

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol•Erving•New Salem•Orange•Petersham•Phillipston•Royalston•Templeton•Warwick•Wendell

THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre•Belchertown•the Brookfields•Hardwick (Gilbertville)•Hubbardston•Leverett•New Braintree•Oakham•Pelham•Rutland•Shutesbury•Ware

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volume 8, number 1• May-August 2023

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

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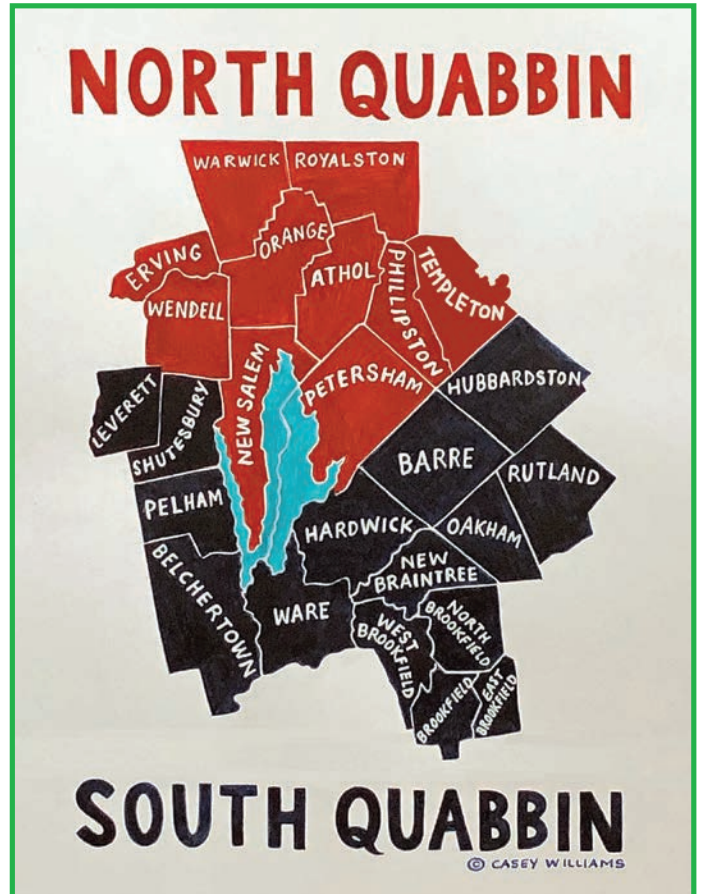


Midsummer greenery and flowers set off a Shutesbury doorway.

photo © by Mary Lou Conca

ON THE FRONT COVER

Enfield Overlook, Ware • Quabbin Reservoir
an oil painting on canvas by Sonja Vaccari



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

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about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

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

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

Please consider donating to
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a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2023-2024. Generous support from these councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

I also want to thank those readers who have generously donated to the magazine over the past few months. We are so happy to learn that you, the readers, enjoy our magazine.

Grants, advertisers, and donations keep us going. We always appreciate donations that can be made by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, business manager, at 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331. Or go to Page 41 and choose the donate button or scan the QR code you will find in this magazine.

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

Finally, spring is here in all her glory! Crocuses and daffodils have made their very cheerful appearance as I write with many more beautiful flowers to come. You will find this issue filled with interesting articles, beautiful artwork and photographs, and listings of upcoming events. Be sure to check out the center spread featuring our region's beautiful historical societies. Find an event or two that catches your eye and piques your interest enough to send you off to one (or many) of the societies and museums listed.

So grab that Adirondack chair on the patio, sit on your front step, or loll on your porch swing in the warm sunshine with a refreshing glass of lemonade and get ready to be wowed!

Thankfully,

Debra Ellis, treasurer

Athol Historical Society

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

How exhilarating once again to review articles, columns, photos, art, ads, and more that make up this issue of *UQ*. Once again, our enthusiastic contributors have brought fresh outlooks and insights to the history, events, and perspectives of the unique Quabbin area.

We're fortunate in the varied interests, talents, and commitments of those who create the content that makes up this issue of the magazine.

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

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

correction

Uniquely Quabbin failed to credit Abigail Rorer with writing the text accompanying her engravings published on Page 5 of the January-April 2023 magazine. *Uniquely Quabbin* regrets the omission.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine



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

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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.

Quiet Places•Quiet Thoughts

crocuses, daffodils, snow drops herald spring

text and photos by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

I look out my window and see a robin, head cocked to the side listening for worms. Spring!

But no, the robin is part of a flock that winters over. I used to think that the sight of the first robin indicated the arrival of spring. In fact, the

crocus, the daffodil, the snow drops pushing through a late snow herald spring. They know the days are getting longer, the angle of the sun changing. The hardy bulbs have been waiting since their fall planting to burst out, leading the way.

North America has some native bulbs, but most of the bulbs we enjoy did not originate here. Someone brought them, and they are not considered invasive since they displaced no native plants.

The bulbs we plant in our gardens contain geography and history. Daffodils originated on the Iberian Peninsula—Spain and Portugal, calla lilies from South Africa, tulips from Central Asia, dahlias from Mexico. Daffodils have been found in ancient

Egyptian tombs, and tulips were cultivated as early as 300 BCE.

Today, the tulip is the national flower of Turkey. In the early seventeenth century, travelers to Istanbul, then called Constantinople, returned to Europe with tulip bulbs to engender Tulip Mania, the great tulip craze. It was like a stock market in bulbs, some selling for more than ten times a yearly salary. Then the market crashed, like buying bitcoins or a speculative tech stock today. Opulent and common tulip fields spread in the Netherlands even now.

Daffodils and jonquils as species reside in the genus *Narcissus*, who in Greek mythology fell in love

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much to catch sight of as spring emerges

text and oil painting on linen by Gillian Haven



Spring

oil painting on linen © 2023 by Gillian Haven

Spring is a time of opening. As our region emerges into the season, there is much to catch sight of from leaves unfolding near at hand to the distant cast of light. We live in a shifting world, each of us stitching together our life story from fleeting moments of illumination and grace. Through the practice of painting, I consider the journey.

I grew up in the region and remained attached to its landscape even when living elsewhere. I paint images of it into my oil paintings of quilts. I returned to live in Pelham, where I continued to paint. I am drawn to the silent companionship of hills, the surprise and elation of water, unexpected openings in the feathery canopy of trees.

To paint is to pay attention. To paint the landscape is to pay attention to a place. A painter participates in fleeting moments of change, thus becoming part of something that cannot be fully captured.

I paint to learn some of the story of the location I paint. Each noticed plant or gleam of light is like a piece of a visual alphabet. Each place, scene, or pathway contains more than a lifetime can describe. Each time I start anew. I look for the line that my hand can follow, the mark that matches the place my eyes have touched. I wish to share such moments as they share themselves with me.

Gillian Haven works in a variety of painting and drawing media. She paints the regional landscape and portraits by commission. She studied art at Bennington College and St. Martin's School of Art, London. Her studio is in Pelham.

“chip, chip, chip” or “chuck, chuck, chuck”

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

A midday hike in the woods can be quiet until an alarm goes off signaling that something dangerous is near. It may be a piercing “chip, chip, chip” or “chuck, chuck, chuck” of an eastern chipmunk that has detected an unwelcome visitor.

Stop and stare, and the chipmunk will quiet and freeze in hopes that its striped fur blends in with the background of stones, twigs, and leaves. Any move toward it will trigger an escape response, and the chipmunk will dive out of sight.



A solitary chipmunk snacks on a berry.

Chipmunks are solitary animals with small territories containing a complex of underground tunnels and dens. Multiple openings provide easy access for them when they need cover. Calling out an alarm, they warn nearby neighbors of potential

danger. Other than that cooperative action, the only times they interact with other chipmunks are when they defend their territory from other chipmunks, when mating in early spring and midsummer, or when females are rearing their young. If you sit quietly in the woods after chipmunk calls cease, you may see them emerge again and, along with other wildlife, go about their business.

Chipmunks are not alone in sounding off warning calls when predators are nearby. Black-capped chickadees and blue jays also sound alarms. They also mob predators they discover in their territory.

Chickadees give their “dee, dee, dee” calls. The number of dees in the call tells the level of danger present. When you hear a long string of harsh dees



A chickadee rests on a soon-to-leaf branch.

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among woodland creature alarm sounds

from multiple chickadees, you can be sure they have discovered you, a cat, or a bird of prey.

Blue jays often join the mob and will call out a harsh “jerr, jerr” in warning. Take advantage of such mobbing behavior to see other species joining in and discover an owl or hawk being harassed.

Blue jays can be tricksters when they use their alarm calls. Jays can mimic the red-shouldered hawk’s “kee-ahh” or the high-pitched “keeeeer!” of a red-tailed hawk. Those calls can scare birds busy feeding on ripe wild fruit or seeds at a bird feeder. When the jay sounds off, small birds duck for cover, and the blue jay gets free access to the food. Most of the time, those hawk calls provide helpful warning for the little birds, but when the jay mimics the call, the jay gets food.

Wildlife also may use color as a natural alarm system. Red and orange coloring evolved in some poisonous or distasteful species to provide survival advantage. The little red eft salamander counts as an example. When efts emerge from leaf litter on a misty day to hunt, their color warns predators that they are not tasty treats.

Insects also use colors and patterns for protection from predators. Birds have learned that monarch butterflies are not good to eat and some other butterflies, like the viceroy, evolve to mimic similar distasteful patterns and are thus protected.

False eyespots are part of the alarm displays of many insects. For example, the spicebush caterpillar has large, false eye spots

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With extra black bands but deceptively like the monarch, the viceroy butterfly has evolved to mimic protective patterns that ward off food-seeking birds.

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

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

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local NBC TV media traffic manager awarded EMMY

by Marcia Gagliardi

More than a hundred television specialists at NBC News, including Ben Ellis, media traffic control manager, coordinated video news feeds during events at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Each of them won a 2022 Emmy award for outstanding live broadcast. On that very long broadcast day, Ellis worked remotely from his home in Athol.

Ellis typically works a 2 pm-to-midnight prime time shift to bring live feeds from all over the world to NBC television viewers. He joined NBC in 2018 and then lived in Brooklyn, New York.

Before working at NBC, Ellis had similar responsibilities from 2015 to 2018 with Al Jazeera America, where he supervised the satellite desk with eight staff and four freelancers. From 2009 to 2015, he worked for Fox News as satellite coordinator.

Ellis's remote work began during the COVID-19 pandemic when NBC provided him with a remote position including a dual-feed corporate laptop and monitor, work phone, and cellphone with a New York router. Before COVID, Ellis worked from studios at 30 Rockefeller Center in Manhattan.

Athol-Orange Community Television fostered Ellis's early interest in public access television when as a seventh grader in 1998-1999 he took production classes at A-OTV studios. He holds a 2008 bachelor's degree in television production from Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts.

For January 6, 2021, coverage, Ellis coordinated video feeds from some seventy-five remote national and international locations. "Technology was important," he said, "because of the fluidity of the situation and the



Benjamin Ellis of Athol displays his Emmy, awarded by the Television Academy for primetime excellence within areas of television and emerging media. Ellis received the award for his role in coordinating NBC video news feeds during events at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

photo © by David Brothers

necessity of transmission." He said that he manages video feeds from NBC's US and foreign facilities as well as wire services including Reuters, Associated Press, and Nippon.

Reporter Marcia Gagliardi lives in Athol.

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exploring old railroads south and east of Quabbin

by Christopher Coyle

On its route south to Springfield through Swift River Valley, the Boston and Albany Railroad Athol Branch, nicknamed Rabbit Run, went under the big trestle of Central Massachusetts Railroad at Bondsville, a village in Palmer. Central Massachusetts Railroad, or Central Mass, ran from Boston to Northampton and later became a branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, B&M. Central Mass was completed to Northampton in 1887.



Today home of the The Whistle Stop Restaurant in Gilbertville, the former railroad depot served the town on the Boston and Albany Railroad Ware River Branch to Winchendon.

photo © by Christopher Coyle

The original survey of the Central Mass called for a route north from Gilbertville through northwestern Hardwick, Greenwich, and Enfield, crossing Rabbit Run in the Enfield area. The route was discarded in favor of an easier one through Ware and Bondsville.

The change of route benefited the railroad for several decades later as construction of the Quabbin Reservoir inundated much of the originally proposed route through Swift River Valley. Some of the graded but unused line remains from Greenwich Road, northwest of the center of Hardwick. A beautiful stone arch bridge over Muddy Brook survives in fine condition within Mixer Nields Memorial Forest. A short walk north from Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR, Gate 44 reveals more of the graded area.

The Central Mass line was surveyed and built upon what had been Sullivan Road with the road diverted to a new route crossing Ware River by means of a covered bridge in Gilbertville, all at the railroad's expense. The bridge survived the floods of the 1930s and was substantially rebuilt a few years ago.

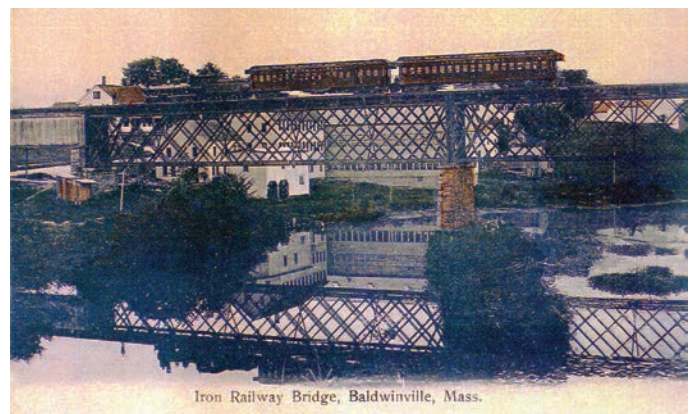
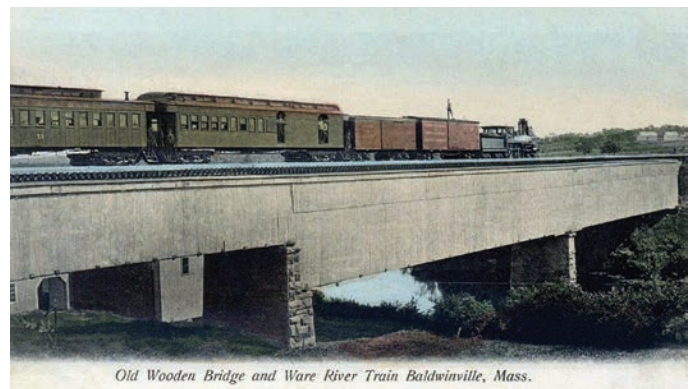
Calvin Coolidge used to commute on the Central Mass line from his home in Northampton to the

Massachusetts State House while he was governor. It is said that Mr. Coolidge often sat in a rocking chair in the baggage car catching up on his newspaper reading.

Most of the line in the southeast Quabbin region was abandoned in 1982, having lasted a little less than a century. Much of the Central Mass now serves as a public trail. To find which parts of the trail are open to public exploration, consult the Mass Central Rail Trail website at [The BIG PICTURE | MassCentralRailTrail](http://TheBIGPICTURE|MassCentralRailTrail).

The other railroad built through the south and east Quabbin region was Ware River Railroad, later a branch of Boston and Albany Railroad. This line ran from Palmer north through Ware, Gilbertville, and Templeton to Winchendon. Construction finished in 1873. A large bridge carried Ware River Railroad over Otter River and the village of Baldwinville. Just north of the bridge, the railroad crossed B&M at grade. Ware River Railroad became part of the Boston and Albany Railroad and later, the New York Central system.

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Early twentieth-century postcards show a wooden bridge and iron bridge accommodating Ware River Railroad in Baldwinville. postcards from the collection of Christopher Coyle

iconic Keystone Bridge in Quabbin Reservation

by John Burk

Keystone Bridge, one of Quabbin Reservoir's most iconic and beloved historical landmarks, supported traffic, hikers, and cyclists for more than 150 years. Deterioration forced Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR, officials to close the distinctive stone arch structure in 2021 and evaluate options for its future.

Situated near Quabbin Reservoir Gate 30 in New Salem, Keystone Bridge spans the Swift River Middle Branch approximately a half mile upstream from the reservoir's northwestern tip at the Wetmore Fishing Area.



In 2021, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation closed Keystone Bridge, Quabbin Reservation, because of collapsing stones.

photo © by John Burk

The town of New Salem hired Adolphus Porter, a stone mason, mechanic, and Civil War veteran who lived near the site, to build the structure in 1866. Sources do not indicate whether he had assistance. Porter saw the bridge crafted with the arch and support walls, or spandrels, of rough cut granite and gneiss stones and no mortar, a process called dry stone construction.

Arch bridges function by transferring weight horizontally to supports. A central stone or keystone at the top of the arch pushes surrounding rocks downward to provide stability. Dry stone bridges use gravity and friction to self support. They can last for centuries and tolerate heavy loads when properly built.

Before Quabbin Reservoir's creation in the 1930s, Keystone Bridge spanned part of a town road from Orange to Millington, a former village



Adolphus Porter built Keystone Bridge.

photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society.

