

# Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



## How Lake Ice Melts— A Slippery Slope

by Justin Gonsor

DCR Interpretive Services

Spring 2015  
Vol.28 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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*View from the second floor of the Administration Building. The reservoir is completely ice and snow covered. Photo was taken February 10, 2015.*

Is everyone ready for spring? This past winter has brought record snowfall totals and some bone-chilling cold spells to the northeast. As a result, Quabbin's entire reservoir surface was frozen over by February 5th. The reservoir's incredible volume (412 billion gallons of water) mitigates against freezing except when there are prolonged, extremely cold conditions. Conversely, the extensive surface area (25,000 acres) mitigates for rapid temperature

loss in the water column. Thus, the combination of calm skies and extremely cold temperatures are required to freeze Quabbin's surface water, conditions that were easily met this year. On March 12th, Quabbin Environmental Quality (EQ) and Civil Engineering (CE) staff conducted an ice depth survey at various locations on the reservoir. One hole was cut at each location and the ice depth was measured. *Continued page 6*





## President's Message

### Spring 2015

*Gene Theroux*

Spring! Is it ever going to arrive or is winter going to continue to prevail? With snow on the first day of spring, it appears that winter is trying to hold

on and to continue to delay our plans to get out into the great outdoors and enjoy the beauty, the vistas, the wildlife and ecology of the Quabbin Reservation. In spite of the winter snowfall and cold weather it did not stop me from many rewarding experiences over the last couple of months.



*Les Campbell, Russ Buzzell, and Gene Theroux in Russ Buzzell's studio*

On a cold and blistery day in January (13th), I met Les Campbell (founder and first President of the Friends of Quabbin) and we visited Mr. Russ Buzzell at his home and studio in North Brookfield. Russ Buzzell is a local artist who has freely shared his gift of illustration, pencil, scratchboard and India ink, and oil paintings with the Friends of Quabbin over the years. Many of his works have been highlighted in the Quabbin Voices newsletters. Russ had many of his beautiful paintings in his home, one of his former family farm in North Brookfield. I was interested in his oil painting of the ambush at Wheeler's Surprise on August 2nd, 1675 during the King Philip's War, particularly the research prior to his scratchboard and oil works. The original oil painting of Wheeler's Surprise by Russ Buzzell is now hanging in the lobby of the North Brookfield Savings Bank in Belchertown.

After our two hour visit with Russ, Les and I headed to the Eagle Hill School in Hardwick where I made a presentation to Nym Cooke's class on the Swift River/Quabbin Valley history. This class is the same one that visited our Tuesday Tea in December (see the "Preparing for the Future," Winter 2015 issue of the Voices). After my presentation, we made another. This was the gift of a framed copy of the new Les Campbell/Burt Brooks poster and J.R. Greene's new book on Burt Brooks



*Buzzell's Wheeler's Surprise scratchboard*

work, both featured in the winter 2015 Voices. The gift was very appropriate for Eagle Hill School because their dorms are named: Dana, Enfield and Prescott, and the main classroom building is named the Greenwich Academic Building. The



*Gene Theroux speaking to Eagle Hill School class of Nym Cooke*

school is only a few miles from the site of the former Greenwich Village. My hope is that the framed print of what was and what is today is displayed in the Greenwich Academic Building for all the students to develop an appreciation for the history of the area.



*Les Campbell and Nym Cooke with the poster presented to the Eagle Hill School by the Friends*

It is with deep sorrow that I announce the passing of my mother, Mary Elizabeth Parker Theroux. She introduced me to genealogy and to my Swift River ancestors. She passed away on her 89th birthday, March 1st. On behalf of my family, I'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors and especially to Mr. Paul Godfrey, Treasurer

who helped to make my mother's celebration of life especially meaningful to my mom's surviving sisters and to our family. He brought back to life a recording of my mom's father singing to her mother some 73 years ago done in an amusement recording booth at Rockaway Playground in Queens, N.Y. I cannot express in words the appreciation I feel of the gift that my mom gave to me both in the example of her life and what she instilled in me to continue my quest for learning the history of our Swift River Valley ancestors. As I continue to the document and illustrate the family genealogy, it will be in honor of her life and legacy. My mom spent a lot of time in earlier years at both Quabbin Visitor Center and at the Swift River Valley Historical Society. I wrote about my Quabbin Valley Heritage and my mom in the Spring 2012 Quabbin Voices (available at: [http://www.foquabbin.org/voices\\_vol25\\_num1.pdf](http://www.foquabbin.org/voices_vol25_num1.pdf)).



