



Where River and Farmland Meet

Photo courtesy HVA

The Housatonic River begins its 149-mile journey to Long Island Sound in the Berkshire Hills of southwestern Massachusetts. On its journey, it meanders and cascades through historic and picturesque New England towns, including Salisbury, providing scenic beauty and opportunities for recreation. It flows through farm fields, creating flood plains that enrich agricultural soils.

Both river and land are important. To maintain these resources, a natural buffer growing along the riverbank is needed to protect the river from potential runoff from farm activities and to provide important wildlife habitat along the shoreline.

Salisbury is fortunate that much of its farmland along the Housatonic has been protected by conservation agreements between landowners and the Salisbury Association Land Trust or other conservation partner.

The first major protection of Salisbury farmland on the Housatonic came from donation of a conserva-

tion easement (conservation restriction) on Stillwater Farm by John Herndon to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Another Salisbury property with significant acreage on the river is Twin Lakes Farm and Weatogue Stables, owned by Scott and Roxanne Bok. The Boks' generous donation of an easement in 2007 enabled protection of 184 acres of farmland with river frontage. A second agreement in 2010 conserved another 100 acres of fields with Prime or Statewide important soils and dozens of additional acres of critical floodplain forest habitat.

Stretching a mile along the Housatonic River, the 77-acre Shady Maple Farm on Weatogue Road was conserved in 2009 by the Trustees of Reservations with assistance from the Salisbury Land Trust, as well as other local conservation organizations and many generous individual donors. The property is protected from further development, while still allowing the landowner, John Bottass, to own and farm it.

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Currently, the Salisbury Land Trust is receiving a grant of a conservation easement from Richard Grossman and Ann Arensberg on Weatogue Road, protecting 22 acres of prime agricultural fields, 1200 feet of Housatonic River frontage, and a forested riparian buffer that sustains the riverbank.

Preservation of the Grossman-Arensberg property and the Bottass' Shady Maple Farm was aided by the Natural Resource Damages judgment against General Electric for release of PCBs into the Housatonic River. The grant was obtained by The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

These successful preservation efforts highlight the importance of a cooperative effort among local conservation organizations sharing common goals of protection of water quality, prime agricultural land and public scenic views—all part of the River-Meets-Farmland story.



John Bottass haying fields along the river

River Partners

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) is a Salisbury Land Trust partner for conservation. Here, Lynn Werner, HVA's Executive Director, shares her thoughts on what makes the river special and the efforts to conserve it.

The Housatonic is an essential pathway for all kinds of migratory birds, from Snow Geese to Broad-wing Hawks and a multitude of tiny songbirds including the Golden-winged Warbler, a rare beauty that is a candidate species for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Conserving land along the river and some of the natural vegetation growing on the banks, keeps the habitat intact for a host of plants and animals, prevents erosion, keeps pollution from washing into the waterway, and preserves the special natural vistas that characterize our community.

For the past seven years, HVA and the Salisbury Association Land Trust have worked together with landowners and other conservation partners to permanently conserve nearly seven miles of Housatonic River front in Salisbury. This represents one of the largest stretches of conserved Housatonic riverfront held by multiple private landowners.

The Land Trust and HVA are working on conserving additional properties that could add another half-mile to the length of protected riverfront in the community. We are indebted to all of the riverfront landowners who, with vision, caring and deep fortitude, are protecting the natural character and health of the Housatonic River, and saving a piece of our natural heritage for future generations of Salisbury residents.

Historic Hot Spots

Have you noticed the new history signs around town?

The Association's Historical Society recently installed three new educational markers, adding to the "Arsenal of the Revolution" panel previously set up near the former site of the Lakeville Hose Company.

The four locations were selected because of their importance in Salisbury's history and the fact that they were otherwise unmarked and unknown to many in the community. The panels are another step in making Salisbury's heritage more accessible.

Whether you drive, bike or hike around town, the markers offer interesting stopping-off points where you can learn about our local history and where it took place.



Locations of the four educational markers:

"**Arsenal of the Revolution**" is located in Lakeville on Route 41, next to the former site of the Lakeville Hose Company. This cannon foundry produced about 850 cannon to aid the American cause, a significant contribution to American independence.

