

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Spring 2021
Vol.34 No.1

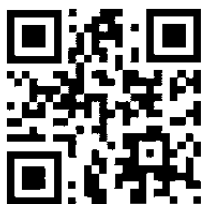
We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water,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

—Les Campbell

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



Conkey's Tavern and Shays' Rebellion Lessons for the Present

by Paul Godfrey and Mark Thompson

About 40 years ago my (Mark Thompson) parents took a vacation through Virginia. Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, depicted on the nickel, was the highlight of their itinerary. It was on this journey that my mother was bitten by the bug of everything "tavern." She was and is still fascinated by the architecture and history of each. The "board of fair" recipes, lodging accommodations and most of all the uniqueness of each tavern name sign. For a number of years I have kept my eyes open for sign reproductions: Black Horse Tavern; The Headless Woman. Blue Boar, Black Swan, Flying Pigs and many others were quite common. It was with this awareness that I happened to stumble upon an antique book in a shop in Plymouth. The title of it is *Stage-coach and Tavern Days* by Alice Morse Earle and printed in 1900. Many chapters deal with the purpose of the tavern in times of war and as a house where local political leaders could not only conduct business but keep an eye on the morality of the town folk. There are two such taverns that strike at the essence of our democracy.

One is the Green Dragon in Boston. It was here that "The Sons of Liberty" decided and prepared to throw a party for their English friends. And what a "tea party" it was. The other tavern, that stands out for most for us in the Friends of Quabbin, is Conkey's tavern. It was here that Daniel Shays and his men planned, what became known as Shays' Rebellion. I have taken the liberty, pun intended, to print the opinion of the author (in 1900) concerning this event because it demonstrates another fact—that our interpretation of history changes with time and perspective.



Conkey's Tavern in 1885

From Stage-coach and Tavern Days

by Alice Morse Earle (1935)

"The old Conkey Tavern at Prescott, Massachusetts, saw the gathering storm of a very futile but picturesque wind-storm of Revolutionary grievance. It was built in 1758 by William Conkey, on a lovely but lonely valley midway between the east and west hills of Pelham. The Swift River running through this valley was made the boundary in the town division in 1822, which made eastern Pelham into Prescott. Captain Daniel Shays, the leader of Shays' Rebellion, lived half a mile from the tavern on the Centre Range Road. In the cheerful rooms of this tavern, Shays, aided by the well-stocked tavern-bar, incited the debt-burdened farmers to rebel against their state government. Here he drilled his "flood-wood," and from hence he led them forth to Springfield, and on January 25, 1787, was promptly

(Continued on page 5)



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Spring 2021

I'm sure most of you are anxious for spring to get out and enjoy the outdoors and to appreciate nature as much as I am. These winter months have

provided an opportunity for several Friends of Quabbin members to work on numerous projects and initiatives. Notable among these, Friends of Quabbin treasurer and newsletter editor, Paul Godfrey, has been working in earnest with two photo clubs, Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and Quabbin Photo Group, to have the Quabbin Visitors Center renamed to the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center.

I had the honor and privilege to get to know Les well and to become good friends. I vividly recall when I was preparing for the 75th Remembrance Ball that was held on April 28, 2013 and later that year, *Quabbin, A Musical*. Les had worked on the 50th anniversary events and his help for the 75th was invaluable. I made numerous trips to visit Les and he provided me photos from the 50th Remembrance Year events. For the 75th Remembrance Ball, two of the videos that I produced included a chronological snapshot of Les Campbell's range of contributions and achievements over decades. It was simply incredible what Les had accomplished over his lifetime.

As a direct descendant of former residents of the Swift River Valley, I've had a keen interest and deep appreciation for what Les and Terry Campbell had accomplished with the establishment of the Quabbin Visitors Center, the Tuesday Teas, the 50th Remembrance Ball, and the production of *Quabbin, A Musical*. They wanted to ensure that the sacrifices of the former residents were not forgotten and that these sacred lands be protected. Les and Terry were a team who worked tirelessly for the preservation of Quabbin artifacts. Frankly, if it wasn't for Les, hundreds of historic Valley photographs would have been lost forever.

