Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving
THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol•Erving•New Salem•Orange•Petersham•Phillipston•Royalston•Templeton•Warwick•Wendell
THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre•Belchertown•the Brookfields•Hardwick (Gilbertville)•Hubbardston•Leverett•New Braintree•Oakham•Pelham•Rutland•Shutesbury•Ware

From Enfield Lookout, Ware, Quabbin Reservoir foliage takes on its autumn tones.

photo © by David Brothers

ON THE FRONT COVER
Tully Pond Sunrise
a photograph by Rick Flematti

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volume 6, number 2• September 2021-December 2021

This issue features photos and art, history, event listings, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts

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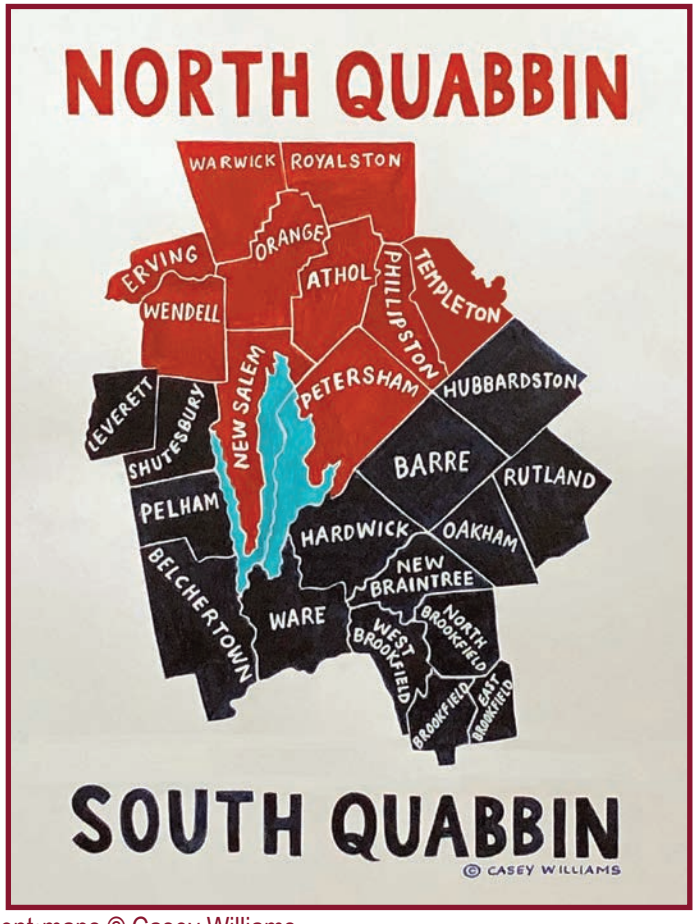

Quabbin towns past and present•maps © Casey Williams

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about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

Quabbin region, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty-five Quabbin region towns. Athol Historical Society, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau collaborate to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area.

Advertisers support *Uniquely Quabbin* along with earmarked donations made to Athol Historical Society, which will send a letter acknowledging a tax deductible gift. The International Music and Art Foundation provided a seed grant to support the magazine and evolving consortium of Quabbin region museums, historical societies, and arts centers.

FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN BEGINNING ON PAGE 69

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Erving, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Royalston, Rutland, Shutesbury, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, and Wendell for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2021. The generous support from the councils means so much.

I also want to thank Marne Henneman, Warwick Women's Guild, and Kenton Tharp who have given thoughtful, generous donations to the magazine. We always appreciate donations. You can make them by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331; at uniquelyquabbin.com; or by scanning the QR code you will find in the magazine.

I want to thank our advertisers, each of whom play a big role in the success of *Uniquely Quabbin*. An ever-growing list of businesses and organizations dependably support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there and support them as they support us.

I also want to thank our delivery crew. They are vital to the magazine and give several hours and many miles to ensure the magazines get out to every one of our twenty-five Quabbin area towns. They deliver to libraries, advertisers, country stores, co-ops, visitor centers, grocery stores, and every place they can think of where someone can pick up our magazine, bring it home, and sit down and start reading. As always, I know you will enjoy this edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*. Sit down on a crisp fall day with a perfect, freshly picked crisp apple from one of the local orchards and get started turning the crisp new pages of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Thankfully,
Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine gratefully acknowledges the support of**

Athol Cultural Council•Barre Cultural Council Brookfield Cultural Council•Erving Cultural Council Hubbardston Cultural Council•New Salem Cultural Council North Brookfield Cultural Council•Orange Cultural Council Pelham Cultural Council•Petersham Cultural Council Royalston Cultural Council•Rutland Cultural Council Shutesbury Cultural Council•Templeton Cultural Council•Ware Cultural Council•Warwick Cultural Council Wendell Cultural Council

a note from the publisher of Uniquely Quabbin

Variety surely is the spice of life here at *Uniquely Quabbin,* where the magazine's contributors will accompany us from summer into autumn into winter with an array of glimpses into the Quabbin region present and past.

Imagine a trove of topics ranging from cider to rock formations to poems to life around here in the 1940s to historic trails to chipmunks to horses to gnomes and more, much more.

Our artists and photographers bring their uncommon hands and eyes to the scene, while copy editors and proofreaders and graphic designers help keep us on track.

Like every past issue of *Uniquely Quabbin,* this one offers its own revelations. We hope you like it.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

Correction

The May 2021 edition of *Uniquely Quabbin* incorrectly placed the weekly climate vigil in Petersham. It takes place in Warwick.

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THANK YOU!

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Debra Ellis, business manager
Mark Wright, graphics designer

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Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of Athol Historical Society•Haley's Publishing North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau with an initial grant from International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at haley.antique@verizon.net or 488 South Main Street, Athol 01331 with proposals to contribute to *UQ* or for letters to the editor.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serves the twenty-five communities of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin.

Roads Usually Not Taken

by Dorothy Johnson

Dorothy Johnson

On my way to Greenfield from New Salem recently, I meandered off Route 2 just to see what was on East Prospect Street in Erving. It's a short road with comfortable houses. On the crest of the hill on the left side of the road, I saw a red wooden sign reading

Site of a Toll Gate. 1802.
5th Mass Turnpike

I know that present-day turnpikes are government-operated toll roads, but in the early days of Massachusetts, individual builders and investors created roads and exacted a toll from those who used them.

That made me wonder about a road sign I have often seen on Route 122 in Petersham for Monson Turnpike Road. I decided to check it out.

At the east side entrance, the road goes almost two miles and ends at New Athol Road, which rejoins Route 122. The road opposite leads to Gate 37 of Quabbin Reservoir, but on the way are several good-looking houses and a beautiful small pond.

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toll gate sign on
East Prospect Street, Erving
photo © by Susan Arnold

Summer Memories

text and paste-paper collage by Elisabeth Hyder

Summer Memories
paste-paper collage by Elisabeth Hyder

Paste paper, a historic method of decorating, involves applying starch colored with acrylics to dampened paper then stamped and combed with a variety of tools and rollers. Some compared the process to finger painting, but paste paper work has more possibilities. I take delight in creating new designs by underpainting or overpainting, blending colors, twisting stamps I carve myself, and investigating endless possibilities of paste paper work.

Creating a paste-paper collage requires finding the right shape or pattern for a desired image. I begin with an idea, theme, or form, then begin cutting pieces for it. I build from the first shape, cut a different one, try it out, and go on from there. The process requires moving pieces around, selecting, rejecting, combining, and sometimes just letting them sit for a while.

A black background effectively brings out colors. Gluing pieces down occurs after creating an arrangement. Shapes and forms—sometimes flowers, leaves, vegetables, water, or fields—may comprise the designs.

Growing up in Switzerland, Elisabeth Hyder of North Brookfield taught kindergarten for several years and took courses in arts and handcrafts. After moving to the US with her husband, buying an old house, setting up a printing shop, and raising four children, she works in her own studio where she designs and makes decorative papers, sometimes for book projects.

early Quabbin region towns made and drank

by Carl I. Hammer

People in early Quabbin region towns drank many things beside water, but cider—fermented apple juice—served as a staple because of its cheap price and ready availability from local sources. Farms and house lots normally had apple trees, and farmers and residents could press fruit at home.

For large quantities, early Quabbin residents often found it more convenient to use the local cider mill. In *Quabbin*, the memoir of his hometown, Francis Henry Underwood devoted an entire chapter to the cider mill in Enfield and its hired man Dick, who operated the mill. Underwood characterizes Dick as the object of sympathetic pity.

The mill lay "somewhat off the main road, upon a bank that sloped toward the river," according to Underwood, and on account of its situation upon the slope, the mill had two stories in front and one in the rear. Carts were driven in from the lane to unload apples at the upper level, and then taken around to receive barrels of cider at the lower.

The mill building itself "might have been called a shed without hurting anybody's feelings," according to Underwood, and "the power was supplied by a horse travelling in a small circle." The mill had simple and primitive machinery, described in detail, and the product evidently varied. Underwood observes,

> If the apples were carefully picked over, excluding those that were rotten or wormy; if all parts of the mill, including cylinders, channels, vats, shovels, and straw were scrupulously clean; and if the barrels were well-seasoned and sweet, the cider was certain to be pure and palatable. There were many *ifs*.

Thus the mill functioned during Underwood's youth in the 1830s. We do not know how long it had been in operation, but Underwood's description gives the impression of some antiquity.

In fact, we have a very precise estimate of the Quabbin region's potential cider output fifty years earlier. The colonial and state governments of Massachusetts periodically valued all towns for state tax assessments. The assessors of each town, usually the town's selectmen, made their returns based upon information specified by the Massachusetts General Court, the state legislature.

In 1784, the General Court ordered an entirely new valuation and then refined that valuation and used it for the very heavy 1786 tax, one of the causes of Shays

plenty of fermented apple juice: hard cider

A horse walking in a circle powered eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Quabbin region cider mills.
photo courtesy of Old Sturbridge Village

Rebellion. Among items assessed for each property: the "No. Barrels of cyder, which can be annually made upon the whole farm." After aggregation of individual assessments, the town sent assessments off to Boston.

For tax purposes, the state valued each thirty-two-gallon barrel of cider brewed at home at two and a quarter pence, less than the four pence excise duty levied on cider mills' production. The modest amounts indicate cider's relative popularity and cheapness. To lower taxes, a town's assessors likely understated the amount of cider the town could produce. Amounts valued in 1786 seem impressive: Greenwich, Quabbin Valley's mother town, reported 332 barrels; Belchertown, 530; New Salem, 386; Petersham, 832; Shutesbury, 204; and Ware, 278. At 1,411 barrels, Pelham dwarfed them all with a total comparing favorably with those of older towns in the Connecticut Valley. With 2,780 barrels, Northampton far surpassed towns reviewed.

Farmers and householders must have produced most of that estimated amount of cider for home consumption rather than sale. The number of barrels per dwelling varies between 2.3 barrels at Greenwich and 2.5 at New Salem compared with 10.7 at Pelham. In the course of a year, a household could likely consume such smaller amounts without suffering perpetual stupefaction. But Pelham's taverns were notorious as incubators for Shays Rebellion, and, no doubt, abundant local cider fueled much of that unrest. Likewise, Northampton, the county town, would have a lively tavern trade that could consume much of the 12.6 barrels produced for each dwelling there.

New Salem Preserves & Orchards, 67 South Main Street, New Salem, and Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Avenue, Phillipston, have spearheaded a cider renaissance in the Quabbin region.

Carl I. Hammer lived and worked in Frankfurt, Germany, in the early 1990s. He observes that cider taverns dispense the local drink, Eppelwoi—Apfelwein, in small ceramic jugs. Many cider taverns claim to produce their own drink, eigene Kelterei, raw and unpasteurized without preservatives. Over time, he writes, Eppelwoi evolves from pleasantly sweet to distinctly sour but still drinkable like a very dry wine.

A graduate of Amherst College and the University of Toronto, he has written on medieval and early modern history and on the colonial history of western Massachusetts. His next book is on the early history of Greenwich. He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Easthampton.

rock formations both natural and made by people

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

The Quabbin region harbors many wonderful natural rock formations as well as those assembled by people. Reading rocks in the landscape embraces hints from the past with some elements of construction known while other possibilities remain mysterious.

Geologists and other scientists have discerned that as the planet formed continents, long ago movements of earth's crust crashed formations together that would be North America and Africa together. When plates separated, part of Africa remained behind.

Stresses of crash and separation turned sediments into rocks, volcanoes erupted, and land lifted and fell. New rocks formed, and bits of the complex past make rock reading a challenge. Climate has changed, and in the recent geologic past—twenty-two thousand years ago—the Laurentide Glacier covered all of now-designated New England and New York. As the glacier moved southward, it scraped the land. As climate warmed, the glacier retreated and left behind boulders, gravel, sand beds, and rounded mountaintops that all remain as evidence of the glacial past.

Glacial erratics provide dramatic evidence of the Laurentide's movement. One such erratic remains west of Dana Commons off Whitney Hill Road. The giant boulder perches on the top of Whitney Hill and does not match the rock type where it rests. Rounded edges of the rock tell its history of removal from its parent outcrop and smoothing by the glacier.

Views from Rattlesnake Hill in New Salem show more evidence of glacial power. Distant hills form a level horizon where once viewers would see a string of high mountains peaks. Just imagine the power of a mile thick cap of ice scouring the landscape and leveling the mountains!

Water still sculpts the land. Layered rock cracks and splits when water

Quabbin waters rounded a large gray rock layered by its origins during continent crushing.

inside a crack freezes. Torrents after a heavy rain then carry rocks and pebbles downstream. Rushing water carries larger rocks. Once downslope, the water slows, and smaller and smaller pieces of rock drop to the ground. Thus, natural actions sort sizes. Walk along a stream from its source on a hill to see it. Arriving at the Quabbin, small rock grains diminish to mud in some places. Even in mud, water flows down to carve channels that mimic river systems.

Quabbin sand reveals erosion patterns.

The Quabbin region also reveals evidence of how humans use rocks. Humans seem always to have used them to designate meeting places and trails. They create foundations, roads and bridges, boundaries, and grave and historical markers from rocks.

In Quabbin-region stone walls, humans mainly used rounded boulders smoothed by glacier, ice, and flowing water. Narrow stone walls running through woods indicate that, in the past, woodland was open farmland. With rounded rocks in a stone wall, gaps filled, and the largest rocks on the bottom, the builders made a fine field wall. They often made substantial walls nearest homes or barns to contain large gardens. They used smaller rocks to fill the wall interior. Level ground once tilled remains inside those walls.

Stone walls, now often in heavily wooded areas, in the past set boundaries between cleared fields.

Many roads in Quabbin Reservation have rock walls along each side if homes stood nearby. On the high side of the road, a stone construction may indicate the foundation of a home and barn.

Behind the best built foundation walls, larger foundations and a complex of stone walls and foundations for other outbuildings may remain. Dug wells supplied residents with water and to keep the well open, builders lined wells with rock. Within Quabbin Reservation, reservoir builders filled wells to guarantee safety. Off reservation, some wells near foundations remain open. Hikers should take care when exploring areas around foundations on other public lands.

When hikers find an old foundation, they may sit for a while and imagine living in that place. Where were the

proliferate throughout area forests and fields

fields and gardens? Did the inhabitants survive comfortably there? Where did the residents work? Does a stream indicate a nearby mill site or dam? If so, did the folks have a way to control the flow of water to the waterwheel?

The Quabbin region has a number of so-called hermit caves, well-built stone-lined chambers usually constructed into a gentle slope. Different theories concern their origin. Some believe native Americans built them. Others believe European settlers or Vikings built them. Caves could have protected people from discovery when under attack, or maybe they stored goods.

Moving all those stones and picking just the right one to fit must certainly have challenged the builders. Foundations and bridges required the mind of an engineer as well as a strong hand.

Builders may have cut native stone to size with hand tools, while they might also encourage water or ice to do the trick. Builders could drill holes to split a stone in order to create regular sides when building fine walls. A number of old quarries in Quabbin Reservation reveal stones removed from ledges. In the Federated Women's Club Forest in Petersham, a hiking trail runs along the side of Soapstone Hill to a quarry. Soft yet very heat tolerant, soapstone serves well for facing wood stoves and countertops. Its softness also makes it prized for carving. Soapstone Hill offers great views of Quabbin's accidental wilderness landscape.

In another Quabbin region town, evidence indicates that some settlers, living far from a quarry site, worked to cut flat stones from a nearby glacial erratic.

Old stone sometimes provides markers for town corner boundaries. Before 1976, Massachusetts's selectboards had to check such markers

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The woods harbor stone foundations of buildings no longer inhabited.

Quabbin region's diverse waterfalls make inviting day hike destinations

by Amber Robidoux

Diverse waterfalls in the Quabbin region run deep in history. The area offers mountain peaks, hiking trails, paddling waterways, and, of course, Quabbin Reservoir. As a transplant to the area and an explorer by nature, I enjoy the beauty of the Quabbin region where we can immerse with nature right outside the door and a few steps down the trail.

Some favorite day hikes in the Quabbin feature accessible waterfalls and perfect opportunities for families and other hikers to connect—with nature and with each other.

We have experienced an unusually soggy summer resulting in high water levels and plentiful rapids due to all the rain. Explorers must practice good judgement and take safety seriously near water sources.

