

# Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



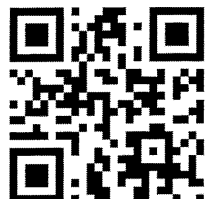
Winter 2018  
Vol.30 No.4

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

—Les Campbell

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## Tuesday Tea Trek to Pelham Hollow

by Paul Godfrey

Historic photos from DCR collection;  
current photos by Paul Godfrey  
& Gene Theroux



Nancy pointing out sites to Ann Hurlburt, Francis Martin, Anne Ely and Deanna Krusiewicz

The Tuesday Tea Trekkers have earned their credentials for persisting through fair and foul weather. Once again, the weather threatened as they embarked on a tour of Pelham Hollow, October 24th. Who could blame their optimism; it had been warm and beautiful for more than a week before. The forecast for the next week was equally good. But not the forecast for Tuesday, the 24th. Rain, wind and chilly were conjured up by the weather gods to test the mettle of the Trekkers. Staring the gray, scudding clouds straight in the eye and daring them to “bring it on,” they assembled at the Quabbin Administration Building to develop the game plan. Their concession was to do the initial discussion of the plan and examination of maps and photos inside at the Visitor Center. But then with that all in mind, they headed into the elements and for Gate 11, also known as the intersection of the

Amherst-Pelham Road and Rte 202. The Gate 11 road, now known as the Pelham Hollow Road, was once part of the old Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike that was chartered in 1799. On the west side of that corner is the Pelham Town Hall, once known as the Old Meeting House. It has been the oldest continuously used town hall in the country. A back corner was used to keep the Weights, Measures and Balances and town books and papers. Currently, the fall town meeting is held there on the second floor to maintain longest continuous use.

We assembled at the open area across Rte 202 from the Pelham Town Hall where

Pelham Hollow Road heads east. The area is open now, but it was a bustling corner whose



Pelham Town Hall, oldest continuously used

principal attraction was the magnificent home of Robert and Eva Richardson and also one the three taverns in Pelham, the Kingman Tavern, to the north and the Almira Keep place to the south.

*continued on page 6*



## President's Message

Winter 2018

Gene Theroux

As we bring 2017 to a close, I think it's important for us to reflect on what we've achieved during the past year and to identify our focus and goals for the next and beyond. The first major event in 2017 was the annual meeting. Working with the DCR Visitors Center program coordinator, we combined the annual meeting with a presentation by Jon Melick. Jon's excellent program, "Quabbin Time Travel Trip To Prescott" is a simulation of a trip back in time so that those taking the "trip" feel as though they



Marty Howe and Jon Melick examining a Time Travel Trip

were actually in Prescott as it was before the fate of the Swift River Valley was sealed in 1927. Jon has prepared numerous other Time Travel Trips to other Swift River Valley locations over many years of research. In the next year, the Friends of Quabbin will be

working with Jon to make his collection of Time Travel Tours widely available to the public. In recognition of Jon's lifetime achievements and contributions on behalf of the Swift River Valley history, he was awarded a lifetime membership to the Friends of Quabbin.

The Friends of Quabbin book donation program has been very active during 2017 with presentations of books to the Belchertown Senior Center at the Annual Meeting. In addition, books and the CD, "Here Was Home" at the following schools: Worthington Russell H. Conwell Elementary School on March 20th, Amherst Middle School on May 12th and Shutesbury Elementary School on June 2nd. The book donation program is an effective tool used to help keep the Quabbin/Swift River Valley story alive with the future leaders of our communities, state and perhaps nation. Perhaps

a school, library or other eligible non-profit entity could benefit from the Friends of Quabbin book donation program? Information on the book donation program is available on the Friends of Quabbin website: <http://www.foquabbin.org/FoQBookDonation.pdf>

Another major 2017 initiative of the Friends has the goal of restoration of the Quabbin Park Cemetery and its inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. For some context, it was written in the *Springfield Union, Letters from Quabbin, Article #15, June 2, 1938* that "Quabbin Park Cemetery is one of the newest, largest and most beautiful (Voices editor's emphasis added) in Massachusetts. It was formerly a farm owned by George C. Wesson, and purchased by the Metropolitan Water Supply Commission. It has been developed by careful planning and effort into a cemetery that will contain the bodies of 7,550 persons formerly buried in 26 different burial grounds in the area which will be occupied by the Quabbin Reservoir. The preparation required several years of work before the actual removal of bodies began. Photographs were made of every lot in each cemetery, all available data was recorded, the cemeteries were plotted and maps made. Since that time, every family holding a deed has been notified (if possible) and after a location in the new cemetery is chosen, a new deed is granted. Maps were made showing the layout of each lot, and the bodies were placed in the same position, unless the family requested otherwise, in the new plot. All the data is carefully filed and kept in a safe in the office."

