

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Fall 2022
Vol.35 No.3

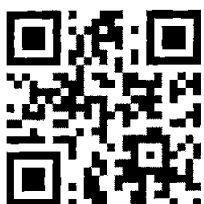
We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water,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

—Les Campbell

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Any meeting or event may be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Check the organization's web page or call beforehand.



Remembering Prescott: Part 4 The Griswold Family

by Gene Theroux

Perhaps, the most notable family in Prescott before Quabbin was the Griswold family. The family consisted of Merrick "Algie" Griswold and Olive "Jennie" Smith Griswold. Jennie Smith's family moved to Prescott from Agawam. In the spring, they used to drive their dairy stock from Agawam to Prescott to pasture through the summer. The route the Smiths would take was up State Street in Springfield through the centers of Ludlow, Belchertown, and Pelham and into Prescott—a journey of more than 30 miles. In the 1900s, they bought a farm in Prescott and lived there permanently where Eleanor's mother "Jennie" Smith met "Algie" Griswold. Merrick "Algie" Griswold moved from Huntington to Prescott where he met Olive.

Algie Griswold and Jennie Smith were married in Prescott on September 11, 1911. There they had their family. Eleanor was born on September 23, 1913. Eleanor was the oldest of six children; her siblings were two brothers: Edward F. and Lyman and three sisters: Doris O., Beatrice M., and Frances E.



The Griswolds: Olive J. Smith Griswold holding Beatrice, Eleanor, Edward F., Lyman, and Doris O. with Merrick A. "Algie" behind. Not shown Frances E. (before her birth).



Front row: Francis with baby duck, 2nd row: Beatrice, Edward, Back row: Eleanor, Lyman & Doris (c: 1931)

The Griswold family house sat on the side of a hill, with a built-up lawn area in the rear. The view is quite impressive from this spot. The house itself was impressive, with its foot-square beams inside. In one room there was a secret door which led to a secret room in which the residents could take refuge from hostile Native Americans, and which served the Griswold children well for things like games of hide-and-go-seek. "Knot holes" in the surrounding wood provided ports for muskets. The house had no electricity although eventually a Delco generator was acquired. Its cement base is still visible. The Griswolds remained in this (continued page 3)



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Fall 2022

This past year began the march towards some normalcy after enduring the pandemic over the last two years. The pandemic prevented the Friends of Quabbin from having its Annual Meeting at its usual time, the first or second Sunday of April. That forced the Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting to a later date and the Board of Directors decided to have the 2022 Annual Business Meeting in conjunction with the 2022 Holiday Party. By May though, restrictions were lifted and the Memorial Day Services were held at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

As we edge towards the end of the 2022 calendar year, we have completed the series of articles on the town of Prescott's 100th anniversary of its incorporation. But there was another significant anniversary in September 2022. That date was September 23, 2022, which marked the 109th anniversary of the birth of Eleanor Louise Griswold Schmidt who was born on September 23, 1913 in the former town of Prescott. I cannot think of anyone who has contributed more to keeping the story fresh than Eleanor Griswold Schmidt. The *Quabbin Voices* had a series of profiling former residents during the 75th Year of Remembrance. Eleanor Schmidt contributions were highlighted as the cover story in the Fall 2013 (Volume 26, No. 3) *Quabbin Voices* newsletter and the feature story on Eleanor is available at <http://foquabbin.org/newsletter/> and scroll down to Fall 2013.



Civil War Soldier monument at Quabbin Park Cemetery

Eleanor spoke of the importance of the Tuesday Teas, which used to meet weekly for the former residents of the four towns and their hamlets. As time went on and there were fewer participants, the Tuesday Tea group began meeting on the first Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Anne Ely has been doing an exemplary job with the programming of the Tuesday Teas. Recently, we've had presentations on the model Rabbit railroad at the Swift River Valley Carriage House, Enfield memorabilia, and several noted families from Enfield. The next Tuesday Tea will be held on November 1st at 1:00pm. It is important to note that all are welcome to attend the Tuesday Tea.

The Friends of Quabbin is working on several initiatives: 1) renaming the Visitor Center as the Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, 2) preserving the Keystone Bridge in north Quabbin, and 3) working on the conservation of the Enfield Civil War Soldier (bronze sculpture) and several plaques such as the Dana Honor Roll. While the first two are close to fruition, the last is just beginning.



