Thoreau Place Names
A Guide to Place Names in Concord and Lincoln, MA
in the Journal of Henry David Thoreau

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“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 is 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. The entries are supplemented with commentary and Thoreau’s Journal references. Thoreau’s extensive survey work put him in touch much more intimately with Concord’s landscape than he likely otherwise would have been. In this author’s explorations of Concord in the late 1970s and early 1980s it was possible to determine some of Thoreau’s locations accurately using his references to plant species at these locations, plants which sometimes still persist. Considerable digital resources now available have made this endeavor much more feasible and accurate. A number of place names used only once or twice that cannot reasonably be located are not included. This reference is intended to assist those seeking to see places in Concord still publicly accessible that were well-known to Thoreau and for those simply wanting to understand where the places were. Names are used here as Thoreau spelled them. The book Walden Pond: A History (2003) by W. Barksdale Maynard is useful for information on the localities in the vicinity of Walden Pond. Also, Brian Donahue’s book The Great Meadow (2006) has been very helpful in understanding the origin of some names that date back to colonial times. A great many thanks are due to Steve Tobin, Cherrie Corey, Richard Higgins, Nancy Hartle, Neil Rasmussen and Kenneth Turkington for contributions of excellent photos, exceptional field checking, and on-point feedback. Richard Higgins has also provided valuable editorial review.

Online References:

Hales, John G. Map of Concord, Massachusetts. 1830. In high resolution at https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4201885

Thoreau, Henry D. Surveys. Concord Free Public Library. At [https://concordlibrary.org/special-collections/thoreau-surveys/](https://concordlibrary.org/special-collections/thoreau-surveys/)

Town of Concord. Concord GIS Map [interactive]. At [https://www.mapsonline.net/concordma/index.html](https://www.mapsonline.net/concordma/index.html) (requires Internet Explorer or Microsoft Edge for full features)

Town of Great Barrington. Municipal Mapper. At [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/great_barrington.php](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)


Walling, Henry F. Map of Concord, Massachusetts. 1852. In high resolution at [https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:1257bc79t](https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:1257bc79t)


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. Also, use of the term “indirectly” in the Journal references means reference to the location without explicitly using the full name.

**PLACE NAMES LIST**

**A.[bel Barrett] Heywood Ditch** -- N 42.46496, W 71.34736 (approximate coordinates of Abel B. Heywood residence)

This was a ditch on property owned by the farmer Abel Barrett Heywood (1805 - 1859) who lived on the east side of Monument Street at about where 140 Monument Street is today (coordinates above). Heywood’s property appears to have extended from Monument Street well to the northeast (see Heywood’s Blueberry Swamp).


**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 (1791 - 1865) in December 1848 copied by Thoreau in December 1857). The hollow on the Brooks lot is easily discerned on the Concord GIS 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 (approximate)

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, Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), are recorded north and northwest of his house.
Abner Buttrick’s Hill -- N 42.48507, W 71.33350
This hill is beside the Concord River on the north side northwest of the area Thoreau called The Holt on the south side beside the Great Meadows. 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 on the north side of Bedford Street between the Middlesex Agricultural House on the east side of it and a burying ground on the west side of it that became part of the newer Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. The level topography of this spot and Thoreau’s references are consistent with this location at the coordinates above. The Agricultural House is shown on the detail of the town center on the 1856 map of Middlesex County 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 42.45216, W 71.37442 (approximate likely location)
This is the spring at Clamshell Hill, distinct from Hosmer’s Spring in the hollow to the southwest of this spring hollow. Due to the significant changes to the landscape of Clamshell Hill for the construction of Route 2 and Emerson Hospital, the exact location of this spring cannot be determined. That Thoreau refers to it only once when he names it likely means 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).

Almshouse (Poorhouse) -- N 42.45608, W 71.34449
An almshouse existed in Concord as early as 1732 since there is reference to it in an official document. Irish immigrant Hugh Cargill (1739 - 1799) left the town a legacy that was used to build the almshouse on Walden Road that was completed in 1827. On the 1830, 1852, and 1856 maps of Concord it is labeled as Alms House. As late as 1875 the map of Concord for that year shows a “Poor Ho.[use] Farm” at about the same location as Thoreau knew it along Walden Road not far from Mill Brook. The Poorhouse was located on the lot now at 222 Walden Street, on the west side of the road.
at a bend. Note that the editors of the 1906 edition of Thoreau's Journal changed some of Thoreau's references to “Alms House” to “Poorhouse.”

Journal references: 1853 November 30, December 26; 1854 June 1, 16, 17, July 3, 30; 1855 December 23; 1857 February 20, September 30; 1858 October 19; 1859 April 8 (door); 1860 January 3 (brook), February 16.

Almshouse pasture -- see Poorhouse Meadow

Ammannia Shore -- N 42.45293, W 71.36988 (approximate)
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 owned some or most of the western shore of the Sudbury River north of Clamshell Hill closest to his residence. Samuel Dennis (1784 - 1864) 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 Concord GIS Map as level.

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

Andromeda Pond(s) (Andromeda Swamp(s), Cassandra Pond(s), Decodon Pond, Island Pond, Long Pond [Concord, MA], Red-Ice Pond, 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 from northeast to southwest between Walden Pond and Well Meadow at Fair Haven Bay. The first (upper, largest) one has 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 this first pond to a moccasin-print. Island Pond and Decodon Pond refer to the second pond. Decodon is Swamp Loosestrife (Decodon verticillatus) which usually grows in shallow water. The third pond he called Red-Ice Pond upon finding red or rose-colored ice there in the winter of 1855. 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, Annursnack, Anursnack, Anursnuck) -- N 42.47777, 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 the Nipmuck people) meaning “lookout place.”

Annursnack Hill (May 2021), looking northwestward, courtesy of Richard Higgins

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 for 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 above are for this area a best estimate.

Arethusa bulbosa, Lincoln, MA (June 1984), by Ray Angelo

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

**Arrowhead Field(s)** -- N 42.43436, W 71.36455 (approximate)
From Thoreau’s Journal references it can be understood that this field was in Conantum south of the Holden Wood and north of Miles Swamp. The detailed topography of the Concord GIS 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. 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 (approximate)
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 references: **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 (approximate)
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.


**Ash Tree Rock** -- N 42.45769, W 71.36578 (approximate)
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, Little 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 Isabaelth). 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. The name Little River used only once refers to the smaller volume of this river compared to the Sudbury River which it joins. Richard J. Eaton in his A Flora of Concord (1974) reported 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 within five years or less.
Assabet Bathing Place (Assabet Bath, Assabet Bath-Place, Bath-Place) -- 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 agrees 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 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 May 21 (indirectly), June 18; 1854 April 6, 18, June 15; 1855 May 2, June 9; 1856 January 3, February 20, March 22, July 14, December 13; 1857 May 21 (indirectly); 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, old stone bridge, One-Arched Bridge, second stone bridge, stone bridge [in part]) -- 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. Thoreau relates on July 16 and 20, 1859, that the building of a 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 (see entry for Causeway Bridge [Concord, MA]). The “new stone bridge” (see entry) was along the same road crossing the Sudbury River. References to “second stone bridge” and “further stone bridge” distinguish this bridge from the stone bridge over the Sudbury River. The Assabet Stone Bridge was the second or further bridge along the Union Turnpike from the center of Concord. When Thoreau notes the “highest arch” or “arches” of a stone bridge in Concord he refers to the stone bridge across the Sudbury River since that bridge had three arches while the Assabet Stone Bridge had only one arch. References simply to “stone bridge” need to be examined for context to determine whether the Assabet River Bridge or the bridge over the Sudbury River is intended.

Journal references: 1851 August 23, December 23; 1852 January 20, April 21, 22, June 15, 19, 30, November 29, December 14; 1853 May 8, 15; 1854 June 2, 6; 1855 January 22, 23, March 11, April 22, May 9; 1856 January 26, 27, 30, February 22, 27, March 1, September 2; 1857 May 14, 22, October 1; 1858 June 10, August 14, October 10, December 23; 1859 July 16, 20, August 11; 1860 January 4, February 5, May 2, 7, June 10, 28, October 20.

Aster radula swamp -- see Potter’s Swamp

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 now beneath an old railroad bed (railroad not present there in Thoreau’s time) at a point that is a short distance northwest 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

Back Road -- from N 42.45922, W 71.35254 to N 42.43464, W 71.35068 (approximately)
This road started where the present Sudbury Road starts in the center of Concord. This can be seen from Thoreau’s survey of September 1850 for a proposed street to the train depot. The survey shows the “Back Road” emanating from Main Street at the site of the current Concord Free Public Library. It followed the current Sudbury Road until the point where that road turns southwestward at the current Fairhaven Road. It continued along the present Fairhaven Road more or less straight to a point just beyond Fair Haven Hill. The 1852 map of Concord perhaps shows it most accurately in Thoreau’s time. In the 17th and 18th centuries this road continued just north of Well Meadow Head before passing over Heywood’s Brook running southeastward to join what is now named Old Concord Road in Lincoln shortly before that road joins Concord Road (Route 126).

Journal references: 1851 June 14, September 6, 9, November 8; 1852 July 1, 4, August 17, 23, October 28; 1853 May 13, 24, June 4, October 26, November 1; 1854 August 10; 1855 January 19, February 17, December 29; 1860 July 7, October 30.

Baeomyces Bank -- along present Old Road to Nine Acre Corner between N 42.44512, W 71.37598 and 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 indicate 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” it was at the railroad under this bridge.

Journal references: 1853 January 3; 1856 December 3, 9, 10; 1859 December 6; 1860 January 3, July 29.
**Baker Ditch [Lincoln, MA]**
On August 21, 1852, Thoreau describes this as a ditch in Baker’s Swamp. On June 16, 1854, when visiting the ditch he describes the swamp as cleared and ditched. The location of the ditch within this swamp cannot be determined. See entry for Baker’s Swamp.

Journal references: 1852 August 21 (indirectly); 1854 June 16.

**Baker Farm [Lincoln, MA]-- see map below**
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 Baker residence was on the west side of what is now the Old Concord Road. The farm is named after the family of Jacob Baker (1722 - 1783) who acquired the first parcel about 1747. That property included a farm and the house built by Jacob. 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 south of Pine Hill in Lincoln. In 1824 Nathaniel sold or gave his shares of the farm to his son Jacob Baker (1784 - 1856) and to James Baker (1796 - 1875), a son of Nathaniel’s brother Amos. The map below from the Walden Woods Webmap shows the parcels that comprised the farm owned by the Baker family on the east side of Fair Haven Bay in 1823. 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.
Journal references: **1849** vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; **1851** July 11 (indirectly, orchard & wood), 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]**

This would be the shore on the east side of Fair Haven Bay that was part of the Baker Farm. As seen on the map at the entry for Baker Farm, this was most of the eastern shore of the bay.

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 named after the same Baker family that owned the Baker Farm. Jacob Baker (1784 - 1856), a grandson of the original Jacob Baker (1722 - 1783) acquired most of the swamp north of Baker Bridge Road between 1817 and 1829, and a good portion of it south of this road in 1834.

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 (approximate)
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 were on the Baker Farm.

Journal references: 1851 July 11; 1852 February 24, March 30; 1853 August 19.

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 that of 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 that is 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 (Yellow Rocket Shore)
Thoreau finds this at the Assabet Stone Bridge on May 15, 1853, apparently on the northeast side, since “this side” generally means toward the town center, and that shore has less river meadow than the southeast shore, thus more favorable for this flower. The wildflower referred to is Common Winter-cress (Barbarea vulgaris). The shore is on the Assabet River.
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. Support for 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.

Barrett’s Bar -- N 42.47598, W 71.33901 (approximate)
This location in the Concord River by 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 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 single 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 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 be 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 property owned by his next-door neighbor on the Back Road, 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, entry 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 Heywood 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 Back Road. Property mapping of the Walden Woods Webmap shows that at this time Wheeler’s large parcel with his residence nearly surrounded the small parcel with Potter’s residence on the east side of the Back Road.

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. It is the third largest natural pond in Concord, after Walden and White Ponds, not counting Fair Haven Bay as a pond.

![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-Place [Assabet River]** -- see Assabet Bathing Place

**Bath Rock** -- see Heron Rock

**Battle-ground** -- N 42.46911, W 71.35020

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 references 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 references: 1854 August 30 (indirectly), September 3 (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, except 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]

**Beaver Pond [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.41556, W 71.30513

This pond is named for the North American Beaver (Castor canadensis). Typically ponds with this name are ones formed as a result of the tooth and muscle work and industry of these mammals. Also, it would have been named when this species was more plentiful, since in Thoreau’s time it had been exterminated locally. In his Journal on March 23, 1856, he lists it among wild animals gone from Concord, including deer and turkey.

Journal references: 1853 March 20; 1858 September 17.

**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 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 that 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, Rebecca (Lee) Stow (ca. 1716 - 1810), wife of currier and cordwainer, Ebenezer Stow (1701/1702 - ca. 1769). 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 (ca. 1755 - after 1771), six acres of outlands of the farm, and the rest of his estate to her brother Nathan (ca. 1744 - 1810). The outlands included the swamp. In January 1772 the daughter, Rebecca, sold the six acres of “upland and meadow” to her “honored mother Rebecca” for 24 pounds. There is no record of the elder Rebecca Stow selling the property before her death in 1810. Emerson refers to the swamp as “Becky Stow’s Swamp” or “Becky Stow’s Hole.”

Beck Stow’s Swamp (July 1918), Gleason photo courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library

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What remains of Beck Stow's Swamp (ca. 2006)

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 (indirectly), 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 (approximate)
Thoreau uses this name only once. It is clear from the context that he uses it to describe the woods about Beck Stow's Swamp. At various times he refers to a young pitch pine wood, Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), growing up on a level area northeast of Beck Stow's Swamp (November 9, 1850) and a white pine grove, Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), 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 above. 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 hill is named for a tree on it that harbored a honeybee nest that Thoreau and his companions raided for the honey.

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

**Bee-Tree Ridge** (Oak Ridge)
This is a ridge in the Estabrook Woods. All that is known is that it is near a swamp and is on the way to the Yellow Birch Swamp. There are several ridges in the Estabrook Woods that meet these requirements depending on Thoreau's route to the Yellow Birch Swamp. The "oak" of the alternate name Oak Ridge apparently refers to Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) based on his single reference.
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) in Lincoln that was 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” on the east side and were cut down in September 1857 (Journal, September 23, 1857). The property at that time belonged to the heirs of Samuel Ripley (1783 - 1847). The head of that family in 1857 was the widow of Samuel, the educator and noted scholar Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley (1793 - 1867). 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. Higginson acquired much land at the summit of Pine Hill and south of it in 1905 - 1906.

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 itself 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. It happens to have been the main source of Pole Brook.
Beech Spring (February 2020) courtesy of Nancy Hartle

Journal reference: **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 unambiguuous:

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 at 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 this 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 25 & 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).

Bittern Cliff (April 1901), spring flood looking north-northwest,
Gleason photo courtesy of Concord Free Public Library

Bittern Cliff (June 2020), looking northwest,
courtesy of Steve Tobin

Journal references: 1851 August 31, September 7, 9, October 1; 1852 July 4 (indirectly), 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 (approximate, most likely)

The single Journal reference does not allow exact determination of the location of this spring. However, the coordinates above are for a likely location based on topography, wetland mapping and proximity to the cliff.


**Bittern Cliff Wood(s)**

Thoreau does not give any clues for the location of these woods other than association with Bittern Cliff. Also, there was not accurate mapping of woodland in Thoreau’s time, and the woodland areas have changed significantly since then (being far more extensive now).

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

**Bittern Rock** -- see Bittern Cliff

**Black Ash Cellar**

This use is almost certainly a slip of the pen since there is no other Journal reference in which Thoreau finds Black Ash (Fraxinus nigra) in the Estabrook Woods, and it would not make sense to name a cellar for a wetland plant. Clearly Thoreau intended to write Black Birch Cellar, which fits the use on that date.


**Blackberry Steep** -- N 42.42533, W 71.35833 (best estimate)

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), and that it was a steep, open hillside with a rock. Since much of the terrain near the shore along this stretch is rocky cliffs, the 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 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 Cellar** -- N 42.49949, W 71.35313 (provided by Cherrie Corey)

Thoreau refers to this explicitly only once in his Journal and notes on that date the fever-bush (Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)) between this cellar and the one at Easterbrook’s Place. The hole at the location with coordinates above is consistent with Thoreau’s single reference to it in that there is a wetland between it and the Easterbrook’s Place that contains Spicebush (Lindera benzoin). Another fragmentary Journal passage in vol. 2, pages 215-216 of the Princeton ed.: “With buried well stones ... the sweet scented black birch where the hearth was.” which was modified and used in Thoreau’s *Walden* has been determined to be a reference to this cellar based upon an annotation by Thoreau’s frequent walking companion, poet William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) in his copy of *Walden*. That annotation stated: “This refers to a cellar-hole in Estabrook’s, in which grows a large black birch, -- cut down in 1866.” There is some question whether the hole at the coordinates above is actually a cellar hole in that probing with a steel rod has not found clear evidence of foundation walls or floor. Black Birch is *Betula lenta* which is not uncommon in the Estabrook Woods.


**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 farmer 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, unless he refers to this oak on high ground above and near the source of the creek.

**Black Rock Shore** -- N 42.44225, W 71.36832 (best estimate)
Thoreau includes his single reference to this location while listing places first along the east shore of the Sudbury River during a winter walk over the river ice. He notes passing the Black Rock Shore above the place where the man was drowned, and then mentions 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. Thus, the Black Rock Shore would be on the east side of the river west of the bridge. 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 downstream from 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 poet 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.

![Thoreau’s Boat Place on Sudbury River](Gleason colorized photo from 1906 edition of Thoreau’s Familiar Letters)
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 refers 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” (Leatherleaf (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 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).

![Boaz's Meadow (October 2013), courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey](image-url)
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. From Thoreau’s description in his Journal of this spring on June 15, 1852, the “Cold Spring” that inspires him on March 15, 1842, is likely this spring. Thoreau confirmed that this was the coldest spring of various springs with his temperature measurements recorded on July 7, 1860, in his Journal. Thoreau wrote that the spring was deepened, enlarged, more or less covered and “turned into a tank for the Iron Horse to drink at.”, the Fitchburg Railroad tracks being only about 500 meters distant.

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 (Great Road [in part]) [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 center 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. A couple times Thoreau referred to this as the Great Road, a name used also for at least one other road in Concord. This road in Lincoln is presently named North Great Road.

Journal references: 1852 January 17, 20, April 22, 30; 1856 January 19; 1857 October 19; 1858 November 1; 1860 January 5, 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 references leave some ambiguity as to whether this is the same as his Yellow Birch Swamp (see further below), as is claimed by Gleason on 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 that includes the Yellow Birch Swamp at its southern end. 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 botanizing 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 (Spicebush (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 shows the location for his Yellow Birch Swamp and also had notes near a boundary north of that location the word “Bass”, that is, Basswood (Tilia americana). The location of this word puts it near the eastern 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. The coordinates above are for the northern portion of the swamp.

Journal references: 1857 July 10, 13, September 2, 16; 1858 June 28, September 1, October 5; 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 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 now the boundary of a particular parcel of land, 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, except the “frame” boulders #1 & #2 (see Journal, November 3, 1857) taken in April 2020 courtesy of Neil Rasmussen.
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.

**Bridle-road** -- from N 42.48104, W 71.34264 to N 42.50268, W 71.33910 (in Concord)
This is currently called Two Rod Road. It was a road from Punkatasset Hill and northward into Carlisle along the eastern border of what is now the Estabrook Woods. It was laid out by the town of Concord in 1745, although there might have been informal use of a road there in the late 1600s. The name Two Rod Road derives from the width between bordering stone walls which in parts is two rods or about 11 meters. This road does not show on the 1830, 1852 and 1856 maps of Concord. Thus, the name Thoreau used for it suggests its use in his time was for horse-riding, but not maintained for wagons or carriages. Today it is a hiking trail.

![Bridle-road (Two Rod Road), (July 2020), courtesy of Steve Tobin](image)

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1852 April 24, June 23, August 3 (plains); 1853 January 31, November 30; 1854 September 3; 1856 June 2; 1857 November 6; 1860 November 5, 8.

**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 (1812 - 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. According to the Walden Woods Webmap for 1855 the boundary of the Staples and Jarvis property at Walden Road was at N 42.44627, W 71.34163. This places the beginning of the other path near the summit of the southern elevation of Brister’s Hill that is 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 his book *Walden* Thoreau confuses (perhaps purposely) Brister Freeman with Sippio Brister who is buried in Lincoln, MA and who died in 1820.
Journal references: **1845-1847** vol. I, p. 423 of 1906 ed. & vol. 2, p. 215 of Princeton ed. as Bristow's spring; **1852** January 28, August 20; **1853** March 25; **1855** March 7, April 7; **1856** January 22, April 15, August 27; **1857** March 15; **1858** May 16, September 5, November 17; **1859** March 4; **1860** March 2, June 30, July 7, August 10, October 18, 20.

**Brister's Spring Swamp** -- N 42.44789, 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.

**Bristow's Hill** -- see Brister's Hill

**Britton's Camp (Britton’s Shanty) [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.44569, W 71.32481 (approximate)
This is 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 of 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 area 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.

Journal references: 1853 August 10; 1857 May 26 (indirectly).

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 Hollow -- see Abel Brook’s Hollow

Brooks’s Meadow(s) (Hadlock Meadows) -- N 42.46993, W 71.31858 (best estimate)
This is a meadow or meadows 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 north and 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. Thoreau once uses the name Hadlock Meadows on August 23, 1854, equating it with Brooks’s meadows. This is because pig farmer and Middlesex Hotel owner, Colburn Hadlock (1795 - 1863) for a time owned the house where Thoreau was born.


Brooks’s Pigeon-place (Brooks’s Pigeon-stand, George Brooks’s Pigeon-stand)
There is insufficient information to locate this exactly. It would have been 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. A straight
ditch in this wetland can be discerned on the Concord GIS Map and in some aerial photographs and
satellite images with coordinates above.

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

Brown’s Meadow (Geum Meadow, James P. Brown’s Meadow, J. P. Brown’s Meadow) --
from N 42.44526, W 71.38844 to N 42.44363, W 71.38026 (approximate)
This is a meadow (or series of meadows) along Nut Meadow Brook on the extensive land owned by
farmer James Potter Brown (1810 - 1871). The meadow is adjacent to and east of the meadow on the
west side Nut Meadow Brook close to the Marlborough Road owned by farmer Daniel Tarbell (1801 -
1803). Thoreau’s Journal entry for July 30, 1853, notes that the L.[uther] Hosmer road at Nut
Meadow Brook was by the meadow. However, there is no road at the Nut Meadow Brook on Brown’s
or Luther Hosmer’s land other than what was then known as Sudbury Road (currently Old Road to
Nine Acre Corner). The residence of clerk Luther Hosmer (1803 - after 1880) was about 300 meters
north of Nut Meadow Brook along the current Old Road to Nine Acre Corner. Thus, the L. Hosmer
road was likely an informal or temporary one leading to the brook and meadow. Thoreau refers to this
meadow once as Geum Meadow on May 23, 1853. His only Journal reference to “Geum” prior to that
date is on June 5, 1852, where he refers to Geum rivale (Purple Avens) in James P. Brown’s Meadow.

Journal references: 1852 June 5, July 28, August 22; 1853 April 1 (-side), May 23, July 30; 1854
February 5, July 7.

Brown’s Pond (Apple Hollow Pond, Brown’s Cold Pool, J. P. Brown’s Pond-hole, Heart-leaf
Pond, J. P. Brown’s Cold Pool, J. P. Brown’s Pond) -- N 42.44278, W 71.38272
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.

Brown’s Pond in a dry season (October 1981), by Ray Angelo
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.

Bull’s Path
There is insufficient information to place this exactly, but it would have been 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.

Bulrush Lagoon -- N 42.44242, 71.36944 (most likely, approximate)
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 is 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
Burr’s Island -- see Flint Bridge Rock
Burying Ground -- see Smallpox Burying-Ground
Button-Bush Pond -- see Heron Pool
Buttrick Hill -- see Abner Buttrick’s Hill
C.[yrus] Hubbard’s Swamp Path -- see Hubbard’s Swamp Path
C.[harles] Miles blueberry swamp -- see Ledum Swamp
C.[harles] Miles Swamp -- see Ledum Swamp
Caesar’s Path -- see Peter’s Path
Caesar’s Well -- see Peter’s well
Cafferty’s Swamp [Bedford, MA/Concord, MA] -- N 42.47087, W 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 on 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 that was on became first the Bedford Airport and later the Hanscom Field Airport.


Calla Swamp (Bateman’s Pond Swamp) -- N 42.48686, W 71.36754 (best estimate)
Minot Pratt was the first to discover Calla palustris (Wild Calla) 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 other 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. At Calla Swamp Thoreau also found the locally rare Lysimachia thyrsiflora which he notes there in sphagnum moss and water on June 9, 1857 in his Journal. The swamp located at the coordinates above is the only one that is on the north side of a hill that is south of Bateman’s Pond and that has a sizeable hill between it and Bateman’s Pond. It has been found recently to have sphagnum moss but no longer any of the Wild Calla. Richard J. Eaton collected a specimen of Calla palustris in this vicinity in 1955. The location of Calla Swamp as shown on the Gleason Map of Concord is clearly incorrect since 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.

Cambridge Turnpike -- see Turnpike [in part]

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 (approximate)
On August 11, 1856 Thoreau was 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., down slope) 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 above. The “hill” would refer to the one along which Lexington Road runs 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 (approximate)
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] -- 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; **1855** March 11; **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.

Journal references: **1851** October 15; **1855** January 31, February 24; **1859** July 9.

**Cedar Hill (Indian Cedar Hill)** [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43767, W 71.30694
The name of this hill on the east side of Flint’s Pond derives from the Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana) that grows there and noted there by Thoreau on April 25, 1854. The use of the term “Indian” in relation to this hill almost certainly relates to the repeated petitioning in colonial times by Native Americans to have a town on the eastern shore of Flint’s Pond.

Journal references: **1851** August 21; **1852** April 1, December 13; **1854** April 25.

**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 (Thoreau’s “Easterbrook Country”). 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 might only have been 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. Whatever cedar there had been was likely cut since its wood was valued.


**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 above. This pond did not exist in Thoreau’s time since it shows as a swammy area on a 1943 USGS topographic map and not as 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 (Conantum Brook) -- 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, then underneath the Corner Road (currently Sudbury Road), and finally to the Sudbury River. The coordinates above 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 agrees and does not show it originating from the west side of the road. The brook is likely named for the noted Revolutionary War veteran Captain Charles Miles (1727 - 1790) who resided at the corner of what is now Old-Road-to-Nine-Acre-Corner and Williams Road, property that included the brook. Thoreau knew his grandson Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) who is shown at the house on the 1852 and 1856 maps of Concord but whom census records show residing in Fitchburg, MA after marrying in Concord in 1849. Thoreau’s single reference to this as Conantum Brook on March 28, 1852 arise from the end of it after passing under the Corner Road into the river meadow owned by Ebenezer Conant (1790 - 1868). The indirect reference to this in on February 13, 1852, has him tracing the brook back from the meadow and under the Corner Road.

Journal references: 1852 February 13 (indirectly), March 19 (indirectly), 28, April 2.

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 references: 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 on 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, 1860, where he equates that name with Clamshell Bend. The well-known fact in Thoreau’s time that Clamshell Hill was a former encampment site for Native Americans explains the alternate name.

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 Concord GIS Map and aerial photographs with the coordinates above.

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

Clamshell Field -- see Clamshell Plain

Clamshell flat meadow -- see Clamshell Meadow

Clamshell Hill(s) (Clamshell Bluff, Clamshell Bank, Clamshell) -- N 42.45190, W 71.37215

According to Richard J. 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 collected many Native American artifacts over the years (see, for example, his journal entry for September 22, 1860). The Alfred W. Hosmer photo below looking northeast from below the hill 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 Map 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 been 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. Thoreau visited here for the two earliest blossoming stations of Skunk-Cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) for this earliest-flowering, native, wild flower in Concord. A colony of
this 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.

Clamshell Hill, looking northeast (ca. 1890), by Alfred W. Hosmer, courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library

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 (Clamshell flat meadow, Hosmer Flat Meadow) -- N 42.45276, W 71.36971
This is a Sudbury River meadow just northeast of Clamshell Hill. Thoreau at times refers to it as a flat meadow since it borders a stretch of level land that Thoreau referred to as Hosmer’s Flat shore on June 15, 1860. “Hosmer” here refers to farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) who lived nearby and owned land here by the Sudbury River.

Journal references: 1854 July 7 (indirectly); 1855 May 26, June 5; 1856 May 25 (indirectly), July 25; 1857 October 26; 1859 May 1 (indirectly).
Clamshell Plain (Clamshell field) -- N 42.45373, 71.37304 (approximate)
This is most likely a large level area north and west of Clamshell Hill easily discernible on the Concord GIS Map.

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 Journal reference to it on July 15, 1854. 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 42.45204, W 71.37139 (best estimate)
This most likely refers to a small area under the southeast side of Clamshell Hill close to the Sudbury River with coordinates above.

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

Clematis Brook -- from N 42.41983, W 71.35090 to about N 42.42096, W 71.35524
This was a short brook that began at Heron Pool (Clematis Pond) and emptied into the Sudbury River above (upstream from) Fair Haven Pond. The outlet of the brook (if the brook still exists) is presently obscured by a sizable meadow on the east bank of the Sudbury River just above the southern end of Fair Haven Pond. The brook does not show on current or historical maps other than Gleason’s map. Clematis refers to Virgin’s-bower (Clematis virginiana).

Journal references: 1851 August 20, September 24; 1852 June 13, 15, July 9, 22, September 23, 30; 1853 January 26, April 4, July 28, August 23; 1854 February 2, August 10; 1855 April 4; 1858 March 20.

Clematis Ditch
Thoreau’s entry for July 9, 1852, states that the ditch is just beyond Clematis Brook just after visiting Clematis Pond (Heron Pool). His entry for February 2, 1854, indicates that the ditch was dug from the pond near the brook. Thus, all that can be said is that it was at Clematis Pond (Heron Pool) near the Clematis Brook.

Journal references: 1852 July 9 (indirectly); 1854 February 2 (indirectly), September 29.

Clematis Pond -- see Heron Pool

Cliff(s) (Fair Haven Cliff(s), Tahatawan Cliff) -- N 42.43569, W 71.35616 (confirmed by Steve Tobin)
This is a set of cliffs mostly on the southwest and south side of Fair Haven Hill. The coordinates above are for the head of perhaps the chief among them. The Cliff was a favorite spot of Thoreau. He retreated here to observe the fire that he and Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893) accidentally set to the woods around Fair Haven Hill in April 1844 which he describes in his Journal in 1850. Thoreau occasionally uses the name “Cliff” or “Cliffs” to refer to other cliffs in Concord such as Bittern Cliff, Conantum Cliffs or Lee’s Cliff. But the context of his use differentiates these from the cliff(s) on Fair Haven Hill in essentially all cases. The “Devil’s Stairway” pictured further below was known as this in
Thoreau’s time as recalled by a boyhood friend of the Thoreau brothers, Joseph Hosmer (1814 - 1886).

Fair Haven Cliff (toward Conantum), (June 1916), Gleason photo, from Through the Year with Thoreau (1917)

View from Fair Haven Cliff (March 2020), courtesy of Steve Tobin
Devil's Stairway through granite to Fair Haven Cliff at N 42.43571, W 71.35609, (March 2020), courtesy of Steve Tobin

Journal references: 1838 April 26 (rocks), July 8 (likely), August 19 (likely); 1839 January 20; 1840 February 24, June 24, September 25 (vol. 1, page 179, Princeton ed.); 1841 August 18; 1842 March 27, 30, 31, vol. 1, page 425, Princeton ed.; 1845-1847 vol. I, page 436, 1906 ed. & vol. 2, page 228, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 3, page 27, Princeton ed.; 1850 vol. II, page 9, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 66, Princeton ed. [May 12], vol. II, pages 23 & 24, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, pages 76 & 77, Princeton ed., November 19, 25, 29, December 4, 8, 26; 1851 April 22, July 5, 11, 12, August 5, 8, 12, September 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 20, 24, 25, October 2, 5, 9, 12, December 20, 23, 25, 30, 31; 1852 January 1, 5, 13, 14, 29, February 3, 9, 14, March 4, 10, 12, 30, April 4, 14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 28, May 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, 18, June 11, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 28, July 7, 9, 20, 25, 27, August 6, 8, 15, 17, 23, September 5, 16, 17, October 2, 13, 26, 28, November 1, 3, 12, 23, December 1, 6, 12; 1853 January 2, 9, 21, 30, March 12, 13, 22, 26, 28, 30, April 3, 6, 10, May 1, 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 23, 30, June 4, 8, 13, 18, 26, July 21, 29, August 7, 14, 28, September 4, October 26, November 7, 25, December 1, 5; 1854 January 6, 11, February 6, March 4, 12, 17, 29, April 3, 7, 8, 19, 27, 29, May 1, 7, 10, 22, 24, 28, 31, June 3, 5, 15, 17, 23, 27, July 1, August 10, 24, 30, September 7, 24, 25, 29; 1855 January 19, 21, 27, February 16, 24, March 4, 6, 9, 28, 31, April 8, 12, 18, 21, 27, 30, May 12, 14, 22, 24, 27; 1856 April 8, 13, April 28, May 25, July 31, September 21, October 2, 11, November 30, December 21; 1857 January 7, March 3, May 3, 26, July 11, 15, September 13, October 7, 18, November 1, 19; 1858 February 7, March 18, 27, 28, June 24, September 12, October 9, 22, 25, 29, November 1, 2, 10, 24, 30, December 12; 1859 January 2, February 27, April 4, 12, 15, May 28, August 31, September 14, October 11, 14, 22, November 15; 1860 March 8, 14, April 11, 26, May 5, 15, 24, June 18, July 30, August 1, September 23, October 25, November 29.

