

Salisbury's Early "Paparazzi"

As the old saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." In a spring exhibit titled "Faces of Salisbury,"



the Salisbury Association Historical Society presents the life and work of two local photographers who captured engaging images of the Salisbury community from the close of the 19th century into the 20th century. The show opens in March at the Academy Building in Salisbury and runs until summer.

Through their cameras, George Grenville Hunter and John (Johnny) Jordan memorialized the faces of many Salisbury residents at work, at play, and formally posed for posterity. Following is some background material on the lives of these photographers.

George Grenville Hunter

George Grenville Hunter (1892-1932) lived in Salisbury nearly all of his life. His mother, Ellen Temple, married Christopher Emmet; they had six children, including Ellen Emmet Rand, the noted artist. Temple's second husband was George Hunter, and their son, Grenville, as a young boy, was the subject of early portraits by his artistic half-sister, Ellen.



Grenville died suddenly at age forty, but he left behind hundreds of photographs of Salisbury residents. From his substantial collec-

tion, his daughter, Penelope (Penny) Hunter Grant, compiled an album of 50, which she gave to the Salisbury Association for its archives. The photos in this exhibit come from that donated collection. The whereabouts of the balance of the prints and negatives is not known.

John Jordan

John (Johnny) R. Jordan (1873-1962) came to Salisbury as a young man and set up a photographic studio

in a cabin at the Town Grove. At a time (c.1897) when not many people owned a camera, Jordan supported himself by taking pictures of weddings, parades, fairs, graduating classes, and town buildings, using his hooded camera and tripod. He made a living as Salisbury's unofficial town photographer.



Johnny lived alone in his cabin at the Grove until 1927, when he married and moved to a small house perched on a rocky ledge on Farnum Road. His wife died in 1952, and his home and studio were totally destroyed by fire in 1957.

Johnny died in 1962, leaving no survivors but a treasure trove of photographs of one small town during an especially picturesque chapter in its history.

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Seeking Land Trust Accreditation

What is accreditation?

The Salisbury Association Land Trust is currently engaged in the process of applying for accreditation. Preparing the application is a demanding project, which can take more than a year and requires the sustained support of the entire organization to be successful.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) established the LTA Accreditation Commission to provide guidance to land trusts across America seeking to understand and follow best practices in land conservancy. Since its founding in 2006, the Accreditation Commission has approved accreditation applications for 285 of the 1700 land trusts nationwide. There are currently 11 accredited land trusts in Connecticut.

To become accredited, each land trust must demonstrate that it has established and is following the 12 standards and 26 indicator practices required by the Commission.

What are the benefits?

Accreditation raises the level of public trust in the organization and its ability to effectively protect its conservation easements in perpetuity and to manage potential conflicts that may involve tax and legal issues for donors, landowners, and the land trust.

These risks have been rising in recent years as generational transfers of property and outright sales introduce new ownership to protected lands, many of which have substantially increased in value. New owners may have different understandings of the easements or be less committed to protecting the land, leading to more complex management questions for land trusts. And government authorities, including the IRS, can get involved because of the tax deductions taken when the easements were established. Accredited land trusts are widely viewed as better prepared to navigate and manage these complex issues.

The accreditation program is an excellent model of self-regulation in the non-profit sector and is expected to result in significant gains in land conserved, membership, operating practices, and effectiveness. *Tom Quinn*

Salisbury Association Welcomes New Trustee



New board member Eugenie Warner grew up in Salisbury and returned to the community several years ago. She is a lawyer, with licenses in California, New York, and Florida, and works in financial services at a Salisbury company.

Eugenie has personal knowledge of Salisbury's history, as her family has been resident here for generations, and her commitment to protecting Salisbury's future is strong. As a Salisbury Association Land Trust member, Eugenie has been working to preserve the area's natural beauty and resources. She serves as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Rehab: It's for the Birds

Wildlife rehabilitation is often an elaborate and time-consuming process, bringing humans and wildlife together at a time of need. To learn more about this important connection, join us for a special nature program sponsored by the Salisbury Land Trust and Scoville Memorial Library.

