

Names-places

How Danbury got
some unusual ones



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By Imogene Heireth

Imogene Heireth is a certified geneological record searcher who has
uncovered in recent years much fresh material about Danbury's early
families and where they lived.



Still River went by many names during Danbury's early years. By the time this scene was photographed for use in a stereoptican slide during the latter half of the 19th Century, the Still River name was in general use in Danbury, as well as downstream in Brookfield and New Milford.

The Danbury area, like other area towns, abounds with quaint and colorful place names. Some are descriptive of the locality, some are Indian names, some are named after persons and families, and others were brought along from previous residences. Others are totally different today from their origins when Danbury was settled. Many do remain that date back to when Danbury lands were first divided up into homelots and farms by the Proprietors. Since part of Brookfield (formed 1788) and all of Bethel (formed 1855 with a small addition in 1869) were originally within the Danbury bounds, localities within these areas will also be discussed, as will the area of Ridgebury, Ridgefield that became part of Danbury in 1846.

The Norwalk area, from which many of the the first Danbury settlers came, had numerous place names similar to Danbury area names such as Brushy Ridge, Coal Pit, upper, middle and lower Clapboard Hills, Cranberry, Great Pasture, Plumtrees, Stony Hill, Sunset Hill, Huckleberry Hill and Wolfpits.

Danbury Land and Vital Records were burned April 27, 1777 when the British raided Danbury, therefore destroying much of Danbury's geographical and genealogical history. Luckily the Probate Court Records survived and they date back to 1745. Prior to the formation of the Danbury Probate District, estates were recorded in Fairfield. Research into place names therefore has concentrated on what is available in the Probate Records both here and in Fairfield, land records from immediately after the 1777 raid, old deeds remaining that are in the Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum, published sources, and maps.

Some place names found in the records are unidentifiable today, perhaps evolving from other forms or being changed many times over the span of 300 years as ownership and usage have changed. Many of the names have been spelled in numerous ways over the years, especially in the case of Indian names which came into usage at an early period and were spelled as they sounded. As an example the early name for Danbury, Pahquioque, was spelled Paquiage in 1684 in the Norwalk Land Records. People at the time were notoriously bad spellers as

well. Some names are included because of their quaintness but remain unidentified. When reference is made to place names from the old documents, the original spelling will be used.

The early settlement of Danbury was along the lower end of Main Street, earlier referred to as Town Street. Homelots along either side, with backlots or homefarm lots on the uplands of Deer Hill and Town Hill. There is a reference to another location for the layout of the town plot in the Stony Hill section of Bethel but this doesn't seem likely. Reference is made in the records of the The Old Town Place and the Old Town Hill early in the 18th century. It is likely that this Old Town Place was where presently Farnum Hill and Greenwood Avenue in Bethel center intersect. Bailey in the "History Of Danbury", in the section about Bethel, states that The Farnum Homestead was built at the Old Town Place by Capt. Benjamin Hickok.

The divisions of land by the Proprietors spread out from the bounds of the Town Street, and were referred to as the 1st Division, 2nd Division etc. and progressing outward. Due to the loss of the records we have no idea when, where or what size these divisions were, but by 3 Jan. 1695/6 when the inventory was made of the properties of Thomas Barnum Sr., one of the original eight settlers, he owned land in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions. He had his homelot, house, barn, fruit trees and fences. He also had an Eastfield lot, Town Hill lot, Deer Hill lot, lot on Shelter Rock Mountain and land east side of Shelter Hill Mountain. He had a Bear Plaine lot, little lot and the swamp lot.

The inventory of the estate of Francis Bushnell, another of the original eight, who died in October 1697 lists much the same: His homestead, Eastfield lot, Town Hill lot, Deer Hill lot, two swamp lots, land at Muddybrook, Shelter Rock land, a mill lot and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Division lots.

