

CONTENTS

volume 10, number 1 • May-August 2025

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



Molly, Georgie, and Rosie hang out in Adirondack chairs while Lily takes it easy on the ground behind her Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, home.

photo by Debra Ellis

ON THE FRONT COVER

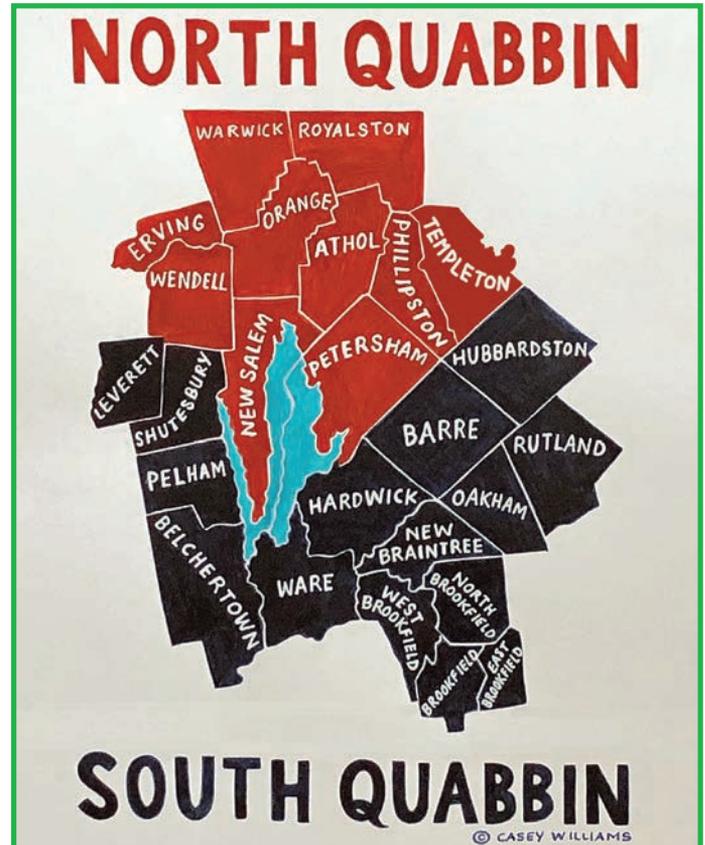
Four Kits

photo by Rick Flematti

FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN
BEGINNING ON PAGE 66

- Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts 4
- Triple Oak tree attracts international attention 6
- firefly viewing best from pre-selected spot 8
- saving Quabbin watershed's Keystone Bridge 10
- region's farmers markets. 12
- Barre's restored 1859 stagecoach 14
- families evicted to build Quabbin Reservoir 16
- some early landowners identified as "free other" 18
- women in construction 20
- Cathedral of the Pines. 22

continued on next page



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

CONTENTS

continued from previous page

Town of Leverett features variety	24
East Brookfield, youngest Massachusetts town	26
Erving's Freight House combines businesses	28
South Quabbin baseballers played in major leagues . . .	32
books feature Belchertown School, child musician	34
from the pens of <i>Uniquely Quabbin</i> poets.	38
"Farmer Boy Soldier"	41
Hardwick Crossing, Clamber Hill restaurants	44
homemade onion soup	46
avian flu reduced wild bird populations	50
<i>Uniquely Quabbin</i> listings	66

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, Erving, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2025. The generous support from these councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

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

Thank you to our readers who so generously support us with their donations. Not only are your donations appreciated, but your kind, thoughtful enthusiastic words of support fill us with pride and the desire to continue bringing you this wonderful magazine.

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

Finally! Spring has arrived, and we are heading into summer. Memories of the icy, cold, snowy winter are receding, and we can now think about warm, sunny days with an icy cold iced tea or coffee in our hands. I hope you will take the time to read this new issue of the magazine filled with great articles, beautiful pictures, and a calendar of events that will entice you to get out there and have some fun. So go settle into that comfy Adirondack chair, sit in the warm sun with a nice cold drink, and get reading!

Enjoy!

Debra Ellis

Athol Historical Society

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

O, ye dogs and little foxes!! What is *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine coming to? Well, thanks to dependable, resourceful, and dedicated writers, photographers, artists, advertisers, and some others behind the scenes, the current edition of the magazine counts as the twenty-eighth edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Who'da thunk it?

Ever inventive writers discover fresh topic after fresh topic of interest throughout our diverse and appealing region. Ever observant photographers share images from Quabbin area fields and streams, towns and countrysides. With varied media and approaches, ever creative artists bring insights into the singular territory where we live.

We always look forward to bringing a fresh issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. We hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher

Haley's

Uniquely Quabbin magazine



gratefully acknowledges the support of

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Uniquely Quabbin

May-August 2025 • Vol 10, #1 • ISSN 2472-081X

published at Athol, Massachusetts

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

Free

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Front cover photo by Rick Flematti.

Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright.

Uniquely Quabbin logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

Copy proofed by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri and Richard Bruno.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of Athol Historical Society • Haley's Publishing North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau

with an initial grant from

International Music and Arts Foundation.

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

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

winding roads direct our way into summer

by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

So many quiet moments signal a change of season as they encourage quiet thoughts—watching the sun come in a new window, daylight savings time, another month.

But for me these quiet moments signal—noise.

Sound-absorbing stark snow has melted, exposing ground. The yard fills with robins hoping for the rumblings of a worm. Brooks gurgle again. Other birds return and sing for a mate, lawn mowers start up, and I pretend to hear daffodils pushing up the soil.

Boats slip into ponds and rivers, oars catch the water, and rowers grunt as they gain momentum. The outdoors holds the smell of barbeque and noise of conversation, lengthening time with friends and nature.

So many small moments bring the sounds of spring and summer.

Hearing the drip, drip of sap draining from a tree as I walked the other day, I thought of the clank, clank of a hammer pounding metal into a desirable shape on an anvil. Clank, clank, drip, drip. Such repeated steady sounds-drop, drop-brought my mind to muse about other steady sounds of work, of creating.

In the days when horsepower was really horse power, blacksmithing would have been a familiar sound. Every town must have had a blacksmith. Horses needed to be shod, nails, knives, and swords made, and candle snuffers, hinges and plows created. The sounds of horses'

continued on page 54



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Painting in the Springtime

text and oil painting on linen by Gillian Haven



Clouds Above Farm

oil painting on linen

Spring is a time of shifting and movement as the landscape unfurls and opens again.

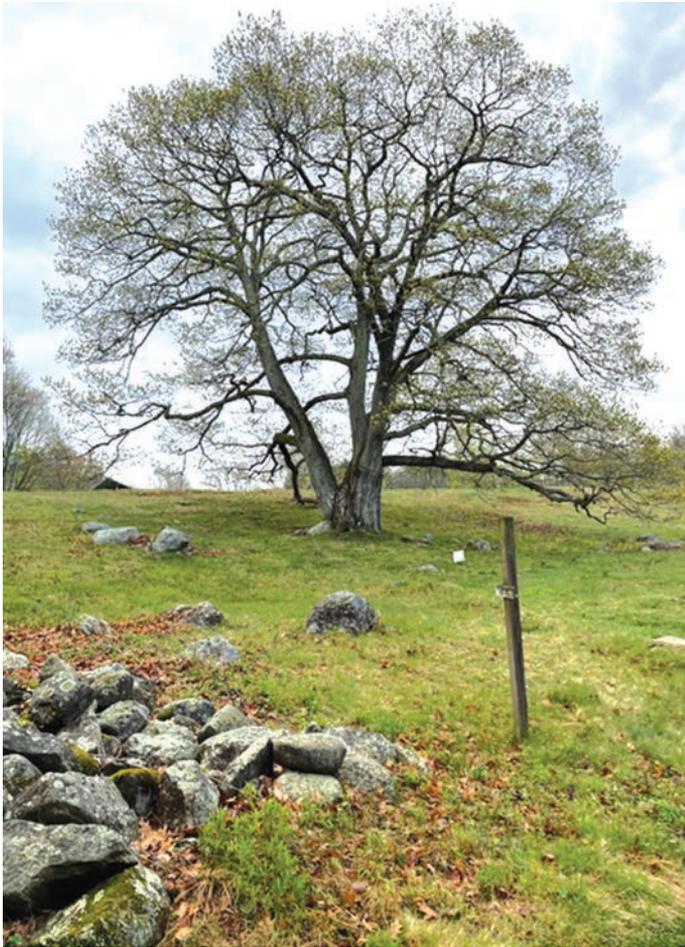
To go outside with painting materials to gather impressions offers a way to discover the unexpected amongst the familiar. In the painting *Clouds Above Farm*, water and sky echo each other with clouds underfoot and the sky as blue as water. Geese glide from between rushes and then vanish. Light brushes the edges of trees.

Painting allows me to participate in the process of change occurring before me. Each mark, line, light, dark, and color reflect an experience of noticing. To notice in that way is to pay homage to that place and moment. I am drawn to locations that speak of the rural setting and scenes that were my companion since childhood. Yet the chosen place is always becoming new. A location contains a whole world and represents possibility.

Artist Gillian Haven lives in Pelham.
gillianhaven.net

Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm Triple Oak

text and photos by Susie Feldman



Triple Oak, a massive old red oak tree, stands in a field at Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm in Athol near the border with Phillipston and Petersham.

The British Broadcasting Company, BBC, featured the tree in “The Atlantic Coast,” the first episode of its series *The Americas* streaming on Peacock. Hikers often visit the tree easily visible near a popular hiking trail. The tree’s Latin name, *Quercus Rubra*, constitutes one of few feminine tree names, but observers refer to Triple Oak because she stands as a true matriarch of the land.

Triple Oak probably first sprouted in the mid 1800s during active farming in a meadow probably used as a sheep grazing field. There the little oak grew, likely providing shade for animals. With no other trees around to restrict its growth or its access to sunshine, it eventually reached to its enormous size and breadth. With its trunk about twenty-four feet in circumference and a spread of approximately eighty-five feet, Triple Oak has distinguished herself as the largest measured red oak in Massachusetts, according to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Harvard Forest, which owns and operates a large research forest as closest neighbor to Cutthroat Brook, shared that BBC had contacted Harvard in search of a signature tree for an upcoming special. Other than size, videography requirements included its location where drones could fly in and out between the branches. Further, BBC sought a location with no signs of human habitation, including telephone poles, wires, roofs, and so on.

A famous feature of Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm trails, Triple Oak welcomes hikers, according to owners Ben and Susie Feldman, who welcome responsible trail explorers to the many labeled trails on some 350 acres accessible from Briggs Road West, Athol, near the convergence of boundaries of Athol, Phillipston, and Petersham.

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attracts international TV attention

Although Harvard Forest has plenty of impressive trees, it could not satisfy BBC needs. However, as many of their staff walk through Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm and know the enormous tree, they suggested considering the Triple Oak.

Over the years, Triple Oak has become a character in her own right, and many people get to know her as the queen of Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm, open to the public for walking. Children play beneath her, families picnic in her shade, study groups meet at her base, and she welcomes all of them. A reminder of the past and expressing hope for the future she stands sturdy and strong through all weather.

With photos of the land where the tree grows, BBC created a short list of possible New England trees, including Triple Oak, and dispatched a film crew to inspect possible sites and select an appropriate tree.

After visiting several locations in New England, they came to meet Triple Oak. Her great size and rural location plus her dramatic stretching branches placed her in the lead and she became their signature tree.

The educational point of using a single tree in the production, according to BBC explanations, would demonstrate how an individual tree prepares for, reacts to, and copes with the change of seasons as summer becomes fall and then winter. The processes trees employ to ensure their safety and endurance include withdrawing chlorophyll and dropping leaves to protect spring buds from predators and winter weather.

Filming began during high summer of 2022. A producer and two technicians arrived at Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm with cases of equipment, several drones

of various sizes, and a great deal of enthusiasm. The tree stood resplendent in her glorious green. The BBC crew spent several days getting video images of the tree in all lights of day and from every conceivable angle. The crew usually arrived just after sunup to get morning light and often didn't leave until darkness was descending.

In order to create a smooth visual transition and prepare for filming autumn foliage, videographers carefully selected several spots, focusing on a single

continued on page 48



A footbridge spanning Cutthroat Brook numbers among several built by North Quabbin Trails Association crossing streams and marshy areas along the trails open to responsible hikers.

deadline for submissions to
September *Uniquely Quabbin*:

July 15

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choosing viewing area in daylight



text and photos by Sue Cloutier



Firefly viewing areas should be away from streetlights and buildings with lights on outside.

Fireflies' nighttime light show often provides an amazing sight. In fact, some parks and refuges in Pennsylvania and the Smoky Mountains have such a well-known emergence of hundreds of those special beetles that the rangers have set up a reservation system to control crowd size. People may plan their visits to see that lightshow a year or more ahead of time.

The distribution of lightning beetles in a field or forest in the Quabbin region may not be in hundreds yet, but fireflies nevertheless put on a show worth seeing.

Lightshow observers should put some time into planning their firefly adventure. During the day, they can choose the site they will use at night. They may select a familiar dirt road less traveled and overlooking a field and woods with a wetland nearby.

The site should be away from streetlights and buildings with lights on outside. Any light interferes with the fireflies' mating signals—which is what the lights are all about. Those watching the show should find a safe pull-off for parking and choose a place to sit and observe near an open field, stream, or wetland. Sitting next to a tree or stone wall with wet leaves and moss on the ground nearby puts the observer in a habitat ideal for fireflies, *Photuris consanguineus* (Latin singular).

It is important for viewers to get permission from the landowner before setting up to observe. If a vantage point is on public property, observers should assure that night visits are allowed.

For the adventure, firefly seekers should choose a moonless night in late June or early July with high

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Sitting next to a tree or stone wall with wet leaves and moss on the ground nearby puts the observer in a habitat ideal for fireflies. humidity. A dusk drive-by on a good night can help ascertain potential activity of fireflies. Useful equipment includes chair or stool to sit on and a flashlight that glows red so as not to disturb vision while looking for fireflies. Once seated, a searcher should turn off the flashlight and sit for at least thirty minutes to let human eyes adjust to the dark.

At dusk there may be just a few fireflies flashing. More will take flight and add their message to the air over the field. Species-specific male firefly flashing patterns help females recognize their mates.

