

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Another Anniversary

By Paul Godfrey

Winter 2015
Vol.27 No.4

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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Quabbin Administration Building

Last year was our multipronged effort to recognize the 75th anniversary of the disincorporation of the four flooded towns in the Quabbin Valley; Enfield, Greenwich, Dana, and Prescott. Our recognition took many forms: Rememberance Ball, Musical, tours, t-shirts, commemorative envelopes, etc.

Another anniversary also occurred this past December 7, 2014, the 30th anniversary of the Quabbin Visitor Center and the Friends of Quabbin. Accordingly, below are excerpts from the first Friends of Quabbin newsletter: Quabbin Voices Vol. 1, No.1. The text is by

Les Campbell who with his wife Terry deserve full credit for conceiving the need, persisting in getting others to also see the need, guiding the Visitor Center in its formation, conceiving the need for a support group: the Friends, and guiding the formation of that group for several years as its president and still following our activities closely and contributing where he can.

Excerpted from the first article in the first Quabbin Voices, Spring 1985 as written by Les Campbell:

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Gene Theroux

President's Message

Winter 2015

The Friends of Quabbin annual Holiday Party on December 7, 2014 at the Quabbin Visitor Center was very well attended. It was an opportunity for enjoying good conversation amongst members, purchasing some holiday gifts, having refreshments and enjoying whipped cream cake from LaFlorentina Bakery Shop which has been a longtime tradition at the Holiday Party initiated by the late Terry Campbell. We intend to continue the tradition, especially since we all like cake. Just look at the crowd around it.



I created and showed a video highlighting some of the Burt Brooks photos in our collection with selections in J.R. Greene's new book *B.V. Brooks' Pre-Quabbin Art, Photos & Postcards*. These unique vignettes of life in the Quabbin Valley were part of a collection of 5"x7" glass plate negatives that were scanned by Paul Godfrey, our treasurer and newsletter editor. These glass plate negatives and their digital copies are now part of the Swift River Collection safely protected at the UMass DuBois Library in the Special Collections & University Archives. See them at: <http://scua.library.umass.edu/umarmot/brooks-burt-v/>.



Accompanying the images in the video were four songs: three from the Edwin J. McEnelly Orchestra (Normandy, All of the Time and What Are We Waiting For). The McEnelly Orchestra played at the Enfield Fireman's Farewell Ball on April 27, 1938 at the Enfield Town Hall. You may purchase all 21 Victor recordings of the McEnelly Orchestra or individual songs from Amazon or iTunes.

Also unveiled at the party was a brand new poster coupling a Burt Brooks panorama of the valley in the early 1900s with a matching image by Les Campbell after the reservoir was filled (see Visitor Center Store). The posters were special delivered and unveiled by Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus (Paul & Laurie Godfrey).

After the video program, I, as President of the Friends, recognized and thanked some of the distinguished members and guests in attendance: Mr. Rob Cox of the UMass DuBois Library/Archives (Special Collections), Mr. Les Campbell for his lifetime achievements, and Friends Treasurer Paul Godfrey who has been instrumental in the Friends of Quabbin photograph restoration and preservation program. I also recognized former Friends President Mark Thompson whose vision of preserving Swift River Valley/Quabbin photographs led us to where we are today, Mr. Robert W. Wilder for being the Voice of the Valley and carrying on the legacy of Eleanor Schmidt in the dozens of field trips and presentations that Bob has done over the years. In addition, I thanked Mr. Clif Read and Nancy Huntington (in period dress) of the Quabbin Visitor Center for being great hosts.



Nancy Huntington at the Christmas party in period dress.

Perhaps what made this event so special this year is the fact that, almost to the day, it was the 30th anniversary of the founding of both the Quabbin Visitor Center and the Friends of Quabbin (Friends of Quabbin was incorporated on December 6, 1984).

Mr. Les Campbell and his late wife Terry were instrumental in those efforts to create both the Quabbin Visitor Center and its support organization, the Friends of Quabbin. Les was the first President of the Friends. In the very early days, volunteers staffed the Visitor Center. The Friends of Quabbin members were critical in providing initial impetus by answering visitors' questions, setting up displays and exhibits, and giving presentations for the first three years of the Visitor Center until full-time state staffing was provided. During that time, the Tuesday Tea was started. It was one of the many ideas of the late Terry Campbell who became the first full-time employee of the Quabbin Visitor Center and Interpretative Services in 1987. In those early days, the Tuesday Tea was every Tuesday afternoon when former residents would gather and reminisce of life in the Valley. During that time, this newsletter, *Quabbin Voices*, was started. From the start, the focus of Friends of Quabbin has been to support instructional, educational and preservation programs.

