

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Fall 2019
Vol.32 No.3

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 Park Cemetery—Further Developments

By Gene Theroux and Paul Godfrey

The Watershed Protection Trust (WSPT) held its quarterly meeting at the Quabbin Visitor Center on Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Included in their agenda was discussion and a tour of the Quabbin Park Cemetery. A significant number of people were in attendance at the WSPT meeting including representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), representatives from the citizen's advisory committee to the MWRA (WSCAC) and from the Friends of Quabbin.



Watershed Protection Trust board members, pictured left to right: Fred Heyes (Swift River Valley Historical Society), Vandana Rao (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), Frederick A. Laskey (Executive Director, MWRA), Lou Taverna (MWRA Advisory Board), and Brigadier General William J. Meehan (North Worcester County Anglers and the Quabbin Fishermen's Association.)

The Trust Board has become very insistent that the Quabbin Cemetery represents an obligation to the former residents, not something that can be managed when time and money permit. They wanted to see a line item in the DCR budget for Quabbin Cemetery maintenance. They specifically asked for an update on what has been done since the last WSPT meeting in June. There was presentation by DCR of about \$100,000 worth of work done in past months to remove dead and dying trees and planning begun on the line installation of a new well and a few faucets in the cemetery. A statement was made that "it was suspected that the old water distribution system had frozen and there were leaks everywhere." A water buffalo tank was temporarily placed in the Cemetery (removed at the end of August). The hope of the Friends of Quabbin is that DCR first tests the existing distribution system to eleven faucets distributed throughout the cemetery to see if it really leaks. These original faucets provided adequate water to each of the 21 sections of the cemetery. While a new faucet or two are better than none, they will hardly be adequate. The current "temporary" solution of providing water from a brook near the entrance could provide a little redundancy although it is also inadequate for the whole cemetery because it has only one faucet and dries up in late summer.

The meeting then was moved to the cemetery for a "tour," although most of the group never left the area of the administration building (the small but formidable looking building near where Memorial Day activities are held). The discussion continued between the WSPT and the attendees. President Gene Theroux re-emphasized how important water is for the cleaning of stonework in the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

(continued on page 5)



President's Message

Fall 2019

Gene Theroux

It was a picture-perfect day for the annual Dana Reunion held on the Dana Common on Sunday, July 21, 2019, and it was very well attended. There were numerous pop-up canopy tents setup to shield the families from the sun. The agenda included the town meeting followed by a picnic lunch. During the town meeting, attendees were invited to introduce themselves and to tell about their connection to the former towns



Suzanne Cooley conducts the annual Dana town meeting.



Kevin Cooley provided an opening prayer.

(Dana, Enfield, Greenwich or Prescott) or to share a story. The Cooley family had setup two canopy tents and two folding banquet tables that were used for the display of historic photographs, books on the Quabbin Valley, and other artifacts. Former Dana Common resident Earl W. Cooley was proudly wearing his

“Dana is My Hometown” baseball cap. During the meeting, those former residents of the Valley who passed were identified and a moment of silence was held. The Dana Reunion is held annually on the third Sunday in July. Congratulations and thank you to the Cooley family and the Dana Common reunion community for their continued efforts in preserving the history and legacy of what was sacrificed for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Dana Common was added to the List of National Historic places during the 75th Year of Remembrance of the lost towns in 2013. It was very disappointing to attendees of the annual Dana Common reunion to again witness all the cellar holes that were overgrown with saplings and brush.

The heat did not deter longtime Friends of Quabbin member and Quabbin historian, Marty Howe, from exploring the former location of Louis R. Wells which was just over a half mile walk from Dana Common. It took Marty a little bit of time to find the stone wall with the three steps which led from the road to the front of the Louis Wells house due to the vast growth of invasive weeds.



The former Louis R. Wells house in Dana with three steps from the road to the walkway.



Marty Howe searching for the stone wall and the three steps clearly seen in the DCR picture above.

