Place Names of Henry David Thoreau in Concord, Massachusetts (and in Lincoln, Massachusetts) & Other Botanical Sites in Concord

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(first posted March 12, 2013; last revised March 4, 2020)

“It is worth the while to know the names of the brooks & ponds and hills – a name enriches your associations wonderfully.” Thoreau, Journal, April 19, 1850

Presented here will be an attempt to pinpoint as many of Henry David Thoreau’s place names in Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts as possible using latitude and longitude coordinates in a format usable with Google Maps. In addition the entries will be supplemented with commentary and Thoreau Journal references (virtually complete). In my explorations of Concord in the late 1970s and early 1980s I was able to determine some of Thoreau’s locations accurately using his references to plant species at these locations, plants which sometimes still persist. This will be a project that will develop incrementally online. It is my hope that eventually this will prove to be a valuable resource for those seeking to visit those places in Concord still publicly accessible that were well-known to Thoreau. Corrections or additional Journal references are welcome.

References:

Town of Concord. Concord GIS Map [interactive]. Online at https://www.mapsonline.net/concordma/index.html (requires Internet Explorer or Microsoft Edge for full features)
Town of Great Barrington. Municipal Mapper. Online at http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/great_barrington.php (a GIS map that covers all of Massachusetts and unlike many towns allows the choice of decimal latitude/longitude coordinates)

Note: Latitude and longitude coordinates given in this work can be copied and pasted directly into the Google Maps search box to go to the place name.
PLACE NAME LIST

Abel Brooks Hollow (Brooks’s Hollow) -- N 42.44264, W 71.34493
Abel Brooks (1788 - 1867) was a farmer who lived in the center of Concord. He owned land adjacent to the Ralph Waldo Emerson land at Walden Pond that Thoreau built his house upon (survey of Emerson’s land done by Cyrus Hubbard in December 1848 copied by Thoreau in December 1857). The hollow on the Brooks lot is easily discerned on the ConcordGIS map. Thoreau lists in his Journal on May 26, 1857 the different variations of the name he uses for this hollow.

Journal references: 1853 October 23; 1855 May 4, June 23 (indirectly); 1856 October 21; 1857 January 22, May 26; 1859 October 20.

Abel Hosmer Woods -- N 42.46275, W 71.38422 (approximately)
Abel Hosmer (1796 – 1887) was a farmer who lived just south of the Union Turnpike (Elm Street presently) right above where the present Baker Avenue curves southward from its initial southwesterly direction from Elm Street. The only clue to the location of these is the indirect reference of November 1, 1860 where Abel Hosmer’s white pine woods (Pinus strobus) are recorded north and northwest of his house.

Journal references: 1855 June 7; 1860 November 1 (indirectly).

Abner Buttrick’s Hill -- N 42.48507, W 71.3350
This hill is beside the Concord River on the north side of the river configuration Thoreau called The Holt which is beside the Great Meadows on the south side. At 211 feet in elevation this hill is moderate compared to other hills in Concord. Abner Ball Buttrick (1799 - 1870) was a farmer whose residence was on the east side of Monument Street near the hill named after him.

Journal references: 1852 April 25 (indirectly); 1853 October 25 (indirectly); 1854 March 12 (indirectly); 1858 March 22 (indirectly); 1860 February 27, March 3, 16, November 1 (indirectly).

Agricultural Ground -- N 42.46255, W 71.34442
During Thoreau’s lifetime the agricultural fair ground was located beside the Middlesex Agricultural House on the north side of Bedford Street between a burying ground on the west side of it that became part of the newer Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on the right side of it. The topography (level) and Thoreau’s references are consistent with this location with coordinates given above. The Agricultural House is shown on the 1852 map of Concord and the 1856 map of Middlesex County both by Henry F. Walling. The Gleason map locates the fair ground at the agricultural house. With the combining of the two cemeteries on Bedford Street into one Sleepy Hollow Cemetery the agricultural fair ground was moved to a site close to the Sudbury River north of Swamp Bridge Brook/Depot Field Brook as shown on the 1875 map of Concord by F. W. Beers.

Journal references: 1853 August 20; 1854 September 16; 1858 July 26, November 9.

Alder Ditch
Thoreau provides insufficient clues to the location of this place other than it is likely near the west side of the Sudbury River between Clamshell Hill and Nut Meadow Brook based upon his itinerary for the afternoon of the day he refers to it.

**Alder Spring** -- N 42.4506, W 71.37447 (approximate likely location)  
This is the spring at Clamshell Hill, distinct from Hosmer’s Spring in the hollow to the southwest of this hollow. Due to the significant changes to the landscape of Clamshell Hill for the construction of Route 2, the exact location of this spring cannot be determined. That Thoreau refers to it only once by name is likely because it was insignificant and not easy to get to among the growth of alders. The two alders in Concord are the Speckled Alder (Alnus incana) and Smooth Alder (Alnus serrulata), both relatively common.

Journal references: **1854** May 16, July 3 (indirectly), 7 (indirectly).

**Ammannia Shore** -- N 42.45293, W 71.36988 (approximately)  
This location along the Sudbury River is named for Tooth-cup (Rotala ramosior), a small plant of pond and stream shores which is rare in Massachusetts. Thoreau uses an old name for it. The location can be determined approximately from Thoreau’s first (indirect) Journal reference on August 30, 1854 where he indicates that he finds it along the flat shore of John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) that leads to Clamshell Hill. Hosmer would have owned some or most of the western shore of the Sudbury River north of Clamshell Hill closest to his residence. Samuel Dennis (1784 - 1864) would have owned the shore farther north towards his residence. The coordinates above are for a stretch of shore just north of Clamshell Hill easily discernible on the ConcordGIS map as level.

Journal references: **1854** August 30 (indirectly); **1858** August 30; **1859** September 26.

**Andromeda Pond(s) (Andromeda Swamp(s), Cassandra Pond(s), Island Pond, Long Pond [Concord, MA], Second Andromeda Pond)** -- first pond - N 42.43512, W 71.34483; second pond - N 42.43326, W 71.34777; third pond - N 42.43241, W 71.34784  
These are a chain of three sphagnum bogs or swamps running northeast to southwest between Walden Pond and Well Meadow at Fair Haven Bay -- the first (upper, largest) one with an elongated tail reaching to the edge of the second (middle) smaller elliptical one. The third (last) one is a small triangular one south of the second one. Thoreau’s Journal entry of November 24, 1857 makes it clear that he considered these to be three ponds or swamps. Long Pond refers to the first pond. He likens the shape of the first pond to a moccasin-print. Island Pond refers to the second pond. The names Andromeda and Cassandra are old names for the dominant shrub in these bogs which is Leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne calyculata). The older names are misleading as they also apply to other bog or wetland shrubs. The order of the coordinates of each bog above is the same order that Thoreau uses when he distinguishes them, except on April 17, 1852 when he looks at them from the south in reverse order.

Journal references: **1841** September 2 (indirectly); **1852** April 17 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), May 5, November 3, 13, 23; **1853** January 9, 14, March 25; **1854** December 18; **1855** January 21, 24, 25, March 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, December 21, 29, 30; **1856** January 12, 16, 30, February 14, 25, March 30, April 2, 13, June 6, July 31, August 23, December 21, 24; **1857** March 26, November 24, December 21; **1858** January 3, 4, September 19, 29, November 14, December 25; **1859** January 16, 18, March 2, 9, April 10, September 4, November 17; **1860** January 22, 29, 30, February 25, June 8.

**Andromeda Swamp(s)** -- see **Andromeda Pond(s)**

**Annursnack (Annursnack Hill, Annursnuck, Anursnack, Anursnuck)** -- N 47777, W 71.39489  
The summit of Annursnack Hill is the highest elevation in Concord at 365 feet, 19 feet higher than Fair Haven Hill. A number of rare and uncommon wildflowers have been found on or around its
slopes, including the brilliantly colored Scarlet Painted-cup (Castilleja coccinea) -- now apparently extinct in Massachusetts -- and the Perfoliate Bellwort (Uvularia perfoliata). Thoreau’s account of his discovery of the conspicuous Painted-cup in Concord at Annursnack relatively late in his life is on May 8, 1853 in his Journal. The name of this hill dates back to early colonial times in Concord. It derives from an Algonquian word (of Nipmuck people) meaning “lookout place”.

Journal references: 1837 October 27; 1839 July 11; 1845-1847 vol. I, page 436, 1906 ed. & vol. 2, page 228, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 January 10, July 20, August 23, September 6, 9, 24; 1852 May 3, 17, July 23, December 18; 1853 May 8, 15, June 3, 10, 21, 22, November 14; 1854 March 7, June 2, August 8, 15, 19; 1855 March 11, May 9; 1857 March 27, October 12; 1858 August 17, September 13, October 10, November 3; 1859 September 15; 1860 January 30, April 7, 27, May 23 (footnote), June 10, 13, July 22, 28, September 2, October 23, November 1, 28, 29.

Apple Hollow Pond -- see Brown’s Pond

Arethusa Meadow -- N 42.44916, W 71.37017 (best estimate)
This is a meadow near the Sudbury River that Thoreau names after the Arethusa orchid (Arethusa bulbosa) that was not uncommon in Thoreau’s time but now has disappeared from Concord and most of southern New England. Gleason’s placement on his map of Thoreau’s Concord cannot be correct since that location is a swamp between Hubbard’s Grove and the Sudbury River approximately opposite the Hollowell Place. Thoreau refers to that swamp in his Journal as a red maple swamp of Charles A. Hubbard (1820 - 1889) on March 14, 1855, such a swamp being unsuitable or this orchid. From the Journal references listed below we know that there was a Viburnum hedge on the west side of the meadow, that it was not far too far from the Sudbury River, Hubbard’s Bathing Place, and from a brook (almost certainly Hubbard’s Brook), that it was large enough to have been subject to ditching by the owners, and that it was an open, wet, sphagnous (peaty) area -- habitat suitable for the orchid. Recent satellite imagery shows an open area that appears to show remnants of ditching and is consistent with the location clues left by Thoreau. The coordinates given above are for this area a best estimate.

Journal references: 1853 June 2, 12; 1854 May 30, July 3, 30; 1858 May 11.

Arrowhead Field(s) -- N 42.43436, W 71.36455 (approximately)
From Thoreau’s Journal references it can be understood that this field was in Conantum south of the Holden Wood and north of Mils Swamp. The detailed topography of the ConcordGIS map shows a significant elevated, level area between these two other locations. This would have been ideal for a Native American encampment due to its dry, elevated, level ground near the river.

Journal references: 1851 September 28 (possibly indirectly); 1853 November 9 (possibly indirectly); 1854 April 16; 1859 April 30, May 4.

Arum Meadow
There is insufficient information to determine the location of this place. Thoreau’s single Journal reference implies a wetland between Brister’s Hill and Peltandra Meadow or between that latter meadow and the Fair Haven Cliffs. The Peltandra Meadow is near the Hubbard’s Bathing Place. The name of this location is based on Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum) where Thoreau uses an old name for it.

**Ash Bank Spring** -- N 42.45732, W 71.36543 (approximately)  
Thoreau’s description in his Journal on December 29, 1859 is sufficient to locate this bank on the east side of the Sudbury River just south of the Fitchburg Railroad crossing of the river. The “Ash” in the name refers to one of the species of Ash (Fraxinus sp.) in Concord. Thoreau’s account of December 30, 1860 of the ash tree in this location establishes that the tree was by the riverside. Therefore it was most likely a Red Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), the most common ash along the rivers in Concord, but not identified or collected by Thoreau.

Journal reference: **1855** May 18; **1856** March 19 (indirectly); **1859** December 29 (indirectly).

**Ash Tree Bend** -- N 42.47819, W 71.33690  
Thoreau’s single Journal reference implies a bend in the course of the Concord River. The survey map of the Sudbury/Concord Rivers done by 1834 by B. F. Perham was annotated by Thoreau in 1859/1860 and shows a place in the Concord River labeled on the south side just before a bend as “ash tree hole”. The coordinates above are for the place of the bend. The ash in the name refers to one of the species of (Fraxinus sp.) in Concord. The most common ash along the rivers in Concord is the Red Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), but not identified or collected by Thoreau.


**Ash Tree Hole** -- N 42.47770, W 71.33668 (approximately)  
The survey map of the Sudbury/Concord Rivers done by 1834 by B. F. Perham was annotated by Thoreau in 1859/1860 and shows a place by the Concord River labeled on the south side just before a bend as “ash tree hole”. The coordinates above approximate this site. The origin and nature of the “hole” is not explained in the Journal. The ash in the name refers to one of the species of (Fraxinus sp.) in Concord. The most common ash along the rivers in Concord is the Red Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), but not identified or collected by Thoreau.

Journal reference: **1859** August 1.

**Ash Tree Rock** -- N 42.45769, W 71.36578 (approximately)  
The single Journal reference to this location refers to willows nearby which agrees with a row of willow trees near the ash at the railroad crossing of the Sudbury River on November 25, 1859. This is the same ash tree of Ash Bank Spring, which was most likely a Red Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), the most common one along the Concord rivers, but not identified or collected by Thoreau.


**Assabet (Assabet River, North River, North Branch)** -- from N 42.44051, W 71.42801 to N 42.46536, W 71.35841 (in Concord)  
This small river enters Concord from the town of Acton at the southwest and travels approximately northeastward to join at Egg Rock the larger Sudbury River coming up from the south, the two rivers then becoming the Concord River. The Assabet River begins in the town of Westborough about 21 miles southwest of Egg Rock. The origin of the name is uncertain. Maps prior to Thoreau’s time mostly name this river Elizabeth River (or variations of Elizabeth such as Isabaeth). But use of “Assabet” or “Asabett” dates from early colonial times as Thoreau’s Journal entry of August 11, 1852 indicates, although not used in Concord in 1652 as his Journal entry of June 4, 1853 states. Maps from Thoreau’s time onward call it Assabet River. The word “assabet” can be associated with Algonquian words meaning variously “place where materials for making fish nets comes from” or “at the miry
place” or “at the place where the river turns back”. It seems most likely that the early English settlers heard the Algonquian name “assabet” and anglicized it to “Elizabeth”, with later residents settling on the original Native American name. The names North River and North Branch are names for the river used only in Concord based on its position relative to the Sudbury River in the town. Richard J. Eaton in his A Flora of Concord (1974) reports that large woolen mills in Maynard rendered this river downstream essentially sterile by chemical pollution. This likely happened after Thoreau’s death as he does not comment on this. The mills were closed in 1952 such that animal and plant life recovered with five years or less.

Journal references: 1839 July 18; 1841 August 18; 1844 vol. 2, pages 103 & 104 (Princeton ed.); 1850 September 6 - vol. II, page 63 (1906 ed.) & vol. 3, page 111 (Princeton ed.); 1851 May 29 (indirectly), June 14, August 23, September 1 (Princeton ed.), 4, 9, December 23; 1852 February 27, April 1, 12, 19, May 1, June 15, 19, 26, 29, 30, July 5, 10, 12, 20, 25, 27, 31, August 8, 11, 18, 23, September 8; 1853 March 6, 23, 26, 28, 29, April 1, 2, May 7, 21, 22, 31, June 4, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, July 2, 23, August 11, 22, October 19, November 8, 16, December 10; 1854 January 10, February 4, 10, April 1, 6, 19, 24, May 1, 12, 13, 15, 17, 22, 23, 29, June 2, 4, 6, 9, 15, 16, 17, 19, 25, July 12, 26, August 8, 15, 20, 21, 25, 26, September 5, 16, 30, October 22, 25, November 6, December 14, 19; 1855 January 23, February 17, 24, 28, March 1, 17, 20, 24, April 6, 8, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23, May 2, 16, June 4, 6, 19, August 29, September 15, 19, 26, 27, October 12, 14, 21, 29, November 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 27; 1856 January 8, 19, 24, 26, 31, February 3, 9, 20, 22, 27, March 6, 14, 22, 24, April 5, 10, 11, 14, 16, 23, 27, 30, May 4, 11, 19, June 9, 17, July 3, 10, 11 (shores), 20, 26, 27, 30, August 9, 16, 22, 23, 30, September 2, 12, 19, October 6, 15, December 13; 1857 January 14, 16, February 27, March 5, 18, 24, 27, 31, April 1, 26, May 21, 22, June 4, 5, 16, 27, 29, July 4, 9, 14, 17, 31, August 26, September 6, 24, 28, October 1, 8, 11, 16, 21, 23, 29, November 2, 18, 20, 21; 1858 January 6, 23, 27, March 5, 31, April 1, 3, 14, 17, 25, May 1, 7, 8, 12, 16, 20, June 16 (footnote), 27, August 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, 15, 29, September 2, 3, 6, 21, 25, October 4, 12, 17, 21, 28, November 5, 17; 1859 January 10, 14, 18, February 1, 14, March 10, 17, 20, April 1, 7, 17, May 2, 27, June 3, 21, 26, July 4, 8, 9, 16 & 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 31, August 3, 8, 11, 30, September 13, 21, 30, October 13, 14, 18, November 11, 15, December 18, 31; 1860 January 4, 5, 20, 24, 25, February 5, April 1, 13, 25, 27, 29, June 1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 25, 27, July 7, 21, 22, 25, 28, 31, August 2, September 1, 13 (water), October 3, 9, 13, November 16.

Assabet Bathing Place (Assabet Bath) -- N 42.46923, W 71.38294 (best estimate)
Thoreau notes on August 25, 1854 that the Assabet Bathing-Place is opposite the Pokelogan. Gleason’s map does not show or denote the Pokelogan, but his placement of the Assabet Bathing Place agree with the location of the Pokelogan. The coordinates above are opposite the Pokelogan at a point where the north shore is near the river and dry rather than wetland marsh or swamp. Thoreau refers to at least three bathing places along the Assabet. The first Journal reference given below describes one by the Assabet stone bridge. References to his “old” bathing place on the Assabet River likely refer to this one. Another one was at the Leaning Hemlocks. All references to the other Assabet bathing places are included among the indirect Journal references listed below.

Journal references: 1852 June 15 (indirectly); 1853 March 28 (indirectly), June 20, 25, July 11; 1854 June 2, 6, 25, July 2 (footnote), 8, 22, August 11, 15 (indirectly), 20 (indirectly), 25 (indirectly), December 14; 1855 May 3; 1856 January 26 (indirectly), July 6, 27(indirectly), 30 (indirectly), August 5; 1857 May 14, July 4, November 29; 1858 May 8, June 6, 10, 11, August 2 (indirectly), 15 (indirectly), September 7; 1859 June 21(indirectly), July 12; 1860 January 24, May 8, June 28, July 15.
Assabet Bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

Assabet Rock -- see Dove Rock

Assabet Spring (Azalea Spring, Pinxter Spring) -- N 42.46669, W 71.36446 (provided by Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle)
The equivalency of the Azalea Spring and Assabet Spring is made in Thoreau’s Journal entry for February 9, 1856 where he associates the Assabet Spring Swamp with the Pink Azalea Swamp (Pinxter Swamp). Also, his only use of the names Azalea Spring or Pinxter Spring occurs on June 18, 1853. After that date all references to the spring are to Assabet Spring. Some references to the Assabet Spring indicate the spring is close to the shore of the Assabet River. A spring that is close to the Assabet River and at the southern tip of the Pinxter Swamp is marked on Thoreau’s survey map of the Lee Farm dated December 30-31, 1856 to January 1, 1857. No other springs are marked along the extensive stretch of the Assabet River shown in this survey. Thus, the spring noted on Thoreau’s survey would be the Assabet Spring. On January 18, 2020 Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle confirmed the spring at the location Thoreau noted on his survey. Gleason’s placement of this farther up the river on his map is incorrect.

Assabet Spring (January 2020) courtesy of Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle

Journal references: 1853 June 18; 1854 April 6, 18, June 15; 1855 May 2, June 9; 1856 January 3, February 20, March 22, July 14, December 13; 1858 April 1 (indirectly), May 12, August 6, 7, 13; 1860 July 7.

Assabet Spring Swamp -- see Pinxter Swamp

Assabet Stone Bridge (Assabet Bridge, Eddy Bridge, further stone bridge, new stone bridge, One-Arched Bridge, second stone bridge) -- N 42.46578, W 71.39133
This is where the Union Turnpike (present-day Elm Street) crosses the Assabet River in the western part of Concord. On January 20, 1852 Thoreau refers to this as the “new stone bridge”. This name was to distinguish it from the bridge it replaced close to the same location (see entry for Causeway Bridge [Concord, MA]) and from the stone bridge along the same road crossing the Sudbury River. References to “second stone bridge” and “further stone bridge” also are to distinguish it from the stone bridge over the Sudbury River. When Thoreau notes the highest arch or arches of a stone bridge in Concord he would be referring to this Sudbury River bridge since the Assabet Bridge had only one arch. Many references simply to “stone bridge” need to be examined for context to determine whether the Assabet River bridge or the Sudbury River bridge is intended. Thoreau relates on July 16 and 20, 1859 that the building of a new stone bridge for the road here over the Assabet River was discussed by
the town in 1807 but not built until 1826 or 1827 replacing an older wooden bridge that was 50 feet downstream.

Journal references: 1851 August 23, December 23 (indirectly); 1852 January 20, April 21, 22, June 30 (indirectly), December 14; 1853 May 8, 15 (indirectly); 1854 June 2 (indirectly); 1855 January 22 (indirectly), 23, February 17, March 11 (indirectly), April 22, May 9, 18; 1856 January 26 (indirectly), February 22, 27 (indirectly), March 1, May 30, July 8, August 5; 1857 May 14 (indirectly), 22, October 1; 1858 June 10 (indirectly), 20, August 14, October 10, December 23; 1859 July 16, 20, August 11; 1860 January 4, February 5, May 2 (indirectly), 7, June 10, 28, October 20.

Azalea Brook (Pinxter-Flower Brook, Muhlenbergii Brook, V. Muhlenbergii Brook) -- from N 42.46745, W 71.36710 to N 42.46828, W 71.36563 to unknown outlet
This small brook is not shown on any published map. The first part of its course can be determined from the local topography and knowledge of the site of the rare plant it is named for. It crosses beneath an old railroad bed (railroad not present there in Thoreau’s time) at a point that is a short distance northwestward from the site of the locally rare Roseshell Azalea (Rhododendron prinophyllum). The course of the brook from the railroad bed appears partially on the Concord GIS map running northeastward toward a small swampy area by the Assabet River that Thoreau apparently names the V.[iola] Muhlenbergii Swamp. The second set of coordinates above is for the point where the brook reaches the old railroad bed. That the brook empties into the Assabet River is evident from his Journal entry of December 13, 1856 where he refers to an oak between the brook (as Muhlenbergii Brook) and another site along the Assabet River. But the outlet cannot be discerned from satellite or aerial photographs. Thoreau writes about the azalea at length in his Journal for May 31, 1853. In his time the shrub was known as Azalea nudiflora with common name Pinxter-Flower. Thoreau added a footnote to his Journal entry of May 22, 1853 noting his finding “Viola Muhlenbergii” at Pinxter-Flower Brook. This violet (American Dog Violet) is currently known as Viola labradorica and was previously known also as Viola conspersa. After July 28, 1853 Thoreau refers to the brook exclusively as V.[iola] Muhlenbergii Brook or simply Muhlenbergii Brook since the violet was found right at the brook unlike the azalea. The locally rare Spikenard (Aralia racemosa) that Thoreau saw near the brook still persisted in 2007 near where it crosses the railroad bed. Where the brook crosses beneath the railroad bed is where this author collected a specimen for the first published record of Toringo Crabapple (Malus toringo) in the wild in New England in 1977.

Journal references: 1853 May 22 (footnote), July 12, 22, 28; 1854 May 13, 22; 1856 July 10, 14, October 15, December 13; 1857 April 1.

Azalea Spring (Pinxter Spring) -- see Assabet Spring

Azalea Swamp -- see Pinxter Swamp

Baeomyces Bank -- along present Old Road to Nine Acre Corner between N 42.44512, W 71.37598 to N 42.44395, W 71.37609
The clues in Thoreau’s Journal indicate that this bank is along the road of Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) through woods with an elevated, level area above it and in the general area of the residence of Bradley Puffer (1811 – 1858), Witherell Glade, and Ledum Swamp. These strongly suggest the present Old Road to Nine Acre Corner. Topography suggests a bank along this road between the two sets of coordinates above. The 1852 map of Concord by Henry F. Walling shows that this stretch of the road was wooded. This location takes its name from the widespread Pink Earth Lichen (Dibaeis baeomyces, formerly named Baeomyces roseus).
Journal references: 1852 December 12 (indirectly); 1855 January 7 (indirectly), 20 (indirectly); 1857 October 26 (indirectly); 1858 April 28 (indirectly), May 17; 1860 March 2.

Baker Bridge (Lincoln Bridge) [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42819, W 71.33633
This is the bridge for the Concord Road (present-day Route 126) in Lincoln, MA that crosses over the Fitchburg Railroad. It is near the Baker Farm to the southwest. The reference to Lincoln Bridge could only be the Baker Bridge based on the context of the reference to it. On December 10, 1856 Thoreau describes how “murderous” this bridge under the railroad was.

Journal references: 1853 January 3; 1856 December 3, 9, 10; 1859 December 6; 1860 January 3, July 29.

Baker Farm [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42709, W 71.34350 (approximate middle)
A survey of this farm in Lincoln, MA does not appear to exist. Its boundaries can be determined approximately from clues in Thoreau’s Journal, his book Walden, from existing lot boundaries, from topography and from one of Thoreau’s surveys. The west side of the farm appears to include most of the west side of Fair Haven Bay from Well Meadow on the northern edge of the Bay south to Purple Utricularia Bay near the entrance of the Sudbury River into Fair Haven Bay. From Thoreau’s December 1857 survey of the Rufus Morse and John Richardson heirs land the north side of Baker’s land ran northeasterward along the edge of the ridge just north of Heywood’s Brook extending to the Fitchburg Railroad or just short of it. Thoreau’s survey of for Edward S. Hoar in 1860 shows the southern border following a still existing lot line north of Mt. Misery and roughly parallel to the northern border. It would have extended from the southern slope of the steep hill by Fair Haven Bay just south of Purple Utricularia Bay (see Journal, April 4, 1855) northeastward (with one jog) to the Baker residence which was on the west side of what is now the Old Concord Road, and from there to the railroad or just short of it. Thoreau remarks on August 26, 1856 that the Baker Farm house had not been occupied for 30 years and on December 25 of that year that the house was going to ruin. The farm is named after the family of Jacob Baker (1722 - 1783) who acquired in about 1740 the property that included the farm and who built the house. Two of Jacob’s younger sons, Nathaniel Baker (1746 - 1838) and Amos Baker (1756 - 1850) shared the house on the farm made famous by Thoreau. The oldest son, Jacob Baker Jr. (1744 - 1810) settled on the southeast side of Pine Hill in Lincoln. In 1826 Nathaniel sold his share of the farm to James Baker (1796 - 1875), a son of Nathaniel’s brother Amos. Why the farm and its house were abandoned about 1826 is unknown. Census records show James Baker lived with his family in Littleton, MA in 1855 but lived Lincoln, MA in 1850 (as a farmer with $6,000 of real estate) and in 1860. Its abandonment and appealing environs inspired Thoreau to consider living there before he went to Walden Pond as he reveals in his book.
July 16 (indirectly), August 20 (pine plain), September 17 (indirectly); 1852 January 14, February
24 (wood), April 1 (indirectly, barn, peach orchard), 19, June 15 (indirectly), July 9 (indirectly),
September 30; 1853 June 16, November 14; 1854 June 3, July 17, September 7, 8, December 21;
1855 January 14, 26, February 24, April 4 (indirectly, steep hill); 1856 May 25 (indirectly, house),
June 20, July 8, August 26, October 21 (indirectly), December 7, 24, 25; 1857 May 4 (indirectly),
29 (side), September 1 (indirectly, shore); 1858 March 20 (indirectly), July 28, August 19 (shore),
22, October 2, 29, November 2 (one), 10 (aspen); 1859 March 23 (indirectly, house), November 25;
1860 July 10 (indirectly, mud-hole), October 20 (indirectly), November 1, 13 (indirectly).

Baker Rock [Lincoln, MA]
The information in the single reference to this location is insufficient to locate it exactly. The other
localities Thoreau visits on June 19, 1859 indicate that the rock would be on the Baker Farm. The
species of sedge (Carex muehlenbergii) he finds at the rock grows in dry fields and open woods. The
specimen of the sedge he collected on this day that is in his herbarium has the note “Bakers rock not
wet ground”. The rock then is not at the shore of Fair Haven Bay, but most likely in one of the fields
on the farm.


Baker Shore [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42584, W 71.35117 (point of shore of first reference)
This would be the shore on the east side of Fair Haven Bay that was part of the Baker Farm. As
described in the entry for Baker Farm, this likely was most of the eastern shore of the bay. The Journal
entry on July 8, 1856 refers to the mouth of a brook on the shore. The only brook known to run to the
shore from the Baker Farm is an unnamed brook through Pleasant Meadow. The coordinates above are
for the mouth of this brook. The reference on July 9 refers to an area further south where a straight
stretch of river meadow about the size Thoreau describes occurs perpendicular to the dry land of a hill
just northeast of where the Sudbury River enters the bay. The exact site of the boat house east of this
is unknown but would clearly be on the Baker Farm.
Journal references: 1856 July 8; 1859 July 9.

**Baker Swamp (Baker's Swamp) [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.42713, W 71.33068

The best indication for the location of this swamp is the Journal entry for July 25, 1854 where Thoreau refers to a road extending beyond the swamp. There is only one swamp crossed by a road in the vicinity of Pine Hill and Bear Hill, localities he associates with the swamp in all but his Journal reference on June 27, 1854. On this latter date he visited the Fair Haven Cliffs which are within easy walking distance along the railroad that also crosses the swamp. This is a large swamp that extends from the southern side of Pine Hill in Lincoln southward past the Fitchburg Railroad. The swamp is much more likely named after the Bakers who resided at Pine Hill to which it is closer than to the Baker Farm. Those Bakers would have first been Jacob Baker Jr. (1744 - 1810) and in Thoreau’s time would have been Jacob’s nephew also named Jacob Baker (1784 - 1856), son of Nathaniel Baker (1746 - 1838) who was, for a time, part owner of the Baker Farm of Thoreau’s Walden.

Journal references: 1852 August 21; 1854 June 27, July 14, 25.

**Baker’s Wood (Baker's Pleasant Meadow Wood) [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.42733, W 71.34818 (approximately)

Thoreau describes this wood as occupying a hill associated with Pleasant Meadow and the end of the wood at or near the shore of Fair Haven Bay across from Fair Haven Island. This agrees with a woodland occupying the hill that Thoreau later named Bee Tree Hill. The coordinates above are an estimate of the likely middle of such woods. These would be on the Baker Farm.


**Ball's Hill** -- N 42.48326, W 71.32183

At 177 feet in elevation Ball’s Hill is not one of Concord’s higher hills, but it does occupy a prominent position close to the shore of a sharp bend of the Concord River northeast of Great Meadows. Its name derives from an early colonial Concord family, most likely from Nathaniel Ball (ca. 1618 - 1705/06) who owned land at the northern end of Old Bedford Road across the Concord River from Ball’s Hill. One of the oldest houses in Concord near the hill is known as The Old Ball House dating from about 1685 or early 18th century and was likely occupied by Nathaniel or one of his sons. The hill is also significant as part of the October Farm of noted ornithologist William Brewster (1851 - 1919) who bought Ball's Hill in 1891.

