

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



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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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A Most Amazing Woman with Ties to the Swift River Valley, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

by Paul Godfrey

Did you get up this morning, slip into your slacks, flip on the TV, hear our lady governor or lady senator or lady representative that you voted for, consider your upcoming appointment with your lady doctor and put your hand in your pocket to find a quarter with an image of a woman you never heard of before. That woman on the quarter was a major contributor to all of you, especially if you are a woman. Her name was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. As J.R. Greene outlines in the following article, she had deep roots in the Quabbin Valley that drew her back to the valley in her later years. But what happened before is why she is on the quarter and why all those other everyday things are normal for today's American women.

In the spring of 2024, the U.S. Mint will issue a quarter with Dr. Walker's image on it. This release will be part of a series of quarters featuring notable women in U.S. history and commemorating the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the amendment that prohibits the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, in effect recognizing the right of women to vote.

The series of notable women quarters, five per year beginning in 2022, included Maya Angelou—poet, Sally Ride—astronaut, and Eleanor Roosevelt—an American political figure, diplomat, activist and first lady of the United States. The five coming in 2024 include Patsy Takemoto Mink who won seats in the Hawaii Territorial Legislature, the Hawaii State Senate, and ultimately the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first Asian

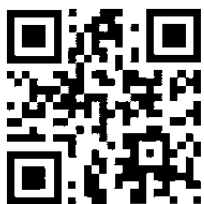
American woman to serve in the United States Congress and, on **June 3rd, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker—a Civil War-era surgeon, women's rights advocate and only woman ever awarded the Congressional**

Medal of Honor. Mary Walker may not be as well known as the others but she was no less important in the evolution of women's rights. She was hardly the typical woman of her time. She was an American abolitionist, prohibitionist, and prisoner of war and, possibly, spy for the Union Army, and more.

Mary was the daughter of Alvah (father) and Vesta (mother) Walker. They moved from Greenwich, Massachusetts to Oswego, New York where Mary was born in 1832. Her parents raised their children in a progressive manner that was revolutionary at the time. While they were devoted Christians, they were Freethinkers, a viewpoint that beliefs should not be formed on the basis of authority, tradition, revelation or dogma but instead be reached by ways such as logic, reason and empirical observation. The Walkers raised their children to question accordingly. They also demonstrated non-traditional gender roles to their children regarding sharing work on the farm. Vesta often did the heavy labor while Alvah took part in general household chores. Mary did not wear women's clothing during farm labor; her mother considered corsets and tight lacings unhealthy. *(continued p.4)*



Mary Edwards Walker
c.1860 (Library of Congress)





Gene Theroux

President's Message

Winter 2023

It has been very busy the last few months. I had the opportunity to work with partnered organizations in preparation for the America250 celebration to be held in conjunction with the 2024

Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery. The forty-three names of Revolutionary War Patriots from the Swift River Valley for the proposed bronze plaque to be inset onto a granite monument have been verified with both the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and approved by DCR. The Betty Allen and Duxbury/Plymouth Chapters of the DAR have partnered to purchase DAR Patriot medallions for the gravesites of those Patriots who have descendants (see article on Developments at Quabbin Park Cemetery).

The cost of this memorial stone is considerable; estimates start at around \$10,000. Restoration of all the bronze plaques is on the order of \$31,000 or more. The Friends of Quabbin has been developing multiple sources to help fund these projects. At the Renaming Ceremony for the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, I spoke with Anne Gobi and Jake Oliviera about this need and the larger need for major remediation of the bronze plaques on other stones and memorials in the cemetery.

When Anne shifted to another job, she passed the gauntlet to Jake. This fall, Jake surprised us with an earmark in the state budget of \$5,000 for these efforts. The ceremonial awarding of the check was held at Quabbin Park Cemetery on October 23rd (see Positive Developments at Quabbin Park Cemetery, this issue).

At the New Salem Academy (NSA) Board of Trustees meeting held in New Salem on November 4, 2023, the NSA Trustees voted to make a \$2,000 donation to the Friends of Quabbin to help offset the cost of the Revolutionary War memorial. At the 2023 Friends of Quabbin Holiday party, Dan Hammock, the President of the NSA Trustees presented the check in the amount of \$2,000. The New Salem Academy was chartered in 1795 and there are hundreds of graduates from the former towns. The New Salem Academy Board of Trustees awards over forty thousand dollars each year in grants and



Proposed bronze plaque of the Patriots of 1776

scholarships. The NSA Board of Trustees and the Friends of Quabbin have been partners for several years and NSA has previously contributed to the preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery. Eugene Bullard's book, History of the New Salem Academy is available for viewing on the Friends of Quabbin website, Resources page. Donald Howe's compiled book, *Quabbin the Lost Valley*, 1951 has information on the New Salem Academy and some of its graduates (also available for viewing on the Friends of Quabbin website, Resources page).