Program: Rehab: It's for the Birds

Date: Saturday, April 18, at 2:00

Location: Salisbury Town Hall

Wildlife rehabilitator Erin O'Connell, of Audubon Sharon, will discuss her work treating sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, with the goal of returning them to inde-



Northern Flicker juveniles being hand-fed



Release back into the wild

pendent living in their natural habitat. Erin's presentation will focus on rehabilitation of our feathered friends, from birds of prey to songbirds. She will be accompanied by a few "educational ambassadors"—birds that have recovered from their injuries but are not able to survive in the wild.

Wildlife rehabbers need extensive knowledge of the species in their care, including natural history, nutritional requirements, behavioral issues and caging considerations. They must have the necessary permits and be able to administer basic first aid and physical therapy. They work with veterinarians to assess injuries and diagnose a variety of illnesses.

One of the surprising things to learn is that most rehab operations are not subsidized by the government. Wildlife rehab centers rely on donations, both monetary and in-kind, to carry-out their work.

A True Story: Bubo, the Great Horned Owl

In early fall, one of your neighbors was driving down a road in Kent when he spotted a Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus* (*Bubo* for short), perched on a stone wall. He pulled over and approached the owl, noticing that Bubo was in need of medical attention. He decided to make a difference, and threw his coat over Bubo and brought him to Audubon Sharon's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Our rehab team did a full assessment, scheduled surgery for a broken wing, and Bubo is now on the mend. We are hopeful that he will be reintroduced into the wild, where he belongs, here in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut.

Sean Grace, Audubon Sharon Director



Historically Speaking

These history talks are co-sponsored by the Salisbury Association Historical Society and Scoville Memorial Library. They take place in the library's Wardell Room, Saturdays, 4:00. Some of the talks took place prior to this issue of the newsletter.

January 31

"Classical Villas and Gardens"—Tom Hayes



In 1902, soon after Edith Wharton and her husband moved into The Mount, she wrote a series of articles for "Century Magazine" on Italian villas and gardens. The popular articles became a book packed with first-hand experiences. In his talk, Tom Hayes discusses many of the gardens described in Wharton's book, as well as others created after her time.

Hayes is co-owner of Classical Excursions, which specializes in tours of architecture, art, music, gardens and archaeology. He served as President of the Edith Wharton Restoration at The Mount in Lenox, MA, and has lectured extensively, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum..

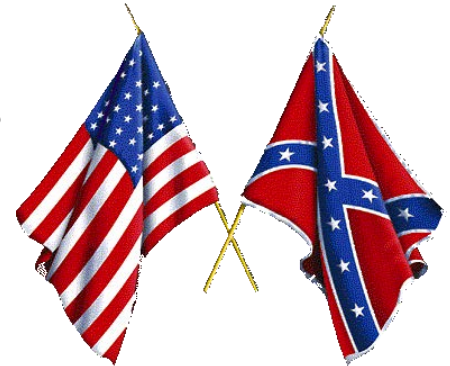
February 7

"Stepping Stones to Separation, 1607-1860" —Tom Key

It is widely accepted that the issue of slavery was the overall cause of the American Civil War, and that the immediate cause was the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States. Lincoln, no abolitionist, was, however, determined to limit slavery to the states where it had legally existed in 1860. Secession followed.

In addition, there were 250 years of cultural, religious, economic and political factors that helped convince eleven states to attempt to leave the 72-year-old Union. Employing a timeline approach, Tom Key discusses these many aspects.

Key, a Salisbury resident, has presented over sixty lectures on American and European historical subjects at various venues in the Northwest Corner.



