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

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volume 7, number 3• January-April 2023
This issue features photos and art, history, event listings, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts.

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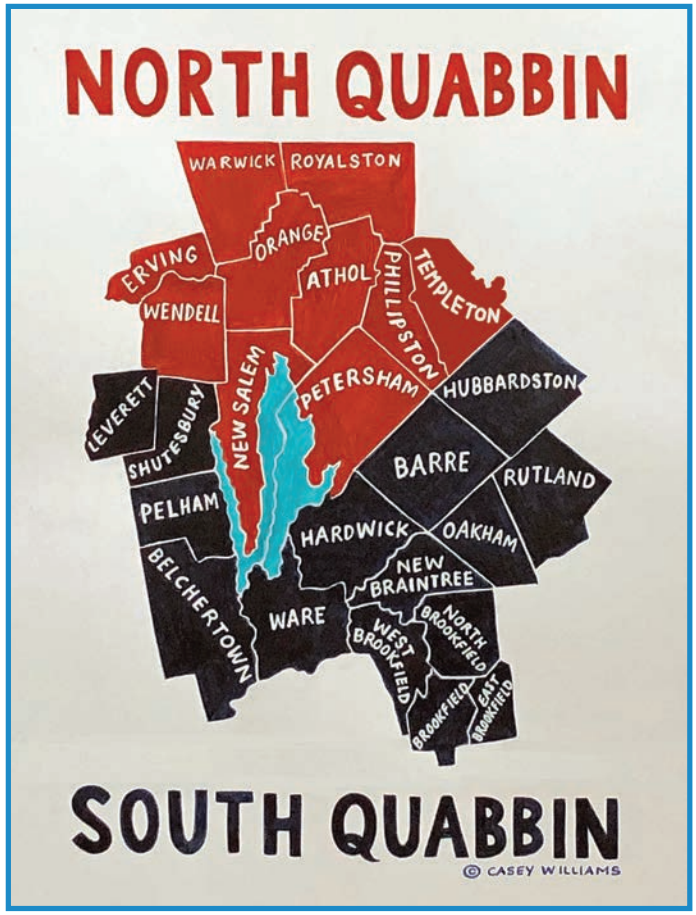
A Quabbin Reservoir big sky shows off opposite the shoreline at Quabbin Gate 35.

photo © by Dale Monette

ON THE FRONT COVER
Winter Run
an oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



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 66

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Royalston, Shutesbury, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2022. Generous support from the 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 or going to uniquelyquabbin.com and choosing the donate button, or scanning the QR code you will find in this magazine.

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.

Brrrrrr . . . winter is here in all her snowy, icy cold beauty. Trees look like they are covered with cotton balls, and snow sparkles like diamonds when the sun hits it. Although it is not my favorite season, I am struck with the beauty of it. Pick up the magazine, get comfy and warm, and get ready to be struck with the beauty of the words and pictures you'll find while reading this issue. I know you're going to enjoy it!

Thankfully,
Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine**

gratefully acknowledges the support of

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Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council
Hubbardston Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council
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Orange Cultural Council • Pelham Cultural Council
Petersham Cultural Council • Royalston Cultural Council
Shutesbury Cultural Council • Templeton Cultural Council
Ware Cultural Council • Warwick Cultural Council
Wendell Cultural Council• West Brookfield Cultural Council

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

When contributors begin submitting writing, photos, and art some two months before publication of *Uniquely Quabbin*, we never know what we'll find as we look forward to putting together the next issue. And then—never disappointed with variety and fresh information—we begin to review material.

On the organizational end of things here at *UQ*, those of us who put the magazine together never fail to encounter new insights, information, vantage points, documents, and accounts—plus the unexpected. History, events, images, recollections, arty perspectives, and more characterize Quabbin Reservoir and the twenty-five communities surrounding it.

And so here we are again with the latest edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*. We hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

corrections

Uniquely Quabbin incorrectly identified poet Shawn Jarrett with male pronouns in the September-December 2022 poetry column. Shawn Jarrett is female. *Uniquely Quabbin* regrets the error.

Uniquely Quabbin featured Richard J. Chaisson in a September-December 2022 article. According to his daughter Susan Goodwin, PhD, he graduated from Athol High School in 1952, not 1953, and he is not the youngest of seven children. He is the youngest of six sons and he has a younger sister. *Uniquely Quabbin* regrets the errors.

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THANK YOU!

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

Finding Hygge While Touring the Region's Public Libraries

by Sally Howe

Sally Howe

A gentle snow falls, the air is crisp, and I need to get out of the house. As winter digs in and despite their warmth and familiarity, the appeal of my four walls wears thin. The Danish have a word for it—hygge, a quality of coziness and contentment.

I seek hygge spots to cozy up with a book or magazine, so I head out.

Petersham Memorial Library, dating to 1879, honors town soldiers who took part in the American Civil War. The stone building along with about forty-five others in town has designation on the National Registry of Historic

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An inviting reading area draws readers in Petersham.

people of cave art days not so different from us

engravings by Abigail Rorer

Chauvet Cave
engraving © 2023 by Abigail Rorer

All continents except Antarctica have examples of cave art. Carbon dating traces some earliest known cave paintings to somewhere between thirty-seven thousand and thirty thousand years ago in Europe, particularly in France and Spain. It is thought that the paintings were the art of hunters who depended for food and clothing on the great herds of animals that roamed Europe. The paintings were evidently done as ritualistic magical art intended to give hunters and the tribe power and possession over the animals they drew.

Primitive artists of the caves used sharp flint tools for engraving lines on the walls and brushes possibly made of tufts of hair, fur, or feathers attached to sticks. Chewed twigs or reeds may have been used as brushes with colors perhaps blown onto the wall through tubes. Color sources included charcoal and easily obtained minerals such as ochre for yellows and reds, red chalk, and manganese for dark rich blacks.

Artists who worked in caves did some of the greatest drawings in the history of humankind. They had extraordinary drawing ability and a great sense of shape and form—their drawings brought animals to life. Chauvet Cave in south-central France, discovered only in 1994, has some of the best examples. Lions, rhinoceroses, mammoths, cave bears, ibexes, deer, owls, and so on adorn the walls. Two men flying by in a helicopter discovered another great cave, Nawarla Gabarnmang, in 2006 in Australia.

When we see how well cave artists drew and how closely they observed the world around them, it gives us a sense of connection to those people, our ancestors. Looking at that art opens a doorway into the past—we have creative urges and interests and emotions just as they did.

Are we so different?

Petersham resident Abigail Rorer is proprietor of The Lone Oak Press: theloneoakpress.com

with vanishing deciduous leaves in winter,

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Some small plants in the Quabbin region become more noticeable after the green leaves of summer have passed. You expect green needles on pines and hemlocks as well as green leaves of mountain laurel bushes, but the green has vanished from deciduous trees. Winter offers a chance to focus on some small evergreen plants, the club mosses. Details of their shape and habitat help identify them by species. A hand lens can reveal detailed features of their scale-like leaves and reproductive structures.

Hundreds of millions of years ago, club mosses made up towering forests. Club mosses today grow to at most a foot in height. In the Quabbin region, two club mosses are quite common while others provide more of a challenge to find. The common ones look like miniature trees with small scale-like leaves surrounding long stems. Less common club mosses have more horizontal growth patterns.

Club mosses produce spores instead of flowers for reproduction. Their full life cycle takes anywhere from one to three years to complete and, if they go dormant, fifteen years. Released spores produce a tiny green leaf-like structure that reproduces sexually. Club mosses can also start a new colony by growing a tiny immature plant on their stems until the new growth falls off to grow independently. Once established, a club moss spreads by stems that run over or under the ground. Just a few roots grow down from those stems to bring water and dissolved minerals up to all their cells.

When finding a colony, look for the upright spore-bearing stem. It may form a candelabra of multiple cones that release spores. Tap the cones gently and, if ready for release, harmless spores may coat your finger. That coating will feel slippery. Very dry and oily, spores burn easily. Before cameras had flash attachments, photographers collected club moss spores to fuel a rapid burn on a tray held by the camera. Burning spores create a small flash that brightened the photographer's subject.

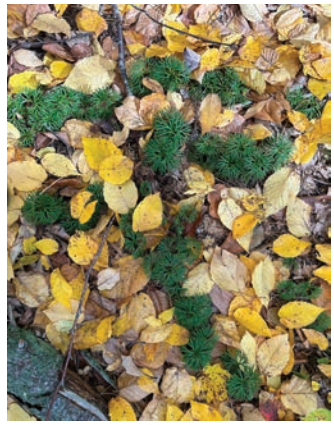
For many years, people collected club mosses for decorations or fabric dye. Collectors cut ground stems of plants. The remaining colony may die with the loss of

remaining green foliage shows up bright

too many roots. Instead of collecting them, take photos or just enjoy finding them.

Princess Pine
Dendrolycopodium obscurum

The most common club moss in the woods of Quabbin Reservation is princess pine. It grows to a height of about six inches and has spirals of branches covered with tiny leaves. In cross section, the branches appear flat on the bottom and curved on top. When mature, a stem grows up above last branches with a pale brown spore-producing cone. If you find a colony of princess pine, individual plants connect by stems hidden underground. Another club moss that looks like princess pine is Hickey's tree-club moss (*Dendrolycopodium hickeyi*). That club moss has branches that are rounded and is often found under power lines as it needs full sun.



Southern Ground Cedar
Diphasiastrum digitatum

Another common club moss, southern ground cedar looks like a miniature cedar tree connected in a colony by an above-ground stem. The upright main stem supports horizontal branches that spiral out in tiers. Leaves hug tight to the stem and lie flat. If you hold one of the branches between your fingers, the top and bottom will feel flat and smooth. Spore-producing branches have from two to four cones in a candelabra.

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Submit letters to the editor, poems, or opinion writings to

Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin* at marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

railroad enthusiasts, hikers embrace appeal of

by Christopher Coyle

A Quabbin Reservoir trail accessed through Gate 35 from Route 122, New Salem, follows the former railroad bed known as Rabbit Run.

photo © by Christopher Coyle

Since the mid nineteenth century, railroads have threaded through the Quabbin region. Active and abandoned rail lines often appeal both to rail enthusiasts and hikers.

Train service on the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad to Athol began January 1, 1848. The original route from Baldwinville to South Royalston went north of the present route and required four substantial covered bridges over the Millers River. The route realigned in 1882 to a new location some distance to the south. Hikers can follow much of the 1847-1882 grade, which can also accommodate motor vehicles. Most of the grade lies within the public recreation areas of Birch Hill Dam and Lake Dennison. A dirt road through the area is open for travel during warm months.

Evidence remains near Birch Hill Dam, Royalston, of the original Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad grade.

photo © by Christopher Coyle

Creation of the Birch Hill Dam in 1941 necessitated moving the railroad a second time, then slightly south and, in places, higher than the grade it replaced. The access road from the Route 68 crossing in South Royalston to Birch Hill Dam follows the former railroad grade and provides a pleasant drive, walk, or bicycle ride. The road closely parallels the current railroad, so one may likely see active trains from a safe location.

Today operated by CSX-owned PanAm Railways, the railroad follows Millers River from South Royalston to Athol. Bearsden Conservation Area abuts much of the railroad. Athol's Bearsden Road once connected with Gulf Road north of the river. Bearsden Road crossed the Millers River by means of the covered Lewis Bridge, which went out in the flood of 1936 and was never replaced. The Red Bridge crossed over the railroad several hundred feet south of the Millers River. It was removed in 1952.

A short distance west of old Red Bridge, the long-gone Short and Long covered bridges stood near today's Bearsden Conservation Area.

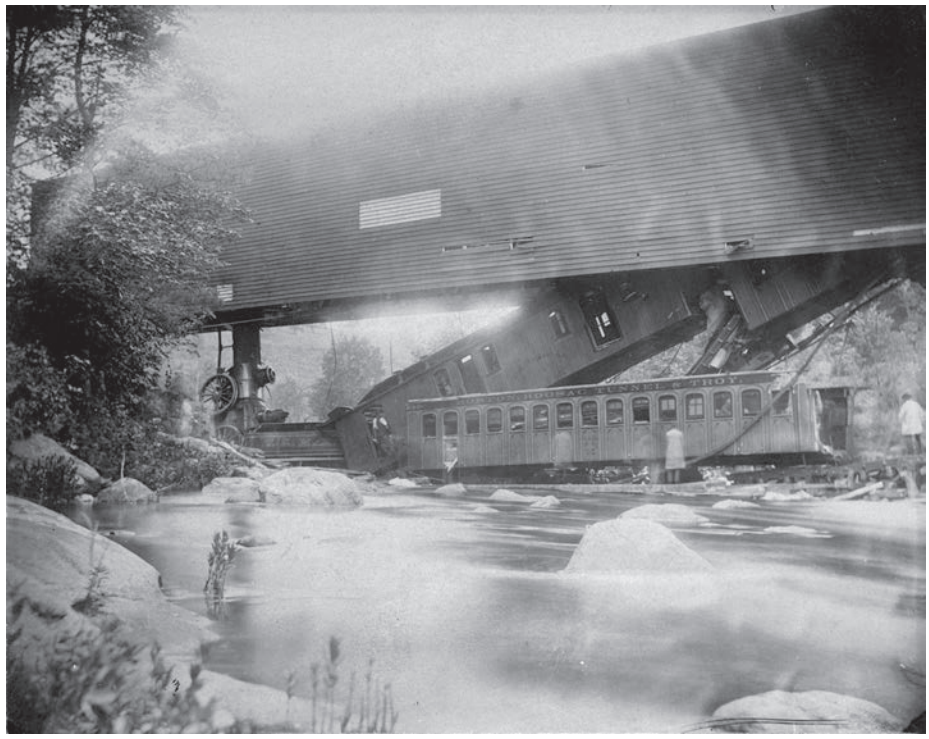
active and abandoned rail lines of Quabbin area

Long Bridge was the site of a terrible train disaster on June 16, 1870. A westbound passenger train struck a lining bar or similar tool on a track car that got caught in the engine's pilot and hit the bridge trusses, causing the bridge to collapse. Three deaths occurred with at least twenty people seriously injured.

The railroad dug a new channel many years ago and eliminated the need for the two covered bridges, and no traces of the bridge abutments remain. Dotted with pond lilies and often home to a great blue heron, Duck Pond, a small pond of stagnant, non-flowing water resulted in the former river channel.

Every day, several freight trains pass by the former Athol depot on South Street. Fitchburg Railroad built the depot after the previous structure was largely destroyed by fire in 1892. If one looks closely at the clock tower, one may spot FRR, standing for Fitchburg Railroad, above each clock face. The north side of the arched granite bridge over Mill Brook next to Tunnel Street also carries the initials FRR.

Indian Meadow on the north side of South Athol Road offers a safe place to view railroad trains. Owned by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mass Wildlife, the area is open to the public. Active railroads for the most part are private property, and management does not appreciate the public trespassing on the tracks. The old safety adage of trainmen says to expect a train on any track at any time in any direction—so stay off the tracks! There are many safe public locations to watch trains.



Long Bridge near Athol's Bearsden collapsed on June 16, 1870, when a passenger train struck a tool on a track car. Three died with some twenty injured.

photo courtesy of Athol Historical Society

From South Athol Road in Athol, one can easily see the roadbed of the former Boston and Albany Railroad Athol Branch, nicknamed Rabbit Run with public access to the old grade in many areas. A proposed Rabbit Run walking and bicycle trail would encourage further access to the former rail line.

Now a private residence, the old station in South Athol may be viewed from Rice Street. A pleasant walk goes from near Quabbin Gate 35 along

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A culvert remains in the Quabbin Reservation from Rabbit Run days.

photo © by Christopher Coyle

twice as many Masonic lodges observed rites

by Carl I. Hammer

Before the American Revolution, Masonic lodges were elite organizations, their memberships limited to leading landholders, merchants, and professional men in major towns such as Boston along the Atlantic seaboard.

That changed after the Revolution when a more populist movement, calling itself Ancient, began to supplant the older Modern Freemasons. In Massachusetts, the two merged in 1792 to form the Grand Lodge, but even before the merger, lodges chartered by Ancient Masons had been established further inland.

Today in the area around the Quabbin, active Masonic lodges observe rites at Ware, Brookfield, Barre, and Athol as well as in nearby Greenfield. Two centuries ago, twice as many were chartered over three decades between the Republican Lodge at Greenfield in 1794 and the Mount Ararat Lodge at Petersham in 1826. Other early Quabbin region lodges include those in Brookfield, 1797; Hardwick, 1800; Athol, 1802; Belchertown, 1807; New Salem, 1815; Ware, 1824; Orange, 1825, and Enfield, 1825.

