

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Quabbin Loon Program

By Maria Beiter

Summer 2014
Vol.27 No.2

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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For many years, Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) were an uncommon sight in Massachusetts. Development around lakes and ponds throughout the 19th century affected their nesting and reproduction and by the 1920s it was believed that they would never return to this area. However, in the summer of 1975 a pair of nesting loons was spotted at Quabbin Reservoir. Today the Quabbin and Wachusett watersheds are breeding areas to the highest concentration of Common Loons in Massachusetts.

Since 1986, DCR wildlife biologists, in conjunction with biologists from Mass Wildlife, have assisted the nesting loons by placing floating nests at selected sites throughout the reservoir. Rafts are generally deployed as early as two weeks prior to Memorial Day Weekend but delayed enough to avoid Canada goose nesting season. Although the birds may not always choose to nest on the rafts, it provides a stable place for them, as the water levels may fluctuate dramatically in the reservoir during nesting season.

DCR Biologists collaborate with MASSWildlife and the Biodiversity Research Institute (<http://www.briloon.org/looncenter>) to capture and band loons in an effort to monitor loon population in Massachusetts. In 2013, BRI received a \$6.5 million grant from the Ricketts Conservation Foundation to support a five-year scientific initiative to strengthen and restore loon populations within their existing and former range. As part of that grant, ten new loon nest ramps were built for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir, and five were built for MASSWildlife.

Quabbin wildlife biologists did a recent count of active loon nests and for 2014 found ten

nesting pairs, five on rafts, four on islands and one on the shoreline of the mainland. Wachusett Reservoir has two nesting pairs, one on a raft, the other on the shoreline.

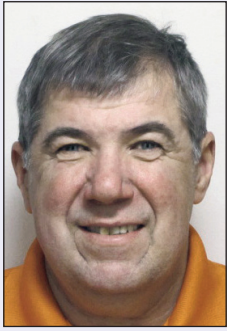
Loons live most of their life on water, only coming to the shoreline in spring to breed and nest and often returning to the same nesting site for years. The birds will nest in vegetation near the edge of water, usually on an island. They are very sensitive to disturbance and will sometimes abandon a nest if repeatedly disturbed by human activity or predators.



Loon nesting raft construction (Clif Read)



The finished rafts (Clif Read)



Gene H. Theroux

President's Message

Summer 2014

The last few months have been quite busy since my last writing for the spring *Quabbin Voices Newsletter*. I wrote in the spring edition that I had returned to

college to be a history major and I'm happy to report that I did survive taking two history courses and a web design course from Charlotte and Mary Drinkwater sister's alma mater of Westfield Normal School (now Westfield State University) where I finished the term with a 3.90 QPA.

The Drinkwaters grew up on the family farm in Greenwich and both attended Westfield Normal School in the spring of 1859. After retirement, the sisters started a self-sustaining school for poor and homeless boys on their farm in Greenwich.

As part of my "duties" as Westfield American Legion Post #124 Commander, I had the privilege to attend eleven Memorial Day assemblies in the Public Schools in the city of Westfield. This has been a long tradition that the Grand Army of the Republic began it in the late 1800s and is now carried on by American Legion Post 124. I made it a point to attend each one of them as the sitting commander of American Legion Post 124, because I firmly believe that our youth are America's most important resource. After the second assembly, it occurred to me that I should make a little gift for the young children who served as escorts and ambassadors to the veterans visiting their school. I was impressed by the amount of work these young students put into the program. I wanted to provide them something special as a token to remember my visit to their school and to



1902 Enfield Mass. Memorial Day Parade. Commander GAR Post 211 followed by Enfield Coronet Band and the remaining Civil War Veterans of G.A.R. Post 211 (Howe collection)

add significance to their Memorial Day thoughts. The choice was easy for me; I chose to print a 5 X 7 inch high resolution photograph of the 1902 Enfield Memorial Day Parade with a mailing label on the reverse that identified the photograph as "1902 Enfield Mass. Memorial Day Parade. Commander GAR Post 211 followed by Enfield Coronet Band and the remaining Civil War Veterans of G.A.R. Post 211. The site of the 1902 Enfield Memorial Day parade is now 100 feet below the surface of Quabbin Reservoir. I placed the photograph into a 5 X 7 manila envelope with the Friends of Quabbin 75th Year of Remembrance logo on it. I printed perhaps two dozen photographs for the third school visit. They were so well received that I quickly learned I needed to print many more. I printed an additional 144 photographs and envelopes for the remaining eight Memorial Day school visits. Upon providing the photograph to a young student or school staff member, I would explain the photograph and where the site of the parade now resides by explaining what happened to the former Swift River Valley.

