so runs to ye mtn. nr. a place known by ye name of Frogg Hall." In 1743 survey of "Windsor Commons;" F H Bk. (see Peck Bk.) in SW part of ELL. (A tributary of Catch Bk. in E.W.). F H Plain, part in ELL & part in E.W., W of Crane Rd. In "Seq." land survey there are 6 lots laid out in 1747 on F H Hill, in NW part of ELL on E side of the N end of Abbott Rd. (1985 Proprietor's Map).

FROG HOLLOW ROAD - i.e. Goshen Rd. alias Ell. Rd. ("Windsor Commons")

survey 1743) = a.k.a. Hamilton St. W of ELL ctr. to E.W. line. F H School, Dist.#9, on N side of F H R. Blt. in 1824 & closed in 1945. Sold to owner of land, Jos. Cohen in 1947. Dan'l Hamilton (c1740-1784) of Eastham, Mass. m. Hannah Sparrow & had 9 ch. He came to ELL & bgt. farm on F H R nr. E.W. line in 1782. Sons: Paul (Methodist Preacher), Dan'l, Jr., Benj., Richard & Theodore & many of their desc. settled in the area.

GOSHEN - i.e. Windsor Goshen = G Rd. same as present Frog Hollow Rd. G precinct in WNDS (1st tier of "Mile & Half Mile" div. - 1728). (See introd.).

GREAT MARSH - Area named after the long boggy marsh or swamp extending N & S of ELL ctr. (see Wexkashuck).

GREEN, THE - Ctr. of town betw. Main & Maple Sts. Became pub. land when library site W of the G was acquired in 1903 fr. sons of Judge John Hall (See Ell. School). 2 War Mem. Monuments were placed on G. 1. In 1926 by the town (fr. Colonial Wars to WW1). 2. In 1976 by the Am. Legion Post #62 (WW2, Korea & Vietnam). In 1976, the Ell. Grange #46 placed a stone to mark site of 1st Cong. Church blt. 1739 on SW cor. of the G.

GREEN ROAD - 2 m. NW of ctr. a.k.a Holton Rd. Runs N-S through Jobs Hill fr. Sadds Mill Rd. to SOM line. G Swamp on W side of rd. not far fr. an Indian winter village site. Dan'l Green bgt land nr. G R in 1791. G R (dirt rd.) was 1 rod wide in 1825.

HALL FAMILY SCHOOL FOR BOYS - In ctr. on SE cor. of Main St. & Berr Ave. Boarding School founded by Edw. Hall (1809-1866), son of Judge John Hall, which Edw. began in his home with 6 scholars in 1844. School closed 1891. Francis Hall, who d. 1902 in NY left funds to have a library blt. on his land in the ctr. in mem. of his father John & bro. Edw. Hall Mem. Library dedicated 11/11/1903.

HOCKANUM RIVER - Its source is Shenipsit L. River wanders for 17 m. through VER, ELL, MANC to N part of E. HTFD & empties into the Ct. R. Wm. Goodwin blt. 1st sawmill (1654) on Sawmill R. (H R) in Burnside sect. of E. HTFD. H R, Indian term = hooked or crooklike. Gristmill on horseshoe bend of H R (2 m. S of ELL ctr.) blt. by Wm. & Eliakim Hitchcock in 1796.

HOFFMAN ROAD - 1 m. N of ELL ctr. New hwy. in 1760, & called the Middle Rd. when Fred & Fred Hoffman, Jr. bgt. 125 Ac on both sides of the rd. in 1900. Desc. still reside on part of the land.

HOPKINS ROAD - 1½ m. NE of ctr. Proximity of part of Lead Mine Rd. Caleb Hopkins (1814-1891) b. Spgfd., Mass. m. Damaris Holton of ELL 9/4/1834 & settled nr. H R. He was Probate Judge 1858-69; 1st R R Sta. Agt. 1876-c 1880; kept record of ELL deaths.

HYDE BROOK - Flows SW into Broad Bk., 1½ m. N of ELL. Wm. A. Gager owned a sawmill which he bgt. fr. Marvin Scripture in 1849 that stood next to the bk. Matthew Hyde, Esq. (1734-1806) a cabinet maker m. Roxalana

Stoughton of E.W. He presented the 3rd petition to the Gen. Assembly for a township in 1767. He was Town Clerk 1786-1806, Rep. for 15 terms, & on School Com. in 1796.

IRELAND - i.e. Irish Row & Melrose = NW cor. of town & over E.W. line. 1st settled by widow Thompson & family (See Thompson Pond). Wm. Melrose m. Eliz. Sanger, dau. of Azariah of E.W. In 1793, he blt. a house $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of ELL ctr. on Frog Hollow Rd. cor. Abbott Rd.

