



## *Salisbury Faces: Portraits from the Past*

In an ongoing effort to bring Salisbury's rich history to the community, the Salisbury Association Historical Society presents lectures and exhibits, publishes books and pamphlets, installs educational markers at historic sites and, on occasion, conducts local guided tours. In addition, the Society's mission is to preserve, restore and display historic objects and art work from the Association's extensive collection.

Included in the collection are interesting maps, town plans and historic documents, and a significant number of works of art. The latter include drawings, engravings, and oil paintings of the local landscape, "portraits" of private houses and public buildings and, of course, portraits of local people, generally with the likenesses of past leading citizens of the villages of Salisbury and Lakeville and the surrounding area.

A surprising amount of art, much of it from the Association's collection, is on view in the town's public buildings including Town Hall, Scoville Memorial Library and the Academy Building.

In a February 15<sup>th</sup> program, co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the Scoville Memorial Library, Richard Boyle presented an illustrated talk titled "Salisbury Faces," focusing on selected portraits displayed in Salisbury's public buildings.

The paintings reviewed range from the work of such well-known artists as Erastus Salisbury Field (1801-1900), Ammi Phillips (1788-1865) and Ellen Emmet Rand (1875-1941) to lesser known, but no less skilled portraitists like Edwin White (1817-1877). The works span the time period from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Almost totally without training, Erastus Salisbury Field was part of a "school" of artists who worked in a naïve, untrained or vernacular manner, traveling the region and painting portraits. Ammi Phillips was also a part of that group, and he and Field painted in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Ellen Emmet Rand, on the other hand, was a trained and skilled professional artist who painted Franklin Delano Roosevelt (twice) and became Salisbury's resident portrait painter. *Richard Boyle*

*Portraits above from the Salisbury Association art collection.*

*Images by Joseph Meehan.*

*Left: "David Jones of Mt. Riga" by Ellen Emmet Rand, 1926*

*Middle: "Mrs. Winthrop Lakey Carter" attributed to Celia Beaux, c. 1905-7*

*Right: "Jane Lyman Holley" attributed to Erastus Salisbury Field, c. 1830*

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**Contact us**

Phone 860-435-0566

**E-mail**

salisburyassn@gmail.com

**Website**

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**Newsletter**

**Editor/Writer**

Elaine Hecht

**Design & Production**

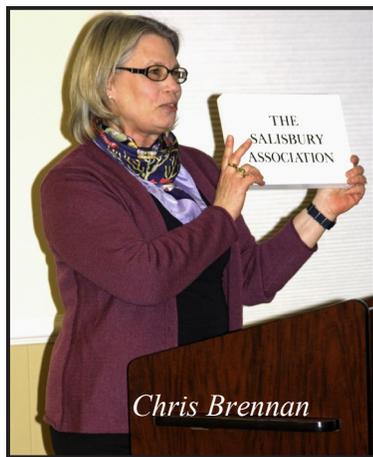
Lou Hecht

*Changing of the Guard*

After seven years of exceptional leadership as president of the Salisbury Association, Dave Heck is stepping down. His pragmatic and accessible style facilitated the work of a proactive, enthusiastic Board of Trustees.

A few of Dave's many accomplishments are noted here: guiding the Association's Land Trust, Historical Society, and Civic Activities Committees; supporting preparation of the town's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI); supervising the year-long renovation of the Academy Building; helping to install educational signs on local history; and leading the effort to create a bronze Revolutionary War plaque to display at Town Hall. Dave will continue to serve as an Association trustee and Land Trust member.

At the 112th Annual Meeting in January, the Salisbury Association welcomed Chris Brennan as its new president.



*Chris Brennan*

Energetic and upbeat, Chris brings a diverse range of interests, community involvement and educational background, with degrees in Elementary Education, Anthropology, and Interior Design. She served on the Salisbury Central School Board of Education, the Scoville Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Salisbury Ambulance Board of Trustees, Berkshire Music and Dance Association and as a Salisbury Association trustee.

Last year, Chris used her experience in historic design to lead the successful renovation of the interior of the Academy Building.

*Civic Activities Scholarship*

The Salisbury Association has instituted a scholarship to encourage and reward young people involved in civic activities in the Town of Salisbury.

