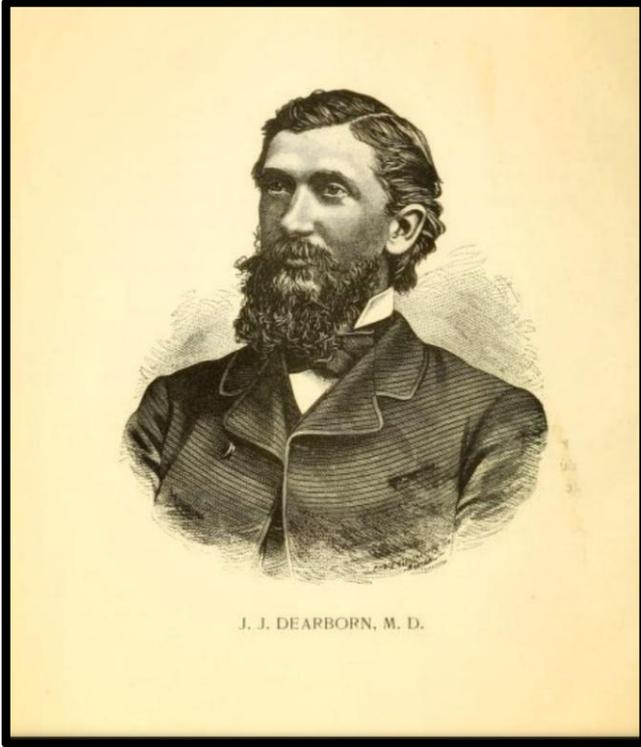


Salisbury Historical Society

2025 Annual Members Report



Salisbury Historical Society
PO Box 263
Salisbury, NH 03268



Objectives in our Bylaws

September, 2022

To promote the interest in and the understanding of the history of the town of Salisbury and the State of New Hampshire.

To collect and preserve objects, facts and information of historical significance to the area and to make them available to all who wish to examine and study them.

On the cover:

Author, Dr. John J. Dearborn

“The History of Salisbury, NH” 1890

A hard copy of Dearborn’s book can be found at the Salisbury Free Library 641 Old Turnpike Road, or on-line at [The History of Salisbury, NH John J. Dearborn](#)

It was indeed fortunate that in 1883, Salisbury, NH, engaged Dr. John J. Dearborn to author the town's history. The book, which took six years to complete, was finally published in 1890 with the assistance of numerous contributors. Dearborn's thorough research into various historical facets provided detailed accounts of specific individuals and events, granting invaluable insights into numerous other elements of our town’s history.

Presidents Report

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to a very good year for the Salisbury Historical Society. After 6 years serving as a Trustee (the last of the 6-year Trustees) where my focus was managing the budget and assets of the Society, I will now be working more closely with the Executive Board and other volunteers to develop events, programs and fundraising opportunities that advance the mission of the Society: education about the history of the Town of Salisbury. This is a very different perspective that I'm looking forward to.

The reason I'm looking forward to a good year is that, thanks to outreach at the end of last year, we have a group of new volunteers who have joined the team in various roles. They bring with them new ideas, perspectives, and approaches that I hope will allow us to better perform our mission in ways that meet the needs and expectations of our members. We're always looking for more help, so feel free to reach out and volunteer.

One of the first things that we've done is create email addresses for certain Society officers to make it easier for our members to reach us. You'll see the full list elsewhere, to reach me, or future Presidents email president@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org. Please do reach out if you have suggestions or ideas about how to better serve our membership. We've got a full season of programs planned, some in cooperation with the Salisbury Free Library, with a renewed focus on local history and the residents of Salisbury who've contributed to both the Town and our Country.

Best Wishes for a fruitful 2025!

Joe Schmidl, President
Salisbury Historical Society, New Hampshire

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Executive Board

President

Joseph Schmidl 2026
president@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Secretary

Eve Grello 2026

Treasurer

Cheryl Bentley 2026

Curator

Cynthia Owen Appointed
curator@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Trustees

Melissa Lesniak 2025

Dave Merwin 2026

Scott Cooper 2027

Officers and Trustees Roles

The President shall have the executive supervision over the activities of the Society, shall preside at all meetings, and shall report annually on the activities of the Society.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board. Minutes will be read, approved and submitted in hard copy at the next meeting. This is an elected position. The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to the correspondence of the Society.

