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PLACE-NAMES OF PELHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
ABOVE AND BELOW* WATER

* place-names of Prescott Mass. (part of Pelham prior to 1822)
now covered by Quabbin Reservoir

Compiled by Carlene Riccelli
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PREFACE

Most people live or have lived in a place they think of as home. Every place that has been inhabited by man or even referred to by man has a name of some type. Therefore, a collection of place-names is, in a sense, a collection of people's homes--past and present. The reader might ask: "What could be less interesting than reading about someone else's home?" (Especially if it is Pelham, Mass.--population: 805 in 1960.)

The importance of Pelham place-names to the people of Pelham is self-evident, especially when the fact is considered that part of the original Pelham (that which became the town of Prescott in 1822) is now covered by the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir. Pelham place-names contain the very essence of the town's history and the background of its people. (Most of Pelham's names are for a local person, owner, or neighbor.)

But there is more than this. As previously mentioned, place-name collections are basically collections of people's homes. Thus, they have a universal appeal to all who have, have had, or want to have or share a home.

Most of Pelham's names are for a local person (i.e. Knight's Corner, Jones Road). However, listed alphabetically in this study, the reader will find: names for important, non-local people (i.e. Pelham); names for distant places (i.e. Lisburn); names for nearby places (i.e. Shutesbury Rd.); descriptive names (i.e. Swift River); subjectively descriptive

(i.e. Mt. Pleasant); pseudo-Indian names (i.e. Quabbin); and, perhaps the most interesting category, names which have evolved by blending, mispronunciation, or the influence of real estate brokers (i.e. Caswell Bridge → Castle Bridge; Hearthstone Brook → Heatherstone Brook).

It is hoped that the reader will peruse and enjoy this collection as much as the author has enjoyed the collecting.

INTRODUCTION

The methodology used in this survey started in the various surrounding libraries (Forbes, Jones, Pelham, Goodell, and Amherst College). Latest topographical maps of the Pelham area were consulted and place-names were recorded. Changes, omissions, and additions to these names were obtained by consulting all other available maps of the area (see bibliography). History books were consulted next to try and associate dates, people, and stories with places, whenever possible.

The next and most interesting phase of this study took place outside libraries. Much time from this point on was spent in the community itself. Besides attending community events (Town meeting, Pelham Historical Society meeting), a solid week was given to traveling over all the passable roads and interviewing residents and former residents of the area who were most helpful in relating facts and folk etymologies behind the place-names.

In compiling the foregoing data, several problems were encountered. Some names are of unknown or uncertain sources (i.e. Poverty Mt.). In cases such as this, speculations of informants were included in the entry, but they were labeled as such. Another problem concerns the discrepancies in location of some place-names (i.e. three separate sources give conflicting locations of Pine Hill). Information regarding these locations and their respective sources are included in the lexicon entries.

In general, the entries in the dictionary section of this study include the following information (whenever it is available):

1. spelling variations---It almost seems that two Pelham and pronunciation place-names were vying for the (if unusual or regional) "greatest number of different spellings" award! (Of course at the time spelling was not standardized for the most part). Lisburn had eight (Lisburn, Lishburne, Lisbourne, Lisborn, Lisborne, New Lisburn, New Lisbourn, and New Lisburne). Mellen Hollow was one step ahead with nine (Mellen Hollow, Melle Hollow, Millan Hollow, McMillen Hollow, Millen Hollow, McMillin Hollow, Mellin Hollow, Mc Millan Hollow, Millin Hollow).
2. feature---(town, village, etc.) unless the feature is included in the name (i.e. Orient Springs)
3. type of name---see information in preface
4. etymology of name---when available
5. circumstances and people involved in the naming process
6. date-range of the name's usage---some are approximate especially for natural features (rivers, etc.)
7. cross references to related entries

ABBREVIATIONS

* indicates Prescott place-name

x indicates word is no longer in use

w indicates that place is now covered with waters of Quabbin Reservoir

disct.-- discontinued

est.-- established

town-- legal township

vill.--village

maps-- abbreviated via numbers given in bibliography

Adams Brook

See Shutesbury place-names by Mary Gramer

Allen Cemetery

Named for Reuben Allen family that owned a farm near Mt. Lincoln and raised potatoes and corn to be marketed in Amherst in the early 1800's.

