

## OLDE SAWMILL HISTORICAL PROJECT



In September of 2012 the foundation of the 1719 Robinson Sawmill Site was located. The crumbling loose stone foundation is now located underwater. The site was photographed and a preliminary survey was done.



**One of two Wooden Pilings found at the base of the Foundation**



In 1719 George Robinson bought land in the North Pond & Mill Pond area and built one of the first sawmills in the area. This sawmill derived its power from the exit flow of Webster Lake.<sup>1</sup> The lumber to feed the mill came from the numerous White Atlantic Cedar Swamp Forests surrounding the Lake shoreline. It is estimated that within a few decades all the cedar forests surrounding the lake were clear cut. Until 1812, these forests were probably trying to regenerate.

Around 1812, Samuel Slater built two dams to power his new cotton mill, raising the level of the lake by approximately 3 to 5 feet. This action flooded the cedar forest areas eliminating the habitat of White Atlantic Cedar around Webster Lake. These areas then became man made swamps. Around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century a blight would eliminate all the White Atlantic Cedar in southern New England.

The project intends to take one of the surviving Cedar Stumps and Carbon Date the wood. If the Carbon Date Range falls within the suspected time period, a slice of the stump will be sent to University of Arizona's Dendrochronology Lab for exact dating. The results will then be entered into the Global Data Base for Climate History

### **White Atlantic Cedar Stump located in Stump Pond**



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<sup>1</sup> Reference: "EARLY HISTORY of WEBSTER, DUDLEY, AND OXFORD", by Paul Macek & James Morrison, Published 2000, page 143, ISBN 0-9670473-8-2

**Emergence of a Red Cedar at Stump Pond on Webster Lake  
(This is the only type cedar that remains in the area)**