JOBS HILL - Proximity of Green Rd. & J H Rd. in NW part of town. J H Rd. fr. Morris Cor. NNW to SOM line (laid out in 1749). Legend has it that Job Colton, who lived nr. Buckhorn Bk. on top of the hill nr. SOM/ENF line made paths down the hill to Broad Bk., one of which J H Rd. closely follows (See Morris Cor.). J H School blt. 1873 on cor. of J H Rd. & Muddy Bk. Rd. Sold in 1949 & is now a home (See Muddy Bk.).

KETCH BROOK - Originates in SW cor. in a partly swampy area of ELL. & flows W through Windsorville in E.W. into the Scantic R. (See Frog Hall Bk.).

KETCHOGCOOK - (place of old people). Swampy area E of the 5 Cor. & at S end of the Grt. Marsh. Tradition has it that the Podunk Indians put their woman, ch. & old men in the swamp for safe keeping whenever their enemies the Mohawks, Pequots or others attacked.

KIBBE BROOK - Flows E to W into Broad Bk. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N of ctr. K Rd. $1\frac{1}{2}$ NE of ctr. (location of part of WND 1672-1716 E bd. line). K Meadow on lot #10 in "Mile & Half Mile" div. (1728). Edw. Kibbe of ENF in 1714 (now SOM). Valerous Kibbe (1789-1866) fr. SOM bgt. a farm $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N of ctr. (Hoffman Rd.) in 1835. K B flowed through the farm bgt. by Chas. E. Kibbe in 1849. (1857 map).

KIMBALL BROOK - Flows E to W into Broad Bk. $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N of ctr. Dan'l Kimball (1755-1837) of Windham Co. bgt. land in 1793 & settled on it. Josiah Kimball & Ebenezer Smith were partners in a sawmill & shinglemill on N side of K B. (1857 map). In 1927, Miss Mary J. Kimball gifted town w/a tract of woodland fr. K est. K Town Forest is N & S of Crystal L. Rd. c 2 m. NE of ctr. (40.7 Ac).

LADD ROAD - $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SE of Crystal L. was surveyed in 1794. Sam'l Ladd of TOL bgt. land in "Equiv." in 1766. His house was nr. the ELL line. A. Ladd (1857 map) & many Ladd desc. settled in ELL.

LAKE BONAIR (TOL) - called Spruce Swamp in "Equiv." surveys. NW cor of TOL on ELL line. A dam was blt. to create a L. by a co. to mkt. peat moss. In early 1900s cottages were blt. nr. L. L B Rd. a.k.a Crystal L. Rd./Rt. 140 (betw. Rt. 83 & Rt. 30). Rd. altered in 1834 to by-pass Hopkins Rd. fr. swamp (TOL) W to Rt. 83 (Som. Rd.). (See Crystal L.).

LAKE MILLS - 2 m. S of ELL ctr. nr. Hockanum R. In 1834, L M bgt. a Cotton Mill blt. in 1812 for Salathiel Chapman & others. The sale incl. 4 houses, a gristmill blt. 1796 by Eliakim Hitchcock & son Wm.,

& 3 Ac. In 1848, L M bgt. 15 Ac w/sawmill & gristmill fr. O. Bissell & T. Smith. A yr. later a lrg. 5-story stone factory w/dye-house, & a canal leading to it was completed. The factory burned in 1853, & was reblt. w/3-stories. Timothy Pitkin, one of the L M owners m. Mary Chapman in 1815, dau. of James. Salathiel (1760-1844), & James (1766-1838) were bros. L M a.k.a Ell. Mills when it was sold in 1860 (See Windermere).

LEAD MINE ROAD - Followed a Nipmuck path that led fr. a mine opened in 1658 at "Tantuisques" (Sturbridge) past "Mashapaug" (Union), SW towards Indian Springs (Stafford), passing S of "Wabbaquasset" (Crystal L.) on to Pynchon's warehouse or to a ferry landing S of the warehouse on the Ct. R. John Winthrop, Jr. bgt. 10 sq. m. w/a lead mine (opened in 1658) fr. the Nipmucks in 1644. Capt. Thos. Clark of Boston was granted land w/a mine (Union) in 1657 by the Mass. Court. The mine closed in 1699. Burros were used to transport the black lead to ships bd. for Eng. Most of the ELL land grants betw. 1673 to 1686 were laid out S of L M Rd. Indian deed (1687) = "it runs over Scantock nr. where Goodman Bissell formerly erected a sawmill & runs over old rd. or hwy. that formerly went to Lead Mines" . . . "thence nr. head of Podunk Bk., thence crosses Mine Rd. at Cart Hill, & fr. thence it comes to Ct. R."

LONGVIEW - An area in SE cor. of ELL (See Daileyville). L St. off S side of Upper Butcher Rd. L Dist.#10 School blt. 1891 on E side of No. Park St.; burned in 1971. L Jr. High School blt. 1954 (addn. 1977); N side of Middle Butcher Rd. L Village (see Apostolic Christian).