Cliff Brook -- from N 42.43474, W 71.35773 to N 42.43452, W 71.35920 (first set provided by Steve Tobin)
Thoreau provides insufficient information to place this locality exactly other than associating it with a swamp that he named Cliff Brook Swamp. There appears to be one wetland area reaching toward the Cliff from the Sudbury River with topography favorable for a small brook running into it. No map shows such a brook, but a 1956 aerial photo appears to show a brook or remnant of one fitting the
topography favorable for a brook. Steve Tobin confirmed the location of the brook with the coordinates for its beginning above.

Journal references: 1852 August 15 (indirectly), September 17 (indirectly); 1853 July 21, December 7; 1854 May 1, 7; 1856 July 21; 1857 April 22.

**Cliff Brook Swamp** -- N 42.43461, W 71.35968
Thoreau’s Journal references do not pinpoint the locality of this swamp, but the wetland mapping in the vicinity of Fair Haven Cliff yields only one locality, the coordinates of which are above. The first (indirect) Journal reference indicating a swamp northwest of Well Meadow Head in a ravine running up toward the Cliffs agrees with the wetland with coordinates above.

Journal references: 1852 April 17 (indirectly); 1856 April 22; 1859 September 14 (indirectly).

**Cliff Hill** -- N 42.43615, W 71.35806
This is a hill on the west side of Fair Haven Hill with its own cliff, part of Fair Haven Hill in the larger sense. It shows up clearly on the detailed topographic contours of the Concord GIS Map, but not discernible on ordinary topographic maps. Its elevation of 250 feet agrees within 20 feet of Thoreau’s measurements of the hill on November 15, 1840. Thoreau refers to the two hills separately on September 20, 1851, so that he did not consider them the same. On March 4, 1854, Thoreau notes a dry pasture under this hill which agrees with a small level plain just southwest of the summit of the hill.

Journal references: 1840 November 15 (Princeton ed.) 1851 July 12, September 20; 1854 February 2, 6, March 4, May 7, June 5; 1855 April 12, May 12; 1860 November 29.

**Cliff Hill Spring** -- see West Fair Haven Spring

**Clintonia Swamp (Clintonia Maple Swamp, E. Hubbard’s Clintonia Swamp, E. Hubbard’s Swamp, Hubbard’s Close Swamp, Hubbard’s Swamp (in part))** -- 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. Thoreau’s first reference to this swamp (as Hubbard’s Close Swamp) in his Journal on June 4, 1853, notes Clintonia borealis (Yellow Clintonia) at the base of the hill to the southeast. Thoreau’s first reference to this swamp (as 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: 1852 August 15; 1853 June 4, September 2, November 4, December 7; 1854 May 30; 1855 March 27, June 4; 1856 February 26 (indirectly); August 27; 1857 August 10, 20, October 2, 17; 1858 January 26, June 18, August 23, October 1, 15, 18; 1859 October 12, 20; 1860 October 25, December 1.
Cohush Swamp (Conant’s Swamp, Conantum 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 is at the coordinates above where some of the uncommon or locally rare species he lists for this swamp have been found. A few times he uses the names Conant’s Swamp or Conantum Swamp for this swamp after Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868) who once occupied the Conant house nearby and continued to own much land in the area. Since Thoreau’s references to it cease on April 18, 1852, after which he used the name Miles or Miles’s Swamp, and since he lists a number of the same uncommon species in each, it is evident that he considered this to be part of the Miles Swamp. Supporting this also is his Journal entry on August 5, 1853, where he equates Miles Swamp with “arboretum” after having compared 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 May 19, August 31, September 24, November 23; 1852 April 18.

Colburn Farm (Colburn place) -- N 42.46566, W 71.38134 (approximate)
This farm straddled the road that became the Union Turnpike (presently Elm Street in Concord), most of it extending northward to the Assabet River and part of it southward. It is named for Brigadier General James Smith Colburn (1757 - 1803), a native of Concord who served in the Revolutionary War. Thoreau surveyed part of the homestead farm in November 1854 using a plan made by Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) about 1830. The coordinates above are for the approximate center of the land on the north side of the Union Turnpike.

Journal references: 1854 November 4, 6; 1855 March 2, 6; 1858 March 2 (pine woods); 1859 November 26, 27 (wood-lot), December 18; 1860 October 20.

Colburn(s) Hill -- N 42.46407, W 71.38134
This is a modest hill on the Colburn Farm. The Union Turnpike (current Elm Street) cuts through it. The coordinates above are for the summit on the north side. A street that runs along the east side of it is currently named “Coburn Hill Road.”

Journal references: 1858 September 13; 1859 July 12, November 11, 27; 1860 March 25, July 22, October 14.

Colburn place -- see Colburn Farm

Cold Brook [Sudbury, MA] -- from N 42.41699, W 71.40856 to N 42.40404, W 71.37859
This brook in Sudbury, MA flows approximately west to east toward the Sudbury River. Older maps including Gleason’s map show the source of it in or near an Atlantic White Cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides) swamp close to the southern border of Concord and emptying into the Sudbury River a short distance north of Pantry Brook. Current topographic maps (coordinates above) beginning about 1987 show a slightly more southerly origin of the brook. The earliest topographic map (1886) and later ones have it flowing into Pantry Brook shortly before it emptying into the Sudbury River. Much of the beginning of the Cold Brook as depicted on the older maps is treated as a tributary of the Cold Brook as shown on current maps.

College Meadow (Lee House Meadow, Lee Meadow) -- N 42.46016, W 71.36669
Thoreau likely changed the name he used for this meadow from “Lee Meadow” to “College Meadow” in late 1858 because the Lee house in the hands of later owner, sea captain David Elwell (1788 - 1870), burned to the ground in the winter of 1856-1857 and for a time was no more than a chimney. The use of the name “College” is almost certainly due to the fact that during the Revolutionary War the avid Tory, physician Dr. Joseph Lee (1716 - 1797), was confined to his farm for fourteen months during which time about a dozen Harvard College students lived in his house at Nashawtuc Hill while that college held classes in Concord. This river meadow was in front of the old Lee house at Lee’s Hill (Nashawtuc Hill).

Journal references: 1854 July 23; 1855 April 16, 23; 1858 August 7, September 18; 1860 April 7, July 23.

College Road -- from N 42.47268, W 71.38753 to N 42.48425, W 71.38817
This is a short road just east of Annursnack Hill running south to north from the current Barrett’s Mill Road to Strawberry Hill Road. Thoreau’s use of the name on June 10, 1859, has it in quotation marks since he knew the road named as such on the survey he prepared that day, which derived from an 1811 deed, was not the College Road of his time but was the road that connected to it (Barrett’s Mill Road) near the area of the survey. The name of this road relates to the temporary move of Harvard College to Concord from October 1775 to June 1776 due to the Revolutionary War. Thoreau’s June 10, 1859, passage alludes to a house by the road no longer standing that was connected to this name (either used for classes or to house the Harvard students at the time of the war). One of the buildings in the town used for classes of the Harvard students in this period was an abandoned schoolhouse (which might have been the house Thoreau refers to).

Journal references: 1854 August 15; 1855 February 17; 1859 June 10 (in quotes – see comment above); 1860 November 1.

Columbine Cliff (Conantum Cliff, first Conantum Cliff) -- N 42.43213, W 71.36582
The plant referred to in the name is Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis). The location of this cliff can be determined from his description of it as the first Conantum Cliff on September 24, 1851, being right across the Sudbury River from what was his Shrub Oak Plain beneath Fair Haven Hill. The topography of Conantum easily allows the recognition of a high, prominent, precipitous cliff across from that plain. The association of the first Conantum Cliff with Columbine Cliff can be made from Thoreau’s Journal entry for the only other reference to “first Conantum Cliff” on April 1, 1855, where he notes columbine, “dandelion” (Krigia virginica), and sorrel (Sheep Sorrel (Rumex acetosella)) which he also associates with Columbine Cliff on May 1, 1853. On May 14, 1853, Thoreau notes columbine at Lee’s Cliff in Conantum which becomes his favorite place for this flower. He then ceased the use of the name “Columbine Cliff.”
Conant’s Brook Meadow -- see Conant’s meadow [near Hubbard Bridge]

Conant’s cranberry meadow -- see Conant’s meadow [Fair Haven Bay]

Conant’s field -- see Conant’s Indian rye-field

Conant’s Grove -- see Holden Wood

Conant(‘s) house -- see Conantum house

Conant’s Indian rye-field (first Conantum field, Conant’s field) -- N 42.43862, W 71.36733
This is a sizable field south of the Sudbury River near Hubbard’s Bridge and just north of, or adjacent to, Conantum. It was owned by farmer Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868). Presently it is used as a ball field and community gardens.

Journal references: 1853 November 9; 1854 July 11 (indirectly); 1859 May 4; 1860 May 5.

Conant’s meadow (Conant’s Brook Meadow) [near Hubbard Bridge] -- N 42.44006, W 71.36725
The brook in this meadow derives from the Corner Spring Brook and Charles Miles Run which join before emptying into the Sudbury River from this meadow. The reference on July 17, 1854, to this meadow being “just behind Wheeler’s” refers to a meadow of farmer William Wheeler (1806 - 1864) who lived beside Corner (Sudbury) Road at Hubbard’s Bridge on the west side. His property included river meadow land on the south side of the bridge (see November 1, 1853, Journal entry) by the river adjacent to Ebenezer Conant’s land. The meadow is named for the owner, farmer Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868).
Journal references: 1851 September 24; 1852 February 13, June 13, 25, July 4; 1854 July 17, August 2; 1856 December 25.

**Conant’s meadow (Conant’s cranberry meadow) [Fair Haven Bay]** -- N 42.42862, W 71.35805 (approximate)
The extent of this river meadow on the west side of the Sudbury River is unknown. The February 8, 1856, reference indicates that at least part of it was north of Fair Haven Bay. The cranberry in the name used on that date refers to the Large Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon).

Journal references: 1853 August 19; 1855 September 25 (most likely the meadow at Fair Haven Bay); 1856 February 8.

**Conant’s orchard (Conant Orchard Grove)** -- N 42.42936, W 71.36000 (best estimate)
The clues for this in Thoreau’s Journal are that it is near the west shore of the Sudbury River, south of Bittern Cliff and near a spring. The coordinates above are for a relatively level or gently sloping area that meets these requirements. The orchard was most likely owned by Ebenezer Conant (1780 – 1868) who owned much land in this area that Thoreau called Conantum.

Journal references: 1851 June 14; 1852 April 16, May 16, July 4 (indirectly); 1854 June 13 (wall), July 17, August 10; 1855 August 1; 1858 March 20.

**Conant’s Spring (Conant spring)** -- N 42.43388, W 71.36710 (approximate)
This was not the Corner Spring since Thoreau uses that name repeatedly in 1852 prior to using the name Conant’s Spring on May 20, 1852, and in fact uses the two names on that day. Thoreau’s use of the name Conant’s Spring Swamp indicates that the spring feeds into a swamp. Referring to it as Conant’s Spring rather than Conantum Spring implies that it was likely associated with the abandoned Conant house. Such a spring can be discerned from the topography and wetland mapping of the Concord GIS Map at the coordinates above. This is consistent with the apparent indirect reference of May 29, 1851, where Thoreau notes going “over the first Conantum Hill from the spring.” The first Conantum Hill would be that of the first Conantum Cliff (i.e., Columbine Cliff) which is close to the coordinates for the spring above. See Conantum house for origin of the name.

Journal references: 1851 July 21 (indirectly), October 5; 1852 May 20; 1857 May 29 (indirectly).

**Conant’s Spring Swamp** -- N 42.43288, W 71.36516 (best estimate)
This is most likely a swamp a short ways “downstream” from Conant’s Spring just before reaching the Cohush Swamp. It is possible that it refers to the larger part of Miles Swamp farther downstream near the Sudbury River. But since that area is rather remote from the spring, it is less likely to be associated with Conant’s Spring. See Conantum house for origin of the name.

Journal references: 1851 August 31.

**Conant’s summit (Conantum height, Conantum-top)** -- N 42.42831, W 71.36315
This is the highest point on Conantum, near its middle, which is about 254 feet in elevation. See Conantum and Conantum house for derivation of the name.

Journal references: 1851 June 14, September 7 (indirectly, “peak”); 1852 May 16 (indirectly), June 25; 1857 August 29; 1858 October 31, November 20; 1860 October 20.
**Conant’s Swamp** -- see Cohush Swamp

**Conant’s Wood(s) (Conantum wood)**

These are woods around Conant’s Spring according to the Journal reference of July 21, 1851. There is insufficient information to determine their extent.

Journal references: 1851 May 19, July 16, 21 (leafy); 1854 April 23; 1859 October 16.

**Conant’s Wood [White Pond area]** -- N 42.43266, W 71.38071 (very approximate)

There is insufficient information to place these woods and their extent exactly. The reference of May 26, 1855, implies that they were likely beside a short unnamed road running southwesterly pointed toward White Pond that no longer exists but is shown on historic maps including the Gleason map connecting Sudbury Road (presently Old Road to Nine Acre Corner) to what Gleason named Mill Road (presently Powder Mill Road). Note: Gleason’s Mill Road is not the Mill road of Thoreau (see entry for Mill road). A shadow of part of the former road can be seen in existing lot boundaries. This would put the wood lot not far from the residence of the owner, farmer Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868), on the east side of Sudbury Road. The coordinates above are a very approximate estimate.

Journal references: 1855 May 26 (thick), 1859 September 21; 1860 October 16 (handsome).

**Conantum** -- approximately from N 42.43723, W 71.37043 to N 42.42050, W 71.36530

In December 1890 Franklin B. Sanborn (1831 - 1917) wrote in an article for The New England Magazine stating that Thoreau’s good friend and frequent walking companion, William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901), whimsically called one of Thoreau’s favorite hilltops “Conantum” because it was part of the large farm of Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868). A well-known passage in Thoreau’s A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers published in 1849 gives a vivid description of the tract of land to which he applied this name associating it with an abandoned house and farm that he had wanted to purchase at one time. In Thoreau’s time Ebenezer Conant resided on the east side of Sudbury Road and owned much land to the east by the Sudbury River. However, Thoreau’s Journal entry for February 19, 1855, indicates that Ebenezer Conant once occupied the abandoned house on Conantum. In describing a swampy woodland near the spring for the Conant house Thoreau remarked tongue-in-cheek on August 31, 1851: “Rare plants seem to love certain localities. As if the original Conant had been a botanist and endeavored to form an arboretum.” implying an earlier Conant owner of the land than Ebenezer. At least eventually, Thoreau considered Conantum to be a much larger area west of the Sudbury comprising mostly of elevated hills and cliffs (including the abandoned farm) with Conant’s meadow near the Hubbard Bridge on the north, on the east by the Sudbury River, and on the south also by the Sudbury River and Stow Road (presently Rte. 117). The western border is uncertain, but would not have extended beyond today’s Sudbury Road. For example, his Journal entry for January 18, 1860, referring to “the Conantum elm,” the locally rare Slippery Elm (Ulmus rubra), found only at Lee’s Cliff (which is not close to the Conant house) shows that he considered that cliff to be part of Conantum. In addition to its scenic virtues, with its border on Fair Haven Bay facing Fair Haven Hill and Baker’s Farm, its craggy cliffs, secluded bogs and swamps, Conantum was of particular to Thoreau for its “rare plants” which seemed “to love certain localities.” This happens because Conantum has exposures of calcite and occasionally limestone that support a flora that differs from that of the typical acidic soils in most of Concord and eastern Massachusetts.
Gleason photo from Conantum (from gradual slope about 100 meters northeast of Lee’s Cliff looking NE) with Sudbury River, Fair Haven Hill & Shrub Oak Plain. In distance and Fair Haven Island at far right (1906 ed. of Journal).

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1850 September [9] vol. II, page 6, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 111, Princeton ed., October [9] vol. II, page 73, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 121, Princeton ed.; November 21; 1851 May 19, June 14, 29, July 13, 16, 21, August 8, 20, 29, 31, September 7, 9, 12, 24, 28, October 1, 9, November 1, 12, 23, December 25, 30; 1852 January 25, February 13, March 19, April 11, 16, 19 (shore), 20, 22, 27, May 2, 6, 7 (pastures), 16, June 13, 18, 25, July 1, 4, 9, 11, 14, 22, August 1, 11, 23 (hills), 25, September 3, 21, 23, October 23; 1853 March 18, May 13, 26, June 2, 6, 21, July 21, August 5, 10, 11, 12, 19, 21, 23, October 1, November 7, 14; 1854 March 18, April 2, 8, May 22, June 10, August 2, 10, 12, 21, 30, September 19, 29, October 26; 1855 January 9, 20, February 19, 24, March 3, 22, April 4, 7, 17, 20 (pastures), May 1, 7 (thorn), 12, August 1, September 24, 25, October 13, 26, December 11, 23 (field); 1856 April 17, 18 (shore), 22 (shore), May 11, June 12, August 4, 7, 11, 13, 26 (side), 31 (indirectly), September 4, 18, October 11, 19; 1857 April 18, 30, May 12, 24, June 6, July 9, August 23, 27, 30, September 28, October 4, 5, 18, 28; 1858 January 17, February 3, March 16, April 11, 16, June 25, July 28, August 21, October 11, 22, 31, November 18, 19, 24; 1859 March 26, May 4 (field), September 12, October 4; 1860 January 14, 18 (elm), February 28, March 4, April 15, 27, July 7, 23, August 1, September 4, October 19.

Conantum Brook -- see Charles Miles Run

Conantum Cliff -- see Columbine Cliff

Conantum Cliff, first -- see Columbine Cliff

Conantum Cliff, Middle -- N 42.42868, W 71.36158

Unlike the other cliffs on Conantum Thoreau does not record a single uncommon plant from this cliff. This cliff is on the highest hill on Conantum (see Conant’s summit).

Journal references: 1855 April 17, 22, May 28; 1858 April 19; 1859 April 2, May 4.
Conantum Cliffs -- N 42.42626, W 71.35826 (approximate)
This set of cliffs or row of cliffs harbor a number of uncommon plants that grow in circumneutral soil. This author has seen a number of them on these cliffs. In his single Journal reference Thoreau finds one and correctly suspects others.

Journal reference: 1852 April 27.

Conantum End -- N 42.42039, W 71.36556
This is the southernmost end of Conantum. There is a hill at this end (coordinates above are southern edge of it) about 190 feet in elevation which was known as Mine Hill since pyrite was mined here as early as 1697.

Journal references: 1851 September 7; 1853 April 4; 1855 March 16, April 1, December 23; 1858 June 13; 1859 September 11.

Conantum field, first -- see Conant’s Indian rye-field

Conantum height -- see Conant’s summit

Conantum Hill, first -- N 42.43198, W 71.36674
This can only be the hill with the first Conantum cliff or Columbine Cliff. It is about 220 feet in elevation and is near Conant’s Spring (mentioned in the single Journal reference) and the old Conantum house.

**Conantum house (Conant’s house)** -- N 42.43501, W 71.36682 (approximate)
This was the abandoned house on the tract of land by the Sudbury River that Thoreau describes in his A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, referring to that tract as “Conantum.” Thoreau notes on February 3, 1858, that the house was being pulled down, and on April 11, 1858, what remained of it. His comment about an old rat nest found there likely being 150 years old implies that the house dated from the early 1700s. This agrees (after an obvious correction) with the comment he records on April 11, 1858, by Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868) that the house was built by the great-grandfather of carpenter Rufus Hosmer (1809 - 1860). That ancestor actually was the great-great-grandfather of Rufus Hosmer, Stephen Hosmer (1680 - 1754), who is believed about 1707 - 1710 to have built the Hosmer Homestead still standing elsewhere in Concord. Rufus Hosmer tells Thoreau on February 19 1855, that his grandfather Nathan Hosmer (1740 - 1777) who drowned in the Sudbury River on December 25, 1777, lived in this house. Ebenezer Conant later occupied the house Thoreau records in his Journal on February 19, 1855. As noted under the entry for Conantum previously, a tongue-in-cheek remark by Thoreau on August 31, 1851, suggests that there might have been a Conant resident of the house before Ebenezer. The most likely such Conant after the death of Nathan Hosmer would have been Ebenezer’s father Abel Conant (1747 - 1833) with Ebenezer’s mother Catherine [Johnson] (ca. 1752 - 1780), the latter apparently dying as a result of giving birth to Ebenezer, possibly in the Conantum house itself. Thoreau expressed his sentiment for this house on December 25, 1856, “Called at the Conantum House. It grieves me to see these interesting relics, this and the house at the Baker Farm, going to complete ruin.”

Journal references: 1851 September 7, 28 (indirectly), October 1; 1852 June 13, 25 (indirectly); 1853 June 22; 1855 February 19 (indirectly), April 4 (indirectly), October 25 (indirectly); 1856 June 12, October 19 (indirectly), December 25; 1858 February 3, April 11, June 25 (sill), October 31; 1859 July 6, August 24; 1860 May 5.

**Conantum Swamp** -- see Cohush Swamp

**Conantum top** -- see Conant’s summit

**Conantum wood** -- see Conant’s Wood(s)

**Concord River (Musketaquid, Musketaquid River, Musketicook)** -- from N 42.46530, W 71.35823 to N 42.64662, W 71.30239
“I doubt if there is a town more adorned by its river than ours.” April 7, 1853.
“I have never met with a stream so suitable for boating and botanizing as the Concord, and fortunately nobody knows it.” August 6, 1858.
In Thoreau’s time the Concord River was often considered to include what is presently known as the Sudbury River. For example, the survey map of 1834 prepared by B. F. Perham that Thoreau annotated was labeled as a plan of the Concord River from East Sudbury to Billerica Mills. A statistical chart of bridges over the Concord River that Thoreau prepared in June 1859 included Heard’s Bridge between Sudbury and Wayland among others before the river reached the Assabet River. However, Thoreau occasionally recognized the Sudbury River separately as shown by his Journal entry of February 24, 1855, where he refers to that river as the main branch of the Concord River and lists localities on the Sudbury starting with the mouth of the Assabet River and working back toward Sudbury and Wayland. More typically he considered the combined Sudbury and Concord Rivers as “the river,” and his use of the Algonquian name “Musketaquid” (which he uses more often than the English name) was intended in this larger sense. The meaning of this name is “place or rushes,” sometimes rendered as “grassy place,” “grassy plain,” “grassy banks,” “grass ground” or “rushy
“This name has been applied to a land area in the vicinity of Concord and Sudbury or to the river system there. Thoreau primarily applies it to the river. Musketicook is a variant of Musketaquid. The coordinates above are for the Concord River from the confluence of its two branches near Egg Rock to its mouth at the Merrimack River in Lowell, Massachusetts. Journal references below are limited to explicit use of the name and some significant implicit ones.

Journal references: 1837 October 29, November 16; 1838 August 19; 1839 September 1 (indirectly); 1840 February 24; 1842 March 19; 1842-1844 vol. 2, pages 4 & 31 (indirectly), Princeton ed.; 1844 vol. 2, pages 103, 104 (“grass-ground” river) & 106, Princeton ed.; 1846 vol. 2, page 327, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 3, page 31 [Sudbury River] & 32, Princeton ed.; 1850 vol. II, pages 21 & 42, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 75 & 93, Princeton ed., June 3 (meadows); 1851 May 1, July 19, August 19, September 27 (indirectly), October 6 (indirectly), December 30; 1852 January 5, July 4, 8, 25 (condenser), December 2 (indirectly), 5; 1853 January 16 (indirectly), April 7 (indirectly), May 22, June 22, September 19, October 28, December 2; 1854 May 6; 1855 February 24, August 2 [Sudbury River], October 21, November 1; 1856 March 16 (indirectly), April 8, August 2, September 2, 7 (indirectly), 13 (indirectly), December 18 (indirectly); 1857 January 6, February 3 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), April 11, October 26 (indirectly), November 18 (main river); 1858 August 6 (indirectly), November 4 (stuff); 1859 January 22, 28, February 13 (main river), July 22, 31, August 2, 8, 11, 14, December 28; 1860 February 17, September 9, 13.

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.

**Coral Rock**

The single reference to this location provides no information as to its location other than it is reached via the Assabet River, and no information is given to illuminate the origin of the name. It is possible that Thoreau uses “Coral” here as short for “Corallorhiza.” It would not be unusual to reach Corallorhiza Rock by first traveling northward long the Assabet River.

Journal reference: 1858 April 17.

**Corallorhiza Hillside**

This name refers to the Spotted Coral-root (Corallorhiza maculata, C. multiflora in Thoreau’s time), an orchid that grows in circumneutral or basic soil (habitat not common in Concord). Thoreau provides insufficient information in his single Journal reference to this locate the place of this name. However, it is reasonable to suspect that he refers to the hillside at Brister’s Spring since he mentions this orchid twice at this location (July 29, 1853, and August 20, 1852), and it is on the way to Heywood’s Peak which he visited on the day he used the name.


**Corallorhiza Rock(s) -- N 42.48326, W 71.36325 (provided by Steve Tobin)**

This name refers to the Spotted Coral-root (Corallorhiza maculata, C. multiflora in Thoreau’s time), a locally rare orchid that grows in circumneutral or basic soil. The best information Thoreau provides for the location of this site is that it is a rocky ridge with an east-facing slope near and north of the Indian Rock which is west of the Owl Nest Swamp (August 29, 1857). In August 2021 Steve Tobin located the orchid growing on an east-facing slope among rocky outcrops that are in just the area Thoreau describes.

Corallorhiza maculata & Corallorhiza Rocks (August 2021), courtesy of Steve Tobin
Coreopsis Bend [Sudbury, MA] -- N 42.40369, W 71.36907
The plant referred to in the name is Pink Tickseed (Coreopsis rosea). Thoreau’s find of it in Sudbury is at the northwest limit of its range in New England. It has not been found in Concord. Thoreau’s placing this location along the Sudbury River on the Sudbury side between Sherman’s Bridge and Rice’s Bend where the shore is narrow fixes the site at the coordinates above.


Cornel Rock -- N 42.48979, W 71.36483 (provided by Steve Tobin)
Cornel in this name refers to the dogwood genus Cornus, in this particular the case the Round-leaved Dogwood (Cornus rugosa, Cornus circinata on Thoreau’s time). Thoreau notes it at the base of the hill “just west” of a spruce [Black Spruce (Picea mariana)] swamp on his way to Bateman’s Pond from Dodge’s Brook on the north side of Lowell Road. The location of this rock was found by Steve Tobin in April 2020. Confirmation is the clear split in the rock described by Thoreau and the presence at the rock of the locally rare Spikenard (Aralia racemosa) that Thoreau calls petty morel, found by Steve Tobin in July 2020. The Round-leaved Dogwood no longer grows there. The swamp referred to is Fox Castle Swamp since Thoreau refers to the Round-leaved Dogwood right after referring to this swamp on November 7, 1858, and notes that this swamp contains spruce (Black Spruce) on October 27, 1857. The Black Spruce is no longer found in the swamp, but the uncommon Smooth Winterberry (Ilex laevigata) that Thoreau finds (as Prinos laevigata) in the swamp by this rock persists, but is now heavily browsed by deer and hard to find.

Corner (Nine Acre Corner) -- N 42.42535, W 71.37447 (approximate center for the area in Thoreau’s time); N 42.43446, W 71.37650 (the corner itself in colonial times)

In Thoreau’s time and later “Corner” was short for “Nine Acre Corner.” The nine acres were in the southern part of the town owned by one of the town founders, Peter Bulkeley (1583 - 1659). It appears in the Concord town records in 1677 when George Wheeler (1605/1606 - 1687), who had bought the land, was ordered by a town meeting to make a road to Bulkeley’s “nine acres of meadow above Fairhaven.” The nine acres correspond to a rectangular section of river meadow of this size just south of Fair Haven Bay centered at N 42.42149, W 71.35737, a meadow Thoreau referred to as Lee’s Meadow. The road Wheeler was ordered to make no longer existed in Thoreau’s time. In colonial times the northern part of what is now named Old Road to Nine Acre was known as Three Went Way since it led to a point or corner where it split into three “wents” or ways. The more easterly of these ways was the one that Wheeler made that ran southeasterly to Bulkeley’s nine acres beside Fair Haven Bay. It followed partly what is now Garfield Road. The middle way continued southerly on what is now the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner and then followed part way along what is now Sudbury Road. The more westerly way followed a course that at first went southwesterly toward White Pond but then eventually turned southeasterly approximately following parallel to the town line with Sudbury. In Thoreau’s time the beginning of this westerly way existed as a lane that led to what is now Powder Mill Road. It is shown on Gleason’s map as a short diagonal lane connecting “Sudbury Road” and “Mill Road.” A shadow of its beginning can still be seen on property lines running southwestward from the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (see reference to a lane in entry for White Pond road). The meeting of the three “wents” was the original Nine Acre Corner (see Brandeis University dissertation of Brian Donahue, “Flowland, Pastureland, Woodland and Meadow: etc.” 1995). In time the “corner” intersection was not considered the one of colonial days but either where the current Old Road to Nine Acre Corner meets the current Sudbury Road, or where the Fitchburg Turnpike (Route 117) crosses Sudbury Road. Nine Acre Corner came to represent a wide area including not only the intersection of two roads, but a large area between Thoreau’s Conantum and White Pond as labeled on 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875 maps of Concord, Gleason’s map, and later topographic maps. That the Nine Acre Corner area in Thoreau’s time included land south of the Fitchburg Turnpike intersection is evident from his 1849 Journal reference where he notes sailing through Nine Acre Corner (on the Sudbury River).

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 27, Princeton ed.; 1850 June 3, December 8; 1851 July 12, 21 September 17; 1852 April 2, 21, 22, 30, July 1, October 24; 1855 February 18; 1856 February 8; 1857 November 30 (footnote); 1859 July 31 (footnote); 1860 November 2.

Corner Bridge -- see Hubbard’s Bridge and Lee’s Bridge

Corner Brook Pond

The single reference to this pond does not provide sufficient information to place its location. Thoreau’s itinerary typically follows the order in which he notes locations (given the destination(s) he cites at the beginning of his Journal entry). On this afternoon he journeys toward Lee’s Bridge via Conantum. He notes Miles Swamp in Conantum and then notes the Corner Road after which he would have walked to Lee’s Bridge. Thus, the pond would have been at one of the small brooks in Nine Acre Corner. None of the historic maps show brooks or ponds near the Corner Road in Nine Acre Corner. Pools or ponds shown in this area near brooks on the more detailed 20th century topographic maps were not necessarily in existence in Thoreau’s time.


Corner causeway -- see Hubbard’s Bridge causeway
Corner road -- from 42.45022, W 71.35781 to N 42.43090, W 71.37552
When on foot Thoreau most often used this road to journey to Nine Acre Corner (after which it is named), Hubbard’s Grove, the Corner Spring, and Conantum. The road ran from where it intersected with the Back Road (now Fairhaven Road) to where it joined the Sudbury Road (now Old Road to Nine Acre Corner). Thoreau’s Journal entry for June 25, 1852, shows it began at the Back Road (turning from there onto Corner Road). On June 14, 1851, he refers to the beginning of this road as the “Sudbury road.” It crossed the Sudbury River at Hubbard’s Bridge which was not built until 1802. Hence, it would not have existed as a continuous road or with the name Corner Road until then. The road ended where it joined Sudbury Road (of Thoreau’s time) which is the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner presently. Corner Road is now entirely part of Sudbury Road (not the same as Sudbury Road in Thoreau’s time).

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

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 southern part of Concord toward which the road runs. The coordinates 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 farmer 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 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.

Corner Spring Swamp -- N 42.43805, W 71.36968 (approximate)
This is 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 maps. In his Journal Thoreau distinguishes it from Miles Swamp which is closer to the river shore on September 4, 1856. The coordinates above are an estimate of the middle of it.


Corner Spring Woods
There is insufficient information to locate these woods exactly, but the terrain around the Corner Spring suggests that they were on the elevated slope and ridge south of the Spring and east of the Corner Road.


Cornus florida Ravine -- N 42.49380, W 71.36413 (best estimate)
The clues given by Thoreau are not sufficient to place this ravine with certainty. The presence of Cardinal-flower (Lobelia cardinalis) in the ravine indicates that it contains wetland. There is only one ravine on the east side of Bateman's Pond that appears to have such a wet area. The coordinates above are the best estimate for the location.

Journal references: 1857 May 18 (indirectly), September 4; 1858 April 21 (indirectly, likely).

Creel Brook -- see Pole Brook

Crockery Field -- N 42.47335, W 71.31350 (best estimate)
Thoreau describes this as a field on the east slope of Two-Boulder Hill where many bits of crockery could be found. The coordinates above are for a relatively level area on the east slope of this hill.


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.

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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 42.49552, W 71.36247 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 above), but not clearly at the southern lobe. The northern lobe of this hill is most likely to be Thoreau’s Curly-pate Hill.

Curly-pate Hill
Gleason photo from 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal
Wavy, vertical strata at summit, courtesy of Steve Tobin & Nancy Hartle, 2019

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

Cut -- see Deep Cut

Cut woods -- see Deep Cut Woods

Cyanean Meadow (Great Hubbard Meadow, Hubbard’s broad meadow, Hubbard’s Great Meadow) -- N 42.44924, W 71.37125 (approximate center, best estimate)
The equivalence of Cyanean Meadow and Hubbard’s Great Meadow is established in Thoreau’s Journal entry of December 30, 1860. Farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) owned significant amounts of land south and west of his residence at the bend of the Back Road (now Sudbury Road). This included a large meadow on the east side of the Sudbury River. The approximate center of this meadow has the coordinates above. In Thoreau’s first use of the name Cyanean Meadow he looks at it northward from the Sudbury River after returning from the “pond” (Fair Haven Bay), the meadow on the east side of the river and Clamshell Hill straight beyond it. The reason for use of the name “Cyanean” which is a color, like azure or sky blue, has not been found. Gleason misplaces this on his map along a different shore near Hubbard’s Bathing-Place. Thoreau at other times gave names to parts of this meadow, such as Arethusa Meadow.