Dana Honor Roll at Quabbin Park Cemetery

The Dana Honor Roll once stood on Dana Common and contains the names of the veterans attributed to Dana in America's wars from the American Revolution through World War I. There were fifteen residents of Dana who served during the American Revolutionary War, many of whom are interred in Quabbin Park Cemetery. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, we can do our share with this conservation effort in Quabbin Park Cemetery. There are a number of events being planned throughout the United States to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and there is an excellent website—*Revolution250*— that has all kinds of information and resources including events scheduled from 2022 through 2026.

Please come to the Holiday Party. Remember to register (see announcement elsewhere in Newsletter).

Remembering Prescott

Continued from page 1



Griswold family house in Prescott with milk truck in front



Prescott Center School # 3



Prescott Center School # 3

house until at least September of 1938; and they may well have been the last family to leave Prescott.

The town reports from 1932-37 list the younger Griswold children as the only remaining school children in Prescott.

Eleanor spoke of walking to and from the Prescott Center School #3. They would stay on the road and would not trespass on anybody's property. Of course, if there were mud puddles in the road, they walked in them. Prescott Center School #3 was a one-room schoolhouse with eight grades, one teacher, and normally 28 students; about half were "state" kids (now called foster children). Many families would take in state kids for financial reasons but also to assist with the farm chores. Eleanor loved her teacher, Miss Marion Kelley, who was both strict and kind; Miss Kelley was her teacher for all eight grades. She described how the school seating plan was arranged. Where you sat in the schoolhouse was a function of the amount of wood that your family contributed to heat the schoolhouse: the more and better the wood, the nearer the wood stove. After the early 1930s, the children attended schools in other towns.

Eleanor Griswold was the first from Prescott to attend Belchertown High School; she would ride her bike five miles to Enfield and catch the bus to the Belchertown High School. She was one of the many high school students from the valley towns that were bused to Belchertown. The other Prescott students of high school age rode the Rabbit train to Athol to attend Athol High School. While a student at Belchertown High School, one of Eleanor's classmates was Edward Schmidt Jr. of Belchertown. Edward and Eleanor graduated from Belchertown High School in 1931. They were married in Amherst on September 16, 1939. Eleanor became very prominent for her



Above left: photograph of Eleanor, Eddie, and Beatrice Griswold, taken in front of the site of their childhood home, looking east, sometime in the 1980s.

efforts to keep the memory of the towns in the Swift River Valley alive. She was active in the Prescott Historical Society to become the Swift River Historical Society, Friends of Quabbin, Tuesday Teas, Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council, guided tours of Prescott, and many other efforts. For more about her, read the *Quabbin Voices* Volume 26, No. 3, Fall 2013 available on the Friends of Quabbin website (<http://friendsofquabbin.org>), select Newsletter and scroll to Fall 2013.

The Whos of the Howes of Enfield

by Robert Howe

There are often interesting stories behind the monuments in Quabbin Park Cemetery. In the process of cleaning many of the monuments, I've gotten interested in the history of those



Tom Howe working on the George Howe family monument.

interred there. The George Howe family is one of those. They are an impressive group and are adjacent to the Underwood and Joseph J. Howe monuments. Cleaning the stones and monuments in the George Howe plot was no small task. The monuments had been neglected for a long time and were covered with biological growth and discoloration. My brother, Thomas, and I tackled the job in 2021 with the results shown in the accompanying pictures. But delving into the history of the family was even more daunting. Here is the story and the family connections between them. You can see more dates and relationships on Find a Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com>).

George was born in 1810 and grew up on his parents' farm on the west edge of Enfield. When he was about 20, he was one of the organizers of the Swift River Manufacturing Company in Enfield. After it burned down in 1830, he joined the store of Saxton & Field (place unknown).

In 1836 he formed a partnership with Seth Richards in Fort Madison, an Iowa territory, and established the store Howe & Richards. In 1837, financial troubles caused them to go out of business, and George went into farming, driving a team of oxen to break the prairie. By 1840, he was back to being a clerk in the A. J. Davis store in Iowaville Iowa; he later was in charge of the store. In 1848, he established a partnership store, Howe & Richards, in Red Rock, Iowa. In 1850 the two partners bought 960 acres of land in Iowa, and the following year sold



George William Howe monument in section 13 of Quabbin Park Cemetery after cleaning in 2021.

