

# Cedar Swamp/Pond/Lake & The Mad River

## Bibliographic Timeline

Thanks to Jay Manewitz, Historical Research Librarian, Bristol Public Library. June 29 2001.

1852

[De Forest, John W. \*History of the Indians of Connecticut From the Earliest Known Period to 1850.\*](#)

Brighton MI, Native American Book Publishers, 1852.

"The trail crossed Mad River near the beaver dam which then existed near the south end of the Cedar Swamp reservoir continuing southwesterly the present highway following it for some distance." (10)

"On one occasion the two were stalking a deer which they saw upon the summit of the hill since known as the Rock Lot just south of the residence of James Peckham near the Cedar Swamp. The deer was making toward the east and the two hunters agreed to separate one going around the hill on the north side and the other on the south side, the one who sighted the deer first to shoot it. Just as Mr Gaylord reached the eastern extremity of the hill which slopes to the edge of a swamp in that direction he saw an Indian taking deliberate aim at Mr Ives who unaware of his danger was taking aim at the deer Mr Gaylord instantly leveled his rifle and being a quick shot dropped the Indian before he had time to fire. Mr Ives in astonishment asked why he had shot the Indian and was told that it was done to save his life They decided to dispose of the Indian s body by stamping it into the soft mud of the swamp near by and kept the matter a profound secret for many years for fear that it would become known to the tribe and that revenge would be taken for the death of their kinsman the very simple code of the red men requiring blood for blood an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth The reason for the attempt upon the white man's life was supposed to be because he was trespassing upon the private hunting ground of the red man which his sense of justice caused him to resent The same sense of justice when an Indian found a carcass of deer or other game hung up out of reach of prowling wolves until the hunter could return with assistance to take it away prevented him from molesting it and also filled him with wrath when.." (11)

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"...settled on the place known as the Barnum farm now owned by F H Wood. John Gaylord lived where William Fenn now lives Elijah Gaylord built a small house farther up the road toward the Cedar Swamp reservoir where the cellar may be seen just north of the house built by James Scarrett. Samuel Gaylord built in the lot adjoining the Cedar Swamp reservoir nearly opposite Indian Rock a daughter Lucy married Alpheus Bradley a carpenter who built the house occupied by..."(125)

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"James Peckham: Jesse Gaylord built the large house which stood east of the Cedar Swamp which was torn down about 1880. He was the hero of the tragedy resulting in the death of the Indian Morgan related in another chapter. About 1800 Elijah Gaylord moved from the house." (126)

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"One of the most interesting natural objects of Fall Mountain was the Cedar Swamp which was flooded early in the seventies and used as a storage reservoir for Waterbury factories In the earliest times when the swamp first became known to the white men there was a beaver dam at the southern end which can now be seen at low water. The entire swamp was covered with a dense growth of white cedars except an open channel near the eastern edge. When a dam for a sawmill was built soon after the first settlement of the vicinity and the water began to rise it was found that the whole growth of cedars rose with the water and fell again when the water was drawn down a floating forest. It was a natural lake which had become overgrown with the cedars the matted roots forming a raft through which spliced rods were driven in places to the depth of forty feet without striking bottom At one time there was a movement on foot to drain the swamp and to remove the peat which exists there in enormous quantities for fuel But the flooding of the swamp prevented this from being carried out" (136).

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"Emeline 4 b 1836 married Edwin Miles Curtiss son of Philo and Charlotte M Curtiss of Edgewood Their children were Emerson W 1 blind from birth married Emily Sheldon Herbert 2 2 years Wallace E 3 Elbert Everett 4 drowned at Cedar Swamp Lake 22 or 23 years of age Ida May 5 married Will Cable Linus 6 10 weeks Frank 7." (249)



[Orcutt, Samuel. History of the Town of Wolcott Connecticut from 1731 to 1874.](#) Press of the American Printing Company, 1874.