The Mark Book of King Hiram Royal Arch Chapter, Greenwich Village, Massachusetts, included Mason's Marks for John Warner, left, and Warren P. Wing, Greenwich entrepreneurs. Martha S. Harding, 1813-1841, probably created the marks. Her father was Reverend Alphaeus Harding of New Salem, probable founding officer of the chapter.
reproduced by permission of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Lexington, Massachusetts.

These so-called Blue lodges granted the first three Masonic degrees. Another branch of American or York Rite Masonry, Royal Arch Masonry, operated under a separate organization, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts organized in 1798. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter granted four additional advanced degrees. Three Royal Arch Chapters established in the Quabbin at Greenwich, 1816, and Brookfield, 1825, as well as at Greenfield in 1817.

The chapter at Greenwich, located in the northern village settlement, maintained an attractive book of Masons' Marks, unique Masonic emblems designed and illustrated in color for each member, now curated at the

two centuries ago in Quabbin region towns

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Lexington, Massachusetts. The nineteenth-century artist was Martha, daughter of the Reverend Alphaeus Harding of New Salem, one of the founders of the chapter.

The Greenwich chapter also attempted to establish a so-called Encampment of a related Masonic organization, the Knights Templar. The elaborate installation ceremony in June 1825 must have been a colorful and exotic event in that small community when, as the newspaper advertised,

> The procession will be formed precisely at 11 o'clock at the Masonic Chapel. A Discourse will be delivered by a Rev. Sir Knight. Dinner provided by Sir Calvin Munn. All Knights Templars, Royal Arch Masons and Masons are respectfully invited to join in the Celebrations with their appropriate clothing.

Although towns like Greenwich were small and remote, they had surprisingly large lodge memberships. A favorite activity at Masonic meetings was singing, and a Masonic songbook, published in Boston in 1802, listed all New England lodges with information on their officers and membership.

Membership at each of four Quabbin region lodges ranged from a hundred at Mount Zion lodge of Hardwick to forty-six at the Meridian Sun lodge in Brookfield, according to the 1802 listing. As elsewhere in western Massachusetts, membership numbers represented a significant portion of local population. A host town provided only the core of a lodge's membership, however. Some members would reside in neighboring places that lacked lodges. Many of Hardwick's early members came from neighboring Greenwich, which lacked a Blue lodge, and from Barre.

Some lodges migrated. Harmony Lodge, chartered at Northfield in 1796, transferred to Warwick in 1814 before returning sometime after 1840 to Northfield. Harris Lodge of Athol moved to Phillipston, then called Gerry, in 1811 and on to neighboring Templeton in 1813. Pacific Lodge of Sunderland, chartered there in 1801, moved to Leverett in 1807 before moving on to Amherst in 1817, where it exists today.

The Quabbin region participated fully in the vigorous expansion of Freemasonry in the early US Republic,

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ICE FISHING EVOLVES FROM MEANS OF

by John Burk

When lakes and ponds freeze over, anglers go ice fishing.

drawing © by Emily Boughton

Winter's cold, short days revive the Quabbin region's long ice fishing tradition. Frozen lakes and ponds provide abundant opportunities for anglers to share camaraderie or enjoy solitude while searching for trophy catches or a good meal.

Despite its seemingly timeless character and simplicity, ice fishing has evolved significantly over time from a means of winter survival to a popular recreational and social activity with modern amenities such as electronic sonar devices and heated shelters. Indigenous Arctic and sub Arctic peoples practiced ice fishing for at least two thousand years, utilizing hand-carved decoys shaped like bait fish and spears made of wood, ivory, or bones along with stone axes and nets. Numerous technological advances over the past century revolutionized techniques and enhanced mobility, productivity, comfort, and safety.

Quabbin region lakes and ponds host a variety of habitats and aquatic communities. Water bodies with springs and deep drop-offs, such as Lake Mattawa in Orange, support cold-water species including brown trout, small-mouth bass, and yellow perch. Bluegill, pumpkinseed, and other warm-water fish thrive in shallow lakes and ponds with weedy areas. Vegetated areas and shorelines afford opportunities for pickerel. Stocked cold-water ponds, such as Comet Pond in Hubbardston, host abundant trout.

Quabbin Reservoir allows ice fishing at three locations including two ponds in New Salem and Pepper's Mill Pond at Quabbin Park in Ware with populations of largemouth bass, rainbow trout, and pickerel.

Many contemporary anglers use short rods, known as jigs, or tip-ups, small wood or plastic devices that suspend bait at ice holes. Jig rods come in a wide variety of lengths and designs geared towards target fish species and lure types. Light rods generally work well for sunfish and small perch and trout, and medium-to-heavy strength for larger fish such as pike, walleye, and lake trout.

SURVIVAL TO POPULAR WINTER SPORT

Tip-ups allow fishing with multiple active lines at different locations, thus effectively covering large areas. Successful anglers evaluate factors such as lake topography, vegetation, and fish behavior when setting tip-ups. Massachusetts regulations permit five active hooks at one time. Anglers may combine tip-ups and rods.

Manual and power augers, introduced in the late nineteenth and mid twentieth centuries respectively, replaced axes and picks as preferred ice cutting tools. Benefits of hand-powered augers, generally effective for cutting ice up to a foot thick, include portability, low cost, and minimal maintenance.

Motorized augers, powered by gasoline, charged batteries, or propane, save labor and provide crucial time and mobility for tracking elusive species. Recent improvements in lithium-battery and motor technology have increased popularity of electric augurs, which run with zero emissions and start quickly and reliably. Cordless drill adapters provide an inexpensive alternative for powering augers.

Shelters offer protection from the elements, comfort, and convenience for storing gear. Portable models, pioneered in the 1980s, provide mobility and ease of operation. Larger permanent structures, also known as shacks, shanties, ice houses, or bob houses, include amenities such as heaters, cooking facilities, beds, bathrooms, and even satellite televisions.

Electronic devices add another element of information and precision for ice fishing. Sonars facilitate location of productive spots by indicating underwater topography, vegetation, water depth, and fish schools. High definition underwater cameras allow observation of aquatic environments and fish behaviors such as reactions to lures. Global positioning systems, or GPS, precisely record fishing areas, safe walking routes, lake and pond access points, and other navigational details.

Ice fishing season usually begins in late December or early January with onset of consistent subfreezing temperatures. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and other agencies recommend four inches as a safe minimum ice thickness for people on foot. Clear black or blue ice indicates greatest strength. Small, shallow ponds and sheltered areas freeze quickly, while large, wind-swept water bodies take longer to reach safe conditions. Rivers, streams, inlets, outlets, and spring holes often have currents that cause potentially dangerous thin spots..

Popular winter game fish include northern pike, yellow perch, trout, chain pickerel, large- and small-mouth bass, and bluegill. A variety of factors, such as food and oxygen availability, cover, water depth, and temperature influence activity and behavior of various species. Fish often congregate at pond and lake bottoms during cold weather to take advantage of warmer water, oxygen, and forage areas. Prime fishing generally occurs in the early morning or evening when most species actively feed.

Find more information about Massachusetts ice fishing at mass.gov/info-details/get-started-ice-fishing.

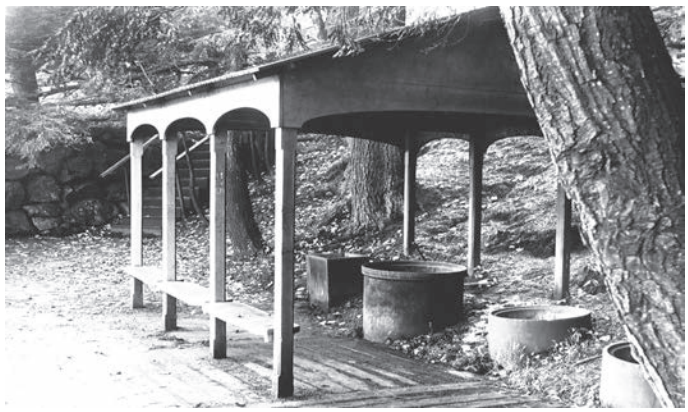
Photographer and writer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds). He lives in Petersham

nineteenth-century regional healthy alternatives

by Carla Charter

In the 1800s, many visited the Quabbin area to partake of health alternatives including mineral springs and water cures.

Coldbrook Springs, a village of Oakham named for its mineral springs, made the most of sulphur and iron springs located on both sides of Parkers Brook that ran on either side of the main road, later Route 122. Inns in the village accommodated visitors, according to Lee Dougan of the Oakham Historical Museum.



Coldbrook Hotel, left, sometimes called Coldbrook House, hosted nineteenth-century visitors seeking healthcare alternatives in Oakham's village of Coldbrook Springs. An outdoor bathhouse served the hotel's guests.

photo courtesy of Oakham Historical Museum

The first innkeeper in Coldbrook Springs was Captain James Craige. He opened the Craige Tavern about 1750. He may have known about the mineral springs but never promoted them, according to Dougan.

"The owners and the inn's name changed many times over the years," said Dougan, "and the innkeeper was not necessarily the owner. James Craige's son inherited the inn, but Joel Hayden served as innkeeper until 1783, when Richard Kelly bought the property. Samuel Hunt was the innkeeper at the Old Craige Tavern from 1811 to 1838 and Henry Sibley from 1839 to 1842."

In 1860, James C. Bemis owned the inn then called the Bemis Hotel and sometimes Spring House. Bemis Hotel burned in 1885. The forty-room Eagle Inn replaced it, according to Dougan. During the Civil War, *Barre Gazette* advertised a bathhouse built at the mineral springs in 1863. In 1867, James C. Bemis sold the property to the Coldbrook Springs Improvement Company. The same year, the corporation sold the property to Benjamin J. Clark of Cambridge. Mr. Clark built Cold Springs House and hired George Davis to operate the thirty-two-room hotel, Dougan explained.

Cold Springs House sold in 1897 to Alonzo Pollard of Brookline. The new owner never lived in Oakham

included mineral springs and water cures

and sold the building to Monroe Needham of Oakham in 1899.

Sulphur springs were located closest to the Coldbrook House with iron springs on the opposite side of the brook. *Barre Gazette* advertised that cold and hot water baths, in zinc tubs, could benefit people suffering from rheumatism, arthritis, dyspepsia, skin diseases, and the "inevitable ailments peculiar to women," Dougan said.

Visitors to the springs came from all over New England and other parts of the nation. The 1900 ledger book from Coldbrook House shows that statewide visitors came from as far as Boston or Springfield or Northampton or Winchendon. Out-of-state visitors came from New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and as far away as Nebraska.

By 1929, the state had purchased most of the mineral springs as part of Ware River Watershed. Barre Wool Combing Company purchased the hotel as a temporary storage building.

In uptown Athol, Dr. George Hoyt ran a water cure practice on Chestnut Street. In 1852, Dr. Hoyt sold his practice to Dr. John H. Hero who later sold it to Dr. George Field. Dr. Hoyt, an ardent abolitionist, made his home a stop on the so-called underground railroad that enabled anti-slavery advocates to assist the escape of those enslaved.

Tom Goldscheider, public historian at David Ruggles Center for History and Education in Northampton, observed that "there was a link between health and social reform" in the nineteenth century. David Ruggles numbered among nineteenth-century practitioners of water cure.

"Athol Water-Cure and Hygienic Institute," a pamphlet published by Franklin W. Ward in 1855, states that one of Dr. Hoyt's successors had previously worked at Boston and New York hospitals, colleges, and dispensaries. Worcester's American Antiquarian Society provided the pamphlet.

Dr. Field claimed that the Athol water cure and hygienic treatment would treat illnesses such as acute and chronic rheumatism, gout, nervous diseases, dyspepsia or indigestion, headache, constipation, liver complaints, bronchitis, scrofula, spinal complaints, female diseases, and all afflictions arising from impurities of the blood and inflammation.

Athol was "one of the most salubrious and beautiful localities that anywhere can be found," writes Dr. Field, who continues,

> The soil in the vicinity of the cure is of a light gravelly nature, and the roads and walks become dry early in the spring and soon after a rain. Shady roads and walks, a romantic valley, and a

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Templeton hosts farms, varied landscape, former industrial sites

by John Burk

Located in northwestern Worcester County highlands, Templeton features a classic New England village green, three former industrial villages, and historic upland farms. Its 32.4 square-mile landscape encompasses a broad 1,140-foot high central plateau, ridges, and watersheds of Otter and Burnshirt rivers.

Otter River, a major tributary of Millers River and center of industries, flows across the northeastern part of Templeton. Burnshirt River and Trout Brook meander through valleys west of the central plateau. Otter River State Forest lies at the south end of a large conservation corridor with abundant recreational opportunities and wildlife habitats.

No evidence of permanent Native American settlements exists in present Templeton, but small groups likely fished waterways and hunted and burned woods seasonally. Potential sites included Otter River and Stone Bridge, Partridgeville, and East Templeton ponds.

A memorial in the Templeton Common Historic District honors townsmen who served in World War I.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

In 1685, colonial soldiers from Beverly, Hingham, Lynn, and Reading petitioned the Massachusetts Bay government for land as compensation for service during King Philip's War. Nearly fifty years later, the veterans or their heirs received a tract known as Narragansett Number Six, which encompassed present Templeton, Phillipston, and western Gardner. Proprietors laid out forty-acre lots, roads, and a meetinghouse site in 1734, but conflicts during King George's War delayed settlement until 1751. Templeton incorporated in 1762 with a population of about three hundred residents. Land in the western part of town was set off to form Phillipston, then incorporated as Gerry, in 1786.

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Native Americans used controlled burns for variety of purposes

by John Burk

Native Americans used controlled fires in precolonial times for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, plant and wildlife management, hunting, and travel. Historical evidence indicates use of fire in North America dates back to the arrival of Native peoples after the end of the last ice age more than ten thousand years ago.

Indigenous fires sustained populations of crucial game species such as white-tailed deer by promoting forest-edge habitat and abundant forage of grasses and shrubby vegetation. Cleared underbrush enhanced visibility for Native hunters and created corridors for driving and flushing game.

Agricultural burns cleared land for planting, replenished nutrients and minerals, maintained soil fertility, and prompted growth of food and medicinal plants such as blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries. Oak trees and chestnut trees, keystone species of eastern forests, benefited from fire management for nut crops. Fires also mitigated effects of diseases and pests and promoted ecological diversity.

Factors such as climate, vegetation, resource availability, and population influenced management practices of various tribes in present New England. Burns were most prevalent in areas with high Native populations, such as fertile coastal lowlands and interior river valleys in southern New England.

Indigenous fires decreased after European settlement due to displacement and population declines caused by diseases and wars.

Present-day ecologists, conservationists, and land managers have debated the extent to which indigenous fires impacted North America's landscape. Studies by researchers at Harvard Forest in Petersham indicate Natives did not burn large areas of New England's forests but instead created patchworks of fields and forests at local village sites. Knowledge of fire history provides important insight for landscape management.

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

pastoral countryside reflects New Braintree's agricultural heritage

by John Burk

A nineteenth-century roadway winds through characteristic New Braintree terrain.
photo courtesy of New Braintree Historical Society

New Braintree's pastoral countryside reflects the town's considerable agricultural heritage. Situated along a plateau between the Ware, Quaboag, and Five Mile River valleys in southwestern Worcester County, the town's 20.9 square-mile landscape comprises glacial drumlins, swamps, meadows, forests, and farmland. Elevations range from less than 700 feet on Ware River to approximately 1,155 feet on Tufts Hill in the eastern part of town. Significant waterways include Ware River, which meanders along the town's northwestern boundary with Hardwick; Winimusset Brook, a north-flowing tributary of Ware River; and Meadow and Sucker brooks in the southern part of town.

Prior to European occupation, Native American groups, including the Nipmuc of Quaboag, used New Braintree's resources seasonally for at least nine thousand years. Sites included Ware River's floodplain, knolls near Winimusset Brook and other streams and brooks. Collectors discovered artifacts near Ware River dating to the Early Archaic period from approximately eight thousand to nine thousand years ago and the Woodland period from about three thousand years ago to the time of European contact with North America.

After the onset of King Philip's War in 1675, a delegation of English colonial representatives led by Captains Thomas Wheeler and Edward Hutchinson traveled to Nipmuc territory in central Massachusetts to negotiate neutrality with sachem Muttawamp. On August 2 during a conflict known as Wheeler's Surprise, Muttawamp's warriors ambushed the expedition at a swamp in present New Braintree. Survivors retreated to the colonial settlement at Foster Hill in present West Brookfield where the Nipmuc subsequently besieged them for three days.