Displays may continue for an hour or more. A good site for fireflies may include glowworms flashing in nearby moss and leaves. The larvae of fireflies, dozens of glowworms can make the ground sparkle.

Not only glowworms or fireflies may brighten observation time. A deer may appear in the field or a bobcat hunting a mouse at a stone wall. Owls hoot, bats click, tree crickets produce high-pitched whines, raccoons squabble, a fox screams, or a pack of coyotes sings. Even if fireflies don't show, other observations make for a worthwhile nighttime adventure.

After exploring from a wild roadside in the Quabbin region, firefly seekers may check out a place closer to home where the ground is not lit at night. A dark corner in their neighborhood may provide a home or a hunting ground for wildlife. Again, observers may find a spot, get permission, bring a chair, and sit a while. They may be surprised and rewarded.

Some may become dark sky advocates. Turning off lights at night saves money and provides the dark that helps all living things.

Each chapter in *Night Magic* by Leigh Ann Henion provides more stories about night explorations. Therein are more reasons to explore the Quabbin region after dark and enjoy the night.

Dark nights turn out to be good for people and wildlife everywhere.



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



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QUABBIN CURRENTS: Saving Keystone Bridge in Quabbin Watershed

by J. R. Greene



Not far from Quabbin Reservoir Gate 30, Keystone Bridge requires repair, as shown at right of the arched bridge.

photo by Dale Monette

Four years ago, the board of Friends of Quabbin and the watershed management division of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation learned that the 1866 Keystone stone arch bridge inside Gate 30 in Quabbin watershed land in New Salem had started to collapse on one side.

The Friends appropriated fifteen thousand dollars to fund a study done by bridge engineer Michael Weitzner to determine how to stabilize the bridge in order to save it. In 2024, Weitzner estimated a cost of sixty thousand dollars for a qualified contractor to repair it.

With an ongoing fund-raising effort to augment their own funds, the Friends have committed to pay for the repairs.

The DCR Watershed Management Division at Quabbin

has blocked off the bridge to prevent pedestrian use but has no funds to repair it. An engineer with the division has approved the repair project and secured permit approvals.

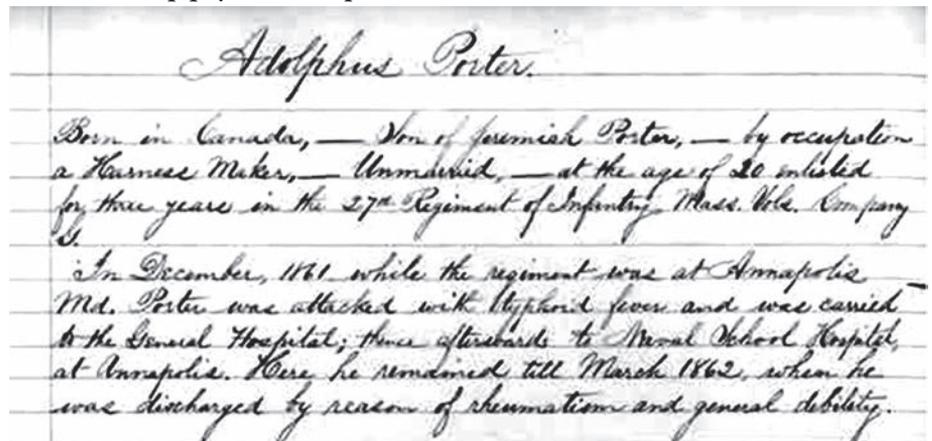
The Friends have sought contributions from public and private donors to help pay for the repair

work, with hopes of commencing during spring 2025. An associated project involves plans to build a wooden foot bridge for pedestrian viewing adjacent to the existing bridge. Appeals in the Friends' newsletter and local newspapers have raised almost a quarter of estimated cost of bridge repairs.

After completion of work, the Friends plan to place a sign listing major donors near the bridge. Paul Godfrey, 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002, is accepting contributions for bridge repair work.

Using local materials, Adolphus Porter of North New Salem built the bridge in 1866. Born in 1820 the fifth son of Asa and Eunice (Dimock) Porter, he worked as a mechanic and laborer. His first wife, Mary Clark, died before 1856 after bearing him three children. On May 19, 1856, he married Nancy Gay with whom he fathered three more children.

continued on page 61



A document in Chicopee Public Library recounts information about Adolphus Porter, 1866 builder of the Keystone Bridge. A veteran of the Civil War, Porter was discharged with illness in 1863.

document reproduction courtesy of Sue Cloutier

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summertime brings farmers markets

by Pat Larson and Amber Robidoux

Farmers markets appear throughout the landscape during summer months in the Quabbin Region.

With some two hundred farmers markets in Massachusetts, at least eight take place in the region's communities. The North Quabbin hosts weekly farmers markets from May to October in Orange, Petersham, and Phillipston with a monthly market from June to September in Templeton.

Host towns in the South Quabbin include Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, and West Brookfield.

Farmers markets provide places where people can not only buy local produce including vegetables and fruits but also meet local farmers. Most farmers markets are nonprofits that often work with local agricultural commissions but have their own by-laws and market masters who coordinate the market, recruit vendors and track market activities.

Vendors set up at Barre Farmers Market on Barre Town Common from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays from May through October. They sell granola, maple



Vendors at Orange Farmers Market include, from left, Tony Leger of Foothill Farm; John and Laura Moore of Maple Grove Farm; Lisa Miller of Walnut Kitchen Homestead; Mary Holter; Ricky Evangelista of Hancock Dairy; Peter Kretzger; Rachel Gonzales of Rachel's Everlasting; Jared Duval of Coolidge Hill Farm, and Rick Wilkey.

photo courtesy of Orange Farmers Market

syrup, baked goods, produce, bath and body supplies, and local crafts.

Longstanding Belchertown Farmers Market on Belchertown Common opens on June 8 and operates every Sunday until October 16 and has been going for many years. The Market accepts SNAP and HIP.

According to Brittni Robidoux, Belchertown market manager for four years, "the Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market is the place to be on Sundays. There are about twenty vendors that include local farmers and artisans. My twelve-year-old

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throughout the Quabbin region



Belchertown Artisans and Farmers Market will open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 8, and run through autumn on Belchertown Common.

photo courtesy of Belchertown Farmers Market

daughter works with me at the market and has for the last four years. I think it teaches her about working hard and is something we do together.”

Hardwick Farmers Market on Hardwick Common happens from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays from June 15, Father’s Day, through October with vendors offering handcrafted items, jewelry, custom art, honey, fruits, and veggies.

In Orange, the farmers market started in 1993 and will celebrate thirty-two years of operation this year. The market will move back to Butterfield Park on East River Street from the armory parking lot to allow more room for new vendors and access to park bathrooms. Paying for one porta potty at Orange Armory became too expensive for the market with the armory closed, according to

Rachel Gonzalez of Orange, market master. “Orange Farmers Market is always looking for new vendors. It would be great to have a farmer selling meat and perhaps dairy,” Gonzalez said.

A non-profit, Orange Farmers Market relies on fees from vendors and sponsors plus small grants to operate from May to October each year. Thirty-two years ago, John Moore from Maple Grove Farm and Rick Wilkey, both of Orange started the market with Orange Revitalization Partnership. Although Moore retired from the market, Wilkey still brings produce.

For 2025, the market has some ten vendors, among them Jared Duval’s Coolidge Hill Farm, Gonzalez’s Rachel’s Everlasting, Tony Leger’s Foothill Farm, Tom

continued on page 52

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Barre's anniversary parade last year



Belgian draft horses from Donnie and Faith Bisbee's Clay Hill Farm, Chesterfield, Massachusetts, drew the restored 1859 Abbott-Downing Concord Coach in Barre's 250th anniversary parade last year. Donnie Bisbee, left, and Chris Porrovecchio drive. Dan Stevens, president emeritus of Barre Historical Society, sits at back. photo courtesy of Clay Hill Farm



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featured restored 1859 Concord Coach

An 1859 Concord Coach, one of few remaining examples of such large and ornate stagecoaches, led the parade celebrating Barre's 250th anniversary last year. Grand Marshal Stephen M. Brewer, former state senator and representative, Barre selectman, and lifelong advocate for Barre, rode on the coach.

Four Belgian draft horses owned and managed by Donnie and Faith Bisbee/Clay Hill Farm of Chesterfield, Massachusetts drew the coach. The Bisbees and historical society directors met with experienced horse and driving experts before the event to examine the coach and discuss logistics.

Bisbee and Chris Porrovecchio drove the coach. Handlers experienced with the horses walked alongside the team, Belgian draft horses named Ryker, Mike, Leroy, and Pete. While human power previously rolled the coach out several times in past decades, horses moved it out last year for the first time since since the 1974 Barre bicentennial parade.

Barre Historical Society felt strongly that, rather than having people move the stagecoach in the anniversary

parade, a team of horses should pull it as occurred some 165 years ago.

A symbol of Barre's heritage, the Concord Coach represents Barre's leading position in the stagecoach transportation industry, closely related to the hospitality of taverns and hotels. Built in 1889, the Hotel Barre never served as an official stage stand, but stagecoaches sometimes discharged passengers at its doors. The riverboat-shaped hotel fostered a new economy in Barre.

In the 1990s, Barre Historical Society and Museum faced the question of what to do with the 1859 Abbot-Downing Coach, a national treasure and one of the biggest ever made with seating capacity of 12. At 15 feet long, 9 feet high, 6 feet wide, and 2,450 pounds, the coach had been stored in a series of barns for decades until the historical society museum found space to display it.

Coated with layers of varnish that blackened and obscured the original straw color and decorative painting, it required professional museum-quality conservation to restore the coach to its appearance in its heyday.

continued on page 64

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building Quabbin Reservoir meant

by Karen Traub

It's hard to imagine the grief and powerlessness people must feel as they pack up everything they can take, say goodbye to friends and neighbors, and leave their home forever.

When the Massachusetts legislature passed the Swift River Act in 1927 authorizing construction of a reservoir to provide water to Boston, it spelled doom for the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich,

and Prescott. The legislation also affected neighboring towns including Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, Ware, and Wendell as the law forced townspeople to leave their homes, giving up farms and land their families had cultivated for generations.

The law did not spare the dead with disinterment of more than seventy-five hundred bodies

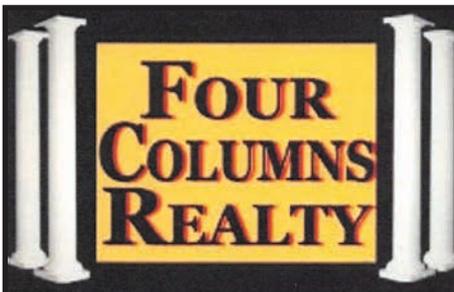
redistributed to cemeteries beyond boundaries of the future reservoir.

Pine Grove Cemetery was located about halfway between Atkinson Hollow and North Prescott Methodist Episcopal Church and established in 1880 by a society of members who purchased plots for five dollars apiece. Ellis White donated the land and made pickets for the fence. Daniel Pierce, Waldo Peirce, Fred Peirce, Edward Freeman, and others helped to make the picket fence and paint it. The society purchased stone posts from Joseph Stone for two shillings apiece.

The last of the four towns to do so, Prescott incorporated in 1822 and became first in 1928 to surrender its administration to the state. In 1933, Prescott was first to establish a historical society.

On May 23, 1942, the Prescott Historical Society received payment for Pine Grove Cemetery from the state Metropolitan District Water Commission. On July 9, the Prescott Historical Society purchased an acre of land in Orange to transfer bodies.

Workers spent two days taking down the fence around Pine Grove Cemetery and saved the fence with the plan in mind that it would eventually enclose the plot where a future museum would sit. Later, the



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Dana
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Prescott

families evicted forever from their homes

other three towns joined to form Swift River Valley Historical Society, located in New Salem and open to visitors during the summer months.

In the cool basement archive at Swift River Valley Historical Society on a steamy August morning last summer, I was looking through a box of photographs marked Prescott People Identified when I came across a photo that stood out from all the others.

In that black and white photo from the late 1800s, four people stand together looking relaxed and happy as sunlight—sparkling like diamonds as it does on a late summer afternoon—streams through leaves of a giant tree behind them. The two men have bushy long beards and mirthful eyes. A pleasant-faced woman with short hair looks into the camera with a hint of a warm smile that makes me think the photographer is one of her children or someone of whom she is very fond. A girl of about thirteen or fourteen stands nearby

with dark hair parted in the middle and a round, open face. She looks like the kind of girl who asks a lot of questions and is probably curious how the camera is able to capture an image and transfer it to paper.

Identified in the photograph are Daniel Pierce, 1829-1920; Ellen (Peirce) Pierce, 1838-1902; Lillie Pierce, 1873-1962; and Dr. Walter A. Clark, 1857-1930, the last

continued on page 49



photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society



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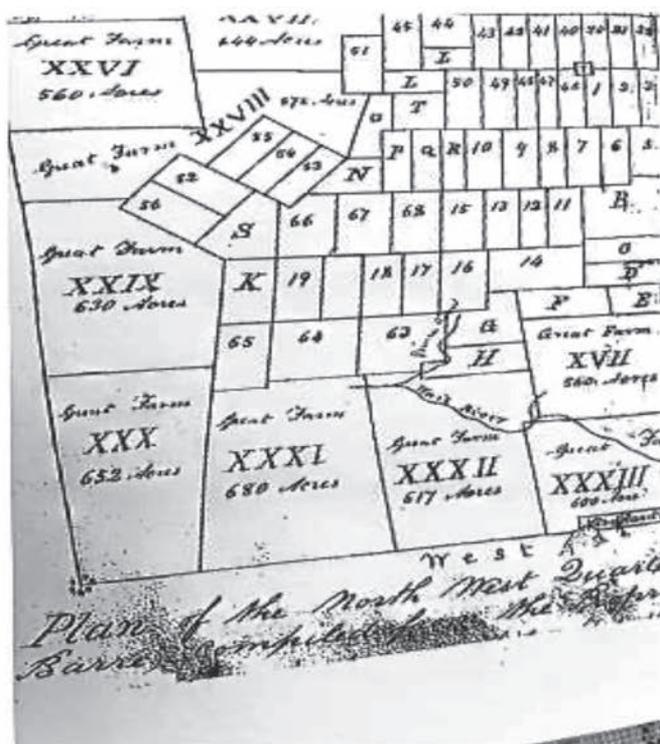
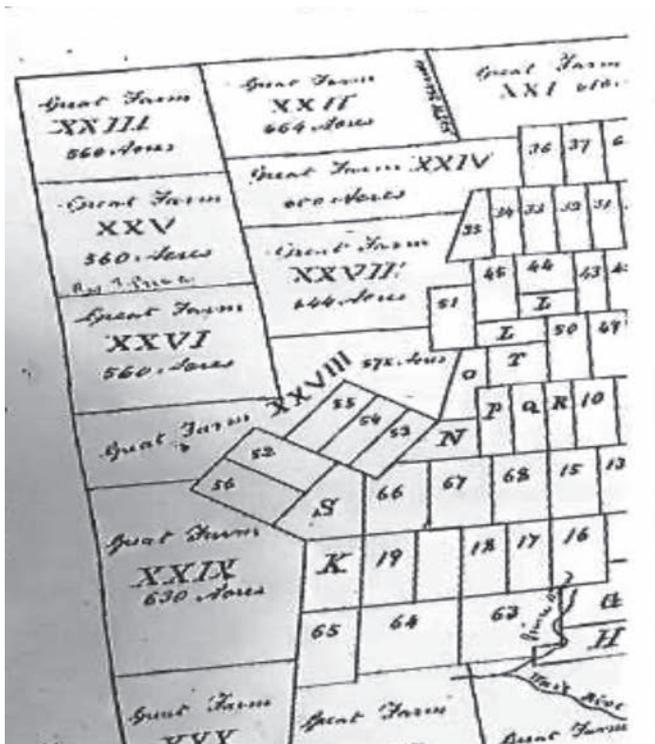
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Records show that in 1764, Cromwell Oliver of Weston bought part of Great Farm #XXVI from Nathaniel Jennison of the Rutland district of Hutchinson, later called Barre.

maps courtesy of Barre Historical Society



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old records identify some landowners as “free other”

by Charlotte Westhead

Old land records and deeds often describe buyers, called grantees, and sellers, called grantors, as Black, Negro, colored, Free Negro, or free other. Free other means one not enslaved and not Black and not White. The records assume anyone without color designation to be White.

Eighteenth-century records variously identify three men of the Oliver family—Cromwell Oliver, Simon Oliver, and Thomas Oliver—as Negro, free Negro, or Negro of Rutland District. Records also identify the three as grantors or grantees of Barre. Cromwell Oliver of Barre married Anna Nazro of Athol the day after Christmas in 1799. When Cromwell died in 1811, Anna managed the real estate that he owned.

Who was Cromwell Oliver? A Negro (according to the records), he had fought on behalf of colonists during the American Revolution and was a veteran, landowner, husband, father, and probably a member of an extended family.

Was Cromwell Oliver also an emancipated slave?

Records show that in 1764, eleven years before the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Cromwell Oliver of Weston bought part of Great Farm #XXVI from Nathaniel Jennison of the Rutland district of Hutchinson, later called Barre. In 1771, Barre tax records mention Cromwell Oliver and show that in

1772, he bought Great Farm XXVI from Solomon Jones of Rutland.

In 1774, records show that Cromwell, identified as a free Negro of Rutland District, bought sixty-five acres from Moses Gill of Boston for sixty-three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence. Still somewhat delineated by a series of stakes and stones, the land shows in records as abutting that of Azariah Bangs. Records show that after the independence from Great Britain, Cromwell bought and sold real estate through the 1790s.

Early in the War for Independence from Great Britain, authorities ordered all able-bodied men between sixteen and sixty to be ready to serve. Soon, in 1776, authorities modified the order to prohibit men described in the records as Black, Negro, mulatto, or Indian from serving.

From time to time and place to place, authorities variously enforced the prohibition of men of color from serving in the colonial armies. An exception allowed an enslaved man of color to serve in place of the White man who enslaved him. In that case, the wage, bounty, and other benefits usually went to the enslaver to compensate for loss of labor.

Online sources explain that

during the Revolutionary War, the First Rhode Island Regiment, also known as the Black Regiment, was formed, and it included

continued on page 49

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women have taken their place

by Brianna Skowrya



Megan Leone, equipment operator and welder, takes on a job near the Quabbin region.
photo courtesy of Megan Leone

A career in the construction industry can bring a myriad of enjoyment for men and women alike. Many people find working with their hands fulfilling and rewarding. Being able to see tangible results at the end of a workday brings incredible satisfaction.

Tangible results may include a fresh coat of paint that has breathed new life into a tired, old house or a smart thermostat that you can program to bring the temperature up on your way home from work on a cold winter day or a kitchen table made from a stately tree that died of blight that a friend cut down and milled up and built into a family heirloom. Many such tasks most of us would automatically assume were done by a knowledgeable and skilled craftsman, presumably a man.

In the 1930s at the time of construction of Quabbin Reservoir, society likely defined a woman's traditional role as homemaker or secretary or bookkeeper, but today a woman might work as supervisor, engineer, operator, or laborer. According to a Bureau of Labor Standards report, in 2023, 10.8% of construction workers in the United States were women. The number has remained largely unchanged since the early 2000s.

What are some of the drawbacks to being a woman in the construction industry? Conversations with women who have worked in the industry for upwards of twenty years tend to have the same themes. There is an underlying assumption that a man in the industry knows what he is doing, or at the very least can do it without help, whereas women in many cases need to prove their worth.

What are some benefits of a career in a construction-related field? Some women say that their favorite part of working in the industry is an ever-changing work environment. While some are stuck behind desks or in offices all day, a construction-related field will have you doing something completely different every day, enjoying fresh air and changing seasons. Some women say that they enjoy the self-sufficiency they have achieved through their careers, as well as the tangible life skills they have learned. The construction industry and trades are jobs that will always be around.

With the rising cost of living in a post-pandemic world, many have considered whether college is the right path. Many colleges cost upwards of forty thousand dollars per year to attend. According to Ziprecruiter, in

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in region's construction industries

Massachusetts, the average construction worker receives twenty-seven dollars an hour with higher salaries for heavy highway, construction management, and specialty trades. One can go right into a job without need for college and the debt that often accompanies it.

Rachel O'Dell from Barre says that younger women interested in going into a career in construction should just go for it! They are always looking for women in the union. The pay is great and if you're worried about the physical aspect, they won't make you do things that your physical strength can't handle. Just be honest about what you can and can't do. Be prepared when you first enter the industry that there will be plenty of men that don't think you're capable, but show up, do your job, show that you're willing to learn everything you can and work hard. Eventually you'll gain the respect you deserve and you'll become a part of a great community of brothers (and sisters).

Rachel has worked for her company for two and a half years and took a break to stay home with her youngest child but looks forward to going back to work.

continued on page 53



Rachel O'Dell of Barre sizes a culvert pipe.
photo courtesy of Rachel O'Dell

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Cathedral of the Pines holds special interest for residents

by Chris Coyle

Often visited by residents of the Quabbin region for its homage to American war dead, Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire, traces its history back to the fall of 1937 when Sibyl and Douglas Sloane III purchased 128 acres of land there. They hoped their four children would someday construct homes on the property. But the future held different plans for the acreage when the Hurricane of 1938 decimated the region.

The five-acre lot, where the Sloanes' son Sanderson—called Sandy—wanted to build his home, was changed radically. Tall pines and many other trees had toppled revealing a stunning view of majestic Monadnock Mountain. The changed landscape deeply moved the Sloanes.

Residents of nearby Quabbin region have long enjoyed visits to the Cathedral of the Pines. It held a special interest for one north Quabbin region veteran, the late Vincent "Bill" Purple of Petersham, a captain in the 8th Air Force, 379th Bomb Group during World War II. He flew 35 bombing missions from Kimbolton,

England, to Germany, often serving as squadron lead pilot. Sanderson Sloane was stationed at the same base. In 2024 at age 100, Bill served as a grand marshal at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC.

Myra Estelle Terry, born in Barre and raised on a farm in Brookfield, qualified as one of the first women to enlist in the US Navy in World War II. She served in the WAVE program, through which women replaced men at vacant naval stations when men joined fighting forces. She worked at the Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay in the territory of Hawaii for much of the war. Myra looked back on her three years of military service as the proudest time in her life. Her US Navy uniform and dog tags are on display in the Peter J. Booras Military History Museum at Cathedral of the Pines.

Sandy Sloane, joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. He perished when his plane was shot down over Germany in 1944 just before he was entitled to leave active duty. The Sloanes held a memorial service August 1945 at the clearing where Sandy planned



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of Quabbin region

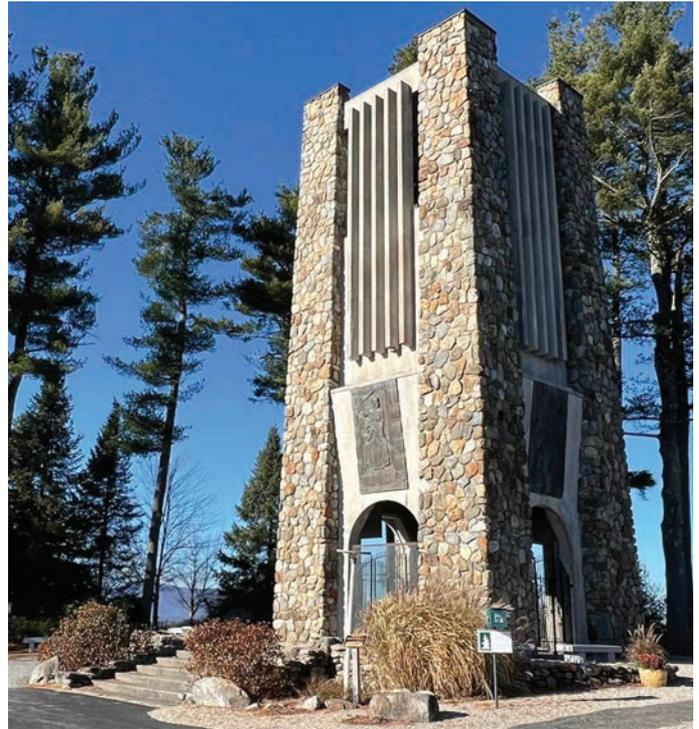
to build his house. The many people who attended the service gazed at beautiful Monadnock and other mountains in the distance in what became the beginning of the Cathedral of the Pines.

The Sloane family invited all faiths to worship at the outdoor shrine they established as Cathedral of the Pines, built to honor their son Sandy and all who served the nation.

Today, the picturesque non-denominational location remains open to all. Each year sees special services and events such as weddings in the open-air sanctuary. Memorial services take place in conjunction with burial of a loved one's remains at the cemetery in the shadow of the hills and mountains of southern New Hampshire.

The Altar of the Nation, built in 1946, contains stones from all fifty states as well as many historical sites. Each US president since Harry Truman has donated stones. Thought to be the first such monument dedicated to women's service and sacrifice, the fifty-five-foot Women's Bell Tower, dedicated in 1967, honors both civilian and military women.

continued on page 61



At Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire, the Women's Memorial Bell Tower honors women both civilian and military.
photo by Chris Coyle

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Leverett topography features dramatic Rattlesnake Gutter ravine.
photo courtesy of Leverett Historical Society



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Leverett features notable topography, industrial heritage, Buddhist shrines, and more

by John Burk

Situated in eastern Connecticut River Valley uplands, Leverett's 22.9-square-mile landscape consists of hills and ridges interspersed with lowlands such as Long Plain. Prominent eminences include 1,260-foot Brushy Mountain in the eastern part of town, 1,219-foot Morse Hill near the Shutesbury town line, and Diamond Match Ridge. Lower slopes of Mount Toby, highest peak of the Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts, extend along Leverett's western boundary.

A dramatic rocky ravine between Brushy Mountain and Jackson Hill, Rattlesnake Gutter formed at the end of the last Ice Age fourteen thousand to eighteen thousand years ago.

From headwaters at Lake Wyola in Shutesbury, Sawmill River flows northwest across northern Leverett to confluence with the Connecticut River. Other significant waterways include Roaring, Doolittle, and Long Plain brooks. An important resource for Native Americans and colonial settlers, Leverett Pond occupies a glacial depression near the town center.

East Leverett Meadow, Teawaddle Hill Farm, Gordon King Life Estate, and Woodard's Corner lie within a

large corridor of protected land that preserves diverse habitats in the watershed of Doolittle Brook.

Native American occupation of what is now Leverett began at least eight thousand years ago. Sites likely used seasonally by the Norwottuck that inhabited the Connecticut River Valley included lowlands of Sawmill River, Long Plain Brook, Leverett Pond, and Doolittle Brook. Travel corridors paralleled Long Plain and Sawmill River.

Leverett was originally part of Swampfield, a plantation established in 1673 that became the town of Sunderland. Colonial settlement began in the mid eighteenth century between Long Plain and the southern end of Leverett Pond, where a central village formed during the 1770s. Named for John Leverett, an early governor of Massachusetts who advocated against religious persecution and government by the British, Leverett incorporated in 1774.

Historic buildings of Leverett center include the 1845 town hall; the First Congregational Church erected

continued on page 56



East Leverett's landscape features the layered ledges of Honeymoon Falls.

photo courtesy of Leverett Historical Society

textile industry flourished in East Brookfield,

by John Burk



East Brookfield spreads along the Quaboag River watershed.
photo courtesy of East Brookfield Historical Commission/Heather Gablaski

The extensive Quaboag River watershed supported Native American settlements and numerous industries of East Brookfield. Later a center of the industries of Brookfield, East Brookfield incorporated as a separate town in 1920.

The youngest town in Massachusetts, East Brookfield was the last of six communities formed from the original township of Brookfield.

Glacial hills of the lower Worcester Monadnock Plateau and diverse wetlands comprise its 9.8-square-mile landscape. Elevations vary from approximately 600 feet near Allen Swamp to 962 feet at the summit of Wheelock Hill.

Numerous interconnected rivers, lakes, and ponds serve as headwater tributaries of Quaboag River.

Created in 1826 by an industrial dam on Five Mile River, Lake Lashaway extends along the boundary with North Brookfield. Outflow from Lake Lashaway forms the East Brookfield River, which empties into Quaboag Pond at the boundary with Brookfield. Seven Mile River meanders across the northeastern part of town to a confluence with East Brookfield River. Also known as South Pond, Quacumquasit Pond encompasses 218 acres in East Brookfield, Brookfield, and Sturbridge.

