

THE
GEOGRAPHY OF GROTON,
MASSACHUSETTS.

PREPARED FOR THE USE OF

The Members of The Appalachian Club,

ON A PROPOSED VISIT TO THAT TOWN,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1886.

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THE GEOGRAPHY OF GROTON.

RIVERS.

IN early times, before the original Plantation had been cut up in order to form other towns, the Nashua River flowed through the township of Groton for a distance of ten miles or more, and nearly bisected its territory ; while to-day its course within the town's limits is hardly more than three miles. This river is formed by the union of two branches, known respectively as the North Branch and the South Branch, which come together at Lancaster. The former has its source in Ashburnham, near the foot of the Watatuck Mountain, and in Westminster, and passes through Fitchburg and Leominster ; while the latter rises, in the neighborhood of the Wachusett Mountain, at Princeton, and among the hills of Rutland and Holden, and passes through West Boylston and Clinton. Both these branches for a considerable distance above their confluence are known also as the Nashua. The stream at Groton is about one hundred feet above tide-water.

At a very early period the Nashua River was sometimes called the Penacook, and at other times the Groton River. In Thomas Noyes's survey of the grant of Major Simon Willard's farm in the autumn of 1659, the land is described as "lying and being for the most part on the east side of Groaten Riuer." And, again, at the session beginning on September 6, 1676, the approval of the General Court was given to Jonathan Danforth's survey of lands laid out to William Hawthorne, "lying in the wilderness ; on the North

of Groaten Riuer at a place called by the Indians Wistequas-suck," now within the limits of Townsend. At a later period it was more frequently referred to as the Lancaster River ; and it is likely that the stream bore different names at different places along its course even at the same time. In the record of " The lands of Mr. Samuell Willard, which is layd out to him in the towne of Grotten," on September 29, 1680, reference is made to the Nashawag River, — another form of spelling.

The Squannacook River forms the divisional line with Shirley for perhaps four miles, which is the whole distance of contact with that town. This stream rises in Ashby and flows through Townsend and by West Groton, emptying into the Nashua. The name is found in the Proprietors' records as early as the spring of 1684.

PONDS.

BADDACOOK POND — lies about two miles from the village near the Lowell road. It covers an area of 103 acres, and is the largest pond in the town. It is mentioned in the record of James Parker's land under the date of July 6, 1666.

Outlet : Baddacook Brook, which flows into Cow Pond.

CADY POND — a small and deep pond, covering perhaps two acres, lying less than a mile from the village in a southeasterly direction, near the Boston road. It was named after Nicolas Cady, one of the early settlers, who owned land in the neighborhood. This pond and Flat Pond, both very small, are the only ones in the town whose waters ultimately reach the Nashua River.

Outlet : a small unnamed brook running southwesterly into James's Brook.

Cow POND — sometimes called Whitney's Pond, in the easterly part of the town, covering an area of 71 acres. Cow Pond Meadow is mentioned in the record of Ralph Reed's land before the year 1664.

Outlet : Cow Pond Brook, which flows into Massapoag Pond.

DUCK POND — near the Ridges, east of Knop's Pond, and separated from it by a ridge only — lies perhaps half a mile south of Cow Pond. It covers 55 acres, and has no outlet.

FLAT POND — a small sheet of water near the Throne, in the west part of the town.

Outlet: a small unnamed brook into the Squannacook River.

FORGE POND — in Westford, covering an area of 143 acres. In very early times it was called Stony Brook Pond.

Outlet: Stony Brook, which empties into the Merrimack River at North Chelmsford.

HALF-MOON POND — a small pond in the upper part of the meadow, which lies south of the Hillside Road.

KNOP'S POND — near the Ridges, west of Duck Pond, and is of the same size as that pond, covering 55 acres. So called from James Knapp, or Knop, an early settler who owned land in the neighborhood.

Outlet: a brook into Cow Pond.

LONG POND — lies on the southern border of the town, partly in Groton, but mostly in Ayer, covering 45 acres.

