

Wenham Great Pond

BY

JOHN C. PHILLIPS



SALEM

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WENHAM GREAT POND



MOST of the source material for this book was collected for me by Mr. Arthur C. Pickering of Salem in 1913. He had access to the town records of Wenham and Beverly, the libraries of Boston, Salem and Beverly, the files of the Salem Register, Water Board Records, the Registry of Deeds in Salem, etc., etc. He talked with various of the older men of that time, Mr. John Robinson of Salem, Mr. Robert S. Rantoul (author of the paper on Wenham Lake from which I quote largely), Alonzo Galloupe of Beverly, Mr. William Porter, then town clerk of Wenham, Mr. George E. Woodbury of the Beverly Historical Society, and others.

For a good many years these notes of Mr. Pickering's lay around my desk, but in 1933 they were used to prepare an article on Wenham Lake, partly historical, partly dealing with the water shortage, which appeared in the Salem Evening News in March and April of that year.

Ahead of us lies 1943, when Wenham will celebrate her three hundredth anniversary, and it seems possible that a collection of notes such as these, dealing with one of our best known "Great Ponds," might be acceptable, for the lives of the earlier people must always have centered around this beautiful lake.

I was greatly disappointed, at the time we were looking up the history of the lake, to find so few references to it, almost nothing of Indian lore, of the fisheries and wild life, or the earliest settlers. And there is, I regret to say, comparatively little historical material in these notes that is really new. I have merely scooped together the odds and ends.

And now a word on that long discussed subject, a more ample water supply for Salem and Beverly. Anyone who has lived near the lake has known these many years that the natural flow of water into it is wholly inadequate to supply an ever-increasing demand. The authorities have had ample warning, for away back in 1874 the Salem Water Board reported that the Ipswich River would have to be tapped. And there was a time, I believe, when Salem could have gotten its water from the Boston metropolitan supply, but that opportunity has long since passed.

Salem hoped that after a complete system of metering, the total consumption would be greatly reduced; and so it was, but not sufficiently so to take care of the lake in dry seasons, or in long periods of reduced rainfall. In the late fall of 1936, for instance, the water fell to a lower level than it had reached for seven years, and only a very heavy winter rainfall restored it.

Ipswich River and the Wenham Swamp Canal can only be utilized, in practice, during spring floods, for the stream is much too low at other seasons and seems to fall lower now than it did formerly. The new filtration plant at North Beverly has rendered the lake water safe as far as health is concerned, but it cannot increase the supply. And what is more, it cannot stop the pumping of foul Ipswich Canal silt into the lake, where it settles on the bottom in an ever-increasing layer. And it never can be removed.

The per capita demand for water will increase more and more, in spite of meters and water rationing. What if the fashion for pipe irrigation in small vegetable and flower gardens increases? Suppose, in the "more abundant life" of the future, we all have swimming pools? Where would poor old Wenham Lake be then?

But the main point of my argument is that there should be at some point like that already so thoroughly recommended on Nichol Brook in Putnamville, a great storage and settling basin so that our

fine lake can be saved from further contamination from the river, and its level retained at all seasons of the year, together with the proper balance of fish life and of natural aquatic vegetation.

If Salem and Beverly have taken from us our Wenham water, so pure that people once carried it to their houses at no little trouble, in preference to the harder well water, then the least they can do for us is to bring back the aesthetic appeal of Wenham Great Pond. We do not enjoy holding our noses every time we pass its muddy foreshore!

I am greatly indebted to the Peabody Museum of Salem for placing its imprint on this little book and to Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill for seeing it through the press. Mrs. Edward B. Cole of Wenham has generously placed her great knowledge of the history of Wenham at my disposal, and I am indebted to her for information about the ice industry, place names, and many other things. Miss Mary R. Cate has, first and last, put in a world of time on it, and I am duly grateful for her interest and skill. I must also acknowledge the valued assistance of a number of my fellow-townsmen in locating old place names; among these should be mentioned Mr. Louis A. Dodge, Mr. J. D. Barnes, Mr. Lester E. Libby and Mr. George H. Perkins; and also Mr. Porter J. Perkins of Danvers. Dr. Erwin Raisz has contributed one of his charming little maps, which add so much to any publication. I wish to thank Mrs. J. Edgar Barnes and Mrs. H. D. Schallenbach of Salem for the loan of the diary of their father, Joseph Dennett, covering the years when he was engineer of the Salem Water Works, and also for interesting old photographs; and I am indebted to Mrs. Samuel M. Hill of Wenham for photographs of ice-harvesting at the Hill plant.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Windyknob,
Wenham, Massachusetts
12 April 1938

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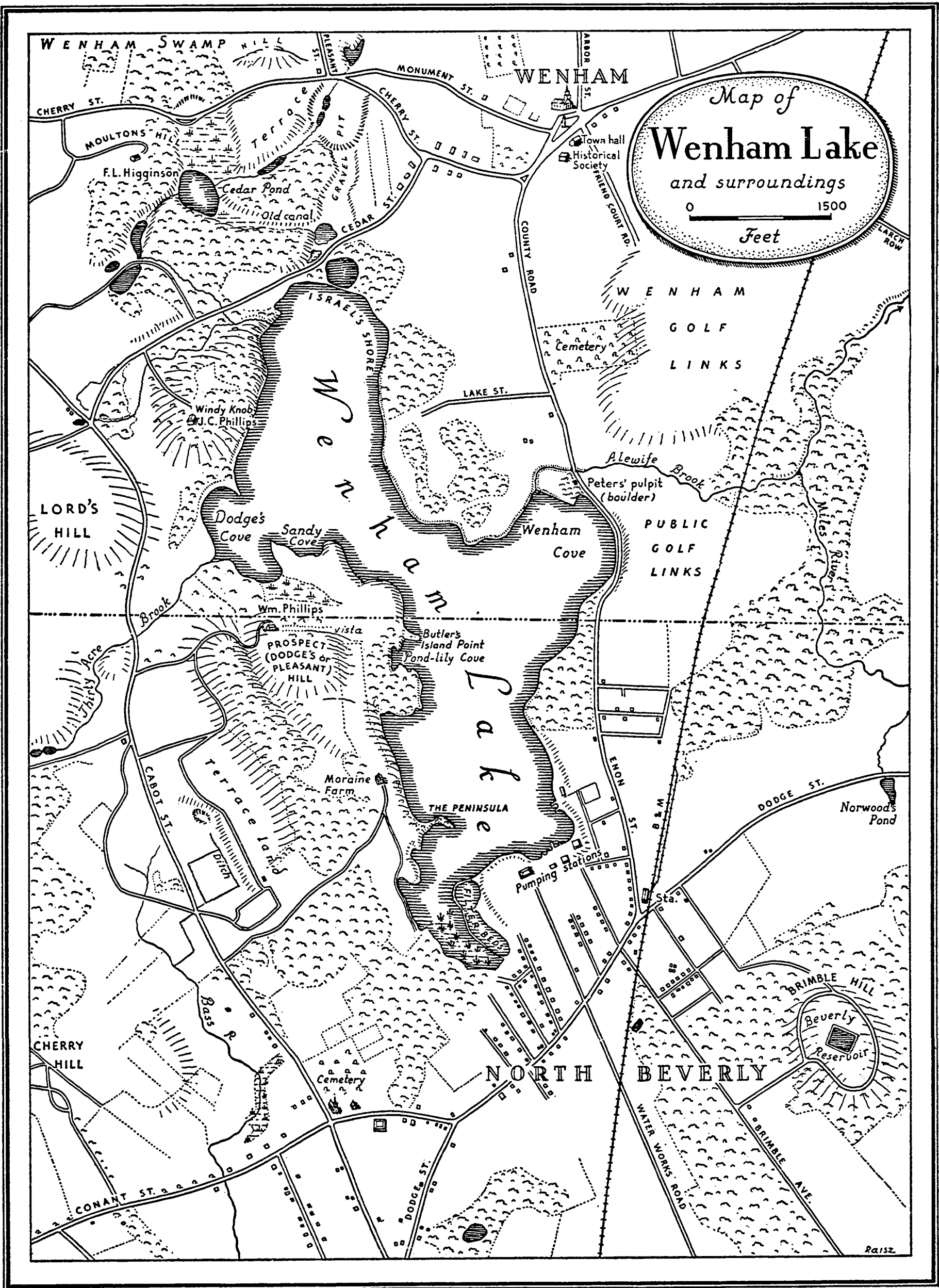
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WENHAM GREAT POND





WENHAM GREAT POND

A RETROSPECT

BY JOHN C. PHILLIPS



IT is becoming the fashion to write about rivers; the Nile, the Merrimac and the Kennebec. Rivers have even been enshrouded with mysterious personalities. But if rivers, which are so fractious and undependable, can be said to have volition and personality, what about our Great Ponds in Massachusetts, sleeping here so peacefully since the last ice-age? And for the matter of that, what about the Great Pond at Wenham? What scenes has it witnessed, what savage cargoes have floated over its once limpid depths, what great fish have swum below among cool water weeds, what hordes of horses and men in the brave days of the ice business have romped over its frozen surface?

Kings and queens and noblemen have cooled their palates on Wenham ice. It has slacked the fever for many a weary sufferer in Bombay and the West Indies. Poets even have sung in praise of the purity of Wenham water. Whittier has it thus in "The Witch of Wenham":

They lie, they lie, my Father dear.
No foul old witch is she,
But sweet and good and crystal pure
As Wenham waters be.

And Kipling, in his immortal *Second Jungle Book*, went out of his way to describe the frozen and wounded feelings of the adjutant bird after he swallowed a "piece of white stuff" which a man threw at him from a boat on the Ganges; and no wonder, for that piece of white stuff was "a seven-pound lump of Wenham Lake ice, off an American ice-ship."

And as for famous characters who were associated with Enon (for Enon is ancient for Wenham), we had the Reverend Hugh Peters, preaching the first sermon by Wenham waters somewhere about 1640, standing on that curious little conical hill known once as Peters' Pulpit, but long since levelled by the "grasping hand of commerce." And we had our Timothy Pickering whose house still stands near Miles River. And General Thomas Gage, last royal

governor of the province, used to take his leisure on Wenham Lake in "a pleasure barge," if you please. Daniel Webster, who fished everywhere that he could, contrived not to forget our lake. And last, but to some perhaps the most pleasing of all, comes to mind that curious character, "Pond John" Dodge, or "Master John"; our first conservationist, philosopher and schoolteacher, all rolled into one. And more of these later, and of others who have come and gone along Enon shores these past three hundred years.

From the standpoint of civic liberties, our Great Ponds in this state hold a most important place. They were really the first rural parks and recreation areas, set aside anywhere in the American colonies. Says the Body of Liberties in 1641, "Every inhabitant that is an house holder shall have free fishing and fowling in any great ponds . . . within the precincts of the towne where they dwell, unless the free men of the Same Towne or the General Court have otherwise appropriated them, provided that this shall not be extended to give leave to any man to come upon other's properties without their leave." These first rights did not provide for access to a Great Pond without trespass.

So in 1649 under the General Laws and Liberties a "Great Pond" was defined as any pond over ten acres in size, and further it was declared legal for any man to pass over another's land in order to reach a Great Pond for the purpose of fishing and fowling, so long as "they trespass not on any man's corn or meadow."

But although this is the history of a pond, it is also in part a history of Wenham and of Wenhamites. I want at any rate to have it clearly understood at the start that we are not just like other towns; never have been and never intend to be. There is even now a subtle, but nevertheless well-defined psychic barrier between us and near-by villages. Yes, and just listen to this: away back in 1643 they passed a vote that no inhabitant should introduce anyone into the town of Wenham without the consent of the selectmen, under penalty of five shillings a week that any such person remained in town. That was the basis for a pretty effective caste system, was it not? And moreover you were not allowed to become a townsman and vote (up to 1664) unless you were passed upon by a vote of the town; besides which you had to be "a freeman" and a Congregationalist! Well, we have come along the thorny path of

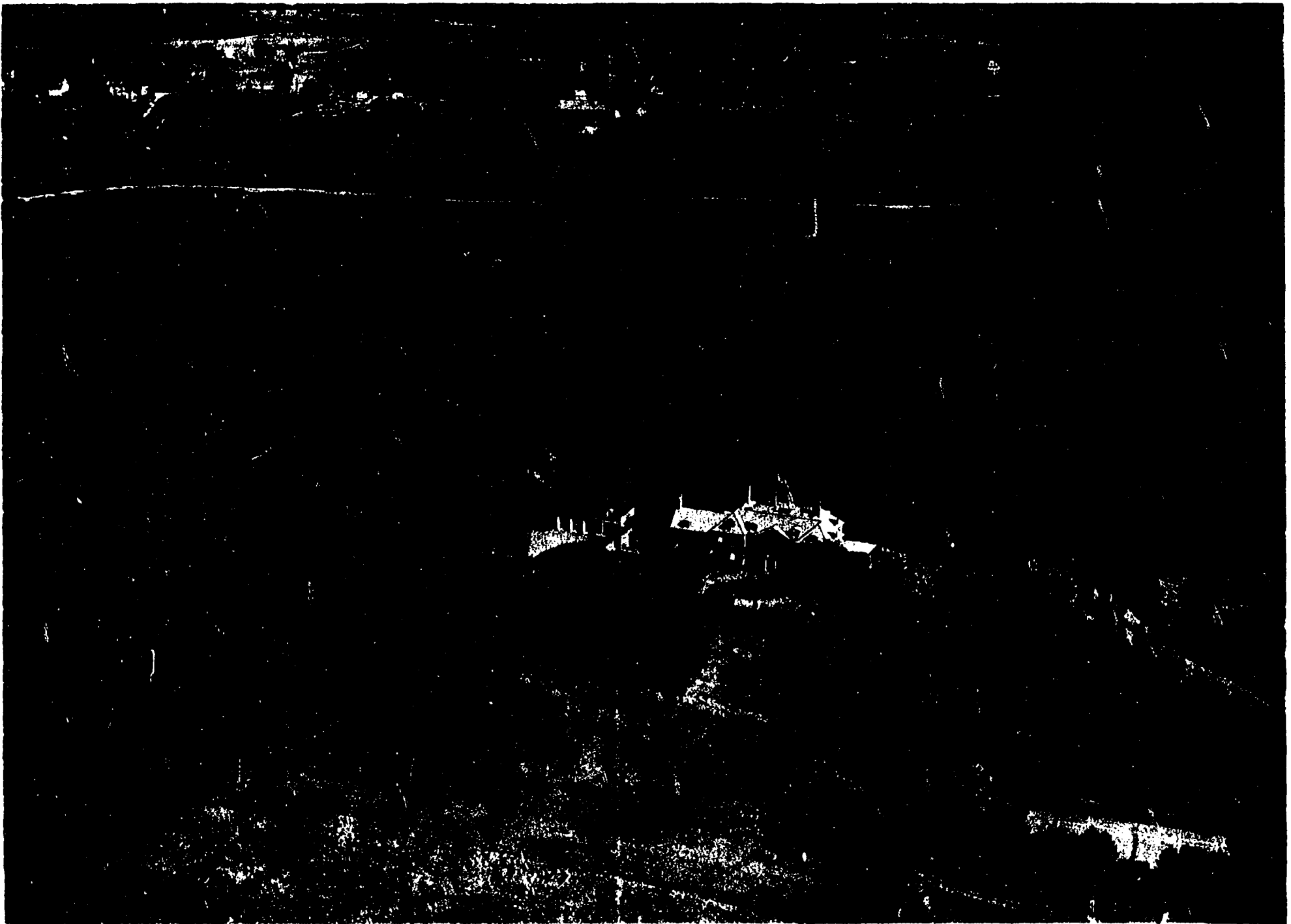


PLATE I. *Air view of Wenham Lake Upper Basin from the west.
John C. Phillips' house in the foreground.*



PLATE II. *Planting young pines on the east shore of Wenham Lake, 1902,
on land then owned by William and John C. Phillips.*

democracy quite a long way since those days and now our politicians have to lean on the W.P.A. and the C.C.C. groups for popular favor, while to be a freeman, or even an independent thinker, becomes a costly luxury, reserved for the privileged few.

Even the town fathers, once so self-contained, find each year new tentacles, stretching out ominously from the State House (and latterly even from the White House) to make them conform more and more to the latest fashion patterns in government. The red man passed from Enon shores and now the freeman, "elbowed out" as Kipling says, "by sloven friends," camps at sufferance "on the stoop."

But even today, as it was in the past, in spite of trying times, Wenham is a good place to live in; and after all, what times were not trying? Some may still agree with John Dunton in his *Settlers from New England* (written about 1700); and though he may seem a little flowery for these mechanistic times, I must quote him here, for he paints a picture we should all like to see again, but never will. "I had just concluded my discourse," says Dunton, "as we came to Wenham, which is an Inland Town very well watered, lying between Salem and Ipswich, and consisteth most of Men of Judgment and Experience in Country Affairs; well stored with Cattel. . . . In this Town of Wenham lives one Mr. Gerry [probably Reverend Joseph Gerrish, born 1650] whose father is now a Captain in Boston, in so delicious a Paradise that of all the Places in the Countrey, I shou'd have chosen this for the most happy Retirement: His house¹ is neat and handsome, fitted with all Conveniences proper for the Countrey; And does so abound with every thing of his own, that he has no Occasion to trouble his Neighbours: The lofty spreading Pines on each side of his House are a sufficient Shelter from the Winds; And the Warm Sun so Kindly ripens both his Fruits and Flowers, as if the Spring, the Summer and the Autumn had agreed together to thrust Winter out of Doors; He entertained us with such pleasant Fruits as I must own Old England is a stranger to, and among all its great Varieties knows nothing so Delicious. This Noble Countrey Seat, and the Retirement which seems so peculiar to it, brought to my Remembrance the second Epod of Horace, of the Pleasures of a Countrey Life."²

And now, since most of the anecdotes which fill this little book will be quoted from historians who wrote from the sixties to the eighties, I must take time to bring our Wenham Lake story a little more up to date.

When I was a boy, the most conspicuous object in Wenham Cove, as we looked across from the family house at Moraine Farm, was the long, dirty-red shed sloping down into the water, built to house the machinery for the lifting of ice after the great ice house fire of 1873. That was all that remained of the great Gage Hittinger Ice Plant in the eighties, but even that went up finally in smoke, just when I cannot remember. But you can still see the long rows of piles, which once supported this elevator, sticking out of the mud when the lake is drawn off in autumn. Those and the faint embankment of the spur railroad track that ran back along the outlet provide the only tangible evidence of a once great industry.

The smaller ice plant of the S. M. Hill Company at the north end of the lake grew more and more decrepit in recent years, was propped up and patched up, until finally this whole tottering group burned to the ground in 1935, leaving a very ugly scar between the lake and Cedar Street. The Water Board purchased the land in 1936, and has since cleared the place and fenced it, planning to plant pines.

The huge Metropolitan and Ernest Wright Ice Plants went up in smoke on June 5, 1937, and according to a formal agreement with the State Water Board, that no new houses would ever be built to replace those that might be destroyed, we have seen the last of the ice harvest. These two plants were large enough to store 14,000 tons of ice and were the most important element of the east shore landscape; as they towered above the pine trees. And so a rather picturesque industry comes to an end.

Future generations, we cannot doubt, will look back and wonder at the horny-handed stupidity of people who depended on man-power, horses and a fickle New England winter to provide them with ice! A history of the early ice business will be found in a later chapter.

And now let us get back a little to nature. In some of the Wenham town records the alewife fishery is mentioned. As boys we

saw the last of the runs of this most interesting species that came up from the sea to spawn. We seined the little two- and three-inch fry for bait as they schooled around the shores, following every slight indentation in a vain search for an opening to the sea; for by the time they were ready to run out, the outlet to Miles River was usually dry.

In the reports of the Salem Water Board the last entry concerned with the "trouble from alewives" was a note in 1882 recording the fact that very few passed into the lake that season and expressing a hope that the run would soon end. This "trouble" was at times a very real one. Even back in 1874 so many adult fish died in the lake that it was necessary to walk around the shores, rake them up and bury them. A few years later an application to the Legislature requesting authority to exclude the spring run from entering the lake was refused, on what grounds we are left to conjecture. But perhaps the good "freemen" of Wenham had something to say on this subject, for in 1878 they called the attention of the State Commissioner of Inland Fisheries to the fact that the Salem Water Board had placed an obstruction at the outlet!

But in spite of near failures of the alewife run due to periodic lowering of the lake level, they must have succeeded in reaching their spawning grounds for a few years longer, for as boys we depended on "minnows," as we called them, for bait through all our early fishing years, say up to about 1890.

I don't know when Wenham alewives lost their savor for Wenham palates. For at least two hundred years they must have served their purpose nobly, both as food and as fertilizer. Already in 1798 our town voters were taking measures aimed toward the removal of obstructions to the spring run of fish, while the following year certain days were reserved for the "purpose of ketching alewife Fish," and no fish were to be taken "only by a sien." But strong food became less fashionable, less necessary perhaps, and so we find that in 1874 the Water Board suggested that legislative permission be obtained to shut alewives out of the lake because they were dying at low water times and "were not used by anyone."

Alewives, in a corned state, are still consumed by a few Cape Codders, but mostly they are used for bait off the Banks. A few years ago, though, there was a sudden spurt in the value of ale-

wives, not for their oily flesh, but for their glittery scales. Some aspiring Croesus conceived the idea of making fake pearls out of ground-up "herring" scales. And that year you could see the Mashpee Indian woman, with a new lust for life, busily scaling "herring" at unheard of wages. Then something happened. I suspect that alewives can grow scales faster than the bedizzened chorus girls in New York can wear them out; at any rate, the next year Mashpee fish kept their shimmering overcoats. And how could any pearl hope to vie with the colors of a fresh run alewife, for the matter of that?

At what period white perch became established in the lake I do not know. We never used to catch them in the eighties, and F. W. Putnam does not mention them in his list of fish in 1871. Since this ubiquitous fish became over-numerous, carried to every Massachusetts pond by a mistaken policy at the State House, other native fish have declined, especially the red perch and pickerel. These tough customers, these white perch, seem not to be relished, even by their far larger neighbors.

No fishing has been allowed since boating, at first unrestricted, then controlled under special license, was finally prohibited in 1906; a policy made necessary by the regulations of the State Board of Health, coupled with the excessive demand for boats.

I can remember how as youngsters we, breathless, heard tales of the stocking of Wenham with landlocked salmon; and although this happened long before our time, we always fished with a subconscious thrill based on the hope that we might some day hook one of these mystery fish that we supposed lived only in the coldest water at the greatest depths. But in spite of the fact that landlocked salmon obtained from the state were planted in Pleasant Pond in 1878 (May 13) and in Wenham in 1879 (June 10) none were ever brought forth to the light of day; and from what we now know about the difficulties of finding favorable environments for this dainty fish, the negative result is not to be wondered at. Suitable water temperature is only one of the elements necessary for a successful establishment. The bottom temperature at Pleasant Pond in forty-five feet of water is only forty-two degrees in the hottest season, while Wenham water is not very much warmer, say forty-five to forty-eight degrees, plenty cool enough for any salmoned fish.

But *Salmo salar sebago* prospered not, in spite of the crystal springs of Enon.

But the black bass was another story, a story of success. Exactly when that species came to Wenham I do not know, but probably in the early seventies, for in 1877 the "fish committee" of Wenham town submitted a report of their doings in stocking Pleasant Pond with "Lake Champlain black bass." Very likely Wenham was already stocked. We know that the first introductions into New England waters took place in 1850. Tradition has it that Samuel Tisdale was the first man to bring bass into New England and he put them into Flax Pond near his house at East Wareham, Massachusetts. G. Brown Goode in his book on American fish (1888) says that these Tisdale fish were large-mouthed bass from Saratoga Lake, New York; but I wonder?

But whenever the time, there is no doubt that small-mouthed bass flourished exceedingly in our Wenham Pond through the early eighties and up to about 1900, when the numbers fell off to a very marked degree. The record fish for Wenham, so far as I know, was one of a little over seven pounds (twenty-two inches in length) which still reposes in a plaster state in my library, although honesty compels me to admit that I did not catch him myself. Bass are still present in our lake but the "fike" nets of the state fish salvage units do not catch many, and those they do take are small. Perhaps there are still large bass in Wenham that do not get taken in the nets, because in the spawning season the breeding fish stick closely to their beds and do not cruise the shores, as the white perch do. In the nine years 1928 to 1937 (1934 not listed) the State removed from Wenham Lake for stocking purposes 2,419 bass, 135,113 white perch, 1,744 pickerel, 11,980 yellow perch, and 2,617 horned pout. These were all placed in near-by ponds.

The clear, unpolluted water of Wenham seems hard to conceive of now. First they turned in the waters of sluggish Miles River through a dam at Longham Meadow and a pipe to Wenham Cove. This was in 1894, after a year of very low water. Anyone with half an eye to windward might have known that Miles River in a dry season could have little effect on Wenham Lake, but a long range water policy was lacking at the time and it still is! But the old lake went along, thanks mostly to wetter seasons, until 1911, when it

fell to sixteen feet ten inches above mean high tide level, or about fifteen feet below its old natural level. That worried even the politicians, for low water brought bad tasting water, and the wail of the citizen was heard upon the breeze.

