

CONTENTS

volume 9, number 2 • September-December 2024

This issue features photos and art, nature, personalities, history, event listings, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts.



Harvest time yields a basketful of carrots.
photo © by Debra Ellis

ON THE FRONT COVER
Morning Discoveries at Quabbin
a photograph by Sue Cloutier

Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts 4

goose whisperer communicates with individual geese . . . 6

Quabbin deer hunt scheduled 9

area features diverse mushrooms 10

bioregion hosts many rivers and streams 12

Hurricane of 1938 constituted major disaster 16

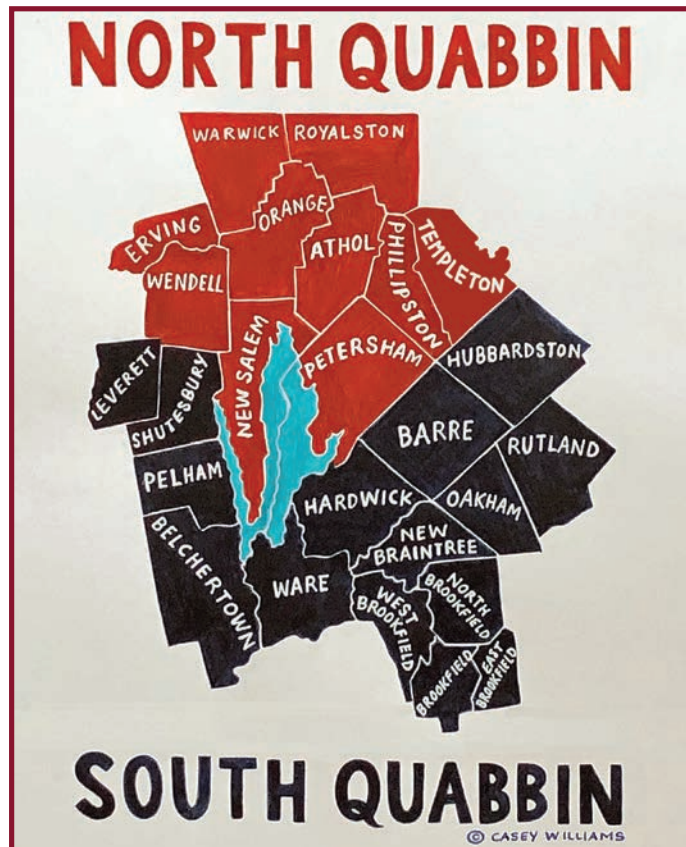
art and photo show celebrated 25th issue of magazine 18

region’s sculptors participate in North Shore show 19

meaning of “moving house” changes over centuries . . . 20

railroad stations remembered 22

continued on next page



CONTENTS

continued from previous page

bill of sale sanctioned ownership of teenage girl.	25
manufacturing encouraged growth of North Brookfield. . .	26
many back-to-landers gravitated to Town of Wendell . . .	28
cookbook and children's book reviewed	34
from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin poets.	36
restaurants present contrasting menus.	38
walking provides health benefits	58
Nature's Nuances	68
Uniquely Quabbin listings	73

about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

Quabbin region, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty-five Quabbin region towns. Athol Historical Society, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau collaborate to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area.

Advertisers support *Uniquely Quabbin* along with earmarked donations made to Athol Historical Society, which will send a letter acknowledging a tax deductible gift. The International Music and Art Foundation provided a seed grant to support the magazine and evolving consortium of Quabbin region museums, historical societies, and arts centers.

**Please consider donating to
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a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you.

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Erving, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Rutland, Shutesbury, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2024. The generous support from those councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

Grants, advertisers, and donations keep the magazine going. We always appreciate donations that can be made by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331 or by going to uniquelyquabbin.com and choosing the donate button or by scanning the QR code you will find in this magazine.

I want to thank our advertisers who play such a big role in the success of this magazine. An ever-growing list of businesses and organizations continuously support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there and support them as they support us.

I want to thank everyone who participated in and attended the celebration of our twenty-fifth issue of the magazine at Athol Public Library in May. Despite the threat of thunderstorms, and it *DID* thunder, we were thrilled with all who came out to attend an evening filled with incredibly beautiful displays from our local talent in the Quabbin region, delightful music, and delicious food shared with friends old and new.

I especially want to thank Jean Shaughnessy and Robin Shtulman from the Athol Public Library for all their help in making that celebratory event come together. There wasn't a question asked or an item we needed that they didn't help us with. They are wonderful!

Enjoy this issue as you slow down and settle into fall. Pick an event from the calendar of events to go to, get lost in that article that really grabs your attention, and delight in the photos and artwork of the artists and photographers you may have seen at the art show.

Happy reading!

Debra Ellis

Athol Historical Society

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

As writers, artists, photographers, and the editorial board conceived of our contributions to the September 2024 edition of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, we imagined the region's autumn making its way to winter.

We basked in the excitement of having celebrated our twenty-fifth edition in May 2024 at the opening in Athol Public Library of the exhibition of art and photography from contributors to the magazine. We mingled with readers and advertisers from throughout the Quabbin region with gratitude for the unique regional community we call home.

This issue of the magazine includes articles that sojourn with history, nature, and culture along with enhancing photographs and art all from our diverse group of contributors.

I take joy in our contributors' willingness to respond to requests for specific images or information as the content develops for each issue. We hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

Uniquely Quabbin magazine



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**FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN
BEGINNING ON PAGE 73**

Uniquely Quabbin

September-December 2024 • Vol 9, #2 • ISSN 2472-081X

published at Athol, Massachusetts

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is published three times a year
by Haley's in January-April, May-August, and
September-December.

Free

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Front cover photo by Sue Cloutier.

Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright. *Uniquely Quabbin* logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

Copy proofed by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri and Richard Bruno.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of
Athol Historical Society • Haley's Publishing
North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and
Visitors Bureau

with an initial grant from

International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com or 488 South Main Street, Athol 01331 with proposals to contribute to *UQ* or for letters to the editor.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serves the twenty-five communities of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin.

“I got what I wanted but not what I expected.”

by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

Commons distinguish many New England towns and cities. I decided to drive from my home in Orange to see the West Brookfield Town Common. My six-year old

granddaughter had a swimming lesson in nearby New Braintree, so I coordinated the drive to chauffeur her and take in the West Brookfield space.

Off we went to the swimming lesson. We heard a distant rumbling when we arrived at the outdoor pool, and a light drizzle fell. The lesson went on after a slight delay, and when we left, the sky started to darken as we made our way to the car.

We were just seventeen minutes from the common in West Brookfield.

Then came the rains. Windshield wipers going full speed and once dodging a few trash cans blown onto the road, I slowly followed the GPS until I saw a blue-blinking police car at a closed road: first downed tree.

Along with a few other cars, I turned around and retraced our way along a road or two through countryside, beautiful even in the rain. Finally, we arrived at the West Brookfield common, a large space with an open green and benches, fountain, ballpark, and gazebo for concerts. Rain poured down as I drove around observing grand old homes surrounding the common, parking briefly to lower my car window quickly and take a picture of the active fountain.

In olden days— say, the eighteenth century—townspeople owned a central area in common, often by a meetinghouse, like the

continued on page 67



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Breakfast

text and painting in watercolors by Donna Eaton



Breakfast
watercolor on paper

While visiting a local bookstore or coffee shop, I created the painting *Breakfast*. I enjoy visiting the Montague Book Mill, where I sketch and see all around me.

In a breakfast nook, individuals gather to visit and catch up. Some sit alone reading a book or using time to read emails from their computers.

I see beautiful, big, bright windows sending gorgeous light into the rooms. Light makes the painting sing.

While designing *Breakfast*, I enjoyed adding whimsical colors by using bright books and lanterns hung to carry the eye. Flowers add joy. I have sometimes seen animals in bookstores, so I added the pups.

Breakfast seemed the perfect title. Each of us starts our day at breakfast in a spot where we may plan our day.

I intended to create a cozy place where someone feels the warmth and love of a busy household.

May everyone discover their morning ritual.

New Salam watercolorist Donna Eaton favors abstraction. A member of the New England Watercolor Society, she follows her artistic sense in designing and depicting a variety of subjects.

goose whisperer communicates with individual Canada geese

by Ellen Woodbury



David Gates, the goose whisperer, summons Canada geese near Silver Lake in Athol.

photo © by Tracy Worden

Spring and fall, we hear their honking calls before we see them flying in the familiar V formation. Canada geese signal the change of seasons. Area waterways including Athol's Silver Lake, Shutesbury's Lake Wyola, Belchertown's Arcadia Lake, Quabbin Reservoir, Millers River, and Connecticut River, among many others, provide home for generations of geese who breed, raise their young, and prepare for the flight south in the fall.

David Gates, aka Bird Man, Goose Guy, and the Goose Whisperer, has walked around Silver Lake almost daily since moving to Athol in 2017 and has learned to identify individual

geese. "There's Number 5," he said, referring to the name given during banding by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MassWildlife.

"And there's Honky Boy and Pretty Girl," Gates continued.

As a child, Gates learned about birds from his Meme and Aunt Eileen and remembers being captivated by a blue-and-gold macaw in a W. T. Grant store. His love of birds grew into his having a cockatiel, Apollo, and a green conure, Paco.

He developed his love of birds as he worked for three years in Birds on Safari, a Florida parrot store. He has had Merlin, a Congo African grey parrot, for thirty years. He became involved with Canada geese in 2019 when he untangled fishing line from the leg of a young goose as its parents watched helplessly. From then on, those parents trusted Gates.

Another time, Gates rescued a baby goose by unwrapping fishing line and removing a hook from its foot. Since then, he has walked around Silver Lake and picked up miles of broken and discarded fishing line and tackle. Some fishing spots provide trash cans for throwing away the line, and anyone who

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From the shores of Silver Lake, David Gates retrieves fishing line, lures, and hooks that threaten geese.

photo © by David Gates



Migrating Canada geese take flight over reflections of autumn foliage near Quabbin Gate 29.

photo © by Rick Flematti

loves birds and other wildlife can collect the line, hooks, and lead sinkers and throw them away.

Discarded fishing line and tackle pose severe threats to geese and other wildlife. Entanglement and swallowing a line can cause injury, illness, and death. “If everybody does a little, it adds up to a lot,” Gates explained.

For the past twelve years, Gates has recorded goose behaviors in a daily bird diary, including the goose courtship ritual he calls dip and flip, an intricate dance that involves dipping their heads in the water and the male doing a barrel roll. Gates has watched strong family bonds and dedicated parenting of babies, called goslings, that can swim and dive down forty feet one day after birth. “Canada geese make the best parents,” Gates said.

In their first year, babies will make the trip south with their parents, flying up to fifteen hundred miles a day. The family will return together in the spring. Gates also assists MassWildlife with banding young peregrine falcons in two locations. In 2015, he helped establish nesting boxes on the roof of a building at Boston University and has since seen ten clutches of falcon chicks.

Although Silver Lake and other locations post signs admonishing “Do Not Feed the Geese,” the signs do not deter the popular pastime. The right foods make a crucial difference, since the wrong foods can cause health

issues and environmental problems like a build-up of surface algae and bacteria in the water.

What to feed? Choose foods closest to the natural diet such as cracked corn, leafy greens like lettuce, seedless grapes cut in half, blueberries, or cooked rice.

What not to feed? Don’t offer bread, low in nutritional value. Bread can cause health problems. Any processed foods, high in fat and salt, can lead to dependence on human food that can disrupt the natural foraging behaviors.

“It’s important always to give the geese space,” explained Gates. “In an emergency, they need space to

continued on page 60

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A vigilant white-tailed deer buck surveys Quabbin Reservoir surroundings early one autumn morning.

photo © by Dale Monette



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state agency announces December dates for deer hunting at Quabbin Reservoir

by John Burk

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection, DWSP, announced dates and locations for deer hunting at Quabbin Reservoir in 2024.

During the two-week shotgun season in Massachusetts, deer management zones in Pelham, New Salem, and Hardwick will be open from December 2 to December 14 to all hunters with a one-year Quabbin Hunt Access permit. Non-hunting visitors in shotgun season hunt zones should wear blaze orange and be alert for hunters.

Controlled two-day hunts will be held at Prescott Peninsula on December 4 and 5, Quabbin Park on December 9 and 10, and Petersham on December 12 and 13. Participants must have a special access permit, which will be assigned at a lottery on September 17, for sites with controlled hunts.

DWSP implemented an annual deer hunt in 1991 to promote growth of healthy, diverse, and resilient forests that help maintain water quality at Quabbin Reservoir. Prohibition of hunting for more than fifty years caused the Quabbin deer population to reach

an estimated forty to sixty individuals per square mile. Overabundance of deer led to depletion of sapling trees and shrubs as well as reduction of plant diversity. Other effects of high deer densities include spread of illnesses such as Lyme disease, disruption of habitat for migratory songbirds and other wildlife, and increases in collisions with motor vehicles.

After hunters harvested nearly three thousand deer from 1991 to 1996, regeneration of species such as white pine, oak, and hemlock substantially increased. DWSP subsequently shifted goals of the hunt from reduction of deer to maintenance of stable populations at levels compatible with regrowth of forests.

Management zones in Pelham, New Salem, and Hardwick opened to hunters during the entire two-week shotgun season in 2019 and 2020. Hunting began at Quabbin Park in 2023 after prior attempts to protect vegetation with enclosure fences did not succeed.

Find more information, including detailed interactive maps, at mass.gov/info-details/quabbin-reservoir-watershed-hunting-and-trapping

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.



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Quabbin region hosts vast variety of mushrooms

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Foraging for wild foods like mushrooms requires knowledge, caution, and restraint. Uniquely Quabbin magazine does not encourage readers to consume any mushrooms found in the region. Please leave wild things for the wildlife.

In the Quabbin woods, fall rains bring a new and colorful palette of mushrooms. Shades of blue, red, yellow, orange, and black or white mushrooms erupt from their hidden fungal network to produce spores for reproduction. Mushroom diversity inspires artists and writers creating images and stories about fairy circles and magic kingdoms. When walking in the Quabbin region after rain, slow

down and look down. Do not miss the amazing diversity of mushroom shapes and colors.

Mushrooms also have an important role to play in nature, they break down and recycle dead plants and animals releasing nutrients for others to use. More than just recyclers, mushrooms provide an important source of food for many animals. Deer and bear find mushrooms a special fall treat. Salamanders such as red

efts hunt the small insects that congregate around decaying mushrooms.



A red eft hunts near a mushroom.