Journal references: 1853 June 21; 1856 April 17; 1857 June 9, 23, October 27; 1858 April 22, September 18; 1859 January 26, 31, April 12; 1860 February 8, 12, December 30.
Cyanean Reach -- N 42.44888, W 71.37311 (approximate)
This is a stretch of the Sudbury River that borders the Cyanean Meadow (meadow on east side).

Cymbidium Meadow -- N 42.44942, W 71.37002 (best estimate)
Cymbidium is an old name for the orchid genus Calopogon. In Concord it refers to the only orchid there in that genus, Grass-pink (Calopogon tuberosus), likely extinct now in Concord but not uncommon in Thoreau’s time in meadows and bogs. Thoreau’s only reference to this meadow by this name describes it as “the open meadow near the southeast corner of the Hubbard meadow blueberry swamp.” A 1940 aerial photograph shows a sizable swamp on the extensive Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) land. The coordinates above are for an open wetland area at the southeast corner of this swamp as a best estimate.

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.

Dam Meadows -- N 42.46271, W 71.31651
Nineteenth century maps of Concord show the Mill Brook flowing from Lincoln into Concord on its eastern border north of Lexington Road and from there westward toward Meriam’s Corner where it crosses Lexington Road southward just before reaching the Corner. From there it flows westward to the Mill Dam in Concord Center and eventually into the Concord River. The damming of Mill Brook would have the effect of favoring the formation of a meadow behind the dam. Thoreau’s itinerary on his way to the Dam Meadows on November 18, 1857, has him traveling toward a large open wetland area north of Lexington Road through which the Mill Brook flowed at that time. A large area including this wetland is labeled “Bedford Levels” on Gleason’s map and on topographic maps beginning in 1943 and continuing to the present. In a footnote on July 31, 1859, Thoreau notes that a meadow belonging to “Rice” was at Dam Meadows. Farmer Micajah Rice (1788 – 1873) lived on the north side of Lexington Road just south of wetlands of the Mill Brook. This was the “Rice” Thoreau refers to. Brian Donahue in his book The Great Meadow (2006) locates the Dam Meadow at the coordinates above based on colonial records. This is north of the residence of “M. Rice” along Lexington Road shown on the 1852 map of Concord. Donahue notes in his book the elaborate ditches, dams, culverts, causeways and other devices used to control the flow of every drop of the water in the vicinity of the Mill Brook (and other Concord watercourses) by the various owners for more than a century after Concord was first settled.
Damon’s Spring
Thoreau provides insufficient information to locate this spring. The name refers to Edward Carver Damon (1836 – 1901) who took over ownership of the family cotton and woolen mill, Damon’s Mills, at age 17 from his ailing father. The mills were along the Assabet River near the Fitchburg Railroad and the Acton town line. His residence was on what is now Main Street (Route 62) close to the site of his mills. The spring could have been on the property of Damon’s Mills or the residence of the Mr. Damon, a short distance to the east on Main Street. Thoreau’s survey of the mills in 1859 does not note any spring. Most likely the spring was on a wood lot of Mr. Damon referred to by Thoreau. The location of the wood lot was most likely on the Damon land referred to on October 23, 1860, which would have been between the Union Turnpike and the present Laws Brook Road either in Concord or Acton. The Gleason map and map of Concord in 1852 show the mills, and the 1856 map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts shows the mills and the residence.

Journal references: 1860 May 5, 11.

Dashing Brook [Lincoln, MA]
Thoreau’s single reference to this does not provide sufficient information to determine the location of the brook conclusively. But his itinerary for the afternoon in which he lists the destinations in the order that he visits them places the brook between Lee’s Bridge and the Baker Farm in Lincoln, MA. The only brook of significance that has a sufficient run to become “dashing” in this vicinity in July would have been the main tributary of Pole Brook. See entry for that brook for a description of coordinates and description of its course.


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.
Deacon Farrar's brook [Lincoln, MA] -- from approximately N 42.41061, W 71.34084 to approximately N 42.41756, W 71.35629
This was a tributary of Pole Brook. It began in a swamp a short distance east of the residence of farmer Deacon James Farrar (1776 - 1867), passed under Concord Road (Route 126) just south of the residence on the west side of this road, and joined Pole Brook in Farrar's Swamp just south of the South Great Road (Route 117). All but a short segment of its path after passing the Farrar residence is now part of Farrar Pond.

Journal reference: **1854 May 10.**

Deacon Farrar's meadow -- see Farrar's Swamp

Deacon Farrar's Swamp -- see Farrar's Swamp

Decodon Pond -- see Andromeda Pond(s)

Deep Causeway -- see Hubbard's Bridge Causeway

Deep Cove -- N 42.43707, W 71.34032
This refers to the cove at Walden Pond in the middle of the south side. A use of this term on August 27, 1852, is descriptive and refers to the cove at N 42.44130, W 71.34203 on the northwest side of Walden Pond that includes the Wyman Meadow when the water in the pond is high.

Journal references: **1853 March 20; 1856 December 19; 1860 July 20, August 24, October 22; 1861 March 11.**

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 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, and a photo of his labeled as this is at the mistaken location.
Deep Cut (ca. 1890), looking northwest, by Alfred W. Hosmer, courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library

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 & indirectly), 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.

Deep Cut Woods (Cut woods) -- N 42.44460, W 71.34594 (approximate middle, best estimate)
The meager information about these woods in Thoreau’s Journal tells us that these woods were east of the Deep Cut at the Fitchburg Railroad and extended to Laurel Glen. The 1852 map of Concord attempts to depict the extent of woodlands in Concord and shows extensive woodland east of the Deep Cut and relatively little west of it. The Route 2 now passes through these woods.

Journal references: 1854 June 21, 23; 1855 May 4; 1856 May 10, 15, July 10, October 14; 1860 October 22 (big wood).

Deep Eddy -- N 42.46444, W 71.36161
Thoreau’s description of this indirectly on March 23, 1853, places it clearly at the Leaning Hemlocks on the Assabet River.

Journal references: 1853 March 23 (indirectly), May 21.

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**Dennis’s Hill** -- N 42.45438, W 71.36954 (best estimate)
Thoreau provides insufficient information to determine the location of this hill with certainty. But the presence of a small hill (with coordinates above) by the shore of the Sudbury River behind the residence of farmer, Samuel Dennis (1784 – 1864), strongly favors that hill. References to Lupine Hill and Dennis’s Lupine Hill by the Sudbury River, further away from the Dennis residence, precede and follow the two references to Dennis’s Hill implying that they are likely two different hills.

Journal references: 1851 October 8; 1856 April 17.

**Dennis Shore** -- N 42.45418, W 71.36861 (best estimate)
This is a shore on the west side of the Sudbury River behind the residence of farmer, Samuel Dennis (1784 – 1864). Thoreau viewing this shore from Hubbard’s Bathing Place on June 26, 1854, is consistent with this determination. The Princeton edition of the Journal has for July 13, 1853, “on the hard muddy shore of Dennis’s in the meadow.” The 1906 edition of the Journal for this date has it as: “On the hard, muddy shore opposite Dennis’s, in the meadow.”

Journal references: 1853 July 13 (indirectly, Princeton ed.); 1854 June 26, August 16.

**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** -- N 42.45588, W 71.35963 (approximate)
This was a field on the south side of the Fitchburg Railroad tracks at the depot (on what is now Thoreau Street). The eastern boundary of the field was the Back Road (now Sudbury Road). The northern boundary was the railroad tracks. The southern boundary was likely the Swamp Bridge Brook (Depot Field Brook), although Thoreau’s references do not shed light on this or on the western boundary, most likely the Sudbury River.

Journal references: 1851 August 15, 20, September 24; 1852 May 3, 12, 20, June 25; 1853 June 18; 1855 February 26 (corn-field); 1856 November 30; 1858 March 20, 24; 1859 September 16.

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

**Derby(’s) Bridge** -- N 42.45635, W 71.38984
This bridge is where in the western part of Concord the main street (now Route 62) crosses the Assabet River just south of where the Fitchburg Railroad crosses the river. The date of the first construction of a bridge here is unknown, but was referred to in a 1654 report to the town: “the bredg ouer the north Rivre [Assabet River] and the heigh way there.” Concord historian Charles H. Walcott noted that this was one of the three earliest bridges in Concord, but was evidently not an elaborate affair judging from repeated complaints about its condition as early as 1663. The name derives from the Derby/Darby family who long held property near the bridge, although the earliest such owner appears to be unknown.
Journal references: 1852 April 16, 19 (indirectly), 21, 25, July 5; 1853 April 2; 1854 February 10 (railroad bridge), June 25, August 29 (neighborhood); 1855 January 22, February 17, 28, March 1; 1856 January 27; 1857 September 6; 1860 January 24, May 4, 11.

Derby’s pasture -- N 42.45397, 71.39511 (approximate)
Thoreau’s single reference to this as behind and beyond the schoolhouse essentially pinpoints it. The schoolhouse is shown on the 1852 map of Concord and the 1856 map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. It is on the south side of what is now Main Street (Route 62) close to the intersection of what is now West Street. Topography shows a level area behind this site. The Derby referred to is farmer Joseph Derby (1788 - 1874) whose residence shown on the same maps was on the north side of Main Street (Route 62) close to Derby’s Bridge.


Desert -- see Dugan’s Desert

Ditch Pond -- N 42.44515, W 71.32886 or N 42.44617, W 71.32817 (best estimates)
Minimal information is provided by Thoreau in his two Journal references for the location of this pond. But the information indicates that it is near the Concord-Lincoln town boundary after leaving the Britton’s Camp area toward Concord, and with ridges nearby. The two small ponds with coordinates above, one of them very small apparently connected to the larger one by what might be a ditch, agree with this information and suggest a reason for the name. U. S. Geological Service survey maps from 1943 onward label the larger of these two ponds “Little Goose Pond” contrary to Thoreau on one of his surveys giving that name to another pond northwest of Goose Pond.

Journal references: 1856 October 21; 1858 January 23.

Dodge’s Brook -- N 42.48712, W 71.36739 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.

Dodge Brook Wood -- N 42.47810, W 71.37537 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s single Journal entry suggests that this woodland is between Dodge’s Brook and Spencer Brook. The 1852 map of Concord shows an area of woods straddling Spencer Brook in an area mostly devoid of woodland. The coordinates above are best estimate considering these factors.

**Dogwood Swamp** -- N 42.45830, W 71.38880

The location of this swamp is determined by its association with the “red house” (see Red House (western Concord)). It is a swamp “above” (that is, beyond) the red house along the tracks of the Fitchburg Railroad in the western part of Concord and right up against the railroad. Such a swamp would have existed in a depression now flooded to make a pond with coordinates above. The “dogwood” in the name refers to poison-dogwood, that is, Poison Sumac (Rhus toxicodendron).

Thoreau refers to this swamp/bog shrub while walking up the railway at Dennis’s Swamp on May 30, 1855.

Journal references: **1851** December 21 (indirectly); **1854** August 29 (indirectly); **1856** July 19.

**Donge Hole** -- see **Dung Hole**

**Dove Rock (Assabet Rock, Pigeon Rock)** -- N 42.47010, W 71.36251 (provided by Steve Tobin)

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 earlier name for Dove Rock. The Lee Farm survey has no other rock shown in that interval. The bird referred to would be the Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura) which has the alternate common names Wild Pigeon and Turtle Dove. Thoreau applies the names “pigeon” and “turtle dove” to the same bird in a list of birds on May 14, 1852.

Journal references: **1854** August 20; **1856** January 24, February 9, 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.
Drifted Meadow
This refers to an area where a piece of river meadow that has broken off from upstream (due to freezing and rising river level in the spring) along the Sudbury River has come to rest. From Thoreau’s recitation of locations in order along the eastern side of the river it is generally in the large river meadow just east of the Hubbard’s Bridge causeway.

Journal references: 1860 February 12.

Drifting Cut
There is insufficient information to determine the locality of this place. Most likely it is just a playful modification of the name Deep Cut. But there are other cuts along the Fitchburg Railroad, and this could be one of those.


Drosera Flat
The single reference to this provides insufficient information to locate this exactly. By Thoreau noting it on the Hubbard’s meadow-side means that it was on the east side of the Sudbury River between the northern end of the Hubbard Grove downstream to Hubbard’s Bathing Place. Drosera refers to Sundew (Drosera sp.). This and the other plant Thoreau mentions at this location, Bog Clubmoss (Lycopodiella inundata), grow in acidic open areas. Thoreau’s noting the two species of Sundew that occur in Concord, Drosera rotundifolia and Drosera intermedia (D. longifolia, in Thoreau’s time), on July 13, 1856, in Hubbard’s meadow, would be a reference to this site but with no additional information on location.

Journal references: 1856 July 13 (indirectly); 1859 August 26.

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 occurred shortly before where a road split off from the Old Marlborough Road that in turn split into two roads -- one road heading to the right toward a sawmill which Thoreau referred to as Mill road (see entry for Mill road) and the other to the left toward the powder mills in Acton. 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 (ca. 1786 - ca. 1845) who lived near the desert as indicated on Gleason’s map. Relatively little is known about Jenny Dugan beyond her being a Guinea black woman raised as Jenny Parker in Acton and marrying Thomas Dugan (ca. 1747 - 1827), also a black, in Concord in 1805. She was his second wife and survived 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.
Dugan Desert (at upper left), (ca. 1890), from Old Marlborough Road looking southeast at intersection with present Williams Road, by Alfred W. Hosmer, courtesy of Concord Free Public Library

Journal references: **1851** October 8 (indirectly), November 21 (indirectly); **1852** April 18 (indirectly), September 26; **1853** April 9 (indirectly), June 14 (indirectly), September 1, 11 (indirectly); **1854** June 7, 18 (indirectly), July 30, August 26, September 16; **1856** May 7, June 10; **1857** February 22, April 29, October 9; **1858** January 18, March 2 (indirectly), April 6; **1860** June 14, 25, September 22 (indirectly).
Dugan’s Meadow -- N 42.44297, W 71.38877 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s only reference to this provides no additional location information. The name of the reference implies that it is a meadow near the residence of Jenny Dugan (shown on the Gleason map). The most likely location is a wetland area behind the Dugan residence through which the Nut Meadow Brook runs. See Dugan Desert for information on the Dugans.


Dugan(s) Spring -- N 42.44304, W 71.38813 (best estimate)
Thoreau provides very few clues for the location of this spring. In his inventory of Concord springs on July 7, 1860, he indicates that this spring is at the base of a hill or bank and on the edge of a meadow. The coordinates above are a best estimate based upon topography, proximity to a wetland and proximity to the Jenny Dugan residence. See Dugan Desert for information on the Dugans.


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 that name for the brook in his Journal.

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

Dwarf Sumach Hill (Knoll, Mountain Sumach Knoll) -- N 42.43556, 71.35913 (best estimate)
This hill or knoll under Fair Haven Hill Thoreau named after the Winged Sumac (Rhus copallinum). The small hill with coordinates above to the west of Fair Haven Hill and beside the Sudbury River is a best estimate. Steve Tobin reports in 2020 that the Winged Sumac is not to be found on this hill due to the dense woodlands there now.

Journal references: 1853 March 30 (indirectly), July 21 (indirectly); 1854 May 24 (indirectly), 31 (indirectly); September 8; 1855 May 27 (indirectly); 1856 April 22, July 31, August 10.

E.[benezer] Hubbard’s Clintonia Swamp -- see Clintonia Swamp

E.[benezer] Hubbard’s Close -- see Hubbard’s Close

E.[benezer] Hubbard’s meadow [in part] -- see Hubbard’s Close

E.[benezer] Hubbard’s meadow [in part] -- N 42.45921, W 71.34923
This single reference at variance with Thoreau’s other uses of the name is explainable by the context and fact that the farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871) lived on Walden Street directly across from the meeting-house (Unitarian Church) on Lexington Road. His house occupied the current site of the U. S. Post office in Concord at the beginning of what is now Hubbard Street. Between his house and the meeting-house was the Mill Brook which would have had a small meadow at the coordinates given above.
E. [benezer] Hubbard's Swamp -- see Clintonia Swamp

approximately N 42.45089, W 71.33692 to N 42.44831, W 71.33979
This woodland was a sizable tract east, northeast and southeast of the Hubbard Close. The exact extent of what Thoreau named E. [benezer] Hubbard’s Wood can be looking at the boundaries of Hubbard’s land using the Walden Woods Webmap. 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 southeast 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 Ebenezer Hubbard that was in the Estabrook Woods. The second use of the name on that date is to the woodland described here.

Journal references: 1852 April 19 (indirectly); 1855 December 3; 1856 May 31 (indirectly); 1857 September 30, October 6, 20, November 25, 28, December 1; 1858 October 14, 18, November 16 (indirectly); 1859 April 9 (indirectly), November 28, 30 (indirectly); 1860 January 13, May 9, October 20 (indirectly), 25, November 2 (indirectly), 26.

Eagle Field
This is a field or pasture with a wall on east side of Conantum overlooking the Sudbury River below (north of) Fair Haven Bay. Thoreau provides insufficient information to pinpoint it beyond this. The eagle is the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus).

Journal references: 1854 April 23 (indirectly); 1856 October 19 (indirectly); 1860 February 28 (wall).

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. It is mostly forested, and mostly owned by Harvard University. Thoreau’s first name for it refers to either the early Concord settler, Thomas Estabrook (ca. 1658 - 1720/1721), or one or more of his descendants (or their spouses) who owned land near or within this part of Concord. It is not known which particular Estabrook Thoreau had in mind, if any, and history does not provide a clear candidate. 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 rizophyllum) 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 May 26, 29, September 21, October 10.

**Easterbrook('s) Place (Easterbrooks's)** -- N 42.49580, W 71.35575 (provided by Steve Tobin)

Thoreau does not describe this place or its exact location in his Journal. But the name has long been associated with cellar holes at the location with coordinates above. On October 20, 1857, Thoreau records that the Easterbrooks Place was owned by Warren Brown. Warren Brown was farmer, Joshua Warren Brown (1819 - 1869). Neil Rasmussen reports that he has a copy of the deed for the cellar holes lot recording its transfer from Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) to Joshua W. Brown in 1849. The site includes the cellar hole of a house and a barn. These cellar holes have sometimes been thought to be from a residence of the early Concord resident, Thomas Estabrook (ca. 1658 - 1720/1721). But Concord deeds show that the Estabrooks of that time lived elsewhere in Concord. The cellar holes are set with mortar (not drylaid) and might be associated with the lime quarry operations that started in the late 1700s not far distant to the south along the Estabrook road (Old Carlisle Road). See entries for Lime Quarries and the Lime Kiln. The land occupied by the cellar holes was owned by members of the Estabrook (Easterbrooks) family about 1790 and might have been used by John Estabrook (1750 - after 1820) as a residence for a short time. But, whatever structures were associated with the cellar holes, they were not in use long. William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) referred to a cellar hole there in a poem in 1845.

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1853 June 10; 1855 January 8, April 26; 1857 May 18, October 20; 1858 April 28; 1859 April 18; 1860 April 14, November 24.

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

The brief description three paragraphs before Thoreau 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 (what Thoreau called simply Island) 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 (see entry for Mantatuket Point).

Egg Rock & Mantakuket Point (1978), by Ray Angelo
Journal references: 1852 June 29, July 8; 1853 March 26; 1854 June 6, 7, August 20; 1855

from Alfred Sereno Hudson’s The History of Concord Massachusetts vol. 1 (1904)
Elfin burial-ground -- N 42.45445, W 71.39085
Thoreau describes this in his only reference to it as a meadow by the Assabet River “completely covered with small hummocks which have lodged on it in the winter, covering it like the mounds in a graveyard at pretty regular intervals.” He also pinpoints the location in his survey of the Thomas Wheeler (ca. 1788 - 1871) house lot of April 30, 1856, on which he labels it “Elfin burial ground”.


Elm Hole -- N 42.44970, W 71.40385 (best estimate)
This is a location on the south side of the Assabet River on the farm of Joseph Harrington, Jr. (1794 – 1877). The coordinates above are a best estimate based on the location of the farm and Thoreau’s description. The elm referred to would be the American Elm (Ulmus americana) common along the rivers in Thoreau’s time.


Emerson's Cliff (Bartlett’s Cliff, Emerson's Cliff Hill, Emerson Hill, R.W.E.’s Cliff, R.W.E.’s Hill, R.W.E.’s Pinnacle) [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 that is 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 March 2, April 2; 1859 June 19, September 25; 1860 June 18, July 20 (indirectly), September 26, November 20, 21.

**Emerson's Island**

Since there is no island owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) in the vicinity of the Fitchburg Railroad where Thoreau uses this term, it is difficult to comprehend it other than in a figurative sense, such as Emerson’s Cliff being like an island, as Thoreau sometimes compares hills to islands (e.g., on September 9, 1851), or in the sense of a refuge of seclusion (since Emerson had contemplated having a cabin or turret built on his Cliff).


**Emerson's wood-lot -- see R. W. E.'s Wood-lot**

**Ermine Weasel Woods**

Thoreau includes this in a list of localities in the Easterbrook’s Woods. Since there is no other occurrence of the name, its location cannot be determined more specifically.


**Estabrook Place/Cellar Hole -- see Easterbrook’s Place**

**Estabrook Woods -- see Easterbrooks Country**

**European Cranberry Swamp -- see Gowing’s Swamp**
**Everett’s Pool (Everett’s Pond, Gourgas Pond-hole, Hosmer’s Pond)** -- N 42.44678, W 71.32634

This is a small body of water that is just south of Lincoln Road (now sandy Pond Road). It was mostly on property owned by editor, legislator Francis Richard Gourgas (1811 - 1853) and then by his heir or widow, Abigail Pierce (Hastings) Gourgas (1817 - 1896). A small piece of it was on the large property owned by farmer Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) giving rise to Thoreau’s first name for the body of water, Hosmer’s Pond. Hosmer’s property was acquired in late 1852 by seedsman George Everett (1825 - 1885). Apparently Thoreau did not become aware that the pool/pond was mostly on the smaller Gourgas land until after June 12, 1856, following which he used only the name Gourgas Pond-hole. Thoreau notes the locally rare Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata) in this pond. The pond does not show up on historic Concord maps or on Gleason’s map. It shows on the first U. S. Geological Survey topographical map (Framingham quadrangle of 1886 which oddly omits the much larger Goose Pond) and later topographic maps, including the Concord GIS Map.

Journal references: 1852 July 6; 1855 June 21; 1856 May 21, June 11, 12; 1858 May 19; 1860 August 17.

**Everett(‘s) Spring (E. Hosmer Spring, E. Hosmer’s dam, Hosmer(‘s) Spring [Edmund Hosmer])**

-- N 42.45090, W 71.32280 (confirmed by Richard Higgins)

The equivalence of Everett’s Spring with Hosmer spring is evident from the May 3, 1858, reference. Seedsman George Everett (1825 - 1885) bought the farm of Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) in late 1852. Thoreau alternated between referring to the spring as that of Everett or of Hosmer.

Journal references: 1856 May 21, 23; 1858 May 3, 16, 19; 1859 March 4; 1860 March 19, July 7 (indirectly).

**Fair Haven Bay -- see Fair Haven Pond**

**Fair Haven Cliff(s) -- see Cliff(s)**

**Fair Haven Hill -- N 42.43637, W 71.35460**

This hill is the second highest in Concord at 346 feet in elevation (behind Annursnack Hill at 365 feet) and was one of Thoreau’s most favored locales in the town. Its proximity to Fair Haven Pond from which its name derives presented to him perhaps the most scenic view from any of the Concord hills. References to the Fair Haven Cliffs are indirect references to the hill are not included here, but are separately listed under Cliffs.

Journal references: 1849 Vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed. (indirectly); 1850 vol. II, page 9, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 66, Princeton ed. [May 12] (indirectly), June 20, October 9, vol. II, page 81, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 128, Princeton ed. (indirectly), November 19 (indirectly), December 8 (indirectly); 1851 April 22, May 18 (indirectly), June 8 (indirectly), 11 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), 13 (indirectly), 14 (indirectly), July 16, August 12, September 10, 14, 20, October 2, 6 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), 15, November 13, December 14 (indirectly), 20, 26, 30; 1852 January 1 (indirectly), 6 (indirectly), 13 (indirectly), 14 (indirectly), 21, 23, February 3, 18, April 11, 17 (indirectly), 19, 28 (indirectly), May 1, 3, 7 (indirectly), 8, 18 (indirectly), June 4 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 11 (indirectly), 15 (indirectly), 25 (indirectly), July 3 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 18, 20, 21 (indirectly), 25, 27, 29 (indirectly), August 2, 8 (indirectly), 12, 19, November 4, 12; 1853 March 10 (indirectly), 22 (-side), 30, April 10 (indirectly) May 9, 17 (indirectly, orchard), 30 (indirectly), June 6, 9 (indirectly), 22, 26, July 24, 26, August 7, 12, 19 (indirectly), November 7 (indirectly), 9, 14, 15, 25; 1854 January 6 (indirectly, orchard), February 12, April 8 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly), May 22, 24.
(indirectly), June 3, 13 (indirectly), 15, 17, 23 (indirectly), 27 (indirectly), July 9, 23, August 14, September 4, 7 (indirectly), 8, 14, 15, December 19; 1855 February 17, 21, 24, March 9 (indirectly), April 18 (-side), May 22, 26, October 22, November 5, 13, 18, December 21; 1856 February 8 (indirectly), 11, 27 (indirectly), April 1, 7 (indirectly), 13, May 25, July 19, 31, August 10, 19, November 30, December 9; 1857 March 3, 29, May 25, July 11, September 17, October 7, 10, 12, November 1, 5, 19, December 4 (indirectly, lot), 7 (indirectly, lot); 1858 February 7 (indirectly, orchard), March 18, 27, 28, April 2, August 18, September 12, 18, October 22, November 2, 9, 10, 30, December 3 (-side), 12; 1859 March 5, April 8, July 29 (shore), August 26, 31, September 14 (-side), 29, October 14, 22, November 8, 15; 1860 January 14, February 8, March 14, May 24, June 4, 8, 18, 30, July 22, October 19, 20 (-side), November 2 (slope), 21, 29, December 1, 2.

Fair Haven Hill, looking northwest to Hubbard’s Bridge at Sudbury River (August 1916), Gleason photo from Through the Year with Thoreau (1917)

**Fair Haven Island/Isle (Birch Island, Pond Island, Witch-Hazel 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 containing the bay 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; 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).
“Fair Haven lies more open and can be seen from more distant points than any of our ponds.” Journal, October 13, 1852.

This body of water is a significant widening in the Sudbury River in the southern part of the town. Its eastern side was in Thoreau’s time a boundary with the town of Lincoln. But now an eastern section of the pond belongs to Lincoln. It is variously called a pond, bay or lake -- officially a bay on government and historic maps (except the 1875 map of Concord where it is named a pond). Thoreau notes on June 4, 1853 that the name “Fair Haven” occurs as early as 1653 in the town records. Not counting the rivers, this expanse of water is surpassed only by Walden Pond in interest to Thoreau.
Journal references: 1838 December 15 (indirectly); 1840 June 30 (indirectly); 1841 January 30; 1845 August 23; 1845 vol. 2, page 210, Princeton ed. (indirectly, mud); 1845-1846 vol. 2, page 141, Princeton ed.; 1846-1847 vol. 2, page 376, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 3, page 27, Princeton ed., December 9, 1849 (Princeton ed.); 1850 vol. II, page 9, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 66, Princeton ed. [May 12], vol. II, page 22, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 75, Princeton ed., November 21, 25 (indirectly), December 4, 8; 1851 January 8, February 14, June 11, 13, July 11, August 5, September 5, 7 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), October 6, 12, 15 (indirectly); 1852 January 4 (indirectly), 5 (indirectly), 14 (indirectly), 25 (indirectly), February 3, 9, 10, 24 (indirectly), March 4, 7, 29, 30, April 4 (indirectly), 14, 15 (indirectly), 16, 17 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), May 5, June 25 (indirectly), July 4 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 18, 20, 25, August 8, 31, September 1, 2 (indirectly), 16, 30, October 2 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), 13, November 1, 21, 23 (indirectly), December 27 (indirectly); 1853 January 21, March 12, 18 (indirectly), 20 (indirectly), 22, May 14, 17, June 4 (indirectly), 18, July 21, August 7, 19 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), October 18 (indirectly), 31 (indirectly), November 6, 9, 11, December 5, 15 (indirectly), 18, 25, 27; 1854 January 6 (indirectly), 30, February 2 (indirectly), 7 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), 20, 24 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly), March 12 (indirectly), 17 (indirectly), 19 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly), 29 (indirectly), April 3 (indirectly), 7 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 13, 23, 26 (indirectly), May 1 (indirectly), 8 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly), June 3 (indirectly), July 1, 11 (indirectly), 17, August 1, 2 (indirectly), 5 (indirectly), 6 (indirectly), 10, 16 (indirectly), 24, 26 (indirectly), September 4, 7, 8, 14 (indirectly), 29, December 11 (indirectly), 20 (indirectly), 21, 31; 1855 January 11, 28, February 24, March 4, 6, 7, 12, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31, April 1, 4, 8, 10, May 27, October 21 (indirectly), December 21; 1856 February 8, 11, 23, 25 (indirectly), 27, March 24, 30, April 2, 7, 8, 13, 17, 22, May 25, July 31, August 26, December 7, 9 (indirectly), 28; 1857 January 15, February 28, March 18 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly), 28 (indirectly), April 22, May 3, 29, September 1, November 1, December 21; 1858 January 4, March 6, 20, 24, 27, 28, 31, April 19, August 5, 7, 19, September 18, 27, October 1 (indirectly, woods), 3, 27, November 10, 18, 24, December 25; 1859 January 16 (indirectly), February 11, 12, 13, 15, March 9, 18, 21, 23, 26, 27, June 22, 24, July 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 22, August 3 (indirectly), September 8, December 9, 13, 26, 29 (footnote); 1860
Farmer's Cliff -- see J. Farmer's Cliff

Farmer's Owl Nest Swamp -- see Owl Nest Swamp

Farmer's Spring -- N 42.47709, W 71.37025 (best estimate)
The farmer Jacob B. Farmer (1801 - 1872) lived at what is now 761 Lowell Road (house still standing), also shown on the Gleason map and the other historic maps of Concord. He owned land on both sides of Lowell Road in the vicinity of his residence. Thoreau's single reference to this spring indicates a meadow to the southwest of it. Wetlands in the vicinity suggest that Thoreau was likely referring to some wetlands about Dodge's Brook. A current road that extends southwestward from about where Farmer's residence was located is named “Indian Spring Road.” The coordinates above are for a location near the end of this short road that topographically would be favorable for a spring.

Journal reference: 1858 May 12.

Farrar's Swamp (Deacon Farrar's meadow, Deacon Farrar's Swamp, Otter Bay) [Lincoln, MA] -- from approximately N 42.41240, W 71.34955 to N 42.41978, W 71.35762
Thoreau's names for this applied to a wetland, and parts of it, that started partway along Deacon Farrar’s brook west of the residence of farmer Deacon James Farrar (1776 - 1867) at Concord Road (Route 126) and extended northwestward across the South Great Road (Route 117) to the Sudbury River. Much of the wetland north of the South Great Road was river meadow which Thoreau referred to as Deacon Farrar’s meadow. In the spring the meadow and swamp and the South Great Road were flooded forming a body of water Thoreau named Otter Bay. This name derives from the March 29, 1853, Journal reference where Thoreau reports three otters being dug out of a woodlot of Deacon Farrar by the side of the swamp by two Sudbury men during the prior winter. The otter is the North American River Otter (Lontra Canadensis), the only otter native to New England. This swamp south of Route 117 was flooded in 1900 to form Farrar Pond.

Journal references: 1853 March 29 (indirectly), May 14, August 23; 1854 May 10; 1855 January 11, February 24; 1856 February 28; 1859 March 27, April 5.

Fever-bush Swamp -- see Botrychium Swamp

First Conantum Cliff -- see Columbine Cliff

First Conantum Hill -- see Conantum Hill, first

Fitchburg Railroad [Concord, MA, Lincoln, MA & other towns] -- from N 42.43415, W 71.34126 to N 42.45596, W 71.41753 (in Concord)
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. In Concord the railroad enters the town at Heywood’s Meadow on the southeast border with Lincoln, passes by the southwest edge of Walden Pond, stops at a depot not far from the town center, then heads almost due west, crossing first the Sudbury River just south of the South Bridge, then the Assabet River just north of the Derby Bridge, and exits the town on the western border with Acton. The references below are only the ones
where the name “Fitchburg” occurs. Any reference in Thoreau’s Journal to a railroad in Concord or
Lincoln refers to this railroad.

1906 ed. & September 1 (Princeton ed.); 1851 January 2 (indirectly); 1856 December 10.

**Flint’s Bridge (North Bridge)** -- N 42.47129, W 71.34986
This bridge is where Monument Street running north from the town center toward Punkatasset Hill
crosses the Concord River. A request had been made in 1748 by landowners in the area to remove the
[Old] North Bridge and replace it with a bridge near Mr. Flint’s house. This was John Flint (1722 -
1792) whose house was just north of the proposed bridge on the west side of the proposed extension of
what would later be named Monument Street. The bridge was constructed about 1793. In Thoreau’s
time Flint’s Bridge was sometimes referred to as North Bridge since a reconstruction of the historic Old
North Bridge at the site of the battle was not done until 1874. The present bridge at the site of Flint’s
Bridge was also constructed in 1874.

Journal references: 1852 April 22, 24, August 3; 1855 February 17; 1856 January 26; 1857
August 29; 1858 September 28, October 1; 1859 March 16, 17; 1860 February 13, 27, March 6,
November 16.

**Flint’s Bridge Lane (Flint’s Bridge road, Gentian Lane)**
This was a small road that ran easterly from Monument Street just south of the Concord River near
Flint's Bridge. It connected to Peter’s Path. Gleason has it correctly marked on his map. The name
Gentian Lane was applied to it later by Thoreau since he found either the Andrews Gentian (Gentiana
andrewsii) or Bottle Gentian (Gentiana clausa) there, the two not distinguished in his time. Most likely
the former species occurred there since two of his three undated herbarium specimens have been
identified as this species.