Locations in Quaboag River's watershed such as Quaboag Pond, Quacumquasit Pond, Lake Lashaway,

and confluence of Five Mile and Seven Mile rivers provided abundant natural resources for Native Americans. Artifacts discovered at Quacumquasit Pond indicate presence of a Native village there at least eight thousand years ago. The Adena inhabited a site between Quaboag Pond and Quacumquasit Pond approximately three thousand to sixteen hundred years ago.

Originally a village in the eastern section of Brookfield, East Brookfield formed around 1720. Distances to the town center, meetinghouse, and schools prompted several petitions by residents for separation from Brookfield. Controversies related to taxation, location of the town hall, and municipal services exacerbated dissent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. East Brookfield incorporated as a town in 1920 with a population of eight hundred residents.

Another former village of Brookfield, Podunk—Yes, Podunk—was the main agricultural section of what is now East Brookfield. Growth of Podunk in the eighteenth century led to establishment of churches, schools, a tavern, and a small mill complex.

Hilly topography and numerous rivers and streams prompted development of East Brookfield as a center of industries. Early sawmills, gristmills, and carding mills opened on Five Mile and Seven Mile rivers in the 1730s.

created 1920: youngest town in Massachusetts

Historically known as Stevens Mill Pond and Furnace Pond, Lake Lashaway provided power for sawmills and gristmills and an iron furnace that made casts for tools, machines, and stoves.

Supplied with clay extracted from a former glacial lake of the Quabaog Valley, brickyards and pottery shops thrived during the nineteenth century. Three companies produced several million bricks per month in the late 1800s. Numerous institutions throughout New England such as Harvard University, Worcester State Hospital, the City of Worcester's water system, and churches and schools in Boston utilized bricks made in East Brookfield.

Manufacture of textiles began in the 1850s when Brookfield Manufacturing Company opened at Lake Lashaway. Established in 1883, East Brookfield Woolen Company was one of the nation's largest producers of shoddy, a fabric of recycled material utilized for production of inexpensive clothing and garments. In the

late 1890s, Mann and Stevens Woolen Company opened factories at Lake Lashaway and on Seven Mile River.

Other shops made wheels, boots, shoes, carriages, machines, boxes, soap, toys, bicycles, and hammocks. The former Mann and Stevens Company mill at Lake Lashaway housed several businesses in the twentieth century, including a hat factory and Brookfield Athletic Shoe Company, a renowned producer of ice skates and footwear for sports. Saucony Company acquired the facility in 1985.

Completed in 1839, the Western Railroad, subsequently the Boston and Albany Railroad, provided freight and passenger service to Boston, Worcester, and Springfield. A four-mile branch line operated to North Brookfield from 1876 to 1972. Utilized for transportation of bricks and ice, another spur connected to Quabaog Pond. Trolleys provided service to

continued on page 42

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Freight House Antiques Shop and Café uniquely combines businesses

by Russ Eckel



Jeff and Rita Dubay combine businesses at Freight House Antiques Shop and Café in Erving.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

Freight House Antiques Shop and Café in Erving blends the energies of Jeff and Rita Major Dubay. Jeff has spent a lifetime gathering objects large and small, evidenced by countless antiques and unique collections shelved in the shop's nooks and crannies. Heart and soul of Freight House Café, Rita has sustained the business since opening the Freight House kitchen to the public twenty-five years ago.

Jeff grew up in Erving, Rita in nearby Athol. Jeff's family operated a shop that milled pallets, so woodworking is in his blood. He said he shaped his identity as a craftsman, builder, and collector in part to satisfy his passion for preservation and conservation.

"I see the beauty in everything and always have," he said.

The ability to see beauty in everything explains why Jeff accumulated a lifetime of memories in the Quabbin region. "I love the land, the trees, the plants, the lakes, the water, I just love the natural environment," he said. Jeff attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and graduated in 1973. Soon, he built a modest home for himself and in the process discovered his calling: building and renovating other properties.

Fast-forward twenty years to when Jeff and Rita took possession of the vacant and ramshackle mid-nineteenth-century freight house constructed in Erving Center by the Fitchburg Railroad. The couple opened an antiques shop, one of many in the region, including North Quabbin Antiques and Orange Trading

continued on page 60



Jeff and Rita Dubay combine talents at Erving's Freight House.

photo courtesy of Jeff and Rita Dubay



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A cow and calf communicate in a North Orange pasture.
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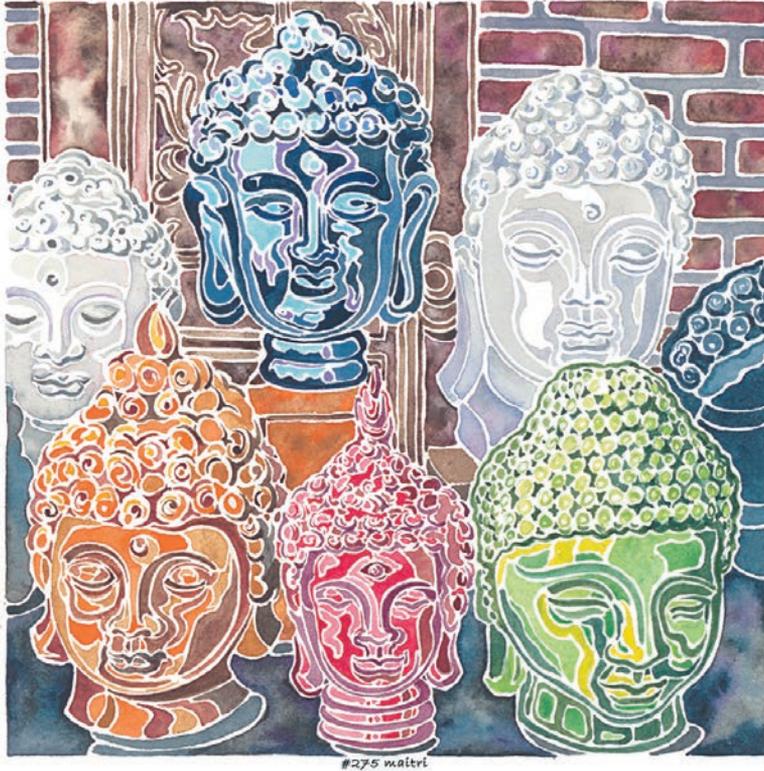
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Myrtle St. Klezmer
high-energy Jewish folk

growing up “baseball,” players made their way from

by John Burk



West Brookfield fielded a baseball team as early as 1910.
photo courtesy of Merrick Public Library, Brookfield

As occurred in communities throughout America, many played and watched the popular pastime baseball in the South Quabbin region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Towns fielded teams in local leagues of south central Massachusetts and the Connecticut River Valley. Large crowds attended games at town commons and parks such as Oakland Gardens in East Brookfield.

Two natives of the area, Connie Mack of East Brookfield and Candy Cummings of Ware went on to be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. East Brookfield hosts recreational activities at Connie Mack Field off Route 9.

In 1883, the Central Massachusetts Baseball Association consisted of teams from East Brookfield, North Brookfield,



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Quabbin region communities to the major leagues

Ware, West Warren, Chicopee Falls, and Thorndike, according to historian Heather Gablaski's *East Brookfield: Baby Town of Central Massachusetts*. Mack, who played for East Brookfield from 1879 to 1883, described the association as "a little horse and buggy league which supported itself by passing the hat at games and by the take from social functions, such as clambakes" in an article in the *Saturday Evening Post*. East Brookfield defeated North Brookfield for the championship that year in a close game that ignited a long rivalry between both towns.

Comprised of players from Brookfield, Spencer, and other local towns, an all-star team from south central Massachusetts won a championship in 1941 while playing against similar teams from other regions.

Several lost towns and villages of the Swift River Valley, including Greenwich,



Ware High School baseball players lined up in the 1930s. photo courtesy of Young Men's Library Association, Ware

Enfield, North Dana, Millington, and Cooleyville, sported teams in the early twentieth century. In 1903, Millington won eight of fourteen games versus teams from Petersham, North Dana, Erving, Farley, and Greenwich.

continued on page 62



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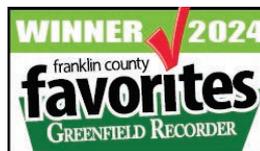
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retired teacher/journalist sheds light on Belchertown State School

by Diane Kane

Retired high school English teacher and print and radio journalist Ed Orzechowski found a

passion for writing memoirs. In 2004, Orzechowski accompanied his friend Benjamin Ricci to a

book signing at Holyoke Community College for Ricci's book *Crimes Against Humanity* chronicling a class action lawsuit involving the Belchertown State School established in 1922 "for the feeble-minded," according to official documents. The school closed in 1992.

"During Ricci's book event, a man approached me," Orzechowski said. "At sixty-two years old, Donald Vitkus was, at the time, the oldest student at the community college. Donald had been a patient at Belchertown.

Donald's mother gave him up to the state when he was twenty-nine days old. He spent the next six years in six different foster homes and the next twelve at Belchertown State School. He sought someone to help him write his life story."

Recently retired from more than thirty-five years of teaching high school English, Orzechowski was ready for a challenge.

"I had moonlighted as a radio news reporter for

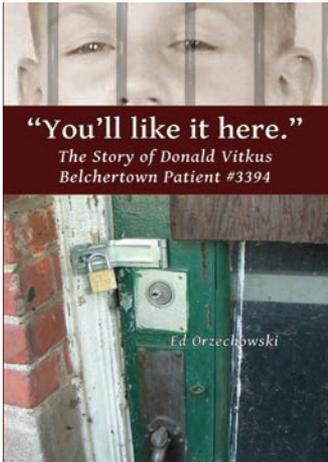
several years, written plenty of copy, and freelanced magazine and newspaper features. I never did anything as challenging as a whole book. But I knew how to conduct an interview."

Orzechowski began recording and transcribing talks with Donald while at the same time attending workshops and classes on the craft of writing.

"One course was optimistically titled 'Writing the Nine-Month Memoir.' Closer to nine years later, I published *You'll Like It Here—the Story of Donald Vitkus, Belchertown Patient #3394*. Donald and I presented events about the book at bookstores, groups, and libraries."

One day, while having coffee with Vitkus at a local café, a woman sitting nearby overheard their conversation and came to the table.

"I grew up at Belchertown School, too," she told us. "I gave her a copy of Donald's book. As she viewed images in the back, her hands started



Retired teacher and journalist Ed Orzechowski interviewed people who grew up at Belchertown State School to produce two informative books. photos courtesy of Ed Orzechowski

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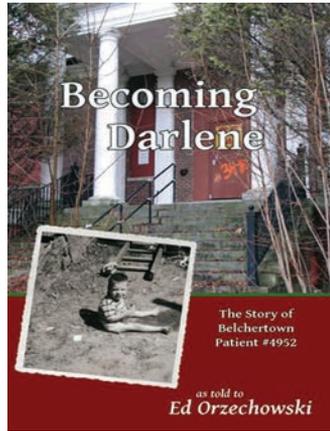
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while author/poet realizes dream of publishing for children

to tremble, and I knew I wanted to know her story. Darlene (who did not want to reveal her surname) was understandably reluctant to be interviewed but later told me that without stories like hers, ‘One day it would be as if people like me never existed.’”

Six years later, *Becoming Darlene—The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952*, was published in November 2024.

“Individuals, usually children, were placed at BSS through social service agencies for a variety of reasons,” Orzechowski said. “Many such children had normal intelligence but lacked nurturing and a stable environment. They were all



In *Becoming Darlene*, Ed Orzechowski relates experiences of Belchertown Patient #4952 photo courtesy of Ed Orzechowski.

called patients regardless of their mental or physical conditions. The former residents of Belchertown

State School I’ve met all have one thing in common: tremendous resilience.”

Since the school closed more than thirty years ago, many of its buildings have been razed and the property largely redeveloped. By writing the books, Orzechowski said he hopes others learn that places like BSS existed nationwide but should never exist again.

Orzechowski is past president of Advocacy Network, Inc., and in 2019, received the Dr. Benjamin Ricci Commemorative. He and his wife, Gail, have long advocated for individuals with developmental disabilities. Orzechowski’s books are available

at Collective Copies stores in Amherst and Florence and online at Levellerspress.com, Amazon.com, and edorzechowski.com • levellerspress.com



Author Sharon A. Harmon of Royalston knows no limit to ideas for stories and poetry. Harmon always dreamed of writing and publishing a children’s book.

“The sounds of nature are music to my ears,” Harmon said. “Almost twenty years ago, I had the idea of a little boy with glasses named Horatio listening to sounds and making them into a song. I wrote the story and

continued on page 65

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Cloud Conversation
pen and ink drawing © by Brian Fournier



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cloud conversation

"That one looks like Spain."

"That one?"

"It looks like an orange to me."

"What about that one over there? I see an old man's head on a pillow with the sheets pulled up around him."

"No, it looks like an apple on a tablecloth to me."

"Don't be silly. It's an old man. See his mouth and eyes?"

"Ya, well, the apple is disappearing into the tablecloth, isn't it?"

"Hey, look over there. It's North America. See where

Alaska sticks out on the left and you see where Hudson's Bay is gouged out?"

"I don't see it. I see a pizza with a slice slid out."

"Are you hungry? Everything's about food to you."
"Famished. See? That one over there looks like chicken Alfredo."

"What!?! That looks like nothing to me, but over there is a perfect mushroom cloud. I wonder if the world is ending and we don't know it."

"I love mushrooms on my pizza."

"And over there, wow—it's a pink carnation. The sun's going down. What beautiful colors!"

"Still looks like an orange to me—maybe a mango."

"No more pinks, now just a purple mountain range."

"Yeah, I like black raspberries, too."

"Come on, get up, I better get you home before you starve my imagination."

Writer and artist Brian Fournier wrote the book *About My Cat*. He lives in Orange.



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from the pens of

poems by Carla Rabinowitz

Ashwood

That tree, damn it, that tree's still there.
Some branches smashed, awry—but where
 the porch was, nothing. A shapeless mound. The earth
 swallowed the house up, and pulled
 the lawn together over it.
The terrace to the rose garden, irises, sun, honeysuckle, fireflies, spray
 of hose
on children's bodies—melted, crumbled—
 a slag heap
bulldozed over the stone steps.

In winter, the lawn is still visible, weeds gone
save where the bramble armies are moving in
 from the apple trees—
vines that were waiting all those years to kill those trees.