Red squirrels collect and dry mushroom caps on branches of hemlocks for their winter food supply.

When finding a mushroom you want to name, note where they grow. Are they on soil? Are they on dead or on living things?

When photographing mushrooms for identification, take photos of the underside of the cap. Are there gills or pores? The stem is also important in sorting out an identification. Is the stem shaggy, does it have a bulb at the base, or is there a veil? Also, when the cap is broken, does it stain blue or black? Careful notes and photographs as well as colors of spore prints help with identification.

When a squirrel or other animal eats the cap of mushrooms, it does not kill them. The mycelium network or roots of mushrooms will survive to fruit another year. That hidden network constitutes more than just part of the food chain. It enables communication among many species and even helps lady slipper seeds germinate. Such surprising relationships reveal that the importance of mushrooms goes beyond recycling nutrients and providing food for wildlife.

For armchair exploration of mushrooms, the movie *Fantastic Fungi* is inspiring. If you want to identify mushrooms, the book *Fascinating Fungi of New England* by Lawrence Millman and the following website can help: mushroomexpert.com.

Joining a mushroom club is a great way to learn to ID mushrooms. When you head to the woods this fall, enjoy the beauty and diversity of mushrooms in the Quabbin region.

Experienced nature center director Sue Cloutier specializes in biodiversity and educational programs. She is inventorying living things on her New Salem property.

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a catalogue of Quabbin region mushrooms

compiled by Sue Cloutier



Among Quabbin region mushrooms are, from left, top, Bolete, Laccaria, Amanita muscaria, Black Trumpet, Blue Stain Fungus, Chicken of the Woods, and Coral; center, Dead Man's Fingers, Drayad's Saddle, Golden Spindles, Morel, Netted Stinkhorn, and Puffball; bottom, Swamp Beacon, Turkey Tails, Witches Caps

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Quabbin/Nichewaung bioregion hosts

by Larry Buell

The Quabbin/Nichewaung bioregion hosts many noteworthy rivers and streams including Millers River, Fever Brook, and Spring Brook that all have fascinating stories, particularly from the early days when such streams were used for the so-called white energy of hydro. One of the most majestic of the rivers, the East Branch of the Swift River, flows smack in the middle of the massive Quabbin watershed and overflows with stories.

Swift River flows from its headwaters in Phillipston and meanders through the eastern Quabbin Valley for about six miles to Pottapaug Pond in Petersham—a land history gem—and Quabbin Reservoir. The river's landscape has much pre-European history with traces of Nipmuc villages, trails, and hunting grounds used for nearly twelve thousand years by the earth-based culture of original Indigenous People.

Mary Rowlandson, captured in Lancaster in 1675 during a skirmish of King Phillip's War, wrote in her diary chronicling her captivity "... on February 28,

we came in to a desolute place in the wilderness . . . cold, wet, snowy, hungry, and weary" By some records, Rowlandson's diary counts as the first published book in America by a woman.

Stonework of gristmills and sawmills at Brown's Pond on East Street, Petersham, remains intact and represents many mills in the Quabbin area.

Here's a question: What does the Swift River have to do with 1917 Russian Revolution?

And here's the answer: Diamond Match Company bought up hundreds of acres of local abandoned farmland and took white pine logs to factories along the Connecticut River to manufacture matches. Some matches ended up in Saint Petersburg, Russia, to burn tsarist symbols and the Winter Palace.

Research shows that the tornado of June 9, 1953, started in the Quabbin region, moved over the valley, and for a few seconds became a typhoon—a water-laced tornado—over Connors Pond near the intersection



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noteworthy rivers and streams

of Routes 122 and 32. It scattered fish and pond debris over the hills.

Proclaiming to protect places that people love, the Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations has hundreds of conserved acres in Quabbin Valley with miles of well-maintained trails and vistas. The Trustees came to Petersham because the late John Fiske, a New York City businessman with strong family ties to Petersham, planned to donate all his Valley land to Massachusetts Audubon, where he served on the board. However, when

continued on page 48



Early in the twentieth century, Swift River overlooks Connors Pond in the future Quabbin watershed.

photo courtesy of Petersham Historical Society

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Brilliant autumn foliage adorns Quabbin Reservoir from a vantage point in Ware.
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Autumn brilliance wanes from Enfield Lookout in Belchertown.
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Hurricane of 1938 regarded as worst

by John Burk



1938 hurricane destruction of a Gilbertville mill and other industrial sites ended production of woolen work there.

photo courtesy of MassHighway Bridge Section

Regarded as the worst natural disaster on record in the Northeast, the hurricane of 1938 caused approximately seven hundred deaths, destroyed or damaged thirty-five thousand homes, and uprooted a thousand square miles of forest. Since European settlement, only two other storms—in 1635 and 1815—caused similar destruction in New England.

After forming as a tropical depression off the coast of Africa on September 9, the hurricane reached the southeastern United States eleven days later. Two weather fronts guided the storm on an unusual northerly trajectory to Long Island and the south coast of New England, where landfalls occurred after 2:30 p.m. on September 21. Gales and waves decimated oceanfront communities in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts. Blue Hills Meteorological Observatory recorded a peak wind gust of 180 miles per hour near Boston. The hurricane maintained strength as it proceeded northward along the Connecticut River Valley to central Massachusetts.

Waterways such as the Ware, Quaboag, Swift, Otter, and Millers rivers were at or near flood levels on the morning of September 21 after an unusually wet summer and heavy rain in September. Torrential rainfall from

On September 21, 1938, a catastrophic hurricane—known as the Great New England Hurricane, Long Island Express, Yankee Clipper, or simply Thirty-Eight—devastated Quabbin region communities. Wind gusts of more than a hundred miles per hour toppled forests, church steeples, and barns. Floods washed away homes, roads, bridges, railways, and dams. Disruptions to communication and transportation infrastructures lasted for weeks. Some industries never recovered.

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disaster in the Northeast

the hurricane subsequently triggered massive floods throughout the Quabbin region.

Extensive damage occurred in Ware when a record flood crest of more than eighteen feet on Ware River destroyed homes, roads, bridges, and the fire station; heavily damaged factories of Ware Industries and Ware Woolen Company; and isolated the southern part of town. Six hundred families lost their homes.

Upstream at Gilbertville, destruction of industrial facilities such as a brick mill, dam, and railroad trestle permanently ended woolen manufacturing. Boats delivered food to stranded residents.

In Barre center, wind blew down ornamental trees, steeples, a portion of Hotel Barre, and forests of Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary. Residents of Barre Plains and South Barre evacuated to a school after floods engulfed their homes. High water on Prince River destroyed dams, mills, and bridges and heavily damaged the Allen Company factory.

Damage to tracks at Coldbrook caused Boston and Maine Railroad's Central Massachusetts branch to discontinue service from Boston to Northampton. The last train fortuitously returned from Rutland just before the storm. Workers later repaired the western portion of the line to maintain access to a paper mill at Wheelwright.

Floods in the watershed of Quaboag River washed out railroads, bridges, and highways; caused a twelve-foot surge at Quaboag Pond; and overtopped Lake Lashaway. *New England Hurricane: A Factual and Pictorial Record*, published by the Works Progress Administration, WPA, related how

a boiling current coursed through the streets of East Brookfield, cutting the town in two. Houses in its path became sieves and whitecaps besieged the Mann and Stevens Mill.

Widespread destruction extended throughout the corridor of Millers River. In Athol, water surged onto Main, Marble, Union, and Canal streets; overtopped the Starrett Tool Company dam and Main Street bridge; destroyed popular Brookside Park on the town line with Orange; and washed away a historic covered bridge at Partridgeville. Tully River East Branch rose to a flood crest of nine

continued on page 61



Millers River waters rushed as a result of rains from the 1938 hurricane.

postcard image courtesy of Benjamin Ellis

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Mary Carfagna, left, and Myra MacLeod enliven opening of *Uniquely Quabbin* art/photography show in Athol Public Library. photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

music, art, photos celebrate 25th issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*

String players Myra MacLeod of Athol and Mary Carfagna of Petersham enlivened the opening evening of the *Uniquely Quabbin* art and photography show in Athol Public Library. During the evening, they each played both acoustic and electronic instruments.

A longtime violinist, violist, and cellist, MacLeod uses acoustic violin for teaching. “My electric violin gigs out,” she said, “with groovy looks and effects.”

Carfagna, primarily a cellist, said, “Although the far greater bulk of my experience is on acoustic cello, it has been a blast to experiment and let loose on an electric instrument. For me, the main differences are repertoire and control of nuanced sound.”

In the main lobby, MacLeod and Carfagna greeted several hundred attendees with music as the library hosted art and photography in two rooms, one with an extensive spread of refreshments. Individuals and businesses made donations to the magazine. Debra Ellis, *Uniquely Quabbin* business manager, arranged for amenities at the opening celebration.



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Robert Osborne, left, and James DiSilvestro, both with studios in Athol, number among more than fifty sculptors with work in the fifteenth annual Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit at Pingree School, South Hamilton.

photos courtesy of Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit

sculptors represent Quabbin region at Flying Horse show

by Judith Klein

Two Quabbin region artists with different styles and backgrounds are among the more than fifty sculptors with work in the fifteenth annual Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit on the hundred-acre campus of Pingree School in South Hamilton.

Flying Horse, one of the largest outdoor displays of art in New England and the only one of its kind in the country on a school campus, selected Robert Osborne and James DiSilvestro, both of whom have studios in Athol.

Osborne, raised in Manhattan where he operated a Madison Avenue art gallery for many years, has displayed at Flying Horse for the past six years. He retired from dealing in art in the 1980s to pursue his original interest, making his own art. His current work focuses on optics, light architecture, and a unique philosophical approach to seeing and thinking. He designs larger works for display outdoors in a garden or on a patio and smaller table-top works for indoor settings.

He also makes work to display on the water of a lake or harbor. His materials include aluminum, aluminum bronze, beryllium copper, brass, bronze, copper, nickel

silver, phosphorus bronze, silicone bronze, stainless steel, titanium, and glass rods.

“In making art,” said Osborne, “I now look at an object/material to see if a change in its proportion, shape or purpose is desirable.

“My current interest is glass,” he continued, “using it in ways that complement the intrinsic beauty of the material.”

He constructed *Peacock*, shown this year at Pingree, from solid aluminum bar and colored glass rods.

DiSilvestro, who grew up in the Worcester area where he learned to love working with metal, shows his work for the second time at Flying Horse with this year’s exhibition.

Born and raised in Worcester when it was still an industrial city, he acquired his love of machinery and tools at an early age. He attended Massachusetts College of Art in Boston where he began a lifetime of learning to shape metal and refine his style.

He works in a well-equipped shop at his home in Athol. “My work continues to evolve,” he said. “The work

continued on page 66

the meaning of the words “moving house” has

by Carl Hammer



Today's Metcalf Chapel houses the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Warwick, an open and affirming place of worship that hosts a variety of community events with weekly Sunday services scheduled at 10 a.m. Reverend Preserved Smith, Unitarian minister, oversaw construction of the building as a residence on a different site. He undertook moving it in 1820.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

Today, when we say that we are “moving house,” we normally mean from one house to another. But, surprisingly, two or more centuries ago, the phrase often meant moving a house from one location to another. The cost of new construction at that time might have exceeded the cost of moving structurally quite sturdy houses of solid timber construction over a short distance.

In the late 1820s, the Reverend Preserved Smith, Unitarian minister of Warwick, found the house he had built on his arrival there in 1814 was no longer so favorably located. The turnpike road through Warwick from Athol to Northfield had been rerouted, and the center of town shifted. So, in 1830 he resolved to move.

We have three accounts of Reverend Smith's undertaking. Charles A. Morse and Ed Hawes describe it in their account of Warwick's buildings. Mary P. Wells Smith writes of it in her 1892 novel, *More Good Times at Hackmatack*. It also appears in the diary of Warwick storekeeper and postmaster William Cobb, Jr. The excellent Warwick Historical Society website includes digital editions of Morse/Hawes and Cobb.

Mary Smith's novel offers the most detailed and entertaining, though fictional, description. She had her information from her husband, Pastor Smith's son Fayette, who was only six at the time of the move.

Cobb's laconic but contemporary diary entries recount that Smith and his family moved out of their house on Wednesday, August 4, a “fair, warm” day, and removed to Samuel Fay's tavern. The novel says they moved to the old tavern, not the new tavern that has

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changed over the years since the early 1800s

survived for nearly two centuries as the Warwick Inn.

Workmen began immediately “to prepare for the removal of his house” by taking down the chimneys for rebuilding on the new site but evidently encountered a problem. On Thursday, August 12, Pastor Smith engaged two additional contractors for a total of \$190. Two days later, on Saturday the 14, Cobb visited the house, still at its old site, and found the main, front part of the building sound with only minor problems in the ell or extension in the back.

They planned to move the house in two parts, front part first, but on Saturday, September 4, Cobb reports that

the undertakers (contractors) . . . meet with many obstacles to impede their progress; about four weeks have been spent upon it and the front part of the house has been got only to the flat on the old Turnpike Road.

Iron wheels placed under the house broke through their wooden rails due to the weight, according to

Mary Smith. The solution involved laying large wooden rollers crosswise under the house to distribute the weight. Cobb reports that, on Thursday, September 1, the contractors had finally “completed the first part and commenced upon the second.”

Mary Smith tells us that the villagers took pity on her father-in-law, their worried pastor, and organized a “moving bee” with twenty yoke of oxen to bring the ell to the new site. Young Fayette Smith certainly would have remembered a feast celebrating the communal act of assistance.


Finally, on Saturday, October 16, “Reverend P. Smith moved into his house after it was removed from its original place of standing to the village north of the [old] Meetinghouse.” According to Mary Smith, both Pastor Smith and his second wife, her mother-in-law, were pleased with the new situation. Preserved Smith liked being conveniently “close to the church,

Cobb’s store, schoolhouse, and tavern,” and Tryphena Smith loved “to sit at [her] window and see the passing, especially the stagecoach from Boston.”

Pastor Smith’s house still receives visitors in the center of Warwick, where, in one of history’s little ironies, it has been repurposed as Metcalf Chapel. After Pastor Smith and his family removed to Greenfield in 1844, the building passed through several owners, until shortly after the repeal of Prohibition it almost served “for the sale of intoxicating liquors.” Sale of the house to the Warwick Trinitarian Congregational Society for use as their church prevented that situation.