February 21

"Famous Faces: Portraits by Ellen Emmet Rand"—Richard Boyle

Ellen Emmet Rand was a singular portrait painter who came from a family of women painters. Though Rand was based in Salisbury and had painted many local subjects, including members of the Scoville family, she also "took the likeness" of well-known people beyond the state. "Sitters" included Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Joseph Choate, and the American sculptors Augustus St. Gaudens and Frederick MacMonnies.

Richard Boyle was the curator of painting and sculpture at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Director of Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Adjunct Professor of art history at Temple University in Philadelphia.

March 7

“Rochambeau and His March across Connecticut” —Jini Jones Vail



Jini Vail discusses the subject of her recently published book, *Rochambeau, Washington's Ideal Lieutenant, a French General's Role in the American Revolution*. She tells about Rochambeau's meetings with Washington and the trek through Connecticut that marked the beginning of the advance of the battle at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781.

Historians marvel at how George Washington was able to combine humility with confidence and determination to achieve success. Actually, the author says, there were *two* such men fighting for America at that time, the other being a decorated French general. That Rochambeau was able to cooperate with, and sometimes defer to, an "amateur" like Washington was a blessing, the author notes.

Vail has had an interest in all things French, earning degrees in French language and studies. She traveled extensively in France, and on one of those trips met Count Michel and Countess Madeleine de Rochambeau at the Château de Rochambeau near Vendome. Thus began a study of the 18th century French general that led to her book.

March 21

“Frederic Edwin Church and Olana”—Valerie Balint

Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900) was one of the premier landscape painters of the 19th century. In 1860, Church established his family home on a farm in the Hudson Valley, later naming it Olana. He designed his home, studio and farm as an integrated environment embracing architecture, art and landscape. The artist often painted the views from his property, now a New York State park and historic site.

Valerie Balint is Associate Curator of Olana and a frequent lecturer on Church, Olana and the Hudson River School.

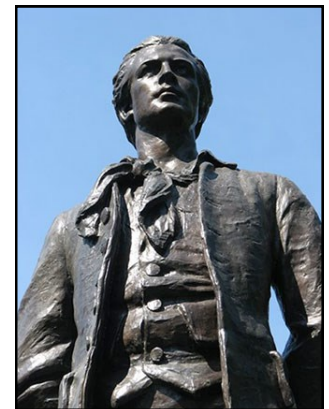


April 11

“The Burning Question about Nathan Hale”—Walter W. Woodward

Many people know there is some question about whether Nathan Hale actually said the words for which he is famous ("I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country") at the time of his hanging. Some also know that a recently discovered manuscript casts doubt on Hale's truthfulness at the time of his capture as a patriot spy on Long Island in 1776.

Was there also a connection between Hale and the great fire that nearly destroyed New York City the day before his capture? Walt Woodward, Connecticut State Historian, examines these issues, especially the question of whether Hale was an arsonist, and provides new insight into Hale's life, death, and very real heroism.



With Ownership Comes Stewardship

The Salisbury Land Trust works with landowners who wish to establish conservation protection of their land. A variety of land protection options are available including conservation easements, donations of land, and land purchase. The most common tool is a conservation easement, which places permanent restrictions on the use of the property. From time to time, the land trust will protect important parcels through purchase. Here's a look at four properties owned by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, and how each is being managed.

At Schlesinger Bird Preserve

The Schlesinger Bird Preserve consists of two adjacent fields totaling 19 acres. It lies a couple of miles north of the White Hart Inn on Route 41 and is accessed via Scoville Ore Mine Road.

When Mary Schlesinger donated the property to the Salisbury Association Land Trust in 1998, the Trust explored the land's conservation values and determined that it had good value for agriculture and exceptional value as bird habitat (an early successional habitat) in which the pasture has started to revert to forest.

Currently, our management plan focuses on enhancing bird habitat. The fields reverting toward forest are a valuable nesting and feeding site for many songbirds. The challenge is to keep the land in this intermediate state of early succession, not letting trees take over. To this end, we mow portions of the property each year to maintain a mix of grasses and shrubs.

