

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Spring 2014
Vol.27 No.1

We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water, and Voices of those who draw upon it for deeper needs of the Soul.

—Les Campbell

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It Was a Special Year for Memories of Dana

By Paul Godfrey, Editor

Dana is a town that history has forgotten twice, but no longer. It was an agrarian village initially settled in the mid-1700s and incorporated from parts of Petersham, Greenwich and Hardwick in 1801. The town developed initially with three centers, Doubleday, North Dana and the future Dana Center. Town meetings alternated between the villages. In 1842, a fourth village, Storrsville, was annexed and Dana Center became the natural mid-point of activity. Dana Center grew with most of the



Dana Post Office, circa 1930

buildings around the town triangle being constructed from 1830 to 1860 and population peaking at 876 people. Lest you think that means a sleepy little pioneer town of hovels with dirt floors, think again. It was a town of many gorgeous houses and even more of the variety that would be typical of today's small towns, small industry, and rich farmland. The photo essay samples a few sights from the town prior to 1939.



Wesley Ploof house, 1928

In 1938, Dana was one of the four towns to be disincorporated, have all its structures moved or demolished, the bodies in its cemeteries moved and have all the trees from the areas to be flooded cut down. It became a scene of nearly total devastation. It was the unnamed town that was the subject of poignant performances of "Quabbin: The Musical" presented by the Friends of Quabbin this past fall. But time had not been kind to the actual site of Dana Center. While cellar holes, and roadways remained, these became



Dana Central School, circa 1930

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President's Message

A Reflection on the Past Year and Anticipation of the Coming Year

I'm both eager and anxious for this long and cold winter to come to an end! These past three months of winter seemed extraordinarily cold. It's reported in many areas of the country that this winter was the third coldest winter on record. I'm eager for spring to arrive but I must stop complaining and reflect on how fortunate we are today with the modern amenities of heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Imagine how a similar winter would have impacted the lives of our ancestors in the Swift River Valley where, in most instances, the primary sources of heat were wood stoves or fireplaces supplied with wood from sweat-labor in the wood lot. Keeping warm in winter was a year-round activity then.

The good news is that spring is coming and, with that certainty, the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors has scheduled its Annual Meeting for April 6th at the Belchertown Senior Center, 60 State Street, Belchertown beginning at 1:00 PM. The Friends of Quabbin will be providing light refreshments. The formal program will begin at 1:30 PM. Mr. Dale Monette of the Quabbin Visitor's Center will be presenting his highly acclaimed slide show: Visions of the Past. Dale's presentation includes photographs that were taken over 75 years ago by photographers hired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to document the destruction of the Swift River Valley and the creation of the reservoir. Dale Monette's slideshow provides an exploration of these rarely seen photographs and compares the historic images with contemporary views taken from the same spot

as the originals. Dale will be retiring from the Quabbin Visitors at the end of March 2014. Please join us in recognizing Dale for his 25+ years of service of providing commendable Interpretative Services to the hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world at the Quabbin Visitor Center and local schools and historical societies. I'm confident that Dale will have some interesting stories to tell from his experiences working at the Quabbin. We can look forward to Dale's presentation and the opportunity to thank him for his service to the public, his longstanding support to the Friends of Quabbin, and his friendship.

Although the 75th Year of Remembrance events were completed by recalling the last mail leaving Enfield on January 14, 1938 with a commemorative envelope stamped exactly 75 years after that date, there will be lots of events scheduled by the Friends of Quabbin and the Swift River Valley Historical Society this year. Both the Friends of Quabbin and the Swift River Historical Society will update their websites to provide information on their activities. Some of these upcoming events are noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

On a personal note, from my experience with genealogy and working with the Friends in conducting several hundreds of hours of research in identifying who, what, where, and when on old images for the 75th Year of Remembrance and producing videos using those images and voice recordings in our archives, I have been motivated to return to college. Some might think it might be a little awkward to be among students many of whom are well over forty years my junior, but it's been rewarding. I'm learning a lot, and enjoying it. I must confess that the volume of work was quite a bit more than I expected, and I'm glad that I didn't bite off more than I could chew. My focus will be on history, but I will take some communication courses such as web design so that I can become more effective and creative going forward with projects for both family history and the Friends of Quabbin.



