

Unknown joys of Burge's Pond

By Gordon B. Seavey

Few know of Burge's Pond possibly because it is now privately owned. It is located just north of former Westford Depot hidden among giant pines. It has been privately owned from the time Samuel Burge arrived in Westford around 1696

Westford Wanderings

It was once the favorite swimming hole of local boys, who never had problems locating two ideal bathing spots. One was at Johnson's Ice house where they could dive off the wooden ice runs which guided cakes of ice up the ramps in winter.

The other was "Sandy Bar" in the mid-section of the 22 acre pond. At this spot one could walk across the narrow width to the opposite shore.

Its water level always seemed about the same. For local ponds many thought this one was spring fed as its waters were al

ways clear. It was a haven for men and boys particularly after a long work day in the hay or corn field. Few owned bathing suits — and none were required. Only sissies wore them.

No one seemed to bother to learn why there was no apparent outlet although the water was always clean. Arnold Wilder reports that there is an underground outlet about 400 feet at the north end of the pond (where few ventured) which then opened up into a little brook feeding into Keyes Brook which flows from

Keyes Pond. The joint waters then enter Stony Brook near the stone arch bridge on Depot Street near the railroad crossing.

The land surrounding the pond was purchased in 1937 from the Spalding estate by the Hyams family, for the purpose of establishing the East Boston Camps for kids.

Today the place is humming with activities of youngsters who never acquired the pleasure of skinny dipping.