

# Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Summer 2019  
Vol.32 No.2

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

—Les Campbell

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## Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery

Text and Photos by Paul Godfrey and Gene Theroux

This year's Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery gathering of hundreds of participants were held on May 26th with temperate weather. This event continues the practice from the Swift River Valley towns that observed the practice of decorating the graves of war veterans begun after the Civil War; the first services at Quabbin Park were held in 1947. Unlike any other Memorial Day Service, this one also remembers those who sacrificed their land and way of life in the Swift River Valley for the creation of Quabbin Reservoir. Consequently, the group assembled at the Quabbin Park Cemetery consists of local veteran's groups, former residents and local historical societies. Participants began to assemble at 10 a.m. at the Quabbin Cemetery Building where they enjoyed beverages and baked goods provided by generous sponsors including Country Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, and Bell & Hudson Insurance.



Raymond Cook family

viewed by Caroline Powers; he emphasized that "We need to make sure we honor their service and their sacrifice. In particular, we need to make sure these hallowed grounds at Quabbin Park Cemetery are well maintained long into the future; we have a long way to go." Caroline Powers had interviewed former Enfield resident Bradlee Gage on his military service during WW II in the Aleutian Islands for the inaugural monthly segment on Salute to Veterans that was broadcast on May 18, 2019.

Caroline Powers, an anchor at Western Mass News was on-hand at Quabbin Park Cemetery and she interviewed Raymond D. Cook, a former resident of Smith's Village and a member of America's greatest generation who was a Ranger at the Anzio Beach Head and served with the First Special Service Force. Raymond Cook was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal, the Norwegian Defense Medal and the Norway Commemorative Medal. In addition, Gene Theroux was inter-



Raymond Cook being interviewed by Caroline Powers of Western Mass News

At 11 a.m., the March began to assemble in front of the building with the Color Guard followed by each branch of the Military, then Veteran Organizations, Elected Officials, Scouts, Historical Organizations and finally former residents and members of the general public. As in the last three years, the parade marched the shorter clockwise route to the flags and (continued on page 5)



Gene Theroux

# President's Message

## Summer 2019

The Friends of Quabbin have been involved in, even instigated, a number of key activities and changes in the last several months. On the side of taking care of business, the Annual Meeting

was held on April 14, 2019 at the United Church of Ware. Bob (Robert W.) Drinkwater provided an interesting and comprehen-



Bob (Robert W.) Drinkwater at the Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting.

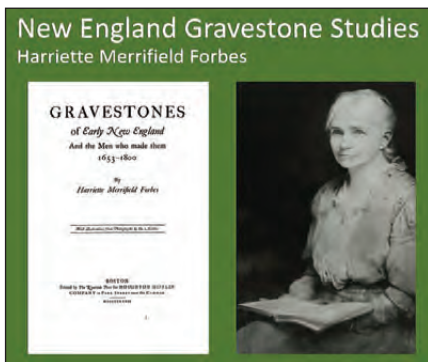


Photo of Harriette Merrifield Forbes and title page from her book on Gravestones of Early New England

sive program, "Gravestones and Stonecutters in the Quabbin Region, c. 1740-1840," that meshed very nicely with our other activities. Bob Drinkwater is an historical archaeologist and holds an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has spent much of the past five decades exploring cemeteries in western Massachusetts, has recorded and photographed thousands of gravestones, and has

Board of Trustees, and was the recipient of the 2016 Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award.

Harriette Merrifield Forbes was an historian, photographer and author. Her book *Early New England Gravestones and the Men Who Made Them, 1653-1800*, published in 1927, was the first to treat early American grave markers as art objects, in fact, the country's oldest sculpture. Harriette's pioneering work is the foundation upon which all subsequent study of American grave-stones rests. Harriet's book is available for loan at the Internet Archive, Archive.org or for purchase from Amazon.com. Bob Drinkwater has been a previous contributor to the *Quabbin Voices* newsletter (*Quabbin Voices* Vol. 19, No. 2 2004). Bob's program "Gravestones and Stonecutters in the Quabbin Region" is available on the Friends of Quabbin website under the Links and Resources menu, then under the Friends of Quabbin Resources heading.

As a result of our persistent efforts over the past two years, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has created a process for those responsible for graves at the Quabbin Park Cemetery to obtain permission to clean the monuments, headstones and footstones. The process is to file a Quabbin Park Cemetery Stonework Cleaning Notice of Intent and Liability Form. Although it may sound complicated, it isn't; and approvals have come quickly. The Friends of Quabbin have begun cleaning headstones and monuments. The initial stonework cleanings began on April 6, 2019 and have continued throughout the spring and into the summer. A total of 7 granite and 21 marble monuments and headstones have been cleaned and treated with D/2 Biological Solution since April 6, 2019. Friends of Quabbin member Robert H. Howe has assisted Friends President Gene Theroux on four separate occasions with the DCR approved cleaning of monuments/headstones. To underscore, only monuments, headstones, footstones or markers with an approved Notice of Intent to Clean Stonework may be cleaned. Cleaning should be done only after some training in



Above: before and after cleaning photos of the headstone of Francis Lyman Jones, son of Lyman Ira Jones who was a Civil War veteran of 17 major battles. Francis L. Jones was a commander of The Sons of Union Civil War Veterans Camp 166 formerly of Palmer, MA.

done research on many of the men who made them. Bob is a charter member and past president of The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS), has served several terms on the AGS

the process and with proper use of approved materials. Those who would like to clean family markers may request the form and apply to DCR for approval. We suggest that you may want

to take a short course in proper procedures that the Friends of Quabbin plans to conduct in the near future. It is possible for family members who have headstones or monuments in Quabbin Park Cemetery to request that the Friends of Quabbin clean their family monuments. They can send their approved Notice of Intent to Clean Stonework forms received from DCR to the Friends of Quabbin, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007. It is suggested that you include a donation commensurate with the cost of materials to the Friends of Quabbin with Cemetery Restoration in the memo field. That donation is tax deductible; cleaning a typical headstone costs \$75–\$100. The Friends of Quabbin will be looking to schedule a training event on the cleaning and restoration of headstones at Quabbin Park Cemetery, but we need to have sufficient interest and approved Notice of Intents before we can schedule. We will be also looking for volunteers to assist in the restoration and preservation effort. Those interested in volunteering and/or training should provide their names and contact information either via email to [gene.theroux@verizon.net](mailto:gene.theroux@verizon.net) or mail to Gene H. Theroux, P.O. Box 856, Southwick, MA 01077-0856.

But the intensive effort that will be needed to clean headstones neglected for decades is only one part of the needs for Quabbin Park Cemetery. Although the budget submitted by DCR to



*Mayer Tree Service removing trees during June 18–21, 2019. The machine was leapfrogging planks to reduce the impact to the landscape from heavy machinery.*

MWRA for all its operations contained no funding for work on the Quabbin Park cemetery, there is major activity. A significant number of trees have been taken down during the spring of 2019 at Quabbin Park Cemetery. There have been two different tree removals by two different companies in the last two months. Northern Tree Service cut down a number of trees in the middle of May. During June 18–21, 2019, Mayer Tree Service was in Quabbin Park Cemetery and an employee said they cut down 72 dead oak and pine trees. Mayer Tree Service cut down six trees on the entrance road, across the road from the receiving vault. In addition, trees were cut in many different sections and along the border of the cemetery. Also, Mayer Tree Service cut away and ground tree stumps from the previous tree cuttings done in 2018 and 2019. The removal of these dead pine and oak trees (many victims of the gypsy moth) will help mitigate the risk of future damage to monuments and to visitors in the Cemetery from falling limbs. In addition, the removal of

these trees will help reduce the growth of moss, lichens and other biological growth on the headstones. The cutting required a lot of heavy machinery working in the Cemetery as shown in the picture. Mayer Tree Service returned on Monday, June 24, to begin restoring areas disturbed by the equipment by spreading of loam and grass seed. Hopefully, there will be rain in the forecast for the next couple of weeks so the grass seed may germinate and grow because there is no working irrigation system at Quabbin Park. Even so, the lawns have not received lime and fertilizer for decades. While it may seem that the only function of nice grass is to make the site attractive, grass serves an important purpose in holding headstones in place.

During the spring, Friends of Quabbin made a major effort to make various groups aware of conditions at the Cemetery. A presentation was made to the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC) on March 4 that initiated more contact with key parties to the Quabbin promise to the people of the valley. That presentation led to further work to inform the MWRA of conditions in the Cemetery. Remember that DCR/Quabbin gets its budget from MWRA. We also informed all of the state senators and representatives of the valley and its surrounds. All have seen our detailed documentation of what is needed and the role the Friends want to play as a partner with DCR in the restoration and maintenance. This plan was also handed out at the Memorial Day event. To see a copy, visit our web site [www.friendsofquabbin.org](http://www.friendsofquabbin.org)

One early result is a temporary solution to the water problem. It won't address the issue of improving the grass, but it will help with the cleaning process where sufficient water is critical. As it says on a sign on the water tank, "this temporary water is being provided while DCR and MWRA work to design a new system of faucets for the Cemetery. To us, this simple statement means that the tide is turning from neglect to concern and action. Further evidence: recently, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority "MWRA" Trust Board has added Quabbin Park Cemetery to their monthly agenda. The MWRA Trust Board