I was honored to attend the Veterans' Day event held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the beautiful and historic Betty Allen chapter house. Friends' member Dave Robison, who is the President of the Seth Pomeroy chapter of the



Dave Robison and Gene Theroux being presented the DAR Hannah White Arnett medal by Cher Nicholas (l), Chair of DAR America250 celebration and Denise Kindschi Gosselin (r), Regent of the Betty Allen Chapter of the DAR. Both Cher and Denise are members of the Friends of Quabbin.

Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and I received the DAR Hannah White Arnett award for our work with the SAR and partnering with the DAR. The Seth Pomeroy chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution holds its monthly meetings at the Betty Allen DAR Chapter house located on South Street in Northampton.



Larry Tatro and Gene Theroux at the Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton, Massachusetts

After the Veterans' Day ceremony at the Betty Allen Chapter House, DAR member Karen Tatro and her husband Larry took my wife Marianne and I to the Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton. The Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton is the oldest cemetery in Northampton and has a lot of Patriots of 1776 interred

there including Betty Allen (Elisabeth Parsons Allen), namesake of the DAR chapter in Northampton and Seth Pomeroy. Both Karen and Larry Tatro are historians, and they provided Marianne and I a lot of information on both Betty Allen and Seth Pomeroy. The hospitality of the DAR and of Karen and Larry Tatro was exceptional. Larry Tatro and I both are members of the L.A. Tift Camp 15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



Cenotaph of General Seth Pomeroy

Seth Pomeroy was an American gunsmith and soldier from Northampton, Massachusetts. His military service included the French and Indian War and the early stages of the American Revolutionary War. He fought as a private soldier in the Battle of Bunker Hill, but was later appointed a major general in the Massachusetts militia.



Pomeroy Anvil

Seth Pomeroy was the son of Medad Pomeroy, a blacksmith who was also buried in the Bridge Street Cemetery. Medard Pomeroy was a blacksmith and gunsmith who came to Northampton in 1659 from Windsor, Connecticut. He served as town clerk, magistrate, selectman, deputy to the General Court and town treasurer. Medard Pomeroy served under Capt. William Turner in the King Philip's War.

Also at the Bridge Street Cemetery is the Pomeroy Anvil memorial. The Pomeroy Anvil is symbolic of the Pomeroy family in North America. First given to Medad Pomeroy by the town of Northampton, Massachusetts in 1660, it was passed down through many generations of Pomeroy blacksmiths and gunsmiths. The original Pomeroy Anvil is currently housed at the Historic Northampton Museum.

Save the date, May 26, 2024, Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery. The 2024 Memorial Day Services will be a memorable event as it will be an America250 event. Be part of history, as we celebrate and honor the memory of those who contributed to American Revolution which led to the American Republic and the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today. The American250 event will supplement the commemoration of the sacrifice of the four lost towns and of the many veterans interred in Quabbin Park Cemetery.

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Pomeroy Anvil Trail: About the Trail – American Pomeroy's



Celia J. Slozak

Celia J. Slozak died on October 28, 2023, one day past her 95th birthday. She was a lifelong resident of Ware, Massachusetts. Long-time members of the Friends of Quabbin will remember her helping to send out the newsletter and

helping cater the annual meeting and Holiday Party. FOQ presented her with an award of recognition for her outstanding service.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

Continued from page 1

Mary's elementary school education was at a local school her parents had started so that girls would receive the same education as boys. Mary and two sisters, Luna and Aurora Borealis, attended Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York where the emphasis was not only on higher learning but modern social reform in gender roles, education and hygiene. Mary studied at seminary and briefly taught school in Minetto, New York to earn enough money to strive for her real goal. She departed from the norms of the time to attend Syracuse, New York Medical School for three years where she was awarded a degree enabling her to practice medicine in 1855, one of the first women to do so in the U.S.

Shortly after she graduated, Walker married one of her classmates, Albert Miller, but refused to sacrifice her progressive views on marriage. She did not change her last name for a name is "as dear to her as a man's is to him," she wore trousers with a dress coat over them and refused to say "obey" in the vows. Mary and Albert established a medical practice in Rome, New York aptly named "Miller and Walker, Physicians." However, the practice only lasted four years when Mary discovered that Albert was unfaithful to her. She threw Albert out and demanded a divorce, something hard to acquire in the 19th century. A woman had to prove a man's adultery, often difficult to do, and in New York, there was a five-year waiting period for a divorce to be carried out. In the 19th century, most women had to live with a husband's unfaithfulness, and Miller suggested the same. But Walker vowed she "would never [be] with a man that was so vile as to make such a proposition to a wife, and that people who thought her so happy knew little of her wretchedness." Miller died shortly after their divorce in 1865; history does not provide specific details of his death.