MANOCA HILL - 2 m. NE of ELL ctr. betw. Hubbard Lane & Hopkins Rd. (ref. to hill in old deeds). Jacob Redington fr. Eng. bgt. a farm c $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of M H in 1741 which he sold in 1748. A legend persists that Nath'l, son of Jacob, & an Indian fought over the affections of an Indian maiden on a steep rock ledge on M H. One fell to his death & today the ledge is called "Redington Rock."

MARSH BROOK - A tributary of Hockanum R. Fr. ctr. M Bk. flows S through the Great Marsh. a.k.a Main Bk. Rev. Ezekiel Marsh (1808-1844) lived in ctr. nr. N part of bk. in 1835.

MARTIN BROOK - Flows fr. STAF SW through ELL into TOL. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of Crystal L. Sylvannus Martin of E.W. had 2 ch. b. 1755 & 1777. Peleg Martin of Thompson bgt. land in ELL in 1800. Lyman Martin (1812-1900) m. Armenia Dimmick & lived W of M B (1857 & 1869 maps).

MCCRAY - School Dist.#3, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NW of ELL ctr. Wm. McCray (1703-1777) had 9 ch. b. betw. 1750-1768. John McCray (1722-1793) of ELL m. Polly Phanton. School on Wm. McCray's land on N side of Muddy Bk. Rd. was blt. in 1831; replaced an older school further W. 1831 School remodeled into a house, & a 2nd story was later added. (See Muddy Bk).

MCKINNEY - School Dist.#1, a.k.a. Cogswell Dist. Area SE of ELL ctr. School blt. 1817 on W side of West Rd. was moved further S in 1828 across the rd. fr. A. McKinney's house (1857 & 1869 maps). New

school bldg. 1875 was $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S of old bldg. & across the rd. fr. where Wm. Cogswell's brick house (bldg. 1821) formerly stood. Sold in 1949 & now Valley Fish Mkt. McK St. (See Middle Butcher Rd.). James McKinney (1701-1796) bgt. land nr. S end of parish in 1744, & in 1761 settled in house he bgt. on the rd. James McKinney, Jr. was on School Soc. Com. 10/1796.

MCKINSTRY CEMETERY - In ctr. on N side of Main St. Rev. John McKinstry was hired by the Cong. Church in 1733. He bgt. 50 Ac the same yr. & bldg. a house (1736). The church was bldg. 1739 on the SE cor. of the land & the McK C (1750) was W of the church. The Rev. retired after 16 yrs. due to a disagreement over church discipline. He d. 1/20/1754 (77). A new monument was erected on his grave 1858, & an iron fence installed around the McK C by a desc. Ezekiel McKinstry (1753-1803), a grandson, lived in the parsonage when he sold it in 12/1791. He was on 1st School Soc. Com. in 1785.

MEADOW BROOK - $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N of ctr. Approx. area where Lead Mine Rd. & Old Ct. Path (sect. of path a.k.a WNDS-Warrenville Path) merged & led further W to branches of paths leading to the Ct. R. (See Lead Mine Rd.). M View Plaza on E side of West Rd. opened in 1987.

MESHENIPS POND - (See introd.). a.k.a Snipsic Pond (1630 map) & Shenipsit L. Mohegan deed in 1684 to Capt. James Fitch ref. to a SW cor. bd. as "Moshenupsuck" (outlet of river, bk. or stream flowing out of a pond or L.), on a grt. pond called "Mishnaps." A favorite Indian fishing place. (See Hockanum R.).

METCALF NATURE TRAIL - $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N of ELL ctr. Prof. Homer Metcalf deeded 16 Ac to the town in memory of his father Clarence on 12/10/1973.

MIDDLE BUTCHER ROAD - 2 m. SE of ELL ctr. a.k.a McKinney St. M B Rd. is part of an old County Rd. that led to Skinner's Iron Works & Gristmill est. in 1737 nr. the source of the Hockanum R. M B Rd. was used during the Rev. War & after by the farmers taking cattle or pigs to Deacon Hall's slaughterhouse farther E up the rd. (See Upper Butcher Rd. & McKinney). M Rd. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW of ctr. fr. Pinney St. W to E.W. line.

"MILE AND HALF MILE" - (See introd.). Land div. in WNDS completed in 1728. Fr. SOM/ENF line S through ELL ctr. & W part of VER to MANC line. ELL bds. defined in 1735 when it was set off as a parish in WNDS. The S bd. was modified in 1760. (1985 Proprietor's Map).

MINOR HILL - Elevation 850 ft. a.k.a Murry Hill (W. Murrey on 1857 map) $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E of Crystal L. M H Rd. a.k.a San Juan Hill Rd. Fr. Sandy Beach Rd. N to STAF line.

MORRIS CORNER - $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW of ELL ctr. Capt. Jos. Morris (1782-1847) bgt. the McCray property in 1838 on the E side of Jobs Hill Rd. The house stood on a cor. in 1843 when Maple St. was extended W to Jobs Hill Rd. Sylvester Morris, son of Jos., lived in the house (1857 & 1869 maps). The family sold part of their land for addns. to Ell. Ctr. Cem.

