



Salisbury in the Civil War

The Civil War of 150 years ago, with Americans fighting Americans, affected our country in many ways from war-torn battlegrounds to the small villages that sent their men to war. Salisbury experienced many of these changes.

This summer the Salisbury Historical Society will present an exhibit on life in Salisbury during that historic period. Titled "At Home in Civil War Salisbury," the exhibit draws on documents, diaries and letters to illustrate how the war affected our community.

Many Salisbury men volunteered for the cause, while others remained at home producing the iron and other products necessary for the war effort. With so many men away, Salisbury women came to the fore, playing significant roles in keeping things running. All these changes impacted daily life as people met new challenges, made new friends and maintained a regular correspondence, eagerly awaited, with soldiers on the front.

Men in the field sent letters too, describing military life, its action and subsequent boredom, and asking for local news and packages of food, as evident in this letter: "I wish I could see you one day coming into camp with a big bag of apples. I would give you all the hardtack and salt buds you could eat to pay for it."

This summer's "home front" exhibit will be followed by another in summer 2013 on the experiences of Salisbury soldiers during the war.



Who Went off to War?

How did the Salisbury men leave their homes? They left by school district. Little Asylum District had about twenty houses within its limits; every house but four sent a boy to the war. They left by families. Elias and Harriet Frink sent seven stalwart sons to the army. They left by generations. Charles H. Ball served in the 2nd Heavies; his father, Harvey Ball, and his grandfather, Whiting Ayres, were in the 28th Conn. Of the eighteen men in the 17th Conn. who left from this town, ten were boys from farms, three were clerks, two were knife makers, one a teacher, one a carpenter and one a miner.

From Salisbury in War Time, an address given at Salisbury CT, May 30, 1910 by Thomas Lot Norton.

Notes from the Annual Meeting

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The Salisbury Association's annual meeting--this year on Saturday, January 14, at Town Hall--is always an opportunity for the public to meet the trustees, hear a review of the previous year's activities, and learn about plans for the new year.

In opening remarks, president Dave Heck discussed improvements that the Association is making to interior portions of the Academy Building to increase storage and office space and create a conference area. (See back cover.)

Treasurer Joel Cohen presented the financial report for 2011, noting that Association expenses are covered by a combination of contributions and funding from endowments.

Starting with the Land Trust, the three principal committees summarized their accomplishments for the preceding year. Land Trust activities included interaction with landowners interested in conservation protection of their land; land management at Tory Hill, Dark Hollow, Railroad Ramble pond, and Schlesinger Bird Preserve; awarding of \$2000 in grants for

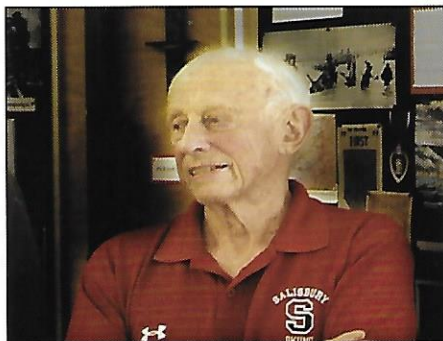
environmental education programs at Salisbury Central School; and celebration of the Land Trust's 35th anniversary with a well-attended photo exhibit on Salisbury's natural beauty.

The Historical Society noted these highlights for 2011: a photo exhibit on Judge Donald T. Warner, accompanied by publication of his memoir; two guided bus tours of historic Taconic and Twin Lakes; an exhibit on Salisbury's public schools; and sponsorship of two popular lecture series: Heritage Talks and Era of Elegance. Calling itself a "participant society," the Historical Society encourages public involvement in all aspects of its work.

Looking back at last year, the Civic Activities Committee identified the following projects: hosting the annual Victorian Christmas Concert to a sold-out audience; organizing the July 4th celebration at the Town Grove; financing improvements at the Town Grove through the Toulum Fund, and subsidizing plantings and tree care through the Powell Fund.

A Special Guy

Carl Williams, known and loved by so many for his lively personality and deep engagement in town activities, was a long-time member of the Salisbury Association Board of Trustees (1996 – 2012). His pragmatism, creativity and sense of humor made him a valued, trusted, and respected participant.



Carl's voice, easily heard without technological amplification, was used to advantage on the many occasions he MC'd the July 4th picnic at the Town Grove.

Establishing affordable housing in Town was important to him. He was a charter member of the Salisbury Housing Trust board, served as treasurer and was one of the strongest advocates.

Carl was also a creative problem solver. When the Association's Board of Trustees was wrestling with how to divest the Association of the financially draining Holley Williams House, Carl (humorously) recommended removing the lightning rods. He had a funny answer for everything and a way of lightening the load in difficult situations.