75th Year Special Commemorative Envelope

On January 14, 1939, the last mail was sent from the Enfield Post Office. Commemorating that event, this special envelope brings together the lucky find of a picture depicting that last day with the equally extraordinary find of the actual cancelling device used that

day. These two are combined with the Friends of Quabbin special 75th Remembrance Year logo. The envelope has a U.S. Forever stamp hand cancelled on January 14, 2014 at the Ware, Massachusetts Post Office, exactly 75 years to the moment. A few are still available at the Quabbin Visitor Center Store.

Got the Itch to Fish?

Like many Quabbin anglers, John Durocher and his father Francis spent many years exploring the reservoir, learning the best places to catch trout. Mr. Durocher kept detailed notes on where he caught these and like any good fisherman, they mean everything to him but are somewhat cryptic to the rest of us. But one would have to say that this fishing group had a very good day!

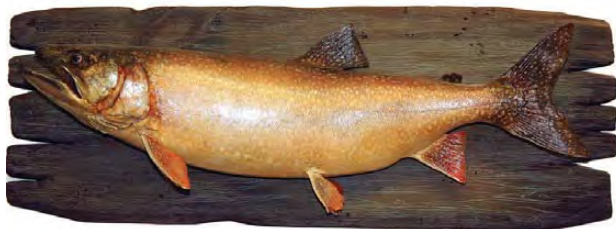
This past summer, three trout specimens that Mr. Durocher caught and preserved were donated by his family to the Quabbin Visitor Center for display. If you need more motivation than these pictures, drop by and see them for yourselves.



minimize any impacts from the activity on water quality. The current operation of the boat fishing program limits private boats to motors less than 25 hp, and as of 2009, requires that boats go through the Quabbin Boat Seal program to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. As well, a limited fishing season, typically mid-April through mid-October, and managed areas open to launching have contributed to minimizing the impact on the water quality.

If you want to try for your own lunker, **opening date for fishing is April 12th**. The season will open that day, but the opening of the boat launch areas will be dependent upon the ice conditions. In other words, even if there is still ice on the reservoir at that time and the boat-launch areas are not open, anglers can still shore fish beginning that day.

Contributions to this article by the Durocher family, John Zebb (FOQ), Clif Read and Maria Beiter-Tucker (DCR)



Lake, Brown and Rainbow Trout were all stocked in the Quabbin Reservoir, starting in the 1950s. Lake Trout have been reproducing on their own in the reservoir since 1965 so they are no longer stocked. Adult Rainbow trout are still stocked in the reservoir every spring; stocking efforts for Brown Trout were discontinued as they were not reproducing successfully in the reservoir.

Shore fishing has been allowed at Quabbin Reservoir since 1946 and motor boat fishing was allowed starting in 1952. The motor boat program was the result of political decisions made in the 1950s that were implemented against the wishes of the Metropolitan District Commission (now DCR) watershed managers at the time.

Since motor boating was implemented, the Quabbin staff, with the cooperation of the organized fishing clubs, has worked to

QUABBIN LAKE TROUT 1976	
DAD	JOHN
May 1 3 1/2 lb.	May 5 17"
" 5 3 1/2 lb. 22"	June 24 16"
June 3 19"	" 26 17"
" 24 7 1/2 lb 10 oz 26 1/2"	" 27 15" 15"
" 26 2 1/2 lb 18 1/2"	June 30 16" 16"
" 28 15"	
3 1/2 lb 22"	
2 1/4 lb 19"	
" 30 5 1/2 lb 23 1/2"	
2 1/4 lb 18"	



Interpretive Services Report

Spring 2014

By Clif Read

This winter certainly lived up to its claim of being “a real old-fashioned New England winter”! While recent years have been milder, less snowy and not as memorable, this year has certainly left its mark with the combination of consistently frigid temperatures and snowstorms. These factors led to Quabbin Reservoir freezing completely on February 5th after a majority of its surface had iced over by late January. Due to its expansive surface area and massive volume, Quabbin Reservoir takes a long time to cool to a point where ice can form and then, only with calm and extremely cold temperatures, does a majority of its surface freeze. Currents, upwellings and other water movements keep pockets of open water for a period of time, even when most of the rest of the reservoir has frozen over.

Thanks to aerial reconnaissance flights flown by the Mass. State Police helicopter during this time period, the DCR received aerial images of the reservoir which show various stages of ice development. These dramatic photographs taken by Trooper Mike Wong are a useful tool for the DCR in our assessment of reservoir ice cover, which influences operation of the Gull Harassment Program. Once Quabbin freezes completely, the preferred roosting areas for the gulls disappear and cause the birds to seek alternative sites for spending the night. Although the reservoir can appear completely frozen from the Quabbin Administration Building, there can still be pockets of open water available to the gulls, as evidenced from the February 4th photographs.