*Record of the crooner,  
Gene Theroux's grandfather*

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, I attended the book signing of *Quabbin Valley: Life as it Was* by Elizabeth Peirce. On behalf of the Friends of Quabbin, I presented her with a framed poster



*Gene Theroux presenting poster to Elizabeth Peirce at her recent book signing*

and description of Burt Brooks/Les Campbell's image of Greenwich Plains for her lifetime efforts at the Swift River Valley Historical Society to keep the story of the Swift River Valley alive.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the ending of hostilities in the American Civil War. That date is particularly relevant to our Quabbin Park Memorial Day activities at the Quabbin Cemetery to be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015. It may come as a surprise to many that there are 147 members of the Grand Army of the Republic buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery. But it is no surprise to one of our members, Bill Cote. He wears many hats: a cemetery commissioner in the town of Ware, Camp Senior Vice Commander of L.A. Tift Camp No. 15, and Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

(SUVCW) where he serves as the Grave Registration Officer. I had the opportunity to meet with Bill three times in the course of one week beginning with Elizabeth Peirce's presentation at the QVC on March 15. Bill has developed a veteran's search program and continuously improved it over the last ten years. The very comprehensive program can provide meaningful reports that are used to plan, forecast and maintain the veterans markers—their type and condition.

It was Bill who told me of the 147 GAR veterans that buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery. His program provides the full name, military history, location (latitude, longitude, section), marker name, material, marker condition, and headstone condition. I also learned that among those GAR veterans buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery are two of the four sons of my 3rd great-grandfather, Ira Jones, who served in the GAR: Martin L. Jones & Ira L. Jones). Both Ira L. and his brother Martin L. reenlisted after their initial enlistment. Martin L. was wounded on March 14, 1862 at New Bern, NC. He was subsequently captured by the Confederates on May 16, 1864 at Drewry's Bluff, VA and was a POW at Andersonville, GA. Ira's fifth son, William Jones, is my 2nd great-grandfather.

The Grand Army of the Republic monument that is the centerpiece of the Quabbin Park Cemetery was donated by the Enfield General William S. Lincoln GAR Post 211. It identifies the three major engagements of New Bern, Winchester and Gettysburg that veterans from the Valley participated in as well as brass plaques that identify those GAR veterans mustered from the Valley towns, interred at the Enfield Town Green and moved to Quabbin Park Cemetery in 1938. My hope is that you join us at this year's very special Memorial Day Program on Sunday, May 24 at Quabbin Park Cemetery and be sure to visit the GAR monument.



*The GAR monument at the Quabbin Cemetery*

I'm excited about the many initiatives and projects underway with the Friends of Quabbin. I look forward to reporting their status during the Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the Belchertown Senior Center. The program for the annual meeting will also include an updated video on the works of artists such as Betty Howe Lincoln, Frank Bly, Russ Buzzell, and Les Campbell. We welcome your attendance.

*Photos by Gene Theroux, Les Campbell, Paul Godfrey, and Clif Reed*



## Interpretive Services Report

### Spring 2015

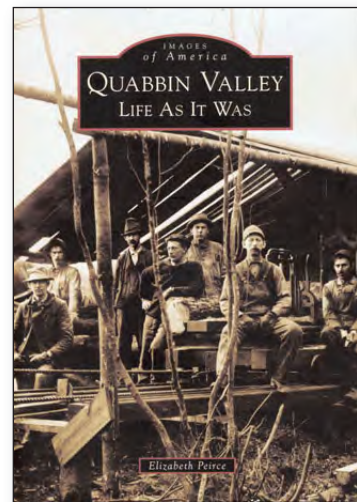
By Clif Read

While the Quabbin region did not experience the same record breaking snowfall as the Boston area, it did have similarly frigid temperatures and significant snow storms during the winter season. It started as an early winter with a noteworthy snowfall the day before Thanksgiving. The season progressed in an unspectacular fashion through December into mid-January, but a shift in the weather patterns brought a continual progression of cold weather and stormy conditions to our area after that. The eastern part of Massachusetts received the BIG storms but they missed Quabbin. For example, sometimes the difference between the Belchertown weather station and Brookfield, a distance less than 20 miles as the crow flies, was a snow accumulation of 5" in the Belchertown and over 20" in Brookfield. As winter weather progressed, the reservoir water temperature continued to drop throughout January and by the end of the month significant portions of the surface had frozen (see companion ice article in this issue).