Allen Road

See Allen Cemetery entry. Road that ran past Allen farm.

Amethyst Brook

So named for large deposits of quartz and amethysts that were claimed to be found here from 1880.

Amherst Road

So called because it leads to Amherst. This was part of the first bridle path to East Hadley. First platted on map #2 in 1795 as County Road. Some residents refer to it simply as The Road.

Arnold Cemetery

Named for Ephraim Arnold and descendants living in Pelham around 1800.

Arnold Road

See Arnold Cemetery entry. Road that ran past old Arnold place.

*xwAsh Pond

Descriptive name. For ash trees surrounding the pond. Platted on map #4 1871.

Atherton Brook

See Shutesbury place-names by Mary Cramer.

*Atkinson Hollow Road (earlier Atchinson)

Named because it leads to Atkinson Hollow. John Atkinson owned a store and tavern in this hollow in 1823. Also locally known as Main Road.

*wBobbin Hollow

Descriptive name. For Bobbin factory that was in operation here in the early 1900's. Also called Bobbinsville, East Hollow, and Pelham Hollow.

*wBobbinsville

See Bobbin Hollow entry.

Boyden Road

Named for early settler, Erastus Boyden, who was a town officer in 1853-1854.

Brewer Road

Named because it passed the Brewer farms. It is recorded that John Brewer gathered rough stones from his property and brought them to Amherst where they were used to build cellars in 1895. Road disct. on June 3, 1933.

Briggs Brook

Named for a Briggs family who operated a sawmill in 1815.

Buffum Brook [bafan] (also spelled Buffam)

Named for George Buffum and descendants. This brook ran through his property which he inhabited in the early 1800's.

Buffum Road

Road accepted by town in 1828. See Buffum Brook entry.

Butter Hill

Name of uncertain origin. One report say that it is a descriptive name. For the butternut trees that grow on the hill. Another report states that a Butters family lived nearby on the Enfield Road.

Butterhill Road

See Butter Hill entry. Road leads to Butter Hill.

Cadwell Creek

Named for Cadwell family. Early records show transactions of a Mr. Cadwell as early as 1743.

Cadwell Memorial Forest

Conflicting accounts. One reports that name is for George Cadwell who owned and developed the land. Second reports that name is for Frank Cadwell who died and Mrs. Ester Cadwell who gave the land to the University of Massachusetts. Name is first platted on map #9, 1939. See Cadwell Creek entry.

Cadwell Street

Named for George Cadwell who built the street. See Cadwell Creek entry.

*wCastle Bridge

Originally Caswell Bridge; but through mispronunciation and the principle of least effort, this adaptation resulted. See Caswell Bridge entry.

*xwCaswell Bridge

Named for Caswell family that lived nearby. See Castle Bridge entry.

Chaffee Brook

Named for Chaffee family that lived on Enfield Road.

*xwConkey Tavern (also McConkey)

Named for William McConkey, owner. Tavern was located in East Hollow and was the meeting place of Daniel Shays and his boys around 1780.

Cook Street

Named because it led to the Cook homestead. Earliest Cook family lived in Pelham in the 1820's.

xCounty Road

So called because it traveled the length of Hampshire County. First platted on map #2 in 1795. See Amherst Road, The Road.

Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202)

Named after Daniel Shays, local folk hero and resident, born in Hopkinton, Mass. in 1747, who led a group of insurgent debtors in an attempt to occupy the Springfield Arsenal in what became the famous Shay's Rebellion.

*xDeck Bend

Local name for a bend in the Pelham Hollow Road. Descriptive name, so called because it resembles a deck on a ship. Name in use in the late 1800's and early 1900's but it is not platted on any maps.

Dodge Hill

Named for Nathaniel Dodge who was a farmer and blacksmith on the main road from center of town to Packardsville around 1880.

Dodge Road

Road named because it ran past the Dodge place. See Dodge Hill entry.

Dunlop Brook (Also Dunlap)

Named for William (Uncle Billy) Dunlap. His farm was located approximately 1 mile southwest of the center of town around 1780.