One of many memorable moments spent with Les was when Les and I visited artist Russ Buzzell at his home on January 13, 2015. Russ Buzzell created a significant number of illustrations and a painting of a Bobcat which he donated to the Friends of Quabbin. One of his creations sits above the return address on this newsletter. Later that day, we visited Eagle Hill School in Hardwick (*Quabbin Voices*, spring 2015). Les had the utmost respect and appreciation for Eagle Hill School. On another trip, Les guided me to the location of the Northeast Music Camp which he held in the highest esteem. Les gave me a tour through Ware and to his childhood home on our way back to Sky Meadow. I had taken Les out to dinner many times and we enjoyed our visits to the Salem Cross Inn and to Theresa's Restaurant. The Salem Cross Inn was an incredibly special

place to both Les and I. To me, it was the painting as you entered the barn depicting the siege of Brookfield and of Samuel Pritchard about to lose his life to the Nipmuc Indians on August 2, 1675. Samuel Pritchard was the son of Sgt. William Pritchard who was one of three who had been slain in an ambush by the Nipmuc Indians that became known as *Wheeler's Surprise*. Sgt. William Pritchard was my 10th Great Grandfather. Hannah Pritchard (daughter of William and Mary Langton Pritchard) moved west to the frontier of Westfield and married Eleazer Weller (my 9th Great Grandparents). Hannah Pritchard Weller and her husband Eleazer are interred at Westfield's Old Burying Ground on Mechanic Street.



Terry and Les Campbell in Terry's office at the Visitors Center

I appreciated the words of longtime State Senator Steve Brewer published in the Springfield Republican/Masslive published Sunday, February 28, 2021, particularly "Imagine it if you were just home from World War I and you'd survived the gas of the war in France." In the case of my paternal grandfather, Walter H. Theroux, who served with the 805th Aero Squadron in France, he soon learned that his parents would be losing their family home and farm and that his two brothers, Harold Alexander (1891-1899) and baby (1892-1892), would have to be dug up from Enfield's Woodlawn Cemetery and reburied in a different cemetery (Mount Hope, Belchertown). The most striking words by Senator Brewer to me were "it won't be long before no one is left who lived and can tell those stories." Senator Brewer added, "When people forget the sacrifice that was made, it could become a problem." In my view, it is incumbent upon the Friends of Quabbin to continue the course and the mission established by Les and Terry Campbell back in 1984 to carry the story forward and to preserve and protect.

To that end, the Friends of Quabbin has a large Oral History Collection from former residents, engineers who worked on the reservoir project, alumni of Hillside School and others. The Friends of Quabbin will be placing emphasis on making



Wheeler's Surprise by Russ Buzzell

additional Oral History interviews available and to have them archived at an appropriate museum or library collection.

For the reasons above and those presented in the previous issues of the *Quabbin Voices*, my hope is that Senator Gobi and the team of legislators that are sponsors/co-sponsors are successful in having the Quabbin Visitors Center renamed as the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center.

The DCR Quabbin Engineering Staff have been busy, they have completed transitioning from a paper-based cemetery data system to a robust “Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) Lots and Graves Viewer.” In this QPC Lots and Graves Viewer app, you can search gravesites by name or by ownership, create a map, create tables of information, and share information using social media. DCR made the QPC Cemetery Lots and Graves Viewer available to the public on Thursday, March 4, 2021. The QPC Lots and Graves Viewer app is available on the Mass.gov website—an easy way to find this resource is to do an internet search on Quabbin Park Cemetery. A critic may ask, “Why map Quabbin Park Cemetery?” The reasons for mapping QPC are to include Cultural Resource Conservation, maintenance of markers and monuments, facilities and grounds management, records

management, and interment planning; for the public, it is to make it easier to honor our ancestors. In many respects, this effort is a logical adjunct to the development of the digital collection of properties and cemeteries described in the newsletter in the past year.

DCR is using the ESRI GIS suite of products for the GIS mapping, web application, StoryMaps, field applications such as Survey123. The Friends of Quabbin has applied to ESRI for “nonprofit” status which will allow us to acquire a subscription to ESRI-GIS online, the web application, StoryMaps, field applications such as Quick Capture and Survey123. This subscription will allow the Friends of Quabbin to enhance collaboration efforts with DCR Interpretive Services and DCR Engineering for sharing of GIS mapping data, and more. We see opportunities to utilize the ESRI StoryMaps application for Oral History, Jon Melick’s Time Travel Tours, the Digital Commonwealth MDWSC real estate photos and MDWSC cemetery photos. The Friends of Quabbin has opportunities for volunteers and interns in this major data and GIS system development for the overall goal of helping ensure that the personal sacrifices of those who lost their community, their homes, and their way of life are not forgotten. It seems an appropriate way to carry on the legacy of Les and Terry Campbell.