Journal references: 1839 September 1; 1851 September 27; 1852 April 10, 24, October 25, December 2; 1853 April 7, May 30, June 2, 16, October 9; 1854 February 7, March 12 November 10; 1855 April 15, 28, August 6; 1857 April 24, May 3, June 30; 1858 March 29, April 3, May 10, August 15, 24, October 14, 18; 1859 January 19, February 11, March 16, 28, April 1, 3, 13, 28, June 5, July 5, 7, 14, December 23, 25, 29; 1860 February 13, 27, April 17, May 4, 23, September 5.

**Ball's Hill Bend** -- N 42.48402, W 71.31723

This is the prominent bend in the Concord River at Ball’s Hill.

**Barbarea Shore**

The wildflower after which this is named is the Common Winter-cress (Barbarea vulgaris). Thoreau gives insufficient information to locate this precisely other than along the Assabet River between the Assabet Stone Bridge and the mouth of Dodge's Brook.

Journal references: **1853** May 21 (indirectly); **1854** June 4; **1856** June 8.

**Bare Hill (Bear Hill) [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.42800, W 71.32088

At a little more than 344 feet in elevation this hill is practically as high as Concord’s second highest hill -- Fair Haven Hill (346 feet). The shape of this hill has perhaps caused some confusion about its name. It is an elongated hill oriented north-south with the highest part confined to a small area just north of today’s Baker Bridge Road (Bear Hill road to Thoreau) and immediately southwest of the southern tip of Flint’s Pond. The hill northward drops about 60 feet in one area forming a hollow before rising and widening to a large area that is higher than 300 feet (highest at about N 42.43169, W 71.32304) with a gradual slope reaching a long stretch of the western shore of Flint’s Pond. On its northwestern side the hill comes close to Pine Hill. That Pine Hill and Bare Hill are not the same hill is evident from Thoreau’s Journal entry May 20, 1853 where he refers to both separately. Similarly, Bear Hill is not the same as Pine Hill considering reference to both on June 12, 1853. Thoreau never refers to Bare Hill and Bear Hill on the same day in Lincoln. Also, Thoreau’s use of the name Bear Hill in Lincoln starts on September 22, 1851 and ends on June 12, 1853 aside from a solitary instance in a list on November 2, 1860. His use of Bare Hill in Lincoln starts on January 19, 1852 and extends more or less continually to June 24, 1860. Support of the equivalence of the two names, Bare Hill and Bear Hill, is Thoreau’s discovery in flower of the locally rare Houstonia longifolia (Hedyotis longifolia to Thoreau) -- a species of bluet -- at the summit of “Bear Hill” in Lincoln on June 27, 1852 followed by his checking for it the following year on May 20, 1853 reporting “none of the rare hedyotis yet on Bare Hill. Thus, the shape of this hill suggests two hills, such that early in the Journal Thoreau used both names with Bear Hill more likely applied to the highest point close to the road at the southern end, and Bare Hill applied more likely to the larger northern part of the hill. Such a distinction is suggested by the Journal entry for April 1, 1852 where the Princeton edition correctly renders “Bear Hill road” and “Bare Hill” in the same paragraph of Thoreau’s manuscript, as opposed to the 1906 edition which regularizes “Bear Hill road” to “Bare Hill road” to agree with “Bare Hill” elsewhere in the paragraph. The road passes close to the small but higher southern part of the hill. Gleason in error represents Pine Hill and Bare Hill to be the same.

Journal references: **1845-1846** vol. 2, page 141, Princeton ed.; **1849** vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; **1851** September 22, November 25; **1852** January 19, February 26, April 1, June 27, August 21; **1853** January 25, May 20, June 12; **1854** June 1, July 13, 25, August 13, December 11, 15; **1855** March 20; **1857** June 4, November 11; **1860** June 24, November 2. Reference to Bare Hill on March 23, 1859 appears to be an error, referring instead to Bear Garden Hill in Concord.

**Bare/Bear Hill road [Lincoln, MA]** -- from N 42.43110, W 71.33475 to N 42.42887, W 71.31546

This refers to the present-day Baker Bridge Road that runs between Concord Road (presently also known as Route 126) in the west to present-day Sandy Pond Road (Lincoln Road in Thoreau’s time) and ending at that juncture at the south end of Flint’s Pond. Near its eastern end it wraps around the southern end of Bare/Bear Hill. The editors of the 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal changed his manuscript text of April 1, 1852 from “Bear Hill road” to “Bare Hill road”. The only use of “Bare Hill road” is on June 23, 1860. See Bare Hill (Bear Hill) for discussion of the hill names.
Journal references: 1852 April 1, August 21, September 18; 1860 June 23.

Barrett’s Bar -- N 42.47598, W 71.33901 (approximately)
This location in the Concord River off the property of farmer Nathan Barrett (1796 - 1868) who lived on Punkatasset Hill is essentially located by a side note on the survey map of the Sudbury/Concord Rivers done by B. F. Perham in 1834 and annotated by Thoreau in 1859/1860. It is a part of the river where low islands or sand bars are exposed when the river is low. The approximate coordinates are given above.

Journal references: 1851 September 27 (indirectly); 1859 July 5, 7, 18 (indirectly), 22, August 3, 14, December 28, 29; 1860 January 19, 22.

Barrett’s Bay -- N 42.47818, W 71.33734
This is a small bay on the north side of the Concord River below the residence of farmer Nathan Barrett (1796 - 1868) on Punkatasset Hill across from the Great Meadows.

Journal references: 1858 August 7 (indirectly); 1859 July 7.

Barrett’s Bend -- N 42.45563, W 71.36564
The clues from Thoreau’s one Journal reference to this location are that it is along the Sudbury River between Hubbard’s Bend and Monroe’s shore (residence of pencil-maker Francis Monroe (1814 - 1870) on Main Street) which is the southern shore of the river southeast of Nashawtuc Hill. The only Barrett residence along this stretch of the river was that of attorney Jonathan Fay Barrett (1816 - 1885). This residence (the “Dovecote” once occupied by the Alcott family) happens to be just northwest of this bend in the river, south of the Fitchburg Railroad crossing. The coordinates of this bend are given above.


Barrett’s Bridge -- N 42.47369, W 71.37575 (most likely)
If Thoreau’s indirect reference on February 17, 1855 is the same bridge as in the October 15, 1859 reference, the bridge would the one that crosses Spencer Brook at the present-day Barrett’s Mill Road below Sam Barrett’s mill with coordinates given above.

Journal references: 1855 February 17 (indirectly); 1859 October 15.

Barrett’s Pond -- see Sam Barrett’s Pond

Bartlett’s Cliff -- see Emerson’s Cliff

Bartonia Meadow -- N 42.45175, W 71.35547 (best estimate)
This location is named after Bartonia virginica (Bartonia tenella in Thoreau’s time), a small wildflower that grows in meadows, moist fields and other damp places. Thoreau’s description on July 31, 1856 places it in a meadow owned by farmer Abiel Heywood Wheeler (1807 - 1896) next to one owned by his next-door neighbor, farmer John Potter (1793 - 1875). Both of Thoreau’s references note that he was on his way to Bear Garden Hill, and the October 7, 1857 reference first records that he first crossed Depot Brook before proceeding directly to Bear Garden Hill through this meadow. The coordinates above are for a wet, level area behind Abiel Wheeler’s residence which would be on a direct line to Bear Garden Hill if Thoreau crossed the Depot Brook on the east side of the road from the center of town where he resided.
Journal references: **1856** July 31 (indirectly); **1857** October 7.

**Bateman's Pond** -- N 42.49456, W 71.36598
This pond on the northwest side of the Estabrook Woods is named after the early Concord settler, Thomas Bateman (1614 – 1668/1689), who owned land in that section of the town. This pond is presently on the property of the Middlesex School.

![Bateman's Pond](image)

(Bateman's Pond
(Gleason photo from 1906 ed. of Thoreau's Journal)

Journal references: **1851** June 9, October 5; **1852** February 16; **1853** January 28, June 10; **1854** August 30; **1857** March 28, May 18, June 7, August 13, September 4, November 2, 5, 7, 13; **1858** April 21, May 29, June 19, November 7; **1859** October 3; **1860** May 10, September 3, 11.

**Bath Rock** -- N 42.46446, W 71.35863
Thoreau’s references to this rock indicate that it is in the Sudbury River opposite the Island which is the area where the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers meet. Thoreau’s survey of the Lee Farm for David Elwell in December 1856/January 1857 notes one rock in the Sudbury River opposite the Island. An aerial photograph of this area from 1995 appears to show a rock at the very same location in the river. The coordinates for this location are given above.

Journal references: **1858** April 6 (indirectly), May 13.

**Battle-ground** -- N 42.46911, W 35020
This is the area around the site of the Old North Bridge where The Minutemen confronted the British soldiers in Concord on April 19, 1775. Thoreau specifically mentions the monument dedicated here on July 4, 1837 on the east side of the Concord River close to the site of the bridge. The coordinates above are for that monument on the battleground.

Journal references: **1852** April 21; **1853** October 22; **1854** August 22; **1855** March 12; **1856** April 14, October 4; **1857** May 3, 27, October 25; **1858** February 9, October 3.
**Bayberry**

The plant named refers to Northern Bayberry (Morella pensylvanica, or Myrica cerifera in Thoreau’s time). Thoreau uses the name as a place only on April 26, 1855. There is insufficient information to locate the site precisely other than Thoreau’s remarking on August 30, 1854 that Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878) had found it along the old Carlisle road (presently Estabrook Road in the Estabrook Woods). The reference to bayberry on June 28, 1858 in the Estabrook Woods and along the bridle-road (present-day Two Rod Road in the Estabrook Woods) on September 3, 1854 are to other colonies. Since this species grows in open, sterile soil near the coast, all these stations would have long since been shaded out due to regrowth of the forest in the Estabrook Woods.

Journal reference: 1854 August 30 (indirectly); 1855 April 26, May 13 (indirectly), 23; 1859 May 5 (indirectly); 1860 June 30.

**Bear Garden Hill (Bear Garden, Bear Hill - earliest uses of this name) -- N 42.44276, W 71.36010**

The name for this hill northwest of Fair Haven Hill does not appear on any historic map of Concord save for Gleason’s map of 1906. The origin of the name is apparently unknown. The earliest references by Thoreau to “Bear Hill” refer to Bear Garden Hill, but later ones refer to Bear Hill in Lincoln, MA.

Journal references: 1850 November 24 (Bear Hill); 1851 June 30, July 11, 12, August 5, September 5, 20 (Bear Hill); 1852 April 4, 11 (Bear Hill), May 8, July 20; 1853 May 28; 1854 December 8; 1856 March 19, May 13, July 31; 1857 October 7, 14; 1858 March 18, September 6; 1859 March 5, 23 (“Bare Hill” in error); 1860 October 20, November 28 (indirectly), December 1.

**Bear Hill [Lincoln, MA] -- see Bare Hill**

A few of Thoreau’s earliest uses of this name actually refer to Bear Garden Hill in Concord. Generally, Thoreau indicates “Lincoln” when he uses it for the hill in that township.

**Bear Hill road [Lincoln, MA] -- see Bare/Bear Hill road [Lincoln, MA]**

**Beck Stow’s Swamp (Beck Stow’s) -- N 42.46753, W 71.33029**

This swamp was in Thoreau’s time one of the three or four finest sphagnum bogs in Concord in terms of richness in rare bog plant species. The location was a swampy, boggy area just to the east of the current St. Bernard’s Cemetery close to and on the south side of Bedford Street. Thoreau locates the swamp/bog on survey maps of the new road toward Bedford dated July 1853. He places it just south of the new road (Bedford Street) where it first makes a slight bend clockwise, a little to the east of Pedrick’s Swamp (which is on the north side of the road). Present-day aerial photographs, town wetland maps, and a photograph taken about 2006 (see below) show at this site a small pond in a swampy, wooded area near the road (Bedford Street) connected to a larger, flat swampy area southward. From his Journal references to a quaking bog with some open water that he notes rhapsodically on July 17, 1852, and to possible springs from a nearby bank on May 24, 1854, it is evident that Thoreau considered Beck Stow’s Swamp to be the area of the present-day, swampy area with a small pond with banks to the west and east of it, rather than the much larger, connected, swampy area southward which is very level. On July 6, 1854 he refers to a Blanding’s Turtle headed from the hot sand of the new road (Bedford Street) to the water of Beck Stow’s about a rod (5.5 yards) distant which corresponds best to the location of the present-day area containing a small pond pinpointed by the geographic coordinates given above. Thoreau’s notable, lengthy account of cranberrying here on August 30, 1856 includes a statement characterizing the size and nature of Beck Stow’s: “How does this particular acre of secluded, unfrequented, useless (?) quaking bog differ from
an acre in Labrador?" The size of the wetland area around the current pool between a hill to the west and a slope to the east happens to be about one acre. Thoreau also lists in this passage the five locally rare bog plants that made this bog one of special ones in Concord. Curiously, Richard J. Eaton, author of *A Flora of Concord* (1974), lists Beck Stow's Swamp as a swamp rather than as a bog, and fails to include it in a section (pp. 27-28) on sphagnum bogs where he attempts to list which bogs in Concord had each of a number of uncommon bog plants. The small Beck Stow bog was evidently dredged out to form the current small pond. A review of USGS topographic maps of Concord indicates that the pond appeared first in the 1970 map. The pond's absence from the preceding 1958 map however is an error since that map fails to show the new house built in 1955 along Bedford Street between that road and the site of the bog. It is most likely the bog was partly filled in to make dry land for the house and partly dredged out to create the current pond. A photo below taken about 2006 of the part of the pond in the back yard of that residence is shown - the sad fate of one of Concord's natural jewels.

The origin of the name of the Beck Stow Swamp is from a prior owner of the land, likely Rebecca Stow (ca. 1755 - ?). Rebecca was the daughter of currier and cordonwainer, Ebenezer Stow (1701/1702 – ca. 1769), and his wife, Rebecca [Lee] (ca. 1716 - 1810). Ebenezer owned a large farm with house on Lexington Road just west of Meriam's Corner. At the time of his death Ebenezer gave to his daughter, Rebecca, six acres of outlands of the farm, and the rest of his estate to her brother Nathan (ca. 1744 - 1810). The outlands would have included the swamp later bearing her name. It is possible that her long-lived mother of the same name later came into possession of the land with the swamp and that the name derives from the widowed mother. Emerson refers to the swamp as "Becky Stow's Swamp" or "Becky Stow's Hole". Virtually nothing is known about the younger Rebecca, and not much more about her mother.

Journal references: **1849** vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; **1850** November 9; **1851** October 13; **1852** July 17, October 14; **1853** July 1, July 7, July 14, July 29, August 9, October 19, 20; **1854** January 31, February 17, May 24, July 6, 19, August 18, 22, September 23; **1855** January 10, February 18, March 5, 6, April 25, May 5, 11, 15, 24, June 2, October 16, 20; **1856** January 9, May 20, 21, August 18, 30; **1857** July 3, September 20, 24, November 23; **1858** January 29, April 7, June 9, August 11; **1859** March 13, April 25; **1860** May 16, June 7, October 17 (footnote), 18, 20, 29, December 30.

**Beck Stow Wood** -- N 42.46773, W 71.33006 (approximately) Thoreau uses this name only once. It is clear from the context that in that instance he uses it to describe the woods about Beck Stow's Swamp. At various times he refers to a young pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) wood growing up on a level area northeast of Beck Stow's Swamp (November 9, 1850) and a white pine (*Pinus strobus*) grove to the east of Beck Stow's Swamp (September 24, 1857). But he does not name these and distinguishes Beck Stow Wood from these the only time he uses this name on September 20, 1857.
Journal references: **1857** September 20.

**Bee Tree Hill (Bee Hill) [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42691, W 71.34916**

Only one hill in Lincoln is consistent with the description left by Thoreau in his Journal entry of September 30, 1852 where he first refers to this hill without naming it. He indicates that it is generally on the Baker farm property in Lincoln, that it is near a brook that he does not name, that it is not near the Clematis Brook and that it is a side-hill a rod (5 meters) from Fair Haven Pond. One hill meets these requirements whose summit coordinates are given above. The Lincoln GIS map shows the last topographic contour for this hill to be about 26 meters from the pond, but the contours are at 10 foot intervals so that the bottom of the hill would be much closer to the pond. In addition this hill connects to a higher hill to its northeast (hence it being referred to as a “side-hill”). The brook nearby is Heywood’s Brook that flows into Fair Haven Pond. The Bee-Tree Ridge referred to later in his Journal is a different site.

Journal references: **1852** September 30 (indirectly); **1855** March 4; **1856** February 25 (indirectly), August 26; **1858** August 21.

**Beeches [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43383, W 71.32578**

Thoreau’s references describe a small colony of American Beech (Fagus grandifolia) on the edge of the property of Jacob Baker (1784 - 1856) and his heirs in Lincoln close to or partly on Pine Hill and beside a swamp (Journal, September 12, 1857). The mature beeches except for one on the Baker property were on the property of Ripley and were cut down in September 1857 (Journal, September 23, 1857). Since there were no persons with last name Ripley residing in Lincoln in the 1850s according to US and Massachusetts census records, it was apparently the Ripley family of Concord who owned the lot. The head of that family in 1857 was educator and noted scholar Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley (1793 – 1867). However, a connection to this land in Lincoln and that family has not been found. The location of the beeches is given on a sketch plan of the Henry Higginson (1834 – 1919) house for registration for the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

![Thoreau’s Beeches (February 2020) courtesy of Nancy Hartle & Steve Tobin](image)

Journal references: **1852** March 5; **1853** May 20 (indirectly), June 12 (indirectly), November 2 (indirectly); **1855** May 4, 10; **1856** May 15; **1857** September 12 (indirectly), 23 (indirectly); **1858** October 25; **1859** October 1, 14 (indirectly); **1860** September 18, October 20 (indirectly).
Beech Spring [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43362, W 71.32639 (provided by Steve Tobin and Nancy W Hartle)
Thoreau’s single Journal reference to this spring does not give sufficient information to locate it. However, a general description of its location with respect to the Thoreau Institute allowed Nancy Hartle and Steve Tobin to locate it to provide the coordinates above.

Beech Spring, February 2020 courtesy of Nancy Hartle

Journal references: 1856 May 15.

Bidens Brook -- see Pole Brook

Birch Island -- see Fair Haven Island

Bill Brook -- from N 42.46668, W 71.35305 to N 42.46783, W 71.35257
Thoreau refers to this small, obscure brook only once in his Journal. Since he places its mouth opposite and four rods (20 meters) below French’s Rock, which is not far from the mouth of the larger Mill Brook, it might be thought that this is a mistranscription of his manuscript. But his Journal manuscript is unambiguous:

3 4 Helen French, north of the north Mill Brook
4 Del Hole at Mill -- 5 Dep, lot at Mill South

This brook shows up only on an aerial photograph from the 1940s where the location of its mouth matches Thoreau’s description accurately. The origin of the name is unknown.

Bittern Cliff (Bittern Rock, Tupelo Cliff) -- N 42.43094, W 71.36025
This small rocky point right on the south shore of the Sudbury River downriver from Fair Haven Bay
harbors (or harbored) due to its circumneutral soil a good number of locally rare ferns, wildflowers and
a locally rare hawthorn collected by the author, not previously noticed. The spot is known currently as
Martha’s Point. Thoreau’s association of a bittern with this cliff appears to derive from his Journal
entries of September 9, 1851 and August 24 & 31, 1852. His references to Tupelo Cliff cease after
August 31, 1852, and references to Bittern Cliff start on October 18, 1852. Tupelo refers to the small
tree Black Tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica). Bittern refers to the American Bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus).

Journal references: 1851 August 31, September 7, 9, October 1; 1852 August 25, 31, October 18;
1853 March 18, June 6, 16, July 18, 21, August 12, 30, November 7; 1854 February 2, April 12,
May 10, June 12, August 2, 16, September 7, 25; 1855 May 12, 26, September 24; 1856 February
25, April 7, April 18, 22, June 20, July 8, August 3, 11, 13, December 6; 1857 January 13, 25,
May 12, June 6, 29, July 17, August 30, September 1; 1858 March 27, 30, June 25; 1859
February 15, May 4, 26, July 4, 5, 9, 10; 1860 May 13, June 11, July 7 (footnote), August 22.

Bittern Cliff Meadow -- likely N 42.43072, W 71.38012 or N 42.43042, W 71.35991
The single reference to this location does not determine exactly where it is. The topographic and
wetland mapping around Bittern Cliff does not show any area away from the Sudbury River shore near
the cliff that is or would have been a meadow. Therefore, the meadow is almost certainly a river
meadow. Most of the cliff is very close to the river itself with essentially no river meadow. The
coordinates above are for two small wetland inlets by the river south of and near the cliff that would
be partly river meadow. One or the other is likely the meadow Thoreau refers to.

Journal reference: 1855 May 27.

Bittern Cliff Spring -- N 42.43058, W 71.36091 (approximately, most likely)
The single Journal reference does not allow exact determination of the location of this spring. However,
the coordinates above are for a location based on topography, wetland mapping and proximity to the
cliff that are very likely the location of this spring. On-site verification is needed.


Bittern Cliff Wood(s)
The particular location around Bittern Cliff for these woods is impossible to determine since Thoreau
does not give any clues, there was not accurate mapping of woodland in Thoreau’s time, and the
woodland areas have changed significantly since then (being far more prevalent now).

Journal references: 1853 September 2; 1856 August 3, 13, September 18.

Bittern Rock -- see Bittern Cliff

Blackberry Steep -- N 42.42533, W 71.35833 (best estimate)
It is not possible to pinpoint this locality. The clues left by Thoreau in his Journal indicate that it is a
locality in Conantum near the shore of the Sudbury River between Bittern Cliff and Lee’s Cliff (more
likely closer to the latter) - a steep, open hillside with a rock. Since much of the terrain near the shore
along this stretch is rocky cliffs, best guess would be a particular steep, broad slope between Lee’s Cliff
and the cliffs just to the north of Lee’s Cliff. Coordinates for the center of this slope are given above.
The most likely blackberry at this location to which he led berrying parties would be the Common Highbush Blackberry (Rubus allegheniensis, or Rubus villosus in Thoreau’s time). This species with tasty blackberries grows in fields and clearings and other open places.

Journal references: 1854 May 28 (possibly); 1856 August 3, 4, 7, 26, September 18; 1857 April 18, October 18; 1858 September 9, October 31; 1860 April 27.

**Black Birch Hill** -- see Hubbard’s Hill

**Black Birch Woods** -- N 42.49111, W 71.34831

There are various places in Concord where Black Birch (Betula lenta) occurs, but Thoreau’s use of this name is to a particularly good stand of it at Hubbard’s Hill in the Estabrook Woods. The map of the Estabrook Woods showing vegetation zones done by Harvard University’s Concord Field Station in 1973 perhaps gives the best representation of the extant of these woods surrounding Hubbard’s Hill on all sides. The coordinates above are for the summit of Hubbard’s Hill, also called by Thoreau Black Birch Hill. On June 24, 1854 Thoreau notes that all the large Black Birch trees on this hill were cut down. His reflection on this event in his Journal four years later on November 8, 1858 is touching.

Journal references: 1852 September 28 (indirectly); 1853 May 12; 1854 June 29 (indirectly); 1858 November 8 (indirectly).

**Black Oak Creek**

Thoreau’s single reference to this notes his paddling across Hosmer’s meadow from the Island to the creek. The next sentence refers to paddling up to the source of Pinxter Swamp. The Hosmer referred to is Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) who before 1853 resided on Lincoln Road (now Sandy Pond Road) near the Cambridge Turnpike, but who moved from there to a house next to the Old Hunt House on Lowell Road near and northwest of Hunt’s Bridge (see Journal, March 17, 1855). Hosmer’s meadow is the river meadow on the north side of the Assabet River opposite Egg Rock which is on the Island. This meadow is across Lowell Road from Hosmer’s residence. Cutting across that meadow toward the source of Pinxter Swamp would bring Thoreau to the flooded Azalea Brook which is the source of the Pinxter Swamp and which empties into the Assabet River. This is likely the brook/creek Thoreau refers to. The association with Black Oak (Quercus velutina) is unknown since this species grows in dry woods.


**Black Rock Shore** -- N 42.44383, W 71.36651 (best estimate)

Thoreau includes his single reference to this location while listing places along the Sudbury River during a winter walk over the river ice. He notes passing the Black Rock Shore beyond the place where the man was drowned which is followed by the Deep Causeway. The man drowned would be Nathan Hosmer (1740 - 1777) whose story was told to Thoreau in the Journal entry for February 19, 1855 where it is related that Hosmer lived on Conantum and was drowned while crossing the river on the ice (December 25) returning from the town center and that the location was just below where a bridge was later built. Since he was attempting to reach Conantum from the town center the future bridge would be Hubbard’s Bridge, the shortest route. Also, the Black Rock Shore would be on the northeast side of the river. This fits Thoreau’s description where he first refers to locations travelling northward toward Hubbard’s Bridge. See also his entry for January 27, 1860 where he lists some of the same locations in the same order. Since the exact distance below Hubbard’s Bridge where the drowning occurred is unknown, the above coordinates are an estimate. The origin of “black rock” in the name likely relates his comparison of muskrat houses to black rocks along this stretch of the river (see
Journal, October 18, 1853), since there are no other references in the Journal to “black rock” associated with the Sudbury River.


**Boat’s Place [Concord center] -- N 42.45982, W 71.35828**

Thoreau effectively pinpoints the location of his boat’s place in his Journal entry of July 25, 1859 where he notes that it is behind his friend’s Channing residence. At that time William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) resided directly across Main Street from Thoreau. Thoreau also annotated in 1859/1860 the 1834 survey of the Sudbury/Concord River by B. F. Perham noting the location of his boat place on the south shore of the Sudbury River which agrees with the location behind Channing’s residence at the Sudbury River. At least once Thoreau refers to another boat place of his at the Baker Farm in Lincoln, MA.

Journal references: 1853 July 20, November 16; 1854 March 30; 1856 May 19, August 22; 1857 April 26; 1858 April 7, August 15, November 17; 1859 January 22, July 5, 25, 30, August 2, December 29, 31; 1860 January 22, April 22, 25, June 23, July 7, September 13, 17.

**Boaz’s Lower Meadow -- N 42.48743, W 71.36178**

This would refer to the meadow/bog just to the northeast of Boaz’s Meadow. Boaz’s Meadow is at elevation of 228 feet while Boaz’s Lower Meadow just to the northeast of it is “lower” at an elevation of 212 feet.

Journal references: 1858 January 8 (indirectly); 1860 May 29.

**Boaz’s Meadow (Boaz Brown Meadow) -- N 42.48561, W 71.36377**

Thoreau’s first Journal reference to this is on November 11, 1857 where he notes it as the andromeda swamp behind the cellar hole where Boaz Brown (1641 - 1724) used to live northwest of Brooks Clark’s. There is a bog with a carpet of “andromeda” (Chamaedaphne calyculata) northwest of the site of the John Brooks Clark (1775 - 1865)/Raymond Emerson (1886 - 1977) house on the north side of
Estabrook Road. This bog is at the coordinates given above. The location of this bog is also consistent with Thoreau’s description on November 18, 1857 in which he describes it at a much higher elevation and at a short distance west of a meadow behind Brooks Clark’s house. On this date he describes it as the first of a chain of wetlands (which happen to be successively lower in elevation) leading to the northeast and eastward -- opposite in direction to a series of wetlands close by to the south leading westward and southward toward the Assabet River. Also, it agrees with Thoreau’s reference on January 8, 1858 to a small meadow (Boaz’s Lower Meadow) just above (i.e., a bit northeast of) it, and reference to a long swamp northeast of it on February 24, 1858. The Gleason map has Boaz’s Meadow misplaced as a larger swamp due north of the Brook Clark house. The Estabrook Woods map of Mary Gail Fenn and others appears to have the Boaz Brown site correctly located, with the name of the meadow placed between Boaz’s Meadow and Boaz’s Lower Meadow. Boaz’s Meadow has at least two locally rare plants – the Virginia Chain Fern (Woodwardia virginica) and Swamp Sweetbells (Eubotrys racemosa).

Journal references: **1857** November 11, 18; **1858** January 8, February 5, 24; **1860** November 1 (misspelled).

**Boiling Spring** -- N 42.44235, W 71.35565 (provided by Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle)
The name evidently derives from its formerly having bubbled up from the ground, as Thoreau remarks in his Journal entry for July 7, 1860. The spring today emanates from an iron pipe on a slope, the original source is likely beneath a concrete structure a little farther up the slope. Gleason misplaces this a bit too far north on his map.
Boiling Spring (December 2019)
courtesy of Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle

Journal references: 1851 September 10; 1852 June 15; 1853 March 12, June 17, July 19; 1854 April 19, May 5, 7, 22; 1856 April 13 (wood); 1860 June 30, July 7, August 10, November 21.

Boston Road [Concord, MA] -- from N 42.46044, W 71.34855 to N 42.45277, W 71.30481 (in Concord)
This road, currently named Lexington Road, runs from the center of Concord eastward to Lincoln. From there under different names it proceeds through Lincoln into Lexington and eventually into Boston. In Concord, and more or less in Lincoln and Lexington, it is the route the British soldiers took to get to Concord on April 19, 1775. Other roads in Massachusetts were named Boston Road such as in Wayland, and Thoreau once uses the name for the Wayland one.

Journal references: 1852 January 17, 20, April 22, 30; 1856 January 19; 1858 November 1; 1860 January 16, February 28; 1861 February 27, 28, March 8.

Botrychium Swamp (Fever-bush Swamp, Rattlesnake Fern Swamp) -- N 42.49654, W 71.34865 (best estimate)
The location given for this swamp with the coordinates above has not yet been absolutely confirmed with a search for the fern there. Thoreau’s Journal references leave some ambiguity as to whether this is the same as his Yellow Birch Swamp (see further below) as is claimed by Gleason with his map, or whether it is a different swamp. The evidence suggests a resolution of this - it is the northern part of an elongated swamp while the Yellow Birch Swamp is the southern end of the same elongated swamp. The particular fern that the name refers to is Rattlesnake Fern (Botrychium virginianum) which is locally rare. On July 10, 1857 Thoreau reports in his Journal that his friend Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878) found this fern about the bass (locally rare Basswood (Tilia americana)) at Fever-bush Swamp.
On September 2, 1857 he refers to “Some bass trees” and also reports the fever-bush (Lindera benzoin) a locally uncommon shrub, as being “the prevailing underwood”. The survey that Thoreau did for the heirs of Humphrey Hunt (1770 - 1852) in December 1852 that shows the location for his Yellow Birch Swamp also had notated on a boundary north of that location the word “Bass”, that is, Basswood. The location of this word puts it on the edge of a northern section of an elongated wetland that contains the Yellow Birch Swamp at its southern end. In his Journal on September 2, 1857 Thoreau refers to the Yellow Birch Swamp, but also the “botrychium swamp” in lower case, suggesting perhaps two different swamps. Thoreau’s Journal entry for May 5, 1859 appears to equate the two names of the swamp in the same sentence.