The inventory of James Picket who died 13 Feb. 1701 lists a Deer Hill lot, Eastfield lot, mill lot, Barron Plane lot and 1st through 5th Division lots. Most of these properties must have been close in to town except for the Shelter Rock lands.

Bear/Bare, Barron/Barren, Barn Plain is the White Street area today, probably named because its sandy soil, deposited by the glacier, was devoid of trees. Muddy Brook flows today out of the area South of Coalpit Hill, eastward into the Sympaug

Brook at Great Pasture. The swamp lots were probably in the area south of town. The Eastfield lots were in the vicinity of Triangle and South Streets.

Building outward from the Town Street apparently was done shortly after the town lots were divided up. Reference was made in a 1719 inventory that the 1st Division was at the lower end of the town. If the pattern of Bedford, N.Y., settled just a few years before Danbury and part of Stamford, Conn. until 1700, is followed, one can clearly see what happened here: "a committee to lay out all the plains and meadows westward and eastward of the town plot already layed out and what other lands and meadows they see convenient." They received field lots, meadow lots and plain lots. The Eastfield in Bedford was laid out in 1681. The remainder was held in common until divided at later dates.

The pattern for Ridgefield which was purchased in 1708 was essentially the same. "To rule out favoritism and to guarantee each man equal opportunity the grants were drawn by lottery; first the town street or homelots, then plow, pasture and meadow lots." Because of this lottery system the lots could be very far apart and, as in the other towns, there must have been a great deal of exchanges and land sales to satisfy everybody's needs. Unfortunately we don't have any land records of that time to satisfy our curiosity.

The town plot homelot size in Bedford was 3 acres, in Ridgefield it was 2 1/2 acres. In Danbury it could possibly have been between 4 and 5 acres.

John Bouton (Boughton) who died 3 Jan. 1704/05 owned property in more diverse areas of town, indicating that within 20 years of settlement there already was great outward movement in many directions. He owned upland at Eastfield, upland at Barren Plain, 3rd and 4th division lots, land at Cohansy, a piece of meadow at Poccno, a lot between Stadley Ridge and ye river, a Deerhill division of upland laying on Franks Hill, a houselot belonging to his half-right lying on Franks Hill, 13 acres 1/2 part broken up on Stadley Ridge, 10 acres near Stadley Ridge, land Greatfield near North River, land North Meadow, land Hayes Hill, 10 acres land Nawason plain, 2 meadow lots lying in the lands purchased of Pokano, a lot

he had of Daniel Benedict for his Town Hill lot, and winter wheat at Stadley Ridge.

Cohansy was the name of present day Kohanza, and Poccno/Pokano is in present day Brookfield. Stadley Ridge was the name for the Lake Avenue area west of the Still River and Franks Hill was the name for the Park Avenue/Pleasant Street area. The name Nawason remains unidentified though it was near the Newtown line. Greatfield near North River and the North Meadow are in the North Street area. Hayes Hill is where Broadview Junior High School is located.

After the turn of the 18th century, estates listed property in almost all areas of town, with ownership of land scattered over the whole perimeter of Danbury, not just in one selected area.

The inventory of Samuel Wood dated 9 Sept. 1708 listed a homelot on Franks Hill by Joseph Forwards homelot, land Colepitt hill, land Shelter Rock, land Eastfield, land Barron Plain, land between the Branches of Beaver Brook, land Beaver brook meadow and Pokano lot by it, land at Middleriver bogs,

land Seths Ground, land Staddle Ridge, land Sevenpage.

Rev. Thomas Robbins, in his Century Sermon in January 1801 stated that "the western part of the town called Miry Brook, and the eastern part, which now composes part of the town of Brookfield, were settled within a few years after the centre. Many parts in the middle of the town, which are now very fertile and prolific, were considered by the early proprietors as not worth cultivation. Some of them, therefore, went from four to seven miles for land to raise their ordinary crops." They also went to their woodlots in the outlying districts for fuel and timber.

