

Road Tripping with Sue & Ced Berkshires, July 16-18, 2023

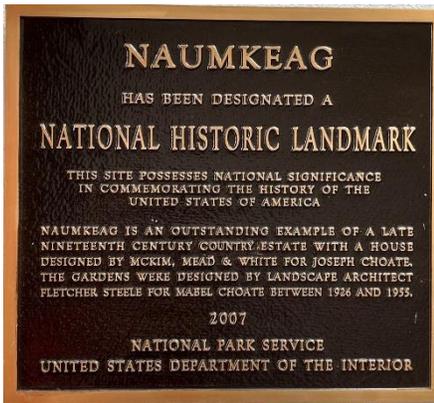


Our last planned road trip of this spring/summer (thank you Virginia P!), to Tanglewood (Lenox, MA) on Sunday July 16 for the the Boston Symphony Orchestra performance of Beethoven's *Leonore Overture No. 3* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the Boston Children's Chorus. Fortunately, we had seats in "the Shed." While the heavy rains had

stopped by the time we arrived, the grounds remained wet. This *Leonore* was for Beethoven's 1806 revised version of his opera. Carl Orff composed *Carmina Burana* (1936) for a collection of Medieval poetry found in Bueren. Its full name translates as "Songs of Beuren: Profane songs sung by singers and choirs accompanied by magical instruments and images." It's essentially a celebration of life and love sung in Latin, Middle High German and Old French. This performance was as "over the top" as hoped! (By the way, Hitler was very fond of this piece.)

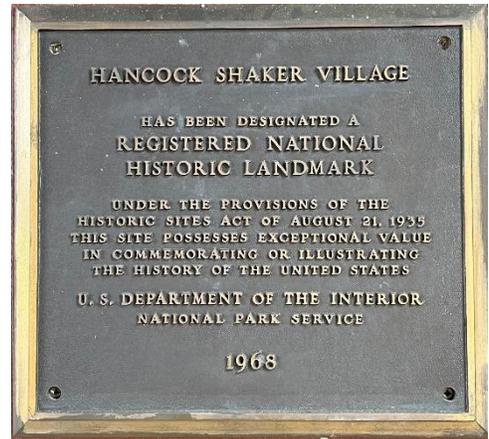


That evening we joined my daughter and her family for dinner at the Barrington Brewery & Restaurant (36 Main Street US 7, Great Barrington). This has been my favorite for since the 1980s for the beer and BBQ. It's not fine dining, but it's perfect for picky grandchildren. We also saw friends and Berkshire sights on this trip, notwithstanding the weird summer weather. The Northeast has been warmer and more humid than usual (nearly 100% most days) with record rainfall, and hazy and unhealthy air from the Canadian forest fires. Most days, you can see and smell smoke.



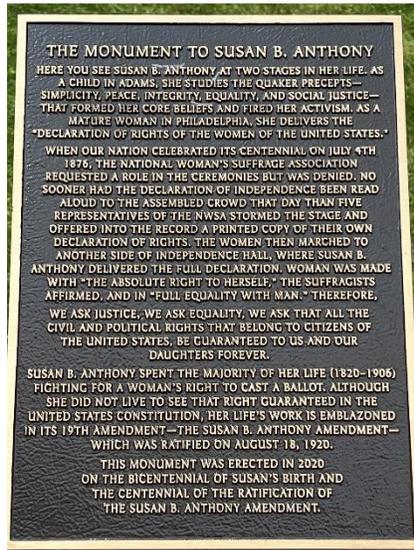
Next evening, we dined outside with old friends and their dog at Once Upon a Table in Stockbridge (36 Main Street US 7), It's located behind the historic (1773) Red Lion Inn. Their skirt steak is outstanding!

Hancock Shaker Village (1843 West Housatonic Street US 20 Pittsfield) is well worth visiting. This community emerged in the 1780s and was active



until the 1960s. There are only 2 or 3 Shakers alive today, in Sabbathday Lake, Maine. Unfortunately for their continuity, Shakers practice celibacy.

Who knew Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820 to a Quaker family in Adams, MA (67 East Road)?



We had no time on this short trip to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge (9 Glendale Road Route 183) or Mass MoCA in North Adams (the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, 1040 Mass MoCA Way). They are very different but well worth seeing. Mass MoCA is one of the largest museums of its kind. It is unique in being located in a restored 19th century mill complex and is a major attraction that is helping to revitalize its old mill city. For example, the father of a current museum employee worked in the electrical components company that succeeded the original cotton mill where his father worked—3 generations working in the same buildings but for different employers. Mass MoCA attracts world-class artists, visitors to support local businesses, and new employers as the economy evolved. (I am proud to have had a part in this community economic development project while at the Boston Office of HUD, US Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

Due to the poor visibility from the Canadian smoke, we decided not to drive up Mount Greylock (highest point in the state at 3,489 feet). Instead, we took the 2002 BMW 330Ci convertible (top up with AC on half

the time) home on one of my favorite driving roads, Route 2, the Mohawk Trail, a National Scenic Byway. This route follows a Native American footpath through the mountains and was Massachusetts' first designated scenic auto touring road.

The Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls was our last stop. This bridge was converted into a beautiful linear park by local after the trolley line closed in 1927s. (It's an early predecessor to The High Line in Manhattan.) The bridge closes in late October 2023 for extensive repairs. By the way, do not miss the falls!



Heavy rain, tropical humidity and smoke notwithstanding, it was a great road trip. However, we both had trouble finding our room in the hotel ... until we realized that this was only the 7th hotel* we had slept in since April! (Yes, Sue and I have way too much going on in our lives.)

[*As Hilton Grand Vacations Club owners, we usually stay in Hilton chain hotels on road trips.]