I had the privilege of taking my lovely aunt Marion "Marnie" Parker Berard to the Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Marnie is my mother's sister. Marnie remembers her Aunt Augusta Floyd babysitting for her while her father, Francis Charles Parker and her mother Sarah attended the Enfield Farewell Ball on April 27, 1938.

Marnie rescued old family photographs from her mother's family (Floyd) that were on their way to a landfill and now those precious photographs of my Great Great Grandfather William B. Floyd's family have been scanned and preserved.

I will be chronicling my Grandfather Francis Charles Parker of Enfield life from infancy to his

late years in an updated video of images from descendants of the former Swift River Valley during a presentation at the Swift River Valley Historical Society on July 16, 2014. Many of the photographs of young Francis C. Parker are part of the Swift River Valley Historical Society's collection which were donated by Francis' younger sister Pearl Parker Belden.

The Friends of Quabbin held its Annual Meeting on April 7th at the Belchertown Senior Center and former Quabbin Visitor's Center. The Friends of Quabbin held a moment of silence prior to the business meeting for William G. Elliott, longtime director, Friends treasurer for 25 years and friend (1932-2014).

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Grandfather Francis Charles Parker of Enfield as a "Doughboy" 1917 (Mary Parker Theroux)

Mr. Dale Monette who recently retired from the Quabbin Visitors Center presented his highly acclaimed presentation, *Visions of the Past*. Dale's presentation included photographs that were taken over 75 years ago by Commonwealth of Massachusetts photographers to document the destruction of the Swift River Valley and the creation of the reservoir. Dale Monette's slideshow explored these rarely seen historic photographs through comparison with contemporary views taken from the same vantage point as the originals. At the conclusion of Dale's presentation, the Friends of Quabbin recognized Dale by presenting him with a plaque commending him for his service to the public and his longstanding support of the Friends of Quabbin.

Much of the recent activity at the Tuesday Teas has centered around the Friends' effort to scan old photos. This photograph scanning and restoration project has resulted in some very lively gatherings. Paul Godfrey has prepared several loose-leaf notebooks with copies of historic pictures of people, places and events that have no information of the who, what, where, or when associated with them. Tuesday Tea's attendees have been pouring over these images for the last few months and have added information in the space beside the photos. This information will become part of the record on these photos, captured into a database that will eventually make it easy to find images currently scattered in many places, even unavailable to most people. One of the very active participants is a relatively new participant in the Teas, although he says he was a regular some time ago. His name is Stanley Boyko, and he is a lively 93 year-old former resident of Enfield with a phenomenal memory that leaves us younger whelps in awe. Recently he assembled a list of people he remembers from Enfield. That list is 2½ pages long but here are a few names and places selected randomly from it. If you know something about them or want to know something about them, let us know or, better yet, come to the next Tuesday Tea and join in the fun.

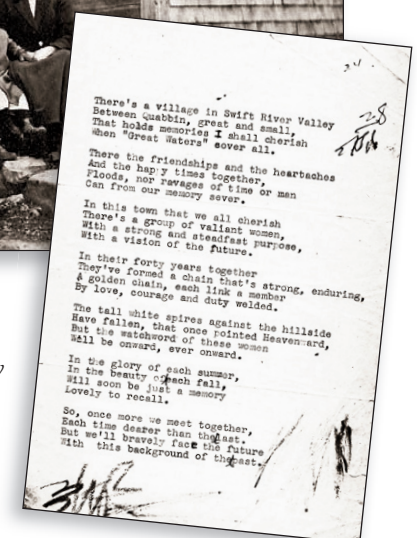
Stanley Boyko's remembered names of residents that he "knew and conversed with" (with the editor's apologies for misspelled names):

Thomas Sanderson – Ford Car Dealer
 Herbert Cuthbeth – Hudson Car Dealer
 Donald Rowe – Chrysler Car Dealer
 Mr. Curtis – Congregational Minister
 Mr. Stack and Clinton Powell – Meat Market
 Mrs. Hyde – First National Store
 Mr. Paine – Dry Goods Store
 Ralph Turner – Potato Farmer
 Joe Jeloki – Barber

That's just a taste of what is in Mr. Boyko's memory.