We will all miss him greatly and in countless ways.

Land Trust Programs for Junior Naturalists

Where is the next generation of conservationists coming from?

Attitudes towards conservation often result from early experience with nature. To this end, the Salisbury Land Trust has been funding environmental education for Salisbury Central School students for over fifteen years, developing an understanding and appreciation of the natural world—its habitats and the species that depend on them. Among the varied programs offered are Pond Exploration, Live Animals, Insect Investigations, Trees are Terrific, Nature Discovery Walk, Maple Sugaring, Soils, and Wings and Bills.

The teachers select programs that meet state education objectives for their grade level, then a provider, like Sharon Audubon's excellent staff, implements the programs either at their 1200-acre sanctuary or at the school.

The Land Trust receives a short evaluation report, often accompanied by enthusiastic letters, work samples or photos, as shown here.



(Lower photos) Audubon's Wendy Miller presenting the "Soils" and "Birds of Prey" programs.

History and Art Talks for 2012

Again this year the Salisbury Historical Society has developed an extensive list of interesting Heritage Talks and Era of Elegance lectures conducted by knowledgeable speakers. Co-sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library, the programs are scheduled for selected Saturday afternoons at 4:00 in the library's Wardell Room.

The 2012 calendar of events listing talks and exhibits was mailed out to all households in town. The information is also available on our website: salisburyassn.org.

Following is a brief description of several of these talks, some already presented, others still to come.

January 28: Interior and Exterior Architecture 1750-1860

Presented by Geoffrey Rosanno and Chris Brennan

The first of four Era of Elegance III decorative arts lectures for 2012, this program explored the impact of European architecture and interior furnishings on the architecture of young Salisbury and New England.

Geoff Rosanno, Salisbury School faculty member and author, and Chris Brennan, interior designer with 25 years of experience in historic renovation, walked the standing-room-only audience through a range of styles--Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and others--that influenced the architecture and interior space of local houses.

February 25: Style, Truth and the Portrait in the Age of Elegance

Presented by Richard Boyle

The program opened with American portrait painting from ca. 1760 to 1860, what the speaker calls the "first phase," with portraits by John Singleton Copley, Benjamin West and Gilbert Stuart, culminating with the work of Thomas Sully. Next came paintings by John Singer Sargent and Mary Cassatt, representative of the "second phase," with elegant portraits of the great American industrialists of the 19th century period just before World War I.

As the program title indicates, the speaker explores the meaning of "truth" and "style" as they apply to the portrait and poses the question, "What makes a great portrait?"



March 17: The

Presented by L

In a New England dominated by protestant heritage, the early-to-mid 19th century brought Irish refugees to the area due to famine and the railroad industry. The communities they founded and other North towns caused the ties did they find

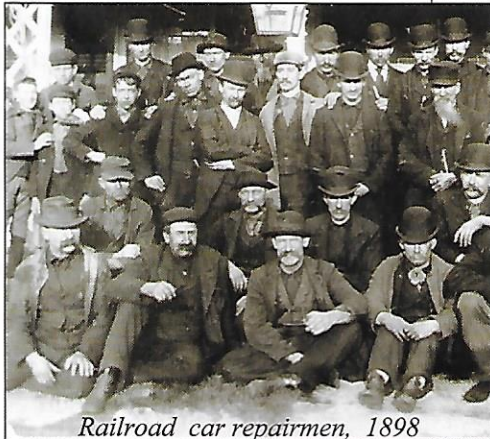


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What is their legacy in Salisbury?



Railroad car repairmen, 1898

April 14: The History and Mystery of Bagpipes Presented by Lee Collins

Lee Collins will describe the lore of the bagpipes and explain how highland pipes are made, tuned and played.

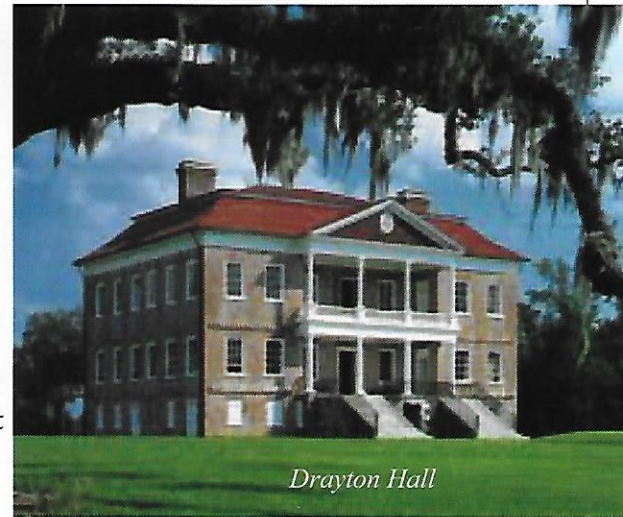
Since the volume of pipes is at one level — loud — they are best enjoyed outdoors. It is hoped that April weather will allow a short preliminary presentation outside. In any case, come prepared to be impressed by the intricate and demanding music produced by one of the most primitive instruments in use today.