New Braintree's colonial origins began in 1666, when residents of the eastern Massachusetts town of Braintree petitioned the Massachusetts General Court for land grants. In 1715, the court confirmed a six-thousand-acre triangular-shaped parcel, originally known as Braintree Farms, in the northern part of Quaboag Plantation. Settlement began along the Ware River floodplain during the 1730s. New Braintree, comprised of Braintree Farms and former portions of Brookfield and Hardwick, incorporated as a district in 1751 and officially became a town in 1776. Settlers established a meetinghouse, burial ground, and military training field at the present center. Nearly two hundred New Braintree men served during the American Revolution.

During Shays' Rebellion, New Braintree was a rebel outpost and site of a brief but significant conflict. In early 1787, hundreds of disgruntled farmers from Worcester and Middlesex counties gathered in town before joining the army of Daniel Shays in western Massachusetts. A small group, headquartered at a tavern near the church and cemetery, guarded the Shays's supply routes and detained suspected government supporters.

On February 2, state infantry and horsemen from Worcester defeated the insurgents in an early morning battle at the tavern. Loss of the crucial supply point prompted immediate retreat of Shays and his

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colonial communities made provisions

by Charlotte Westhead

Colonial communities provided social welfare for people in need. The Colonial Society of Massachusetts writes:

> The relatively simple and straightforward poor laws of colonial Massachusetts gave way in the eighteenth century to more specific statutes regarding the recipients of poor relief, the powers of town officials under the laws, and the duty of care owed to the poor. Under the Second Charter of Massachusetts in 1692, poor relief laws provided that selectmen, overseers of the poor, and county courts of general sessions of the peace focus on three groups of paupers: the destitute, children, and the able but unemployed. Initially, the provincial poor laws rarely provided for how town officials would care for paupers; the laws usually required only "care" or "effectual care."

British colonial government provided that Massachusetts had a General Court in a day with no 401ks, no pensions, and no social security. Generally, towns had full responsibility for meeting the needs of the poor in their communities.

Then, as now, towns assessed taxes to meet local needs. Towns built and maintained roads, bridges, and schools and took care of the needy. Collecting taxes often proved difficult and time consuming. In New Salem, for example, which had experienced rampant land speculation, investors and absentee landlords often refused to pay taxes on their unimproved land. By grant of the king, designated men including William Caldwell of Barre didn't pay taxes in any realm of the king.

Towns and cities used taxes to pay men for labor in developing roads from pathways. They earned more if they used their own cart or wagon, and if they used their ox or oxen to clear away trees or rocks, they received even more. Bridges required lumber, and men including John Caldwell of Barre supplied planks subject to reimbursement from the town.

Taxes also financed the building and maintenance of schools. At times, schools outnumbered teachers. A teacher might rotate from district school to district school, often requiring the teacher to board with a family in that district. The town paid the teacher's salary plus board. Usually, districts hired male teachers for the winter term. The number of older boys attending school went up in the winter because of less need for farm labor than in the summer. Towns paid male teachers more and paid more for their board than they paid for females.

Parents of children in each school supplied wood for heating the one-room school. In 1792 in Barre, guardians provided for children who could not afford shoes or sufficient clothing.

One way towns tried to prevent further obligations was "warning out." Through the system, uninvited newcomers who looked as if they would become dependent were "warned out." Warning out required a town official to visit the newcomer and warn him or her or the family to move out of town. After a designated amount of time passed for the individual or family to leave town, the town notified them that they would not receive aid from the town.

In 1794, Barre warned out 216 people with no visible means of support. Barry Levy, professor emeritus of history at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, believes the process also protected local business owners by keeping anyone out who might compete with a business already established in the town.

for social welfare

In some circumstances, one town might send an official letter to the town of origin of a needy person. The letter would name the person, state the need, and assess responsibility to that town for people originally from the place. Records from the town of Enfield reveal that towns declined to support someone who left decades before.

Towns purchased food and drink for the needy, according to store ledgers. Barre and Enfield records show that towns provided food and drink and men chopped and carried wood for needy people, a widow had a cow on loan for her children, and that those in need received clothing and shoes. Women cared for ill people and children, described in record books as Indian, Negro, and Colored with everyone not described in those categories considered by historians and demographers as Caucasian.

In Barre, Dr. Asa Walker doctored the sick. The town paid for all of that care plus digging graves and carrying bodies to graves on men's shoulders.

People were "put out to bid." In Athol, according to records, Reverend James Humphrey gave a "servant" once known as Violet and later known as Old Violet to the town to be put out to bid. The man with the lowest bid got the person. The town reimbursed that man. A man took Old Violet for one year and then gave her back to the town. Old Violet died at an advanced age in the town poor house. In Barre two orphan sisters, were "put out" to different families until they were eighteen years old.

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Massimiliano Manai, left, Honda District sales manager, presents a plaque honoring Cycle Design for outstanding service to Jayma Wilkins, Cycle Design general manager; Ryan Blankenship, sales manager; Joe Becker, parts and service manager; and Seishin, back, and Bandit, official dog greeters. The plaque reads "Presented to CYCLE DESIGN in recognition of 30 years of outstanding service as a Honda Powersports Dealer."

remembering Eleanor McGinnis

by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri

Eleanor McGinnis

A lifetime resident of New Salem, Eleanor died in October, 2022. She was a longtime supporter of her church, South Athol Methodist Church, her South Athol community, New Salem Public Library, and New Salem Academy, where she graduated in 1957.

Our daughters were the best of friends. During high school, my daughter Gioia spent as much time with the McGinnis girls as she did at home. She went on many McGinnis camping trips and just hung out at their home in the South Athol section of New Salem.

Eleanor recently became a writer for *UQ*. She described delightful bike rides in the Quabbin Reservoir area and chronicled the life and death of her father-in-law, Leo McGinnis. Her writing put on display her charming sense of humor as she described a ride with her daughter in Quabbin Reservation that ended up with both of them stripping down to their underwear and pushing their bicycles through a swollen stream.

Eleanor was surely the salt of the earth and a woman who was the backbone of her family and her community. We will all miss her.

Retired middle school teacher Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri serves on boards and committees in her hometown New Salem. She edits copy for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

the quabbin

by Scott McMorrow

sacred seminary,
hushed confessional
green-corn full moon goddess

Gentle New England. Wood washes away sin

cleansed lovingly with brushes woven from
the habits of maple and birch.

Warm spring breath whispers

everything we did. All is Forgiven,

Ordained. Defrocked. Saved again.
The dead have all been moved,
buried, exhumed, buried again.
Pink and bruised mackerel skies stand guard over
four locked doors hidden deep in your icy basement.

Formerly a resident of Belchertown, poet Scott McMorrow lives in California.

A moody sky wafts over Quabbin Reservoir from a New Salem vantage point.

photo © by Rick Flematti

region retains remnants of early railroads and memorabilia

continued from page 9

the old railroad grade. Old State Route 21 is partly paved south from Gate 35. A zig-zag walk on the dirt road to the left of the gate reaches the old rail grade. One can hike on the rail bed for some distance alongside the Quabbin reservoir. The observant hiker will spot several stone culverts as well as the former location of the Millington railroad station.

After some distance, the roadbed disappears beneath Quabbin waters. When active, Rabbit Run served the towns of Dana, Greenwich, and Enfield. The abandoned grade reappears just south of Winsor Dam and stretches through Ware and Belchertown. From Route 9, east of Belchertown, one may drive south on River Road and then along Bondsville Road. The keen eye can spot the Athol and Enfield Railroad grade on its one-time route toward Bondsville, a village in Palmer, and ultimately to its terminus in Springfield.

South Athol Station bustles in a postcard from the early twentieth century.

Rail enthusiast, historian,and retired UMass-Amherst research technician Christopher Coyle lives in Athol.

cornhole enthusiasts find nearby games and

by Amber Robidoux

Gymnasiums host cornhole competitions where players attempt to throw regulation bags measuring six by six inches into regulation holes on a regulation board from a distance of twenty-seven feet, according to the American Cornhole Association, which establishes regulations for tournaments.

photo from the collection of Amber Robidoux

While Massachusetts cornhole competition concentrates within the Route 495 ring, the game finds enthusiasts in Quabbin region indoor venues and backyards. The Orange Cornhole League Facebook page informs oldies and newbies about tournaments within reasonable traveling distance, and South Quabbin players find reliably scheduled games in nearby Easthampton.

The game of cornhole apparently originated in Germany in the 1300s when a cabinet maker watched children throw rocks into a dug hole and invented a similar but less dangerous activity that involved throwing grain-stuffed bags instead of rocks.

In the Quabbin region, cornhole players toss grain-filled bags onto slanted boards with a hole at the end, perhaps at a neighbor's BBQ or in organized competition at a social club.

The game of cornhole has provided fun and entertainment for years, but lately the sport has gone pro, even appearing on ESPN. The developments mean a new approach to the game and an increase in money expended on new bags, boards, and travel to tournaments.

Industry growth aside, the heart of the sport impacts communities. Cornhole, while a silly name, provides considerable competitive appeal with its double-sided bags with a fast side and slow side, the effect of humidity and weather conditions, and how the slanted board affects play. Add stance, throw, and strategy of working around bags already placed, and the game involves many details.

Some players relish competition while others don't take the game too seriously. Regardless, gatherings for cornhole provide an opportunity to meet with friends and make new friends in a welcoming environment.

The sport fosters tournaments and creates an avenue for raising money for local causes. A recent tournament in Orange benefited an individual with cancer. Some hundred players and spectators joined the group that raised money while people had fun and built community.

With no age minimums or limits, intergenerational cornhole gatherings bring together eight-year-olds and senior citizens. Regardless of the level of play, accessibility also marks the game. The game includes

tournaments as activity grows in popularity

players without limbs and those with a variety of disabilities if they have the desire to play.

While players often gather outdoors in seasonable weather, players also find indoor spaces for the game. Clubs and veterans' organizations often host cornhole games. The Orange Cornhole League meets Tuesday evenings according to rotating locations and times.

Locales for cornhole tournaments and events:

Stone Cow Brewery, Barre
Lamb City Campground, Phillipston
Pine Acres Family Campground, Oakham
Milk Room Brewing Company and Lilac Hedge Farm, Rutland

A number of online sites provide rules for play and regulations for cornhole equipment. Among organizations with websites and rules: American Cornhole Organization, Play Cornhole, and USA Cornhole with its vision that the game will become an Olympic sport.

In warm weather, cornhole games and tournaments often take place at outdoor venues.

National Novel Writing Month—NaNoWriMo—finisher and freelance writer Amber Robidoux of Orange attended the Institute of Children's Literature in Madison, Connecticut. Find her at douxwild.com.

Regulation six-by-six-inch cornhole bags have a variety of colors. From fifteen to sixteen ounces of kernel corn fill each bag.

photo from the collection of Amber Robidoux

A dusting of snow shows off the white buildings of Hardwick Center.

drone photo © by Rick Flematti

competitive swimming involves area club teams,

text and photos by Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

Living in New England during winter is not for the faint of heart, and on those freezing cold mornings, the last thing most people think about is a day by the pool–unless perhaps somewhere tropical with an umbrella drink in hand. Swim season for many young athletes in the Quabbin area peaks, however, in January.

Taking first place while swimming the hundred-yard butterfly stroke in inter-team competition at Athol Area YMCA, Ella Reeves, 13, of Athol finishes in 1:18.73.

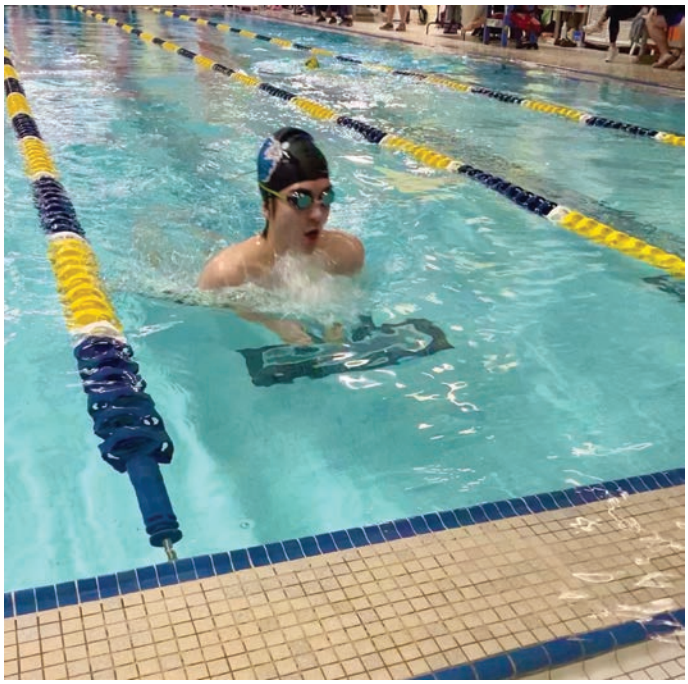
Some contend that swimming is not a real sport when, in fact, swimming uses more muscles at one time than playing baseball or football and requires outstanding lung capacity to compete and train while controlling one's breath. The average high school swimmer takes a million strokes per year and cares just as much about individual times and scoring points for their team as any traditional ball player.

Judges record swimming times as minutes followed by a colon followed by seconds followed by a colon followed by hundredths of a second. Therefore, a time of 1:18.73 designates one minute, eighteen seconds and seventy-three hundredths of a second.

Swimming consists of four recognized strokes: freestyle or front crawl, butterfly, backstroke, and breaststroke with an individual medley of the four combined. While freestyle is the fastest and most efficient, an athlete skilled in butterfly can come in a close second. Extremely fast and powerful when done right, butterfly is the most difficult for most to learn and requires the most energy, making it rather tiresome to some swimmers. Breaststroke is the slowest stroke.

Like any sport, swimming has specific rules and techniques or a swimmer will be disqualified in a meet. The rare swimmer has never made a mistake culminating in a yellow slip delivered to their coach from officials. Learning discipline along the journey, however, as well as taking part in a form of exercise that can be enjoyed at any age, adds to the appeal of swimming. Learning

school teams, and regional tournaments and events



Max Kimball, left, 14, of Orange competes in the hundred-yard breast stroke while Bella Burnett, 11, of Athol takes the turn from breaststroke to freestyle during competition in the hundred-yard individual medley.

stroke mechanics teaches useful skills that last into older years when many of life's daily discomforts make other fitness choices challenging.

While some swimmers do not start on their competitive journey until high school, many swimmers start very young in school, YMCA, or other athletic center programs. The Quabbin area age group teams include those at Athol Area YMCA, Montague Bluefish, Amherst Tritons, and the Clark YMCA Sharks in Winchendon, each of them serving Quabbin region communities. The programs offer swimmers the chance to compete against peers in their age class. Traditionally recognized age classes include ages eight and under, nine and ten, eleven and twelve, thirteen and fourteen, and fifteen and over. Some teams will compete in a particular league or choose local dual meets as well as larger invitationals. Others compete in the larger USA swimming program.

A great feature of swimming locally is that swimmers can usually find a team that matches goals of parents and young athletes as well as a competition range that meets a family's needs.

Indoor pools in community buildings predominate for swimming competition and draw swimmers from diverse backgrounds. Friendships formed as young swimmers in groups distinct from swimmers' school groups become lifelong relationships.

Many Quabbin region high schools have swim teams. Without a pool on the premises, teams travel to practice at off-campus locations. The area has also facilitated coop programs where swimmers who do not attend a high school can compete for a high school with a swim team. One such example is the Gardner High School Swim Team, with dedicated swimmers rushing from high school practice to the YMCA in order to get in another practice with that group of teammates.

Places outside of New England more often have high schools with pools, but in our area, many teams besides Gardner High coop program compete at the varsity level. Quabbin region residents can find varsity swimming programs at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Belchertown High School, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer, Turners Falls High School, and Wachusett Regional High School in Holden.

While some programs have tryouts, others do not and will accept swimmers of all abilities, giving them the opportunity to grow and improve their skills. Meets may

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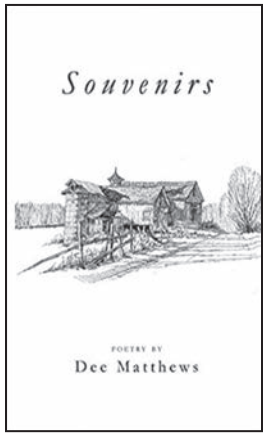
variety characterizes poetry produced by

by Diane Kane

Dee Matthews of North Brookfield • Sharon A. Harmon of Royalston

Brian Fournier of Orange • Joshua Michael Stewart of Ware



Dee Matthews presents her poetry in the chapbook *Souvenirs*.

Poet Dee Matthews's heart and soul reside in the Brookfields.

"I was raised on a small farm in North Brookfield with six siblings and only one bathroom. Many of life's lessons were learned the hard way right there on the farm," Matthews said.