The Treasurer shall receive all the funds of the Society and shall deposit them in the name of the Society in such accounts as may be chosen by the Executive Board and keep a true account of the receipts and disbursements as well as being custodian of deeds, contracts, and other documents relating to the Society, taking proper measures for their safety. The Treasurer shall make an annual report.

The Curator shall be responsible for all Society holdings and shall keep the Acquisition Book up to date and set the standards for the acceptance of appropriate gifts. This is an appointed position

Trustee must be a member in good standing, their dues must be current and they must attend at least 80% of Business and Executive Board meetings unless excused. An elected Trustee who has served a full term may succeed himself for an additional three-year term. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve the unexpired term. The Trustees are responsible for overseeing finances, which also includes development of the budget.

Committees/Chairs

Flag Coordinator	Rose Cravens
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy DeGrassie
Hospitality	Dora Rapalyea
House Manager	David Rapalyea & Dave Merwin
Membership	Louise Andrus
Merchandising	Cynthia Owen
Museum	Cynthia Owen
Museum Display	Rose Cravens
Old Home Day	
Programs	Melissa Lesniak
Publicity	Eve Grello
Round Robin	Cynthia Owen
Scholarship	Arthur Garvin & Dave Merwin
Facebook/Website	Rose Cravens & Sharyn Goddard

If you find a committee or program that piques your interest, don't hesitate to reach out to a Board Member or directly contact the Committee Chair for more information. They can provide insights, answer your questions, and guide you on how to get involved.

Your enthusiasm is welcome, we are happy to hear from you!

Membership

We are grateful for your continued interest and support of the Salisbury Historical Society. Dues, fundraising and volunteers are critical to the continuation of the Salisbury Historical Society objective to collect and preserve objects, facts and information of historical significance to the area. Since 1966, countless members have been instrumental in the preservation of Salisbury’s history, the Baptist Meeting House and Hearse House Museum.

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Contributing	\$30
Lifetime (per Person)	\$100

Please see our membership form on the last page of this booklet; cut the page off and mail it in!

Membership year begins January 1st of each year. For those over the age of 80, your membership is complimentary.

Thank you!
Mail Membership Dues to

Salisbury Historical Society
PO Box 263 Salisbury, NH 03268

Please designate “**Membership**” on your check
All donations are appreciated and tax deductible

Membership Meetings

Our meetings take place at the Baptist Meeting House
655 Old Turnpike Road, Salisbury on the third Tuesday of
each month from May to September. If you need any
additional details or assistance related to these meetings,
please email contact@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 6pm
Salisbury Historical Scholarship Ceremony

June Meeting

Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 6pm

July Meeting

Tuesday, July 15th, 2025 6pm

August No Meeting

September Annual Meeting

Tuesday September 16th, 2025
Pot Luck Supper 6pm
Civil War Soldier's Quilts 6:30pm
Presenter: Pam Weeks
Annual Meeting 7pm

Special Events

- May** Salisbury's Historical Flags are placed back on display until Veteran's Day
- May** 20th, Salisbury Historical Scholarship Ceremony
- June** Meetinghouse & Museum Opens for Tours through September
- June** Round Robin, a guided walk for local 4th graders through our Museum, Meeting House and the Old Baptist Cemetery behind the Meeting House for the Cemetery Walk. Several re-enactors in character stand by their gravesite and relate something about their life and times.
- June** 12th, at 6:30 pm
A genealogy program, History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide, Presenter: Erin Moulton
- August** Salisbury Old Home Day, White Elephant Sale, Raffle, Vendors, Music, Food, Horseshoes, Chicken BBQ
- September** 16th, at 6:30 pm after the SHS potluck
Civil War Soldier's Quilts, Presenter: Pam Weeks
- December** Christmas Craft Shop. An assortment of Historical Society Christmas related items for sale. Our Fundraiser event to wrap up the year.