"**Ore Hill Mine**" is located between Lakeville and Millerton, on the west side of Route 44 just north of the intersection with Route 112. The mine produced the iron ore on which all of the other sites depended. Discovery of iron ore spurred the settlement and development of Salisbury.

"**Lamb's Forge**" is located near Lime Rock, on Salmon Kill Road at the bridge over the Salmon Kill stream. This enterprise was the beginning of the iron industry in Salisbury, which flourished for nearly two centuries after its start here.

"**Barnum & Richardson Foundry**" is located in Lime Rock in the park at the intersection of Route 112 and White Hollow Road. The foundry was the largest consumer of local iron and produced the railroad car wheels that America needed to move west. With several branches and subsidiaries in other states, the company was probably the largest single producer of railroad car wheels in the country in the late 19th century.



The "Arsenal" marker includes a reproduction of the 1762 handwritten contract establishing the Lakeville Furnace. The original document, acquired by the Salisbury Association at auction, is in the Association's archive.

History and Architecture Talks

Now entering its fifth year, the Salisbury Association Historical Society has sought to bring local history to the community through exhibits, heritage talks, educational panels and touring events.

With this summer's exhibit on view, "At Home in Civil War Salisbury," work is starting on next year's presentation featuring Salisbury's soldiers during the Civil War.

The Society's Oral History project is moving ahead too. We are building a great store of Salisbury lore, with the plan of selecting some of the most interesting tales for publication.

Our Heritage Talks and Era of Elegance lectures on decorative arts in the 1780-1830 neo-classical period have played to capacity audiences. New topics have been scheduled (see program notes here) and others are being planned. The talks, co-sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library, take place in the library's Wardell Room at 4:00 on selected Saturday afternoons. The public is cordially invited.

October 20: "Three Distinctive Litchfield: Aaron Burr, William Calhoun"—by Tom Key

Of the three Litchfield visitors noted above, Aaron Burr had the closest connection to Litchfield, where he studied law with his brother-in-law. His divisive nature showed itself in various ways: he strongly disagreed with George Washington, killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel, and mounted



Aaron Burr

an expedition to separate Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi Territory and the Louisiana Territory from the Union.

November 17: "The Generals of Gettysburg: The Untold Story"—by David Ward

The famous battle of Gettysburg, fought nearly 150 years ago, still fascinates armchair generals, professional historians and Americans from all walks of life. More books have been written on this battle than any other in the annals of military history. These works usually focus on the tactical movements of the respective commanders and the combat actions which yielded over 50,000 casualties and 7,000 dead on the battlefield.



General Oliver Howard

Yet, despite all the blood shed and ink spilled, the principal generals have not received the scrutiny they deserve. Their untold stories beyond the Battlefield of Gettysburg are fascinating and informative. Generals in Gray, such as Jeb Stuart and James Longstreet, and Generals in Blue, such as Oliver Howard and George Custer led dramatic lives at momentous times.

David Ward will illustrate the life and times of these generals who achieved fame, or infamy, during their service in the great Civil War.

*ctive, Divisive Visitors to
William Franklin, and John C.*

William Franklin, Royal Governor of New Jersey and son of Benjamin Franklin, did not visit Litchfield of his own accord. He was brought there as a prisoner by the Patriot's "Committee of Safety." After being exchanged for a high-ranking prisoner of the British, he badgered George III to give him a regiment to fight the Americans. He and Ben were never able to reconcile their differences.

The third figure with a Litchfield connection was John C. Calhoun, one of the first to advocate nullification of Federal laws by the states.

*January 19: "The Webb-Deane-Stevens Historic Houses"
—by Charles Lyle*

Charles Lyle, Director and Curator of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, will discuss historic houses in Wethersfield, CT.

The 1752 Joseph Webb House served as George Washington's headquarters in May 1781. The Silas Deane House, circa 1770, was built for America's Revolutionary War diplomat to

France. The Isaac Stevens House, 1789, depicts the life of a middle-class family in the 1820s and 30s, using many original family possessions.