Also at the Tuesday Teas recently have been a few people who have clearly been rummaging in their attic because the y've brought in old photo albums for our scanning project. These contain pictures from the four towns prior to their flooding. Most importantly, the pictures are of the daily activities of the people living in those towns. This photo scanning project has added hundreds of images not seen by many for more than 75 years. It's a way for people who have old photos from the

Swift River Valley to contribute information but retain their heirloom photos. Gene Theroux and your editor, Paul Godfrey, have been busy scanning the contents: pictures, newspaper clippings, poems, Christmas cards, etc. Each scanned image is carefully improved by sharpening and improving the tone and contrast. Many nearly faded away pictures are resurrected by the magic of digital imagery. Faces that couldn't be discerned suddenly reveal Aunt Bertha and her horde of children. You get the idea. It's amazing even to those of us who have scanned thousands of pictures. At the end of the scanning effort, your album is returned with a CD of all the digital image results and a printout of all the images. What you always wanted to share with all the relatives and your children is now in a form that is easily shareable. You can inexpensively make photo copies of all or selected ones, copy the whole disk or one file for distribution, put a disk copy in your safe deposit box if you wish and, best of all, stop worrying about that legacy because all that history and those memories of your families' lives will never be lost. You may even discover, as we recently did, that your Grandmother had a pet fox, was quite the village beauty, or was part of the annual Enfield doll parade. You might not even learn that little detail from your photo album but from a picture from another participant in our Photo Scanning Project that has your relative in it that you can now see. It's exciting for us and we hope it is for you. Bring your photos to us. We guarantee everything will be returned promptly in the same condition as received, sometimes better condition. Think of the Christmas presents you can give to the relatives.



Samples of recent scans
 (Photos courtesy of Jackie
 Paine Daniels, Jenny Kirley
 and the glass negative
 collection of Burt Vernon
 Brooks)



Interpretive Services Report Summer 2014

By Clif Read

On April 16th Dale Monette retired from service at Quabbin Reservoir after spending more than 30 years working for the



Dale Monette (DCR) receiving plaque of appreciation from Friends President, Gene Theroux (Paul Godfrey)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Beginning his career with the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife as a seasonal employee, Dale was hired by the Metropolitan District Commission (now the DCR) at Quabbin in the mid 1980s. He began work as a special assistant to the Superintendent, followed by a job with the Interpretive Services program, a stint as a forester at the Ware River watershed before returning to the Interpretive Services to finish out his career. A familiar face in the Visitor Center for many years, Dale had a wide range of knowledge on Swift River Valley history, wildlife and the Quabbin watershed area. His presentations were always popular, in particular his “Visions of the Past” program which featured images from the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission collection. At the Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting on April 6th, Dale was pre-

sented with a special plaque of appreciation from the Board of Directors for his contributions and for his many years of service. Since he left this spring, I get periodic emails from him reporting on his expeditions in the Quabbin gates or to Nova Scotia, his favorite vacation spot. We all wish Dale well in his retirement.

While we were awaiting word on approval for posting and filling Dale’s position, we were able to bridge the staffing shortage by hiring a seasonal Park Interpreter. There were many qualified and talented applicants for the position, including Nancy Huntington who had served in the position in 2010. Ultimately Nancy was offered the job due to her strong performance in her previous work here, her keen interest in Quabbin history and the wide variety of experiences she has had in interpretive settings. Since Nancy began her position in early June, she has been reacquainting herself with the many aspects of Visitor Center operations, programs for schools and visiting groups, and the resources of Quabbin. Fortunately her recent work here coupled with her ongoing interest in Quabbin has meant the transition back into the Park Interpreter position has been quick and smooth. One project Nancy will be working on is the completion of the Swift River Valley Oral History Indexing Project that will provide a listing of the topics covered in the interviews with former valley residents and Quabbin Project workers. Please stop by the Center to say “Hi” to Nancy when you are in the area.

Visitors accessing the Quabbin Park Middle Entrance in the last month have likely noticed the work that has commenced on the Quabbin Spillway Fence. The 1,225 foot long steel fence was erected in late 1940 as a protective barrier along the top of the spillway channel between the spillway wall and the arch bridge above the waterfall. Over the past 74 years the fence has weathered, and although it has been painted at least



Spillway Fence 1946 – The view of the nearly full reservoir, spillway wall and fence in June, 1946, just prior to the official opening of Quabbin Reservoir and release of water later that month.

Fence Damage – A section of the Spillway Fence showing extensive rusting and a missing acorn finial atop the post. (Clif Read)



Fence Sections removed awaiting transfer – After the 133 sections of fence were cut, they were placed next to the protective barrier awaiting removal to an off-site location for treatment. (Clif Read)



once during that time, the amount of rust was extensive. Additionally the fence sustained damage from vehicles in a number of places, and the acorn finials which adorned the posts between fence sections were missing in some locations. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority approved funding for the fence repair and repainting this year and initiated the project in partnership with the DCR. Rather than deal with lead paint removal, repair and repainting of fence sections on site, the contract with Premier Fence, LLC calls for the entire fence to be removed and taken to off site locations for the contract work. Once completed, the sections will be returned and replaced in their original position. The original paint removal, galvanizing process and recoating should last another 100 years before any sort of work is needed on the fence. In the meantime a protective barrier and chain link fence has been erected along the entire length of the fence to keep any vehicles or pedestrians from falling down into the channel. It is anticipated that the project should wrap up in August. Aside for several days at the beginning and end of the project when the barrier/fence are being assembled/disassembled and the loading/unloading of the fence sections onto flatbed trucks, the spillway road will be open to pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