Journal references: 1852 April 21, 22 (indirectly); 1853 September 2; 1858 September 28.

**Flint Bridge Rock (Burr’s Island, Ostrya Island, Ostrya Rock)** -- N 42.47058, W 71.35084
(provided by Steve Tobin)
This is a dry area surrounded by wetlands with at least one significant rock outcrop (coordinates
above). It is just east of and south of the Concord River near Flint’s Bridge. It forms an island when
the water level of the Concord River is high as in spring flooding. About 1902 the Concord Canoe Club
constructed a boathouse on this land which had become known then as Honeysuckle Island. The
boathouse was taken down about 1908. The Ostrya name derives from the small tree American Hop-
Hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana) that Thoreau found there. The name Burr’s Island apparently relates to
storekeeper and businessman Samuel Burr (1787/1788 - 1831) who owned a house on Monument
Street on the east side at the base of Poplar Hill a short distance south of the Old Manse.
Flint Bridge Rock or Ostrya Rock (April 2020), courtesy of Steve Tobin

Journal references: **1853** October 25; **1856** October 4; **1859** April 18.

**Flint’s Pond [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.43593, W 71.31487

“I go to Flint’s Pond for the sake of the mountain view from the hill beyond, looking over Concord. ... I go to Flint’s Pond also to see a rippling lake and a reedy island in its midst, Reed Island. A man should feed his senses with the best that the land affords.” Journal, September 12, 1851.

This is the largest pond in Lincoln, MA. It is perhaps Thoreau’s favorite locale in Lincoln to visit other Saw Mill Brook. He stayed here briefly in a shanty in 1837 with a Harvard classmate and later wanted to build his house here for his experiment in living alone. But he was denied permission for this by owners, Ephraim Flint (1782 - 1871) and his family, due to his having accidentally set fire to the Fair Haven Woods in 1844. The towns of Concord and Lincoln began using this pond as a water supply in 1874. It is presently the water supply for the town of Lincoln. In early deeds the pond was known as the Great Pond or Mr. Flint’s Pond, after the early family who owned land there eastward from the brook that flows at its southeast corner. Even before Thoreau’s time it was sometimes called as Sandy Pond for its sandy bottom, and named as such on maps after his time. But in 1986 (at the request of the Flint family) the name reverted to Flint’s Pond and was changed on U.S. Geological Survey Maps and Lincoln town documents.
Flint’s Pond Island [Lincoln, MA] (Reed Island, Sassafras Island) -- N 42.43328, W 71.31630
In Lincoln, MA this is a very small island off the western shore of Flint’s Pond towards the southern end. Thoreau names it only once as Sassafras Island after the tree, Sassafras (Sassafras albidum). He also refers to it once as Reed Island after an unnamed sedge (or sedges).

Journal references: 1851 September 12; 1859 December 22, 24.

Flint’s Pond road (Lincoln road) [Concord/Lincoln MA] -- from N 42.45175, W 71.32922 to N 42.42584, W 71.30390
This is the road that runs from the Cambridge Turnpike in Concord into Lincoln passing by the southwest corner of Flint’s Pond before it ends in the center of Lincoln. This road is presently known as Sandy Pond Road in both towns. Another road running from the southwest into the center of Lincoln from Wayland is presently known as Lincoln Road.
Journal references: 1851 June 22, September 12; 1852 January 24, August 21, September 18 (indirectly), October 15; 1853 December 30; 1854 July 13; 1857 August 31, September 18, 23; 1860 September 24.

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

Forget-me-not Shore -- N 42.45750, 71.36560 (approximate)
Thoreau describes the location of this shore on the east side of the Sudbury River in his indirect reference to it on January 20, 1856. The name refers to the wildflower Smaller Forget-me-not (Myosotis laxa).

Journal references: 1856 January 20 (indirectly); 1860 June 11.

Fort Pond Bridge -- N 42.45889, W 71.39732
This is the bridge that crosses what Thoreau considered to be the Fort Pond Brook close to Loring’s Lead Works. Presently it is where Commonwealth Avenue crosses this brook, generally now considered to be Nashoba Brook. See entry for Fort Pond 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 joins the Nashoba Brook coming from Acton from the north and west. Thoreau’s reference to the Fort Pond Bridge at Loring’s [Lead Works] indicates that the continuation of the brook after the joining of the Nashoba Brook and Fort Pond Brook was considered then to be the Fort Pond Brook rather than the Nashoba Brook. Modern maps generally treat the continuation to be the Nashoba Brook. 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.


Fox Castle Swamp -- N 42.48812, W 71.36502 (approximate center)
This is a swamp north of Farmer’s Cliff and south of Bateman’s Pond, about halfway between them. Thoreau was told by Stedman Buttrick (1796 - 1874) that this was the name of the swamp and that it is “a great place for foxes.” According to Neil Rasmussen, a 1729 probate inventory of John Bateman (1679 - 1729) lists “a 10 acre lot near fox castle swamp,” and in 1877 a deed for an 18 acre lot that included part of this swamp was called “the fox castle lot.” It is the swamp Thoreau describes next to Cornel Rock (shortly before he learned its name from Buttrick). Gleason for his map mistakenly equates this swamp with the Owl-Nest Swamp. The common fox in Concord in Thoreau’s time was the Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes). Thoreau refers to the Gray Fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) only once in his Journal as a rarity found in neighboring Lincoln. The Gray Fox was rare in the area since it prefers forests, and the landscape around Concord in Thoreau’s time was much more open than presently.

Journal references: 1857 September 4 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), October 27; 1858 November 7.
**Fox Path** -- N 42.43361, W 71.34587 and N 42.43291, W 34684 (bottoms of two hollows)
This was an indistinct trail on the bottoms of two neighboring hollows along the southeast side of the two larger Andromeda Ponds thought by Thoreau to be used by wild animals, and dubbed as “Fox Path” by his good friend and walking companion, poet William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901).

Journal reference: **1858** September 19.

**Fox Path Hollow (Sedge Hollow)** -- N 42.43361, W 71.34587
This is the larger of the two hollows on the southeast side of the two larger Andromeda Ponds. See entry for Fox Path. Thoreau identifies the sedge in this hollow as Carex siccata.

Journal references: **1857** March 26 (indirectly); **1858** September 19; **1860** June 8.

**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 (labeled as S. H. Rhoades) is shown on the 1852 map of Concord by H. F. Walling 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.
Journal references: **1859** July 5, 8, December 28.

**Fringed Gentian Meadow** -- N 42.47035, W 71.38042 (best estimate)
Based on Thoreau’s indirect reference to this on November 14 and his association of it with the Assabet River on September 14, 1854, this meadow was in the vicinity of the residence of farmer Prescott Barrett (1788 - 1861) and near the Assabet River but not right by it, since the Fringed Gentian (Gentianopsis crinita) does not grow in river meadows proper. The above coordinates fit these requirements.

Journal references: **1853** November 14 (indirectly); **1854** September 14.

**Frosty Hollow(s)**
Thoreau identifies these as hollows near Ripple Lake, also called by him Little Goose Pond. His survey of Goose Pond lots done in December 1857 shows a string of hollows extending approximately northwestward from this small body of water toward Walden Street. However, the construction of Route 2, a landfill by Route 2 and the filling in of that landfill have completely obliterated the small pond and the hollows.
Frosty Poplar Hollow -- see Holbrook Hollow

Further stone bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

G. [eorge] Barrett's Meadow (G. M. Barrett's Bay) -- N 42.46864, W 71.38657
The Barrett referred to is farmer George M. Barrett (1794 - 1873), who lived near where College Road meets the present Barrett's Mill Road. Thoreau's April 8, 1855, Journal entry indicates that this meadow is by the Assabet River and borders a road, in this case the present day Barrett's Mill Road that runs southward from Barrett's residence. G. M. Barrett’s Bay was this meadow when flooded by the Assabet River. This meadow appears to include or be adjacent to what Thoreau elsewhere called Shadbush Meadow, and possibly Glade Meadows.

Journal references: 1855 March 1, April 8.

G. [eorge] M. Barrett’s Bay -- see G. Barrett’s Meadow

Garlic Wall
The “garlic” referred to is Wild Garlic (Allium canadense). Thoreau provides insufficient information to locate this wall exactly. The references below and other references to garlic in the same area indicate that the wall was in the general area of the Assabet Bathing Place and Pokelogan, most likely on the northern side of the Assabet River.

Journal references: 1854 June 6 (indirectly), 15.

Gentian Lane -- see Flint's Bridge Lane

Gentian Shore
Thoreau does not provide sufficient clues to determine the location of this shore other than it is along the Assabet River, apparently between the Leaning Hemlocks and the Pokelogan. The name Gentian Shore derives either from the Andrews Gentian (Gentiana andrewsii) or Bottle Gentian (Gentiana clausa), the two not distinguished in his time, most likely the former species since two of his three undated herbarium specimens have been identified as this species. Thoreau used the common name Soapwort Gentian for these two gentians.

Journal reference: 1858 September 25.

Gerardia quercifolia Path
From Thoreau’s description of this path in his Journal on August 7, 1853, it was (or is) a steep path beneath Fair Haven Cliff on the southwestern or southern side of Fair Haven Hill. Of the existing trails the one closest to the summit is the most likely candidate. The wildflower referred to, Gerardia quercifolia, is now known as Aureolaria flava, sometimes called Smooth Yellow False Foxglove.

Journal references: 1853 August 7 (indirectly); 1856 July 31; 1860 May 15.

Geum Meadow -- see Brown’s Meadow
Glade Meadows
The few clues Thoreau provides for this location in his single tentative reference to it suggest that it is likely what he subsequently referred to as Shadburn Meadow. The meadows had much shadbush (Amelanchier sp.) and were encountered on his way to the Assabet Bathing Place after starting out along the Union Turnpike (with its two stone bridges).


Golden Horn
The location of this place was along the Assabet River between Egg Rock and approximately the Assabet Bathing Place (about where Thoreau would have left the Assabet River to reach Annursnack Hill). Since the Golden Horn is a reference to the primary inlet (estuary) of the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey, Thoreau most likely refers to what he also calls Pokelogan, the only significant inlet along the stretch of the Assabet just described. Thoreau’s use of this name in his poem “The Freshet” in the Journal on February 24, 1840, does not likely refer to the same place.


Good Fishing Bay -- N 42.44467, W 71.36932
Thoreau’s description on January 27, 1860, allows the pinpointing of this very small “bay.” It is on the north side of the Sudbury River between Hubbard’s Bridge and the shore downstream where Hubbard’s Grove comes right to the river - “the warm wood-side” which faces southwest and south. Also, “where the old settler was drowned when crossing on the ice a hundred years ago” refers to the drowning of Nathan Hosmer (1740 - 1777) on December 25, 1777 on his way from the town center to his home (the house that later became known as the Conantum house). This was before the construction of Hubbard’s Bridge. The spot was northwest of the future site of that bridge.


Goose Pond -- N 42.44316, W 71.33123
As Thoreau notes on June 4, 1853, the name of this pond dates back to early colonial times in Concord. On November 30, 1857, he comments that it is well-named from his experience on that day. Although this is a rather small pond it is the fourth largest natural pond in Concord behind Walden, White and Bateman’s Ponds, not counting Fair Haven Bay as a pond.
Goose Pond (May 2013), courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey

Journal references: 1837 October 29; 1845-1847 vol. 2, page 141, Princeton ed., vol. 1, page 422, 1906 ed. & vol. 2, page 214, Princeton ed.; 1850 November 8; 1851 August 21, September 12, 29, October 10; 1852 March 12, May 25, July 6, 24, December 13, 27; 1853 March 7, 20, June 4, July 17, September 2, November 15, December 4, 8; 1854 January 13, February 16, 21, March 6, 24, April 25, June 1, 21; 1855 January 2, March 21, 29, April 16, May 26, June 8; 1856 February 29, March 1; 1857 February 4, April 25, 30, October 27, November 25, 30, December 13, 25, 27, 31; 1858 January 10, February 8, May 16, July 31, August 31, October 25, November 26; 1859 April 9; 1860 January 17, February 16, March 17, 23, May 9, June 19, September 23, November 23, 29; 1861 March 11, April 16.

Goose Pond Path -- from N 42.44194, W 71.33715 to N 42.44431, W 71.32934 (best estimate)
This is most likely the path that Thoreau marks on his December 1857 survey of Goose Pond lots marked “R. T. S.” It begins at Heywood’s Peak and runs northeasterly crossing Walden Street and passing between Little Goose Pond and Goose Pond after which it approximately runs along the ridge that parallels the north shore of Goose Pond. The coordinates above are for where Thoreau states in his Journal on June 11, 1856, that the path begins at Walden road and ends where it stops based on his survey. This path is very likely the same one he calls Ingraham Path. See entry for that path.

Journal references: 1856 June 1, 11; 1857 May 1.

Gourgas pond-hole -- see Everett’s Pool

Gowing’s Swamp (European Cranberry Swamp, Vaccinium Oxycoccus 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 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 farmer Jabez Gowing Jr. (1793 - 1870) who lived nearby on Lexington Road. Thoreau uses the name European Cranberry Swamp for this bog once (in 1855), for the Small Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus), after finding this for the first time in Concord in this bog on August 23, 1854.

Gowing’s Swamp (September 2015), courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey

Journal references: **1854** February 17, August 7, 22, 23, September 23; **1855** June 10; **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 42.46408, W 71.37435

Thoreau christens this swamp with poet 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 Bower** (grape-vine bower) -- N 42.46597, W 71.36404 (best estimate)
The clues left by Thoreau for this location indicate that it is along the Assabet River shortly below the Assabet Spring. The coordinates above are a best estimate given the location of the spring and the topography near it. The grape referred to is most likely the Fox Grape (Vitis labrusca), the common wild grape in Concord in Thoreau’s time.

Journal references: **1853** May 21; **1857** May 21.

**Grape Cliff** (Grape-vine Cliff) -- N 42.43065, W 71.35712 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s first Journal 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 above. The particular grape referred to was the Summer Grape (Vitis aestivalis), a species uncommon in Concord, that Thoreau notes finding there on September 29, 1856.

Journal references: **1851** September 10; **1854** February 19, September 24; **1856** September 29; **1859** September 18.

**Grape Shore**
Thoreau refers to visiting this shore on the day before (May 23, 1857) when he was on the Sudbury River visiting Holden’s Swamp and Miles Swamp. The latter swamp is not far from Grape Cliff on the opposite (east) side of the river. Thus, the Grape Shore is almost certainly the shore of the Sudbury River at Grape Cliff.


**Grassy Ditch** (Hosmer’s early ditch, Hosmer’s grassy ditch)
There is insufficient information to locate this exactly other than what Thoreau notes about it – near a spring owned by John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) south of Nut Meadow Brook. The location of the spring is unknown. The grass referred to that Thoreau tentatively calls Glyceria fluitans does not occur in Concord. The specimen in his herbarium that he labels as this (collected on a different date and place in Concord) has been identified as Floating Manna-grass (Glyceria septentrionalis).

Journal references: **1859** March 3, 10; **1860** March 18.

**Great Bend** -- see Holt
Thoreau uses this only once to refer to a particular location in Concord (July 5, 1859, Journal). Other references to “great bend” in the Journal are to locations outside of Concord and Lincoln, or just in a descriptive sense.

**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.

Journal references: **1841** April 4; **1849** vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; **1850** November 9; **1851** July 14; **1852** March 15, July 6, 17; **1853** March 13, May 29, June 10, July 5, 29, August 9, 18, September 8; **1854** August 18, September 13, November 18; **1855** February 18, March 2, May 24, October 16; **1856** January 10, August 1 (indirectly), 18, 30, December 12; **1857** February 25, September 10, October 13; **1858** March 2, August 11, 20, 26, September 28, October 3, November 9; **1859** March 13, September 12; **1860** March 24, June 22, July 7, November 26.

**Great Hubbard Meadow** -- see **Cyanean Meadow**

**Great Meadow(s) (Concord, MA)** -- N 42.47798, W 71.33140 (approximate center in Thoreau’s time)

The Great Meadows in Concord on the southeast side of the Concord River are one in a series of large meadows along the Sudbury and Concord Rivers primarily in the towns of Wayland, Sudbury, Concord, Bedford, Carlisle and Billerica. The greater part of these are included in the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge with headquarters in Sudbury. In Thoreau’s time these meadows were open and used for harvesting hay and grazing of cattle – such meadows being one of the features that attracted colonists to Concord. In 1928 attorney Samuel Hoar (1887 - 1952), great grandson of the noted Concord attorney and politician of the same name in Thoreau’s time, purchased part of these meadows in Concord and subsequently made earthen dams and dikes to hold water in the meadows permanently to encourage water fowl there for hunting. These structures continue in the current refuge such that the meadows are presently unlike what Thoreau knew.

![Great Meadows](image_url)
Great Meadows (looking north), (June 1974), by Ray Angelo

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1850 December 24; 1851 July 2, August 23, September 27, October 15; 1852 January 16, March 15, April 10, 14, 21, June 16, 23, July 8, August 2, 3, September 18, October 7, 28; 1853 April 7, July 29, August 5, 20; 1854 January 31, February 7, March 9, 14, 25, April 10, August 6, 7, 15, 18, 22, 28, September 23, December 11; 1855 January 6, 15, 26, 30, February 18, March 2, 3, 8, 12, 26, April 15, 16, October 18, 20; 1856 April 7, 14, 17, 25, July 11, August 1, 25, December 3; 1857 March 14, April 24, June 27, October 16, November 3, December 6; 1858 January 29, February 18, March 25, 29, April 3, 7, May 10, 27, 28, June 15, August 15, 24, 25, 26, September 18, October 4, 5, November 8, December 12 (footnote); 1859 January 19, March 13, 16, 28, April 13, 28, June 16, July 5, 7, 9, 22, 26, August 3, 9, 21, December 23, 25; 1860 January 13, 19, 26, February 27, March 3, 4, 16, April 25, May 4, 23, June 7, 17, 22, July 3, 11 (footnote), 16, 19, August 10, 13, 17 (pools).

Great Meadow(s) (great Sudbury meadow, Sudbury meadow(s)) [Sudbury, MA] -- N 42.39334, W 71.37683
These are the meadows along the western side of the Sudbury River that are part of the series of large meadows along the Sudbury and Concord Rivers described in the preceding entry. The Sudbury meadows presently are more like what Thoreau knew in his time than the Great Meadows in Concord.

Journal references: 1852 April 2, July 18; 1854 September 14; 1859 July 9.

Great Road [east Concord] -- see Boston Road

Great Road [Nine Acre Corner] -- from N 42.42020, W 71.36457 to N 42.41896, W 71.38283 (in Concord)
This road is what it is now known as Route 117 or the Fitchburg Turnpike and passes through the southernmost tip of Concord, part of the Nine Acre Corner locale. In Lincoln it is also known as South Great Road.
Great road [Walden Woods]
Since Thoreau’s use in this Journal reference is in lower case it might simply be descriptive rather than use as a name. But the reference can only be to Walden Road, the only significant road passing through the Walden Woods in Thoreau’s time.


Grindstone Meadow -- N 42.44207, W 71.36986 (best estimate)
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 farmer 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.

Journal references: 1858 August 30; 1859 March 3; 1860 February 12, April 27, September 17.

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.

Journal references: 1852 May 5; 1855 May 3; 1858 October 10; 1860 October 14.

Hadlock Meadows -- see Brooks Meadow

Hardhack Meadow -- N 42.45746, W 71.36675 (best estimate)
Thoreau refers to this as the meadow where the first bridge (in Concord) was built. That bridge was Wood’s Bridge (South Bridge) where Main Street crosses the Sudbury River. There is a large meadow southward on the west side of the Sudbury River that would have included the area of the bridge before it was built. Hardhack is the common name for Spiraea tomentosa.


Harrington Bathing-Place
Thoreau does not provide sufficient information to locate this place exactly. All that can be said is that it was along the Assabet River on the property of Joseph Harrington, Jr. (1794 - 1877) who operated a farm by that river in west Concord.

Journal references: 1853 June 14; 1854 June 15.
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 was 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; 1858 March 21 (indirectly); 1860 August 27, 28.

Hawthorn Bridge
Little can be said about this location other than it was between Moore’s Swamp and Beck Stow’s Swamp. Most likely it refers to a part of the relatively new Bedford Road that had to cross a small part of Pedrick’s Meadow between these other two locations. “Hawthorn” refers either to one of several Crataegus species in Concord, or (much less likely) a misspelled, unknown connection to the writer and Concord resident, Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804 - 1864).


Hayden’s Pool (Hayden’s pond-hole) -- N 42.44647, 71.35541 (location of house)
This was a pool behind the house of farmer Elbridge G. Hayden (1819 - 1901), the house also known as the “Pest House” due to its association with the quarantine of smallpox victims during the smallpox outbreak of 1792.

Journal references: 1852 May 8 (indirectly), 1854 April 19; 1858 April 15.

Hayward’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 now known 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 farmer 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

Helianthus Bank -- N 42.46899, 71.36212 (approximate)
The Helianthus refers to Helianthus decapetalus, one of several types of sunflower found in Concord. Thoreau’s first reference to this is as “Hosmer’s bank” along the Assabet River opposite the Azalea Swamp. Hosmer is farmer Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) who at this time lived on Lowell Road and owned most of the land between that road and the Assabet River between Egg Rock and Dove Rock. The approximate location of the bank opposite the Azalea Swamp can be discerned from the topography opposite that swamp by the Assabet River.
Journal references: 1856 August 29 (indirectly); 1858 April 6.

**Hemlocks -- see Leaning Hemlocks**

**Hemlock Brook** -- from N 42.46437, W 71.37450 to N 42.47049, W 71.37450
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. Thoreau 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 grows) along the steep northwest-facing slope along much of the path of this brook.

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

**Hemlock Ditch** -- N 42.46984, W 71.37465 (approximate)
Thoreau’s indirect reference to this on April 1, 1858, places it at Hemlock Brook about a dozen or more rods from the Assabet River.

Journal references: 1858 April 1 (indirectly); 1860 July 7.

**Heron Pool (Button-Bush Pond, Clematis Pond, Nightshade Pond) [Lincoln, MA]** --
N 42.41989, W 71.35038
This is a small pond at the source of Clematis Brook. The heron refers to the Great Blue Heron (Ardea Herodias). Button-Bush refers to Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentailis). Clematis refers to Virgin’s-bower Clematis virginiana). Nightshade here refers to Climbing Nightshade (Solanum dulcamara).

Journal references: 1851 August 20; 1852 April 19 (indirectly), July 9; 1853 April 4; 1858 March 20.

**Heron Rock (Bath Rock)** -- N 42.46436, W 71.35861 (provided by Steve Tobin)
The heron is the Great Blue Heron (Ardea Herodias). The rock is in the Sudbury River a short ways upriver from the Island (which includes Egg Rock at the juncture of the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers). Thoreau marks this rock on his survey of the Lee Farm of December 3, 1856, to January 1, 1857.

![Heron Rock](image)

Heron Rock (June 2020), courtesy of Steve Tobin

Journal references: 1855 October 29 (indirectly); 1858 April 6 (indirectly), May 13, August 29; 1860 April 25, September 13.
Heywood’s Blueberry Swamp -- N 42.46725, W 71.34310 (approximate middle of swamp on Heywood’s land east side)
From Thoreau’s description of this swamp on July 29, 1853, and the apparent border of the property (now subdivided) of farmer Abel Barrett Heywood (1805 - 1859) who resided according to historic Concord maps on the east side of Monument Street at about what is now 140 Monument Street, this swamp can be discerned from the configuration of wetlands and topography on a current Concord GIS Map. It is a narrow swamp northwest of Moore’s Swamp that curves along the southern and eastern borders of what would have been Heywood’s property.

Journal references: 1853 July 29 (indirectly), August 9.

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 Fitchburg railroad and runs to Fair Haven Bay, all within Lincoln, MA. The name Heywood’s Brook derives from its sources, the meadow and that meadow’s spring. On January 25, 1852, Thoreau notes his walking companion poet 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 Clearing
This is a clearing by Heywood’s Peak at Walden Pond. Given the topography around the peak, the clearing would be just to the north or just to the southeast of the peak.


Heywood’s Meadow (Howard’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 derives from John Heywood (ca. 1634 - 1701) his descendants with his last name who owned land that included all or part of this bog continuously from 1665 to 1832. The greater part of this bog became part of the Walden Pond reservation due to the donation of the land by Ralph Waldo Emerson’s grandson, Raymond Emerson (1886 - 1977) in 1955. The reason for Thoreau’s occasional, intentional use of “Howard’s Meadow” is not apparent. The only survey that Thoreau did that includes most of this meadow does not mention any Howard. The 1850 U. S. Census shows only one person with last name Howard residing in Concord, a young man born in Ireland. It is possible that Thoreau associated this meadow at times with one of the Irish families known to live near the railroad close to the meadow.
Heywood's Meadow Brook -- see Heywood's Brook

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 Jonathan Heywood (1717 - 1774) and his heirs of the same last name who from 1762 to 1922 owned the parcel with this peak. 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 peat meadow -- N 42.45650, W 71.34122 (best estimate)
Thoreau describes this as a pool in a peat [sphagnous] meadow south of, but close to, the Cambridge Turnpike that he visited the previous day. His itinerary the previous day started along the Turnpike
and from there to Hubbard’s Close. The current Concord GIS Map shows a wetland close to the Turnpike on the south side on the way to Hubbard’s Close with coordinates above. Whether any Heywood owned this land has not been determined. Another piece of meadow or marsh by the Turnpike on the south somewhat more eastward down the road was not owned by any Heywood.


**Heywood’s Pond** -- see *Hayward’s Pond*

**Heywood Shore**
From Thoreau’s listing of places along the Concord River on August 15, 1858, this was a shore not far downstream from the site of the Old North Bridge probably on the southern shore. It is uncertain which Heywood is referred to, but it is most likely to be Abel Barrett Heywood (1805 – 1859) who lived on Monument Street south of Flint’s Bridge.

Journal reference: **1858** August 15.

**Heywood Spring** -- N 42.43515, W 71.34177 (provided by Richard Higgins)
Judging from Thoreau’s itineraries on the days he refers to this spring, it is the one on the northwest side of Heywood’s Meadow that is known to feed into that bog.

Heywood Spring (May 2020), courtesy of Richard Higgins

Journal references: **1856** May 15, 23; **1859** June 29 (indirectly).

**Hibiscus Bank** -- N 42.47504, 71.34248 (best estimate)
The Hibiscus refers to Swamp Rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) which historically has been found sparingly in Concord only along the Concord River below the Old North Bridge to Great Meadows (where it still survives). Thoreau does not pinpoint the location of this bank other than to indicate that it was on the land of farmer Nathan Barrett (1796 - 1868) who lived on Punkatasset Hill (at what is now 775 Monument Street). The bank then would be on the land southeast of his residence along the north shore of the Concord River. The coordinates above are a best estimate based on the topography which shows only one spot where the land in front of this property slopes right to the river.
Journal references: 1852 August 16 (indirectly), 18; 1860 September 5 (indirectly).

**Hill (in part) -- see Nashawtuc**

**Hill Landing (old bridge landing) --** N 42.46002, W 71.36303 (best estimate)
This is the site of the first bridge over the Concord rivers -- crossing the Sudbury River according to Concord historian Lemuel Shattuck at a point of land by “Lees Hill,” a little to the easterly of Nashawtuc Hill. This bridge was washed away in 1665 to be replaced by a series of bridges at the site of the current South Bridge a short distance upstream. Wetlands mapping on the Concord GIS Map shows a piece of dry, level land just to the east of the summit of Nashawtuc Hill that extends right to the river at the coordinates above that is likely at or near the site of this old bridge.

Journal references: 1853 May 28; 1854 May 28 (indirectly); 1860 June 21.

**Hill Shore --** N 42.46053, W 71.36478 (best estimate)
The hill refers to Nashawtuc Hill. The shore most likely refers to the place where its slope comes closest to the Sudbury River which is at about the coordinates above. Another reference to “the hill shore north of Dodd’s” on April 28, 1858, was near Nashawtuc Hill north of the residence of broker Jonathan Moore Dodd (1801 - 1885) on Main Street, to the east of the coordinates above and not likely passed by Thoreau boating with his sister on May 1, 1855.


**Hog Pasture --** N 42.50320, W 71.36017 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s first references to this are to a historic place that would be some dry area along the Concord/Carlisle town line in the Estabrook Woods. Thoreau’s references to it on June 10, 1853, and later are to an existing hog pasture in the Estabrook Woods. He places this a half mile east of “the last house” [in Concord or Carlisle along Lowell Road]. This happens to place the hog pasture that Thoreau saw at a locale consistent with the historic location.

Journal references: 1851 September 19, 21; 1853 June 10, December 28 (indirectly); 1859 October 3.

**Hogepen-walke**
Thoreau cites this colonial reference from Lemuel Shattuck’s “History of the Town of Concord” (1835) which refers to a hog pasture somewhere in the vicinity of Annursnack Hill. Gleason places this on the north slope of Annursnack Hill on his map. But the basis for that particular placement is not known.


**Holbrook Hollow (Frosty Poplar Hollow, Holbrook Poplar Hollow, Holbrook Road Hollow)**
-- N 42.47092, W 71.32971 (best estimate)
The name derives from hotel keeper Joseph Holbrook (1797 – 1884) who evidently owned land in the vicinity of Great Meadows and Copan. On June 7, 1860, Thoreau describes this hollow as between the Great Meadows and Beck Stow’s Swamp. He also describes it as more open on the northern and southern ends. Review of the topography of this area reveals only two hollows with only one of them more open on the northern and southern ends. Coordinates for the center of this hollow are above. Thoreau identifies the poplars/aspen on June 7, 1860, as Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides).
Journal references: 1858 August 20; 1860 May 16 (indirectly), 25 (aspens), June 7, 8, 22.

Holbrook’s Swamp
The location of this swamp belonging to hotel keeper Joseph Holbrook (1797 – 1884) cannot be determined other than to say that it was in the Great Meadows according to Thoreau and likely near the Copan according to his other references to Holbrook property.


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 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 farmer 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 September 28 (indirectly); December 25 (indirectly); 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 -- see Holden Wood(s)

Holden Wood(s) (Conant’s Grove, Holden Swamp Woods) -- N 42.43854, W 71.36454 (northeast), N 42.43621, W 71.36224 (southeast), N 42.43607, W 71.36888 (west) – all estimates
From Thoreau’s Journal references it can be surmised that these woods mostly surrounded Holden’s Swamp bounded on the east by the Sudbury River, to the north by Conant’s field, to the south by the Arrowhead Field (which is north of Miles Swamp) and to the west by a “large hillside stubble-field.” This hillside is likely that included in the curved segment of the current Holden Wood Road. The coordinates above attempt to estimate three edges of this area (northeast, southeast and west).
Thoreau does not appear to distinguish these woods from the “Holden Swamp Woods” since the woods described above surround this swamp. Thoreau’s references to the Holden wood-lot are to a parcel of land in another part of the town (Nut Meadow Brook). The Holden referred to is farmer 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. “Conant’s Grove” is Thoreau’s earliest name for this woodland after Ebenezer Conant (1780 - 1868) who owned much land in this vicinity and appears to have sold a portion of it including Holden’s Swamp and the surrounding Holden Wood to Tilly Holden.

Journal references: 1851 August 31, September 9, 28; 1853 November 6 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 14; 1854 August 12, 14; 1855 April 30, May 7, 26; 1856 April 22, May 11, 18; 1857 October 18; 1858 March 18, May 9; 1859 March 5, April 30, May 4, October 4; 1860 January 14, February 12, March 4, May 5, November 1.

Holden’s Wood-lot -- N 42.44668, W 71.38064 (best estimate)
This was a wood-lot belonging to farmer Tilly Holden (1786 – 1860) that was surveyed by Thoreau on December 9, 1854. It was a lot of about 7.5 acres south of Nut Meadow Brook.

Journal references: 1855 April 13, June 1.

Hollowell Bridge -- see Hubbard’s Bridge

Hollowell Place - N 42.44107, W 71.37282 (best estimate)
Gleason places the location of this on his map by the Sudbury River a bit north of two houses, one occupied by Bradley Puffer (1811 – 1858) and the other by farmer William Wheeler (1806 - 1864). Gleason’s photograph of June 1917 shows a residence that was built about 1900 (at 846 Sudbury Road), somewhat west of and up the slope from the location on his map. 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 them 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. According to property deeds Sarah Hollowell acquired the property by gift from her mother, Sarah Melven, in January 1820. The property in the southern part of Concord had a house with about 10 acres of land including frontage of about 47 meters on the Sudbury River. In July 1829 Sarah sold her interest in the land to Samuel Green Hollowell (1801-1870), possibly a stepson, retaining use of the land for the rest of her life. The land at that time included a house and barn, the same river frontage, and an additional adjacent 12 acres from her mother. In July 1835 Samuel sold the 22 acres with house and barn to the Middlesex Institution for Savings for 300 dollars to be paid within two years. It is evident that Sarah and husband Benjamin had vacated the property before this sale even though both were still alive. 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 on his having previously seen the house on his earliest voyages up the river (which would have been in the period 1830-1836). Thoreau’a 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 neighbor 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. Thoreau 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). This latter reference by Thoreau is in agreement both with Gleason’s placement on his map and the location of the house built about 1900. It is most likely that the Hollowell buildings were either at the same site as the residence built in 1900 photographed by Gleason, or on the same property closer to the river. Gleason associates the Hollowell Place residence in his 1917 photo with William P.
Lyman. But there appears to be no evidence of such a person residing in Concord or owning this property before or at that time.

Holt, the (Great Bend) -- N 42.48208, W 71.33113
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 at 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.

Holt Bend
This is simply the course of the Concord River around the Holt.
Holt Ford
This refers to a passage across the Holt bypassing the Holt Bend in the Concord River. Such a passage would be all water only at times of high river levels.