The area of present day Bethel was also settled by 1700, and very early in the 18th century Grassy Plain, Grassy Ridge, Sympaug, Turtle Plain (now called Turkey Plain), Chestnut Ridge, Hoyts Hill, Wolfpit Ridge, Wildcat Ridge (later called Elmwood), Wildcat Rocks, Plumtrees, and Walnut Tree Hill, all now in Bethel, were mentioned in the records as were Pocono and Huckleberry Hill (also called Whortleberry Hill and Hatchelberry Hill) now in Brookfield.



The curve and big rock outcropping are still features of this section of Padanaram Road, but the generations which remembers the narrow dirt surface have passed from the scene. Padanaram is a name from Biblical times, applied by early settlers in that town to the road and to the district



through which it runs. With today's heavy traffic on this section of Conn. Route 37, a photographer would take his life in his hand if he stood in the middle of the road to take a matching picture.

Most of the names are descriptive of the location. Turtle Plain was so called in the 1720's and 30's with a variant spelling of Turcle Plain. By the time of the Revolution it had evolved into Turkey Plain; it is easy to see why. Sympaug and Pocano are Indian names dating back to the earliest times. What is known today as Umpog Creek (Simpaug by Bailey, Sympaug on some maps) flows north out of Sympaug Pond. In 1711 it was spelled Seven Paug Pond. Various other spellings over the years were used: Sevenpoag, Sevenpogue, Seempogg, Sepunepog, and Semepog.

The name Umpog derives from the name Umpawaug, an area in Redding to the south. An Indian deed of 1687 sold an area called Umpawage, 2 miles square on the Saugatuck River, to Fairfield. This later became part of the town of Redding. Umpog brook flows northward through Great Pasture which extends from the Grassy Plain area of Bethel on the south, up toward Plum meadow which was in the area of South and Triangle Streets in Danbury. Toilsome was located at Great Pasture and the name dates back to earliest times.

The name Pocono derives from the name of an Indian who signed one of the earliest deeds of land to the area between New Milford and Newtown. In 1671 Pocono of Weantinock (now New Milford) signed the deed, but settlement was not made and title was contested 30 years later by a company from Milford that settled New Milford. Pocono's name appears on the New Milford deed of 1702/3 as Paconaus (Pocanus) and on a 1705 deed as Poquanow.

The section of Danbury on both sides of the Still River extending from Brookfield Junction down into Beaver Brook and east to the Newtown line at Bound Swamp was known as Pocono. Mention is made as early as 1704/5 of a piece of meadow at Poccno, and of meadow lots lying in the lands purchased of Pokano, and in 1708 of land at Beaver Brook meadow and a Pokano lot lying by it. A 1740 estate listed land at upper Cocono. In a 1782 land record it was spelled Poconough. Purchase of land from the Indian Pocano must have been made by Danbury proprietors as well. Much of this area became part of Brookfield in 1788.

Bound Swamp is probably so called because it is close

to the corner of the boundary where Brookfield abuts Bethel and Newtown. Previous to the formation of Brookfield and Bethel it was on the Danbury town line. Bound Swamp is not mentioned in the early records.

The parish of Newbury, between New Milford and Danbury, was organized in 1754 and was incorporated as the town of Brookfield in 1788. The First Ecclesiastical Society of Bethel was organized in 1759 from Danbury, but Bethel did not become a separate town until September 1855.

Stony Hill is not mentioned in the early records. The ridge east of Payne Road was called Jachin's Ridge after Jachin Benedict, before that the ridge was called High Ridge or Walnut Tree Hill. Places called Nascro/Nascrow Plain, Nascrow Ridge, Nascrow Meadow and Nascrow Swamp were referred to in the mid-18th century, part in Danbury, part in Newtown but cannot be located exactly.

Reference was made in 1743 to Beaver Brook nigh ye Great Plain. Beaver Brook flows northward out of East Swamp and joins the Still River where Commerce Park is located today. It has gone by many names. On some maps it is called Limekiln Brook, others East Swamp Brook. The Still River along the stretch before it meets up with Beaver Brook was called the Cranberry River since before the Revolution.