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closed to evaluate future options



Keystone Bridge spans the Middle Branch of Swift River.

photo © by John Burk

of New Salem that now lies beneath the reservoir's waters. A sawmill and several private residences stood near the crossing during the nineteenth century. Though the bridge held up relatively well for many years, damage gradually occurred over time. A portion of the northwest spandrel that supports the arch on the upstream side collapsed in 1945, and photographs taken in the 1980s show deformation of the arch.

In June 2021, two members of Friends of Quabbin, a volunteer organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of Quabbin Reservoir's natural and historical resources, discovered and reported partial collapse of the southeast side of Keystone Bridge. DCR closed the bridge and Gate 30 to ensure public safety and prevent further damage. An engineering firm subsequently recommended removal of the structure due

to its poor condition. The firm had no experience with dry stone construction, so DCR and Friends of Quabbin arranged a follow up assessment with Michael Weitzner, director of Thistle Stone Works of Brattleboro, Vermont, and holder of master craftsman certification issued by the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

During an on site meeting with DCR, Friends of Quabbin, and Swift River Valley Historical Society representatives in June 2022, Weitzner performed a thorough inspection of the bridge. He presented findings in the Friends of Quabbin summer 2022 newsletter and a public video program hosted by DCR's Quabbin Visitor Center in March 2023.

According to Weitzner's analysis, the structure, though reasonably well-built, has a number of flaws that contributed to its present condition. Some of the wedge-shaped stones, or voussoirs, that make up the arch have wide ends facing towards the inside of the arch, reverse of the orientation needed for stability. Many elongated or thin voussoirs have cracked, and abutments that support the arch

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settled 350 years ago by colonists from Ipswich,

by Diane Kane

Brookfield will celebrate 350 years of history this year. First settlers of European origin came from the coastal town of Ipswich on the Massachusetts coast



Built in 1904, Brookfield Town Hall, sported banners for a welcome home from World War I. The old schoolhouse at left housed Merrick Public Library until 1884.

photo courtesy of May-Boyce Collection
Brookfield Historical Society

to central Massachusetts with the promise of land ownership through Quaboag Plantation, founded in 1660. By 1673, the settlers of the wilderness outpost had established a sufficient foundation for self-governance needed to petition colonial authorities to become the town of Brookfield.

Due to governmental red tape, official incorporation date occurred in 1718, but Brookfield citizens will not let that stop their celebration.

During the winter of 1776, Brookfield hailed General Henry Knox, who passed through the town with cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to end the Siege of Boston. A marker along Route 9 commemorates his route.

Later, murder and conspiracy came to Brookfield in March 1778 in the person of Joshua Spooner, a wealthy Brookfield farmer beaten to death and his body stuffed down a well. Four people hanged for the crime, including two British soldiers, a young Continental soldier, and Spooner's wife, Bathsheba, charged with instigating the murder. She was thirty-two years old and five months pregnant when executed. Newspapers of the day described the case as "the most extraordinary crime ever perpetrated in New England."

Local Author Ed Londergan became intrigued by the story, which led to his first book, *The Devil's Elbow*, in 2011 based on the local murder and King Philip's War. In 2013, Londergan wrote *The Long Journey Home*, his second book in the Brookfield saga.

"Bathsheba's story is amazing. It has fascinated people for 244 years because of so many unanswered questions," Londergan said. "This area is special because people here value and preserve history."



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Massachusetts, Brookfield celebrates anniversary

There are as many claims of “George Washington slept here” as there are towns in Massachusetts, but Brookfield has the unique claim of “Washington tried to sleep here.” Across from the former Brookfield Inn on West Main Street running concurrent with Route 9 stands a memorial designating that part of the road as George Washington Memorial Highway.

In 1789, the first president of the United States traveled through five New England states, and although Washington watered his horses there, he never slept in Brookfield. As the story’s told, his party would have spent the night in Brookfield except that the innkeeper, Mrs. Bannister, was in bed with a terrible headache. When awakened by the request, Bannister mistook the person at her door for a college president and sent him on to the neighboring town of Spencer.

On learning of her mistake, she supposedly said: “Bless me! One look at that good man would have cured my aching head.”

Elsie the Cow, another well known icon of Brookfield, serves as mascot for Borden Dairy Company headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Cartoon Elsie, created in 1936, made way for the first living Elsie selected by competition.

Elm Hill Farm in Brookfield entered a registered Jersey heifer named You’ll Do, Lobelia. She won the honor of participating in



You’ll Do, Lobelia, a jersey cow from Elm Hill Farm in Brookfield, was chosen at the 1939 World’s Fair as Elsie the Cow, mascot for Borden Dairy Company.

Feted across the country, Elsie appeared in the movie *Little Men*.

photo courtesy of May-Boyce Collection • Brookfield Historical Society

Borden’s 1939 New York World’s Fair Rotolactor exhibit demonstrating the company’s invention, the rotary milking parlor. She spent the rest of the season dressed in an embroidered green blanket, on display twice daily. Later, she traveled the country, making public appearances.

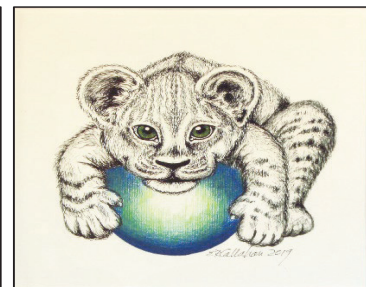
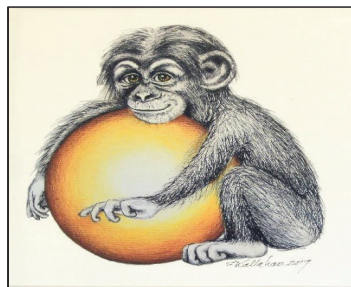
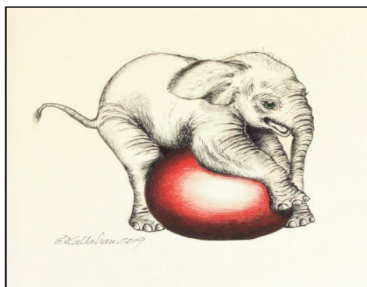
Eventually, Brookfield gave birth to three other towns, North Brookfield in 1812, West Brookfield in 1848, and East Brookfield in 1920. Present-day Brookfield consists of 15.6 square miles of land, and one square mile is water. Located in the southwest part of Worcester County along Quaboag River with several protected wildlife management areas, Brookfield center is at the intersection of Routes 9 and 148. Along the East Brookfield border lie two large ponds, Quaboag Pond to the north and Quacumquasit Pond to the south.

Events planned for the celebration include ice cream socials, parades, and fireworks. Dates and times appear at *Uniquely Quabbin* listings at the end of this magazine.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibition

by Cathy Stanton



Jared Duvall of New Salem sells produce at a farmer's market.
photo © by Oliver Scott Snure

At the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century, most Americans still lived in rural places centered around farming. But by 1920, more than half the population lived in cities, a trend that has only accelerated in the past hundred years.

Today, four out of five Americans live in places classified as urban with city dwellers squeezed onto just three percent of the nation's landmass. The rest of us, including those who live in the Quabbin region, rural.

But what is rural? That's a central question of a traveling exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, from the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. It's also a current question for the US Census Bureau, which recently reclassified a lot of formerly rural areas as part of metropolitan ones—but that's another story.

The *Crossroads* exhibit has already made several stops around Massachusetts and will stop at the Athol Public Library through June 23.

Before the creation of Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s, the Quabbin region was already rural. But taking of four towns for the reservoir and interruption to transportation routes and inter-town connections in the central part of the state, not to mention the "accidental



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wilderness” of the reservoir itself, have since then made it even more rural.

It’s a complicated ruralness with a unique character, though. Programming associated with Crossroads will work to tease out what it means to different people to be rural in the Quabbin region and how our history and topography have shaped it over time.

One special event focuses on the area’s food and farm sector, with a self-guided tour on May 20. Organized by the nonprofit group Quabbin Food Connector, the tour highlights stories of several area farms and food businesses with a focus on the challenges of sustaining small food ventures over time.

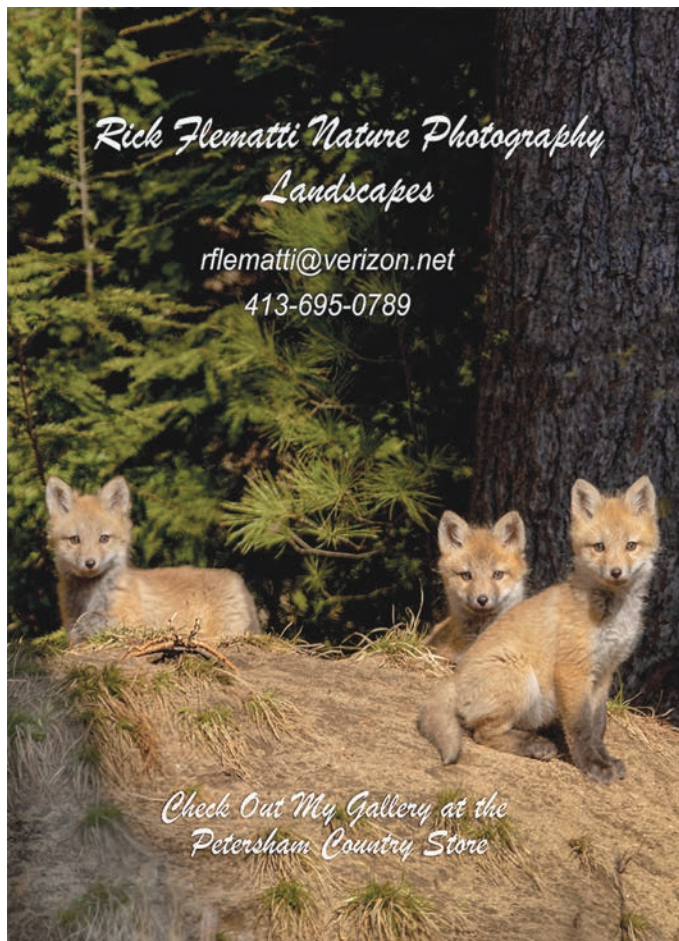
At Chase Hill Farm in Warwick and Diemand Farm in Wendell, keeping the farm going has meant putting operations into new hands, whether from within the same family or outside of it. In New Salem, Jared Duvall has recently overcome one of the biggest hurdles for a new young farmer—getting long-term access to farmland—by purchasing the older Coolidge Hill Farm that he’s been

farming for several years. Jared sells produce at Orange Farmers Market and Petersham Friday Market as well to Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op in Orange.

Quabbin Harvest and Petersham Country Store also have places on the May 20 tour. Both businesses have partnered with land trusts to secure their own spaces, Quabbin Harvest with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the Petersham store with East Quabbin Land Trust. The alignment in mission between the land trusts and the stores helps them work toward a vision of the rural landscape that includes a vibrant mix of small-scale economic activity as well as forests, rivers, and fields.

That mix is particularly complex in the larger Quabbin towns—Athol, Orange, Ware—that grew with manufacturing and struggle to overcome loss of so much of their manufacturing base. Demographers sometimes speak of that kind of town as “micropolitan”—not exactly urban, not completely rural.

continued on page 67



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MassWildlife Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program

by Mike Roche



Writer Mike Roche displays six-pound landlocked salmon he caught while fishing in Quabbin. The catch also won him a Massachusetts Freshwater bronze pin.

photo courtesy of Mike Roche

MassWildlife's Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program began in 1963 and recognizes anglers who catch exceptional freshwater fish across Massachusetts. The goal of the program is to "foster a joy for angling in the many aquatic habitats the state has to offer." Fishermen and fisherwomen receive a bronze pin for catching a fish that meets the minimum for that species, and a gold pin is awarded each year for the largest in each species.

The program has adult and youth divisions in both the Catch-and-Keep and Catch-and-Release categories, and annually, Angler of the Year Awards go to an adult and youth who catch the most species that meet either length or weight requirements. The MassWildlife website posts all rules

Over the last twenty-two years of the program, anglers have reported fish from 903 waterbodies, including lakes, ponds, streams, and Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs. Quabbin leads them all in pin fish caught, with 2,774 whoppers earning pins over time. Only the Connecticut River comes close with 2,386 pin fish caught. Clearly, fishermen in the Quabbin region are lucky to have this great fishery right on our doorstep.

Landlocked salmon have provided the largest share of Quabbin pins with more than 1,200 fish meeting the minimum of four pounds. I earned a bronze pin for a 6-pounder caught while fishing with Roland Jean Jr. on a memorable day at Quabbin. Smallmouth bass come next with more 600 "smallies" that exceeded the 4-pound, 8-ounce minimum. Other species on the Quabbin pin list include lake trout, white perch (my daughter Jen caught a 2-pounder that earned her a pin), rainbow

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Quabbin Reservoir is not only close by to those living in the Quabbin region, but it provides a number of ways that fishermen can access the fabulous fishery. At each of the access gates—Gate 31 in New Salem off Route 122, Gate 43 in Hardwick off Route 32A, or Gate 8 in Belchertown off Route 202—anglers may fish along designated shorelines from Gate 8A to 16A and Gate 22 to 44.

One-day and season parking passes are available at the gates, where the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR, charges a fee for parking. Massachusetts allows year-round fishing, but Quabbin has a special, limited season. Fishermen may fish at Quabbin during that season that runs from April 15 to October 21 this year.

DCR allows nighttime pedestrian fishing access with a permit for Quabbin Reservation through Gates 16, 31, 33, 35, 41, and from one hour past sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Gate 31 in New Salem is popular with local boat fishermen. You can fish Quabbin if your private boat fits Quabbin specifications, which limit boats with two-stroke motors to twenty horsepower and four-stroke motors to twenty-five horsepower. More importantly, all private boats must have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal, QBS, to launch on the reservoir. Obtain seals through DCR-approved decontamination and inspection process by appointment made by telephoning Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

Private boats must conform to specific Quabbin regulations, including the requirement that only four

people are allowed per boat, and every person fifteen or older must possess a valid Massachusetts fishing/sporting license or a Quabbin fishing license in their possession and have fishing tackle including rods, reels, and other paraphernalia. Regulations require hock blocks and rubber boots when launching or removing a boat from the reservoir.

Often specialized, private boats may be outfitted for trolling to fish deeper water and target cold-water species like lake trout or landlocked salmon. Other anglers prefer bass boats with more deck space for casting to fish shorelines, or shallow water where structure like rocks, drop-offs and weeds provide habitat for their favorite warmwater species, largemouth and smallmouth bass.

A third option is renting a boat at one of three launch areas at Gates 31, 8, or 43. Renters must be sixteen or older, have a valid Massachusetts fishing/sporting license or a Quabbin fishing license, and have some form of fishing equipment. Maximum capacity per boat is three adults defined as sixteen or older, two adults and two

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fishing can impact mental and physical well-being

by Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

A simple activity like fishing can have a profound positive impact on mental and physical well-being. Involving children in fishing can teach life skills and provide memories they can carry with them in their journey to adulthood.

Many experienced anglers in the Quabbin region take for granted the diversity of available fishes to pursue along with the many different approaches of pursuit.

A great thing about taking kids fishing is they are not particular nor discriminatory, and a day of catching sunfish often thrills them as much as a busy day of catch and release thrills the experienced fly-fishing angler.

Fishing for sunfish offers an action-packed outing for youngsters. But first they must realize that sunfish have spines located in their fins. The last thing anyone wants when introducing kids to fishing is for them to be nervous about touching the fish because of their spiny fins. Luckily, many online tutorials show them how to

firmly hold fish without holding too tight and also how to “pet the fins down” before grabbing a fish.

For some, trout suggest a little more challenge to catch, but as with most things, a little time and patience leads to worthwhile rewards with no sharp spines to worry about in trout fins. Without fear of spines, kids can study the fish closely, and a day on the water can soon become a lesson in science.

Involving children from start to finish, including preparing fish from hook to table, teaches them not only anatomy but how to incorporate a healthy protein source into their diet. While a picky eater may not take immediately to fish, the lesson in preparation transfers to other things in life. For those choosing not to eat their catch, an abundance of lessons prevails nevertheless, ranging from considering how fish breathe, the function of their protective slime coats, and why minimizing time out of water matters for a fish.

The anatomy lesson can teach not just children of all ages but even the experienced angler, who should know the parts of the fish and how such knowledge can reveal what a fish naturally fed on. If you know what the fish ate, you know how to best mimic that to catch more fish. A wildly amazing thing about fish is that, species by species, they have variations in internal anatomy.

Given abundant MassWildlife stocking programs and the mild and delicious flavor of trout, it seems prudent to focus on sought-after members of the Salmonidae family.

