

# Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Spring 2016  
Vol.29 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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## A Remembrance of Ruth Jazab

by Paul Godfrey

It was with deep sorrow that I learned of Ruth's passing recently, and with quite a few very pleasant memories. We were both the littlest people on the Friends Board so there was a natural affinity that developed. Ruth and I also shared a love of gently teasing the people we cared for and we cared for each other. So the result was sometimes a full-bore teasing session that had us both in stitches in no time. For the Newsletter, Ruth and I had worked together for many years, although we hardly knew each other. Long ago, when the

Recently, when I became newsletter editor and still generated the labels for the newsletter, we worked directly with each other. And, of course, we teased each other, then and at Board meetings and annual parties. It was a sad day for both of us when it became clear that she was struggling too much with her part in the mailing. I took over and she resisted, a little; but we both knew it was time. In recent times, I always think fondly of her as I sit and stick labels and stamps on newsletters and I think I always will.

Ruth F. (Kartz) O'Neill Jazab, 92, was born in Ludlow on October 3, 1923, daughter of Stanley and Marie (Billings) Kartz. She was raised in



Friends began, I developed the membership database and within a year or two was maintaining the membership list and generating the labels to mail the newsletters. Ruth and her crew of volunteers would attach those labels and stamps to the newsletters developed by Lois Barnes. There was usually a fourth person who handed off the labels to Ruth. It was a good team, but we rarely met.



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Gene Theroux

## President's Message

Spring 2016

The Enfield Bicentennial Observation date has been set for Saturday, August 13, 2016 at Hanks Meadow in Quabbin Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The bicentennial planning committee has ordained that it **will** be a beautiful and sunny day. The committee is in the midst of getting commitments from those individuals/groups or organizations that have been invited to participate. In addition to recognizing Enfield's bicentennial, there will be activities that acknowledge the other former towns, hamlets, and residents of the Swift River Valley as well as the Nipmuc Indians who lived in the valley long before the land grants were awarded.

The Enfield Bicentennial Committee wants to replicate many of the events that were held in the three day Enfield centennial in 1916 (July 2–4) but squeeze them into six hours. Some of the things being planned include performances by the Belchertown Community Band, a barbershop quartet, a parade, sporting events, contests, some exhibitors to include descendants with photo albums, Revolutionary War reenactors, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of LA Tift Camp 15, and a special guest, the Honorable Stephen M. Brewer. Senator Brewer, who served 17 years as the State Senator and did so much for the Quabbin and for Massachusetts veterans, has accepted the invitation to give the speech that Civil War Veteran and G.A.R. member A.S. Rowe gave at the dedication of the Civil War soldier statue on the Enfield Town Green on July 4, 1916, the same statue that stands in the Quabbin Park Cemetery now. We're excited that there will be a vintage baseball game between the Westfield Wheelmen and the Whately Pioneers at 2 p.m. that will be played at Hanks Meadow. I'd like to thank American Legion Post 124 baseball alumni and author Dan Genovese of the Westfield Wheelmen for his assistance in scheduling these two teams to play this vintage baseball game for the Enfield bicentennial. In addition, there will be some guest speakers who will open the bicentennial observation and perhaps one, two or three descendants from former families of the Valley who will provide short vignettes of what Enfield or the former Swift River/Quabbin Valley means to them.

The Friends of Quabbin welcomes old photographs and stories of your heritage from ancestors who once lived in the Valley. As President of the Friends of Quabbin, I will lead by example. I've written in the past of both my paternal and maternal grandfathers who grew up in the former town of Enfield. Both of them had ancestors who lived in the valley. My grandfather, Walter Henry Theroux's mother was Jennie E. (Jones) Theroux and her father William H. Jones.



Home of Dwight and Carrie Parker

William Jones' four brothers mustered into the Civil War. One, Francis Henry Jones, was killed during the war from injuries received in a Philadelphia train accident. He is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in south Philadelphia. A second, Martin Lyman Jones, was captured by the Confederates and imprisoned at the infamous Andersonville. After the war, he spent the



Dwight Parker and his wife Carrie Parker at their home on Pelham Road, Enfield. Photos courtesy of SRVHS which were donated from my Grand Aunt Pearl (Parker) Belden.

rest of his life in the Northampton State Hospital for the Insane. A third, Charles Francis Jones, was in Company F of the 31st Massachusetts Infantry commanded by the controversial General B.F. Butler. The fourth brother Ira Lyman Jones was in the Massachusetts 10th and 37th Infantry and fought in 47 major Civil War battles but not once was he even wounded. In addition, to the Jones lineage on my father's side of the family, other notable early Theroux family ancestors and residents of the Valley included the Torrance and the Gibbs families who were among the first families to settle in the Swift River Valley.