For event updates visit us on Facebook



[Salisbury Historical Society, NH](https://www.facebook.com/SalisburyHistoricalSocietyNH)

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Historic Flag Sponsors

The concept originated eight years ago establishing a community initiative, led by the Salisbury Historical Society

- The historic flags remind us of the efforts of the early settlers to secure a new way of life, their turmoil's, hopes and patriotism.
- Our flags, prominently displayed in summer and are likely to be photographed by numerous tourists. The locations encompass Salisbury Heights as well as the South Road Village Crossroads at Route 127 and Route 4.
- Historical flags are displayed to honor veterans in our town's graveyards. These flags commemorate those who served in the French and Indian Wars, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.
- Historical flags are fascinating, vibrant and celebratory, contributing to a wonderful blend of town beautification, patriotic spirit, and local pride.
- Would you like to assist in ensuring the flags continue to fly?
- Every donation, monetary or otherwise adds to the success of the initiative.

Thank you!

Mail Flag Project donations to

Salisbury Historical Society

PO Box 263, Salisbury, NH 03268

Please designate "**Flag Project**" on your check

All donations are appreciated and tax deductible

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Our Museums

The Salisbury Historical Society operates two museums. The **Hearse House Museum**, which showcases a vast permanent collection of historical artifacts. On display are numerous donated items representative of Salisbury's heritage, such as the town's horse-drawn hearse, the original post office, quilts, samplers, and more. We invite you to visit us during our summer season to engage in enriching conversations with our longstanding members and devoted docents.

In recent years, we've been dedicated to increasing the visibility of our historical society's collection through rotational displays at the **Meeting House**. Our goal is to enrich visitor experiences by occasionally rotating artifacts, providing a fresh perspective and the chance to see numerous previously unseen items. During the winter months, we meticulously store the collection to protect it, preserving our history for future generations. Each summer, our display manager and curator create unique displays. We invite you to visit and immerse yourself in the rich history and presentation of our collection. We have a permanent Daniel Webster Room as he was born, raised, educated and married in Salisbury.

Our devoted members fulfill various roles: they are researchers, historical reenactors, docents, and managers of buildings, donations, and memberships, in addition to organizing programs for the public. If you're interested in getting involved, we would be delighted to welcome you. For a wealth of fascinating Salisbury history, upcoming events, and meeting dates, please visit our website.

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Round Robin, Elementary 4th Graders

The Salisbury Historical Society is dedicated to instilling a deep appreciation for local history in our young people. One of our unique and engaging teaching formats is called Round Robin. This interactive approach fosters a love for history by making learning enjoyable for both children and their accompanying adults. Participants rotate through various activity stations, each offering a different aspect of Salisbury's rich history.



The Round Robin is an event sponsored jointly by the Salisbury, Andover and Webster Historical Societies for the 4th graders of these towns. It takes place annually towards the end of the school year in early June. Students take turns visiting the Historical Societies of each town. The morning culminates with a noontime picnic and playing of traditional games on the Salisbury Town Green.

Through engaging storytelling, hands-on activities, and meaningful discussions, The Round Robin creates a memorable experience that brings the past to life. We believe that by connecting young people with their local heritage, we can inspire a sense of pride and stewardship for their community.

We invite you to join us in our mission to educate and inspire the next generation about the remarkable history of Salisbury!

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Salisbury Historical Society
2024 Scholarship Recipient

Logan Gabour

Congratulations Logan!



A Role Model to All, Susan B. Anthony

By Logan Gabour

Read Logan's essay on our website or visit the following link to read Logans essay:

[Susan B. Anthony](#)

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Scholarship Donations

The amount awarded by the Society's Scholarship is determined annually based on our fundraising success and the number of applicants. We believe our efforts to support deserving Salisbury, NH graduates are worthy of your support. We invite you to join us in this important mission.

Your generous donations help us provide scholarships that make a significant difference in the lives of these students. Together, we can continue to offer valuable opportunities for their education and future success.