Status of Naming the Visitors Center after Les and Terry Campbell

by Paul Godfrey and Annie Tiberio

In the last two issues of *Quabbin Voices*, we have described the life of Les Campbell (Fall, 2020 issue) and our efforts, in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and the Quabbin Photo Group, to have the Quabbin Visitors Center renamed the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center. We recently learned that Senator Anne M. Gobi, Representative Donald R. Berthiaume and Representative Kimberly N. Ferguson have introduced a bill in the Senate that would rename the Visitors Center – SD1249. A similar bill, HD 3689 has been introduced in the House.

Cosponsors SD 1249

Name	District/Address
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	5th Worcester
Kimberly N. Ferguson	1st Worcester
Joanne M. Comerford	Hampshire, Granklin and Worcester
Susannah M. Whipps	2nd Franklin
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	1st Hampshire
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire
Daniel R. Carey	2nd Hampshire

Cosponsors HD 3689

Susannah M. Whipps	2nd Franklin
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	5th Worcester
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire

If you are a resident of Massachusetts, please contact both your Representative in the House and Senator in the Senate and encourage them to support this bill. This is a critical step. The more encouragement and the more statewide, the better our chances.

To contact your District Representative in the House, here is the directory:

<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/House>

To contact your District Senator in the State Senate, here is the directory:<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/Senate>

If you are not a current resident but were, we believe your contact will still have great value. If you have never been a resident of Massachusetts but believe the Quabbin and the Visitors Center are an important part of your experience, contact Anne Gobi (anne.gobi@masenate.gov), Donald Berthiaume (Donald.Berthiaume@mahouse.gov) and/or Kimberly Ferguson (Kimberly.Ferguson@mahouse.gov) and tell them how much you value the Visitors Center.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1249 FILED ON: 2/12/2021

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Anne M. Gobi

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act designating the Quabbin Visitor Center, in the town of Belchertown, as The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center.

PETITION OF

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex	
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	5th Worcester	2/16/2021

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3689 FILED ON: 2/19/2021

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Susannah M. Whipps and Anne M. Gobi

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act designating the Quabbin Visitor Center, in the town of Belchertown, as The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center.

PETITION OF

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Susannah M. Whipps	2nd Franklin	2/19/2021
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex	2/19/2021
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire	2/23/2021
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	5th Worcester	2/26/2021

If you've never done this before, do not be afraid. These people work for you and listen carefully to the concerns of their constituents. Relatively few people take advantage of their right to contact their legislators, but when constituents do, it carries a lot of weight. If you have any questions, contact either Paul Godfrey (godfrey@umass.edu) or Annie Tiberio (at@annietiberio.com). Keep us posted on the reception your request receives.

Conkey's Tavern and Shays' Rebellion

(Continued from page 1)

repulsed by the state militia under General Lincoln. Eleven hundred men trooped back to Pelham, and after four days of what must have proved scant and cold fare in those barren winter hilltops, again sallied out to Petersham. Here he was again routed by Lincoln, who, with his men, had marched thirty miles without halt, from eight o'clock at night to nine the following morning through a blinding, northeast New England snowstorm. A hundred and fifty of Shays' men were captured, but their valiant and wordy leader escaped. When the photograph was taken, in 1883, the old timbers within the house were sound and firm, and the beams overhead still bore the marks of the muskets of Shays' impatient men. It was a characteristic "deserted home" of New England. Nothing could more fully picture John Greenleaf Whittier's lines:

*"Against the wooded hills it stands,
Ghost of a dead house; staring through
Its broken lights on wasted lands
Where old-time harvests grew.*

*"Unploughed, unsown, by scythe unshorn,
The poor forsaken farm-fields lie,
Once rich and rife with golden corn
And pale-green breadths of rye.*

*"So sad, so drear; it seems almost
Some haunting Presence makes its sign,
That down some shadowy lane some ghost
Might drive his spectral kine."*



Since then, the old tavern has fallen down, a sad ruin, like many another on New England hills, in a country as wild and lonely, probably far lonelier, than in the days of the Revolution and Shays' Rebellion. The sign-board is still preserved."

Both sides of the Conkey's Tavern sign-board

The Massachusetts government of the time saw Shays' Rebellion as an armed insurrection by a group of drunken country ruffians and as an uprising against the legitimate actions of the government. Historians until the 20th century agreed with that analysis. That sentiment is reflected in the quote from Alice Marie Earle above. And



that's where most peoples' knowledge of Shays' Rebellion ends. But there is much, much more.