We're approaching the first anniversary of my mother's passing. Mary Elizabeth (Parker) Theroux died on her 89th birthday, March 1st last year. My mother was so proud of her Yankee

heritage and specifically of her 3rd great-grandfather, Jesse Parker of Brookfield, Massachusetts. Through genealogical research, she learned that he fought in both battles at Saratoga. Because of this, she became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a Great Dame.

Jesse Parker's son Seth Parker had married Sally Rider, the daughter of Giles Rider formerly of Brookfield. But my mother didn't know that Giles Rider also fought in the American Revolution and was provided a land grant in the Swift River Valley and pension in 1818 for his military service (S.33.555). Seth and Sally Parker had a son Dwight Parker who lived in Enfield his entire life and owned two homes in Enfield. In one of those homes, he and his wife Carrie (they were married in Enfield on October 6, 1868 in the Enfield Methodist Episcopal Church) raised their family. The second home owned by Dwight was on Hill Street in Enfield Village where his son Frederick Elmer Parker and wife Margaret (Shea) Parker lived with their



*Lillian Grace's cottage*

Dwight and Carrie Parker also had two daughters. Minnie Eva was born in 1876 and married Peter M. Suprenant. They made their home in Amherst and had two children (daughters). The second daughter, Lillian Grace, born in 1880, was unmarried and lived in a small cottage in Enfield Village on Hill Street just north of the intersection of New Street when she died in 1922.



*Second home owned by Dwight Parker that son Frederick Elmer Parker and wife Margaret (Shea) Parker lived in with their two children Francis Charles & Pearl Eleanor*

two children, son Francis Charles and daughter Pearl Eleanor.

If it wasn't for J.R. Greene's book, *More Strange Tales from Old Quabbin*, I might not have learned that my great-grandfather Fred Parker was a barber and that he had rescued his barber chair from the Barlow Block during the second Enfield Fire. Dwight and Carrie Parker had a second son, Albert Henry Parker who was a box maker. He was married to Alice Maria Martindale on January 8, 1908 in the Enfield Congregational Church by Reverend Alexander Sloan. They did not have any offspring.



*Albert Henry Parker & Alice Maria Martindale wedding photograph, January 7, 1908  
Photo Courtesy of SRVHS*



*Walter Theroux's childhood home*

When I think of Enfield and of the Valley, I reflect on what my ancestors lost: their community, their homes and farms, and their way of life. I well remember hearing stories from my father, uncle and grand aunt of how my paternal grandfather Walter H. Theroux never overcame his bitterness about losing his childhood home, his favorite fishing holes, and the mountains where he loved to camp and hike. Trying to replace these memories, Walter and his wife Reatha would take their family to the White Mountains of New Hampshire each summer for a month because the White Mountains reminded him of his childhood playground, the Quabbin Valley. I think of my maternal grandfather, Francis Charles Parker, and of his sister Pearl and what they must have experienced riding aboard the "Rabbit" train each day from Enfield to Athol and return as they attended high school in Athol. My wife and I will often hike gate 35 in Petersham to what was North Dana along the old railroad bed. We stop at the water's edge where what was route 21 disappears into the reservoir, a place where I took a favorite photo, and ponder these things.

Similarly at the annual Quabbin Park Memorial Day observances, I look upon the Civil War Soldier and the number of residents who mustered from the Valley to abolish slavery and to save the Republic and think of the suffering and what my uncle Martin L. Jones witnessed while a POW at Andersonville.



*Left to right: Francis Charles, Frederick Elmer, Margaret E. (Shea), and Pearl Eleanor Parker. (Courtesy of SRVHS). Photos were donated to the SRVHS by Pearl Eleanor Parker Belden. My guess is this is a photo taken at his brother's wedding (7 Jan 1908) to Alice Maria Martindale. Francis would have been 12 years old and Pearl 10 years of age.*

One's emotions can be overwhelmed. I'll frequently stop at Quabbin Park Cemetery and walk through the cemetery to learn more from reading headstones each visit.

