

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

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

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

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volume 7, number 2 • September-December 2022

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

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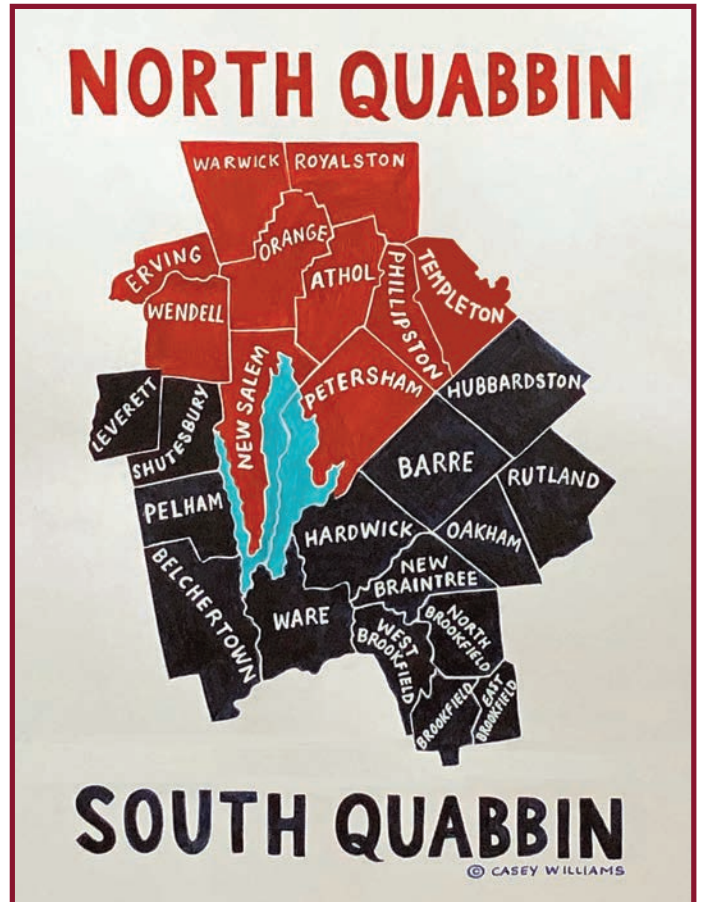


From a Ware vantage point, Quabbin Reservoir reposes in a glory of autumn foliage.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

ON THE FRONT COVER

autumn moose in Quabbin Reservation
a photograph by Dale Monette



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

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about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

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

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

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

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

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

Grants, advertisers, and donations keep us going. We always appreciate donations. You can make one by mailing a check to *Uniquely Quabbin* c/o Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331, going to www.uniquelyquabbin.com and choosing the donate button, or scanning the QR code you will find in this magazine.

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

Fall is upon us in all its beautiful glory . . . the colorful leaves, the crisp morning air, apple cider donuts, fall fairs, and anticipation of another wonderful Thanksgiving turkey with friends and family.

I know you will enjoy this issue of the magazine which will lead you down colorful paths to see the fall leaves and find that place where you can find the perfect cider donut while walking around a fair.

Jump into *Uniquely Quabbin* and start looking!!

Thankfully,
Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society



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Wendell Cultural Council • West Brookfield Cultural Council

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

From Metacomet to the game of pool, from a nineteenth-century journal to electric vehicles, from one-room schoolhouses to big-time musicians who got their start in the Quabbin region, and much more, this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* reflects the diversity, dedication to excellence, time for fun, and remarkable spirit of those who live around the reservoir.

With support of our brand new and longtime advertisers, *Uniquely Quabbin* writers, artists, and photographers once again bring readers varied articles and images that enlighten us all about what goes on around here. We've enjoyed compiling *Uniquely Quabbin*, and we hope that you like it.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

corrections

Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin*,

Great edition of the May-August 2022 *Uniquely Quabbin*. Just a couple of corrections needed. On page 20, the population of the US in 1875 was not 4.4 million but 44 million, so the Grange consisted of just two percent, not twenty percent of the population. On page 27, the population of Poland is 38 million not 1.8 million, so the number of refugees does not equal the population of Poland. Wonderful articles and photos, especially by Susannah Whipps.

Michael Magee
Orange

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THANK YOU!

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Free

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

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

A Swift River Anthology and plays by Dorothy Johnson

by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

Fall is my favorite time of the year. Of course, summer can't be beat—but October? It feels like living on another planet full with color. Like many others, my grandfather took his three granddaughters on Sunday drives to admire the maples. It is hard

to resist taking pictures of the same splash of beauty year after year.

So much happens in fall. Produce, animals and quilts vie to be the best at harvest festivals. Competition builds community. In *A Swift River Anthology*, a fictional collection by the late Dorothy Johnson who created this column, "Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts," Lula Clement regularly wins the blue ribbon at the Grange Fair for her pickles until she shares the recipe with a friend who then took the prize. Thereafter, Lula cunningly leaves out an ingredient when she shares a recipe.

A Swift River Anthology, a collection of vignettes, evokes lives lived in the lost towns of Quabbin: Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and

Prescott and their times of parades, fairs, births, and wars. Today, towns surrounding the reservoir share similar experiences.

Every other September for more than twenty years, the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem presented a homegrown play written by Johnson. It started with *Small Town Life* in 1982. Anyone who wanted took part in the productions. Actors, non actors, singers, non singers, old, and young gathered year after every other year. Townspeople of New Salem, Orange, Athol, Shutesbury, Leverett, Amherst, Petersham, Belchertown, and Wendell joined in. A community of neighbors

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Metacomet known as King Philip

portrait by Susan Marshall



Metacomet known as King Philip, 2019
portrait in acrylics on canvas by Susan Marshall
printed on stainless steel for display at
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As sachem in the late seventeenth century, Metacomet, son of Massasoit and called King Philip by the British, led the Wampanoag people of what British settlers called Massachusetts Bay. He met with leaders of other Indigenous groups at a large glacial erratic some believe located in Royalston. Metacomet initially followed his father as a peaceful sachem. British settlers, however, pushed boundaries and appropriated ever more land without agreement, sale, or treaty. Metacomet

became a warrior to protect his people's heritage and avenge the injustice done to them in a land war. British rangers and native allies hunted Metacomet and assassinated him in 1676, then quartered his body and displayed his decapitated head on a pole for twenty-five years in the area the settlers called Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Muralist Susan Marshall of Orange creates outdoor art commissioned by businesses and organizations.

Rutland wraps up bicentennial year with

by Diane Kane

Rutland preserves its past while continuing to realize new possibilities.

Rufus Putnam, lieutenant colonel with the Continental Army at the 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill, earned a commission as brigadier general in 1783 a few months before the end of the War of Revolution. After the war, he settled in Rutland in a house built by John Murray in 1750 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1972. Also known as the Bliss-Murray-Putnam House, the General Rufus Putnam House receives excellent reviews as a bed-and-breakfast inn.

CALENDAR

Friday Concerts on the Rutland Common

5 pm, open mic by invitation

5:55 pm, National Anthem

6 pm to 9 pm, band concert

September 2

featuring Jake McKelvie and the Countertops

September 9

featuring The Green Sisters

September 16

featuring The Otters

September 23

featuring Rabble Rounders

September 30

Concert on the Common, 5 pm to 9 pm, The Midnight Riders

October 15, Saturday, noon to 4 pm

Fall Festival of Forgotten Arts at Rutland Historical Society

October 23, Sunday, 4 pm to 5 pm

**Spirits Walk in Old Burial Ground next to
Rutland Public Library**

November 12, Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm

Veterans Day Open House at Rutland Historical Society

December 3, 4 pm to 8 pm

Festival of Trees, Tree Lighting, and Santa

December 4, 1 pm to 4 pm

Festival of Trees and Santa

calendar listings compiled by Elizabeth Callahan



Marcia and Chris Warrington operate historic
Rufus Putnam House in Rutland as a bed and breakfast.
photo courtesy of Elizabeth Callahan

In 1788, Putnam left with the Ohio Company of Associates to settle the Northwest Territory, establishing the town of Marietta, Ohio, seven hundred miles from Rutland. By vote of Rutland selectmen in May 2012, Marietta became Rutland's baby sister town. Marietta's mayor, Josh Schlicher, traveled to Rutland in July to join tricentennial festivities. Schlicher said he felt welcomed seeing a sign at the boundary of the community reading

This Rutland on the hill is
the cradle of Ohio
the cradle of the West.

Rutland's town common sits twelve hundred feet above sea level at the highest elevation between Boston and the Berkshires. Its elevation led to Rutland's claim of clean air and health benefits. When the spread of tuberculosis or TB, a contagious infection caused by bacteria that mainly affect the lungs, began near the end of the nineteenth century, Rutland seemed a logical place to build hospitals and sanatoriums. In 1898, the Massachusetts Hospital for Consumptive and Tubercular Patients was constructed in Rutland along with other small private TB sanatoriums.

The facilities proved vital to Rutland's workforce when the creation of Quabbin Reservoir sacrificed

concerts, arts fest, spirit walk, and tree fest

many of Rutland's industrial buildings and jobs to the watershed area. As a result, the healthcare industry became the major employer in the area until the last sanatorium closed in December of 1991.

Rutland also hosted a prison work farm, where tuberculosis-affected inmates grew food for the state's prison population. Fresh garden produce attracted summer visitors, and Finnish immigrants worked with others on Rutland farms.

Two residents gave Rutland another medical distinction in 1954 when Ronald Herrick and Richard Herrick became the country's first kidney transplant recipient and donor. In Boston, Doctor Joseph E. Murray transplanted a healthy kidney from twenty-three-year-old Ronald into his twin brother, Richard, who suffered from chronic kidney failure.

The operation succeeded, and both brothers made a full recovery. Doctor Murray won the 1990 Nobel Prize for his work with organ transplant. Richard died eight years later from causes unrelated to the transplant, and Ronald lived until 2010.

Although the waters of Quabbin Reservoir lie west of Rutland, eminent domain claimed a large area for the Quabbin watershed, including what is now the

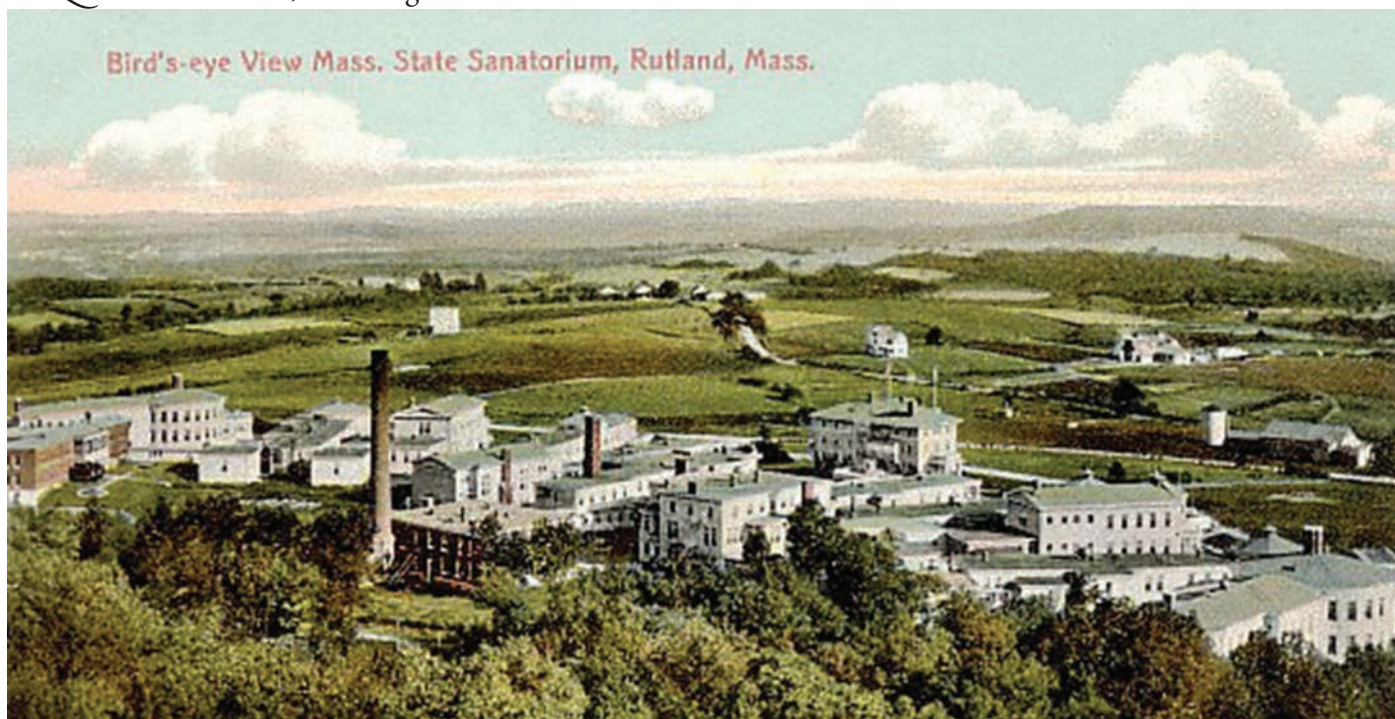
three-hundred-acre Rutland State Park. A six-mile-long tunnel underneath Rutland accommodates pipes that carry water from Coldbrook Springs in Oakham to West Boylston and Wachusett Reservoir. The elevated pumping station in Barre controls flow from the reservoir, as it diverts water east or west as needed.

As industrial jobs left Rutland in the wake of the Quabbin, many small businesses set up shop in the first half of the twentieth century. Residents remember Sims Tractor Cab, Lawrence Smith Shoe Repair, Ruth Allison's Mexican Villa, Rutland Lawnmower, and the Rutland Ski Tow. Heifer Project International maintained an office and farm in Rutland. Rutland Historical Society in Wood House, 232 Main Street, displays vintage business signs and wares.

Once home to numerous dairy farms, Rutland has only one remaining. Jordan's Dairy has eight hundred head of cattle and uses an anaerobic digester to recycle solid sorted organics to produce energy.

"In 2011, Jordan Farm was the first in the country to use a digester that takes fifty percent manure and fifty percent food waste in an anaerobic digester," said a farm spokesperson. Computers regulate the mixture

continued on page 50



Massachusetts State Sanatorium at Rutland occupied many buildings.

postcard view courtesy of Elizabeth Callahan

flights of insects and sights and

text and photos by Sue Cloutier



Common milkweed morphs into autumn silken parachute.

Autumn may seem like the end of things—leaves change color and fall from trees, insects depart, flowers fade. Yet, when taking a favorite Quabbin path, hikers know that the following year they'll again find familiar leaves, insects, and flowers.

Common Milkweed: *spread silken parachutes*

Look for standing stalks of milkweed in wet meadows and along edges of lakes and streams. Seeds from milkweed flowers are encased in green capsules at summer's end. By fall, capsules turn brown. When seeds within are ripe, the capsule splits to release seeds. Feathery white parachutes carry seeds away on the wind.

When checking milkweed patches in summer, you can expect to see monarch butterflies feeding on flowers or their caterpillars eating the leaves. As milkweed provides the only food for monarch caterpillars, without milkweed the butterfly will disappear. Many insects benefit from milkweed, though no insect except the monarch depends entirely on milkweed.

