Place-Names in Salisbury, Connecticut

MORSE ALLEN

THE TOWN (I.E., TOWNSHIP) OF SALISBURY in its 280 years of recorded history has seen a succession of cultures and fashions of civilization. It is the intention of this paper to show how these changes have left their traces in the town's place names.

Salisbury is a rectangle in the northwest corner of Connecticut, about nine miles long from north to south, and seven miles wide, with the Housatonic River as its eastern boundary. Its first white settlers came in 1719; during the Revolution it had a population of about 2,000, and the 1950 census gave it something over 3,000. It consists for the most part of wooded hills, and has half a dozen small lakes; its two principal villages, Lakeville and Salisbury, are toward the middle of the town. Its greatest industry was iron mining; Ore Hill (Iorn Oar Hill, as it was written in 1795) has been worked most of the time from 1732 to 1923. Indeed, the only really important mining Connecticut ever had was for iron, in this corner of the state.

Salisbury got its name from the English cathedral city, but just how is uncertain, the latter statement being true of many of Connecticut's 169 towns. The earliest detailed attribution has the most flavor and the least probability. In 1803 the Rev. J. W. Crossman delivered in Salisbury a New Year's Discourse. Salisbury, says Parson Crossman, "took its name from a Mr. Salisbury who lived not far from the center of the town. It is currently reported (and by good authority) that this Mr. Salisbury, after moving from here, had an unruly servant-girl who had run away from him; that he went after her, bound her with a rope, and tied her to his horse, then rode so as to pull her down, and drawed her in such a cruel manner that she died in consequence of the abuse. The matter was taken up in the state of New-York, and he, then in old age, was sentenced by the court to be hung when he should be a hundred years old. About four years ago, he arrived at this age. A reprieve

was granted him for a certain time; and if he has not died very lately, he is living to this day."[1]

According to the *State Register*, the town was "named May, 1738 (by the Rev. Thomas Noyes), from Salisbury, Wiltshire."[2] A variant is that the Rev. Moses Noyes, of Lyme, an original proprietor of the town, was the son of a native of a little village in Wiltshire, near Salisbury.[3] It has been noted that Lichfield, Winchester, and Salisbury, all cathedral cities in southern England, gave their names to northwestern Connecticut towns while Joseph Talcott was governor of the colony.[4] Even if this were true, it is doubtful if any conclusion should be drawn: Governor Talcott never visited England, and our eighteenth century ancestors were not very favorably disposed toward cathedrals. Several Connecticut towns derived their English names through towns in Massachusetts but I can find no connection with Salisbury, Massachusetts, named a century earlier, and in the extreme opposite corner of its state.[5]

The *State Register* asserts that the town's Indian name was *Wesatogue*.[6] This is only partially correct. The Dutch called it *Wootawk* in the land purchase from the Indians in 1720.[7] Jeffery's map of 1780 spells it *Wiatiak*.[8] On the Geological Survey map surveyed 1884–85 it is Wetaug.[9] Every Indian name had a multiplicity of English spellings, and though I have never run across the form *Wesatogue* it is of course a possibility. Furthermore, Wetaug never was the name of more than a quarter of the present town, and did not include the main villages. The name probably

[1] A printed copy of this *Discourse* is in the Connecticut State library, whose rich collections include many of the sources of this paper.

[2] *State of Connecticut Register and Manual, 1952*, p. 284.

[3] Franklin B. Dexter, *The History of Connecticut as Illustrated by the Names of her Towns*. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. Proceedings, 1885. P. 15.

[4] *Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, I, 6.

[5] *Mass. Historical Society Proceedings*, 1873, p. 193.

[6] *Conn. Register, loc. cit.* The Register's information on the origin of Connecticut town names appears to be derived from Rawson W. Heddon, *A Tourist's Guide to Connecticut*, Mattatuck Historical Soc., Waterbury, Conn., 1923, which is not always reliable.

[7] S. Church, *Historical Address*, 1841. New Haven, 1842, p. 12.

[8] Section of Map published in London, 1774, by Thomas Jefferys, Geographer to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Edited by Frederick G. Mathew. (C.S.L.).