The Civic Activities Committee will award a \$2,500 scholarship to a student living in Salisbury who has been accepted to a college and is college bound. Each year following the award, the student may renew the scholarship by presenting a transcript and a letter of recommendation. The scholarship is for a period of four years with a grand total of \$10,000. Each year, from 2014 on, the Association will start another student on the four-year cycle.



Salisbury students graduating from Housatonic Valley Regional High, Oliver Wolcott Technical School and private schools may apply for the scholarship. Applications will be distributed and can be picked up at the Academy Building. All completed forms must be returned to the Salisbury Association by May 3, 2014.

The scholarship is named in honor of the late Carl Williams, who came to Salisbury in 1963 and joined the teaching staff at Salisbury School. He encouraged many people to participate in the life of the community, leading by example. Carl was a SWSA director, member of the Democratic Town Committee, vestryman of St. John's Church, an instructor of the "55 and Over" driving course, co-chairman of the Salisbury Forum, an active member of the Salisbury Association, a founding trustee of the Salisbury Housing Trust, and chairman of the Board of Finance. *Dave Bayersdorfer*

## A Four-Stop Driving Tour

# SALISBURY IRON TRAIL

A couple of years ago, the Salisbury Association Historical Society installed four educational markers in town to identify key historic sites in the story of Salisbury iron.

Project director Dick Paddock created signs that not only mark the selected locations but also explain their significance. They provide viewers with background information about the people who were instrumental in Salisbury's iron mining and manufacturing industries, as well as easy-to-understand explanations and drawings illustrating the process.

Though these attractive educational signs had been in place for a while, few knew of their existence or location. To remedy this, Historical Society member Lou Bucceri put together a brochure called "Salisbury Iron Trail"—a four-stop driving tour to guide residents and visitors through our winding roads to each of the four signs. The brochure will be published this spring and made available at the Academy Building.

Here's a brief look at each of the four stops along the 11.8 mile Salisbury Iron Trail.

### *1<sup>st</sup> stop: Lamb's Forge*

It was through Thomas Lamb that knowledge of iron ore in Salisbury became widespread in the 1730s. He purchased land and water rights in an effort to mine and process the ore. The location of his first forge on the Salmon Kill is one of the sites identified by an educational marker. The sign provides information on iron manufacturing and how the forge worked.

### *2nd Stop: Barnum & Richardson Foundry*

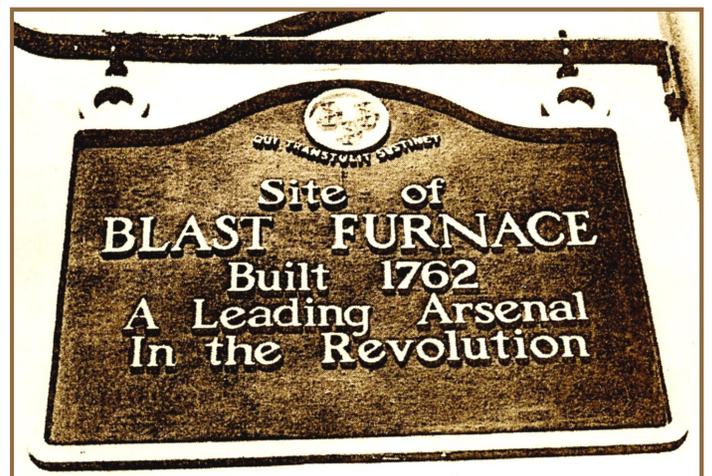
The second stop marks the location of Salisbury's largest and most prosperous iron works. The marker tells the history of iron manufacturing at its height in Salisbury when the Barnum & Richardson Company created a whole community and defined the lives of many town citizens.

### *3rd Stop: Ore Hill Mine*

Clearly, there would be no iron without iron ore. This marker is dedicated to one of the two major mines in the area, the Ore Hill Mine. Here, we are asked to look deep into the pond that exists there today and imagine the grueling work required to extract the ore that once supplied forges throughout the region.