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seasons along Quabbin trails

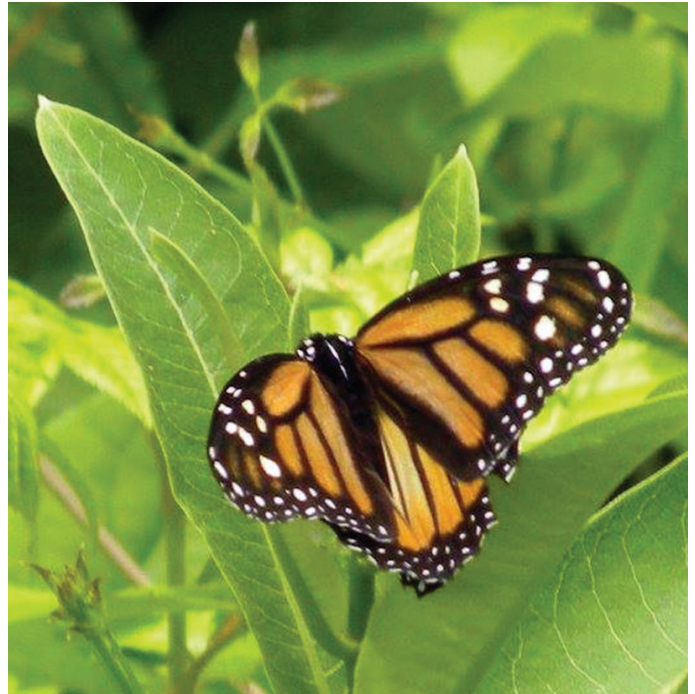
The late summer/fall rush of most monarch butterflies heading to Mexico may have already passed by Quabbin. Still, a monarch may lift off the last bloom of milkweed and fly high over the water on the journey south.

During flowering season, you can follow your nose to find colonies of milkweed, a common plant in moist meadows and wetlands. In fall, its white parachutes may catch your eye. You can help the monarch by collecting seeds to spread to another moist meadow to expand rest stops for migrating monarchs next year.

Milky sap in older plants has toxic chemicals that impact circulation. Wild animals avoid eating mature milkweeds. In a survival twist, those toxins help monarch caterpillars and adults by making them unpalatable to birds.

In the past, people used the fibers from milkweed stems to make twine and woven fabric. And fibers of fine silky parachutes have served as stuffing for pillows and quilts.

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Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed as the only food for monarch caterpillars.

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You don't have to be a guy to hunt and

by Sasha Ellsworth Dyer



Brianna Ellsworth Skowyra, left, of Hardwick, and her sister Sasha Ellsworth Dyer of Petersham, author of this article, take a moment's break from tracking to capture an image of their memories in the woods. Their family shares a deep hunting heritage, and everyone around knew where Gram's Run was—the deer trail where the sisters' grandmother often harvested her deer.

photo courtesy of Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

A growing number of women hunters in the Quabbin region and beyond take to the woods each year with hunting equipment in hand to seek things from the woods they enjoy.

As time passes, and most recently exacerbated by the pandemic, a growing number of women have chosen to take a closer look at their protein sources. Considering numerous benefits of wild game, women explore their feelings about wild harvest and whether they can provide for themselves and their loved ones by hunting. Women anticipating their hunting journey turn to veteran hunters, often men but increasingly women, too, to learn what has helped seasoned hunters become successful.

The history of women hunters varies by culture and decade, and women find solace in the woods just as do male counterparts. Perhaps acceptance of women in the role of hunter and women's comfort in the role equalize slowly at a pace reflecting societal shifts. Many reasons account for why people connect deeply with their time afield, and shifts in levels of acceptance have made life easier for the lifelong woman hunter as well as women looking to start on their hunting journeys.

I remember my early hunting years when I showed up to check in a deer I had recently harvested only to have my proud excitement dimmed when old timers whispered guesses about who I was tagging a deer for. They evidently didn't want to believe the harvest was mine.

Those early days saw all female hunters dressed in whatever gear they could buy that might fit from the men's hunting rack. Fast forward, and more and more companies realize that women hunters want

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harvest food from Quabbin region wilds

clothes tailored for hunting to suit their own needs. Although things are changing both regarding clothing and negative viewpoints, basic anatomical differences nevertheless mean that manufacturers have not yet fully served the needs of women.

Take, for example, the female bow hunter who likes to spend time twenty feet up in a deer stand, where safety dictates wearing a full body harness tethering the hunter securely to the tree far above eye level of white-tailed deer. When nature calls—and as adults, we know it always does—few options pertain for a woman safely to address the moment, while a guy can, ahem, take a few seconds to unzip and relieve himself. Unless she wants to wet herself, she has to unharness or climb down and then climb back up again—not ideal nor productive.

Hunting since she was a child, Brianna Skowrya of Hardwick says you can hike a hundred miles in the woods while you hunt and never see a soul until the moment nature calls and, mysteriously, someone pops out of the woodwork. It happened to her when she was pregnant with her son, and the embarrassment brought

on a wave of morning sickness. She doesn't know who was more upset, she or the other hunter, a man. Luckily, trials and tribulation of such adventures become the hysterical stories that a growing band of women hunters laugh about as they help each other move forward to find their own successes.

Hunters find success in brushstrokes far more broad than simply bringing home a harvest. They find it as inner peace and connecting with nature and the wild things that inhabit it.

Emma Ellsworth of Orange did not grow up hunting. She found it and became interested while watching her husband, Tom, working their German Short-haired Pointer pup in the field. Seeing her dog lock on point as it sighted potential prey brought her true joy, and she knew she wanted to do more than watch. She credits her husband and their close guy friends with teaching her the ropes. She also credits places like Petersham Gun Club where she practices shooting just like “one of the guys.”

continued on page 48



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Wheeler journal records daily life on

by Don Flye

In 1881, fifteen-year-old Frank Wheeler, who lived in the north end of Petersham, kept a daily diary. He made his home with his family, including his father, mother, eleven-year-old sister, Sarah; twenty-one-year-old brother, Arthur; and grandmother.

excerpts from Frank Wheeler's diary

January

Several days warmer today, but still cool. I cut a little wood under the woodshed and did some chores.

I went to school today. The teacher was moderate cross. I got along well with my lessons.

Mr. Brown, the palm-leaf man, came. Sarah and mother made palm leaf hats.

February

I cut wood in the forest with Arthur and Father. We later delivered to Athol.

Mr. Bigelow came down, and he and Father and I went to Collins Smiths, and father bought a horse. It was a black one, and I think it was first-rated one. Mr. Bigelow thought so, too, and he is a good horse judge.

It rained last night, and the snow is going fast today. I did a few chores and worked on my zithern (a stringed instrument). I don't know whether it will be good for anything or not.

The next day Arthur helped me finish the zithern and we were able to play tunes decently well.



In the 1880s, according to his journal, Frank Wheeler built a zithern (which he calls a zithern) like the one here with his brother Arthur, and they played tunes "decently well."

photo courtesy of Wikimedia



HISTORIC CEMETERY GHOST WALK Hardwick Common

Old Hardwick Cemetery

October 15, 2022 7:00 p.m.

FREE

**rain date
October 16, 2022**

late 1800s Swift River area farm

Sunday, we all except grandmother went to Petersham for a meeting.

April

Father and I went to Athol with a load of hay and bought some shingles. In the afternoon Uncle Samuel Mann helped us shingle the woodshed.

Edith and Sarah French came down and sewed some for Mother. They stayed all day.

School commenced today, and Sarah went. Edith was the teacher.

May

Father and I got out manure and ploughed the piece in the south mowing. Arthur worked up to the community (Adonai Shomo Society, a community settled in 1859 by Millerites on land acquired in 1907 by Harvard University to establish Harvard Forest. Millerites believed in the imminent end of the world). I went May basketing (went door-to-door on or near May 1 with homemade baskets of candy) in the evening.

June

Today we finished mowing the south mowing and cut what was this side of the brook in the Holt lot. I went on a picnic in the afternoon. I am sixteen years old today (June 28). The next day we got one load of hay in before it rained.

July

Warm and pleasant with some signs of rain. Father and Arthur worked for Chester Crawford. I worked for him in the afternoon five hours. I am going to have \$1.75 a day for ten hours work.

I went bathing out to Cutthroat Brook.

August

Henry Drury to cut my hair.

Father and Sarah and I picked blueberries in the AM. We reaped a little on the wheat in the PM.

Sunday, Arthur and Sarah went to the meeting in Petersham. I didn't go because I had hay fever.

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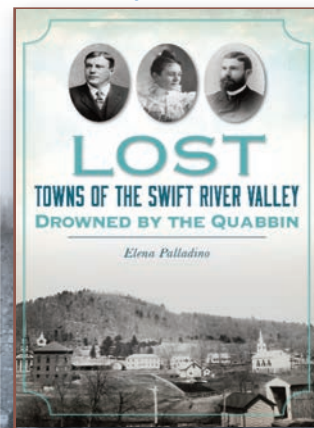
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Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin



by Elena Palladino

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Phillipston, Hardwick children's education

by Carla Charter

Long before Quabbin region school systems engaged students with twenty-first-century technology,



Two of Phillipston's one-room schools include a building at 25 Templeton Road that today houses Phillips Free Public Library, top, and one that stood on New England Route 7, now Massachusetts Route 2A. photo courtesy of Phillipston Historical Society

one-room schoolhouses advanced education with chalkboards, primers, and composition books.

Phillipston and Hardwick children attended one-room schools well into the twentieth century.

In the 1940s, Betty J. McAdam Davidson attended two one-room schoolhouses in Phillipston when she went to fourth grade at a schoolhouse on State Road and fifth and sixth grade at Phillipston Center School, now home to the town's public library.

Davidson and her family moved from Westminster to town in 1941. "The schools in Westminster were big buildings with three classrooms and plumbing. In Phillipston, there was a one-room schoolhouse with Grades 1 through 4. The schools had two outhouses out back, one for girls and one for boys, and a wood stove in the schoolroom to keep us warm. We didn't have pumped-in drinking water. Instead, crocks were filled in the front cloakroom. The first school I attended, there was an older woman who brought water to fill the crocks. She built the fire in the stove and cleaned the floors."

As for the classes themselves, she said, "We would bring our lunch and leave it in the cloakroom. We used inkwells. I remember a man came to teach penmanship and a little old lady came to teach music. Kids ran to help her into the building. It was an experience."

Davidson said it was not hard to learn because of the variety of material taught to children of many ages and grade levels. She explained that her older sisters attended Athol schools, one at Athol Junior High School and the other at Athol High School.

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took place in one-room schoolhouses

"We lived on South Royalston Road in Phillipston," she said. "We walked seven-tenths of a mile to the bus stop where a beach wagon picked us up that drove us to the Four Corners bus stop where the King Philip is now.

"From there, we rode the big bus to school—the only bus in town," she remarked.

Davidson remembered that she was in sixth grade during World War II. She said army guys on Searles Hill Road watched for airplanes. The teacher decided to take several eighth-grade girls to meet the soldiers, but she left fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students behind. The children left behind decided to go into the church and up into the steeple. The superintendent drove in, and the teacher was fired, she said.

One girl drove her pony to school, Davidson recalled. She unhooked the pony from the wagon and gave everyone pony rides. "My turn came," Davidson said, "and the pony had had it with giving rides and bucked me off. I never rode a horse again."

Hardwick once had eleven one-room school houses, according to Emily Bancroft, curator at Hardwick Historical Society Museum and Schoolhouse #6. "Originally the schools were numbered," said Bancroft. "Only as the schools consolidated were they given names. Each district in town had control over their own school and got tax money based on the number of students in the district school.

The schools educated students from first to eighth grade depending on the age of children in the neighborhood. Some teachers themselves were seventeen or eighteen years old. "In the early 1800s, if they had graduated the school and showed proficiency when examined by the school committee and the committee felt them proficient enough, they got permission to teach," Bancroft said.

In 1860, the committee abolished the district program. The town took over ownership of all of the school districts. "As the schools closed, they consolidated. It



The Class of 1917-1918 at Hardwick's Schoolhouse #6 on Petersham Road included, with teacher Candida Tadiello, from left, front, Fred Chase, Timothy Breen, Agnes Stolgitis, Mary Thresher, William Breen, and Samuel Stolgitis; back row, Alice Breen, Margaret Breen, Francis Stolgitis, Lewis Chase, and David Breen.

photo courtesy of Hardwick Historical Society Museum

was more efficient and less costly. It was beneficial for the kids to consolidate the schools. The teacher had to teach all of the grades. It was better if the teacher could concentrate on one grade," said Bancroft.

Schoolhouse #6, built in 1888, closed in 1900. It was used again from 1917 to 1920, Bancroft said. The building has an exterior photo of the Class of 1917, including the teacher.

Once closed, a farmer living across the street bought Schoolhouse #6 to store equipment. When the farmer stopped using the building, it became overgrown, Bancroft said.

In the early 2000s, the historical commission decided to rescue the school. The historical society and commission have restored the exterior, Bancroft explained. "The work is currently on hold. Estimated repairs are in the thousands," she said. "Eventually, far into the future, we would like to renovate the interior," Bancroft said.

Bancroft is compiling information about the town's eleven one-room schoolhouses from town records and reports, school committee reports, newspaper articles, and artifacts.

Hardwick Historical Society will open on second and fourth Sundays of the month until the end of October. It houses artifacts including school desks, schoolbooks, and teachers' contracts. The historical society accepts donations for restoration of Schoolhouse #6 at Box 492, Hardwick.

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



A rare Massachusetts covered bridge spans Ware River on Old Gilbertville Road and Bridge Street in Ware and Hardwick
photo © by John Burk.

Ware features diverse combination of historic settings by John Burk

With a colonial-era farming village, nineteenth-century industrial complex, and a large portion of Quabbin Reservoir, Ware features a diverse combination of historic settings. Located in eastern Hampshire County equidistant from Springfield and Worcester, its 40 square-mile landscape comprises glacial valleys and ridges with elevations as high as 1,050 feet. Quabbin Hill, a popular attraction of Quabbin Reservoir, offers sweeping views from its 1,026-foot summit.

Quabbin Reservoir's southeast corner, including portions of discontinued Enfield and Greenwich, encompasses 8,050 acres, roughly one-third of Ware's land. From the reservoir's outlet at Winsor Dam, Swift River, a prime trout waterway, flows south along Ware's western boundary with Belchertown. Ware River winds southwest across the eastern portion of town. Ware River falls, cascades at the present downtown mill yard

site, were a crucial resource for Native Americans and early industries.

The Native American Nipmuc of Quaboag, a settlement in present Brookfield, fished for salmon seasonally at Ware River falls. Ware's name derives from the Old English weirs, made of stone, brush, and stakes, that entrapped fish at the base of the cascades. Other fishing, agricultural, and hunting sites likely existed along Swift River and Muddy, Beaver, and Flat brooks as well as adjacent marshes and uplands.

Colonial Ware was originally part of so-called Equivalent Lands, a section of Hampshire County temporarily annexed by Connecticut in a 1713 boundary dispute. Most early colonial settlement took place during the 1730s and 1740s on an eleven-thousand-acre tract known as the Manour of Peace. Owner

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Millers River seen from the vantage point of the ledge running parallel to Route 2 in Erving.

photo © by John Burk

Erving hosts natural, historic features in compact setting

by John Burk

A picturesque river community on the eastern Mohawk Trail, Erving hosts a variety of natural and historic features within a compact geographic area. Its 14 square-mile landscape mostly comprises wooded valley ridges and rolling hills, capped by an unnamed 1,221-foot eminence in Erving State Forest. Northfield Mountain, a broad massif with several peaks including 1,206-foot Hermit Mountain and 1,067-foot Rattlesnake Mountain, dominates the western portion of town. A 342-acre artificial reservoir at its summit, part of a pumped-storage facility built during the 1960s and owned by First Light Power, stores Connecticut River water for hydroelectric power generation.

Millers River flows through a deep valley along the town's southern boundary to confluence with Connecticut River at the steep-walled French King Gorge, created by a geologic fault that formed

Connecticut Valley more than two hundred million years ago. Erving State Forest, established after a forest fire in 1918, lies within a large conservation corridor that extends through Wendell and Warwick. Laurel Lake, Erving's best known feature, has been a popular summer vacation and recreation destination since the 1920s.