[9] Geological Survey topographical map, Sheffield quadrangle, 15′, surveyed 1884–85, ed. of 1897.

means "the wigwam place," and as late as 1740, according to Crossman, there was "an Indian settlement in Weatog consisting of 70 wigwams all in a cluster."[9] This was on a meadow beside the Housatonic River, toward the northeast corner of the town. The name was soon extended to include all the long stretch of river-meadow. In 1723, when Wetaug's boundaries were written down,[10] it meant the northeast quarter of the present town; its western boundary was the hill range east of Salisbury village, *Wetauwanchu* "Wetaug mountain", and today in speech, though not on the maps, commonly shortened to Wetauk Mountain.[11] Older maps show a Wetaug hamlet over two miles south of the Massachusetts line, but the G. S. 1884–95 map puts it almost on the line. The only survival of the name on the current G. S. map is Wetaug Road, which follows the west bank of the Housatonic from near Falls Village some eight miles north to Massachusetts.[12]

There is another Connecticut Weatogue, a hamlet south of Simsbury on the Farmington River, in another west bank river-meadow. The coincidence has been explained by guessing that Indians friendly to the English fled to the west from their wigwam-place, carrying the name with them, when King Philip burned Simsbury in 1676; or, more prosaically, by an exchange of lands between the settlers of the two towns.[13] However, there might well have been several "wigwam-places" in the Colony.

When Connecticut began to develop its untouched northwest quarter, the boundaries of future towns were laid out arbitrarily as straight lines, and each was given a letter to distinguish it. Salisbury was Town M, and it was not officially named Salisbury until 1741, though the inhabitants may have used the name somewhat earlier. It can still be pronounced "Sawlsb'ry," after the old clipped English fashion, though the spelling pronunciation may eventually prevail, as it has with the Connecticut names Norwich (no longer "Norrich"); with the Thames River at New London; and, I am told, with Durham (no longer "Dur'm").

At the coming of the whites there were probably no Indian settlements in this northwest quarter of the state, only "a transient

[10] Church, *loc. cit.*

[11] M. D. Rudd, *Historical Sketch of Salisbury,* with appendix on Indian names by I. W. Sanford. N.Y., 1899, p. 22.

[12] G. S. Ashley Falls quad., 7½′, 1949; South Canaan quad., 1950.

[13] *Connecticut Quarterly,* IV, iv, pp. 345, 364. Ocz.-Dec., 1898.

war-party, or a wandering hunter."[14] This would have been because of the dreaded raiding parties of the Mohawks from New York. The Indians of Connecticut, like the Arabs of the desert, seem to have had a name for every small locality and landmark, as being useful in their hunting and nomadic journeys. Almost all of these names have been lost; a few remain on Indian deeds or manuscript maps. The region of Salisbury was no exception, and no other town in the state today has more polysyllabic Indian names of lakes and hills. Beside Wetaug and Wetauwanchu Mountain and Brook, picturesque Wachocastinook Brook, Schenob Brook, and Wononskopomuc (accented on the penult), Wononpakook, Washinee and Washining Lakes are names in regular use today.

These names probably do not represent aboriginal names, preserved by uninterrupted use. Eighteenth century colonists did not like Indians and saw nothing picturesque in their guttural, polysyllabic, agglutinative names. The tendency was first to shorten them to two-syllabled words, and then to substitute commonplace English words, preferably the names of the property owners. The nineteenth century, however, had leisure enough to be romantic, especially as the Indians themselves had disappeared. Town historians began retrieving archaic names from town deeds and records, and occasionally went even further and invented Indian names to meet the demand.

Twin Lakes, the largest in the town, are examples. The eastern and larger one had the recorded Indian name of Panaheconnok; in 1743 the English were calling it North Pond, later changed to Northeast Pond, when Riga Lake was called Northwest Pond. The southwestern twin had the Indian name Hokonkamok. In 1847 Judge Samuel Church wrote that the Twin Lakes, "described in the old records as 'lying very nearly close together' were called Washinee and Washining." Note that he implies that these names were "in the old records," but does not actually say so. As far as I know, no one has found an earlier mention of these names than

[14] John W. Deforest, *History of the Indians of Connecticut.* Hartford, 1851, p. 51. Mohawk Mountain, to the southeast of Salisbury in Cornwall, is supposed to derive its name from a lookout maintained by the local Indians to guard against the dreaded Mohawks. *The Connecticut Guide,* Emergency Relief Commission, Hartford, 1935, p. 88.

