

Town of Enfield

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Town of Enfield Historian

Enfield. The town was divided from the Town of Ulysses on March 16, 1821. It consists of 36 military tract lots, or those numbered 34 to 39, 42 to 47, 50 to 55, 58 to 63, and 66 to 77. The town is six miles square. The reason for the creation of the new town was surely because of the great distance the people in the lower portion of Ulysses had to go to participate in town government.

According to most sources, the name Enfield came from Enfield, Connecticut, although most of the earliest settlers appear to have been from New York rather than New England. Of the earliest settlers mentioned in the Four County History, four were from other New York towns, two from Pennsylvania, two from New Jersey, one from England, and two from Middletown County, Connecticut.

Enfield, however, has a pleasing sound. There are at least eleven other places named Enfield in the world and the origin of the town name is English. Towns named Enfield can be found in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

In 1979, the Town of Enfield renamed several roads: Stevenson Road became Harvey Hill Road; Porter Hill Road Extension became Hubbell Drive; Buck Hill Lodge Road became Griffin Road. County Line Road was renamed Buck Hill Road. These names reflect families living in the town at the time.

Applegate's Corners is situated on the old Susquehanna-Bath Turnpike, now State Route 79, also known as the Mecklenburg Road because it leads to Mecklenburg in the Town of Hector. Until 1853 Hector was part of Tompkins County; afterward it became part of Schuyler County. The name Mecklenburg, called "Meck" locally, is probably from Mecklenburg in North Carolina. Between 1803 and 1812, a number of southern families settled in the general area and most likely brought the name north with them. John Applegate arrived in 1805. He opened a tavern in 1807 and the crossroads took his name. Applegate Post Office was established in 1822 and discontinued in 1873. In 1892 it was opened again but lasted only until 1902.

Ben Road. *See* Shudaben Road.

Black Oak Corners is located at the intersection of Harvey Hill and Black Oak roads. Black Oak Corners was so named because of large black oak trees that once grew there. A particularly large specimen stood at the intersection of the roads but the town cut it down in 1927 when automobile traffic required better roads.

Bostwick Corners was named in 1820 for Andrew Bostwick, who established a home on what became Bostwick Road and State Route 327. In 1832 there was also a Presbyterian church. The Harvey Hill School, District #11, operated from 1853 (shown on the 1853 Enfield Town Map) until 1957, ending with the redistricting of the Ithaca School District.

Enfield Center is located at the geographic center of the Town of Enfield and is commonly referred to as The Center. The first permanent settler in Enfield Center was Judah Baker, who arrived in 1804. A post office was established in The Center in 1846 and discontinued in 1918. The name was spelled Centre until 1846 when the U.S. postal authorities regularized the spelling.

Enfield Falls identifies a small community located near the falls on Enfield Creek. Settlement began in 1817 when Isaac Rumsey built a gristmill tapping the ample waterpower and other settlers built nearby. A post office operated at Enfield Falls from 1882 until 1902.

Enfield Falls faded as a population center and the waterfall and gorge became part of the Robert H. Treman State Park, created when Robert and Laura Treman gave Enfield Glen to the State of New York. The area was designated a state park in 1920. The mill in the park was built in 1839 on the site of the original mill. It has been restored and is open to the public.

Fish Road. *See* Ice House Road.

Honeypot is considered a fanciful name. It refers to a small community near the entrance to the Robert H. Treman State Park, also called Enfield Park. The area was known for a time as Meadowbrook because of the meadows nearby, which might have been a source of pollen for honeybees. Meadowbrook appears on the 1920 Tompkins County map. There seems to be no documentation for the term Honeypot, nor, as of 2001, is it still used. *See also* Honeypot *in the* Town of Caroline.

Ice House Road was cut through in 1870; it became Fish Road in 1979, by which time icehouses were relics of the past.

Kennedy's Corners is the name of the intersection of Sheffield Road and Route 79. A Methodist Episcopal church organized there in 1844. The church disbanded in 1983 and the building is currently a private home. Kennedy's Corners is assumed to refer to Robert Kennedy, who owned a farm in that vicinity. He was mentioned in the 1864 Diary of Asahel Lovell Harvey owned by Karen Dickson. Asahel lived on Mecklenburg Road; his farm is now an antique store called "City Lights." Asahel went to Robert Kennedy's on March 14, 1864, to see cows but could not buy them. On September 10, 1864, he wrote

in his diary that he was going to a pole raising up to the corners at Kennedy's.

Miller's Corners was located at the intersection of State Route 79 and Enfield Main and Halseyville Road. It is a present-day gathering place because of the Valley Korner Grocery Store and Gas Station and the nearby Sandy Creek Trailer Park. The Enfield Elementary School is also located near this intersection. It is also called The Corners, The Store, or sometimes Sandy Creek.

Shudaben Road is located off Enfield Center Road. It was first called Ben Road after a child born to the Zipfel family and was a private road, not yet accepted by the Enfield Town Board. On November 2, 1994, residents requested that the Enfield Town Board have the road come under the town's jurisdiction. At that time, the name was changed to Shudaben Road. It is said that this reflected the sentiment that it "should have been a road before."

Stone House Road. *See* Woodard Road.

West Enfield took its name from a short-lived post office located at the junction of what were then called Georgia and New roads. The post office opened in 1832 and closed by 1841. New Road can be found on the maps today. New Road was not exactly a new road but rather an improvement of the turnpike and so-called new because of its better condition.

Woodard Road was named for the Woodard family that built the 1821 stone house now located in Treman Park. Woodard Road leads to Stone House Road. The name Woodard has changed through time to be sometimes spelled Woodward. Woodard is used for the road and name of District #7 School.