Erving's land and resources may have been used by the Pocumtuck or Squakeag tribes, inhabitants of the upper Pioneer Valley in precolonial times. During spring salmon and shad migrations, seasonal agricultural and fishing sites likely included locales now called Millers Falls, Millers River floodplain, Laurel Lake, Keyup Brook, Jack's Brook, and meadows on Connecticut River. A portion of the Mohawk Trail Native American travel corridor paralleled the north banks of Millers River and a north-south route followed Connecticut River.

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professional trainers help the untutored

by Cynthia Crosson

Many who adopted a dog during the isolation of COVID-19 realized after they brought home a cute puppy that they hadn't much considered the necessity of training.

Enter a professional trainer.



Hubbardston's Andria Young of Unmistaken Stars Farm Sanctuary and Dog Training brings twenty years' experience to training dogs.

photo © by Tiny Toes and Little Bows Photography

Andria Young of Unmistaken Stars Farm Sanctuary and Dog Training in Hubbardston has trained dogs for more than twenty-five years. In 2003, Andria and her husband, Jeremy, founded the sanctuary, situated on a nine-acre farm—home for thirty animals abused, neglected, or destined for slaughter. Staff rehabilitates and places adoptable animals. Others experience their final days with plenty of food, loving care, and respect, Andria said.

Andria holds certifications as a professional dog trainer, certified behavioral consultant for canines, certified dog behavior consultant, and an American Kennel Club canine good citizen evaluator. She conducts group training classes for puppies, beginner and advanced obedience, and canine good citizen preparation. She also offers classes in AKC categories of agility and trick and rally. She also gives private lessons.

Some of Andria's work involves behavioral consulting for owners whose dogs demonstrate problematic behaviors. "My work bases training on fear-free/force-free principles that use positive reinforcements to encourage a dog to repeat desired behavior in the future."

"Dogs don't always understand what we want from them," Andria explains. "We need to learn about their behavior to help them understand what we expect of them so that both our needs and theirs are met."

Andria's interest in working with animals evolved from personal experiences. At twelve, she had a brain injury that confined her to a



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wheelchair for three years. “My service dog Silver changed my life for the better,” she said. They attended group training classes together, and through her dog, Andria discovered that animals can help people heal. Later, she participated in physical therapy through horseback riding or hippotherapy to strengthen her legs and enable her to walk again.

Her experiences with animals inspired Andria not only to rescue disabled animals but also to pursue certifications toward establishing her own training business.

Andria and her team are “committed to the wellbeing of your pet and fostering the human animal bond through supportive integrative services for pets and their guardians,” according to the farm’s website.

Belchertown’s Mutt Manners serves Barre, Belchertown, New Salem, North Brookfield, Orange, Petersham, and Ware.

“Some people don’t understand that you can’t throw away a dog who has issues and just get a new one,” explained Amelia Wendell of Mutt Manners. “It’s all about communication between dogs and people. It’s not about controlling a dog but rather learning to communicate so that they know what is expected of them.

Working with fearful and reactive dogs led Amelia to several positions as a veterinary technician where she used her skills at reading dog language to help owners make vet appointments less stressful for their pets. She also completed training and an internship for pet behavior consulting.

As a student at Becker College, she participated in a program to train retired racing greyhounds for placement in family homes. Her college internship with Second Chance Shelter and an eventual job there involved encouraging dogs to overcome problematic behaviors in preparation for adoption. Amelia fell in love with the work.

“Working as a dog trainer has always been a dream of mine,” said Amelia. “Through reading and seminars I worked for my certification as a dog trainer. It took a while but I finished at last.”

Amelia offers classes in Petersham including Puppy Headstart intended to socialize puppies through eighteen weeks and Manners Matter, a beginning obedience class. She also goes to people’s homes to help them when they believe they have dogs with behavior issues.

“I help people realize that nothing is a quick fix,” said Amelia. “It’s about baby steps in learning the needs of your dog. Sometimes I think that it is more about training people—helping them to work more effectively with their dogs.”

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Amelia Wendell of Mutt Manners offers a treat.

photo © by Daniel Hatter



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Athol native Greg Stone created Idaho sculpture of

by Charles R. "Rocky" Stone



Wassmuth Center for Human Rights in Boise, Idaho, features Greg Stone sculpture of Jewish diarist Anne Frank, murdered in the Holocaust.
photo © by Leanne Stone

A life-size sculpture of Anne Frank in Boise, Idaho, owes its life to my late brother Gregory Stone, artist of Northampton, formerly of Athol, where we were born and raised. Our parents were the late Charles R. "Chuck" Stone, sports editor of *Athol Daily News*, and Dorothy May Stewart Stone.

Annelies Marie—called Anne—Frank was, as many know, a German-Dutch diarist of Jewish heritage born in 1929 and murdered at Auschwitz sometime in 1945.

One of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust, she gained fame posthumously with the 1947 publication of *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

Greg accepted the contract in 2000 from the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights in Boise to create the bronze statue of Anne Frank.

In 2002, he rented a van and transported the sculpture from Northampton to Boise, where the statue serves as centerpiece for the Idaho Human Rights Memorial.

Greg displayed an early interest in art, and his efforts were strongly encouraged by our parents. His Athol High School art teacher Thor Carlson significantly influenced him. After graduating in 1965 from Athol High, Greg studied at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. He held a bachelor's and master's degree from Boston University, where sculptor Elbert Weinberg mentored him.

In addition to sculpture, sometimes with materials including wood and bone, Greg worked in other media including in oil on canvas and charcoal on paper.

Greg loved fly fishing in Quabbin region trout pools located on Millers River and Swift River.

Earlier this year, my wife, the former Leanne Aguda of Orange, and I visited the Anne Frank sculpture where Wassmuth Center docent Susan Curtis gave us a private tour. She said Paul "Buddy" Elias, 1925-2015, a cousin of Anne Frank, visited the statue and exclaimed "Hey, there's my cousin."

We found Boise, Idaho's capital, an inviting city and home to many attractions, including the Museum of Idaho, the Basque Museum, the Idaho Military History Museum, the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, and the Idaho Black History Museum. We found it heartwarming to realize that brother Greg from Athol contributed a significant work of art to a place of remembrance.

The Wassmuth Center recently celebrated the anniversary of installation of the statue. Still under



Anne Frank

photo courtesy of Wikimedia

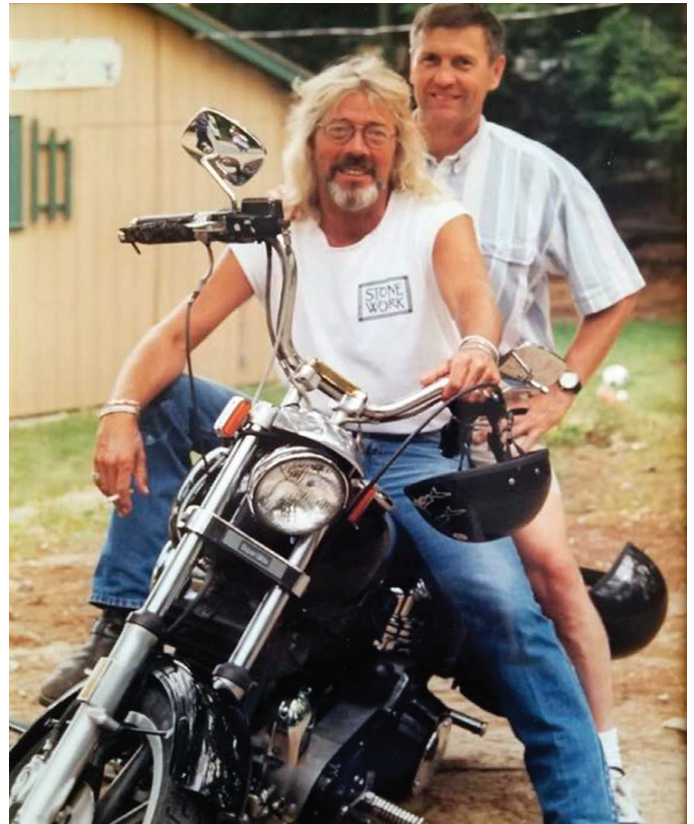
martyred diarist, Anne Frank

construction, Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, has more than once been defaced—in December of 2020 and December of 2021, both instances evidently undertaken to coincide with the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Wassmuth center was founded in 1996 for the purpose of constructing a memorial to human rights, according to a Wassmuth spokesperson, who said, “That vision became a reality when the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial opened to the public in 2002. The Memorial is a world-class educational park inspired by Anne Frank’s faith in humanity. A living, vibrant interactive classroom for Idaho’s school children, it inspires people of all ages to contemplate the moral implications of their actions and the scope of their civic responsibilities.

Find more at Gregorystoneartist.com and wassmuthcenter.org.

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



Greg Stone, left, and Charles R. “Rocky” Stone
photo © by Leanne Stone



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Massimiliano Manai, left, Honda District sales manager, presents a plaque honoring Cycle Design for outstanding service to

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aerialists will perform in Royalston by Ruth Suyenaga

Aerialists Molly Baechtold and Leah Abel will perform an interactive show at 1 pm Saturday, September 24, at Up in the Air Fair sponsored by Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee at Royalston Fish and Game Club with audience participation following the twenty-five minute aerial show.

Baechtold and Abel will demonstrate performance on aerial silks, stilt walking, hula hooping, juggling, and plate spinning. RSVR Vice-Chair Nancy Monette found funding through Royalston Cultural Council to bring the aerialists to Royalston. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features vendors, food, North Quabbin Cruisers Antique Car Show, police bloodhound demonstration by Royalston Police Officer Bill Chapman, and live music with Joshua LeVangie.

Baechtold and Abel have thirty years of combined experience in the aerial arts. They have performed above crowds at many Boston museums, Fenway Park, House of Blues, New England Aquarium, and more. Find them at BaechtoldAndAbel.com.

Ruth Suyenaga serves on the Up in the Air Fair committee.



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Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, aerialists Molly Baechtold and Leah Abel will perform Saturday, September 24, at the Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee Up in the Air Fair at Royalston Fish and Game Club.

photo courtesy of Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee.

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past their prime and/or consumed by fire,

by John Burk



A December 2021 in-person Petersham town meeting authorized demolition, left, of former Nichewaug Inn/Maria Assumpta Academy for Girls.

demolition photo © by John Burk • photo former Nichewaug Inn/Maria Assumpta courtesy of Petersham Historical Society

In recent months, the Quabbin region lost three prominent historical landmarks:

- the former South Barre woolen mill
- New Home Sewing Machine (later Innovative Cereal) factory in Orange, and

- Nichewaug Inn in Petersham

In each community, the buildings played a significant role in the history and identity.

South Barre's woolen mill, demolished in 2021, was part of a manufacturing center established on Ware

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once stalwart regional landmarks demolished



The former South Barre woolen mill, left, and a New Home Sewing Machine (later Innovative Cereal) factory in Orange no longer stand. The Orange building was demolished after a June 2022 fire.

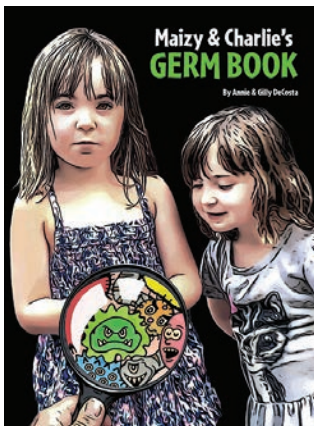
photo of former woolen mill courtesy of Barre Historical Society • photo of New Home building courtesy of Orange Fire Department

River in 1834. Barre Wool Combing Company built the four-story structure around 1903 after a fire destroyed the original brick building.

The company brought considerable growth to South Barre, including stores, churches, hotels, a railroad,

and several ethnic neighborhoods housing immigrant workers. An elevated walkway built above Main Street in 1936 connected to adjacent Nornay Worsted Mill. After Barre Wool Combing Company closed in 1974, the mill

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Quabbin region nurtures musicians

by Diane Kane



A veteran of musical ensembles Blood, Sweat, and Tears and Doc Severinsen's Tonight Show Band, Dave Barger grew up in Athol.

photo courtesy of Dave Barger

The Quabbin region has long fostered music. Aspiring musicians are born and raised right here. Accomplished musicians come here from all over in search of peace and

serenity and give credit to the nurturing of the rolling hills, embracing valleys, and calming waters we call the Quabbin Valley.

Athol native David W. Barger, a gifted trombonist and tuba player, left after high school to seek his fortune. He played bass, trombone, and tuba with Doc Severinsen's Band, famous for its work on the *Tonight* show, from 1968 to 1970.

Then he became a member of the jazz-rock group Blood, Sweat, and Tears from 1970 to 1975. His tuba jazz-rock solo in the song *And When I Die/One Room Country Shack* appears on the album *Live and Improvised*, released in 1975. Barger recorded eleven albums with Blood, Sweat, and Tears.

After leaving Blood, Sweat, and Tears in 1975, Barger recorded with greats like Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Mick Jagger, James Taylor, and Eric Clapton, but he never forgets where he began.

"I grew up in Athol as a young musician," Barger said. "And I'm happy to be continuing the tradition of my dad's family, The Musical Bargerons."

Big Al Downing, born far from the Quabbin in rural Oklahoma, succeeded as an American entertainer, singer, songwriter, and pianist in rhythm and blues before he moved to New England. He settled in North Brookfield in the 1970s to concentrate on country music.

"Big Al was a homebody, and he loved living in the New England area," according to his granddaughter Kara Brooke. "He performed at Indian Ranch in Webster. He also headlined the Woodstock fair in Northern Connecticut."

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Live and Die

text and painting by Brian Fournier

Autumn leaves falling,
October going down
like fruity marmalade
spread to the horizon—
New England erupts
as volcanic spews,
golden lava hues
marking each tree
for a fiery earth.

Like leaves, we live
and die many times
in those glorious sunsets
as if water is sky and
Earth shakes her hair
releasing afterthoughts
as spent cells.

Who are we to interrupt
a splendid romance
between the seasons?
And who would guess
those flames would take us
to the ashes of hope?



colored ink on paper © by Brian Fournier

Poet and illustrator Brian Fournier recently released his
illustrated book of poetry, *About My Cat*.

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

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What happened to Greenwich man's painted coffin?

by J. R. Greene



B. V. Brooks and his second wife, Amelia Gamwell Brooks
photo from the collection of J. R. Greene

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The Covid-19 pandemic brings to mind the so-called Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919. That event caused the death of millions around the world, including in Massachusetts.

Spanish Flu did not spare the west central part of the state. The town of Greenwich delayed opening schools for the fall term by three weeks in the autumn of 1918 to avoid exposing students to the flu. Hillside School in Greenwich educated orphans and had “many sick” during that time, according to a local source, although only one teacher succumbed to the influenza.

Longtime Greenwich resident B. V. Brooks did not get the influenza, but his wife of five years, Amelia Gamwell Brooks, was reportedly on “the sick list” in fall 1918. Brooks, a farmer by trade, had long been an artist and photographer of local scenes. In early 1919, Brooks purchased a coffin and on it painted scenes with floral embellishments of places where he had lived. He intended the coffin to be used for his burial if he succumbed to the pandemic. A local newspaper ran a story and a picture of the coffin. Both Brooks and his wife survived the pandemic and took the coffin with them when they moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1920.

Shortly after passage of the Swift River Act authorizing flooding of Swift River Valley for creation of Quabbin Reservoir, Brooks made arrangements in December, 1927, to have the graves of several family members relocated from Greenwich to Moulton Hill Cemetery in Monson. Moulton Hill was near the site of the farm where he had spent his youth before the family moved to Greenwich in 1879. Graves moved were those of his parents, first wife, younger brother, sister and brother-in-law and their child. At seventy-eight, Brooks was one of the first to make such reburial arrangements in the doomed valley,

In 1930, Amelia Brooks divorced her husband and moved to California with a man she would later marry. Brooks was one of 25 people to receive a settlement payment from the sale of Independent Liberal Church, Greenwich, that year to the commission constructing Quabbin Reservoir. Brooks's share of \$376.40 enabled him to travel to California, presumably in an attempt to win back his wife.