*xEast Hill

Early name for Prescott Hill. So called to distinguish it from Pelham Hill. Name used prior to 1822. See Prescott Hill entry.

*xwEast Hollow

So called because it was east of the Swift River. See also Bobbin Hollow and Pelham Hollow entries.

*xEast Road

Descriptive, earlier name for Egypt Road. See Egypt Road entry.

*Egypt Road

So called because it is the road nearest the eastern border of Prescott. It is platted on map #4, 1871.

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Enfield Road

So called because it led to Enfield. Laid out in town meeting report for May 6, 1811.

*Fish Hill

Hill in northern Prescott named for the Nathaniel Fish family who settled in Prescott area around 1800.

*Fish Hill Cemetery

Dates on tombstones start from 1772. See Fish Hill entry.

Gates Brook

Named after Gen'l Gates and family. Gen'l Gates was a resident and officer in the Revolutionary War in 1777. See Meetinghouse Rd. entry.

Gates Road

Named because it ran by the Gates place. See Gates Brook entry.

Gulf Brook

Little information available from sources or informants. One informant stated that it is a descriptive name as the mouth of the brook empties into a small gulf of what is now the Quabbin Reservoir. Another informant claimed that the words gulf and valley were used interchangeably, and Gulf Brook is so named because it is in a gulf or valley. The name is platted on map #14, 1942.

Gulf Road

So called because the road is located in a gulf or valley. The name is platted on map #14, 1942. See Gulf Brook entry

Hampshire County

Hamp: from Hamden County which prior to 1812 extended from the New Hampshire line to the Conn. line. In 1812 both Franklin and the present Hampshire counties were set off.

shire: meaning county

Harkness Cemetery

Named for William Harkness and descendants who operated large farms in western Pelham from 1750.

Harkness Road

Road that passed the Harkness farms. See Harkness Cemetery entry.

Harris Brook

Named for W.J. Harris who in 1875 built a mill for mechanical purposes on a branch of the Amethyst Brook. Here he carried on a small business for several years. He sold out to the Amherst Water Co. in 1892 as a site for their upper reservoir.

Harris Reservoir [rezivɔɪ]

Also called Upper Reservoir, locally. See Harris Brook entry.

Hawley Reservoir [rezivɔɪ]

Named for Joseph Hawley family (farmers) that lived in Pelham around 1760.

Hearthstone Brook

So called because large flat rocks from this brook were used to make fireplace hearths around 1885. See Heatherstone Brook entry.

Heatherstone Brook

Incorrect name platted on map #10, 1939, for Hearthstone Brook. Most likely this change was brought about by real estate agents. See Hearthstone Brook entry.

Hills Reservoir [rezivɔʔ]

Named for Elijah Hills, brother of Leonard M. Hills of Amherst, who occupied a small store in West Pelham, opposite the former Methodist Church. He dealt in palm-leaf hats, taking them in exchange for goods in 1833.

Jabish Brook [ˈjɛbɪʃ]

Named for Jabish family that lived in Belchertown.

Jones Road

Named for Rev. John Jones and family who inhabited the area around 1860.

*xKelley Hill

Hill in southeastern Prescott. Named for John Kelly (Kelley) and descendants. John Kelly fought under that command of Capt. David Cowden in 1775.

xKing Street

Named to honor the King of England. Road disct. March 9, 1914.

Knight's Cemetery

Named for George Knight who owned the nearby homestead at the four corners, around 1860.

Knight's Corner

See Knight's Cemetery entry.

*xLighthouse Hill

Descriptive name for lighthouse once present on the hill, next to a Lee family place. Name is not platted on any maps.

*xLily Pond

So called because of lilies on the pond. Not named on any maps.

*Lisburn [Lizbɪn] (also spelled Lishburne Lisbourne, Lisburne, Lisborn, Lisborne, New Lisburn, New Lisbourn New Lisburne) settlement

Settlers' name for land purchased from Stoddard, which is also the name of a town near Belfast (that, no doubt, had been the home of some of them). The name Lisburn was used from 1739-1743 (when it was changed to Pelham).

Lookout Tower

Name for tower on Mt. Lincoln. So called because it is used for detecting forest fires. First platted on map #9, 1939.