After the conclusion of the Watershed Protection Trust visit to Quabbin Park Cemetery described earlier, I met up with Friends of Quabbin member, Bill Cote, for a tour of his efforts over the last ten years at Old Saint William Cemetery located in Ware. Bill Cote's restoration and preservation work has just been exemplary. Bill has also mentored others, and freely shared processes, best practices and information on what and where to buy materials.

After the tour of Old Saint William Cemetery, I took Bill to Hardwick to the Baptist Hill Cemetery where Friends of Quabbin member Bob Howe has done some restoration work on his ancestors' gravestones; Bill Cote was quite impressed. The following is an illustration of the work Bob Howe did in the Baptist Hill Cemetery in Hardwick.



Left: Bob Howe holding the two fragmented pieces of the gravestone of his ancestor John Collins. **Right:** The repaired gravestone of John Collins. In addition to joining the two fragments together and filling the spaces and joints with the proper mortar, the gravestone was cleaned and treated with D/2 Biological Solution.



Gene & Emily Dumala of Smith Monuments



Bill Cote standing by one of the approximately two hundred headstones that he has preserved over the last ten years. Notice all the clean white marble gravestones in the background. This particular gravestone was broken in two pieces. Bill reattached the fragments built a base, reset the tablet into the base, plumbed it, cleaned and treated with D/2 Biological Solution.



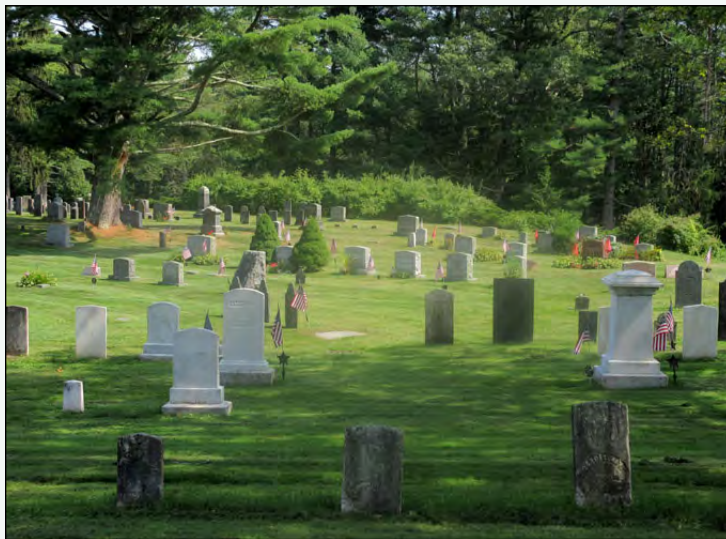
Gene with Quabbin Park Cemetery staff and donated tripod and hoist with straps. Left to right: Gene, Paul Lagrant, Sam Adams and Art Dalessio

Both Bill Cote and Bob Howe received the proper authorization from the respective cemeteries prior to either one of them doing any work there.

I received two tripods (pictured on the previous page) from Smith Monuments of Westfield, Mass. to support the work I've done in Westfield and Southwick cemeteries. I was recently appointed to be the Veterans Graves Officer for the city of Westfield. The Veterans Grave Officer is a volunteer position and requires that the incumbent be a Veteran. I retired from the United States Air Force with over 38 years of military service and held the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. I have scheduled a cleanup day for Pine Hill Cemetery, Westfield on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The first tripod will be used to

reset and plumb headstones and smaller monuments at Pine Hill Cemetery and has already been used at Southwick's Old Cemetery.

I gave the second tripod to The Friends of Quabbin. They purchased a chain hoist and lifting straps and, in turn, donated the set to DCR Quabbin for use in the Quabbin Park Cemetery. The tripod is a tremendous addition to the tool box and will provide the ability to reset gravestones safely and properly. We're fortunate to have thoughtful business owners such as Smith Monuments who considered us with this donation of their excess equipment. I know both tripods will get a lot of use and help us to preserve history and ensure that the legacy of those who served and sacrificed is not forgotten.



Cleaned gravestones at Quabbin Park Cemetery (the bright white ones in the foreground and distance).