Please consider making a donation today and help us empower the next generation of leaders!

Please find application details on our website. The Salisbury Historical Society scholarship is awarded on May 20th, after our first membership meeting of the season.

Thank you for your support!

Mail scholarship donations to
Salisbury Historical Society
PO Box 263, Salisbury NH 03268

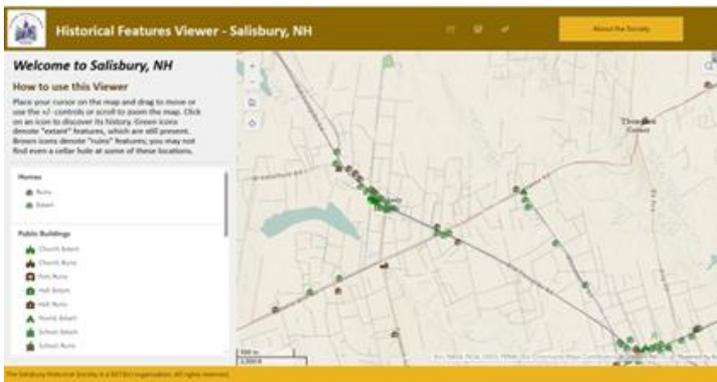
Please designate "**Scholarship**" on your check
All donations are appreciated and tax deductible

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Salisbury's Interactive Historical Map

The Salisbury Historical Society's Interactive Historical Features Map Viewer, hosted on the ArcGIS Online platform, offers convenient access to its extensive geodatabase of historical features on computers, tablets, and phones. Despite the exciting progress made, there are still many photographs of existing and lost buildings to be incorporated, and a significant number of unidentified cellar holes to be researched. If you are interested in supporting this project, please reach out to Society President, Joe Schmidl at: president@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Find a link to this digital resource on our website or the QR code below.



Treasurers Report

Thank you for your commitment to Salisbury's, historical preservation. As a nonprofit organization, we truly depend on the generosity of our community, both near and far, to support our mission and activities. Your contributions help us meet essential expenses such as museum insurance, utilities, maintenance, and outreach programs such as our local Salisbury Scholarship and Elementary Schools Round Robin programs. Our membership empowers us to organize meaningful events that foster engagement and strengthen our community bonds.

With your support, we continue our historical preservation and make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve. Together, we ensure that our labors resonate throughout the local community. Thank you for being a part of our mission!

Our well-managed budget, coupled with oversight by our Trustees, has been integral to ensure effective operations, planning and spending. Together, we are both committed and focused on retaining the history of Salisbury, NH. Our collection of artifacts must be preserved for future generations of our community.

The Salisbury Historical Society, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has been active since 1966 collecting historical information pertinent to Salisbury's past and present.

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Curator's Report

I was appointed Curator by the executive board on October 15, 2024. Since that time, we have acquired several donated items. A Bartlett Grange Ribbon donated by Kelly Boudreau, a large framed photograph of Old Home Day attendees on August 22, 1929 from the Boscawen Historical Society, and a Bible belonging to Catarette Philbrick Farnum. The 1836 Bible contains some family information, including the birth, marriage to Catarette, and the death of Job Farnum during the Civil War. This donation from Bruce Thornton included two old photo books of family, and several small religious books. Catarette moved to Wilmot to live with family after Job's death. I plan to contact the Wilmot Historical Society to share this info with them.

When I took this office there were a few items not yet recorded into our archives. One being an interesting diary and business log from 1881, and some pictures. I hope to be able to make all these acquired donations available for the public to see in our museum displays next season. Make sure to watch for "Museum Open" hours June, July, and August in 2025. Please come in and visit us on Old Home Day.

If you have Salisbury, NH artifacts that you would like to donate or loan for an exhibit, please reach out and contact me at curator@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Sincerely,

Cindy Owen, Curator
Salisbury Historical Society, New Hampshire

Display Manager's Report

Did you have a chance to visit the SHS Museum or Meetinghouse this year? We were delighted to welcome a large turnout of over 100 people during Old Home Day. Many visitors contributed interesting suggestions for new exhibits. In the museum, five of John Kepper's quilts were showcased



under new lighting, bringing a burst of patterns and color to the space. John Kepper's eleven large hand-hooked rugs were showcased, and the Meeting House was radiating warmth. We believe John would have appreciated seeing his life's work—a culmination of decades

of meticulous, detailed craftsmanship—admired collectively by visitors.

The Meeting House's permanent exhibits have undergone changes. Notably, Arthur Garvin's diorama depicting Civil War soldiers was moved within its expansive glass case in front of a large window to enhance the lighting. Arthur came to rearrange the fallen



soldiers. It's easy to envision him as a boy, painting his soldiers and crafting a battle scene, as he did in his youth.

The garments donated by Arthur Garvin and Dennis Melchin are now featured in our new Revolutionary War exhibit.

These pieces, which were worn during reenactments, along with items from Dennis Melchin's time as a schoolteacher reenactor, have been incorporated into our one-room classroom display.



Two genuine swords from the Civil and Revolutionary War eras, passed down to Joe Schmidl by his grandfather, were featured in our authentic Revolutionary era exhibit.

Additionally, a Signal Cannon owned by Dave Merwin, which his father discovered on his farm in Connecticut, was also on display.

The front room's collection dedicated to Daniel Webster, who was indeed born in Salisbury, is steadily expanding.

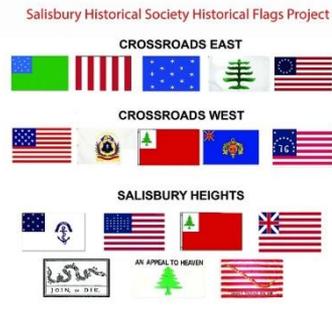


Our website will be updated with 2025 open dates for the Meeting House and Hearse House museums. Please join us and our community at Salisbury Old Home Days

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Salisbury Fire Explorers Post # 74

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Salisbury Fire Explorers for their invaluable support and dedication to the Salisbury Historical Society over the years. In addition, we also thank Sarah & Bill McDuffie and the Fectaus. Their assistance with a variety of tasks, from heavy lifting to playing a crucial role in our Flag Project, has made a significant impact on our efforts to preserve and promote local history.



As the Explorers website outlines it's a program to expose and educate young men and women to the various procedures of firefighting and rescue techniques through classroom instruction and hands on activities. To advance throughout the community the knowledge of the firefighting/rescue field. To allow youths the opportunity to explore the fire/rescue field as a possible career choice.

To learn more about the Salisbury Fire Explorers

Post 74 see their website below

[Salisbury Fire Explorers | Salisbury NH](https://www.salisburyfireexplorers.com)

Our Webpage

Welcome to the SHS website! Our dual missions are to share vital information about our organization—such as our activities, news, events, membership details, and contact information—and to provide researchers with access to Salisbury's rich historical resources while safeguarding our heritage. We strive to ignite enthusiasm for the historical themes that resonate within our town and encourage everyone to engage and share their insights or findings.

We are excited to celebrate the 9th year of our Trivia/History Challenge! Each month, we post intriguing historical questions and their answers to test your knowledge of Salisbury. Often, the search for these answers leads to even more questions and deeper research, making it a rewarding journey of discovery.

To participate, click the link to our Trivia History Challenge or access it directly from the main menu of our website. There, you'll also find an archive of all the previous year's questions and answers. If you're interested in exploring Salisbury's history and its enduring traditions, be sure to check out the Town History Topic Index. This page offers a variety of topics ripe for ongoing exploration!

We hope you are actively participating and encourage you to send us your comments and insights.

Happy exploring!

