

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



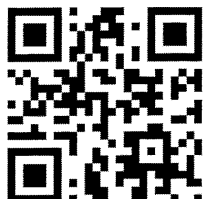
Winter 2018
Vol.31 No.4

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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Quabbin Reservoir Once Part of Tribal Land of Weakapaug Indians

by Donald Duffy

Editor's Note: The last issue of Quabbin Voices featured a story on the Quabbin Oak, now reduced to a trunk with no branches. At the recent Board of Directors meeting and the last Tuesday Tea, I suggested that the Quabbin Oak might become a memorial to the Native Americans of the Swift River Valley, thereby remedying a long-standing oversight. The suggestion was heartily supported by both groups. For that reason, it seemed appropriate to provide some relevant history. Donald Duffy provided this article to the Voices in 2012, but there was not space at the time to publish it. It is reprinted now with permission.

*The idea was planted then that more attention should be paid. At the Enfield Bicentennial in 2016 there was another step: Nipmuc re-enactors were an important part of the event. This might be the next step—one visible, constant reminder to all visitors who need to be aware of **all** the sacrifices represented by the Quabbin.*

Quabbin Reservoir was once part of the group land of the Weakapaug Indians last sited in West Brookfield. The Weakapaugs were part of the somewhat larger Quaboag Indian group.

As researched in the book, *Around Pottequadic*, by Donald Duffy, tribal lands of the Weakapaug and the Misquiboag extended from the western slopes of Mt. Wachusett to the west of the West Branch of the Swift River. The group land ran from Monson northerly to North Dana and Petersham. They controlled land in the Swift River, Ware River, and Quaboag River watersheds.

By the beginning of European settlement in New England, the Weakapaug, or perhaps



Re-enactor Nipmuc Youth Council dancers, Enfield Bicentennial 2016 (photo by Kevin Kopchynski)

Wekshikpaug, were known as the people from the end of the pond. The people from the red pond, Misquiboag, later called Quaboag Pond, were most likely the same people and lived in villages a few miles from each other.

Information recently found at the Massachusetts Archives goes far in explaining the limits and extent of the tribal land.

At the end of the King Philip's War, the Quaboag Indians were either killed, enslaved, or fled their tribal area. One of the survivors settled among the Stockbridge Indians in Stockbridge. This Indian petitioned the colonial government to receive acknowledgement of his "native right" as a descendent of the previous sachem of the Weakapaug Indians. He claimed his tribe had not received payment for their land as required by law.

This Indian made several attempts to receive his "native right" and as part (continued on page 7)



President's Message

Winter 2018

Gene Theroux

The last few months have been busy and very rewarding but also demanding of many skills ranging from history, curation/restoration, video editing, public presentation and debating.

I was invited to provide a presentation at the Hatfield Historical Society on Thursday evening, November 15, 2018 at the Congregational Church Parlors in Hatfield. This year marked



Gene Theroux at Hatfield Historical Society talking about a slide, "Remembering the veterans of the Great War from the Swift River Valley"

the 80th anniversary of the elimination of the four towns that occurred on April 28, 1938. My presentation to the Hatfield Historical Society included the video that I created for the 2016 Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting. I modified the video for the Hatfield event. The content of the video included an excerpt from the audio, "Here Was Home" CD track 7, Smith's Village, "Anonymous Poem" narrated by Bob Wilder and historic photos from Enfield and from the Valley. The "Here Was Home" CD provides a history of the Swift River Valley and the Quabbin Reservoir; it is available for purchase at the Quabbin Visitor Center. I was pleasantly surprised at the attendance at the event in spite of a weather report calling for five or more inches of snow that evening. The Hatfield Historical Society's President is Cher Nicolas; she is also a member of the Friends of Quabbin. The evening included a "potluck" dinner and a business meeting. The Hatfield Historical Society gave the Friends of Quabbin a \$100 donation for the Quabbin Park Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Fund. Thank you to the Hatfield Historical Society for their generous contribution.

The Hatfield Historical Society has some very interesting programs scheduled over the next six months which I'm going to mark on my calendar. They include "Whately and Hatfield in Shay's Rebellion" and "Through Marion's Eyes, Medicine in World War I". To learn more about the Hatfield Historical Society and their future and past events, please visit their website: <https://hatfieldhistory.weebly.com/events.html>

The New Salem Academy (NSA) Board of trustees had their Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at Herrick's Tavern in Orange, Massachusetts to review scholar-



New Salem Academy Trustees at their fall meeting

ship and grant applications; they awarded \$17,400 in scholarships and grants during this meeting. As a trustee, I attended. The last order of business was a motion by NSA President Dan Hammock to donate \$1,000 to the Friends of Quabbin for the Quabbin Park Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Fund. The NSA Trustees voted and approved this motion unanimously. NSA President Dan Hammock informed me that he wanted to be sure that it was known that the NSA fully endorses the restoration and preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery.