Judge Church's; the earliest maps I have noted as using them date from 1848–55, and 1853.[15] A generation later Trumbull implied that Judge Church had invented the names, and he doubted that they were Indian words at all.[16] Later their meaning was supposed to be "smiling water" and "laughing water", Washining as the larger lake possessing the greater hilarity. Or, as a later writer more elegantly put it: Washining "expressing beauty, indicating a higher degree of charm than Washinee."[17]

Our own century is no less romantic than the nineteenth. The elaborate *Connecticut; A Guide* blossoms out with what it calls "local legend" to the effect that Washining and Washinee "were named for two daughters" [twins?] of an Indian chief who ruled over the tribes between the Housatonic and the Hudson. They loved a captured Indian brave, but could not secure his release. On the evening before the day set for his torture, "both sisters embarked on the waters of the twin lakes and never were seen again. Today it is said that when the moon is full, an empty canoe is seen on the lake, drifting down the shimmering path of reflected moonlight, slipping noiselessly over the waves."[18] All over New England there are Lovers Leaps, at each of which, according to "local legend" a lovelorn Indian maiden and/or a lovelorn brave jumped off a cliff, and Salisbury has one of this common variety too.[19] But it is the only place where twins jumped out of a canoe. One is reminded of the origin of the name of Lake Compounce in Southington, Connecticut. An Indian chief, Compoun or Compound, was carrying home a large kettle, and presumably some firewater. Arriving at the lake shore opposite his abode, instead of lugging the kettle around the pond he decided to sail across in it. Like the

[15] *Map of Connecticut* pub. by F. A. Brown, Hartford, Conn. 1855; entered 1848. L. Fagan, *Map of the Town of Salisbury*, 1853. Pub. by Richard Clark. (In Connecticut Historical Society.)

[16] "Neither Washining or Washinee is an aboriginal name, and one has apparently been made out of the other." J. Hammond Trumbull, *Indian Names of Places, etc. in and on the Borders of Connecticut, with Interpretations of Some of Them.* Hartford, 1881, p. 78.

[17] Steel, *A Few Place Names of Connecticut.* Eugene, Oregon, 1922.

[18] *Connecticut, A Guide.* American Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1938, p. 421.

[19] I. W. Sanford, *Historical and Topographical Map of Salisbury.* 1899. Five sheets in portfolio. It shows Lovers Leap near the southeast corner of Lake Wononskopomuc.

sisters, he was seen no more, and like them he gave his name to his watery grave: Compoun's Lake is now Compounce Lake.[20]

The first white settlers of Salisbury were the Dutch, who have left a thin sprinkling of Dutch names behind them. They were few in number, but had unmistakeable names. Beginning with Abraham Van Dusen in 1719, they included Dyckmans and Knickerbockers, but the most influential as a name was the apt one of Dutcher. Ruluff Dutcher ferried passengers across the Housatonic at Wetaug in a canoe, so it was fitting that Dutcher's Bridge, still so named, was first built there in 1760. In 1738 the "Heirs of Mr. Ruluff the Dutcher" were mentioned, and there was a lengthy succession of his descendants bearing the same name. The Dutcher's Bridge Cemetery, a little north of the bridge, was in 1802 bought for one dollar by the town, from a Captain Ruloff Dutcher.[21] And Dutcher Hill is just across the Housatonic, in a corner of North Canaan.

The bold height half a mile north of Salisbury street, the northern end of Wetaumanchu, was called by the Dutch Barack Matiff; the name still survives, though unfortunately it has not been retained on the G. S. maps. It is said to be "a composition of two words each with the same meaning, a 'steep high cliff' or 'hill.'"[22] Barack is the Dutch word for the kind of haystack with a wooden cover which slides up and down on poles.[23] Barack Matiff's English sister, The Haystack, ten miles to the east, is even more prominent to the north of Norfilk. In 1740 what is now known as Tom's Hill, to the east of Barack Matiff, was called Toms Barack, as owned by Stephen Toms (1745). Confusingly, only six miles away, in Canaan, there is a Barrack Mountain, which however was named for a Mr. Barrack, the owner of a farm which included part of the hill.