Journal references: 1857 July 10, 13, September 2, 16; 1858 June 28, September 1; 1859 May 5, September 24, October 15; 1860 May 26, July 14.

**Boulder Field** -- Northernmost boulder pair #1 & #2 at N 42.49315, W 71.35355; boulder #3 at N 42.49279, W 71.35242; boulder pair #4 & #5 at N 42.49233, W 71.35313; boulder pair #6 & #7 at N 42.49194, W 71.35324; southernmost boulder #8 at N 42.49183, W 71.35226 (all provided by Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle)

Thoreau’s Journal entry of April 21, 1852 describes this on a walk to the vicinity of Hubbard’s Hill in the Estabrook Woods. After noting some Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis) he refers to it as being in “the pasture beyond the brook” containing “half a dozen huge boulders”. The birch would be that in the Yellow Birch Swamp, and the brook would be the Saw Mill Brook that runs southward out of that swamp. The pasture is west of this brook. Cherrie Corey found about six boulders in this area, and Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle confirmed and documented their precise locations with photographs and the coordinates given above. The number of six boulders given by Thoreau is arrived at by not including the smaller boulders of boulder pair # 4 & #5 (not seen in image) and boulder pair #6 & #7 (in foreground). All of these boulders are contained within one long, narrow, approximately north-south stone-wall enclosure that is the boundary of a particular parcel of land now, and as it was then. This agrees with Thoreau’s Journal statement of November 3, 1857 indicating one owner of the pasture: “It would be something to own that pasture with the great rocks in it! And yet I suppose they are considered an incumbrance only by the owner.”

Boulder images below taken in November 2019 are courtesy of Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle.
Boulders #4 & #5 (not shown)   Boulders #6 & #7

Journal references: 1852 April 21, June 23 (indirectly), August 3, September 28; 1853 May 12, June 10; 1855 March 8; 1857 October 5, November 3; 1858 February 24, May 21, 29, June 28, August 6, November 8; 1860 June 3.

Bound Rock [Sudbury, MA] -- N 42.41315, W 71.36812
This is a rock just over the Concord town line in Sudbury on the west side of the Sudbury River that was used in colonial times to mark the boundary between the two towns.

Journal references: 1851 October 15; 1855 February 24; 1858 August 5; 1859 December 29 (footnote); 1860 February 15.

Brister’s Hill (Bristow’s Hill) -- N 42.44803, W 71.33843 (eastern summit) & N 42.44674, W 71.34157 (southern summit)
This is a hill of moderate size within an elevation of about 208 feet on the east side of Brister’s Spring connected to a secondary peak of about 206 feet in elevation on the south side of Brister’s Spring beside Walden Street. The Journal references indicate that Thoreau considered both elevations part of one extended hill. In his Journal on May 3, 1852 he notes “the meadow at Brister’s Hill” where the slope of the eastern elevation borders this meadow (later named by him Hubbard’s Close, now
Fairyland Pond). On December 26, 1853 he remarks on “the trackless road up Brister’s Hill”, which could only refer to Walden Road running beside the southern elevation. Thoreau’s Journal entry of June 17, 1854 suggests that he might have considered an elevation on the west side of Walden Road also to be part of the hill, but the reference is not unambiguous. The site of the Brister Freeman (ca. 1743 - 1822) home site is thought to be at or near the summit of the southern elevation. See Brister’s Spring for information on Brister.


**Brister’s Meadow -- see Hubbard’s Close**

**Brister’s Path (Brister Hill path)**

There is insufficient information to determine the course of this path. According to the Journal references, the beginning of some other path near the boundary between the properties of Samuel Staples (1813 - 1895) and Captain Francis Jarvis (1794 - 1875) is on Brister’s Path, and also Brister’s Path traverses some of the hollows of Brister’s Hill. Thoreau’s surveys show the ownership of land along the west side of Walden Road from near Walden Pond toward the town to be Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882), John Potter (1793 - 1875), Samuel Staples and Francis Jarvis. The boundary between the Staples and Potter lots is along Walden Road approximately due north of the Wyman Meadow. The boundary between the Staples and Jarvis property is about another 420 feet along Walden Road toward the town. This places the beginning of the other path near the summit of the southern elevation of Brister’s Hill that is right beside the road on the eastern side. Several present-day trails intersect near or at this location.

Journal references: 1855 January 26; 1858 September 15.

**Brister’s Spring -- N 42.44750, W 71.34087 (provided by Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle)**

This spring that feeds into the Hubbard Close is named after the freed slave Brister Freeman (ca. 1743 - 1822) who lived nearby. In Walden Thoreau confuses (perhaps purposely) Brister Freeman with Sippio Brister who is buried in Lincoln, MA and who died in 1820.

![Brister’s Spring (December 2019) courtesy of Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle](image-url)
Brister’s Spring Swamp -- N 42.4789, W 71.34139
This is the swamp in the immediate vicinity of Brister’s Spring.

Journal references: 1859 September 25, 30 (indirectly); 1860 May 18.

Britto’s Hill -- see Brister’s Hill

Britton’s Camp (Britton’s Shanty) [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.44569, W 71.32481 (approximate)
This would be a former temporary work location of woodman, Joel Britton (1801 – 1858), who harvested wood from the land nearby to sell. As noted in the entry for Britton’s Hollow, he ultimately failed. The only clues we have for this spot is that it was by what is now known as Sandy Pond Road and is south of the hollow Thoreau named after him. On his map Gleason places it just on the Lincoln side of the boundary between Concord and Lincoln near the road. It is assumed here that Gleason was correctly informed as to its location by the Concord acquaintances he notes that he consulted for his map. The coordinates above can only be approximate.

Journal references: 1845-1846 vol. I, page 399 of 1906 ed. & vol. 2, page 190 of Princeton ed.; 1852 January 19, October 15; 1854 January 13; 1855 March 21; 1856 October 8, 18 (indirectly); 1857 April 25 (indirectly), May 26, August 31; 1858 August 23; 1859 September 1; 1860 October 26 (indirectly), November 2, December 2.

Britton’s Hollow -- N 42.44675, W 71.32624
Topography indicates the location of this place. Thoreau’s Journal entries refer to it as a deep hollow north of the Britton shanty by or near the road (present-day Sandy Pond Road). In addition Thoreau’s Journal entry of October 26, 1860 which most likely refers to this hollow (changing its name to Fox...
Hollow, related to its association with a fox-hole in the hollow that same year) as having an area of about an acre at the bottom. The coordinates above are for the only hollow that fits in that vicinity. It presently (and since at least 1894) has been filled with some water. Thoreau does not refer to any body of water close to Sandy Pond Road in his Journal, suggesting this circumstance occurred after his time. Thoreau’s reference to Britton is to Joel Britton (1801 - 1858), a woodman who cut wood from this are of Concord and Lincoln. In a letter to Emerson dated February 23, 1848 Thoreau remarked that Britton had failed and ended up in court. Gleason’s placement of this on his map is correct.

Journal references: 1854 January 13; 1855 March 21 (indirectly), April 16; 1856 October 8 (indirectly); 1857 April 25; 1858 January 23 (likely); 1859 April 9; 1860 May 9, June 9, 19, October 26 (likely, as “Fox Hollow”).

**Britton’s Shanty -- see Britton’s Camp**

**Britton’s Spring [probably Lincoln, MA]**  N 42.44135, W 71.32281 (best guess)

There is insufficient information to locate this spring. It is evidently not far from Britton’s Camp (see entry above). The above coordinates are for a favorable location.


**Brooks Crossing**

Although apparently with useful information, Thoreau’s single reference is insufficient to understand this name. The location is likely a small meadow south of Loring’s Pond through which the Fitchburg Railroad passes. However, there is no evident connection to any “Brooks”.


**Brooks’(s) Meadow**

This is a meadow that belonged to farmer Asa Brooks Jr. (1800 - 1858) who lived briefly on Virginia Road, apparently in the house where Thoreau was born. The meadow would have been in the vicinity of this residence and probably to the east of it as Thoreau initially thought that the meadow belonged to Joseph Merriam/Meriam (1767 - 1856), who lived to the east on Virginia Road. The location cannot be determined since there is much meadowland in this area.


**Brooks’s Hollow -- see Abel Brook’s Hollow**

**Brooks’s Pigeon-place (Brooks’s Pigeon-stand, George Brooks’s Pigeon-stand)**

There is insufficient information to locate this exactly. It would be in the vicinity of the residence of farmer George Brooks (1824 - 1905) who lived northwest of Annursnack Hill along Strawberry Hill Road. The pigeon referred to is the now-extinct Passenger Pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius). Pigeon-places or pigeon-stands were areas used to bait the pigeons.

Journal references: 1854 March 7; 1858 September 13 (indirectly); 1859 September 15; 1860 September 15, November 1, 28.
**Brown's Ditch [Sleepy Hollow]** -- from N 42.46586, W 71.34273 to N 42.46569, W 71.34114

The hilly part of the Deacon Reuben Brown (1781 - 1854) farm was known as Sleepy Hollow and was made into Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (dedicated as such in 1855). Included on the farm was a wetland (meadow) north of Sleepy Hollow that was part of what became known as Moore's Swamp. Surprisingly, a straight ditch in this wetland can be discerned on the ConcordGIS map and in some aerial photographs and satellite images with coordinates given above.

Journal references: **1853** August 31; **1854** April 20 (indirectly).

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**Brown's Meadow (James P. Brown's Meadow, J. P. Brown's Meadow)** -- N 42.44959, W 71.37883 (best estimate)

The best information for the location of this meadow is Thoreau's Journal entry for July 30, 1853 where he remarks that the Nut Meadow Brook and/or the road of clerk Luther Hosmer (1803 - after 1880) are in the meadow. There is only one meadow that is consistent with these details. The coordinates are given above. The meadow at these coordinates is connected to the Sudbury River meadow through which the Nut Meadow Brook flows nearby. The meadow is also right by the road presently named Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (Sudbury Road in Thoreau’s time) at the point where another road once intersected it at the Luther Hosmer residence. That road (which no longer exists proceeded northwestward past the Hosmer residence and the residence of farmer James Potter Brown (1810 - 1871). Thoreau made a survey for the planned road in May 1851. This eastern endpoint of the Hosmer road is the closest that this new road comes to the Nut Meadow brook.

Journal references: **1852** June 5, July 28, August 22 (indirectly); **1853** April 1 (-side), July 30; **1854** February 5, July 7.

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The equivalence of Heart-leaf Pond with Brown's Pond is established by Thoreau’s Journal entry of September 29, 1858. Thoreau’s heart-leaf refers to the aquatic plant Nymphoides cordata. The location of this small pond can be determined from Thoreau’s description of the topography around it on November 9, 1851 and its proximity to the residence of James Potter Brown (1810 - 1871) about a half mile due north of the pond on his large property. The location for it given on the Gleason map is approximate, placed somewhat too far to the north and west.

Journal references: **1851** November 9; **1852** July 29 (indirectly); **1853** March 27, June 23, 24, November 29; **1854** April 8, June 7; **1855** April 13; **1858** April 4 (indirectly), September 29, November 11; **1860** March 18, July 30, November 1 (indirectly), 25.

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**Brown's Sleepy Hollow Meadow** -- N 42.46599, W 71.34148

See entry for Brown’s Ditch for information on the origin and location for this name.

Journal references: **1852** August 20; **1854** April 20 (indirectly).

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**Bull's Path**

There is insufficient information to place this exactly, but it would be in the vicinity of the Concord residence along Lexington Road of Ephraim Wales Bull (1806 - 1895), the goldbeater, horticulturalist and state legislator who created the Concord Grape.

Journal reference: **1856** August 16.
**Bulrush Lagoon** -- N 42.44242, 71.36944 (most likely, approximately)

Thoreau’s single reference describes this as “off Grindstone Meadow”. The coordinates above are for the edge of the river adjacent to the estimated location of Grindstone Meadow on the western shore of the Sudbury River northwest of Hubbard’s Bridge. See the entry for Grindstone Meadow. As noted there the bulrush referred to in the name would be the Bayonet Rush (Scirpus militaris). Since the shape of the shore of the Sudbury River has undoubtedly changed significantly since Thoreau’s time due to changes in the vegetation and other factors, it is not unexpected that a noticeable lagoon is not presently discernible at the above coordinates.


**Burnt Plain** -- see **Shrub Oak Plain**

**Burying Ground** -- see **Smallpox Burying-Ground**

**Buttrick Hill** -- see **Abner Buttrick’s Hill**

**Caesar’s Path** -- see **Peter’s Path**

**Caesar’s Well** -- see **Caesar’s well**

**Cafferty’s Swamp [Bedford, MA/Concord, MA]** -- N 42.47087, 71.28887

This was a large swamp almost entirely in Bedford. A small part of it extended into Concord as property of Concord farmer James McCafferty (1805 - 1869) who lived on the south side of the eastern end Virginia Road just after it bends southward to enter Lincoln heading eastward along the road. This swamp shows up most clearly in an 1830 map of Bedford done by John G. Hales. The 19th century maps of Concord only show the southern edges of the swamp that extend into Concord. The swamp does not appear on 20th century maps or later because it was cleared and drained. The land t was on became first the Bedford Airport and later the Hanscom Field Airport.


**Calla Swamp (Bateman’s Pond Swamp)** -- N 42.491176, W 71.364084 (best estimate)

The location of this swamp has not been determined with certainty. Minot Pratt was the first to discover Calla palustris in Concord. Pratt found it in a swamp south of Bateman’s Pond according to his manuscript of plants of Concord (his note of this location appearing in error under the preceding species in his list -- the common Peltandra virginica, sometimes called Calla virginica in Thoreau’s time). Pratt shared the location of his find with Thoreau in 1857. Thoreau first mentions Pratt’s find in his Journal on May 18, 1857 -- “In the swampy meadow north of this [rocky hillside] Pratt says he finds the calla.” Thoreau gives clues to the location of the swamp where Pratt found it in his various Journal entries, indicating that it is on the north side of a hill and that there was a hill between this swamp and Bateman’s Pond. Thoreau first coins the name “Calla Swamp” for this swamp in his Journal entry for on June 9, 1857. He uses the name “Bateman Pond Swamp” before this date and once after this date. Thoreau later in the same year found Calla Palustris in the Owl Nest Swamp and at Gowing’s Swamp. Another clue to the swamp would be the presence of the locally rare Lysimachia thyrsiflora which Thoreau notes finding in the Calla Swamp in sphagnum moss and water in his Journal entry for June 9, 1857. The swamp located at the coordinates given above is the only one that is on the north side of a hillside that is south of Bateman’s Pond and that has a single, sizeable hill between it and Bateman’s Pond. Richard Eaton collected a specimen of Calla palustris in the same vicinity in 1955. But his location and habitat information (in an opening of a wooded swampy brook
that was in woods opposite the old Worthley Farm on Lowell Road) suggest that his location was at a spot a little southwest of Calla Swamp, probably part of a wider Calla population in that area. The location of Calla Swamp as shown on the Gleason Map of Concord with Thoreau localities is clearly incorrect as he places it north of and adjacent to Bateman’s Pond.

Journal references: 1857 (May 18); (June 7), 9, 24; September 4; November 2, 14; 1858 May 29.

**Callitriche Pool**
This is named after the aquatic plant Callitriche heterophylla. There is insufficient information in Thoreau’s Journal entries to locate this place. If the Journal entry of April 7, 1855 indeed refers to the pool, then it was likely somewhere within the current Fairyland Pond. Location in the Hubbard Close is consistent with the other Journal references to it. Thoreau indicates elsewhere in the Journal that it was what is now called a vernal pool, drying up in the summer.

Journal references: 1854 June 30; 1855 April 7 (possible), 16, May 10; 1856 April 16; 1857 June 7.

**Canoe Birch Road** -- from N 42.43594, W 71.40169 to N 42.42755, W 71.40547 (in Concord)
This is a short road in the southwestern part of Concord that starts from the Old Marlborough Road and runs southward into the town of Sudbury. Today in Concord it is known as the Old Pickard Road, and in Sudbury it becomes Dakin Road. The name refers to Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera).


**Cardinal Ditch** -- N 42.45546, W 71.34481
The remarkable display of thousands of Cardinal-flowers (Lobelia cardinalis) Thoreau describes in his Journal entry for August 27, 1856 indicates that they occupied the ditch in a straight-line for 175 meters. His Journal entry for August 16, 1858 reveals that the ditch was next to a low meadow-pasture that belonged to the almshouse. Historic maps of Concord of 1830, 1852 and 1856 show the location of the almshouse on the west side of Walden Street. The Concord GIS map indicates a wetland (the former meadow-pasture) next to (just south of) the former site of the almshouse. Current satellite images show a straight drainage ditch on the south side of that former meadow-pasture that runs straight from Walden Road southwestward for about 175 meters before it bends and runs straight in a slightly different direction. The coordinates above are for the center of the 175 meter stretch.

Journal references: 1856 August 27, September 14; 1857 September 10; 1858 August 16; 1859 August 28.

**Cardinal Shore** -- N 42.43814, W 71.36099
Thoreau’s Journal entries indicate this is a place by the shore beneath Fair Haven Hill where he kept a boat and where the river had a sandy bottom close to the shore. There is essentially only one area that is not a cliff right by the water (i.e., without a mucky meadow between the shore and the Sudbury River) as given by the coordinates above. Gleason has placed this more or less correctly on his map. The shore is named after the brilliant scarlet blossoms of the Cardinal-flower (Lobelia cardinalis).

Journal references: 1852 August 19, 31 (indirectly); 1853 July 10; 1854 April 29, July 17; 1855 September 24, November 5, 13; 1856 April 8, May 17, 18, September 2, December 7, 9; 1857 May 25; 1858 January 5, March 18, 20, August 31, September 12; 1859 March 23, 26, 27, April 12, July 29, September 28; 1860 February 27 (footnote), September 7.
Cassandra Pond(s) -- see Andromeda Pond(s)

Cassia Field -- N 42.45776, W 71.30505 (approximately)
On August 11, 1856 Thoreau is alerted to the discovery by Minot Pratt (1805 – 1878) of the locally rare Wild Senna (Senna hebecarpa, Cassia marilandica in Thoreau’s time) below (i.e., downslope) from the residence of farmer William Leighton (1808 - 1891), who lived along and near the easternmost end of Lexington Road in Concord bordering Lincoln. Thoreau’s description of the locale in his Journal on August 16, 1856 as “… yellowing the field twenty-five rods off, from top of hill. It is perhaps the prevailing shrub over several acres of moist rocky meadow pasture on the brook; …” allows determination of the coordinates given above. The “hill” would refer to that on which Lexington Road runs along sloping northward. The “brook” refers to Mill Brook which 1830, 1852, 1856 and 1875 maps of Concord show as running approximately parallel to Lexington Road along this eastern part of the road in Concord. Topographic maps from 1943 onward do not show the Mill Brook. Elm Brook which presently runs north along and close to the border with Lincoln in this neighborhood is not shown on the older maps.

Journal reference: 1856 August 16.

Catbird Meadow -- N 42.46462, W 71.35898 (approximately)
This is part of Wheeler’s Meadow east of Nashawtuc Hill close to the Island. The bird referred to is the Gray Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis).

Journal references: 1855 June 6 (indirectly); 1856 April 15; 1857 May 8 (indirectly).

Causeway Bridge [Concord, MA]

Causeway Bridge (old stone bridge) [Concord, MA] -- N 42.46593, W 71.39123
This bridge across the Assabet River was replaced by the Assabet Stone Bridge close to it. Thoreau relates on July 16 and 20, 1859 that the building of a new stone bridge for the road here over the Assabet River was discussed by the town in 1807 but not built until 1826 or 1827 replacing an older wooden bridge that was 50 feet downstream. The coordinates above are for 50 feet downstream from the current location of the bridge over the Assabet River at Elm Street. The “causeway” refers to the raised area of the road through the river meadow on the east side of the Assabet River leading to the bridge.

Journal references: 1851 August 23; 1852 June 15, 19, November 29; 1855 March 11; 1856 January 30; 1859 July 20 (indirectly); 1860 January 25.

Causeway Bridge(s) [Wayland, MA] -- N 42.37418, W 71.38158
This is a pair of bridges that cross the Sudbury River in Wayland, MA along the Old Sudbury Road. References to the causeway itself are not included here.


Cedar Swamp (Caeder Swamp) [Estabrook Woods – Concord MA/Carlisle MA] -- N 42.50192, W 71.34493 (approximate center)
This is a large swamp that straddles the northern boundary between Concord and Carlisle with the southern portion within the area known as the Estabrook Woods (Easterbrook Country to Thoreau). On some maps of the Estabrook Woods in recent times it is called Carlisle Swamp. The name Thoreau uses for it on the single day he refers to it evidently derives from some presence in the swamp of
Atlantic White Cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides). That presence would most likely be on the Carlisle side since Thoreau only saw native stands of this in Concord in the swamp near Annursnack Hill that he also called Cedar Swamp.


Cedar Swamp (White Cedar Swamp) [not of Estabrook Woods] -- N 42.47688, W 71.38803
This swamp is named after the Atlantic White Cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides). Thoreau found in this swamp other locally rare and uncommon plants such as Swamp Sweetbells (Eubotrys racemosa), Maianthemum trifolium, Tamarack (Larix laricina) and Black Spruce (Picea mariana). In 1921 Richard J. Eaton (1890 - 1976), author of A Flora of Concord, collected some of this cedar on the swampy west shore of Angiers Pond, known as Barrett’s Mill Pond in Thoreau’s day. Eaton noted that the colony was destroyed within 10 years. However, Thoreau never associates his Cedar Swamp with Barrett’s Mill Pond. In 1858 Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893), Thoreau’s Concord friend who shared his deep interest in botany, collected a specimen of this in Concord at “G. M. Barrett’s swamp”, referring to George M. Barrett (1794 - 1873) who lived on what is now known as Barrett’s Mill Road right where College Road starts. In June 1982 this author found seedlings of this cedar in a thicket on the west shore of the pond whose coordinates are given above. This pond did not exist in Thoreau’s time since it shows as a swampy area on a 1943 USGS topographic map and not a pond on any earlier map. This pond/ex-swamp is about 400 meters due north of the former residence of George M. Barrett. This author has also found small colonies of this cedar elsewhere in Concord. The colony found by Richard J. Eaton roughly 700 meters due east of the current pond was likely seeded from Thoreau’s Cedar Swamp. Gleason misplaces Cedar Swamp somewhat on his map placing it in a wetland about 500 meters northeast of the pond/ex-swamp.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1853 November 14; 1854 April 24, May 1, 17, 23, 29; 1855 April 23; 1856 April 23, 29, May 4, 11, 19, June 8; 1857 April 26, June 3, 10; 1858 October 28, November 3.

Charles Miles Run -- N 42.43813, W 71.37686 to N 42.44041, W 71.36735
This is a brook that runs from the Charles Miles (or Ledum) Swamp underneath the Corner Road (currently Sudbury Road) to the Sudbury River. The coordinates given are first the remnant pool in the Ledum Swamp, and second the outlet of the brook as clearly seen in a 1940s aerial photograph. Aerial photography, some topographic maps, and the 1875 map of Concord of F. W. Beers show the brook beginning in the swamp on the west side of the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner. But aerial photographs indicate the path of the brook from that swamp (which is at a higher altitude than the Charles Swamp) as very straight to the road before crossing it. This strongly suggests a ditch made to drain the swamp on the west side into the Charles Miles Swamp, and is not accepted here as the origin of the brook in Thoreau’s time. Gleason’s map does not show it originating from the west side of the road. The brook is named for Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) who resided at the corner of what is now Old-Road-to-Nine-Acre-Corner and Williams Road.


C. [harles] Miles blueberry swamp -- see Ledum Swamp

C. [harles] Miles Swamp -- see Ledum Swamp

Charles Miles Swamp -- see Ledum Swamp
**Cheney’s Boat-house** -- N 42.46072, W 71.35675 (best estimate)
This was a boat-house on the Sudbury River behind the residence of attorney and bank cashier John Milton Cheney (1797 - 1869) which was on the north side of Main Street about one block closer to the town center than the Thoreau residence. Cheney’s property is now part of the Concord Academy.

Journal reference: **1851** October 5; **1853** March 29; **1856** December 4.

**Cheney’s Spring**
There is insufficient information to pinpoint this spring. Presumably it is on the property of John Milton Cheney (1797 – 1869) who lived in Main Street. See entry for Cheney’s Boat-house.


**Clamshell Bend (Clamshell curve, Indian Bend)** -- N 42.45145, W 71.37340
This is the right-angle bend in the Sudbury River close to Clamshell Hill. Thoreau refers to it once as Indian Bend in his Journal on February 12 where he equates that name with Clamshell Bend.

Journal references: **1853** June 24; **1854** July 11; **1856** December 7; **1859** December 28, 29; **1860** February 12.

**Clamshell curve** -- see **Clamshell Bend**

**Clamshell Ditch (Clamshell end ditch, Clamshell Hill ditch)** -- from N 42.45237, W 71.37131 to N 42.45207, W 71.37114 (likely)
This is a ditch or manmade channel through the Sudbury River by Clamshell Hill. It is very likely the one still visible on the ConcordGISmap and aerial photographs with the coordinates given above.

Journal references: **1854** July 5; **1855** May 1; **1856** June 20; **1858** April 5, 28, September 6.

**Clamshell Field** -- see **Clamshell Plain**

**Clamshell Hill(s) (Clamshell Bluff, Clamshell Bank, Clamshell)** -- N 42.45190, W 71.37215
According to Richard Eaton (p. 13, Eaton 1974), “this locality was the site of an important permanent Indian village, with a large shell-heap on the south-facing bank. It was under cultivation for many years prior to about 1930 and then allowed to become fallow. ... the site was almost completely destroyed by road [Route 2] and school house construction, as well as by subdivisions for house lots.” The major construction of Route 2 as a four-lane highway in Concord was completed in 1935. As late as 1936 there were still significant quantities of rotted clam shells left by the Native Americans at this site that gave rise to the name for it used by Thoreau. He and others have collected many Native American artifacts over the years (see, for example, his journal entry for September 22, 1860). A colored photo of this site taken by Herbert W. Gleason is [here](#). Another Gleason photo looking at it northward from below shows lobes in the bank that likely accounts for Thoreau’s use of the plural “hills” at times. On July 14, 1859 in his Journal Thoreau describes Clamshell as a long, lowish hillbank (which still can be discerned as an approximately west-east elevation on the detailed Concord GIS mapping in spite of the Route 2 construction). The coordinates above are for the southeasternmost bank of the hill by the river which would be the part he most often saw from the river. These coordinates agree with Thoreau’s placement of the hill on a survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River that he annotated in 1859/1860 originally prepared by B. F. Perham in 1834. Many interesting plants have collected at this site due to the soil affected by the calcium in the shells. A number of these were transient, inadvertent introductions from other parts of the U.S.
The skunk-cabbage that Thoreau visited here for one of the two earliest blossoming stations for this earliest, native, spring flower in Concord still exists on the south side of the embankment on the Sudbury River close to the Route 2 bridge. The south-facing, open exposure here is very favorable for receiving the warmth of the sun in spring.

Journal references: 1837 October 29; 1851 July 8, August 19, October 6 (indirectly), 7 (indirectly), November 9; 1852 March 6, April 3, 25, June 9, July 5; 1853 March 27, 29, April 1, 6, May 6, 23, June 23, 24, July 31, August 15, November 9, December 3, 11; 1854 March 5, 10, 18, 21, 24, April 8, May 6, 16, 22, 28, June 12, July 3, 5, 7, 30 (oaks), August 29, 30, September 4, 6, 15, November 2, 17, 28, December 19, 20; 1855 January 7, February 24, 26, 28, March 18, 19, April 5 (oaks), 7, May 1, 6, 18, 26, June 5, 14; 1856 January 5, 25, March 10, 18, April 2, 4, 5, 7, 17, 22, 26, May 6, 7, 11, 19, 25, 30, June 4, 10, July 17, 26, August 3, 24, September 27, December 4, 17, 29; 1857 January 6, May 10, July 5, 12, September 11, 26, October 4, 9, 26, November 20; 1858 January 24, March 21, May 17, July 22, August 7, 8, 12, 25, September 6 (indirectly), 18, 27, 29, October 16, November 11, 21; 1859 January 23, March 2, 3, 10, 13, 19, 25, April 3, 30, May 1, July 5, 7, 8, 14, September 2, 26, October 16, November 15, December 29; 1860 January 22, February 25, March 2, 4, 18, 30, April 5, 22, 27, May 11, 13, June 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 24, July 7, August 22, 25, September 22, October 13, 30, November 25; 1861 April 9.

Clamshell Hill ditch -- see Clamshell Ditch

Clamshell Hill Shore -- see Clamshell Shore

Clamshell Meadow -- N 42.45276, W 71.36971 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s statements about this meadow in his Journal on June 5, 1855 indicate that this is a river meadow when he notes it was damaged with turf removed which occurs at times during winter thawing, for instance, at Clamshell Hill on March 19, 1855. His referring to it as a flat meadow on June 5, 1855 would most likely refer to an area where the meadow borders a level stretch of dry land. Such a stretch occurs by the Sudbury River meadow northeast of Clamshell Hill. The coordinates above are for the river meadow in that area.


Clamshell Plain (Clamshell field) -- N 42.45373, 71.37304 (approximately)
This is most likely a large level area north and west of Clamshell Hill easily discernible on the ConcordGISMap.

Journal references: 1851 July 8; 1858 September 6; 1859 March 25; 1860 June 15.

Clamshell Reach (Sunset Reach) -- from N 42.45231, W 71.36787 to N 42.45154, W 71.37326
Thoreau describes this east-west stretch of the Sudbury River clearly in his first reference to it on July 15, 1854 in his Journal. After witnessing a splendid sunset while in the river at the beginning of this location on September 25, 1854 he refers to it as Sunset Reach.

Journal references: 1854 July 15, September 14, 25; 1860 February 12.

Clamshell Shore (Clamshell Hill Shore) -- N 42.45180, W 71.37193
This is the shore right at the base of Clamshell Hill where there is no river meadow. The ConcordGISMap shows a small flat just to the east of this point as described in Thoreau’s first Journal reference to this location on July 7, 1854.
Clintonia Swamp (Clintonia Maple Swamp, E. Hubbard’s Clintonia Swamp, E. Hubbard’s Swamp, Hubbard’s Close Swamp) -- N 42.45117, W 71.33908
This is a large swamp just to the northeast of Hubbard Close. The brook emanating from Brister’s Spring flows into Hubbard Close and from there into this swamp, ultimately emptying into Mill Brook. Thoreau considered the swamp to extend from Hubbard’s Close to the Cambridge Turnpike. The coordinates given above is in the middle of that part of the swamp near where the Clintonia would have been at the base of the hill to the southeast. Thoreau’s first reference (as Hubbard’s Close Swamp) in his Journal on June 4, 1853 to this swamp notes Clintonia borealis abundant along the base of a hill. The hill is unnamed but is almost due east of Hubbard’s Close and forms a long elevated ridge along the southeast edge of the swamp. In his first reference on June 4, 1853 he also refers to it informally as “the clintonia swamp”. After his second use of the name “Hubbard’s Close Swamp” on September 2, 1853 he refers to it thereafter as “Clintonia Swamp” beginning on May 30, 1854. A misleading Journal reference occurs on May 31, 1856 to “Clintonia Swamp (Hubbard’s) Grove”. This refers to a grove owned by Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871) at Clintonia Swamp and not to Hubbard’s Grove elsewhere in the town owned by the Cyrus Hubbard family.

