

GROTON QUARRY DEATH TRAP HAS CLAIMED SEVEN VICTIMS

**Drowning of Boys in Abandoned Pit Friday Rouses
Neighbors—One Boy Was to Leave Town Today.**

The double tragedy of the drowning of the two Groton boys yesterday has brought as a reaction strong feeling against what is regarded as a death trap, the Scully estate quarry, a cavity in the earth forever filled with water, fed by numerous springs, where residents of the adjoining street recall there have to date been seven drownings to say nothing of the many near-fatalities.

As the facts of yesterday's tragedy are recounted the whole story appears to have a number of unusual features. Mrs. Esther P. Cade, the wife of James H. Cade, of Baker avenue, was planning yesterday that today she would go to Proctor, Vt., and take her son, James Carl, aged four, with her to visit her mother. She did go today with her husband but with the body of her son.

James was a constant playmate of Elbert Francis Batch, the five-year old son of Mrs. Annie Batch, living directly across the street. The boys were seldom away from their homes as they played together. Probably the last one to see the youths was Fred Batch, who is reported to have seen them pass the window of his home headed toward Allen street. That was in the vicinity of 10.30 o'clock in the morning.

Toward noon the parents of the children became uneasy and Mrs. Cade sent out a general alarm. Police Captain McCarthy was notified, numerous children of the Groton Heights school who knew the missing children received permission from their principal, Miss Amanda Allen, to take up the hunt and all the residents of the neighborhood were on the look-out for trace of the two boys.

Orion Ford and John Tomlinson were at work remodeling the Ford home on Baker avenue. They had heard that the boys were missing. Their conversation touched upon the possibility of their whereabouts and at the moment they were wondering if the boys had gone into the quarry and there met their death, shrieks of women who following the discovery of Ralph Atkins, rushed to the quarry side and saw the two boys in the water

told the two carpenters what had happened.

The youngsters evidently had gone into the quarry from the north side. The decline is steep, nearly straight up and down, and they made their way to the bottom, unnoticed. For perhaps 30 feet they wandered from the shore onto the ice, hand in hand. Then they reached ice too thin to sustain their weight. It must have been about noon when they were enveloped by the pool and where the bodies was found the water was only six feet deep although in some places it is about 16.

When Atkins discovered the bodies not only were they clasped hand in hand but they were facing each other and in an upright position. The heads barely reached the surface of the water and they appeared as if they were standing.

Tomlinson and Ford ran to the place with an extension ladder and a long rope. The ladder was run down the side of the cavity on the east side. As Tomlinson descended the ladder into the pit the ice frozen stiff on the rock forming from a spring at the top of the bank, crumpled and tore down side of him and he barely escaped being struck by it.

When he arrived at the place where the two bodies rested he withdrew them one at a time from the water in precisely the place where he himself had been saved from drowning in his boyhood days. The bodies were reached by means of a rake and drawn to the edge of the pool. They were tied to the rope and hoisted to the ground. Samuel Cooper, who lives nearby, took the Batch child in his arms and carried him to his home. Dr. F. W. Hewes rushed the Cade youth home in his automobile.

The dripping bodies were blue from the exposure to the icy water. Their pallid tongues hung from their mouths. All of which substantiates the belief of the physician who declared the boys to have been in the water for nearly three hours.

In each case the boys were the only children. It was a great surprise that the boys had left their homes. They played together often but always remained near the yards of one of the two residences. They had been playing in the Cade yard during yesterday forenoon.

The funeral and burial of the Cade child will be in Proctor. The Batch child's funeral services will take place at his home, 43 Baker avenue, on Monday.