With summer zipping by at a rapid rate, we will be into the busy fall schedule before we know it. In the meantime we have the Tuesday Tea Picnic to look forward to on August 26th at the Hanks Meadow Picnic area. This special gathering of former

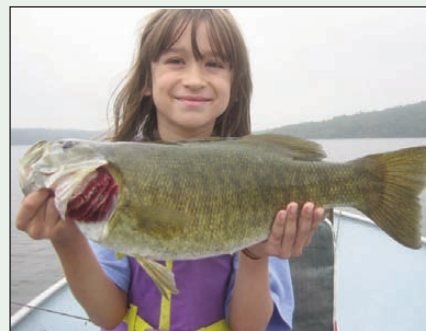
Quabbin Reservoir High on the Best Bass Lake List

In the spring issue of Quabbin Voices, we showed you some of the lunker trout taken in Quabbin Reservoir. This issue we continue to mention the opinion of some serious fishermen regarding the fishing in the Quabbin. Now it's bass.

B.A.S.S., the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, is considered a worldwide authority on bass fishing. It has half a million members. According to them, Quabbin Reservoir is 37th on the list of "100 Best Bass Lakes." In the New England



Al Averill (Frank Kenney)



Will Averill (Al Averill)

area, only three New England lakes rank higher: China Lake, Maine, Lake Champlain, Vermont and Candlewood Lake, Connecticut. Admittedly, to make this list, a lake must have

really good bass fishing (for Quabbin, both Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass) and an avid bunch of fisherman fans. Clearly, Quabbin has both. I don't think we have to convince Al Averill or his son Will of the quality of bass fishing in Quabbin; they've got proof in their hands. We can't promise you'll do as well against these crafty fish, but unless you try....

For more information:

<http://www.bassmaster.com/slideshow/top-100-bass-lakes-2014>

residents, their descendants and other folks interested in Quabbin history, is always a wonderful event that draws people from far and wide. It is an opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new friends. I hope to see you there!

Quabbin Loon Program

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After the young birds hatch, both adults care for them for about 6 weeks. The chicks may ride on their parents' backs during the first 3 weeks of life to conserve energy, stay warm and be protected from predators. When the chicks are about 11 weeks, they fledge and migrate to the coast, where they may remain for as long as five years.

A loon's legs are set far back on their body, making it difficult for them to navigate on land. Therefore, they spend very little time there except for nesting. Once on the water however, the position of their legs is a benefit, helping them to propel quickly. The birds ride low in the water while swimming, and can dive as deep as 200 feet below the water's surface. While underwater, the loon is able to swallow fish using sharp, rearward-pointing projections on the roof of its mouth and tongue.



Zephyr Notecards (available at the Visitor Center)



Painting of loon nesting in raft: DCR archives

Common Loon Facts

- The name loon comes from the Swedish word lom, meaning someone who is lame or clumsy. The birds came by this name because of the way that they appear on land.
- Unlike many other birds, loons have nearly solid bones. This extra weight helps them with swimming and diving.
- A loon's eyes are bright red from a pigment in its retina that filters light and allows the bird to see underwater.
- While flying during migration, a loon can reach speeds up to 75 miles per hour.
- Like most birds, the loon has several different calls. The one most associated with them is called a wail and is used by the birds to locate other loons. The naturalist John Muir described the loon's wail as *"one of the wildest and most striking of all the wilderness sounds, a strange, sad, mournful, unearthly cry, half laughing, half wailing."*



To hear Loon calls, click on this QR code with your smart phone or type in one of these addresses:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_loon/sounds

Loon Preservation Committee

<http://www.loon.org/voice-loon.php>

Syracuse

http://blog.syracuse.com/indepth/2008/07/audio_hear_the_calls_of_the_co.html

My Dirty Snowball Theory

By Julie Bullock

If I were a cartoon, I would be a snowball, rolling and collecting objects, memories, people and events. Ultimately the snow melts and all those articles, which seemed to be unrelated, now have significance to one another and take on new importance.

Have you noticed how some children seem predestined to certain behaviors? As a child I played teacher and then I became a teacher. When relatives visited from out of state, we brought them to the Quabbin. I was expected to entertain them with stories about the Reservoir, my father's and uncles' roles in building this marvelous engineering feat, and the sad stories of families who lived there and were made to leave. Today I serve on historical organizations including the Friends of Quabbin, and I work in a museum and tell the story of Joseph Skinner purchasing buildings from the town of Prescott. He brought those buildings to South Hadley and set them up to resemble a New England common across the street from his home. The Meeting House still holds his collection of antiques and is maintained as a museum by Mount Holyoke College.

