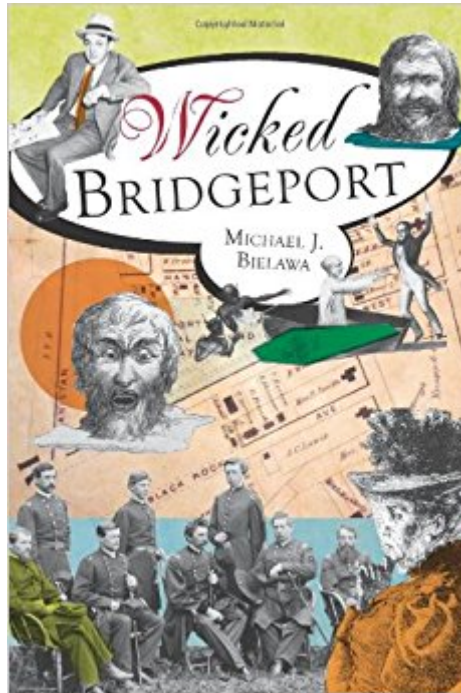




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# Wicked Bridgeport



## Synopsis

Beneath the smokestacks of the gritty cityscape of Bridgeport, Connecticut is the shocking criminal underbelly of this New England community. Sin and vice have long had a home on the shores of the Long Island Sound, and Bridgeport's sinister past is littered with tales of pirates, mobsters, bizarre Victorian murders, and even rumors of a doctor's attempts to reanimate the dead. Historian Michael J. Bielawa investigates such bizarre crimes as the unsolved murder of philanthropist James Beardsley, and the grisly discovery in Yellow Mill Pond during the 19th century, which helped legitimize forensic science. Join Bielawa as he navigates a precarious path through the unforgettably macabre and scandalous misdeeds of Bridgeport.

## Book Information

Series: Wicked

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: The History Press (February 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609493796

ISBN-13: 978-1609493790

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,714,133 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Travel > United States > Connecticut](#) #1341 in [Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > New England](#) #3713 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Crime & Criminals](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Sin and vice have had a home on the shores of Long Island Sound, and Bridgeport's past has been home to stories of pirates, mobsters, bizarre Victorian murders and even rumors of a doctor's attempts to reanimate the dead. Historian Michael J. Bielawa investigates such crimes as the unsolved murder of philanthropist James Beardsley and the discovery in Yellow Mill Pond during the 19th Century that helped legitimize forensic science. Bielawa navigates a path through the misdeeds in the city in his new book, *Wicked Bridgeport*." --The Huntington Herald  
Bielawa has been collecting tales of the Park City's "most infamous scoundrels, master criminals and mad men" for the past 30 years. The book goes back to the late 17th century to chart the activities of pirates and bandits who terrified residents, as well as such supernaturally tinged anecdotes as the stories of

early scientists' attempts to raise the dead. --News Times

Historian Michael J. Bielawa has authored several regional histories and lectured on behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts in Baton Rouge. He is a moderator for the Connecticut Humanities Council's Literature for a Lifetime discussion series and has served as a guest curator to the Barnum Museum.

This author has written about Bridgeport, and these events from history, as they have never been written before. As non-fiction these tales draw the reader in with the promise of learning a bit of history, some mystery and intrigue from the past. Yet these stories display a special effervescence, a magical quality typically just found in fiction. The author's writing style is perfect! Personally, I somewhat prefer short stories like these and I do have a special place in my heart for the City of Bridgeport. The illustrations are great too.

As a resident of Bridgeport, act this book was fascinating to me. I think it could be enjoyed by anyone though.

gift

very enjoyable

Fascinating overview of some of the spookier legends of Bridgeport, CT. and a fine addition to the shelf of New England lore. Highly recommended.

Well written and extensively researched, "Wicked Bridgeport" provides a fascinating look into some of the darker history of the New England city of Bridgeport, CT. While a must-read for anyone familiar with the Park City, it is also accessible and enjoyable for those interested in a dabble into the darker side of life, or for folks just looking for a good book. Familiar names feature in this collection of stories, such as P.T. Barnum, John Wilkes Booth, and Captain Kidd. I am now anxiously awaiting the sequel.

I have just moved to Bridgeport, CT and Michael was the first person I have spoken with outside of my office. This book was a follow-up of our discussion about local legends and pirates in particular. I

read this book in one evening, as I could not put it down. The streets of Bridgeport will never look the same again as I keep recognizing the names of locations where gruesome murders took place or some spooky things had occurred. I have told everyone I know about this book as it is a wonderful engaging material with extensive research behind it. If you like local history you have to read this book.

Wicked Bridgeport is a fascinating read! Michael J. Bielawa has given us a book of true stories concerning the town of Bridgeport, CT. There are gruesome and mysterious accounts of well known personalities and some of the local people of the time. I loved the mystery, intrigue and the true stories of this town.

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