In 1861, she attempted to join the Union Army as a surgeon at the outbreak of the Civil War but was denied because she was a woman. Instead, she volunteered in the Union Army. At first she was only allowed to be a nurse, serving at the Battle of Bull Run and at the Washington, D.C. Patent Office Hospital where she organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded. In 1862 she moved to Virginia to treat the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. She requested employment as a spy but was denied. In 1863 her medical credentials were finally accepted. She moved to Tennessee and was appointed as a War Department surgeon. She was the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army. She wore men's clothes during her work, insisting that she wear clothes she felt appropriate. She often crossed enemy lines to treat wounded civilians on the other side. In April, 1864, she was captured by the South and held as a prisoner-of-war in Castle Thunder prison camp. The Commandant over the prison from October 1862 until February 1864, George W. Alexander, earned a reputation for brutality and was subjected to investigation in 1863 by the Confederate House of Representatives. Walker and other Union doctors were eventually exchanged in a prisoner-of-war swap for Confederate medical officers.

According to the National Library of Medicine, sources say Walker had been captured intentionally so she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support the claim. After her release, she returned to duties and was assigned as medical director at a hospital for women prisoners

in Kentucky. Her imprisonment caused damage to her eye and prevented her from ever performing surgery afterward. After the war, Walker was awarded a disability pension. She was given \$8.50 a month in 1865 (\$160.48 in today's dollars) that was raised to \$20 per month in 1899 (\$377.60 today).

At that time (1865), she also sought a retroactive brevet or commission to validate her service. President Andrew Johnson directed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to study the issue and he solicited an opinion from the Army's Judge Advocate General who determined there was no precedent for commissioning a female, but that a "commendatory Acknowledgement" could be issued. Johnson then personally awarded the Medal of Honor as an alternative on November 11, 1865. In 1916, due to many retroactive requests for non-combat awards of the Medal of Honor, the services began tightening regulations for the award. In 1917, many names were removed from the list of Medal of Honor awardees including Mary Walker and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, both considered ineligible because 1862, 1864, and 1904 laws required recipients to be officers or enlisted service members. The Honor Board further discriminated against Walker because they declined to revoke the medal from two other contract surgeons who were ineligible but revoked Walker's. Mary Walker felt that she had been justly awarded the Medal for entering enemy territory to care for suffering inhabitants when no man had the courage to do so; she did not surrender the Medal.

After the war, Mary Walker became a writer and lecturer on health care, temperance, women's rights and dress reform for women. She was frequently arrested for wearing men's clothes, insisted on wearing "task appropriate" clothes and wrote two books discussing women's rights and dress. When questioned about her clothes, she once responded "I don't wear men's clothes, I wear my own clothes." Walker insisted on dressing for health purposes, known then as "rational dress." In 1871, she wrote "The greatest sorrows from which women suffer today are those physical, moral, and mental ones, that are caused by their unhygienic manner of dressing!" Throughout her life, she was taunted, chased, and arrested for her dress. From childhood, she experimented with practical women's dress, trying various layers and lengths. By 1861, she



Castle Thunder prison camp, Richmond, Virginia, 1865

had settled on trousers with suspenders under a knee-length dress with tight waist and full skirt, not exactly ultra radical by today's standards but very radical by that day's standard (see the standard dress for playing croquet).



Common recreational dress of the 1860s painted by Winslow Homer.

Mary Walker, c. 1870



Walker was a member of the Central Woman's Suffrage Bureau in Washington, D.C. and solicited funds to endow a chair for a female professor at Howard University medical school. Howard is a federally chartered historically black research university. In 1871, she attempted to register to vote but was turned away. She argued that the U.S. Constitution and many state constitutions already permitted women voting and Congress only needed to pass enabling legislation. The suffrage movement adopted this position initially but after several fruitless years began to seek a Constitutional Amendment.



Mary Walker, c. 1911

Walker wrote a book in 1907, "Crowning Constitutional Argument," arguing her position, and she testified before committees of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1912 and 1914. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920. Mary Walker had died on February 21, 1919, never seeing the fruits of her effort on suffrage.



1982 Dr. Mary Walker stamp

Only since World War II have we realized the enormous contribution she made to women. During WWII, a Liberty ship was named the SS Mary Walker. In 1982, the U.S. Postal Service issued a twenty-cent stamp in her honor on the anniversary of her birth. The medical facilities at SUNY Oswego are named in her honor. There is a U.S. Army Reserve center named for her in Walker, Michigan. The Fort Irwin National Training Center in California has a Mary Walker Clinic. The Mary E. Walker House is a thirty-bed transitional residence run by the

Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center for homeless women veterans. In 2012, the town of Oswego installed a bronze statue in front of town hall in her memory. Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, named for a Confederate soldier, was renamed Fort Walker in 2023; it is the first military installation to be named for a woman. And in April 2024, the U.S. will release a quarter as part of the American Women series with her likeness on it as the only woman still to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor.

