



A Quabbin region winter archway accentuates night time.

photo © by Benjamin Ellis

ON THE FRONT COVER

Templeton Vista

a photograph by David Brothers

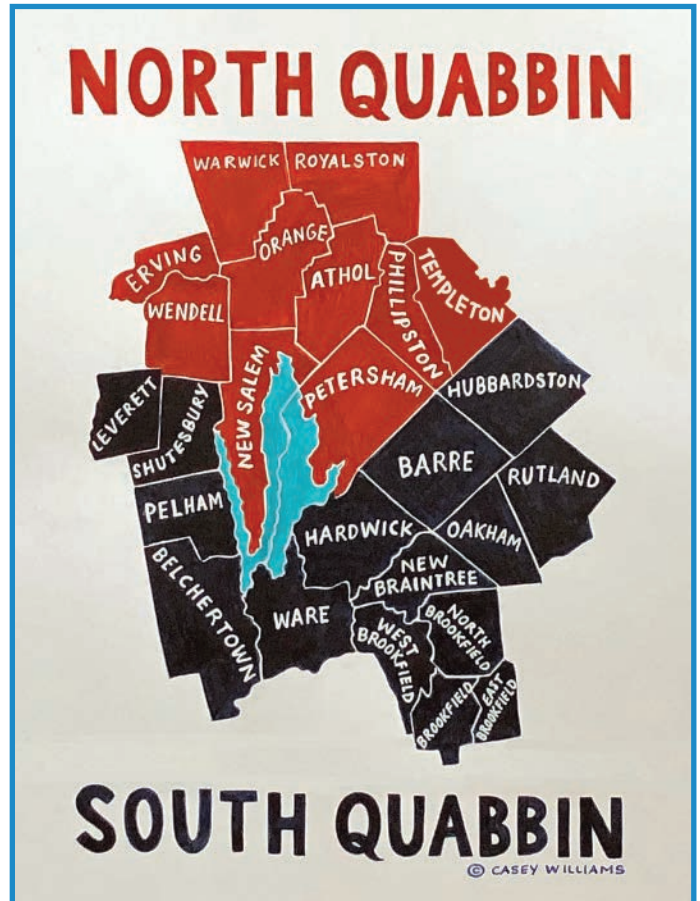
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volume 6, number 3• January-April 2022

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 67.

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 these councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

Grants, advertisers, and donations are what keep us going. Donations are always appreciated and can be made by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331, going to www.uniquelyquabbin.com and choosing the donate button, or scanning the QR code you will find on page 8 of this issue.

I want to thank our advertisers who play such a big role in the success of this magazine. An ever-growing list of businesses and organizations continuously support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there and support them as they support us.

As always, you are going to enjoy this issue. So curl up, as I do, in a big comfy chair with a nice hot cup of hot chocolate and put your reading glasses on so you can really enjoy this latest issue.

Thankfully,
Debra Ellis

Treasurer, Athol Historical Society



gratefully acknowledges the support of

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Hubbardston Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council

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Wendell Cultural Council

a note from the business manager and publisher of

Uniquely Quabbin

Debra Ellis, *Uniquely Quabbin* business manager and treasurer of Athol Historical Society, and Marcia Gagliardi, publisher, take over this spot to chat about the eighteenth issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

Debra: I love having a spot in the magazine to say thank you because it gives me the opportunity to thank so many, but this time I'm glad we've found a place where it's going to get a little more personal. This is the last issue of our sixth year, and we will be starting our seventh year with the May issue. By we, I mean you, Marcia, and me with a lot of help from others.

Marcia: Yes, Debbie. We're fortunate in our editorial board, including Mark Wright and, with this issue, Elizabeth Callahan. Since we began *UQ* in May 2016, Casey Williams and Jane Clukay have moved from the Quabbin region and left the editorial board. Casey's maps continue to accent the magazine.

Debra: Yes. From the beginning, so many have helped make *UQ* what it is, especially advertisers, writers, photographers, artists, cultural councils, and generous donors. And we can't forget readers.

I didn't know you all that well, Marcia, when you came up with a grant for the magazine courtesy of the International Music and Art Foundation. IMAF wanted to support a consortium of Quabbin region historical societies, and you wanted to add an accompanying magazine. When you got word of the grant, you contacted Ken Vaidulas, a member of your 1965 high school class and vice-president of Athol Historical Society, to see if the historical society would get involved.

Ken asked me if I would meet with you, and we did, and I was happy to say yes. You were interested in our fiscal agency, and you had no idea what that meant. Of course, my first question was, "What do I have to do?" Your response was "Nothing!"

HA!!!! I now know differently, but I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity you have given me to be part of this magazine. So, Marcia, thank you for pushing me out of my comfort zone, for opening my eyes to a new adventure, and for being such a wonderful friend. Here's to more years of *UQ*.

Marcia: Debbie, I realize that I should have known better than to have said you wouldn't have to do anything. On the contrary, you're always there selling ads, writing applications to local cultural councils, contacting historical societies, and monitoring not only all things financial but always there with insight and considered response whenever there's an editorial or organizational concern. And most importantly, I am so glad for your being such a wonderful friend. I'm a very lucky woman in our association and our friendship.

Debra and Marcia: Here's to the future of *Uniquely Quabbin*, its continuing appeal to the people of the Quabbin region, and to our dear friendship.

Debra: Thank you, Marcia.

Marcia: Thank you, Debbie.

Debra and Marcia: And thank you, advertisers, writers, photographers, artists, cultural councils, generous donors, and readers. We couldn't do it without you. And we hope you like this, our eighteenth issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Uniquely Quabbin

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Free

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North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and
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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.

old-time gravestones stimulate imagination

by Dorothy Johnson



Dorothy Johnson

Looking into old cemeteries of the pre-Quabbin times, I cannot help but think of the stories written on gravestones. Some give rise to the imagination and others to opinions or possibly even fact.

Wherever you go, you can find stories.

In Pelham on Packardville Road just off Route 202, a famous stone,

close to the fence, memorializes Warren Gibbs, who died in 1860 at thirty-seven years of age. Seemingly it was erected in anger and sorrow by his brother, William, it says:

**Think my friends when this you see
How my wife hath dealt by me
She in some oysters did prepare
Some poison for my lot and share
Then of the same I did partake
And nature yielded to its fate
Before she my wife became
Mary Fenton was her name.
Erected by his brother
WM. GIBBS.**

Records do not survive to tell us whether Mary Fenton Gibbs was the instrument of his poisoning or stood trial for her husband's murder.

The cemetery in Shutesbury Center has a stone also apparently written in sad anger. The stone says that the death of Chs. M Williams occurred by the "wreckless" carelessness of his fellow soldier while engaged in a sham fight on parade on September 16, 1845. The spelling of "wreckless" almost constitutes a pun. The inscription for Williams reads:

**A lovely youth beloved by all
By old and young,
by great and small
By rich and poor
by high and low**

By everyone that did him know

continued on Page 45

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Instinct

text and painting in acrylics on gallery-wrapped canvas by Amber Robidoux



Instinct

painting in acrylics on gallery-wrapped canvas by Amber Robidoux

Since childhood, I've felt a deep desire to create something from nothing. When I began painting, I found that my need to control subject, composition, and color lent itself well to accepting commissions. Working for clients offered an opportunity to work within specific guidelines while fulfilling a creative need.

In 2015, I started a self-directed challenge to complete a hundred paintings in a hundred days with paintings getting larger each day. I posted each painting for sale for the price matching the day of its creation, so Day 1 at a dollar, Day 2 at two dollars, and so on. The commitment forced me out of creative restrictions I had set for myself. By painting every day, I had to let go of perfection. I had to accept imperfections and stretch my limitations. The challenge opened me to trying new things and grow as an artist.

Over time, I found my style changed. Instead of producing subjects silhouetted by brightly blended backgrounds, I began to lean into paintings with a freestyle approach. Nothing was off limits. I used brushes, bottle caps, wooden pieces, and even my fingers.

Shortly after the end of the project, *Instinct* came to life. Stretching three feet wide, its size and style reflects the growth that took place over the hundred days. With its sweeping color and broad strokes, it became more alive with every layer put down and differed greatly from other paintings I have previously done.

Freelance writer and artist Amber Robidoux lives in Orange. She worked formerly as a commission painter. Her work has been displayed in homes and shows throughout New England and as far as Arizona. Find more at amberrobidoux.com.

historic Rutland

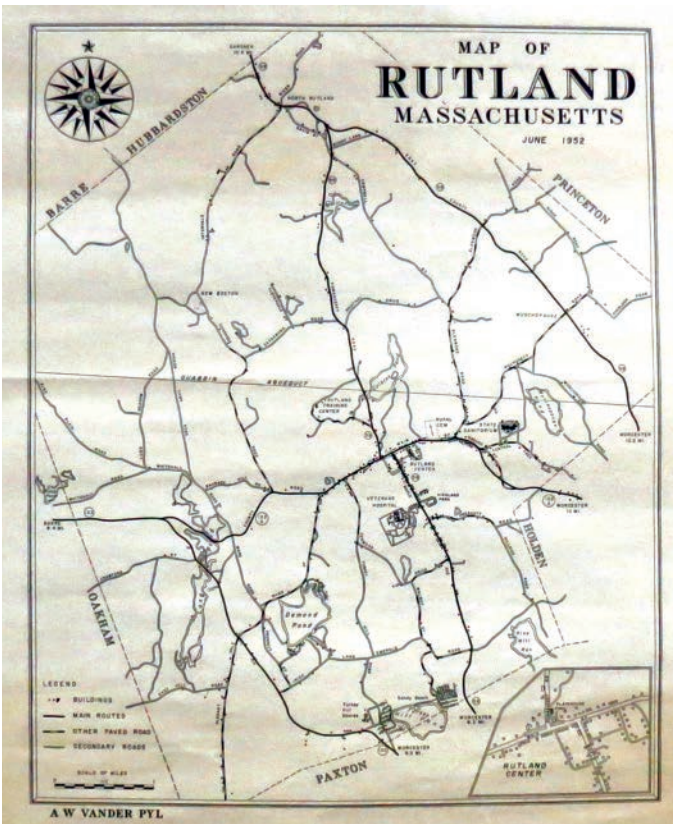
by Diane Kane

Historic Rutland has big plans for its three-hundredth anniversary in 2022.

The spirited south Quabbin town prides itself as known widely as the Compassionate Community. The Rutland 300th Anniversary Committee plans to lead the town in a yearlong celebration commemorating history and affirming community spirit. Former Selectwoman Sheila Dibb chairs the committee.

"The process of planning for the celebration generated a discussion concerning when Rutland was actually born," said Jeff Stillings of the committee. "The town's seal lists 1713, yet the town's flag boasts 1722. So, which is it? Well, it's both. Sort of."

The original land of about twelve square miles was purchased in 1686 from Native American Nipmucs in an area of people converted to Christianity in what was called, according to British law, an Indian Praying Town. Among other groups, Algonquin Indians included Nipmucs and Pequot Indians, who also inhabited the area known as Naquag, meaning an angle or corner.



1952 map of Rutland locates houses by assigning black dots.
map courtesy of Rutland Historical Society



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has big plans for three hundredth this year

The first families of British origin settled near what is now Muschopauge Reservoir and northerly to the Asnacomet or Comet Pond. But like many dates in history, the date when Rutland became a town is not precisely cut and dry.

"Settlers could not merely stake out a territory and call it a town at that time," Stillings explained. "The rules for establishing a town in the British colony required a minimum of sixty families to have a church and school and some form of trade. If those conditions were met, then the Massachusetts Bay Colony General Court had authority to vote to incorporate the area."

In 1714, the land was subdivided, and sixty lots of thirty acres each distributed. By 1722, a church, school, and general store met the Massachusetts colonial rules for incorporation.

"In short, Rutland was conceived in 1713 but was born in 1722 when the General Court recognized Rutland as an official town, on June 18," said Stillings.

It was another fifty-four years before the American flag fluttered over Rutland. "But just imagine the


local joy and sense of accomplishment for the people here, knowing that they had achieved what they needed to do to make this a real town in the eyes of the colony," Stillings said. "That was, and still is, something to celebrate."

Brookfield, founded in 1664 and incorporated in 1718, is the only South Quabbin town older than Rutland. In the North Quabbin, the towns of Athol, Hardwick, and Pelham are oldest, with founding dates of 1735, 1737, and 1738 and incorporating dates of 1762, 1739, and 1743, respectively.

In 1788, Northern Rutland housed prison camps built by General Burgoyne during the Revolutionary War to hold Hessian mercenaries. The original door and one of the posts from the stockade fence hang in Wood House, home of Rutland Historical Society.

The early economy of Rutland included agriculture and grazing. The first gristmill was built on Mill Brook in 1719. In addition, over the years, Rutland produced chairs, carriages, and woodenware. A tannery opened

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winter weather, seasonal temperatures, and

text and photos by Sue Cloutier



At the mouth of a wintry Wendell cave, Bruce “Pan” Wilson prepares to snap a photo of his photographer.

The cold days of early winter along with a January thaw give opportunities to see water in its many states—solid ice, liquid, or vapor/gas. Seasonal changes in temperature and lower angles of light provide a photographer the chance to capture many remarkable forms of water in winter.

Early winter, before the ground freezes, thaw lines on puddles mark the change of water level as water sinks



Puddle thaw lines mark change of water level as water sinks into soil.

into the soil. The shores of repeated frozen puddles make pleasing shapes.

In contrast to water leaving the soil, ice needles can form when water held around grains of

sand expand into crystals. The ice needles form stacks overnight and lift patches of ground an inch or two. Ice disappears rapidly in the heat of day, and the ground settles flat, so only early birds usually see the phenomena.

Another special feature of early morning frost is frost flowers. Look for them in fields and gardens when the ground hasn't frozen but air temperatures fall below freezing overnight. Water within some plant stems can expand as it freezes to burst the stem and send out streams of water that form spikes of ice that can look like flowers.

On calm cold mornings, a fog may form over meadows and be caught by the cold. Droplets in the mist that bump into stems or branches quickly turn into crystals of rime ice, which forms when supercooled water droplets freeze onto surfaces. Ice crystals can grow to completely surround stems. When air is humid on cold cloudless nights, crystals of ice can form from the gas stage of water, skipping the liquid stage to make ice crystals on branches. When caught in early morning light, translucent shapes make a wonderful subject for any photographer.



Frozen water inside stems burst to cover leaves with ice.



Droplets in the mist that bump into branches quickly turn into crystals of rime ice.

lower angles of light show off water in many forms



Sometimes when ice breaks up on Quabbin Reservoir, listeners hear ice groans or booms.

Wilson A. Bentley, who lived from 1865 to 1931, brought fame to photographing water in winter. He particularly photographed snowflakes in their infinite variety. He took pictures of flakes collected outside his home in Jericho, Vermont. The Smithsonian Institution Archives preserves many of the photographs he took of snowflakes on black velvet. They prove the uniqueness of each snowflake. If you try photographing snowflakes, have all the equipment cold so snow does not melt or your camera fog up.

Many circumstances occur where sufficiently cold water droplets or water vapor forms ice on cold surfaces. Examples include a branch over a waterfall, a sleeping animal's breath at the entrance of its den, or your window. If it is really cold, below zero, try blowing bubbles outside and watch them freeze. It happens fast!