The Dutch name Fell-kill or Fels Kill "fall river" was applied to Wachocastinook Brook,[24] now called Riga Brook locally and on the State Highway Department map; and "the Moore Brook was long

[20] H. R. Timlow, *Ecclesiastical and other Sketches of Southington, Conn.* Hartford, 1875.

[21] Salisbury Association. *Geographical Location of Historical Landmarks in the Town of Salisbury, Conn.* 1949.

[22] Rudd, p. 22.

[23] Grace Wheeler, *Memories.* Stonington, Conn. (1948), p. 108. A region near Albany used to be called the Hill Barrack Country.

[24] Rudd, p. 22.

known by the Dutch name, 'Salmon-kill,' and...near Salisbury it was known as the Salmon Fell-kill,"[25] where it is now simply Salmon Creek. Tomsteen Rock (originally *Toms Steen*, or rock) on the Appalachian Trail;[26] Frink Hill, and Frink Point on Washinee Lake, and Finnin Mountain (the old name for the north end of the Sharon Range[27]) have Dutch sounding names, and there is Decker Brook: Goodeth Decker of Ulster County, N. Y. and Peter White of Salisbury were married in 1749.[28] But by 1740 eleven English and only five Dutch families lived in the town. The name White shows how closely the two stocks were connected from the beginning here. White or Great Hollow, the handsome broad valley leading north to Lime Rock, was named for William White, who died in 1751, in his eighty-fifth year. Though born an Englishman, he had long lived in the Dutch settlements, had married a Dutch wife, and with Van Dusen purchased land here of the Indians in 1709, and later they became the first settlers of the town.[29]

Some of the old English place names suggest the possibility of poetic imagination: Birds Peak, Gay Woods, Ball Brook, and Miles Mountain, for instance. But the pioneers were too busy for anything but the strictly practical; almost all the hills and brooks were named for their owners, simply for convenience' sake. Joseph Bird moved here from Litchfield in 1748; David Ball had a famous forge in 1781; Henry Gay was an early settler; and Miles's farm was on Miles Mountain.[30]

The only approved release for the picturesque was in religion. All respectable New Englanders knew their Bible very well indeed, and the colorful, hot Hebrew emotions furnished some release for Calvinists' imagination. Yet only nine of the State's 169 towns were named directly from the Bible, and most of those are in this part of the state, hence are not very early. One gets the strong impression that these names were selected for very practical reasons, also. Connecticut Valley land speculators seem to have used religion in order to unload their unvisited acres, just as Dickens's young Martin Chuzzlewit invested his all in Eden, one of the most promising

[25] Sanford, 1899, Salisbury map. [26] *Ibid.* [27] *Ibid.*

[28] *Salisbury Assoc. Historical Collections*, 1913–16. Vol. I, p. 42.

[29] Rudd, pp. 7–9.

[30] For Bird, see Church, p. 79; for Ball, Church, p. 55, and Rudd, p. 14; for Gay, Church, p. 7; Stephen and Abigail Miles had three children, 1788–92; Salis. Assoc. *Hist. Coll.*

spots in America -- which turned out to be a dismal swamp with one solitary inhabitant more dead than alive. Salisbury is flanked by Canaan, "land of milk and honey," and Sharon with its rose and its description: "Sharon shall be a fold of flocks." Just to the east is Goshen, of which Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "In the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell." Not far away are Bethlehem "house of bread," Bethel "house of God," and Bethany "house of song."