The stories of my paternal family would start in the Ukraine, then move to New Jersey peat farms and the search for work in the 1930s from Michigan to Massachusetts. My mother's story started in Italy and included a ship and a stopover in Ellis Island. My maternal grandfather worked on road crews building Route 9 from Boston to New York and selected a farm in Enfield as the new home for his family. The stories merged with a young man stopping for gas and groceries where a young woman was working at her father's convenience store and gas station and it continued with a wedding in 1935.

Old objects and furniture always attracted me. They seemed to hold secrets that I yearned to know. When I established my own home, I was thrilled to have furniture that my grandparents had purchased at auctions in the Swift River Valley to furnish their home.

When I became a member of the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors, I felt it was my destiny and my responsibility to learn more and to give voice to such stories. The Quabbin was my home. It is where relatives lived and worked. It is where I grew up, picked blueberries, picnicked, hiked and observed wildlife and wildflowers. It is where I found subject material for art school photographic projects and where I went when I was depleted and needed to recharge my energy.

I shared the Quabbin experience with middle school students from Palmer who had read the novel *Someday* by Jackie French Koller. Bob Wilder has often told Palmer students his story, which is really the story of the main character in *Someday*. Examining Enfield artifacts from my collection challenged the children to imagine life in the Swift River Valley and to make it real to them. They learned the words to "My Grandfather's Clock" which was sung repeatedly on the bus from Palmer to the Quabbin and back again. That song was

written in 1876 by Henry Clay Work, well-known songwriter of the day. Some believe the song was inspired by a visit he made to his wife's family home in Greenwich Village. It was an idyllic retreat from the city and tradition says that he often wrote songs and poems there.

On May 25th, my parents' anniversary, I marched at the annual Memorial Day program at the Quabbin Park Cemetery where many of the graves of Swift River Valley towns were moved. As President of the Ware Historical Society, I carried the banner representing one town which was affected by the building of the Reservoir.

On the first Tuesday of every month I attend Tuesday Tea, where people who once lived in the Swift River Valley towns meet in the Visitors' Center with those who want to know more of the story. In past years, I chauffeured Elizabeth Lincoln, my art teacher and mentor, and my mother Anne DeSantis Bullock, to the Teas because I never tired of hearing their stories and memories. Robert Wilder, his wife Nancy, and Dorothy Bish are faithful attendees who are always there to welcome people and to share their memories knowing the importance of keeping the stories alive. Earl Cooley, Bill Jenkins and Stanley Boyko discuss events as though they happened yesterday. Some visitors come to ask questions about people they never knew and others come to tighten their ties with family members who have passed. Board Members Paul Godfrey and Gene Theroux welcome pictures and artifacts brought by visitors. They photograph the articles brought to them with an instrument called a scanner. The scanner saves the images to the computer so that they can be seen again and again without further handling and possibly harming the originals. The original artifacts return to the owner with an added gift of a CD containing all those photos to show or to share. Thanks to the baking skills of Ann Hurlburt and Albert a Mazur Martin and other guests, the tea (along with coffee and cookies) have returned to Tuesday Tea. Robert Nordgren and Bill Walsh travel the farthest from Auburn and Worcester. Frances Martin comes from Easthampton and has family ties to the Swift River Valley. All are welcome at these friendly educational sessions where old bonds are explored and new bonds are formed.

When a former fellow teacher, Don Duffy, began researching Indians who lived in the immediate area, I was able to introduce him to Robert Wilder. To my great joy I was invited to accompany them on trips as Bob showed Don where the Indians camped and stored food. Don published *Around Pottaquaddic* and is writing a second book on Native Americans.

On June 4, and for the last eight years, the Ware Historical Society guided third graders on a "Magical History Tour" through Ware's roads by bus and through its history by landmarks. The bus stopped on Route 9 by the Ware Quabbin entrance and the Swift River Valley story was told. The children returned to Ware Center to learn about the 1799 Meeting House, the cemetery, and the two room school house where I

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Memorial Day at the Quabbin Cemetery

It was a beautiful day to enjoy the wonders of nature and to chat with friends, neighbors and fellow community members. But it was also a somber time to recall the sacrifices made by so many represented by the gravestones and memorials in the Quabbin Cemetery.



