

Salisbury Association Historical Society 2020 Annual Report

Vision: The Salisbury Association Historical Society believes that Salisbury's past must be connected to our present to better create our future.

Mission: We record, preserve, protect and present the Town's history through exhibits, lectures, collections, and publications; we support educational programs for all ages; we work cooperatively with the Town Historian as well as other community organizations.

Goals for 2020

- Cultivate continued student participation in Connecticut History Day and increase adult judging in competitions. Have an exhibition of student work in the Academy Building.
- Create a plan for providing online access to the photo archive collection. Begin to implement that plan.
- Promote knowledge of the Oral History collection and celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment through an exhibition on local women.
- Continue to seek and schedule speakers for our heritage lecture series.
- Develop a plan for conserving the 1876 Holley Manufacturing Co. display and its contents.

Activities and Programs of 2020

- ✓ Sponsored and assisted 11 SCS students to participate in the Torrington Regional contest of the NHD program. Then sponsored the six students whose work qualified for the state contest.
- ✓ Collaborated with SCS, the SOAR enrichment program, the Town Historian, and the Scoville Library to conduct eight supervised after school research sessions for History Day participants.
- ✓ Displayed some of this year's Salisbury Central School History Day projects when the Academy Building reopened in July.
- ✓ Supplied award of books to the Salisbury Central 8th grade student chosen by faculty to receive the Social Studies Award.
- ✓ Through the work of Town Historian, Jean McMillen, the Salisbury Oral History Project now has a collection of 394 interviews. She has also worked tirelessly to upload more than 350 of the transcripts to the Salisbury Association web site. Audio recordings of most interviews are also available for listening on the web.
- ✓ The Haas and Perkins families donated artifacts related to Salisbury's early iron heritage, including an iron pig cast at the Revolutionary era Salisbury Furnace in 1781.
- ✓ Other acquisitions include newspapers of significant points in US history and 380 historic local postcards.
- ✓ Nearly 200 images were added to the digitized photo archive.
- ✓ Produced and displayed the exhibit, "**A Long Road to Victory: Women's Suffrage in Salisbury & Connecticut,**" on display from December 2 until the Academy Building was closed again on January 12, 2021.
- ✓ Our fall heritage walks at the Ames Iron Works Interpretive Trail, organized by Housatonic Heritage were cancelled by COVID.

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- ✓ Collaborating with the Scoville Library, sponsored four videoconferenced heritage lectures during the year that were attended by almost 250 people.
 - February: *History of Slavery in Litchfield County* – Peter Vermilyea.
 - November: *Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State* – Walt Woodward
 - November: *The Fight for Women’s Suffrage in Connecticut* – Ilene Frank
 - December: *The Color of Law - Richard Rothstein*
 - December: *The Cesar Family: Noble African Citizens of Northwest Connecticut with family descendant Katherine Overton in conversation with historian Rhonan Mokriski*