Outlet: a brook into Sandy Pond.

MARTIN'S POND — near the foot of Gibbet Hill, on its northerly side — covers $16\frac{2}{3}$ acres; it was named after William Martin, an early settler. In the record of James Parker's land, on July 6, 1666, "the pond called Goodman Martin's Pond" is mentioned. The following Article, found in the warrant for the town-meeting held on September 17, 1792, seems to show that the outlet of the pond was formerly through Hog Swamp and Half-Moon Meadow into James's Brook, though there is now no other evidence to confirm this view.

Art. 8. To see if the Town will order the water running from Martin's Pond to be turned into the old Channel as it formerly

used to run, through the Town, and appoint some proper person or persons to remove the obstructions and Effect the Business.

In the proceedings of the meeting, it is recorded that this Article was "Past in the Negative." A measurement of the pond was lately made, when frozen over, which proves it to be much smaller than it was a half century ago.

Outlet: Martin's Pond Brook into the outlet of Knop's Pond, half way between that pond and Cow Pond.

MASSAPOAG POND — on the eastern border of the town, but lies mostly in Dunstable and Tyngsborough, covering an area of 56 acres. It is now used as a storage basin of water by the Vale Mills Manufacturing Company of Nashua, New Hampshire, and in dry seasons it is drawn upon for a supply.

Outlet: Salmon Brook, which empties into the Merrimack River at Nashua.

SANDY POND — lying wholly in Ayer, and covering 80 acres. A large quantity of ice is taken from its surface in the winter, the ice-houses on its borders being connected with the Fitchburg Railroad by a branch road.

Outlet: Sandy Pond Brook, which flows into Nonacoicus Brook.

SPRINGY POND — a small sheet of water connected with Knop's Pond by a brook.

WATTLE'S POND — three miles north of the village, on the road to East Pepperell, with no outlet. The origin of the name is unknown.

In this list of ponds I have included two or three which now lie wholly in other towns, inasmuch as they are frequently mentioned in the Groton records. The area of the ponds, with the exception of Martin's Pond, is taken from the Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts (January, 1873), as given on pages 124 and 125.

A story is told in relation to Massapoag Pond which is based on tradition, with probably no real foundation. It is said that —

Its outlet was on the easterly side, and as it was the reservoir into which Cowpond brook poured its waters, a considerable mill-stream issued from it. The waters passed without any rapids for a considerable distance, affording no favorable site for a mill. The north end of the pond was bounded by a ridge of loose sand, rising but little above the surface of the water, and being about six rods only in width ; on the opposite side of which was a descent of about forty feet. Here then, was an eligible spot for an overshot mill. At a town meeting held May 21, 1688, a grant was made to Samuel Adams of a small pond near Buck meadow, and leave given to drain it by a brook running into "Tyng's cove." At the same meeting, for the encouragement of any who would set up iron-works at Massapoag, a grant was offered of the wood on the easterly side of Unquetenassett brook. It is said that Adams, who is supposed to have accepted the grant, erected a grist-mill at the site above-mentioned, conducting the water across the sand-bank to the flume of his mill. At the time of a flood about the year 1700, (the precise time is not known,) a breach was made across the sand-bank, and it being very loose and moveable, the whole bank was soon torn down by the water to the depth of more than thirty feet: and consequently a sheet of water of that depth, where the pond was so deep, and where of less depth the whole water upon the surface, flowed suddenly off (all in one night,) with irresistible violence. The mill of course was demolished, and the stones, though diligently sought for, and even the skill of the famous Moll Pitcher, of Lynn, employed in the search, have never yet been found. The bottom of the pond being uneven, fish in abundance were left in the cavities, which were easily taken, and the inhabitants of the neighboring towns, as well as of Groton, came and carried off loads of them. Where the water formerly issued from the pond, a small brook now runs in, and the outlet is, at the place of disruption, called the "gulf." The water finds its way into the old channel, two or three miles from the pond, in a north-westerly direction from Dunstable meeting-house.¹

[¹ Butler's History of Groton, pages 246, 247.]