Vintage Postcard of the New Salem Academy and boarding houses

I've written previously that the New Salem Academy was a significant part of the Swift River Valley Story. Many former valley residents attended the New Salem Academy and a significant number of them are interred at Quabbin Park Cemetery. In the late 18th century, there were no high schools in the Swift River Valley. On February 25, 1795, Massachusetts Governor Samuel Adams signed the original legislation creating New Salem Academy. The Trustees of New Salem Academy, an organization provided for in that legislation to manage the

affairs of The Academy, has been in continuous existence for 224 years.



Emmeline B. Wells

There were some alumni of NSA who became quite notable in adult life. One such was Emmeline B. Wells (1828-1921) who was born in Petersham and graduated from NSA at the age of fourteen. Emmeline was an American journalist, editor, poet, women's right advocate and diarist. Wells became an advocate of women's rights, writing under the name "Blanche Beechwood" for the *Woman's Exponent*. She was

active in the national women's suffrage movement, where she served as liaison between Mormon and non-Mormon women and fielded hostile criticism associated with the practice of polygamy. On the national level, she was closely associated with both Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

A bust of Wells, inscribed "A Fine Soul Who Served Us", is found in the rotunda of the Utah State Capitol. The bust was funded through the efforts of women's groups in Utah, including the feminist community, Latter Day Saints women's groups, and women's groups from other church organizations and was made posthumously as a tribute to Wells. She was truly a remarkable woman. To learn more about her and her writings, do computer searches in the Internet Archive and Wikipedia.



*A bust of
Emmeline B. Wells*

Thanks to NSA Trustee Brian Casey for identifying NSA alumni Emmeline B. Wells and bringing her rich history to life. A hearty "thank you" to the New Salem Academy Board of Trustees for their generous gift towards the preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery. For others interested in donating to the Friends of Quabbin, we are a 501c(3) nonprofit. Tax-deductible donations may be designated for restoration and preservation efforts at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

The 2018 Friends of Quabbin Holiday Party was well-attended and I was grateful that historian Larry Lowenthal, Dottie Bish and Stanley Boyko were in attendance. Larry Lowenthal did 29 Oral History interviews during the course of five years for the Friends of Quabbin. From his interviews of Joseph Josnocha (Jelski) formerly of Enfield and Stanley Boyko also from Enfield, I produced three short videos for 2018 Holiday Party program. Two videos were about Joseph Josnocha, the son of Helen and John Josnocha of Enfield and the father of Dottie Bish. At the age of 14, he worked in Greenwich harvesting ice from Greenwich Lake; these were the days of the 'ice chest' before refrigeration. Later in life he became a barber with his own barber shop in Enfield. A humorous element was how Joe

Josnocha became Joe Jelski. The mailman coined the name (perhaps he couldn't say Josnocha) and refused to use Josnocha's real name. The third video was an Oral History interview of Stanley Boyko who provided our oral histories with a verbal tour of Enfield from the Belchertown town line to the Sanderson Garage on Main Street, some 1800 feet short of the Enfield village center. All three interviews were conducted by Larry Lowenthal. While the videos are not full length documentaries, they, nevertheless, required substantial effort and skill to select excerpts from the oral histories and images from our files and to combine them into a seamless story. For example, the resources for these three videos were: the town reports of Enfield, Massachusetts, GenealogyBank (an archive of old newspaper articles), Ancestry.com, Jon Melick's Time Travel Tours, and the Oral History index files done by Nancy Huntington of the Quabbin Visitor Center staff. I'd also like to thank Paul Godfrey and Clif Read for their contributions of photographs from our historic photo files—both of them responded within minutes of my request(s). These three videos, 1) Oral History Interview Movie Joe Jelski Ice Business, 2) Oral History Interview Movie Joe Jelski Barbershop in Enfield, and 3) Oral History Interview Movie Stanley Boyko A Tour of Enfield, are available for viewing on the Friends of Quabbin YouTube channel which is linked off the Friends of Quabbin website (Links & Resources menu): www.foquabbin.org. Both Dottie and Stanley received DVD copies.

The Friends of Quabbin was well represented at the December 3rd, 2018 meeting of the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC). The DCR Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) Management Plan was on the agenda. Friends of Quabbin Chairman J.R.