That church, called the Second Congregational Church of Warwick, was formed by those seceding in 1829 from the First Church which had become Unitarian under Pastor Smith. Like most early Unitarians, Smith grounded his Christian belief

continued on page 66



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railroad stations served the traveling public and

text and photos by Christopher Coyle

Railroads built stations serving the traveling public at nearly every town with some in between towns. The station and grounds often offered the first glimpse a visitor had of a town, and many quite attractive stations caught a traveler's eye. A drive through towns around



Athol Depot on Traverse Street today serves as home to Community Transit Services with busing options. Fitchburg Railroad built the structure in the late 1800s.



The three-stall B&A engine house stands on the south side of active railroad tracks near South Athol Road. .

Quabbin Reservoir reveals a number of buildings connected to railroad service.

The old station—often referred to as the Depot—on Traverse Street in Athol stood as one of several along the Boston to Troy, New York, main line. Bespeaking the building's history, letters FRR on the tower abbreviate Fitchburg Railroad, builder of the structure.

The station at Athol and the long gone one in Ware were union stations—that is, they each served more than one railroad, the Boston and Maine, B&M, and the Boston and Albany, B&A. Athol station has provided space for many uses since the railroad stopped using it in 1960. In 2024, it serves as home to Community Transit Services with community busing options.

The three-stall B&A engine house stands on the south side of active railroad tracks near South Athol Road. Not too visible nor accessible, it's best viewed from the dirt road at the end of Pine Street along the north end of what's left of the Athol yard.

One of few remaining structures along the northern end of the B&A's long-abandoned Athol branch, the old station in South Athol, now a private residence, can be seen from Rice Street. Although the railroad station at Orange has been gone for many years, a brick freight house sits on the north side of the tracks east of Water Street near the Orange Fire Station.

A short drive to the center of Erving reveals the sole surviving railroad station in Franklin County. Now painted pink, Erving Station sources homemade chocolates, candies, and other delights. Just east of the old station, Freight House Antiques—recently sporting



A grain train rolls along tracks paralleling Millers River toward Erving with its railroad station transformed into a chocolate and sundries shop.

Recently listed for sale, the former freight house in Erving operates as an antique shop and breakfast/lunch spot.

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often offered the first glimpse a visitor had of a town

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At Erving, concrete pilings once supported a water tower used for thirsty steam locomotives on the south side of the tracks, visible from the parking lot for Erving Station without violating No Trespassing signs or crossing the tracks.

On Route 202 South in New Salem, one may spot Quabbin Valley Plumbing trucks at a building near the center of New Salem. The yard has a bright sign reading Millington Crossing. At least part of the building reputedly once comprised part of the B&A New Salem station at Millington, moved from its original location along what became the shore of Quabbin waters. Piles of bricks accessible from Gate 35 mark where the station stood.

There aren't many railroad structures seen while driving counter-clockwise around the south end of Quabbin Reservoir until one reaches the village of Gilbertville in Hardwick. Both B&M and B&A stations exist as restaurants maintained in good condition. The Whistle Stop, located in the old B&A station, offers



Hardwick House of Pizza/Hardwick House of Grinders transformed a former railroad station into a restaurant. lunch seven days a week. A brick freight house stands just north of the Whistle Stop.

A short distance away, Hardwick House of Pizza operates in the one-time B&M station open daily except Sunday from late morning well into the evening with a rather extensive menu besides pizza. The building represents the only extant station on the west end of the Central Massachusetts branch of the B&M.

continued on page 56

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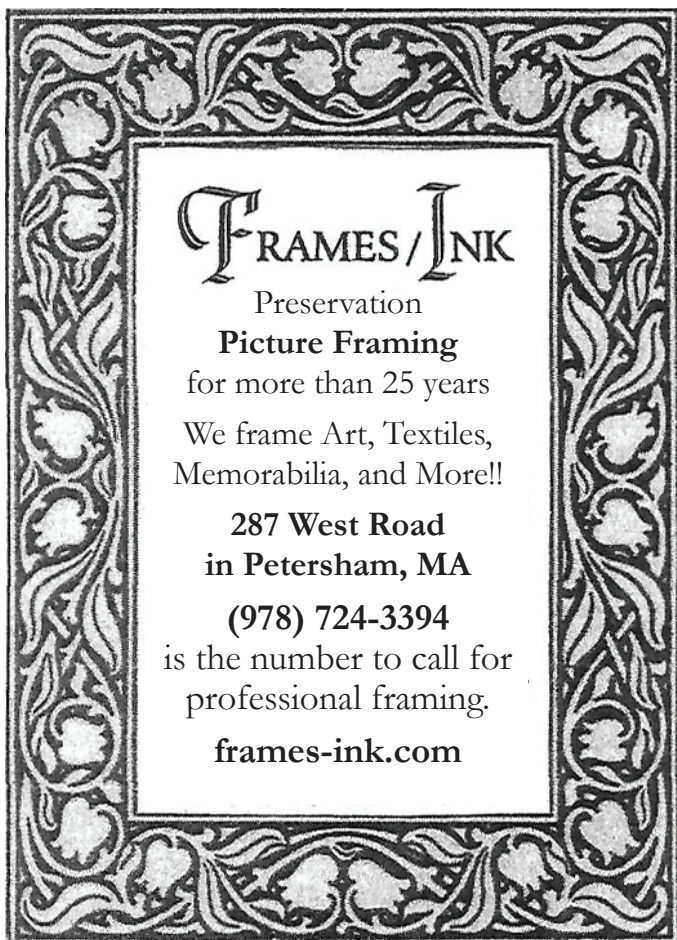
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Through trees at the Overlook in New Salem, Quabbin Reservoir shimmers at sunrise.

photo © by Dale Monette



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1769 bill of sale documents transaction transferring ownership of 17-year-old girl from one man to another

by Charlotte Westhead

previous articles in *Uniquely Quabbin* offer information about Dinah, one of a number of individuals enslaved in the Quabbin region in the eighteenth century

Andrew Boyd of Worcester sold the enslaved teenager Dinah to John Chandler of Petersham in 1769. No land record exists in Boyd's name, and he does not appear in any census of Worcester.

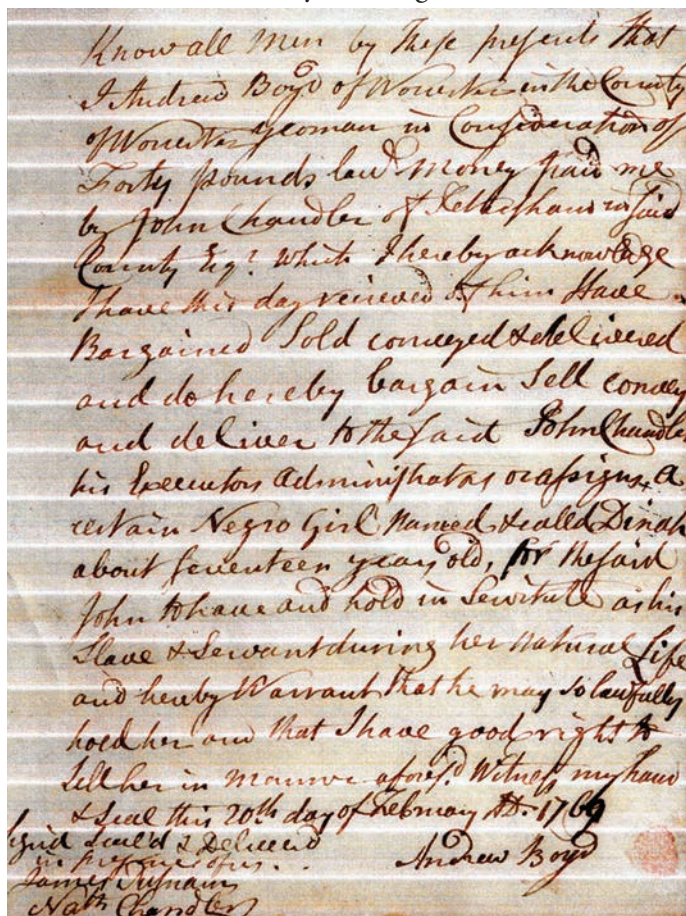
Chandler paid forty pounds for Dinah, equal to nine thousand pounds—somewhat over eleven thousand US dollars in 2024. Chandler carried the name John in the fourth generation in the Colony of Massachusetts. The second generation began to accumulate goods and money, and Dinah's buyer was very wealthy.

Father of sixteen children, Chandler had a spacious house in Worcester. One servant complained of fifteen beds to make every morning. A member of the

Massachusetts General Court, the colonial legislature, and sometimes sheriff of the county, he had Worcester real estate valued at twice the amount of any other real estate in Worcester. Chandler Street today carries the name of the family.

An adamant Tory, Chandler fled to England at the outbreak of the American Revolution. Three sons who joined the British army in New York fled with him. Subsequently, Chandler was proscribed or denounced in Massachusetts and his property appraised, with the Worcester property valued at £147,659, land in Hampshire County at £3,607, and land in Connecticut

continued on page 63



Know all men by these presents that I Andrew Boyd of Worcester in the County of Worcester yeoman in Consideration of Forty pounds lawl money paid me by John Chandler of Petersham in said County Esq. which I hereby acknowledge I have this day received of him Have Bargained Sold conveyed & delivered and do hereby bargain sell convey and deliver to the said John Chandler his Executors Administrators or assigns, A certain Negro Girl Named & called Dinah about seventeen years old, for the said John to have and hold in Servitude as his Slave & Servant during her Natural Life and hereby Warrant that he may so lawfully hold her and that I have good right to sell her in manner aforesd. Witness my hand & seal this 20th day of February AD. 1769

James Putnam
Nath Chandler

Andrew Boyd

Know all men by These presents That I Andrew Boyd of Worcester in the County of Worcester yeoman in Consideration of Forty pounds lawl money paid me by John Chandler of Petersham in said County Esq. which I hereby acknowledge I have this day received of him Have Bargained Sold conveyed & delivered and do hereby bargain sell convey and deliver to the said John Chandler his Executors Administrators or assigns, A, certain Negro Girl Named & called Dinah about seventeen years old, for the said John to have and hold in Servitude as his Slave & Servant during her Natural Life and hereby Warrant that he may so lawfully hold her and that I have good right to Sell her in manner aforesd. Witness my hand & seal this 20th. day of February AD. 1769

Sign'd Seal'd & Deliverd Andrew Boyd
in presence of us.
James Putnam
Nath Chandler

Massachusetts Historical Society provides the 1769 bill of sale, left, transferring ownership of enslaved Dinah from Andrew Boyd of Worcester to John Chandler of Petersham.

Massachusetts Historical Society also provides interpretation of the early handwritten document.

shoe manufacturing prompted growth

by John Burk



Shoe manufacturing as at the Batcheller Company factory prompted significant nineteenth-century prosperity in North Brookfield.
photo courtesy of North Brookfield Historical Society



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A photograph of the exterior of the Fiske Murphy & Mack Funeral Home. The building is a large, single-story structure with a gabled roof, white columns supporting a covered entrance, and several windows with dark shutters. Three black hearses are parked in the paved parking lot in front of the building. The sky is clear and blue.

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in 21.9-square-mile North Brookfield

Located at the southwestern edge of Worcester County uplands, North Brookfield's 21.9-square-mile landscape comprises glacial hills, numerous streams and brooks, and lowlands with fertile soils. Elevations range from approximately 600 feet to 1,100 feet.

Five Mile River, part of Quaboag River's watershed, flows across the western part of town from Brooks Pond to Lake Lashaway. At the boundary with Oakham, Spencer, and New Braintree, Brooks Pond contains sixteen islands and wetlands that provide habitats for beavers, waterfowl, and other wildlife. Lake Lashaway, a resource for Native Americans and early industries, became a popular recreation area and destination for summer vacations during the twentieth century. In the southwest part of town, Coys Brook meanders past historic sites, agricultural fields, and wetlands.

Conservation areas include Mass Audubon's Elm Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, which protects 1,080 acres of glacial drumlins and old fields, and Wendemuth Meadow, an East Quabbin Land Trust property with diverse habitats

such as wet meadows, shrublands, and hayfields. Six town forest parcels protect nearly 130 acres.

Nipmuc Native Americans from Quaboag village utilized natural resources of present North Brookfield seasonally for hunting and fishing. Likely sites include Lake Lashaway, Five Mile River, and Brooks, Horse, and Doane ponds.

North Brookfield was originally the northeastern part of Brookfield and became a precinct called Second Parish in 1748. Located one mile south of North Brookfield's present downtown, the first village center included a meetinghouse built in 1749 and a public common established in 1773. Distance to community services and growth of industries prompted incorporation of North Brookfield in 1812 with a population of 1,100 residents.

Fertile soils of what is now North Brookfield which yielded commodities such as grain and hay, apples, and pears helped make North Brookfield a regional center

continued on page 62



In the 1890s and later, the Congregational Church abutted the Adams Block in burgeoning downtown North Brookfield.
photo courtesy of North Brookfield Historical Society

abundant in varied natural resources,

by John Burk



Autumn foliage accents Wendell Town Common.

photo by John Burk

Wendell's 31.7-square-mile landscape lies within uplands on the south side of Millers River in eastern Franklin County. The northern portion of town features rugged hills capped by 1,274-foot Bear Mountain and 1,182-foot Bullard Hill. Orcutt Hill, site of Wendell's highest elevation at 1,306 feet, rises amid gentler terrain southeast of the center.

An undeveloped seven-mile segment of Millers River forms Wendell's northern boundary with Erving. Significant tributaries include Whetstone, Mormon Hollow, Osgood, and Lyons brooks. Swift River West and Middle branches, main sources of Quabbin Reservoir, emanate from headwaters in southeastern Wendell.

Established in 1921, Wendell State Forest protects nearly eight thousand acres of forests, wetlands, and rock ledges. Attractions include Wickett Pond, Wendell's only natural pond, and Ruggles Pond, a former mill impoundment rebuilt by US Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s. Adjacent Hidden Valley Memorial Forest, owned by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, encompasses a picturesque ravine with two cascading brooks.

Other conservation areas include Mass Audubon's Whetstone Woods Wildlife Sanctuary, a 2,700-acre expanse of wetlands and forest. Fiske Pond, site of a nineteenth-century sawmill and industrial dam, lies within a 125-acre town-owned tract that also preserves a spruce bog and hemlock swamp.

Rugged terrain and lack of natural lakes and ponds likely limited Native American activity to seasonal fishing, hunting, and agricultural use by Connecticut Valley populations such as the Squakeag who inhabited present Northfield. Archaeological evidence of Native occupation on Millers River dates back to the Early Archaic period of thirty-five hundred to six thousand years ago. Other potential sites occupied by Native populations included Wickett Pond and Mormon Hollow and Whetstone brooks.