Cleaning and preparing trout for the table can be a rather simple process. While holding the trout in the



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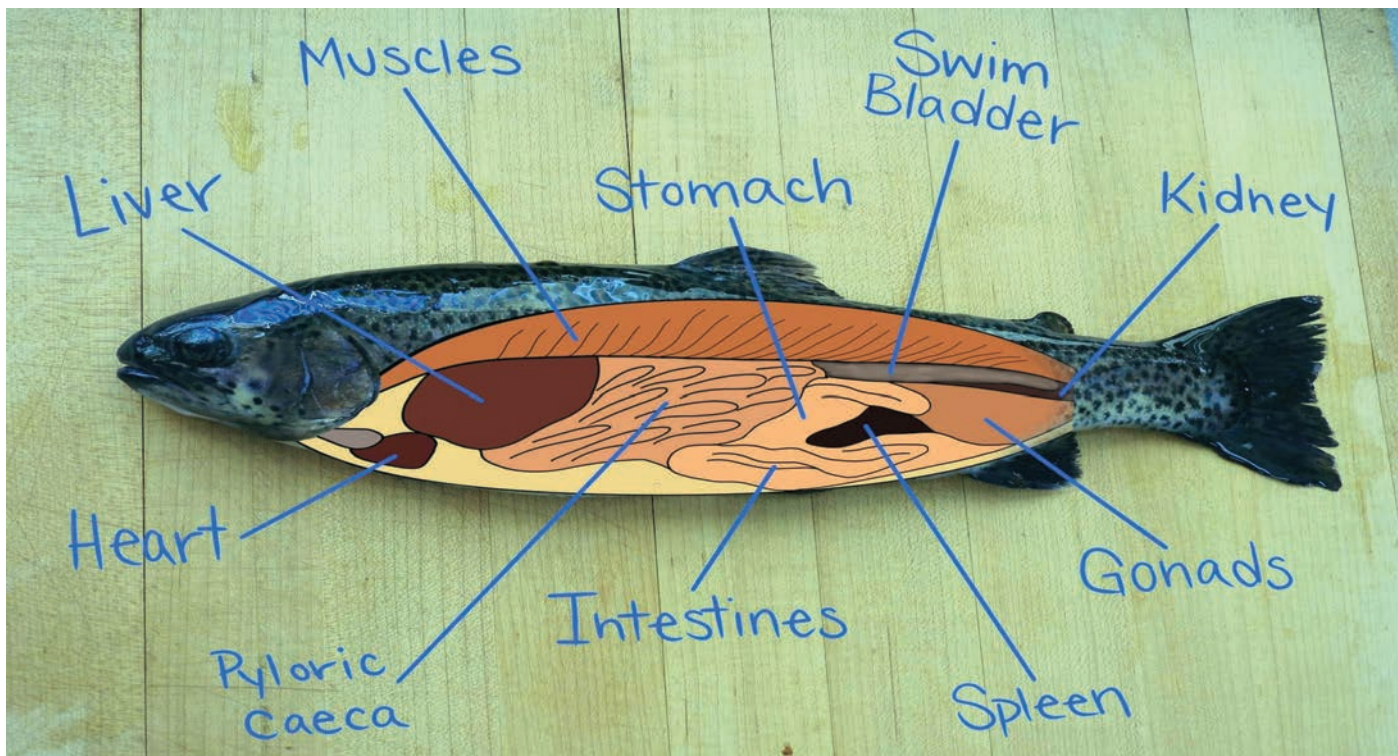
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An abundance of lessons prevails when cleaning fish or learning fish anatomy.

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nondominant hand, simply insert a sharp knife into the vent of the fish and carefully cut all the way up to the V just before its gills. While continuing to cut shallow, easily pull loose viscera out of the fish for identification and determination of stomach content. Lastly, remove the swim/air bladder and kidney that runs tightly along the underside of the backbone. Commonly called the blood sac, the actual kidney runs along the vertebrae.

After fully rinsing the body cavity, it's time for experienced anglers and novices to cook the fish. Many favor a basic pan fry in butter.

continued on page 48



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Black preacher from region served as

by Charles R. "Rocky" Stone

Throughout the Swift River Valley, individuals participated in many capacities in the American Civil War. Some 267 residents of Athol took part, among them

Reverend John N. Mars, a Black preacher born to enslaved parents on June 22, 1804 and apparently the sole Black minister from the Quabbin region to serve in the Civil War.

Reverend Mars never felt enslaved, according to William G. Lord in his 1953 *History of Athol*, as his parents escaped and went north not too long after his birth.

During the Civil War, Mars enlisted in the Union Army and initially was assigned as a chaplain to



Reverend John N. Mars
photo from *History of Athol* by
William G. Lord
courtesy of
Charles R. "Rocky" Stone

the First North Carolina Colored Regiment, the unit's official name. Fourteen African American men served as chaplains among officially named US Colored Troops, USCT, with many assigned to hospitals.

The American Civil War, also known as The War Between the States, began in April, 1861 and ended in the spring of 1865. Opponents in the conflict were the Union Army comprised of combatants from twelve northern states and the Confederacy from nine southern states. The extremely costly war resulted in the deaths of more than six hundred thousand from both opponents. The figure equals the total American fatalities in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, and the Korean War combined, according to American Battlefield Trust.

In addition to the gruesome nature of the war, the conflict tore the soul out of both opposing forces. In many instances, brother faced brother on the field of battle.

In August of 1861, the US Congress established guidelines for the 2,387 men and women who served as



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Civil War chaplain

Union chaplains. The Act of July 28, 1866 stated that "... an Army Chaplain shall be assigned to newly established African American Regiments," according to the National Civil War Chaplain Museum at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Religion was the greatest sustainer of morale during the Civil War, according to Richard G. Williams Jr., author of *Chaplains in the Civil War*.

Reverend Mars was subsequently assigned to the 35th US Colored Infantry Regiment, established with that name on May 22, 1863. The unit mobilized on February 8, 1864, and inactivated in June 1, 1866.

Colonel James Beecher, half sibling of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, commanded the 35th, led by White officers. The unit attached to Montgomery's Brigade, District of Florida. Many Black chaplains were assigned to hospitals where they prayed with the injured and assisted them in writing letters. For those not assigned to hospitals, one of their primary duties involved educating enlisted personnel in the unit.

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abundant in forest land, Pelham features hiking trails

by John Burk

A hub of activity during Shays's Rebellion, Pelham features abundant forest land in close proximity to the greater Amherst area. Much of its 24.8 square-mile landscape sits atop a dome-shaped glacial ridge that divides the Connecticut River and Quabbin valleys. Elevations range from about 300 feet at the Amherst town boundary to 1,234 feet at Mount Lincoln's summit, where a fire tower offers views across the region. University of Massachusetts Cadwell Memorial Forest, part of the New England National Scenic Trail corridor, protects most of Mount Lincoln. Another



Pelham's Buffam Brook cascades to confluence with Amethyst Brook, headwater of Fort River.
photo © by John Burk

iconic regional hiking route, the Robert Frost Trail, crosses over Mount Orient and adjacent hills in the northwest part of town.

Quabbin Reservoir, which inundates the Swift River West Branch valley, encompasses roughly one-third of Pelham's land. For water

supply, the Town of Amherst owns approximately fifteen hundred acres, including the Hills, Hawley, and Intake reservoirs. Numerous brooks drain east toward Quabbin Reservoir or west to the Connecticut River watershed. At Buffam Falls, one of several town conservation areas, Buffam Brook cascades to its confluence with Amethyst Brook, a headwater of Fort River.

Lack of a major river and rocky land likely limited Native American activity in present Pelham to seasonal fishing and hunting encampments along streams

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The Pelham Historical Society complex on Amherst Road houses memorabilia from Pelham's past, including documents about Daniel Shays's rebellion.

photo courtesy of Pelham Historical Society

and brooks. Potential sites included Amethyst Brook, Orient Springs, Swift River West Branch, and surrounding uplands.

Pelham was originally part of the Equivalent Lands, uninhabited tracts temporarily granted to Connecticut during a boundary dispute in 1713. Presbyterian Scottish immigrants from Worcester purchased a seventeen-thousand-acre parcel, originally known as Stoddardtown, from Colonel John Stoddard of Northampton in 1738. Pelham, named for United Kingdom Prime Minister Henry Pelham, incorporated in 1742.

Historic landmarks of the civic center at Pelham Hill include the 1743 meetinghouse, reputedly the nation's oldest town hall in continuous use, an 1839 Greek Revival church that houses Pelham Historical Society, and monuments to Daniel Shays and war veterans. Other villages developed at Pelham's Packardville, annexed from Belchertown in 1788, and West Pelham, where Amethyst Brook provided power for mills. Pelham's East Parish, established in 1786 on Swift River, incorporated as part of the town of Prescott in 1822.

Like other agrarian communities, Pelham suffered significant hardship during an economic depression after the American Revolution. Shays, fabled leader of the uprising that bore his name, owned a farm in East Pelham and served as a head of the town militia. During meetings at local taverns in 1786, Shays and other disgruntled residents planned protests against taxation by the Massachusetts colonial government.

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acres of Warwick woodlands recovered

by John Burk



Mount Grace provides backdrop for homesteads up the hill on Route 78 from Warwick center.

photo courtesy of Warwick Historical Society

Warwick's rugged topography and abundant forests have influenced its history since precolonial times. Steep wooded hills capped by 1,621-foot Mount Grace, highest summit of the Quabbin region and the New England National Scenic Trail corridor, comprise most of the town's 37 square-mile landscape. A historical fire tower atop Mount Grace provides 360-degree views to the Berkshire Hills, southern New Hampshire, and Mount Ascutney in Vermont. Other notable eminences include Mallard, Mayo, and Ball hills in the northeastern part of town.

Warwick State Forest and Mount Grace State Forest, 10,383 and 1,371 acres respectively, protect roughly half of the town's woodlands, recovered from colonial land clearing, extensive logging, and the 1938 Hurricane. Arthur Iversen Conservation Area, a Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust property, encompasses 500 acres of forest and wetlands including Devil's Washbowl, a waterfall on Hodge Brook. The properties lie within a large regional greenway in eastern Franklin County and southern New Hampshire.

Warwick has no major rivers or lakes but hosts a variety of wetlands, including five natural lakes and ponds, artificial ponds, swamps, brooks, and Tully River West Branch. Sheomet Lake, also known as Clubhouse Pond, serves as headwaters of Tully River. Several north-flowing brooks drain into Ashuelot River, a major tributary of Connecticut River in southern New Hampshire. Bass Swamp and Stevens Swamp provide habitat for moose, beavers, wading birds, and other wildlife.

The natural waterbodies, including Hastings Pond, Laurel Lake, and Darling Brook, provided seasonal fishing opportunities for Native Americans, mostly likely from the Squakheag settlement at present Northfield. Small-to-medium-sized groups also hunted forests in areas with gentle to moderate terrain.

Present Warwick, originally known as Gardner's Canada and Roxbury, was one of four land divisions granted to veterans of the Battle of Quebec, a conflict between the New France and Massachusetts Bay colonies in October 1690. The first settlers arrived in

from colonial land clearing for farms

1739, but fears of potential Native attacks and limited fertile land delayed most colonial development until the 1760s. Warwick, likely named for the Earl of Warwick, England, incorporated in 1763. Approximately 4,000 acres in the southeast part of town, the equivalent of 6.25 square miles, annexed to Orange in 1781.

Warwick's original town center featured a large common with a school, firehouse, and cemetery. Landmarks of Lower Village, the current civic center, include the town hall, the library housed in a former Baptist meetinghouse, a historical direction marker, and the former Warwick Inn, now apartments, which hosted travelers and community events before closing in the late twentieth century. The Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike and other stagecoach roads provided connections to Northfield, Worcester, and Leominster in Massachusetts, to Brattleboro in Vermont, and to Winchester in New Hampshire.

Lumbering and agriculture, especially livestock production, constituted staples of Warwick's early

economy. Affordable land and business opportunities prompted rapid growth during the late eighteenth century.

Industries included numerous sawmills, gristmills, cabinet shops, tanneries, blacksmiths, box companies, tool makers, two brickyards, a potash producer, and cloth makers. Closure of a glass factory in 1815 caused financial hardship for many of Warwick's affluent citizens. Sawmill owner Daniel Smith invented the revolving timber plane, a machine that smoothed lumber, around 1830.

Brush Valley's name derives from a factory at Wheeler Pond that produced chairs, brushes, and wooden boxes before burning in 1920. A boot shop, located at the present town hall site, was Warwick's largest manufacturer and employer circa 1875. Lumbering and woodworking continued through the late nineteenth century.

Warwick's population, which peaked at 1,256 residents in 1820, decreased thereafter due to poor

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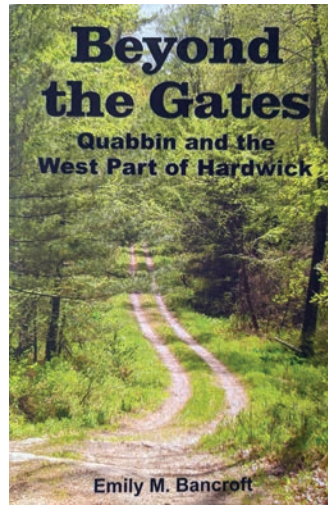
by Diane Kane

Emily Bancroft of West Hardwick • J. R. Greene of Athol

lost towns brought to life through history and memory



Emily M. Bancroft writes about Quabbin and the west part of Hardwick in *Beyond the Gates*.



Emily Bancroft of West Hardwick still lives on the farm owned by her family for more than eighty years. The property and Town of Hardwick influenced Bancroft's writing from an early age.

"Growing up here gave me an appreciation of nature's beauty and its calming effects," Bancroft said. "As a child, I followed the cows to their favorite spot along the brook, and as an adult, I rode horses to the same spot."

Bancroft is a member of the Hardwick Historical Society and chair of the Hardwick Historical Commission.

A historical society is a private, nonprofit organization. Historical societies often preserve local history through house museums, maintaining collections and records, and public programs.

Historical commissions, part of municipal government, may advise elected and appointed officials about historic preservation issues, including the demolition of landmark buildings, zoning changes, reusing municipally owned historic buildings, master planning, or preservation of historic landscapes. Local

Historical Commissions are the official agents of municipal government responsible for community-wide historic preservation planning.

In 2013, seventy-fifth anniversary of creation of Quabbin Reservoir, Bancroft helped collect information to create a DVD depicting people relocated from and places lost in the west part of town to accommodate the reservoir.

She went on to assist with organizing information for *Hidden Hardwick*, a collection of photos and descriptions of little-known sites published by the historical commission in 2016.

Other projects she worked on include an update of the town's history from 1865 to 1950, a history of the annual Hardwick Fair, and an oral history featuring memories of many town citizens. Doing research for these projects inspired Bancroft to write her own book of essays, *Beyond the Gates*, in 2016. But Bancroft is far from finished.

"My latest endeavor, begun as a pandemic project and finished in late 2022, is a scrapbook-style history of Hardwick's schools," Bancroft reflected. "Local readers have been a great means of support to my writing. Conversations with townspeople often turn to the question, 'What are you working on now?'"

Expressive Writing through Cancer, a support group formed in 2011 and convened at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, helped Bancroft through her battle with breast cancer.

"I shared much of my work in progress with the group during that time," Bancroft said.

As a cancer survivor, Bancroft remains active in the Mary Lane writing group providing support and friendship to others.

Bancroft does historical presentations at Hardwick Historical Museum. In addition, her books on Hardwick are available at the Hardwick Municipal Building, Paige Library, Hardwick Historical Society, and by contacting her at mfiban@hotmail.com.

submit letters to the editor
for Uniquely Quabbin
to
marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

artifacts, and photos



Longtime collector of Quabbin memorabilia and well-known writer about Quabbin in well-known books, J. R. Greene recently produced *The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects*.

J. R. Greene is a lifelong resident of Athol.

"I was born at the local hospital and still live in the same neighborhood," Greene said.

A 1977 graduate of UMass, Amherst, Greene worked his way through college as a dealer in collectibles at local flea markets, where you can still find him selling his wares.

"I also worked part time for thirty-six years as sealer of weights and measures for Athol and Orange," Greene said. "That job gave me time to research and write my books."

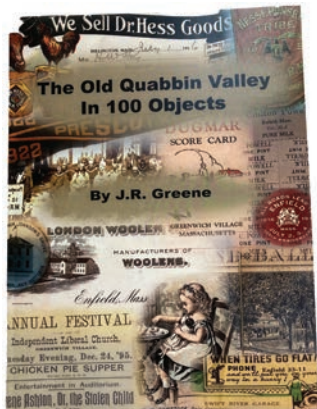
In addition, Greene is a library trustee, an elected position he has served in for forty-eight years.

Greene began publishing in 1971, releasing seven poetry collections in eleven years. But his real passion for writing about Quabbin Reservoir and surrounding areas started with a walk on the railroad tracks.

"It may sound corny, but my interest in the Quabbin came from watching the railroad that ran south from Athol to Springfield. So, one day a friend and I hiked what was known as the old Rabbit Railroad to New Salem."

Later discovering that three previous books on the history of the Quabbin were out of print and, thus, material on the topic sorely lacking, Greene found his mission.

"After taking a cartography course at U Mass Amherst, I drew up my 1975 title, *An Atlas of the Quabbin Valley Past & Present*. It went on to sell more than ten thousand copies before I let it go out of print around 2006."



continued on page 56

• debut novel •

I Never Called Him Pa

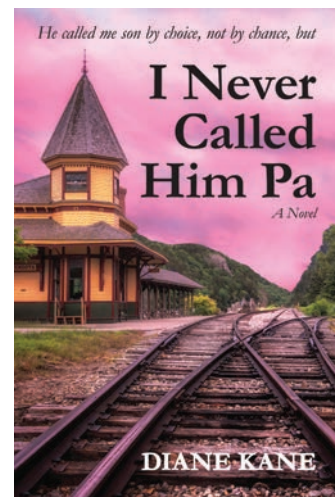
by Marcia Gagliardi

Diane Kane of Phillipston

coming of age story



Novelist, publisher, and anthologist Diane Kane debuts *I Never Called Him Pa*.




