

Acknowledgements



The Residents of East Hampton

The Planning and Zoning Commission

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Lake Pocotopaug Is the Largest Fresh Water Lake in Connecticut Covering 512 Acres

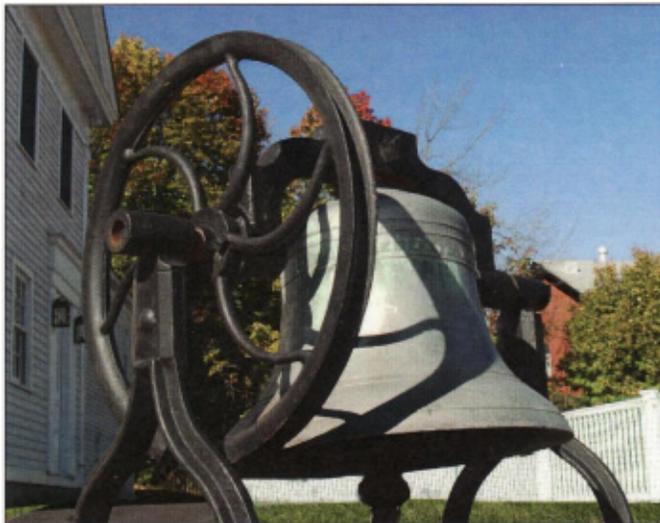


A Favorite Fishing Spot Just Above Comstock Bridge on the Salmon River



Maritime artist Richard L. Brooks researched and painted Middle Haddam in 1823 on the Connecticut River with the ship Chancellor fitting out as the brig Falcon as it leaves for Middletown. Middle Haddam enjoys a picturesque and colorful history of sea captains, shipbuilding and commerce. Home to more than a dozen sea captains and several large shipyards, these remarkable yards had the capacity and skilled craftsmen to complete all the operations involved in ship building, from making the hull to fitting the vessel with sails and rigging. In their heyday, as many as six vessels a year were built, each one requiring some six months to complete and upward of thirty laborers.

Large brigs and ships designed for ocean travel between intercontinental markets were their specialty. Carrying an average of 200-400 tons, they were often used for the lucrative West Indies trade. Some of these sea-going adventurers were credited with capturing British ships off Long Island during the Revolutionary War – and trade to the West Indies is documented as far back as 1770 when it took about three months to travel roundtrip from Middle Haddam.



As early as 1808, William Barton forged East Hampton's first bell, marking the beginning of what would become the dominant industry in Town. Led by the Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company and growing to include as many as thirty bell manufacturers over the Town's history, East Hampton became known as "Belltown USA." The technology for manufacturing bells also lent itself to the manufacture of assorted metal products ranging from coffee mills to toys.



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