It was also reported in the *Letters from Quabbin* article that people at first were slow in choosing new location lots in Quabbin Park for their disinterred. This might have been for two reasons: the age-old feeling (superstition) against disturbing the dead and the undesirability of placing hallowed remains in a site that, in the first few years, probably resembled a construction site more than a cemetery. Most of the bodies moved to places other than Quabbin Park occurred in the earlier years. Once the beauty of the new cemetery became obvious and the management efficient, few requests were made for any other location. One



Cemetery restoration trainees

(continued next page)



woman, who had her family lot transferred to another town early in the project, later stated that if she had known how beautiful Quabbin Park was going to be she would have chosen it instead. Assistant Engineer William Potter was in charge of the Cemetery back in the 1930s and there were 30 men employed for 32 to 34 weeks each year. The *Letters from Quabbin* is available for purchase in the Quabbin Visitor Center.

If we fast forward some eighty years, we've found hundreds of headstones that are either leaning, broken, laying on the ground or missing. Almost every monument or headstone has lichens, other biological growth or other contaminants on them. Furthermore, getting information about cemetery plots from DCR files is excruciating difficult; they are, rightly, guarded closely because there is only one copy!

The Friends have approached the task outlined at the beginning in multiple ways:

- 1) sought expert help in learning about cemetery restoration,
- 2) initiated training in proper cleaning and restoration, and
- 3) developed a preliminary database of cemetery information based on the designs in use for other cemeteries and begun testing with the data collected in initial inventory work by FOQ volunteers.

In step 1, Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services, who is a stone conservator, was invited to a Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors Meeting in September where she provided recommendations, suggested a way ahead and offered to provide training to our volunteers at no cost.

In step 2, Ta Mara Conde provided a very comprehensive, educational and informative training event on October 22, 2017 at Quabbin Park Cemetery. The scope of the training included how to accomplish the inventory of the monuments, headstones and markers in the Quabbin Park Cemetery, including how



*Ta Mara Conde instructing trainees on documenting monuments*

to: identify the material, describe the condition of the carved surfaces, and document the engravings. Ta Mara demonstrated using a photographer's shield and a flashlight to read difficult carvings that appear to be unreadable. She explained how to properly clean a headstone or monument, but there was no demonstration of cleaning a headstone (DCR specifically forbade the cleaning of any markers during this event and enforced it with the presence of two DCR rangers). Since the training event, volunteers have focused on completing the survey of the cemetery. The Quabbin Park Cemetery Inventory Training event was video recorded and is available for viewing

on the Friends of Quabbin YouTube channel. The Friends of Quabbin would like to thank Ta Mara for providing this valuable training, and most importantly, the volunteers who attended the training. At the end of the training event, Ta Mara provided attendees with a complimentary quart bottle



*Left: H.H. Hosmer monument in Southwick's Old cemetery prior to cleaning with D/2 Biological Solution. You can easily see the built-up lichens and other biological growth. This monument is eleven feet tall.*



*Right: H.H. Hosmer monument after being cleaned with D/2 Biological Solution using soft bristle brushes and a lot of water. Some may say: Can I just clean with water and soft brushes and it will do a good job? Stone is very porous and the stains get imbedded into the stone. D/2 Biological Solution will penetrate and continue to clean the stone.*

of the D/2 Biological Solution, courtesy of Jonathan Appell of Atlas Preservation, a professional conservator who has worked in 35 states across the nation. In addition, Ta Mara Conde purchased and donated small buckets, soft bristled brushes, flashlights to the attendees. The D/2 Biological Solution is very safe and is used exclusively at Arlington National Cemetery and the White House and is recommended by the NCPPTT (National Center for Preservation Technology and Training), National Park Service and Department of the Interior. Both Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services and Jonathan Appell of Atlas Preservation have detailed information and videos on how to properly clean headstones on their websites.

