



Kathryn A. Toomey
Register of Deeds

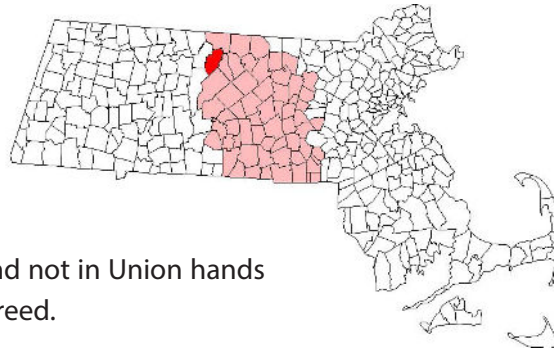
Worcester Registry of Deeds

Newsletter

June 2023 ~ Issue #22 ~ Town of Athol

What's Inside?

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lion and not in Union hands were freed.

More isolated geographically, planters and other slaveholders had migrated to Texas from eastern states to escape the fighting, and many brought slaves with them, increasing by the thousands the enslaved population in the state at the end of the Civil War. Although most lived in rural areas, more than 1,000 resided in both Galveston and Houston by 1860, with several hundred in other large towns. By 1865, there were an estimated 250,000 slaves in Texas. Despite the surrender of Confederate General-in-Chief Robert E.

Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, the western Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi did not surrender until June 2. On the morning of June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived on the island of Galveston to take command of the more than 2,000 federal troops recently landed in the department of Texas to enforce the emancipation of its slaves. In 2021, Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983.

Community Statistics

7,827

Number of Recordings in April 2023

\$285K

Median Home Value

71%

Homes Owned vs. Rented

4,125

Total Housing

148

Density (Houses per Square Mile)



Town Spotlight

Athol

A great sporting event that might not be on your radar: The **Athol-Orange River Rat**. The race is scheduled in April in the North Central Massachusetts town of Athol. It is a 5.2 mile canoe race on the Millers River, specifically between Athol and the Or-

ange Dam. They schedule the race in the beginning of the spring when people are feeling the doldrums of a long New England Winter. The water is freezing and sometimes there is snow on the ground. The River Rat is 58 years strong and one of a kind. The first River Rat

was in 1964, with 12 canoes participating. The winning canoe was manned by Art Forand and Sonny Soucie. Their canoe was made of canvas.

The original winning canoe can be viewed at the Orange Historical Society. In Honor of Forand and Soucie there is an annual award given to the team that passes the most canoes. The idea to race came from a group of people in a local pub discussing a particular fishing hole. It started as a friendly wager between a few guys from Athol and a few guys from Orange. Who could paddle to the fishing spot first? The Race was born. The following year they raced again. Over time the race became an event on the calendar. In the beginning it was loosely organized, but the fun was contagious. The locals had all winter to plan

their canoe and fuel the rivalry of the event. The race has expanded to a carnival and a parade. The race is competitive, but there remain those who are there just for fun. Today, the planning is months in advance. The race participants are sponsored and safety teams line the river to make the event safe. The River Rat brings thousands of spectators to the riverbanks. Today, 200 to 300 canoes enter the race. One particular year, they had 468 boats with paddlers. On race day, Main Street is blocked to vehicle traffic and the Race owns the district for the day. The River Rats include nationally ranked paddlers, local athletes, legacies, tourists and entire families. Many of the entrants dress in costumes. The day begins with a pancake breakfast and ends with a spaghetti supper.



Tool Town

In 1868, the Athol Machine Company was formed and developed a chopping machine. The inventor of the machine: Laroy S. Starrett. Fast forward to 1881 he founded the L.S. Starrett Company. Today his company is international and produces high-quality precision tools. The Starrett mills dominate the downtown and river-front of the Millers River. L.S. Starrett remains the largest local employer.

An additional player in the mill industry, Union Twist Drill Company, was located in downtown Athol and at its peak employed 800 people. Union Twist Drill closed in the 1980s. Athol has earned and maintained the nickname: "Tool Town".



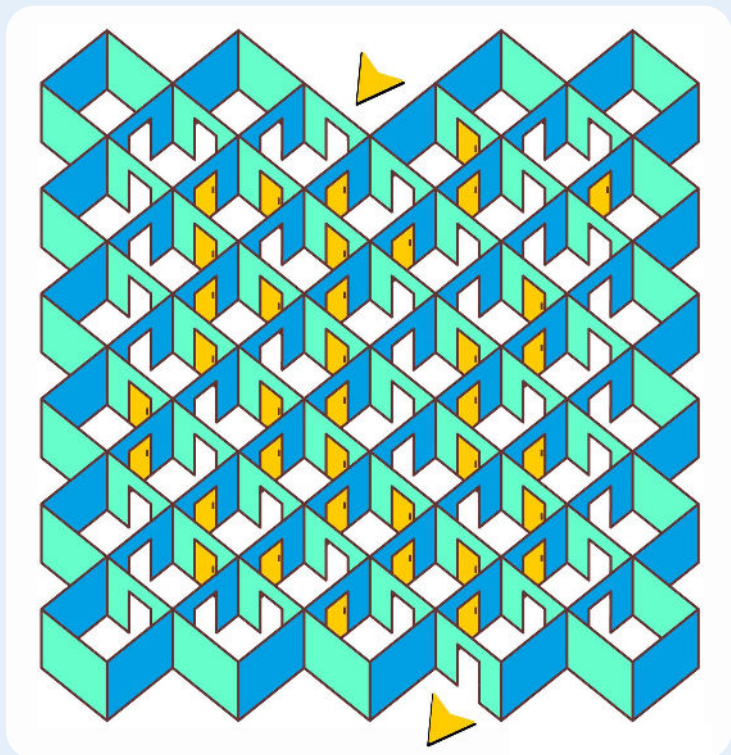
Puzzle



Magic Key

Find the only door the key will open to get you through the maze.

Puzzle answer on page 4



Upcoming Speaking Events

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 – 1:00pm — Westborough Senior Center
4 Rogers Road, Westborough, Ma 01581

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – 11:00am — Templeton Senior Community Center
16 Senior Dr., Baldwinville, Ma 01436

Wednesday September 27, 2023 – 10:00am — Paxton Senior Center
19 West St #15, Paxton, MA 01612

If there are any other Senior Centers or organizations that would like to have Katie Toomey come and do a presentation with questions and answers, please email me at margaret.freeman@sec.state.ma.us or call 508-368-7000
Katie would gladly accommodate your group.

Special Notice: Regarding Registered Land Recording

Effective January 1, 2023

Beginning January 1, 2023, all Registered Land documents that you intend to submit to us for registration must first be emailed to us for pre-approval. Send your fully executed documents to worcester.deeds@sec.state.ma.us. We will review the documents and email our determination that the documents may be submitted to us as is or we will specify any changes that must be made before sending the documents to us.

Beginning January 1, 2023, original Registered Land documents will be returned to customers once the recording process is completed.

A return envelope with postage will be required so that we can return the documents to you via the USPS.

Thank you – Register Kathryn A. Toomey

Consumer Notification Service

**Get notified when
documents are recorded.**

This service alerts you by email whenever a new document is recorded for your property. If you made this change, you don't need to do anything. If you did not, you should contact your local Registry of Deeds office.

Who can set up an account?

This service is provided at no cost to Massachusetts residential property owners. You can set up an account and register up to 3 properties. This service is not available for commercial properties. Create a new account by visiting the link below.

cns.masslandrecords.com

**Puzzle
Solution**