### *4th Stop: Arsenal of the Revolution*

Some believe that Salisbury's greatest contribution to American history took place during the Revolutionary War when the Salisbury furnace produced more than 800 cannon for the patriot cause. This stop on the driving tour marks where Ethan Allen, John Hazeltine, and Eliza and Samuel Forbes built Connecticut's first blast furnace in 1762. The sign includes an artist's color rendering of the furnace and its associated buildings of that time. *Lou Bucceri*



## Historically Speaking

*Heritage and Era of Elegance talks, co-sponsored by the Salisbury Association Historical Society and Scoville Memorial Library, take place on Saturdays, 4:00, at the library. Some programs noted below have already taken place.*

### *February 15: Salisbury Faces—by Richard Boyle*

“Salisbury Faces” featured portraits from the Salisbury Association art collection, many of which are on view in the town’s public buildings: Town Hall, Scoville Memorial Library, and the Academy Building. (For more information about this talk, see cover story.)

### *March 1: Reconstruction and Redemption, 1863-1877—by Tom Key*

“Reconstruction” was the period following the Civil War when the Federal Government attempted to bring seceding states back into the Union, and the Freedmen into the social fabric of the nation.



“Redemption” was the term used by Southern Democrats to describe their effort to return to the Union with their previous authority intact.

The speaker reviewed many factors influencing both efforts, including the failure of the Johnson Administration; the role of Radical Republicans; the Grant Administration scandals; the Freedman's Bureau; and the KKK and similar organizations. He discussed the failure of Reconstruction and the results of that failure, which lasted until the 1960s, and perhaps beyond.

### *March 15: Restoring Public Gardens*

—by *David Dew Bruner*

David Dew Bruner, a landscape architect, residential garden designer and nationally exhibited artist, will talk about the restoration of public gardens in New York City.

### *April 5: Inns of Salisbury and Vicinity*

—by *Dean Hammond*



*The White Hart Inn*

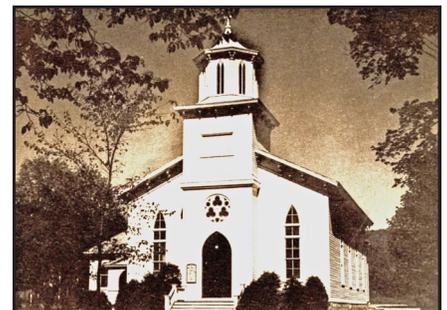
Northwestern Connecticut has long been known as a retreat from the big cities of New York and Boston, with the village inns often

serving as the focal point. Dean Hammond’s talk explores the fascinating stories of “inn” experiences over the years.

### *May 3: The Lakeville Methodist Church: Oldest Methodist Fellowship in New England*

—by *Jean McMillen*

The Rehoboth Methodist Church of Lakeville is celebrating 225 years of existence, the oldest Methodist fellowship in New England. The fellow-



ship played an important role in Salisbury’s heritage. George Whitefield, noted preacher of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, gave his open air sermon under a tree in Salisbury in 1770. The presentation will include a guest appearance by “John Wesley,” the founder of Methodism.

## Association Hosts Winter Concert



*From left to right: Judith Dansker, Christopher Morrongiello and Marcia Young*

The recently renovated Academy Building was a lovely venue for the Salisbury Association's Victorian Christmas Concert. An audience of fifty welcomed the return engagement of three much-appreciated artists: Judith Dansker, performing on oboe and recorder; Marcia Young, providing soprano voice and historical harp; and Christopher Morrongiello on lute.

The Trio presented works from the Renaissance and Baroque Periods and a haunting Sephardic melody from Medieval times. Christopher Morrongiello offered insightful comments about performance practices of those periods. As an additional treat, he played on an intricately crafted Renaissance guitar.

### Table at Play

When the performance was over, a couple of concert-goers followed lutenist Christopher Morrongiello upstairs to the second floor of the Academy. Chris had something in mind.

Resting his gut-strung lute against the oak table, he began to strum. "Wow!" he remarked. "Listen to the amplification. Can you feel the vibrations?" As he played, alternating with and without the support of the table, the benefits of table-playing were evident: greater volume and a fuller, warmer tone.

