

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Summer 2016
Vol.29 No.2

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

—Les Campbell

CONTENTS

Memorial Day	1
President's Message	2
Ghost Town of Dana	5
News Updates	7
Interpretive Services	8
Book Donations	9
Meetings & Events	10
Naturalists' Corner	11



Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Clif Read



The March assembles

The long string of beautiful days for the Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery continued this spring as hundreds of participants gathered on May 29th for the annual event. Continuing the tradition from the Swift River Valley towns which observed the practice of decorating the graves of war veterans that began during the Civil War, the first services at Quabbin Park Cemetery were held in 1947. Since that time the event has been held annually with participation from local veterans groups, former residents, and local historical societies.

In addition to the traditional Memorial Day Services which remembers those who have died in service to our nation, the Quabbin ceremony has a special aspect unique to this event. In order to commemorate the sacrifices of those who gave their land and way of life in the Swift River Valley so that the Quabbin Reservoir could be built, the Services include placement of a wreath at each of the former town monuments. Former residents and/or their descendents from each town receive a military escort as they come forward to place a wreath at the monuments. Additionally a

wreath is placed at the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt Bench to remember her passion for Swift River valley history and for keeping its history alive for future generations. It was in this spirit that Eleanor established the Schmidt Trust to encourage Quabbin area historical societies to



The Crowthers place the Enfield wreath.



Jenny Kirley and Cindy Dise place Eleanor Schmidt's wreath.

participate in the Quabbin Park Cemetery Services and to carry a banner in the March. This year had banners representing Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, New Salem, Orange, Athol, Petersham, Hardwick, Ware (both the Historical Commission and the Historical Society), Palmer, as well as the Swift River Valley Historical Society, and the Friends of Quabbin.

continued on page 4



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Summer 2016

The Friends of Quabbin held its Annual Meeting on April 3, 2016 at the Belchertown Senior Center on a windy blustery day that included snow and nasty road conditions in the early morning. The weather may have scared off a few, but the hearty were in attendance. The Friends took a moment to pay homage to the family, friends and Directors who had passed away since the last annual meeting (Robert Creed, Robert Wilder and Ruth Jazab) before opening the business meeting. The Friends of Quabbin Chairman of the Board, Mr. J.R. Greene, welcomed the attendees and had some opening remarks. A special Friend, not seen for a while for medical reasons, was back in attendance. That special friend was Celia Slozak who has been a long-time volunteer for the Friends of Quabbin, helping with refreshments at the Annual Meetings, the Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery and the holiday parties for well over twenty-five years. Celia appeared to be in good health and it was our pleasure to welcome her back and thank her for both her return and for all those years of wonderful support for the Friends of Quabbin. During the business meeting, four other volunteers were recognized for their contributions throughout the year in supporting Friends of Quabbin functions such as the Tuesday Teas, the Annual Meeting, Quabbin Park Memorial Day Service and the Holiday Party. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Alberta and Francis Martin, Deana Krusiewicz, and Ann Hurlburt. The following were nominated and voted to a two-year term on the Board: Gene Theroux, Paul Godfrey, John Zebb, John Fleming, and Julie Bullock with Marty Howe nominated and voted as an alternate Director.

The Annual Meeting program was a video that I produced from a good number of photographs that I have restored and not used previously in any of the videos that I produced in the last several years. The video title was "A Reflection of Enfield and the Swift River Valley on Enfield's Bicentennial." Each of the former four towns was highlighted by their centennial celebrations in the video. Perhaps, my favorite section in the video is at the beginning when I used a selection of audio of Bob Wilder from the Friends of Quabbin produced "Here Was Home" CD, track 6, Enfield. Using this track I mixed in a number of restored photos of the places that Bob Wilder was describing in Enfield. In addition, I added some "Ken Burns" effects by panning across the large panoramic photographs originally taken by Ware photographer, Walter Gardner, in 1927 and a fade from before shots to after shots. This technique was new to me and more difficult than I had imagined. Perhaps, the most heart wrenching to me was the section "razing the valley" which included numerous photographs of tearing down houses, the ravaging fires of burning of brush throughout the valley, and the destruction of the business section of Enfield.



One of the many brush fires that could be seen for miles.

The video also included chronological images from the 1938 Farewell Ball through the 75th Year of Remembrance Balls and images from "Quabbin, A Musical" produced in 1988 for the 50th Year of Remembrance and again in 2013 for the 75th Year of Remembrance. Images from Prescott included a number of restored photographs from the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt collection of the Griswold family (courtesy of Eleanor's niece Jenny Kirley).