Cleaning Monuments at Quabbin Park Cemetery

By Gene Theroux

The Friends of Quabbin has helped make it possible for people to clean the gravestones and monuments of their kin. Gene and a few others have been making an effort to clean gravestones and monuments with approvals to clean at the Quabbin Park Cemetery. The results of that effort can be seen in the accompanying photograph.

The Friends of Quabbin would like to expand its efforts to clean gravestones and monuments in Quabbin Park Cemetery. In addition, the Friends of Quabbin would like to schedule a two-day training

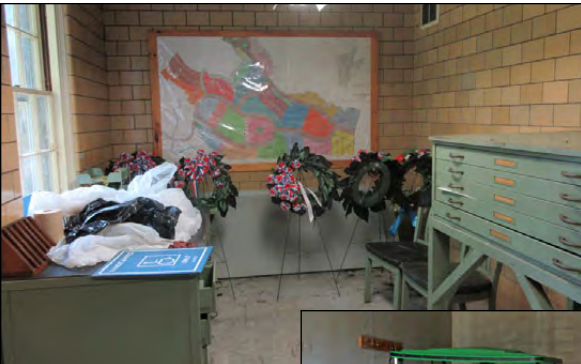
workshop conducted by a professional conservator in the spring of 2020. The scope of the training would include safety, cleaning, documenting, simple resetting, making a base, resetting into a base, mixing mortar, stacking stone and lifting with the tripod. The training opportunities would be available to DCR maintenance personnel and to volunteers. However, for the Friends of Quabbin to be able to proceed, we need to receive from heirs or lot owners the approved Quabbin Park Cemetery Stonework Cleaning Notice of Intent and Liability Forms. The forms are available on the Friends of Quabbin website (www.friendsofquabbin.org). The forms must be completed and sent to DCR or to FOQ for forwarding.

It's important to underscore that only monuments, headstones, footstones or markers that have an approved *Notice of Intent to Clean Stonework* can be cleaned. Without a sufficient number of approved Notices of Intent cleaning and/or training cannot be conducted. The Friends of Quabbin hopes to conduct training on how to properly clean stonework in the near future. Those family members who have headstones or monuments in Quabbin Park Cemetery who would like to request that the Friends of Quabbin clean their family monuments or those who wish to receive training to clean their family monuments 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. Cleaning requires some relatively expensive cleaning solutions and some inexpensive supplies that you may obtain from us at cost. It is suggested that you include a donation to the Friends of Quabbin with Cemetery Restoration in the memo field. Call Gene Theroux (413-627-3475) for more information. The Friends of Quabbin will also be looking for volunteers to assist in the restoration and preservation effort. Participation in the training program is required. Those interested in volunteering should provide their name and contact information either via email to gene.theroux@verizon.net or mail to Gene H. Theroux, P.O. Box 856, Southwick, MA 01077-0856.

Quabbin Park Cemetery

(continued from page 1)

The normally locked Administration Building was open for inspection. This was the first time some of us have seen the



Maps and wreaths

ments and, in attached buildings, the equipment used for burials and lawn maintenance.



Lawn maintenance equipment

The WSPT is fully engaged and quite concerned about the conditions of the facilities, the infrastructure, and the lack of water at the cemetery—so much so, that they plan on having the Quabbin Park Cemetery on their quarterly meeting agenda until conditions at the cemetery have improved and that the WSPT is satisfied that the appropriate action has been taken to remedy the decades of neglect, and proper steps are put into motion for the future for the repair and maintenance to include gravestones.

inside. Here was storage of the wreaths used on Memorial Day, a second set of maps of all burial sites, some remnants of broken monu-

Until a few years ago, the state of the Quabbin Park Cemetery wasn't on the minds of any state officials. Since our efforts to bring this to the forefront in the *Voices* and in other ways, it has become a major focus. We hope it results in efforts by the state and by volunteers working with FOQ to make the cemetery the jewel that was promised. When we see more progress, FOQ will begin our next step of attaining the National Historic Site recognition that is deserved.