Dr. Morrongiello, an expert on Elizabethan and Jacobean music, and a faculty member at Hofstra University, explained that playing the lute against the edge of a table, or resting it atop its surface, was a widespread if not common practice in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Paintings such as Caravaggio's "The Lute Player" and Frans Hals's "Boy with a Lute" show the instrument being played on a resonant surface. Evidence of table-playing is also seen in several surviving lutes that have narrow protective strips of wood or ivory added along their treble edge—the side that would have rested against the table.

You just never know what you'll learn when you hang out with the artist *after* the concert.



*Christopher Morrongiello demonstrates table-playing while resting the lute on the oak meeting table at the Academy Building*



*Caravaggio's "The Lute Player" shows the instrument being played on a resonant surface*

# *If Our Lakes, Streams, Rivers and Wetlands*

Salisbury is rich in lakes, watercourses and wetlands. These irreplaceable and fragile resources form an interrelated web essential to our water quality and the adequate supply of surface and underground water.

If our lakes, streams and rivers could speak, what would they tell us about their environmental health?

They might begin by reminding us that we all live in a watershed—an area of land that feeds all the water running under it and draining off of it into a body of water. Whatever happens in the watershed affects lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, wildlife habitat and drinking water.

On April 5th, an outstanding panel of five speakers from local and regional organizations will present the broad picture of Salisbury's waterbodies and watersheds: How healthy are they? Why does it matter? What can *we* do to make a difference?



**TIM ABBOTT, Greenprint Director for the Housatonic Valley Association,** will place Salisbury's watershed within the larger context of the Housatonic River and its tributaries that together

cover more than 1,948 square miles in western New England and Eastern New York. He will discuss the confluence of geology, climate and impacts on the land from natural disturbance and human activity. Together these factors continue to influence the ecology of our aquatic systems.

The speaker will point out the significance of forest conservation for protecting water quality, and explore the resilience of terrestrial and aquatic habitats in the face of climate change.



**HARRY WHITE, Conservation Director of the Salisbury Association Land Trust,** and a forest ecologist, will talk about "Streams: Where Rivers Are Born."

Although headwater streams are, individually, relatively small landscape features, they collectively encompass more than 80% of stream networks and watershed land areas. Headwaters are crucial for sustaining the structure, function, productivity, and biocomplexity of downstream ecosystems. The water draining from headwater streams provides a continual source of essential products (primarily nutrients, food, and wood) which support downstream aquatic and riparian biota and serve as source areas for biodiversity. The speaker will highlight these topics and other features that impact our ecosystem.



**MARY SILKS, Lake Wononscopomuc Association,** will discuss lake issues. A lake is a reflection of its watershed; activities in the watershed affect the lake environment. In a one-inch rainstorm, every acre of the watershed receives about 27,000 gallons of water. Where does it all go? In a natural environment, 50% goes into the ground, about 49% is evapo-transpirated back to the atmosphere by trees and vegetation, and only 1% runs off.

Human activities such as land clearing, increasing paved surfaces and buildings, and grading and compacting soil change this balance, resulting in much greater run-off. Stormwater runoff carries sediment, salt, oil from roads, pet waste, and fertilizer and pesticides to the lake, causing decline in water quality. The speaker will discuss runoff-control strategies.

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**TRACY BROWN, Trout Unlimited (TU)**, will focus on a current project to restore the Salmon Kill stream and its watershed

as a coldwater fishery. Trout need clean, cold water to thrive, so the presence of this species is a good barometer of the health of small rivers.

Tracy has been meeting with landowners and community groups to discuss the restoration process. TU will be designing projects to increase and improve spawning and rearing habitat for brook trout and other species. Tree plantings, bank stabilization and in-stream habitat structures are the types of activities being considered.

Last fall Trout Unlimited completed an assessment of six miles of the Salmon Kill. The results of that assessment will serve as a guide for restoration work to be done.



**CURTIS RAND, Salisbury First Selectman**, will talk about the role of town agencies in maintaining water quality and the health of our waterbodies and watershed.

*The Salisbury Watershed Program is co-sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust and Scoville Memorial Library.*

*Date: Saturday, April 5*

*Time: 10:00 to noon*

*Place: Salisbury Town Hall*

## *By the Numbers*

**0**

Increase in the amount of water on the earth today compared with when the earth was formed. There are never any “new” supplies.

