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volume 8, number 3 • January-April 2024

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

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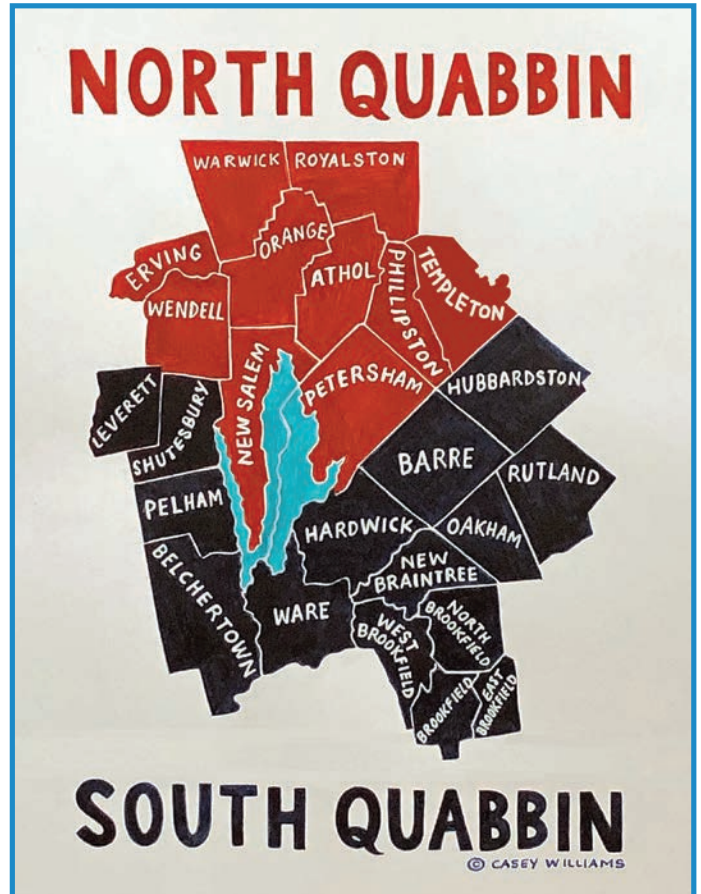
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Light snow accents landmark Keystone Bridge near Quabbin Reservation Gate 30 in New Salem.

photo © by John Burk

ON THE FRONT COVER
Templeton Common in January
a photograph
by David Brothers



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.

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, 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. The generous support from the councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

I also want to thank readers who have so generously made donations to our magazine. Your thoughtful donations, with praise-filled notes, help keep us going.

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

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

Looking out my window as I write, I see no snow on the ground . . . YET! But, oh, it's coming, just as every season brings a new issue of this wonderful magazine to you. As always, there are great articles for your reading pleasure, and artwork and photos will fill you with wonder. I hope you enjoy all of it in the comfort of your nice warm home wrapped up in a nice comfy blanket, hopefully in front of a nice fire while sipping a delicious mug of cocoa. Enjoy!!

Thankfully,

Debra Ellis

Athol Historical Society

**FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN
BEGINNING ON PAGE 70**

Please consider donating to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine
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a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

They've done it yet again. *Uniquely Quabbin* writers, photographers, and artists have presented fresh accounts and images of towns and landscapes surrounding Quabbin Reservoir.

Who knew that the region has produced two winners of the Medal of Honor or that collectors of railroad memorabilia find hundred-year-old vases with pictures of railroad depots? You'll find out about those things and more in this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*. We hope you like it.

The current edition of *Uniquely Quabbin* counts as the magazine's twenty-fourth, and we look forward to celebrating the May 2024 twenty-fifth edition with an exhibition in Athol Public Library of photos and art by *Uniquely Quabbin* contributors. Join us for the opening (with refreshments and cocktails) from 4 pm to 8 pm in the library.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

Uniquely Quabbin magazine



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

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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.

seeking our rail trails for satisfying cold weather walks

text by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

As it gets colder, it can become harder to get outdoors. With ice, I worry about falling. With short daylight, the dark shuts me in. So, in the winter, I seek out rail trails.

Bygone days, when trains were plentiful, have left rail beds long abandoned. Massachusetts has at least 82 rail trails encompassing more than 443 miles of designated walking and biking areas. A project proposed in Athol would open 6.2 miles of the Enfield and Athol Railroad, known as Rabbit Run, which ran through Swift River Valley from Springfield to Athol from 1869 to 1935.

We all know what happened with flooding of four towns under the Quabbin Reservoir. At Quabbin Gate 35, a lovely two-mile shoreline walk follows the Rabbit Run rail bed. Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem has a model of the

Rabbit Run as it was, replete with buildings and commerce long gone, made by Ken Levine of Petersham.

I like to walk with my dog, not allowed in the Quabbin, so I go to Barre and Rutland with more rail trails. The advantage of rail trails is the lack of hills to climb or rocks to slip on. Most rail bed grades are one percent or less. Some are paved, and some are compacted gravel. All are mostly flat. I like the White Valley Mass Central Rail Trail in Barre with wetlands to walk by, forested areas, and benches for rest and contemplation along the way. Sometimes I see evidence of beaver activity, like lodges and dams.

[continued on page 52](#)



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Sheep of Many Colors

text and painting in acrylics by Louise Minks



Sheep of Many Colors
acrylics on canvas

Brad Archer raises sheep on his family farm next to the Mount Toby Friends Meeting House—Quaker Meeting on Route 63 in Leverett. The “sheep of many colors” present a beloved feature of driving Route 63 in any season.

For several years, I taught painting classes in acrylics in the meeting house and liked to encourage painting from real things, which presents quite a challenge. Acrylics dry quickly but also make change easier than painting in oils or watercolors, something most students really appreciate.

One winter day, I saw a wonderful small gathering of sheep through a big window at the meeting house. As soon as my students arrived, I hustled them toward the window to paint the sheep. “This is our perfect subject for today!” I announced.

Everyone quickly set up her easel and got to work. Of course, animals can move, the light may change, or it might suddenly begin to snow! The students sketched in their painting designs and proceeded to paint quickly, hoping to capture the essence of the delightful scene before them before anything changed. I joined them with the happy result that includes the Archer’s New England house with classic ell and barn. It remains a favorite image reproduced as prints and on ceramic tiles.

Louise Minks lives in North Leverett, 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.

wintertime inspires Quabbin area hikers

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

The shorter days of winter with its gray landscapes may suggest that hiking in Quabbin will not inspire. Nothing lies further from the truth. As days shorten with leaves down, hikers can see further into the forests. The landscape reveals itself. Deciduous trees show off



The landscape reveals itself. Deciduous trees show off their species' structures of trunk and branch.

their species' structures of trunk and branch. Small hills and depressions unnoticed in summer reveal themselves.

Although the last flowers of fall may seem to be gone, look carefully at groups of the understory shrub witch hazel, as one of its blossoms may still survive. Yellow spidery witch hazel blossoms continue even when decorated with snow. In a black, gray, and white season, any burst of color merits a closer look.

Against the stark landscape, water in all its forms captures attention. Cold temperatures on the ground can also create nearby beauty in frost-covered leaves. Light rain or fog along with a deep chill can glaze surfaces with ice. An ice-covered pool seems silver as it reflects the light. Look closely at ice patterns. If a puddle freezes slowly, one crystal can grow quite large and intricate.

Note how your position relative to the sun can alter the effect of light through ice-coated branches. Looking into the sun at those branches differs considerably from when the sun is at your back. Drops of ice on branches can act as a lens. Look closely, as it can capture a new view of the scene beyond. On a clear, cold day with high cirrus clouds, crystals there can create a sundog, a sky rainbow that circles the sun.

Clouds and snow make for dramatic landscapes of light and dark. The play of light changes quickly, and taking a moment to sit to become one with nature can be rewarding. At dawn and dusk you may hear the



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Wintertime skies inimitably produce sundogs, or rainbows through cirrus clouds around the sun, left.



Wintertime skies may also provide harsh cloudy patches around the sun against brilliant blue.

mating calls of barred or great horned owls. During the day listen for the flocking calls of goldfinches, chickadees, tufted titmice, and nuthatches as they peck and prod the bark and buds of nearby trees to find a meal of any insects hiding there.

The time after a light snowfall may present the best moment to discover what wildlife uses or crosses your favorite trails in the Quabbin region. It provides an opportunity to introduce youngsters to stories about

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animal tracks and sign reveal

text and photos by John Burk

Winter provides opportunities to discover hidden lives of Quabbin region wildlife, thus enhancing environmental awareness and connectivity. Tracks and other evidence of activity, called sign, reveal life cycles, habitats, and behaviors of otherwise elusive mammals and birds.



Nearly camouflaged by brown grasses, a bobcat keeps watch in a winter wetland.

Trails of secretive bobcats often lead through rugged environs such as rocky hills, dense thickets of mountain laurel, swamps, and fallen trees. Bobcat tracks, more rounded in shape than those of coyotes and foxes, display four toes without claw marks. Clusters of prints may indicate regular travel corridors, mothers with young kits, or courtship in mating season.



Rounded bobcat tracks display four toes without claw marks.

Like other felines, bobcats often cover scat and food caches with snow, leaves, or dirt. Body imprints reveal locations where bobcats stopped to watch for prey such as rabbits, squirrels, and mice.

Highly adaptable eastern coyotes inhabit a wide variety of settings including forests, fields, pastures, wetlands, and neighborhoods. Coyotes increase activity in cold weather, especially during mating season from late January through early March. They often travel in pairs or small groups while searching for white-tailed deer, rabbits, and other food sources. Although tracks of coyotes and foxes may resemble those made by domestic dogs, wild canids usually follow straight, narrow courses when walking, while dogs tend to meander.

Red and gray foxes hunt by sound to detect mice, voles, and other small mammals in snow. Using a hunting technique called mousing, foxes leap high in the air to ambush hidden prey from above. Tracks and sign of red foxes show in meadows, farm fields, orchards, yards, and forest edges. Shier gray foxes usually favor

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hidden lives of Quabbin wildlife

mixed woods and thickets with dense cover. Semi-retractable claws enable gray foxes to climb trees to forage, den, or escape predators.

Effective and tenacious hunters, fishers travel long distances in pursuit of porcupines, raccoons, snowshoe hares, squirrels, chipmunks, wild turkeys, beaver kits, and other species. Their tracks, droppings, and kill sites present near old trees, stone walls, rocks, and stumps in mixed and coniferous forests. Adroit climbers, fishers make body imprints in deep snow when they jump out of tall trees.

Seemingly playful river otters leave abundant sign at lakes, ponds, streams, beaver wetlands, and other aquatic habitats, especially near open or partially frozen water. Their tracks, similar to those of fishers, show five toes. Prominent smooth paths, often visible at pond edges, culverts, and wooded areas near wetlands, reveal places where otters slid through snow on their bellies. Like human anglers, they create holes in ice to feed on fish.

Well adapted to cold environments, moose favor upland forests with patches of young



Heart-shaped moose tracks make prominent impressions in snow and mud.

growth such as timber harvests. Heart-shaped tracks, usually from four to seven inches long, make prominent impressions in snow and mud. Long legs allow moose to navigate through deep snow and

feed on vegetation up to seven feet above ground. Hardwood saplings, bark, twigs, buds, and conifer needles comprise most of their winter diet. Sometimes they leave incisor marks on red and striped maple, aspen, willow, mountain ash, and cherry trees. To conserve energy, bull moose shed antlers during late fall and winter.

In winter, oval shaped body imprints, often found in coniferous forests or knolls with southern exposure, indicate locations where white-tailed deer bed. Deer disperse

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Oval shaped body imprints, often found in coniferous forests or knolls with southern exposure, indicate locations where deer bed.



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a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



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three little bears clamber up a tree near Quabbin

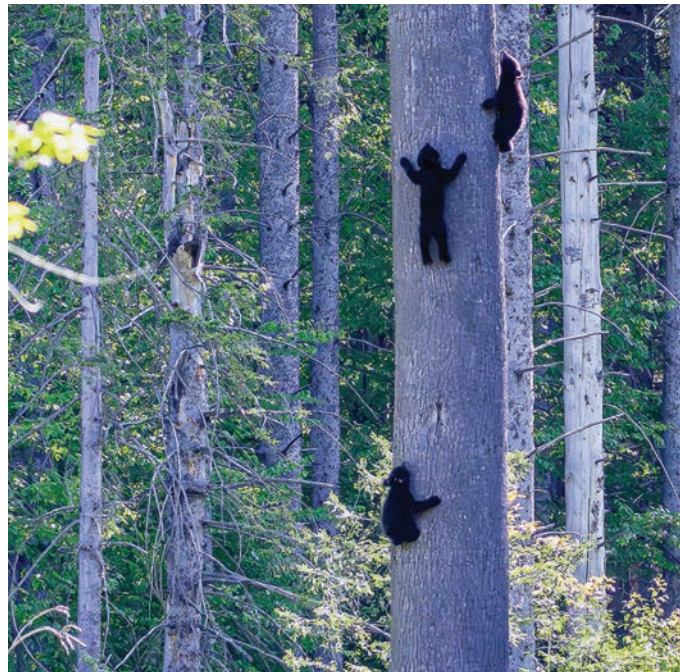
text and photo by Dale Monette

One day while riding along a dirt road in the Quabbin area, I spotted a female bear with three cubs in a clearing. They hung out on the edge of a large field with a few pine trees along the side.

So as not to frighten them, I drove past the field and stopped out of view of the bear family. I slowly walked up the road with a camera and telephoto lens just in time to see three cubs blast off for the top of a tree. I took a few photos, then looked for Mom.

About a hundred yards away, I found her at the base of the same tree with her eyes glued to me.

Not wanting to put more stress on her, I slowly walked down the road to my vehicle and drove off. I am glad I got a great look at three cubs scampering up a large pine tree, something I have never seen. An hour later, when



Three bear cubs blast to the top of a tree.

I drove by the tree again on my way back, there was not a sign of any bears. I was happy the cubs made it to the ground safely.

After Europeans colonized New England, hunting and loss of habitat almost extirpated black bears from Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mass Wildlife, found that although there were about a hundred bears total in Massachusetts in 1970, the population dramatically increased to somewhere around forty-five hundred by 2011.

Black bears are omnivores, but most of their diet consists of plants. Bears are active during their mating season in May

and June when the males look for a mate and roam the woods more than the rest of the year. Cubs are born in the winter in a den that the mother selects. She goes into hibernation and gives birth during the winter. The cubs then stay with their mother for eighteen months before they drift apart.

It's common to see a bear while hiking on Quabbin trails. They are very timid and do not like people, so chances are good they will see you first, run, and hide without you even knowing a bear was there. Once in a while, a bear will make its presence known as did the bear that jumped on the wall next to me.

Photographer Dale Monette gives programs about wildlife photography. He has published three collections of his photographs with a fourth book expected in spring 2024.

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Elmer A. Snow of Athol and Dr. Mary Walker of Greenwich

Quabbin region produced two winners of Medal of Honor

by Ed Parks

The towns and villages surrounding the Quabbin have been home to two recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for valor in action. It was first awarded during the Civil War. Trumpeter Elmer A. Snow was born in Hardwick, and Dr. Mary Edwards Walker resided in Greenwich.



Trumpeter Elmer A. Snow lost his arms at the 1876 Battle of Rosebud Creek. He subsequently received the Medal of Honor.

photo courtesy of
Congressional Medal of Honor Society

As a young Athol man, Snow worked as a barber. Then he decided to enlist in the army in 1875, ten years after the end of the Civil War. He found himself a year later on a battlefield in Montana in a fight for his life. Most of the time unarmed with a bugle in one hand and the reins of a horse in the other, Trumpeter Snow reported to Captain Anson Mills. Relaying commands with his bugle, he rode beside Mills.

With calls familiar to the troops, the bugle directed every activity from “Boots and Saddles”—when soldiers mounted their horses and followed their commanders—to activities of combat forces in the field.