Wendell originally formed from land in northern Shutesbury and a portion of colonial Ervingshire south of Millers River. Availability of fertile farmland in the Connecticut River Valley delayed European settlement of

continued on page 64

Wendell hosts many back-to-the-landers



A hallmark of community planning with a nearby playground, Wendell Free Library serves many local interests.
photo courtesy of Wendell Free Library



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Jessica Moise of Orange awarded Jacobi Medallion

by Marcia Gagliardi

“Nobody understands what I do,” observes 1989 Mahar Regional School, Orange, graduate Jessica R. Moise, senior associate dean for sponsored programs/ grants and contracts officer and award-winning grant administrator at New York City’s Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, ISMMS.

Mount Sinai Health System includes ISMMS and encompasses eight hospitals, the medical school, and hundreds of medical practices.

Presented the Jacobi Medallion at Manhattan’s Plaza Hotel in 2023, Moise has responsibility for hiring, supervising, and training a staff of some thirty people in all areas of grants administration, according to the award citation.

Moise acts as signatory for more than \$600 million annually in sponsored programs awards, according to the citation, including \$463 million from the National Institutes of Health.

“Since COVID,” she said during a recent visit to family in Orange, “many of the staff never came back to the office and work from home. We worked harder from home than before.”

While she has returned full time to the office, the circumstance presents, she said, different supervisory challenges as her office continues the work of reviewing grant applications and negotiating award contracts.

From Mahar Regional, Moise moved to New York City to study at the Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at the New School in Greenwich Village. During her undergraduate years, she majored in psychology and sought internship opportunities. She worked as an unpaid intern with the Fortune Society teaching high school graduate equivalency math to the recently incarcerated. During her years at Eugene Lang and after, Moise also served as an unpaid intake coordinator at the Gay Men’s Health Center

She began her association with Mount Sinai in 1991 through the Neuro-AIDS research program that led to a paid position as a study coordinator. From there, she was recruited to work in the grants and contracts office.

“Everything was on paper when I started,” Moise explained. “Electronic submissions and record-keeping and digital signatures came later, and it’s all there is now.”

continued on page 66



Award-winning grant writer Jessica Moise pauses from her work at Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City. She grew up in Orange.
photo courtesy of Jessica Moise

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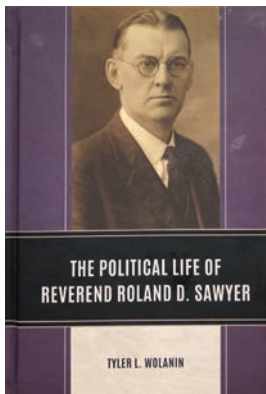


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QUABBIN CURRENTS:

reviewing the new book about Reverend Roland D. Sawyer

by J. R. Greene



The Political Life of Reverend Roland D. Sawyer
by Tyler L. Wolanin
385 indexed pages
published in hardcover
by Lexington Books

For many years, I've advocated that Reverend Roland D. Sawyer, long-time Congregational minister of Ware, deserved a biography. Tyler Wolanin of Barre, former aide to former State Senator Anne Gobi, ably performed the task with this new book.

A native of New Hampshire, Reverend Sawyer served as Congregational pastor for several churches in eastern Massachusetts before taking the post in Ware. From 1913 to 1940, he represented Ware and the three doomed Hampshire County Quabbin towns—Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott—in the state legislature.

Wolanin covers Sawyer's whole life in the comprehensive book, including his early days as a preacher and his founding an anti-profanity league. Sawyer had a brief

spell as a Socialist, even running in 1912 for governor of Massachusetts on that party's ticket. That same year, he spoke in public forums in defense of Italian agitators Joseph J. Ettor and Arturo Giovanitti, arrested for their role in fomenting the Lawrence textile strike.

As a state representative, Sawyer often rode on the train that carried Calvin Coolidge from his home in Northampton to Boston, beginning when Coolidge was a state senator and then lieutenant governor and, later, governor. Sawyer, who wrote many books and pamphlets during his career, produced an early biography of Coolidge in 1924.

Of most interest to fans of Quabbin history will be Wolanin's chapter on what he calls "the reservoir fight." A member of

continued on page 65



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Ware River flows through Gilbertville on its way to the MWRA diversion facility in Barre, which then sends the water to either the Quabbin or Wachusett reservoir through the Quabbin aqueduct.

photo © by Rick Flematti





About My Cat
and Other Tales
selected poems 1970-2020
written and illustrated by Brian J. Fournier



About My Cat
and Other Tales
selected poems 1970-2020
written and illustrated by Brian J. Fournier

Barely camouflaged in the rhyme and meter of Brian Fournier's verse in About My Cat are profound glimpses of a boy emerging from a painful childhood as he finds his true creative spirit in adulthood and changes his family legacy once he becomes a grandfather. Through inspirations born of pain, conversations with his feline companions, and sharing of his inner reactions to deeply moving human experiences, Brian's poems truly take the reader on a journey to discover what one finds in between each and every line.

—the Reverend Candi Ashenden, DMin
pastor at Athol, Massachusetts, Congregational Church

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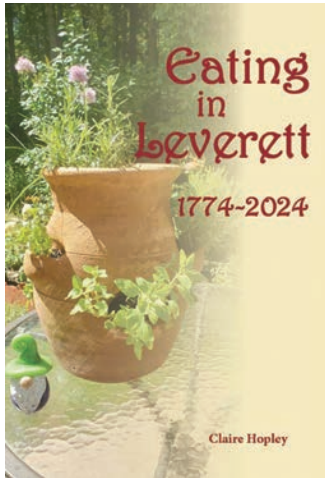
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books, cooks, and a porcupine

by Diane Kane



Claire Hopley's *Eating in Leverett* provides a history of food in the region.

photos courtesy of Claire Hopley

Author Claire Hopley hails originally from Chester, England, founded by the Romans in the year 79 of this era, a quaint town on the River Dee that separates


England from North Wales. She taught business English intermittently in Warsaw and Athens for about fifteen years while writing food articles and book reviews.

"I've always liked reading, especially novels, which inspired my writing books," Hopley explained. "My interest in history and cooking led me to write cookbooks."


Over the past forty years, digging into the area's culinary history, Hopley has called Amherst and Leverett home. After relocating to the Quabbin area, she taught English at UMass and Mount Holyoke College.

"Both Amherst and Leverett are attractive towns with an interesting mixture of rural and cultural activities," Hopley said. "I wrote the "Food Talk" column for the *Amherst Bulletin* for thirty years. Now, I lecture on culinary history at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield."

Hopley's traditional recipe books include *New England Cooking: Seasons & Celebrations*, 2001; *Valley Vegetables: Recipes for Forty of the Pioneer Valley's Favorite*



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combine as literary fare

Vegetables 2012; and *Extra! Extra! More Recipes for Vegetables of the Pioneer Valley*.

Other Hopley books focus on culinary history, as their titles suggest: *The History of Tea*, 2009, and *A History of Christmas Foods and Feasts*, 2009.

“My newest book, *Eating in Leverett 1774-2024* published by Off the Common Press, an imprint of Levellers Press, Amherst, has twenty-three recipes but is not really a cookery book,” Hopley said. “It is about the history of food in our region.”

This year marked the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of Leverett and coincided perfectly with the release of Hopley’s latest book.

Hopley has an upcoming culinary lecture, “Pricey Spices” on November 2, at the D’Amour Museum.



Before author Sylvia Wetherby wrote children’s books, she was a teacher, mother, foster mother, early intervention specialist, and playgroup facilitator.




Sylvia Wetherby (with a farmyard goat) invented the character Percival Porcupine who takes center stage in *Oak Seed* and each book in her series.

photos courtesy of Sylvia Wetherby


“I have been reading to children for more than fifty years,” Wetherby said. “Most of my writing until very recently has been professional and academic work, but while in graduate school, I took a course to help children with special needs learn to write. One of our assignments was to create a character.”


continued on page 65



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from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin poets

poem by
Elaine Reardon

October

Brown stalks and seed heads
in the garden, along the path.
A sodden umbrella of oak leaves
diverts rain from a patch of chanterelles.
Scarlet blueberry leaves on the hillside woo the last robins.
 In the dark velvet of pines raindrops drip through branches
 where old bird nests hang empty.
Birds have flown,
 except for that Blue Heron
 who silently glided
 downstream
 hoping for trout.
Dry cherry and maple stacked on the porch.
Woodstove ornamented
with swans and sailing vessels.
Flames dance in their heat send hiss and cracklings my way.

Poet and herbalist Elaine Reardon
lives in a secluded corner
of Massachusetts.



A hummingbird takes respite on a late-season sunflower.

photo © by Anne Lozier

poem by
Kathleen Nicoletti

A Mother's Grief

My memories are all I have,
so I treasure them like gold
because I no longer
have my child to hold,
The oppressive pain
that's left behind
leaves me with a shattered heart
and a tortured mind.
Lost in a fog of grief,
oblivious as to where to turn
for just one more hug,
I desperately yearn.
I cannot hear your voice
when I call your name.
I'm a fraction of who I once was.
I'll never be the same.
I miss your smile,
and I miss your laugh,
so I'll move forward
on your behalf.
I'll remember and share
times gone by.
I'll remind myself
that it's okay to cry.
Losing you was one of
my greatest fears.
When I remember the love
the sadness disappears.
My memories are all I have now,
and I'll hold them dear.
I'll continue to share them
so the whole world remembers
you were here.
Poet Kathleen Nicoletti
has written a series of children's books,
including *It's Okay to be Sad*.

poems by
Len Mazarowski

Autumn in Poland

I glimpsed my family's heritage
through tour-bus windows
of idyllic countryside farms
and homes,
walking along cobblestone streets,
looking vertically
in massive cathedrals,
feeling rough weathered bricks
of proud ancient castles,
tripping through impressive
old-town city squares,
noticing smiles of a
young Polish woman,
catching the respectful nod
of a Polish man
nodding back to keep
the wanted bond
but not losing my gait,
pressing forward always forward
through a thousand years
of history
before me,
alongside me,
behind me—
the patience of a peaceful people
ever faithful,
never giving in,
always believing
a Pope's blessing,
a saint's blessing.
And with God's blessing,
they persevered
through hardships I cannot fathom—
believing in themselves,
believing and never
ever giving up hope.
But I am safely in my ancestral
home for now
embracing my pastoral past,
knowing my anchor line
is severely severed
but feeling in my heart that a true
root never dies.

Chicory Legend

I wait for it every summer.
Its vibrant purple blue never fails.
It always pleases me when I see
and lessens my perennial travails.

Though some favor its roasted flavor,
I still choose to take my coffee plain—
drinking in its colored blaze beside heartland roadsides.
the summer glory of that blue and purple train.

Early settlers journeyed with it for purported luck.
The Ancients knew its healing power in their day.
Legend has it waiting longingly for its true lover,
this beautiful but tragic watcher of the roadway

cutting along byways through green farms and meadow,
reaching full throttle until cornering through the maize.
The mixing burst of colors blur the periphery.
Wheels merge with the blue and purple haze,

surging then skipping then running for miles and miles more.
sagging shoulders of rural roads forced to display its summer greed.
I wonder and want to believe it was planned and sowed
by a nomadic force of nature's soul not unlike J. Appleseed.

As the vengeful sun and I seemingly run a concurrent course,
the countless flowers jostle and turn and vainly try to follow.
As autumn's advance rushes impulsively to its close.
the year sets, and summer's pleasure turns to winter's sorrow.

Poet Len Mazarowski, retired senior hydrologist of National Weather Service/River Forecast Centers forecasted some major flood events in the eastern USA. Raised in Queens, New York City, he enjoys our natural environment and local histories and occasionally uses them as a theme for a poem.

Submit poems for *Uniquely Quabbin* to
marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

Hitchcock Tavern, Lee's Hot Dog Stand

by Diane Kane

In 1760, nineteen-year-old Captain David Hitchcock built Hitchcock Tavern at 7 East Main Street, West Brookfield. Previously also known as the Brookfield House and Ye Olde Tavern, it is one of the oldest continually operated inns in the United States. The current owners, Roger and Cindy Larson, purchased the business in 2005 and returned it to its original name, Hitchcock Tavern.

"I grew up in the neighborhood and married my husband Roger forty-four years ago," said Cindy Larson. "We moved away in 1980. Shortly after we moved back to the area in 2005, we learned that the tavern was available for sale, and

we've been here since. We love being part of the small community. It's a great place where customers become like family!"

A fire in 1938 during a renovation reduced the building from its original three stories to its current stature of two stories.

"The second floor is home to fourteen rooms and seven bathrooms currently under renovations to accommodate today's travelers with more space, new bathrooms, heating, air conditioning, windows, and updated safety installations including a new sprinkler and fire alarm system scheduled for completion in the spring of 2025," Larson said.

As co-owner and general manager, she leads the team of servers, managers, hosts, cooks, and dishwashers with the support of front-house manager Melody Walsh.

"I don't do much of the cooking," Larson noted. "I love to create menu ideas, and my husband Roger executes them. We are a great team! My daughter Shannon is the baker in the group. She is always creating a new delicious dessert!"

Hitchcock Tavern is open year round serving a menu of hearty homestyle cooking and unique specials.

"Some of our more popular items are burgers made with meat fresh from the local butcher, Ed Stearns



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present contrasting menus and style

Dressed Meats,” said Larson. “Our prime rib dinners, served with a king-cut potato and vegetables on Thursday nights, typically sell out. Customers rave over Roger’s amazing meatloaf and his take on rattlesnake pasta. A new customer favorite is fish tacos!”

The tavern has two separate function spaces for events or clubs.

“The Great Room accommodates up to 120 guests,” Larson continued, “or for more intimate gatherings of up to 20, you can choose the Washington Room, where President George Washington ate on October 22, 1789 while visiting the Tavern. In addition, we have a wonderful stone patio that seats up to 30 and is available for private functions. The spaces can be combined for a lovely wedding venue setting.”

Other notable figures who visited the historic tavern were President John Adams in 1799, Jerome Bonapart and his wife in 1804, and Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, in 1824.

Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Find Hitchcock Tavern on Facebook @ hitchcocktavern

Lee’s Hot Dog Stand at 31 Central Street, Baldwinville, qualifies as a local icon.


In 1937, Fay F. Lee and his wife, Harriet, opened a small hot dog stand known as the Corner Cupboard and later changed to Lee’s. A new family legacy began in 1997 when Brian Twohey left the Fox Run

continued on page 52



West Brookfield’s Hitchcock Tavern dates to the days of early European settlement.
photo by Cynthia Larson

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text and photos by Christine Noyes

An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.