**106**

Maximum depth in feet of Lake Wononscopomuc (Lakeville Lake), the deepest natural lake in CT.

**1950**

Square miles in the Housatonic River watershed from its source in the Pittsfield, MA region to Long Island Sound.

**3600**

Acres comprising the watershed of Mt. Riga’s two lakes (Riga Lake and South Pond).

**5**

Distance in miles the Salmon Kill stream flows from its origin in the Indian Cave area to its confluence with the Housatonic River below Lime Rock.

**100**

Approximate width in feet of the Housatonic River by the time it reaches Salisbury.

## Land Trust Programs

In a new collaborative effort, the Salisbury Association Land Trust and Scoville Memorial Library are co-sponsoring environmentally oriented programs. Two were presented last fall, a third is scheduled for April 5. (For the latter, see pages 6-7.)

**Great Mountain Forest:** Paul Barton, executive director of Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk and Falls Village, discussed forest reclamation after clear-cutting by the charcoal industry. With additional land purchases over time, the preserve has grown from 3000 acres in 1909 to 6,300 acres. Emphasizing that Great Mountain is a “working forest,” Barton talked about sustainable forestry and how the preserve is used for community education and recreation.

**Nature Wars:** Jim Sterba, author of *Nature Wars*, said it is likely that today more people live in closer proximity to more wild animals, birds and trees in the Eastern United States than anywhere on the planet at



any time in history. This mixture of people and wildlife is wonderful for nature lovers, he adds, unless you happen to be a driver who will hit a deer today, your child’s soccer field is carpeted with goose droppings, the neighbor’s cat has turned your bird feeder into a fast-food outlet, or bears are looting your garbage.

We are left to ponder this question: How will humans and wildlife successfully co-exist in a closely shared habitat?

## Land Protection

In 2013 additional land conservation with the Salisbury Association Land Trust came through the generosity of landowners who have made repeated gifts.

**Scott and Roxanne Bok** donated conservation easements on 160 acres in 2007 including extensive prime agricultural lands along the Housatonic River.



These easements provided the additional benefits of river protection and glorious public scenic views. In 2011 the

*Conserved land at Bok property*

Boks acquired another 162 acres of riverfront farmland, which they placed under easement. Then, in 2013, they conserved 100 acres of farmland and forest on the west side of Weatogue Road.

**Peter Findlay** bought Hamlet Hill Farm on Prospect Mountain Road from the Mitchells, McClintocks and Forsyths in 1980 in a transfer that protected 300 acres of forested uplands, including portions of the

Appalachian Trail, in a donation to The Nature Conservancy. 400 acres of Hamlet Hill Farm were transferred to the Findlays. Mr. Findlay has since carried



*Peter Findlay with Katahdin (hairless) sheep, a goat and Shrek the donkey*

out successive

donations of easements that protect prime agricultural lands and public scenic views. His donations include 36 acres in 1992, 20 acres in 1993, 27 acres in 2007 and another 27 acres in 2013. *George Massey*

# Winterscapes at Conserved Land



Photo by Lou Hecht



Photo by Tom Key



Photo by Joseph Meehan

- 1. Pond at Railroad Ramble
- 2. Dark Hollow
- 3. Whippoorwill Farm
- 4. Salmon Kill stream
- 5. Horse barns at Quarry Hill Farm



Photo by Lou Hecht



Photo by Lou Hecht

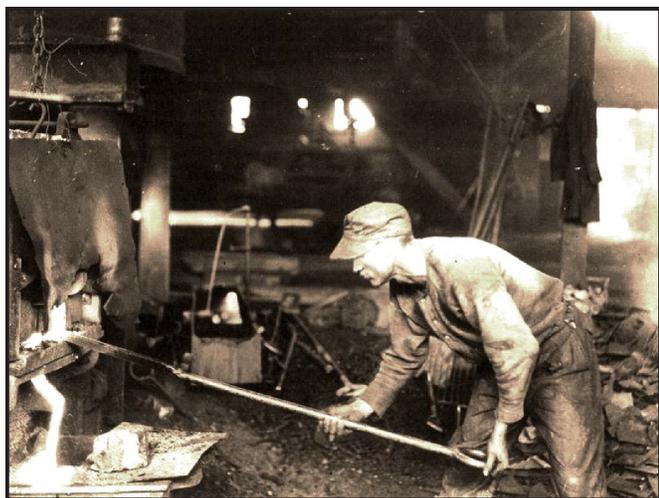
## What's in a Name?