Bear's Den Falls
New Salem

managed by The Trustees of Reservations

You can reach the falls with a short hike from the trailhead, where the sloped and rocky trail breaks off into the woods. While some areas are quite steep, the trail is not hard to navigate.

Trails leading to the falls may prove a tad technical for little hikers. I would consider it a hand-holding situation until you reach the gorge, where it levels out and offers room to explore. There you will find the cascades split by large boulders and a shallow pool.

Length: 0.7 miles/Elevation Gain: 36 feet
Route Type: out and back
Falls Height: 12-foot drop
Family Friendly Rating: 3/5

Briggs Brook Falls
Erving

This little gem can be tricky to hunt down. The small parking area nestles among some residential homes off Briggs Street in Erving. Signage is clear, but be extra mindful and respectful of properties near the trailhead.

It's a short walk and an easy hike. Rushing water, mammoth moss-covered rocks, and a pretty trillium-lined trail leads right to a wooden bridge at the base of the falls. It is perfect for families looking to explore nature without the hassle of gear intended for longer distances.

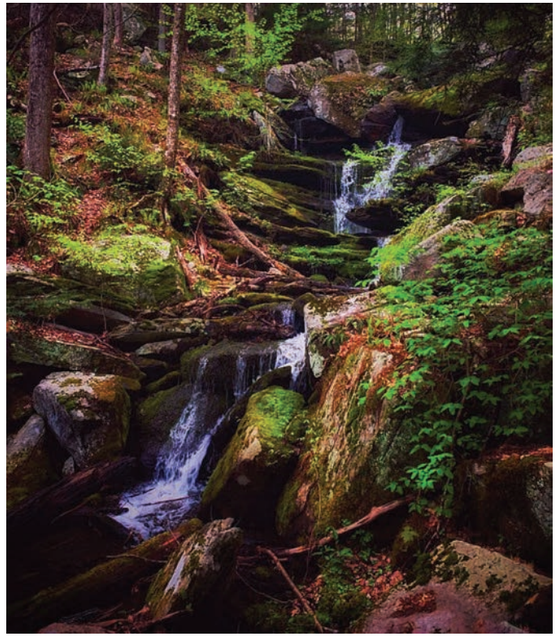
Length: 0.8 miles/Elevation Gain: 95 feet
Route Type: out and back
Falls Height: 60-foot total drop
Family Friendly Rating: 5/5

Buffam Falls
Pelham

managed by Buffam Falls Conservation Area

Beautiful Buffam Falls is highly trafficked with good reason. If you access the area via the Blue Loop Trail, parking is tricky. Then you'll cross the water over a wooden bridge and to an easy trail down to the falls. If you access the area via the White Trail, parking is easier, but the trail down is quite steep.

Length: 1.8 miles/Elevation Gain: 203 feet
Route Type: loop
Falls Height: 25-foot total drop
Family Friendly Rating: 5/5



Briggs Brook Falls, Erving

Cook's Canyon
Barre

managed by Mass Audubon

For an easy stroll without much gear or fuss, Cook's Canyon offers an extremely well marked and level trail. You have the option to do a full loop or take shorter trails in the middle to lessen the distance. It's the perfect trail for beginners, those with disabilities, or small children. You'll find lots of greenery and places to explore.

Length: 1.7 miles/Elevation Gain: 65 feet
Route Type: loop
Family Friendly Rating: 5/5

Doane's Falls
Royalston

managed by The Trustees of Reservations

Doane's Falls is superb for ease of hiking and accessibility. Find a view of the falls by taking a short walk from the parking area. It's handicap accessible, and it's so accessible that our visually impaired friends can enjoy the sounds of the rushing water right from the parking lot.

Length: 0.4 miles/Elevation Gain: 104 feet
Route Type: out and back
Falls Height: Approx. 175-foot total drop
Family Friendly Rating: 5/5

Holland Glen/Hop Brook Falls
Belchertown

While not large in size, Holland Glen is a sweet little hike out to the falls. From the parking area, follow the trail up to the right so you get a better view of the falls coming in. The hike is shorter if you follow to the left, but in my experience, I found it far too overgrown to see the falls properly from that side. There are some rocky areas, but little hikers should do just fine.

Length: 1.1 miles/Elevation Gain: 206 feet
Route Type: loop
Falls Height: 15 foot total drop
Family Friendly Rating: 4/5

Royalston Falls
Royalston

managed by The Trustees of Reservations

The last stretch of the New England Trail, northbound, overlaps with Tully Trail, and that's where you'll find Falls Brook Shelter. Approximately a quarter mile from the shelter while venturing southbound on Tully Trail, you'll come on to the falls almost from behind them. Don't expect to be greeted head-on with a stunning view. You'll have to follow the trail along the stream to get a good look, but it's worth it.

With some moderate hills, the trail is simple. Just expect a lot of rocks and some quite steep places.

Length: 2.7 miles
Elevation Gain: 554 feet
Route Type: out and back
Falls Height: 45-foot drop
Family Friendly Rating: 4/5

Spirit Falls
Royalston

Access Spirit Falls by way of Jacob Hill Reservation, also part of the Tully Trail. Hiking down to the falls is easier, but if you prefer a good workout, you can head up

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populous Belchertown retains rural character

by John Burk

Cold Spring Orchards, Belchertown, adorns an autumnal hill.

photo © by John Burk

Once famed as a center for carriage making, Belchertown retains a small-town rural character despite being the Quabbin region's most populous community. Its 55.4-square-mile landscape comprises rugged uplands as high as 1,075 feet in the northern portion of town with gentler hills, plains, and wetlands elsewhere.

Quabbin Reservoir's southwest corner extends along Belchertown's northeastern boundary.

Downstream from Windsor Dam, the Swift River main stem passes by a state fish hatchery and wildlife management area to form the town's eastern boundary with Ware and Palmer. Other significant waterways include Jabish Brook, Metacomet Lake, Lake Holland, and Arcadia Lake. Holland Glen, a picturesque waterfall on Hop Brook, is centerpiece of a conservation area owned by Belchertown Historical Society.

The Nipmuc native Americans, who primarily settled in adjacent Connecticut and Quaboag river valleys, established seasonal camps in Belchertown and periodically burned forests while hunting deer, wild turkeys, and other game. Native sites likely concentrated in fertile lowlands such as those around Swift River and Cold Spring, a natural spring in the southern part of town.

Land comprising present-day Belchertown, Ware, and Pelham, temporarily became part of Connecticut in

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hilltop Petersham home to picturesque scenery

by John Burk

Petersham, known colloquially as the Hilltop Town for its well-preserved common on a high ridge, is home to picturesque scenery and abundant conservation land. At sixty-eight square miles, including portions of discontinued Quabbin Reservoir towns of Dana, Greenwich, and Prescott, Petersham's is the largest community by area in central Massachusetts.

Situated on the Worcester Hills western edge, Petersham's largely undeveloped landscape comprises rocky hills, forests, and wetlands. Swift River East Branch, Quabbin Reservoir's largest source and a renowned trout fishing destination, winds through a steep valley capped by 1,209-foot Sherman Hill, the town's highest elevation. Fever Brook's east and west branches, also part of Quabbin's watershed, feature numerous beaver wetlands. Harvard Pond, Connor Pond, and Brown's Pond, created during the nineteenth century, provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and flora.

In precolonial times, the Nipmuc native Americans likely established seasonal encampments at or near sites

Cattle graze in picturesque Petersham surroundings.

photo © by John Burk

such as Swift River, Pottapaug Pond, Pottapaug Hill, and Soapstone Hill. Historical sources cite a plantation at Nichewaug, a locale on the Swift River in the southern part of town.

European settlement commenced in 1733 when the Massachusetts Bay General Court granted a tract of land to seventy-one proprietors as compensation for

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from the pens of *Uniquely*

compiled by Carol Mays,

Nostalgic poems this month include bittersweet remembrances of lost Quabbin towns, personal relationships, a slave cemetery, and of one's personal life.

—Carol Mays, Poetry Editor

The editorial board of Uniquely Quabbin magazine expresses gratitude to Carol Mays for her thoughtful editing and presentation of the magazine's poetry column, which she created. Dina Stander of Shutesbury will carry on for the next issue. To submit poetry for consideration, email her at dinastander15@gmail.com.

Carol has been writing and compiling poetry for forty years and has published eight books on various subjects. At her studio in Ware, she converts some of her paperbacks into ornamental hardcover versions. She has uploaded multimedia presentations of twenty poems to her YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/IdyllicProductions.

Hiker

by Gail Thomas

For solitude,
walk here.
If you are patient,
you will be rewarded
by fox, turkey, coyote,
deer.
Grouse may startle
up from brush, raccoon
or porcupine peer
down from a limb.
Near water,
follow osprey
scanning for fish, eagles
riding the thermals,
loons reappearing
after long dives.

Trails lead past
lush beds of fern
flickering in every
shade of green
to dams
knit by beavers
exquisite in their
knowledge
of where a meadow
is needed.
You may never
see another human
all day. If you listen
to wind comb
the forest, trees
creaking like floorboards,

you may suddenly
be gripped by
old sorrows and
not know
why.

Reprinted from *No Simple Wilderness: An Elegy for Swift River Valley,* published by Haley's, Athol, in 2001.

Gail Thomas wrote the book when she lived in Shutesbury and interviewed many former inhabitants of towns destroyed to create Quabbin Reservoir. Her other books include *Odd Mercy,Waving Back,* and *Finding the Bear*. Her poems have been widely published in journals and anthologies. Her awards include the Charlotte Mew Prize from Headmistress Press, Narrative Poetry Prize from *Naugatuck River Review*, and a "Must Read" from Massachusetts Center for the Book.

gailthomaspoet.com

So I Tried to Paint Your Portrait

by Stephanie Benoit

The way I remember you
I was able to capture the strong jaw
And smiling face, the blueness of your piercing eyes,
But I was unable to paint the kindness and
understanding behind them.
I sketched in your firmly planted stance,
But I could not paint the gentleness of your being.
And I could not paint the courage you displayed
as a warrior.
Patience. How does one depict patience in a portrait?
It is not possible to portray tenderness on a canvas.
There is no sable brush that can smooth in
The depth of your soul and unfailing faith.
Could the masters like Rubens and Michelangelo
Make their brushstrokes express your humor and
good nature?
Does tenacity have a look or an image?
Perseverance and fortitude cannot be replicated.
The canvas is not large enough to cover your greatness.
I could not mix colors bright enough to cry out
To the world the magnitude of your countenance.
You lived love, you lived joy, you lived dreams.
Your impact on so many of us was tremendous,
Your presence indelibly written in my mind,
But your time is over. As I try to remember,
Your absence is only endured because
I still have your memory,
The reservoir of love we shared.

Reprinted from Stephanie Benoit's 2013 book, *Between a Lily Pond and a Star.*

Since 1947 Stephanie Benoit has lived in rural New Braintree, where she raised her large family of boys. She served in the US Marine Corps during World War II. From 1970 to 1976 Stephanie was one of the first women to serve on boards of selectmen in Massachusetts. In her painting and poetry, she shares her love and pride in her hometown.

Quabbin poets

poetry editor

The Wheelbarrow

by Edward Bruce Bynum

My grandfather gave me rides in it,
Picked up the handles from behind and steered me,
One wheeled,
Down the road, past those who could talk to the dead,
Past the shady walnut trees,
past the cemetery for slaves
Who dreamed someday they would fly,
Be carried along like me
On a black moon, iridescent and nonlocal,
With a symmetry that makes the stars
Astonished and quiet.

Edward Bruce Bynum, a psychologist, has lived near the Quabbin for more than thirty-five years. His books about psychology include *Dark Light Consciousness* and *The Dreamlife of Families.* His books of poetry include *The First Bird, The Magdalene Poems: Love Letters of Jesus the Christ and Mary Magdalene*.

Hands of Time

song lyrics by Gary Blanchard

Floating in the wonderland of dreams,
I see the sky below my feet.
Soaring through the world, I see the scenes
Of people living in the world below.
Looking at them, I can see the tears.
And all the hope that lies beneath the fears.

All around me I can hear the sounds
Of nature as she wakens from her sleep.
And behind me I can see the years
That poured around me as I lived my life.
And I surrender to the light
And offer myself to the loving hands,
The hands of time.

Gary Blanchard is a singer/songwriter with a studio in Ware. He wrote his first song in 1966 when he was fifteen. He continues to write songs with uplifting, poetic lyrics. "Hands of Time" appears on his newest album, *Awakening.*

Quabbin Region Doors

by Mary-Lou Ferro Conca

Quabbin region doors, clockwise from upper left, provide entrance to the site of the home of Brigadier General Timothy Ruggles, Hardwick; Get Up And Dance Studio, Gilbertville; on the way to the Garlic Festival near Lake Mattawa, Orange; Temenos Retreat Center, Mount Mineral Road, Shutesbury.

villages of the Quabbin region

ATHOL
Athol Center
Eagleville
Fryeville
Hillside
Intervale
Lake Park
Partridgeville
Pinedale
Pleasant Valley
Proctorville
Riceville
South Athol
South Park
Sunnyside

BARRE
Barre Plains
Bogue
Center Village
Christian Hill
Coldbrook
East Barre Falls
Heald Village
Ryder Village
Mill Villages
South Barre

BELCHERTOWN
Bardwell
Chestnut Hill
Barrett's Junction
Blue Meadow
Dwight
East Hill
Federal
Franklin
Holyoke
Laurel
North Station
Pansy Park
Slab City
South Belchertown
Turkey Hill
Tylerville
Washington
West Hill

ERVING
Farley Village
Creamery Station
Millers Falls

HARDWICK
Gilbertville
Old Furnace
Wheelwright

HUBBARDSTON
Catville
Healdsville
Nicholsville
Pitcherville
Williamsville

LEVERETT
Dudleyville
Hillsboro
Moore's Corner
North Leverett
Rattlesnake Gutter
Slab City

NEW BRAINTREE

NEW SALEM
Cooleyville
Hagerville
Millington
Morgan's Crossing
Morse Village
New Salem Center
North New Salem
Puppyville
Quimby
Soapstone

OAKHAM
Coldbrook
Coldbrook Springs
Parkers Mills

ORANGE
Blissville
Fryeville
Furnace
Holtshire
North Orange
Tully
West Orange
Wheelerville

PELHAM

PETERSHAM
Ledgeville
Nichewaug

PHILLIPSTON
Goulding
Powers Mills

ROYALSTON
South Royalston

RUTLAND
Muschopauge
New Boston
Rutland Heights
White Hall

SHUTESBURY
Baconsville
Lock Village

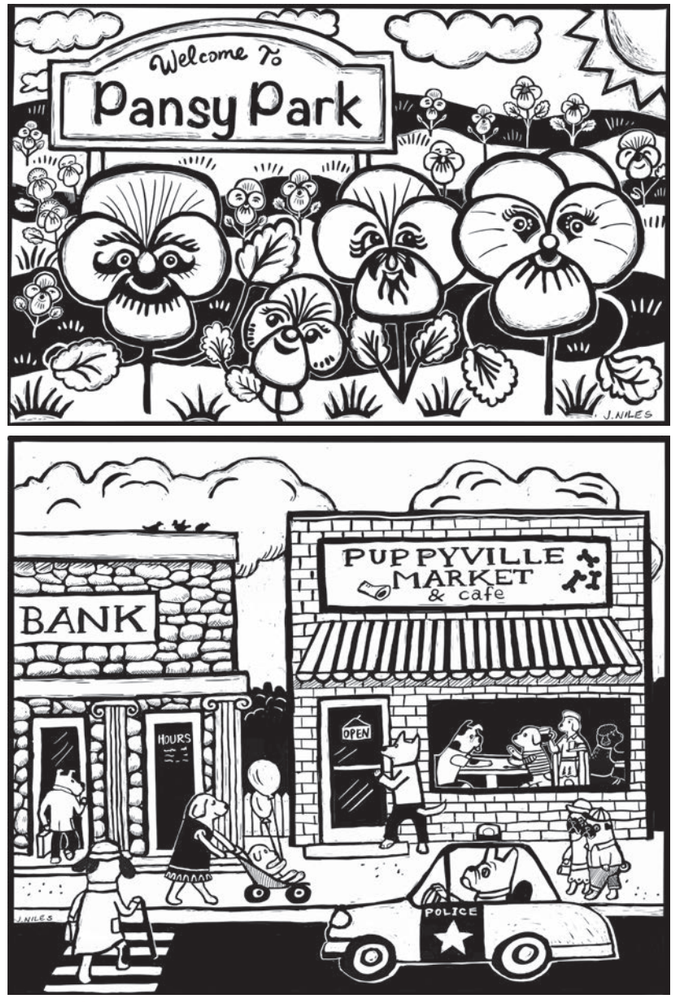
TEMPLETON
Baldwinville
East Templeton
Otter River

WARE
Brimstone Hill
Gibbs Crossing

WARWICK
Barber Hill
Brush Valley

WENDELL
Locke Village
Wendell Depot

The 351 towns and cities of Massachusetts have plenty of villages with no official or legal status. In Massachusetts, the concept of village remains undefined.



Quabbin region village names like Pansy Park and Puppyville leave room for interpretation.
pen and ink drawings © by Jen Niles

region's village names pique curiosity

by Jen Niles

Quabbin region village names certainly pique curiosity. Pansy Park? Slab City? Puppyville? Those places sound like something from a children's book!

Local historians and longtime residents confirm that not all Quabbin region villages have formal governmental status but rather seem to have developed as smaller areas nicknamed within a town.

The region also harbors amazing street names, including some named for prominent people, local geography, important industries, interesting residents, and even legends. Local names resemble threads—pulling them can lead to stories like the following supplied by a variety of in-the-know local sources.

Belchertown's Pansy Park came from a flower and seed operation the Goodell family ran out of the Belchertown area called Dwight. The Goodells distributed the company's seed catalog around the world. Pansy Pond included a little body of water with exotic plants and flowers like giant ornamental lily pads. And of course, fields of pansies! Families came to spend the day enjoying a picnic and admiring the flowers.

Some names take note of local industry or of people. In Warwick, Brush Valley most likely refers to the shop that manufactured brush wood. Slab City appears on the list in Belchertown and Leverett. According to Cliff McCarthy, coauthor of a book on the history of Belchertown, a slab city is something usually associated with sawmills, consisting of the mill and related businesses located around it. Soon after the revolutionary war, a sawmill operated at Slab City on the Swift River in Belchertown.

Powers Mills in Phillipston got its name from one of the largest mills, run by Edward Powers. New Salem's Millington was a busy village with a grain mill. In Phillipston, a man named Goulding was one of the partners who built a cotton mill there. The workers' homes across the street developed into a charming little village bearing his name.

Among the more unusual names, Rattlesnake Gutter in Leverett designates a conservation area and a road. "The road received its name during the 1850s when it was great sport to capture the rattlesnakes that lived among the rocks," according to Ruth Field in her book, *A History of Leverett*. "Young men would cut off the rattles and make a chain of them to wear on their belts."

Field says Leverett's Teawaddle Hill Road is actually Teawaddle Road. It was facetiously named in the mid 1800s by the Ladies Aid Society, and its name became accepted over the years. It seems some customers of Christopher Adams at Still Corner traveled the road for cider brandy. However, they denied that that was what they were going for and insisted they were visiting friends at South (later East) Leverett, where they were served tea. The group of ladies, during refreshments after their meeting, watched the men stumbling home and said it was the first time they had seen anyone with a 'tea-waddle' before.

Bull Hill Road, also in Leverett, takes its name from "a bull that had strayed from his companions and, losing his footing, fell onto the rocks below. Unfortunately, the bull didn't die immediately but lay there all night bellowing."

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historic bridges cross rivers from Farley to Wendell and Gilbertville to Ware

by Carla Charter

Farley Bridge in the Farley section of Erving crosses Millers River to Wendell.
drone photo © by Rick Flematti

Rivers run through Farley in Erving and Gilbertville in Hardwick, and a historic bridge crosses the river in each community. Farley Bridge crosses Millers River, and the Gilbertville bridge crosses Ware River.

In 1889, Dean and Westbrook of New York built the Pratt truss-style Farley Bridge, 127 feet long and 14 feet wide, crossing Millers River. "There are not too many of these older steel bridges around," said Philip Johnson, Erving historical commissioner and author of *The Hampden Railroad—The Greatest Railroad That Never Ran.*

"One built in the similar time period in a different century crosses Deerfield River in Bardwell Ferry from Charlemont to Conway," said Johnson.

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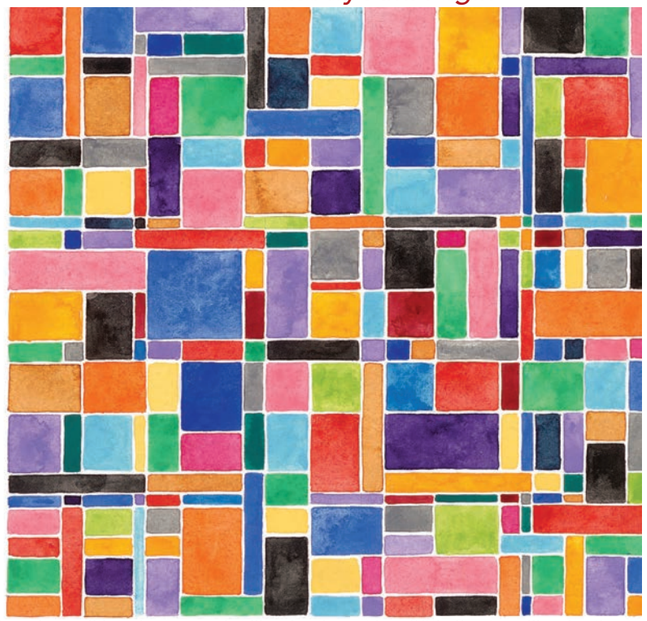
The Gilbertville covered bridge crosses Ware River from Gilbertville to Ware..
drone photo © by Rick Flematti

digital breakup
a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



Amy/Ami Fagin specializes in traditional manuscript illumination at her 20th Century Illuminations studio in New Salem. She is author of *Beyond Genocide.* Find more of Ami's visual haiku at visualhaiku.graphics.

Pop-Up Marketplace and Garlic Days replace Garlic and Arts Festival this year

A Pop-Up Marketplace featuring local artists will take place at Forsters Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, from noon to five Saturday afternoon, September 18. The marketplace is located at the familiar venue for the Garlic and Arts Festival, on hiatus this year, according to Deb Habib, one of the organizers.

"The festival is a fully volunteer effort that requires many months of advance preparations and planning," she said.

"With safety and collective well-being paramount," she continued, "organizers made the decision that the time was not yet right for the usual huge gathering. But local artists need support (and brighten our lives) more than ever!"

Some twenty local artists will exhibit and have work on sale at the marketplace. Food vendors will include Nalini's Kitchen of Quabbin Harvest Coop, Orange, and Maple Mama of Wendell. Attendees may bring a picnic, Habib said, and should bring chairs and water.

Open mic on the family stage will include songs and stories, according to Habib, who said the event will also feature fairy houses made by children at local libraries' summer workshops with artist Nina Wellen and sponsored by Garlic and Arts.

Nearby Seeds of Solidarity Farm has scheduled its second of five consecutive Garlic Saturdays with planting and culinary garlic, growing tips, and a farm tour. to coincide with the Pop-Up and Marketplace.

"We remain committed to uniting community, promoting skills for resilience, and providing grants to local organizations as this time

Events at past Garlic and Arts festivals included a tug-of-garlic.
photo courtesy of garlicandarts.org

period is especially important to uphold the values and actions that keep our region strong," Habib said. Garlic Saturdays will occur weekly through October 9.

self-guided trails and tours provide entrées to local history

by Carla Charter

North Brookfield's Wendemuth Meadow and Wendemuth barn marks a destination for the self-guided Blue Diamond Trail.
photo © by Jessica Cusworth

Several Quabbin towns teeming with history offer visitors and residents historic trail guides and maps so they can discover local history on their own.

A twenty-six-mile Lost Villages Scenic Byway driving route along Route 122 extends through the towns of Orange, New Salem, Petersham, Barre, Oakham, and Rutland. The towns lost villages to Quabbin Reservoir or Ware River Watershed or as the result of other events.

"We looked at historic or cultural or natural resources as well as open space recreation when deciding on sites to highlight," said Trish Settles, deputy director, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. Funding from the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program in 2009 endowed the trail.

Ware River Watershed took over several lost villages viewable from the trail and Coldbrook Springs in Barre, settled in 1748 and named for its mineral springs. The village started as a mill village and later thrived as a resort area, Settles said.

Some spots on the scenic byway date to the early settlement of the area by Europeans who displaced native Americans and settled Nichewaug Village in Petersham, originally a Nipmuc native American settlement, Settles continued.

"The road is pretty attractive," she said. "It is a fascinating route. There are also farmers' markets, gazebos, and farm stands." Wachusett Greenways Rail Trail, the former Mass Central Railroad, crosses the byway. Several towns have kiosks with a map of the Route 122 byway, and it's online at bywayswestmass.com.

North Brookfield offers the half-mile Blue Diamond Trail across West Brookfield Road from Town Forest Park with its trout pond and nine-hole disc golf course. Blue Diamond Trail links to Wendemuth Meadows owned by East Quabbin Land Trust. The Wendemuth family moved to the property from Prescott when the state took that town for the creation of Quabbin Reservoir.

One marker in Wendemuth Meadows denotes the Quabaug Spring Company that bottled and shipped spring water from around the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. The Wendemuth barn remains, with the lower level of the barn opened to visitors. "It is a lovely walk around the meadows," said Cynthia Henshaw, executive director of East Quabbin Land Trust.

Maps for land protected by East Quabbin Land Trust appear on the website EQLP.org.

Erving Public Library sponsors a historic self-guided walking trail map of Erving Center. The map evolved from a May 2021 library Zoom talk held at the library. Phil Johnson and Sara Campbell, Erving historical commissioners, hosted the talk and created the map.

A stone arch bridge from the 1850s-1860s era continues to carry freight trains, according to the map. Keyup Brook, named after a native American who lived just north of Erving, runs under the bridge. Other map sites include the Congregational church constructed prior to 1871 in the center of town and markers of the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, a former toll road that existed prior to Route 2.

Johnson said he hopes to create a historic walking trail map of Erving's Farley Village. Erving's historic, accessible walking trail runs no more than a quarter mile, he said.

Residents of Orange created a historical trail guide recently. "Several years ago, Denise Andrews and I were talking about Orange, its history, and buildings of interest," said Janice Lanou, retired director of Orange public libraries. Ann Miller of Orange Revitalization Partnership, ORP—chaired by Andrews—asked Lanou to join a committee that would create a walking tour.

"That's how it got started," Lanou said. "So Ann, Kathy Schiappa, and

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Danelle Gravel of Ware and Carol Gariepy of Phillipston

region's authors capture words and craft them

by Diane Kane

Feather Picked
book cover and author
Danelle Gravel of Ware
photos courtesy of Danelle Gravel

Author Danelle Gravel has lived her entire life surrounded by family and friends in Ware. "My life has been filled with love and people who always wondered what I would do when I got older," Gravel said. "I doubt any of them guessed I'd become an author, but here we are!"

Gravel started writing short stories as extra credit in third grade. "When I was fifteen, I posted on two different online platforms that gained quite a bit of traction and encouraged me to want to write more."

At sixteen, Gravel began work at *Ware River News.* By the end of the season, the newspaper had published her stories under her own byline. Gravel said, "I started writing my first novel while I was working at the paper, working for two and a half years on it before finally publishing it on Amazon."

Her inspiration for her first book came from reading past articles in *Ware River News.* "I had been looking through papers from the 1950s and found a few articles about how teenagers needed to become more aware of the world," Gravel said. "It gave me the idea to start a book from a teenager's perspective and to look at how even if we thought we had everything under control, there's always something that will get in your way."

When asked if the Quabbin area influenced her writing, Gravel said, "Oh, absolutely, it did! I based the fictional town in my book, Waterfall Creek, after Ware."

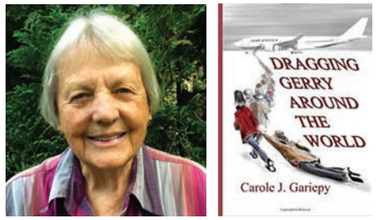
Gravel's advice to new writers: "First of all, don't let anybody's comments influence you not to write."

Second, she said, save up money while still writing. "I never took into account how expensive it would be to publish a book until I finished my first."

The pandemic affected all writers differently. Gravel took a break from writing during the past year. "My mental health was at an all-time low, and I knew I needed to get that better before writing anything else. However, I have since begun to plan out a new novel. This one will be very different from my last one. I've changed a lot since I finished my first book, so it seems only natural that my writing genre would too."

Reading is an essential part of Gravel's life. "I'm a very eclectic person when it comes to reading, so most subjects interest me. My favorite books growing up were the Sherlock Holmes stories, the Hunger Games trilogy, and the Harry Potter series."

Feather Picked by Danelle Gravel is available in ebook on Amazon.com. She hopes to have it in print version soon.



Dragging Gerry around the World
book cover and author
Carole Gariepy of Phillipston
photos courtesy of Carole Gariepy

Carole (Lombard) Gariepy grew up in Hardwick. She received a bachelor's degree from Worcester State Teachers College and taught elementary school in Wallingford, Connecticut, and Barre, Massachusetts. After she and Gerry Gariepy married in 1962, she moved to Barre where they lived until settling in Phillipston in 1995.

Gariepy found a love for nonfiction writing based on life experiences and travel with her husband. "We learned great lessons in culture and history as we traveled," Gariepy said. "Travel helps people to become more understanding, accepting, and nonjudgmental. Travel erases prejudice. Those insights became almost more important than the tourist attractions of the world."

Their travels to more than seventy countries on all the continents, from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Antarctica, resulted in her books *Why Go There?* and *Dragging Gerry around the World.*

Other writing projects such as in *Quilt of America,* US history told through quilts made by quilters across the country, inspired Gariepy to want to preserve local history. The Spirit of Phillipston, that she coauthored with Jane French, was a labor of love with 352 pages and more than 700 photos. *A History of Queen Lake in Phillipston* is another tribute to a place she calls home.

"Histories of the lake and town couldn't have been written without excellent input and cooperation from local people," Gariepy said. "Also, local people gave tremendous support to us and our special son, Grant, which inspired the writing of another book, Blessings from Grant."

Gariepy never expected to write her newest book, *In Isolation,* but she was motivated by COVID and the history she learned in visits to leper colonies in Kalaupapa, Hawaii, as well as the Japanese internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho where people also faced isolation.

A story told to her by Paul Chihara, first composer-in-residence of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, combined with her own experiences with the COVID virus, inspired Gariepy to write In Isolation. Chihara spent three childhood years interned with his family at the Minidoka camp. Gerry Gariepy illustrated the book.

Gariepy believes the outreach of caring words and actions brings hope and sustenance during difficult times. "Simple kindnesses can make all the difference, and it's something everyone can do." She also writes COVID-related and general feature articles for local newspapers.

"Finding the right publisher is important," Gariepy said. "It takes time and perseverance. You have to show them you have something unique." Gariepy has been busy currently writing her memoir. "It's about my story and philosophy connected to the stages and events throughout my life."

"I write about things I feel a passion for, something that touches my heart, and those stories almost seem to write themselves," she said of her writing philosophy.

Gariepy's books are available on Amazon and in local stores.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Words travel on the breeze that flows across the rivers and rugged hills around the Quabbin Reservoir. Many local residents capture those words and craft them into stories and books for publication.

Literacy Project serves Quabbin region learners at sites in Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, Orange, and Ware

by Ellen Woodbury

Among Literacy Project students and staff are, from left, Michelle Bowers, student; Chris Woodcock, volunteer; Kayla Platanitis, student; Phyllis Stone, volunteer; Adam Day, student; Charlie Kerrigan, teacher; and Nate Ferris, staff.

"We aren't the heroes. The students are their own heroes," said Cathy King, site director and teacher since 2007 at The Literacy Project North Quabbin in Orange.

Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, Orange, and Ware Literacy Project sites serve residents of Quabbin region towns.

"I love this job," Cathy explained. "It has to do with the teachers I work with and the students who are amazing human beings. They come here to learn to change their lives, and we help them do that."

As The Literacy Project, TLP, a nonprofit educational organization, begins its thirty-seventh year, the project has grown into five sites in Northampton, Greenfield, Amherst, Orange, and Ware.

Massachusetts Department of Education deemed TLP exemplary in March, 2021.

Lindy Whiton, PhD, a reading specialist at Greenfield Community College, and Jim Vaughan, a volunteer, started a nonprofit agency in 1984 to teach adults to read. Phil Rabinowitz of Royalston joined them in 1987, and The Literacy Project was born.

With very little money but deep commitment, TLP established classes in Northampton, Greenfield, Orange, and Ware. Volunteers and staff worked to meet students' varying needs. The Association for Community Based Education named TLP one of ten best adult education programs in the country. Today, five locations and some twenty staff members and seventy-five volunteers offer basic literacy, HS equivalency, computer skills, and career and college readiness training.

"We welcome all adults and out-of-school students ages sixteen to eighteen with parental permission," said Judith Roberts, TLP executive director. "We are open and free to the public."

TLP offers a variety of programs tailored to student needs. Programs include pre-HiSET preparation for the HS equivalency test consisting of five subjects. Students achieving a passing score earn a HS diploma equivalent. Reading, writing, math skills, career pathways that can lead to securing work, instruction in computer skills, and preparation for application to community college, college, or university round out the curriculum.

"We had a very challenging year in 2020," Cathy explained. "Both students and teachers had to learn to adapt and develop skills for online learning-a very steep learning curve for everyone." TLP provided seventy-five Chromebook computers to individual students to facilitate their studies and will continue to do so in the coming year.

To find out what students thought about in-class and online learning, staff developed a questionnaire for students. For some, especially those with children and/or jobs, online learning provided flexibility to learn from home at convenient times. Some missed interaction with other students and teachers and said they learned better face to face.

Cathy described a student with health issues who appreciated and did well with online teaching. Cold, snowy winters and insufficient public transportation often make getting to school difficult, and online learning can address such barriers.

"We have a rolling enrollment so people can begin at a time right for their own life schedule," Cathy explained. Prospective students will call a site and schedule an initial meeting with TLP staff before enrollment.