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MAN PAINTS LIFE ON OWN COFFIN



A farmer by trade, B. V. Brooks of Greenwich purchased a coffin and on the top painted scenes of places where he had lived.
photo from the collection of J. R. Greene

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Corn Harvest • A New England Field

a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



In late summer 2015 when the series visual haiku crystallized into a practice with a purpose, my spectrum of subject matter began with envisioning the many mundane, daily, and meteoric vistas that tangentially penetrated my (millions of) optic nerves. One such vista, a Quabbin region cornfield planted and harvested annually, caught my eye on a sunny, early autumn day with cut cornstalks reflecting a pleasing pattern of autumnal golds and greens. Visual Haiku #38 was conceived, reflecting the mystery of ocular transmission of light and color into a visual haiku.

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



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In the ecosystem of Quabbin towns, we sustain connection to the world close at hand and far and wide. Autumn enters on wings of migrating birds. The sound of calling owls carried across water changes tone. We savor the light of shorter days. The poems here reflect changes on the wind as even news from afar hits close to home. Read together, the last lines of the poems struck a chord in me: I'll stare up with one brown eye and drink the summer down and keep looking, tethered to the motherland.

—Dina Stander

Find It

by Celina Kikori Meyer

Look under candlelight, look under falling snow, look for it with a frown
or smile on your face, check in the rabbit hole, check under the sheets of white ash tears.
Look for it with no despair unless it gets farther, look for it on foot, look for it on bike
and horseback. Look where tree leaves shed and die
only to blossom again. Look where day turned into night two months ago. Look where
others don't. Look for it where your heart says
to run and chase. Look under
the willow's sagging branches weighed down by snow and fear. Look by chance, luck
and hope. Look when you don't want to and when you can't think
but want to. Look under fields, hay, and cold. Look when you're happy and sad too.
Look when you are curious.
Look where the moon sets once
again. Look where you know. Look where you don't. Look when you know damn well
you shouldn't. Look where bird nests are built and where arrows lay them down.
Look where war has tarnished and where pure untouched soil lays. Look in the summer
snow and in the winter light. Look now, look then. Look there and here. Your feet are
molten sand. Your head
is light with clouds
and lullabies. Keep looking.

Fourteen-year-old Celina Kikori Meyer lives in Shutesbury. "I like writing dramatic things. After I was given an assignment of writing poetry, I ended up writing a few poems including the one here. I sincerely hope you like my poem."

What Would I Carry?

by Sharon A. Harmon

Heaven is only a flip of a page away from hell.
How my heart weeps for Ukrainian people.
Working, loving, living one day with
their hopes and dreams stashed into their pockets like
a special treasure to be pulled out at their leisure.

I see them on the news wearing warm hats, jackets,
and the look of intense strength in their eyes.
They carry bags, backpacks, children, pets,
and passionate power along with anxiety.
I wonder if it was me what I would carry.

Would it include a special picture or
a sentimental family heirloom,
knowing that life may never be the same?
What would I take to pull out years later
to show my family, something to hand down
through the generations, to tie me to
my motherland?

Sharon Harmon of Royalston has a chapbook, *Wishbone in a Lightning Jar*, published by Flutter Press. She has been published in Compass Roads, Auroean, Silkworm, Agape Review, Patterson Literary Review, and many other publications. She is also the author of two children's books.

Quabbin poets

poetry editor

Sitting at a Picnic Table at the Quabbin Reservoir

by Joshua Michael Stewart

Muddy bird prints on the pine-board top.
I want them to belong to eagles or hawks
but convinced they're of duller feathers.

I'm unschooled in avian tracks
but read that the Chinese alphabet
was inspired by fowl feet in snow.

There's a rustling behind a boulder
and from behind appears a ruffed grouse.
It clucks, pecks at the ground.

Shaped like a football awaiting kickoff,
it struts my way on three-pronged toes
that match the impressions on the picnic table.

I zoom-lensed skyward, scoped autumn canopy
for falcon, vulture, other birds of prey,
and here in reddish and copper plumage,

the thing I tried to find in a raptor's soar,
hops next to me on the bench
and stares up with one brown eye.

Originally published in *Compass Roads: Poems About the Pioneer Valley*, edited by Jane Yolen, published by Levellers Press

Joshua Michael Stewart is author of *Break Every String* and *The Bastard Children of Dharma Bums*. His poems have appeared in the *Massachusetts Review*, *Salamander*, *Plainsongs*, *Brilliant Corners*, and other publications. His third poetry collection, *Love Something*, will be published by Main Street Rag. www.joshuamichaelstewart.com

August

by Shawn Jarrett

The strawberries are gone
Picked sticky clean and eaten
Gobbled up by July
Jammed in jars
While my sisters and I wait
with unstained hands and watering mouths
for winter's teatime toast.
August is our companion now.
Blackberries
Flush and stretch
Fringing fields and paths
Catching at clothes
Impatient for September
In the heat-hazed garden
Redcurrants droop
Jewel heavy

We hang them from our ears
laughing as they dangle and sway
above our primping fingers.
Translucent, ruby ripe
Yet sour as apples plucked too soon
These we do not nibble.
Mother picks them clean
Soaks them in wine,
Sieves and sugars
Simmers, bottles
And stops them tight.
The labels are our job.
We will think of August
When the evenings close in
When we catch a coughing cold
When we are thirsty

Corks will be pulled from dusty bottles
Our glasses will glow garnet
And we will drink the summer down.

Shawn Jarrett of Wendell says he wrote his first real poem when he was eight. He's been writing since while working as a gardener, youth worker, librarian, actor, teacher, and stilt walker in the United Kingdom before moving to Wendell.

Ed Londergan of Quaboag Historical Society, Dick Chaisson of Athol, and Elena Palladino of Ware

writers dig up buried history and give it new life

by Diane Kane

History surrounds Quabbin region readers, but stories often get buried and forgotten over time until a writer digs them up and gives them new life.

Ed Londergan's love for words started at a young age. "My grandfather was a great storyteller, and I learned how to hold people's attention from him," said Londergan.

"Then, I wrote in college and published a few things, but life got in the way."

An active member of Quaboag Historical Society in West Brookfield, Londergan worked at Allmerica Financial for twenty years before returning to his dream.

"I rediscovered my passion in 2007 and finished my



Ed Londergan

photo courtesy of Ed Londergan

first book, *The Devil's Elbow*, in 2011. I wrote my next book, *The Long Journey Home*, in 2013. So here I am now, a full-time author." His recent book, *Unlike Any Other* from White River Press, Amherst, appeared in March of this year.

According to Londergan, getting his first two books—comprising the Brookfield saga—to print proved challenging. "When a publisher said they wanted to publish my book, that's all I needed to hear. I didn't know any better at the time. Then she closed her business and returned to school, leaving me hanging."

Taking things into his own hands, Londergan self-published both books.

"*The Devil's Elbow* follows Jack Parker from his orphan childhood to the isolated pioneer settlement of Brookfield, where he ends up in the fight of his life," Londergan explained. "The book is set against King Philip's War, the single greatest catastrophe to occur in seventeenth-century New England."

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

The Long Journey Home, the second book in the Brookfield saga, continues the story of Jack and Becky Parker as they strive to make a life for themselves on the frontier in colonial Massachusetts.

"The area is special because people here value and preserve history," Londergan said. "Being able to go to a place and stand where a major historical event happened thrills me."

Londergan shares his passion for history at many local libraries and book events. In addition, he is wrapping up a contemporary fiction story about the importance of family and personal redemption. For more information about his books and events, visit his website, edlondergan.com.

Athol resident Richard Chaisson has spent a lifetime writing about local history and events.

"I wanted to write since I was six years old, and in the process, I've written several books and am working on more," Chaisson said. "It's a never-ending goal."

Born in 1935, the youngest of seven children in the family home on Smith Street in Athol, he graduated from Athol High School in 1953. He worked as a proofreader for the *Athol Daily News*, and when a position opened in the newsroom, Chaisson jumped at it. But after several years at the *Daily News*, Chaisson looked to broaden his horizon.

"I went on to *Worcester Telegram* for five dollars a week less pay than I earned at the *Daily News*. It was a big city newspaper. I wrote a local column called Northwest Corner." Chaisson enjoyed writing about everyday people. "Nobody on this earth is like any

other person," he said.

He recalled interviewing a centenarian living among residents of the then Eastern Star Home at Wheeler Mansion in Orange. Chaisson told the woman that twenty-three presidents had lived in the White House during her lifetime and asked which was her favorite. He still laughs at her answer, "None of them were any damn good."

A highlight of Chaisson's career as a reporter involved meeting his idol, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in Springfield. Chaisson managed to get close to the podium and shook hands. After the speech, Chaisson spotted Eisenhower's wife, First Lady Mamie, walking alone. Chaisson approached her and said, "They've forgotten you."

Mamie replied, "That's what happens when you're married to a great man."



Dick Chaisson, c 1960
photo courtesy of
Kathy Chaisson

continued on page 54



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Barre, Wendell public library staffs suggest

compiled by Carla Charter

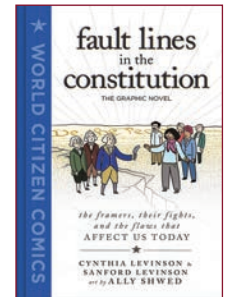
Fall is a good time for people of all ages to curl up with a good book and learn something new. Local libraries offer a perfect opportunity to do just that. Following are recommendations from both Woods Memorial Library in Barre and the Wendell Free Library for those in search of a book.

Dessert Person: Recipes and Guidance for Baking with Confidence by Claire Saffitz “is full of recipes for sweet and savory baking that explain how and why certain ingredients and methods are used to get the results you want,” according to Joseph Hood, director of Woods Memorial. “Each recipe is given a numeric value based on its difficulty level so it is suitable for home bakers of all experience levels.



shows how this founding document continues to affect our modern society.

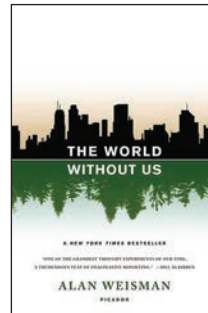
“This book is an excellent resource for the average person hoping to learn more about how our government functions and wanting to be a more active and engaged citizen,” Ford continued. “The graphic novel format helps to make these complicated issues more accessible for all.”



“Every recipe in the book has been tested by the author in order to empower the baker to use new ingredients and techniques to bake with confidence,” Hood said. “Each recipe features full-color images to show texture and technique along the way.”

Timothea Ford, adult and technology services librarian at Woods Memorial, recommends **Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Graphic Novel • The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws That Affect Us Today** by Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson with art by Ally Shwed. “Using colorful illustrations and concise yet entertaining text,” said Ford, “this nonfiction graphic novel follows the evolution of the US Constitution and

Jenna Garvey, Woods cataloging librarian, **The World Without Us** by Alan Weisman. Garvey said the book poses the question “What would happen if humans were to suddenly disappear from the Earth?”



“In his far-reaching narrative,” Garvey said, “Weisman explains how our massive infrastructure would collapse without human presence, which everyday items may become immortalized as fossils, how copper pipes and wiring would be crushed into mere seams of reddish rock, and why some of our earliest

buildings may be the last architecture left.

“He also explains how plastic, bronze sculpture, radio waves, and some molecules created by humans may be our most lasting gifts to the universe,” Garvey continued. “The book is a fascinating read that takes a deep look into the wide-ranging effects humans have on the planet.”

Wendell Free Library also offered recommendations of books about the environment and human impact on it. Among them are **Inconspicuous Consumption — The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have** by Tatiana Schlossberg and **Finding the Mother Tree** –

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books to curl up with as autumn leaves fall

***Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard.**

Assessing ideas in *Inconspicuous Consumption*, Bill McKibben writes in the *New York Times*,

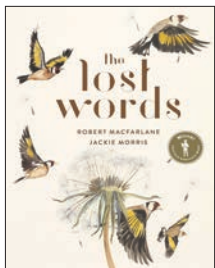
... the changes we make in our transportation lives will matter mostly if we make them “as a collective.” That is to say, instead of trying to figure out every single aspect of our lives, a carbon tax would have the effect of informing every one of those decisions, automatically and invisibly.



Of *Finding the Mother Tree*, Jonathan C. Slaght writes in the *New York Times*,

Simard contends that at the center of a healthy forest stands a Mother Tree: an old-growth matriarch that acts as a hub of nutrients shared by trees of different ages and species linked together via a vast underground fungal network. Her argument is elegantly detailed here alongside a deeply personal memoir, with her story and that of the forest tightly interwoven. “We think that most important clues are large,” she writes when recalling this first seedling that sparked her curiosity, “but the world loves to remind us that they can be beautifully small.”

Barre and Wendell libraries recommend books for children



Librarians also suggested books for children. The impact of words in the digital age is the subject of *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, a children’s book suggested by Julia Palmer, youth services librarian for Woods Library.

“This collection of poetry, beautifully illustrated on every page, highlights words that have been removed from the 2007 *Oxford Junior Dictionary* such as dandelion, otter, and kingfisher,” said Morris. “Written to challenge the notion that nature words are no longer relevant to children in the digital age, it is fascinating, calming, and ultimately inspiring.”

Miriam Warner, Wendell librarian, suggested the children’s book *I Am Quiet: A Story for the Introvert* in *All of Us* by Andie Powers. “I think it is so

important for kids to know it is okay to be quiet if they want to be,” Warner said, “and for other kids and grownups in their life to understand them better as well.”

Warner suggested *Sea Lions In The Parking Lot: Animals On The Move In A Time of Pandemic* by Lenora Todaro.

“This book is such a fascinating look back on a time



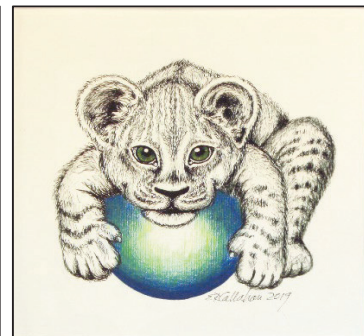
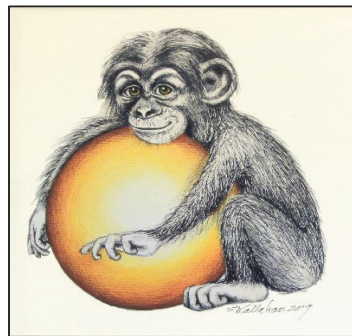
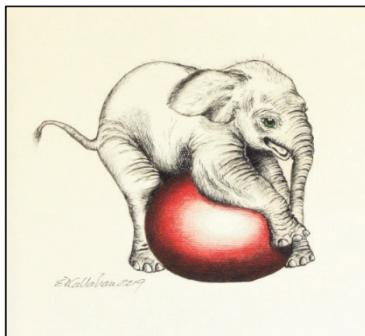
that may or may not have been confusing for kids,” said Warner, “but from the perspective of the more-than-human world. When the streets were quiet and everyone was home, what did the animals do and think?”



continued on page 57

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game of pool thrives in pubs, bars, American Legions,

by Rick Flematti



Tim Nault, a member of the Eagle Eye team of Athol, lines up his next shot during a game of Eight-ball.

photo © by AJ Designs

Sharks abound throughout the Quabbin region.

Don't panic! We're talking pool sharks here.

The game of pool is alive and well in the Quabbin region. Interwoven among the many pubs, bars, American Legion homes, and other social gathering places exists a vibrant community engaged in the sport of pool shooting. From the old smoke-filled pool halls of the past where pool sharks showed off their skills of eye and hand coordination has emerged a large nationwide organization of amateur pool.

Established in 1981, the American Pool Association serves as the world's largest amateur pool league with 300 individual leagues consisting of more than 250,000 members throughout United States, Canada, and Japan. League games of choice are Eight-ball and Nine-ball.