Noon Hill mentioned in the 1770's was bounded on three sides by the Shelter Rock River or the East Swamp Great Brook. It is probably the hill that has been partially removed to build Commerce Park and the Nutmeg Square shopping center. East Swamp stretches along the eastern side of Shelter Rock.

The mountain to the west of the Still River, on the Brookfield line, is called Beaver Brook Mountain. On a 1792 map Round Hollow was located at the foot of Beaver Brook Mountain on the Danbury/Brookfield town line. In 1769 the Beaver Brook school district was established between Newbury Parish and Danbury along the Still River, extending southeast to Stony Hill.

The names Stadley Rough and Great Plain go back to the first half of the 18th century. Stadley Rough was spelled in various ways: Staddle Rugff, Staddle Rough, Staddle Roof, and Stadley Ruff. It is a curious name but a descriptive one.

A staddle is an old term for a young tree left standing when others are cut down. A staddle is also is also the term for



This photo demonstrates how names change as the years go by. Taken on Southern Boulevard, just west of the point where Deer Hill Avenue begins, it shows the intersection of Brushy Hill Road (left) with Southern Boulevard. Up until 50 years ago or so, the road to the left was known as a section of Long Ridge Road while the Brushy Hill name belonged to the present Southern Boulevard.

the root or a stump of a tree that has been felled. Staddle Rough could mean it was roughed out woodland. Something that has a lot of staddles would be called staddley, hence roughed out but not cleared land. An estate of 1759 lists a piece of property at Stady Ruff or Grate Plain.

Great Plain was a prosperous farming area, and gave its name to the area school district as early as 1769. Forty Acre Mountain is in the extreme northeast corner of Danbury and reference can be found to it by that name back into the 1760's. Mountain Brook flowed west of it toward New Fairfield and Lattins Cove flooded its valley when Candlewood Lake was formed.

Neversink Pond was just to the northwest on the New Fairfield line. Though the name sounds like an old Indian one, I have not found reference to it in the early records. In 1779 Neaversinque swamp was mentioned. It has since become part of Candlewood Lake. The names Unity and Unity Rocks go back to the 1740's. They were located west of Great Plain and south of present day Aqua Vista. Pine Swamp was in the neighborhood of Unity Rocks.

Hayestown is a later name for the area to the west of Great Plain but is not so named in the early records. The name Tamarack was referred to by the 1740's, and later as Tamarack on North Meadow Hill and Tamarack Ridge. The hill where Broaview Jr. High School is located was called Hayes Hill on a mid-19th Century map; the other side where Sandpit Road is located was referred to as Long Hill by the 1740's.

Pembroke was made a school district in 1769. The name in the records dates back at least to the 1740's where in one estate it is called Penbrook. It is most likely named after Pembroke, Wales. The name Bear Mountain does not appear in the early records. In 1777 it was called Bare Mountain. Deep Hollow was referred to as early as 1778 as in Pembroke by the New Fairfield line. Margerie Pond was just to the south of the New Fairfield line and was later expanded into Margerie Reservoir. It is not referred to in the early records either but may have gone by a different name. Nearby upper and lower Bullit Hills were located, as well as Caleb Mountain, and they were near Starrs Clapboard Ridge.



This is how Danbury appeared in 1875, looking east from Morris Street. Shelter Rock rises in the center background. In the foreground are Beaver Street and its factory housing erected for employees of the American Hatters and Furriers Co. The street is still there but the houses have given way to a playground area. The taller white spire marked

where the First Congregational Church stood on Main Street at Chapel Place. The white block showing to its left was the fire tower which gave Tower Place its name. The large white house in the center of the picture stood on upper Elm Street, in the area once known as Gallows Hill.