No Biblical name appears on any modern map of Salisbury, but there used to be a single one, and that the first given by Englishmen, before they had moved into the region. In 1717 the commission engaged in marking the Connecticut-Massachusetts boundary line made a little side excursion between the Housatonic and Twin Lakes, to "a mountain we call Mount Eschol from the mighty clusters of grapes growing there."[31] The commissioners had in mind the first Hebrew prospectors who ventured into the land of Canaan, that is, Palestine. They had returned with "a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two on a staff.... The place was called the brook of Eschol, a cluster of grapes."[32] The name, existing merely in a report, naturally did not stick; the Dutch named Mount Eschol Toms Barack, for the settlers Robert and Sarah Toms,[33] and now it is plain Toms Hill.

Bear Mountain, the state's highest elevation (2316 feet) was presumably named for its bears, the last of which was shot in 1821.[34] But many of the state's other Bear Mountains and Bear Hills were originally spelled Bare, and may have been named because they were unforested, like Mount Riga's north summit, Bald Peak. If the trees grew up again, it would be natural to change to the more exciting spelling Bear.

Some of the interesting place names in Salisbury have known origins. Beecher Hill (on Belgo Road) and Beecher's Pulpit[35] (the boulder in the woods back of the Center schoolhouse), are reminders of Henry Ward Beecher's frequent visits to the town, and it was he who named Inspiration Point, the place on Town Hill (not far from Hotchkiss School), where the stagecoach on the Hudson River-

[31] This is quoted by Church, p. 75.

[32] *Numbers*, XIII, 24. [33] Salis. Assoc. *Hist. Coll.*, I, 69.

[34] J. C. Goddard, *Salisbury*. Lakeville, 1931, p. 5.

[35] *Ibid.*, p. 3.

Boston route used to stop to let its passengers enjoy the view.[36] Presumably Bunker Hill was named after 1775; and Lions Head is a good name for the "bold, rockfaced spur"[37] of Mount Riga. Spooky Hollow, [38] on Farnum Road, is a better name than the common Dark Hollows in other towns, and is presumably another Dutch heritage, since *spook* is of Dutch derivation.

Interlachen, between the two lakes south of Lakeville, was a name imported from Switzerland by a romantic hotel-owner. And Mount Riga, site of iron mines, has two rival explanations: it was named by miners who had either come from Switzerland and Mount Righi, or from Russia and Riga on the Baltic.[39] Sugar Hill, above Amesville, was the site of a sugar-maple grove; the name is common throughout the state, and was at one time also used for Wetauwanchu Mountain.[40] Wildcat Hollow (locally Cat Hollow) and Wolf Den are self-explanatory; Wolf Pen Swamp, if Pen be not a mistake for *Den*, is unique in the State.[41] Toward the end of the nineteenth century a Lotus Lodge was built on the south shore of Riga Lake, otherwise called North Pond or Northwest Lake, and a valiant but futile attempt was made to change the name to Lotus Lake.[42] Presumably Lotus was an elegant name for pond-lilies.

The possibility, however, that Lotus Lake might have been the scene of an aspiring botanist's attempt at an old-world importation, introduces us to the place names for which so far no explanation has been found. An old *Connecticut Quarterly* article on Salisbury has the tantalizing sentence, "Babe's Hill and Tory's Hill commemorate by their names traditions of the region," and says no more about it. In the intervening fifty-eight years have these traditions continued to be handed down? Goddard was making a guess when he wrote, "Babe's Hill is small, as its name implies," but this seems too simple an explanation of a name unique in the state, and certainly it suggests no tradition.[43]

---

[36] *Ibid.*, p. 6. Beecher described Salisbury in some of his *Star Papers*, N.Y., 1955.

[37] Conn. *Qtly.*, IV.

[38] Sanford.

[39] *Conn., A Guide*, pp. 420–21. Mt. Riga's slopes are still inhabited by the primitive "Raggies," perhaps the descendants of Hessian deserters.

[40] Church, p. 12.

[41] Sanford, text in Rudd, and map.

[42] *Conn. Qtly.*, IV, 357, 1898, and Sanford 1899 map.

[43] *Conn. Qtly.*, IV, p. 371; Goddard, p. 5.