Plenty of talent abounds in the Quabbin region. The Eagle Eyes



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team playing from the Eagles Club in Athol placed second out of ninety-six teams in the the league's northeast challenge.

Other regional teams include those from

- Athol-Dery Bar,
- Franco-American Club, and Steel Pub
- Baldwinville-Otter River Hotel
- Orange-American Legion and Wheelerville Club, and
- Templeton-Candlelite Café

The teams compete among themselves as well as with teams from Gardner and Fitchburg.

Heavy competition also comes from the Western Mass APA where the team out of Ivory Billiards in Holyoke earned themselves a spot at August World Championship in Las Vegas.

To level the playing field for newer and less experienced participants, the league assigns

continued on page 69



Placing second recently in the American Pool Association Northeast Challenge, the Eagle Eyes of Athol include, from left, front, Katelyn Nault, Dan Arsenault, Pam Hall, Pam Nugent, and Christy Page; back, Tim Nault, Joe Raughtigan, Steve Hartwell, and John Fitzpatrick.

photo courtesy of Pam Hall

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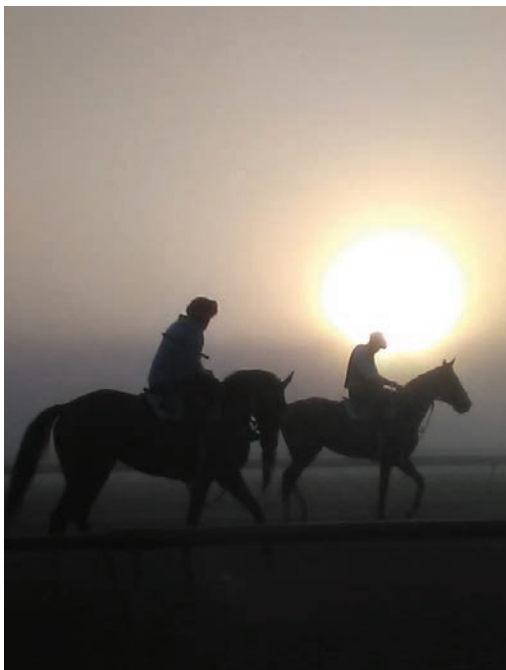
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A resident of Tampa and member of the Tampa Bay Downs security team,
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Quabbin region charging stations support

by John Burk

With gas prices at record levels, many people have alternative transportation options on their minds. After more than a century of research, experiments, and development, electric vehicles are becoming increasingly established, with record sales of 6.6 million vehicles worldwide in 2021. Recent technological advances have made electric vehicles a more viable option for drivers in rural areas such as the Quabbin region.

Audrey Barker-Plotkin, senior scientist and site manager at Harvard Forest in Petersham, recently purchased a Chevrolet Bolt for her commute from Amherst to Petersham. “I love knowing my almost daily round trip of more than fifty miles doesn’t rely on fossil fuels,” she said. “Because of the car’s range, I don’t usually have to charge it while driving through the Quabbin region, but I know charging stations are available if needed. The electric motor’s speedy pickup makes driving Route 202 and other highways much easier than with my previous car.”

Often associated with modern times, development of electric cars dates back to the nineteenth century and includes a prominent Quabbin area connection. In 1900, electric vehicles comprised approximately one-third of the nation’s automobiles, including fleets of cabs in Boston and other cities. Multiple factors—the advent of Ford’s Model T and other affordable gas-powered vehicles, advances in internal-combustion engines, and establishment of improved roads such as the Mohawk Trail in rural areas that lacked electricity—caused a demise of electric vehicles by the 1930s.

Rising oil prices, gas shortages during the Arab oil embargo of 1973, and increased environmental awareness revived interest during the late 1960s and 1970s. Many manufacturers and engineers, including Chandler Waterman of Athol, began investigating alternatives to gasoline engines during that time.

Described as “the self-made czar of America’s electric automobile industry” in a 1973 *Car and Driver*



Drivers of electric vehicles in and around the Quabbin region will find charging stations in Athol, Barre, East Brookfield, Erving, Hardwick, Orange, and Templeton. Proponents of vehicles powered by electricity imagine that someday charging stations will be as ubiquitous as today’s gas stations.

digital scratchboard drawing by Jen Niles

electric vehicles

magazine article, Waterman viewed electricity as an efficient, clean, and direct means of energy production. His interest in electric vehicles stemmed from a high school physics class, where he learned that a mere fifteen horsepower was sufficient to propel conventional automobiles at forty miles per hour.

Waterman successfully executed his first electric vehicle conversion in 1968, when he replaced his Datsun sedan's gasoline engine with a surplus electric motor and batteries. By 1973, he had produced roughly two dozen vehicles, held sales arrangements with seven dealerships in the Northeast, and fielded inquiries from across the country. His customers included Frederic Sanborn, co-founder of an Ohio grass-roots environmental organization that spearheaded electric-vehicle development initiatives.

Simplicity characterized Waterman's operation and cars. He often emphasized that the work involved no technological breakthroughs nor inventions. Use of

continued on page 61

Quabbin Region Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Athol
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street

Barre
Town Hall/Henry Woods Building
40 West Street

East Brookfield
Howe Lumber
225 West Main Street

Erving
Erving Municipal Parking Lot
8 West Main Street

Erving Public Library
2 Care Drive

Hardwick
Myron Richardson Municipal Building
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recipe pulled from cobwebs of the mind

text and photos by Christine Noyes



Not-a-tart slice has eye appeal and taste appeal.

So, I get things stuck in my head. A small spark of an idea settles in and won't leave until I do something about it.

Months ago, I sampled a tasting of Hardwick Winery's Prescott Pear wine and thought, *I wonder how pears poached in the wine would taste. What other flavors would match well with the savory wine and relatively neutral pears?*

I created countless versions of that recipe in my head before attempting to make it. I mulled, I pondered, and I chewed on possibilities before I took action. I originally conceived a tart, but rather than making a traditional pastry base, I opted to use an old recipe pulled from the cobwebs of my mind and perfectly suited for a sweet and savory concoction. The fig and walnut crust makes a welcome deviation from flour-based pastries and disallows its status as a tart. The fig crust is naturally fat free, but the rest of the recipe is not.

With pears in the rearview mirror, and new products in my cabinet from recent shopping at a country market, I mull, ponder, and chew on what's next.

As a self-diagnosed foodie, I live with a constant barrage of small sparks. I hope you enjoy!



The tart-not-a-tart, top, features a crust made of figs, walnuts, and drops of honey with a filling of lemon, cream cheese, and heavy cream. The glaze includes fresh ginger and lemon peel.

Anjou pears with Hardwick Winery Prescott Pear wine plus brown sugar and lemon juice complete the suite of ingredients.

Thyme, brown sugar, and vanilla extract accent the dessert, not a tart because flour does not serve as the base for the crust.

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inspires tart-not-a-tart including local wine

Lemon Ginger Pear Tart-Not-A-Tart

prep time 2 hours • serves 8-10
ingredients

CRUST

9 ounces figs, stems trimmed
1 1/2 ounces shelled walnuts
3 drops of honey

FILLING

1/2 cup sugar
zest of 1 large lemon
2 8-ounce cream cheese blocks, softened
2 eggs, room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 1/2 tablespoons heavy cream

GLAZE

2 cups water
1 cup sugar
1 1/2 ounce ginger, sliced thin
lemon peels from 1 lemon, cut into strips
pinch of thyme dried or fresh
2 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon cornstarch

PEARS (TOPPING)

3-4 Anjou pears
10 ounces Hardwick Winery Prescott Pear wine
6 ounces water
2 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoon brown sugar
pinch of thyme dried or fresh

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Place parchment paper or aluminum foil on the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan. Coat with cooking spray.

CRUST

In a food processor, mix figs, walnuts. and honey until finely chopped. Mixture will be sticky.

Press fig mixture evenly onto the bottom of the springform pan. Pack tightly, a process easier to perform with slightly wet hands.

Bake for 12 minutes, remove from oven and cool.

FILLING

Using your fingers to release the natural lemon oil, mix sugar and lemon zest in a bowl.

With a standing mixer or hand mixer, beat together cream cheese and lemon sugar until creamy. On medium speed, add 1 egg at a time until incorporated into mixture. Stir in vanilla extract, lemon juice, and heavy cream. Beat for 30 seconds.

Pour mixture into springform pan and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Allow to cool.

GLAZE

Bring water to a boil and add sugar. Once the sugar dissolves, add ginger, lemon peels, and thyme.

Boil for 30 minutes.

Remove ginger and lemon peels and set aside.

Combine lemon juice and cornstarch and stir to eliminate lumps. Add to boiling glaze and stir constantly until thickened, approximately 2 minutes. For thicker glaze, add more cornstarch. Remove from heat and cool.

To create candied ginger and lemon peels, spread reserved ginger and lemon peels onto a sheet pan or parchment paper. Sprinkle both sides liberally with white sugar and set aside to dry for at least 30 minutes. Garnish tart not tart with candied ginger and lemon peels.

TOPPING

Combine wine, water, and lemon juice, in a saucepan.

Peel, core, and slice pears into half-moon shapes and place into the saucepan.

Place on stove and bring to a boil. Add brown sugar.

Poach the pears for 3-4 minutes or until medium soft. Remove from heat and drain. Set pears aside to cool.

ASSEMBLY

With a pastry brush, apply a thin layer of lemon-ginger glaze on the top of the tart.

Overlap the pears around the outer edge of the tart until fully circled.

Brush the pears with additional lemon-ginger glaze.

Garnish the center of the tart with candied ginger and lemon peels.

Optional: Lightly sprinkle nutmeg over the pears.

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

classic Georgian architecture distinguishes

by Diane Kane

A taste of history lives within unique homes and hearths throughout the Quabbin.

Proprietors of Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield take quite seriously its designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

"History is a huge part of who we are!" said Martha Salem-Leasca. "This land was granted to John White in the early 1700s. John's son Cornelius White built the original house now home of Salem Cross Inn."

The property remained in the White family for many generations until the 1950s, when it fell into disrepair. Two elderly sisters, Grace and Alice White, occupied the home then. When one sister passed away and the other moved to the local nursing home, the house went up for auction. Henry Salem saw it as an opportunity.

"My dad, Henry Salem, bought the farm and ramshackle house at auction. Everyone thought he was crazy because it needed an incredible amount of work.

"That didn't scare him off. He and his brothers Richard, Ernest, and Robert rolled up their sleeves,"



Salem Cross Inn, West Brookfield, has its place on the National Register of Historic Places.

photo courtesy of Martha Salem

Henry Salem's dream came true when the restaurant opened in 1961. The Salem Cross Inn remains in the family under the leadership of Henry's oldest daughter Nancy Salem, with the dedication of her sisters Martha and Heather.

Strolling through the dining and function rooms is like taking a trip back in history. Four stunning fireplaces constructed of hand-laid stones complemented by rustic wood décor are a gift to the senses, while the tempting menu options offer a gift to the palate.

Salem-Leasca proudly proclaims, "*Everything* that we serve is made from scratch right here at Salem Cross Inn!"

Fresh locally grown ingredients inspire the cooking staff. The restaurant maintains a vegetable and herb garden and utilizes the products of numerous local farms throughout the seasons. Chefs prepare many new dishes and long held family recipes, but they are sworn to secrecy.

The staff all resides locally as well. "West Brookfield and the surrounding area are quintessential New England," Salem-Leasca said. "We have lots of open space, rolling hills, and fields dotted with stone walls, grazing livestock, and good people!"

Covid greatly affected Salem Cross Inn like all businesses in the past couple of years, and the restaurant still functions under a reduced schedule.

"It has been extremely difficult to navigate these times. But we have an amazing staff that has learned



Bo Salem tends roasting prime rib of beef on the hearth at Salem Cross Inn.

photo courtesy of Martha Salem

according to Salem-Leasca. "Early on during the renovation, they were extremely fortunate to meet noted historian George Watson, who worked for the Wells family creating Old Sturbridge Village. He took a liking to the Salem brothers and offered to oversee the historic restoration of the building."

well-known restaurants with taste of history

to roll with the punches, and we have persevered,” Salem-Leasca said,

Through it all, Salem Cross Inn continues to keep Henry Salem’s dream alive. “We are a three-generation family business that works hard to offer a great dining experience, and we take pride in everything we do.”

Salem Cross Inn, 260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, is open Thursday to Saturday from 4 pm to 8 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For reservations, events, or weddings, call (508) 867-2345 or book online at salemcrossinn.com

KRO’s on the Common in Templeton offers unique dining in the quaint charm of a 250-year-old house.

“Silas Stone built the house in 1770 with bricks imported from England,” according to owner Karen Osterberg. “At the time, it was the only house in the center of town. Sometime between 1770 and 1830, it was known as the Joseph Upham Tavern. In 1830, the house was enlarged, adding what is now the entrance area and kitchen.”



KRO’s on the Common, Templeton, does business in a building built in 1770 with bricks imported from England.

photo courtesy of Karen Osteberg

In 1946, the nineteen-room home accommodated a private boy’s high school run by Elsa Stone, a descendant of Silas Stone. Her father, a Harvard University



Outdoor seating at KRO’s honors Gail Whittle, late proprietor of Country Mischief previously in the same building
photo courtesy of Karen Osteberg.

professor also named Silas Stone, tutored students over the summers.

From 1991 to 2018, the building became well known as Country Mischief, a multi-room antique store owned by beloved Templeton resident Gail Whittle. Gail’s Garden, dedicated to the memory of Whittle and popular with diners in good weather, often fills with guests enjoying food, beverages, and live entertainment, said Osterberg. Osterberg and Terry Fougere purchased the property in 2018, and after a few years of renovations, KRO’s on the Common, named for Karen Rose Osterberg, opened on April 1, 2020.

“We opened our doors just two weeks into the pandemic. We completely overhauled our menu and systems to be take-out only. As time progressed and limitations changed, we had to change and adapt.”

The staff all live locally, but owners Osteberg and Fougere have the shortest commute—“about twelve household steps!” They said they love the small hometown feel and strong sense of community the area offers. “So many local farms inspire our menu with the freshest ingredients possible,” said Osterberg. “Everything is made fresh on site. Our menu changes monthly to highlight seasonal ingredients.”

Some menu favorites are Ultimate BLT, featuring a tasty, house-made bacon tomato jam, muffins, bagels, pop tarts, and chocolate chip cookies.

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women take to the woods to hunt and harvest food

continued from page 11



Emma Ross Ellsworth of Orange, reflects on her first turkey weighing a hefty twenty-one pounds. She later served the harvest for dinner.

photo courtesy of Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

Male hunters do not necessarily and universally accept women as hunters nor women into their groups. When trying to book a hunt for pheasant and duck in the Dakotas, Emma encountered an outfitter who flat out said the organizer does not allow women hunters. Persevering, however, Emma found a duck-and-pheasant guide who not only allowed her, but welcomed her.

Kelly Dalbec of Rutland also did not grow up hunting from childhood. She sought the pursuit through the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program sponsored by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, aka MassWildlife. What drove her to the woods involved contrasting moments of silence alternated with the adrenaline rush she experienced when an animal came into sight.

Massachusetts has many programs for women who want to join the growing ranks of women afield. Check out mass.gov/service-details/becoming-an-outdoors-woman-bow

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

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1794 Meetinghouse musicals built community

continued from page 4



Pam Harty of Orange, Dee Waterman of Amherst, Sally Howe of Orange, Peter Frost of New Salem, Matt Crouner of Belchertown, John Reese of Greenfield, and Richard Trousdell of Sunderland.

photo © by Jim Heyes

shared the goal of putting on a play to raise money for the Meetinghouse.

Johnson wrote about timeless shared experiences as she looked back on some of her plays. *Yankee Spirits* exposed villainy. *Mother Goose Lost* considered the banning of books. In *Circus Minimus*, strangers came to town where the locals suspected them of bad influence until they saved the day by creating a circus, uniting the town.

