

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Fall 2021
Vol.34 No.3

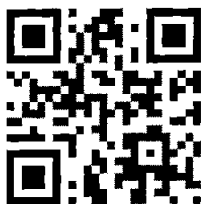
We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water,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

—Les Campbell

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All meetings and events may be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Check the organization's web page or call beforehand.

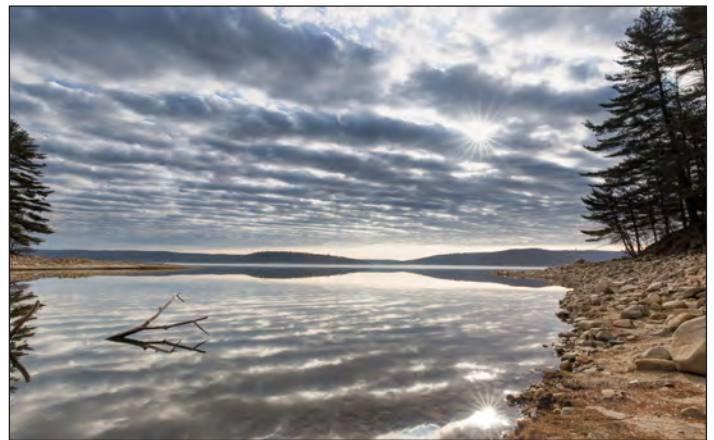


The Moods of Light from Quabbin's Gate 5

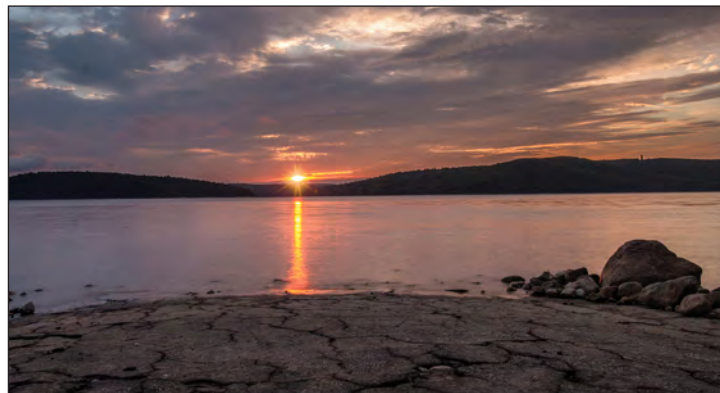
by Mark Lindhult

I'm fortunate to live on Old Enfield Road just a short walk from Gate 5, one of the 55 gates that lead down to the Quabbin Reservoir. Old Enfield used to be Route 21 that lead directly down to and through the former town of Enfield, Mass. Now the road simply disappears down under the waters of the reservoir. I've walked this road innumerable times over the past 38 years in all seasons and times of day. I love to photograph the scene from the end of the road and capture the ever changing light that can be seen. Sunrise is a favorite time when the sky sometimes lights up with color. However, as you see, below the sky can take on many different moods. What I like most about the view from the end of Old Enfield is that you have a clear view of the Quabbin Tower silhouetted against the sky.

Hill between Mt Ram and Quabbin Hill. The former Town of Enfield once sat in the valley formed by these three peaks and is now 120 feet below the water's surface.



There is a cove just a short distance to the left from the road. We've seen river otters playing there in the winter and hooded mergansers fly in to find refuge and food. On this particular spring day there was no wind and the Quabbin was perfectly still. The clouds in the sky had a rippling effect which, when reflected in the water, looked like waves. As I set up to take my photo, the sun peaked out from behind the clouds. Shooting at f/16 I was able to create a starburst effect with the sun which was also reflected in the water. You



This is the view of Old Enfield Road as it disappears under the water. On this summer day, the sun was just peaking over Little Quabbin

can see how still the water is by looking at the perfect reflection of the branch sticking up from the water.

(Continued on page 5)



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Fall 2021

Fall arrived on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 3:21 EDT and the amount of daylight has become considerably shorter. It is a good time to spend some time outdoors while you can enjoy moderate temperatures and less humidity. Perhaps, it's an ideal time to take a trip to Quabbin Park Reservation to enjoy its beauty and, maybe, take in a hike or two. But if you were to gaze out at Quabbin Reservoir from the Enfield Lookout, you would no longer have much of a view of the area where Quabbin covers the village of Enfield and Smith Village, a little to the north. What were saplings before are now tall trees that largely obscure the view of these locations.



View north of Quabbin valley from the Enfield Tower

Similarly, if you were to travel the Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202) in Pelham to the pullout where thousands in the past stopped to admire the beautiful vista of Quabbin to the east, you would now be very disappointed to only see a tiny sliver of Quabbin; the rest blocked by the growth of trees.

Time has also taken its toll on another key view of Quabbin history. If you hike the road inside gate 30 to see the well-known keystone bridge, you would find that the keystone bridge is in danger of collapsing. Janice and Randy Stone did just that recently, as reported in the last *Quabbin Voices*. They reported the damage and provided pictures to us and DCR. Thanks to them, some effort to preserve the bridge is underway. Unfortunately, initial assessments are not good and the bridge may be beyond repair. Further analysis is ongoing. Timely reporting of issues such as the iconic keystone bridge problem is critical in preserving the Quabbin story. The Stones were presented a certificate of appreciation from the Friends of Quabbin at the September 9th Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors meeting.