Cold temperatures and continual snow storms make operations more difficult for Quabbin Section staff. Snow plow crews keep the high priority roads open throughout storms,



Lower half of reservoir, east branch looking north from dike 2/4/14

including the main entrance to the Administration Building and the road below the Winsor Dam. The Quabbin Administration Road to the Tower, Enfield Lookout and Hanks Picnic area, and the Quabbin Park Cemetery are lower priority with crews generally plowing them on an “As Able” basis. With weekend storms, sometimes these secondary roads are not cleared until Monday morning, or the next morning in the case of weekday storms. Roads will not be opened until the entire length is plowed and deemed safe, so the public’s understanding is appreciated. Hopefully we will not be encountering many more major events this late winter/early spring, so access should not be a major problem.



Upper half of east branch northeast toward Enfield Channel 2/4/14

While the 2014 Quabbin Fishing Season begins on April 12th, the ice conditions may possibly delay the opening of the Boat Launch Areas. A decision on the Areas will be made a week in advance. In order to ensure the safety of all boaters, the DCR has to be certain the entire reservoir will likely be free of ice before allowing water access.

After nearly 28 years working at Quabbin Reservoir, Dale Monette will be retiring effective April 16th. Having grown up in Athol and exploring Quabbin since his childhood days, Dale’s familiarity with and knowledge of Quabbin is extensive. The Interpretive Services position, in which he has served for more than 20 years, has been a good match for Dale. Thousands of visitors have benefitted from his knowledge of Swift River valley history, the watershed trails and woods roads, wildlife and area resources, or enjoyed his informative presentations. We wish Dale the best as he pursues other interests and projects, and appreciate his many years of service to the Commonwealth.

Looking ahead to May, the Visitor Center is teaming up with the DCR Office of Cultural Resources to offer two programs as part of Preservation Month. On Sunday May 4th there will be a special Dana Common History Program presented by Maria Beiter-Tucker from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Special vehicle access will be available for the group as they are escorted to the Dana Center, stopping along the way at important interpretive sites. The program is limited in size and pre-registration is required by calling the Center at (413) 323-7221.

The second program will be coupled with activities as part of Memorial Day Observances at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Maria will lead an afternoon history walk in the Cemetery, sharing information about the development and management of the

site, as well as sharing information about some of the interesting, important and colorful persons buried on the grounds. This program also requires registration as space is limited. Call the Visitor Center to register.

Memories of Dana

Continued from page 1

gradually taken over by forest regrowing in non-flooded parts of town. Until only a few years ago, the visitor who took the trouble to hike the two miles to Dana Center would find little to identify the former village.

That's beginning to change. Beginning with the undying dedication of the few remaining former residents of Dana and, importantly, to a young descendant of one of those former residents, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Friends of Quabbin, Swift River Valley Historical Commission and others, there is a rebirth of sorts, let's call it a reborn desire to remember, honor and convey that memory to newer generations.

For years, the Swift River Valley Historical Commission has sponsored an annual pilgrimage to the site of Dana Center.



Crawford & Tyler Mill, 1929



Eagle Hotel, circa 1930



Methodist Episcopal Church, 1930

The number of visitors on the annual pilgrimage declined to relatively few. An early MDC practice of planting red pine trees had changed the appearance of the general area and except for the annual tours, the visitor had little historical information at hand when visiting. In the 1980s, the red pine plantations were cut and the forest has been returning to typical trees. DCR has valiantly tried to maintain the Dana area, particularly Dana Common. A vigorous push to provide more public focus on Dana



South from Dana Center, 1939



South on Dana's Main Street, 1939

Memories of Dana continued...

Earl "Bumpa," Kayley and Lois Cooley

and more information on site to reward those that did visit was needed. It came in large part through the efforts of high school student, Kayley Clark, grand-daughter of Earl "Bumpa" Cooley. She organized the Dana Common Historic Photo Project for her Girl Scout project. And she won the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, for it. Even more important, she caught the eye of the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation who helped her in her project. Massachusetts State Senator Steve Brewer spearheaded an effort to designate Dana on the National Register of Historic Places, a list of historic resources considered to be worthy of preservation. The registration form was filed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to the National Park Service. The formal recognition of that listing was made on March 4, 2013. The listing in the National Register increased awareness of the site, something that was badly needed.