In the thirty years, FOO has benefitted from the historical efforts of longtime Quabbin historian and Friends of Quabbin Chairman J.R. Greene for his many books and calendars. A former Friends President and a Quabbin historian in his own right, Joseph Wm. Russell wrote three books on Quabbin known as the *Quabbin Trilogy Vols. 1-3; Vestiges of the Lost Valley: Buildings and Bells from the Quabbin, A Place Called Quabbin, A Quabbin Chronicle: 1900-1988* (all out of print). Joe also contributed to the 50th anniversary calendar. And not least, Joe Russell was the President during the 50th Year of Remembrance in 1988.

Others who spoke for the valley were former residents: Eleanor Griswold Schmidt, Lois Doubleday Barnes, Walter King and Robert Wilder. Betty Howe Lincoln and Russ Buzzell contributed to the Quabbin Voices with their artistic impressions via illustrations, drawings and paintings. Russ Buzzell's Soapstone Mountain Vista has been a mainstay on the Quabbin Voices for well over twenty years. He was named the 1994 Massachusetts Wildlands Stamp Artist for his wildlands painting of whitetail deer, fall foliage, rolling hills and a farm in the background. Betty Howe Lincoln wrote many articles through the years that were published in the Quabbin Voices. She was on the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors. Lois Barnes was the long-time editor of the Quabbin Voices. She also conceived the oral history project and conducted many of the interviews that form FOO archives of the voices of Quabbin.

Les Campbell has dedicated a good portion of his life to preserving the works of early photographers of the Swift River Valley such as Burt V. Brooks and Walter C. Gardner. Les has taken a number of photographs from the locations where Brooks and Gardner took photographs in the early twentieth century. The combination contrasts the before and after views.



Gene Theroux holding the new Quabbin poster

Demonstrating this is a new poster available for sale at the Quabbin Visitor Center of Burt V. Brooks photograph of Greenwich Village and Mount Liz and Les Campbell's image of the same location as it was in 1988. Les also assisted Walter King, Bob Wilder and Eleanor Schmidt with preparing slides of photographs for presentations they gave at the Visitor Center, at schools, and libraries. Les mixed music and voice for his many slide presentations given at Sky Meadow Gallery over the years.

I created a video of the Quabbin Artisans for the 75th Year of Remembrance Ball; it contained some of the works of Betty Howe Lincoln, Russ Buzzell and Les Campbell. It can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95DTBuHnnfo>. An update is in the works.

As we close out this 30th year anniversary of both the Quabbin Visitor Center and the Friends of Quabbin, we'd like

to steer you toward some resources that provide more information on the origin of Friends of Quabbin. The first published Quabbin Voices newsletter (spring 1985) provides an extraordinary picture of the effort that creation of the Visitor Center and Friends of Quabbin entailed. Like all the other issues of Quabbin Voices, it is available to read on our web site: <http://www.friendsofquabbin.org>. Friends member Ken Rettberg has been a fan of the Edwin J. McEnelly Orchestra for quite some time and he has all of their original recordings. The McEnelly Orchestra played many venues and was among the best bands during their era. Instead of detailing it here, I would encourage you to retrieve the May 2003 edition of the Friends of Quabbin Voices which contains two articles on the McEnelly Orchestra: 1.) April 28, 2003 Marked 65th Anniversary of End of the Swift River Valley 2.) Good Old Dancing Days which was written by Friends member Bob Switzer. Both articles are available at: http://www.foquabbin.org/5_03voices.pdf

The Friends of Quabbin is a volunteer organization, and we'd like to thank the many volunteers, artisans, writers and board of directors who contributed so much to the success of the Friends of Quabbin throughout these 30 years. And we want to thank those contributing to the 2014 Holiday Party: volunteers Cindy LaBombard (FOQ Vice President), Deanna (Doane) Krusewicz (incidentally, the last child born in the former town of Dana), Ann Hurlburt who contributed this year's whipped cream holiday cake, and Mr. & Mrs. Denis Quimette.

Our goal for 2015 for the Friends of Quabbin will be to improve opportunities for volunteers to participate in our various efforts. 🐦

It Was a Day of Firsts

It was the first day of the Petersham deer hunt in Quabbin Reservation where for the past decade limited deer hunting has been allowed to maintain a healthy balance between the deer and the forest, both critical to good water quality and a quality environment. It was also the first time that 17 year-old Daniel Blais, a High Honors student at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, had hunted in Massachusetts and also the first time hunting at the Quabbin. And at 8 AM that first day, hunting with his dad, Eric Blais, and granddad, Daniel Filinowich, he scored his first deer, a spike buck. We don't know if his deer was the first that day, but there is little question that he was floating the highest. To top it off, his achievement was reported in the Springfield Republican newspaper. It was a day for the memory books.