The Battle of Rosebud Creek took place on June 17, 1876, in the Montana Territory between the United States Army and a force of Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne people during the Great Sioux War. The conflict sometimes identifies as the Black Hills War because of the discovery of gold, and both settlers and prospectors encroached onto native American land. The army intended to move the

Native Americans into a reservation and free up the land for settlement and mining.

The Battle of Rosebud Creek took place as part of the lead up to the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Under the leadership of Crazy Horse, the Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne dominated the conflict and forced General George R. Crook to retreat. Though a tactical stalemate, Crook failed to make a planned rendezvous, thus leaving General Custer exposed to defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn a week later.

In the morning of June 17, Captain Mills with a company of two hundred mounted troopers rode to the far right flank of the battle, open prairie covering several miles. All combatants could see most engagements. During his unit's second charge, Captain Mills ordered a wheel right to engage a band of Sioux warriors. Trumpeter Snow sounded the command with his bugle. The column immediately came under heavy fire with Snow wounded in both wrists soon after

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QUABBIN CURRENTS

US to issue quarter coin featuring Dr. Mary Walker of Greenwich

by J. R. Greene



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker coin expected this year.

Dr. Mary E. Walker, 1832-1919, will have her fascinating life recalled in 2024 with issuance of a United States quarter coin in the Noted American Woman series. A 1982 US twenty-cent postage stamp

with Dr. Walker's image appeared in 2012.

The Congressional Medal of Honor designee notably endeavored to reform attire and advocated for women's suffrage. She sometimes visited with her relatives in Greenwich, one of the towns flooded for Quabbin Reservoir.

A native of Hardwick, her father, Alvah Walker, married Vesta Whitcomb of Greenwich. They moved to Oswego, New York, where he ran a farm,

worked as a carpenter, and invented a so-called water elevator, which he patented in 1868.

The Walkers had seven children. Mary, the fifth daughter, studied at a seminary for two years, briefly taught school, then attended Syracuse Medical School for three years. Awarded a degree enabling her to practice medicine, she was one of the first women to do so in the United States

Shortly afterwards, she married Dr. Albert Miller



The government issued a Dr. Mary Edwards Walker stamp in 1982.

coin and stamp photos courtesy of US government websites

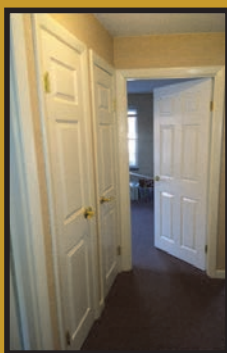
of Rome, New York, and they practiced medicine together for a few years. Though separated in 1859,

continued on page 54

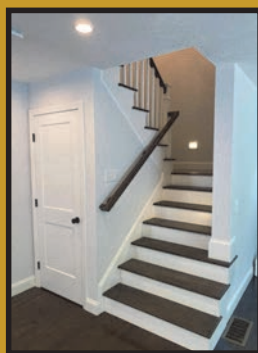
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John Murray of Scotland played significant role in earliest

by Charles R. "Rocky" Stone

Colonists from Europe arrived in North America during the seventeenth through eighteenth centuries with the intention of establishing settlements in what they called the New World. John Murray of Scotland played a significant role in founding days of Massachusetts communities that would carry the names Athol, Barre, Hubbardston, and Oakham.

We know well of long-standing, despicable treatment delivered by many colonists upon indigenous people who had resided here hundreds and hundreds of years. As settlements began to form, respective rulers required colonists to provide a name for each community. In many instances, they simply used the name of towns they had departed from such as, for the British, Gloucester, Manchester, or Cambridge. In other cases, they merely added the word New in front of the town or city they had departed from like New Bedford, New Haven, or New Salem, which drew its name from another Massachusetts colonial town, Salem.

Others chose a name used by the indigenous for that area such as Nashoba, Agawam, or Nashua. In some instances, the name taken by a town or city changed. Athol, for example, originally called Paquoag, Pequig, and Paxton, finally became Athol. Some history of Scotland helps understand how and why the name of the community in Massachusetts became Athol. Athol, Idaho, originally named Colton (apparently nothing to do with indigenous associations), changed its name when a former resident of Athol, Massachusetts relocated there and supposedly played a role in renaming the town Athol.

There are also Athol, Kansas and Athol, New York and Athol, South Dakota and Athol, Kentucky, according to whitepages.com.

Throughout most of its history, close-knit, interrelated families called clans comprised Scotland. The Duke of Atholl, Scotland, heads Clan Murray, an ancient Scottish family. Queen Anne of Scotland, Ireland, and England from 1702 to 1714 established the



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days of Athol, Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, and Rutland

dukedom in 1703 and conferred upon John Murray the title Duke of Atholl. The title duke confers noble ranking upon an individual.

On the death of a Duke of Atholl, the title passes to the eldest son. The duke and his family traditionally reside in Blair Castle. The Duke of Atholl has his own



John Murray, Duke of Atholl
photo courtesy of
Wikimili/Chronicles of the Atholl
and Tullibardine Families, 1908

private army referred to as the Atholl Highlanders. An infantry regiment, the Highlanders serve as the Duke's personal bodyguard. Murray served as a colonel in the militia during the French and Indian Wars which lasted from 1754 to 1763.

John Murray reportedly arrived in New England about 1745 along with 750 Scotch and Irish immigrants from Northern Ireland. Athol was settled in 1735

by five families from Hatfield, Massachusetts. Murray claimed himself the youngest son of the Duke of Atholl, Scotland. However, some debate concerns the authenticity of his heritage. One source claims Murray was the son of the Scottish duke while a different historian says that he couldn't document Murray's heritage. Whatever the case, Murray eventually became a successful entrepreneur, amassing considerable wealth.

Because of his apparent significance, others referred to him as esquire in the custom of the time. He played a principal role in founding Athol, Barre, Oakham, and Hubbardston. Although a significant landowner in Athol, he actually lived in Rutland, which elected him representative to the Great and General Court of the Province of Massachusetts from 1751 to 1774.

When the time came to select a British name for Pequoig, it appears that no one quickly took the initiative. Because of his prestige and holdings, Murray felt entitled to select a name for the community. "The scenery of Pequoig often reminds me of my homeland in Atholl, Scotland," he reportedly asserted.

continued on page 36

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from Taiwan to Broadway to Royalston,

by Diane Kane



Originally from Taipei, Taiwan, Alice Daugherty of Royalston has played flute for the *Dora the Explorer* cartoon, in the orchestra of Broadway's *Wicked*, and other professional venues.

photo courtesy of Alice Daugherty

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Music floats on the air from the Eagle Hill School in Hardwick to the 1794 Meeting House on New Salem Common and beyond to bandstands of the Brookfields. From north to south, the Quabbin area reverberates with harmony. Tucked away in the quiet woods of South Royalston is an unlikely treasure.

"I'm originally from Taipei, Taiwan, near Yaoming Mountain, not far from beautiful natural hot springs," explained Jung-Yi (translated to Alice) Hsieh Daugherty. "Now I live in Royalston, Massachusetts, a small town where 'Many Waters Fall.'"

Daugherty played the flute for the popular children's cartoon *Dora the Explorer* and performed in the orchestra of *Wicked* on Broadway in New York City. So how does someone born in Taiwan and now living in South Royalston find such opportunities?

"My mom is a passionate music lover. Each week when I was a child in Taiwan, she took me to different concerts and ensembles, both large and small. She played Chopin's nocturnes at home and inspired me to want to play an instrument," Daugherty said. "My maternal grandparents survived the 'White Massacre' of February 28, 1947, when the government of mainland China landed on Taiwan and attempted to purge the island of all educated and influential people. That history influenced my music in that I always wanted to perform the 'forbidden arts,' including music and books that the government had decided were illegal."

Daugherty's life began in an area not unlike South Royalston.

"Before I was six, I lived with my paternal grandparents. They were very busy farmers who lived in the countryside but also owned a leather-shoe business,"

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Dora the Explorer flute player excels

Daugherty explained. “My grandmother used to wake up very early: around 3:30 am to get the farm going and cook meals for all the workers in the shoe company.

“I was free in my playing chasing frogs and snakes, climbing trees, rolling in the rice fields once they’d been harvested and dried, and I spent a great deal of time outside in nature. Because of my grandparents, I can speak Hakkanese, a solely spoken language and therefore nearly extinct.”

After six years, Daugherty went back to live with her parents in a part of Taiwan’s capital, Taipei, heavily influenced by the many cultures that existed in part due to numerous international schools located there. There Daugherty found her calling.

“My first flute teacher was a large influence on my musical aspirations. When I studied with him, he started a company to invite many of the most famous classical musicians worldwide to visit and perform in Taiwan,” Daugherty said. “I learned that the most successful musicians are very humble and willing to connect with different types of people to learn new things.

“When I was eleven, I added flute to my piano playing in a government sponsored program to move toward a music major. I then received stricter music training, including aural skills, theory, and performance.”

Daugherty also studied through the Yamaha system, which helped her learn to become proficient in the language of reading and writing music. Her first orchestral experience, including Dvorak’s *New World Symphony* and Beethoven’s *Egmont Overture*, exposed her to musicians from the United States.

“I will never forget the passion. I felt so touched!” Daugherty said.

Daugherty kept the passion. She was a finalist in the Koussevitzky Young Artists Competition sponsored by the Musicians Club of New York, and as a teenager, she won first prize several times in the Taipei City Music Competition.

“When I was young, I sang on albums sold in Taiwan and recorded some music for children’s books,” said Daugherty. “I wrote novels quite some time ago through a shared network in college. They are not published, but I enjoyed the process. I’m thinking about writing about the influences of parenting on music learning.”

When Daugherty was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, her musical background played another role in her life. “Music is my biggest self-support, as it is for other cancer patients, regardless of their music background.”

During her cancer treatments, her love of nature brought her to the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden in Harvard, Massachusetts. The garden, begun as an

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New Salem's Jack Reynolds brings home

text and photos by Natalie Reynolds



Jack Reynolds demonstrates world class powerlifting form.

On the last leg of our long flight in late August, 2023, I leaned forward in the crowded aircraft and smiled at my husband, Jeff, and our sixteen-year-old son Jack. Once again, I thought of back home in sweet little New Salem where just fifteen hours before, our friends and family—enthusiastic with excitement—held banners high and waved flags with pride.

“Bring home the gold, Jack!”

And that’s just what he did. He reached for the stars and captured the moon and proudly took home two gold medals in individual competitions and the bronze for overall in the 2023 Sub-Junior Powerlifting Championships held in Romania.

I allowed myself to reminisce. How did a small set of dumbbells lying around the house turn into hundreds of pounds of top-of-the-line calibrated weights our son would spend so much time lifting? It went from fooling around in a makeshift gym in the basement of our barn, appropriately called the dungeon, to a local personal



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world champion powerlifting gold

trainer during COVID days. Finally, through Jack's own curiosity, he discovered powerlifting.

It seems as if he discovered powerlifting overnight, because honestly, he did. Jack was home. Like love at first sight, he was consumed. It became very clear at Jack's first meet that he won two years ago that he owned the space. In his element, he became a competitive powerlifter. And Mom and Dad went along for the ride.

As in many similar circumstances, Jack had had to slay fire-breathing



Jack Reynolds of New Salem, second from right, takes his place as third in the world of 2023 Sub-Junior Power Lifting Championships in Romania.

dragons along the way, including injuries and personal battles, but nothing, nothing, would separate him from powerlifting.

[continued on page 50](#)



The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

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Brimfield Antique Show Shelton Field B17

recalling grandfather's mid twentieth-century days

by Maureen Roche Riendeau

As a child, I often stopped in after school to visit my grandfather, Postmaster John E. Roche Sr., and to see the workings backstage in the post office.



John E. Roche Sr.
postmaster 1933-1961, Orange
pocketful of change to spend at the counter of Leavitt's store next door.

My grandfather served as postmaster in Orange from 1933 until retirement in 1961. He supervised workers in the post office then located in the Mattawa Block on East Main Street

Knocking on the imposing wooden door to the left of the windows gave entrance to wonderland, where I'd visit, often leaving with a

Siblings, cousins, friends, and I knew the postmaster as Mucka. As the oldest grandchild, I named him because he often said, "Give me a big smacker." And he became Mucka.

When I visited, my grandfather asked about my day and then invited me to say hi to "the boys out back." Sometimes as a bonus, I rode on one of the large, wheeled mail carts. Several workers always agreed to wheel my friends and me around the room.

Ed Humphrey kept the brass railings out front polished to a golden shine, and the water cooler in back had wonderfully cold water, better than any at home. Huge canvas mail sacks piled on the carts or sitting by the loading dock out back fascinated me as I wondered where all that mail was going next.

I loved visiting but never thought about why he became postmaster.

Going through boxes of papers, I got a clue when I found two large, rolled certificates. I examined them to find them with a facsimile signature of President Franklin Roosevelt, commemorating the appointment of John E. Roche as postmaster in Orange in 1938 and 1942. With a bit of research, I found that, according to the US Postal Service, from 1836 to 1971, the president appointed postmasters by and with the consent of the Senate.

The US Postmaster General appointed postmasters earning less than a thousand dollars a year, usually upon

North Quabbin postmaster appointments, 1920s-present

list compiled by Carla Charter according to government sources

Athol

Richard Mullen, 1936
Howard M. Hayden, 1963
Charles F. Young, 1974
John Valera, 1979
Robert L. Gray, 1981
Charles O. Winters, 1986
Daniel P. O'Neill, 2005
James C. Mills Jr., 2008
Gabriele M. McCarthy, 2012
Gregory A. Goodhite, 2013
Matthew W. Crossman Sr, 2021

Erving

Mrs. M. B. Formhals, 1949
Alfred O. Belle, 1974
Roxanne M. Laurendeau, 1978
Lyne S. Veshaway, 2000
Robin A. Driscoll, 2007

New Salem

Carl E. Stowell, 1931
Edwin A. Stowell, 1959
converted to a community post office of Orange on August 3, 1979

Orange

John E. Roche, 1933
Joseph R. Mongrain, 1965
Deborah J. Phillips, 1984
Peter J. Mallet, 1992
Tarna M. Genovese, 2014



photos courtesy of US Postal Service

Petersham

Kathryn Broderick/ Smith, 1937
William B. Barnes, 1943
Richard P. Coombs, 1959
Donald F. Haines, 1965
Mrs. Joan K. Kenney, 1974
Robert C. Osborne, 1985
Geraldine A. Reavey, 1987
Peter G. Mallet, 1989
John M. Bohaco, 1992
Michael R. McCarthy, 2001
Gabriele M. McCarthy, 2008
converted to a remotely managed post office under the postmaster of the Athol on January 26, 2013

Phillipston

William E. Smith, 1927
Carl E. Stoddard, 1946
Marion E. Stoddard, 1948
discontinued on April 30, 1954 with mail to Athol

Royalston

Clifford H. Wilcox, 1941
Harold A. McClellan, 1960
converted to a rural station of Athol on December 3, 1965

Warwick

Mrs. Amos S. Earle, 1940
Elizabeth S. Earle, 1945
John M. Wollock, 1951
Mrs. Marion Copeland, 1952
converted to a rural station of Orange on December 30, 1963

Wendell

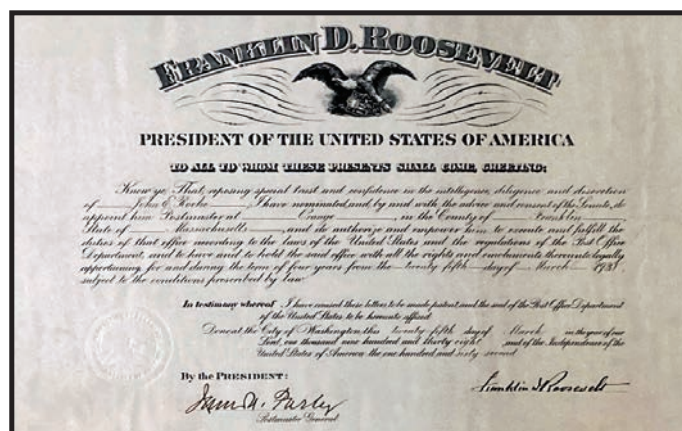
Nellie M. Lewis, 1932
Donald G. Lewis, 1947
Gladys M. Powling, 1960
Cheryl R. Richardson, 1985
Bernard S. Borowski, 1987
Charles W. O'Dowd III, 1990
converted to a remotely managed post office on November 29, 2014 under the direction of Orange Post Office

as postmaster in Orange

the advice of the local representative in Congress or townspeople. Regulations required that postmasters each execute a valid bond certifying their integrity and take an oath of office. Minors were ineligible and US citizenship required for appointment to all but the smallest post offices. Before 1971, postmasters had to live in the delivery area of their post office. Since 1971, postmasters have been selected through the merit system.