Quabbin Cemetery and Enfield Civil War Monument (Paul Godfrey)



Color Guard leading procession. (Paul Godfrey)

Formal activities began with the procession around the cemetery led by the Color Guard and followed by our legislators: Sen. Stephen Brewer, Rep. Anne Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola and Rep. Denise Andrews. They were followed by The Friends of

Quabbin banner carried by the Ware Boy Scouts and then the other groups listed below:

Belchertown American Legion Post #239 & Auxiliary
Belchertown VFW Post #8428 & DAV Chapter 75 Auxiliary
Belchertown Veterans Council
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #405 & Auxiliary



Rep. Smola, Rep. Gobi, Sen. Brewer and The Friends of Quabbin banner carried by the Ware Boy Scouts (Paul Godfrey)

Ware American Legion Post #123 & Auxiliary
Ware VFW Post #2577 & DAV Chapter 59 & Auxiliaries
Petersham American Legion & Auxiliary Post #415
L. A. Tisst Camp 15 and Auxiliary 10
Marine Corp League Detachment
Belchertown – Boy Scout Troop #57
Ware Boy Scout Troop #181
Ware – Girl Scout Troop #11674
Historical Societies:

In accordance with the bequest set forth in Eleanor Schmidt's Will, the following groups participated in the event and carried banners in the parade: Athol Historical Society, Barre Historical Society, Belchertown Historical Society, Belchertown Veterans Council, Friends of Quabbin, Inc., Hardwick Historical Society, New Salem Historical Society, Orange Historical Society, Palmer Historical Society, Pelham Historical Society, Petersham Historical Society, Shutesbury Historical Society, Swift River Valley Historical Society and Ware Historical Society.

Former residents & descendants
Buglers & Drummer - Drummer Lucas Reed and Buglers Joseph Auclair and Joseph Brozek.

The procession ended at the central green with the Civil War Memorial statue that used to stand on the Enfield Common. From American Legion Post #239, the Welcome was led by Retired Air Force Major Keith Poulin, and Invocation by Chaplain Peter Praisner. A recitation of "In Flanders Fields" by Don Slessler and response by Mrs. Martha Logland.

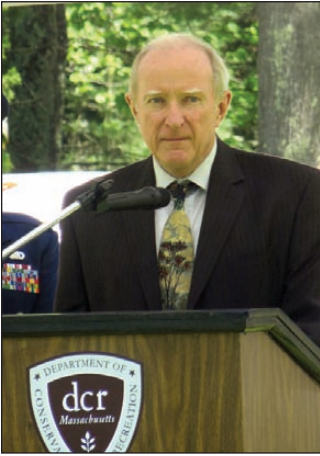


Retired Air Force Major Keith Poulin of Belchertown (Paul Godfrey)

Wreaths were laid at the foot of the War Memorials for each of the Quabbin towns: Dana – the Cooley family; Enfield – Raymond Cook and the Crowther



The Cooley family placing wreath at Dana Memorial. (Gene Theroux)



Senator Stephen Brewer
(Paul Godfrey)

family; Greenwich – the Izyk family; and Prescott – Mary Jane Centeno, Joyce Graves of the Allen family. A rifle salute to the honored dead was followed by a playing of “Taps.” Afterward, the Belchertown Community Band provided music appropriate to the occasion.

Senator Stephen Brewer, Rep. Ann Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola, Rep. Denise Andrews, and DCR-Quabbin official Lisa Gustavsen gave moving speeches honoring the war dead, remembering the trauma to residents of the creation of

the Quabbin and underscoring the importance of education in both the history and the environment that is so aptly represented by the Quabbin watershed. After a benediction by Peter Praisner, attendees were invited to socialize and picnic while the Belchertown Community Band played patriotic melodies.

Of special interest this year was the new Sugar Maple planted in the memory of Stephen Walker of Greenwich, MA, the town’s only fatality of World War I. He died in the influenza epidemic at Camp Devens, Massachusetts in 1918. A tree was originally planted in his memory in Greenwich, and relocated to the Quabbin Park Cemetery when the cemetery was dedicated in the 1930s. That original tree was recently damaged in a storm and had to be removed. This year a young sugar maple was found in the former town of Greenwich and replanted at the cemetery. When the tree is large enough, the original commemorative plaque for Stephen Walker will be returned to the cemetery.

Refreshments were provided with generous support from: TD Bank, Amherst; Bell and Hudson Insurance and Stop & Shop, Belchertown; and Country Bank for Savings, Ware. In the afternoon, DCR Visitor Center staff member Maria Bieter-Tucker conducted an interpretive walk through the historic Quabbin Park Cemetery highlighting the history and development of the cemetery.

The Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day Program takes place annually on the Sunday before Memorial Day from 10 AM to 12 PM.