The annual Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery on May 29th was not the same without the "Voice of the Valley," Robert W. Wilder, who, for many years, proudly wore his United States Marine Corps dress blues at each Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day Services and served as an escort for a Swift River family for the placement of a wreath at the memorial to one of the former towns for many years as he did in 2015 for the Parker and Theroux families formerly of Enfield. His empty chair was noticeable to State Senator Ann Gobi who mentioned with sadness his absence during her remarks. State Representative Todd Smola opened his remarks with some humor about not having to talk about slithering reptiles (a reference to the current proposal to introduce rattlesnakes to Mt. Zion island in the Quabbin) and then delivered a powerful message on the meaning and importance of Memorial Day. Madeleine Hamparian from Belchertown, an alumni of the 2015 American Legion Department of

continued on page 3



Robert Wilder at the Enfield Memorial in 2015.



The Cooley family placed the Dana wreath at the Dana Honor Roll Monument (left to right: Kaylee Clark (granddaughter of Earl and Lois Cooley), Kevin Cooley (son of Earl and Lois Cooley), and Earl and Lois Cooley.

Massachusetts Girls State program delivered the Gettysburg address. Madeleine who distinguished herself as a citizen from Belchertown, the City of Tolerance, at Girls State was elected as one of two Senators from Girls State to represent Massachusetts



Madeleine Hamparian delivering the Gettysburg Address.

at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. in August of 2015. After the ceremony, I spoke with Representative Todd Smola and he shared with me that he had sponsored two citizens to the 2016 American Legion Department of Massachusetts Boys State program at Stonehill College, held June 11-17, 2017. In one word, a simple “Bravo” to Representative Smola for donating and helping send two young citizens from his district to have an opportunity of a lifetime and to learn more about government.

The parade route was modified this year at Quabbin Park Cemetery to be less stressing to the aging participants from amongst the many historical societies. The weather was almost perfect and those who attended the 2:00 p.m. Quabbin Park Cemetery tour hosted by Quabbin Visitors Center Interpretative Services Nancy Huntington were provided an excellent tour of the cemetery and learned of some of the interesting people who once lived in the valley and who are now interred in the cemetery.

The Enfield Bicentennial Committee has been working hard on the planning the events and working out the logistics for the once-in-a-lifetime event to be held on Saturday, August 13, 2016 from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. There will be plenty of interesting and fun events throughout the day, beginning with a parade at 11 a.m. which will start at Webster Road and end at Hank’s Meadow. There will be reenactors from the French & Indian War, militia reenactors from the American Revolutionary War, and American Civil War reenactors from the Gallant 10th Massachusetts Infantry. The L.A. Tift Camp No. 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be part of the opening parade. They are chartered by the United States Congress to carry on the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition, there will be displays by the Nipmuc Indians, whose ancestors once lived in the Quabbin Valley prior to the Europeans, and Native Indian storytelling by Larry “Spotted Crow” Mann. A vintage base ball (note: in those days, baseball was not one word) game will be played at 2:00 p.m. between the Westfield Wheelmen and the Whately Pioneers. They will



Westfield Wheelmen Vintage Base Ball Club.

use 1880 base ball rules (don’t expect replays or blocking the plate rules) and both teams will be wearing uniforms of that era. After the game, music will be provided by the Belchertown Community Band. A barbershop quartet will entertain from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. A number of displays by Swift River/Quabbin Valley Historical Societies such as the Swift River Historical Society, the Friends of Quabbin, the Ware Historical Society and the Shutesbury Historical Commission will be available all day. There will be a portrayal of the “Doctor” (Dr. Willard Segur) by John Zienowicz. And former State Senator Stephen M. Brewer will deliver a speech dedicating the Civil War Soldier Monument that now resides as the centerpiece in Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Attendees should arrive early and bring a picnic lunch, water or soft drinks to stay hydrated, lawn chairs, and insect repellent. Because parking will be very limited, there will be a shuttle service that will operate from the Enfield Tower to Hank’s Meadow and return. During the vintage base ball game, the road in the vicinity of Hank’s Meadow will be closed to all traffic. ■