We all know people who are kind, bossy, crabby, or helpless. Dorothy wrote such characteristics into the plays. Greed is a theme in *Big Winner*. *Home Movies* reflects fifty years in a small town-Santa parties, the firemen's pancake breakfast, marriages, Gold Star families. Each play ends with a rousing company song highlighting conflicts resolved, townspeople reunited, and community restored.

The passage of time has not altered the importance of community. Whether strangers or friends, community brings us together.

Dorothy's plays have a timeless quality as do cool September evenings. The moon rises over the Meetinghouse. Trees begin to abandon their green color, and Quabbin Reservoir lies dormant beyond the hill. Communities of the past, the now, and the future unite us all.

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



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Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas at the Orange Town Hall

Celtic music on cello & fiddle, Sunday September 13

Times, ticket prices & details are on our website

WWW.1794MEETINGHOUSE.ORG

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On the New Salem Common

26 South Main St, New Salem MA 01355



Rutland continues bicentennial celebrations

continued from page 7

of manure and food waste held by Jordan Farm in underground tanks. The mixture produces methane gas, which runs through a generator to make electricity. Jordan's Farm creates enough electricity to supply the farm and several hundred homes.

Randy and Brian Jordan, the farm's fifth-generation owners, said, "It is an environmental win-win disposing of food waste and increasing electricity production."

While trains no longer use its rails, Rutland found a beneficial use beginning in 1995 for its extensive track system with the Wachusett Greenways project for hikers and cyclists. "Rutland's lovely ten-mile stretch from Holden and Oakham is the centerpiece of the 104-mile Mass Central Rail Trail between Northampton and Boston," said Colleen Abrams, Wachusett Greenways president.

"One of the most interesting features on the rail trail," continued Abrams, "is Rutland's Charnock Tunnel where twelve Wachusett Greenways volunteers led by Margaret McCandless completed a mural in October 2021." Mass Central Rail Trail intersects with the north-south Midstate Trail for hiking.

For the past twenty-five years, the Rutland Historical Society has helped maintain and restore the historic town cemetery. "The Old Burial Ground dates to 1717 when the ten-acre tract designated for the meeting house, school, and burial ground was required to establish a town under British rule," said Scott Davis, curator of Rutland Historical Society. It continued as Rutland's principal cemetery until the mid 1800s.

"Some 370 headstones mark known graves, but we believe there are many unmarked graves as well," Davis said. "Last year, through the generosity of the family of Helen F. Viner, our former curator, we were able to hire Jonathan Appell, a professional conservator of gravestones, who repaired and cleaned many.

An Eagle Scout project will enhance the entrance to the burial ground, as well as the continuation of gravestone restoration," Davis said.

Rutland will celebrate its bicentennial through 2022 with events listed on page 6 of this magazine.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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An autumnal view from Tully Mountain takes in the village of Tully in Orange and the wide valley beyond.
photo © by David Brothers

trainers help people understand dogs

continued from page 19

Amelia plans to offer more classes and gain certification by Dogs and Storks, an international agency that helps expectant individuals and couples prepare their dogs for life with a baby.

Find Amelia at ccc.muttmanners@gmail.com.

Author, psychotherapist, and UCC Minister Cynthia Crosson of Petersham has a special interest in service dogs for military veterans. In addition to psychology textbooks, she is author of her memoir *You Cannot Cage the Wolf* and books for children about service dogs, *Only Daddy's Dog* and *Sunny and Malcolm*.

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- ▲ Sat., Oct. 15, 7-9 pm
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Quabbin trails offer seasonal metamorphoses

continued from page 9

Pink Lady's-Slipper: *discover hollow seed capsules*

Pink lady's-slippers bring smiles in June, yet they seem to leave no trace



Springtime lady's slippers bring smiles. after fall frosts. If you scan that place where they once bloomed, you may see one or more of their seed cases that tell of their continued presence.



After fall frosts, the woods show little trace of lady's slippers.

Not many of lady's-slipper flowers set seeds, as they need the help of a bumblebee for pollination. Once pollinated, the flower produces

thousands of tiny seeds easily blown on the wind. If you find a brown, split seed capsule, seeds have left on their mission.

Finding remains of the flower's efforts signals a healthy population of the orchids and their bumblebees. One other item needed for the lady's-slipper orchid seed to grow and spread a fungus. When the tiny seeds land on the ground, they can't sprout on their own. The orchid's seed needs a fungus to crack it open and feed it until the young orchid's leaves reach the sunshine and can make their own food via photosynthesis. In return, once the lady's-slipper matures, it feeds the fungi.

Thus a complex relationship of three species ensures the pleasure of continuing to see pink flowers of the lady's-slipper the following spring.

American Witch Hazel: *find spidery yellow flowers*

Although most flowers have faded around Quabbin as fall advances, one shrub, American witch hazel, blooms into autumn. This shrub lives under the canopy in moist soils at the base of hills. Its spider-like yellow blossoms sprout along branches almost hiding between their leaves. It's easier to see long-lasting witch hazel blooms after the leaves fall from nearby trees.

In autumn, blossoms provide an important nectar source for insects. In the fall, moths pollinate the flower of witch hazel. The seed capsule forms soon but doesn't explode seeds until the next fall. Colonies of witch hazel can spread because the two black seeds that explode can fly as far as twenty feet away.



Autumnal witch hazel provides an important nectar source for insects.

The shrub witch hazel has varying uses. Salve made from extracts of leaf branches of witch hazel can quiet annoying cuts or scrapes. Dousters use forked branches of witch hazel to find water sources for dug wells. An experienced douser holds the forked end in both hands with the single end pointing straight out and walks over a designated area seeking well water. When the single branch dips, it reliably indicates a place to dig a successful well. Early settlers picked up the skill from Native Americans.

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

Submit letters to the editor

or opinion writings to

Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin* at

marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

fiction writers, reporters, historians

continued from page 35

As a reporter, Chaisson has written countless articles covering hard news and feature stories.

"I've seen some good things and some really bad things," he said.

Chaisson cherishes Athol as a small town where you can always greet someone you know on the street, and he likes to leave them with the parting words, "Have a good day, and God bless you."

When Elena Palladino, her husband, and two young daughters moved into their home in Ware in 2015, they had no idea that its historical roots would inspire Palladino to write a book.

"We heard people calling the house the 'Quabbin house,'" she said. Palladino became curious. "After some research, we learned that pieces of the house had indeed been moved from Enfield by a woman named Marion Andrews Smith. She was the last member of the prominent Smith family of Smith's Village, who owned a

woolen mill there. Marion was devastated to leave Enfield and the Swift River Valley.

"Researching Smith's story provided a fascinating glimpse into what it was like for displaced residents," Palladino said.

Her research about Marion was slow, but early on, Palladino realized she probably would have enough material to write a book. "Then in 2018, we received an unmarked envelope in our mailbox that contained several black and white photos of our house when it was first built."

Although it's a mystery who left them, those photos prompted Palladino to put more effort into her research. "I was lucky to get assistance from people like Gene Theroux, president of Friends of Quabbin, Dot Frye from Swift River Valley Historical Society, and others."

Palladino submitted a book proposal to History Press, a local and regional history publisher, but she learned that they didn't typically publish biographies.

"So I added two additional individuals to my Quabbin story, Willard 'Doc' Segur, the valley's



Elena Palladino
photo courtesy of
Elena Palladino



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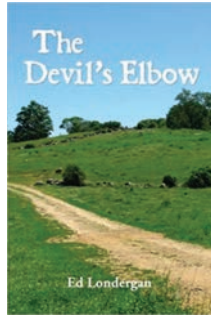
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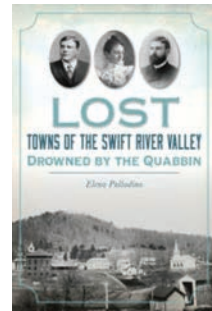
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honor Quabbin



Books, above, by Ed Londergan include the recent *Unlike Any Other* and, from the Brookfield Saga, *The Devil's Elbow* and *The Long Journey Home*. Elena Palladino's *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley Drowned by the Quabbin* is at right.

Dick Chaisson's out-of-print *Hometown Chronicles* about Athol can be found in the libraries of the region..



country doctor, and Edwin Henry Howe, Enfield's longtime postmaster and proprietor of the general store," Palladino said, and History Press published the book.

According to Palladino, the book had many starts and stops over about four years. "I found it more difficult than I expected to figure out the book's structure." She credits her success to "time, writing, and a great editor."

Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin by Elena Palladino is due out October 10. Check her website: www.quabbinhouse.com or find information on Instagram: Quabbin House.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



mystery of the coffin solved

continued from page 28

Brooks died in California in 1934. His ex wife made arrangements to have him cremated and the remains shipped back to Monson without instructions of what to do with them. Town officials figured out that the family plot was at the Moulton Hill Cemetery and had the remains interred there.

For many decades after his death, speculation about the location of Brooks's painted coffin ran rife among Quabbin history buffs. While many examples of Brooks's paintings, photographs, and picture postcards have survived, no one knew the whereabouts of the coffin. As it turned out, an obituary noted that the coffin had been stored at a mortuary in Los Angeles, and his remains placed in it and burned with him when he was cremated in 1934.

Thus, the coffin was destroyed.

J. R. Greene, a lifelong resident of Athol, is the author of twenty-three books on Massachusetts history, including the 2014 title, *B.V. Brooks's Pre-Quabbin Art, Photos, and Postcards*.



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Wheeler journal presents glimpse of 1880s farm life

continued from page 13

September

Very bright early in the morning but cloudy through the day. We picked blueberries to sell. Arthur went to Petersham to the library.

Father and I dug some potatoes, picked some apples. Later I did the chores around the house. Grandmother is not well today.

School commenced today, and Sarah went, but I shan't go this term.

October

I went down to Uncle Samuel's and fixed a mirror for Aunt Annette.

Pleasant day. I went chestnutting in the afternoon. Sarah and I went to an entertainment in the evening up at the schoolhouse.

Cloudy and rainy. We ground up and pressed out some cider. I planed some boards.

November

Arthur went off to work for the telephone company toward Baldwinville this morning. I went up to evening school at the schoolhouse.

Cloudy and cool in the morning. It rained and hailed and froze. I helped draw some pine brush to bank the woodshed, did some chores, and helped Arthur cake some beeswax.

Snowed about three inches, very intensely cold and it froze very hard. We cut up an apple tree in the afternoon and chopped up the wood later. It commenced to snow in the afternoon and by ten o'clock it is between three and four inches deep. I and Sarah went up to Mr. French's to a sociable. I had a good time. It was in the evening. We had a peculiar Thanksgiving at home.

December

Very pleasant, more so than yesterday. I went to school today and went to a skating party in the evening.

Father went to Worcester as a juryman but came back tonight. It was postponed. Today I finished three weeks of school. I went up to Mr. Lehman's for a Christmas party.

Don Flye lives in Petersham in the house where Frank Wheeler lived.



A Carolina wren reposes on a Ware branch, left, while an Eastern phoebe perches on a Quabbin region tree stump.
photos © by Claire Sygiel

Barre and Wendell libraries

continued from page 37

*There is more treasure in books
than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island,
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centuries ago, migrating gnomes settled in to remote

by Henry Wadsworth as channeled by Susie Feldman

Hello. It's Henry Wadsworth here again to tell you about a group of gnomes that live in and about a certain massive red oak tree in the middle of a local field.

Long ago, back in the early 1600s, gnomes and Native Americans, wise in tree and plant lore, shared their love for and understanding of nature. In a futile attempt to avoid the "civilization" of new settlers, a healer gnome named Orvydd migrated northward from the Hardwick area. When he reached what is now Athol,

he settled into its remote gnomonic community and taught his descendants the knowledge that oak bark can be used as an astringent. To this day, gnomes make oak bark into a tea for fever, colds, and other ailments. Sometime back in the eighteenth century, Orvydd supposedly died at 437 years of age, but his wisdom lives on.

Orvydd's son Bogdaar, currently the oldest living grandfather—a young man in the early 1800s—watched as settlers gradually cleared the



Bogdaar built his house amid roots of an oak tree.

ancient forest to become pasture. As farmers cut woodland and made stone walls as boundaries for their fields, forested land continued to shrink. One red-oak clump remained to

provide shade for grazing livestock. Three young trees intertwined their trunks, developing as they grew into a single tree. At about twenty-five years of age, the tree dropped its first crop of acorns. Officially an adult, it continued to spread and grow into a massive being.

As a youth, Bodgaar loved to hide and play among the young trees. Eventually, when the three-trunk oak became large enough, Bodgaar built himself a home among its roots. When he married, his family

Barre Historical Society



EVENTS

Taverns and Tavern Life in Early New England

Presented by Historian, Tom Kelleher
Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
American Legion Post 2
450 South Barre Road, Barre

Basil Izzi-80th Anniversary Event

Presented by Historian, Lucy Allen
Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
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gnomic community with considerable knowledge of oak lore

grew along with the oak, expanding their home as the branches broadened.

Several gnome homes now exist alongside the many animals and birds that live within the tree's sheltering arms. The red oak provides shelter and food for deer, turkeys, mice, squirrels, and other forest denizens. Bodgaar collects feathers from turkeys grazing on acorns and gathers fur shed by deer.

His brother Grundyl, who likes to cook, makes his own acorn coffee. He also grinds acorns into flour for making bread, cookies, and brownies. Since acorns

contain tannins toxic to gnomes and their human

cousins, Grundyl always leaches them in water first. Sometimes you can find him relaxing in front of that massive oak tree, just enjoying his coffee sweetened with honey he has gathered from a bees' nest located in a high oaken cavity.

Knorri is a builder. He uses the highly durable oak wood for furniture, tools, and flooring in the gnomes' underground



Grundyl likes to cook.

rooms. The rocking chair where Grundyl sits and the wheelbarrow that Bodgaar uses to gather acorns are two of Knorri's well-loved pieces. Leftover wood from furniture- and implement-making goes into the fire and burns



brightly as the days get shorter and colder. So, if you are standing under a red oak tree in the brown-leaf season of fall and see a sudden flash of red, it may be one of our

local gnome community. Tell him or her hello, and go on your way knowing that the gnomes and the trees are inextricably tied together in the vast, glorious web of nature.

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

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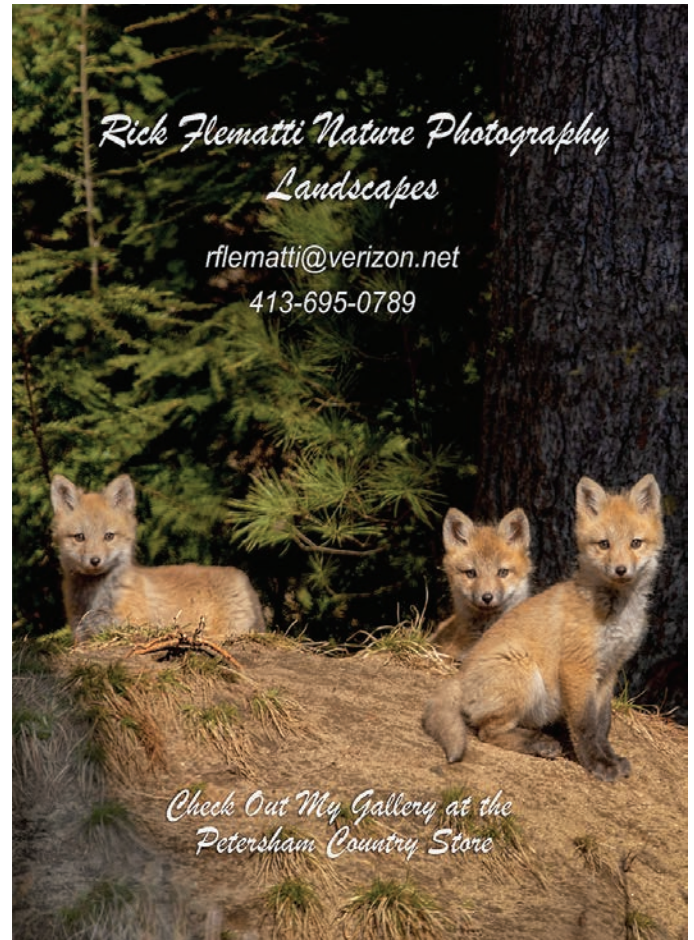
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*Check Out My Gallery at the
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Piles

pastels on charcoal paper by Elizabeth Callahan

Fall, autumn, apple picking, or pumpkin season—whatever you call it, it is my absolute favorite New England season. As a child, I never cared for raking leaves because it seemed a never-ending task. A bit of a breeze, and there I was starting all over again. I think I got into the habit of jumping spread eagle into the pile of leaves as a way to keep them from blowing away. However, I greatly enjoyed jumping into the pile when I wasn't the one who had to rake them. Such

fun, especially when shared with my siblings and the neighborhood kids and dogs.