Greene is the primary representative to the QWAC; I serve as the alternate. During the meeting, there was a full 13 and half minute discussion on the Cemetery Management Plan. My motivation to attend the QWAC meeting was to share my observations, questions, and recommendations with the others on the QWAC and to ensure the discussion on the Cemetery was entered into the minutes. I complimented DCR for their honesty in identifying their failure to properly maintain the infrastructure at the Cemetery which resulted in: 1) abandonment of the on-site septic system in 1990, supporting the two bathrooms in the QPC administration building; 2) failure to properly maintain the irrigation system by failing to drain the water lines in winter causing pipe breaks (a second-



Gene Theroux presents a DVD of the Josnocha videos to Dorothy "Dottie" Josnocha Jelski Bish. Two other DVDs of restored photographs and other material used in the videos was given to her.

ary water source at the entrance that relies on a spring is both unreliable in modest dry spells and insufficient) and 4) failure to properly maintain burial records. This prompted a lengthy discussion on Records Management. Specifically, the lack of an automated “digital” burial records system that is available for searches, queries both internally for the Quabbin Visitor Staff and available to the public via a web browser search capability. I also 5) identified issues in interpretation of Massachusetts General Laws such as Chapter 114 and Chapter 115 as applied to DCR. And, I 6) raised questions on liability described on the stone cleaning policy and 7) pointed out that a significant number of those reinterred from among the 34 former cemeteries have no surviving heirs to maintain the headstones and monuments.



Terry Campbell providing a tour of notables in Quabbin Park Cemetery (1988).

The Friends of Quabbin will be providing a detailed comments to the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee. The QWAC will then address the Quabbin Park Cemetery Management Plan with DCR and with the legislators as appropriate. The Quabbin Water Advisor Committee holds its next meeting on Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Quabbin Visitor Center. The QWAC is an open meeting to the public. The Quabbin Park Cemetery Management Plan is available for review at the Mass.gov website; and the direct link to the plan is:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/28/quabbin-parkcemeteryplay2018.pdf>

The Friends of Quabbin has emphasized previously that the Quabbin Park Cemetery initiative seeks to achieve two goals: 1) to return the cemetery to its former beauty and become listed in the National Registry and 2) to 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. These large tasks need the cooperation of many and we hope to partner with DCR and other historical



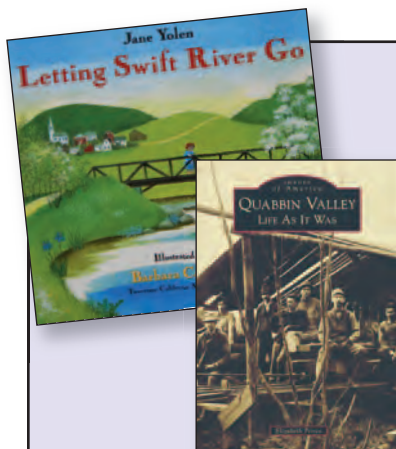
Barbara Hanno, a Towne Family Association member and Chair of the Petersham Cemetery Commission addresses other members of the Towne Family Association during a tour of QPC on September 1, 2018.

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 donations to the Friends of Quabbin.

Have a safe and rewarding Holiday Season to you and to your family.

Here’s some resources on QWAC:

1. MGL, Part I, Title XIV, Chapter 92A1/2: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter92A1~2/Section13>
2. About QWAC: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/quabbin-watershed-advisory-committee-qwac>



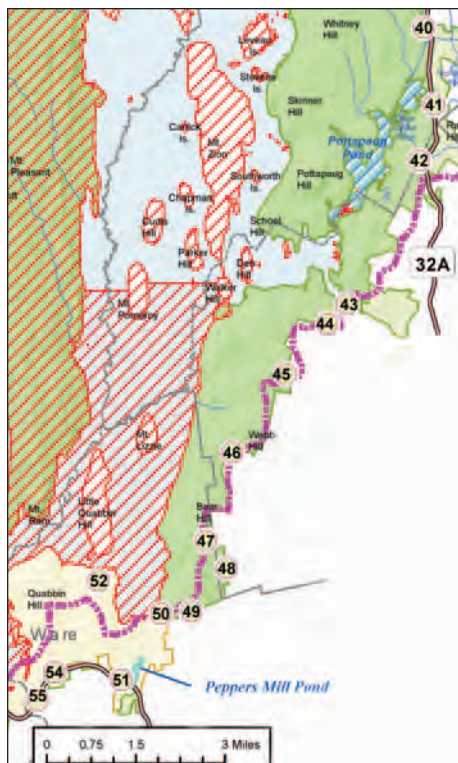
Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program

The **Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program** continues to provide Quabbin-related books to libraries and schools. Any book(s) available at the Quabbin Visitor Center up to \$170 total list price may be requested. Please let your local school or library know of this opportunity for free books about the Quabbin. For details, go to:

<http://www.foquabbin.org/home.html>. A goal of your request must be to further knowledge about the Quabbin. The application should be no more than five pages (preferably less) and include: intended users and use, location of use, duration of use (one time, every year, occasionally, continually, etc.) and books and amount requested. A number of local libraries and schools have successfully applied. Please help us find the next.

