

WHITMAN HISTORY

Walt Whitman spent many days and months here between 1876 and 1884, as a visitor to the farm of George Stafford, now 315 East Maple Avenue, with parts of "Leaves of Grass" and "Specimen Days"



written here. He wrote of the farm, the spring, the creek and the lake. To him, Laurel Lake was ... "the prettiest lake in: either America or Europe", becoming minutely acquainted with its topography, scenery, plant and animal life as Thoreau had been with Walden Pond," Born at West Hills, Long Island, and growing up in Brooklyn, Whitman became a writer and editor, publishing an anti-slavery newspaper, The Freeman. During the Civil War, Whitman served as a volunteer nurse as his brother had been injured during the War and hospitalized in Washington DC. While there, the famed writer suffered a partial stroke, and fell quite ill. Sunlight days and mud baths taken here near the springs, he claimed, were responsible for his return to health.



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