I framed one of the presidentially signed certificates for my hallway, and a brother did likewise. Athol

continued on page 61



Like other postmasters of his era, Postmaster John Roche received his appointment from the United States president.

photo courtesy of Maureen Roche Riendeau

South Quabbin postmaster appointments, 1920s-present

list compiled by Carla Charter according to government sources

Barre

Grace S. Whipple, 1948
Peter P. O'Connor, 1967
Yoland M. Dahart, 1985
Marcia D. Dwelley, 1990
Anne M. Tolley, 1997
Peter J. Picard, 2005
Christine C. Brock/Sousa, 2013
Paul M. Derosi, 2016

Belchertown

Mary G. Hanifin, 1936
Chester A. Pinkos, 1968
Marjorie E. Cavanaugh, 1987
Leonard P. Rooke3, 1993
James N. Brunelle, 1998
Christian D. French, 2011
John A. Marceau, 2013
John T. Tisdell, 2018

Brookfield

Joseph J. Durkin, 1940
Annberta L. Terry, 1958
Ronald J. Dackson, 1980
Matthew G. Benvenute, 1998
Maureen C. Portanova, 2003
Rhea M. Serra/Callahan, 2012

East Brookfield

John H. Gilboy, 1935
Mrs. Jessie C. Gross, 1971
Karl E. Gumpwright Jr., 1983
Kevin J. Clancey, 1985
Jean M. Russell, 2010
Gerald S. Bond, 2013
Debra A. Coons/Cosky, 2016
Paula E. Moore, 2022

Hardwick (Gilbertville)

Henry E. Brigham, 1925
Wayne G. Goddard, 1960
Ruth T. Goddard, 1980
Andrea L. Degon, 1989
Mary E. Baillargeon, 1993
Marcia D. Dwelley, 1997
Nancy A. Lagrant, 2004

converted to a
remotely managed post office
on May 17, 2014
under the direction of the of
Ware Post Office.

Hubbardston

Joseph L. Homans, 1957
Evelyn B. Shepard, 1979
Richard J. Goguen, 1985
Robert LeVangie, 1989
Virginia A. Bonnice, 2005
Daniel A. Couture, 2014
Christopher J. Coolidge, 2020
Trisha J. Dursa3, 2022

Leverett

Muriel E. Ashley/Bourne, 1933
Terry P. Harris/Glazier, 1972
Phyllis A. Glazier, 1977
Nancy D. Sheard, 1989
Andy T. Mason, 1991
Toni D. Greenough, 1998
Theresa J. Cadieux, 2009
Robin A. Driscoll, 2012
Marie Paule Despres, 2013
Fiona M. Ryan, 2018
Christopher Donohue, 2022



New Braintree

Bessie E. Brown, 1949
Mildred E. Sampson, 1966
Matthew C. Benvenuti, 1977
Kevin R. Kenary, 1979
Nancy A. Lagrant8, 1996
Janet M. Edwards, 1998

converted to a
remotely managed post office
on November 1, 2014.
under the direction of
North Brookfield Post Office on

North Brookfield

Lawrence Cotter, 1934
James H. Short, 1949
Joseph L. Lemieux, 1965
Patrick E. Buoniconti, 1984
Ralph H. Atchue Jr., 2003
Elaine J. Oppewall, 2008
Michelle A. Fanion, 2011
Janet M. Edwards, 2014
Timothy J. Kitteridge, 2018

Oakham

Orton O. Butler, 1935
Marion W. Butler, 1963
Yolanda M. Dahart, 1975
Diane F. Purcell, 1986
Geraldine A. Reavey, 1989
Marcia D. Dwelley, 2003
Janice Handrahan, 2007
Timothy J. Kittredge, 2017
Janet M. Edwards, 2018



Rutland

Patricia E. LaChance, 1985
Nancy V. White, 2006
Mary K. Moody, 2015
Christopher M. Lyons, 2021

Shutesbury

Carl Dihlmann, 1940
Emma L. Dihlmann, 1943
Mary E. Dihlmann, 1954
Cheryl R. Richardson, 1987
Gary B. Franceschette, 1993
Jennifer L. Roberts, 1996
Robin A. Driscoll, 2001
Marie Broudeur/Despres, 2008

converted to a
Remotely Managed Post Office
On November 17, 2012
under direction of
Leverett Post Office.

Templeton

Fred E. Hackett, 1936
James H. Young, 1971
Christine E. Aufiero, 2012
Amanda D. Shaulis Kicza, 2017

Ware

James H. Anderson, 1935
John J. Moriarity, 1947
Emile F. St. Onge, 1954
Thaddeus A. Gumula, 1965
Lewis Kalesnik, 1980
Roger R. LeClair, 1984
Timothy T. McQuaid, 1993

West Brookfield

Edward J. O'Day, 1936
David I. Walsh, 1967
Beverly J. Sroczenski, 1992
Joan Knysh Mitchell, 1993
Geraldine M. Eager, 2005
Julie L. Dubuque, 2009
Matti G. Sjoblom, 2019

region's collectors seek railroad memorabilia

text and photos by Christopher Coyle

Railroad buffs, local historians, and others collect ephemera and memorabilia from Quabbin region traditional steam railroads and trolley or streetcar systems.

Many affordable postcards depict trains and railroad subjects of the Quabbin area. Many are quite affordable and may be found at local antique shops, postcard shows,

and online from such sites as eBay. Collectors usually prefer unused postcards in mint condition, if possible, although postcards that have gone through the US Mail system frequently have interesting stamps and postal cancellations. Rail fans take special interest in postcards and other items that have a Railway Post Office, RPO, cancellation. In former days, many trains, especially scheduled passenger trains, carried not only bulk mail but had onboard Railway Post Office cars for sorting, collecting, and dispatching mail en route.

Antique shops, postcard shows, and online sites also often have old photos of area railroads. Photography really started to come of age in the era



Antique railroad maps, such as of the Boston & Maine System, above, give information about transportation routes in earlier days.
map photographed from collection of Alden Dreyer

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In 1983, the founder's son, Robert (Bob) Harris, Jr. took over the business along with his wife, Pamela. Two of their children Robert III and Kirsten eventually joined the business. Since Bob Jr.'s passing in 2019, the business is being run by Pamela, Robert III, and Kirsten. Bob 3 manages the service side, while Kirsten manages the delivery side. Although Orange Oil has grown significantly over the years, the personal service continues. Late night callers still awaken the owners who are ready to help with a "no heat" emergency.

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after the Civil War during construction of area railroads as a new mode of transportation. Stereoscopic prints popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries often depicted early area railroad scenes. Handheld stereoscopes provided three-dimensional views



Railroad collectibles include a Boston and Albany brochure, left, and a vase depicting Athol Depot.

for the user. Stereopticon cards have two identical images that the stereoscope resolves into a single view that appears in three dimensions to the viewer.

Railroads regularly issue timetables, and aficionados often collect them. Public timetables contain route schedules of regular passenger trains, perhaps a map or two, and frequently advertising places on train routes.

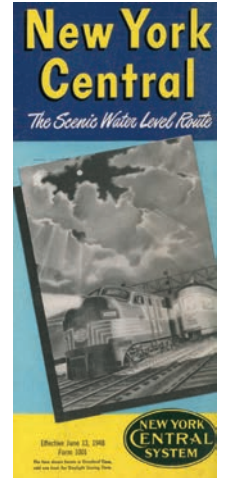
Employee



Collectors seek old railroad tickets, above, and brochures like one for New York Central System, right.

timetables called ETs traditionally appear twice a year, often associated with the beginning and end of daylight savings time. ETs include not only regular passenger trains but other regularly scheduled trains not involving transportation of people. Rail buffs often take special

continued on page 59



Collectors seek railroad lanterns like the antique Boston and Albany version here.

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fostered by agriculture and industry,

by John Burk

Renowned historically for dairy farming, Hardwick also hosted a variety of industries.

Situated between the Quabbin and Ware River watersheds at the southwestern edge of Worcester County, Hardwick's thirty-eight square-mile landscape features ridges and hills that range from nine hundred to eleven hundred feet in elevation. Dougal Range, a four-mile ridge near Gilbertville village, encompasses a large contiguous upland forest and numerous vernal pools. Ware River, a crucial resource for Native Americans and early settlers, forms Hardwick's southeastern boundary with New Braintree. Significant tributaries include Moose Brook, Danforth Brook, and Muddy Brook. Quabbin Reservoir occupies four thousand acres of the Swift River East Branch valley in western Hardwick.

Properties of East Quabbin Land Trust with headquarters on Ridge Road include Mandell Hill, Moose Brook, Patrill Hollow, Ware River Park, and segments of the Mass Central Rail Trail. At Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area, a rare barren provides habitats for many endangered and uncommon species.

Native American sites included Moose Brook and Ware River floodplains, Hardwick Pond on Muddy Brook, Danforth Brook, and Swift River East Branch. Small groups likely visited the area seasonally to hunt and fish.

In 1687, British colonial residents of Roxbury, Massachusetts, purchased a tract known as Lambstown from the Nipmuc. Lambstown then encompassed present Hardwick and portions of New Braintree and

Dana. Settlement began around 1727 along Ware River and spread to surrounding uplands. Hardwick, named for English nobleman Philip Yorke, Lord Hardwicke, incorporated in 1739.

Early agricultural commodities included livestock, apples, corn, grains, and hay. Dairy production thrived during the late nineteenth century. Five cheese and butter factories opened during the 1860s and 1870s, and railroads enabled farmers to export large quantities of milk and butter to eastern Massachusetts. Hardwick ranked as one of Worcester County's leading milk producers by 1900.

Small industries such as sawmills, tanneries, blacksmiths, furniture makers, and producers of charcoal and potash developed during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. An iron furnace built around 1750 at Old Furnace village made kettles, pans, skillets, and cannon balls. Another forge operated at present Gilbertville from 1815 to the 1830s. Both furnaces utilized bog iron ore mined from Muddy Brook and Hardwick Pond.

Manufacturing expanded during the 1860s when entrepreneur George Gilbert built four brick textile mills on Ware River at Gilbertville. A complex of nearly a hundred buildings included tenement and row houses, churches, stores, and a public library. Immigrant workers, mostly from Ireland, Canada, and Poland, comprised nearly half of Hardwick's population in the late nineteenth century. Competition from other regions led to closure of Gilbert Company in 1932. After the 1938 New England hurricane caused substantial



From New Braintree's side of Ware River, Hardwick's George Gilbert Manufacturing Mills figure prominently against a valley ridge.

photo courtesy of Hardwick Historical Society

Hardwick features ridges and hills



Snow sets off nineteenth century buildings on Hardwick Common.

photo by Robert Jackson courtesy of Hardwick Historical Society

damage in Gilbertville, various owners subsequently utilized extant buildings for manufacturing and storage. Hardwick Mills Greenery purchased a former mill in 2021 for cannabis production.

A smaller industrial village developed at Wheelwright after a paper mill opened in 1867. Page Company enlarged the facility and built houses for workers during

[continued on page 60](#)



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New Salem features well-preserved town common

by John Burk



1794 Meetinghouse, the town hall annex, and Central Congregational Church line New Salem Common, from left, as a wintry sun sets.

photo © by John Burk

Franklin County's largest town by area, New Salem features abundant conservation land and a well-preserved town common with numerous historic sites. Wooded hills, steep glacial valleys, wetlands, and Quabbin Reservoir's

northwest shores comprise its 59 square mile landscape. Packard Mountain, the highest elevation at 1,281 feet, rises amid uplands near Cooleyville village.

The Swift River Middle and West branches, renowned trout

waterways, serve as primary sources for Quabbin Reservoir. From headwaters in Wendell, the West Branch meanders through a remote valley on the New England National Scenic Trail corridor. Features of the Middle Branch include a picturesque waterfall and gorge at the Bear's Den, old mill sites, and Keystone Bridge, one of Quabbin Reservoir's iconic landmarks. Bassett Pond, North Spectacle Pond (called North Spec), South Spectacle Pond (called South Spec), and part of Lake Rohunta lie within a large wetland complex in the northeast part of town.

Native American sites likely concentrated in fertile lowlands such as the Swift River Valley, North and South Spectacle ponds, Bassett Pond, Hop Brook, and Blackington Swamp. Numerous sources cite the Bear's Den as an important Nipmuc gathering place. In 1675, King Philip and other Native chieftains reputedly met there to plan raids on



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near Quabbin Reservoir's northwest shore

Deerfield and other Connecticut Valley towns.

The Massachusetts General Court granted a township in the area to sixty residents of Salem, Massachusetts in 1734. Early settlers, mostly from Salem, Danvers, Peabody, and Middleboro, arrived during the late 1730s. New Salem became a Massachusetts incorporated town in 1753. Portions were annexed to Orange, Athol, and Prescott between 1822 and 1837.

During the American Revolution in October 1777, colonial troops brought a thousand Hessians, German mercenaries captured at the battle of Saratoga, through New Salem. Daniel Shays and his followers traveled through town while retreating to Petersham on a cold winter night in February 1787 during Shays's Rebellion.

Situated atop a thousand-foot ridge, New Salem's picturesque town center formed around 1740 when proprietors established a meetinghouse, cemetery, fort,




Hikers and anglers can access Quabbin Reservoir through Gate 35, New Salem.

photo © by Dale Monette

animal pound, and military training field. A historic district encompasses thirty-five properties, including old homes and former New Salem Academy buildings.

Originally built as the First Congregational Church, the 1794 Meetinghouse has hosted many community events such as town meetings, holiday festivals, graduations, and reunions. The late playwright Dorothy Johnson collaborated with composers Steven Schoenberg and Andrew Lichtenberg on a series of musical comedies performed at the 1794 Meetinghouse. Based on community life, the plays featured actors from

continued on page 62



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perplexing legends persist

by Carla Charter

Villages of Quabbin region towns hold all sorts of fascinating myths and legends.

At Rattlesnake Gutter Trust in the Rattlesnake Gutter section of Leverett, a section of land known as Ellamoose Repose provokes interest. What was an Ellamoose and why does its repose happen to be at the trust?

The answer lies with Elise Kroeber, the previous owner of the land. Claiming the creature lived way back when and still lived on the 24.5-acre property and, thus the name, she created the fictional Ellamoose, according to Joan Godsey of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust board. In 2009, Kroeber donated the land to the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. She stipulated that the creature not be bothered in any way and that a neighbor's horse be kept far away, as both moose and horses eat similar forage.

The site includes three meadows lined with stone walls and, to the east, wet and dry woodlands. The trail goes through all these habitats.



An icy tree towers over a classic New Salem stone wall.
photo by Sue Cloutier

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in Leverett, Wendell, Hardwick, and New Salem

A trust member provided an account of the Ellamoose and included the creature's supposed history. The trust held an inaugural unsuccessful search for an actual Ellamoose to celebrate the gift of the land.

In the Mormon Hollow section of Wendell, several legends surround the naming of Mormon Hollow Road.

Pamela Richardson, co-author with Thomas Sawin (1810-1873) of the 2015 book *Wendell, Massachusetts: It's Settlement and Citizenry (1752-1900)*, said that the Mormon Hollow name began when David Nelson, a chairmaker, ran into two Mormon missionaries while traveling in Worcester County. He began talking to them and invited them to come to Wendell and preach.

