

KINGSTON, 1905
BOOK 935, PAGE 175
DAM SITE ON LAKE STREET
Owned by the City of Brockton
A Controversial Limitation on the Jones River

In 1899, when it could no longer supply water to its residents and industry, the City of Brockton was authorized by the Legislature to take water from Silver Lake in Kingston. On December 20, 1905, Arthur B. and Edith L. Holmes sold Brockton an acre and a quarter on Lake Street. The parcel included a dam across the Jones River, which had created Forge Pond from the natural outlet of Silver Lake. The dam had served a sawmill and a forge in the 1730's, and anchor works around 1800, then nail and tack factories from 1860 through 1900. When Brockton bought the property, however, the dam no longer powered industry, but diverted nearly all of the water that previously flowed from Silver Lake to the Jones River to Brockton instead.

In 1905, Kingston Water Commissioners began talks to recover damages from the City of Brockton for the taking of Silver Lake water. After three years of negotiations, Kingston accepted \$17,000 to settle the claim for all time. Still, the struggle has continued for more than 100 years, as Brockton claims additional water from far away sources and Kingston and neighboring towns protest the severe losses to the watershed and the ensuing damage to local ecosystems. The small plot on Lake Street reminds us what a precious and limited resource our water actually is.

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