WHERE SAVE IN NEW ENGLAND? Where, indeed, except in Vermont, would you find a valentine made of black cloth, white paper, and a circle of pewter? The profile silhouette of Luke and Lucy, cut in Windham County, Vermont, in 1829, was just that—a bit of "Valentine Silhouettes." On the back of the hollow-out profile of Luke Sherwin, pictured here, is the inscription: "Made by Justin Salisbury, Feb. 14, 1829/Newfane Hill, VT."

Who was Justin Salisbury? Was he one of those itinerant silhouettists who tramped the remote hills of New England in search of subjects? With a profile machine on his back, perhaps? To immortalize loved children and teenagers at twenties-five a head? He may have served an apprenticeship with an established silhouettist, or he may have been a somberly gifted Windham County silhouettist. That-a pair of "Valentine Silhouettes." The names Salisbury and Pelham, in common use, and his extensive practice enabled him to give correct profiles. He has selected a few specimens that may be examined at his room. He takes ten or twelve days. These were later acquired by an antique dealer in Grinnell, Mass. One of them, "Lucy" (the other half of the valentine silhouette) is illustrated in her book, Collectors' Luck (1919).

Justin Salisbury’s Silhouettes by FLORENCE THOMSON BOWE

valentine silhouettes on Newfane Hill in 1829. Quite likely he was about the same age or a little older. Justin Salisbury's work closely resembles that of Mrs. Chamberlain of New London, N. H., who worked in the early 1820s, and went on a two-year tour through Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. Both the Bowdoin College Library in New London and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., show his work.

Occasionally the men who made silhouettes advertised their wares in local newspapers. The Hampshire Federal of Apr. 8, 1807, carried this ad: "John Putnam of Northampton, takes this means of advising all gentlemen of Springfield, that he has selected a few specimens that may be examined at his room. He takes ten or twelve days. These were later acquired by an antique dealer in Grinnell, Mass. One of them, "Lucy" (the other half of the valentine silhouette) is illustrated in her book, Collectors' Luck (1919)."

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Paul's, New Hampshire, has much the same.