I'm grateful that my Mom and Dad reinforced their Quabbin Valley heritage and my Dad's military service in their children. My father, Harold W. Theroux was a U.S.

Army veteran of WW II who served as part of the Occupational Force in Germany at the close of the war. What is perhaps most special to me when I think of Enfield is the memory of my two grandfathers. They grew up in Enfield and, although neither one of them "was raised to be a soldier," they answered the call to become doughboys who went "Over There" as part of the American Expeditionary Force. When

they returned from France after the war, they both became charter members of the American Legion and continued to serve their community, state, and nation as members of the American Legion. In these memories, I see why I proudly dedicated my life to a career in the United States Air Force and to continuing to work with the American Legion.

I know full well there are so many similar stories that descendants of former residents from the Swift River Valley could share with the Friends of Quabbin. Their stories and contributions or loans of photographs from the Valley would go a long way toward helping to make this Enfield Bicentennial Observance very special long into the future for the generations that follow. It is our duty to ensure their legacy is not forgotten. But that it helps future generations understand the importance of this place for why they and all of us are as we are.



*Francis Charles Parker (1918). Photo taken at Camp Devens which was a World War Cantonment–American Expeditionary Force Training Center in 1918. When in France, Francis was assigned to Battery C, 55 Artillery Coastal Artillery Corps during World War I. On December 10, 1918, he was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps and remained in France for another year.*

## ***A Remembrance of Ruth Jazab***

*Continued from page 1*

Ludlow, graduated from Ludlow, and moved to Chicopee in 1956. Her connection with Quabbin is from her grandparents, Joseph and Catharine, whose farm was in Greenwich. Her aunts, Margaret and Emma, spent a lot of time at the family farm which was across the street from noted photographer, Burt Brooks. He took pictures of them throughout their childhood and young womanhood. We can only assume that Ruth's mother, Ruth, and her two older sisters, Laura and Evelyn, similarly spent time there, too.

Members who came to Friends' Annual Meetings will remember Ruth and her friend, Celia, tending the food bar. And most with a sweet tooth will remember Ruth's raspberry squares. She was also in charge of food at the annual Holiday Party. Ruth was sorely missed at the 2015 Holiday party when some other long timers teamed up to cut the cake. Many Tuesday Tea participants will remember her as well with sadness that her gay spirit and humor has left us.

Ruth was no stranger to sorrow. She lost her first husband, Kenneth O'Neill, in 1956 and her second, Joseph A. Jazab, Jr., in 1985. A daughter, Kim P. (O'Neill) Franczek died in 1997 and her two older sisters, Laura and Evelyn and their husbands are also deceased. The gleam in her eye and the lilt in her voice never betrayed that sadness. Two daughters Deborah (O'Neill) Duncanson and Beth (Jazab) Pashko, two grandsons and many, many friends, Friends of Quabbin included, share many wonderful memories of Ruth. Rest in Peace, Ruth. Many of these memories may be recalled by visiting the special memorial video created by Friends President, Gene Theroux, on the Friends of Quabbin website—[www.friendsofquabbin.org](http://www.friendsofquabbin.org).



Ruth's family has requested that memorial donations be made in her memory to the Friends of Quabbin.

# Centennial Quabbin Cookbook

by Paul Godfrey, Laurie Godfrey, and Nancy Huntington

In the last issue, we laid out our plans for developing a Centennial Quabbin Cookbook. This would be a cookbook to commemorate the Enfield bicentennial at the celebration planned for this summer (see the President's Message) and also to update the 100 year old Quabbin cookbook. We called for you to send in your recipes and provided guidelines to do so.

But the response has been dismal. A few responses have come from Tuesday Tea participants but only one from a newsletter reader. We are pretty sure that you must be eating something, so take a moment and send us a couple of your favorites that you enjoy making or that give you pleasant memories of parents, grandparents or your childhood. There is no need for an historical Quabbin connection with the recipe, only that it is from you or your friends. We would be thrilled if you would add a story of why the recipe is important to you or your family. But big story, little story, no story, we need your recipe. If all Voices readers simply submit one recipe, we will be overjoyed and able to make a really nice cookbook.