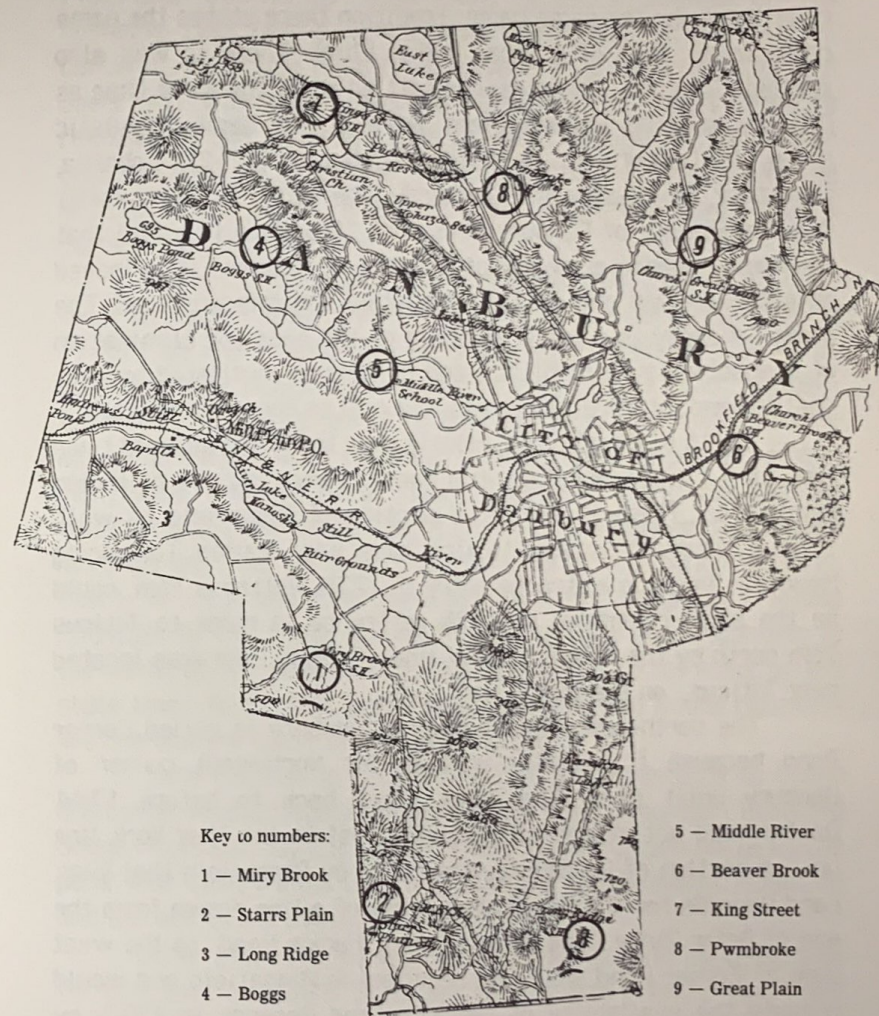
Padanaram Brook flows southward toward Danbury's center. Padanaram is a Biblical name that came into use by early in the 19th century. In 1818 property was referred to as at North River or Padan Aran. Bailey referred to it as the gateway to Pembroke Pond. The brook was also called North Meadow Brook. North Meadow is mentioned by 1730, and a meadow at North River at ye crooked path in 1744/5. This is the North Street area.

The next district to the west, King Street, was formed in 1769 as well. The name King Street does not appear in the records from much earlier than the 1760's. That settlers in the area came here from Greenwich may account for the name, as the westernmost boundary of Greenwich on the New York State line was also called King Street. Extending from King Street down to Danbury center runs Clapboard Ridge. The name has existed since the 1730's but there may have been several Clapboard Ridges. Mention is made of the upper knowl at Clapboard Ridge in 1740, Starrs Clapboard Ridge in 1753, Stevens Clapboard Ridge in 1757, the 2nd lower Clapboard Ridge in 1755 and the 1st knowl at Clapboard Ridge in 1779.