Journal References: 1854 July 7; 1855 June 14, September 24; 1858 May 4; 1859 March 25.

Cohush Swamp -- N 42.43242, W 71.36441
This is a small narrow swamp as Thoreau describes it in his Journal on August 31, 1851. Its location on Conantum is adjacent to Miles Swamp. Since Thoreau’s references to it cease in 1851 soon after he began to use the name Miles Swamp, and since he lists a number of the same uncommon species in each, it is likely he considered ultimately this part of the Miles Swamp after distinguishing the two at first. Supporting this also is his Journal entry on August 5, 1853 where he equates Miles Swamp with “arboretum” after comparing the Cohush Swamp to an “arboretum” earlier on August 31, 1851. The name of this swamp derives from a common name (Cohush) for the locally uncommon White Baneberry (Actaea pachypoda) that grows there.

Journal references: 1850 vol. 2 page 64 of 1906 ed. & September 9 of Princeton ed. (indirectly); 1851 August 31, September 24.

Copan -- N 42.47887, W 71.32232
According to Franklin B. Sanborn (1831 - 1917), a friend of the notable Concord authors, “Copan” was a small peninsula thrust into Great Meadows. Application of the name to this area he implies was due to Thoreau’s good friend William Ellery Channing (1818 – 1901), who thought the oak trees that grew on the peninsula in fantastic shapes suggested the idols of Palenque and Copan in Central America. Sanborn remarks also that it was a favorite spot for Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) to visit. Thoreau’s last Journal reference records a large Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida) stand in the southeast portion of the Copan. The Concord GIS map with elevations and wetlands shows clearly this sizable plateau projecting into the Great Meadows, about where Gleason places it on his map.

Journal references: 1856 August 1; 1858 January 29, June 16; 1859 November 29; 1860 March 24, May 16, 25, June 6, November 1.
Corner Bridge -- see Hubbard’s Bridge and Lee’s Bridge

Corner Brook Swamp -- N 42.43805, W 71.36968
This would be a wetland through which the Corner Brook passed on its way to Charles Miles Run. The exact extent of it cannot be determined from current day maps. In his Journal Thoreau distinguishes it from Miles Swamp which is closer to the river shore on September 4, 1856. The coordinate given above are an estimate of the middle of it.

Journal reference: 1856 September 4

Corner causeway -- see Hubbard’s Bridge causeway

Corner Spring -- N 42.43703, W 71.37142 (provided by Steve Tobin)
The name for the spring derives from its closeness to the Corner Road (currently the Sudbury Road). “Corner” refers to Nine-Acre-Corner an area in the southernmost part of Concord toward which the road runs. The coordinates given above are to the origin from an enclosed slope of a small brook or stream close to Sudbury Road. The location on Gleason’s map is approximately correct. Thoreau associates (Journal entry of July 7, 1860) the spring with William Wheeler (1806 – 1864) who lived beside Sudbury Road on the opposite (west) side near Hubbard’s Bridge not far from the spring. The spring was the site of a number of uncommon or locally rare plants.

Corner Spring (January 2020) courtesy of Steve Tobin

Journal references: 1852 January 14 (indirectly), April 27 (indirectly), 28, May 14, 16, 17, 20, 27, June 9, 11, July 11, 21, August 11, 19, September 21; 1853 March 5, May 1, 6, 11, 13, 17, June 21, July 4, 24, 28, August 5, October 19; 1854 July 4, 12 (as “Spring”), 17 (as “Spring”); 1855 May 26; 1856 June 8, 9, July 8, 13, August 7, 11, 13; 1857 May 12, 29, July 11, 17; 1859 April 25, September 2, October 4; 1860 July 7, October 27.

Corner Spring Brook -- N 42.43703, W 71.37142 to N 42.43897, W 71.36900
This is the small brook that originates with the Corner Spring and empties into Charles Miles Run. The coordinates above are for the spring and then the point where the brook joins Charles Miles Run.

Journal references: 1852 August 19 (indirectly); 1859 March 9
Creel Brook -- see Pole Brook

**Curly-pate Hill** -- N 42.49627, W 71.36263

Thoreau coins the name of this hill in his Journal entry of November 2, 1857 owing to the grain of the rocks that stand on their edges, being “... frequently kinked up in a curious manner, reminding me of a curly head.” Thoreau describes it as a “high, flat-backed rocky hill”. On November 6, 1857 he refers to a hollow southeast of the hill with a chestnut woodland. Later he also notes that the hill is a third of a mile distant from the lime quarries. The coordinates above are for the summit of the hill that meets these conditions except that it is two fifths of a mile from the lime quarries. Gleason’s map indicates the hill with coordinates above but includes also a southerly lobe of lower height (at N 42.4955, W 71.36243 which is .37 mile from the quarries). The USGS topographic maps label as “Corly Pate Hill” the greater hill that rises gradually northeastward and eastward from near the summit of the hill identified here. This greater hill has a very broad summit with its southernmost slope including the lime quarries. This greater hill lacks a hollow to the southeast and conflicts with Thoreau’s concept of a hill a third of a mile distant from the quarries. Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle have confirmed the presence of wavy, vertical strata in the rocks at an oval outcrop at the summit of the northern lobe of the hill indicated by Gleason (summit with coordinates given above), but not clearly at the southern lobe. The northern lobe of this hill is most likely to be Thoreau’s Curly-pate Hill.

Photo at right of wavy, vertical strata at summit of Curly-pate Hill, courtesy of Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle, 2019.

**Journal references:** 1857 November 2, 6, 11, 14, 27; 1858 November 8 (indirectly).

**Cut** -- see Deep Cut

**Dakin’s Brook** -- N 42.48176, W 71.36256 to N 42.47090, W 71.36274

This brook runs from a point below just below Owl Nest Swamp southward to empty into the Assabet River. Today it is dammed at Lowell Road to form Macone Pond. Thoreau believed that the water at the source of this brook came from Owl Nest Swamp which in turn was fed by Stedman Buttrick’s
Swamp. The name of the brook most likely refers to Joseph Dakin (1807 - 1894), a farmer who lived near the brook. Thoreau does not identify the outlet of this brook at the Assabet River on his survey map of the Lee Farm (owned by David Elwell (1788 - 1870) dated December 30 -31 [1856] to January 1, 1857). But the outlet is shown on all historic maps of which the 1950 USGS topographic map appears to be the first to attach the name Dakin’s Brook. Gleason mistakenly equates Dodge’s Brook with Dakin’s Brook and does not show Dodge’s Brook at all. The 1830 map of Concord of John G. Hales clearly shows both brooks without naming them, although some later maps fail to show Dodge’s Brook.

Journal references: 1855 April 8; 1859 June 11; 1860 May 17, July 7.

Davis Hill (E. Davis Hill, Eleazer Davis’s Hill, Tarbell Hill, Tarbell Swamp Hill) -- N 42.48825, W 71.32039
Thoreau’s copy of a survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River from Sudbury to Billerica surveyed in May 1834 by B.F. Perham labels this hill that is on the west side of the Concord River north of Ball’s Hill at the beginning of a long, straight stretch of that river running northward. It is named for Revolutionary War veteran Lieutenant Eleazer Davis (1734 - 1819) and his father and son of the same name all who resided on a farm in Bedford, MA across the Concord River from the hill. Thoreau uses the name Tarbell Hill for this hill until he does his river survey work in 1859 and apparently sees it labeled as “Eleazer Davis H.” on the 1834 Perham survey. After July 14, 1859 there is no use of the name “Tarbell Hill” as a particular hill. The single use of the name “Tarbell Swamp Hill” in 1856 refers to the swamp between this hill and the Tarbell house. See also entry for Tarbell Hills. This hill including land to the west and south of it became part of noted ornithologist William Brewster’s (1851 - 1919) October Farm, most of which is now conservation land.

Journal references: 1852 April 21 (indirectly); 1855 August 6, 7; 1856 July 11; 1859 July 14, August 3, December 25; 1860 January 26, March 20.

Deep Cut (Cut) -- approximately N 42.44652, W 71.35130 to N 42.44370, W 71.34970
The Fitchburg Railroad was incorporated in 1842 to build a railroad across northern Massachusetts from Boston to Fitchburg. The section to Concord opened in June 1844. Construction in 1843-1844 required excavation of a passage through an upland area northwest of Walden Pond and south of the Concord town center. Thoreau christened this sizable railroad trench the Deep Cut. In the spring of 1848 he describes it in his Journal as “about a quarter of a mile long -- & 30 or 40 feet deep”. The detailed Concord GIS map shows only one such stretch between Walden Pond and the town, the approximate endpoint coordinates are given above. Route 2 happens to cross the railroad at the most pronounced portion of the cut. The Gleason map misplaces this much too close to Walden Pond.

Journal references: 1848 vol. 2, pages 382-384 of Princeton ed., 1850 September vol. II, page 70 of 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 119 of Princeton ed., November 9, 28; 1851 June 11, 13, August 23, September 12, 22, October 5, 10, 14, December 29, 30, 31; 1852 January 23, 24, 25, 29, February 3, 14, 24, 26, 29, March 7, 9, 10, 12, April 14, 28, 30, May 5, July 3, 9, November 23; 1853 January 2, 21, April 3, 8, June 17, 23; 1854 February 8, 9, 14, March 6, May 10, 11, May 21, 30, June 9, 21 (woods), 23 (woods), September 25; 1855 February 16, 20, 21, May 22, July 3, December 15, 29; 1856 January 1, February 14, March 23, 30, April 2, 10, May 10 (woods), 15 (woods), 18, July 10 (woods, path), October 14 (woods); 1857 February 24, September 18, November 19 (indirectly); 1858 January 9, 26, March 28, October 3, December 22; 1859 March 2, 19, April 4, 22, May 24, December 13; 1860 February 7, March 25, April 11, May 28, September 18, October 17, 20, 24.
**Dennis’s Swamp (Dennis Swamp)** -- N 42.45723, W 71.37699
This is a swamp between the residence of the farmer, Samuel Dennis (1784 – 1864), who lived on the south side of Main Street close to where it passes by the beginning of what is now the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner and the Fitchburg Railroad.


**Depot Brook** -- see Swamp Bridge Brook

**Depot Field Brook** -- see Swamp Bridge Brook

**Desert** -- see Dugan’s Desert

**Dodge’s Brook** -- N 42.47697, W 71.37201 to N 42.47279, W 71.36983
This long brook runs from one of its sources, a spring south of Bateman’s Pond, and empties into the Assabet River. On May 31, 1853 Thoreau describes the peculiar feature of this brook that after a period of dry weather when the brook dried up near its source it would then mysteriously fill with some water when rain threatened but before any rain had fallen. This property of the brook was reported in a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1853. Thoreau notes that the name of the brook derives from an Englishman who once lived up by the brook and not a Dodge of his time. A possibility is that it was named after Christopher Dodge (ca. 1660 - 1744) who died in Concord and about whom virtually nothing is known. Thoreau identifies the outlet of this brook at the Assabet River on his survey map of the Lee Farm (owned then by David Elwell [1788 – 1870]) dated December 30-31 [1856] to January 1, 1857. Gleason mistakenly equates Dodge’s Brook with Dakin’s Brook and does not show Dodge’s Brook at all. Dodge’s Brook is shown clearly in the 1830 map of Concord without naming it. Some later maps fail to show it at all. Those that do, fail to show its source(s) on the east side of Lowell Road until the USGS topographic map of 1950.

Journal references: 1853 May 31; 1854 April 1, July 12, August 20; 1855 February 22, November 27; 1856 May 6, June 8, July 27; 1857 March 27, September 4; 1860 January 4.

**Donge Hole** -- see Dung Hole

**Dove Rock (Assabet Rock)** -- N 42.47022, W 71.36255
This is a rock outcrop in the middle of the Assabet River. Thoreau shows its location on his survey map of the Lee Farm (owned then by David Elwell [1788 – 1870]) dated December 30-31 [1856] to January 1, 1857. On April 18, 1859 Thoreau remarks that the name of this rock is what he calls it. Thoreau’s use of the name Assabet Rock on August 20, 1854 before any use of the name Dove Rock for a rock in the Assabet River between the Leaning Hemlocks and Dodge’s Brook mouth can only be his initial name for Dove Rock. The Lee Farm survey has no other rock shown in that interval.

Journal references: 1854 August 20; 1856 January 24, April 23, 29, May 4, 19; 1857 November 18; 1858 August 7, 13, 15, November 17; 1859 April 18; 1860 April 29, June 6, July 28.

**Dugan Desert (Desert, Jenny’s Desert)** -- N 42.44419, W 71.39145 (approximate)
This author saw perhaps the last remnants of this little desert in the late 1970s and early 1980s -- a few small sand dunes near an old railroad bed where it crosses Williams Road. Thoreau notes it was only about an acre in size and occurring shortly before where a road split off from the Old Marlborough Road that in turn split into two roads -- one heading to the right toward a sawmill.
(which would be near or at Hayward’s Pond) and the other to the left toward the powder mills in Acton. A remnant of the road to the sawmill is the present Old Mill Road in Concord. The road to the powder mill road would be the first part of the current Deacon Haynes Road as it heads southward. The 1830 Concord map of John G. Hales shows a road reaching northward toward the truncated Deacon Haynes Road from a point on the powder mills road just west of the Old Marlborough Road -- likely connecting with the Deacon Haynes Road segment in Thoreau’s time although not shown on maps. A few references to “Desert” in the Journal are to ones elsewhere in the town and not included below. The name of this desert refers to Jenny (Parker) Dugan who lived near the desert as indicated on Gleason’s map. Relatively little is known about Jenny Dugan (ca. 1786 - ca. 1845) beyond her being a Guinea black raised as Jenny Parker in Acton and marrying Thomas Dugan (ca. 1747 - 1827), also a black, in Concord in 1805, his second wife and surviving him. She appears in the 1840 (but not 1850) U.S. Census in Concord as Jane Dugan, a black female between the age of 25 and 55. Gleason’s placement of this on his map is essentially correct.

Journal references: 1851 October 8, November 21; 1852 April 18 (indirectly), September 26; 1853 April 9, June 14, September 1, 12; 1854 June 7, 18, July 30, August 26, September 16; 1856 May 7, June 10; 1857 February 22, April 29, October 9; 1858 January 18, March 2, April 6; 1860 June 14, 25

Dung Hole (Dunge Hole, Donge Hole) -- N 42.43057, W 71.37750
Thoreau’s description of the location of this swampy spot on February 7, 1855 and the detailed topography and wetland mapping of the Concord GIS map is sufficient to locate it. The name that dates back to colonial times apparently was applied to a deep, mucky place. Gleason includes this name in that of a brook that emanates from the Dung Hole, eventually emptying into the Sudbury River. But Thoreau does not use this name in his Journal.

Journal references: 1853 June 4; 1855 February 7, November 19; 1856 February 28, 1858 September 21.

Easterbrooks Country (Melvin’s Preserve) -- N 42.49196, W 71.35082 (approximate center)
Thoreau defines this in his first Journal reference to it on June 10, 1853. Its outer bounds include to the north Bateman’s Pond and the Kibbe Place (now part of Carlisle close to the town line), likely the Two-Rod Road or Path to the east, with Punkatasset Hill and perhaps J. Farmer’s Cliff (or a bit to the west of it) at the southern end. Thoreau essentially describes it in his Journal five days earlier on June 5, 1853: “There is a tract of pasture, woodland, orchard, and swamp in the north part of the town, through which the old Carlisle road runs, which is nearly two miles square, without a single house and scarcely any cultivated land in it, four square miles.” Today it is known as the Estabrook Woods, is mostly forested, and mostly owned by Harvard University. Thoreau’s first name for it refers to Thomas Estabrook (1640 - 1720) whose residence is marked by the remaining cellar hole as it was in Thoreau’s time. It is where Thomas settled about the time of his marriage to his wife Sarah Temple (? - 1726) in 1683. Thoreau’s second name for this area derives from the Concord hunter, George Melvin (1813 - 1868). On June 10, 1853 Thoreau records in his Journal his friend William Ellery Channing’s (1818 - 1901) naming of this area Melvin’s Preserve. Due in part to the sweetness of some of the soil in this area it contains a number of regionally uncommon or rare plants including the Violet Wood-Sorrel (Oxalis violacea), Daisyleaf Grape Fern (Botrychium matricariifolium), and the sedge Carex backii. Also, since Thoreau’s good friend and botany enthusiast Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878) lived just to the south of this area, it includes a number of plants introduced by Pratt from other parts of New England that still survive. These include Mountain Maple (Acer Spicatum), Walking Fern (Asplenium rhizophyllum) and Blue Cohush (Caulophyllum thalictroides). In his Journal
entry of October 15, 1859 makes a plea for public parks to be established where the land would remain undisturbed, naming the Easterbrooks Country as a candidate, which has largely come to pass.

Journal references: 1853 June 5 (indirectly), 10; 1857 October 5, 20, 21, December 13; 1858 October 5; 1859 May 5, August 29, September 24, October 15; 1860 April 14 (indirectly), May 26, 29, September 21, October 10, November 24 (indirectly).

**Echo Wood -- N 42.43638, W 71.36266 (likely)**

The brief description three paragraphs before he names the wood appears to refer to a place on the Sudbury River between Fair Haven Hill and woods on the opposite shore. Gleason equates the Echo Wood with Holden Wood. This is likely correct to the extent that the northeasternmost portion of Holden Wood near (or by) the Sudbury River shore would be in line with the summit of Fair Haven Hill and the summit of the ridge just south of Holden’s Swamp. The spot in the Sudbury River between those two prominences would likely be favorable for echoes.


**Eddy Bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge**

**Egg Rock (Island Rock, Mantatuket Rock, Rock) -- N 42.46510, W 71.35854**

This is the rocky point between the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers right where they join. It is at the most forward point of the small area that Thoreau refers to as the Island. Gleason photo is here. The name is said to derive from the shape of the island (Island of Thoreau) formed at high river levels tipped by this rocky point. At the 250th anniversary of the founding of Concord in 1885 an inscription was carved into the rock to remember the Native Americans who first lived there. Thoreau’s Journal entry for February 15, 1857 notes a record for a “Christian Indian of Natick” named “Mantatukwet” living about 50 years before 1684 within the bounds of Concord at the foot of a hill named “Nashawtuck”. After this date Thoreau begins to associate the name “Mantatuket” with places near Nashawtuc Hill. His first use of “Mantatuket Rock” occurs in his Journal on January 18, 1859. After that date there is only one use of the name “Egg Rock” (July 19, 1859). Thoreau’s description of Mantatuket Rock on March 17, 1859 fits Egg Rock perfectly. Gleason fails to recognize the equivalency of the two names, but appears to identify Mantatuket Point correctly on his map.

from Alfred Sereno Hudson’s “The History of Concord Massachusetts” vol. 1 (1904)
Journal references: 1852 June 29, July 8; 1853 March 26; 1854 June 6, 7, August 20; 1855 February 2, 4, 24, April 5, June 9, October 28, November 4, 11, December 30; 1856 January 19, 24, 26, February 6, March 24, May 11, 22, July 3, August 9; 1857 January 2, 16, March 24, June 27, October 23, November 13; 1858 January 14, June 22, August 15, November 17; 1859 January 18, February 12, March 17, April 17, May 2, June 19, August 1, 8; 1860 September 13.

E. Hubbard’s Clintonia Swamp -- see Clintonia Swamp

E. Hubbard’s Close -- see Hubbard’s Close

E. Hubbard’s Swamp -- see Clintonia Swamp

E. Hubbard’s Wood (Ebby Hubbard’s Wood) -- approximately N 42.45272, W 71.33354 to N 42.44779, W 71.33988
This woodland was a sizable tract east and southeast of the Hubbard Close. The exact extent of what Thoreau named E.[benezer] Hubbard’s Wood cannot be determined without reviewing old deed surveys. The 1852 map of Concord by E.F. Walling indicates that most of the area between Walden Street, the Cambridge Turnpike, the Goose Ponds and the Hubbard Close and Clintonia Swamp was wooded. Here the coordinates above define the likely northeast and southwest limits of the wood bounded by the wetlands northwestward and with the extent toward the southwest undefined. The woodland is named after for its owner, the farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871). The first reference to this name in Thoreau’s Journal on October 20, 1857 is to another woodland owned by the farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871) that was in the Estabrook Woods. The second use of the name on that date is to the woodland described here.

Journal references: 1855 December 3; 1856 May 31 (indirectly); 1857 September 30, October 6, 20, November 25, 28, December 1; 1858 October 14, November 16 (indirectly); 1859 April 9 (indirectly), November 28, 30 (indirectly); 1860 January 13, May 9, October 20 (indirectly), 25, November 2 (indirectly), 26.

Emerson’s Cliff (Bartlett’s Cliff, Emerson’s Cliff Hill, Emerson Hill, R.W.E.’s Cliff, R.W.E.’s Hill) [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43556, W 71.33827
This name today is typically applied to the hill rather than the steep cliff on the south side facing away from Walden Pond. The hill summit and cliff are both in Lincoln, MA (by a little bit). Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) purchased the 41 acres that include this hill in November 1845. He owned several parcels of land in Concord, including another one at Walden Pond upon which Thoreau built is house, the so-called Wyman lot and an adjacent parcel amounting to nearly 14 acres. Emerson contemplated having a cabin or turret built for himself on the Wyman lot and later on this cliff hill named after him. Thoreau uses a few times the name Bartlett’s Cliff for this cliff or Bartlett’s Hill for this hill. Charles Bartlett (1808 - 1882), a Concord farmer, owned land in Lincoln, MA adjacent to and south of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s land south of Walden Pond that included part of Emerson’s Hill. The proximity to the Concord-Lincoln town line of Bartlett’s land can be seen in Thoreau’s survey of Emerson’s woodlot there in March 1850. Emerson and Bartlett had a longstanding dispute about the property line between them that was taken to court more than once. The only cliff of any significance on or close to Bartlett’s property would be what is known as Emerson’s Cliff.
Journal references: 1850 November 26; 1851 July 11; 1852 January 26 (indirectly), July 19; 1853 June 4 (indirectly), December 26; 1856 June 1, August 23, December 9 (indirectly); 1857 September 18; 1858 April 2; 1859 June 19, September 25; 1860 June 18, July 20 (indirectly), September 26, November 20, 21.

Estabrook Woods -- see Easterbrooks Country

Fair Haven Island/Isle (Birch Island, Pond Island) -- N 42.42622, W 71.35553
This is a peninsula projecting into Fair Haven Bay from the west side that becomes an island in the bay when the level of the Sudbury River that the bay is part of becomes high.

Journal references: 1850 vol. II, page 9 of 1906 ed. (indirectly) & May 12 in Princeton ed. (indirectly), November 21 (indirectly); 1851 February 14 (indirectly), October 12 (indirectly); 1852 January 5 (indirectly), February 9 (indirectly); April 4 (indirectly), 14 (indirectly), May 5 (indirectly), July 4 (indirectly), 11; 1854 July 17 (indirectly), September 8, December 19 (indirectly); 1858 August 7; 1859 March 23 (indirectly), 27, June 22 (indirectly), July 9 (indirectly); 1860 June 11 (indirectly).

Farmer’s Cliff -- see J. Farmer’s Cliff

Farmer’s Owl Nest Swamp -- see Owl Nest Swamp

Fever-bush Swamp -- see Botrychium Swamp

Forget-me-not Brook -- see Swamp Bridge Brook

Fort Pond Brook -- from N 42.50735, W 71.46645 to N 42.46818, W 71.40695
This brook originates from Fort Pond in Littleton, MA and takes a very circuitous route to enter Concord from Acton, MA on the west side and after a short distance empties into Nashoba Brook coming from Acton from the north and west. Fort Pond is named after a fort dating from the late 1600s for the Native Americans occupying the Nashoba Praying Indian Village organized for them by Puritans.
French’s (French) Rock -- N 42.46821, W 71.35271 (provided by Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle)
This is a large rock outcrop at the northern edge of the Concord River at the tip of a small peninsula jutting into the river a short distance above the mouth of the Mill Brook on the opposite side. On July 5, 1859 Thoreau notes in his Journal that it is about 4 rods (about 5 meters) above the mouth of a very obscure brook (Bill Brook) on the opposite side of the river. This is somewhat misplaced on Gleason’s map well downstream from the mouth of the Mill Brook. The name derives from that of a family that leased a farmhouse with land that included the rock. Thoreau’s Journal entry for August 5, 1857 states “The French (Hoar’s) house appears on the left.” in describing the well-known Amos Doolittle print Plate III of the engagement with the British at North Bridge in Concord issued in December 1775 looking westward. In that print Thoreau refers to a house at the left (western side) in the vicinity of what is now Liberty Street. That house and farm once belonged to Captain David Brown (1732 - 1802) who was a Concord Minuteman at the North Bridge battle. Samuel Hoar (1778 - 1856) acquired full ownership of the Brown property in 1824 and rented it to various tenants until 1849. Captain Brown had acquired the property through inheritance originating with his great-grandfather Thomas Brown (ca. 1609 - 1688). In Lemuel Shattuck’s A History of the Town of Concord (1835) he notes in a table that at the time of his writing (1835) the name of the resident of the Thomas Brown property was Reuben French. Captain Reuben French (1761 - 1847) from Billerica and his family also show up as residents of Concord in the 1830 U.S. Census. Hoar sold the property to Samuel H. Rhoades (1821 - 1874) in 1849, who sold it in 1867 to George Keyes (1832 - 1893), who dismantled it in 1869. The farmhouse does not show up on the 1830 map of Concord by John G. Hales, but is included (but unlabeled) in his handwritten draft of the map. The farmhouse is shown on the 1852 map of Concord by H.F. Walling (labeled as S.H. Rhoades) and on Gleason’s map (but unlabeled). Why Thoreau associated the rock and farmhouse with the Reuben French family rather than Samuel H. Rhoades is unknown.


Further stone bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge
**Gowing’s Swamp** -- N 42.46231, W 71.32811

This is a small quaking, sphagnum bog embedded in a larger swamp. It is one of the three finest bogs (the other two being Ledum Swamp and Beck Stow’s Swamp) in terms of richness of bog flora in Concord from Thoreau’s time and the only one of the three remaining that has not been essentially ruined by human “improvement”. The coordinates given above are for the center of the sphagnum bog. Thoreau’s pictorial mapping of its structure in his Journal (on August 23, 1854 and February 3, 1860) is an honor he did not bestow on any other Concord bog. His Journal account of November 23, 1857 gives an even more detailed portrait in words. The name of the swamp is from Jabez Gowing Jr. (1793 - 1870) who lived nearby on Lexington Road.

![Gowing’s Swamp (September 2015) courtesy of Cherrie Corey](image)

Journal references: 1854 February 17, August 7, 22, 23, September 23; 1856 July 7, August 30; 1857 May 31, June 5, 25, July 2, 3, 8, November 18, 23; 1858 January 30, February 1, February 18, June 13, 14; 1859 May 30, June 12, October 15, 17; 1860 February 3, May 25, June 7, July 3, 7, August 13.

**Grackle Swamp** -- N 42.46396, W 71.37215

Thoreau christens this swamp with William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) on March 19, 1858 on a walk in the vicinity of Nashawtuc Hill. He refers to it indirectly two days earlier on March 17, 1858 where he describes it as a maple swamp far west of Nashawtuc Hill and in which he hears the voice of an unknown blackbird. On July 7, 1860 he associates this swamp clearly with Hemlock Brook. His references to Hemlock Brook indicate that it empties into the Assabet River. The only swamp west of Nashawtuc with a brook running from it and one that empties into the Assabet River is the one with the coordinates given above. Thoreau’s survey of the Lee Farm dated December 30-31 [1856] to January 1, 1857 only shows a large wooded area in this part of the property without delineating the swamp or the brook. The swamp is named for the Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula).

Journal references: 1858 March 17 (indirectly), 19, November 15, 17; 1860 July 7.

**Grape Cliff (Grape-vine Cliff)** -- N 42.43065, W 71.35712 (most likely)

Thoreau’s first reference to this on September 10, 1851 indicates that it is beyond Fair Haven Cliff, not far from it and right by the Sudbury River as the grape is described as spreading to the river meadow. The detailed topographic Concord GIS map shows one very distinct cliff that has these features with coordinates given above. The particular grape referred to is the Summer Grape (Vitis aestivalis), a species uncommon in Concord, that Thoreau notes finding there on September 29, 1856.
Great Fields -- N 42.46644, W 71.33633
This is a sizable level area bounded on the west by Moore’s Swamp, partly on the east by Pedrick’s Meadow, on the north by Great Meadows and partly on the south by Gowing’s Swamp (in the larger sense). Thoreau’s Journal entry for March 2, 1858 shows that he considered the Great Fields to extend to Gowing’s Swamp. Whether Thoreau considered the Great Fields to form a large “C” or a large “O” around Pedrick’s Meadow, Beck Stow’s Swamp and a wetland connected to Beck Stow’s Swamp southward is uncertain. That Thoreau’s survey map for the new Bedford Street dated July 1853 notes it only between Moore’s Swamp and Pedrick’s Meadow favors the large “C”. Gleason misplaces it on his map by showing it south of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Moore’s Swamp. The coordinates above are for the approximate midpoint of the stroke of the “C” which is also near Thoreau’s label for the Great Fields on his survey map.

Grindstone Meadow -- N 42.44207, W 71.36986 (most likely)
Thoreau’s Journal entry of August 30, 1858 notes going to the Bayonet Rush (Juncus militaris) up the Sudbury River (since he mentions Dodd’s Shore) which he finds growing by the river at the edge of this meadow. This rush is not common in Concord. A specimen of it was collected by amateur botanist Walter Deane (1848 - 1930) on August 5, 1886 along the west shore of the Sudbury River just below (north of) the Nine Acre Corner Bridge (Hubbard Bridge) at the Heath’s Farm. The residence of farmer Galutia Heath (1818 - 1900) is shown on the 1875 map of Concord of F. W. Beers just north of the Hubbard Bridge on the west shore, his house clearly the former residence of William Wheeler (1806 - 1864) in Thoreau’s time. The coordinates above are for a small inlet of the river meadow at this property which is either the meadow Thoreau refers to or close to it. The location is consistent with Thoreau’s other references to this meadow. The origin of the name is apparently unknown.

Groton Turnpike (Groton Road) -- from N 42.45853, W 71.36221 to N 42.47328, W 71.40594
This road runs from near Concord Center, across the Assabet River, exiting Concord at the town line with Acton on the west and eventually reaching the town of Groton after passing first through Acton and Littleton. Its extent is evident from Thoreau’s Journal entry of May 3, 1855. It corresponds to today’s Elm Street. Gleason splits the road into Union Turnpike and Groton Road at the 5-way intersection (a rotary today) on his map.