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Ways to Contribute

- Join as a member, contribute fresh energy, and new ideas.
- Do you have free time on summer weekends? Consider volunteering as a museum docent.
- Do you have Salisbury artifacts that you would like to donate or loan for an exhibit, please contact our Curator at curator@salisburyhistoricalsociety.org
- Do you have a flair for the dramatic or a sense of curiosity? Consider channeling your talents into becoming a reenactor. Join the cemetery walk as a historical figure once or twice a year. Children are also welcome to participate!
- Do you have a passion or expertise in genealogy and would you be willing to volunteer as a referral contact for those reaching out to us?
- Contribute your time, energy and efforts to help us keep our buildings in optimal condition.
- Every donation helps, regardless of time, effort or quantity.

Thank you!

Mail donations to

Salisbury Historical Society

PO Box 263, Salisbury, NH 03268

Please designate "**Donation**" on your check

All donations are appreciated and tax deductible

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org

Data Privacy Statement

Our 2025 Salisbury Historical Society Membership Booklet has changed. You may have noticed missing member names, email addresses, phone numbers and home addresses. This detail can be found in previous years' directories. Data privacy has become an important part of everyone's daily life; it protects personal information, establishes trust, and complies with regulation. Without data privacy, individuals' privacy rights can be violated, and personal data can be misused. We will never share your personal information with others.

In March 2024, New Hampshire, **Senate Bill 255** the '**New Hampshire Data Privacy Law**' was signed into law. Like other recently passed U.S. state laws, this new consumer privacy legislation gives residents several rights over how their personal data is collected and used. It outlines legal requirements that businesses must follow to process and protect personal information.

We thank you for your understanding as the society forges ahead in the digital age.

Your personal information is never shared.

We extend our gratitude to the following nine local businesses for their generous donations and ongoing support.

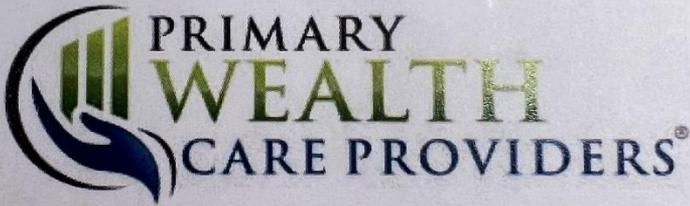
648-2515

P.O. BOX 208
SALISBURY, NH
03268-0208



**KEARSARGE
CONCRETE**

**FOUNDATIONS • FLOORS
SLABS • DRIVEWAYS**



Professional care for your wealth health!

Peggy Romero Financial Advisor 339-368-3116
71 Hibbert Street Arlington, MA 02476

Securities offered through AGES Financial Services Ltd. Member FINRA/SIPC/MSRB.
Advisory services offered by Trust Advisory Group Ltd. a Registered Investment Advisor
at 444 Washington Street, Suite 407, Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 933-6100



131 Old Turnpike Road
Salisbury, NH 03268
(603) 648-2447
Blackwatervet.com

Jennifer L. Sula, DVM
Matthew C. Mason, DVM
Lesley A. Clark, DVM
Elizabeth F. Kellett, BVSc

Wunder X, LLC



Excavating & Septic Systems
Tim Wunderlich, Manager

603-496-3717

SINCE 1990

CROSSROADS COUNTRY STORE

603-648-2221

**269 Old Turnpike Rd., Salisbury, NH
At the intersection of Rte 4 and Rte 127**

**Pizza and Sandwiches
made to order**

Riverbank Farm

557 West Salisbury Rd.
Salisbury NH 03268

Clun Forest Sheep, Irish
Dexter Cattle, Guard Llamas,
working Australian
Shepherds

603-648-2973

masonpr@tds.net

CARL MATTHEWS EQUIPMENT CO.

Buy, Sell & Rent

(603) 796-2412

info@matthewsrental.com
matthewsrental.com

161 King Street
Boscawen, NH 03303

BLACK BEAR



Vineyard

Wine is a Journey

*From open fields and a dream, to
robust vines, plump grapes, and
unique wines. Our journey is at
the heart of this beautiful
vineyard we share with you.*

www.blackbearvineyard.com

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org



A Portsmouth Catering
Company,
Custom-Tailored Eclectic New
England Cuisine Serving New
Hampshire & Surrounding
Seacoasts 2013
6038662546

www.portsmouthcatering.com

www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org