"Three reservoirs are now constructed in this town in connection with Mad River, to supply the manufacturers of Waterbury, — one in the northern portion of the town, covering Cedar Swamp ; another in the south-eastern, adjoining Judd's Hill, and the other at the north end of Chestnut Kill."  
(185)

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"Timothy Bradley came from North Haven to Wolcott, and settled on a farm on the west side of Cedar Swamp, in the north part of the town." (298)

"Abel Bradley was a brother of Timothy and came from North/ Haven to Wolcott and lived near his brother in the northern part of the town, on the west side of Cedar Swamp. Children: 12 Abigail; 13 Rosa una ; 14 John, who weighed three hundred pounds and was strong in proportion to his unusual weight." (453)

1881

[Alcott, Amos Bronson. New Connecticut: An Autobiographical Poem.](#) United States, Priv. print., 1881.

"The church has undergone many reverses since that time. A bright and memorable occasion was the celebration of the centenary of the church in September 1873 which brought together from distant parts many who had their birth and had passed their early days within its territory. A poem read at that time draws a characteristic sketch of the place and of its history. The author is the well known poet of Concord [William Henry Channing] nephew and namesake of Dr Channing the divine...

...In these plain fields upon old Spindle Hill  
Not vainly Wolcott looks nor turns its mill  
Mad River child of the deep and moss clad swamp  
Around whose spruce our wandering thoughts encamp  
For sweet renew the fading dreams of old  
When the fleet Indian here was hunting bold  
Not merely savage but possessed with sense  
Social and kind shrewd in his eloquence  
No more destructive formed to mash and slay  
He loved to see the softening light delay

On Wolcott's height and touch her shadowy vales  
Child of mysterious thought and  
Nature's ails His altar was the sunshine on the hills  
The bird's quick song the woodland or the rills..." (126-127)

1889

["Terryville's Danger." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury, CT\], 1889.](#)

1891

["Cedar Swamp Robbers." \*Bristol Herald\* \[Bristol Connecticut\], 5 November 1891.](#)

1892

[Awake, Wide. "The Water Supply." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury, CT\], 28 November 1892.](#)

["Facts & Figures." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 5 December 1892.](#)

1893

["Water Question Again." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 23 January 1893. \*Library of Congress: Chronicling America\*. Accessed 5 April 2021.](#)

["Wallace Curtiss and George Miles Went Fishing." \*The Bristol Herald\* \[Bristol CT\], 21 December 1893.](#)

1895

[\*The Public Statute Laws of the State of Connecticut\*](#). United States, Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1895.

"Substitute for House Bill No 184 CHAPTER XXX An Act concerning Fishing in Cedar Swamp Pond or Reservoir Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened  
SECTION 1 Every person who shall take or attempt to take any fish from the reservoir situated partly in the town of Bristol in Hartford county and partly in the town of Wolcott in New Haven county and known as Cedar Swamp pond or reservoir between the first day of February and the first day of May in any year and every person who prior to the first day of January 1900 shall take or attempt to take any fish from said pond or reservoir through the ice shall be fined not more than twenty five dollars and not less than two dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days or both SEC 2 Any violation of this act may be prosecuted by the proper informing officers of either of said towns of Bristol or Wolcott and such prosecution heard and determined by any justice of the peace of either county and any appeal or



binding over that may be taken or had thereon shall be taken or had to the proper court of criminal jurisdiction of that county to which the justice trying such case belongs Approved March 28 1895 Substitute for House Bill No 66." (9).