Kohanza Brook flows southward toward Danbury and the Still River. The name Kohanza derives from Cohansy which dates back to the early times and is most likely of Indian origin. Some of the early settlers to Danbury came from the area of Stamford, Conn. and Bedford, N.Y. which until 1700 were one town. The Bedford area was settled just a few years before Danbury, in 1681, and a very early section of Bedford was called Cohansey. The same Indians who sold the Bedford lands in 1708 sold the area of Ridgefield south of Danbury. The name may have been carried up here with the settlers.

There was also a Cohanzie school district in the part of New London, Conn. that later became Waterford. It could have come from that direction as well. The name was not formally used there until about 1750 but was said to be of Indian origin and in common usage earlier. Or it could be descriptive of a particular area or object, in the Indian language, common to the towns.

The earliest reference here is in the Probate Records in Jan. 1704/5. The Indians of this area and those of Bedford were



This map of Danbury is taken from a large map of Connecticut, drawn in the early 1890s and in the possession of the Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum and Historical Society. The map located school houses in nine of the school districts outside the city limits (then the central and south central school districts). Numbers have been added to indicate the location of the one-room and two-room district schools. All district names except Boggs continue in general use today.

part of the Algonquin linguistic group. Interestingly, there is also a town in southern New Jersey called Cohansey, and a river there by the same name. Tradition there states the name came from that of a local Indian Chief. There it was also spelled Cohanzie. The area was settled about the same time as Danbury and the Indians there were of the same linguistic group. In Danbury it is spelled: Cohanzy (1712), Cohansa, Cowhansy, Cowshandy and Cowhandy (the last 3 in later years). Bailey's History of Danbury says that "Tradition has said that the name Kohanza grew out of cow handy pasture." It is indeed an odd name and one easily misspelled and misconstrued. The name Cohansey is a prime example of the need for elimination of unsubstantiated tradition, and of a name mutilated by poor spelling and interpretation from the oral to the written word.

North of King Street, mostly over the New Fairfield town line, lies Titicus Mountain. It's name is very clearly of Indian origin also. There is a Titicus section of Ridgefield as well. Titicus Mountain is said to also have been called Tomspring Mountain. Perhaps a strange entry in 1735, Pottacus Tom, could be the same Mountain. In 1778 reference is made to Titicus Tom north by the New Fairfield line. Cripple Hole was located near Titicus, on the town line.

The northwesternmost pond in Danbury is called Corner Pond because it actually was in the Northwest corner of Danbury until 1846! The name dates back to before 1744. Danbury did not extend all the way west to the New York line until a portion of Ridgebury was ceded by Ridgefield that year. Land Records for the small strip west of a line drawn from the end of Briar Ridge Road, then up Aunt Hack's Road to the west side of Corner Pond would be recorded in Ridgefield and would predate the availability of Danbury Land Records in 1777, by many years.

What was known as The Betty Grant was purchased by Ridgefield from the Indians in 1739. The mountain to the north of Boggs Pond is called Round Mountain on recent maps and is 1024' high. Bailey stated that it was the highest point in Danbury. But to the south of the pond, in Richter Park and not named on maps, is really the highest mountain in Danbury. It is shown on recent U.S. Geological Survey maps as 1067' high.

Aunt Hack's Road runs southward down toward Mill Plain and was named most likely after a member of the Ebenezer Hack family who resided there from before the 19th century. Joe's Hill Road runs westward to the state line and Joe's Hill was quite possibly named after Joseph Crane, a resident of the Milltown area in New York. He owned land on both sides of the state line from the earliest settlement of the area. There is also a local tradition that it was named after a certain Indian named Joe.