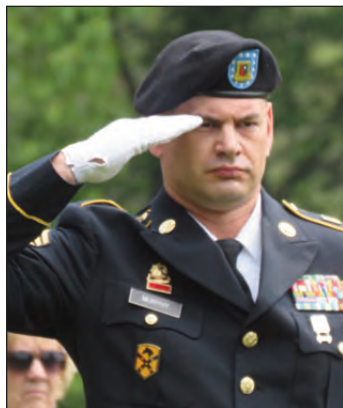
Keith Poulin



Madeleine Hamparian

continued from page 1

The morning began with refreshments served at the Quabbin Cemetery Building as folks began to gather around 10 a.m. Sponsors this year included Big Y Supermarkets and North Brookfield Savings Bank whose generous contributions helped to provide the beverages and baked goods. Just before 11 a.m. the March began to



assemble in front of the building with the Color Guard followed by each branch of the Military, then Veteran Organizations, Elected Officials, Scouts, Historical Organizations and finally former residents and members of the general public. Traditionally the March has traveled in a counterclockwise direction around Sunset Road and Quabbin Drive to the Town Monument site, but this

year it went in the opposite direction to make a more direct (and shorter) route to the flags and the monuments. Keith Poulin, Past Commander of American Legion Post #239,

presided as Master of Ceremonies for the event, introducing the Post #239 Chaplain for the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and musical pieces by the Belchertown Community Band. This was followed by the Placing of the Wreaths, Taps, Raising the Colors and another selection by the Band. The Gettysburg Address was read by Madeleine Hamparian, followed by the Recitation of "In Flanders Field" by

Don Slessler. The event has always had strong participation from the area's Massachusetts State Legislative Delegation. Senator Ann Gobi and Representative Todd Smola gave moving



Senator Ann Gobi & Representative Todd Smola

speeches about the importance and meaning of Memorial Day, service to country, and the remembrance of sacrifices made by Swift River Valley residents. Clif Read from the DCR followed with final comments before the Benediction and patriotic melodies from the Band to end the formal Service. In the afternoon, Nancy Huntington from the Visitor Center staff provided a Historical Tour of the Quabbin Park Cemetery as the traditional afternoon program for the day. All in all it was another wonderful Sunday filled with solemn remembrances, thanks and appreciation for service and sacrifices, and friendship and community among those gathered to recognize this special day. ■

High and Dry and Dearly Departed: The Ghost Town of Dana

by J.W. Ocker

Editor's Note: The following article was made available online in a blog called OTIS (Odd Things I've Seen) (www.oddtthing-siveseen.com/2013/09/high-and-dry-and-dearly-departed-ghost.html) by J.W. Ocker. He has given the Friends permission to republish it in the Voices. I found it an entertaining and very well illustrated article with a perspective that I think all of us who are intimately involved with the Quabbin can learn from: the perspective of a first time visitor who has done a little prior homework but not much, has a great deal of curiosity, and appreciates the complexity of the Quabbin history to the degree he/she knows it. He is, I think, much like most of the visitors to the Quabbin except that he writes and photographs well, so we know more of his first impressions than we would from most. When you finish, I'll revisit that idea.



The term “ghost town” kind of means two different things. On TV and in movies, it usually means an intact town that’s completely deserted. As if it were populated by ghosts. That’s the place where the Scooby Gang’s van breaks down, where the Enterprise away team beams down into, or where 26.8% of horror movies start. In real life, these types of ghost towns do exist, but they’re rare and hard to access.

The second type is a lot more common: sites where towns once were. Where only a ghost of it remains. Cellar holes, walls, roads to nowhere. These are the types of ghost towns that I always seem to end up at. Like the ex-town of Dana in central Massachusetts.

Except Dana is a little bit different. Because Dana should be underwater. Dana became a town in 1801. It grew, prospered... and then was dissolved, literally and figuratively, in the 1930s as part of the Quabbin Reservoir project.

The Quabbin Reservoir project was an undertaking by the state of Massachusetts to collect a large reservoir of fresh water to serve Boston and its suburbs.

The state went in, evacuated the four towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott—displacing about 2,500 people in the process—and then razed or moved all the structures that made up those towns. Finally, the land prepared, they then flooded the valley, creating a 40-square-mile reservoir. These towns were drowned so that Bostonians could bathe.

But bits of those towns, the areas on the highest ground, survived the deluge. One of those areas is the Dana Common. And it, unlike some of those other areas, is open to the public.

I set the coordinates on my GPS not knowing exactly what I’d find at the end of those numbers or really just how accessible

Dana Common was. I made sure to be prepared for anything, as a result. Just kidding. I prepared for the minimum of hardship. Basically, I wore clothes.

When I turned off Hardwick Road onto Dana Road, I discovered the way barred by a metal gate. A few cars were parked in front of it and some signs explained what could or could not be done in a watershed area. That was good news. Meant I was heading in the right direction and that it shouldn’t be too hard to find. The bad news was that my GPS said I still had 1.8 miles to go.