Photo: Dan Warner, Springfield Republican



Interpretive Services Report Winter 2015

By Clif Read

Following Dale Monette’s retirement last April, there was a lengthy process to refill the position. After the position was advertised in July and interviews conducted in early August, it was early November

before official word arrived approving the recommendation to hire Justin Gonsor for the Program Coordinator I position. Justin was selected from a candidate pool of 50 applicants and an interview group of 15 candidates. The Interview Committee was unanimous in its choice of Justin as the top candidate as he possesses a blend of experience, education, training and personality for the position. During his five years as a seasonal employee working in the Interpretive Services Unit Justin has demonstrated that he is an able, reliable, hardworking and dedicated employee. He is well liked among his Quabbin peers and fellow employees have been very pleased with the appointment. Likewise his rapport with the public has been very positive, generating an enthusiastic response to the news from members of the public and FOQ members who deal with him on a regular basis. Congratulations to Justin and welcome aboard!



Photo: Paul Godfrey

*Justin Gonsor,
new Program Coordinator*

With his transition to permanent job status as of last week, Justin has vacated his previous position as seasonal Visitor Services Supervisor, a position that was scheduled to run into January, 2015. While that position will not be refilled for the remainder of this season, we fully expect the position to be funded for later this winter. This schedule will restore the staffing level for the Interpretive Services program back to three full time members and one seasonal position from late winter through late fall.

It was a glorious day on October 15th for the dedication of Quabbin Boat Launch Area #3 as the Stephen M. Brewer Fishing Area. A huge crowd turned out to honor the legislator who ably represented a major part of the Quabbin region in



Photo: Clif Read

DCR Commissioner Jack Murray, Senator Brewer, his wife Valerie and now Senator Anne Gobi

various capacities for several decades. Although the Quabbin Fishing Season closed the previous weekend, the area was abuzz with activity as individuals representing the many different aspects of Senator Brewer’s life participated in the event. He was obviously touched by this event which named the area in his honor, recounting how his family originally settled only a few miles from the boat launch area after they immigrated from Ireland. Following a number of speeches by dignitaries, the sign was unveiled as friends, colleagues and family looked on. Several gifts were presented to Senator Brewer in appreciation to his dedication to public service, including a miniature replica of the permanent sign at the fishing area.



Photo: Clif Read

Senator Brewer at the Fishing Area naming

Similarly November 12 was a warm, sunny late fall day when the Mass. Water Resources Authority (MWRA) met at Quabbin for its monthly Board of Directors meeting. Following the morning meeting in the Visitor Center, the Board joined a large group of family, friends and former colleagues to dedicate and rename the Ware Disinfection Station on Route 9 as the “Brutsch Water Treatment Facility”. The facility, built in 1999 and expanded in the last year to comply with the EPA’s Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, treats water in the

Chicopee Valley Aqueduct that supplies drinking water from Quabbin directly to Chicopee, Wilbraham and South Hadley Fire District #1. Bill Brutsch worked in the Water Division for the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), then moved to the MWRA when it was created following the MDC split in 1985. Bill served as Water Division Director of the MWRA until his retirement from the agency in 2002. He passed away in 2009.

While winter is often considered to be a time of inactivity, this winter promises to be busy around the Visitor Center. Following up on a meeting that took place on January 10th which brought together folks interested in inventorying and



Photo: Paul Godfrey

Initial meeting of "Locating Relocated Quabbin Buildings"

documenting buildings moved from the Swift River Valley, the Interpretive Services staff is spearheading this collaborative effort among area historical societies and individuals interested in the topic. As the list of known properties grows and information is gathered on the different buildings, the information will be compiled in a unified database with histories, photographs and locations. It is a fascinating story about the history of the valley and we are hoping to capture as much information as possible before we become even further removed from the dates of these relocations. If you have information about any buildings that were moved, if you know anyone who is familiar with relocated buildings and/or you would like to be involved in the project, please contact either Maria Beiter-Tucker or myself. Check the FOQ web site for future meeting dates.