April 28: The Americanization of Andrea Palladio Presented by Richard Boyle

The legendary 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio was one of the most influential architects of all time, particularly on the development of Anglo-American architectural style in the eighteenth and early 19th centuries. Palladio's elegant and disciplined classical style had a tremendous impact on American domestic architecture during its age of elegance in the Colonial and Federal periods of our history.

This illustrated lecture starts with brief background on the career of Andrea Palladio (1508-1580) and uses signature buildings, such as the *Villa Rotunda* and others in the Veneto and nearby Vicenza, to trace his influence—first in Britain, with the famous “villa” at *Chiswick*— and later in the United States. It is here, through the use of iconic buildings such as *Drayton Hall*

near Charleston, South Carolina, Peter Harrison's *Redwood Library* in Newport, Rhode Island, and, of course, Jefferson's *Monticello* at Charlottesville, Virginia, that the main thrust of the lecture will be concentrated.



Drayton Hall

What's Coming This Fall?

Two more Heritage Talks are planned for fall 2012. Read about them in the next Newsletter.

October 20: Three Distinctive, Divisive Visitors to Litchfield: Aaron Burr, William Franklin, and John C. Calhoun — presented by Tom Key

November 17: The Generals of Gettysburg: The Untold Stories — presented by David Ward

A Mystery Solved

The portrait of John C. Coffing currently hanging in the Academy Building has a companion portrait (whereabouts unknown) of Maria, his wife. We have a photograph of the Maria portrait showing the image of a black woman standing behind her. Who is she?

In December 2011, Salisbury resident Charles Keil, a grandson of Malcolm Day Rudd, brought a number of boxes of Rudd family papers to the History Room. Included were family pictures, among which was a

photo labeled "Jane E. Wilson, servant of Mrs. John C. Coffing for over forty years." Jane had come to live with Mrs. Coffing at age five, when her parents died. Matching Jane's photo with the image in the painting revealed that they were the same person. Thanks to a gift from the Rudd family, we now know who the "mystery" person is. What we don't know, however, is where Maria Coffing's portrait is. Does some museum have it in its collection, or is it privately owned?



(Left) John Churchill Coffing (1776-1847); (right) his wife Maria Birch Coffing (1782-1865); (center) Jane E. Winslow, servant of Mrs. John C. Coffing

2011 Gifts to the History Room

The History Room at Scoville Memorial Library holds an extensive collection of materials relating to Salisbury's history and genealogical information going back to the beginnings of the town. The collection comprises items given to the Town Historian and/or to the Salisbury Association. These materials are kept secure but made available for research by contacting the Town Historian Katherine Chilcoat at salisburyhistorian@yahoo.com or by leaving a phone message at 860-435-1287. Donations to the collection are always welcome.

- ♦ **Set of 1899 Sanford maps of Salisbury**, donated by David and Nancy Bayersdorfer.
- ♦ **Disc of 1964-67 pictures of the Children's Colony International Map**, from the Cedars Country Club, given by Marcia Yarnell Dodson.

- ♦ **Thirty-seven 4" x 5" glass negatives of the Rudd family, 1895-1910**, donated by Priscilla Rudd Wolf.
- ♦ **Personal papers relating to The Institute of World Affairs, 1970s**, given by Charles Cook.
- ♦ **Large collection of Norton family papers** from the estate of Mrs. Lou Burgess.
- ♦ **Salisbury-related materials** from the estate of Thomas McGivern.
- ♦ **Hotchkiss School Library donation** of de-accessioned Salisbury items.
- ♦ **Large collection of Rudd family diaries, journals, pictures and genealogical materials**, donated by Charles Keil. (See article above.)

Katherine Chilcoat, Town Historian

Promoting Civic Engagement

The Civic Activities Committee is looking for ways to expand its activities which, traditionally, have focused on the Fourth of July picnic, the Victorian Christmas Concert, and enhancement of the landscape at the Town Grove. Engagement with our local schools provides another opportunity.

Tapping into his 34 years of teaching social studies at HVRHS, Dave Bayersdorfer recently conducted a civics class for Salisbury Central 8th graders. The topic was rights and responsibilities. He found the students very well informed and interested in exploring town issues.

We welcome ideas to help promote civic involvement.