Administration Building Door (note condition)

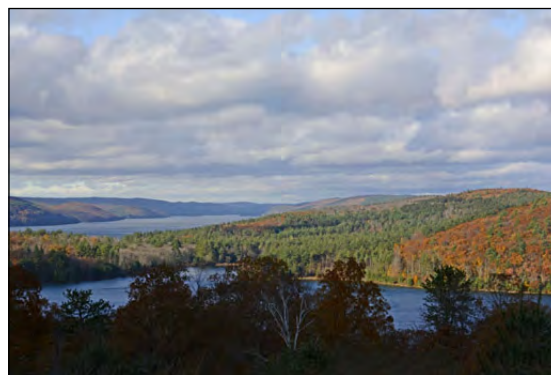


Jason Holden of DCR describing the pieces from broken monuments that have been residing in the QPC Administration Building office

Fall—A Muse by Anne Ely

As I sit here soaking up the peace and quiet at the ending of a beautiful fall day, my body relaxes at the soft sounds of a gentle breeze as it sways the branches of the nearby trees. Some trees still clad in their summer greens, while others, here and there, are beginning to show off their new fall fashions in a glorious pallet of reds, yellows and bronzes.

Gazing upward I watch the lazy downward spiral of a silently falling leaf. Before long, though, strong gusts of wind will send leaves raining down with such force that they can actually be heard as they fly through bare branches, landing in ever growing piles that crunch underfoot. That is one of the sounds of fall that says winter is on its way. Today, in my mind anyway, that is still too far away to think about



as I listen to the distant sound of the honking of Canada Geese heading for a spot of quiet water on which to rest for the night. The sound of the geese awakens my consciousness to other sounds: the buzz of a bee as it finishes its day's work of gathering pollen from the goldenrod and asters, and the occasional cheery voice of a goldfinch as it heads for a sheltered spot to await the break of day.

As the sun heads downward toward the horizon, its golden light kisses the tops of the trees outlining the shapes of the hills. A few clouds spread across the fading blue sky. Hopefully they will begin to pick up color as the sun sets.

The breeze has stopped and all is still. The cicadas have joined the crickets in their twilight serenade. Just soft background music softly ushering in the closing of the day.



Interpretive Services Report

Fall 2019

by Clif Read

Images of the pre-reservoir Swift River Valley are powerful representations of what existed before construction began and the water covered 25,000 acres of valley floor. They capture what was, and, what was lost. This past summer a big step forward was made in the effort to make the collection of black and white photographs taken by the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission (MDWSC) available to the public with the release of images of the Swift River Valley cemeteries. This first batch of images represents a collection of 2,083 photos taken by the MDWSC to document the valley before the towns were dismantled and the valley prepared for the future reservoir. Although significant in size, this collection represents just a portion of the images taken by the MDWSC in the late 1920s to the mid-1940s. The cemetery images may be accessed through the Digital Commonwealth website (www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:76537133j) and downloaded at three different levels of resolution:

Master (TIF format, full resolution, uncompressed, very large file size)

Original (JPEG format, full resolution, large file size)

Medium (JPEG format, 800px, moderate file size)

Over the past few years DCR Archivist Sean Fisher has been working closely with the Massachusetts State Archives, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Records Center and the Digital Commonwealth (DC) Project through the Boston Public Library (BPL) to preserve the priceless photos of the MDWSC and to provide access to collection by the general public. Scanning the collection provides the opportunity to achieve both these goals, although there are many steps required to bring this project to fruition. Karen Graham, Library Supervisor for the MWRA, was instrumental in making this happen with the hiring of Katy Purington, and later Adam Beckwith, as interns. As part of their duties, they entered the collection metadata into a database with all the background information about each individual image enabling users to search the collection. Sean worked with the BPL Digital Services Lab to provide the original photographs for scanning



through their state-of-the-art facilities and professional staff. Once the scanning and data entry work was completed, additional time was needed to resolve any remaining inaccuracies before the two were merged.