The Visitor Center Sunday Afternoon Program Series resumes in late January with a list of interesting programs about Quabbin, wildlife and history (see in the Upcoming Events section of this Newsletter). Please join us for one of these great programs and we look forward to seeing you out and about this winter. 🐾

Preparing for the Future

by Nym Cooke, teacher
Eagle Hill School, Hardwick

For ten years now, high-school-aged students from Eagle Hill School in Hardwick have been coming to the Quabbin Reservoir—not only to attend Tuesday Teas, but to tour the three buildings of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, to explore Dana Common, to visit Les Campbell's Sky Meadow studio, and to admire the Reservoir from some of the more spectacular vantage points (the observation tower, when it's open; the lookout just down from New Salem common). The course, *Lost Towns of the Quabbin*, brings these young people to the Reservoir and gets them together with people sometimes seventy years older than they. It is taught by Nym Cooke: Eagle Hill School teacher, New Braintree resident and Swift River Valley/Quabbin enthusiast. Cooke's very first Quabbin class included Les Campbell's grandson Kevin, whom Cooke fondly remembers from a Quabbin field trip when he "took right off and rolled down the grassy slope of the Winsor Dam before I could stop him."



Cooke feels an urgency to teach the Quabbin course while former Swift River Valley residents are still with us, especially the more senior ones old enough to remember some of their years in the Valley. Students in Cooke's Quabbin course take quizzes on basic Quabbin facts, become experts in individual Swift River Valley towns, write plays about the taking of the Valley and construction of the Reservoir, study the ecology of the Valley and Reservoir today, design their ideal Swift River Valley/Quabbin Reservoir museum, and, of course, visit the Reservoir itself and meet former SRV residents. Cooke feels that it's vital for these young people to learn something about our rights to our land (or the lack thereof); about empathy for others less fortunate than themselves; and also, incidentally, where the names of four Eagle Hill buildings (dorms Dana, Enfield, and Prescott, and classroom building Greenwich) come from. The Tuesday Tea group is always welcoming and eager to share their memories. All want the history of the Quabbin valley to be better known and understood.

Another Anniversary

continued from page 1

“The Quabbin Visitor Center The Friends of Quabbin From Then to Now”

“The idea of a Visitor Center at Quabbin was not a new idea in 1984; it has been around for a long time. Back in 1975, as a member of a select committee established by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs in response to a legislative mandate to investigate and report on extended use of the Quabbin Reservoir and its watershed, I brought up the need for a Visitor Center. The idea was enthusiastically endorsed and strongly recommended by this committee. However, like so many studies and reports, nothing ever came of this committee’s excellent efforts and recommendations.

Then, in August of 1983, I had the opportunity to once again voice my ideas for a Visitor Center at Quabbin. This time, there was a vacant room available at the Administration Building and I had the attentive ear of a fine gentleman and a dedicated State Senator, Bob Wetmore. Senator Wetmore responded quickly with a letter to Commissioner Geary. On August 26, Commissioner Geary followed up with great interest. Unfortunately, the matter was turned over to people who did not feel the same urgency of purpose, and once again the Visitor Center was in limbo.

Thanks to Commissioner Geary’s great interest in the spectacular resource values of Quabbin, it did not stay on the shelf for long. On October 10, 1984, the following strong and beautiful memorandum from Commissioner Geary was issued to all MDC Division Directors and employees; the Subject: Quabbin Reservation Visitor and Interpretive Center. We reprint excerpts from this memorandum because it reflects the deep and sensitive qualities of a man to whom all Friends of Quabbin can be thankful.

The most beautiful, precious, and fragile resource under the jurisdiction of the MDC is the magnificent Quabbin Reservation. Not just the reservoir, but the entire reservation with its vast and intricate forests, watershed and wildlife. In essence, it is a complex ecosystem requiring constant protection, care, monitoring, understanding and appreciation.

As many of you knew, this reservation attracts thousands of visitors every year who go to marvel at the ingenious engineering foresight of those who planned and constructed the reservoir, as well as enjoy the magnificent vistas of water, hills, vegetation, and wildlife which flourish and abound in this area. However, an important element which has been absent for these thousands of visitors is a mechanism for educating them that this environment is not only beautiful to see, but is absolutely essential to protect if we are to ensure and preserve the purity of this state’s major drinking water supply.

Accordingly, I have directed that the Water Division estab-

lish a Quabbin Reservation Visitor and Interpretive Center in the main room of the Quabbin Administration Building. I strongly believe that the creation of such a Center will enhance our efforts to promote water conservation as well as garner public support for us to secure the budgetary resources necessary to properly manage the reservation and its resources. We are painfully aware that the entire MDC has been underfunded in recent years and this problem has been most acute in the Water Division. I believe that a modest investment in creating, supplying, and staffing this Center now will help us take our message to the public, that continued inattention and budgetary strangulation of the Water Division will endanger the quality of that environment and the integrity of the water supply.

This Center is a modest, but an important beginning. If we don’t start now, if we continue to wait for a separate budget item, then we can only be certain that nothing will happen. We must break that cycle.

Most exciting, is the fact that we are blessed with two individuals who have developed a national reputation for conducting sensitive, artistic, and meaningful nature programs. The talent and devotion which Les and Terry Campbell possess for the Quabbin is only exceeded by their love for sharing that knowledge with everyone. Les is a 39 year veteran with the MDC and has an intimate understanding of the reservation and a knack for creative direction.

I hope all of you share our excitement over the creation of this Center and will join us when we officially dedicate it at a date to be announced in the near future.

The above memorandum set wheels in motion and on December 7, 1984, the MDC Quabbin Visitor Center was dedicated by Commissioner Geary and announced to the public. Meanwhile, the Friends of Quabbin was organized and incorporated as a non-profit support group to assist the Center in determining and implementing its goals. Terry was employed by the MDC to manage the new Center while I was given permission to oversee the project in my spare time. Terry and I share respect and affection for the Quabbin Reservation which has been our home for many years.

ORGANIZING THE FRIENDS

One of the most pertinent and succinct comments I read in 1984 came from Gerry Bertrand, dynamic president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He wrote, “Sure, conservation action must first be an affair of the head, but when it becomes an affair of the heart—that’s when things really get moving.”

Perhaps that explains why the Friends of Quabbin came into being so quickly. It truly is an affair of the heart for tremendous numbers of people who seemed to be just sitting there ready and waiting to go as soon as someone gave the word. Our Chairman of the Board, Bill Randall, likened it to a coiled spring that each year had been wound a little tighter until a moment of truth set it free and—whooom!

At the beginning, Terry and I felt we had a tiger by the tail but as things took shape we came to realize we have more like a team of Clydsdale horses by the tail! We are attempting to let go the tail and get hold the reins so that we might bring together into a unified team, all the various and powerful individual forces that are focused on their beloved Quabbin; fishermen, poets, artists, birders, historians, naturalists, photographers, hikers, etc. And, of course, the consumers whose needs created the reservoir.

SETTING UP THE BOARD

Establishing a founding Board of Directors was all pleasure. Everyone we asked responded with an unqualified “Yes!” Bowing to the lesson ecology teaches—integrity is dependent on diversity—we set about assembling a group of people who would encompass a wide variety of skills, talent, and knowledge. We sought and recruited a poet, a musician, writers, sportsmen, historians, photographers, an artist, naturalists, environmental educators, professors in leisure studies and environmental management, aquatic and wildlife biologists, an audio/visual technician, environmental lawyer, and a science museum curator. You’d probably think a committee of such

diverse interests would have difficulty functioning. Well, you’d be right! But it has worked because all are flexible and respect each other’s opinions.

The first board meeting was held November 17, 1984. A small committee was set up to work out a statement of goals and purpose and to whip up a constitution for the organization. With some modification by the board, the bylaws were approved December 1. The necessary forms for incorporation as a non-profit organization were filed and by December 7, three weeks after our first meeting, the Friends of Quabbin, Inc. was official.”—L.C.

Editor’s Note:

As the editor and one of those on the founding Board of Directors and mostly on the Board since, I would add that just as the creation of Quabbin showed remarkable foresight and planning, so did the creation of the Visitor Center and Friends of Quabbin. One can only guess if it would be possible today to do either, or if, like the first Board and despite today’s divisiveness, we could somehow hope to find a way to respect each other’s opinions and, with flexibility, do even better.—P.G.

From an Earlier Time and an Earlier Quabbin Voices



“Come out Canoeing” 1890

Courting on Quabbin Lake, Donald Howe of Enfield with his lady love Josephine Bradford. Note the absence of life jackets. Don is in shirt and tie and Josie in her best white frock. She couldn’t even swim. They were married in August in the Congregational Church in Enfield.

- drawing by Betty Lincoln



“Yo Heave Ho” 1937

Here we see Roger Lincoln and Betty Howe (Lincoln to be) rowing a gang of their buddies, mostly in bathing suits, on Quabbin Lake. The lakes in the Valley were favorite gathering places for the college set and their kid sisters - that’s Nancy Howe (Hyde) on the far right.

“Many a grand little wedding was planned in the twi-twi-light.”

- drawing by Betty Lincoln

Reconstructing Quabbin Houses in Amherst

By Jacqueline Tuthill

During the development of the Quabbin reservoir homes, barns, businesses of the early 18th and 19th Century were sold or auctioned by the MDWSC (Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission) to contractors and private individuals. Searching for the location of Quabbin homes moved to other locations is quite a challenge. A true Quabbin home, in my opinion, is one that was painstakingly numbered board for board, dismantled and transported elsewhere to be reconstructed at a new location. Many homes are called Quabbin homes. However, these only contain materials from Quabbin structures, perhaps wide floor boards, old paneled doors, wainscoting, or a fireplace and mantel.