The winter season challenges all life. Wildlife hides, conserves energy, and only comes out to hunt for food or mates. Spiders sometimes venture out on snow. And you may discover tracks of larger animals that reveal their trails to and from hunting, resting, or sleeping places. Much as humans may do when hiking in deep snow, foxes, coyotes, and deer conserve energy by walking in others' footprints or along downed trees of stonewalls. You may find their prints in trails you made yesterday. Their resting spots may show their body shapes as compressed snow.

If you happen to be by Quabbin shores in late winter when ice breaks up, you may hear it sing or boom. Singing happens when ice melts and reforms in slender crystals that rub against each other. Groans or booms happen when a crack suddenly splits a huge mass of ice.

The black and white of the snow over the Quabbin landscape gives great contrast for winter photography.

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THANK YOU!

Orange showcases industrial heritage, rural settings

by John Burk



Industrialist John Wheeler and family made Wheeler Mansion, a nineteenth-century landmark at the corner of East Main and Mechanic streets, their in-town home.

postcard image courtesy of Janice Lanou

Orange boasts a rich industrial heritage and rural settings reminiscent of colonial times. Situated in western Millers River watershed uplands, the town's 36-square-mile landscape features wooded hills interspersed with wetlands and plains. Among its rises, 1,252-foot Pitt Hill, 1,247-foot Chestnut Hill, and 1,163-foot Tully Mountain comprise the highest

elevations. The latter, a landmark of the 22-mile Tully Trail, offers outstanding views across the North Quabbin region. Millers River flows east-west across the southern part of town, and Tully River West Branch, a major tributary, serves as a central feature of the North Quabbin Bioreserve conservation corridor. Other significant waterbodies include Lake Mattawa, a popular fishing and recreation destination; Lake Rohunta, built by the Rodney Hunt Company, and Tully and Packard ponds, originally created for industries involved in milling pine logs.

Nipmuck Native American activity concentrated along Millers River near the present town center, present West Orange, and Tully River plains. A travel corridor paralleled the north side of Millers River, and Native American north-south routes likely followed rivers, streams, and lowlands. Beatrice Miner's *History of Orange* cites an encampment at Fall Hill not far from present-day Dexter Park School. Atop West Pequig

[continued on page 60](#)

ROBERT G. OSBORNE



Floating Sculpture: Archimedes on Lake Mattawa

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Celebrating 34 Years!

diverse nineteenth-century businesses thrived in Barre

by John Burk

Known for its historic town common, protected land, and rural scenery, Barre was a dynamic nineteenth-century center of industry and business. Its 44.6 square-mile landscape comprises rolling hills and a plateau bordered by the Ware, Swift East Branch, and Burnshirt river watersheds. Elevations range from 620 feet on Ware River, which meanders through the southeast portion of town, to 1260 feet in the Moose Brook valley. Cook's Canyon, a gorge and cascade on Galloway Brook, is the main attraction of Mass Audubon's oldest wildlife sanctuary in central Massachusetts. Retreating glaciers deposited several prominent boulders, including Cradle Rock and Rum Rock.

Fertile lowlands on Ware River at Barre Plains and the Prince and Burnshirt rivers likely supported seasonal Native American sites used primarily for fishing and hunting. Land that became Barre was originally part of the Naquag Grant of 1686, when proprietors purchased a twelve square-mile territory encompassing present-day Rutland and adjacent communities. Barre, named for



A Mass Central Railroad locomotive enters a Barre crossing.

photo © by John Burk

British parliament member and colonial independence advocate Sir Isaac Barré, established as Rutland's Northwest District in 1749 and incorporated as a town in 1774.

Records credit more than 270 Barre residents with service during the American Revolution. Companies assembled in town to defend Bennington, Vermont and Newport, Rhode Island from British attacks in 1777. As

continued on page 61



The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

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Quabbin region state legislative district boundaries adjusted after 2020 federal census

by John Burk

As mandated by the United States Constitution, the state of Massachusetts has adjusted House, Senate, and Congressional district boundaries to reflect population changes and ensure equal representation for residents, effective January 2023. Redistricting takes place every ten years, following release of decennial census data. According to the 2020 census, Massachusetts' population increased by 482,288 since 2010, or 7.37 percent. Districts must be contiguous and follow county, town, and city boundaries whenever possible.

Find more information, including current and historic district maps, at malegislature.gov/redistricting

Quabbin region districts and incumbent state senators and representatives include:

Worcester and Hampshire Counties District Senator

Anne Gobi, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipalities

Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New
Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Phillipston, Rutland, Templeton,
West Brookfield, Ware
other municipalities

Leicester, Paxton, Spencer, Sterling, Westminster,
Worcester (part)

Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester Counties District Senator

Joanne Comerford, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipalities

Athol, Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham,
Royalston, Shutesbury, Warwick, Wendell
other municipalities

Amherst, Ashburnham, Bernardston, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield
Hadley, Hatfield, Leyden, Montague, Northampton, Northfield,
Sunderland, Winchendon

Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester Counties District Senator

Eric Lesser, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipality

Belchertown

other municipalities

Chicopee (part), East Longmeadow, Granby, Hampden, Longmeadow,
Ludlow, Palmer, South Hadley, Springfield (part), Warren, Wilbraham

Second Franklin County District Representative

Susannah Whipps, incumbent, unenrolled

Quabbin region municipalities

Athol, Erving, Orange, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick
other municipalities

Gill, Greenfield (part), Northfield, Winchendon (part)

First Franklin County District Representative

Natalie Blais, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipality

Leverett

other municipalities

Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway,
Deerfield, Greenfield (part), Hawley, Heath, Leyden,
Monroe, Montague, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Whately

First Hampden County District Representative

Todd Smola, incumbent, Republican

Quabbin region municipality

Ware (part)

other municipalities

Brimfield, Holland, Palmer, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren

Seventh Hampden County District Representative

Jacob Oliveria, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipalities

Belchertown, New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, Wendell
other municipality

Ludlow

Fifth Worcester County District Representative

Donald Berthiaume Jr., incumbent, Republican

Quabbin region municipalities

Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New
Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Ware (part), West Brookfield

other municipalities

Leicester, Spencer (part)

First Worcester County District Representative

Kimberly Ferguson, incumbent, Republican

Quabbin region municipality

Rutland

other municipalities

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Westminster

Second Worcester County District Representative

Jonathan Ziotnik, incumbent, Democrat

Quabbin region municipality

Templeton

other municipalities

Ashburnham, Gardner, Winchendon

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

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A white tail deer pauses along the icy shoreline of Quabbin Reservoir.
photo © by Dale Monette

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SERVICING ATHOL, ORANGE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

from the pens of *Uniquely* compiled by Dina Stander,

The editorial board of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine welcomes Dina Stander as editor of *from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin* poets.

She invites Quabbin region writers to submit poems for possible publication and asks, "What do you see through your *Uniquely Quabbin* window on the world? She says, "Send a poem (or three) along with a short bio to dinastander15@gmail.com.

love in times of bone on bone

by Dina Stander

what is love in times
of bone on bone
when appetites go unsatisfied
and sorrow's ghosts hunger for crusts
we no longer afford them
in times of bone on bone
love is like being surprised
by a dandelion blooming in February
the most ordinary beauty in an
extraordinary time and place
in times of bone on bone
love does not prevent the
inevitable raw scraping inside us
we carry our bones with us into love
but it gives the solace of turning away
from our complaints
finding instead a small
fragrant
golden possibility
foretelling a new season
promising the gentle hum
of pollinating bees

Reprinted from the collection *Old Bones & True Stories*,
published by Human Error Publishing, 2018

shout

by Dina Stander

sometimes I	in the future
feel the	where the
weight of what	ripple meets
is yet to	its shore
come	sometimes I
in the marrow	feel the
of my bones	weight of
like a dread	what is yet to
pinning my	come
wings stunning	and instead of
my thoughts	pushing it off
stilling my voice	I open my heart
next breath tell myself	hold it close
"but not yet"	tenderly
so I shout into the wind	with compassion
the names of what I love	hoping our past
like tossing a	can heal our future
boulder into the	meeting myself
pond where the	in the middle
ripples will	eyes wide open
continue across	shouting the names
the waters of my	of what I love
time so that the	into the wind
impression	with all my might
of what I love	
has a motion	

Dina Stander is a poet, artist, end-of-life navigator, and founder of the Northeast Death Care Collaborative. Since childhood, she has been experimenting with the photo booth as a place of expressive interaction and continues to collect and curate photo-booth moments for elements of collage assemblages. She lives in Shutesbury.

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Quabbin poets

poetry editor

Show Yourself
by Kimberly Ellis

Is that all you got?
I want to hear your voice, crisp and clear; put some
backbone into it;
make me crave your words;
make me want to claw through the maze, the parts of
you hidden from this world; show them to me.

Is that all you got?
I want to hear some emotion, rough and raw; put some
heart into it; make me feel your words;
make me want to run away with the beauty, the parts of
you that only shine for some; shine them for me.

Is that all you got?
I want to hear you sob, empty and naked; put some soul
into it; make me cry with your words;
make me want to walk beside you amongst the parts of
that are too hurt to move; move them for me.

Is that all you got?
I want to hear you scream, loud and booming; put some
anger into it; make me gasp at your words;
make me want to explore their very depths, the parts of
you that are dying to be heard; reveal them to me:

I'm listening.

Kimberly Ellis, a writer from Athol, often goes by the pseudonym Auryanya. She is a volunteer and advocate for breaking the stigma against mental illness.



Frost forms on leaves, grasses, and acorns
on a shivery winter morning.

photo © by Sue Cloutier



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Central MA Goddesses formed to attract spiritually minded women

by Laurie Smith

Does the sound of a goddess picnic for women celebrating winter solstice and the Yule catered with delicious healthy foods, yoga, and uplifting conversations intrigue you? Are you a woman looking for new friends that embrace their spirituality and feminine strengths?

Not that long ago, Gardner native Destiny Young decided that she really wanted a new way to meet like-minded and spiritually sensitive women for friendship and connections. She felt traditional ways adult women meet to form friendships often rely on the superficial with potentials of drama and disappointment. She searched for friends who shared her love of nature, healing, and spirituality who could come together for healing and growing, bonding and laughs.

She succeeded!

She started by forming the Facebook group Central MA Goddesses for those she identifies as spiritually-minded women in the central Massachusetts area. She says the group provides a place for conscious, authentic, raw discussions and get-togethers. The group seeks to be supportive, inclusive, and judgement-free, Destiny said.

She first conducted a photoshoot the women in Rutland at the former prison camps. It coincided with Halloween and the Pagan holiday of Samhain, a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season, so participants dressed in witchy costumes. Photographer Lindsey Morris of K&B Photography continued with the group and photoshoot events.

Destiny then had the idea of Goddess Picnics for the women. Goddess Picnics coincide with seasonal celebrations such as the Equinox and Solstice, and have themes intertwined. Some twenty women at a time attend catered events focusing on celebrations, collaborations, connections, and of course, delicious food—vegan, gluten-friendly food. Destiny commits to meeting allergy needs of the women in a group.

The menu often reflects the region's seasonal foods and traditions of that time of year. The picnics also include special activities such as yoga, meditation, and Tarot card readings. Participants say the picnics have created a unique experience for women to learn about each other and to network, form bonds, and celebrate themselves as strong, beautiful beings who support one another and build each other up.

The first Goddess Picnic took place in June 2021 in Leominster for Litha, a pagan holiday celebrating summer solstice. Ivana Bellorado designed the event. A Winchendon picnic at Magnolia studio and designed by Rajuli Fae celebrated the autumn equinox. Brandy Lefsyk hosted a winter solstice and Yule picnic in Orange in December, hosted by Brandy Lefsyk of Hometown Yogi at her new studio. Future already-planned events will take place in Orange, Phillipston, and Winchendon. Participants pay fifty dollars each for attendance at a Goddess Picnic.

While Destiny keeps the picnic events on a loose schedule so that women have plenty of time for

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Destiny Young prepares to host winter goddess picnic for Central Massachusetts women, including those from the Quabbin region..
photo by Chris Young

connections and relaxation, she plans to add music and movement activities to future agendas.

Destiny also formed a Facebook group, Spiritual and Sensual, not tied to a specific region. Spiritual and sensual focuses on the what Destiny identifies and capitalizes as Devine Feminine Energy, which she and others consider the creative force that brings nature into existence.

Destiny plans to continue to create opportunities for women to gather. Her newest event idea would celebrate each new moon as a two-hour New Moon Goddess Night limited to fifteen participants on the Sunday evening of a new moon. The fee for new moon events is forty dollars a ticket. Events sell out quickly. Destiny's email address is Destiny@thesensualpsychic.com.

Laurie Smith is an early childcare provider living in Athol.

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Paul Richmond of Wendell and Alan Duprey of Belchertown

reluctant authors inspire enthusiastic readers

by Diane Kane



Author Paul Richmond of Wendell takes center stage at Hotel Sobo Bade in Senegal, West Africa.

photo courtesy of Paul Richmond

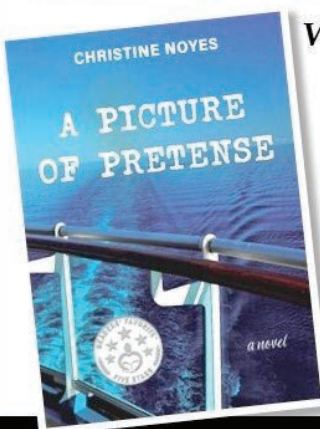
For author Paul Richmond of Wendell, reading and writing did not come easy.

"Growing up, I was part of an educational experiment called sight-reading that happened in many places. Students were shown a word and had to memorize it, no phonics," Richmond explained. "So, my ability to enjoy reading was delayed."

Now Richmond is a prolific reader. "I regularly use the interstate library system to bring home four or five books at a time."

When Richmond turned eighteen, he experienced another life-changing experience. "I was given the lottery number to be drafted for the military in Vietnam," Richmond said. "I attended a group to put

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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.

off the military for more than two years by writing about my beliefs.”

The experience led Richmond to continue writing. “After that, I kept journals,” he said. “I realized I didn’t know how to write or spell and more, but I was driven to put down what I was feeling.” Next, Richmond went to the University of Buffalo. “I was exposed to many amazing writers who came to do readings. I read their books and continued to write.”

Then Richmond took another path less traveled. “I became a professional juggler for more than twenty years, and I wrote all my own shows,” Richmond said. “I met many writers at festivals and was inspired.” From there, Richmond started writing full-time.

“Then I realized that it is really hard to get published. I have always been into computers and used them to promote my juggling. So, when it became clear I could publish my own work, I was on it.” That spurred Richmond to create Human Error Publishing to help other writers.

“Eleven years ago, I set up monthly readings, a yearly festival, and other events.” Richmond excelled. “Since I’m a juggler, I worked on stagecraft, which many writers don’t have. It really is two different skills—writing and presenting in front of an audience.”

One of Richmond’s yearly events grew to six days more than over 160 writers involved. “The first year, I called it Poetry Festival. The next year I changed it to Word Festival to draw more people.”

Richmond enjoys the creativity of people in the Quabbin region.