Dana to Enfield Tower Hike

by John Zebb

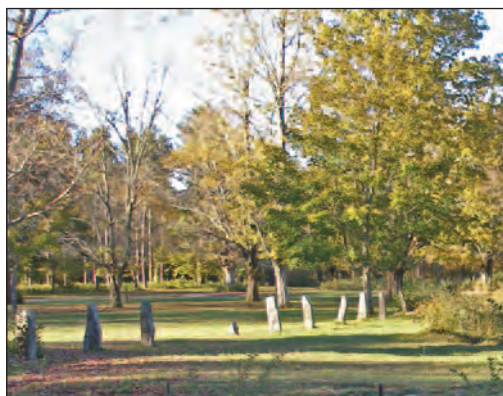


The hike began at Gate 40 in the upper right corner and ended in the lower left corner at Quabbin tower.

This season’s “long walk” (as I refer to them) covered from Gate-40 to the iconic Enfield Tower in Quabbin Park. It was the logical extension of last year’s effort which began at Gate-22 and crossed the top of the reservation finishing at Gate-40. At 16 miles to completion (4 less than last year), it proved to be more difficult because of uphill walking that began at the 7- and 10-mile points. I also made a bad judgement near the finish that cost me an hour on tired legs.

Over the years I was teased that I never had a camera

with me. I was never keen on picture taking of any sort, but I did start to feel slightly foolish when I found some old town and county markers and could only talk about them. I also felt that people might enjoy seeing some of the locations I navigated to because they might never get to them themselves. I have no polished technical skills with a camera, but I felt I had an adequate sense of composition from past drawing classes.



Dana common looking southwest.

The hike began on a clear, cold Tuesday morning, October 16, 2018, with the familiar walk out to historic Dana Common. The low early morning sun cast long shadows across the overnight-frost-visited grounds and fields. From there, I continued towards the G-43 boat launch; this section is along an archetypal Quabbin roadway, i.e. trending downhill to the water level.



The roads we love. A look toward Gate-45.

I passed no other hiker in the course of the day until I reached Goodnough Dike and chatted with a few casual walkers enjoying the afternoon. I did, however, flag down and introduce myself to the various DCR employ-

ees that were busy keeping the place running. There were ongoing efforts all Fall to knock back the well-watered vegetation that was encroaching on many of the trails. I also shared a conversation with the staff at the G-43 boat launch and viewed photos left by this season’s proudest anglers.



One of several beaver ponds in Fitzpatrick Road area.

Leaving the boating area, I began a three mile march on hard-top surfaces ending at the base of Fitzpatrick Road, well up the Shaft-12 walkway.

This area was directly impacted by in-place security measures introduced since 9/11. The access to the water’s edge near the pump house is blocked and utility poles now line the road. The mile-long rise in terrain up Fitzpatrick Road was made more difficult by erosion over the course of this year’s heavy rains. The series of beaver ponds along the way were topped-off with water as I hoped in vain to see a moose on their edges. There were several small streams along the G-49 and G-50 straightaway that had come to life, having been dormant for years. The more substantial feeder streams were roaring away in impressive fashion. The overall water gains this year have been quite substantial.

No matter how experienced you are in the woods, fatigue and signs of moderate dehydration can lead to bad decisions. The desire to keep progressing is compelling. After crossing Goodnough Dike and cutting through the woods to Webster Road, I felt elated that the day was soon to be completed. But, I then repeatedly misjudged on the half mile distance to the Enfield Tower parking lot. I simply lost the trail. The surrounding woods of Quabbin Hill can be as tough a terrain as the reservoir has to offer. After a long 50 minutes, I spotted the tower top and emerged on the very West end of the parking lot. Oh, well....I guess I was heading there anyway. The moral of the story: Be very vigilant when fatigued. Stop and collect your thoughts and only begin with a Plan-B firmly in your mind.

The layout of the entire reservation does not avail itself to long “circuit” walks that don’t retrace steps. Therefore, (continued page 9)



Interpretive Services Report

Winter 2018

by Clif Read

This fall visitors to Quabbin were treated to a rare seasonal sight of water flowing over the 400' long spillway wall and down over the 65' Quabbin Waterfall. This iconic view is neither a regular event nor something that can be counted on, but instead is dependent on special circumstances.

Water first flowed over the Quabbin Waterfall on June 22, 1946 when the reservoir had filled to 97% of its capacity. In a special ceremony that day, water was released by the removal of 8" stop logs in the 30' section of the 400' long Quabbin Spillway Wall. The assembled dignitaries included Catherine Winsor, widow of Quabbin Chief Engineer Frank Winsor, and members of the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission staff and board members. As the wave of water moved down the spillway channel, the hundreds of spectators who had traveled to witness this historic event were treated to the dramatic sight of cascading waterfall. The best vantage point was atop the slope to the east of the downstream channel with the waterfall framed by the majestic arch bridge behind the waterfall. Although the reservoir was not technically at capacity (it would take almost another year to



Spillway June 28, 1946

reach this milestone), it did signify that Quabbin was “full” and the reservoir construction project was complete.