So round trip, I quickly calculated in my head, was like seven or eight miles. Fortunately, it was a cool day and wandering through forests is one of my prerequisites for a well-celebrated autumn. Plus, I’d driven over an hour to get there, and couldn’t just put it off until I was in “shape.”

That would be like seven karmic cycles from now. Too long.



However, it turned out not to be bad at all. The path was actually a road, flat and paved, so less like hiking and more like, I don’t know, walking to the gas station after your car runs out of fuel because part of the steering wheel always blocks the gas light. That simile might be too detailed. I don’t know if that road itself was a remnant of Dana, but it soon became evident that we were in a reclaimed town. Off the sides of the path were old rock walls and a couple of cellar holes. One was marked with a condensation-stained placard denoting the rock-lined pit as the vestige of a blacksmith shop. It included a picture of the place, like one of those portraits on gravestones. Apparently, the blacksmith shot his wife and then killed himself right there in the shop. I even passed a tour group on the way to the town, with the guide recounting the stories of Dana’s local eccentric, Asa Snow.

Soon after the blacksmith cellar, the forest opened up into Dana Common...which looks remarkably like a common. Sure, there weren't any buildings visible, but the area was



formed by an intersection of streets like you'd find at any downtown square and it was all nicely mown. Two memorials marked the place as Dana. One was a simple bronze plaque on a boulder that merely attested that the place was on the National Register of Historic Places. The other was a grave-stone-shaped monument dated 1996 that was dedicated to, "all those who sacrificed their homes and ways of life."



Encircling the common were a series of placards just like the one at the blacksmith's shop. They pointed out the locations of a church, a school, a general store, residences. Each one included a pic-

ture and almost every one was in front of a rock-lined cellar hole. Online, people have taken old pictures of the town and matched them up with the blank



spaces they are now. Worth looking up, especially before you visit.

However, far from the remnants just being overgrown pile of rocks after

overgrown pile of rocks, each cellar seemed to have its own unique character. Some of it was because of the types of rocks used (one was made up of stream-smoothed, almost round stones), others because of what foundation structures survived with it.



A sidewalk was still intact at one end that led to nowhere, part of a road at the other that led to an even vaguer destination. Hiking trails branched off into the forest from the cleared area, and I walked down one not very far before finding another cellar hole. I'm sure there are plenty more unmarked ones in forest, as well as artifacts. For instance, on the top of one rock wall someone had laid a bunch of found items...a small broken glass vial, rusted pieces of who-knows-what.



All in all, the whole area was well-maintained, pleasant, and would have been almost life-affirming had the main theme of the whole thing not been that you can't go home again. At least when your home is underwater. Or should be.

And that's the big thing about Dana. The fact that people didn't leave because the place was untenable, like most ghost towns. The main industry didn't dry up, nobody built a highway that circumvented the town. They left by edict of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ed. Note: I have changed this last sentence from that of the author and deleted 5 more sentences because they didn't seem appropriate for the Voices. The original article may be found at: www.oddtthingsiveseen.com/2013/09/high-and-dry-and-dearly-departed-ghost.html. As I said at the beginning, I wanted to include this article because I think it demonstrates the perception of a first-time visitor to the Quabbin who is eager to learn more about what happened in the past. Note his description of the first information he receives when arriving at the gate and observe that he seems unaware, despite a prior internet search, of the Visitor Center, Friends of Quabbin, or Swift River Valley Historical

Society, although the group he passes may have been one of them. He is clearly appreciative of the photo plaques that have been placed at various historical sites. The message I take from this is that we have work to do in providing the information he should have found on his visit. The Friends proposed that historical sites that have internet access via smartphone have an “informational kiosk” consisting of a post with a QR code. With the appropriate free app, one can click on the QR code and access a web site with specific information about the site. While this would not work in some areas of the Quabbin, most are cell

phone accessible. The potential is enormous for history and nature information; the effort required to create the system is hardly trivial. Imagine being able to look up historic photos of houses, people and their activities, listen to residents who lived in those houses and did those things or identify wildflowers or learn more about eagles or loons while observing them. Mr. Ocker, other first-time or occasional visitors, school groups, and various kinds of photo and nature clubs could have a real history and nature lesson at their hands—real hands-on learning.

—PG

UPDATES.....

Centennial Quabbin Cookbook

The call for recipes was very successful with a few still trickling in. To date, the count is 118 recipes with good distribution among all the general menu categories from Appetizers to Cold Remedies. The largest category, as might be expected, is desserts with main dishes second. Within main dishes, there is also good distribution between meat, seafood, New England, Southwestern, Asian, and Casseroles, Pizza, Tofu and Rice. There are a number of very unique recipes — family secrets that will be revealed in the cookbook.

