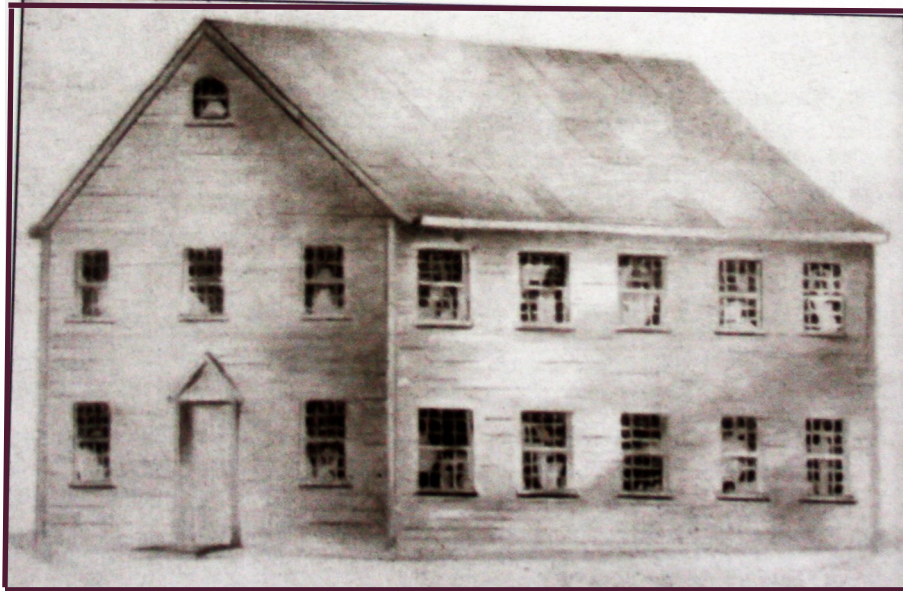


Salisbury 1613-1751 A Wilderness Transforming



The Meeting House

An artist's rendition of the Meeting House in Salisbury, raised in 1749 and completed in 1752. Erected in the same location as the present Town Hall, it became the core of the Town Hall that survived until destroyed by the fire in 1985.

The Salisbury Association Historical Society is pleased to present a new exhibit, opening at the Academy Building in September 2016, celebrating the 275th anniversary of the founding of Salisbury, Connecticut.

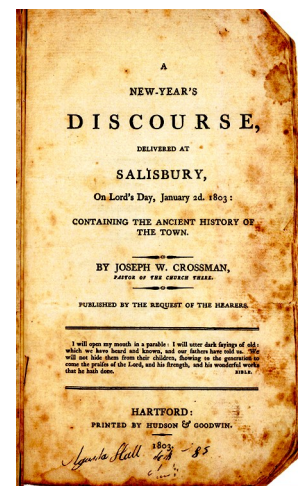
Covering 1613 to 1751, the exhibit highlights the history of the early Indian residents of the area, the early English and Dutch settlers, and the sale of the town to the first Proprietors, leading to Salisbury's founding in 1741. Also included is the first decade of growth as the town created a functional government, and ending in 1751 when Salisbury became part of the newly established Litchfield County.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Historical Society introduces two publications. One is a reprinting of Julia Pettee's *Rev. Jonathan Lee and His Eighteenth Century Salisbury Parish: The Early History of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut*, first published by the Salisbury Association in 1957. The second

title is *The Reverend Joseph W. Crossman's 1803 Discourse Containing the Ancient History of the Town*.

The Reverend Crossman book contains the pastor's New Year's Discourse, delivered at church on January 2, 1803. His discourse was published "by request of the hearers." In 2016, working from an original copy of that earlier book, photographer Joseph Meehan created a facsimile from which the current book was printed. The Reverend Crossman and Julia Pettee publications will be available for purchase at the Academy Building.

The exhibit will be open from Monday through Friday, 9 to 1, and on selected weekends.



With thanks to Katherine Chilcoat, former Salisbury Town Historian and exhibit committee leader, for information used in preparing this article.

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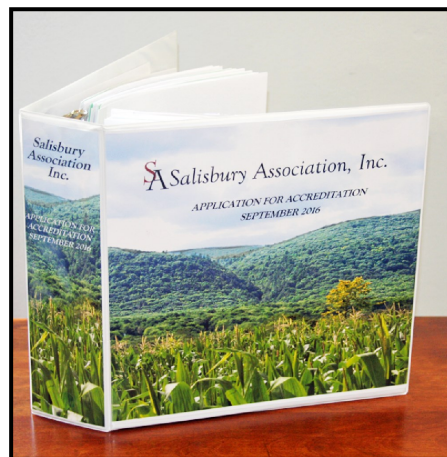
Design & Production

Lou Hecht

Seeking Accreditation

What Is Accreditation?