*A 400 gallon water tank was placed at the end of Laurel Road as a temporary solution for watering plants in the south end of the cemetery.*

funds DCR/Quabbin through its ratepayers for usage of water and sewage. DCR has not budgeted any money for maintenance, repairs or capital improvements at Quabbin Park Cemetery. The Friends of Quabbin finds this unacceptable. The decades of neglect at Quabbin Park Cemetery have come to roost. The MWRA Trust Board during its last meeting held on June 26, 2019 had deemed that the unavailability of water throughout Quabbin Park Cemetery to be unacceptable. Both DCR and MWRA staff are working diligently and cooperatively to develop a plan. The water tanker was a first step. While it will take some time to remediate nearly three decades of neglect, the process is underway.

Our goal is to see that momentum gathers to develop and plan to redress those past problems and bring Quabbin Park Cemetery up to its earliest levels of maintenance, to fulfill the original goals of the creators of Quabbin Reservoir, to acknowledge the sacrifice of the village residents by creating a lasting memorial to their culture and to prepare the cemetery for the national level of distinction it deserves as one of the markers of a time in our history that will never be repeated. It is also to create a sustaining mechanism to keep the Quabbin Park Cemetery at the level required to achieve and continue National Park Historic Site status. We hope that part of this process will be a recognition that the Friends of Quabbin has a role to play and is a willing partner. We believe that we can contribute labor and funds to the task if allowed. We hope our goals will become the goals of many others.

On Memorial Day in Ware, the bridge on South Street over the Ware River was dedicated as the Earle F. Howe bridge. Earle F. Howe was the first son of Ware killed-in-action on April 8, 1919 during World War I. The Ware American Legion Post 123 is named after Earle F. Howe. Friends of Quabbin member Robert “Bob” H. Howe and his family was present for the Memorial Day observance and dedication of the Earle F. Howe Bridge on May 27, 2019. Bob read a poem, “Gold Star Mother” written by

Earle F. Howe’s sister Mildred Howe Eldredge at the formal ceremony at Veterans Park. Mildred would become a Gold Star Mother herself. Her son William E. Eldredge was lost at sea during WW II on October 24, 1944. Bob Howe is the grandnephew of Earle F. Howe and Mildred Howe Eldredge.

I’m looking forward to attending the Dana Reunion to be held on Sunday, July 21, 2019. The gate 40 will open at 10 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Picnic lunch on the common with a short town meeting. It’s been 81 years since the former towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott ceased to exist. You are invited to attend. Bring chairs, bug repellent, lunch and stories. I hope to see you there!



*Mark Avis, the Veterans Service Officer for the town of Ware, and Bob Howe with one of two plaques to be placed on the Earle F. Howe Bridge.*



## Donations to the Friends of Quabbin

It is not a secret but little known that the Friends of Quabbin accepts donations in support of our goals. They include increasing public awareness and appreciation of the natural and historical resources of the Quabbin Reservation through educational, recreational, and interpretive programs while assuring that the pristine natural beauty and the water and environmental quality of Quabbin continue to be preserved for generations to come. More specifically:

1. To promote through a variety of interpretive, educational, social, scientific, and entertainment programs public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and concern for the Quabbin Reservation and Watershed; a complex ecosystem which provides a valuable and irreplaceable resource for the entire state.
2. To develop a regional sense of stewardship of the Quabbin Reservation by providing a forum for public expression and involvement in decisions that may affect the use and preservation of the natural and historical characteristics that make the area both unique and irreplaceable.
3. To act as a support group for implementing those aspects of plans and policies for Quabbin consistent with the goals and purposes of Friends of Quabbin.
4. To work in cooperation with other organizations, both public and private, which share mutual goals for the care, monitoring, protection, and wise use of the Quabbin Reservation, a vital water supply resource rich in natural, historical, and recreational values supplying over two million people with drinking water.

The Friends of Quabbin is a 501(c)3 organization which means we are a non-profit organization and donations to the Friends are tax deductible. In past years, we have used donations to help support our book donation program, purchase of new photo albums for the Visitor Center, purchase of the Enviroscope model described in this issue, the Enfield Bicentennial and many other projects. This year, we have been focusing on improving the deplorable state of Quabbin Park Cemetery that has suffered greatly from 27 years of neglect by DCR. We have outlined the problem in recent issues of the newsletter. Movement is now being detected. The Friends stands ready to become full partners in a major restoration effort. To do that, we will need more support than we currently have. After we have DCR’s blessing to help, we will be able to apply for grants, but individual donations may form the mainstay of support for the long-term.