Hornbeam Cape -- N 42.47099, W 71.35097
This is the rounded extension of land into the Concord River at Flint Bridge Rock (Ostrya Island). The name Hornbeam here refers to the tree American Hop-Hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana) which was present on the dry part of this peninsula in Thoreau’s time.

Journal reference: 1858 August 15.

Horse-skull Meadow -- N 42.46395, W 71.37249
This is a meadow adjacent to Grackle Swamp both of which are at the head of Hemlock Brook west of Nashawtuc Hill. The name likely derives (with some imagination) from the shape of the meadow, or possibly from an anecdote Thoreau relates on November 27, 1853, about a man who built a bower near a dead horse to hide within to shoot crows.


Hosmer Desert -- see J. Hosmer(s) Desert

Hosmer(s) Ditch (J. Hosmer ditch, John Hosmer’s ditch) -- N 42.45224, W 71.37123
This is a ditch by Clamshell Hill by the Sudbury River according to Thoreau’s early references to it. The remnant of such a ditch in the river meadow leading to the river just east of Clamshell Hill can be seen on aerial photographs such as one of 2016. The coordinates above are for the center of this ditch. The name derives from farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) who lived nearby and owned land in this vicinity by the Sudbury River.

Journal references: 1853 March 10, 20, May 6, September 12, November 3; 1854 April 2, September 6.

Hosmer’s early ditch -- see Grassy Ditch

Hosmer Flat Meadow -- see Clamshell Meadow

Hosmer’s Flat shore -- N 42.45304, W 71.37002 (approximate middle of shore)
This is a level dry shore northeast of Clamshell Hill by the Sudbury River. The name derives from farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) who lived nearby and owned land in this vicinity by the Sudbury River.

Journal references: 1854 September 4 (indirectly); 1856 July 8, August 3 (indirectly); 1860 June 15.

Hosmer’s gap -- see Money-diggers’ Hollow
Hosmer's Gorge -- see Money-diggers' Hollow

Hosmer's grassy ditch -- see Grassy Ditch

Hosmer's Pond -- see Everett's Pool

Hosmer's Spring [Edmund Hosmer] -- see Everett's Spring

Hosmer's Spring [John Hosmer] -- N 42.45151, W 71.37671 (approximate)
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 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 references: 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.

House-leek Rock -- N 42.47061, W 71.39518 (best estimate)
Thoreau finds this on a rock in a field on the farm of Jesse Hosmer (ca. 1790 - 1871) between “Cox’s and Heywood’s”. The farm was approximately south of Annursnack Hill. Thoreau did a survey of the Jesse Hosmer farm in the spring of 1850. On that survey the property border of “Shaw & Cox” is shown on a western side, and the property boundary of John Hayward (1793 - 1878) is shown on the opposite east side. That farm comprised most of what is presently the Northeast Correctional Center near the rotary in West Concord adjacent to and north of what is now Barrett’s Mill Road. The property boundaries of the middle and southern sections of the farm persist to this day. Thoreau’s reference to “house-leek brook” in this area on September 2, 1856, suggests it was near a brook. The reference on September 13, 1858, to “Heywood’s [Hayward’s] potato-field” being 50 rods west of the house-leek, and on July 22, 1860, to “Heywood’s [Hayward’s] pasture west of the leek” makes sense only if Hayward had acquired the Shaw & Cox property to the west. The coordinates above consider all this information. The name derives from the European wildflower Hens-and-chickens (Sempervivum tectorum), often called House-leek, a name sometimes used for another Eurasian wildflower. Thoreau notes the children’s name “hen and chickens” on August 5, 1856.

Journal references; 1852 December 18 (indirectly); 1853 May 8 (indirectly), 10 (indirectly); 1854 June 2 (indirectly); 1856 May 28, August 5; 1857 October 12 (indirectly); 1858 September 13 (indirectly); 1860 July 22 (indirectly).

Howard’s Meadow -- see Heywood’s Meadow
**Hubbard Bath Swamp** -- N 42.45243, W 71.36676 (best estimate)

Thoreau provides no information about this swamp other than in the name indicating it is close to Hubbard’s Bathing Place. The coordinates are for the swamp closest to the bathing place (east of it).

Journal references: 1856 August 31; 1859 June 15.

**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 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 close 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, 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 slightly 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 blueberry swamp** -- see Hubbard’s Swamp

**Hubbard’s Bridge (Corner Bridge [in part], Hollowell Bridge, 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 what was considered the Nine-Acre Corner part of town, unlike Hubbard’s Bridge).

Instances where Thoreau refers to Hubbard’s 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. According to Concord historian Ruth Wheeler this bridge was first built in 1802. The single reference to this as the Hollowell Bridge on August 7, 1858, is puzzling, but no other bridge fits the context.

Hubbard’s Bridge
Gleason colorized photo from limited 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal
View from Hubbard’s Bridge southeast (Sudbury River upstream), Fair Haven Hill in center distance, Holden Woods in distance at right (August 1916), Gleason photo from Through the Year with Thoreau (1917)

View from Hubbard’s Bridge northwest (Sudbury River downstream), Hubbard Grove in distance center right (August 1916), Gleason photo from Through the Year with Thoreau (1917)

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), August 31 (indirectly), December 12 (Corner);
1853 April 3 (Princeton ed.), 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 7, 8, December 25, 29; 1859 January 18, April 25, June 12 (Corner), November 15 (Corner), December 15 (Corner, road); 1860 January 30, February 25, 27 (footnote), February 28, March 4, July 23, April 22 (Corner).

Hubbard’s Bridge causeway (Corner causeway, Deep 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 on the northeast side of it. He uses the name Corner causeway to refer to the name of the road on the causeway, Corner Road. He uses the name Deep Causeway only once on February 12, 1860, while reciting various names along the Sudbury River on his way to and returning from Fair Haven Bay while walking along the ice of the river. The significance of “Deep” is uncertain.

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

Hubbard’s broad meadow -- see Cyanean Meadow

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/Corner 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/Corner 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 above are from the current Concord GIS Map. 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 Sudbury/Corner Road with Hubbard’s Grove in front of him and the brook flowing through the wetland north and northwest of this grove. See also Potter’s Brook, likely Thoreau’s first name briefly for this brook.
Journal references: 1851 June 14 (indirectly), July 23 (indirectly), August 8, September 7 (indirectly), September 28; 1852 April 18, May 30 (indirectly), July 2 (indirectly); 1853 July 26 (indirectly), October 30 (indirectly); 1854 March 17 (indirectly); 1855 March 7 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly), October 22 (indirectly); 1856 November 30 (indirectly); 1857 October 18 (indirectly), November 15 (indirectly); 1859 July 29, August 24 (indirectly)

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

**Hubbard’s Close (Brister’s Meadow, E. Hubbard’s Close, E. Hubbard’s meadow) --** 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 tuberosus) 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.” 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. Thoreau refers to Brister’s Meadow only in 1852 twice. After this he began to use the name Hubbard’s Close in 1853. In addition he records the very uncommon wildflower Polygala cruciata at both places. These circumstances establish the equivalence of these two names.
Journal references: 1852 April 19, 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 14, 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 Crossing -- N 42.44535, W 71.36366
Thoreau’s itinerary at the point he uses this name in his single explicit reference to it strongly suggests that it is the place where the Corner Road crosses Hubbard’s Brook. The coordinates above are for this location.

Journal references: 1852 July 2 (indirectly); 1855 March 7 (indirectly, or possibly Hubbard’s Meadow Bridge), November 5.

Hubbard’s Ditch
Farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) owned extensive land by the Sudbury River north of Hubbard’s Bridge. Thoreau refers to multiple ditches in meadowland in this area on March 7, 1855, April 18 and May 11, 1858, apparently some of these in the Arethusa Meadow as noted on the latter date. On September 12, 1858, Thoreau appears to refer to another Hubbard meadow of multiple ditches in the area. Consequently, the particular ditch referred to as Hubbard’s Ditch cannot be placed with certainty other than that it was likely in or near Arethusa Meadow.

Journal references: 1852 March 28 (indirectly), October 23, 1856 April 28 (plant).

Hubbard’s Dracaena Grove -- N 42.44375, W 71.36652 (approximate)
Thoreau locates the uncommon wildflower Dracaena in Hubbard’s Grove Swamp and near the edge of Hubbard’s lower meadow which are the essentially the same place at the eastern end of Hubbard’s Grove just south of it. The coordinates above are the approximate location. Dracaena is an old genus name for Clintonia. The wildflower referred to is Yellow Clintonia (Clintonia borealis).

Journal references: 1852 June 13 (indirectly); 1853 July 24 (indirectly); 1859 April 25.

Hubbard’s Great Meadow -- see Cyanean Meadow

Hubbard’s Grove (Hubbard’s Meadow Grove, Hubbard’s Wood(s) [in part]) -- from N 42.44456, W 71.36602 to N 42.44627, W 71.36802
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

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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 June 14, August 5, 8 (indirectly), 20, 31, September 3, 7, 11, 24, 25, 28;
1852 March 28, April 11, 16, 19, 29, May 16; 1853 January 1, June 6, 18, July 24 (indirectly),
26, August 7, 21, October 25, November 9; 1854 January 2, 11, March 4, 17, July 23; 1855
February 9, 28, March 3, May 7, June 16, August 21, 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 January 27, February 12, March 8, 15, June 1, 2, August 26, October 7, 19, 29,
November 8.

Hubbard’s Grove Swamp -- N 42.44413, W 71.36782 (approximate)
This maple swamp was on the south side of the Hubbard Grove between it and the Sudbury River. It
was owned by the Charles A. Hubbard (1820 - 1889), son of farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 -
1865), who owned the grove in Thoreau’s time.

Journal references: 1852 June 13, July 1; 1854 March 4 (indirectly); 1855 March 14 (indirectly).

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 Lower Meadow -- N 42.44335, W 71.36831 (approximate)
This is a meadow on the north side of the Sudbury River south of the Hubbard Grove and near
Hubbard’s Bridge. It appears to have been owned by farmer Charles A. Hubbard (1820 - 1889), son
of Cyrus, who owned the maple swamp next to it.

Journal references: 1853 July 24; 1857 June 26 (indirectly).

Hubbard’s Meadow -- N 42.44981, W 71.37142 (approximate center)
This is a large meadow or complex of meadows that belonged to the family of farmer-surveyor Cyrus
Hubbard (1791 - 1865). The large river meadow on the south and eastern side of the Sudbury River
occupies a roughly triangular area opposite Clamshell Hill with two sides of the triangle being the
Sudbury River. The coordinates above are approximately the center of this triangular area. Thoreau
gave names to portions of the meadow such as Arethusa Meadow, Cyanean Meadow, and Skull-cap
Meadow (see entries for these locations).

Journal references: 1851 June 3, August 24, 25, September 11, 20, 25; 1852 April 18, May 30,
June 9, 17, 21, July 2, 7, September 23 (indirectly); 1853 April 10, May 1 (footnote), 13, June 24,
July 26, August 23, November 15, 19, 20; 1854 May 16, June 12, 27, August 21; 1855 March 7, April 10, June 13, 16; 1856 May 18, July 13, 25, October 2; 1857 May 23; 1858 September 12 (ditched); 1859 July 9, August 26 (-side); 1860 January 27, February 5, August 25.

Hubbard meadow blueberry swamp -- see Hubbard’s Swamp

Hubbard’s Meadow Bridge -- N 42.44781, N 71.36921 (best estimate)  
From Thoreau’s indirect reference to this bridge on March 1, 1854 the bridge was northwest of Hubbard’s Grove in the meadows along the course of Hubbard’s Brook in that vicinity which empties into the Sudbury River a short distance to the southwest. The coordinates above are very approximate.

Journal references: 1852 August 11; 1854 March 17 (indirectly); 1855 March 7 (indirectly, or possibly Hubbard’s Crossing), October 22 (indirectly).

Hubbard’s Meadow Grove -- see Hubbard’s Grove  
There is no indication that Thoreau’s single use of this name on September 11, 1851, is other than an early alternate name for Hubbard’s Grove.

Hubbard’s Meadow Path (Hubbard’s meadow wood-path, Hubbard Path)  
There is no indication by Thoreau where in Hubbard’s Meadow this path was other than it was “beyond swimming-place”, that is, south of the Hubbard’s Bathing Place.

Journal references: 1853 August 23 (indirectly); 1854 August 2, 12; 1856 July 13; 1859 August 24.

Hubbard’s Meadow Woods -- see Hubbard’s Swamp

Hubbard Path -- see Hubbard’s Meadow Path

Hubbard’s Path -- see Hubbard’s Wood Path

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 farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865). 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 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” with coordinates above that fits these requirements.

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

Hubbard’s Pool -- N 42.44531, W 71.36322 (best estimate)  
This was a pool along the west side of the Corner Road by Hubbard’s Wood owned by farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) south of his residence. The coordinates above are a best estimate using clues in Thoreau’s references.
Journal references: 1852 May 6, 7; 1853 March 27 (indirectly), 28 (indirectly); 1858 April 27 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), June 16

Hubbard’s Pyrus Swamp
This appears to be a swamp near Clintonia Swamp (E. Hubbard’s Swamp). Thoreau provides no additional clues and refers to it apparently just once. The “Pyrus” here would be a species of Chokeberry (Aronia sp.) or possibly Shadbush (Amelanchier sp.).


Hubbard’s Second Grove (Hubbard’s Second Wood) -- N 42.44588, W 71.37029
Thoreau’s reference to this on April 6, 1856, locates it rather accurately. It is curious that Thoreau never located the locally rare orchid, Whorled Pogonia (Isotria verticillata), that his sister found in this grove. The only other place this has been found in Concord is a little ways upriver on the other side.

Journal references: 1852 September 22; 1853 August 23 (indirectly); 1856 April 6, 18; 1857 April 22, October 27.

Hubbard’s Second Wood -- see Hubbard’s Second Grove

Hubbard(‘s) Shore -- from N 42.45451, W 71.36591 to N 42.45223, W 71.36759 (approximately)
Thoreau’s Journal entries for February 24, 1855, and March 18, 1858, strongly suggest that this shore was the land owned by farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) on the east side of the Sudbury River between Depot Field Brook and Hubbard Bend. The coordinates above are for this stretch of shore which happens to be that closest to the Cyrus Hubbard residence (at the curve of what is now Sudbury Road). Hubbard owned much more of the shoreline continuing upstream from this particular shore.

Journal references: 1851 August 25; 1853 January 6; 1854 June 21; 1855 February 24; 1858 March 18; 1859 November 15.

Hubbard’s Swamp [in part] -- see Clintonia Swamp
Only the references of November 4 & December 7, 1853, use the name this way.

Hubbard’s Swamp (Hubbard meadow blueberry swamp, Hubbard’s blueberry swamp, Hubbard’s blueberry swamp woods, Hubbard’s Meadow Woods, Hubbard’s Swamp Wood) [in part]
N 42.45042, W 71.36793 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s Journal entry for February 5, 1854, notes that at least part of this swamp of farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) is near Hubbard’s Bathing Place. Aerial photography reveals a large swamp now bisected by Route 2 in the middle or northern part of Hubbard’s Meadow. The coordinates above are at about the center of this swamp.

Journal references: 1851 August 24; 1852 May 30, July 7 1853 May 11, August 7 (indirectly), 11, September 4, 29, October 30; 1854 February 5; 1855 February 9; 1856 January 7, 18, April 6, September 3, 15, 27, October 2; 1857 July 11.
Hubbard's Swamp Path (C. Hubbard's Swamp Path)
This is a path somewhere in Hubbard’s Swamp (of Cyrus Hubbard). The exact location cannot be determined.

Journal references: 1853 September 4; 1855 February 9 (indirectly).

Hubbard's Swamp Wood -- see Hubbard's Swamp

Hubbard's Swimming-place -- see Hubbard's Bathing Place

Hubbard's Woods [in part] -- see E. Hubbard's Woods

Hubbard's Wood(s) [in part] -- see Hubbard's Grove

Hubbard's Wood [in part] -- see Spring Woods

Hubbard's Wood(s) [in part] -- N 42.44049, W 71.34517 (approximate center of parcel east of the railroad)
Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865) owned wooded parcels at the western shore of Walden Pond and to the southwest of the pond, as well as at the Sudbury River not far from his residence. Thoreau sometimes used this name for Hubbard’s Grove near the Sudbury River, or for E. Hubbard’s Woods elsewhere in the town. The Journal references below are to the woods of Cyrus Hubbard that border in part Walden Pond. See the Walden Woods Webmap for the extent of the Hubbard property at Walden Pond.


Hubbard’s Wood Path [in part]
This particular instance of the use of this name refers to a path through the woods of farmer Ebenezer Hubbard (1782 - 1871) on the east side of Hubbard’s Close (see E. Hubbard’s Wood).


Hubbard’s Wood Path (Hubbard’s Path) [in part]
This path lead through woods belonging to farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) whose extensive land holdings included woods west of Walden Pond up to its western shore (see Hubbard's Pool).

Journal references: 1851 June 15; 1856 May 10.

Hunt’s Bridge (Red Bridge) -- N 42.46661, 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 27, March 5, 20, May 10, 29.

Hunt house -- see Old Hunt house

Hunt Pasture -- N 42.49500, W 71.34730 (north pasture); N 42.49108, W 71.34587 (south pasture)
This is a pasture in the Estabrook Woods that belonged to Humphrey Hunt (1770 - 1852). Thoreau surveyed this pasture in December 1852 for the heirs of Mr. Hunt. Thoreau’s survey labels a north pasture just east of the Yellow Birch Swamp and a south pasture. At least one of the western property lines coincides in part with an existing property line allowing location approximately with the coordinates above.

Journal references: 1852 December 22 (indirectly); 1853 January 4, March 21, November 30; 1854 September 3.

Hunt’s Pond -- N 42.48204, W 71.32330
This is a small inlet on the south side of the Concord River near Ball’s Hill. Thoreau’s Journal entry of March 20, 1860, suggests that it was near the Concord River between Flint’s Bridge and Eleazer Davis’s Hill. A herbarium specimen of the locally rare Swamp Rose-Mallow (Hibiscus moscheutos) collected in 1964 by amateur Concord botanist and student of Concord history, Laurence E. Richardson (1893 - 1985), was found at “the edge of the river opposite and 200 yards above Hunt’s ‘Pond.’” One of the known locations for this plant at the Great Meadows allows determination of the location from this description. His use of quotes indicates that it is not truly a pond. References to this pond in notebooks of ornithologist William Brewster’s (1851 - 1919) are consistent with the location of the coordinates above. The origin of the name is unknown.

Journal references: 1855 February 24 (road); 1860 March 20.

Hydropeltis Meadow -- see Wyman Meadow

Hypericum corymbosum Ditch
Thoreau’s sole reference to this is when he is in the vicinity of the Arethusa Meadow which was part of Hubbard’s Meadow. He notes this wildflower species only one time previously while in the same vicinity on July 26, 1853. Hubbard’s Meadow was known to have many ditches so that the location cannot be determined any more specifically. The name is from the wildflower, Spotted St. John’s-wort (Hypericum punctatum).

Ice-Fort Cove Cape -- N 42.43924, W 71.34401
Thoreau’s description on the date of the reference and the location of Deep Cove lead little doubt about the location of this cape on the northern side of the westernmost cape of Walden Pond.


Ice Heap Cove -- N 42.43891, W 71.34471
The phenomenon that gives rise to this name is noted by Thoreau on January 1, 1856. He states “On the ice at Walden are very beautiful great leaf crystals in great profusion. The ice is frequently thickly covered with them for many rods.” and, a bit later in his entry, “In other places the ice is strewn with a different kind of frostwork in little patches, as if oats had been spilled, like fibres of asbestos rolled, a half or three quarters of an inch long and an eighth or more wide. Here and there patches of them a foot or two over.” These latter would be the “heaps.” He approached Walden from the railroad tracks and remarks that he looks from the southwest. The reference to Ice-Fort Cove Cape on December 19, 1856, could only be referring to the same cove since there is no reference to “ice-fort” or “ice-heap” prior to 1856. The location of the cape determines the location of the cove with coordinates above.

Journal references: **1856** January 1 (indirectly), February 6.

Indian Bend -- see Clamshell Bend

Indian Cedar Hill -- see Cedar Hill

Indian Ditch -- N 42.45885, W 71.40992 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s description of the location of this ditch On October 19, 1851, is generally confirmed by his itinerary of September 6, 1857, which places it about 420 meters (84 rods) east of the Acton town line along the present Laws Brook Road where it intersects the present Crabtree Road. The ditch crossed the road at this point running nearly due north to south as describes. The length of the ditch is unknown. The name apparently dates back to colonial times as Thoreau notes it on a survey made in 1766. Thoreau himself questions parenthetically why the term “Indian” was used for this ditch.

Journal references: **1851** October 16, 19; **1856** June 5; **1857** September 6.

Indian Field -- N 42.46452, W 71.36012
Two other uses of this phrase are to other locations (near Moore’s Swamp and at Conantum) that are descriptive of places where Thoreau found Native American artifacts. The reference below is a field in a locale that is well-known as a significant Native American encampment, and Thoreau places it as a proper name on his 1856-1857 map of the Lee Farm.

Journal references: **1856** April 25.

Indian Rock -- N 42.48258, W 71.36292
Thoreau refers to this only once when visiting Owl Nest Swamp. He describes it: “further west, is upright, or overhanging two feet, and a dozen feet high. Against this the Indians camped.” Gleason photographed a rock in 1918 that he labeled as “Indian Rock at Owl Nest Swamp.” Neil Rasmussen has photographed this same rock just to the west of Owl Nest Swamp as shown below with coordinates above. The identity of this rock is further confirmed by its location in relation to the Corallorhiza Rocks that Thoreau describes and which Steve Tobin found in August 2021.
Indian Rock (April 2020), courtesy of Neil Rasmussen


**Ingraham Path**

This is a path near the cellar hole of the former residence of Cato Ingraham. That residence, Thoreau notes, was in the woods near Walden Pond north of it and east of Walden Road. Black laborer Cato Ingraham (ca. 1751 – 1805), was allowed to live with his wife in the woods owned by his former master, sea captain Duncan Ingraham, (1726 - 1811). The location of the cellar hole is not known with certainty. It is very likely that Ingraham Path is simply another name for Goose Pond Path. This is consistent with Thoreau’s Journal entry of June 8, 1855, where Thoreau refers to the Ingraham cellar on his way to Goose Pond, and with a statement by Thoreau’s close friend William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901) that the Ingraham house was directly at the opening of the path from the Walden road to the Goose Pond.”


**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. Thoreau’s 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. See also Island Wood(s).

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, 6, 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 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 Pond** -- see Andromeda Ponds

**Island Rock** -- see Egg Rock

**Island Wood(s)**
These are simply the woods on the Island (except for a reference on October 12, 1851, which refers to the woods on Fair Haven Island). See entry for Island.

Journal references: 1857 March 27; 1858 April 22, 28, May 1, 12, 13, 20; 1859 January 10.

**Ivy Bridge**
Thoreau’s indirect reference on August 23, 1853, indicates that his was somewhere in Hubbard’s Meadow, and his itinerary on the date of his only direct reference to it is consistent with this. The exact location cannot be determined. The ivy refers to Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans).

Journal references: 1853 August 23 (indirectly as “ivy pass”); 1854 April 23.

**J.[acob] Farmer’s Cliff (Farmer’s Cliff)** -- N 42.48228, W 71.36495
This cliff is named after farmer 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.[ohn] Hosmer’s Desert (Hosmer Desert)**
This place cannot be determined exactly with the little information that Thoreau provides. It was most likely not far from Nut Meadow Brook and not far west of what is now the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (Sudbury Road in Thoreau’s time). The name derives from farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) who owned much land in this area.


**J.[ohn] Hosmer ditch** -- see Hosmer(s) Ditch

**J.[ames] P. Brown’s Meadow** -- see Brown’s Meadow

**J.[ames] P. Brown’s Pond** -- see Brown’s Pond
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

John Hosmer's ditch -- see Hosmer('s) Ditch

John Hosmer's High Level -- N 42.45199, W 71.38020
The topography near the residence of farmer John Hosmer (1789 - 1864) near the beginning of the present Old Marlboro Road on the south side has an elevated plain. The coordinates above are the center of the largest area of the plain which is southwest of his residence (at 25 Old Marlboro Road).


Juneberry Meadow -- see Shadbush Meadow

Kalmia Swamp -- see Holden's Swamp

Kettle Hill -- N 42.46630, W 71.31172
This most likely refers to a small hill (coordinates above) behind what Thoreau refers to as the old Kettell place on November 9, 1850, then owned by [Isaac] Watts (one of two with this name in Concord in 1850), where he played horse as a child. The 1852 map of Concord shows the Watts house on Virginia Road just east and south of the house where Thoreau was born. Gleason also places the Kettell place there on his map. The particular Kettell is uncertain as there were more than one in the town before 1850.


Kibbe Place [now Carlisle, MA] -- N 42.50362, W 71.34889 (provided by Steve Tobin)
This is the site of the Kibbe family house who petitioned the court in 1780 not to join Carlisle which broke off from Concord. Their land, just north of the Concord town line and just east of the Old Carlisle Road (currently Estabrook Road), remained separated from Concord until 1903. The family at the time was headed by Samuel Kibbe/Kibby (1722 - 1796). Thoreau’s survey map of the boundary line between Concord and Carlisle in December 1851 denotes the location of the Kibbe Place.
Kibbe Place Swamp -- N 42.50202, W 71.34979 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s single reference to this swamp gives no information about its location. Thoreau’s survey map of the Concord/Carlisle boundary line in December 1851 includes a small notation of a meadow right on the boundary line close to the Kibbe Place marked on the survey which says “meadow near cedar swamp.” Wetlands mapping of the Concord GIS Map shows the wetland that would be the meadow and a swamp connected to it extending southward into Concord. The coordinates above are the center of this swamp.


Knoll -- see Dwarf Sumach Hill

Laurel Glen (Laurel Glen Hollow) -- from N 42.44667, 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 250 or 300 meters 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.

Laurel Hillside
This is a hillside at Walden Pond. Thoreau does not provide clues as to which particular hillside. The shrub referred to is Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia). The places in Concord where this locally uncommon shrub has been found are mostly on northwest or west facing slopes. Two possibilities for this hillside are at about 42.43734, W 71.33951 and N 42.43798, W 71.33488 [Lincoln, MA].
Laurel Pasture -- see Mason's pasture

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). Gleason labels these a bit too far to the west on his map.

[Image: Leaning Hemlocks by Assabet River, Gleason photo from 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal]

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.
**Lechea Plain**

Thoreau does not provide sufficient clues to pinpoint this. His itinerary for the day he refers to it suggests that it is near the Sudbury River between Bittern Cliff and Fair Haven Pond. The name refers to the genus of wildflowers known as Pinweed (Lechea sp.) of which several species occur in Concord.


**Ledum Swamp (Charles Miles Swamp, C. Miles Swamp, C. Miles blueberry swamp, Ledum Pond, Ledum Pond-hole, Ledum Pool) -- 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 very rare Dwarf Mistletoe growing on the Black Spruce that then was 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 the Charles Miles Swamp after Charles Miles (1791 - 1864) who owned the land and whose former residence was nearby. Gleason correctly places the Charles Miles residence on his 1906 map, but misplaces this swamp well to the west (although this author found some Labrador Tea where Thoreau never saw it -- at Gleason’s location for the swamp and at two other locations). 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 J. Eaton noted the clearing away of most of the surrounding vegetation by the then “owner” of the land in 1935 and demise in that year of the last Black Spruce tree harboring the Dwarf Mistletoe. 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 Swamp Loosestrife and Poison Sumach growing around the margin.

![Labrador Tea in Nut Meadow (June 1982), by Ray Angelo](image)

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,
Lee’s Bend -- N 42.46038, W 71.36559
This is the sharp bend in the Sudbury River slightly southwest of Lee’s Hill (Nashawtuc Hill).


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. A 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 “Corner Bridge” 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. The 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 (Waban Cliff) -- N 42.42417, W 71.35888; lower cliffs at N 42.42424, W 71.35842
This is a cliff or set of cliffs on a hill not far from 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. The family 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 with clues in Thoreau’s Journal references. On May 29, 1857, Thoreau describes taking refuge from a rainstorm under a projection of the cliffs about halfway down from the top. At Lee’s cliff Thoreau found the only place in Concord for Slippery Elm (Ulmus rubra) which is also the only location for it as a native tree in Middlesex County. He also found there other locally uncommon plants that grow in less acidic soil. Thoreau applies the name Waban Cliff on September 9, 1858, to this cliff after reading that the sachem Waban originally lived in Concord (as Thoreau recorded in his Journal on February 15, 1857). There is no apparent association of the sachem Waban with this cliff other than Thoreau’s imagination. The Journal reference to a cliff by Lee’s road on March 20, 1858, is for a different cliff.
Thoreau’s Rock Shelter at Lee’s Cliff (May 1918), looking southward,
Gleason photo courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library

Lee’s Cliff (just to right and behind tall, straight, white-trunked tree
at lower center) looking to the northeast, Fair Haven Hill at upper
far left, boat house on edge of Fair Haven Bay at upper right,
(January 2021) by High In The Sky
Lee’s Cliff (behind tall White Pine at lower left) looking to the northwest, Sudbury River at upper right; lower cliffs at bottom have a “projecting portion” near center likely where Thoreau took shelter from a rain storm, (January 2021) by High In The Sky

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 (indirectly), 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, September 9, 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

Lee House Meadow -- see College Meadow

Lee Meadow -- see College Meadow

Lee’s Meadow -- N 42.42149, W 71.35737
This is the large river meadow north and west of the Sudbury River south of Lee’s Cliff. The origin of the name is the same as Lee’s Bridge and Lee’s Cliff. Its nine acres are the ones owned by colonist Peter Bulkeley that are referred to in the name “Nine Acre Corner.”

Journal references: 1853 August 19; 1855 April 12.
Lee Wood -- see Woodis Park

Lee’s Wood
Thoreau does not provide sufficient information to locate this woodland exactly, which is most likely somewhere near Lee’s Cliff.

Journal references: 1853 August 19; 1855 April 17; 1857 October 18.

Lightning Hillside
According to Thoreau’s reference this is a hillside at Heywood’s Meadow at which there are a number of hillsides. The origin of the name and exact location are unknown.


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 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 farther 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 (Old 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 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 Concord friend, 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 Baker Bridge

Lincoln Road -- see Flint's Pond Road

Linnaea Hill(s) -- see Loring's Woods

Linnaea Woods (Linnaea Borealis Wood, Linnaea Wood-lot) -- see Loring's Woods

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 above. Unfortunately, a Concord town landfill operated between 1959 and 1994 eventually destroyed the pond. It shows up in U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps of Concord dating from 1943 through 1970. But the USGS topographic maps from 1943 to the present label another pond to the northeast of Goose Pond as Little Goose Pond (see Ditch Pond). The name Ripple Lake or Ripple Pool was given to this body of water by Thoreau’s good friend, the poet William Ellery Channing (1818 – 1901), as described in Thoreau’s Journal entry for April 9, 1859. Thoreau later refers to “Ripple Lakes” which occupied a string of small hollows extending from Little Goose Pond northweastward 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.

Little River (Concord, not Haverhill, MA) -- see Assabet River

Little Truro -- N 42.44929, W 71.33024 (best estimate, approximate)

Thoreau associates this with a small pond-hole that he names Little Truro Pond-hole (see next entry). In his Journal on June 21, 1860, Thoreau refers to “a dry field” near the pond-hole associated with this name. In the next sentence he refers to “these dry and gravelly fields, as at Truro [town on Cape Cod, Massachusetts], where the small fescue grass [Vulpia octoflora var. glauca] grows.” The grass grows in dry, sandy areas. On June 21, 1860, Thoreau also describes the ground around the pond-hole as “a perfectly bare, dry pasture.” Gleason locates this on his map at the same location as the coordinates above.


Little Truro Pond-hole -- N 42.44979, 71.38021 (best estimate)

Thoreau describes this as a small, round pond only 4 rods (about 20 meters) in diameter in John [Potter] Brown’s (1810 - 1871) at the bottom of a hollow in the midst of a bare, dry pasture. The coordinates above are for an existing pond of this size and shape with some surrounding level land and is approximately 200 meters southeast of the site of Brown’s former residence. See entry for Little Truro for origin of the name.

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

**Loring's Brook** -- N 42.45963, W 71.39349 (mouth at Assabet River)
This is the stream that begins at the outlet of Loring’s Pond and ends at the Assabet River at the coordinates above. This stream is generally considered now to be the continuation of Nashoba Brook (which joins Fort Pond Brook in Concord before emptying into Loring’s Pond). The name derives from the lead factory owner David Loring (1800 – 1870).


**Loring’s Pond** -- N 42.45914, W 71.39855 (approximate middle during most of Thoreau’s time)
For most of Thoreau’s life this was a small pond (as seen on historic maps) formed by a dam that had long existed across what is now generally considered to be Nashoba Brook (but regarded by Thoreau to be Fort Pond Brook which joined Nashoba Brook upstream in Concord). David Loring (1800 – 1870), started at the young age of 16 in Concord, NH learning the business of making lead pipe and sheet. He was brought to Concord, MA in 1819 by his employer to start a lead works at the site of the dam. Loring was very soon given the business there where he prospered for a time until some misfortunes led him to sell the business in 1857 to Ralph Warner (1820 – 1907). Warner operated it as a pail factory and raised the dam to obtain more power which enlarged the pond which is now named for him (Warner’s Pond).

Journal references: 1850 December 16; 1852 May 17, December 18; 1853 February 23, March 17; 1854 March 12 (indirectly); 1855 January 22; 1856 February 28, June 3, 4, July 5; 1859 April 1; 1860 November 1.