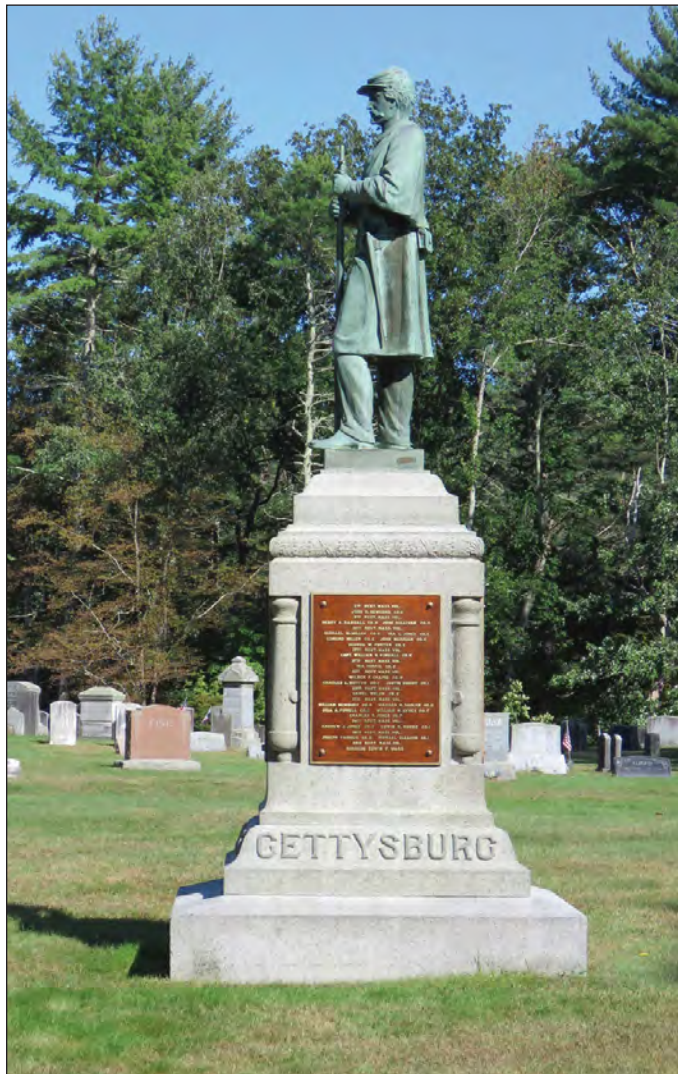
Pelham Lookout from Rte. 202

Also recognized recently by the Friends of Quabbin were brothers Robert H. and Thomas G. Howe who were each presented a plaque in appreciation of their efforts to preserve and conserve gravestones at Quabbin Park Cemetery. This too is significant in preserving the Quabbin story and the sacrifices of the former residents who were uprooted from their homes, their community, and their way of life. Robert H. Howe had followed the procedures in DCR's Quabbin Park Cemetery Management Plan for the submission and approval of Intent to Clean Stonework prior to he and his brother doing any gravestone work.

There were two significant dates to remember in September. The first was September 17, 2021, National Prisoner-of-War Missing-in-Action Day "POW-MIA." The second date was September 26, 2021, National Gold Star Mother's and Family Day. The National POW-MIA is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. But it's a time when many Americans pause to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing-in-action (MIA), as well as their families. When you visit Quabbin Park Cemetery, take the time to remember the numerous POWs such as Martin Leonard Jones.

Martin Leonard Jones of Enfield served in Company C of the 27th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. After three years' service he re-enlisted for another three years. But, before a year had ended, he was taken prisoner by the rebel army and placed in the notorious Andersonville prison. There he was held for eleven months, witnessing and enduring untold agonies of starvation and abuse. Many times, he had to witness a comrade, driven by his sufferings of hunger and ill-treatment to that point of desperation beyond human endurance, step to the chalk line established by the rebel officers and bare his breast to the deadly shot from the officer on guard.

At last, when the prisoners were being exchanged, he happened to be among the number who were released. Weak and ill, he was sent home. Because there was no railroad in Enfield in those days, he was brought the last few miles by a team from Bondsville, Mass. The family who waited anxiously to hear from him were wakened one night by the rumble of wheels. They listened with eager ears. A loud knock on the door and a bold voice demanded immediate admittance if they would “ever see Martin alive,” and thus the weary soldier was brought in too weak and ill to even feed himself.

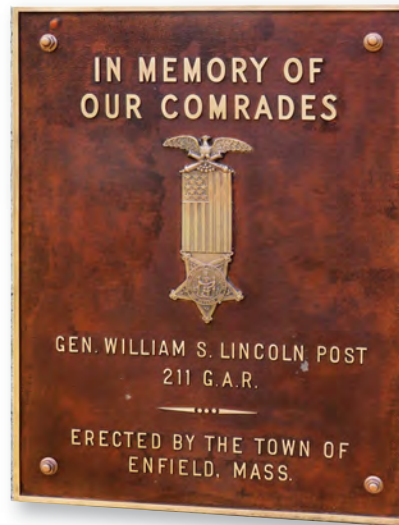


The Soldiers' Monument that once stood on the town common in Enfield, Massachusetts. The bronze Civil War soldier sculpture was cast by the W. H. Mullins Co. of Salem, Ohio. The General William S. Lincoln Grand Army Post 211 and the town donated the memorial and located it on the Common near the Congregational Church. This memorial's base of Quincy granite was surmounted by the bronze statue of a soldier of the Civil War. The names of one hundred Enfield men who participated in battle were placed on bronze plates attached to the shaft.