As long ago as 1874 the Water Board had begun to be alarmed over the increasing volume of water pumped year after year from the lake and they recommended that an application be made to the Legislature to take water from Ipswich River. But in 1877 there had been plenty of water again and complaints died out. Finally came the drought of 1910–1911. Under authority of a special commission, headed by the late Nathan Mathews (formerly mayor of Boston), a canal was dug from the Ipswich River to a dead end near the west side of Mud Pond, where the water was raised by electric power so as to flow by gravity through a pipe into the lake. That Ipswich River Canal, after the banks “bushed up,” made a most attractive and quiet place to paddle one’s canoe. Two miles through the Wenham Swamp, overshadowed by sprout maples and birches, it became the home of otter and wood ducks. Grouse nested on the banks; and what a place to listen to an evening chorus of thrushes! But now the great swamp is claiming it. It is filling up, but not before the Ipswich River silt has spread a plentiful carpet of mud over the once shimmering pebbles that used to dance so brightly in the sunshine under fifteen feet of water in our lovely lake. Yes, they can chlorinate at the canal head, and “devitalize” at the new filtration plant back of the Salem Pumping Station, but they never again will see Wenham Lake as God made it. They have pumped half the putrefaction of the Ipswich River into a spring-fed pond, essence of dead dogs, pigs, cats and hens (we canoeists have seen them all) and even today Salem and Beverly are short of water, just as they were sixty years ago. Water Boards come and go; politicians cannot agree on proportionate expenses between the two cities; and each autumn we Wenhamites must be content with smelly mud flats. The Putnamville Reservoir is still a nebulous dream, a football knocked around between Salem, Beverly and Boston, the sport of committees and mayors and expert opinions.

And this again reminds me of the clearness of Wenham water up to the nineties. We used to snare pickerel under our boathouse

in House Cove; letting down a fine wire snare six or eight feet. And you could see that pickerel's gills working while you breathlessly steered the loop over his head, taking care not to touch a wavering fin until the great moment of the final "heave all aboard." Don't tell me about your dry fly purists—any idiot can throw a fly!

How lovely, too, was that first black ice, so crystal smooth over the weedy forest below it that you could see the painted turtles running for cover as you skated over them. Painted turtles are supposed to dig themselves into the mud, but Wenham turtles must be different, for I have seen them smart enough as late as Christmas.

In England they do better with their reservoirs, they keep their fishing and their pure water too; but not here in our superdisinfected, cellophane system of living. Each spring I see a few youngsters poaching along the shores of Wenham and my sympathy goes out to them, for I remember the glorious times we used to have, swimming, paddling, sailing and shooting. Wholesome outlets, all now disallowed.

Dear, dear, how much the modern boy might miss if he only knew enough of history to realize what has gone before! But what's the use of telling him about things that, in retrospect, seem important merely to aging memories, but ridiculous to younger minds attuned to a hundred new experiences.

Bathing was not allowed in Wenham Lake from the earliest days of the Water Board's control, but dear old Engineer Dennett was a right good friend of ours. He said to us boys, "Go swim all you like but don't go in where I can see you," and so we took shelter in several of the westerly coves, out of sight of the pumping station, and nightly did we bless him. Joseph G. Dennett was chief engineer of the Salem Water Works from May 12, 1873, until his death in 1896. To us boys he was the great mechanical genius of the age. He bought an old whaleboat and installed in it a rather temperamental steam engine. Even when the *Petrolia* went, which was only on great occasions, its speed was funereal, and I think we could have outrowed it at its best. One hot afternoon, in response to a formal invitation, our whole family drove solemnly to the pumping station, prepared for a memorable sail. But hour after

hour good Engineer Dennett labored over that engine and never a pound of steam could he raise. Disappointed we returned; but if we were irritated, how much worse must our good friend have felt.

Mr. Dennett made for me in 1888 the first ice-boat I ever saw. He must have set the fashion, for they became popular later on, especially on Chebacco Lake. Through the kindness of his daughter, Mrs. J. Edgar Barnes, I have been permitted to look through the old engineer's journal and some of the records are so interesting, both from the standpoint of water shortage and the happenings around the lake, that they are worth quoting here. I see now why I always connected Mr. Dennett with the *Monitor*. It seems that he did work in the shops where the ironclads of the Civil War days were made, and he worked on the original *Monitor*, too. Later in the war he served on this same famous vessel for several years, and through that service lost his health.

In the Appendix I have printed selections from the engineer's diary, because they show the day to day worries concerned with reservoir levels, water pressure, water wastage and leaks—always leaks. And even sixty years ago he and others were alarmed because of a shrinking supply in the lake. Again the Dennett diary supplies dates of personal interest, if only to a few; such as the day of opening of Moraine House in 1882, little expeditions which seemed long in those days, and little voyages long since forgot.

Sailing boats were never very popular on Wenham Lake. Our own catboat, the *Victor*, was the only craft that could pretend to real speed. Mostly the old-time fishing boats were clumsy Swampscott dories and skiffs. A few of the more sophisticated had neat boats with fish wells built into them, where they could keep their bait and their catches in good condition. How we blundering boys envied the real bass fishermen who could send a line out smartly and play a fish on a fine reel. Messrs. James P. Farley Jr. and W. D. Sohier come to mind in this connection.

It is a pity we know so little about the early water-bird life of Wenham, but I have run across nothing of interest. The exposed shores now attract many birds that would not otherwise have paid us a visit. Several species of wading birds are common on the mud flats and of late years considerable flocks of killdeer plover have



PLATE III. a. *Wenham Camp from Pond Lily Cove, 1900.*



PLATE III. b. *Live goose decoys on Butler's Island Point.*



PLATE IV. *Duck Stand at Butler's Island Point, about 1903.*
a. *Inside the stand.*



PLATE IV. b. *Looking across lake from stand.*

gathered for a time. This species was almost unknown to Wenham when I was a boy. And sometimes in late autumn clouds of snow buntings or shore larks flash here and there.

The great blue heron seems to be commoner, and certainly tamer than forty years ago;³ and in the old days we never saw white herons of any kind, egrets or the young of little blues. But now these glorious visitors come in larger and larger numbers, not regularly every year, but in years of good breeding, or perhaps through being driven out of the southern marshes by long droughts. Mostly they seek the marshes, salt or fresh, but they are far from rare about our lake.

But the web-footed fowl, the geese and ducks, give us more of a thrill than most other groups. They bring with them the mystery of the north, they usher in our glorious autumn weather, misty mornings and frosty nor'westers. And that is not all, for their sharp silhouettes and the "whiffle" of their wings appeal alike to the poet, the painter, the hunter and the humble watcher of the wild. And then when we used to hang up a little bunch after a good shot at Wenham, we still had the pleasure of anticipation; of taking them to duck-hungry friends or sacrificing them to our own private gastronomic gods!

Three species of geese and twenty-five species of ducks have been gathered from Wenham waters, not to mention various loons, grebes, gulls and little auks. Low water seems to attract diving ducks, exposing more weeds on the surface. Scarcely a fall passed thirty years ago without ruddies, red heads, ring necks and even the lordly canvas-back, leaving a few of their numbers behind; but our main reliance, of course, were black ducks. In the late eighties and early nineties I used to gun Wenham Lake with canoe and duck float. From 1899 to 1909 we used a rather elaborate rig of live decoys off Butler's Island Point and in very low water we pushed our board fences right out onto the island itself, the most strategic gunning spot on the lake.

In 1909 that good camp on the moraine just west of Butler's Island, which had proven such a snug retreat for many years, was moved to the northwest shore, where, after my house was built, we followed the ducks less strenuously until 1935, when live decoys and early morning shooting were banned by Federal law. This

ruling, the final blow to stand gunning in Massachusetts, was made necessary by long years of overshooting in the West and South, a lowered water table in the prairie states and provinces, overgrazing, and at last serious droughts and floods. The dyed-in-the-wool live decoy enthusiasts may form committees, may send burning appeals to Washington on the nature of individual liberties, but in my opinion the deadly live decoy duck has gone for good. Now the young men must hustle for their sport, and a little exercise won't hurt them at all.

So much for recent history. The shores of our lake have changed a good deal in fifty-odd years. My father's house at Moraine Farm was completed in the spring of 1882 and I can remember distinctly the laying of the cornerstone about two years before that.

The surroundings of the Moraine House were bare and forlorn in the extreme; but now there is a very considerable forest of great variety planted in the early and late eighties, following suggestions by Professor Charles S. Sargent. The first Douglas spruces ever seen in New England outside the Arnold Arboretum were set out by my father; and if they have done nothing else, they have proved the unsuitability of this tree for our low altitude and hot summers.

My own brick house (Windyknob) on the northwest shore was finished in 1909. At first it sat there in the middle of a worn-out, mossy pasture, looking more like a fortress than a house. But thirty years have changed everything, and now we have the greatest difficulty in holding back the encroaching bush and preserving a sample of the abandoned pasture. Even that is filling up with the inevitable broom sedge.

The William Phillips house, on a spur of Dodge's Hill, was finished in 1913, and borders close on the northern boundary of Moraine Farm. The old Dodge family farmhouse, which occupied a part of the flat just west of Dodge's Hill (Pleasant Hill) was moved away a good many years ago. All these hills were absolutely bare pasture fifty years ago; and to my way of thinking they were then far more attractive than they are now, or ever will be again.

The pine plantations on the east shore, opposite my house, were set out in 1901 and 1902, on land purchased by William Phillips and me. This property of forty-odd acres was sold to the cities of

Salem and Beverly for additional protection to their water supply in 1934.⁴

The gradual purchase of the shore line of our lake by the municipalities which take its water is something to be encouraged, for it will tend to preserve some of the natural features which we all admire, and it may be that a generation hence our lake will look as it did when the Naumkeags camped on its pine-crowned shores.

TOWN LOCALITIES

BY ALLEN PEABODY



WENHAM is a curious place
With many a curious name;
There's Wenham Lake where ice is cut
Which has a world-wide fame.

Devil's Hollow where the witches dwell
The Causeway and West End
And Egypt and the Giants' Grove
West of the Lake extend.

Pleasant, Mud and Cedar Swamp
And the Lake all in a row
Three thousand acres in a swamp
Lie northwest you know.

Asbury Grove and Dodge's Row
And also Wenham Neck
Little Comfort, Israel's shore
What more can one expect?

There's a town with local names
A half a score or more
Which indicate a set of facts
Were never known before.

Egyptians there may cut the ice
Send it to England's queen
Within a mile of Dismal Swamp
A wood of endless green.

Should sickness, death or poverty
Cause us grief or ill,
I do not think we should repine,
We've a Little Comfort still.⁵

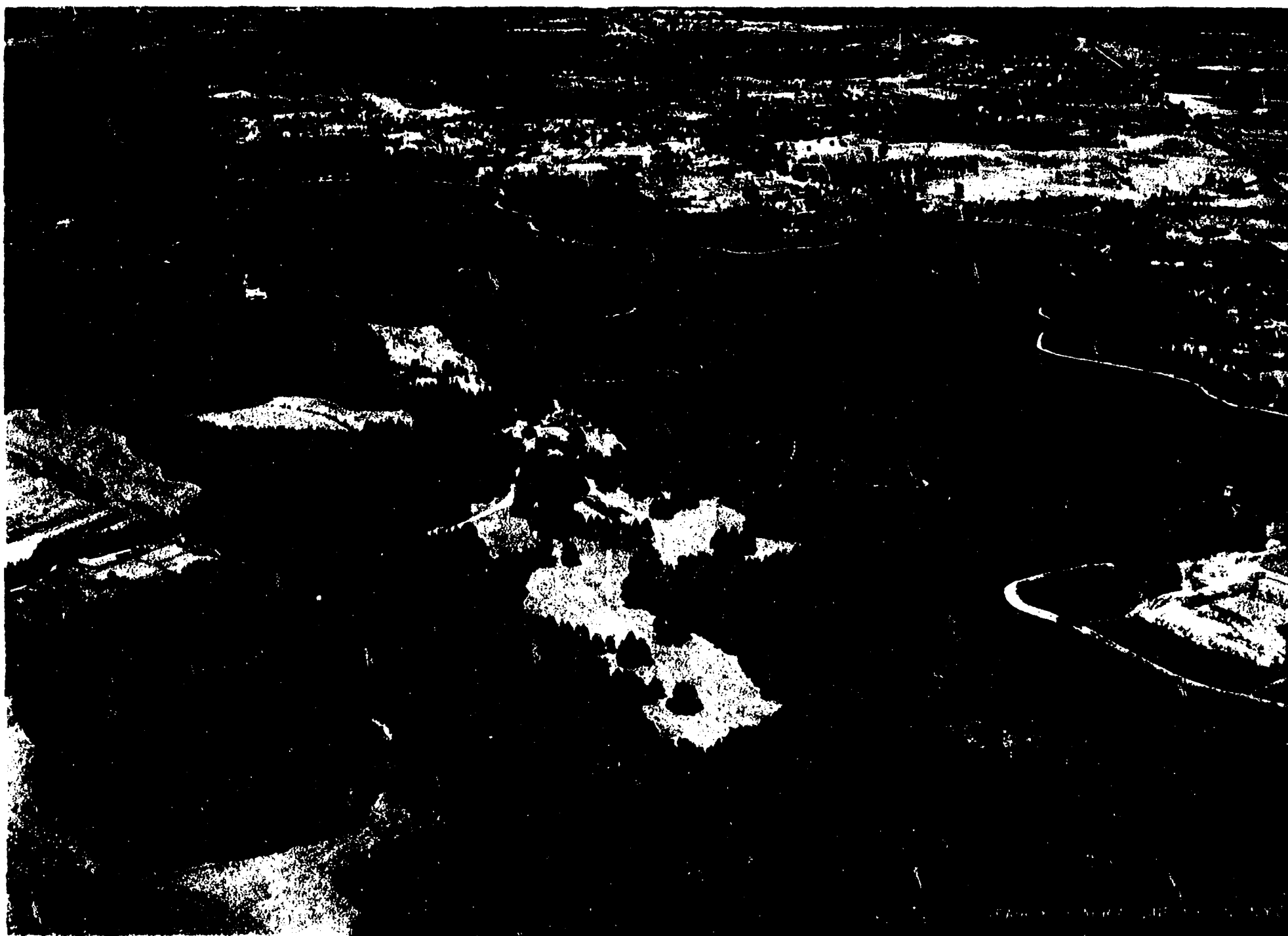


PLATE V. *Recent air view of Wenham Lake from the southwest.*



PLATE VI. *Wenham Lake from Moraine Farm house, looking northeast, about 1905.*

SOME NOTES ON WENHAM POND
READ AT THE FIELD MEETING HELD ON ITS
WESTERN MARGIN JULY 27, 1864
BY ROBERT S. RANTOUL

BEFORE the settlement of this now populous region by European colonists, it was, as is well known, the domain of the Naumkeags, a tribe taking its name from Naumkeag, which is now known as Bass River. They inhabited that part of southern Essex County, which now comprises Salem, Marblehead, Beverly, Manchester, Wenham, Danvers, and parts of Topsfield and Middleton. This tribe was under the dominion of the Sagamores of Agawam. Pestilence had shorn them of their ancient vigor, and when in 1626, Conant, from Cape Ann, pushed his explorations westerly into their country, he found them reduced in numbers and warring with a neighboring and much-dreaded tribe. The Sagamore, accordingly, welcomed his pale-faced visitors and hoped, through hospitality to them, to earn an invincible alliance against his enemies. He made a free grant to them of the entire territory lying between Cape Ann and Saugus, embracing this beautiful lake and stretching nearly from Agawam or Ipswich River to the sea. Two years later came Endicott, with a charter or grant of all the land "between three miles to the northward of Merrimac River and three miles to the southward of Charles River, and in length within the described breadth from the Atlantic Ocean to the South Sea." And so this settlement, having its origin in an abortive attempt to plant a fishing colony at Cape Ann, was established and confirmed and came to be the first permanent settlement in Essex County.⁶

It is well known how dependent were the native tribes upon fishing, not only as a source of food, but as furnishing to their simple husbandry a fertilizing element for the soil. In this last regard the early settlers seem to have copied their example, and their chroniclers speak of the soil being "fished but every third year," and of "striking at every plant of corn a herring or two."

The frail canoes of the Indians were of course quite unequal to

the development of the coast fisheries, as practised later, not to speak of the more perilous enterprises of the Bay, and Grand Banks. Hence it is easy to see how important to them was this large, well-sheltered and easily navigable body of water, crowded as it was with animal life. And we readily accept the legend that Wenham Pond was a favorite fishing ground of the Naumkeags.⁷

The ancient piscatory wealth of these regions was something which seems almost fabulous to the modern reader. Naumkeag River took from the early settlers the name of Bass River, because of the multitude of that fish frequenting its waters. Higginson says in a letter to England: "Whilst I was writing this letter, my wiffe brought word that the fishers had caught 1600 basse at one draught, which, if they were in England, were worth many a pound." So Captain John Smith, in his map of our coast, drawn from observation in 1614, designates this locality as Bass table. The ancient chronicles show that this abundance was by no means peculiar to a single river, lake or bay. We can with difficulty appreciate the condition of things which led parents, residing along the Merrimac, to stipulate, when binding their children as apprentices, that they should not be compelled to eat salmon more than twice in the week. Yet there are extant indentures of apprenticeship, in which the penuriousness of masters is thus strangely anticipated and rebuked.

To these general remarks, Wenham Pond was no exception. The early statute books teemed with legislation framed to protect its fisheries, and the recently published history of Wenham, speaking of the disappearance of the alewives, which formerly came up Ipswich River to spawn in this pond, says: "This matter has been a subject of discussion in many town meetings and committees have been again and again appointed to see that the obstructions were removed and the fish allowed to return to their favorite haunts. For many years an alewife committee was chosen every season, as regularly as the Selectmen or School Committee." Alewives are spoken of by Winthrop in connection with the early agriculture of the colony, and are doubtless identical with the "herring" which Smith commends as a dressing for the soil. . . .

The charms which made this locality a favorite resort of the ancient land-holders were not lost upon their puritanical succes-

sors. Of the Naumkeag territory that portion lying about the lake was very soon peopled, and was the first to be set off from Salem, in 1643, as a district plantation or township by the name of Wenham. Five farms lying "at the head of Basse River, by the Great Pond side," had been granted by Salem to "Capt. Traske, Jno. Woodberry, Mr. Conant, Peter Palfrey and John Balch, each 200 acres a peise" in 1635, and the village thereabouts seems to have been first known as "Great Pond." The earliest settlement of the place is supposed, says Dr. Allen, in his recently published history of Wenham (1860), to have been made near the lake. Indeed the first mention of the place, which that diligent historian was able to find, while it invests this spot with a tragic interest, gives countenance at the same time to the author's hypothesis. The first murder perpetrated among the colonists of Massachusetts Bay was committed by John Williams upon the body of "John Hoddy, near the Great Pond." The supposed locality of this crime is on the road from Salem to Ipswich, which hugs the eastern margin of the pond, and near the present boundary line of Wenham and Beverly. This line runs due east and west, through Mount Pleasant on this, the westerly side of the pond, and near the Brown cottage on the easterly side, and it is related that Hoddy's dog held Williams till the people collected and apprehended him. The object of the crime and plunder.⁸ So it would seem that the travelled way first opened from Salem to Ipswich, lay by the Great Pond, and that there were, thus early, near the pond, people enough within call of the road to prevent the escape of a criminal. As early as 1644, this road was laid out as a highway by the State.

Our ancestors well described this as the Great Pond. It has a surface of about 320 acres. The oldest residents upon its margin concur in saying, that, in all the vicissitudes of weather, a few inches will gauge the fluctuations of its surface, while to reduce it a foot, would require the drawing off of 104,544,000 gallons. It has no tributary stream to increase its liquid store, yet it constantly feeds Miles River, flowing to the east through an outlet which is never dry. The words "Great Pond" have a peculiar interest to the student of colonial history. In the sixteenth section of our first code established in 1641, and known as the Body of Liberties, it is provided, that "Every inhabitant that is an householder shall have

free fishing and fowling in any great ponds, and bays, coves, rivers," etc., "provided that this shall not be extended to give leave to any man to roam upon others' proprietie without their leave." Having thus broken down all forest and game laws and made sporting free to all householders, our ancestors opened the doors still wider in 1647, by an ordinance which defines Great Ponds to be those containing more than ten acres, and adds that "they shall be free for *any man* to fish and fowl there, and may pass and repass on foot through any man's proprietie for that end, so they trespass not on any man's corn or meadow." Our courts have recently declared that this is still the law—that proprietors of the upland about natural ponds own only to low water mark—that fishing and fowling, although the only uses enumerated, are not the only uses for which great ponds are dedicated to the public, but that among these free uses are boating, bathing, skating, preparing flax, cutting ice and the ordinary uses of water in manufactures, agriculture and the domestic arts. The estimation in which these privileges were held by our ancestors may be inferred from the fact that they were guaranteed in the same chapter which secures freedom of speech in courts and meetings, freedom of emigration, and the rights of the public on the sea-shore.

This pond as we have seen, lies low, being but about thirty-two feet above mean high tide. More than once have projects been formed for employing its waters in the useful arts. With one of these, as early as 1802, the name of Johonnot whose fulling mill at the head of Bass River was among the first in the country, was prominently connected. But, from its want of natural elevation, Wenham Lake has thus far escaped most of the utilizing tendencies of the age. All these hills stretching themselves north and south, form a tributary watershed, containing hundreds of acres, from which the rains and dews of heaven find their way down to swell its fountains. The very fact which destroyed its value as a water-power, makes it a storehouse for the waters of a great region.

Between the lake and the hills, which form the western limit of this basin, and rise at points, from 100 to 150 feet above the water, will be observed a rare and singular formation. This ridge, called in the language of science a moraine, but popularly known here as Whale's Back, extends nearly the length of the pond from north to

south. It is generally from fifteen to thirty feet high, is hardly wide enough at the top for two horsemen to ride abreast, and is said by geologists to be made up of small boulders and gravel of a different character from the native stones of this region. Its sides are steep and at some points it runs close by the water's edge, forming a precipitous bank for the pond. At other points it crosses smooth meadow-land at a distance from the water, suggesting an earth-work thrown up for military purposes. And once it passes under the lake, across the mouth of one of the large bays, and so near the surface of the water, that it has been possible to cross on foot over this hidden and narrow causeway from shore to shore.

This lake will seem to be quite irregular in shape and much extended from north to south. It has at its northern extremity a long bay. Unlike the rest of the basin, this arm or bay is found to contain but about ten or fifteen feet of water, and its banks are low. Around the deeper portions of the lake its margin is often bold and picturesque, and there are points where its waters seem at some time to have receded from the upland which formed the natural limit, leaving between that and the present shore many rods of meadow, scarcely uncovered by them.

In the body of the lake the water measures from forty to fifty feet, but there are spots where it is said that seventy-five feet of line have failed to sound.⁹ At these spots the ice in winter forms much more slowly than elsewhere, which indicates the presence of warm or moving water. They are known among the icemen as spring holes. It was by skating into one of these that young Shillaber, a brother of the late Ebenezer Shillaber, for many years clerk of our courts, lost his life.

The theory that this pond is fed from the bottom by living springs, is not a new one. It is a tradition repeated with confidence by the oldest residents of this locality, and supported by the character of the surrounding region. Says Allen, "It is surrounded by a smooth, gravelly or sandy margin on every side," and again, "the fundamental rock of the town is sienite, of the detritus of which its soil is principally composed." And Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent British geologist, who visited it in 1846, describes it as "surrounded with hills of sand and gravel, from forty to one hundred feet high"—from which and the additional fact that other hills

lie behind these, the existence of springs might be inferred, and adds "the water is always clear and pure, and the bottom covered with white quartzose sand. It is fed by springs."

We hardly wait for a chemist to tell us that this water is pure. The neighboring families use and commend it for drinking, cooking and washing. Doctor Jackson¹⁰ has just analyzed it, and finds it purer than Cochituate or Croton. The former of these, which is the purer, is said to contain from 3.37 to 5 grains of impurity to the imperial gallon of 10 pounds avoirdupois, which are equal to 70,000 grains.

Doctor Jackson found the residuum left on evaporating the same quantity of Wenham water, to weigh but 2.22 grains, and to be made up of

Organic (vegetable) matter	.	.	.	1.12 grains
Chloride of sodium (sea salt)	.	.	.	0.40 grains
Sulphate of lime	.	.	.	0.38 grains
Oxide (originally crenate) of iron	.	.	.	0.20 grains
Insoluble silicious matter	.	.	.	0.12 grains
Total grains impurity in 10 lbs.	.	.	.	2.22 grains

Sir Charles Lyell in his *American Notes*, just quoted, has already vouched for the absence of salts, citing no less an authority than Professor Faraday. He says, "When a lump of Wenham ice has been brought to England, it does not melt by any means so readily as a similar lump of common English ice. Mr. Faraday tells me that Wenham Lake ice is exceedingly pure, being both free from air-bubbles and from salts. The presence of the first makes it extremely difficult to succeed in making a lens of English ice which will concentrate the solar rays, and readily fire gunpowder, whereas nothing is easier than to perform this singular feat of igniting a combustible body by the aid of a frozen mass, if Wenham ice be employed.

"The absence of salts conduces greatly to the permanence of the ice, for where water is frozen so that the salts expelled are still contained in air-cavities and cracks, or form thin films between the layers of the ice, these entangled salts cause the ice to melt at a lower temperature than 32°, and the liquefied portions give rise to streams and currents within the body of the ice, which rapidly

carry heat to the interior. The mass then goes on thawing within as well as without, and at temperatures below 32° ; whereas pure and compact Wenham ice can only thaw at 32° , and only on the outside of the mass."

"We have been looking upon this landscape today under the delightful auspices of a summer sky. Let us reverse the picture. The verdure of hills and meadow is replaced by the white mantle of Winter. The surface of the lake, though motionless, still sparkles in the sun. Here and there are seen groups of skaters or sportsmen watching for pickerel through holes in the ice. The silence of an ancient solitude broods over the place. Such was the scene, unchanged for two centuries, until suddenly, about twenty-five years ago, this spot becomes a centre of attraction. Suddenly the quiet neighborhood is alive with the jingling of sleigh-bells—gaily dressed parties are sweeping over the frozen lake in ice-boats and sleighs, and men by hundreds, and horses by scores, are toiling, day and night, at the newly discovered husbandry."