When they arrived in Wendell, according to Richardson, Nelson asked two ministers of the Congregational and Baptist churches if they would host the visitors, but they did not want Mormons preaching at their churches. Therefore, David and his brother Charles Nelson invited the Mormons to preach at their house.

The Mormons acquired a small following of residents. They met for a while at several schoolhouses, although it proved unsustainable for unknown reasons, according to Richardson. Residents of the later named Mormon Hollow Road showed particular interest in Mormonism, according to Richardson.

She added that many believe a graveyard off Mormon Hollow Road contained Mormon graves. The cemetery pre-dates Mormonism in Wendell by at least twenty-five years, according to Richardson.

Many also believe that Mormons settled in Wendell, Richardson said, but the two in question returned to Salt Lake City along with some twenty-five Wendell residents who converted to Mormonism at the time.

In Hardwick, mystery stones line part of Thresher Road. "I guess, they have always been there," said Emily Bancroft of Hardwick Historical Society. "One theory is that they were used as markers for road construction. I have not found any evidence in town or county records, however. There were supposedly thirty-two stones, but I found only four when I explored many years ago. Number 23 is the most obvious and the most easily found," Bancroft said.

On August 20, 1903, New Salem celebrated its 150th anniversary. The *New Salem Sesquicentennial Report*, published by Transcript Book and Job Print

in 1904, documented in the day's events. The report includes copies of several speeches, a description of an antiquarian exhibit, and lists of preceptors and trustees of New Salem Academy. A mystery surfaces toward the end of the report.

The town once had a British light artillery cannon, according to the report, which says the cannon arrived in New Salem as a gift of the Massachusetts General Court. The report says the British used the cannon, made in Dresden, Germany, in wars against Poland and Austria before the Battle of Bennington.

New Salem featured the cannon to celebrate festive occasions, including Fourth of July. Occasionally, the cannon went missing but made itself known again when it was heard set off in another section of town. The first long-term disappearance, the report states, happened when the cannon went silent for twenty years, apparently buried under stones on a farm owned by Lester Ballard. Residents of New Salem Hill in the town center placed it there, according to the report, and when one went West, whereabouts of the cannon went with him. He returned twenty years later to find the cannon was right where they had left it. Once recovered, the cannon reappeared at town events.

In 1856, the cannon once again disappeared, the report states, and has yet to be found again. That year, the cannon helped celebrate Fourth of July in the New Salem village of Millington before residents brought it back to New Salem Hill. A New Salem Academy student noticed it lying on the ground there. Later, though, he said, he and friends couldn't find it. It has not reappeared, according to the report.

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

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from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin poets



Ice glazes over red winter berries in a Quabbin region orchard.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

poem by Louise Minks

Last Run

a poem for Ben, 1941-2019

Dad appears in boots and gloves
with spigots, buckets, bits, and
drills.

Is the wood pile holding out?
Collect enough, collect it still.

Catch it, hold it, bring it, pour it—
daily watch as winter parts.
Sip it, strain it, boil it, dip it—
a maple gift so sweet in March.

Will it get too warm too soon?
Feed the stove and fill the pan.
Bring the sap in, keep it cool.
Lift the bucket if you can.

Catch it, hold it, bring it, pour it—
daily watch as winter parts.
Sip it, strain it, boil it, dip it—
a maple gift so sweet in March.

How long before the maples move?
Will the robins never leave?
Drill bits lost and spigots gone.
Do southern trees provide a yield?

Catch it, hold it, bring it, pour it—
our maple harvest shrinks,
declines.

Sip it, strain it, boil it, dip it—
no winter left, no taps, no pan.

No gloves, no boots, no wood supply.
March and maple soon will prove
no longer brothers in the spring.
Winter's lock is on the move.
Poet Louise Minks lives in Leverett..

poem by Pat Larson

Water

Water everywhere.
Water nowhere.

Went to see
ice everywhere
blocking
destroying
moving
but no gentle moving snow
flowing

Went to the river
slow moving and calm
meandering
green on the sides
alive
clear and cold

Then nothing
only a trickle
dryness
brown no mud or silt
dead
water nowhere

Then rain
rushing water
wetness
no sides contained
rushing waters
powerful and fast
water everywhere

No balance
to be had
just
water everywhere
water nowhere

All creatures
came to water
rivers streams lakes
all came to the waters
giving thanks
wishing balance
hope for all waters
all creatures everywhere

Poet Pat Larson lives in North Orange.

poem by
Dorothy Johnson
One Small Moment

Tiny footprints
on the snow-dusted floor
of the front porch
as small birds
scramble to find seeds
in the feeder nearby.
A large cat sits on the windowsill
watching, waiting, hoping
as she stares down
through the glass
at the small birds.
Two blue jays approach,
and the cat turns away,
her patience unrewarded.

Poet Dorothy Johnson, late of New Salem, created the column "Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts" for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine..

poem by
Mary-Ann DeVita
Palmieri
April

She teases us with crocuses
and golden forsythia that cuts
through the gloom of March.
Days get longer.
Some evenings we can walk
outside after dinner.
Peepers croak loudly
near the stream
and orange salamanders slither
across the road.

Then the showers set in
and the mud.
It is, after all, the "cruellest" month.

My husband shrugs and smiles,
"Sometimes we just expect too
much of April."

Poet Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri of New Salem proofreads *Uniquely Quabbin*.

poem by Alex Arnot
Sunset

As crimson breaks through a cloudy sea,
sunshine bids its last adieu.
Vibrant flame through a fissure of fading azure
displays majesty before it's through.

Dull, white clouds are painted pink,
and blackening skies are lulled to sleep
before the night does come awake:
in tranquil calm forever keep.

For life is burned into the world,
and in the flame is beauty incarnate.
Evening unleashes its masterpiece
as sky erupts in radiant scarlet.
Poet Alex Arnot lives in Orange.

Submit poems for *Uniquely Quabbin* to
marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com



Snow coats trees and the East Mineral Road footbridge in Erving.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky



West Branch of Swift River flows through icy snow in Shutesbury.

photo © by Mary Lou Conca



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A snowy downed tree crosses West Branch of Swift River in Shutesbury.
photo © by Mary Lou Conca

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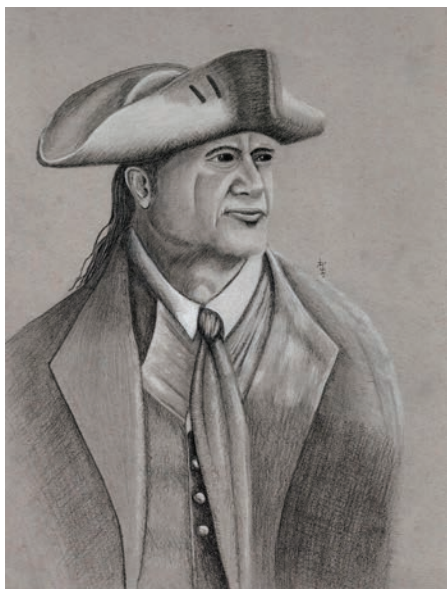


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Daniel Shays
charcoal drawing on paper
© by Brian Fournier

Daniel Shays was not a road but a man. Born in 1747 in colonial Hopkinton, Massachusetts, he moved to central Massachusetts

a man, not a road: revolutionary

by Brian Fournier

where he lived in Shrewsbury on a seventy-plus-acre farm with his wife and six children. In his thirties, Shays responded to the smothering atmosphere of British rule.

Shays left home in April of 1775 and marched to Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, as part of a colonial militia that confronted the British and “fired the shot heard around the world,” as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it.

Emerson wrote his poem “Concord Hymn” for the dedication of an obelisk at the site of the bridge in Concord where British troops and the colonial militia faced off in the first battle of the American Revolution.

From the Concord Bridge, Shays marched to Boston and took part in Boston campaigns resisting the British. At the battle of Bunker Hill, one of the bloodiest encounters in the war, he distinguished himself heroically and earned a commission as a lieutenant and eventually a promotion to captain. A patriot, Shays put his emerging country above all things.

After six years and the war for independence won, Captain Shays gave up his commission in 1786. He returned home only to be taken to debtors’ court. Thousands of Massachusetts soldiers faced the same courts. They had never been paid for their service to the emerging confederacy and eventual republic.

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patriot Daniel Shays

Shays was very much in debt as were most farmers and ex soldiers from Taunton to New Barrington, Massachusetts.

Henry Knox of Boston, secretary of war for the new United States of America, identified resistance from the farmers and ex-soldiers as Shays's Rebellion. Knox wanted to paint the so-called protesters who identified themselves as Regulators as people dangerous to the new government. In our free country, sometimes regular people band together in civil disobedience to protect themselves from injustices.

The Regulators peacefully protested the unfairness of courts seizing properties of farmers and ex-soldiers who had returned to so much unfair debt. Assessments put forth by Governor James Bowdoin of Massachusetts made it impossible for them to survive.

In his book *Daniel Shays an Honorable Rebellion*, Daniel Bullins points out that the Regulators never fired a shot nor harmed anyone. They were all about civil disobedience and realistically debating injustices

[continued on page 72](#)

a road, not a man:

US Route 202 from near Westfield, then west of Quabbin to Athol

Familiar to residents of the Quabbin region, Daniel Shays Highway runs north along United States Route 202 from near Westfield to Athol. The section of Route 202 called Daniel Shays Highway turns eastward north of Westfield toward Holyoke, crosses the Connecticut River by bridge and Massachusetts Routes 116 and 33 toward Belchertown, where it crosses Massachusetts Route 9. It then heads north along the west side of the Quabbin Reservoir through New Salem toward Athol.

US Route 202 stretches from Maine in the north to Delaware in the south and passes through New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The highway has borne the number 202 since at least 1936.

information courtesy of the Federal Highway Administration



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since earliest days, Murray clan had close ties with region

continued from page 15



Ancestral home of Scotland's Murray clan and the Dukes of Atholl, Blair Castle evolved over four hundred years.

Delegations from Blair Castle, including the duke and his Highlanders, have visited the Quabbin area during the past half century with return visits from residents of the Quabbin region.

photo © by David Brothers

Henceforth, the town went by the name of Athol. On March 6, 1762, Murray presided as moderator at the first town meeting, though Murray could no longer vote there, as he officially resided in Rutland.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, Murray remained loyal to the British crown, siding with

the Tories who opposed independence for the American colonies. Ill feelings toward the crown heightened, and many patriots stoned Murray's home and harassed his family in Rutland. In 1776 Murray and his family fled to Boston, and later, the Murrays accompanied elements of the British Army to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In 1778 Murray was banished from Massachusetts. In 1779, patriots confiscated the Murray estates in Rutland, Athol, and Lenox. He moved to St. John, New Brunswick, where he spent the remainder of his life. His son Alexander chose to remain behind and became a soldier in the Continental Army.

One might ask, "Does his loyalty to the crown in any way tarnish or degrade Murray's naming of the town of Athol?"

Throughout the years, the Duke of Atholl, Scotland has kept close ties to Athol, Massachusetts. In 1987, the duke journeyed to Athol, Massachusetts, to participate in the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the founding of the town. Twenty-five years later, the twelfth Duke of Atholl, His Grace Bruce Murray, visited Athol to take part in the 250th anniversary of the town's incorporation. His Highlanders accompanied him that year and, clad in the official tartan of Clan Murray, put on a musical performance.

Delegations from Athol also visit Blair Castle from time to time as the relationship between Athol, Massachusetts, and Atholl, Scotland, continues.

Charles R. "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.

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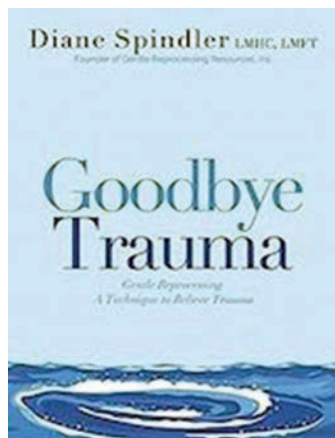
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authors Spindler and Crosson write non-fiction

by Diane Kane

Psychotherapist Diane Spindler of Rutland has more than thirty years of experience specializing in trauma. Through her work and personal experience, she developed a unique way to help people process their trauma.

“My technique releases trauma deeply, quickly, and gently. I have taught it to therapists for over twenty years and written manuals explaining how this process works.”



Psychotherapist Diane Spindler writes about a unique way for people to process trauma.

photos courtesy of Diane Spindler

Originally creating it for children, Spindler found it worked well for adults, too. Spindler set up Gentle Reprocessing Resources LLC to teach other therapists how to use her method with their clients.

“My process involves external gentle reprocessing and internal gentle reprocessing. The former uses drawing and storytelling to release trauma. There are three levels of internal, each going a little deeper than the previous one,” Spindler explained. “I have taught my process

mostly in New England, regularly at Boston University, and at national and international conferences.”

As years went by, Spindler feared that her unique knowledge would be lost when she was gone. So for the past fifteen years, she has been writing a book to get her method into even more hands.

“Years ago, the word cancer was a toxic issue. No one talked about it. Now, people discuss it freely. I think trauma is the new toxic issue that people are afraid to discuss. I hope my book, *Goodbye Trauma*, starts to open the doors to help make discussing trauma easier for people so it doesn’t remain in the dark.”

Goodbye Trauma, published in 2023 through Amazon, has received much positive feedback. One reviewer wrote,

Gentle reprocessing was a game changer for me. Instead of sitting around and talking about my concerns incessantly over the years, Diane was able to help me pinpoint the blockages in my life and file the memories properly. This technique helped me finally process childhood trauma that has been affecting every aspect of my life for years, without me even realizing it.

Such support from readers has meant the world to Spindler. “Positive comments about *Goodbye Trauma* made the grueling effort of writing the book worth it. Many have also passed it on to friends and relatives to read.”

Spindler is working on a follow-up book for therapists who cannot take her classes in person. “There will be enough information in the book for therapists to teach themselves how to do gentle reprocessing with their clients.”

Goodbye Trauma is available on Amazon.

Find more information at GentleReprocessing.com.

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Cynthia Crosson has lived on both coasts but has called Petersham home since 1977. Her careers have been as varied as the places she has lived.

"I started as a social worker, working in adoption and with abused and neglected children, then went into teaching at Fitchburg State for almost twenty-five years," Crosson said. "After raising a special-needs child and divorcing, I followed my dream and entered seminary."

Crosson took an unexpected vow while attending seminary.

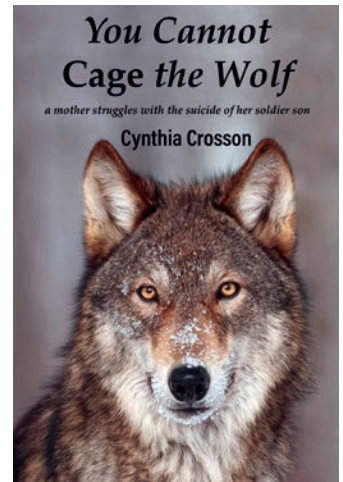
"I met a minister with a service dog from NEADS World Class Service Dogs in Princeton, Massachusetts, an agency that places dogs with people with disabilities and some dogs for helping professionals," said Crosson. "I was taken with what the dog could do to comfort people and vowed to pursue getting a dog for ministry when I finished seminary."

But before Crosson finished, tragedy struck. In 2003, she lost her son to suicide. She struggled to graduate from seminary in 2005 and almost immediately went to NEADS for a ministry dog. As it turned out, the dog became a catalyst for Crosson's own healing.

"While working with my dog Dandi, I became very involved with NEADS. They had just begun to place service dogs with Afghanistan and Iraq veterans. Walter Reed Army Hospital originally wanted dogs for veterans with combat disabilities but soon discovered that many veterans had post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD."

When Walter Reed hospital discovered her background in teaching about PTSD, they asked Crosson to help develop a program to train dogs for PTSD veterans.