The Soldiers' Monument was not officially dedicated on its erection several years earlier but was formally accepted by the town of Enfield during its centennial celebration held over a three-day period in July 3-6, 1916.

But, it was not for a very long stay. The intense suffering at Andersonville prison had seriously impaired the soldier's health and mind. The tortures of starvation and imprisonment, combined with witnessing the sufferings of fellow-comrades, had wrought a chaos and confusion of his mind which was not always under control of his will. At that time, it was thought best to place him in the Northampton State Hospital for the Insane. There, he was able to work around the grounds for a good many years but was ever asking about “going back home.” At times, he had violent attacks and would imagine himself still in Andersonville prison. It was while in these wild deliriums that he would often dig into the brick walls of his room till his hands were torn and bleeding. For over 40 years, Martin L. Jones was held as an “inmate” of the Northampton insane hospital. He died in March 1914 and was buried in

Enfield's Woodlawn Cemetery. Martin L. Jones is one of sixteen Enfield residents who served in the 27th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment as identified on the Enfield Soldiers' Monument that once stood on the Enfield Common near the Congregational Church and now stands in the Quabbin Park Cemetery.



There are 45 Civil War veterans interred in Quabbin Park Cemetery with G.A.R. Post 211 markers. Many of these cast iron G.A.R. Post 211 markers are in dire need of repair. A blacksmith could easily repair each of these G.A.R. Post 211 markers with 55% nickel rods and welding with 1/8 inch 55-percent nickel cast iron .5# arc welding electrodes. After the repair, these irreplaceable G.A.R Post 211 markers would properly and securely hold an American cemetery flag. Repairing



of these G.A.R. Post 211 markers would be a symbolic way to Honor and Remember these 45 Civil War veterans and be essential in preserving the Quabbin story and the sacrifices to save the Republic during the Civil War.



At Left: Civil War veteran Lewis H. Downing who served in the Massachusetts 1st Cavalry and a member of G.A.R. Post 211.

Right: Civil War veteran who was member of G.A.R. Post 211. Both cast iron markers above are in need of repair.

Election of the Board of Directors

by Paul Godfrey

In what must have looked like something in a Harold Lloyd silent film with the main character hanging from a large clock's minute hand high above the city streets, the Friends of Quabbin (FOQ) has finally concluded its election of a Board of Directors.

To try to make a long story short, the normal election of half the Board would have taken place at the annual meeting in April 2020 and the remaining half would have been elected at the April 2021 meeting. In that way, there is continuity within the Board. However, COVID-19 prevented the April 2020 and 2021 meeting from happening. A provision in the Governor and Legislature's laws and emergency declaration for 2020 allowed the Board members whose term would have expired in 2020 and 2021 to continue until the emergency ended. The emergency was declared over on May 29, 2021 (even though it really wasn't, thanks to the Delta variant). FOQ had a few months to get everything back on track. In that time, we held a Board meeting to construct the electoral slate of directors to be considered at the meeting of the membership, as we normally would. This new meeting could not be termed an annual meeting according to our By-Laws that limit that use to member meetings held before June 30th, so it was correctly a Special Meeting. Other than the name, there is no difference. The By-Laws also specify that a quorum of 15 members is needed for an election of the Board to be considered official. We scheduled the Special Meeting for August 15th, but notice to the membership was inadequately short and attendance was poor (10 members). No election was held.

Now, we really felt like Harold Lloyd. The By-Laws were examined with a microscope and a way forward seemed available. That way was checked with a lawyer and approved. It was to call another Special Meeting and to give the required 30 days notice, but also to conduct a mail-in

ballot process, a first for us. According to the By-Laws, this was legit as long as each voter consented to having his mail-in ballot count as if they were present at the meeting. A

ballot was constructed that had this consent as the first item and the slate of Directors to be elected to the Board. Recognizing that many members do not have internet access, letters were sent to 86 members with postage-stamped postcard ballots enclosed for easy voting and return. All other members (185) got an email ballot that they could return by email. While there were glitches, particularly in the email process, the overall plan worked well.



Eighty-six of the 271 eligible members voted; 37 out of 86 members voted by postcard ballots (43%) and 41 out of the 185 members voted by

email ballots (22%). Overall, 29% of eligible voters actually voted. While this may seem low, recall two things. In prior years, Annual meetings were attended by 25–50 people, i.e. a smaller percentage voted in all prior years than this year. Further, only people within reasonable driving distance and with an amenable schedule could attend and vote and, this year, all had the opportunity. Second, many members may not have voted because they did not know the candidates well enough to be comfortable with their vote, even though all but two were old veterans on the Board. And there were those glitches with trying to reply by email. We'll all get better at this next year when we propose to use the mail-in ballot process again.