The virtues of Wenham Lake ice have been proclaimed; the fashionable world of London and the thirsty East have found it to be a necessity. Already Tudor,¹¹ the pioneer in the exportation of ice, has demonstrated, since 1805, the success of the enterprise, which has rewarded him with a fortune, and commerce has at last disturbed the solitude of this retreat.

From 1805 to 1832, Tudor pursued, almost alone, the exportation of ice, at first with varying success. The trade being at last established, and new machinery for cutting and new expedients for packing and storing introduced, the business rapidly increased and came into other hands. About ten years later operations began at Wenham Pond, and if the staple exports of Massachusetts have been correctly stated to be ice, granite and school ma'ams, Essex has surely, since 1842, shown herself the equal of any other county in the matter of the first, without ever having been behind-hand as to the other two. Willis writes from London that this ice became the first favorite immediately upon its arrival and presentation to the queen—that highly decorated carts emblazoned with "Wenham Ice," conveyed it about the streets, and that cockney admiration for it was unbounded. His exuberant fancy led him to say that the Yankee sensationist had better come to England with his pock-

ets full of this, than of gold. The wonder was, how the fashionables had existed before they discovered it. And the late Alonzo Lewis, writing in February, 1846, well describes the interesting process by which this ice was cut and stored, and adds that during that season, thousands witnessed the operation; that the ice was then fourteen inches thick and was cut in blocks twenty inches square, 600,000 tons of it, says Lewis, could be taken at one freezing. More recently the apparatus used has been gauged for blocks twenty-two inches square, and the ice at Wenham, having at times attained an equal thickness, cubic blocks have been taken out, measuring thus nearly two feet in each dimension. In the middle of one of these blocks a cavity was made, in which was placed a fine pickerel, just from the pond, and water being poured in, the whole mass was frozen solid and sent abroad. . . . Through such blocks of ice, the figures have been read upon a mason's rule. Says Allen, "The inhabitants of many a torrid region, who have never heard of the name Massachusetts, and hardly know that there is such a place as New England, are familiar enough with Wenham Lake ice. An American gentleman recently informed me that, while proceeding up the Red Sea in one of the East India Company's steamers, an Englishman who had traveled much in America inquired particularly of him, where Wenham Lake was situated, remarking that he had seen most of the lakes in the United States, but never saw Wenham Lake. From the amount of ice which it produced, he supposed it to be one of the large lakes of the Western Continent, and was not a little surprised when informed of its real size."¹²

Just across the pond and between the two lines of ice houses easily discriminated by their color, flows the brook which carries the surplus water to Miles River, a tributary of Ipswich River, taking its rise near Beaver Pond. Not far from the lake, this brook crosses the highway, which here descends almost to the water-level; a little farther to the south, the road meets the margin of the pond, so that it is possible, by a slight diversion, to drive for some rods in the water.

Between the outlet and this point stood what Doctor Bentley, writing A.D. 1800, described as "a small conical hill near the pond." It was peculiar in its shape and position, overhanging the water—

some thirty-five feet above it—being grassy and smooth except towards the pond, and on that side abruptly cut down and steep. This mound, says Doctor Bentley, Hugh Peters chose for his pulpit when he preached his first sermon in America. This was also the first sermon preached at Wenham of which we have any record. . . . Hugh Peters was a well-educated Englishman, who, after preaching with great acceptance in London, his congregation numbering at times, it is said, seven thousand souls, was driven from his pulpit for nonconformity, and after a refuge for some years in Holland, came to New England in 1635. He became pastor of the first church in Salem the next year, succeeding Roger Williams in that important charge. Here he displayed those rare qualities of mind and heart which signalized him as the friend of the colony and which marked his distinguished career after his return to England. Governor Winthrop found him to be “a man of a very public spirit and singular activity for all occasions” and Bentley adds that “a weak man could not maintain the popularity he had, and an ignorant man could not execute what he undertook.” Besides achieving success in his pastoral charge, he entered largely into politics and trade, reformed the police, organized the fisheries, designing and building some of the first vessels adapted for that business, and was finally, in 1641, sent back to England with two other commissioners who were charged to represent the sense of the colony upon the laws of excise and trade. He had been an overseer of Harvard College in 1637, and is said to have exerted a strong influence in favor of planting the college near the present summer residence of the venerable Robert Brookhouse (in Swampscott). In 1638 he acted on a commission for collecting and revising the laws of the colony. The return of a man so constituted and inclined to the England of 1641, plunged him at once into that commotion which, next year, took the form of civil war, and he became no less conspicuous in that tremendous struggle than Vane who shared his fate—perhaps hardly less so than Milton himself, who was at times his roommate, and always his intimate and confidential friend. Carlyle places him very near the person of Cromwell, throughout the Civil Wars. As “Chaplain to the Train,” and as “Lieutenant-General Cromwell’s Secretary” he is in high favor, and being charged with Cromwell’s autograph re-

port of the capture of Winchester, he delivered it with a "relation" of the affair to the Commons who voted him, October 7, 1645, fifty pounds for his good news. A week later he presented to Parliament the colors of the Marquis of Winchester, captured at the storming of Basing House with a narrative of that event. Before both Houses, before the Mayor and Aldermen of London, before the Assembly of Divines, as well as before the legions of his great chief, he was called from time to time, to deliver his terse and eloquent discourses. He followed "Lord Lieutenant Cromwell" into Ireland in 1649, and is said to have successfully led a brigade, although his position seems to have been that of chaplain. Thus he entitled himself to be held the most odious of his calling, when, after the Restoration, the profligate and licentious Charles burned in his cups with the desire to "hang a preacher." He was accordingly condemned in 1660 as a regicide, charged with having been present on the scaffold, disguised in a mask, at the execution of Charles I—a charge which he wholly denied—and at the age of sixty-one, three days after trial, he was beheaded, with every circumstance of barbarity, and his head exposed on a pole on London Bridge. He died grandly as he had lived, unmoved by the horrors which surrounded him, and disavowing every unworthy act and motive. But the solicitor-general, in opening his prosecution, had said that his influence with the Parliamentary party was second only to that of Oliver Cromwell, and after that, what defence could avail him? In person, says Doctor Bentley, he was tall and thin, active and sprightly—his speech was peculiar, and he had the power of so associating his thoughts that they could not easily be forgotten. His text when he preached across the lake was, "At Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there."¹³ Bentley adds, "The town held the name till it was incorporated. It is still remembered, and Peters' Hill is not forgotten."¹⁴

But the landscape upon which Hugh Peters looked is sadly changed today, and even the grassy mound on which he stood was doomed to disappear. Commerce had marked it for her own. First came the Eastern Railroad to disturb the solitude with its rumbling trains. Soon after a spur was extended to the very verge of the lake, for the lading of ice, and then another, and now a third. The spirit of trade had possession of the spot at last, and paid no

heed to the ancient landmarks. Finding that Peters' Pulpit occupied a position eligible for its purposes, it did not hesitate to say unto that mountain, "Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea!" And this being accomplished, the next step was to take profane and bodily possession of an ancient meeting-house, which for ninety-five years had stood in the village of Wenham, quietly listening to more than ten thousand sermons, and to transport it from its old foundations to the very spot where Peters preached, two hundred years before, and there, crowded with ice and flanked with ice on either hand, it stands today (1864) enjoying perhaps a pleasing contrast to the doctrinal heat of its earlier experience.¹⁵

These changes were made under the supervision of the gallant and lamented Lander,¹⁶ and here he began to attain that proficiency in engineering which enabled him to connect his name with one of the grandest summits of the Rocky Mountains. But these changes, it must be remembered with regret, were not made without first giving to Salem an opportunity of saving the interesting relic. On March 3, 1835, the Town of Wenham voted to grant Peters' Hill to the First Church in Salem, on condition that they would erect thereon a monument to their former pastor, the offer to hold good for three years. It was not accepted, and after the expiration of the time, the town's interest passed to the ice company, then formed, and we know the result.

Close by, and under a grand old elm, now the only monument which marks the spot, lived not long ago an interesting and venerable man. He was something of an anchorite and a philosopher. Having been in early life a teacher of youth, he bore to his grave the familiar title of "Master John." But either from the proximity of his dwelling to this scene, or from the constancy of his affection for it, he was quite as well known as "Pond John." His memory was retentive, and with him perished a store of unwritten legends of this pond. Nature rarely unveils a lovely feature but there is some responsive heart to be won over and filled with its beauty, and "Pond John" never spoke of the view upon which for three-quarters of a century his waking and closing eyes had rested, but with the enthusiasm of a lover. The smile of the Great Spirit seemed to have weaned him, in a degree, from the society of his kind. A man of contemplation rather than of action, he lived here

alone and died without descendants. Yet his kindly nature was continually manifest, and especially in the swing, which every summer hung from the lofty boughs of the elm tree before his door. In this he delighted to give the passer-by a refreshing flight into the air. No stone remains, nothing but the old elm tree to mark the spot where he lived and died. But no one can fitly speak of Wenham Pond without a passing word in memory of "Master John."

The next point of interest in topographical order is Balch pasture. To reach this we have passed southerly from the outlet of the pond, and upon the high ground occupied by the stone-colored cottage opposite, where lately resided Nehemiah Brown, for many years well known as deputy-sheriff of the county. Just beyond that, stretched along the road upon the steep bank of the pond, lies a tract of some twenty acres of pasturage and woodland, of which no member of the legal profession can speak but with feeling. Probably no lot of equal size in this vicinity has been more fruitful of litigation. Indeed it should be known as Lawyers' Paradise or Goodacre of the Attorneys. Twice within a quarter of a century has a large fraction of it been claimed under adverse titles, and at least five counsellors were arrayed in each of these cases. It is the precise locality of the highway robbery and murder of Hoddy by Williams, who was convicted and executed at Boston; and how many eminent advocates may have appeared in that cause, we cannot well determine in the absence of our learned president who keeps the docket. This Balch pasture is, no doubt, a portion of the original grant to John Balch made in 1635, of two hundred acres near the Great Pond. It will be remembered that one thousand acres were granted by Salem to five ancient planters in consideration of public services, and Balch who was one of the five, settled upon his grant, and died there in 1648. From Mr. Phippen's very interesting account of the "Old Planters before Endicott," published in Volume I of the Institute *Collections*,¹⁷ it appears that the widow of a descendant of Balch married William Dodge, who was the patriarch of the family of that name, now so numerous in that region.¹⁸ For many years Balch pasture was in possession of members of that family, and it was appraised at the death of Deacon John Dodge, in 1825, as a part of his estate.

At the annual town meeting, held on the afternoon of March 1, 1842, the Town of Wenham supposing itself the owner of that portion of the tract which lies within its limits, voted to take possession forthwith, and to sell the wood standing thereon, at nine o'clock next morning, in lots to be removed at once. The sale at auction being accordingly concluded, the purchasers proceeded, March 2, to cut their respective lots and prepare them for removal. And from far and near, by children, returning from school, and from housetops across the pond, the operation was witnessed and denounced by indignant Dodges. This work being nearly finished, and the afternoon inclement, the hewers of wood suspended their labors early. Meantime the word had gone forth—the friends of the adverse claimants had been summoned, and soon after night-fall, under cover of the storm, with cattle and sledges, with lanterns and axes, they began to gather on the ground, resolved to a man that no stick of Balch pasture fuel should ever warm the hearthstone of a purchaser from the town of Wenham. The wood was freely offered to those who would take it away, and the work of hauling it away from the soil of the disputed territory into the highway, and from the highway to the woodpile went briskly on. Now the moon broke through the storm, and the heavy clouds rolled away. And there from midnight till dawn, in the clear moonlight of that gusty March morning, load after load of cut wood disappeared, and trees left standing were felled and disposed of, so that next day when the claimants under the town arrived, to their utter amazement and discomfiture, they found their neighbors, after enjoying the fruits of their yesterday's labor, quietly breakfasting together by the roadside, while the contested portion of Balch pasture, but the day before a well-covered wood-lot, was now transformed into pasturage indeed. This state of things elicited merriment on both sides. And the courts afterwards decided the question which had occasioned this excellent "pass of practice" against the validity of the town's title.

The town's claim rested upon an Indian deed from the heirs of the Sagamore of Agawam, now lost, releasing for four pounds, sixteen shillings all claim to the soil of the town of Wenham. It was dated A.D. 1700, and was like other deeds given by the same parties to Beverly, the same year, for six pounds, six shillings, eight

pence, and to Salem for twenty pounds, in 1686. The object of the Dodge claimants in their midnight raid seems to have been to transfer the wood to estates where it could only be reached without trespass, by legal process—a course taken under advice of no less an authority than the late Benjamin Merrill, to the effect that possession was nine points of the law. The late Joshua H. Ward, at his death a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, was of counsel in this case, and became so much interested in the locality that he secured a portion of it and, it was said, entertained the purpose of building there, until his death. Besides these, the learned president and vice president of this Society, and I know not how many humbler members, are among that multitude of counsellors whose pockets have been more or less distended with the fees of which these well-contested acres have been so prolific.

Much might be added, did time permit, of other objects of interest about the pond. The point at which we left the cars is the highest point upon the Eastern Railroad for many miles. Just beyond it, but a few rods towards the east, rises Brimble Hill,¹⁹ second in altitude only to Brown's or Folly Hill, lying to the west. This last is the outpost of a ridge of hills, extending northerly towards Topsfield and known at various points on the western border of the lake as Cherry Hill, Mount Pleasant or Prospect Hill,²⁰ and Lord's Cue and Moulton's Hills.

Reaching the southerly extremity of the pond, at a point near the New England Ice Company's works, we passed on our way hither Boat House Cove, so called for a structure placed there when the Cherry Hill Farm, which comprised much of the western border of the lake, was the property of Joseph White of Salem [and later of John Hammond]. Here Mr. Webster came to rest his great brain with his favorite diversion of fishing and no doubt other eminent men, who frequented that fine old seat, after it passed into the hands of Stephen White,²¹ found in the quiet lake a grateful contrast to the stormy sea of political and professional life. Other inlets figure in the journals of the icemen as Sandy Cove, Back Bay and Holmes Cove, the last commemorating a late proprietor of Cherry Hill. These journals read like the log-book of an Arctic voyager. "Bright, moon to-night—Growing cool.—Pond cracking all over," and again "Glass 8° below, this morning.

Grooved before daylight:" and again "Sunset clear and cold,—fresh N.W. wind, cutting all day, and from seven to twelve at night." . . .

We must leave what might be said of the old house at Cherry Hill built by Herricks, an old and honored family, whose initial letter appeared cut in its enduring frame, when it was recently removed by the present owner of the place. Here Willis²² felt some of his earliest inspirations, and here, it is said, began that political combination, which made the second Adams president. . . . Mount Pleasant, at whose base we meet, and from whose top we enjoyed perhaps the best panorama of this region, is the property of another. Its venerable proprietor can count there without a glass thirty-six spires on a clear day. It was on such a day, the first afternoon of the summer of 1813, that in the quiet hours toward sunset, scanning the dark blue line of tide water which can be seen from its summit, he descried the haughty *Shannon*, preparing for and commencing that action with the *Chesapeake* which made Lawrence famous, even through disaster. May his eyes yet undimmed with age, soon behold the surrounding hill-tops ablaze with the signal fires of that longed-for victory, which shall at last give peace to a restored and regenerated people.

“POND JOHN” DODGE

BY JOHN C. PHILLIPS



“POND John” Dodge, mentioned in Mr. Rantoul’s address, was further described in an anonymous note published in the *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, XXV (1888), 78–79.

“The majestic old elm, once visible from all parts of the lake—the last landmark which fixed the spot where lived and died that interesting character known as ‘Pond John,’ or ‘Master John’ Dodge—succumbed to age and the axe in 1882. The old house had disappeared before, and the elements, jealous of all longevity except their own, have made haste to obliterate, with some aid from the plow and harrow perhaps, every trace of the cellar wall. So that the ancestral domicile of the childlike old hermit, is to the eye of coming generations, as though it had never been. For of well or well curbed he had no need, seeing that nature had spread out this beautiful expanse of lake before him, for his reservoir and fountain, and so when the house fell, its cellar stone-work remained its only memorial.”

“This ‘Pond John’ Dodge told the Reverend Charles Babbage (S.T.D. Harvard College, 1828) that he well remembered sitting on the knee of General Thomas Gage, when that officer was acting as royal governor of the province. The Governor had his headquarters at the Collins house (the King Hooper house in Danvers) and used to come across the pond in a pleasure-barge, with which he amused himself and his friends in hours of leisure. This should have been between May 13 and September 5, 1774, and Governor Gage, though keeping state in the house built by ‘King Hooper,’ twenty years before, and loaned him by King Hooper; while two companies of the sixty-fourth regiment of the line were encamped as a bodyguard on his grounds and the Provincial Legislature, in spite of him, sat at Salem Court House, and shut its doors with a slam in face of his royal missives—though all this is true, there is evidence beside that of ‘Master John,’ that the British soldier was untiring in his efforts to make himself and his obnoxious rule as little offensive as might be in a social way, and no



PLATE VII. *Wenham Lake from John C. Phillips' house "Windyknob," 1930.*



PLATE VIII. *Sandy Cove and the high moraine on the west shore of Wenham Lake, about 1925.*

doubt while waiting for his misguided wards, as he supposed, to come to their senses, he had ample time for flitting about the beautiful lake, in his pleasure-barge and taking on his knee and amusing with old world stories, if not cajoling with sweetmeats, the quick-minded children of the neighboring farmers.”²³

Robert Rantoul in 1913 told Arthur Pickering that “Pond John” Dodge was short, thickset and somewhat stooping. He was by no means illiterate and at times had taught school. He had no money and would have fared badly if his neighbors had not furnished him with many meals in return for the conversational entertainment he always provided.

In the years between 1845 and 1849 Mr. Rantoul spent much time at the Benjamin Woodbury farm in North Beverly, and well remembered how “Pond John” would come drifting along from Beverly on his way home, and stop for supper. Others would drop in, they would gather about the fire and “Pond John” would amuse them on many a long evening. He had a remarkable fund of stories and anecdotes and was unusually well informed. He was always made welcome wherever he went and visited many houses.

Mr. Rantoul went so far as to compare our Wenham sage with Homer, who went about the country singing his ballads to whosoever would provide him with meals and keep.

John Dodge was born and died in the old house by the lake. A very crude picture, taken from an old painting said to have been done on a cake plate (local talent) shows a simple structure on the water’s edge, and before it a small paddle-wheel boat, which by means of a crank he used to convey himself about the lake. The famous elm is also shown in this picture, the same from which he had his swing. The ropes were of very great length, so Mr. Rantoul told us, and a person could literally be swung out over the lake. He himself had enjoyed several such experiences.

“Pond John” died some time before 1860, the house vanished in the seventies, and the old elm, which was said to have measured 16.7 feet circumference at two and a half feet above ground, was taken down in 1882.

On the very edge of the Wenham cemetery there is a tomb with its door looking toward the lake and the site of “Pond John’s” former home. Here was buried John’s brother Uzziel, a reputed

man of action, who it is said wanted the door of his tomb so placed that he might watch over his brother's dilatory life. And in return for this "Pond John" wrote this epitaph:

Here lies the body of Uzziel Dodge
In life he dodged all good and little evil,
But in death he could not dodge the devil.

The town authorities, however, took exception to this somewhat unnatural outburst and caused it to be erased.

And our poet, Allen Peabody, also has helped to preserve the memory of John Dodge:

Now Wenham Lake—then Wenham Pond;
Against its shores lived "Master John,"
Well known by everyone in town;
Who wore his trousers in his boots,
Whose brains could figure squares and roots,
Who loved to fish and keep a boat,
But never knew the worth of soap;
Who sometimes kept the village school,
Taught ABC to dunce and fool,
Who sent to Boston a petition
To make a law against folks fishing
Alewives out of Wenham water,
For he thought that no one ought to
Drag a seine, or fish with line, or
Catch a pickerel, perch or shiner—
Only just himself.
Years have passed since "Master John"
Grew old and died and journeyed home.

WENHAM LAKE AND THE ICE TRADE

BY A. P. PUTNAM



THE first to establish the ice trade in America was the well-known, well-remembered Frederic Tudor of Boston. It is said that his earliest enterprise in this line was the sending of a shipload of ice to Martinique, in 1805, at a time when yellow fever was raging in the West Indies. . . . The project, he himself tells us, "excited the derision of the whole town"; but he persevered, and the cargo of one hundred thirty tons, stowed in a brig which he owned and which was named the *Favorite*, arrived in a most perfect condition. Associated with Mr. Tudor was his brother William, and also James Savage, both of whom went on beforehand in order to take charge of the cargo, as it should reach the island. The ice was taken from a pond in that part of Lynn now known as Saugus, then belonging to his father. . . . Notwithstanding Mr. Tudor's importation was most gladly welcomed by the natives of the island, he lost \$4,500 by the venture. . . . In 1807 he sent two hundred forty tons to Havana in the brig *Trident*. As before he met with the mingled curiosity and ridicule of Boston merchants, and this second experiment, with various subsequent shipments, was also attended with serious loss and embarrassment. Nearly one half the ice was wasted before any of it could be made to reach the consumers. The War of 1812, interfering with our commercial relations with England and other nations, occasioned fresh difficulties; but these were finally removed, and the British government gave Mr. Tudor a monopoly of the trade in its West India possessions, and the Spanish government extended to him like privileges in 1815. Erecting ice houses at Kingston, Jamaica, he now entered upon a prosperous business career.²⁴

Cargoes were sent to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1817, to Savannah, Georgia, in 1818, and to New Orleans, in 1820. In 1833 he sent two hundred tons to Calcutta, "through sixteen thousand miles of salt water"; the voyage being of four or five months' duration; and in 1834 he shipped a first cargo to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. . . . The tide had now turned in his favor. . . . Fresh Pond,

Spot Pond, Walden Pond and Smith's Pond, all more or less in the vicinity of Boston, were put under contribution. From 1837 other parties were encouraged by his invincible pluck and good fortune to embark in the business.

One of the most notable of these companies was that of Gage, Hittinger and Company of Boston, who in 1842 exported a cargo of ice to London, the first ever sent to England from America. The ice was cut in Fresh Pond in Cambridge. Mr. Hittinger wrote an amusing account of his enterprise, telling how he went out in a steamer and awaited in London the arrival of the *Sharon*, and how, after the bark came up the Thames with its freight of "cold comfort," he met a body of Englishmen in a brightly illuminated hall and with the aid of some bartenders whom he took over with him from the United States, began to initiate them into the mysteries of juleps, cocktails, etc. Although the *Times* and other papers had advertised the strange "Boston notion," ludicrous and speedy failure was the result, and Mr. Hittinger counted up a loss of \$1,200.

The venture was renewed shortly afterward by Mr. Charles B. Lander of Salem, who in the autumn of 1843 built a number of ice houses on the banks of Wenham Lake. . . . On its northeastern margin once stood a small, grassy conical hill . . . where the celebrated Hugh Peters preached in 1642. . . . The town's offer of this hillock to the First Church of Salem not being accepted, when Mr. Lander wanted the land immediately near it for his ice houses, as it was more on a level with the water than the wooded banks in the vicinity, the lot was sold to him. It is situated about a half mile from the central village of Wenham, and close to the main road that leads thence to Beverly, and near the narrow strait that connects the larger portion of the lake with the third of it that extends in a northwesterly direction. An old picture accurately represents in the foreground the five huge, barn-like structures that soon rose there to view, like so many other similar creations of a utilitarian age to attest "the march of progress." The nearest, like a factory, has a cupola for the workmen's bell. The farthest of them was the old meeting-house of the town. . . . These buildings at first encroached but very little upon Peters' Pulpit, which stood just in front of them, or on the land side, their rear ends projecting

toward the water. Between them was room for a spur track which Mr. Lander extended a short distance so as to connect it with the Great Eastern Line.

The first crop was gathered and stored in January, February and March of the year 1844. It became evident that the enterprise would require more financial aid than its projector had as yet received, though he had raised \$10,000 for it among his friends at the outset. On March 20 the now venerable George Wheatland, Esq., an honored citizen of Salem, went to Wenham with Lander to see his ice houses, and on the twenty-seventh he and Joshua H. Ward (Judge), also of Salem, arranged with the other to take a united interest in the business. "Peters' Pulpit" was soon called for. The matter was brought before a town meeting for consideration and action. There was some opposition to the sale, and about forty years ago the late Edmund Kimball, Esq., of Wenham told the writer how he himself then appeared before his assembled fellow citizens, and pleaded with them, *as with tears*, that they would spurn the paltry sum which had been offered them as the price, and keep inviolate the consecrated mound. But it was all in vain. It was voted to sell it, and the deed conveying the property to Mr. Lander was dated April 11, 1844. . . . During an evening which I was recently privileged to spend with Mr. Wheatland, he recalled with regret that he himself ordered and superintended the work of demolition. And "Enon, near Salim," regrets quite as much that she ever gave her consent. But she has since done the best she could about it, under the circumstances, by adopting a town seal with a figure of the hillock in the center, beyond which is a view of the water and of the high banks opposite, forming a very pretty and appropriate design.