MOSELEY PLAINS - 1 m. NW of ELL ctr. Wm. Moseley, Jr. of Wilbraham, Mass. m. Eunice P. Damon of ELL in 1841, dau. of David. They resided on N side of Meadow Bk. Rd. (1857 & 1869 maps). In 1/1889 the est. of Eunice Moseley sold 100 Ac on M P (N side of Muddy Bk. Rd.) to Albert D. & E. K. Moseley.

MOUNTAIN STREET - SE of ctr. & 2 m. SE to VER line (S part of M S in 1750s). Zenas & Aaron Nash owned a clothier bus. w/a Fulling Mill & Shop next to Marsh Bk. It was on cor. of new sect. (1811) of M S & West Rd. Mtn. Nursery owned by Dan'l Eaton - old sect. of M S (1857 map).

MUDDY BROOK - 1 m. NW of ELL ctr. Flows S into Broad Bk. parallel with W side of Jobs Hill Rd. M B Rd. runs fr. Jobs Hill Rd. W to Sadds Mill Rd. (See Meadow Bk.). On the N side of M B Rd. schools were blt. c 1800, 1831 & 1873 (See McCray & Jobs Hill).

NEFF HILL - SE of Crystal L. nr. TOL line. Elevation 845 ft. Eleazer Neff bgt. 20 Ac in "Equiv." 4/1816. Neff houses (1857 & 1869 maps). A rd. was laid by Elisha Neff's house in 1868. Desc. still live in ELL.

NEWELL HILL - $\frac{3}{4}$ m. W of Crystal L. Elevation c 880 ft. a.k.a Rock or Rocky Hill. N H Rd. fr. Rt. 140 NWN to STAF line. Meetinghouse on bend of rd. (1760 deed). Baptists met in TOL, ELL, & STAF during this period. Nath'l Newell (1719-1807) bgt. "Equiv." lot in 1751. He m. Abigail Aborn & settled on N H. Old Newell house burned 1933. Many desc. (1857 & 1869 maps).

NEW GUINEA - $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE of ELL ctr. Fr. early 1800s to c 1900 a colony of blacks lived nr. E end of Hopkins Rd. just N of Kimball Bk. Cato Quashi (Quircy) of ELL bgt. land close by in 1789. Edw. Chappel, who owned 2 Ac on rd. in 1819, blt. a house & settled on land. His desc. lived there for many generations.

NYE-HOLMAN STATE FOREST - At E end of ELL nr. Willimantic R. Forest covers 374 Ac (Includes 190 Ac. of former common & undivided "Equiv." land that was sold in 1791 by a court apptd. com. to Nath'l Drake, Jr. & his wife Hope). In 1944 the State of Ct. bgt. 5 adj. parcels (374 Ac). Ebenezer Nye, one of the 1st settlers in TOL, lived nr. the river.

OLD STAFFORD ROAD - i.e. Tolland Turnpike. 1.14 m. betw. TOL & STAF lines & nr. W bd. of Nye-Holman State Forest. Staf. Pool Tnpke. franchised in 1803. In 1813, named Staf. Mineral Spgs. Tnpke. Rd. was altered in 1828, & franchise revoked in 1839. Town leased Rd. betw. 1844 & 1854.

PECK BROOK - Flows W into Ketch (Catch) Bk. in E.W. (See Frog Hall). Sam'l Peck bgt. 80 Ac & a house in 1770 in N cent. part of ELL. Dan'l A. Peck (1806-1890) lived in SW part of ELL nr. P B. (1857 map).

PINE ISLAND - Off W shore of Shenipsit L. a.k.a West Is. Formerly a peninsula called Isham's Point. It became an island after water was

raised by the dams blt. along the L. outlet & inlets. Benj. Isham's dau. Eliz., who was b. in ELL 9/12/1756, m. Nathan Hall. Mr. Isham owned land nr. Lake beg. in 1770. Betw. 1880 & 1909, steamers picked up passengers fr. a landing on the S end of the L. (VER) & took them to "Snipsic Grove" on the W shore nr. P I. (See Snipsic L. Rd.).

PINNEY STREET - W of Great Marsh & SW of ELL ctr. a.k.a the West St. P S runs fr. the 5 cor. nr. VER line, N to Main St. A state rd. in 1902. P Rd. runs WSW to Windsorville Rd. P School Dist.#2 had a brick school (blt. c 1812) on W side of P S; replaced in 1880 on a site a little N of it. Sold in 1949 & converted into a home. P Bk. is 1 m. S of ELL ctr. & flows SE into Marsh Bk. Sam'l Pinney II (1668- c 1740) son of Sam'l (1632-1715) & Joyce B. (1643-1689) m. Sarah Phelps. Sam'l II bgt. a 30 Ac land grant fr. Job Drake in the S part of ELL on the Hockanum R. (12/1723). In 1730, he & his sons (Sam'l III, Jos. & Benj.) began to buy up lots fr. the grantees in the new "MILE & HALF MILE" div. Nelson & Andrew Pinney owned a sandstone quarry in 1840s W of the brick house blt. c 1775 by their father Eleazer on P S (1857 & 1869 maps).