Since 1946, the reservoir has reached 100% capacity in 29 of the 72 years. In some years water has just barely flowed over the top of the wall, while in other years the overflow has been in the order of inches. The greatest flow ever recorded was on June 1, 1984 when, after four straight days of heavy rain, the reservoir rose to 1.7' above capacity (103% full) sending an astounding 2.5 billion gallons down the spillway channel. For comparison, the current average daily consumption for the entire 51 communities in the DCR/MWRA water is less than 200 million gallons per day! There have been long stretches when the reservoir has not reached capacity due to drought conditions and/or high water demand. The longest of which

was 1961–76 when the great drought of the mid-1960s dropped the reservoir’s capacity to a dangerously low 45%. Other years, the reservoir has spilled in successive years, including the longest stretch from 2005-08. While the waterfall may have been flowing in some years, it was going through the lower portion of the spillway wall with the stop logs removed. Although water is being spilled during these times, it is not at capacity. In order to mitigate flooding problems that can result once the reservoir is full (as we saw in 1984), water is preemptively released downstream to allow extra storage capacity in the reservoir should heavy precipitation occur.

Due to the annual fluctuations in the reservoir level, it is rare for the reservoir to reach capacity outside of the March to June time period. Typically the water levels are relatively constant from early January to early March. Overall water use during this time is also lower, so not as much water is withdrawn from the reservoir. As spring rains arrive, the snow melts and runoff from tributaries increases substantially with the reservoir levels increasing accordingly. Groundwater levels are also high, so a greater percent of rain flows as runoff rather than absorbed into the soil. Typically the reservoir levels peak in late-April to mid-May before leveling off and even beginning to fall. This is the most likely opportunity to see the Quabbin Waterfall flowing when the reservoir is at its peak. As temperatures warm, vegetation leafs out and transpiration begins to draw water from the soil, groundwater levels drop. Flow from the tributaries correspondingly drops. Warmer temperatures also mean greater evaporation from the reservoir and from the surrounding watershed. Coupled with increased water demand



Spillway December 7, 2018

from consumers, which means that more water is withdrawn from Quabbin through the aqueducts, the overall reservoir levels begin to drop through late spring and summer. Finally in early to mid-fall the reservoir levels begin to stabilize and remain more constant through to the beginning of the next year when the cycle begins anew.

This is a “typical” pattern for the reservoir water levels; but rarely do we experience a “typical” year. Take this year for instance. After recovery from the moderate drought of two years ago, Quabbin water levels rebounded and topped out at 2.05' below capacity in mid-May, just below the level of the spillway stop logs. The decline followed its normal pattern until mid-July when a rainy stretch reversed this trend and sent the levels upward for a couple of weeks before they headed back down

though late August. Everyone living in New England is well aware of the rainy conditions we have experienced this fall. The resulting above average precipitation has sent the reservoir on an upward trajectory from early September until it finally overflowed the top of the spillway wall on November 29. It is rare for the reservoir to be spilling at this time of year. If we continue to be at 100%+ capacity on January 1, it will only be the fourth time in history we have been full to begin a new year. Stay tuned!

So back to 6/22/1946. On that day visitors were able to get an impressive view of the waterfall from the downstream vantage point I mentioned. A photo from this point that day shows a clear slope leading down to the channel, offering an unimpeded view of the waterfall. Over the years this hillside has sprouted new tree growth and vegetation, requiring



Waterfall June 22, 1946



Waterfall December 7, 2018

periodic cutting and controlled burns to keep the woody vegetation under control. Since the reservoir last spilled in 2012, the trees have grown up significantly, obscuring the scene. Thanks to the great work of the DCR watershed maintenance crew, a portion of the view was opened back up in early December, providing a spectacular sight of the waterfall flowing in all its glory. Thanks to Foreman Sam Adams and his staff—David Saie and Kyle Nevue—for doing such a great job and providing visitors the opportunity to glimpse this marvelous occurrence.



Spillway December 23, 2018

Photo by Paul Godfrey

So who knows what the coming months will bring for rainfall/snowfall and weather, and how that will affect the reservoir storage. Time will tell.

Weakapaug Tribal Land (continued from page 1)

of one petition, the teacher at the Stockbridge Indian School wrote a letter explaining and translating some of the scope of the claimed tribal land. To complicate things, the Indians at Stockbridge did not speak the same dialect of Algonquian as the Quaboag Indians. Of English origin, the teacher also knew the language of the Stockbridge Indians, which was a dialect. However, in a part of the description not translated into English, the teacher mentioned the word NEESEPAUKSUCK as a location. In the book, *Around Pottequadic*, a definition is developed

which is, NEESE meaning two, PAUK meaning pond, and UCK meaning the place of. Together, this would be the place of the two ponds.