Why hasn't it all gone?
What is that magnolia still doing there—
there in this ruin—a metaphor, one of my dreams.
No! It's not there! It can't be! Blooming in April,
 on my birthday,
shedding its incandescence on a porch
that isn't there, a child who isn't there,
walking the porch, up and down, and singing
hymns at the top of her voice, knowing no other way to
 thank God
 for beauty.

They exist in some other place, unchanged.

But that magnolia still obstinately alive,
Self-righteously burning amid the wreckage,
Defying me, charging me to accept the loss—
It will bloom in April, but I will not go to see it.

Carla Rabinowitz is author of *Borderers: Becoming Americans on the Southern Frontier*, a picture of one part of American history as seen through the journeys of four generations of her ancestors as they migrated from Virginia to the Pacific coast. A family and community mediator for most of her career, she has lived in Royalston with her husband, Phil Rabinowitz, for the past forty-eight years.

Athena

Come home to Ithaca after
 twenty years,
the road uncertain, all the street
 signs changed,
Odysseus came across a
 shepherd boy
who, questioned, took his hand
and laughed, revealed herself
the goddess.
Everyday occurrence for Odysseus.

Not us. And yet I think I've met
her—
once only, at the gateway of my
 life.
Rising from my grave into a world
that had been emptied, cleansed, I
 saw her there,
a star her face.
We talked about provisions for a
 journey—
matches, a change of clothes, my
 dulcimer.
Why did she have me take the
 dulcimer
I never play?

And you, my grey-eyed child,
weaver and warrior and dreamer,
you were not born to point the
 way for me.
I can't appropriate your eyes
but only give you shelter and
 disguise
till on some road you wake and
 meet yourself.

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

Uniquely Quabbin poets

poem by
Mary Lou Ferro Conca

Spirits of Yester

O, Sleepless Night
cradle me in your arms once more
that I may walk in your dream
to a land where it all seems
calm—
where I meet my friend
on a walk to the pond
and we sing for the catfish
dancing
on the murky bottom of a warm
pool
where no one swims anymore
save the spirits of yester
who dance below
the surface of tomorrow
in the sacRED grounds
of a quieter world
where we can only long to be
in our awakening dream.
—from Amherst's Wildwood Cemetery
established 1887
Mary Lou Ferro Conca lives in Shutesbury.

poem by
L. Mark Watkins

Floral Landscapes

The violets at
the edge of the leach field
is just a blue tarp.

The laurel petals
fall at the end of June like
pink tears on the lawn.

Hey, Ma, looking at
the daffodils with the sun
behind them yellow.

Award-winning lawyer L. Mark Watkins
of Shutesbury is recognized for legal service
to the poor. Mark and his wife, Susan, enjoy
writing haikus in their spare time

poem by
Clare Green

Black-eyed Susan

I am bold
and
I am bright

Expressing who I am
Wherever I might.
To some, a dull weed,
To others a bold deed
A flower
I am
Accepting
Sun
And returning
To earth
Peaceful mirth
I am
The voice
Of the
Black-eyed
Susan
Breathe
Unto
Me

Clare Green from Warwick is an
educator and naturalist who invites
folks to visit her woodland labyrinth
and fairy cottage.

claregreenbooks.com



Spring Flowers

watercolor on paper © by Brian Fournier

poem by
Len Mazarowski

Summer Solstice

I move along the deer trail as my
father taught me
without a sound and as silent as a
moccasin can be.

My feet are quick and light.
My game is now in sight.
A doe and fawn in view,
my arrow drawn and true.

My bow stretched to fly,
I aim at the heart or nearby.
As I feel the imminent kill,
I sense it is not nature's will

The fawn stretches to touch
its mother's nose to nose.
My bicep then relaxes
its hunter's deathly pose.

I need meat to feed me,
but the fawn has family,
and a mother is a need
for the fawn to succeed.

So I turn away silently
and leave that family
to find its special way
on that granted special day.

I know a reward is waiting
just around the next hill.
My spirit is strong,
and so is my will.

Len Mazarowski retired as senior
hydrologist of National Weather Service/
River Forecast Centers, USA. Raised in
Queens, New York City, he graduated
from City College of New York and has
lived in several areas of the country. He
enjoys the natural environment that he
occasionally uses as a theme for a poem.

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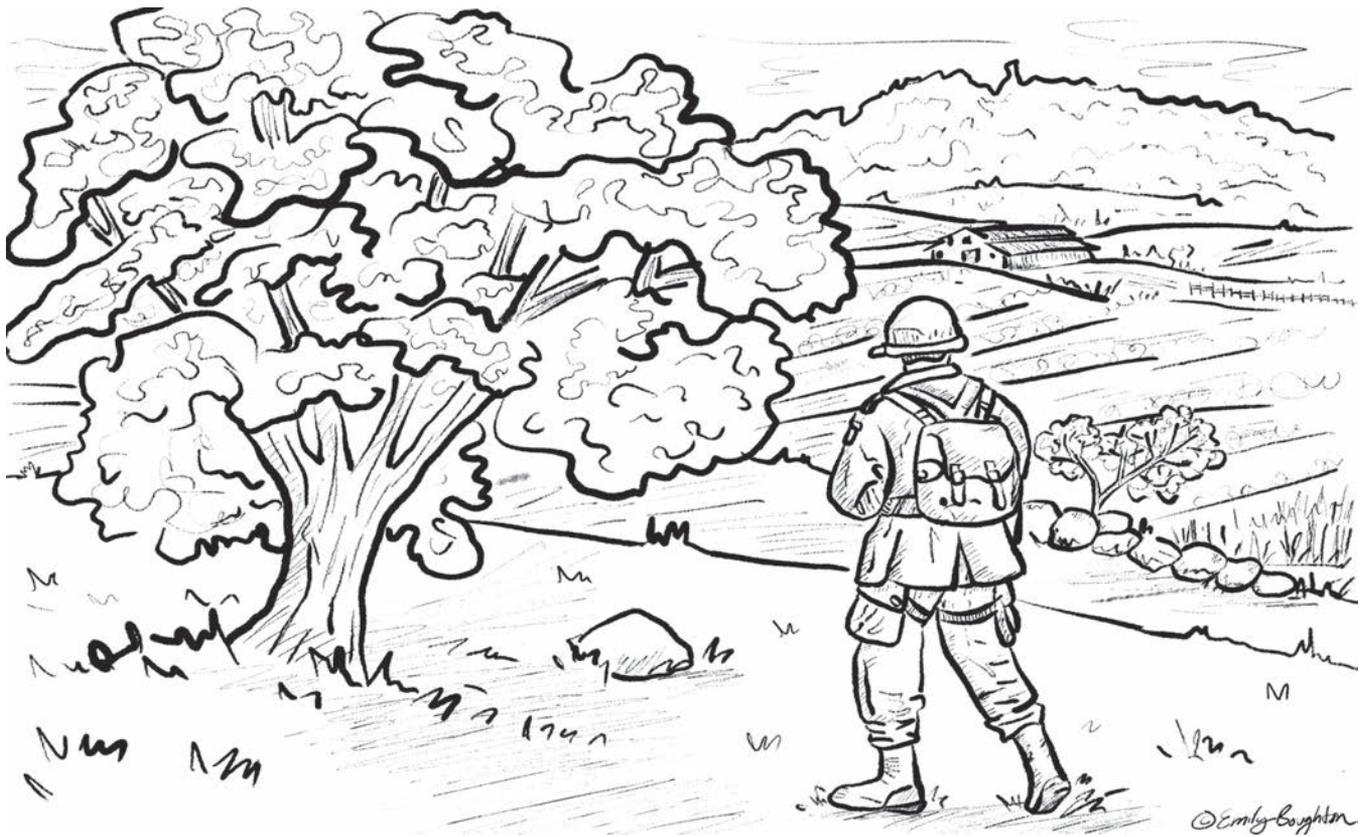
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Farmer Boy Soldier • pen and ink drawing © by Emily Boughton

Farmer Boy Soldier

by Gary A. Fellows

From an old-fashioned village way back in the hills of New England, a farmer boy came because he was needed by old Uncle Sam, who had found him and called him by name. From tranquil New England to the army's front lines where the Germans had taken control where the battle was raging to halt their invading, and the fighting each day took its toll.

The farmer boy went to wherever they sent young soldiers in the thick of the fight.

Determined they were, courageous they were, defending the good and the right, suppressing their fears with their blood, sweat, and tears while advancing with arduous pace, while deep in their hearts was a powerful force that shone through on each young soldier's face—a belief in a principle greater than war and broader than seas they had crossed was worth all the hardships and efforts required to procure at whatever the cost. American soldiers like that farmer boy who'd grown up with its blessings could see that no sacrifice was too great a price to set oppressed peoples free.

In Respectful Memory of My Uncle:

Winfred C. Fellows,

Massachusetts Sergeant • 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
World War II

November 5, 1921-September 18, 1944



Poet Gary Fellows grew up in New Salem. His parents, Fern Wesson of Orange and Warren Fellows of Warwick, met at New Salem Academy. Though he has lived in several other states as well as overseas, he said, his heart remains in New Salem. Artist Brian Fournier created the pen and ink drawings of eagles.



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East Brookfield features topography, industry

continued from page 27

Brookfield, Spencer, North Brookfield, and Warren from the 1890s through 1918.

During the late nineteenth century, Lake Lashaway became a popular resort and recreation destination with numerous cottages and summer camps. Visitors enjoyed activities such as steamboat excursions, ice skating, and horse races. Attractions of a popular park built by Warren, Brookfield, and Spencer Street Railway in the 1890s included a theater, restaurant, and athletic fields.

The 1938 New England Hurricane destroyed the Lake Lashaway dam, railroad tracks, bridges, and several buildings. Effects of the Great Depression and damage from storms prompted East Brookfield's transformation to a primarily residential community during the mid twentieth century.

East Brookfield Historical Museum at 108 School Street, is open on every second Saturday.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

**About My Cat
and Other Tales**
selected poems 1970-2020
written and illustrated by Brian J. Fournier

Barely camouflaged in the rhyme and meter of Brian Fournier's verse in About My Cat are profound glimpses of a boy emerging from a painful childhood as he finds his true creative spirit in adulthood and changes his family legacy once he becomes a grandfather. Through inspirations born of pain, conversations with his feline companions, and sharing of his inner reactions to deeply moving human experiences, Brian's poems truly take the reader on a journey to discover what one finds in between each and every line.

—the Reverend Candi Ashenden, DMin
pastor at Athol, Massachusetts, Congregational Church

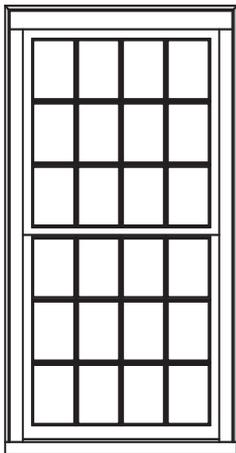
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East Brookfield, Mass. - Mann & Stevens Mill, No. 1



An early twentieth-century postcard shows Mann & Stevens Mill, No. 1, in East Brookfield.

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Hardwick Crossing, Clamber Hill restaurants

text and photos by Chris Coyle



Hardwick Crossing Restaurant at Hardwick Country Club offers handheld meals and a large selection of appetizers, soups, and salads.

Hardwick Crossing, located on Lower Road in the Gilbertville section of Hardwick, makes a great destination for good food and drink. Part of Hardwick Crossing Country Club, the restaurant opened in 2022.

Diners experience the serene beauty of central Massachusetts in the dining room or outside on the deck. Golfers play a round of golf followed by a relaxing drink or meal at the bar or in the restaurant. Rail enthusiasts like seeing the tracks and perhaps a freight train of the Massachusetts Central Railroad on the grounds of the golf course.

Hardwick Crossing offers handheld meals such as burgers, Cubans, and chicken sandwiches along with a large selection of appetizers, soups, and salads. A good selection of entrées and pasta dishes are sure to please the hungry palate. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. bring prime ribs to the table with quantities limited, requiring aspiring diners to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

I recently enjoyed a great fish and chips meal at Hardwick Crossing. I judge it one of the best prepared and largest pieces of haddock ever served me in a fish-and-chips entrée. The fish qualified as every bit as good as, if not better than, at an oceanside restaurant. French fries and coleslaw, both

nice prepared and delicious, accompanied the entrée. A cup of coffee and the dessert special, Irish crème cheesecake, topped off a terrific dining experience overseen by friendly staff.

Seafood Fra Diavolo—shrimp, mussels, haddock, and scallops, sautéed with onions, tomatoes, cherry peppers, and fresh basil served over linguini—might very well prevail as entrée of choice on my next visit.



Hardwick Crossing sign

With its large banquet hall and able staff, the fully equipped restaurant handles weddings and other functions with specially crafted menu packages and superb amenities.

Online reviews consistently praise the service, food, and ambience of the elegant eatery. The menu lists several gluten-free substitutions, and the restaurant offers takeout. Find more information about the restaurant and country club at www.hardwickcrossing.com.

On the north side of Quabbin in the quiet town of Petersham, diners find a wonderful dining experience at the Inn at Clamber Hill, opened for lodging in 1998 and for dining in 2003. Hosts Mark and Deni Ellis take pride in providing European style dining. Mark takes the role of chef with Deni as server and bartender.

Open by reservation only Thursday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Inn at Clamber Hill welcomes diners into the large inn building, a relaxing, stress-free zone with seating in several rooms with unhurried yet efficient service. An online reviewer describes an intimate restaurant with slow-paced romantic dining.

Clamber Hill offers holiday meals that sell out quickly for Thanksgiving, Christmas, the New Year, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day. Small groups of up to ten people may arrange private

offer unique dining choices, personalized service

dining or private wine or whiskey tasting events. The main dining room provides seating from eight to fourteen people at one large table. The library may be used for private events or pre-dinner cocktails, appetizers and even a post-dinner gift exchange.

Delightful appetizers and home-crafted soups and salads with the inn's own dressings may precede delicious entrées. The menu always includes a vegetarian dish and offers gluten-free meals. Chicken Clamber Hill, Duck Breast with warm Pear-Bourbon Relish, and Salmon Gilleleje highlight more than thirteen mouth-watering entrees on the regular menu.