Literacy Project programs include

preparation for HiSet HS equivalency test

building skills in reading, writing, and math

career pathways that can lead to securing work

instruction in computer skills

preparation for application to institutions of higher learning

"We put the responsibility in the students' laps, but we *are* there to help!" Cathy said.

Teachers help students sufficiently prepared for HiSET to sign up for the test at TLP expense. In the past, graduation ceremonies including with caps, gowns, and diplomas took place at Greenfield Community College for those who passed the HiSET test.

Contact information

Amherst TLP for remote classes with computer scholarships and computer training, (413) 259-1663

Greenfield TLP for hybrid classes, some in-person, some online, (413) 774-3935

Northampton TLP for in-person classes except for hybrid afternoon HS equivalency, (413)584-6755

Orange TLP for hybrid classes, some in-person, some online, or solely online, (978) 544-8917

Ware TLP for in-person and online HS equivalency in the evening, (413) 967-9902

info@LiteracyProject.org and literacyproject.org; also on Facebook

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.

residents of 1940s smallest towns persevered

by Don Flye

Ruth Morse Shepherd at Morse Farm on Ware Corner Road, Oakham, operated a sap house in the 1940s.

photo courtesy of Oakham Historical Society

Small Quabbin region towns in the 1940s with populations under a thousand often developed around several large families that could trace their lineage in the community back at least two and often many more generations.

Quabbin region towns with populations under a thousand include, according to the 1940 US census and in order of number of individuals living there, Shutesbury, 191; New Salem, 357; Wendell, 391; Oakham, 423; Warwick, 444; Pelham, 568; Leverett, 688; and Royalston, 795.

When the country declared war on Germany and Japan, able-bodied men enlisted in or were drafted for the military. Stateside, including in small Quabbin region towns, the US rationed food and gasoline at a limited amount per family.

During the early 1940s, men in many small Quabbin region towns spent years in the military with women, children, and older men often doing farm and other work in the communities.

Many residents of small communities lived fairly self-sufficiently in the 1940s, usually with a backyard garden and a few chickens. Those who didn't have a cow often purchased raw milk and butter from one of the small dairy farms.

as Depression ended and war challenged all

Agriculture often provided income, and households and farms kept apple, pear, or peach orchards. Loose hay and, later, baled hay provided feed for animals. Tractors slowly replaced draught horses. By the 1940s, many households had at least one automobile or motorized truck.

A small van delivered bread and baked goods from house to house once a week. In warm weather, a truck delivered block ice cut from local ponds in winter for ice boxes. By 1945, nevertheless, eighty-five percent of American homes had refrigerators, not ice boxes, according to bigchill.com. Residents of small towns frequently ordered dry goods from the Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward catalogue.

Small 1940s towns often had a combined general store and post office with gas pumps. In the center of many such towns, a two-room elementary school housed the first four grades in one room and the next four in the other. Each room had one teacher with no teachers' aides or special needs teachers. A music teacher visited once a week for an hour. Upper grade students sometimes instructed children in lower grades.

The county provided a school nurse who also made house calls. Parents relied on the nurse to treat minor injuries and sickness.

Small town centers started getting electric lights and indoor plumbing in the 1940s, although homes and farms on the outskirts often relied on oil lamps and outhouses.

Coal or wood heated most homes in winter. A truck provided by grain companies located near a railway delivered coal.

Householders cut wood during spring, summer, and fall into four-foot lengths and stacked it to dry for ideal burning. A small portable saw rig, powered by an auto

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The 1940 class of many grades at Oakham Center School included, from left, front, Eugenia Sieczarski, Louise Hardy, and Dorothy Lena; second row, Rene Agar, Edna Kowal, Betty Dean, Grace Grimes, Lillian Bechan, Irene Dogul, Frances Zelnia, Dorothy Bullard, Vivian Showalter, Mabel Wilkins, Eva Grimes, and Irene Sieczkarski; back row, Costy Nicholson, John O'Donnell, Robert Carlson, Phillip Dwelly, Homer Rock, James Parsons, John Sieczkarski, Hiram Bullard, Robert Szczuka, Ronald Wilkins, Ralph Wilber, Paul Oufresne, Ralph Bullard, the teacher Florence Bothwell, and Albert Rock.

photo courtesy of Oakham Historical Society

a Quabbin region vignette: Leo McGinnis

by Eleanor McGinnis

Leo McGinnis, hardworking lumberman, serviced the area of New Salem, Petersham, and the lost Quabbin towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. He worked with horses to get logs to the movable steam-powered sawmill run by his father, Andrew McGinnis.

Drafted into the World War I military, he sold his horses and said goodbye to his family at the end of Old County Road, New Salem, where the Rabbit train passed a quarter of a mile from his home through New Salem on its daily trip to Athol from Springfield.

Leo boarded the Rabbit bound for the Springfield station where a US Army officer met him and others drafted into the military around November 11, 1918, with the good news that the war had ended. The officer informed the men that they could enjoy the sights of Springfield for the night with free transportation on the following day back to where they had come from.

Leo decided to walk home instead and forego the night in Springfield. He left the station and followed the tracks, found his bearings, then continued on Route 21 through Belchertown and Pelham and into New Salem. He arrived before nightfall.

He bought more horses and went back to logging.

Twenty years later, the well-publicized hurricane of 1938 put many trees on the ground, more than local loggers could process. With horse-drawn wagons or trucks when winter came, they drew fallen trees to local ponds and left them on ice to sink into the water in spring, where they would remain until loggers could retrieve them to process into lumber. Water preserved the sunken trees.

As Leo removed logs from the bottom of Harvard Pond, Petersham, his foot went through the wooden boat he worked from. He landed in the water and drowned on August 20, 1941.

A graduate of New Salem Academy and Franklin Medical School of Nursing, Eleanor McGinnis worked for twelve years at Athol Memorial Hospital and seven at Beacon Detox, Franklin Medical Center. She is a former trustee of New Salem Library and curator of the New Salem Academy Museum.

Rabbit Run Model Takes Shape

by Ken Levine

Creating a miniature world in the Swift River Valley Historical Society, SRVHS, carriage shed poses some challenges, but the diorama slowly takes shape. With the okay of the SRVHS board, donations from individuals, and support from the Local Cultural Councils of Athol, Hardwick-New Braintree, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Pelham, Petersham twice, Royalston, Shutesbury, and Warwick, the project chugs along,

Scenery, backdrop, hills, mountains, waterways, and ponds enhance the scene,

Ken Levine of Petersham works on model of Rabbit Run at Swift River Valley Historical Society.

photo © by Dale Monette

including track laid, electrified, and ballasted with stone between sleepers or ties. An HO scale model steam train made a successful test run. Next up: houses and factories, farms and assorted railroad stations and sheds, trees and shrubs, followed by readiness for public display.

Framer, calligrapher, and artist Ken Levine of Petersham operates the Petersham framing and calligraphy business Frames Ink with his wife, Janet Palin.

documents demonstrate completion of 1754 Rutland-Barre

by Charlotte Westhead

Documents demonstrate that, in May 1754-perhaps mid-morning-James Caldwell and his brother John, a lawyer in Barre, went to complete a transaction that would transfer documents of ownership to him for people enslaved in Rutland. Likely, although documents don't say so, the Caldwells went by horse-drawn wagon that might travel at some three miles per hour. The twenty-four-mile round trip, including their business transaction, would take place over a likely long day. Probably the enslaved human beings rode back from Rutland to Barre in the back of the wagon.

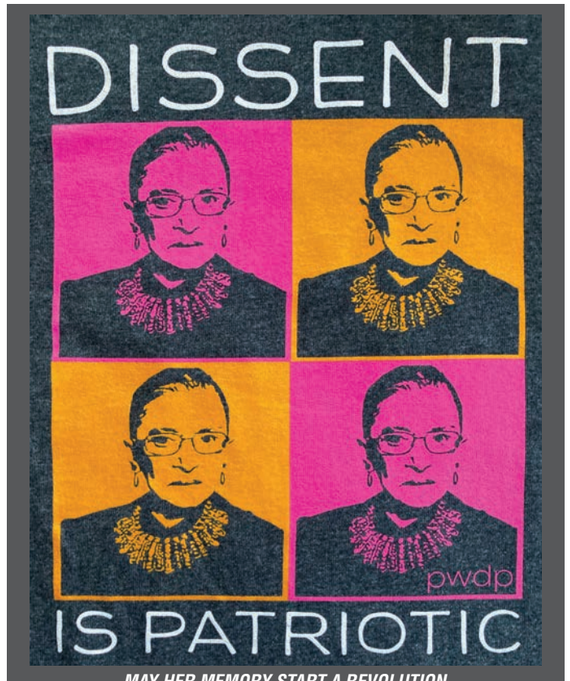
Transactors may have had a cup of cider at a tavern and shared local news. Documents show that John Caldwell inspected the man and woman and found them "sound and well." Records also indicate the transaction involved 108 pounds for documents transferring enslavement of the man, Mingo, said to be about twenty-one years old and the woman, Dinah.

The enslaved couple may have had two babies, although documents do not precisely say. If so, the children were a boy, Quork, perhaps a year old, and an infant girl, Minah. The boy's West African, Akan name probably indicates his birth occurred on a Wednesday. Likely, Mingo and Dinah had children; the bill of sale included the children.

As he rode around on legal and real estate business in a time without newspapers, radio, television, or social media, John Caldwell may have heard about a man wanting to transfer documents of enslavement for people the man and his family kept in bondage.

The Massachusetts Slave Schedule, so-called, recorded 2,720 enslaved over the age of sixteen in 119 towns. Barre reported "there are but two—a man and a woman," according to the schedule. In 1754, Massachusetts Governor William Shirley ordered an enumeration of enslaved persons by each town, including towns in Maine, then part of Massachusetts.

Undocumented accounts suggest that Quork told his free, white friend a story that the friend in old age told his grandson. According to the uncorroborated account, Jeremiah Stone of Rutland had kept Dinah and Mingo enslaved and transferred his holding of them because he held eight enslaved people but felt he needed only six.



MAY HER MEMORY START A REVOLUTION.
RUTH BADER GINSBURG • 1933-2020
ad signed by Hattie Nestel

transaction transferring ownership of enslaved people

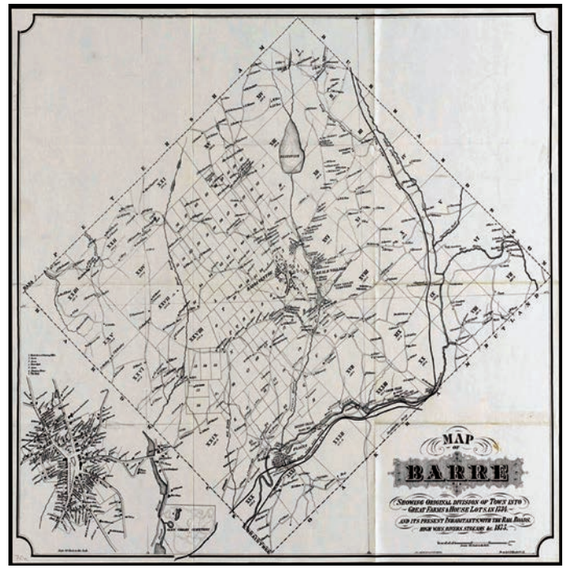
The numbers six and eight refer to adults enslaved—a small community. No record has been found indicating that Jeremiah Stone kept enslaved individuals.

James and his wife, Isabel, white landowners, had a baby boy, records show. Isabel and Dinah each eventually had several more babies, according to the records.

The names of Dinah's children as recorded reflect usages popular with white owners, perhaps indicating the influence of an owner. The boys' names include Prince, Cato, Boston, and Stepney and girls, Roseanne and Priscilla. According to records, Quork was the oldest boy in the family and Myrna, the oldest girl. A visitor to the Caldwell farm wrote the enslaved, brown people lived in separate quarters about a hundred yards south of the main house.

James Caldwell and others on his farm may have worked together, and Caldwell may have held other enslaved individuals, although records do not indicate it.

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin Region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She contributed to the books *Sandisfield Then and Now* (2012) and *From Schul to Soil* (2018), a history of Jewish farmers. She lives in Amherst.



Barre Historical Society has the large, readable version of the 1875 map showing original 1734 division of the town into great farms and house lots.

map courtesy of digitalcommonwealth.org

Baby turkeys make their way across a late summer Quabbin region field.

photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

QUABBIN CURRENTS

Could Quabbin Reservoir have been smaller?

by J. R. Greene

Quabbin Reservoir provides the major water supply source for Metropolitan Boston and three communities near Springfield. Constructed from 1926 to 1946 by destroying the four towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott and parts of seven others in the western part of Central Massachusetts, the reservoir and controlled watershed lands cover more than eighty thousand acres.

An 1895 report recommending what would become the Wachusett Reservoir north of Worcester first raised the idea of Quabbin Reservoir. The report suggested future additions to the Wachusett supply including Ware River in Barre (partly diverted by 1931), Swift River Valley above West Ware (the future Quabbin), Millers River above Athol (briefly considered in the early 1920s), Deerfield River, and Westfield River.

In 1899, the City of Springfield undertook a search for an additional water supply source. City officials discussed building a dam on the lower end of the West Branch of Swift River in the northwestern part of Enfield to create a sizable reservoir flowing back toward the northeastern part of Shutesbury. Jobs that the project would generate and low appraised value of land constituted a reasonable proposition in the opinion of the *Athol Chronicle* newspaper. The valley had no major population centers and little industry: only a bobbin factory in Pelham Hollow and a few saw mills and grist mills in the eastern part of Pelham.

Springfield dropped the West Branch dam proposal in favor of constructing a water supply reservoir closer to the city. If population and industry had not declined for decades in Swift River Valley as Metro Boston began in 1919 seriously to study water supply options, a larger version of the 1899 proposal may have served Boston's needs. While land taking for the West Branch dam proposal would have seriously impacted eastern Pelham and Shutesbury—as would building Quabbin Reservoir—along with even more of western New Salem, it would have allowed Prescott and Enfield to survive with much territory unimpacted, permitted New Salem to retain the section including the thriving village of Millington, and left Dana and Greenwich unaffected.

The so-called West Branch reservoir would have required construction of a very high dam in northwest Enfield in order to hold back enough water to equal even a third of the capacity of the Quabbin. However, it would have required much less land taking and made construction of the Daniel Shays Highway, US Route

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Ego Trippin' Strip Steak Features Quabbin Area Products

text and photos by Christine Noyes

I grew up in a kitchen.

When I was a child in the 1960s, Sundays meant family. After morning mass, my parents packed us kids into the station wagon and drove a half hour to my grandparents' restaurant where we devoured my grandfather's famous fried chicken-in-a-basket and took joy in squirting our own orange soda at the bar from the recently installed soda gun.

My love affair with food began on Sundays at the restaurant. At eleven, I began work washing dishes and preparing clams for steaming in my grandfather's kitchen. My grandfather taught me how to handle food safely, prepare it well, and honor the customer. Eventually, as my grandparents readied themselves for retirement, I took over the cooking duties.

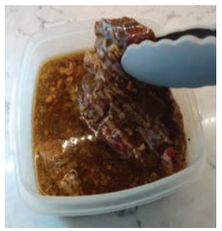
Although my grandfather didn't allow me to vary from his recipes, I later grew to experiment with food. Some say I have a natural gift of matching flavors, much like an accomplished bartender might while concocting an original drink. Maybe I was born with the ability, I don't know, but I never would have known my potential if I hadn't tried new things. I am not unique. Other creative people abound in the Quabbin area. Take, for instance, the people with a stout passion for creating beer and hard cider who repurpose former industrial buildings and hay barns into craft breweries. Only their imagination and ingredients limit the variety of their offerings.

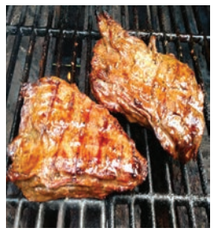
While I know little about brewing beer, I have great admiration for the brew masters who pour their passion into the endeavor—and a greater anticipation of sampling each beverage.

Although my grandfather made me swear never to reveal his secret fried chicken recipe, I do prepare it for very special occasions.

While working as chef in a family-owned brewpub, I created the following recipe that I can share. The recipe works fine if you substitute a hearty merlot or cabernet wine for your favorite porter beer.

Play with it, have fun with it, and most importantly, share it with friends and family.






Ego Trippin' Strip Steak honors products of the Quabbin region.

EGO-TRIPPIN'STRIP STEAK

The skirt steak used in this recipe originated from The Farm School at 488 Moore Hill Road in Athol. I purchased the steak from Quabbin Harvest Food Coop at 12 North Main Street in Orange. Honest Weight Artisan Beer at 131 West Main Street in Orange produces the Ego Trippin' Porter used in the recipe.

I garnished the steak with grilled garlic scapes grown at White Rabbit Farm in Barre and purchased from Quabbin Harvest Food Coop in Orange.

1 1/2 - 2 pound skirt steak, trimmed
MARINADE:
1/2 cup olive oil
juice of 1 lemon
1 cup Ego Trippin' Porter beer or substitute a favorite porter beer or Merlot wine
1/4 cup soy sauce
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2 tablespoon spicy brown mustard
1 teaspoon black pepper

Whisk together marinade ingredients and pour into a storage container. Submerge the steak into marinade. Cover and refrigerate for at least eight hours, turning the meat to marinate evenly.

Over high heat on a hot grill, sear skirt steak for 2-3 minutes on each side to seal juices. Lower heat and continue to cook to desired doneness at 130 -140° for medium rare.

Remove the steak from heat and let sit for 5-10 minutes. Thinly slice the meat across the grain and serve.

***Enhance this recipe by garnishing with caramelized onions or grilled garlic scapes.**

Terry's Corner Café, Orange, and Matt's Breakfast Nook West Brookfield, offer breakfast and lunch menus

text and photos by Diane Kane

Breakfast and lunch in cozy roadside restaurants represent long-held tradition in the Quabbin area. Some hidden treasures cook things up in towns surrounding Quabbin Reservoir

Corner Café, 1 South Main Street, Orange, counts as one of those gems. Terry Bouchard took over the quaint spot nestled in the back of Trail Head Outfitters & General Store two years ago, and she hasn't looked back. Terry has always lived in the Quabbin area. She likes the small-town feel and sense of community. "I love getting creative and seeing everyone enjoy our meals and sandwiches.

"My mother is definitely my inspiration," Terry added. "She was always entertaining and is very creative with her cooking. "Our family gathered on the weekends, and there was always food and laughter." Terry and her mother wrote a family cookbook that they gifted to all the family members at Christmastime. "We use a lot of those recipes in the café," Terry said.

Terry's menu includes many favorites. "We serve specials like Mom's Lasagna, a more nontraditional lasagna recipe. We use three different kinds of cheese and omit the usual ricotta. A family favorite, it was originally my mother's recipe. Paninis, mac and cheese, Reubens, and turkey gobbler are some of our most popular."

Terry gives a nod to the previous owners, Jeanie Miller and Kris Burns, who operated the café as Miller's River Café. "Jeanie's Tully Turkey sandwich and Kris's chicken salad sandwich are still customer favorites. Creations of previous Millers River Café owners Jeanie and Kris and have continued as a staple on our Corner Café Menu along with their Swedish meatball recipe."

Desserts abound at Corner Café. "People frequently ask for my mom's peanut butter fudge, originally from her grandmother," Terry said. "We also have our award-winning brownie cakes with maple frosting topped with candied bacon. This is our own recipe that won a national recipe contest this year. In addition, we have big chocolate chip cookies, muffins, scones, dessert bars, and more!

"Community is everything" Terry added. "Covid impacted our business greatly in the beginning. We stayed open for takeout only, but once the retail part of Trail Head Outfitters had to shut down, we closed as well. As soon as we were able, we opened back up for takeout only and really focused on our bakery options. We had to omit breakfast, aside from breakfast sandwiches, as we found that was less popular as to-go meals and offered a large number of bakery items every day instead."

Corner Café inside Trail Head Outfitters and General Store at 1 South Main Street, Orange, is open from 9 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

Matt DeCell, owner since 2018 of Matt's Breakfast Nook, 8 East Main Street, West Brookfield, has lived in Brookfield his whole life. Matt loves the country setting and quiet, laid-back feel of the area. His mother inspired him, and he has been cooking since he was young. Matt started working in commercial kitchens in 1997.

When asked what he loved most about cooking and the restaurant business, Matt said, "Making new dishes, using fresh, local, farm ingredients and altering and improving recipes. I love knowing people enjoy what I make for them."

Asked if he has any special, secret recipes, Matt said, "They're all special and secret, because I typically don't write them down. Almost everything is scratch made." His popular breakfast items include home fries, corned beef hash, and buttermilk pancakes.

Matt said if he had a Matt's Breakfast Nook motto, it would be: "Just a small-town place serving great home-cooked food."

Some of Matt's daily breakfast specials could include French toast casserole or garden veggie omelet with zucchini, summer squash, green onions, broccoli, and Swiss cheese.

Like most small businesse owners, Matt took a financial hit during Covid. He shortened hours and opened fewer days. Matt thanked those who stuck with him—"Tammy, Hannah, Nik, Charlie, my wife, Jamie, and my son Colton, my family and friends, and all of our customers who supported us through a difficult time."

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Wanna take great landscape pix?

text and photos by Mitchell R. Grosky

So, you want to take photographs of the Quabbin region and far beyond—photographs of the world around you—just like the ones you regularly see in *National Geographic* or like the best photographs you see on Instagram. Or maybe you want to fill in that space over your sofa with a beautiful canvas created from your most recent vacation photo.

The following tips will help with taking good photos of landscapes.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT LENS

A wide-angle lens gives a wider range of view and will include much more within the frame. It also gives sharpness from foreground to background. A telephoto lens does not include nearly as much but compresses objects in the photo, making them appear closer and larger. A telephoto lens also allows focusing on the subject and blurring the background. Choose a separate wide-angle and telephoto lens or a zoom lens that covers the gamut from 18 mm to 200 mm.

As important as it is to have a good camera, even more important is to have quality lenses, what photographers call "good glass." If it's out of the question to pay a thousand dollars or more for top-notch lenses, perhaps a used lens rated Very Good or Excellent by eBay will do.

GO THREE-DIMENSIONAL

Add depth and a 3-D quality to photos by photographing a scene with something in the foreground, middle ground, and background. A wide-angle lens simplifies the process which can actually be accomplished using a narrow aperture, say between f16 and f22, with nearly any lens Invest in a strong, sturdy, and light shooting with narrow or small apertures.

USE APERTURE PRIORITY MODE

Set the aperture to create the desired effect. Blur the background with an aperture of f2 to f4. Go for maximum sharpness with an aperture of f8 or f9. Create sun stars with f16 to f22. With aperture priority, set the desired aperture while the camera automatically sets appropriate shutter speed for the chosen aperture.

INCLUDE PEOPLE OR WILDLIFE IN THE PHOTO

It may sound counterintuitive to include people in a landscape photo, but adding people or animals is a great idea. They add interest and show scale. Including animals helps to differentiate a photo from thousands of others taken at that site.

DON'T ALWAYS CENTER THE SUBJECT

If it's, say, a mountain, tree, or flower, a child, boat, or blue jay, stick it off to one side. Or move the camera to place a subject in the top or bottom corner of the viewfinder. While sometimes centering a person or object works best, at other times, it is better to place the subject elsewhere. Mentally place a tic-tac-toe board over the screen or planned photo. Then, place the center of interest at one of the intersecting points on the lines.

DON'T SHOOT EVERYTHING FROM THE SAME PERSPECTIVE OR ANGLE

Get down low to shoot a flower. Move far to the left or right to gain a different view of that red barn

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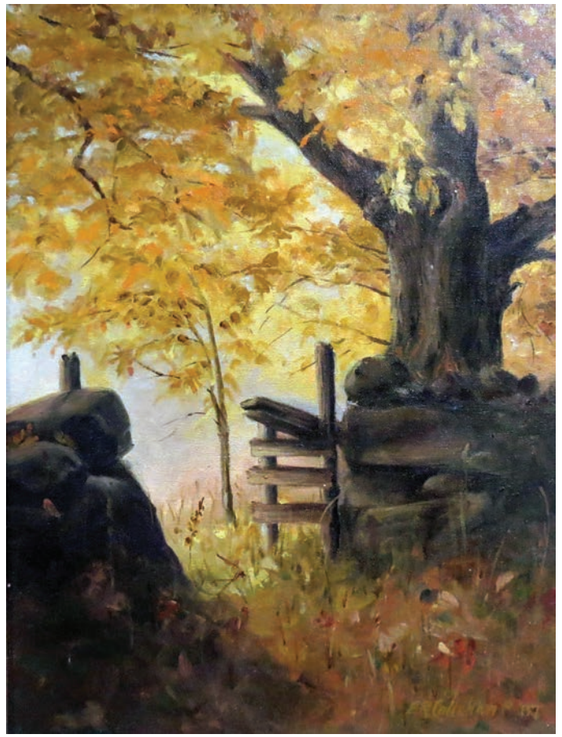
This photo of the temple at the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett demonstrates the technique of framing.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

Ramblin's

text and oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



Ramblin's
oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan

Fall will soon be upon us—so quickly summer has passed. It's OK with me, though, as fall is my favorite season. There's nothing I dislike about fall, not even that it ushers in cold, long winter months and shorter days. Fall provides a time of peaceful reflection, saying so long to the wilds of summer and embracing nature as it prepares for peaceful slumber.

Every September, I have memories of walking to school and kicking the leaves as I go. The sound of rustling leaves is music to my ears. The pungent aroma of the fallen leaves and pine needles following a rain will always bring me back to my childhood, the first few weeks of school, my one new outfit for the first day, my pencil box I so proudly carried, and my new shoes.

We lived within a mile of the school, so we did not take a bus. Regardless of weather, we walked in the morning, back home for lunch, back for the afternoon, and home again at the end of the day. In those days, children could walk alone without parents fearing for their safety.

Trees lined all the streets, a few of them dirt roads. Needless to say, my new shoes didn't look new for long. Our walks home with other children provided a time of learning social skills and interactions, navigating compromise, fighting our own battles, and exercising independence. Kids dropped off one by one as we walked to our neighborhood farthest from school.

The old sugar maple in the painting evokes the tranquility I feel with the season. The scene resembles a tree and stone wall I passed on the way to and from school. I can almost sense myself sitting on the wall, taking in the sweet scent of the morning mist, a nearby apple tree, and early soft light while watching chipmunks stocking up for winter. I loved to make a yellow maple bouquet of fallen leaves or press a few in a book as a memento.

Fall is a time of gratitude for all of nature's glories.

A pioneer Home Stage Realtor, Elizabeth Callahan creates art using oil paint, watercolor, pen and ink, and pastel. She lives in Rutland.

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

photos by Kathy Chencharik

Eastern Chipmunk

camouflaged trickster
feasting and gathering foods
upon old stone walls

Perhaps a small pile of acorn shells rests upon the stone wall or a quick-footed chipmunk scampers along or sits stock still upon a stone wall in a perched camouflaged rock position.

Eastern chipmunk, Tamias stiatus, indeed lives true to its Latin name. Stiatus means striped and tamias means storer. The little striped animal collects its food in its deep cheek pockets. If you look carefully, you may see its protruding cheeks. When it arrives at its den, it uses its front feet with five toes to squeeze the food from the cheek pockets and store it away to eat later. Its hind feet have only four toes.

As the chipmunk strolls along stone walls, it offers greetings—maybe a squeak, a "chip," or "chip, chip, chip" as if partially introducing itself. Quickly, it descends into and around the stone wall to make a swift disappearance only to appear within seconds from another hole in the wall.

During the autumn, notice the busy harvesters as they collect nuts, buds, berries and seeds in preparation for winter. During the summer, they eat mice, frogs, insects, and bird eggs. Agile, swift, and able to cover fifteen feet in a second, they climb trees to devour bird eggs or climb my high bush blueberry to feast. At least they left my wild strawberries alone this year for me to enjoy as a tasty treat.

When frost arrives on the pumpkin, chipmunks head to their dens for deep sleep from a few weeks to a few months. As winter hibernators, they wake occasionally to eat from their stored food cache within their tunneled system. They have elaborate dens including chambers for food storage, sleeping, and latrines. Rock piles, brush piles, and tangled roots often surround a one-and-a-half inch opening to the den.

I had wondered who lived in the hole I saw in an old rotting stump. Then, I happened to see a chipmunk peek out from it and scurry back in as I passed it by, on my way to the woodshed.

The Eastern chipmunk of northeast woodlands numbers among some twenty species of chipmunks in North America. Toward sunset in the Quabbin region, "chips" echo from one stone wall to the next across the road. Do those "chips" consider events of the day or a warning or a plan to meet up in the morning? They certainly sound like conversation or chatter.

If you have chipmunks, you could string peanuts to a clothesline and watch the little animals acrobatically tightrope walk to obtain a nut. Pure entertainment.

Chipmunks often hibernate beginning in early October, but unlike bears, they don't hibernate all winter. On my property, I first noticed an active chipmunk in early May. They breed twice a year, in early spring and early summer. They produce four or five in each litter, and by eight weeks, the little ones have become fully independent.

Unfortunately, I noticed that many young ones become road kill as they begin to navigate and forage for food. One day while traveling on Warwick roads, I counted six squished by tires. I utter a silent prayer of thanks and blessings when I pass assorted deceased critters.

Although they normally run with their tails straight behind them, sometimes they have their tails raised at an angle between forty-five and ninety degrees as they cross the road. I wonder if they are trying to make themselves appear larger as they run across a road? I reflect that turkey vultures and ravens may find a carcass and have a small feast. Chipmunks have been particularly plentiful this year, and natural predators including coyotes, bobcats, foxes, hawks, owls, weasels, snakes, and domestic cats will surely hunt them.

Kathy Chencharik of Royalston nicknamed her roaming chipmunk Pop-Up. "There must be more than one," she said, "but we use the same name for each one we see." Indeed, the antics keep her fully entertained.

Be on the lookout for your Pop-Up.

Clare Green of Warwick, educator and author, invites folks to walk her woodland labyrinth.

woodland gnomes work hard during harvest season

by Henry Wadsworth as channeled by Susie Feldman

Hello, again. Henry Wadsworth here, to tell you more about our gnome community at Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm. Let's see what our friends are up to as autumn approaches.

Doc, one of our local characters, enjoys time in the forest with his pet squirrel, Peppi, whom he found orphaned in the springtime. Doc fed him mashed-up berries and fruits when he was little, and they are now inseparable companions.

Mardi and Pritt fetch water for cooking and end up playing in Cutthroat Brook.

Together they scout out acorns. Peppi eats some, but mostly Doc grinds them into flour for baking.

Doc enjoys his pet squirrel, Peppi.

Wynsted often harvests pine bark to put into bathwater for muscle aches or boiled in water as a tea for coughs and colds. He saves the pitch, too, as a salve on wounds. Then, when he has finished gathering, he creates a swing on a tree branch for his grandchildren. He likes to test it out to make sure it's strong enough but seems to have a lot of fun himself! Wynsted's grandchildren, Mardi and Pritt, went to fill buckets of water for cooking, drinking, and brewing. They have chosen one of their favorite spots along Two Bridge Trundle Trail that parallels the Cutthroat Brook. Much like their Grandpa, they end up in the water, playing.

Wynsted likes to test the swing.

Ismera, an expert in potions and cures, went out searching for fall berries, rose hips from the humans' garden, wild grapes, and sumac to store up as cures for winter maladies. When the milkweed goes to seed in early autumn, she gathers its fluff as stuffing for pillows she will knit during the winter. Ismera apprenticed under a well-known wise woman in Belchertown but moved north to a more rustic area. Once in Athol, she married Glosnert and became a valued member of the gnomic community.

Ismera very much enjoys collecting milkweed fluff to make cozy stuffing for pillows she will knit during winter.

Glosnert, Ismera's husband, often collects birch bark for weaving baskets when winter confines gnome people to their burrow homes. He's also an avid ornithologist. Sometimes a strange and unusual bird, which he identifies as a European great tit, distracts him. He has accepted the challenge of getting it to eat out of his hand.

Ferlin collects fire wood.

Ferlin collects wood for fires needed in cold weather. He can carry home smaller pieces, but if he finds a convenient large downed log, several gnomes working together will drag it back and then divide it among families.

Everyone has a job to do and a part to play in the survival of our village. Nature has provided us many plants we can store and eat, materials to create necessary tools, and herbs to heal our ailments. Be aware as you walk in the woods that we share our environment with you, and keep in mind that we must all protect its treasures.

Artist Susie Feldman and her husband, Ben, welcome hikers during daylight hours to their learning and recreational trails on Briggs Road, Athol, where everyone respects the woods and woodland creatures on land conserved through the auspices of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. During a meander there, hikers may find gnomes at work and play in the beckoning forest.

Quabbin Region Varsity Football schedules for October and November

compiled by Carla Charter

Amherst-Pelham Regional Varsity Football
October 1•Home•7:00 pm•Agawam HS
October 8•Away•7:00 pm•Northampton HS
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Wahconah HS
October 22•Away•7:00 pm•West Springfield HS
October 29•Home•7:00 pm•East Longmeadow HS

Athol HS Varsity Football
October 1•Home•7:00 pm•Greenfield HS
October 8•Away•7:00 pm•Mahar Regional
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Palmer HS
October 22•Away•7:00 pm•Ware HS
October 29•Home•7:00 pm•Franklin County Tech School
November 25•Home•10 am•Mahar Regional

Belchertown HS Varsity Football
October 1•Away•5:00 pm•HS of Commerce
October 8•Home•7:00 pm•East Hampton HS
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Hoosac Valley HS
October 22•Away•7:00 pm•Frontier Regional
October 29•Home•7:00 pm•Lee Middle/HS
November 25•Home•9:00 am•Pathfinder Voc Tech

Franklin County Tech Varsity Football
October 1•Away•7:00 pm•Mahar Regional
October 8•Home•7:00 pm•Ware HS
October 15•Away•7:00 pm•Greenfield HS
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Palmer HS
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Athol HS
November 25•Home•10:00 am•Smith Vocational

Mahar Regional Varsity Football
October 1•Home•7:00 pm•Franklin County Tech
October 8•Home•7:00 pm•Athol HS
October 15•Away•7:00 pm•Ware HS
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Greenfield HS
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Palmer HS
November 25•Away•10:00 am•Athol HS

Monty Tech Varsity Football
October 8•Home•7:00 pm•Blackstone Valley Voc Tech
October 22•Away•7:00 pm•Assabet Valley Regional Tech
October 15•Home•3:30 pm•Tantasqua Reg. HS
October 20•Away•3:30 pm

Narragansett Regional Varsity Football
October 1•Away•7:00 pm•Bartlett Jr/Sr HS
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Ayer/Shirley Regional
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Gardner HS
November 25•Away•10:00 AM•Murdock Mid/HS

Pathfinder Voc Tech Varsity Football
October 1•Home•7:00 pm•Smith Vocational
October 9•Away•1:00 pm•McCann Tech
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Drury HS
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Monument Mountain Regional
November 25•Home•9:00 am•Belchertown HS

David Prouty HS Football
October 2•Away•1 pm•Uxbridge HS
October 8•Away•6:00 pm•Bartlett Jr/Sr HS
October 15•Home•6:00 pm•Oxford HS
October 22•Away•7 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle HS
October 29•Home•7 p•TBA
November 20•Home•1 pm•Martha's Vineyard Regional

Quabbin Regional District Varsity Football
October 1•Away•7:00 pm•Murdock HMid/HSl
October 8•Home•7:00 pm•Ayer Shirley Regional
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle HS
October 22•Away•7:00•Narragansett Regional
October 29•Home•7:00 pm•North HS
November 24•Home•6:00 pm•Gardner HS

Quaboag Regional Varsity Football
October 1•Home•7 pm•Southbridge HS
October 9•Home•6:00 pm•Oxford HS
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•David Prouty HS
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Bartlett Jr/Sr HS

**The editors of U*niquely Quabbin*
have hoped to include the high school varsity
October and November football and
October field hockey schedules for
school districts serving all towns in the Quabbin Region.
We regret that space limits listings to
two months and two sports.
We recognize that regional high schools provide
many more opportunities for athletic activity.**

Tantasqua Regional Football
October 8•Auburn HS•7:00 pm•Auburn HS
October 15•Away 7:00 pm•Northbridge HS
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Grafton HS
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Nashoba Regional
November 25•Home•10:00 am•Shepherd Hill Regional

Wachusett Regional Varsity Football
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Leominster HS
October 29•Home•7:00 pm•Algonquin Regional
November 25•Home•10:00 am •Shrewsbury HS

Ware HS Football
October 8•Away•7:00 pm•Franklin County Tech
October 15•Home•7:00 pm•Mahar Regional
October 22•Home•7:00 pm•Athol HS
October 29•Away•7:00 pm•Greenfield HS

photo leased from Shutterstock.com

NEECA celebrates 25 equestrian years

by Jessica Gale-Tanner

New England Equestrian Center of Athol, NEECA, will celebrate twenty years on Saturday, September 11, at the park at 802 New Sherborn Road. In the event of inclement weather, the event will postpone to Saturday, September 18.

The multipurpose park emphasizes equestrian use and offers passive outdoor activities.

Situated on more than 250 acres, the NEECA center features paths and woodsy roads for walkers and hikers, a pond, vernal pool, hills, and many species of trees. Bird watchers and photographers inhabit the grounds, and the occasional moose, deer, fox, or coyote sometimes appears.

"The park has a pleasant mix of open spaces and forest," said Pam DeGregorio, NEECA president. "Fall foliage is brilliant and in summer, tall pines and huge blue sky provide magnificence. Many visitors stand just breathing the fresh air as they look at the trees and the sky."

Facilities include an event ring, earthen grandstand, warmup ring, and a round ring for training, according to DeGregorio. The park features gymkhanas, horse shows, clinics, organized trail rides, and other events. A large field facilitates horse camping. A confidence course includes a fenced area with obstacles that horses and riders can use for training.

Trail riders trailer in their mounts to spend some or all of a day riding trails marked and color-coded to a new park map. Trails connect to Bigelow Road and head into miles of dirt roads from there, DeGregorio said.

"New England Equestrian Land Management Conservation Corporation and its board of directors raise donations, gain grants and hold fundraising events," DeGregorio said, "in order to support NEECA and its surrounding land. Real plumbing is on the development list," she added.

Other groups, including a barrel racing group and Athol's Presidents' Day Hatchet Hunt organization, rent the facility for events.

neeca.org

Facebook:New England Equestrian Center of Athol

Versatile Jessica Gale-Tanner of Tully provides graphic design and editing support for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

Quabbin Region Varsity Field Hockey schedules for October and November

compiled by Carla Charter

Amherst-Pelham Regional Varsity Field Hockey
October 1•Home•4:30 pm•Greenfield HS
October 4•Away•4:30 pm•Athol HS
October 6•Home•4:30 pm•Hampshire Regional
October 8•Away•4 pm•Palmer HS
October 12•Home•4:30 pm•Franklin County Tech
October 14•Away•4:30 pm•Pioneer Valley Regional
October 18•Home•4:30 pm•Belchertown HS
October 20•Home•7 pm•Holyoke HS

Athol HS Varsity Field Hockey
October 2•Home•11 am•Murdock HS
October 4•Home•4:30 pm•Amherst-Pelham Regional
October 6•Away•4:00 pm•Belchertown HS
October 8•Away•4:00 pm•Holyoke HS
October 12•Away•4:00 pm•Pioneer Valley HS
October 14•Home•4:00 pm•Franklin County Tech School
October 18•Away•4:00 pm•Hampshire Regional
October 20•Home•6:00 pm•Palmer HS
October 21•Away•6:00 pm•Mahar Regional

Belchertown HS Varsity Field Hockey
October 1•Home•4:00 pm•Frontier Regional
October 4•Away•4:00 pm•Franklin County Tech
October 6•Home•4:00 pm•Athol HS
October 8•Away•6:00 pm•Hampshire Regional
October 18•Away•4:30 pm•Amherst-Pelham Regional
October 20•Away•4:30 pm•Pioneer Valley Regional

Franklin County Tech Varsity Field Hockey
October 4•Home•4:00 pm•Belchertown HS
October6•Away•4:00 pm•Holyoke HS
October 12•Away•4:30 pm•Amherst-Pelham Regional
October 14•Away•4:00 pm•Athol HS
October 18•Home•4:00 pm•Palmer HS
October 20•Away•4:00 pm•Hampshire Regional

double check sports schedules
with school websites

Mahar Regional Varsity Field Hockey
October 4•Home•4:00 pm•East Longmeadow HS
October 6•Away•4:00 pm•Westfield HS
October 8•Home•4:00 pm•Northampton HS
October 12•Away•4:00 pm•Southwick Regional
October 18•Home•4:00 pm•Mohawk Trail Regional
October 20•Home•4:00 pm•Turners Falls HS
October 21•Home•6 pm•Athol HS

Monty Tech Varsity Field Hockey
October 1•Home•4:00 pm•Gardner HS
October 4•Home•5:30•Blackstone Valley Voc Tech
October 6•Away•3:30 pm•Assabet Valley Regional Tech
October 13•Away•3:30 pm•Worcester Technical HS
October 15•Away•4:00 pm•Notre Dame Academy

Narragansett HS Field Hockey
October 1•Home•4:00pm•Lunenburg HS
October 5•Home•5:00 pm•Bromfield School
October 6•Home•3:30 pm•Hudson HS
October 8•Away•4:00 pm•Bromfield School
October 12•Away•6:00 pm•Murdock HS
October 13•Away•3:30 pm•Fitchburg HS

North Brookfield Jr/Sr HS Girls Field Hockey
October 1•Home•3:30 pm•Oxford HS
October 4•Away•3:30 pm•Worcester Technical HS
October 6•Home•3:30 pm•Blackstone Valley Voc Tech HS
October 8•Home•3:30 pm•TBA
October 12•Home•3:30 pm•Leicester HS
October 13•Home•3:30 pm•TBA

Pioneer Valley Regional Co-Ed Field Hockey
October 4•Away•4:00 pm•Hampshire Regional
October 6•Home•6:00 pm•Palmer HS
October 12•Home•4:00 pm•Athol HS
October 14•Home•4:30•Amherst-Pelham HS
October 15•Away•4:00 pm•Greenfield HS
October 18•Away•4:00 pm•Holyoke HS
October 20•Home•4:00 pm•Belchertown HS
October 21•Away•3:30 pm•Wachusett Regional

photo leased from Shutterstock.com

Quabbin Regional Varsity Field Hockey
October 1•Away•4:00 pm•Groton-Dunstable
October 4•Home•3:30 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle-HS
October 6•Away•4:00 pm•Shepard Hill Regional
October 8•Home•4:00 pm•North Middlesex Regional
October 13•Home•3:30 pm•Oakmont Regional
October 15•Home•4:00 pm•Leominster HS

Quaboag Regional Middle/HS Varsity Field Hockey
October 4•Away•3:30 pm•Quabbin Regional
October 7•Home•3:30•Grafton HS
October 9•Home•10 am•Agawam HS
October 11•Away•3:30 pm•Leicester HS
October 13•Away•3:30 pm•Tantasqua Regional
October 16•Away•1:00 pm•West Springfield HS
October 20•Home•3:30 pm•North Brookfield Jr/Sr HS
October 25•Home•3:30 pm•Auburn HS

Tantasqua Regional HS Varsity Field Hockey
October 8•Home•3:30 pm•Sutton HS
October 13•Home•3:30 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle HS
October 15•Away•3:30 pm•North Brookfield Jr/Sr HS

Turners Falls HS Girls Field Hockey
October 1•Away•4:00 pm•Northampton HS
October 4•Home•6:00 pm•Northampton HS
October 6•Away•4:00 pm•Southwick Regional
October 7•Home•6:00 pm•East Longmeadow HS
October 12•Away•4:00 pm•Westfield HS
October 14•Away•3:30 pm
Mohawk Trail Regionals
October 18•Home•6:00 pm•Smith Academy
October 20•Away•4:00 pm•Mahar Regional

Wachusett Regional Field Hockey
October 4•Home•6:30 pm•Notre Dame Academy
October 11•Home•11:00 am•Nipmuc Regional

The editors of U*niquely Quabbin*
have hoped to include the high school varsity
October and November football and
October field hockey schedules for
school districts serving all towns in the Quabbin Region.
We regret that space limits listings to
two months and two sports.
We recognize that regional high schools provide
many more opportunities for athletic activity.

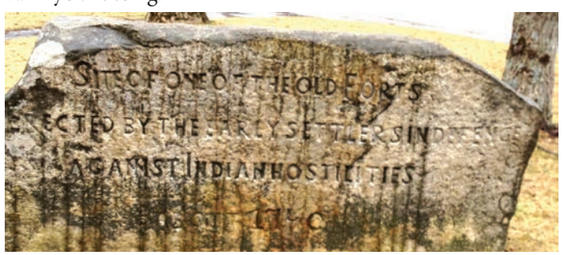
varied stone formations punctuate Quabbin landscape

continued from page 9

A boundary marker, left, at the Shutesbury-Wendell-New Salem corner and a well opening provide evidence of how humans used stones in the past.

every five years, clear brush away, and then mark them. What a challenge! With the advent of GPS technology, the state legislature eliminated the regulation. Some individuals have nevertheless decided to find town boundaries such as one at the corner of New Salem, Wendell, and Orange. The stone shows each town's initials on the appropriate side.

Towns surrounding Quabbin hold many old grave headstones and footstones as well as historic markers in village centers that came from hand-cut stone. Quabbin Reservation has no gravestones because the state removed them from the drowned towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. The state moved the stones and whatever remained in the more than seven thousand burial sites to a permanent resting place either in Ware's Quabbin Park Cemetery or a cemetery of the family's choosing.



An old carved marker in New Salem designates the site of an early fort.

Other memorials, such as one in the center of New Salem, provide hints of startling events that may prompt a visit to the local library to research details about the town.

Experienced nature center director Sue Cloutier specializes in biodiversity and educational programs. She is inventorying living things on her New Salem property.

A glacially rounded rock and flattened landscape overlooking Quabbin Reservoir, visible from Rattlesnake Hill in New Salem reveal glacial power, top.
A glacial erratic, above, shows drill marks humans made in order to create stone slabs.

Could Quabbin Reservoir have been smaller?

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202, unnecessary. The Athol Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad connecting Athol with Springfield would have remained unaffected by the proposal as would have state highway 21, which connected Athol to Belchertown.

To make up for lower capacity of a smaller reservoir, other parts of 1922 water supply proposals could have been adopted, such as the diversion of water from the thirty-four-mile Assabet River rising in Westborough

The bobbin mill in Pelham Hollow, largest industry in the West Branch valley, didn't survive construction of Quabbin Reservoir.

1908 postcard from the collection of J. R. Greene

and use of driven wells east of Worcester. While the result of such combined projects may not have sustained the water needs of Metro Boston for as long as Quabbin, additions to a West Branch supply, such as partial river diversions, may have impacted Swift River Valley far less than construction of Quabbin Reservoir.

J.R. Greene, a lifelong resident of Athol, is the author of twenty-two books, many relating to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns it destroyed.

Sally Howe and Ella Mae float on Lake Mattawa, Orange.
photo © by Amber Howe-McCarty

73

by Sally Howe

Now somehow
on the arc of life
I look back
at the different parts
from childhood traveling countries
to friends since elementary school
different teachers
high school lycée
loneliness and Paris
and college
and feeling being
lost for so long
looking to be found elsewhere.
Then children family
and yet hard times
transitions heartbreak
and almost seven tea three
having worked retired
traveled again
new circumstances
and spent years on my own
developing survival of my strengths
grounding which has been
fermenting
I have prepared my whole life
for this overnight success
and now am on the ark.

I can look back
and see it
I can see the rainbow
I can see the ship
I can see the ocean
I can feel the wind.

Tonight I watch the Grammies
and feel like a mother from another other
the music has passed me by
I am an alien
the awards all about youth
the up and coming
then honoring those who have passed away
duff fluffed off.

I am ready for
AARP awards
but not for PBS
the Platter singers.

I am an other from another mother.

Actor, lover of language, and retired teacher of French, Sally Howe resides in Orange. An ardent cook and traveler, she especially enjoys time spent on Lake Mattawa.

resourceful 1940s small towns faced hardship on the home front

continued from page 29

engine, cut wood into stove lengths or individuals cut it by hand and split it for burning. Three individuals operated the saw rig as one person handed wood to the operator who fed four-foot lengths, one by one, into a rocking tray. A third person grabbed cut pieces and threw them into a pile. A large, potentially dangerous circular saw with no guard made the cuts.

Town volunteers transformed used trucks into fire trucks.

A part-time volunteer police chief in many towns did not have an official car and supervised filing of police documents in a file cabinet in the selectboard office.

Small 1940s Quabbin region towns often had no highway department. Selectmen hired individuals to do needed work. Many dirt roads remained unpaved until after World War II, and in winter, unplowed snow packed roads. Many drivers put chains on their rear automobile or truck wheels to prevent vehicles from getting stuck in snow. Some people didn't drive their cars during the winter. Children often went sliding on sleds on roads meant for vehicular traffic.

Many households had telephones in the 1940s with as many as eight parties on a line. Sometimes you had to wait your turn to use the line or ask permission of the operator, a human being at the telephone company who said, "Number, please?" when you picked up the receiver to make a call. No dial phones served households then.

With World War II going on in Europe and the Pacific, the United States provided military equipment to allied nations for defense purposes. Nearby industries in larger communities hired employees from surrounding towns. Many women stayed home, did the household chores, raised the children, and preserved food from the garden for the winter, although others took jobs men had left behind when they entered the military. Thirty-six percent of the US work force was comprised of women during World War II, and many women learned to drive during the war.

The automobile speed limit was set at thirty-five miles per hour during the war to save gas and tires. Drivers sealed over headlights to expose only the lower half. Blackouts designed to prevent identification by potential enemy bombers required turning off outside lights and keeping window shades drawn.

At the end of the war, many soldiers returned home, some with European or Asian wives. During the war, husbands and wives or prospective husbands and wives endured years of separation.

As time went on, many younger people moved away from town for schooling or a wider variety of jobs. When older residents died, their heirs often sold the family home to someone not raised in the area.

Don Flye first lived in Puppyville, now part of the Quabbin. His family moved to New Salem in 1938.

historic bridges facilitate crossings in Farley, Gilbertville, and Ware

continued from page 19

A dam with a waterfall provided power for machinery at the Farley Paper Factory on the Wendell side of the Millers River, Johnson said. A railroad station also stood on the Wendell side, he continued. Workers who lived on the Erving side of the river had to get to work on the Wendell side, and Farley Bridge got workers to the factory, Johnson said.

Workers built a falsework or wooden staging across the river, Johnson said, then used the staging to construct the steel bridge. The towns of Wendell and Erving split the cost, according to Sara Campbell of the Erving Historical Commission.

"That was a booming little spot back then," said Campbell.

Owners built a new factory sometime between 1888 and 1890, she said. The company also had a knitting mill in the factory. The company once listed thirteen immigrant women workers in the knitting mill, including nine from Erving and four from Wendell.

The single-width bridge from Bridge Street, Erving, to Farley Road, Wendell allows no access to trucks.

One of only seven historic covered bridges remaining in Massachusetts and the only covered bridge in Quabbin towns, a nineteenth-century covered bridge spans Ware River in the Hardwick village of Gilbertville, according to Jim Stafford, past chairman of the Save Our Covered Bridge Committee.

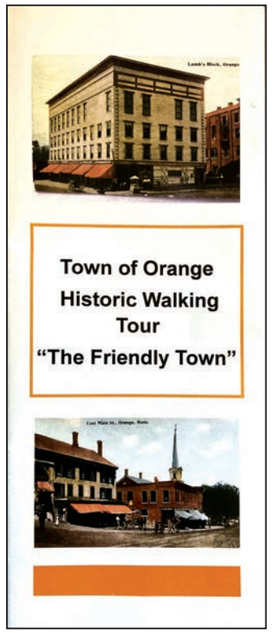
Three nineteenth-century covered bridges remain in the state, Stafford said, including one at Old Sturbridge Village and another in Colrain.

The Gilbertville bridge, built in 1886 or 1887, leads from Gilbertville to Ware. Both Hardwick and Ware own the bridge, 1,239 feet long and 19 feet, 2 inches wide. "We believe the bridge was originally built within a year," Stafford said. "Bridges were built rather quickly then, and with no power tools."

The state closed the bridge in 2002 when it did not meet safety codes. It reopened in 2010 upon completion of repairs, including crash-tested safety railings on the inside to protect the interior in the event of a car striking.

The bridge allows one direction at a time, and the weight limit is 18 tons.

Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.



The Orange walking tour brochure includes twenty-nine sites and a map.

history trail brochures and signs mark sites

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I, followed later by Pam and Pennie Smith, began to do our research."

The group started by brainstorming a list of locations for the tour, Lanou said. "We easily identified about forty places but quickly realized it was many and reluctantly whittled it down to twenty-nine. We divided them up equally among us for further research," said Lanou.

The group received help with the final design and map from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, FRCoG. The finished pamphlet includes a brief history and description of Orange as well as a list of historic sites in town.

Lanou said she enjoyed talking with homeowners of five houses along South Main Street. "All of them were happy to hear what we were doing and eager to help us by sharing interesting histories of their houses. The facts had been passed down to them, usually by previous owners, and current residents are committed to preserving the beautiful structures," Lanou said.

Also included in the guide are a couple of empty lots with photos that let people know what formerly occupied the lots. "It may serve to remind us what we have lost through the years and encourage us to try to save what we still have," Lanou said.

Find maps at Trail Head at 1 South Main Street , Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange Town Hall, Orange Historical Society, and at an outdoor kiosk across from Trail Head.

in Athol and Orange

In Athol, a historic trail first created in 1976 by the Athol Bicentennial Commission has gone hi tech with the trail map available as a mobile app and online.

Dick Chaisson, an Athol historian, worked with others to create the trail. "I do a lot of hometown research," said Chaisson. "People go by historic places and they have no meaning, so I thought, 'Let's put some signs up.'

"The trail starts at Pleasant Street," Chiasson continued, "because that was where the first home in Athol was built." Other sites marked by signs include three forts built by the first non-native settlers to protect themselves from native American attacks.

One sign designates the former location of a toll gate. Chiasson explained that "often cattle would be brought through town, and the cattle drivers would have to pay tolls" as they went by the toll gate.

Another site on the trail is the one-time home of Dr. George Hoyt. It also served as a stop on the Underground Railroad during the 1800s.

Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.

An Athol History Trail sign marks the site of an Underground Railroad station.

photo by Mary Lou Ferro Conca

Susan Marshall paints with acrylics to depict Millers River in Orange.

Quabbin region hosts acres of managed land

continued from page 4

Signs along the Monson Turnpike Road designate the surroundings a state wildlife management area. Near the pond, a small sign ways it's a "Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration property supported by the purchase of fishing and hunting equipment and motorboat fuels.

All along the property, signs posted on trees indicate that it's okay to fish, hunt, or trap. Another sign tells us that the road is closed from November 1 to April 15. I can't tell you how that affects hunting there or how it affects access to other houses on that road. I do assume that there was a turnpike in earlier times but that flooding to create Quabbin interrupted continuation of the road.

Monson Turnpike Road appears miles away in Ware off Route 9. On one side, it's almost a driveway leading to two houses, but on the other side, it's a road leading to Palmer past houses and barns, a solar complex, and a swamp. Eventually, one might find the way to Monson through Palmer. That made me think of other roads with names no longer reliable for direction to a town.

Off Route 122 in Petersham, Old New Salem Road looks like an unpaved logging road leading away *from*, not *to,* New Salem. Old Keene Road in Athol goes from Chestnut Hill Avenue toward Royalston, or you can take a left on Logan Road to Route 32. Belchertown has Old Pelham Road off Route 202 that joins Allen Street but doesn't touch nearby Pelham. On Route 32A going south, there's an Old Hardwick Road that goes a few miles before returning to route 32A.

It would seem that the well-made state roads supersede old town ones.

On a different meandering day while driving on Route 9, I entered West Brookfield and saw the sign for the birthplace of Lucy Stone on Coy Hill Road. I drove up to see only the foundation of the house and barn that burned down in 1950. The Trustees of Reservations, a non-profit responsible for some hundred places throughout the state, owns and operates the site. A photograph shows what once was there with some information about Lucy Stone herself. The Trustees welcome visitors to all sixty-one acres of the property/

Lucy Stone was a remarkable woman for her time. An abolitionist and women's rights organizer, she distinguished herself as the first woman in Massachusetts to earn a college degree. In spite of the opposition to women in the public eye, she made a living as a lecturer on the rights of women and the abolition of slavery. Often she might be pelted with vegetables and, on one occasion, a man put a hose on her as she spoke. Soaking wet, she continued her speech. Although she vowed never to marry, she married David Blackwell when he promised her independence. She never used his name.

For a long time, married women who kept their given names were called Lucy Stoners. She worked with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton on the issue of women's rights, but they came to a parting of the ways when she supported the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution that granted black men citizenship and the vote. Anthony and Stanton wanted women to have the vote first.

Stone co-founded the American Woman's Suffrage Association and raised money to support the *Woman's Journal*, a newspaper dealing with women's rights and the vote. Eventually, Alice Stone Blackwell, Lucy's only living child and herself an ardent suffragist, helped to heal the rift between the two women's groups.

Incidentally, women were granted the vote in 1920, some twenty-seven years after Lucy Stone's death. Her last words, "Make the world better," exemplified her life's work.

Meandering in a car may be an extravagance both because of the price of gasoline these days and because I am using fossil fuels, but I nevertheless find it important. I have enjoyed my meandering days because they make me understand a little better how the present intersects with the past. Remnants of our history occur all around us if we can take the time to see them, to think about them, and to meander so that we can discover them for ourselves.

Playwright, director, and poet Dorothy Johnson seeks out quiet places. Haley's recently released her new book of poems, *My Heart Remembers,* available at dorothyjohnson.net.

practice makes perfect when shooting landscape photos

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in Vermont. Try shooting down on your subject from higher up, from a balcony or upper window, perhaps. Or shoot from below.

USE NATURAL FRAMES

Photographers often use objects like a tree branch or a stone archway to frame subjects. Look for frames such as covered bridge openings, fences, gates, arches, or tunnels.

SHOOT DURING THE GOLDEN HOURS

The worst hours for shooting are generally between nine in the morning and three in the afternoon. Many photographers avoid those hours like the plague. With the sun nearly overhead, direct, harsh lighting results in strong contrast between glaring highlights and dark shadows. On the other hand, at dawn or dusk, light shines down on the subject from an angle. During the golden or magic hours, indirect light has real warmth that can create interesting shadows and patterns on subjects: the thirty minutes *before* sunrise and the fifteen minutes *after* sunset may offer even more desirable light when the sky may display a veritable kaleidoscope of colors. The blue hour—more like thirty minutes—occurs from about ten to forty minutes after the sun sets. Then, at twilight, the blue of the sky is evident to the eyes just before night falls but even more evident to the camera's lens and more sensitive in recording blue and purplish tones.

OTHER TIPS

Shoot the same locations during different seasons or at different times of day.

Plan ahead. Scout a location ahead of time if possible. Know when the sun rises and sets. Know when low and high tides occur. Dress for the weather.

Put in time and effort. Get up early. Stay late. Don't leave when the sun sets.

Move around. Turn around. Often the best photo is behind you.

Appreciate bad weather. Look for interesting clouds, dramatic skies, mist, or fog.

Educator and public official Mitchell R. Grosky is an award-winning landscape and travel photographer known for caputring beauty, character, and uniqueness in landscapes, cityscapes, and nature as he travels throughout the country and explores Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, China, and the Middle East.

village names prompt inquiry

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A search for Catville's origin came up empty. It could have been named for the many wild cats in the area. Historian J. R. Greene explains Puppyville in his book *Historic Quabbin Hikes*. The first grist mill in New Salem was reportedly built here in the mid 1700s," writes Green, who continues,

According to local historian Florence Cox, the name Puppyville, used as early as 1863, was applied to it because "it is said a man once lived there who had a lot of puppies." A 1912 visitor to the area suggested that "Millington and Puppyville should exchange names, for while Puppyville has no dogs at all, Millington was overloaded with them."

Some names didn't make *Uniquely Quabbin's* village list, like Deathville in Rutland. Fear not! It simply remembers a man named Foster Death who lived from 1797 to 1846. The area is now called West Rutland—naming it after Mr. Death wouldn't be good for tourism!

Following a Quabbin-area name can lead to a journey through the history of our area.

Artist and writer Jen Niles works in a variety of media and teaches specialty classes. Her website is jennilesart.com.

Danny Moore's mama cow June—
a Belted Galloway/Highland cross—watches over
her unnamed, late summer newborn calf at
John and Laura Moore's Maple Grove Farm in Orange.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

carriage making brought

continued from page 12

1713 during a boundary dispute. Connecticut sold the uninhabited tract in 1716 to sixteen proprietors, including John Belcher, a businessman and politician who served as governor of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. Proceeds from land sales funded Yale University's endowment.

Settlers from Northampton, Hadley, and Hatfield moved to Cold Spring, Belchertown's original name, starting in 1731. Cold Spring's waters provided refreshment for travelers on the Bay Path Voc Tech HS, an early colonial road from Boston to Albany. The colony established a meetinghouse in 1738, and population grew to more than fifty families by 1752. Belchertown, renamed for John Belcher, officially incorporated in 1761. Packardville annexed to Pelham in 1788, and the Caldwell Brook locale became part of Enfield in 1818.

More than three hundred men, roughly a third of Belchertown's population, served during the American Revolution and participated in battles such as Bunker Hill, West Point, Saratoga, and Yorktown. British General John Burgoyne and his officers passed through town while retreating from Saratoga, New York, to Boston in 1777. The war caused substantial hardship, as many farms fell into disrepair.

Significant early agricultural commodities included cattle, sheep, hogs, apples, and timber. Poor soils limited crop farming, but dairy farming thrived during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Belchertown Creamery produced and distributed large quantities of butter, supplied by local farms, from 1889 to 1917. Pansy Park, a thriving flower and seed business established by the Goddard family in 1884, exported orders worldwide.

Swift River, Jabish Brook, and other waterways provided power for a variety of industries, including two paper companies, Belchertown Woolen Company at Bardwell Village, and saw, grist, shingle, and cider mills. Factories produced diverse products such as plows, organs, silk, soapstone goods, palm leaf hats, and material for carriage shops.

Carriage making brought Belchertown national acclaim during the nineteenth century. Numerous factories and shops exported wagons, buggies, and

Belchertown national acclaim in the nineteenth century

sleighs to markets throughout the country. The largest manufacturers produced more than three hundred wagons annually and provided employment for many residents. Business declined after the Civil War due to competition from mass production facilities.

The Belchertown-Amherst Railroad, subsequently acquired by Central Vermont Railroad, was established in 1853 as the town's first railway. Boston and Maine Railroad's Central Massachusetts branch served as a crucial link to eastern Massachusetts and the Connecticut River Valley from 1890 to 1930 when some forty trains passed through Belchertown daily, conveying goods to markets and bringing in tourists from cities.

After declining from 1860 to 1920, Belchertown's population gradually increased thereafter. Many residents of discontinued Swift River Valley communities relocated to Belchertown during Quabbin Reservoir's construction during the 1930s.

Belchertown State School, an institution for people with mental disabilities and the town's largest employer for seventy years, opened in 1922. Its expansive campus included thirteen dormitories and a two-hundred-acre farm.

The town center and village green feature nineteenth-century buildings and landmarks including churches, Clapp Library, a bandstand, and a soldier's monument. The center and green have hosted many community events, most notably the popular Belchertown Fair, an annual tradition since 1855. Belchertown Park Association formed in 1873 to improve and beautify the common. Many summer visitors stayed at the elaborate Union House, Park House, and Highland hotels.

Belchertown Historical Association, founded in 1903, preserves an extensive collection of early records, textiles, furniture, and photographs. Stone House, the organization's permanent home since 1922, includes an annex funded by Henry Ford with carriages and other horse-drawn vehicles.

stonehousemuseum.org

Photographer and writer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds) in image and words. He lives in Petersham.

final significant conflict of Shays Rebellion took place

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service during the French and Indian wars. Petersham, originally named Volunteer's Town and Nichewaug, was incorporated in 1754 with a population of roughly fifty families. A portion of town was annexed to form Dana in 1801.

The final significant conflict of Shays Rebellion, when western Massachusetts farmers revolted against state tax and debt collection, took place in Petersham on February 4, 1787. After raiding Springfield's armory, Daniel Shays and his followers marched to Petersham, where they anticipated a decisive battle with state armies. However, a private militia led by Benjamin Lincoln quelled the uprising with a surprise attack after traveling thirty miles overnight through heavy snow. Though unsuccessful, the rebellion had an important role in formation of the United States Constitution.

Like many other New England rural towns, Petersham underwent a profound cycle of change during the post-Revolution period. More than three-quarters of the land was cleared for agriculture by the mid-nineteenth century, a marked contrast to today.

According to the 1850 census, 158 farms encompassed nearly 20,000 acres. Farming decreased thereafter because of inhospitable soils and competition from the Midwest.

Narrow, seasonal waterways and lack of railroads limited industrial development. Small manufacturing centers were established on the Swift River at Nichewaug and Slab City, adjacent to Connor Pond. Nichewaug was site of saw mills and grist mills, a cotton factory, and Elisha Webb's lumber mill, which sold kegs to the Union Army during the Civil War. Many families supplemented farming with other trades such as weaving palm-leaf hats and making boots and shoes.

As agriculture and manufacturing declined, Petersham's population decreased from 1,775 residents in 1840 to 642 in 1920, and forests gradually reclaimed abandoned farmland. Abundant white pine groves provided timber for saw mills and businesses such as the New England Box Company and Diamond Match Company.

During that time, Petersham became a popular resort destination for outsiders, or summer people, who purchased abandoned land at low cost and built or rehabilitated country homes. Efforts of James W. Brooks, a lawyer, entrepreneur, and early conservationist, were crucial in preserving the town's rural character. Brooks purchased nearly seventy properties during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including many tracts along the Swift River.

Harvard Forest, regarded as the world's best-documented research forest, was established in 1907 from land donated by Brooks. Early students included noted forester, activist, and Wilderness Society founder Bob Marshall. Fisher Museum, famous for well-crafted forestry and landscape dioramas, opened in 1943.

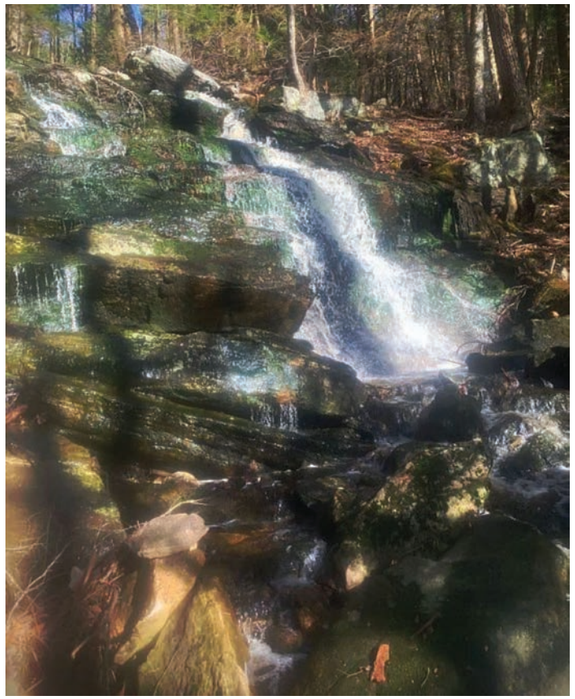
Petersham's landscape transformed again when the September, 1938 hurricane blew down roughly eighty percent of the town's woodlands in a single day. Ponds stored fallen logs to mitigate fire danger and preserve wood for mills. Another of Massachusetts's deadliest natural disasters, the 1953 Worcester tornado, originated over Quabbin Reservoir and destroyed the Connor Pond dam before causing nearly a hundred fatalities in Worcester and Barre.

in 1787 in Petersham

Petersham's historic district encompasses forty-five buildings in the town center. The popular Country Store, a hub of daily activity, has operated almost continuously since 1840. After the original Nichewaug Inn burned in 1897, an elaborate replacement hosted visitors for nearly fifty years. The abandoned structure remains a prominent landmark of the common. Adjacent Petersham Memorial Library, built in 1890, features distinctive fieldstone masonry and a stone tower.

Petersham Historical Society, located at 10 North Main Street—adjacent to North Common Meadow and a Shays Rebellion monument—preserves a variety of artifacts, including a stage coach, antique farm equipment, palm-leaf hats, and photographs.

Photographer and writer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds) in image and words. He lives in Petersham.



Spirit Falls, Royalston
photo © by Amber Robidoux

Terry's Corner Café, Matt's Breakfast Nook Offer Breakfast and Lunch

continued from page 39

Matt's Breakfast Nook lives up to its name with breakfast available every open day. Though not with as many offerings as before Covid, Matt's lunch menu includes burgers, hand-cut French fries, and homemade onion rings. The dessert selection changes daily. Matt likes to bake homemade cookies, pies, brownies, scones, and coffee cakes as time allows.

"We are a small-town place serving hearty made-to-order dishes at affordable prices for everyone in our community," Matt said.

Matt's Breakfast Nook, 8 East Main Street, West Brookfield, is open from 7:30 am to 1 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

Daily specials at facebook.com/Matts-Breafast-Nook-2224421570918962

Diane Kane, a writer and former chef, lives in Phillipston.

waterfalls make great day hikes

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the trail if you come in through the canoe launch across from Tully Campground.

Nearby, Jacob's Hill Overlook and The Ledges offer some beautiful sights as well. It might be challenging for little legs, but it's a great spot!

Length: 1.5 miles/Elevation Gain: 465 feet
Route Type: out and back
Falls Height: 150-foot drop
Family Friendly Rating: 3/5

Amber Robidoux is a freelance writer from Orange. She attended The Institute of Children's Literature, Madison, Connecticut, where she completed many pieces to the point of publication. Amber is a National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) finisher, blog writer, content creator, and active member of a local writing group.

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raising white kids in the Quabbin region: a short list to help

by Katherine Parcell

Let's face it. The Quabbin region is a predominantly white area. I should know that well. I am white, grew up in Petersham, left for a bit but was easily drawn back after I found a partner, had a baby, and wanted to settle down. What better place than the Quabbin region? It's beautiful, the community is strong, and I remember my own idyllic childhood here. It was an easy choice—here is where we would lay our roots.

And yet, there are a lot of white people here, just like me. After going to college, living in cities, traveling, and being around many different people, I found it like a step backwards to move to an area with little diversity. It didn't stop my husband and me. Admittedly, it wasn't even a consideration.

But now we have children. It is not lost on us the responsibility we have to our two boys nor is it lost on us that we have an opportunity as we raise them. It is our job to not only raise two good people but also raise two just, fair, compassionate, and actively anti-racist people from the gender and race who have historically held the most privilege and power. One challenge I feel daily and know I am not alone worrying about is how to raise anti-racist children as they grow up in a predominantly white area.

Part of the answer ties into the rich history of the Quabbin area and connects to all sorts of groups, community organizations, and local activism efforts. For those interested in finding ways to make up for the homogeneity of the Quabbin region as they raise children, here is a short list to help along the way.

Look to books and libraries.

If we can't look around and see a diverse group of people, we can use books to help get us there. It's essential that children soak up books that highlight and celebrate differences, represent all types of people, and offer perspectives different from those of our own children. Ensure many of your books are written by Black and Indigenous people of color. Also, check out the books to make sure they don't perpetuate dangerous stereotypes or contain only characters of color in supporting roles to white children. If they do, talk about it and use the circumstance as a learning opportunity.

So, check out your local library. If you aren't seeing enough representation on the shelves, ask for more.

Talk about what you see.

A great gift you can give your children concerns language that talks about race and racism. It's important to talk about whiteness and explore it with your children when you find yourself in white spaces. It can be as simple as an observation: "I notice there are only white people here today." Then explore why that might be or how the situation might feel for a person of color.

Kids are smart and as toddlers can recognize differences in skin color. If kids can build racial awareness of themselves early on, they will be comfortable talking later about race in contrast to a colorblind approach, where adults teach children to ignore differences. When children ignore racial difference, they likely feel uncomfortable talking about race or identifying and contextualizing their own race. Ignoring differences also challenges a child's natural tendency to notice differences and be curious. The message the child receives, then, is that it's not ok to talk about different skin colors or maybe even something like "I am bad for even noticing it."

Teach your children about Indigenous people who lived on Quabbin region land before us.

Anti-racism work absolutely includes the recognition of Indigenous people who came before us and the painful history of the Quabbin region. We must be teaching that history, and raise children with awareness and appreciation of Indigenous culture and people who live among us now.

Without any ethical basis, eighteenth-century European settlers claimed Nipmuc, Pennacook, and Wabanaki land known since by names of towns in the Quabbin region. The word Quabbin itself means "many waters" and comes from the name of a Nipmuc chief. The local nonprofit Nipmuk Cultural Preservation group, has lots of family-friendly events to help cultivate a true appreciation for a local Indigenous community. Have conversations with children about the Indigenous history of the land they live on.

Children should understand concerns about Native people embodied as mascots and get involved in the effort to remove such racist imagery from local schools.

Find others doing the same work.

The Quabbin region hosts a number of new groups focusing on anti-bias and anti-racism. Among them are SPARK Athol and the Petersham Anti-Racism coalition.

On Facebook, SPARK Athol states:
Through education, dialogue, and relationship building SPARK aims to foster an environment in which differences and diversity are understood and celebrated, so that all residents can unite in making Athol an inclusive and equitable community.

The Petersham Anti-Racism Coalition sustains a mission to promote anti-racism and deconstruct white supremacy at personal, community, institutional, and structural levels, through discourse, dialogue, resource sharing, activism, community events, and cultivating a brave space for community members to be able to collectively experience self-reflection, growth, and change.

I could go on.

Anti-racism has no end. We continually learn, unlearn, and gradually move forward. With children, we also have simultaneously to be teachers. It's not easy, but you are not alone!

Yes. We must be the change we wish to see in the world, and we must raise them, too.

Katherine Parcell is a founding member of the Petersham Anti-Racism Coalition, petershamARC@gmail.com

Submit letters to the editor or opinion writings to Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin* at haley.antique@verizon.net

LETTER to the EDITOR

Templeton's Motorpalooza expects to stop traffic on September 26

Vintage and antique cars, trucks, and machines turn Templeton Common into Motorpalooza.
photo courtesy of Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton

To the Editor
Uniquely Quabbin

Motorpalooza 2021 will fill Templeton Common from 11 am to 4 pm Sunday, September 26, with cars, trucks, farm engines, and just about anything with a motor. Unique Motorpalooza showcases Narragansett Historical Society and its open house during the same hours.

In the nearby gazebo built by the Templeton Lions Club, sponsored by a grant from the Templeton Cultural Council, event-goers can enjoy The Boothill Express band playing tunes.

Motorpalooza started in 2014 as a way to stop traffic and so drivers would take notice of the museum on the common. We wanted to park a few cars on the common to get the attention of drivers as they passed through town. It worked, and year after year, we have had an increase of both show cars and visitors. We've had tanks, three-wheeled cars, vintage motorcycles, farm engines removing corn from cobs, and a gas-powered washing machine.

We receive great comments about the show every year. Some enjoy the old cars. Others comment about unusual tractors. Everyone has an overall good time both on the common and inside the historical society building at 1 Boynton Road. The collection features the best of the best from Civil War artifacts to hand-painted portraits of people who lived in Templeton in the 1820s.

This year, we are fortunate to have KRO's on the Common, a new restaurant on Baldwinville Road that will offer some great food for lunch options. Bring the entire family to the event. It's not just for the boys.

Contact us if you want to join or help out during any of our events. Details can be found on our Facebook group page, facebook.com/groups/nh1924society

See you on the common!

Brian Tanguay, president
Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton

Motorpalooza displays old vehicles including a nineteenth-century boneshaker bicycle and mid twentieth-century tractor.
photo courtesy of Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

September 4-6
Saturday-Monday

Appleseed Country Fair
10 am-4 pm
Red Apple Farm
Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Lots of live entertainment plus plenty of food and beverage vendors and crafters with the Brew Barn for beer and wine lovers, Appleseedcountryfair.com

September 11, Saturday

Saving Seeds
10:30 am
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
A presentation about saving your own seeds and basic techniques for ensuring genetic purity, including discussions about home garden plants from which seeds can be easily saved and stored for future use. athollibrary.org

Early Apple Fest
12 pm-11:30 pm
Shutesbury Athletic Club
282 Wendell Road
Shutesbury
One-day music festival celebrating life, music, and the ability to assemble in person. Bands, apples, musical apples and apple pie, apple fritters, and apple fries.

September 11, Saturday
continued

Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez
7:30 pm-9:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Christine Ohlman, queen of blue-eyed rock'n soul, grew up loving both the sweetness of a Memphis horn line and the raunch of an electric guitar riff. 1794meetinghouse.org

The Super Group Live
7:30 pm-10 pm
Workshop 13
13 Church Street
Ware
The Grand Hall at Workshop13 presents an evening with the Super Group. workshop13.org

20th Anniversary Celebration
NEECA
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
New England Equestrian Center, Athol, celebrates the 20th anniversary of the creation of the park. Open to everyone–a family outing, and it's free. Rain date September 18. neeca.org

September 12, Sunday

Make Your Own Plant Medicine
10 am-4 pm
Seeds of Solidarity
165 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange
Workshop for making self-care products like tinctures, salves, and teas with home-grown CBD flowers and other herbal products. seedsofsolidarity.org

September 18, Saturday

Fall Fun Fair
9 am-12 pm
Royalston Common
Upscale tag sale and historical museum open
The Royalston Agriculture Committee will have a mini ag fair with farm animals and hay rides.
The Phinehas Newton Library will have crafts, displays, and free books as well.

Annual Country Fair
9 am-2 pm
Athol Congregational Church
Uptown Common
Athol
Crafts, baked goods and fudge, theme baskets, gift card raffle, country Store, books, games, snack bar, and emporium tag sale with music all day!

continued on next page

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

We encourage you to continue checking your favorite local venues for virtual and in-person events that were posted after our calendar deadline.

Please submit calendar listings for the next issue before December 1, 2021 to UQCalendar@gmail.com.

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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September 18, Saturday
continued

Hubbardston Field Day
9 am-3 pm
Curtis Recreation Field
Hubbardston
Family fun event with arts, crafts, food vendors, demonstrations, and more.

Garlic and Arts Pop-Up Marketplace
12 pm-5 pm
Forster Farm
60 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange
Local artists, open mic, food, and community.
Garlicandarts.org

Rutland Food Truck Festival
12 pm-5 pm
Memorial Field
Rutland
Beer tent, vendors, merchandise, and more.

Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy
7:30 pm-9:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Becky and Keith perform traditional music from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ireland, France. and beyond.
1794meetinghouse.org

September 24, Friday

Mad Agnes
7:30 pm-9:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Folk, classical or Celtic? Soaring harmonies, incisive lyrics or giggly repartee? For nine years Mad Agnes has been delightfully impossible to pigeonhole.
1794meetinghouse.org

September 24-26
Friday-Sunday

Belchertown Fair
Friday 3 pm-10 pm
Saturday 11 am-10 pm
Sunday 11 am-5 pm
Main Street
Belchertown
Belchertown's agricultural roots and active growing community featured in a wide variety of family-friendly activities throughout the weekend.
belchertownfair.com

September 25 and 26
Saturday and Sunday

September Art Exhibition Opening
12 pm-4 pm
Hardwick Town House
32 Common Street
Hardwick
Hardwick Historical Society exhibits some of Frank Bly's paintings. Light refreshments will be served.

September 26, Sunday

Narragansett Historical Society's Motorpalooza
12 pm-4 pm
The Common
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Rain or shine, an exhibition of vintage cars, trucks, engines, motorcycles, and maybe more. Live music by Boothill Express sponsored by Templeton Cultural Council. For more information or to display your car/ machine, email nh1924society@gmail.com.

Open House
1 pm-4 pm
Oakham Historical Society
Oakham

September 26, Sunday
continued

Archguitar Duo
4 pm - 6 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Duo concert with archguitarist, composer, arranger, and conductor Peter Blanchette, and archguitarist Maé Larregla.
1794meetinghouse.org

October 3, Sunday

Party of 2 Performs
2 pm- 4 pm
Lost Towns Brewing
483 Main Street
Gilbertville
Brew from Lost Towns and live music from Party of 2
more details on Facebook

October 9, Saturday

Elwin Bacon Memorial Fun Day
NEECA
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
neeca.org

October 9 and 10
Saturday and Sunday

Back Roads Studio Tour
10am-5pm
Pending covid restrictions, local artisans will be setting up for visitors to admire and purchase handmade works. Details at backroadsstudiotour.org.

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

October 16, Saturday

Yuletide Yankees Holiday Show
9 am-2 pm
Petersham Town Hall
3 South Main Street
Petersham
Find a holiday treasure in a quintessential New England town and have a snack at Mrs. Claus's Snack Bar.

October 19, Tuesday

Pastel Painting Lesson
6 pm-8 pm
Hubbardston Public Library
7 Main Street
Hubbardston
Pastel-painting workshop with artist Gregory Maichack.
Gregorymaichack.com

October 20, Wednesday

Native Americans of New England: History, Colonial Legacies, and Survival
6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
A talk and discussion will explore the history of Native Americans in New England.
Athollibrary.org 978-249-9515

October 23, Saturday

Historical Cemetery Tours
7 pm-8 pm
Royalston Historical Society
Old School House #1
Royalston
Costumed actors step out from headstones in Old Center Cemetery to share accurate information about the lives of the individuals they impersonate. War widows, diptheria outbreak survivors, soldiers, grave robbers, captains of industry, and Isaac Royall himself materialize among personages wafting in the graveyard. Free. Goodwill donations appreciated. Refreshments.

October 23, Saturday
continued

Lost Towns of the Quabbin: A Natural and Historical Field Trip
9 am-4 pm
Intersection of Routes 9 and 202
Belchertown
David Gallup leads a hike back to the nineteenth century to the site of the once thriving community of Dana—one of four towns during flooding of the area to form the Quabbin Reservoir. The all-day program includes the Enfield Lookout to view the Quabbin Reservoir.
massaudubon.org

October 24, Sunday

Children's Costume Parade
1 pm-2 pm
Begins at Fire Station
Main Street
Hubbardston
Parade followed by refreshments and magic at the Hubbardston Center School. Open to the public.

Open House
1 pm-4 pm
Oakham Historical Society
Oakham

October 30, Saturday

The Green Sisters
2 pm
Hardwick Winery
3305 Greenwich Road
Hardwick

October 31, Sunday

Halloween Block Party
Time TBD
Rutland Public Safety Building
240 Main Street
Rutland

November 6, Saturday

Christmas Fair
9am-2pm
Miller's Woods/Riverbend
739 Daniel Shays Highway
Athol
Gift items, silent auction, baked goods, gift certificate raffle, crafts, welcome raffle, high roller raffle, snack bar, and more.

Dynamics of a Honeybee Colony
10:00 am
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Scott Hebert of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association presents an introduction to beekeeping.

November 12, Friday

Deadline for North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy Drive-Thru Soup Meal scheduled November 19. Call Maryann at (978) 894-4258 to reserve a time slot.

November 13, Saturday

Holiday Bazaar
9 am-2 pm
Athol Congregational Church
1225 Chestnut Street
Athol
Crafts, baked goods and fudge, theme baskets, gift card raffle, winner wonderland raffle, jewelry, wreaths and greens, snack bar and Christmas tag sale!

November 19, Friday

North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy Drive-Thru Soup Meal
5 pm-6 pm
Athol Congregational Church
1225 Chestnut Street.
Athol
For ten dollars, you get three cups of soup, three rolls, and dessert. Reserve early as quantities may be limited! Call Maryann at (978) 894-4258 to reserve a time slot. Make reservations by Friday, November 12..

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Uniquely Quabbin listings

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December 3-5

Friday-Sunday
Festival of Trees
Times TBD
Rutland Historical Society
96 Center Street
Rutland

December 4, Saturday

Petersham Holiday Fine Art and Craft Show and Sale
9 am-4 pm
Petersham Town Hall
3 South Main Street, Route 32
Petersham
2021 Petersham Holiday Fair, featuring twenty juried artisans, live music, photos with Santa, and more.

December 5, Sunday

Welcome to the Holiday Season
12 pm-4 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Santa, a bake sale, the building decorated for the holiday as well handmade local wreaths as well as some other holiday surprises for sale to deck the hall culminating with the annual lighting of the tree.
Email nh1924society@gmail.com.

December 9, Thursday

Bing Crosby: The Christmas King
6 pm-7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
A behind-the-scenes look at the Oscar winning actor/singer's life and career with a focus on his holiday-themed films, *Holiday Inn, Going My Way, The Bells of St. Mary's,* and *White Christmas*. This is a one-hour slideshow presentation and talk with Frank Mandosa. Registration required, please call 978-249-9515 to register!

Until 2018, the late Gail Whittle's Country Mischief presided over Templeton Common. The brick Georgian colonial has since housed KRO's on the Common Restaurant.

photo © by David Brothers