

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



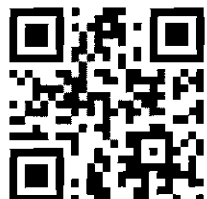
Spring 2018
Vol.31 No.1

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

CONTENTS

Summer Camps	1
President's Message	2
Interpretive Services	4
Poet's Corner	5
Commitment	8
Quabbin Park Inventory	9
Meetings & Events	10



Other Summer Camps in the Old Quabbin Valley

by J.R. Greene

Summer camps operated by Boy Scouts of America, Holyoke Young Women's Christian Association, and Springfield Girls' Clubs, respectively, were located in the valley flooded to create Quabbin Reservoir. These were in addition to the Jewish Camps described in the Fall 2017 *Quabbin Voices*.

The presence of the Athol Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad, which connected Athol and Springfield through the valley until 1935, facilitated development of private and institutional summer camps. Many people from the Springfield area and points farther away were able to access summer camps in the old Swift River Valley using the railroad before the automobile came into common use after World War I.

affairs. He became interested in supporting the Boy Scouts of America when that organization formed before World War I. Mr. Sprague was president of the Fitchburg Boy Scout Council and, therefore, instrumental in establishing their scout camp.

The council purchased some ninety acres of land on Lake Neeseponsett northwest of the village of North Dana in the 1920s. The council named the facility Camp Neeseponsett. According to town tax records, there was a main building, a shed, and a large hall on the property. Tepees were erected, which, along with tents, served to house the scouts during their summertime stays at the camp. Frontage on the lake, including boat docks, gave the scouts opportunities to swim and boat. In

1932, the town assessed the property at a value of a little over seven thousand dollars.

In 1933, the camp was leased to the Hampshire County Boy Scouts. They renamed it Camp Calvin Coolidge after the US president (1923-29) who had died at his home in the

Hampshire County seat of Northampton in January of that year. Two different sub-camps at the facility pictured on postcards used Native American names to identify themselves. One cluster of tents was called Camp Iniabe, the Pioneers. A group of tepees was named Camp Wa-sho-she, the Braves.



Boy Scout Camp Coolidge in North Dana

A Boy Scout camp was located on Lake Neeseponsett (also known as Nesseponsett Pond) in North Dana because of the influence of F. H. Sprague (1866–1937). Mr. Sprague moved from Dana to Orange as a young man. With others, he established a clothing factory there. The factory later relocated to Fitchburg, where Mr. Sprague became active in civic

continued on page 5



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Spring 2018

We've been teased with unseasonably warm and beautiful weather and the reality of winter struck us a Northeaster on March 7th that brought high winds, heavy wet snow.

We're almost out of the grey dreary winter and each day is becoming longer than the day before and daylight savings time went in effect on March 11, 2018. My hope is that winter is finally behind us and we're able to begin enjoying activities such as hiking, bird watching, and observing wildlife and the vistas of Quabbin, the accidental wilderness.



New Quabbin/Ware Regional Director Dan Clark between Gene Theroux and J.R. Greene at February Board Meeting

At the February 8, 2018 Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors meeting, a special guest was in attendance. Dan Clark, Ph.D., was recently hired as the new Regional Director of Quabbin/Ware River Region, DCR–Division of Water Supply Protection. He was there to introduce himself and respond to any questions. Mr. Clark emphasized his eagerness to work collectively for optimal results. That was well received by the directors because it has been the goal of the Friends for the past 34 years. The Friends of Quabbin was established in 1984 to be a support organization for the DCR's Quabbin Visitor Center. The Friends of Quabbin is committed to working with DCR and having a healthy and productive relationship. Our goal is to achieve results on common issues and initiatives such as a long-term plan for the preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery. That evening, I provided a presentation and briefing to Dr. Clark on the Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) Inventory & Preservation Project. I explained that the QPC holds a lot of interest from outside groups such as the Thayer Families Association and the Towne Family Association and how many Thayer family and Towne family members are interred in Quabbin Park Cemetery. Congratulations to Mr. Clark upon his promotion. We're optimistic for a healthy and productive partnership with DCR that will indeed bring optimal results for both parties.