**Loring’s Wood (Linnea Borealis Wood, Linnea Hill(s), Linnea Wood-lot, Linnea Woods)** -- N 42.45960, W 71.40845 (approximate center assuming northern boundary same latitude as Hosmer property on the east)
The location of this wood lot can be determined from Thoreau’s Journal reference on October 30, 1860, combined with his survey of June 1856 of lots west of Loring’s Pond belonging to John Hosmer (1789 - 1864). The survey shows two parcels near each other which happen to retain their same boundaries today. The southern lot straddles what is now Laws Brook Road, labeled Harvard Road on the survey but referred to in Thoreau’s Journal as the “factory road,” meaning the road that ran to the lead works factory of David Loring (1800 - 1870). Thoreau’s survey does not show the owner of the lot north of the factory road just to the west of Hosmer’s southern lot since he was unsure. He refers to this lot on June 3, 1856, as “that (formerly) pine lot of Loring’s which is now coming up shrub oak.” Just before this he says he believed this lot was purchased by [Ebenezer] R. [ockwood] Hoar (1816 – 1895). The southern boundary of this lot was the factory road (Laws Brook Road). The eastern boundary was the lot of John Hosmer. The western boundary was the Indian Ditch (approximately today’s Crabtree Road). The northern boundary is uncertain. Thoreau notes repeatedly that the thick white pine woods, Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), on Loring’s lot were cut down, and that even though they were adjacent to a stand of Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida) on Hosmer’s land on the east, it was oak sprouts that began to grow on the cleared land. Linnaea refers to the locally rare Twinflower (Linnea borealis) which grew near the summit of a hill in these woods. Gleason mistakenly places the Linnaea Hills close to Nut Meadow Brook. Likely he mistook Thoreau’s discovery of a new location for the Linnaea on a slope while surveying in that vicinity on June 1, 1855, to be the location of these hills. But Thoreau already used the name Linnaea Hills on June 7, 1854.
Journal references: 1851 October 19 (indirectly); 1852 January 21, April 25, June 19 (indirectly); 1853 May 23, June 3 (indirectly), 6; 1854 June 7; 1856 April 28 (indirectly), May 13 (indirectly), June 3 (indirectly), 10 (indirectly), July 17, 19, 28, August 28 (indirectly); 1860 October 30.

**Love Lane** -- N 42.45659, W 71.35841 (approximate middle)
This is a short road still with this name near the Concord Center rail station that that runs off Texas Street (now Belknap Street). Thoreau labels it on his June 21, 1852, survey of land near the depot. This name has also been applied to the short road running between Lexington Road and the Cambridge Turnpike now known as Hawthorne Lane and that Thoreau called Tuttle’s Lane. The origin of the name is not known.


**Lowell Road** -- from N 42.46140, W 71.34977 to N 42.50372, W 71.36994
This road runs northward from the town center to the town boundary with Carlisle and from there continues northward under different names to the city of Lowell. It is the most likely route along which the Minute Men from Carlisle marched southward to join the Concord Minute Men at the North Bridge to fight the British troops on April 19, 1775.

Journal references: 1853 December 31; 1854 September 2.

**Ludwigia Poke-logan** -- see Pokelogan

**Lupine Bank** -- N 42.44038, W 71.35050 (best estimate)
From the clues in Thoreau’s Journal entries this is a slope on the north side of Sudbury River east of the Hubbard Bridge, near Miles Swamp (on the opposite side of the river), and one where looking southwestward in late October in the afternoon toward the sun would be over a dry pasture that itself is at some point within 65 meters of the river. The above coordinates are for such a slope with perhaps no other location fitting these requirements. Lupine refers to Wild Lupine (Lupinus perennis) which is now very rare or extinct in Concord.

Journal references: 1852 June 21 (likely indirect reference); 1853 August 7; 1854 July 23; 1856 May 13, 17 (pasture); 1857 May 23, October 7.

**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 Lupine Hill, 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.

**Lupine Wall**
This cannot be placed with any certainty due to insufficient clues provided in the only direct use of the name. However, the likely indirect reference to it on June 21, 1852, likely places it near the Lupine Bank not far from the Sudbury River.

Journal references: 1852 June 21 (likely indirect reference); 1855 January 12.

**Main Branch** -- see South Branch

**Mantatuket Field** -- N 42.46440, W 71.36032
This is the field Thoreau labels as “Indian Field” on his map of the Lee farm in December 1856/January 1857. The location is near Egg Rock which he began to call Mantatuket Rock in his later years.

Journal reference: 1858 August 29 (hedge).

**Mantatuket Meadow** -- see Wheeler’s Meadow

**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 and in a 1978 photograph by this author. See entry for Egg Rock for origin of the name and the 1978 photo.


**Mantatuket Rock** -- see Egg Rock

**Marlborough Road (Old Marlborough Road)** -- from N 42.45399, W 71.38630 to N 42.42924, W 71.40995
The 1852 and 1856 maps of Concord strongly suggest that this road began at the coordinates above (at today’s Old Bridge Road) rather than where it starts presently (at today’s Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, known as Sudbury Road in Thoreau’s time). It proceeds southward in a winding fashion to the town line with Sudbury. Botanically the areas beside this road are known for species that grow on dry, sandy soil. The name of the road derives from its course starting in Concord, passing through Sudbury and very slightly through Stow before arriving in the center of Marlborough, MA.

**Martial Miles Meadow** -- N 42.43917, W 71.38982 (approximate best estimate)
This is most likely part of Nut Meadow behind the dam where pencil-maker and carpenter Warren Miles (1822 – 1903), brother of Marshall/Martial Miles (1820 – 1890), operated a mill. The residence of Marshall/Martial Miles was not far to the east of the dam along what is now Williams Road. The Martial Miles Swamp was about 400 – 500 meters east of this meadow. See also Miles’s Pond.


**Martial Miles Swamp (Miles blueberry 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 the first name of Mr. Miles into a heterograph was intentional. He gives the farmer’s first name correctly in his Journal on May 14, 1852, for example.
Mason’s pasture (Laurel Pasture) -- N 42.50072, W 71.34012 (approximate center, best estimate)
This was a pasture mostly in Carlisle by virtue of the irregular boundary with Concord in Thoreau’s time. It was owned by farmer John Mason (1793 – 1876) who lived in Concord (then and would be now also with present town boundaries) on the west side of Monument Street (at what is now street address 1689). The coordinates above are for the approximate center of that pasture which is about on what is now Two Rod Road (bridle-road in Thoreau’s time). It was likely a rectangular area oriented northwest-southeast and about 400 meters wide and 500-600 meters long. While surveying the Concord-Carlisle line in December 1851 Thoreau discovered in the pasture a colony of the locally uncommon Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia).

Journal references: 1851 December 13; 1852 June 23; 1853 June 5, 10, 17, November 30; 1854 September 3 (indirectly); 1859 October 21; 1860 October 20.

Mayflower Path [Acton, MA] -- N 42.46272, W 71.41575 (approximate middle of path that ran about west-east in direction)
Thoreau coins this name on May 7, 1859, for a path on a lot in east Acton on the town line with Concord that he was surveying that day for mill owner Edward Carver Damon (1836 – 1901). The exact location of the lot and the path are distinctly marked on the final survey map of the Damon properties. Mayflower refers to Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens).

Journal references: 1859 May 7; 1860 April 2.

Mayflower Road
This appears to be a road not marked on any historic map in the vicinity of Second Division Brook, most likely on the west side where patches of Mayflower (Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens)) are known. The reference to this wildflower on March 29 and April 11, 1852, near Second Division Brook were likely at or near this road.


Melvin’s Preserve -- see Easterbrooks Country

Merriam’s Hill -- see Pine Hill [Concord, MA]

Merrick’s Bath Place -- see Merrick Swimming Place

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. The southern border apparently extended 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.

Merrick Pasture at left (looking southwestward from Hunt’s Bridge)

Journal references: 1852 April 2; 1853 June 20, July 2, November 8, December 8; 1854 March 18, June 10, September 26; 1855 February 4, 24, June 7, October 29, November 9; 1856 January 19, 24 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly), February 3 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly), 27 (indirectly), March 2 (indirectly), 10 (indirectly), 12 (indirectly), 14 (indirectly), 22, April 25; 1857 January 16, February 10, June 9, October 5; 1858 September 1, 28; 1859 January 24 (indirectly), 26, July 5, December 28.

Merrick’s Pasture Shore (Merrick shore) -- from N 42.466545, W 71.35551 to N 42.46278, W 71.35620
This is the shore of the Merrick Pasture that ran along the eastern shore of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers from Hunt’s Bridge to a lot boundary at the Sudbury River. The coordinates of the latter are shown on Thoreau’s survey of the Lee Farm dated December 30, 1856, to January 1857. The willow-row in the pasture running to the shore of the river just a little north of the property boundary referred to on January 15, 1859, is shown on the survey.

Journal references: 1853 December 8 (indirectly); 1854 March 18 (indirectly); 1855 June 6, November 9; 1856 January 19 (indirectly), 24 (indirectly), 26 (indirectly), February 22 (indirectly), March 12 (indirectly), 22 (indirectly); 1858 August 28, September 1 (indirectly), 3, 6; 1859 January 15, 24 (indirectly); 1860 April 13.

Merrick shore -- see Merrick Pasture Shore

Merrick Swimming-Place (Merrick Bath Place) -- N 42.46436, N 71.35831 (best estimate)
This location was along the edge of Merrick’s Pasture which borders both the Sudbury River and the Concord River in the vicinity of Egg Rock. It does not appear that Thoreau marked this spot on any of
his surveys that include the shore of Merrick’s Pasture. Perhaps the best clue is Thoreau’s reference on October 29, 1855, to “the bathing-rock this side of the Island.” This rock fits the location of Heron Rock (Bath Rock) which is directly in front of the Sudbury River shore of Merrick’s Pasture. Also, unlike the Concord River shore of Merrick’s Pasture, it would not be within direct view of Hunt’s Bridge, important for privacy in bathing. The coordinates above are a best estimate using this reasoning.

Journal references: 1854 June 15, July 5; 1856 March 14, August 16 (indirectly).

Middle Conantum Cliff -- see Conantum Cliff, middle

Miles blueberry swamp -- see Martial Miles Swamp

Miles(‘s) Meadow -- N 42.43287, W 71.36185 (approximate middle)
This is the river meadow at Conantum on the west side of the Sudbury River adjacent to Miles(‘s) Swamp inland to the southwest of it. Thoreau places this in his Journal entry of April 12, 1855, about one half mile from the Fair Haven Cliffs on the other side of the river. The origin of the name appears to be by ownership of farmer Marshall/Martial Miles (1820 - 1890) since Thoreau on August 24, 1854, refers to “his river meadow” when speaking of Martial Miles. Mr. Miles estimated the value of his real estate to be about $3,000 on the 1860 U.S. Census, which could include much acreage that is wetland.

Journal references: 1852 May 6 (indirectly); 1854 May 7, 8, 10, 31, August 24 (indirectly); 1856 June 12; 1855 April 12 (shore), May 12; 1857 February 28.

Miles’s mill-pond -- see Miles’s Pond

Miles’s Pond (Miles’s mill-pond, Nut Meadow Pond) -- N 42.44136, 71.39167
This was a pond along Nut Meadow Brook that was created by a dam where pencil-maker/carpenter Warren Miles (1822 - 1903) operated a mill. The location of the dam can be determined by considering Thoreau’s Journal entry for April 28, 1856, by examining his survey on the same date of the so-called “Davis Piece”, and by reviewing current aerial photography of the area. On the survey Thoreau notes Yellow Thistle Meadow on the north side of Nut Meadow Brook a short distance northeast of what he labels Dugan Road (now Williams Road). In his Journal entry he reasons that the Anemone nemorosa (Wood Anemone (Anemone quinquefolia)) were blossoming early because Miles’s dam had broken away and washed off all the snow for some distance there. Examination of recent detailed aerial photographs clearly shows a dam structure across Nut Meadow Brook a short distance to the southwest of Williams Road with a body of water behind it. This is a place that would be suitable to put a dam, between two elevated pieces of land close to each other through which the brook flows. The coordinates are an approximation behind the dam of the location of the pond.

Journal references: 1856 February 28 (indirectly), April 24 (indirectly), May 7, June 10; 1857 April 29.

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) grow in basic or circumneutral soil unlike the acidic soil of the other two swamps. This is also consistent with Thoreau’s repeated association of the Miles Swamp with

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Conantum, an area well-known to botanists for its sweet-soil-loving plant species. 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. This swamp is the only one in Conantum proper that has a brook running through it that Thoreau refers to on July 7, 1860. Also, Thoreau notes the locally uncommon carpinus (American Hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana)) on May 23, 1857, at the swamp. This is a tree this author has seen at the swamp at the location with the coordinates above, as well as Spicebush and Basswood noted above. Within this swamp is a section that Thoreau describes on August 31, 1851, and names Cohush Swamp (see the separate entry for this name). On this date he also refers to it as an “arboretum.” In 1851 and 1852 Thoreau also refers to this smaller section as Conant’s Swamp or Conantum Swamp. After April 18, 1852, he uses only the name Miles or Miles’s Swamp for the swamp (including the Cohush Swamp section). On August 5, 1853, he equates Miles Swamp with “arboretum”, the term he earlier applied to Cohush Swamp. Gleason significantly misplaces Miles 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. However, he appears to associate the adjacent river meadow with farmer Martial Miles (1820 - 1890). See entry for Miles(‘s) Meadow.

Journal references: 1851 May 21; 1852 May 16, June 13, July 14, 22, August 11; 1853 March 29, April 6 (likely Martial Miles Swamp), August 5, 30, September 2; 1854 April 13, May 1, 22, 24, 27, August 21; 1855 April 30, May 28; 1856 August 3, 9, September 4; 1857 May 12, 23, September 27; 1859 April 2; 1860 July 30.

**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 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 (best estimate)
This is a field near the Miles Swamp at Conantum. The coordinates above are a best estimate 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.


**Mill Brook** -- N 42.46781, W 71.35225 (outlet); N 42.45770, W 71.30219 (approximate source in Lincoln, MA in Thoreau’s time)
The source and initial course of this brook differs today from what it was in Thoreau’s time. In his time it began in an unnamed wetland in Lincoln, MA on its eastern boundary with Concord (through which Elm Brook flows today). It flowed northwestward into Concord after which it turned southwestward crossing Lexington Road at what is known as Merriam’s Corner (where Old Bedford Road begins at Lexington Road). It then gradually turned more westward before crossing the Cambridge Turnpike after which it turns northwestward toward the Concord town center. At or just before reaching Main Street it was dammed (the part of the town there known as the Mill Dam or Milldam). The brook continued under Main Street. Not far after passing under Main Street the brook bends quickly to flow north, crossing what is now known as Lowell Road and continuing northward to
empty into the Concord River. Due to extensive ditching and likely other land modifications the course of this brook today differs somewhat from just before its crossing of the Cambridge Turnpike back to its former source. The name naturally derives from a grain mill with dam built in 1636 the year after the town was founded. The kernel of the town essentially sprouted around the lower part of Mill Brook where the mill was located.

Journal references: 1845-1846 vol. 2, page 131, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 2, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 November 4, April 9; 1853 February 11, August 25, 29; 1854 March 6, 19, 25, August 22, September 2, 6; 1855 January 12, June 12; 1856 February 26, 29, March 14, April 3; 1857 May 1; 1858 January 23, April 3, 5, 7, May 2, June 14, August 15; 1859 April 8, August 9, December 22; 1860 January 13, May 9, July 7.

Mill Pond -- N 42.45962, W 71.34940 (approximate center in Thoreau’s time)
This is the pond formed by the dam of the Mill Brook in the center of the town of Concord. The location and size of the pond in Thoreau’s time are shown on the 1852 map of Concord. The two roads noted in Thoreau’s Journal on January 27, 1857, are Lexington Road and Walden Road which parallel the pond on the northeastern and southwestern sides.

Journal references: 1855 July 31; 1857 January 27.

Mill road -- N 42.44242, W 71.39459 (approximate beginning), N 42.44250, W 71.40667 (approximate middle), N 41.45078, W 41064 (approximate end)
This was a road that began about where the present Deacon Haynes Road departs westward from the Old Marlboro Road. It continued westward approximately along the road presently known as Caterina Heights which is south of the Ministerial Swamp. It then swung northward and continued on what is now known as the Old Mill Road. This part of the road cuts through the very west end of the Ministerial Swamp and joins what is now Harrington Road. From there it passes to what was a sawmill at Second Division Brook shortly before that brook empties into the Assabet River. The only historic map that shows the road is the 1875 map which shows it in a general fashion using dashed lines. The name derives from the sawmill at Second Division Brook. The road marked on Gleason’s map as “Mill Road” that ran from westward Nine Acre Corner to the powder mills at the Acton/Concord border was not Thoreau’s “Mill road”. Thoreau called that one White Pond road.
Ministerial Clearing -- see Ministerial Lot (in part) [not Ministerial Swamp]

Ministerial Lot (in part) -- see Ministerial Swamp

Ministerial Lot (in part) (Ministerial Clearing, Ministerial sproutlands) -- N 42.44862, W 71.33330 (approximate center)
This was a lot in dry land between the Cambridge Turnpike and Goose Pond, east of what is now Sandy Pond Road and west of Hubbard’s Close. This lot currently retains its same borders at its northwestern end.

Journal references: 1853 August 24, September 2; 1857 October 6, December 13.

Ministerial sproutlands -- see Ministerial Lot (in part) [not 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 the fern 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.

Thoreau’s Climbing Fern at Ministerial Swamp (photo left by Ray Angelo; right by Erika Sonder)

Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, pages 13 (swamp near Tarbell’s), 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 November 14, 18, 19 (indirectly), 20, 24 (indirectly), 30 (indirectly), December 21 (indirectly); 1852 January 27, May 14; 1853 April 9; 1857 October 9; 1859 February 16.
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.

Ministerial Swamp Path - from N 42.44566, W 71.40901 to N 42.44451, W 71.39184 (best estimate)
Thoreau gives insufficient information to determine with certainty the particular path he refers to in his single use of this name. His survey of the Ministerial Swamp lot in November 1851 shows two paths that cross into the swamp. However, most likely he refers to another well-worn path that runs east-west through along the southern side of the swamp that still exists. His itinerary of May 12, 1851, suggests that he passed through the swamp along this path from west to east based on the known locations of three plant species he refers to -- (Tamarack or American Larch (Larix laricina), Climbing Fern (Lygodium palmatum), and Common Bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)).


Minott’s Hill (Minott’s hillside) -- N 41.45875, W 71.34472 (approximate middle of slope from summit to road)
This is the part of the slope of Revolutionary Ridge on the north side of Lexington Road where farmer George Minott (1783 - 1861) lived with his sister, seamstress Mary Minott (1781 - 1861). The house on this hillside is placed on the 1852 and 1856 maps of Concord under the name of Mary Minott. On November 26, 1857, Thoreau describes the house and notes that it was about one third of the way up the 50 foot high hill. Thoreau admired the warmth of this south-facing hillside, a typical choice for residences of early settlers for protection from frigid winter gales bearing down from the north, as well as more sunshine in the spring.

Journal references: 1851 July 10 (indirectly), December 29; 1852 March 23; 1853 November 8; 1854 March 1, September 22 (indirectly); 1857 October 2 (indirectly), November 26 (indirectly); 1860 March 19 (indirectly).

Minott’s meadow -- N 42.45432, W 71.33864 (approximate middle)
The location of this meadow belonging to farmer George Minott can be determined using the August 30 & 31, 1860, survey Thoreau did of Minott’s property, the northern border of which was the Mill Brook just south of the Cambridge Turnpike. The course of the brook in the area then is virtually identical to its course today.

Journal references: 1855 January 12; 1860 August 30 (indirectly).

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 by the Sudbury River south of the Hosmer home. 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 latter 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 above 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 is 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 is 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 farmer 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.

**Mountain Sumach Knoll** -- see Dwarf Sumach Hill

**Mrs. Ripley’s hill** -- see Poplar Hill
Mt. Misery [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42046, W 71.34643
This is a medium-sized hill at 280 feet in elevation in southwestern Lincoln, MA overlooking Fair Haven Bay. At least a half dozen hills or mountains bear this name in the United States. The reason for the application of this name to this hill in Lincoln, MA is apparently not known.

Journal references: 1851 August 20, September 24; 1852 June 15, September 30; 1853 August 23; 1854 June 3, September 20; 1855 April 4; 1857 October 12; 1859 October 19; 1860 March 31, April 28, November 8, 13, 19, 20.

Mt. Tabor [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.42567, 71.27151
On the eastern border of Lincoln at elevation 371 feet this hill together with Pine Hill on the western border of Lincoln are like bookends the town. The name most likely derives from the mountain of this name in Israel which has biblical associations.


Muhlenbergii Brook -- see Azalea Brook

Musketaquid, Musketaquid River or Musketicook -- see Concord River

Muster-field -- N 42.46573, W 71.36788 (approximate center)
This is a level field northwest of Nashawtuc Hill where state musters of militias were held. As Thoreau implies, these events were more like social gatherings than to drill for a military purpose. The current Musterfield Road passes through the middle of this field. The muster-field of the Minute Men for the battle at the North Bridge in 1775 is a different location not referred to by Thoreau.

Journal references: 1858 August 29; 1859 September 8, 24; 1860 May 2.

Myosotis Brook -- see Swamp Bridge Brook

Myrica Island -- N 42.45969, 71.39902 (very approximate, best estimate)
Thoreau describes this as an island in Loring’s Pond about one or two acres in size, one of three or four islands there he had not previously visited. Loring’s Pond (now Warner's Pond) in Thoreau's time was much smaller in Thoreau’s time than it is today. The pond as portrayed on the 1852 map of Concord is much too small to have accommodated an island of the size Thoreau records, much less three or four islands. The coordinates above are a best estimate of the location of an island not far from the dam forming the pond, a pond significantly larger than shown on the 1852 map, but not anywhere near as large as the current Warner's Pond.


Nabalus Road -- N 42.44685, W 71.32550 (approximate middle)
This was a stretch of road of unknown length along what is now known as Sandy Pond Road between the Concord town line with Lincoln and about where Route 2 now is. In Thoreau’s time the road was sometimes called Lincoln Road, and there was no road along the path of Route 2. “Nabalus” most likely refers to Cankerweed (Nabalus serpentarius) based on height, but might also be White Lettuce (Nabalus albus).
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 one 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 -31 [1856] to 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.
Nashawtuc Hill (June 1917), “from Main Street, across [Sudbury] river”, apparently looking west from field that became part of Concord Academy on Main Street in 1922. Sudbury River visible as pale, narrow band at level of person’s head. Gleason photo courtesy of Concord Free Public Library.

Journal references: 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.

Nawshawtuct Meadow -- see Wheeler's Meadow
Nemopanthes Swamp
Thoreau’s single reference to this swamp by this name is insufficient to locate it. The context indicates that it is a swamp in the vicinity of Beck Stow’s Swamp. Candidates would be Pedrick’s Meadow or an unnamed wetland just south of Beck Stow’s Swamp. The name derives from the shrub Mountain-holly (Ilex mucronatus) formerly with scientific name Nemopanthus mucronatus.


New Burying-Ground -- N 42.46227, W 71.34653 (approximate center)
This is the cemetery laid out in 1823 near the center of Concord on the north side of what later became Bedford Street. It eventually became part of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery which extended from its eastern border, mostly in that direction. This cemetery is most clearly seen in the 1852 map of Concord inset of the town center as the largest of the three cemeteries at that time.

Journal references: 1855 October 21; 1856 March 27; 1858 June 16, August 31.

New stone bridge (first stone bridge, Sam Wheeler Bridge, stone bridge [in part]) --
N 42.43964, W 71.36634
This is the bridge where the Union Turnpike (now Elm Street) crosses the Sudbury River. Thoreau often refers to this bridge simply as the “stone bridge”. However, he also uses that name for the Assabet Stone Bridge further down the same road westward. Only context can distinguish the two bridges. This bridge had three arches unlike the Assabet Stone Bridge which had just one arch. The name “new stone bridge” derives from its more recent construction than the Assabet Stone Bridge. The name “first stone bridge” refers to it being the first along the Union Turnpike from Concord center. Businessman and real estate dealer Samuel Greene Wheeler (1791 - 1865) lived for a short time close to this bridge northwest of it. According to Thoreau’s statistics on bridges of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers there was originally a wooden bridge built at this location in 1802. It was replaced with a three-arched stone bridge on 1839. The current stone bridge at this site was built in 1874.

Journal references: 1851 October 27; 1852 January 20, April 18, 21, 22, 27, June 16, July 11, 23; 1853 June 25, July 25; 1854 May 8, 28, September 22; 1855 February 17, 19, March 22, May 18, 25 (causeway), May 18; 1856 May 30, July 8, August 5, 24; 1857 April 22, May 8, 10, July 5; 1858 June 8, 20, August 7; 1859 March 10, 11, 18, April 30, August 7; 1860 April 27.

Nightshade Pond -- see Heron Pool

Nine-Acre Corner -- see Corner

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

North Branch -- see Assabet River

North Bridge -- see Flint’s Bridge

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 assuming incorrectly an association of the name with the dam and mill of Warren Miles (1822 – 1903) in that area of Nut Meadow. See also Martial Miles Meadow.

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 Bridge** -- N 41.44799, W 71.37829
This is the bridge that crosses Nut Meadow Brook at Sudbury Road (road that is presently Old Road to Nine Acre Corner).


**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 (the coordinates for approximate beginning of larger tributary are above). It 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.
Nut Meadow Brook Crossing (Nut Meadow crossing [first]) -- N 42.44776, W 71.37994 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s mention on May 1, 1859, of a steep hillside south of this crossing of the brook implies one particular point of the brook which is the only place where a steep hill is just south of and close to the brook. There is currently a golf cart road crossing over the brook at this spot, suggesting it would have been natural to improve there an old crossing of the brook.

Journal references: 1853 March 10; 1856 April 24; 1859 May 1; 1860 March 26.

Nut Meadow crossing [first] -- see Nut Meadow Brook Crossing

Nut Meadow Mouth -- N 42.44843, W 71.37343 (approximate)
This is the mouth of Nut Meadow Brook on the Sudbury River. The coordinates above for where this mouth is currently located are not necessarily the exact place it existed in Thoreau’s time.

Journal references: 1854 February 5 (indirectly); 1860 February 12.

Nut Meadow Pond -- see Miles's Pond

Oak Island -- N 42.47591, W 71.34076 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s single reference to this location is insufficient to pinpoint it other than that it was at or in the Concord River by the Great Meadows. Thoreau’s survey of the Sudbury and Concord Rivers shows an annotation of “oaks” on the north shore of the Concord River opposite the Great Meadows. This is tentatively accepted as the location of the island, possibly forming such during high water. The “oak” would most likely refer to Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor) or Red Oak (Quercus rubra), both known in that area.


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).

Oak Ridge -- see Bee-Tree Ridge
Old bridge landing -- see Hill Landing

Old Carlisle Road -- from N 42.47334, W 71.35744 to N 42.50288, W 71.35367 (Concord)
This road now called Estabrook Road started from what is now Barnes Hill Road and ran northward into the Estabrook Woods to the town boundary with Carlisle. Most of it remains unpaved. It was created in parts, the southern section dates to about 1720, and the northern part in 1763 running from near the current Mink Pond nearly to the center of Carlisle. A tradition that on April 19, 1775, Minutemen came down this particular road to join in the fight with the British at the Old North Bridge is not substantiated in historical accounts. This road shows on the 1830, 1852, and 1856 maps of Concord.

Journal references: 1851 October 5; 1852 June 23, September 28; 1853 March 21, June 5, 10; 1854 August 15, 30; 1855 March 8; 1857 October 5, 20, November 6, 14, 18; 1858 November 8; 1859 September 24, October 3.

Old Hunt house (Hunt house) -- N 42.46749, N 71.35774
This house formerly stood a short distance to the north of the Concord River along Lowell Road on the east side. A succession of Hunts owned the property almost continuously dating back before 1667. The first Hunt owner of the land on which the house stood was William Hunt (1605 - 1667), one of the very early settlers of Concord who migrated from England and who became a Freeman in Concord in 1641. Massachusetts deeds for Middlesex County dating back to 1639 which are likely incomplete show only that William Hunt purchased land in Middlesex County on February 22, 1653, from Rev. Peter Bulkeley (1583 - 1659), co-founder of Concord. That land was “fifty acres of upland on the further side of the river ” but is considered to be on Punkatasset Hill. However, William Hunt’s 1667 will leaves to his sons more land than this. Thoreau in his unpublished manuscript “The Dispersion of Seeds” states that the land on which the house stood was once owned by Governor John Winthrop (1587 - 1649), no doubt based on a passage that is not definitive from Lemuel Shattuck’s History of the Town of Concord (1835) [see Journal entry for February 16, 1857]. Thoreau also asserts in his manuscript that the Winthrop family occupied the house on the land that was later occupied by the Hunt families. This is consistent with his Journal entries for March 11 & 18, 1859, where Thoreau speculates that the house might date back to near the initial settlement of the town and that the occupants were Winthrops. However, there are no Winthrop birth, marriage, death, cemetery or census records in Concord from its founding through the 19th century, strongly indicating that the Winthrops never dwelled in Concord, even though having owned land in the town. In his will of 1667 William Hunt left the 6 acres of land with the old Hunt house to his eldest son, carpenter Samuel Hunt (1633-1706). Since William Hunt moved to Marlboro, MA and died there, it is most likely that his eldest son Samuel occupied the house at the time of his father’s death and likely had a role in its construction. Samuel Hunt traded the land and buildings in 1692 to Adam Winthrop (1647 -1700) of Boston, a grandson of Governor John Winthrop (1587 -1649), for other land. Following Adam Winthrop’s death in 1700, John Hunt (1673 - 1765), a nephew of Samuel Hunt, bought back the property in 1701 from the Winthrop heirs and built a house a little to the rear of the Hunt house that had belonged for just eight years to Adam Winthrop. The older house (old Hunt house), sometimes referred to incorrectly as the Winthrop house, was the one that Thoreau witnessed being dismantled in 1859 by Edmund Hosmer (1798 - 1881) who acquired the property in 1852. The house behind it that had been built by John Hunt was occupied by Hosmer and still stands (320 Lowell Road). The last Hunt owner of the old Hunt house was Humphrey Hunt (1770 - 1852). In short the old Hunt house dated from before 1667, and the original owner of the 6 acre lot on which it stood is not known, but was most likely Rev. Peter Bulkeley.
Old Lime-Kiln -- see Lime-Kiln

Old Marlborough Road -- see Marlborough Road

Old North Bridge -- N 42.46903, W 71.35068
This refers to the site of the bridge where the battle with British troops occurred on April 19, 1775. A bridge at this site did not exist during Thoreau’s lifetime. The bridge that replaced the original battle bridge was built downstream at Monument Street and was referred to simply as “North Bridge”, but was also known as Flint’s Bridge. Thoreau’s reference on July 5, 1859, to rocks below this bridge is to the site of the former battle bridge since his annotations on an 1834 survey of the Concord River note rocks below the old site of the battle bridge, not below the newer North Bridge/Flint’s Bridge.


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

One-Arched Bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

Orchis Swamp -- N 42.43156, W 71.34875 (approximate)
This is a swamp at the northwestern edge of Well Meadow. The orchid after which it is named is the Large Purple Fringed Orchid (Platanthera grandiflora). This author found this orchid at the same location in June 1981 (image below).

![Large Purple Fringed Orchid at Orchis Swamp (June 1981), by Ray Angelo](image)

Journal references: 1852 June 15 (indirectly); 1853 June 8 (indirectly), 9, 12 (indirectly), 13.

Ostrya Island, Ostrya Rock -- see Flint Bridge Rock
Otter Bay -- see Farrar’s Swamp

Owl Nest Path -- from N 42.47972, W 71.35966 to N 42.48292, W 71.36033 (best estimate)
This was a path that led to the Owl Nest Swamp, apparently from the Old Carlisle Road (now Estabrook Road). The course of a dirt road/path on the 1943 USGS topographic map (Concord quadrangle) agrees with a path from the Old Carlisle Road that leads to the Owl Nest Swamp on Gleason’s map. This is most likely the path Thoreau refers to. The 1943 USGS topographic map does not display the swamp, but the swamp is there (now partially flooded).

Journal references: 1857 June 24 (indirectly), August 29.

Owl Nest Swamp (Farmer's Owl Nest Swamp, Owl Swamp) -- N 42.48255, W 71.36150
On June 24, 1857, Thoreau records briefly in his Journal 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 with certainty 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 (Concord quadrangle) 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 at what is now 761 Lowell Road. The proximity of this cliff to the location of the swamp is consistent with both of them being on Farmer’s land. The site of this swamp is currently mostly flooded. Gleason’s map mistakenly equates this swamp with Fox Castle Swamp. From Thoreau’s description of its call the owl upon which this name is based is thought to be the Long-eared Owl (Asio otus), a species formerly uncommon now considered rare in the Concord area.

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

Pad Island -- N 42.48678, W 71.31836 (approximate middle)
Thoreau locates this on the survey of the Concord River of 1834 that he annotates. It is located in the northern part of the great bend in the Concord River around Ball’s Hill. It appears in a 1940s aerial photograph of the area and is about the size indicated on the 1834 survey map. The “island” is likely the growth of various types of lily pads from a sandbar beneath the water in the river at times when the river level is low as Thoreau describes on July 19, 1859.
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 finding such a showy flower after 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 at the foot of Annursnack Hill in the meadow of Jesse Hosmer (ca. 1790 - 1871). 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. Concord botanizer Alfred W. Hosmer (1851 - 1903) 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 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 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. The actual location is due south of the hill and a little above the east-west line of Barrett’s Mill Road. This meadow is now largely grown in with trees and shrubs such that Thoreau would not likely recognize it (see photo below).
Remnant of Painted Cup Meadow (May 2020), courtesy of Richard Higgins

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.

**Partridge Glade**
The location of this place cannot be determined with any precision other than that it is in a woodland or oak sproutland in the vicinity of Walden Pond, and likely not far from the Fitchburg Railroad tracks. The name refers to the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), a bird of woodlands.

Journal references: **1855** February 13 (indirectly), December 31.