Finally, in late June the entire cemetery photo collection was uploaded and went live for the public on the DC website. This initial batch was a test for what will follow with the Swift River and Ware River Real Estate collections, non-sensitive construction images and aerial photographs. The Swift River Real Estate series is anticipated to be completed and available through the DC website later this fall. While most of the 2,906 images from this collection are of structures located on land purchased by the MDWSC as part of the project, there are other images of landscapes, floods, reservoir construction, infrastructure, and events interspersed with the building pictures.

Originally there were two official sets of all MDWSC Contract photos made; the Chief Engineer's set and the Secretary's set. Other individual photographs were made as well in response to requests from individuals for copies. Additional "blueprint photos" of the Real Estate series were produced inexpensively and were used among other purposes as field records by engineers, surveyors and land appraisers. While the entire Swift River Real Estate includes 2,906 images, there are unfortunately gaps with 138 images missing from the Chief Engineer's set collection that was held in the Quabbin Archives. Two entire bound books of the Real Estate pictures (each one with 50 images) are missing from the archives along with 38 individual pictures. The Secretary's set was not saved intact, so it is not an option to use this set to fill any gaps. Furthermore, the nitrate base negatives used in the photograph were deemed a fire hazard. In the 1990s were transferred to a special facility, but by that point they were already severely degraded and it is uncertain whether they still exist or not.



In an effort to make the collection more complete, we are trying to locate some of the missing photographs in hopes that they could be borrowed, scanned and the files added to the digital

Changes in the Deer Hunt Program for 2019

by Clif Read

As the Quabbin Deer Hunt is held again this fall, visitors should be aware of some important changes if they plan to visit Quabbin in early December. The biggest change this year will be the inclusion of approximately 2,500 acres of Quabbin Park land as part the controlled hunt on December 5th and 6th. It will be conducted similarly to the other Quabbin controlled hunts with the area closed to all public access. Only hunters selected in the special lottery and who have completed the required training will be allowed access to this area. There will still be public access to the Quabbin Administration Building, the Visitor Center and pedestrian access on the Winsor Dam road which fall outside the hunt area. But the Park land east of the Winsor Dam Spillway and its Channel over to the Goodnough Dike will be closed. "Area Closed" signs will be posted at the edge of the hunt zone on the east end of the Dam and at all access point to the hunt area including those along Route 9. The Swift River Catch and Release Area below Winsor Dam will be open during the hunt, but access to this area from the Ware (east) side of the river will be prohibited during these two days.

The issue with deer over browsing in the Quabbin Park area has been well documented over the years. As part of studies of the high deer population and their impacts on the ecosystem which date back to the 1970s, the decision was made not to hunt the Park when the Deer Management Plan was developed in 1990. Instead, a plan to fence large acreage of land in the Park was implemented with electrified wire strands enclosing parcels up to 100 acres in size. While the deer exclosures proved effective when maintained properly, they required extensive staff upkeep and were easily compromised by fallen trees or branches that damaged the fence. The fencing was removed after several years and the browse pressure from a deer herd that was many times the statewide average was intense. After years of discussion of options for dealing with the high deer densities in the Park, the decision was made to move forward with the controlled public hunt this year to

reduce the deer herd and allow the forest to regenerate properly. In early June this year the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee voted to support the proposal for the 2019 Quabbin Hunting Program that included the Quabbin Park, Petersham and Pelham areas.

The Petersham Block will be hunted on December 12 and 13 similar to past years, with controlled vehicle access through Gate 40. Pelham will also be hunted, but only on a walk-in basis. While the Park and Petersham hunts drew a limited



High deer numbers in the Quabbin Park have resulted in many areas of the watershed forest lacking the necessary regeneration due to overbrowsing on young trees. If unmitigated, this area will have only old and dying trees in time and will become choked by ferns and nearly impassable. The conversion to more savannah like conditions has negative implications for water quality and for ecological diversity.