In the 20th century, historians began to re-examine the underlying economic, legal and political causes of the rebellion and sympathy for the rebels increased. The following is an abridged version of information on the following websites: Wikipedia/Shays' Rebellion; History.com /shays-rebellion and newspaper articles by Carl Hammer, William B. Farrell and Michael Alterman (see references at end of article).

Shays' Rebellion was not an isolated incident. The followers of Shays and many others from rural areas had fought for 5 years against the British. The Continental Congress and state governments printed paper money to pay the soldiers and to requisition goods from farmers and artisans. That paper money was not backed by gold or any other recognized valuable. Businesses demanded immediate payment for goods the farmers had previously bought on credit and often paid for through barter. The money given to the farmers and artisans was nearly worthless and inflation was runaway, so what little the rural people and soldiers got quickly ended up in the hands of speculators living near Boston. The farmers were on the verge of losing their land and homesteads. It must have seemed surreal at best. This quote from Donald Howe's *Quabbin: the Lost Valley* describes their plight.

"Incidentally, in these days of high prices and near-inflation, it might be interesting to learn that runaway inflation has long been a domestic as well as a foreign problem. The first instance recorded in the United States, according to an item from Kiplinger's Magazine, occurred in Hampshire County during the Shays' Rebellion in 1787. Tons of Continental currency as well as bushels of counterfeit paper were dumped on the new nation. The dollar soon dropped to a bare two cents. Indian corn cost \$150 per bushel; flour was priced at \$1,575 a barrel; butter was twelve dollars a pound; and it cost \$2,000 to purchase a suit of clothes."

In Massachusetts, residents were expected to pay higher taxes than they had ever paid to the British so that Governor James Bowdoin's business associates would receive a good return on investment. Authorities began to sue and arrest those farmers that could not pay and foreclose on their farms. Michael Alterman described the situation in Hampshire County: "nearly one out of three men were taken to court between 1784 and 1786. Farms were auctioned off at bargain base-ment prices and debtors were sent to prison." "Petitions to the Massachusetts General Court by town meetings and county conventions had no effect." By 1786, this intolerable situation caused several counties, including Hampshire, to form militias. They blocked the entrances to county courthouses to prevent debt prosecutions from going forward.

In Northampton, Captain Joseph Hines led a force of several hundred men to block judges from entering the courthouse. They were joined by an Amherst contingent and several hundred men from elsewhere. In Worcester, judges were blocked

from holding court by crowds of armed men. When the militia was called to put down the action, they refused and many joined the crowd blocking the courthouse.

These militias bore little resemblance to today's right wing militia movements. They were organized by each town's leading families and comprised many of the same men and officers that fought in the Revolutionary War. Alterman suggests they were a local manifestation of today's National Guard.

In all these courthouse instances, the actions were meant to intimidate through the threat of force, yet little or no violence actually occurred.



Daniel Shays

It is in this context that Shays' Rebellion began. Daniel Shays was a farmer in Pelham and an ex-soldier who fought at Bunker Hill and other Revolutionary War battles and had risen to the level of Captain and had been wounded in battle. He became involved in the developing insurgency and participated in the Northampton court blockage. He was offered a leadership position in the insurgency in August 1786 but refused it.

Nevertheless, he began to lead a large group in his home area of Pelham. The eastern elite considered him the leader of the entire rebellion and a potential dictator, but he was only one of many leaders.

Meeting at Conkey's Tavern in east Pelham, Shays and his men planned their moves. In September, 1786, Shays led a group of 600 men to picket the court in Springfield. They were determined to do this peacefully and negotiated with General William Shepard to leave the court open while the protesters paraded outside. But the court closed because no jurors would serve.

Henry Knox, an artillery commander during the Revolutionary War and future U.S. Secretary of War wrote to George Washington in 1786 to warn him about the rebels:

"[T]hey see the weakness of Government[,] they feel at once their own poverty compared with the opulent, and their own force, and they are determined to make use of the latter in order to remedy the former. Their creed is that the property of the United States has been protected from the confiscations of Britain by the joint exertions of all, and therefore ought to be the common property of all...Our government must be braced, changed, or altered to secure our lives and property. We imagined that the mildness of our government and the virtue of the people were so correspondent, that we were not as other nations requiring brutal force to support the laws—But we find that we are men, actual men, possessing all the turbulent passions belonging to that animal and that we must have a government proper and adequate for him."

