

### Historian's report - April 2023

The Salem Archives recently received a collection of over twenty handwritten letters from 1802-1828 from Charles McClain of Illinois. These letters were written by members of the McMurray family from Salem who were influential members of the Reformed Church (presently Ft. Salem Theater). This is an important and impressive collection that we are grateful to receive. Over time (much time) I hope to transcribe them and make them more readily accessible for public viewing.

I was recently contacted by a member of the organization "Saluting Branches" who had come across YouTube and internet references to our Revolutionary War Cemetery. His organization is made up of professional arborists who offer their services for free in removing dangerous trees in cemeteries where veterans are buried. They are fully insured and will provide all of the necessary equipment. Chipping and removal of the wood are also part of the deal. Question: Are we interested? YES, would be my response. I told him I would be bringing the proposal to you to get your approval and get back to him. The Saluting Branches Day this year is set for Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. I have also spoken with Michele Bardwell, representative of the Evergreen Cemetery, to see if they would be interested in being included. They definitely would like to be included. Check them out on: [www.salutingbranches.org](http://www.salutingbranches.org) Our responsibility would be to provide refreshments and publicity... small price to pay, right?

Tom McMorris and I are busy putting together the Norman Rockwell exhibit which focuses on the models he used from our area. Stephen Haggerty, author of the book, will be presenting a PowerPoint talk at the Courthouse on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. The Asa Fitch Historical Society has purchased frames and supplies needed to exhibit the cover art. Tom has interviewed descendants of the Salem/Shushan, Rupert and Cambridge models which will be available on YouTube.

Judy Flagg, Historian