After graduating from Springfield College, Matthews began a forty-one-year career teaching physical education, most recently for twenty-four years at Overlook Middle School in Ashburnham. She has since retired and revisits an old passion.

"My love of poetry began in high school when I read 'The Raven' by Edgar Allen Poe. I was smitten," Matthews explained. "My love and respect for nature come from my family's Native American Mohawk heritage."

Matthews always enjoyed writing but never pursued publishing. Then in 2005, she decided to take a leap out of her comfort zone.

"I thought no one would be interested in reading what I wrote," Matthews said. "But I attended a workshop on the art of the personal essay. It was very

Poetry has a rhythm. Like a heartbeat, it feeds the body and nurtures the soul.

intimidating sitting in a room surrounded by strangers, sharing my work. Then in fall of 2010, "Late September Sunday," my first poem, was published."

Based on her farm life, Matthews's first chapbook, *Souvenirs* published by Finishing Line Press 2016, was selected as a finalist in the Kentucky New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition. In 2020, Matthews wrote and self-published *Wendemuth Meadow Haiku*.

"Our farm was adjacent to the Wendemuth farm. The property was lovingly maintained by brothers Herman, Bert, and Fred, all bachelors. Their sister Julia took care of the household," Matthews explained. "I wrote *Wendemuth Meadow Haiku* in honor of my friend and fellow East Quabbin Land Trust volunteer, Harrison 'Archie' Achilles, to recognize his effort and determination in restoring the property to its original glory."

All the work that goes into publishing took Matthews by surprise.

"At first, I wanted to draw my own sketches for each haiku. However, I soon learned that I am not an artist. So I decided to use Shutterstock, where I found wonderful pictures."

Next, Matthews hopes to write a memoir about her childhood on her Brookfield family farm.

One of Sharon Harmon's books is *Wishbone in a Lightning Jar.*

Poet Sharon A. Harmon had a childhood with a range of experiences. Teacher support encouraged her to write her stories.

"I'm originally from Worcester, then spent five years of my childhood in California, and now reside in Royalston. At Shrewsbury High School, I had an amazing English teacher, Donald T. Nicholson, who inspired my love of poetry by reading and acting out *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

"Then another teacher, John Tsombakos, asked me to submit poetry and a short story to *Best of the Seniors Writings*. When they were published, I was thrilled. He planted the seed."

Harmon's nature poems stem from her love of the Quabbin area where she lives. At the same time, her vast life experiences ring true in her poems about multilayered relationships and profound places.

"Some are made up, and some are from my life. I enjoy imagery, alliteration, and free verse. Sometimes I write poetry as a therapeutic way to sort things out," Harmon explained. "I'm fortunate to be part of a supportive writers group. I don't publish much online because I'd rather see my poems in a book. I am old school, I guess."

Harmon has published almost three hundred poems and was named 2015 Poet Laureate of Royalston.

"I've published three chapbooks of poetry, including *Native Tongue,* a little hand-published thing my husband helped put together in 1993. Then came *Swimming with Cats,* published by Autumn Light Press in 2008 and *Wishbone in a Lightening Jar* published by Flutter Press in 2017."

Encouraging other writers and poets is a passion for Harmon. "My best advice is to read lots of different types of poetry and attend classes if you can. Also, get feedback from other poets and always be open to doing revisions."

Always wth a writing project, Harmon is at work on a new chapbook, *Trailer Park Children*. "In between, I write flash fiction, magazine articles, and children's books."

Look for Sharon A. Harmon on the Spoken Word stage at the annual Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange and local venues.

sharonannharmon.weebly.com.

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from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin poets

compiled by Diane Kane

His Excellence

by Dee Matthews

I want him to come
to the seed
so lovingly tossed
below the feeder
of the others.
His red, red vestment
testifies his place
upon the throne;
pope, bishop, cardinal

previously published in the *Avocet*

Dee Matthews writes about her childhood on a small farm in North Brookfield. Her poems are published in *Avocet, a Journal of Nature Poetry, Cider Press Review,* and the *Worcester Review*. In addition, she has achieved numerous poetry awards and is a member of Worcester County Poetry Association.

Star Fixation

by Sharon A. Harmon

I walk out into the
"it's-so-cold-it-almost-hurts-
to-breathe" winter night,
then gaze up through
the lacy pattern of tree
limbs, where stars appear
to be hanging
jewels for my pleasure.
I reach my hand high and
snatch them from the sky,
clutching them tightly
like shards of shimmering glass,
crushing them into ecstasy
until they turn into
pools of tears in my palm.
Then the luminescent moon
lays my lonely shadow down
onto the frost-covered ground.

previously published in 2008 by Autumn Light Press in *Swimming with Cats*

Sharon A. Harmon is an internationally published writer and award-winning poet. Her work appears in *Worcester Magazine, Patterson Literary Review,* and *Writing the Land Northeast*, among others. She lives in her magical woodland home in Royalston.

For Winter Blues

by Brian Fournier

Winter brings the blues.
Winter blues. Pale blue days
as skies ask for any color but gray
and water seeks a way of healing ice.
So call the wild thing inside yourself
and hunt down Nature for advice.
Tell her you've come to play in days
not meant for tea and sympathy
but for snow, ice, and chilling cold.
Make it something more to be a
New Englander. Face the day knowing
our true fire comes from the heart.
It beats its song on rosy cheeks.

Poet/Artist Brian Fournier was born in Gardner and spent his early years in Athol. His award-winning poetry and art have been published in periodicals and anthologies, including Art in the Park. He lives in Orange with his wife, Marlene.

January Praise

by Joshua Michael Stewart

Grateful I wasn't the one my mother miscarried.
Grateful for being blind in only one eye,
for having all my fingers (a homemade explosive
never having gone off in my hands).
Grateful for coffee soaked into my mustache,
for slow breaths and refrigerator hums,
for the smell of old books, the sound
of the turning page, for the field recordings
of Alan Lomax, for blue notes and metal slides
across guitar strings. Grateful for presidential
term limits, for the goodness that lives
within most people, even when goodness
won't venture from its wounded cave.
Grateful for Basho and his leaping frog,
for turkey tracks in the snow, for conversations
with people who look nothing like me.

Joshua Michael Stewart has published poems in the *Massachusetts Review, Louisville Review, Rattle, Night Train, Evansville Review, Cold Mountain Review.* He lives in Ware and works as teacher/counselor with individuals with special needs.

for the past seven years and counting

Uniquely Quabbin *has had you covered!*

The January-April 2023 edition of *Uniquely Quabbin Magazine* wraps up seven years of coverage of Quabbin Reservoir legacy and its surrounding towns. Everyone involved looks forward to preparing future issues. Magazine covers to date have resulted from the art or photography of David Brothers, the late Barbara Ellis, Rick Flematti and Mitchell R. Grosky of Athol; Dale Monette.of New Salem; Susan Marshall of Orange; Gillian Haven of Pelham; Candace Anderson and John Burk of Petersham; and Elizabeth Callahan of Rutland.

Winter Wetland II

a visual haiku by Ami Fagin

From any direction along the roadscapes of the Quabbin region, drivers and hikers and walkers observe delightful wetland landscapes with abundances of cattails, white pine, spruce, and assorted deciduous species.

In winter, wetland woods appear especially lovely as ice forms about cattail stalks and tree trunks, turning them into undulating patterns.

The visual haiku "Winter Wetland II" celebrates essential geometry of winter color and shape that Quabbin wetland woods creates.

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

QUABBIN CURRENTS

Howe's Genuine Almanac served Swift River Valley in 1800s

by J. R. Greene

Almanacs played an important role in early American life. In many rural homes, the only other printed item would be a bible. An almanac would include a calendar with phases of the moon and other astronomical calculations useful to farmers. They often included dates of district court sittings by state.

A father and son duo, Solomon (1750-1845) and John (1783-1845) Howe, ran the only print shop in the Swift River Valley in the early 1800's. Solomon, an occasional Baptist preacher in the southern parish of Greenwich, later Enfield, purchased the press around 1800, when his son John "learned the art of printing." The press produced broadsides, pamphlets, and books, mostly of the inspirational variety.

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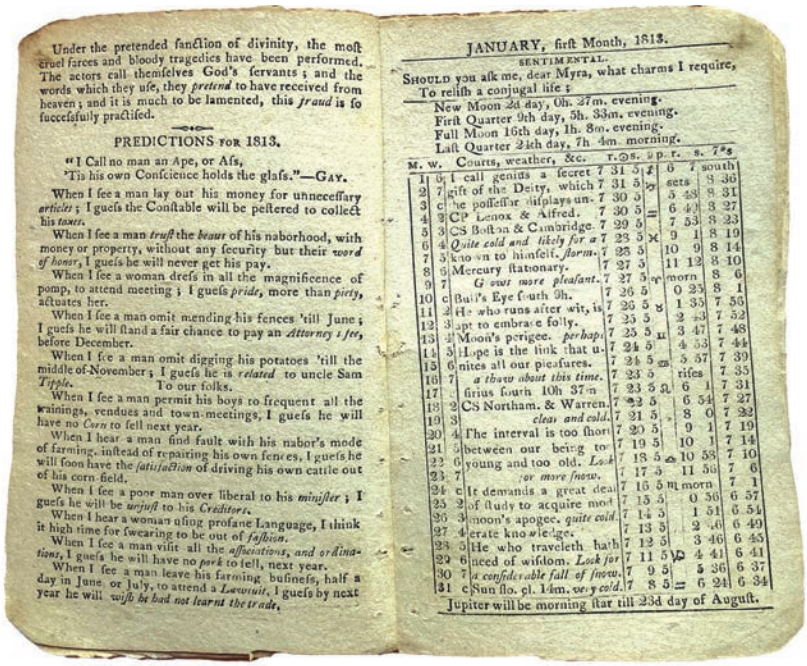


Under the pretended sanction of divinity, the most cruel farces and bloody tragedies have been performed. The actors call themselves God's servants; and the words which they use, they *pretend* to have received from heaven; and it is much to be lamented, this *fraud* is so successfully practised.

PREDICTIONS FOR 1813.

"I Call no man an Ape, or Afs,
'Tis his own Conficience holds the glafs."—GAY.

When I fee a man lay out his money for unneceffary *articles*; I guefs the Conftable will be peftered to collect his *taxes*.

When I fee a man *truft* the *bearer* of his naborhood, with money or property, without any fecurity but their *word of honor*, I guefs he will never get his pay.

When I fee a woman drefs in all the magnificence of pomp, to attend meeting; I guefs *pride*, more than *piety*, actuates her.

When I fee a man omit mending his fences 'till June; I guefs he will ftand a fair chance to pay an *Attorney's fee*, before December.

When I fee a man omit digging his potatoes 'till the middle of November; I guefs he is *related* to uncle Sam *Tipple*. To our folks.

When I fee a man permit his boys to frequent all the trainings, vendues and town-meetings, I guefs he will have no *Corn* to fell next year.

When I hear a man find fault with his nabor's mode of farming, inftead of repairing his own fences, I guefs he will foon have the *fatisfaction* of driving his own cattle out of his corn-field.

When I fee a poor man over liberal to his *miniſter*; I guefs he will be *unjuſt* to his *Creditors*.

When I hear a woman ufing profane Language, I think it high time for fwearing to be out of *faſhion*.

When I fee a man vifit all the *aſſociations, and ordinations*, I guefs he will have no *pork* to fell, next year.

When I fee a man leave his farming buſineſs, half a day in June or July, to attend a *Lawſuit*, I guefs by next year he will *wiſh he had not learnt the trade*.

JANUARY, firſt Month, 1813.

SENTIMENTAL.

SHOULD you aſk me, dear Myra, what charms I require,
To reliſh a conjugal life;

New Moon 2d day, 0h. 27m. evening.
Firſt Quarter 9th day, 5h. 33m. evening.
Full Moon 16th day, 1h. 8m. evening.
Laſt Quarter 24th day, 7h 4m. morning.

M.	w.	Courts, weather, &c.	r. ☉ s.	☽ p. r.	s. 7ms
1	6	I call genius a ſecret	7 31 5	♑ 6 7	south
2	7	gift of the Deity, which	7 31 5	♑ sets	3 36
3	1	he poſſeſſor diſplays un-	7 30 5	♒ 5 48	3 31
4	2	CP Lenox & Alfred.	7 30 5	= 6 42	3 27
5	3	CS Boſton & Cambridge.	7 29 5	= 7 53	3 23
6	4	*Quite cold and likely for a*	7 28 5	♓ 9 1	3 19
7	5	known to himſelf. *ſtorm.*	7 28 5	♓ 10 9	3 14
8	6	Mercury ſtationary.	7 27 5	♓ 11 12	3 10
9	7	*Grows more pleaſant.*	7 27 5	♈ morn	3 6
10	1	Bull's Eye ſouth 9h.	7 26 5	♈ 0 23	3 1
11	2	He who runs after wit, is	7 26 5	♉ 1 35	7 56
12	3	apt to embrace folly.	7 25 5	♉ 2 43	7 52
13	4	Moon's perigee. *perhaps*	7 24 5	♊ 3 47	7 48
14	5	Hope is the link that u-	7 24 5	♊ 4 53	7 44
15	6	nites all our pleaſures.	7 23 5	♋ 5 57	7 39
16	7	*a thaw about this time.*	7 23 5	♋ rifes	7 35
17	1	ſirius ſouth 10h 37m	7 22 5	♌ 6 1	7 31
18	2	CS Northam. & Warren.	7 22 5	♌ 6 54	7 27
19	3	*clear and cold.*	7 21 5	♌ 8 0	7 22
20	4	The interval is too ſhort	7 20 5	♍ 9 1	7 19
21	5	between our being to	7 19 5	♍ 10 1	7 14
22	6	young and too old. *Look*	7 18 5	♎ 10 58	7 10
23	7	*for more ſnow.*	7 17 5	♎ 11 50	7 6
24	1	It demands a great deal	7 16 5	♏ morn	7 1
25	2	of ſtudy to acquire moſt	7 15 5	♏ 0 56	6 57
26	3	moon's apogee. *quite cold*	7 14 5	♐ 1 51	6 54
27	4	erate knowledge.	7 13 5	♐ 2 46	6 49
28	5	He who traveleth hath	7 12 5	♐ 3 46	6 45
29	6	need of wiſdom. *Look for*	7 11 5	♑ 4 41	6 41
30	7	*a conſiderable fall of ſnow.*	7 9 5	♑ 5 36	6 37
31	1	Sun ſto. ☌. 14m. *very cold.*	7 8 5	= 6 24	6 34

Jupiter will be morning ſtar till 23d day of Auguſt.

Pages from *Howe's Genuine Almanac for 1813* offer predictions for the year. almanac from the collection of J. R. Greene

green ground cedars and club mosses adorn

continued from page 7

Blue ground cedar, *Diphasiastrum tristachyum*, is similar to Southern Ground Cedar with an underground stem. It grows in sunny locations.

Wolf's Claw club moss
Lycopodium clavatum

Less common than others, Wolf's Claw club moss growth does not have tree-like growth. Colonies connect by an above-ground stem with sparingly spaced long roots. Primary branches divide into three or four more branches. Each branch has leaves that create a rounded appearance. The end of each leaf has a soft hair-like tip. Each spore-forming branch in the candelabra has its own stem. A similar club moss, *Lycopodium lagopus*, has just one spore-producing branch per plant which gives it its common name, one-cone club moss.

Shining fir moss grows in colonies connected by underground stems. Their upright stems have shorter shiny leaves nearer the ground with longer leaves near the top. The species does not make spores in a candelabra. The spores form in yellow, kidney-shaped capsules between leaves. Shining fir moss species can also grow plantlets near the top of a branch. When the plantlets fall to the ground, a new colony can form. Bristly club moss, *Spinulum annotinum*, is similar but with an annual

Shining fir moss
Huperzia lucidula
(with spore capsules, bottom)

wintertime landscapes

set of shorter leaves and a single spore-producing cone Foxtail club moss appears on the list of endangered species in Massachusetts. A key feature of the Foxtail club moss is the bushy appearance of its stem and large tail-like spore-producing cone. Foxtail club moss grows in sandy wet habitats, dies back in winter, and is unlikely to be found in the Quabbin area. If you see a colony, take a picture, note its location, and report your find to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mass Wildlife, at mass.gov/nhesp.

Foxtail club moss
Lycopodiella alopecuroides
photo © by Alan Cressler

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

Ice glazes red berries near Quabbin Reservoir.
photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

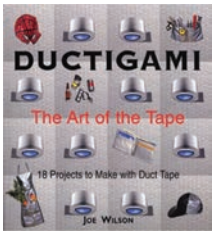
Erving, Leverett library staffs offer crafts ideas, news of fiction books related to crafts

compiled by Carla Charter

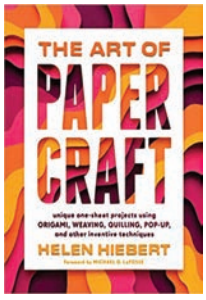
When the wind blows cold outside, what better time to settle in with a good book or craft project? Library professionals from Erving Public Library and Leverett Public Library offer their recommendations for reading about wintertime craft projects.

Jean Daley, assistant director in Erving, recommends several good adult nonfiction reads about crafts.

***Teeny Tiny Mochimochi* by Anna Hrachovec** offers easy instructions on how to make tiny, knitted gifts for any occasion, said Daley. "Tiny is the new huge," writes Hrachovec.



In ***Ductigami, The Art of The Tape,* author Joe Wilson** presents a craft book with a humorous side where readers can learn how to make a wallet, an apron, or even a baseball cap from duct tape.



***The Art of Papercraft* by Helen Hiebert** presents one-sheet projects, using origami, weaving, quilling, and pop-up techniques. The book provides instructions for paper lanterns, a kite, books, decorations, and more.

Daley also refers adult readers to a fiction book that relates to crafts.

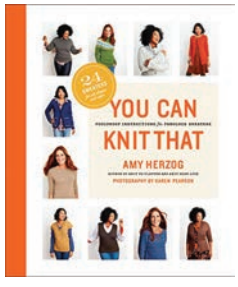
***Devonshire Scream* by Laura Childs** offers a mystery with recipes and teatime tips. Catering a trunk show at Heart's Desire Jewelry is a shining achievement for Theodosia and the Indigo Tea Shop. After all, a slew of jewelers, museum curators, and private collectors will be there to sip some of Theo's best blends.

Unfortunately, the party is crashed by a gang of masked muggers who steal the precious gems on display, and then disappear almost as quickly as they arrived--leaving a dead body in their wake.

Director Hannah Paessel of Leverett Public Library recommends ***Knitting the National Parks: Sixty-three easy-to-follow designs for beautiful beanies inspired by the US National* Parks by Nancy Bates.** The book includes directions for quick hat projects each inspired by the National Parks. Full of photographs, Paessel said knitters who love the outdoors will also love the book.

***The Beginner's Guide to Wheel Throwing: A Complete Course for the Potter's Wheel* by Julia Claire Weber** also finds a place on Paessel's list of recommendations. The book includes a list of tools, an introduction to various techniques, and basic throwing forms including a bowl, plate, and mug. Full of explanatory photographs, the book gives a beginner a good idea of how to start throwing.

***The Creative Family: How to Encourage Imagination and Nurture Family Connections* by Amanda Blake Soule** is full of ideas for spending time creating and playing with a young family, Paessel said. It includes topics like clothing reconstruction, making toys from natural materials, weaving a story, encouraging children with cameras, and embroidering with children.



***You Can Knit That: Foolproof Instructions for Fabulous Sweaters* by Amy Herzog** offers directions for twenty-four sweaters designed to flatter all shapes and sizes, Paessel said. Each entry includes directions, a color photo, and applicable diagrams. Herzog provides a simple guide for knitters of all shapes, sizes, and skill levels that shows how to make a variety of sweaters.

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

recommendations from Erving and Leverett libraries

books of activities, crafts for young readers

compiled by Carla Charter

For young readers, Andrea Deluliis, Erving youth services librarian, suggests ***Epic Lego Adventures*, part of a series by Sarah Dees**. Unlike other Lego building books, says Deluliis, the Dees series provides child-friendly directions that focus on common Lego bricks many families probably already own. Building ideas include step-by-step directions for making aliens, dinosaurs, mutant bugs, and more.

***The Fairy House Handbook* by Liza Gardner Walsh,** herself a children's librarian, coffers advice on how to build the most welcoming fairy house and "fairy dos and don'ts" everyone should follow, Deluliis said.

***Super Simple Pressed Flower Projects* by Kelly Doudna** suggests a way to use flowers left over from making a fairy house, Deluliis said. The book gives directions for a flower or tree-leaf press to make bookmarks, jewelry, lampshades, light switches, and more.

From Leverett's Paessel come recommendations for young readers interested in crafts, including ***Stitch Camp: Eighteen Crafty Projects for Kids and Tweens* by Nicole Blum and Catherine Newman** has directions for sewing a buttonhole, running stitch, or whipstitch and then making a project by following easy directions. Possibilities include felt arm warmers, scout badges, or art pillows. The eighteen projects cover categories including knitting, crochet, and weaving. Helpful photographs support young readers as they embark on a project.

Leverett author **Jennifer Rosner creates the picture book *The Mitten String*** telling the fictional story of a girl's experience helping to shear, card, spin, dye, and knit wool to make mittens. One day, she meets a deaf woman and her child. The girl decides to knit the baby a tiny mitten with a long string so the mother can feel when her baby needs her.

In *The Wooly Adventures of Purl,* author Donna Mae presents a fun picture book that follows Purl, an African American girl, who receives a knitting kit and a pet lamb for presents on her sixth birthday. What will she decide to make and will she have enough wool?

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

libraries throughout region offer

Athol

Athol Public Library
Craft Supplies Swap
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, February 4
(Saturday, February 11
if inclement weather)

Story Time with Craft
10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays
monthly craft kits available in library children's room and teen space at the library

Barre

Woods Memorial Public Library
Craft Circle
6:30 p.m. first Thursday of every month

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Saturdays

Belchertown

Clapp Memorial Library
Drop-in Fiber Art Group
5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays

Story Time with Craft
register at the library's website, clapplibrary.org

East Brookfield

East Brookfield Public Library
Adult Knitting Club
12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursdays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Thursdays

craft project available in the children's room every Monday until gone

crafting information compiled by

Carla Charter

Erving

Erving Public Library
Erving Public Library has a dedicated Makerspace room with monthly craft activities and events. Open during regular library hours, the room is dedicated to science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) explorations. Individuals and families may use the space. Patrons 10 years old and under must be supervised by an adult while in the Makerspace.

Hardwick

Paige Memorial Library
Children's Knitting Group
9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Saturdays

Adult Knitting Group
11 to 1 Saturdays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

crafting classes, story times, supplies

Hubbardston

Hubbardston Public Library
Not Just Knitting Group
4:30 to 6:30 p.m. every other Tuesday
from November 29, 2022

Leverett

Leverett Public Library
Curiosity Craft Kits for teens and adults are available to check out at the library.

Story Time with Craft
more information at leverettlibrary.org

New Braintree

New Braintree Public Library
Story Time with Craft
9:30 a.m. February 6 and 20
And March 6 and 20

North Brookfield

Haston Free Public Library
Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Tuesdays

Oakham

Fobes Memorial Library
Story Time with Craft
Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.
Take-home crafts available for children and teens in the children's room and for adults in the adult section.

Orange

Wheeler Memorial Library
Knitting and Crocheting Group
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesdays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays

Petersham

Petersham Memorial Library
Monthly take-home craft project in the children's department

Pelham

Pelham Public Library
Drop in Knitting and Crocheting
6 p.m. Mondays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Fridays
Phillipston

Royalston

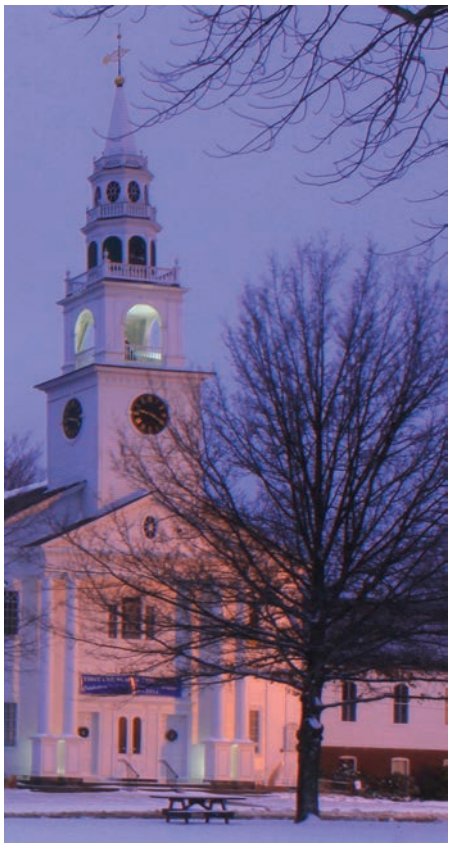
Phineas Newton Library
Story Time with Craft
2 p.m. Mondays

Pottery class for adults and young adults ages 15 and up
2 p.m. February 19

alphabetical listings of libraries by town
continued on page 49

industry, agriculture, recreational sites developed in Templeton

continued from page 16



First Church of Templeton overlooks the historic common.

photo © by John Burk

Templeton Center, the town's original colonial settlement, features a well-preserved common atop the central plateau. Early landmarks included churches, a tinware shop owned by Worcester Polytechnic Institute founder John Boynton, and Templeton Hotel, which burned in 1888. Templeton Inn, an elaborate resort with a hundred rooms, opened in 1900 on the former hotel site, now occupied by a fire station. A historic district encompasses nineteen-century buildings such as the 1811 First Church, Boynton Library, Narragansett Historical Society, and Colonel Artemis Lee's residence, subsequent home of Templeton Country Store and other businesses.

Nineteenth-century industrial development prompted growth in Baldwinville, Otter River, and East Templeton villages. Chair, furniture, and woodenware production led the industry of Templeton, Gardner, and adjacent northern Worcester County towns. Local farms provided timber for chair shops and woodworkers. Templeton was an important center of tanneries, which processed leather for boot and shoe makers. Irish, French Canadian, Polish, German, and Russian Finn immigrants worked in the mills.

Baldwinville, named for eighteenth-century industrialist Jonathan Baldwin, became Templeton's primary commercial and residential center because of location on two railroad lines and a turnpike to southern New Hampshire. Diverse businesses such as chair and furniture factories, paper and box companies, toymakers, blacksmiths, a horseshoe and carriage shop, and the Narragansett House hotel lined Otter River and adjacent streets. Industrial and residential expansion continued through the late nineteenth century.

Otter River village, roughly one mile east of Baldwinville, developed after a woolen mill opened in 1823. Other businesses included a stove and kitchenware foundry, brickyard, blanket factory, and Otter River Hotel, which closed in 1954. Seaman Paper Company, award-winning maker of decorative tissue, packing paper, and bags, acquired the former woolen mill in 1946.

East Templeton's factories produced chairs, furniture, scythes, tubs, pails, toys, children's pedal cars, and strollers. Tucker's Tavern was a well-known stop along a turnpike from Brattleboro to Boston. Historic landmarks include a former Methodist church, schoolhouse, general store, and two octagon-shaped houses.

Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, built along Otter River in 1847, increased growth of Baldwinville and Otter River villages. Ware River Railroad, established in 1873, provided north-south connections to Winchendon and Palmer. A recreational trail follows the former Ware River Railroad corridor along Burnshirt River and Trout Brook. Templeton Street Railway, part of a trolley route from Athol to Gardner, included branches to East Templeton and Baldwinville.

A state-run facility for developmentally disabled people, Templeton Developmental Center, began in 1899 through purchases of farmsteads. Recognized for innovative practices, it engaged patients through agriculture. On Norcross and Eliot hills, most of the campus closed in 2015.

Templeton's industries declined during the early twentieth century, especially after the Great Depression. The 1938 New England Hurricane blew down church spires and trees on the common, destroyed factories, and washed out homes and bridges in Otter River, East Templeton, and Baldwinville. Construction of Birch Hill Dam prompted removal of homes in Baldwinville's lower section.

Narragansett Historical Society, located at 1 Boynton Street on the common, offers events and exhibits, including a scale model of Templeton Inn. See narragansetthistoricalsociety.org or their Facebook page.

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

productive grazing land, dairy, and beef mark New Braintree

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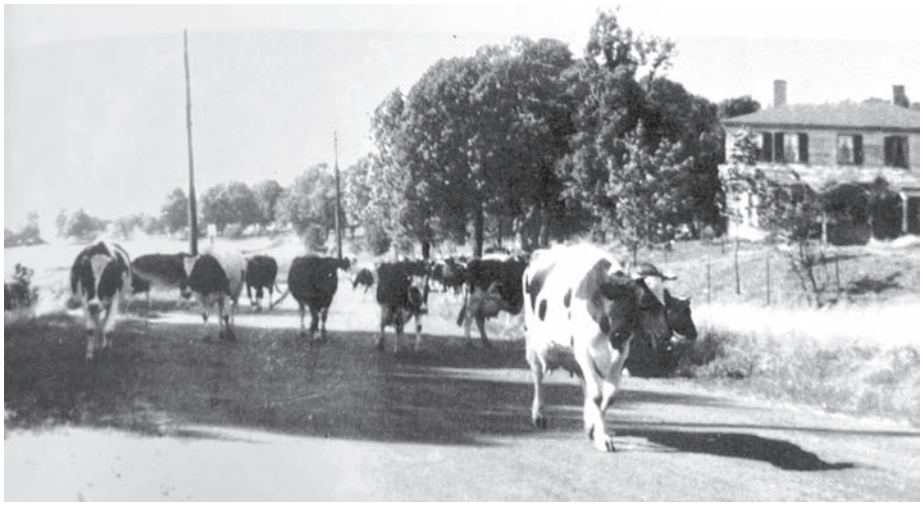
followers from Pelham to Petersham, where the rebellion ended after a decisive defeat by government militia. A historical marker on Oakham Road commemorates the New Braintree battle.

Renowned for abundant productive grazing land and dairy and beef production, New Braintree rapidly developed into a prosperous agricultural community by the late eighteenth century. Farmers exported cheese, butter, and other dairy products to Boston and other markets. New Braintree Cheese Manufacturing Company, a central production factory that used milk produced by local farmers, opened in 1865. After a fire in 1880, the facility briefly served as a creamery before closing in 1888.

Other New Braintree commodities included beef, sheep, flaxseed, potatoes, pork, hay, poultry, and ice. Milk became the town's primary dairy product in the late nineteenth century. A well-known stock farm on Muster Hill, present site of the Massachusetts State Police Academy, raised race horses and cattle. Mixed and non-dairy farms declined after the late nineteenth century.



Cattle have the run of nineteenth-century West Road near the site of today's Massachusetts State Police Academy.

photo courtesy of New Braintree Historical Society

Although manufacturing comprised a relatively minor component of New Braintree's historic economy, a variety of small industries operated throughout town. Corn mills, sawmills, and malt mills established on Sucker and Meadow brooks during the mid and late 1700s. Nineteenth-century businesses included a cotton mill, blacksmiths, tanneries, a carriage and wagon shop, and shoe and palm-leaf hat makers. Iron rich soils along Winimusset Brook yielded bog ore utilized by furnaces in Hardwick.

Boston and Maine Railroad's Central Massachusetts branch, which paralleled Ware River, included a depot and ice house for farm products at the intersection of West Road and Hardwick Road. East Quabbin Land Trust maintains a rail trail with a parking area at the former depot site.

New Braintree Historical Society, located in the 1939 Grade School building on 10 Utley Road, offers exhibits, events, and meetings open to the public. See newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org or call 508-867-8608.

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

Stone walls and fences designated farm boundaries in nineteenth-century New Braintree.

photo courtesy of New Braintree Historical Society

Uniquely Quabbin thanks Diane Kane and Susie Muliken for help locating historic photos of New Braintree and identifying sites in them.

nineteenth-century resorts in Oakham, Athol, and Northampton drew visitors from across New England and the nation

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babbling brook are in close proximity to the establishment. And yet we have the privilege of being near the post office, the churches, and the shops of the place. Our situation is cool and airy. During the almost unprecedented part of last summer, our thermometer rose only to ninety-two degrees and the previous summer to only eighty-six degrees. We are confident that for the combined advantages, which are conducive to health, this institution cannot be surpassed by any in the country."

Considered by some a forerunner of modern medicine, the water cure treatment for ailments began in Germany in the nineteenth century and became popular throughout Europe. Soon the treatment came to America. David Ruggles, an abolitionist from New York, settled in Florence, a village of Northampton and began the first successful water cure practice in the United States.

Goldsheider explained,

> The water cure was not what you would think of as a spa. The experience was arduous and you got worse before you got better. The water cure was meant to precipitate a crisis. It involved a lot of cold water and different temperatures of water including a sitz bath and showers. After the water treatment was administered, the patients would be wrapped in linen cloths to draw the illness out of them. It would go on for days and weeks while simultaneously patients drank a lot of water."

