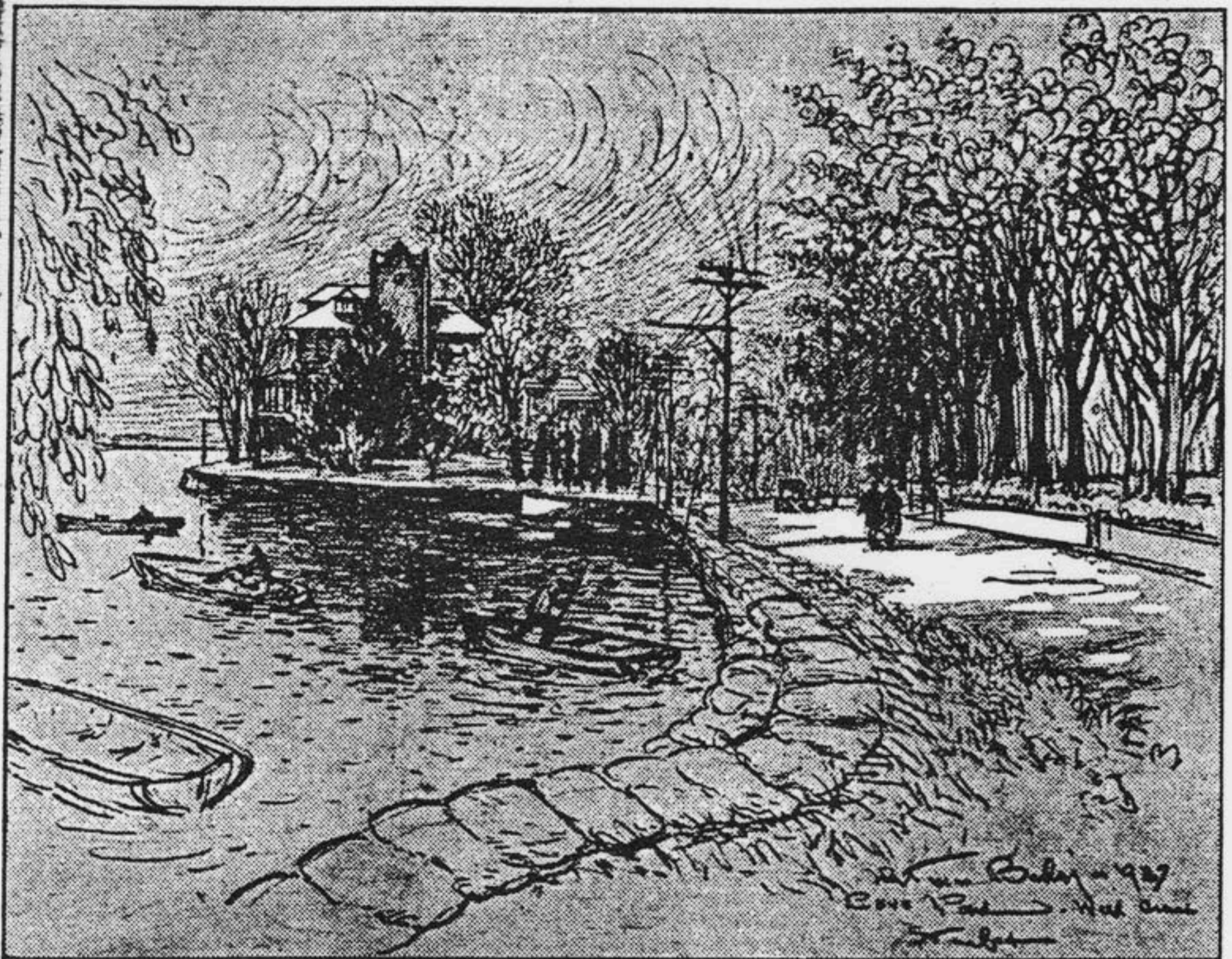


Section of Upper Cove Pond, and Weed Avenue



In 1791 William Fitch secured permission to build a dam across Noroton Creek. The terms agreed upon were "that the mill should be placed near this dam, and thereafter should grind and bolt as other mills do, and that after three years, he, William Fitch, should every Summer draw off the water, giving due notice to the inhabitants that they may take shell fish therein". Fitch also had other duties imposed upon him. He must keep a good scow in what is now Cove Pond and that this scow should be of sufficient size to carry 2,000 bushels of grain, which should always be free for the use of the town.

5/22/1937

The next year, 1792, John W. Holly moved over to the Cove, which, at that time, was called the "Pound", and in company with Mr. Fitch, commenced building the dam and mills. It is said

that shortly after these mills were built, great changes took place in this vicinity, for up to the above mentioned dates, there was no house standing between the southeast corner of our present St. John's Park and the house built by Mr. Holly at the Cove. Nor was there any road, excepting the path that led from the east-field gate, where Elm Street, formerly crossed Meadow Street, through open fields, or the old forest, over to the Pond. It was under the direction of Mr. Holly that these two mills did a heavy flouring business, and still later were successful in the grinding of dye woods.

In 1844 the mills were reorganized under the title of the Stamford Mfg. Co., and they did the heaviest business in the town, adding to their line of industries the making of the extract of licorice.

It was in 1875 that William

W. Skiddy first became interested in this Cove section of Stamford, as well as the mills, and built numerous small houses of the farmhouse type on one end of what is Weed Avenue. This collection of houses were for the mill help and have since become known as Cove Village.

Other homes of the more substantial type followed, including the beautiful residence of the late Mrs. Frederick T. Towne, which is shown in the left distance of the above sketch, and who in her later years, as Constance Towne, became one of Stamford's leading teachers in the art and musical world. Her attractive estate was often used by Mrs. Towne as a background for her beautiful Grecian dances, when tall graceful girlish figures, silhouetted against the blue water, would lightly leap across the leafy paths of June. Whitman Bailey.