As part of watershed operations, the Civil Engineering unit conducts surveys of the snowpack in the Quabbin watershed to determine the snow depth, its water content and the potential runoff that this represents. This is important to anticipate potential flooding issues downstream on the Swift River below Winsor Dam. If there is a substantial snowpack and a relatively full reservoir, this combination makes it more likely that the reservoir will exceed its capacity and discharge water over the top of the spillway wall. On February 6th the average snow depth from the six sampling locations in the watershed registered 19.61" with a water equivalent (amount when the snow is melted) of 3.70". By February 11th the figures were 23.44" and 4.65" respectively. Two weeks later the results showed a similar snow depth of 23.61" but the water equivalent rose to 6.18". On March 11th the totals were 21.86" and 6.57" respectively, as temperatures finally were rising above the freezing mark on a more consistent basis and precipitation began to fall more frequently as rain not snow. Not all of the snowpack runs off to the reservoir. Typically half to two thirds will end up in the reservoir depending on conditions and the rest will evaporate or enter the groundwater where it replenishes streams all summer. As of March 11th the water equivalent over the entire 95,000 acre land area of the Quabbin watershed was 21 billion gallons, or 5% of the total capacity of the reservoir. While it remains to be seen whether the reservoir reaches 100% capacity this spring and releases water over the top of the 400' long Spillway Wall, it does seem like a good possibility at this point. Even if the reservoir does not reach 100%, water will be released through the 30' stop log bay section of the wall sending water down the Spillway Channel and over the 65' waterfall beneath the Arch Bridge. Visitors will be treated to this spectacular sight.

The substantial ice cover for the reservoir places in doubt the opening of the Quabbin Boat Launch Areas on the third Saturday in April as directed in the DCR regulations. While the shore fishing will be available to anglers suffering from cabin fever on April 18th, for safety reasons the reservoir must be completely free of ice before the boat launches open for business. Additionally the Areas must be prepped and ready to accept visitors to insure that everything operates smoothly. The Quabbin Section will make a determination on Friday, the week before the proposed opening. If conditions prevent an opening on that date, then it will be pushed a week later with a repeat of the same process. The fishing season will operate for six months and close for the year on October 17th. But by that time everyone will have turned their attention to preparations for next winter!

Winter programs have been very popular at the Visitor Center as we have hosted excellent presentations by different lecturers. On March 15th we had the pleasure of welcoming Elizabeth Peirce to the Center to share her story of the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) and the process of publishing her new book entitled *Quabbin Valley: Life As It Was*. This book is the third in a series of pictorial volumes from the SRVHS archival collection and is a remarkable selection of images showing Swift River valley life through the residents who lived there. From the 40+ family members posing for a group picture as they gathered to celebrate Grandma Morse's 87th birthday to a road crew shoveling the Millington roads in 1920 to the view of the Motorcycle Hill Climb in Enfield, the photographs are a priceless compilation of life from the valley towns. It is a must for any Quabbin history enthusiast's library! The Visitor Center also has the other two volumes in this excellent series: *Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley and Quabbin Valley: People and Places*.



The Quabbin Section has seen a significant number of staff retirements over the past two years as a good percentage of the work force reached retirement age. It is anticipated that there will be a number of additional retirees in the near future, resulting in a considerable shift in personnel and experience. With Dale Monette's retirement last year and the subsequent hiring of Justin Gonsor for the position, the seasonal job formerly occupied by Justin has opened up. We anticipate by late March that we will have filled the position and the Interpretive Services work unit will be fully staffed. This will allow us to meet the busy spring season for programs, school presentations, Memorial Day activities and the influx of visitors. We look forward to seeing you as the grass begins to green up, the temperature starts to rise and the birds continue to sing in greater numbers and volume.

## Bald Eagles at Quabbin Reservoir

by Maria Beiter



Bald Eagle (*nativeamericencyclopedia.com*)

After decades of absence due to hunting and the loss of their forest habitat, Bald Eagles were observed at the Quabbin Reservoir neared completion in the 1940s. The large expanse of open water surrounded by forest attracted the birds from Northern New England and Canada in search of food during the winter months. These wintering birds would depart in early spring to return to their nesting sites up North.

But the sight of a Bald Eagle at Quabbin became increasingly rare once again in the 1950s as the birds' population dropped throughout North America. The drop was a result of increased use of DDT, a pesticide which interfered with reproduction and reduced the number of birds that successfully hatched.

### Recovery Efforts

Although DDT was banned in 1972, the Bald Eagle population was slow to recover. To help the birds widen their breeding range and to bring nesting eagles back to Quabbin Reservoir, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife initiated the Bald Eagle Hacking Program in 1982.

Based on the medieval methods to train hunting falcons, hacking had been used successfully in other areas to reintroduce eagles. Massachusetts wildlife biologists chose Quabbin Reservoir to attempt this program because of its wilderness character and the availability of fish.