PORTER ROAD - 2 m. NE of ELL ctr. John (1683-1772) & Jonathan (1711-1783) Porter bgt. lots #81 & #82 in the "Equiv." in 1747. Jonathan came fr. Ipswich, Mass. & was a deacon in the Cong. Church. He blt. a house nr. junction of Old Somers Rd. & E. Porter Rd. P R once led fr. Kibbe Rd. NE through to W. STAF line. Cellar holes & remains of stone wall enclosures of family burial plots are still seen along this rd.

QUARRY STREET - SE cor. of ELL off W side of Mtn. St. (A short dead-end st.). Patrick Ryan owned a stone quarry c 1866 which had a passway fr. st. leading to it. Q S accepted by town in 1926.

RUSSELL BROOK - Flows SE into Charter Bk. (TOL). In 1746 Nathan Russell bgt. 51 Ac 2 m. SW of Crystal L. w/a bk. In 1749 he sold $\frac{1}{2}$ of his lot to Sam'l Russell. Nathan, Jr. (1758-1820) & wife Lydia (1761-1823) lived on the land. They are bu. in Charter Cem. Hezekiah Russell was a mem. of the School Com. in 1785. (See Charter Bk.)

SADDS MILL - 2 m. NW of ELL ctr. (See Burroughs Sawmill a.k.a Holton Mill). S M Pond former site of Burroughs & Holton's Sawmills & Gristmills on the Broad Bk. stream. In 1867, Roswell R. Sadd of E. W. bgt. the mills which were badly damaged during a freshet in 1869. They were repaired & his son Sumner H. Sadd took chg. fr. 1871 until he d. 1894. Clarence Sadd, a cousin, bgt. the gristmill fr. the est. It was last used in 1920 to mfr. baskets. S M Rd. was laid out partly in 1749 & 1757 with many alterations since. a.k.a Melrose Rd., Sand Hill & Rt. 140. (See Belcher Mill Pond).

SANDY BEACH ROAD - Fr. STAF line SW passing S of Crystal L. to Rt. 30. a.k.a Jury Rd., Staf. Spgs. Rd., & Sq. Pond Rd. (See Lead Mine Rd.). 1st Methodist Meetinghouse blt. 1792 on rd.; burned 1834 & rebt. 1st Schoolhouse (Dist. 7) blt. 1799 on rd.; replaced in 1861 on cor. S B R & White Rd.; used until Crystal L. school opened in 1957 further W

on rd. S B property on S shore of L. was bgt. by the town fr. the est. of Geo. Bokis for pub. use in 1971.

SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD - $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W of Crystal L. Dist. #7 School stood on S side of S R. Blt. in 1812 & closed in 1903 (1857 & 1869 maps).

"SEQUESTERED" LAND - (See introd.). Seq. = separated fr. owners. W part of ELL or fr. Abbott Rd. c $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. S L div. was laid out in a wedge of land betw. "Windsor Commons" & "Mile & Half Mile" land divs. Orig. set aside for sheep commons, & parceled out in lots in 1747 & 1752.

SHENIPSIT LAKE - (See Meshenips Pond). a.k.a Snipsic Pond (1630 map). Elevation 607 ft. After 1830s the new dams along S L outlet & inlets eventually increased its size fr. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. lg. to $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. lg. Bathing was prohibited in 1894. Aunt Sarah (Rogers), a Mohegan Indian who became a Christian, lived in a wigwam on the N shore of S L. She d. 1817. S St. $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W of S L. S State Forest in NE parts of ELL. S Trail fr. Hopkins Rd. it runs N through forest to SOM line. (Hiking, hunting & winter sports.) S Forest Rd. c 3 m. NE of ctr. & fr. Rt. 83 ENE to SOM line.

SNIPSIC LAKE ROAD - E of ELL ctr. Fr. West Rd. it runs E around head of L. to TOL line. Rd. followed a sect. of Old Ct. Path a.k.a Windsor-Warrenville Path & Tol. County Tnpke. in 1809. Stages ran to Tol. Courthouse, then on to Ashford where it connected w/a stage to Boston. Charter was revoked in 1834. S Grove on W shore of L. was a Picnic & Amusement Park owned by Alberti T. Thompson. His bro. Frederick started bus. w/a steamer taking tourists around the L. in 1880. Alberti took chg. in 1886 & there were 3 steamers when the bus. was closed in 3/1909 (See Pine Is.). S Village nr. ELL ctr. & off S side of Main St. Housing for the elderly-30 units completed 12/1970; 12 units added in 1979. S St., S Ter., & S View Hgts. are rds. W of Shenipsit L.

