



Salisbury Association

Serving Our Community Since 1902.

Land Trust

Historical Society

Community Events

SPRING

2022



Salisbury Association Acquires Farnam Tavern Sign

The Salisbury Association has added an important artifact to its historical collection - the tavern sign which hung for many years outside the Farnam Tavern in Lakeville.

Tavern signs have become desirable collectors' items. The Farnam sign measures 40 by 30 inches and was attached by iron brackets. It gives the date 1795, which was when Peter Farnam's farmhouse, likely to have been built around 1730, was transformed into a hotel and became a stage stop between Albany and Boston. Farnam was a prominent citizen who served as a Selectman and ran the local post office. The sign depicts an elegantly dressed gentleman, undoubtedly advertising the kind of clientele the tavern wished to attract. The Farnam sign is unsigned and the painter unknown. Its actual age is also unknown although the sign appears in early 20th century photos.

Peter Farnam's original inn offered meals and rooms on the first floor, while the second story consisted of a large barrel-vaulted room used for dances and other gatherings. The tap room was a place for political discussion in the early national period. The building was sold several times throughout the 19th century. It continued to host a tavern but also served as a jail, and during the 1870's housed Miss Weed's School for Girls. The Perry family purchased the building in 1893 and ran it as a hotel and tavern until 1930.



Advertising the latest in accommodations, including hot and cold running water, a reliable heating system, and good New England cooking, the inn offered rates of \$4.50 per day for room, meals, and a shared bath. Not only Hotchkiss parents, but a number of notables stayed there, like actor Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., playwright Archibald MacLeish, and violinist Fritz Kreisler.

After being shuttered during the 1930s and opened again briefly in the 1940s, the inn was sold in 1953 to two couples, the Allens and the Duffys, who tried to restore its historic authenticity and insure its viability as a long-term business. They created a homelike atmosphere with colonial charm which proved

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Salisbury Association Launches a New Website

“It is a treasure!” was the opinion of one supporter after exploring our new website launched mid-February. To be sure, it contains a wealth of information about the Salisbury Association, but it also shines a very bright light on our town.

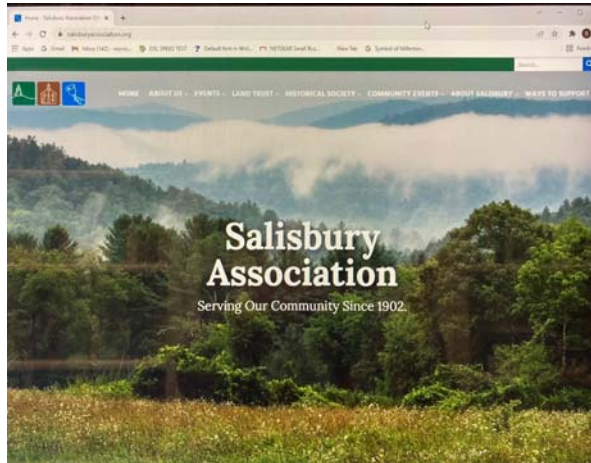
The new site provides an historical overview of Salisbury, why the Association was founded, how it evolved to meet changing needs of the community, and what it is and does today. Extensively researched and filled with hundreds of photographs, the website reflects the scope and breadth of the organization in a tangible and lively way. The new website has a user-friendly format that is easy to navigate and can be found at our old address: www.salisburyassociation.org.

Founded in 1902 to promote the best interests of the town and to protect its natural attractions, the Association continues

to be guided by those founding principles. Today, pursuit of its mission is conducted through three major committees: the Land Trust, Historical Society and Community Events, a three-in-one structure that is unique among New England towns. Besides sections on the organization and each of its three committees, the website includes a key segment *About Salisbury* that describes the town today and includes suggestions of fun things

to do. Importantly, it also highlights more than 280 years of Salisbury’s illustrious history and the geology that gave rise to the town, sustained it as times changed, and produced its extraordinary landscape.