### Hacking the Eagles

In 1982 the first eagles were transplanted to Quabbin Reservoir. At around 6 weeks of age the birds were taken from a nesting site in Manitoba, Canada, where a thriving bald eagle population already existed. This timing was vital to the success of the program if the birds were to imprint on Quabbin Reservoir and return to the area to nest as adults.

Once the birds arrived here, they were settled into specially constructed nesting platforms. To ensure that the young eagles retained their fear of humans, their human caretakers had no contact with them, feeding them fish and carrion from behind a blind. At approximately 12 weeks when their feathers began to mature, the eagles were encouraged to fly from the platforms, with Quabbin and MassWildLife staff on hand to monitor and rescue the birds if needed. The program was ended in 1988 with the hope that at least some of the 41 young eagles released at the Reservoir would return to nest here.

### Return of the Eagles

In 1989, Quabbin celebrated the return of the bald eagles, when two nesting pairs successfully fledged three young at the reservoir. Programs such as this one were used throughout the contiguous United States with equal success and in 2007 the Bald Eagle was removed from the federal endangered species list. In 2010 the bird was moved from Endangered to Threatened in Massachusetts due to the great success of the hacking program.

### Bald Eagle Habitat and Behavior

Bald Eagles generally live along coastal area, estuaries and larger inland waters. They need large areas of shoreline with forests for nesting and perching



Photo: DCR

along with a good supply of large fish. Most eagles appear to nest within 200 miles of where they were born and build their nests of large sticks and line them with grasses and other soft materials. The male eagle collects materials and gives them to the female, who is then responsible for the construction of the nest. Bald Eagles mate for life, but will court another eagle if their mate dies or is killed.

### Bald Eagles in Massachusetts Today

Today the Bald Eagle Hacking Program is considered an unqualified success in Massachusetts. The population gains here have also spurred the return of Bald Eagles to other states in the New England region, particularly Connecticut and New Hampshire along the Connecticut River. In 2013, MassWildlife moved from participating in the Annual Mid-Winter Eagle count in January to focusing on a breeding survey in April each year. In 2014, 46 active pairs of Bald Eagles were counted in the state. Quabbin Reservoir has an average of 8 nesting pairs of the birds each year. Other birds fledged at the reservoir now nest along the Connecticut River Valley, at the Wachusett Reservoir, the Merrimac River and in Lakeville, Massachusetts.



Photo: Izabella Laba

## Bald Eagle Facts

- Bald eagles aren't bald; the name comes from the Old English word *balde*, which means white.
- An eagle's body is about 2.5 feet long (head to tip of tail) and can weigh from 8 to 15 pounds.
- Female eagles are larger than males.
- Eagles have a wingspan of 6.5 to 7.0 feet wide.
- An eagle's nest is made of sticks and lined with twigs and green grass and is about the size of a play pen. The heaviest nest ever found was 1 ton (2000 pounds).

- An eagle's nest is called an eyrie (air-ree).
- Bald Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

MassWildlife encourages anyone to submit eagle sightings throughout the spring by email to [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us) or by postal service to: "Eagle Survey," MassWildlife, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230 West Boylston, MA 01583

*Information from:*

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/nhesp/species-and-conservation/nhfacts/haliaeetus-leucocephalus.pdf>

## How Lake Ice Melts

*continued from page 1*

The results of that survey are detailed below:

- Hangar Ramp: 18" of ice, measured approximately 40' north of the ramp
- Gate 8 Cove: 18" of ice, measured approximately 60' south of concrete ramp
- Gate 31: 20" of ice, measured approximately 50' south of concrete ramp
- Gate 43: 23" of ice, measured approximately 60' south of low water elevation ramp
- Shaft 12: 13.5" of ice, measured approximately 30' northwest of Shaft 12 intake building
- Boat Cove: 18" of ice, measured approximately 20' north of eastern dock

Now for the good news; with April approaching, temperatures have steadily begun to rise and it is finally starting to feel like spring around here. That being said, I thought this would be a great time to detail the process by which ice on a reservoir or inland body of water actually melts.

As snow melts off the top of the ice, the ice is exposed to the sun. The ice then acts like a greenhouse to the lake water, and as the sun shines on the ice, it heats the water underneath the ice. The ice then starts to melt from the bottom, where it is touching the water. When ice thickness erodes to between 4 and 12 inches, it transforms into long vertical crystals called "candles." These candles conduct light very well, which causes the ice to begin looking black because it is not reflecting much sunlight.