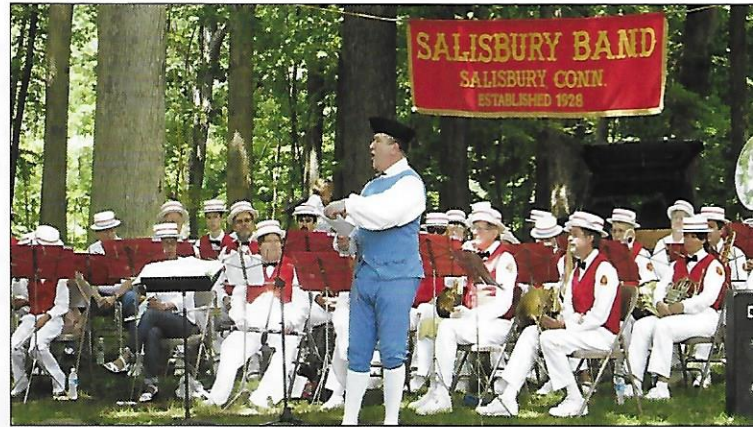
Where There's a Will, There's a Way

The Salisbury Association is a nonprofit volunteer organization founded in 1902 "to further the best interests of the town and to protect its natural attractions."

Annual dues and contributions help the Association meet its ongoing expenses. However, major projects, such as those undertaken by the Salisbury Land Trust, may require funding from the Association's endowments. The Historical Society and Civic Activities Committees are also aided by endowments.

Building these endowments through a planned-giving program is an important objective to ensure that Salisbury's quality of life will be here for future generations. Over the years, the Association has received gifts, such as the Toulmin Fund, established as an endowment through a bequest, to maintain and improve facilities at the Town Grove, and the Powell Fund, to provide for plantings and tree care in town.

Please consider helping the Association fulfill its broad mission. Your generosity can be expressed through a provision in your will using words like the following: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$ to the Salisbury Association to be added to its endowments and used by the trustees of the Association to preserve the quality of life in the Town of Salisbury." This wording allows for flexibility in how the funds may be used, but donors can be more specific in targeting the use of their legacy, if they so choose. *Rusty Chandler*



*The Salisbury Association sponsors the July 4th celebration:
Lou Bucci reading the Declaration of Independence.*

President's Message

Eagle-eyed readers will note on the bottom of page 2, in small print, the creators of the Salisbury Association Newsletter, Elaine and Lou Hecht. In addition to their Land Trust work, Lou and Elaine spend countless hours gathering news items, editing, writing, designing and publishing what has become the most recognizable, town-wide, face of the Association. We all want to thank them for their hard work, good humor, and dedication in behalf of the Salisbury Association and the community.

Dave Heck

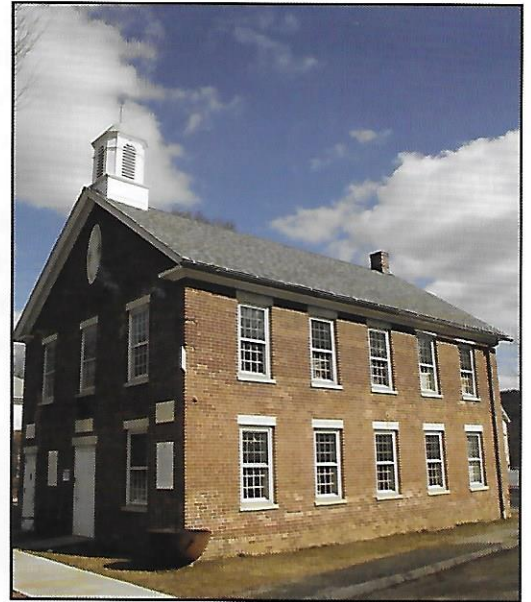
An Inside Job

The historic Academy Building at the corner of Main and Academy Streets in Salisbury village serves as the Salisbury Association's office and exhibit space. Plans are in effect to upgrade the interior of the building, starting with the second floor, to create much-needed storage and a conference area. The exterior of the building will not be affected.

A committee was formed to address the storage and work needs of the Association's office and principal committees—Land Trust, Historical Society, and Civic Activities. Comprehensive plans were prepared. Chris Brennan, an interior designer with extensive experience in historic renovation, is overseeing the project.

On the second level, wooden storage cabinets with work stations and computer hook-ups are being added, along with flat storage for maps and fragile documents, a bookcase, closets for safe-keeping of artifacts, and a conference table. Cabinetry and painting will be completed soon, a carpet installed, and new "schoolhouse" style lights hung, adding to the considerable natural light that the second floor enjoys.

Plans for the first floor are yet to be developed. It is anticipated that the linoleum will be removed to expose the wide-board flooring. The existing office space will be reconfigured to enhance efficiency, resulting, perhaps, in additional space for exhibitions.



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