SOAPSTONE MOUNTAIN - NE part of ELL & runs N into SOM. a.k.a East Mtn. Elevation in ELL c 975 ft. & in SOM 1061 ft. Indians fashioned bowls, utensils etc. fr. the steatite found on the mtn. E slope called Durfy Mtn. after Jos. Durfy who lived nrby on land he bgt. in 1769. A few quarries were worked there in the late 1800s.

SOMERS ROAD - Fr. cor. Main St. & West Rd. NWN to SOM line (Rt. 83). a.k.a the East St. (See West Rd.). S R laid out in 1758 was altered a few times. It was a pub. rd. in 1784 & Kibbe Rd., an orig. part of the rd., was by-passed. 1st town Schoolhouse (Dist.#4) blt. 1792 stood on land leased from Abraham Wallis, now S R cor. of Hoffman Rd.; replaced in 1866 & moved to a site further down Hoffman Rd. School closed 1926 & sold 1939 for a house. In 1798, Dist.#5 had a room "outfitted" for a school in a house that formerly stood on S R nr. cor. Maple St. In 1835 a Schoolhouse was blt. across the rd.; replaced nrby in 1891. The old school after being moved twice on S R was taken down in 1985. The 1891 school was sold in 1949 for use as a house. Old S R c 2 m. W of Crystal L. Fr. Webster Rd. N to SOM line (pub. hwy. 1780).

- SQUARE POND - (See Crystal L. & Wabbaquasset). 171.46 Ac; depth up to 50 ft.; elevation 636 ft. The E arm of the "Equiv." land. There were no settlers in this area until the div. was completed in 1743. Named after orig. shape of pond which changed when the mills in STAF blt. a dam at the N outlet in 1836.
- THOMPSON POND - NW cor. of ELL nr. E.W. line. Sm. source of Broad Bk. Wm. & Margaret Thompson & their 7 sons & 2 daus. left Scotland in 1716. Wm. d. enroute in Ireland. Eventually the widow & her ch. settled in the area later called "Irish Row." (See Ireland) Sons bgt. WNDS land on E side of Grt. R. in 1728 & 1733. John & Robt. Thompson bgt. land nr. T P in 1737. Sam'l Thompson (1691-1782) bgt. 6 Ac-10 rods of land in 1738 & called it "Thompson's Butternut Meadow" (W side of Crane Rd.). Jos. Thompson d. 12/2/1741 (32) & his gravestone is the oldest standing in the Ell. Ctr. Cem.
- TOLLAND HILL - Elevation 806 ft. E of Nye-Holman State Forest.
- TURKEY BROOK - Flows NW & w/Davis Bk. forms Belding Bk. 1½ m. SE of ELL ctr. Area once had an abundance of wild turkeys.
- UPPER BUTCHER ROAD - SE cor. of ELL, W of Shenipsit L. a.k.a Old County Rd. (See Middle Butcher Rd.). Deacon John Hall (1744-1796), son of Thos., owned a store & slaughter-house on U B R & Mtn. St. nr. the Rockville line. Thos. Hall (1712-1777) came fr. Lyme, Ct. in 1745 & bgt. ¼ int. in the Skinner Iron Wks. nr. source of the Hockanum R. fr. Sam'l Thompson of TOL. He sold in 1765.
- WABBAQUASSET - (places where flag grows). Indians made baskets, mats to cover their wigwams, & to sit & lay on (See Crystal L.). "Wabquisset" village of praying Indians was 6 m. E of Quinebaug R. in Thompson, Ct. W Country 1st claimed by Nipmuck tribes. Nipmuck = Freshwater Country or People (See introd.). W officially became part of WNDS "Equiv." land's panhandle in 1723.
- WALLIS BROOK - (See Broad Bk.). In 1742 Abraham Wallis (Wallace) owned property w/bk. N of James Wallis in N cent. part of ELL. (See Somers Rd.). Abraham owned a slave (1790 census).
- WEBSTER ROAD - c 2 m. W of Crystal L. W R was a 2-rod hwy. in 1750s & a 4-rod hwy. in 1780. Fr. Rt. 140 N c 1½ m. to Old Somers Rd. S sect. of W R eliminated in 1938. Alfred M. Webster bgt. land nr. cor. of W R & Rt. 140 in 1919.
- WEST ROAD - Fr. VER line N to Somers Rd. (Rt. 83). 1st Pub. Rd. in ELL was laid out in 1738 to Main St. a.k.a the East St. Wooden bridges were blt. across the bks. (See Somers Rd.).
- WEST ROCK - In 1836, a hole was drilled at the water line in a lrg. boulder on the W shore of Crystal L. not far fr. the STAF line. It was used to monitor the raising of the water level by the mills blt. in STAF along the L. outlet (See Sq. Pond). To prevent flooding of priv. shore land up to 1-ft of water above the hole was acceptable. On the opposite shore a hole was drilled in the "East Rock." W Shore

Rd., W of Crystal L. Fr. Sandy Beach Rd. N to STAF line.