Prolific writer, anthologist, and publisher, longtime US postal worker, and frequent contributor to anthologies and *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, Diane Kane embarked six years ago on creating her recently released four-hundred-page novel, *I Never Called Him Pa*.

Rated five stars on Amazon, *I Never Called Him Pa* is a coming-of-age novel set in the 1950s told in the voice of Henry, a young fatherless boy living on a farm in Northern Illinois with his grandmother and his wayward mother. Ernest, a man of color, seeks refuge on the farm and changes all their lives.

continued on page 56

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from the pens of *Uniquely Quabbin* poets

poems by Elaine Harootunian Reardon

For Maria Elena in Brooklyn

You could tell me about baby carriages wheeled
to cafés, bookshops, and parks,
subway rides to anywhere,
espresso—anything you want,
because it's all outside your door.

I could tell you how sharply the mint
bites the tongue,
how sweet violet mingles with rose petals,
and how bitter the bite of dandelion greens.
I would tell you to watch the thorns
when you reach for the raspberries.

You could tell me how traffic hums right
past your building never stopping,
music blaring from the small restaurant,
outside tables slipping around the corner of the street.

We listen for the sound of the barred owls
in late afternoon
and watch grass shiver when a mouse slips through.
Maria, hold the sweet fern to your nose
just outside my door.

All Our Remembered Vietnams

I remember onion skin thin handwritten letters
tattered missives assured us you were
alive three weeks ago
You lived perched high in jungle tree tops
near a small village

You made friends—a young mother
cooked meals for you
everything was made of rice
and everything tasted so good

and Laddie was dead
out on patrol

Elaine Reardon is a poet and educator who lives in the Warwick forest. Her first chapbook, *The Heart Is a Nursery For Hope*, won first honors from Flutter Press in 2016. Her second chapbook, *Look Behind You*, was published in late 2019. Her writing is published in a variety of journals and anthologies. Contact her at ear@crocker.com

And the Roses

Like ladies at a garden party
day lilies lean in slightly tipsy by steps
leading into a pebbled courtyard.

Sprays of scarlet roses droop
and invite my nose to press in.
I inhale. The bees have nothing on me.

Scent of summer fills the air,
each bloom intoxicating,
warm air suffused with perfume.

Bees burrow in like lovers
then back out, dazed and weaving,
drunk on golden nectar.

Stand at the threshold
with antlers, fern, and roses,

listen for the sound of bells;
know then—my kin are close.

Watching from your tree perch you listened for fire
constant dirt heat and humidity
clothing grew mold and fungus
until you didn't notice it any more
you cheated gunfire and then reported it
learned to speak a divergent tongue

The photos you sent home
Jesus, was that you—
ancient dirty face past weary,
past so many unnamed things?

poems by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri

Mystery Flower

for Dorothy

Not the prettiest of flowers,
they suddenly appear when you're
not looking,
fat, lavender, scrotum-like,
bobbing quietly on long
spindly stems
above bright green leaves
that sit near the ground.
They love pine needles and
tall evergreens
that give them shelter
but not deep shade.

There's a metaphor here,
a lesson to be learned.
But I'll let you discover it
for yourself,
just as I'll let you discover
the lady slippers
in secret places,
along shady paths.
I won't tell where.

Legacy

for Jack Jewett

Daffodils spring up
every year at the corner
of South Main and West Main
scattered through the field—
yellow proud,
a reminder,
a legacy.

What will I leave behind?
What will be
my legacy,
my reminder to the world
to stand proud,
be brave?



One-time Peace Corps volunteer and
retired teacher, Mary-Ann Palmieri lives
with her husband, Tony, in New Salem
and Durham, North Carolina.

poem
by Linda Kennedy Sweeney

My Mama

My mother's voice,
her gentle touch,
her loving ways—
I miss so much.

When she was here,
I didn't know how
much she meant to me.

And now she's gone.
Her life has passed.
She's in my memory.

But though she's gone,
her voice I hear.
I hear her say,
"I love you, dear."

Writer Linda Kennedy Sweeney lives
in Rutland.



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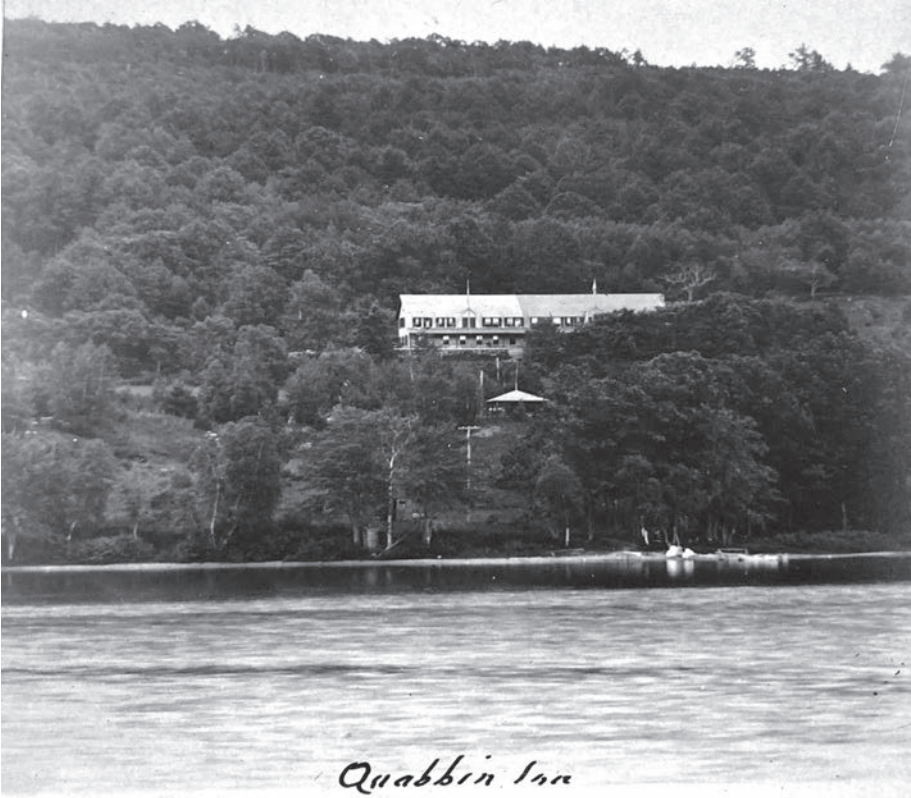


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QUABBIN CURRENTS

Native American place names remain in Swift River Valley

by J. R. Greene



Quabbin Inn, Greenwich, overlooked Quabbin Lake in the early 1900s.
The word Quabbin supposedly means "well-watered place."

photo from the collection of J. R. Greene



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Even though Native Americans had settled the west central part of Massachusetts well into the late seventeenth century, relatively few Native American place names were recorded for the region.

Towns destroyed for Quabbin Reservoir held several features with Native American names, some of them still in use. The word Quabbin supposedly remembers a sachem or chief of the local tribe Nini or Nani, equaling Quabbin. The word has been translated to mean "well-watered place," or "great waters." The name applied to the districts of both Greenwich and Enfield, incorporated as towns in 1754 and 1816, respectively.

The large hill between the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike at the southern end of the reservoir was always known to Enfield residents as Great Quabbin Mountain, while a nearby hill, now an island in the reservoir, was called Little Quabbin Mountain. The women's club in Enfield was named the Quabbin Club. Quabbin Lake, originally known as East Pond, was located in Greenwich. The Quabbin Inn, later a summer camp for Jewish youth, stood on a hill overlooking the lake.

The lost town of Dana had Pottapaug Hill and Pottapaug Pond, the Indian name meaning a bay or cove. Pottapaug Hill to this day overlooks the arm of the reservoir known as the Pottapaug section.

Just north of North Dana village, the Neeseponset Ponds, meaning near the two ponds, supplied waterpower to mills in that village.

continued on page 63

The Forgotten a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



A homeless person panning on the street corner, a “bag lady” restlessly dozing on a park bench, an alcoholic lying in a gutter, or a mentally troubled individual who may be in difficult circumstances on the street counts among our neighbors, relatives, acquaintances, and strangers alike. It is always an awkward moment bearing the passer-by encounter/witness to these folks in wrought human conditions. But everyone has a story, and to listen to the story of a forgotten individual can genuinely enlighten the heart and mind remembering to reach out with a chat, a coffee, or sandwich that just might change your life and redeem a life worth living.

ami fagin
ketubahindesign.com
beyondgenocide.net
visualhaiku.graphics

A photograph of a modern living room. In the center is a white fireplace mantel with a black Harman pellet stove insert. To the left is a grey armchair with a white cushion and a vase of white flowers. To the right is a grey sofa. A circular badge on the left reads "TAX CREDIT SAVE 30%". A QR code is on the right.

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A stunning sun sets behind Quabbin region trees.

photo © by Nancy Lagimoniére

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A fawn takes in its surroundings.

photo © by Rick Flematti



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region's tennis players win championship

by Brian Fournier



2022 Greenfield Tennis Association League Champions include, from left, Brian Lamore of Greenfield, Brian Fournier of Orange, Brian Campbell of Erving, and Sehoon Ahn of Greenfield.

photo courtesy of Brian Fournier

United States Tennis Association practice and competition runs throughout the year in New England and the Quabbin area. USTA leagues in the area comprise age brackets from 18 to 65 in men's, women's, and mixed tennis play. Skill levels go up to 4.5. Professional players at the top of the game rate 7.0 to provide an idea of rating levels.

League-winning teams qualify for sectional play at an announced site. Team Backhand Complement, including players from Orange, Erving, and Ware, has achieved sectional play every year. The team has traveled nearly every year to courts around Boston, Providence, and Hartford but also to smaller venues like Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Longmeadow High School, and Enfield Tennis Club in Connecticut for postseason play.

If a team wins in sectionals, it moves on to the New England district finals, as Team Backhand Complement has many times in 18+, 40+, and 55+ divisions. In district competition, teams vie to be New England Champion by age group and level. Winning district teams compete in nationals often held in Florida at the USTA National Campus-Tennis and Training Center near Orlando. The facility hosts nearly a hundred clay and hard courts.

Although never having played nationals, Team Backhand Complement a few years ago missed it by one point. Western Mass teams sometimes experience the challenge of competing with teams from bigger clubs in the Boston-Providence area. They have hundreds of players to pick from, while in Western Mass teams by comparison have fewer clubs each with fewer players. Those Western

Mass clubs nevertheless hold their own and fight hard to uphold the reputation of gritty folk from this area.

Yes, competitive juices run in USTA folks even as they age well into their seventies and even eighties. Come summer, many play in the Greenfield Clay Court Doubles League. Teams include anywhere from two to six people. The schedule involves one evening match a week throughout the summer. Highland Street courts in Greenfield offer a perfect hillside viewing area for spectators.

The Greenfield league last year included fifty-seven players in the advanced division made up of thirteen teams and twenty-four players in the intermediate division six teams.

Made up of Captain Brian Campbell from Erving, Brian Lamore of Greenfield, Sehoon Ahn of Greenfield, and Brian Fournier (that's me, the writer of this article) from Orange, the team included three guys named Brian, so we called it The Brians. We told people that Sehoon in Korean means Brian. It was good for a laugh, especially when they said,

continued on page 56

Quabbin Region Public Tennis Courts

Athol • Fish Park

Barre • Felton Field

Belchertown • Chesnut Hill Park

Hardwick • Pioneer Field

Hardwick • Off Prospect Street Park

New Salem • New Salem Park

Orange • Butterfield Park

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list compiled by Carla Charter

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Quabbin area historical societies

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street, Athol
June 9, 7 pm
An Evening with
Julie (Capone) Bouchard

September 13, 6:30 pm
Annual Meeting

Jun 17, 1 pm-4 pm
Quilt Show

September 23, noon-4 pm
James F. Gilman Art Show

October 19, 7 pm
Chris Daley presents
Forty Whacks
The Lizzie Borden Case

Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street, Barre
June 21, 5:30-7:30 pm
Summer Solstice Soiree
Members Only

Please check our website for
upcoming programming.

June 22, location and time TBD
stories of three enslaved people
who lived in Barre with
Director Lucy Allen

June 24, location and time TBD
rain date June 25
guided walk: homesites
burial places of enslaved

Barre Historical Society
(continued)
July 8, 10 am-noon
The Heritage Center
20 Common Street, Barre
Basics of Hand Embroidery with
Director Eileen Bohigian

Sundays, July 16, 23, 30
August 6 & 13
Barre Band Concerts
August 6
Quabbin Community Band
50th Anniversary Alumni Concert

**Hardwick Historical
Society Museum**
40 Common Street, Hardwick
June 25 to late October, 2 pm
second and fourth Sundays

August 18, 6-9 pm
August 19, 11 am-3 pm
Hardwick Fair
Hardwick Town Common

Hubbardston Historical Society
4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston
June 10, 9 am-2 pm
Hubbardston Fair
Rec Field, Route 68 9am-2pm
Historical Society
hands on display
“Main Street through the Years”

June 17, 10 am-1 pm
Pie & Baked Goods Sale
Williamsville Chapel
4 Burnshirt Road
Hubbardston 10am-1pm

Hubbardston Historical Society
(continued)
September 16
Hubbardston Field Day
Rec Field, Route 68 9am-2pm
Historical Society hands on
display
“Main Street through the Years”

Oakham Historical Society
sometime in July
Revolutionary War:
Life in the camp
on the British Side

August 17, 6:30 pm
Agronomy Vineyard in Oakham
wine tasting/Oakham Jeopardy
game
26 tickets available

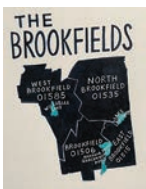
Pelham Historical Society
Pelham Historical Complex
376 Amherst Road
www.pelhamhistory.org
first and third Sundays, 1:30-4:30
pm

June through September
June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16
August 6 & 20, September 3 & 17

May 28, 10 am
Quabbin Park Cemetery
Memorial Day Observance

June 4, 1:30-4:30 pm
Pelham Historic Complex
revisit Pelham's Fenway Park

Maps © by Casey Williams



schedule events, exhibition open hours

Pelham Historical Society (continued)

July 9, 1 pm

hike in Cadwell Memorial Forest
meet in parking area
Packardville Road
by Tower Road gate

August 13, 1 pm

Visit Swift River Valley Historical
Society

Meet at Swift River Valley
Historical Society
40 Elm Street New Salem

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street, New Salem
May 21, 11 am
spring hike, Gate 33 area
meet at SRVHS

May 28, 10 am

Memorial Day Observance
Quabbin Park Cemetery

Swift River Valley Historical Society (continued)

June 21, museum opening day

July 12, 6:30-8:30 pm
Finding Your Voice

A Historical Perspective
Judith McIntosh and Elena
Palladino
Athol Public Library

July 15, 10:30-noon
continuation of
Finding Your Voice

A Historical Perspective
Judith McIntosh and Elena
Palladino

Archives Room, Prescott Church
on SRVHS grounds

July 16, 11 am-3 pm
Dana Reunion

Dana Common via Gate 40

July 23, 2 pm

Dana Vespers
Prescott Church on
SRVHS grounds

Swift River Valley Historical Society (continued)

July 29, 1 pm

Birds of Prey with
Tom Ricardi
SRVHS grounds

August 6, 2 pm

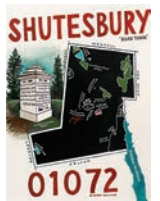
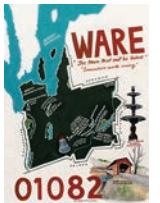
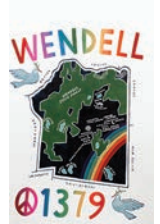
Lura Berry Barnes
with Karen Traub,
historical interpreter
Prescott Church, SRVHS

August 27, 1 pm

History of Quabbin Valley
through Gravestones
with Maria Beiter-Tucker,
DCR interpretive services
Prescott Church, SRVHS

September 9, 2 pm

annual Friends Meeting
with Elena Palladino, author
*Lost Towns of
Swift River Valley*
Prescott Church, SRVHS



Find more information about historical societies at their websites.

Other historical societies in the Quabbin region include

Belchertown Historical Association, The Stone House Museum

Erving Historical Commission • Leverett Historical Society

Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton • New Braintree Historical Society

North Brookfield Historical Society • Orange Historical Society

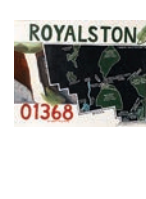
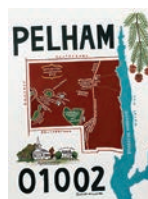
Petersham Historical Society • Phillipston Historical Society

Quabog Historical Society • Royalston Historical Society

Rutland Historical Society • Shutesbury Historical Commission

Ware Historical Society • Warwick Historical Society

Wendell Historical Society



Brookfield, Petersham library staffs offer reads about American Revolutionary War

compiled by Carla Charter

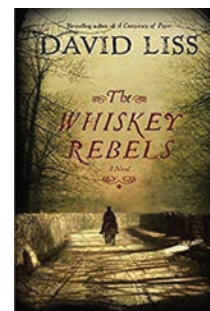
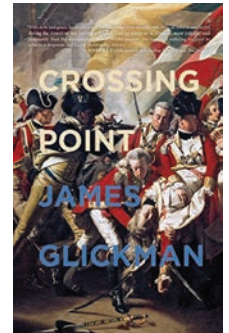
With the Fourth of July comes thoughts of our nation's roots. The following stories, set during the American Revolution, originate from a variety of perspectives.