Now there is a National Park Service web page to be found at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/Massachusetts_conservation/dana-common. And with continuing efforts by the Cooleys and DCR, there has been a concerted effort to further rehabilitate the looks of Dana Center. Last summer, a special bronze plaque denoting Dana Common's listing on the National Register was unveiled at the annual Dana Reunion. We briefly reported on the reunion in the summer issue of *Quabbin Voices*. There are also plans afoot to improve visitation and awareness of the place in history played by Dana. DCR plans further site improvements and is working with the Friends of Quabbin to place photos of "how it was" at the sites and a QR code that will take the visitor with smart phone directly to the Friends web site for additional information.

With so many events occurring around the 75th Remembrance Year, *Quabbin Voices* was simply overwhelmed with material. It's now time to go back and revisit some of the events in greater detail or with an individual perspective. In preparation of this summer's Dana Reunion, we offer this reflection by Dave Clark, dad of Kayley Clark, our Gold Award winner that helped precipitate so many improvements in the recognition of Dana Common.

The 2013 Dana Reunion

By Dave Clark

The obvious indicator of how much fun everyone had at the 2013 Dana Reunion was that we could not find time to introduce each and every one of ourselves, as we always had. There were well over 100 attendees, at various times throughout a busy and entertaining day. If you had attended in previous years, you had the feeling this time that there was a heartening rebirth of the town of Dana. And, you were right!

As you neared the Common, you might have spotted the first of over a dozen permanent photos on posts, photos taken at those locations, of buildings and sights long gone and otherwise hard to relate to by simply seeing cellar holes or rock



walls. If you are not aware of how those appeared, they were the result of a Girl Scout Gold Award project of Kayley Clark, grand-daugh-

ter of Earl "Bumpa" Cooley (one of the last former residents of Dana) and my daughter.

Instead, you may have first seen the work done by the DCR to reveal at least some of what was once there. Because when Kayley asked for help from the DCR she got more than the archival help she might have expected. They also did some major site work, cutting the grass and clearing brush from some foundations. During that process, workers revealed a previously unknown root cellar, now accessible to the public, and a capped well.



Because Kayley's efforts inspired others, you may have seen another new sight on the approach to the common. It is a large rock, on which is mounted a bronze plaque noting that Dana Common is now on the National Register of Historic Places. That designation makes the site eligible for federal

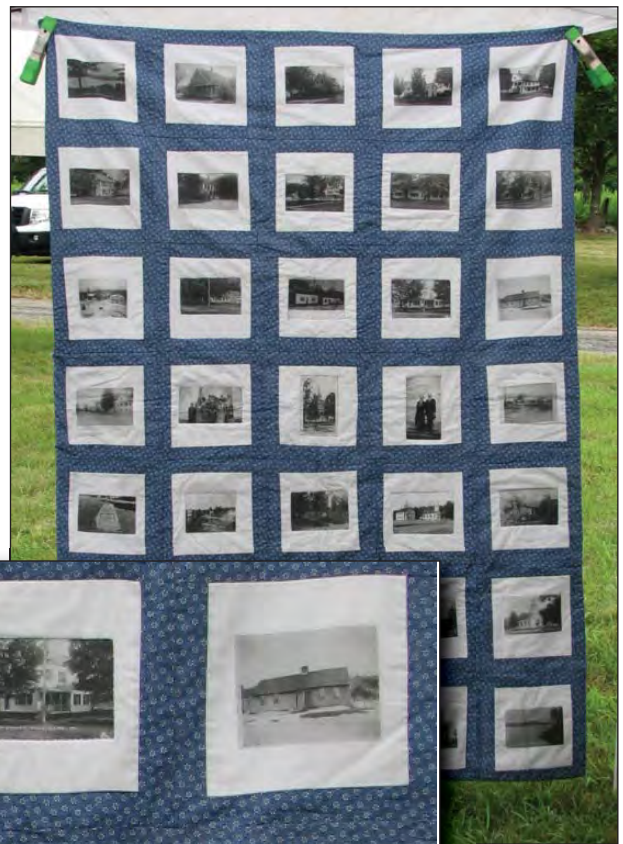
funding and assistance to keep Dana's site and story maintained. In attendance were the two people to thank for that: Bumpa, as well as Massachusetts State Senator Steven Brewer.