Harrington's Mud-hole (Harrington's Pond Hole, Harrington's Pool) -- N 42.44658, W 71.39909
This boggy pool on the north edge of the Ministerial Swamp is/was notable for its uncommon bog plants – such as Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia purpurea) and Black Spruce (Picea mariana) - and for its
proximity to the white form of the Fringed Polygala (Polygala paucifolia) that Thoreau found nearby and still present as late as the 1980s. The site is named after Joseph Harrington, Jr. (1794 - 1877) who operated a farm nearby for many years.

Journal references: 1851 November 19; 1853 May 23; 1857 October 9; 1860 August 27, 28.

**Haywood’s Pond (“Heywood’s Pond”)** -- N 42.44553, W 71.41081
Thoreau mistakes the name of the resident associated with this pond and also with the nearby sawmill (“Heywood’s sawmill” and "Heywood’s mill”) as Gleason notes in a footnote for his map. Thoreau’s first reference to the pond is on November 14, 1851 while surveying the Ministerial Lot which is just to the east of the pond. This pond in West Concord has been enlarged since Thoreau’s time and is known today as Kennedy’s Pond. The pond was created in Thoreau’s time since it does not show up in the 1830 map of Concord by John G. Hales but is on the 1852 map of Concord by H.F. Walling. It is named for Reuben Hayward Jr. (1797 - 1886) who lived close by it and evidently created it by damming the Second Division Brook.


**Heart-leaf Pond** -- see **Brown’s Pond**

**Hemlock Brook** -- from N 42.46437, W 71.37450 to N 42.47049, W 71.37449
This brook emanates from the Grackle Swamp on the former Lee Farm and flows northward to join other springy streamlets before emptying into the Assabet River. He clearly associates it with Grackle Swamp on July 7, 1860. On March 19, 1858 he names the brook and playfully considers naming it together with its source the “Horse-skull Meadow”, even though both were wooded and not open. The brook’s name refers to the Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) which grew (or grow) along the steep northwest-facing slope along much of the path of this brook.

Journal references: 1858 March 19, April 1; 1860 July 7.

**Hemlocks** -- see **Leaning Hemlocks**

**Heywood Meadow Brook** -- see **Heywood’s Brook**

**Heywood’s Brook (Heywood Meadow Brook, Spanish Brook) [Lincoln, MA]** -- from N 42.43218, W 71.33980 to N 42.42752, W 71.35073
This brook emanates from the outlet of Heywood’s Meadow at the railway and runs to Fair Haven Bay all within Lincoln, MA. The name Heywood’s Brook derives from its source. On January 25, 1852 Thoreau notes his walking companion William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) calling this brook his “Spanish Brook” (for reasons not clear other than an exotic flight of fancy). After January 6, 1854 Thoreau adopts this name for the brook exclusively. Gleason for his map mistakenly equates “Spanish Brook” with Well Meadow Brook.

Journal references: 1850 December 31 (indirectly); 1851 July 11, August 25, 27, September 11, 20; 1852 January 25, April 28, June 27, November 3; 1853 July 14, 24; 1854 January 6; 1855 February 16, April 17; 1857 November 4; 1858 March 20, October 29, November 10 (path), 24 (path); 1860 November 13 (dam).
Heywood’s Meadow [Lincoln, MA/Concord, MA] -- N 42.43375, W 71.33947
This is a sphagnum bog with much open water south of Walden Pond and Emerson’s Cliff. Most of it is in Lincoln including almost all of the bog area. It has an outlet that empties beneath the railway at the southern end which is the source of Heywood’s Brook that flows into Fair Haven Bay at Pleasant Meadow. The bog contained (and still contains to a lesser degree) some locally uncommon plants including Rose Pogonia (Pogonia ophioglossoides), Grass-pink (Calopogon tuberosus), Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata), Common Pitcher plant (Sarracenia purpurea), and Sundews (Drosera rotundifolia & Drosera intermedia). The name of this wetland apparently derives from Samuel Heywood (1687 - 1750), a deacon in Concord who owned land in this vicinity.

Heywood’s Meadow (September 2014) courtesy of Cherrie Corey


Heywood’s Peak -- N 42.44098, W 71.33832
This is the highest summit on the north side of Walden Pond. The peak’s name derives from the Heywood family who long owned land around Walden Pond. A number of locally uncommon plants were found here including Sicklepod (Borodinia canadensis, formerly Arabis canadensis), Round-leaved Tick-trefoil (Desmodium rotundifolium) and Round-leaved Dogwood (Cornus rugosa) all indicating the soil there is less acidic than usual.

Journal references: 1852 September 1, 2 (indirectly), 20, October 3, 22, 26 (indirectly), November 2; 1853 March 7, June 12, 17 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), July 31, August 1, 10, 14, November 2 (indirectly); 1854 January 3 (indirectly), May 30, June 12, 16, July 31, August 27; 1855 March 29, April 19, July 11; 1856 May 31 (footnote), August 6 (indirectly), 7; 1857 March 15; 1858 August 27, November 9, December 11 (indirectly); 1859 January 2; 1860 October 25.

Heywood’s Pond -- see Hayward’s Pond

Hill (in part) -- see Nashawtuc
Holden’s Swamp (Holden’s Spruce Swamp, Kalmia Swamp) -- N 42.43703, W 71.36410 and N 42.43703, W 71.36574

Two coordinate locations are given above since presently there are two bogs of comparable size at the location for this swamp/bog that are separated by a dry strip about 13 meters wide, only slightly higher than the elevation of the two bogs. None of Thoreau’s Journal references describe two bogs/swamps at this location. It is most likely that in Thoreau’s time these two bogs/swamps were one extended bog/swamp, and that in the course of time the oblong kettle-hole bog matured (filled-in), as kettle-hole bogs are wont to do without natural springs or streams feeding them, revealing the shadows of the two adjacent chunks of glacial ice. It is also possible that human intervention created the dividing strip. In his Journal references Thoreau sometimes refers to this as the spruce swamp at Conantum or Holden’s Spruce Swamp. At times he refers to the particular spruce there as “white spruce”. However, the only species of spruce in bogs in Concord is the Black Spruce (Picea Mariana). On January 9, 1855 in the dead of winter with some snow covering the bog Thoreau discovered evergreen shoots of the locally rare Bog Laurel (Kalmia polifolia) poking up above the snow-crust. Hence, after that date he sometimes refers to this bog as Kalmia Swamp. The Kalmia polifolia is the only locally rare bog plant recorded from this bog, although the Black Spruce and American Larch (Larix laricina) trees that have been found there are uncommon. The Holden referred to is Tilly Holden (1786 -1860) who lived with his wife Susan on Conantum about 3/8 of a mile southwest of the bog.

Journal references: 1851 December 25 (“spruce swamp on Conantum”); 1852 May 5, November 16; 1853 January 1, November 6, 9; 1854 September 8; 1855 January 9, 20, April 30, May 26, 27, June 10, December 11; 1856 May 13, 17, 18, 27, August 3, 26, December 6; 1857 May 23, 25, June 6, November 15, 23; 1858 May 4, 9, June 20, 22; 1859 April 25, 30, May 4; 1860 May 13, 16, October 13.

Holden Swamp Woods -- from N 42.43683, W 71.36646 to N 42.43777, W 71.36469 (approximately)

These would be woods in the immediate vicinity of Holden’s Swamp, most likely confined to the top and slope of a ridge just south of it that surrounded the swamps like a “C” on its side -- open part up (northward). The coordinates given are approximately the endpoints of the “C”. Thoreau distinguished these woods from the Holden Wood adjacent to it to the south. The origin of the name is the same as for Holden’s Swamp and the Holden Wood.

Journal references: 1853 November 6 (indirectly); 1855 May 26; 1856 April 22; 1858 May 9; 1860 November 1.

Holden Wood(s) -- N 42.43583, W 71.36504 (approximately)

From Thoreau’s Journal references it can be surmised that these woods occupied a roughly rectangular area bounded on the east by the Sudbury River, to the north by Holden’s Swamp, to the west by a large slope (which the eastern leg of the current Holden Wood Road cuts through), and to the south by the Arrowhead Field that is north of Miles Swamp. The coordinates above are approximately the center of this area. Thoreau distinguishes these woods from the Holden Swamp Woods that mostly occupied the slope and top of the high ridge bordering the swamp on the south and west. These latter woods would be just north of the Holden Wood. Thoreau’s references to the Holden wood-lot are to a parcel of land in another part of the town (Nut Meadow). The Holden referred to is Tilly Holden (1786 -1860) who lived with his wife Susan on Conantum about 3/8 of a mile southwest of the bog. See also Echo Wood.
Journal references: 1853 November 14; 1854 August 12, 14; 1855 April 30, May 7; 1856 May 11, 18; 1857 October 18; 1858 March 18; 1859 March 5, April 30, May 4, October 4; 1860 January 14, February 12, March 4, May 5.

**Hollowell Place** -- N 42.44100, W 71.372881 (likely)

Gleason appears to place the location of this on his map a bit north of two houses by the Sudbury River, one occupied by Bradley Puffer (1811 - 1858) and the other by William Wheeler (1806 - 1864). The 1830 map of Concord by John G. Hales shows no house in this vicinity. The 1852 map of Concord by Henry F. Walling shows just the house there occupied by Bradley Puffer. The large 1856 map of Middlesex County by Henry F. Walling shows the houses of Puffer and Wheeler as on the Gleason map. The name of the place derives from Benjamin Hollowell (ca. 1763 - 1836) and his wife Sarah Hollowell (ca. 1772 - 1844). The 1830 U.S. census shows these as the only Hollowells residing in Concord (apparently with a daughter). The 1830 map of Concord does not show where the Hollowells were residing in the town. It is likely that the house and barn the Hollowells were to use were being constructed at this time. But they were not used long since Benjamin Hollowell died in 1836. In his Journal on February 3, 1854 Thoreau looks back on his quasi-purchase of this property and “the pleasing ruin of the house and barn” and having seen the house previously on his earliest voyages up the river (which would have been in the period 1830-1836). Bradley Puffer shows up living alone in Concord in the Massachusetts census of 1855 and not any other census. Thoreau’s description of the Hollowell Place in his Journal (February 3, 1854) and in Walden state that it was a half mile from the nearest neighbor. This would have been Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) since the William Wheeler house was only constructed in 1853 (as noted in Thoreau’s complaint about it in his Journal on May 12, 1853). Thoreau also notes that it was separated from the road (Sudbury Road) by a broad field. This fits the location of the house occupied alone by the troubled Bradley Puffer (see first paragraph of Journal entry for November 8, 1858 where Puffer’s name is redacted by the 1906 edition). Thus, he occupied the house only briefly between about 1852 and his death in 1858.

Thoreau also describes in his Journal on March 14, 1855 that the Hollowell Place was in front of a red maple swamp belonging to Charles A. Hubbard (1820 - 1889). The current topographic/wetlands map of Concord shows that the bulk of this swamp at the edge of the Sudbury River on former Hubbard land across from the location corresponds to the site of the Puffer house which is currently the site of a house constructed in 1901. Another house currently just to the north of this was built in 2000 on a smaller land parcel that registry-of-deeds records indicate was acquired from the property owner just to the south of it. In other words, the large property that must have included the Hollowell Place has been divided in two. While it is possible that Puffer built a separate house on the property and let the Hollowell house fall to ruin, and it is true that Thoreau never associates Puffer with the Hollowell house, it is more likely that Puffer would have repaired and occupied that house than build a new one. The coordinates given here for the Hollowell Place are for the older house currently occupying the large parcel at this site since it agrees with the location of the Puffer house and Thoreau’s description of the location of the Hollowell Place.

Journal references: 1852 February 19; 1853 March 14, June 6, July 13, November 11; 1854 February 3, 10, May 8, September 6; 1855 February 24, March 14, 18, December 28; 1856 January 20, May 12; 1858 November 21 (where “Hollowell’s” appears to be mistranscribed as “Hubbard’s”); 1860 October 13.

**Holt, the** -- N 42.48208, W 71.3314

It is apparent in reading Thoreau’s Journal entries that he had heard of a “holt” being along the Concord River somewhere in the vicinity of Great Meadows, but did not know what it was and received for some years different opinions on exactly where it was. A holt is a copse (small grove or thicket). Thoreau quotes such a definition in his Journal entry for February 9, 1854. The reference in 1843 is
not the Holt of later entries. His entry of June 16, 1859 indicates a point by which he had determined the location. There he refers to embarking into Great Meadows “from the angle on the west side of the Holt” and later to the northeast angle. Thoreau’s copy of a survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River from Sudbury to Billerica surveyed in May 1834 by B.F. Perham labels the rectangular Holt where it can still be discerned today by the Great Meadows. On July 5, 1859 Thoreau notes how much distance might be saved if a channel were cut at this point in the river. The coordinates above are the center of his area. Gleason’s map misplaces it a bit just outside of the area next to the first angle in the river.

Journal references: **1843** September 24 (Princeton ed.); **1849** vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; **1850** vol. 3, page 23 of Princeton ed.; **1852** July 8; **1854** February 9, August 18; **1857** October 16; **1858** April 3, 7, August 16, 26; **1859** January 2, 19, April 3, June 16, July 5, 26, August 9 (as “Neck”), 21, December 28, 29; **1860** January 19, March 24, April 17, May 4, July 11 (footnote), 16

**Hosmer’s gap** -- see Money-diggers’ Hollow

**Hosmer’s Gorge** -- see Money-diggers’ Hollow

**Hosmer’s Spring [John Hosmer]** -- N 42.45151, W 71.37671 (approximately)
This spring was on the property of farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) whose residence was near the beginning of Old Marlborough Road (northern end) with significant property extending to the Sudbury River. Clues to the spring’s location are that it was that it was next to Lupine Hill (separated by a fence) and that it was near a meadow with strawberries in the deep grass. Lupine Hill, just south of Clamshell Hill, was on the property of Samuel Dennis (1784 - 1864), a farmer who lived just to the northeast of Hosmer. It is the hill on which the present Emerson Hospital sits. The fence would have separated the Hosmer Spring (southward) and Dennis Lupine Hill (northward) properties. The ravine (Money Digger Hollow) just southeast of Lupine Hill would most likely have harbored the spring. The meadow near the spring with strawberries would have been a moist area on a slope shown on the Concord GIS map at the outlet of the ravine southward.

Journal reference: **1853** July 30, December 3; **1854** September 6; **1856** July 17, August 24 (indirectly); **1857** July 12; **1858** January 24; **1860** June 13, July 7.

**Hubbard causeway** -- see Hubbard’s Bridge causeway

**Hubbard’s Bathing Place (Hubbard’s Bath, Hubbard’s Swimming-place)** -- N 42.45264, W 71.36730
On a survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River that Thoreau annotated in 1859/1860 originally prepared by B. F. Perham in 1834 Thoreau notes a place along the Sudbury River a little downstream from Clamshell Hill where the river is quick and hard and where Mr. Perham noted that the river was shallow with sand or gravel (rather than mud) -- in other words an ideal bathing spot. The location of this site can also be determined relatively well from two Journal entries. The Journal entry of January 5, 1856 states that the bathing place is “just below a bend”. His Journal entry of March 18, 1855 relates that he sees a great gull with his spy glass at a great distance from the railroad bridge over the Sudbury River sitting on top of a muskrat-cabin rising just above the water opposite the bathing place. The gull eventually flies off northeasterly over the river. The line of site from the bridge to a point opposite one just below a bend where the river flows northeasterly from where the gull was sitting determines very closely the coordinates given above on the east bank of the river. The particular Hubbard after which this is named is Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) whose residence was close by and
who owned (along with his son Charles (1820 – 1889)) extensive acreage on this side of the river down to Hubbard’s Bridge. Gleason’s placement of this on his map is correct.

Journal references: 1851 June 30 (indirectly), September 3, 8 (indirectly), 11 (indirectly), 25 (indirectly); 1852 June 16 (indirectly), 20, 21, July 2, 7; 1853 May 11, 28 (indirectly), June 2, 6, 24, August 23 (indirectly), October 30 (indirectly), November 5, 11, 12, December 3; 1854 February 12 (indirectly), June 13, 26 (indirectly), July 3, 9, 15 (indirectly), 30, August 12 (indirectly), 14, 20, 21, 20, 30, September 2, (indirectly), 6, 8, 11, December 15; 1855 March 18, 26, April 25, May 7, 14, June 16 (indirectly), July 2, September 24, December 20 (indirectly); 1856 January 5 (indirectly), 7, 26, March 10, September 27, December 7; 1857 February 8, 18, June 23; 1858 March 18, May 20, 30, June 8, September 9; 1859 July 5, September 14, December 29; 1860 January 18, 22, February 12, June 4, 11, October 7.

Hubbard’s Bend (Hubbard’s Bath Bend) -- N 42.45240, W 71.36777
This is a bend in the Sudbury River adjacent to property of Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) on the east side of the river. References to Thoreau or others bathing here might actually be to Hubbard’s Bathing Place slight downstream (northeastward) from the bend.

Journal references: 1852 June 12, July 18; 1853 July 21, August 30; 1854 July 8; 1856 January 5 (indirectly), 7, March 18, 20, December 7 (indirectly); 1859 December 28, 29.

Hubbard’s Bridge (Corner Bridge [in part], Nine-Acre Corner Bridge [in part]) -- N 42.44124, W 71.36802
“This retired bridge is a favorite spot with me. I have witnessed many a fair sunset from it.” (Journal, July 5, 1851). The bridge is where the Nine-Acre Corner Road or Corner Road (present-day Sudbury Road) crosses the Sudbury River south of the Concord town center. In his Journal Thoreau gives the name Hubbard’s Bridge to it after the Hubbard family (particularly Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865)) who owned much land immediately to the north of it. It was generally known at the time as the Nine-Acre Corner Bridge after the road that crossed it leading from the town center to the Nine-Acre Corner area in the southern part of the town. Thoreau sometimes refers to it as the Corner Bridge or Nine-Acre Corner Bridge, but also uses those names less frequently for Lee’s Bridge (since that bridge was located in the Nine-Acre Corner part of town unlike Hubbard’s Bridge). Instances where Thoreau refers to the bridge as Corner Bridge or Nine-Acre Corner Bridge are indicated below with “Corner” in parentheses. Gleason in his map errs in equating the “Corner” names for the bridge with Lee’s Bridge exclusively.
Hubbard’s Bridge causeway (Corner causeway, Hubbard causeway) -- from N 42.44309, W 71.36565 to N 42.44136, W 71.36784

This is the raised part of Corner Road (present-day Sudbury Road) running over the river wetland leading to Hubbard’s Bridge north and east of it.

Hubbard’s Brook -- from N 42.44510, W 71.35579 to N 42.44732, W 71.37191

The name derives from Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) on whose extensive land most or all of this brook traverses -- from hill springs east of the Sudbury/Corners Road to the west side of that road through swamp and meadow, eventually emptying into the Sudbury River. The full length of this brook is not shown on current maps which have it disappear into the swamp/meadow north of Hubbard’s Grove. Gleason’s map incorrectly shows it beginning west of the Sudbury/Corners Road. The only 19th century map of Concord other than Gleason’s that shows it at all is the 1875 map of F. W. Beers displaying it more or less correctly from start to end. A 1918 Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army topographic map (Framingham quadrangle) best shows the outlet of this brook of all maps. The beginning coordinates given above are from the current GIS map of Concord. The route of the brook west of Sudbury Road can be discerned without too much difficulty from satellite images except when it approaches its outlet. The Google Maps image of 2019 shows an apparent outlet that is in agreement with the Gleason and 1875 maps – north of Hubbard’s Grove and south of the outlet of Nut Meadow Brook on the opposite side if the Sudbury River. When Thoreau refers to the brook in the meadow behind Hubbard’s wood, as on June 14, 1851 in his Journal, he refers to this brook looking northwestward from SudburyCorner Road with Hubbard’s Grove in front of him and the brook flowing through the wetland north and northwest of this grove.

Journal references: 1850 November 11; 1851 February 18, 25, July 5, 16, August 8, 12, 17, 19, October 7 (Corner), November 9; 1852 March 28, May 14 (Corner), April 2, 18, 23, May 3, 14 (Corner), June 21 (Corner), July 11, 18, 28 (Corner), December 12 (Corner); 1853 April 4, 6, May 12 (Corner), 26, June 16, 23, August 19, October 31, November 1, 11; 1854 April 8, 23, July 3, November 16, December 8; 1855 January 7, February 24 (indirectly), March 18, April 30, May 26, September 24, December 28; 1856 January 5, 19 (footnote), 20 (indirectly), 26, March 10, April 2, 5, 7, May 17, August 26, December 4, 6, 17, 25; 1857 January 25; 1858 August 8, December 25, 29; 1859 January 18, April 25, June 24 (Corner), November 15 (Corner), December 15 (Corner, road); 1860 January 30, February 25, 27 (footnote), February 28, March 4, July 23, April 22 (Corner).
October 22 (indirectly); 1856 November 30 (indirectly); 1857 October 18 (indirectly), November 15 (indirectly); 1859 July 29, August 24 (indirectly)

**Hubbard's Close (Brister's Meadow, E. Hubbard's Close)** -- N 42.44929, W 71.34026
This close -- a small piece of enclosed land -- refers to an area just east of Walden Street surrounded by elevated land on all but two narrow sides. It is within the current Town Forest and in Thoreau's time was known as Fairyland. Thoreau's reference to Cotton-grass (Eriophorum sp.), the Grass-pink orchid (Calopogon) and Arethusa orchid (Arethusa bulbosa) in the close indicates that it had an open, sphagnous area. Apparently there was a pool in the close according to his Journal entry of April 7, 1855. Sometime after the death of Thoreau in 1862 the stream that flowed through the close from nearby Brister's Spring was dammed to form a pond now known as Fairyland Pond. That pond was also previously known as Sam Hoar’s Pond. Richard J. Eaton (1890 – 1976), born and raised in Concord identifies Sam Hoar's Pond as Fairyland Pond in his “A Flora of Concord”, and a photograph at the Concord Free Public Library by Concordian Alfred W. Hosmer (1851 - 1903) is labeled “Fairyland: Sam Hoar's Pond”. A herbarium specimen of a fern was collected in August 1879 by Thoreau's Concord friend Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893) near “S. Hoar’s Pond”. Thus, the pond was created between 1862 and 1879. This land and much of the surrounding woods (“Ebby Hubbard’s Woods”) was owned by the farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871) after whom Thoreau named this close. The only two references to Brister’s Meadow in 1852, followed by the beginning of the use of the name Hubbard’s Close in 1853, as well as Thoreau’s association of the very uncommon wildflower Polygala cruciata with both places, establishes the equivalence of these names.

Journal entries: 1852 May 3 (indirectly), July 13; 1853 July 29 (indirectly), September 2, November 3, December 7, 26; 1854 March 6, April 9, May 5, 11, 27, 30, June 21, 30, July 10, 12, 19, August 27, 28, September 12, 18 (footnote); 1855 March 13, 27, April 7, 12, 17, 18, May 10, June 1, 4, 10, September 15; 1856 February 26, April 10, 16, May 29, July 15, September 14, October 14; 1857 March 15, August 20, October 2, 6, November 25; 1858 October 1, 5, November 16; 1859 March 4, 30, April 9, July 23, October 12; 1860 January 17, February 27, March 2, May 17, July 26, August 10, October 20.

**Hubbard’s Close Swamp** -- see Clintonia Swamp

**Hubbard’s Grove** -- from N 42.44456, W 71.36602 to N 42.44627, W 71.36802
This was a woodland included in a larger tract that Thoreau referred to as Hubbard’s Wood (see entry further below). This grove covered the top and probably some sides of a ridge that runs from southeast to northwest where it comes near the Sudbury River. The coordinates above identify the peaks at each end of the ridge. On the 1834 B. F. Perham survey of the Sudbury/Concord River Thoreau annotated in 1859/1860 a stretch along the eastern bank of the Sudbury River in pencil twice with the word “Grove” which corresponds to the part of the grove in the second set of coordinates above. The location can also be discerned from clues in Thoreau’s references to it, from the topography and wetlands detailed on the Concord GIS map, from the Gleason map which places it at the northwestern end of the ridge, and from the 1852 map of H.F. Walling which shows it most clearly of all historic and government maps of Concord. The name derives from the family of Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865), a farmer-surveyor who lived on the south side of what is now Sudbury Road about ¾ mile northeast of the grove. His Social Circle of Concord memoir states that he was the eldest son of Deacon Thomas Hubbard (1767 - 1835) and indicates that he followed long-standing family tradition in succeeding to the family farm. He listed himself as a farmer in the 1855 Massachusetts census. Thoreau praises him significantly in his Journal entry of December 1, 1856.
Journal references: 1851 August 5, 31, September 3, 7, 24, 25, 28; 1852 March 28, April 11, 16, 19, 29, May 16; 1853 June 18, July 26, August 7, 21, October 25; 1854 January 2, 11, March 17, July 23; 1855 February 28, March 3, May 7, June 16, October 22, November 5, 17, December 21; 1856 January 5 (indirectly), February 1 (indirectly), May 25, 31, August 19, September 4, November 30; 1857 May 25, June 6, October 14, 18, November 15; 1858 March 20, 28, 30, April 2, 11, 16, 18, June 25, August 18, September 12 (indirectly); 1859 April 25, July 1, 3, September 11; 1860 February 12, March 8, 15, June 1, 2, August 26, October 7, 19, 29, November 8.

**Hubbard’s Hill (Black Birch Hill)** -- N 42.49111, W 71.34831
This is a large hill in the Estabrook Woods owned by the farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871). It is a good place to find Black Birch (Betula lenta). At 242 feet in elevation it is modest compared to other hills in Concord, slightly higher than Nashawtuc Hill.

Journal references: 1852 April 21, August 3; 1853 June 10; 1854 February 18, June 29, September 3; 1857 October 5; 1859 September 29 (indirectly); 1860 February 28, October 29, 30, November 1.

**Hubbard’s Pool (Hubbard’s pond-hole)** -- N 42.44099, W 71.34263
This was a little body of water at the western edge of Walden Pond that was on property owned by Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) that Thoreau considered to be in his extensive Hubbard’s Wood that extended well to the west. Its exact location can be determined by Thoreau’s Journal references of June 21, 1854 and July 26, 1860 which indicate that it is in Hubbard’s Wood in a bay at the shore of Walden Pond different than Wyman Meadow. A review of the topography and wetlands on the west shore of Walden Pond show that there is only one small “bay” that fits these requirements as given by the coordinates above. Elsewhere in his Journal Thoreau refers to two different pools at Hubbard’s Grove that are different than this one at Walden Pond and not discernible today on maps.

Journal references: 1850 vol. II p. 17-- 1906 ed. & vol. 3 p. 72 -- Princeton ed. (indirectly); 1852 May 6, 7; 1853 March 27 (indirectly), 28 (indirectly); 1854 June 21 (indirectly); 1856 May 10 (indirectly); 1858 January 23 (indirectly), April 27 (indirectly), June 16, September 5 (indirectly), November 26; 1859 April 25 (indirectly); 1860 July 20 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly).

**Hubbard’s Swimming-place** -- see Hubbard’s Bathing Place

**Hubbard’s Wood(s)** -- N 42.44627, W 71.36802 to N 42.44107, W 71.34261
Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) owned land that included upland woods that extended from the southwest part of his farm at the shore of the Sudbury River (first coordinates above) to the western shore of Walden Pond (second coordinates above). Included in this stretch of woods was the part on the west side of Sudbury. Corner Road that Thoreau referred to as Hubbard’s Grove (see separate entry above). Thoreau’s Journal entry of June 6, 1853 refers to this western most portion. His Journal entry of August 5, 1851 refers to an entrance to Hubbard’s Wood apparently at the spring and peculiar topographical formation at N 42.44350, W 71.35716. Thoreau might refer to this location as the entrance since it was the closest section of the woods to his family’s home in the town center. The Journal entry of July 26, 1860 clearly refers to Hubbard Wood on the west shore of Walden Pond. Note that these woods are separate than E. Hubbard’s Woods elsewhere in the town that he occasionally referred to as Hubbard’s Woods. The Journal references below are to the woods of Cyrus Hubbard.

Journal references: 1850 vol. II p. 17-- 1906 ed. & vol. 3 p. 72 -- Princeton ed., 1851 June 14, August 5, 8 (indirectly), 20; 1853 January 1, March 27, 28, June 6, November 8; 1854 March 4,
August 21; 1855 February 9, April 19; 1858 October 18; 1860 January 27, July 26, November 26.

**Hunt's Bridge (Red Bridge)** -- N 42.6664, W 71.35569
This is the bridge where Lowell Road crosses the Concord River. It is named for the Hunt family who once lived nearby, a short distance to the north along Lowell Road. A succession of Hunts owned the property almost continuously dating back to 1660 starting with William Hunt (1605 - 1667) and ending with Humphrey Hunt (1770 - 1852). Thoreau uses the name “Red Bridge” mostly until April 9, 1855, and after that uses “Hunt’s Bridge” except for one reference to the Red Bridge road. The causeway is a stretch of raised road over the river meadows to the northwest of the bridge and to a more limited extent to the southeast of the bridge. The Red Bridge or Hunt’s Bridge Road is presently named Lowell Road. This bridge was constructed about 1792 and was first known as the Red Bridge. The bridge name was officially changed to Hunt’s Bridge in 1964.

Journal references: 1852 March 5 [rendered “white bridge” in 1906 ed.], April 3, 21, 22 (road), 23 (roads), 28, May 1, 8, July 8, December 22; 1853 January 23, June 3; 1854 August 22 (road), November 14 (causeway); 1855 January 8, 23 (road), 26 (road), February 22 (causeway), April 9; 1856 January 19, 20, April 3, 14 (causeway); 1857 October 5; 1858 January 5 (causeway), October 19; 1859 March 16 (road), June 16, July 18, December 29; 1860 February 26, March 5, 20, May 10, 29.

**Island Neck** -- N 42.46471, W 71.35940
This is the low, wetland area that becomes submerged when the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers are at high water levels forming what Thoreau refers to as the Island where the two rivers join to form the Concord River.

Journal references: 1854 March 30; 1855 May 4, 29, July 21, December 30; 1856 May 19, July 18; 1858 May 1.

**Island (Rock Island)** -- N 42.46503, 71.35879
This refers to the small area between the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers where they join which becomes an island when the river levels are high, typically in the spring. At the tip of this area is the rocky point known as Egg Rock or Island Rock. A few early uses of this name in 1851 and 1852, and very occasional references afterward are to the island in Fair Haven Pond. These are not included in the reference list below. His Journal entry of January 16, 1857 appears to equate Egg Rock with the Island. But he consistently refers to Egg Rock or Island Rock separately throughout his Journal. It is simply a part of the Island.

