

THE VILLAGE OF WABAN

How families have shaped this community

“THE CHARLES RIVER,
 WITH ITS CRYSTAL CURRENTS,
 WINDS AROUND THE
 TRANQUIL REACH BETWEEN THE
 UPPER AND LOWER FALLS,
 AMID THE MOST IDYLIC RURAL SCENERY.”

— M.F. SWEETSER, 1889
King's Handbook of Newton

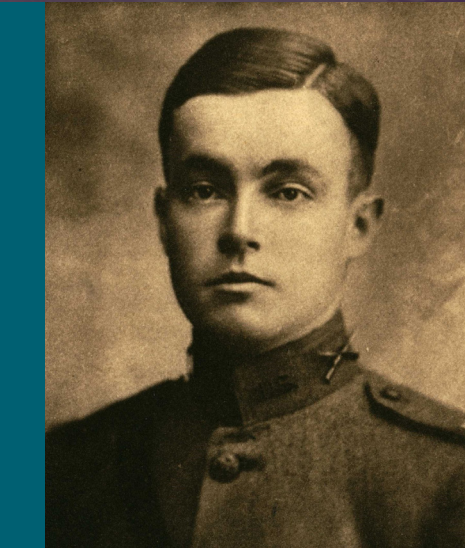


Walkers on the
 Quinobequin Trail
 can spot beavers,
 muskrats, and
 herons.



Angier School
 students 1930s.

Lt. Albert Edgar Angier
 (1897-1918).



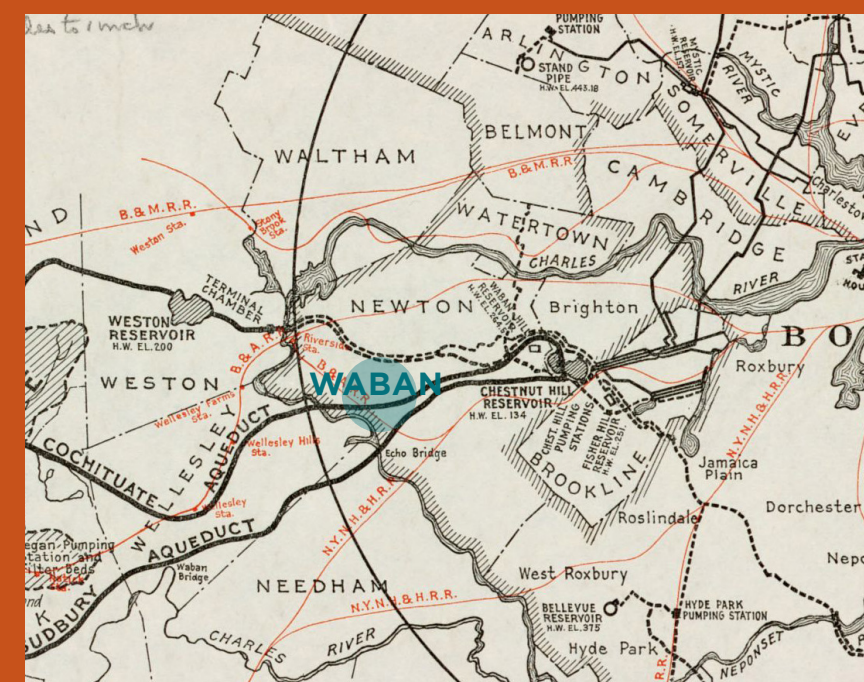
EMERGENCE OF THE VILLAGE

The Charles River area provided fruitful fishing and hunting for Indigenous people in this region. The Massachusetts people called the river *Quinobequin*, meaning “meandering.” Now Quinobequin Road runs alongside the Charles River at the southwest edge of the village.

By the early 1800s, several large family farms were established here. Those family names became street names: Collins, Wyman and Moffat. More than 50 acres were set aside by the town for an almshouse and “poor farm,” a place for indigent people to live and work.

Running beneath where you are standing, the Cochituate Aqueduct (1848) carried water from Natick to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. This massive civil works project supplied water to Boston for a century.

With the opening of rail service in the 1880s, this pastoral hamlet evolved rapidly into a thriving suburban village.



This 1916 Metropolitan Water Board map shows the Cochituate Aqueduct crossing under the Boston & Albany rail line at Waban.



ESTABLISHING HOUSES OF WORSHIP

As more families settled here, they built places of worship that became signature buildings in the village.

Local architect William Goodwin designed the Parish of the Good Shepherd (1896), incorporating fieldstone walls and Gothic arched windows. This church joined the Episcopal Diocese.



A non-denominational Protestant congregation formed to build the Union Church (1912). Architect James H. Ritchie, who trained in Scotland, designed its tall spire to be visible from afar.

REMEMBERING A LOCAL HERO

Members of the Angier family were parishioners at the Good Shepherd church. Albert Angier left Harvard College to serve in World War I. Lt. Angier showed great courage on the battlefield in France, dying at age 21, just two months before the Armistice. More than 100 Newtonians gave their lives in that war.

Named to honor his memory, the first Angier School opened in 1921. The current building first welcomed students in 2016.

IMPROVEMENTS LED BY THE COMMUNITY

Wabanites frequently band together to enhance village life. In 2018, under the City's Adopt-a-Space program, families and businesses joined to transform two traffic islands into this park, carefully preserving the old oak tree behind you. Waban Common Inc. continues to steward this green space.



Community members create a new landscape on Waban Common.



Red Cross volunteers assemble bandages c.1942.

Christmas Play at the Good Shepherd c.1965.

City of Newton

This sign was created through a collaboration of the Waban Improvement Society, the Waban Area Council, Waban Common Inc, and Historic Newton. Discover a second sign a few blocks to the east.

LEARN MORE: www.NewtonMA.gov/HistorySigns

IMAGES: Cynthia Cole, Dale Monette, Johnny Owens, Anne Smagorinsky, Bruce Wilson, Historic Newton, Newton Free Library, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection at the Boston Public Library. Design: Ellen Weinberger

