

c 10/10/70

Branford River

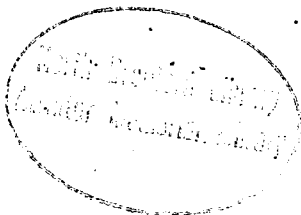
begins somewhere near Water Company property at lake site - its mouth is at Branford Point.

Large Dam - west side of river is washed out.

Chitsey owned it first. Two brothers Merrick and Walter Hill bought the dam from Chitsey. Dam is built of trap rock - oxen were used to construct it.

It was used as a:

1. lumber mill
2. cider mill - made hard cider
3. grist mill
4. axe handles
5. cord wood
6. grind corn
7. cut ice



Where large stone is missing at base of dam they had a wheel there that went up to a shaft. The Hills installed a modern wheel with iron cups on it. The water would fill into a flume - a channel for the water that drives a mill wheel.

As a young boy, Mr. Rose would fish the river and when the water turned muddy, they would know that Old Man Hill started up his mill. He would flood the river back to the bend.

Hill bought 10 acres from Stephen Rose's grandfather. Hill's farm extended over to Valley Road. It had virgin timber - this timber was cut at the mill ^{It was cut at the} (large dam on ^{the} river.)

Mr. Pose believes the foundation on the west side of the river to be the site of the old mill. Mr. Pose's father was a tail sawyer at the mill. He thinks this involved straightening out the logs before they were cut.

Near this foundation there is an old well - Mr. Pose knew nothing of this.

The cabin next to Steve Syrotiak was owned by Dr. Piley - a surgeon - he drilled a water well and built a lovely dock going down to the river. Mrs. Pose has a photograph of what it looked like just after it was built. Then a Mr. Ellis moved into the cabin. He was a preacher in New Haven.

Between Steve Syrotiak's and Van Wilgen Nurseries there was a

4.
cabin - last Indians in North Branford
lived there - a disputed fact - They were
husband and wife - known as Yab
and Pete. He never worked - he
would walk to Lake Saltonstall
to fish - he would then trade his
fish for salt pork and staples.
She did all the work.

Near the nursery - at flat
part of the river where Oppels
once lived - where Van Wilgen's
house is now - there was a large
Indian camp site - many arrowheads
have been found there. Mr. Rose
has a collection of arrowheads
Flint and quartz.

Where Branford Power House
is - Thomas Ward had a large
ice house.

The second dam on the river -
the one that is washed out in
the middle was run by John Foote.

Charcoal was also made
along the river.

Anita Vergate
Woodvale Drive
484-9056