

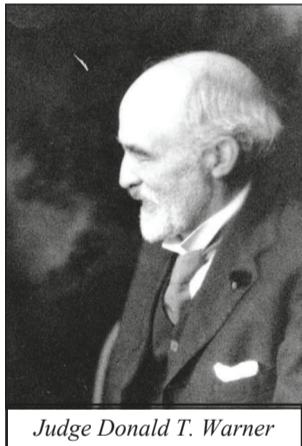


A Chronicle of Salisbury Life

Many high points of Salisbury's history have been noted and celebrated, but the daily life of times past has rarely been presented. This is about to change with the Salisbury Association Historical Society's publication of *Judge Warner's Memories of 19th Century Salisbury*. In his memoir, Judge Donald T. Warner adds his own special flavor and insight to a world gone by.

In November the Historical Society will present a multi-faceted look at Judge Warner's life and times with the publication of the Warner memoir and an exhibit at the Academy Building of related excerpts, photos and maps. On November 19, Jean McMillen, in period costume, will share stories from the book in her Heritage Talk on "Judge Warner's Salisbury, 1860-1927," and Dick Paddock will add a visual element with selected period images. The program takes place at 4:00 at Scoville Memorial Library, in the Wardell room.

Judge Warner was born in 1850, his parents, Judge Donald Judson Warner and Lois Camp Tichnor Ball, coming from long-established local families. Our Donald was educated in Salisbury, attended college in Connecticut, and re-



Judge Donald T. Warner

turned home to practice law with his father. As he gained more experience and stature, he became a major participant in Salisbury life.

Warner's recollections were written to provide his children and grandchildren with family stories and tales of village goings-on. His memoir is a kaleidoscope of personal observations, vignettes and anecdotes of Salisbury and its inhabitants.



The following excerpt from the Warner memoir describes the 1862 departure of the "Iron Guard," a company "composed wholly of Salisbury men, many coming from Mt Riga" (wood choppers, charcoal burners and teamsters), to fight for the Union in the Civil War. The men carried the "Iron Guard" flag with them, and succeeded in bringing it home. The 5x6-foot banner hangs in Town Hall.

A large crowd had collected to witness the final drill and departure and the presentation of the company flag.

My father had been chosen to give the farewell address and Maria Birch Coffing, the belle of the Village & Town, to present the colors. With a few well chosen words of cheer and encouragement and hope that they would bring back the flag to rest in the archives of the Town, she handed it over to the color bearer appointed to receive it & his loud Amen as he hugged it to his breast was echoed by many of his comrades. I can visualize that double line of recruits standing in some semblance of military precision, but broken into at intervals by weeping men & women bidding their affectionate farewells to their loved ones.

Calendar of Events

September 17: Heritage Talk by Dean Hammond, "The Roads of Salisbury." He will trace Town roads back through the centuries, in some cases to early Native American trails.

October 15: Heritage Talk by Sue Spring, "A Walk in the Woods—Tracing the Appalachian Trail in CT." As one who has hiked the trail, Sue will describe its development in Connecticut.

November: Publication, "Judge Warner's Memories of 19th Century Salisbury"

November 5 (10:00 a.m.): Scott Heth, Audubon Director, presents "Jewels of the Forest," on the importance of local forests to migratory birds, and how forest management practices can enhance bird habitat.

November 19: Heritage Talk by Jean McMillen on "Judge Warner's Salisbury," a portrait of town life during the latter 1800s and early 1900s, as recalled by an eminent town personality.

November-December: Exhibit featuring "Judge Warner's Salisbury: Excerpts, Maps and Photos," Academy Building

January-February: Exhibit on the "250th Anniversary of the Salisbury (Lakeville) Iron Blast Furnace," Academy Building

January 28: "Exterior and Interior Architecture of Salisbury," Geof Rosanno and Chris Brennan

February 25: "Art of the Era 1780-1820," Dick Boyle

March 24: "Textiles of the Era 1780-1820," Titi Halle

April 28: "Palladio," Dick Boyle

History talks are co-sponsored by the Historical Society and Scoville Library. They take place at 4:00 in the library's Wardell Room. The Land Trust program on November 5 is at 10:00 a.m.

Civil War Exhibits

The Salisbury Historical Society is planning two Civil War exhibits. The first, to be presented next

summer, is called "At Home in Civil War Salisbury." The hope is to capture the pace and feeling of town life during the 1861-1865 period, as well as the town's contribution to the war effort. The second exhibit, scheduled for

summer 2013, will feature "Salisbury Soldiers in the Civil War." Here, we'd like to trace the experiences of individual soldiers, as well as their units, as they served the Union cause.