Looking through old postcards of



Re-enactor Nipmuc Youth Council display, Enfield Bicentennial 2016

Photo by Laurie Godfrey

North Dana there are many pictures of Lake Neeseponset with all the summer cabins and camps along this once beautiful lake. By the end of the existence of North Dana, Lake Neeseponset was an impoundment along the Swift River. The river was

dammed to provide waterpower to the mills at North Dana.

Prior to the damming of the river and, a little further to the north, were two natural ponds close to each other shaped like wings of a butterfly supplied by water of the Swift River. Neeseponset was its name. After the construction of a dam at North Dana, the impounded water rose and the two small ponds were flooded and became part of the larger lake called Neeseponset.

It is the contention of the author that NEESE was a word meaning two, PON meant pond, and ET meant the place, this was the place of the two ponds. NEESEPAUKSUCK and NEESEPONSET were variations of the same compound word. At one time, there was probably an Indian village located at Neeseponset.

A few miles to the north of Neeseponset, rain falling from the sky accumulated on the ground and began to flow northward, instead of southerly. This rainwater did not flow into the watershed, but instead flowed into the Miller's River.

Watersheds defined Weakapaug tribal lands. The furthest extent of Weakapaug tribal land, along the middle of their northern line, was a few miles to the north of Neeseponset, at the watershed divide.



Re-enactor Nipmuc Raven Angel Nighthawk, Enfield Bicentennial 2016

Photo by Kevin Kopchynski

The 2018 Holiday Party

by Paul and Laurie Godfrey



*The Cake,
photo by Alberta Martin*

'Tis the season for traditions and the Holiday Party is one of our traditions. It has several traditions of its own, some old and some new. The holiday party began as two separate events: one for

the Tuesday Tea group and one for the Friends of Quabbin. As best we can remember

(and we are relying on Clif Read's memory dating back to 1988), the two were joined 12–15 years ago. Of course, the then MDC Visitor Center staff were involved because both were held at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Since that time, the holiday party has been a labor of love and fun for the three combined groups.

Sometime in the early days of the party, a cake was purchased. Our best guess is that Terry Campbell, the main Visitors Center contact for both groups initially as a volunteer and then as MDC staffer, is probably the one who bought the first cake for the



*The entree table visited
by Cindi LaBombard*



*The dessert table
visited by Alberta
Martin and Nancy
Huntington*

Tuesday Tea Holiday Party. The cake migrated with the Tuesday Tea group to the Friends of Quabbin Party when the two groups merged their festivities. Those of us in the Friends, who have tasted the cake, know that we became significant benefactors of this merger. The cake was baked by La Fiorentina Pastry Shop and still is, although we've shifted from Terry Campbell, then Clif Read, picking it up at their shop in Northampton to Ann Hurlburt picking it up at the La Fiorentina Pastry shop in Springfield.

Until a few years ago, 2016, the cake was the mainstay of the food delights at the Holiday Party. We had cheese, crackers, kielbasa and punch to munch and sip while we all chatted and waited eagerly for the cake cutting. But starting in 2016, a new tradition was begun. It was spurred by the Enfield Bicentennial and the accompanying suggestion that a new cookbook be created to update the original 1916 Quabbin Club cookbook, both now available at the Visitor Center bookstore. Laurie and



*Gene Theroux addressing the party goers—Deana Krusiewicz,
Dottie Bish, Stanley Boyko, and Howard Frost.*

Paul Godfrey with Nancy Huntington asked for favorite recipes from Friends, Tuesday Tea goers, and DCR staff. And another tradition was spawned when someone, probably Laurie, suggested we might cook up some of those recipes for the Holiday Party. This tradition has grown in to quite a sumptuous feast, at least compared to cheese and crackers. This year, we had some contributions from the 1916 "Quabbin Club Cook Book" and others from the 2016 "Quabbin Centennial Cookbook." From the 1916 Enfield cookbook, we had Lillian Powers' Nova Scotia String Beans. From the 2016 Centennial cookbook, we had Lorna Moulton's Barbecued Spareribs (p. 18), Betty Bousquet's Orange Baked Pork (p. 18), young Mollie Godfrey's Marinated Tofu (p. 38), and old classics like Macaroni and Cheese, Cashew Chicken and more! On the dessert table, this year's cookbook adventure was Aunt Bess' Potato Fudge. We remember this from editing the cookbook as the least likely to be edible; many of us think that potatoes have no business messing with fudge. But to our great surprise, it's pretty good. Cindi LaBombard, Friends Vice-President, dared to try making this. She confessed the first try wasn't too good, but she persevered and the second try was significantly improved (think one tiny potato grossly sweetened with milk, butter, coconut flakes, vanilla extract, and a whole pound of confectioner's sugar all covered in rich choco-

late; chocolate can compensate for many insults to unsuspecting culinary palates). Would we choose it over the famous cake? Probably not. For those not so adventurous we also had Ann Hurlburt’s Orange Pound Cake (p. 57), Ann Marie Niejadlik’s Pumpkin Cookies (p. 68), apple crisp, popovers, and fresh fruit.

