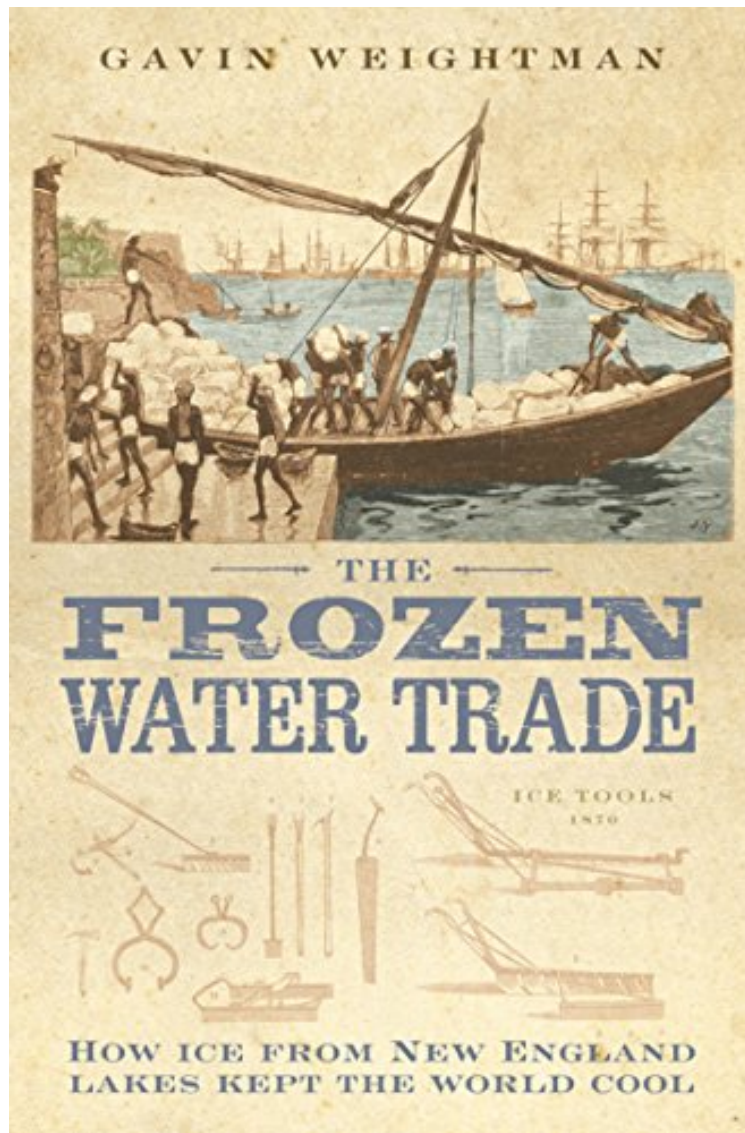


## The Frozen Water Trade (Text Only)

Gavin Weightman

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#640014 in eBooks 2012-03-15 2012-03-15 File Name: B00760GFWE | File size: 60.Mb

**Gavin Weightman : The Frozen Water Trade (Text Only)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Frozen Water Trade (Text Only):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Now we know who to thank when we take cold drinks for granted By Doug We live in a time and place in which we can have ice cold drinks even on the hottest days in the hottest parts of the country. But before anyone could to take this for granted, individuals had to first discover how to bring ice to parts of the country that weren't cold. The Frozen Water Trade is an exciting tale of an entrepreneur who took a gigantic step in making this possible; it is the story of Frederick Tudor, the ice king. The idea of an ice business was initially derided by a parade of seemingly endless critics who laughed

as if Tudor did not understand that his ice "and his profits" would melt if he did not take proper precautions. But he gradually proved the viability of his business. He established an extensive network of ice houses to improve the efficiency of his distribution and so he could stock up on ice in the winter and deliver it quickly in the summer. He wrapped his ice in cloth and packed it in sawdust to reduce loss from melting. He discovered that his ice would last much longer in his warehouses if he kept it elevated on a grate, so that runoff would pool on the floor rather than around the ice. And he commissioned new tools such as an ice plow so that he could harvest ice much faster. Tudor certainly had many challenges to come beyond the obvious problem of melting. He had to educate his customers on how to properly transport ice, lest they pick up their ice without anything to wrap it in and get frustrated as their new purchase melts away during their trip home. Tudor also had to deal with many property rights disputes. After searching far and wide to find the best lakes for harvesting "lakes that had a plentiful amount of thick ice and were easily accessible by roads so that he could park his wagons right next to them"; Tudor would find himself racing to harvest the ice against competitors who took advantage of these locations after he went through the effort of finding them. Tudor's ice business helped pave the way for many modern conveniences. Thanks to him, landlords were soon able to cool down sweltering theaters, churches, and other crowded indoor spaces by utilizing large blocks of ice. Americans were able to enjoy comforts like ice cream and cold drinks in the summer. Refrigeration and ice boxes soon became a reality, eventually enabling meatpacking industrialists such as Gustavus Swift and Philip Armour to bring beef and pork to the masses. I only recently learned about Tudor thanks to a Boston Globe article that I saw floating around Facebook, but I am glad that I did. I am also happy that Gavin Weightman tells his story in such an engaging way. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Entrepreneurship Bible By Longfellow The Frozen Water Trade was recommended to me by a family member, and I must admit, I was first hesitant to purchase the book. "I'm going to read a book about shipping blocks of ice?". My first observation was that the book is a fairly easy read but not at the expense of substance. It chronicles the life of Frederick Tudor, the Ice King, who essentially invented an entire industry out of thin air. The book has valuable lessons about perseverance, business instinct and partnerships, and the idea that consumer behavior and tastes are fickle. Finally, it really shows that industries come and go, but the men who build them are strikingly similar throughout time. Moreover, it's just a really interesting history of an industry we now take for granted, but was once one of the most thriving businesses in the nation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The page-turning story of one man's human struggle to turn idle lake ice into a thriving industry. By Anonymous This book tells the magnificent story of Frederic Tudor, the Boston Ice King. First and foremost, this is the story of one man's determination to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds and prove all of his doubters wrong. The book is a success largely because of the great character Mr. Tudor was. At times he seemed as hard nosed as Daniel Day Lewis's character in *There Will Be Blood*. At other times he seemed like a proud son hoping against hope to restore honor to his family name. Moreover, the book is filled with little historical tidbits that should be of interest to scholars, lawyers, economists, social scientists, and aspiring entrepreneurs. The book spans nearly 150 years, including run-ins with Caribbean pirates, corrupt politicians, Henry David Thoreau, and even Queen Victoria. I found the unique system of ice-harvesting property rights that evolved around the business (and were eventually memorialized in writing by a Harvard Law professor in 1841) to be particularly interesting. I was also amused by the cutthroat competition that was indicative of the ice trade in the early 1900s, around its peak. The sheer quantity of direct quotes from primary sources is impressive. I will never look at a cup of iced water (or a mint julep for that matter) the same way again.

