



SALISBURY ASSOCIATION

TOM'S HILL PERSERVED FOR THE FUTURE



Tom's Hill as seen from the lake

The first of the 500 acres near the Twin Lakes listed for sale by Robert Boyett in 2023 is now preserved. In August the Salisbury Association closed on the purchase of the 277-acre Tom's Hill. The State of Connecticut holds a conservation easement over the property.

Tom's Hill is extraordinary. It is scenic from many directions but especially from Lake Washing (East Twin Lake). Its wetlands and streams provide pure water to the lake and to the Housatonic River.

It provides high quality habitat for wildlife including 13 state-listed species of plants and animals. It adjoins other protected land, providing a protective corridor for wildlife.

The Salisbury Association is working on a hiking trail for the public to enjoy, that will let people immerse themselves in nature and enjoy spectacular views from the heights.

The Salisbury Association is working with similar groups to preserve the other large Salisbury property that went on the market at the same time as Tom's Hill. Miles Mountain comprises 224 acres overlooking Weatogue Road and the Housatonic River. Fundraising is well underway, so stay tuned!

The Salisbury Association extends heartfelt thanks to the many who helped us with the purchase:

- Eleven residents of the Twin Lakes area formed SLH Holdings, LLC to act as a conservation buyer. It quickly bought Tom's Hill and agreed to sell the property to the Salisbury Association for the price it paid, once funding was secured.
- Eight Connecticut and Massachusetts conservation organizations, which worked together as the Cooper Hill Alliance and developed strategies to preserve the Boyett lands, in Salisbury and in Massachusetts.
- Two governments which provided major funding: the State of Connecticut, with an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, with Highlands Act funding.
- Four other organizations which provided financing: the Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.
- Individuals and organizations who donated time and money and wrote letters of support for the grants.



Tom's Hill future trail



ACADEMY BUILDING REFRESH

The newly conserved Holley pocketknife collection, set inside its refurbished black walnut display case, was scheduled to return to the Academy Building last year after a nearly two-year restoration process. But no one wanted to return it to its former home in an obscure corner of the Academy Building.

At the same time, the Salisbury Association Land Trust (SALT) was looking for a location to display the Salisbury Open Space Map and offer trail maps and brochures to visitors. Was there a way to give the pocketknife display a place of prominence, provide SALT with a permanent display space of its own, and showcase the rest of the SA's permanent collections in a fresh and illuminating way, all in one swoop?

Enter Chris Pouler. A designer of exhibits and television news sets by trade, Chris is the husband of Trustee Abeth Slotnick. He was approached about creating an exhibit design that would make better use of the first floor space and provide a more cohesive arrangement of the artifacts, paintings and explanatory texts that describe them. He generously agreed to provide pro-bono design services.

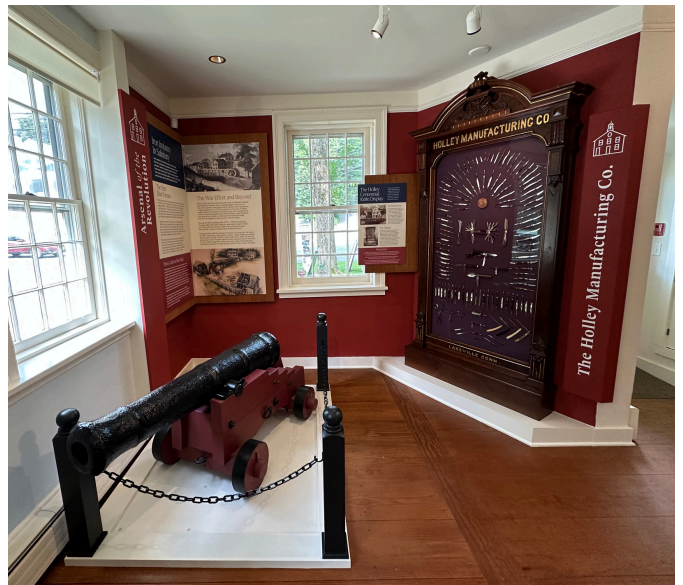
Working with Chris through several iterations of different layout possibilities, it was determined that a new diagonal wall in the front of the building could be created for the pocketknife case. In addition, themes were created for four new focus areas – Arsenal of the Revolution, The Holley Manufacturing Company, Land Trust, Industry in Salisbury – and a sense of place was established for each. Objects, images and interpretive text were then incorporated into the design of the unique display areas.

The Coffing family portraits were given more space with the intriguing story of Jane (Jennie) Winslow, a free Black person whose image appears in the Maria Birch Coffing portrait, made more prominent. Adjacent to the Coffing portraits, the 300+ year-old Hollister Family Chair now has a statelier position on its own new platform.

In addition to the several Trustees who worked on this project, our thanks are extended to the following individuals who provided their valuable services: Chris Pouler—exhibit design, James Clark—graphics layouts, Duane Jones—installation of new wall, Mark and Matt Shaggy—construction of wall panels, Carrie Babigian—custom fabrication of cherry display rack, Cory Wiggins—painting, and Ghi Sign—printing of graphics and text panels.



Academy Building work in process



Cannon and Holley manufacturing display completed

Join Us!

SEPT 13

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4-6PM

The Salisbury Association invites the community to an Open House on September 13, from 4-6 pm. Visitors can explore the wealth of interesting artifacts, stories and information in a fresh, new environment at the Academy Building.



LAND TRUST

NEW TRAILHEAD KIOSKS WELCOME VISITORS AT SIX SALT PRESERVES

Over the past four months, The Salisbury Association Land Trust (SALT) has completed the installation of kiosks at six of its protected conservation properties—at the Pope, Schlessinger, Hecht, Belter-Lime Rock, Yoakum, and Tom's Hill trailheads. Each has a site map, trail information, and user guidelines that together unify and celebrate SALT's public trail network.

The project marks a milestone in creating public access improvements that reflect a consistent identity for SALT around shared core values of protecting open space, environmental stewardship, and outdoor activity. Construction of the kiosks was funded by a generous grant from Athletic Brewing Co., which brews non-alcoholic beer in Milford, CT. Greenagers constructed the kiosks. Located in Sheffield, MA, Greenagers engages teens and young adults in a variety of natural resource management work in the region.

For over 45 years, SALT has been responsible for the ongoing stewardship of donated and purchased properties that are accessible to the public—from open fields to “forever wild” woodlands. We are especially pleased that today more Salisbury residents than ever are working with us on new opportunities to preserve the rural character of our town.

If you would like to donate land or place a conservation easement on property you own, please contact us at 860-435-0566 or info@salisburyassociation.org. In addition, we have trail work days from time to time, announced through an eblast or on social media. Please join us!



Yoakum Preserve kiosk



Use this QR code
check out trail maps
on our website



Belter-Lime Rock kiosk



FOURTH OF JULY

In 1781 Massachusetts became the first state to declare July 4th a holiday. It was not until 1870 that Congress declared Independence Day on July 4th as a Federal holiday. In the earliest days of the Republic Independence Day was not much celebrated. After the War of 1812, celebrations in Connecticut became exuberant. Starting in the late in the day on July 3rd and continuing through the night into the 4th, loud, boisterous observance included cannon, firecrackers, small arms fire, church bells and bonfires. The general public found the cacophony intolerable.

Evidently the complaints became as loud as the din. In 1885 the Connecticut State Legislature passed a law to limit the racket to more reasonable hours. The penalty for breaking the law was a \$5 fine.



Fourth of July at the Grove

Today what local Independence Day celebrations lack in cannon is made up by its observance at the Town Grove. A favorite community event, sponsored by the Salisbury Association for the past 49 years, it features picnicking, swimming, a concert by the Salisbury Band and the reading of the Declaration of Independence. This year an estimated 1,100 people attended the celebration, enjoying the lovely weather—sunshine, blue skies and low humidity, a sparkling lake—and festivities. It was, as an 1986 report of the Fourth termed it, a perfect “Lakeville Day.”





THANKS TO JEANETTE!

In August the Salisbury Association dedicated a bench at the Vincent Preserve in honor of Jeanette Weber's presidency. During her term, 2021 – 2025, Jeanette elevated the SA's profile in the community, encouraging more exhibits, receptions, events co-sponsored with the Scoville Memorial Library, increased publicity in The Lakeville Journal, a new website, increased presence on social media, an Advisory Committee, donor thank-you parties, working with other local non-profits. The list goes on. The Association accomplished so much in the 4 years she was president. Many thanks to Jeanette for her drive, guidance and optimism!



The Salisbury Association gathers for the bench dedication



Vincent Preserve

PERRY STREET TREES

The Salisbury Association has donated \$1,425 to the Salisbury Housing Trust to plant trees at the two newly built Perry Street homes in Lakeville. The money comes from the Powell Fund which was established by Florence Taylor Powell in 1987 to preserve the scenic value of Salisbury by the planting of trees.

UPCOMING SALISBURY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

AUG 29 Purses and Accessories from the Costume Exhibit. On display at the Academy Building through Fall Festival weekend

SEPT 6 Housatonic Heritage Walk* at Dark Hallow with Tom Key of the Salisbury Association's Land Trust — 9AM

SEPT 7 Housatonic Heritage Walk* in Amesville with Lou Bucceri of the Salisbury Association's Historical Society — 12PM

SEPT 13 Open House to celebrate the Academy Building's refresh — 4-6PM

SEPT 21 Housatonic Heritage Walk* in Amesville with Lou Bucceri of the Salisbury Association's Historical Society — 12PM

OCT 11 - 13 Fall Festival

OCT 11 Salisbury Reads: *Revolution Song*, by Russell Shorto
Co-sponsored with the Scoville Memorial Library

OCT 18 "Schaghticoke: Stories of Survival". Sharon Town Hall — 1PM
Co-sponsored with the Sharon Land Trust

DEC 6 Holiday concert at the Congregational Church. — 4PM

DEC Puppet show. Date TBD

JAN / FEB Exhibit to celebrate SWSA's 100 years. In the Academy Building.
Opening date TBD



SAVE ME FOR
A FUN YEAR OF
EVENTS!

*For more information on the Housatonic Heritage Walks see:
<https://housatonicheritage.org/heritage-experiences/heritage-walks/>



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATION'S FOUNDING

The Salisbury Association is partnering with the Town and other local organizations to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary next year. A preliminary schedule:

Beginning at the Fall Festival, 2025: Co-sponsoring Salisbury Reads *Revolution Song* by Russell Shorto, with the Scoville Memorial Library

Through the fall and into the spring: the Library will present programs inspired by the book

- **Author talks:**
 - Russell Shorto, author of *Revolution Song* (March 2026)
 - Peter Vermilyea on his new book on Litchfield and the Revolutionary War (April 2026)
 - Adam Ward Rome, author of *Connecticut's Cannon: the Salisbury furnace in the American Revolution* (May 2026)
 - Thomas Shachtman on *How the French Saved America* (date TBD)

Revolutionary War re-enactors: Sheldon's Light Horse will lead the charge at a date next year TBD

- Music** (in the spring, dates TBD):
- The Salisbury Band will perform period music
 - Salisbury School students will present songs from "Hamilton"

Exhibit: Recreation in the Academy Building of the Cannon Museum from the Holley Williams House

Self-guided Walking tour of Furnace Village (aka Lakeville)

July Fourth at the Grove

HEADING TO NEW YORK

The Salisbury Association is excited that its unique painting "Maria Birch Coffing with Jane E. Winslow" is heading to the Big Apple. The Association has agreed to lend the portrait to the American Folk Art Museum in New York City for their exhibit *Locating Girlhood: Place and Identity in Early American "Schoolgirl" Art*. The exhibition will open in October of 2026 and run through February of 2027. Learn more about this painting at the Academy Building.



Interested in helping us prepare to commemorate the 250th? Or generally interested in local history? Call Lou Bucceri at the Salisbury Association to inquire about joining the Historical Society. 860-435-2048



Maria Birch Coffing with Jane E. Winslow



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10 - 1 Tuesday
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