The first cargo from this ice plant was a large one and was shipped from Boston for Liverpool in the bark *Ellen*, June 10, 1844, Mr. Lander having previously sailed for England to make ready to receive it. Mr. Wheatland directed affairs at this end of the line, as he also forwarded the second cargo in the *Concordia* on the thirteenth of August of the same year. In consequence of embarrassments which shortly overtook Mr. Lander, the interests of this "Wenham Lake Ice Company" devolved upon Mr. Wheatland, who became the responsible proprietor, but soon afterward

sold the property to Mr. Nathaniel West. Subsequently Mr. West transferred it to Francis and George Peabody and Augustus Perry of Salem, and John L. Gardner of Boston. General Frederick Lander, brother of Charles, meanwhile superintended for a time the business at Wenham, selling the ice chiefly to Boston dealers.²⁵

About 1850 Gage, Hittinger and Company bought of the Peabody brothers and Messrs. Gardner and Perry, the ice houses and other property of the Wenham Lake Company, and at once entered vigorously into business where Lander and his associates had begun the work six or seven years before. They shipped their cargoes to southern ports in our own country rather than to places abroad. They sent none to England or other European ports. In 1851 the name of the firm became Gage, Sawyer and Company, its members being Addison Gage, who was still at the head, Timothy Sawyer, Dr. Henry Lyon, and Thomas G. Frothingham. In 1859 it was changed again to Addison Gage and Company, Mr. Gage's son, Charles O. Gage, being now his only partner. The father died in 1868, but the style has continued until the present year (1892). In 1871, the firm was enlarged by the accession of Mr. R. W. Hopkins and Mr. Arthur Harrington, of whom the former is Addison Gage's son-in-law. The company carried on an enormous trade, gathering their ice from Fresh Pond, Cambridge, Spy Pond, Arlington, and Sandy Pond, Ayer, as well as from Wenham Lake. Their output from these several places for the year 1856 was 146,000 tons, or 363 cargoes. . . . Gage and his partners or successors continued the business at Wenham Lake for three decades. From 1860 to 1880 they harvested there alone as many as 30,000 tons annually on the average.²⁶ As early as 1862 the ice houses which Lander had built had fallen into much decay; but now the boards were stripped off, and new ones put on, while the frame work was strengthened with fresh timber and the whole establishment was thoroughly repaired. In 1866, which was a very prosperous period, the company erected five more structures, like the five original ones, and just beyond them. . . . At the same time steam power began to be employed for putting the ice into the buildings, instead of horse power. Still the business grew. The years 1871 and 1872 were the busiest and most important of all.

The one man who was the chief overseer for the Gages in



PLATE IX. *Midwinter at the Hill Company's ice plant at the north end of Wenham Lake.*

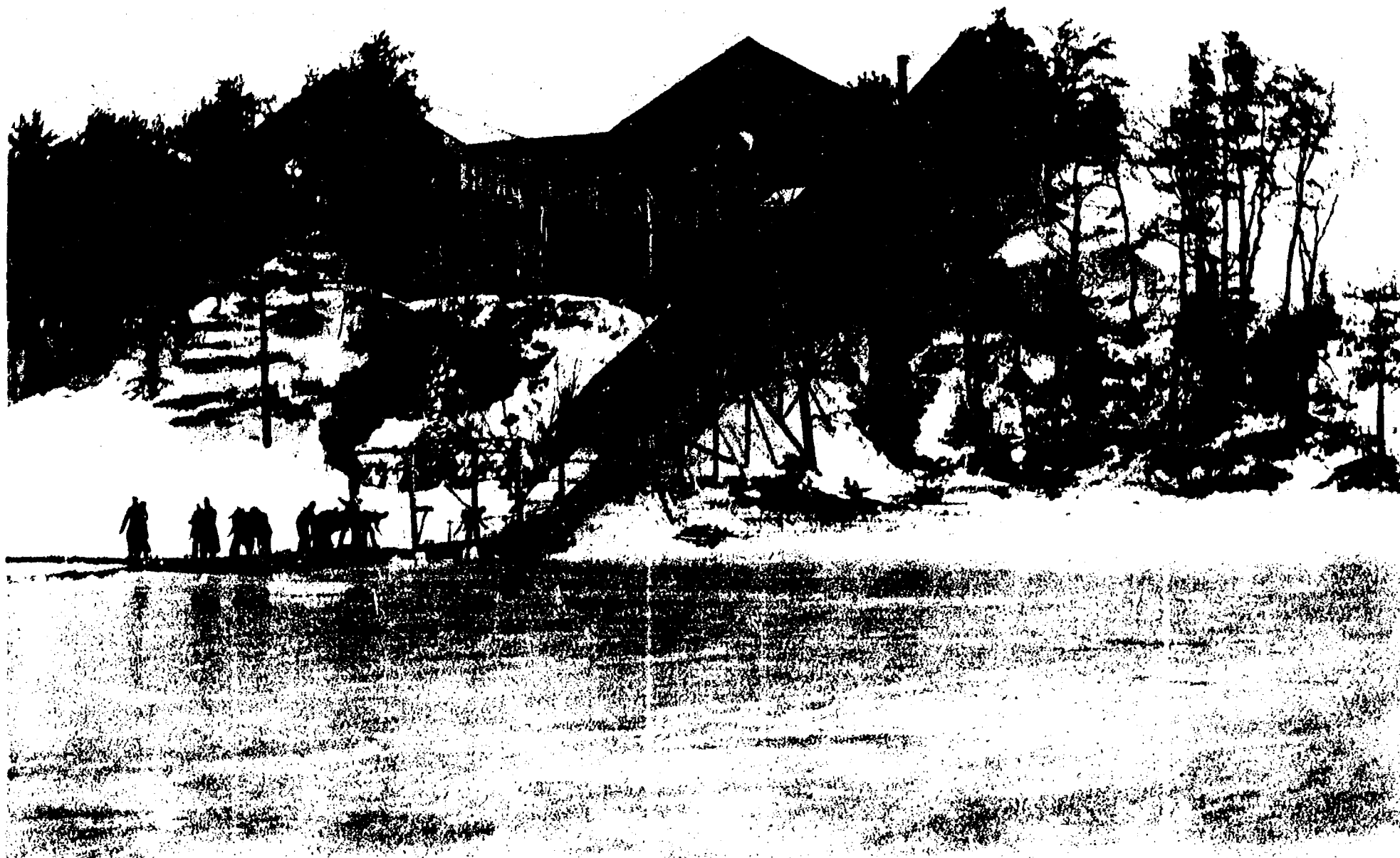


PLATE X. Midwinter at the Boston Ice Company's ice plant at the north end of Wenham Lake.

gatherings and storing and sending away the ice was John I. Durgin, who still lives in Wenham. He served them most faithfully for more than thirty years and for nearly all that time had charge of the workmen. He told me that again and again he had as many as three hundred of them under his direction. Together he and his wife gave me a vivid account of the great fire of Sunday night, November 9, 1873, when by some incendiary hand a match or torch was applied to the large quantity of hay in which the ice was packed and all the buildings were burned to the ground. No other structures have since been erected to occupy their places unless it be an "elevators" which stands on or near the spot to serve some temporary or unimportant purpose.²⁷

The scene which was witnessed there at Wenham Lake, winter after winter, for all these many years, as the workmen with implements and horses were getting out the ice and storing it away in the big houses, and then at the proper time taking it thence and sending it away for shipment, was a lively and interesting one. First were the scrapers, by which the snow or more porous ice was removed from the surface; then the liners and markers and cutters, by which the glassy plain was divided off into moveable squares or sections, and finally the various instruments and kinds of machinery whereby these were lifted out of the water, conveyed to the buildings and there packed for preservation, until they were again likewise handled for transportation to the market. It is stated that as many as one hundred men and thirty or forty horses were at times engaged in this labor. But the number was much greater than that. Lander had constructed a short branch railway from his structures to the Eastern Railroad, as we have already seen, and over these lines he and his successors forwarded their ice in large air-tight trunks or cars to Boston, where it was put into the holds of vessels with plenty of sawdust so as to protect it as much as possible from the effects of the heat and of the salt atmosphere which acts as a solvent. Still the loss was great, and one writer mentions a cargo of 502 tons which left Boston in 1852 and became reduced to 326 tons on its arrival in London, fifty-one days after the departure.

Other ice houses were built by the lake besides those which I have mentioned as having been erected by Lander and Gage and

Company, but these were constructed at a later date and were mostly used to supply the home market.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON WENHAM LAKE ICE

FROM *EUROPEAN TIMES*, WILMER AND SMITH, 1845

THIS commodity (Wenham ice) which was first introduced to the notice of the English public a short time ago through the medium of the Liverpool Press, is so rapidly advancing in popularity in the metropolis that no banquet of any magnitude is considered complete without it. It has become an essential element in the civic fetes of Lovegrove; at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill, at Blackwall, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street; the Albion, Aldersgate Street; Long's Hotel; and in fact, at every establishment of a similar kind of any celebrity in London. Not only is the Wenham Lake ice coming into vogue as a luxury among the aristocracy, but it is also recommending itself to the middle classes as a necessity, and even to the humbler ranks of life as an article of economy. As a preservative of food, whether in a raw or a cooked state, it is of the greatest possible utility, the price of the ice being nothing compared with the value of the provisions it secures against corruption.

FROM *THE EMIGRANT*, BY SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD, 1846

"THE water of which this ice (from the Great Bay of Toronto) is composed is as clear as crystal, resembling that which, under the appellation of Wenham ice, has lately been imported into England, as well as into India, and which has become a new luxury of general use." He then discusses at length the causes to which he attributes the superiority of Wenham ice and his speculations are commented upon by Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent British geologist, in his description of a visit to Wenham Pond, in May, 1846, as follows: (*Travels in the United States*, Vol. II, Chap. XL) "From Boston we went to Ipswich, Massachusetts, to visit Mr. William Oakes, the botanist, with whom we had spent many pleasant days in the White Mountains. He set out with us on an excursion to Wenham Lake, from which so much ice is annually exported to England and other parts of the world." After describing our lake, he goes on to give his reasons why ice produced in countries with hard winters is so superior to English ice. These reasons have already been mentioned in Robert Rantoul's paper.

THE ICE HOUSE FIRE

FROM *SALEM REGISTER*, NOVEMBER 13, 1873

THE light from the burning ice houses at Wenham Lake on Sunday evening, owing to the peculiar state of the atmosphere, was reflected high up on the clouds, so that it was seen from a great distance—as far off certainly as Boston, and so vividly at Newburyport as to cause a general alarm of fire.

The ice houses, the *Transcript* says, stood on the site of “Peters’ Pulpit, so called, a little mound, where according to John Adams, writing in 1770, Hugh Peters preached his first sermon in America in 1635. It was leveled about two centuries later and ice houses located there for a company of Salem capitalists who opened the trade with London and the East about ten years after Tudor’s successes. One of the ice houses placed there was an old village church, erected on Wenham Green in 1748. The town had twenty-two town meetings on the subject and voted for the raising ‘6 galls. rum, 8 lbs. sugar, 2 bbls. cider, 100 lbs. bread, 1 cut. leg pork, 40 lbs. cheese, to be taken care of in the prudentest way.’

“The houses destroyed were built about five years ago, at a cost of \$65,000, and contained 30,000 tons of ice, valued at \$25,000. The total loss is estimated at not less than \$100,000, on which there was \$27,950 insurance in offices out of the state.”

WENHAM CHURCH

BY ALLEN PEABODY



THE little church, its ancient form and spire,
Its little bell would call to prayer or fire;
Its note of joy, when July 4th came round,
Its solemn tones at funerals it would sound,
Is gone, and where it stood now stands an oval close,
Where shady trees and verdant grass now grows;
Where Parson Sperry preached for years and years,
Whose funeral sermons oft drew briny tears.
Its sheep pen pews, whose rattling seats at prayer,
Made such a clatter everyone would stare.
Its choir where Gould would sing, McCrea squeak and blow,
With clash of instruments made sacred music flow,
Might scare the angel from the house of God,
And rouse the dead asleep beneath the sod.
When Captain B. would saw the cat gut bull,
And female windpipes make the clamor full.
Those days are past of fiddle, flute, bassoon,
And graceful organs made to take their room.
The church itself was moved and filled with ice,
Where Heaven's wrath had threatened crime and vice
Where hot discourses 'bout the realms below,
And Satan's dwelling where fiery flames do glow.
Where Pluto reigns—unpardoned sinners dwell,
And all the torments of an endless Hell;
'Tis fitting, 'tis, a gospel shop like this,
Should be hauled off and cooled with ice.
A modern church more comely in its style
Where gospel truths are preached in language mild,
To modern minds, improved by modern lore.
Where Christians meet to feast on Heaven's store.
There charity on brother Christians wait,
And honest meekness finds the narrow gate.

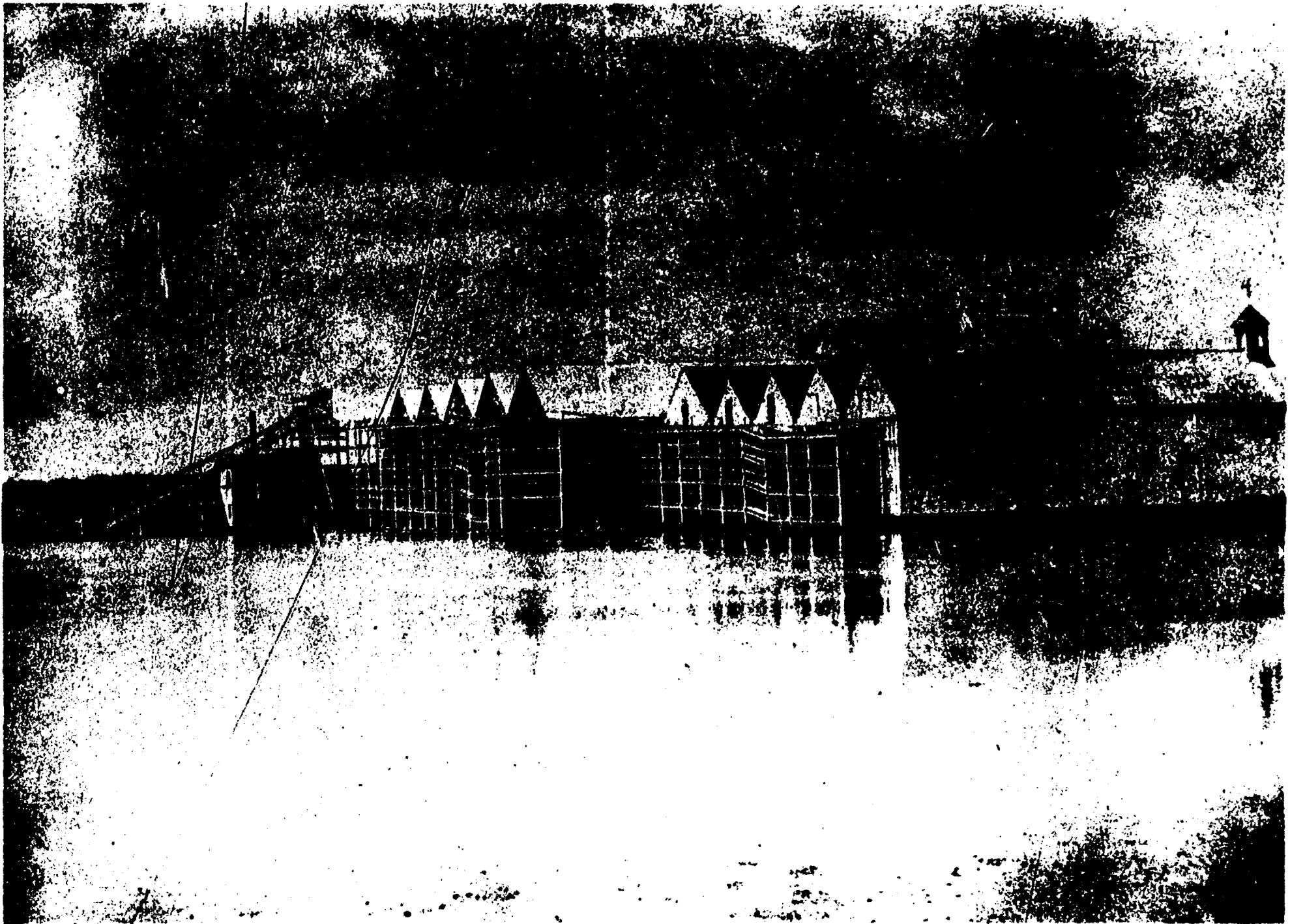


PLATE XI. *Addison Gage and Company's ice plant on Wenham Cove, about 1860, occupying the site of Peters' Pulpit.*

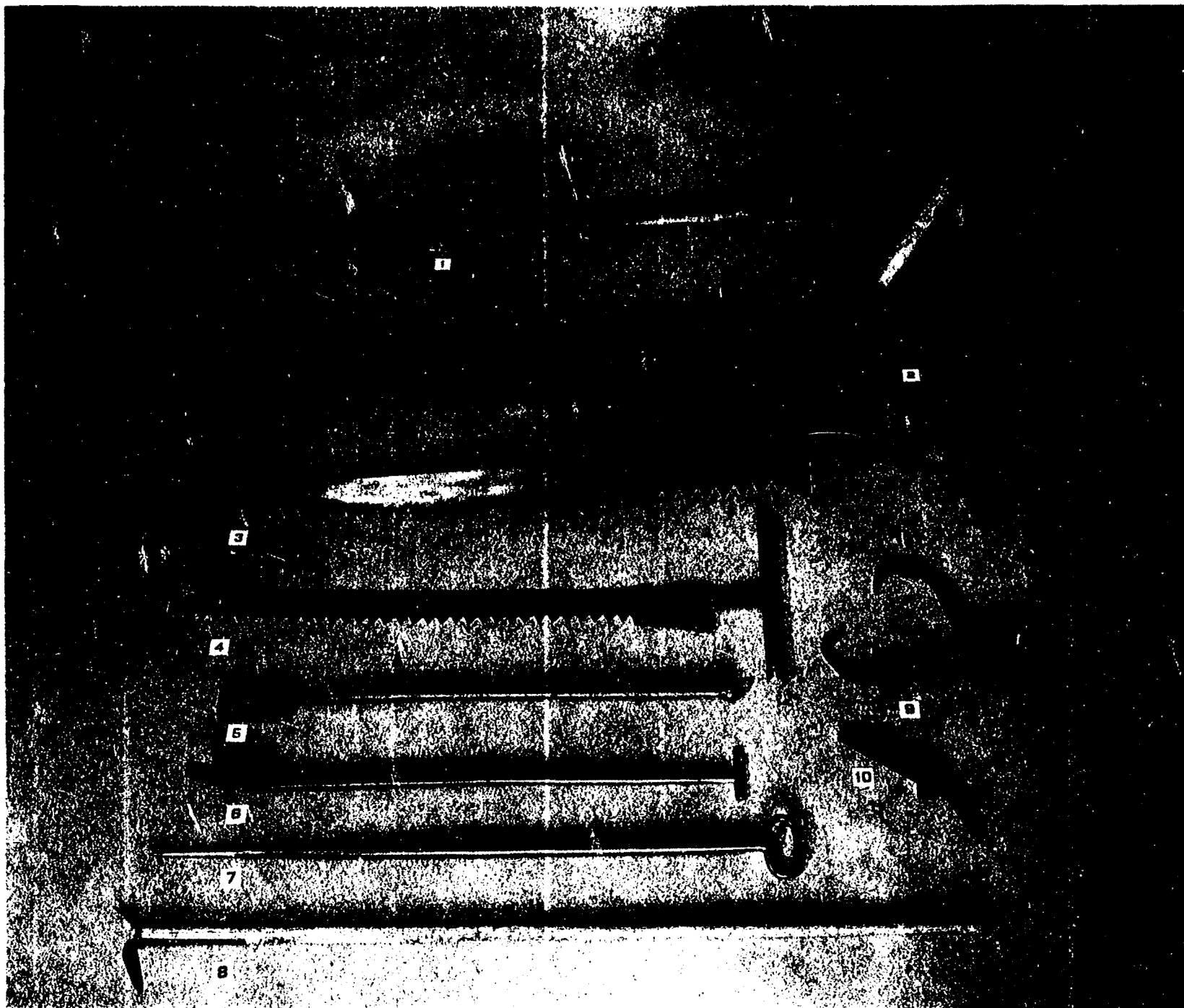


PLATE XII. *Ice Tools used at Wenham Lake ice plants. 1, hand groove. 2, horse groove. 3 and 4, saws. 5, chisel bar. 6, striking-up bar. 7, needle bar. 8, poling hook. 9, ice tongs. 10, ice axe. See Appendix K.*

Oh let us hope the time is not far hence,
When prejudice will yield to common sense;
When bigotry will spend itself in lore,
And superstition be a thing of yore.

WENHAM LAKE AS A RESERVOIR

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 16, 1869

BY WILLARD P. PHILLIPS



FROM the settlement of the town, until the year 1796, there is no record of any public association of citizens for the purpose of securing a supply of water, but it is evident in that year there must have been such unusual scarcity of water, or such an increased demand for it, as to excite public attention and cause united action to secure it.

In that year, 1796, there were two distinct and separate movements to secure an additional supply of fresh water—the one by a single individual, Daniel Frye, an innholder, for his own purposes, and the other a few months later, by an organization of citizens “for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants generally of Salem and Danvers with pure spring water.”

On the twenty-seventh of July, 1796, the “Proprietors of the horse pasture” (Gallows Hill) in consideration of fifty shillings in hand, and a payment of two dollars to be annually made, granted to Daniel Frye “the liberty of digging a well within the bounds of said proprietary” and to take rocks off said land to stone the well, “and to dig and conduct the water by a subterraneous passage from said place toward his dwelling house,” etc., “this grant to continue in force one hundred years from the date hereof,” September 28, 1807. Five associates became a corporation by the name of “The Proprietors of Frye’s Aqueduct,” for the purpose of conveying fresh water by subterraneous or other pipes into the towns of Salem and Danvers. Capital stock was divided into twenty shares. For \$522 this corporation purchased of Daniel Frye his aqueduct and the privileges granted to him of July 27, 1796, and then voted to assess ten dollars per share to defray expenses of repairing the aqueduct, so that the capital stock was \$722. In 1809 it had twelve water takers. In 1835 there were eight proprietors, while in 1852, which is the last record of it, all the shares were owned by Samuel Noah.

The second movement in 1796, was on December 30, when a

meeting was held in the Sun Tavern and a committee of three appointed to "procure an Act of Incorporation and to purchase the necessary logs, contract for boring the same, and also to contract with the owners of the land through which the aqueduct is to pass, for that privilege, and also to do whatever they may think proper to forward the business, as the season and circumstances may require." And this was the beginning of the Salem Aqueduct Company. Charles M. Endicott, in his history of this company, says that "the first concerted plan of laying down an aqueduct on a grand scale was first conceived in the year 1796," and adds that their operations consisted "of a large size fish hogshead for a fountain, sunk into the earth, and saplings of three inches bore for the main pipe."

During the month of January, 1797, the committee presented a memorial to the General Court, showing that the inhabitants of Salem "are poorly supplied with water, and at no time with water that will wash and that at this time there are many wells that are dry—that there are within a few miles of that town many ponds and springs from which the inhabitants of said town may be abundantly supplied with good water by means of an aqueduct" etc., "wherefore your petitioners pray that they may be incorporated, with such powers and restrictions as your honors may judge proper, for the purpose of bringing fresh water from said ponds and springs into the said town of Salem," etc.

The Act incorporating the Proprietors of the Salem and Danvers Aqueduct is dated March 9, 1797, and the company was organized April 7, 1797. Its capital was fixed at \$10,000. In 1798 the corporation built a reservoir on Gallows Hill (Salem) "ten feet deep and about twenty-four feet square," for which privilege it agreed to pay the proprietors (of the horse pasture) six dollars per year for seven years. In the spring of 1799, the corporation began to supply water from the present sources of the aqueduct to the inhabitants, and in November of that year, paid the first dividend of profits. To February, 1804, the corporation had divided forty-one dollars per share, although "the old fish hogshead fountain had given out," and a new fountain had been built in August, 1802, which the proprietors voted "to cover with a roof to keep out the filth which had injured the water." In February, 1804, the three-inch

bore saplings began to give out, and "many of the stockholders were perfectly aghast when it was proposed to lay a new log of five-inch bore." Difficulty was experienced in procuring the necessary money, as the estimated cost was at least \$20,000. In 1805 the company adopted the rates established in Boston for the supply of water, and the superintendent was authorized to extend the logs "of such sizes as he shall think necessary." Expenses were so great that no dividends were paid from February, 1804, to November, 1807. Heavy assessments were laid so that, at the last-named date, the company had expended in all "including lost dividends," \$44,100. In June, 1814, the complaints of the failure of water were so frequent that a meeting of the proprietors was called "to devise means for increasing the supply of water." In 1816 great restrictions were placed upon the use of water. In 1817 the corporation purchased a piece of land in Sewall Street, upon which a reservoir of twenty-two thousand gallons capacity was later erected.

No dividends were paid from November, 1818, to May, 1821, but from that time till November, 1864, no year passed without a dividend. Since then no dividends have been paid. During the company's whole existence the complaints of a short supply have continued. Never taking steps to increase the supply till forced to, it paid enormous profits to its stockholders. The manufacturers' supply has been discontinued at times. The tanners and curriers were forced to complain to the city government, through whose action alone a temporary remedy was obtained, until in 1863 application was made by the city to build its own water works, when the company again expended money, but too late to satisfy our people and to no purpose, as the drought of 1865 proved.

On the twelfth of October, 1863, John Bertram and ninety-three others petitioned the City Council "to take the necessary measures to procure from the Legislature power to establish city water works for the purpose of furnishing an abundant supply of water, for all domestic and manufacturing purposes in this city," which petition was referred to a joint special committee.