160 acres of it to create the town of Osceola, Iowa. The history of Clarke County, Iowa said "Mr. Howe was an honest and upright man in all his dealings, and a friend of the poor, and assisted many a good man to secure a home in Clarke County before homestead laws."

When he was 53, George traveled back to his hometown of Enfield in Sept 1863 and married Martha Underwood who was 31. The couple returned to Iowa after getting married. Martha was a sister of Francis Underwood who wrote *Quabbin: The Story of a Small Town with Outlooks Upon Puritan Life* (1893). I'm sure George and brother Charles were two of the people Francis Underwood was thinking of when he wrote about Enfield residents leaving for the West and hopefully a better life. George died about year after their marriage. At the time of his death in 1864, George was worth \$200,000, a princely sum in those days. His body was (continued page 8)

Who Visits Quabbin and Why?

by Anne Ely

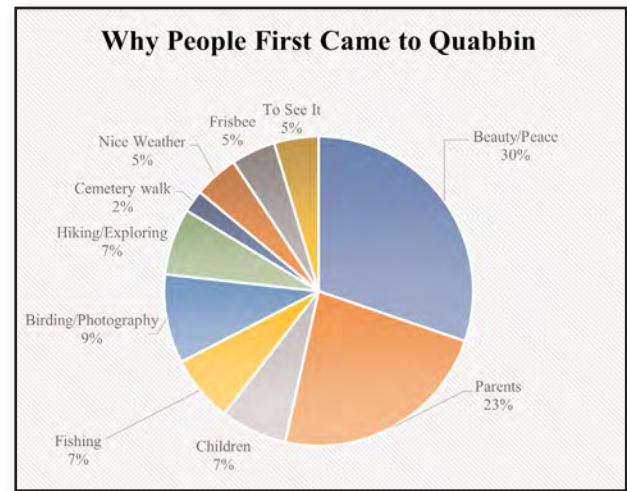
I am a frequent visitor to the Quabbin Reservoir; usually I'm there to photograph its beauty and the wonderful wildlife. Often, however, I'm content to park my car at the Enfield Look Out and just sit. Sometimes as I stare out at the vast stretches of blue water, my mind wanders back to the past and the people who lived in the towns that once were there. Occasionally, words for a poem will come forth and I will jot them down. Then there are times when I just people-watch—families having a picnic, or someone just getting away from the hustle and bustle of the workplace for a quiet lunch break. Frequently young folks will hop out of their car, snap a picture of the scene before them—sometimes a selfie—and then just leave. Others will take a bit more time and go over and read the sign that describes the town of Enfield.

The longer I observed people the more I began to wonder how they came to be there. Some may have grown up in the area and have come for years. But the others... how did they end up at Quabbin? Did they read about it? Were they driving by and saw the sign and decided to stop? I know Quabbin gets thousands of visitors every year, but how and why did they happen to come?

The more I thought about it, the more curious I became and one day I decided I wanted to know. Thus, I came up with a short survey and, in March 2022, began to approach people asking them the various questions I had come up with. I'd never done anything of this nature before and sometimes had to give myself a "you can do this" pep talk about approaching strangers. All, except for one who was not interested, were very receptive to answering my questions. The survey was certainly not perfect, but it answered most of my questions. It was an interesting experience and I thought folks might be interested in what I found out, hence this article.

When I approached people, I first told them I was doing a survey and explained my reasons. I told them I would be summarizing the results in an article in *Quabbin Voices*. I did not ask their names. Rather than ask people to spend time filling out survey sheets, I asked them standard questions from my list and jotted down their answers. Not only did I get my questions answered, but got a few amusing tales as well.

It was a very small survey, and also not professionally done by any means. I interviewed only 42 people, among whom there were 5 small children that I didn't include. The interviews were conducted on different days of the week and at different times of the day outside the Visitor Center, at the Enfield Look Out, the Dam, the Spillway and the Rotary. The survey consisted of about 13 questions and I broke the answers down by sex and age but decided later that age added little but length to the article. Although I interviewed people from their 20's to 70's, the majority were in their 50's to 70's. Of the 42 people interviewed, there were 22 men and 20 women. Not all the number of answers will add up 42 though because there were a few times when I didn't get answers from everyone.



Question 1: Where were they from? Holyoke-1, Boston-1, Belchertown-5, Chicopee-3, Palmer-3, Northampton-1, South Hadley-1, Hadley-1, Wilbraham-3, Monson-2, Worcester-3, Harvard-1, Granby-5, Ware-1, Hollister-1, Brimfield-2, Ludlow-1, NY City-1, NJ-2, CT-2, England-1 and India-1.

Question 2: How many were there for the first time? only 7 (4 men & 3 women).

Question 3: How did people hear about Quabbin for the first time? A majority, 25 (12 men and 13 women) out of the 42, heard about it from their parents, most having been brought to Quabbin as children. Five learned about it from friends (4 men & 1 woman). Three folks (2 women and 1 man) found it by driving by. Three others heard about it through schools (2 women and 1 man). Two men had lived in the area. Two (1 man and 1 woman) couldn't recall just how they did learn about it. One man learned about it from a story on TV and, lastly, one woman had heard people talking about it.

Question 4: What brought them to the Quabbin the first time when on their own (not when brought by parents)? Approximately one third (13) came for the beauty and peacefulness. Of these, 6 were men and 7 women. Because their parents first brought them was the reason 10 people came again (6 men and 4 women). Three people (1 man and 2 women) came to bring their children/family. Another 3 (2 men and 1 woman) came to go fishing with their father. Birding and photography drew 4 (2 men and 2 women) for the first time. Hiking/exploring drew 3 (2 men and 1 woman) for their first taste of hiking in Quabbin. A DCR Cemetery Walk drew 2 women to Quabbin for the first time. Nice weather drew 2 out (1 man and 1 woman). To toss a frisbee back in high school, first brought 1 man and 1 woman. And finally, 1 man and 1 woman first came just "to see it".

Question 5: Did you stop at the Visitor Center? Of the 42 surveyed, the Visitor Center was a stop for 21 (11 men & 10 women). Of the other 21 visitors, ten (5 men and 5 women) had not been in the Visitor Center for a long time, and eleven (6 men and 5 women) that had never been in the Visitor Center. Only four people said they were aware of the DCR programs. I encouraged those who had never been to the Visitor Center to stop in.

Question 6: Have you visited the Quabbin Park Cemetery?

A little over half (24 of 42) of the visitors said they had visited the Quabbin Park Cemetery. Of these 11 were men and 13 women. There were 12 (6 men and 6 women) who said that they had not visited the cemetery. There were 6 non-answers.

Question 7: What is the frequency of your visits to Quabbin?

Fifteen men came as follows: 1 came daily; 1 came several times a week; 3 came 1–4 times a week; 4 came 1–3 times a month; 4 from 1–8 times a year; 1 came every once and a while and 1 every few years. Of 17 women, 5 came 1–5 times a week; 7 came 1–3 times a month; 2, 1–2 times a year; 1, 6–8 times a year; 1 came every once and a while and 1 every few years. In total 10 of 17 women came year-round as did 10 of 15 men.

Question 8: How much time do you spend during visits to Quabbin?

The amount of time spent while here by the 15 men was: 1 spent ½ hr.; 8 spent 1–2 hours; 1, 4 hours, and 5 said it varied. The 17 women spent the following amounts of time here: 2 spent ½ hr.; 12 spent 1–3 hrs. and for 3 the time varied.

Question 9: What do you do while at Quabbin? Men came for: Walking the roads-9, Driving through/Parking at the Enfield Look Out-5, Hiking trails-12, Picnicking-3, Photography-6, Birding-5, Botany-1, Running-1, Flying kites-1, Going to the Tower-5. Visitor Center/History-1, Fishing-3, Hunting-1, Biking-1. For women, it was for: Walking the roads-9, Driving through/Parking at the Enfield Look Out-5, Hiking trails-13, Picnicking-3, Photography-6, Fishing-3, Reading-2, Flying kites-1, Going to Tower-4, Doing crafts-1, Birding-6, Biking-1, Snowshoeing-1, Going to the Tower-2.

Question 10: Are you aware of The Friends of Quabbin? Only 14 out of 42 (5 men and 9 women) were aware of the Friends of Quabbin. Of these 14, less than half (5); 3 woman and 2 men knew about its offerings: website, Facebook page and newsletter. To those who had no knowledge of the FOQ, I gave copies of the *Quabbin Voices* newsletter and the FOQ brochure.

Question 11: What do you like best about Quabbin? The majority of all, both men and women, answered the serenity, peacefulness, beauty, the quietness and nature. One said the clean water, 1 said the history and 2 said everything.

Question 12: Would you like to see changes? This brought forth a few responses such as: fix the views (trim trees/bushes, etc., especially Enfield Look Out); enforce speed limit more; no skateboarding; reopen rest rooms; keep up the care of the remainder of the buildings, etc. of the golf course (stonework on buildings too beautiful to be left to deteriorate); have a “hop on, hop off” open-air trolley with an interpretive guide; keep old roads open and one commented that it was “too controlled.”

Question 13: My final question asked if they would like to become more involved? One respondent had an interest in doing a photo exhibit at the Visitor Center and was also interested in who does what in Boston. There was one volunteer to trim bushes, etc.; one young couple in their 20’s answered “maybe”; 2 women in their 50’s answered “yes”; there was an offer to fix/clean the Enfield sign. I suggested these people contact the Friends of Quabbin who would know to whom they should speak.

In sum, of the small number interviewed, most people had come for the first time because their parents had first brought them as a child. What brought most of them back was the beauty/peacefulness of the place, followed closely by the fact that their parents had brought them when young. Both men and women averaged a visit about 1–4 times a week, spending about 1–3 hours while here; the majority were hiking the trails or walking the roadways, with a large number enjoying photography and birding. There were those who also came to read, bike, fly kites, snowshoe and other personal pastimes. Although a fair number did stop in the Visitor Center, only a very few were aware of the DCR programs offered. A little over half had visited the Quabbin Park Cemetery. The large majority was not aware of the Friends of Quabbin, its website, Facebook page or newsletter.

All in all, I had an interesting time. I enjoyed talking with the people, all of whom seemed to really enjoy Quabbin. They were all interested to hear of things about which they didn’t know.



Several gave me fun stories about experiences they had had there. For example, one lady told me about her brother taking her fishing there as a youngster, but did not take her a second time after she got her fishing pole entangled in the boat motor. Another woman in her 70’s, who still comes to Quabbin several times a week, said her husband used to take her there when they were dating. He was very athletic and climbed over rocks and logs with ease. She decided she was not equipped for such outings and so went out and bought a good pair of hiking boots. One man said his father bought a home in Springfield and renovated it with things people moving from the towns gave away. Another couple in their 70’s told how, when they were dating, they used to come at dusk, back in the days when you could, and watch the deer. I guess it used to be a popular spot for dates and wonder if it still is. Two ladies had interesting tales about a turtle and a bear, but unfortunately, I couldn’t read my writing, so am unable to pass them on!



Student Conservation Association's Quabbin Trail Work 2022

by Justin Gonsor, Program Coordinator 1
Department of Conservation and Recreation

This past July saw the return of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for their annual trail maintenance hitch at Quabbin. Their 6-person crew was here for 10 days in total, with their work being split primarily between two tasks. The primary objective was to install a set of bog bridges along the Shoreline Trail down below Hank's Meadow. The rest of their hitch was dedicated to general trail rehab, mainly cutting back overgrowth along our foot paths.

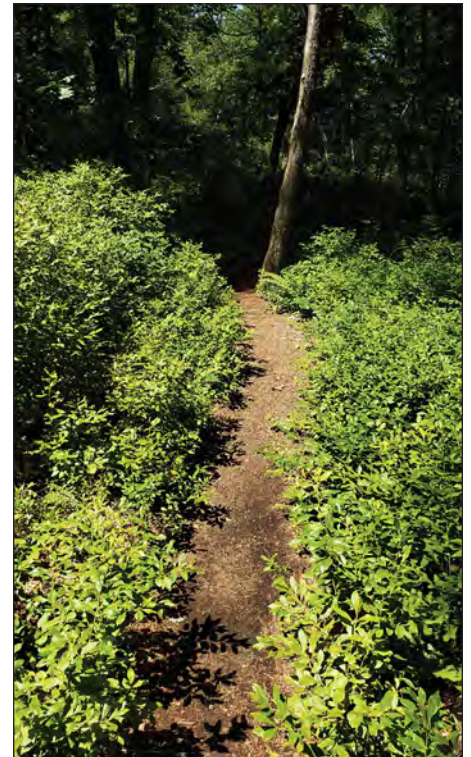
Building on our update of Quabbin Park's trail system in 2021, we identified a few locations where simple foot/bog bridges could increase hiker safety and provide them with a better experience. Bog bridges are simple walkways that enable people to traverse wet and/or fragile habitats. These bridges are generally comprised of planks or split logs laid on or close to the ground. Once built, they help protect soft soils, muddy spots, and wetlands-while keeping hiker's feet dry.

The portion of our newly named Shoreline Trail crosses a couple intermittent streams and had an area that was very muddy during certain times of the year. Our on-site DCR carpenters built the bridges before SCA showed up for their hitch. Once they arrived, the crew was given a set of instructions and they completed the actual installation of the bridges. They were able to get two bridges, roughly 20 feet long each, in place over the intermittent streams, while the third bridge was installed at a wet area along the trail by our carpenters later in the summer. That section of the Shoreline Trail is now in great shape. Installing the bridges took up most of their hitch but they did

have time to conduct some general trail maintenance on some of our more popular park trails. Specifically, the Tower Trail, Bald Mountain Hill Trail, and Shoreline/Enfield Lookout Trail were all revitalized. The crew used a combination of brush saws, chain saws, and weed whackers to remove downed trees and cut back general overgrowth on those trails. These trails are all currently in great shape having also been re-blazed within the past year as well.

Our new Quabbin Park map can be picked up at the Visitor Center or downloaded online at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-quabbin-park-access-map/download>. The Bald Mountain Hill Trail (blazed orange) is a moderate, 1-mile loop located near the rotary in the Park. The Tower Trail (blazed red) begins at the parking area inside the middle gate and ends at the Observation Tower at Quabbin Hill. It is a 2.5-mile out and back hike that features a gorgeous scenic view of the reservoir at Quabbin Hill, especially in the fall. Be aware, the tower is currently closed for repairs. The Shoreline/Enfield Lookout Trail (blazed blue) is part of a larger 3.6-mile loop that includes Webster Road (blazed green). This hike can be started from three different parking areas: The Observation Tower, Enfield Lookout, or Hank's Meadow.

The SCA is an organization that provides college and high-school aged members with hands-on conservation and environ-



mental opportunities in a variety of different fields. Their mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities.

The Massachusetts Conservation Corps program members serve Massachusetts public lands from the Atlantic Coast to the Berkshires each summer; our group was part of it. While the program is celebrating over 20+ years of service, the scope has changed in the years post-covid. This past

season, 18 young adults came together from March–October to form the 2022 SCA Massachusetts Conservation Corps. After extensive trail training, the members headed out into the field in teams of six to tackle conservation projects. For ten days, members camped out together and completed projects such as: new trail construction, rock steps, rock retaining walls, water bars, rustic timber bridges, box steps, trail clearing, trail repair and drainage, sign installation, and more. Anyone interested in joining the program can contact Julia Graham at jgraham@thesca.org.

In just one season, the SCA Massachusetts Conservation Corps members were able to:

- Impact 99 miles of trail
- Build 34 boardwalks/bridges/puncheons (and maintain 10 more)
- “set” 248 stones
- Brush and clear 37 trails
- Community Outreach and Engagement

The Howes of Enfield

Continued from page 3

returned to Enfield for burial. George’s estate was divided up between his family and his wife, Martha.

Martha returned to Enfield, Mass., and “formed a center for literary, culture, and generous entertainment.” In the 1870 census, her Enfield property was worth \$29,000 and personal worth was \$50,000, much of it probably being her inheritance from George. Her younger sister, Sarah Underwood, lived with her until Martha’s death in 1897. Both sisters remained single. It appears Sarah inherited Martha’s house.



Sarah Underwood's house from "Quabbin: The Lost Valley" compiled by another Howe, Donald W. Howe.

Also buried in the George W. Howe burial plot are his parents, Sylvaniaus and Sukey Joslyn Howe. Their farm in the west part of Enfield had 140 acres (40 improved) and was worth \$4000 in the 1850 census. Sylvaniaus is listed in some Enfield



Joseph J. Howe's farm from "Quabbin: The Lost Valley" compiled by Donald W. Howe.

documents as “captain,” but I can find no records of military service or ship master service. Sylvaniaus’ father and grandfather were both Revolutionary vets. The former was buried in Quabbin; the latter in Belchertown.