While these are the more widely known instances of Mary Walker's efforts to achieve fairness for women, there are even more and they are local to our area. The following article by J.R. Greene presents them.

A final word: as you look at your children and grandchildren, consider that the rights and freedoms they enjoy and may be fighting to expand were possible only because of extraordinary women like Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. And as they think about their future, they should remember that Mary Walker's story serves as an excellent reminder to them to pursue their dreams and what they believe in. The difficulties may seem insurmountable, but the personal rewards for them and especially for those that follow them will be worth it. And, as we all think about our role in the future for human rights, women's rights, voting rights and more, remember her steadfastness in those causes.

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Dr. Mary Walker on a New U.S. Quarter; Her Quabbin Connection

by J.R. Greene



Dr. Mary E. Walker (1832–1919) will be the focus of the coin collecting world this coming spring, when the U.S. Mint issues a quarter depicting her in the current Noted American Women series. A winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor for her exploits during the Civil War, she was also a noted dress reformer and advocate for women's suffrage. This article will focus upon her visits to her relatives in Greenwich, one of the towns destroyed for the Quabbin Reservoir.

Mary's father, Alvah Walker, was born in Hardwick, Massachusetts, and married Vesta Whitcomb of Greenwich. They moved to Oswego, New York, where he ran a farm, worked as a carpenter, and invented a "water elevator," which he patented in 1868.

The Walkers had seven children. The fifth daughter, Mary, was born in 1832. She studied at a seminary for two years, briefly taught school, then attended Syracuse (New York) Medical School for three years. Mary was awarded a degree enabling her to practice medicine, being among the first women to do so in the U.S.

Shortly afterward, she married Dr. Albert Miller, of Rome, New York, and they practiced medicine together for a few years. The couple separated in 1859, but did not formally divorce until 1868. When the “Bloomer” costume for women (a skirt over pants) appeared in the 1850s, Mary permanently adopted that form of dress.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Dr. Walker volunteered in hospitals in Washington, D.C., and at field hospitals in Virginia. In 1863, she was appointed an assistant army surgeon, and was captured by the Confederates in 1864. After her release from a rebel prison, she resumed her position until the war's end in 1865.

Walker wrote articles, a book (“Hit”), and lectured around the country in favor of dress reform and women's suffrage. She was arrested several times for her appearance. Along with her eccentric behavior, she turned off many prominent suffragettes, but Susan B. Anthony respected her.

Dr. Mary Walker's first recorded visit to Greenwich was in 1878. She stayed with friends and relatives for a few weeks while lecturing at the Spiritualist camp meetings at Lake Pleasant, in Montague, Massachusetts. A week after her arrival in Greenwich, she spoke at a temperance picnic at Bailey's Grove in Greenwich. She was reported to have made a “characteristic and vigorous effort” in her address there.

Walker's second address, “Have Christian Women All of Their Rights?” reportedly gave “staid old Greenwich” a “sensation.” Many members of the “attentive and respectful” audience were “cheering” during it, and commented favorably about it, but none of it was quoted in the press account!

Dr. Walker inherited the family farm in Oswego, New York in 1890, and spent most of the rest of her life there. In February, 1895, she arrived in Greenwich to claim control of the estate of her late aunt Mary. Dr. Walker settled into the home of her surviving aunt, Vashti, and petitioned the county court to be named Vashti's guardian. Dr. Walker ordered Henry Woods, the executor of aunt Mary's estate, to “give up deeds, bonds, etc. belonging to the estate,” which he refused to do.

When the court hearing on the matter was held in Amherst that March, “a crowd was on hand to see the woman in men's attire.” They were disappointed when the case was postponed due to a technical error. Dr. Walker waited in a shoe store to

catch a train out of town. This caused Amherst College students to “nearly clean out the stock” of shoestrings there in order to get a look at her.

Henry Woods reported that Dr. Walker wouldn't drink the milk at Vashti's house because “they” were putting arsenic in it to get rid of her. He also stated that she told one man that “masked men were seeking to waylay her.” Woods accused her of trying to steal all of the best silver, among other household goods.

Woods, and cousin William H. Walker (noted Greenwich Village mill owner) managed to keep Vashti's securities away from the doctor, and got Vashti to stay with another relative. When the will was probated in April, the estate went to Vashti as the legatee, and Dr. Walker lost her petition to be Vashti's guardian.

Undaunted by this setback, Dr. Walker filed a second petition, seeking to get Lysander Thurston, of Enfield, named as Vashti's guardian. Henry Woods and William H. Walker countered with a petition to have the latter named as Vashti's guardian. At the hearing on this petition in May, Dr. Walker claimed that there was a “conspiracy” to turn Vashti's property over to the Greenwich Congregational Church. She shook her finger at Henry Woods, and “made some remarks concerning her opinion of his veracity.” This caused her lawyer, S.S. Taft, to become impatient with her, much to the amusement of the audience.

On May 18, Dr. Walker's petition was denied. She did not take this well, complaining to newspapermen that her aunt was being “hypnotized,” by Henry Woods. She tried another petition in September to have her aunt Mary's will tossed out, and a new guardian appointed for her aunt Vashti. During that hearing, she cross questioned the judge when he would not allow her to submit some papers as evidence. He dismissed her case, which caused Dr. Walker to return to her home in New York.

A couple of months later, Vashti Walker died, and Dr. Walker returned to Greenwich in time for the funeral. She petitioned to be named executor of the estate, and won the title, in spite of objections by some of the relatives. She had to split the estate with a dozen other relatives, and see much of it (to her dismay) go to the Greenwich Congregational Church. Over the next two years, Dr. Walker lost two more petitions to have Vashti's will changed, including a hearing before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

William H. Walker sent his daughter Laura to Mt. Holyoke College, but refused to let her study to become a doctor, fearing that she would end up becoming like cousin Mary!

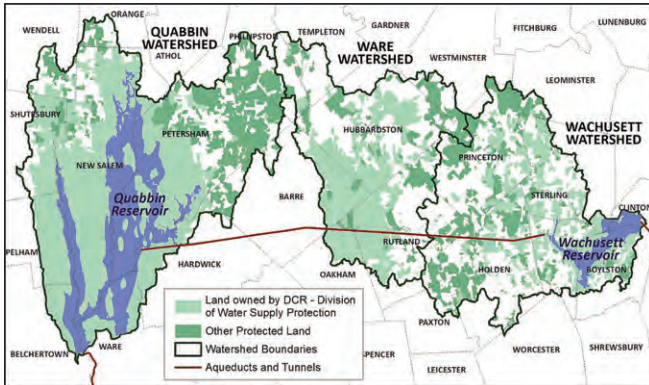
The government revoked Dr. Walker's Medal of Honor in 1917, two years before her death, but she refused to return it. The award was reinstated in 1977, five years before she was honored on a commemorative postage stamp.



Interpretive Services Report

December 2023

by Maria Beiter-Tucker



Quabbin, Ware and Wachusett Watersheds in north-central Massachusetts. MWRA

This fall the Interpretive Services staff began a new focus by providing programming in the Ware River Watershed. Often overlooked, the Ware River watershed is an important piece of the drinking water supply for Greater Boston and the Chicopee Valley. Located between the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, this is the land and water which drain to the MWRA diversion facility on the Ware River in Barre and travels to either the Quabbin or Wachusett Reservoir through the Quabbin aqueduct.

Developed in conjunction with the Swift River Valley, approximately 23,000 acres of land were taken by the state to protect the watershed area. West Rutland Village, Coldbrook Springs in Oakham and White Valley in Barre were cleared of all farms, factories and homes, along with Rutland State Prison. In all, 350 people lost their homes and businesses to the project in the Ware River watershed.

Like the other DCR Division of Water Supply Protection properties, the Ware River Watershed has a public access plan which is reviewed and revised every ten years. The public access plans outline control and monitoring systems used to mitigate possible negative impacts from public access activities on these DCR-DWSP managed lands. The newest access plan for Ware River was approved in November 2023 and can be accessed on the DCR-DWSP website here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ware-river->

[watershed-public-access-management-plan-update-2023/download](#)

Unlike the protected lands surrounding the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, the purpose of protecting the Ware River Watershed area isn't immediately clear.

Approximately 23,000 acres of land, acquired by the State of Massachusetts in conjunction with the more famous work in the Swift River Valley to create Quabbin Reservoir, were taken to protect the watershed area of the Ware River Diversion Facility.

The Ware River watershed is the location of two major pieces of infrastructure for the project. In 1928, construction began on the first half of the Quabbin aqueduct, known as the Wachusett-Coldbrook Tunnel. This 12.5-mile-long tunnel connected the Ware River to the Wachusett Reservoir and was blasted through solid rock at a depth of 200 feet. At the same time the Ware River Intake building (known officially as the Roger Loneragan Intake Works and unofficially as Shaft 8) was constructed on the south side of Route 122 about four miles east of Barre center. The two projects were completed by 1931 and were promptly used to send water from the Ware River to the Wachusett Reservoir. Their completion was fortuitous as a prolonged drought had reduced Wachusett's water supply to less than 20 percent of capacity. The water diverted from the Ware River raised the reservoir level to acceptable levels.

