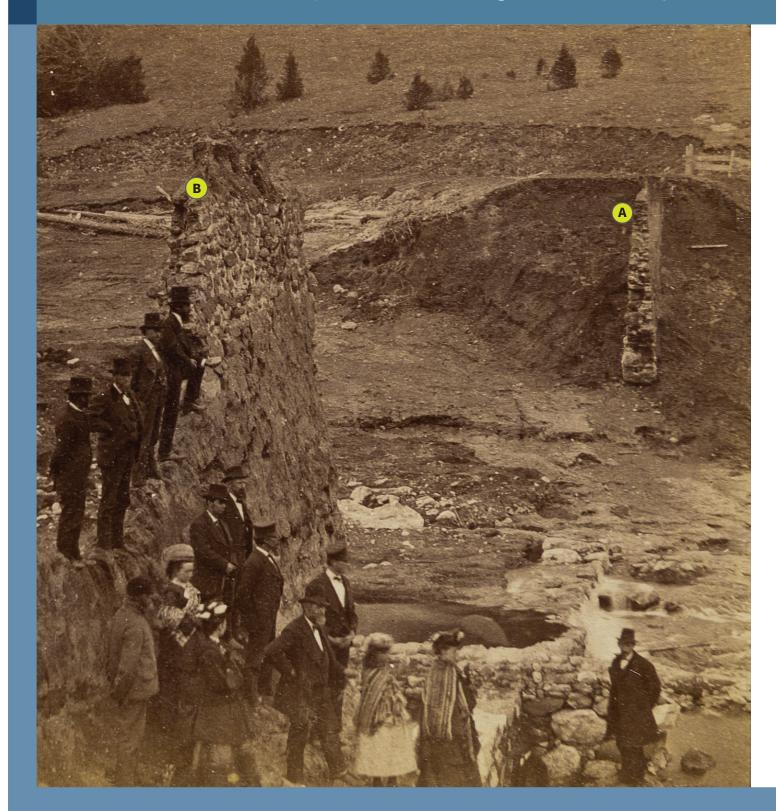
MILL RIVER FLOOD 150 YEAR COMMEMORATION MAY 16, 1874

The sudden collapse of the Williamsburg dam in western Massachusetts let loose a flood that swept away parts of Williamsburg, Skinnerville, Haydenville, and Leeds. It killed 139 people, all within an hour.



WILLIAMSBURG DAM RUINS

This is the entrance to the hiking trail to the ruins of the Williamsburg Reservoir Dam.

There are explanatory signs at the ruins.

Visitors climbing over the ruins of the dam. (A) East side where the break occurred. (B) West wall Photo: Historic Northampton

williamsburgwoodlandtrails.org/trails/historic-dam









MILL RIVER FLOOD STORY M



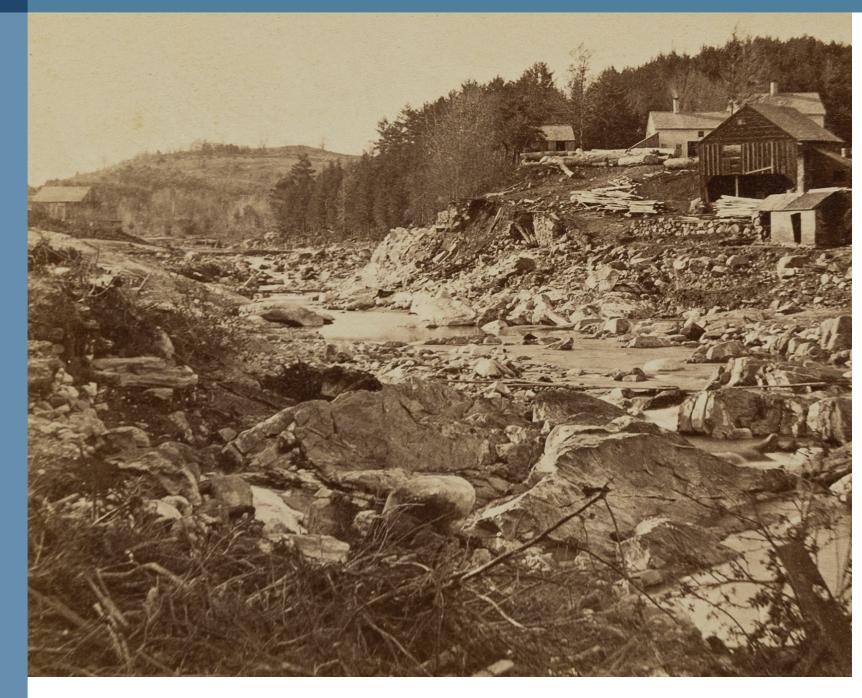






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SITE OF SPELMAN'S BUTTON FACTORY

Between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. the flood entered Williamsburg. It hit Onslow Spelman's factory, tore down the dam and canal, and swept the mill out from under the roof. All that remained was the rocky ledge. This was the first of many on the river to be destroyed. His house in the village was untouched.

Spelman's button factory Historic Northampton













SPELMAN'S FACTORY

MILL RIVER FLOOD STORY MA