*xMain Road

Earlier name for Atkinson Hollow Road. See Atkinson Hollow Road entry.

Meetinghouse Road

Newer name for Gates Road. Mrs. Milliam L. Partridge, only resident on this street, felt that Meetinghouse Road was more appropriate, due to the nearby location of a meetinghouse. The name was popularly adopted around 1962. See Gates Road entry.

*Mellen Hollow [mɛ/ɪn] (also spelled Melle, Mellin, Millan, McMillen, Millen, McMillin, Millin, and McMillan)

Named for John Mellen and family that inhabited the southern part of Prescott in the first part of the nineteenth century.

Mineral Springs

Earlier name for Orient Springs. So called because of sulphur deposits in the water. See Orient Springs. entry.

Mt. Lincoln

Three conflicting reports as to origin

--it was named after President Lincoln

--it was named for Major-General Benjamin Lincoln who in 1787 was active in putting down the Shays Rebellion.

--it was named for a local Lincoln family that lived in Prescott around 1800 (The existence of this family has been verified)

Mt. Lincoln is first platted on map #3, 1860. See Pine Hill entry.

* Mt. Pleasant

Subjectively descriptive name for a mountain in central Prescott. Platted on maps #11 and #13, 1942.

New Reservoir [ˈrɛzɪvɔɪr]

Local name for Hills Reservoir. See Hills Reservoir. entry.

Orient Springs

Springs formed at the junction of Amethyst Brook and Buffam Brook. Named by Amherst residents because it is east of Amherst. First platted on map #4, 1871. See Mineral Springs entry.

Packardsville (Packardville), vill.

Named for Joel Packard who in the year 1840 built a wagon manufacturing shop with a Mr. Thruston at the south end of town. Since that time the hamlet was called Packardsville.

Packardsville Road

So called because it lead to Packardsville. See Packardsville entry.

Pelham [pɛləm] town

Named in 1743 for Lord Henry Pelham, an English statesman, who later became Prime Minister. Lord Pelham was traveling in this country, and specifically in the Lisburn area, when the settlement was organized as a town (January 15, 1743).

Pelham City [pɛləm]

Alternate name for West Pelham. Not platted on any maps but much local usage. See West Pelham entry.

Pelham Heights [pɛləm]

Descriptive name given to the area near the intersection of Belchertown Road and the Daniel Shays Highway, because of its elevation. First platted on map #4, 1871.

Pelham Hill [pɛləm]

Name given locally to hill in center of Pelham where the town hall is situated. Not platted as such on any maps but much local usage.

*Pelham Hollow [pɛləm]

Alternate name for East Hollow and Bobbin Hollow. See East Hollow and Bobbin Hollow entries.

*xwPelham Hollow Pond [pelam]

So called because it was located in Pelham Hollow. See Pelham Hollow entry.

*Pelham Hollow Road [pelam]

So called because it leads to Pelham Hollow. See Pelham Hollow entry.

*xPine Grove Cemetery

Descriptive name for pine trees on the land. First person to be buried here was Hannah (Cole) Pierce in 1881. (Lots were first sold for \$5 each!)

Pine Hill

Conflicting information

---Mt. Lincoln is the same place as Pine Hill. It was called Pine Hill when it was covered with forest.

---Pine Hill is located in eastern Prescott

---Pine Hill is a separate hill located northeast of Mt. Lincoln.

(There is a high elevation in this area)

it is so named for a pine tree located on top of the hill that was so tall that on a clear day one could climb the tree and see Boston. The tree was cut in 1901.

Pine Hill appears in this location on map #4, 1871.

*Prescott town [preskot]

Name of a township formed in 1822 from the part of Pelham east of the Swift River and a southern portion of New Salem.

Named by Caleb Pierce for Col. William Prescott (1726-1795) of Pepperell who had command of the American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

*Prescott Brook [ˈprɛskɔt]

So called because it runs through the center of Prescott.
Platted on maps # 11 and #13, 1942.

*Prescott Hill [ˈprɛskɔt]

Named for its location in center of Prescott. Newer name
for East Hill. See East Hill entry.