-Edward De Bono

In a world where circumstances change quickly, versatility is an exceptional skill. The ability to adapt oneself to situations and surroundings builds confidence and, most likely, leads to success. I find the same resourcefulness applies to food.

Having grown up in the restaurant industry, I learned how to avoid waste and eventually mastered the art of repurposing leftovers. But more so, I gained an understanding of the importance of menu planning. Even now that I no longer make a living in food service, I still plan when entertaining with versatility in mind. And what category of food could be considered more adaptable than fresh herbs?

Not much of a gardener, I find an herb garden quite easy to maintain. And my small garden packs a big punch! For me, the essentials include basil, oregano, dill, rosemary, chives, parsley, and jalapenos for my spicy side. And, of course, they must be accompanied by tomato plants. With those fresh ingredients, my kitchen comes alive.

The herb-infused olive oil in the accompanying recipe may be used to add flavor and freshness to pasta, seafood, chicken, vegetables, flatbreads, and much more.

The olive and tomato tapenade makes a delectable treat for appetizers, sandwiches, flatbreads, and side dishes.

I hope you enjoy finding different ways to use these simple ingredients.



The herb garden behind Christine Noyes's house includes, on the rail, from left, dill, oregano, parsley, rosemary, jalapeno, and chives.

On the deck floor, from left, are beefsteak tomato, basil, and beefsteak tomato.

photo © by Christine Noyes

brings the kitchen alive with variety and flavor



olive and tomato tapenade
served with
rosemary crackers



turkey pinwheels
wheat wrap, garlic hummus
tapenade, and lettuce



lettuce cups
served with
olive and tomato
tapenade



naan dippers
served with
olive and tomato tapenade

Olive and Tomato Tapenade Herb-Infused Olive Oil

best if prepared the day before

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup robust olive oil
- 3 or 4 fresh basil leaves
- 3 fresh oregano leaves
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley
- 2 or 3 fresh chives
- 2 cloves fresh garlic

PREPARATION

Pour olive oil into a container. Finely chop herbs and garlic and add to the olive oil.

Cover and let sit at room temperature.

To add spice, add 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper to the olive oil.

Olive and Tomato Salad

1 cup assorted olives: pitted—green, Kalamata, and black

2 tablespoons minced banana peppers

3 fresh chives

1 teaspoon fresh rosemary

1/2 large fresh beefsteak tomato (or preference)

3 tablespoons feta cheese

salt and pepper to taste—1/2 teaspoon each

PREPARATION

Finely chop olives, banana peppers, chives, and rosemary and place in a bowl.

Dice tomato and stir into olive mixture. Add feta cheese, salt, and pepper.

Mix, cover, and refrigerate.

When ready to prepare and serve,

incorporate 1/4 cup (2 ounces) of herb-infused olive oil into the olive mixture.

Accomplished chef Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, and writer and illustrator of the Bradley Whitman series of mysteries and the romance novel, *Winter Meets Summer*. Rumor has it that she's at work on a screenplay.



Hop Brook enters Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem.

photo © by Dale Monette

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Autumn Vista • Gate 30, Quabbin Reservoir a visual haiku by Ami Fagin

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Once upon a time, tractors lined up at now-closed Erving Equipment Company near French King Bridge, Erving.
photo © by David Brothers



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Memory Lane

oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



Memory Lane

watercolor, 10 x 14" on 140-pound Strathmore cold-pressed watercolor paper

Moments with grandchildren can be so special, say Grampy and the boys walking to school on a nice day. We have many photos in our family taken with people unaware and walking away hand-in-hand, special moments because not posed. They capture a connection not apparent with people facing a camera.

When searching for a subject to paint for someone in particular, an artist may find it difficult to find something not only likely special to the receiver but also inspiring to paint. Most artists I know struggle with painting by commission because the subject matter rarely speaks to their soul. Commissioned work doesn't usually do justice to an artist's skills—they will most likely feel that something missing. That something is the artist's vision and passion for the subject matter. And then there is concern that the person who commissioned them may not like the end result.

Artists in all forms generally qualify as their own worst critics.

Elizabeth Callahan, the first Home Stager and Staging Realtor in Massachusetts, creates art using pastels, oil, pen and ink and watercolor. She lives in Rutland.



An early twentieth-century photo shows Swift River water over the Brown's Pond dam in Petersham.
photo courtesy of Petersham Historical Society

streams punctuate Quabbin area

continued from page 13

Audubon announced its position opposed to nuclear energy in the mid 1960s, Fiske, an advocate of nuclear power, “overnight” resigned from the board and gave all his land to the Trustees. Many organizations like Mass Audubon and Harvard Forest protect the land.

Maybe the greatest legacy will come from the June 18, 2024 National Basketball Association, NBA, championship Boston Celtics win when players’ water bottles were filled with energy water from the Swift River and the Quabbin Reservoir.

In 1991, I wrote in *Return to the Meado: Poetry, Prose, and Images of Place*:

As I walk through the Swift River Valley with its beautiful forests, fertile croplands, pristine ocean bound waters, and long abandoned homestead hearths, I sense the power of the universe deep within me. I rest my life by this quiet running stream.

Larry Buell, a lifelong Petersham resident and advocate of sense of place, will preserve stories here and in his forthcoming book, *The Swift River Valley: A Natural and Cultural History of Place*. To contribute stories, contact him at Larry@UofWild.org



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A cumulonimbus cloud gathers to predict a thunderstorm over Tully Mountain in Orange.

photo © by John Burk



Costumed employees hustle business for Lee's Hot Dog Stand
photo © courtesy of Lee's Hot Dog Stand

Lee's Hot Dog Stand

continued from page 39

restaurant in Phillipston to own Lee's until 2016. His nephew Ryan Twohey then took over the business until he tragically lost his life in a car accident in January 2019 at the age of twenty-seven. Ryan's parents, Craig and Jean Coppolino Twohey (former owners of the King Phillip Restaurant), continued to operate Lee's as a tribute to their son.

"I worked for my aunt and uncle at the King Phillip Restaurant in Phillipston for about twenty years," said current co-owner Jennifer Coppolino-Eady. "Their son Ryan was like a little brother to me. After his passing, it was like a piece of me was missing.

"In 2021," she continued, "my husband, Percy Eady, and I purchased Lee's. When something falls, it's like he is telling us he is here, and we acknowledge it by saying, 'OK, Ry, we see you!'"

Running Lee's is a family affair, and cooking is part of Coppolino-Eady's DNA.

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"I enjoy cooking at home for my large family, here at Lee's, or any off-site event. I always loved baking with my grandmother, rolling meatballs with my grandfather, and learning from my uncles Nick Coppolino of Barre Mill Restaurant and Craig Twohey of King Phillip while watching them work behind the cooking line."

The past spring saw many improvements at Lee's.

"There are additional outdoor tables," said Coppolino-Eady. "We expanded the parking lot, and the business accepts credit and debit cards. The menu has changed over the years to include seafood specials like whole clams, haddock, shrimp, scallops, French fries, onion rings, and ice cream treats. However, the hot dogs have never changed."

Such attention to perfection makes Lee's one of the top dogs in Massachusetts. Hot 96.9 Boston and OnlyinYourState/Massachusetts voted Lee's in the top three hot dog stands in the state.

"I see it as being number one in the small-town world," added Coppolino-Eady. "First on the OnlyinYourState list is Coney Island in Worcester with a population of 205,319. Number two is Annie's of Leicester at 11,066. Then, Lee's Hot Dog Stand in Baldwinville with only 2,286 population."

Open every day from late March through November 11 at 11 a.m., Lee's follows the sun for closing time.

There is still plenty of time to enjoy Lee's Hot Dog Stand this season. Check for times and specials at [Facebook.com/LeesHotDogStand](https://www.facebook.com/LeesHotDogStand).

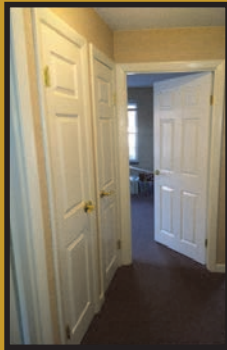
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Quabbin area autumn foliage includes witch hazel blossoms, left, and winterberry fruit.

photos © by Sue Cloutier

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Perhaps preparing for Halloween, Kitty Cat-Paw gives it all some thought.
scratchboard art *Cat-Paw* © by Brian Fournier



Barre Historical Society & Museum

SAVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

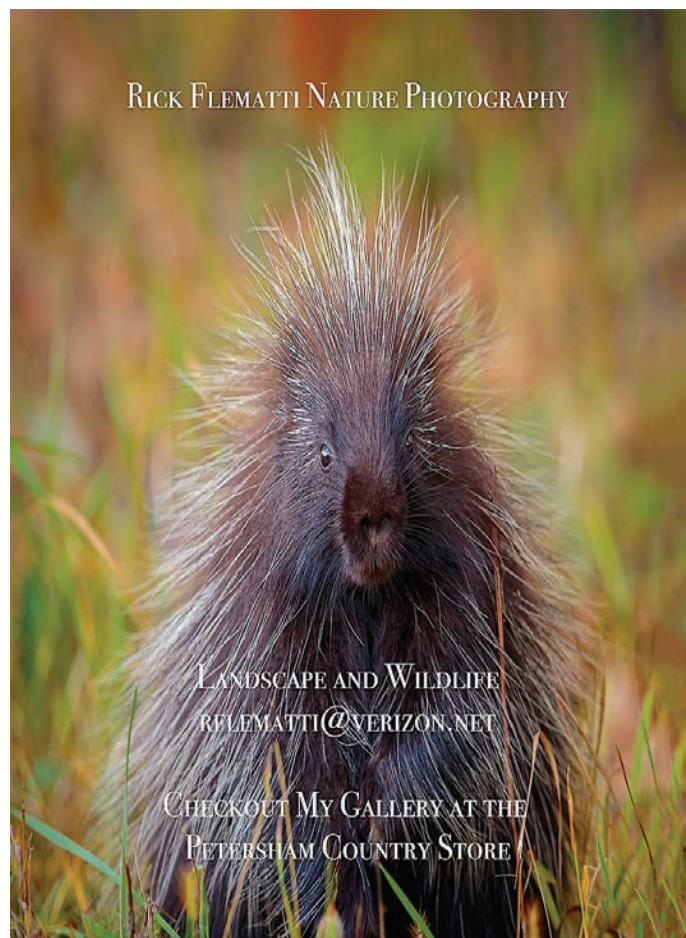
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Program
How Women Have Shaped Barre's History
by Historian Lucy Allen
Barre Town Hall
Thursday, November 14 at 6 p.m.

Questions?
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through late 20th century,
continued from page 23



Trains of many descriptions with many purposes passed by stations in the Quabbin region, including, top, through South Royalston; middle, through Athol; and bottom, through Gilbertville

photos © by Christopher Coyle



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region's railroad stations welcomed both human and freight visitors

The empty station at Templeton stood near Route 2A until just a few years ago. Similar in architecture to the one in Gilbertville, little remains to mark its location.

Miles of active and abandoned railroad grades appear on the route encircling the Quabbin Reservoir. Freight trains of Berkshire and Eastern Railroad, current operator of the B&M line, sometimes run through Athol and Erving or on the Mass Central Railroad in Gilbertville. Besides unused railbeds, many vestiges of past railroads remain, including bridge abutments, mileposts and the occasional spike.

Rail enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Christopher Coyle lives in Athol.



Templeton's abandoned station near Route 2A faced demolition a few years ago.

We want to hear from you!

Share your thoughts on future programs and events.

Scan the QR code or enter the link below into your internet browser to take the Athol Cultural Council's Community Input Survey. Complete the survey by November 1, 2024 to be entered into a drawing for a **\$50** gift certificate to Los Agaves Grill in Athol, MA.



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walking accessible regional trails

by Amber Robidoux



Erving Riverfront Park at the confluence of Keyup Brook and the Millers River near Route 2 includes walking trails that once served as a meeting and trading area for indigenous peoples. In the 1800s and 1900s, the site served as a part of Erving's industrial development with the construction of mills that crafted a variety of products, according to ervingma.myrec.com.

photo © by Amber Robidoux

Fall—the perfect time for a cool stroll. Though highly accessible and low in impact, walking with its many benefits often goes underestimated. Healthcare providers recommend

walking, appealing to all fitness and income levels.

Walking can have powerful benefits. A daily walk can greatly improve physical health, creativity,

and mental health. Consistent walking helps to burn calories and fight joint pain. With regular walking, cardio health improves, and chronic disease decreases. Walking

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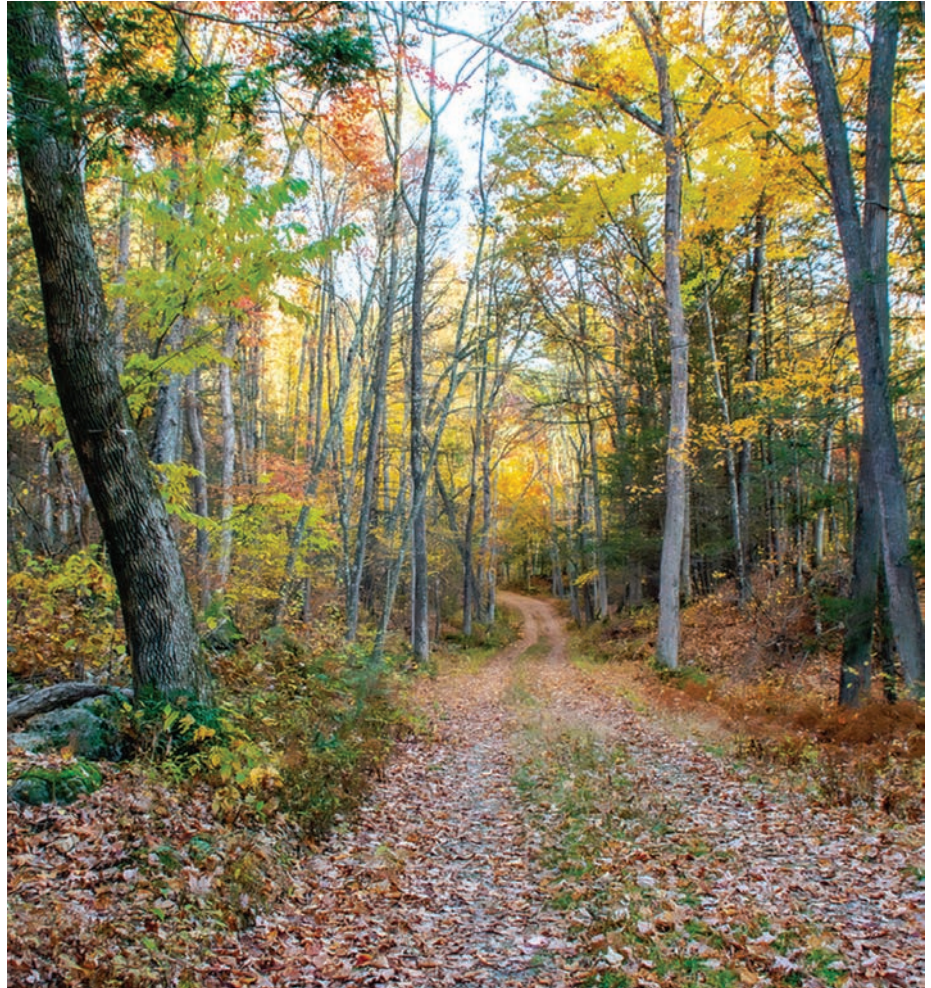
provides low-impact health benefits

stimulates the digestive system and brings eight management benefits into play from improved metabolism and circulation that reduces risk of a variety of health challenges and illnesses.