**Pear Path**
Thoreau refers to this when visiting House-leek Rock from the Assabet Bathing Place. On the way from that bathing place to House-leek Rock is the Shadbush Meadow. Most likely this path is through or by that meadow since a name for shadbush (*Amelanchier* sp.) is swamp sugar-pear. See for instance Thoreau’s reference to this term on May 13, 1852.

Journal reference: **1856** August 5.

**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 there larch trees (*Larix laricina*) and *Maianthemum trifolium* (very rare in Concord) indicates that it was boggy or a bog in his time. “Pedrick” refers to machinist William Pedrick (1804 - 1878) of Somerville, MA who acquired the property in May 1853 and sold it in May 1855. His 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.

Peetweet Rock
The location cannot be determined with certainty other than it is between Poplar Hill and the southern shore of the Concord River below Egg Rock. But most likely it is one of the rocks in Merrick's Pasture with peetweets referred to in the Journal on July 2, 1853. The bird named is what is now known as the Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularius).


Peltandra Meadow
The exact location of this meadow cannot be determined other than it was in the large Hubbard's Meadow. The plant referred to in the name is Arrow Arum (Peltandra virginica).

Journal references: 1852 July 2 (indirectly); 1854 June 17.

Perch Pool
This cannot be placed with any certainty, but the Journal references are consistent with a pool on the land of Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865) west of the Corner Road. The name refers to Yellow Perch (Perca flavescens).

Journal references: 1858 April 27 (indirectly), June 25, October 2.

Peter's Path (Caesar's Path) -- approximately from N 42.46870, W 71.34813 to N 42.47478, W 71.32017
This was 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 and 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 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 (approximate)
This was a well associated with the residence of laborer 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 Concord GIS Map shows what appears to be a spring
northeast of Poplar 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 J. 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).

Pigeon-place Plain -- N 42.44581, W 71.34919 (best estimate)
Thoreau’s Journal references indicate that this was an elevated plain by the Deep Cut and most likely on the same side of the railroad as Laurel Glen. The above coordinates are the approximate middle of such a plain. The pigeon referred to is the Passenger Pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius) which formerly flew in massive flocks, but was hunted to extinction by 1914.

Journal references: 1850 November 9 (indirectly); 1851 June 11 (indirectly); 1852 June 11 (pines), 15.

Pigeon Rock -- see Dove Rock

Pigeon Rock Bend -- N 42.47047, W 71.36265
This is the bend in the Assabet River at Pigeon Rock (Dove Rock).


Pine Hill [Concord, MA] (Merriam's Hill) -- N 42.46992, W 71.30486
This is a hill of 228 feet in elevation north of Virginia Road. Its alternate name used by Thoreau likely derives from Joseph Merriam (1767 - 1856) who lived beside Virginia Road beneath this hill in Thoreau’s time. The hill is named after White Pine (Pinus strobes).

Journal references: 1851 February 27, May 21.

Pine Hill [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43728, W 71.32902
At elevation of 366 feet Pine Hill is one of the highest hills in Lincoln. Being only 500 meters east of the eastern edge of Walden Pond, it has a grand view of that pond. Most likely the hill is named after the very common Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus).
Journal references: 1849 vol. 3, page 23, Princeton ed.; 1851 September 12; 1852 February 29, July 19, September 1, October 8, 20, 22, November 30, December 16; 1853 May 23, June 12, October 23; 1854 February 9, August 27, September 14; 1855 May 14, October 19; 1856 May 15; 1857 October 12, November 4, 25; 1858 April 29, July 29, October 3, 25, 31; 1859 April 24, October 1, 14, December 12; 1860 July 11, August 28.

**Pine-sap Path**
This is a path in the E. Hubbard Wood, apparently on the eastern side of the woods toward the Ministerial Wood Lot. It cannot be pinpointed. The name derives from the Pinesap (Monotropa hypopitys).

Journal references: 1857 October 6, November 25 (indirectly); 1858 August 23.

**Pink Azalea Woods** -- N 42.46766, W 71.36466 (approximate)
These are woods that contain the only colony of Roseshell Azalea (Rhododendron prinophyllum) known to Thoreau in Concord which was north of Nashawtuc Hill. The approximate location of the woods is at the coordinates above.

[Image: Roseshell Azalea in Pink Azalea Woods (May 1982), by Ray Angelo]


**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, Wheeler’s (s) 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 Pink Azalea Swamp on February 9, 1856. The coordinates above are for the center of the wide southern portion which is near (southwestward of) 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. The name “Wheeler” is associated with some of the names for this swamp since it was part of the venerable Lee Farm acquired in 1852 by businessman and real estate dealer Samuel Greene Wheeler (1791 - 1865). Gleason misplaces the Pinxter Swamp, Wheeler’s Swamp and Assabet Spring on his map.

Journal references: 1855 June 9, October 21; 1856 January 24, 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 (approximate)
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 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.

Pleasant Meadow (ca. 1890), looking southwest, Conantum in distance, by Alfred W. Hosmer, courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library
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 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 above. This feature does not show up on any historic of Concord or the earliest topographic maps since they were insufficiently detailed. But it does show up on a USGS topographic map of 1943 and clearly on the Concord GIS Map and aerial images. It 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 42.43362, W 71.32639 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 the name is reported to derive from the swamp/meadow (Farrar’s Swamp) through which the brook ran near the Sudbury River which 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 was the Beech Spring. The brook eventually passed into what used to be Farrar’s Swamp near the Sudbury River where it joined a tributary (Deacon Farrar’s brook). From there it emptied into the Sudbury River. Farrar’s Swamp south of Route 177 was flooded to make Farrar Pond in 1900 which eliminated this brook from that area to the Sudbury River. The coordinates above for the start of the brook are for what was the main source stream. See also Dashing Brook.

Journal references: 1853 August 23 (indirectly), 30; 1854 September 8; 1855 January 11, February 24; 1857 April 22; 1858 March 20, December 29; 1859 March 27.

Pond Hill
There is insufficient information to determine this early, solitary reference. It is most likely Emerson’s Cliff, Heywood’s Peak or Fair Haven Hill.


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.

![Ponkawtasset (Punkatasset Hill) from Great Meadows looking northwest (August 2017), courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey](image)

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.

**Poorhouse-- see Almshouse**

Poorhouse Meadow (Almshouse Pasture, Poorhouse Pasture) -- N 42.45560, N 71.34483
On August 16, 1858, Thoreau refers to the almshouse pasture as next to Cardinal Ditch. Also, on that date he refers to it as a “low-meadow pasture.” The Cardinal-flower (Lobelia cardinalis) is a wetland species. Thus, this meadow-pasture was a damp or wet field between the almshouse and the Cardinal Ditch. See entries for Almshouse and Cardinal Ditch. The first two Journal references to it call it a meadow while the latter two references call it a pasture suggesting it became less wet from 1853 to 1858.

Journal references: **1853** July 29; **1854** July 10; **1856** July 26; **1858** August 16.

**Poorhouse Pasture -- see Poorhouse Meadow**

**Poorhouse road -- see Walden Road**
Poplar Hill (Mrs. Ripley's hill, Ripley Hill) -- N 42.46902, 71.34595
This is a hill of modest height, 206 feet elevation, on the east side of Monument Street just south of the Concord River. Thoreau occasionally used the names Ripley Hill or Mrs. Ripley’s Hill, after the Ripley family who long owned the Old Manse on the west side of Monument Street opposite the hill, and in particular Thoreau refers to the very learned Sarah Bradford Ripley (1793 - 1867) who occupied the Old Manse from the time Thoreau was at Walden to the end of his life. The particular poplar tree after which the hill is named is unknown. The common poplar species in Concord are the Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) and Bigtooth Aspen (Populus grandidentata).

Journal references: 1852 April 21, September 19, October 7, 28; 1855 April 15, June 12; 1856 June 3; 1857 June 5, October 13; 1858 August 20, November 1, 4; 1859 March 22, 28, October 15.

Poplar Hollow
Thoreau provides insufficient information to locate this exactly. He was surveying the Ministerial Lot (Ministerial Swamp) at this time, and there are a number of sandy hollows on the south side of that elongated area that would be suitable for the two poplars common in Concord, Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) and Bigtooth Aspen (Populus grandidentata).


Potter’s Brook
The location of this brook is uncertain. However, based on the itinerary of the moonlight walk Thoreau took on June 11, 1851, which he refers to on June 13, 1851, it is most likely that this single use of this name refers to what he later called Hubbard’s Brook. His use of “Potter’s Brook” precedes all his use of the name “Hubbard’s Brook” and is not used again. The Potter referred to is farmer John Potter (1793 - 1875), who owned a significant amount of land in this area, including a parcel of about nine acres on the east side of the Corner Road that bordered Hubbard’s Brook on the north side.


Potter’s Desert
The location of this place cannot be determined since farmer John Potter (1793 - 1875) owned several parcels of land between his residence (near the corner of what is now Sudbury Road and Fairhaven Road) and the Sudbury River and Brister’s Hill.


Potter’s Field -- N 42.44637, W 71.35983 (approximate)
This field belonging to farmer John Potter (1793 - 1875) according to clues in Thoreau’s references was near or beside the Corner Road on the east side and bordering a swamp. The coordinates above are for land that Potter owned that best fit these requirements. Gleason’s map places this farther south on land owned by Potter that was steeply sloped beside a Sudbury River swamp.

Journal references: 1851 August 20, September 5; 1854 June 27; 1860 September 7.

Potter’s maple swamp -- see Potter’s Swamp

Potter’s Meadow -- see Potter’s Swamp Meadow
**Potter's Path**
This path cannot be placed very well, but Thoreau’s references suggest that in part it ran from the west or north side of Bear Garden Hill (mistakenly “Bare Hill” on March 23, 1859) to the Corner Road (presently Sudbury Road), likely ending near the residence of the farmer John Potter (1793 – 1875) near the corner of today’s Sudbury Road and Fairhaven Road.

Journal references: 1852 July 3; 1853 May 17; 1856 July 19; 1859 March 23.

**Potter's Swamp (Aster radula swamp, Potter's maple swamp, Radula Swamp)** -- N 42.44234, W 71.36469 (approximate)
From Thoreau’s references this is a Red Maple (Acer rubrum) near or by the Sudbury River partly south of and adjacent to Potter’s Swamp Meadow. An aerial photograph from the 1940s clearly shows such a swamp, the coordinates of which above are the part of that swamp on Potter’s land. John Potter (1793 - 1875) was a farmer who owned various parcels of land in the general vicinity of his residence (near the corner of what is now Sudbury Road and Fairhaven Road). Aster radula refers to what is now known as Eurybia radula, an aster of bogs, swamps and low woods.

Journal references: 1853 August 4 (footnote); 1854 July 23, December 19; 1855 May 1, October 22, November 5; 1856 July 31, August 19, 26; 1857 October 4; 1858 November 3 (footnote), 21; 1859 March 21, September 29.

**Potter's Swamp Meadow (Potter’s Meadow)** -- N 42.44131, W 71.36592 (approximate)
This piece of river meadow owned by farmer John Potter (1793 - 1875) has on the north side of the Sudbury River a little east of Hubbard’s Bridge. It was adjacent to and south of the Potter Swamp. The placement of this on Gleason’s map is essentially correct.

Journal references: 1854 February 2; 1855 November 5 (indirectly); 1858 April 15; 1859 April 12.

**Pout’s Nest** -- see Wyman Meadow

**Pratt’s Pool (Pratt’s Pond)** -- N 42.48215, W 71.35082 (best estimate)
This is/was a small body of water on the property of farmer/horticulturist Minot Pratt (1805 - 1878). That property is at what is now 635 Monument Street, west and somewhat south of Punkatasset Hill on the north side of the street. Of the three small bodies of water that show up on the former Pratt property today on the Concord GIS Map only the one that is at the coordinates above on the west side of Punkatasset Hill shows up on a 1943 USGS topographic map. It might well have been in existence in Thoreau’s time and is located favorably to be along a route Thoreau took to visit Botrychium Swamp as he notes on July 14, 1860.

Journal references: 1858 August 30; 1860 July 14.

**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 J. 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.
**Prichard Shore** -- N 42.46147, W 71.35625 (approximate)
This is the shore on the south side of the Sudbury River that was part of the property of storeowner Moses Prichard (1789 - 1865) whose home was on Main Street (now part of the Concord Academy). Thoreau’s survey of the Lee Farm for David Elwell in December 1856/January 1857 shows the angle at which some of the Main Street properties reached the Sudbury River.


**Punk Oak**
All that can be said about the location for this is that it was in a white pine woodland, Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), most likely on a south-facing slope, somewhere between the Smallpox Cemetery and Well Meadow Head. The name likely refers to an oak tree infected with or bedecked with some type of fungus.

Journal reference: **1859** April 15.

**Punkatasset Hill** -- see **Ponkawtasset**

**Purple Utricularia Bay [Lincoln, MA]** -- N 42.42282, W 71.35353
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 Lincoln GIS Map and on satellite and aerial images. This bay is named after Purple Utricularia (*Utricularia purpurea*), which Thoreau describes as abundant and the most common Utricularia, but which 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.
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 is a location between Clamshell Hill and Conantum. The coordinates above are for the Sudbury shore near the site of the Hollowell Place.

Quail Hill [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.44565, W 71.31058 (best estimate)
This is a rather small hill just to the west of the residence of farmer Calvin Smith (1795 - 1879) in Lincoln, MA, both residence and hill by the Cambridge Turnpike on the south side. The bird referred to is the Northern Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus), the only native quail in the eastern United States.

R. [alph] W. E. [merson]'s Cliff -- see Emerson's Cliff

R. [alph] W. E. [merson]'s Hill -- see Emerson's Cliff

R. [alph] W. E. [merson]'s Wood-lot (Emerson's wood-lot) [Concord, MA/Lincoln, MA] --
N 42.43616, W 71.33948 (approximate middle)
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) owned much of the land south of Walden Pond to the Fitchburg Railroad, including virtually all of Heywood's Meadow and most of the hill named after him, Emerson's Cliff. The southeastern part of this lot was in Lincoln, MA. Various Thoreau surveys map parts of this land. The references below are to the Emerson land south of Walden Pond. Emerson owned wood lots elsewhere in the town, including the notable one on the northwestern side of Walden Pond.

Radula Swamp -- see Potter's Swamp

Rainbow Rush Shore -- N 42.44154, W 71.36858 (approximate)
Thoreau’s Rainbow Rush is the Bayonet Rush (Juncus militaris). See discussion under Grindstone Meadow for more information on the location of this rush along this shore.

Rattlesnake Fern Swamp -- see Botrychium Swamp

Red Bridge -- see Hunt’s Bridge
Red House (eastern Concord) -- N 42.45824, W 71.34219
This red house is the one commonly known as one of the houses Thoreau and his family lived in. He includes it on December 27, 1855, in a list of houses he had lived in (as an infant). This house exists at the same location, 201 Lexington Road (near the Ralph Waldo Emerson house), but is not painted red.

Journal references: 1851 December 29; 1852 August 24; 1853 May 17 (footnote), November 29; 1854 May 18; 1855 December 27.

Red House (western Concord) -- N 42.45858, W 71.38707 (approximate)
Thoreau leaves several clues in his Journal for the location of this house. It was by the Fitchburg Railroad west of the town center, by a crossing, “above” (that is, beyond along the tracks) a swamp he noted for Poison Sumac (Toxicodendron vernix) that was right beside the railroad, and was on an impressive bank or slope. Only one house meets these requirements. It was the home of farmer/carpenter Joseph Hosmer (1814 - 1886), a childhood friend of the Thoreau brothers, and Thoreau’s family. The house is shown on the Gleason map, the map of Concord of 1852 and the 1856 map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. It was on the west side of what is now Baker Avenue on the north side of the Fitchburg Railroad near where the road crosses that railroad. The house no longer exists. The swamp (now flooded to make a pond) was in a roundish depression right up against the railroad just west of Hosmer's house (see Dogwood Swamp). While Thoreau refers to this always as the “red house” without associating it with Joseph Hosmer, he makes an indirect association on August 29, 1854, by relating a walk down this railroad westward and noting in sequence the Poison Sumach and then a grass by the Assabet River behind Joseph Hosmer’s house (which likely would have faced eastward toward the road). This is consistent with the order encountered on the north side of the tracks -- house, Poison Sumac swamp, and grass by Assabet River. Also, the Concord GIS Map shows a generous slope right where the house was located. Thoreau describes and draws an addition to the house on January 20, 1855, but unfortunately no images of the house seem to exist. This house is not to be confused with an older historic house on Baker Avenue that still exists built by a different, more famous Joseph Hosmer.

Journal references: 1851 December 21; 1852 August 8; 1854 January 2, May 29, 30, June 25, August 29 (indirectly); 1855 January 20; 1858 September 7.

Red-Ice Pond -- see Andromeda Ponds

Red Lily Meadow [Lincoln, MA]
The location of this meadow cannot be determined exactly except that it was near a spring on the property of farmer Calvin Smith (1795 - 1879) who lived on the south side of the Cambridge Turnpike just east of Smith’s Hill. The wildflower referred to is the Wood Lily (Lilium philadelphicum), not uncommon in Thoreau’s time in Concord, but now locally rare.

Journal references: 1854 July 2 (indirectly); 1856 July 12, 24 (indirectly).

Redstart Woods
The location of these woods cannot be pinpointed but appear to be woods that are part of or in the vicinity of Hubbard’s Grove. The bird referred to is the American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla).

Reed Island -- see Flint’s Pond Island

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).

Ripley Hill -- see Poplar Hill

Ripple Lake(s) -- see Little Goose Pond

Ripple Pool -- see Little Goose Pond

Rock -- see Egg Rock

Rock Island -- see Island

Round Pond -- N 42.43656, W 71.49194
This is a small pond, very roundish in shape that still exists on the west side of the Old Marlboro Road just north of the intersection with Old Packard Road. The 1830 map of Concord shows it clearly.

Journal references: 1851 August 19; 1852 March 12; 1858 May 4.

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

Sam Barrett’s Brook -- see Spencer Brook

Sam Barrett’s Pond (Barrett’s Pond) -- N 42.47457, W 71.37583 (approximate)
This was a mill pond along Spencer Brook just north of Barrett’s Mill Road. The coordinates 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 shows the later Angier’s Pond. The maps of Thoreau’s time show the northern tip of Barrett’s Pond extending only to a point just south of Angier’s Pond, and the southern end much closer to Barrett’s Mill Road -- just above 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.
Journal references: 1853 February 5; 1854 January 27, 30, September 5; 1856 April 29; 1858 February 8 (indirectly); 1859 January 10, December 31; 1860 November 1 (indirectly).

Sam Wheeler Bridge -- see New stone bridge

Sassafras Island -- see Flint’s Pond Island [Lincoln, MA]

Sassafras Shore (White Avens Shore) -- N 42.46061, W 71.36514 (best estimate)
This is a shore on the north side of the Sudbury River south of Nashawtuc. Thoreau’s entry for June 15, 1860, indicates that it is about 20 rods (about 100 meters) northeast of the New stone bridge. The plant referred to is Sassafras (Sassafras albidum). Thoreau associates White Avens (Geum canadense) with the Sassafras at Nashawtuc on August 2, 1853, so that his reference to White Avens Shore at Nashawtuc on May 14, 1858, is most likely the same as the Sassafras Shore.

Journal references: 1853 August 2 (indirectly); 1854 May 25; 1855 June 14; 1856 May 1; 1858 May 14; 1859 April 29; 1860 June 15.

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 gives the appearance that the source of the brook is northwestern. From the swamp it flows southward on the west side of Hubbard Hill, through the site of the saw mill used by Thoreau’s father to cut wood to make pencils. The brook then flows southeastward crossing Monument Street, finally emptying into the Concord River on the south side of Buttrick’s Hill opposite the Great Meadows. Part of its course 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 treating that in effect as the source of the brook. There have been more than one saw mill site along this brook. The one after which it is named is likely the one that was where Monument Street crosses this brook which dated back at least to the early 1700s. All but a few of Thoreau’s uses of the name refer to the Saw Mill Brook on the eastern 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 of the Mill Brook 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 described in his Journal entry in December 1849 (vol. 3, p. 42, Princeton ed.) where he notes 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 portion 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

Saw Mill Brook falls (March 2016),
courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey

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, September 24 (indirectly), October 6; 1858 January 23, October 6, 18; 1859 May 11, September 1; 1860 July 7, December 2; 1861 March 30,

Saw Mill Brook Falls [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.44470, W 71.31899 (best estimate)
Thoreau indicates that these falls are in the vicinity of Smith's Hill. The topography of Saw Mill Brook shows a noticeable drop at the coordinates above which also happen of be at the juncture of several property lines, perhaps another indicator of a natural feature.

Journal references: 1856 December 12; 1857 April 25.

Saw Mill Brook Path
The location of this path cannot be determined other than it ran to or along Saw Mill Brook (in eastern Concord and northwestern Lincoln).

Journal references: 1852 August 24; 1853 August 10, 14, September 2; 1854 September 12; 1856 June 11; 1858 October 6; 1859 September 1.

Saw Mill Run -- N 42.44818, W 71.32566 (best estimate)
This is a part of Saw Mill Brook in eastern Concord 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 the end of the 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 into 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 to 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.
Second Division Meadow -- N 42.43761, W 71.41102 (approximate)
This was a sizable meadow along Second Division Brook now mostly flooded due to dams downstream.

Second Division road
This was a short road that ran north from the White Pond road just east of the Second Division Brook and its tributary (“this side the brooks” as Thoreau notes, meaning on the side toward the town center). It shows up only on the 1830 map of Concord.

Second Division Spring -- N 42.43472, W 71.40861 (provided by Richard Higgins)
The location of this spring cannot be determined from Thoreau’s information. Gleason locates this on his map south of what Thoreau calls Second Division road and southeast of where this road crosses Second Division Brook. Richard Higgins confirmed the location of the spring in August 2020 consistent with Gleason’s location, the topography, and wetland mapping.

Second Division Woods
Thoreau’s entry for November 21, 1851, suggests that he uses “Second Division” for this name in the sense of the entire Second Division sector rather than associated with Second Division Brook. Thoreau’s comments on June 4, 1853, that the “Second Division” appeared to comprise a large area
between the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers. The 1852 map of Concord shows a more or less contiguous woodland south of the Ministerial Swamp, west of White Pond, and southeast of the road running southward from Damon’s Mills (current Route 62). This woodland area is likely the area Thoreau considered to be the Second Division Woods.

Journal references: 1850 November 14; 1851 November 21; 1853 March 29.

**Second stone bridge** -- see Assabet Stone Bridge

**Sedge Hollow** -- see Fox Path Hollow

**Sedge Path (Yew Path)**
The exact location of this path cannot be determined. Thoreau associates it with a colony of Prairie Willow (Salix humilis) that he found “beyond” a colony of the locally rare American Yew (Taxus canadensis) that he found on the side of Fair Haven Hill. This author found a colony of this yew on the west side of Fair Haven Hill in 1980, possibly the same colony that Thoreau found. Thoreau notes two of the sedges of this path as Early Sedge (Carex pensylvanica) and Carex siccata.

Journal references: 1858 April 9 (indirectly), 15 (Salix humilis); 1859 September 4; 1860 May 15, June 30, July 2 (indirectly, likely), September 23.

**Seven-Star-Lane** -- from N 42.43431, W 71.37247 to N 42.43317, W 71.37590
This is a short road that joins the Corner Road (presently Sudbury Road) to Sudbury Road (presently Old Road to Nine Acre Corner). The origin of the name is uncertain. In Boston this name is said to derive from that of a tavern, which in turn was derived from a tavern name in Old London.

Journal references: 1850 October 31; 1851 July 5.

**Shadbush Meadow (June-berry 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. June-berry is simply an alternate name for shadbush. This meadow appears to be part of or adjacent to what Thoreau elsewhere called G. Barrett’s Meadow. See also Glade Meadows.

Journal references: 1854 May 17, June 20, July 8, August 25; 1858 August 2, September 7.

**Shanty Field (shanty plain)** -- N 42.44574, W 71.34927 (best estimate)
This was a level area just east of the Deep Cut at the Fitchburg Railroad with a shanty occupied by the Irish Riordan family (and possibly other shanties at the time the railroad was constructed). Thoreau’s entry of October 19, 1855, indicates that the shanties were east of the railroad between it and a colony of Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida). His Journal entry of January 24, 1852, refers to a single Irish shanty in the Cut. The entry of December 3, 1858, notes that the pitch pines were east of the Shanty Field. The coordinates above are for a small level area just east of the Deep Cut site and with a larger level area to the east of the small level area suitable for a typical pitch pine plain.
Journal references: **1852** January 7, June 11 (given as June 10 in Princeton ed., but Friday was June 11); **1858** December 3.

**Sharp Bend Reach** -- from N 42.48088, W 71.33193 (the sharp bend) to N 42.48352, W 71.33038 (northeast Holt angle)
This is a stretch of the Concord River between the first (sharp) bend of the Holt at Great Meadows and the northeast angle of that Holt. This is evident from Thoreau’s listing of depths at the bend and angle of the Holt in his Journal entry of July 5, 1856, when compared to the depths for these shown on his annotated version of the May 1834 survey of the Concord River.


**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 or 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 northeastern). It is easy to see on a map that from there the fire would have been blocked by 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 Oak (Quercus ilicifolia) was 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 (Quercus ilicifolia).

Journal references: **1851** September 10, 20 (indirectly), 24 (indirectly), 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.

**Skelton Bend [Carlisle, MA/Bedford/MA]** -- N 42.50664, W 71.31699
This is a bend in the Concord River at a place where the river is a boundary between Carlisle, MA and Bedford, MA. In Thoreau’s time some land on the Carlisle side at the bend but quite at the shore was part of Concord. The name derives from Carlisle farmer Artemas Skelton (1794 - 1871) who lived near the bend.
Skull-cap Meadow
This was one of various meadows on the large parcel of land on the east side of the Sudbury River owned by farmer-surveyor Cyrus Hubbard (1791 – 1865). See Hubbard’s Meadow. There is insufficient information to locate it exactly. There are two skullcap species that occur in Concord that grow in the same types of habitat. Thoreau likely refers to the more common Mad-dog Skullcap (Scutellaria lateriflora), but the Marsh Skullcap (Scutellaria galericulata) is also a possibility.


Skull-cap Meadow Ditch
This is simply a ditch in Skull-cap Meadow, one of many ditches in Hubbard’s Meadow, not possible to pinpoint.

Journal references: 1855 April 22; 1858 April 18.

Sleepy Hollow (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery) -- N 42.46394, W 71.34395
This is a small complex of dry, 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. Gleason refers to this as “Lonely Graveyard” for his map. But Thoreau does not use that name in his Journal.

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

Solidago rigida Bank -- N 42.45243, W 71.37157 (best estimate)
On September 11, 1857, Thoreau discovers a goldenrod that he mistakenly identified as Solidago rigida in a sand hole east of Clamshell Hill. It was actually Solidago speciosa. The terrain at Clamshell Hill has been significantly modified since Thoreau’s time. However, a south-facing slope east of Clamshell Hill still exists which would have existed in Thoreau’s time. The coordinates for this likely location are above.

South Branch (Main Branch, South River, Sudbury River) -- from N 42.41276, W 71.36635 to N 42.46518, W 71.35814 (in Concord)

Only explicit references to this river separate from the Concord River are included below. The majority of references to it in Thoreau’s Journal are simply to “river,” as Thoreau typically did not distinguish it from its continuation, the Concord River. This river known now as the Sudbury River begins in a large swamp in Westborough, MA and then forms the winding border between that town and Hopkinton, MA to the south, then continues to form the border with Southborough, MA on the north and Hopkinton on the south, then forms the border with Southborough on the north and Ashland, MA on the south before passing into Ashland, then Framingham, MA, then Wayland, MA, then forming the border of Wayland with Sudbury, MA on the north and then on the west before reaching Concord where four towns meet (Sudbury, Wayland, Lincoln, Concord). After that point it forms the border between Concord and Lincoln before passing into Concord near the northern end of Fair Haven Bay (which is a widening of this river) where it flows generally northward to join the Assabet River to form the Concord River at Egg Rock. Its length has been estimated to be between 33 miles and 41 miles. The name South Branch refers to its geographic position relative to the North Branch (Assabet River), the two branches of the Concord River. The name Main Branch is sometimes used since the Sudbury River has significantly greater flow into the Concord River than the Assabet River. It appears that not until 1856 was the river west of Framingham back to its source in Westborough called the Sudbury River. The name of the river is from the town of Sudbury which originally included what is now Wayland, MA. The earliest name for the river in the town of Sudbury was Great River. Over the years the Sudbury River has generally had a slower stream and muddier water than that of the Assabet River, and Thoreau notes this in his time (see entries for July 5 & 12, 1852).

![South Branch (Sudbury River) looking west from southeast of Nashawtuc Hill, part of Wheeler’s Meadow at right (1975), by Ray Angelo](image)

Journal references: 1844 vol. 2, page 103, Princeton ed.; 1849 vol. 3, page 27, Princeton ed. 1852 May 1, July 5 (indirectly), 12; 1853 June 4; 1854 May 12, June 11, 25, August 20; 1855 January 22, February 24, 26, 28, March 1 (indirectly), 2, 3, November 11 (indirectly); 1856 March 22, 24, April 11; 1857 March 28; 1858 January 23, April 6; 1859 August 8.

South Bridge -- see Wood’s Bridge
South River -- see South Branch

Spanish Brook -- see Heywood’s Brook

Spanish Meadow Swamp -- N 42.42763, W 71.34963 (best estimate)
This would be a wetland along the Spanish Brook, that is, Heywood’s Brook. A U. S. Geological Survey topographic map of the area done in 1950 shows wetlands at each end of this brook. The one near the outlet of this brook into Fair Haven Pond had an open wet area (meadow) as well as a wooded wet area (swamp). This one with coordinates above is the one Thoreau would most likely refer to as a “meadow swamp.” It is presently flooded to make a small pond.


Spencer Brook (Sam Barrett’s 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 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.

Spencer Brook Meadow -- N 42.49611, W 71.37696 (approximate middle)
While there are at least two large meadows along Spencer Brook, one in Concord and the other mostly in Carlisle, Thoreau speaks of crossing the head of this meadow in the vicinity of the Concord/Carlisle town line. This can only refer to the large meadow with coordinates above.


Sphaerocarpa Pools [Bedford, MA] -- N 42.48265, W 71.31611 (best estimate, approximate)
Thoreau’s references indicate these pools were at the lower (downriver) end of the Great Meadows, between river and dry land, and approximately a mile from the residence of laborer and butcher Peter Hutchinson (1799 – 1882). This places the pools in Bedford, MA near Ball’s Hill on the opposite shore at about the coordinates above. The name is derived from the wetland wildflower Ludwigia sphaerocarpa that he found there.

Journal references: 1854 August 22 (indirectly); 1856 July 11 (indirectly), August 1.

Spring Path
Thoreau’s entry for May 18, 1856, where he notes this path while walking from Deep Cut to Cardinal Shore implies that the “spring” referred to is either West Fair Haven Spring or Boiling Spring, which are the only springs of note between those two locations. These possibilities are consistent with his other references to the path. Thoreau provides no clues to the course of the path. However, the possibility that it continued along the base of Fair Haven Cliffs (see entry for January 19, 1855) would point more to the likelihood that the West Fair Haven Spring is the spring in this name. See Spring Woods.

Journal references: 1852 May 7; 1853 November 7; 1856 May 18; 1857 May 4.

Spring Swamp Path
The context of Thoreau’s single reference to this path indicates that it is associated with Conant’s Spring Swamp (see entry). However, there is no detail about the course of this path. The likelihood is that it passed along a side of that swamp.


Spring Woods (Hubbard’s Wood [in part]) -- N 42.43738, W 71.35861 (approximate center of parcel west of Fair Haven Hill)
The location of this woodland is an estimate of the middle of the upland portion of a large parcel of land owned by Helen Oakes Hubbard (1843 - 1924) on the west side of Fair Haven Hill. This property was acquired by inheritance from her father, farmer Darius Hubbard (1796 - 1848), and held in trust for her in Thoreau’s time. The spring is the West Fair Haven Spring on her property.

Journal references: 1851 August 5, October 5; 1852 February 3; 1855 January 19; 1857 March 26; 1860 October 20 (indirectly), November 29 (indirectly).

Spruce Swamp [Estabrook Woods] -- N 42.48073, W 71.36314 (approximate center)
Thoreau refers to this swamp as in front of Farmer’s, referring to the farm or cliff of farmer Jacob B. Farmer (1801 - 1872) rather than his residence which still exists at 761 Lowell Road. Thoreau also describes a very dense white pine grove, Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), on the east and northeast
of the swamp. The swamp at the coordinates above fits these clues, with the terrain northeast and east of the swamp significant but now mostly cleared. The “spruce” refers to Black Spruce (Picea mariana).

Journal references: 1853 June 10, December 22 (possibly); 1854 January 8; 1857 September 21.

**Squam Harbor [mistranscribed by editors as “Squaw”]** -- N 42.48342, W 71.32311
Thoreau’s handwriting of this in his Journal is tentatively rendered as “Squaw” in the 1906 edition of his Journal. However, the 1834 survey of the Concord River that Thoreau annotated shows the location where it is given as “Squam Harbor.” It is a wetland inlet on the north side of the Concord River next to the west side of Ball’s Hill. Gleason on his map renders this correctly and places it correctly. The word “squam” derives from the Native American word “asquam” which means water.

Journal references: 1859 July 14, 22.

**Staples’s Meadow**
This was on land owned by constable-farmer Samuel (“Sam”) B. Staples (1812 - 1895). Thoreau’s entries imply that it was near the north side of the Sudbury River south of Hubbard’s Bath and west of Hubbard’s Bridge (since property maps of the east side of the bridge do not show him owning land near the river on the north side east of the bridge). Without property maps for the west side of the bridge this meadow cannot be located.

Journal references: 1857 June 26 (indirectly); 1858 October 16; 1859 February 25 (sprout-land); 1860 June 4.