A map in the Ridgefield Land Records, copied in 1787 from an earlier map, shows the area as it was allotted out in 1740/1 by the Proprietors of Ridgefield. It shows Jos Hills, north by Round Mountain followed to the north by Pond Mountain. A check of these early Ridgefield Land records reveals mountains called Mount Robinson and Mount Sheppison and a pond mentioned. The 100 Acre Mount Sheppison grant was east by water and another pattennee. A check of the second pattennee's holdings put him at Pond Mountain north of Round Mountain. There is only one configuration for this sequence. Round Mountain to the south, Boggs Pond, and then Pond Mountain to the north of the pond with Mount Sheppison to its west on the state line. It appears that Mount Robinson and Round Mountain are one and the same in the early records.

Land records in the 1770's list the mountains as Upper and Lower Round Mountain. Later Upper Round Mountain is called Boggs Mountain. By the 20th century the mountain north of the pond was called both Clinton Mountain and Benedict Mountain and the one to the south, Sears Mountain.

Other place names appear in the Ridgefield Land Records for this section: Mount Tamarack (which was below present day Mill Plain), Mount Ararat, Sugar Hollow Mountain, 2nd Pond and 2nd Pond Brook (which are Sanford's/Andrews Pond and the source of the Still River). The appearance of the name Sugar Hollow Mountain and a later mention of a Sugar Hollow turnpike was quite surprising in this area.

In 1769 the district just to the east of the Aunt Hack's road boundary and south of King Street was called Boggs district. West Lake Reservoir was formed in what once was known as the Middle River Boggs. The name goes as far back as



The two oldest street names in Danbury belong to Town Hill Avenue (above) and Deer Hill Avenue (below). These names were applied in the earliest years to the ridges running east and west, respectively, of the original settlements along the southern end of Main Street. While Main Street is the oldest street in town, its original name was Town Street.

the 1730's. The settlement in the area was called Westville in the 19th century and Westville Avenue was named because it extended out to there. The Middle River extends from its source at Boggs Pond down to its intersection with Kohanza Brook and lends its name to the present area. Another hill called Hay's/Hazes Hill lies to the east of the reservoir and affords a pleasant view to the southeast from South King Street. (There are two distinct Hay's/Hases hills).

Somewhere near the Westville/Boggs area lie Wonopy's Ridge (also spelled Wonipers, Wonepus) and the Crotches, names that date back to the mid-18th century, but these have not been exactly located. In the 19th century Mill Ridge Mills were located in the area of Franklin Street and Gregory Street. Wigwam was located next to Millridge in 1783, it was called a place above the town east of a highway that turns to the Boggs.

Chestnut Ridge extended down west of Westville Avenue to Scuppo. In 1783 a place called Britton was north of the Scuppo Road. The name Scuppo dates as far back as the 1740's. In 1779 it was spelled Schoopo and was bordered to the west by Western Rattle Hill. A late map located Rattlesnake Hill west of the Driftway Road area.

Next to the south is Mill Plain and it was so named as a school district in 1769. Mill Plain was mentioned as early as 1711/12, Mill Plain Boggs in 1741 and Mill Plain Pond by 1769. Lake Kenosia is a name of recent origin, being called Kanosea on an 1858 map. The name could be of Indian derivation meaning pickerel or pike. The present lake was formed when a dam downstream allowed the water to back up into the swamps surrounding Mill Plain Pond. The Still River flows eastward toward Kenosia from its source by the N.Y. State line.

Fishware and Ware Boggs were referred to as early as 1735. A fish weir was located at the outlet of Mill Plain Swamp about where the Seger Street bridge and railroad crossing are today. The bridge there was called Fish Weir Bridge and in 1769 the river there was called Fish Wear River. A fish weir is a barrier to hold back water or an enclosure of stakes in a river to take fish. It is unclear if the weir was there for the settlers use or that of Indian origin. The Indians would set up stone weirs in a river and then fish would swim

into a basket-like net woven of willow.

Miry Brook district lies directly south of Mill Plain and the Still River. Local tradition states that Miry Brook was so named because during the British retreat from Danbury April 27, 1777 some British artillery pieces became mired after a bridge over Wolf Pond Brook was destroyed by the Americans. This is not true.