Dana Reunion president Suzanne Cooley had her hands more full than usual, overseeing these new interests, as well as newly-displayed artifacts owned by the late Elaine Wiktorski. The latter included an impressive Dana-themed quilt with quilt pieces printed with old photographs of Dana and its people and an "elbow" organ that no one seemed to be able to figure out (but her son, Alan, says he saw her play).

There were the usual tours of the stone wall and various cellar holes with rides on the 1929 Dana fire truck. I can't forget the new connections made between families and friends, all over shared stories and shared picnic food. Every year, there is something new to enjoy. This year, we enjoyed live music in the form of a two-cello concert played by Kayley and Mary Carfagna, and the Petersham Community Band. It seems that one feature of the Dana Reunion is recurring: good weather. Maybe, a kind mother nature is a former resident; perhaps, we should say permanent resident.

With the ongoing changes for the improvement and remembrance of Dana, one element is essential; it is unquestionably the most important — **your attendance**. Visit Dana Common anytime; you'll always enjoy the walk or bike ride. There are new opportunities to learn about Dana Common anytime you are there. Come to the annual reunion and you'll make new friends and share stories with them. Most importantly the sharing of stories and photos, especially across generations, will keep the memory of Dana, Massachusetts alive.



It will assist present and future generations in learning how important the essence of towns like Dana have been to the way we live today and what we must understand about what we do or don't do in the future.



LEARN ABOUT DANA FIRST HAND

May 4th – Dana Common Historical Tour with Maria Beiter-Tucker. 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Space is limited; pre-registration is required by calling the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

COME TO THE 2014 DANA REUNION

July 20th – Dana Reunion
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
Meet at Gate 40.

The Dream Hikes

By John Zebb

On a late summer day in 1992, shortly after turning 40, I was invited to take a ride to the Quabbin Reservoir. Prior to that, I knew next to nothing about the story behind its creation or about what the area offered. Growing up in the 1950s on the Springfield-Wilbraham line, I can recall conversations among the neighborhood fathers who journeyed there to fish. The marker-pen wielding weathermen of the 1960s would occasionally mention the region as if it were another planet. I had passed through the lower park area en route to UMASS from Boston in the 1970s. Although I did a fair amount of hiking in my earlier years, I always headed to the White Mountains or The Berkshires.

On the day of the ride, it was a dazzling, windy, crisply clear morning. A series of thunderstorms had passed through the night before with cool, clean air pushing down from the north. The Winsor Dam vista was stunning. The water was speckled with white-caps slapping the shores of what I still affectionately call the “gum-drop” mountains. To this day, I still get a sense of joyous anticipation on the approach off Route 9 towards the Administration and Visitor Center Building.

Within an hour of arriving at the Administration Building, I was the proud owner of a laminated Quabbin Reservation Guide by New England Cartographics. Over the years this map has been elevated to “good friend” status and still accompanies me on all my walks, albeit heavily bolstered with layers of masking tape. The programmer in me was impressed by the clockwise-sequential numerical ordering of the access gates. It struck me as a kind of wilderness buffet-table approachable from all sides and directions. I was further charmed when I learned that the trails were old roads, not narrow paths dictated by colored-blazes. These undulating, largely single-lane byways encourage side-by-side discourse among equals. I am certain that over the years several of our animated discussions caused massive shifts in the wildlife population from one reservoir side to the other!

Over the next decade or so, I consistently made 8 to 12 visits a year logging 8 to 15 miles per hike. With a developing expertise of the whole network of trails, I started musing on the idea of hiking the entire reservation from Route 9 to Route 122. Around 2004, I began paying attention to the time expended on pieces of the proposed solution. No high-tech devices were involved. I would park as strategically as possible and walk to a targeted area, mindful that three hours in meant three hours out.

