

Killingworth Historical Society Membership Application and Dues - June 1, 2021- May 31, 2022

<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: _____

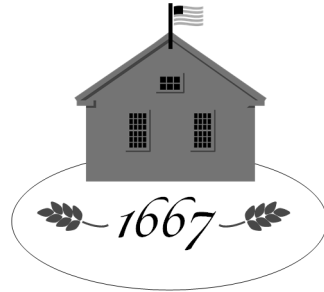
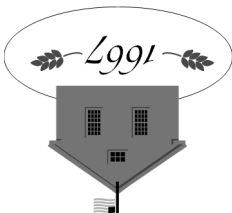
E-Mail: _____

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

Killingworth, CT 06419
Postal Patron

KILLINGWORTH
Historical Society
P.O. Box 707, Killingworth, CT 06419



OFFICERS

Kenneth Wodatch, President
Cynthia Rich, V.P.
Debbie Dekkers, Treasurer
Claudette Lagasse, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Susan Adinolfo
Bruce Dodson
Linda M. Dudek
Thomas Lentz
David Meixell
Jan O'Sullivan
Regina Regolo
Dennis Rich
Katrin Walton
Kim Wright

PROPERTIES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Christmas Fair at the
Parmelee Farm
*Social distancing and other
safety measures will be
followed. Please check our
website or Facebook as we
get closer to events for any
updates.*

Dec. 11, 9:00 a.m.

KHS Annual Meeting at
Parmelee Farm

KILLINGWORTH Historical Society

October 2021

A Message from the President

Kenneth Wodatch

The Killingworth Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation, conservation and public education as relates to the history of the Town of Killingworth. As such, the Society is dependent on membership and donations to maintain its properties, preserve artifacts, and host programs. Thank you for your generous support.

Thus far, 2021 has allowed us to begin to return to normal. We have welcomed visitors back to the Parmelee Farmhouse and the wonderful display of “All Things Killingworth” featuring collectibles and other items from Killingworth’s past. This summer also saw the first “Pop-up Museums” giving children a chance to experience first-hand, crafts, games, skills, and chores common during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Plans for the new barn are progressing, having recently been approved by both the Parmelee Farm Board of Directors and the Killingworth Board of Selectmen.

We invite you to become involved in the Society. Complete and return the included form to become a member. Visit www.killingworthhistorical.org or like us on Facebook.

Long-Awaited Christmas Fair Returns

At long last we are excited to announce our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Parmelee Farmhouse will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland of gifts and treasures. Our artisans and crafters have been very busy creating beautiful and unique one of a kind gifts. The Farmhouse Kitchen will be filled with homemade gourmet cookies, breads, cakes, jams and jellies. At this time, most of our Christmas Fair will be held inside the Farmhouse. We ask that you please wear a mask inside as you peruse our handmade treasures.

Sandy Smith has once again handcrafted a handsome bird ornament in her “Birds of Killingworth” series. This year’s bird is a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. As in the past, there is a limited amount of these delicately hand sewn birds and we are unable to take preorder requests. We are also limiting the birds to one ornament per person. The birds will only be sold the day of the Fair. We hope you will come bright and early to help ensure your bird! Outside, you will find our old wooden wagon bedecked with fresh greens and sprays. There will be handmade holiday arrangements outside as well. Under a tent or two, you will find more holiday treasures awaiting you. We look forward to seeing our old friends and making some new ones, as we greet you and welcome you inside our Historic Parmelee Farmhouse. There no better place to welcome in the Holiday Season!



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Reminiscing The One-Room Schoolhouse: Good Riddance or Sad Loss?

By Annette Aiello, written November 1, 1990

“How primitive! One room with six grades and all subjects taught by one teacher? It must have been confusing.” Well, believe it or not, it wasn’t particularly confusing. A well-run one-room school was a serene and homey place to get an education. In fact, the one-room schools offered important features that are lacking from the average child’s education today. Modern schools segregate students by age. Children play with, socialize with, and are influenced most by people their own age. Today’s schools don’t provide the enriching experience of interacting simultaneously with older and younger schoolmate and sharing chores, lessons, and play with them. In short, the “one big family” atmosphere that pervaded the small, age-integrated schools is gone.