"It seemed daunting, but I took it on. We developed a program and placed our first dog with a veteran in 2009," Crosson said. "That's when I began to connect my son's death with the work that I was doing at NEADS. After high school, my son, Jamie, joined the army and was deployed to Bosnia. Jamie always loved animals, especially dogs, and considered his totem or good luck charm to be the wolf."



After her son's suicide, Cynthia Crosson finished seminary and produced a memoir about her son's life and return from military service that may help veterans experiencing post traumatic stress disorder.

photos courtesy of Cynthia Crosson
author photo by Kirsten Spencer

Crosson had already written a children's book through Haley's Publishing as part of developing the program for veterans and approached the publisher with the idea of writing another book about service dogs for veterans.

[continued on page 61](#)

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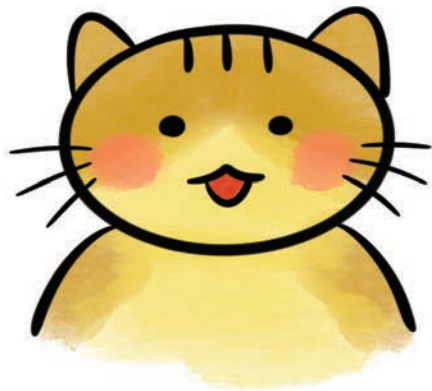
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asking “Am I a bear, or am I a coyote?” produces recipe for Winter Hibernation Pie

text and photos by Christine Noyes • recipe begins on page 42

Native American lore tells us that the power of introspection comes from bear medicine. To me, it makes perfect sense as we pass from fall to winter thinking spring is a long way off.

Much like a bear, without conscious intention, I begin bulking up in September. My meals become heavier, starchier, and more frequent. My subconscious wants to add additional layers of fat to sustain me through the cold, hard, winter—even though I am already bountifully bulked. But it doesn’t stop there. My body also feels the need to conserve energy—hibernate in my own cave—complete with comfy bed and three blankets, of course.

It is the perfect winter storm of bad habits! And I don’t think I am alone in it. Otherwise, why would restaurant menus change from cobb salad to meatloaf with mashed potatoes and unsweetened iced tea to pumpkin lattes?

So with introspection, I ask myself—how can I break this seasonal cycle of subservience? And the answer came to me. Not everyone needs to be a bear. I can choose to be a bobcat, owl, or coyote who remains active and forages in winter. Although coyotes may appear much larger during winter months, only their outer coat thickens—much easier to shed come spring.

I will be a coyote, I decide.

Native American lore tells us that the coyote is a master trickster who falls for his own foolery. Once caught in his own deception, he laughs at his self-sabotage, as do I. I begin preparing the hearty meal of Winter Hibernation Pie, fit for a bear.

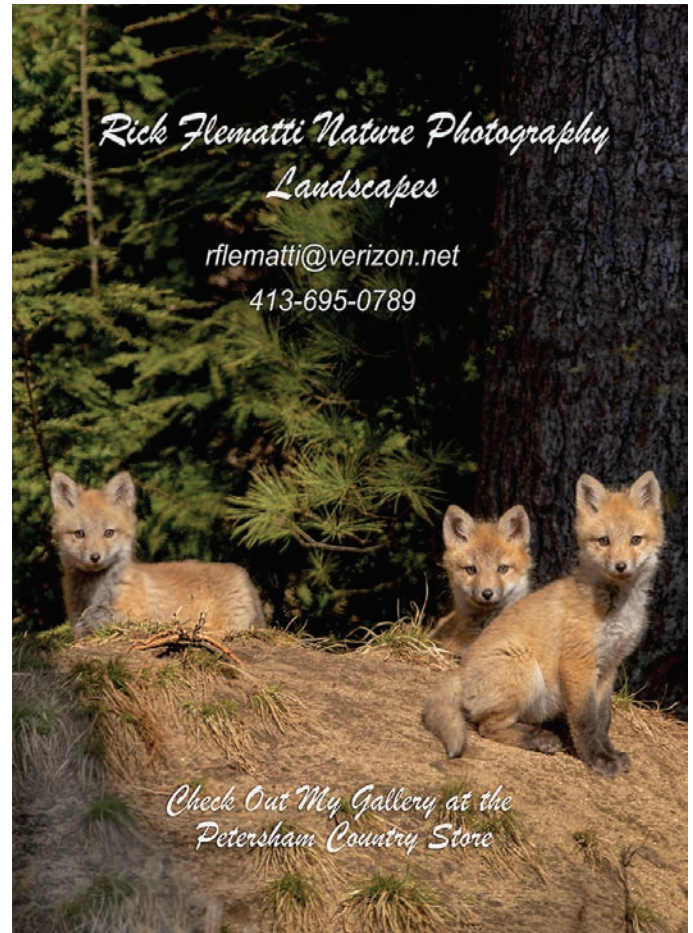
The idea for the recipe stems from a seventeenth-century French pithivier—puff pastry filled with creamed potatoes and caramelized onions often accompanied by a rich cream sauce.

I’ve replaced several high caloric ingredients with healthier options and incorporated several winter vegetables for additional flavor. Not only will the dish make a perfect meal to serve in cold weather, but it qualifies also as a vegetarian delight.

So, throw a log on the fire and a saucepan on the stove. It’s time to bulk up with this savory winter vegetable pie!



Winter Hibernation Pie makes use of healthy ingredients with hearty result



variation on seventeenth-century French pithivier

text and photos by Christine Noyes

Winter Hibernation Pie

serves 12

Cauliflower Sauce

- 1 medium head fresh cauliflower cut in small florets
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup Half & Half
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Romano/Pecorino cheese
(may substitute Parmesan)
- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Green Cabbage Layer

- 1 small head green cabbage sliced thin (about 5 cups)
- 2 medium shallots halved lengthwise then sliced thin
(about 1 1/2 cups)

4 tablespoons butter

3 cloves garlic minced

1 1/4 cup reserved vegetable broth from cauliflower
salt and pepper to taste

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Root Vegetable and Pie Pastry

1/2 small rutabaga peeled (may use purple top turnip,
if desired)

3 small potatoes, skin on

3 medium carrots peeled

1 parsnip peeled

1 tsp parsley (fresh or dried)

1/2 large sweet onion peeled

2 cold puff pastry dough sheets (may substitute pie crusts)

1 large egg, beaten

INSTRUCTIONS

Cauliflower Sauce

In a saucepan, bring vegetable broth, salt, and pepper to a boil.

Add cauliflower. Cover. Reduce heat to medium to produce a slow boil. Cook for approximately 15 minutes until cauliflower is soft but not mushy.

Remove from heat and strain, reserving broth (set aside for multiple uses).

In a blender, add 1 cup of reserved broth and cauliflower. Purée until smooth.

Return cauliflower to saucepan on medium-high heat. Stirring constantly, add Half & Half and incorporate fully.

Still stirring, add granulated garlic, Parmesan cheese, Romano/Pecorino, and shredded cheddar.

Stir until fully incorporated into the sauce. Adjust salt and pepper to taste. Remove from heat and set aside.



Add vegetable broth to shredded cabbage.

INSTRUCTIONS

continued

Cabbage

In a large skillet, melt butter on low heat. Add garlic, salt, and pepper.

Turn heat to high. Add shallots and cook for 3 minutes. Add cabbage and stir to mix.

Add vegetable broth. Cover and reduce heat to medium high, stirring occasionally.

Cook for approximately 12 minutes or until the broth is evaporated.

Remove from heat. Cool slightly. Stir in Parmesan cheese until well mixed. Set aside.

Root Vegetable and Assembly

In a large pot, bring 6 quarts of water to a boil.

Using a mandolin slicer (may use a knife if necessary), slice rutabaga, potatoes, carrots, parsnip, and onion to 1/8" thick.

Set the onion aside.

Add rutabaga to pot and cook for 3 1/2 minutes, stirring so the slices don't stick together. Add in potatoes and stir. Cook for 2 minutes before adding carrots and parsnip. Cook for another 3 minutes or until all vegetables are soft, approximate total time of 8 1/2 minutes.

Drain the root vegetables and place in a mixing bowl.

Add 1 1/2 to 2 cups of cauliflower sauce and parsley to root vegetables, coating evenly.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place a sheet pan on the bottom rack of the oven.

replaces high caloric items for flavorful outcome

INSTRUCTIONS

Root Vegetable and Assembly (continued)



Use a mandolin slicer or substitute a knife for vegetables that may include potatoes, parsnips, rutabagas, carrots, and onions.

Using a 10-inch pie plate, place a sheet of puff pastry dough into the pie dish, covering the bottom and slightly overhanging off the sides. Trim as needed.

Place half of the vegetable mix into the pie dish and spread evenly.

Top with half of the sliced onion and a ladleful of cauliflower sauce. Spread evenly.

Using half the mixture, place a layer of green cabbage on top.

Repeat layers with vegetables, onion, sauce, and cabbage.

Lay the second sheet of puff pastry dough over the top, crimp the edges with the bottom sheet to seal, and trim.

Poke several holes in the top of the pie to allow steam to release while baking.

Using a pastry brush, brush the top puff pastry dough with the beaten egg.

Sprinkle with parsley if desired.

Place pie on the middle rack of the oven. Bake for 30 minutes.

Remove and cover with aluminum foil. Return to the oven and bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes.

Remove and allow to sit before serving (approximately 20 minutes)

Serve with remaining cauliflower sauce on the side.



Serve slices of Winter Hibernation Pie with cauliflower sauce.

An accomplished chef, Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, and writer and illustrator. She writes Bear Hug children's books and the Bradley Whitman mystery series including the forthcoming *Reaping Redemption*. She just released *Winter Meets Summer*, a romance novel.

The Country Store, Petersham, and Ladd's

text and photos by Diane Kane

The Country Store, Petersham in Petersham center, is an area icon. Built in 1840, through various store owners, the place has offered everything from buffalo robes to feather mattresses. Recently, it has been known for good food, fellowship, and handmade treasures.

Joanna Telepciak, newest owner of the country store, has worked there for over seven years. "Jo came to us as a talented cook and baker, exceeding all our expectations!" said previous owners Ari and Jeanneane Pugliesi.

"It is such an incredible feeling to take over the store," said Telepciak. "It is so much work but exciting and fun. Every day is a new and different challenge, and I love it more."



Cora Telepciak displays a basket of fresh vegetables purveyed at the Country Store, Petersham, her mother Joanna's store.

Telepciak grew up in Phillipston and lives in Royalston with her daughter Cora.

"My mom, Nola Shepardson Telepciak, who planted and tended Nola's Garden on Templeton Road in Athol, taught me and my siblings to cook. We all loved being in the kitchen with her. Food did—and still does, play such a central role in our family."

Telepciak also takes a lot of cooking inspiration from other cultures.




Joanna Telepciak, left, owner of the Country Store in Petersham worked in transition with Jeanneane and Ari Pugliesi, previous owners.

"I spent a lot of time traveling when I was younger. I backpacked through Europe solo. I also visited Spain, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy and spent some time living in Costa Rica one summer."

During high school, Telepciak worked in restaurants but went in a different direction in college, attending UMaine and Fitchburg State and earning a BS in business management.

"After college, I worked in an office for a few years, but when my mom got sick, I quit my job to help care for her. After her death, I couldn't go back to work at a desk. I had a few random jobs to make ends meet but finally found myself at the country store. I found my love for cooking again in that kitchen."

Family means everything to Telepciak.



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The Country Store in Petersham offers an array of specialty grocery and household items, toys, local books, photographs by local photographers, greeting cards made by local artists and photographers, baked goods, eat-in meals, take-out meals, and more.

“I am a strong, independent woman, and it may look like I am running solo, but I have so much support. Behind the scenes, my dad, three brothers, and close friends are there whenever I need them, which makes it all possible. To the best of my knowledge, I am also the first single woman owner of the store.”

Regulars can expect to continue to have the items they know and love.

“Mostly, I want to add more options and variety. So far, we have expanded the breakfast menu and will continue adding more breakfast options this winter. I am also working with a company to have an espresso machine. After spending time in Italy, I developed a love for espresso, and I can’t wait to share that. I’m also bringing in lots of new grocery and gift items. I know that the store would be nothing without the support of our customers, and I’m driven to accommodate them.”

The Country Store in Petersham is open from 9 am to 5 pm Sundays and from 8 am to 7 pm Mondays through Saturdays. Petershamstore.com or on Facebook at [thecountrystoreinpetersham](https://www.facebook.com/thecountrystoreinpetersham)


The building that became the home of Ladd’s Restaurant, 64 Barre-Paxton Road, Route 122 in Rutland, has a long and illustrious history.

Dorothy Hunt purchased thirteen acres of land in 1938 and began construction on Hunthurst Tavern. The tavern, at the time rumored to house a brothel above the restaurant, remained open until 1950. In 1951, the building was sold and rebranded as the Birches. Under two different owners, it remained the Birches for the next twenty-four years.

Ladd’s was born in 1984. Leopold Dubeau and Richard Wigglesworth, famously known as Dick and Leo, purchased the building and ran Ladd’s until 2000. One fateful day shortly after Debeau and Wigglesworth took over the business, Paula Toomey stopped in for lunch.

“Paula saw they were hiring, and she had a sixteen-year-old at home who needed a job,” said Adam Gillette, Ladd’s general manager. “Paula went directly home and brought her son back to apply. Billy Toomey hasn’t left since.”

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sculptor inspired by his mother's treadle sewing machine

by James DiSilvestro

A treadle-operated early 1900s Singer sewing machine owned by my mother inspired the sculpture “Mary’s Machine.” A



“Mary’s Machine,” multi-media sculpture by Jimmy DiSilvestro of Athol features the treadle sewing machine of his late mother Mary, a dressmaker and creator in fabric. photo courtesy of James DiSilvestro

lifelong seamstress and dressmaker, she hadn’t used the machine for years when she told me a lengthy and detailed story about making a wedding gown for her sister—her first such effort—on the machine. It surprised me to learn that she knew the whereabouts of the machine, and I knew I had to have it.

Initially, I removed the original wooden cabinet and drawers, cleaned and painted the cast-iron base, and fixed the treadle to operating condition. Next, I built a tabletop from scrap stainless steel to hold the machine in the upright working position.

Using galvanized sheet metal, I formed the vertical figure rising from the back of the Singer to animate the piece in a way that I really liked because it dictates its overall size and informs how to shape the rest of the material. I produced some intentionally oversized paper patterns to establish the general size and shape of the sheet metal “fabric” flowing through the stitching area. Then I used the patterns to cut matching metal. Then, I welded the patterns to cut the metal.

Once I had established the shapes, I worked the metal fabric into exaggerated creases and folds. With the sections in place, I made further alterations to reveal more of the orange underside.

I used only hand tools and a metal-working implement called an English wheel to shape the metal. Stainless steel hardware holds various pieces together. I shop made the oversized spool of thread from reclaimed aluminum with thread of stainless-steel wire.

While working on “Mary’s Machine,” I thought a lot about what happens when someone custom makes a garment for a particular person, what goes into the work besides actual cloth, and how the person at the machine might see it.

Worcester’s 2023 Elm Park Art in the Park included “Mary’s Machine” among twenty-eight works.

Formerly of Hardwick, Sculptor James DiSilvestro of Athol grew up in Worcester.

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personal project births painting called "Intuition"

by Amber Robidoux

A personal project called "100 Paintings in 100 Days" birthed "Intuition," an acrylic painting on canvas.

It took 96 days for me to let loose and play with paint without a goal of painting a specific subject. Painting daily presented no small task, and creating with intent raised the bar. A daily art habit necessarily requires such a commitment.

The routine of putting pen to paper or paint to canvas encourages meditation and reduces stress. Typical excuses may surface—"I've got kids, a job, a business. I'm too busy." But simply, if you want an art habit, you'll create the time.

A daily art habit doesn't have to consume hours. It can amount to five minutes a day or even two minutes. The important thing: one hundred percent involvement for however much time. Spending an hour creating is better but not required.