In my search for true Quabbin homes in the Town of Amherst, to my astonishment I found only two. This first Quabbin home was originally built around 1789 in the Federal style. It was occupied by Rev. Joshua Crosby. He was minister to the Congregational Church of Enfield for 49 years. The last recorded owner of the home, Szymon Ferenz, sold the property to the MDWSC. In 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley King purchased the



Photo:DCR Quabbin Real Estate Image Files



King House, now Amherst College property—photo by J. Tuthill

home and moved it to Lincoln Street in Amherst. Currently, the property is owned by Amherst College trustees.

To go back a bit in history, the first regular pastor of the Congregational Church of Enfield was Reverend Joshua Crosby. He served as a chaplain in the Revolution War and the War of 1812. He was an active member of a group of citizens that founded Amherst College. He became an active trustee of the College and was acting president for part of 1823, after the death of Zephaniah Swift Moore until Heman Humphrey became the next Amherst College President.



Joshua Crosby, Amherst College Museum archives

In his later years he was described as having long white wavy hair, a double chin, prominent nose and blue eyes. He carried a silver capped cane and always wore a black silk gown in the pulpit and when visiting parishioners. A well-liked pastor, he passed away in 1838 after forty-nine years of service to the parish.



Stanley King photo in Amherst College Museum archives

Mr. Stanley King was a graduate of Amherst College, class of 1903. He went on to earn a law degree in 1906. Mr. King was the first business man to be president of Amherst College from 1932 until 1946. Under his leadership the College successfully weathered the Great Depression. Mrs. King was noted for her entertainment of college faculty wives and their children. She kept an image of Rev. Joshua Crosby in the paneled hall of her home.

Another Quabbin house from Enfield, originally built by Noah Merrick in 1767 in the Cape Cod style, was purchased by the Gass family in the 1930s. Robert Gass reconstructed board-for-numbered board this home on Triangle Street in Amherst. The home was Robert's gift for his new bride Ann. The couple occupied the Amherst home from 1938 until 1993 when they moved to Florida.

The current owner is meticulously maintaining this latter home. I had the privilege to visit the home to witness the antique interior of a true Quabbin home. The three-corner cupboard in the dining room has a shell motif at the top with the ribs of the shell detailed with gold leaf. The formal living room has an antique fireplace with stew pot hanging on a hook from the iron hanger. Over the fire, Ann Gass prepared stews for the family in this pot. There is a

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Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

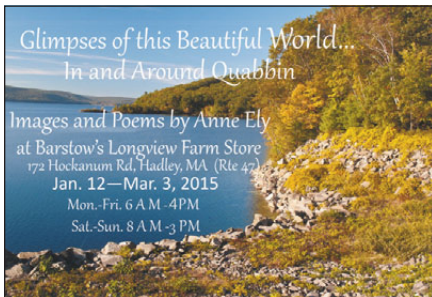
Have you been to a gathering of old friends sharing something in common with high schoolers and watching videos on the fascinating, even bizarre, life of noted Quabbin valley photographer and painter, Burt Brooks? That was the last Tuesday Tea! Come for the next Tuesday Tea and see what we've cooked up for you. Learn about the Swift River Valley from those who lived there. Come reminisce about times past. Or come and be surprised. In the past months attendance has been booming, but there is always room for newcomers. The next Tuesday Tea is February 3rd at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Future Teas will be held on March 3rd, and April 7th—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.

Gallery Exhibit— Anne Ely: Glimpses of this Beautiful World In and Around Quabbin

January 12 – March 3, 2015



Images and Poems
by Anne Ely
Barstow's Longview
Farm Store
172 Hockanum Road
(Rte 47), Hadley, MA.
Mon.-Fri. 6 AM–4 PM
Sat.-Sun. 8 AM–3 PM

Department of Conservation and Recreation Presentations at the Visitor Center

Sunday, January 25, 2015, 2–3 PM

The Recovery of Ravens Following Forest Regrowth in Massachusetts

As the Massachusetts landscape has become more forested again, many large forest species, including Black Bear, Beaver, Fisher, Moose, Wild Turkey, and Raven have returned. Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, will focus on the Raven and talk about the impressive recovery this resourceful bird is making.