The results of the election are:

Returning directors with term ending 2022:

Gene Theroux, Paul Godfrey, John Zebb

Returning directors with term ending 2023:

Mark Thompson, Anne Ely, J.R. Greene, Ann Hurlburt

Kevin Kopchynski, Paul LaFlamme, Joe Prior

New directors with term ending 2022:

Elena Palladino, Mark Lindhult

Note that we are returning to the original schedule of having half the Board up for election each year. The offices of President, Vice-President, Chairman and Treasurer will continue with the same individuals as before.

Moods of Light

(Continued from page 1)

One summer morning I walked down Old Enfield Road to photograph the sunrise and there was a heavy fog rolling down Quabbin Hill and a thick cloud cover blocking the sun. I noticed two loons floating out across the water and decided to photograph them in front of the tower. As I prepared to click the



shutter the sun found a side-ways opening and reflected off the glass on the Quabbin Tower observatory. The sun's glow reflected in the water creating a shimmering gold streak. It was one of the most unexpected and beautiful sights I have witnessed with the loons still drifting by the tower.

Fall is another magical time in the Quabbin. During one visit cumulus clouds were hovering over the Quabbin and reflecting in the calm water's surface. The fall colors of the hillsides and their reflections were sandwiched between these white puffy forms and a dark blue sky.



Winter gives the Quabbin a completely different look. The layers of trees provide a dramatic definition to the ridge lines, highlighting the topography. With snow on the ground and no leaves on the trees, the distinction between ridges and valleys is even clearer as seen in this image. The reservoir was frozen



over and I decided to create a panorama that showed the extent of Quabbin Hill with the tower on top.

Several days later there was a snow storm that blanketed the surface of the ice. Shards of ice that were pushed up along the



shoreline caught and refracted the glimmering sun. The blanket of snow was only interrupted by the tracks of animals walking across the snow with rocks poking up their snow capped tops. The sun rose from behind the tower making it shine like a bright lighthouse.

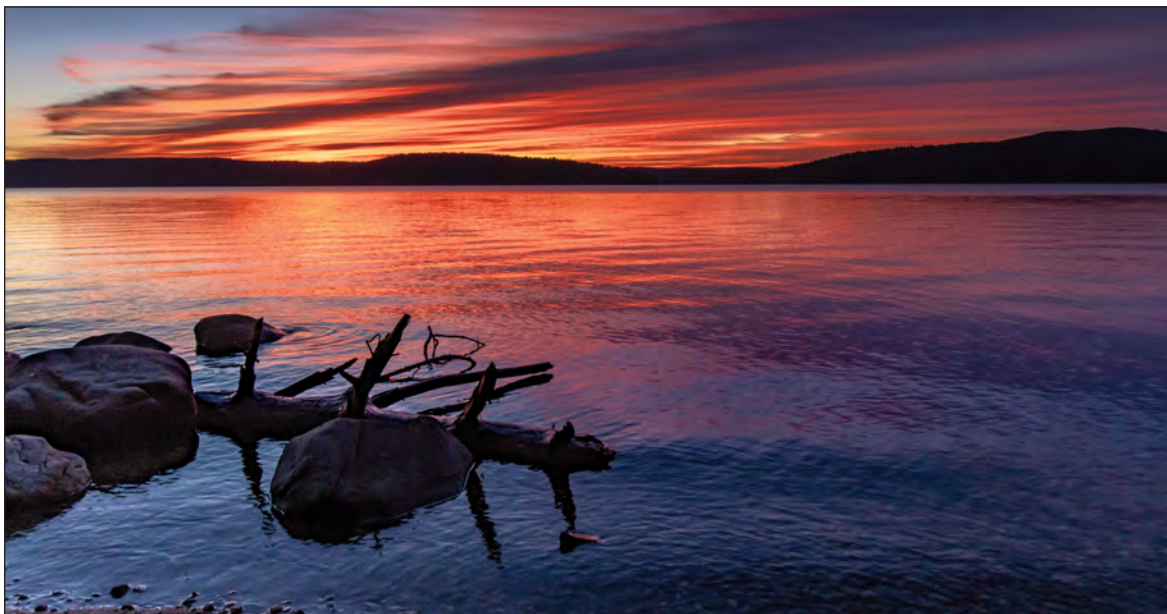
Les Campbell saw one of my photos of the Quabbin Tower at sunrise using a big lens taken from the end of Old Enfield Road. He commented that he hadn't seen the tower photographed that way before. Les's positive comment about the composition provided the impetus for me to explore photographing the tower with a telephoto lens but with the moon as



the subject with the tower. I researched the moon's path and found that it would be rising directly behind the tower when viewed from near my spot for the Strawberry Moon in April. I used computer software that tracks the position of the moon but it doesn't account for hills and other obstructions, so

determining the exact spot to stand to observe the moon rising up from behind Quabbin Hill and the tower was a guessing game. It wasn't until the top of the moon became visible that I could figure out the diagonal path it would take and where to stand to center the moon behind the tower. I needed to "run" 100 yards down the rocky shoreline with my tripod and a heavy 500mm lens to get in position and snap the shot. It's quite amazing how the earth's rotation makes the moon appear to move quickly across the night sky—especially when the distance is quite small.