Three citizens chosen from the City Council were next appointed to collect evidence showing the inadequacy of the present supply. This committee made examination of the sources of supply within the control of the Salem and Danvers Aqueduct Com-

pany, Brown's Pond, Spring Pond and Humphrey's Pond, but it was soon ascertained that from all these sources no greater supply than 1,300,000 gallons per day could be relied on, while from the aqueduct sources alone, only 600,000 gallons. Therefore, February 11, 1864, the citizens' committee suggested a supplementary petition to the Legislature, asking leave to resort to Wenham Pond, whereupon the petition was amended to include Wenham Pond in the sources of supply for the city water works.

The amended petition was presented to the Legislature, which on the eighteenth of February issued an order of notice for a hearing on said petition on the twenty-ninth of February. The hearing was very protracted. The city was represented by the citizens' committee and by Mr. Robert S. Rantoul.²⁸ The petitioners were opposed by the inhabitants of Beverly unless they could have the privileges of the aqueduct from Wenham Pond.

In the report of the citizens' committee, they conclude "that an ample supply can be obtained from Wenham Pond, which, if introduced, would afford facilities for increased business, promote the comfort of the people and the safety and value of property."

At a meeting of the City Council held on the fourteenth of November, 1864, this report was accepted; and in joint convention it was decided by a vote of twenty-two to five to select Wenham Pond as the source of supply. Of this decision the citizens were duly notified by publication in the newspapers of the city, and otherwise, and on the fifth day of December next following—it being the first Monday—the citizens voted to accept the Act of May 13, 1864, by a votes of: yes, 1623; no, 151.

The citizens' committee of 1863 estimate the lake's capacity at three million gallons per day, while the committee of the common council, quoting James Slade, C.E., as authority, estimate a daily supply of two million gallons, in a very dry season. Distant from city hall by pipe line—4.6 miles.

Besides the watershed of the surrounding hills (1,716 acres), and the springs in the bottom of the lake, there must certainly be still other sources of supply. There is Wenham Swamp, a short distance off, in a northwest direction, higher in its level than Wenham Lake and separated from it only by gravelly banks, through which without doubt a great quantity of water is constantly filtered; and

our experience on the south side of the lake proves to us that, through the quicksands which there underlie the surface, water is constantly flowing into the lake.

This year (1869), dry as it has been, with an average of five hundred thousand gallons pumped from it daily, the lake has never been two feet below its highest known spring level. As a further proof of the extent of the watershed, it may also be stated that in the great rain storm of February 15, 1869, when the rain gauge showed a fall of 3.15 inches, Wenham Lake rose eleven inches, or one hundred million gallons.

The margin of the lake, near its outlet, is much lower than elsewhere; so that by erecting a short and low dam, which may be of earth and of small cost, the lake may be kept two feet higher than its present level, which will furnish two hundred million gallons more of water; a supply for a hundred days, if we consume only two million gallons daily.²⁹

VOLUME OF WATER AND PASSAGE OF ALEWIVES INTO WENHAM LAKE

FROM THE REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE SALEM WATER WORKS AND THE
WENHAM WATER BOARD



JANUARY 5, 1872. By a judicious expenditure of \$4,050 for flowage damages to parties owning low lands about the lake, and a very slight expenditure at the outlet, in the spring, building a temporary dam to hold up the water fourteen inches higher, the capacity of the lake was increased, and secures to us within the reach of our pumps 150,000,000 gallons of water more than before.

January 5, 1873. By a new arrangement of the fishway at the ice houses at outlet, millions and millions of alewives passed up into the lake to spawn and returned again to the sea.

January 5, 1874. Figures show that at present rate of increase in use of water . . . we may need in 1876—1,250,000,000 gallons. Now where is this supply to come from? It is time to do something towards securing the supply which we shall need. What can be done? The outlet can again be raised, and the storage capacity of the lake enlarged, but the supply of water cannot thus be increased. We must find some new source.

[The Ipswich River is here suggested, and the Board goes on to recommend that an application be made to the Legislature for leave to take water from Ipswich River.]

January 5, 1874. The falling off of the lake caused us considerable trouble with the alewives, which had come up to spawn, and being unable to return to the sea, by reason of no water in the brook at the outlet to let them go out, we were obliged daily to walk around the lake, collect and bury them. Now that we are consuming so much water and are liable yearly to drain the brook, and the fish die in the lake, they should not be allowed to enter it at all. It is a fact worthy of mention, that in the observations for the past three

years, they made their appearance and entered the lake each year June 13 and 14—a very nice calculation for them, without the aid of a *Farmer's Almanac*.

December 26, 1874. There has been but little trouble from alewives in the lake this year. They began to enter the lake about the first of May, and by careful watching and removing the flashboards at the dam for a short time each day at the time they were returning to the salt water, we have not been troubled by their dying in the lake. I would respectfully suggest that authority be obtained from the Legislature to exclude them altogether, as no one catches them for food and there is sufficient room in the river below for them to spawn.³⁰

December 5, 1875. We have had no trouble this year from fish. The same attention as in 1874 has been paid, so that there was time and opportunity for them to go in and out of the lake.

December 21, 1876. I would again urge the necessity of applying to the Legislature for power to exclude the alewives from the lake. They are not of the slightest use and are the cause of great waste of water; as in the spring the fishway has to remain open for them to pass into the lake, and this season the water was not high enough to allow them to pass out and return to salt water, and they died in the lake. There is no way to prevent this when the water is as low as it has been this fall.

December 27, 1877. There having been plenty of water in the lake, there has been but little trouble from alewives. An application to the Legislature having been refused—for power to exclude them from the lake—we shall have to put up with this nuisance a while longer.

December 16, 1878. The dam and flashboards are in perfect order, and there has been but little trouble from alewives. Some efforts have been made by a few gentlemen to stock the lake with edible fish, but thus far with but little success. [This probably refers to the black bass.]

December 15, 1879. There was no trouble from alewives last winter, the lake being so full in the fall that the greater portion passed out before the cold weather came on.

December 20, 1880. There has been but little trouble from alewives the past year, as but few came into the lake in the spring.

December 20, 1881. But little trouble from the alewives, as but few passed into the lake the past year.

December 18, 1882, There has been no trouble from alewives, as but very few passed into the lake in the spring. I think they are decreasing in number every year and that we shall have no trouble from them in the future.

December 15, 1883. The lake has been lower the past year than ever before, since Salem has taken its supply of water from it.

December 17, 1892. In the fall of 1891 and 1892, the shores of the lake (from high water mark to the edge of the water) were raked and about 1,300 loads of vegetable matter, etc., were removed.

December 20, 1894. The lake has been lower the past year than ever before since Salem has taken its supply of water from it.

December 14, 1895. The thirty-six inch gates in the pipe from the Longham Meadow to Wenham Lake were opened on January 24, and closed May 21. During that period the level of the water in Wenham Lake rose from nineteen feet, eleven and a quarter inches, to thirty feet, one inch, causing the water to flow over the flashboards for the first time since January, 1891.

December 15, 1896. Owing to the large amount of rain in the fall of 1895, it was only necessary to run the water in the latter part of March from Longham basin for three days into the lake.

December 7, 1898. Owing to the large rainfall (57.36 inches) it will not be necessary to run any water from Longham into the lake this winter.

December 11, 1899. Not necessary to run any water from Longham.

December 31, 1910. Much alarm has been occasioned during the past few months owing to the steady and continuous lowering of the level of the water in the lake, which owing to the long-continued drought is, at this writing, at the lowest point it has ever been known to reach, and the fear has been expressed by many that we were facing a water famine. [Ipswich River again suggested.]

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
PROTECTION OF WENHAM LAKE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—TOWN RECORDS, AUGUST, 1906

THE State Board of Health hereby modifies and amends the rules and regulations adopted on December 6, 1900, for the purpose of preventing the pollution and securing the sanitary protection of the waters of Wenham Lake and Longham Reservoir, and their tributaries, used by the cities of Salem and Beverly as sources of water supply, by striking out all of Rules 7, 14 and 15 and substituting the following rules:

RULE 7. No interment shall, except by permission of the State Board of Health, be made in any cemetery or other place of burial within fifty feet of high water mark of Wenham Lake or of Longham Reservoir, so called, said lake and reservoir being in the town of Wenham and the city of Beverly, and used by the cities of Salem and Beverly as sources of water supply, or within fifty feet of high water mark of any reservoir, lake, pond, stream, ditch, water-course or other open waters, the water of which flows directly or ultimately into said Wenham Lake or said Longham Reservoir.

RULE 14. No person shall bathe in, and no person shall, unless permitted by a special regulation or by a written permit of the State Board of Health, fish in, or send, drive or put any animal into Wenham Lake or into Longham Reservoir, so called; such lake and reservoir being in the town of Wenham and the city of Beverly, and used (etc., etc., as above, Rule 7). No person other than a member, officer, agent or employee of the Salem Water Board, or of the Beverly Water Board, or a public officer, whose duties may so require, shall, unless so permitted by regulation or permit of the State Board of Health, enter or go in any boat, skiff, raft or other contrivance, on or upon the water of said lake or reservoir nor shall enter or go upon, or drive any animal upon the ice of said waters.

RULE 15. No person shall enter upon Wenham Lake or upon Longham Reservoir, so called, for the purpose of cutting or taking ice, or cut or take ice from said lake or said reservoir, without a written permit of the State Board of Health, stating the time and place for which such permission is given.

WENHAM LAKE WATER-SPOUT OF 1871

BY ALLEN W. DODGE



AT an Essex Institute Field Meeting held at North Beverly June 10, 1871, Honorable Allen W. Dodge alluded to the tornado which passed over Wenham Lake the Sunday previous. Quoting D. H. Johnson, the superintendent of the Salem Water Works, who happened to be on the shore of the lake, "The clouds kept shutting in closer, it was growing darker and darker, the wind blowing a gale, when across the lake comes a water-spout in the shape of a tin funnel, such as is used in filling bottles, the broad mouth being thousands of feet in diameter away up in the clouds, the small end but fifty to one hundred feet diameter, touching the water. The water-spout in its passage across the lake was taking up water all the while; the wind increased in violence, bringing a wave nearly three feet high along with it, which washed well up on to the road. . . . It struck a gravel bank and orchard just to the west of the highway . . . when up go the gravel, large stones, rail fences, hundreds of feet into the air, appearing like ribbons, twisting trees right out of the ground by the roots, and branches fly in every direction. . . . It strikes a plowed field, the funnel being black with loam from the earth away into the clouds, then strikes a barn while the timbers and boards fly in every direction. The whizzing noise of the cyclone was terrific, ten times louder than the hum of our cotton factory.

"It continued its course over fields, hills and valleys, here and there uprooting trees, it struck upon the road from Wenham Centre to the Neck, making sad havoc of an orchard, demolishing three barns, lifting a roof and smashing in windows, uprooted large trees and even whirled them along in the air; overturned stone walls and carried large oak timbers some distance. Even a horse that was feeding near a barn was taken up bodily and dropped in a field some way off, and has not got over the injuries caused by his involuntary jaunt in the air."

WENHAM CHARACTERS

BY ALLEN PEABODY



FAIR Enon! What shall I about thee say?
Shall I go back to other days?
Shall I bring down from days of yore
The deeds of men, their names call o'er?
Their looks—their acts—and where they dwelt?
Their very names and how they're spelt?
Full fifty winters o'er my head,
Since I was born—have lightly sped;
'Tis four and thirty years ago,
Since first I came to learn my trade,
St. Crispin's art, how shoes are made.
Then I was young—was scarce eighteen—
Raw from the hills, untaught and green.
But long since then I came to know
Full many a joy and many a woe.
Accounts will interest you more
About your friends in days of yore.

THE TWO TAVERNS

In those old times two taverns stood,
Both upon the public road;
Ezra Lummus kept the one,
And Richard Dodge and old Squire Thorne.
Richard Dodge sold rum, and dwelt
Where B. C. Putnam's house was built.
The well and pump is still in use,
Where man and beast may drink who choose.
Great improvements now have come,
Folks drink the water sans the rum;
But Ezra, farther up the town,
Where now the Essex road comes round,

WENHAM GREAT POND

The only dwelling built of brick, or
Where hay teamsters stopped to liquor;
Friend Ezra then kept grog for sale,
And thereby doth hang a tale.
For years and years, town meeting days
Were in excitement and amaze.
Full well do I remember how
The license question caused a row;
King Richard and King Alcohol
Kept tavern and gave many a ball,
Where drunken rowdies met to prance,
Three cents for toddy, three for dance.
While Porter's Pompey trilled a reel;
And beat the measure with his heel,
Or Charley made his cat gut squeal.
Crazy Charley known to fame,
Charley Adams was his name.
Charley's history I'll pursue,
His final fate none ever knew,
A few years later there was found
In Topsfield River some one drowned;
By some 'twas thought that Adams had
In stupor met his end so sad.
Luke! don't you remember Luke?
Fat, hearty, jolly like a Duke?
I've seen him dance an hour long
At Richard's—'mongst the boozy throng
When Pomp, or fiddle stopped the tune,
Roll like a cartwheel round the room;
Then swear and laugh, the jolly dog.
Three cents for music, six for grog.
The "wee sma' " hours of the night
Found nearly all the people tight.
The moral people of the town
On such proceedings used to frown.
The very rats, folks used to say,
For very fear would skulk away;

For several days those frightened souls
Would hardly dare to leave their holes.
The rotten beams of Richard's den
Were tested well by drunken men;
Richard himself, I've heard it said,
In his barroom since fell dead.
Squire Thorne! at home town meeting days
His voice for license he would raise,
Shrill above the noisy crowd
His voice was heard in accents loud,
Saying, "Paul met three taverns and was glad."
(His education sure was bad.)
Acts twenty-eighth, fifteenth verse,
Now read the text where you of course
Will find, Paul met some friends and courage took.
This simple fact the Squire o'erlooked.
Another "Old man eloquent,"
(Whose days on earth were nearly spent.)
This tumult the Squire has raised, the fuss,
Minds me of Paul at Ephesus,
Whose preaching hurt the sale of gods.
The silversmiths deplored the odds.
Demetrius raised a hue and cry,
"Great is the god Diana."
The voters present saw the hit,
With loud huzzas applauded it;
"No license" was the vote they say,
And Dr. Killham won the day.

THREE SELECTMEN

One at the "Neck," one at "West End,"
Stephen Dodge and Peabody,
And Ezra Lummus made the three.
A committee had selected
These three men who were elected;
The first held to temperance views,

WENHAM GREAT POND

The third sold liquor when he chose.
One night a party met before
Our worthy townsman Lummus's door.
Rufus Dodge among the lot.
"Lummus, how much rum 've you got?"
Says Lummus, "Well, I rather guess,
'Bout eight gallons more or less."
Says Rufus, "We'll pass round the hat,
Collect the chink and buy him out."
They let friend Ezra prize his rum,
They out with purse and raised the sum,
Then Rufus gave the bar a rap,
While with his hands he held his cap.
Now there's no game that two can't play it,
This is a fact although I say it.
Behind the counter stood some rum
Drawn in a bowl which quickly come;
Friend Ezra turned it bottom up
And Rufus caught it in his cap.
Old Alcohol was in the keg.
They brought him out, pulled out the peg,
And o'er the earth his blood did flow,
While his spirit went below;
And from that time until this minute
This town has had no tavern in it.

FOOTNOTES TO TEXT

1. This house is still standing, and owned by the Wenham Historical Association.

2. There are other pleasing references to Wenham in early New England history. One is by Edward Johnson, town clerk of Woburn, whose book, the *Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour in New England*, was published in London in 1654.

Samuel Maverick in 1660 refers to Wenham as "seated about a great Lake or Pond which abounds with all manner of ffresh ffish, and such comodities as other places have it affordeth." See Henry F. Waters, "Maverick's Description of New England," *New England Historical and Geneological Register*, XXXIX (1885), 37.

John Josselyn in 1671 speaks of the Ipswich River "whose first rise is from a Lake or Pond twenty miles up (from Ipswich) betaking its course through a hideous swamp for many miles, a Harbour for Bears." See *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, 3rd series, III (1833), 323.

John Adams in 1770 visited Wenham and our lake and very accurately described Peters' Hill, which resembled, he said, "a high loaf of our country brown bread." See Charles Francis Adams, ed., *The Works of John Adams* (Boston, 1850), II, 241.

3. A few years ago a very bold member of this tribe became attracted to our garden at Wenham. He made nightly visits to the cement-lined pool, only a few yards from the front porch, until he had caught the last gold fish. His raucous screams often woke us up out of sound sleep.

4. Deed recorded May 17, 1935.

5. For explanation of places referred to see Place Names at the end of the Appendix. Dismal Swamp here refers to Wenham Swamp. The location of Giants' Grove seems to be forgotten. Cf. page 104.

6. Roger Conant was one of the original five grantees, who in recognition of services, were given by Salem in 1636 tracts of land starting from the town brook in Beverly, 124 poles in width, straight through to the Great Pond (Wenham Lake), "near the head of Bass River," about 1,000 acres in all. The others were Peter Palfrey, John Balch, John Woodbury and Captain William Traske.

Palfrey sold his to farmer William Dodge and his brother Richard. The Balch house, erected in 1638, still stands on the west side of Cabot Street, and from Balch Street runs the Planter's Path to their first landing on Bass River. John Woodbury soon gave up his holdings. Captain Traske conveyed to Thomas Scruggs, whose daughter Rachel married one John Rayment (now Raymond), since which time it has been in the Raymond family.

Roger Conant started a pottery on his grant and used to turn out bean pots, etc.

7. Mr. Alonzo Galloupe of Beverly told Mr. Arthur Pickering that he

knew for a fact that one of Roger Conant's granddaughters married one of the Indians around Wenham, who took the name of Waldron, and they lived on the Conant grant in Wenham; that one of their daughters was thought to be the best-looking woman in Wenham. She married a man named Sheldon and one of her descendants died only a few years ago (about 1900?) at the Beverly Poor Farm. All the descendants of this early union were very plainly marked with the dark skin, straight hair, etc.

8. There is another version of this given in Sidney Perley's account of Wenham in D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia, 1888), 1229-30. It is there stated that Williams murdered his companion, took away what he had, even his clothing. He put on the clothing and went in to Ipswich, where he was apprehended, but would make no confession until a week after Hoddy's body was found.

9. This is not so. The extreme depth is only a little over forty-eight feet.

10. Dr. Charles T. Jackson, a local chemist.

11. Frederic Tudor of Boston.

12. The late Rufus Anderson, for many years foreign secretary of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, was a Wenham man, his father being village pastor from 1805 to 1814. It appears from Thompson's Memorial, preached at his death, that on sitting down to his first meal in Bombay on November 3, 1854, he was refreshed with water tempered with Wenham Lake ice. See *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, XXV (1888), 78.

13. III John, 23. Sermon believed not to have been preserved.

14. A tablet dedicated to Hugh Peters was placed near the site of "Peters' Pulpit" in October, 1908. The general opinion among the oldest citizens when the tablet was unveiled was to the effect that it occupied the ground immediately in the rear of the Memorial Stone, covering about one-third of an acre, upon which, after its demolition, the first four ice houses, as shown in the picture, were erected. The eastern wall of the nearest building was only a few feet distant from the site of the stone. The hill itself next to the water was quite steep, a sort of cut-bank, and the height was such that a person standing on the summit could view the landscape over the ridgepole of the buildings previously erected on the western side. From Appendix to Peters' Hill Memorial Report.

15. See poem by Allen Peabody, page 42.

16. Charles B. Lander.

17. *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, I (1859), 152.

18. Captain William Dodge, son of the emigrant William, married Mary Conant Balch, formerly the wife of John Balch, son of the emigrant John.

19. Now the site of Beverly Reservoir and not of course so high as formerly.

20. Also known as Dodge's Hill, on west side of Wenham Lake, now owned by William Phillips.

21. It was later the home of the Waters family; then became the property of Doctor Chamberlain, and is now one of the dairy farms of H. P. Hood and Sons. Mr. Charles H. Hood died there in the autumn of 1937.

22. Nathaniel Parker Willis, 1806–1867, reporter, editor and poet; founder of *Home Companion*; best known for his *Inklings of Adventure* and *Pencilling by the Way*.

23. "The officers of the troops (General Gage's) were fine young men, well educated, and came from good English families. (The writer's grandmother used to say 'they were proper pretty young men as she would wish to see.') As to the soldiers, they were of a different class of men, and gave a great deal of trouble to the inhabitants of Danvers. They would steal fruit and vegetables, milk cows, visit the houses when the men were absent in the fields, and compel the women to furnish them with cider. The Selectmen of the town made frequent complaint of their conduct to their officers, who when they discovered the offenders, would tie them up to a white oak tree near the encampment and flog them. . . . General Gage with his party made frequent excursions to Wenham Pond, and spent the day in fishing and fowling. Old Mr. John Dodge, who lived on the banks of this pond, told me his father made the punch for General Gage and his party during their visits and at times they were a very jolly set of fellows." (Extracts from a letter from Samuel Page Fowler to Reverend Dr. Braman, May 5, 1875.)

24. The business records, account books, letter books and unbound letters are now the property of the Baker Memorial Library of the Harvard Business School. Excellent accounts of Tudor and his business will be found in the *Bulletin of the Business Historical Society*, VI (1932), no. 4, 1–8, IX (1935), 1–6. Tudor cut most of his ice from Fresh Pond in Cambridge, Spy Pond, Arlington, Walden Pond, and other lakes near Boston; but in the height of the business he reached out as far as Bath, Maine, and the Kennebec. He bought ice anywhere that he could get it. The ice business came just in time to preserve Boston's East India commerce from ruin, for our carrying trade between Calcutta and Europe had declined almost to extinction. Between 1836 and 1850 the Boston ice trade was extended to every large port in South America and the Far East. In fact, almost every New England village with a pond near tide water prospered through this business, due almost entirely to the genius of Frederic Tudor. Baldwin apples began to be shipped to India along with the ice cargoes, the beginning of the fruit trade. But it does not appear that Tudor ever obtained ice from Wenham Lake.

25. Charles Lander was killed at Bloomington Gap, Virginia, during the Civil War, and was given military honors at his funeral. Governor Andrew marched.

26. The whole amount of ice shipped from Wenham Lake by the firms of Gage, Hittinger and Company, and Addison Gage and Company from 1856 (the records from 1851 to 1855 inclusive are missing) to January, 1882,

is 353,450 tons actual car weight; packed on board vessels at East Boston, to ship which it is necessary to cut and house at least 475,000 tons, the difference being the waste in meltage, etc. . . . Not over thirty-three per cent of the whole amount shipped is ever sold. . . . Though not a ton of ice has reached England for thirty years (since 1852?) there are still in nearly all the cities a Wenham Lake Ice Company, but the ice is actually cut in Norway. See *Bulletin of the Essex Institute*, XIV (1882), 58-63.

In a review of Doctor Putnam's article, the *Salem Register* of August 29, 1892, mentions that a small body of water in Norway has actually been christened Wenham Lake, the better to facilitate the sale of its ice!

27. After the fire the business was carried on less vigorously until 1882. No permanent buildings (except an elevator) were erected. This was partly due to the high freight rate charged by the Eastern Railroad. In 1876 the Railroad made overtures to the Gage Company, and the crop of 1877 was harvested in temporary structures. The crop of 1878 was less than half the average yield, while that of 1880 was a total failure, something that happened only once before. See *Bulletin of the Essex Institute*, XIV (1882), 58-63.

28. Mr. Rantoul was, it seems, largely responsible for the introduction of Wenham Lake water into Salem, and thereby made enemies of many friends and neighbors in Salem who had money invested in the old Aqueduct Company. The original projectors of the Wenham supply were termed "despoilers of the widows and orphans" and suffered much abuse, though at first their idea was merely to supplement the older supplies.

29. Water was first let on to the Salem main pipe in Rantoul Street in November, 1868, and the first services in Salem were supplied on Christmas morning of that year.

30. This of course is not strictly true, as these fish require, or at any rate prefer, a clear sandy or gravelly pond for spawning.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

SELECTIONS FROM THE TOWN RECORDS OF WENHAM

THE COMMON LANDS, WOLVES, FISHERIES, BOUNDS AROUND WENHAM POND, MISCELLANEOUS HAPPENINGS



IN running through the Town of Wenham Records, one gets the general impression that certain things caused the early colonists a great deal of trouble over a long period of years. These difficulties appear as something apart from the routine duties of the town fathers and their various committees: such every day things, for instance, as the granting of lands to settlers, the collection of rates, the laying out of highways and the everlasting disputes over town boundaries.

For it seems that from the earliest times the town was concerned over the improper exploitation and waste of its resources in timber and firewood. At a meeting in December, 1644, less than two years after the town was incorporated, it was decided that nobody should cut timber for export out of the town from the town's common lands. The same subject came up afterwards over and over again, in fact every year or two; but in spite of regulations and the threat of fines and prosecutions, the wood and timber, rightful property of the town, continued to vanish. The management of these common lands, their protection against overgrazing, fire, etc., remained a problem up to the time of their final division and transfer to private ownership.

The alewives of Miles River and Wenham Lake must have been of very great value for the first two hundred years of the town's history. They were used for food as well as for fertilizer. Apparently there was no cause for worry over any decrease in the run of these prolific fish until the end of the eighteenth century. The first notice of a committee appointed to see that all obstructions to the passage of alewives were removed, was not authorized until May, 1798. Similar committees were chosen annually for many years and regulations designating the fishing places, the days on which fish were allowed to be taken, and the methods by which they were to be caught, were voted in 1799. We may infer from this that the spring runs began to fail about that period.