Among those who received the water cure at the Northampton practice were Sojourner Truth, who claimed it had cured rheumatoid arthritis she had had for years, and William Lloyd Garrison. The practice was full and he had a waiting list.

Ruggles, first became interested in the water cure to alleviate his symptoms that may have been caused by the intellectual and emotional pressure of his abolition work in New York City, according to Goldscheider.

As for the popularity of the water cure in the 1800s, Goldscheider said,

> I think it was part of the times. People were open to alternative ideas. I believe part of the reason it faded is times changed and people were less open to alternatives as standard science and health cures got better.

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

colonial indentured children received $9,000.00 at emancipation

continued from page 19

In Barre, a farmer had services of a boy "indentured" at five years old until he turned twenty-one. According to obligations outlined by the town for both sides, the boy would receive a certain amount of clothing and meals and instruction on how to be a farmer. In turn, he would not swear, play dice games, nor cause damage to anything belonging to the farmer. At the age of twenty-one, the by-then young man would receive thirty pounds, the equivalent of about nine thousand dollars today.

With the coming of the Revolution, town expenses increased as militias developed. Men were chosen to lead compulsory militia training exercises. Leaders and militia men received compensation and, if necessary, given weapons and ammunition from the town. Towns paid enlistment bonuses, referred to individually in town records as bounty for their soldiers. The Continental Army assessed towns for tons of beef, grain, and other foods as well as dozens of blankets, coats, shirts, trousers, socks, and hats to supply soldiers. At first, farmers and seasonal laborers eagerly joined the militia or Continental army. Without laborers, farm production and quality farm upkeep decreased. Decreased income resulted for those left at home who increasingly defaulted on mortgaged property. In one town, soldiers who served in 1775 didn't receive their pay until 1778.

The war went on for eight years, and enthusiasm to serve waned. In order to attract soldiers, bounties increased, which increased town debt. Towns and people experienced desperate financial circumstances. Barre Town Records, Volume 1, notes, "A great scarcity of cash among us is alarming."

Many local men, including those who served with Captain Daniel Shays and Colonel Israel Putnam returned to that postwar recession when the economy shrank by some thirty percent.

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.

with faith and patience, creating a new recipe

text and photos by Christine Noyes

Bolognese sauce is best served with pappardelle or tagliatelle pasta and grated Parmesan-Romano cheese, if desired.

Shredded meat adds flavor and character to Bolognese sauce.

Many businesses in the Quabbin region started as small Mom and Pops, then built themselves into successful multi-purpose destinations. And you can bet they didn't do it all at once.

They did it step by step—one ingredient at a time, if you will. Follow that recipe, and there's little we can't conquer.

For instance, there is the combination farm/brewery, Stone Cow Brewery in Barre, that also serves BBQ and ice cream and hosts obstacle races to bring people into the small town from miles away. Step by step, the establishment went from farm to brewery to full-scale destination.

And then there is the once small produce store, Atkins Farm in Amherst just outside the Quabbin region, transformed into Atkins Farm Country Market selling ice cream, fresh meats, baked goods, local wine, pasta, and much more. Step by step again, the place grew from a roadside farmstand to a large full-service marketplace.

I recently needed such incremental confidence.

I found myself with a task perfectly suited to my late husband but overwhelming for me. In one of my more ambitious moments and after researching several do-it-yourself videos online, I purchased a heat gun, plastic scraper, buffing liquid, and cloth to remove the abundance of vinyl business signs decorating my now personal use truck. When the equipment arrived at my doorstep, I placed the box in my storage room, where it sat for three months.

Unable to put the project off any longer, I thought about hiring someone to do it for me. But then I recalled a recent conversation when I compared cooking to writing a book.

Hang with me now. I promise there is a point to this story.

In the recalled conversation, I spoke of how, when cooking and especially when devising a recipe, I begin with an idea. Then I add individual ingredients, blending flavors, adjusting seasonings, and presenting the finished product in the best possible way—one step at a time. I write the same way. The idea forms first followed by one word after another, merging to create a hopefully coherent and entertaining story.

Thinking about that conversation gave me confidence to tackle what I had imagined a Herculean endeavor. I rewatched some videos, gathered my equipment, and began. One step led to another and yet another. Before I knew it, my naked truck gleamed in autumn sunshine. I felt a tremendous amount of satisfaction.

It all reminded me that we can accomplish anything if we break it down into individual tasks. Whether it be a business, home improvement project, or tackling creation of a new recipe—as I did with Bolognese sauce—if we have faith in ourselves and a bit of patience, we can achieve anything.

like Bolognese sauce not a Herculean task

Bolognese Sauce

prep time about 2 hours
ingredients

MEAT
1 pound 2-inch beef cubes
1 pound 2-inch pork cubes trimmed of fat
1 pound 2-inch veal cubes
1 large, sweet onion, diced
1 large carrot, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
salt and pepper
olive oil
3/4 cup red wine
4 cups veal stock (may replace with beef stock)
2 cups sautéed onion stock
(may replace with chicken stock)

SAUCE
olive oil
1 garlic clove, minced
2 shallots, minced
1/2 bunch fresh scallions
2 bay leaves
8 fresh basil leaves
1/4 cup fresh, chopped parsley
1-1/2 teaspoon thyme
3 28-ounce cans peeled plum tomatoes
salt and pepper to taste
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
3 cups broth from cooked meat
1/4 cup red wine
1 cup heavy cream

PREPARATION

Place oven rack on the bottom third of the oven. Preheat oven to 325.

Pat the beef, pork, and veal dry using paper towels.

Coat the bottom of a large Dutch oven with olive oil and place over medium to medium-high heat. Add garlic, onions, and carrots. Cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Spread the meat evenly on the bottom of the pot, season with salt and pepper, and brown on both sides.

Add ¾ cups wine. Stir using plastic spoon, scraping the bottom of the pot to release remnants.

Add veal and sautéed onion stock. Bring to slow boil.

Place pot in oven and cook for 1 1/2 hours.

Meanwhile:

Cover the bottom of a large pot with olive oil. Heat. Add garlic, shallots, scallions, bay leaf, basil, parsley, and thyme.

Cook for 1 minute stirring constantly.

Add tomatoes and season with salt and pepper.

Simmer on low heat. When hot, add Parmesan cheese.

Simmer on low, stirring occasionally.

When meat is done, remove from oven, leaving the oven turned on. Using a ladle, add 3 cups of broth from Dutch oven to tomato sauce. Stir to incorporate.

Strain the rest of the broth. Reserve as stock for future use if desired.

Using two forks, shred the meat. It should come apart easily, but use a knife if preferred.

Remove tomato sauce from heat and mix with meat in the Dutch oven. Stir.

Add 1/4 cup wine. Cover and return to oven to cook for 1 hour.

When done, remove Dutch oven cover and let sit for fifteen minutes.

Slowly add cream, stirring constantly.

Serve over cooked pasta. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve with fresh grated Parmesan cheese or a dollop of ricotta cheese.

Before an hour and a half in the oven, Bolognese sauce-in-the-making reaches a slow boil on the stovetop.

Sautéed onion stock is a bouillon paste. Mix with water according to the container directions.

Bolognese sauce is best served with pappardelle or tagliatelle pasta.

An accomplished chef, Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, and writer and illustrator. Her latest book, part of the Bradley Whitman series, is *Meet Your Maker*.

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region's restaurants offer comfort food, a cup of Joe, and good conversation

by Diane Kane

In every corner of the Quabbin region, hungry folks find comfort food, a cup of Joe, and good conversation along with local owners who individualize the food they prepare.

For Dewey and Jada (Brigham) McConologue, owning Café on the Common, 2 Common Street, Barre, represents a love story of sorts. Dewey grew up in Ashburnham and Jada in Barre. "We first met in high school while attending Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg. Our journey back 'home' is an epic tale," Jada explained.

"When I was kid," she continued, referring to the site of the café, "this building was the post office. Now, it's taken over our thoughts, conversations, and even our dreams."

Dewey and Jada McConologue display some specialties outside their restaurant,Café on the Common, Barre.

photo © by Diane Kane

Jada and Dewey have traveled extensively, but their hearts remain in Barre.

Inspiration has been a two-way street for Jada and Dewey. Jada studied culinary arts at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg and began a co-op job junior year at Barre Mill Restaurant until she left for Newbury College in Brookline, where she studied hotel and resort management. Then, she took an internship on Nantucket Island for a year. In the meantime, Dewey studied graphic design and explored the art industry while traveling all over the world.

"We literally ran into each other again on Nantucket. I spilled my drinks all over him—so embarrassing!" Jada said. "By the end of that summer, we were hooked on each other. We have inspired each other for eighteen years. We now have three beautifully amazing children."

Café on the Common offers a menu of tapas, flatbreads, savory pies, and desserts. Jada and Dewey also serve beer, wine, and cocktails.

"Everything—yes, everything—is made from scratch. We use some old family recipes, but I'm not at liberty to say which ones," Jada said.

Café on the Common is open Thursday from 2 to 8 pm, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 8 pm, and for Sunday brunch from 10 am to 3 pm. The café has a Facebook page.

continued on the next page

ad signed by
Hattie Nestel

restaurants feature

continued from the previous page

Mimi's Coffeehouse at 14 Barre Road in Hardwick opened in June of 2017.

"When I was creating the vision for Mimi's, it was important that the crew understand the community we serve," Mimi explained. "Everyone you see working here lives locally and has grown up not far from the coffeehouse."

Manager Megan Jolin said, "Hardwick is a beautiful town, and there is so much to see and enjoy in this area!"

Mimi's offers a variety of breakfast and lunch options with homemade soups and baked goods. Some customer favorites are chicken salad wrap, chip wrap, and the Prouty, a specialty sandwich. Other specials tempt with homemade soups and unique sandwiches.

"Since we are baristas first, we train everyone to pull the perfect shot of espresso. There is nothing as satisfying as a perfect dry foam on a cappuccino," Mimi said.

"Our popular drink items change as the seasons change. During spring and summer months, our customers stop in for a lavender lemonade or a strawberry banana smoothie. Come fall, our top-selling drink is our chaider, a mix between chai and apple cider, and of course, there is always pumpkin latté. During the winter, you can't go wrong with a peppermint mocha latté or a peppermint hot chocolate," said Jolin. "For our heartier menu listings, each of us approaches the grill area with different strengths but with the same goal to provide the same delicious, hot, home-cooked meal everyone expects from Mimi's."

Customers often inspire menu options, said Jolin.

"We have the John, a bacon, two-egg, and cheese on toast named for someone we love to see walk in the door daily," Jolin explained. "We try to get creative and use as many local products as possible in our menu items. For example, always on the top of our customers' order lists, we make the Hardwick latté with maple syrup from the Hardwick Sugar Shack, and the Hardwick honey

original recipes, local ingredients

breakfast sandwich includes honey from right in Hardwick. We are lucky enough to retail the maple syrup and the honey for customers who want to take a taste of Mimi's home with them."

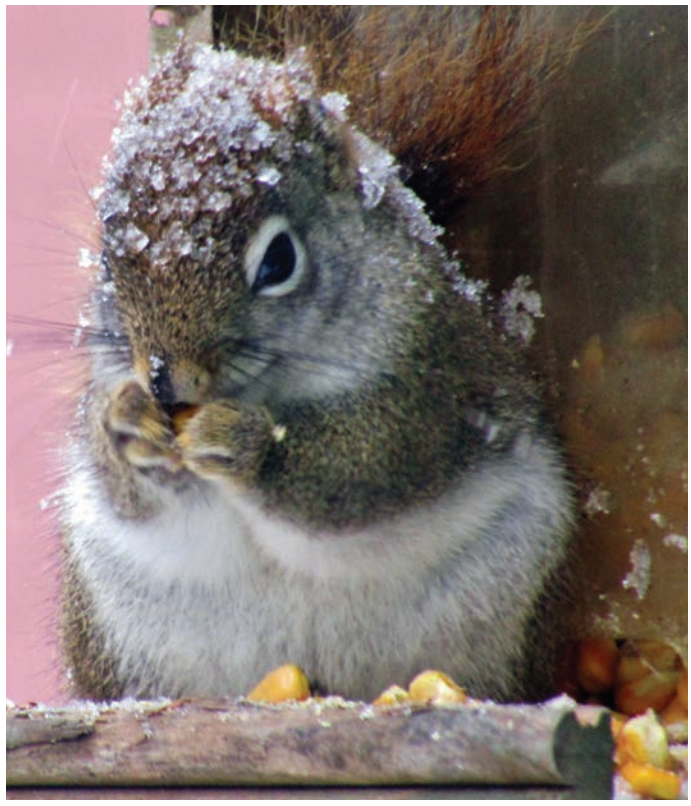
Mimi's is located in the center of town, on a corner lot overlooking Hardwick Common and open from 7 am to 2:30 pm seven days a week."

Déjà Brew Café and Pub, 57 Lockes Village Road, Wendell, is "a stone's throw from reality," according to their slogan. They brew up food and entertainment from 6 pm to midnight on Friday and Saturday. The menu includes a variety of traditional and signature pizzas, including nacho pizza and Margherita pizza. Salads, pastas, and sandwiches are also available along with takeout. Eating in has the added features of live music, trivia, or karaoke nights.

Hub Town Diner, 32 Main Street, Hubbardston, provides another gathering place for food and conversation. For breakfast and lunch, they offer homemade comfort food. The Country Hen is a popular breakfast special with deep-fried potato shreds topped with eggs "your way" and a choice of breakfast meat covered with melted cheese.

For lunch, they have traditional dishes with some specials. Warm up with hearty beef stew and grilled bread or a special like Caribbean-style jerk pork ribs served with mashed potatoes, green beans, and a homemade grilled biscuit. Unique desserts are unique and homemade. Hub Town is open from 6 am to 2 pm Monday through Saturday and from 6 am to 1 pm Sunday.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



A frost-covered chipmunk cracks open tasty corn kernels.

photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

swim competitions can last for hours

continued from page 25

last hours, and parent volunteers help with timing and other routine tasks. Nothing makes a long meet go faster than helping coaches who want to focus on the athletes. Many programs allow swimmers to try a program for a week or two before making a commitment.

Sasha Ellsworth Dyer of Barre is Fish Health Manager at Great Falls Aquaculture in Turners Falls. She was recently named to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She coaches the Athol Area YMCA Swim Team.

Craft Programs at Region's Libraries

continued from page 37

Rutland

Rutland Public Library
Knitting Group
3:30 pm to 5 p.m. Thursdays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 am Wednesday and Thursday

Ware

Young Men's Library Association – Ware's Public Library
10:30 a.m. Tuesdays
Story Time with Craft

Take-and-Make crafts available

Wendell

Wendell Free Library
Drop in Watercolor Group
5 p.m. Tuesdays

Drop in Fiber Arts Group
6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays

Story Time with Craft
10:30 a.m. Saturdays

West Brookfield

Merriam - Gilbert Public Library
Knitting group
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesdays

Making Opportunity Count, MOC, and Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, CFCE, with a grant funded by Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, offer programs including Story Time with Crafts at Quabbin area libraries.

An intrepid, common long-legged spider, genus Tetragnatha, makes its way across New Salem snow. Find more at https://bugguide.net/node/view/1199398
photo © by Sue Cloutier

Red Apple Farm

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RedAppleFarm.com

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- *Fresh Cider Donuts*
- *Cider Slushies*
- *Fruit-Topped Ice Cream*
- *Farm Animals*
- *Country Store*
- *Hiking Trails*

Brew Barn & Cidery

455 Highland Ave, Phillipston, MA
BrewBarnMA.com

- *Restaurant & Taproom*
- *Moon Hill Beer on Tap*
- *Seasonal Fruit Flavors*
- *Farm Fresh Hard Cider*
- *Country Classic BBQ*
- *Live Music*

Boston Public Market

100 Hanover St, Boston, MA
BostonPublicMarket.org

- *Fresh Farm Fruit*
- *100% Natural Cider*
- *Cider Donuts & Farm Treats*

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

499 Mountain Rd, Princeton, MA
Wachusett.com

- *Hot Chocolate/Cider*
- *Warm Cider Donuts*
- *Fresh Fudge & Farm Treats*

Join the fun! Tag and follow @RedAppleFarm and @BrewBarnAndCidery

region's poets consider many subjects

continued from page 27

Brian Fournier mixes poetry and art in his book *About My Cat.*

Poet Brain Fournier has lived most of his life in the Athol/Orange area.

"I am a New Englander through and through," he said, "and the Quabbin area is vital to my art and writing."

From a young age, Fournier scribbled words on scraps of paper. "Writing is something that comes from somewhere else within me. I can't explain it, but I have to do it, or it haunts my brain forever."

Fournier served in the air force, and his three years stationed in England profoundly influenced his writing and art.