Each morning and afternoon at Chestnut Hill one-room school, in Killingworth, Connecticut, we students joined in to prepare the schoolhouse for classes. The day’s chores included carrying drinking water from the well at the teacher’s house; sweeping the floors in the classroom, front entry, stone steps, and outhouse; chopping wood, in wintertime, and carrying it in to the stove where it was burned to provide heat; washing the black boards; clapping erasers; sharpening pencils; and raising the flag. Older students helped younger students remove or put on their boots and coats. Each day, classes began with arithmetic problems the teacher had written on the board for each grade. As everybody got to work copying the problems and working them on paper, the teacher moved from grade to



Chestnut Hill School students at play, 1948.

grade, explaining the lessons and answering questions. Each student was exposed not only to the material to be learned at his or her grade level, but to the lessons for more and less advanced grades as well. One had a sense of what lay ahead and behind, and could review lessons past or ponder those future, or just tune it all out as needed. Music and Art were taught with all grades together as one class.

At recess on nice days, we played in the field adjoining the school. The teacher supervised, and all the students played together. We played hide-and-seek, red-rover-come-over, tag, Simon-says, and other such games. On rainy days, we played less active games inside the school. Once play began, the teacher left an older student in charge, and returned to the classroom to write the next lessons on the boards.

During the 1940s, Chestnut Hill School had an added feature that contributed to its “one big family” spirit. The school’s location, at one of the highest elevations in town, made it ideal for wartime airplane spotting. A spotting booth on the roof was manned 24 hours a day by townspeople. At intervals during classes, an adult, often a parent of one of us, would walk through the classroom and go up the creaky stairs to relieve whoever had been on duty up there. A few minutes later, the person going off duty would come downstairs and walk through class on the way out.

The final three one-room schools (Chestnut Hill, Lane, and Center) in Killingworth closed down over Christmas vacation in 1948, and the new school opened in January of 1949. But something of the old spirit persisted for several years to come, for the new school had three teachers and three rooms. Grades 1 and 2 were taught by Mrs. Cole in one room, grades 3 through 5 by Mrs. Rich in another, and grades 6 through 8 by Mrs. Steadman in the third room, the auditorium.

No, the one-room school house method of teaching was not primitive or even inferior to what we have today, and it had many excellent qualities we could use more of. Simply, the large number of students that even a small town has now, make that method of teaching highly impractical. But I think it well to glance back to those days occasionally to see what if anything can be salvaged of and learned from the old ways.

Your Story is Our Story: Oral & Written History Project

We are collecting stories about life in our town. Tell your story in writing or in a recording through our Oral History Project. History isn’t just the distant past, it’s our past, your past, and our present. Anyone of any age can offer a glimpse of life in Killingworth so future generations will know what it was like when you lived here; like Annette Aiello’s remembrance of her days in the one-room schoolhouse.

Share your recollections of the Killingworth you know: people, places, events, groups, everyday life. Send your stories by mail (PO Box 707, Killingworth, CT 06419) or email (killingworthhs@gmail.com) or contact a board member.

What is Ephemera?

Ephemera are things that exist or are used for a short time. Ticket stubs, movie posters, postcards, pamphlets, and brochures are all examples of ephemera. This type of memorabilia is typically written or printed, and can be highly sought after by collectors.

Our Historical Society has many examples of ephemera. We have early postal cards of Killingworth and surrounding towns, agricultural fair books from early fairs held at the Congregational Church grounds, and items from Cowboy Valley, our own tourist attraction.

Do you have ephemera that pertains to Killingworth that you could donate to the Killingworth Historical Society? We are always eager to add interesting items to our collections. We would welcome school records, war ration cards, documents, or any bits of printed items that depict our history.



Examples of ephemera: (left to right) postcards of the American Witch Hazel Factory (front and back) and The Country Squire, and an award list from the 1882 Cattle Show and Fair by the Killingworth Agricultural Society.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Historical Society By-laws require the Board of Directors hold an Annual Meeting for the purpose of nominating Directors. The meeting will be held on Saturday, December 11, at the Parmelee Farm at 9:00 a.m. All members of the Society are eligible to vote at this meeting.