Civil War monument on the Town green near White Hart Inn

Dear Reader,

Do you have materials that might tie-in with the Historical Society's future Civil War exhibits, or an interest in participating in the research and development of these exhibits? Please contact Laura at the Salisbury Association: 860-435-0566. We are looking for letters, drawings, photos, documents, uniforms and equipment that provide that special local touch. Thank you.

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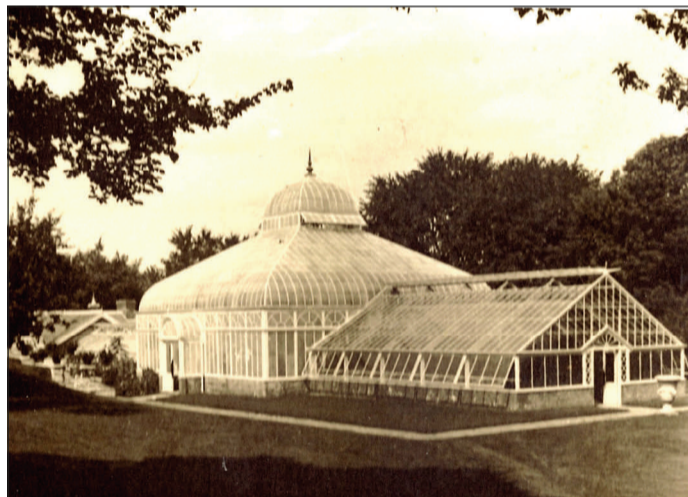
salisburyassn.org

Touring Taconic

Following up on last fall's presentation on the history of Taconic, the Salisbury Historical Society sponsored a May 15 tour of the area. The tour proved so popular that it was offered again in June, and again it sold out.

The tour began at the site of the Washing railroad station and moved on to the O'Hara complex on East Twin Lake, where John O'Hara, family patriarch, explained how his family acquired their property on and near the lake. He described the boarding houses and recreation facilities that once existed including an infamous dance hall that was located near the present day marina.

From O'Hara's we continued to Between the Lakes Road to the site of the Twin Lakes railroad station and the former home of William Miles, inventor and owner of the Copake Iron works. Then it was on to former Camp Everett, one of two large summer camps that once operated on Twin Lakes.



Greenhouse at Scoville Estate, home of Robert Scoville, built 1895, torn down 1920s

Next, we took in the breathtaking view at the Herbert Scoville mansion on Beaver Dam Road, before visiting the site of the Scoville greenhouse that had supported the extensive ornamental gardens. Though the greenhouse is long gone, the present owners have preserved the foundations as a reminder of what once existed.



Steam engine on the Twin Lakes trestle, built 1871, filled in 1904

Our mini-bus proceeded to the dam at the outlet of Twin Lakes, which once fed water to a progression of industries, ending with the Scoville power house, still standing across the road. Also viewed were Taconic's Old Stone House, the J. J. Morehouse house with its tower, and the site of the Taconic Union Chapel.

We paid a visit to the grounds of the Robert Scoville mansion, where the original landscaping was installed by a firm founded by Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the designers of Central Park in New York City. The original house, which burned down in 1917, was not rebuilt until 1930. Today, the house and grounds are still spectacular.

It is hoped that everyone on the tour had a good time and gained some knowledge of the rich history of the Taconic area. *Richard Paddock*