The land trust mows walking paths around the perimeter of the property so the birds and people can get a look at each other. The preserve is open to the public, and in June we offer a guided bird walk where various warblers, yellow throats and indigo buntings present themselves. *George Massey*



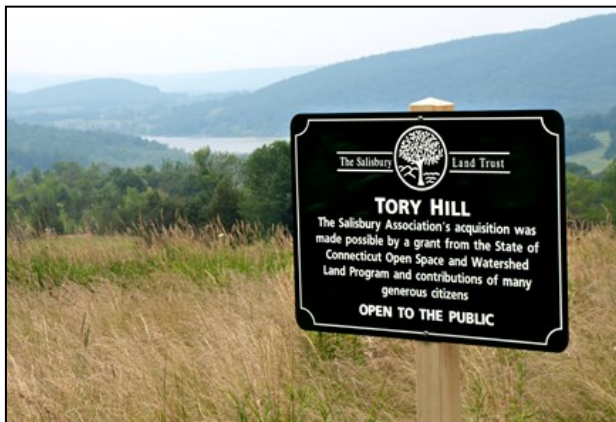
At Tory Hill

Shortly after purchasing the Tory Hill property in 2007, the Salisbury Association Land Trust developed a land management plan to improve the wildlife habitat and reverse the rampant spread of invasive plants.

To this end, an eight-year U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant was obtained in 2008. The grant covered 25 acres of the 53 acres of the property closest to Route 41 and focused

on restoring grassland bird habitat. Dozens of acres of invasive Japanese honeysuckle and Multiflora rose shrubs were cleared. The fields are maintained with an annual fall mowing. By doing this in late August, ground nesting birds are able to raise their young without disturbance. Other invasive plant control has targeted Phragmites, Japanese bittersweet, Barberry, Purple loosestrife, and Buckthorn.

In the last few years, meadowlarks, whose population has declined dramatically across the country, have frequently been observed in the open fields. Another significant benefit we all enjoy is the magnificent vista of Mudge Pond, the Twin Oaks field and the Taconic Plateau. *John Landon*

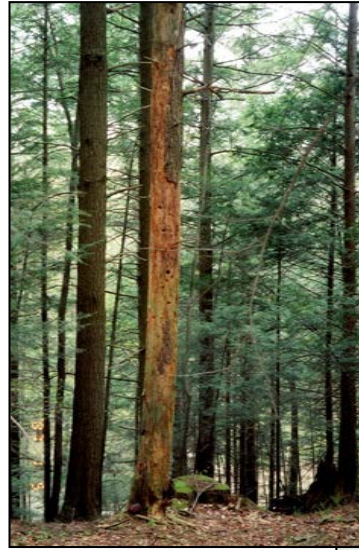


At Dark Hollow

Dark Hollow, a 150+ acre nature preserve, consists of open fields, mixed hardwood forest, a hemlock monoculture forest, large rock outcroppings and wetlands. At present there are three trails, all of which can be walked in about one hour, with plans for a fourth.

Major activities in managing the property are the elimination of invasive plants (Japanese barberry, Eurasian honeysuckle and Asian bittersweet), removal of discarded trash, cleanup of selected blown-down trees, and trail maintenance.

The removal of invasive plants, an ongoing effort, is accomplished by hand pulling, cutting and/or herbicide application. Trash removal is done by volunteers and conscientious walkers on Dark Hollow Road. Tree blow-downs that block trails or scenic views are, for the most part, cleaned up by volunteers, although outside contractors have been called in to clear significant damage from microbursts. Trail markings are periodically refreshed, and the open fields are brush hogged or hayed by contractors. The Salisbury Association Land Trust looks to its stewardship fund to pay for these costs. *Tom Key*



At Riverside Farm Preserve



The Salisbury Association Land Trust recently purchased a 39-acre farm parcel from John and Joyce Belter. Located between Route 7 and the Housatonic River, the property features a 28-acre field, currently leased to the Jacquier family's Laurelbrook Farm, a half-mile of river frontage, a three-acre patch of forest, and an acre of shrub land. More than half of the property is in the 100-year floodplain of the Housatonic River.