*Prescott Road [ˈprɛskɔt]

So called because it leads over the Swift River to Prescott.

*xwPulpit Hill

Descriptive name of hill located in Pelham Hollow. So
named because of the overhanging cliff shaped like a pulpit.
Charcoal kilns were at one time near this hill. Platted on
map #4, 1871.

Purgee(also spelled Purgy, Pergy) Brook [ˈpɜrɡi]

pseudo-Indian name used from 1815.

Quabbin Reservoir [kwɑbɪn] [ˈrɛzɪvɔɪ]

Pseudo-Indian name meaning many waters. Name given in 1927
when the Mass. legislature approved an act instructing the
Metropolitan Water Supply Commission to develop a new water
supply system from the water of the Swift River for the Boston
area.

Quaker Burying Ground

So named because it was the burial grounds for Quakers
who lived in Pelham from 1806.

Queen Street

Named for Queen of England. Road now disct. Led off King Street.

*Rattlesnake Den(Gutter)

Den formed by falling of debris from mountain above. The debris made a hiding place for a great number of rattlesnakes-- hence the name. Not platted on any maps but much local use.

*Rattlesnake Den Road

So called because of its location near Rattlesnake Den. See Rattlesnake Den entry.

*Rattlesnake Mountain

So called because it rises above Rattlesnake Den (see entry).

Rhodes School

School located on Amherst Road, named for John Rhodes, a resident, who left \$8,000 for its construction in 1933.

*xwRiver Road--East Side

So named because it followed the Swift River on the east side.

*xRiver Road--West Side

So named because it followed the Swift River on the west side.

Rocking Stone

Descriptive name of a huge boulder located off Shutesbury Road, which was supposedly dropped on a ledge by a glacier. It is perfectly balanced on this ledge and could be easily rocked. Now debris under the rock prevents this.

Rolling Stone

Alternate name for Rocking Stone. See Rocking Stone entry.

*Russ Mountain

Named for F.W. Russell, resident of the area. Platted on maps #11 and #13.

Shutesbury Road

So called because it leads to Shutesbury

Smith's Pasture

Named for Col. James N. Smith (1826-1888) who owned the land and was also very active in railroad building. Platted on map # 9, 1939.

South Valley Road

So named because it runs southwesterly from Amherst Road through the southern part of the valley.

Stoddard's Town

Name used for what became Pelham and surrounding areas, prior to 1739. Named for Col. John Stoddard of Northampton who purchased this part of the Equivalent Lands. It was unsettled until Sept. 26, 1739 when a portion of it was sold to Robert Peibols (Peebles) and James Thornton.

Swift River

Descriptive name for river that separated Pelham and what once was Prescott.

The Northerner

Alternate name for Rocking Stone or Rolling Stone (see entries).

The Road

Local name for Amherst Road or County Road (see entries).

Tower Road

So called because it leads to WFCR radio tower on Mt. Lincoln. Platted on map #9, 1939.

*Town House Road

So called because of the town house situated at the end of the road. Usage from late 1800's to around 1930.

*Twig Hill

Named originally for the Twohig family reported living in the area around 1860. However, because of the foreign nature of this name, and the principle of least effort, the hill became popularly known as Twig Hill.

*Twohig Hill

[4uwig]

Original name for Twig Hill. See Twig Hill entry.

Upper Reservoir

[rezizoi]

Local reference to Harris Reservoir. See Harris Reservoir entry.

Utter Road

Named for Professor Utter that lived at the end of the road around 1910.

Valley Brook

So called because it runs through the western valley.

Valley Cemetery

So called because it is located on the northern half of Valley Road.

Valley Road

So called because of its location in the western valley of Belham--running from Amherst Road to the north. Sometimes this is locally called North Valley road to distinguish it from South Valley Road. Est. as a road in 1794.

*xVauglin Road [Vɔglin] (Vaughn Road) [vɔn]

Named for Varnum Vauglin family that lived in the area in the early 1800's.

West Pelham

So called because it is west of Pelham. It is the site of a meetinghouse. See Pelham City entry.

IRRESISTABLE INCLUSIONS

No study of Pelham, or any area, would be complete without a few of the many folk etymologies and stories that are so much a part of the people that they warrant being included as an afterword. Besides, they are irresistible!

Pelham

The choice of the name Pelham has always been a bone of contention for a certain number of people in Pelham. First of all, some Pelhamites were at odds with Lord Pelham because of the bell incident. Lord Pelham, in order to signify his pleasure for the honor of having a town named for himself, sent a bell from England for the Pelham meetinghouse. However, when the bell arrived in Boston, it was discovered that Lord Pelham had neglected to pay transportation fees for the trip to Pelham. After the bell had lain in Boston for quite some time (It seems that no one in Pelham had sufficient funds for its transport.) it was sold to the Old South Church. This

This did not set too well with most Pelhamites at the time. Even one hundred years later, in 1840, some people in town felt that Lord Pelham had been sufficiently honored in one hundred years, and they were anxious to change the name to something more fitting to the elevated location. In the town meeting records of March 2, 1840, it was "voted to petition to the General Court to change the present name of Pelham to Mount Hermon." This petition was not granted, however.

The next one hundred still did not seem to erase the

dissatisfaction with the name Pelham in the minds of some Pelhamites. This is evident in the need for an article in the Pelham Historical Society's pamphlet on Sept. 24, 1966 (Historical Day):

"Although some writer have questioned the reason for changing the name of New Lisbourn to Pelham, after Lord Henry Pelham, it seems understandable in the light of today's naming of new towns for VIPS. Lord Pelham, who was visiting in nearby towns, had been England's secretary of war, paymaster of the forces, and in 1743 primes minister and chancellor of the exchequor at the same time. (There was nothing foolish about naming a town for such a personality.)"

A few Pelhamites remain unconvinced!

Orient Springs House

On the County Atlas of Hampshire Mass., F.W. Beers & Co., New York, 1873, is included the following Pelham business note on the Orient Springs Health Institute. It is:

"located near the town of Amherst, Mass. for the treatment and cure of:

Paralysis in all its forms

spinal diseases

contracted cords and limbs

crooked feet and hands.

Enlarged joints

wry necks

curvations of the spine.

Hip disease

Rickets
St. Vitus Dance and
All deformities.
Neuralgia
Rheumatism
All Lameness
Nervous disease
Gout
Convulsions
Disease of the brain, heart and lungs.
Hysteria
Etc.

George W. Rhodes."

Some residents of Pelham claim that the Springs did have sulphur deposits; others refute this and state that the Orient Springs Institute was nothing more than a money making operation and the only disease it cured with 100% efficiency was its owner's short-lived case of poverty! (Perhaps Mr. Rhodes would classify this cure under "Etc."!?)

Warren Gibbs Gravestone

The following inscription is found on a headstone in Knight's Cemetery, erected by Walter Gibbs, brother of the deceased:

"Warren Gibbs

Died by Arsenic Poison

Mar. 23, 1860--age 36 years

Think my friends when this you see

How my wife has done by me

She is gone and I am here

She in some oysters did prepare
Some poison for my lot and share
Then of the same I did partake
And nature yielded to its fate
Before she my wife became
Mary Fellows was her name."

Stephen Burroughs--alias Rev. Mr. Davis

In 1784 Stephen Burroughs arrived in Pelham under the pseudonym of Rev. Mr. Davis. He was in possession of several sermons which he had apparently stolen from his minister father. He applied for, and was given, the position of pastor at a salary of five dollars per week. Evidently, he aroused suspicion one day when a parishioner noticed that his sermon notes were mysteriously yellowed and probably not fresh texts. Hoping to catch Rev. Davis off guard, the parishioner asked him to preach a sermon on Joshua 9:5, just as Burroughs was mounting the pulpit. Rev. Davis, however, thought fast on his feet and delivered a sermon that reassured this parishioner and others of his competence.

He was doing quite well until one day a friend of his entered town during the 19th week of his 20 week commission and inadvertently called him Mr. Burroughs in front of one of the townspeople. Immediately, "Mr. Davis" realized that his game was up and decided to flee town, taking with him the five dollars pay for the 20th sermon that he had not yet preached. He was shortly and hotly pursued by a posse and

when caught, the men in the posse decided that a just punishment for this renegade would be to force him to buy drinks for all with the five dollars!

Stephen Burroughs was never seen again in Pelham, but several stories relate that he went to Springfield where he was run out of town for trying to counterfeit money. From here he supposedly went down south and ran into some foul (not fowl!)^{play} with a couple of "farmer's daughters"!

Story has it that in later life Mr. Burroughs went straight and ended up teaching school in Canada!

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- #1 "Bowles' New One-Sheet Map of New England," Printed for Bowles and Carver, N. 69, in St. Paul's Church Yard, London, 1794-1798.
- #2 Map of Pelham 1795, Traced from the original map (vol. 5, map 29) in the Department of Archives at the Statehouse in Boston by A.T. Appleton, December, 1897.
- #3 Hampshire County 1860, Compiled by H.F. Walling, Sectioned Maps of Towns.
- #4 Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts, Compiled and Corrected by H.F. Wallings and O.W. Gray, Published by Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.
- #5 Atlas of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Published by Beers and Co., 36 Versy Street, New York., 1873.
- #6 Department of Interior U.S. Geological Survey, Swift River Reservoir, Massachusetts, Belchertown Sheet, Ed. 1893 (reprinted 1932).
- #7 Atlas of the Boundary Lines of the Towns of Amherst, Barre, Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, Hadley, Hardwick, Leverett, New Braintree, New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Prescott, Shutesbury, and Sunderland, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Land And Harbor Commission, 1912.
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- #11 U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey: Quabbin Reservoir Quadrangle, surveyed 1942 (revised 1952).
- #12 U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey: Winsor Dam Quadrangle, surveyed 1942 (revised 1952).
- #13 U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey: Quabbin Reservoir Quadrangle, surveyed 1942 (revised 1966).

#14 U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey: Winsor Dam
Quadrangle, surveyed 1942 (revised 1966).

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University Students Study Origins Of Local Place Names

AMHERST — "If a place has a name there must be a reason for it," says Carlene Riccelli, a University of Massachusetts senior who has just spent a semester studying the history and origins of place names in the town of Pelham.

Her colleague Mary Callahan Cramer has done the same thing in the town of Shutesbury. Both are senior English majors at UMass who have just finished a special project on place names for Dr. Audrey Duckert, associate professor of English. Miss Duckert has done extensive work in dialectology, the study of local influences on language.

Carlene and Mary studied maps, went through library collections, checked town and county records and went to town meetings. Mary went to Boston to go through the state archives and both girls explored the highways and byways of the towns and talked to the older residents.

INVESTIGATED EVERYTHING

"We investigated everything that had a name," Carlene said. "Roads, rivers, brooks, cemeteries, mountains, hills, ditches, gulleys, and dens."

Carlene is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Riccelli of 95 Shawsheen Ave., Wilmington, and Mary is Mrs. Robert Cramer of Amherst. Each is compiling a dictionary of place names. They estimate they will have over 100 for each town.

"We picked up so many stories," Mary said, Mount Mineral in Shutesbury, for example, used to be named Horse Hill as a tribute to a hardy horse. A farmer lost his horse on the hill one fall, so the story goes, and found the animal alive the following spring.

FOUND AMETHYSTS

Amethyst Brook in Pelham was so named because years ago people are supposed to have found amethysts in it, according

to Carlene. Mary discovered that John Noyes Rd. in Shutesbury was named for a man who hung himself and Carlene traced Heatherstone Brook in Pelham back to Heatherstone Brook, so named because early residents took big flat stones for their hearths out of it.

How Camel Brook in Shutesbury got its name remains a mystery to Mary, the most plausible explanation being that two of its bends looked like the two humps of a camel. There were four or five such names in each town for which no origin could be found.

The ultimate source on place names in each town were the older residents. Both students taped interviews with townspeople and both praised their co-operation and interest. "They were very open and interested in anyone willing to take the time to come to them," Mary said.

Miss Duckert plans to report their work to the National Committee for the Study of Place Names and hopes to get it published. The main contribution of the studies, the students agree, is that for the first time there have been put on many place names in Pelham Shutesbury.



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS Carlene Riccelli of Wilmington, left, and Mary Callahan Cramer of Amherst meet at the United Church in Pelham and check maps. They have just completed a special project on the origin and history of place names in Pelham and Shutesbury under Dr. Audrey Duckert of the UMass English department.

NAMES THEIR QUARRY

UM Sleuths Hunt History

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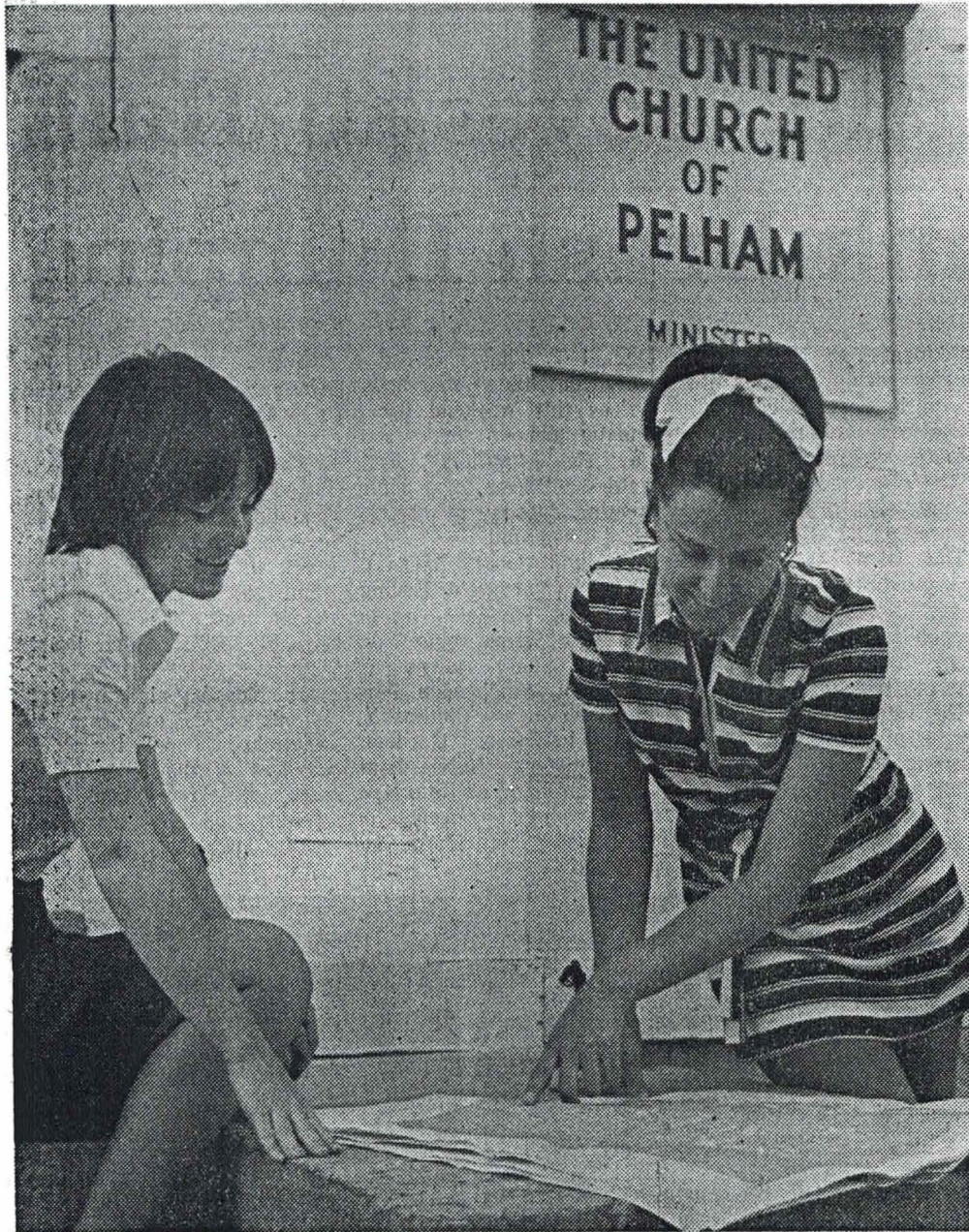
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Page 2 of 2



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