Because of the time it will take to assemble and print a cookbook, we've set a **deadline of April 15th** for submissions. That means, if you don't send us something right away, it won't be in the cookbook and there may, in fact, be no cookbook!

## A Sneak Preview....

### The Story of Aunt Elsie's World War II G.I.'s Favorite Cookies

Submitted by  
Gail Gramarossa

This recipe for Aunt Elsie's G.I.'s Favorite Cookie was given to a dear family friend, Harvey Dickinson (1923-2006). Harvey and his wife, Doris (1925-2015), were married for 62 years, raising five daughters in Belchertown. Harvey and Doris were very active volunteers in local historical societies. Harvey was born and lived in Greenwich, MA one of the four towns destroyed to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir. Harvey served on the Board of the Swift River Historical Society and was

#### *Aunt Elsie's World War II G.I.'s Favorite Cookies*

##### Ingredients

1 cup vegetable shortening (like Crisco)  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup white sugar  
2 eggs, well-beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1½ cups King Arthur All-purpose, unbleached flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
3 cups oats (can be quick-cooking or rolled)  
½ cup chopped walnuts

##### Directions

Cream the shortening and white and brown sugars together. Add the beaten eggs and vanilla. Sift flour, salt, and baking soda

together and add to sugar/shortening mixture. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon. Add the oats and nuts and mix them in well. Divide the dough into 3 log-shaped portions. The logs should be about 2 ½ to 3 inches in diameter and about 8 to 10 inches long. Wrap the logs in wax paper and chill in the fridge overnight.

When ready to bake the cookies, pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.

Slice the cookies very thin and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. (If the dough is a little crumbly and does not stick together well, simply use your hands to pat the cookies into a round, somewhat fattened shape and place on cookie sheet).

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes until done. Let cool on the cookie sheet for about 2 or 3 minutes and then transfer to a cooling rack.

The basic elements of a submission are:

1. Information on the necessary ingredients and their amounts,
2. How many people your recipe serves so that the reader can divide or multiply to fit their occasion,
3. How to prepare the ingredients for cooking,
4. How to cook (bake, fry, roast, wok, microwave, steam, grill, boil, broil, etc.), for how long and at what temperature (if appropriate), and optionally
5. Serving suggestions (piping hot, warm, cooled, on ice, on paper plates, at birthday parties, whatever),
6. Anything you'd like to share about this recipe: "This was handed down to me from my mother who lived in Dana," "This goes particularly well with cheddar cheese," "Be careful not to overcook or it will explode," etc...
7. Tell us about you: your name as you want it to appear in the cookbook, and your connection to the Quabbin: FOO, Swift River Valley Historical Society, other historical societies, descendent from valley resident, school project, friend of a friend who is one of the above, etc. Also, tell us how you heard about this effort.

If that looks formidable, it isn't. Most of it fits on an index card. Submit your recipes by letter, email or phone (addresses elsewhere in this newsletter). Please!



## Interpretive Services Report

### Spring 2016

by Clif Read

It is with great sadness that I note the passing of Ruth Jazab last month. She was a unique individual with a spirit and kindness to her that was appreciated by those she connected with at Quabbin. Ruth was a hardworking and dedicated person who always wore a smile on her face that brought sunshine into our lives. I don't remember the first time that I actually met Ruth, but she was someone who I remember being part of the Tuesday Tea gatherings and Friends of Quabbin functions dating back to the early 1990s. Not only was Ruth rooted in the valley with her ancestral connections in Greenwich, she was also someone who was a water user and could appreciate Quabbin for its exceptional drinking water resources from her home in Chicopee. Eternally optimistic and perpetually considerate, Ruth could always be counted on to help out whenever and wherever she was needed. She will be missed, but we are all richer for having known her and served with her.



February 10, 2015; 18" of ice

What a difference a year makes! As one gazes out over the reservoir from the Quabbin Visitor Center in early March, the water surface is dancing with waves rolling in from a stiff northerly breeze. Without any ice cover to suppress the relentless rollers, these whitecaps come crashing ashore in front of the Administration Building. The watershed forest is mostly brown with a pockets of coniferous green interspersed amidst the predominantly oak species forest. It is a landscape dramatically different than the same view a year ago. Flip back the calendar to early March 2015 and the view would have been dominated by a vast white blanket of white carpeting the watershed and the frozen reservoir surface.