Regular walking also has an undertow of positive benefits, including improved sleep, reduced stress, and increased mood boosters that can keep symptoms of anxiety and depression at bay. Walking with a partner has the added benefit of social interaction and strengthened relationships.

Walking does not require much to get started. Start slow. Commit to consistency. Pick a familiar and safe route to build up stamina. Put one foot in front of the other—literally. Over time, explore new places. Hit an easy trail, like Buffam Falls White Trail in Pelham or explore Dana Common in the Quabbin.

Once you have built up strength and endurance, try a moderate hike like Prison Camp Road/Pine Plane Road loop in Rutland or the Spirit Falls trail in Royalston. The Quabbin has a tremendous variety of diverse hiking and walking opportunities.



Quabbin Park in Ware hosts woodland trails inviting to walkers.

photo © by Dale Monette

Ensure safety by recruiting a walking buddy and sticking to well lit areas. Wear sturdy shoes and reflective gear. Stay hydrated.

Consider including walking into regular life by, for example, parking farther away from your destination.

continued on page 70



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whisperer describes behavior of Canada geese

continued from page 7

fly. If you throw food into a group of geese, they will fight and possibly injure themselves or each other. It's best to scatter food on the ground and let birds approach it on their own time when they feel safe," he said.

Although Canada geese are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, three time periods per year allow hunting once the hunter has bought a

duck stamp. Massachusetts allows hunting of geese in September, late January to mid February, and during waterfowl hunting season. Each hunter can take as many as sixty-six geese in a year.

Disturbing the nest and eggs violates the law, as does physically harming birds outside of hunting season. During the fall, usually in September or later if the water is open, geese head south flying in their V, an aerodynamic wonder. Each bird flies above the bird in front of it, thus cutting down on wind resistance and allowing a better view.

When the leader tires, it moves to the back and another bird moves up. Geese honk to encourage each other and communicate continuously, and they can actually sleep while they fly.

Geese follow established migratory routes they have followed for generations. The long journeys are dangerous, but necessary for their survival and reproduction.

As "our" Quabbin region geese head south, we wish them well on their journey and look forward to greeting them in the spring.

Canada geese are an important part of North American wildlife showing remarkable adaptability and resilience. We can coexist with the magnificent birds and possibly become like David Gates, "a happy guardian of the geese."

Remembering Abby

by Bette Collins

I love geese, wild or domestic!

My husband, David, and I have a breed called cotton patch, a critically endangered American landrace goose, on our small hobby farm. A heritage breed once common on farms in the old South, hardy and gentle cotton patch geese make excellent parents.

One of our geese appears in the 2020 book *On the Farm* by Aliza Eliazarov about many varieties of heritage breed animals. Abby was selected to pose for photos and represents the cotton patch goose with many other heritage farm animals.

Abby's photograph representing the cotton patch goose appears on the Forever Heritage Breed United States postal stamp issued on May 17, 2021.

Abby passed away unexpectedly in June of 2024. We knew her as a ray of light, delightful, gentle, beautiful, and loved.

We miss her every day.

Bette Collins lives in Athol.



Abby, a domestic cotton patch goose owned by Bette and David Collins of Athol, represents the breed as a Forever Stamp in the 2021 Heritage Breeds collection.

Abby died in June, 2024.

photo courtesy of the United States Postal Service

In Their Season, Canada Geese Are Everywhere

Asked to summarize where to find Canada geese in the Quabbin region, wildlife photographer Dale Monette offered:

Yes, those geese are everywhere. They are all over Quabbin Reservoir and nest there. The huge flocks you see in Hunt's dairy fields in Orange spent the night on Quabbin and flew up there in the early morning.

Pick any pond in any town, and there are geese there: Harvard Pond in Petersham, Hardwick Pond in Hardwick, Long Pond in Rutland, Quaboag Pond in Brookfield and East Brookfield, and on and on.

I drove by Ellinwood Country Club in Athol one day and saw about a hundred geese right by the road near the course. The geese leave droppings everywhere.

Photographer Dale Monette lives in New Salem.

cleanup from Hurricane of 1938 involved months of effort

continued from page 17

feet. National Guard soldiers patrolled downtown Athol streets for ten days to prevent looting.

Many factories and buildings in Orange, including the fire station and Boston and Maine Railroad depot, suffered extensive damage after floods inundated Main Street and adjacent neighborhoods. The Lake Rohunta dam, railroad tracks, and Route 2 washed out. Wind gusts tore the roof off the Orange Shoe Manufacturing Company factory and other structures.

Orchards in Brookfield and North Brookfield lost thousands of trees. Nearly three-quarters of Petersham forests fell in just five hours. Fire hazards prompted travel restrictions on roads to Barre for two weeks. The Connors Pond dam, a portion of Route 122, and several bridges on Swift River East Branch washed out. Researchers at Harvard Forest subsequently conducted many studies related to effects of the hurricane on forest ecology.



Connor's Pond on Swift River East Branch in Petersham stored logs from downed trees after the Hurricane of 1938.

photo courtesy of Harvard Forest

High water at Wendell Depot washed away a railroad trestle and hydroelectric dam, engulfed a power station, and caused a bottleneck that exacerbated floods in Orange and Athol. Six feet of water submerged Route 2 in Erving, where landslides uprooted trees and blocked roads and railways.

Thousands of Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC, WPA, and town workers cleaned up fallen timber in the aftermath. The federal government formed the Northeast Timber Salvage Administration, NETSA, to process and market lumber. NETSA stored logs in many Quabbin region ponds for preservation of wood.

Many forests continue to show effects of the hurricane after nearly ninety years. Stephen Long, author of *Thirty-Eight: The Hurricane That Transformed New England*, describes how damage influenced composition of species:

More than ninety percent of trees toppled by the hurricane were white pines that established when abandoned farm fields reverted to forest in the late nineteenth century. Deciduous maple, birch, and oak seedlings grew vigorously in sunlight and replaced the pines. Eight decades later, the resultant vibrant display of autumn color attracts visitors from around the world.

Along with other disasters such as the flood of 1936, the hurricane of 1938 motivated construction of flood control facilities throughout the Connecticut River watershed, including Barre Falls Dam on Ware River, Birch Hill Dam on Millers River, and Tully Dam on Tully River East Branch. Subsequent reduction of destructive floods has saved Quabbin region communities millions of dollars.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.



After the Hurricane of 1938, work crews operate a crane and several trucks in Petersham to remove debris.

photo courtesy of Harvard Forest

industry, agriculture, and natural surroundings influenced North Brookfield

continued from page 27

of agriculture by the late eighteenth century. A creamery opened on Summer Street around 1890. Dairy production thrived during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. North Brookfield farmers sold nearly 430,000 gallons of whole milk in 1905. Cider mills operated on Coys Brook during the nineteenth century.

Early industrial centers formed on Five Mile River and Waite's Corner on Sucker Brook. A network of canals, tunnels, and sluiceways provided power for mills and a tannery at Waite's Corner.

Shoe and boot making brought considerable prosperity to North Brookfield during the nineteenth century. Entrepreneur and mentor Oliver Ward significantly influenced the town's growth and opened the region's first shoe factory in 1810.

Apprentices and employees of Ward, including brothers Tyler and Ezra Batcheller, subsequently established successful businesses. North Brookfield shoemakers exported footwear to regional and national markets, including plantation owners and slaves in southern states. Sources cite Batcheller Company, which employed more than one thousand workers, as the country's largest producer of shoes.

Disruption of commerce during the civil war caused closure of many factories.

Other businesses included wagon, sleigh, and harness shops, clothing factories, clock and jewelry makers, pocketbook and corset producers, and a brickyard.

Success of industries prompted development of downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. The second



Friends of the North Brookfield Town House plans restoration of the building for use as a civic and cultural center.

photo courtesy of North Brookfield Historical Society

town common, now a recreation area, opened on Grove Street during the 1860s. A fire in 1862 destroyed the town hall, two shoe factories, and other buildings. Built in 1864, the new Town House hosted civil, political, and social events for more than one hundred years. The organization Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is restoring the building for use as a civic and cultural center.

Establishment in 1876 of North Brookfield Railroad, a branch line that connected to the Boston and Albany Railroad in East Brookfield, increased access to markets for factories and dairy farmers. North Brookfield Rail Trail follows the abandoned railroad bed from a former depot on School Street to Quaboag River. A trolley line opened to East Brookfield during the 1890s.

Closures of Batcheller Company and other businesses caused a temporary decline in North Brookfield's population and economy during the early 1900s. Originally founded in 1906 as B & R Rubber Company and presently owned by Vibram Corporation, Quabaug Rubber Company produced shoe soles, shoe heels, and other products in the former Batcheller factory.

The nation's first summer camp for African American children, Camp Atwater, opened on Lake Lashaway in 1921. Designated as a national historic district in 1982, the 75-acre property comprises forty buildings and a small island.

Brookfield Orchards, one of the last active farms in North Brookfield, opened in 1918. Operated by five generations of the Nydam family, the farm supplied many wholesale customers before transition to a popular retail business with a pick-your-own orchard and country store.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

Tory slave owner compensated for losses by British government

continued from page 25

at £5,151. Chandler was compensated by the British government for his losses. He received £11,067 for the Worcester property and £6,000 for his businesses. Chandler's wife received her share, her dower rights, valued at £25,000.

In 1765, four years before the sale of Dinah, the City of Worcester reported 16 Negroes, as the records refer to African Americans, and 9 Indians, as the records refer to Native Americans, the two groups comprising 0.011 percent of the population of 2,246. That same year, Petersham reported 8 Negroes or 0.86% of a population of 922.

Some, but not all, Quabbin towns also recorded African American populations. Rutland District, later Barre, recorded 3 Negro males and 3 Negro females. Athol recorded 2 Negro males, and Hardwick recorded 3 Negro males and 1 male and 1 female Indian.

Enslaved people were not uncommon in the Quabbin area where historical records list them living in the area during the colonial period.

In 1754, according to the records, James Caldwell of Rutland District bought two persons from Zedekiah Stone of Petersham for £108. The sale took place in Rutland. One of them a woman also named Dinah, was "about 19 years old," according to the records, and the male, Mingo, was "about 20 years of age."

There may have been an infant male, Quork, whose later ability to buy his freedom in June 1781 coincides with the annual national celebration of Juneteenth on June 19.

Also in 1754, Philip and Bathsheba, "servants of" Captain Joseph Warner, married in Hardwick. 1755 Zebulon, son of Philip and Bathsheba, man and maid servants to Captain Joseph Warner, was baptised in Hardwick.

Scholars agree the term "servant of" indicates an enslaved person.

In 1756, Kenelm Winslow owned at least two people, Rose and Tack, married in Hardwick before Winslow moved with his property to Petersham. In Petersham in 1777, Kenelm Winslow— "being very sick and weak in body"—died at age sixty-two. His will left "1/3 of the homestead, 1 horse, 2 milch cows,

10 sheep, and 3 Negroes, Rose, Sarah, and Philip" to Elizabeth, his widow.

Perhaps a connection exists between Dinah sold to the fourth John Chandler and a six-month-old Negro boy, according to the records, named Titus. In 1771, Reverend Aaron Whitney of Petersham gave Titus to Reverend and Mrs. James Humphrey of Athol. Records say that Titus died in Athol at "3 years and 6 months old."

In the 1800 Petersham federal census, Benjamin Chandler—identified as "free other"—headed a family of 7, and William Chandler—also identified as "free other"—headed a family of 7. Enslaved people, frequently referred to as servants, often took the surname of the person or family they served.

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She contributed to the books *Sandisfield Then and Now* (2012) and *From Schul to Soil* (2018), a history of Jewish farmers. She lives in Amherst.



Wendell honors concepts of diverse community

continued from page 28

Wendell until the 1750s, when colonists from Shutesbury, New Salem, and eastern Massachusetts established homesteads. Named for the prominent judge, bank president, and land speculator Oliver Wendell, the town incorporated in 1781.

Settlers built a meetinghouse and laid out a common and cemetery at the center, which rests atop a 1,164-foot glacial hill, in 1780. The town hall, a former Baptist church originally built east of the center in 1819, was relocated to its present site in 1845. Other villages formed at Mormon Hollow, so named for residents who converted to Mormonism, and Wendell Depot on Millers River.

Farming was the primary occupation of Wendell residents through the early nineteenth century. Early industries included a sawmill that opened on Osgood Brook in 1754, a tannery, shoe shop, and numerous makers of palm leaf hats and cloth.