"My artistic efforts are mainly self-taught," he explained. "I started with pencil drawings and worked my way into pastel pencils, colored pencils, and pen and ink. I think of words and art as brothers or sisters. Bringing them together is a true blending of thought and idea."

Great writers influenced Fournier in his early years, number one being Robert Frost. "I was a bit of a wallflower in high school," he confided, "but as life experiences took over, I found I had much to say. I credit my wife, Marlene, for helping me escape my shell."

Fournier doesn't think readers should struggle with understanding poetry. "If you need a PhD in English to understand a poem, therein lies the problem. I try to write poems with the intent that any reader should understand them. I believe the poets of the world are our social conscience, and it is a great responsibility."

Fournier's first poetry book, *About My Cat* published by Haley's in 2022, collects a hundred profoundly personal and slightly edgy poems with accompanying pen and ink illustrations.

"Another book of poems would be nice," Fournier said, "and again with illustrations. I have several plot ideas about doing a comic-like novel, V for Vendetta-style."

brianfournierbooks.com

Shadowdreamsbybjf on Facebook

About My Cat is available locally and on Amazon.

His book *Love Something* showcases the poetry of Joshua Michael Stewart.

Poet Joshua Michael Stewart knew he wanted to write from a young age.

"I wrote plays and forced all the neighborhood kids to act in them. But it wasn't until college that I started to write poetry."

Born in Ohio in 1975, Stewart moved to Massachusetts with his father after his parents divorced and attended UMass, where he majored in jazz composition and later history.

"My best friend introduced me to Jack Kerouac and the Beat Poets, who were heavily influenced by jazz.

Phllipston's Queen Lake shimmers in a sunset afterglow.

photo © by John Burk.

poets compile their poems in books

After college, I lived for about a year in Kerouac's hometown of Lowell hanging out with Kerouac's ghost."

Stewart composes many poems during daily walks in the Quabbin Reservoir reservation. "I desperately wanted to plant my roots here, so in 2000, I moved to Ware and have been here ever since," he said.

Stewart's inspiration comes from famous poets and family storytellers. "I write a lot about the complex relationships within my family," he related. "My father has never been much of a reader, but he and my uncles were fantastic storytellers. As a kid, I hung on to their every word. I've retold some of those stories in my poems."

Stewart's poetry has appeared in multiple magazines and journals over the past twenty-three years, as well as three published books. "*Break Every String* published by Hedgerow Books in 2016 is a memoir written in verse and explores my troubled childhood," he said.

"*The Bastard Children of Dharma Bums* published by Human Error Publishing in 2020 is a mix of erasure poems based on Kerouac's novel *The Dharma Bums*." Erasure poetry, also known as blackout poetry, is according to the Academy of American Poets, a form of found poetry wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text, thus creating a wholly new work from what remains.

"My newest book, *Love Something* published by Main Street Rag in 2022, pays tribute to the people, writers, and artists of the Pioneer Valley and surrounding area," Stewart said. "and I'm working on a collection of haiku, tanka, and haibun and another of prose poems and flash fiction." Haiku, tanka, and haibun poetry forms originated in Japan. Flash fiction involves very short stories, sometimes only a few words.

joshuamichaelstewart.com

Break Every String and *The Bastard Children of Dharma Bums* are available on Amazon. *Love Something* is at mainstreetragbookstore.com/product/love-something-joshua-michael-stewart/

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Snow blankets trees in west Ware not far from the town line with Belchertown.

photo © by Claire Sygiel

Trees and bushes bend with ice and snow in Athol's Indian Meadow near Millers River.
photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

region's Masonic lodges faced challenges after 1826

continued from page 11

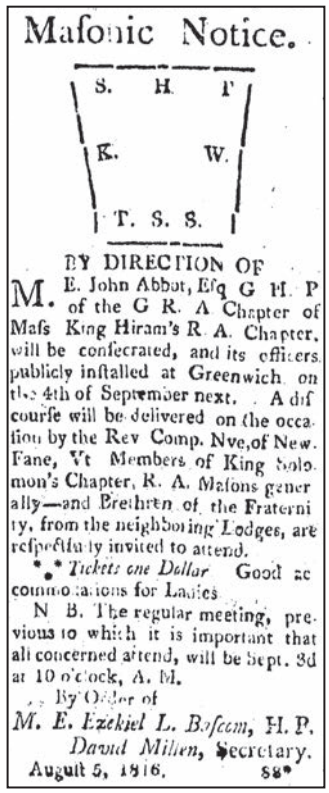
but that development came to an abrupt end after 1826. In September, a disgruntled Mason, William Morgan from western New York, threatened to expose Masonic secrets, then was abducted and apparently murdered.

The William Morgan affair caused intense and immediate nationwide shock. Quabbin native Henry Francis Underwood noted in his memoir of Enfield that, thereafter,

> The Masonic Hall at the cross-roads was deserted. The lodge never met, and the room was used at times for a private school. Boys used to set up the Semitic pillars, and to speculate upon the mysteries of the craft. The affair of Morgan, believed to have been murdered 'out in York State' for exposing the secret rites, was then recent and blood-curdling. Public opinion was overwhelmingly against the order.

Few lodges survived, although some such as the Enfield Lodge, revived in mid century during another period of Masonic growth. Eden Lodge remains in Ware and Mount Zion Lodge in Barre.

Carl Hammer's latest book on early western Massachusetts, *Quarrelsome Quabbin: The First Century of Greenwich and Enfield, Massachusetts*, will be published by Levellers Press, Amherst, in 2023.



Masonic Notice.

S. H. P.

K. W.

T. S. S.

BY DIRECTION OF M. E. John Abbot, Esq G H. P of the G R. A Chapter of Mass King Hiram's R. A. Chapter, will be consecrated, and its officers publicly installed at Greenwich on the 4th of September next. A discourse will be delivered on the occasion by the Rev Comp. Nve, of New. Fane, Vt Members of King Solomon's Chapter, R. A. Masons generally—and Brethren of the Fraternity, from the neighboring Lodges, are respectfully invited to attend.

*** *Tickets one Dollar* Good accommodations for Ladies

N B. The regular meeting, previous to which it is important that all concerned attend, will be Sept. 3d at 10 o'clock, A. M.

By Order of

M. E. Ezekiel L. Bascom, H. P.

David Millen, Secretary.

August 5, 1816. 88*

On August 5, 1816, the *Franklin Herald* newspaper of Greenfield advertised consecration ceremonies of King Hiram Royal Arch Chapter, Greenwich.

New snow accents trees and a stone wall along a trail near Quabbin Reservoir.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

Coming in the May-August edition of

Uniquely Quabbin:

our listing of events

and

open houses at

area historical societies,

many closed since 2020.

Selected Area High

Amherst-Pelham High School

All games are at 7 p.m. Unless otherwise noted

Boys Varsity Home
January 31 • Westfield High School
February 10 • Chicopee Comprehensive High School
February • TBA

Boys Varsity Away
January 24 • Chicopee Comprehensive High School
January 27 • East Longmeadow High School
February 2 • Pope Francis Preparatory School
February 8 • Springfield High School of Commerce

Girls Varsity Home
January 24 • Wahconah Regional High School
February 20 • TBA
February 22 • TBA

Girls Varsity Away
January 27 • South Hadley High School
January 31 • Monument Mountain Regional High School
February 3 • West Springfield High School
February 14 • Granby Junior/Senior High School

Belchertown High School

Boys Varsity Home
January 30 • Hampshire Regional High School
February 3 • Wahconah Regional High School
February 6 • Southwick Regional School
February 20 • TBA
February 22 • TBA

Boys Varsity Away
January 27 • Southwick Regional School
February 1 • Palmer High School • 5:30 pm
February 10 • Granby Junior/Senior High School
February 13 • Ware Junior/Senior High School

Girls Varsity Home
January 26 • Drury High School
February 2 • Granby Junior/Senior High School
February 7 • Mount Greylock Regional School
February 9 • Ludlow High School

School Varsity Basketball Schedules

Belchertown High School
(continued)

Girls Varsity Away
January 24 • Mount Greylock Regional School
February 1 • Palmer High School
February 13 • South Hadley High School

Mahar Regional School, Orange

Boys Varsity Home
January 31 • Athol High School
February 2 • Lenox Memorial Middle and High School
February 7 • Drury High School
February 14 • Greenfield High School

Boys Varsity Away
January 27 • Hopkins Academy • 7:30 pm

Girls Varsity Home
January 19 • ·Athol High School
January 20 • Greenfield High School
February 3 • Lenox Memorial Middle and High School
February 10 • Mount Greylock Regional School
February 13 • Frontier Regional School

Girls Varsity Away
January 26 • Palmer High School
February 6 • Hopkins Academy • 7:30 pm
February 9 • Ware Junior/Senior High School

North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School

Boys Varsity Home
January 25 • Monson High School • 6 pm
January 26 • TBA • 6 pm
February 3 • Trivium School • 6:30 pm
February 10 • Hampden Charter School-West • 5:30 pm
February 17 • Millis High School

Boys Varsity Away
February 2 • Murdock High School • 6 pm
February 6 • Immaculate Heart of Mary School • 5:30 pm
February 7 • Bethany Christian Academy

Girls Varsity Home
January 30 • Montachusett Regional Voc Tech High School • 5:30 pm
February 1 • Oxford High School • 5 pm
February 9 • Bay Path Regional Voc Tech School
February 15 • David Prouty High School • 6 pm

Girls Varsity Away
January 16 • Sizer School • 5:30 pm
January 23 • Bay Path Regional Voc Tech School • 5:30 pm
February 6 • Immaculate Heart of Mary School • 4 pm
February 7 • Ware Junior/Senior High School

Schedules compiled by Carla Charter abbreviated for space.

Find a full list of schedules for Quabbin area schools at Arbiterlive.com.

ELIZABETH CALLAHAN
Quebec Doorway
oil on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan

Quebec Doorway • oil on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan

People seem universally attracted to doors. I am no exception. Nearly every country and many US cities have art displaying unique, colorful, and beautiful doors of the region. *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine often features photos by Mary Lou Conca of Quabbin region doors.

I've found my favorites in the hill towns of northern Italy. There's something so special about those very old doors. History, generations of families, passing of time—if only doors could speak.

Perhaps it's the architectural aesthetics that attract many people. The mystery or promise of what or who lies beyond intrigues me most.

Many consider doors the heart of the home. They provide a glimpse of what's to come. "When one door closes another opens," Alexander Graham Bell said to encourage us to keep on keeping on. So appropriate in the New Year.

In real estate, the door speaks volumes about the style and maintenance. Is it colorful, freshly painted, and in good repair? A beautiful front door has tremendous value.

Our doors provide us with security, privacy, opportunity to make an impression, style, focal point, expression of individuality, and blank canvas for holiday and seasonal decorating.

I found the door in the painting on the outskirts of old Quebec City. I first painted it in watercolor using multiple red glazes for the door. I couldn't get enough of it, so I painted it in oil next and then graphite. The future may hold even another version of the beautiful door painted in pastel.

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

NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

outdoors in winter, maybe happen upon a mass of snow fleas

Snow accentuates boundary stones outlining Warwick's Woodland Labyrinth.

photo © by Clare Green

Gentle snowscape peace • Gaze, accept, wonder snow fleas
Warmth, ready to spring!

Whether you love winter while sipping a cup of herbal tea and reading a good magazine from the vantage point of a comfy hearthside couch or choose to dive headfirst into massive snowfalls, enjoy moments of wonder that winter offers. Bundle up and take a brisk walk in search of its beauty—icicles, sky, windswept snowdrifts, tracks in the snow, and birds such as the black and white juncos. Take time to look at the snow and notice the small snow flea on a warm winter's day, especially near the woods.

You may imagine that you are perceiving specks of dirt or bits of pepper flakes upon the snow, but look closely. Upon inspection, you will notice slight movement. Snow fleas. The family and species name is Hypogastruro nivicola.

Called springtails, they are not fleas at all but insects that have no wings. They move from place to place by springing their tails. The process of movement works since they have two arms/legs that hold their bodies down, but when the arms let go, their tails propel them forward. They can spring as high as from three to four inches in the air. Although called by their English name, snow fleas, they do not bite. Utilize a magnifier for further inquiry.

They come to the surface of the snow on a warm winter's day in search of food, such as algae. Interestingly, if a bear wakes up from its torpor hibernation in search of food, it may stop to gobble them up. I can hardly imagine a bear feeling any satisfaction from its meal of snow fleas, but it might be better than nothing, or maybe it acts like an appetizer.

During other seasons, snow fleas live in the top layer of soil and leaf litter or in soft duff of a woodland. Rotting leaves, fallen logs, and moisture provide their diet and safe haven. They live up to two years.

Snow fleas overwinter and adapt. Insects that tolerate the cold winter must be able to withstand freezing temperatures. Scientists are investigating the quality of insects tolerating cold in order to understand snow fleas' apparently glycine-rich, anti-freezing protein. Glycine, an amino acid found in muscle tissue, builds protein and has other benefits. Research with snow fleas may help with preservation of donated organs for transplant. Fascinating.

I hope you happen upon a mass of snow fleas one warm winter day. Please take delight in their tiny bodies, stamina, and contributions to the world of science.

Clare Green of Warwick welcomes folks to visit the Fairy Cottage and walk the Woodland Labyrinth. Clare is a member of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol Bird and Nature Club, and Warwick Trails Group.

Judy Lambert of Hatfield, Anne Lambert of Bernardston, and Jan Calsyn of Colrain, from left, discover snow fleas along a road accessed from Gate 30 in New Salem.

photo © by Clare Green

Quabbin region public libraries glow with welcoming areas

continued from page 4

Places. Inside to the right, a nook holds two well-used chairs, a table piled with newspapers, and a Tiffany-style floor lamp: a lovely spot to spend a few hours.

Many of our public library buildings result from large personal donations, hence the memorial designation for them. The oldest in continuous existence in the United States is the town of Franklin library dating to 1790 and named after the eponymous Massachusetts town where it stands. Benjamin Franklin donated the first collection of books. In 1904, the donation of the Ray family facilitated updating the building.

For many decades, people paid to subscribe to a library collection to rent books. The first library in Hardwick, built in 1802, was housed in the general store. For $2.50, a yearly subscription provided access.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts authorized cities and towns to establish public libraries in 1851, leading to construction of many memorial libraries in the mid-to-late 1800s. Phillipston Free Public Library was established in 1860 with a gift from Jonathon Phillips. Belchertown's Clapp Memorial Library dates from 1887 with a gift from John Francis Clapp of the town, and Wheeler Memorial Library

Stained glass proclaims the gift to Belchertown of Clapp Memorial Library dating from 1887.

in Orange resulted from gifts of Almira Wheeler Thompson in honor of her late husband, John W. Wheeler, a life-long resident of Orange and president of New Home Sewing Machine Company. Construction began in the fall of 1912 and opened to the public on April 17, 1914.

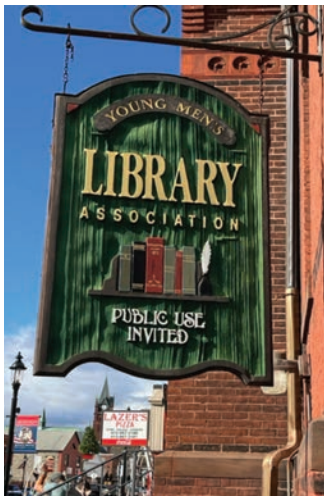
photos by Sally Howe

On Route 32A in Hardwick lies Paige Memorial Library. In 1896, the town received a bequest from Dr. L. R. Paige and his wife of their two-thousand-plus book library and a fund to maintain it. Other donated funds financed a new library built in 1906, and the building stands today on the footprint of a burned-down school. The main door opens onto a rotunda with similarly patterned tile floor. Stacks are on the other side of a wide fireproof pocket door, perhaps recalling the 1905 fire. An appealing window seat has become office space. After admiring the space, I head on to Hardwick's Gilbertville neighborhood.

Dedicated in 1913, the Gilbertville Library building was a gift of E. H. Gilbert. The open interior features a cathedral ceiling and partitioned half walls, all in quartered oak in a room both warm and airy. Stained glass windows depict publishing houses of Venice, Boston, Paris, Antwerp, and New York. A two-person cushioned bench below a window invites one to pause to read a magazine article or chapter or two.

Above an oak mantle flanked by sconces hangs a portrait of George H. Gilbert, 1806-1869. The green fireplace tiles look to be from Grueby Faience in

Gilbertville Library features an oak mantle flanked by sconces and a portrait of George H. Gilbert, industrialist.



Ware's public library honors the nineteenth century Young Men's Library Association.