“What I hope people get from my writings involves the complexities of our lives and to be able to laugh even at hardship and death. Also, not to shy away from social justice and social activism. We need to act now for future generations for there to be a future.”

Find Richmond’s work at Human Error Publishing by going to paul@humanerrorpublishing.com or humanerrorpublishing.com

Alan Duprey never wanted to be an author.

“I don’t even like to write,” Duprey told me in a phone interview.

Duprey’s followed a career in manufacturing for the past forty years. Writing a book was the last thing on

his mind as he attended service at Christ Community Church in Belchertown when the spirit moved him.

“I won’t say it was a voice,” Duprey said. “But there was a definite command. God wanted me to write a book about heaven.”

He tried his best to ignore the directive in his head, but it wouldn’t go away. “Heaven is usually painted as a boring place, a place of endless church services or playing harps on a cloud.”

That isn’t the image Duprey saw.

He decided to write a page to prove he wasn’t the man for the job. “Hoping that would put it to rest, I showed it to my brother Brian and my other coworkers.” Instead, everyone encouraged him to continue, including his pastor, Emmanuel Haqq.

“Alan, this is surprising. I would have never expected this from you,” the pastor said.

So, Duprey continued. He wrote a chapter, then another. “I discovered Heaven as a forgotten subject most people never consider.”

The beauty and grace of the Quabbin area provided big inspiration as he wrote the book. “Every time I got stuck, another door opened,” Duprey said—until he almost had a book but not quite.

“The last chapter was the hardest.”

Then, Duprey attended a retreat at Camp Spofford in New Hampshire and shared some of his book with another attendee, Andreas. That’s when Duprey knew he had to finish the book for the sake of others.

After two years, Duprey finished *Heaven: The Adventure Begins*, and the book was published in 2014 by Abba Father Media. “I thought, that’s it. I’m done now.” But another door opened.

Based on Duprey’s book, *Heaven, the Movie* was released in October 2020 to rave reviews and multiple



Heaven: the Adventure Begins
book cover and author
Alan Duprey of Belchertown
photos courtesy of Alan Duprey

continued on page 56

recommended engrossing winter reads from

compiled by Carla Charter

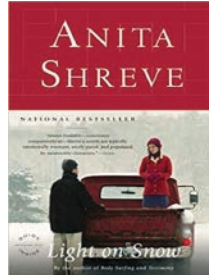
On some winter days when wind howls and snow blows, all you want to do is curl up with a mug of hot chocolate and a good book. Staff of Rutland Free and Athol public libraries offer suggestions for perfect winter reads for all ages.

from Rutland Free Public Library

Fiction

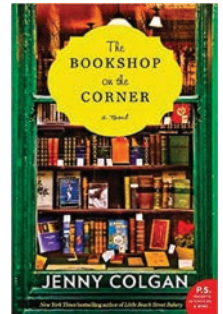
Light On Snow by Anita Shreve

A baby is found crying in the snow in New Hampshire. The narrative centers around a twelve-year-old girl, her dad and a stranger. A quiet story that evokes winter starkness. Fans of Anita Shreve will appreciate this novel. For those who haven't read any of her books yet, enjoy a story that unfolds before you.

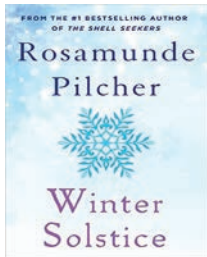


The Bookshop on the Corner by Jenny Colgan

Finding herself suddenly unemployed, Nina makes a bold move, buys an old bus, and starts a mobile bookstore. Finding reserves of pluck and resourcefulness she didn't know she had, she makes a new home and life for herself. And maybe find a little romance too.

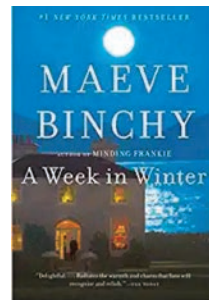


Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher



Five characters from different corners and at different stages of their lives all find themselves spending a week together at Christmas in an old Victorian in Scotland. A perfect read for a snowy day in December or January.

Gorgeous setting. Delicious food. Likeable characters. And a happy ending.



After living in America for a while, Chicky moves back to her hometown in Ireland, and to an old mansion that she intends to restore into holiday lets. One week in winter, her first guests come to stay. All of them end up having a transformative experience. Sit back

The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier

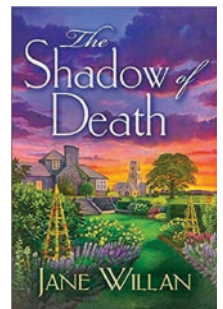
For fans of historical fiction. This novel is set during 1850, centers around a young Quaker girl who finds herself alone in Ohio. Her Quaker values are at odds with America's stance on slavery. She gets involved with the underground railroad movement and must find a way to balance her beliefs with her new family's. For those who want to sink their teeth into a well-told, solid historical fiction novel.



The Shadow of Death/The Hour of Death

by Jane Willan

Set in Wales, aspiring mystery writer nun finds a real-life murder to solve. Right in the Abbey. The priest of the church helps out with the sleuthing, and they meet frequently at the Buttered Crust for tea and cookies and information swapping. Delightful fun from a local author. A perfect winter read.



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from Athol Public Library

Children's Fiction

His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman

This trilogy is great for anyone over the age of nine. It's an engrossing fantasy series with lots of action, adventure, engaging characters, and fascinating world-building. Ignore the screen adaptations--this is one where your imagination is always going to be better than the CGI.



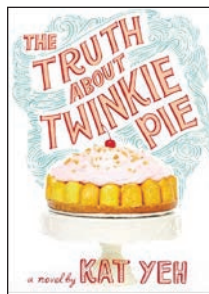
The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd



A young boy around age ten finds a strange plant that turns out to grow dragon eggs. Hijinks ensue as he learns to care for the dragon and tries to keep him a secret from his friends and family.

The Truth About Twinkie Pie by Kat Yeh

A feel-good sisterly love story with a twist ending that tells GiGi's story as she sets about reinventing herself after a sudden financial windfall allows her to move with her sister DiDi from their South Carolina trailer park to the Gold Coast of NY.



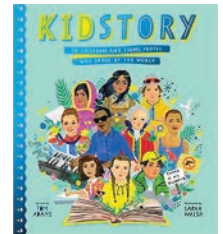
continued on page 23

Children's Nonfiction

Kidstory: 50 Children and Young People Who Shook Up the World

by Tom Adams

One staff member writes, "The book had my seven- and ten-year-old fascinated by amazing feats these other kids were able to achieve around the world in different eras. From a very young soldier to young inventors, artists, and musicians, to Helen Keller, Malala, and Emma Watson, my kids kept asking for more."



Young Adult Fiction

Six of Crows and Crooked Kingdom

by Leigh Bardugo



In the world of the Grisha, Kaz Brekker and his crew of deadly outcasts have just pulled off a heist so daring even they didn't think they would survive. But instead of divvying up a fat reward, they are right back to fighting for their lives.

A fantasy-heist duology that will keep you guessing how a loveable band of outcasts can pull off their next job.

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recommended winter reads from Quabbin region library staffs

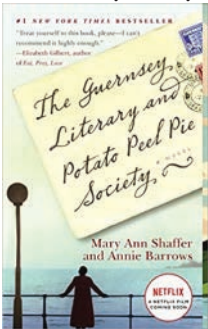
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from Rutland Free Public Library

Fiction continued

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

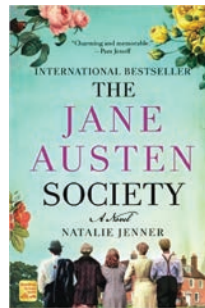
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows



Epistolary novel set during WWII, with letters creating a friendship between Juliet in London and Charles in Guernsey. She learns the tale of their German occupation and the importance of books to see them through those days. Sweet, beautiful tale. Another for fans of historical fiction.

Jane Austen Society by Natalie Jenner

Set post WWII, this novel brings together a diverse group of people who all have one thing in common: a love for the works of Jane Austen and a desire to save her home and her legacy.



Winter Street by Elin Hilderbrand



Takes place in Nantucket during Christmas time. A heartwarming story about a dysfunctional family coming home for the holidays. A quick fun holiday read. It is the first book in the Winter Street series.

Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah

Set in the year 2000 and 1941 in Leningrad, Hannah tells an emotional, heartbreaking story of love, loss, and forgiveness as daughters.



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

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens: Is another great “Classic” historical fiction, set in London during the Victorian era. Ebenezer Scrooge, a greedy, selfish, angry old man. He is visited by the ghost of Jacob Marley, his former business partner. Marley appears as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. After the ghostly visits, Scrooge becomes a very generous kind man. The message is we can all be kinder to others. A great story for the whole family.

The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden: Takes place in medieval Russia, where the winters are long. Vasya and her siblings huddle around the fire to listen to fairy tales told by their nurse. Eventually Vasya will have to defend her family from the monsters who have come to life from the fairytales. An enchanting historical fantasy.

from Athol Public Library

Young Adult Fiction continued

Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon



A fast-paced friends-to-lovers story with an unexpected conflict that tells the story of Yvette “Evie” Thomas, a high school senior who is coming to terms with the end of her parents’ marriage and her own thoughts about love.

The Mary Shelley Club by Goldy Moldavsky

After a school party ends in a ghost story, a séance, and screaming, Rachel—who immersed herself in horror movies as a coping device— notices a prankster amid the chaos. Soon, she is initiated into the Mary Shelley Club, a tightknit group that requires secrecy and rule following from its members. A spooky thriller.



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early anti-enslavement sentiment unlikely

by Carl I. Hammer

	Hampshire						County Cont								Total
	houses	families	whites male	under 16 female	whites male	above 16 female	negroes male	negroes female	Indians male	Indians female	Neutral male	Neutral female	above 16 male	above 16 female	
Broughton or Princeton	1532	1733	2561	2430	2669	2731	103	61			2	4	2	4	12567
South Amherst	121	130	198	101	207	203	2	2							279
Monson	90	91	142	130	151	147	2	2							624
Telham	68	69	107	79	101	95	3	4							389
New Salem	57	57	87	87	84	111	2								371
Blanford	62	69	99	87	99	89	1								375
Palmer	68	68	116	90	99	99	1	1							406
Granville	74	88	123	110	133	140	2								508
Belcher town	100	123	197	149	180	152	3	1							682
Cotrain	61	68	112	99	99	108									418
Ware	45	48	76	65	74	82									297
Chesterfield	74	76	127	122	109	126		1							485
Barnardston	30	30	39	41	46	35									161
Roxbury (nowaday) or Warwick	38	40	56	68	54	53									230
Westbury	36	36	57	43	51	40									191
Willbraham	56	59	76	98	82	73	1								330
Sunderland	74	82	119	118	129	123	1	1							491
Barnstable															

A nineteenth-century copy preserves the 1765 Massachusetts census with entries for the Quabbin towns of Hampshire County, indicated by the the goldenrod lines added by editors of *Uniquely Quabbin* to the document, reproduced from *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 1905, by J. H. Benton Jr.

document reproduction courtesy of Carl I. Hammer

Francis Henry Underwood had a well-developed social conscience. In *Quabbin*, the memoir of his hometown, the chapter “How the Poor Were Cared For” quickly disabuses anyone of sentimental notions regarding the early Massachusetts social-welfare system.

Underwood’s antislavery sentiments caused him to abandon a legal career in Kentucky. But the Enfield of his youth in the 1830s was hardly abolitionist. Writing on the pastorate of the fourth minister, Robert McEwen (1842-1861), Underwood notes that “he had the courage to preach against slavery.” But why courage? According to Underwood,

only one old man in Quabbin had for many years cast an antislavery vote amid the jeers of politicians and the insults of the baser sort. The sermon was a comfort to this solitary voter but brought him no helpers; he continued to cast his one vote for years afterward.

Underwood reasoned that the reason for the town’s rejection was simple self-interest:

It was supposed that [the suffragist and abolitionist William Lloyd] Garrison and his friends were trying to rend the churches, and to set up women as preachers. Besides, the chief industry in the mills was spinning cotton and, without slaves, how could there be any cotton? On that point all the leading men of the village were as dogmatic as the chancellor of the exchequer in expounding a budget.

Possibly the year Underwood spent at Amherst College in 1843 first made him conscious of evils of slavery and the problems of Blacks in Massachusetts’ White society. He could hardly have learned it firsthand in Enfield. In the 1840 census, only a single Black woman lived there, and the Black population had never been large. In three censuses of 1790, 1800, and 1810,

in early Quabbin region communities

while Enfield remained the South Parish of Greenwich, Blacks in the united town numbered five in 1790, six in 1800, and two in 1810. There were only three Blacks in newly independent Enfield in 1820 and just seven in 1830. The Panic of 1837 sharply reduced economic activity, and Black population declined throughout the region as did the entire population of Enfield from 1056 in 1830 to 976 in 1840.

Fortunately, some census evidence on race predates the federal census. The people of the Province of Massachusetts Bay were generally averse to counting heads. They suspected that the British government would use the information to their disadvantage. They kept updated only demographic information involving the count of polls—free males age sixteen years and above—because that formed the basis of an important tax, and it later determined political representation. The British government did bully the Massachusetts government into two censuses during the colonial period: of the enslaved in 1754 and of all persons in 1765.

In 1771, the very detailed tax return for Greenwich reports that it had no “Servants for Life between Fourteen and Forty-Five Years of Age,” the official euphemism for the enslaved. The numbers elsewhere are small enough to indicate that any enslaved individuals worked primarily at household rather than field tasks. Some may have done craft work. In 1800, Freeman Sears, a farmer and shoemaker in Greenwich, apparently employed two resident Blacks in his trade

Names of Persons	Free White Males					Free White Females					Total
	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	
John Sears	3			1		2		1	1		
Samuel White	3			1		2		1	1		
addl. Blackman											
James Walker	1			1		1		1	1		
James Sloan					1						1
Abraham Pope	1			1		2		1			
David Wright			1	1	2			1			1
Freeman Sears	3		1	1	1	2	1		1	1	2
Jephthah Pharaoh, Black Man											1
Freeman Pope	1		1	1		2		1	1		
Edw. Jones				1				1			1
Edw. Daggett	3			1		2		1			
Jedediah Pharaoh	2			1		1		1			
Edw. Green			1			1		1			
Martha Lee Pharaoh			1		1	1					1
John Windsor	1				1	1	1	1	1		
Harmon Masters		2			1	1	1	1	1		
John Wright				1	2			1		1	
Samuel Stone			1			1		1			

The 1800 Greenwich census contains an entry for Jephthah Pharaoh, Black Man, at the goldenrod line added by editors of *Uniquely Quabbin* to the attenuated document. document reproduction courtesy of Carl I. Hammer

as well as those in an attached household of three headed by “Jephthah Pharaoh, Black man,” according to the tax return. Only in Greenwich and at Petersham could there have been a Black family.

The study of African enslavement in Massachusetts is still very incomplete and based largely on individual documents such as local vital records and probate inventories where any of the enslaved were valued just as the livestock. Consequently, the censuses of 1754 and 1765 provide a valuable statistical framework for other sources. Unfortunately, the census of the enslaved from 1754 is very fragmentary for Hampshire County and did not count free Blacks who were surely present. Only for Springfield, Hadley, Westfield, and Hatfield were counts returned with the semblance of completeness. No returns came from Northampton and Deerfield, where, thanks to the research of Robert Romer, we know that Whites commonly held Africans enslaved. The Quabbin towns are all absent.

continued on page 57

African American, Indigenous, or mixed race

by Charlotte Westhead



British soldiers killed Crispus Attucks of mixed African-American and Native American descent on March 5, 1770 during the Boston Massacre some sixteen months before the Declaration of Independence. Although Attucks did not hail from the Quabbin region, some colonial soldiers did have their origins in the area.

photo used with permission of the collection of Revolutionary Spaces

During the American Revolution from 1776 to 1783, some people counted in records as African American, Indigenous, or mixed race numbered among those enlisting from Quabbin towns in the colonial army to resist the British.

On the evening of March 5, 1770, some sixteen months before the Declaration of Independence, British troops in Boston fired into a crowd of angry American colonists who had taunted and harassed them. Five colonists were killed.

The event, which became known as the Boston Massacre, spurred on the American Revolution. Among those killed, the first victim was a middle-aged sailor and rope maker of mixed African American and Native American descent named Crispus Attucks, accounts suggest. Attucks grew up in Framingham, possibly enslaved in the household of Deacon William Brown.

Today, people with a variety of backgrounds make their homes in the Quabbin region, a feature of the area from the colonial period to the present day. Indigenous people, African Americans, Whites from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and people descended from two or more such categories lived or live in and moved or move through the area.

We gain what we know about earlier Quabbin region from

- town histories
- church records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths
- town records, tax records, and land records

Other sources that mention people of color in local history include:



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people fought in American Revolution

- will and probate records
- family histories, diaries, and journals
- ledgers, day books, and account books

One of several account books that survive includes one kept by John Estey, a farmer in Enfield. Estey kept account books from 1809-1827. In them, he records the work, name, and pay of day and seasonal workers. He refers to various laborers as “a poor Indian from New Salem” or “Henry, an Indian living in New Salem.” Howe’s account books also from Enfield record a cash advance given to John Oaks, identified as an Indian of New Salem in 1817.

The Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, holds the Estey and Howe account books.

Some sources exclude people of color because people of color rarely owned land or paid taxes or held civic positions. Native Americans didn’t pay taxes, and the government prohibited some White settlers, including ministers, from paying taxes. Few people could read and write. Then and now, state and federal census data often missed marginal people.

Some town histories consisting of hundreds of pages mention Indigenous people by noting briefly that once they were here but now they are gone. Some also dismiss slavery in a sentence that supposes he or she was “cared for” and treated like a member of the family. Another frequent comment regarding slavery and the enslaved goes, “There were too few to excite much interest.”

Cemetery records and gravestones usually relate to the White population. Rarely has a gravestone survived from the period for a person of color. In a Princeton, Massachusetts, exception, two “Negro servants” are buried within the Judge Gill family cemetery plot. In a Barre exception, Prince Walker, born enslaved, maintained a plot for his wife and children. Unable to afford gravestones, Prince Walker used field boulders to mark the six graves.

Military records and soldiers’ applications for pensions identify many people of color. During the American Revolution, towns were assessed a number or quota of men to supply for military service. A man could find or pay for a substitute. Among those enlisting from Quabbin towns are a number of men of color. Were these men missed in all other sources or was there a large number of transient or seasonal workers? John Caldwell recruited

soldiers for the area and received monetary compensation for each man he recruited.

Men were quite willing to take part in revolutionary combat. When the war began, they were eager to join, but as year after year of war passed, enthusiasm declined, and Caldwell had fewer volunteers. Men who owned farms tended to volunteer for short periods—three, six, or nine months. Men of color, who probably didn’t own land, usually volunteered for three years. Records often designate a man of color as being the “servant of” a White man.

Mingo Walker, “owned” in 1775 by Nathaniel Jennison and father of six children, enlisted in April 1775, according to records. Mingo died at Fort Ticonderoga in September 1776. No record of his grave site has yet been found.

In 1781, Prince Walker, then twenty-six years old and five-feet, five,

[continued on page 57](#)

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QUABBIN CURRENTS

then state rep Calvin Coolidge commuted through Quabbin region

by J. R. Greene



Thirtieth US President Calvin Coolidge, second from right, departs from the train that brought him to South Dakota at the beginning of his 1927 vacation.

from the postcard collection of J. R. Greene

Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), a native of Plymouth, Vermont, served as thirtieth president of the United States from 1923 to 1939. After graduating from Amherst College in 1895, he read law in the office of Northampton attorneys Hammond & Fields before admission to the Massachusetts bar two years later. Coolidge entered politics early, starting as Ward 2 Northampton city councilor, then city solicitor, then clerk of the county court by his early thirties.

In 1905, he married fellow Vermont native Grace Goodhue, who taught at Northampton's Clarke School for the Deaf. They lived in rented housing in Northampton until they purchased their own home a year after his presidency ended. In his sole political defeat, Coolidge lost a campaign for a seat on the Northampton School Committee, after cutting short his honeymoon to campaign.

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When a voter told Coolidge that he had not voted for him because he had no children, Coolidge replied, "You could have given me time!" The couple had two sons, John and Calvin Jr.

Elected state representative Coolidge served Northampton from 1907 to 1908. During that term, he began to commute to Boston over the old Central Massachusetts Division of the Boston & Maine Railroad that took him east from his Northampton through Amherst, Belchertown, Ware, and Hardwick. After serving as mayor of Northampton from 1910 to 1911, he resumed the commute as a state senator, then later as lieutenant governor from 1915 to 1918 and governor from 1919 to 1920. He once joked that his hobby was "holding office."

Long time Ware state representative Roland D. Sawyer, a minister who penned an early biography of Coolidge, rode the same train for many of Coolidge's years in government in Boston. He recalled that "a bunch of state legislators went back and forth on the train with Mr. Coolidge. They played cards, talked, discussed, joked—but in one end of the smoking car, Cal sat, read his papers, puffed at one stogie after another, looked from the car window, saying nothing to anyone as the car crawled on mile after mile."

William Allen White, a nationally famous midwestern newspaperman, wrote two biographies about Coolidge. In his second, *A Puritan in Babylon*, White, who rode over the same railroad from Northampton to Boston, comments on "wild, rough country" between Amherst and Ware "save for a few wide open fields near Belchertown."

White describes Ware as a "farm and factory town with its dam, its main street paved with brick—busy, trim, and prosperous." After mentioning the Hardwick

continued on page 66



Snow coats downtown Athol and the landscape west toward Mount Greylock from Adams Farm.

photo © by David Brothers

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a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



In winter 2020-2021, our family visited Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and spent most days outside.

The region features Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole Resort, and dozens upon dozens of paths and parkways.

In creating a Wyoming series of visual haiku, I often refer to my observations of one adventure or another during our visit, whether an inner journey or a travel exposé.

Something of the delicious inner core synchronizes with my more adventurous visual haiku and something sweet for everyone in my Wyoming walkabout.

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.

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equine massage therapists serve all equine disciplines

by Amber Robidoux

Increasing in popularity over the last decade, equine massage has become more commonplace for horses all over the world. From race tracks to backyard barns, equine massage therapists serve all equine disciplines. Equine massage dates back more than two hundred years, and in recent years, many horse owners appreciate its benefits.

Hannah Conquest of With Gratitude Equine Massage in Barre provides massage services for horses in the Quabbin region.

The medical community often varies in opinions of potential efficacy of massage as a means of pain relief. Many people and their horses find it beneficial for a number of ailments and conditions. Gentle massaging of joints and surrounding muscles can help alleviate pain and stiffness, specifically in older arthritic horses.

Muscle tension and reduced flexibility develops in many horses that spend most of their day inside a stable or small turnout with limited time in open spaces. Similarly, senior horses develop stiffness when they begin to slow down due to age. As with humans, mobility slowly declines. Massage can keep muscles and joints supple and help maintain or improve range of motion with a reduction in injury for equine athletes.

A trained equine massage therapist can aid a horse's lymphatic system with manual lymphatic drainage designed to reduce localized swelling in the body. A part of the immune system, the lymphatic



Hannah Conquest of Barre massages one of her equine clients.

photo © by Catherine Wexler

system removes waste products and abnormal cells from lymph, the colorless watery fluid that flows through the lymphatic system of all mammals.

Freelance writer Amber Robidoux lives in Orange. In 2004, she studied equine sports massage at Equissage in Round Hill, Virginia. A licensed massage therapist and reflexologist, she operated Akene Therapeutics in Douglas until moving to the Quabbin region in 2014.

drugless chiropractic, physical therapy

by Ellen Woodbury

Mitzi, Doreen Frost's bright-eyed little black dog, greeted me and walked me to a treatment room in Petersham Chiropractic at 32 Hardwick Road in Petersham. Mitzi listened carefully during the interview with Doreen Frost, doctor of chiropractic.

In practice for twenty-five years, Frost became a chiropractor after Paul Kowacki, retired doctor of chiropractic, helped her heal a severe whiplash injury using chiropractic techniques.

"He helped me continue to work as a dental hygienist," Frost said. "He adjusted my back and neck and lessened my pain."

Chiropractic is a drugless alternative that can help back pain and musculoskeletal issues, according to evidence-based studies. Chiropractors use their hands, low-impact tools, and specialized tables to move the body into alignment and reduce pain. They can add other therapies, exercise, and dietary recommendations.

"My patients range in age from two months to ninety years," said Frost. "The two-month-old was born with torticollis, a condition where the neck twists toward the shoulder, and the ninety-year-old wanted relief from pain and stiffness."

Very gentle treatment and follow-up by the infant's mother relieved the neck twisting and lessened the trauma to the infant's body, Frost continued. "Some people believe pain is a natural course of aging. Not so!"

Chiropractic can be used alongside other therapies as well as with traditional medical care. In her practice, Dr. Frost has seen people who have tried other treatments without relief and see chiropractic as a last resort when other treatments fail. "Many times when the body is aligned, it can heal and work better," she said.

An important area of chiropractic is the feet, according to Frost. Foot problems like flat feet or pronation can show up as hip, knee, or ankle problems.

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address back pain, muscle-skeletal issues

Without a good evaluation, “we may treat the wrong thing,” explained Frost, who described the diagnostic tool she uses.

Patients can step onto a machine that compares their feet to normal feet and get an accurate diagnosis. “People come to me with the darndest things like a



Doreen Frost, doctor of chiropractic, and her dog Mitzi tend to business at Frost’s Petersham office.

photo © by Ellen Woodbury

back problem that could be a kidney problem. The chiropractor has to know when to refer to other specialists,” she said.

Some people are afraid of chiropractic care, she noted. Frost wanted people to know that chiropractors evaluate and treat according to an individual’s needs. “It is not one size fits all. I don’t provide cookbook treatments,” chuckled Frost.

Mitzi led the way past the front desk and Joyce Nelson, the office manager, to the front door.

Mitzi takes her job seriously.

Paula Wood, a physical therapist—or PT—for thirty-four years, practices at Listening Wellness Center at 35 South Street in Barre.

“My own injuries twenty-seven years ago started me on the path to learning the techniques I practice now,” explained Wood. She had been a PT for seven years working at Quality Physical Therapy in Sturbridge when

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Depot Deli, East Brookfield, and New Salem General Store

text by Diane Kane

Depot Square Deli in East Brookfield dates back to the 1950s when the Ledoux Family owned and operated the business as a grocery store before big supermarkets trended.



Paul and Diane Mitchell purchased Depot Square in 1986 and initially opened it as a butcher shop. Then, in the early nineties, the Mitchells decided to go in a different direction and make the business into a deli.

"The Mitchells began seeking out the best ingredients available at the time," said Stephanie Ordonio, manager and head cook.

Stephanie began working for the business eight years ago and loves the area. "East Brookfield is a small, close-knit town where everybody knows everybody," Stephanie said. "Depot Deli nestles right next to the post office and the senior center."

Depot Square is a full service deli. "We carry meats and cheeses for customers to make sandwiches at home,

and we make our own cold or hot specialty sandwiches," Stephanie said.

"Local landmarks and history inspired some of the menu names. The Depot Square Special is our signature sandwich, while the Connie Mack is named for the local historical baseball man himself," Stephanie said. In addition, the Pleasant Street, Podunk Pleaser, and Howe Street Heaven sandwiches take their names from nearby roads.

"Our broaster chicken is pressure fried to ensure a crisp outside and always tender juicy inside. We also offer a soup of the day in season," Stephanie said. "We make our own specialty mayos: basil garlic, horse radish, cranberry, and lemon." The secret recipes passed down from the Mitchell family.



Among others, Depot Square offers a variety of deli choices.

photo courtesy of Depot Square Deli

Depot Square remained open throughout the pandemic as an essential business. "We have necessity items like bread, milk, and butter," said Stephanie. "Plus,

A large advertisement for Heyes Forest Products. The background is a photograph of a forest with tall trees and a path. Overlaid on the image is a dark green rectangular box with white text. The text reads: "HEYES FOREST PRODUCTS" in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "www.heyesforest.com • 978.544.8801" in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, italicized serif font, is the text: "We manage our forest sustainably. Let us manage your forest sustainably." In the bottom right corner of the advertisement, there is a small photograph of a diamond-shaped sign that reads "WOOD WATER TREE FARM RECREATION WILDLIFE" and a rectangular sign below it that reads "TREE FARM 444 Owned & Managed By FRED HEYES, Orange, MA www.heyesforest.com • 978.544.8801".

offer breakfast, lunch, and delicatessen variety

we carry home cleaning products and toiletries. We have a wide variety of domestic beers and craft beers as well. If you're looking for local wine, you can't go wrong with our selection from Hardwick Winery."

Depot Deli offers inside or outside seating and to-go.

Depot Square Deli and Package Store, 104 Pleasant Street, East Brookfield, is open from 10 am to 7 pm Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm Friday and Saturday, and 11 am to 7 pm Sunday

The history of New Salem General Store dates to the 1800s when the original proprietor sold essential goods, fresh local harvest, and handmade items. Current owners Jeff and Natalie Reynolds have not strayed far from the original values.

"Food and hospitality are part of our fiber," Natalie explained. Former owners of the 1880 House in Orange,

"Family brought us back to New Salem, where I grew up," Natalie said. "We couldn't be more honored to run New Salem General Store in a community where time seems to stand still and everyone looks out for each other."



"Specialty sandwiches are named for Quabbin towns, both present and lost," Natalie explained. "The Prescott is popular, made with roast beef and horseradish sauce."

Friday is Pizza Night. "We throw our own dough and offer a variety of thirty toppings. Jeff creates a specialty pizza every week. We post it on Thursday, and people can't wait to see what it will be." They make a limited number, and customers call early in order to score one.

Natalie does all the baking, and there is always something new. "Ginger apricot scones are always a hit, and the chocolate chip cookies are huge."

Jeff and Natalie are very mindful of where they purchase products. "All our cold cuts are Boar's Head,"

continued on page 47



Among other choices, New Salem General Store offers pastries.

photo courtesy of New Salem General Store

they went on to run a successful bed and breakfast in Maine with the benefit of Jeff's background as a chef and Natalie's training as a chocolatier.

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Greek-style focaccia bread: perfect for

text and photos by Christine Noyes



Bake fresh focaccia and slice it on the fly!

Simplicity!

It's a concept that has eluded me most of my life. I went from a complicated childhood to messy teenage years then from confused young adult to model, consumer-buying, overtime-working, cash-accumulating grownup.

Sound familiar?

At the start of the new millennium, my husband and I decided to simplify our lives, so we opened our own business. Anyone who has ever owned a business just got a good laugh from that last sentence because they know what we found out.

Working for yourself sounds liberating, exciting, and rewarding. And it is, right up until you realize you are working twice as hard while at your job and, when you leave for the day, your work follows

you home and slips into bed with you. It is the exact opposite of simple. However, if you achieve your goals, it is most gratifying.

As difficult a time as I've had with the concept of simplicity in my everyday life, I completely understand it when it comes to cooking. Anyone who has ever prepared a meal on the fly, without a recipe, has a story of creating the perfect dish only to add that one last ingredient that sounded like a good idea but proved to be a bust.

Just a little more cinnamon in the beef stew or salt in the puttanesca.

Stop for a moment and imagine yourself standing in your kitchen. The unmistakable smell of fresh-baked bread fills the room.

It's an aroma that both comforts and excites me made with only four ingredients—flour, salt, yeast, and water. How can something so extraordinary come from those humble beginnings?

Now add butter, another unpretentious yet delectable creation. Slathered on warm, fresh-baked bread . . . perfection!

If only my palate guided my life's choices.

In keeping with the use of local ingredients, in this recipe I used scallions and parsley from my herb garden and vegetables from my local coop.

The recipe perfectly represents the concept of cooking on the fly.

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DOUGH INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons fast-acting yeast
- 1 cup warm water
- 3 cups flour (all-purpose or bread flour)
- 1 ½ teaspoons sea salt
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 1/3 cup olive oil

TOPPING INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup minced red pepper
- ¼ cup minced red onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped scallions
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 small can sliced black olives
- parsley
- olive oil to baste bread dough

TO MAKE DOUGH

Mix yeast and warm water, set aside. In a large bowl mix flour, salt, sugar, and olive oil. Add the yeast mixture, combine thoroughly forming a dough ball. Let sit for five minutes.

Fold the dough over itself three times and place in a lightly greased bowl. Cover. Let rise for 1 ½ hours.

TO MAKE TOPPING

While dough rises, heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add red pepper, onion, scallions, and Italian seasoning. Cook over medium heat stirring occasionally for 1 – 1 ½ minutes, then add garlic and cook for an additional minute. Set aside to cool.

BEFORE BAKING

Preheat oven to 350°.

Punch down bread dough, roll out to 3/8 inch height, and place on a lightly greased sheet pan. Poke the dough with your finger to create little pockets.

Baste the dough with olive oil. Spread with red pepper mixture. Add feta and olives, distributing evenly. Sprinkle with parsley.

Bake for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 15 minutes before serving. Best when served warm.

NOTE: You can use the base dough and add any type of topping you wish. Be creative! Be happy!



Mix dough, fold over, and set in greased bowl. Make topping and set aside to cool.



Punch down bread dough, roll out, place on lightly greased sheet pan.



After baking, cool and serve warm.

versatile, resilient, capable woodland gnomes

by Henry Wadsworth as channeled by Susie Feldman



Grunkyl's underground home includes a bathroom off to the right of the cozy dwelling.

watercolor © by Mimsy Borogoves, aka Susie Feldman, courtesy of Grunkyl

Hello. It's Henry here again with more gnome lore for you. As days become shorter and the weather colder, we sturdy gnomefolk are well prepared for whatever challenges nature brings.

Although gnomes never kill another living creature, when one of us finds a deceased squirrel or chipmunk, we may harvest its pelt to make warm jackets and boots. Smykke's not feeling the cold yet, so he's wearing a rough vest woven from swamp grasses. He will use his basket as he gathers wintergreen berries and pine needles to make warm teas.



Smykke is ready to go mushroom hunting.

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suitably accommodate to wintery conditions

When snow covers the ground, gnomes' boot tracks might possibly reveal the locations of their homes, which they prefer to keep hidden.

Frydl therefore makes special soles for his boots that leave birdlike footprints to deceive predators.

He also likes to wear a white shirt as camouflage in winter. In deeper snow, gnomes often use skis made from narrow slices of ash wood. Our cousins living around Quabbin and other bodies of water make skates from the rib bones of deer.

Although we gnomes are very hardy, going outdoors to relieve oneself in winter is inconvenient. Our



Frydl's boots leave bird tracks.

underground houses usually have a toilet room built off to one side with a carved wooden "throne." We harvest toilet paper during the summer from abandoned paper wasp nests, and mole-dug pits store decomposing waste below. Moles do not require payment, and the gnomes and moles get along well. Moles appreciate the opportunity to dig pits or chimney holes, allowing them to feast on earthworms, crunchy insects, and snails that live in the soil around gnomes' underground homes.

Grunkyl kindly shared a picture of his



Grunkyl shared a picture of his house,

house illustrating such a facility with an indoor bathroom.

Something is always cooking on gnomes' wood stoves that channel smoke upwards through a tree to escape from woodpecker holes.


In the kitchen, gnomes grind acorns to make coffee. Nuts and seeds go into breads, and there's plenty of jam already made from summer berries. Djost is searching through a rotted stump to find desiccated mushrooms to flavor soup.

In quiet safety underground beneath the snow, our lives inextricably entwine with all other living beings. We often

continued on next page




Djost is already hunting mushrooms.




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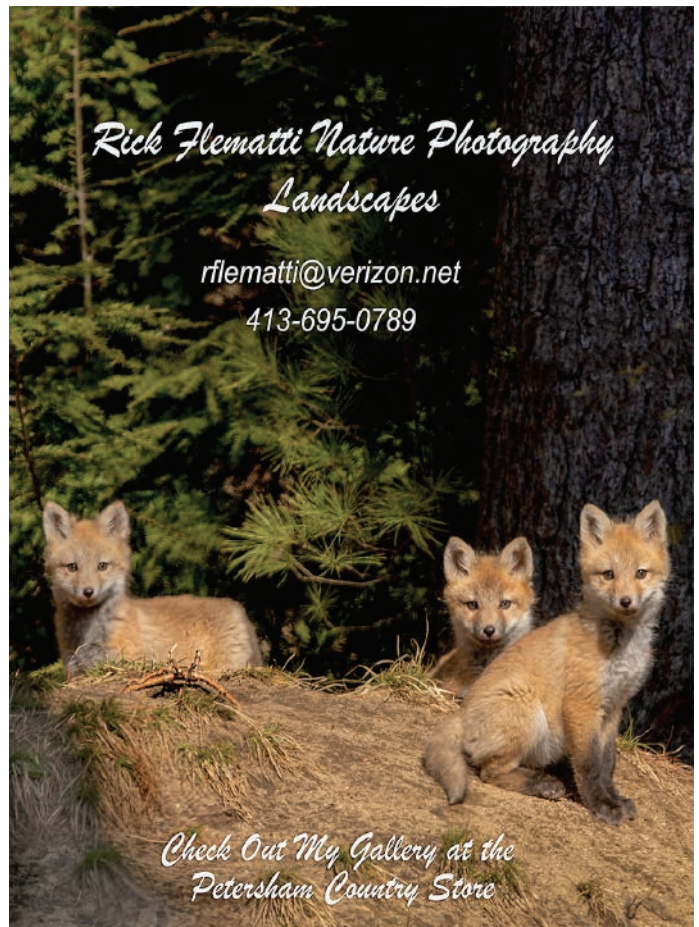
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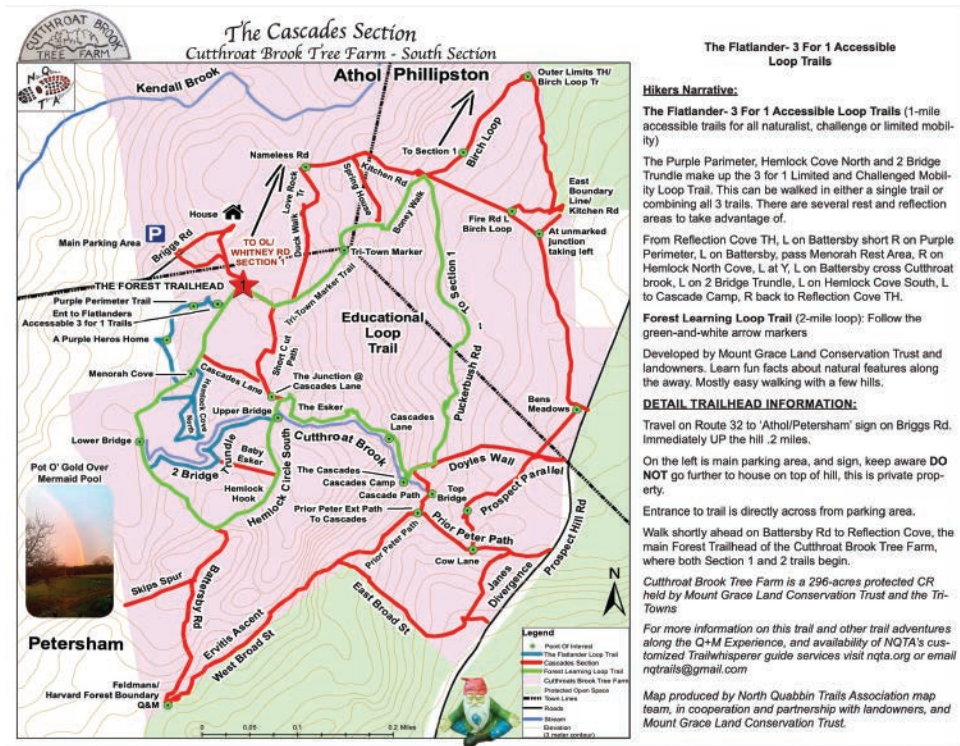
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Gnomes

continued from the previous page

share our collected seeds and nuts with other small animals who might be hungry. Some gnomes adopt field mice as winter house pets. Tree roots, an important part of our lives, lie dormant in the cold. We must treat them with care so they can grow healthily when spring comes.

We gnomes and our human cousins must sustain that complex organism, the forest, by respecting its many facets as we nurture it for future generations.

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.

Learning and recreational trails on Briggs Road, Athol, include several woodland areas set aside for hiking and respecting woodlands in conserved land.
map courtesy of North Quabbin Trails Association in cooperation with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

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April 3rd - Annawon Weeden of the Wampanoag Nation is scheduled to speak about the arrival of the Pilgrims 400 years ago and the Native Americans who met them at Plymouth. As the date approaches, see the website for additional information and to peruse online archives, or to become a member or make an easy online donation!

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Wintry waters cascade at Bear's Den, New Salem.

photo © by David Brothers



WHERE IT ALL STARTED Bob Harris, Sr. stands in front of his East Main Street, Orange business shortly after opening in 1947. He initially leased this station from the Sterling Oil Company. Nearly 74 years later, the Harris family is still taking a personal hand in their company.



NE-364399

In 1947 Robert Harris, Sr. leased a gas station on East Main Street in Orange, MA. He bought a delivery truck and started pedaling home heating oil. If a customer had a service problem or ran out of oil at night a phone call would get him out of bed. He worked at building the trust of customers by emphasizing a personal attention to detail.

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In 1983, the founder's son Robert Harris, Jr. took over the business along with his wife, Pamela. Their children Robert III and Kirsten eventually joined the company. While Orange Oil has grown significantly, the personal service continues. Late night callers still awaken the owners who are ready to help with a "no heat" emergency.

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A barred owl hunts mice from behind a birch tree on a snowy Quabbin region field.

photo © by Dale Monette

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Quiet of Winter



Seamless winter tracks—hush, listen. Soul calmness seeks snow-blazoned beauty

The last black stitches of Canada geese flew South. Winter arrives.

May nature's winter beauty touch you in simple and graceful moments. May its serenity infuse your presence and bring you peace. Each season has its texture of light, temperature, weather, sights, and feelings. Contemplate winter. Reflect upon its promise of quiet. Let it ripple through you. Breathe. Does it hold a dear memory? An anticipation? Allow yourself to feel mesmerized by a cascading snowfall. Relax.

Winter holds the promise of spring. Notice the buds on lilacs and magnolias, waiting patiently for the return of warmth. Meanwhile, enjoy the delicate gifts of winter.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines winter as "the season of the year in any region in which the noonday sun shines most obliquely; the coldest period of the year."

The earth and sun have a relationship. As earth spins on its axis and orbits the sun, the Northern Hemisphere tilts farthest from the sun. As the winter solstice occurs on December 21, earth experiences the shortest day. Thus begins lengthening of daylight and the fullness of winter.

Wintertime full moons offer a perfect bright night to go owling. Bundle up and get outside. Author Jane Yolen of South Hadley wrote a classic winter's tale, *Owl Moon*, where a family treks outside into the snow with a flashlight toward the edge of the woods. They hoot a barred owl call, "Who, who cooks for you aaalll?"

Indeed, an owl silently swoops near them in answer. Owls have very soft feathers that allow them to fly through the air in silence unlike a hawk or eagle whose strong feathers slice through the air making noise.

The story concludes, "When you go owling, you don't need words or warm or anything but hope. That's what Pa says. That kind of hope that flies on silent wings under a shining owl moon."

May you welcome that kind of peaceful hope and the joy of discovery in your season of winter. May its tender treasures surprise you. Ahhh, welcome winter!

The simple act of tending to the compost in winter afforded me a stellar nature surprise. I saw an imprint of an owl wingspan upon the snow as it dove for a mouse near the compost. The light snow received the feathers' etchings like a delicate Japanese painting.

Invite all of your senses to your outdoor rambles. When you go owling, look up. Notice some of the eighty-eight constellations. Become familiar with a few of the winter constellations in our Northern Hemisphere: Orion the Hunter with his hunting dog, Canis major including the bright star Sirius, Taurus the Bull, and the Pleiades cluster, also known as the Seven sisters.

They all appear in the southern night sky and travel westward. The Big Dipper, Ursa Major, and Little Dipper are in the north. The handle of the Big Dipper points directly to Polaris/North Star, in the little dipper.

Return indoors to savor hot cocoa or a cup of herbal peppermint tea while cozily relaxing by the fireside. Consider rediscovering hobbies and activities during the winter such as skiing, hiking, sewing, knitting, reading, painting, meditating, keeping a journal, quilting, basket-making, letter writing, game- and card-playing, baking, or music.

"The sky is the soul of scenery," said Thomas Cole of the nineteenth-century Hudson River School of landscape painting.

May your soul touch the quiet of the night winter sky. Make time to stargaze and walk in nature to discover its small joys. May peace still your heart during winter's season, as quiet memories lay deep beneath the snows in the Quabbin region.

Clare Green, Warwick author and educator, invites folks to walk her woodland labyrinth and fairy cottage, open for daytime retreats.



Barbara Kline Seamon of Leverett, former minister of Athol Congregational Church, interprets the shoreline in oil on canvas with her painting, *Quabbin Reservoir in Moonlight*.