Since then, Friends of Quabbin member, Deanna Krusiewicz, and I visited Mount Hope Cemetery in Belchertown just prior to the November 8th Tuesday Tea. We cleaned several headstones of her parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. On Friday October 27, I assisted Bob Fox in cleaning an eleven foot tall monument in Southwick's Old Cemetery that had

been covered with lichens and other biological growth. The D/2 Biological Agent was used and the results were phenomenal — so much so that the Southwick Cemetery Commission has asked me to come to a future meeting and speak.

It's important to note that DCR has been adamant that only family members may clean headstones. If the Friends of Quabbin volunteers or others wish to clean headstones they must coordinate with DCR well in advance. DCR, in response, will contact the family or heirs of the original lot holder seeking permission and get back to the Friends of Quabbin or others with the results. This prompted several questions in our minds at the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors meeting on November 9, 2017 about the process for making such a request for permission. We were advised to forward any questions or issues on Quabbin Park Cemetery directly to DCR management. On November 10, 2017, Paul Godfrey and I prepared and sent a letter detailing ten questions about written policy, guidance and other issues at Quabbin Park Cemetery to Mr. John Scannell, the Regional Director of DCR Division of Water Supply Protection. As of this writing, we have not heard back from Mr. Scannell. We will be following-up with Mr. Scannell to receive the answers to our questions. We will persist until we have a response.

In Step 3, the goal is to assemble all information, existing and newly collected, into a digital database, easily available to those interested and with secure backups. Today, this information is incomplete, evidencing many examples of poor or sloppy record keeping in the past and contained in a vault at the Quabbin Visitor Center but only in their original paper form. The latter part of the 20th and first part of the 21st century technological explosion in digitized databases has passed Quabbin Park Cemetery by. Access is very limited and examination of the records very tedious with the existing system. Further, there is only the one copy of these extraordinary documents in existence. We have started on step 3 by developing a preliminary data collection sheet for volunteers to use in on-the-ground inventorying at Quabbin Park Cemetery. We have begun to explore linking this database to other similar resource on the web to enhance our records and to enhance the records of others. Much like digital genealogies, there is much to gain in sharing information. Now we need to digitize the existing records of DCR (how to do this will be one of our future questions to them). All three of these fronts in developing and maintaining the cemetery records are substantial tasks and will take some time.

Ultimately, the Friends of Quabbin Park Cemetery initiative seeks to achieve two goals: return the cemetery to its former beauty and become listed in the National Registry and create a digital database of information about the cemetery and its occupants available for all those interested in the memory of the individuals of Quabbin Valley. This large task needs the cooperation of many and we hope to partner with DCR and other historical societies and interested parties. Our overall goal is to make Quabbin Park Cemetery an example of the care a people can have for its people and history.

Remember, those interested in the conservation and preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery may make tax-deductible



*Nancy Huntington and Gene Theroux after her "Sons of the Valley" presentation*

donations to the Friends of Quabbin.

Slow but steady progress has been made with the Friends of Quabbin/DCR Oral History Program. A total of 27 interviews have been made available to the public via the Friends of Quabbin website. The collection

made public, thus far, includes interviews with former residents of the towns and villages, former workers on the Reservoir project, former students at Hillside School and one of a former state boy. Nancy Huntington continues to work on the Phase III project — that is the indexing of Oral History. The final phase (Phase IV) will be matching images to what the interviewee is speaking about in the interview and to make videos. The indexing phase is a critical phase and establishes the foundation to make more interviews available, editing to remove blank portions of the interview and for initiating Phase IV. The Friends of Quabbin photo restoration program and Tuesday Tea photo scanning efforts all connect with the oral histories through the index.

I attended the DCR Veterans Day Program, "Sons of the Valley" on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the Quabbin Visitor Center. The program description stated that the Swift River Valley, from its earliest settlements, was a place of great patriotism. DCR Interpreter Nancy Huntington did a wonderful job with her research and with contributions from Friends of Quabbin members Bill Cote (a Senior Vice Commander of L.A. Tift Camp 15 and the Sons of Union Civil War Veterans) and Gene Theroux. She provided an educational and entertaining look at some of the many men (and a few women) who served in this country's wars from 1776 through Korea. It's unfortunate that the turn-out was low for this very well-done program. Next year, will mark the centennial of the armistice of the Great War (WW I) and there will be a lot of celebrations scheduled and conducted throughout the country. If the "Sons of the Valley" program is scheduled in the future, I highly recommend attending and learning of some of the many significant heroes in American History from the Swift River Valley, many of whom are interred in Quabbin Park Cemetery.