Sunday, February 8, 2015, 2–3 PM

Quabbin Boy Rescued from Obscurity

Joins us as historian Joe Manning shares how he tracked down the story of a Greenwich boy who died in 1906, at the age of thirteen. Manning spotted his tiny gravestone almost hidden on the edge of the woods at Quabbin Park Cemetery, and within weeks, uncovered the details of his short life. The story (with pictures) gives a curious glimpse at life in Greenwich at the turn of the 20th century. Joe Manning, of Florence, Mass., is an author, historian and freelance journalist. His work has been featured on CBS Evening News, National Public Radio, and in Yankee Magazine.

Sunday, February 22, 2015, 2–3 PM

Uncommon Loons

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) watersheds are breeding areas for the largest concentration of Common Loons in Massachusetts. Join DCR Wildlife Biologist Jill Whitney for a program about these beautiful birds, how they are monitored and what we have learned about them.

Sunday, March 1, 2–3 PM

B.V. Brooks' Pre-Quabbin Art, Photo and Postcards

J.R. Greene presents his new book.

Sunday, March 8 (tentative)

A presentation of the newest publication from the Swift River Valley Historical Society

Sunday, March 22, 2–3 PM

A discussion of Quabbin Reservoir's aquatic ecosystem

Sunday, March 29, 2–3 PM

A look at the history of women in the Swift River Valley

Swift River Valley Historical Society

New Book and Book Signing

Quabbin Valley: Life As It Was (Arcadia Images of America) is being published January 19 and will be available on the SRVHS website, www.swiftrivermuseum.org, with special discounts for FOQ and SRVHS members, or at the book signing—Sunday, March 15. More details on the SRVHS website.

Opening at the Great Falls Discovery Center with a public reception

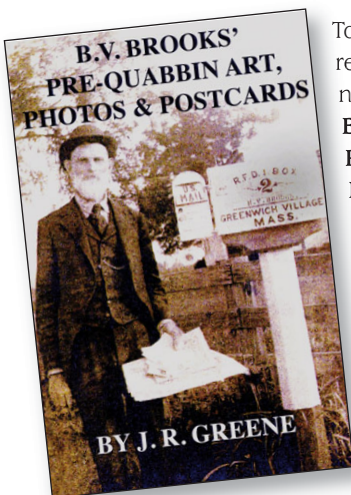
Saturday, February 7, 1–3 PM

What's In A Name? Villages, Hamlets and Hollows of the Swift River Valley. Exhibit of historic photographs.

VISITOR CENTER STORE



A New Poster Commemorating Greenwich, Massachusetts



To accompany the release of J.R. Greene's new book: **B.V. BROOKS' PRE-QUABBIN ART, PHOTOS & POSTCARDS** (\$14.99), Les Campbell created a special poster. The poster, suitable for framing, is 24" x 18", contains a picture of Greenwich taken by Burt Brooks before the flooding and Les Campbell surrounds that with his picture of the same area from nearly the same vantage

Greenwich, Massachusetts (1754 – 1938)

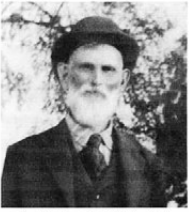
Greenwich was first settled by white men as Narragansett Township #4 in 1735. The land was a reward to troops who had served in earlier Indian Wars. The town was first named Quabbin, after a local Nipmuc Sachem (chief), but later incorporated on April 20, 1754 as Greenwich in honor of a Scottish duke.

Greenwich was destined to become a victim of three cruel and, finally fatal, blows. It originally comprised a huge area of land, part of which was snatched in 1801 to form a section of Dana. Fifteen years later, another large section was taken to establish the town of Enfield. Lastly, two hundred years later, Greenwich lost every foot of land it owned when it was taken by the state to make the floor of Quabbin Reservoir.


This poster provides documentation of steps in that last taking. It also uniquely displays a virtual collaboration of two of the 20th century's most prominent photographic artists of the Swift River Valley:

Burt V. Brooks – whose art has provided nostalgic insights into valley life during the first two decades of the century and
Les Campbell – whose art in the last two decades has documented the beauty of the valley now occupied by the Quabbin Reservoir.