The Intake Works at Shaft No. 8 were an engineering marvel when it was constructed. Designed as a siphon system, river water is drawn from above the diversion dam into the intake works through six siphon spillways. From the spillways the water enters the valve pit where four butterfly valves are mounted to regulate the amount of water entering the shaft. The large metered valve has a capacity of 620 million gallons daily, while each of the three unmetred valves has a capacity of slightly less than 600 million gallons a day. The total capacity



Aerial photo of Shaft 8 intake. DCR

is slightly less than 2.4 billion gallons daily. Centrifugal force maintains a smooth discharge of water from the valves around the circumference of the shaft. The water can then be gravity-fed through the aqueduct in either direction. While water from the Ware River can physically be diverted either to the Quabbin or the Wachusett Reservoir, the likelihood of a diversion to Wachusett Reservoir is very low.

Diversion of water from the Ware River is subject to the following legal restrictions:

- No water may be diverted from the Ware River on any day when the natural flow of the river is less than eighty-five million gallons
- A total of eighty-five million gallons of water must be released down the Ware River on each day during which diversion takes place
- No diversion shall take place during the period between May 31 and December 1 in any year unless such diversion is first approved by the State Department of Public Health

An additional restriction, under a 1926 decision of the U.S. War Department, states that no diversion shall take place during the period between June 15 and October 15 of any year.

Check out our list of winter presentations. They will be offered at the Visitor Center (seating will be limited to 45 people by reservation) as well as over Zoom. To join our email list, please contact QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.

The annual Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 26 from 11AM-12PM. If your family has a direct connection to one of the for dis-established towns we would like to hear from you to possibly lay a wreath at one of the town memorials that day.

Positive Developments at Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Paul Godfrey

This fall has seen more major improvements in Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC). Leading the effort, as always, Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux has been discussing efforts to recognize Revolutionary War patriots interred at QPC with a prominent memorial with several interest groups. This development resulted from his efforts that began in 2017 to reverse years of neglect in the cemetery. Beginning with convincing the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) that FOQ could complement and improve their efforts by cleaning stones, DCR developed procedures to grant permission for cleaning and went much further by bringing their databases of cemetery locations up to standards and incorporating geographic information technology to locate the stones. That cooperation has only gotten better, and along the way, has attracted other groups to join in, with supervision provided by FOQ. In the last newsletter, we described efforts by the Oakham Boy Scouts to clean veterans' headstones and by the Massachusetts Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to clean Revolutionary War veterans headstones. And many individuals have requested permission from DCR and either cleaned or asked FOQ to clean family memorials.

Efforts continue. As a result of discussions with the DAR and SAR, they expressed an interest in making the QPC a special Massachusetts focus for the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War in 2026 and to begin with the Memorial Day Celebration in 2024. To highlight that, a special memorial for the Revolutionary War veterans interred at QPC would be placed near the Civil War Memorial. Efforts began in the DAR/SAR and FOQ to find funds for the memorial. Gene talked with Senator Ann Gobi during the ceremony renaming the Visitors Center as the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center. He spoke both about cleaning existing plaques on many of the memorials in QPC including the Civil War Statue, Honor Roll plaque, James Madison Stone plaque and Dana Honor Roll plaque and about a Revolutionary War Memorial. When Anne left the State Senate, she passed along the requests to Senator



Ceremony participants: Stuart Beckley, Joshua Kusnierz, Paul Godfrey, Aaron Saunders, Gene Theroux, Jacob Oliveira and Peg Louraine.

Jake Oliveira. Gene also spoke with the Board of the New Salem Academy about the Revolutionary War Memorial. Some of those conversations have come to fruition.

Senator Oliveira introduced a bill earmarking \$5,000 for a plaque commemorating the American Revolutionary War veterans in the fiscal 2024 budget that passed in October. A formal presentation of the check was made at the Quabbin Park Cemetery on October 23rd. Participating in the ceremony were State Senator Jacob Oliveira, State Representative Aaron Saunders, FOQ President Gene Theroux, FOQ Treasurer Paul Godfrey, Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Ware Selectboard Vice Chair Joshua Kusnierz, and Peg Louraine, Belchertown Selectboard. Efforts are now underway to have the memorial plaque and granite slab prepared and installed by Memorial Day and for the state funds to be transferred to FOQ. DCR has checked and confirmed the names of the veterans to be on the memorial and selected a prime location. The schedule is tight, but we are hopeful that Memorial Day will find a Revolutionary War Memorial in place.

Meanwhile, additional efforts were proceeding. The Board of the New Salem Academy met and formally voted to contribute \$2,000 toward the memorial. At the Holiday Party on December 3rd, Dan Hammock, representing the New Salem School Board, officially presented FOQ with the \$2,000 check.



Dan Hammock, New Salem Academy, presenting award to Gene Theroux, FOQ.