WEXKASHUCK - (the place to which the swamp extends or end of swamp or marsh). 1686 deed of sale . . . Towtops, an Indian gent (sachem) sold 340 Ac of which 100 Ac lay in a marsh or boggy swamp to Lt. Jos. Wadsworth of Htfd. (of Charter Oak fame). The Lt. sold in 1717 to Lt. John Elsworth of WNDS. In 1720, John was killed by a falling tree while clearing this land. Sons, John, Jr. & Dan'l, had the land surveyed in 1721 together w/200 Ac in the Grt. Marsh. The Lt. bgt. a paper land grant fr. the Bissell heirs in 1717. The heirs recd. a 200 Ac grant fr. the Sel. of WNDS in exchange for a 1671 Indian deed their fathers' Thos. & Nath'l got fr. Nearowanak, a Nameroak sachem. The sachem reserved priv. "to hunt beaver in river Scantock." (1985 Proprietor's Map).

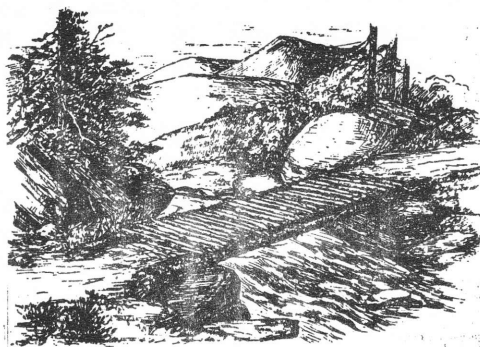
WHITE ROAD - S of Crystal L. & fr. Sandy Beach Rd. SW to South Rd. a.k.a Huntington Rd. Benj. White of Hebron bgt. land in 1805 fr. Elihu Day where he set up a blacksmith shop. A sm. house & school blt. in 1799 stood on the land. Rev. Nath'l Huntington (1725-1756) was pastor of the Cong. Church 1750-6. John Huntington of TOL m. Rebecca Newhall of ELL on 2/20/1783. He owned land nr. W R. (See Sandy Beach & 1857 & 1869 maps).

WINDERMERE - Community c 2 m. S of ELL ctr. nr. VER line where Hockanum R. flows through. (See Hockanum R.). John W. Thayer of VER & Albert M. Haling of ELL bgt. the Ell. Mills & all the out bldgs. in 1860. Mill & village were renamed after a town/lake in NW region of Eng. (See Lake Mills). W Village included Thompson Wadding Co. blt. 1860 by Lucius E. Thompson of VER. on W side of Hockanum R. (former site of a Wood Screw factory blt. 1812 by Delano Abbott). W Mill taken down in 1957. W Ave. laid out in part in 1753 & S part in 1847; pub. rd. in 1852. Robt. Mancock Soap Wks. was blt. on E side of W Ave. in 1860. Duo-Set Proc. Co. of VER bgt. land in W & in 1964 blt. a factory; addns in 1965 & 1967. Factory now owned by Merrill, Inc. Acromold Prod. Corp. (plastic mldng.) was blt. 1966 N of former Mancock site. W School opened 9/1966 in SW part of ELL, cor. Windsorville & Abbott Rds. nr. VER line.

WINDSOR GOSHEN - An early ELL name (See introd.).

WINDSORVILLE ROAD - 2½ m. SW of ELL ctr. nr. VER line. W Rd. laid out in 1781. Proximity of a sect. of path that led to Cedar Swamp, a 100 Ac swamp in the SW part of TOL & NW cor. of COV. a.k.a Windsor Cedar Swamp.

by Dorothy B. Cohen



THE ELLINGTON CONNECTIONS

The States of Connecticut, New York, Illinois and Missouri have at least one thing in common, each has a town called Ellington within its borders. Texas has an Air Force base in the Houston area also named Ellington.

The pilgrims who settled Windsor, Connecticut, acquired large tracts of land formerly claimed by the Podunk and Nipmuck tribes on the east side of the "Great River." In 1735, the eastern part of one of the Windsor tracts was set aside for a plantation equal to about six square miles which the General Assembly named the Parish of Ellington. It is generally agreed that like most colonial settlements it was named after a township or village in old England. There is a Parish of Ellington in Ashington, Northumberland County, 12 miles south of the Scottish border, and farther south is Great Ellington (Ellingham) in Norfolk County. An English town in the County of Huntington, north of London, is also called Ellington. There are other areas with similar names such as Allington in Dorset. One may only speculate from which the parish actually derived its name.

A township that was founded in the Clear Creek and Conewango Valleys in Chautaugua County, New York, reportedly was named after Ellington, Connecticut, in 1824. Many of the settlers were native to, or came from Windsor or a nearby town. However, at this time, not one of the first known settlers can be traced directly back to Ellington in Connecticut.