The response of authority was highly divergent. Chief Justice William Whiting of the Berkshire County Court, a wealthy conservative, spoke out in favor of the rebellion and accused the wealthy state legislators of making money off the impoverished farmers. Samuel Adams, however, called for the execution of the rebellious farmers. The Massachusetts legislature offered leniency and flexibility to those with tax burdens and offered amnesty to the rebels if they swore allegiance to the Massachusetts government. Nevertheless, they also passed a bill excusing sheriffs from responsibility if they killed any insurgents, declared harsh punishments for rebels in custody and suspended the writ of habeas corpus (the right of appearance before a court or judge).

The flames were fanned when a government militia assaulted a farmer and his family in Groton, arresting and crippling the farmer.

In January 1787, Governor Bowdoin, who had replaced an ailing John Hancock as governor, hired his own army, privately funded by Boston businessmen. These 4,400 men were put under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln and directed to quell the insurgency.

It is within this context that Shays was drawing up plans to attack the Springfield Armory to obtain weapons. On a snowy January 25, 1787 morning, Shays and his 600 men approached the arsenal. Some of the men had guns and other carried clubs and pitchforks. They were after more guns. General Shepard, who had earlier been petitioned for a peaceful demonstration at the Springfield court, predicted the assault and was waiting. General Lincoln, heading Governor Bowdoin's private army, marched from Worcester to Springfield to reinforce General Shepard's troops.

Shays' plan was that his group would unite with the group led by Luke Day with 400 men and the group led by Eli Parson with 600 men. Day couldn't make the January 25th time for the attack and sent a note to Shays, but the note was intercepted by Shepard's forces. Shays never knew that Day's forces would not join him. As Shays' and Parson's group of 1200 men approached the arsenal, two warning shots were fired over their heads. Then the order was given to fire the cannon loaded with grapeshot point blank at the rebels. There was no musket fire from either side. Between two and four rebels were dead and 20 were wounded. The rebels ran; it was a rout. The rebels retreated to Chicopee, sending a message to General Shepard demanding the dead for burial. Instead, General Lincoln sent troops upriver to prevent advances from Day's group and chase Shays' group. Shays and his men fled to Petersham followed by Lincoln. Shays' group scattered. Shays and his wife fled to Vermont.



General William Shepard



Two cannon loaded with grapeshot fired point blank at Shays' rebels. No muskets were fired by either side.

Attempts to reconstitute the rebellion from Vermont by enlisting the aid of Ethan Allen (of Green Mountain Boys fame) failed. Allen did provide refuge for former rebels. The Boston legislature banned rebels from serving on juries, holding public office, voting or working as schoolmasters, innkeepers and liquor salesmen for three years. By the summer of 1787, Governor Bowdoin was out and most participants in the rebellion had been pardoned or amnestied by the new and returning governor, John Hancock. The new legislature placed a moratorium on debts and cut taxes. But still some rebels were paraded to the gallows before being released and two were executed for burglary.

During all this, the states were organized under the Articles of Confederation. Shays' Rebellion writ large was further evidence to many that the Articles were too weak. Thus, the rebellion helped inform the debate over framing the U.S. Constitution and provided fuel to Alexander Hamilton and other Federalists in their argument for a strong central government. The debate over a strong or weak central government heightened paranoia to a degree that brought George Washington out of retirement to become a participant in the Constitutional Convention where he was elected President. As they say, the rest is history. But take a moment to contrast this latter view with that quoted earlier from Alice Earle. They seem not to be talking of the same history.

That our young country had so many disquieting moments may make some uncomfortable. But no amount of sweetening

can change the difficulties encountered in that decade or so. Yet from that tumult came a document, our Constitution with its Bill of Rights, that has formed the base of the world's longest democracy and the hopes of so many other peoples. Those years bear careful examination for lessons that may guide us through future troublesome time, times that seem to be upon us right now.

Some have suggested that Shays' Rebellion and the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol are analogous. The attack on the Capitol was preceded by armed protests in Michigan, formation of the Seattle autonomous zone and vandalism of the federal courthouse and buildings in downtown Portland, Oregon by right wing protestors. Peaceful protests by Black Lives Matter occurred in 75 U.S. cites, notably Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. and Germany and England. The only violence in these protests came from anti-protestors, right wing militants. Shays' Rebellion was preceded by peaceful attempts to close the courthouses of Northampton, Worcester, Great Barrington, Concord and Taunton. These were all assaults on government, peaceful or not, that share some similar characteristics and prompt suggestions that they are of equal legitimacy. Thoughtful articles by Carl Hammer (Hampshire Gazette, February 5, 2021), William Farrell (Bangor Daily News, February 22, 2021) and Michael Alterman (Daily Hampshire Gazette, March 6, 2021) have examined the comparison from different viewpoints and what those viewpoints can teach us.