Those wanting to get started will, first, take a good look at their schedule. For the organized or those with a flexible schedule, openings should be easy to spot. Busy individuals or those living chaotically will

require more effort. Ultimately, it is likely anyone can shave off time to make room for a new habit by watching one less episode on Netflix or by stopping mindless scrolling fifteen minutes sooner.

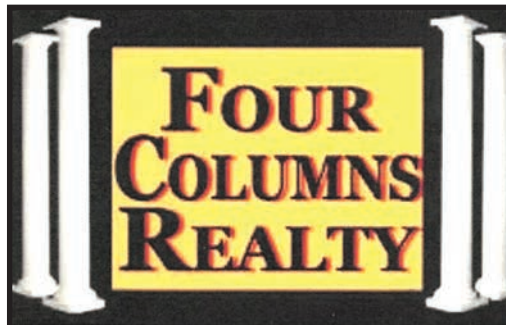
An art habit may best start or end the day and probably shouldn't fall after an activity or event with a tendency to run over or have unpredictable end times. Honor the art habit with a daily time set

in stone similar to honoring a personal appointment or any other commitment.

Motivation alone won't create an art habit, which requires consistent attention and will power. Starting small makes sense. Small wins help to build momentum with a new habit.

Inspiration doesn't necessarily come easily, and those starting an art habit

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"Rex and the Sheep" • oil painting on canvas and text by Sonja Vaccari



As snow falls, Rex the border collie encourages sheep in an oil painting on canvas by Sonja Vaccari of Royalston.
photo of painting courtesy of Kate Collins



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A remarkable border collie owned by Kate Collins and George Northrop, Rex worked and lived his life at Aurora Ranch in Royalston. Rex had movie star looks and an attitude to go with them. A small, tight group of folks in the Quabbin area raise sheep for meat and wool. They have working dogs, and some compete in trials. Numbers are a small cry from early days when sheep constituted an important and monetary mainstay of the local farming community.

Artist Sonja Vaccari lives in Royalston.

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We honestly can't believe it, but this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* counts as the twenty-fourth since the first in 2016.

To celebrate the May 2024 twenty-fifth edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*, in cooperation with Athol Public Library at 568 Main Street, we plan a summertime exhibition of work from Quabbin region artists and photographers who have contributed to the magazine.

They will offer items for sale.

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Jack Reynolds brings home powerlifting gold and bronze

continued from page 19

And the three of us flew across the world to watch Jack achieve his dream.

A heavily accented voice laced with static broke my musings as it announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, please make sure your seatbelts are fastened as we will be landing soon in Cluj Napoca, Romania."

The three of us looked at each other with tired, bloodshot eyes. No one had to say a word. Our faces said it all: "This can't be real."

But it was real. Jack had leaned into a dream. Like any dream chased with focus, drive, and passion, it cultivates in just the same way the magic of a small acorn turns into a magnificent oak.

Jack won the 2023 US National Sub-Junior Powerlifting Championship in Scottsdale, Arizona, thus qualifying for the World Championships in Romania among 654 lifters from 55 countries including all competitive classes.

We stayed in the Transylvanian region in the city of Cluj, a happening metropolis with a strong college vibe. Ancient architecture intrigued us and seemed to whisper, "Come sit by me. Stay awhile. You will find a history as rich as a king's endless feast."

As far as the eye could see in the countryside of Romania, hills and pastures stretched out like a timeworn quilt telling stories that reached back to what seemed like the beginning of time.

Imposing Orthodox steeples captured our attention every few miles. Shepherds and their puffy companions dotted distant grasslands. Ancient castles lured you in with all their glory and magnificence.

The day came for Jack's lifts after a near sleepless night and ongoing jetlag. Jack's friends from Great Britain, France, and the US, to name a few, felt the anticipated pressure of the competition. The energy was high, hearts were racing, and palms sweaty. Everyone was on the edge of their seats. Each of those boys and young men truly deserved to win. You make it to Worlds, you've made it. With blood, sweat, and tears, everyone lifting that day did his best. You qualify as a winner when you decide to take hold of the reins to your dreams and just go for it!

Natalie Reynolds lives in New Salem with her husband, Jeff, and their son Jack. Together they own and operate the New Salem General Store. She loves books, writing, and preparing food for people she loves. She holds dear her community, friends, and family.



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Snow sugarcoats New Salem woodland behind a stone wall and dried leaves.

photo by Sue Cloutier

rail trail walks perk up dreary wintertime days

continued from page 4



Goldendoodle Ella Mae and Sally Howe huddle on a Barre rail trail bench

photo © by Helen Louzonis

Sometimes I spot hoar frost, or I think that's it—feathery ice crystals. The trail continues on from Barre into Rutland.

Rail trails have several access points. One access off route 122 leads up a short path to the rail bed that wanders

among the trees and eventually, after a mile or so, leads to a sign: Coldbrook Springs Railroad Depot. The now quiet parking area off a paved road once contained a thriving depot full of people, noise, and activity. I turn back, which time cannot do, and reverse my steps to the car.

Walking on rail beds is quiet aside from the occasional greeting to other walkers or bicycle riders. I hear a breeze in the pines, chirping of chickadees, crunching of my boots. Thoughts wander back to trains that once graced the beds, clanking and carrying commerce and people who are no longer. And here I am in the same spot, moving along in a different time.

Then the dog spots a squirrel and the sudden tension on the leash jolts me back to the present.

One day without much snow, I visit Barre Dam. It's part of Ware River Watershed within the towns of Hubbardston, Barre, Oakham, and Rutland. A friend comes along, and we have no trouble following a clearly marked trail through the woods. We come upon a snag, a standing dead tree, that seems to be greeting us with a friendly wave. We stop to also say hello.

Then a day comes when heavy snow keeps me at home. The first day of a snowfall is my favorite. The world is monochrome, quiet except for the gentle sound of snowflakes. I am reminded of leaves falling in autumn breezes, a season past.



A snag—a standing dead tree—seems to say hello.

photo © by Sally Howe

The road I live on is unpaved. I head out the door before the plows and bask in the wonderland. Yes, winters can feel too long. But there is much to appreciate. We live in a special region that offers us nature, seasons and history intertwined

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

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NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

Golden-Crowned Kinglets, Delight of Winter Birds

• Musical Mystery Solved •

A friend visited my yard and helped me with a winter chore. "Oh, you have kinglets," she said.

"Mmm, I wondered whose twittering song that was. Thank you." Once again, I am reminded of William Shakespeare's line: "In Nature's infinite book of secrecy, a little can I read." I also add, with a little help from my friends, another mystery is unveiled.

So in a quiet moment, I delved into my bird books to learn more about kinglets. I began a small journey of research and now share a few nuanced tidbits.

Along with chickadees, kinglets are somewhat common in New England woods. In fact, sometimes the birds may be heard or seen foraging together. The golden-crowned kinglet's family is Regulidae, and the order Passeriformes, as David Sibley states in his book, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Behavior*. Golden-crowned kinglets have overall pale greenish-gray plumage and a golden crown flanked by two black stripes with a white eyebrow line above the eye. Sibley enumerates six species of kinglets worldwide, two of them in North America. Once identified with warblers, through DNA research, they now have their own family status.

Kinglets glean insects, caterpillars and their eggs, spider eggs, and occasionally sap and fruits from foraging in mature coniferous treetops, deciduous trees,



A golden-crowned kinglet perches on a berry tree branch.
photo © by Tom Murray

and shrubs to the ground. Hanging upside down with their wings frequently flicking, they scrounge for food and find tiny insects to eat. Tiny and very active, fidgety songbirds, they sometimes roost at branch tips. Their call sounds to me like a delicate chime blowing in the wind, tsee, tsee, tsee and along with a longer chickadee type call.

I found it fascinating to read

that author and botanist Bernd Heinrich received special permission to hunt kinglets sparingly in order to determine what they eat and how they survive during cold winter nights. He reverently pursued his research. Upon dissecting a kinglet stomach, he found not snow fleas, the suspected food, but rather thirty common moth caterpillars! He concluded that caterpillars provide more fat in the diet, which would help the kinglet sustain cold temperatures, since they don't thermo-regulate. On cold nights they take shelter in old bird nests or tree cavities. He provides more observations in his book, *Winter World: the ingenuity of animal survival*.

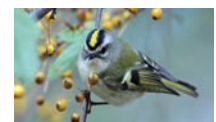
During the winter months, all birds, not just kinglets, need shallow drinking sources, nutritious seed blends served in a dry feeder, fat such as suet, and mealworms.

May you enjoy a nature surprise in your yard this winter and a cozy spot with a good nature book to read amidst the warmth of family and friends.



Clare Green, author and educator from Warwick, welcomes folks to visit her Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy cottage.

claregreenbooks.com



in nineteenth century, Dr. Mary Walker of Greenwich favored dress reforms

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they did not divorce until ten years later. When Amelia Bloomer purveyed a skirt over pants that became popular in the 1850s, Walker permanently adopted the form of dress.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Walker volunteered in hospitals in Washington, DC, and at field hospitals in Virginia. Appointed an assistant army surgeon in 1863, she was captured by the Confederates in 1864. After her release, she resumed her position until the war's end in 1865. She was awarded the Medal of Honor for her services during the war.

Walker wrote articles, a book called *Hit: an essay on women's rights*, and lectured around the country in favor of dress reform and woman's suffrage. Her eccentric

appearance and behavior turned off many of her fellow suffragists, though noted suffragist Susan B. Anthony respected her.

Dr. Walker made her first recorded visit to Greenwich in 1878. She stayed with friends and relatives for a few weeks while lecturing at spiritualist camp meetings at Lake Pleasant in Montague. A week after her arrival in Greenwich, she spoke at a temperance picnic at Bailey's Grove in Greenwich. Reports say she made a "characteristic and vigorous effort" in her address there.

She gave a second address, "Have Christian Women All of Their Rights?" Reportedly, it gave "staid old Greenwich" a "sensation." Many members of the "attentive and respectful" audience reportedly were "cheering" during it and said favorable things about it, with none of it quoted in the press account.

Dr. Walker inherited the family farm in Oswego in 1890 and spent most of the rest of her life there. In February 1895, she arrived in Greenwich to claim control of her late Aunt Mary's estate. She settled in the home of her surviving aunt, Vashti, and petitioned the court to be named her Aunt Vashti's guardian. Dr. Walker ordered Henry Woods, executor of her Aunt Mary Walker's estate, to "give up deeds, bonds, etc. belonging to the estate," which he refused to do.

When the hearing on the matter, postponed a month due to a technical error, was scheduled in Amherst that March, "a crowd was on hand to see the woman in men's attire." Henry Woods reported that Dr. Walker wouldn't drink local milk because "they" were putting arsenic in it to get rid of her. He reported that she told one man that "masked men were seeking to waylay her." Woods also accused her of trying to steal all of the best of her Aunt Mary's silver, among other household goods.

Woods and relative William H. Walker, noted Greenwich Village millowner, managed to keep Vashti's securities away from the doctor and got Vashti to stay with another relative. With probate of Aunt Mary Walker's will in April, the estate went to Vashti as the legatee. Dr. Walker lost her petition to be Vashti's guardian.

Undaunted by the setback, Dr. Walker filed a second petition seeking to get Lysander Thurston of Enfield named Vashti's guardian. Henry Woods and William H. Walker countered with a petition to have William



In a drawing from her book *Hit: an essay on women's rights*, Dr. Mary Walker wears a skirt over pants in a style purveyed by Amelia Bloomer that became popular in the 1850s.

image courtesy of J. R. Greene

and women's rights

Walker named Vashti's guardian. At the hearing on that petition in May, Dr. Walker alleged a "conspiracy" to turn Vashti's property over to the Greenwich Congregational Church. She shook her finger at Henry Woods and "made some remarks concerning her opinion of his veracity."

Her lawyer S. S. Taft became impatient with her, much to the amusement of the audience, according to accounts of the hearing.

On May 18, the court denied Dr. Walker's petition. She did not take it well and complained to newspapermen that her aunt was being "hypnotized" by Henry Woods. She tried another petition in September to have her Aunt Mary's will tossed out and a new guardian appointed for her Aunt Vashti. During the hearing, she cross-questioned the judge when he would not allow her to submit some papers as evidence. He dismissed her case, and Dr. Walker returned to her home in New York.

A couple of months later, Vashti Walker died, and Dr. Walker returned to Greenwich in time for the funeral. She petitioned to be named executor of the estate and won the title in spite of objections from other relatives. She had to split the estate with a dozen other family members and see much of it go to the Greenwich Congregational Church.

Over the next two years, Dr. Walker lost two more petitions to have Vashti's will changed, including a hearing before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The government revoked Dr. Walker's Medal of Honor in 1917, but she refused to return it. The award was restored to her posthumously in 1977, five years before she was honored on a commemorative postage stamp.

J. R. Greene has authored twenty-three books on history, including sixteen relating to the Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed by it. He adapted much of the preceding column from a chapter in his 1993 book, *Strange Tales From Old Quabbin*.

submit letters to the editor

to

marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com



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Medal of Honor designees

continued from page 12

executing the turn beside Captain Mills. His horse continued the charge while the rest of the company dismounted and took defensive positions.

Snow's horse charged toward the Sioux warriors who continued to fire at him. No one knows whether the horse turned because of the noise and smoke from hostile fire or whether Snow could use his legs to maneuver his mount back to safety.

Reporters on the field documented the battle. The story of a lone cavalryman charging an enemy position soon found its way to newspapers all over the country. And that is exactly what it looked like from a distance. And his bravery remains unquestioned, because most of the time he rode unarmed with the bugle in one hand and the reins in the other.

Of the forty million who have served in United States armed forces, only 3,517 have merited the Medal of Honor, awarded by the president in the name of Congress.

A resident of Greenwich and, one of the drowned towns under Quabbin, Mary Edwards Walker attempted to join the Union Army as a medical doctor at the beginning of the Civil War. Although a longtime practicing physician in private practice, she was denied because she was a woman. She found employment as a surgeon at a temporary hospital in Washington and with the army as a contract surgeon.

Dr. Walker cared for the wounded in hospitals and worked under fire during the battles of Bull Run, Chickamauga, and Atlanta. After



Dr. Mary Walker wears her Medal of Honor.

photo courtesy of
National Institutes of Health

the war, Congress conferred the Medal of Honor to her for treating the wounded on the battlefield and crossing into enemy territory to help wounded civilians. Once behind enemy lines, she was arrested as a spy but later released in a prisoner exchange.

Criteria for awarding the medal have changed over the years. When first authorized during the Civil War, it represented the only award for bravery a soldier or sailor could receive with more than a thousand bestowed for various individual acts during the Civil War.

Retired United States Air Force Colonel Ed Parks lifts off from a farm near Charlottesville, Virginia. After his years of military service, he engaged in a second career as dean of the school of business and as professor of graduate masters of business administration at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. He and his wife, Sylvia Farnum Parks, grew up in Athol.

photo © by Mandy Baskin

Occasionally entire units received the medals. For example, 864 medals went to the 27th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment in 1863 as an incentive to reenlist. Their mission involved protecting Washington, DC, when the Confederate Army had crossed into Pennsylvania. The government later rescinded the medals. Twenty-five soldiers serving as President Lincoln's funeral guards received medals eventually rescinded.

The first recipients, Andrews Raiders, executed a daring mission behind Confederate lines to steal a train and then escaped north while destroying enemy supply lines along the way. Civilian James J. Andrews led the mission and, because a civilian, he did not qualify for the award.

In 1916, a board of generals tasked with reviewing medals awarded to that date rescinded those that did not meet stricter criteria. The last change occurred in 1963, with the medal now awarded only for military action against an enemy of the United States.

Review continues. A bill introduced in 2019 would rescind the twenty Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers of the Seventh Cavalry that massacred 250 men, women, and children of the Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1890.



musical Daugherty family prizes life among caring neighbors

continued from page 17

idea in 1999 by Thurston's widower, William, is a place for cancer patients to find solace in nature beyond the stressful medical environment.