I enjoyed a recent dinner at the Inn at Clamber Hill. Scrumptious rolls served first preceded cream of broccoli soup, the special of the day. Then I had a longtime favorite, salmon pesto with exquisitely prepared mixed vegetables. Everything was cooked perfectly and nice and hot. Coffee



Clamber Hill exudes the ambience of old Petersham. and a special cheesecake closed a memorable meal. My next meal at Clamber Hill may be Blue Cheese Stuffed Tenderloin—choice tenderloin beef stuffed with a savory blend of mushrooms and blue cheese and topped with sauce espagnole.

A stroll around the beautiful grounds tops off any pleasant experience at this jewel of a country inn. For more information, see clamberhill.com. Dining is by reservation only.

Railroad enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Chris Coyle lives in Athol.



Trailhead Steps

watercolor on paper © by Christine Teixeira
painted at Laurel Lake, Erving



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Have yourself a good cry while preparing a

text and photos by Christine Noyes



Homemade onion soup offers a variety of health benefits.

Have yourself a good cry! According to Harvard Medical School doing so has health benefits. But not all tears are created equally. When formed due to emotional situations, tears may release endorphins as natural pain relievers and mood enhancers within the body. Who knew? But writing about soup isn't about our emotional well-being—or maybe it is, but in a very different way.

I dare say nearly every cook has experienced the biochemical reaction of reflex tears. It sounds scary, I know. Think back to the last time you sliced a yellow or sweet onion. Before cutting through the vegetable cells that release enzymes and sulfuric amino acids into the air, you probably braced yourself for leaky eyes. The enzymes and acids form a volatile gas called syn-propanethial-S-oxide that causes human eyes to sting and brains to form cleansing tears.

Whew! Too much science for me!

I won't list them all here, but there are several ways to reduce effects of the chemical reaction of slicing an onion. My choice is to use a newly sharpened knife that reduces cell damage and results in a milder chemical reaction.

So, why torture ourselves with stinging eyes and streaming tears? Because it's worth it! According to research, the versatile and nutritious onion offers great benefits including blood sugar regulation, heart health, anti-cancer properties, anti-inflammatory effects, digestive health, and much more—not to mention the depth of flavors within each of the five hundred varieties.

A cook can produce diverse flavors from the same onion by altering cooking methods and manipulating the length of the cooking process. In the accompanying recipe, onions cook in three stages to add depth to the finished product.

Although more complicated and excellent onion soup recipes exist, I chose to share a simple yet flavorful one. It's like serving a crock of hugs, which brings us full circle to our emotional well-being.

Wishing you happy tears!

soup that can bring tears to your eyes!!

SIMPLY SWEET ONION SOUP

INGREDIENTS

3-4 large, sweet onions—julienned
2 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup olive oil
salt (to taste)
pepper (to taste)
1 tablespoon granulated garlic (or to taste)
6 ounces Cabernet Sauvignon wine
(use Merlot for richer, deeper flavor)
20 ounces chicken broth
20 ounces beef broth
3-4 dashes Worcestershire sauce
Kitchen Bouquet or Gravy Master for desired color

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large pot, heat butter and olive oil. Add one third of the onions and cook on high, stirring occasionally, until soft and lightly caramelized, lightly browned. Add another third of the onion, season with salt, pepper, and garlic, and cook until soft. Add the last of the onions and cook until they just begin to soften.

Add 3 ounces of red wine and deglaze the pan by scraping remnants from the bottom while stirring often.

Add chicken and beef broth to cover the onions. Bring to a boil. While they're at a slow boil, add Worcestershire sauce, Kitchen Bouquet, and remaining wine. You may need to adjust seasonings as you go. Cover and keep at a slow boil.

When the broth evaporates or dissipates enough and becomes thick with onions, turn heat to low to simmer for as long as possible, up to 1 1/2 hours. Soup may be served sooner, but it's best after simmering.

Serve soup alone or in a crock with garlic toast and topped with melted cheese (provolone, Swiss, or personal preference).



A cook can produce diverse flavors from the same onion by altering cooking methods and manipulating the length of the cooking process. In the accompanying recipe, onions cook in three stages to add depth to the finished product.

Accomplished chef Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, writer and illustrator of the Bradley Whitman series of mysteries and of the romance novel, *Winter Meets Summer*. Rumor has it that she's at work on a screenplay.

Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm Triple Oak debuts on television

continued from page 7



Cutthroat Brook trails feature a variety of stone walls. The crew extensively photographed it. When they left in summer, in preparation for the fall shoot, they marked exact spots where camera tripods had stood for the summer shoot. They kept detailed notes of focusing details to make sure that autumn videos would show exactly the same leaf on whichever branch.

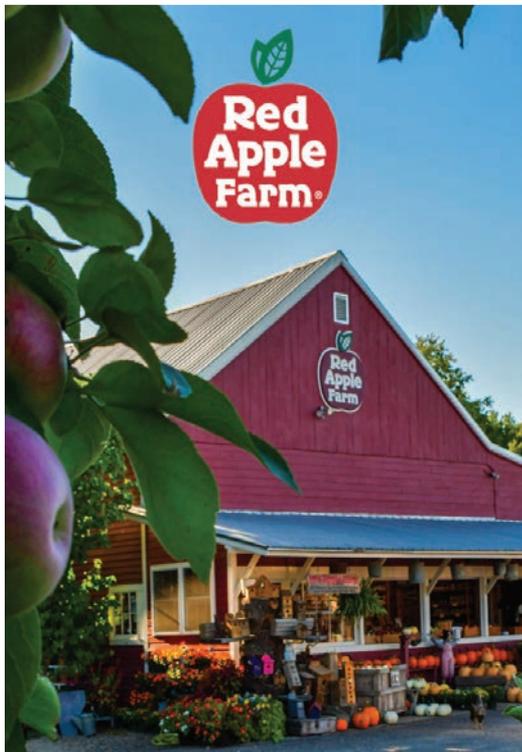
In fall, New England's glory season, the film crew returned to catch the fall foliage. They had been

in Peacham, Vermont, filming its vast display of autumn colors.

The crew returned to Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm in a bit of a mad dash to catch Triple Oak again at the height of fall splendor from exactly the same viewpoints. Autumn filming took several days.

Just like that, it was over, and the crew returned to England with all their film to edit. Literally hundreds of hours spent gathering images eventually condensed to about four minutes of television. Final production involved some technological wizardry as leaf color slowly transitioned apparently naturally from green to bronze. BBC used only actual shots of actual leaves with no computerized imagery.

Susie Feldman and her husband, Ben, encourage visitors to the Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm hiking area at 586 Briggs Road, Athol, where Triple Oak reigns amidst varied hiking trails and vantage points. Conserved with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm comprises a 350-acre Forest Stewardship Council-certified area that abuts Harvard Forest.



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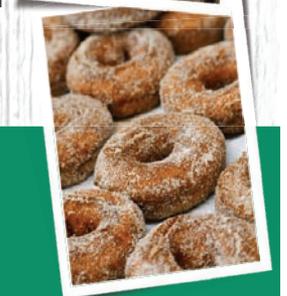
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Before leaving the Swift River Valley forever, Prescott residents gather in 1931 for final Old Home Day observances. photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society

many wonder if taking land to create Quabbin would be possible today

continued from page 17

physician in Prescott who ran the Atkinson tavern until it moved to its current location in West Springfield where it is called Storowton Tavern and Café.

Daniel and Ellen Pierce had six children, and Lillie Belle was their youngest. She grew up, married Harry Coolidge, became Prescott's historian, and wrote *The History of Prescott, Massachusetts*.

So much has changed in terms of politics and technology since taking of land to create Quabbin Reservoir, and many wonder if such an undertaking would be possible today. I notice that in times of heartache, being connected to family and community with a purpose such as Lillie Pierce Coolidge had to keep memories alive provides one way to combat feelings of despair and hopelessness.

records suggest Revolutionary era land sales to African-Americans

continued from page 19

Black and Indigenous men, some of whom were enslaved and promised freedom in exchange for their service, including those who came from Massachusetts.

Likely when voluntary enlistments ran low, recruiters became less selective than when the war began. Cromwell Oliver enlisted in 1778 and served in the militia with Captain John Eddy Cutler and Colonel Nathaniel Wade in Rhode Island. He apparently served later in 1778 and separately in 1779 and 1781 in Rhode Island with Captain John Sibley and Colonel Luke Drury.

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin Region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She lives in Amherst.

Swift River Valley Historical Society welcomes visitors and invites volunteers to help preserve memories and remember the sacrifice, now that nearly all directly affected people have passed on.

Karen Traub lives in Shutesbury and vacations in Orange.



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significant outbreak of avian influenza affected populations of wild birds throughout Massachusetts

by John Burk

During the winter of 2025 a significant outbreak of avian influenza, or bird flu, affected populations of wild and domestic birds throughout Massachusetts and North America. Known as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, HPAI, the present strain arrived in North America in 2021. Mild winters mitigated outbreaks in southern New England prior to 2025, although bird flu was confirmed on Cape Cod in February, 2022.

Cold temperatures in January and February of 2025 caused large groups of waterfowl to gather in areas with open water and likely exacerbate spread of HPAI, according to Andrew Vitz, Massachusetts state ornithologist. Although most cases occurred in the southeast coast of the state and greater Boston regions, state health officials reported, “HPAI is widespread in Massachusetts and likely present even in places where there has not been a confirmed positive.”

Symptoms of HPAI include disorientation, loss of balance, erratic head movements, and birds that swim in circles. Waterfowl such as geese, swans, and ducks as well as bald eagles, owls, and other raptors have the highest risks for infection. Foxes, coyotes, domestic cats, and other animals that scavenge infected carcasses are also susceptible.

Throughout the country outbreaks have infested many flocks of poultry, leading to increases in egg prices. Avian flu also can infect dairy cow herds. Aside from instances when people come into prolonged contact with sick birds, avian influenza viruses rarely affect humans.

Find information at mass.gov/info-details/avian-influenza.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

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lifesize mural painted by Sonja Vaccari on the wall of a Royalston residence

Spring Time

by Linda Sweeney

The birds sing their songs
so high in the trees.

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is there in the breeze.

A love song to springtime
is sung once again.

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and trees green with leaves.

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and breathing the air.

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Linda Sweeney, creator of the children's book
Backyard Friends, lives in Rutland.

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farmers markets feature fresh produce, local dairy products

continued from page 13

Henry with vegetables and honey, Wilkey of Orange with vegetables and fruit from the Valley, and Peter Kretzenger. Other vendors include Mother's Hen Homestead with Megan Brocklebank's tinctures and Wendy's Bakery with pies, cakes, and other baked items by Wendy Wheeler. Rachel's Everlasting offers homemade dairy-free smoothies.

From June to October, Petersham Friday Market with live music takes place from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the town common. Vendors sell organic produce, home-baked dog cookies, handmade soaps, and herbal remedies.

Find more information about farmers markets at massfarmersmarkets.org.

Writer Pat Larson, board member emerita of Quabbin Harvest Coop in Orange and member of the town energy committee, lives in North Orange. A finisher in National Novel Writing Month competition, Amber Robidoux is a freelance writer. She lives in Orange.



Jared Duval brings seasonal produce from Coolidge Hill Farm to Orange Farmers Market.
photo courtesy of Orange Farmers Market



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women work a variety of tools-on jobs in Quabbin area construction industries

continued from page 21



Brianna Skowyra pauses during a day of working at construction.

photo courtesy of Brianna Skowyra

Franklin County Technical School recently started a Tradeswomen of Tomorrow Club. They invite guest speakers and encourage young women to network and explore career options in the trades. They host an annual event where women in the trades come in and speak to freshman students.

As for me, I went to college but realized shortly into it that it wasn't for me. So I left and went to work with my father doing carpentry while I figured out what I wanted to do. I found myself immersed in buildings and learning the codes.

As I got a little older, I realized that I should make my career out of those codes. I work now as a building inspector with a district of twenty-seven towns, fourteen of them in the Quabbin region. I have worked in the industry for nearly thirty years and, despite the challenges, have never regretted my choice. I am one of twenty-two women of eight hundred certified as building officials in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

pen and ink drawing by Emily Boughton
and pass six exams covering building codes; fire alarm and sprinkler codes; legal, management, and technology or codes and standards.

Our job includes reviewing plans and applications for new construction to ensure compliance with codes as well as inspecting new construction and existing buildings for maintenance of life safety systems. We work hand in hand with municipal plumbing and electrical inspectors as well as fire departments and boards of health to ensure the health and safety of building occupants.

Brianna Skowyra is a third-generation carpenter and certified building official. She enjoys being outdoors and adventuring with her friends. She lives in Hardwick with her family and her dogs. She encourages all young women to set fear aside and try something new.

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investigating blacksmithing brings rich variety

continued from page 4



Essential tools of the blacksmith, a hammer and anvil, take prime space in the shop.

photo courtesy of Matt Chase

hooves must have been frequent. I picture the forge: red hot fire, tongs, chisels, hammers and anvil, black leather apron, yellow iron hammering into desired shape. We have all seen images in film or perhaps at Old Sturbridge Village.

What is the contemporary forge like? Today, farriers, welders, iron workers, metalsmiths, and blacksmiths overlap in their skills. In my house I have a towel holder I bought at Orange's Garlic and Arts Festival that a local smith made. A friend had special drawer pulls made locally and shaped like a leaf.

Men and women of varying ages and interests travel from all over to engage in Brookfield Craft Center's smithy community. The Good Forge, blacksmithing studio at the craft center, houses forges, welding and safety equipment, and tools needed for blacksmithing. BCC's workshops cater to beginners, experienced students and hobbyists, and accomplished artisans.

I paid a visit to Matt Chase, journeyman smith from the American Bladesmith Society, on his way to attain ABS master bladesmith. He has his shop in Phillipston off a well-kept dirt road.

I knew little about the craft before meeting Matt and left with an appreciation of the skill. To achieve the rank of journeyman, the

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smith must pass a test, part of which involves making a knife and bending it ninety degrees without breaking. He showed me the knife he used, still a bit bent.

At the age of eight, Matt visited a knife maker in Wendell, a friend of his dad. He was hooked. At home, he learned about forging and how to build a forge from the *Popular Mechanics Encyclopedia* they had at home. Remember learning from encyclopedias? His interest and skill just deepened and developed.

I looked into the yellow hot fire inside the forge at his shop. He removed a stainless-steel bar whose tip was red from the 1,800-degree cavity and began to describe how he makes his knives.