Revere, similar to those in Orange's Wheeler Memorial Library. Grueby started in 1898 and grew popular during the Art Nouveau movement.

Nearby, the road to Ware crosses under a covered wooden bridge, dating to 1886, and through the woods. Stone walls from the past, open fields, buildings rich in history enrich our lives. The Ware library sign reads Young Men's Library Association, Public Use Invited. The Young Men's Debating Society had a private library and initiated a drive to build a public library for the town.

More recently, when the mills along the Ware River closed, the library received an impressive antique, key-wound grandfather clock which the current librarian keeps wound and accurate. The reading room houses three tables lined with chairs and a fireplace. Several libraries have fireplaces no longer in use except in one's imagination of a warm fire and intriguing novel.

Heading homeward to Orange, I take Route 32 through Barre. Snow had stopped with roads and parking well cleared. Henry Woods gave the building to his native Barre in 1886. The Woods Memorial Library has tall windows and a gracious main entry. Inside to the right lies an entryway of glass shelves filled with taxidermy animals. The entryway opens to a reading room. Two wingback armchairs sit in front of a fireplace laid with birch logs. A crystal chandelier lights the high-ceilinged space.

Colonel Isaac Barré, 1726-1802, smiles from a gilded portrait in a Woods Memorial Library, Barre, reading nook.

Above the mantle, Colonel Isaac Barré, 1726-1802, smiles from a gilded portrait. The library feels airy, elegant, and spacious.

Finally after enjoyable explorations, my own comfy armchair welcomes me back, and it feels good. I reflect on the importance—the imperative—given to existence of public libraries for hundreds of years.

Accumulated industrial wealth contributed to the historical buildings we continue to enjoy. Tax-levied monies for renovations and modernization are hard to raise. Today, in addition to books, libraries offer DVDs, recordings, hotspots, backpacks, museum passes, movie nights, poetry readings, children's rooms, and more to provide worlds beyond our own—safe spaces to build community. I can even check out a roof rake from the Petersham library.

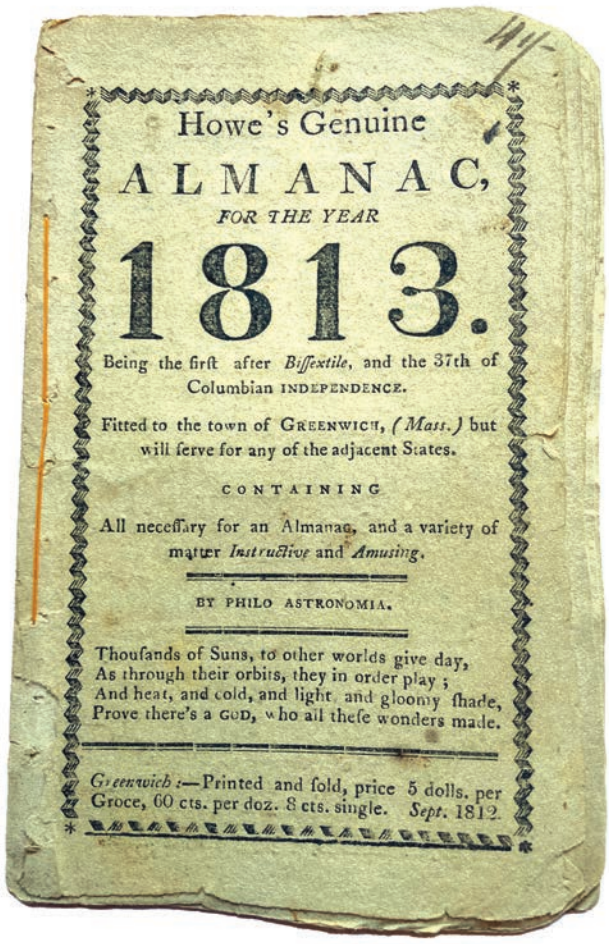
The value a library imports to individuals and towns has not changed, including an invitation to seek hygge in a welcoming reading nook on a winter's day.

A collection of taxidermy animals welcomes readers to one of Barre's Woods Memorial Library reading rooms.

Actor, lover of language, retired teacher of French, and ardent traveler, Sally Howe resides in Orange.

Solomon and John Howe published almanac for Swift River towns

continued from page 31



Howe's Genuine

ALMANAC,

FOR THE YEAR

1813.

Being the first after *Bissextile*, and the 37th of Columbian INDEPENDENCE.

Fitted to the town of GREENWICH, *(Mass.)* but will serve for any of the adjacent States.

CONTAINING

All necessary for an Almanac, and a variety of matter *Instructive* and *Amusing*.

BY PHILO ASTRONOMIA.

Thousands of Suns, to other worlds give day,
As through their orbits, they in order play;
And heat, and cold, and light, and gloomy shade,
Prove there's a GOD, who all these wonders made.

Greenwich:—Printed and fold, price 5 dolls. per Groce, 60 cts. per doz. 8 cts. single. *Sept.* 1812.

Howe's Genuine Almanac for 1813 "fit" the town of Greenwich.
almanac from the collection of J. R. Greene

The business was not that lucrative, as John continued to run the family farm.

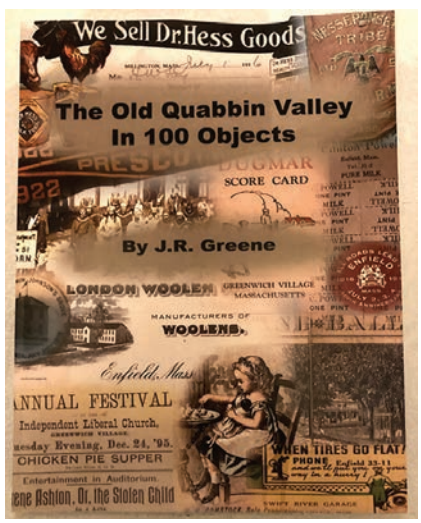
Between 1804 and 1826, John Howe published an annual almanac under his family name. He added the word Genuine to the title in 1810 and used the pseudonym Philo Astronomiae in 1812. In the early years, Howe priced the almanac at six cents each or fifty cents per dozen, then went up to six cents each or sixty cents per dozen. The price for a gross stayed at five dollars for any business that wanted to retail them. The print runs probably ranged from a few hundred to several thousand copies. As stated on the front cover, the astronomical calculations were "fitted to the town of Greenwich but will serve for any of the adjacent states." For the years 1821 and 1826, he published it under different names, perhaps to broaden the market for it.

Of course, there were many other almanacs competing for attention at that time, including Robert Thomas's *Old Farmer's Almanac* and one published for a few years out of nearby Wendell by one Nathan Wild.

Scholar Philip Gura calls Howe's almanac "a valuable articulation of the region's culture, for in each issue, several pages are devoted to irreverent and bawdy humor, some of it composed by Howe, the rest gathered where he could find it." Gura concluded that "the almanac's humor [is] almost always at the expense of religion, aggressive capitalism, or women (with other jibes at such 'strangers' as Blacks and the Irish)." An example of Howe's sly humor from the 1813 edition of the almanac: "A gentleman ridiculing the extremes of fashion, a lady asked him what he thought of short petticoats. 'O my dear,' said he, 'that fashion you may carry as high as you may please.'"

The collections of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester hold examples of the Howe almanac. They are rather scarce on the ephemera market, as they were not as widely distributed as more famous titles such as the *Old Farmer's Almanac.*

John Howe was the grandfather of longtime Enfield storekeeper and postmaster Edwin H. Howe and great-grandfather of both the last Enfield postmaster Ned Howe and the latter's brother, Donald W. Howe, Ware industrialist and compiler of the 1951 book, *Quabbin: The Lost Valley.*



J.R. Greene is author of twenty-three books, including sixteen relating to the Quabbin Reservoir and the towns it destroyed, the latest being *The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects*, published in 2020.

events scheduled at Quabbin Visitor Center

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

The Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation Division of Water Supply Protection, DCR-DWSP, manages the Quabbin/Ware River Region Visitor Center on the first floor of the DWSP Quabbin Administration Building, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown. Open every day but Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., it features exhibits, brochures, books, and videos about Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River watershed management and history. Friends of Quabbin, FOQ, provide maps, books, trail guides, and related materials for purchase at the visitor center.

The visitor center also features an introduction to history of both areas, summary of reservoir construction, overview of the DWSP/MWRA water system, DWSP watershed management activities, and information about wildlife and other natural resources. A variety of self-guided educational opportunities exist for groups visiting Quabbin Park and Reservation, including more than a hundred miles of trails and roads for hiking and limited biking. The visitor center also offers an annual series of presentations about the history and natural history of the Quabbin and Ware River area.

Through the winter, the visitor center will offer outdoor programs, weather permitting, including hikes on the third Saturdays of January, February, and March. For up-to-date information, email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov and ask to join the email list. The DCR Watershed events page will list activities at http://mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1

An updated orientation film provides an overview of history and management of the Quabbin Reservoir for visitors at youtube.com/watch?v=JHiW6KX9-Gc

Upcoming remote and hybrid pograms offered by DCR Quabbin-Ware River Region Visitor Center will take place there unless otherwise designated.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, January 29 • *Myths and Mysteries of Quabbin Reservoir and the Ware River Watershed*
presents history, construction, and management of Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River watershed with exploration of mysteries and clarification of persistent myths.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, February 19 • *Water Supply Protection Forestry*
explains harvesting of trees on protected watershed land, why recently harvested areas look the way they do, and how active management of a forest can increase diversity and maintain forest health.
A DCR-DWSP forester will discuss benefits of a managed forest and objectives and conditions that dictate harvesting of trees.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, February 26 • *Bats of Massachusetts*
describes bats that live in Massachusetts and where they go during the winter. Elise Stanmyer, a wildlife biologist with DCR-DWSP, surveys where and how bats hibernate or migrate as well as threats, including white-nose Syndrome.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, March 5 • *Quabbin's Keystone Bridge*
focuses on the stone bridge built in 1866 across the Middle Branch of Swift River at Quabbin's Gate 30. Michael Weitzner, consultant and dry-stone waller, will discuss construction of the structure, a well-loved local landmark, and possible plans for its future. Mr. Weitzner holds a master craftsman certificate issued by the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, March 12 • hybrid presentation • *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley*
Local author and historian Elena Palladino will discuss her new book, *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley,* which covers history of the valley and reservoir. Through personal stories of three residents—Marion Smith, Willard "Doc" Segur, and Edwin Henry Howe—she will tell the story of communities lost to reservoir construction.

2 to 3 pm, Sunday, March 19 • *A Day in the Life of a DCR Wildlife Biologist*
Jillian Whitney, DCR wildlife biologist, describes her work with loons or gulls, spiders or snakes, bears or moose, and other animals inhabiting environs of the reservoir.

2 to 3 pm Sunday, March 26 • *Fire for Diversity: Understanding Forest Fire Ecology in Massachusetts*
will explore how carefully controlled, prescribed burns can restore habitat, support endangered flora and fauna, and reduce wildfire risk.

Maria Beiter-Tucker manages the Interpretive Services for the DCR Quabbin/Ware River Region, which includes coordinating public and educational programs and managing the DCR Quabbin and Ware River Visitor Center.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

January 21, Saturday

The Second City Swipes Right
7 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
It's love at first laugh with The Second City! A caliente cast of comedians (consensually) annihilates everything that turns us on—and off—about love, dating, relationships, and everything else between the sheets.
thecenterateaglehill.org

January 27-29, Friday-Sunday

The Crucible
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Arthur Miller's drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem, historical play and timely parable of contemporary society. EHS Drama students present the Tony Award-winning play.
thecenterateaglehill.org

January 28-29, Saturday-Sunday

Welcome Home
Workshop 13
Church Street
Ware
A play based on the true stories of four veterans. Funny, poignant, and meaningful.
workshop13.org

January 28, Saturday

Celebrate National Puzzle Day
9:30 am -1 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Athollibrary.org

January 29, Sunday

Myths and Mysteries of Quabbin Reservoir
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
The history, construction. and management of Quabbin Reservoir and the Ware River watershed. Explore the mysteries and clear up some persistent myths.
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

February 4, Saturday

Craft Supply Swap
10 am - 12 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
athollibrary.org

February 12, Sunday

Adventures in Tracking
10 am - 4:30 pm
New Salem Center
An adventure concerning mysteries of the winter world intended to hone observational skills to detect the details of dramas unfolding in the forest. Registration required.
walnuthilltracking.com

February 19, Sunday

Forestry and Water Supply Protection
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
A state Department of Conservation and Recreation forester describes the benefits of a managed forest and conditions dictating when, where, and how trees are harvested.
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

February 26, Sunday

Adventures in Tracking
10 am - 4:30 pm
New Salem Center
An adventure concerning mysteries of the winter world intended to hone observational skills to detect the details of dramas unfolding in the forest. Registration required.
walnuthilltracking.com

Bats of Massachusetts
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
Learn about the bats that live in Massachusetts and where they go during the winter. Elise Stanmyer, a wildlife biologist with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, will explain where and how bats hibernate or migrate and about current threats bats face in Massachusetts, including white-nose syndrome
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

March 5, Sunday

Quabbin's Keystone Bridge
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
Built in 1866, the stone bridge across the Middle Branch of the Swift River at Quabbin's Gate 30 is a well-loved local landmark. Quabbin Visitor Center presents a program about the history and construction of the structure as well possible plans for its future.
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

Please submit listings

for the next issue before

April 1, 2023

to UQCalendar@gmail.com

March 7, Tuesday

An Evening with Isaac Fitzgerald, author of *Dirtbag, Massachusetts*
7 pm - 8 pm
Athol Public Library
Virtual
Reading Public Library together with Athol Public Library will host an online event with Isaac Fitzgerald, author of *Dirtbag, Massachusetts.* Daniel Ford, host of the *Writer's Bone Podcast,* will moderate.
athollibrary.org

March 16, Thursday

Celtic Chocolate: A Celebration of All Things Irish with Kim Larkin
6 pm - 7:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Chocolatier Kim Larkin leads a program celebrating Ireland and all things Irish and featuring Irish chocolate pioneers, *Book of Kells* artistry, fairy lore, famous Irish authors, the history of the Claddagh, and Irish trivia quiz. Traditional Irish bread, Celtic-designed chocolates, and Dublin Irish tea will be served. Registration Required.
athollibrary.org

March 19, Sunday

A day in the life of a DCR wildlife biologist
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
DCR wildlife biologist Jillian Whitney describes what she expects to deal with every day when she heads to work: loons or gulls, spiders or snakes, bears or moose.
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

March 22, Wednesday

Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin
6 pm - 7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
When Elena Palladino moved into her new home in Ware in 2015, she learned of her house's history and its original owner, Marion Andrews Smith. That led her to Enfield, one of the four towns lost in creation of the Quabbin Reservoir and writing her first book, *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin.* She will discuss the process.
athollibrary.org

March 25, Saturday

3 Legends Live
7 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
A night of hits by Neil Diamond, Elvis, and Johnny Cash! Charlie Lask and Robert Black in a tribute concert that bring together the three legends.
thecenterateaglehill.org

March 26, Sunday

Fire for Diversity
2 pm - 3 pm
Virtual
In this presentation, explore how carefully controlled prescribed burns can restore habitat, support endangered flora and fauna and reduce the risk of wildfire.
QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

March 31-April 2, Friday-Sunday
April 7-8, Friday-Saturday

Gilbert Players present: *Chicago!*
7 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Gilbert Players present: *Chicago!* The satire features a score that sparked staging by Bob Fosse.
thecenterateaglehill.org

April 2, Sunday

Mackenzie Melemed in Concert
2 pm
Stone Church Cultural Center
283 Main Street
Gilbertville
Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Janacek, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff

April 8, Saturday

Easter's Great Gathering
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Ave
Phillipston
Brunch with the Easter Bunny, baby farm animals, egg hunts for children and adults, Easter vendor fair and more!
Redapplefarm.com

April 22, Saturday

Reveal Your Personality Traits with Handwriting Analysis
10 am - 11:30 am
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Lecture about applications of interpreting a person's handwriting. Bring a pen and a pad of paper for a possible quick interpretation of your own writing by a skilled handwriting analyst.
athollibrary.org

A river otter devours its sunfish in a chilly Quabbin region stream near Otter River in Baldwinville.

photos © by John Burk

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 67

April 26, Wednesday

Steps to Managing Memory, Alzheimer's Disease, and Dementia
7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Dr. Andrew Budson will explain how individuals can distinguish changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging and medications, diets, and exercise regimes that can help.
athollibrary.org

April 29, Saturday

Silents are Golden: The Hunchback of Notre Dame
7:30 pm
Stone Church Cultural Center
283 Main Street
Gilbertville
Silent film showing with live improvised accompaniment.