At the 2018 Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting to be held in April 2018 — I will prepare and provide a more detailed report of the subjects that I discussed and progress made since this edition of the President's message.

On behalf of The Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors, I extend the best of health and happiness to you and your family through this holiday season.





## Interpretive Services Report

Winter 2018

by Clif Read

As 2017 ends, it is only human to reflect on the events, good and bad, of the past 12 months, particularly those around the Quabbin watershed: completion of management plans, impressive rainfall figures from hurricane remnants, the William E. Pula Fishing Area dedication, completion of infrastructure projects, defoliation of large tracts of the watershed forest by Gypsy Moth caterpillars and so on. Each year has such memorable events that enter the historical record. I have recently been involved in research using the annual reports of three agencies instrumental in Quabbin's formation: Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission (MDWSC), Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (MWSB) and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) 70 to 100 years ago. Events then add some perspective to the events of today, so I share them with you.

**MDWSC 1947 Annual Report: April 4, 1947 — Quabbin Reservoir fills to 100% capacity for the first time.** Although 1946 is the year often ascribed to Quabbin first reaching full



June 22, 1946 Ceremonial first water release



May 15, 1947 Quabbin spillway waterfall after Quabbin reaches 100% capacity

capacity, it was actually only the time that water was first released from Quabbin. The nature of the spillway design with its five bays of adjustable stoplogs allowed this for the purposes of the official Quabbin Dedication Ceremony on June 22nd with a dramatic release of water even though water would not have

gone over the spillway. Water burst through the open spillway gates, cascading down the channel and over the 65' waterfall.

But the reservoir was still 1.6' from its full capacity, i.e. going over the entire spillway. The reservoir level would fall from June 22nd through the summer and into the fall, then rise again in the late winter and early spring to the point it reached 100% full on April 4, 1947. On that day, water spilled over the entire length of the 400' spillway for the first time in history. Since that time the reservoir has reached full capacity in nearly half the years, although there have been consecutive years with no spillage. Most notable of these was the drought of the mid 1960s when the reservoir dropped to its lowest point of 34.3' below capacity (45% full) and the reservoir was not at 100% capacity from 1961 to 1976.

The MDWSC was created in 1919 to study future water supplies for the MDC system to augment the existing supplies in the Wachusett, Sudbury and Cochituate reservoirs. It was also charged with the design and construction of the Quabbin and Ware River projects. Upon fulfilling its charge, the operation of the watersheds was transferred to the MDC and the MDWSC ceased to exist past June 30, 1947. The Annual Report of this year was the Commission's last.

**MDC 1947 Annual Report:** The Metropolitan Water District, in 1947, served 20 municipalities of 1.5 million residents; Boston, the largest, has 770,000 people. Water was provided by the combined storage of Lake Cochituate, the seven Sudbury watershed reservoirs and Wachusett Reservoir; storage totalled 82 billion gallons when full. With Quabbin Reservoir, the available capacity became an impressive 494 billion gallons. The average daily consumption of water in 1947 was 149 million gallons. Shortly after 1947 Lake Cochituate would be retired from the system with the Sudbury system, except for the main Sudbury Reservoir (backup only), removed from operations in the next 27 years.

Compared to 1947, current figures for the MWRA/DCR system includes 51 water user communities, a combined service population of 2.5 million people who use on an average of 195 million gallons of water per day. Water use per person/day dropped from 19.35 gallons per day in 1947 to 7.8 gallons per day at present. This comparison alone defines a major change in the approach to water supply. Then it was "add new sources;" now it is "use existing sources wisely."

Water is not the only issue facing the Quabbin watershed. In the **1917 Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board** referenced the "ravages of gypsy moths" and the efforts to try to control this problematic species after its accidental release in Boston in 1868. Then, typical gypsy moth management included painting the egg masses with creosote. It was largely ineffective.

For the past two summers the gypsy moth outbreak in Massachusetts has been particularly acute with extensive defoliation in parts of the DCR watersheds. Now we have newer introduced insect problems: such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Asian Longhorn Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer and the great concern that the Zebra Mussel will get into Quabbin. Years from now, as people pour through records, they will be reading about the events of today and putting them in historic context. Hopefully, they will have learned from those past mistakes and there will be no new problems.



### ***Pelham Hollow Trek***

*continued from page 1*



*Richardson house and tavern*



*Almira Keep house*

explorers were: Ann Hurlburt, Anne Ely, Deanna Krusiewicz, Alberta and Francis Martin, Gene Theroux and Paul Godfrey.

For three of us, this was our second trip to Pelham Hollow.

Howard, Gene and Paul had gone on a similar trip conducted by the Pelham Historical Society on

May 20th and Gene had done another trip that he reported in the winter 2016–17 issue of *Quabbin Voices*.



*John Ely homestead*

us that it was little used; most car underbodies got a decent and noisy cleaning. That first site was the John Ely residence. This was poignant for Anne because she had never before visited the site where her grandfather and grandmother lived.

Our guide, Nancy Huntington, unlocked the gate for our motorcade and we proceeded down Pelham Hollow Road, and it is really down, not just an expression. Nancy had our historical docent, Howard Frost, to help. Howard still remembers when he lived on Pelham Hollow Road. The rest of the

It was a little way to the first house site and about a 200' drop in elevation. The road was constantly reminding



*Alfred Frost homestead*

Down the block a short way, also on the north side of Pelham Hollow Road, was the homestead of Alfred Frost, Howard Frost's father and home to Howard until they had to move. Howard and his family have returned to the site many times; they all live quite close by, but it always evokes memories.



*Alfred Frost family (Howard front left)*

Practically next door to the Frost place was the Pelham Hill School. It probably didn't have much of a foundation so there is little to mark its place now.

Further down Pelham Hollow Road, and a drop of 300' more, we arrive at the Marion place.

The rest of



*Pelham Hill Schoolhouse*



*Joseph Marion place*

over Purgee Brook, and a sharp turnoff toward the reservoir to our last stop on the trek...lunch at the beach.

Pelham Hollow Road is impassable for our vehicles, so we head north on a DCR-created road that is not much better — up a steep and



Poet's Corner

**Tuesday Tea Trip to Pelham Hollow  
October 24, 2017**

We're off again with fearless leader Nancy;  
 Just another tramp in the woods, nothing fancy.  
 There is rain predicted — so what else is new,  
 We've had lots of experience with "heavy dew"!  
 We had some dark clouds and wind, but nothing mor e.  
 We even had a pleasant lunch down by the shore.  
 Nancy is the one to thank for this, perhaps,  
 As she said "Aha!" and laminated her maps  
 So when it rained she'd not have one big soggy blot.  
 But kidding aside, I really learned a lot,  
 And rain or no rain the trip meant much to me,  
 For I saw where my Grandfather's house used to be.  
 Quabbin is such a beautiful place to see,  
 But it is so much more; it is four town's history.  
 Former resident Howard Frost was with us.  
 His firsthand knowledge of these places was a plus.  
 Folks my father talked about I'd never meet,  
 So hearing more of them and where they lived was neat.  
 I thank you Nancy, and all the powers that be,  
 For this chance to glimpse a part of my history.

—Anne Ely

*Nancy Huntington showing pictures of historic Quabbin buildings in Pelham Hollow to Anne Ely (r) and Deanna Krusiewicz (l)*



*Gene Theroux, FOO president, helping Howard Frost visit his former house site*

Photos by Paul Godfrey

Retracing our steps back to Rte. 202, it began to rain. We had held back the sky long enough.



*Nancy, Alberta and Paul examining the site of the Marion place.*



*Nancy looking for some remnant of the schoolhouse*



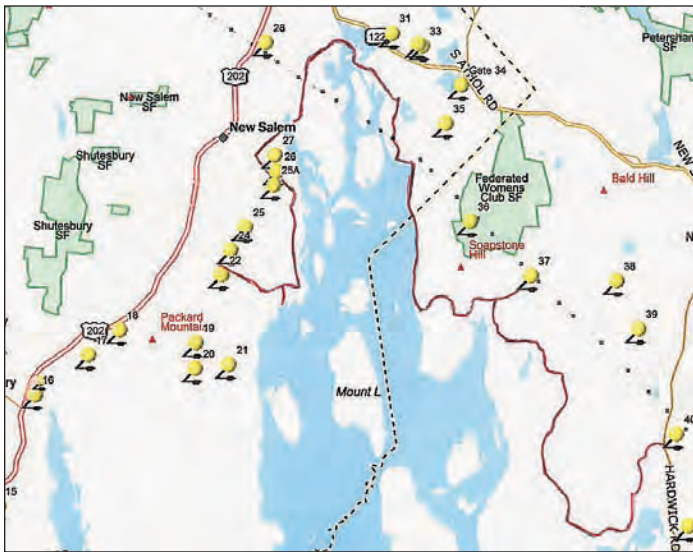
*Nancy, Ann, Francis and Deanna enjoying a picnic at the beach*



# A Shoreline Hike around North Quabbin

by John Zebb

In the Spring 2014 *Voices*, I made an accounting of how I was “smitten” by the trails of the Quabbin Reservation. My outings culminated in navigating the whole property, bottom to top, on each side. Both hikes (the East in 2009 and the West in 2013) went from Rt-9 to Rt-122. While I have enjoyed many Quabbin days in the past few years, the thought of another “long day” has persisted.



*Route of Shoreline Trek*

The Quabbin’s creation is essentially a story about water. The allure of the vistas from the dams generates much of the tourist attraction year-round. Why not set a hiking goal of a day with as much shoreline as possible within one’s horizon? The chosen route was to be from Gate 22 in south New Salem to Gate 40 midway between Hardwick and Petersham. This west to east direction was selected with consideration for the sun’s path and the historic touch of walking through Dana Common near day’s end.

I have always maintained that the hardest part of any outdoor adventure is the first step. You have triumphed over inertia, executed a plan and made good on a promise to yourself and others. The secret to enjoying a high-mileage day is the temperature. October of 2017 had sixteen days that broke the 70° barrier. Sandwiched between two warm spells, Tuesday the 17th promised a 30° to 60° range with clear skies. The weather gods winked and nodded.

My hiking partner, Chris Parrow (a veteran of numerous organized obstacle course races) and I arrived at Gate 40 at 6:30 am. We were

greeted by fellow Friends of Quabbin member, Barry Williams, who shuttled us to Gate 22 as the sun rose and greeted a crisp 28° morning.

As we reached our starting point at Gate 22, Barry snapped a picture of Chris and me eager to start our hike. A little further on, we encountered the shoreline. It had an eerie morning fog that made me think of an entrance to the underworld.

We made a modest navigational error (1.5 miles in total) and headed incorrectly toward Gate 37. However, it had its rewards. We found two “immutable” forces, tree and rock, fighting for space. We’re betting the gradual approach of the tree will move that rock. Then we encountered the Dana town marker. Correcting our error, we headed south toward Gate 40 where we ended our day as shadows lengthened across Dana Common.

The entire day on the trail was 8.5 hours from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. There were seven quick moving hours and one and a half hours devoted to picture taking, snacking and taking pleasure in our surprise encounters. The mileage total was just shy of 20 miles.



*John Zebb and Chris Parrow at Gate 22*



*Morning mist at the bottom of Gate 22*





*Bassett Pond with Canada Geese near Gate 35 as we turn south on the east side of Quabbin*



*The "highways" we love, on the way east to Gate 31*



*Chris Parrow on Gate 37 trail with foot on the two immutable forces*



*Dana town marker*



*Dana Common*

## Quabbin Park Cemetery Gravesite Survey

by Carol Reed

I joined Friends of Quabbin after I retired from MassMutual in 2015. I am from Springfield, Massachusetts but have visited Quabbin for many years to unwind, commune with nature, practice photography, and generally get away from it all—or simply to “get out of town” as I like to say. As far as I know, I do not have family from the former towns of Quabbin, but I’ve read a bit about the history and am touched by other people’s stories. At the same time, I appreciate the work being carried out by the stewards of Quabbin—forest management, history, interpretive services—all that keep Quabbin a pristine, peaceful place providing a service to many communities of Massachusetts and a place for folks to gather and share stories.

I decided participating in this survey was a worthwhile service to those who have a personal history with the towns and villages. One day when information is fully available and complete on “Find A Grave,” it will be easier for folks to find

friends’ and relative’s gravesites. It will be especially helpful for those who no longer live in the area but have an interest in their family history.



Photos by Gene Theroux

As I work on Section 5, each stone tells a story. The oldest dates I’ve come across so far are in the 1700s. The monuments that list multiple family members’ birth and death are providing a family history.

Some are particularly touching such as a woman who passed away in 1711 with an infant laid to rest beside her. I assume she died in childbirth. Very touching. Some of the graves are partially or completely unreadable so I have to skip those. It can also be difficult to find which specific lot you are on, but I do the best that I can. Brass markers that note two lot numbers are sometimes visible, but many are not since over time the grass and dirt have covered them.

I like the cooler weather so am apt to be there for a couple of hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Then I drive back to Springfield, post the gravesite info from the reports to an Excel spreadsheet, download and edit the photographs, and then upload everything to a shared Drop Box folder. I feel the effort spent is well worth it.

**Would you like to join this effort to more fully document the Quabbin Park Cemetery and begin the restoration process? If so, call Gene Theroux at 413-627-3475 or send an email to: [gene.theroux@verizon.net](mailto:gene.theroux@verizon.net).**



## Meetings & Events

### Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next one will be January 2nd. Then they will be on February 6th, March 6th and April 3rd.

### Photo Club Meetings

The **Quabbin Photo Group** ([www.quabbinphotogroup.org](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.

**Monday, January 22, 2018** Members Night, where we share images; the public is always welcome.

**Monday, Feb. 26** will be a program on learning the basic functions of your DSLR; March 26 will be the snow date.

**The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists** ([www.pvphotoartists.org/](http://www.pvphotoartists.org/)) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Visitor Center. The annual meeting is in January. Check their website for more information.

### DCR Program

**Sunday, January 14, 2–3 p.m.**

#### THE ART AND SCIENCE OF LISTENING TO BIRD SONG

In Don Kroodsma's own words "Birdsong makes me happy." He loves to share what he has learned during his career as an academic and researcher to encourage a greater appreciation of how birds communicate. Join us and as Don says "learn to crawl inside the mind of this singing bird, coming as close as you can to understand what it is like to be the bird itself."

**Sunday, February 18, 2–3 p.m.**

**CLEARING THE VALLEY** — It took 12 years to clear the valley of homes and people. Join DCR Visitor Center Manager Maria Beiter-Tucker to learn more about the process.

**Sunday, February 25, 2–3 p.m.**

**SECRETS OF THE QUABBIN WATERSHED** — a presentation of his amazing wildlife photos and book signing by Dale Monette.

**Sunday, March 4, 2–3 p.m.**

#### "POSSUMS, BATS & GOLDENROD — OH MY!"

DCR Interpreter Nancy Huntington presents on the benefits of often overlooked flora and fauna.

**Sunday, March 18, 2–3 p.m.**

**FROM GREEN TO GRAY: SEVENTEEN YEARS OF HEMLOCK DECLINE ALONG A QUABBIN STREAM** — presented by DCR Natural Resource Analyst Brian Keevan

**Sunday, March 25, 2–3 p.m.**

#### THE LIFE OF AN AQUATIC BIOLOGIST

DCR Aquatic Biologist shares a snapshot of her day.

### The 2017 Holiday Party

by Paul Godfrey



Having been to a number of Friends of Quabbin Holiday Parties,

I am continually amazed that the same familiar elements always are re-blended into a unique event that lingers on the mind. The mélange this year had photos, videos, food, cake and conversation. First, Dale Monette was there to narrate a video that he and Gene had put together of his photos and a few short videos. The show had so many photos that did not fit into the book, photos that were equally wonderful. Dale was available throughout the party for book signings and general hobnobbery.

Nancy Huntington and the DCR crew had a little surprise for us. Looking at the display of animals on the shelf around the room, one got the sense that something was different. Every taxidermied critter in the Visitor Center was wearing a Christmas hat! Well, not the fish. But the porcupine was real cute with his red hat and tassel.



Laid out on tables was a sumptuous feast of noshables. In a particularly heart-warming way for me, many of the items were made from the recipes in the new FOQ cookbook. I think this is fast becoming a tradition of the party like the cake that Ann Hurlburt donated.



And what a cake! And because it is so large, so good, and so



much part of the FOQ holiday party tradition, it gets an appropriate ceremonial cutting by our old-timers. A truly professional crew of cake-cutters was assembled: Deanna Krusiewicz, Margaret Hormer, Howard Frost, and Dotty Bish. With some trepidation on the part of Howard, the cake was cut.