Families mourning the loss of a loved one who enjoyed the Quabbin’s many treasures can suggest that fellow mourners donate to the Friends in lieu of flowers. Funeral homes are quite willing to include such wishes in the announcements and obituary notices. Individuals who simply want to create their own personal remembrance of someone can also donate or add the Friends of Quabbin to their estate plan, confident that the Friends will help to make sure that the resource so loved will always remain; a visit to Quabbin will keep the memory of that person alive. And, of course, the death of a loved one is not required to donate. A donor may specify a purpose such as an active project we are currently working on or simply donate to the general purposes listed above. An acknowledgement will be sent to all donors.

**Memorial Day** (continued from page 1)



the monuments. Marchers included: Belchertown American Legion Post #239 & Auxiliary Belchertown VFW Post #8428 & DAV Chapter 75 Auxiliary, Belchertown Veterans Council, Ware American Legion Post #123 & Auxiliary, Ware VFW Post #2577 & DAV Chapter 59 & Auxiliaries, Petersham American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary Post #415, L.A. Tiff Camp 15 and Auxiliary 10, Marine Corp League Detachment, and Ware Cub Scout Troop #239. Following the spirit of Eleanor Schmidt who established the Schmidt Trust to encourage Quabbin area historical societies to participate, historical societies from Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, New Salem, Orange, Athol, Petersham, Hardwick, Ware (both the Historical Commission and the Historical Society) and Palmer, as well as the Swift River Valley Historical Society and the Friends of Quabbin were in the procession followed by former residents and descendants, ending with



*Jim Boyko family laying a wreath before the Schmidt bench*

with Memorial Day. To commemorate the sacrifices, a wreath was placed at each town's monument by former residents and/or their descendants. They were accompanied by a military escort as they come forward for the placement. Additionally, a

two buglers and a drummer who set the pace.

Keith Poulin, Past Commander of American Legion Post #239, presided as Master of Ceremonies for the event, introducing the Post#239 Chaplain for the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Gettysburg Address was read by Nate Courchesne. The Belchertown Community Band played a selection of musical pieces associated

wreath was placed at the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt Bench to remember her passion for Swift River Valley history and for keeping its history alive for future generations.

Representing the towns were: Dana – Cooley family; Enfield – Laura Hall; Greenwich – Linda Morse; Prescott – Peirce family; the Schmidt Bench – Jim Boyko family. Following these solemn placements, there was a six-

gun salute, "Taps"

played by the Belchertown Community to salute the honored dead and the raising of the colors, first the flag of the United States and MIA flag, then the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the World War I centennial flag. The flag raising was followed by a



*Bugler Zach Stowe-Alekman*



*Belchertown Community Band, Mike Bauer, director*



*Sen. Anne Gobi, (front), Rep. Susannah Whipps and Rep. Todd Smola (l.-r.)*

selection of patriotic music and a reading of "In Flanders Field" by Don Slessler. Comments were made by elected officials: Senator Anne Gobi, Representative Susannah Whipps and Representative Todd Smola. Followed by comments from Dan Clark of DCR Quabbin. Senator Gobi acknowledged problems with the Quabbin Park Cemetery that have been outlined in the *Voices* and promised they would be remedied. A Benediction closed the ceremony.



*Gene Theroux visiting with Stanley Boyko*



## Interpretive Services Report

Summer 2019

by Clif Read

As summer approaches DCR is bracing for the potential of another year of gypsy moth caterpillar damage on its watershed lands and the agency is monitoring the situation closely. It is still too early to know the extent of caterpillar damage for 2019, whether the fungus that serves as a check on gypsy moth populations was able to take hold and how trees will respond. Several years ago it was thought that drought conditions contributed to failure of the *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus to thrive and help keep gypsy moth caterpillar populations in check. This year has been anything but drought conditions, so it is hoped that *E. maimaiga* will prosper in the wetter conditions and be one more weapon in the battle with this destructive invasive species that is wreaking havoc on our New England forests. As the weeks unfold we will have a much better sense of the geographic distribution of these voracious eaters and how intensely they have affected the forest cover. With nearly a third of Quabbin's tree cover in oak type forest cover, watershed managers are particularly interested to see how the situation unfolds.

Damage from high gypsy moth populations over the past few years has resulted in the mortality of many trees in the Quabbin Park area, including the iconic Quabbin Oak (see *Quabbin Voices* – Fall, 2018). In the past couple of weeks tree crews hired by MASS Department of Transportation have been

removing many large hazard oak trees lining Route 9 either side of the main Quabbin Entrance. Prior to the Memorial Day Observance at Quabbin Park Cemetery on May 26th tree crew contracted by DCR completed removal of a number of large dead white oak trees on the cemetery grounds.