number of permits in a special lottery on September 11th, the Pelham Hunt will issue a permit to anyone who applies, but they must have a permit in order to hunt this area. Hunters and non-hunters alike should be aware that Pelham will be open for the full Deer Shotgun Season December 2–14 and that the area will not be closed to the public during this time. So if you choose to go hiking in Pelham during this time, please know that this is an active hunting zone and that you should wear clothing with hunter orange or other bright colors for visibility.

collection. The Swift River Valley Historical Society has a number of these duplicate images in their archives and has expressed interest in assisting with this project. But there are probably other groups of photographs out there. If anyone is in possession of, or, knows about any collections of Swift River Real Estate images (personal collections, historical societies, etc), it would very helpful to know about these sources. The Real Estate photographs are very distinct. They measure 4 5/8" x 6 5/8" in size, have either white writing or type along the bottom of the photograph or in a black banner at the bottom of the image. Most

images have a chalk board with details about the owner, the date, photo number, real estate map #, a plot sketch, the location of the camera in relation to the sketch and an arrow indicating the north direction. Most photographs are likely to be duplicate copies that were made and distributed more widely. Hopefully we can locate copies of these missing photographs and work to fill in some of the gaps in the collection. Please contact me if you are able to provide any information in this area. Phone (413) 213-7906 or email clif.read@state.ma.us. Thanks!

Tuesday Tea

September 3, 2019

Visit from Dan Clark, Regional Director for the Quabbin/Ware River Region

Dan Clark is in his second year as Regional Director for the Quabbin/Ware River Region. For this Tuesday Tea, he dropped by to chat about his experiences to date and answer questions of the assembled Tuesday Tea group of about twelve for 45 minutes. He briefly noted that he was originally from Missouri but came to UMass for the graduate wildlife program and stayed. He started with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in

of many dead and dying trees from QPC costing thousands (documented in the summer 2019 *Quabbin Voices*.)

Other questions from the group included obtaining information on public access: what kinds and where access was allowed. Admitting that the DCR website was less than adequate, various approaches were being discussed. Those who visit the Visitor Center can get good information but those who simply go to an area may not have access to relevant information. A suggestion from the group was to establish mini-kiosks with a QR code that when imaged by a smart phone would connect to a website with current information; all for relatively low cost.

Gypsy moth damage was brought up. Dan said that damage this year was minimal but had been quite severe in the prior year or



Dan Clark (center, standing) speaking to the Tuesday Tea Group

1995, spending most of his time in the field. But as he's worked up the ranks, his time in the field has diminished. He jokingly says that on really bad weather days, he has the option now to opt out of the harsh elements.

Dan described the special management requirements of Quabbin. Most reservoirs provide water that must be filtered, an expensive need; Quabbin and the whole MWRA water system are fairly unique in being one of the few that don't. The water needs only to have ozonation for disinfection and a touch of chlorination to maintain that disinfection state while in the distribution pipes to homes. The focus on water quality drives many of the management decisions.

Responding to a question about Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC), Dan cited some encouraging progress on improvement. One item was the temporary installation of a water buffalo tank to provide water this summer. A second was to try an alternative to the failed GRAVLOC database system to make the existing records of burials more useful. There is now work on using the database that was created from digitizing the data that was on index cards and installing the data on a different system. A spatial database is envisioned so that users could locate grave sites and see the available information. A third item was the removal

two. It was hoped that this threat was over for the near future. However, the threat underscored how important it is to maintain a diverse forest (see the deer hunt article in this issue).

Two hypothetical questions were asked: Would fishing be allowed now? Could the reservoir be built now? The answer to the first from Dan was generalized to water supply reservoirs. As a rule, in the east, water supply reservoirs do not like to allow boat access to the water, especially those with outboard motors. But, more specifically about Quabbin, the fact is they are here and the reservoir must be managed with that in mind. So, areas of access, types of use and other details compensate for the impact.

The emphatic answer to whether the reservoir could be built now was NO!!! But it was, causing hard to imagine difficulties and suffering for those forced out, but creating a place of great beauty, an environmental treasure providing wonderful, irreplaceable water for a large number of Massachusetts residents. The discussion ended on a brief question about counting eagles. Dan described an annual initial aerial survey to spot active nests followed by actually climbing up to those nests and lowering eaglets to the ground for measuring and banding with their return to the nest.