Brenda Metterville, director, and Julia Taylor, senior assistant at Merrick Public Library, Brookfield, recommend several good works of fiction.

***My Dear Hamilton: A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton* by Stephanie Dray** tells the story of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton, a revolutionary woman who, like her new nation, struggled to define herself in the wake of war, betrayal, and tragedy. It depicts the wronged wife at the center of a political sex scandal as a founding mother who shaped an American legacy in her own right.



***Crossing Point* by James Glickman** works with the premise that when the Revolutionary War begins, Guy Watson works enslaved with the Hazzard family in Rhode Island, but soon finds himself engaged by Samuel Ward of a prominent New England family in service for the American army. Torn about leaving his beloved June and other enslaved individuals who have become his family, Watson eventually sets out with Ward and a battalion of men on a treacherous and legendary trek to Quebec. Upon their eventual return home, they realize the cost of war. *Crossing Point* raises the question of how to define justice for those who faced an uncertain freedom.



Director Amber Johns at Petersham Memorial Library recommends ***The Whiskey Rebels: A Novel* by David Liss** about America in 1787. Ethan Saunders, once General George Washington's most valued spy, lives in disgrace after an accusation of treason. But an opportunity for redemption comes calling when Saunders's old enemy Alexander Hamilton draws him into a struggle with bitter rival Thomas Jefferson over creation of the Bank of the United States.



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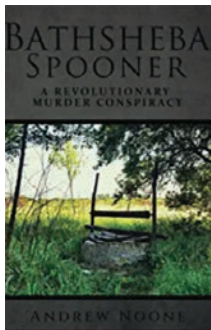
"My ideal summer day was reading on the porch."

— Harold E. Varmus

***The Fort: A Novel of the Revolutionary War* by Bernard Cornwell**, told from both sides of the Revolution, uses real figures in American history in a historical novel about a small British fleet with few soldiers on board who meet, to their surprise, the overwhelming strength of local militia.



Merrick Public Library offers adult non-fiction reads.



***Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy* by Andrew Noone** considers what possessed a Worcester County, Massachusetts, woman from the elite of eighteenth-century society to conspire with American and British soldiers to murder her husband at the midpoint of the American

Revolution. The *Bathsheba Spooner* book tells the true crime story of a brutal 1700s homicide, its notoriety only heightened by the distraction of war-weary, economically stressed New Englanders.

***George Washington's Secret Six: the Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution* by Brian Kilmeade** considers that when General George Washington beat a hasty retreat from New York City in August 1776, many thought



the American Revolution might soon be over. Instead, Washington rallied, thanks in large part to the Culper Spy Ring

Petersham Memorial Library offers another suggestion.

Complete Writings of Phillis Wheatley

In 1761, the enslaved young woman who would become the extraordinary poet Phillis Wheatley arrived in Boston aboard a slaver's ship.

After Boston publishers doubted its authenticity and rejected an initial collection of her poetry, a still enslaved Wheatley sailed to London in 1773 and found a publisher there. Her manumission followed publishing of her book.

The volume collects both Wheatley's letters and her poetry, including a poignant plea to the Earl of Dartmouth urging freedom for America and comparing the country's condition to her own.

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I Never Called Him Pa is like slipping into your favorite old sweater on a chilly winter night, adding a log to the potbelly stove, and stepping back in time. It is 1950 in Northern Illinois, and for young Henry and the grandmother who is raising him, life on their small farm is about to change.

~Author Ed Davis, *The Last Professional*

June 28 at Athol Public Library

Lyrical Faith to host workshop in poetry and spoken word

by Ami Fagin

Have you ever been captured by the magic of an open mic story- telling hour? It lays life down in plain English, in everyday miracles and heroic tragedies. It's a place and time where you see yourself in your neighbor's tale, no matter the dichotomy of our existences, and it is where history happens.



Black American spoken word poet from the Bronx,
Lyrical Faith will present workshop June 28 at Athol Public Library.
photo courtesy of Athol Public Library

The lore of spoken word and its growing popularity in the Quabbin region has braised a uniquely regional cultural fare from enthusiasts committed to making the social airwaves savory with spoken word.

Black American educator, activist, and spoken word poet from the Bronx, New York, Lyrical Faith ranks as third woman poet in the world as of the 2022 Women of the World Poetry Slam. Also an inaugural Bronx Poet Laureate finalist, she has twice received the Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO Award.

With support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Faith will host a workshop at 4 pm Thursday, June 28, before an Athol Public Library spoken word program beginning at 6.

Faith made a home for the spoken word at UMass, Amherst, as founder of the Bright Moments Spoken Word series. She hosts training workshops, performances, and spoken word competitions around Pioneer Valley.

The June 28 Athol Public Library event will feature "outrageous, funny and heartwarming true stories told in five minutes by your friends and neighbors around the Quabbin region," according to Robin Shtulman, assistant director.

Through her poetry, Faith said she strives to inspire, educate, and advocate for intersectional and institutional issues by merging the arts and activism from a faith-based worldview.

From the people's stage at the annual Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange, Paul Richmond of Wendell, founder of Human Error Publishing, has given voice and platform for discourse as he advocates for spoken word performance.

Workshop 13 in Ware hosts spoken word events on the First Friday of each month. The 13 Church Street venue embraces a variety of visual and spoken art. Libraries throughout the Quabbin region host poetry readings, and writers groups in Hardwick, the Brookfields, and Rutland offer public spoken word events.

Beloved late poet and playwright Dorothy Johnson of New Salem graced the Quabbin region for decades with community plays, reading aloud events, and her ubiquitous, piquant poetry, the combination itself giving rise to a genuine Quabbin anthology of personal public voice.

The Robert P. Collén Poetry Competition brings contemporary written verse to stage. The competition hosted at Wheeler Memorial Library honors the late Collén of Orange, lifelong resident with a passion for poetry.

continued on page 57



A mile marker in Shutesbury Center points the way to nearby (and not so nearby) communities.

photo © by John Burk

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THANK YOU!

warm weather brings the chance

by Carla Charter

Warm weather brings a chance to picnic in Quabbin towns. Unique spots to picnic include at community band concerts or by the water.

Riverfront Park in Orange offers picnic tables and a place to spread out a blanket and enjoy the riverfront view. For canoeists and kayakers, there is the Millers River Blue Trail, a water trail following the Millers River to Athol from Orange, according to Jerry Whaland, co-owner of Billy Goat Boats. The Millers River Blue Trail provides a route to Paddle and Picnic events sponsored by Trail Head, Billy Goat Boats, and White Cloud Diner.

Stephanie Cook, owner of Trail Head, said the first Paddle and Picnic event last fall during peak foliage season "was very popular." Organizers plan more Paddle and Picnic events throughout the summer and fall of 2023.

Tickets for the Paddle and Picnic events will be available for purchase



Warm weather brings a chance to picnic, sometimes by the water.

cartoon © by Emily Boughton

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to picnic in towns around Quabbin

at the boathouse or Trailhead and will include a picnic meal of sandwich, drinks, and snacks as well as a canoe/kayak rental for a price to be determined and then posted at www.billygoatboats.com.

State parks in the area provide another picnicking option. The following state parks in the Quabbin area offer scenic views and other amenities for picnickers, according to Ilyse Wolberg, Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR, press secretary. Erving State Forest has well-shaded picnic sites and access to waterfront with lifeguard. For a quiet forest picnic area, Wendell Forest offers a pristine view over the pond.

Lake Wyola State Park in Shutesbury offers visitors a mountain lake picnic area, often filled to capacity, with waterfront and lifeguard. Mount Grace State Forest in Warwick has a good starting point for hikes.

Rutland State Park has a picnic area with swimming next to the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail, MCRT. MCRT follows an old railroad corridor along a long route. Quabbin Park in Ware, a three-thousand-acre area, permits picnicking including at Hanks Meadow, Quabbin Hill, and Enfield Lookout, the latter two with reservoir views and opportunities to see bald eagles.

Other picnicking options in the Quabbin area include Alan Rich Environmental Park on Main Street in Athol. The park offers picnic tables, a nature trail through Cass Meadow and a woodland trail along

the Millers River. The park also offers car top boat access.

Quabbin Community Band concerts offer an opportunity to picnic while listening to music. The band has its roots in the Barre Wool and the Gilbertville Community bands, going back to the early 1900s, according to Julie Rawson, president of the Quabbin Community Band Auxillary. It became Quabbin Community Band fifty years ago, she said. "Several band members have been with the band the whole fifty years," said Margaret Reidy, director.

Quabbin Community members range in age from children as young as fifth or sixth grade through high school and adults well into their seventies. Band members

include students from Minnechaug, Wachusett, Spencer, and Tantasqua school districts and other towns, according to Reidy.

Other Quabbin area community bands also encourage picnicking at their concerts. The Petersham Brass Band encourages picnicking and also sells hot dogs, popcorn, and baked goods at concerts. Orange Community Band encourages picnicking, and the Salvation Army has a goodies stand at concerts. Belchertown Community Band also encourages picnicking at concerts.

Find time and places for band concerts on page 59.

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



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you-name-it variety of tasty options

text and photos by Diane Kane

Food trucks travel across the Quabbin region with many tasty options.



Rooster's Roaming Cantina

Rooster's Roaming Cantina manager Lazaro "Omar" Cruz hatched the idea of a food truck, and employee Amanda O'Connor quickly joined the team.

"We worked on creating the truck for years and finally opened in 2020 during the pandemic," said O'Connor. "We started in parking lots, but it didn't take long for wineries, breweries, and bars to reach out during pandemic restrictions."

Cruz and O'Connor have worked in the restaurant/bar business for more than twenty years each.

"It is basically in our blood," O'Connor said. "Our name came from Cruz's nickname, Rooster. He's the chef/driver/creator who made it all happen."

During the off season, the Roaming Rooster is in Belchertown in the Town Mart parking lot, Tuesday through Sunday, from around 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Once the season gets into full swing, we set up at public venues and private events," O'Connor explained.

Offering a variety of Central American, Spanish, and American homestyle foods, they make freshness their highest priority.

"All our meat is cut fresh daily and marinated only in oils, herbs, and spices. Our Pico de Gallo is housemade as are many of our sauces and dips," O'Connor said.

"Our street tacos are gluten free, and we have a vegan option with our falafel tacos. Paco's Quesadilla, named after one of our workers, is a customer favorite!"

Open Tue-Sun 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. wherever they may roam, they post the weekly schedule on Facebook.

Facebook: facebook.com/rooster.romaingcantina.9

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found at area's rollin' restaurants



Flippin' the Bird BBQ of Rutland began in June of 2021 as the bold idea of George M. Jones and Samantha "Sam" Paulino. "Sam ran a local restaurant in Rutland that closed during COVID-19," Jones said. "I had a flatbed trailer, so we converted it into a food trailer with the help of friends and local tradesmen."



Flippin' the Bird

Jones and Paulino set up at local venues, including Rutland's Milk Room Brewery in Rutland and Hardwick Winery. "You can also find us at town-wide yard sales, holiday events, fundraisers, and band concerts," Jones said. "We cater private parties, weddings, and corporate functions."

"BBQ is what we like, and we're good at it," Paulino said. "George attended BBQ school in North Carolina at Grill Billies, and I always served BBQ at my restaurant. We make all our products from scratch, including baked

beans, cornbread, and coleslaw." Their main menu includes pulled pork and chicken, brisket, baby back ribs, and burgers.

"We offer many unique options," Paulino said. "Our trademark Stacker includes mac and cheese, pulled pork, cornbread, and coleslaw, topped with a cherry tomato. We even offer vegetarian dirty rice for our vegetarian friends."

The idea for their name came from using racks from Meadow Creek Welding for cooking and Flippin' their BBQ chicken.

Facebook: facebook.com/search/top?q=Flippin%20the%20bird%20bbq



TimberFire Pizza rolled out of the minds of Matt Brigham and Todd Maher, both raised in Athol.

"Kicking off TimberFire Pizza gave us the opportunity to offer our product without taking a huge risk," Todd said.

The original plan included catering events and fairs.

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keep your convertible in the kitchen and eat it:

text and photos by Mark Wright



Creole Convertible ready to serve with green vegetable or salad.

Mom was a great cook and a terrific baker. She had a decent repertoire of stand-alone dishes she cycled through across the month. She occasionally inserted a new recipe, generally from the *Better Homes and Gardens Encyclopedia of Cooking* circa 1973. The set consisted of eighteen volumes, each with its own theme such as *So Easy Meals*, *Holiday Delights*, and the family favorite/fear, *Casseroles*.

Working through each volume at first provided adventure. Ultimately, favorite dishes emerged to be repeated. I showed an early interest and delight in cooking, and the process gave Mom and me a way to spend quality time together without anyone else in the house pestering us. Those cooking expeditions remain some of my favorite childhood memories.

Years later as I began to do my own experimenting in the kitchen, I discovered that using basic traditional recipes and varying the protein, vegetables, and seasoning creates convertible dishes. Once I mastered the main skills of preparation, I could create a different flavor profile around the basic dish and have tasty meals that saved time and used a simple set of common pantry

staples. In today's world with ever increasing demands on our time, having such convertible dishes can help us keep a varied, healthy diet with unique foods and reduce our time in the kitchen.

The variation here has a subtle Creole flavor. Substitute your favorite vegetables for the shrimp and use vegetable stock to create a vegetarian dish. Change rice to white or jasmine, season shrimp with ingredients like garlic, ginger and lemongrass (maybe keep some of those clever tubes of them in the fridge), and add a few dashes of soy sauce to the stock, and you have an Asian dish. Change the shrimp to cubes of chicken or pork. Season the protein with cumin and chili powder, add some diced tomatoes, and substitute fresh cilantro for the parsley, and you've moved south of the border. Flavor combinations are endless.

For a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the loss of available time at home to cook, knowing how to prepare a healthy meal from real, unprocessed ingredients has become a fading skill over the last forty years. My mom and dad passed down their skills to me when we all had more time to share. Maybe the recent pandemic will help us all refocus as a country on such an important activity as cooking.

Creole sauce with rice and flavorful variations

Creole Convertible

prep time about 10 minutes • cooking time about 30 minutes • serves from 6 to 8

You can easily cut this recipe in half. You can also increase the amount of shrimp, if you prefer

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons of butter	1 to 1 1/2 pounds peeled and deveined shrimp not pre-cooked
4 cups chicken or vegetable stock/broth	4 tablespoons grated Parmesan or Romano cheese not from a shaker can
1 cup fresh or frozen peas	3 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 large onion, diced to from 1/2 to 1/4 inch	1/3 cup white wine, brandy, stock or water for deglazing
2 cups uncooked brown rice	
3 teaspoons olive oil	

3 tablespoons Creole seasoning

PREPARATION

Peel shrimp, removing all the shell including the tail.

Sprinkle Creole seasoning over shrimp, coat evenly, then set aside.

Chop parsley, grate cheese, and assemble premeasured ingredients so you're ready to begin cooking.

Using a deep, heavy skillet, Dutch oven, or rondeau, melt butter over medium heat.

Add the rice and sauté for 3-4 minutes. If you omit this step, your rice will be softer and more broken apart.

Now, add the stock/broth and bring to a low simmer.

If you're using fresh peas, add them now. Frozen peas should be added when the rice is nearly done.

Cover the pan and cook for 20-30 minutes on low heat. The time will vary depending on the type of rice and pan. When almost all the liquid is absorbed and just bubbling on the surface, turn heat to low, cover the pan and let stand 5 minutes.

While the rice is cooking, in a second large skillet heat the olive oil over medium heat.

Add the onion and sauté 1-2 minutes.

Add the seasoned shrimp to the hot skillet and sauté until cooked through. Time will vary depending on the size of shrimp you have used. I used jumbo deveined shrimp, 21-30 count per pound, and they take 3-4 minutes to cook.

When shrimp are done and with the heat still on, add deglazing liquid of your choice. Use a wooden spatula to rub browned bits (or fond) off the bottom of the pan. Work quickly, because the liquid will evaporate. Don't scrape any burned bit off. Done correctly, your pan should be clean on the bottom, releasing extra flavor into the shrimp and making clean-up much easier.

Add shrimp and onions to the rice skillet and gently mix together. Sprinkle grated cheese and parsley into the skillet and give a more gentle toss to combine. Remove from heat.

Serve with a vegetable side of your choice. I prefer quickly wilted kale or spinach and some sliced cucumber. Garnish with a lemon wedge to brighten the flavor.

CREOLE SEASONING

store the extra in a repurposed spice jar)

2 tablespoons fine table salt	1 tablespoon onion powder	1 tablespoon coarse ground black pepper
2 tablespoons smoked paprika	1 tablespoon dried oregano	1/2 to 1-1/2 teaspoons cayenne pepper: you decide
1 tablespoon garlic powder	1 tablespoon dried thyme	



Rice is nearly ready.