Journal references: 1853 March 23, 24, 26, 29, 31, May 7, 17 (& footnote), 20, 21, 27, 31, June 18, 21, 27, July 24, August 21, September 1, October 21, November 16; 1854 March 30, April 20, May 1, 11, 15, 17, 19, 22, June 2, 15, 28, July 5, 18, August 20; 1855 March 26, 27, 30, April 3, 14, May 7, 11, 21, 25, 29, 31, June 6, 12, August 4, October 29, November 4, 11, December 30; 1856 January 19, 20, February 3, March 22, April 9, 14, May 4, 22, 31, June 1, July 7, 14, 17, 30, August 9; 1857 January 16, June 3, October 30; 1858 April 3, 25, 28, May 1, 5, 13, 16, 20, 31, June 4, 6, 15, August 24, October 12, 28, November 5, 7, 11; 1859 January 10, 18, August 1, 8, December 29; 1860 May 12, 23, June 2, 9.

**Island Pond** -- see Andromeda Ponds

**James P. Brown’s Meadow** -- see Brown’s Meadow
Jenny's Brook -- see Nut Meadow Brook

Jenny's Desert -- see Dugan Desert

Jesse Hosmer meadow -- see Painted Cup Meadow

J. Farmer's Cliff (Farmer's Cliff) -- N 42.48228, W 71.36495
This cliff is named after Jacob B. Farmer (1801 - 1872). He lived on the west side of Lowell Road just south of the beginning of the current Farmer Cliff Road that leads to the cliff on the east side of the road.


J. P. Brown's Meadow -- see Brown's Meadow

J. P. Brown's Pond -- see Brown's Pond

Kalmia Swamp -- see Holden's Swamp

Laurel Glen (Laurel Glen Hollow) -- from N 42.446667, W 71.34268 to N 42.44468, W 71.34302
This a narrow gorge running in a slight curve in a north-south orientation about 800 or 900 feet in length just to the west of Walden Street near Brister's Hill. Presently the end of it is terminated by Route 2, and virtually all of it is in the backyards of private residences. Gleason's map has it a little misplaced as being halfway between the railroad and Walden Street. The name derives from The Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia) there.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 June 22; 1852 June 11, 13, 15, 23, September 16; 1853 June 1, 12, July 3; 1854 May 5, June 21; 1856 July 10, October 14; 1857 July 8, October 2; 1858 May 20, 31, October 3; 1859 March 24, 25, April 8, August 23; 1860 July 11, October 17.

Leaning Hemlocks (Hemlocks) -- N 42.46422, W 71.36168
The exact location in Thoreau's time of this stand of Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), several of whose members leaned markedly over the Assabet River along its bank, can be determined from Thoreau's survey of the Lee Farm (owned then by David Elwell [1788 – 1870]) dated December 30-31 [1856] to January 1, 1857 where he marks the spot. Thoreau's description in his Journal entries of April 1, 1852 and March 29, 1853 are perhaps the most detailed. This author saw two or three sizable remaining significantly leaning hemlocks at Thoreau's location in the late 1970s. But sadly none remain at this spot (per Steve Tobin and Nancy Hartle 2019).
Journal references: **1837** December 23; **1850** June 15 vol. II, page 36, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 86, Princeton ed.; **1851** December 23; **1852** April 1, May 7 (indirectly), June 26; **1853** March 24, 29, May 21, June 16, 30 (indirectly), August 22, November 1, 16; **1854** February 4, April 1 (indirectly), 6 (indirectly), May 22 (indirectly), June 6, August 20, September 30; **1855** March 20, 24, April 16 (indirectly), June 18, 19, October 28, November 7, 9, 11; **1856** January 15, 24 (indirectly), March 6, April 27, July 30, August 3, 9, 22, October 6, 20; **1857** February 18 (indirectly), May 13, June 3, 4, July 16, 17, September 24 (indirectly), 25, 28 (indirectly), October 11 (indirectly), November 21; **1858** March 17, 19, April 1, May 20, June 16 (footnote), August 13, October 4, November 7; **1859** January 14 (indirectly), March 10, 30 (indirectly), May 27, July 19, 22., August 1, November 15 (indirectly), December 31; **1860** January 12 (indirectly), 20 (indirectly), March 11 (indirectly), April 1, 13 (indirectly), June 6 (indirectly), 26, 27, October 6, 13 (indirectly), 20.

**Ledum Swamp (Charles Miles Swamp, C. Miles Swamp, C. Miles blueberry swamp, Ledum Pond, Ledum Pool, Miles blueberry swamp)** -- N 42.43813, W 71.37686
This was probably the finest sphagnum bog in Concord in terms of richness of flora. What made it so special to Thoreau was his discovery there on February 4, 1858 of Labrador Tea (formerly named scientifically Ledum groenlandicum, now named Rhododendron groenlandicum). Concord happens to be on the southeastern edge of the range of this species. He also found there the locally scarce Black Spruce, the Dwarf Mistletoe growing on the Black Spruce that was at that time undescribed to science, Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia), Bog Laurel (Kalmia polifolia), the very rare White Fringed Orchis (Platanthera blephariglottis) and locally rare Dwarf Huckleberry (see Thoreau’s list of August 8, 1858). Until Thoreau discovered the Labrador Tea in this swamp he called it Charles Miles Swamp after Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) who owned the land and whose residence was nearby. Gleason correctly places the Charles Miles residence on his map, but misplaces this swamp well to the west. The gradual ruination of this special bog was already underway in Thoreau’s time (see his journal entry for October 23, 1858 referring to a man at work draining the bog). Thoreau’s friend, Minot Pratt, wrote in 1863 “... in a small shaking bog, all within the space of two square rods Ledum latifolium, Andromeda polifolia, Kalmia glauca, the White Fringed Orchis, all beautiful and rare, are now to be found, though the vandal who claims to own the bog is rapidly pushing his improvements in such a direction as to threaten destruction of the worthy tenants of his soil” (Commonwealth [Boston newspaper] April 10 & 17, 1863). Richard Eaton noted the clearing away of most of the surrounding
vegetation by the then “owner” of the land in 1935 and demise of the last Black Spruce tree harboring the Dwarf Mistletoe in that year. This author rediscovered this site on August 3, 1978. It is a sorrowful shadow of its former glory with no rare plants - a small scum-topped pool about 4 meters wide in a moat of Sphagnum moss surrounded by woods with Water-willow and Poison Sumach growing around the margin. This site is incorrectly placed on the Herbert Gleason map of 1906.

Journal references: 1841 August 13 (indirectly); 1852 August 5; 1857 November 8 (indirectly), 15, 23; 1858 February 4, 12, April 28, 29, May 9, 17, 28, 30, June 13, August 8, 12, September 6, October 23; 1859 May 26, 28, July 15, 24, September 2, October 16, November 15; 1860 June 13, 25, July 4, August 26.

Lee Wood -- see Woodis Park

Lee’s Bridge (Corner Bridge [in part], Nine-Acre Corner Bridge [in part]) -- N 42.42019, W 71.36465
This is the southernmost bridge to cross the Sudbury River in Concord. Gleason photo is here. The road at the bridge is currently known as Route 117 or the Fitchburg Turnpike, and known as the Great Road in Thoreau’s time. Thoreau’s attempt to learn the origin of the bridge described in his Journal entry of June 24, 1859 is not successful. Captain Wheeler’s account there appears to be correct. According to the author and historian Charles Frances Adams, Jr. (1835 – 1915) in an address in 1904 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Lincoln, the Lee’s Bridge was built in 1760 when an old road from Waltham to Concord was extended westward to cross the Sudbury River from where it turned abruptly northward to run into Concord from between Fair Haven Bay and Walden Pond. A plaque at the bridge presently notes this year of construction. Thoreau errs in citing Shattuck’s date of 1660 which referred to the other three oldest bridges in Concord. The name refers to the Lee family whose member running the farm near this bridge in Thoreau’s time was Isaac Stearns Lee (1801 - 1863). Thoreau used the names “Corner Bridge” and “Nine-Acre Corner Bridge” occasionally for Lee’s Bridge, mostly up until 1853. Gleason errs in equating Corner Bridge with Lee’s Bridge. Thoreau applied the name more commonly to what he called Hubbard’s Bridge. The difference in usage can easily be seen by comparing his Journal entries for July 16, 1851 and June 24, 1859. “Corner” refers to the Nine-Acre Corner area in the southern part of Concord. Context of Thoreau’s entries is used to determine when he applied the Corner names to Lee’s Bridge, indicated by the parenthetical “Corner” below.

Journal references: 1851 July 16 (Corner), August 20, September 17, 24, October 9 (indirectly); 1852 April 21, 22, May 3, July 1 (Corner), 22, August 31, November 16; 1853 April 4, August 23 (Corner); 1854 September 29; 1855 January 11, February 18, 24, April 4; 1856 January 19 (footnote), 20 (indirectly); 1857 May 29 (Corner); 1859 June 24, August 3, December 15, 26, 27; 1860 February 15, November 8.

Lee’s Cliff -- N 42.42344, W 71.35861 (approximately)
This is a cliff on a hill near the beginning of Fair Haven Bay in the Conantum area, deriving its name from the same family as that for which Lee’s Bridge is named who owned the land here and near the bridge. The location of the cliff can be determined by review of the detailed Concord GIS map of the area together with clues in Thoreau’s Journal references. Also, it can be seen that Gleason knew the location since his wife is photographed (see here for photo) in the cave under the cliff referred to in Thoreau’s Journal on May 29, 1857. The coordinates above are approximate since a residence was constructed in 1905 at the summit of the hill leveling the area where the top of the cliff was located. At this cliff Thoreau found the only place in Concord where Slippery Elm (Ulmus rubra) occurred, as
well as other locally uncommon plants that grow in less acidic soil. Journal reference to a cliff by Lee's road on March 20, 1858 is a different cliff.

Journal references: 1851 September 3; 1852 January 25, August 31, October 23, November 16; 1853 April 4, May 14, 26, June 6, July 4, 19, 28, August 23, 30, September 29, November 6, 11; 1854 April 2, 8, 13, 23, 26, May 1, 7, 8, 22, 28, June 3, 9 (indirectly), 13, July 10, 17, August 5, 24; 1855 January 31, February 3, 24 (indirectly), April 7, 8, 10 (indirectly), 17, 22, 30, May 7, 12, 24, 28 (indirectly), October 26, December 23; 1856 April 2, 16, 18, 22, May 17, August 3, 26, 27, October 19, December 7, 25; 1857 February 28, March 28, May 29, 30, June 6, 29, July 5, 17, September 1, 26, October 28; 1858 March 27, 30, April 6, 11, 16 (indirectly), 19, May 1, October 2, 31, November 18; 1859 March 9, 23, 26, April 2, May 4, 26, July 5, 6, October 19, November 25; 1860 January 18, March 15, 31, April 15, 22, 26, 27, May 5, 13, June 1.

Lee's Hill -- see Nashawtuc

Lily Bay [Concord, MA] -- see Willow Bay

Lily Bay [Sudbury, MA] -- N 42.41246, 71.36770

Thoreau's annotation of a copy of a survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River from surveyed in May 1834 by B.F. Perham and used by Thoreau for his own survey in 1859/1860 places this bay at the coordinates given above. It agrees with Thoreau's description of the location in his Journal on August 5, 1858. Changes in the Sudbury River since Thoreau's time have evidently much reduced the prominence of this bay judging from the old survey in comparison with today's satellite imagery. Thoreau also applied this name to his Willow Bay further down the river. The lily referred to would most likely be the Fragrant Water-lily (Nymphaea odorata), the most common lily in the rivers of Concord in Thoreau's time, but could also include the Bullhead-lily (Nuphar variegata) which was also common.

Journal references: 1853 May 14; 1854 February 12; 1858 August 5.

Lime-Kiln -- N 42.49100, W 71.35442 (provided by Cherrie Corey)

This is the site of the kiln in Estabrook Woods used to fire the limestone mined from the quarries a short distance to the northwest, the lime used to make plaster in colonial times. Thoreau's Journal entry of November 6, 1857 relates a claim that the burning of lime there started with Peter Barrett (1755 - 1808) in the late 1700s.


Limestone Quarries (Lime Quarries) -- N 42.49345, W 71.35539 and N 42.49388, W 71.35512

These are said to consist of eight pits in the Estabrook Woods, the coordinates of the two most significant of these, ones of deep, narrow excavations are given above. The lime used to make plaster was mined and fired in a kiln nearby in colonial times. See preceding entry. The circumneutral soil around the quarries supports plants there that are uncommon in Concord. Thoreau's friend in Concord, Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878), who introduced plants from elsewhere in New England into suitable habitats in Concord, is said to have placed the unusual Walking Fern (Asplenium rhizophyllum) into one of the quarries about 1860 where it persists.

Lincoln Bridge -- see Bake Bridge

Little Goose Pond (Ripple Lake, Ripple Pool) -- N 42.44462, W 71.33360
Gleason’s map shows this as a small pond straddling the Concord-Lincoln town line northeast of the larger Goose Pond. However, a Thoreau survey map of Goose Pond lots cataloged without date, but with “Dec. 1857” written on it, shows the location of this very small pond northwest of Goose Pond with coordinates given above. Unfortunately, a Concord town landfill operated between 1959 and 1994 occupies the location. Thus, the pond exists. It shows up in a U.S. Geological Survey topographic map of Concord dating from 1943. The name Ripple Lake or Ripple Pool was given to this body of water by Thoreau’s good friend William Ellery Channing (1818 – 1901) as described in the Journal entry for April 9, 1859. Thoreau later refers to “Ripple Lakes” which occupied a string of small hollows extending from Little Goose Pond northwestward as shown on his survey map. Since these additional “lakes” are labeled as hollows on the survey map, they were likely transient vernal pools. In a footnote on August 23, 1859, a time of the year when the pools would be dry, he refers to these as “frosty hollows”.

Journal references: 1857 November 30, December 2, 13; 1858 February 8, November 26; 1859 April 9, 18, 21, 24, August 23 (footnote), October 20; 1860 January 17, March 2 (indirectly), 14, 17, 25, April 15, June 19, 21.

Long Pond [Concord, MA] -- see Andromeda Ponds

Ludwigia Poke-logan -- see Pokelogan

Lupine Hill (Lupine Knoll, Lupine Promontory) -- N 42.45169, W 71.37562
This hill is named for Wild Lupine (Lupinus perennis) formerly common in Concord when there was much dry, open sandy or gravelly habitat, but currently not known in the town. The Journal references indicate this hill was on the property of Samuel Dennis (1784 – 1864), a farmer who lived on the south side of Main Street just east of its intersection with the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (formerly
Sudbury Road). Dennis’s property was extensive. Thoreau’s Journal entry for August 25, 1858 is significant in that he notes a series of sites along the west side of the Sudbury River as he encounters them traveling northward -- Nut Meadow Brook, John Hosmer’s meadow, Money-diggers’ Hollow, Lupine Hill, and Clamshell Hill. The hill southwest of Clamshell Hill which forms the north side of a distinct ravine (hollow) is currently the site of the main building of the Emerson Hospital. A couple times Thoreau refers to the Lupine Knoll which is easily discernible (at N 42.45186, W 71.37651) on the Concord GIS map as a small elevation that is part of the northwest side of the hill. Thoreau also refers to the Lupine Promontory which is most likely the part of the hill that projects southeastward at N 42.45168, W 71.37491.

Journal references: 1852 June 5 (likely), 11; 1853 March 29, May 28; 1854 March 18, May 10 (knoll), June 7, July 5 (knoll), August 16, September 6; 1855 April 29; 1856 April 24; 1857 July 12, October 9; 1858 August 25, September 6; 1859 April 12, July 24, November 15; 1860 March 2, 4, 5, November 25.

Mantatuket Point -- N 42.46527, W 71.35834
This is a triangular, sandy area in the Concord River that appears a short distance downstream from Egg/Mantatuket Rock when the river level is low. It shows up clearly in an aerial photo from the 1940s. See Egg Rock for origin of the name.


Mantatuket Rock -- see Egg Rock

Martial Miles Swamp -- N 42.43659, W 71.38117
This is a large swamp almost due south of the Marshall/Martial Miles residence and is named after the farmer, Marshall Miles (1820 - 1890). Most likely Thoreau’s transformation of Mr. Miles first name into a heterograph was intentional. He does give the farmer’s name correctly in his Journal on May 14, 1852, for example.

Journal references: 1853 April 6 (possibly indirectly), September 11 (indirectly); 1860 July 30, August 26 (indirectly).

Melvin’s Preserve -- see Easterbrooks Country

Merrick’s Pasture -- N 42.46403, W 71.35508 (approximate center)
This was a large pasture/meadow bounded by the Concord River and part of the Sudbury River on the north, the Sudbury River on the west, Lowell Road on the east and the southern border indeterminate, apparently extending to near where the Mill Brook crosses Lowell Road and westward from that point to the Sudbury River. Later in the 19th century after Thoreau’s death the pasture was divided in two by the construction of the Boston and Lowell Railroad. The portion of the pasture north of the defunct railroad line is today the conservation land known as the Old Calf Pasture. Thoreau’s survey map of January 10, 1857 for land belonging to Daniel Shattuck (1790 - 1867) notes that the land lies in Merrick’s Pasture. The name derives from the prominent family of Tilly Merrick (1730 -1768) [with varied spellings] who left large land holdings when died in Concord including the parcel that has the pasture with his name. A colorful account of the life of his son born in Concord, Tilly Merrick (1755 - 1836), is given in the Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle of Concord, 2nd Series, for 1795 to 1840, published in 1888.
Miles blueberry swamp -- see Ledum Swamp

Miles Swamp (Miles’s Swamp), see also Cohush Swamp -- N 42.43243, W 71.36257

This swamp is distinguished from the Martial Miles Swamp and Charles Miles Swamp in that the plants that Thoreau describes there such as Spicebush (Lindera benzoin), Black Ash (Fraxinus nigra), and Basswood (Tilia Americana) which grow in basic or circumneutral soil unlike the acidic soil of the other two swamps. This is consistent with Thoreau’s repeated association of the Miles Swamp with Conantum, an area well-known to botanists for its sweet-soil-loving plant species. There are at least two good clues to the location of this swamp. Thoreau’s Journal entry of May 22, 1854 notes while journeying up the Sudbury River that he landed at Miles Swamp, indicating that the swamp reached to the shore of the river or was close to it. On May 12, 1857 his Journal notes him first at the Corner Spring and then moving along a hillside toward Miles Swamp at which time he sees the cliff-sides east of the river at Bittern Cliff. In order for him to see these cliff-sides he would need to be traveling southward along the high area running near the Sudbury River north of Bittern Cliff. This would place Miles Swamp in the swampy area near the shore of the river north of Bittern Cliff given by the coordinates above. The locally uncommon carpinus (American Hornbeam or Carpinus caroliniana) he observes on May 23, 1857 at the swamp is a tree this author has seen at the swamp at this location, as well as Spicebush and Basswood noted above. Gleason significantly misplaces this swamp on his map about a mile and a half to the west, applying the name in error to Nut Meadow. Thoreau does not associate a particular member of the Miles family in naming this swamp. There were at least two members of this family who owned land in or next to Conantum on the west side.

Miles Swamp Brook -- N 42.43131, W 71.36400 to N 42.43263, W 71.36131

This is a small brook that runs through Miles Swamp at Conantum toward the Sudbury River. The beginning coordinates given above are from the Concord GIS map that shows an apparent source spring for the brook. The coordinates above for the outlet of the brook at the Sudbury River are based upon the projected trajectory of brook to the river from where it disappears on the Concord GIS map. That straight trajectory agrees with the course of the brook as shown on a 1943 USGS topographic map.

Miles Swamp Field -- N 42.43277, W 71.36400

This is a field near the Miles Swamp at Conantum. The coordinates above are a best guess for the location of this field, marking the closest level area to the swamp that is not in a wetland. The area is about 200 meters long and 100 meters at its widest point.
Ministerial Lot (in part) -- see Ministerial Swamp

Ministerial Swamp (Ministerial Lot [in part]) -- from N 42.44523, W 71.39170 to N 42.44609, W 71.40749
This is a long, narrow east-west swamp that Thoreau surveyed November 14-25, 1851. It has a small sphagnum bog with Tamarack (Larix laricina) at its west end and another small sphagnum bog near its midpoint with some Black Spruce (Picea mariana). It is in this swamp that Thoreau discovered while surveying on November 24, 1851 the only spot in Concord for the locally rare Climbing Fern (Lygodium palmatum). The location for it was lost shortly after 1900 but rediscovered in November 1978 by this author, and yet survives there. Two other locally rare plants occur in this swamp that Thoreau did not find except elsewhere in the town. The parcel remains largely intact as conservation land known as the Old Rifle Range. This latter name derives from its use as a target practice area for small firearms by Concord volunteer militia starting in 1910 and by U.S. Army soldiers at the time of World War I. Four mounds constructed with rusting steel target frames in front of crumbling concrete walls can still be found along the trail that follows the southern edge of the swamp. The name Thoreau used for the swamp derives from its lot being one of those set aside for ministers of the First Parish Church in the 1600s. Harrington’s Mud-hole, a boggy spot that at least in the 1980s still had Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia purpurea), is on the north side of the swamp near the middle.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, pages 13 (swamp near Tarbell’s), 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 November 14, 18, 20, 24 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), December 21 (indirectly); 1852 January 27, April 18, July 5, August 8, September 26, October 21, November 24; 1853 April 2, May 23, July 30, September 1, October 11, November 3; 1854 January 7, February 5, May 6, 12 (indirectly), June 18 (indirectly), July 7, 30 (indirectly), August 14 (indirectly), 16 (indirectly), September 4 (indirectly); 1855 February 28, March 25; 1856 July 28 (indirectly); 1857 April 29, October 9, November 20; 1858 March 21, November 20, 25; 1859 March 7, 12, May 1 (indirectly), October 2 (indirectly); 1860 May 19, August 27, 28, November 25.

Money-diggers’ Hill -- N 42.45021, W 71.37675
The story of pirates burying treasure on farmer John Hosmer’s (1789 – 1864) property is related in Thoreau’s Journal entry of November 5, 1854. In that story the pirates turn up a hollow to the south by the Sudbury River. At the beginning of this Journal entry Thoreau passes by the mouth of “John Hosmer’s hollow” and is called over by Hosmer and another person to show him where digging had been done to find the pirate money. Along this stretch of the Sudbury River near Clamshell Hill, both north and south of it, there are only two hollows or ravines. One is not very narrow, just southwest of...
Clamshell Hill. The other is a distinct, narrow one, southeast of John Hosmer’s residence between Lupine Hill and another hill by the shore just to the southwest. Thoreau’s Journal entry for August 25, 1858 is significant in that he notes a series of sites along the west side of the Sudbury River as he encounters them traveling northward -- Nut Meadow Brook, John Hosmer’s meadow, Money-diggers’ Hollow, Lupine Hill, and Clamshell Hill. Thus, Money-diggers’ Hollow (initially called “John Hosmer’s hollow”) is south of Lupine Hill and the hill just south of Lupine Hill forming the other side of the ravine is Money-diggers’ Hill. This hill is presently the site of a large senior care community. Gleason misplaces this hill on his map well to the north of Clamshell Hill by the shore where there is no hollow.

Journal references: 1852 June 16 (Hosmer hill) 1854 November 5 (indirectly); 1856 July 19 (indirectly), August 24; 1858 September 6, October 20; 1859 March 10.

Money-diggers’ Hollow (Hosmer’s gap, Hosmer’s Gorge) -- N 42.45095, W 71.37560
This is the hollow along the Sudbury River where pirates were said to have buried money. See entry for Money-digger Hill. Before Thoreau heard the story of buried pirate money he referred to this once as Hosmer’s Gorge. The coordinates are near the entry to the hollow close to the river meadow.

Journal references: 1853 May 6, 23; 1854 May 6, November 5 (indirectly); 1858 August 25.

Money-diggers’ Shore -- N 42.44987, W 71.37360
This would be the western shore of the Sudbury River opposite Money-digger Hill and Money-digger Hollow. See entry for the former.


Moore’s Swamp -- N 42.46589, W 71.34014
This is a good-sized swamp on the northeast side of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Bedford Street, constructed in Thoreau’s time and for which he did the surveying, cut across the southern tip of the swamp. The name derives most likely from Abel Moore (1777 – 1848), a farmer, sheriff, and real estate investor, who owned the farm on property that included part of the swamp, and retired there about 1843 to a large house he had built on the farm. His son, John Brooks Moore (1817 – 1887), took over the farm after the death of his father. Thoreau’s survey map in February 1853 of the John B. Moore farm shows that it included the southern part of the swamp. On that survey it is named “Stow & Moore’s Swamp”. On a Thoreau survey map of the John B. Moore farm done in 1860 it is shown to consist of several contiguous parcels extending from the house on Lexington Road northward only as far as Bedford Street. The reference to Stow would be to the prominent Stow family. Ebenezer Stow (1701/1702 - ca. 1769) owned a large farm with house on Lexington Road just west of Meriam’s Corner most of which passed to his son Nathan Stow (ca. 1744 - 1810) which in turn passed to his sons, Nathan Stow (1783 – 1831) and Cyrus Stow (1787 – 1876).

Journal references: 1852 March 3 (indirectly); 1853 July 6, August 18, 30 (footnote), 31, September 2, 8, October 3; 1854 February 17 (indirectly), 24, March 1, April 20, May 24, July 19, August 1, September 7, 18; 1855 June 15; 1856 May 20, July 7, August 12, 30; 1857 May 19, 31, July 2, November 18, 23; 1858 June 9; 1859 March 31, June 27, August 23, September 12, October 17; 1860 January 23, April 19, June 22, July 3, 7, 14.

Muhlenbergii Brook -- see Azalea Brook

Myosotis Brook -- see Swamp Bridge Brook
Nawshawtuct (Hill [in part], Lee's Hill) -- N 42.46330, W 71.36476

At an elevation of 239 feet it is not among the highest hills in Concord, but next to Fair Haven Hill it was the most the cited by Thoreau. This hill takes its name from a word of the Algonquians who resided nearby, that is said to mean “between two rivers”. The hill is situated near the confluence of the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers (becoming the Concord River). Thoreau cites in his Journal on February 15, 1857 Concord historian Lemuel Shattuck (1793 - 1859) as stating that the chief of the Native Americans in Concord lived near this hill. The other name comes from the Lee family starting with Joseph Lee (1643 - 1716) who purchased from his father-in-law the farm that included the hill in 1699 with various family members owning it until 1814. Thoreau surveyed it (December 30 - January 1, 1857) for a later owner, sea captain David Elwell (1788 - 1870). It has been reported that timber, White Oak (Quercus alba) and Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), from this hill was among that used in the construction in the U.S.S. Constitution. In Thoreau’s time the hill was the only site for the locally rare tree, Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis). Thoreau complained vigorously in his Journal entry of September 28, 1857 when workmen clearing bush cut down two or three of these trees on the hill. Occasionally Thoreau uses “Hill” to refer to Fair Haven Hill or Annursnack Hill, but the context is clear in these instances. The modern rendering of this name is Nashawtuc.

Journal entries: 1837 October 29, November 21, December 23 (indirectly); 1838 August 29; 1839 July 11; 1840 February 24; 1841 August 4; 1842 October 15 (Princeton ed.); 1849 vol. 3, page 23 of Princeton ed.; 1850 vol. II, page 18 of 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 72 of Princeton ed., vol. II, page 26 of 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 78 of Princeton ed.; 1851 June 14, September 9, 12, 21 (indirectly), November 2, December 23; 1852 April 21, May 7, July 31, August 2, September 24, 28; 1853 January 7, March 8, 23, 29, April 1, 7, May 12, 20, 21, 27, 28, June 2, 5, 9, 16, 18, 20, 23 (indirectly), July 20, August 2, 22 (indirectly), 23, September 4, October 24, 31, November 16; 1854 April 14, 20, 28, May 3, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15 (indirectly), 19, 23, 25, 29 (indirectly), June 1, 6 (indirectly), 15, 17, 23 (indirectly), July 2, 14, August 15, 20, 25, September 6, 14, 22, 24, 28 (indirectly), December 20; 1855 February 2, 24, March 13, 22, 24 (indirectly), 30, April 16, May 4, 12, 25, June 2, 9, October 20, 24, 29 (indirectly), November 4, December 14 (indirectly), 17, 30; 1856 January 3, 24 (indirectly), February 20 (indirectly), March 6, 20, April 7, 9, 15, 16, 25, May 1, 23, 31, June 1 (indirectly), July 7, August 2, 12, 25, September 13, 14 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), October 5, 20, December 5, 10, 13; 1857 February 15, 18 (indirectly), 27, March 5, 8, 12, 18 (indirectly), 27 (indirectly), 31, May 8 (indirectly), 16, 21, 24, 27, June 1, 3, July 16 (indirectly), August 25, September 9, 28, October 21 (indirectly), 22, 23 (indirectly); 1858 January 7, 27, February 11, 27, March 17, 19, 20 (likely), May 14, August 13, 16, October 4 (indirectly), 24, November 3, 12, 13, 29; 1859 January 10 (indirectly), March 7, 8, 10, 30, April 7 (indirectly), 17 (indirectly), 23 (indirectly), August 1 (indirectly), 8 (indirectly), September 15, October 13 (indirectly); 1860 January 12, 30, February 23, March 11, July 15, October 6 (indirectly), 27 (indirectly), December 3.

New stone bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

Nine-Acre Corner Bridge -- see Hubbard's Bridge and Lee's Bridge

North Branch -- see Assabet River

North River -- see Assabet River

Nut Meadow -- N 42.43744, W 71.39107

Thoreau's description in his Journal entry for November 11, 1850 indicates that he and/or the townspeople considered the meadow to be the large marshy area near the source of the brook named
after it. However, Thoreau’s use of the name Upper Nut Meadow in his Journal on March 5, 1854 and “true Nut Meadow” on April 6, 1856 shows that he distinguished the larger meadow near the source from the river meadow at the outlet of Nut Meadow Brook on the Sudbury River and possibly also wetlands farther up the brook. The coordinates above are for the approximate center of the large upper marsh/swamp. Thoreau’s survey map of December 9, 1854 for Tilly Holden (1786 -1860) is in the large meadow near the source of the brook. Thoreau appears to use “Nut Meadow” at times as shorthand for the brook instead of the meadow. The name dates back to colonial times in Concord according to Thoreau’s Journal entry of June 4, 1853. Gleason mistakenly calls this “Miles Swamp” on his map.

Journal references: 1850 vol. 3, page 52, Princeton ed., November 11 (indirectly); 1853 March 24 (possibly the brook), June 4; 1854 March 5, June 18, July 11 (likely the brook outlet), December 9, 10; 1855 January 22, April 13 (likely the brook outlet), May 18 (likely the brook outlet); 1856 January 5 (indirectly), February 1 (indirectly), 28, April 6, 28 (pool); 1857 July 12; 1858 September 29; 1859 February 7 (road), September 14, November 8 (likely the brook); 1860 January 30, March 2 (valley, likely near the brook outlet), July 2 (likely the brook outlet).