Denise Kindschi Gosselin, DAR Regent (l) and Dr. Cher Nicholas, DAR America 250 Chair with the DAR medallion (r)

The Betty Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were in attendance. Representing the DAR were Regent Denise Kindschi Gosselin and Dr. Cher Nicholas who is the chair for the Betty Allen DAR Chapter for America250. Cher

Nicholas brought an example of the DAR Revolutionary War Patriot medallion. This DAR medallion will be placed at the gravesites of those Patriots whose descendants are members of the DAR. Mark the date of May 26, 2024, to attend the Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day Services.

While the contributions to date have been substantial and impressive, it seems that the total cost of the memorial will be much more (a final estimate is not yet available but is likely to be \$10,000 or more). The Friends of Quabbin is committed to seeing this to fruition, as well as the existing plaques, but additional help would be greatly appreciated.

Annual Holiday Party

by Paul Godfrey



As customary in early December, three groups: Friends of Quabbin, Tuesday Tea and Quabbin DCR coordinate to put on the annual Holiday Party. This year's fell on December 3rd. Attendance was more modest than last year, but interaction was spirited and joyful. The stuffed animals around the ceiling of the Visit or Center were appropriately costumed in holiday hats. We even welcomed a little bit of international flavor; Peterson Faina, a native of Madagascar, currently a postdoctoral student at Columbia University and long-time colleague of Laurie Godfrey came with the Godfreys.

There were multiple themes. Introduced by FOQ President, Gene Theroux, a strong theme was provided by the beautiful slide and video show assembled by



Mark Lindhult of images provided by Mark, Anne Ely and Kevin Kopchynski. Les Campbell would have been proud of those who follow in his footsteps.

There was a presentation of an award to support a memorial stone in Quabbin Park Cemetery from the New Salem Academy by Dan Hammock (described elsewhere in this newsletter). Denise Gosselin and Cher Nicholas, representing DAR, spoke about the upcoming 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the medallions DAR will place on the graves of Revolutionary War patriots buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery for the upcoming Memorial Day. Also, there was a moving reading by Michelle Ryan of *Here Was Home* (also described on page 10 in this newsletter).



Ample food was available, some from a deli and some brought by partyers and made from the New Quabbin Cookbook.

And then, what we were all waiting for, the traditional cake. This year our

guests from the DAR, Denise Gosselin and Cher Nicholas, did the honors of cutting the cake. It was then we realized that an appropriate cutting and serving utensil was not at hand, so a plastic knife had to suffice. It did! And cake was distributed to all who wanted. As usual, it was sweetly scrumptious.

If you couldn't make it this year, please keep it in mind for next year. It will be a different mix of fun and always the cake. Your sweet tooth will thank you.





[Ed. Note] Former resident of North Dana, Swift River Valley, Massachusetts, Norman "Pete" Tandy wrote a letter in 1995 to the former Metropolitan District Commission sharing his hopes for Quabbin's future.

He read the letter for the cassette and CD, "Here Was Home," created by Friends of Quabbin. Tandy's words inspired the title of the cassette/CD. His daughter, Michelle Ryan, read his moving words at the 2023 Holiday Party and provided them for the newsletter. They seem just as appropriate now as nearly three decades ago.

Here Was Home

by Norman "Pete" Tandy 1995

At least painful as it was, our banishment has served to keep our memories inviolate, preserved as flies in amber. However, it was this is how it will unchangeable and forever be. That at least major portions of the Quabbin watershed have been allowed to flourish as a great reservoir, not just of water, but of a complex interrelationship of undisturbed ecosystems, is a healing epitaph for the wrenching dislocations of the past. I am content with the bargain.

The ultimate insult, the final irony would be if this magnificent preserve should ever fall prey to pressure groups or political expediency and be opened up to any use inconsistent with its continuing existence as a place of sanctuary against turmoil and the pollution of the outside world. In such continuance is the only real and fitting memorial for all the rude uprootings of the past. I find after all these years, there lives within me still some special sense that here, in this sweetwater valley, here was home.

Meetings & Events

Winter Presentations Offered by the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area. Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system—(413) 323-7221—provides 24-hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access. You can also reach the Visitor Center by email at QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Our presentations will be offered in-person and over Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and chose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov, or visit

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir>

All ages are welcome. Please use the web address to access registration information.

