



Kathryn Toomey
Register of Deeds

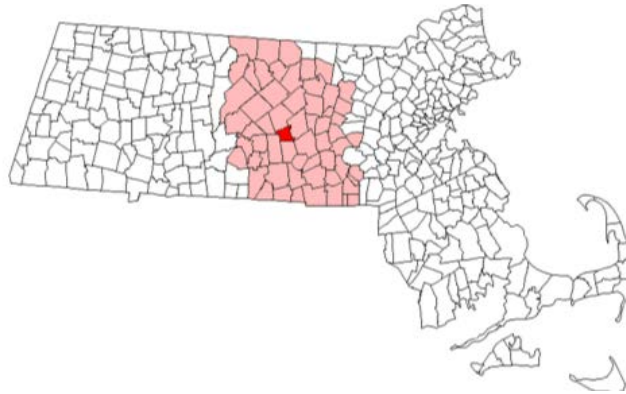
Worcester Registry of Deeds

Newsletter

October 2021 ~ Issue #13 ~ Town of Paxton

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Hello and welcome to our Newsletter.

We spotlight one community per month and hope to share with the other communities in our district some historical or social significance of the region. In this introduction I like to let you know what is going on in our district and in our office.

For the town spotlight, we chose Paxton. Our long time registry employee, Kathleen Meehan-Sullivan is our First Assistant Register. Kathy lives in Paxton.

I grew up in Holden. My parents moved from the Boston/Cambridge area to the "country" of central Massachusetts. My parents were kids of public transportation and the country was exciting. My dad enjoyed ice skating. Many cold sunny winter days we spent at Moore State Park skating on the ice. During the other seasons we enjoyed the trails covered in rhododendrons and azaleas. My mom would pack lunch, or we would make a detour

to Hot Dog Annie's or the Black & White and we would sit by the waterfall and mill and enjoy the whooshing sounds and sights that make Moore State Park iconic for Paxton. Many of my fellow Mountaineers from Wachusett have trekked out to Moore State Park for en-

gagement, wedding or family photographs.

For those readers who have not been to Paxton, it is beautiful town with an amazing Park. This time of year we tend to take rides and inspect the leaf colors, I suggest you add this hotspot to your list.

Community Statistics

81

Number of Recordings in September

\$309K

Median Home Value

93%

Homes Owned vs. Rented

1,620

Total Housing Units

110

Density (Houses per Square Mile)



Town Spotlight

PAXTON

By Kathleen Meehan-Sullivan

Paxton was first settled in 1749 and was officially incorporated in 1765. The town of Paxton was originally taken from the towns of Leicester and Rutland, in nearly equal parts, and was incorporated February 12, 1765, named after Charles Paxton, a surveyor of customs for Boston Harbor.

I've lived in Paxton since 1984 and appreciate the small town charm, quaintness and history. My favorite place to visit in town is the Major Willard Moore Memorial State Park on Route 31 in Paxton. A resident of Richards Avenue in Paxton, Major Willard Moore (1743-1775) fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was killed in the battle and buried at Bunker Hill. The Major Willard Moore Memorial State Park is named in his honor, a monument in his memory stands at the Center Cemetery in Paxton.