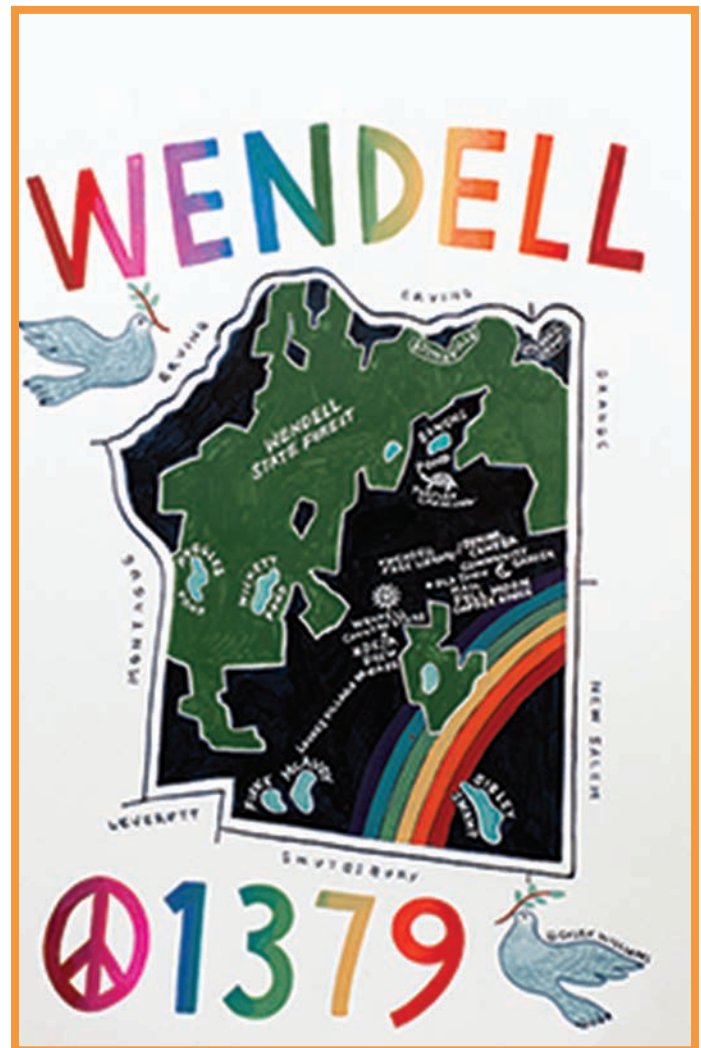
Abundant timber sustained many sawmills and wood businesses that made commodities such as lumber, shingles, potash, cabinet ware, chairs, firewood, and charcoal. In 1845, Wendell ranked as Franklin County's second largest producer of lumber, after Orange. Fourteen sawmills operated in town in 1854. Deforestation and competition from other regions caused timber production to decline during the late nineteenth century.

Stone Piano Company, founded by Jonathan Stone and William Washburn in 1851, manufactured piano cases, legs for pianos and organs, and frames for billiard tables at Stoneville, a village on Millers River. Products of Stone Company comprised two-thirds of Wendell's industrial output by 1875. The factory closed shortly after a destructive fire in 1885. A former employee of Stone Company opened a piano case shop that operated at Farley, a neighborhood of Erving, until 1895. At Stoneville, a 140-foot-long covered bridge connected Wendell's side of Millers River to what is now Route 2, designated as Mohawk Trail Highway in 1914.

Other businesses included a carriage shop, boot and shoe manufacturers, and a boat maker. Paper companies opened at Wendell Depot and Farley during the 1880s.

Location on the Fitchburg Railroad and Mohawk Trail corridors prompted commercial and residential growth at Wendell Depot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An industrial dam on Millers River provided power for a sawmill and an electric company.

Tourism expanded in Wendell after manufacturing declined in the late 1800s. The Summit House hotel at



The spirit of Wendell manifests in art © by Casey Williams.

the town center hosted many summer visitors from urban communities, and Wendell Depot provided lodging and services for travelers on the Mohawk Trail Highway.

Closures of businesses and farms caused Wendell's population to decrease to 290 residents by 1960. Expansion of the University of Massachusetts and onset of the back-to-the-land movement prompted residential growth during the late twentieth century.

A powerful tornado in July 2006 blew down thousands of trees in Wendell State Forest, destroyed the 1846 Town House, and damaged the cemetery.

Wendell Historical Society is renovating a former store and post office at Wendell Depot for use as a museum and repository. Find more information at wendellhistoricalsociety.org

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

children's books focus on creatures of the region's forests

continued from page 35

All of Wetherby's classmates created a human. She created Percival Porcupine.

"Percival lived in my head for more than twenty years," Wetherby confided. "When the pandemic struck and I no longer could interact with children, Percival Porcupine, the reluctant private investigator, finally could have adventures in writing.

"By night," she continued, "Percival sits in the tall oak tree, watching and listening for signs of a change in the weather, but by day, he helps solve the mysteries of nature with other characters who live in the woods and fields near the beaver pond. Since I knew the characters so well, I decided to illustrate them myself."

Wetherby grew up in Athol on the shore of Lake Ellis. More than fifty years ago, she married and moved to

new book features Reverend Roland D. Sawyer

continued from page 32

the water supply committee, Sawyer testified at many hearings during the five years that the legislature considered the proposal for Quabbin and Ware River diversion. He compared the proposal's potential effects on the Swift River Valley to what he called the "rape of Belgium" by the German army in the First World War.

In spite of the efforts of Sawyer and others, measures to create Quabbin passed in 1926 and 1927. Sawyer did not forget his constituents. In 1938, he got legislation passed guaranteeing the right to vote for people displaced by the reservoir project who moved to other towns in the state.

While Sawyer ran for other high offices besides governor in his career, he never rose above the level of state representative. He also spoke out against the controversial 1927 execution of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted of robbing a payroll wagon and killing a guard a few years earlier.

Wolanin works for the congressional research service, and his experience in government and research shows in his thorough biography of Sawyer.

J. R. Greene is author of twenty-three books on historical subjects and the chair of the Athol Historical Commission.

her husband's family farm in Wendell. "We have raised children, goats, chickens, ducks, geese, ponies, horses, a llama, and lots of vegetables," she said.

Inspiration came to Wetherby from family and many people she met.

"My father was an avid outdoorsman," Wetherby confirmed. "Both my parents encouraged me to spend time outdoors. When inside, I was usually reading. Reading books has always been an important part of life," said Wetherby.

"Bob Coyle, my eighth-grade science teacher, continued my enthusiasm for learning about the natural world. Then, after I moved to Wendell, I met the nature enthusiast and watercolor artist, Bob Ellis. When it came time to illustrate, he was my inspiration. But when my friend Judy McIntosh launched her first book, I decided maybe I could publish too."

The decision of how to publish was the biggest struggle for Wetherby.

"Many of my friends were self-publishing, but I decided to ask Marcia Gagliardi at Haley's Publishing for help. Marcia and I were in high school together and had been involved in many political activities through the years. She has been very supportive and helpful, although we are both stubborn old women."

Collectively, the series is known as the Adventures of Percival Porcupine, including *Polly Gone*, *Madame Monarch*, and *Oak Seed*. The next book, *Ophelia*, is written, and Wetherby is currently finishing the illustrations.

"Percival's adventures continue to keep my mind busy on fun things. I am learning so much from the research," Wetherby said. "Susie Feldman's request to use my book for a story walk at Cutthroat Brook Farm trail delighted me. Story walks are an excellent way for families to enjoy reading while being outdoors."

Find all of Wetherby's books

@sylviawetherbybooks.com and @Facebook.com/
Sylvia.Wetherby

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit features work of more than fifty artists

continued from page 19

creates new and interesting questions to answer, more problems to solve, and reveals wonderful surprises.”

DiSilvestro’s piece in Flying Horse, *Mary’s Machine*—also featured in the January 2024 edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*—is made from his mother’s old treadle sewing machine, galvanized sheet metal, stainless steel, and carbon steel.

The Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit is free and open to the public from dawn to dusk seven days a week until December 1 on the campus of Pingree School, 537 Highland Street, South Hamilton.

A reception with artists on Sunday, September 29 at 1:30 will feature an introduction by Honorary Chair Murray Whyte, art critic at the *Boston Globe*.

Find more about the work of Robert Osborne and James DiSilvestro at Osborne’s website, robertgosborne.com, and DiSilvestro’s steelartisan.com.

Judith Klein is the founder and curator of the Flying Horse Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. She lives in Beverly and has enjoyed a long career in marketing and communications for independent schools and other nonprofit organizations.

Jessica Moise awarded Jacobi Medallion

continued from page 30

Mentored by Jane Tsambis, she started as a junior grant specialist in 1997 in the first year that the National Science Foundation accepted internet-submitted applications.

Moise summarizes her current work as intersecting with finance, ethical issues, committee memberships, research and funding compliance, and more to submit applications and negotiate awards for the hundreds of millions of dollars annually that the school receives.

“As I grew up,” she said, “I wanted to be a psychoanalyst. Instead, I do this.”

Moise lives on Long Island with her wife, Barbara Weber, a violinist, filmmaker, and composer.

Growing up in Orange, Moise traveled to New York City, sometimes on school trips, including with art teachers, sometimes to antique shows with her father, Gary Moise, an antique dealer and owner of Orange Trading Company. Her mother, Annette Moise of Orange, a nurse, worked at Greenfield Community College.

Writer Marcia Gagliardi lives in Athol


historic Warwick chapel evolved through usage, time, and place

continued from page 21

in scripture. The secession understandably caused him pain, to which he referred with regret in his “Half Century Discourse” sermon delivered at the First Church in 1864.

Pastor Smith, a man of generous spirit, may have found the new use for his home preferable, but he surely would have been saddened that his own handsome church, built in 1836, still stands unused.

Carl Hammer’s book on early western Massachusetts, *Quarrelsome Quabbin: The First Century of Greenwich and Enfield, Massachusetts*, was published by Levellers Press, Amherst, in 2023.




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weather challenges excursion to town commons

continued from page 4

1794 Meetinghouse and Common in New Salem. Each town common has a unique history, depending on formation of the town and how it grew. Livestock sometimes grazed there. Mandatory Sunday services might last all day with a break midday when those who came from a distance could go to the common.

In winter, however, for people to keep warm and eat during the break from services, nearby taverns developed as gathering places. Perhaps other places of commerce emerged. By the nineteenth century, commons became more recreational.

Today many commons have war memorials, tributes to and recognition of those who fought. Some gave their lives in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, and War in Vietnam. My father's name is on the stone in Orange. He was a soldier who came home. One can see trends in names, including some first names no longer used. Several listed have the same last name. Are they brothers? Cousins? With memorials, a town common provides a public space to honor and contemplate.

And then there are the summer concerts. Area towns with concerts on the common include Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Orange, Petersham, Royalston, Rutland, and West Brookfield. We used to go to the Butterfield Park in Orange in our 1958 Oldsmobile convertible with red leather seats and park in a circle with the other cars around the bandstand. Kids ran and played. Friends and neighbors visited. There was a hot dog vendor, a cotton candy spinner. Concerts always included a Sousa march and lots of appreciative honking and applause. I still go. Commons provide a New England sense of continuity and community throughout the year.

Despite the rain, I got what I wanted: a visit to the West Brookfield Town Common and photo, but I still had to bring my young granddaughter safely home in a torrential downpour.

I circled the common, turned right, then left—another blocked road and second downed tree. I headed off and found a new way, turning onto Ragged Hill Road to Route 32 north. The storm intensified, and the wind picked up.

We went down a tree-lined country road as leaves and twigs hit the car with loud noises scaring both of us. I saw a clearing ahead and pulled into a long driveway that

ran through a field. I turned around at the house and stopped the car midway out to wait for the storm to ease. No one seemed to be home. I felt sure that whoever lived in that house would be glad to see us taking a safe refuge.

I saw no trees, and lovely pink and blue hydrangeas lined one side of the driveway—a perfect spot. I climbed into the back seat and shared my phone's radar map with my granddaughter to reassure us both about the storm. The radar image looked like a long yellow fish swimming east.

After about a half hour, I set out again, only to find that the road dead ended. I had missed a turn. Third blocked road.

Back on the correct Ragged Hill Road in light rain hardly needing the wipers, I could finally see Route 32 north ahead at the bottom of the hill. However, just after the last house, a downed tree blocked the road. Fourth closed road.

We couldn't believe it. I wanted to abandon the car and just walk. But I turned the car around, retraced the last bit, and found a new, successful, way to Route 32 and home.

When we arrived home in Orange, the sun shone on fine roads. Of course, the storm, that yellow fish on the radar, went only through the South Quabbin. North of the reservoir that day, weather remained dry and sunny, although another day would bring a furious storm and many downed trees.

A simple quest intended to inform a "Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts" column had turned into an adventure, not what I expected.

Actor, lover of language, retired teacher of French, and ardent traveler, Sally Howe resides in Orange.

SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping alive the stories of
New Salem and the
four "lost" towns of
the Quabbin*



40 Elm Street, PO Box 22
New Salem, MA 01355
Telephone: 978-544-6882

www.swiftrivermuseum.com

www.facebook.com/swiftrivermuseum

swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com

NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green with illustrations by Zachery Zdinak

Trees by Hermann Hesse

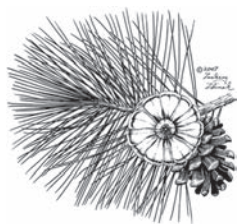
In their highest boughs the world rustles, their roots rest in infinity, but they do not lose themselves there. They struggle with all the force of their lives for one thing only: to fulfill themselves according to their own laws, to build up their own form, to represent themselves.

A tree says:

A kernel is hidden in me, a spark, a thought—I am Life from eternal Life.

A tree says:

When we have learned how to listen to trees, then the brevity and quickness and childlike hastiness of our thoughts achieve an incomparable joy.



red pine



white pine

Trees provide a multitude of habitats, essential gifts and beauty for our enjoyment. After the opulence of multi-hued deciduous trees has taken its final bow, the pines greet us along the trails. There are more than 120 species of pines.

Mostly all pines are evergreen, and so they never exist without their leaves or their long and narrow needles containing chlorophyll, a required ingredient for the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis enables trees to turn light into carbohydrates—food. Trees also absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen for us and improve the air quality.

Two species are found in the Quabbin region: eastern white pine, *pinus strobus*, and the red pine, *pinus resinosa*. As conifers, pines produce their seeds in cones. Those cones serve as reproductive organs of their trees, and the wind, animals, and people disperse the seeds. People use pinecones in holiday decorations or crafts, such as to create whimsical gnomes.

Pinecones from the white pine are long like an adult hand, and pinecones from the red pine are round like a rose flower, fitting nicely within the hand. All cones portray a pattern of sequence called Fibonacci in honor of Leonardo Fibonacci of Pisa.

The white pine has needles from three to five inches long in clusters of five. The red pine has needles from four to six inches long in clusters of two or three. A shortcut way to remember: the word white has five letters and the word red has three letters.

In the early 1700s, the workers marked tall, majestic white pines with a broad arrow and harvested them for the king. Merchants returned logs to England for creation of royal ships' masts. Records indicate one of the king's trees at more than 220 feet tall.

In the 1800s, harvested pine trees provided wood pulp to make paper in a process less expensive than using linen to make paper.