This past week we received word from our Civil Engineering Unit that conducts regular snow surveys to measure and assess the snowpack and its liquid equivalent in different sampling sites throughout the watershed, has been cancelled until further notice due to lack of snow. Usually there is at least some snow cover that can be measured and calculations made to determine potential runoff to the reservoir, an important tool for determining water supplies and any resulting danger from flooding. However this year there is no measureable snowpack anywhere in the watershed. None! Nada!! Zero!!! Contrast this with the snow survey from last March 4th which recorded a 28.5" average snow pack in the watershed with a water equivalent of 6.86". Spread over the entire watershed, this represented an astounding 22.1 billion gallons of water. Assuming that half of this would have eventually reached the reservoir, it would have raised levels by nearly 13 feet! From a water supply point of view, this lack of "stored water" creates problems in the natural cycle of reservoir recharge during the late winter and early spring when levels typically rise, adding to capacity for the hotter, drier, higher demand months of the summer and early fall.

From a watershed and water quality perspective, the lack of winter weather this year resulted in a reservoir that was almost entirely open and free of ice. The water quality issues associated with gulls that use the reservoir as a winter roost site are compounded when the reservoir does not freeze,



February 12, 2016

requiring the DCR to continue the gull harassment program throughout the winter month and into early spring. The added expense of personnel and equipment, as well as the additional safety concerns stemming from staff working a more demanding schedule, add to the challenges of the Quabbin Section operations. Fortunately our team is a well trained group of professionals that operate the program safely and efficiently. As a result, the federal water quality standards are consistently met and staff members are well protected.

Recent visitors to Quabbin Park may have noticed some construction projects associated with the power lines. The DCR

and the MA Water Resources Authority are currently working on a project to upgrade the electrical lines to facilities in the Park area and to enhance security through an expanded system of monitoring cameras. An earlier phase of this project took place last year when a swath through the forest was cut from the Tower Power Line westward to the Boat Cove, bringing electrical lines to the dock area. Since this is the major staging area for most boat activities, including the Gull Harassment, water sampling, security patrols and water-based functions, electricity is essential for effective operations. The work this spring will be

focused on the power lines from the Lookout Tower down to the Middle Entrance Road, then down to the Swift River near the Y Pool. A companion project will be the installation of electrical lines along the Shaft 12 Road beginning at Gate 43 and running westward. Project information and updates will be available in the Visitor Center as the work progresses this spring and summer.

Happy Vernal Equinox to everyone and I hope to see you out and about this spring!

## Rattlesnakes in Quabbin?

by Paul Godfrey

In this season of extremely polarizing debates, it should probably not come as a surprise that Quabbin has its very own. The Massachusetts Endangered Species Program in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has proposed creating refugia for Diamondback Rattlesnakes on Mt. Zion in the middle of Quabbin Reservoir. Mt. Zion apparently has a number of attractive attributes, foremost is that most humans are not allowed but including suitable habits for rattlesnake dens for hibernation and reproduction and ample small mammal prey. Their argument is that rattlesnake populations throughout the northeast are declining, particularly in Massachusetts and now is the time to protect what remains, even encourage a modest increase in numbers, in the safest possible way for the snakes and for the humans. Quabbin seems ideal and it has that wonderful reputation for fostering several other endangered species, a fact of considerable pride among most people with an interest in Quabbin.

Most of us harbor a childhood fear of snakes, encouraged by fairy tales, folk tales, songs, our parents and grandparents and practically every other childhood information source with snakes. We could probably toss spiders and dragonflies into that loathed group too. As a quick quiz, if you could name a Disney animated villain, how often would it be a snake or spider? On the extreme side of this position are those people who are deathly afraid of any snakes and want absolutely nothing to do with them, even that harmless little garter snake in the garden who's been busy controlling your garden pests. For poisonous snakes, there's the concern of being bitten far from medical help, having pets attacked and killed, having backyards invaded by hordes of vicious deadly snakes, mass expansion of their numbers to invasive levels and so on. A few even ask why we shouldn't eradicate such species of no obvious benefit to humans. For these people, no amount of factual information will probably get to the root cause of that fear and change their opinion.