In the case of Shays' Rebellion, despite some of his "army" being armed, there is little evidence that the goal was to kill people or destroy property. No shots were fired by his group, only by the government soldiers. It was a classic case of a state beholden to the wealthy attempting complete control of the populace. The lesson for us is that the state needs to listen carefully to the needs of *all* its people.

In the case of Black Lives Matter protests, the goal was peaceful with the only violence coming from anti-protest groups. The issue was that the state had long ignored the needs of a large segment of the population.

For the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol, there is lots of evidence that violence was intended and was a main focus. Its leaders, participants and instigators all used words that encouraged the violence. The goal was not to right the wrongs of a particular oppressed group but to continue the rights of a particular group despite the majority of the population's wishes. Further, it was to continue the efforts to remove each and every vestige of democracy, piece by piece, and establish an autocracy, much like the one that created the reason for Shays' Rebellion.

What we can take away from Shays' Rebellion is that it did not undermine democracy, it significantly strengthened it. It created awareness of the need for equity for *all* the people, not just the wealthy or powerful. We can hope that recent protests will do the same whether that was the intention of those protests or not. We can hope....

Sources of information about Shays Rebellion:

Stagecoach and Tavern Days by Alice Morse Earle, Macmillan Co. 1935

Donald Howe's *Quabbin: the Lost Valley*, The Quabbin Bookhouse, 1951 (available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89067289397>)

Springfield Technical Community College exhibit — www.shaysrebellion.stcc.edu

Mass Moments — www.massmoments.org/moment-details/rebels-attack-springfield-arsenal.html

History.com site — <https://www.history.com/topics/early-us/shays-rebellion>

Wikipedia site — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shays'_Rebellion

Carl Hammer Guest Column — <https://www.recorder.com/Guest-columnist-Carl-Hammer-38677201>

Michael Alterman Guest Column — <http://www.gazettenet.com/Guest-column-Michael-Alterman-39242766>

William Farrell Guest Column — <https://bangordailynews.com/2021/02/22/opinion/what-shays-rebellion-tells-us-about-our-current-divisions/>



Monument to Daniel Shays' Rebellion, Petersham Historical Society

Interpretive Services Report

Spring 2021

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions the Visitors Center is still closed to the public. The hope is to reopen the center for the spring/summer season. However, our outdoor spaces, roads, and trails are still accessible; just be sure to adhere to safe social distancing guidelines. DCR had published a set of self-guided hiking opportunities throughout the Commonwealth online for February's school vacation week. Quabbin was included in this project and published an activity titled, "Be a History Detective at Quabbin Reservoir!" The **activity can be found here:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/february-vacation-self-guided-opportunities#dcr-tip-trip-itinerary-descriptions>. Visitors Center staff are also hoping to put on more remote programs this spring for schools and other organized groups.

We are also hoping to put on some sort of in-person Memorial Day event this year, contingent on the ban for large gatherings being lifted by the governor or keeping the number below what is allowed in the Commonwealth.

The Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt took place last fall with a format similar to that of 2019. In 2020, the Pelham, Hardwick, and New Salem zones were open to deer hunting during the Commonwealth's two-week shotgun season which ran from November 30th through December 12th. At this point, harvest numbers are still coming in from MassWildlife; 31 deer (16 male, 15 female) have been reported so far. The largest deer taken was an 8-point buck in New Salem that weighed in at 160 pounds.

A lot of progress has recently been made on the Quabbin Park Cemetery database project. Our GIS analyst Phil Lamothe plans to publish the data online by the end of February, replace the old version, and develop a nicer interface using a web browser in March. The new database will display the point locations of individual burials with names of deceased (currently 8,474 individuals) and grave lot ownership with deed and names (roughly 12,400 graves). In addition, there will be the corresponding polygons showing the approximate area of deeded lots and individual graves. There may be some errors in the placement of individual burials due to typos in the lot and grave numbers or omission of grave numbers on the burial index card. For those without grave numbers—and quite a few were memorial markers—Phil matched them to the family lot. A lot ownership layer is also in the works. Some owner lots still need graves divided out and populated with information from the owner index cards. Phil would like to add a table listing the interments transferred to other cemeteries. In addition, Dan Clark was able to get MassDOT to

generate a winter and spring aerial photo of the cemetery using their drones (see following article on Ice Out).

With spring quickly approaching, Quabbin’s fishing season is tentatively scheduled to open on Saturday, April 17th. 2021 fishing season parking passes are currently available for purchase off Quabbin’s fishing guide website: www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish. Please note that starting in 2021, Quabbin fishing season passes will only be available for purchase through the DCR website. The option to fill out paper season pass forms and purchase season passes using cash from the attendants at the Boat Launch Areas will no longer be available. Customers who want

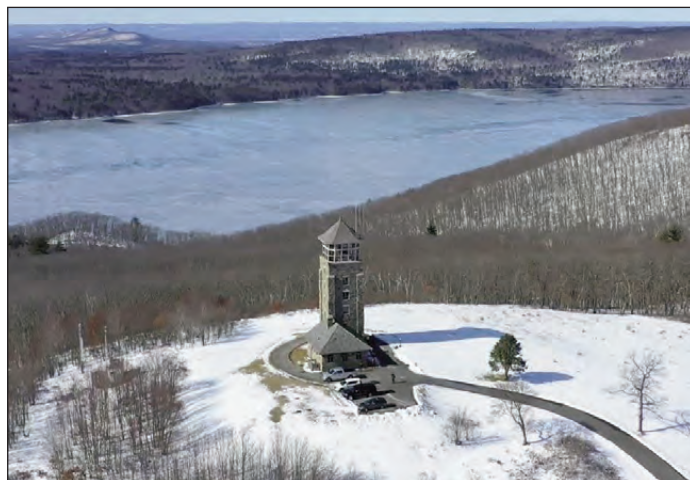
a season pass are strongly encouraged to make their purchase before they arrive at the Boat Launch Area; anyone arriving at a Boat Launch Area without a season pass will still be able to purchase one onsite, however they will have to use their personal smart phone to make the transaction. DCR will continue to sell single day passes, fishing licenses, and boat rentals (when and where available) at the Quabbin Boat Launch Areas. All private boats must have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal to launch on the reservoir. Seals can be obtained through DCR’s approved decontamination and inspection process. For more information about the boat seal program or to make an appointment, call the Quabbin Visitors Center at 413-323-7221.

The Annual Date-of-Ice-Out Question

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

Quabbin Reservoir has not had a solid freeze since 2015. In the ensuing six years it often remained open across much of the reservoir. Other years, including this one, it nearly completely froze with the exception of the deepest parts. Historically, the reservoir was frozen for an average of 58 days. That has changed as our climate has changed and in the most recent years on average it is closer to 20 days.

Now however, we have entered the season of the ice melt. Our daylight hours are longer with more days of sun. As the ice begins to melt, it turns black in some spots and begins to look slushy and opaque. As snow melts off the top of the ice, the ice exposed to the sun. The ice then acts like a greenhouse to the lake water, and as the sun shines on the ice, it heats the water underneath the ice. The ice then starts to melt from the bottom, where it is touching the water. When ice thickness



erodes to between 4 and 12 inches, it transforms into long vertical crystals called “candles.” These candles conduct light very well, which causes the ice to begin looking black because it is not reflecting much sunlight.

As the sun continues to heat the ice, the water below the ice continues to warm. Meltwater fills in between the crystals, which begin breaking apart. As a result, the surface appears grayish as the ice reflects a bit more light than before. Next, all that is needed is a windy day to break the surface ice apart. The ice candles will often be blown to one side of the lake, making a tinkling sound as they knock against one another, and pile up on the shore. It’s amazing how this final process seems to take just a few hours where one day the lake is ice-covered and the next it is not.



Aerial photos taken by drone on February 25, 2021



Adult eagle bringing a fish to the nest

Eagle Expectations

by Anne Ely

I started out counting the months, then weeks, and now the days (however, by the time you read this, the time might have already arrived and the wait over). Until what? Until my favorite eagle pair returns to set up housekeeping again in the same nest they've occupied for the last 3 years. Although the nest is not in Quabbin, but in a town nearby, one of the pair, the male, I believe, is a Quabbin eagle, hatched and banded somewhere on the shores of Quabbin in 2011.

They've stayed in the area all winter, now and then bringing in sticks to shore up the nest. It will need quite a bit of repair

and remodeling, as by the time last year's chicks had fledged (left the nest), they had left behind a bit of a shambles. It's amazing what havoc three growing chicks can wreak on their home during their almost 4 months of occupancy, especially during their "teen age" days when they become almost the size of the adults, but just not as disciplined. In the final days, sticks were dangling down, leaving gaps in the nest through which fish bones, small turtle shells and other inedible remnants of many meals, would fall to the ground.