The name of Buck Meadow, which has been in use for more than two centuries is firmly established, and the site well known. The meadow lies near Lovewell's Pond, formerly within the limits of Groton, but now in Nashua; and Adams's mill stood undoubtedly at the outlet of this pond, where there is a small water power. This theory would tally with the town-records; and furthermore a tradition is still extant that there was once a mill in the neighborhood. Lovewell's Pond is much smaller than Massapoag, and at that time probably had no designation. It was named after Captain John Lovewell, who was killed by the Indians on May 8, 1725. The following is the entry in the records:—

May: 21. 1688 The inhabitants of Groton Granted to Samull Adams y^e pond that lyes neare buck medow which hath its outlet into the medow known by y^e name of Tyngs Couee and the swampy land adioyeng ther to prouided y^e sd land do not exceed fifteen accers ;

atest ; JOSIAH PARKER *Clarke*

and sd adams hath liberty to drean the s^d pond at y^e small brook that unes in to Tyng's Coue prouided sd Adames macks good all dameges that shall be don ther by

There are now three small brooks running into Massapoag Pond on the easterly side, and their fall is too great for any one of them ever to have been the old outlet of the pond. Furthermore, it would have been impossible by any of these brooks to drain the pond (which even at the present time covers 56 acres) without causing too great damage for Adams to make good. There is no indication along their banks that they have been much larger streams than they are to-day. While the formation of the banks at the mouth of the pond, or the "gulf," so called, is peculiar, there are no signs that the water-line was ever any higher than it is at the present time. None of the local antiquaries are able to identify Tyng's Cove, which is a name undoubtedly derived from Jonathan Tyng, one of the earliest settlers of Dunstable.

At the same town-meeting, held on May 21, 1688, the inhabitants of Groton—

Deed then by the maior uoat grant for the incoregment of such men as will set up Ioran works at masabog pond ; that thay shall haue y^e ues & improument of the woods and timbr y^t is now common one the est sid of uncuttanaset brook and so to nashua riuer and groton line est ward & south ward to good man greens' masabog medow. . . .

I give this extract from the town-records in order to show that the inhabitants knew Massapoag Pond at that period by its present name ; and if they had seen fit then to grant Adams any special privilege connected with the pond, they would have called it by that name, and would not have said "y^e pond that lyes neare buck medow."

HILLS.

BARRALOCK HILL — is mentioned in the record of Samuel Woods's lands ; but I am unable to identify it. Perhaps it is the hill due north of Baddacock Pond.

BROWN LOAF HILL — commonly called Brown Loaf — is a handsome, symmetrical hill standing alone, more than a mile from the village, near the Lowell road. Brown Loaf Hill Meadow is mentioned in the description of Joseph Parker's lands, December 2, 1664, which would imply that the hill was so named before that time. Brown Loaf Hill is also mentioned in the record of James Parker's lands made on July 6, 1666 ; and Brownloafe Playne and Brownloaf Hill are given in the record of James Fisk's lands in John Morse's handwriting, of which the date is absent, but which was certainly made at a very early period.

CHESTNUT HILLS — the range lying northerly of Martin's Pond ; so called from the abundant growth of chestnut-trees on its sides.

CLAY-PIT HILL — the small hill at the corner of the East Pepperell road and Break Neck.

GIBBET HILL — a noted landmark, overlooking the village on its easterly side. It is mentioned in the land-grant of Sergeant James Parker, which was entered in the town-records by Richard Sawtell, the first town-clerk who filled the office, from June, 1662, to January, 1664-65. The tradition is that the hill was so called from the fact that once an Indian was gibbeted on its top. If this ever occurred, it must have happened before Sawtell's term of office. The town was incorporated by the General Court on May 25, 1655, but no public records are known to have been kept before June 23, 1662.