The DCR Winter Programs were well attended. On February 11, 2018, the Swift River Valley Historical Society President, Shelley Small, was a guest presenter whose presentation explained the story of the museum and of the collections maintained by the museum. I attended the program and was quite impressed and pleased with the work of Megan O'Loughlin, the archivist at the



Shelley Small and Gene Theroux, President of the Friends of Quabbin

SRVHS. One of the items that Shelley brought with her was the Archival Collection Inventory that Megan had been working on. Both the Friends of Quabbin and the SRVHS have been partners since 1984 and are dedicated to improving collaboration between the two groups.

The Memorial Day Observance at Quabbin Park Cemetery this year will be a very special event: the 80th anniversary of the last Memorial Day Observances in the former towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. The final Memorial Day Observance in Enfield was held on May 30, 1938. There were ten members of the American Legion Swift River Valley Post 266



Last Memorial Day Observance in Enfield, Massachusetts, May 30, 1938. Left to right: Bugler, Elmer Russell, Elliot Harwood, Fred Farley, Robert Newbury, Joseph Stock, Donald Rowe, Albert Wendemuth, Roy Gage, H. M. Ryther, M. F. Howe.

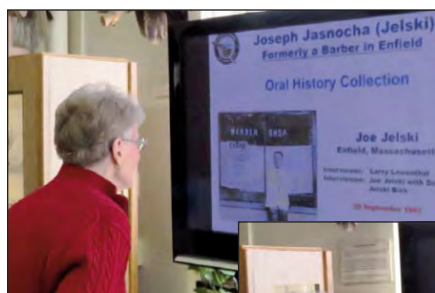
(continued next page)

Honor Guard at that final Memorial Day on the Enfield Common. The *Springfield Daily Republican* reported on Tuesday, May 31, 1938, “At 10 in the morning, the Legionnaires formed a line of march at the town hall, proceeded to the Enfield common and assembled near the Soldiers’ monument for a Memorial service. An unusual quiet prevailed as the presiding officer, Commander Elliott E. Harwood, greeted the 60 or more persons who gathered for the occasion.” This was followed by a prayer offered by Rev. Burton E. Marsh, pastor of the Enfield Congregational church. A large wreath was placed at the Solders’ monument by H. Clifton Moore, former Enfield resident, now of West Pelham. He was the son of a Civil war veteran, the late Edwin H. Moore of this town, who was commander of the General William S. Lincoln Grand Army of the Republic post (Enfield) for several years. The Swift River Valley American Legion Post 266 surrendered its charter in 1938 and the former members of Post 266 were transferred to other American Legion Posts. The Swift River Valley Historical Society Archival Collection Inventory contains the collection from the former Enfield Post 266 that includes the constitution, by-laws, signature of charter members, and post transfer records. The American Legion was founded on March 15, 1919 by WW I veterans in Paris, France; it will be celebrating its centennial in 2019. I will be writing about some not able veterans from the former Swift River Valley and their continued service to the community, state and nation in the next Quabbin Voices.

The March Tuesday Tea held on March 6th was a very special moment for me. There were five former residents of the Valley in attendance including former Enfield resident Dorothy “Dottie” Jelski Bish. I wanted to surprise Dottie with a video integrating a selection from the Oral History collection with restored images of her parents, grandparents, and images of her late father’s barber shop in Enfield. Larry Lowenthal, an acclaimed historian and an active interviewer and contributor to the Friends of Quabbin Swift River Oral History Project, had interviewed Dottie’s

father, Joseph Jasnocha (Jelski) on September 20, 1987.

I used one of the recordings that Larry



Dottie Jelski Bish looking at Gene’s video history of Joe Jelski, the Enfield barber



conducted with Joe and his daughter Dottie with images and made a video that was played at the Tuesday Tea. It was just astounding to see the happiness and joy brought to Dottie to hear the voice of her late father again and the images of her family and how it was in Enfield.

At the same Tuesday Tea, we had five of our “regulars” line up for a photo, left to right: Bill Jenkins formerly of West Hardwick (gate 43), Howard Frost formerly of Pelham Hollow, Stanley Boyko formerly of Enfield, Dottie Bish formerly of Enfield, and Deanna Krusiewicz formerly of Dana.



Larry Lowenthal, historian and author, attended the March 8, 2018 Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors Meeting. Larry was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his dedication and contributions to the Friends of Quabbin and the Oral History Project. Larry served on the board of directors for many years and had conducted 29 oral history interviews over the course of five years.