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Quabbin region's historic gravestones tell many stories

continued from page 4

Not far from the Williams stone, one almost unreadable monument commemorates Ephraim Pratt who died in 1804, age 117. It tells us, "He swung a scythe 101 consecutive years and mounted a horse without assistance at the age of 110." It's hard to imagine that we would find records that would prove his birth in 1687, but who am I to doubt what's written in stone?

On a different day I drove over towards Hardwick on Route 32A. The sun shone bright at noon, and as I neared the town, I saw a deer majestic and alert standing in the road. As I grew closer, it trotted into the woods.

Once in the town, I drove through the newish cemetery. In one corner, I saw a great flat stone with no names carved and a large round hole near the bottom and two small holes above and below, all a mystery to me.



A great flat stone with no names carved and a large round hole offer mystery in corner of a Hardwick cemetery.

photo © by Ellen Woodbury

Nearby stands a stone for the Thresher family. At the top, it lists Harrison C. Thresher, followed by

M. Lizzie Thresher his wife and, last, Leon Thresher, who lost his life on the British ship *Falaba*, sunk by a German submarine in 1915.



Hardwick's Thresher family stone tells of a death aboard a British ship sunk by a German submarine in 1915.

photo © by Ellen Woodbury

A pillar for the Utley family with a veiled urn on top stands across the road from the Threshers. One side of the stone bears the names of Oren Utley, who died in 1850; his wife, Hannah, who died in 1829; and his wife, Susan, who died at seventy. Written beneath Oren Utley's family, we find James Utley, who died in 1812 followed by Mary Barnes, formerly his wife, who died in 1842 at eighty-two.

That same day, I happened by South Cemetery in Belchertown. There I found stones for Joseph Piler and Samuel Piler, both young men who died six months apart from consumption. Quite close to their memorials I saw two small stones for Polly and Jason Rhodes. Polly was nine years old in 1804 and Jason eighteen in 1808. One can only imagine the sorrow for both families.

In graveyards, we discover the names of ordinary people who

might have been our neighbors in another time. They lived and died, and we have no idea of their lives even though extraordinary things happened to some of them. As I think of them, I think of the history of the Quabbin area. It's made of people like them and like us all.

We've had extraordinary people, here, including Jacob Riis, 1849-1914, who in later years summered in Barre. Journalist, photographer, and reformer of New York City, Riis produced a book, *How the Other Half Lives*. His photographs in the book eventually brought about reform by showing the squalor and poverty of people in tenements early in the twentieth century.

At his death, Riis was buried in Riverside Cemetery. The day I went looking for his stone, I discovered the gates closed and the stone wall difficult to cross, but I did see a small stone with his name and dates just outside the gate.

Cemeteries in all our towns carry history and remembrance. They tell our stories as they tell the stories of the people who came before us, but I feel sad to see some names disappearing. Moss, lichen, and weather slowly cover words in older stones. Some stones are visibly fragile, some broken, and some lost. I cannot help but wonder what any generation loses when it loses the stories of our past.

Playwright and director Dorothy Johnson seeks out quiet places. With Doris Abramson, she operated The Common Reader Bookshop on New Salem Common for many years.

Winter Wonderland

text and oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



Winter Wonderland

oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan

New England is the very best—in any and all seasons! Of course, that's my personal opinion. I can't imagine living anywhere else, even though there are a few places I enjoy visiting at the tail end of our winters.

Our four seasons each hold their own magic. Winter magic means crisp, clean, invigorating air. Bare trees that spread their arms to the sky show us their true shapes when they hold bits of snowfall along their trunks and limbs. The sparkle of new snowfall looks like a million tiny stars dancing on the ground in morning light.

Winter's evening sky often appears darker, crisper, cleaner, and willing to share more brilliant stars with us—except, of course, before she decides to stir up a storm. You can always tell when it's going to snow in New England. That telltale gray surrounds us, and all is so, so quiet. I love the anticipation of that first snowflake. It's even more beautiful and exciting when a Nor'easter whips up the snow drifts.

As a child, I wished hard for a snowstorm so that I could spend the next day making snow forts, sliding down the small hill next to my home on a cardboard box or a Flexible Flyer, laughing with neighborhood kids, and having snowball fights for fun. When we attach such memories to winter, it is never a cold season. It's a season of its own type of warmth and beauty.

I can still remember running in at the end of a cold, snowy, wonderful day to my mom's kitchen, putting our freezing feet up against the radiator, and sipping on the hot chocolate with marshmallows that she made for us.

Because of our cold winters, I learned to ice skate and ski. I think learning to skate backwards gave me the most excitement. I thought I was sooooo cool!

Such amazing memories.

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

East Brookfield's Depot Deli New Salem General Store

continued from page 35

Natalie said. "We get fresh greens from Seeds of Solidarity, eggs from Diemand Farm, and fresh pork, beef, and bacon from Little Creek Farm."

"We offer vegan and gluten-free options for sandwiches and baked items," Natalie said. "We love to feed people from the local naturalist who wants something light and healthy to the grateful truck driver passing through looking for something hardier to quell his appetite."

"We are a friendly Quabbin market for all," goes the store motto.

"Many people like to stop to pick up a sandwich, salad, or chips and drinks and head to the orchard up the road or to the Quabbin for a nice picnic with a view."

"We are a true mom and pop business that is rare these days. Jeff's parents pitch in and run errands. Our fourteen-year-old son, Jack, comes in after school and is a tremendous help." Natalie's parents live in town and are always available to help out, too.

The store carries a large selection of crafts and books by local artisans and authors. "The gift shop part of the store has grown as a favorite place to browse and find unique gifts," Natalie said. The store also offers many local beers, ciders, and wines from Hardwick Winery and nearby New Salem Quabbin Sky Vineyard."

New Salem General Store at 410 Daniel Shays Highway, New Salem, is open from 7 am to 8 pm Monday through Saturday and from 8 am to 6 pm Sunday.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



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Quabbin region boys and girls

compiled by Carla Charter

Amherst-Pelham Regional High School

All games start at 7 pm

Boys Varsity Home

January 24•Chicopee Comprehensive High School

February 4•Pope Francis Preparatory School

Boys Varsity Away

January 27•East Longmeadow High School

January 31•Westfield High School

February 9•Chicopee Comprehensive High School

February 21•TBA / February 23•TBA

Girls Varsity Home

January 27•Granby Junior/Senior High School

February 1•Mountain Regional High School

February 3•Longmeadow High School

Girls Varsity Away

January 20•South Hadley High School

January 25•Wahconah Regional High School

February 11•Holyoke High School

February 21•TBA / February 23•TBA

Athol High School

All games start at 7:00 unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 28•Turners Falls High School

February 2•Turners Falls High School

February 3•6:30 pm•Mount Greylock Regional School

February 7•Hampden Charter School-West

February 11•Smith Academy

Boys Varsity Away

January 20•Franklin County Technical School

January 25•Lee Middle/High School•

January 26•Mahar Regional School

Athol High School continued

Girls Varsity Home

January 21•Putnam Vocational Technical High School

February 1•Pioneer Valley Regional School

February 10•Mohawk Trail Regional School

February 19•TBA / February 23•TBA

Girls Varsity Away

January 26•Mahar Regional School

January 27•Franklin County Technical School

February 4•Turners Falls High School

February 7•Smith Academy

February 15•Narragansett Regional High School

Belchertown High School

All games start at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 28•Southwick Regional School

February 11•Granby Junior/Sr. High School

Boys Varsity Away

January 21•Monson High School

January 24•Renaissance School

January 31•Hampshire Regional High School

February 4•Wahconah Regional High School

February 7•Southwick Regional School

February 14•Ware Junior/Sr. High School

Girls Varsity Home

January 20•5:30 pm•Monument Mountain Regional High School

January 25•6:30 pm•Mount Greylock Regional School

February 1•South Hadley

Girls Varsity Away

January 27•Drury High School

February 3•Granby Junior/Senior High School

February 8•6:30 pm•Mount Greylock Regional School

February 11•Ludlow High School

David Prouty High School

Boys Varsity Home

January 20•6:30 pm•Auburn High School

January 28•5:30 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle High School

February 1•6:30 pm•TBA

continued next page

double check
basketball schedules
with school websites

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high school varsity basketball schedules

David Prouty High School continued

Boys Varsity Home continued

February 3•6:30 pm•Southbridge High School

February 7•6:30 pm•North Brookfield Junior/Sr. High School

Boys Varsity Away

January 24•6:30 pm•Oxford High School

January 26•7 pm•Tahanto Regional Middle/Hgih School

February 10•6:30 pm•Leicester High School

Girls Varsity Home

January 24•6 pm•Oxford High School

January 28•7 pm•Quaboag Regional

January 31•6 pm•Southbridge High School

February 11•6 pm•Leicester High School

Girls Varsity Away

January 21•6 pm•Auburn High School

January 26•6:30 pm•West Boylston Junior/ Senior High School

February 4•6 pm•Southbridge High School

February 8•6:30 pm•North Brookfield Junior/Sr. High School

February 2•6 pm•TBA

Mahar Regional High School

All games are at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 20•Pioneer Valley Regional School

January 25•Hopkins Academy

January 26•5:30 pm•Athol High School

February 8•Frontier Regional School

February 14•6:30 pm•Mount Greylock Regional School

Boys Varsity Away

January 31•Lenox Memorial High School

February 3•Drury High School

February 11•Greenfield High School

February 16•Franklin County Technical School

Girls Varsity Home

January 24•Palmer High School

January 26•Athol High School

February 4•Hopkins Academy

February 7•Ware High School

Mahar Regional High School continued

Girls Varsity Away

February 1•Lenox Memorial High School

February 10•7:30 pm•Frontier Regional School

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School

Boys Varsity Home

January 28•7 pm•Narragansett Regional High School

February 4•6:30 pm•Home•Trivium School

February 9•3:30 pm•Assabet Valley Regional Technical School

February 9•7:00pm•Assabet Valley Regional Technical School

February 16•7 pm•Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School

February 22•6:30 pm•Home•Bethany Christian Academy

Boys Varsity Away

January 21•5:30 pm•Keefe Technical High School

February 2•6:30 pm•Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School

February 7•6:30 pm•Claremont Academy

February 11•6:30 pm•Maignon High School

Girls Varsity Home

February 7•5 pm•TBA

February 7•6:30 pm•TBA

Girls Varsity Away

January 28•7 pm•Narragansett Regional High School

February 9•6:30 pm•Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School

February 11•7 pm•Maynard High School

February 16•6:30 pm•Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

February 18•6:30 pm•Saint Bernard's High School

Narragansett Regional High School

All games are at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 21•Gardner

February 4•West Boylston Middle/High School

February 11•Murdock High School

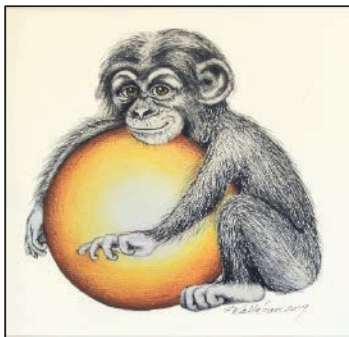
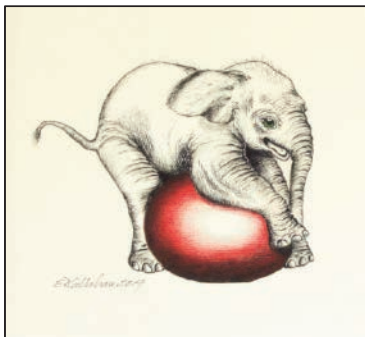
Boys Varsity Away

January 25•Bromfield School

continued next page

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Quabbin region boys and girls high school varsity

continued from previous page

Narragansett Regional High School continued

Boys Varsity Away continued

February 1•Tahanto Regional Middle/High School
February 8•Ayer Shirley Regional High School
February 22•Quabbin Regional High School

Girls Varsity Home

February 1•Tahanto Regional Middle/High School
February 8•Ayer Shirley Regional High School
February 11•5:30 pm•Murdock High School
February 15•Athol High School

Girls Varsity Away

February 4•7 pm•West Boylston Middle/High School

North Brookfield Junior/Sr. High School

Boys Varsity Home

January 31•7 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle High School
February 3•7 pm•Home•Bromfield School
February 9•6:30 pm•Blackstone-Millville Regional High School
February 14•6 pm•Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School
February 18•5 pm•Sizer School

Boys Varsity Away

January 24•6:30 pm•Sizer School
February 7•6:30 pm•David Prouty High School
February 11•5:30 pm•Immaculate Heart of Mary School

Girls Varsity Home

January 31•7 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle High School
February 3•5 pm•Bromfield School
February 4•6:30 pm•Ware High School
February 8•6:30 pm•David Prouty High School
February 16•6:30 pm•Southbridge High School
February 18•7 pm•Sizer School

Girls Varsity Away

January 26•5 pm•Southbridge High School
January 28•5 pm•Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School
February 11•4 pm•Immaculate Heart of Mary School
February 14•6 pm•Oxford High School

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School

Boys Varsity Home

January 31•7 pm•Gateway Regional High School

Boys Varsity Away

February 3•6:30 pm•Smith Vocational High School
February 7•6:30 pm•St. Mary's High School

February 10•4 pm•Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School continued

Girls Varsity Home

January 28•5:30 pm•Hampden Charter School East
February 3•5:30 pm•Hampden Charter School West
February 4•5:30 pm•High School of Science and Technology

Girls Varsity Away

February 1•6 pm•John J. Duggan Academy
February 8•7:30 pm•Saint Mary's Parish School
February 11•6:30 pm•Gateway Regional High School

Quabbin Regional High School

All games are at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 26•Gardner High School
February 4•Tyngsborough High School
February 11•Clinton Public School
February 14•TBA / February 16•TBA / February 18•TBA
Narragansett Regional High School

Boys Varsity Away

January 28•Oakmont Regional High School
February 1•Lunenburg Middle High School
February 8•Littleton High School

Girls Varsity Home

January 24•Hudson High School
January 28•Oakmont Regional High School
February 1•Lunenburg Middle High School
February 8•Littleton High School
February 14•TBA / February 16•TBA / February 18•TBA

Girls Varsity Away

February 4•6 pm•Away•Tyngsborough High School
February 11•Clinton Public Schools
February 20•12 pm•Westborough Invitational
February 22•3:30 pm•Westborough Invitational

Quaboag Regional Middle High School

Boys Varsity Home

January 20•6:30 pm•Grafton High School

Boys Varsity Away

January 24•6:30 pm•Millbury Junior/Senior High School
January 28•5:30 pm•David Prouty High School
January 31•7 pm•North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School
February 3•6:30 pm•Leicester High School
February 7•7 pm•Monson High School

continued next page

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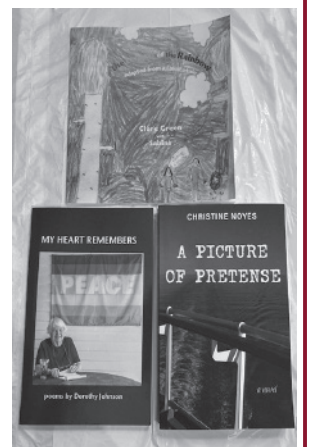
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basketball schedules

Quaboag Regional Middle High School continued

Girls Varsity Home

February 10•6:30 pm•Tantasqua Regional High School February 3•7 pm•Leicester High School

February 9•6:30 pm•Ware High School

February 14•7 pm•Granby Junior/Senior High School

Girls Varsity Away

January 28•7 pm•David Prouty High School•

January 31•7 pm•North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School

February 10•5 pm•Tantasqua Regional High School

Tantasqua Regional Senior High School

All games are at 6:30 unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

January 27•5 pm•South High Community School

February 1•6:30 pm•Minnechaug Regional High School

February 10•6:30 pm•Quaboag Regional High School

Boys Varsity Away

February 3•Bartlett High School

Girls Varsity Home

February 3•Shepard Hill Regional High School

February 4•Bartlett Junior Senior High School

February 10•5 pm•Quaboag Regional Middle High School

Girls Varsity Away

February 8•6:30 pm•South High Community School

February 4•Athol High School

February 7•Franklin County Technical School

Ware Junior/Senior High School

All games are at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home

February 4•South Hadley High School

February 9•Home•Renaissance School

February 11•Monson High School

February 14•Belchertown High School

Boys Varsity Away

January 31•Renaissance School

February 2•7 pm•Palmer High School

Girls Varsity Home

February 1•Palmer High School

Boys Varsity Home

February 4•6:30 pm•North Brookfield Junior/Sr. High School

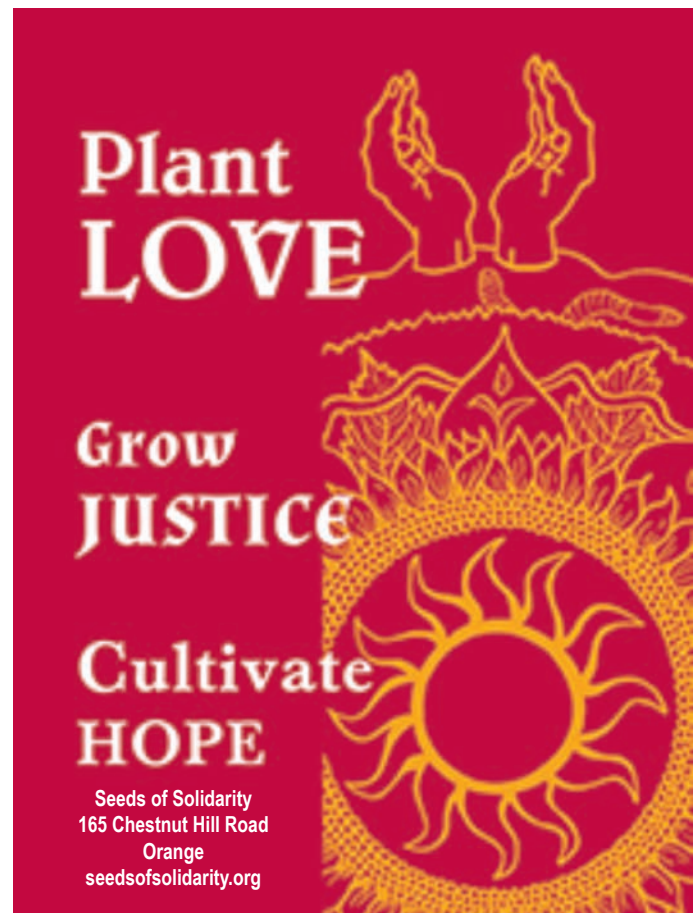
February 7•Mahar Regional High School

February 9•Quaboag Regional Middle High School




A black-capped chickadee rests on a Quabbin region spruce branch.

photo © by John Burk



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Snow adorns Templeton Common at sunset.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

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continued from page 33

she flipped over backward while skiing. She had surgery on her right knee and was back to work in two weeks.

Six months later, however, her back felt worse until her arms went numb. Through a friend, she found osteopathic manual therapy that, over the following months, healed the root of her pain. She knew then that she wanted to learn the techniques.

"I felt I had a bachelor's degree and wanted a PhD," Wood laughed.

She began training in techniques called biosynchronistics. The method is defined as traditional PT techniques with a holistic approach based on the force of gravity and the body's ability to heal itself. "Gentle hands-on pressure applied in a scientific way can bring the body into balance," Wood said.

Wood practiced the technique as she worked. At age sixty-two, Wood now works a day a week at the center in Barre. She doesn't take new clients but she encourages phone calls to talk with her about physical conditions and will provide referrals. She said PT Sue Dacey at the



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Contact practitioners named above:

Doreen Frost at Petersham Chiropractic by phone at (978) 724-3424

Paula Wood at Listening Wellness Center by phone at (978) 434-1246

Sue Dacey by phone at (774)-230-3532

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.



After a ski accident decades ago, Paula Wood, physical therapist, includes biosynchronistics in her treatments .
photo © by John Burk



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A squirrel partakes of a wintry snack.
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reluctant writers

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continued from page 19

awards. “I have been involved in this project every step of the way,” Duprey said. Many of his fellow parishioners at Christ’s Church were involved as well. “A group of about twenty gathered to watch the actor auditions online and voted our favorite for each part.”

When I asked Duprey if he based the main character, Jonathan, on himself, he said, “Some, but Jonathan also reflects many people I’ve met who have gone through struggles and suffered.” Duprey hopes his book and the movie can give relief and hope.

Still a reluctant writer, Duprey is working on the second book in the series that he thinks will eventually become a trilogy. Duprey shakes his head at it all. “Who would ever have believed that God would use such a lowly man to write a book on such a grand subject.”

The website for Duprey’s book is heaventheadventurebegins.com

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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early Quabbin region census data records “servants for life”

continued from page 25

The census of 1765 was broader in scope and the returns more complete. The government required a count of all male and female “Negroes & Mollatoes,” so free Blacks would have been included strictly on the basis of race rather than civil status. Unfortunately, the relevant portion of the 1765 census does not survive for Greenwich, but Ware had one Black woman, New Salem and Shutesbury one Black man each, and Pelham two. Hardwick, which alone also had two Native inhabitants, had three Black men. Petersham had a more sizable Black population, three men and five women.

colonial records show people of color fought in American Revolution

continued from page 27

inches tall, served at West Point. Prince returned and bought property in Barre.

James Smith, social historian of Amherst, and Robert Romer, emeritus professor at Amherst College, agree the word servant when applied to non-White people in the era indicates an enslaved person. Thus, in January 1773, Stephen, “a Negro boy of” James Humphrey, and, in 1774, Violet, “servant to” Reverend James Humphrey, were identified as enslaved at their baptism.

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.

Aside from Hardwick and Petersham, early Quabbin towns lacked the prosperous commercial and agricultural elites that included most of who enslaved others. In most early Quabbin towns, their ministers, who elsewhere often kept the enslaved, probably received pay too poor for dubious emulation of their colleagues.

Numbers are too small to speak of Black communities, but many things remain to be learned about both Blacks and Whites in the early Quabbin region by adding historical life to the sparse statistics of surviving documents, as Charlotte Westhead has done in several contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin*.

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.



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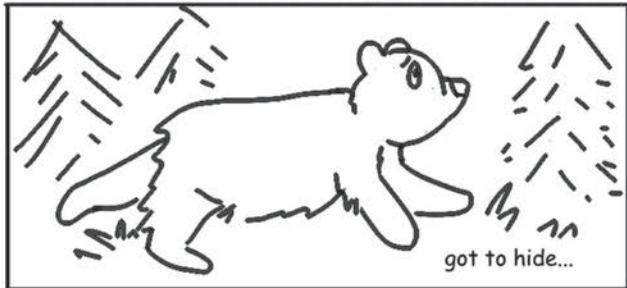
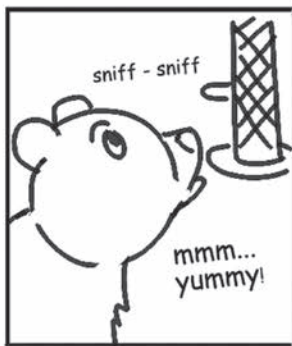
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Sonja Vaccari of Royalston represents fir trees near Hawley Reservoir in Pelham in oil on canvas with her painting, *Road to Amherst*.



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Grout, New Home Sewing Machine, Minute Tapioca, and

continued from page 10

Hill in North Orange once stood the Sentinel Elm, a prominent ninety-three-foot tree so named because the Nipmuck and early settlers displayed signals from it.

European settlement,

an outgrowth from Athol, began in 1735 at West Pequig Hill. Orange, named for Prince William of Orange, established as a district from portions of Athol, Royalston, Warwick, and Erving in 1783 and officially incorporated as a town in 1810. Annexation of portions of New Salem, including Lake Mattawa, and Erving, including West Orange, increased Orange's population and economic base in 1837.

North Orange, still a picturesque hilltop village with colonial homes, farms, and a meetinghouse built in 1781, developed as the original town center. Several taverns served stagecoach travelers on the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, which connected northwest to Brattleboro and east to Boston. The town's early agriculturally based economy focused on livestock production, lumbering, and home-based businesses.

Orange gradually transitioned to a predominantly industrial community during the nineteenth century. Development on Millers River began in 1790 with construction of a dam, gristmills, and sawmills, and other significant early industries included manufacture of shoes and palm-leaf hats. Quabbin region merchants imported raw palm leaves from Cuba and the West Indies via Boston and other trade centers. Extensive hardwood forests provided timber for wood products and furniture businesses. A small manufacturing center, including a canal, foundry, pail factory, and furniture shop established at Tully village during the 1830s.

Spurred by opening of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1848 and subsequent establishment of several prominent factories along Millers River, Orange's greatest growth occurred in the late nineteenth century. The downtown area, originally known as



Workers at the Grout Brothers factory on East Main Street, Orange, manufactured the Grout motorcar. Orange Shoe Company later did business in the building, today occupied by Pete's Tire Barn.



photo, left, from *General Views of Orange*, 1900, with photos by George H. Carter and postcard of Grout car courtesy of Janice Lanou

South Orange, became the civic center. Prominent homes included the former mansion of industrialist John Wheeler, which remains a town landmark.

A trolley line provided passenger service to Athol, Fitchburg, and other railroads until 1925. One of Orange's worst disasters, a fire in November 1891, burned several downtown blocks.

New Home Sewing Machine Company, the town's largest manufacturer through the 1930s, encompassed a large brick complex on both sides of the river at South Main Street. Rodney Hunt Machine Company, which operated continuously for more than 180 years, made water wheels, wooden machines, and equipment for textile mills Minute Tapioca Company, located on West Main Street in the present-day Orange Innovation Center building, produced a popular processed dessert.

Widely attributed as the first purpose-built automobile factory in the United States, Grout Automobile Company established in 1896 in Orange. An early Grout steam-powered design won an award at the 1901 Philadelphia Automobile Show. In 1974, the town purchased one of the few surviving models for five thousand dollars. After Grout went out of business in 1913, Minute Tapioca Company expanded to the facility on East Main Street, followed by Orange Shoe Company, and now headquarters of Pete's Tire Barn.

Orange celebrated its centennial in 1910 with a three-day festival attended by an estimated twenty thousand people. Activities included parades featuring early automobiles and elaborate floats, concerts, vaudeville shows, road races, and a speech by Massachusetts Governor Ebenezer Draper.

Rodney Hunt Machine Company established factories in Orange

In the late 1950s and 1960s, Jacques Istel and William Tucker introduced sport parachuting at Orange Airport.

Along with prosperity, Millers River also brought damaging floods in 1900, 1936, and 1938. The 1938 hurricane caused particular devastation as water inundated downtown factories and homes, and landslides rendered the railroad and Mohawk Trail Highway impassable. The storms motivated construction of Birch Hill Dam and Tully Dam as part of the Connecticut River watershed flood control network.

Orange Historical Society, located at 41 North Main Street, is open Wednesdays and Sundays from June to September and by appointment. Holdings include two restored Grout automobiles. See orangehistoricalsociety.org for details.

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

natural disasters challenged Barre

continued from page 11

occurred in other area towns, loss of manpower caused substantial hardship for farms.

An agricultural community initially, Barre grew substantially after 1790. The town center, originally used for grazing and militia training, became a civic and commercial hub with diverse small businesses, including hat and shoe makers, general and variety stores, carriage shops, and newspaper offices. Nineteenth-century buildings include the Town House, three churches, Woods Memorial Library, and an 1836 Greek Revival home that now houses Barre Historical Society. Barre Fair, first held on the common in 1833, attracted visitors from around the region to enjoy horse racing, cattle judging, and other events.

Other villages, mostly centered around mills, developed on Ware River and other waterways. Barre Plains, site of many industries, two railroad stations, and the Hotel Brunswick, thrived in the late nineteenth century. Nearby South Barre formed in the 1830s when a woolen mill opened. Barre Wool Combing Company was the town's largest employer and manufacturer of its kind in the United States before it closed in 1974. Upstream, a powder mill produced gunpowder for the Union Army during the civil war. A successful cotton mill operated in White Valley, also known as Smithville.

A destructive flood in 1868, caused by failure of the reservoir dam on Prince River, contributed to the town's industrial and economic decline after the civil war. Charles Allen Company, founded at the valley's north end in 1873, produced the popular Yankee hay rake and other agricultural equipment. Still headquartered in Barre, it now manufactures machine tools and provides services for the power-generating industry.

The Ware River Branch of the Boston and Albany Railroad and the Boston and Maine Railroad's Central

Massachusetts Branch provided connections to markets for factories and farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, further impeding Barre's growth, no railroads were built near the town center.

Tourism became a popular industry in the late nineteenth century. Summer visitors purchased old farmhouses and stayed at inns such as the Massasoit House, Naquag House, and Hotel Barre, which opened in 1889 and celebrated its centennial with a popular town event. Sadly, fire destroyed it in 1990.

During construction of Quabbin Reservoir in the 1920s and 1930s, the Metropolitan District Commission took over more than twenty thousand acres of the Ware River watershed, including Barre's White Valley and Coldbrook Springs, a former village at the Barre-Oakham town line.

Several natural disasters, including the 1936 flood, 1938 hurricane, 1953 Worcester tornado, and Hurricane Diane in 1955, impacted Barre during the mid twentieth century. Flooding in 1938 permanently severed the Boston and Maine Railroad line, inundated Barre Plains with twenty feet of water, and washed away a historic covered bridge near Riverside Cemetery. High winds toppled steeples and damaged buildings on the town common. Barre Falls Dam, completed in 1957 at the former site of East Barre Falls village, has mitigated flooding in recent decades.

Barre Historical Society, located at 18 Common Street, is open Thursdays 10:00 am to noon and by appointment. See barrehistoricalsociety.org for information.

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

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Rutland prepares to

continued from page 7

in the 1840s to supply local boot and shoe makers, and Rutland became well-known for its palm-leaf hats.

Rutland in the earliest days encompassed parts of eventual Oakham, Barre, Hubbardston, Princeton, and the northern half of Paxton. Oakham, incorporated in 1762, was once known as Rutland's West Wing. Princeton, known as the East Wing of Rutland, incorporated in 1771. Barre separated from Rutland on November 7, 1774, and took its name in honor of Colonel Isaac Barré, an Irish-born champion of American independence. Hubbardston, known as the Northeast Quarter, and Paxton became independent towns in 1775.



Ice forms on a branch over a Quabbin region stream.

winter water transforms life forms

continued from page 9

The dark of tree trunks and branches or shadowed outlines of historic buildings provide opportunities for capturing details of texture and edges.

Dress for the weather and enjoy an adventure in the North Quabbin region as you explore winter sights.

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

celebrate three-hundredth anniversary



Among authenticated artifacts displayed at Woods House, a Native American hatchet in fine condition turned up on the rail trail running through Rutland to White Valley in Barre
photo courtesy of Rutland Historical Society

“Rutland wants to share the important achievement with surrounding communities and get the whole Quabbin area involved in celebration,” said Stillings. “We encourage residents of the original towns to come home and celebrate their history of being Rutlandites.”

The celebration kicks off on February 20, 2022, when the historical society will host a tea at the Wood House, the society’s headquarters at 232 Main Street, to commemorate the town becoming a township on February 23, 1722. The event will showcase artifacts

from the 1700s along with an ongoing interactive project, “What We Love About Rutland!”

Other events, all at Wood House, include:

Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrating the 1800s

Sunday, March 20, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrating the 1800s

Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrating the 1900s

Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrating the 1900s and RHS Fashion

Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrating the 1900s and Collections Display

Uniquely Quabbin magazine will list in the appropriate edition activities planned throughout the year in the events section of the magazine.

Follow all Rutland celebrations online at rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org/, on Facebook at Rutland Massachusetts Tricentennial Celebration, and on Instagram at [instagram.com/WeRmudfun](https://www.instagram.com/WeRmudfun)

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



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Historical Markers in Quabbin Towns

ATHOL

East Fort
786 Pleasant Street

First Home
813 Pleasant Street

2nd Meetinghouse
834 Pleasant Street

Old Tollgate
1665 Main Street

Hiding Place for Slaves
1169 Chestnut Street

Indian Trail
Chestnut Street at Sanders Street

Indian Crossing
South Athol Road at Riverview

First Meetinghouse
near 300 Hapgood Street

Old Burial Ground
415 Hapgood Street

3rd Meetinghouse
Main Street at Common

Stagecoach Stop
1505 Main Street

Town House
1476 Main Street

4th Meetinghouse
1307 Main Street

Town Pound
1251 Main Street

Pioneer Homesite
416 Main Street

Fort House
Exchange Street

Captured by Indians
151 Pequoig Avenue

Indian Meadow
488 South Main Street

Mount Pleasant Cemetery
North Orange Road

Oldest House in Athol
35 Moore Hill Road

West Fort
Moore Hill Road

Sentinel Elm
Moore Hill Road

Scalped by Indians
Moore Hill Road

Colonial Home 1777
1777 Chestnut Hill Avenue

Lysander Spooner Marker
Petersham Road

BARRE

Elm Hill Private School and Home
marker in honor of Quork Walker, freed slave

BROOKFIELD

Bathsheba Spooner Well marker
Massachusetts Tercentenary marker observing
Brookfield settled in 1660 by men from
Ipswich in the Bay Colony on
Indian lands called Quaboag marker

EAST BROOKFIELD

Post Road marker
laid out in 1753 by Benjamin Franklin for the
Northern Colonies

ERVING

French King Bridge marker denoting
“unique qualities of the Commonwealth”

HUBBARDSTON

Betsey Browning Monument
Wain-Roy marker honoring the
invention of the first hydraulic backhoe

NEW BRAINTREE

Wheeler's Surprise
Barre Road

Wheeler's Surprise
West Road

Education and Business marker
intersection of Wine and Hardwick roads

Entertainment and Industry marker on
Hardwick Road

Parade Ground
20 Memorial Drive

King Phillip's Camp, August 1675
Hardwick Road

Battle of New Braintree
Barre Road

Horse Rests
Thompson Road

Hunter's Inn
intersection Worcester and Moore roads

New Braintree Railroad Station
Mathews Textile Mills
intersection of Webb and Murphy roads

Sarah P. Rowlandson marker
Hardwick Road

NEW SALEM

fort marker
intersection Old Main and South Main streets

OAKHAM

Dean Sawmill
Dr. Spencer Field
Town Pound
Oakham Oak Tree
Leaning Elm Tree
Coldbrook House
Crawfords Repository

ORANGE

Town Pound
Wheeler Avenue

PETERSHAM

Shays Rebellion • Battle of Petersham
North Main Street

PHILLIPSTON

Betsey Ainsworth thrown from carriage marker

RUTLAND

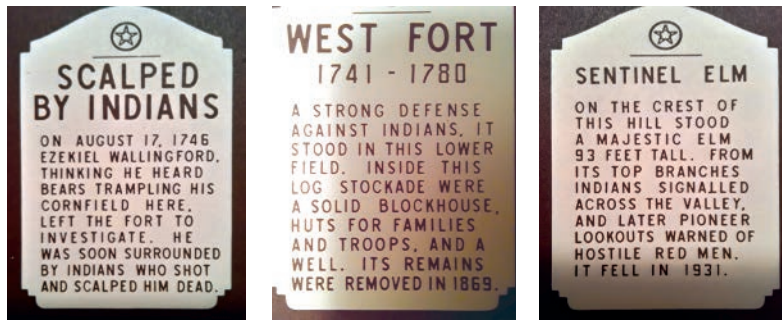
Hessian Well
Continental Barracks
Grist Mill
Charnock Hill Road
First Meeting House
by Old Fire barn
Grist Mill Stone
Town Common
Indian Corn Stone
Town Common in front of Community Hall
1932 Train Wreck marker
rail trail between
Pommogussett and Glenwood Road
Rutland Prison Camp Cemetery
path by Goose Hill Cemetery
Tercentenary Tree on the common

WEST BROOKFIELD
Fort Gilbert
park next to
West Brookfield Elementary School

listings of markers
compiled by Carla Charter
from town to town,
forms for locations differ
please contact
editor, *Uniquely Quabbin*, at
haley.antique@verizon.net
with clarifications

Athol History Trails Signs Missing: Why?

by Charles Rodney "Rocky" Stone Jr.



Officials don't know what happened to three missing Athol History Trail signs.

photos © by Greg Watkevich

Residents of the Quabbin region often follow local and regional history trails.

A journey to reconnect with the Athol History Trail beginning along Moore Hill Road led to the discovery that sign markers titled West Fort, Number 21; Sentinel Elm, Number 22; and Scalped by Indians, Number 23, have been removed.

Athol officials did not remove the signs. J. R. Greene, chair of Athol Historical Commission, said the town is responsible for the signs. He clarified that Athol Historical Commission functions as a government agency and that Athol Historical Society, a private organization, has no responsibility for the signs.

Athol Historical Commission has no funds or budget, Greene said. Other members of the commission are Bernard Brouillet, Carolyn Brouillet, Shelley Small, and Jean Shaughnessy, clerk.

Other Quabbin region communities, including Barre, East Brookfield, and New Braintree, report no problem with signs along their historic trails. Trustees of Reservations, which has sites in a number of Quabbin region towns, also reports no known problems with historical markers.

Richard Kilhart, superintendent Athol Department of Public Works, said DPW has responsibility for putting up signs but no responsibility for content or decisions to remove markers.

Were the Athol History Trail signs vandalized? No one seems to know, but if anyone has an idea about what happened, the signs might be restored to their original locations in the near future.

Local historian Richard J. Chaisson along with several other members of the Athol Historical Commission worked with the 1976 Bicentennial Committee, according to Greene, to develop the trail.

It consists of twenty-four historical sites chosen by the historical commission and winds through sixteen miles of Athol's hills and valleys.

Clearly marked signs provide visitors with a snapshot of each site's historical significance. The 1976 Bicentennial Committee was provided a pamphlet recording the location of each site. Find a digital link to a download of the pamphlet at the end of this article.

For several years beginning in 1996, Athol High School offered a course entitled Science, Technology and Society, STS. The course focused on the history, culture, and environment of the surrounding area. Early on in the course, a week of the curriculum entirely considered the Athol History Trail. Each student had to visit a designated site, take a photo of its sign, and provide a written synopsis of the site's significance. Relevance of the topic motivated many students to travel to all of the sites on their own accord.

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

With reporting by John Burk.

Charles Rodney "Rocky" Stone Jr. is a native of Athol. As quarterback, he captained the 1962 Athol High School undefeated football team. He graduated from AHS in 1963. He received a BA from Bates College in 1967 and an MA from Fitchburg State in 1972. He taught science at Athol High School for twenty-one years. He served twenty years in the US Army, retiring as lieutenant colonel in 1996. Since retirement, he has spent time traveling with his wife, the former Leanne Aguda. He coaches at Narragansett Regional School in Templeton and spends time researching his family's ancestry.

President Calvin Coolidge visited Quabbin region towns

continued from page 28

village of Gilbertville, “a factory town,” White notes that the “walls of the Ware River valley open out into neglected fields, a bottom land.” White calls Hardwick “an unspoiled, lovely old town” and adds “Coolidge knew it well. It was the New England town of his dreams with wooden buildings glistening white.”

The last village on the line in the Ware River valley was Oakham’s Coldbrook Springs, destroyed for the Ware River diversion project in the late 1920s. There, White relates, “Coolidge saw an ancient factory painted white with a belfry almost colonial.” The mill actually stood in the nearby Barre village of White Valley, also destroyed by the water diversion.

In the North Quabbin region, two notable visits by Coolidge to Athol are on the record. He spoke at the rededication of Silver Lake Cemetery in 1916. Coolidge and the head of the state ticket, Governor Samuel McCall, campaigned in Athol around the same time and provided the source of an amusing quote. The two campaigners made a stop at Athol’s Pequig Hotel. They brought with them two boxes of cigars to hand out to supporters. When the supply was nearly exhausted, Coolidge is supposed to have remarked, “Those Athol people sure like those free cigars!”

After his presidency concluded in 1929, Coolidge visited the private preserve at Carter Pond in southeastern Petersham. Driven by limosine from his Northampton home to the pond, he could fish undisturbed by the public. Ralph Sutherland, Athol florist, recalled Coolidge’s many visits to the pond. As Coolidge’s presidential successor, Herbert Hoover pointed out, Coolidge was a conservative fisherman, using worms instead of flies to bait his fish hook.

J.R. Greene, of Athol, is the author of twenty-three books, many about the history of the Quabbin valley. His latest title is *Calvin Coolidge in 100 Objects*.

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Concerts at Old Stone Church



Scheduled for repair: the door to so-called bride's entrance of Gilbertville's Old Stone Church.

photo courtesy of Friends of the Stone Church

Friends of the Stone Church in Gilbertville, a village of Hardwick, have scheduled springtime musical events.

Sunday, April 10

Michael Poll, classical guitarist, will perform in the church at 2 pm Sunday, April 10, with Emi Ferguson, flutist. The duo will play arrangements of music by J. S. Bach and contemporary music.

Saturday, May 7

Organist Peter Krasinski will perform original accompaniment at 7 pm Saturday, May 7, to the comedic 1927 film *It* starring Clara Bow during the fourth in the church's Silents Are Golden series. Family tickets will be ten dollars at the door with those under eighteen admitted free of charge.

More information at friendsofthestonechurch.org.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

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January 19, Wednesday

Sensational Seeds

6 pm - 7 pm

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Athollibrary.org

January 22, Saturday

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Simple Sewn Books

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launchspace-orange.com

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January 28-30

Friday-Sunday

She Kills Monsters

Friday and Saturday 7 pm

Sunday 2 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and nineties pop culture by Qui Nguyen, who offers homage to the inner warrior.

thecenterateaglehill.org

February 15, Tuesday

Local Birds in Winter

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Identification of birds seen locally in winter and what attracts them to a yard. Presented by Dave Small, of the Athol Bird and Nature Club. Registration required.

Athollibrary.org

February 20, Sunday

Rutland Historical Society Tea

1 to 4 pm

Wood House

232 Main Street

Rutland

Inaugural event for Rutland's 300th anniversary

February 22, Tuesday

Black History Hall of Fame

2 pm - 3:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Bright Star Touring Theatre, a national professional touring theatre company based in Asheville, NC, will perform the acclaimed show, *Black History Hall of Fame*. Registration required.

Athollibrary.org

February 27, Sunday

Rockapella

5 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Rockapella promises buckets of catchy original pop songs and complete contemporary revisions of Motown, pop, and soul classics.

thecenterateaglehill.org

March 5, Saturday

Celebrating the 1800s

1 to 4 pm

Wood House

232 Main Street

Rutland

March 9, Wednesday

Rich and Healthy: Soil Building and Low Maintenance Gardens

6 pm - 7 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Healthy, rich soil is the foundation for a good garden. Slide presentation provides no-till ideas for using cardboard, compost, and mulches to start or enrich a garden to be climate resilient. Registration required.

Athollibrary.org

March 12, Saturday

The Bourbon Street Jubilee

7 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

The Bourbon Street Jubilee brings the streets of New Orleans to the streets of New England for a Mardi Gras celebration featuring music, dance, aerial art, games, and prizes.

thecenterateaglehill.org

continued on next page

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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March 15, Tuesday

Living With Nature
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Learn how to provide habitat for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and amphibians. Registration required.
Athollibrary.org

March 17, Thursday

Paul Newman: Star of Stage, Screen, and Salad Dressing!
6 pm - 7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
With film lecturer Frank Mandosa, take a look at the life and career of the Hollywood icon who starred in classics such as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Hustler*, *Hud*, *Cool Hand Luke*, and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Registration required.
Athollibrary.org

March 20, Sunday

Celebrating the 1800s
1 to 4 pm
Wood House
232 Main Street
Rutland

March 26, Saturday

A Lamb Chop Celebration
2 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Introduce the kids to the beloved children's icon Lamb Chop, brought to life by Mallory Lewis, daughter of original puppeteer Shari Lewis.
thecenterateaglehill.org

April 1,2,3,8,9, and 10

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
Gilbert Players present *Annie*
Fridays 7 pm
Saturdays and Sundays 2 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
The Gilbert Players proudly present *Annie!* With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s NYC.
thecenterateaglehill.org

April 2, Saturday

Titanic: An Afternoon to Remember
12:00pm - 1:30pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
In interactive historic performance, Denise Vanaria dresses in period attire that she restored by hand. She "is" Mrs. Thomas Andrews and discusses the history of the RMS *Titanic* and her times. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

Celebrating the 1800s
1 to 4 pm
Wood House
232 Main Street
Rutland

April 16, Saturday

Easter's Great Gathering
time to be announced
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Brunch with the Easter Bunny, baby farm animals, egg hunts for adults and children, Easter vendor fair and more!
redapplefarm.com

April 19, Tuesday

Attracting Native Pollinators
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Dave Small of the Athol Bird and Nature Club describes how to attract native pollinators to the garden. Registration Required.
athollibrary.org

April 21, Thursday

Gus Goes Green
11 am - 12 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Bright Star Touring Theatre, a national professional touring theatre company based in Asheville, NC, will present *Gus Goes Green: A STEM Adventure*. Gus, a giant dog puppet, leads the audience on a STEM-inspired adventure around the globe. STEM: science, technology, engineering, math. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

April 30, Saturday

Celebrating the 1900s and
RHS Fashion
1 to 4 pm
Wood House
232 Main Street
Rutland

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

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