Belgo or Bellgo Hill, with its Road west of Lakeville, is the same as Beecher Hill; but who or what was Belgo? Who was hung on Gallows (locally now called Brinton) Hill? And what was the origin of Beeslick, the name of a pond almost on the Sharon line, and of its draining Brook? Its Indian name, Tattaquanoch-paucook, means "boggy or quaking meadow pond place," the ending having been *-paug* "pond," plus *auk*, "place." An extensive swamp lies east of the pond. Early deeds called it Beeslake. Judge Church wrote that it was "called by us Beezelake Pond, and by the Indians Noncook," a typical example of shortening. An 1859 map names it Beestick, and one of 1878 gives Beastlick Lake, perhaps under the influence of Western buffalo licks. The earliest form, Bees Lake, is as probable a source as any.[44] Brassie Brook and Lost Brook have lost their names' origin.

Town Hill, like several others in the State, in 1739 was laid out with a green or marketplace by the original proprietors, to be the site of the town's central village, but time decreed otherwise. Other Rose Hills in Connecticut were named for their owners' family name, but the Salisbury Rose Hill, now Welles Hill, was so called from the wealth of roses cultivated there.[45] The 18th Century "the Hollow" was prettified in the 19th Century to Rocky Dell, until industry changed it to the present Lime Rock.[46] Camp's Forge, near the Massachusetts line, was, after 1825, when Phineas Chapin (b. 1757) built a furnace there, called Chapinville, and the name remained peacefully for almost a century. Then in 1920 the Post Office decreed that it be called Taconic, "because of confusion among so many names ending in -ville." An indignant public meeting was held and refused to endorse the change, but the post office and the railroad station were changed to Taconic nevertheless. Rand McNally 1925 Atlas apparently lost its head; it named Taconic station, a mile south of the village, Chapinville station, and the village itself Forge Pond Village, an original nomenclature not found elsewhere, and dubious since the only Forge Pond on record

---

[44] In 1745: "ye beaslake pond so called." *Salis. Assoc.*, II, 195. G. S. map, Sharon quad., 1950, gives it as one word, though it is often spelled as two. Sanford has Bees Lake; Goddard, Beaslick; B. Richardson, Salisbury map, 1878, Beastlick Lake; Clark & Tackabury Conn. map, 1859, Beestick Pond. See Russ, p. 22.

[45] *Conn. Qtly.*, IV, p. 368.

[46] *Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, I, iii, 25; II, i, 11.

is three miles away on the other side of Mount Riga. By now, officialdom has won out, and the name Chapinville does not appear.[47] Presumably the Post Office did not object to the swarm of -villes, though it might well have done so, and Danielsonville is now sensibly reduced to Danielson; but there was a Chapinville (now Chapin) in New York, and another in Massachusetts, besides the Connecticut one; also there were five Chapins in other states.[48]

The replacement, Taconic, is a simplified form of the guttural Indian name for the range of hills dividing Connecticut and Massachusetts from New York. There is a Taghkanick Creek in Columbia County, N.Y.; the name was spelled in many ways, Taghanick being as frequent as any. Of the dozen meanings suggested for the Indian word, Trumbull cautiously says, "the least objectionable of these is probably 'forest' or 'wilderness' from *'tokone'* 'woods,' literally 'wild lands' or 'forest.'" Judge Church suggested an Indian's name, Tocconuc, but the Indians named places from people as rarely as the English did frequently, because of the differing conceptions of land ownership. The name is sometimes applied to a single mountain rather vaguely placed in the west part of Salisbury.[49]

Over a score of Salisbury place names have been given because of the great iron industry. At first the iron came from near the surface, from "ore beds," which came to be called mines when more excavation was needed. The Old Hill Ore Grant, west of Salisbury village, was given by the Assembly in 1731.[50] Falls at the head of Wononscopomuc Lake were utilized for Salisbury (Blast) Furnace (1748), which gave the lake the name of Furnace Pond, and caused the growth of Furnace Village. This in 1846 became Lakeville, which in turn has caused the lake to be commonly called Lakeville Lake today.[51] Ethan Allen's Well, very near the Lakeville railroad station, is supposed to have been dug by him when he was helping to build the blast furnace there in 1762, the first one in connecti-

[47] Rudd, p. 11; *Lure*, VII, iv, 18. Deacon Hezekiah Camp had come from New Haven in 1746; he had 5 sons. Church, pp. 57, 78.

