

# KILLINGWORTH *Historical Society*

October 2019

## Killingworth Historical Society Membership Application and Dues - June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

<u>Type of Membership</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>	<u>Additional Contributions</u>	
_____ Individual	\$15	_____ Matching Gift Program	\$ _____
_____ Family	\$25	_____ Contribution	\$ _____
_____ Business/Professional	\$50		
_____ Life (Individual)	\$150		

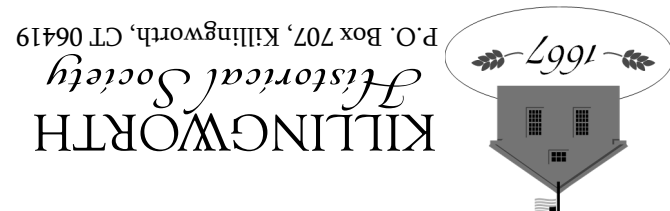
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Killingworth Historical Society." Dues and contributions may be tax deductible.

Mail to: Killingworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 707, Killingworth, CT 06419

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**Killingworth, CT 06419**

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### PROPERTIES

Union District School  
 Roast Meat Hill Road  
 Black Rock School  
 Recycle Way  
 Killingworth Images Site  
 Green Hill Road

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 17, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Annual Meeting &  
 Presentation "Witches in  
 Connecticut"  
 Killingworth Firehouse

**Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
 Christmas Fair at the  
 Parmelee Farmhouse

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Greetings Killingworth Friends and Neighbors,

As another summer fades away and we settle into the colorful and glorious autumn months, we hope you will take a few moments to enjoy this Historical Society newsletter.

The Historical Society was founded fifty years ago and our mission has been to gather, preserve and protect Killingworth history. We are pleased to have our "home" as part of the Parmelee Farm property. We opened the doors to the farmhouse to welcome visitors throughout the summer and this year the impressive postal card display showed buildings, places and events from our town and neighboring communities. A special feature was our "sister town" – Kenilworth, England. We accepted many new acquisitions to our archival collections and appreciated continued support through your membership.

The "History Lesson" in this newsletter highlights our most recognizable and historic structure: The Killingworth Congregational Church. The church is celebrating 350 years and will be undergoing major reconstruction to preserve the iconic structure. The Society proudly supports the efforts of the church and community to maintain the church and if you would like more information on how you can help, please contact the church office.

The Historical Society lost one of its founding members with the passing of Lew Scranton in August. Lew served on the Board of Directors since its beginning. He was a good friend to the Society and his generosity continues with the request that donations be made in his memory to the Historical Society. He will be missed.



Lew Scranton

As always, we welcome you to join us through membership, volunteering and attending our programs. Please contact us through our Facebook page or website:  
[www.killingworthhistorical.org](http://www.killingworthhistorical.org)

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
 Linda M. Dudek, President  
 Killingworth Historical Society

## A History Lesson

Thomas L. Lentz, Church Historian

### History of the Congregational Church Building in Killingworth

In 1735, the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut granted permission for the residents of the northern section of Killingworth to form their own parish or Second Ecclesiastical Society so that it would not be so far for them to travel to church. The first meetinghouse of the Second Ecclesiastical Society was completed in 1743. In 1816, the Society decided to build a new meetinghouse. It was voted "to lay a tax of 25 Cents on the Dollar to be made on the List of 1817 to defray the expense of building a meeting house..." The present Congregational Church building was raised in 1817 and completed in 1820. It was dedicated to the service of God on May 31, 1820.



The design of the meetinghouse, as the church building was referred to then, traditionally has been attributed to Ithiel Town, a well-known architect of the period from Connecticut. The plan is typical of the churches of this period with the long axis at right angles to the highway, a vestibule at the front end, and a rectangular audience room with the pulpit at the far end. The building is 62 feet long and 48 feet wide, with a graceful belfry of three major stages in front. The total expenses for building the meetinghouse were \$8,449.60.

From the belfry, reached by ascending steep and narrow stairs, a panoramic view of the Sound, Long Island, and the shoreline

unfolds. It is said that because of its prominence, the church was used as an aid to navigation on the Sound. The beams that form the frame are mostly oak although some chestnut was used. The front entrance steps and foundation are built of quarried gray gneiss. One of the stones on the west wall of the foundation bears the incised date July 2, 1817. Inside, a large dome fills the ceiling. A chandelier hangs from its center. The floors are of random width oak boards.