In 1800, the sales of Connecticut's "Western Reserve" land, which lay in the north part of present Ohio, triggered land speculations and an onrush of pioneers eager to homestead. In 1801, a rough wagon road was cut from Buffalo, through Chautaugua County to Westfield in New York which was not far from Lake Erie, to accommodate the westward traffic. The road was named "Paine Road" after General Edward Paine who spent a year supervising its construction. Although the General did not live in the area later named Ellington, he may well be the Ellington, New York, connection. "Paine Road" was later extended to the Pennsylvania line by the settlers.

Edward Paine was born on January 27, 1746 in the Parish of Ellington in Windsor. He was the sixth of ten children born to Stephen and Deborah (Skinner) Paine who lived in Preston, Connecticut, after their marriage in

1730, and in Bolton (Vernon) when Edward was a youngster. Edward's father, Stephen (1708-1797), a veteran of the French and Indian War, came from Great Ellington, England, to Windsor in the late 1720s. Could Stephen Paine have been the Ellington, Connecticut, connection?

Edward was one of 38 members of the Ellington Parish Trainband (militia) to answer the Lexington Alarm call in 1775. He served in the eighth regiment under Captain Charles Elsworth of Ellington. Sometime after the war Edward and his wife, Betsey King of Bolton, settled in a town now called Aurora, New York, where he attained the rank of General in the militia. In 1799, General Paine traveled to Connecticut and purchased 1,000 acres of land east of the Grand River in Ohio, and then recruited a group of 66 pioneers. The following year, accompanied by his second wife, widow Rebecca White Loomis, and eight children he left New York to settle on part of "Paine's Tract" in an area called "The Openings."

General Paine was the first elected representative to the Territorial Legislature and played an important role in achieving statehood for Ohio in January 1803. The settlement called "Champion" in 1807, was renamed "Painesville" in 1816 in honor of the General. He married that year and continued to live there with his third wife, Lorena Hovey, until his death in 1841. General Edward Paine's monument stands at Charter Oak Park opposite Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio.

The Town of Ellington, Illinois, had among its first settlers Erastus Wolcott Chapman, a descendant of Governor Roger Wolcott of Connecticut. Erastus Chapman, who was born in Ellington, Connecticut, on August 19, 1814, was the eldest child of Thomas White and Sophia (Holton) Chapman. He left for Quincy, Illinois, in 1837 where he met and married Mary Anderson three years later. Mr. Chapman resided in Adams County which was divided in 1848, and part of the area was named after his birthplace. Erastus, a prosperous farmer, was the first town clerk of the newly divided settlement in 1850, and served as the town's fourth supervisor. His youngest sister, Fidelia, and her husband, Francis W. Lyford, joined him in Illinois. Mr. Chapman continued to serve the town in various ways until his death on December 24, 1866.

Ellington, Missouri, incorporated in 1920, was settled by immigrants who came primarily from the hills of Tennessee and Kentucky in the early 1800s. They were possibly descendants of the loyalist sympathizers from

Scotland and England. In the 1860s the timber industry made it a bustling town, but once this industry left the area, it was again sparsely populated. It is known that a few local people did migrate to some areas in Missouri during that period. However, research does not establish any direct link between the Missouri and Connecticut towns of Ellington.

Among other Ellington connections, it has been said that Ellington could have been so-called in 1735 in allusion to the Elsworth family. John Elsworth was known to have been the first largest individual land owner (540 acres) in the area. In 1720, he was killed by a falling tree while clearing his land. His son, Daniel, who eventually acquired the property, was the first to settle on it, and one of the first to live in the area.

One curiosity is that the Ellsworth name was at first consistently spelled with one "l", and for a number of years in the earliest records the town name was also spelled with one letter "l".

Another supposition has been that the naming of Ellington was suggested by the panhandle running eastward toward the Willimantic River.

Whatever the name source of Ellington, it will probably remain a matter for conjecture indefinitely.

by Dorothy B. Cohen

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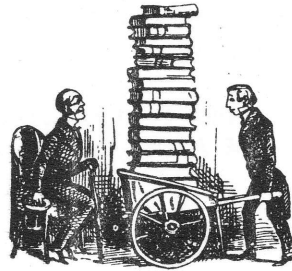
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Dorothy B. Cohen, Researcher and Historian.



Errata

Part 1—The Burying Grounds

P. 33, paragraph 3: a “solitary gravestone marks the grave site of Samuel Field Knight.”

This stone on Pinney Street reads:

Kild in this place
Samuel Field Knight
by a cart wheel rolling
over his head in the
10th year of his age
Nov. 8th 1812
But O the shaft of death
was flung And cut the
tender flower down
Death's sharpned
(illegible)

There is a gravestone in Ellington Center Cemetery which reads:

In memory of
Samuel Field Knight
who was kild by a cart wheel
Nov 8 1812 in the 10
year of his age
But O the shaft of death was
flung And cut the tender
flower down
Death's sharpned arrows
gaveth wound And now he
moulders in the ground

It is uncertain which site is the actual gravesite and which is the site of the memorial stone.

Part 5—Town Government

P. 163: Caption “Western view of the central part of Ellington” should read “Central part of Ellington looking east.”