**Staples’s Meadow Wood**
This is simply woodland by Staples Meadow, the location of which is equally uncertain.

Journal reference: 1858 June 16.

**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 are Red Maples (Acer rubrum) which grow in wetlands. On November 6, 1857, Thoreau refers to this as a meadow where farmer 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.

**Stone bridge -- see Assabet Stone Bridge and New stone bridge**

**Stow’s Clearing**
This almost certainly was part of Stow’s Wood. The reference of May 24, 1854, indicates elevated land in the vicinity of the Deep Cut. The clearing might have been created by the extensive cutting of Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus) in Stow’s Wood referred to on January 2, 1853.
Journal references: **1852** May 5; **1854** May 24.

**Stow's Meadow** -- N 42.45075, W 71.35099 (approximate)
This was a meadow near the railroad between the Fitchburg Railroad and the Trillium Woods. Thoreau’s entry of May 6, 1858, notes that a ditch in this meadow was within about 75 meters of the Trillium Woods. The 1852 map of Concord shows an opening between the railroad and these woods which is presently on the property of the Concord-Carlisle High School, part of which is now wetland and part of which is land filled in. The approximate coordinates above fit these requirements and are on land owned by farmer Cyrus Stow (1787 - 1876).

Journal references: **1854** February 9; **1855** April 7; **1858** May 6; **1859** June 14, 19.

**Stow's Pool**
Thoreau’s reference to this does not provide sufficient information to locate it other than it was apparently in the vicinity of Walden Pond likely on land to the northwest of the pond owned by farmer Nathan Brooks Stow (1822 - 1901) or his uncle, farmer Cyrus Stow (1787 - 1876). Possibly it might be a pool in Stow’s Meadow.


**Stow's Wood** -- N 42.44576, W 71.34935 (best estimate)
This was a woodland by the Deep Cut on the east side of it and south of the Trillium Woods. It belonged to farmer Cyrus Stow (1787 - 1876) who owned much land in Concord. The references note a bank that Thoreau ascends at the woods. The coordinates above are for an elevated area on property fitting Thoreau’s clues and owned by Cyrus Stow. Excluded here are references to the Stow wood lots near Saw Mill Brook in east Concord and the reference to another Stow wood lot on the west side of the railroad on March 25, 1860. See also Stow’s Clearing.

Journal references: **1853** January 2 (-lot), April 3 (Princeton ed.); **1854** February 14, May 30; **1857** October 2.

**Straight Reach [Concord, MA. Carlisle, MA, Bedford, MA]** -- from N 42.48771, W 71.31933 to N 42.50550, W 71.31744
This is a very straight stretch of the Concord River that Thoreau names running from Davis Hill to Skelton Bend, the latter a short distance southwest of the Carlisle Bridge that connects the towns of Carlisle and Bedford.

Journal references: **1858** August 24; **1859** July 14.

**Strawberry Hill [Acton, MA]** -- N 42.49452, W 71.40238
This is the third highest hill in Acton, MA at 333 feet in elevation near the western boundary of Concord with that town. Strawberry Hill Road runs by the south side of this hill eastward into Concord.

Journal references: **1849** vol. 3, pages 14, 15 & 23, Princeton ed. **1851** September 6; **1853** December 15; **1854** August 14; **1856** August 16 (road); **1860** October 28 (one).
Strawberry Hill [Concord, MA] -- N 42.42644, W 71.39767
This is a hill of 259 feet in elevation just west of White Pond near the town boundary with Sudbury, MA.


Sudbury meadow -- see Great Meadow(s) [Sudbury, MA]

Sudbury River -- see South Branch

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 (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 J. Eaton in his A Flora of Concord (1974) found Sugar Maple elsewhere that he thought was what 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 this author saw were no more than about a foot in diameter.

Journal references: 1851 September 17 (indirectly), 24; 1860 November 8.

Sunset Interval -- from N 42.46899, W 71.38334 to N 42.46619, W 71.39098 (best estimate)
This is a stretch of the Assabet River between the Assabet Bathing Place and the railroad bridge across the Assabet River. The only length of river running more or less straight that would be favorable for viewing sunsets would be between the Assabet Bathing Place and the Assabet Stone Bridge.

Journal references: 1859 February 14; 1860 June 28.

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 in two places what was then known as the Back Road. 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 beneath 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 the name Forget-me-not Brook are 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 shortening of the name. In 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, which he collected on July 3, 1859. In his 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 was owned by Cyrus Hubbard (1791 - 1865). The Concord GIS Map only shows the beginning part of this brook. The coordinates for the brook are 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.
Swift Place Bank
This is a riverbank on the Assabet River above Dove Rock. Most likely it is a place where the river does not have significant swamp on either side with a bank near the river on one side. A possible locality is the bank on the north side of the Assabet River between Dove Rock and the outlet of Dodges's Brook.


Tahatawan Cliff -- see Cliff(s)

Tanager Glade
There is insufficient information to place this name exactly other than the very general area of Walden Pond. However, Thoreau’s association of this locality with shrub oaks and the tanager with shrub oaks in previous references when visiting the Fair Haven Cliffs suggests that it might simply be an alternate name for the Shrub Oak Plain. The tanager is the Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea).


Tarbell’s Bay -- N 42.48427, W 71.32191
This is a wetland just north of Ball’s Hill surrounded by high ground and connected to the Concord River meadows such that it forms a bay when the river is flooded, generally in the spring. The “bay” is named for farmer William Tarbell IV (1778 - 1859) whose residence was nearby to the northwest.


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’s Meadow -- N 42.44616, W 71.38959
This is a wetland southeast of the residence of farmer Daniel Tarbell (1801 -1803). It is on the west side of Nut Meadow Brook close to the Marlborough Road. The meadow on the east side of the brook and continuing further downstream on both sides of the brook belonged to farmer James Potter Brown (1810 - 1871) and was referred to as Brown’s Meadow by Thoreau. Thoreau links the two meadows more than once.

Journal references: 1852 August 22; 1853 June 14; 1854 February 5, 11; 1855 January 22; 1859 March 12 (indirectly).
Tarbell’s Road
This most likely is what is today named Harrington Avenue. This road starts at Marlborough Road opposite the residence of farmer Daniel Tarbell (1801-1803) on the east side of that road and in Thoreau’s time ran westward only as far as the farm of Joseph Harrington, Jr. (1794-1877).

Journal references: 1852 January 27, February 27.

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, June 1916
Gleason photo from Through the Year with Thoreau (1917)
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 farmer 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.


Tarbell’s Swamp (Tarbell’s andromeda 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 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 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 references to “Tarbell’s cleared swamp” on August 30 and September 1, 1853, are 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.
Tarbell’s Swamp in western Concord (Nuclear Metals Bog),
(October 1978), by Ray Angelo

Journal references: 1851 August 17; 1852 April 18; 1853 September 1, October 16; 1856 August 28.

Tarbell Swamp Hill -- see Davis Hill

Target Meadow -- see Wyman Meadow

Texas Plain -- N 42.45639, W 71.36237 (approximate center)
This was the level area around Texas Street now named Belknap Street. The name Texas was applied to the street apparently because at the time that the Fitchburg Railroad and train depot were being built near this street Texas was much in the news.

Journal references: 1854 August 15; 1858 December 12 (indirectly).

Three Friends’ Hill [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43084, W 71.31170
This comparatively high hill at 335 feet in elevation overlooks Flint’s Pond on its southeastern side. It is presently the location of the DeCordova Museum at its summit. Thoreau’s friend Franklin Benjamin Sanborn (1831 - 1917) has noted that Thoreau gave this hill this name after Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing and Thoreau himself.
Three Friends Hill, Lincoln, MA, view of Flint’s Pond from the hill (August 1971), by Ray Angelo

Journal references: 1851 September 12, 22.

Thrush Alley -- N 42.44370, W 71.34619 (approximate)
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 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 by Thoreau was George Rice Hubbard (1829 - 1896). However, Thoreau was mistaken since property records show that the land was owned by George’s sister, Harriet Jane Hubbard (1827 - 1918). On October 21, 1856, Thoreau notes looking into the deep hollow of Abel Brooks (1788 - 1867) from the Thrush Alley Path. Abel Brook’s Hollow is just to the southeast of Harriet Jane Hubbard’s land which yields the approximate location coordinates above for Thrush Alley.

Journal references: 1852 July 30, September 18; 1853 June 7, 19, August 14, September 2; 1854 August 13; 1855 April 24, June 8; 1856 April 28, May 10, October 21(path); 1857 March 15, May 26; 1859 January 4, July 23, August 27; 1860 August 27, October 17, 26.
**Tobacco-pipe Wood** -- N 42.48135, W 71.36100 (approximate)
This was a dense white pine grove, Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus), in the Estabrook Woods on the east side of and northeast of Spruce Swamp which contained a good colony of Tobacco-pipe or Indian-pipe (Monotropa uniflora).


**Tortoise Ditch**
All that is known about this ditch is that it was in Nut Meadow. The species of tortoise here is uncertain but was most likely the Spotted Turtle (Clemmys guttata) which Thoreau called by the scientific name used in his time, Emys guttata.


**Trillium Wood(s)** -- N 42.45124, W 71.34970 (approximate)
The nature and location of the Trillium Woods can be determined 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 moisture-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 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). A statement of Thoreau on January 30, 1856, can be correct only if he meant to write that a point on the south side of the property of watchmaker and jeweler Asa C. Collier (1812 - 1887) was 25 rods (about 125 meters) west of the Trillium Woods instead of “e”[ast]. The locations of all the boundaries of the Collier property are known and make no sense for “east.” The clues yield a location approximately by the coordinates above. The name of these woods refers 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. The position for these woods on Gleason’s map is incorrectly placed too far south.

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

**Tupelo Cliff** -- see Bittern Cliff

**Turnpike [in part]** -- see Union Turnpike

**Turnpike [in part]** -- from N 42.45806, W 71.34364 to N 41.44988, W 71.32012 (in Concord)
All but a few references to this name refer to the Cambridge (or Concord) Turnpike. The Cambridge and Concord Turnpike Corporation was formed in 1803. Most of the turnpike was constructed in 1805-1806 in a nearly straight line from what is now Kendall Green in Cambridge to Concord Center. Most of the road was opened for business in 1807. Two toll gates were set up, the farthest
west one being in Lincoln. Since the turnpike was not a financial success, it was converted to a public highway in 1829. Today in Lincoln the turnpike has essentially become Route 2.

Journal references: 1850 Vol. II, page 20, 1906 ed. & vol. 3, page 74, Princeton ed.; 1851 June 22, August 16, 20, November 4, 25; 1852 January 31, February 16, April 1, 21, 30, May 25, July 17, August 24, September 14; 1853 January 10, 25, March 7, May 10, 27, June 4, August 24, 25, 30, September 2; 1854 February 16, May 11, July 18, August 4, 27, 28; 1855 October 27, December 3; 1856 May 21, July 12, September 1, 14, October 8, 16, 18, November 28; 1857 April 25, October 6, 19; 1858 January 23, June 14, October 15, 18; 1859 March 4, October 12, December 5; 1860 January 5, 13, 16, March 19, June 19, July 3, 7 October 28.

**Turnpike Bridge** -- N 42.45432, W 71.33592
This is the bridge along the Cambridge Turnpike that crosses the Mill Brook.

Journal references: 1851 December 29; 1853 August 16; 1859 December 22; 1860 January 13, February 7, March 19, July 7.

**Turtle Bank** -- N 42.46888, W 71.38414 (best estimate)
This was a gravelly bank on the northwest side of the Assabet River a short way upstream from the Assabet Bathing Place and by a small foot bridge. The turtle referred to was the Wood Turtle (Glyptemys insculpta). Thoreau referred to this sometimes by its scientific name in his time, Emys insculpta.

Journal references: 1858 March 31 (indirectly, likely), June 10 (indirectly), 11 (indirectly), August 2, September 7.

**Tuttle’s Lane (Tuttle’s road)**
This is a road that runs from the Cambridge Turnpike to Lexington Road. It is currently named Hawthorne Lane, but was also known at one time as Love Lane (this latter name used now and since at least Thoreau’s time for another road in Concord). Thoreau’s August 1853 survey of the farm of Augustus Tuttle (1794 – 1866) shows that it formed a western boundary of the farm.

Journal references: 1852 January 28, April 30; 1857 October 19 (indirectly); 1859 October 14 (indirectly).

**Tuttle Path**
This is a path that started from the end of a short road opposite the residence of farmer Augustus Tuttle (1794 - 1866) on the Cambridge Turnpike and led to Goose Pond. Its apparent course is shown on the Gleason map.


**Tuttle’s road** -- see Tuttle’s Lane

**Two-Boulder Hill** -- N 42.47373, W 71.31512
Thoreau describes this as a hill behind where he was born (on the north side of Virginia Road) from which there was a good view to the northeast of Bedford Swamp. The coordinates above are for the summit of this hill.

**Two Rod Road** -- see **Bridle-road**

**Union Turnpike (Turnpike [in part])** -- from N 42.45845, W 71.36195 to N 42.46947, W 71.40828 (in Concord)

This road ran relatively straight from a point on Main Street west of the Concord town center northwestern to the border with the town of Acton. In doing so it crossed 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 ended in Lancaster. Presently this road begins as Elm Street following the same course northwestern as the Union Turnpike did 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. This turnpike was chartered in 1803, with the corporation formed and authorized to build in 1804. It was completed in 1808 and began operation in 1809. But maintenance of the Concord section was discontinued by the turnpike corporation in 1819.

Journal references: **1852** April 21, June 22, July 10; **1853** May 27, 29, June 23, July 11, August 17; **1854** January 2, July 18, August 15; **1855** May 30; **1856** July 6.

**Utricularia Pool** -- N 42.43689, W 71.34211

Thoreau notes this pool on July 13, 1852, when he was headed for Emerson’s wood-lot south of Walden Pond. The Concord GIS Map shows a pool at the coordinates above close to the southern side of Walden Pond which would be on the way to this lot. This pool is likely to dry up in periods of little rainfall. The plant referred to is a common aquatic plant in the Hornwort Family, Utricularia vulgaris subsp. macrorhiza.

Journal references: **1852** July 13 (indirectly); **1853** June 8.

**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. Thoreau’s Viola muhlenbergii is now known as the American Dog Violet (Viola labradorica). What Thoreau called Viola palmata is what is now known as the Coastal Violet (Viola brittoniana). The two violets are not similar. The Coastal Violet would not likely be found in this swamp, and there is no Journal reference where he did so. So the footnote of April 9, 1856, appears to his correction of an error.

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

**V.[iola] palmata Swamp** -- see **V.[iola] Muhlenbergii Swamp**
**Vaccinium Oxyccoccus Swamp** -- see **Gowing’s Swamp**

**Vernonia Meadow** -- N 42.47091, W 71.34907 (best estimate)
Thoreau refers to this meadow only once specifically on his way to the Hibiscus at Great Meadows. The name derives from wildflower Vernonia noveboracensis in the genus commonly known as ironweeds. The one location Thoreau noted this previously on his way to Great Meadows is on August 3, 1852, by Flint’s Bridge. This bridge was a well-known location for this wildflower, having been recorded there in 1836 by the Concord amateur botanist Edward Jarvis (1803 - 1889) and collected there by Thoreau’s Concord friend Edward S. Hoar (1823 - 1893). This author saw a small colony of this wildflower about 400 meters from this bridge near the Concord River toward Great Meadows in 1979. The coordinates above are for the part of the river meadow on the east side of the bridge toward Great Meadows.

Journal references: 1852 August 3 (likely); 1853 July 29.

**Virginia Road [Concord, MA/Lincoln, MA]** -- from N 42.46605, W 71.32219 to N 42.46268, W 71.29885 (in Concord)
This road in Concord forms an arc bending northward between the Old Bedford Road and the town line with Lincoln. It continues southward and then eastward in Lincoln to end on the North Great Road in Lincoln (which is Lexington Road in Concord). The house where Thoreau was born is beside this road. It still stands on the north side of the road (341 Virginia Road) having been moved in 1878 about 300 meters eastward along the road from its original site. The name of the road is likely derived from the state of the same name.


**Waban Cliff** -- see **Lee’s Cliff**

**Walden Crossing** -- N 42.43681, W 71.34369
This is a point along the Fitchburg Railroad right by the southwest corner of Walden Pond where to this day several trails meet from south and north sides of the railroad. More than one of these lead to the southern part of the Spanish Brook (Heywood’s Brook) where Thoreau followed the brook upstream on his way to Pine Hill on November 4, 1857.


**Walden meadow** -- see **Wyman meadow**

**Walden Pond (Walden, Yellow Pine Lake)** -- N 42.43915, W 71.34026 (approximate center)
“Walden plainly can never be spoiled by the woodchopper, for, do what you will to the shore, there will still remain this crystal well.” Journal, September 29, 1851.
Certainly no single place in Concord is more closely associated with Thoreau than Walden Pond. This is reflected in the largest number of Journal references to this single place. Walden is the largest natural pond in Concord, not counting Fair Haven Pond which sometimes is not regarded as a pond and which is partly in Lincoln. The name Walden Pond dates back to early colonial times in town records. The reason for the name Walden remains uncertain, but almost certainly derives from old use of the name (or variant of it) for places or persons in England. Largely through the generosity of donations of land in 1922 of families related to Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) and George Heywood (1826 - 1897) the pond became property of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with the
requirement to protect it for enjoyment by the public. To understand Thoreau’s fanciful application of the name Yellow Pine Lake twice to this pond (1849, vol. 3, page 24, Princeton ed. and July 28, 1852) one must refer to his entry for June 8, 1851, where he notes that pitch pine (Pinus rigida) is sometimes called yellow pine.

Walden Pond from Pine Hill looking west-northwest, Mt. Wachusett on horizon
Gleason photo from 1906 ed. of Thoreau’s Journal

Walden Pond, courtesy of and © Scot Miller
Walden Pond (October 1971), looking beneath railroad toward Thoreau Cove,
by Ray Angelo

Walden Road (Poorhouse 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. The part of it beginning at Route 2 in Concord southward all the way 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, August 4; 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 May 20 (indirectly), August 27, November 1; 1859 December 6; 1860 August 19, September 18.

Walden Wood(s) [Concord, MA/Lincoln, MA]
Thoreau’s concept of the extent of these woods perhaps can be debated. Some distinct borders might be the Walden Road on the east, Goose Pond to the northeast, Brister’s Hill and Laurel Glen to the north, the Fitchburg Railroad or the Back Road to the northwest, Fair Haven Hill to the west, and Heywood’s Brook and Heywood’s Meadow to the south.

**Warm Woodside** -- N 42.44036, W 71.36668 (best estimate)
This is one of a series of names (mostly coined by Thoreau himself) of locations in geographical order along the Sudbury River. This particular location based on its order is on the southwest side of the river and south of Grindstone Meadow. On September 24, 1851, Thoreau applies the term “woodside” to a place in Conant’s Meadow that would fit the requirements for the location of Warm Woodside. It has a southeast facing slope that would be warm and is the only such slope near the river that is south of and in the vicinity of the Grindstone Meadow. The coordinates for this slope are above.

Journal references: **1851** September 24 (indirectly, likely); **1860** February 12.

**Warren’s Crossing** -- N 42.44713, W 71.35159 (approximate)
Farmer Cyrus Warren (1789 – 1866) owned woodland that straddled the Fitchburg Railroad a short way north of the Deep Cut. This crossing is likely where Warren’s Path at Deep Cut crossed the railroad. The coordinates above are the midpoint on the railroad of Warren’s land.

Journal reference: **1855** February 12.

**Warren’s Path**
Farmer Cyrus Warren (1789 – 1866) owned woodland that straddled the Fitchburg Railroad a short way north of the Deep Cut. This path at Deep Cut likely passed through his woods and crossed the railroad near the Deep Cut. See Warren’s Crossing.

Journal reference: **1853** April 8.

**Water Dock Meadow**
This is evidently one of the series of meadows that Thoreau elsewhere refers to as Brown’s Meadow along Nut Meadow Brook. The particular location is unknown. The wildflower referred to is Water Dock (Rumex brittanica).

Journal references: **1854** July 7, 9 (indirectly); **1856** July 17.

**Water-target Pond** -- see Wyman Meadow

**Weird Dell** -- from N 42.43664, W 71.34970 to N 42.43477, W 71.34964
This geographic feature can reasonably be determined from Thoreau’s description of how he reached it and the topography of the area. On November 30, 1858, he notes being at the Pout’s Nest (Wyman Meadow), then on the shore of Walden Pond and then proceeds westward through Wheeler’s Owl Wood toward Weird Dell. A wood lot of farmer Abiel Heywood Wheeler (1807 - 1896) was adjacent to the Fitchburg Railroad where it passes by the west side of Walden Pond. A wood lot of Abiel’s older brother farmer Henry Adams Wheeler (1802 - 1881) was adjacent to this lot on its southwest side. Proceeding southwestward through these two lots from Walden Pond one comes to a peculiar oblong depression or hollow next to the southeast base of Fair Haven Hill about 200 meters long oriented north-south and varying in width from about 65 meters in the center to 100 meters on each end. Just south of this hollow is Well Meadow Field (see entry) which is the locality Thoreau notes immediately after Weird Dell. There is currently a path that traverses this hollow lengthwise and more than one path from that path to the Fair Haven Cliffs, one of which Thoreau notes in his Journal on the same date. Lastly, Thoreau records that, William Ellery Channing (1818 - 1901), his companion on the date of the entry, fancied the idea of sitting on the northwest side of the dell to watch the shadows
steal gradually across it. The position of this hollow is such that he would see the shadow of a foot of Fair Haven Hill on its west side do this. The Weird Dell is one of the places Thoreau considered buying to live in solitude.

Journal references: 1842-1844 vol. 2, page 90, Princeton ed. (indirectly, possibly); 1858 November 30.

**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.

Well Meadow (August 2016), courtesy of and © Cherrie Corey

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, W 71.35080
This brook emanates from several springs beginning in the upper west, north and east lobes of Well Meadow. The approximate coordinates above are for the beginning of what appears to be the primary source in the west lobe, 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
Thoreau’s 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 the 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 Skunk Cabbage. This author in the 1970s and 1980s
saw at this site these and other more uncommon plants nearby recorded by Thoreau.

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 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 (approximate)
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.

West Fair Haven Spring (Cliff Hill Spring) -- N 42.43484, W 71.35936 (provided by Steve Tobin)
Thoreau appears to associate only one spring with Fair Haven Hill. On May 10, 1854, he refers only
once to Cliff Hill Spring by name. On May 14, 1855, uses the name West Fair Haven Spring for the
first time and twice in 1860. In March 2020 Steve Tobin found what appeared to be the remnants of a spring at the coordinates above which are just south of Cliff Hill and near due west of Fair Haven Cliff. It is also possible that the spring is actually a different spring, a source of the Cliff Brook (at N 42.43474, W 71.35773). But Thoreau does not appear to associate the West Fair Haven Spring with Cliff Brook. The spring at the coordinates above was on the property of Helen Oakes Hubbard (1843 – 1924) who inherited it as a child from her farmer father Darius Hubbard (1796 - 1848). This would agree with the indirect reference on August 5, 1851, where Thoreau notes coming down from Fair Haven Hill to the entrance of Hubbard’s Wood above a spring.

Journal references: 1851 August 5 (indirectly); 1853 November 25 (indirectly); 1854 May 10; 1855 May 14; 1858 March 28 (indirectly), October 22 (indirectly); 1860 May 24 (indirectly), June 4 (indirectly), October 20 (woods), November 29.

West Meadow Brook -- from N 42.43079, W 71.37380 to N 42.42085, W 71.37536 (approximately)
This is a brook that begins in a wetland on the west side of Conantum. In Thoreau’s time it ran southward before crossing the Sudbury Road to empty into what Gleason on his map names as the Dunge Hole Brook just north of what is now Route 117. The latter brook empties into the Sudbury River. As early as 1886 a U. S. Geological Survey map shows that this brook was ditched into a straight line on the west side of Sudbury Road. Later maps show its transformation into straight ditches on both sides of the Sudbury Road and ditching of the brook it flows into. Presently these two ditched brooks join south of Route 117. Gleason’s map does not show the upper course of this brook and likely imagines its course in Thoreau’s day west of Sudbury Road before its ditching.


Wharf Rock [Lincoln, MA] -- N 42.43936, W 71.31713 (provided by Richard Higgins)
This is a rock at the northern shore of Flint’s Pond according to the Gleason map and Thoreau’s references. This author found the rock with Mary Roselle Fenn (1908 - 2004) on October 10, 1980, (see The Thoreau Society Bulletin, No. 159 (Spring 1982), pp. 3-4). Richard Higgins relocated the rock again in October 2020. The name evidently derives from a flattish rock that projects out into the pond from the shore like a wharf.

Wharf Rock (October 2020), looking northeastward, courtesy of Richard Higgins
Journal references: **1851** August 21; **1853** June 19; **1857** August 31; **1858** June 23 (indirectly), October 6; **1859** November 22, December 22 (shore).

**Wheeler's Azalea Swamp** — see **Pinxter Swamp**

**Wheeler's Bank** — N 42.43794, W 71.37124 (best estimate)
This is a slope at Corner Road on the property of farmer William Wheeler (1806 – 1864). Thoreau's only reference to it remarks that the sunflower he found on the bank was on “this side Corner Spring,” meaning nearer to the town center than the Corner Spring. The specimen of the sunflower (Helianthus strumosus) Thoreau collected on August 11, 1856, for his herbarium is noted by him as collected at “Corner Road.” Also, following the description of this sunflower he collected at this bank he adds the sentence “Edge of meadow.” This indicates it was found on the part of the bank on the east side of the road beside the wetland there. William Wheeler lived on the west side of the Corner road not far from Hubbard’s Bridge.

Journal reference: **1856** August 11.

**Wheeler's Meadow (Mantatuket Meadow, Nawshawtuct Meadow, Sam. Wheeler meadow, Wheeler Indian field meadow)** — 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 then referred to by Thoreau using his name. Wheeler in turn sold the property in 1856 to sea captain, David Elwell (1788 - 1870). In Thoreau’s latter years he started calling this Mantatuket Meadow as he began using the name Mantatuket Rock for Egg Rock due to the association of the land there with the Native Americans. 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: **1853** April 1; **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; **1859** January 24, April 12; **1860** March 18, April 27 (indirectly), July 7 (indirectly).

**Wheeler(’s) Swamp** — see **Pinxter Swamp**

N 42.43797, W 71.34568 (approximate center)
This was a wood lot owned by farmer Abiel Heywood Wheeler (1807 - 1896) which was adjacent to the Fitchburg Railroad where it passes by the west side of Walden Pond. According to James Hinds, a former Concord resident and avid amateur bird-watcher, the owl Thoreau first associates with this wood is most likely the Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) based primarily on Thoreau’s description of its call on December 19, 1856.

Journal references: **1853** December 30, 31; **1854** February 24; **1856** December 1 (-path), 19, 24; **1857** September 30; **1858** November 24, 30.

**White Avens Shore** — see **Sassafras Shore**

**White Cedar Swamp** — see **Cedar Swamp**
White Pine Grove

Thoreau includes this name in a list of localities in the Easterbrooks Country (Estabrook Woods) but gives no other information to locate it more precisely. The white pine grove described on September 16, 1857, in John Flint’s pasture is a possibility, or the one described on September 21, 1857, on the east of the Spruce Swamp in Estabrook Woods. The pine referred to is Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus).


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. It is the second largest natural pond in Concord behind Walden Pond, not counting Fair Haven Bay as a pond. Today only the southern shore and a small part of the eastern shore 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 the 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;”

White Pond (September 2020), courtesy of Richard Higgins

**White Pond road** -- from N 42.42934, W 71.37580 to N 42.43699, W 71.43039 (Concord/Acton town line)

Thoreau’s itinerary of January 30, 1860, indicates that this road must be the east-west road passing a short distance north of White Pond. The course of the road shows clearly on the historic maps of Thoreau’s time and on a USGS 1943 topographic map (Maynard quadrangle). Today the only segments of this road remaining are Powder Mill Road and Barton’s Way (with the connection between these two evident from property boundaries). Gleason names this “Mill Road” on his map. Thoreau’s references to a lane ending on White Pond road refers to a short road that formerly ran northeast to southwest connecting Sudbury Road (now Old Road to Nine Acre Corner) to the White Pond road. It can be seen on the historic maps of Thoreau’s time and on Gleason’s map.

Journal references: **1851** August 19, 26; **1852** April 11, June 24, August 22; **1860** January 30, May 15 (indirectly), 19.

**Willow Bay [Assabet River]** -- N 42.46883, W 71.36289 (best estimate)

Thoreau’s only direct 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 references: **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 above. Gleason locates this correctly on his map but incorrectly shows 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.

**Willow End**

Thoreau’s single reference does not give sufficient information to place it other than a broad bay or stretch of the Sudbury River between Nashawtuc Hill and Bittern Cliff. Likely it is an early synonym for a later name such as Clamshell Reach. The willow referred to would be the common willow tree along the rivers, Black Willow (Salix nigra).

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**Willow Island** -- N 42.47085, W 71.36318
This is a small island in the Assabet River a short distance upstream from Dove Rock. The willow refers to the common willow tree along the rivers, Black Willow (Salix nigra).

Journal references: 1858 August 15; 1859 January 10.

![Willow Island in Assabet River looking west, October 1899](image)

**Willow Swamp** -- N 42.46753, W 71.36334 (best estimate)
The first reference in 1853 to this name is a use in colonial times with location unknown. The August 15, 1858, reference is to a swamp between Egg Rock and Willow Bay on the Assabet River. The indirect reference on August 7, 1858, describes a straight stretch of the river above the Assabet River. Since the swamp on the east side above Assabet Spring is Thoreau’s Pinxter Swamp referred to earlier in the Journal, the swamp must be along the west side above the Assabet Spring. This swamp is south of Willow Bay. The willow referred to is the common willow tree of the rivers, Back Willow (Salix nigra).

Journal references: 1853 June 4; 1858 August 7 (indirectly), 15.

**Witch-Hazel Island** -- see Fair Haven Island

**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. Also, it was near the burned out house of a man named Witherell and the residence of Bradley Puffer (1811 - 1858), who occupied a site near or at the Hollowell Place. 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 was 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.

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. Thoreau refers to it on September 4, 1851, as “the first bridge.” The name “South Bridge” derives from its crossing of the “South Branch,” the early name for the Sudbury River, or being the southernmost bridge along Sudbury/Concord River at the time it was first built. 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, 24 (indirectly), 28, June 14; 1856 April 6, June 10; 1859 March 10, June 24, August 1; 1860 December 30.

Wood’s Causeway -- N 42.45809, W 71.36727
This is the causeway leading to Wood’s Bridge on the west side.


Wood Thrush Path [Lincoln, MA]
The name of this path derives from the finding by others of the nest of a Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina) on June 19, 1858, at Flint’s Pond. Thoreau describes the path as one that runs parallel to the shore of Flint’s Pond behind “the rock,” evidently Wharf Rock. Thus, it would have run parallel to the north shore of the pond as Gleason shows it on his map.

Journal references: 1858 June 23 (indirectly); 1860 April 24.

Wood Turtle Path
This was a dry path on the property of farmer Abel Hosmer (1796 - 1887) 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 turtle is the Wood Turtle (Glyptemys insculpta). Thoreau referred to this sometimes by its scientific name in his time, Emys insculpta.


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 Joseph's descendants.

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

**Woodis Swamp** -- N 42.47088, W 71.36745 (best estimate)

The solitary reference to this location indicates that Thoreau was traveling up the Assabet River and the swamp was close to or adjacent to Woodis Park. The only significant wetland fitting these conditions and not already named is the one at the coordinates above.


**Woodside Path**

There is insufficient information to locate this other than, as Thoreau remarks, it is a path that leads to White Pond.


**Wyman Meadow (Hydropeltis Meadow, Pout’s Nest, Target Meadow, Walden meadow, Water-target Pond)** -- 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 the latter’s 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 by using its original scientific name, Pimelodus nebulosus, in his Journal (1844-45, page 111, vol. 2, Princeton ed.). Hydropeltis, Target and Water-target refer to Water-shield (Brasenia schreberi), also called by Thoreau target-weed, which he found in this meadow.
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, on USGS topographic maps and on 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).

Yellow Pine Lake -- see Walden Pond

Yellow Rocket Shore -- see Barbarea Shore

Yellow Thistle Meadow -- N 42.44283, W 71.38991
This meadow on the north side of Nut Meadow Brook a short distance to the northeast of the present Williams Road can be located precisely since Thoreau labels it on his April 28, 1856, survey of the so-called “Davis Piece.” The course of the Nut Meadow Brook in that locale matches exactly the current
course. The wildflower in the name refers to Yellow Thistle (Cirsium horridulum). This species has never been documented from Concord or even central or western Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Thoreau’s herbarium only contains a specimen of it he collected in New Bedford, MA. Since the species tends to be found in salty soil, it seems likely that it seeded in from ballast from the small mill-dam a short ways upstream that Thoreau notes on April 28, 1856, as having broken previously and flooded the meadow.

Journal references: 1854 June 18 (indirectly), July 30 (indirectly), August 16, 26 (indirectly); 1855 January 22 (indirectly); 1856 April 28.

**Yew Path** -- see **Sedge Path**

**Yew Wood**

This is the woodland where Thoreau discovered American Yew (Taxus Canadensis) on the side of Fair Haven Hill. The exact location is unknown. This author found a colony of this yew on the west side of Fair Haven Hill in 1980, possibly the same colony that Thoreau found. From Thoreau’s description of the locality of Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens) on Fair Haven Hill and its relation to the yew, a best guess is that it is or was on the northwest side of the hill down a “shallow gully.” A careful search by Steve Tobin in March and April 2021 of the northeast and northwest sides of Fair Haven Hill did not turn up this evergreen shrub.

Journal references: 1858 March 18 (indirectly), April 2 (indirectly), 9 (indirectly), 13 (indirectly), 15 (indirectly), August 10 (indirectly), November 2; 1860 July 2 (indirectly), September 23.