It’s been about 18 months since I became a Trustee of the New Salem Academy (NSA). I have attended several meetings including two semi-annual trustee’s meetings in 2017. The New Salem Academy was founded in 1795 “for the purposes of promoting piety, religion, and morality, and for instruction of youth in such languages and in such of the liberal arts and sciences as the trustees shall direct.” The New Salem Academy has a rich and deep history in the former Swift River Valley, and many former residents of the Valley had attended NSA—just over 4,000 alumni since its founding. In Donald W. Howe’s compiled book, *Quabbin the Lost Valley* (1951), beginning on page 602, there is a brief history of New Salem Academy. There have been two books written about the rich history of the New Salem Academy. The first book, *History of New Salem Academy* by Eugene Bullard (1913), details the founding of the academy through 1913. It is available for viewing and is linked off the Friends of Quabbin website, Links and Resources menu. The second book, *The History of New Salem Academy 1913 to 1995*, was coauthored by Eleanor McGinnis & Steven Blinder and is available on Amazon.com.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 21, 2018 for the New Salem Old Home Day/Reunion Day. The theme of the 2018 New Salem Old Home Day/Reunion Day will be New Salem Academy: Then and Now. In addition to the usual Old Home Day activities, Academy related activities will include information tables with Academy grant and scholarship information, a meeting for New Salem Academy alums by year of attendance,



Interpretive Services Report

Winter 2018

by Cliff Read

In January Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Leo Roy announced the appointment

of Dan Clark to the position of Regional Director for the Quabbin/Ware River Region, concluding a nearly yearlong process to fill the position formerly held by Bill Pula. Dan has worked for the Natural Resources Section of the Metropolitan District Commission which later became the DCR for 22 years. He received degrees in Conservation Biology and Wildlife Management from UMass-Amherst (B.S and Ph.D), the University of Missouri (M.S.) Originally hired as Conservation Biologist, he was promoted to Environmental Analyst several years later and worked across all four watersheds of the Division of Watershed Management/Division of Water Supply Protection. Since 2007 Dan has served as Director of Natural Resources for the Division, directing his team of wildlife biologists, foresters and regional planners to strengthen the agency's efforts around land acquisition, forest management and wildlife management. In particular Dan has been very involved in the Quabbin Deer Management program, the Gull Harassment program and updates/revisions of the Comprehensive Land Management Plan. He brings a familiarity of the watersheds and the issues faced within each area.

Since he officially began his work here in mid-January Dan has been meeting with staff, touring the watersheds, delving into the budget and familiarizing himself with the many programs that are part of the Region's operations. He has also been meeting with different stakeholder groups including the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors at their February meeting. The Quabbin and Ware River staff is excited to work with Dan as the Region enters a new chapter in its history.

With Dan's appointment comes the conclusion of John Scannell's time serving as Interim Regional Director for the Quabbin/Ware River Region. For the past year John has worn two hats, covering his regular job as Regional Director for the Wachusett/Sudbury Region as well as the Quabbin/Ware River

job. Thanks go out to John for his extended time serving in this capacity and keeping things operating smoothly along with Assistant Regional Director Lisa Gustavsen. However John's simplified work responsibilities were short lived following the announcement by Jonathan Yeo, Director for the Division of Water Supply Protection that he would be leaving in mid-January to take the job as Chief Operating Officer for his home town of Newton. John will be serving as Acting Director for the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection while the search for a permanent Director is carried out.

For more than 30 years Jonathan Yeo served the state in a number of different capacities. Starting as the first intern with the newly formed Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) in 1985, he later moved to the Department of Environmental Management's Division of Water Resources. Returning to the MWRA, he served as Planner, Project Manager and Communications Director before being hired as the Director of Water Supply Protection for the DCR where he served in that role (and other interim roles in the agency) for more than a dozen years. While Jonathan will be leaving the Division, he will remain very connected to the DCR/MWRA water system through his work in Newton, one of the largest water user communities in the system.

January's intense burst of cold weather helped chill the reservoir to a point where it was ready to freeze completely, but the proper combination of a subzero night and no wind failed to materialize. It was oh so close! As temperatures moderated through the month the open expanses of water in front of the Administration Building would skim over with ice, only to have it break up as winds cranked up during the day. Finally in February there was an almost complete covering of ice with the exception of some pockets of open water towards Enfield Channel. Seventy degree temperatures during the school vacation week diminished the ice cover and by the beginning of March the Winsor Dam basin was once again ice free. This situation presents challenges to the DCR as the Gull Harassment Program must operate more days while there is open water, adding to budgetary expenses and demands on personnel. With the exception of three years ago when the reservoir froze for two and a half months, the trend of incomplete or shortened reservoir freezing is becoming the rule rather than the exception. This correlates with climatic information that shows a warming trend in our environment as our average temperatures rise.

