

Chelmsford Independent
Historical perspective on having a heart
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The erroneous quoting of established historical facts frequently leads to the general acceptance of names, places or events that are historically incorrect. A case in point is the referring to "Baptist Pond" in South Chelmsford as Hart Pond rather than using the correct name, Heart Pond, in a recent edition of the *Independent*.

As early as 1820, Rev. Wilkes Allen speaks of Heart Pond in his "History of Chelmsford" which he says "in form resembles a heart." A look at a map will confirm this.

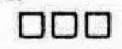
It has been suggested that the early settlers might have called it Hart Pond if there were very large herds of red deer, or hart, found in the area. However, no unusual number of these deer have ever been reported. There is no record of any family by the name of Hart residing in the area in the early days.

Some might argue that several early documents use the spelling "hart." However, spelling in the 1600s was not what we accept as correct. For example, in some of the same early documents we find "vew" for view, "incoraged" for encouraged and the name Parkhurst spelled "Parkis."

A few years ago, the Cemetery Commission corrected the spelling on the stone at the entrance to Heart Pond cemetery.

So, please "have a heart" - not a heart - when writing about this pond.

George Adair Parkhurst
Chelmsford Historian



A man grinning from ear to ear came into the newspaper office the other day and I immediately recognized the look as someone who either won the lottery or discovered a profoundly dumb mistake in the paper and couldn't wait to tell the editor about it.

The man was George Parkhurst, known to all as a columnist for this newspaper as well as the author of Chelmsford's history. George explained to me that Hart Pond in the south end of town was not spelled H-a-r-t, but rather H-e-a-r-t, because the pond is in the shape of a heart. Well I quickly showed him a town map with the spelling of the pond as Hart. But he laughed and explained the history of the name, and said, yes, even some town maps are wrong.

So, from now on, it's strictly Baptist Pond for me. *Independent*
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