



**THE FARMINGTON VALLEY CT HERITAGE NETWORK
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Witness to History: The Life of a Typical Farmer in the 1880s

**Educator, Author, and Schoolhouse Curator Mike Day Presents a History Talk
Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Canton Community Center**

AVON, CT (March 25, 2025): The Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network (<https://www.farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org/>) is pleased to present a talk with **Mike Day**, author on 19th-century education and Curator of The Barkhamsted Historical Society's One-Room Schoolhouse, on *The Life of a Typical Farmer in the 1880s*. The presentation, taking place on **Thursday, April 24th** at 7:00 pm at the **Canton Public Library/Community Center** (40 Dyer Ave., Canton, <https://cantonpubliclibrary.org/>), sets the stage for the first part of a 4-part bus tour series, "*Way Back When: A Witness to History*," kicking off the following Saturday. The lecture is open to the public; admission is \$5 per person for those not joining the April 26 bus tour, payable at the door. More information about the bus tour is included below.

In *The Life of a Typical Farmer in the 1880s*, Day explores the life, work and relationships of a typical local farmer of that period, drawing from the highly descriptive diaries kept by George Weed, who owned a farm in Barkhamsted on the North Canton border at that time.

After immersing themselves in 1880s farm life, lecture attendees may want to join the bus tour on **Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm**, visiting sites in Barkhamsted, New Hartford, and Collinsville, each offering a fascinating peek, through interviews and diaries, into the lives of its residents in the 1870s to 1920s. In addition to presenting the pre-tour lecture, Mike Day will provide historical tidbits along the way as the on-bus tour guide. Admission for the bus tour is \$50 per person and includes the tour, a "goody bag" for the bus, a box lunch, and Mike Day's pre-tour lecture. **Reservations are required for the bus.** Email mzlotnick@cox.net or call 860.841.8344 for information, to reserve your spot (rsvp by **April 10th**), and submit your lunch choice (tuna, veggie or turkey wrap).

Mike Day is a retired elementary school principal and a former college instructor. He has written several books and numerous articles on 19th-century education and has presented at four national conventions of the Country Schools Association of America. He was the owner and publisher of

Clippership Publications, which for many years produced reproductions of early schoolbooks for museum shops; and he is now the Curator of The Barkhamsted Historical Society's One Room Schoolhouse.

Proceeds from the tour benefit **The Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network**, whose mission is to enhance appreciation of the rich history of Connecticut's Farmington Valley by promoting collaboration and communication among heritage groups and raising cultural awareness through programming and tours. Learn more at <https://www.farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org/>.

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Photo caption: Mike Day, author, educator, and Curator of The Barkhamsted Historical Society's One Room Schoolhouse, presents a lecture on "The Life of a Typical Farmer in the 1880s" on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Canton Library/Community Center. The lecture kicks off The Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network's new bus tour series, "Way Back When: A Witness to History," beginning on Saturday, April 26th.