

Stony Creek fountain made of village's finest treasure

A landmark in Stony Creek is the Lewis Water Fountain situated near the public dock. The Stony Creek Village Improvement Association was deeded the triangular piece of land at "Three Elms Corner" in 1916 with the intent to erect the monument.

The fountain was financed by a \$1,000 bequest from the late Kate A. L. Chapin of Meriden, who was a Stony Creek summer resident for more than 50 years.

"The Chapin Memorial" was unveiled Sunday, Aug. 9, 1917 at 3:30 p.m. with a short program, including a violin piece played by Melville and Martha Bradley of Stony Creek. The fountain was dedicated in memory of Chapin's father, Isaac Chauncey Lewis, a pioneer Stony Creek summer resident.

The house is one of Branford's finest examples of late 19th-century architecture.

The World War I monument also on the site was moved to the park in 1940.

Isaac Chauncey Lewis was president of Meriden Britannia Co., forerunner of the International Silver Co. He was also mayor of Meriden from 1870 until 1872 and a representative to the Connecticut General Assembly.

The Lewis house stands today at 255 Thimble Islands Road at the corner of Linden Point and remains in the Lewis family. It once stood on the opposite side of the road and in 1912 the house was rolled across the street by oxen under the direction of local contractor Oscar C. Kelsey.

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late 19th-century architecture.

The water fountain was made of Stony Creek granite and carved by local stone cutter John Melander, considered one of the finest carvers in the area.

A native of Finland, Melander was killed in a quarry accident and the May 23, 1918 *Shore Line Times* gives the account: "The funeral of Mr. Melander, who was killed instantly at Norcross Brother's Quarry, was held on Friday from his home at 3 o'clock and was largely attended. Rev. Carlson officiated. Burial at Stony Creek Cemetery."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is town historian for the town of Branford.

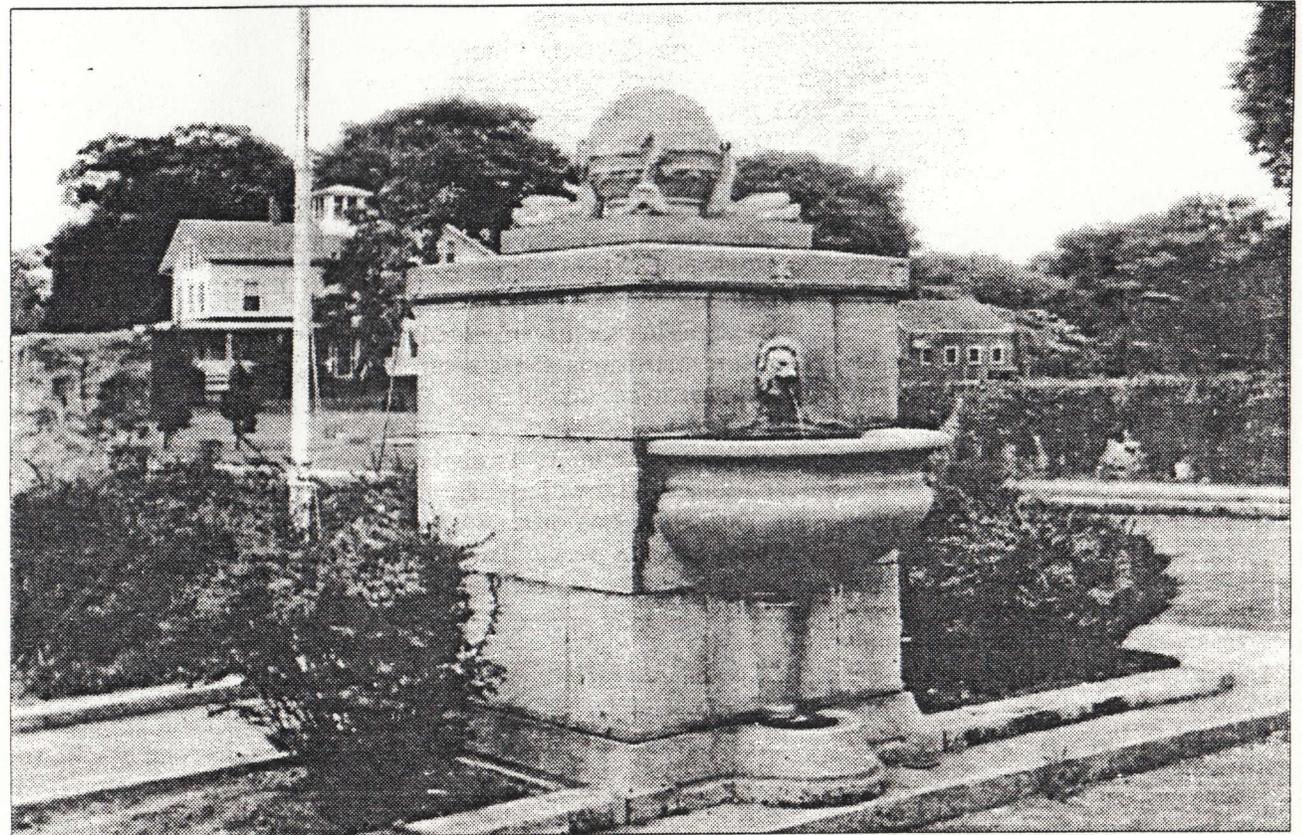


Photo courtesy Ronald McDermott

The Lewis Water Fountain near the public dock in Stony Creek.