The Salisbury Association is applying for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national organization supported by over 1100 local and regional land trusts. The accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards on governance and have the processes to protect important natural places and working lands forever.



The Land Trust has been working towards accreditation for two years, upgrading policies, procedures and records to comply with current requirements, many of which did not exist when the Land Trust was formed 40 years ago. The Land Trust has also upgraded its management plans for properties owned by the Trust, as well as the baseline reports for older conservation easements, to bring them up to LTA standards. Documents showing these efforts have been gathered in a large binder--Salisbury Association's accreditation application--that was submitted to the Commission in September 2016.

Public Comment

In the accreditation process, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Salisbury Association complies with national quality standards. To see the complete list of standards, go to www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices.

To learn more about accreditation and to submit a comment, go to landtrustaccreditation.org, or email to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on the Salisbury Association's application will be most useful if received by November 12, 2016.

A Note of Thanks

In the spring newsletter, the following names were inadvertently not included in the Salisbury Association's 2015 donors list. We regret the omission, and thank all whose support enables the work of the Salisbury Association.

Ian & Carol Feldman
Hugh & Camilla McFadden
Judith McKemon
William & Sue Morrill
Tom & Sarah Morrison
Peter and Michelle Roth
Marilyn Yarnell

Stewardship at Work

At Stiles Meadow

Stiles Meadow, a Salisbury Association Land Trust property, is an open field on the west side of Main Street, between the 1772 Stiles House, from which the field gets its name, and Bushnell Tavern. It is said that during the Revolutionary War, Stiles Meadow was the encampment site for Hessian prisoners being marched from Cambridge to Virginia by the Continental Army.

An old stone wall forms the border of Stiles Meadow along Route 41. When vegetation enveloped the wall, Association trustees formed a work party and opened up the view to the field.



Clearing vegetation from wall. Left to right: Tom Key, John Arnold, George Massey



View of wall and Stiles Meadow after cleanup

Along Salmon Kill Stream

When Project Director Tracy Brown, of Trout Unlimited (TU), called for help in putting in plantings along the Salmon Kill stream, volunteers showed up and got to work. Local students have also participated in field work under Brown's mentorship.

TU is engaged in a multi-year Salmon Kill Restoration Project to create a healthier river habitat, ensuring clean, cold, oxygenated water suitable for wild brook trout and brown trout. To learn more about this Salmon Kill project and how you can help, contact Tracy Brown at tbrown@tu.org.



Left to right: George Rein (TU), Savannah Judge and Ryan Williams (HVA), and Dave Heck (Salisbury Land Trust).

Land Trust: On the Trail

Salisbury is fortunate to have some of the best hiking trails in Connecticut. Many miles of trails are open to the public, the best known being the Appalachian Trail. There are also shorter, easier walking paths, including several created and maintained by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.



Photo by Joseph Meehan

Sycamore Field

Recently acquired by the Salisbury Land Trust, Sycamore Field is located on Route 7, about a quarter-mile south of Route 112. The property consists of approximately 39 acres, 29 of which are farm fields, and ½ mile of frontage on the Housatonic River. The Trust's Stewardship Committee is completing a walking path that goes half-way around the field.

Five educational signs are being installed along the path, providing information about the property and its ecological values. Signage includes a property map, information about the American sycamore, from which the property takes its name, wildlife found there, non-native invasive plants that the Trust is working to clear, and facts about the Housatonic River.



It is anticipated that this educational walking path will be ready in the fall. The plants and animals found there are protected from disturbance, so we ask that you take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints.