The land trust is currently reviewing management options. Maintaining local agriculture is clearly a top priority. Other projects being considered include:

- ◆ Managing the riparian buffer strip to remove non-native invasive species
- ◆ Increasing the size of the riverside setback to reduce erosion potential
- ◆ Creating armored/bio-filter areas where historic runoff has resulted in gullies
- ◆ Opening up the frontage on Route 7 to remove damaged trees and improve views
- ◆ Highlighting the tract's magnificent sycamore trees by selective removal of competing trees
- ◆ Managing the woodlot to remove non-native invasive species
- ◆ Managing the shrub lands to perpetuate the succession stage and remove invasive plants
- ◆ Creating a walking trail for public access *Harry White*

Land Trust: Focus on Education

WeatherBug in Action

What's the weather going to be today? A question we typically ask on a daily basis.

Now students can collect and assess real-time weather data from computers in their classroom or at home with the aid of a WeatherBug weather station purchased by Salisbury Central School. Local groups, including the Salisbury Association's Land Trust and Civic Committee, provided financial assistance for the purchase.

The equipment, mostly located on the roof of the Elementary School, includes:

- * Wind Sensor to record wind speed (including gusts) and direction
- * Sensor Shelter to record various data such as temperature, relative humidity, and barometric pressure
- * Rain Gauge to measure and record hourly, daily, and yearly rainfall accumulation and rain rate
- * Digital Display with easy to read current weather conditions (located in the Elementary School office)
- * Data Appliance that stores and processes weather data



in terms of air pressure, dew point, relative humidity, wind, and so on. From the data, they predicted the weather for the next 24 hours. A number of questions were explored: Does cold air hold more or less moisture than warm air? How does a rise in the barometric pressure affect the air? Math and science skills were applied.

Group 2: This group demonstrated use of the Map Gallery, a mapping tool that guides users in gathering weather information and organizing it into categories. Discussion focused on hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; their paths were followed on a storm-tracker map.

Group 3: A third group played interactive games called Sunwise, a learning tool on the importance of limiting exposure to harmful UV rays. Students were asked to choose protective items—a big hat, sunscreen, dark sunglasses, etc.—without exceeding a \$30 budget. Science and math played a role.

Summing up the benefits of the WeatherBug program, teacher Paul Denza added: “Not only is the WeatherBug fun and easy to use, but it enables students to understand the importance of weather and climate and to experience the value of technology in predicting real-world events.”

How Is It Working?

Salisbury Land Trust member Priscilla Ellsworth visited a sixth-grade class in January to observe students interacting with their new weather station. The class was organized into three groups.

Group 1: These “Meteorologists of the Day” gave a Powerpoint presentation using up-to-the-minute data from the WeatherBug station. Standing in front of the class, they discussed what was happening outside their window

In the end we will conserve
only what we love. We will
love what we understand. We
will understand only what we
are taught.

Baba Dioum

It Takes a Partnership

Sometimes it takes a partnership to make a project happen. In this case, four partners with a common interest in the environment teamed up: the Salisbury Association Land Trust, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Trout Unlimited and UConn.

Salisbury Land Trust provided the funding in the form of a scholarship for two HVRHS students to participate in UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) to learn about land use and natural resource conservation. Those experiences were followed by seven months of community service on a local conservation project (Salmon Kill Restoration), led by Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited.



Salmon Kill stream

At UConn

Eve Cullerton and Mari Cullerton (sisters) were awarded scholarships to attend UConn's NRCA. Below, they recount a few of their favorite experiences.