Nut Meadow Brook (Jenny’s Brook) -- from N 42.43505, W 71.39243 (approximately) to N 42.44834, W 71.37336

This brook begins from at least two tributaries in Nut Meadow, a large marsh/swamp (coordinates for approximate beginning of larger tributary above), and flows northward and eastward to empty into the Sudbury River south of Money-diggers’ Hill. For a short time Thoreau referred to the upper part of this brook as Jenny’s Brook after Jenny Dugan (ca. 1786 - ca. 1845) who lived near the brook (see Dugan Desert). Thoreau appears at times to use “Nut Meadow” as shorthand for the brook.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton, ed.; 1850 vol. II, page 82, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 12, Princeton ed., November 11; 1851 August 17, 19, October 8 (indirectly), December 28; 1852 April 11, 18, August 22, 27; 1853 March 10, 22, 27, 29, April 6, May 6, June 23, July 30, August 21 (indirectly), November 3, 9; 1854 February 5, March 5 (indirectly), 10, April 2, 8, June 7, July 11 (possibly the brook outlet), August 16, September 7; 1855 February 18, 24, 28, March 25 (indirectly), April 13 (likely), May 18 (likely); 1856 January 5, 20, February 1, March 18, 19 (indirectly), 20, April 5, 8 (indirectly), 24 (indirectly), December 29; 1857 November 18; 1858
January 24, August 25, September 29 (indirectly), November 11, 21; 1859 January 6, March 3, July 4, 5, November 8, December 28, 29 (indirectly); 1860 January 30, February 12 (indirectly), March 2 (likely the valley near the outlet), 26, July 2 (likely indirectly), 7 (indirectly).

**Oak Meadow(s) -- N 42.48667, W 71.35396**
This meadow or meadows in the Estabrook Woods was known as the oak meadow lot in town records. It was flooded in the 1940s for goose hunting. It is now a large pond known as Mink Pond. The oak referred to is most likely Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor) which is the native oak species in Concord that most prefers wetlands.

Journal references: 1853 June 10, 1860 May 29 (wall, lot), July 7 (spring).

**Old stone bridge -- see Causeway Bridge [Concord, MA]**

**One-Arched Bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge**

**Owl Nest Swamp (Farmer's Owl Nest Swamp, Owl Swamp) -- N 42.48255, W 71.36150**
On June 24, 1857 Thoreau records in his journal briefly how he reached this swamp: “You go about forty-five rods on the first path to the left in the woods and then turn to the left a few rods.” The problem is that it is not known for certain where he starts and in his time there was much less woodland. The Gleason map shows a trail coming left (as one walks northward) off of what is now Estabrook Road leading toward what is labeled Owl Nest Swamp. This same dirt road/trail shows up on USGS topographic maps dating back to 1943. But these do not show a swamp in the place where Gleason places it. However, more detailed town maps do show a wetland surrounded by elevated land on three sides which is a typical configuration for a swamp. The distance of this wetland from Estabrook Road is about the distance Thoreau states in his Journal. Thoreau’s reference to this swamp sometimes as Farmer’s Owl Nest Swamp refers to Jacob B. Farmer (1801-1872) who owned the Farmer’s Cliff and lived nearby. The proximity of this cliff to the location of the swamp is consistent with both of them being on Farmer’s land. In addition a map of the Estabrook Woods adapted from one prepared by Mary Gail Fenn and others shows a spruce swamp at about the location indicated above. While Thoreau does not specifically refer to spruce trees in this swamp, he does refer to sphagnum moss there in which the Black Spruce grows in Concord. Unfortunately, the site of this swamp is currently flooded.

Journal references: 1857 June 24, August 29, September 12; 1858 August 29, September 8; 1859 June 11.

**Painted-Cup Meadow (Jesse Hosmer meadow) -- N 42.47342, W 71.39448**
“Painted Cup” refers to the wildflower Castilleja coccinea with bright red calyx (occasionally yellow). Thoreau discovered this rare, showy wildflower in Concord on May 8, 1853 and expressed great surprise at having missed seeing it after for so many years of exploring the town. All known stations for this in Massachusetts and possibly New England have since disappeared. Thoreau notes finding it in at the foot of Annursnack Hill in the meadow of Jesse Hosmer. In the spring of 1850 Thoreau surveyed the Jesse Hosmer farm on the south side of Annursnack Hill. This large parcel is largely intact to this day with some additional acreage added. Alfred W. Hosmer records finding this in flower at “Hayward’s swamp” as late as May 11, 1902, the last date it was recorded in Concord. He refers to John Hayward (1793 - 1878) who owned the property immediately to the east of Jesse Hosmer (ca. 1790 - 1871) and noted on Thoreau’s survey map. There is only one wetland that straddles the boundary between the former Hosmer and Hayward properties, and it is right at the southern foot of Annursnack Hill with coordinates given above. On June 2, 1854 Thoreau refers to the “springy slopes”
of this meadow which agrees well with detailed wetland mapping of the town that shows this wetland extending up the surrounding slopes of Annursnack Hill with multiple small streamlets. The location of this on the Gleason map is approximate as the actual location is due south of the hill and a little above the east-west line of Barrett’s Mill Road.

Journal references: 1853 May 8, 15, June 3; 1854 June 2; 1856 May 28, 29, September 2; 1857 June 2, October 12; 1858 June 6, September 13; 1860 June 10, July 28

**Pedrick’s Meadow (Pedrick’s Swamp) -- N 42.46757, W 71.33363**

This is a small swamp by the north side of Bedford Street due west of the site of Beck Stow’s Swamp on the south side of Bedford Street. Thoreau locates it on one of the survey maps of the new road toward Bedford dated July 1853. His first mention of it in his Journal was at the time he did the survey for the new Bedford Street. The fact that he found larch trees and *Maianthemum trifolium* (very rare in Concord) there indicates that it was boggy or a bog in his time. “Pedrick” refers to William Pedrick whose house is indicated on the 1856 map of Middlesex County done by Henry F. Walling on the west side of the road to Bedford northward of where Bedford Street joins the Old Bedford Road. Thoreau’s July 1853 survey maps indicate that Pedrick owned land on the north/west side of Bedford Street from the swamp Thoreau names for him toward Pedrick’s house.

Journal references: 1853 July 1, 6; 1854 May 18, 24, August 22.

**Peter’s Path (Caesar’s Path) -- approximately from N 42.46870, W 71.34813 to N 42.47478, W 71.32017**

This is a winding path that started from Monument Street at the present Great Meadows Road, curved north of Poplar Hill, passed by the residence of Peter Hutchinson (1799 – 1882) and ended on Old Bedford Road not far from where it exits Concord. That the path came near the Concord River is shown by Thoreau’s indirect reference to it in his Journal on September 3, 1853. The course of the path as depicted on the Gleason map is relied upon. The path is named after the African-American laborer, butcher Peter Hutchinson who lived with his family in the house overlooking the Great Meadows remote not near neighbors. Thoreau referred to him on December 12, 1856 as Concord’s “dexterous pig butcherer”. Emerson wrote or started a poem Peter’s Field that he abandoned but used for his poem Dirge. The Hutchinson house would have stood about where the Middlesex Central Railroad passed through opened in 1873 (closed in 1962) which is now a bed that serves as a straight path from Monument Street to the town line with Bedford. The house originally belonged to the African-American Revolutionary War veteran Caesar Robbins (ca. 1745 – 1822) and is now a historic house (Robbins House) moved to a place beside the parking lot for the Old North Bridge monument and by the former Peter’s Path.

Journal references: 1852 April 3; 1853 August 30, September 3 (indirectly); 1854 August 28 (indirectly); 1855 June 12, October 18; 1856 May 3, August 1, 12; 1857 July 10 (road); 1858 August 11.

**Peter’s Well (Caesar’s Well) -- N 42.47211, 71.33509 (approximately)**

This would be a well associated with the residence of Peter Hutchinson (1799 – 1882) and his family. See entry for Peter’s Path. The 1852 and 1856 maps of Concord and Middlesex County locate the Hutchinson residence a short distance to the northeast of Poplar Hill on the border of Great Meadows not far from the Concord River. The ConcordGIS map shows what appears to be a spring northeast of Poplar’s Hill emanating from a hollow in the north-facing bank overlooking the Concord River and Great Meadows. Steve Tobin visited this site in January 2020 and found that an apparent culvert from a nearby road empties into what is likely the site of the spring. This site is close to the corner of a
road that is presently named Peter Spring Road. Thoreau's review of Concord's springs on July 7, 1860 in his Journal appears to refer to this as "beyond Peter's", meaning to the east of the residence, and includes it in those springs that have been "barreled or tubbed", and among the three Concord springs that had a box of minnows in or near them. Thoreau's Journal entries for September 9, 1852 and August 9, 1853 refer to finding Liatris scariosa at the well. This is the locally rare Northern Blazing Star (Liatris scariosa var. novae-angliae). Thoreau’s multiple later references to this wildflower in his Journal appear to be mostly at this location. Other Concord botanizers -- Edward Jarvis (1803 - 1889), Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878), Alfred Hosmer (1851 - 1903) and Richard Eaton (1890 - 1976) also record it to be near this well or in the same vicinity as the Peter Hutchinson residence. This author found a single flower of this plant in September 1980 about 50 meters almost due south of the above coordinates. The alternate name Caesar's Well derives from a former owner of the residence and property with the well, African-American Revolutionary War veteran Caesar Robbins (ca. 1745 - 1822). See Peter's Path entry for current location of the house.

Journal references: 1852 September 9; 1853 August 9; 1857 September 10; 1860 July 7 (indirectly).

Pink Azalea Swamp -- see Pinxter Swamp

Pinxter-Flower Brook -- see Azalea Brook

Pinxter Spring -- see Assabet Spring

Pinxter Swamp (Assabet Spring Swamp, Azalea Swamp, Pink Azalea Swamp, Wheeler's Azalea Swamp) -- N 42.46821, W 71.36429

This is a swamp by the Assabet River close to the site where the locally rare Roseshell Azalea (Rhododendron prinophyllum) grows. This wetland extends more narrowly along the Assabet River towards the north where it connects with a smaller swamp that Thoreau apparently refers to separately as V.[iola] Muhlenbergii or V.[iola] palmata Swamp. See the separate entry for that swamp. Thoreau uses the name Assabet Spring Swamp only once early on, equating it with Pinxter Azalea Swamp on February 9, 1856. The coordinates given above are for the center of the wide southern portion which is near (southwestward) the site of the Pinxter-Flower (a common name in Thoreau’s time for the Roseshell Azalea). The Assabet Spring is near the southern limit of this swamp. Gleason misplaces the Pinxter Swamp and Assabet Spring on his map.

Journal references: 1855 June 9; 1856 February 9, 20, March 14, April 9, 16, 27, August 29; 1858 October 12; 1859 January 10, 18, March 20, July 19; 1860 April 13.

Pleasant Meadow [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42568, W 71.35139 (approximately)

This is a meadow in Lincoln, MA that borders the eastern shore of Fair Haven Bay. Thoreau's first Journal reference of April 4, 1852 indicates that it borders the pond. Also, a specimen in Thoreau's herbarium of Utricularia intermedia, a plant that grows in standing water, was collected by him on August 18, 1857, referred to in his Journal reference of August 29, 1857. Thus, this meadow is not a pasture or field, as is sometimes depicted in photographs, although there is a field close to it. Thoreau refers on July 9, 1852 to an unnamed brook (not Heywood’s Brook which he knew by name) that flows through the meadow to the pond. On August 13, 1853 he describes the rays of the sun shining horizontally across the pond on the west lighting up the side of “Baker's Pleasant Meadow Wood” that covered a hill. This hill on the Baker farm property is likely a hill that Thoreau later describes on November 13, 1860 in his Journal manuscript as “Baker’s hill bet[ween] [Baker’’s] Farm & Pleasant Meadow”. This unnamed hill shows up on topographic maps as a broad one at about N 42.42374, W
71.34759. These references determine the location of the meadow to be at approximately the coordinates given above. Gleason’s map implies that this meadow is beside Heywood’s Brook and not necessarily beside Fair Haven Bay, both of which are incorrect. Author and historian Charles Frances Adams, Jr. (1835 – 1915) in an address in 1904 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Lincoln implies that the name for this meadow originates with Thoreau and correctly refers to it as bordering Fair Haven Bay.

Journal references: 1852 April 4, 19, June 15, July 9; 1855 May 12, December 21; 1857 August 29; 1858 November 10; 1859 January 18, June 19, December 8, 13 (field); 1860 February 2, 12, July 10, September 26, November 13.

**Pokelogan (Ludwigia Poke-logan, Poke-logan)** -- from N 42.46893, W 71.38039 to N 42.46801, W 71.38368

A “pokelogan” or “pokeloken” is a word of Algonquian origin referring to an inlet, bay or marshy place. The Journal references given below are use of the word for a particular place along the Assabet River. Thoreau notes on August 25, 1854 that the poke-logan is opposite the Assabet Bathing-Place. On August 29, 1858 he refers to it as a “narrow bay”. There is one very distinctive place on the southern bank of the Assabet River where there is a long, narrow inlet with coordinates given above. This feature does not show up on any historic of Concord or the earliest topographic maps since they were insufficiently detailed. Bu it does show up on a USGS topographic map of 1943 and would have existed in Thoreau’s time since the course of the small, sluggish Assabet River has changed little since Thoreau’s time. Gleason’s map does not show or denote the Pokelogan, but his placement of the Assabet Bathing-Place is correctly placed along the Assabet River opposite where the Pokelogan is located, agreeing with Thoreau’s description. The name Ludwigia Poke-logan is used only once on June 25, 1854 and refers to his finding Seedbox (Ludwigia alternifolia) at the entrance of the Poke-logan on July 3, 1853.

Journal references: 1853 July 3; 1854 June 25, August 25, 1854; 1856 May 11, September 2 1857 November 2; 1858 August 29, September 2, 3; 1859 April 1; 1860 January 4, June 27, October 20.

**Pole Brook (Bidens Brook, Creel Brook) [Lincoln, MA]** -- from N 42.43312, W 71.32632 to N 42.41968, W 71.35747

Thoreau initially names this brook after the Larger Bur-marigold or Great Bidens (Bidens laevis) that he finds there on August 23, 1853. Later he adopts the name Pole Brook in use by locals, the origin of which is reported to be that the swamp (Deacon Farrar’s Swamp) through which the brook ran could not be entered by wagons when hay was harvested so that the hay was drawn on poles behind horses. Thoreau once refers to the brook as Creel Brook which can be understood from his Journal reference of March 20, 1858. The main source of the brook started in a wetland west of Flint’s or Sandy Pond, passed through what used to be the large swamp near the Sudbury River, a swamp flooded to make Farrar Pond in 1900, and from there emptied into the Sudbury River. The brook has two source streams. The coordinates for the start of the brook given above are for what was the more significant source stream.

Journal references: 1853 August 23 (indirectly), 30, 1854 September 6; 1855 January 11, February 24; 1857 April 22; 1858 March 20, December 29; 1859 March 27.

**Pond Island** -- see **Fair Haven Island**
**Ponkawtasset (Ponkawtasset Hill)** -- N 42.48146, W 71.34701

This hill at Monument Street in Concord presently goes by the name of Punkatasset Hill. At 316 feet this hill is the third highest in Concord (behind Annursnack Hill and Fair Haven Hill). It is of historic significance in that it was on the southern slope of this hill that about 400 colonial militiamen gathered on April 19, 1775 observing British soldiers at the North Bridge before advancing toward them. Thoreau’s visits to this hill were mostly to see his botanizing friend Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878) whose residence and farm were at the bottom of the southwest slope of the hill. The name derives from an Algonquian Native American word or name the meaning of which is apparently lost.

Journal references: **1837** November 16; **1849** vol. 3, page 23 (Princeton ed.); **1851** September 9; **1852** April 21, June 23; **1853** May 12, June 10; **1854** August 6; **1855** April 15, 26, May 13; **1856** April 14, September 28; **1857** June 7, 23, November 3 (top); **1858** November 1, 8, 9; **1860** January 30, May 17, 29, October 29.

**Pout’s Nest** -- see Wyman Meadow

**Pratt’s Spring** -- N 42.48016, W 71.35322 (provided by Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle)

This spring is behind the former Monument Street residence of Thoreau’s botanical friend, Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878). Thoreau refers to this in his Journal only once and indirectly on July 7, 1860 as “the most natural well of them all [springs in Concord] filling an oblong cavity between upright rocks.” On this date he questions whether it should be considered among those Concord springs not distinctly at the base of a hill or slope, which it is not, or only slightly so, as seen in the photos below. After Thoreau’s passing Pratt introduced a number of plants at the spring native to other parts of New England but not Concord, some of which have survived. These include Mountain Maple (Acer spicatum), Blue Cohosh (Caulophyllum thalictroides), Netted Chain Fern (Woodwardia areolata) and Crinkleroot (Cardamine diphylla). After Pratt’s death the name “Asa Gray Spring” has been applied to a spring in the Punkatasset Hill area where Pratt lived based upon an account in a guide book published in 1898 by Edwin M. Bacon (Walks and Rides in the Country Round About Boston). Bacon reports that Pratt showed a spring in this area to the noted Harvard botanist Asa Gray (1810 - 1888). Bacon also describes being taken to see the spring by an unnamed person. Later Herbert Gleason labeled one of his photographs “Minot Pratt’s Spring [Often called Asa Gray’s Spring]”. That photograph is not of Pratt’s Spring, and the route Bacon describes in his book does not lead to Pratt’s Spring. The location of Pratt’s Spring appears to have become lost in the early part of the 20th century. Concord botanizer Alfred W. Hosmer (1851 - 1903) recorded in his botanical notes manuscript that the Mountain Maple was to be found at “Pratt’s Spring”. Richard Eaton (1890 - 1976) born and raised in Concord, who wrote A Flora of Concord (1974), did not know its location. When this author re-located the spring on May 13, 1982 (along with the Mountain Maple and other introduced plants there) the long-time owner of the Pratt property containing the spring was totally unaware of its existence. The location of the spring (or springs) pictured or described as Asa Gray Spring has yet to be determined.
Thoreau names and describes the location of this site in his Journal on August 5, 1858, a small bay on the southeast side of Fair Haven Bay at the entrance of the Sudbury River. It is easily discernible on the LincolnGIS map and on satellite and aerial images. This bay is named after Purple Utricularia (Utricularia purpurea) that Thoreau describes as abundant and the most common Utricularia, but has not been seen in Concord since 1903 or possibly as late as the 1930s. Its disappearance is most likely due to pollution in the Sudbury River starting about 1930 when other water plants that Thoreau associated with this Utricularia disappeared.

Journal references: 1858 August 5; 1859 June 24, July 5.
**Purple Utricularia Shore** -- N 42.44252, W 71.37020 (best estimate)

Thoreau leaves insufficient clues to pinpoint the location of this place with certainty. His Journal entry of August 30, 1854 indicates that the location is along the Sudbury River between Clamshell Hill and Conantum. His first mention in his Journal of the aquatic plant, Purple Utricularia (Utricularia purpurea), occurs on July 13, 1853 where he finds it near the Hollowell Place which agrees with a location between Clamshell Hill and Conantum. The coordinates given above are for the Sudbury shore near the site of the Hollowell Place.

Journal references: **1853** July 13 (indirectly) **1854** June 26, July 17, August 30, September 2.

**Rattlesnake Fern Swamp** -- see Botrychium Swamp

**Red Bridge** -- see Hunt’s Bridge

**Rice’s Bend [Sudbury, MA/Wayland, MA]** -- N 42.40793, W 71.37458

This is a significant bend in the course of the Sudbury River above Fair Haven Bay where the river forms the border between Sudbury and Wayland, MA. It is named after farmer Israel Rice (1787 - 1873) who lived in Sudbury not far from the bend.

Journal references: **1854** August 5; **1859** July 5 (footnote), 30, 31, December 29 (footnote).

**Ripple Lake(s)** -- see Little Goose Pond

**Ripple Pool** -- see Little Goose Pond

**Rock** -- see Egg Rock

**Rock Island** -- see Island

**R.W.E.’s Cliff** -- see Emerson’s Cliff

**R.W.E.’s Hill** -- see Emerson’s Cliff

**S.[alix] tristis Path** -- see Well Meadow Path

**Sam Barrett’s Pond (Barrett’s Pond)** -- N 42.47457, W 71.37583 (approximately)

This was a mill pond along Spencer Brook just north of the road presently named Barrett’s Mill Road. The coordinates given above are the location of the pond as given in the historic maps of Concord from Thoreau’s time. A larger pond further upstream named Angier’s Pond was created after Thoreau’s time. Gleason’s map appears to depict that later pond since the maps of Thoreau’s time have only the northern tip of Barrett’s Mill Pond extending to a point upstream opposite the first bend in Strawberry Hill Road and the southern end of Barrett’s Mill Pond much closer to Barrett’s Mill Road where current topography maps show an obvious constriction point suitable for a dam. Thoreau’s Journal entry of July 25, 1853 indicates that the mill was close to Barrett’s Mill Road. The coordinates above are an approximation of where the main part of the pond would have been just north of the constriction through which Spencer Brook flows. The mill pond and road are named after Samuel Barrett (1773 – 1825) who operated a gristmill at this location and his son, Samuel Barrett (1812 – 1872) who took over the gristmill, and operated a sawmill. The “Sam Barrett” of Thoreau’s Journal, of course, was the younger one, who was also an abolitionist.
Saw Mill Brook [Estabrook Woods – Concord, MA/Carlisle, MA] -- from (very approximately) N 42.50787, W 71.34617 to N 42.48300, W 71.33264
This is a brook that begins in Carlisle in a large swamp Thoreau called Cedar Swamp (presently named Carlisle Swamp). The beginning coordinates above are near the head of this swamp. Man-made ditching connecting this swamp to wetlands to the north of it give the appearance that the source of the brook is northward. From the swamp it flows southward on the west side of Hubbard Hill, through the site of the saw mill that gives it its name (the site of the Thoreau pencil factory), then southeastward crossing Monument Street and finally emptying into the Concord River on the south side of Buttrick's Hill opposite the Great Meadows. Part of this path south of Hubbard’s Hill includes Hutchins Pond which did not exist in Thoreau’s time. The historic maps of Concord of Thoreau’s time and Gleason’s map mistakenly show this brook flowing east of Hubbard’s Hill, the course of one of its tributaries. Thoreau’s first Journal reference to it on June 10, 1853 refers to a spring near the head of Cedar Swamp making that in effect the source of the brook. All but a few of Thoreau’s uses of this name refer to the Saw Mill Brook on the east side of Concord that begins in Lincoln, MA, a small tributary of Mill Brook.


Saw Mill Brook [Concord, MA/Lincoln, MA] -- from approximately N 42.44230, W 71.31897 to approximately N 42.45740, W 71.32692
This is a small tributary that begins in a swampy area north of Flint's Pond in Lincoln and flows northwesterly to the present location of Crosby's Pond (not in existence in Thoreau’ time), crossing the Cambridge Turnpike there, and proceeding mostly northward to join the Mill Brook after that brook has crossed Lexington Road. This brook was of such small consequence that it was not shown on the historic maps of Concord in Thoreau’s time. It is evident in comparing maps of that time to the maps of latter part of the 20th century that the courses and flow of the Mill Brook and Saw Mill Brook in the level area between the Cambridge Turnpike and Lexington Road have been significantly altered. Stretches of these streams now run perfectly straight. The original primary source of the Mill Brook is barely discernible, such that the Saw Mill Brook is now considered to be the Mill Brook to its source. Gleason’s map shows the courses of both streams more or less correctly for Thoreau’s time. Thoreau’s best description of this brook is his Journal reference on November 4, 1851. The site of the saw mill that gives this brook its name is perhaps given in his Journal entry in December 1849 (vol. 3, p. 42, Princeton ed.) where he describes a ditch about 37 rods (186 meters) long from Flint’s Pond to Mill Brook swamp that fed Saw Mill Run on which there was a mill in Hosmer’s pasture. The Hosmer referred to was Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) who before 1853 resided on Lincoln Road (now Sandy Pond Road) near the Cambridge Turnpike. Since the distance from Flint’s Pond in Lincoln, MA to the Concord town line is more than a kilometer, Thoreau must be referring to the course of the brook within Concord. The Mill Brook swamp in Thoreau’s time would have included at least part of what is now Crosby’s Pond. Thoreau’s June 17-21, 1851 survey of Edmund Hosmer’s farm shows that Hosmer owned a western part of what is now Crosby’s Pond, and that his land included part of Lincoln through which Saw Mill Brook entered Concord. Review of the topography where Saw Mill Brook runs from the Lincoln line into Concord suggests that the saw mill would have been under what is now Route 2.
Saw Mill Brook
(Gleason photo from 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal)

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, p. 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 November 4, 22, December 29; 1852 April 1, May 4, 25, July 6, 8, 11, August 6, 24, September 27, December 31; 1853 May 10, 27, June 19, August 10, 14, 24, September 2; 1854 April 21, May 11, 27, July 16, August 4, October 29; 1855 October 23, 28; 1856 May 21, June 11, August 14, September 1 (indirectly), 24, October 8 (indirectly), December 12, 17; 1857 May 1, 26, June 8, October 6; 1858 January 23, October 6, 18; 1859 May 11, September 1; 1860 July 7, December 2; 1861 March 30,

Saw Mill Run -- N 42.44818, W 71.32566 (best estimate)
This is a part of Saw Mill Brook where there are some small waterfalls. Thoreau’s December 1849 Journal entry gives the best information as to where this was located. See discussion at end of entry for Saw Mill Brook which would place the Run in Concord beneath or very close to the present Route 2.


Second Andromeda Pond -- see Andromeda Pond(s)

Second Division Brook -- from N 42.43010, W 71.43636 to N 42.45203, W 71.40889 (main branch); from N 42.42377, W 71.41817 to N 42.43503, W 71.41433 (secondary branch in Concord)
The main branch of Second Division Brook begins at a small fishing pond in Maynard, MA that was part of a larger marsh or swamp in Thoreau’s time. It then flows eastward into the northwest corner of Sudbury, MA and from there northeastward into the southwest corner of Concord. Not far into Concord it is joined by a secondary branch flowing northward from Sudbury. Soon after his juncture the brook flows northward unto two consecutive, elongated, man-made ponds created after Thoreau’s time and then almost immediately into Hayward’s Mill Pond (presently Kennedys Pond) which was much smaller in Thoreau’s time. From this pond it flows into a much smaller mill pond that existed in Thoreau’s time, and then very shortly from that pond ending in the Assabet River. The secondary branch of this brook begins in a White Cedar swamp in the northern part of Sudbury, MA. From this swamp the secondary branch flows generally northward into Concord to join the main branch of the brook shortly before that flows into the first elongated man-made pond (Musketaquid Pond). The
name of the brook evidently derives in some way from a second division of the land in Concord in 1655 where the town was divided into quarters. On June 4, 1853 Thoreau comments in his Journal after looking at the oldest Concord town records that “Second Division” appeared to be a very large tract of land between the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, p. 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 August 17 (indirectly), September 4 (including footnote); 1852 March 29, April 11, 25 (indirectly), 29, May 14 (indirectly), July 5, October 21; 1853 March 10, 24, April 2, 6, 9; 1854 April 9 (indirectly), May 6 (indirectly); 1855 March 6, 10, April 12 (footnote,, indirectly), 13 (indirectly), 18 (indirectly), May 6 (indirectly); 1856 April 24; 1858 April 6; 1859 May 1 (indirectly), June 29 (indirectly), July 1; 1860 March 25 (footnote), 26, May 6 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), June 14 (indirectly), July 18 (indirectly), November 1.

Second stone bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

Shadbush Meadow -- N 42.46917, W 71.38645 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s Journal entry of August 2, 1858 has the best information on the likely location of this meadow. He describes landing at the Assabet Bathing Place and from there walking in this meadow. The only sizable meadow near that bathing place (which is known to be opposite the Pokelogan) is the wetland on the opposite side of the river from the Pokelogan just upriver from the tip of that inlet. The meadow is most likely named for Eastern Shadbush (Amelanchier Canadensis) the most common shadbush in Concord, and one that is found in wetlands.

Journal references: 1854 June 20, July 8, August 25; 1858 August 2, September 7.

Shrub Oak Plain (Burnt Plain) -- N 42.43304, W 71.35334
This is part of the Fair Haven woods infamously and accidentally set afire by Thoreau and his friend Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893) in April 1844 on near the shore of Fair Haven Bay while cooking fish they had caught. Thoreau describes the event at length in his Journal in 1850 (starting on page 21 of vol. II of 1906 ed. & page 75 of vol. 3 of Princeton ed.). In this account he states that the fire was started in a sunny recess in the hill on the east of the bay. Since Thoreau does not express any concern about the fire spreading toward Lincoln but does express concern about the fire spreading across Well Meadow Brook toward Concord the starting place of the fire must have been between Well Meadow Brook and the more significant Heywood’s Brook on the northeast side of the bay. There is an elevated area between these two brooks and a small, dry, south-facing recess in that unnamed hill that would have been unobstructed and sunny. It is at N 42.42979, W 71.34879. In any event the fire did spread right up the side of the hill (northward and northeastward). It is easy to see on a map that from there the fire would have been blocked by the Heywood’s Brook to the southeast, but would have spread westward through the small dry neck between Well Meadow Head and the Andromeda Ponds. From there it burned an elevated plain or plateau of about 100 acres and up the slope below Fair Haven Cliff where Thoreau records observing it from the highest rock rapidly approaching him. The plateau/plain is roughly the shape of an old-time baseball mitt with a thumb and four fingers all pointing southwestward. The coordinates at the beginning of this entry are at the center of the “palm” of this plain which Thoreau called Burnt Plain. Thoreau errs in his 1850 account in stating that the origin of the fire was a mile from the summit of Fair Haven Cliff. Such a distance would put the origin of the fire at the very southernmost edge of the bay requiring it to burn hundreds of acres of the Baker Farm and cross the wetland of Heywood’s Brook that runs uninterrupted from the railroad to Fair Haven Bay. Shrub Oaks (Quercus ilicifolia) were one the plants that began to repopulate the Burnt Plain. Thoreau in his Journal entry of January 30, 1853 realizes that in fact most of the young oaks growing back on this plain after the fire are not Shrub Oak.
Journal references: 1851 September 10, December 20, 25; 1852 January 14, March 4, April 4 (indirectly), 17, May 1, June 11 (indirectly), July 29, August 2, 19, October 2, 13, November 3; 1853 January 30, March 12 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly), May 1 (indirectly), 17; 1854 May 28, September 24, 25, 29 (indirectly); 1855 May 12, 14; 1856 April 13, October 11; 1858 October 22, 25, 29, November 20.

Sleepy Hollow (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery) -- N 42.46394, W 71.34395
This is a small complex of dryland wooded ridges, hills and dells a short distance northeast of the town center adjacent to and west of Moore’s Swamp. It presently is the grounds for Sleepy Hollow Cemetery along Bedford Street where Thoreau, his family and many other noted Concordians are buried. A small, westernmost section of Sleepy Hollow was used as the New Burying Ground beginning in 1823. This and the remainder of Sleepy Hollow was designed as a larger cemetery in 1855 and dedicated in that year by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882).

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, p. 23, Princeton ed.; 1852 March 3, 15, July 16; 1853 May 20, August 18, 31; 1854 February 22, March 14, September 4; 1855 March 5; 1856 January 21, April 10, 19, 22; 1857 October 13; 1858 May 27, August 1, October 15, 26, November 1; 1859 January 19, March 22, May 29, December 23; 1860 October 10, 11, 19, 20, 25, 26.