George’s brother Charles and his wife Elsie Cutter Howe and two of their children are also buried in the George Howe burial plot. Charles married Elsie Cutter (daughter of my 4th great grandparents) in 1840. Charles had a farm next to his parent’s farm until 1858 when they moved to Clear Lake, Sherburne County, Minnesota to farm. Charles’ poor health made it difficult for him to farm; census records indicated he had rheumatism. In 1864, Charles family moved to Iowa to take over his share of his brother’s estate and, in 1878, went into the dry-goods business in Clarke County, Iowa like his brother George. Elsie died in 1894 and Charles in 1898, both died in Iowa but are buried in Enfield.



The Underwood plot in foreground, Joseph Howe large stone in mid-ground left, George; Howe plot in background.

George’s brother, Joseph J. Howe, appeared to have inherited family farm after their father’s death, and took care of their mother, Sukey, until her death in 1871. Joseph remained in Enfield his entire life. Joseph and his wife are buried near brother George.

Quabbin Interpretive Services Report Fall 2022

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

A good part of our summer was spent planning our programs for fall as well as looking at the changes we plan for the Visitor Center. Some of our projects (namely the Storywalk) have been delayed due to some technical issues. But the laminator is repaired so we plan to have our Storywalk completed and in place soon. Some new items in the Visitor Center are native plant terrariums put together by staff member Nancy Huntington. We also have plans in the works for some new wall displays and some interactive activities for families.

The highlight of the past month was a very successful site tour in New Salem of a Pine Barrens area that our Natural Resources and Forestry units are working to restore. We also worked with several area senior centers and the Grange in Holden to offer some off-site programs about the history and management of the reservoir. This past winter the Visitor Center was given an official Zoom account which opens our availability to offer programs to groups in towns that are served by our water but are a distance away. I also have sent out information on the programs we offer to local historical societies and libraries.

We also spent the summer working to reconnect with schools and am happy to share that several schools will be coming to visit for outdoor programs this fall. We are definitely looking forward to the spring field trip season to welcome back many of our favorite schools! We hope having remote capability will allow us to reach schools in the Greater Boston area as well.

Scheduled events are listed for the remainder of fall and winter (below).

These will be all be offered as remote programs on Sunday afternoons. Details about programs will be shared via our email list or on the DCR website as we get closer to the dates.

Sunday, November 6, 2:00pm

“Where do They Go? — New England Pollinators in Winter”

Public Presentation via Zoom



We’re all familiar with the amazing annual migrations of Hummingbirds and Monarch Butterflies, but what about the



rest of our northern pollinators? Where do they go in the winter? This program explores that question.

A link to the program will be provided after registering.

Register for the virtual program *“Where do they Go? — New England Pollinators in Winter”* here: tinyurl.com/5n8daamf

We appreciate the continued support from the Friends of Quabbin and are looking forward to late fall and winter.



WINTER PREVIEW 2023

Sunday, January 29, 2–3pm

Myths and Mysteries of Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, February 19, 2–3pm

A Day in the Life of a Quabbin Forester

Sunday, March 12, 2–3pm

Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley

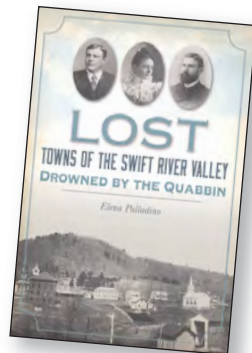
Author Presentation

by Elena Palladino

Sunday, March 19, 2–3pm

A Day in the Life of a DCR

Wildlife Biologist



Dates to be determined:

Sunday afternoons from 2–3pm in February or March

Bats of Massachusetts

Fire for Diversity: Understanding Forest Fire Ecology in Massachusetts

We will also be offering occasional hikes and outdoor programs. For up-to-date information email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov to be added to our email list or visit the DCR Watershed events page at <https://tinyurl.com/evybn8z>

Remember When....?