[48] *Century Dictionary*, Vol. X, *Atlas* index, 1902. This atlas, 1st ed. 1897, has in quality not been equalled since by any Americam publisher.

[49] L. Fagan, *Map of Salisbury*, 1853; Clark and Tackabury *Conn.* map, 1859; Russ, p. 23.

[50] Church, p. 56.

[51] Rudd, p. 17.

cut.[52] This iron ore supplied cannon during the Revolution, the chain across the Hudson, and on Mount Riga was forged the great anchor for the frigate "Constitution;" the Civil War encouraged the industry, which was kept alive by the superior quality of its iron until the Bessemer process enabled good steel to be made out of poorer ores.[53] In this connection Hammertown, north of Taconic, was named as the site of the once busy H. Harris Scythe Works,[54] and may give a clue to the origin of the names of the places called Bangall in Connecticut and New York.

It seems fitting to conclude these notations on some of Salisbury's place names with The Terminus, the monument at that corner of the town where Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York meet. The name perhaps was given by boundary surveying parties to indicate the end toward which they worked. Monument Brook flows from Monument Mountain in New York, whose name indicates the same junction. This is a wild and inaccessible region. Hell's Acres, a thousand-acre triangle nearby, was supposed to be in Massachusetts, but could only be reached through New York or Connecticut, hence Massachusetts officers could not legally take criminals out, and it became a kind of underworld sanctuary, until January 3, 1955, when it was ceded to New York State and the name changed to sedate Boston Corner. One hundred and two years before, the John Sullivan-John Morrisy prizefight was held here in order to be outside of any legal jurisdiction. The farmers used to gather about the general-store stove and decide their own taxes, according to crop production. And not far away a Central New England train was completely buried in the blizzard of 1988.[55]

---

[52] *Salis. Assoc.* I, 142; Moldenke, R., *Charcoal Iron.* Lime Rock, 1920, p. 12; Goddard, p. 10. For the iron industry see also L. F. Middlebrook, *Salisbury, Connecticut, Cannon.* Salem, Mass., 1935; Barnum Richardson Co., *Salisbury Iron.* Salisbury, Conn., 1878.

[53] *Conn., A Guide,* pp. 417–20.

[54] Goddard, p. 11.

[55] *Lure of the Litchfield Hills,* VIII, iv, 27, and XIII, iv, p. 26 (June, 1956).

List of Place-Names in Salisbury, Connecticut

Amesville, and A. Brook (Horatio Ames, c. 1852)
Asylum School District (poorhouse) 1820.
Beaver Dam Pond
Bend, The
Bingham Ore Bed, Pond, and Pond Brook (three B. brothers, c. 1750)
Blakeslee Hill
Bluff, The
Bostwick Hill (R. B., c. 1853)
Brace Mountain, or Mount Brace
Bradley Ore Bed
Bridge School District (named from Burralls Bridge; 1853 map)
Brook Hill (south of Wachocastinook Brook)
Buck Mountain
Bull's Forge (1781)
Burralls Bridge (1744)
Burton Brook (Simeon B., c. 1742)
Bushnell Grove (George B., c. 1899)
Canaan Falls
Cave Hill (site of Miles Cave)
Cedars, The (camp)
Center Cemetery (1750)
Chapin Furnace
Chatfield Mine, Pond (pond on site of mine originally owned by Philip C.)
Chatfield-Fitch Ore Bed
Christopher's Canoe Place (Christopher Dutcher, 1738)
Clark Cobble, or The Cobble
Crooked Lake
Davis Hill, Mine, or Ore Bed (Jacobus D., c. 1780)
Deep Lake (= Chatfield Pond, on mine site)
Factory Brook, Pond
Falls Bridge, School District, Kill, Mountain, Mountain Brook, Village (all from the Great Falls in the Housatonic River)
Fels Kill*
Fisher Pond
Fitch Corner
Frissell Mountain, or Mount Frizzell
Furnace Hill (first furnace for cast iron here, 1762)
Garnett Brook
Goodwin Summit (Samuel G., 1755)
Gentlemen's Driving Park (1890 to 1910)
Grass Pond (1899 map)
Great Falls, Hollow
Gridley Mountain (Noah G., 1764)
Gulf, The (deep narrow valley of Wachocastinook Brook)
Hanging Rock (1936)
Harrison School District (1820)
Hendrick's Ore Bed
Holley Grove (Alexander H. H., Gov. of Conn., 1857–58)
Hotchkiss School (Benjamin Berkeley H., 1892)
Housatonic Falls
Indian Cave, Mountain (named from Indian settlement on Indian Lake), Orchard, Ore Bed (on Indian Mountain)
Jonesville (mistake for Joyceville ?)
Joyceville (John D. J., c. 1859)
Kelsey Brook (Kelsey was a railroad stop, 1857)
Kettle, The
King Falls (Eli K., had sons Zardis and Eli, 1786, 1789)
Kisnop Brook (variant of Schenob Brook)