President's Message...continued from page 3



Old New Salem Academy Building

and the Old Academy Building Museum will be open. Lunch vouchers will be given to all NSA attendees. Buttons will be given to Academy grant and scholarship recipients, as well as NSA attendees. Bring your

cameras and phones for a special photo opportunity as bunting will be hung from 23 windows of the Old Academy Building.

The Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at the United Church, 49 Church Street, Ware, Mass. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by a break for light refreshments and the program, a Time Travel Tour of the Petersham & Monson Turnpike from inside Gate 37 to the present Route 9. **Please note the venue change from the Belchertown Senior Center to the United Church in Ware.**

Other Summer Camps

continued from page 1

The Boy Scout camp was sold to the water commission that built the Quabbin Reservoir, as all of the property would be flooded by that project. The Fitchburg Scout Council used the proceeds from the camp sale to purchase land in Rindge, New Hampshire, to use for their new camp. That property is now the site of Franklin Pierce University.



Girls at the Holyoke YWCA camp in Greenwich

Another major institutional camp in the old valley was in Greenwich, run by Holyoke Young Women's Christian Association. This 112-acre property had been the old Gelling farm, on the west shore of Greenwich Lake. It was purchased by the YWCA in 1925 and ended up consisting of a house, a large barn (converted into a recreation hall), corn house, hen house, and five bungalows. The property was assessed by the town at a value of a little over \$5,000 in 1928.



Gypsy Hike by girls at Holyoke YWCA Camp



Town Lodge at Holyoke YWCA Summer Camp

The camp fronted a half mile of Greenwich Lake, allowing for swimming and boating for thirty to forty girls each summer. When not in use by the YWCA, it was rented to other groups. A postcard of the camp mailed by a camper in 1932 shows a group of girls taking a "gypsy hike" along the lake shore. The camp was also sold to the water commission in the 1930s and is totally under the waters of Quabbin Reservoir.

A third, little-known institutional summer camp in the old valley was not located on a large body of water. The Springfield Girls Club was allowed to use the mansion "The Spruces," once the home of piano manufacturer and spiritualist Henry W. Smith. It was located in the northeastern part of Enfield, near the East Branch of the Swift River. Smith's longtime companion Helen Lochlan lived on the twenty-acre estate after his death in 1914. She apparently gave the Girls Club permission to use it for a number of years.



The Spruces, estate of Henry Smith

According to Amy Spink and Mabel Jones in their 1938 "Letters from Quabbin" article series #23, "This spacious home and grounds made an ideal place for the city girls to rest and play. The large barn on the property was converted into a dormitory and assembly hall." This property was sold to the water commission by Smith's estate in the late 1920s, so its use by the Girls Club would have ceased by that time.



J.R. Greene, a lifelong resident of Athol, is the author of twenty books, sixteen of which relate to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to build it.

This article first appeared in the May–August 2017 issue of "Uniquely Quabbin" magazine. It has been modified slightly and pictures have been added. It is reprinted with the permission of the author. A companion article, "Drowned Towns Once Housed Summer Camps for Jewish City Kids," appeared in the Fall 2017 issue of *Quabbin Voices* and may be found at www.friendsofquabbin.org.

NOTE: The following numbers of the author's annual *Quabbin History Calendar* contain photos of two of the summer camps mentioned in this article: July, 2009 contains a photo of the Boy Scout camp in North Dana and July, 2003; July, 2007; August, 2013 and August, 2014 contain photos of the Holyoke YWCA Camp in Greenwich. The author's 1999 book, *Henry W. Smith: Quabbin's Controversial Spiritualist*, has a photo of the Smith mansion.