I learned a lot during last year's 3½ month long observation of this family. I knew eagles ate fish and small mammals, and often carrion, but did not know they caught small turtles until I saw the fallen turtle shells. Although often cracked at the edges due to the strength of the eagles' talons, the shells were otherwise pretty much intact, the edible parts were somehow



Eagle chick flapping



Eagle on nest receiving fish from mate

removed from between the hard upper shell (the carapace) and the under shell (plastron) without pulling them apart. They were small turtles; maybe about 5 inches or so. Although they are excellent nest builders, eagles are not the best housekeepers, and any leftover bones, shells, uneaten bits of food, etc. which have not accidentally found their way to the ground, are not intentionally removed from the nest, but just covered up with more grasses and twigs. It's no wonder that after years of occupancy, eagle nests can become quite large and heavy. I am also thinking it might get a bit stinky up there?

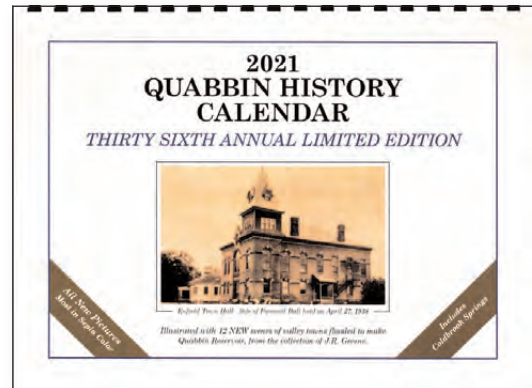


Collection of Eagle leftovers—turtle shells & fish bones

Eagles are also sneaky! I watched the parents bring in fish from the lake. They seemed to have a flight pattern from the lake to the nest, but more than once I had my camera set in the direction of the incoming flight only to discover that instead they had decided to use the back door, or the side door to the nest, rather than the front door which was in my viewfinder.

When the chicks were small there seemed to be a distinct feeding schedule when a parent would return to the nest with food. I could almost set my watch by it... unless, of course, I would relax and walk away from the camera, or use my binoculars to check out nearby trees for other birds... then, that is the time one would come in early and be up and in the nest before I could even bring my eye to my camera again. It was, indeed, a lesson in patience. Several times a week I would stand behind my tripod, eyes up, watching for any movement anywhere, from any direction, for anywhere from 2 to 4 hours, and one day I hit 5 hours. But it was all worth it. A wonderful learning experience, and as I have said, I am counting the days.

2021 Calendar by J.R. Greene



The tradition of the J.R. Greene calendar exhibiting pictures of the Swift River Valley before being flooded by Quabbin Reservoir is continuing. To maintain the goal of providing large size reproductions of views from the old Swift and Ware River Valleys, the calendar includes views of a one room school, a church that was torn down around 1900, a summer camp with an elaborate “Welcome” sign, and even an abandoned hearse house. Highland Press of Athol is the printer. It will be on sale at the Quabbin Visitors Center when it reopens. In the interim, you may mail order it by contacting Paul Godfrey at 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002 (godfrey@umass.edu). Enclose a check for \$14.95 to cover the calendar and \$1.85 shipping and handling. It will also be on sale at some outlets in towns around the reservoir; or Greene can be emailed at jrg01331@webtv.net for ordering information.

He will also be issuing a new book about the history of the Swift River Valley this autumn; more on that in the next newsletter. It will be available at the Visitors Center.

From the Editor

As a majority of you know, the newsletter is delivered to you twice—once in black-and-white paper form by mail and once in color by email. We think the color form is more interesting because the photos often benefit hugely from color (an example is **Wheeler’s Surprise** in this issue). Lack of color is one of the more frustrating things for this editor, particularly in the fall. But color is very expensive to reproduce on paper, so it is unlikely that we will ever have a paper newsletter in color. For those who have provided me with an email address, I can remedy that with the emailed color copy.

But many of you do not have email; we will not forget you! While we can’t provide you with color, we promise to provide you with a newsletter. Those with email will continue to get both.

If you have email but haven’t provided your address to me, please send me that email address. Your email address will not be given to anyone else and will be used only for Friends of Quabbin purposes, primarily the newsletter. On rare occasions, such as providing updates on the renaming of the Visitors Center or other urgent happenings, an email will be sent to you. No ads or spam will ever be sent. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email, please send your email address to godfrey@umass.edu. If you thought you provided an email address but are not receiving the newsletter, there is some problem with the address I have, please send me your current email address. I will add you to the email newsletter list and send you the current newsletter.

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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@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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