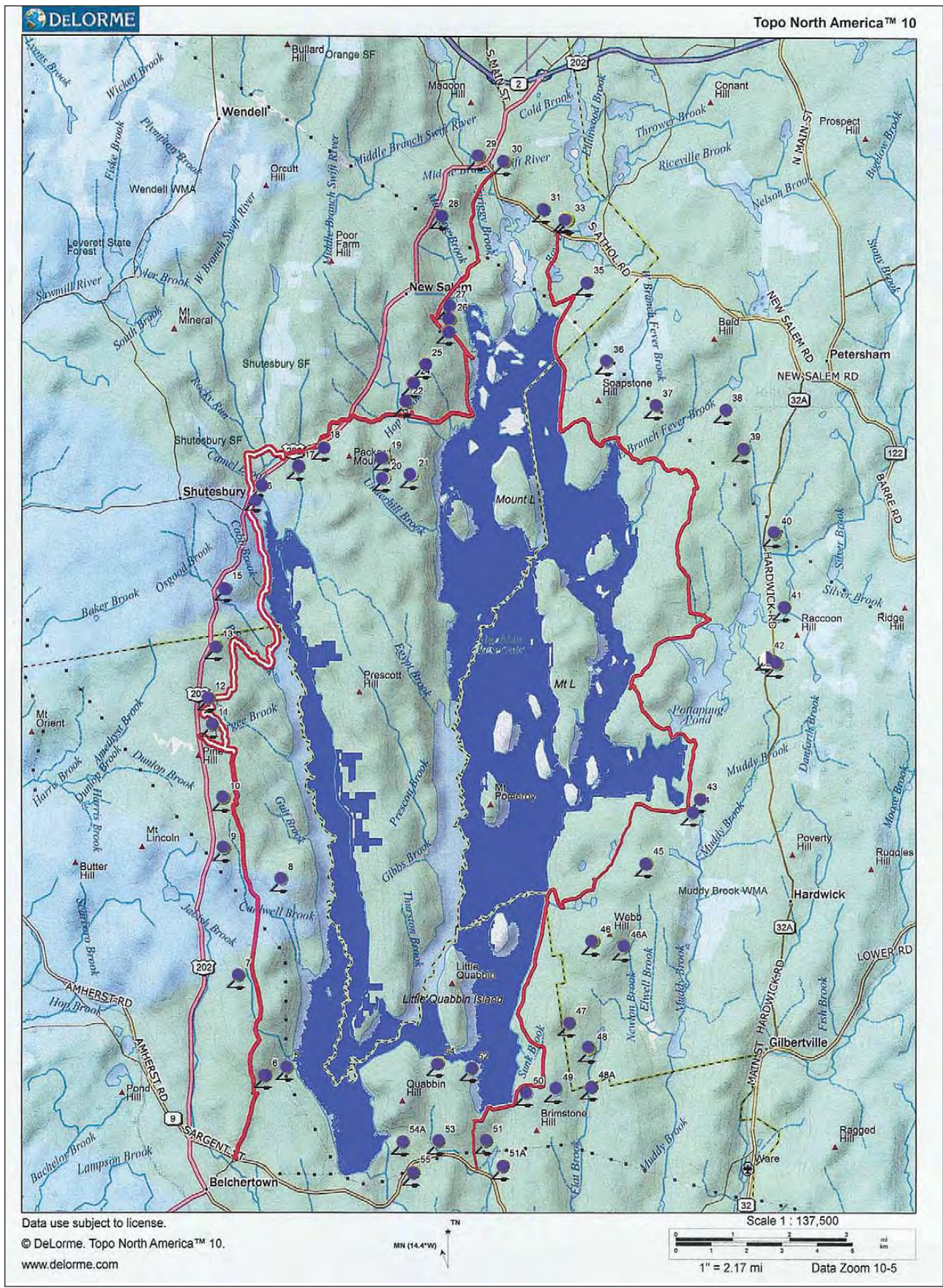
I was ready to tackle the the first leg of the challenge I had set years before, the east side. I was lucky to have a strong hiking partner and professional friend in Dave DeMercado of Glastonbury, Conn. We arrived about 6:30 AM on October 30, 2009 at the Route 9 entrance near Quabbin Cemetery, being careful to leave our vehicle outside of the gate so that we wouldn't get locked in. After gearing up, a Department of Conservation and Recreation pickup appeared and formally opened the Quabbin to drivers. We informed him that we were not stopping until we reached Gate 33 on the top northeast corner of the reservoir (see map). He smiled and wished us luck with a touch of “better you than me” in the tone. Getting this still unknown number of miles in before darkness and gate closing was not certain, The secret to success would be a quick, unvarying tempo. It was only proper to finish in the daylight. If that looked unlikely, the last chance to abort would be from Dana Common, about mid-reservoir on the east and near Gate 40.

To traverse the East Side is not complicated. The start on Route 9 up the Administration Road, through the barriers approaching Goodnough Dike to Gate 50 at its end is absolutely beautiful at daybreak. The trail from Gate 50 proceeds efficiently north with a switch-back at the two hour point of the journey. After a brief walk east towards Gate 45, one again heads north on Fitzpatrick Road to the intersection of the Gate 43 hardtop.