As the sun continues to heat the ice, the water below the ice continues to warm. Meltwater fills in between the crystals, which begin breaking apart. As a result, the surface appears

grayish as the ice reflects a bit more light than before. At the same time this is happening, the warming of the water under the ice is bringing its temperature closer to that below it. Recall that ice floats because it is less dense than water, but water varies in density from its densest at 34 degrees. Consequently, colder water also floats on the denser 34 degree water. Most of the lake's water is at 34 degrees. That's a remarkable boon to the life in the lake that does not face freezing temperatures. The warming of the water under the ice reduces the density difference in the water column and it starts to mix vertically, further aiding in the melting process.

Next, all that is needed is a windy day to break the surface ice apart. On a big lake like the Quabbin, there are subtle internal waves called seiches created by the wind on the open water that rock the surface slightly up and down. The ice candles will often be blown to one side of the lake, making a tinkling sound as they knock against one another, and pile up on the shore. It's amazing how this final process seems to take just a few hours so that one day the lake is ice-covered and the next it is not.

Over the years, DCR staff has made observations on when the reservoir has completely frozen and thawed. Historically, the average freezing date for Quabbin has been January 23rd with the average thawing date happening on March 29th. However, these are just averages and the actual freezing and thawing dates vary from those dates. The earliest freeze date on record



View from the second floor of the Administration Building as the ice begins to melt and recede from the shoreline. Notice the dark, almost black color of the ice. Photo was taken April 9th, 2014.

goes back to 1989 when the reservoir froze over completely on Christmas Day of that year. While the latest thaw date on record happened on April 21st back in 2001. Recent and notable annual freezing and thawing dates for the reservoir are listed below:

### Quabbin Annual Freeze and Thawing Dates

	Freeze Date	Thaw Date
1975	February 8	March 26
1985	January 27	March 16
1990	December 25, 1989	March 16, 1990
2000	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2001	January 23	April 21
2005	January 29	April 10
2006	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2007	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2008	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2009	January 20	April 3

2010	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2011	January 22	April 12
2012	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2013	surface did not freeze over completely	surface did not freeze over completely
2014	February 5	April 13
2015	February 5	TBD???



View from the second floor of the Administration Building. Almost all surface ice has melted and what is left appears grey or black colored. Photo was taken April 11th, 2014.

Despite what seemed to be a brutally cold, excessively snowy winter, the Quabbin’s ice cover period was not so unusual, as yet. Over the next few weeks, the speed of the ice-out process will be dependent on how much sun and wind we get. Only time and the weather will tell how much later than average our ice will go out this year.

**Friends of Quabbin  
Membership Dues Increased!**

It had to happen but the last time was so long ago, no one can remember. Membership rates have increased. An individual membership is now \$15, an increase from \$12; family membership is \$25, an increase from \$20. All other rates are unchanged.

## How I Began Writing About Quabbin History 40 Years Ago

By J.R. Greene

At my slide presentations on the history of the Quabbin Reservoir and the Swift River valley, I am often asked how I became interested in this subject.

I was an undergraduate student at UMass-Amherst in 1974, and took a course in Cartography taught by Professor Terence Burke. In those days, there were no computer programs that would create maps; they were drawn and lettered by hand with the help of rulers, a T-square, and lettering templates.

As my semester project, I produced a series of maps illustrating the history of my home town of Athol. These showed the changes in the town's boundaries, and its growth by the expansion of the street network. It also showed the coming of the two railroads to town: the former Boston & Maine R.R. (now Pan Am Railway), and the ephemeral Athol Branch of the Boston & Albany R.R. down to Springfield. I published these maps as a small atlas (*Athol's Past in Maps*) in 1974, and it went through two printings.

Having noticed the coming and going of that railroad, I decided to try to hike the abandoned rail bed through town. In the mid-1970s, most of it was still open, and accessible to hiking. I followed the route through South Athol (where the former depot still stands) down into the eastern part of New Salem. There, it crosses old North Dana Road (the former State Route 21) just above Gate 35. Inside of the gate, there is a dirt road to the left, which leads to the old rail bed, which is still open to hiking.

I followed this through a woodsy stretch, and along the shore of the reservoir for a mile, until the original rail bed disappears into the reservoir near the site of the former New Salem depot. At that point, a dirt road connects it to the old paved Route 21, where that re-emerges from under the reservoir. That road runs along the shore of the reservoir for over a half mile, before it again goes under the reservoir, just past a dirt road on the left (which goes over Soapstone Hill, leading to the road to Gate 37).