However, there was no trepidation on the next phase as the party-goers eagerly addressed their pieces of cake.

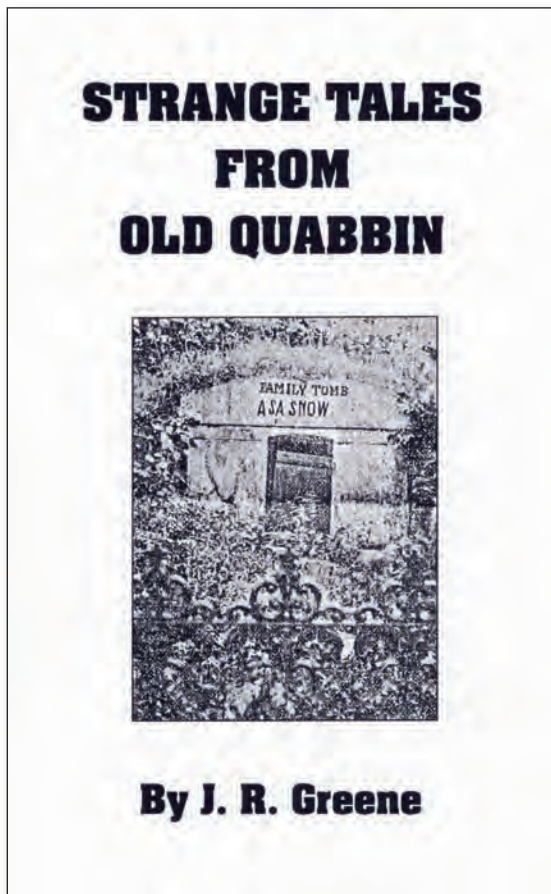
Conversation continued well past the time when most would normally be heading home, and there was certainly no rush to get to supper. I had that warm feeling of another really nice time with friends and another memory to cherish.



## Visitor Center Store

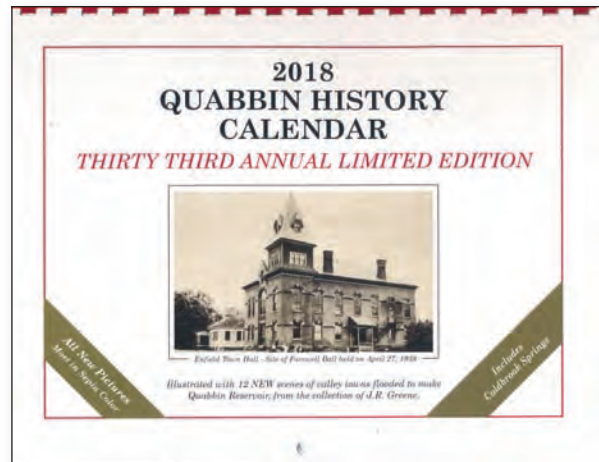
### Strange Tales from Old Quabbin

No longer will you have to wait to find out where the UFO landed in the Quabbin watershed. Nor will you be puzzled by how one can hang yourself twice or, failing hanging, die from catbite. And times haven't changed much: there was a Petersham man who was subject of a statewide dragnet for molesting his 14 year-old daughter. Or the wonderful



example of how black lives mattered in Enfield with disrespect for Enfield's sole black by a Pelhamite resulting in the Pelhamite being run around on a rail until an appropriate apology was given. Or the gold mine that tried and tried and tried to be but never made it. Or Mr. Snow's wife who ran off with his money and the boarder. Mr Snow was eager for the return of his money, not particular about the rest. Yes, it's all in this little gem and more. And it's finally available again. J.R. Greene has just reprinted one of his best sellers that, because of very limited supply, has been rationed for the last few years.

*Strange Tales from Old Quabbin* — \$14.95.



### J.R. Greene's Quabbin History Calendar for 2018

J.R. Greene's traditional calendar for 2018 is now available. It has all new pictures, most in sepia color.

\$14.95



### The Secret Lives of the Quabbin Watershed

In the last issue of the *Voices*, we announced the forthcoming book by Dale Monette — *The Secret Lives of the Quabbin Watershed* — with 132 stunning pages of color photos of animals in their daily activities. It is now available at the Visitor Center Store just in time for holiday giving.

\$29.95. Perfect for a coffee table near you!

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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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