John Zebb, author, standing on Goodnough Dike with Quabbin Reservoir in background.

Since there is no passage across Pottapaug Pond, we opted to make a circuit through the Boat Launch #3 area and head northeast towards Dana Common. Caution must be at hand from Dana Common to the straightaway along the water's edge pointing toward Gate 35. Confusion at this point would be disheartening in the fight against the dwindling amount of daylight. The final stretch included Whitney Hill Road, Dugway



Topographic map of the Quabbin area. The hiked path is shown in solid red except on a portion of the west side that is dual-line and means it was traced by GPS. Gates are shown as dark circles with numbers beside them. Major roads are shown as lighter dual lines.

Road, around Soapstone Hill (between Gate 37 and 36) and up the RR bed leading to the power lines. At Gate 33, we crossed Route 122 to Blackington Road and called it a day after 26.5 miles, 10.5 elapsed hours and 8.75 moving hours. Waiting for us was former FOQ president Bob Clark of Petersham. Bob donated our offer of \$50 for the ride back to Belchertown to the FOQ general fund.

That satisfied my urge to walk the whole length of Quabbin for some time, but by 2013, the urge was back. Planning began for the second leg of the hike—the west side. On October 30, 2013, a Wednesday morning, I was dropped off at the intersection of Route 9 and Old Enfield Road at 6:45 AM in the dark and rain. Reaching Gate 6, the first gate on the planned trip, a half an hour later, I seriously doubted the wisdom of what I had set my mind to accomplishing. The Gate 6 to Gate 11 section is an enjoyable and picturesque ramble about halfway up the west branch of Quabbin. After some vertical gain on Juckett Hill, the terrain slopes down and remains relatively flat. Route 202, in contrast, is always rising to the milestone church in Pelham. Hence, the creation of the “bowl effect” one experiences beginning any outing starting off at Route 202 above Gate 11.

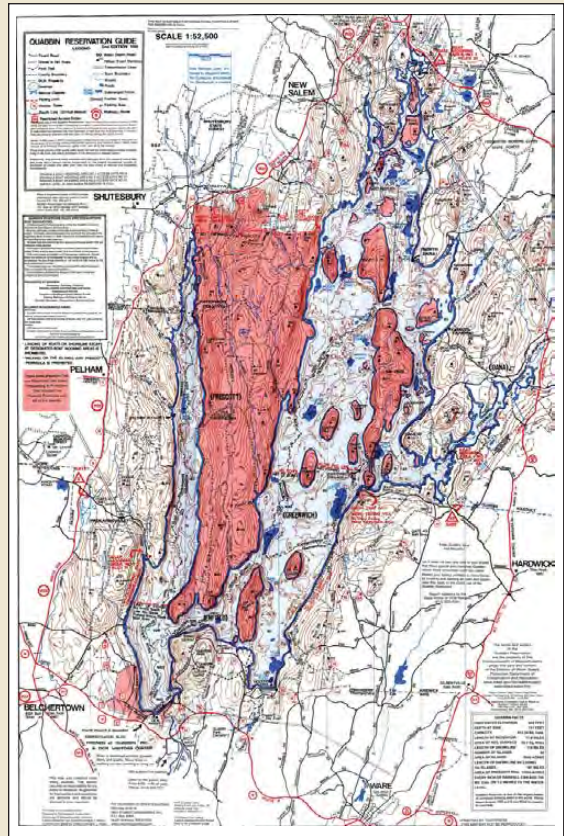
I was accompanied by my friend and fellow Friends of Quabbin member, Steve Richardson, for the gnarly Gate 11 to Gate 16 to Cooleyville section. Steve activated his GPS device precisely at Gate 11. I met him from the south briefly retracing some of his steps before heading north towards Purgee Brook. Steve had been shuttled to Gate 11 by Gary Skaza, a 30-year logger of the Quabbin with a small farm on the top of the Prescott Peninsula. Our slog to Gate 16 was nine miles. It had taken many prior exploratory hikes to create an efficient and “true to the Quabbin” approach. Extended walking on Route 202 was not an option and violating the restricted Prescott grounds was not either. Much of this effort required off-trail hiking and shoreline walking. The whole day was perfectly cool and the light rain had stopped by 9 AM. The sun emerged behind me around 2 PM. Steve accompanied me to Gate 16 where he dropped out to return to Gate 17 and our friend Gary Skaza’s house.