Often times it is not the actual sunrise that is spectacular, but the 20 minutes or so before when the clouds truly light up and create beautiful color combinations with reds, yellows and oranges. This was taken the morning of the summer solstice.



It's always special to see a Bald Eagle flying in the Quabbin. This past winter there were many eagles who sat in the pine trees between Old Enfield and the dam. One time we saw five eagles perched in a single tree. One of my favorite images from this area is an eagle flying across the Quabbin with the tower in the background providing a clear context.

Quabbin Steeples

Rumor has it, when the water's low
One can see steeples rising up from below;
That the buried towns are still intact
A romantic tale, but it's far from the fact.
If the water disappeared there'd be
Very little left there for the eye to see.
There are a few who can still recall
Those same steeples, people's homes,
 or a town hall;
They see them clearly, but not with eyes
It's hearts that see what beneath the water lies.

—Anne Ely

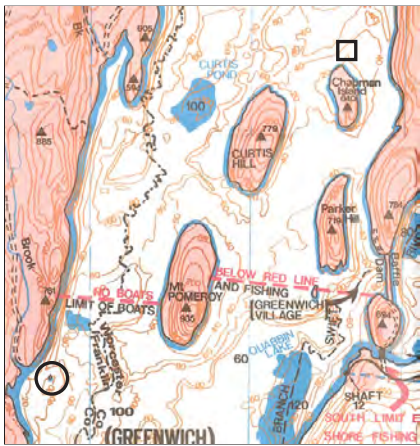


Further Detective Work to Find Chapman's Island

by Martin Howe

In the summer issue of *Quabbin Voices*, Barbara Baines told about her father and his lifetime association with his Aunt Lotte and her farm in Greenwich. Part of the story described how her father, one day while fishing, found an island newly exposed by the 1960s severe drought. This island was the hill that his aunt's farm was on. Barbara tried hard to find where that island had been during the drought, but her efforts were unsuccessful. Paul Godfrey and the staff at the Visitor Center also tried and thought they had it, but they didn't.

I thoroughly enjoyed her story. It shed light on an area that heretofore had no stories behind it. Most of the info or stories we have concerning the former Swift River Valley usually center around the villages. Her story brought to life an obscure/remote area of Greenwich, where, before, all I could do was look at a map and wonder what it was like there. I hope to clarify her quest to find the location of her father's and great aunt's farm.



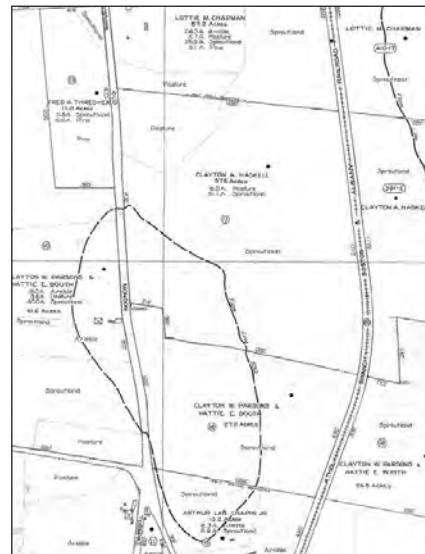
The story included a map added by editor, Paul Godfrey, showing "Chapman's Island." Respectfully, this is NOT the island in question. I don't know how they missed it, but just east and north of Curtis Hill is "Chapman Island" on Ryan's map, attaining an elevation of 640 feet, which would have been a hill in those

days. The MDWSC real estate survey maps (390 & 410) place the Chapman farm north of Chapman Island on the east side of the Monson Turnpike. Monson Turnpike comes out of the water south of the farm onto Chapman island, then back into the water north of island, where the Chapman farm was. On the island proper, was the residence of Clayton W. Parsons & Hattie E. Booth, so technically, the island should have been named either Parsons or Booth island. I suspect that large elevations, such as Curtis and Pomeroy, had names well established before the valley was taken, because of their physical size. Lesser elevations only became evident after the flooding, so my guess is that they named these islands for homes and property most closely associated with these geographical "new islands." Note Carrick Island to the north of Chapman, and in Dana, Leveau Island, for examples.

None of the Chapman property was actually on the present-day Chapman Island; it was to the north and east of the island. The homestead is shown on map 390, and property extending north on the easterly side of the Monson Turnpike onto map

410. The railroad paralleled Monson to the east, and ran through the Chapman property. One wonders if Wit made his way to the farm by getting off at the Greenwich Village depot (most likely), or had the train stop at Morgan's Crossing north of the farm, and headed south. This second scenario is less likely, as Morgan's was a flag station only.

As to her father's discovery of the farm in 1967, this makes sense in light of the drought. The publication "Quabbin Facts & Figures" states that Quabbin reached a low (lowest of this drought?) of 34.3 feet below full (being 530 feet above sea level). There is a corresponding set of topographical maps to the real estate maps that have yet to be digitized. These reveal so much "underwater" information about the landscape/topography now covered by Quabbin. The contours are in 5-foot intervals, and in many instances, they populate the maps with exact elevation in tenths of a foot. Greenwich was mostly a broad flat, or gently sloping plain. The area where the Chapman farm was located was, to the best of my knowledge, at about the 500-foot level above sea level, which certainly would have been exposed in the summer of 1967, assuming



Map 390 showing current Chapman's Island as rough oval in lower left and Lotte Chapman farm in upper right. The Boston & Albany RR runs north/south in the right side of the image and the Old Monson Rd. runs north/south on the left side. The Chapman house & barn are just to the right of the Old Monson Rd. at the top of the image.

the reservoir had not risen from the previous March elevation of 34.3 feet below being full. The elevation can be verified by those topographical maps. These are stored on the second floor of the Quabbin Administration Building and are not readily available.

As to who owned what, when, I believe there are deeds also kept upstairs in the Quabbin Administration Building and not readily available that have info on property/transfers of such. Deductive observation of old maps lends me to believe that on the 1860 Henry F. Walling map, the Chapman property was owned by L. Sanderson, and on the 1873 F.W. Beers map, it was owned by H. Caswell.

Lastly, I love doing these forensics of correlating maps to field observations. It's an historic enigma that is too challenging to ignore. I also feel that the physical and emotional/spiritual connection to a geographical spot is vital to the human experience, which only points to the eternal, as none of us are here for very long.

Updating Quabbin Park's Trail Network

by Justin Gonsor

Program Coordinator 1, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Quabbin Park is located at the southern end of the reservoir and can be accessed from Route 9 in the towns of Belchertown and Ware. It is the only section of the reservation that is open to vehicles. The area is open 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset. The most notable attractions to the park include the Quabbin Visitor Center, Winsor Dam, Goodnough Dike, Quabbin Observation Tower, the Enfield Lookout, and a drivable, 6-mile scenic road. Less known is that the park also features over 15 miles of dirt roads and trails to hike on through the forest.

Earlier this year, staff from interpretive services and the watershed rangers got together to evaluate the trail system throughout Quabbin Park. The park's first formal trail network was implemented in the 1980s by combining dirt roads from the disestablished towns with a series of more narrow foot trails that were constructed. No specific names for any of the trails or a comprehensive set of trailhead signs were ever created. However, all the trails were blazed with yellow paint. The trail system remained largely unchanged from that point on until now.



The first step was to evaluate the trails holistically and determine whether it made sense to discontinue any sections. Roughly 3.4 miles of trail will be taken off the new trail map, mainly due to these sections going through wetlands that are now routinely flooded for parts of the year, making the locations impassible and extremely difficult to maintain. A couple smaller sections will also be removed due to lack of use by the public

and rapid vegetation overgrowth. Our hope is that the remaining 17.1 miles of trails throughout the park will be able to be maintained to a higher quality and give visitors a better user experience when hiking through the forest.



We also identified the clear need for a trail naming system, as well as trailhead and trail intersection signs throughout the park. Our new map will feature 8 different walk/hikes, each with a different color/name on the map legend and in the field. The rest of the remaining unnamed sections will remain yellow. Trailhead signs will be installed along the drivable road to increase

visibility and awareness of these trails to the public. The trail intersection signs in the forest should also increase hiker safety and decrease the chances of someone getting mistakenly off-trail. The final update comes in the form of how the trails will be marked. In the past, yellow paint was used. Going forward, all our park trails will feature metal, circular,



colored markers affixed to the bark of appropriate trees. Research indicates this method should last much longer than paint and is also safe for the trees.

The timing lined up so that the Student Conservation Association's (SCA) annual Quabbin trail work project could be used to kick off our new



Before (above) and after (below) photos of intensive trail clearing

vision for the Park's trails. The SCA is run in cooperation with AmeriCorps and provides college aged members with hands-on conservation and environmental opportunities in a variety of different fields. This year's 5-person crew came out for two separate hitches in June for a total of 18 days of trail work. They began by installing 'trail discontinued' signage at all locations where trails are being taken off the map. This should discourage people from using these trails and allow the area to naturally revegetate. The crew next set their sights on clearing downed trees and overgrowth on all the remaining trails. This intensive trail clearing takes a lot of hard work and was accomplished with a variety of power tools including chain-saws, brush saws, and weedwhackers. The final days of their work were spent beginning to install the new trailhead signs and colored trail markers.

Currently, the trail update process is still ongoing. SCA was able accomplish a large chunk, but several trail intersection signs still need to be installed and many trails are not fully blazed with the new trail markers. The goal is to get all the above completed in the field by the end of the year. At that point, a new trail map will be created and made available to the public. It will also feature several new recommended hikes.

The Quabbin Visitor Center is currently open and staffed 5 days a week, Thursday-Monday, from 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Visitors are welcome to stop in to get current information on public access, trails, rules, and regulations. An automated phone system is also available 24 hours a day at 413-323-7221. Visit us online at <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir> or email us at QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.



Harold Oehler at 102nd birthday party held at the October 2019 Tuesday Tea

Happy News! Harold Oehler turned 104 years old this month!