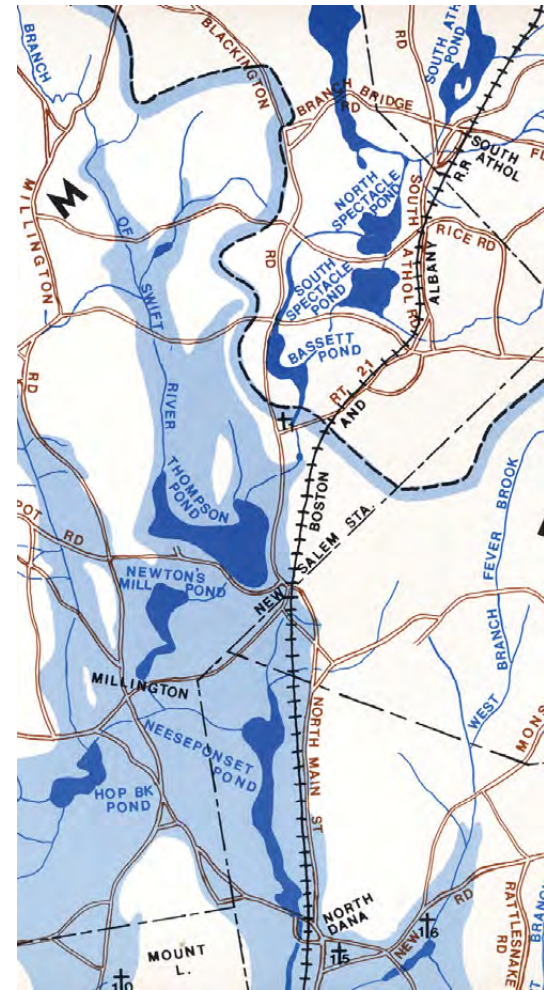
I had visited the reservoir a few times in my youth, either hiking a couple of the old roads, or fishing out of a boat with my father. I knew that several towns had been taken to create it. However, something resonated with me when I saw where old Route 21 went into the reservoir, so I began to look into the history of the reservoir. At that time (1975), the only books ever done about the subject (by Evelina Gustafson, Walter Clark, and Donald Howe) were out of print, and did not contain any maps.

With my new skill of cartography, I decided to create an atlas depicting the four lost towns with maps, brief histories, and a few photographs. I spent about three months putting this

together, and issued it in the autumn of 1975 as *An Atlas of the Quabbin Valley Past and Present*. This may have been the first time the words “Quabbin” and “Valley” were publicly combined in a title; that is now seen in many business names in the area. The atlas was meant as an introduction to the subject, and a way for people to visualize what had been taken for the reservoir.

One of the maps showed an overlay of the reservoir on the old towns; this proved to be very popular with boat fishermen who used it to try to figure out where the old ponds (deep spots) were from present surface landmarks. This atlas was well received from the beginning, selling over 10,000 copies before going out of print about ten years ago. Many teachers complained to me in the late 1970s that their students were relying on it for school reports about the Quabbin, perhaps predating the use of the internet as a primary uncited source of information in school reports today.

I spent the next six years researching and writing *The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir*, which was issued in 1981. That book was intended to tell the full story of how the reservoir came to be created. That story had not been detailed very well in the three earlier books about it. I was lucky enough to find a subject that I enjoy researching and writing about and that the public was interested in reading about! The list of my books relating to the Quabbin has grown to sixteen titles with the latest being an illustrated one about artist/photographer B.V. Brooks of Greenwich. Copies of all of my books, that are in print, are on sale at the Quabbin Visitor Center.



*Proposed Reservoir on the Swift River (1922) redrawn by D. Chandler, 1986*

© 2015 by J.R. Greene

J.R. Greene of Athol is the chairman of the board of directors of the Friends of Quabbin, represents it on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council, and is the author of many articles and twenty books on historical subjects.



## Meetings & Events

### Tuesday Teas

Despite the snow and ice, many stalwarts came to the last Tuesday Tea. In meetings prior to that, we had a visit from an Eagle Hill School class and video presentations. As always, there is lively discussion and sharing either in the whole group or clusters. 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 April 7th at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Future Teas will be held on May 5th, and June 2nd and July 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.

### Department of Conservation and Recreation Presentations at the Visitor Center

Quabbin Reservoir will offer several free presentations this season. All ages are welcome. Please call (413) 323-7221 for more information.

Sunday, April 12, 2015, 2:00–3:00 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, May 17, 2015, 2:00–3:00 PM

**Bats at the Quabbin Reservoir and the Bat House project**

Saturday May 23, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM (Hike at Gate 52)

**Bombs over Quabbin**

Sunday, May 24, 2015, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

**Annual Memorial Day Commemoration at Quabbin Park Cemetery**

Sunday, May 24, 2015, 2:00–3:00 PM

**The Western Bay State Regiment in the Civil War**

## Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

- Program honoring the Artisans of the Quabbin Valley
- A Photo Album by Quabbin Photo Group
- Refreshments will be served

### Belchertown Senior Center

*Directions:* From center of Belchertown south on Rte. 202, 0.8 miles on right, next to police station