Dark Hollow

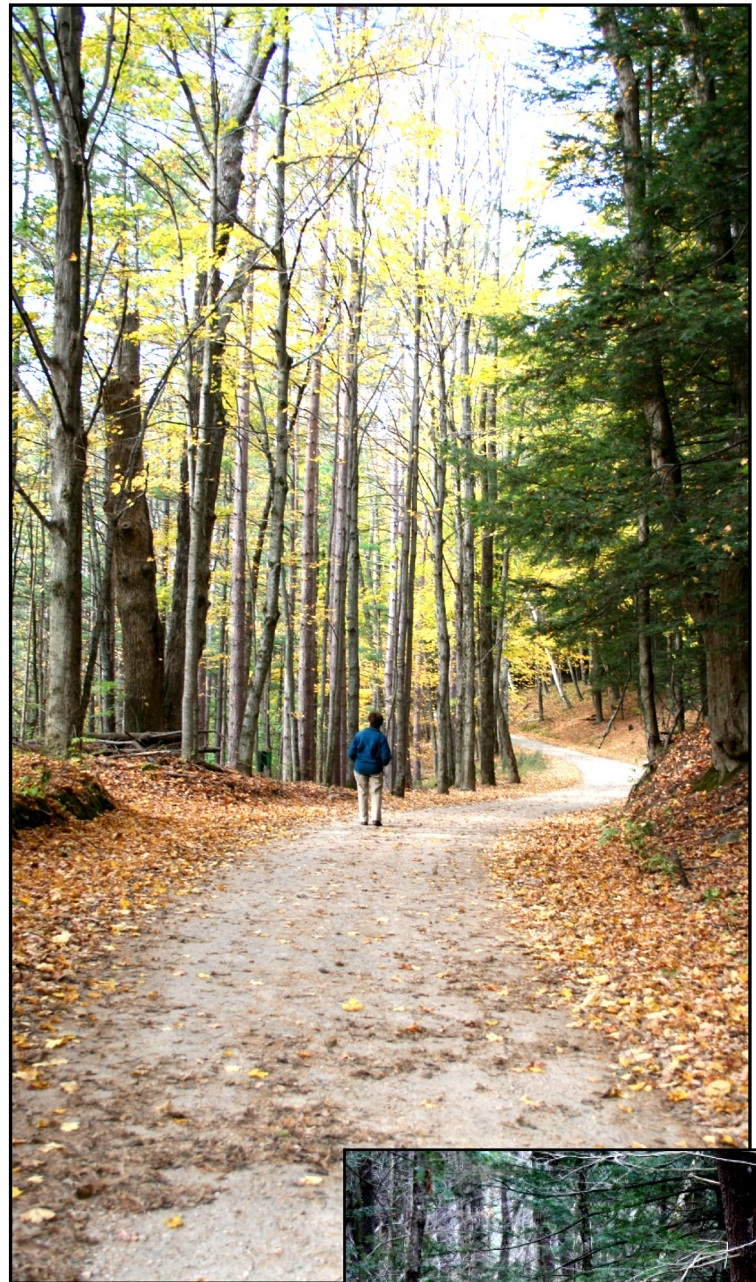
Dark Hollow, a 125-acre preserve owned and maintained by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, contains mixed hardwoods, a hemlock monoculture, fields, wetlands and numerous rock outcroppings. The oblong property is bisected along its main axis by a town-owned dirt road, Dark Hollow Road, which connects Farnam Road with Salmon Kill Road.

The preserve is open to walkers, hikers and cross-country skiers on three kept trails, plus the dirt road. A small pull-off, about 100 yards from the Farnam Road entrance, gives access to the three trails.

Farnam Fields Trail, the shortest trail, starts just east of the pull-off and winds around large rock out-croppings, by-passes tree blow-downs from a micro burst several years ago, and then intersects an unused logging road which leads to Dark Hollow Road. Other features are a view of the steep east side of the Dark Hollow ridge and several nicely laid stone walls.

The Lower Trail leads from the pull-off through an unused CL&P right away, which is kept cut as a rough field. The trail eventually intersects Dark Hollow Road. This trail is the place for cross country skiing in winter, viewing ephemerals in spring, viewing maidenhair and Christmas fern, monarda and daisies in summer, and beautiful beech foliage on the hillside in fall.

The Summit Trail traverses the highest point in Dark Hollow and provides overlooks into the Salmon Kill Valley. A major portion of the trail is through the hemlock monoculture. Bobcats and bears have been seen on this trail. *Tom Key*



On the Trail (Part Two)



Eastern Towhee

Schlesinger Bird Preserve

The Schlesinger Bird Preserve on Scoville Ore Mine Road at Undermountain Road is a 19-acre mosaic of old field, shrubland, and young woodland that is managed as bird habitat.

Owned by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, the open component is maintained across a four-year mowing rotation to support habitat specialists including American Woodcock, Golden-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and Brown Thrasher. Each of these species (and other shrub specialists) use different stages of shrublands to reduce competition for the same type of habitat. The Trust works to provide this spatial diversity.