Shrimp ready to sauté with onions.

Freelance graphic, theatrical lighting designer, and gourmet Mark Wright serves on the editorial board of UQ magazine.

rich in history, Pelham includes acres of Quabbin Reservoir

continued from page 23

After an unsuccessful effort to occupy the federal arsenal at Springfield in January 1787, Shays and twelve hundred followers retreated to Pelham, where they took shelter and attempted to negotiate a truce with state militia leader General Benjamin Lincoln. Insurgents subsequently relocated to Petersham, where Lincoln's army quelled the uprising on February 4.

Despite rocky soils, colonial farmers produced commodities such as corn, rye, cattle, sheep, and wheat. Pelham was one of Hampshire County's leading producers of apples and cider in the late eighteenth century. Early industries included sawmills, woodworkers, potash and scythe shops, and palm leaf hat makers. Granite quarries yielded stones used in construction of local buildings, such as UMass Old Chapel and Johnson Chapel of Amherst College. Packard and Thurston Company operated a successful carriage factory at Packardville from the 1830s to 1845, when the firm relocated to Belchertown.

A nationally recognized fishing rod company, founded by Horace Gray and his son, opened on Amethyst Brook in 1858. The factory, which merged with Montague City Rod Company in 1889, produced bamboo rods and other components before closing in 1931. At Orient Springs, site of a sulphur spring, a

health resort and summer hotel attracted visitors who came to bathe in mineral water and enjoy views of the Connecticut River Valley. An asbestos mine on Butter Hill exported minerals to markets in Boston and New York circa 1873. A trolley line, built for fishing rod factory workers and visitors to Orient Springs, provided service from Amherst to West Pelham from 1901 to 1930.

Pelham's population and economy declined significantly after the 1840s. Widespread poverty prompted town officials to petition for disincorporation in the mid-nineteenth century. Logging of abandoned farms by timber companies caused extensive deforestation during the early twentieth century. The Metropolitan District Commission took over Packardville and Pelham Hollow villages during construction of Quabbin Reservoir.

Expansion of the UMass campus and Pioneer Valley economic development prompted growth in Pelham during the late twentieth century.

Pelham Historical Society offers events, exhibits, and a variety of historical resources. See pelhamhistory.org for details.

Writer and photographer John Burk documents Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds). He lives in Petersham.

fishing and preparing fish can promote good things

continued from page 19



Many variations apply to pan-frying trout.

photo © by Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

Kids can also have fun making a stuffed trout with many variations. Often a simple cracker stuffing mixed with veggies offers a good way to sneak a few vegetables into everyone.

When stuffing a fish, wrap it in foil to retain moisture for the grill or the oven.

Don't forget to snap a picture with your child and their culinary masterpiece.

For information on freshwater fishing resources, check out www.mass.gov/info-details/freshwater-fishing-resources

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



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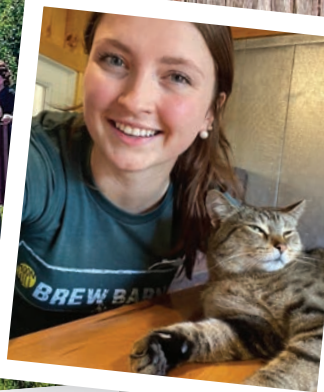


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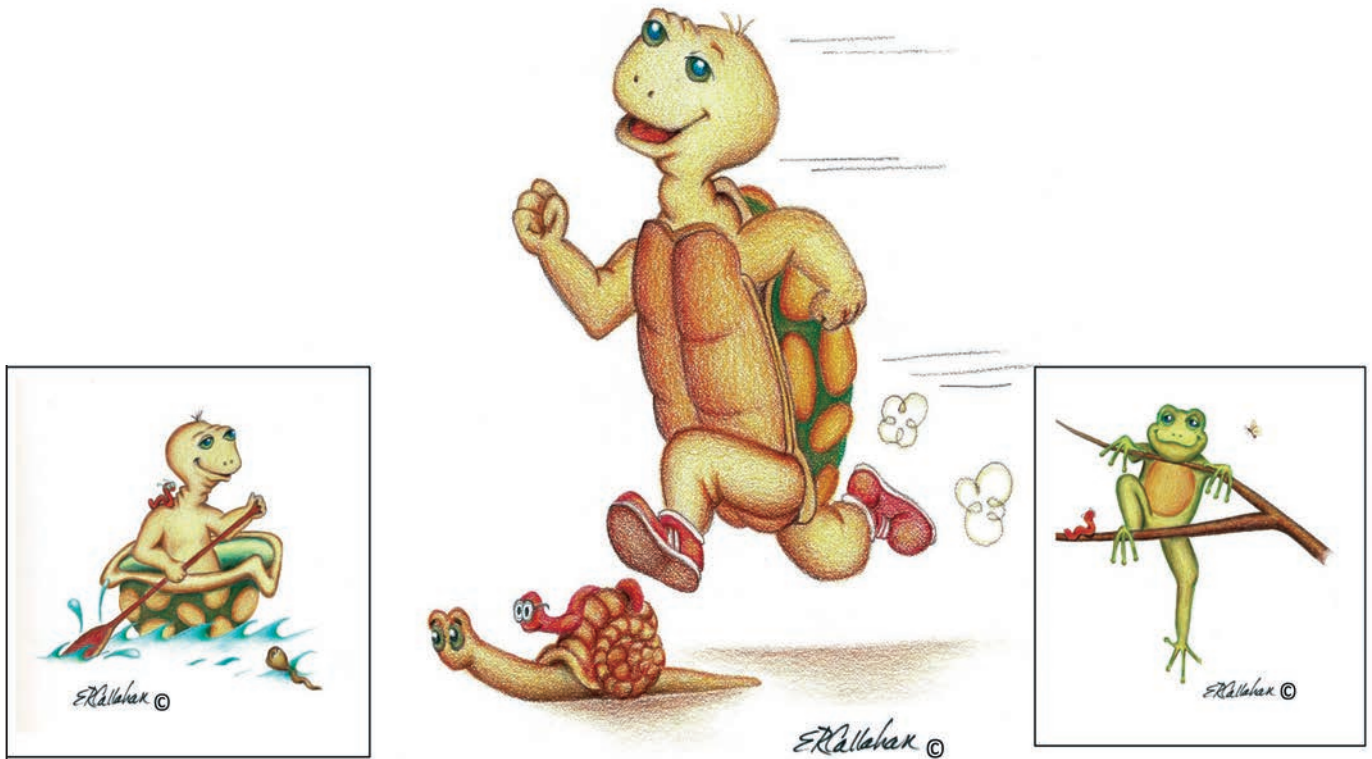
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ELIZABETH CALLAHAN

Grandchildren Change Things

colored pencil on illustration board by Elizabeth Callahan



Grandchildren Change Things • colored pencil on illustration board by Elizabeth Callahan

When the grandchildren started to come along, I decided to create pieces especially for them—not so much fine art as fun illustrations in a nursery. When the new mom designed the nursery around turtles, I was thrilled since I had created turtle character illustrations years before for my own daughter's birth. I took that as my cue.

I expanded on the original illustrations. Even though I found illustrating turtles far out of my comfort zone of fine art, as I progressed, I enjoyed the change and challenge. I couldn't wait to create my next character.

The Turtles, capitalized as characters, needed some friends. How about Frogs, Pollywogs, Worms, Snails? I especially love the Book Worm. He accompanies all of the Turtle series illustrations. I just love his curiosity about everything Turtle does. He is best buddies with Frog, who loves to tell tall tales while perched on a lily pad.

When the next grandchild came along, of course I had to continue the series. Four grandchildren gave me four opportunities to create characters for them to love.

The second set of grandchildren provided a completely different challenge: to create little characters for a nursery decorated in gray and white. Yikes!

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

Black preacher from Athol serves during American Civil War

continued from page 21

A question arises concerning Mars's assignment to the 35th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in North Carolina, and not to the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. Like the 35th, the 54th was also an all Black unit composed of individuals raised in the north. The 35th, formed in 1863, predated the 54th by one year. Timing likely accounts for Mars's assignment to the 35th.

After the Civil War, Mars became pastor for a large Black Methodist congregation in Philadelphia. He eventually returned to Athol.

In March of 1874, he was honored with a golden headed cane at the home of Frank Lord at 488 Main Street, according to Lord's history. His first wife having died, Mars remarried and spent his remaining years at their home at 107 Spring Street.

Americans are indebted to Civil War chaplains performing their tasks while constantly exposed to diseases and enemy gunfire often raining down on them.

Charles Rodney "Rocky" Stone Jr. taught science at Athol High School for twenty-one years. He served twenty years in the US Army, retiring as lieutenant colonel in 1996. He enjoys traveling with his wife, the former Leanne Aguda.

fishing in Quabbin could win a pin

continued from page 17

children under sixteen, or one adult and three children under sixteen. The facility rents boats on a first-come, first-served basis.

The DCR mass.gov web page has information on regulations for fishing Quabbin Reservoir, and it is extremely important to read the information completely, as there are many regulations, all subject to change.

With great fishing right nearby at the Quabbin, all anyone needs to do is pick a day and go fishing. Experienced fisherman can use familiar methods to target favorite warm-water or cold-water species and then have at it. With limited fishing experience, anglers can easily find information by reading outdoor magazines with how-to fishing articles on targeted fish. The internet is chock full of information on fishing, with a mind-boggling number of sites via Google search. YouTube alone has thousands of fishing-related videos to explore.

For my money, the best way to undertake the quest for a pin fish is to get together with a friend or family



Award pin makes a statement
on an angler's hat.

photo courtesy of Mike Roche.

member and dedicate time to going fishing at Quabbin. Everyone may not be able to land a fish that will earn a bronze pin, but every fishing trip to Quabbin Reservoir provides the limit of great outdoor experiences.

Mike Roche is a life-long resident of the North Quabbin Region and passionate sportsman. A retired high school social studies teacher, he has written an outdoor column, "The Sportsman's Corner," for the *Athol Daily News* since 1984, is a licensed hunting guide in New York and served on the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board for thirty-five years.



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advice for hikers summarized from Leave No Trace website

by Amber Robidoux

“Leave no trace.” Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts know the three little words that convey a belief system when it comes to time in nature.

Leave No Trace-Center for Outdoor Ethics, LNT.org, includes seven principles on its website. Leave No Trace says it dedicates itself to ensuring a sustainable future for the outdoors and the planet. Listed below, the principles intend to encourage respect for individuals, nature, and the outdoors.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Planning ahead means having proper gear, fuel, first-aid equipment, clothing, navigation, and knowledge about the area one plans to explore, its terrain, and weather forecast during time planned in an area.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Traveling and camping on durable surfaces suggests choosing when to go off trail, avoiding puddles, and finding places to camp that won't result in damage to the environment. The principle advocates disrupting nature as *little* as possible.

Dispose of Waste Properly

It shouldn't have to be said, but no one should litter. “If you pack it in,” admonishes Leave No Trace, “pack it out.” The principle refers to food waste, human waste and wastewater resulting from washing dishes or bathing.

Leave What You Find

Leaving no trace means avoiding digging trenches or altering sites for camp while leaving plants and trees as found. The principle applies to cultural artifacts found on public lands. The law prohibits removing bottles, arrowheads, and other artifacts.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Appropriate practice considers fire safety and where to build fires. It's also important not to bring wood from other areas to burn. Instead, pick up wood that has fallen to the ground. When spending time in nature, remember that standing trees whether dead or alive serve as homes to birds and insects.

Respect Wildlife

Good practice suggests observing wildlife, including plants, from a distance. Don't feed them, and don't attempt to pet them or take pictures with them. Animals should have a buffer that allows them free access to water.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Most visitors to nature enjoy the solitude and peace experienced there. Leave No Trace admonishes that excessive noise, uncontrolled pets, and damaged areas can diminish others' enjoyment of natural places. Local leash laws mean that even if a dog listens to its owner most of the time, the dog should be on a leash. Those listening to audiobooks or music on hikes should do so with earbuds so as not to disrupt others with the noise.

continued on page 60



Dale Monette

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former railroad lines have new life as state rail trails

continued from page 9

On September 3, 1968, the final train left Palmer for Winchendon with four gondola cars. On the return trip south, workers loaded the twenty-three miles of rails from Waterville to South Barre into the cars, and the north end of Ware River Railroad became history. A couple miles of track from Winchendon south to the village of Waterville transferred to the B&M to reach a manufacturing firm requiring rail service. Stations on both the Central Mass and Ware River lines survive in good condition as restaurants.

Penn Central and, briefly, Conrail operated the southern twenty-six-mile segment of the Ware River line. Today, Massachusetts Central Railroad, Mass Central, operates it. Despite similarity in names, the present-day Massachusetts Central Railroad shouldn't be confused with the Central Massachusetts Railroad from years ago.

Mass Central also operates the one remaining active portion of the former B&M line in Ware to provide rail service to a mill. Mass Central has offered passenger excursions from time to time and is the

only railroad in recent years in the Quabbin area where one can ride a train.

Today, much of the abandoned north end of the Ware River line has become the DCR-owned Ware River Rail Trail.

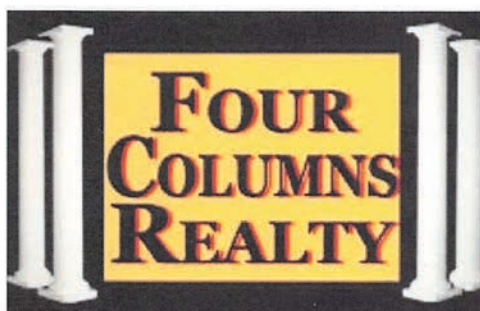
Route 2 a mile north of Templeton blocks the

abandoned railroad. The trail detours in the village of Baldwinville due to removal of the big bridge. More information is at Ware River Rail-Trail | Massachusetts Trails | TrailLink.

Thanks to retired Boston & Maine Railroad

dispatcher Alden Dreyer and lifelong railfan Doug Moore for clearing up information in this two-part article.

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



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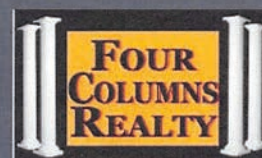
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Author J. R. Greene writes about Quabbin

continued from page 27

The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir, published by Greene in 1981, proved equally popular.

"I realized I had a subject of great interest in central and western Massachusetts," Greene said. "I could easily research Quabbin towns in local libraries and old newspaper files. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, I interviewed many former valley residents. As a result, I have banked research material since the mid 1970s, making it easier to put together new titles as time passes."

With some fifteen books in print Greene is also a skillful salesperson. "Some authors find selling their books challenging, but my background of selling collectibles at shows and flea markets made that part easy for me," Greene said. "I developed a network of retail outlets, including pharmacies, gift shops, bookstores, and convenience stores to sell my books," Greene said. In 1985, Greene used old photos of Swift River Valley towns to produce a *Quabbin History* wall calendar.

"The first edition sold out in less than a month, and I have done one every year since."

Greene's column "Quabbin Currents" regularly appears in *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. He is available for hire to do narrated slide presentations for libraries and clubs. His books and calendars are for sale in local stores and on eBay.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

despite risk of fuzzy tattoo, locals play tennis

continued from page 34

"Really?" Half way through the season, we decided to change the name to Team Sehoon.

Other Quabbinites playing league tennis include Kyle Maroni and Bill Thompson, both from Athol, on their team Beluga. Steve Stone of Phillipston and Brian MacEwen of Men's doubles tennis can play very fast, and occasionally a player may receive a fuzzy tattoo. A player can hardly react quickly enough or get out of the way of a tennis ball coming at a hundred miles an hour from ten feet away, for example. It's nearly impossible to react to or get out of the way quickly enough. Intent players have experienced bruises at different times all over their bodies.

Despite physical challenges, tennis and its newer cousin, pickleball, provide hours of stimulating recreation for many throughout the Quabbin region.

Writer and artist Brian Fournier plays competitive tennis all year and knows what it means to receive a fuzzy tattoo.

Diane Kane writes novel: *I Never Called Him Pa*

continued from page 27

After WWII, the military sent men home on trains. Some never got off. They rode the rails in boxcars, searching for their souls lost to the toils of society or the ravages of war. Ernest, one such man of color, seeks refuge with Henry, Gram, and her daughter Janie on the farm. Their sins and secrets could either drive them apart or bind them together.

Kane explains that she expanded her prize-winning short story "Ernest Lived" to create *I Never Called Him Pa*. Red Penguin Books features Kane's story on the cover of *Ernest Lived and Other Stories*, published in 2020 and enthusiastically reviewed at GoodReads.

"There are some books that tug at your soul," writes Christine Noyes, author of the Bear Hug Books and Bradley Whitman series. "*I Never Called Him Pa* is one of them."

"We meet young Henry at the tender age of five and grow with him through the 1950s and 1960s. He lives with his grandmother Margarette on an Illinois farm and never fails to greet the early morning train with a hardy wave and smile. Hard-working, selfless Margarette takes care of those in need, including the large black man, Ernest."

Diane tackles the racial topic and other social issues with grace and validity," Noyes concludes.