The publication of this poster intentionally coincides with the publication of "*B.V. Brooks' Pre-Quabbin Art, Photos & Post Cards*" by **J. R. Greene** at 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331-3402. Both are available at the Quabbin Visitor's Center and The Les Campbell Sky Meadow Gallery: www.lescampbellphotography.com. The poster was made possible by a grant from the **Friends of Quabbin**, www.fquabbin.org. It was designed and printed by the Amherst Copy & Designworks <https://amherstcopy.com>



Burt V. Brooks 1838 - 1934



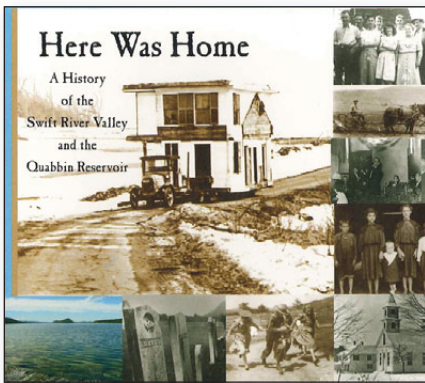
Les Campbell 1925 -

point in the present time. It's a bittersweet contrast. The poster is accompanied by a sheet (shown above) describing Greenwich and the two artists.

Here Was Home

A History of the Swift River Valley and the Quabbin Reservoir

In Clif Read's Interpretive Services Report, he announced the start of a new interest group examining the fate of Quabbin houses, i.e. their fate when they had to be moved or demolished. Many were moved and many more were scavenged for usable material and valuable antiques. While documentation of the houses that existed prior to flooding was excellent all the way up to their sale, the next step is poorly documented. Finding the current location of houses that were moved or locating pieces of houses that were demolished is a mystery rivalling those of Sherlock Holmes. Yet we know the where-



abouts of quite a few and hope to learn much more.

That makes the oral histories of the valley that much more meaningful. So we remind you of the excellent compilation available at the Visitor Center Bookstore.

Visitor Center Store Now Accepts Credit Cards

Have you ever visited the Bookstore and found an armload of things you'd like to add to your library only to discover that you didn't have enough cash or forgot your checkbook? Now we have a solution. Just whip out that plastic card that nearly everyone but us has accepted and bring home enough reading, listening and viewing material to last you through the winter months. **The Visitor Center now accepts credit cards!** This is new to us, so pardon us if we have a few bumps along the way, but we think we'll catch on to this new-fangled technology quickly. We still take the other kinds of money, too.

Continued from page 8

Quabbin Houses in Amherst



Merrick House photo in DCR Quabbin Real Estate Image Files



Gass House on Triangle Street, photo by J. Tuthill

recessed oven in the fireplace as well. Antique hardware can be seen through the house. The door frames have intricately designed wooden details. Outside at the front door is a granite

step from the home of Mary Walker who visited family members in Greenwich. You may recognize the name Mary Walker who was a surgeon in the Civil War. She is the only female who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. She was rather ahead of the times as she had short hair, wore slacks and was an early advocate for the woman's movement.

There are other Quabbin homes that have been moved to the Valley as well as beyond. Researching these buildings has been fun. On January 10th at the Quabbin Visitor Center we had our first meeting of a group interested in locating other relocated Quabbin homes (see Clif Read's Interpretive Services Report for information on how to participate.).



Mystery Girl

This young lady appears in many of Burt Brooks' photos but she is never named. Do you know the name of this mystery girl?

Friends of Quabbin 2014–2015 Officers and Board of Directors

Gene H. Theroux,
President and Clerk
20 Bugbee Road
Southwick, MA 01077
413-627-3475
gene.theroux@verizon.net

Cynthia LaBombard,
Vice President
294 Belchertown Road
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-3887
C5D6L34@VERIZON.NET

Paul Godfrey, **Treasurer**
47 Harkness Road
Pelham, MA 01002
413-253-5686
godfrey@tei.umass.edu

J.R. Greene, **Chairman**
26 Bearsden Road
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-0156
jrg01331@webtv.net

Julie Bullock
150 West Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-4528
jbullock@excite.com

Robert Creed
5 Kinder Lane
Shutesbury, MA 01072
413-367-2388
creed@english.umass.edu

Marty Howe
98 Lower Beverly Hills
West Springfield, MA 01089
413-732-0178
mfhowe79@yahoo.com

John Fleming
16 Alden Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-283-9577
jfleming007@charter.net

Ruth Jazab
27 Szetela Drive
Chicopee, MA 01013
413-594-2474
skipper323@gmail.com

John Zebb
261 The Meadows
Enfield, CT 06082
860-253-0357
johnzebb@hotmail.com


Kevin Kopchynski
28 Main Street, Apt 2C
Monson, MA 01057
kkopchynski@verizon.net

Larry Lowenthal
P.O. Box 390
Brimfield, MA 01010

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.

Editor: Paul Godfrey
Regular Contributors:
Clif Read, DCR Program Coordinator
Gene Theroux, Friends of Quabbin President
Design and Production: Eileen Klockars
Illustrations: Southwoods, Inc. and Russ Buzzell

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Friends of Quabbin, Inc.
Quabbin Reservoir Administration Building
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7221
www.friendsofquabbin.org