Poet's Corner

For Deanna Krusiewicz on Her 80th Birthday

Sometimes a work of art's so perfect they break the mold
And that's what happened in the town of Dana, I'm told.
It was 80 years ago—that was way before my time,
But I shall still try to pay tribute with this little rhyme.
Now the old saying is that you can't go home again
And that's especially true if your home town's been done in.
So this precious babe was the last one Dana would see
And it gave the tiny girl lots of notoriety.
Deanna Hamilton, last baby born in Dana
(Oh, oh, problem. Can't think of a rhyme for Dana...well, uh...)
Ok, I'll skip that and move on to the present day.
I haven't known Deanna long, but this much I'll say,
Every time I see her she brings a smile to my face.
Her goodies at Tuesday Tea disappear without a trace.
She's right there with us on hikes, e'en though the sun don't shine;
Eating lunch amid the raindrops beneath a big ol' pine.
It's too bad the mold was broken for this work of art,
We sure could use more like her; she brings joy to every heart.

—Anne Ely

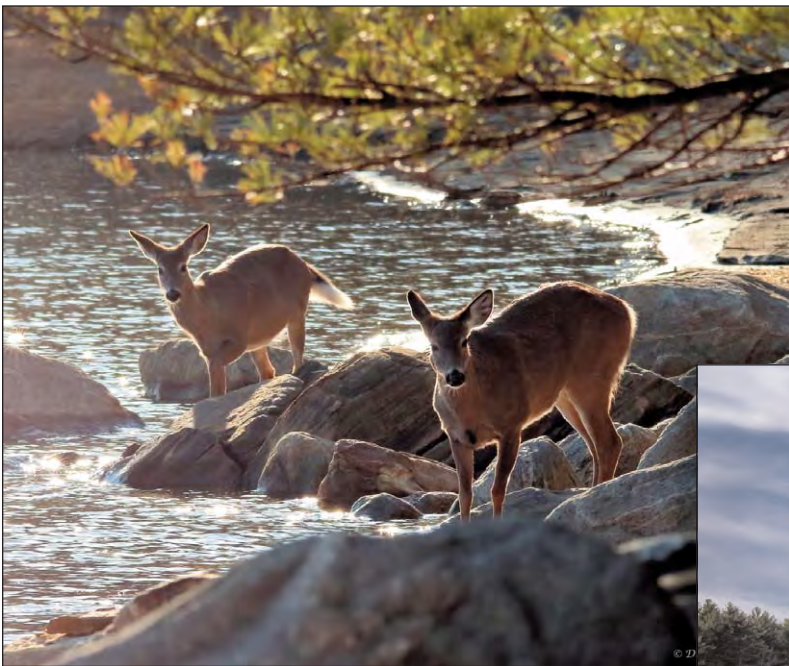


Laurie Godfrey with the birthday girl



Very wet Tuesday Tea Trekkers with Deanna front and center.

Photographer's Corner



*Deer on Shore
by D.R.Davis*



Bull Moose by Dale Monette



*Ice on Quabbin
by Gail Platz*

© GAIL PLATZ

How Do You Spell Commitment? Friends of Quabbin!

by Paul Godfrey

Friends of Quabbin has recently endeavored to improve conditions at the Quabbin Park Cemetery. This means not only cleaning and repairing headstones but improving a visitor's ability to locate family members, improving documentation of all grave sites, and making the Quabbin Park Cemetery and its accompanying information sources exemplary of the best. Our President, Gene Theroux, has personally led much of this effort with the goal of making Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) a National Historic Place.

In January, 2018, we received a letter from Bette O'Connor of Vermont with the following simple request:

"I went to the Quabbin Park Cemetery last summer and was able to locate one of the gravestones I was looking for. I was not able to locate a stone for Samuel Kimball who died December 20, 1826. According to the map he was in section 17, lot 18. I think I was in the right area. Do you have a record if there is actually a stone there for him? If so, I would like to go back to get a photo."

Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Samuel Kimball
Quabbin Park - Enfield: Church Cemetery Hill Records

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 23 2008 BOSTON, MASS.
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
WATERBURY
COMMISSION
MORTON, MISS. COOPER, CHURCH

Cemeteries - Church - Enfield
FILE
1.61-A6
ACC
DATE 4/26/2008
BLOT No. 8

Grave No.	Grave	Material	Condition	Stone Marking	Remarks
238	690 Clark Sampson	Single Marble	Fair	Clark Sampson Born Feb 22, 1823 Died Dec 20, 1894	12" x 12" 9 1/2" high
	Lucatia M. Sampson	Single Marble	Fair	Lucatia M. Sampson Born Sept 2, 1804 Died Oct 28, 1874	
239	691 Luther S. Fisk	Marble	Fair	Luther S. Fisk Wife of Chas. S. Fisk Died Nov 1, 1874 Aged 32 years	14" x 22" 12" high
240	692 Samuel Kimball	Single Marble	Not here (buried)	Samuel Kimball Died Feb 20, 1826 Aged 37	14" x 22" 12" high
	Hannah Kimball	Single Marble	Not here (buried)	Hannah Kimball Died Feb 20, 1826 Aged 37	
693	Depression indicates use.				