Remember when people who enjoyed the Quabbin, who liked to hear about the history of the Quabbin and who cared about the environment of the Quabbin got together to share memories of the past year and warm up for the upcoming holidays at the Friends of Quabbin/Tuesday Tea Annual

Holiday Party? Those days had lots of tasty food, often a talk about history or the environment, plenty of opportunity to compare notes. They had chances to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. And best of all, toss the diet aside and nosh on a big holiday cake.

But for the last few years of the COVID pandemic, those opportunities simply were not there, for our own safety.

Join Us for a Return to Those Times

Because most of us are vaccinated, COVID is no longer the danger that it was. Occupancy restrictions have been returned to normal at the Visitor Center and no masks are required.

The Party is On!

Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 4, 2022 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 at the Quabbin Visitor Center from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

There is no requirement to bring any food, just an appetite; food will be there. There are no mask restrictions in the Visitor Center. Please let us know if you are coming by November 11th.

To RSVP email: annhurlburt52@gmail.com or call the Visitor Center (413-323-7221).



Meetings & Events

Tuesday Tea

Since our last newsletter, there have been two Tuesday Teas (a third by the time you read this). The first of those was the traditional summer picnic at Hank’s Meadow on the side of the Quabbin. Eight people came and while that may seem small compared to a few years ago, COVID put a real damper on our meetings for some time and we are slowly recovering. All are vaccinated to the max and some taking extra precautions. Despite COVID hanging over us still, we had a lively conversation in beautiful weather.



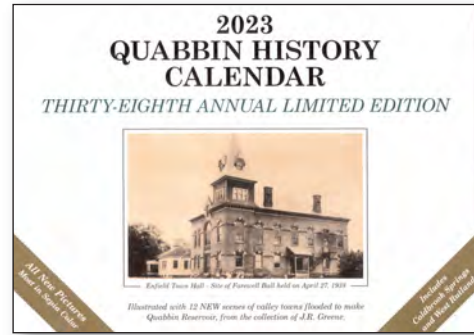
Since many of us are serious nature watchers, it wasn’t long before we realized we were being watched from afar. About 50 yards away, two young turkeys were “checking us out” from a somewhat secluded spot on the edge of the woods. We invited them to join us but they were too shy.



Moving inside to the Visitor Center for our September meeting, we were entertained by Robert Howe. He and his brother, Thomas, attended

and told us about the various Howes that have lived in the valley. You can read more about the Howes in this issue of the newsletter. We compared genealogical notes and experiences with trying to track ancestors.

Come to our November Tuesday Tea, November 1st, and enjoy the company and interesting topics of discussion. All are welcome; Friends of Quabbin membership not required.



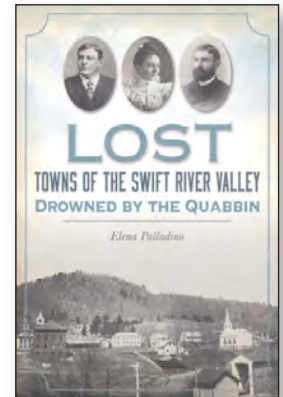
The **38th annual Quabbin History Calendar** has been released by Quabbin historian J.R. Greene. As usual, it contains photos of scenes from the old Swift River Valley, including a school, mills, store, summer camp, farm, and winter scenes, most from J.R.’s collection. The calendar is available at the Quabbin Visitor Center, and selected outlets in Central / Western MA. Greene will do brief slide programs and signings for it at the Ware Public Library on November 28, and at the Palmer Public Library on December 6; both programs start at 6 PM. The calendar is the same price as last year, **\$16.95**.

New Quabbin Book

Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley

by Elena Palladino

In April 1938, Swift River Valley residents held a farewell ball to mark the demise of the quintessential New England town of Enfield and its three smaller neighbors, Greenwich, Dana, and Prescott.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sacrificed these three towns to build the Quabbin, a massive reservoir of drinking water for residents of Boston. Three prominent residents attended the somber occasion. Marion Andrews Smith was the last surviving member of an important manufacturing family. Willard “Doc” Segur was the valley’s beloved country doctor and town leader. And Edwin Henry Howe was Enfield’s postmaster and general store proprietor. They helped build their beloved community for decades, only to watch grief-stricken as it was destroyed by 412 billion gallons of water.

Author and historian Elena Palladino recounts the story of these communities as seen through the eyes of those who lived there until the end.

136 pages. Available at the Visitor Center in November. **\$23.99**

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



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