Photo: Gail Platz

# Poet's Corner

## Guest Poet: Anne Ely

### A Fall Day

It's a glorious day; the sun's shining down.  
 A slight fall breeze swirls fallen leaves along the ground.  
 Parking lots are full, cars lined up row on row,  
 Everyone is out to see nature's autumn show.  
 Cameras click; eyes search a distant island's shore  
 Hoping, perhaps, to catch an eagle's graceful soar.  
 This beauty's free, but it came at a cost  
 I wonder how many now know just what was lost.  
 Four towns were filled with worry, sadness and strife,  
 But out of the hardships and trials there came new life  
 And year 'round beauty has risen from the deep.  
 While below, in silence, mem'ries peacefully sleep.

### An Old Stone Wall

An old stone wall, disappearing into the wood;  
 Wonder where it would lead if follow it I could.  
 Perhaps it once encircled a farmer's small field,  
 Or maybe helped to protect his corn's precious yield.  
 All this would have been open back then, cleared by hand;  
 Backbreaking work had to be done to claim this land.  
 Now there's only this wall and perhaps an old well  
 And how long these will remain, only time will tell.



Photo: Anne Ely

### Quabbin's Stone Wall Monuments

I'm sure he never thought that his work would stand  
 For lo these many years; his mark upon this land.  
 He wasn't trying to build a monument,  
 Just another chore, as about his work he went.  
 Yet today it is a monument indeed,  
 To those who had to leave because of Boston's need.

### Quabbin

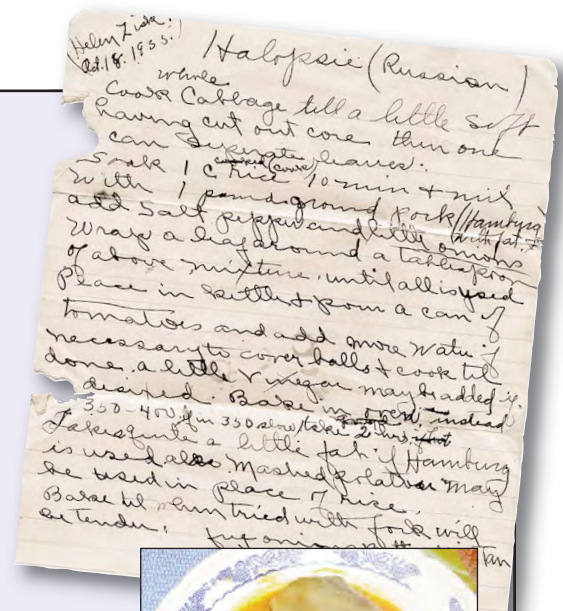
All is quiet, except for the call of a crow.  
 Trees are marching down to the water, row upon row.

Islands rising up from the depths in silent mounds,  
 But if one listens closely, there are other sounds.  
 Squirrels chatter their warnings and hope for the best  
 As an eagle swoops down from its high pine tree nest.  
 There are even the soft footfalls of browsing deer.  
 What is missing, though, are the sounds that were once here.  
 Sounds of everyday life; sounds of children at play;  
 The ringing of church bells as folks gathered to pray.  
 The whine of a sawmill, or the thud of an axe;  
 The toot of a train as it rumbled down the tracks.  
 Those things are gone now, and it broke many a heart,  
 But with Yankee toughness, they made a fresh start.  
 In a way, they were heroes, though they knew it not.  
 They gave water to Boston, and us this great spot.

[Ed. Note: For some poetry is the music of the soul; for others, food is that music. Anne has offered up some music for the latter group: an old family recipe for Halopsie. The combined medley of music is guaranteed to make you well rounded.]

### Halopsie

I found this recipe in one of several cook books belonging to my mother, Charity Anne (Willey) Ely, (Mrs. Jesse K. Ely) who lived in Smith's Village. It appears to be a recipe she had gotten from Helen Lisk, also of Smith's Village, on Oct. 18, 1935. I hope I have read her handwriting correctly.



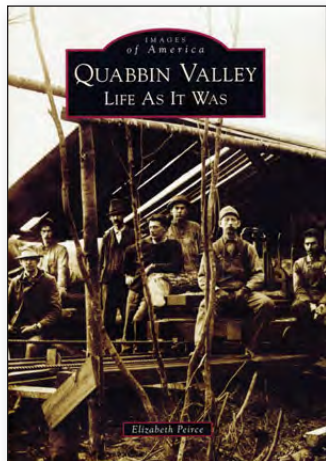
#### "Halopsie (Russian)

Cook whole Cabbage till a little soft, having cut out core, then one can separate leaves. Soak 1 C. cooked rice 10 minutes and mix with 1 pound ground pork (Hamburg with fat), add salt, pepper and [a] little onions. Wrap a leaf around a tablespoon of above mixture until all is used. Place in kettle and pour [in] a can of tomatoes and add more water if necessary to cover balls and cook til done. A little vinegar may be added if desired. Bake in oven instead 350-400. If in 300 slow take 2 hrs. Takes quite a little fat if hamburger is used. Also mashed potatoes may be used in place of rice. Bake til when tried with fork will be tender. Fry onions [in] butter til light tan."