I was fascinated by the layering of different types of steel, in particular the Damascus technique, also known as pattern welding. A bladesmith can create different patterns on the blade like a feathering or a c shape. Each blade can have hundreds of layers of steel pounded to a thin sharp edge before completion and has a unique pattern.

The knives are stunning. Matt calls his company Hogtooth Knives. I held his knives and felt their balance and comfortable handles; one made from a thousand-year-old fallen Virginia oak tree.

I learned so much.

I drove home thinking how the sounds of new seasons had inspired me to think about blacksmithing and metalworking and to explore where that would take me.

Life is rich with potential. My next visit was to pay a visit to Joe Lambert of Athol. He has a coal-burning forge and, as a hobby, makes artistic pieces for ornaments and decoration, even hairpins. Joe is a friend of Matt's, and as we talked, I became aware of a large network of metalworkers in our area. They know each other from festivals, shows,



Blacksmith Matt Chase works at his shop in Phillipston, often accompanied by dogs Zuzu, left, and Gunther.

photo courtesy of Matt Chase

and flea markets where they find old, specialized tools. Joe has a portable bellows forge for demonstrations. Joe and Matt will share a booth at the Red Apple Farm Renaissance Fair in May.

My last visit took me to a good friend, Ron Mott of Mott Iron Works in North Orange. Ron started making trailers with his father. He branched out when, more than twenty-five years ago, he was asked to make a fence and railing for the Boiler Bar and Grill in Tully. Now his work can be found in at least five states

Among other projects, Ron is creating a 13-foot, 8-inch curved steel staircase. He built a metal vertical template to replicate the curve and guide the risers. It's impressive. Also in his shop is one length of a hundred-foot-long filigree fence.

We chatted, and I heard of the work he has done. Ron is a metal fabricator. His work encompasses a variety of skills and techniques. When I looked up his family business, I read, "Mott Iron Works is a company that builds with vision, creativity, aiming to leave a legacy."

True artisans, those who craft as blacksmiths follow an ancient tradition and innovate as they create. They each took their own winding ways to the present. I'm glad I followed the winding path of my musings and had the opportunity to engage with their craft, their imagination and humanity.

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

variety characterizes features of interest during a visit to Leverett

continued from page 25

in 1838 at the site of the town's first meetinghouse; a former box factory that presently houses galleries and studios of Leverett Crafts and Arts; and several eighteenth century homes.

Early settlers established farms at Leverett Pond, Long Plain, and Sawmill River. Commercial farming continued on Long Plain through the early twentieth century. Rugged topography limited cultivation of crops elsewhere.

A variety of small industries thrived in Leverett during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. At North Leverett on Sawmill River, businesses included blacksmiths, sawmills, gristmills, and shops that made agricultural tools, furniture, pails, and tubs.

One of several extant historic industrial sites in Leverett, North Leverett Sawmill operated from the 1770s through the twentieth century. Capacity to process large logs enabled the mill to produce sailboat masts, timber for churches and buildings, and keels for ships during World War II. Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill, recipient of a preservation grant from the National Park Service in 2024, spearheads an initiative to rehabilitate the mill and develop a heritage park on Sawmill River.

Situated on Sawmill River between Diamond Match Ridge and Brushy Mountain, Moores (or Moore's) Corner was the site of grist and shingle mills, a blacksmith shop, and the largest general store in Franklin County. Built in 1793, Watson's Mill housed a sawmill, box factory, and a grist mill that opened in 1900.

At East Leverett, Roaring Brook provided power for a tannery, blacksmiths, a machine shop, a woolen mill, and factories that produced boxes, soap, wool, lumber, hoes, and scythes.

Sustained by abundant forests, commercial manufacture of charcoal began in the 1820s. Kilns in Leverett processed sixty thousand bushels at the peak of production in 1855, second in Franklin County after Erving. A brick coke kiln operated on Hemenway Road from the 1880s to 1965.

Proximity to Amherst, largest producer of palm leaf hats in the Connecticut River Valley, spurred success of that industry in Leverett during the 1830s and 1840s.

New London and Northern Railroad, subsequently Vermont Central Railroad, opened along the valley of Long Plain around 1858. A depot at Leverett Station provided

connections to Amherst, Montague, Palmer, and Brattleboro.

The 1938 New England Hurricane caused extensive damage to Leverett forests. Northeast Timber Salvage Administration workers stored nearly two million board feet of logs in Leverett Pond.

Declines of industries caused a gradual decrease in Leverett's population from the mid nineteenth century through World War II. Expansion of the University of Massachusetts and other colleges led to increases in residential development and demand for housing.

Two popular contemporary attractions of Leverett, New England Peace Pagoda and a Cambodian Buddhist temple, opened at 100 Cave Hill Road on donated land in 1985 and 1986, respectively. Established by Nipponazan Myohoji, a Buddhist religious order founded in 1917, the peace pagoda features a hundred foot high dome, reflecting pool, rock garden, and statues. The Cambodian temple includes an imposing reclining Buddha near the very top of Cave Hill.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.



Leverett attracts visitors to a Cambodian Buddhist temple and the New England Peace Pagoda at 100 Cave Hill Road. A monumental Buddha parinirvana, left, awaits visitors to the Cambodian sanctuary. Niches at the peace pagoda feature venerated moments in the life of the Buddha.

photos by Marcia Gagliardi



A depot at Leverett Station provided connections to Amherst, Montague, Palmer, and Brattleboro via New London and Northern Railroad, subsequently Vermont Central Railroad, which opened along Long Plain Valley around 1858.
photo courtesy of Leverett Historical Society



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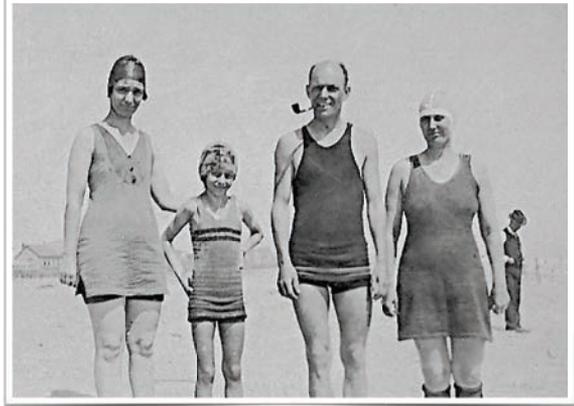
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From our Collection

The winters in Athol are long and cold but when the sun is out we Atholians have always enjoyed the outdoors. Sunbathing and swimming at one of our many lakes, playing golf at the Ellinwood Country Club and when school is out the kids travel north to Camp Wiyaka. In a world that is constantly changing it's nice to know a few of the good things remain the same.



Follow the Athol Historical Society on social media for future programming and find out ways you can pitch-in and/or donate.

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Museum Hours Summer 2025

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Hours 11am - 3pm

drawing on inspiration

charcoal pencil on Strathmore Drawing 400 series

by Elizabeth Callahan



Art students are taught early that the most essential skill a fine artist must have is the ability to draw in a realistic manner whatever they see, think, or imagine. Learning to “see” is a first major step in the process. One of the most memorable lessons I recall required drawing from a picture held upside down. That forced me to draw what I saw rather than what I knew. Easier said than done.

Instruction for the drawing involved creating a composition of items that held great sentimental value. All of the items had been given to me or I inherited them from people I loved dearly. I did the drawing many, many years ago, but it still evokes warm memories. I always find my comfort zone with detail when drawing (and painting, too). I get lost in it. As a result, my works take quite a bit of time. More than one instructor tried to help me “loosen up.” I don’t do so easily, but I have managed to become looser over the years.

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



Central Congregational Church in New Salem features two blue doors.

photo by Mary Lou Ferro Conca

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Erving's Freight House serves up scones with antiques

continued from page 28

Company in Orange, Haley's Antiques in Athol, Country Bumpkin Antiques in Templeton, and Village Green Antiques in Barre to name a few. What made the Freight House unique and enhanced its browsing experience was the opportunity customers had to savor award-winning baked goods prepared on premises by Rita and her granddaughter, Rainy Valliere.

"Rainy has the same creative energy I do," Rita said. "It is heartwarming to know that I have someone to pass on my recipes and keep them alive."

The origin story of the Freight House Café involved a fortuitous meeting with Jan Borden, a seasoned baker from New Salem then closing her bakery and selling equipment. Jeff and Rita bought the equipment, and Rita and her new friend spent hours together as the baker shared her recipes and business acumen.

"She helped me a lot. I cooked at home, but Jan helped me understand how to do it for the public," Rita explained, noting many others supported her along the way, including her Athol High School home economics teacher. Rita said she was guided by a core belief that "food is medicine, and you need good food."

From the outset, Freight House has diverted travelers from Route 2 to savor the home-baked scones, muffins, and pies along with a good cup of coffee. In 2015, one such customer was executive editor of *Cooks Country Magazine*. Enthralled with the baked goods, especially mixed berry scones, he called them "inspirational" in a subsequent article.

"I couldn't believe it at the time," says Rita, "but soon my scones were on the front cover of that magazine and after that demand really blew up. It was amazing."

As for the state of the business, Jeff notes, "Times have changed. COVID era took its toll, and importantly, consumer trends have changed, as they always do."

Jeff and Rita actively consider the day when the collective energy they bring to Freight House will come to a tasteful conclusion. That day hasn't arrived yet. The scones are still warm.

Freighthouse is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; closed Wednesday

Writer Russ Eckel discovered the Freight House during a drive along Route 2A.

Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge appeals to visitors from Quabbin region

continued from page 23

The Peter J. Booras Military History Museum, named for a successful Keene businessman and veteran supporter of Cathedral of the Pines, opened recently in the climate-controlled basement of the site's Hilltop House. Sandy Sloane's footlocker counts as a museum highlight.

Bill Purple and Myra Estelle Terry lived as part of what has been described as the Greatest Generation—men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II and remembered for their patriotism, strong work ethic, and sacrifices for their country and family. Congress recognized the Cathedral of the Pines in 1957 as a National Memorial to American men and women who lost their lives in war.

Visitors attend services with a large network of trails in natural surroundings on the 236 acres of the Cathedral of the Pines at 10 Hale Road in Rindge. The grounds are open year-round from dawn to dusk. The website cathedralofthepines.org offers more information.

Railroad enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Chris Coyle lives in Athol.

Friends of Quabbin seek support to repair Keytone Bridge

continued from page 10

At forty, Porter enlisted in the Union Army shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War. Wounded at the Battle of New Bern, North Carolina, he was discharged from the army in 1862. In 1864, Porter again enlisted and served with his regiment on an island in Boston Harbor and at Washington, DC. In November, 1864, Porter was hospitalized, then discharged on April 15, 1865, shortly after the end of the war.

In 1866, the Town of New Salem hired Porter to construct the bridge over the Middle Branch of Swift River for \$37.50, the equivalent of almost 1.8 ounces of gold at that time, so a fee of approximately \$5,500 in today's dollars. Presumably, he used local materials to construct the bridge, used by public vehicle traffic until the late 1930s. Porter died on June 12, 1899, and was buried in Orange.

J.R. Greene chairs Friends of Quabbin, Inc. He is the author of twenty-four books, including sixteen related to the history of the Quabbin Reservoir and towns destroyed to build it. He is a lifelong resident of Athol. Paul Godfrey provided some information for *Quabbin Currents*.



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baseball hit home in the South Quabbin

continued from page 33



Leverett players earned a successful season in 1905.

photo courtesy of Leverett Historical Society

Teams from Leverett, Pelham, and Belchertown played against towns of the Connecticut River Valley and Franklin County.

During a successful season in 1905, Leverett defeated rival Montague four times and also scored victories over North Hatfield, Cooleyville, Millers Falls, Wendell, Pelham, New Salem, and Deerfield with losses to Montague, North Hatfield, Amherst, and Turners Falls. Leverett played home games that year on a new field at Moore's Corner. Enthusiastic residents accompanied the team to games in other towns.

Infielders Ethen Howard and Harry Glazier led Leverett's offense in 1905 with batting averages of .442 and .441 respectively.

Renowned for his long managerial career, innovations, and gentlemanly persona, Cornelius McGillicuddy, best known as Connie Mack, was born in 1862 in East Brookfield. He worked at local factories and farms to help support his family while playing for the East Brookfield team.

At the age of twenty-one, Mack moved to Connecticut to begin his professional career in 1884. He played eleven seasons in the major leagues with Washington, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, and also served as manager of Pittsburgh and Buffalo during the 1890s.

In 1901, Mack established the Philadelphia Athletics, a successful franchise that won five World Series and nine American League championships under his leadership. He also endured many difficult seasons when financial problems forced the Athletics to sell star players.

Mack holds major league records for games managed, 7,755; victories, 3,731; and losses, 3,948. He was part of the second class inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937.

After more than seventy years in organized baseball, Mack retired in 1950 at the age of eighty-seven. He died six years later in Philadelphia.

One of baseball's most influential early pitchers, William Arthur "Candy" Cummings, was born in Ware in 1848. His family moved to Brooklyn two years later. After several years of practice, in 1867 Cummings pioneered the curve ball and became a dominant amateur player. Sportswriter Henry Chadwick cited Cummings as the nation's best player in 1871.

Teams of the National Association, baseball's first professional league, offered lucrative contracts to Cummings. In 1872, he won 33 games and pitched a remarkable total of nearly 500 innings for New York. After successful seasons in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Hartford, he ended his major league career with Cincinnati of the National League in 1877 with 145 total wins. Cummings also served as the first president of the International Association, formed as an alternative to the National League.

Upon retirement from professional baseball, Cummings returned to Ware. In 1884 he moved to Athol, where he operated a paint and wallpaper company for more than thirty years. Cummings also invented a device that safely coupled railroad cars. He died in Ohio in 1924 at the age of seventy-five. He is buried at Aspen Grove Cemetery in Ware.

In recognition of his development of the curve ball, the National Baseball Hall of Fame inducted Cummings in 1939. The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame included him in their class of 2019.

Six other players from Ware, Joe Giard, Johnny Grabowski, Pat McCauley, Billy Jo Robidoux, Nap Shea, and Red Shea, also reached the major leagues.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

Walk amidst woodlands.

Savor delicate aromas—twigs, tracks, signs creeping.

