

Did You know?

Where is your high school diploma? Could you find it easily? Is it lost or has it been discarded? While researching my ancestors, I discovered the whereabouts of a great uncle and his family in another part of the country. Contact with Uncle Ira's family proved joyful for all of us, and on a recent visit they shared the contents of a box which contained treasured keepsakes which he'd kept throughout his life. Among these keepsakes was his Putnam High School diploma. The year was 1885, and he was the only boy in his graduating class of four! Putnam High School had prepared him for a successful life as a college professor, co-founder of Denver University, and well-known botanist.

Just wondering if your diploma is as treasured to you as Ira's was to him.

Researched and written by Sandra Cutler Ames

Priest's Island/Quinebaug Pines State Park



This was used as a retreat place for priests and parishioners. There was a suspended bridge to the island. Land deeds at the beginning were as follows:

Israel Rose to Rev. Eugene J. Vygen dated June 2, 1873

Recorded in Putnam Land Records Vol.6, Pages 331-332.

Rev. Eugene J. Vygen to St. Mary's Catholic Church

Dated July 15, 1881. Recorded in Putnam Land Records Vol 8, Page 486.

Rev. Eugene J. Vygen to St Mary's Catholic Church

Dated April 26, 1886 Recorded in Putnam Land Records

Vol. 14, Pages 3.80**St Mary's Church to Ranson Bradley**

Dated February 15, 1913, Recorded in Putnam Land Records
Vol. 28 Pages 455-456.

Ranson Bradley to State of Connecticut

Dated October 3, 1923 Recorded in Putnam Land Records
Vol. 34 Pages 363-364.

Researched by Fab Cutler

Thanks to Atty. Nick Longo for researching these land records.

Memories from Willie Zamagni Scrapbook

In 1935 WPA project by **FDR** was established .

Beyond the railroad overpass on Park Street, which skirts the Quinebaug River, to the pine fringed entrance of **Quinebaug Pines State Park**, 1.1 miles. Close to the entrance is a parking space. The park, formerly called **Priest's Island**, because it was owned by the Catholic Church, is a 36 acre islet, reached by the mainland by a suspension footbridge. Here is one of the most noteworthy stands of white pine in the state.

Researched by Willie Zamagni

Page 42