Some folks have positions somewhat more moderate and many more simply have no opinion but can see both sides. Most want more information. It is in this group that the



*Mt. Zion is the large island at top dead center.*

Friends Board falls, some with greater reservations than others. At the last Board meeting, there was a lively discussion but it coalesced around a perceived need for more information and independent evaluation.

The Friends of Quabbin generally does not advocate a position on such matters. About this issue, though, it probably should, but the Board feels inadequately informed. We agree that we need more information and that we can serve as one avenue for getting independent information and evaluations to the public so that when a decision is made, whatever it is, there is a better consensus that it is a sound choice. There is a natural suspicion of accepting all information from the "salesman," MADF&W in this case, without independent analysis and there are many questions that only very recently they have begun to address. The questions we have include: human safety issues, control plans, chance of success given the predators that have been encouraged in Quabbin (eagles, etc.), the long-term goal beyond Quabbin, etc. As a consequence, the Board has instructed our representative, J.R. Greene, on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee to express these concerns and argue for obtaining more facts from DF&W and outside sources before any decisions are made. Stay tuned; this newsletter will try to keep you informed as the debate develops.

**Late News:** The Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC) voted 5 to 2 to support the rattlesnake introduction. Two QWAC members abstained: Friends of Quabbin and Swift River Valley Historical Committee citing a need for more information.

## Quabbin's Endless Autumn

by John Zebb

There was a cult following for a surfing movie in the 1960s called "The Endless Summer". The last four months of 2015 presented us with a near "Endless Autumn." Sandwiched between some very high temps around Labor Day and a few cold morning starts in December, was a remarkable stretch of temperate weather coupled with virtually no snow cover. I have been primarily a Quabbin "road" hiker for the last twenty-five years always attempting to cover as much ground as possible from gate to gate. The "Endless Autumn" suggested I try something different. It was time to consider some areas I had neglected and create some more improvised outings. All these hikes were done without summer's humidity and heat. There was also the gradual revealing of the forest lines as the foliage dropped and the under-growth bowed down to the frost. The one constant was to remain vigilant of the year round threat posed by ticks. Successful navigation is always of critical importance on these endeavors. There are several maps available in the Visitor Center that can illustrate my offerings and many more options.

### QUABBIN PARK

My prior exposure to the southern end of the reservation, better known as Quabbin Park, rested primarily in long walks on the beautiful Administration Road. Traversing the areas of the dams, and fly-fishing and spillway areas was often breezy and bug-free at the height of Summer.

I cannot recommend strongly enough exploring all the yellow-blaze trails surrounding Great Quabbin Hill. With the foliage at your feet, several excellent vistas open up including a water-side view of Windsor Dam. Equally rewarding were the two trails heading east toward Goodnough Dike off the center of Webster Road. I encountered more deer in this area than I have seen in the more remote areas in recent years. These would be tangled and overgrown at summer's peak, but are well worth a visit after a frost or two. There is an elaborate stretch of stone walls in the Briar Hill area that is most likely rarely seen.

I use these trails (and a trek up to the Enfield Tower) as an introduction to a first time Quabbin hiker. They are accessible from several strategic parking locations to fit one's stamina and abilities.

### GATE-04 – GATE-05

The long procrastinated effort to finally visit Gate-05 proved very rewarding. Located in the Southwest corner off Rt-9, Gate-05



chronicles the path of Old Enfield Road into the water. It was a perfectly clear blue, crisp, early December day. Looking south at water's edge from a beach-like setting, the low track of the sun perfectly illuminated the Windsor Dam and the Administration Building. Returning to the car, Gate-04 is a short walk away and provides an excellent Quabbin "sampler". Once inside, one gets a feel for the old roads and a couple of easy to locate cellar holes are an additional reward.

### GATE-06 – GATE-08 – POWERLINE

On a second visit to Gate-05 a few days later, my attention was directed to a fire-maintenance access road that headed North into the pathway of the West side powerline. The opportunity to explore this deep-woods section of Quabbin would not get any more inviting. There are approximately thirty towers between Old Enfield Road (Gate-05) and the intersection of Packardville Road (Gate-08) which leads down to the popular boat launch area. "The utility lines were re-routed on a more direct southern course to side-step the newly flooding areas of Enfield," according to historian, J.R. Greene. This area proved to be more interesting than expected and I reported my finding of an original granite town border marker to fellow FOQ board members. I was promptly "shamed" for not having a camera. I resolved to return and make a project out of the area and document my findings.