Belchertown Community Band
trumpeter, Joe Brozek
(Paul Godfrey)

Dirty Snowball Theory

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retold the tales my mother taught me from the years she and her family attended classes there. The children viewed the horse shed where my grandfather rented space from the church to shelter the horse which pulled the wagon which brought my mother and her siblings from Enfield each day. The shed was constructed of lumber reclaimed from the Ware-Gilbertville Covered Bridge and was built to replicate a building which once stood there by the Meeting House to shelter the horses of those who came to worship or to attend meetings in Ware’s first Town Hall. Hopefully, programs like this will inspire these young people to someday be protectors of the stories and artifacts of their families and communities.

A recent project at Wistariahurst Museum, where I work, brought students from Holyoke into the museum to pretend to be immigrants, to feel the anxiety and the joy of a new home and a new country, to connect with the feelings of separation and promise of Ellis Island. The experience seems very familiar because these were stories told to me by my mother.

What’s the future of historical societies and organizations like the FOQ? It lies in the DNA of people like you and me who may have the natural inclination to be a part of the future by safeguarding the past. It is also up to us to create a society which embraces history and preserves that which can teach and be enjoyed by future generations. People learn through tangible objects like books, art and historical artifacts. People can make history through the things they create, collect, trade, or ignore. Learning about these objects, how and why they came to be, leads to learning about the people who used them and their similarities and differences to our own experiences.

Stop and look at the things around you. I plead with all who read this to preserve your memories and artifacts, to teach family stories and traditions, to support local historical groups with volunteering, voting for preservation, donating time, ideas, and/or money.

If you are reading this, you are already connected to the Quabbin through a love for the beautiful land and waterscapes, or a respect for how people lived “in the old days.”

Do come to the Quabbin Visitors’ Center on the First Tuesday of the month from 1 to 3 PM for a lovely, warm and friendly visit (with refreshments). Bring your snowball which will melt in the warmth of the memories and will enable new relationships to be formed. If you allow us to, we will scan your pictures, letters, recipes and paper artifacts and send the originals home with you along with a CD of the images. They will be preserved so that they will continue to tell the stories, and with your permission, they will be added to the archives of FOQ and they might appear in a future edition of Quabbin Voices. You might be able to recognize a person or place in photos we already have in our collection. Each memory adds to a more complete vision of life in the Swift River Valley and ensures that the spirits of the ones we have loved and admired will live on, teaching, smiling, guiding future generations.

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 August 5th at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Future Teas will be held on September 2nd, October 7th and November 4th—that is, the first Tuesday of each month.

You are cordially invited to attend the

ANNUAL TUESDAY TEA PICNIC

To be held at
HANKS PLACE PICNIC AREA
QUABBIN PARK

Tuesday August 26, 2014, Noon – 3:00 PM
Rain date September 2

Bring your picnic basket filled with old-fashioned goodies, and Valley memories to share. Boat rides for former residents will be available that day at 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM.

Call for questions answered & reservations:
Visitor Center at 413-323-7221

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.

Dana Reunion

July 20, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Meet at Gate 40. Gates open 10 AM Storytelling and visiting with friends, families, and neighbors. **Bring chairs and picnic lunch.** Rain date Sunday July 27, 2014

Swift River Valley Historical Society

The Swift River Valley Historical Society is **now open for the 2014 season, every Sunday and Wednesday through September 28th, 1:30 to 4:30 PM** (except on Sunday, July 20th, closing at 3:00 PM for Dana Vespers). There is no admission; donations are greatly appreciated. Informal tours of the Prescott Church and Whitaker-Clary House begin at 1:30, 2:15, 3:00 and 3:45 PM. This year features an exhibit introducing the Quabbin story in the Carriage Shed with a large 3-D relief map; an exhibit of images of early 20th century children playing and doing farm work—photographs mostly by Burt V. Brooks, produced by Les Campbell—on loan from the Friends of Quabbin; and “Children of the Swift River Valley,” an exhibit of mostly 19th and early 20th century studio portraits. Please visit!

JULY 2014

Saturday, July 19

Swift River Valley Historical Society will be at New Salem's Old Home Day!

Sunday, July 20, 3:00 PM

Dana Vespers and Mrs. Clary's 176th Birthday Celebration.

Note: The museum is closing early for the Vespers service. Last tour at 2:15.

Wednesday, July 30, 7:00 PM

Joe Manning presents his work researching the lives and descendants of children in Lewis Hine's early 20th century photographs of child mill workers. Other research includes a touching story of a 13-year-old boy buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery.

This is a very different view of childhood than we see in our Children of the Swift River Valley photography exhibit. If you missed the exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center last winter, you can see it reinstalled at SRVHS this summer—available for viewing before the talk.