The name Miry in its various spellings dates back to the settlement of the west side of Danbury. Myerie Brook is mentioned as early as 1712 in the records. It was spelled in various ways: Myway, Miery, Myerie, Myery, Myrey, Myry. The name probably came into usage by the early settlers who came from Bedford, New York, some of whom settled in this area of western Danbury about 1700. A brook in northwest Bedford bore the name Miry by the 1700 purchase. There, by the 1850's, Miery Brook was called Muddy Brook and is today located in Bedford Hills, New York. But Danbury already had a Muddy Brook and the Miry Brook name has remained. A mire is wet swampy ground, boggy, muddy and miry would mean the same.

Wolf Pond Brook is named at an early date and Wolf Pond is in the records by 1743. In 1744 mentions was made of land bounded by Wolf Pond and Myry Brook. The Short Hills and Short Woods were northwest of Sugar Hollow adjacent to Spruce Mountain (There was another Shortwoods adjacent to the Newtown line at the same time.) Josiah's (Siah's) Gutter was between Spruce and Moses Mountains. Forwards Plain was in the airport area and was so named by 1704. It was named after Joseph Forward, an early resident of the area of present day Park Avenue. A section of the airport was also called Old Wallingford. Old Wallenford in 1753. There is still a present day Wallingford Road that was truncated when the airport was developed. Some families who settled this immediate area were from Wallingford, Conn.

A series of high hills skirts the south side of Danbury. Pine Mountain to the west of the Ridgefield line stands 1000' high. Spruce Mountain just to the west of Sugar Hollow is 910' high. Moses Mountain to the east of Sugar Hollow is 970' and further eastward, Thomas Mountain is 950', Middle Mountain is 800' and Town Mountain 870'. According to one source Moses

Mountain was renamed Wooster Mountain in this century in honor of General Wooster whose troops followed an old road which crossed its east slope, and Wooster Mountain State Park straddles Sugar Hollow, yet various maps show Wooster Mountain at various locations.

A 1893 map places it west of the Ridgefield line, a 1963 map places it southwest of Spruce Mountain. According to local tradition Sugar Hollow supposedly got its name during the Revolutionary War when molasses the British had confiscated during their raid on Danbury had to be dumped into Wolf Pond Brook. The name does not appear anywhere in the early records, the earliest reference being 1776 but this was before the raid on Danbury! As mentioned previously there was a Sugar Hollow and a Sugar Hollow Mountain in the northwestern part of Danbury. In a 1762 inventory, 30 acres of land lying west from the top of Moses Mountain at Honey Pott was mentioned.

Wooster Heights hill was earlier in this century known as Hull's Hill Road, prior to that Ambler's Hill and before that Thomas Mountain Ridge which dates back into the 1720's. On the 1892, 1918 and the 1963 U.S. Geological Survey maps Thomas Mountain is in the wrong location! It is shown at the site of Town Mountain instead. Town Mountain is between Brushy Hill Road and Long Ridge Road. Thomas Mountain was also called Tom's Mountain and Thos Mountain. We have no idea who Thomas and Moses were.

The pond that was enlarged to form Lake Waubeeka was known as Salt Pond. Sugar Hollow Pond may have once been called Umpawaug Pond as in 1734 Umpewag Pond is mentioned in Danbury and in 1715 Umpawaug below Moses Mountain is referred to. The Saugatuck River flows southward out of Sugar Hollow Pond and in 1687 two square miles on the Saugatuck River were sold to Fairfield by the Indians. This would be in the present area of West Redding and perhaps the Starrs Plains area would go by this name too. Starrs Plain is a name of later usage, being called Starrs Plain or Long Ridge School district by 1769.

What is now called Brushy Hill Road was early in this century called Long Ridge Road and Southern Boulevard was called Brushy Hill Road. The name Brushy Hill goes back to the

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NAMES - PLACES

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