That wasn’t the only “new” tradition at this year’s Holiday Party. Gene Theroux, our President, spent countless hours making three videos combining pictures from our collection of historic ones with segments from our oral history collection to give us an audiovisual snapshot of the lives of Joe Jelski and Stanley Boyko (described more fully in the President’s Message). [Dotty was given a DVD of the video and CD of all the material used at the following Tuesday Tea and Stanley will get one at the next Tuesday Tea.]

Following the video, Gene made a presentation of a plaque to Nancy Huntington for her many efforts on behalf of the Friends,



Nancy Huntington and Gene Theroux at “award” presentation

especially the indexing of the oral histories so that topics can be quickly found and preparations for the holiday party. Alas, your editor forgot to bring the plaque, so Gene substituted a symbolic plaque, otherwise known as a paper plate. While a brilliant recovery, it was also very humorous. Nancy received the beautiful plaque at the following Tuesday Tea, although the chuckles were still dying down.

ful plaque at the following Tuesday Tea, although the chuckles were still dying down.



Cake Marshalls: Deana Krusiewicz, Dottie Bish, Stanley Boyko and Howard Frost, left to right, photo by Alberta Martin

The ultimate traditional event of the day was the ceremonial cake cutting ceremony by the “cake marshalls,” original Swift River Valley residents: Deana Krusiewicz, Dottie Bish, Stanley Boyko and Howard Frost.

If you couldn’t make it this year, mark your new calendar for the first Sunday in December, 2019 when we’ll continue our traditions.



Nancy Huntington receiving appreciation plaque from Gene Theroux at December’s Tuesday Tea.

Dana to Enfield Tower Hike (continued from page 5)



Taken from the extreme north end of Gate-49 straightaway. The “horizon” line is Goodnough Dike to the south. Note the “dot” on the tree line in the center. The Enfield Tower is 6 miles away at the 10-mile mark.

sites three hours deep would require the same time getting out. Once again, I want to thank FOQ member Barry Williams for shuttling me from the Enfield Tower to Petersham at the park’s day-break opening. His help makes these fully challenging days possible. He is a gentleman and a true lover of the outdoors.



A very tired man’s gear sitting patiently to go home.

Otters

by Anne Ely

As I pulled up and stopped the car, I saw a great egret on the far side of the water, but it was too far for my camera lens, so I ignored it. Besides, although I love egrets, it's not what I was hoping to see.



There they are! Two brown heads, no, three, gliding along in the water. Suddenly almost in unison the heads disappeared, instantly replaced by sleek curved backs which rose up and just as quickly slid beneath the surface, and they were gone. Oops, over there. A head just popped up, then another and finally the third. Three otters; just what I was hoping to see. I watched through my binoculars as they swiftly swam along, visible for a few seconds, then gone, only to pop up where I least expected them; sometimes straight ahead and sometimes with an unexpected change of direction.

I soon realized they hadn't reappeared. Where did they go? I scanned the area. Nothing; just hummocks of mud and vegetation. Wait. One of the hummocks just moved. Ah, not a hummock at all, but one of the otters. It headed for a lump of mud and roots and climbed part way up. It had a fish. A large fish. It stuck out of both sides of the otter's mouth. The otter tossed its head back and repositioned the fish then, holding it between its dexterous front paws, began to eat, occasionally flashing a view of sharp looking teeth. The otter was facing me, giving me a good view. It was really too far away for the length of my camera lens, but I took a few shots anyway.

The egret had flown over and landed near the otter and resumed its hunting position; still as a stone, neck curved over the water, sharp beak poised; ready for any fish or frog that unwittingly passed too close by.

The other two otters swam up just as the meal was finished and off the three went; swimming, diving and sometimes play-

fully splashing the water. I watched them for quite a while, often losing sight of them, but eventually relocating them, sometimes by their calls and sometimes by the honking of nearby Canada geese, disturbed by the otters' interruption of their naps.

They were really dining well as every little while one, or all of them, would surface with a fish, or occasionally a crayfish. The egret must have decided that the otters knew the best fishing spots, for each time an otter brought forth a fish, the egret relocated close by. So far it hadn't caught anything.

I have lost sight of them completely. One minute they were happily eating away, then nothing.

Then without any warning an otter appeared right in front of me silently sliding past along the edge of the pond. How it got from the far side of the water to the shore near me so quickly and undetected surprised me. It was completely unexpected; therefore I was unprepared and thus missed a great shot.

They must have finally called it an afternoon, as they hadn't surfaced for quite a while, so I headed for home hoping I managed to get at least one decent shot.



