

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

CONTENTS

volume 7, number 1 • May-August 2022

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

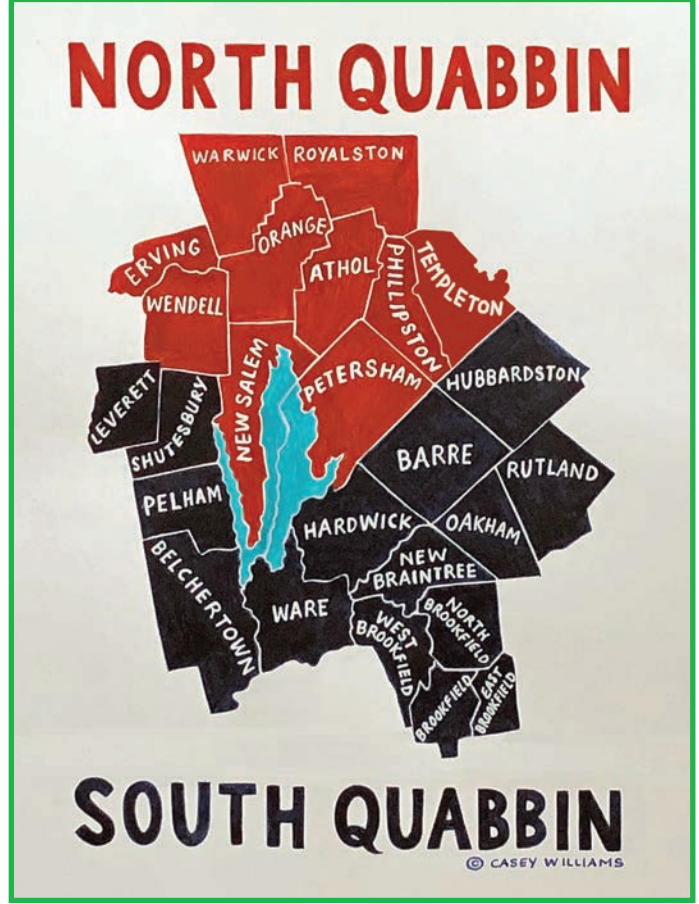
Quiet Places•Quiet Thoughts	4
Rutland and East Brookfield celebrate centennials.	6
fly fishing in Quabbin region waters	10
Commonwealth taxation in colonial, federal times	12
Quabbin region one-room schoolhouses	14
New Salem Academy	16
Brookfield town profile	18
Royalston town profile.	19
Grange in the lost towns	20
Hall of Famer Connie Mack.	22

continued on next page



Three otters keep watch at a Quabbin region waterway.
photo © by Dale Monette

ON THE FRONT COVER
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
a photograph by John Burk



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

CONTENTS

martial arts in the Quabbin region	24
Athol, Leverett, Royalston residents aid Ukraine	26
from the pens of Quabbin poets	32
authors from Royalston and Belchertown	34
library staffs recommend beach reads	36
Missing Dogs Massachusetts helps find dogs	40
Quabbin region farmers markets	42
Grabbing a Bite in Erving or Brookfield	43
comforting collard greens	44
gnomes consider spring and summertime leaf uses	50
Native American claims to Quabbin region land	54
Nature's Nuances	71
Hardwick Winery celebrates tenth anniversary	72
Quabbin region calendar listings	74

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 74

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Royalston, Shutesbury, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, and Wendell for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with Local Cultural Council grants for 2022. Generous support from those councils is so important to the continued life of the magazine.

Grants, advertisers, and donations keep us going. We always appreciate donations. You can mail a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331 or go to uniquelyquabbin.com and choose the donate button or scan the QR code on the next page.

Thanks to our advertisers who play such a big role in the success of our magazine. Many businesses and organizations continuously support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there and support them as they support us.

I can't believe we are starting our seventh year putting out this magazine for all of you to enjoy. We have been incredibly blessed with the talent in our pages, and without all of our contributors, *Uniquely Quabbin* would not be the magazine it is today. A big thank you to the artists, photographers, and writers as well as the behind-the-scenes people who bring each issue to you.

I know you are going to enjoy reading this issue. Find that warm patch of sun on your deck, patio, or porch and pour yourself a nice tall glass of lemonade and jump into *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Thankfully,
Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society



Uniquely Quabbin magazine

gratefully acknowledges the support of

Athol Cultural Council • Barre Cultural Council

Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council

Hubbardston Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council

North Brookfield Cultural Council

Oakham Cultural Council • 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

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

As you settle in with this edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*, you're going to find a wide selection of articles, images, schedules, and even points of view. Lots has transpired over the centuries in our area, of course. Summer 2022 promises to unwind as backdrop to distinctive activities and interactions that define our Quabbin region.

Working from varied vantage points, writers, artists, and photographers offer insights into Quabbin region people, animals, places, and things as we embark on our seventh year of producing *UQ*.

We pause, also, to remember dear Dorothy Johnson of New Salem, creator of the Page 4 column "Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts." Dorothy made her mark in many ways on our region before she left this world in February. Her friend and protégée Sally Howe of Orange will take over writing "Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts."

Those of us who bring *UQ* to light every four months enjoy what we do and hope that you will, too.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

please consider making a donation to

Uniquely Quabbin magazine

With your smartphone, use the QR code

below to make a PayPal donation to

Uniquely Quabbin.



Or go to uniquelyquabbin.com to
use the PayPal button there.

Or write a check to
Uniquely Quabbin. c/o Debra Ellis, business manager
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue • Athol, MA 01331

THANK YOU!

Uniquely Quabbin

May-August 2022 • Vol 7, #1 • ISSN 2472-081X

published at Athol, Massachusetts

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is published three times a year
by Haley's in January-April, May-August, and
September-December.

Free

EDITORIAL BOARD

Marcia Gagliardi, editor and publisher

Debra Ellis, business manager

Mark Wright, graphics designer

Elizabeth Callahan, editorial consultant

John Burk, photographic consultant

Uniquely Quabbin is printed by
The Republican of Springfield

Writers and columnists: Copyrights by Emily Boughton, John Burk, Carla Charter, Sue Cloutier, Debra Ellis, Ami Fagin, Susie Feldman, Clare Green, J. R. Greene, Carl I. Hammer, Sally Howe, Diane Kane, Bryan Lagimoniere, J. A. McIntosh, Christine A. Noyes, Katherine Parcell, Dina Stander, Rick Taupier, Susannah Whipps, and Ellen Woodbury

Photographers: Copyrights by John Burk, Sue Cloutier, Susie Feldman, Rick Flematti, Mitchell R. Grosky, Nancy Lagimoniere, Dale Monette, Claire Sygiel

Artists: Copyrights by Debra Bachrach, Emily Boughton, Elizabeth Callahan, Ami Fagin, Genevieve Gaignard, Gillian Haven, Susan Marshall, Jen Niles, Barbara Kline Seamon, and Casey Williams

Front cover photograph by John Burk.

Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright. *Uniquely Quabbin* logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

Copy proofed by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri and William Emrich.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of

Athol Historical Society • Haley's Publishing

North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and

Visitors Bureau

with an initial grant from

International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com or 488 South Main Street, Athol 01331 with proposals to contribute to *UQ* or for letters to the editor.

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

recalling Friday breakfasts at Dorothy's

by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

The door bangs shut, and a small black dog jumps up for a greeting. The table is set, the aroma of warm blueberry muffins wafts through the kitchen, and Dorothy Johnson turns scrambled eggs at the stove.

A long-haired cat lies stretched out laconically on a side table and gazes like Francisco Goya's Nude Maja, challenging a disturbance.

It's Friday breakfast at Dorothy's.

New England lives in Dorothy's 1880s home situated on oval, maple-tree-lined New Salem Common. Each room is replete with antiques, art, and the warmth of fifty years of the same occupants. Next to the kitchen, where we sit, the dining room awaits a bigger gathering on another day.

A knowledgeable collector, Dorothy chooses a different teapot each Friday—a green Pfalzgraff one week, a flowered antique Chelsea

continued on page 30



Dorothy Johnson

Dorothy Johnson went to her ultimate quiet place on February 22, 2022. Sally Howe has agreed to continue the column "Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts."



Passenger, Light Truck, SUV, Medium Truck, Heavy Truck, Earthmover, Construction, Farm, Forestry, Implement, Industrial, Forklift, Lawn & Garden, Boat Trailer, Golf Cart, ATV, And More!

Services Include:

Mount/Dismount, Tire Ballast Installed, Flat Repair of all Types
Emergency Road Service for Truck, Farm and Earthmover, Earthmover and Farm Tire Section Repair
Commercial Truck Tire Retreading, Small OTR and Industrial Tire Retreading



19 Convenient Locations
Throughout New England

Find us online at www.petestire.com

978 544 8811

Trailblazer (A Dream Deferred)

self-portrait by Genevieve Gaignard



Trailblazer (A Dream Deferred), 2017

self-portrait by Genevieve Gaignard © Genevieve Gaignard courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Trailblazer (A Dream Deferred) portrays a nineteenth-century woman walking with purpose through a lush tropical landscape, carrying a portrait of two men: John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

I imagine *Trailblazer* as a time traveler from a perceived past who travels into the future to return a relic of racial solidarity to share with her contemporaries as a hopeful memento of times to come. The trailblazer is setting the path for new ways of thinking. I borrowed the phrase “a dream deferred” from Langston Hughes’s poem “Harlem,” a meditation on the fate of hopes yet unfulfilled.

I created the self-portrait in Louisiana, home of my ancestral roots. It is part of a larger body of work titled *Grassroots* created for the fourth edition of Prospect, the New Orleans triennial. It was selected by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery to be included

in *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today* exhibition in 2019 and a subsequent national tour. *Trailblazer* was included in the group exhibition, *Black American Portraits*, at Los Angeles County Museum of Art and is part of its permanent collection.

Genevieve Gaignard is a multidisciplinary artist whose bold self-portraiture, collage, sculpture, and installation unearths often nuanced issues surrounding race, beauty, and cultural identity. Referencing regional and historical events, she creates and performs characters that are part symbolic and part autobiographical.

Gaignard’s work has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the globe. Gaignard received her bachelor of fine arts in photography from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and her master of fine arts in photography from Yale University. Gaignard splits her time between her hometown of Orange, Massachusetts and Los Angeles, where she is represented by the gallery Vielmetter Los Angeles.



Honoring the dates of their founding, Rutland celebrates the three-hundredth anniversary of its beginning as a Massachusetts town, and East Brookfield celebrates its hundredth anniversary this year.

"We are well known across the region for our celebration and events surrounding the Fourth of July," said a Rutland town official. "People come from all over Massachusetts to our town and quickly understand how much we love our country and celebrate its many freedoms.

"We also take great pride in the fact that General Rufus Putnam, of Rutland had an impact on settling the Northwest Territory in present-day Ohio." Rutland's Rufus Putnam House is a historic landmark.

Rutland's high altitude fresh air and rural environment drew multitudes of visitors from the city in years past, and Rutland prospered as a health resort destination at the turn of the nineteenth century. Some nineteenth-century vacationers who eventually visited Rutland built summer camps around Long Pond and Muschopauge Pond.

In 1883, construction of the Muschopauge House attracted people to visit Rutland. The hotel's name later changed to Hotel Bartlett and could accommodate more than a hundred guests.

Rutland tricentennial • East Brookfield centennial

Rutland and East Brookfield

by Diane Kane

Visitors came in elaborate horse-drawn carriages, and thus began coaching parades when horse-drawn carriages competed for prizes.

Four railroad stations built throughout the town transported many visitors to Rutland. Trains ran through Rutland from Boston to Northampton from 1887-1938, adding to Rutland's accessibility. The town's current population of 9,300 residents still enjoy the clean air Rutland was known for in the 1800s, according to organizers of the festival.

Curators Scott and Anne Jordan Davis manage Wood House, home of Rutland Historical Society located at 232 Main Street. The Davis's roots run deep in the town. Scott Davis's family, originally from Concord, Massachusetts, numbered among founding settlers in Rutland three hundred years ago. His family members still own and maintain part of the family farm. Anne's family originated one of five early dairy farms in Rutland, and the Jordans run the only remaining dairy farm still in business.

"Rutland has always gone all out on parades," Anne Davis remembers. "My husband, Scott, and I loved watching them from our first apartment on Maple Avenue in the 1960s."

Wood House, built in 1908 by Sadie Morris, was willed to the Town of Rutland in 1975 by Hazel Hanff Morris Wood, wife of Franklin T. Wood, an artist known

for his etchings. The building holds a treasure trove of Rutland's history.

When King George began to build turnpikes in Rutland in the eighteenth century, surveyors discovered that the exact geographic center of the colony happened to be marked by an elm tree. Thus, the tree became known as the Central Elm and namesake of Central Tree Road. Unfortunately, the original tree succumbed to Dutch Elm disease in 1966. It was promptly replaced with a new tree in the precise location. A cross-cut of the original tree is on display in the historical society.

Rufus Putnam, one of the town's most famous residents served as chief engineer to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. He later held several town offices. His majestic colonial still stands and functions as a bed-and-breakfast facility.

Other heroes of the past who called Rutland home include Benjamin Reed, killed in action in the 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill, and Oliver Chickering, who rode alongside Paul Revere.

Madame Jumel, born in a modest shack on Charnock Hill Road, rose to fame when she married US Vice-President Aaron Burr and became Second Lady of the United States.

But perhaps the most unlauded hero of Rutland's past is Quork Walker, a Black man sold with his brother into slavery in Rutland, where he worked on the farm of

celebrate past, present, & future

his owner, Nathaniel Jennison.

Jennison promised Quork freedom when he turned twenty-five years old. However, the owner died when Quork was twenty-one. The owner's wife remarried soon after, and the new owner would not honor the previous agreement.

Quork ran away only to be caught near Boston, beaten, and returned. A lawyer in Worcester took interest, and Quork sued his new owner in court in 1783. However, Quork didn't sue for his freedom. Instead, he sued for redress of assault and battery, as he proclaimed he was already free according to the newly established Massachusetts Constitution stating that all men were born free.

The state supreme court ruled that the Massachusetts Constitution applied to Quork. As a result, enslaved people in Massachusetts were emancipated eighty years before the rest of the United States. In 2020, the state legislature unanimously proclaimed July 8 Quork Walker Day.

Rutland is poised to continue its three hundredth anniversary celebration with the pinnacle of events taking place on the town's actual birthday, the weekend of June 18. The Rutland Fire Brigade will host the Worcester County Fireman's Muster that weekend. Special events, including food and concerts, will coincide with the muster.

For more information on this event visit Rutland's Facebook page.



East Brookfield has the distinction of being designated the youngest incorporated town in Massachusetts, and its hundredth anniversary celebration is finally in full swing. Unfortunately, due to Covid, East Brookfield postponed its 2020 plans, so the Baby Town of Massachusetts has rescheduled events to run throughout 2022 to celebrate its past, present, and future.

Europeans first settled the area called East Brookfield in 1664 as part of the Quaboag Plantation lands, and it was part of the town of Brookfield when resettled in 1673. On March 24, 1920, after several failed attempts to separate from Brookfield, Governor Calvin Coolidge signed a bill making East Brookfield an independent town.

East Brookfield's total area of 10.4 square miles nestles between North Brookfield to the north and Brookfield on the west. To its south are the towns of Sturbridge and Charlton, and on the east side is Spencer, with Route 9 running right through the center. The small town includes 0.5 square miles of water, with Lake Lashaway, north of Main Street, as the town's centerpiece.

Southwest of the town center are the Quaboag and Quacumquasit ponds, also known as North and South ponds. Quaboag River plains are west of the town center, known locally as the Flats.

A dense marshland borders the pond with sparsely populated



woodland, formerly known as Podunk Village, south of the marshes. A small cemetery along Podunk Road near the Sturbridge town line marks the area along with a hilly area called High Rocks.

During his youth, vaudeville entertainer George M. Cohan spent his summers in Podunk. He loved East Brookfield, and local legend credits him with making the word Podunk famous in his comedy acts. Then, other entertainers started mentioning Podunk, and the term became widely used referring to any quintessential small town.

East Brookfield takes pride in its rural setting and invites visitors to celebrate its history and natural resources with family-oriented fun throughout the year.

A 5K run and fun walk took place on May 14. Ed Londergan, historian, will offer the talk "Murder in the Brookfields—The Spooner and Newton Murders" on May 28 at Memorial Hall Complex. Sixteen-year-old Ezra Ross was condemned to death for his participation in the murder of Joshua Spooner, according to the story, and Spooner's wife, Bathsheba became the first woman executed in America for her involvement.

Other public events include a free concert on June 10 by the United

continued on page 38

a guide to identifying varieties of ferns in

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Forests, wetlands, and fields of the Quabbin region host many species of ferns, defined as any seedless, nonflowering vascular plants of the class Filicinae.

Fern pairs described below share characteristics with other pairs but also look different enough that you can master their ID when you find them. If a fern you find does not fit descriptions included here, take photographs that show their habitat as well as close-up photos of the top side of the frond and its bottom side. Photographing ferns

and fern sori facilitate identification of ferns.

Public libraries, the internet, and smartphone apps provide guides to wild plants, including ferns.

Fern vocabulary includes the following:

Frond, the stem or *petiole* and leaf or *blade* of a fern

Pinnae, created within one division of frond or blade with further cuts creating *pinnules*.

Sori are the parts that have the fern's tiny reproductive spores.

A fern underground stem or *rhizom*, is thick with thin hair-like roots.

more fern identifier charts on pages 46 and 47



cinnamon

*Osmundastrum
cinnamomeum*

common fern, grows tall, has clumped growth pattern

fertile frond
central and cinnamon
pinnae slightly pointed



interrupted

*Osmunda
claytoniana*

fertile pinnae
interrupting the frond
pinnae blunt or rounded

ROBERT G. OSBORNE



Floating Sculpture: Archimedes on Lake Mattawa
See us at Paradise City Arts, Northampton, May 27-29
www.robertgosborne.com



FRAMES/INK

Preservation
Picture Framing
for more than 25 years
We frame Art, Textiles,
Memorabilia, and More!!

**287 West Road
in Petersham, MA**

(978) 724-3394
is the number to call for
professional framing.

frames-ink.com

Quabbin region forests, wetlands, and fields



bracken

*Pteridium
aquilinum*

common fern in upland locations
fronds cut three times, grows from runners

blade upright
three large horizontal
pinnae

sori in lines
hidden in curls
under edges



eastern hay-scented

*Dennstaedtia
punctilobula*

blade arched

sori circular or
kidney-shaped



Christmas

*Polystichum
acrostichoides*

common fern in rocky woodlands and evergreen
grows in clumps

pinnae bulge at the base

sori brown in rows under
smaller pinnae



rock polypody

*Polypodium
virginianum*

grows in rows on rocks,
outcrops

no bulge in pinnae

sori on underside with no
cover

Ice Cream Shop

Open May thru September

*We carry delicious
Bliss Ice Cream*

made in Massachusetts

*More than 20 flavors
from Vanilla to Purple Cow.*



*Visit our
New England Country Store
year round.*

*Bakery • Coffee Shop • Gift Shop
Finnish Coffee Bread and more
baked fresh daily.*

Call to order 978.939.8558

268 Baldwinville Road • Templeton, MA

Open additional hours in the summer!!

templetonkitchengarden.com

Like us on Facebook: The Kitchen Garden



The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

**Now Available at the North Quabbin Chamber
of Commerce and Visitors Bureau in Athol,
the Johnny Appleseed Visitors Center
on Rt. 2 in Lancaster, Massachusetts,
or directly from Mitchell Grosky by contacting
the photographer at 978-249-9090, by facebook,
or via email at mrgrosky@msn.com**

**A Hardcover Coffee Table Book of 80 pages
Over 200 color photographs -- 26 area towns and cities**

Only \$32.95 plus tax (plus shipping, if required)

bamboo fly rods and fishing Swift River for

by Rick Taupier

Swift River Valley has long been known as one of the best trout fishing destinations in southern New England. Before the Quabbin reservoir, anglers from the Ware and Springfield areas rode the train to disembark at their favorite Swift River Valley stop before walking to fishing destinations they rarely revealed in public.

Catches could be prolific, consistent with the ethic of the day, with large strings of brook trout ranging from six to twelve inches long. Early trout fishermen, fishing primarily with bait, chose whole cane rods made of natural bamboo ten or more feet long. But, among even those early anglers, fly fishing grew in popularity, following the English tradition of using a cast of two or three flies fished under water at the end of a silk line with a cat-gut leader.

In response to demand for fly rods in and outside Swift River Valley, Horace Gray & Sons of Pelham established the first major fly-rod-making shop in New England in the late nineteenth century and helped pioneer the use of split-cane bamboo rods. Dry fly

fishing became more popular in the 1920s and 1930s and created a demand for bamboo fly rods much smaller and more delicate and elegant.

The tradition of making elegant bamboo fly rods continues until the present day, though mostly in the Greenfield area. Swift River Fly Fishing in New Salem turns out a few bamboo rods each year in the Quabbin region, many of the rods designed for smaller streams and wild brook trout. Regal Vises in Orange makes some of the finest fly-tying vises in the world.

Swift River in Belchertown remains one of three most popular fly fishing rivers in the Commonwealth. Waters below Quabbin Reservoir hold the best wild brook trout fishery in New England, excepting Maine. During 2022, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MassWildlife, will study wild brook trout of the Lower Swift River to document seasonal movement patterns and better characterize the size and structure of the trout population.