Richard Locke, Gene Theroux, and Harold Oehler

Dan was thanked for his willingness to talk with the Tuesday Tea group and invited to return.

The Tuesday Tea group welcomes all new and repeat visitors and this meeting was no different. Several regulars that have missed a few meetings were back. And two that had only recently started coming deserve mention. Posing with Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux are Richard Locke and Harold Oehler. Harold will be a young 102 years old in October! He served in the Pacific theater of operations and was an Artillery Company Commander who had 150 men under his command. He enlisted in 1940 and separated as a Captain.

Tuesday Tea Picnic

By Ann Hurlburt and Anne Ely

It's often said that history repeats itself, but in the case of the Tuesday Tea picnic everyone was very glad it didn't. Last year, although the human attendance was low, that of the biting flies and mosquitoes was not. The fact that it was hot and humid with absolutely no breeze did not help. Tuesday Tea-ers, however, are a tough lot and those who attended persevered. Fellowship overcame frustrations.



This year 18 people enjoyed a perfect picnic day. The weather couldn't have been nicer... and not a bug in sight. Everyone brought their own lunches, so we know everyone was happy on that account. Several people brought baked goods and chips to share, but it's the company that makes the event.



While we saw regular attendees, we also saw a few new faces. Several people brought along family members to enjoy the afternoon with us. We were fortunate to have Les Campbell, (who started the Friends of Quabbin back in the '80s) join us, as he does whenever he can. The DCR was represented by our liaison Nancy Huntington, who matched the lovely day in an equally lovely lavender flowered sundress.

The picnic is held in lieu of the August Tuesday Tea meeting. Very little business was conducted, although there was the mention, gasp, of the approaching Christmas party. How time flies when you're having fun.

New Items at the Visitor Center Bookstore

Over the past month, a host of new items have been added to the inventory at the Bookstore. *Remember FOQ members get a 10% discount.*

Letters from Quabbin

We had run out of the most recent issue of “Letters from Quabbin” and I was asked by Visitor Center staff to produce some more. This turned out to be a complicated question. The original compilation of these newspaper articles by Amy Spink and Mabel Jones that appeared twice weekly in the *Springfield Union* in 1938 was assembled by Terry and Les Campbell (president of FOQ) in 1988. Terry retyped the original *Union* articles to improve their readability and Les replaced the low resolution pictures in the articles with his photos of the originals used by the *Union* and added a few of his own as photographed from the collections of the Metropolitan District Commission and Swift River Valley Historical Society. But then in 1991, a new edition was produced by Shaun Bresnahan, president of FOQ at that time. It hewed carefully to the original *Union* version, using the original photos and text copied from the news clippings with the quality inherent in copies of that day, i.e. not so great. To make the text more readable, the typed copy was also included, resulting in two copies of the text and kind of poor photos. The question was: use the newer Bresnahan version or stray from exact reproduction of the originals and use the Campbell’s version. The Board chose the Campbell’s version. The new version printed with today’s technology is a vast improvement on the older ones. The Campbell original had the actual photos pasted on the page, so scanning and printing with today’s equipment produced sharp images and crisp text. Most of the original photos are there but in photo quality, not newspaper quality. And there are the additional photos that Les added to enhance the story. It is spiral bound for easy readability. Best of all, the price has dropped from \$16.50 to \$15.00.

Postcards!