For years now Major Willard

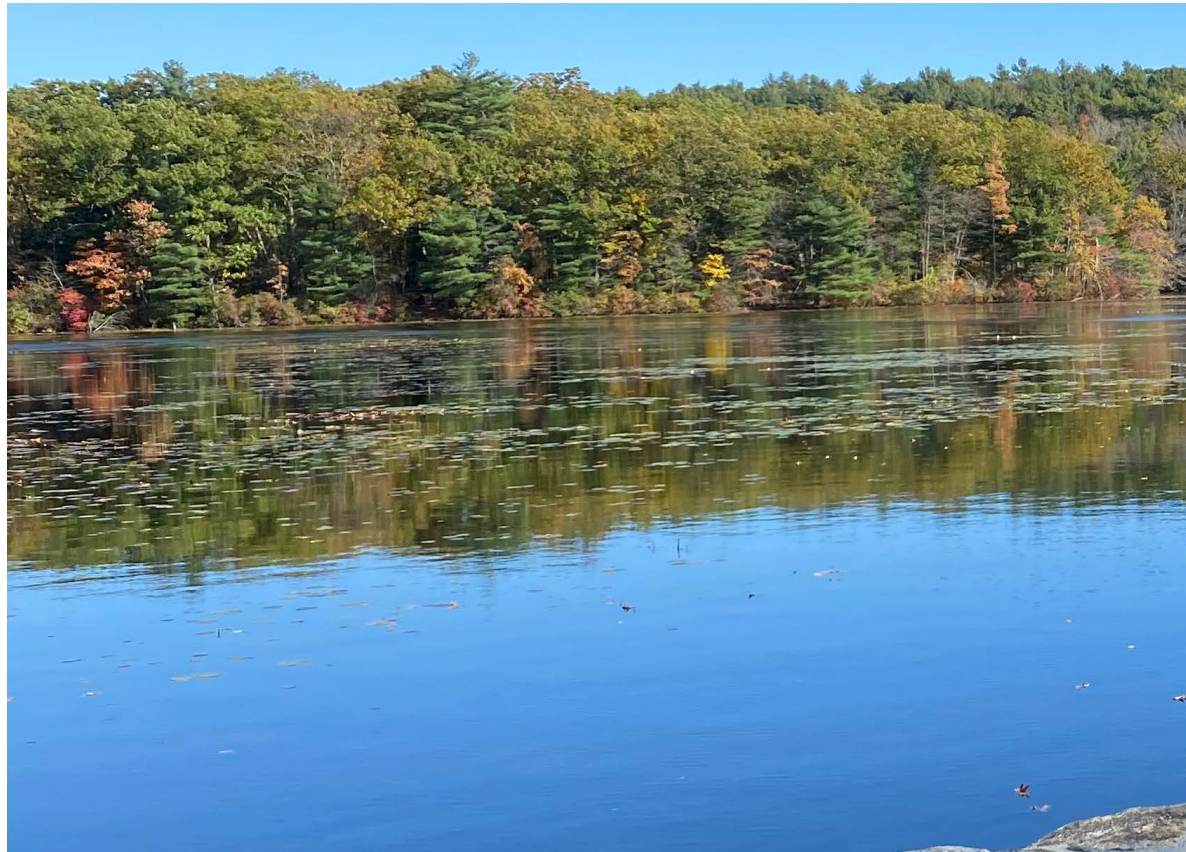
Moore Memorial State Park has been a popular recreational destination. The Park is a 737-acre public recreation area managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation having been purchased by

the state in 1965 from the Spaulding family ([Book 4622, pg 585](#)).

Recreational activities include canoeing, fishing, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and picnicking. Interpretive programs and concerts are held in season.

Portions of the park were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Moore State Park Historic District in 2004.

A portion of the land within Moore State Park was once the home of at least five 18th- and 19th century watermills



that were powered by Turkey Hill Brook. Eames Pond was created in 1828 by the dam constructed at the top of Turkey Hill Brook, located above the waterfalls that powered a number of mills in the historic mill village.

The original pond was much smaller, but has grown over the past two centuries as incremental changes were made to the dam. The first mills on the site were a gristmill and sawmill built as early as 1747. Visible remnants of the mill village include a triphammer, quarry, schoolhouse, and tavern.

Eames Pond and the dam are historic and cultural amenities that many visitors look forward to seeing. In the early 20th century, the prop-

erty became a private estate, large portions of which were subsequently included in the state park.

In 1930, Florence Morton of Worcester (1875-1953), enamored with the beauty of the Paxton landscape,

bought the property known as the Eames Mill property ([Book 2520, pg 106, pg 107](#)). Florence was an active member of the Baha I'faith and an avid promoter of world peace.

Florence, one of the first

women in Massachusetts to earn a degree in Landscape Architecture, used this knowledge to create a retreat for contemplation and the study of Baha I'faith. A Swiss chalet was built and extensive plantings of rhododen-



drons and azaleas began. In 1946, the Mortons sold the property to the Spaulding family of Worcester. Connie Spaulding, an active member of the Massachusetts

Horticultural Society and the Worcester Garden, added to the flower plantings. Connie was so enchanted with the property, she named it Enchanta.

The Spauldings sold the property to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1965 ([Book 4622, pg585](#)). Today, we enjoy the beauty and serenity of the landscape cre-

ated by Florence Morton and Connie Spaulding and at the same time honor the memory of a patriot at Bunker Hill, Major Willard Moore.



JUMBLE

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'Tis the season