The studied portion of the Swift has not been stocked with brook trout in more than thirty years. The fish



Cell Phone:
978-387-6017
Hours: 10 am-5 pm
Wed-Sun

Dealer Shop
Store Phone:
978.642.5429

Country Bumpkin' Antiques

Kimberly Pirner owner
36 Baldwinville Rd. Templeton, MA 01468
countrybumpkinantiques@hotmail.com

Like us on Facebook and Instagram

Brimfield Antique Show Shelton Field B17



Stan's liquor mart
Fine Wine & Spirits

STOP BY AND CHECK US OUT
1586 SOUTH MAIN ST., ATHOL • 978-249-9550

HOME TO:

400 PLUS CRAFT BEERS

600 PLUS WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

150 PLUS WHISKEYS

MAKE STAN'S YOUR ADULT BEVERAGE DESTINATION
Find Us On Facebook 

Come See Stan's Great Selection Of
Fine Beers, Wines, and Spirits!

wild trout

population nevertheless exceeds two thousand brook trout per river mile. Such a robust wild population relies on constant cold water release from the bottom of Quabbin Reservoir that keeps river water at a level suitable for year-round growth and provides excellent spawning habitat.

Fishery biologists estimate that Swift River has more brook trout longer than twelve inches than all other rivers in Massachusetts combined. Just as many identify the Quabbin watershed as an accidental wilderness, the incredible fishery occurs as an accidental creation of a disrupted ecosystem that has come to mimic the best conditions in the entire country for wild brook trout. The incredible resource deserves increased protection.

Not to be overlooked, Upper Swift River Valley streams display in many ways a very different, more fragile character. The West, Middle, and East branches all hold wild brook trout as well, but fewer. The few fishable pools space further apart.

Wild brook trout in Upper Swift must compete for a limited food supply with young salmon from eggs laid by spawning landlocked salmon in the late fall and hatched in the early spring. Brown trout also spawn in Quabbin's tributaries and compete with natives.

Few people realize that, though Quabbin has become known for lake trout and landlocked salmon, only brook trout are native to the region, as well as all of Massachusetts.

Rick Taupier, former professor and administrator at UMass, Amherst, owns Swift River Fly Fishing in New Salem. He invites those seriously interested in native trout, char, and bamboo fly rods to stop by the shop during open weekend hours.



Father and son Bob, left, and Ryan Mulligan of Springfield fish the fly-fishing only section, the Y pool, Quabbin Reservoir outflow of Swift River above Route 9 in Ware.
photo by Rick Flematti



Commonwealth had elaborate tax regimes

by Carl Hammer

The image shows two pages of a handwritten tax valuation manuscript from 1786. The left page is for Greenwich and the right page is for Blandford. Both pages list various types of property (e.g., Dwelling Houses, Farms, Mills, Land) and their corresponding tax values in pounds, shillings, and pence. The documents are handwritten and show signs of age.

1786 valuation for Greenwich and Blandford, Massachusetts, from Massachusetts Archives Collection, volume 163, nr 127
photo courtesy of Massachusetts Archive Collection

Residents of the Quabbin area will probably not be surprised to learn that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had an elaborate tax regime in colonial and early federal periods. Primary taxes levied by the province and then the state were made on the value of real estate and personal property and on the number of polls. Polls were White or free Black or Indigenous males aged sixteen and above, although certain men such as the minister were exempted for a specific reason.

The poll tax was a flat tax and, thus, regressive, but it was easy to assess and levy. Tax assessors reasoned that a sixteen-year-old male constituted a potential financial asset who could be put to productive work. Small rural communities assessed taxes on real property relatively easily, but determined taxes on

personal property with more difficulty, particularly as financial assets grew as industry and commerce increased. Towns left matters of determining individual obligations to the town's tax assessors who, as in Greenwich, were often also the selectmen.

A Massachusetts town's assessors did not determine the total state tax owed by the town. Rather, the state government conducted periodic comprehensive valuations of the Commonwealth's towns. The best-known valuation provided the basis for the tax of 1786, which was exceptionally large and a principal cause of Shays' Rebellion.

Because of its importance, local authorities took great care in the valuation based upon returns made in 1784. Properties not reported to local authorities were

in colonial and early federal periods

“doomed” or assessed independently. A committee of the General Court, the state legislature, then reviewed and emended town returns.

The legislature precisely specified items valued. For rural towns, such items included the aggregate number of houses and barns, stores and workshops with their stock, types of “improved” land—that is, tillage, meadow, pasture, and woodlots—and various sorts of animals from horses to swine. Also included were silver plate and money lent at interest and in hand. Each town submitted a detailed list with all items enumerated in aggregate, and a uniform monetary “value” was assigned by the committee to each, thus producing a total taxable value for every town.

Then, when the General Court determined the amount of tax to be raised, tax was apportioned mathematically to individual towns according to their share of the total taxable value. After that, local officials would apportion the total tax levied on respective towns based upon the assessed value of each individual’s real and personal estate, again using a flat tax rate regardless of wealth.

The new federal government raised the only progressive tax during the period in anticipation of a war that never materialized with Revolutionary France. That so-called “house” or “window” tax of 1798 required detailed enumeration of all real properties in the town

continued on page 48

Exhibit 2: Quabbin Towns According to the Valuation of 1784/6 (MAC 162/163)								
	<u>Greenwich</u>	<u>Belchertown</u>	<u>Ware</u>	<u>New Salem</u>	<u>Shutesbury</u>	<u>Pelham</u>	<u>Hardwick</u>	<u>Petersham</u>
Polls Rateable	203	287	149	238	93	181	310	322
Polls Rateable but Supported	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Polls not Rateable	18	29	13	47	31	36	30	27
Dwellings incl. Doomed	142	150	75	155	72	132	184	197
Shops incl. Doomed	4	8	4	0	0	4	14	16
Tan, Potash and Iron Works	1	3	1	3	1	2	3	1
Barns	90	99	67	102	40	98	196	156
Grist and Saw Mills incl. Doomed	5	7	6	12	3	2	10	7
Tillage (ac)	839	1007.5	446	318	178	298	795	577
English Meadow (ac)	335	234.5	329	654	221	414	766	915
Fresh Meadow (ac)	757	1007	786	136	41	258	873	1120
Pasture (ac)	407	578	455	495	194	609	1224	2617
Improved Woodland (ac)	207	?	2064	?	?	1255	2109	3055
Improvable Woodland (ac)	10948	20083	8675	13765	13287	10589	14014	12789
Unimprovable Woodland (ac)	5049	8325	1906	4389	1342	3949	1414	3472
Cider (bl)	332	530	278	386	204	1411	902	832
Stock in Trade (£)	0	94.83	12	0	0	60	225	830
Horses and Colts	161	192	123	150	67	154	312	291
Oxen	135	256	126	201	68	140	214	208
Total Neat Cattle	349	448	270	534	130	346	705	678
Cows	314	395	245	406	160	333	615	593
Sheep and Goats	591	647	613	722	226	442	1333	1143
Swine	253	420	201	308	142	270	426	371
Plate (oz)	0	82.5	0	0	0	0	62	77
Debts Due (£)	0	282	123	107	0	300	30	630
Monies in Hand (£)	15	25	6.50	75	8	16	57.30	39
Total Valuation (£)	1289.61	1649.73	866.96	1610.23	550.68	1413.38	3773.82	3147.99
Valuation per Rateable Poll (£)	6.35	5.75	5.82	6.77	5.92	7.81	12.17	9.78
All Polls per Dwelling	1.6	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.8
Barns per Dwelling	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.8
All Livestock per Barn	20.0	23.8	23.6	22.8	19.8	17.2	18.4	21.1
All Agricultural Land per Barn (ac)	26.0	28.6	30.1	15.7	15.9	16.1	18.7	33.5
Tillage per Barn (ac)	9.3	10.2	6.7	3.1	4.5	3.0	4.1	3.7
All Meadow per Barn (ac)	12.1	12.5	16.6	7.7	6.6	6.9	8.4	13.0
Pasture per Barn (ac)	4.5	5.8	6.8	4.9	4.9	6.2	6.2	16.8
Improved Woodland per Barn (ac)	2.3	na	30.8	na	na	12.8	10.8	19.6

A spreadsheet compares the 1786 Greenwich tax return with those of other Quabbin region towns.

spreadsheet © by Carl Hammer

MAY-AUGUST 2022 • UNIQUELY QUABBIN MAGAZINE 13

Petersham, Belchertown historical groups

by Carla Charter

Several Quabbin area villages have links to their educational past through preservation of one-room schoolhouses including those in Petersham and Belchertown.

Petersham once had thirteen schoolhouses according to Larry Buell, historian. Among them, the Ledgeville School had its name due to its location in Ledgeville Village on a massive sheet of ledge, Buell said. The one-room Ledgeville school, built in 1846, housed first through sixth grades and accommodated twenty-five pupils at capacity, he continued

Petersham Historical Society and Petersham Center School cooperate for an annual visit to Ledgeville Schoolhouse. Third- and fifth-graders visit Ledgeville School and the nearby one-room second East Street School for a full, hands-on immersion into the town's history.



Petersham Historical Society stages reenactments in the Ledgeville school building.

photo courtesy of Petersham Historical Society

The historical society has preserved the school, once heated with a wood-burning stove in the back of the room with every student's family supplying wood. "If a family brought green wood, the student would have to sit back up away from the stove as punishment,"

said Buell. The school also had a one-hole outhouse.

Usually, children lived close by, walked to school, and went home for lunch. When the farms needed their children, the school shut down temporarily Buell observed.

In front of the school is a straight flagpole, Buell said. To avoid warping when cutting a tree for a flagpole, workers cut the tree green and laid it on sawhorses on its side. Students turned it a quarter turn a day as it dried, said Buell. When the school closed in 1943, the building accommodated neighborhood gatherings, mainly card parties in warmer weather.

Petersham Historical Society opens the school in spring and summer for special events.

Belchertown once had eighteen one-room schoolhouses, including the Washington District School in South Belchertown. Erected in 1893, the building closed as

**Athol • Orange Area
Rotary Club**

*providing funding, services and
resources for a variety of local,
regional and international projects*

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



to join us or for more information
email: aorotary@gmail.com
website: atholorangerotary.org

Service Above Self

preserve one-room schoolhouse buildings

a schoolhouse in 1938. Several different community groups then used the building.

The school housed first through eighth grades. “They were not grades as we think of grades today. You didn’t move up until you were ready,” said Randi Shenkman, trustee and docent at Belchertown’s Stone House Museum, Belchertown Junior-Senior High School social studies teacher from 1974 to 1986, and principal of Athol High School from 1997 to 2004. “Children walked to school and went home for lunch,” she continued. “The number of children attending depended upon the number of school-aged kids in the area at the time.”

Donated to the Belchertown Historical Society housed at Stone House Museum, the school was moved to its current location at Stone House in 2016.

In anticipation of the move, the rafters and the roof had to be taken off of the schoolhouse in order to avoid taking down electrical wires during the move, Shenkman explained. “The goal was to get the school house onto the society property before school started the next day. It was amazing to watch. As they backed the tractor up onto the property, it got stuck in the mud. It was daylight. We got it out of the mud just in time.”

Since 2016, exterior renovations have been completed with a rebuilt chimney and brick facing behind the woodstove to code, although it will never be lit, said Shenkman.

Pending interior work includes adding electricity and heating and

continued on page 57



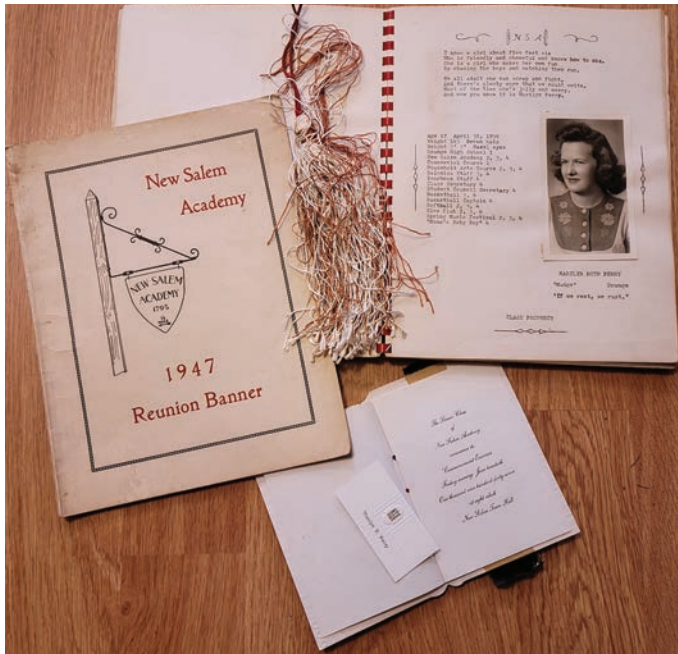
South Belchertown’s Washington District one-room school, top, at its original location, served the community for more than forty years from 1893 to 1937. For many years after, it was used as a community building, most often for meetings of 4-H groups. Stone

House Museum of Belchertown Historical Association moved the building, middle photo, to its grounds at 20 Maple Street, Belchertown, in 2016. During the winter of 2016-2017, bottom, the historical association began a fundraising campaign to restore the school building.

photos © by Randi Shenkman

1947 New Salem Academy memorabilia

by J. A. McIntosh



1947 New Salem Academy memorabilia offer insights.
photo © by J. A. McIntosh

New Salem Academy, whose buildings have been repurposed around New Salem Common, provided vocational education from the signing of its Massachusetts charter in 1795 until it closed in the mid twentieth century.

Marilyn Perry McIntosh graduated from New Salem Academy in 1947 on a Friday. The following Monday, she went to work for New England Telephone, later NYNEX.

Later a wife and mother, she retains the rounded cheeks of her graduation picture. In her nineties, she is among the oldest surviving graduates of the academy.

Her 1947 yearbook records nine people in her graduating class, which voted her best all-round girl and best-natured girl. The late Gus Johnson, who operated Johnson's Farm in Orange, earned best all-round boy. The late Ted Lewis, longtime resident of Wendell, had the designation best-natured boy.

The yearbook lists Joseph Ciechon as principal from 1943 through 1947, but Perry McIntosh said he

A Tradition of Compassionate Service

At this difficult time in your life, it is our job to make things a little easier for you. At Mack Family Funeral Homes, we are confident you'll receive the professional service and care you deserve, and have come to expect from us.



Higgins-O'Connor Funeral Home
146 Main St., Athol • 978-249-4139

*Reflecting
innovations in
funeral service
while respecting
a tradition of
excellence in
family care.*



Fiske Murphy & Mack Funeral Home
110 New Athol Rd., Orange • 978-575-0575

provide insight into voc ed school

was drafted into the military in 1945 and returned shortly before the 1947 graduation. In his absence, Lillian Gardner, a teacher in the commercial program, acted as principal. Mrs. Gardner encouraged Perry McIntosh to join the girls basketball team, which she captained in her senior year. Mrs. Gardner provided a ride for her to games, which the team often lost

Perry McIntosh started her education in a one-room schoolhouse in Moore's Corner, a village in the north of Leverett. She left the tiny school to go to Amherst High School. She felt shocked in a large college town not to her liking. In her sophomore year, she transferred to New Salem Academy, where her friend Viola Williams studied.

Williams and her cousins all made the twelve-mile trip by car to New Salem each day. Dick Carey, a senior, drove, and because Perry McIntosh, the only non-relative, got picked up last, she sat in the middle back. Sometimes, when they ran out of gas, they pushed the car up Jennison Road in Wendell. Once they got to Lake Wyola and coasted downhill to the gas station in Moore's Corner.

During the summer between her sophomore and junior years, Perry McIntosh and her family moved to Orange. Thereafter, she took the bus from Orange to the Academy.

Newspapers and radios provided the primary means of communication and news, and Perry McIntosh's family could not afford a radio. Perry McIntosh said she was unaware of the events like VE and VJ days observing Allied victories in Europe and Japan until she got to school and talked to her friends about the events. New Salem Academy did not have a radio during Perry McIntosh's attendance. The Class of 1947 made a donation toward the purchase of a radio for the school.

New Salem Academy had customary school subjects including math, English, and



New Salem Academy's 1947 yearbook features photos of graduates wearing dress-up styles of the day. They are, from left to right, top to bottom, Mereline Lanagan of New Salem, F. Gustaf Johnson of Orange, Esther Hamilton and Audrey Stowell, each of New Salem; Theodore Lewis of Wendell, Marilyn Perry and Gordon Parsons, each of Orange; Viola Williams of Leverett, and Harold Wetherby of Wendell.

photo of yearbook page © by J. A. McIntosh

social studies in the morning. After lunch, each student attended track classes, with boys on the agriculture track. Perry McIntosh started on the commercial track because Williams had chosen it. Girls might instead take the home economics track, while boys could take industrial education.

continued on page 57



one of oldest towns in central Massachusetts, Brookfield became prosperous agricultural, manufacturing community by John Burk

Home to Native American settlements in precolonial times, Brookfield, one of the oldest towns in central Massachusetts, became a prosperous agricultural and manufacturing community. Located in southwestern Worcester County, its 16.6-square-mile landscape encompasses the upper Quaboag River watershed and surrounding rolling hills that rise roughly 900 feet.

From headwaters at Quaboag and Quacumquasit ponds, Quaboag River, a crucial resource for Native Americans, colonial farmers, and nineteenth-century industries, flows northwest along the floor of a former glacial lake. Its name derives from Squaboag, a Native word meaning red water place or red pond, so-called because of iron sediments. Associated meadows and wetlands, including Great Swamp, Wolf Swamp on Trout Brook, and bogs, provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and plants.

Numerous archaeological sites along Quaboag River's corridor indicate significant Native American use, including seasonal camps and ceremonial areas, for at least eight thousand years. A Quaboag Pond site contains regionally rare evidence of occupation by Adena peoples who primarily inhabited modern Ohio.

In 1660, the Massachusetts General Court granted Quaboag Plantation to petitioners from Ipswich, who chose the area for its location between the Connecticut River Valley and eastern Massachusetts and its abundant natural resources. Settlement began in 1665 at Foster Hill, now in West Brookfield, and Brookfield was initially established in 1673. After destruction of the Foster Hill village in August 1675 during King Philip's War, colonial settlers abandoned the area until 1686.

The second colonial settlement at Elm Hill succeeded despite French and Indian War conflicts, and Brookfield reincorporated in 1718. Subdivisions of the original township formed Warren in 1742, part of New Braintree in 1751, North Brookfield in 1812, part of Ware in 1823, West Brookfield in 1848, and East Brookfield in 1920.

Despite difficult beginnings, Brookfield became the wealthiest town in central Massachusetts by the late eighteenth century. Farmers raised livestock for meat, dairy, and cheese production, and fertile Quaboag Valley soils yielded abundant hay and grain crops. Home businesses included makers of wood products, textiles, palm leaf hats, and shoes.

continued on page 64



extolled for waterfalls, scenery, and natural resources, Royalston once hosted industry on main highway

by John Burk

Extolled by preeminent nineteenth-century geologist Edward Hitchcock for waterfalls, scenery, and natural resources, Royalston features abundant protected land and a classic New England town common. Situated in rugged Worcester-Monadnock Plateau uplands, its 42-square-mile landscape comprises rocky hills and ridges capped by 1,361-foot White Hill near the Warwick town line. Jacobs Hill, a steep ridge on Tully River's east side, is home to scenic views, Spirit Falls, and Little Pond.

A 2.5-mile segment of Millers River winds through the southeast corner of Royalston. Major tributaries include Tully River East Branch, source of Tully Lake and Long Pond, and Lawrence Brook, best-known for the quarter-mile-long cascades of Doane's Falls. Picturesque Royalston Falls, where Falls Brook plunges 45 feet through a granite gorge, lies within a glacial valley near the New Hampshire state line. Other conservation lands include Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area and Eagle Reserve, a wildlife-rich wetland protected by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in 2016. A mine on nearby Beryl Hill yielded

many aquamarine gems in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Rugged terrain and distance from Connecticut River and Quaboag Valley core settlements limited Native American presence to small seasonal camps on waterways including Tully River, Long Pond, lower Doane's Falls, and Millers River. King Philip's War, the French and Indian wars, and epidemics substantially reduced Nipmuc populations before arrival of European settlers.

The Massachusetts General Court granted and auctioned land in present Royalston, one of the state's last undivided areas, between 1737 and 1752. After French and Indian War frontier conflicts delayed permanent settlement until 1762, Royalston incorporated in 1765 with a population of forty families. Proprietor Isaac Royall Jr., for whom Royalston is named, donated land and funds for a meetinghouse before moving to England at the onset of the American Revolution.

Many early settlers of Royalston came from Sutton, Rehoboth, and other southern Worcester County and eastern Massachusetts towns. Nearly a hundred men,

continued on page 62

Grange constituted recreational, social outlet in

by J. A. McIntosh

Grange constituted a major recreational and social outlet in Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, the four towns resting beneath waters of Quabbin Reservoir. Swift River Valley Historical Society preserves the history and the artifacts of the four towns, including memorabilia from Grange.

Grange, officially named National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, was founded in 1867 to promote agriculture and encourage political and economic well-being of rural communities. Over its existence, Grange has used its political power to, among other things, lower rates charged by railroads to ship agricultural products and to establish rural free delivery by the United States Post Office.