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 2–3PM

Construction of the Winsor Dam

Quabbin Reservoir is so noted for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike. Join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn

more about how the dam and the dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8f91f492722445838f28632f3729a201>

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 2–3PM

Secrets Beneath the Trees: Exploring the Quabbin's Hidden Historical Landscape with Lidar

Imagine if the Quabbin Reservoir had no trees! Lidar (short for Light Detection and Ranging) is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree canopy to model the surface of the earth. Join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar to map the traces of historical settlements, like stone walls and road cuts—and you'll discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dad557bb7ec14036ba7f39b0a75ef067>

Sunday, February 4, 2024, 2–3PM

Project Mishoon: Underwater Treasures of the Nipmuc

A recreational diver exploring the dark waters of Lake Quinsigamond happened upon a dugout canoe. For nearly 400 years, this canoe and others found nearby have rested quietly in the lake's silty bottom awaiting the return of their Indigenous paddlers. Not until 2001 would Nipmuc descendants return to them and become the first Indigenous community in Massachusetts history to secure an archaeological reconnaissance permit from the Commonwealth's Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources. Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band member and Project Mishoon Director, Cheryl Stedtler shares the history of the project and the exciting new directions that the project is headed.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/77afb15f057542e191e870d306b554b9>

Sunday February 25, 2–3PM

Understanding Watershed Forestry Management

Have you ever wondered why trees are harvested on protected

watershed land and why recently harvested areas look the way they do? Curious how active management of a forest can increase diversity and maintain forest health? Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested.

Register here: <http://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1e036a6da28d4069ae447843ad8fb649>

Sunday March 3, 2–3PM

Massachusetts Predators of the Past and Present

Some predators, like wolves and mountain lions, have not had an established population in Massachusetts since the mid-1800s. Other predators, like coyotes, black bears, and bobcats, can now be commonly found across the state. Join this talk with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to learn more about the presence of mammalian predators in the Commonwealth and how to coexist with today's wildlife.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/37ca1a11be3844f7ad360a32830b8618>

Sunday, March 10, 2–3PM

Aquatic Invasives in the Watersheds: Protecting Quabbin's Water Supply, Fisheries and Recreation

In 2010 DCR Quabbin instituted a boat seal program to help protect the reservoir against aquatic invasive species (AIS) in reaction to news surrounding zebra mussels. Now in its 14th year, the DCR AIS Program also includes annual surveys and educational opportunities to help monitor watershed health and increase awareness surrounding AIS. Join DCR Aquatic Biologists Taylor Gosselin and Shasten Sherwell as they discuss what makes a species invasive, impacts AIS have on water quality and recreation, and DCR's management and preventative efforts.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a259c2ec8de241c78c8916378c405f17>

Sunday, March 17, 2–3PM

Be a Good Neighbor—Don't Kidnap Wildlife! or How to help our wild friends without unintentionally causing harm

Often in spring and summer, well-intentioned people pick up wildlife they believe to be “abandoned,” but this is not the always case and the animal is at greater risk being taken in by humans than being left alone. Learn what is normal behavior for common wildlife and when you should or should not intervene.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8e8d598f902a41e99ea84f2f472288e5>

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11AM–1PM

Exploring the Ware River Watershed—group hike near Rutland State Park

4.4 miles, Moderate (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland, MA

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmffyz7NFJr7>

Join us for a 4.4-mile lollipop loop hike in the Ware River

Watershed. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 ft. in elevation. We will all meet at the MCRT parking area located on Route 122 in the town of Rutland. The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Visit the following website for additional information on the route:

<https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/617d9af47ff44b27bc13a3c899c6996c>

Saturday, March 2, 10AM–1PM

Explore the Road to Dana Common

3.6 miles, Moderate

<https://goo.gl/maps/d4RxN91vsyHUzhEE6>

Along the old road to Dana Common are foundations, walls and trees that tell the story of the towns now long gone. Join us on this 1.8 mile (3.6 round trip) hike to Dana Common and discover what life was like in the Quabbin Valley and how the landscape has changed since the reservoir was built 84 years ago. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and a snack. We will meet at Gate 40 on Rt 32A in Petersham. Dogs are not allowed.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1c79a368f454d7fa901df32b084e094>

Sunday, March 31, 11AM–1PM

Rutland Prison Camp

Easy, uneven ground, Rutland Prison Camp, main parking lot, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland, MA 01543
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/J1iuV7QGB3rEAbxJ9>

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital—sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was! Join DCR staff as we explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment. Ticks may be active so protection is advised.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fa8d3c217fd347dcab85747d5a39a6a1>

Quabbin Photo Group

The **Quabbin Photo Group** (QPG) will be meeting via Zoom for December 18, January 22 and February 26 to avoid the difficulties of winter weather. There will be a special guest lecture on February 26 by Silvana Della on **The Power of Black & White** (www.silvanadellacamera.com). The March 25 meeting will be hybrid, so those who can't attend in person may still join via Zoom by contacting Gail Platz at gspqpg@gmail.com. The in-person meeting will begin at 7:00PM for refreshments with the meeting starting at 7:30 at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown, MA. 01007.

Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

www.pvphotoartists.org

Meeting Schedule: January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25
PVPA is still meeting via Zoom at 7:00PM on the last Thursday of the month.

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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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