The story of the 19th-century ice trade, in which ice from the lakes of New England — valued for its incredible purity — revolutionised domestic life around the world. In the days before artificial refrigeration, it was thought impossible to transport ice for long distances. But one man, Frederic Tudor, was convinced it could be done. This is the story of how, almost single-handedly, and in the face of near-universal mockery, he established a vast industry that would introduce the benefits of fresh ice to large parts of the globe. Thanks to Tudor, the American fashion for drinks "on the rocks" spread to tropical areas such as the West Indies and British India. By the 1830s fleets of schooners carried the frozen cargo, packed with sawdust and tarpaulins for insulation, to all corners of the world. The harvesting of the ice from New England's lakes employed thousands of men. The frozen water trade had a profound influence on the tastes of a large part of the world, but with the development of artificial cooling systems in the first quarter of the 20th century, the huge industry established by Frederic Tudor vanished as if it had never been. Note that it has not been possible to include the same picture content that appeared in the original print version.

From Publishers Weekly Weightman, a London journalist and documentary filmmaker, uncovers a secret history and ends up transforming a dull-sounding topic into a riveting read. He introduces turn-of-the-19th-century Bostonian Frederic Tudor as an indefatigable American dreamer who sought to give people something they didn't know they wanted—and make a killing while he's at it. Tudor hatches scheme after scheme to "farm" ice from New England ponds and deliver chunks of the brand-new commodity to the Caribbean, and ultimately to India and elsewhere, so that items like cold beverages and ice cream become cultural staples. Along the way Tudor encounters disbelievers, creditors,

rivals, imprisonment, yellow fever, warm weather, political scuffles—even pirates. Weightman also delves engagingly into the science of freezing and the particulars and economics of ice transport and storage. Through it all, Weightman juggles the players in the burgeoning but finally ephemeral business while he spins a tale of a pre-refrigerated world. Issues of commerce and entrepreneurship in an infant nation are revealed in this page-turner, which gets its title from the name of the industry. When Weightman visits Tudor's original ice source, locals think the author is loony for suggesting that cubes from the pond cooled people in Calcutta two centuries earlier—and made one man (and perhaps many others) rich in the process. Weightman takes a relatively unknown part of history (and the figure at its center), and creates a funny, rollicking human adventure. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *The New Yorker*

The idea sounds fanciful: harvest ice in Massachusetts and sell it to people in the tropics. But the nineteenth-century entrepreneur Frederic Tudor was immune to ridicule and single-minded in his conviction that the ice trade could be profitable. He was also right. This entertaining history of his crusade to turn New England into the world's ice-maker shows how the combination of technological innovation and sharp marketing—Tudor trained bartenders to use ice in cocktails in order to illustrate the virtues of cold drinks—created an industry that sold thousands of tons of ice a year to places like India, Cuba, and the American South. As a case study of the entrepreneurial mind, Weightman's book reminds us that creating demand can be as important as meeting it. Copyright copy; 2005 *The New Yorker*

From *Booklist* A century ago, home ice delivery was a huge business, an emulation, according to Weightman's history, of the concepts and organization of one pioneering entrepreneur, Frederic Tudor. Around 1805 the idea occurred to him that there was money to be made shipping ice from Boston to the tropics—provided ice could be shipped, stored, and distributed without too much melting. Working from Tudor's business books, his diary, and newspaper accounts, Weightman synthesizes the story of how Tudor solved the technical problems, undaunted by the financial failure of his first few shipments. Persevering, Tudor's obstinate belief that the sweltering denizens of Charleston, New Orleans, Havana, and Calcutta would pay for a cool cocktail or ice cream was vindicated; he died a wealthy man in 1864. By then, the ponds near Boston from which Tudor cut his ice, including Walden Pond (to the annoyance of Thoreau), had become crowded with the infrastructure of ice harvesting—of which nary a trace remains today. Curiosity about the vanished ice industry energizes Weightman's narrative, a pleasing reminder of a forgotten but once-ubiquitous business. Gilbert Taylor Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved