

Selected
Place Names
of
Dobbs Ferry
New York

Compiled by Henry Steiner, Village Historian, Sleepy Hollow

Agawam: Edwin Gould renamed his estate Agawam. See Midgrove.

Anthony Inn, the: It stood on the east side of Broadway, facing south on Ashford Avenue. The inn was erected by Anthony Storm (d.1840), son of Jacob, in 1820. It stood until 1933, when it was sold to make way for the Mayflower Diner and a gas station.

Ardley: Formerly the estate of Cyrus W. Field which lay in Dobbs Ferry and Irvington.

Ardley Country Club: Most of Ardsley Country Club lies in Dobbs Ferry.

Belden Park: David Dudley Field, an attorney and brother of Cyrus Field, bought an estate on the east side of Broadway at Belden Avenue in 1865. The land originally belonged to the Storm Farm. He named it for his wife Laura Belden. In 1880, the estate was divided into lots and sold.

Calendar Near Yonkers: Peter Van Brugh Livingston styled his estate by this name after 1819.

Church of the Sacred Heart, the: Established in 1862 as a small frame building next to 77 Washington Avenue. A new church was completed in 1896 at Broadway and Rochambeau Avenue.

Dingley Dell: Anna Peters, who rented Agawam from 1927 to 1937, referred to Wickers Creek gorge by this name.

Dobbs Ferry: The ferry established by John Dobbs (or Jan Dobs), who lived in a tenant farm house near the corner of Broadway and Walnut Street. He and his wife Abigail lived in the area in 1698. At the time of the Revolutionary War both the eastern and western ends of the ferry were designated Dobbs Ferry. Later the western end was called Sneden's Landing. Dobbs operated the ferry from about 1698 to 1759. Jeremiah Dobbs was a Swede who lived at Willow Point. The original ferry boat was said to be a periauger – a hollowed log with a single oar at the stern). The ferry was at the lower landing; the upper landing was north of Wicker's Creek.

Prior to the incorporation of the village, Dobbs Ferry was also the name for the unincorporated hamlet of Dobbs Ferry which had sprung up around the ferry.

Dobbs Ferry, village of: The village named for Dobbs Ferry. It was initially incorporated as Greenburgh in 1873 and renamed in 1882. See Greenburgh.

Estherwood: The Paton estate, where Theodore Roosevelt lived as a youth around 1871. Also the Estate of J.J. McComb.

Ferry House, the: [no data]

Four Corners: Several intersections in Westchester County are traditionally referred to by this name. In Dobbs Ferry it refers to the intersection of Broadway and Ashford Avenue, which looks more like three corners.

Gould Landing: The landing just above Wickers Creek under the ownership of Edwin Gould. It was destroyed in 1907 when the steamship "City of Troy" burned there.

Gould Park: 5 ½ acre park given to the village by Edwin Gould.

Gould's Pier: Formerly located just north of the mouth Wicker's Creek, this was the site of the first Catholic mass celebrated in the area of Dobbs Ferry. Father James Commisky said mass for workers on the Old Croton Aqueduct.

Gould's Ravine: An early twentieth century name for the ravine through which Wicker Creek runs.

Greenburgh, Village of: Dobbs Ferry was incorporated under this name in 1873. The village was renamed in 1882.

Greenburgh Hebrew Center: 515 Broadway. The second parsonage of one Presbyterian church was built at 515 Broadway after the Civil War. After serving as a private residence for a time it was purchased for use as the Hebrew Center.

Howland's Mills: [no data]

Hudson River: The Hudson River has been extremely important to the life and development of Dobbs Ferry. The river is named for Henry Hudson, the English explorer who claimed the river valley for the Dutch in 1609. Dobbs Ferry lies at the narrowing of the river just below the Tappan Zee.

In earlier times the river was commonly know as the North River as well as the Hudson. There are occurrences of "Hudson's River" in records dating from the 1680s. Also; Mohicanittuk [Delaware], Mahikkannittuc, Shatamuc [Sint-Sinck], Cohohatatea [Iroquois], Mauritus [Dutch—for Prince Maurice of Orange]; Maurits Rivier, Manhattes, Manhattans Rivier, Noort Rivier, Norrdt Riviere, Groote Riviere, Groote Rivier, The Great River, Rio de Montagne, Montaigne Rivier, Rio de Gamas (Spanish).

Hyatt Manor farmhouse: John Hyatt occupied a four-room farmhouse at 152 Broadway. He paid nine pounds annual rent to Frederick Philipse I, the founder of Philipsburgh Manor. This historic house which burned in 1974, once served as the lodging of General Charles Lee during the Revolutionary War. British General William Howe occupied it briefly after the Battle of White Plains. During the Revolution Lt. Thomas Hyatt was the tenant of record. It stood on the Post Road at the south end of the village, also known as the old Hyatt Livingston home. Also Hyatt House.

Irving Corner, The: The baptistry of Zion Episcopal Church was so named for Washington Irving's readiness to stand as godfather to infants.

John William Cooper Estate, the: This is now the site of Dobbs Ferry High School.

Juhring Tract: A seventy-five-acre parcel south of Ardsley Country Club purchased by the village in 1968 for use as a park.

Lawrence's Plantation: This was a seventeenth-century agricultural establishment located at Wicker's Creek.

Little White Church, the: Dobbs Ferry's first church (Presbyterian) sided with white shingles built in 1825 stood on one acre of land at Ashford Avenue next to the old cemetery at Storm Street. The church was torn down to make way for a hospital. A Lutheran Church built in 1950 now stands on the site.

Little White Church Burying Ground, the: This is located on Ashford Avenue just east of the Lutheran church, near Storm street. It was established as a free burying ground established by Martin Lefurgy about 1810. Burials continued here until 1894. It is also known as the Old Burying Ground.

Livington's Landing: A later name for the landing from which Dobbs operated his ferry. In the early nineteenth century, Philip Livingston and his son Peter owned roughly half of what is today Dobbs Ferry. Philip Livingston purchased approximately 233 acres from the Commissioners of Forfeiture for 3,262 pounds. Livingston expanded his holdings to 610 acres in 1796. In 1830 Peter Van Brugh Livingston had the property laid out into lots and called it the Village of Livingston Landing in the Town Greenburgh. Peter owned a large part of what is today Dobbs Ferry.

Malvern: This was the estate of D.S. Appleton.

Manor of Philipsburgh: The lands of Dobbs Ferry were a portion of the large manor owned by the Philipse family, confirmed by royal charter to Frederick Philipse I in 1693.

Memorial Park: This village park is west of Palisade Street and east of the railroad tracks is about three acres in size.

Midgrove: This was the estate of James Wilde (d. 1879) on the west side of Broadway (555 Broadway). In modern times, it is the Mount Mercy property. Edwin Gould, son of Jay and Helen Day Gould, purchased Midgrove in 1902. He had a large Spanish-style mansion built on the eighty-acre estate. The gatehouse stood on the Our Lady of Victory property.

Milestone 26*: An old Post Road milestone located a few steps north of the Dobbs Ferry/Irvington border.

Mount Mercy: The hill on the Sisters of Mercy property.

North Brook: This is the northern tributary of Wickers Creek rising from ponds in northeast Dobbs Ferry. It crosses Ardsley Country Club.

Old Croton Aqueduct, the: Completed in 1842...

Old Storm farmhouse, the: Was said to have been moved to #28 Rochambeau Avenue from its original site just north of the Four Corners. The house stood where the statue of Sacred Heart Church stands today. The house was deeded to John Storm (born c. 1728) by the New York State Commissioners of Forfeiture after the Revolutionary War. It is (was) the oldest building in northern Dobbs Ferry.

Old Wellington Estate, the: Located at 418 Broadway. [no other data]

Paton's Pond: [no data]

Presbyterian Church: See South Presbyterian Church.

Prospect Hill: The hill on which Children's Village is located.

Queen's Highway, the: A name for Broadway (the Albany Post Road) during the reign of Britain's Queen Anne. Also; the Highland Turnpike, Albany Post Road.

Reilly's Brook: A tributary of Wickers Creek.

Saw Mill River: a small stretch of river that lies in Dobbs Ferry near Chestnut Ridge Way. The Dutch name for this stream was De Zaag Kill, or Zaeg Kil (Saw Mill River), after the mill established by Adriaen Van der Donck before 1649. The mill was located in Yonkers, at the mouth of the river where Van der Donck had begun a plantation. Later the river powered Frederick Philipse's "Lower Mills" grist mill at Yonkers. Also; Nepperhan, Sawmill River, Saw-Mill creek.

Sisters of Mercy Property: An eighty-five-acre parcel which included Mercy College, Our Lady of Victory School, and the lands about Wickers Creek. The Sisters of Mercy acquired this property in 1958.

Sneden's Landing*: In 1759, Molley Sneden took over the ferry operation from the Dobbs family. She ran the ferry from her landing on the west side of the river. The Sneden family operated the ferry until 1903.

South Brook: This is the southern tributary of Wickers Creek rising near Dobbs Ferry Hospital.

South Presbyterian Church: Located at 343 Broadway and built in 1868, it is the second oldest church in Dobbs Ferry.

Stone Barn: [no data]

Villard Hill: This is the highest point in Dobbs Ferry. It was part of 120 acres purchased by Civil War correspondent Henry Villard in 1880. The hill is between Judson Avenue and Children's Village.

Weckquaesgeck tract: The Dobbs Ferry portion of Frederick Philipse I's real estate acquisitions in the late seventeenth century.

Wellington estate, the: Located at 418 Broadway and purchased by Sacred Heart parish about 1905 as a rectory.

Wickers Creek: The stream at Wickquaqueek, an anglicized corruption of the term.

Wickquaqueek: An Indian village at the north end of the village Dobbs Ferry. This has been translated as meaning the place of the bark kettle. The tribe of this name whose lands extended from Dobbs Ferry to Greenwich is said to be a subdivision of the Delaware Tribe. Other sources designate them as Mohegans. Their main village was located in Dobbs Ferry at Wicker's Creek. There are many variations of this name, among them; Wysquaqa, Weckquaeskeck, Weecquaesguck, Wecksquaskeck, Weckququesesck, Wiequeshook, Weec-quas-guck, Wichquaesqueek, Wickquaskek, Weekersqueeke, Wysquaqua, Weghquehe.

Wilde House: Also known as Midgrove, it was built in 1877 by James Wilde, and rented to Eliza Masters for her school for young ladies. The structure was located at Broadway and Church Street.

William Portugue's Creek: This is another early name for Wicker's Creek.

Willow Point: A small promontory near southern end of village.

Wilson's Landing: May be named after Daniel Wilse whose post Revolutionary 163 acre farm occupied the land on which present day Mercy College. It appears to be the same place as Gould's Landing.

Zion Episcopal Church: Located at Cedar and Oak streets on a high parcel of land donated by Peter Van Brugh Livingston. The church, which included Washington Irving among its worshippers, is the oldest still existing church in Dobbs Ferry. It was begun in 1833 and consecrated in 1834. Also, Zion Church.