The new website took over a year to produce and was a collaboration of Association trustees Sarah Morrison, Cynthia Walsh, and Jeanette Weber with Rocco Botto, a website designer in West Cornwall, CT.



SA Celebrates Salisbury Olympians

The Salisbury Association celebrated the 2022 Winter Olympics and the town’s two weekends of championship ski jumping in February by mounting a special exhibit, *Salisbury’s Olympians*. The exhibit showcased the Norwegians who introduced ski jumping to Salisbury in the 1920s-30s. They were world-class Nordic sports champions and Olympians as well as talented instructors. They taught and trained local youngsters who followed in their tracks and became the next generations of champions and Olympians.

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Tom Zetterstrom beside photos of his father, Olle Zetterstrom, who competed in the cross-country team in the 1932 Lake Placid III Olympics.

Photo by Sarah Morrison



SA Land Conservation in Lime Rock

Lime Rock Village and Lime Rock Park in southeastern Salisbury are on the National Register of Historic Places – the village as a former industrial center and the park as the country’s third-oldest continuously operating road racing venue.

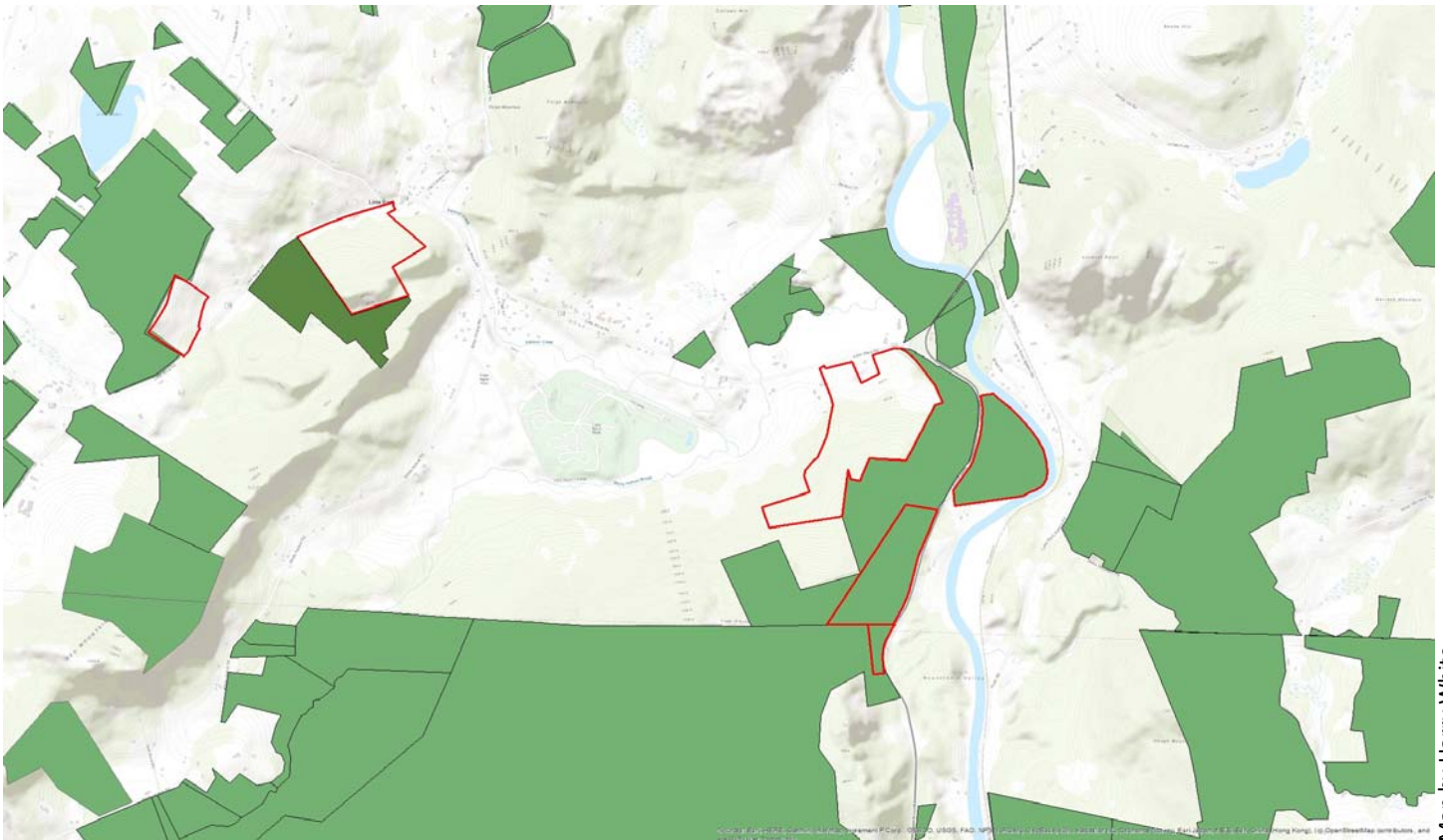
Lime Rock has not been noted for its natural areas, but that is changing. Since the days of the iron industry, Lime Rock’s forests have re-grown. Salmon Kill and its tributaries flow through Lime Rock to the Housatonic River. The state’s Natural Diversity Database shows that rare species of plants and animals depend on Lime Rock’s forests and waterways. Lime Rock sits at the northern edge of the 5400-acre Sharon Mountain forest block.