The Schlesinger property also harbors excellent habitat for the New England cottontail rabbit, a species that until recently was considered a candidate for threatened or endangered status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each spring, a walking path is mowed and master birder Tom Schaefer conducts the Land Trust's bird survey and guided walk. The public is invited. *Harry White, Conservation Director*

The Railroad Ramble

The Railroad Ramble (commonly known as the Rail Trail or the Bike Path), is a former railroad right-of-way that runs between the villages of Lakeville and Salisbury, providing easy walking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

A town property, the Rail Trail takes you through varied habitats—deciduous and coniferous woods, wetlands and pond—that have been preserved through the gifts of adjoining neighbors and through the efforts of the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

A stopping-off point of ecological interest is the conserved pond, owned and monitored by the Land Trust. As part of its stewardship, the Trust has engaged professional help in clearing invasive plants, such as Japanese Honeysuckle, Purple Loosestrife, and Phragmites, from the bank area and the pond. Keeping the bank open for viewing is an ongoing task.

Beavers, herons, ducks and other birds, as well as turtles and peepers, have been found here. A well-situated bench, opposite the pond, encourages relaxed time with the natural world.



Historically Speaking



A diorama on display at Salisbury Central School recalls the once-thriving, iron-oriented industrial community that existed on Mt. Riga. The mountain lake was dammed for waterpower, and a furnace was built in 1809. Its products aided the American cause in the War of 1812.

When Iron Was King

Robert Miller, a long-time Mt. Riga summer resident, has long been interested in the Mountain and the blast furnace that was a central feature of the once-thriving industrial community “up there.” More than thirty years ago, as a young student, he created a richly detailed diorama of the furnace.

Recently, with help from Laura Carlson and Jim Dresser, the Salisbury Historical Society acquired the diorama. After some cleaning and refurbishing, the diorama is on display in the lobby of the Main Building of Salisbury Central School. Now students can glimpse into the Town's industrial past, so different from the Salisbury of today.

Connecticut History Day

This is the Salisbury Historical Society's second year working with Salisbury Central School students who create entries for the National History Day contest. Eleven 6th and 7th graders completed projects for the regional competition at Torrington High School in March, and two groups of students did well enough to

qualify for the Connecticut History Day event in April.

The team of Midori Fitzgerald and Lola Henderson-Thomas earned a third place award at the state level in the Junior Group Exhibit category with their project on Japanese-American Internment during World War II.

With thanks to Lou Bucceri for providing information used in preparing the history articles.

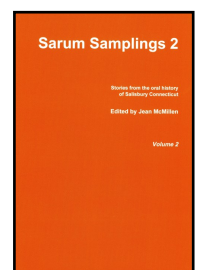
Sarum Samplings 2

The second volume in the *Sarum Samplings* series, published by the Salisbury Association and edited by town historian Jean MCMillen, contains more glimpses of the life and times of our northwest corner of Connecticut.

These reminiscences were culled from oral history transcriptions after interviews with town people who shared their memories of life in Salisbury.

The recollections are organized into categories, such as Baseball, Farms and Farm Life, Hunting and Fishing, and Mysteries and Murder. It's a fun book to read, and we are advised to settle into a comfortable chair and go back in time to Salisbury's vivid past.

Available at the Academy Building (\$5).



Here Comes the Cavalry!

During the American Revolution, dozens of Salisbury soldiers fought for independence. Some 53 died, including Ethan Allen's younger brother, Heman, who owned a store in Lakeville (then called Furnace Village). Among these patriot soldiers was Elisha Sheldon, who lived near the bottom of Smith Hill, and served as the commanding officer of a CT Militia cavalry, or dragoon.

In a re-enactment of American history, Sheldon's Light Horse will conduct programs highlighting 18th century life and demonstrate the skills and drills required of Continental soldiers, the dragoons in particular. Sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society, the re-enactment will take place on Saturday, September 17, 11:00-3:30, at the athletic field of Salisbury Central School.

Historical Background

Early in the war, the Continental Army had no dragoons due to the expense of outfitting and maintaining such a force. However, during the retreat from New York City, General George Washington saw that the militia dragoons, like Sheldon's 5th Connecticut Light Horse, had value in covering withdrawals and providing intelligence, making their expense worthwhile. Washington requested that the Continental Congress commission Continental dragoons. In December 1776, Congress complied, and Sheldon's Light Horse became the Second Continental Light Dragoons.