The Otter

The otter just dove and came up with a fish. Wow, neat.
It swims toward a hummock, climbs up and gets ready to eat.
It has its hands, err, paws full, that fish is big,
But I could tell as I watched, 'twas not this otter's first gig.
It turns it round and round 'til it gets it just right,
Then with great satisfaction, that long awaited first bite.
It dines slowly, taking its time; savoring the taste.
The fish is held expertly and nothing will go to waste.

—Anne Ely

I returned a few days later to look for them. I searched the area with my binoculars while sitting in my car, camera still in its case, and again was caught by surprise (will I ever learn) as the 3 of them came swimming and diving right along the edge of the pond not 30 feet away.

It finally dawned on me that they seemed to visit the near side of the pond around midafternoon. I tucked this bit of information away for my next visit so I could plan my arrival in time to set up my tripod mounted camera alongside of my open car door, and be ready!

So today I am ready for them and sure enough here they come, the three of them; swimming along with just their heads visible above the water, then gracefully diving and resurfacing a few feet away. One surfaces with a long pond lily stem draped over its head. Unfortunately they haven't caught any fish while close by, but I managed a few good, or what I hope will be

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas are held at the Visitor Center on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The next ones will be January 8th (**the second Tuesday because of the holiday**), February 5th, March 5th and April 2nd.

Jan. 8th—Nancy Huntington with help from Paul Godfrey on the wildflowers of Quabbin

Feb. 5th—Video of Bob Wilder's exodus from Quabbin valley

March 5th—Video about Dana

April 2nd—Wildflower trek

Photo Club Meetings

Quabbin Photo Group (<http://www.quabbinphotogroup.org>) meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St., Belchertown, MA. 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.

Dec. 2018—No Meeting

Jan. 28, 2019—Members Night

Feb. 24, 2019—Anne Ely Photo Inspirations;
Snow Date: Mar. 25, 2019

Mar. 25, 2019—Members Night

Apr. 22, 2019—Peter Christoph: "Discover the Birds of Costa Rica"

May 27, 2019—Members Night

June 24, 2019—Members Night

The **Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists** (<http://www.pvphotoartists.org/>) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007. The annual meeting is in January. Check their website for more information.

Jan. 10, 2019—Annual Dinner at the UMASS Campus Center

DCR Program

Presentations

Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center, Quabbin Administration Building, Ware Road (Rte 9), Belchertown, MA

Sunday, February 10, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Wonder of Wildflowers—In the dead of winter it's hard to imagine that trees will leaf out and wildflowers will bloom again. Anticipate spring and join DCR interpreter Nancy Huntington for an exploration of the common wildflowers of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Sunday, February 17, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Exploring the History of the Quabbin Valley Through Gravestones—Take a virtual walk through the Quabbin Park Cemetery and learn about the history and lives of residents (both prominent and ordinary) of the Valley towns.

Sunday, February 24, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Dragonflies of the Quabbin Region—Some of the first winged insects to evolve, dragonflies hold a fascination for many people including Dave Small, President of the Athol Bird and Nature Club. Join him as he shares his love and knowledge of the dragonflies that are native to the Quabbin Region.

Sunday, March 10, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

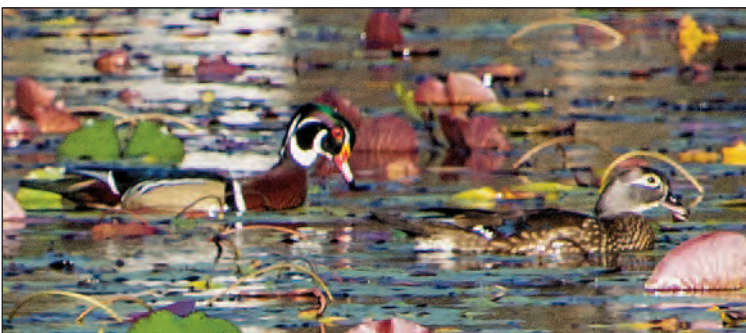
Return of the Gypsy Moth—presented by Richard MacLean, DCR Forester

Sunday, March 17, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Life and Times of Lake Trout at Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir—presented by MassWildlife Aquatic Biologist, Jason Stolarski

Sunday, March 24, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Tracking the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species—presented by DCR Aquatic Biologist, Paula Packard



good, photos. As they move off I content myself with just watching them through my binoculars as they swim and dive, sometimes cavorting in joyful play. Eventually they head off

and climb up on what looks like an abandoned beaver lodge. From there they swim off to the far side of the pond.

As they disappeared from view I turned my glasses on a pair of wood ducks almost completely camouflaged amongst a patch of pond lily foliage. The beautiful red and green coloring of the male was echoed by the like colors of the lily leaves upturned by the wind. If not for the ducks slow movements among the plants I wouldn't have spotted them. I managed one picture before they, too, move out of camera range.

All in all each day was a good day. Even if I get no salvageable pictures, just watching the beautiful creatures was a joy. I will be back. The more I watch, the more I will be ready with my camera. Hopefully.

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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, 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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