Mari and Eve sorting macroinvertebrates

During the program at UConn, we participated in field work concerning environmental conservation. One of our best experiences involved radio telemetry, where we learned how to track tagged animals. We went hiking in the woods and experienced how it would be to work in one of

the many wildlife careers. Another favorite experience was macroinvertebrate sampling in which we saw how the biotic index can help determine water quality. Our evenings were scheduled with an assortment of activities including geocaching, where all the students wandered around campus with GPS units in the hope of finding each cache, a hidden item, first. We received our coordinates and were on our way.

At the Salmon Kill Stream

For their community service project, both Eve and Mari engaged in field work related to restoration of the Salmon Kill watershed in Salisbury, working under the mentorship of Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited (TU). Here, Tracy briefly describes this phase of the project.

Part of TUs strategy is to engage local students in stream restoration efforts. Eve and Mari Cullerton are analyzing data collected by CT DEEP biologists to guide the restoration work. They have been learning



Mari planting near riverbank

ArcGIS, a geographic information system and mapping program that is integral to many jobs in the natural resource industry. With ArcGIS, the students are creating maps of the Salmon Kill Watershed and plotting macroinvertebrate and fish sample sites that can help us understand the condition of a stream.

Conservation Ambassadors

UConn's NRCA project coordinator, Laura Cisneros, adds the following note.

NRCA projects culminate in March, when students present their work at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, and are recognized at an award ceremony as "Connecticut Conservation Ambassadors." Without financial support from the Salisbury Land Trust, local students may not otherwise be able to participate in such a great program and have the opportunity to make a difference in their community.

The Civic Committee: What it Does

Many people are not aware of the activities of the Association's Civic Committee. Here's how this committee got its start, and what it does.

From 1971 to 2007, the Association's heritage and culture programs were mainly based at the Holley-Williams House Museum. Activities included historical displays, concerts, lectures, house tours and children's programs. There was no "historical society" per se. When the museum was closed, some of the programs were taken on by the newly formed Salisbury Association Historical Society. A second committee, the Civic Committee, focused on other activities of interest and benefit to the community.

In the past eight years, the Civic Committee has hosted nearly a dozen concerts, including the annual Christmas Concerts, and sponsored music clinics for students at Salisbury Central School, with the guidance

of professional musicians.

There are few community celebrations in New England as quaint and valued as the Independence Day Picnic held at the Town Grove. It is the responsibility of the Civic



In a rousing rendition, Lou Bucceri reads the Declaration of Independence at the July 4th picnic at the Town Grove. The Salisbury Band adds a patriotic beat.

Committee to lead this event by booking the Salisbury Band, organizing children's games, providing for the reading of the "Declaration" and choosing a Master of Ceremonies.

The July 4th gathering is also an occasion to introduce the new recipient of the Carl Williams Civic Activities Scholarship, awarded to a local student whose activities have benefited the town, and who is enrolled in college. In May the Committee begins a new scholarship selection process, so this is an exciting time to be a member of the Salisbury Association Civic Committee.

We welcome new committee members and new ideas. If you are interested in joining our merry band, please contact Laura Carlson at salisburyassn@gmail.com or call the Academy Building, 860-435-0566. *Lou Bucceri*



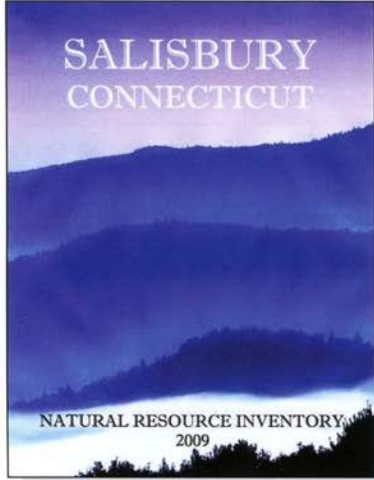
The Victorian Christmas Concert at the Academy Building features this popular trio. Soprano Alicia DePaolo (not shown in photo) joined the last concert group, forming a quartet.