HORSE HILL — in the eastern part of the town, near Massapoag Pond. It lies partly in Dunstable, and is covered with woods.

INDIAN HILL, or HILLS — the range beginning near James's Brook, a mile south of the village, and running in an easterly direction on the south side of the Great Road to Boston.

NAUMOX — a low hill or ridge a short distance west of the road to East Pepperell, near the Longley monument, and running parallel with the road. The name is also used in connection with the neighborhood.

PROSPECT HILL — very near Cady Pond, and east of it; perhaps 250 feet or more above the Nashua, and said to be the highest elevation in the town.

RIDGE HILL, or THE RIDGES — the name of a peculiar ridge, three miles southeasterly from the village, along which the Great Road runs. It also gave the name to a tavern formerly kept in the immediate neighborhood.

ROCKY HILL — there are two hills of this name, one lying northeasterly of Baddacook Pond, near the old District Schoolhouse No. VIII. (now the Trôwbridge School), which is also known as the Rocky Hill School; and the other situated in the southeast part of the town, between Long Pond and the

Ridges. A visit to either of these hills will show why it was so called.

SAND HILL — on the road to East Pepperell, below the Longley monument, near the place where the Nashua road branches off.

SHEPLEY HILL — lies west of the East Pepperell road, near Naumox. The name is rarely heard now, though it was in use as far back as February 28, 1670, — evidently so called from the Shepley family.

SNAKE HILL — in the south part of the town, but lies mostly in Ayer. Rattlesnakes have been killed on it within the memory of the present generation.

THE THRONE — a high hill in the western part of the town, — on the summit of which is a level field of perhaps sixty acres, containing a small pond, — near the Townsend line. A map of Groton resembles a tea-kettle, the portion west of the Nashua River forming the spout ; and the Throne comes in the spout.

MEADOWS.

The early settlers of Groton, according to the town-records, had many parcels of meadow allotted to them in the assignment of land. Sergeant James Parker owned in twenty different meadows, and the other settlers also were large owners. It is probable that they did not attach the same signification to the word "meadow" which now belongs to it in New England, where it means low, swampy land, without regard to the mowing. They called by this name all grass-land that was annually mown for hay, and especially that by the side of a river or brook ; and this meaning of the word was and still is the common one in England, whence they brought their language. They sometimes spoke of a "swamp," meaning by it what we call a "bog ;" but much of this kind of land has since been reclaimed, and is known with us as "meadow." As a mat-

ter of fact it happened that the lands which could be mown for the fodder were low lands, and it would require perhaps less than a generation to transfer the meaning of mowing lands to the low lands, which were nearly the only ones that could be mown in the early days of the Colony. This explanation will make clear the following vote of the town, passed on February 18, 1680-1: —

At the same meeting it was agreed vpon and voted that M^r Hubberd should haue all the coñon which was capable to mak medow in swan pond medow vp to the vpland for seauen acre and a halfe for to mak vp his fifteen acres of medow

The following names of meadows are found in the town-records, and in a few instances I have indicated their locality:

Accident; Angle, in the northerly part of the town; Big Spring, in the neighborhood of Hawtree Brook; Broad, immediately west of the village; Brook; Brown Loaf, east of the hill; Buck, now lying within the limits of Nashua, New Hampshire; Burnt, in the vicinity of Baddacook Pond; Cow Pond, near the pond of that name; East; Ferney, near Brown Loaf; Flaggy, to the southward of the Baddacook road, near the pond; Flax; Great Flaggy, presumably near Flaggy, and perhaps the same; Great Half-Moon, the same as Half-Moon, which lies east of the village; Little Buck, probably a part of Buck Meadow; Little Half-Moon, a part of Half-Moon, being an offshoot from it; Lodge; Long; Maple; Massapoag, evidently near Massapoag Pond; New Angle; Pine; Plain; Pretty; Providence; Quasoaponagon, "on the other sid of the riuier," near the Red Bridge, through which Wrangling Brook runs; Reedy, known by this name to-day, lying north of the Reedy Meadow Road; Rock, south of Snake Hill; Sallo, perhaps Sallow, a kind of willow; Sedge; Skull, through which Unquetenasset Brook runs, near the Dunstable line; Sledge, north of Reedy Meadow, near the Sledges; South; South Brook; Spang; Spot; Spring; Spruce; Swamp; Swan Pond; and Weavers.

In the record of Daniel Pearse's land, by William Longley, town-clerk, on July 6, 1666, reference is made to "the iland

lying within the meadow called Litle Halfe Moone Meadow." This land now belongs to Governor Boutwell; and I am informed by his son, Francis M. Boutwell, Esq., that there is upon it a small elevation, which is always spoken of as the island,—undoubtedly a survival of the expression applied to it when more or less surrounded by water.

BROOKS.

COLD SPRING BROOK — a small brook, rising in Cold Spring "on y^e Left hand of the high way that goe to Reedy medow." It runs across the Nashua road, the East Pepperell road, through Hazen Swamp and Libby Lobby Moat, into the Nashua River.

COW POND BROOK — has its source in Cow Pond Meadows and Cow Pond, and empties into Massapoag Pond. Formerly there was a dam between the meadows and the pond, where there was a saw-mill; and later on the same site a paper-mill, which disappeared about thirty-five years ago.

JAMES'S BROOK — one of the longest brooks within the limits of the town. It takes its rise in Half-Moon Meadow, crosses Main Street in the village, and runs southerly and westerly for three or four miles into the Nashua River. At its mouth is the beginning of the line separating the town of Ayer from Groton. Formerly there was a tannery on the banks of the brook, near Indian Hill, known as Dix's tannery; and a mile below, on land of the late Benjamin Moors, east of the road, at one time there was a mill,—but now no traces of either are left. The stream took its name from Captain James Parker, one of the early settlers. It empties into the Nashua River, nearly opposite to the mouth of the Squannacook.

HAWTREE BROOK — in the northerly part of the town, near Chicopee Row; after it unites with Walnut Run and two or three other small streams, it forms Unquetenasset Brook.

In the early records of the town the Hawtrees are frequently spoken of, which refer to the neighborhood of this brook.

NONACOICUS BROOK—frequently contracted into Coicus—was formerly a noted stream in Groton; but now no part of it comes within the limits of the town. It has its source in Harvard, and runs northerly and then westerly, passing through the village of Ayer, and emptying into the Nashua. It receives as a tributary, Sandy Pond Brook. On this stream John Prescott, about the year 1667, built his mill for grinding and sawing, of which the site was originally in Groton, but now it is in Harvard. The neighborhood is still called the Old Mill.

REEDY MEADOW BROOK—rises in Reedy Meadow and flows northerly, emptying into the Nashua River below East Pepperell. It is sometimes called Johnson's Brook.

SANDY POND BROOK—wholly in Ayer, the outlet of Sandy Pond, flowing into Nonacoicus Brook.

SEDGE BROOK—a small brook from Sedge Meadow, running into Reedy Meadow Brook.

STONY BROOK—in Westford, the outlet of Forge Pond. It was on this stream that John Prescott built a mill about the year 1683. See "The Early Records of Groton" under the dates of June 15, 1680, June 13, 1681, and April 25, 1682; also the agreement following the record of the meeting held on June 25, 1683.

SWAN BROOK—mentioned in the early records, but I cannot identify it beyond a doubt. Perhaps it was the brook near the divisional line between Groton and Westford, which flows into Forge Pond. See the record of James Knop's lands, made on January 3, 1669.

TUITY BROOK—contracted from Gratuity—a very small stream which rises near the head of Farmers' Row and runs

through Hazle Grove into the Nashua River below Fitch's Bridge.

UNQUETENASSETT BROOK—often called Unkety—a stream formed by the union of Walnut Run, Hawtree Brook, and one or two small tributaries, and running northerly through Skull Meadow and that part of Dunstable formerly Groton into the Nashua.

WALNUT RUN—a brook issuing from the sides of the Chestnut Hills, and uniting with Hawtree Brook and one or two other streams, forms the Unquetenasset.

Also the name of a place—perhaps it was the mouth of a stream—on the Nashua River where in olden times there was a bridge. It stood farther up the river than Fitch's Bridge.

WRANGLING BROOK—in West Groton, a mile and a half in length—meanders through Quasoponagon Meadow, and then empties into the Nashua a short distance below the Red Bridge.

R O A D S .

BADDACOOK POND ROAD—a continuation of the Martin's Pond Road to the neighborhood of the pond.

BREAK NECK—the short strip of road from the East Pepperell road to Common Street, south of the soapstone quarry.

CHICOPEE ROW, or ROAD—running north for three miles from the Cemetery. This district is known as Chicopee, a name given long ago.

FARMERS' ROW—applied to the road on the height of land west of the village. It begins at the west end of Pleasant Street and runs in a southerly direction for two miles, passing by the Groton School.

GREAT ROAD — one of the principal thoroughfares between Boston and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The section of the road through the village is known as Main Street.

HILLSIDE ROAD — the highway along the southern slope of the Indian Hills.

LOVE LANE — the highway from the Lowell road, near the first Parish Meeting-house, to the Great Road near Cady Pond.

MARTIN'S POND ROAD — the highway from the site of the first meeting-house to the neighborhood of the pond, where it becomes the Baddacook Pond Road.

REEDY MEADOW ROAD — from the Nashua road to Chicopee Row, immediately south of Reedy Meadow.

SQUASH PATH — through the woods from the East Pepperell road to the Nashua road — a short distance beyond Cold Spring Brook.

TUITY ROAD — a contraction of Gratuity Road — the road leading to Fitch's Bridge from the Great Road near the Railroad Bridge, half a mile north of the village. The name had its origin in the early history of the town, when grants of land were made to the inhabitants as gratuities. Tuity Brook, a very small stream, crosses this road and empties into the Nashua River, below Fitch's Bridge.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BLOOD'S FORDWAY — near the covered bridge in East Pepperell, which is often called Jewett's Bridge.

BRICKYARD — on the north side of the Great Road, about a mile from the First Parish meeting-house. It was much

used during the last century ; and probably was the place where the bricks were made for the parsonage, as mentioned in the town-records, June 20, 1706. Only a few traces of it are now left, though a clump of elms by the roadside is a good guide to the site.

BROWN LOAF PLAIN — to the west of Brown Loaf..

COMMUNITY — the name of a district or neighborhood beyond the Groton School, where many of the residents formerly held similar religious views. It had its origin about forty years ago, when the Second Adventists, or "Millerites," gave up their regular services in the village.

DEAD RIVER — the old course of the Nashua River, around the island which was formed by the cutting through of the "neck." See No. V. of the Groton Historical Series (page 20), also No. XIV (page 31).

DEEP SOIL — in the neighborhood of the race-course, in Hazle Grove ; so called on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle.

FITCH'S BRIDGE — over the Nashua River, a mile and a quarter below the Red Bridge.

GENERAL FIELD — often mentioned in the early town-records, refers to land owned in severalty by the proprietors of Groton, who kept it as one field, for reasons not now understood. It was upland, and lay in the southwest part of the town, near the river. It appears to have been allotted to the proprietors, according to the number of acre-rights which each one owned. Perhaps it was land already cleared when the first settlers came.

THE GIFT — a parcel of land near Reedy Meadow, not accurately identified.

THE HAWTREES — mentioned several times in the early records, and referring, doubtless, to some native shrubs or

trees; for instance, Zachery Sawtell had meadow-land "Neare the hawtrees" confirmed to him on November, 18, 1670. It evidently became the name of a limited district or neighborhood in the north part of the town, and from it undoubtedly Hawtree Brook was named. Professor Asa Gray, the distinguished botanist, writes me that there are three or four species of wild hawthorn in Massachusetts. He says: "One of the forms of the Black or Pear Thorn (*Crataegus tomentosa*) would be the likeliest for Groton, or perhaps the Cockspur Thorn. The former has the more edible fruit, and would be sure to attract attention."

