



Historic Postcard



© Bill Guidi



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jeff Penn, Lester Shaw, Pete Banister, Grace Wheeler, Dee Cinner, Jerrilee Cain, Leslie Anne Charles, Winston Bancroft, and Bill Guidi. Text, map & photos (unless indicated) by: Cory Andros



Westfield River

EAST BRANCH TRAIL HISTORICAL SITES

HISTORIC FIGURE

Dr. Rhoda Rhodes

The daughter of Zebulon Fuller, a white man, and his Mahican wife, Rhoda was born in 1745 and lived until c. 1841. She was well known in the Huntington area for her herbal remedies. One story involves a little girl who suffered a nasal hemorrhage that none of the local doctors could cure. Dr. Rhoda grabbed a hoe and went out to dig up a root that she administered to the girl, who made a full recovery.



“Some day you may wish you knew more about the early history of your neighborhood, but the “old folks” are all gone and there are no older people but yourself left...”

— C.T. Macomber to Chandler Bicknell, 1832

Careful stewardship is needed to protect the river, its plants and wildlife, its history, and its importance to local communities. Check out more at:

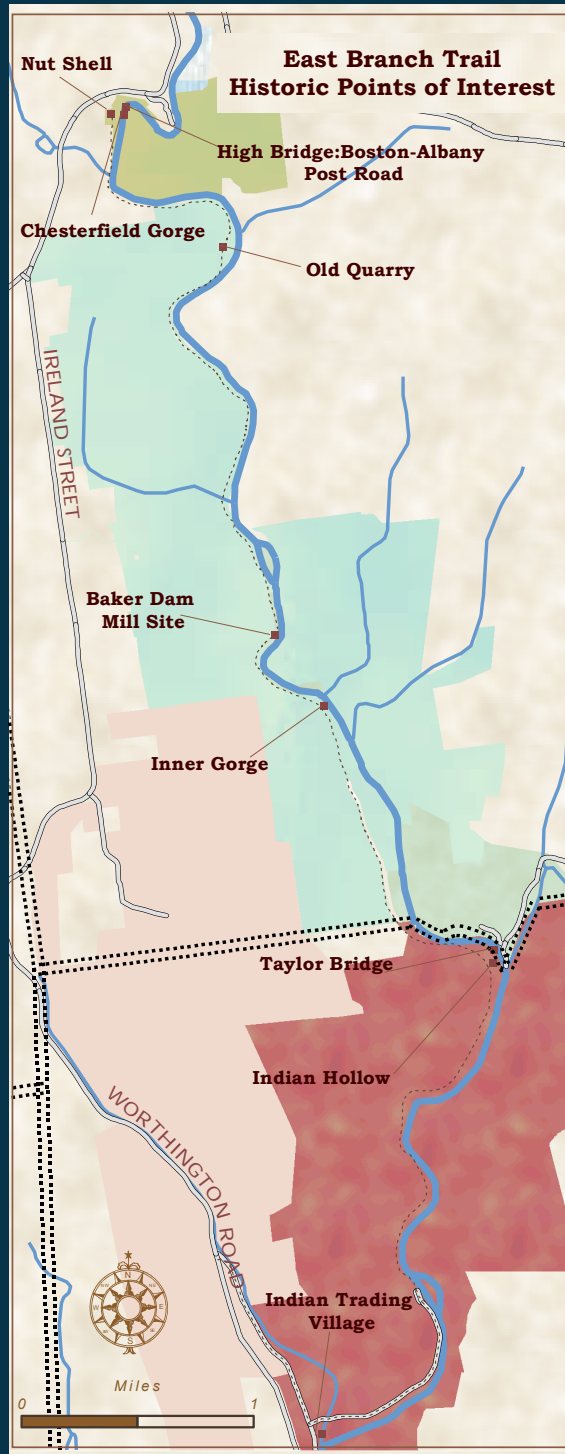
Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee
PO Box 397, Huntington, MA 01050

www.WestfieldRiverWildScenic.org



www.WestfieldRiverWildScenic.org

EAST BRANCH TRAIL HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST



High Bridge (c. 1764)

This bridge was the crossing for the Albany-Boston Post Road over the Westfield River. In the early 1800s, the Marquis de Lafayette traveled the High Bridge when he made his nostalgic return as an old man aboard a yellow stagecoach pulled by six white horses.



Nutshell (1920s–1930s)

Once a little gray building decorated with white-painted, wooden stars, The Nutshell was built by Chandler Bicknell. “The Sage of West Chesterfield,” as he was called, ran the little shop where he sold hand-carved, wooden novelties.



Unnamed Bridge

Built in the 1820s or 40s and redone by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s. This small bridge (not shown on the map) crosses one of the Westfield’s tributaries. Several other small bridges, culverts, and field stone walls dating from this era remain along the road.



Baker Dam

Built in 1848 by Lemuel Baker, a saw mill was erected here that used an undershot waterwheel to produce its power. After 21 years of use both dam and mill were destroyed by flood waters in 1869 and were never rebuilt.



Taylor Bridge

The abutments that are left lie in the Indian Hollow region, right next to an old ford. This iron bridge was removed when the Knightville Dam was built in the mid-1930s.

Indian Hollow

This broad region takes its name from its use by Indians for hunting and fishing. Later, white farmers moved in alongside the Indians.