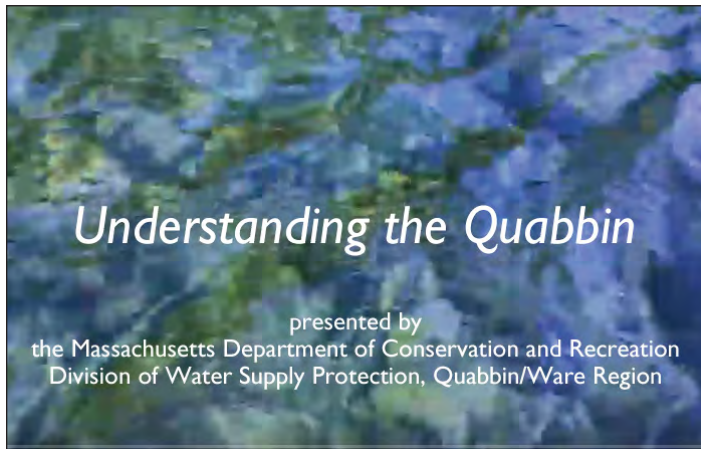
Harold was first introduced to us at a Tuesday Tea in October 2019 when his friend, Richard Locke, brought him. Subsequently, we celebrated his 102nd birthday with a cake at another Tuesday Tea. Harold grew up in Holyoke we think and hunted and fished the Quabbin area since he was a young man. Harold 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. Once discharged, he married and settled down locally. He now lives in Connecticut and his friend Richard lives near him and keeps an eye on him. We believe Harold is the oldest member of the Friends of Quabbin. But if you know someone who is a member and is older, please let us know.

Quabbin Interpretive Services Fall 2021

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

After being closed to visitors since March 13, 2020, the Quabbin Visitor Center reopened to the public on May 29th. Currently we are open Thursday through Monday 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Some highlights over the past year and a half included producing a virtual Memorial Day Ceremony for May of 2020. Interpretive Services (IS) staff also produced a virtual field trip of Webster Road. We produced two self-guided hiking “trip-tips” for families of all ages. And we worked to provide more on-line resources for visitors. Most of these resources and videos are available at www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbineducation.



Two major projects have been conducted recently. The first was the work on the Quabbin Park Trails with the Student Conservation Commission and other DCR staff (see story

elsewhere in this issue). This work will lead to better signage and trail markers for the Quabbin Park trails. The second was the production of a new orientation film for the visitor center with Tara Haggett and Doug Wicks of The Rendon Group. The video introduces our visitors to the history, creation, and management of the reservoir. It was a great experience working with many different DCR Quabbin staff members to share their duties and their passion for their jobs here at Quabbin. We were fortunate that our former colleague Dale Monette allowed us to use some of his wonderful film and photos of Quabbin wildlife. The video is available to view at the Visitor Center and also at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHiW6KX9-Gc>

The Visitor Center has seen excellent visitation numbers this summer; many visitors have been first-timers to the Reservoir and the Visitor Center. Visitors have encountered a slightly new look to the Visitor Center. The floor has been redone with an animal motif embedded in the tiles for visitors to discover. The displays and the prominent table that was in the center have been rearranged to allow for individual focus on exhibits. Unfortunately, rest rooms are not yet open to the public. We hope to be expanding the days the Visitor Center is open in the future.

For the fall, three in person outdoor programs are planned: ‘Hike the Quabbin Hill Loop,’ a hike around the Quabbin tower on the past Saturday, September 25th, ‘Exploring the History of the Quabbin Valley through Gravestones,’ a Quabbin Park Cemetery tour on October 23rd and a hike to Dana Common on, ‘Explore the Road to Dana Common,’ November 13th. Space is limited so sign up in advance at: Explore the Road to Dana Common | Mass.gov, Exploring the History of the Quabbin Valley Through Gravestones | Mass.gov. We are also in the process of developing a schedule of remote programs for our very successful winter afternoon presentations

I am also happy to say we have reconnected with a few of the schools we have worked with in the past and are looking forward to offering both remote and in person programs this fall and hopefully more outdoor programs this spring.

Holiday Party

December 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

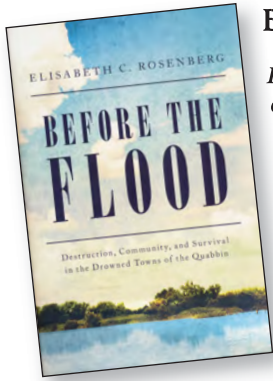
The Board of Directors cordially invites you to join them for an early celebration of the holiday season at the Friends of Quabbin Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

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

Vaccinations are strongly encouraged; masks are required. Attendees must pre-register with the Visitor Center: quabbinvisitor.center@mass.gov or 413-323-7221



Now Available at the Quabbin Visitor Center



Before the Flood

In the tradition of Silent Spring, the story of the Quabbin is a modern parable of the American experience and our paradoxical relationship with the natural world.

Though it seems a part of the “natural” landscape of contemporary New England, the Swift River Valley reservoir, dam, dike, and nature area now known as “Quabbin” was a triumph of civil engineering and forward-looking environmental stewardship. Yet the populations of four entire towns—including the physical towns themselves were lost along the way. Buildings were razed, forests were burned, farm fields were stripped, and every last grave was exhumed.

In this stunning narrative debut, Elisabeth C. Rosenberg has crafted *Before the Flood* to be both a modern and a universal story for a time when managed retreat will one day be commonplace.

Meticulously researched, *Before the Flood* reveals the incredible history of the Swift River Valley and the origins of the Quabbin Reservoir. Rosenberg dives into the socioeconomic and psychological aspects of the Swift River Valley’s destruction from when the edict was signed into law in the late 1920s to supply drinking water for the growing population of metropolitan Boston, through the Great Depression, and up until the advent of World War II, when the last vestiges of the towns were destroyed, and the water began to rise.