One thinks of wolves, of course, as a great nuisance in the early history of our town and the first mention of them is in 1644, when it

was voted to place a bounty of twenty shillings on each and every animal taken. This was a huge sum to raise by taxes so early in the town's history and if many wolf scalps had been offered for reward, the town would have been unable to meet the cost. Were wolves scarce or only less bold in those early times? As a matter of fact there is, between 1643 and 1706 only one specific mention of a reward being paid out for the capture of a wolf (in the town records). Much later, between 1752 and 1757, they became especially troublesome and far larger rewards were offered. In conjunction with the towns of Ipswich, Manchester, Gloucester, and Beverly, a bounty of six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence was voted for each wolf, in addition to the "province bounty."

In 1700 certain Indians, heirs of "Maschanomett," late Sagamore of Agawam, laid claim to the township of Wenham; and a year later these poor offspring of a once proud race were completely mollified by the payment to them from the town of the magnificent sum of three pounds, ten shillings!

There were early attempts on a larger scale to encourage the growth of timber in our Great Swamp, and in the following extracts from our town records this appears in its proper sequence under Chapter 21 of the Province Laws, 1754-1755. This was an even more determined effort to save the forests, and gave to any five proprietors within a specified area the right to apply to a justice of the peace within the county to specify the bounds of their proposed timber reserves. And there is also set down in the same act the rules to be observed by the owners for the ordering and managing of their woodlands.

That act continued in force for ten years and was renewed up to 1785. Here, then, is another attempt to save our forests from exploitation which, in the end result, was of course a failure, for no person or persons with small timber holdings can long resist the temptation to "cash in" on woodland when times are hard. Only the State and large, conservative corporations can afford to take the long view.

Speaking of early attempts to conserve our resources, an interesting paper appeared in 1849 in the back part of Elizabeth Peabody's *Aesthetic Papers*, by an English resident who was evidently a well-informed botanist, probably Mr. T. Spencer, although I have not made certain of this. I quote from this article in some detail because it embodies observation on conditions which were obvious to an outsider, but were less easily recognized by the old American townfolk.

Away back in 1799 the Reverend William Bentley gave a very accurate picture of the country around Pleasant (Idlewood) Pond, de-

scribing the glaciated potholes as "like the dungeons, in great hollows, but too much cleared of wood."

It is indeed remarkable that in a country so richly endowed with the best timber trees, there was a dearth of forest products as far back as the late seventeenth century. But when we realize that there was in rural Essex County a real land hunger, a real over-population of farmers, a very long time ago, at least as far back as the middle eighteenth century, it is easy to see why forests became so greatly reduced at such an early stage in our history.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS.

SELECTIONS FROM THE TOWN RECORDS OF WENHAM

The 2 day of ye first month [1642].

There is given unto Wenham Twenty acres of ground being laid out of eyther side of ye meeting house. Ten acres given by Mr Smith out of his fearme & laid out by him beginning with the bounds at ye upper end of Phinehas Fiske Lott & soe to ye swampe: & the other Ten acres given by Mr John Fiske being laid out Joyneing to it on ye other side of ye meeting house:

It is ordered & agreed upon at this our meetinge yt such as have any ground graunted of that which is given to ye Towne which lyes about ye meetinge house, such shall come and live upon it themselves, & if not to lay it downe to ye plantation, & if any shall build upon it &c & after remove themselves & make sale of the same it is ordered that the Plantation shall have the first profare & give there answere in a short time before they make sale of it to any other.¹

13 Day of ye 9^{mo} [1643].

It is ordered & Joyntly agreed yt whosoever of this towne shall receaue [receive] into his family upon any pretence whatsoever any Inmate from out of any other Towne the master of ye said family shall give notice thereof unto such of our Towne who are Selectmen within one weeke after the comeing of any such a one into his house upon ye forfeiture of Twenty shillings & in cause the partie shall not be allowed by ye Towne there to abide or elsewhere within ye liberties of ye Plantation that then the said person, who beng in or receaive into his family the said inmate, to procure such good & sufficyent securitie to lay in unto the Towne as they shall like of for the discharge of the toune of any Inconveniencies or damage as may be liable to accrue unto this towne in the future by reason of any such act, & in default thereof the said person shall forfitt for every weeke any such inmate shall bide

under his roff the vallew of five shillings per weeke unto the Towne to be paid in upon demand to the constable for the use of the Towne aforesaid, & upon default the constable to have power to distraine therefore according as in other causes touching distresses.

Ye 28 of November 1644.

At this meeting it is agreed that whosoever in Wenham shall kill a wolfe shall be allowed him for every wolfe that he killeth Twenty shillings & such to be paid by ye constable & the constable to have it raised by a rate upon the Towne.

Ye 24: of December [1644].

It is agreed at this meetinge that none shall fell a tree upon the Comon & cut it out for any thinge, to sell it out of the Towne to any; if any doe soe it is agreed that for every tree made use on as aforesaid, shall forfeit ten shillings.

This first daye of March 1655.

Allso it is ordered by the Celect men that all swine shall be yoaked that is to say all swine above a quarter of a yeere old to be yoaked with yoakes standing up 5 inches above there necks & if they be a year old to be 9 inches longe of each syde & all swine under a quarter old shall eyther be yoaked or elc there owners to paye the Dammage which is don by such swine.

[On the inside of the cover at the end of the book]

was chosen *[for the year? (Torn off)]* insuing to keep *the dogs* out of the meeting *house*: and if he doth it truly for every doge that he doth drive out he shall have six pence per yer for a doge.

31 December 1655.

It is ordered that in case Mr Brock² be procured to stayer amongst us whatsoever the towne hath ingaged or shall be levied upon any land shall be paid two third parts in wheat barley or peas butter or porke & the other third parte in indian corne—& Mr. Got Phinehas Fiske & John Fiske are chosen to receive in the paye for Mr Brocks use.

6th: 8 mo: 58.

Articles of Agreement between ye towne & John Soolard & James Moulton Junr for their keeping ye Towne heard for this following yeere viz: to Begin on the first day Aprill Next & so to Keepe them untill Micklmase daye Beginning every morning at sun an houre high to drive out ye heard; & to Bring them hom at sun halfe an houre high at night faithfully & truely endevoire to Keep them or to do ther best

according to ye abovesd time or elc to cause them to be Kept by a sufficient man in there Absenc For which Covenant & Agreement on ye behalfe of ye abovesd parties to be performed: observd & don: = ye Towne doe hereby promise to paye to y^m 13^s per weeke: = viz one halfe in wheat & ye other halfe in Indian Corne onely what worke is paid according to Agreement to be accompted as one halfe wheat & ye other halfe in Indian = & ye Remainder of ye sune to be paid in marchertable wheat & corne as aforesd ye wheat at 8 weeks after Micklemas next & ye Indian on Crismas daye: at their houses: & James is to Blowe his horne every morning he driveth out ye heard: & John Soolard to have a cow heard free: & they to have one to goe with them untill they leave goeing into the Midows. 14th 1: mo. 58/59.

Charles Goff
Austen Killim
Richard Kemball

John OO Soolard
his marke
Tomos mouton³

October, 1660.

Its ordered that there shall be a new meeiting house Built 24 foott square & 12 foott stud: the old meeting house to be sold partly to defraye the Cost & the Select men are impowered to put it out to the Building [*& to make the rate for the said house*].

4th of December 1660.

Its ordered y^t if a new meetting house be built the old shall be sold partely to Defraye y^t said Cost: viz: as farr as it will goe.

At a Towne meeting of the freehold^{rs} & Inhabitants of Wenham Assembled *December 15th 1700* according to the Warrant of the Selectmen directed to the Constables: Dated the 16th Instant.

Capt. Thomas Fiske Chosen Moderator.

VOATED that whereas Sam English, Joseph English & John Umpee, Indians, & as they say heirs to Maschanomett Late Saggamore of Aggawam Lay claim & challenge to the Sayle of ye Townshipp its agreed that ther shall be a co^mittey Chosen to treat with them & examine into the Claime & Challenge which they s^d Indians make of s^d Land.

VOATED. That Capt. Thomas Fiske, Ensigne Fayrfield, Thomas Patch & Lt. Wm. Fiske are Chosen a Co^mittey for said Service and they or the Major part of them are fully Impowered to act in the Townes behalf in examining into the Claime of said Indians and to Compound & agree with them in case they shall see [] and the Towne will stand by what they shall doe in the matter.

At a meeting of the Selectmen *March 15th*, 1701. Then agreed & ordered that whereas the freehold^{rs} & Inhabitants of this towne did att there Generall Towne meeting on the 12th day of this instant March order that the Selectmen or Assessors should forthwith make a rate on the freehold^{rs} & Co^mon^{rs} in ye towne and such as have land laying in ye towne for the money & Cost that was laid out & Expended for the procuring of the Indian title of the land leying within ye towneshipp which rate was to be proportioned & raised on the land leying within the same according to each persons propriety either in freehold or Co^mon & we not having an account of the quantity of persons propriety in freehold so are not Capable of proportioning the same Equally. We doe therefore order that the towne Clerke doe forthwith draw an order & sett it up on the meeting hous to give notice to all the freehold^{rs} & Co^mon^{rs} in ye towne & such others as have land leying in ye towne that they doe bring in a true account & under ther hand of the quantity of their land & allso of what right they claim in the Co^mon, to the Selectmen or any of them at or before the thirty-first day of this instant March, to the end that equity & justice may be done in the matter, which order was set up accordingly.

At a meeting of the Selectmen April 1st, 1701 John Brown was sworn to the office of constable for the year ensueing. Then a tax was made on the freeholders & co^moners in our town & such others as have land laying within the same for the money & cost that was expended in purchasing the Indian title of the land within our township in two distinct lists with a warrant on each list, directed to the Constable for speedy collection of the same & paying it into the town treasurer at or before the 15th day of this inst. April.

Constable John Browns list amounted to fifty-eight shillings, £2/18, & he was ordered to pay into the town treasurer two pounds, seventeen shillings £2/17.—the remainder being 1 shilling & 3 pence was allowed him for collecting the same.

Constable Samuel Kilham's List amounted to two pounds nine shillings & five pence which he was ordered to pay into the town treasurer, excepting one shilling & two pence which was allowed him for collecting. £2/9/5 £2/8/3

The town of Wenham, Dr.

1700 March 4th To money paid for the Indian title of
 of our township by the Committee £3/10/00

February 27, 1718, upon complaint made to the Selectmen of Wenham by several of the inhabitants of said town against Robert Symonds

of said town that he doth live as a common tipler, misspending his time and Estate at the tavern greatly to the damage of his family. These are therefore to give notice to the tavern keeper that he do not entertain him in his house or in his dependence to sit tipling or misspending his time upon the pennalty of the law in such cases made and provided by order of the Selectmen.

At a meeting of the Selectmen, April the 1st, 1728, then agreed with Andrew Lenter to keep the meeting house & ring the bell untill next March annual meeting, for the sum of three pounds, & to dig the graves & toll the bell for funerals for five shillings when the ground is open & ten shillings when it is froze, to be paid by every person that shall employ him, & keep the pound for the fees belonging to the pound keeper for the year insueing.

At a meeting of the Selectmen of Wenham ye 26th Nov., 1744. Then agree with Mr. John Hart of Ipswich to keep a school in our Town to teach and instruct our Children to Read and wright and Scypher as the law directs Four months from this present date and to give him five pounds pr. month old tenor and Board him the sd. time agreed for—all ways provided ye sd. Hard continues in a sober Conversation.

Warrant for a Town Meeting Oct. 3, 1754, to see among other things—Thirdly—To see what measures the Town will come into for the Destruction of Wolves.

Province Laws: 1754–55. Chapter 21.

An act for the securing the growth & increase of a certain parcel of wood & timber in the townships of Ipswich & Wenham, in the County of Essex.

Whereas there is a large tract or parcel of woodland lying in the townships of Ipswich & Wenham, commonly known by the name of Wenham Great Swamp, bounded easterly by a brook & a pond known by the name of Pleasant Pond Brook; southerly on land belonging to ancient proprietors; westerly on a meadow & some swamp, known by the name of Wenham Great Meadows; northerly on the meadow known by the name of Saltonstall Meadows, to the brook first mentioned; & whereas it would be of great advantage to said towns as well as to the particular owners of said wood & timber, that the growth thereof should be preserved from feeding & browsing of cattle & sheep, which are frequently turn'd & kept there in considerable numbers; & the laws already in force for embodying proprietors of common fields not reaching this case, there needs a further provision,—

SECTION I. Be it therefore enacted, etc.,

That from & after the 15th day of January instant it shall & may be lawful for any five of the proprietors of said wood land to apply to a justice of the peace within the same county, the intended bounds by which they would circumscribe their proposed propriety, together with their intention of incorporation, for the purpose aforesaid, with the time & place of their intended meeting

Here follows,—Rules to be observed by the proprietors for the ordering & managing the affairs of said woodland, the preservation & interest thereof, etc.

SECTION II. This act to continue & to be in force for the space of ten years from the publication thereof & no longer.

Published January 13, 1755.

Whereas,—an act entitled,—“An Act for the securing the growth & increase of a certain parcel of wood & timber in the townships of Ipswich & Wenham, in the County of Essex,” etc.—is near expiring; which having been found useful & beneficial to the persons concerned, & they having desired that the same may be further continued,—

Be it therefore enacted, etc.,

That the aforementioned act, be & hereby is further continued, & shall be in full force for the space of ten years from the 3rd of January, 1765.

[This was renewed November 1, 1775, November 1, 1779, and November 1, 1785.]

At a meeting of the Selectmen of Wenham May 22d, 1776, then examined and Inspected the Town Stock of Ammunition and we found one Barrell of Powder & part of another, containing 57 lb. and 306 pounds wait of Musket Balls Cartridges maid 235 in number, Flints 564 in Number.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Wenham duly warned & regularly assembled this 9th day of Dec^{mr}. 1776,

Voted: a bounty for Eatch Soldier who shall Inlist into the Servis to be paid out of the Town Treasurer for the Future. . . .

Voted to go Back no further than Concord fite. (Committee chosen for said purpose.)

At a meeting of the Qualified voters of the Town of Wenham on the Sixteenth Day of May 1798,—

- 5^{ly} Voted,—to choose a Committee Consisting of three men to remove all obstructions that may Prevent the Alwife Passing from the Salt Water up Miles River so called into the Great Pond in Wenham.
- 6^{ly} Voted,—that John Dodge, Jnr, Abraham Dodge, and Peter Dodge be a Committee for the above Purpose.

May, 1799.

- 3^{ly} Voted:—that there should be two Days in a Week For the Purpose of Ketching alewife Fish.
- 4^{ly} Voted:—that Monday and Friday To be Days for the Purpose of Ketching Said Fish.
- 5^{ly} Voted:—that their Should be no Fish Ketched only by a Scein.
- 6^{ly} Voted:—that their Should be a Committee Consisting of three to Regulate the Ketching of Alewife. (Capt. P. Brown, Lieut. John Dodge, Nath^l Brown.)
- 8^{ly} Voted:—that those Persons Ketching Fish on any other Day (than) there is above Mentioned shall be Fined thirty Dollars, the one half to be Paid into the Treasurer, and the other half is For the use of the Committee.

The May Meeting 1800, voted to choose a committee of five to regulate the alewife fishing; that there should be three days in the week for catching the same—Monday, Wednesday & Friday—and that any person found catching said fish on the Sabbath be fined fifty dollars.

The April Meeting 1802, voted to choose a Committee of five for the purposed of regulating the catching of alewives in “Wenham Pond and Brook,” & that the places for catching same be Peter Dodge’s Mill, & Waldron Bridge, & Wenham Pond Bridge, & Thirty Acre Brook, with fines for violation thereof, etc.

March Meeting, 1834.

- 12th Voted:—that it is inexpedient that any Licenses should be granted for the sale of Ardent Spirits in the town the coming year.

March Meeting, 1835.

- 5th Voted:—to raise one hundred dollars to build an Engine House & the necessary apparatus.
- 6th Voted:—to defray the expense of vaxination of the Kine Pox for individuals that are unable to pay.

11th Voted:—To relinquish the privilege the town has in Peter's Hill to the First Parish in the Town of Salem, for the purpose of erecting a monument to their deceased & distinguished divine Hugh Peters, on condition that the said parish build or cause to be built or erected a monument, etc. etc.

October 1st, 1840. A committee chosed by the town for the purpose of affixing meets and bounds for the several school districts in the town, in their report, dividing the town into four districts, bounded District No. 3, as follows: It shall be comprised of all the inhabitants, buildings, lands, etc., lying northwesterly of Miles River to the gate in Straits Hollow so called, southerly from said gate to the westerly side of Wenham Pond, at the mouth or entrance of Thirty acre Brook⁴ which shall be the southerly termination, & northerly from said gate to the easterly side of Muddy Pond, & thence northerly along the westerly side of Pleasant Pond to the brook or outlet, & from thence to the Hamilton line, including all the lands in said town lying between the Beverly & Hamilton lines, & shall hereafter be known as district No. 3. [NOTE: There were four districts in all.]

June Meeting, 1841.

Voted that the Selectmen make inquiry into the town's title to a piece of land bounded on the west by Wenham Pond & on the east by the County Road, & to act therein in the town's interest.⁵

March Meeting, 1842.

Voted that the town, through the selectmen, forthwith take possession of their land upon the eastern border of Wenham Pond, & sell the wood standing upon the same.⁶

November Meeting, 1843.

Voted:—That the town grant Charles B. Lander sufficient land adjacent to Peters' Hill for the passage of a Railroad to Wenham Pond; that the Selectmen convey said land & agree with said Lander upon the compensation thereof.

Voted:—That the town will not sell any land east or south of Peters' Hill for the location of Ice Houses.

March Meeting, 1844, where the question of selling Peters' Hill—22 yeas, 42 nays.

April Meeting, 1844.

1st Voted:—to reconsider previous vote against selling Peters' Hill—35 yeas, 29 nays.

8th Voted:—to sell Mr. Lander, Peters' Hill, bounded on the East by its base, for the sum of \$75.00.

Voted:—to sell the remainder of the land between the east base of said Hill, & the new building to Mr. Lander for \$25.00.

March, 1859.

Whereas Dr. M. O. Allen having written the history of the town of Wenham, & having presented the manuscript to the Library Association, & whereas said Library Association not feeling warranted in publishing the same, feeling the sale would not meet the expense, It was voted:

That the Library Association Committee publish the history & in case of any deficiency, on the sale, to defray the expense, the Town Treasurer be authorized to pay the same from the Town Treasury; that no copy of the history be sold for a less sum than one dollar; Voted, the thanks of the town to the author, Dr. M. O. Allen, for the interest manifested, labour expended, & generous gift of the manuscript.

March Meeting, 1872.

Voted:—to choose a fish committee, to serve without pay.

April Meeting, 1875.

Voted:—to choose a fish committee to lease & stock Pleasant Pond & that they be instructed to report from year to year, to the selectmen, what action they have taken.

February Meeting, 1877.

The fish committee submitted a report of their doings in stocking Pleasant Pond with Lake Champlain Black Bass.

March Meeting, 1878.

The committee appointed to stock Pleasant Pond was also recommended to attend to all other fishing interests, particularly the passage of alewives to & from Wenham Lake, as the dam placed by the Salem Water Works, during the past season, at the outlet of the lake, was an obstacle to the passing of the fish. The attention of the State Commissioners on Inland Fisheries was called to it.

March Meeting, 1879.

Fish Committee reported that they obtained between five & six thousand young land-locked salmon from the state May 13th, 1878, & put them in the inlet of Pleasant Pond. The Committee applied to the state for the proportion of young fish that the town was entitled to for the year 1879, & recommended that all or a part of the land-locked

salmon obtained, be put into Wenham Lake. The alewives had no trouble in passing from the lake, owing to the fall rains.

June 10th, 1879.

The Committee received from State Commissioners about 15,000 small Land Locked Salmon which were safely deposited in Wenham Pond.

March Meeting, 1886.

Voted:—that the last year's committee of two be increased by an additional member, & that special attention be given to the oversight of Alewives running into Wenham Pond.

Voted:—that the Selectmen be authorized to grant the Naumkeag Street Railway Company liberty to cut down the grade of the road at Wenham Pond Hill.

Fish Committee appointed each year up to 1892.

APPENDIX B
VEGETATION ABOUT SALEM
BY "AN ENGLISH RESIDENT"

It is by the agency of man that the lofty forests are levelled to the ground, and the bosom of the earth laid bare for the reception of a new race of plants. Our own vicinity is a remarkable exemplification of the fact. All around us we see trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, that once were strangers to the soil. A change is still sweeping over the face of nature. The noble race of forest trees, and the beautiful tribe of wildwood flowers that nestle at their feet, and find shelter and shade beneath their boughs, are fast fading away. A few blows of the woodman's axe, and the tree whose branches have braved a hundred winters lies prostrate with the ground.

The time is not distant when public attention must be drawn to the planting of forest trees in this country. Timber is growing scarce, while the arts and manufactures, which have taken such deep root among us, are calling for a more enlarged supply. Timber has now to be brought from afar, at an annually increasing expense; while large tracts of land are approaching a state of barrenness, by being laid bare to the searching influence of the sun and wind. *We have destroyed our forests with recklessness, and posterity must feel the consequences!* Indeed, our bleak pastures and bare hills begin to reproach us for not making some effort to shelter the one, and clothe the other.

The mechanics have a deep interest in this matter. How often does the profitable prosecution of a certain branch of business depend upon the abundance and cheapness of its staple material! Has the ship-builder no interest in the growth of our pasture oaks? Is the wheelwright insensible to the advantages of an abundant supply of ash and elm? When we see huge loads of barrels entering our cities, when we see high piles of chairs and other manufactures of wood coming from far back in the country, and above all, when we observe our merchants building their ships on the banks of distant rivers, do not these things proclaim the growing scarcity of timber around us? . . .

We have noticed the astonishing exuberance with which our naturalized vegetation appears to flourish. . . . I would not disparage the goodly race of trees that once adorned the county of Essex. I fear that

we shall never look upon their like again. But it is doubtful whether they would take to the soil in the form of artificial plantations as kindly as some varieties brought from a distance. Every one knows that a new orchard cannot be raised on the site of an old one; and it is equally well known, that, when a forest of hard-wood trees is cut down, there the pines and softer woods succeed a spontaneous growth. The locust is here attacked by an insect, and is fast declining in our neighborhood, and I believe all along the Atlantic shore; while it is now appearing in its pristine vigor, a naturalized tree, in all the south of France. Michaux says that it is likely to become abundant in Europe, where it is a stranger, and scarce in America, its native clime.

A rotation of crops is as needful for forest trees as for the more humble agricultural productions. . . .

The planting of trees is by no means such a hopeless or heartless affair as some people imagine. A short time since, I called upon an aged gentleman⁷ of this county, and was politely invited to see his trees. As we passed beneath a noble range of plane-trees, whose bending boughs seemed to do homage to their planter, my friend informed me that the trees I was then admiring, some of which were sixty or seventy feet high, and five or six in circumference, were a fine seed between his thumb and finger, after he was five and forty years of age. When I alluded to his public spirit and disinterested benevolence, he replied in a tone of mingled satisfaction and regret, "I now wish that I had planted a hundred trees where I only planted one."

There is reason to believe, that the late Timothy Pickering held the larch tree in high estimation, and thought of it as a suitable tree for covering the bare hills of his native county. At any rate, he was among the first to give it a trial. Something like five and twenty years ago, he imported two hundred of these trees.⁸ They now form the ornament of his late estate at Wenham. I have known them for more than eighteen years; and during that period, they have exhibited a growth of great promise. Their seeds ripen kindly in this climate, and a second generation of spontaneous growth has arisen from these imported trees. We may now reckon this valuable timber tree among the naturalized products of New England.

If the individual who plants a common tree deserves the thanks of posterity, how much larger is the debt of gratitude due to him who introduces and blesses his country with a new and useful *race* of trees!

Those who visit Wenham in the middle of the summer, and behold the original range of larch trees, cannot fail to be struck with their

appearance. Their light foliage and fine pyramidal forms, differing materially from the pines around us, suggest at once their exotic origin; while the richly ornamental and tasteful manner in which they are disposed, tells at once that their planter was no ordinary individual.

APPENDIX C

SELECTIONS FROM THE DIARY OF JOSEPH G. DENNETT

May 12, 1873. Took charge of the City Water Works, pumping engines and the station at Wenham Lake today.

January 23, 1875. At lake all day—on duty. At the ice houses everything is active—over five hundred men at work harvesting ice.

February 13. At lake all day. Don't gain on water supply. They must have a big leak. . . . Did not stop the pumps till 9 P.M.

February 17. At the lake pumping water for wasters. Two blowoff valves opened every night, one in North the other in South Salem, to keep main from freezing.

February 19. Don't gain on the reservoir owing to the heavy draught.

February 28. Water risen eight inches in the lake since last Tuesday.

February 12, 1880. Ice company cutting ice and housing it today. Poor crop, only ten inches thick.

April 11. Wife and I find this sort of life away from civilization something like keeping a lighthouse on the coast, a little out of the world. [It would hardly be so considered today.]

July 1. Very hot and dry. Engines running sixteen hours per day and can't beat the consumer much. Should think the bottom was out of the pipes. Big leak over in Barr Street, Salem.

July 2. Weather very dry; no sign of rain to help the crops out—or pumping engine either.

July 3. Engines in operation up to 6 P.M. Big leak near Rubber Works in Beverly—six-inch pipe and trying to fill up the harbor.

July 17. Very dry weather and many people out of water for washing purposes and think their wells are all giving out.

February 28, 1882. Took Mother Brown to see Phillips house A.M.

May 16. J. C. Phillips moved into his residence across the lake today. Clear. [This was the date of occupation of Moraine Farm.]