The plan is to produce this as a spiral-bound volume that will be available at the Enfield Bicentennial Celebration and, thereafter, at the Visitor Center bookstore.

Rattlesnakes

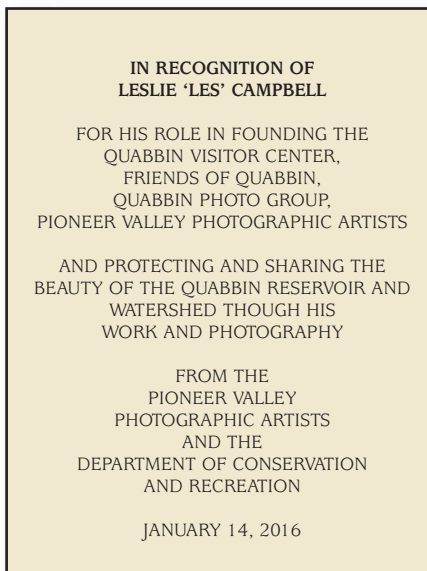
In the last issue of this Newsletter, we presented what was known about the newly proposed plan to introduce rattlesnakes to Mt. Zion Island. Needless to say, the proposal has been highly controversial, even on the Friends of Quabbin Board. The Board chose to wait for further information before deciding to support, not support or stay neutral. That is still the position. But there are developments elsewhere. A number of additional public hearings have been held with presentations by state agency spokespeople. There have been public discussions by interested parties, one on local TV included the FOQ president. An amendment filed by State Senator Eric Lesser, whose district reaches as far north as Belchertown, was attached to the senate version of the State’s fiscal 2017 budget bill. It has passed the Senate and awaits action in the House. It calls for a one year moratorium while a “working group” is convened to report to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. A report would be due by December 31. A coalition of biologists and conservations, Advocates for Snake Conservation, based in Arizona but with several Massachusetts environmental group members, has launched an online petition calling for the rejection of an amendment to the state’s fiscal 2017 budget bill. They have stated that the amendment sets a bad precedent against current policy to “protect nature from politics.” Governor Baker has stated that “we’re not allowed to pick and choose” which endangered species to support. (source: *Springfield Republican*, June 16, 2016).



Les Campbell

Les Campbell Recognition

On June 24th, the many and diverse friends of Les Campbell assembled to unveil a plaque in recognition of the contributions of Les in creating the Visitor Center and the principles of its founding, the Friends of Quabbin, and, at least, two photo clubs: the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and the Quabbin Photo Group. The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation sponsored the award. The award reads:



President of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, Paul Berman, introduced the first speaker, Jonathan Yeo, Director of the Division of Water Supply Protection, representing Commissioner Leo Roy of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation by offering a few remarks on the long service of Les, beginning in 1944,

and his role in guiding the analytical lab and preserving the photographic images of the Quabbin Valley. He introduced Senator Stanley Rosenberg, who cited his long friendship with Les dating from his days with UMASS until now, and his great pleasure at being part of the recognition of all Les’ accomplishments. With that he swept the cover off the plaque, while expressing hope that he didn’t tear it from the wall in the process, to expose the lasting memorial to all that Les has done for the Quabbin. Those in attendance, all close friends, colleagues and participants in those efforts over the years, clapped as they recalled their own involvements because of Les.



Interpretive Services Report

Summer 2016

by Clif Read

It always amazes me how quickly the transition from late winter to early summer unfolds. In the blink of an eye the landscape is transformed from a largely leafless expanse to a lush sea of green. The busy spring schedule that includes the opening of the Quabbin Fishing Season, large events, school programs and an increased number of visitors, supports this impression of time flying!

Speaking of the sea of green, there has been a dramatic increase in tree defoliation caused by gypsy moth caterpillars this spring. Gypsy moth population eruptions are a cyclical phenomenon and they can be more devastating to trees if the outbreaks occur in successive years. While a tree is able to re-foliate over the summer after an initial loss of leaves from chomping caterpillars, repeated years of defoliation will weaken the trees and may eventually kill some individuals. While oaks are the preferred food source for the caterpillars, the insects will move on to other tree species once they have stripped an oak clean of leaves. Due to the explosive nature of caterpillar populations, their sheer numbers can simply overwhelm the ability of natural checks to keep the population under control. Potential predators such as mice, chipmunk, birds (blue jay, chickadee, nuthatches, robin, cuckoos) and insects are doing their part, but there are simply too many of the caterpillars for them to keep up with. A virus also helps to keep outbreaks in check, but its virulence is dependent upon proper moisture and temperature conditions. Once the caterpillars reach a certain density, the virus is able to spread more effectively among the population and kill the larvae. While the extent of the defoliation is not fully evident as I write this article in mid-June, the impacts of the gypsy moth outbreak will be more visible by early July.