The story of the drowned towns of the valley and of the Quabbin is as much a human story as it is the story of water and landscape. *Before the Flood* reveals the voices and humanity of the key players, from the engineers to the townspeople, and it is a moving testament to the four flooded towns that were washed away forever.—\$27.95

2022 Quabbin History Calendar Released

Friends board chairman J.R. Greene has issued the 37th annual Quabbin History Calendar. This features black and white scenes from the valley flooded to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir.



Two of the views note the 100th anniversary of the centennial celebration of Prescott, held in 1922. Other scenes include winter shots, a summer camp, school, railroad depot, and a store.—\$16.95

Greene will have a brief program, and a book and calendar signing at the Palmer Public Library on Nov. 30, at 6:00 p.m.

A sad note from the *Quabbin Voices* Editor, Paul Godfrey

Editing the *Quabbin Voices* for publication might seem to many to be an onerous task. To the contrary, it is highly rewarding in being able to bring the thoughts and images of so many people to the attention of our members and *Quabbin Voices* readers. One of the greatest pleasures comes from helping the authors to get their ideas on paper in a way that conveys those ideas and memories as they feel them. It requires a collaboration between the author and the editor in that process. Many times the author has claimed no skill as a writer, but their first draft has revealed talents they did not realize they had and only needed a little polishing. Editorship has given me the opportunity to help new authors many times over the past eight years.

But one recent such collaboration has come with a sad note. As I look back over the past year’s *Quabbin Voices*, the article by Bradlee Gage always comes to mind (*Quabbin Voices*, Fall 2020). In it, he wrote of his childhood memories in Enfield fishing, playing marbles, buying candy, shooting his slingshot, the thrill of the first pocketknife. For me, it brought back a lot of my own childhood memories. I didn’t know Bradlee before he submitted his article, but those shared memories, even though from very different places

and times, gave us a common experience that was strengthened by working together on the newsletter article.

So it was with great sadness that I recently learned of Bradlee’s passing on September 1, 2021, about a year after we worked on that article. He was 97 years old. He was born in Ware but spent the first 9 years in Enfield. With Quabbin construction imminent, the family relocated to South Amherst where he lived until his death. He served in WWII with the 120th Army Airways Communication Squadron stationed in the Aleutian Islands. After his discharge in 1944, he matriculated at Amherst College, getting a Bachelors degree in 1948 and, in 1950, his MBA from Harvard Business School. In 1950, he married Betsy. They enjoyed 63 years of marriage, ending with her death in 2012. An avid fisherman, he accepted a position in 1951 with the US Line Company of Westfield and became president of the 40UP Tackle company until his retirement at age 93. Besides being an avid fisherman, he was also an avid golfer and cribbage player to the end. In recent years, he began typing capers, mysteries and memories on his manual Royal typewriter for the enjoyment of family, friends, and Friends of Quabbin members.

I am happy that I was able to help him share his memories with a broader audience. My motto is: Leave the world a little better for having existed. He has certainly done that.

Friends of Quabbin 2021-2022 Officers and Board of Directors

Gene H. Theroux
President and Clerk
20 Bugbee Road
Southwick, MA 01077
413-627-3475
gene.theroux@verizon.net

Mark Thompson
Vice President
124 Fisherdick Road
Ware, MA 01082
mrvesto@comcast.net

Paul Godfrey
Treasurer
47 Harkness Road
Pelham, MA 01002
413-253-5686
godfrey@umass.edu

J.R. Greene
Chairman
26 Bearsden Road
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-0156
jrg01331@webtv.net

Anne Ely
356 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075
413-532-6063
elyae@comcast.net
www.anneelyphotos.com

Ann Hurlburt
P.O. Box 154
Chicopee, MA 01021
annhurlburt52@gmail.com

Kevin Kopchynski
28 Main Street, Apt 2C
Monson, MA 01057
kkopchynski@verizon.net

Paul H. LaFlamme
49 Country Club Hts.
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-3133
paulhlaflamme@gmail.com

Mark Lindhult
10 Allen Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-537-5860
mlindhult@gmail.com

Elena Palladino
21 Highland Street
Ware, MA 01082
508-517-9450
palladinoelena@gmail.com

Joseph Prior
Cedar Swamp Road
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-4019

John Zebb
261 The Meadows
Enfield, CT 06082
860-253-0357
johnzebb@hotmail.com

Call for Member Submissions

This is your newsletter. We invite members to submit stories, articles, or reminiscences about the human or natural history of the Swift River Valley and Quabbin Reservoir.

Please send e-mail to Paul Godfrey at godfrey@umass.edu, or mail items to: The Friends of Quabbin, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007



Quabbin Voices

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

Editor: Paul Godfrey

Regular Contributors:

Maria Beiter-Tucker, Visitor Center Manager

Gene Theroux, Friends of Quabbin President

Design and Production: Eileen Klockars

Illustrations: Southwoods, Inc. and Russ Buzzell

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Friends of Quabbin, Inc.
Quabbin Reservation Administration Building
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007
413-523-7221
www.friendsofquabbin.org