AUGUST 2014

Sunday, August 10, 1:30 to 4:00 PM

Swift River Valley Day! FREE! A day to celebrate heritage with friends and family. Demonstrations of traditional valley crafts and great music by Franklin County's Bright Lines. Check them out at <http://brightlines.bandcamp.com/>.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Wendell and Warwick Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 PM

Cosponsored by the Community Network for Children **Wingmasters** Julie Anne Collier presents **Native Raptors, Native Artifacts**. Native Americans revered birds of prey for their majestic appearance as well as for their hunting prowess. To invoke the spirit of these powerful predators—including owls, eagles, hawks and falcons—Native peoples followed the ancient tradition of wearing or carrying bird of prey feathers. They also admired the subtle beauty of raptor feathers, from the black-and-white tail feathers of juvenile golden eagles to the wing feathers of hawks and falcons, patterned with arrowhead-shaped markings. The strong connection between raptors and Native Americans suggested this program. With an emphasis on our local Eastern Woodlands, this program combines live birds of prey with authentic artifacts.

Wednesday, August 27, 7:00 PM

Dale Monette's Visions of the Past. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 2014**Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28**

Visit the **Swift River Valley Historical Society at the Garlic & Arts Festival**. The museum will also be open both days for closing weekend. Stop by to say hi at the festival, then visit the museum just down the road!

Saturday, September 27

Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day In celebration of our nation's museums, Swift River Valley Historical Society will join museums across the country to be open and free to the public on this day.

Sunday, September 28

Closing Day at SRVHS. Details to follow.

OCTOBER 2014**Sunday, October 5**

Hike with Marty Howe West Hardwick. Details to follow.

Sunday, October 19**Bus Trip to Prescott with Marty Howe**

SRVHS has a special permit to travel in this restricted area. Reservations must be made in advance. Send check made out to SRVHS for \$15 to Marty Howe, 98 Lower Beverly Hills, West Springfield, MA 01089. Include a phone number and/or email where you can be reached. **This trip often fills quickly, so reserve your seat early!** If your check arrives after all seats are reserved we'll contact you.

Meet across the street from Swift River Valley Historical Society at 10:45 AM for a prompt 11:00 AM departure. Bring lunch, bug repellent, sunscreen, camera, binoculars. Be prepared for ticks, black flies, mosquitoes and deer flies. All DCR rules apply.

Contact: 40 Elm Street, New Salem / 978-544-6882
www.swiftrivermuseum.org / srvhsmuseum@gmail.com

VISITOR CENTER STORE

Have you got your summer reading selected yet? Last summer, *Quabbin Voices* suggested you read **Cascade** by Marianne O'Hara. This summer, *Cascade* is the pick of the Boston Globe Book Club as the book to read together. If you missed it, here's our synopsis from last year.

Cascade: A Novel

by Marianne O'Hara

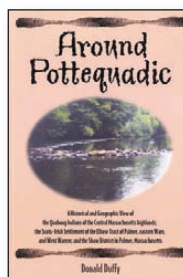
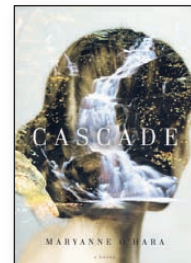
During the 1930s in a small town fighting for its survival, a conflicted new wife seeks to reconcile her artistic ambitions with the binding promises she has made.

Fans of Richard Russo, Amor Towles, Sebastian Barry, and Paula McLain will devour this transporting novel about the eternal tug between our duties and our desires, set during in New York City and New England during the Depression and New Deal eras.

It's 1935, and Desdemona Hart Spaulding has sacrificed her plans to work as an artist in New York to care for her bankrupt, ailing father in Cascade, Massachusetts. When he dies, Dez finds herself caught in a marriage of convenience, bound to the promise she made to save her father's Shakespeare Theater, even as her town may be flooded to create a reservoir for Boston. When she falls for artist Jacob Solomon, she sees a chance to escape and realize her New York ambitions, but is it morally possible to set herself free?

Slate: 2012 Best Books, Editors' Choice; Boston Globe, Best of the New, 2012; Amazon: 4.5 out of 5 stars. And now, Boston Globe Book Club selection to read together.

Price: \$17.00 incl. tax.



Another previously highlighted book:

Around Pottequadic

by Donald Duffy

Recently released, *Around Pottequadic* focuses on the Quaboag Indians in their full tribal area, which includes today's Quabbin Reservoir, and the later Scots-Irish settlement in Palmer, Ware, and West Warren,

Massachusetts. The book also reports on settlement in the Shaw District, a school district in the northeast section of Palmer and to its north in Ware.

Price \$14.75 incl. tax.

The New Friends of Quabbin T-shirt

Modelled by Justin Gonsor, Quabbin Interpretive Services, our new T-shirt with the 75th year commemorative logo. Available in S, M, L, XL.
\$15.00 incl. tax.



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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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