The Quabbin Spillway has continued to spill water for most of the time since reaching the crest of the spillway wall last November 30th. For the 32nd year since the reservoir first exceeded its capacity in 1947 (it was not quite full when water was released over the spillway the previous year) water levels exceeded the reservoir's 100% capacity figure. The release of water reached its greatest volume on April 28th when the water level was nearly 10 inches above the top of the spillway wall, resulting in a downstream discharge of 900 million gallons. The sight of this much water cascading over the waterfall was impressive and became an attraction for visitors from far and wide. However, this high water level does raise the river elevation and flooding potential downstream, as well as making fly fishing in the Swift River Catch and Release Fishing Area below Winsor Dam to Route 9 a challenging proposition. The increased river flow makes footing more challenging in the river and many of the fish are carried downstream. Some anglers reported landlocked salmon in the "Y" Pool area that were apparently swept over the spillway and down the waterfall to the river below! With reservoir levels continuing to drop in May into June, the Swift River has dropped its level correspondingly and is back to safer levels for fly fishing.

This year's Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery was held under clear, blue skies which may have contributed to one of the larger turnouts in recent memory. For me, this is one of my favorite events of the year. In addition to its significance as a special time of recognition for veterans' service to our country and the sacrifices of families from the Swift River Valley made as part of the Quabbin Reservoir Project, the event also emphasizes the power of cooperation and shared

purpose among its participants. The individuals and organizations who are part of the ceremony engage with an enthusiasm and willingness that are commendable. Members of the Organizing Committee cheerfully pitch in to plan and carry out the various parts of the program and ensure that the event is carried off without a hitch. People are so appreciative of the beautiful ceremony and the opportunity to gather to give appreciation to those who served and sacrificed so much. There are many moving parts to the event, but the cooperation and collaboration from everyone makes the event an enjoyable and a meaningful one.



## Friends of Quabbin Support Environmental Education

by Clif Read



*Clif Read explaining watershed principles with the Enviroscope*

Education and outreach is an essential part of the role of the Quabbin Interpretive Services Unit (IS). In addition to hosting many groups and students at the Visitor Center over the course of the year, the IS staff provide programs and services to watershed and water user communities. Working with teachers and students in classroom situations, the IS staff provide programs on a variety of topics from history and wildlife to watershed management and water quality protection. Since the mid-1990s staff have used the Enviroscope watershed model to demonstrate watershed concepts and point and non-point sources of pollution. The molded plastic landscape model is one of several different interactive Enviroscope different units that focus on drinking water and wastewater treatment, coastal watersheds, wetlands and groundwater wells.

The original model had been used by Quabbin staff for presentations to hundreds of students over the years, but was showing its age from repeated use. In February a request was made by IS staff to the Friends of Quabbin Board to purchase a new model to replace the watershed unit. The Board of Directors was unanimous in its support of the proposal, so a new model was purchased this spring.

The new Enviroscope model features some new improvements from the original model making it an even more effective educational tool for teaching watershed concepts. The landscape shows different land uses from residential areas to farms, golf courses, roadways and industrial areas that all drain to a drinking water reservoir. Students participate in the activity by “raining” on the landscape using a spray bottle to simulate precipitation, then watching as the water flows from higher ground down to the reservoir. Concepts such as watersheds and water cycle are demonstrated and discussed as part of this activity. Students are then challenged to think about the different land use activities that might contribute to pollution of the reservoir, both point and non-point sources of pollution. Using “pollution” (food coloring, cocoa powder or powdered drink mixture), students see what happens when water contamination occurs and its impact on drinking water resources when they simulate precipitation events that cause the contaminants to be carried to the reservoir. The model comes with mitigation measures that can employ best management practices to reduce/eliminate the degradation to water quality. This newer version also has a groundwater option to make the connection between surface pollution and ground water contamination.



Part of the beauty of the model is that it is versatile, can be used with a variety of different ages, and its use can be expanded or consolidated depending on the group and its interest/focus.

Thanks very much to the Friends for supporting the proposal and for furthering the opportunities for the Interpretive Services group to continue its important educational outreach.