Association Engages Local Firm

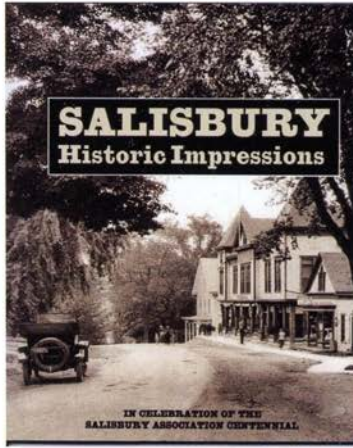
The Salisbury Association has engaged attorneys Charles Vail and Emily Vail to provide legal services for the Association. They bring extensive experience in general business and corporate law, and in environmental and land-use law. Charlie, as he is known to many in town, has served on non-profit boards and as a Probate Judge.

Publications of Local Interest

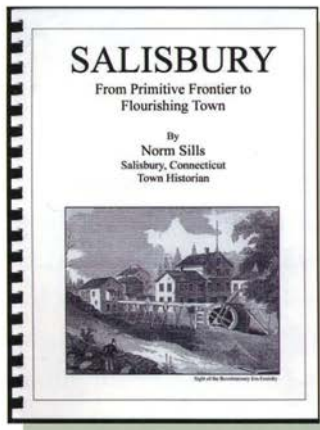
Available at the Academy Building, Salisbury



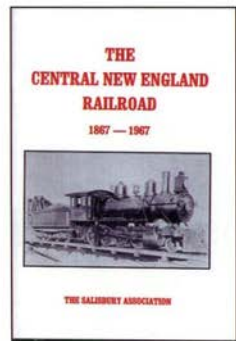
Salisbury's first **Natural Resource Inventory** of the town's lakes and streams, farmland, forests, critical habitats, historic sites and other natural features, with fold-out resource maps and wildlife data
\$25



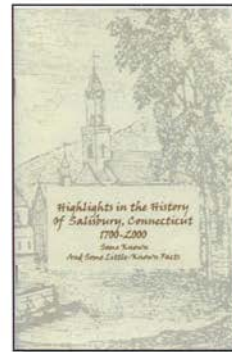
Salisbury—Historic Impressions
A photo reminiscence of the history of the town, shown through archival photos, captions and brief historic accounts
\$25



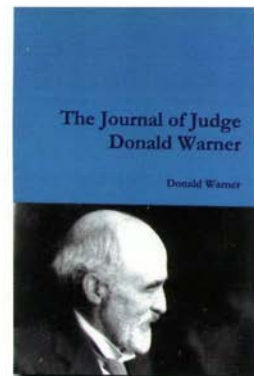
Salisbury: From Primitive Frontier to Flourishing Town
\$20



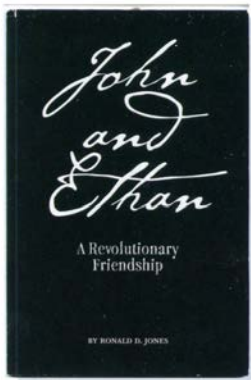
The Central New England Railroad 1867-1967
\$8



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



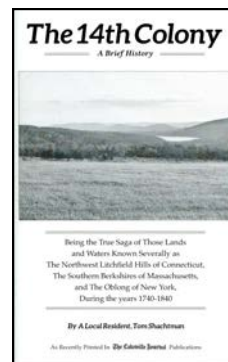
Journal of Judge Donald Warner
His experiences in the last half of the 19th century
\$20



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



Sarum Samplings
Stories from the oral history of Salisbury Connecticut
\$5



The 14th Colony
Brief history of lands in the NW Litchfield Hills of CT, Southern Berkshires, and The Oblong of New York, from 1740-1840
\$7

Opening in March: Faces of Salisbury

The work of two early Salisbury photographers,
George Grenville Hunter and Johnny Jordan, is featured
in a spring exhibit at the Academy Building.
See the cover story for details.



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