Smallpox Burying-Ground (Burying Ground) -- N 42.44572, W 71.35412
This is a small public cemetery about 25 feet by 35 feet surrounded by a low stone wall on a slope just east of the Back Road (present-day Fairhaven Road) and west of the Deep Cut. It is now also just south of Route 2. The cemetery is believed to contain all ten persons who died as a result of the 1792 outbreak of smallpox in Concord, although there are only two stone markers. An image of the cemetery is [here](https://example.com). Gleason refers to this as “Lonely Graveyard” for his map. But Thoreau does not use this name in his Journal.

Journal reference: 1853 March 30; 1857 February 7 (indirectly); 1858 November 2; 1859 April 15.

South Bridge -- see Wood’s Bridge

Spanish Brook -- see Heywood’s Brook

Spencer Brook -- from N 42.51081, W 71.34337 (approximately) to N 42.47139, W 71.37286
The course of Spencer Brook in Carlisle where it begins is most clearly seen in the 1856 map of Middlesex County, MA by Henry F. Walling. Its source is a wetland now flooded just to the east of the presently named Baldwin Road in the southern part of Carlisle (wetland coordinates given above). From there it flows northwestward in an arc north of what is now named Bellow’s Hill. This arc leads to Buttrick’s Pond. From Buttrick’s Pond the brook winds southwestward through a large marsh and into Concord. In Concord it flows generally southward, passing through some present-day man-made ponds before it reaches the large man-made Angier’s Pond. It then continues southward through the location that was Sam Barrett’s Pond in Thoreau’s time. It crosses Barrett’s Mill Road before emptying into the Assabet River. The brook is named after William Spencer (1601 - 1640) of Cambridge, MA, who with Rev. Peter Bulkeley (1583 - 1659) successfully petitioned the colonial government to found the township that became Concord and who, with Simon Willard (1605 - 1676), is reported to have paid the Native Americans for the land that became Concord. There is no evidence that Spencer lived in Concord. But he did receive grants of land including in the First Division of land in Concord 108
acres in the northwest part of the town which included the brook that bears his name, and which he later sold.


Stedman Buttrick's Meadow (Stedman Buttrick's Swamp) -- N 42.48483, W 71.35734
On November 18, 1857 Thoreau refers to this as the maple lot on the old Carlisle road at the head of a meadow behind Brooks Clark's [residence], the meadow being drained by a stream (Dakin's Brook) that empties into the Assabet River. The maples would be Red Maples (Acer rubrum) which grow in wetlands. On November 6, 1857 Thoreau refers to this as a meadow where Stedman Buttrick's (1796 - 1874) handsome pine and maple wood was located. Town wetland maps clearly show the wetland just to the west of the Old Carlisle Road that is connected to a wetland behind the site of the Brooks Clark residence that leads to or is the source of Dakin's Brook. The Estabrook Woods map of Mary Gail Fenn and Allie Bemis Bueti correctly locate it just to the west of the Old Carlisle Road.

Journal references: 1857 November 6, 18 (indirectly); 1859 September 24.

Sugar Maple site -- N 42.42546, W 71.37080 (provided by Cherrie Corey)
This is the only site known in Thoreau's time for the native occurrence of Sugar Maple tree (Acer saccharum), commonly planted along roads and in yards then and now. This author relocated the maples on July 29, 1982, confirmed by the occurrence of other rare or uncommon plants at the site referred to growing at the site by Minot Pratt. Richard Eaton in his “A Flora of Concord” found other sugar maples that he thought were the ones Thoreau found, but at a location on the other side of Sudbury Road, no doubt persistent, planted trees. Thoreau first mentions these maples on September 17, 1851: “John W. Farrar tells of sugar maples behind [Darius] Miles’s in the Corner.” Then he finds them on September 24, 1851. The trees this author found were small just as Thoreau described on November 8, 1860. His observation was that they were no more than five inches in diameter. The largest I saw were no more than about a foot in diameter.

Journal references: 1851 September 24; 1860 November 8.

Sunset Reach -- see Clamshell Reach

Swamp Bridge -- N 42.45445, W 71.35771
This was a small bridge over a brook (Swamp Bridge Brook, Depot Field Brook) along what was then called Back Road but which is now part of Sudbury Road. Presently the brook passes through a conduit under the road immediately south of a market plaza just south of the railroad. A large wetland currently just east of Sudbury Road was likely in Thoreau’s time (or before) at least partly a swamp that extended to both sides of the road, giving the bridge its name dating back to early colonial times.

Journal references: 1837 December 19; 1851 November 8; 1853 May 24, June 4, November 1; 1855 February 17.

Swamp Bridge Brook (Depot Field Brook, Depot Brook, Forget-me-not Brook, Myosotis Brook) -- from N 42.45065, W 71.35904 (approximately) to N 42.45517, W 71.36557
Topographic maps from 1894 and 1918 show that this brook crossed what was then known the Back Road in two places. Its origin was on the southwestern side of what is now Sudbury Road (now extensively landscaped and built upon) from where it crossed the road northeasterly into a wetland or
swamp from which it crossed that road (a section of the Back Road in Thoreau’s time) again
northwesterly at the Swamp Bridge (see preceding entry) from where it flowed westerly to empty into
the Sudbury River between two plateaus a little south of the Fitchburg Railroad. Thoreau’s use of
different names for the same brook is confusing. See the entry for Swamp Bridge for the origin of the
primary name for the brook. The name Depot Field Brook derives from the fact that it passes not far
from and south of the railroad depot in Concord. The single use of the name Myosotis Brook on June
2, 1853 places this at the bottom of Wheildon’s field. Wheildon refers to William Willder Wheildon
(1805 - 1892), an editor, writer, publisher and journalist who lived on Main Street. He also owned
land west of the end of Texas Street (present Belknap Street) and north of Cyrus Hubbard (1791 -
1865) according to a survey of a house lot Thoreau did for David Loring (1800 - 1870) on September
7, 1856. This places Wheildon’s field just to the north of the outlet of Depot Field Brook into the
Sudbury River. Thus, Myosotis Brook is another name for Depot Field Brook. Myosotis is the scientific
genus name for Forget-me-not. Thoreau’s uses of Forget-me-not Brook is consistent with the location
of the Depot Field Brook. The particular Myosotis Thoreau refers to is the Smaller Forget-me-not
(Myosotis laxa). He associates the Forget-me-not with the Depot Field Brook on May 27 and June 12,
1852. Thoreau’s use of the names Forget-me-not Brook and Myosotis Brook are only on three dates
from August 19, 1852 to June 2, 1853. The more numerous uses of the names Swamp Bridge Brook
and Depot Field Brook precede and follow this interval. Likely his uses of the other names were applied
to the area near the outlet of the brook where he found the Forget-me-not. The single use of the name
“Swamp Brook” appears to be a shortIn Thoreau’s review of brooks in Concord on July 9, 1860 he
uses “Swamp Bridge” [Brook] to refer to this brook without noting his other names.

Journal references: 1837 October 29; 1851 August 15 (indirectly); 1852 April 22, May 9, 27, June
12, 16, July 29 (indirectly), August 19; 1853 May 1, June 15, August 11, October 30, November 3,
23 (mouth); 1854 February 12, March 14; 1855 March 20, April 17 (willows), November 5, 11;
1856 January 20 (indirectly), April 15; 1857 October 7; 1859 April 26, July 3, 6, September 12;
1860 June 4, July 7 (indirectly).

Swamp Brook -- from N 42.45028, W 71.36142 to N 42.45207, W 71.36773
Thoreau uses this name only twice in his Journal. On June 4, 1860 Thoreau uses the brook to describe
the location of a sedge, Carex conoidea, that he collected on July 3, 1859. In the Journal he describes
the location in “C.[yrus] Hubbard’s first meadow, south side of Swamp Brook willows”. The label with
the specimen of this sedge in his herbarium describes the location as “Hub.[bard] bath meadow below
woodpecker apple”. This places the outlet of this brook near the location of the Hubbard Bathing Place
which is known to be just north of a significant bend northward in the Sudbury River. The 1987 U.S.
Geological Survey map of Maynard, MA and vicinity shows a small brook in just this vicinity that
empties into the Sudbury River at the bend after passing through wetland that would have been
owned by Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865). The ConcordGIS map only shows the beginning part of this
brook. The coordinates for the brook are given above. The June 4, 1860 Journal entry separately refers
to the Depot Brook (Swamp Bridge Brook) distinguishing it from this Swamp Brook. The willows
referred to would be the Black Willow (Salix nigra), the common willow tree by rivers. The September
4, 1860 Journal reference refers to crossing the Sudbury River to reach the Swamp Brook on his way
to Conantum. The level terrain in the vicinity of Swamp Brook near its outlet is consistent with the
pasture use he refers to.


Tarbell Hill -- see Davis Hill
**Tarbell Hills** -- generally N 42.49061, W 71.32584 & vicinity

The hills are a complex on the west side of the Concord River north of the Great Meadows in the vicinity of the residence of the farmer William Tarbell IV (1778 - 1859). Thoreau did not include the large, southernmost hills of this area by the river -- Ball’s Hill, and Buttrick’s Hill -- since he always referred to these separately. He did include under this name the hill by the river north of these, Davis Hill, which he initially called Tarbell Hill until after July 14, 1859 when he was doing a river survey and must have seen the name Eleazer Davis Hill on an 1834 survey of the Sudbury/Concord River after which he used only the Davis name or a variation of it. See entry for Davis Hill.

Journal references: **1851** September 27 (indirectly); **1852** April 24 (indirectly); **1854** August 6; **1860** March 3.

**Tarbell Swamp Hill** -- see Davis Hill

**Tarbell’s Spring** -- N 42.45197, W 71.39098 (provided by Steve Tobin)

This is a spring near the south side of the Assabet River on the property of farmer Daniel Tarbell (1801 - 1883) who lived along the Old Marlborough Road in west Concord. Thoreau’s first Journal reference to it on July 5, 1852 states: “How cheering it is to behold a full spring bursting forth directly from the earth, like this of Tarbell’s, from clean gravel, copiously, in a thin sheet; …”. Curiously Thoreau does not include it in his review of Concord springs in his Journal entry of July 7, 1860.

![Tarbell’s Spring, February 2020, courtesy of Steve Tobin](image)

Journal references: **1852** July 5 (indirectly); **1853** June 14; **1855** January 22; **1856** April 30 (brook); **1860** May 19.

**Tarbell’s Swamp [northeast Concord]** -- N 42.48892, W 71.32267

This was a sizable swamp that was between the residence of William Tarbell IV (1778 - 1859) and what is now known as Davis Hill on the west side of the Concord River north of the Great Meadows. Sometime after 1875 this swamp was flooded to make a pond. This swamp including land to the east, west and south of it became part of noted ornithologist William Brewster’s (1851 - 1919) October Farm, most of which is now conservation land.

Journal reference: **1853** April 7.
**Tarbell’s Swamp [western Concord] -- N 42.44184, W 71.41898**

This is a large sphagnum bog in West Concord west of the Second Division Brook and east of Main Street (presently also Route 62). Two much smaller sphagnum bogs just to the north of the one whose coordinates are given above would not have been named by Thoreau while ignoring this significant one. Thoreau’s description of the swamp in his first Journal reference on August 17, 1851 is in agreement with this author’s exploration of the bog in August 1978, including the presence of Rhodora (Rhododendron canadense) that Thoreau speculated was probably there. The Tamarack (Larix laricina) this author saw is not mentioned by him, but might have been obscured in his time by the other trees mentioned. This bog in the 20th century became the property of Nuclear Metals, Inc., and because of their abuse of it, the bog became a Superfund hazardous waste site. Thoreau’s name for this swamp derives from the apparent owner of the property, farmer Daniel Tarbell (1801 – 1883), who lived 2.5 kilometers to the northeast. Thoreau’s reference to “Tarbell’s cleared swamp” on August 30 and September 1, 1853 is most likely to a small, wooded swamp at N 42.44340, 71.42034 right at the south side of Main Street and just north of the larger Tarbell’s Swamp since it only makes sense to “clear” a wooded swamp and not a sphagnum bog, and Thoreau refers to it on the earlier date as by the roadside.

Journal references: **1851** August 17; **1852** April 18; **1853** September 1, October 16; **1856** August 28 (andromeda swamp)

**Thrush Alley -- possible points: N 42.44382, W 71.34561, N 42.44375, W 34439, & N 42.44299, 71.34383**

In Thoreau’s manuscript for an essay unpublished in his lifetime entitled “The Dispersion of Seeds” he describes Thrush Alley as “… one of our pleastantest wood paths …” contained in a “… dense pitch-pine wood east of the Deep Cut …” “… because the wood thrush sings there …”. Thoreau also notes in the essay that this woodland was once a grassy field. The bird referred to is the Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina), common in Concord. The pine referred to is Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida), less common now than formerly due to its preference for level, well-drained soil, ideal for housing development. Thoreau’s description in this essay suggests two possible plains, actually plateaus, east of the Deep Cut and northwest of Walden Pond which are connected by a short neck between two sink holes or hollows. One is a large and extends from near the Deep Cut along the railroad to Laurel Glen to the east. The small one is to the southeast of the larger plain and surrounded on three sides by sink holes or hollows. Thoreau’s Journal entry for October 26, 1860 refers to going “through what was formerly the dense pitch pine lot on Thrush Alley (G. Hubbard’s). The owner noted there would be George Rice Hubbard (1829 - 1896) whose ownership of the lot would likely derive from his father Darius H. Hubbard (1796 - 1848), one of the three men who suffered the most loss from the fire that Thoreau and his friend Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893) accidentally set in the woods by Fair Haven Hill on the south side of the railroad in 1844. Thus, that Hubbard land might have extended partly across the railroad and would have been acquired by Darius before the railroad existed. But alternatively George Hubbard might have acquired the Thrush Alley land from his uncle, Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) who owned land on the west side of and well westward of Walden Pond. Another clue to the particular location of the Thrush Alley is Thoreau’s note on October 21, 1856 of looking into the deep hollow of Abel Brooks (1788 - 1867) from the Thrush Alley Path. Abel Brook’s lot bordered the northwest side of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s property that was at Walden Pond on the north side of the pond including the site of Thoreau’s house. This information allows association of a particular hollow at N 42.44266, W 71.34493 with the Brook’s lot and thus with Thrush Alley. The three coordinate sets given above are possible points along Thrush Alley that are east of the Deep Cut and near the Abel Brooks hollow. The first two are the ones most likely to be on Thrush Alley. The length and direction of the alley cannot be determined.
Trillium Wood(s) -- N 42.45047, W 71.34882 (approximately)
The nature and location of the Trillium Woods can be discerned using information from Thoreau's Journal references. It was chiefly a thick pine wood (January 12, 1856) that was damp or wet due to the presence there of a grove of alders (Alnus incana or serrulata) (March 25, 1853), and of Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis) (April 10, 1856). Therefore, it would not be on a hill or slope or on elevated dry land which do not support alders, Yellow Birch and other moist-loving plants he records finding in these woods. It was on the east side of the causeway of the railroad between the town center and the Deep Cut (January 30, 1856). The southern or western edge of it was 150 to 200 meters from the causeway (April 19, 1852). There was an open meadow between the woods and the causeway (August 27, 1851). It was about 125 meters west of the south side of a series of three “meadowy” fields that border the railroad located between the town and the elevated land north of the Deep Cut (January 30, 1856). These clues yield a location approximately given by the coordinates above which happen to be presently at the northeastern edge of the Concord-Carlisle High School Stadium Field. The size of the woods was likely modest due to the confining elevated land, railroad and Walden Street. The trillium in the name of these woods would refer to Trillium cernuum (Nodding Trillium) which is found in damp woods usually in acidic soil. Curiously, Thoreau never mentions this or any trillium in these woods.

Union Turnpike -- from N 42.45845, W 71.36195 to N 42.46947, W 71.40828 (in Concord)
This road runs relatively straight from a point on Main Street west of the Concord town center northwestward to the border with the town of Acton. In doing so it crosses the Sudbury River, the Assabet River and a five-way intersection. In Thoreau’s time the Union Turnpike continued westward through the Massachusetts towns of Acton, Boxborough, Harvard and ending in Lancaster. Presently this road begins as Elm Street following the same course northwestward as the Union Turnpike until it reaches a traffic rotary which formerly was a five-way intersection. From there it resumes under the name Union Turnpike into Acton where it takes on the name Massachusetts Avenue.

V. [iola] Muhlenbergii Brook -- see Azalea Brook

V. [iola] Muhlenbergii Swamp (V. [iola] palmata Swamp) -- N 42.46993, W 71.36327
This appears to be a small swamp into which Thoreau’s Muhlenbergia Brook (or V. [iola] Muhlenbergii Brook, Azalea Brook) runs. See discussion under Azalea Brook. That it is distinct from the Pinxter
Swamp is clear from his Journal entry of April 27, 1856 where he refers to Pinxter Swamp and V. [iola] palmata Swamp in separate sentences in the same paragraph. However, town wetland mapping and aerial/satellite photography show that the two swamps are connected. As discussed under the entry for Azalea Brook, Thoreau implies an outlet of Muhlenbergii Brook into the Assabet River in his Journal entry of December 13, 1856. The equivalence of V. Muhlenbergii Swamp and V. palmata Swamp is established by the Thoreau’s footnote of April 9, 1856.

Journal references: 1855 June 9; 1856 April 9 (footnote), 27.

V. [iola] palmata Swamp -- see V. [iola] Muhlenbergii Swamp

**Walden Road** -- from N 42.45981, W 71.35024 to N 42.43926, W 71.33355 in Concord
This road is an old one in Concord dating back at least to 1648. It begins in the center of Concord center running generally southeastward there to the northeastern part of Walden Pond and shortly thereafter into the town of Lincoln. After leaving Concord it becomes Concord Road passing generally southward through Lincoln and from there southward to the center of Wayland. Concordians of Thoreau’s time sometimes referred to this as the road to Wayland, at least after it left Concord. Presently the name of the road is Walden Street, and the part of it beginning at Route 2 in Concord southward through Wayland and to Rhode Island is Route 126.

Journal references: 1850 December 23; 1851 September 2, December 24; 1852 January 19, 26, 28, February 14, 16, 17, April 22, July 7, 13, 14; 1853 January 25, April 2, November 30; 1854 February 14, June 1, August 27, September 7, November 26; 1855 January 19, 27, September 16; 1856 January 22, 30, May 10, June 11; 1857 May 1, September 23; 1858 August 27, November 1; 1859 December 6; 1860 August 19, September 18.

**Well Meadow [Concord, MA/Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.42979, W 71.34986
This is a large river meadow of the Sudbury River that occupies a large inlet on the northeast side of Fair Haven Bay. It is almost entirely within Concord, but a small portion of it on the southeast side is in Lincoln.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1852 April 17, 22, 28; 1853 June 8, 9, August 23; 1854 June 9; 1855 May 1; 1856 February 8, March 30, April 2, 4, 8, 13, July 31; 1857 January 15, July 15, 18; 1859 March 2, 4, 5, March 23; April 8, 10, 15, June 6, 19, September 4; 1860 February 27, March 25, April 26, June 8, July 1.

**Well Meadow Brook** -- from approximately N 42.43147, W 71.35048 to N 42.42818, 71.35080
This brook emanates from several springs beginning in the upper west, north and east lobes of Well Meadow. The coordinates of the beginning of what appears to be the primary source in the west lobe are given approximately above judging from aerial photographs. The tributaries meet approximately near the center of the three lobes and continue to flow southward through the center of the meadow before emptying into Fair Haven Bay very close to the Concord-Lincoln town line. Gleason confuses this brook with Spanish Brook (which is actually Heywood’s Brook).

Well Meadow Field -- N 42.43403, W 71.34900 (best estimate)
Thoreau remarks on August 23, 1853 that this field is where he once thought of squatting. His Journal entry of June 25, 1852 establishes that it is near Well Meadow Head. Thoreau gives insufficient clues to locate this field precisely, but his Journal entry of January 7, 1857 permits a good guess since he proceeds along the railroad to Walden Pond and then cuts through the woods on one edge of this field to get to the Fair Haven Cliffs. The coordinates above give the location of a level area close enough to Well Meadow to be associated with it while providing a direct route to the Cliffs along the northern edge of it. Also, it is distinct from the Shrub Oak Plain. It is also consistent with the Journal entry for December 21, 1856 referring to open glades between the Well Meadow Field and the first (northernmost) Andromeda Pond. On January 7, 1857 Thoreau expresses the special significance this field held for him.

Journal references: 1852 June 25 (indirectly); 1853 August 23 (indirectly); 1854 June 23; 1856 August 10, December 21, 24; 1857 January 7, 11, November 1; 1858 April 9, October 22, 29, November 2, 30.

Well Meadow Head -- N 42.43240, 71.34875
This is the uppermost part of the Well Meadow from Fair Haven Bay. Thoreau was particularly interested in this site for the presence of and earliest flowering of spring flowers such as Skunk Cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) and Marsh Marigold or Cowslip (Caltha palustris), with only Clamshell Hill having earlier blossoming of the former. This author experienced at this site in the 1970s and 1980s these and other more uncommon plants that Thoreau records at or close to it.

Journal references: 1851 July 11, December 20; 1852 April 17, June 15, July 9; 1856 March 30 (indirectly), April 2 (indirectly), 8 (indirectly), 13; 1857 January 15 (indirectly), March 26; 1858 September 18; 1859 April 15, June 6, 19, July 4.

Well Meadow Path (S.[alix] tristis Path) -- from N 42.43495, W 71.35046 to N 42.43362, W 71.34964 to N 42.43253, W 71.34861 to N 42.43050, W 71.34770 (best estimate)
The Journal references are insufficient to provide a definite course for this path. However, the four coordinate sets given above define a likely course for the path since they start at a point near the end of the Back Road in Thoreau’s time which was relatively near the Fair Haven Cliffs, pass by the likely site of Thoreau’s Well Meadow Field identified here in a previous entry, pass by Well Meadow Head and then by the eastern side of Well Meadow on the way to Baker’s Farm. This course is a current path/cart path, and is more or less consistent with Thoreau’s Journal entries. Salix tristis is the Dwarf Prairie Willow (Salix humilis var. tristis) which grows in dry, acidic, open woods in Concord.

Journal references: 1851 July 11 (indirectly); 1855 April 18, 27; 1857 May 4; 1858 October 29.

Well Meadow Swamp -- N 42.43187, W 71.34902 (approximately)
The Journal references make it clear that this is generally the swampy area in Well Meadow near Well Meadow Head. This is in agreement with this author’s experience of this location.

Journal references: 1852 April 19, June 15 (indirectly), July 9 (indirectly); 1854 June 9 (indirectly); 1856 March 28 (indirectly); 1857 July 15 (indirectly); 1859 September 4.

Wheeler’s Azalea Swamp -- see Pinxter Swamp
Wheeler's Meadow (Sam. Wheeler meadow, Wheeler Indian field meadow) [Nashawtuc] --
N 42.46209, W 71.35918
This is the large river meadow east of Nashawtuc Hill surrounded on three sides by the Sudbury River. It was part of the venerable Lee Farm acquired in 1852 by businessman and real estate dealer Samuel Greene Wheeler (1791 - 1865) and the referred to by Thoreau using his name. Wheeler in turn sold the property in 1856 to sea captain, David Elwell (1788 - 1870). Six Journal references to meadows of other Wheelers have been excluded from the list below. Gleason's map incorrectly refers to this as “Wheeler’s Swamp” but places it correctly.

Journal references: 1854 July 30, August 5; 1855 June 6, 9, November 7, December 30; 1856 May 4, 11, July 18; 1857 May 8, June 27; 1858 May 12; 1860 July 7 (indirectly).

White Cedar Swamp -- see Cedar Swamp

White Pond -- N 42.42801, W 71.39115
This is a moderate-sized pond in the southern part of Concord near the border with Sudbury, an area very sparsely populated in Thoreau's time. Today only the southern and a small part of the eastern shores are conservation or town land. Thoreau notes in his Journal on August 26, 1860 that the pond is named for the whiteness of its sandy shore. In his book Walden in the chapter on Ponds (page 219, 1906 ed.) Thoreau says of this pond (due to woodcutting and addition of the railroad at Walden) that “...perhaps the most attractive, if not the most beautiful, of all our lakes, the gem of the woods, is White Pond; ...”.


Willow Bay [Assabet River] -- N 42.46883, W 71.36289 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s only Journal reference to this bay indicates that it is below Dove Rock on the Assabet River and above Willow Swamp (the edge of a swamp above Assabet Spring as described on August 7, 1858 in his Journal). Thoreau's survey map of the former Lee Farm (completed January 1, 1857) shows only one small indentation in the river on the east side below Dove Rock. The coordinates above are approximately this location. He also refers to it indirectly on as a sandy bank below Dove Rock. The willow in the name refers to Black Willow (Salix nigra) as he notes in the August 7, 1858 passage.

Journal reference: 1858 August 7 (indirectly), 15.

Willow Bay (Lily Bay [in part]) [Sudbury River] -- N 42.45425, W 71.36727
Thoreau equates Willow Bay and Lily Bay on the Sudbury River in his Journal on February 12, 1860. On that date he lists the order of localities along the Sudbury River downstream starting with Bulrush Lagoon with Willow Bay following Hubbard’s Bathing Place and “the swift place”. The 1834 survey map of the Sudbury/Concord River prepared by B. F. Perham and annotated by Thoreau in 1859/1860 shows a short stretch at the Hubbard’s Bathing Place that Thoreau annotates as “quick & hard” referring to the current and river bottom. Shortly following that stretch on the west side is
the only indentation (unlabeled) in the river before the next bridge. This would be Willow Bay. Today's satellite images show a broad indentation at this location with coordinates given above. Gleason locates this correctly on his map but incorrectly showing the brook from Dennis's Swamp emptying into it. The willow in the name refers to Black Willow (Salix nigra), the only native willow of tree size along the rivers in Concord. The lily referred to would most likely be the Fragrant Water-lily (Nymphaea odorata), the most common lily in the rivers of Concord in Thoreau's time, but could also include the Bullhead-lily (Nuphar variegata) which was also common.

Journal references: 1854 March 21, 26 (footnote), April 13, September 4; 1855 April 30, May 1; 1856 April 6 (by mistake), 8, 9, 14, 24; 1858 August 30; 1859 January 26, September 26, October 16; 1860 February 12, September 4.

Witherell Glade (Witherell Vale) -- from N 42.44178, W 71.37713 to N 42.44256, W 71.37462
From Thoreau's Journal references we know that the glade was narrow and stretched from east to west, that it was in the vicinity of Ledum Swamp, of the burned out house of a man named Witherell and of the residence of Bradley Puffer (1811 - 1858) who occupied the likely site of the Hollowell Place or at least close by it. Thoreau relates on November 8, 1858 that Puffer (name expurgated from 1906 ed.) was suspected of having set fire to the Witherell house. It is unknown for certain who Witherell was, but it is probable that he was Joel Witherell who left little record of himself other than he was from Sudbury, MA and married Martha M. Hildreth in Concord in 1822 (she marrying someone else just three years later). The coordinates above meet the evidence we have for the location of the glade. Witherell's house likely between the Puffer house and the Glade. Gleason misplaces this on his map too far northward and where there is no east-west ravine.

Journal references: 1859 March 10, October 16, November 8, 15; 1860 March 2, October 31.

Woodis Park (Lee Wood(s)) -- N 42.46810, W 71.37338
The woods Thoreau refers to can be seen delineated in his survey of the Lee Farm completed in January 1857. The woods are in the northwestern section of the farm and border the Assabet River. Thoreau initially refers to this as the Lee Woods and then christens it as Woodis Park on August 13, 1858. As Thoreau records in his Journal on February 15, the name “Woodis” derives from Henry Woodhouse (? - 1700/1701), who acquired the property that later became the Lee Farm of his son-in-law, Joseph Lee (1643 - 1716) and his descendants.

Journal references: 1857 February 15 (indirectly); 1858 June 27, August 13 (footnote), 15, October 24; 1859 March 8; 1860 October 6, 27.

Wood's Bridge (South Bridge) -- N 42.45805, W 71.36625
This bridge is where Main Street crosses the Sudbury River not far west of the town center. It is one of the oldest sites for a bridge in Concord, dating to the 17th century. The name “South Bridge” derives from its crossing of the “South Branch”, the early name for the Sudbury River. The name Thoreau's uses most often for this bridge derives from the family of shoemaker Elijah Barrett Wood (1790 - 1861) whose residence was close to this bridge.

Journal references: 1851 September 4; 1852 April 19, 21, 22 (road); 1853 November 2; 1855 February 17, 19, 28, June 14; 1856 April 6, June 10; 1859 March 10, June 24, August 1; 1860 December 30.
Wyman Meadow (Pout’s Nest) -- N 42.44169, W 71.34114
This is a vernal pool toward the western end and north of Walden Pond just northeast of the inlet known as Thoreau’s Cove. It is named after either the potter John Wyman/Wayman (ca. 1730 - 1800) noted in Thoreau’s Walden by his last name and profession, or possibly his son, woodcutter and laborer, Thomas Wyman (ca. 1774 - 1843), the settlement of whose estate resulted in Ralph Waldo Emerson’s purchase in 1844 of the lot at Walden Pond upon which Thoreau built his house. Thoreau’s change in his name for this location to Pout’s Nest can be understood from his Journal entry on June 7, 1858. After this date he begins use of Pout’s Nest almost exclusively for this location. The pout referred to is the Brown Bullhead (Ameiurus nebulosus), also known as Horned Pout, Mud Pout or Mud Cat. It is a type of catfish and is widespread in North America. Thoreau identifies this using its original scientific name, Pimelodus nebulosus, in his Journal (1844-45, page 111, vol. 2, Princeton ed.).

Journal references: 1855 April 19 (possibly indirectly); 1856 January 11, July 15 (likely indirectly); 1858 May 6 (indirectly), June 7, August 25, 30, 31, September 15, November 26, 30, December 3, 11; 1859 June 14, December 17; 1860 March 8, June 30, July 20, 26, August 17.

Yellow Birch Swamp -- N 42.49518, W 71.34920
On January 4, 1853 Thoreau names the swamp north of Punkatasset Hill and west of Hunt Pasture as “Yellow Birch Swamp” and comments that it has more of this tree than any other place in Concord. This swamp is located incorrectly on the Gleason map, USGS topographic maps and a detailed map done by Harvard University (current owner of the property). Thoreau locates this swamp more accurately on a survey he did for the heirs of Humphrey Hunt (1770 - 1852) in December 1852. The swamp is just west of a lot that has the same distinctive shape of a parcel at that location currently. The best stands of this tree (Betula alleghaniensis) in Concord are still in this swamp in the Estabrook Woods. The survival of many trees in the Yellow Birch Swamp was confirmed in January 2014 by Cherrie Corey and a small group of young explorers (Robbie Bettencourt, Lucas Kamon, Ben Tangora, and Connor White).

Journal references: 1853 January 4, May 12, June 5, 10; 1854 February 18; 1855 May 13; 1857 May 18, September 2, October 5; 1858 November 8; 1859 March 6, May 5; 1860 February 28.