Walk with your heart into the woods. Take that familiar path or seek a new one. Be flexible. Open. Present. Whether with friends or solo, be sure to take an inner inventory of your attitude so that your inner presence will guide you. Empty your mind and accept the moment while walking or hiking. Be sure to bring all of your senses as forest bathing suggests.

Smile. Let your sense of humor permeate your vision as you walk.

May your attitude be one of gratitude and quickening joy as you perceive the gifts of nature before you. Allow silence to echo between conversations. Like a prayer, may your thoughts grace the universe.

Hum. Sing a tune. The woodland loves to hear you singing. If we but had celestial ears, we would hear the harmonizing elements of nature creating its symphony of life.

Pack water, snacks, a map, your phone, and an extra layer of warmth or gear. If you plan to be out longer, the ten essentials are key to a safe hike: navigation, sun protection, insulation, illumination, first aid, fire, repair kit, nutrition, hydration, and emergency shelter so that you are prepared for the unexpected. Be smart, not foolhardy.

A delightful hike is to stroll on the Athol property of Susie and Ben Feldman at 586 Briggs Road off Route 32 where Cutthroat Brook trails offer whimsy and adventure. The *Americas* PBS program, narrated by Tom Hanks, recently featured their ancient Triple Oak.

Well-marked Cutthroat Brook trails have good signage. Pack a picnic and look for abiding trolls. Compliment North Quabbin Trails Association, NQTA, for accomplishing well maintained trails for all access-/ability-challenged folks. Thank you, Bobby Curley, NQTA president.

Another hike to consider: Warwick's Mount Grace, elevation 1,692 feet. Access trails with ample parking from Route 78 just north of Warwick center. Family and pet friendly, the seven-hundred-foot elevation gain usually takes an hour or less to reach the summit. Consider climbing the once active fire tower for a tri-state view of mountains in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

Wherever you plan to go, go prepared. Appreciate and enjoy your time outside, and notice the signs. Identify scat. Listen to sounds. Notice birds, flora, and fauna.

Multiple phone apps, like inaturalist, gobotany, and merlin make it easy to become acquainted with the natural world.

May your heart be filled with the joys of the Quabbin region.

Clare Green from Warwick is an educator and naturalist who invites folks to visit her woodland labyrinth and fairy cottage.

claregreenbooks.com

SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

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restoration of 1859 coach brings to mind

continued from page 15



The Town of Barre seal features a drawing of Naquag Hotel that once stood on Barre Common. The seal includes a horse-drawn stagecoach reminiscent of nineteenth-century activity in the center of town.

A drawing of the old Naquag Hotel that stood on Barre Common with a stagecoach are the central objects on Barre's Town Seal.

Successful historical society fundraising activities facilitated building a post-and-beam carriage house in 2000 on historical society property for storage and display the coach. Professional conservation began in 2005 with one door painstakingly brought back to life.

The entire conservation effort revealed what was under the varnish with varnish removed and nothing added. The historical society continued to raise funds to support conservation efforts.

B. R. Howard & Associates of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, accomplished the task of returning the coach to its original appearance. Grants from the Barre Village Improvement Society and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts rounded out financial needs. Brian Howard and his crew of the Pennsylvania firm completed conservation measures late in 2013.

Merri Ferrell, former curator of carriages and the carriage library at Long Island Museum, addressed a crowd in Barre in 2005:

To this day, I think fondly of Barre, because these people have done what all Americans can do with historic collections. Collections don't belong to the curators; they belong to the

people who have the power to save their own cultural heritage if they have a mind to. The people of Barre and their grass-roots enthusiasm stemmed the tide of skepticism and saved the coach, and today, they have something which has a very strong provenance and is an excellent example of an object that has its own unique history.

Stagecoaches considerably impacted Barre and similar towns some two hundred years ago in communities before the invention of telephones or telegraphs, radios or television, internet or cell phones. Stagecoaches provided the primary means of communication available to people in any town far from a city.

Stagecoaches brought mail and newspapers. To Barre and similar towns, they carried people including visiting relatives, dignitaries, businessmen, lecturers, and teachers. Those arriving in a town carried with them gossip and social news.

Comparable to public bus lines of more recent years, stagecoach lines provided public transportation. So-called accommodation coaches stopped at set points on a route of towns where drivers could change horses and travelers could eat, drink, and rest. Through passengers could intersect with stage lines going to other places.

Barre served as a hub for such travel. As many as six stagecoaches at a time might be seen in front of the stage stand in the center of town. The Naquag Hotel, located on present-day Moulton Street on the Common, served as the stage stand from about 1800 followed in the mid 1800s by the Massasoit House, which stood near Woods Memorial Library.

Nineteenth-century summer visitors and fall and winter guests of the Brunswick Foxhound Club filled the hotel as the Foxhound hunting trials were conducted over the hills and dales of western Barre.

Foxhound bench trials dominated Barre Common. The Brunswick Foxhound Club, named for its original home in Brunswick, Maine, and functioning in Barre, invited townspeople to its annual dance.

All went well for years, but times were changing. Automobiles began to replace horse-drawn vehicles as people traded in horses for cars, thus reducing the popularity of fox hunts for equestrians who could afford to spend one or two weeks a year sequestered in a hotel in the remote town of Barre with their hounds and horses.

When the hounds and the hunters departed for good, and automobiles replaced stagecoaches, Barre

Barre's 19th-century days as transport hub

turned to its traditional hotels for revenue. The Naquag burned in 1896. The Hotel Brunswick in Barre Plains burned in 1920.

World War I and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 interrupted business. The Hotel Barre and Massasoit House struggled. In 1920, the Massasoit became the employee boarding house of the Chas. G. Allen Co., which demolished its livery stable.

In 1925, Massasoit House was torn down. Only the Hotel Barre remained, financially strapped. By 1941, Barre Hunt Club, Inc. sought a liquor license with the intention of becoming a social club that would keep the hotel and its Side Door Saloon alive. Its name harks when the Brunswick Foxhound Club frequented the hotel.

Known for its country music scene, the Hunt Club was legend before Hotel Barre met its end by fire in 1990.

author, illustrator meet by chance and create children's book

continued from page 35

sent it out to three places. I received three rejections, and I forgot about it.”

The dream didn't end there.

“I dusted off the story a few years ago and took it to my writers' group to share. They all loved it!”

However, children's books require illustrations, so Harmon's project returned to the back burner until fate took another turn.

“I met the artist Siiri Paton at a fair in Gardner. She had never done illustrations before, but when I explained my idea of Horatio, she seemed to know exactly what I had in mind.”



Sharon Harmon, left, wrote *Horatio Mortimer Loved Music*, illustrated by Siiri Paton.

photos courtesy of Sharon Harmon and Siiri Paton

Growing up in Athol and a resident of Orange, Paton has been a professional artist since high school.

“My mom knew I would be artistic even when I was a baby, so she made sure I had access to jumbo crayons ASAP. The rest was scribbly history.”

Paton immediately took to the idea of Horatio Mortimer. “I thought putting musical sounds into physical images was a neat idea,” she said. “My dad is a musician, so I totally connected with the idea.”

From idea to paper provided a magical journey for Paton.

“Sometimes a character takes a lot of trial and error. Other times I draw instinctually and can get it done fairly quickly. There is no rhyme or reason.”

A new challenge presented itself for Harmon and Paton when COVID-19 arrived.

“We ended up working through e-mails and phone,” Harmon said. “It made it harder to exchange ideas, but Horatio came to life in 2020.”

Harmon wrote, illustrated, and published another children's book in 2021.

Francois Christmas Crossing came with different challenges. “My granddaughter Olly created the darling owl on my cover when she was only thirteen,” Harmon said. “She realized how much work it would be when she got to the second page. So, I took on the task and finished with a newfound respect for what artists like Siiri do.”

Harmon's children's books and her two poetry books, *Swimming with Cats* and *Wishbone in a Lightning Jar*, can be purchased at the Book Forge in Orange, the Kitchen Garden in Templeton, the Country Store in Petersham, and Johnny Applesed Visitors Center on Route 2 in Lancaster.

Author Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

May 24, Saturday

Totally Turtles
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Moore-Leland Library
172 Athol Road
Orange
Totally Turtles! Discover the variety of turtles that live in Massachusetts. Listen to a turtle story, then take a closer look at turtle shells and other turtle biofacts. Create a wearable turtle craft, then play a game called "Turtle Hurdles". Registration required.
orangelib.org

May 25, Sunday

Memorial Day Commemoration
10 a.m.
Quabbin Park Cemetery
New Salem
Refreshments followed by parade and services.

Opening Weekend

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham

Oakham Historical Society will hold open house hours on the last Sundays of the month until October 2025.

May 27, Tuesday

Mini Carnival
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
The library's Athol Teen Advisory Council, ATAC, is hosting a free mini carnival, and you are invited! We have an evening of fun planned with carnival style games, a stuffed animal petting zoo, prizes, face painting, photo ops, goody bags, and more. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

June 5, Thursday

1890's The Gilded Age with Kandie Carle, the Victorian Lady
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Kandie Carle, the Victorian Lady, puts on her fun show as she dresses from corset to gloves with period fashion and humor. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

Grow Pollinator Gardens with Cannabis
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wheeler Memorial Library
49 East Main Street
Orange
Join Ronny LeBlanc from the Travel Channel's Expedition Bigfoot and learn how to transform a yard into an ecosystem by providing proper pollinator food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife all season long!
orangelib.org

June 7, Saturday

Hubbardston Fair
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Curtis Rec Field
Hubbardston

June 18, Wednesday

Museum Opening Day
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Museum will have open hours Wednesdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. June 18 through September 17. Free admission.

June 19, Thursday

Live Music
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
Traditional American songs performed by Terry Reed on banjo and Ann Reed on percussion during the Third Thursday street fair.

June 20, Friday

Start of Free Band Concerts
7:00 p.m.
Butterfield Park
East River Street
Orange
Orange Community Band will perform free band concerts on the bandstand in Butterfield Park on Friday evenings, June 20 through July 25, plus a Back to School concert on August 29.

events compiled by Emily Boughton

Please submit listings for the next issue

before July 20, 2025

to UQCalendar@gmail.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

June 21, Saturday

Animal Adaptations
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Moore-Leland Library
172 Athol Road
Orange

Observe and explore adaptations of local wildlife. Examine up close a variety of skulls, bird feathers, turtle shells, and other natural history objects. Play the Bird Beak game. Register required by emailing aviolette@orangelib.org or by calling (978)-575-0444.

Create a Garden Altar
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Seeds of Solidarity
165 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange

Participants will each build a creation of wood, sacred, and found objects to enhance the garden or yard, to promote meditative practices, and to honor the land.
Email deb@seedsofsolidarity.org to sign up.

Garden Party
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Narragansett Historical Society
Back Garden
1 Boyton Road
Templeton

Music, sweet and savory treats, tea, coffee, or lemonade during a day in the garden for all ages. Suggested donation \$10. May be rescheduled or canceled due to weather.

Orange Solstice Riverfest
5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Downtown Orange

Welcome summer with illuminated parade of boats, floating firepits on the river, local food, music, vendors, children's activities, and more!
billygoatboats.com/events

June 24, Tuesday

The World of Owls
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol

Wingmasters will be at the library to teach about the incredible world of owls! Registration required.

June 29, Sunday

Reconstructing the Past Through Archival Photos
1:00 p.m.
Prescott Church
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Presented by Peter Peirce, professional photographer.
Free admission.

Clearing the Valley
2:00 p.m.
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Presentation by Maria Beiter, Interpretive services supervisor of DCR Quabbin Ware River region on history of clearing Swift River Valley and how it affected people.

July 3, Thursday

UNO Competition
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Play rounds of UNO to earn a raffle entry ticket to win any of three collector's editions of UNO. Open to ages 8 and up. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

July 8, Tuesday

Level Up Your Selfies with Kirsten Spencer Photography
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Learn to adjust your pose, posture, head, and smile to get a good selfie photo on camera or smartphone. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

July 9, Wednesday

Potluck and "Interdependence" conversation
5:30 p.m.
Seeds of Solidarity
165 Chestnut Hill Road Orange
seedsofsolidarity.org

July 13, Sunday

Project Mishoon
1:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
With David S. Robinson, director of the state board of Underwater Archaeological Resources and Cheryl Stedtler, director of Project Mishoon.

July 17, Thursday

Live Music
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
Musical entertainment by the harmonizing Reed-Nichols Trio during the Third Thursday street fair.

July 18, 19, and 20

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Junie B Jones the Musical Jr.
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street Barre
barreplayerstheater.com

continued on next page



Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

July 20, Sunday

Dana Reunion
10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Dana Common
Gate 40
New Salem

July 27, Sunday

Dana Vespers
2:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Cake and lemonade served after the concert.

July 29, Tuesday

History of Nintendo
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Presented by One Up Games with information about how Nintendo evolved. All Nintendo systems from the NES to the Nintendo Switch will be on hand to play.
athollibrary.org

August 6 and 7

Wednesday and Thursday

Escape from the Wizards Tower
Various Times
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Join us for this hour-long escape room experience with Wicked Fun Games! Gather ingredients, cast spells, and assemble a wizard's staff to be able to escape out of the tower! Follow the journal entries, gather ingredients, and cast spells! Registration is required.
athollibrary.org

August 10, Sunday

The Rabbit Railroad: Lifeblood of the Swift River Valley
1:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
A journey through the lost towns in miniature with Ken Levine.

August 17, Sunday

Gone Whalin'
1:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Western Mass crews on whalers with Dennis Picard.

August 21, Thursday

Live Music
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
American songs performed by Terry Reed on banjo and Ann Reed on percussion during the Third Thursday street fair.

August 23, Saturday

Warwick Old Home Days
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Town Common
Free outdoor set up space
Festivities, Historical Society open, afternoon cemetery walk, music all day, and dinner at Town Hall

Dingy Dash
10:00 a.m.
Brigham Pond Boat Ramp
Wachusett Road
Hubbardston
Rain Date August 24



Eagles perch at Silver Lake, Athol.
photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

August 24, Sunday

Eagles, loons, and Bears, Oh, My!
1:00 p.m.
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Presented by Quabbin Visitor Center services supervisor Brittany Guntor.

September 13, Saturday

New Salem Old Home Day
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
New Salem Center

September 21, Sunday

Motorpalooza
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boyton Road
Templeton
Bring a ride or come to check out some cool ones on the common.
Music by Boothill express.