Twin Lakes Chapel near O'Hara's, still used as a chapel today

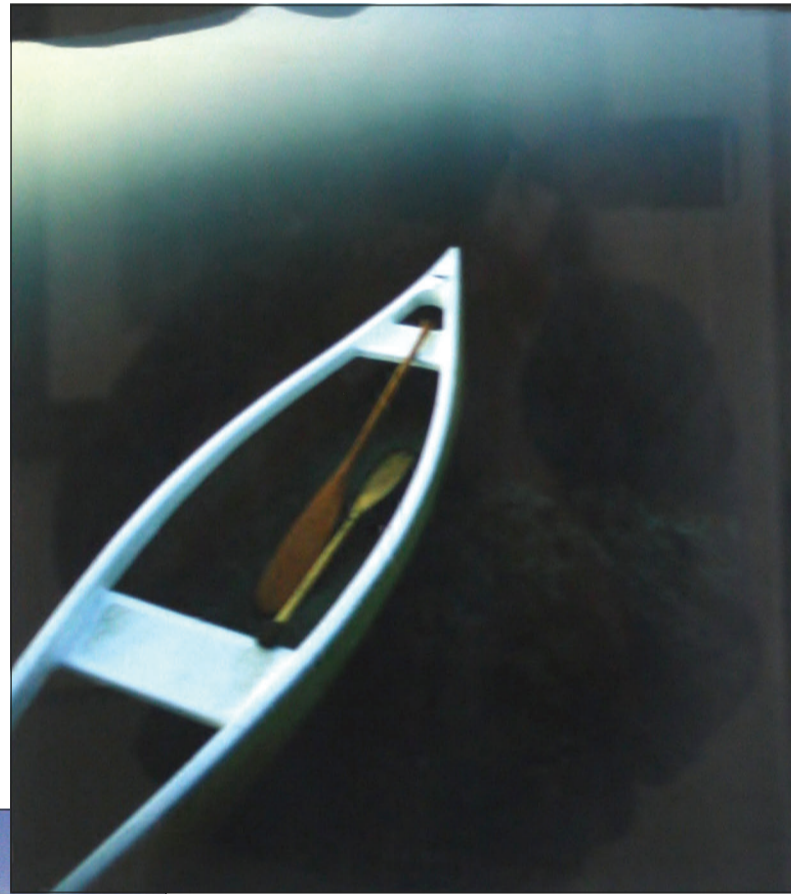


From the Land Trust Photo Show

"Dawn at Twin Lakes" by Joseph Meehan

To celebrate its 35th anniversary, the Salisbury Association Land Trust is exhibiting the work of 45 photographers showing their impressions of Salisbury's natural beauty. The show runs through October 30 at the Academy Building.

The Land Trust is dedicated to preserving the rural character and important natural resources of the town including farmland, critical habitats and public vistas. The trust works with interested landowners to establish conservation protection of their property. If you would like to learn more about these activities, call the Salisbury Association at 860-435-0566 or e-mail: salisburylandtrust@gmail.com.



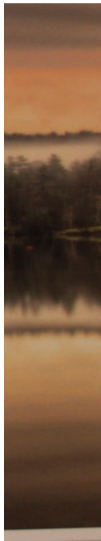
"Mountain Lake" by Bill Binzen



"Big Timber Wetland, Mt. Riga" by Tom Zetterstrom



*Photo contributor Tim Abbott
viewing the show*



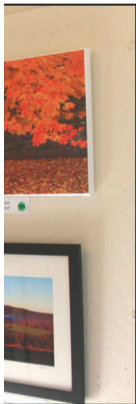
Salisbury Land Trust "welcoming committee" on opening day. (Left to right) Gloria Miller, Lynn Meehan, Elaine Hecht



"Autumn Awaits Winter" by Tom Blagden



"Salmon Kill Road" by Anne Day



Young viewer at the show



"Riga Lake" by Don Perdue

Jewels of the Forest

The Salisbury Land Trust has invited Scott Heth, Director of Audubon Sharon, to present an audio-visual program on the importance of our local forests as nurseries and stop-over areas for a wide diversity of neotropical song birds.

Every year millions of migratory birds make the long journey back to the forests of Northwest Connecticut and New England from their wintering grounds in Central and South America to nest, breed and raise their young. The eruption of song marking their return is as common a sign of spring as trees leafing out.

Seventy-five percent of North America's neotropical birds (those that spend part of the year in the American tropics, i.e., Caribbean, southern Mexico and Central America, or South America) use the eastern forest. Over fifty of these species are now on national or state priority conservation lists of declining species. The Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush are just two examples.



The Cerulean Warbler (left) and Wood Thrush are two of over fifty declining species of forest birds.



Bingham Pond on Mt. Riga, looking north into Massachusetts. Gridley Mountain is in the center background. Photo by Robert Perron.

Although the term “forest” is used to identify a general type of habitat, forests are actually a highly variable collection of habitats. Numerous examples of micro-habitat specialization among birds exist.

Northwest Connecticut, unlike other parts of Connecticut, still contains a significant amount of large intact forests--approximately 220,000 acres. These forests provide a critical link between the large forests to our north and those to our south. Audubon's conservation efforts along the Atlantic Flyway seek to improve breeding habitat and stabilize population declines of forest birds of conservation concern in the eastern United States.

“Jewels of the Forest”

**Saturday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m.
Scoville Memorial Library (Wardell Room)**

Scott Heth, Director of Audubon Sharon, presents a one-hour program on the importance of our local forests as nurseries for the migratory bird species that breed here. Using quality graphics and photographs he highlights forest management practices that enhance habitat for bird life. The public is invited.

Tory Hill Update

The Salisbury Association Land Trust recently installed a sign along Route 41 (near the Salisbury-Sharon town line) identifying the Tory Hill property as public open space owned by the Salisbury Association and acknowledging those who enabled conservation.