During the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration, a re-enactment group formed to honor the Second's invaluable service to victory. The 106th Congress (1999-2001) officially proclaimed this not-for-profit group the inheritor of the original Second Continental Light Dragoons designation. It has since become a designated representative for the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.



Captain Salvatore Tarantino, Unit Commander, Second Continental Light, will appear in a re-enactment on September 17.

An Opinion Survey



Seeking additional space for displays, interpretation, and educational programs, the Salisbury Association Historical Society is looking into the possible use of the historic Lakeville train station. To better determine whether there is public support for this idea, the Association has created an online opinion

survey. You can participate by completing the survey. Go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZDD7WJ

On Facebook



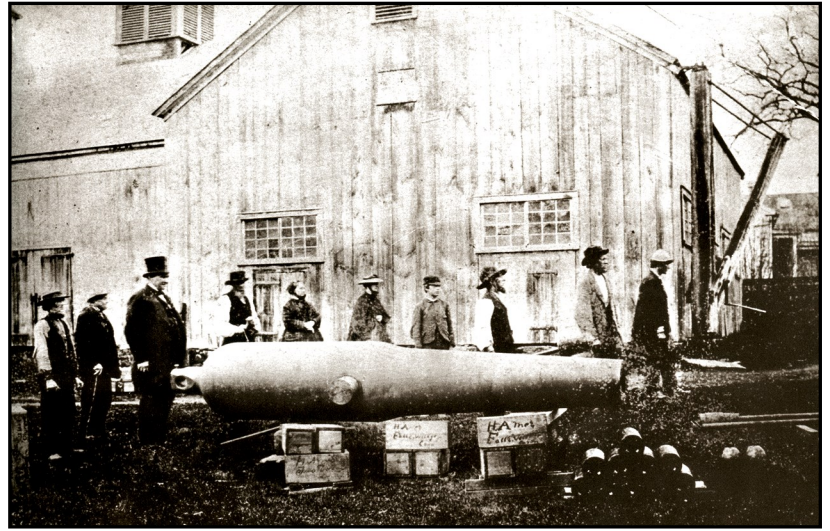
The Salisbury Association is now on Facebook. You can Find and Friend us at www.facebook.com/salisburyassociation/

Historically Speaking (Part Two)

Fall Heritage Walks

The 15th annual Heritage Walks, sponsored by the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, take place over the weekends of September 17 and 24, and October 1. Sixty free guided walks are planned to some of the most interesting historic, cultural and natural sites in Litchfield and Berkshire Counties.

In Salisbury, a representative of the Historical Society will recount the activities of the Ames Iron Works during the 19th century. Come hear the story of Horatio Ames and his innovative techniques that created the most powerful cannon of the Civil War era. For more information and directions, go to housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks.



*Civil War cannon made at Ames Iron Works:
owner Horatio Ames in top hat*

StEPs-CT Update

The Salisbury Historical Society continues its participation in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs-CT). Two units, Collections and Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes, were covered in spring and summer. As an outcome of these sessions, the Society is updating some of its policies and procedures. The course will conclude in early 2017 with the final unit, Interpretation.

StEPs-CT has received much of its funding from Connecticut Humanities (CTH). Recent state government cuts have eliminated two-thirds of CTH's budget, resulting in a dramatic reduction in the StEPs-CT services for Year Two of our participation. To learn how Connecticut Humanities promotes history and heritage, go to Connecticut Humanities (cthumanities.org/) and the Connecticut League of History Organizations (www.clho.org/).

StEPs-CT

July 4th at the Grove

The annual July 4th celebration at the Grove has been sponsored by the Salisbury Association for 88 years. Each year town people gather at the Grove for lively activities and to mark the significance of Independence Day in American history.



Once again, Lou Bucceri read the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, Dave Bayersdorfer served as MC, and everyone enjoyed listening to the Salisbury Town Band and eating hot dogs sold by volunteers from Extras.

The Salisbury Association Civic Committee announced a \$2,500 award to Liam Grimaldi, this year's recipient of the Carl Williams Civic Activities Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Carl Williams, who taught at the Salisbury School and encouraged many to participate in the life of the community. The award is based on community service in the Town of Salisbury, and is part of a four-year college scholarship totaling \$10,000.