Brewing the needles of any pine tree makes pine needle tea. The needles are rich in Vitamin C and boost the immune system. Refreshing, light, and aromatic, pine needle tea makes a good drink as the cold and flu season approaches. Delicate green tea showcases in a white mug or teapot.

The bark of pine trees is also medicinal, used in traditional medicine as an anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, and expectorant. Chopped pine bark can serve as a mulch for a garden, since it retains moisture and suppresses weeds.

Versatile, indeed!

When walking over Quabbin Reservoir lands or by Mount Grace in Warwick, take a deep breath while appreciating the pines' distinct scent made from their resin. That resin protects trees from pests and diseases.

Hug a pine tree. Notice a midden, a pile of pinecone fragments at its base where a squirrel or chipmunk ate a meal. Take a quiet moment to bathe in the forest and bring all of your senses to the experience.

May you feel at home.

Clare Green of Warwick welcomes folks to visit the fairy cottage and the Woodland Labyrinth nestled within the pines. claregreenbooks.com Find Zachary Zdinak at wildlife@lifedraw.com

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Visual & Performing Arts Space

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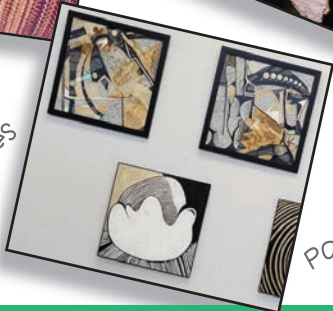
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quilling



sculptures



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SOM is sponsored/supported by the Orange Court LLC, Orange Revitalization Partnership (O.R.P.), Legacy Unlimited and Orange/Mass Cultural Council.



varied regional trails offer abundant opportunities for walking

continued from page 59



Quabbin Gate 53 in Ware features a trail that passes the foundation and basement of the L. J. Powers home, known as Quaint Quabbin.

photo by Sue Cloutier

When possible, walk instead of drive. Take the stairs.

Incorporating walking into daily routines, even in small doses, can significantly contribute to overall health and well-being. Walking has powerful benefits in a winning combination for consistency and good health practice.

A finisher in National Novel Writing Month competition, Amber Robidoux is a freelance writer. She lives in Orange.

region's varsity football schedules

games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Amherst Pelham Regional High School

Home

October 11 • Northampton High School

October 18 • East Longmeadow High School

October 25 • West Springfield High School

Away

October 4 • Wahconah Regional High School

November 1 • Agawam High School

Athol High School

Home

October 11 • Ware Jr./Sr. High School

October 25 • Mahar Regional High School

Away

October 4 • Franklin County Technical School

October 18 • Palmer High School

November 1 • Greenfield High School

November 28 • Mahar Regional School • 10 am

Belchertown High School

Home

October 25 • Frontier Regional School • 6:30 pm

November 1 • High School of Commerce • 6:30 pm

Away

October 5 • Hoosac Valley Middle/High School • 2:00 pm

October 11 • Easthampton High School

November 28 • Pathfinder Reg. Voc/Tech High School • 9 am

Franklin County Technical School

Home

October 4 • Athol High School

October 18 • Greenfield High School

November 1 • Mahar Regional School

Away

October 11 • Palmer High School

October 25 • Ware Jr./Sr. High School

November 28 • Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School • 10 am

Mahar Regional School, Orange

Home

October 4 • Palmer High School

October 18 • Ware Jr./Sr. High School

November 28 • Athol High School • 10 am

Away

October 11 • Greenfield High School

October 25 • Athol High School

November 1 • Franklin County Tech. School

schedule compiled by
Carla Charter

historical societies plan North Quabbin history tour

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sunday, September 22

**Seven of the area's historical societies will open their doors
for a glimpse of local history and what sets
the North Quabbin apart.**



Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street
Athol



Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton



Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange



Petersham Historical Society
10 North Main Street
Petersham



Phillipston Historical Society
80 State Road
Phillipston



Royalston Historical Society
1 On the Common
Royalston



Swift River Museum
40 Elm Street
New Salem

Holiday Season Brings Special Activities

As autumn morphs into winter, seasonal celebrations anticipate the holiday season with fairs, parades, tree lighting, community events, and more. *Uniquely Quabbin* has received notification of several holiday events:

Warwick Holiday Fair
Warwick Trinitarian Church
10 am to 3 pm Saturday, November 30

A Charlie Brown Christmas
Center at Eagle Hill, Hardwick
7 pm Friday and Saturday, December 6 & 7
and
2 pm Sunday, December 8

Annual Festival of Trees
Rutland Library
4 pm to 8 pm Saturday, December 7
1 pm to 4 pm Sunday, December 8

Tree Lighting
Narragansett Historical Society
Templeton
1 pm to 4 pm Sunday, December 8

Hubbardston Light Fight
throughout town
5 pm to 9 pm
Fridays through Sundays
December 6 through 8
December 13 through 15
December 20 through 22

Tree Lighting
First Congregational Church
Royalston
5:30 pm Saturday, December 14



Starry, Starry Night in Orange on New Year's Eve features performances, activities, food, holiday decorations, and ice sculpture.

Mark Bosworth of Athol created the owl and the pussycat, above, for display near the state Peace Statue across from Orange Fire Station.

photo courtesy of Starry, Starry Night Committee

Please tell our advertisers
you saw them in
Uniquely Quabbin magazine.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

September 19, Thursday

Monadnock: The Mountain that Stands

Alone movie screening

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Monadnock: The Mountain that Stands

Alone is a one-hour documentary from filmmaker Daniel J. White and Rabbit

Ear Films.

athollibrary.org

September 21, Saturday

Barre's Anniversary Grand Parade

1:00 pm

Barre's Anniversary Fireworks

6:00 pm

Barre Common

Event sponsored by

Barre, Massachusetts,

250th Anniversary Committee

Birds of Prey

1:00 pm

Swift River Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

With Tom Ricardi. Free admission.

Rave One!

7:00 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Travel back in time to when the jukebox reigned supreme!

thecenterateaglehill.org

September 21, Saturday

continued

The Deep River Ramblers

7:30 pm

1794 Meetinghouse

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Musical ramblers roaming between

well-known and inspirational voices

like Doc Watson, Nanci Griffith, Levon

Helm, Muddy Waters and John Prine.

1794meetinghouse.org

September 22, Sunday

Motorpalooza

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Templeton Common

Boyton Road

Templeton

Bring your ride or check out some

cool ones. Anything with an engine

can show. Music by Boothill Express.

Weather permitting. See Facebook

for updated information. Hosted by

Narragansett Historical Society.

Tribute to Dorothy Johnson

2:00 pm

1794 Meetinghouse

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Prescott -Greenwich Road Hike

11:00 am

Cooleyville Crossing

(field at intersection of Gate 17 road and Route 202).

Limited spaces. Pre-register by

email to dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com or

telephone (978) 544-6882.

September 22, Sunday

continued

North Quabbin History Tour

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Seven of the area's historical societies will open their doors for a glimpse of our local history and what sets the North Quabbin apart.

Athol Historical Society

1307 Main Street

Narragansett Historical Society

1 Boynton Road

Templeton

Orange Historical Society

41 North Main Street

Petersham Historical Society

10 North Main Street

Phillipston Historical Society

80 State Road

Royalston Historical Society

1 On The Common

Swift River Museum

40 Elm Street

New Salem

September 24, Tuesday

Antique Road Show

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Rutland Library

280 Main Street

Rutland

Appraiser will be on site. Bring one or two items to be appraised. Fee will be \$5.00 per item

rutlandlibrary.org

September 25, Wednesday

JA McIntosh Book Launch:

Swift River Secrets

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Modern mystery *Swift River Secrets*

features creation of Quabbin Reservoir.

athollibrary.org

continued on page 74

events compiled by Emily Boughton

Please submit listings for the next issue

before December 1, 2024 to UQCalendar@gmail.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 73

September 28 and September 29

Saturday and Sunday

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Forsters Farm
60 Chestnut Hill

Orange

Art, farm fresh products, garlic
cuisine, performances, family
activities and much more!

Garlicandarts.org

October 4, Friday

Scott Higgins Comedy All-Stars

7:00 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Scott Higgins is back with a new
all-star lineup of stand-up comedians!

thecenterateaglehill.org

October 5, Saturday

Third Annual Comic Book Fest

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Athol Town Hall

584 Main Street

Athol

Meet local comic book creators
and artists, shop at vendor stalls,
and enjoy free activities for the
whole family. Cosplay contest with

cash prizes. Find out more about
participating artists and vendors on
the Facebook event listing.

Athollibrary.org

Hardwick's Ghost Walk

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Hardwick Common Cemetery

Petersham Road

Hardwick

The first hundred years of Hardwick
come alive! The eighteenth-century
cemetery is resting place for some
interesting Hardwick residents. Come
talk with ghosts and listen to their
stories. Flashlights recommended.
\$5 per person.

October 5 and October 6

Saturday and Sunday

Backroads Studio Tour

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Self guided tour through the studios
of nine artists and craftspeople in
Barre, Petersham, Oakham, New
Braintree, West Brookfield, North
Brookfield, and Spencer. Paintings,
leather work, jewelry, stained glass,
baskets, wood carvings, silkscreen
prints, hooked rugs, textiles, and
paper works.

Backroadsstudiotour.org

October 11, Friday

Gothic Ghost Tales by Candlelight

7:00 pm

Williamsville Chapel

4 Burnshirt Road

Hubbardston

Featuring Rita Parisi of Waterfall
Productions in a theatrical adaptation
of nineteenth- and twentieth-century
Gothic short stories written by
women. Recommended for mature
twens and older. Sponsored by a
grant from Hubbardston Cultural
Council. RSVP to [hubbhistory1767@
gmail.com](mailto:hubbhistory1767@gmail.com) by October 10.

October 19, Saturday

Swing Dance

6:00 pm

Rutland Sportsman Club

75 Pleasantdale Road

Rutland

\$10 per person to support

Rutland Events Committee.



October 20, Sunday

Hope Lives Here 5K Run/Walk

9:00 am

Glenwood School

Thirteenth Annual

Station Loop Ramble

9:30 am first starting time

New Braintree Train Station Site

Hardwick Road

New Braintree

Run/walk to benefit East Quabbin

Land Trust, EQL. Includes five-mile

classic over hilly road with a flat fast

finish on Mass Central Rail Trail and

flat kids' one-mile and 5k Run/Walk.

Spirit Walk

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Old Burial Ground Cemetery

next to Rutland Library

Main Street

Rutland

Come visit with the spirits to learn
about their history.

rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

October 23, Wednesday

Dale Monette: *I See You*

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Sneak preview of Dale Monette's

previously unpublished works!

athollibrary.org

October 31, Thursday

Trunk or Treat

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Town Common

Rutland

please consider a donation to
Uniquely Quabbin magazine
with a check mailed to
Debra Ellis, business manager
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
Athol, MA 01331

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

November 2, Saturday

40th Annual Central Massachusetts
Postcard Show

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Saint. Joseph's Catholic Church

60 South Street

Barre

Postcard and ephemera show and
sale featuring a dozen dealers.

\$3 admission and sales of lunch food
will benefit the church.

Contact show manager J. R. Greene at
jrg01331@webtv.net

Artful Stitches

10:30 am -12:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Textile artist and mender Percival

Burch offers step-by-step guidance in
the art of mending by hand.

athollibrary.org

November 9, Saturday

Holiday Bazaar

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Athol Congregational Church

1225 Chestnut Street

Athol

Shop gifts including jewelry, theme
baskets, crafts, wreaths, tasty treats,
and more.

Broadway's Next Hit Musical

7:00 pm

Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Don't miss the next great American
musical . . . it could be written by YOU!

thecenterateaglehill.org

November 10, Sunday

History of Mishoon

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Rutland Library

280 Main Street

Rutland

Mishoon is a traditional Native

American dugout canoe used by
indigenous people for fishing, trading
and transportation.

rutlandlibrary.org

November 10, Sunday

through

December 8, Sunday

Weekends

Country Roads Christmas

North Quabbin Region

A month-long event, held the first
weekend in November through the
first weekend in December. Drive
down old New England country roads
shopping at sixteen unique stores for
one-of-a-kind gifts.

Countryroadschristmas.com

November 14, Thursday

The Dickens You Say!

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Delvena Theatre Company presents
The Dickens You Say! Charles Dickens
wrote powerful, imaginative, and
adored novels.

athollibrary.org

November 16, Saturday

Superfoods 101: Culinary Education

Workshop with Kim Larkin

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Celebrate the powerhouses of
nutrition with a colorful presentation
highlighting the powerful properties of
popular superfoods.

athollibrary.org

November 17, Sunday

**Thanksgiving Farmers' Market
and Bake Sale**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Williamsville Chapel

4 Burnshirt Road

Hubbardston

Farm fresh products for the holiday
table.

hubbhistory1767@gmail.com

November 23 and 24

Saturday-Sunday

Thanksgiving Harvest Festival

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Red Apple Farm

Highland Avenue

Phillipston

Featuring food, The Brew Barn, face
painting, pony rides and hayrides,
blacksmith demonstrations, local live
music, pick-your-own ornamental
corn, guided nature hikes, and more!

Redapplefarm.com

November 29, Friday

through

December 8, Sunday

Tuck Everlasting: The Musical

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Sundays at 2:00 pm

Barre Players Theater

64 Common Street

Barre

barreplayerstheater.com

November 30, Saturday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Warwick Holiday Fair

Warwick Community School

benefitting

Trinitarian Congregational Church
of Warwick.

continued on page 76

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 75

**December 6, Friday
through**

December 8, Sunday

A Charlie Brown Christmas
Friday and Saturday at 7:00 pm
Sunday at 2:00 pm
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Good grief! Everyone's favorite
holiday classic comes to life on stage.
thecenterateaglehill.org



**December 7 and 8
Saturday and Sunday**

Annual Festival of Trees
Rutland Library
Saturday 4:00 pm-8 :00pm
Sunday 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Rutland Library
280 Main Street
Rutland
rutlandlibrary.org

December 8, Sunday

Tree Lighting
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Crafts, cookies, a fire, and cocoa.
Town tree lighting and Jack frost
parade after.



December 14, Saturday

Tree Lighting
5:30 pm
First Congregational Church
15 On the Common
Royalston
Featuring the ACC Bell Choir and
light dinner—soups and sweets, hot
chocolate, s'more making, Christmas
caroling. Santa will visit on his fire
engine. Concludes with live music.
Free and open to the public.



Early season snow brings winter to Harvard Forest, Petersham.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky