

A Whately Gazetteer

Bartlett's Corner – the intersection of Christian Lane and Long Plain Road. The name is no longer in general use. The section of Long Plain from Bartlett's Corner north was called South Deerfield Road in early days. The section of Long Plain south was formerly called Straits Road.

Bradstreet Grant – a grant of 500 acres made to Simon Bradstreet in 1659. This grant along with the 500 acres granted at the same time to Daniel Dennison, was originally in Hadley, then in the porous boundary between Hatfield and the part of Hatfield known as Whately. It is now a clearly defined hamlet in Hatfield with a cemetery of the same name.

Canterbury – the populated area north of the intersection of present day Christian Lane and River Road..

Cat Street – previous name of present day Straits Road; the short street between Long Plain Road and River Road.

Chestnut Mountain – west of West Brook Road. A now abandoned road extended from the beginning of West Brook Road south to Hatfield.

Chestnut Plain Road – since earliest times, the name of the main street in Whately Center. Originally ran from the Hatfield line north to the Deerfield line but the section from the Dingle to Deerfield has been renamed North Street.

Christian Lane – originally referred only to the houses east of the Mill River bridge – but later to all the road between Bartlett's Corner and the R.R. Now the length of road from Whately Center to the River Road.

Claverack – formerly the name of present day State Road—now a short street between Chestnut Plain and LaSalle Road.

Conway Road – extends from the intersection with Haydenville Road by West Brook though the hamlet of West Whately and on to the Conway line. The section between West Whately and Haydenville Road was also called Devil's Bend Road.

Cross Road – unofficially the original name of present day Straits Road; the short road that runs between Long Plain Road and River Road.

Depot Road—a part of present day Christian Lane it extended from present day State Road past the railroad station and to the intersection with River Road. There is no Depot Road in Whately today.

Dickinson Hill Road—as originally organized this road extended from the intersection of present day Haydenville Road, over Spruce Hill and convergent with present day

Masterson Road, again crossing Haydenville Road at the intersection of West Hill Road and on over Chestnut Mountain to Hatfield. The road over Chestnut Mountain is no longer drivable.

The Dingle – a dip in the land wherein runs Gutter Brook. The dividing line between Chestnut Plain and North Streets and the point at which Swamp Road angles down to State Road.

Dry Hill – north of the road from West Whately to Williamsburg. It is abandoned but walkable roads and there are stone foundations from homes lost when Northampton acquired Whately water rights and built the West Whately reservoir. It is possible to walk from the Williamsburg Road to Cricket Hill in Conway

Egypt Road – east of the Connecticut River R.R. and across “to the point where Mother George Road leaves it” according to Crafts.

Glen Road—runs from the intersection with present day North Street to Roaring Brook Road in Conway. See also Indian Hill and Staddle Hill.

Grass Hill – south of the road from West Whately to Williamsburg. Abandoned but walkable roads and many stone foundations from homes lost when Northampton acquired Whately water rights and built the West Whately reservoir. It is possible to walk from the Williamsburg Road to present day Laurel Mountain Road in Whately or to present day Adams Road in Williamsburg.

Great Swamp -- an undeveloped area through which runs the Mill River on the western edge and past State Road to the east. The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife now owns 441 acres. Called the Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area it is located mostly in the northern part of Whately to the east of North Street and extending into South Deerfield.

Gutter Hill and Gutter Brook—near the Center Cemetery. The brook marks the dividing point between Chestnut Plain and North Street and runs through The Dingle. The brook empties into the Mill River.

Haydenville Road—the whole of the present day road from the intersection at Chestnut Plain to the Williamsburg line.

Henhawk Trail – mostly in Williamsburg it loops down into Whately over Dry Hill. An Indian trail in the 1700’s the homes there were moved or abandoned when Northampton obtained the water rights around 1905. It is accessible on foot from the Williamsburg Road.

Hog Mountain – west of present day Laurel Mountain Road and south to Grass Hill

Hopewell Hills – the plateau up from the river meadows – where the East Cemetery is located – Crafts wrote that it “extends the entire width of the town and rises about 50 feet on average”. A section of Hatfield was originally called Hopewell -- the location of the earliest settlement in what became Whately.

Indian Hill – the area owned by George E. Sanderson, where Adonijah Taylor built the first mill in Whately. The area of Whately Glen, now the location of the South Deerfield Reservoir.

The Island Road – no longer used but often found in older deeds, this is present day State Road.

Jimmy Nolan Brook and Jimmy Nolan Road – east of the Poplar Hill Farm and extending down to Conway Road. Now abandoned but walkable in recent years. Named for the family who lived here.

Laurel Mountain Road—a relatively recently named road, it begins at the intersection of Strippe and Webber roads. Originally it was called Grass Hill Road and divided westerly to join the Williamsburg Road in Whately and easterly to join Adams Road in Williamsburg. It is no longer driveable beyond the last residence but the full length can be walked.

Long Hill Division – The sixteen Deerfield lots annexed to Whately in 1810. All located at the upper end of present day North Street.

Lover’s Lane – the first part of present day Haydenville Road, probably extending only from the intersection with Chestnut Plain as far as the houses built in the village center. Also called West Lane.

Masterson Road— a short road that runs roughly parallel to a portion of Haydenville Road. It begins at an intersection with Dickinson Hill Road and extends to an intersection with Haydenville Road.

Mill Hill – the southern end of Chestnut Plain, where West Brook Road meets Chestnut Plain Road.

Mill River – runs north and south through the length of the town. There is a Mill River in Williamsburg and Northampton—not the same Mill River. Whately’s river is so named despite the fact that there were never many mills established thereon.

Mother George Road – Never formally accepted by Hatfield or Whately, portions of the path of the road are still visible today. It extended from a point just south of the Town Hall, first in an easterly direction, across the Mill River via a ford, then angled southeast to join with the Egypt Road.

Mount Esther -- the range of hills lying north of the former Allis Farm "High Gate." A now abandoned road by the same name extended up to Southpart in Conway, and to Roaring Brook Road.

North Street – formerly called North Chestnut Plain, it runs today from the Dingle to the South Deerfield line.

Pleasant Hill – where the Dickinson house remains today and on the present day Dickinson Hill Road.

Poplar Hill and Poplar Hill Road – In the early days sometimes called Popple Hill, the hill itself runs north from the hamlet of West Whately and where the road crosses West Brook to the top of the hill at the present day MacLeish Field Station. Poplar Hill Road once reached from the Conway line to the present day intersection with Strippe Road and Laurel Mountain Road. In the 1930's the part of the road after the bridge over West Brook was renamed Webber Road. The road is drivable as far as Macleish but gated at that point. It is walkable all the way to where it joins Roaring Brook Road.

River Road—congruent with an old Native American trail, it runs along the Connecticut River from the Hatfield line to the Deerfield line. Canterbury was once the name associated with the area of River Road north of Christian lane.

Roaring Brook – Rises in Conway east of Cricket Hill and flows southeasterly through Whately Glen and empties into the Mill River. It has been dammed to form a reservoir for South Deerfield.

Staddle Hill – not on current maps but the hill on the Glen Road leading from Whately to Conway. The road is not abandoned but should be attempted with caution.

Stony Hill – the long range of hills west of Chestnut Plain. Both Cane and Crafts mention a Stony Hill Road that runs between the intersection of Webber Road and "Mill Hill" but there is no trace of this road existing.

Spruce Hill – on current maps in that same approximate location of Dickinson Hill or Pleasant Hill.

The Straits –a portion of the Deerfield Road between Bartlett's Corner and south—for a long time it was the most populous portion of Whately and had two "quite large" stores and three hotels.

Straits Road – thought to follow the old Indian trail, it divided the river meadows from the upland. It is now renamed Long Plain Road and extends from the South Deerfield line to the Hatfield line. A short section of road between Long Plain Road and River Road is now called Straits Road and the part of the original road that lies in Hatfield retains the old name. The original name of present day Straits Road is not found on a map but it was

called Cat Street. After this short road crossed River Road was a road to the ferry across the Connecticut. No trace of this road remains.

Swamp Road – A short road, it runs from Chestnut Plain north to the Deerfield Line and crosses the Swamp whereby it gets the name.

Webber Road – Originally Poplar Hill Road it was renamed from the point where it crosses West Brook in the hamlet of West Whately to the intersection with Haydenville Road. Incomprehensibly named after Louis Webber a man who was not born in Whately, did not die in Whately and lived in Whately only briefly. He was, however, a selectman in 1919, 1920 and 1922.

West Brook -- rises in Conway from the joining of Avery Brook and Sinkpot Brook. Previously the location of several mill privileges, it is now dammed to provide water for Northampton. The Todd Brook from Conway empties into West Brook as does Harvey Brook from Williamsburg. From the intersection at Haydenville Road, the West Brook Road follows the brook.

West Lane – the first part of present day Haydenville Road, probably extending only from the intersection of Chestnut Plain as far as the houses built in the village center. Also called Lover's Lane.

Williamsburg Road – begins in the hamlet of West Whately and extends over Nash Hill to Williamsburg. Called Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg.

Whately Glen—prior to the building of the South Deerfield Reservoir, this was a swimming and picnic place developed and operated by the Sanderson family. See also Indian Hill and Glen Road.