PLATE XIII. *Home pasture of Moraine Farm and the south end of Wenham Lake, 1884.*



PLATE XIV. a. *Fishing boats on Wenham Lake, 1883. In the background the last of the temporary ice plant of Addison Gage and Company.*



PLATE XIV. b. *Moraine Farm, 1883, from Salem Water Works, looking over stern of Engineer Dennett's Petrolia, showing old pines on peninsula.*

October 26. Fine day and west wind. . . . In afternoon got the boat ready and took Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Squire Waters up the lake in the *Petrolia*. Everything worked well and they were much pleased.

February 19. Ice harvesting on the Lord's day at Wenham.

January 16, 1883. Large leak on Foy Mill Road; ten-inch pipe. Water one inch [lower?] than ever before in lake.

January 21. Pumping all day to make up for excessive waste. . . . Lake raised one inch by the rainfall.

January 30. R. Aug Lee had a leg broken in two places this A.M. at ice houses.

July 8. Weather cool and rainy. Pond not rising with the rain at all, and it is two feet lower than ever before at same date.

July 22. Lake still falling one-quarter inch per day.

July 28. Rain all day 1.87 inch rainfall. Lake falling about one-quarter inch per day.

July 31. Rowed about the lake in skiff taking soundings of doubtful places. Find in no case over forty-five feet of water.

August 23. Pond falling three-eighths inch per day.

September 2. Pond falling three-eighths inch per day.

September 10. Had a visit from Water Board this afternoon and took them up to view the lake in the petroleum boat. They decided to put the suction pipe deeper and I am so instructed.

September 23. We took the baby out to ride for first time—through Neighbor Phillips'—and around Wenham Lake.

September 19. [Pump] No. 1 running at slow rate, or forty strokes per minute, and just getting water enough to supply from the conduit pipe.

October 2. No. 1 engine at work at slow speed—29 strokes takes all the water that runs through the conduit pipe. Rain—one and a half inches. Raised lake one inch.

October 14. Smart shower at 3 P.M. raised the pond one-half inch.

October 24. Raining hard. Northeast wind. . . . Not pumping this day—reservoir nearly full.

November 20. Men at work clearing up the shore of the lake. Went all

around the shore on inspection. Found much of the lake a very shallow affair.

December 22. City using water at a very high rate.

January 14, 1884. Hugh Hill harvesting ice, eleven inches thick.

February 1. Quite a thaw. Pond raised three-quarters inch.

February 13. Warm rain and the lake raising one-half inch per hour this P.M.

February 23. Raining—snow at P.M. Pond raised two inches from seven to three. Dodge getting ice in the rain.

February 24. Very cold and sudden change from yesterday. Last storm made lake rise four inches.

March 20. Raining and sleet. Pond raising fast. Four inches gain this twenty-four hours.

March 21. Took a ride around the lake to see about the flashboards. Find water up in the canal nearly ready to run out. Report same to Mr. Grush and set men to clearing sluice at his request.

September 3. At night I returned to lake afoot from Beverly, a rough walk.

December 20. Very cold. Ten below. Everybody letting their water run. . . . J. C. Phillips very low. [At his Boston home.]

December 21. At the lake all day, pumping to maintain water in reservoir. All we raised yesterday was used by 6 A.M. today.

March 1, 1885. Mr. John C. Phillips died tonight in Boston.

May 15. Mrs. Phillips returned to summer house today for the season.

July 16. Engine No. 1 running—and just keeping up with consumption; hope we won't break.

July 17. No. 1 in operation. Very hot, dry weather.

July 19. Engines at work pumping to keep up supply—owing to excessive waste and drought.

February 13, 1886. At the lake all day. Beverly Water Works Board down to look at situation and to locate grade crossing. Mr. Grush and I took a ride this P.M. to see the dam at outlet of lake. Found water going out free as possible. Lake thirty-one feet seven and a half inches, higher than ever before.

April 12. Beverly broke ground for their pumping station.

June 5. Went into the Court House to hear case of Beverly vs. Salem on water works.

July 4. Very hot weather. Pumping all day to keep up supply.

July 5. Had to start up engines at nine and pump all day. No water on the high lands without extra pressure.

July 7. Very hot weather. Pressure of water in Salem down to twenty-eight pounds all day—very remarkable. Notices are being issued to stop the waste of water.

July 13. Dry times, low pressure of water.

January 19, 1887. Eighteen degrees below zero. Coldest day of the season.

January 20. Ice harvesters working both sides.

April 11. Beverly Water Works did their first pumping to reservoir to-day.

April 18. They pumped eight feet of water into the Beverly Reservoir and it all ran out in the night. They have a poor job.

April 27. Beverly Reservoir holds no water.

May 12. Went to Portsmouth Navy Yard at 8.30 A.M. with Master John Phillips. Spent the day with Chief Engineer Maccarty and family; saw the *Kearsage* and got relict. Home at 6 P.M.

June 12. Colonel [Brown] and I went to top of Beverly Reservoir. He don't think it good enough.

June 24. Beverly Water Works supplying farms and up as far as cove. Yet they don't relieve our consumption much.

June 30. Very hot and dry—low pressure of water in Salem.

July 1. Beverly say they are furnishing all east of Conant and Cabot Streets. They have some smart leaks.

January 6, 1888. Got up a fine little ice-boat for Master John Phillips.

January 9. Tried the ice-boat this P.M. on the pond. Too small a sail?

January 22. Ten degrees below. Low pressure in city. We started engines at 10 A.M. and ran all day to keep up supply.

January 23. Pressure away down in town! All weights on—full speed.

May 25. Mrs. Phillips called a horseback.

March 3, 1889. Ice harvesting going on at both companies but a little soft.

March 5. Had a call from City Engineers Peck and Hunting. They have been looking at Ipswich.

June 30. Dr. — and John and Will Phillips spent the A.M. with us.

July 6. Went over to Mrs. Phillips and spent evening with wife and children, witnessing fireworks. Home across the lake.

August 30. Took William Phillips with me down Salem Harbor this P.M.; landed at Bakers Island and home at 7.30 P.M.

September 30. Mrs. Phillips promised me the boys for tomorrow.

October 1. Went to Newburyport this P.M. to see electric company, and took John and Will Phillips and John Saltonstall along to see a ship launch. Had a tug boat trip down river and home at 6.13 P.M.

November 26. Went to Boston this A.M. to State House. Took John and William Phillips down to see the Man-o-War *Boston* and gave them some instruction. Home via Western Division at 3 P.M.

February 21, 1890. Very cold (one degree below). Men sinking the ice—hope they will get a harvest.

February 24. Had a Japanee call this P.M. and took him over to see the ice harvesting process.

April 1. Took wife to ride this P.M.; raw and cold. Visited the flashboards; all out and water going into Ipswich River fast.

July 13. Went out in the catboat with Mrs. Phillips and Miss Whitney. Double reefed. Had quite a sail. Boys handle the boat well. [This was our sailboat, the *Victor*. During this summer there are several references to catboat trips with "John and Will Phillips."]

September 29. Went to Salem. Met Mrs. Phillips on the improvement of the North Beverly depot grounds. [This was later an accomplished fact.]

January 22, 1891. No. 1 in operation. Lost seven inches in reservoir last twenty-four hours. Ran till 9 P.M. to make up loss.

January 25. At the lake all day with Henry and Gus pumping, to keep up water. There is a big leak somewhere.

January 26. Saw superintendent about loss of water.

April 3. Met Mrs. Phillips and the surveyors about the land at depot. Town promises well. [This was the North Beverly railroad station; my mother had a lot to do with the landscaping and planting.]

June 15. Went to Salem. Spoke to Mr. Rodgers again of shorthanded condition, but he does not decide anything. Started up at 5 A.M., stopped at six; thirteen hours pumping. If there is no leak, the consumers are letting the water run.

June 16. Very hot; lost three inches water last twenty-four hours for all the extra work. Put on both engines, at 10 A.M. and ran them all day. Hope to make some show by night. Reservoir down to 15.11 inches, lowest in many years. Spent day between the engines in 114 degrees temperature.

June 17. At the lake pumping with both engines; only gained one inch last twenty-four hours in reservoir.

July 31. Doctor Pearson out after bass.

August 2. Beverly used 33,000,000 gallons of water last month.

August 26. Drove up to Wenham to find out about cows in the pond.

September 21. Took a pull around the shore on inspection of shores at low water; they need cleaning.

September 29. Water Boards of Salem and Beverly closely examined the pond in boats this afternoon.

October 11. I caught a large bass with spear.

October 19. Water Board voted to clean the pond.

October 20. Went to bottom of dock for bass; no luck.

December 5. Examined east shore of the pond. Find lots of filth to be removed. New buildings are being erected in Wenham on the shore.

December 9. Gang of men began cleaning up shores of lake. High time.

January 15, 1892. There must be a number of leaks in town. We can't gain on reservoir.

January 18. Very low water—15.6 in reservoir, lowest since I have been here. The superintendent had better attend to business and find the leaks. We must have help enough to make two watches and run longer hours.

January 19. Put on an extra man to relieve the over-worked firemen. Notified the Board and they went into spasms.

January 29. Ran overtime till 9.15 to hold up water.

January 31. All the ice companies cutting ice today; quite a large number of spectators out from town.

June 19. Took children up the lake shore for a row to find condition of water. Some dead fish to be seen.

July 4. At the lake all day pumping to maintain supply. A great waste going somewhere. We all spent evening across the lake with Mrs. Phillips. Boys gave a fine exhibition of fireworks.

July 7. Reservoir takes a sudden turn towards filling up.

July 24. At the lake pumping to keep up with supply. 17.9 to start with. There is a big leak in Salem, whether known to the superintendent or not?

August 1. Went into Water Board meeting with monthly report, and written objection to general overhaul of No. 2 at this exigency in the water supply.

August 17. Water just running through the conduit. Making fifty-four strokes and using force jet. . . . Intended to go with family on excursion but too much work prevents; pumping till midnight.

September 14. Big leak on North Street.

October 7. Kavanan out with a gang to clean up shores of the pond.

October 9. Wenham Lake is very low and gives one a homesick feeling to look about the shores.

October 13. A smart leak on North Street at noon yesterday. Twelve-inch pipe at the bridge. Engines speeded up, pressure fell twenty-five pounds.

October 14. Took a row up the lake this A.M. and examined the shore. It is very shallow in many places. Men at work cleaning and fencing.

February 10, 1893. Fierce rain and wind this A.M. Lake rose two inches from 7 A.M. till noon.

February 11. Wenham Lake taken a good start. Gained seven inches since Sunday A.M. [In six days.]

July 18. Water wasted in both towns. Dust intolerable.

July 19. Very hot, dry weather, no sign of rain.

August 28. At noon John Phillips capsized his canoe in fifty feet of water. I was on hand and got him. He had good pluck and swam in his clothing. [Strange to say I have completely forgotten about this emersion.]

September 1. Mr. Grader of Marblehead out this P.M. about cause of low lake.

September 11. Steve Gardner out. We went to see the sounding at dam in Wenham, on Miles River.

January 21, 1894. Mr. Colby of Water Board out and spent the day looking over supply. We examined course of brook carrying off from Cherry Hill valley. Also other tributaries, all about the lake.

February 25. Thermometer at zero. Clear. Wenham Lake all closed up this morning, frozen over. Drivers Company getting ready to cut.

March 10. Thermometer sixty degrees. Roads drying up fast. Most remarkable weather.

March 11. Took a walk with Colby of the Water Board up to see the site of dam in Longham Meadow. There is plenty of water going waste there now. It would help fill Wenham Lake this spring.

March 13. Ice all gone from the lake.

March 25. Lake 22.7; only two inches higher than last year.

March 30. Drove around the lake to see the flow of water into the lake. 2,000,000 gallons a day going to waste from Cherry Hill Brook.

April 1. Lake one-quarter inch less than same date last year; 22.7.

April 2. Walked over the brook course on the Phillips place. Find it filling up with weed growth and water going the other way. It used to run into the lake and can be utilized to fill up the lake as of yore.

April 10. Sun out, snow going very fast. Lake raised one and one-half inches to twenty-two feet eight and one-half inches. Very low stage for this date.

April 15. Expected Water Board out to go over an old source of supply to Wenham Lake but they didn't come. A large amount of water is going to waste from this valley.

April 22. Water Board came out this afternoon and I took them over the rainshed to see the waste of water up the Cherry Hill Brook. There seems to be little interest taken.

April 30. Lake rises very slowly. Think we will be worse off than last year!

May 7. Took Superintendent Cook over the rainshed and showed him how to gather the Cherry Hill water into Wenham Lake.

June 23. Men gleaning pond for dead fish, six bushels! [These must have been adult alewives.]

June 26. Water Board with Beverly Water Board looking over meadow again. They called at this station.

July 1. Water Board visited Beaver Pond this afternoon.

July 4. We went over to Mrs. Phillips' and spent the evening. John P. burned his hand. [Fireworks.]

July 11. Very hot weather, no rain.

July 13. Both engines in use, hard to keep up with consumption. Leaks no doubt.

July 20. At the lake, No. 2 on. Gain only one inch last twenty-four hours. Great waste or a leak!

August 2. Very dry, consuming too much water.

August 12. Down the shore for a drive this evening. The farms road is kept muddy by water carts, a shameful waste of water.

August 26. This A.M. went over the watercourse with Colby of the Water Board. Got specimens from various sources, Pleasant Pond, etc.

September 11. Great waste of water. . . . I took severe cold from strain in conduit pipe and am unable to walk without crutches. Mrs. Phillips sent over some fine fruit.

September 23. Went with Mr. Colby of Water Board and Mr. Quimby on exploring expedition to Longham and the valley of Mud and Pleasant Ponds on water hunt. Found ground full of water; saw the way to open it up to Wenham Lake, all the way from Ipswich River. Only a matter of money.

September 29. Went to upper end of lake with Mr. Colby. Had men open water-ways to show flowage of water.

October 6. Lake falling one-half inch per day.

October 28. Mr. Colby to dinner. We took a walk up through the dam site this afternoon—too much walk for me.

October 29. Took Ma. Brown over to see the works at Longham.

November 4. Took a ride up to Longham with Lucy to see progress.

January 4, 1895. They hope to get pipe in place and water from Longham in two weeks' time. Hope so!

January 19. Water is running into Wenham Lake from Longham Dam; raised from 19.3½ to 19.6½ between 7 A.M. and 6 P.M.

January 20. Mr. Colby of Water Board out and we went up over the questionable watershed of Longham, then to shore of lake; found water flowing six inches deep in thirty-six inch pipe to the lake. It is high colored, has strong vegetable odor.

January 23. This is the great day for LONGHAM DAM! The thirty-six inch gate was opened at 3 P.M., letting water flow into Wenham Lake. Many people present from Salem and Beverly, Mayors, etc. A banquet was given at Hamilton Hall which I attended, and met Honorable Willard P. Phillips, first president of the Water Works Board. I sat with him at table, hadn't seen him for twenty years. We had a good talk. He made a good speech—among others.

January 31. Hurley of Water Board out today, this 3 P.M. Says there is a ten-inch flow from Longham.

February 5. Fierce northwest wind, snow is drifting badly. Horse cars stopped running. . . . The famous Marine Engineer and my old instructor, Charles W. Copeland of New York, died this afternoon, eighty years. He made a great reputation and was active up to this last sickness. Built first iron hull vessel in United States.

February 10. Pumping all day long to hold up reservoir on account of waste cocks this cold weather. No gain from a week's work. At 2 P.M. engines started off quick, showing break on the line. Notified the office and leak was found on Essex Street and the Market ten-inch pipe.

March 9. Helen [Dennett] went to Boston at invitation of Mrs. Phillips to visit art gallery and attend Grand Opera this afternoon, *Manon*. They brought her home this evening. They, Mrs. P., Anna and Will [Phillips] to spend night and Sunday at the farm.

March 14. Opened gate from Longham at 10 A.M. Water has been running out of the dam to waste.

March 17. Wenham Lake has risen four inches last twenty-four hours. Longham tells on us.

March 18. Lake rising fast, water nearly up to floor of emergency pump room.

March 20. Working hard to get pumps out of water.

March 21. Lake rising surely. This dry weather we are fortunate in getting up so soon.

March 26. Water flooded floor of dock room this P.M. at twenty-six foot two inch mark.

April 20. Met Mrs. Phillips on train to Boston. She is much concerned about the stopping of boats on the lake.

April 22. Fish are going up into the Longham pipe to the dam. It will be troublesome if they don't get out.

July 11. Water Board went to see Ipswich River with Taylor for damage to corporation.

September 4. A great waste of water is going on: we are only gaining one inch per day where it should be seven or ten. There is a six-inch pipe leak! somewhere.

September 29. Beautiful weather but very dry. John Phillips entered Harvard today among the freshmen. Time gets away fast.

October 2. A great waste of water is going on with no very apparent effort to stop it.

January 21, 1896. All ice concerns began at work this A.M. Ice eleven to fourteen inches thick.

January 22. All hands cutting ice.

March 2. Great floods reported in New England, all bridges and steam-pipe bridge to Amoskeag Mills carried away. Lake raised five inches in forty-eight hours. Water going over dam at Longham two inches deep at 10 A.M.

March 19. Wet and very disagreeable. Pond raised one and a half inches since noon eighteenth to 7 A.M. nineteenth, helped by Longham.

March 21. Lake rose to thirty feet three and a half inches at 7 A.M.; thirty feet four inches at noon; two inches over the State law limit. Notified the Board. There is a misunderstanding somewhere!

March 26. Took a ride up around the lake shore. Water coming in from all brooks.

April 2. Lake full, two inches over the mark.

April 19. Water going over the dam one inch deep. Thunder shower.

May 15. Pumping till 10 P.M. to balance waste.

June 29. Mrs. Phillips and party started for Europe today.

July 11. John Phillips started for the Arctic-Greenland this A.M. via Sidney and Str. Belle Isle with Peary's party of explorers.

July 18. I took daughter Lucy to Navy Yard and explained to her the monitor *Passaic* now fitting for Georgia that she might understand her father's life for two years in front of Charleston.

APPENDIX D
REPORT OF A SURVEY OF THE LAKE
BY JAMES W. BLACKMER, 2d, C.E.

ADVANTAGE was taken of the ice covering the lake, and the survey was made in December, 1892, and January, 1893. Soundings were taken over the whole surface on cross sections every hundred feet. These soundings show the conformation of the surface of the lake bottom, and from them a map has been made showing the contours or shapes which the outline of the lake assumes as the water recedes. The soundings were made with a lead and line. The line was graduated after being thoroughly wet, and was tested during the work, by comparison with a steel tape. The soundings were taken through holes in the ice bored with an augur one and a half inches in diameter. In all about 870 soundings were made.

The greatest depth found was forty-nine feet below the level of the full lake. This depth was found at a point about 450 feet easterly from "Butler's Island," so called. No evidence was found of any specially deep spring holes or pockets, and if such exist they must be less than 100 feet square. The deepest part is near the lower end. At 30 feet the "Narrows" forms a bar dividing the lake into two parts. The bottom of both parts is comparatively flat, the area at 40 feet deep being 58.6 acres, and at 45 feet only 23 acres remain of Wenham Lake. A number of springs were indicated by open places in the ice and along the shore. One in "Doctor's Cove"⁹ was quite noticeable and kept a large surface free from ice. The bottom here was very muddy, having a depth of not more than 15 feet. The water flowing from this spring was clear and colorless.

About 75 per cent of the soundings indicated a soft or muddy bottom, and the balance was of a hard or gravelly character; no attempt was made to ascertain the depth of the mud except in the one case above alluded to. "Butler's Island" begins to appear when about four feet of water have been drawn from the lake, and it ceases to be an island when six feet have been withdrawn and becomes a part of the mainland. The Beverly-Wenham division line crosses this so-called island.

The total area of the lake at high water level is 250.6 acres, including the small portion at the northerly end dammed off in 1891. The greatest length is about 6,400 feet. Of the lake surface, 98 acres lie in

Beverly and 152.6 acres in Wenham. The lowest point reached by the water surface was about ten feet below the high water mark. About 78 acres were thus exposed around the shore. This area was in many places covered with a thick growth of water plants. Fresh water clams were also very plentiful. The shores are in many places very flat, in others quite steep and abrupt. The greatest width of shore exposed from high water to low water mark was 550 feet. At the "Narrows," at the lowest stage of the water, the distance across the lake was 350 feet.

The watershed of the lake, estimated from the map of the State Topographical Survey, is about 2,250 acres, including the area of the lake. This is somewhat in excess of that heretofore given.

The total population supplied from Wenham Lake in 1892 was 42,835. The increase in population of Salem and Beverly for ten years, 1880 to 1890, was 15.3 per cent. Quantity of water pumped in 1882 was 840,672,000 gallons, and in 1892 was 1,220,430,000 gallons, or an increase of 45 per cent in ten years.

APPENDIX E
ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1864
CHAPTER 268

An Act for Supplying the City of Salem with Pure Water.

Be it enacted . . . as follows:—

Section 1: The City of Salem, for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants thereof with pure water, is hereby authorized to take, hold and convey to, into and through said city, the waters of Wenham Pond, so called, in the towns of Wenham and Beverly, and the waters which flow into and from the same, and any water rights connected therewith; and may take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, such land on and around the margin of said pond, not exceeding five rods in width, as may be necessary for the preservation and purity of said waters; and may also take and hold, in like manner, such land as may be necessary for erecting and maintaining dams and reservoirs, and for laying and maintaining conduits, pipes, drains and other works, for collecting, conducting and distributing said waters through said city.

From *Section 16*. . . . provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the abutters on Wenham Pond from entering thereon during the winter season, with men and horses, and the proper implements, for the purpose of preparing, cutting, and securing ice, in the manner heretofore practised.

Section 4: Said city for the purposes aforesaid may build aqueducts from any of the aforesaid sources, and maintain the same by any works suitable therefor; may connect any or all of said sources with each other; may provide and maintain suitable machinery for raising the water above the source of supply; may erect such structures as are necessary for preserving the works; may erect and maintain dams; may make and maintain suitable reservoirs; may make and establish such public fountains and hydrants, as are, from time to time deemed proper, and may change or discontinue the same; may distribute the water throughout said city; may regulate the use of the water within and without said

city, and establish the rates to be paid therefor. Said city may also, for the purposes aforesaid, carry its pipes and other works over or under any watercourse, street, railroad, highway or other way in such manner as not to obstruct the same; and may enter upon and dig up such road, street, or way, for the purpose of laying down, maintaining and repairing its pipes and other works, and may do any other acts or things necessary and proper in executing the purposes of this act.

CHAPTER 285

From *An Act Authorizing the City of Salem to Take Land for the Purpose of Preserving the Purity of its Water Supply*. 1891.

Be it enacted . . . as follows:

Section 1: The city of Salem may from time to time take and hold by purchase or otherwise, such land on or around the margin of Wenham Pond, so called, in the towns of Beverly and Wenham, not exceeding 500 feet in width, as may be deemed necessary for the preservation and purity of the water of said pond. . . .

Section 2: Said city may by suitable structures at the outlet of said pond, upon Miles River, or any tributary thereof, prevent the passage of alewives into the waters of said pond.