At the same time that “Letters from Quabbin” was being replenished, postcards were running out. Our former vendors: Les Campbell and Peter Zephyr were no longer producing postcards. I thought that we have wonderful photographers in our related photo clubs (see Meetings & Events) and many



had already provided Quabbin photos for our use, why not ask them to contribute photos for postcards. All were willing and we have a new batch of gorgeous photos taken in the Quabbin. We had never had any postcards with historical photos before, so we’ve also added a few of the hundreds of pictures we have to our postcards. You’ve seen many of these before on our newsletter pages. Price: \$0.50 each; 6 for \$2.30



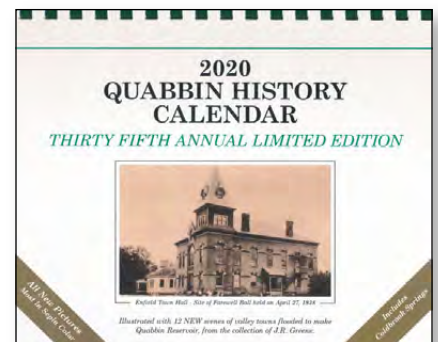
We also have a new Dale Monette photo book. It is just out, and we are the first to have it.

Voyagers, Visitors, and Home

is the second book of wildlife images released by Dale Monette and Haley’s Publishing. This book focuses on birds that visit New England just for a stop-over either wandering or during migration, birds that spend a few days or months here but are not permanent residents, or birds and mammals that live here and call New England home. Five years in the making and many miles traveled, not to mention the gallons of blood lost to mosquitos in ponds and swamps! Here are the images and the stories behind them. Also included is a section on the successful bald eagle reintroduction as a nesting species to Massachusetts program that took place at the Quabbin Reservoir during the 1980s by MassWildlife. From great gray owls to red-backed voles, see what, where, and who Dale found in his travels around New England and the Quabbin Reservoir over the last five years. Price: \$29.95.

2020 Quabbin Calendar by J.R. Greene

The 35th annual Quabbin pictorial calendar featuring views from the villages destroyed to create Metro Boston’s main water supply, Quabbin Reservoir, in the 1930s. Views from Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, and an adjoining town (eastern Shutesbury). Historical photos include a railroad station and track workers, a store, a mill, a school, winter scenes, and a summer camp. A view from the lost village of Coldbrook Springs in Oakham, taken for the sister Ware River diversion project is also included. Most of the views are printed in sepia color; the calendar is 8 1/2" x 11" in size, the illustrations are around 4 1/2" x 8" in size. Price: \$14.95



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. 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. We try to give you early notice of topics and speakers for these. But 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 shortly after his death. 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** (<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.

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. The immediate schedule of topics is: October 31 – Texture; November 28 – Ice. Check their website for more information.

DCR Presentations

Saturday November 9, 2019 11a.m.–1p.m.

Exploring the Road to Dana Common

Along the old road to Dana Common are foundations, walls and trees that tell the story of the towns now long gone. Join us on this 1.8 mile (3.6 round trip) hike to Dana Common and discover what life was like in the Quabbin Valley. Please bring water, a snack and dress appropriately for the weather. We will meet at Gate 40 on Rt. 32A in Petersham. Call the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for information and directions.



Dana Town Hall (right); School (left)

February 15, 2020 – **The Other Lost Valley**
History of the Ware River Watershed

February 23, 2020 – **Digital Access of Quabbin Real Estate and Cemetery Photographs**

March 1, 2020 – **Dale Monette Presents His Newest Book**
(see new items at the Visitor Center Bookstore).

March 8, 2020 – **The National Ecological Observatory Network**
Open data to understand how our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are changing

March 22, 2020 – **Ticks and Tick-Borne disease in Massachusetts and across the U.S.**

March 29, 2020 7:30 p.m. – **Walk the Milky Way**

Swift River Historical Society

*Museum open Sundays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
June 23rd through September 22nd. You may reach the museum by calling 978-544-6882 or by emailing fryesrvhs@gmail.com.*

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019 – **PRESCOTT/ENFIELD PILGRIMAGE BUS TRIP**. Meet at SRVHS, 40 Elm St., New Salem for 11:00 a.m. departure. Fee of \$30.00 per reservation.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019 – **FALL HIKE** from Packardsville to the shore of the Quabbin. Meet at Gate 8 for 11:00 a.m. departure.

Holiday Party *December 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to join them for an early celebration of the holiday season at the Friends of Quabbin Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Quabbin Visitor Center

Refreshments will be served; many will be from recipes in the new Quabbin Centennial Cookbook. Bring one of your making!



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



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