HAZEN SWAMP — near the mouth of Cold Spring Brook.

HAZLE GROVE — the neighborhood of the east bank of the Nashua River above Fitch's Bridge.

HICKS'S HOLE — a small piece of meadow, lying north of Reedy Meadow.

HIGH PLAIN — on the north side of the Baddacook road, in the neighborhood of the pond. It lies in the angle of the roads, west of the house of John Johnson, Jr., as laid down on the map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829.

HOG SWAMP — lying between the westerly side of Martin's Pond and Martin's Pond Road. Governor Boutwell's private way to the Chestnut Hills passes through it.

HOYT'S WHARF — the name of a place on Cow Pond Brook where one Hoyt formerly kept his boat. It was near the house of Samuel Hazen, — as laid down on Mr. Butler's map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829, — nearly a mile north of Cow Pond.

THE ISLAND — a small, though prominent, hill in the meadow south of Hillside Road; undoubtedly once surrounded by water.

JAMAICA — the name of a small patch of meadow behind the hills on the west side of Chicopee Row.

LIBBY LOBBY MOAT — below the Ox Bow, opening into the Nashua River. This word is probably another form of Loblolly, in frequent use at the South, and denoting wet land.

LILY MOAT — on the east side of the Nashua and south of the road, near the Red Bridge.

MADAGASCAR — the name of the district where the paper-mill formerly stood on the brook, between Cow Pond and Knop's Pond.

NOD — the district lying in the neighborhood of the four corners, below the soapstone quarry. The road from the Hollingsworth Paper-mills to this place is called the Nod Road.

OX BOW — the bend of the Nashua River, in the northerly part of the town, below the Lawrence pasture.

PAUGUS HOLE — in Paugus Brook, on the west side of Brown Loaf, where, it is said, the body of Paugus's descendant, who came to kill Chamberlain, was sunk, after he himself was killed.

PINE PLAIN — probably near the Nashua River, and perhaps on the westerly side. Joseph Morse had meadow-lands on the Pine Plain, "neare the fordway."

PUNCH BOWL — one of several natural depressions near the Lowell road, below Brown Loaf. The name is also applied to the neighborhood.

RED BRIDGE — over the Nashua River, on the road to West Groton.

SLEDGES — the name of a meadow northeast of Reedy Meadow, mentioned in the early records, where John Lakin owned land. Mr. Butler, in his History (page 273), says that "this word seems to signify strips of meadow or parcels of low lands abounding in iron ore." Bog-iron is found in that quarter of the town, and in old times was worked by a company formed for that purpose.

SODOM — the district in the northeast part of the town, near the Townsend line. The name refers to the quality of the soil, and not to the character of the inhabitants.

SQUANNACOOK — an Indian word, the old name of West Groton.

STONY FORDWAY, or WADING-PLACE — near the site of the Hollingsworth Paper-mills, on the Nashua River, a mile and a half northwesterly of the village.

SWILL BRIDGE — was between the homesteads of Eber Woods, Jr., and Joel Davis, — as given on Mr. Butler's map of Groton, from a survey made in the years 1828 and 1829, — a short distance west of the present railroad bridge. Originally it was a causeway, perhaps twenty rods in length, over the southerly end of Broad Meadow, though now it is a solid road.

THOMAS TARBELL'S FORDWAY — was between where the Red Bridge now stands, and Fitch's Bridge, which is a mile and a quarter below.

TOBACCO PIPE PLAIN — on both sides of the road from the Ridges to Sandy Pond, near Rocky Hill. It is mentioned in the "Bye-Laws of Groton relative to Schools; and Instructions of the School Committee, 1805," and in old deeds.