It's a simple, straightforward question, one that many visitors to the QPC might ask, but one that either can't be answered easily or at all.

With FOQ efforts to improve the record-keeping and the physical appearance of the QPC already underway via a training session in the fall and several expressions of willingness to apply our labors and abilities with DCR staff to make the question easy to answer, addressing this question became a personal commitment for Gene. He had the support of the rest of FOQ.

In an email to me, he described his first steps (paraphrasing): *I took the time to do further research on Samuel Kimball. He did have a headstone in 1928 in Church Cemetery, Enfield, see attached.*

In addition to the attached, at the Quabbin Visitor Center are Daily Activity Reports that identify what the cemetery workers on the water project did and references the burial record for QPC. You can see that the attached informs of the original marble head-

stone. They may in fact have photographs upstairs of each headstone as we know they do for all of the real estate part, but we don't yet know.

Looking at this issue and what we found, it raises even more questions.

Gene was only just starting. Over the next month, he verified that Samuel Kimball was not buried in another cemetery; in fact, the grave was at QPC. And then with the diligence and deductive skills of Sherlock Holmes, he found the headstone. In late February he could then write to Bette (paraphrasing):

Last Saturday, I traveled to Quabbin Park Cemetery and looked for Samuel & Hannah Kimball's headstone; I was successful in finding it. The headstone is shown in the photo. Three inches of snow on the ground and rain made photography less than ideal.

You'll notice from the photograph that it was very difficult to read any of the inscription on the white marble headstone from the biological growth and other contaminants over the last 85 plus years. The Church Cemetery Records were invaluable to me in identifying the headstone of Samuel & Hannah Kimball. In this case, the most important data were in the remarks column (see first figure)—the width, depth, and height of the headstone. These dimensions confirmed the identity of the headstone.



*When Spring arrives, I will return to Quabbin Park Cemetery and capture a better image of Samuel & Hannah Kimball's headstone and publish it to the **Find A Grave** website along with the GPS coordinates and photo of the headstone. The following is a link to Samuel Kimball at Find A Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/132206427/samuel-kimball>.*

Bette was effusive with her thanks and Gene got a sweet surprise just days ago: a gift of Vermont maple syrup.

Gene has since been developing techniques for commonly available smart phones and pads that will allow anyone to find family headstones in QPC once we log all the GPS coordinates; that is, perform the same degree of effort for all grave sites that Gene did for this one. So, there is much work to be done; Gene has pioneered this for QPC and the rest of us must now join him in the effort to document all gravesites so that anyone interested can find his or her family grave sites. Even further, given the other work FOQ has been doing on oral histories and historical photographs, grave site information can be placed in the context of visual and written history. When done, it will be a truly remarkable resource and example for others—one worthy of a National Historic Place.

Quabbin Park Cemetery— Benefits of the Inventory and Documentation Project by Gene Theroux

Significant progress has been made since the last *Quabbin Voices* newsletter. Dan Clark, the Regional Director of Quabbin who attended the Board of Directors Meeting on February 8, 2018 has responded to the Friends of Quabbin letter from November 20, 2017. Mr. Clark stated in his letter that it is clear that the first priority for Quabbin Park Cemetery “QPC” is to develop and formalize a Standard Operating Procedure “SOP” or Policy Manual that addresses the questions from the Friends of Quabbin and other topics related to how QPC is managed. The Friends of Quabbin will be provided a draft of the document and will review and will make recommendations as appropriate. Mr. Clark anticipates that the SOP or Policy Manual draft will be complete sometime this spring. Once, the document is in-place, then the Friends of Quabbin can begin discussions with DCR of how the Friends of Quabbin might be able to help with the long-term care and maintenance of Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Fig. 1

We explored several apps for portable devices that permit collecting latitude and longitude with 3 meter accuracy (Fig. 2). These data can be put on the Cemetery worksheet. Better than that, these apps link you to Google maps and shows your position in the cemetery.

