

Salem Town Historian's Report

February 11, 2026

Al Cormier

1. Researcher Anthony Anderton will give a talk about the Irish Cahans Exodus and Rev. Thomas Clark of the White Church, Salem First United Presbyterian Church in the Bancroft Library on February 21 at 2 PM.
2. Stephanie Core of the Turquoise Chapter of the Peoria, Arizona chapter of the DAR has requested permission to place a National Society DAR marker at the gravesite of Revolutionary War soldier John Lytle in the Revolutionary War Cemetery. Supervisor Sue Clary has given permission to do so.
3. I met with the Village of Cambridge historian Megan Albert on February 23 to discuss elements of being a historian. She is the new historian for the village and is moving to Salem soon.
4. I attend a book signing on March 7 at the Cambridge Depot. Ken Karlewicz has published a new book called *Batten Kill Country*, a picture story about the D&H Railroad and the beginning of the short line freight train from 1982 to the present. The book contains many photographs of Salem, Shushan and the other towns on the Washington County rails. A copy is housed in the town archives.
5. I received an inquiry on February 12 from realtor Mathew Abrams regarding the old Salem Press building, currently owned by Don McPhee, in the historic district on North Main Street. Abrams is interested in purchasing it.
6. Ann Bigbee, a Steele family descendant, sent 12 early copies of *The Salem Press* that contained the original printing of Dr. Asa Fitch's *Early History of Salem*, 1929. The final pages of this story, rewritten for the public, will be completed in the coming issues of *The Eagle* and *Salem Press*. The revamped printing of this story in book form edited by Judy Flagg and this historian is available.
7. I met with the July 4, 2026 planning committee on January 24. Led by Melissa Perry, Salem Courthouse CEO, assignments were given to each member to contact potential participants in the parade.
8. Tom board member Tom McMorris continues to gather information about erecting a replica John Williams block house on the Memorial Park grounds.
9. Met with Chris Hubbard about considering applying for the Deputy Historian position. She declined because of her already full schedule.
10. I have asked a local organization if they would be interested in financing a reprinting of *A Bed For the Night*, Kay Crank's story about the Salem Jail. I am waiting for an answer.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Cormier