Alice Daugherty and her husband, Scott, regularly perform with the Massachusetts Symphony. They hug their son Owen in a photo by Kirsten Spencer of Orange..

Daugherty attributes her recovery to the balance the garden gave her between the western medicine treatments she received at the Dana-Farber Center Institute in Boston and the eastern medical traditions of her Taiwanese family. Daugherty overcame breast cancer and later gave birth to a son, Owen, who attends the Village School in Royalston.

Daugherty has performed with orchestras worldwide. She feels right at home in South Royalston.

"Our neighbors are fantastic. Whether we met new neighbors due to our broken down car and they offered to help in any way, even driving our son to school or our next-door neighbor who helps with our childcare or our now passed neighbor across the street who always helped with my gardening, we are so blessed!"

Daugherty is quick to join any orchestra or musical group that comes to her attention. She attributes her success to self control and discipline.

"These are the keys to success in any field, especially music and art. Opportunity is always ready when you are prepared," Daugherty said. "Now I play regularly with the Massachusetts Symphony with my lovely husband."

Links to Alice Daugherty include Tenuto Studios, tenutostudios.com. or facebook.com/jungyialice.daugherty

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

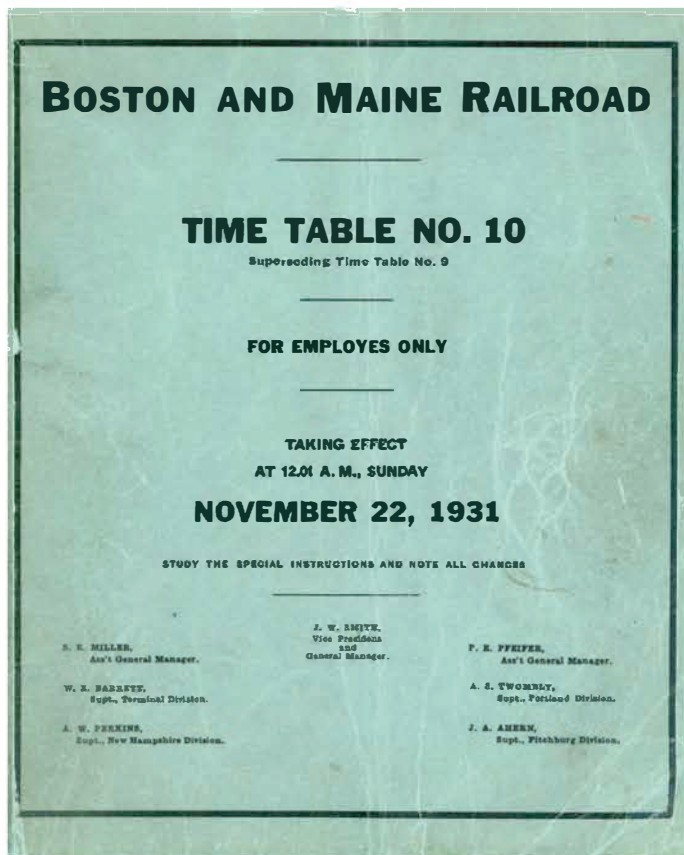


A Quabbin region bobcat makes its way up a backyard trail.

photo © by Rick Flematti

railroad enthusiasts search for collectibles of many kinds

continued from page 23



Public timetables often contain generalized maps showing a railroad's lines.

Paper maps, particularly in an earlier year when more of the public depended on train service and before computers and cellphones, showed rail lines. United States Geological Survey topographic maps prove useful in locating current and former railroads along with access to them. Some rail lines, particularly trolley lines, often got built and became abandoned between editions of topographic maps. Also, many area trolley and streetcar lines ran along existing roadways and did not have their own roadbeds.

Depending on one's interests, one may find other railroad ephemera, including passenger tickets, freight waybills, train orders, and conductor's buttons. To browsers through a local antique shop or flea market, other railroad ephemera may come to light, including items they may never even have thought of.

Model trains provide another way of expressing one's interest in Quabbin area railroads. Many model railroaders in the area include some with model pikes based on railroads of the region with appropriately painted and lettered trains to run on them.

Collectors look for old railroad timetables. interest in instructions included for particular rail lines and industries and towns they serve.

Since their inception, railroads have used lanterns both for illumination and passing signals. In the old days, lanterns gave light from a wick lighted above a little well filled with kerosene or lamp oil. The wick burned to provide light. Today's lanterns run on batteries, and with the advent of radio on railroads, lanterns rarely serve for communication. Collectors often find and display railroad lanterns from days gone by.

Older kerosene lanterns often had a railroad's initials or full name spelled out on either the lantern or the glass globe or both. Some lanterns used for signaling contained colored glass. Collectors highly seek them out, and they demand higher prices.

A few pieces of dishware depict area railroad scenes and trains on those lines. On a side note, mainline railroads through the area once had dining cars on some more important passenger trains. Dining car dinnerware is highly collectable and often commands high prices.

Collectors find maps of railroads through the region. The railroads themselves had some printed years ago.

ARTICLES	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES	EXPENSES
2 Pile Mates	790		2.45	
			TOTAL \$	2.75

ARTICLES	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES	EXPENSES
1 B&M	420		1.41	
			TOTAL \$	1.41

Railroad buffs collect old receipts like two above issued at Wendell Depot.

Quite a few books discuss or mention local railroads. Area book shops and public libraries have many such titles on hand for those wishing to learn further about railroads of the Quabbin region.

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



Among Hardwick commercial establishments in times past: Healey Brothers Store, top, in the Old Furnace part of town, and Union House, formerly on the site of Cumberland Farms.

photos courtesy of Hardwick Historical Society

Hardwick agriculture, industry well known

continued from page 25

the 1880s and 1890s. San Nap Pak Company, a world leader in tissue production, acquired the mill in the 1930s.

Construction of two railroads along Ware River in the late nineteenth century provided crucial connections to markets for factories and farmers. Ware River Railroad, subsequently Boston and Albany Railroad's Winchendon Branch, opened in 1870. The Massachusetts Central Railroad, acquired by Boston and Maine Railroad in 1887, linked Hardwick to Boston and the Connecticut River Valley. Planners originally designed a section through western Hardwick that was never completed because of economic and engineering complications. Eastbound service ended after floods in 1936 and 1938 washed out portions of the line, but the section from Wheelwright to Northampton remained in active use until 1973.

Gilbertville Covered Bridge, built in 1887, stands as the Quabbin region's only historic covered bridge.

A trolley line from Gilbertville to Ware, frequently used by mill workers, operated from 1901 to 1918.

For construction of Quabbin Reservoir and Quabbin Aqueduct, the Massachusetts Metropolitan District Commission, predecessor to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection, took over seventy-seven properties in Hardwick, including the Southworth Mills village on Swift River East Branch and several valley farms.

Hardwick's town center remained largely unchanged due to location away from rivers and railroads. Notable buildings, mostly built during the 1830s and 1840s, include the 1837 town hall, churches, an 1834 brick schoolhouse that houses Hardwick Historical Society, Greek Revival homes, and Paige Library, which opened in 1906. Hardwick Fair, originally established in 1762 as a farmer's market, took place for the 261st time in 2023.

Hardwick Historical Society Museum, located at 40 Common Street, is open on Sundays in summer and during town events. See the Facebook page for details.

Uniquely Quabbin thanks Ann Barnes and Hardwick Historical Society for assistance with photographs.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.



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postmaster-to-be chauffeured candidate Franklin Roosevelt around region

continued from page 21

historian Dick Chaisson gave me two newspaper clippings from the *Athol Transcript*, October 26, 1932, and *Orange Enterprise and Journal*, November 3, 1932. The clippings detail the campaign trail of then New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt as he traveled across Massachusetts by train, stopping sometimes to speak. I learned of Mucka's activity in town politics and that, as chair of the local Democratic Town Committee, he met Governor Roosevelt in 1932 during the candidate's journey across the state..

Athol Transcript reports that Governor Roosevelt passed through Athol and Orange, where "probably close to three thousand people in each town" waited to see him.

"The chill of Saturday afternoon proved no barrier to 2000 or more people waiting in Central Square," says the November 3 weekly *Orange Enterprise and Journal*. The article states that local and area residents waited a long while to see the governor, who did not speak "owing to the condition of his voice" but passed through and greeted individuals in the crowd, who offered three cheers "given lustily."

"He was met at Wendell Depot by John Roche, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee" and others who drove him through Central Square in Orange and on to the Athol town line, where he passed on to the Athol committee."

With my grandfather appointed postmaster in 1933, President Roosevelt, elected in 1932, likely remembered his chauffeur as he passed through "a rock-ribbed Republican community" where he received a warm welcome during his campaign.

My grandfather enjoyed his job. I have found clippings showing regional postmasters with new airmail from Orange Airport and crediting him with more



A postcard early twentieth century view, top, from the belfry of Central Congregational Church on South Main Street, Orange, shows the vacant lot at left where Orange Post Office, bottom, has stood since 1938.

views courtesy of Janice Lanou

business use of mails. Reports mention increased stamp sales, special projects, and awards given to the Orange Post Office.

My grandfather served as postmaster in a simpler time. Mail carriers knew and loved their community. I remember several times receiving mail addressed simply to "Maureen Roche, Orange, Mass." It didn't get returned to sender for lack of address information, and the stamp probably cost less than a dime.

Maureen Roche Riendeau's family arrived in the Orange area in late 1800s. She has always lived in Orange, working at Mahar Regional School and co-owning the Village Grille in the nineties. She is active in the community and in area community bands.

authors pursue respective missions with recent books

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"My publisher helped me to realize that the book I thought was about dogs was more about my healing. So what was initially the ramblings of a mother trying to cope with a rather traumatic event became the memoir *You Cannot Cage the Wolf*."

Crosson hoped the book would give comfort to families who had lost veterans to suicide and those who lived with PTSD.

"That certainly has been the case. But I have talked with parents who've lost children in various tragedies, and they've told me that the book has helped them to heal and find hope in the future."

Crosson's books are available at online booksellers and at local stores. For more information on Crosson and NEADS, visit Cynthiacrossonauthor.com.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston..

variety characterizes New Salem culture and landscapes

continued from page 27

New Salem and surrounding towns. 1794 Meetinghouse Inc., a non-profit organization, presently uses the building for performing arts.

New Salem Academy, a renowned educational institution, opened at the center in 1795 and served the town. The academy added agricultural, automotive, and vocational courses during the twentieth century. Competition from other regional schools led to closure of the academy in 1968. Former campus

buildings now house town offices and a fire station. The town owns the so-called Old Academy Building, built in 1837. It served as a public library and natural history museum. The town now leases it to the New Salem Academy nonprofit for use as a museum.

North New Salem village on Swift River Middle Branch hosted a variety of businesses and industries during the nineteenth century, including saw, grist, and fulling mills, a matchbox factory, gun shop, and tavern. Inundated during construction of Quabbin, the village of Millington had a hotel, community hall, general store, post office, school, mills, and a creamery. Smaller settlements formed at Cooleyville, Hagerville, South New Salem, Quimby, and Morse Village.

Other industries included making palm leaf hats, a significant home business during the 1830s. Lumber production increased in the mid nineteenth century when the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad opened along Millers River. Climax Electric Works produced gasoline engines and automobile and bicycle parts in the early 1900s.

Rocky soils and rugged topography prompted early subsistence farmers to focus on livestock. New Salem led Franklin County in cheese production in 1880. Millington Creamery, established in 1895, shipped butter to markets across Massachusetts. Crowl Fern



Sun rises on a season's first snowfall across from New Salem's Quabbin Overlook.

photo © by John Burk

Company supplied ferns, mountain laurel, and other décor for two presidential inaugurations and customers throughout North America.

The Athol and Enfield Railroad, known as Rabbit Run, provided passenger, freight, and mail service to a depot in Hagerville village. Businesses at Hager's Crossing and Millington benefited from the line, which operated from 1871 to 1935. A portion of the former railroad bed now serves as a scenic trail and administrative road at Quabbin Reservoir Gate 35.

New Salem's landscape and character changed significantly when the Metropolitan District Commission, predecessor to the state Department of Recreation and Conservation, acquired roughly one-third of the town's land, including Millington and most of Cooleyville, during construction of Quabbin Reservoir. Approximately fifteen square miles of discontinued towns of Prescott, Enfield, and Greenwich annexed to New Salem.

Swift River Valley Historical Society, located at 40 Elm Street in an old home and a former church relocated from the lost town of Prescott, preserves history of the lost Quabbin Reservoir communities. Find more information at swiftrivermuseum.org

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

ELIZABETH CALLAHAN

Solstice

oil painting on wood panel by Elizabeth Callahan



***Solstice* • oil painting on wood panel by Elizabeth Callahan**

Art encourages us to find the beauty in everything, including the early setting sun that ushers in the short and cold days of winter. Everyone does not prefer shorter days during winter when the sun perches along the earth's equator before climbing for three months to twenty-three and a half degrees latitude to the spring equinox. Short days delight between three and four-thirty in the afternoon when the sun begins its early decent and shadows become long and warm. Crisp air invigorates, and from an artist's perspective, it has a most beautiful atmosphere.

The color of shadows ranges after a late afternoon snowfall from blue to purple to pink and all hues in between. The further away a shadow gets from its subject, the warmer it becomes. Sunsets any time of year are a wonder to behold, drawing viewers to them and the solitude they provide. Each sunset manifests differently even when viewed from the exact same place at the same time each day. Sunsets allure with their mystery as viewers ask themselves, "Will this one be even more spectacular than the last?" I probably have a thousand photos of sunsets, each one meant for a painting.

Solstice, the painting on a wood panel, marked a first for me. To maintain the grain of the wood, I thinned the oils to an almost liquid state with turpentine for everything in the distance and allowed thicker paint as I moved into the foreground.

Pioneer Home Staging Realtor Elizabeth Callahan creates art using pastels, oil paint, pen and ink, and watercolor.

She lives in Rutland.

cold weather creates special woodsy opportunities

continued from page 7



Only in winter would hikers find a patterned, icy puddle. wild beasts that live here. Children may enjoy references including *Tracks: an animal tracking book* by Ann Schaefer, John Schaefer, Ryan Schaefer, and Tina Howell; *Tracks, Scat, and Signs (a takealong guide)* by Leslie Dendy, and a website with tracking details, outdooraction.princeton.edu/nature/guide-animal-tracking.

Backtracking provides the best way to unweave behaviors that tracks disclose. Backtracking does not disturb the rabbit or deer that marked its way in the snow.

Some folks seek to celebrate the change of light by hiking to an overlook and watch sunrise. The first of January and the June solstice mark traditional days to take such hikes. Then, hikers easily see how the point of sunrise shifts through the seasons, giving more daylight as June arrives.

On hikes in February, chickadees note lengthening days and start singing their “Fee-bee, fee-bee,” love songs. Then March rolls around, and red maple trees bloom to pink up the canopy across the hillsides. Along with red maples and skunk cabbage, beaked hazelnut shows as one of the first flowers of spring. In April, trees respond to longer days. They leaf out, giving the canopy a blush of pale green. Thus, the cycle of seasons continues.

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



SEASONAL IMAGES

Photos and Prints by Photographic Artist

David Brothers

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Around 2008, Ron Cloutier points out animal tracks to Jared, his grandson with the author.

wild animals leave evidence of where they've been

continued from page 9



A deer run in deep snow leaves little doubt about the animal's route through a wooded area.

to sheltered locations such as valleys and lowland forests. Groups of deer often congregate in hemlock or pine woods where evergreen cover reduces snow depth and provides insulation from cold temperatures. Corridors of packed snow, or runs, enable deer to conserve energy, access food, and escape predators.