In addition to the gypsy moth infestation this summer, there has been a noticeable increase in needle browning and dieback of white pine trees in the watershed, causing these trees to take on a sickly appearance. While scientists do not entirely understand all of the factors and causes of this condition, it is thought that several different needle blight fungi are contributing to this situation. There has been additional speculation that warmer temperatures over the late fall and winter, coupled with below average precipitation in the past few months may also play a role in the severity of the impact. While scientists and researchers will continue to delve into the causes and impacts of this condition, the takeaway message is

that our forests are under stress. With two thirds of the Quabbin watershed forest in deciduous cover, with a majority being an oak forest type, and, with the white pine being the predominant species of the one third of the forest in coniferous cover, the situation warrants careful monitoring and study. As the primary filtration mechanism for Quabbin's water supply, the forest plays a critical role in keeping the reservoir's high water quality, so the forest's health is of paramount importance for water supply managers.

Each spring, as part of the continued monitoring of bald eagle populations in the state, DCR biologists team up with MassWildlife staff to monitor the active nests at Quabbin and, when possible, band the chicks before they fledge. This year there were a total of 11 active nests at the reservoir with a total of 18 chicks that were banded. The Bald Eagle Nest Survey earlier in the spring counted 56 nests throughout the state, an increase of five from the previous year. This is an impressive number considering that between 1908 and 1988, there were no recorded eagles nesting in the state. As a result of a reintroduction effort to reestablish bald eagles as a nesting species in the state, the program raised and released a total of 41 eaglets at Quabbin during the 1980s. These chicks were brought to Quabbin from Michigan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia which had robust populations at that time. Biologists would identify nests with two or more chicks, and then they would climb the tree to remove one of the chicks from the nest when they were approximately six weeks old. Returning to Massachusetts, the birds were placed in large, protected cages on the Prescott Peninsula and raised with minimal human contact. Once they were old enough to fly, the cage doors were opened and the eagles were released into the wild. The success of this reintroduction program has been nothing short of phenomenal! Today it is not uncommon to see a mature eagle glide by the Quabbin Administration Building. While eagles have become more widespread, the thrill of seeing these special birds remains high.

The Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery is one of the most special and rewarding programs that I am involved with in my job. As the coordinator of the logistics and the many organizations involved with the day's activities, I am always appreciative of the collaboration and cooperation from the many folks connected to the event. From the Veterans groups, to the area legislators, former residents, historical societies, Friends of Quabbin, Belchertown Community Band, business sponsors, DCR employees and the general public that attends the event, it is truly a team effort to make this such an important, meaningful ceremony. This year had a great turnout once again and was a huge success.

Looking ahead, the Dana Reunion will be sponsored by the Dana Reunion Committee on July 17th on Dana Common. And on August 13th, the Enfield Bicentennial Commemoration will be held at the Hanks Picnic Area. I hope that you will be able to attend one or both of these events. Have a wonderful summer!

Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program

by Gene Theroux

Westfield Memorial Day Assemblies

The city of Westfield has a long tradition of hosting veterans visiting the schools and speaking to the student during Memorial Day assemblies. This tradition began in the city of Westfield with the Grand Army of the Republic “G.A.R.” Lyon Post # 41 in the late 19th century when Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day. I wrote an article previously about the Memorial Day School visits for *Quabbin Voices*, Summer 2014 that is still available on the Friends of Quabbin website: www.foquabbin.org/voices_vol27_num2.pdf. Then, I was American Legion Post 124 Commander; now I serve as the Post 124 Americanism Committee Chairman. In that role, I continue to visit every school that is on the schedule for Memorial Day Assemblies. For those Assemblies, each school puts on a production for the visiting veterans and members of the armed forces that continue to serve. The production may include songs by the school chorus, a performance by the school band,



Gene Theroux presenting two copies of Jane Yolen's children's illustrated book, **Letting Swift River Go** to Munger Hill Elementary School Principal Marcia Estelle. Far left is Geoffrey Gould of Belchertown, the Lead Teacher—Primary Music Education for Munger Hill and Abner Gibbs Elementary Schools.

reading of poems, displays of artwork and in the middle schools, the reading of essays of “What Memorial Day Means to Me”. In most instances, the school principal serves as the master of ceremonies introducing me. I, in turn, will introduce the veterans and military service personnel in attendance. However, at two of the elementary schools this year, Geoffrey Gould of Belchertown served as the program director for those assemblies. He is the Lead Teacher – Primary Music Education at both the Munger Hill Elementary School and Abner Gibbs Elementary School. I’ve come to know Mr. Gould from my visits over the last several years, discovering that he grew up on Old Enfield Road in Belchertown. Mr. Gould is both quite knowledgeable about the Quabbin and does an outstanding job with the chorus and the band for the two elementary schools.