Fredonia, New York, established the first Grange, appropriately designated Grange No. 1. Any person old enough to draw a plow could join and, from the beginning, the organization allotted at least four officers' positions at each



Grange provided booklets covering the organization's practices for promoting agriculture and encouraging political and economic well-being of rural communities. Swift River Valley Historical Society preserves the vintage and antique examples.

photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society

Grange to women. By 1875, more than 850,000 Grange members lived in the US when the country's population numbered some 4.4 million, so roughly twenty percent of the nation's populace belonged to Grange.

Grange proclaims as its motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." The organization prides itself on taking positions on political matters but not endorsing any political candidates.

Each flooded town in Swift River Valley had its own Grange. Local Granges, called subordinates, banded together to form Pomona Granges,

RON'S FUEL, INC.

**BIG ENOUGH
TO SERVE YOU**



**SMALL ENOUGH
TO KNOW YOU**

**ATHOL, MA
(978) 249-3548
RONSFUELINC.COM**

978.249.4246

**FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
REPAIRS**

FLINT'S AUTO REPAIR

**MICHAEL A. BERNARD
Owner**

**990 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ATHOL, MA 01331**

Check us out on Facebook!!

Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott

named for the Roman goddess of gardens and orchards. Pomona Granges grouped together to form the state grange. Pomona Grange in Swift River Valley included the four flooded towns as well as Ware, Shutesbury, New Salem, and Leverett.

SRVHS has documents from each of the Granges.

The Prescott Grange, called Golden Rule Grange No. 52, elected officers yearly. According to first names listed in the program, in 1916, six of fourteen officers were female. Members heard lectures on spending and saving money and first aid. An agricultural fair took place in October of that year. Not all lectures were of a practical sort. The July discussion considered a statement from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Every man is a quotation from all his ancestors."

Greenwich Grange, according to its 1921 program, also elected officers for yearlong terms. Apparently seven of its fourteen officers were women. The Greenwich Grange handbook, though dispensing much of the same information as that of Prescott, features a more casual style. The Greenwich Grange St. Patrick's Day dance featured "a new way of finding your partner" with the May event described as "farce and social dance." Greenwich Grange also had guest lecturers, but devoted many evenings to open discussions of topics such as: "Who makes the more competent cattle inspector, a practical farmer or a graduate veterinarian?"

North Dana Grange was also known as the Garfield Grange No. 104. In 1926, it sponsored a reading and discussion on a statement from Abraham Lincoln: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; I

like to see a man live in it, so that his place may be proud of him." At the time, the Massachusetts legislature had taken up consideration of the act to take the land of the four towns for Quabbin Reservoir, so it is easy to imagine that Lincoln's statement had special significance in that year.

Enfield Grange took part in the final ball on April 28, 1938, the day of disincorporation of the four Swift River Valley towns designated for flooding. The Grange provided supper to all participants who went to Enfield that night to see the disincorporation of the towns of the Swift River Valley. At the end of the dance, at midnight, all participants sang "Auld Lang Syne" and observed a moment of silence. After midnight, all four towns ceased their official existence.

On June 16, 1938, the Granges of Enfield and Greenwich had their final meeting which moved from the Grange Hall to the town hall when more people than expected showed up. They returned their charters to the state Grange and their treasuries went to erect the Grange building at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts. That Grange Hall remains with its wooden staircase and multipaned windows. Every fall, it hosts exhibits of local produce and needlecraft.

J. A. McIntosh writes the Meredith, Massachusetts, series of crime novels. She is the president of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, dedicated to memorializing the work and lives of the inhabitants of the four towns and the surrounding communities.



SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Keeping alive the stories of
New Salem and the
four "lost" towns of
the Quabbin*

40 Elm Street, PO Box 22
New Salem, MA 01355
Telephone: 978-544-6882

www.swiftrivermuseum.com
www.facebook.com/swiftrivermuseum
swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com



*Serving
Preschool
Kindergarten
Grades 1-6*

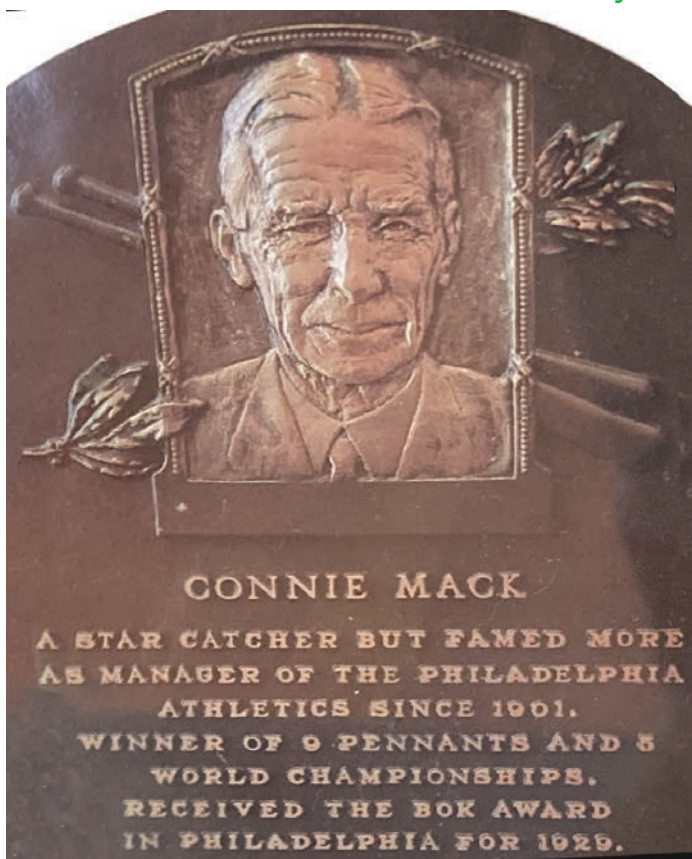
An affordable independent school
Challenging hands-on academics
Creative arts and music
Learning in nature

Fall and Winter Open Houses

The Village School
253 S. Royalston Rd.
Royalston, MA 01368
978 249 3505
villageschoolma.org

baseball great Connie Mack born in the section

by Diane Kane



A plaque recognizing baseball great Connie Mack resides in the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Cooperstown, New York. Mack was born in 1862 in the section of Brookfield that became East Brookfield.

photo courtesy of East Brookfield Historical Commission

Early twentieth-century, baseball great Connie Mack grew up in the Quabbin region.

Born in 1862 in Brookfield in the area that became East Brookfield, Cornelius McGillicuddy—better known as Connie Mack—eventually earned national and international fame as player, manager, and team owner.

Spring and summer mean baseball season across the country, of course. Right here in the Quabbin region, Little Leaguers practice, play, and dream baseball dreams.

Legend has it that in 1839 in Cooperstown, New York, Abner Doubleday developed the game of baseball, with the first game played there. Of course, as with all folklore, some dispute the story, but the fact remains, baseball has been the official American pastime since the Civil War.

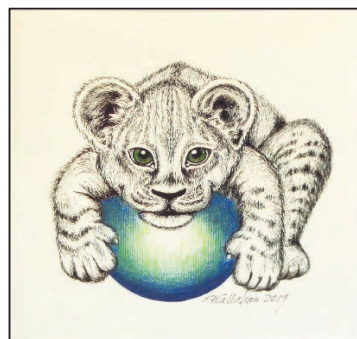
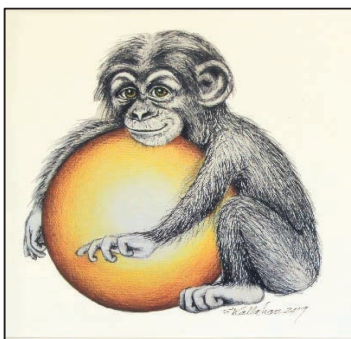
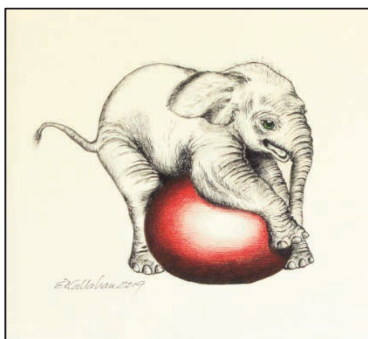
Twenty years after the war, Mack played on minor league teams in Connecticut in 1884, moving up in 1886 to play eleven seasons in the major leagues, primarily for the Pittsburgh Pirates as a catcher.

In 1901, Mack became manager, treasurer, and part owner of the Philadelphia Athletics and remained with them through 1950. When he retired at eighty-seven, he was the longest-serving manager in the history of major league baseball. Mack had records for most wins, losses, and games managed with a victory total of almost a thousand more than any other manager.

In his time, Mack won nine pennants and appeared in eight World Series, with the winning team for five.

JUNGLE BABIES

A gift to be cherished for the nursery. 3 - 8" square Prints \$75



Call the Rutland artist, Elizabeth Callahan 774-272-0364

of Brookfield that became East Brookfield

Time magazine featured Mack on the cover in 1927, and in 1937, baseball writers elected him to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. In 1953, the Philadelphia baseball stadium was renamed Connie Mack Stadium to honor him.

Before his success, Mack came from humble beginnings in East Brookfield, where he grew up in a house across from the local baseball field. Mack began working summers in local mills at age nine and quit school at fourteen to work full time to help support his family.

Heather Gablaski, historian and educator at the East Brookfield Historical Commission Museum, also grew up in East Brookfield. "The legend of Connie Mack is well known in East Brookfield," she said. "He's our most famous resident. So, I always knew of him, but it wasn't until about ten years ago when three generations of his family came to join the 2012 Connie Mack Celebration that I began to realize what a big deal he really was."

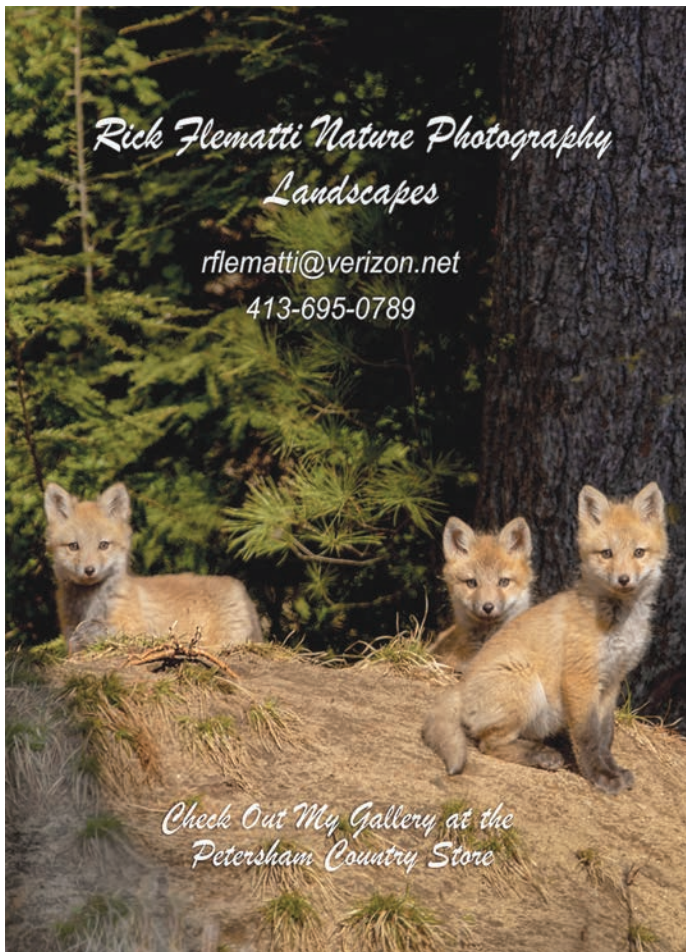
In the mid 1800s, town teams began to spring up across the Quabbin region. Lake Quaboag, South Pond, and Lake Lashaway made Brookfield a vacation

destination for city folk. Baseball entertained the summer tourists and gave area mill workers a cheap weekend pastime. "That was before it became the American version of baseball we know now," Gablaski explained. "The rules for baseball back then were more like cricket. Fields were set up like a square, not a diamond. Pitchers threw underhand, and catchers stood far in back of the plate only catching the balls after they bounced once on the ground."

Major league teams scouted and drafted many young men from town leagues. "Family stories tell of my grandfather being scouted by the Cardinals," Gablaski said. "But he didn't want to leave his family." Connie Mack leaped at the offer.

"His local nickname was Slats for his distinctive height that served him well as a catcher," Gablaski said. Mack was the first catcher to stand behind batters at home base. "Later, he was known as the Tall Tactician for his mathematical approach to the game."

continued on page 56



A Great Selection of Liquors, Wines, Beers, & Full Lottery!

Beer
Wine
Spirits

174 Market Drive
Athol
978-249-6782

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.





BREW BARN
& Cidery

Tap Room
Open Friday–Sunday

- Red Apple Farm Hard Ciders
- Moon Hill Brewing Beers
- Cozy Winter Food Menu
- Live Music Saturday & Sunday

Farm Store
Open Daily



VISIT
Year Round

455 Highland Ave. | Phillipston, MA

BrewBarnMA.com

martial arts practices around Quabbin

by Bryan Lagimoniere

When did the martial arts appear in the Quabbin Region? It's not clear.

To some extent, before martial arts appeared on the scene, they arrived in North America in the mid nineteenth century with Chinese laborers who worked building railroads across the United States. The laborers trained among themselves.

What many consider the first official wave of martial arts in the USA began after World War II. Veterans who served in Japan and nearby Asian posts as occupying forces in the late 1940s became intrigued with the discipline of the enemy they had fought. Many Americans began to inquire about the ability of Japanese and other Asian veterans to concentrate under harsh battle conditions. American soldiers noticed the unique fighting abilities of their Asian opponents.

Members of the US military stationed in Asian countries including Korea and the Philippines in the

Martial Arts Studios in the Quabbin Area

ATHOL

YMCA

545 Main Street

(978) 249-3305

www.ymcaathol.org

SooBakh Doo/ Korean Karate

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Quan Fa Martial Arts

93 North Main Street

(508) 579-4723

www.quanfamartialarts.com

Kenpo Karate

Birds Nest Ministry of Martial Arts

38 Main Street

(540) 391-0662

www.birdsnest-mma.org

Jido Kwan Karate

teaches families and small groups

ORANGE

Bonks Kempo Karate

41 Johnson Road

(978) 894-3395

Kosho Ruy Kempo

RUTLAND

Wachusett Martial Arts and MMA Center

87 Main Street

(508) 886-2628

www.wachusettma.com

Kenpo Karate

Mixed Martial Arts

BELCHERTOWN

Belchertown Recreation

Commission

66 State Road

www.belchertownma.myrec.com

(413) 278-1230

Ju Jitsu

Tigon Martial Arts

4 Stadler Street

(413) 323-0291

www.tigonkarate.com

Kempo Karate

WARE

Griffins Judo and Karate Studios

55 East Street

(413) 967-6619

www.griffinskarate.com/

contactWare.php

Judo and Karate

list compiled by Carla Charter

endure in towns reservoir

1940s and 1950s also brought back systems of martial arts. Some systems, including karate, classified as “empty hand.” Other forms, including Philippino stick fighting known as Eskrima, Japanese Kendo and Kenjutsu sword, required training with various weapons.

I remember physical education class I attended in 1964 during my years as a student at Athol High School. A local veteran then stationed in Japan had qualified as a first-degree black belt in Shotokan karate. He demonstrated his art during our gym class and performed a couple of his Katas, or forms, along with some breaking techniques. We students saw it as mysterious and awe inspiring.

Not long after, Bruce Guimond and Jim Morris, who also had seen the Shotokan karate display, and I began studying the Okinawan karate form of martial arts. We discovered Gorge E. Mattson, a US military veteran who had served on the Japanese island of Okinawa, opened a karate school in Boston. Many consider Mattson the founder of martial arts training in America. Shortly after beginning our training with him, we began the Athol High School Karate Club under the guidance of George Gouin, a teacher of French.

Other returning veterans, including me after my 1970s duty in Vietnam, have continued in our training in martial arts and also teaching the skills here in the

continued on page 58



The author practices his art in 1975.
photo courtesy of Bryan Lagimoniere

Moon On Mattawa Studio

Hand-painted Deity Sculptures, Giclee prints & Cards

Our unique and carefully **HAND-PAINTED BUDDHAS & DEITIES** are vividly beautiful. Our personal technique of layering colors creates a luminous essence in all our pieces. These solid cement forms have great presence and are suitable for both indoor/outdoor use.

We also offer gorgeous **GICLEE PRINTS** of original Watercolor paintings from the “Glance of Mercy” series. Some of the most beloved Animals and Birds are represented with vibrant colors and powerful imagery.

Both Buddhas and Giclees are offered as **GREETING CARDS** as well. They are striking and enhance the art of card-writing.



Shali Sanders, Artist



moononmattawa.com • 413-824-9374

Shali Sanders • moononmattawa@gmail.com

75 South Shore Dr. • Orange, MA 01364

Leverett, Royalston, and Athol residents travel to Poland

by Susannah Whipps

After discussing what we had been seeing about Ukraine in the news during early spring, my nephew Michael Adams of Brooklyn, New York and Royalston, and I felt compelled to pitch in where we could. Always grateful that we live in a safe country and never having had to experience war or displacement caused by war, we packed up and

headed to Warsaw, Poland, to offer assistance.

Many volunteers from all over the world went to Poland to pitch in. Local businessman and activist Dean Cycon of coffee roaster Dean's Beans and his wife, Annette, from Leverett did notable work helping elderly refugees find housing right on the Polish/Ukrainian border.

On very short notice, millions of Ukrainians fled fighting in their country. Most went to Poland while others went to Hungary, Romania, Moldova, and Slovakia. The United States invited a hundred thousand Ukrainian refugees.

Our mother and grandmother set an example for helping those in need, and Michael and I couldn't resist the call. The Cycons felt a tradition of answering people's call for help from others in their family. On each side, the Cycons' parents and grandparents personally experienced being refugees during World War II and after.

Michael and I arrived in Warsaw and quickly found a very clean, safe, and quiet city. A worker at our hotel said COVID-19 mainly caused the quiet part.

Refugees from Ukraine arrived at Warsaw Central Station, we soon learned. As we walked through the station, we saw many elderly folks and moms who looked very tired while keeping their children close. In February, Ukraine instituted a draft for men between eighteen and sixty so most families traveling are grandparents, moms, and their children.

We brought sanitizing wipes, gloves, masks, and other items we gave to workers in the station. We also had a little bankroll from family and friends that we converted into Polish zloty, the country's currency, to give out.

In the refugees' service area at the station, Chef José Andres led World Central Kitchen to provide food for the travelers. Another tent furnished



Refugees from war in Ukraine stand in line at Warsaw, Poland, Central Railway Station awaiting bureaucratic processing and services.

photo © by Susannah Whipps

to offer assistance to refugees from war in Ukraine

triage and healthcare while another small tent offered basic supplies, diapers, and hygiene products.

Buses ran from Warsaw Central Station to the Warsaw soccer stadium, Stadion Narodowy, turned into a makeshift shelter for tens of thousands of people.

Michael and I quickly realized that the language barrier made us the wrong people to wear yellow vests identifying volunteers. The last thing the refugees needed was to approach a helper who could not effectively communicate. We spent a lot of time on the outskirts of tents providing aid.

We noticed that some refugees avoided the communal setting of the tents. In many instances, aid providers required Ukrainian passports. We made a point to find those folks without passports and give them a small amount of zloty to take care of their immediate needs.

We befriended Eddin, a volunteer from the Church of Sweden. He had been working sixteen hours a day for over a month in tents outside the station. When we headed to the airport to leave Warsaw, Eddin reached out to tell us the Church of Sweden had run low on baby supplies. We decided to send more supplies to Eddin when we returned to the US.

The more time we spent in Warsaw, the more we recognized the kindness and welcoming spirit of the Polish people. When we were there, we realized that the 1.8 million refugees who entered Poland equaled the population of Poland.

We noticed a photo in the train station encouraging refugees

to consider settling in smaller communities outside of the capital as the cost of living is lower. One volunteer from the UK told us with considerable emotion that many refugees considered long-term suggestions and said they intended to go home as soon as they can. He told us he didn't have the heart to tell the refugees that their homes are gone and the cities they lived in have been destroyed.

We visited Warsaw's oldest synagogue and oldest Catholic church during our visit. Scores of Polish citizens of Belarusian descent came together one cold afternoon to rally and show their support for the people of Ukraine.

Polish citizens opened their homes to refugees. Michael and I concluded that, if our efforts

brought some relief to the refugees or our fellow volunteers, that the trip was well worth it. Our efforts made just a drop in the bucket, but if everyone made one drop in the bucket, what a world we would live in. As anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Truer words have never been spoken.

A 1987 graduate of Athol High School, Susannah Whipps has been a representative to the Massachusetts legislature since 2015. A co-owner of Whipps, Inc., she studied culinary arts at Johnson & Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island, and holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Fitchburg State University.



QUABBIN CURRENTS

1922 report sealed fate of Swift River Valley towns

by J. R. Greene

Like Rome, the Quabbin Reservoir was not built in a day, nor did it take a day to get the necessary legislation to build it passed.

In January, 1922, the joint board of the Metropolitan District Commission and state Department of Public Health issued their report on how to meet state water needs as House Document #1550. Three years in the making, it was intended to solve water supply needs of several cities in Massachusetts. While the report paid some attention to the needs of Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton, the report devoted thirteen times the space to the water supply of Metropolitan Boston.

The legislature originally expected the joint board report in 1921 but granted another year to the board to complete its work. X. H. Goodnough, the chief sanitary engineer for the department of public health, served as chief engineer for the project. An article in the January 28, 2021 *Springfield Republican*, headlined "Boston's Plan to Take Swift River Water Pressed • Enfield

Will Be Wiped Out Under Plan • Towns of Enfield, Greenwich, and North Dana Will Also Suffer Damage," underestimates destruction the proposed reservoir would cause. The newspaper article sees Enfield as being "wiped out" with Prescott, Greenwich, and North Dana having to "suffer damage" without vanishing under the proposed reservoir.

The January 1922 report indicates that three watersheds in west central Massachusetts would be affected by proposed development of the supply. Water would be diverted from Ware River in Barre and Millers River in Athol, while the three branches of Swift River would be turned into a huge reservoir by two dams built below Enfield. The report recommended first undertaking the Ware River diversion project closest to Wachusett Reservoir, westernmost part of the Metro Boston water supply at the time. The report referred to the prospect as the Goodnough Plan, after the chief engineer.

WITTY'STM

FUNERAL HOME

With Care and Concern Since 1910



ORANGE

978.544.3160



One member of the board, longtime Metropolitan Water Commissioner James Bailey, dissented from the board report. He asserted that, despite necessity of Ware River diversion, driven wells and other river diversions closer to Boston could make up the difference for Metro Boston, without the need for a vast reservoir in Swift River Valley.

Both Bailey and Goodnough presented their cases to the joint legislative committee on water supply in late March 1922. The committee didn't act on the proposal but



John H. Johnson
Dana selectman
photo courtesy of
of J. R. Greene

held a hearing in Enfield in early May, where more than four hundred people showed up. After Goodnough summarized his plan, Selectman J. H. Johnson of Dana presented the committee with a petition signed by the selectmen of all four affected towns. It included a request that any land takings for the project be done by purchase, not by eminent domain.

"We are the victims of an unfortunate necessity. This must be a necessity or a bunco game, and I choose to think it is a necessity," Johnson stated. Other speakers at the hearing opposed the project while some asked for prompt legislative action so they would know if they had to make plans to move.

Another public forum on the project, held in Ware shortly after the Enfield hearing, saw much opposition to the plan, especially the part that would divert water from Ware River. Representative Roland D. Sawyer, D-Ware, who represented Ware and three doomed towns in the legislature, led

BOSTON'S PLAN TO TAKE SWIFT RIVER WATER TO BE PRESSED IN 1922

Protective Tariff is Defended By Coolidge

Vice-President-Elect in Atlanta (Ga.) Address Says
Sole Object to Be Sought Is the Public Welfare, in
Determining Economic Policy of Country

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 27—Calvin Coolidge, vice-president-elect, addressing the southern tariff conference to-night, said that in a determination of the economic policy of the country "the sole object to be sought is the public welfare." He defended the protective tariff, but said there would need to be "a careful resurvey of the field in order to determine the

ENFIELD WILL BE WIPED OUT UNDER PLAN

Towns of Prescott, Greenwich and North Dana Will
Also Suffer Damage

The lead article in the January 28, 1921 *Springfield Republican* accurately predicts but understates eventual effects of the so-called Boston plan.

newspaper photographed courtesy of J. R. Greene the opposition. The next water committee hearing in Massachusetts State House on May 23, 1922, featured a delegation of valley residents and selectmen, again led by Dana's Johnson. He asserted that business and real estate trade stood still in the four towns while the situation remained in doubt. The next day, the water committee recommended that the 1923 legislative session decide the matter.

Several hearings of the 1923 legislature reviewed the joint board report and Bailey's dissent. A bill passed in May requiring the water committee meet after conclusion of the legislative session to study the matter. While committee members hoped for an appropriation

continued on page 60

BROOKS MacMANNIS FLORIST & GREENHOUSES

2108 MAIN STREET • ATHOL, MA 01331

TEL 978-249-3595

www.macmannisflorist.com

*We invite you to visit the largest greenhouse in the area:
thousands of hanging plants, vegetables, perennials,
cut flowers, and gifts.*

twister
a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



Just like a tornado, some visual haiku compositions, including *Twister*, mushroom out of nowhere and with no other purpose than their own visual commentary.

We all experience increasingly violent weather events due to climate change, and I suppose *Twister* therefore churned itself onto the page.

Twister lends a cautionary tale of fleeting, whirling poetic imagery catching our attention, momentarily riveting our awareness and awe to forces of nature unleashed upon us, unwitting souls who may nevertheless bear some responsibility for nature's changes.

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

Remembering Dorothy Johnson

continued from page 4

another, a squat Fiestaware yet another. We seat ourselves and tease and laugh and eat and refill the coffee cups. Conversation never falters as it bounces from person to person and ricochets off Dorothy's unfailing wit.

Friday morning breakfasts first met decades ago, summoned then to the New Salem Restaurant by Dorothy and her life partner, Doris Abramson, who together operated the Common Reader Bookshop. Time went on, the restaurant closed, and the venue changed. For years, Johnson's Farm in North Orange hosted the crew.

Any number of friends—seven, four, ten or more—showed up at 8:30. Repartees started, news and gossip circulated, and friendships

fed. Dorothy regularly ordered oatmeal. When it came time to settle the bill, a confusion of dollars and change got thrown into a pile. It all seemed to work out. Like New Salem Restaurant and Johnson's Farm, some of the regulars are no longer with us, gone with the passage of time. However, the joy in the company of good friends didn't wane, and new locations emerged—the White Cloud and Terry's Corner Café in Orange, Petersham Country Store, New Salem General Store, our homes.

The matriarch of Friday breakfasts and creator of the Uniquely Quabbin column "Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts," dear Dorothy Johnson, has peacefully entered her ultimate quiet place. In this space, she has

shared her special places—a view of Quabbin Reservoir; Lost Villages Scenic Byway in Barre; a stone wall in Mandell Hill, Hardwick; cemetery stones for the Pike brothers in Belchertown, among others.

Dorothy herself has become a quiet thought embedded within as the loss of her fills me. I am also replete with the life she shared, the moments and opportunities she created, the hidden affection she revealed with a merry quip.

Quiet places, quiet thoughts.

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

Imagine

Let Us Entertain You

Stage on Main

Visual & Performing Arts Space
Local Art & Crafts Market Place

17 South Main Street, Orange MA 01364

978-633-4302 • www.facebook.com/stageonmain

SOM is sponsored/supported by the Orange Court LLC,
ORP, Legacy Unlimited and Orange/Mass Cultural Council.



Free - Art Gallery - Music - Theater - Game Nights - Karaoke - Movies - Refreshments
A space for people to gather, enjoy the arts, and shop for art and hand crafted items in downtown Orange, MA

Recently, I drove to Quabbin Reservoir's Enfield Lookout to take a long view, to witness light dancing on water and feel my place on the curve of earth and in the arc of time. I found a perch and sat listening for old stories rising from the land and felt comforted by a crooked vee of geese winging north. As local amphibians sing vernal love into the wind, buds swelling on the trees promise a safe home for summer birds.

So much to write about! I hope you enjoy the poems here from contributors Michael Madeiros, who lived for many years in a cabin that was relocated from a flooded town, and from Elaine Reardon whose writing powerfully reflects the nuance of the season.

—Dina Stander

Go Home, Quabbin Cabin

by Michael Medeiros

The running toilet, I think,
is the ghosts of the Quabbin dead
come back to re-insist
this cabin's still theirs.

Flood the foundations,
carry the wood frame like a baby
on your back to the new town
just past the waters' reach.

Dig out a cellar,
lay the fieldstone,
set the structure down soft,
and live for decades thinking
yourself repatriated.

The spirits in the porcelain tank
know different, bubble up with every flush lately
and then linger dripping down the bowl
same as snowmelt seeps into the diverted,
dammed-off streams.

It's only a matter of time
before we float Ark-like east
on a town water surge,
a bathroom fountain overflow
to carry and reunite.

Riding the blue futon
while the waters soak
to disintegration my hoardings
on the wood plank floors,
wash away the unessential,
the stains on the kitchen linoleum,
the back porch addition,
the drop panel ceilings—
all lost on the torrent home.

A deep swell and under we go.
Drift, drift, then stuck fast again to the old
Clean-washed foundations, solid joined
as cheese on a greasy grill-scorched burger,
down there in the deeps home again,
proper happy with the fish
and the freshwater grasses waving.

Michael Medeiros is a poet and potter living in western Massachusetts. He obtained his degree of master of fine arts in poetry from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he was managing editor of *jubilat*. A co-founder of the Tell It Slant Poetry Festival at Amherst's Emily Dickinson Museum, he is editor of the poetry compilation *A Mighty Room: A Collection of Poems Written in Emily Dickinson's Bedroom*.

Rhubarb

by Elaine Reardon

The first early June morning I
gather rhubarb at the garden's edge.
I bend to pick wild strawberries,
sweeter than any garden berry.
Four would fill a thimble.

In the kitchen I slice each stalk,
eight cups worth, into the pot.

Early summer simmers up memories.
I stir, add sugar, cardamon, and vanilla.

Some things are constant in our lives,
like stirring a pot on summer morning,
pale greens and reds, transforming crunch to
silky smooth. Grandmother, mother, and now me,
we've stirred at the stove for love.

Quabbin poets

poetry editor

Garden Fire

by Elaine Reardon

In May I pulled away winter's weeds,
spread manure, and fastened new
fencing. We made a trellis from pine saplings,
an art installation for tomatoes to climb.
Finally time to plant broccoli, lettuce, and chard.

When I didn't want to think anymore about
fires in California, when I felt helpless as so many
packed to leave homes, my tears moistened
the soil. I imagined they were rain
falling in California.

Warm enough finally
for peppers, tomatoes, and eggplant.
More fires out west, the land dry from
a lack of rain. I weeded every morning, held tiny
cucumber blossoms in my fingertips.

Thought of smoke-filled skies, of choosing
what to pack to outrun such danger.
And the tomatoes—such profusion. Winter squash
climbed the trellis, then over the fence,
down the other side.

What is it like to wake, smoke stinging eyes,
when simply breathing hurts?
Each morning's grace is a garden meditation where
I sit inside a golden squash blossom, protected.

Bees buzz gently in with me
covered with the gold dust.
They are intent on doing only
one thing at a time and notice only nectar.
I dry herbs, gather potatoes, listen to what the insects say.

Apple Tree

by Elaine Reardon

A gust of wind pushed
white petals into the air
past the shed, into the field.

The apple tree looked worse for wear
like a woman after a night on the town,
finery put away, make up off, tousled.

Bumble bees
courted her,
nuzzled at each bloom.

They burrowed their way in,
murmured promises, and tickled
each stamen. Fickle suitors,

the bees abandoned her
for columbine
and newly opened daisies.

The apple tree had her own intentions—
she was an alchemist,
transmuted blossoms into fruit.

Her branches are heavy now.
She's been here longer than
any other tree except the cherry.

But she still can seduce
with bloom and fragrance, still brings
honey bees to court her.

Elaine Reardon worked many years as a teacher of early childhood education, environmental educator, and library trustee. Her poetry chapbook, *The Heart Is a Nursery for Hope*, was published in September 2016 by Flutter Press and won top honors. *Look Behind You*, a second chapbook, was published late 2019. She maintains a blog at elainereardon.wordpress.com.

Dina Stander lives and writes in Shutesbury. She is a poet, end-of-life navigator, and maker of burial shrouds. To find out more please visit www.dinastander.com.

New in Ware, *The Word* at Workshop13 poetry series takes place the first Friday of each month with an open mic and featured reader. Find more at workshop13.org.

If you are a Quabbin area poet and would like to submit poems for possible publication in *Uniquely Quabbin*, send up to three via email with the subject UQ Poetry to: dinastander15@gmail.com. The submission deadline for September *Uniquely Quabbin* is July 1, 2022.

seasoned or fresh, authors have stories to tell

by Diane Kane

Norah Dooley of Royalston describes herself as a storyteller. She has a degree in creative arts and learning and has been a full-time visual and performing arts instructor in elementary and middle schools. Norah tells stories to thousands of children through ReadBoston.org and appeared as a historical storyteller for SaveTheHarbor.org

She founded the curriculum-based high school storytelling program StoriesLive.org and co-founded massmouth.org and the Boston Story Slam series. She has written four published children's books illustrated by Peter J. Thornton and recorded several audiobooks.

Norah has achieved more than some writers dream of, but where did her story begin?

"I spent my first thirteen years on Staten Island, New York," Norah said. "It was so rural we saw only a few cars on our street each day. We lived next door to a lady who raised chickens—hundreds of them. My older brother,

younger sister, and I played in the surrounding woods and created scenarios from our voracious reading."

Then her family moved to Boston. "I graduated from Brookline High School and went to art school in Boston as well."

Later, when Norah had children, she became an organic farming apprentice. "I dragged the whole family with me to a farm in Winchendon, in 1991," Norah said. "We lived between Boston and Central Massachusetts for thirty years.

Then, in late summer of 2020, we moved to Royalston to live in a house we helped to build."

Royalston feels like home to Norah. "It's surprisingly like the Staten Island of my youth.

Surrounded by woods, we get eggs from our neighbor down the road and ride our bikes up and down three miles of sparsely inhabited road."

While many authors struggle for decades to get published, Norah said, "It was ridiculous good luck to have my first finished manuscript accepted by the first publisher I sent it to. It has been all downhill from there."

Based on historical research, Norah wrote and produced two performances for the hundredth anniversary of the Phineas Newton Library and the 250th celebration of the Town of Royalston. She is still looking for more material to write about her adopted hometown.

Norah is working on a project she's had on the back burner for some time. "I'm turning more of my childhood memories into picture books," she said.

Norah says she reads anything from shampoo bottles to cereal boxes and beyond. "I read novels if they are remarkable and come to me well-recommended by people I trust." She enjoys nonfiction: history, biography, and political science.



Norah Dooley performs.

photo courtesy of Norah Dooley



NORTH QUABBIN PHOTOGRAPHY

**North Quabbin Wildlife and Scenics
Quabbin History and Wildlife Presentations**

**Dale Monette
978-846-9289**

www.northquabbinphotography.com

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

Norah's advice to aspiring writers is, "Never give up. And try as many paths as you have energy for."

Find more at norahdooley.com or StoriesLive.org.

Ashley Cheney of Belchertown is new to the title of author and finds it challenging. However, Ashley's entire life has been a challenge, and she repeatedly proves she is up to the task.

"When I was four years old, I was placed in foster care," Ashley said. "I moved from one home to another until I was eight. Then I was placed with LuWanda Cheney, and she adopted me.

Ashley settled into her new home. "I especially loved the house in Ware. We had a large pond with woods around us. It was so quiet and peaceful." But when Ashley turned fourteen, her whole life changed again.

"I was a cheerleader until I decided it would be fun to jump off the sunroom roof," Ashley explained. "My friend jumped first and didn't get hurt, but I landed on a fieldstone path."

Ashley was flown by helicopter to Boston Children's Hospital where doctors told her she would never walk again.

"I was filled with guilt," her mother, LuWanda, said. "What if I hadn't been cooking dinner? What if I didn't let her have friends over? What if? What if?"

"My brothers and sisters helped a lot. When I went back to school, my friends pushed my wheelchair," Ashley said. "My school made sure I had everything I needed, and the physical therapists helped me even when I didn't want any help."

Then LuWanda suggested Ashley write a book. "I said I would if she helped," Ashley said. "Writing it was a lot of work, but I discovered I was stronger than I thought. I think it's good to write if you are sad or going through a hard time."

I asked Ashley what message she hopes her book sends. "Don't jump



Authors Ashley Cheney and LuWanda Cheney prove themselves up to the task.

photo by Diane Kane



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
open 24 hours a day/5 days a week
open Saturdays 7am-4pm and Sundays 8am-4pm

Strengthening the Foundations of Community
Great programs for the entire family

- Aquatics
 - Sports
 - Preschool Play
 - Fitness
 - Group Exercise
 - Camp Wiyaka, Camp Selah
- State-of-the-Art cardio equipment
in our Fitness Center & Best Free
Weight Gym in the Area!



Membership is easy. . .
Monthly bank draft or credit card draft with no contract and
financial assistance available!
Membership fee eligible for insurance reimbursement (not all insurance applies)

ATHOL AREA YMCA

545 Main Street, Athol • OIC building, 131 West Main Street, Orange

Find Us On
Facebook



978-249-3305
www.ymcaathol.org



continued on page 67

Belchertown and Orange libraries suggest

compiled by Carla Charter

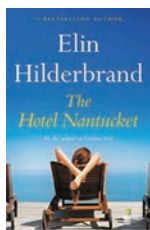
from Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown

Adult Fiction

The Hotel Nantucket

by Elin Hilderbrand

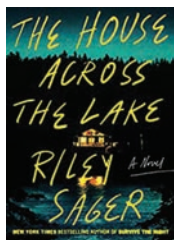
At the recently renovated Hotel Nantucket, manager Lizbet Keaton refuses to let even a ghost hurt the hotel's reputation.



The House Across the Lake

by Riley Sager

A recently widowed actress retreats to her family's lake house to escape the press and is suspicious when the woman across the lake disappears.



Sci Fi and Fantasy

Good Omens

by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

Who knew the end of the world could be such a lark? It may be written, but an angel, a demon, and a pack of kids call the place home and like it, thank you very much. Also a series starring David Tennant and Michael Sheen.



Teen Fiction

Along for the Ride

by Sarah Dessen

Dessen's summer romance set in her fictional beach town of Colby, North Carolina, will soon be adapted into a movie. You definitely want to read the book first!



Blackout

by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon

Teens looking for short stories will devour *Blackout*, a book with interconnected love stories and a diverse main cast, written by popular writers, including Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give*, and Nicola Yoon, author of *Everything, Everything*.



Clapp Memorial
reads continued on
page 49



Original Tire Company

Tires and Alignments

We don't want to be the biggest—just the best.

Joseph D. West
978.249.3477

443 South Athol Road
Athol, MA 01331

can't-put-'em-down reads for the beach

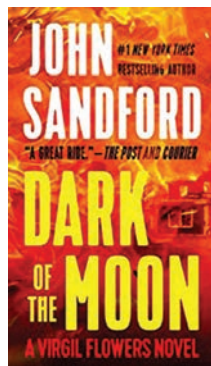
from Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange, and Moore-Leland Library, North Orange

Adult Fiction

Dark of the Moon

by John Sandford

Virgil Flowers, thrice-divorced, affable member of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, MCA, reports to Lucas Davenport but operates pretty much on his own. He's been doing the hard stuff for three years, but he's never seen anything like what faces him. In the rural town of Bluestem, an old man is bound in his basement, doused with gasoline, and set on fire. Three weeks before, a doctor and his wife were murdered. Three homicides in Bluestem in just as many weeks is unheard of. It's also no coincidence. And it's far from over.



Wheeler Memorial
and
Moore-Leland
reads continued on
page 49

Written in Red

by Ann Bishop

Enter the world of the Others in the first novel in Anne Bishop's fantasy series: a place where unearthly entities—vampires and shape-shifters among them—rule the earth and prey on the human race.

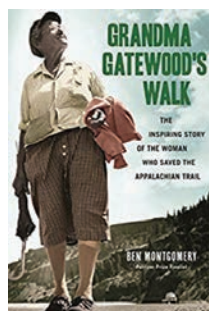


Adult Nonfiction

Grandma Gatewood's Walk

by Ben Montgomery

A sixty-seven-year-old great grandmother who walked the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail survives a rattlesnake strike, two hurricanes, and a run in with gangsters from Harlem.



HARDWICK FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE EXCHANGE, INC. is celebrating 108 years of business!



**Come and see how we have
expanded since 1914!**

- Farm • Livestock • Garden
- Bird • Wildlife • Pet
- Clothing • Footwear • Toys
- Home • Wood Pellets • Coal
- Metal Roofing
- Propane Tanks Filled
- Fresh Local Eggs, Cheese,
Honey & Maple Syrup Products
plus much more!

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE
Membership Earnings & Discounts
Good Customer Service!



MORE THAN YOUR AVERAGE FARM & GARDEN STORE!

**Rt. 32, 444 Lower Rd.,
Gilbertville, MA 01031
413-477-6913**

Visit our website for coupons,
discounts & updates on special events.

www.hardwickfarmers.net

Rutland East Brookfield Celebrate Centennials

continued from page 7

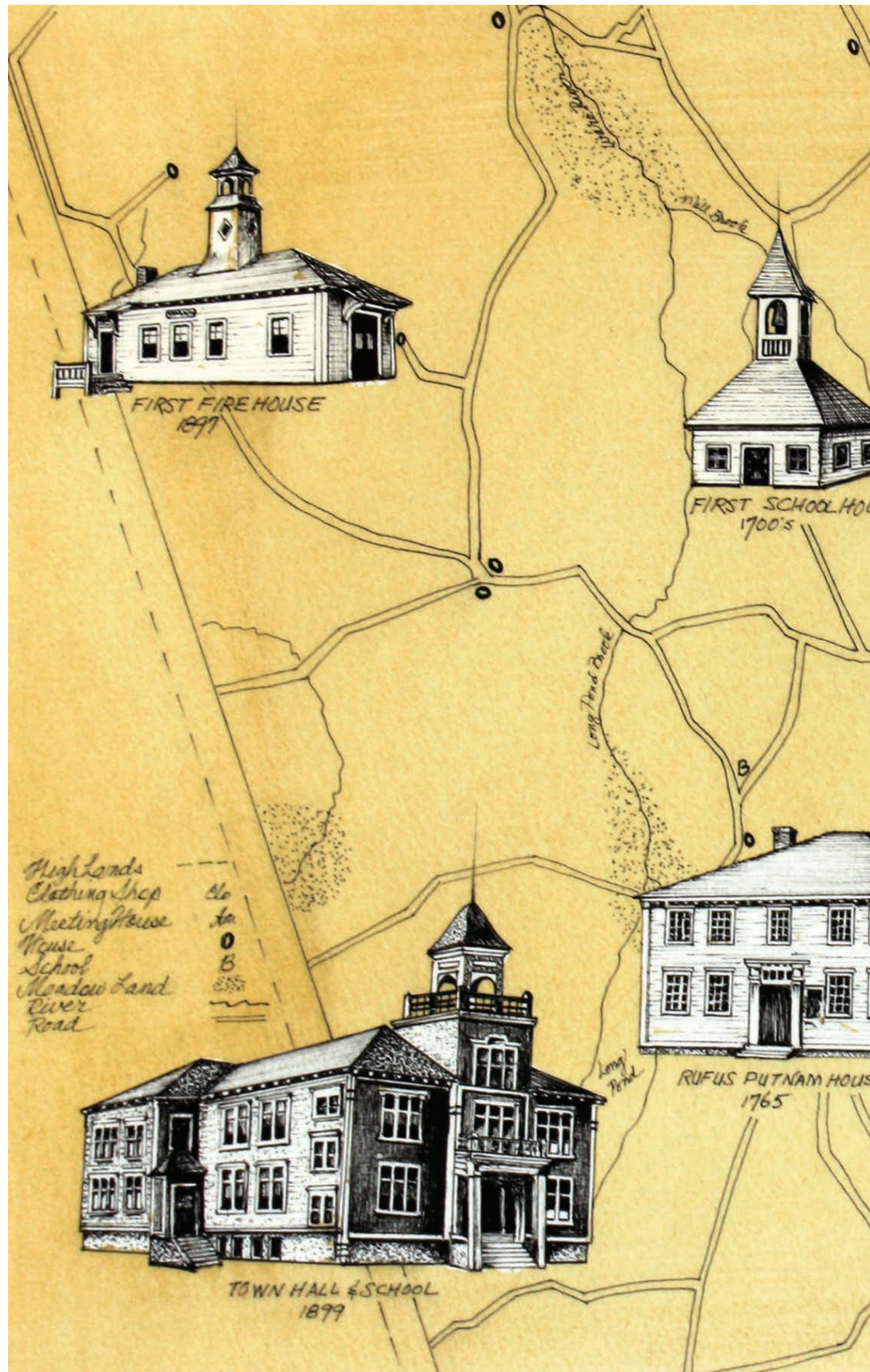
States Coast Guard Band at East Brookfield Elementary School. The annual Independence Day Celebration will kick off July 9 with a parade, events on the field, and fireworks at night. A parade on September 17 will be the capstone of the celebration. Hodgkins Building at 108 School Street will sponsor an open house at Historical Museum and Quaboag Valley Railroaders Museum on the second Saturday of each month.

Refer to the calendar listings on Page 74 for list of East Brookfield 100th Anniversary events.

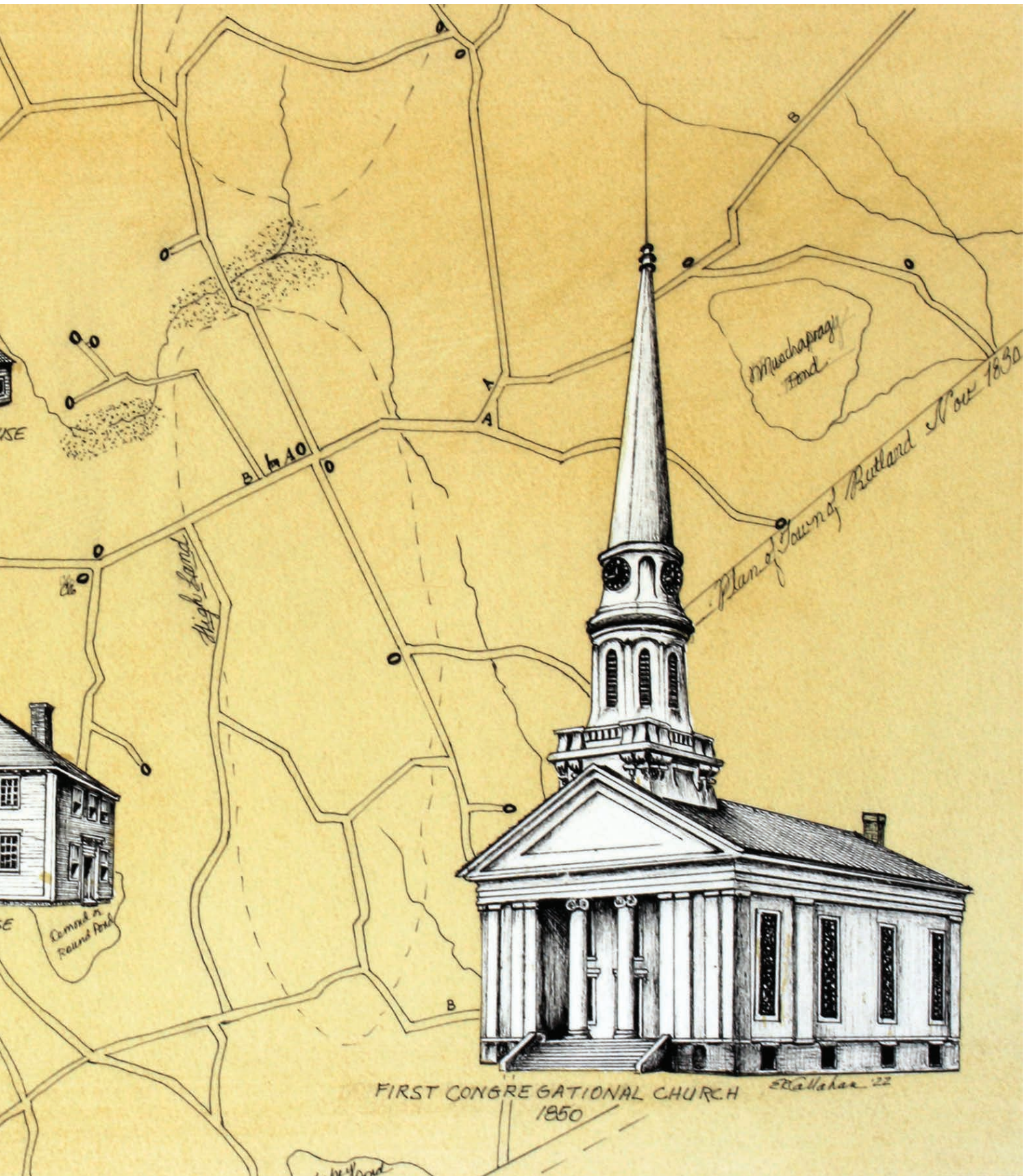
For more info, go to tinyurl.com/EB100th or contact EB100th@gmail.com

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Tell our advertisers
that you saw it in
Uniquely Quabbin
magazine.



A map created by Elizabeth Callahan captures landmarks originating in Rutland's past, watercolor and pen and ink on 140-pou



including the first firehouse, Town Hall and School, first schoolhouse, Rufus Putnam House, and First Congregational Church.
and Winsor and Newton cold-pressed watercolor paper © by Elizabeth Callahan

Missing Dogs Massachusetts helps

by Ellen Woodbury

Do you know what to do if your dog goes missing? What if you find a missing dog? Do you know how to prevent your dog from going missing? The all-volunteer, non-profit organization, Missing Dogs Massachusetts, MDM, has the answers to all three questions.

A lesser known effect of the COVID-19 pandemic involves the number of dogs gone missing. Sequestered at home, many people adopted or bought pets—in particular, dogs. For many, it was a first time owning a dog, and they didn't have sufficient experience to care for the animals.

Petersham Animal Control Officer Debra Bachrach, an MDM volunteer, explained some of many ways dogs get loose. Owners should repair even the smallest gaps, especially near the ground where the animal can slide underneath the fencing, according to Bachrach. If a fence meant to contain animals has a gate, someone may unintentionally leave the gate open or not securely closed, she said, and a dog may get out.

With many people having work done on their homes during the past two years, workmen came and went through the house. Loose in the house, a dog might see a door opening and closing and slip out. Dogs can also bolt getting in and out of cars, especially when going to the vet, Bachrach said. Dogs have run away after jumping out of a car that has been in an accident.

“Winter presents a problem, especially if it is icy. If the owner slips and falls, the dog can run away. If the dog is on a retractable leash, and the owner drops the leash, the dog can run away with the leash bouncing behind, thus scaring the dog even more. The noise can frighten the dog, which can flip quickly into fight-or-flight mode.”

Noisy events such as parades, band concerts, thunderstorms, or fireworks can frighten a dog, which will try to run to safety.

continued on page 65

☆☆ Celebrating 75 Years ☆☆



WHERE IT ALL STARTED Bob Harris, Sr. stands in front of his East Main Street, Orange business shortly after opening in 1947. He initially leased this station from the Sterling Oil Company. 75 years later, the Harris family is still taking a personal hand in their company.



NE-364399

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

In 1956, our business moved to its current location in New Salem, MA.

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

With today's emphasis on energy conservation, we are proud to install highly efficient heating systems for our customers. It may seem strange that a company who sells oil would install systems that use less oil but that is just an example of our commitment to help our customers.

Our company is very involved in our community, sponsoring many youth sports teams, area fundraisers and community events. Not only do we work locally we also live here. We are truly “local folks,” proudly serving you, our neighbors.

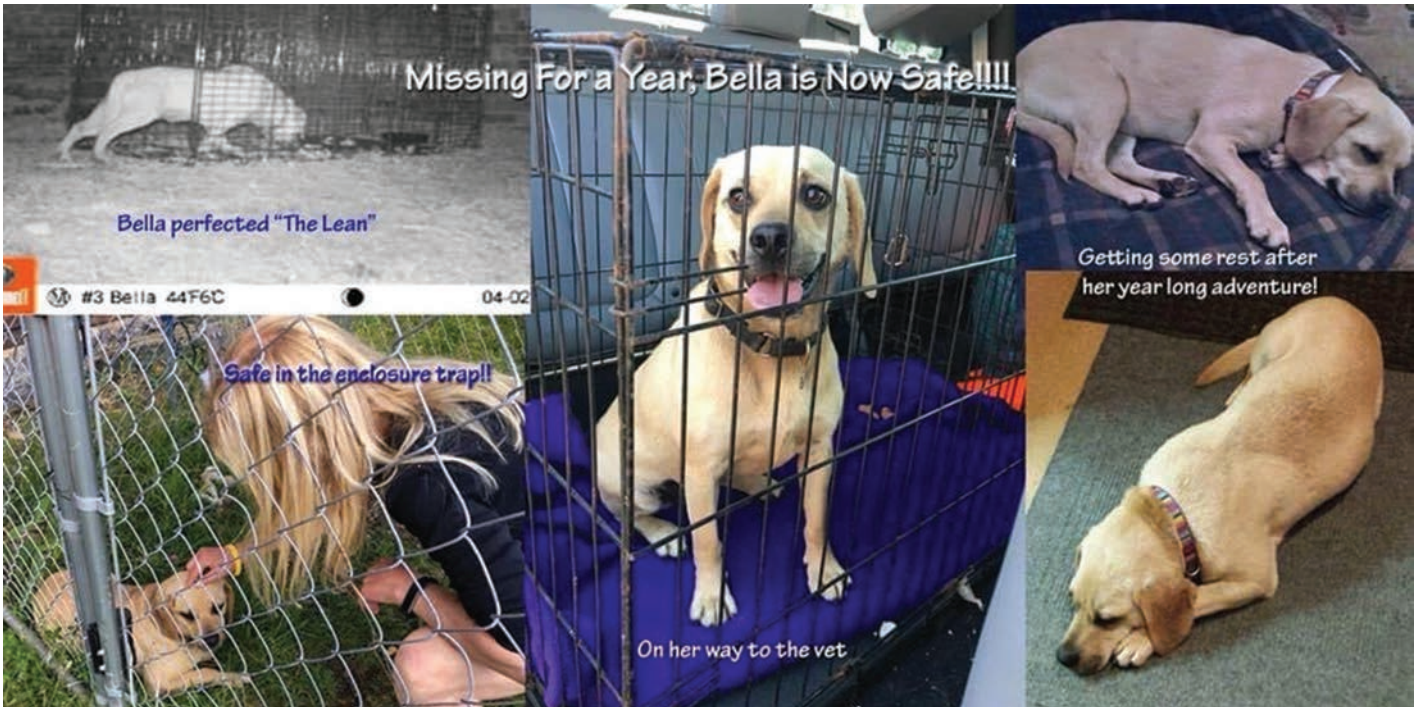


45 Elm Street, New Salem

TEL (978) 544-3222 • (413) 773-0222

www.OrangeOilCo.com

locate dogs that got loose



Missing Dogs Massachusetts assisted in returning Bella, missing for a year.
collage © by Debra Bachrach

Trail Head
OUTFITTERS & GENERAL STORE

THE TRAIL STARTS HERE...

**Part Outfitter, Part General Store,
and Part of the Beautiful North Quabbin!**

1 South Main Street • Orange, MA
Trail Head offers a unique shopping
experience. It combines our love of
the outdoors with the casual
atmosphere of a general store.

Enjoy in-house dining at the
Corner Cafe inside of Trail Head!

Trail Head Mon-Sat 8am-6pm ~ Cafe Mon-Sat 8am - 2pm
www.trailhead.biz
Follow us on facebook for the latest news!

Family Pet Veterinary Services

Dr. Sue Ellen Mowcomber • Dr. Jennifer Whitmore
(978) 249-4626
697 Templeton Road • Athol, MA

farmers markets offer local food • food pantries have essentials



Farmers markets attract Quabbin region residents of every description.
digital scratchboard drawing by Jen Niles

farmers markets

Athol Farmers Market
100 Main Street
9 am to noon
Saturdays May 28 to September 3

Barre Farmers Market
Common Street
9 am to 12:30 pm
Saturdays May 7 to October 29

Belchertown Farmers Market
Belchertown Common
10 am to 2 pm
Sundays June 12 to October 1

Hardwick Farmers Market
Hardwick Common
11 am to 2 pm
Sundays June 19 to October 30

North Brookfield Farmers Market
First Congregational Church Lawn
10 am to 3 pm
Saturdays June to October

Orange Farmers Market
135 East Main Street
3 pm to 6 pm
Thursdays May 12 to October 20

Petersham Friday Market
On the Common
3 pm to 6 pm
Fridays May 27 to October 21

Phillipston Farmers Market
Wednesdays beginning in June
details on FaceBook

Ware Farmers Market
West Street, Next to CVS
10 am to 1 pm
Saturdays May to October

West Brookfield Farmers Market
Town Common
3 pm to 6 pm
Wednesdays June 1 to October 12

food pantries

Amherst Survival Center
138 Sunderland Road
North Amherst
serving Belchertown, Leverett,
Pelham, Shutesbury and Ware
5 to 7 pm Thursdays
9 am to noon third Saturday

Barre Food Pantry
Barre Congregational Church
on the Common
serving Barre, New Braintree,
and Oakham
10 am to 11:30 am
every second Wednesday
5:30 pm to 7 pm third Thursday
Barre Food Pantry is offering
drive through pick up only

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
4 Howard Street
serving Brookfield and
East Brookfield
9:30 am to 11 am
Wednesday to Saturday

Hardwick Food Pantry
179 Main Street • Gilbertville
9:30- am to 11:00 am
first and third Fridays
first Fridays only July and August

Good Neighbors Food Pantry
Old Town Hall • Wendell Center
serving New Salem and Wendell
times depending on first letter of
customer's last name
Sundays

Helping Hands Cupboard
United Church of Christ
18 Park Street • Belchertown
4 pm to 7 pm
third Thursdays

Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry
Trinity Episcopal Church
serving Ware
20 Park Street • Ware
9 am to noon Thursdays

North Leverett
Baptist Church Food Pantry
70 North Leverett Road
7 to 8 pm
first and third Mondays

Orange Food Pantry
118 East Main Street
10 am to 3 pm
Thursdays

Rutland Food Pantry
St. Patrick's Church
258 Main Street
serving Hubbardston, Oakham,
and Rutland
9 am to noon fourth Saturday

Salvation Army • Athol
107 Ridge Road
9 am to noon Tuesdays and Fridays

Templeton Food Pantry
serving Phillipston and Templeton
16 Senior Drive • rear of building
Baldwinville
9 am to noon Tuesdays
noon to 3 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm
Thursdays
noon to 3 pm
Saturdays

lists compiled by

Carla Charter



The Clam Box, left, in Brookfield and Flis Market in Erving offer varied menus for eat-in and takeout.
photos by Diane Kane

Grabbing a bite to eat in Brookfield or Erving by Diane Kane

The Clam Box, 53 South Main Street, Brookfield, is a great catch.

You may not expect to find a great seafood restaurant so far from the ocean, but you will be pleasantly surprised. Originally established in 1951 by Ernest Hibbard, The Clam Box is a Brookfield town staple.

Tim and his wife, Cindy, have owned The Clam Box since 2019. “We both worked here off and on for many years prior to owning it,” Tim explained.

“People love our whole belly clams, fish and chips, lobster rolls, and our homemade clam chowder, too. Our super platter is our specialty item,” Tim said. “And for forty dollars, it’s the best deal in the seafood game. However, The Clam Box has much more to offer than seafood. “We have baked dishes, grilled items, homemade mac and cheeses, and we are known as a great ice cream stop. We also have a full bar,” Tim said. “So, whether you want a meal, light snack, or just a drink with a couple of friends, we have a little bit of everything.”

Homemade is what The Clam Box is all about. “We make all our soups, including traditional New England-style clam chowder,” Tim said. “We hand make our burgers right here, and the chicken tenders and onion rings are hand breaded and battered on location. We use a very traditional New England-style

continued on page 59

Flis Market, 5 West Main Street, Erving, opened for business in June, 2021, and is fast becoming the go-to place for locals and travelers.

If the name Flis Market sounds familiar, perhaps it’s because a market of the same name ran in in Baldwinville for eighty-six years run by the Flis family. “It’s a tradition of my grandfather and great grandfather that I wanted to continue,” Jon Flis said of the Erving establishment. “Flis is sometimes mispronounced, but it rhymes with bliss.”

And that is what Jon and Liz have found in Erving, they said.

“We lived in Montague for four years and absolutely loved the area,” Liz said. “So, when the property at 5 West Main Street in Erving came on the market, we knew it was a perfect fit.”

Cooking and sales are nothing new for Jon, who attended the New England Culinary Institute and has more than twenty years of experience in the food industry. Jon and Liz met in northern Vermont, where general stores serve as community centers, and that model inspired Flis Market.

“We talk with our customers to learn what the local community wants and needs,” Jon said. “We strive to offer a variety of products throughout the year.”

continued on page 59

stepping out of the comfort zone to

text and photos by Christine Noyes



Finished, comforting collards result from improvising.

Anyone who knows me understands that it is almost impossible to drag me out of my house. I am content to sit writing all day at my computer, although I do occasionally browse Facebook or play cribbage against my computer opponent.

I've never been a social being. That was my late husband Al's job, and he did it well. Having been an only child, Al excelled at making new friends. I, on the other hand, am an introvert. I can make new friends. It just takes me a little longer than most.

That's what made my impulsive decision to buy a camper and place it in Georgia so, uh, unusual. Not only didn't I know anyone in the Peach State, but I had never traveled alone such a long distance.

Of course, I had to leave my house to do it.

There in Georgia I first heard the comment that put some weight behind my decision to break out of my routine. I saw it in a television movie, but Neale Donald Walsch offers the same advice in his book, *Conversations with God*. It goes like this: *Life begins at the end of your comfort zone*.

How appropriate for me that I would encounter that observation for the first time as I stretched my own comfort zone. It became an affirmation of my action.

I evaded the cold and snow of the Quabbin region as I experienced the winter warmth of middle Georgia and will return often, as it is now established within my comfort zone. Besides, I still have some stretching to do.

To expand one's comfort zone can gratify and empower a person and sometimes requires a leap of faith, as did the accompanying recipe.

While in Georgia, someone presented me with two fresh bunches of collard greens, a southern staple of side dishes. Having eaten but never cooked the greens, I consulted a recipe online. I didn't have some of the ingredients, so I improvised. The result was delicious.



Preparation includes julienned ham and crumbled thick-cut bacon.

Please tell our advertisers
you saw it in *Uniquely Quabbin*.

improvise a recipe for comforting collards

COMFORTING COLLARD GREENS

2 heads fresh collard greens
1 large red onion, sliced
6 oz thick-cut bacon
8 oz smoked ham, julienned
32 oz chicken broth
2 tbsp spicy brown mustard
2 tbsp granulated garlic
2 tsp red pepper flakes
2 tsp black pepper
pinch of salt; adjust as needed

Rinse collard greens thoroughly. Peel leaf away from central stem, discard stem and tear leaf into bite sized pieces. Soak the greens in cold water for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large pot, cook bacon until crispy, then set aside. Remove excess bacon grease leaving 2-3 tablespoons. Cook the onions in bacon grease until almost soft. Dice bacon and add to onions with smoked ham. Season with salt, pepper, garlic, and red pepper flakes. Cook until onions are soft.

Add chicken broth and spicy brown mustard and mix well. Bring to a boil.

Drain collard greens and add to the pot. Lower heat to medium low to low (under boiling point), cover, and cook for 1½ hours, stirring regularly.

Check local farm stands and co-ops for fresh collard greens from early spring through late fall.



It all begins with fresh, raw collard greens.



Onions cook in bacon grease, top, until almost soft. Collards, bacon, ham, onions, and other ingredients cook until onions are soft.

Please donate to
Uniquely Quabbin magazine

with a check c/o
Debra Ellis, business manager
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
Athol, MA 01331

Quabbin region fern varieties differentiated

continued from page 9



sensitive

Onoclea sensibilis

fairly common wetland fern

fronds wither to tan at first frost

grows from running rhizomes
fronds once cut, second cut wavy

sori beadlike on separate frond



royal

Osmunda regalis

fronds die back in autumn

grows in clumps
fronds twice cut and separate

sori at the end of frond



broad beech

Phegopteris hexagonoptera

uncommon fern found in moist soils

lowest pinnae join with others

top pinnae are separate to the tip



long beech

Phegopteris connectilis

lowest pinnae do not join with others

top pinnae are fused

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

Tutors Needed!



Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol (LVOA) trains volunteers to provide free, individualized, confidential tutoring in basic literacy or conversational English to adults in the North Quabbin.

You can help! Learn how to become a volunteer tutor today!

Email: lvoa01331@gmail.com or call 978-249-5381

www.lvoa.org An affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts and the United Way of North Central Massachusetts



by characteristics



maidenhair
Adiantum pedatum •



ebony spleenwort
Asplenium platyneuron

uncommon fern with dark petiole and blade,
each requiring specific soil characteristics

often on limestone rich soils
blade twice cut held in a
horizontal circle

found on or near rock
outcrops
fertile fronds upright,
others low



John Burk Photography

featuring New England and the Quabbin Region

Prints for Home or Office • Stock Images

*Photo Restoration • Scanning
Artwork Digitization*

*regional books and guides, including
Best Day Hikes in Central Massachusetts*

*john-burk.pixels.com (Fine Art Prints Online)
johnburk.zenfolio.com • jbpictures2002@yahoo.com*



**State Representative
Susannah Whipps**

proudly serving

the towns of the

2nd Franklin District

District Office (978) 895-9606

paid political ad

Massachusetts colonial and early federal taxes

continued from page 13

and distinguished between houses valued at a hundred dollars or more and those of lesser value. More expensive



Lynne's Falls in Wendell cascades after a rainfall. To visit, from the Wendell State Forest main entrance, go to Ruggles Pond and follow the white blazed New England National Scenic Trail north to Hidden Valley, where two cascading streams converge.

photo © by John Burk

houses were taxed at a progressive rate—the first instance of such a procedure—while properties assigned a lesser value paid at a flat rate.

The federal tax placed an enormous burden on the local assessors, a burden for which Massachusetts' officials were the best prepared among the states because of the state's well-established valuation regime.

Fortunately, 1798 returns for a number of towns, including Greenwich, survive. They provide a detailed description of the built landscape at the end of the eighteenth century, including for each house the number of stories, the number and area of glass windows, the construction material—wood-frame, log, brick, or stone—and square footage of all houses and barns as well as their values.

The tax returns are invaluable resources for local historians, particularly when combined with other sources such as census documents and local tax lists that specify underlying real and personal estate for individual taxpayers rather than aggregate town amounts used by the state government.

The best known of such itemized local tax returns were made for the provincial tax of 1771 and survive for many towns in the Massachusetts Archives, Boston. They have been computerized and printed—search under Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771 for websites. This provincial tax also provides a census of slaves under the euphemistic heading Servants for Life.

Such rich historical documents help describe and compare the social and economic structures of individual colonial and early federal towns.

Carl Hammer lives in Easthampton and Pittsburgh and is completing a book on the early history of Greenwich and Enfield.

KIMBALL LAW OFFICE

Nicholas R. Kimball, Esq.
Leigh-Anne Kimball, Esq.

Real Estate
Wills
Probate

43 New Athol Road
Orange, MA 01364
(978) 709-1774
kimballlawoffice@gmail.com
Fax (978) 709-3004



Godin

REAL ESTATE

Lynn Brooks, REALTOR®

1447 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331

Office: (978) 249-8131, ext. 217
Cell: (508) 335-3861

lbrooks@godinrealestate.com



Belchertown, Orange libraries recommend beach reads

continued from page 37

from Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown

Adult Nonfiction



Into Thin Air by John Krakauer

Thinking of climbing Mount Everest? You might want to read this can't-put-down account first.

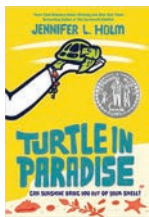
*Lake of the Ozarks:
My Surreal Summers in a
Vanishing America*

by Bill Geist

Travel back to a simpler time with humorist Geist. The title pretty much says it all.



Children's Fiction



Turtle in Paradise

by Jennifer L. Holm

In 1935, an eleven-year-old named Turtle is sent to live with relatives in Key West, Florida. Prepare for hijinks and trouble.

Dark Day in the Deep Sea

by Mary Pope Osborne

Brother and sister Jack and Annie are on another Merlin mission in the magic treehouse. Stranded on a deserted island, they wonder what their mission will be. A rescue boat of scientists and explorers saves them and takes them in search of a sea monster.



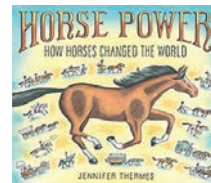
from Wheeler Memorial and
Moore-Leland libraries, Orange

Children's Fiction

Jeanie and Genie-The First Wish

by Trish Granted

Jeanie Bell adores her nice, normal life. It's the perfect kind where nothing unexpected ever happens. Willow Davis also loves things that are nice and normal, because nice, normal things are always ready for a little magic. And once Jeanie meets Willow, their lives will never ever be normal again.



*Horse Power: How Horses Changed
the World*

by Jennifer Thermes

For thousands of years, horses and humans lived together, side by side. From the time they were first domesticated to the invention of the wheel, saddle, bit, and bridle, horses brought far-flung lands closer together at the speed of a gallop. Trade, agriculture, transportation, and more were expanded in new ways—all made possible by the power of the horse.

*There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot
on Treasure Island, and best of all, you can enjoy
these riches every day of your life."*

—Walt Disney

Clapp Memorial Library

clapplibrary.org • 19 South Main Street • Belchertown

open Monday and Friday from 10 am-6 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am-7 pm

Saturday from 9 am-1 pm

Wheeler Memorial Library

orangelib.org • 49 East Main Street • Orange

open Monday 10 am-6 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1 pm-8 pm

Saturday 10 am-2 pm

Moore Leland Library

orangelib.org • 172 Athol Road • Orange

Tuesday 3-6 pm

Thursday 10 am-12:30 pm and 3 pm-6 pm

Saturday 10 am-1 pm

woodland gnomes value the venerable beech tree

by Henry Wadsworth as channeled by Susie Feldman

Hello again. It's Henry Wadsworth here with more gnome lore for you.

As I sit in the moist, shady woods, I can see several American beech trees commonly found in forest areas surrounding Quabbin. Magnificent older beech trees, sometimes known as Mothers of the Woods, can reach about a hundred feet tall with widely spreading branches. The bark of a healthy, light gray beech tree feels distinctively smooth to the touch.



Grandfather Fladj often sits in the shade of a beech tree while enjoying a favorite beverage.

summertime, many gnomes gather mature leaves of beech to use as compresses. A bit accident prone, Andors frequently needs soothing medication for his various scrapes and bruises. Boiling and mashing beech foliage creates a soothing paste to spread on stings, insect bites, and other inflammations afflicting gnomes and humans, according to Andors. He teaches

Fladj, a grandfather gnome, often sits at the base of his favorite beech tree while enjoying a beverage. He uses wood from the beech for barrels to brew his homemade beer, and he gathers green leaves for tea. Beech tea can also be made from the tree's dried brown leaves that remain on the branches throughout the winter.

Come spring, young leaves can provide a tasty salad green. By

at the gnome school and shows his students an identifying picture of beech leaves and nuts.

Beechnuts ripen in the late summer and are greatly sought after. Squirrels compete fiercely for the nuts before they fall, so we gnomes gather beneath a tree just before harvest and play our beechwood drums as loudly as possible to distract the squirrels. As you can see, the diversion amuses Mortimer.

When gathering nuts, we find it helpful to spread a cloth on the ground beforehand, then gather up the fallen nuts, rather than searching around in the leafy cover for them. Once we gather them and peel them from their husks and shells, we gnomes roast the beechnuts to eat as snacks or in salads.

Beech saplings tend to sprout up at the drip line of the tree canopy. In order that they do not become



Andors teaches at the gnome school.



Gathering beechnuts amuses Mortimer.



Noel's Nursery

perennials • shrubs • trees
landscape supplies

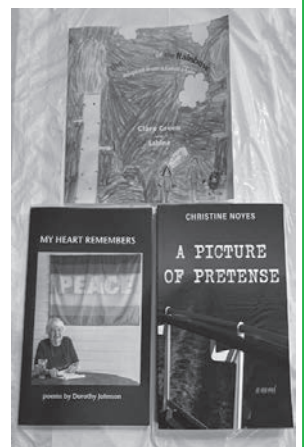
(978) 575-0570
77 Tully Road
Orange, MA 01364

HALEY'S

antiques • collectibles • appraisals
book publishing • editing
more than 150 ISBN titles
Contact us with your book
or editing project.

publisher of
Uniquely Quabbin magazine
a mile west of Athol center
on Rte 2A

Marcia Gagliardi
haley.antique@verizon.net
978.249.9400



in its many incarnations for its many uses



Boffin crafts chairs and other furniture as well as implements like bowls and spoons from beech wood.

too crowded, Boffin, our chief woodworker, cuts young trees for their dense, light-colored wood. Flexible beech wood bends well for creating chairs and other furniture. With the smaller pieces, Boffin makes implements like bowls and spoons.

In summertime, when leaves have fully developed, they are light green and papery thin. The sun shines through them, creating a lovely green glowing

atmosphere. Pytr and Jynn spent their childhood clambering among the tree's roots in their imaginary castle. At about two hundred years of age, when gnomes become adult, he proposed to her in that magically romantic light. Of course she said, "Yes."

When you walk in the woods and stop to touch the smooth bark of the beech tree, look about for a nearby gnome and appreciate the many purposes served by the beech tree, the Mother of the Woods. Among its many functions, the ancient tree breathes in carbon dioxide and so, by its very existence, it helps gnomes and Mother Earth resist undesirable changes in the climate.



When they were two hundred years old, Pytr proposed to Jynn by the light of beech tree leaves. She said "Yes."

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



ADAMS FARM
(978) 249-9441

854 Bearsden Road
Athol, MA

PACKAGE #12

call in your order today

- 4 lbs. Ground Beef Patties
- 3 lbs. Delmonico Steak
- 3 lbs. Rump Steak
- 4 lbs. Regular Style Ribs
- 4 lbs. Chicken Wings
- 4 lbs. any type Pork Sausage

Come Check Out Our Other Specials of the Week

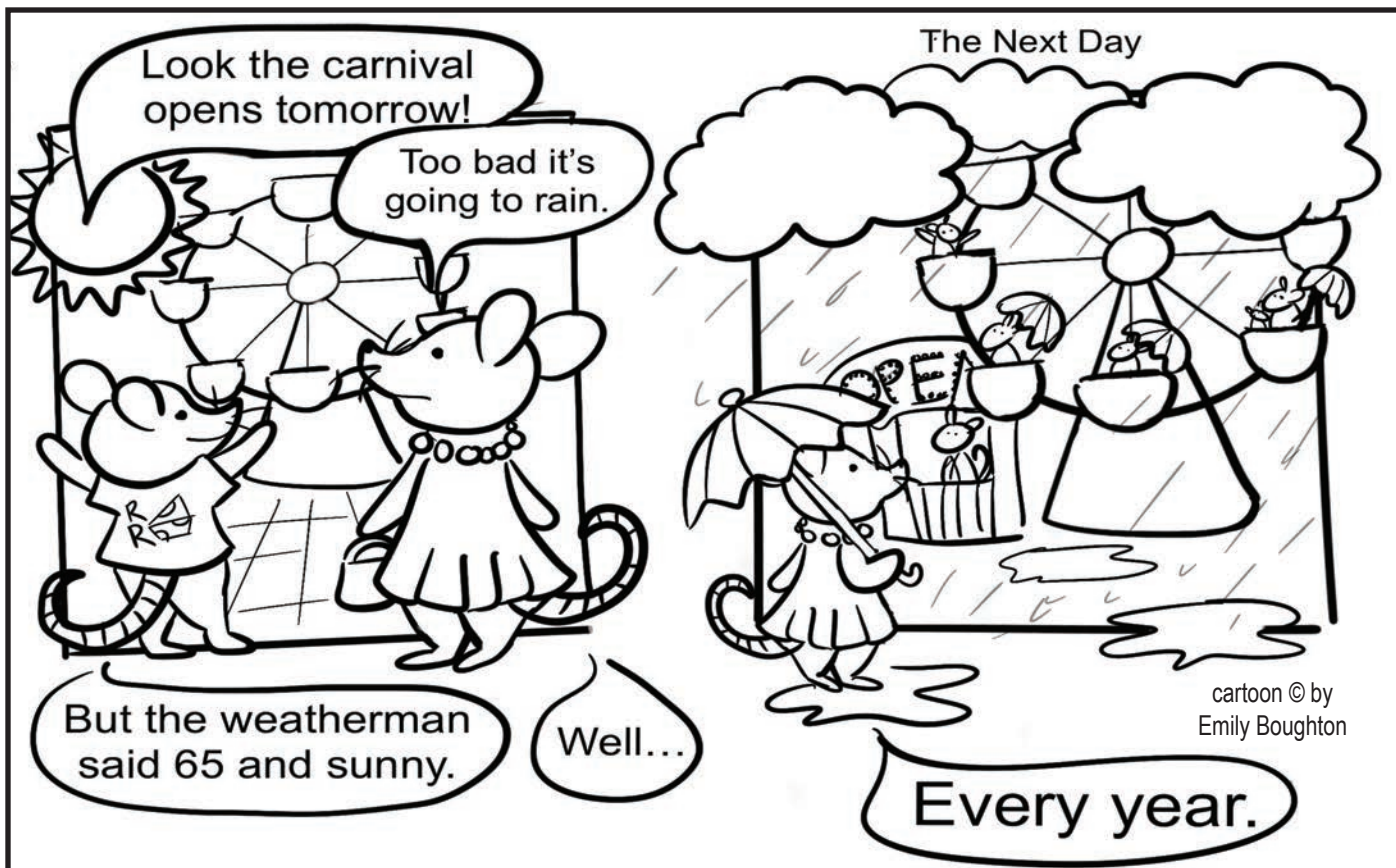
Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We Accept
VISA



978-822-8791 KGPros.com

Your Residential & Commercial
Real Estate Brokers



Whipps, inc.

WATER CONTROL GATES

*Celebrating more than
forty years of excellence
in the industry.*

P. O. Box 1058 • 370 South Athol Road
Athol, Massachusetts 01331 USA
www.whipps.com
Tel: 978-249-7924 Fax: 978-249-3072

NEW SALEM CIDER



Carol Hillman

67 South Main Street • New Salem, Massachusetts 01355
(978) 544-3437 • cbhillman@gmail.com
www.newsalemcider.com

HARD CIDER

AND a beautiful view of Quabbin



weekdays
12 noon to 5 pm

weekends

Saturday 12 noon to 7 pm • Sunday 12 noon to 6 pm
mid-May through November



A spicebush swallowtail butterfly lights on summertime flowers.
paintograph © by Mitchell R. Grosky

creating paintographs

Photographers can create digital paintings or paintographs. Using my own photographs, I digitally interpret landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, flowers, and animals. I utilize vibrant colors, bold shapes, interesting textures, and creative brush strokes in my work. In a time-intensive process, I use a variety of professional and digital painting programs. I experiment with hundreds of brushstrokes and play with subtleties of light and color to simulate paintings in oil and watercolor. The process transforms each photographs into a digital painting that viewers can see online, in a magazine, or on a canvas.

Educator and public official Mitchell R. Grosky is an award-winning landscape and travel photographer.

**Celebrating 52⁺ Years in
the North Quabbin!**

We're your local headquarters for:
Motorcycles
Offroad Vehicles
Honda Power Equipment
Parts, Service, and Accessories!

CYCLE DESIGN

In the clean, fresh air of Phillipston, MA
www.cycledesignonline.com
(978) 243-2244



THE COUNTRY STORE
Petersham, Massachusetts

~ NEW CAFÉ MENU ~

BREAKFAST & LUNCH Served Everyday until 3pm

**Eat Inside or on Our Picturesque Town Common
prepared meals, salads & soups**

take & bake pizza • coffee & bakery • full grocery

local & organic • gift shop • local artists

OVER 30 MICRO BREW BEERS, WINE & CIDER

On the Petersham Common

www.petershamstore.com / 978.724.0000

OPEN 7 DAYS: MON - SAT 8-7, SUN 9-5

BLACK LIVES MATTER
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
SCIENCE IS REAL
LOVE IS LOVE
KINDNESS
IS EVERYTHING
ONE PEOPLE



ONE EARTH

ad signed by
Hattie Nestel

festival honors

by Katherine Parcell

No matter where a person lives in the greater Quabbin region, no matter where a reader picks up a copy of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, it's guaranteed that a few hundred years ago, Indigenous people of the groups of the Ni pmuc, Pocumtuc, Pennacook, Abenaki, or Wabanaki occupied the land. The further back homeowners and landowners go in examining the history of property, the closer they get to the facts—often violent facts—of Indigenous land loss. European settlers dispossessed Indigenous people, often with little or no compensation, often violently, often without considering Indigenous people human, and often without realizing they imposed a foreign system of occupying land.

A May 21 festival on Petersham Common will feature talks, performances, art, music, and other cultural aspects by Ni pmuc citizens. The festival has no admission fee. Petersham Cultural Council and the Massachusetts



**Millers River
Real Estate**

**Serving Athol, Orange,
the North Quabbin Region
and Beyond**

**Experienced Real Estate Professionals
Working with Buyers and Sellers
to Achieve Positive Results**

**Keith McGuirk, Ted Ledgard,
Steve Silva, Larry Frye, Pat Dery**

**343 East Main St.
Orange, Ma. 01364
978-544-9000**

**keithmcguirk@live.com
www.MillersRiverRealEstate.com**



Native American claim to land

Cultural Council funded the event organized by Nipmuk Cultural Preservation, Inc. in collaboration with Petersham Antiracism Coalition and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

It may be uncomfortable to think that our land, lives, schools, towns, grocery stores, and way of life as we know it take place on land where white settlers may have forcibly removed Indigenous people who had existed in harmony with the land for centuries. Such violence and exclusion from land continues with Indigenous people still denied access to land through unfair policies and practices that also prevent Indigenous groups the ability to generate wealth for generations.

Across the continent, Land Back, an Indigenous-led movement, calls for reclamation of everything appropriated, stolen, or coopted from original peoples, including land, language, ceremony, medicines, food, kinship, and more. Land Back requires that those living on land in North America work to repair persistent

effects of colonialism on Indigenous people by returning control over ancestral territories to its stewards through the process of land rematriation. The process would allow Indigenous people to restore their ancestral connection to the land. Rematriation is used instead of repatriation to reflect the Indigenous view of the Earth as feminine, Mother Earth, who provides sustenance and life to all beings.

Land rematriation predicates itself on self-determination and sovereign rights for Indigenous peoples. It advocates for transfer of decision-making power over public lands to Indigenous communities. It does not mean that descendants of settlers need to leave the land but suggests the imperative of returning land when possible, especially when inhabitants do not fully use land. Rematriation suggests sharing land and resources that deed holders cannot return.

Land rematriation occurs across the continent. Examples occur in Rhode Island, Maine, Colorado,

continued on page 70

Oakham Historical Museum and the Young Family Annex

Preserving and protecting the history of a rural New England town



Located in one of the town's oldest buildings which itself saw Revolutionary War conspiracies and served as the first Post Office

Hundreds of Artifacts

Transportation - Period Clothing

Militaria - Town Industries

Agricultural

And much, much more!

1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham

Currently open by appointment Call 508-882-3990

Work Mornings, 1st Thursday every month, 10am-12pm
Business Meetings, 3rd Tuesday every month, 7pm



SEASONAL IMAGES

Photos and Prints by Photographic Artist

David Brothers

Many local North Quabbin images to choose from.

All Photos are printed using Epson Archival Paper and Ink
978-249-8229 • david55195@yahoo.com

CONNIE MACK

"The Grand Old Man of Baseball"

Mack had many achievements, some yet to be topped. But when I asked Gablaski what she considered Connie Mack's most significant accomplishment, she didn't hesitate. "As an educator, I think Connie Mack's biggest contribution to baseball and society in general was his kindness," Gablaski said. "He was never known to get mad or curse. When he left East Brookfield to play professional baseball, he promised his mother not to drink, and he kept that promise. He was a good role model for children and adults."

The great baseball player Ty Cobb confirmed Gablaski's opinion:

Mack was quiet, even-tempered, and gentlemanly, never using profanity. He was generally addressed as "Mr. Mack." He always called his players by their given names. I shall never forget Connie Mack's gentleness and gentility.

—Ty Cobb, the *New York Times*, 1956

Mack lived through the era of racially segregated baseball. Yet, he strove to have his players become better people as well as baseball

continued from page 23
headline treatment courtesy of
East Brookfield Historical Museum

players. Following the 1916 season, he created a code of conduct that included the pledge: *I will always judge a teammate or an opponent as an individual and never based on race or religion.*

Cornelius "Connie Mack"
McGillicuddy's legacy as a

game-changing player and a risk-taking manager left an everlasting imprint on the game of baseball. Moreover, his memory as a kind and generous human lives on not only in Philadelphia, where he achieved his greatest fame, but also in East Brookfield, Massachusetts, in the heart of the South Quabbin, where it all began.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



Connie Mack grew up in a Brookfield/East Brookfield home.
postcard image courtesy of East Brookfield Historical Museum

Piper's
Kitchen Café

Now Serving Lunch & Heat 'n' Serve Dinners
1493 Main St • Athol, MA
www.piperstakeaway.com

AL'S QUICK LUBE



Michael Guimond - Owner
187 Daniel Shays Hwy.
Orange, MA 01364

NO APPOINTMENT OIL CHANGES

Mon-Fri ~ 8:00am - 5:30pm Phone: (978) 544-3317

New Salem Academy memorabilia

continued from page 17

In her junior year, Perry McIntosh changed to home economics track. The teacher, Eleanor Eaton, told her she had to separate two dozen egg yolks from their egg whites for use in the school cafeteria. Instead, Perry McIntosh scrambled the eggs. Whatever the punishment, Perry McIntosh never again crossed Mrs. Eaton again.

The New Salem Academy Class of 1947 took the school's first class trip, an excursion to Washington, DC, for April vacation to tour the nation's capital. Highlights of the trip included Library of Congress and the US Capitol.

Once a month, the academy had assemblies in the upstairs hall of the gray stone Academy Building, now a private residence. All students and staff attended. The assembly always started with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the New Salem Academy school song, beginning "Memories, memories, dreams of NSA . . ."

J. A. McIntosh writes the Meredith, Massachusetts series of crime novels. She is the president of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, dedicated to memorializing the work and lives of the inhabitants of the four towns and the surrounding communities. She interviewed her mother to write about New Salem Academy.

Submit letters to the editor
or opinion writings to
Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin* at
marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

one-room schoolhouses

continued from page 15

completion of interior walls as well as work on the ceiling and floors. "It's basically a shell right now," said Shenkman. The society hopes to build a climate-controlled, handicapped-accessible bathroom up to modern standards that will look, from the outside, like an outhouse.

Upon completion of schoolhouse renovations, the society plans to furnish it with original items, including the original blackboards and clock, student desks, and a teacher's desk compatible with the building's timeframe.

The society hopes to use the building for lectures and tours with activities for children, old books they can handle, and scrapbooks including copies of articles from the time the school was in use.

Shenkman said Stone House Museum will receive donations at Belchertown Historical Association, Post Office Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007. She asked donors to designate checks for school renovation.

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

You read it here in *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

Please tell your friends and our advertisers.



290 Main Street Athol, MA 01331

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm

Saturday: 9am-3pm

Sunday: 9am-1pm

Offering Free Prescription Delivery
(7 Days a Week) to:

Athol • Orange • Royalston
Petersham • New Salem • Phillipston • Erving
Wendell • Templeton • Warwick

variety of martial arts systems practiced in Quabbin region

continued from page 25

Quabbin region. Over the years, many have taught in their homes, and a few opened and taught their specialty art in small clubs or dojos. With my wife, Nancy, I practiced and taught the Korean martial art of tae kwon do in the Quabbin region and Florida for many years. Martial arts continues as a viable method of practicing focus, hand-eye coordination, self defense, and self control.

We have seen for more than fifty years a variety of martial arts systems taught in the Quabbin area. Among them:

- O'Neill System, a practice taught to special forces of different branches of the US military
- Goju Kai Karate Do
- Brazillian Jiu Jitsu
- Sikaran Karate
- Kempo Karate

- Tang Soo Do Soo
- Bahk Do
- Iado
- Tae Kwon Do
- Moo Duk Kwan
- Hapkido
- Kung Fu
- Kuhapdo
- World Tae Kwon Do

The list continues to grow.

Practitioners of many systems have joined with other styles to borrow techniques not familiar in the original style's own style. Martial arts will likely flourish, progress, and evolve in our area as it has for more than decades.

Bryan Lagimoniere holds an eighth-degree black belt or Dan in Korean Tae Kwon Do.

Where Else Can You

PHOTOCOPY, FAX, DROP OFF UPS, BUY POSTAGE STAMPS, PRINT FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE, BUY FEDEX SHIPPING, HAVE A BOX PACKED, CHANGE AN AMAZON QR CODE INTO A LABEL, SHIP INTERNATIONALLY, DROP OFF FEDEX, COMPARE UPS FEDEX AND USPS RATES, GET A DOCUMENT NOTORIZED, BUY SHIPPING MATERIALS, HAVE A DOCUMENT RETYPED, GRAB A PIECE OF CANDY, GET A SHIPPING QUOTE, SCAN A DOCUMENT TO YOUR EMAIL, DROP OFF USPS PACKAGES, LAMINATE, PRINT A PHOTO, BUY LOCAL BOOKS, BUY UPS SHIPPING, REVIEW A BOARD, GET A BOX IN ONE LOCATION?

**Else Where
1485 Main Street
Uptown Athol, MA 01331
978-575-0057**



**COMMUNITY BULLETIN
TAPED FOR FREE, ALL**

**Hours:
Monday - Friday 9a-6p
Saturday 10a-2p
closed Sundays**

The Clam Box and Flis Market feature homemade variety

The Clam Box continued from page 43

wet-and-dry batter combination that we have perfected for the best flavors, consistency, and texture.”

Tim and Cindy love the area. “For a brief time, we moved to Florida. When we moved back, we realized the small-town feel of Brookfield was exactly what we were missing while gone. It’s the type of town where everybody knows everybody, and they all have each other’s back.”

“The staff all live locally,” Tim said, “and most of us were born and raised in the area. We each came from different backgrounds to create the best possible seafood establishment around.”

Covid did impact the business, but not in the way most were. “We were quick on our feet and came up with great plans,” Tim said. “Since we added things like curbside pickup, customers can call in orders right from our parking lot and not have to leave their cars. We also added 120 outdoor seats,” Tim said. “At The Clam Box, we strive to be the best in every aspect.”

Open from 9 am to 7 pm seven days a week.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Flis Market continued from page 43

Friday Takeout Dinner is a hit at Flis Market. “We make dinner from scratch,” Jon said. “The menu changes each week. We’ve done everything from brisket, pulled pork, smoked chicken, braised lamb, lasagna, steak and cheese subs, and much more.”

Wednesdays are known for the Hot Sandwich Special. Flis always offers a variety of grab-and-go homemade sandwiches along with pre-made salads and an assortment of individual desserts.

Jon hand cuts fresh meat, including Delmonico ribeyes, New York strips, marinated steak tips, chicken, and kielbasa. Flis receives fresh salmon every Friday. The market also offers a wide selection of craft beer, wines, and specialty items.

Facebook @FlisMarketErving and Instagram @FlisMarketErving

Monday-Closed • 8am-8 pm Tuesday-Friday
10am-8 pm Saturday • 10am-5 pm Sunday

Matt’s Breakfast Nook,
featured in September 2021 *Uniquely Quabbin*
has moved to 237 West Main Street, East Brookfield



workshop13.org

13 Church Street
Ware, Massachusetts 01082

(413) 227-6072

fruits • veggies • dairy • meats
bread • coffee • chai
home-cooked take-out meals & sides
from Nalini's Kitchen and more!



Boston held valley residents in suspense for years about whether they'd

continued from page 29

to pay for an independent engineer, it didn't happen, thus handicapping their work.

In July, the committee visited the Merrimack River, then Wachusett Reservoir and Ware River. At Wachusett, Goodnough noted the reservoir a few feet below its capacity and stated, "This is now down so low that it will never fill again." The next day, the water committee visited Enfield, where conferees assessed Goodnough's estimate of project cost as too low.

At a hearing in Swift River Hotel in Enfield, Enfield Selectman Charles W. Felton stated that the proposal "has stopped an impetus for development, destroyed all

enterprise, driven away our youth. We want to see this legislation passed or dropped forever." The next day, the committee ended its journey in Athol, where members heard much opposition to the part of the Goodnough Plan requiring use of Millers River water to help fill the proposed Swift River reservoir.

The water committee did not take further action until the 1924 legislative session. Early in May, the committee issued three reports. A majority report recommended the Goodnough Plan and immediately commencing construction of Ware River diversion supervised by a three-person commission. A minority report recommended

establishing a three-person commission be set up with a disinterested engineer reviewing all proposals and recommending one. Representative Sawyer of Ware issued a minority report applauding Bailey's plan and asking for appointment to any commission studying the issue with a "disinterested engineer."

After more sessions that heard testimony in favor of all three reports, the water committee reported a compromise bill in late May. It would create a three-person commission with representatives from Springfield, Worcester, and Metro Boston and funds to hire

Eliminate Your Heating Bills

With fossil fuel prices the highest they've been in years, there's no better time to switch to wood heat.

Become energy independent by heating your home, shop, water, and more with a **WoodMaster CleanFire outdoor wood furnace**.

For more details, visit WoodMaster.com or come see the CleanFire outdoor wood furnace lineup at Higgins Energy in Barre, MA!

Get Your FREE Estimate Today!

**HIGGINS ENERGY
ALTERNATIVES**



978-355-6343

HigginsEnergy.com

140 Worcester Rd. Barre, MA

26%* Tax Credit

on qualified models & installation

*For more details visit WoodMaster.com

lose their homes

its own engineer. The compromise gave the new commission a year and a half to hand in its report. The measure passed, setting up the Metropolitan Water Supply Investigating Commission.

The people of the Ware and Swift River valleys would still be held in suspense over their fate until at least early 1926. That report and resulting legislation will provide material for a future *Quabbin Currents* column in *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

J.R. Greene has written twenty-three books relating to Massachusetts history, including sixteen relating to the history of the Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed by it. He is a lifelong resident of Athol.



Springtime Ducks

watercolor sketch © by Barbara Kline Seamon

*It's never too early
to start saving for
College.*

KESSLER
Investments, Inc.

We are here to help.

978-249-2837

Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Founders Financial Securities, LLC
Member FINRA, SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor

SONIA'S AUTO GROUP



Jeep

DODGE



95 New Athol Road • Orange
(978) 249-4723
www.orangechryslerdodgejeepram.com

OIL CHANGE SPECIALS

**Semi-Synthetic Oil
and Tire Rotation
\$49.95***

**ALL Makes!!!
ALL Models!!!**

**price includes
5 quarts of oil plus
1 Filter**

**Additional cost may apply
if car requires full synthetic
or more than 5 quarts of oil.**

**PLEASE CUT OUT COUPON
AND PRESENT TO US.**

**BRAKE SPECIAL
\$349.00* per axle**

**Base brake bundle pricing shown.
Bundle price may vary based on
vehicle type or parts availability.**

**4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT
\$59.95***

***sales tax and shop supplies additional**

**NOW SELLING
BRANDED MERCHANDISE**



DODGE

Jeep



RAM

hats • tee shirts • and more

Royalston center

continued from page 19

a considerable portion of Royalston's early population, served during the American Revolution. The town grew rapidly after the war to a peak of 1667 residents by 1840.

Farms developed in arable areas such as Tully River and Lawrence Brook meadows, the Royalston central plateau, and the Chestnut Hill ridge. Key early commodities included timber, sheep, and flaxseed. Abundant forests yielded resources for potash producers, lumber mills, and tanneries. Woodworkers produced furniture, material for Gardner's chair factories, house supplies, pails, and tubs. A small industrial complex, with saw, grist, and textile mills and a blacksmith shop, formed along Doane's Falls and Lawrence Brook.

Royalston center, established in 1762 when proprietors set off ten acres for a meetinghouse, cemetery, and military training ground, developed into a civic and commercial hub during the early nineteenth century. Businesses, shops, and mills extended from the common to Doane's Falls, and a canal at Little

70th ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR Athol Congregational Church

Chestnut St. (Uptown Common)

Saturday, June 4th

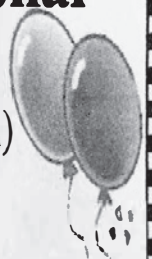
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Country Store • Emporium • Books
Theme Baskets • Plants • Fudge & Pies**

Jewelry Table • Cake Walk 1:50

Live Entertainment • And Much More!

Rain or Shine



developed into civic and commercial hub

Pond provided water power for a cabinetmaker and blacksmith. Popular community events included a Whig Party celebration in 1840, Royalston's 1865 centennial, dedication of Phineas Newton Library in 1911, and an annual picnic at Royalston Falls.

South Royalston, an industrial village on Millers River four miles southeast of the common, formed from portions of Athol and Phillipston in 1799. Royalston Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company, the largest facility, opened in 1812, rebuilt after a fire in 1833, and burned again in 1892. Establishment of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad in 1847 enhanced South Royalston's importance as an industrial and shipping center. Factories provided employment for many Irish and Finnish immigrants in the late nineteenth century.

Another destructive fire destroyed a church, schoolhouse, covered bridge, and other buildings in 1904.

South Royalston's last factory, built by American Woolen Company in 1908, closed during the 1930s. Manufacturing and farming declines reduced the Royalston population to 774 in 1930.

After the March 1936 flood and 1938 Hurricane caused extensive damage to Millers River communities, the Army Corps of Engineers built two flood control facilities in Royalston during the 1940s. Birch Hill Dam in South Royalston is part of a large conservation corridor on Millers River, and Tully Dam impounds Tully River East Branch near its confluence with Lawrence Brook. Both structures have prevented millions of dollars in damage during storm events such as the 1955 and 1987 floods and January 2018 ice jams. Tully Lake, created in 1966, and adjacent Long Pond provide many recreational opportunities including paddling, fishing, camping, and hiking.

Royalston Center Historic District encompasses forty-five buildings, including nineteenth-century Federal and Greek Revival homes and Schoolhouse Number One, which houses Royalston Village Improvement and Historical Society's museum. See royalstonhistorical.org for information.

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



NEW SALEM GENERAL STORE

Grocery • Lottery • Spirits
Boars Head Deli • Gifts
Fresh Weekly Specials • Shop Local Products
www.newsalemgeneralstore.com
410 Daniel Shays Hwy. • New Salem, MA 01355 • Tel (978) 544-8177
Open 7 Days a Week
Monday-Friday 6 AM - 8 PM • Saturday 7 AM - 8 PM • Sunday 8 AM - 6 PM
Jeff, Natalie & Jack Reynolds, Proprietors
A Friendly, Quabbin Market for All
We are striving to provide a safe, friendly local market that focuses on good food, local Quabbin products and our community.
Stop by and see us soon!

BATTERY POWER by **STIHL**

- Zero Exhaust Emissions
- No Fuel Cost
- Low Maintenance
- Lightweight
- Quiet

at **ORANGE SAWS**

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5
SATURDAY 9-1

20 Eagleville Road • Orange, MA 01364
978.544.7296 • info@orangesaws.com • OrangeSaws.com



We also offer
Traditional Fuel-Powered Chainsaws and Tools
Backpack Blowers
Arborwear Work Clothing
ASTM Rated Electrical Hazard Safety Boots
Forestry, Logging and Climbing Equipment
And More!

Brookfield's claim to fame includes Elsie the Cow

continued from page 18

Boston Post Road, originally built in 1639 along portions of a former Native American path, linked Brookfield with Boston, the Connecticut River Valley, and other central Massachusetts communities. Original segments, including three sandstone mile markers erected by decree of Benjamin Franklin in 1763, remain intact near Foster Hill and Elm Hill. Notable travelers included General Henry Knox, who passed through Brookfield during the American Revolution with artillery captured from the British at Fort Ticonderoga, and George Washington, who stopped in town while touring New England in 1789.

Establishment of the Boston and Albany Railroad and a manufacturing and commercial district brought more prosperity to Brookfield during the late nineteenth century. Boot and shoe production, the largest industry, recovered from loss of southern markets after the Civil War and thrived through the mid 1890s. Local brick makers, including a large facility at Quaboag and Quacumquasit ponds, used clay

deposited by glaciers during the last ice age. The Warren, Brookfield, and Spencer Electric Railway trolley provided service to surrounding towns from 1896 to 1918.

Manufacturing and population declined in the late 1890s when Burt Shoe Company, Brookfield's largest employer, relocated to eastern Massachusetts, and numerous factories and shops closed. Gavitt Wire and Cable Company, founded in 1923, makes products for communications, medical, aerospace, and other industries in a portion of the former Burt factory. Agriculture, especially dairy farming, remained the backbone of Brookfield's economy even after many small farms went out of business during the Great Depression.

Destructive floods in 1936, 1938, and 1955 washed out roads and bridges and temporarily isolated portions of Brookfield. The 1938 Hurricane blew down shade trees and church steeples on the common, damaged many homes and barns, destroyed more than a thousand apple trees at Elm Hill Farm, and caused a twelve-foot surge at Quaboag Pond.

Brookfield gained national fame when the Borden Dairy Company selected a Jersey cow from Elm Hill Farm as their mascot Elsie, one of America's best-known advertising icons. Elsie participated in the 1939 New York World's Fair, traveled cross country in a custom train car, and appeared in the movie *Little Men*.

A historic district encompasses Brookfield's well-preserved village green and adjacent streets. The Banister family donated the green in 1735 for military training and open space. Historic buildings include three churches, Merrick Library, Crosby House, nineteenth-century Greek Revival residences, and Brookfield Inn, a popular stop on the Boston Post Road that hosted three presidents.

Quaboag Historical Society Museum on Central Street in West Brookfield preserves artifacts of Brookfield and other Quaboag Plantation towns. See their Facebook page for details.

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



HEYES FOREST PRODUCTS
www.heyesforest.com • 978.544.8801

*We manage our forest sustainably.
Let us manage your forest sustainably.*

WOOD WATER
TREE FARM
RECREATION WILDLIFE
TREE FARM 444
Owned & Managed by
FRED HEYES, Orange, MA
www.heyesforest.com • 978-544-8801

MDM, animal control officers provide resources for finding missing dogs

continued from page 40

Bachrach suggested ways to prevent dogs from going missing or running away:

- Keep fencing holes repaired.
- Check gates to be sure they are shut tightly.
- Crate or leash a dog when guests or workmen enter and exit premises. "It's not cruel to crate your dog," said Bachrach. "It may prevent your dog leaving with the guest or worker when people are more relaxed and not so on guard."

Leashing a dog while owners get in and out of the car and, once in the car, seat-belted a dog can prevent injuries and runaways, if there is a car accident, according to Bachrach. New adoptions require double leashing and a clip collar with ID, she said.

If a dog has a microchip, the owner should register the dog's information with the AKC Reunite site. A microchip is not a GPS, and the owner must update information with changes. AKC Reunite also provides training and breed matching services.

Bachrach emphasized that both owner and dog experience stress when a dog goes missing. MDM is a touchpoint for getting out information quickly, she said, as well as providing help for owners to know they are not alone and can have knowledgeable assistance in finding a missing dog.

Brand-name harnesses can minimize chances of a dog slipping out, according to Bachrach, who said Sporn dog collars and harnesses work well for securing shy dogs, while Martingale collars excel at preventing slipping out.

What to do if a dog goes missing? Although many missing pet sites exist as well as postings on social media, MDM is the only organization whose volunteers go out to help the owner, according to Bachrach. Owners often need someone to consult about best ways to get a pet returned. Bachrach advised calling the MDM voicemail-only toll free number, (844) 423-3686, and leave a

message. She said a volunteer will return the call quickly with help about finding a lost dog.

If you find a dog or spot a loose dog, Bachrach advises, contact MDM, a local animal control officer, and police. They can be in touch with neighboring agencies and may have received a lost dog call pertinent to a particular missing animal.

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.

**Find Missing Dogs Massachusetts, MDM, at missingdogsmass.com
or on Facebook or Instagram**

Animal Control Officers

Athol: (978) 249-2494	Pelham: (413) 625-8200 or (413) 800-6280
Barre: (508) 886-4033	Phillipston: (978) 939-8875
Belchertown: (413) 519-1754	Petersham: (978) 724-0078
Brookfield: (508) 867-5570	Royalston: (978) 249-2494
Erving: (413) 423-3310	Rutland: (508) 886-4033
Hardwick: (508) 867-1170	Shutesbury: (413) 625-8200 or (413) 800-6280
Hubbardston: (978) 630-4950	Templeton: (978) 939-5091
Leverett: (413) 336-1081	Ware: (413) 967-3571
New Salem: (978) 544-2141	Warwick: (978) 544-5218
Oakham: (508) 867-1170	Wendell: (978) 625-8200
Orange: (978) 249-2494	



138 Fryeville Road, Orange **978-575-0614**

- **Dog/Cat Grooming**
- **Dog/Cat Daycare & Boarding**
- **Pet and Farm Feeds**

Open 7 Days...Close By To Everywhere!

aquarium fish and supplies • small birds and reptiles

Monday-Friday 7-6 • Saturday-Sunday 9-5

www.mounttullykennels.com • Like Us on Facebook



Petersham Cultural Council Sponsors Spring Art Show

Petersham Cultural Council will host its annual Spring Art Show on May 20, 21, and 22 in Petersham Town Hall at 1 South Main Street and feature handcrafted pieces by local artists.