*Names of places and roads often have their source in history. So it is with the following two roads in Salisbury.*



Located in the Amesville section of town, Puddlers Lane was home to a group of puddlers. What, you may ask, were puddlers? They were workers engaged in the process of refining pig iron.

Originally developed in England and based on coal as a fuel, the process was adapted for wood fuel by Horatio Ames (the same guy who gave his name to Amesville) to make refined iron for his iron works on the banks of the Housatonic River.



*Puddler at work refining pig iron*

In the puddling process, pig iron is softened and oxidized to reduce carbon as well as other elements. Balls of hot iron weighing about 200 pounds are removed from the furnace and beaten with a hammer to force out molten slag that carries off the impurities with it. Called shingling, it required multiple reheats and hammerings of the hot, heavy iron clumps. Ames' puddlers knew nothing about the chemicals they were removing. Color and texture were used as cues to the success of the process.

Good puddlers were hard to find. In fact, any good iron worker was hard to find in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup>

century. The men tended to be itinerants prone to strong drink and unruly behavior. As part of his strategy to keep "good sober men," Ames hired married men, supplying them with housing for their families. Houses were built on land Ames bought near his factory, and the roadway on which the houses were constructed became known, naturally, as Puddlers Lane.

Today the puddlers are long gone. By 1870 Amesville was a ghost town. The factory was purchased by the Housatonic Railroad, the structures demolished and replaced with railroad buildings. Those buildings in turn fell when the hydroelectric power plant was built at the falls in 1913. Today there are no traces left of either the Ames works or the railroad operations. Nothing, that is, except Puddlers Lane.



Another town road that takes its name from a vanished feature is The Lock Up. This short lane to the right of Town Hall once led to a holding cell the size of a small toolshed. The cell was used to detain various miscreants in the town. It was probably used mostly as a place for drunkards to spend the night. While there are old pictures of the cell, no trace of it remains —except for the name of the street that led to it.

*Richard Paddock*



*The town Lock-Up with "Jakie" Holder who lived there when the building was no longer a jail, late 1930s*

## The 14th Colony

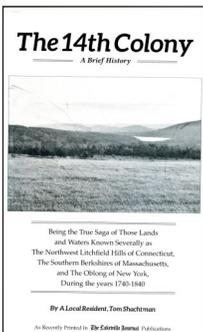
The Salisbury Association has added a new publication to its collection of local and regional history books. The 14<sup>th</sup> Colony: a Brief History, by Tom Schactman, had previously appeared as a series of articles in the Lakeville Journal. Now available in book form, it can be purchased at the Academy Building for \$7.00. Below, the author tells how he became interested in this particular historical account.

After settling in Salisbury, I became intrigued with the history that surrounds us in our landscape, our old buildings, and the relics of the iron industry. Visiting neighboring towns and delving into their records, I realized that while each town was unique, the towns shared a lot of history.

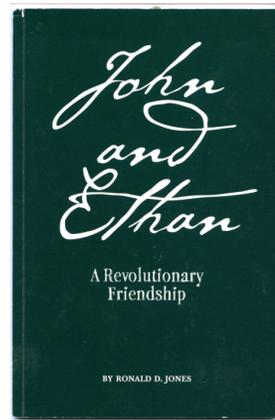
This sense was reinforced when I served as a founding trustee of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, which ranges up and down the watershed, ignoring state boundaries. I was intrigued to learn that the Tri-Corners area had once been known as the 14<sup>th</sup> Colony because from the 1740s to 1840s it was remote, iconoclastic and independent, beyond the effective reach of civil authorities, poor except in the quality

of its people, natural resources, and faith, and self-reliant and prickly in its resistance to change.

