

Stratford History - Always Amazing

By David Wright, Editor
Stratford Historical Society's
UPDATE

Having been settled nearly 400 years ago, one of Stratford's more abundant resources is its history. The Stratford Historical Society would like to share pieces from that history with you, monthly, here in the **Baldwin Beacon**.

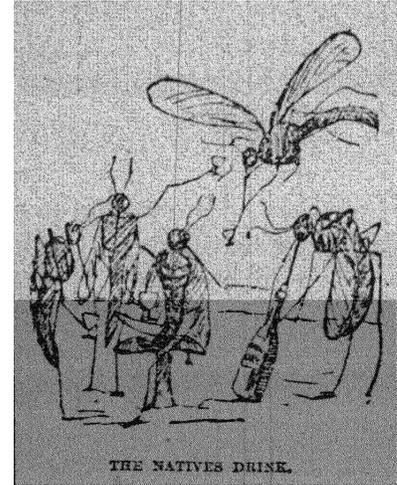
Avon Park was created in 1892 on about 24 acres of land across the street from the present day Two Roads Brewery. Stratford was well known for its mosquitoes. The mosquitoes were so challenging in Stratford that Rev. Samuel Peters, in his **True History of Connecticut**, 1781, wrote of Stratford's mosquitoes.

When Avon Park opened, the

mosquitoes descended on visitors en masse. An August 28, 1892 story in the **Bridgeport Herald** stated: "The natives over at Avon park are very affectionate towards all visitors. By the natives is meant the mosquitoes. They are living over there now in small tents which they have pitched in the celery patch next to the park. Night before last they made a raid on the bar and swiped all of the birch beer and lemon soda. The money drawer was locked up at the time or that would have followed the drinks.

Before the season is closed mosquito suits to fit over one's outside clothes will be for rent on the grounds and you can enjoy comparative comfort. The netting from which the suits will be made is now being

manufactured in the mills. The ordinary netting is not heavy enough to keep the natives from chewing their way through to your vitals."



The Natives Drink