## Tuesday Tea

Photos by Paul Godfrey and Anne Ely

Just before the July Tuesday Tea meeting, we were shocked to learn of the passing of Stanley Boyko on Thursday, June 20th. Word was sent out to all Tuesday Tea members and those without email got phone calls. Stanley was a long-time Tuesday Tea participant and the oldest member of our Tea group. He was 98 but his memory was astonishingly clear on the details of life in Enfield before it was flooded. He could always be counted on to have his photo album of Enfield images with him and an eagerness to discuss, in detail, any of the pictures. He was a mainstay for media journalists who came to interview the old-timers. More than that he was a character wearing a colorful sweater and a rascal who enjoyed a joke and good conversation.

For the July Tuesday Tea, Ann Hurlburt wanted to spend a little time remembering Stanley. She Googled You Tube on the internet and discovered a video on Stanley and asked Paul Godfrey to download it and bring it to the Tuesday Tea. It was a video done by Gene Theroux, FOQ President, based on a 1987 oral history interview by Larry Lowenthal. As the moment for the



Stanley Boyko (98 years old) on December 2, 2018

Quabbin Valley. Usually done in the fall and, also typically, in terrible weather, Nancy Huntington, DCR Interpretive Services, has carefully prepared our itinerary and assembled maps, historic photos and other information for us on our visit down the main streets of former villages to view the foundations, wells, markers, etc.

of former residences. But this time, our search was for wildflowers not cellar holes, although we saw a few of the latter along the way. Our route was entered via Gate 40 in Hardwick. The road was advertised as not for low-hanging cars so we all crowded into 4-wheel drive vehicles; the DCR truck was so high off the ground we carried a step stool to help us get in. Frankly, we've seen worse "roads" on our treks, though. Predicting when and where to have our wildflower trek has

been a challenge. May might have been best but that conflicts with school visits at the Visitor Center and April is too early. So, it was June 6th. Word was that this Gate 40 area was a good wildflower area. None of us had first-hand experience with the area. And the weather was predicted to be terrible. Overall, it looked hopeless. But, the



Stanley Boyko explaining photo to Tuesday Tea guest, June 2018



Stanley cutting the Holiday Party cake with Dottie Bish and Howard Frost, December 2018.

Tuesday Tea approached, Gene, as an afterthought, published a notice of the showing of the video at the Tuesday Tea on Facebook. It was seen by Stanley's 'kid' sister and her daughter. They came to the Tuesday Tea (their first time) where they



Helen Towne (Stanley's sister) and Linda Gay (Helen's daughter)

enjoyed seeing the video and sharing memories of Stanley with other Tea-goers. For those of us who have watched the rejuvenation of the Tuesday Teas, this was a magical moment.

In recent years, there has been an annual Tuesday Tea Trek to visit historic sites in the

weather was absolutely gorgeous. Did we see rare orchids, species not seen before by even the wildflower aficionados in the group, colorful masses of wildflowers, and unusual habitats for wildflowers? In a word, yes! A successful first wildflower trek.

Thanks, Nancy.

### TUESDAY TEA PICNIC

**Tuesday, August 20th at noon at Hanks Meadow;**  
**rain date August 27th.**

Bring a lunch including beverage. Bring a chair if you want; there are two picnic tables there.

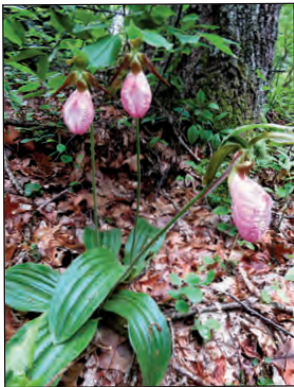




*Intrepid Tuesday Tea Trekkers (l-r): Ann Hurlburt, Nancy Huntington, Alberta Martin, Edwina Hodgkins, Anne Ely (front), Jennie Rys (in truck), Deanna Krusiewicz & Paul Godfrey*



*One-flowered Cancer Root, Orobanche uniflora*



*Pink Ladyslipper, Cypripedium acaule*

*Edwina, Alberta & Paul in Ragged Robin, Lychnis flos-cuculi, patch*



## A Hiking Philosophy

by John Zebb

*The following collection of thoughts is distilled from the writings of John Kaag, an American philosophy professor, and, Erling Kagge, a Norwegian adventurer. I highly recommend you consider their full books for wonderful accounts of the history and value inherent in walking. They really struck a chord with me. I thought it worthwhile to share some of them with all of you who have ventured onto The Quabbin grounds to carry on a great tradition.*

Walking is among the life-affirming of human activities. It is the way we organize space and orient ourselves to the world at large. It is the living proof that repetition—placing one foot in front of the other—can, in-fact, allow a person to make meaningful progress.

In the words of the eighteenth-century philosopher, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “I never do anything but when walking, ... the countryside is my study.”