The Spring Art Show returns with a public reception from 7 to 9 pm May 20 with live music and light food during the first opportunity to view and purchase locally made pieces. The Spring Show will continue from 11 am to 4 pm May 21 and from noon to 4 pm May 22.

"The event brings our community together in more ways than one. The show itself is always a lively gathering, and its proceeds help fund cultural events hosted in our area year-round," said Jane Lynch-Gilbert, chair of Petersham Cultural Council.

The theme, *Emerging*, pays tribute to transitions the Petersham community has undergone in recent years. Artists will have submitted as many as four pieces to the show, where the cultural council encourages sales. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the cultural council.



A young buck cools off in a Petersham pond.
photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere



80 New Athol Road • Orange, MA 01364
(774) 530-1947
Find us on Facebook.

Swift River Fly Fishing

25 North Main St. New Salem, MA

www.swiftriverflyfishing.com

413-230-1262

swiftriverflyfishing@earthlink.net



Guided Trips on the Swift River
Bamboo and Fiberglass Fly Rods and
Blanks Fish and Bird Decoys and Carvings
Flies, Lines, Leaders

region's authors tell their stories

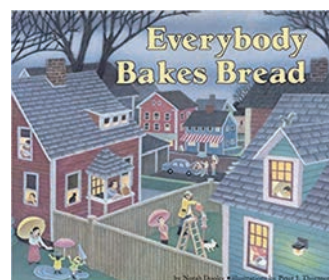
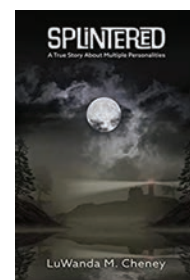
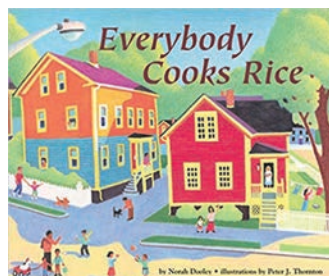
continued from page 35

off high places even if it looks fun, or your friends are doing it. And if you ever have to deal with the hard stuff, don't give up. Keep fighting." Ashley finished high school and lives in Belchertown with her three-year-old son. She takes it one day at a time. Mass Rehab has offered training so she can work part time and she has enrolled in a course in dog grooming. "Although I will never be able to work full time, I hope to open a business someday so I can choose my hours and rest my back between appointments."

Helping Ashley write her story inspired LuWanda. Her first book, *Splintered, A True Story about Multiple Personalities*, was released in March.

Ashley and LuWanda accept engagements to speak at schools and book clubs. Ashley's book, *On Her Feet*, can be found at online vendors including bronzegoose-books.com.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



Books, left, by Norah Dooley include *Everybody Cooks Rice* and *Everybody Bakes Bread*. Ashley Cheney's book *Splintered* and LuWanda Cheney's book *On Her Feet* appear at right.

Barre Historical Society



EVENTS

Summer Solstice Soiree (Member's Only)
Wine and Cheese Sampling
June 21st, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Flora and Fauna Walk
At Cooks Canyon
July 31st, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Traditional Arts Class
Hand Sewing
August 6th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

-SEE MORE OF OUR EVENTS ON FACEBOOK-

ALWAYS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

18 Common Street Barre, MA
barrehistory@gmail.com - barremahistoricalsociety.org



SAVE YOUR ASS

LONG EAR RESCUE

New England's only 501(c)(3)
Non-Profit Donkey and Mule Rescue
23 Saw Mill Road • South Acworth, NH, 03607

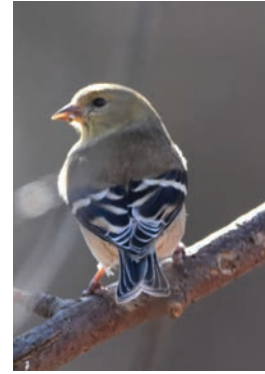
*We are dedicated to the
rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing of
donkeys and mules in need.*

*By providing educational opportunities that
increase awareness of the human/animal bond
as well as the specific needs of long ears,
SYA is able to improve the lives of
donkeys and mules everywhere.*

<http://www.saveyourassrescue.org>

a Quabbin bird time scrapbook

photos by Claire Sygiel





Quabbin region birds greeting warm weather include, clockwise from left, female hooded merganser, Carolina wren, goldfinch, ospreys, and great blue herons nesting times two.

photos © by Claire Sygiel

A professional photographer for forty-five years, Ware native Claire Sygiel, worked for *Ware River News*, Greniers Photographers, Herff Jones Yearbooks, and her own wedding photography business. She enjoys photographing the many birds found in the Quabbin area, many of them right in her own back yard.



1794 Meetinghouse

PO Box 8 • 26 S Main St • New Salem, MA 01355
A Beautiful Historic Hall with Wonderful Acoustics

SUMMER CONCERTS 2022

Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez
roots rock • Saturday, June 4

The Green Sisters
old-time & original songs • Saturday, June 11

Steven Schoenberg
improvisational piano • Sunday, June 12

Beth Logan Raffeld Quintet
jazz standards • Saturday, June 18

A Swift River Anthology reading
Dorothy Johnson's book • Sunday, June 26

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem
string band • Saturday, July 9

Rachel Clemente & Dan Houghton
Celtic harp & bagpipes • Sunday, July 17

Sarah Clay Trio
jazz • Saturday, July 23

Deep River Ramblers
American roots • Sunday, July 24

Patty Larkin
folk-urban pop • Saturday, July 30

Southern Rail
bluegrass • Saturday, September 10

Windborne
folk vocal harmonies – Friday, September 16

Elizabeth Chang & Jiayan Sun
chamber violin & piano • Sunday, September 18

Green Heron
old-time old & new • Saturday, September 24

Peter Blanchette
archguitar • Sunday, September 25

Times, ticket prices & details are on our website
WWW.1794MEETINGHOUSE.ORG

A Beautiful Historic Hall with Wonderful Acoustics
On the New Salem Common
26 South Main St, New Salem MA 01355



Native American presence in Quabbin region

continued from page 55

California, and Texas. In Belchertown, some have undertaken the Lampson Brook Farm Rematriation project to return state land to the Ni pmuc Nation.

Through an agreement of cultural use and respect, landowners can work with an Indigenous group to invite use of private land according to agreed-upon conditions

*featured in May 21 festival on
Petersham Common
talks • performances • art • music
other cultural aspects
presented by Ni pmuc citizens*

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust recently completed an agreement of cultural use and respect with Ni pmuc Cultural Preservation, Inc. for the land trust's Huppert Conservation Area in Petersham. The agreement gives all Ni pmuc citizens special rights to use the land for food and medicine gathering, ceremony, and other cultural uses that are not permitted to the public. The agreement lays out these rights and a process for communication and addresses any liability issues.

The Land Back movement also suggests looking into the story of deeded land by investigating public records to learn the history of land parcels. Investigating family history can also offer clues to the sequence of land occupation. Individuals and organizations have prepared or can prepare land acknowledgements to identify original Indigenous stewards of the land to honor legacy and recognize land grabs but should not stop with an acknowledgement. Land reparation and land justice efforts should be approached to further promote fairness.

While historical accounts often suggest that Indigenous people belong to the past, Indigenous people live as active citizens in Quabbin region communities. Ni pmuc Cultural Preservation, Inc., a Ni pmuc-led organization, works to amplify Ni pmuc culture in the Quabbin area.

Katherine Parcell is a founding member of the Petersham Anti-Racism Coalition.



Nature's Nuances by Clare Green



Sketching or Journaling Emerging Plants

inviting graces unadorned on silent winds, herbs speak vibrant health

A profusion of summer's herbal delights and fragrances of wildflowers greet the senses. Ah, summer just begins for another season of abundance. Subtle, yet vibrant and energetic wild weeds, are nothing but herbs in disguise, filled with trace nutrients.

Walk your property, nearby field, or path near the Quabbin Reservoir. Enjoy your stroll and look closely beneath your feet to find quiet jewels. Consider sketching or journaling emerging plants that greet you as you walk or that appear in your yard. I used pencil, colored pencils, and watercolors to create my illustrated yard inventory with labels, notes, and poems.



Sketching or journaling a garden inventory prepares a gardener for future bounty.

drawing © by Clare Green

Try it and have fun! Mistakes allowed. My effort gives me a visual reminder of what to look forward to.

Like golden sunshine, yellow common dandelions, *Taraxacum officinale*, are easy to notice. Admire their resilient strength and cheerfulness. Underfoot, wild and free, the dandelion should not be overlooked as a refreshing and healthful spring tonic. The dandelion has many names: lion's tooth, cankerworm, blow-ball, priest's crown, puffball, swine snout, white endive, and wild endive.

You may even chew and eat the stems each day as you walk along. At the very least, pick a few fresh, green leaves to add to your salad. Dandelion leaves are a rich source of beta carotene and calcium as well as the nutrients boron, silicon, lecithin, and choline. Sprinkle the yellow petals of a flower to brighten your meal.

Appreciate dandelions anew this season and consider making a dandelion vinegar. Fill a jar with fresh dandelion flower heads and pour your vinegar of choice over them. Allow the jar with its contents to set in a cupboard for from four to six weeks. Shake once a week. Strain, rebottle, and store in fridge. Use discarded dandelion mash for a relaxing and toning facial before it ends in the compost.

Or make dandelion sun tea. Pack a glass quart mason jar with freshly picked flower heads. Fill the jar with warm-to-hot water and place directly in the sun for a few hours. Stir, pour, and presto! Nourishing sun tea. You may apply the recipe to pretty much any herb you enjoy. No time? Just pour boiling water over packed flower heads and let steep for ten minutes.

Because all parts are medicinal, make tea from the whole plant. Your liver and aching joints will especially thank you for drinking dandelion tea. It reduces stress on the liver and cleanses toxins from the system.

The lowly dandelion is just one of many herbs to discover as spring moves into summer and summer lazes on. May the grace of the dandelion and all the plants that you may sketch for the inventory of your home yard infuse your body with renewed vigor.

Educator and naturalist Clare Green, welcomes folks to visit her fairy cottage and to walk the woodland labyrinth in Warwick. Find her books at claregreenbooks.com.

Hardwick Winery and Vineyard celebrates twenty-five years

by Christine Noyes



Hardwick Winery and Vineyard offers a range of flavorful wines.

photo © by Christine Noyes

of Hardwick Winery's best-selling wines from among fourteen listed.

I began with the wine bearing the building's namesake, Giles E. Warner, made primarily from Cayuga White grapes with a hint of Seyval Blanc. I found it pleasingly semi dry with hints of citrus and a distinct crisp, clean finish.

Prescott Pear sparked my culinary tastebuds. I had been thinking about creating a pear tarte recipe using pear wine. More savory than sweet, the semidry wine took me by surprise and altered the recipe I had worked out.

Massetts Cranberry incorporates cranberries from a Hardwick bog. Sweet and tart, it is the winery's best-seller.

With my initial tastings concluded, I ordered a glass of Giles E. Warner and enjoyed live entertainment on the deck, enclosed on that cool day.

Hardwick Winery makes a fine destination for events or quiet respite in a country setting for sipping a glass of award-winning wine.

Find more info at HardwickWinery.com.

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 *Shadow in the Sandpit*.

Hardwick Winery and Vineyard will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this year with special events and new products.

One of some seven wineries and vineyards in the Quabbin region, the Hardwick establishment dates to the late 1990s, according to Kaitlin Young, Hardwick spokesperson.

"A lot is going on this year," said Young. "We will have two crafts fairs, the first on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend and the other on Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. Father's Day will be a tractor-pull event the whole family can enjoy, and on October 15, we will host a fundraiser for the Hardwick Fire Department. We'll schedule wine dinners and pairings throughout the year."

Young hinted there would be other fun surprises, "Look for some new products and wines soon," she said. "We will also have live music every night throughout the summer."

The Samek family operates the winery in the two-hundred-year-old, once deteriorating mansion built by Giles E. Warner on 150 Hardwick acres. The family purchased the property in 1997, rehabilitated the house, and established Hardwick Winery and Vineyard.

Restored to its former glory, the mansion provides a beautiful backdrop to the real star of the show, the wine. Even though not a wine connoisseur, I wanted to find out about the buzz and drove to Hardwick Winery.

Although quite busy, Mel took the time to help me choose four

advertising deadlines for Uniquely Quabbin are

December 1 • April 1 • August 1

email marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com for details



Hardwick Winery and Vineyard offers wine flights, a selection of wines compatible with similar foods.

photo © by Christine Noyes

Dale's Auto Body Towing & Repair

25 Bickford Drive
Athol, MA 01331

Phone (978) 249-4035
dalesauto1@yahoo.com



CELEBRATING 37 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE
NORTH QUABBIN AREA

RS906

Quabbin Region Wineries

Agronomy Farm Vineyard
338 Ware Corner Road • Oakham

Coldbrook Springs Winery
905 Coldbrook Road • Barre

Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
3305 Greenwich Road • Hardwick

Home Fruit Wine
382 South Main Street • Orange

Quabbin Sky Vineyard
8 Hunt Road • New Salem

Still River Winery
9 East Main Street • West Brookfield

list compiled by Carla Charter



• Channel 1301

• WVAO 105.9FM

• Streaming on aotv13.org

Athol-Orange Community TV & WVAO-LP 105.9FM

"Voice of Athol Orange"

Training provided

to create your own TV or radio program

Contact us to volunteer
978-249-4470 • info@aotv13.org

We convert your old videos to digital
modest pricing

163 S. Main Street • Athol, MA 01331 • 978 249-4470 • aotv13.org

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

May 14 - 15, Saturday and Sunday

Annual Plant & Bake Sale

10 am - 3 pm

Hardwick Common

Hardwick

Plant, bake, craft, and tag sale hosted by the Tri-Parish Community Church. Friends of the Library book sale and Hardwick Historical Society museum open.

Full Moon Paddling

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Orange Community Boathouse

25 East Main Street

Orange

Prepaid reservations required.

billygoatboats.com

May 17, Tuesday

Build an Accessible

Raised Garden Bed

5 pm - 7 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Help assemble, fill, and plant an accessible raised garden bed at the library. The workshop will include time to answer questions about materials and designs to help inform personal ideas for raised bed garden. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

May 20 - 22, Friday-Sunday

GALA Art & Music Festival

Red Apple Farm

455 Highland Avenue

Phillipston

Fun-filled weekend of art and music at Red Apple Farm and the Brew Barn.

Art show, live music, art vendors, raffles, food, and ale.

galagardner.org

May 21, Saturday

Nipmuc Cultural Celebration Festival

11 am - 3 pm

Petersham Common

Talks, performances, art, demonstrations, music, and other cultural aspects by citizens of the Nipmuc Nation.

Fashion Collections Display

1 pm - 4 pm

Rutland Historical Society

232 Main Street

Rutland

May 22, Sunday

Tour of Meetinghouse

and Old Burial Ground

10 am

Hubbardston

An inside look at two National

Register properties.

Limited attendance. Registration required at (978) 928-4073.

Rabbit Run Diorama Exhibit Opening

12 pm - 4 pm

Swift River Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

The diorama by Ken Levine depicts the Rabbit Run railroad model running through model towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott

Swift River Valley Historical Society will open June 22 through September Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 4 pm .

Museum Open House

2 pm - 4 pm

Oakham Historical Society

1221 Old Turnpike Road

Oakham

Open house every fourth Sunday, May through October.

May 24, Tuesday

Dyeing to Wear It

3 pm - 6 pm

Woods Memorial Library

19 Pleasant Street

Barre

Rhonda of Dyer Maker Studio presents an interactive workshop for participants to create a piece of wearable art. Information about the textile history from the region and around the world and how that industry intersects with American culture. Register at (978) 355-2533.

May 27, Friday

Fourth Fridays Festivals

4 pm - 7 pm

May through August

Main Street

Athol

With downtown Main Street closed to traffic, merchants, musicians, food vendors and other vendors will take their place along the sides of the street along with activities for kids.

May 28, Saturday

Spring Craft & Food Festival

11 am

Hardwick Winery

3305 Greenwich Road

Hardwick

First annual Spring Craft & Food Festival with local artisans and food trucks.

June 1, Wednesday

First Day Open for Tours

2 pm - 4 pm

Orange Historical Society

41 North Main Street

Orange

Tours Wednesdays and Sundays, June through September.

Also open by appointment.

June 4, Saturday

Beals Comic Con

11 am - 3 pm

Beals Memorial Library

50 Pleasant Street

Winchendon

Geek culture personified through a mini comic convention with guests, booths, games, costumes, crafts, food, and fun for people of all ages. bealslibrary.org/bealscon

Christine Ohlam & Rebel Montez

7:30 pm

1794 Meetinghouse

26 South Main Street

New Salem

1794meetinghouse.org

June 11, Saturday

Hubbardston Fair

10 am - 4 pm

Curtis Rec Field

Route 68

Hubbardston

Musical Performance

7 pm

Old Streetone Church

Gilbertville

Jennifer Fijal Brevik, soprano, and Daniel Brevik, bass-baritone with Malcolm Halliday, piano. Musical smorgasbord including operatic arias, parlor songs by Florence Price and John Duke, and Broadway repertoire.

Gymkhana

NEECA

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Games planned for riders and drivers of all abilities from leadline to all-out competitors.

Neeca.org

June 13, Monday

Eco-Friendly, Natural Pest Management

6 pm - 7 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Interactive presentation with strategies for eco-friendly, safe pest management and a few ideas for encouraging insect and pollinator diversity. Registration required. athollibrary.org

June 14, Tuesday

Full Moon Paddling

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Orange Community Boathouse

25 East Main Street

Orange

Prepaid reservations required.

billygoatboats.com

June 18, Saturday

Annual Pie & Baked Goods Sale

10 am - 1 pm

Williamsville Chapel

4 Burnshirt Road

Hubbardston

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

June 21, Tuesday

Intro to Dragonflies

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Presented by Dave Small, president and acting director of the Athol Bird and Nature Club, who will identify indigenous dragonflies and explain that dragonflies help humans by controlling populations of pest insects, especially mosquitoes and biting flies. A single dragonfly can eat anywhere from thirty to hundreds of mosquitoes per day. athollibrary.org

June 23, Thursday

Insect Safari with Professor Bugman

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Alan E. Rich Environmental Park

Main Street

Athol

Athol Public Library and Professor Bugman will lead an Insect Safari! Professor Bugman, an actual entomologist or professional bug expert will explain how to catch bugs safely before leading an insect-finding expedition through the park. athollibrary.org

continued on next page



Ducks, an eagle, and a great blue heron go about their day in the Cass Meadow docking area in Alan E. Rich Environmental Park, Athol.

painting in acrylics © by Susan Marshall

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 75

June 25, Saturday

Donkey & Mule Show

9 am

NEECA

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Halter classes, driving classes, riding classes, games, obstacle trail, coon jumping, and costume class.

Neeca.org

Orange Solstice Riverfest

5 pm - 11 pm

Orange

A celebration to welcome summer in the Friendly Town. Illuminated parade of boats, bonfire, floating firepits on the river, local food and music, children's activities, yoga by the water, and JumpTown Parachuters.

July 2, Saturday

Annual Lemonade Social

1 pm - 3 pm

Rutland Historical Society

232 Main Street

Rutland

July 10, Sunday

First Day Museum Open

12 pm - 2 pm

Hardwick Historical Society

40 Common Street

Hardwick

Open museum hours on the second and fourth Sundays from noon to 2 pm July through October or by appointment by emailing hardwickhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

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

July 13 - 15, Tuesday-Friday

Full Moon Paddling

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Orange Community Boathouse

25 East Main Street

Orange

Prepaid reservations required.

Billygoatboats.com

July 16, Saturday

Library Day at the Gnome Trails

10 am - 12 pm

Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm

86 Briggs Road

Athol

Library Trustee Susie Feldman and her husband Ben will welcome attendees, tell how they preserved their land with the Mount Grace Land ConservationTrust, and explain how they got started making trails in their woods and populating them with garden gnomes. See page 50 for an article by Henry Wadsworth, one of the Feldmans' gnomes.

Athollibrary.org

July 30, Saturday

Christmas in July

9 am - 3 pm

Orange Municipal Airport

80 Airport Street

Orange

Food truck and vendor fair.

More details on Facebook.

September 3 - 5

Saturday-Monday

Appleseed Country Fair

10 am - 4 pm

Red Apple Farm

455 Highland Avenue

Phillipston

Featuring more than thirty vendors including artisans and crafters as well as sellers of food, beer, and wine. Face painting and other activities for children.

September 8, Thursday

Love Your Garden Longer

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

A program about stretching garden enjoyment beyond summer through three seasons. Discussions of fall crops, overwintering, and how to make a simple season extension tunnel out of metal hoops. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

September 17, Saturday

Hubbardston Field Day

9 am - 3 pm

Curtis Rec Field

Route 68

Hubbardston

September 18, Sunday

Songs and Stories of the Highwaymen

3 pm

Woods Memorial Library

19 Pleasant Street

Barre

Singer/songwriter Matt York presents an acoustic performance and discussion about the music of Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and others.

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