# VISITOR CENTER STORE

## Quabbin Valley Life As It Was

On March 15th, the Visitor Center hosted a slide presentation and book signing marking the release of the new book by



Elizabeth Peirce. She spoke in detail about the pictures in the new book. She signed books for those that attended. A limited number of signed copies are still available. This is the third in her trilogy of Quabbin Valley books. The first is *The Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley*, the second is *Quabbin Valley People and Places*, and the new one is *Quabbin Valley Life As It Was*. Like the earlier volumes, it draws images from the Swift River Valley Historical Society to make a compelling story of

the area. (\$21.99). The earlier two books are still available at the Visitor Center for \$21.00. Friends of Quabbin membership entitles one to a 10% discount.

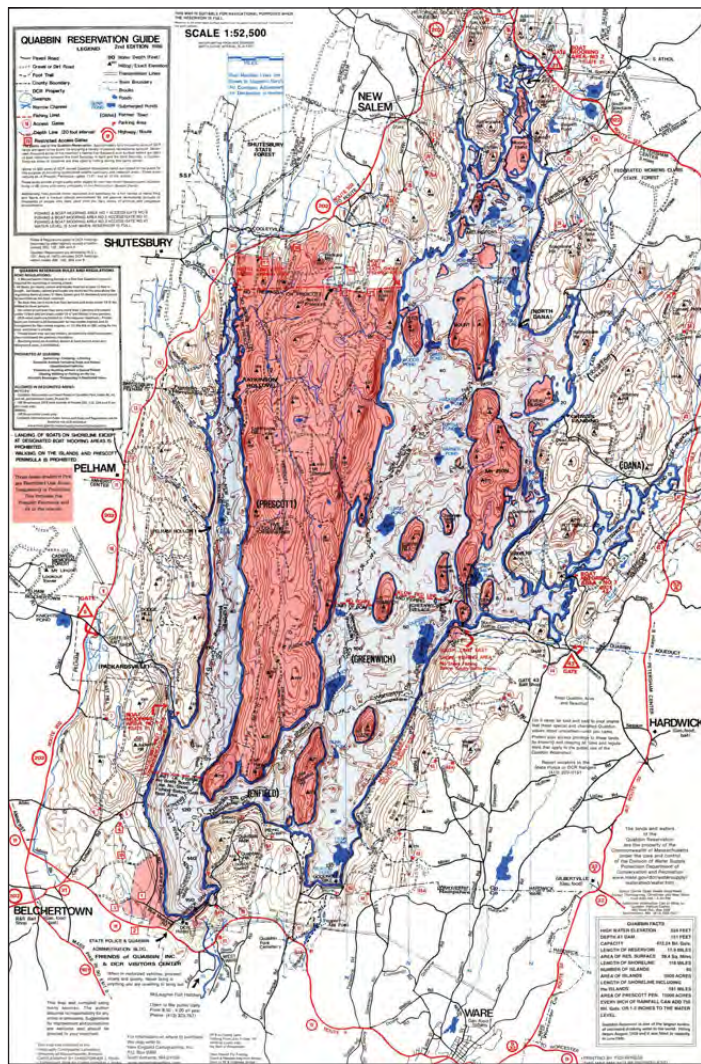


## Visitor Center Store Now Accepts Credit Cards

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 took and take home enough reading, listening and viewing material to last you until your next visit to the Quabbin. The Visitor Center now accepts credit cards! We still take the other kinds of money, too.

## The Perfect "T"

Thinking about your spring wardrobe? It will be incomplete without a Friends of Quabbin t-shirt. Modeled by Justin Gonsor, it features the Remembrance year logo and costs just \$15.00.



## Quabbin Tyvek Map

If you have a hike in the Quabbin Valley planned, you'll need our Tyvek map. It is our biggest seller, so it must be an essential. (\$7.40)

## The Taking: Before They Flooded the Quabbin

We mentioned it in the fall issue of the Voices but now we have it for sale at the Visitor Center. It is Helen Haddad's new book: *The Taking: Before They Flooded the Quabbin*. (\$16.95)



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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](mailto: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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