The history of philosophy is largely the history of thought in transit. Of course, many philosophers came to rest in order to write, but this was, at most, a perching, a way to faintly mark the ground that had been covered. The Buddha,

Socrates, Aristotle, the Stoics, Jesus, Kant, Rousseau, Thoreau—these thinkers were never still for very long. “Walking” was the title of an essay written by Thoreau in 1851. “Walking” gives us many things,” he states. “But one of its greatest gifts is time! It is not a great test of will, but it requires an attention to the present which is difficult to maintain.” He said it was best done at a pace referred to as a “saunter.” The word “saunter,” curiously enough, is derived from two French cognates “sainte” and “terre” or holy land, a term applied to the early pilgrims en route to religious sites—saunterers en masse!

The word “peripatetic” from ancient Greek meaning “around-moving,” was used to tag Aristotle as he wandered around the Athenian courtyards with his students and followers in tow.

Letting one’s thoughts wander...thinking on one’s feet.... arriving at a conclusion... these are no simple figures of speech, but reflect a type of mental openness that can be achieved only on the move. It is no coincidence that parents celebrate their child’s first steps, the first, and perhaps, greatest, signs of independence.

There is a wonderful saying (alleged to be of Scandinavian origin) “there is no bad weather, only bad clothing.” That said, the weather is trending in your favor, so get out there and go for a walk!

## Recipes

by Paul Godfrey, Editor

Prior to 2016, I occasionally published recipes for particularly tasty treats that were brought to Tuesday Teas; they were just too good not to share. In 2016, as we planned the Enfield Bicentennial, it was observed that it would also be the centennial of the *Quabbin Cookbook*, a quaint and generally difficult to use cookbook by the Quabbin Lady's Club of 1916, and the 2016 *Quabbin Cookbook* was born. Since then, recipes from that cookbook have provided a sumptuous feast at our Holiday Party. But I stopped publishing recipes in the *Quabbin Voices*. The time has come to restart the practice. For the first, we have this recipe from Anne Ely. If it occurs to you that we are preparing for another cookbook in the future, keep in mind that the second was a centennial update of the first.

### BLACK BEAN BROWNIES

(no flour, good protein)

by Anne Ely

- 1 can (15 oz.) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbs vegetable oil
- ¼ cup cocoa powder (can substitute carob powder)
- 1 pinch salt

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¾ cup sugar
- About ¾ to 1 tsp. baking powder (optional)
- 1 tsp. instant coffee or espresso powder (optional)
- ½ cup milk chocolate chips (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease 8 x 8 baking dish. Combine all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth (batter will be thin). Pour into baking dish. Sprinkle chocolate chips over top. Bake until top is dry and edges start to pull away from sides of pan. About 30 minutes.

**Notes:** The first time I did not use the baking powder. The texture is more moist, somewhat like a flourless chocolate cake. Of course, since it doesn't rise much, brownies are fairly thin.

The second time I had planned to use the teaspoon of baking powder, but used the half teaspoon and forgot to put in a second one, but even that much made it a little more cake like. I think anywhere from ¾ to 1 tsp. would work well according to your preference. I have yet to remember to put choc. chips over the top before I put it in the oven. I do add the espresso powder.

When I use Carob powder I cut down the sugar to ½ cup. You could probably do that with the cocoa powder according to your taste.

You can also use applesauce in place of the oil.

## Poet's Corner

Poem and photos by Anne Ely

Busy as a beaver, that saying sure is true,  
 And I ought to know because I had a perfect view;  
 Up close and personal. They paid no mind to me.  
 I stood right there and watched them as they worked tirelessly.  
 Water was escaping; they had a job to do  
 That breach in the dam had to be fixed before it grew.  
 As I watched them work they all seemed to be in sync.  
 There were four of them; they were a family, I think  
 Swimming in with twigs and branches, each took their turn  
 The young joining in, doing their share, it's how they learn.  
 One after another, back and forth they all swam,  
 For they knew it was important to mend the dam.  
 First small branches then large, followed up with roots and mud.  
 'Twould be well engineered, and stop any waters flood.  
 A drop in water levels could bring forth dangers,  
 But to these happenings, the beavers were no strangers.  
 For one hour I watched as about their tasks they went;  
 All working together to save their environment.  
 "Busy as a beaver"? Yes, that's surely true,  
 But I would also say "Smart as a beaver," works, too.

—Anne Ely



## 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. There is no regular Tuesday Tea in August; it is replaced by the Tuesday Tea Picnic (see page 8). Topics and speakers for Tuesday Tea meetings are planned months in advance. For each Tuesday Tea, we try to have a relatively short segment, usually a video, helping us learn more about the Quabbin history and environment. Sometimes, opportunities or problems occur in the short term and cause changes in the schedule on short notice. A recent example was a video in memory of Stanley Boyko. We also want to underscore that Tuesday Teas are not for “Members Only.” All are welcome, regardless of your connection to the Quabbin Valley. Magic often happens.