Among those meeting with the region's Quabbin Quills writers' group, Kane grew up in Gardner and has made her home with her family since 1980 in Phillipston near the former Fox Run Restaurant where she started cleaning and left as assistant chef, thus informing her reporting about the region's restaurants.

Kane credits her high school creative writing teacher Kathleen Rogers for encouraging her to be a writer with an A-plus grade and the comment "You never cease to amaze me." As time passed, Kane participated in writer's groups organized by Steve Piscatello, who began Quabbin Quills with a nonprofit grant, and Clare Panni.

"Steve encouraged us with everything we needed," Kane said. She has written for publication since 2016. She has created books for children, including another reviewed with five stars on Amazon, *Don Gateau, the Three-Legged Cat of Seborga*. She contributes to annual Quabbin Quills anthologies, the most recent entitled *Cascades and Currents*, found on Amazon.

Kane looks forward to creating another children's book and has begun work on another novel.

Reporter Marcia Gagliardi lives in Athol.

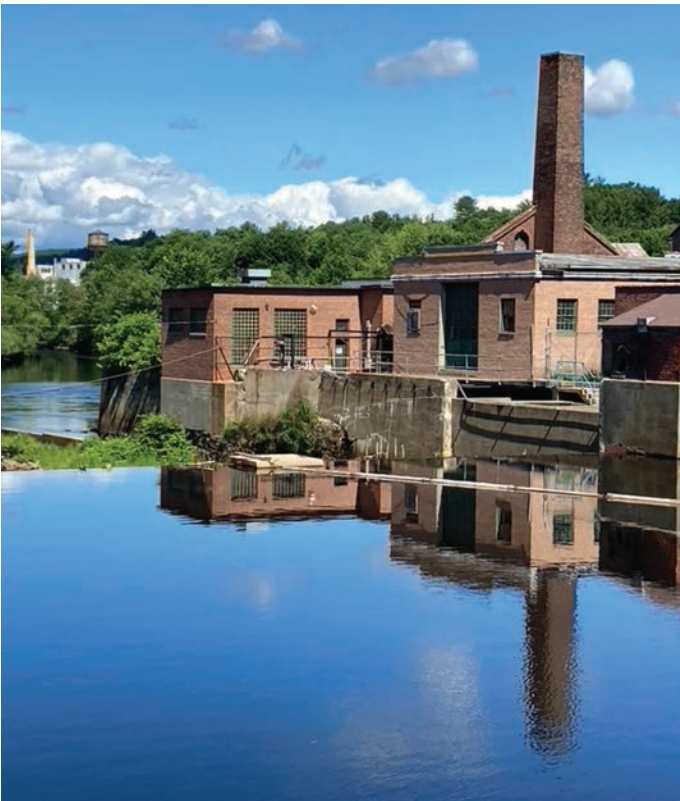
*Lyrical Faith to present
spoken word workshop June 28*

continued from page 40

Seeds for a garden of spoken word experiences have been cultivated and harvested in and around the Quabbin region with audience members sometimes wondering if they themselves could put their stories on stage.

Have you ever considered telling *your* story on the stage?

New Salem-based visual artist Ami Fagin specializes in manuscript illumination embracing modern techniques and applications. She is author of *Beyond Genocide*, an emerging visual documentary on global incidents of genocide and mass violence.



Orange's factory buildings shimmer in reflection on a swell June day in Orange.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

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lists compiled by Carla Charter

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Belchertown Farmers Market • Town Common
10 am to 2 pm • Sundays • June 11–October 1

Hardwick Farmers Market • Hardwick Common
11 am to 2 pm • Sundays • June 18–October 29

North Brookfield Farmers Market
First Congregational Church Lawn • Saturdays

Orange Farmers Market • Armory Parking Lot
3 to 6 pm • Thursdays • May 19–October 19

Petersham Friday Market • On the Common
3 to 6 pm • Fridays • May 26–Late October

Templeton Farmers Market • Boynton Library
4 to 7 pm • Thursdays • beginning May 25

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 7–October 11

Quabbin Area Band Concerts

Belchertown Community Band • Belchertown Common
7 pm Thursdays • Michael Bauer, conductor
July 20 to August 10

Orange Community Band • Butterfield Park
81 East River Street, Orange
7 pm Fridays • Stephanie Parker, conductor
June 23 to July 28

Petersham Brass Band • Petersham Common
7:30 pm Sundays • Joe Goguen, conductor.
June 25 to July 30.

Quabbin Community Band
Normay Park, South Barre
6 pm Sundays on the bandstand
June 18 to July 9
and

Barre Center, Barre Main Common
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July 16 to August 13
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nature's creatures sound alarms

continued from page 7

just arched up behind its head in a fearsome display when they are disturbed. If you uncurl a leaf where they hide in a sassafras tree or get too close to one wandering along a branch, you will elicit that alarming response. The caterpillar's snakelike appearance fends off enemies.



A spicebush caterpillar looks out from sassafras leaves.

How many wild things can you think of that have evolved ways to alarm possible predators? Many insects copy the yellow and black patterns of stinging bees and wasps so that even when they don't sting, they fool potential predators to leave them alone. Consider the tail flash of white when a deer runs away or the explosive noise when a ruffed grouse takes wing. Such behaviors and colors enhance each creature's chance of survival.

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

Leave No Trace principles may lead to solutions

continued from page 53

Leave No Trace principles may lead to solutions of the following problems:

Trashed Natural Areas

The cumulative impact from every discarded wrapper can devastate a natural area, so removing trash makes a simple but important and effective act of stewardship.

Polluted Water

All life requires water. Simple, easy-to-follow advice helps ensure protection of rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Lack of Information in the Outdoors

Simply checking the forecast before venturing into the outdoors can save a life. From camping skills to safety measures, nothing constitutes too much information before embarking on an outdoor adventure.

Wildlife at Risk

Wildlife should be just that—wild. Providing access to human food or even just approaching too closely causes more harm than most people imagine.

Damaged Trails

Trail erosion can permanently alter the landscape, but adopting principles from Leave No Trace can prevent trail damage.

Destructive Fires

Careless actions, such as leaving campfires unattended and casually discarding cigarettes, count among the most common causes of destructive wildfires and can lead to billion-dollar losses and deaths of people and wildlife.

Connecting Youth to Nature

Kids spend less time outside than ever before, according to studies. Leave No Trace works every day to help develop appreciation of nature among the young.

Crowded Parks

Overcrowding can cause disruption to wildlife, harm to the natural landscape, and even lead to social conflicts.

During warmer months, spreading awareness about Leave No Trace principles can encourage understanding of minimum impact practices for anyone venturing outdoors. Adhering to principles of Leave No Trace from activities in local parks to spending time in remote wilderness can lead to preservation of nature.

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



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planting bulbs encourages the pleasure of waiting

continued from page 4



A greenhouse array of early blooms attracted visitors to the Smith College, Northampton, bulb show in March.

with his reflection in a pool of water. After he died, in his place, a flower grew. Now daffodils represent new beginnings, spring. The bulbs were brought to the southern United States in the 1600s. Today, abandoned homesteads—including in Quabbin Reservation—reveal themselves deep in the woods by daffodils planted long ago. Some people even say the adjective daffy comes from being drunk with spring, acting silly.

One fall, I planted a bunch of red tulips. When the ground thawed, a critter dug them up and ate them all. I felt angry and wanted to catch the culprit. But a friend changed my perspective. “To that gopher, you are a goddess who planted its favorite food, available right when it is most needed. That gopher worships you.”

I fell for it, almost. The following fall, I replanted more. Planting bulbs amounts to having a secret stash of hope and promise.

In North Orange, a group of residents decided to line the main street, the old Boston Post Road, with daffodils. Last year, they planted the bulbs in anticipation of springs to come. If winter drags on, and you just can’t wait, Northampton’s Smith College Botanic Garden puts on a bulb show in March.

Planting hardy bulbs teaches us to plan ahead and to take pleasure in the waiting. We plant in fall, seek their green shoots in early spring, and take delight in their emergence. In spring we plant tender bulbs like dahlias and gladiolas to blossom later in the year. They bring us joy, connect us to the world, to history, and to the seasons.



Daffodils dazzle in an array of forms and colors.

As William Wordsworth wrote in 1804 in his poem, “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,”

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
that floats on high o’er vales and hills,
when all at once I saw a crowd,
a host, of golden daffodils . . .
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
tossing their heads in a sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
outdid the sparkling waves in glee:
a poet could not but be gay,
in such jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
what wealth the show to me had brought.*

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

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timber cutting prompted Warwick conservation efforts

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Brush Valley Box Factory at Warwick's Wheeler Pond produced chairs, brushes, and wooden boxes before burning in 1920.

photo courtesy of Warwick Historical Society

agricultural land, distance to markets, and lack of railroads that benefited nearby communities on Millers and Otter Rivers. A proposed railroad from Athol to Warwick and Winchester was never built because of rugged terrain. Many businesses closed or relocated to other towns, and widespread farm abandonment occurred after the early nineteenth century.

Timber cutting prompted conservation efforts, including establishment of Mount Grace State Forest, Warwick State Forest, and Warwick Town Forest during the early twentieth century. Civilian Conservation Corps workers built roads and ponds for fire protection, improved facilities at Laurel Lake, and cut downhill ski trails on Mount Grace during the 1930s. The 1938 New England hurricane caused extensive forest damage and destroyed the original Mount Grace fire tower.

Warwick attracted widespread notice in the early 1970s as original site of Brotherhood of the Spirit,

renamed the Renaissance Community in 1974. At its peak, some three hundred individuals lived together at the Warwick site.

A ski area on northeast slopes of Mount Grace hosted races and featured four trails, lifts, shelters, and fireplaces. It closed in the 1960s because of outdated infrastructure, Warwick's remote location, and competition from other ski areas. The remains of an old rope tow and lift cable are still visible on the lower slopes.

Warwick Historical Society and Museum, at 6 Athol Road, is open on Sundays in July and August from 2 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. See history.town.warwick.ma.us for details.

Uniquely Quabbin thanks Warwick Historical Society and Clare Green for assistance with historic images.

Writer and photographer John Burk documents Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds). He lives in Petersham.

Native American place names persist

continued from page 30

On the south side of the Quabbin, Belchertown has Metacomet Lake. The town of Ware was originally known as Nenemeseck, “great fishing place,” the present-day name of a local sportsmen’s club and a brook in New Braintree. New Braintree has Winnemessett Brook, its name meaning “near the grapevine.” A state park on that stream also carries that name. The Brookfields, once went by the name Quaboag Plantation, and Rutland, once Naquag, went by those names when first settled by Whites in the 1600s.

North of Quabbin, there appear to be no such place names in Orange, with Lake Mattawa a later appellation to the former North Pond, originally part of New Salem. Lake Rohunta in Athol, Orange, and New Salem took its name from the founder of the Rodney Hunt company, Rodney Hunt, who built Lake Rohunta dam to create waterpower. Clubhouse Pond in Warwick had the name Sheomut Pond before it became a state park.

A street, a hotel, and a club name, among later uses, remember Athol’s original name, Pequoig, with at least three dozen spelling variants. Early residents of the region knew Miller’s River, a tributary flowing westward into Connecticut River, as the Pequoig River. Petersham’s original name, Nichewaug, supposedly meaning “the land between,” survives as the name of a hamlet in the southern part of town on the East Branch of Swift River. The old hotel located in the center of town until torn down in 2022 was Nichewaug Inn before known as Maria Assumpta Academy.

A name probably applied by early White settlers, Moccasin Brook in Phillipston, may be derived from the common name for native footwear. In Templeton, the regional high school is named Narragansett, derived from the town originally laid out by colonial authorities as one of six “Narragansett towns”—Greenwich was another one—meant to award land grants to veterans (and their descendants) of the 1675-1676 King Phillip’s War. Hubbardston has Asnacomet or Comet Pond, perhaps derived from the Native American “place with stones.”

Lincoln Kinnicutt’s 1905 book, *Indian Names of Places in Worcester County Massachusetts*, provided information for this story.

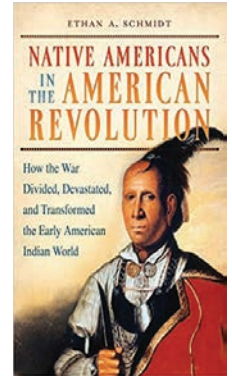
J.R. Greene is the author of twenty-three books many of which deal with the history of the Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to build it, and thirty-eight annual Quabbin History calendars. He is a lifelong resident of Athol.

continued on page 63

books about American Revolution

continued from page 39

***Native Americans in the American Revolution: How the War Divided, Devastated, and Transformed the Early American Indian World* by Ethan A. Schmidt** provides coverage of the Revolution’s effects on Native Americans and details the importance of Native Americans to the Revolution.



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



School Street, South Royalston

an oil painting on canvas by Sonja Vaccari

Residents and visitors stroll by Whitney Hall, Second Congregational Church, and South Royalston Country Store, closed pending community action and long a mercantile and provider of provisions since the early 1800s.

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NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

peace • pleasure • plenty • food • friends • family • mealtime exuberance

Mealtime. How often do you pause and take inventory of the foods upon your table before you enjoy them? Do you give thanks and gratitude to an infinite source, recite a familiar phrase, say a prayer, sing a song, do a cheer, or dance a jig? Sit in silence?

Breathe deeply in reverence. Depending upon one's culture and family roots, the moment of appreciation before breaking bread can take on numerous nuances of thanksgiving. I wonder. I ask you. Is it important to you and your kin to pause and appreciate the abundance reaped from our earth, to appreciate the many hands that bring the food to the table? Do you take a breath and silently offer your gratitude or recite a familiar prayer out loud? Here I offer a few reminiscences about thanks for a meal.

Three sisters from Maine once introduced me to a lively and energetic mealtime chant. They began clapping while saying, "We'll cheer, we'll cheer, we'll cheer for Carol (the cook), and because she is so fine, we'll cheer her all the time. We'll cheer, cheer, cheer for Carol! Stand up! Stand up!" Carol stood, and everyone applauded and said hurrah for the cook that night. The dynamic interaction clearly recognizes the chef. Someone can initiate the cheer at any time during the meal. The surprise element invites a bit of frivolity, laughter, and more conversation.

A Wampanoag Elder, Medicine Story, told me that the mere act of walking upon the earth constitutes a prayer. Toe-to-heel steps fully planted on the earth allow one to feel the symbiotic and resonant "thank you" in harmony with the earth. "With beauty below me, may I walk. With beauty above me, may I walk. With beauty all around me, may I walk. In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively may I walk," goes a Navajo blessing that encompasses a grateful presence within the earth's bounty.

At my elementary school in the 1950s, the teacher chose a different child to give thanks each day. I, indeed, felt thrilled when it came to my turn to lead it. "Oh, the Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and



Heirloom bread plate offers grace.

the apple seed. Oh, the Lord is good to me." Years later, a preschool and kindergarten teacher myself, I introduced the Quaker song, "Simple Gifts," to my students. We sang it together before eating, as a way to quiet oneself, breathe, and focus:

"'tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find

ourselves in the place just right, it will be in the valley of love and delight." After singing the song, some children might add, "Buon appetito," or "Bon appetit." The Italians and French use those phrases to mean "Don't wait. Start eating. Begin."

Rice Flanders of Orange recalled the reverent offering of her beloved and remarkable grandmother, who at least for the first decade of Rice's childhood presided over the dining room, since Rice lived in her house on her lovely farm. Three times a day, Rice's grandmother said, "We thank thee, oh Lord, for these and all thy mercies; Make us mindful of the needs of others, for Christ's sake, Amen." She taught the children to pray by saying "Thank you for the world so sweet. Thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the birds that sing. Thank you, God, for everything." Rice said that being asked to say the blessing gave her a kind of a thrill when she was a child. It made her feel grown up. Now some decades from that time, Rice continues to give mealtime thanks in her own heart and words to this day.

Allen Young of Royalston, a secular Jew, has no custom of saying a mealtime grace. He says that sometimes he thinks about peasants and workers and thanks them in his thoughts prior to eating. A traditional Jew may celebrate Friday evening Shabbat with ritual, including lighting two or more candles and sanctifying, cleansing, nourishing and appreciating the gathering.

A blessing spoken in Hebrew and English may include:

"Blessed are you, Infinite One, source of the universe whose love allows us to become holy through our

continued on next page

Spring Marsh

text and acrylic painting on canvas by Louise Minks

Primarily an outdoor painter—plein aire, as they say—I was active in a summer gallery for a number of years on Rocky Neck in Gloucester. It was always a joy to set up somewhere quiet and undisturbed before all the tourists showed up. We found it much easier in often cool, windy spring, than when beaches and boating brought crowds after Memorial Day.

Sometimes a group of us headed out together and cheered each other on. “Come on, we can do it,” we’d say. “It’s not too windy! We’ll hunker down behind the boat house over there!”

We always took snacks and wore our clothes for cold, windy weather. We worked *fast* to capture the delightful scene in front of us before we got too cold. Then back to our studios to finish our paintings. I enjoy using acrylic paint with saturated color, usually my response to a season, a time of day or special weather conditions. *Spring Marsh* reflects my delight in leaving winter behind and enhancing the colors just appearing to lift our spirits as songbirds arrive!