I more liked a blanket of leaves on the ground and sidewalks. I loved them then (and still do) and the rustling sound when kicking through them on my way to school. The aroma of leaves, especially if a bit wet, was heavenly.

Then, of course, consider the colors, Mother Nature's earthy version of the rainbow. Bouquets of multicolored leaves often showed up on my teacher's desk or my mom's table. I did rubbings of leaves, colored them in, and used them as bookmarks. I liked varied and vibrant maple leaves best. I find it soothing how a scent, a color, or a sound of a season from childhood can evoke



Piles • pastels on charcoal paper by Elizabeth Callahan

a beautiful and warm response. It just brings home to me how fortunate I am to have had a childhood filled with the wonders of nature.

My family went on many picnics during the fall, often to two favorites, Purgatory Chasm in Sutton or Mount Grace in Warwick. Leaves covered up the rocks at Purgatory Chasm, making it especially precarious. My sisters, brother, and I found it all the more challenging and fun.

I'm so thankful for those fall memories.

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

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24 AND BACK FOR MORE!

Chandler Waterman produced electric cars in Athol in the 1970s

continued from page 43

widely available off-the-shelf batteries and parts and basic machines enabled him with modest means to produce vehicles from his garage in Athol.

Waterman's converted Datsun 1200 sedans drew power from seventeen batteries that provided a driving range of about fifty miles. Batteries took eight hours to charge with standard household outlets and lasted roughly two years or five hundred cycles. Simple components made the electrical system essentially maintenance free, and removal of traditional internal combustion engine elements such as oil, cooling, exhaust, and fuel systems further reduced repair costs.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Waterman's company, U.S. Electricar Corporation, produced Lectric Leopards, imported Renault Le Car and Fiat Strada subcompacts with custom-built electric motors. Light weight, diminutive size, and front-wheel drive made both models well suited for electric conversion. Jack Kauffman, then of the *Washington Star* newspaper, introduced the Leopard at a Washington, D.C. event attended by eight hundred invited guests in 1978.

Billed as "the first automobile specifically designed as a truly economical, dependable urban car" and "the essence of carefree economical driving," Leopards had a range of fifty to eighty miles on a full charge, which cost about fifty cents. The company estimated savings of about five hundred dollars per year relative to equivalent gas-powered subcompacts. Listings of extant Athol-built Leopards periodically appear online at auto marketplaces and collector websites.

Although markets remained stagnant through the late twentieth century due to performance limitations, production costs, and availability of inexpensive gas,

efforts of Waterman and others played an important role in showcasing the potential of electric vehicles.

Enactment of several federal and state regulations and programs prompted rapid electric vehicle development from the 1990s onward. Battery advancements significantly improved performance, including driving ranges of two hundred miles or more, and lowered costs. In 2009 the US Department of Energy began an initiative to install electric charging infrastructure, facilitating establishment of more than forty-seven thousand public charging stations nationwide.

Auto makers are transitioning to an electric future, although numerous challenges remain, such as high



Among US-manufactured electric cars is the Chevy Bolt.

photo courtesy of Bull-Doser via Wikimedia

costs and the need to expand charging-station networks. Electric vehicles recently surpassed five percent of new cars sold in the United States, a milestone that, according to Bloomberg economic analysts, likely indicates imminent mainstream demand.

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



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farming, industry, scenery distinguish Ware

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Trees resplendent with fall foliage surround spare 1799 Ware Center Meeting House.

photo © by John Burk

John Read, a prominent Boston lawyer and minister, leased parcels to poor settlers. A land speculation company sold lots in Ware's eastern section during the mid-eighteenth century. Ware established as a precinct in 1742 and incorporated in 1761. Settlers came from Killingly, Connecticut and Sharon, Massachusetts along with nearby central and western Massachusetts towns.

Ware Center, a rural village situated west of the present downtown, was the community's original civic center. Farms developed along Flat Brook and other fertile intervals, and forested uplands yielded abundant timber. Early sawmills and gristmills established at the Ware River falls and on Muddy and Beaver brooks. Taverns and inns served travelers on the Hadley Path, a spur of the Bay Path road that provided commercial connections to Boston, Worcester, and Springfield. Many Ware men participated in Shay's Rebellion after the American Revolution caused substantial economic hardship.

Nineteenth-century industrial growth transformed Ware into one of Hampshire County's most prosperous communities. A woolen mill complex, originally established by Ware Manufacturing Company, developed at the Ware River falls during the 1820s. Otis Company, Ware's largest employer for nearly a hundred years, built a large brick and stone mill on the north side of the river in 1839. The Gilbert and Stevens companies, which split in 1851, produced flannel, blankets, and other goods through the early twentieth century.

The mill village became the center of Ware's

government and economy with a thriving commercial district on Main Street. Immigrant factory workers, mostly from Canada and Poland, comprised more than a third of the town's population in the late nineteenth century. Other businesses included boot and shoe companies, straw bonnet and palm-leaf hat makers, tanneries, and a blacksmith. A small manufacturing center, site of a paper mill from 1883 to 1905, formed on Swift River at West Ware.

Railroads heightened Ware's late nineteenth-century growth. Boston and Albany Railroad's Ware River line, which opened in 1873, linked the factory village with Palmer and other communities. Boston and Maine Railroad's Massachusetts Central branch, which paralleled Ware River, provided east-west service to Boston and the Connecticut River Valley. The Athol branch—called Rabbit Run—of Boston and Albany Railroad connected West Ware with Springfield and the Quabbin Valley.

Ware experienced a manufacturing and economic downturn after World War I due to loss of woolen markets, competition from other regions, the Great Depression, and outdated facilities. After Otis Company closed in 1937, residents and workers formed Ware Industries, a nationally recognized public organization that bought out the factory and provided needed jobs. Many downtown businesses closed during the mid-to-late twentieth century.

The 1938 hurricane exacerbated Ware's decline, damaged the mill yard, homes, and businesses, destroyed the fire station, and temporarily isolated the southern portion of town. Rescuers used canoes to evacuate residents from some neighborhoods.

The only remaining covered bridge in central Massachusetts spans Ware River, crossing to Gilbertville on Hardwick's side of the river. Built in 1886, the 140-foot structure survived several damaging floods and reopened to road traffic in 2010 after extensive renovations.

Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, located in the historic 1799 meetinghouse at 295 Belchertown Road, is open seasonally. Call (413)-967-6882 for information.

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

Erving features mills, ledges, trails, and scenery

continued from page 17

In 1751, Boston businessman John Erving acquired an eleven-thousand-acre tract, known as Erving's Grant and Great Farm, that formed the basis of present Erving. No known eighteenth-century colonial settlement occurred due to availability of fertile land in nearby Connecticut River Valley towns. Asaph White, Erving's first resident, built a sawmill and dam on Millers River in the early 1800s after construction of the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, a toll road that ran from Leominster through, among others, Templeton, Phillipston, Athol, Orange, and Erving to Greenfield. A village developed at the present Erving center, and the town incorporated in 1838. Millers Falls, located in Erving and Montague, formed during the 1820s as a farming community.

Prominent early factories included the Stone Company, maker of piano legs and cases and billiard tables, Washburn and Heyward Chair Company, and other furniture producers. A hardware factory at Millers Falls, originally founded by Millers River Manufacturing Company in 1868, produced quality hand and power tools before closing in 1982.

Competition from Orange and Gardner furniture companies prompted a shift to paper industries in the late nineteenth century. Establishment of a pulp mill on Wendell's side of Millers River prompted growth at Farley village during the 1880s. Millers Falls Paper Company factory, built in 1902, produced a variety of products including papers for voting machines and charts used by the military during World War II and the Korean War. The town presently owns the vacant facility, last operated by International Paper Company in 2000.

Erving Paper Mill formed in 1908 when a Holyoke firm built a brick factory at the former Stone Company site. Owned by the Housen family since the 1930s, the company became a national leader in paper manufacturing and recycling. Its products included napkins used in United States embassies, paper towels, tissues, and hospital supplies.

Erving's businesses benefited from the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, built along Millers River in 1848 and subsequently acquired by Boston and Maine Railroad. Passenger service ended after World War II, but the line remains an important regional freight



Erving's Laurel Lake harbors summer cottages, swimming, and a state camping area.

photo © by John Burk

route. New London and Northern Railroad, founded in 1851, linked Millers Falls with Northfield and other Connecticut Valley communities.

Hermit Mountain's name derives from John Smith, a Scottish immigrant and storyteller who lived in a rock cave and cabin on its south slopes from 1867 to 1899. Though characterized as a recluse, Smith actively promoted himself and entertained thousands of guests at his unusual home. A spur off the New England National Scenic Trail leads hikers to the cave site. Erving Historical Commission sponsored publication of Sophie Olsen's 2020 book, *A Hermit for the Masses*, about Smith.

Mohawk Trail Highway, an iconic early American automobile road, brought many tourists to Erving after opening in 1914. One of its best-known attractions, French King Bridge, was built in 1932 to bypass a dangerous road to Millers Falls.

The March 1936 flood and 1938 hurricane caused an estimated more than two million dollars of damage in Erving. High water in 1936 washed out bridges and railroad tracks, overtopped dams at Millers Falls, damaged the town hall and paper mill, and caused a landslide at Farley that stranded a train. A flood crest of nearly six feet inundated Route 2 in 1938.

Find more information about Erving history at erving-ma.gov/historical-commission.

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

Historic Buildings House Restaurants

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Restored wide-cut wood floors and two seasonally decorated fireplaces create an inviting ambiance. “Most of our decor is hand-selected from Country Bumpkin Antiques right up the street and available for sale,” Osterberg said. “Guests can dine in the main dining room, the Elsa Stone Room, or the quaint porch area.”

KRO’s on the Common, 10 Baldwinville Road, Templeton, can accommodate large groups, private events, and custom cake and pastry orders. On-site or off-site pick-up is available.

Open Wednesday through Sunday from 8 am to 2 pm.

For reservations, call (978) 652-5780 or (978) 652-781 and visit krosonthecommon.com for entertainment and dining events.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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Quabbin region maple leaves cluster on a birch root.

photo © by Amber Robidoux

balance comes in handy when schedules and seasons change

by Amber Robidoux

Transitioning from one household schedule to another often poses challenges. Before we find ourselves pulled tighter than a corset, a moment of pause and awareness around time can make a difference before we find ourselves unable to breathe.

How can we prevent the overwhelm that comes with a busy schedule? The answer is balance.

Balance is the easy answer, but what exactly does that look like?

The thing about balance is it doesn't look the same for everyone. How one person experiences balance could be complete chaos for someone else. Some techniques may help keep the ship upright.

Time Management

The kids have soccer practice on two separate fields, you've got a work project due and you're not sure what it is, but that strange sound is coming from the car again.

A wave of overwhelm can show up unexpectedly and deliver a considerable blow. Sometimes there's nothing we can do about it, but approaching circumstances intentionally with organized scheduling can save a lot of

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Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Welcome to the Woodland Labyrinth!

*To see the world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wildflower,
hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.*

—William Blake

The walk through Woodland Labyrinth is simple yet sacred. May its gentle gifts touch you.

Pause. Breathe. Be. Delight in the mysteries of nature and smile at its beauty. May the presence of the woods invigorate and heal.

Walk toward the Fairy Cottage and angle right on a path toward the “dish-shevelled” stonewall, past the compost with the rubber duckies standing guard.

Wend your way toward the pond. Forest bathe, inviting all your senses. Listen to the croaking frogs. Embrace the melodic tune of the wood thrush. Spot the painted turtles sunning on a log. Notice bullhead lilies in the pond. Relax.

May the beauty of nature resonate within the cells of your being. May peace surround you, whatever season of light it may be in twenty-five-year-old Woodland Labyrinth.

May your spirit harmonize with nature as you stroll the labyrinth's simple walk, a metaphor for life—release, illumination, and union. You may choose to contemplate one of life's questions and let its answer quietly flow as you follow circuits of the labyrinth. You may choose simply to stroll in walking meditation with a grateful heart open to the moment.

The exact origin of labyrinths has yet to be determined. Of mysterious origin, they date to 2,500 BCE in the Eurocentric world, discovered in a seven-ring design in Lazzanas, Sardinia.

Labyrinths of Colorado, a book by Dr. Wayne London, refers to “the labyrinth as a metaphor for the Phi Ratio,” which Dr. London calls “a discreet, paired, proportional spin system.” He explains that the Phi Ratio found throughout nature informs major and minor grooves of human DNA.

In 1996, I visited the field labyrinth at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Connecticut with my childhood friend Sue Sterling. After I walked there, a silent, profound message appeared to my heart and mind. Back home, I realized my meandering to the pond on my property resembled a labyrinth walk. *Why not build one?* I thought. Stones from old rock piles punctuate it. The hands of many neighbors and friends helped build it.

Labyrinths variously encourage relaxation, meditation, attunement, centering, stress reduction, balancing, reflection, prayer, exercise, and fun. The pattern of walking circular paths to the left and right balances the hemispheres of the brain.

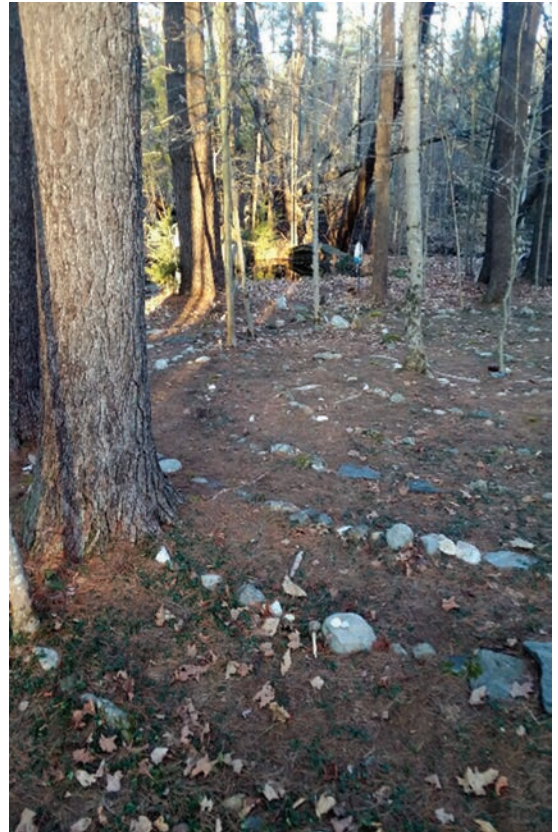
My brother, Bill Hack, says, “That’s a great way to take a walk of 520 steps without ever leaving the property.”

“Walking the labyrinth symbolizes the paths we take on our life’s journey,” commented Jane Marshall.

Another friend remarked how wonderful that the labyrinth will always metamorphose as seasons change and folks contribute new treasures.

Voila! I invite readers to email me at dclara_2000@yahoo.com to arrange a visit to the Woodland Labyrinth.