Over the years, the church building has required maintenance and undergone many expensive repairs and restorations. The church now needs significant repairs and restoration including repair of the interior dome, repairing exterior dental

moldings, repaving the parking lot, repairing the bell, clock, and carillon, and replacing rugs and upholstery. It is the goal of the Preservation 2020 Committee to raise \$350,000 to complete these repairs. It is hoped that all the residents of Killingworth will contribute to saving the most significant landmark in the town. With continued care, it will continue to serve as a place of worship, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals in Killingworth for future generations.

©Thomas L. Lentz, Church Historian

## Sandy Smith's Newest Creation

Cynthia Rich

We are thrilled to announce that our very own artist-in-residence, Sandy Smith, has created another ornament to adorn your Christmas tree. Sandy's lovely, unique ornament will be sold only at our Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7.

This year's limited edition will be a hand-crafted Bluebird. The Bluebird was inspired in keeping with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *The Birds of Killingworth* theme. Sandy feels that it is important that those who love Killingworth know that our town played an important role in Longfellow's famous poem.

Sandy's Bluebird will include a copy of *The Bluebird's Tale, A Cherokee Indian Folktale*. In this charming folktale, you will learn how the Bluebird long ago derived its brilliant blue color. Each bird is designed and hand sewn by Sandy.

As in the past, Sandy's one of a kind, limited edition artworks, have long been coveted. The KHS still gets numerous requests for her previous creations. Unfortunately, as with all special handmade art pieces, they are only available in a very limited amount and at one time only. Last year's Cardinal ornament sold out very quickly. Since we are unable to hold or reserve any of the ornaments, please try to get to the Christmas Fair early!

The Parmelee Farmhouse doors open at 8:30 a.m. where Sandy's beautiful Bluebird and other dazzling creations await you!



Mark your calendar for the Christmas Fair, Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m.

## Reminiscing

with Walter G. Aiello

### Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company Picnic

One of the events that I and my family looked forward to most was the Firemen's Picnic which took place every summer beneath a huge oak tree on Roast Meat Hill Road north of Lord's Corner on the intersection of Roast Meat and Route 80. Being a Junior Fireman my family was able to attend. I had certain responsibilities which I was proud to take on, but most of all, it was fun.

We had barbecue, hot dogs, hamburgers, a barrel of fresh clams, roasted corn, freshly baked pies and cakes, soft drinks from Undina Bottling Works of Higganum, which were in my mind the best soft drinks in the world. Another food feature was the pie eating contest. I won it one year and intended to go for a twofer the next until I found that my younger sister Binnie (Virginia) had gathered her courage and entered. To our joy she won, much to the delight of the Aiello family. Of course the beverages included a keg of beer, which I was firmly warned was off limits to one of my tender years.

There was also the competitive three-legged race, with partners each putting one leg into a burlap sack and racing on three legs across the field with entertainingly undignified results. Then there were other competitions such as the egg throw, where rows of partners faced each other across a short distance and tossed an egg toward their partner. After the catch was made, the rows backed off a few paces, opening the gap. Any time an

egg broke the team was eliminated, until only the winning pair was left. One year a husband and wife team won, and the lady held up the intact egg and saying she would not let this egg go to waste, proceeded to shampoo her hair with it.

The highlight of the day for me was hose ball. This was similar to hockey except that the opposing teams had to push a ball through a goal by propelling it across the field with water from fire hoses. Body checking was replaced by turning the water stream at the opposing team. Needless to say that is where most of the water went. Sometimes we would try to do the same to the spectators, but that was a quick way to have your team's pumps turned off, leaving you to the mercies of the other team. I do not even remember what the score was at the end of any of the games. Score? Who is keeping score?

Later in the afternoon we would go to the local swimming hole at the east end of the field and notwithstanding the fact that we were already thoroughly soaked via hose ball, we would swim and splash around a bit to make the day complete.

All in all, working in the Junior Division of the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company was a wonderful experience, instilling in me a more mature sense of responsibility, as well as pride in being a part of an important team.

## Annual Meeting & Presentation - October 17 "Witches in Connecticut"

The harrowing story of the hanging of witches in Colonial New England continues to haunt our present-day imagination. The trials and executions of witches in Connecticut predated the more famous Salem witch panic by over 40 years. Hear the stories of some of the women and men accused, tried, and executed as witches and learn how Connecticut successfully controlled the spread of witch accusations long before Salem erupted in panic and violence.

The program will be held Thursday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Killingworth Firehouse, 333 Route 81. A brief Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will start the evening and will include a vote on Bylaw Revisions. The presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served, so please come enjoy the evening with us.



## What is It?

It's wood and metal, can clamp onto something and has two metal prongs that are turned by the crank. What is it?



It's an apple peeler! Clamp the device to the back of a chair, stick the apple on the prongs and turn the crank to spin the apple.