As part of land management, the Land Trust has removed dense stands of phragmites and restored the fields to grassland. After clearing the upper 12 acres of invasive Japanese honeysuckle bushes, one of our goals was to increase ground-nesting bird habitat. This summer, meadowlarks were seen frequenting the field, and a woodcock nest with three eggs was discovered during a walk toward the first hedgerow. The Land Trust is also protecting two elm trees, seen from Route 41, from Dutch elm disease. Repeat inoculations will be needed every three years. *John Landon*



Civic Activities

The Association's Civic Activities Committee helps fund projects that enhance the quality of life in the community, such as the new Firehouse, tree work and plantings at the Town Grove, and plantings along our Main Streets. The Association's Powell Fund pays for tree care and new plants, and the Toulmin Fund finances beautification and improvements at the Town Grove (such as new beach sand this year).



This year's July 4th celebration at The Town Grove was a great summer kickoff, with Carl Williams as Master of Ceremonies and Lou Bucceri's inspirational reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Salisbury Band, funded by the Association for this annual event, added patriotic music to the festive atmosphere.

This fall we will finalize plans for the Victorian Christmas Concert at the Academy Building and explore new projects: a Revolutionary War Plaque for the Town Hall Memorial Park, civic educational programs for children, recognition of town volunteers and a Citizen of the Year program. *David Bayersdorfer*

New Trustees

Joan Baldwin graduated from Kenyon College and has a master's degree in American Studies & Museum Studies from Case Western Reserve University. She has been a museum director, program analyst for the New York State Council on the Arts Museum Program, and director of interpretation for The Shaker Museum and Library (NY) and Hancock Shaker Village (MA). Her articles have appeared in *History News*, online at onphilanthropy.com, and in pamphlets for the Museum Association of New York. She is currently Collections Manager and Senior Archives Associate at Hotchkiss.

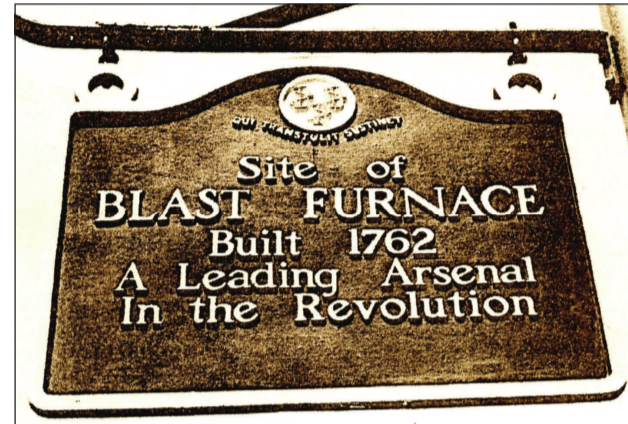
David Bayersdorfer recently retired from HVRHS after 34 years as a Social Studies teacher, Athletic Director, coach, and Interim Principal. He has served on the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission, St. John's Church Vestry, the TriArts Board of Directors, Housatonic Daycare Board of Directors, and the 21st Century Fund. He and his wife Nancy have lived in Lakeville since 1977.

John Landon serves on the Salisbury Association Land Trust committee and has been land manager for the Land Trust's Tory Hill property since 2006. He is a board member of Habitat for Humanity of Northwest CT. John was a Director at CDC Capital and Senior Vice President at Mitsubishi Capital Market Services in New York. He and his wife Jaye have lived in Salisbury since 1989.

Winter Exhibit: Salisbury's Historic Iron Furnace

2012 marks the 250th anniversary of Salisbury's 1762 iron blast furnace, later called the Arsenal of the Revolution, which produced some 850 cannons for the Colonists' cause. To mark this historic event, the Salisbury Association Historical Society will present a winter exhibit at the Academy Building.

The blast furnace, once located in what is Lakeville today, began taking shape in January 1762 when four partners, John Hazeltine, Ethan Allan, and Samuel and Elisha Forbes, contracted to build and operate it and acquired the necessary iron ore and timber rights.



Iron ore came from nearby Ore Hill, and timber, needed to make charcoal, came from Mt. Riga. By September 1762 the furnace had produced its first iron, the start of a production run that continued well into the 1800s.



With the coming of the Revolutionary War, Connecticut Governor Trumbull achieved a take-over of the furnace and, with Samuel Forbes as Iron Master, set about producing cannons for General Washington's Army. By July 4, 1776, forty cannons were delivered, and by war's end the furnace had provided 75 percent of all the cannons produced in the Colonies.

Historical markers can be seen near the furnace area including one recently installed by the Historical Society. The Society continues to study the physical characteristics of the Salisbury cannon with the hope of acquiring one for permanent display in town. *Ron Jones*

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