Louise Minks lives in North Leverett and has a studio at Leverett Crafts and Arts and participates with Sawmill River Arts cooperative gallery at the Bookmill in Montague Center. She wrote the art history book, *The Hudson River School*. She has taught painting classes in many venues. Her artist residencies include Harpers Ferry National Historic Park in West Virginia and the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico.



Spring Marsh
acrylic on canvas © by Louise Minks

NATURE'S NUANCES

continued from previous page

actions. With that same love, you made the sanctity of Shabbat our heritage and a reminder of the work of creation. As first among our sacred days, it recalls liberation from Egypt. We seek to be holy to you, to embrace sacred potential among all people, for out of love, you have passed down to us your holy Shabbat. Blessed are you, Infinite One, who sanctifies Shabbat.”

Tim Sweeney of Orange also recalled that his family did not say a blessing before meals, but he remembered his mother’s encounter with Fred Rogers of children’s television renown at an airport cafeteria table. She happened to sit opposite him and looked up at him before she began to eat. She noticed his hands clasped together in front of his plate.

“Don’t you think we should first give thanks?” he asked her.

And with that, her head bowed and as did those of everyone sitting to her left and right with their meals in front of them. When Mr. Rogers began to eat, everyone else picked up their forks. Silent blessing concluded.

Another familiar childhood grace was “Bless us, oh Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

“Tack Gud for maten. Amen” constituted the childhood remembrance of a Swedish friend. Her father always said in translation, “Thank God for the food. Amen.”

A camp time rendition of grace might provide a rousing chorus of, “Rub a dub, dub, thanks for the grub. Yay, God!”

I close with a Native American Cherokee blessing prayer: “May the warm winds of heaven blow softly upon your house. May the Great Spirit bless all who enter there. May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows, and may the rainbow always touch your shoulder.”

Clare Green lives in Warwick and welcomes folks to stop by to visit the Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy Cottage.
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Keith Murphy & Becky Tracy

French Canadian folk – 7:30PM Saturday, September 23

Times, ticket prices & details are on our website

WWW.1794MEETINGHOUSE.ORG

On the New Salem Common

26 South Main St, New Salem MA 01355

Keystone Bridge closed to evaluate structural damage

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appear to have shifted because of poor construction and fractured component stones. Noticeable deformation of the arch rings is evident, especially on the bridge's north side. Those factors likely indicate instability, and the possibility of collapse cannot be ruled out.

Keystone Bridge will remain closed while officials continue to gather information and determine future actions. Weitzner recommended precision monitoring with laser scanners to determine the rate, location, and extent of stones movement, which indicates the bridge's stability. He also suggested repair of the damaged spandrel and removal of vegetation near the bridge.

Full reconstruction would entail substantial cost, likely more than two million dollars, and significantly alter the bridge's appearance and character. The present design, technique, and materials could not be replicated to meet modern standards.

Potential options include construction of a footbridge for hikers and cyclists that would provide a safe crossing and serve as a vantage for viewing Keystone Bridge, establishment of a footpath and observation area on the riverbank, and interpretive signs with details about the bridge's condition and history. "Even if the bridge is never returned to full access, it's worth holding onto as a really interesting piece of the history of the area," said Weitzner.

View the video presentation at youtube.com/@MassDCR/videos

Find Friends of Quabbin information and newsletters at friendsofquabbin.org

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

KIMBALL LAW OFFICE

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Leigh-Anne Kimball, Esq.

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Wills
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crossroads exhibition at athol library highlights rural America

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But even some smaller towns that we now think of as quintessentially rural also embraced industry. On Millers River, South Royalston had its textile mills, now long gone. Barre Wool Mill in South Barre was demolished only last year, while the textile mills of Gilbertville, a village in Hardwick, remain to tell of the longstanding presence of area manufacturing.

The Crossroads exhibit raises questions about the legacies of past uses of rural lands. It also points to debates over future stewardship and use, especially as Americans reckon with effects of changing climate and our own fossil-fuel-dependent way of life. The exhibit gives attention to differing conceptions of what it means to steward land, including indigenous understandings that long predate the arrival of European colonizers.

Those discussions are happening around the Quabbin region, too, and some will be highlighted in Crossroads programming. Both Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the Farm School in Athol have been in dialogue with members of the Nipmuc people about land access and ownership. Those conversations intersect others that touch on current and potential uses of land.

Even farming can sometimes be contentious. The many “right to farm” signs at the boundaries of Quabbin towns reveal tensions between some non-farmers’ often bucolic images of agriculture and noisier, smellier realities that come with actual farm life.

The full calendar of events for programming accompanying the exhibit can be found on Athol Public Library website. The exhibit will be on view during the library’s regular hours of operation:

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 am to 6 pm; Tuesday from 9:30 am to 8 pm; Friday from 9:30 am to 5 pm.

The exhibit is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Mass Humanities. The United States Congress provided support for Museum on Main Street. Additional support for the May 20 tour was provided by the Local Cultural Councils of Athol, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Warwick, and Wendell, local agencies funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Cathy Stanton is a writer and scholar who lives in Wendell and teaches at Tufts University.

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




A SWIFT RIVER ANTHOLOGY

by Dorothy Johnson
A Premier Presentation


by Reader's Theatre at the Terraces



George Whittell
1813-1887



Joseph Strong Jr.
1817-1842



Edwin L. Pratt
1801-1878

From their graves in Quabbin Park Cemetery, residents of the former towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott Massachusetts, have rememberings about their lives in the Lost Valley before their towns were flooded to create a drinking water reservoir for the city of Boston.

Illustrations by C.V. Smith

SATURDAY
APRIL 22
2:00 — 4:00 PM
 GATHERING PLACE
 at the
 Terraces

A chance to support Terrace Thespians and Neighbors in this inaugural presentation
 Don't miss out
 We'll be hoping to see you there!
FREE ADMISSION

Kathy Kramer-Howe, left, of Paradise Valley, Arizona, performs in a Phoenix production of *A Swift River Anthology* by the late Dorothy Johnson of New Salem. Kramer-Howe's husband, Rick, shared the stage in April for the performance at the independent living community, the Terraces of Phoenix. Kramer-Howe spends summer time at the Howe family cottage on Lake Mattawa, Orange, as does her sister Sally, who has performed in several regional productions of the play.

photo and poster courtesy of Kathy Kramer-Howe

food trucks carry variety of fare throughout the region

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TimberFire Pizza

TimberFire offers wood-fired brick oven, Neapolitan-style pizza, and wood-fire-cooked chicken drumsticks.

"At TimberFire, we are pretty much a from-scratch kitchen. We try to make everything in small batches for ultimate freshness. Many ingredients are from local sources," Maher said. Besides their Everyday Favorites, they offer some twenty-five specialty pizzas on a rotating basis.

"Some of our originals include the Fungus Among Us, Fresh to Death, and Big Macdaddy," Todd said. "Our regular customers enjoy the variety. Some even compete to see who has tried them all."

TimberFire, located at The Red Apple Farm, Highland Avenue, Phillipston, is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

Facebook: facebook.com/timberfirepizza

Instagram: instagram.com/timberfirepizza

Website: timberfirepizza.com

"That quickly changed

after our opening on Memorial Day weekend 2022 when we found ourselves a permanent home at Red Apple Farm in Phillipston," Brigham said.



Mel's Sweet Treats in Ware is a one-stop cake shop on wheels. In 2018, before establishing her rolling business, Melissa Laporte had the sweet idea to sell homemade chocolate at craft fairs.

"We stopped during COVID-19," Laporte said. "When we returned to selling, we decided to add cupcakes to our menu."

Cupcakes proved popular, so Laporte stopped doing the chocolates, bought a pop-up trailer and remodeled it as a food trailer. "Now, we set up in the Rollaway Lanes parking lot in Ware," Laporte said. "I love my customers and being my own boss."

Mel's offers macaroons and cupcakes in a variety of flavors and keto and gluten-free options as well. "All my items are homemade," Mel said. "Our most popular items are peanut butter cup, Oreo, cinnamon toast, and lemon blueberry flavors," Laporte said. "Our macaroons are always a hit too."

Open Saturday and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Follow Mel's Sweet Treats on Facebook.

Dining on the go offers a fun and delicious experience for the whole family. So, catch a food truck near you.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



Mel's Sweet Treats

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

May 19 - 21, Friday - Sunday

GALA Art and Music Festival

Red Apple Farm

455 Highland Avenue

Phillipston

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 20 - 21, Saturday - Sunday

Hardwick Tri-Parish Community Church Plant, Bake, Craft and Tag Sale
10 am - 2 pm

Hardwick Common

32 Common Street

Hardwick

Including museum open hours and Friends of the Library book sale.

May 20, Saturday

Making Color Mixing Magic with Elaine Griffith

9 am - 12 pm

Petersham Art Center

8 North Street

Petersham

Learn the secrets to getting exactly the colors you want and how to use a palette knife to make them clean and brilliant along with color charts. Registration required.

chrisoutdoors71@gmail.com

Exploring the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 26

11 am - 1 pm

East Main Street

New Salem

A 2.2 - mile loop hike on north side of the Quabbin watershed down to the water on a dirt road through the forest. One-way, the hike covers just under a mile and drops 200 ft. in elevation.

mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir

May 20, Saturday (continued)

Mozart and More

4 pm

Stone Church Cultural Center

283 Main Street

Gilbertville

Mozart Sonatas K332 and K333 and

Schubert Sonata D960 in B-flat with

Ivan Gusev at the piano. Tickets

\$25. Pianist and teacher Gusev has

received international prizes for passionate solo interpretations.

Based in Boston, he is originally from Kazakhstan.

May 21, Sunday

Spring Hike

11 am

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Opening Reception

4 pm - 6 pm

Petersham Art Center

8 North Street

Petersham

"From the Forest: New Wood Works"

Ice Cream Social

Brookfield Common

Brookfield

a 350th Anniversary event

May 24, Wednesday

Clearing the Valley

6 pm - 7 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

How was Swift River Valley

transformed from 1927 to 1939 with

creation of Quabbin Reservoir? The

presentation will focus on the process

of clearing and the history of some

families and individuals affected.

Registration required.

athollibrary.org

May 26, Friday

Fourth Fridays Festivals

4 pm - 7 pm

Main Street

Athol

With downtown Main Street closed to traffic, merchants, musicians, food and other vendors provide activities for kids easily accessible to pedestrians. Every fourth Friday of the month from May to August.

May 28, Sunday

Memorial Day Commemoration

10 am

Quabbin Park Cemetery

Ware

Commemoration of individuals removed from their original resting places for building of Quabbin Reservoir. Refreshments begin at 10 a.m. followed by a parade and service at 11 a.m.

May 31, Wednesday

Welcome to the Graveyard

6:30 pm - 8 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Adult-oriented, Welcome to the Graveyard! is a 90-minute illustrated virtual tour chronicling cemetery art, history, and symbolism with photographs of Athol gravestones and burial grounds visited by Gravestone Girls in preparation for this program. Registration required.

athollibrary.org

continued on next page

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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June 1, Thursday

Tower Trail Habitat Hike
11 am - 1 pm
Quabbin Middle Entrance
Route 9
Ware

A moderately difficult hike, approximately 3 miles round-trip up Quabbin Hill through woodland and mountain habitat and back. No visit to the tower, now closed for renovation. Proper footwear and dress prepared for ticks/biting insects advised. Dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin. mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir

June 4, Sunday

Museum Opens
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Pelham Historic Complex
376 Amherst Road
Pelham
Tour the historic complex with Pelham's local historian Joe Larson.

June 10, Saturday

Hubbardston Fair
9 am - 2 pm
Recreation Field
Route 68
The historical society's hands-on display will feature "Main Street Through the Years."

June 17, Saturday

Exploring the north side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 29
11 am - 1:30 pm
Gate 29
A 2.4-mile out-and-back hike on Quabbin's north side of the watershed through the forest on a dirt road ending at the shoreline of the reservoir. One way, the hike covers 1.2 miles with relatively little change in elevation. mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir

June 17, Saturday (continued)

Pie and Baked Goods Sale
10 am - 1 pm
4 Burnshirt Road
Hubbardston
Home-baked goods. Come early—they sell out fast!

June 21, Wednesday

Museum Opening Wednesday
1 pm - 4 pm
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Museum open Wednesdays and Sundays June 21 through September 13
Free admission.

June 22, Thursday

sponsored by
Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street
Barre
Stories of three people—Quock Walker, Katy Reed, and Prince Walker—who lived in the early days of Barre as enslaved persons with consideration of abolition of slavery in Massachusetts and how it affected communities socially and economically. Time and place to be determined.

June 23, Friday

Summer Reading Kickoff with the Grumpytime Club Band
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Grumpytime Club Band performing feel-good, all ages hits while you pick up your summer reading materials! athollibrary.org

June 24, Saturday

sponsored by
Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street
Barre
Focused historic walk to those homesites, burial site, and other areas of interest about Quork Walker, Katy Reed, and Prince Walker. Time and place to be determined.

Orange Solstice Riverfest

5 pm - 11 pm
Orange
Illuminated parade of boats, floating firepits on the river, local food and music, vendors, children's activities, fire spinners, and more!

Brookfield Car Show
Quaboag Church
175 Fiskdale Road
Brookfield
a 350th Anniversary event

June 28, Wednesday

Spoken Word Performance with Lyrical Faith
6 pm - 8 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Doors open at 6:00 for light refreshments and open mic sign up. Open mic will begin at 6:30 followed by our featured performer, Lyrical Faith at 7:00. Q and A to follow. Athollibrary.org

Please submit listings for the next issue before
August 1, 2023 to UQCalendar@gmail.com

July 4, Tuesday

Boat Parade
Brookfield
a 350th anniversary event

July 9, Sunday

Cadwell Forest: An Excursion
1 pm
meet at parking lot by Tower Road
gate, Packardville Road
Pelham
Accessible exploration of University
of Massachusetts Cadwell Memorial
Forest its history, including old cellar
holes, stone walls, and a Civil War
era and smallpox cemetery. Vehicle
access for participants unable to walk
the trail.

Opening Reception
4 pm - 6 pm
Petersham Art Center
8 North Street
Petersham
Susan Paju: New Paintings

July 12, Wednesday

Finding Your Voice: A Historical
Perspective
6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Judy McIntosh and Elena Palladino
will talk about genealogy, how to
use online sources such as Digital
Commonwealth, how they got started
with their research and writing, and
the value of local history.
Athollibrary.org

July 13 - 14, Thursday - Friday

Moonlight Paddling
8:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Orange Community Boathouse
25 East Main Street
Orange
Prepaid reservations required.
Billygoatboats.com

July 15, Saturday

Getting to Know Your Sources
10:30am - 12 pm
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Judy McIntosh and Elena Palladino
will show books, photos, and more,
and share discuss working with
primary documents.

July 16, Sunday

Barre Band Concerts
6 pm
Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street
Barre
Concerts return to Barre Common!
View photos of the Common from
past years found in several of our
photo albums brought out for sharing.
Lemonade and popcorn concessions
Also on July 16, 23, 30 and August 6
and 13!

July 21, Friday

Find Your Voice! Storytelling with
Mount Grace
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
athollibrary.org

July 26 - 30, Wednesday - Sunday

Return to Hogwarts Opening Day
12 pm - 6 pm
White Cloud Diner
East Main Street
Orange
Celebration of Harry Potter's birthday!
Start at the White Cloud Diner and go
to Hogwarts for butter beer, potions,
special menus, fire spinners, and
photo ops. With a Marauder's Map, set
out into town to discover divination
at the Mansion, herbology at Quabbin
Harvest, potions at Home Fruit Wine,
and more!

July 29, Sunday

Birds of Prey
with Tom Ricardi
1 pm
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Free Admission

August 5, Saturday

Historical Walk and Civil War
Reenactment
followed by firemen's muster
Town Common
Brookfield
a 350th anniversary event

August 6, Sunday

Visits with Laura Berry Barnes
2 pm
Prescott Church
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Light refreshments after the
presentation.

continued on next page

In the January 2023 issue, *Uniquely Quabbin* regrets not mentioning
Gilbertville Public Library's Knitting and Crochet Club
2:30-4 pm Wednesdays

Gilbertville Public Library's Coloring Group
4-5 pm 3rd, 4th, and 5th Fridays

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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August 27, Sunday

Exploring the History of the Quabbin
Valley Through Gravestones

1 pm

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Presented by Maria Beiter-Tucker,
Interpretive Services Supervisor,
Massachusetts Department of
Conservation and Recreation, Division
of Water Supply and Protection.

Opening Reception

4 pm - 6 pm

Petersham Art Center

8 North Street

Petersham

Barry Van Dusen Paintings and
Drawings

September 2, Saturday

Illumination Night

South Pond

Brookfield

a 350th anniversary event

September 9, Saturday

Author Elena Palladino and Lost

Towns of the Swift River Valley

2 pm

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Water Ski Show

South Pond

Brookfield

a 350th anniversary event

September 16, Saturday

Hubbardston Field Day

9 am - 3 pm

Recreation Field

Route 68

September 17, Sunday

Town Parade

Brookfield

a 350th anniversary event

please tell our advertisers

you saw it in

Uniquely Quabbin
magazine



Apple blossoms promise autumn fruit at Red Apple Farm, Phillipston.

drone photo © by Rick Flematti