When my opportunity to speak at the assemblies arrives, I inform the assembly that those veterans in attendance are the

lucky ones, since so many of our comrades did not return. Then, I share some words of encouragement to the students before I introduce each of the veterans and speak about their



Gene Theroux presenting two books to Saint Mary's Parish School Principal, Lynn Collins.

military service that includes branch of service, military grade, where they may have served, including wars, campaigns and/or operations and their current occupation. The veterans that regularly attend these assemblies include America's greatest generation (World War II), a Korean War combat veteran who is a survivor of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Vietnam era through Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom thru Operation Freedom's Sentinel (today's ongoing operations in Afghanistan).

As part of its book donation program, The Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors' coordinating committee decided to donate books to each of the ten schools, eight elementary schools and two middle schools, in the city of Westfield Public Schools Memorial Day Assemblies schedule that I visit. In addition to the Memorial Day Assemblies, two of the high schools (Westfield High School and Saint Mary's High School) in Westfield received a donated book from the Friends of Quabbin for their school library during their awards ceremony for the graduating seniors. During the book presentation to the schools, I would inform the group that the Friends of Quabbin donated the books to commemorate what would have been the former town of Enfield's bicentennial. A total of nineteen books were donated to the twelve schools. The titles included: *Letting Swift River Go* by Jane Yolen, *Someday* by Jackie French Koller and *The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir: The Death of the Swift River Valley* by J.R. Greene.

The goal of the Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program is to keep the Swift River/Quabbin Valley story alive for future generations through donations to schools and libraries. I'd like to thank the Friends of Quabbin coordinating committee members, Paul Godfrey, Cindi LaBombard and Clif Read, for helping me further that goal in Westfield.

As a member of the Friends of Quabbin, we encourage you to talk to your school principal or teachers and town librarian about submitting a proposal to the Friends to request a donation of books about the Quabbin. The process is very simple and the judges are eager to get the Quabbin story to a new generation. It's not necessary, but the support of a Friends member will catch our attention. The Friends of Quabbin book donation process is described in detail on the Friends of Quabbin home page: www.foquabbin.org, or write us for a printed copy. Contact your school or library today!

Meetings & Events

Enfield Bicentennial Commemoration

The town of Enfield was incorporated on February 15, 1816, carved out of the existing towns of Greenwich and Belchertown to form a new community. Lying along the Swift River whose middle and east branches merged 2 miles northeast of the town center to form one larger river which flowed through the town, Enfield became the largest and most prosperous of the four Swift River Valley towns which were eventually disincorporated to build the Quabbin Reservoir. Despite rumors swirling about the impending inundation of the valley, the town celebrated its Centennial in 1916 in a three-day gala that culminated on the Fourth of July. Many activities and events were scheduled for that occasion including a concert, parade, base ball game, Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument and fireworks.

In order to recognize Enfield's founding two hundred years ago, The Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Valley Historical Society and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are co-sponsoring an Enfield Bicentennial Commemoration on Saturday, August 13th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will be held at the Hanks Picnic Area in Quabbin Park, an area which overlooks the former town center of Enfield. A parade kicks off the event beginning at 11 a.m., followed by activities, demonstrations and displays for kids and adults alike. There will be participation from local historical societies, Native American groups, re-enactors from the Revolutionary and Civil wars, and a barbershop quartet. At 2 p.m. a vintage base ball game will be held in the large field adjacent to the parking lot featuring the Westfield Wheelmen versus the Whately Pioneers. The final scheduled event of the day will be a concert by the beloved Belchertown Community Band.

Additional information will be available beginning in early July on the Friends of Quabbin website and the FOQ Facebook page. Please mark your calendars for August 13th (rain date on 8/14) and we hope to see you there!

We Want YOU!

Have you heard about the **Enfield Bicentennial Observance** and thought it would be fun to be involved? Well here's how — Volunteer! We are looking for people to help with a variety of tasks that day such as set-up/breakdown of tables and chairs, helping direct visitors, manning stations for snacks and water, etc... We're also looking for people who love working with children to run a kids activity corner throughout the day (three-legged races, stories—good old fashioned fun!).