1896

["Cedar Swamp: One of Bristol's Most Picturesque Resorts." \*The Bristol Herald\* \[Bristol CT\], 20 August 1896.](#)

[Prichard, Sarah J. \*The Town and City of Waterbury, Connecticut From the Aboriginal Period to the Year Eighteen Hundred Ninety Five\*. Edited by Joseph Anderson, vol. 1, New Haven, The Price & Lee Company, 1896.](#)

"and most important branch of the main stream within the limits of the ancient territory is Mad river. This stream has its source in Cedar swamp which lies partly in the town of Bristol and partly in Wolcott and was so named when it was covered with a heavy growth of white cedars. A dam of very moderate height across the outlet has converted it into a large reservoir and its waters are used by the factories along the stream Mad river on its way to the Naugatuck receives several tributaries." (2)

1901

[Gay, Julius. \*The Tunxis Indians: An Historical Address\*. Hartford, Hartford Press, 1901.](#)

1907

[\*Bristol, Connecticut: \("In the Olden Time New Cambridge"\)\*. Hartford CT, City Printing Company, 1907.](#)

["Floating Island Was Peat." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 17 September 1907. Library of Congress: Chronicling America. Accessed 5 April 2021.](#)

1908

["Kilmartins Sue." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 27 March 1908. Accessed 26 April 2021.](#)

["Waterbury Water Co." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 25 March 1908. Library of Congress: Chronicling America. Accessed 5 April 2021.](#)

["Nutmeg Gratings." \*Waterbury Evening Democrat\* \[Waterbury\], 22 July 1908. Accessed 26 April 2021.](#)

1917

[Public and Special Acts Passed by the General Assembly](#). vol. 17 Part 2, Bartholomew, Green, and

John Allen, 1917.

“this act SEC 2 Said corporation is authorized to locate construct and operate an electric railway with not more than two tracks with such turnouts switches connections and terminals as may be necessary and convenient for the full use of the same on through and over the following described routes Commencing on Main street in the city of Bristol at a point connected with or adjacent to the tracks of The Bristol and Plainville Tramway Company at or near the junction of School street and said Main street thence southerly on and through Main street to and through South street to and through Union street to and through Wolcott street to Witch's Rock road thence southerly along said Witch's Rock road or private lands adjacent thereto to Cedar Swamp reservoir in the town of Wolcott thence the westerly side of said Cedar Swamp reservoir along the leading from Bristol to Wolcott or private lands adjacent thereto a general southerly and westerly direction to a point adjacent to of Samuel Wilson or commencing at the junction of street and the Wolcott road in the city of Bristol thence southerly following said Wolcott road or private lands adjacent thereto on the easterly side of said Cedar Swamp reservoir to a point near the southerly end of said reservoir thence southwesterly on private lands following Mad River to a point on the highway leading from Bristol to Wolcott adjacent to the property of Samuel Wilson thence southerly along said highway or private lands adjacent thereto to the Pines at the junction of said highway with Stillson road in the city of Waterbury thence along said Stillson road or private lands adjacent thereto to Woodtick road or commencing at or near the junction of the Wolcott road and the new highway recently constructed by The Mad River Company for the town of Wolcott thence along said new highway or private lands adjacent thereto passing through the village of Woodtick westerly of the dwelling house of Gustave Cornelis thence southerly and westerly across private lands to said Wolcott road near its junction with Lakewood road in the city of Waterbury or commencing on Wolcott road at said point near the southerly end of said Cedar Swamp reservoir in the town of Wolcott...” (926-927)

1932

[Peck, Epaphroditus. A History of Bristol Connecticut](#). Hartford Connecticut, The Lewis Street

Bookshop, 1932.



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"Save Cedar Lake." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 20 June 1985.

1986

Menard, Dee. "Residents Buy Cedar Lake." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 7 June 1986.

Corredera, Enrique. "Cedar Lake May Not Get Constables." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 26 June 1986.

1988

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"Children Rescued From Lake." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 28 August 1989.

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[State Board of Fisheries and Game. A Fishery Survey of the Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut.](#)  
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- 1969  
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"Pollution Halts Swimming at Cedar." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 26 July 1970.
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Doyle, Joe. "By Public Works: Cedar Lake Sewer Plan is Approved." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 31 December 1971.
- 1974  
"Jensen Is Elected Cedar Lake President." *The Bristol Press* [Bristol CT], 17 September 1974.
- 1976



2020

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