Joseph Webb House in Wethersfield, CT

*February 16: "History and Restoration of
Hollywood in Lakeville, CT" —by Helen Ross*

Hollywood, the Italianate mansion in Lakeville, was built in 1853 by Alexander Holley, owner of the Holley Pocketknife Factory. The house was remodeled in 1860.

While periodic updates over the years made for more comfortable living, the essence of an earlier, gracious era has been maintained through judicious restoration. Helen Ross will talk about the history and restoration of this local mansion.



Historic Hollywood in Lakeville

*March 16: "Architectural
Preservation in
Our National Parks"
—by Richard Chilcoat*

Richard Chilcoat serves in the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, the area from Maine to Virginia. He will present an illustrated talk on architecture in our national parks and what is being done there to preserve historic structures.

At Land Trust Properties

Tory Hill

Thanks to those who volunteered in April to dig holes, put in plants, and install deer fencing, the Salisbury Land Trust's Tory Hill property on Route 41, near the Salisbury-Sharon town line, has 40 additional shrubs. The new plants are part of the Trust's ongoing management work to remove invasive species and add native plants that enhance wildlife habitat.

The shrubs selected were winterberry, chokeberry, arrowwood viburnum and cranberry bush. All are excellent for producing berries attractive to birds and small animals. Each has a beautiful display of late spring flowers.

The new shrubs will remain fenced until they grow tall enough to survive deer browsing. Mature height ranges from 8 feet for winterberry to 15 feet for arrowwood viburnum.



Planting shrubs and installing fencing at the Land Trust's Tory Hill property. (Above, left to right) George Massey, Bill Morrill, John and Jaye Landon, and Lou Hecht. (Left) George Massey and Dave Heck.

Pond at the Railroad Ramble

In the past, this lovely pond along the Bike Path had spreading stands of phragmites. Salisbury Land Trust volunteers, with some professional helpers, hand-pulled the phragmites and replaced them with native sedges. Invasive plants growing on the bank, such as Japanese honeysuckle, were replaced with native shrubs and wildflowers. The bench opposite the pond invites the walker or biker to stay awhile and enjoy the tranquil setting.



Schlesinger Bird Preserve

Weather-wise, June 3rd was a perfect morning for the Salisbury Land Trust's 18th annual bird walk at the Schlesinger Bird Preserve.

The Land Trust manages this 20-acre parcel at Scoville Ore Mine Road and Undermountain Road as an early successional habitat favored by some species for breeding and nesting. A successional habitat is transitional, reverting from agricultural fields and overgrown meadows to a landscape with thick ground cover, shrubs and some trees. The Land Trust maintains this habitat through periodic, selective cutting.

Led by knowledgeable guides Tom and Ingrid Schaefer, fifteen birders observed twenty-two species, including the Alder Flycatcher—a first sighting at the preserve. Among other species identified were the Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Barn Swallow, Ovenbird, Yellow Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Chipping Sparrow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk carrying breakfast in its bill.



*Alder
Flycatcher*



Tom Schaefer, at spotting scope, led the Land Trust's annual spring bird walk at the Schlesinger Bird Preserve

Dark Hollow

Becky Belcher, from the Village Store in Salisbury, conducted a hike on the three trails at Dark Hollow: the Summit Trail, Farnum Fields Trail and the Lower Trail. Land Trust manager Tom Key and other volunteers maintain these trails by removing storm debris and reducing the presence of invasive plants.

Heavily forested with large hemlocks and pines, Dark Hollow combines a wilderness quality with easy accessibility from Salisbury village. The preserve's varied terrain has steep rock outcroppings, hayfields and wetlands.

In 2003, aided by a generous contribution from the Benjamin and Nancy Belcher Trust, contributions from 80 major donors and an open space grant from the State of Connecticut, the Salisbury Association Land Trust purchased and protected 123 acres on both sides of Dark Hollow Road. A second purchase of adjacent acres followed, securing additional unspoiled land for the future benefit of the community.



Conserving It and Using It

Landowners are making use of conserved land in a variety of ways consistent with their conservation agreement. Some are involved in an agrarian enterprise, some in an equestrian venture. Others maintain “open space” by conserving meadows, forests, and wetlands from development, protecting important wildlife habitat and scenic vistas. Here’s what three landowners are doing at their conserved land.



Meghan Licata, Barn Manager and Assistant Trainer; photo from Weatogue Stables website

At Weatogue Stables

With 28 horses boarding, Scott and Roxanne Bok’s Weatogue Stables is a busy place. Besides hosting three schooling shows this year, they added a USDF-recognized show (dressage). Head Trainer and Farm Manager Bobbi Carlton rode Kir Royal to capture third place in the National Young Horse Championships. Of special note was the birth of a foal, named Highlight.

At the Boks’ adjacent Twin Lakes Farm, they have chickens, cows, a couple of sheep and goats, and organic vegetables and eggs.

At Hamlet Hill Farm



Peter Findlay talks with Salisbury Land Trust member Elaine Hecht about his plans for raising Hair Sheep

At Lakeville Lake

Mary Silks teamed up with the Salisbury Association Land Trust to conserve most of her Lake Wononscopomuc property. To protect water quality, she created a buffer of native plants along the shore and installed a rain garden—a depression in the land designed to collect runoff and reduce the amount of pollutants and nutrients that wash into the lake.

As these photos show, Mary’s rain garden works well in retaining water, while adding an interesting element to her backyard landscape.



A rain garden, summer and winter views

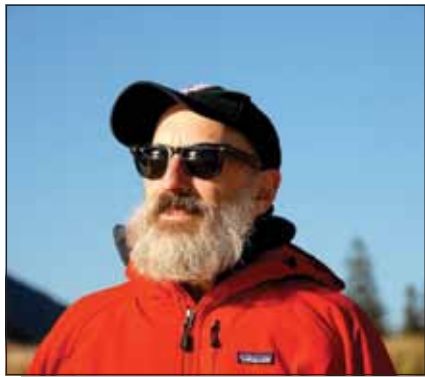
At Peter Findlay’s Hamlet Hill Farm on Prospect Mountain Road the latest project is raising Hair Sheep. True to the name, these sheep grow hair instead of wool; no shearing is needed. The species is less prone to parasites and the meat is known for its mild flavor. His goal is to raise 300 to 400 lambs.

Peter has a special feeling for his land. He sums it up this way: “The time I spend at the farm adds balance to my life.”

Spotlight on People

Land Trust Expands Team

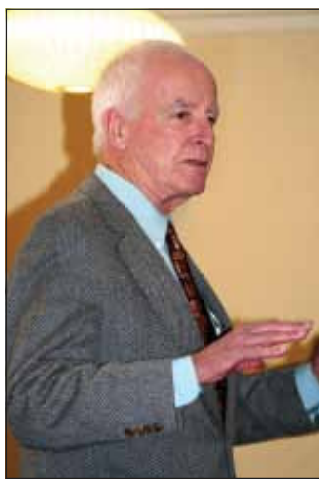
The Salisbury Association Land Trust is pleased to announce that Harry White will serve as a part-time professional in support of the Land Trust's primary mission of land acquisition and stewardship.



Harry holds a Master of Forestry degree from the Yale School of

Forestry and Environmental Studies, with specializations in forest ecosystem health, preserved areas management, and restoration ecology. His work has encompassed acquisitions and outreach to landowners. A lifelong Connecticut resident, Harry has been active in the scientific and stewardship aspects of land preservation in the state since 1990.

Bringing History to the Community



Ron Jones is a leading contributor to the Salisbury Association, serving as a trustee and co-chair of the Historical Society, with Bill Morrill.

Ron's 2008 book, "John and Ethan—A Revolutionary Friendship," describes the construction of the 1762 Salisbury blast furnace

and the early founding of today's Vermont.

Ron was founding chairman of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (2000-2011) and currently serves as its Treasurer. He was a member of the Connecticut Humanities Council for six years.

New Board Member

The Salisbury Association Land Trust is pleased to welcome Tom Quinn as a new board member. Tom brings a strong commitment to "preservation of the rich natural heritage of our town, its environment and critical habitats, and to passing these benefits on to future generations."



Tom has been an active participant in educational and environmental organizations including serving as a trustee of the Hotchkiss School, a board member of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and a former member of the National Real Estate Advisory Board of the Nature Conservancy.

He has a broad range of business experience in investment management.

Tom and his family have owned a home in Salisbury since 1994 and have lived here full-time for the past four years. Their property is protected by a conservation easement.

At the Top of the Mountain



A couple well-known to many in the community, Laura Carlson, Salisbury Association administrator, and Selectman Jim Dresser tied the knot on August 4th in a Mt. Riga ceremony. There were a lot of happy "campers" on the mountain. We wish them all the best.

Housatonic Valley Heritage Area in Full Swing

Thirteen years ago, members of the Salisbury Association helped to achieve Federal designation of the Upper Housatonic Valley as a National Heritage Area. The goal was to preserve and celebrate the region's history, culture and natural heritage. Congress officially designated our region, running from Bulls Bridge to Pittsfield, in October 2006, and provided modest funding. By that time, Housatonic Heritage, the governing body, was up and running.

Walking and Biking Heritage Trails

Today, Housatonic Heritage is active on a range of fronts. Walking and biking heritage trails are being developed, with a recent brochure showing bicycle trails from Kent north to Sheffield. This fall will see the 11th annual Heritage Walk Weekends with more than fifty walks including the October 14th walking tour of Salisbury's Factory Street.

The tour will explore historic sites and show how an industrial landscape has been transformed into today's residential area.

(The tour leaves at 1:00 from the fountain next to Salisbury's Town Hall.)



W.E.B. Du Bois

African-American Heritage Trail

The African-American Heritage Trail has been very successful, with many events and sites including the W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead. Two books have been published, one about the slave Mum Bett who in 1781 sued for and achieved her freedom, and the second about the Civil War "Glory" Regiment of African-American soldiers. More information can be found at the website AfricanAmericanTrail.org.

The Iron Heritage Trail

The Iron Heritage Trail, with its focus at East Canaan's Beckley Furnace, has been working with adults and school children to increase awareness of this special aspect of our regional heritage. Housatonic Heritage, working with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and others, offers an annual graduate-level heritage course for the region's teachers.

These are but a few of Housatonic Heritage's activities. For more information go to: HousatonicHeritage.org. *Ron Jones*



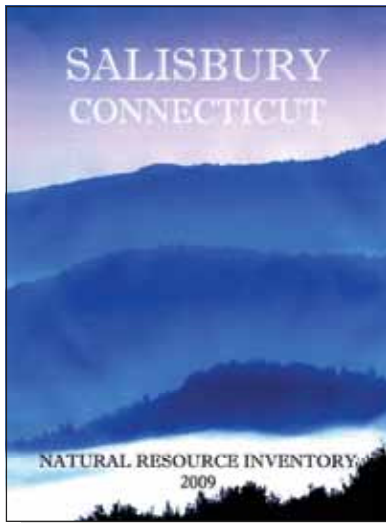
The Beckley Furnace



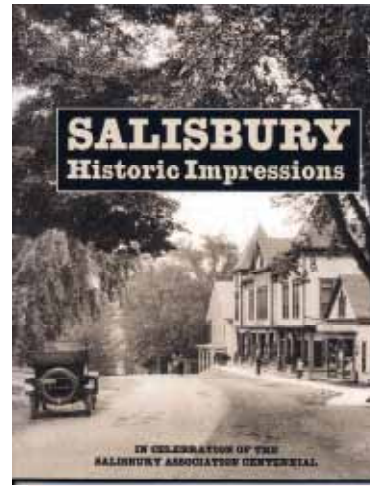
The Grist Mill on Factory Street in Salisbury was still grinding corn for cattle feed into the 1940s

Publications of Local Interest

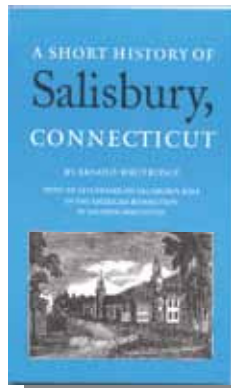
Available at the Academy Building, Salisbury



Salisbury's first **Natural Resource Inventory** of the town's lakes and streams, farmland, forests, critical habitats, historic sites and other natural features, with fold-out resource maps and wildlife data
\$25



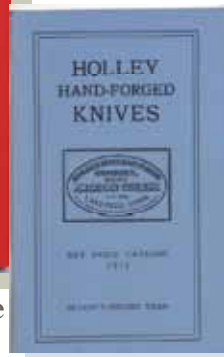
Salisbury—Historic Impressions
A photo reminiscence of the history of the town, shown through archival photos, captions and brief historic accounts
\$25



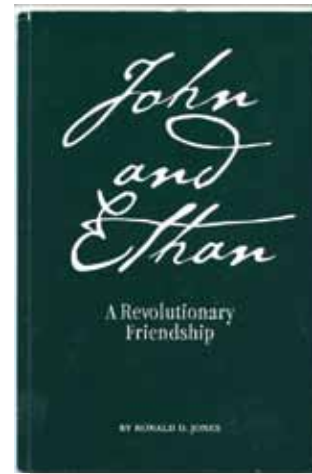
A Short History of Salisbury
\$9



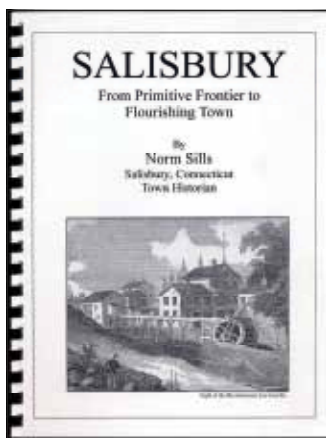
Arsenal of the Revolution
\$15



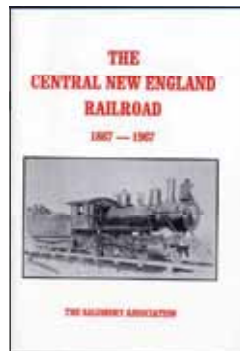
Holly Knives
1915 catalog
\$9



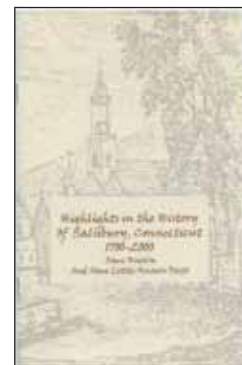
John and Ethan
The story of the key figures who built and operated the Salisbury blast furnace that became known as the "Arsenal of the Revolution"
\$10



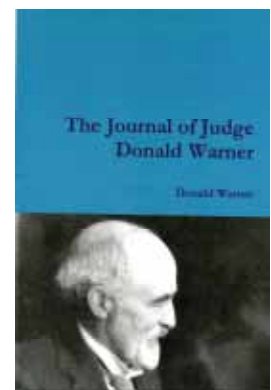
Salisbury: From Primitive Frontier to Flourishing Town
\$20



The Central New England Railroad
1867-1967
\$8



Highlights in the History of Salisbury, Connecticut
1700-2000
\$5



Journal of Judge Donald Warner
His experiences in the last half of the 19th century
\$20

Main Street: Inside and Outside



Second Floor Fixer-Upper

Recent improvements to the second floor of the Academy Building on Main Street in Salisbury have met with positive "reviews." Newly installed storage cabinets and files, computer work stations, improved lighting and larger work surfaces will help the Land Trust and Historical Society with their activities.

The first floor, where the Salisbury Association has its office and exhibit space, is next in line. Plans are being developed for "part two" of an interior upgrade of the Academy.

Sprucing Up Main Street

It was spring, and the Beautification Committee was at it again: dressing up Main Street with seasonal flowers. Volunteers Gloria Miller (photo), Patricia Boyle, Barbara Nicholls, Margie Vail, Beth Keith, Sue Richie, Harriet She-lare and Chany Wells use pansies in the spring, a selection of annuals in the summer and chrysanthemums in the fall. Evergreens are the choice for winter.

"Our biggest supporters are the Salisbury Association and the Town of Salisbury," notes Chany Wells, "and individual residents and merchants respond generously."



The Salisbury Association
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