Land conservation in the Lime Rock area is recognizing the area’s high conservation

value. The original Appalachian Trail, blazed in the 1930s, bypassed Lime Rock, but in the 1980s, the U.S. government acquired land to the west of the Housatonic River and rerouted the trail to pass straight through Lime Rock. In 2014, SA acquired 38-acre Sycamore Field, and in 2017, Carolyn Iu donated the 25-acre Mitchell Shostak Preserve. Together, these preserves link the AT corridor to Route 7 and the Housatonic River. In 2020, Raymond Learsy expanded Sycamore Field with his donation of two acres on the Housatonic River to the north of the preserve.

Currently, SA is working on three additional projects in Lime Rock. We are close to closing on 114 acres on Sharon Mountain between the AT corridor and Lime Rock Park, thanks to generous donations by individuals and

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Map by Harry White

Protected parcels in and around Lime Rock are in green, Sycamore Field and Shostak preserves are green with red outline, and SA’s three current projects are in red outline.

Many Thanks to Our Contributors to the Salisbury Association - 2021

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SA Seeks Accreditation Renewal

The Salisbury Association is applying for renewal of accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This accreditation program recognizes organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. SA was first accredited in 2017. The Commission invites public input and accepts comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Salisbury Association complies with national quality standards for ethical and technical operation. To learn more and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment 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) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on the Salisbury Association's application will be most useful by July 1, 2022.



Katherine Chilcoat Receives SA's 1741 Award



Photo by B Docktor

Katherine Chilcoat

In October, the Salisbury Association presented its 1741 Award to Katherine Chilcoat in recognition of her many years of service to the Town of Salisbury. Katherine served as Town Historian from 2005-2014. She is the Curator for SA's collections and has researched and organized countless fascinating exhibits about our town's history. With Jean McMillen, Katherine wrote a series of popular columns about Salisbury history called Town Tidbits for the *Lakeville Journal*. This is the first 1741 award presented to an individual (the first to an organization was awarded to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service). SA established the award to honor individuals and organizations who provide outstanding service to our community as shown by our early settlers. 1741 was the year Salisbury received its charter from the Hartford Colony.

Salisbury Association Trustees

President: Jeanette Weber, Vice President: Chris Brennan, Secretary: Laura Carlson, Treasurer: Cynthia Walsh, Joel Cohen, Judy Gafney, Peter Kent, George Massey, Roger McKee, Gloria Miller, Sarah Morrison, Diane Fitzmyer Murphy, Dick Paddock, Matthew Pearson, Rich Reifsnnyder, Abeth Slotnick, Linda Yowell.