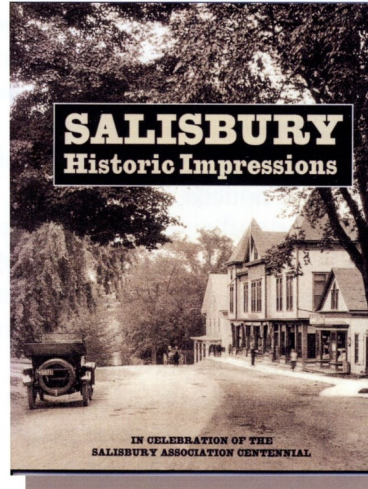
Kathy Mera

Publications of Local Interest

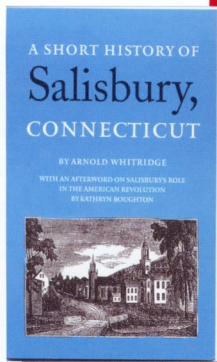
Available at the Academy Building, Salisbury



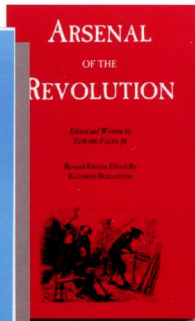
Boxed set of 8 note cards
with 4 different Salisbury scenes
\$13 or 2/\$25



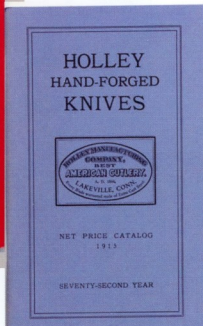
Salisbury—
Historic Impressions
with history and
archival photos of
Salisbury
\$25



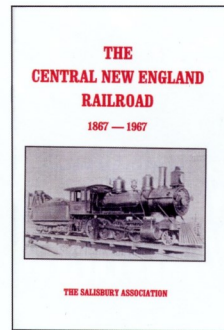
A Short History of
Salisbury
\$9



Arsenal of the
Revolution
\$15

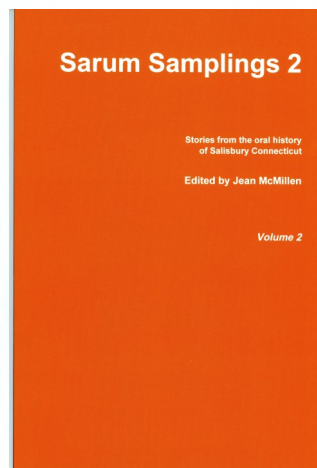
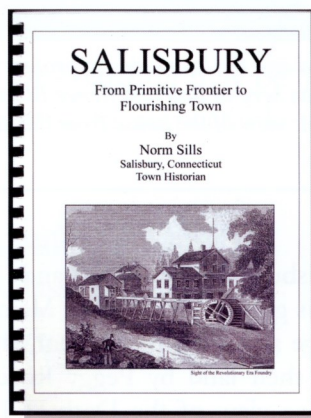


Holly Knives
1915 catalog
\$9



The Central New
England Railroad
1867-1967
\$8

Salisbury—From
Primitive Frontier to
Flourishing Town
by town historian
Norm Sills
\$20



Stories from the
oral history
of Salisbury
\$5

Land Trust - Library Program

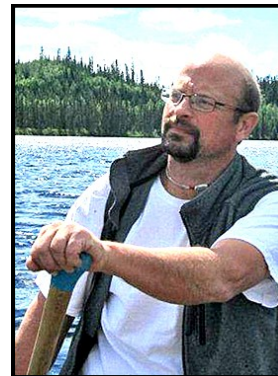
A Global Perspective on Local Conservation

In an ongoing series of jointly sponsored environmental programs, the Salisbury Association Land Trust and Scoville Memorial Library will present a program by Hans Carlson, “A Global Perspective on Conservation and the Northwest Corner,” on Saturday, November 5, at 4:00, in the library’s Wardell Room.

The northwest corner of Connecticut has a vibrant network of land trusts and other like-minded organizations that are protecting land for future generations. Carlson believes it is important to recognize the impact of larger political and economic forces on local conservation.

“Local efforts to protect land must consider people and events out over the horizon, and be part of a larger understanding of stewardship,” he says.

Hans Carlson, Director of Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk and Falls Village, has had a multifaceted career: environmental historian, political ecologist, teacher, and author. An avid outdoorsman, he is also a woodworker and boat builder.



*Hans Carlson,
Director of Great
Mountain Forest*

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