The video of Ta Mara Conde conducting the QPC Inventory Training last fall is available on the Friends YouTube channel (linked on Friends website). Following her directions and

Perhaps, the most significant news is the progress made in just the last couple of weeks pertaining to the surveying and documentation of the monuments and headstones. Space doesn't permit going into much detail here so we have put a more detailed description on the Friends website. In brief, we have taken the Cemetery worksheet provided by Ta Mara Conde and made that a check box, fillable form for use on portable Apple and Android devices. We've added a few parameters, latitude and longitude to work with the items described next (Fig. 1).



Fig. 2

using the fillable apps and GPS apps on a portable device, one can easily complete the Cemetery worksheet. Many headstones are hard to read, but *we must underscore that cleaning or rubbing is not allowed at this time*. Those parts of the form must be left blank if unreadable and that condition noted on the form. Besides acquiring the GPS data and filling out the inventory form, a photo should be taken with the same portable device or camera. The file name for the photo must include Section, Lot Number (if known), Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial of the interred to guarantee that the photo doesn't get separated from this key information. All this information will be entered in a spreadsheet for a number of purposes, not the least of which is making strategic decisions and priorities in the restoration and preservation phase of Quabbin Park Cemetery.

But there's more! The spreadsheet detail will be used to compare what's on the “Find a Grave” website and make additions, add photos and corrections, as appropriate.

For example, using the above completed inventory worksheet, we found information missing in the “FindaGrave.com” listing for James F. Wood at Quabbin Park Cemetery. A designated registered “Find a Grave” user would enter the suggested edit (Fig. 3) for the memorial for James F. Wood such as indicated below. The update would substitute accurate information for the missing elements such as Burial Coordinates for Latitude & Longitude and then pin the coordinates to the Map, Plot, Inscription, etc. The suggested edit would then be forwarded to the memorial manager who would then either approve or to deny the suggested changes. The last step would be to add the photo of the headstone, monument, veterans' marker or footstone to the memorial with an opportunity to enter a caption for each photo uploaded (Fig. 4).

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Once the Burial Coordinates (GPS) have been published to the memorial in Find a Grave, then you'll be able to click on the "Show Map" hyperlink on the Memorial View at "Find A Grave" website as illustrated in Figure 5.

The result of clicking the Show Map hyperlink for the Lyman Foster Shearer memorial above launch Google Maps Directions with the GPS Coordinates for that memorial be the search for directions. It will return a Google map view indicating where the monument is located on the map.

In another example, the photo (Fig. 6) is of four headstones of the Towne family plot of 2111 for Andrew J., his wife Clara House Towne and their two children: Henry and Ella F. These four memorials are in section 21. These carvings are close to impossible to read due to biological growth that is slowly eating away the inscriptions. Without viewing the DCR cemetery interment records and having those records appended into a database these memorials would not have been easily identified. The GPS coordinates were captured and information updated into the Find a Grave website for this particular Towne family. The filename for this photo is "2111 - FAMILY PLOT OF TOWNE ANDREW, CLARA F. HOUSE, HENRY A. & ELLA F."

Fig. 6



The above examples were used to create "Placemarks" and insert these Placemarks on a Google Earth map. You can then save your specified map with Placemark as a JPEG file. Figure 7 shows the photo associated with the Placemark that can be emailed. Even more, "KMZ" file can be saved and emailed. It will include the GPS coordinates and the photo of the Wood memorial. The recipient of the email will receive the "KMZ" file as an attachment that, when clicked on, opens Google Earth and shows the precise location from the placemarks of the gravesites.



Fig. 7

We can't do justice to how amazing this looks as it zooms in to your chosen site.

The Friends of Quabbin is still looking for volunteers to participate in the Quabbin Park Cemetery inventory and documentation effort. You can volunteer for a section of the cemetery or a portion thereof, work on your own schedule and at your own pace. Volunteers will be provided an orientation and have the opportunity to shadow an experienced volunteer until they feel comfortable working independently. If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux via email at gene.theroux@verizon.net or via telephone at: (413) 627-3475.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next one will be April 3rd. Then they will be on May 1st, June 5th and July 3rd.

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.

Monday Night, March 26th—Members Night
(Please bring 10-15 images to share with fellow members.)

Monday Night, April 23rd—John Van De Graaf's: "Birds of the American West".