That next hike was up Juckett Hill Road (Gate-06) to a serpentine logging road that cut over to the middle of the powerlines. I came out about a half-dozen towers above the marker and made my way South to take photographs.

*The marker as it appears as I approached from the Belchertown side heading north and close-ups of two sides representing Enfield and Belchertown*



The fall-away of the terrain to the South was predictable. The dense, unyielding growth and sharp incline to the North was not.



*The view south*



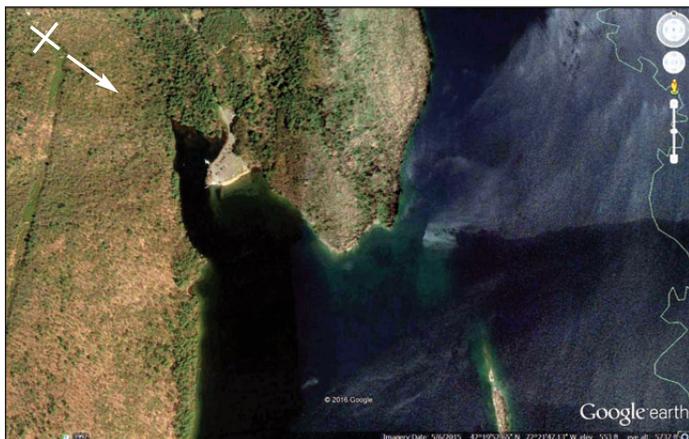
I cut back to Juckett Hill road through an ocean of wild mountain laurel. It was a most demanding day, but well worth it to share some images of the Quabbin from a vantage point not commonly visited.

This Google Earth image shows where I was on the powerline—where it changes direction in the northwest corner of the image and I was looking southwest.

*The view north*



My last effort of 2015 would be a week later on still snowless December 28th. I decided to enter again at Juckett Hill Road (Gate-06) and walk to the Packardville Road (Gate-08) crossing. I could this time pick up the powerlines south and make my way to the “peak” of the whole area. Once again, a fire access trail and some bushwacking made it possible to get to where I could get a panoramic view. As I looked out over the magnificent panorama to the southeast, I was truly startled to realize I was high above the Gate-08 boat launch.



## Meetings & Events

### Tuesday Teas

Visit with us on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. The next dates are: April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, and July 5th. As usual, there is lively discussion, in fact, several at once usually. Often there is a special presentation. In March, Gene Theroux showed a video tribute to Ruth Jazab. That video is viewable on the FOQ website for those who couldn't be there

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pEIGzElqYQ&feature=youtu.be>).

### Photo Club Meetings

#### The Quabbin Photo Group

(<http://www.quabbinphotogroup.org>) meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Quabbin Visitor Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Meetings alternate between guest speakers and member's nights where members and guests can bring 10–15 images for sharing, either in digital or 35mm slide format.

**Members Night**—March 28, 2016

**John Van de Graaff:** "Fabulous Birds: the Americas, 2001–2014." John is a local bird photographer.—April 25, 2016

**Members Night**—May 23, 2016

**Steve Gingold,** a local nature and landscape photographer will give a presentation. (no title yet)—June 27, 2016

#### The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

(<http://www.pvphotoartists.org/>) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. Themes for upcoming meetings are: Sunrises and Sunsets; March 26th—Art in Nature; April 30th—Flowers and That's Life. Check their websites for more information.

### Spring DCR Program

Sunday March 20, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

#### Quabbin Seasons and Wildlife

Since retiring from the DCR Quabbin Visitor Center in April of 2014, Dale Monette has spent hundreds of hours on the Quabbin watershed photographing scenic vistas and observing and photographing the wildlife of Quabbin. Here are his stories and scenic photographs of the Quabbin watershed interspersed with the animals that populate the watershed. From hummingbirds and loons to bears and moose, see what Dale and his cameras saw as the animals go about their lives throughout the four seasons of a full year on the Quabbin watershed. For a preview of photographs please see Dale's website at [www.northquabbinphotography.com](http://www.northquabbinphotography.com).