Route 202 was crossed four times to follow the serpentine Cooleyville Road to Shutesbury Road and an elevation drop down to Gate 22. The hike from Gate 22 to Gate 27 was gratifying, mostly downhill or level, with one last mile of upwards slope before the final walk across the top of the reservation.

The west side of Quabbin is a tale of three sections. The book-ending pieces of the hike (Gate 6 to Gate 11 and Gate 16 to Gate 30) were nicely accommodated by the usual Quabbin trails; the middle (Gate 11 to Gate 16) was more of a creative challenge.

In a total time of 10.75 hours and 28 miles of terrain later, I tapped my stick on Rt-122 after crossing the charming keystone bridge at Gate-30. I am not a baseball fan but I opted to watch a Red Sox game that evening. You may recall that it was a very good evening for the Red Sox. I reveled in the thought that I too had a very good day. I had fulfilled that dream of a decade.

THE VISITOR CENTER STORE



QUABBIN RESERVATION GUIDE MAP

Of all the items for sale at the Visitor Center Store, this map far outstrips everything in popularity. Sightseers, hikers, nature viewers, history buffs and fisherman all find it useful. Many users buy a second because their map, this nearly indestructible Tyvek map is so worn that they need another. If you don't have one, you'll find it immensely useful for your next visit; if you've got one that's tattered, get a new one. At \$7.40 each, it's hard to match for prudent spending. Remember, there's a member discount of 10% off that.

QUABBIN HISTORICAL MAP

While you're looking at a map of the current lay of the land, try our historical map of the way it was. The historical map is the way it was in 1922. It will give you a real sense of all those things we talked about in the Remembrance Year and that we will talk about in future issues, a sense of what was that will give you a new appreciation of the vista you see now. The historical map is on heavy glossy paper and costs just \$5.35.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas



Remember family gatherings when stories were told that made you realize that history was your family's story, too? That is Tuesday Tea! Come learn about the Swift River Valley from those who lived there. Come reminisce about

times past; this 75th Remembrance Year has evoked lots of memories. In the past months attendance has been booming, but there is always room for newcomers. The next Tuesday Tea is April 1st at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Future Teas will be held on May 6, June 3 and July 1—that is, the first Tuesday of each month.

Photo Club Meetings

The Quabbin Photo Group meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Quabbin Visitor Center beginning at 7:00 PM. The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Visitor Center.

Visitor Center Spring Programs

May 4th – Dana Common Historical Tour with Maria Beiter-Tucker. 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Space is limited; pre-registration is required by calling the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

May 25th – Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Begins at 10:00 AM.

May 25th – Quabbin Park Cemetery History Tour with Maria Beiter-Tucker. 2:00 PM. Space is limited; pre-registration is required by calling the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

July 20th – Dana Reunion
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Meet at Gate 40.

August 26th – Tuesday Tea Picnic
Noon to 2:00 PM. at the Hanks Picnic Area.

Swift River Valley Historical Society

The Swift River Valley Historical Society's exhibit of historic photos, "Children of the Swift River Valley," remains on view at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, MA, on Fridays and Saturdays through Saturday, March 29, 2014, from 10 AM to 4 PM. (Please call ahead to confirm the Great Hall is not closed for a meeting or other special event.)



The exhibit features over 50 images of children from the villages and four "lost" towns that were flooded to create the Quabbin Reservoir, from a time when having a photograph taken was a momentous occasion. The exhibit space includes backdrops and props for visitors to take their own vintage-style photographs inspired by the formal settings and clothing featured in many of the exhibit's photographs. A small satellite exhibit, "Head to Toe, Dressed in Their Sunday Best," is on view until May at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Hats and shoes from the SRVHS collection are exhibited alongside a dozen photographs of children in their finest outfits.

The Swift River Valley Historical Society's summer and fall event calendar will soon be published on the website at www.swiftrivermuseum.org. In addition to programs happening at 40 Elm Street in North New Salem, this year we'll be at New Salem's Old Home Day on July 19th with a hands-on activity inspired by the story of the Swift River Valley's flooding.

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Call for Member Submissions

This is your newsletter. We invite members to submit stories, articles, or reminiscences about the human or natural history of the Swift River Valley and Quabbin Reservoir.

Please send e-mail to Paul Godfrey at godfrey@tei.umass.edu, or mail items to: The Friends of Quabbin
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007



Quabbin Voices

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

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