Farnam Tavern Sign... from page 1

popular. Sadly, an electrical fire in February 1962 did major damage and closed the inn for two years. Finally the owners sold the inn to Fred Miles, who turned the building into an eight-unit "Farnam Apartments"

which it remains now.

Plans are being made to hang the sign, which was secured through auction, in a location visible and accessible to the public.

Salisbury Olympians... from page 2

Ski jumping and Nordic sports are a unique part of Salisbury's heritage. John Satre Memorial Hill has had numerous connections to Olympians, past and present, for nearly a century, and it plays an important role in the development of our Olympians of tomorrow.

Roy Sherwood was one of Salisbury's homegrown ski-jumping champions and Olympians. On display was some of his 1956 Olympic memorabilia generously donated to the Association in 2019 by his daughters,

Kim Sherwood and Merrilee Sherwood Alexander. Tom Zetterstrom, son of Olympian Olle Zetterstrom, also loaned us some of his father's memorabilia from the 1932 III Olympics held in Lake Placid. The exhibit was on view at the Academy Building and also in the form of posters mounted on trees along the road leading to Satre Hill where visitors learned more about Salisbury's Olympians.

Land Conservation... from page 3

funding from the State of Connecticut, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation. We are working to acquire 50 acres between the Town's Wack Forest preserve and the Lime Rock Village Historic District, for which we have applied for a state grant and have already received funds from the Bates Foundation. Right across Route 112 from Wack Forest, Bonnie Cuneo is in the process of donating a lovely 15-acre parcel to SA.

These lands will be preserved as open space. SA will create new trails for public enjoyment. The forests, fields, and streams will continue to shelter wildlife, offer beautiful vistas, and sequester carbon. The new preserves will contribute to conservation and connectivity of Lime Rock's forests, wildlife habitat, and waterways, while providing more quality outdoor opportunities for passive recreation, complementing the historic charm and rural character of the Lime Rock area.

Contact the Salisbury Association:

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24 Main Street • PO Box 553 • Salisbury, CT 06068

Facebook: The Salisbury Association • Web: www.salisburyassociation.org

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Salisbury Association

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After a two-year pandemic hiatus, SA plans to again present Independence Day at the Town Grove. We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events

April / Photo exhibit of Salisbury's Essential Workers.

April 28-29 / Troutbeck Symposium: **Coloring Our Past**. Area students present their research on local Black history, slavery, the civil rights movement and the Harlem Renaissance. A collaboration of local schools, the SA Historical Society, Town Historian, Scoville Memorial Library, Noble Horizons and Troutbeck Resort in Amenia, NY. In May, the student work will be on display at the Academy Building.

April 30 at 9 a.m. / **Volunteer Day**. Come out and help the Salisbury Association Land Trust clean up and maintain our trails and properties. Meet at the Academy Building.

May 2022 / Academy Building Exhibit: **Coloring Our Past**, student work investigating Black history, slavery and the civil rights movement.

May 8 at 8 a.m. / **Annual Bird Walk** at Schlesinger Bird Preserve. Meet at the Preserve entrance on Scoville Ore Mine Road near Route 41.

June 4 at 9 a.m. / **Connecticut Trails Day Hike**. Explore the Pope Preserve. Meet at the entrance on Route 44 next to Lions Head Condominiums.

Summer 2022 / **Walking Tours** of historic Lakeville and Salisbury by members of the Historical Society

Summer 2022 / Academy Building Exhibit: **Come Into the Forest**.

July 4 / **Annual Independence Day Celebration** at the Town Grove.

August 2022 / Academy Building Exhibit: **Celebrating 125 Years of the Lakeville Journal**.



Salisbury Association
Land Trust
Conserving Our Land.



Salisbury Association
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Celebrating 125 Years of Our Past



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