Sunday, April 3, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

#### The Founding of the Valley

In August, 2016 we will be observing what would have been the 200th anniversary of the founding of the former town of Enfield, Massachusetts, one of the four towns dis-incorporated to create the Quabbin Reservoir. While most people know the circumstances of these towns demise, few remember when and how they were began. Join DCR Staff Nancy Huntington to take a look back at the origins of the towns of Enfield, Dana, Prescott and Greenwich.

Sunday, April 10, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Tentatively titled: **Learn about Aquatic Life in the Reservoir** with Paul Packard, DCR Aquatic Biologist.

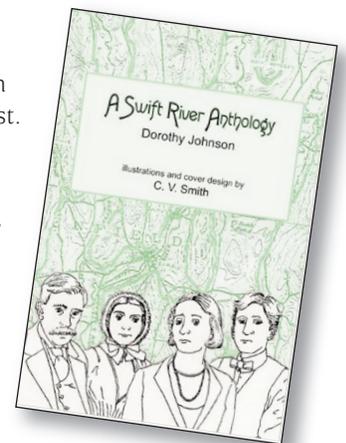
Sunday, May 22, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Dorothy Johnson reading from her book, *A Swift River Anthology*. Signed copies will be available.

Sunday, May 29,  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

#### Annual Memorial Day Commemoration Services, Quabbin Park Cemetery

The Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery will take place this year on Sunday, May 29th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served for the first hour at the Quabbin Park Cemetery Building, then the March Step-off commences at 11:00 a.m., followed by Services at the Town Monuments. The event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Quabbin, the Belchertown Veterans Council and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and features the Belchertown Community Band. At 2:00 p.m. a special Quabbin Park Cemetery Tour will be led by Nancy Huntington as part of the day's activities.



Sunday, July 17. **The Dana Reunion** is traditionally held the third Sunday in July on the Dana Center Common. The gathering is sponsored by the Dana Reunion Committee in collaboration with the DCR-Quabbin Section and features a picnic on the historic common, stories and reminiscences from former Swift River Valley residents and their descendants, and the annual business meeting of the Committee. The event is open to former residents and their families and to those without direct connections to the valley, but with an interest in Quabbin history. Further details will follow in the next edition of the newsletter, but be sure to mark this year's date of July 17th if you are interested in the event.

## Naturalists' Corner

### Quabbin – A Precious Gift

A quiet peace settles over me as I sit here. Filtering down through the tall pines, the early morning sun warms the air as a light spring breeze gently sways the branches, sending shadows gliding slowly back and forth over the ground. I breathe in the earthy scent of the sun-warmed ground and spy green shoots of new spring growth that are beginning to push their way up through last fall's carpet of leaves. Deer will soon be busy browsing on these tasty morsels after their sparse fare of winter.

When I first sat, it was as if I was completely alone in a vast world of silence, but the longer I stay, the more I'm aware of sounds of life all around me. A tap, tap, tapping sound coming from a nearby dead tree brings into view a downy woodpecker hunting for a breakfast of grubs. Turning my head at a nearby rustle, I catch a fleeting glance of a chipmunk scurrying through the leaves and zipping down a hole among the tree roots.

Looking out over the expanse of water before me, I watch a feeding loon bobbing along then suddenly disappearing in a dive. I hold my breath searching for where it will reappear and wonder how it can stay underwater so long.

I rise to leave and a blue jay calls out its alarm. I search the sky for an eagle, none today, but maybe next time. I will return again and again to this wonderful place; so peaceful, yet so full of life. Thank you, my friends. You who gave up everything have given us so much.

—Anne Ely

## Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting

April 3, 2016

Belchertown Senior Center

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

**Time: 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Social Time: 1:00–2:00 p.m.**

**Business Meeting at 2:00 p.m.**

**Program at 3:00 p.m.**



*A pair of hooded mergansers that the avid photographers, Anne Ely and Paul Godfrey spotted on a photo foray on March 1st. Photo by Paul Godfrey*



*Edwina Hodgkins' moose antler. The rack was discovered at Gate 15 while exploring off trail. Photo by Dennis Hodgkins*

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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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