Lake View (1885)
Limestone Caves, Spring
Lincoln City
Little Falls (upstream from Great Falls)
Long Pond (contrast with nearby square pond)
Lottery Bridge (1790–1808); built through lottery granted by General Assembly)
Lower Reservoir
Mammoth Pit (on Old Hill Ore Grant)
Matogue (1885; error for Weatogue?)
McDuffee Brook
Middle Pond (the middle lake of three on Long Pond Brook)
Miles Cave (called the longest in New England)
Mineral Spring
Moore Meadow (Samuel Moore settled here (1743)
Mountain Grove Cemetery
Moving Stones
Mulberry Spring (modern name on Appalachian Trail)
Natural Stone House
New Cemetery (bought by town, 1830)
Norton Hill (Norton or Norten a common mid-18th Century family name)
Oak Hill (community, 1885)
Oblong, The (two hills just west of tri-state junction, but not in the Oblong strip along west border of Connecticut granted to New York for Greenwich)
Paquatnach ("bare mountain place" so called by Moravians; cf. Poconnuck)
Perch Rocks (near corner of Lake Wononskopomuc, 1899)
Pettee Brook (Sarah Pettit married 1749; a Pettee was manufacturing iron, 1823–36)
Picnic Grove (a stop on the Central New England Railroad)
Pierce Brook (Thomas P. an original proprietor, 1738; Sarah Pers married, 1763)
Pine Swamp
Poconnuck Mountain (= Indian Mountain; probably from *poquannoc* "cleared land," a common Connecticut place name; Poquatnach, a form of the same word, was on or near Poconnuck Mountain)
Ponsumpsie (mistake for Ponsumpsic? in an old Indian deed)
Porter Meadows, Ore Bed
Prospect Falls, Mountain or Hill (overlooking the Housatonic valley)
Raccoon Hill
Rand's View (Appalachian Trail)
Reed Cemetery
Reservoir (for Lakeville)
Round Mountain (descriptive), Pond (a broadened part of South Pond)
Sages Brook, Ravine ("Mr. S. of S. R. had a poltergeist in his house, with hundreds of witnesses," 1802)
Scoville Ore Bed
Selleck Hill (Common mid-18th Century family name; a S. farm here)
Sharon Mountain (mostly in Sharon)

Sheep Rock
Sherwood Forest (Appalachian Trail, probably modern name)
Sloane, Camp
Smith Hill (Richard Smith, before the Revolution)
South Pond (south of North Pond = Riga Lake)
Spruce Swamp, Brook or Creek
State Line (community; station on railroad now abandoned), Brook
Stone Terrace
Sucker Brook
Station (one mile south)
Thorpe Mountain
Ticknor School District (family name, 1762, 1786)
Under Mountain Road School District (road runs for many miles at eastern foot of western hill range to Sheffield, Mass.)
Union Pit (site of present Chatfield Pond)
Upper Falls (above the Great Falls)
Warner Grove, Park (the park a memorial for M. B. C. Warner, 1847–1901; the park not the same location as the grove)
Washinee Road borders Wachocastinook Brook; not near the lake
wadchu "mountain"
Whittlesey School District (Ebenezer, W., an original proprietor, 1738)
Wildwood (1899 map)
Willard's Grove (Appalachian Trail, modern name)

Trinity College Hartford, Connecticut