Educator and naturalist, Clare Green of Warwick, invites folks to visit her Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy Cottage. Bring a stone or treasure to leave. The Fairy Cottage has finger labyrinth boards for disabled visitors. Find more at www.claregreenbooks.com.



A simple autumn stroll through the Woodland Labyrinth offers an opportunity to delight in the mysteries of nature.

photo © by Clare Green

musicians Barger, Downing, and Cohan made Quabbin region their home

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Self-taught musician Big Al Downing, Quabbin region transplant, found success and inspiration in music despite prejudice of the Jim Crow era.

photo courtesy of Kara Brooke

Born the son of sharecroppers and one of fifteen children, he was about twelve when he found an old broken-down piano in a junkyard and brought it home where he taught himself to play by listening to Fats Domino and Grand Ole Opry broadcasts, according to Brooke.

In the 1950s, Downing was the only African-American in bands touring the Midwest and South. Standing more than six feet tall, Downing had to sneak into segregated hotels hidden under a blanket or crammed inside the case of a stand-up bass. Often, he was not allowed to use bathrooms and eat in restaurants where they performed, Brooke said.

"I had to go through a lot to be a singer," he once said. "I had to endure things I don't think any other person could do."

Big Al Downing never gave up, and in 1979, he received Billboard's New Artist of the Year and the Single of the Year Award for "I'll Be Holding On." He was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame and frequently performed at the Grand Ole Opry. In addition, Downing was nominated as Best New Artist by the Academy of Country Music and appeared on *Hee Haw* and *Dick Clark's American Bandstand* television programs.

Big Al came to the Quabbin area seeking peace and musical inspiration. He succumbed to leukemia in 2005 in Worcester. He

remains one of the country's most prominent African-American country artists.

George M. Cohan—entertainer, playwright, composer, lyricist, actor, singer, dancer, and director—was born in 1878 in Providence, Rhode Island. He first appeared on stage while still an infant as part of a family of traveling vaudeville performers. By age eight, Cohan performed playing the violin and as a dancer.

The family toured most of the year but enjoyed summer vacations at Cohan's grandmother's home in North Brookfield. George and his siblings enjoyed typical childhood experiences like riding bikes and playing baseball. Each summer, the family entertained at North Brookfield Town Hall. Cohan's memories of those happy summers inspired his 1907 musical *50 Miles from Boston*, set right in North Brookfield, and inspiration for one of his most famous songs, *Harrigan*. Later in 1934, Cohan returned to the town to perform in the cast of *Ah, Wilderness!*

Cohan told a reporter at the time, "I've knocked around everywhere, but there's no place like North Brookfield."

"In interviews, Cohan attributed some of his ideas for plays to experiences in the summers in the Brookfields. One of these was the play *Fifty Miles from Boston* as well as the song "Harrigan." These summers gave him a sense of a typical childhood when he spent most of the other months of the year traveling in shows," said Heather Gablaski, educator and historian at the East Brookfield Historical Commission Museum.

Whether born here or relocated, musicians never forget the Quabbin region, where music is in the air.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



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"There's no place like North Brookfield," said early twentieth-century performer George M. Cohan, whose vaudevillian family, left, entertained East Brookfield audiences
photo courtesy of East Brookfield Historical Commission Museum



Barre, Orange, and Petersham landmark buildings demolished

continued from page 25

lay vacant for nearly fifty years, deteriorating to the point where it was beyond rehabilitation. “Old mills such as the South Barre factories were often built with asbestos materials and lacked contemporary infrastructure and universal access, making adaption for modern usage extremely expensive,” said Lucy Allen of Barre Historical Society.

Allen described how some residents’ family members worked at the mill from the time of its opening in 1903. After demolition of Nornay Mill during the early 2000s, the town established Nornay Park, dedicated to immigrant workers, on the site.

On June 4, a large fire destroyed a mill, originally built by New Home Sewing Machine Company around 1890 as part of an industrial complex in downtown Orange. Franklin County’s largest employer in the late nineteenth century, New Home Company produced as many as 150,000 sewing machines annually in several large factory buildings, including the one that burned in June before closing in 1930.

Subsequent owners included Erving Industries, formerly Erving Paper Mill, which sold the facility to Innovative Cereal Products in the 1990s. After the latter went out of business, the vacant mill deteriorated significantly from 2008, necessitating closure of a portion of West River Street in March 2022 due to safety concerns about the building.

Following forty years of discussions and debates about its future, demolition of Nichewaig Inn, a fixture of Petersham’s town common for more than 120 years, began in July 2022. For many years in the mid-twentieth

century, the building housed Maria Assumpta Academy for Girls.

Prominent businessman, lawyer, and conservationist James W. Brooks built the three-story structure in 1899 after a fire destroyed the original hotel on the site. Architect Edmund Wilson also designed adjacent Petersham Memorial Library, distinguished by Romanesque style fieldstone masonry and a stone tower. For fifty years, the inn hosted visitors who enjoyed sweeping country views and amenities such as a golf course, tennis courts, and hiking trails. A portion of the former golf course became North Common Meadow, a twenty-five-acre grassland protected by the Trustees of Reservations.

In 1951, the Roman Catholic Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin purchased the inn and established Maria Assumpta Academy, a parochial high school for girls. A large brick addition housed classrooms and dormitories. After the academy closed in 1973, the facility served as a retreat for the nuns until the early 1980s, then sat unused through a series of ownership changes. Despite efforts to repurpose and save the property, no viable plans came forward. Petersham residents approved demolition at town meetings in December 2021 and June 2022.

Reflecting on the three demolished buildings, Lucy Allen cites challenges Quabbin region communities face in rehabilitating historic structures. “The loss of these three landmarks shows how difficult it is for small towns in rural central Massachusetts to successfully attract investors willing to rehabilitate and repurpose large old buildings,” Allen said. “Our communities are left to grieve and then to look forward so we can establish new sources of pride.”

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

Thanks to Nancy Allen, Janice Lanou, and Margaret Marshall for assistance in finding photos of buildings before they were demolished.

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



The sun rises beneath a mackerel sky over Quabbin Reservoir in autumn.

photo © by Rick Flematti

camaraderie among regional pool sharks extends beyond “just playing pool”

continued from page 39

handicaps as in golf. The league also sponsors a junior competition for players between the ages of seven and eighteen.

More than eight thousand locations across the country host APA teams, and regionally, at least eight teams exist in the Athol-Orange area.

Pam Hall is league operator for central Massachusetts and promotes the sport with as many as two hundred teams, so she keeps pretty busy. Central Mass APA is a nonprofit organization that holds fundraising events to benefit causes like local scholarship funds or members in need. Camaraderie among team members extends beyond just playing pool, Hall said.

Shooting pool, like other games of skill, takes practice, practice, and more practice, according to players. It's one

thing to sink your target in the pocket of your choice when there's a straight path. It's another to accomplish that while maybe having to bounce off two banks of the table. Probably doesn't hurt to be good at geometry.

Ever wonder why pool tables are usually made of green felt material? Pool started in France in the 1340s as a lawn game among the nobility. It more resembled croquet. Players eventually moved the game indoors on a wooden table covered with green cloth to mimic the grass. Or so goes the theory.

Pool qualifies as one of three games in the billiards group. Snooker and carom make up the other two. But pool is the name of the game in the good ole USA.

Find more at poolplayers.com

Photographer Rick Flematti of Athol can be found at rickflemattinaturephotography.com

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

September 23, Friday

Friday Concert on Rutland Common
5 pm open mike by invitation
5:55 pm National Anthem
6 pm - 9 pm band concert
featuring Rabble Rounders

September 23 -25

Friday - Sunday
Fall Fest
Friday 5 pm - 10 pm
Saturday 1 pm - 10 pm
Sun 8 am - 6 pm
Orange Airport
Our Lady Immaculate Church in Athol
presents live music, food truck, rodeo,
classic car show, Fannelli amusement
park, and more.

Spellbinding Weekend of Witchcraft
and Underworld Revival
Wheeler Mansion
75 E Main Street
Orange
The second annual weekend of magic
and the macabre.
revivalwheelermansion.com

Belchertown Fair
Friday 3 pm - 10 pm
Saturday 11 am - 10 pm
Sunday 11 am - 5 pm
Main Street
Belchertown
Celebrate Belchertown's agricultural
roots as well as their active growing
community with a wide variety of
family friendly activities throughout
the weekend.
belchertownfair.com

September 24, Saturday

Up in the Air Fair
10 am - 4 pm
Royalston Fish and Game Club
49 Main Road
Phillipston
Featuring aerialists Molly Baechtold
and Leah Abel, hamburgers, hotdogs,
beverages, live music by Joshua
LeVangie, vendors, and raffles.

Scott Higgins Comedy All Stars
7 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
All-star comedians assemble for an
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thecenterateaglehill.org

Green Heron
7:30 pm -9:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Betsy Green Heron and Scott Heron
perform traditional and contemporary
songs.
1794meetinghouse.org

September 25, Sunday

Peter Blanchette, The Art of Archguitar
4 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Peter Blanchette, inventor of the
eleven-string archguitar, will perform
arrangements spanning Medieval,
Renaissance, and Baroque music to
World Music, New Music, and his own
original pieces.
1794meetinghouse.org

September 25, Sunday

(continued)

Motorpalooza
11 am - 4 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Rain or shine: vintage cars, trucks,
engines, motorcycles, and more.
narragansetthistoricalsociety.org

September 30, Friday

Concert on Rutland Common
5 pm - 9 pm band concert
featuring The Midnight Riders

October 1, Saturday

Comic Book Festival
10 am - 3 pm
Athol Town Hall
584 Main St
Athol
The Athol Public Library and Hero
Shack press are teaming up to present
their first ever Comic Book Fest.
Meet and greet five local comic book
artists, enjoy hero themed activities,
crafts, games, presentations, vendors
and more. It is sure to be a fun day for
the whole family.

Elwin Bacon Memorial Fun Day

NEECA
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
neeca.org

October 1-2, Saturday-Sunday

Back Road Studio Tour
10 am - 5 pm
Self-guided tour through the studios
of eleven artists and craftspeople
with paintings, leather work, jewelry,
stained glass, baskets, wood
carvings, furniture, hooked rugs,
textiles, paperworks, and ironworks.
Backroadsstudiotour.org

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

**October 1-2, Saturday- Sunday
(continued)**

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival
10 am - 5 pm
Forsters' Farm
60 Chestnut Hill
Orange
Art, farm-fresh products, garlic
cuisine, performances, family
activities. and much more!
Garlicandarts.org

October 6, Thursday

Delvena Theater Company Presents:
Isabella
6 pm - 7:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Learn about the life, charm, friends,
and acquaintances, travels, stylish
taste. and unconventional behavior of
Isabella Stewart Gardner, founder of
the eponymous Museum in Boston. .
athollibrary.org

October 13, Thursday

How to Be Safe When Ghost Hunting
6 pm - 7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
One-hour lecture on basics, tips,
and tricks of how to be safe when
ghost hunting with Diane DiPietro of
Tintagels Gate/Flowerland in Athol.
Athollibrary.org

October 15, Saturday

Tully Lake Triathlon
noon
Tully Lake
25 Doane Hill Road
Royalston
Seventeen-mile paddle/run/bike
triathlon. Awards to top finishers:
Individual–Women, Individual–Men,
Team–Two Person, Team–Three
Person, and Team–Four Person.
Racers must be 13 or older.
Check Facebook for more information.

**October 15, Saturday
(continued)**

The Bourbon Street Jubilee:
Day of the Dead Edition
7 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
New Orleans meets New England for a
special Day of the Dead celebration!
thecenterateaglehill.org

Fall Festival of Forgotten Arts
noon - 4 pm
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland 01543

October 23, Sunday

Spirits Walk
4 pm- 5 pm
Old Burial Ground next to
Rutland Public Library

October 28-29, Friday-Saturday

Haunted Walk
11 am - 4 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Walk from Boynton Road to the
cemetery with commentary.
Narragansetthistoricalsociety.org

October 30, Sunday

Mike and Missy Unplugged
2 pm
Milk Room Brewing Company
80 Hillside Road
Rutland

November 5, Saturday

Alfred Hitchcock: Master of Suspense
10:30 - 11:30 am
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
One-hour slideshow presentation
on the master of suspense and his
movies with Frank Mandosa.
Athollibrary.org

**November 5, Saturday
(continued)**

CORDIS: Condition Blue
7 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Contemporary chamber music meets
National Geographic imagery.
thecenterateaglehill.org

weekends November 11 - December 11

Country Roads Christmas
North Quabbin Regions
November weekends through first
weekend in December. Sixteen unique
stores with one-of-a-kind gifts.
countryroadschristmas.com

November 12, Saturday

Holiday Bazaar
9 am - 2 pm
Athol Congregational Church
1225 Chestnut Street
Athol
Shop gifts including jewelry, theme
baskets, crafts, wreaths, tasty treats
and more.

Veterans Day Open House
1 pm - 4 pm
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland 01543
November 16, Wednesday

Cooking for the Heart
6 pm - 7 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Demo and tasting simple recipes that
support the heart journey.
athollibrary.org

November 19, Saturday

Seussical the Musical
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
Also showing November 20 and 25-27
and December 2-4.
barreplayerstheater.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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November 19-20, Saturday-Sunday

Thanksgiving Harvest Festival

10 am - 4 pm

Red Apple Farm

Highland Avenue

Phillipston

Featuring food, The Brew Barn, face painting, pony rides and hayrides, blacksmith demonstrations, local live music, PYO ornamental corn, guided nature hikes, and more.

Redapplefarm.com

November 30, Wednesday

Make a Fresh Greenery Wreath

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Rachel is back, and this time she'll demonstrate how to make a wreath with fresh greenery. Materials provided, and each participant will take home their creation.

athollibrary.org

December 3, Saturday

A Very Lamb Chop Christmas

2 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

'tis the season to have fun with

Mallory Lewis and Lamb Chop!

Thecenterateaglehill.org

Festival of Trees

4 pm - 8 pm

Tree lighting and Santa

Rutland Common

December 4, Sunday

Tree Lighting

noon - 4 pm

Narragansett Historical Society

1 Boynton Road

Templeton

Santa, bake sale, and building decorated for the holidays. Handmade wreaths and more, then tree lighting.

December 4, Sunday

continued

Festival of Trees and Santa

1 pm - 4 pm

Rutland Common

Please submit listings
for the next issue before December 1, 2022
to UQCalendar@gmail.com

December 31, Saturday

Starry Starry Night

6 pm - 10:30 pm

Orange Center

1 South Main Street

Orange

New Year celebration with local performances, a parade, fireworks, and more.

starrystarrynight.org

changing seasons require balance as schedules change

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stress, especially when the unplanned surfaces. Leaving a buffer between appointments can spare some grief if a meeting goes longer than planned. Knowing limits and avoiding over-scheduling can help. Systems can help manage tasks, and finding help can make things easier.

Creating Down Time

Adults and children need unstructured downtime. Creating time not designated to any specific task serves as important a function as brushing teeth. The best ideas and thoughts can come when the brain is not hijacked every minute. Down time offers the opportunity—without distraction—to explore a local trail or get lost in the public library.

Recharge the Battery

For some, down time equals recharging the personal battery in highly individualized ways. Depending on who's doing it, recharging the battery involves play or getting creative or reading a good book. Or *writing* a great book. Some things are so fun, time takes a back seat.

Undivided Attention

Undivided attention, the act of being present, wherever one stands, occurs with dedication and focus. It could mean listening to a child's story that seems to last a decade while honoring the importance of the child's trust and expectation. It could mean having dinner with a dear one and savoring every bite. Giving full attention to whatever occupies time and to other people helps make the most of every day.

Take Care

Preventing overwhelm means looking out for oneself as one would look out for a friend. Balance involves setting boundaries on activity, putting time and energy into meaningful activities with solid impact on quality of life, and sometimes creating fun where no fun previously existed.

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