Named for wide hind feet that facilitate movement in deep snow, snowshoe hares favor wooded



Monickered by their wide hind feet, snowshoe hares favor brushy cover.

habitats with brushy cover, such as young forests, bogs, shrub swamps, and timber harvests. Signs include beaten paths near thickets, small ball-shaped droppings, and nibbled twigs near ground level. Snowshoe hare fur changes from brown to white in autumn to provide camouflage in snow.

Owls and hawks often leave wing or body imprints when attacking prey on the ground. Small mammal trails that abruptly end at imprints indicate successful kill sites. Wild turkey flocks leave dense clusters of tracks in forests



When attacking prey on the ground, owls and hawks leave wing or body imprints. and fields. Webbed footprints indicate ducks, geese, and other waterfowl around wetlands.

Prime locations for tracking animals include Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River Reservation, and state wildlife management areas. Backyards and neighborhoods often have sign of squirrels, rabbits, mice, foxes, and turkeys—a great way to introduce children to tracking.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

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Ladd's Restaurant in Rutland operated by Toomey family

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The Toomey family operates Ladd's Restaurant at 64 Barre-Paxton Road, Route 122, Rutland.

Under tutelage of the owners, Paula's son Billy learned everything about running a restaurant with a particular passion for the culinary. So in 2000, it was easy for Dubeau and Wigglesworth to decide who would take over next when it came time for them to sell. Billy and his family happily stepped up.

Most of Toomey's staff have roots in North Brookfield or Rutland, where Toomey grew up.

"Billy and I used to ride the same school bus in grade school," Gillette said. "Ladd's is a family owned and operated business, and many staff have become part of that family over time."

Ladd's offers a wide range of menu options.



Owner Billy Toomey sets up a food display in Ladd's Restaurant, Rutland.

"We have something for everyone," Gillette said. "We are famous for our prime rib, baked stuffed haddock, baked stuffed mushrooms, and our brick oven pizza. Our seafood is fresh every day."

Toomey's sons Alex and Conner are not only an essential part of the business but also gave their father an excellent idea for a new food option.

"One night, the boys pointed out to their father that they couldn't get pizza anywhere in town," Gillette explained. "Toomey saw an opportunity. He installed a brick oven, and the pizza business is booming."

Toomey is proud of his long history with the Devereux School in Barre. He has sponsored an annual golf tournament every summer for the past twenty-three years, with the proceeds going to pay for Christmas gifts for the children from the Devereux school.

"Toomey hosts the children for a holiday Christmas turkey dinner," said Gillette. "A magician performs, then Santa visits and hands out gifts. Seeing the joy in the children's faces makes us all feel good."

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm to 9 pm, Fridays from 2 pm to 9:30 pm, Saturdays from 11:30 am to 9:30 pm, and Sundays from 11:30 am to 9 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Online ordering and pick-up are available at laddsrestaurant.net

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

creating an art habit encourages relaxation and satisfaction

continued from page 47



Intuition

painting in acrylics on canvas by Amber Robidoux

should not wait for inspiration. Putting an art habit on autopilot means that it doesn't matter the quality of the outcome. Consistent endeavor matters.

Those wishing to embark on an art habit will vow to continue for at least thirty days. It is wise to tell a friend or spouse or post the fresh development online. Announcing this commitment offers accountability to follow through.

Twenty-four hours in a day hardly ever feel like enough time to get everything done. Why would anyone add another task into the mix? Perhaps, one might answer, because creating is important for a variety of reasons.

Consider linking that art habit to other habits already in place. For example, one might say "After I get dressed in the morning, I pour a cup of tea . . ." One could add, ". . . and I write one page in my journal." Or, "After I brush my teeth at night, I meditate for five minutes . . ." then add, ". . . and do a watercolor wash in my sketchbook so it can dry overnight."

Art doesn't have to be all or nothing. Mainly, fulfilling the intention can lead to result, accomplishment and happiness.

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.

region's boys varsity basketball schedules

games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

schedules compiled by Carla Charter

Amherst-Pelham High School

Home

January 26 • Chicopee High School

February 2 • Springfield International Charter School

February 13 • Minnechaug Regional High School

Away

January 30 • Pope Francis Preparatory School

February 5 • Putnam Voc/Tech High School

February 9 • Taconic High School

Athol High School

Home

January 26 • Hampden Charter School of Science-East

February 9 • Smith Academy

Away

January 23 • Franklin County Tech School

January 30 • Hampshire Regional High School

February 2 • Mahar Regional School

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

February 12 • Palmer High School

February 8 • Nipmuc Regional High School

Belchertown High School

Home

January 23 • South Hadley High School

February 2 • Tantasqua Regional Senior High School

February 5 • Agawam High School

Mahar Regional School

Home

January 26 • Pioneer Valley Regional School

February 2 • Athol High School

February 6 • Greenfield High School

Away

January 23 • Drury High School

January 30 • Lenox Memorial Middle & High School

Narragansett Regional High School

Home

January 23 • Bromfield School

January 25 • Gardner High School

February 2 • Tahanto Regional Middle/High School

February 19 • TBA

February 21 • TBA

Away

January 30 • Bartlett High School • 6:30 pm

February 6 • West Boylston Middle/High School

February 9 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School

North Brookfield Junior Senior High School

Home

February 1 • South Lancaster Academy

February 2 • Trivium School • 5:30 pm

February 5 • Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School

Away

January 24 • Trivium School • 5:30 pm

February 12 • Bromfield School

February 15 • Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School •

6 pm

Quabbin Regional High School

Home

January 23 • Clinton Public Schools

January 30 • Lunenburg Middle/High School

February 2 • Tyngsborough High School

February 6 • Gardner High School

February 13 • Belchertown High School

February 19 • TBA

February 21 • TBA

Away

January 26 • Maynard Public Schools

February 9 • Littleton High School

Quaboag Regional High School

Home

February 4 • Ware Junior/Senior High School • 5:30 pm

February 8 • David Prouty High School • 6:30 pm

February 12 • Southbridge Middle High School • 6:30 p.m.

February 14 • Math & Science Academy Charter • 6:30 p.m.

Away

January 25 • Bartlett High School • 6:30 pm

January 29 • Northbridge High School • 6:30 pm

February 6 • Away • Leicester High School • 6:30 pm

February 16 • Claremont Academy • 6:30 pm

Ware Junior/Senior High School

Home

January 23 • Home Renaissance School

February 2 • Hopkins Academy

February 6 • David Prouty High School

Away

January 26 • Hoosac Valley Middle/High School

February 4 • Quaboag Regional Middle/High School • 5:30 pm



region's girls varsity basketball schedules

games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

schedules compiled by Carla Charter

Amherst-Pelham Regional High School

Home

January 29 • Pope Francis Preparatory School

February 12 • Hampshire Regional High School

Away

January 22 • Waconah Regional High School

January 24 • Westfield High School

February 2 • Monson High School

February 5 • Taconic High School • 6 pm

February 8 • Hoosac Valley Middle/ High School

February 10 • New Britain High School • 6 pm

Athol High School

Home

January 22 • Franklin County Technical School

January 29 • Putnam Vocational/ Technical High School

February 8 • Pioneer Valley Regional School

Away

January 26 • Hopkins Academy • 7:30 pm

February 1 • Mohawk Trail Regional School

February 3 • Mahar Regional School • 2 pm

Belchertown High School

Home

January 25 • Monument Mountain Regional High School

January 30 • Frontier Regional School

February 12 • Chicopee Comprehensive High School

Away

January 22 • Drury High School

January 29 • South Hadley High School

February 13 • Quabbin Regional School • 5:30 pm

Mahar Regional School

Home

January 22 • Easthampton High School

January 29 • Palmer High School

February 3 • Athol High School • 2 pm

February 5 • Greenfield High School

Girls Varsity Away

January 25 • Frontier Regional School • 7:30 pm

Feb 8 • Hopkins Academy • 7:30 pm

Ware Junior Senior High School

Home

January 25 • East Hampton High School

February 1 • Franklin County Technical School

February 8 • Putnam Voc Tech High School

February 13 • Palmer High School

Narragansett Regional High School

Home

January 25 • Gardner High School • 5:30 pm

February 6 • West Boylston Middle/High School • 6:30 pm

February 9 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School • 6:30 pm

February 12 • Montachusett Regional Voc Tech School • 6:30 pm

February 20 • TBA February 22 • TBA

Away

January 23 • Bromfield School • 6:30 pm

January 30 • Bartlett High School • 5 pm

February 2 • Tahanto Regional Middle High School

North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School

Home

February 1 • South Lancaster Academy • 5:30 pm

February 2 • Trivium School • 4 pm

February 5 • Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School •

5:30 pm

Away

January 24 • Trivium School • 4 pm

February 5 • Blackstone-Millville Regional High School • 5 pm

February 12 • Bromfield School • 5 pm

February 8 • Quaboag Regional Middle High School

February 12 • Bartlett High School • 5:30 p.m.

February 14 • North High School • 5:30 pm

Quabbin Regional Middle/High School

Home

January 26 • Maynard Public Schools

February 9 • Littleton High School

February 13 • Belchertown High School • 5:30 pm

February 20 • TBA

February 22 • TBA

Away

January 23 • Clinton Public Schools

January 30 • Lunenburg Middle High School

February 1 • Tyngsborough High School • 6 pm

February 6 • Notre Dame Academy Worcester • 6 pm

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

January 17, Wednesday

Classic Movie Matinee
3:00 pm
Beals Memorial Library
50 Pleasant Street
Winchendon
bealslibrary.org

January 19, Friday

Wine and Charcuterie Pairing
Experience
6:00 pm
Hardwick Winery
3305 Greenwich Road
Hardwick
Sommelier-guided wine pairing
experience at Hardwick Winery
featuring common charcuterie
items such as meats, cheeses, nuts,
chocolate, and more.
hardwickwinery.com

January 20, Saturday

Dancing Dream: The Tribute to ABBA
7:00 pm
Center At Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
"You can dance, you can jive!"
Experience the glitter and glamour of
the 70s with the music of ABBA!
Thecenterateaglehill.org

January 21, Sunday

Photography Exhibit: Rutland Then
and Now
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Rutland Library
280 Main Street
Rutland
Rutlandlibrary.org

January 23, Tuesday

Get Your Brick On!
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
An evening of LEGO play for
grown-ups.
Registration required.
Athollibrary.org

February 10, Saturday

The Green Sisters
7:00 pm
Center At Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Bluegrass, barbershop, blues and a
healthy sprinkling of jovial sibling
banter!
thecenterateaglehill.org



LaunchSpace Makerspace
131 West Main Street, Suite 342
Orange, MA 01364

CREATIVE SECTOR PATHWAY PROGRAM

The LaunchSpace Creative Sector Pathway Program is a FREE full year hands on initiative created to empower and cultivate autonomy in youth aged 13-24. CSPP is designed to provide real-world creative skills training, workforce development and entrepreneurship training for career success.

We are currently accepting participants who are both in and out of school for our 2024 cohorts. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through March 31st.

For more information visit our website at launchspace-orange.com/creative-sector-pathway or contact Launchspace Program Director, Sid Nordstrom, at sid@launchspace-orange.com



Uniquely Quabbin listings

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February 11, Sunday

Free Mardi Gras Jazz Concert
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Worskshop 13
Church Street
Ware
workshop13.org

February 12, Monday

Lincoln Birthday Talk
7:00 pm
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland
Presented by former
Senator Steve Brewer
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

February 4, Sunday

Photography Exhibit: Rutland Then
and Now
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Rutland Library
280 Main Street
Rutland
rutlandlibrary.org

February 14, Wednesday

Valentine's Day Soirée
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Revival Wheeler Mansion
75 E Main Street
Orange
A night of music, magic, and
delectables from Jodi Black.
Revivalwheelermansion.com

February 18, Sunday

Photography Exhibit: Rutland Then
and Now
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Rutland Library
280 Main Street
Rutland
rutlandlibrary.org

February 27, Tuesday

Diamond Painting
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Athol Public Library conference room
568 Main Street
Athol
Diamond painting instructions with
everything required to get started on
the popular craft.
Registration required.
Athollibrary.org

March 9, Saturday

All Things Equal:
The Life and Trials of
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
7:00 pm
Center At Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Bring your humor, your hankies, and
your heart to this evening with the
"notorious" Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
thecenterateaglehill.org



March 10, Sunday

Hospital Day
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland
Displays of the VA Hospital, Rutland
Heights, Prison Camp Hospital,
and the state sanatorium. Former
employees of the institutions invited
to come and share their stories and
reunite with each other.
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

March 21, Thursday

Springtime Soirée
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Kim Larkin will present a one hour
workshop about easy entertaining
ideas with tips on how to set up a
buffet for a party during the spring
season, table scaping 101, as well
as cheese board basics, samplings
of mocktails, recipes, and of course
there will be chocolate.
Registration required.
Athollibrary.org

March 30, Saturday

OMG's Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Revival Wheeler Mansion
75 E Main Street
Orange
Revivalwheelermansion.com

Easter's Great Gathering
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Brunch with the Easter Bunny, baby
farm animals, children and adult egg
hunts, Easter vendor fair and a whole
lot more!
Redapplefarm.com

events compiled by Emily Boughton

Please submit listings for the next issue

before April 1, 2024

to

UQCalendar@gmail.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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April 2, Tuesday

Diamond Painting

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Diamond painting instructions with everything required to get started on the popular craft.

Registration required.

Athollibrary.org

April 4, Thursday

Pot Luck: Author Visit, Recipe Tasting, and Reading with Tinky Weisblat

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Tinky Weisblat, Diva of Deliciousness, will discuss her passion for life and cooking. Tinky will read from her latest book, *Pot Luck: Random Acts of Cooking*, and serve a tasting of some of her recipes as well as sing a song.

Registration required.

Athollibrary.org

April 5 and 6

Friday and Saturday, 7 pm

April 7, Sunday, 2 pm

Disney's *High School Musical*

One-Act Edition

Center At Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

EHS students bring the smash hit

Disney Channel movie to life on stage.

thecenterateaglehill.org

April 9, Tuesday

History at Play

7:00 pm

Rutland Library

280 Main Street

Rutland

With Judith Kalaora portraying

"Unsung Heroines of WWII." A display of WWII memorabilia will be showcased.

rutlandlibrary.org



April 13, Saturday

Athol Lions Club River Rat Race

1:00 pm

59th race features some two hundred canoes racing up Millers River from South Main Street Bridge.

Riverratrace.com

April 26, Friday

An Evening with Mason Currey

7:00 pm

Center At Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

The author of the *Daily Rituals* books, reads from them before a reception.

thecenterateaglehill.org

April 27, Saturday

The Wildcards

7:00 pm

Center At Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

A powerhouse duo straight from Nashville's music scene.

thecenterateaglehill.org

Daniel Shays stood as a leader for freedom and fairness

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imposed by merchants and the state government.

Imagine fighting for your country—prepared to give up your life—only to return home and find all that you fought for lost. Thousands of Massachusetts soldiers chose Daniel Shays to lead protests against the unfairness. At an action at Springfield Armory, state militia troops fired on the Regulators. A cannon load of grapeshot hit the protestors, killed four Regulators, and wounded many others.

Declared an enemy of the state with a bounty on his head, Shays fled first to Petersham, then further to Vermont. By 1788, Shays and other leaders of the Regulators

received pardons. Shays returned to Massachusetts from Vermont and eventually with other Regulators, received pay for his military service.

Every bit a Paul Revere, William Dawes, John Adams, or John Hancock, Shays remains as a marker on US Route 202. One of the true heroes of America, Daniel Shays lived neighborly in the Quabbin region. The Constitution of the United States of America honors the values of patriots like Daniel Shays.

"God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion," said Thomas Jefferson of the action led by Daniel Shays. George Washington said he had

never seen such an "innocent insurrection."

Daniel

by Brian J. Fournier

To stand where he stood,
perhaps on a long hill
paused for breath and vista
near his road to be
overlooking forest and lea,
three towns' worth—one
day sold to quench a city,
on his way to a bridge
with sword held fast in
a soldier's accord or
just a farming man
believing in the land.

Writer and artist Brian Fournier wrote the book *About My Cat*.