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. The annual meeting is in January. Check their website for more information.

DCR Programs

Sunday March 25th, 2:00–3:00 p.m.
THE LIFE OF AN AQUATIC BIOLOGIST –
DCR Aquatic Biologist shares a snapshot of her day.
A Day in the Life of an Aquatic Biologist
Have you ever thought that being an aquatic biologist at



Spring Time at the Quabbin by Elaine Darr-Morton

Massachusetts largest reservoir was a cool job? Are you curious about how we collect and identify microscopic organisms living in the reservoir? What else do we do? It isn't always just spending time on a boat! Join Aquatic Biologist Paula Packard for a brief presentation on being an Aquatic Biologist at the Quabbin Reservoir.



Saturday May 12th, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
QUABBIN PARK HISTORY DETECTIVES
Hidden in the Quabbin Forest are clues to life in the four drowned towns. Join us as we search for signs of the past! Meet at the Webster Road trail in Quabbin Park. Please dress appropriately for the weather and for a forest hike. (Call 413-323-7221 for directions and reservations)

Swift River Valley Historical Society Programs

APRIL
Sunday, April 22nd, SPRING HIKE to Puppyville/ Millington—meet at New Salem Common to carpool/caravan to gate (limited parking) at 11:00 a.m.

MAY
Tuesday, May 1st, SRVHS is participating in **VALLEY GIVES 2018**. The 24 hours of giving begins at midnight and ends at 11:59 p.m.
ValleyGives@communityfoundation.org

Sunday, May 6th, SPRING HIKE through a portion of Enfield to Greenwich—meet at Quabbin Park east entrance for carpool/caravan to gate (limited parking) at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 27th, MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE commemorating veterans from the four towns at the Quabbin Park Cemetery. Refreshments served at 10:00 a.m. Step-off March and Ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. Interpretive program at 2:00 p.m. with Nancy Huntington.

Meetings & Events

JUNE

Sunday, June 17th, MUSEUM OPENING DAY

Sunday, June 24th, PRESCOTT BUS TRIP. Meet at SRVHS for 11:00 a.m. departure.

JULY

Sunday, July 1st, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS with Michael Jones, State Herpetologist. In the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 1:00 p.m. Optional field trip to follow the program.

July 9th–13th, WATER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
Please call Emma Ayres at 413-992-7936 for information.

Sunday, July 15th, DANA REUNION – Dana Common Gates open at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 21st, OLD HOME DAY – New Salem Common from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) This will also be NEW SALEM ACADEMY REUNION DAY.

Sunday, July 22nd, DANA VESPERS – Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 4:00 p.m. Cake and lemonade served after the concert to celebrate Mrs. Clary's 180th birthday. Mrs. Clary lived in the Whitaker-Clary house until she was 98 years old.

We Lost Another Dear Friend

On December 28, 2017, **Louise Jankins** (80) died. Louise and devoted husband of 60 years, Bill, were regulars at Tuesday Teas. While a special wife and mom, she also was an Executive Secretary for United Technologies and Sherman Oil until her retirement 2001 and collector of antiques with her own shop in the barn of her home. She was an accomplished artist and weaver of exquisite Nantucket baskets. Louise was devoted to volunteerism in her town of West Brookfield with a passion for historic preservation of land and landmarks such as the West Brookfield bandstand, Rice Memorial fountain, and town hall restorations. She leaves, in addition to her husband, three sons and their families including nine grandchildren. Originally from Pittsfield, she lived in West Brookfield for over 50 years. She will be missed by many.



Annual Memorial Day Commemoration Services

Sunday May 27, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Quabbin Park Cemetery



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., Nancy Huntington, DCR, will provide an interpretive program.

Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting

April 8, 2018

United Church
49 Church Street, Ware, Mass.
12:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Directions:

Directions to United Church, 49 Church Street:

From west on Rte 9

3rd intersection after Rte 21 intersection (2nd traffic light), turn left and 5 blocks on Church Street. Church on right.

From east on Rte 9

3rd intersection after dam, turn right and 5 blocks (2nd traffic light) on Church Street. Church on right.

The entrance door to Fellowship Hall is facing Church Street with a handicap entrance in full view.

Friends of Quabbin 2017–2018 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

Paul H. LaFlamme
49 Country Club Hts.
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-3133
soquela @samnet.net

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

Mark Thompson
124 Fisherduck 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