Volunteers would need to report to Hanks Picnic Area by 9 a.m. on the event day.

Contact Nancy Huntington, DCR, at the Quabbin Visitor Center to sign up: 413-323-7221, or nancy.huntington@state.ma.us. More information will be available as we get closer to the date.—Thank you!

Tuesday Teas

The Tuesday Teas don't take a summer vacation. However, if you are on vacation at the Quabbin on Tuesday Tea days, please drop in to see for yourself what an interesting group we assemble each month. There is always lively discussion, in fact, several at once usually. Visit with us on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. The next dates are: August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, and November 1st.

At the May Tea, we recognized Ann Hurlburt for her efforts to keep the Tuesday Tea group well fed. We also had several discussion groups about recipes for the upcoming Centennial Quabbin Cookbook. Ann and many others at the Teas have contributed recipes and some of those are staples at the Teas.



Ann Hurlburt receiving award from Gene Theroux

Julie Bullock brought in some photocopies of historic newspaper articles she'd found about the Quabbin and its characters. We've scanned them for the FOQ archive of photos and other material.

Photo Club Meetings

The Quabbin Photo Group (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.

The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (www.pvphotoartists.org/) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Visitor Center. The July 28th meeting has themes of "Keep It Simple" and "Winter." August 25th's themes are "Leaves" and "Black and White." September 29th's themes are "Out of the Box" and "Plants." October 27th's theme is "Stone, Rock and Nature." Check their website for more information.

Spring DCR Program

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

Meetings & Events continued...

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. Be sure to mark this year's date of July 17th if you are interested in the event.

Swift River Valley Historical Society

Quabbin Hikes and Bus Tours, Summer and Fall 2016

Space is limited so contact the office immediately by phone (978-544-6882; 978-544-6882) or email at swiftriver-museum@gmail.com.

Hikes are free although a donation to offset expenses is appreciated. A \$30 per person donation is asked for bus trips and space must be reserved in advance. Send checks for bus trips to: Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) at P.O. Box 22, New Salem, MA 01355

Hike #3: Sunday, September 18th, Gate 39/northern Dana hike. Meet at Petersham Common at 11:00 a.m.

Hike #4: Sunday, October 16th, Gate 18/hike to Prescott Poor Farm. Meet at Cooleyville Crossing (field at Gate 17) at 11:00 a.m.

Bus Trip #1: Sunday, June 26th, bus trip to Prescott. Meet at SRVHS for 11:00 a.m. departure.

Bus Trip #2: Sunday, October 2nd, second bus trip to Prescott. Meet at SRVHS for 11:00 a.m. departure.

There are no rain dates. Bus trips are rain or shine. A steady rain cancels a hike, but drizzle/light showers do not. Most hikes are 4 to 5 hours long and bus trips are usually back between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 26th, Archives Open House, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16th, Dana Vespers concert in Prescott Church at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 13th, Enfield Bi-Centennial Observance Day, Quabbin Park. Details forthcoming.

Sunday, September 18th, SRVHS Museum closes for the season.

September 23rd – 26th, The Water Project Play, details forthcoming.

Dana Reunion and Picnic

Residents of Dana, Greenwich,
Prescott and Enfield

July 17, 2016—11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Gates open at 10:00 a.m.
Bring a lunch, chairs and stories

(No pets, alcohol or smoking allowed)

Naturalists' Corner

The Growing of an Eagle

by Anne Ely



Photo by Anne Ely

High up in an old pine in a well lined nest
Tiny white eaglets snuggle under Mother's breast
Protected from wind and rain, and even snow.
Soon Dad flies in with a meal which will help them grow.
He takes over while Mom flies off for a break;
Fishing was good today, it's a good spot, that lake.
Tiny beaks wide open grabbing at the food
Torn into tiny pieces for the hungry brood.
This loving care will go on week after week.
The chicks will grow fast; soon independence they'll seek.
Their white fluff is gone, replaced by feathers brown
And for a few weeks near the nest they'll hang around.
On their own the next few years their strength will grow
Still dressed in mottled brown and white they all know
No white head or tail until four years have passed
Then the majestic bald eagle we know, at last!

Friends of Quabbin 2015–2016 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

Elaine Darr-Morton
41 Grela Terrace
Belchertown, MA 01007
darrmorton@charter.net

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

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

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

Denis Ouimette
148 Church Stree
Ware, MA 01082
ouimette148@comcast.net

Mark Thompson
124 Fisherdict Road
Ware, MA 01082
mrvesto@comcast.net

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

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

Quabbin Voices
is the periodic
newsletter
of the Friends
of Quabbin, Inc.



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