### Photo Club Meetings

**The Quabbin Photo Group ([www.quabbinphotogroup.org](http://www.quabbinphotogroup.org))** meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St., Belchertown, Mass. 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. On September 23 there will be a presentation by John Green titled “Nature Odyssey.”

**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 Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown, Mass. 01007. The annual meeting is in January. The immediate schedule of topics is for: July 25 – Fog; August 29 – Old Cars; September 26 – Landscape; and October 31 – Texture. Check their website for more information.

### Swift River Historical Society

*Museum open Sundays and Wednesdays 1:00–4:00 p.m.  
June 23 through September 22.*

For more details on Swift River Historical Society events, please go to: [www.swiftrivermuseum.org/events/](http://www.swiftrivermuseum.org/events/)

#### JULY

**Saturday, July 20:** *Old Home Day* on the New Salem Common from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free.

**Saturday, July 20:** *Cooleyville Historic Walk* with Don Flye at 9:00 a.m. Meet behind the New Salem Town Hall.

**Sunday, July 21:** *Dana Reunion* on Dana Common, gates open at 10:00 a.m. Free.

**Sunday, July 28:** *Dana Vespers* at Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 3:30 p.m. Cake and lemonade served after the concert. Free.

#### AUGUST

**Sunday, August 18:** *Birds of Prey* with Tom Ricardi on the grounds of SRVHS at 3:00 p.m. Suggested donation of \$5.00. Children free.

#### SEPTEMBER

**September 13–29:** SRVHS will be featured in the Gilbert Farmhouse at Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield, MA.

**Saturday, September 14** *Annual Member Meeting* on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 22:** *Fall Hike to Atkinson Hollow.* Meet at the field (Cooleyville Crossing) at Gate 17 road for 11:00 a.m. departure. **Note:** *This hike, inside the gate on the Prescott Peninsula, requires that all participants enter and leave at the same time, as it is a fenced off area with locked gate. Participants cannot be allowed to leave early.*

**Sunday, September 22:** *Museum Closing Day*

#### OCTOBER

**Sunday, October 6:** Prescott/Enfield Pilgrimage Bus Trip Meet at SRVHS, 40 Elm Street, New Salem for 11:00 a.m. departure. Fee of \$30.00 per reservation.

**Sunday, October 20:** *Fall Hike from Packardsville to the shore of the Quabbin.* Meet at Gate 8 for 11:00 a.m. departure. You may reach the museum by calling 978-544-6882 or by emailing [fryesrvhs@gmail.com](mailto:fryesrvhs@gmail.com).

### New Salem Old Home Day Celebrates 25 Summers of Music at the 1794 Meetinghouse

New Salem’s *Old Home Day* on Saturday, July 20 will celebrate 25 summers of musical performances at the 1794 Meetinghouse on the town common. In addition to all the fun of an old-fashioned, small-town festival, this year’s *Old Home Day* will highlight the 1794 Meetinghouse’s role in bringing dynamic musicians from near and far to the summer stage, as well as supporting grass-roots community theater and the North Quabbin Pro Musica chorale.

In addition to special Meetinghouse activities like a Special Anniversary Silent Auction to benefit North Quabbin Pro Musica, *Old Home Day* will include all the traditional summer festival events: cross cut saw competition; pony rides; live music; a giant book sale; art/craft/local products booths; Children’s Activities; a Cake Walk; Firemen’s Lunch Barbecue and Church Café; a parade; and more, including a Firemen’s Breakfast from 7–10 a.m. The popular historic and forest walks will feature a 9 a.m. walk through the former Cooleyville Center, and a 2 p.m. Forest Resource Walk.

The fun-filled day will finish with a special return performance at the 1794 Meetinghouse (7:30 p.m.) of the popular folk group Mad Agnes with Pete Nelson opening. People are encouraged to bring a picnic supper before the performance and dine with views of the Quabbin Reservoir from the New Salem overlook. From blues and folk to jazz and classical and everything in between, the 2019 Meetinghouse will bring 18 performances by well-known musicians to the North Quabbin region. Both the audience and seasoned performers are attracted to the intimate performance venue and the quality natural acoustics of the colonial structure.

For more information on the 1794 Meetinghouse’s 2019 performance schedule go to: [www.1794meetinghouse.org/](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org/) For a complete schedule of *Old Home Day* events email: [nsoldhomeday@gmail.com](mailto:nsoldhomeday@gmail.com).

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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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