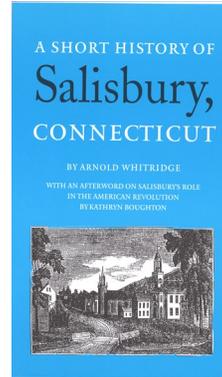
Last spring I broached the idea of a series on that history to the Lakeville Journal and was asked to rewrite the text as 17 column-size essays. I discovered that readers enjoyed the short pieces and looked forward to reading them—even those readers who (as they confessed to me) might not read a book about the subject. The reception of the articles validated my sense that we residents of the area share a strong interest in our common history. I am delighted that the Salisbury Association has made *The 14<sup>th</sup> Colony: A Brief History* available for purchase. *Tom Schactman*



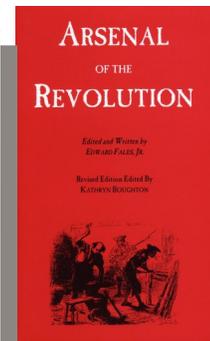
## Other History Books of Interest



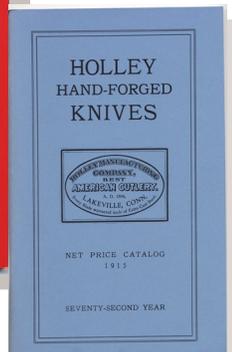
**John and Ethan**  
The story of the key figures who built and operated the Salisbury blast furnace that became known as the “Arsenal of the Revolution”  
\$10



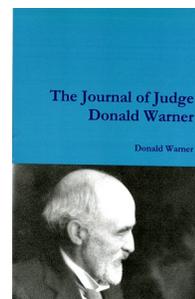
**A Short History of Salisbury** \$9



**Arsenal of the Revolution**  
\$15



**Holly Knives**  
1915 catalog  
\$9

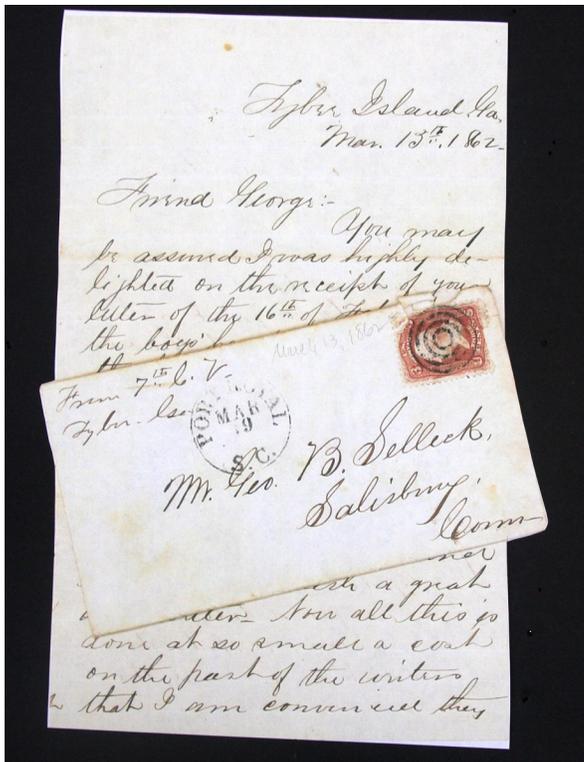


**Journal of Judge Donald Warner**  
His experiences in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
\$20

### A Note to History Buffs

Interested in local history? You are welcome to attend Salisbury Association Historical Society meetings on selected Fridays at 4:00 p.m. at the Academy Building. Meeting dates remaining this year are: April 11, May 23, July 11, August 22, September 26 and November 14.

## Spring Exhibit—Civil War Letters



The Salisbury Association Historical Society will open an exhibit in March at the Academy Building featuring letters from Salisbury soldiers during the Civil War.

The letters tell the stories of eight young men who volunteered under President Lincoln's 2<sup>nd</sup> call for troops. The men were all mustered together into Company G, Townsend Rifles of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers—a three-year tour of duty. Of these eight young men, one was wounded, one was killed, one died in service, and one was taken prisoner but managed to escape.

Their letters tell of day-to-day boredom broken by brief episodes of excitement. Letter-writing helped ease homesickness and the frustrations of army life, and provided an outlet for reflection on new experiences.

The Salisbury Association  
24 Main Street  
P.O. Box 553  
Salisbury, CT 06068

Presorted Standard  
Non-profit  
Permit #106  
Lakeville, CT 06039

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