APPENDIX F

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SALEM WATER WORKS



(Level of Wenham Lake is 31 feet above mean high tide.)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rainfall at Pumping Station in ft. and ins.</i>	<i>No. of gallons pumped into city</i>	<i>Greatest height above mean high water for year in ft. and ins.</i>	<i>Lowest in ft. and ins.</i>
1870		344,578,032	29 7	28 1
1871		427,721,598	30 1½	28 4¾
1872		526,391,604	31 ½	29 9
1873		654,259,518	30 9	28 3
1874	34 10¾	609,765,606	30 6¼	28 6½
1875	51 7½	767,196,400	30 7¼	30 7¼
1876	50 ¾	723,588,050	30 8	27 11¼
1877	47	721,336,456	30 6	28 ¾
1878	60 11¼	678,369,900	30 11	29 1½
1879	39 8¼	707,552,450	30 6	28 2½
1880	36 7¾	732,472,650	30 1	26 9¼
1881	44 6	786,083,600	30 3½	26 6¼
1882	40 6	840,672,250	30 2½	26 10½
1883	40 5¼	820,156,760	27 10¾	24 9¼
1884	50 11¾	806,341,680	30 2¾	24 7
1885	55 4	841,556,050	29 8	27 1½
1886	47 10¾	896,417,600	31 6	27
1887	42 7¼	823,163,200	30 6¼	27 1
1888	47 2¾	770,814,400	30 4¼	27 3
1889	53 4	752,443,340	30 6	28 11½
1890	46 ¾	779,491,200	30 4½	27 8½
1891	43 6	995,124,000	30 3½	25 5¼
1892	36 10	945,164,000	26 6½	21 5¾
1893	36 2	780,319,600	24 8½	20 2½
1894	35 11¾	840,721,052	23 5	19 1½
1895	46 4	783,814,400	30 1	19 1
1896	39 8	835,071,200	30 3½	25 4
1897	41 6½	813,562,560	30 3	25 4
1898	57 4¼	840,575,840	30 5	26 1½
1899	36 7¼	907,169,920	30 11	23 8¾
1900	44 4½	985,252,640	30 5	22 9
1901	45 10¾	1,034,900,160	30 6¾	21 9¾
1902	46 4	1,115,205,120	28 8½	21 8½

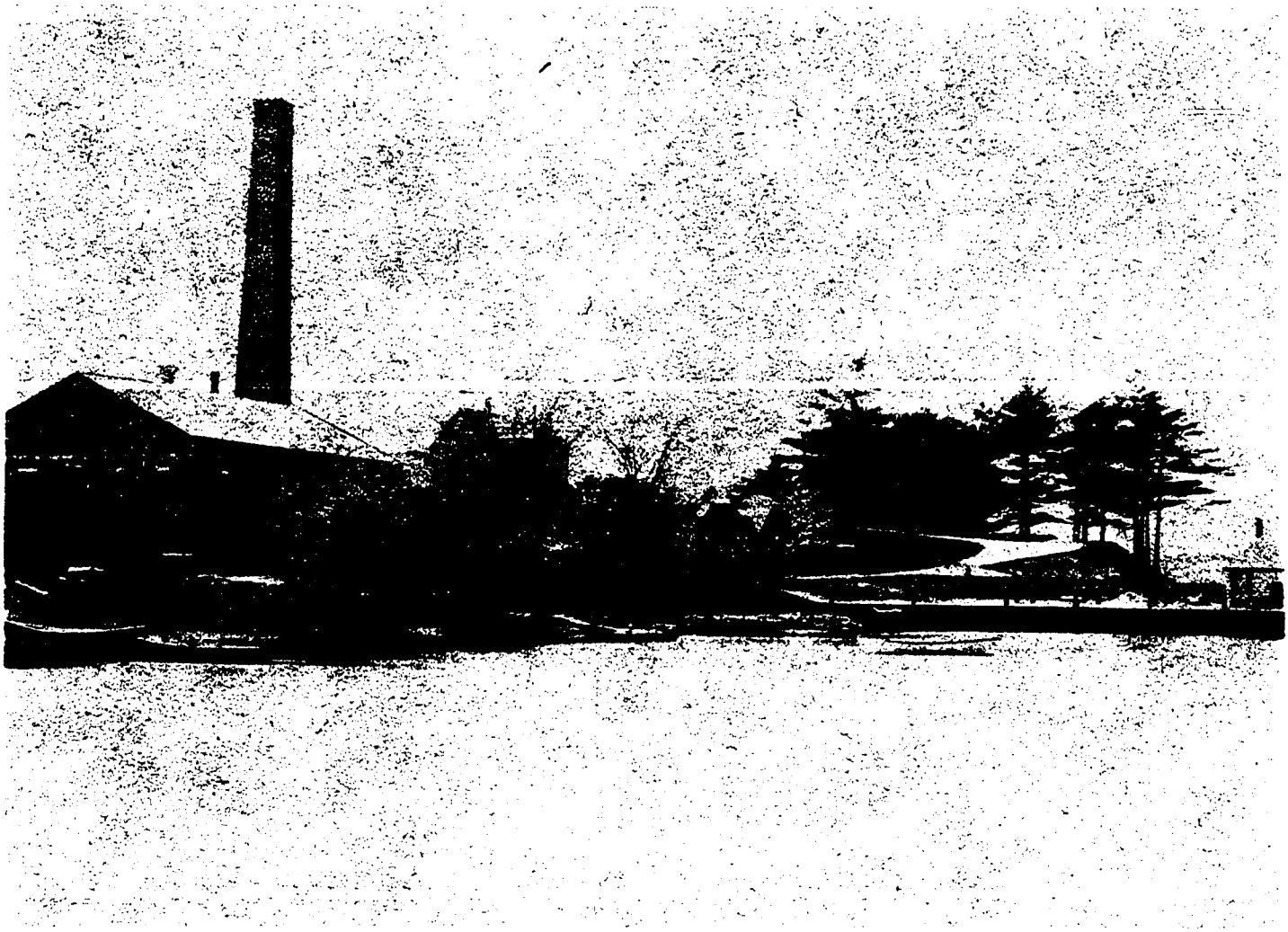


PLATE XV. a. *Salem Water Works Pumping Station at Wenham Lake,*
April 20 1895.



PLATE XV. b. *Salem Water Works at Wenham Lake, from front of*
Engineer Dennett's house, June 29 1875.



PLATE XVI. *High pine bank on shore of Wenham Lake near the Wenham-Beverly line.*

APPENDIX F

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Rainfall at Pumping Station in ft. and ins.</i>	<i>No. of gallons pumped into city</i>	<i>Greatest height above mean high water for year in ft. and ins.</i>	<i>Lowest in ft. and ins.</i>
1903	50 ¼	1,158,928,320	30 7	21 10¼
1904	46	1,157,564,160	30 9½	23
1905	34 ¼	1,216,512,000	28 5	21 11¾
1906	44 2¼	1,090,425,920	30 9¾	22 9½
1907	45 11½	1,227,173,120	30 9½	26 4½
1908	35 10½	1,192,352,320	31 1	22 8
1909	42 6	1,314,349,520	30 1½	21 4¾
1910	29	1,430,653,120	30 8	19 9½
1911	39 8½	1,203,669,440	23 6½	16 10
1912	39 8¾	1,367,808,640	30 6½	17 10½
1913	39 9½	1,419,674,360	28 11	20 8
1914	33 1	1,519,765,200	30 5	19 6½
1915	43 11¾	1,350,122,880	27 ½	19 3
1916	34 11¾	1,665,383,520	30 8½	19 9
1917	36 1½	1,736,800,000	30 5	18 9
1918	34 8½	1,859,755,000	30 2½	19 5¾
1919	44 4¾	1,936,470,000	30 3	21 9¾
1920	39 1¼	2,086,330,000	30 6¾	20 1¾
1921	45 ¼	2,067,350,000	30 3½	23 9½
1922	48 3¼	1,891,140,000	30 7	25 8½
1923	34 8½	1,930,860,000	30 6	19 3¼
1924	40 1	1,977,710,000	30 7¼	23 10¾
1925	46 11¾	2,005,400,000	30 2	21 ⅛
1926	33 10¼	2,067,250,000	30 9½	19 8½
1927	42 ½	1,893,900,000	30	21 ¼
1928	42 ½	1,914,770,000	30 6	24 9¾
1929	38 6½	1,940,440,000	31 1¼	18 2
1930	34 1¾	1,825,090,000	29 10½	20 4
1931	43 4¼	1,777,480,000	30 10¾	21 9½
1932	45 3¾	1,554,720,000	30 9¾	22 9½
1933	45 ½	1,535,080,000	31 ¾	24 6½
1934	39 10	1,814,360,000	30 8½	21 7¼
1935	34 5	1,586,680,000	30 6¾	22 4
1936	48 6	1,552,660,000	30 3	18 6
1937	44 8½	1,450,080,000	30 ¾	23 ¾

Figures for the years 1870-1887 represent consumption of water for both Salem and Beverly.

APPENDIX G

BEVERLY WATER WORKS



SECTION 15 of Chapter 268, Acts of 1864 (The Act of Legislature granting to the City of Salem the right to take the water of Wenham Pond) says "If said city takes the water from the sources mentioned in the first section of this act, it shall lay its aqueduct or main pipe, for conducting the same to said city, by some convenient route through the town of Beverly. The inhabitants of any town upon the line of the works authorized by this act, upon the application of its Board of Selectmen, shall be entitled to the reasonable use of the water, upon paying an equitable compensation therefor."

At town meetings held in March and October, 1868, the selectmen "were authorized and instructed to enforce the rights of the town to be supplied with water from Salem Water Works" and "to take such action as they think necessary for the interests of the town."

At the town meeting held April 5, 1869, it was voted to authorize the selectmen to request of the Legislature the passage of an act authorizing the Town of Beverly to construct and lay all such pipes as may be necessary to supply its citizens with water from Wenham Pond, and to connect the same at convenient points with the main pipe of the Salem Water Works, with the authority to use the water of said pond through said pipes for the above purpose.

The act took effect upon its passage, and the Town of Beverly was authorized to raise all such sums of money as should be necessary therefor.

From time to time various complaints were made of insufficient supply and lack of pressure, and in March, 1881, the selectmen were by vote authorized to petition the Legislature for authority to take from Wenham Lake for a direct water supply with independent works. Later on, by Chapter 294 of the Acts of 1885, the town was granted the necessary authority to build independent works. The site selected for the pumping station was the Addison Gage lot, so called. This was formerly occupied, near the lake, by an ice house. The shore at this point is very bold, and a distance of sixty feet from the shore gave a depth of thirty feet of water. The reservoir is situated on the highest part of Brimble Hill, 146 feet above the lake, 174 feet above tide water level. The water level when full is thirty-one feet nine inches above the

Chipman's Hill Reservoir of the Salem Water Works. The capacity is 3,250,000 gallons.

The new works were practically completed in August, 1887. Connections were severed between the Salem main and the Beverly sides, except at a few points where gates were left. These were closed on October 1, 1887, and all communication between the two systems ceased on that day.

APPENDIX H

REPORTS OF BEVERLY WATER BOARD



<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of gallons pumped into reservoir</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of gallons pumped into reservoir</i>
1888	305,043,426	1913	666,888,708
1889	262,765,000	1914	677,691,466
1890	271,205,496	1915	585,742,818
1891	279,165,764	1916	592,523,250
1892	294,821,400	1917	588,135,218
1893	307,865,340	1918	697,066,438
1894	299,430,000	1919	546,563,970
1895	295,350,000	1920	581,963,086
1896	319,847,000	1921	563,323,422
1897	312,606,000	1922	511,703,000
1898	328,264,334	1923	573,319,000
1899	350,753,292	1924	531,312,000
1900	366,015,402	1925	523,241,000
1901	371,574,000	1926	529,537,000
1902	381,255,012	1927	513,326,000
1903	405,605,118	1928	502,952,000
1904	448,134,660	1929	549,688,000
1905	482,208,402	1930	547,585,000
1906	519,152,436	1931	537,581,000
1907	572,346,756	1932	549,525,000
1908	635,222,520	1933	531,714,000
1909	599,163,092	1934	594,223,000
1910	621,244,765	1935	594,749,000
1911	584,728,606	1936	612,470,000
1912	675,705,457	1937	538,606,000

APPENDIX I

NOTES ON WATERSHED, RAINFALL, EVAPORATION AND CONSUMPTION

FROM REPORT OF BEVERLY WATER WORKS



THE period from July, 1882, to December, 1883, covering 518 days, offers an opportunity for discussing the watershed and rainfall in their relations to the yield which can be relied upon from Wenham Lake during a dry season. During this time, the lake was drawn down 4.33 feet, and at no time did it flow over the dam; that is to say, the total rainfall was pumped or evaporated either directly or through the process of vegetation. The total fall of rain during this time was 58.46 inches, or 2,697,536,000 gallons on the watershed of 1,700 acres. No account is made of the rain falling on the surface of the lake, evaporation being generally considered equal to rainfall on water surfaces. The quantity pumped during the period was 1,262,537,360 gallons. Of this amount the lake yielded 443,600,000 gallons by being lowered 4.33 feet; the flow from the watershed was therefore 818,937,360 gallons, or about 30 per cent of the rainfall, equal to about 1,570,000 gallons per day. The evaporation during this period was undoubtedly very much greater than the average as it included the dry portions of two years, but these sequences do occur as a matter of record, and it is extremes and not averages that must be provided for.

APPENDIX J

OLD PLACE NAMES ABOUT WENHAM POND AND IN WENHAM TOWNSHIP

ALEWIFE BROOK. Outlet of Wenham Lake.

ALFORD'S HILL. Poverty Hill; Alford's stone is the boundary mark on the Walter Putnam place, at the southeast corner of Wenham, at the junction of Wenham, Danvers and Beverly. This stone is on the northeast slope of Alford's Hill.

BACK BAY. A Pond name; familiar to icemen, now forgotten.

BAKER'S SWAMP. An old place name, not identified.

BALCH PASTURE. A twenty-acre pasture just south of the Wenham-Beverly line, bordering the steep bank of the lake; the site of the famous Balch Pasture feud.

BOAT HOUSE COVE. Apparently refers to the boat landing in Wenham Lake for Cherry Hill Farm owners. Most probably at southeast corner of Lake, behind the "Peninsula."

BOB FRANK'S ISLAND. See Dodge's Island.

BRICK KILN MEADOW. On the way east from Wenham by Larch Row, after crossing the railroad track; the lot begins at the first stone wall on the left and reaches from there to the Miles River (in a curve of the river).

BRIMBLE HILL. The site of the present Beverly Reservoir, to the east of Brimble Avenue. This hill was once much higher and a prominent landmark from Moraine Farm.

THE BROAD MEADOW. Miles River meadow, back of Mrs. Harold Cutler's house on north side of Larch Row. In early eighteenth century this belonged to Jacob Dodge.

BROWN'S FOLLY OR FOLLY HILL. In Danvers; site of Salem high pressure reservoir.

BUTLER'S ISLAND. A long bar or under-water arm projecting out from the north shore of Pond Lily Cove. It is only three or four feet under water at high-pond levels and is said to have first become visible the year Benjamin Butler ran for President.

THE CAUSEWAY. A low part of the Topsfield Road where it crosses the western extension of Wenham Swamp, north of the first railroad crossing. Often mentioned in the old records and often out of repair. The same name is used for the crossing of Miles River in Wenham Neck. There was still another causway far down in the east end of Wenham.

CHERRY HILL. On north side of Conant Street, between North Beverly and Danvers. This large farm has been the residence of many well-known families throughout the history of the county, and is now a dairy farm of H. P. Hood Milk Company. In the last hundred years it has been through the hands of David Pingree, John Hammond, Thomas Holmes, David P. Waters, Ellen T. Proctor and Dr. Myron L. Chamberlain.

CHUBBS CREEK. A salt water creek; the part of the Wenham-Beverly boundary known as "the creek line." Its course lies about three-quarters of a mile below the Beverly Farms railroad station.

CLAFLIN SWAMP. On either side of Larch Row, a mile from Main Street.

COLLINS HOUSE OR KING HOOPER HOUSE. Formerly in Danvers, on road between Peabody and Danvers. Restored around end of last century by Jacob C. R. Peabody. Later occupied by Ward Thoron, who sold it. It was moved to Washington, D. C., in 1935.

COY'S POND. Often called Pleasant Pond in early Manchester and Beverly deeds. Now in Princemere.

DEVIL'S HOLLOW. A circular depression or basin out on Arbor Street, Wenham, on the Hosmer place.

DISHWATER BROOK. A small brook in the Longham section of Wenham.

DODGE'S ISLAND. A small round island on the south side of the Ipswich River in Hamilton. There is a camp on it built by Julian Dodge of Wenham about forty years ago. This name was also given to a mound on Robert Frank Dodge's land which was also sometimes referred to as merely The Island.

EGYPT. The northwest end of Wenham Lake. In 1812 or a little later came a summerless season, with frost every month but one of the year. Practically nobody was able to raise any corn. Next spring a Batchelder who lived over in the west of Wenham was about the only man who had any corn for seed, and they all went to him to buy corn; so they spoke of going into Egypt to get corn.

ENON BLUFF. The high part of the moraine, pine covered, on northwest shore of the Lake, was always referred to by us (J. C. P. and W. P.) as Enon Bluff. It was at one time a well-known picnic grove, and belonged to Miss Abbie Pingree of Salem before it came to John C. Phillips.

FLAGGY MEADOW. An old name for a part of the Commons in the Wenham Neck section of town.

FLAGGY MEADOW PLAIN. Practically all in Beverly—from Essex Street to Cole Street, in Montserrat region.

FOWLER'S ISLAND. In the north end of Wenham Swamp bordering the Topsfield meadows. Partly in Wenham and partly in Hamilton. Originally granted to Joseph Fowler of Wenham.

GIANT'S GROVE. Unknown. Was it Enon Bluff on the northwest shore; the old Pingree lot, which now belongs to John C. Phillips?

GOOSE PASTURE. On land belonging to Louis Dodge, south of Larch Row, near the house of Irving Burnham.

GRAFTON HILL. Site of house of Louis Dodge. This name originated in the early 1700's.

GRAVELLY RIDGE. On part of the boundary between Wenham and Beverly, on the south side of Grapevine Road. This is the southeast part of Wenham's boundary, on land now owned by William Endicott.

THE GREAT MEADOW. A rather vague term for the big Ipswich River meadows in Topsfield and Hamilton.

GREAT POND. An old name of Wenham Lake.

GREAT SWAMP. This refers to the Big Wenham Swamp.

HOLMES COVE. On Wenham Pond. Not identified by me.

HORSE ISLAND. In Wenham Swamp on the west side of Idlewood Brook in Hamilton, about opposite but a little south of Turkey Island.

HUTLBERRY ISLAND. In west end of town, in Wenham Swamp, near the Topsfield-Wenham line; on land originally belonging to Fairfield, now to Randolph Tucker.

INDIAN CORN FIELDS. East of the County Road, now the site of the Wenham golf links.

IPSWICH ROUND POND. This is Round Pond in the Chebacco chain of ponds. Hamilton was originally a part of Ipswich.

ISRAEL'S SHORE and ISRAEL'S COVE. Land bordering northeast corner of Wenham Lake, off Cedar Street, one time property of Israel Batchelder.

KILHAM HILL. (Originally Killam Hill.) The hill where E. P. Motley's house now stands, on the southeast side of Larch Row. This is where the Kilham Hill apple originated.

LARCOM'S CORNER. The boundary stone on the south Wenham borderline, on the Rimmer property, five or six hundred feet east of Grover Street. It derives its name from the old homestead of Mordecai Larcom, the founder of the Larcom family of Beverly, which stood near this stone.

LEACH'S SAWMILL. A mill which was formerly situated on Thirty-Acre Brook (Birch Plains Brook) on the south side of Lord's Hill. The mill owners had permission to dam the brook from October until April, but then they must not hold the water back, for fear of flooding the blueberries and cranberries. They used old, vertical saws which cut very slowly. This brook must have failed greatly since early times.

LITTLE COMFORT. The extreme east end of Wenham, about Coy's Pond.

LORD'S HILL, now BURNHAM HILL. Lying west of Topsfield Road and now surmounted by the residence of the Misses Burnham. Sometimes called LORD'S CUE HILL, since the "Widow Cue" once owned that land. Also once called KIMBALL HILL.

LOVERING'S NECK or IDLEWOOD RIDGES. The high plateau extending from the east side of Pleasant Pond (Idlewood Lake) northwards for one-half mile.

MOULTON'S HILL. The sharp rise northwest of Cedar Pond, commanding a view of Wenham Lake on the south and the Great Swamp on the north. Now occupied by the house of F. L. Higginson.

MUDDY POND. A small round pond half a mile southeast of Pleasant Pond.

NURSERY LOT. South of the New Bridge on Larch Row, the site of Old Bridge. Mr. Louis Dodge dug up the last of the old trees in 1937. The traces of an old two-chimney house are on this lot.

OLD BRIDGE. There was originally a road leading out from Wenham, going south of the James Reynolds house, crossing Old Bridge, then turning north over the causeway and leading on toward Wenham

Neck. This was, of course, before Larch Row existed. The site of Old Bridge is in Nursery Lot, 600 or 700 feet south of New Bridge, on the edge of the Reynolds property. The records show it was relocated in 1696.

OLD WOODBURY HOUSE. 82 Dodge Street, North Beverly. Occupied since 1650; the Benjamin Woodbury farm in the middle nineteenth century.

OX PASTURE or POND PASTURE. The pasture southwest from Grafton Hill, which joins the Longham property almost directly south of Rye Hill.

PEAT MEADOWS. The section of the Great Meadows northeast of the Beverly-Topsfield road, near the point where the railroad crosses. Also the large meadow back of the Wenham Tea House. There are a great many small peat meadows in Wenham, which were an asset of the seventeenth-century householder.

THE PENINSULA. The long point running out into the southwest cove of Wenham Lake, at one time probably an island or near-island. The shoreward end was filled in by John C. Phillips of Moraine Farm about 1881. The Peninsula was crowned with some fine old white pines which died a good while ago.

PERKINS ISLAND. A large island on the south side of the Ipswich River in Topsfield, just west of the western boundary of Wenham. A favorite camping place for many years.

PETERS' PULPIT. The small conical hill facing Wenham Cove, from which the Reverend Hugh Peters preached the first sermon in Wenham. Long since levelled by the Gage Ice Company, and marked by a roadside tablet. The hill was farther back from the road than indicated by the marker.

PINGTON'S MEADOW. Also spelled Pidgion, Pigton, Picton and Pincton. On the Topsfield side of Wenham, near Hutlberry Island.

THE PLAINS. Sometimes refers to Birch Plains, west of Lord's Hill; sometimes to a tract of land between Arbor and Perkins Streets, called also Plainfields. Many original grants were here.

PLEASANT POND. In Wenham Swamp. The name originally applied to two bodies of water in the town of Wenham. The name of the pond in the Wenham Swamp was changed to Idlewood Lake by a minister

named Will C. Wood. Coy's Pond in the Chebacco group was also originally called Pleasant Pond.

POMP'S ISLAND. On land owned by Robert Frank Dodge, in square between Grapevine Road, Larch Row and Rubbly Road.

POND LILY COVE. The deep cove just south of Butler's Island Point.

PROSPECT HILL, MT. PLEASANT or DODGE'S HILL. The high hill on the west side of the Lake, near the extreme westerly cove of the Lake, usually known to us as Dodge's Hill. Now the property of the Honorable William Phillips. The name Dodge's Hill was also given to the elevation east of the main road, where the old Waters house and the Philip^{Horton} Smith places are located.

RACK COON MARSH. North of Hull Street, next to Wenham-Beverly line; in Longham Meadow.

REDDINGTON'S HILL. The site of Frederick Ayer's dwelling-house, on the southerly side of Walnut Street, east of the Lake.

THE RIVER. Miles River.

RYE HILL. Opposite the Cutler greenhouses, just east of the house of Irving Burnham on Larch Row.

SALTONSTALL'S MEADOW. The large Topsfield Meadows along the Ipswich River.

SANDY COVE. A shallow, high-banked cove just east of Dodge's Cove and facing the upper basin of Wenham Lake.

"SEADER" SWAMP. The land around Cedar Pond.

SHANK HILL. The northeast side of Coy's Pond.

SODOM. Pleasant Street region; or perhaps Cherry Street region.

SORREL HILL. The high hill back of the house of Irving Burnham, south of Larch Row.

THE ISLAND. See Dodge's Island.

THE STRAITS. Where the road on Cherry Street has been relocated by the town, taking in the land of Mr. F. L. Higginson at the bars. There used to be an old house and well there.

STRAITS HOLLOW. On Cherry Street, just behind Mrs. Hoyt's.

THIRTY-ACRE BROOK. The small stream, now dry most of the summer, that rises west of Lord's Hill and empties into Dodge's Cove of Wenham Lake; Birch Plains Brook.

TORY HILL. Southeast of Dodge Row, where buildings of T. C. Hollander are.

TROW'S BROOK. The continuation of the outlet of Longham; the outlet of Norwood's and Beaver Ponds.

TURKEY ISLAND. In Wenham Swamp northeast of Lovering's Neck and east of Idlewood Brook.

TURNUP SWAMP or TURNIP SWAMP. Eastern part of town, adjoining Coy's Pond. It makes in west of Coy's Pond, on Grapevine Road opposite the Campbell house.

WALDRON BRIDGE. Over the Miles River on Larch Row, half a mile east from Main Street, near the house of I. L. Burnham.

WALDRON'S BROOK or ELLITRAP BROOK. The second name comes from an early settler in Manchester (Ellithrop) who owned land in and around Manchester. This is the inlet of Coy's Pond, made up of the Onion River and Forty-eight Brook, in Manchester.

WENHAM COVE. The large cove of Wenham Lake, bordering on Conant Street, where the outlet leads off into Miles River.

WENHAM ISLAND. Upland on Richard Dodge farm (which now belongs to Miss Helen Frick); also Dodge's Island, back of Rubbly Road, in vicinity of Dishwater Brook.

WENHAM POND BROOK. The outlet of Wenham Lake.

WILD MAN'S NECK AND ROOTSES MEADOW. Said by some to be Wenham Neck.

WOLF ISLAND. An old name for a tract of land in Wenham Swamp half a mile west of Muddy Pond.

APPENDIX K

WENHAM LAKE ICE TOOLS



A number of tools once used in the Wenham Lake ice industry are now owned by the Wenham Historical Association. These are reproduced in Plate XII through the courtesy of Mrs. Edward B. Cole, who has supplied the following information about their use.

No. 1. Hand groove: used in the ice houses to separate the cakes of ice.

No. 2. Horse groove: used on the lake to cut ice into twenty-two inch blocks before sawing.

No. 3. Saw: used to cut the grooved ice into floats from the main or solid ice.

No. 4. Saw: a very old model, used for the same purpose as no. 3.

No. 5. Chisel bar: used to strike through each cake not separated by the hand groove.

No. 6. Striking-up bar: used to separate the layers in the ice house.

No. 7. Needle bar: used to break the float into cakes to store in the ice house.

No. 8. Poling hook: used to pull the floats to the elevator.

No. 9. Tongs: used for carrying blocks for delivery.

No. 10. Ice axe: used to cut blocks into pieces for house delivery.

FOOTNOTES TO APPENDICES

1. The first entry in the records.
2. A minister.
3. Many of us have seen this same custom in rural regions in Western Europe where herds are gathered from door to door and driven to common pastures each morning.
4. This must refer to the brook which rises in Birch Plains and discharges into Dodge's Cove on land of John C. and William Phillips. It is interesting to note that alewives formerly ascended this stream and were caught there (see vote at April town meeting 1802).
5. This refers to the famous Balch pasture lot.
6. This resulted in the famous Balch Pasture dispute, a full account of which is given in Robert Rantoul's article in the first part of this book.
7. Honorable Daniel Kilham of Wenham, 1751–1841. A member of both branches of the State Legislature and of the Governor's Council.
8. The European larch, still to be seen along Larch Row and on the avenue of the Pickering (now Reynolds) estate.
9. This must refer to Dodge's Cove where boiling springs are evident at low water stages.

