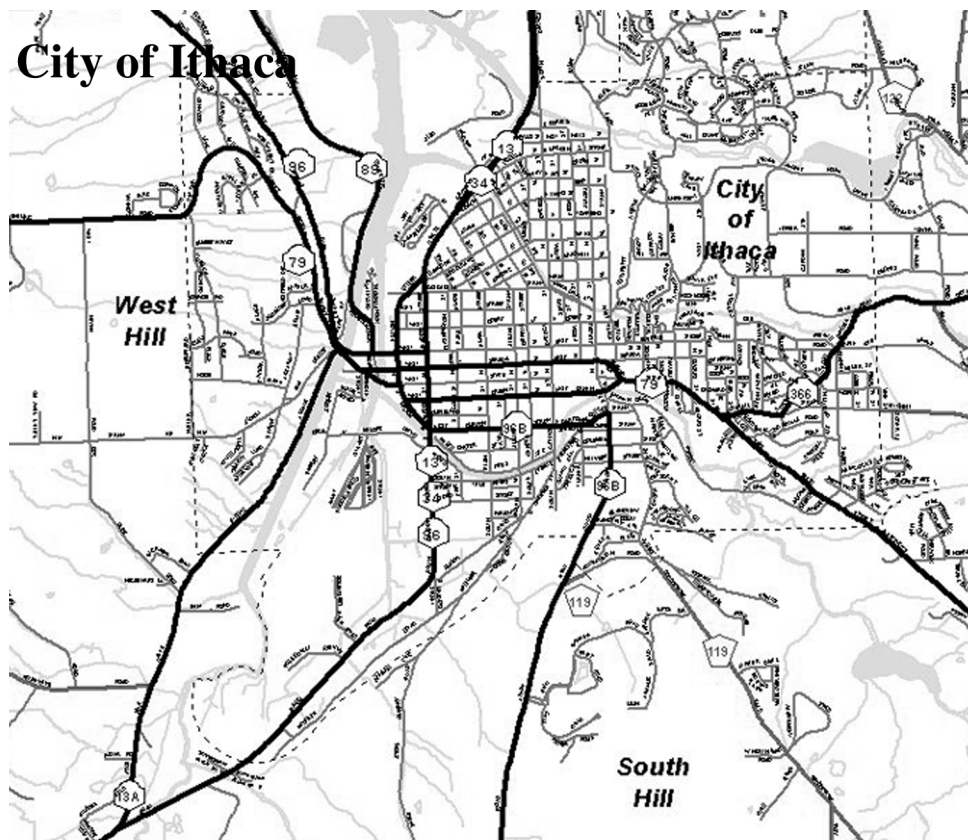


City of Ithaca



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Jane Marsh Dieckmann

City of Ithaca Historian

Ithaca grew up at the head of Cayuga Lake and was called the Flats because of its location at the foot of three hills. Its early reputation as a rough and rowdy place led to the name of Sodom after the Biblical city of ill repute. Somewhat later, because of the unusual growth of shade trees, some wanted to call it Forest City. The official name Ithaca was provided by Simeon DeWitt, surveyor general of New York State, an important landowner in the new settlement, and student of the classics. Thus he gave the chief community in the Town of Ulysses the name Ithaca for the Greek island Ithaki, home of the hero Odysseus, whose Roman name is Ulysses.

DeWitt surveyed 49 lots, which he indicated on his 1807 Map of Ithaca. The only street names he gave were Aurora and Tioga (for a destination or direction), and Seneca (for an Indian tribe), Buell (to honor silversmith and typographer Abel Buell, who engraved and printed the first map of the United States in 1784; by 1836 this street was called Buffalo), and Mill for the mill on nearby Cascadilla Creek. When Tompkins County was formed in 1817, Ithaca was designated the county seat. It was incorporated as a village in 1821, and chartered as a city in 1888, when it became a separate municipality.

Abbott Lane is named for Bruce Abbott, developer of West Hill Terrace, a subsidized housing project that opened in 1972.

Adams Street. On early maps Ithaca street names paid tribute to important national leaders. Streets were also named for Washington, Franklin, Hancock, Jay, Madison, and Monroe.

Alice Miller Way commemorates the educator, activist, and dedicated member of the school board, who died in January 1997.

Allan H. Treman Marina is named for city and university attorney Allan H. Treman, who died in 1975. He served as chairman of the Finger Lakes Park Commission.

Aurora Street is one of many early street names given to indicate a direction, or destination, or designation of a place. Other examples include Buffalo, Owego, Albany, Geneva, Auburn, Utica, Hector, and Spencer streets, as well as Dryden and Elmira roads. In 1831 George Blythe and others petitioned the village Board of Trustees “praying for the alteration of the name” of Aurora Street to Pearl Street. The petition was announced as favorable but was repealed in August 1832.

Baker Park is the triangle on Elmira Road between South Albany and Plain streets, was so designated in 1964 to honor Richard S. Baker, who had served the city, mostly as forester, for more than 41 years.

Barton Place honors Colonel Frank A. Barton, Cornell 1891, commandant during World War I and head of the university’s ROTC unit; his residence was located on this street in Cornell Heights.

Beebe Lake is named for Colonel Jeremiah S. Beebe, who owned plaster and flour mills at the foot of the Ithaca Falls. When the young Ezra Cornell first came to Ithaca in 1828, he went to work for Beebe and built the dam that created the lake named for his employer.

Belle Sherman was Mary Isabella Sherman. She was a student at Cornell in 1874–1875 and then again in 1877 when she received her grad-

uate degree in agriculture. Scientist, artist, and popular teacher of science and history at Ithaca High School, she served the school system from 1876 until her retirement in 1908. When in 1920 the Bryant Park Civic Association was formed on East Hill, its first purpose was to build a school in the area, which was named Belle Sherman in her honor. It opened in 1925, and in subsequent years the neighborhood around the school acquired the name Belle Sherman as well.

Blair Street is most likely named for Charles H. Blair, Cornell 1872 and Ezra Cornell's son-in-law. The 1899–1900 city directory shows three people named Blair living at Llenroc (the Cornell villa), while Sarah and Julia Blair boarded on Blair Street.

Bool Street was named for Henry Bool, who came to Ithaca in 1872, establishing a furniture business and later the floral company at the foot of West Hill which continues to this day with a shop on North Aurora Street. In addition to involvement in numerous commercial activities, Bool wrote extensively and published articles on the philosophy of anarchism.

Brandon Place and **Dunmore Place** form a little square near the intersection of State and Mitchell streets. They were named after Mt. Brandon and Dunmore Point on the west coast of Ireland. Landowner William Driscoll, patriarch of a family of prolific builders, had come from that area. The area was known as Irish Nob.

Brewery Hill is one of several names given to South Hill. It comes from the brewery that operated on Six Mile Creek near the foot of the hill. Prospect Hill was another name cited by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn, who camped on this place during the 1779 Sullivan campaign against Indian tribes. From his position on the hill, he could look out for Colonel William Butler and his troops, who were coming to join him. Prospect Street remains, and the area of the encampment is known as Terrace Hill today. Another name was Michigan Hill,

because one resident in the 1840s wanted to leave and settle on homestead land in Michigan. He talked so much about it that his neighbors started calling his property Michigan Hill. *See also* Klondike.

Bryant Tract refers to 45 acres of Solomon and Abigail Bryant's old farm, land which starting in 1908 was developed by three of their children and attorney and developer Jared Treman Newman, then mayor of Ithaca. Building lots were laid out, with three open green spaces, one of them being Bryant Park. Bryant Avenue is also named for this family.

Carpenter Business Park, a city facility just off Route 13, is named for Bernie and Sally Carpenter, both dedicated city employees; he ran Ithaca transit (he died in 2003) and she worked for years for the Department of Public Works.

Cascadilla Creek, one of Ithaca's chief waterways, may have a name of Indian origin, similar in formation to Unadilla in Broome County. Possibly too, the word could have come from a combination of "cascade" and "dell," which then reverted to Cascadilla, or from Spanish, meaning little cascades. The origin remains a mystery, but the name has been given to a street, a building that became the first home of Cornell University, a school on East Hill, a development (Cascadilla Park, built between 1908 and 1925), and its street, all located close to the creek. *See also* Treman Triangle.

Cass Park is named for Leon H. Cass, the city civil engineer appointed in 1933 who supervised the development of West Hill subdivisions and was responsible for the formation of the park.

Catherine Street. *See* Cook Street.

Catskill Turnpike was first known as the Bath & Jericho (Bainbridge today) Turnpike and was also called the Old Jericho Pike. Opened in

1804, it was the major stagecoach route through Ithaca. The road was later extended through the Catskills to the Hudson River, hence its name.

Cecil A. Malone Drive. On February 9, 2000, the 700 block of West Clinton Street was officially given this name to honor Bishop Malone of the Bethlehem Church of Jesus Christ. Malone, who died in an automobile accident in 1980 at the age of 50, had worked tirelessly as a community chaplain and counselor.

Cleveland Avenue. By request of the residents, in 1908 Wheat Street was changed to Cleveland Avenue, as a way to pay tribute to the former state governor and two-term United States president, who had recently died.

Clinton Street. Early street names paid tribute to important political figures, including New York State governors. DeWitt Clinton, who served 1817–1823 and 1825–1828, was a major promoter of the Erie Canal; he was also the cousin of Simeon DeWitt, who gained the land at the head of Cayuga Lake. Other streets named for governors are Tompkins Street (for Daniel D. Tompkins, 1807–1817), Lewis Street (for Morgan Lewis, who served just before Tompkins), and Yates Street (for Robert Yates, elected governor in 1823 as candidate of the Bucktail Party).

College Avenue was originally called Huestis (or Heustis) Street for gardener and farmer Lorenzo Scott Huestis, who had a large house and piece of land opposite Catherine Street. In 1908 nearly all the area's residents and landowners petitioned for the name to be changed to College Avenue.

Collegetown is the area just south of the Cornell University campus, settled very early when Otis Eddy built a cotton mill near the present Cascadilla Hall. He also built a dam further up the creek, called Eddy's

Dam, and water from the raceway formed Willow Pond. After the opening of Cornell University in 1868, the area that was rapidly becoming a popular residential area for students was called Collegetown. In the 1890s Huestis Street, with the pond at the top and a direct route to the campus over a wooden bridge, was lined with substantial boarding-houses with such names as The Brunswick (which overlooked the pond) and The Manhattan. In 1903 a private men's dormitory named Sheldon Court was built. Over the years Collegetown has become a student hangout place, with shops, places to eat, and housing for students.

Commons, The Ithaca Commons. From the start in Ithaca, business developed along Owego Street, the main street and stagecoach route through the village. Originally the road turned at the eastern end and headed up South Hill, part of the Ithaca-Owego Turnpike that opened in 1811. The Catskill Turnpike also used Owego Street. In April 1867 the village voted that the name be changed to State Street. Early in the 1970s the two central blocks of the street, between Aurora Street on the east and Cayuga Street on the west, were shut to vehicular traffic, and in 1974 the first locally planned and funded pedestrian mall in New York State was opened. The name The Commons was the winner in a community-wide "name the mall" contest, and a prize of \$1,000 went to Ithaca High School senior Bill Ryan; his father had entered the name for him.

Conley Park is named for Ed Conley, who served the city as alderman and then as mayor between 1972 and 1980.

Conway Park had two previous names. It was DeWitt Park, and then Lafayette Park (for the Marquis de Lafayette, who came to the aid of the colonies and fought in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War). In 1920 the park was given its present name, in honor of Michael F. Conway, Common Council member who was killed in action in France in 1918.

Cook Street is named for the Cook family (the father is listed in the city directory as florist and speculator), who owned a wide tract of land between Eddy and Huestis Streets and several large greenhouses along what is Catherine Street today. Cook had a daughter named Catherine.

Corn Street, like the now-departed Wheat Street, was a name relating to commercial enterprises in the area.

Court Street appeared on Simeon DeWitt's map and many others as Mill Street, named for the Cascadilla Mills at its eastern end. In April 1924 residents came to a Board of Public Works meeting with a unanimous petition to change the name ("anything would be better than Mill," declared one of them). After much debate it was decided to change the name to Finch Street to honor a leading jurist and native of the city, Judge Francis Miles Finch. The resolution passed but two weeks later the residents came back and asked that the name be made Court Street, presumably for the Old County Courthouse that is located there.

Dearborn Place is probably named for Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn of the 1779 Sullivan campaign, the officer who looked out from Prospect Hill.

DeWitt Park and **DeWitt Place** are names that honor landowner and surveyor general Simeon DeWitt, who died in 1834. After his death the village named the public park in his honor. DeWitt Place marks his residence and his original place of burial, as his body was later moved to Albany. His name also appears on the DeWitt Middle School and the DeWitt Building opposite the park.

Dunmore Place. *See* Brandon Place.

Eddy Street is named for Otis Eddy, who in 1827 began the manufacture of cotton cloth in his factory that stood near the present Cascadilla Place. A small industrial settlement developed around it, with the name of Eddyville or Eddy's Villa. As the boundaries of the corporation moved eastward, Eddyville was absorbed into the village.

Elizabeth O. Mulholland Wildflower Preserve. In 1970 the city designated the area east of Van Natta's Dam as a wildflower preserve. In 1990 it was named to honor the person had worked tirelessly for its development and preservation.

Esty Street. Originally listed on maps as New Street, the street was renamed in August 1867 for tanner and leather merchant Joseph Esty, who had settled in Ithaca in 1822 and had organized the first village fire company. His son, W. W. Esty, served as village president in 1876.

Factory Street. *See* Stewart Avenue.

Fair Street is a reminder of the past, as it may well have served as an entrance to the county fairgrounds, a 46-acre tract on the southwest side of the village, developed in 1875 by the Tompkins County Agricultural Society and in use up to the mid-twentieth century. The race-track, west of the present South Meadow Street, is today the site of two supermarkets and several small malls.

Falls Street was described in a village resolution of the 1860s as "the short street running from Fall Creek Mills" and was named for the nearby Ithaca Falls. The mills are gone, and so is the street's original name, which was Prince Street, undoubtedly to go along with the equally royal King and Queen streets nearby.

Fayette Street was already on the 1836 map. It honors the Marquis de Lafayette. A park was also named for him. *See also* Conway Park *and* Lafayette *in the* Town of Groton.

Ferris Place is named for lawyer Benjamin G. Ferris, who served two terms as village president and was friend and counselor to Ezra Cornell. His old farmhouse still stands at #111.

Floral Avenue was originally called Humboldt Street, named for the tannery located there. In April 1923 the Board of Public Works voted to change the name to Enfield Road, but two weeks later it became Floral Avenue instead, as board members apparently had heeded the representative of the Bool Floral Company, which by 1900 had property and greenhouses by the Inlet and up the hill. Bool's representative explained that the company's purpose was "to beautify the surroundings and frontages along this street with flowering shrubs and that the title of 'Floral Avenue' was desirable and would appear appropriate."

Fountain Place does indeed have a fountain in front of the Ithaca College president's house, the nearest of the two mansions on this cul-de-sac off Buffalo Street. According to the late Henry Guerlac, who served Cornell University as professor of history of science and director of the Society for the Humanities, and who for many years lived in the Finch-Guerlac House at #3 Fountain Place, the name came from a spring that ran behind the houses.

Franklin Street. *See* Adams Street.

Fulton Street is probably named for American inventor Robert Fulton, who built the first commercially viable steamboat in the United States, launched in 1807. The steamboat *Enterprise*, launched on Cayuga Lake in 1821, had a Fulton engine.

Gardner Parkway is the name given to the road leading into Stewart Park and pays tribute to Frank Gardner, longtime parks worker during the later part of the twentieth century, and city forester.

Giles Street appeared on the 1836 map as Creek Road. It was built in 1855 and named for early residents S. and J. Giles, brothers who for a

long time lived in a prominent mansion just south of where Cascadilla Hall stands today.

Glenwood Boulevard. *See* Taughannock Boulevard.

Green Street appeared on the earliest maps and is today a major thoroughfare. It is named for Archer Green, the first county clerk. Green lived in the first framed house in Ithaca, built on the west side of Linn Street by Abram Markle and supposedly the location of the village's first tavern, of which Green was proprietor. *See also* Steamboat Landing.

Hancock Street. *See* Adams Street.

Hazen Street. *See* Linden Avenue.

Hillview Place. Early maps show the blocking out of streets perpendicular to South Aurora Street, one of which was Mechanic Street, probably so named because the railroad line ran right through it. In 1919 the name was changed to Hillview Place by request of the residents and property owners.

Hook Place on West Hill was named for landowner George Hook, whose large farm was sold in 1906 and formed into 106 building lots; the core of this development became Hook Place.

Hoy Road on the Cornell campus runs alongside Hoy Field built in the early 1920s. Both are named for David F. Hoy, Cornell 1893, university registrar and the "Davy" of the Cornell pep song "Give My Regards to Davy."

Hudson Street. In July 1867 the New Owego Turnpike (also called the New Ithaca and Owego Turnpike Road) was named Hudson Street from Aurora Street to the "South Line of the Corporation." The name, of course, indicates a direction or destination.

Huestis Street. *See* College Avenue.

Humbolt Street. *See* Floral Avenue.

Hyers Street in the city's Southside neighborhood is named for Andrew Cameron Hyers, who developed the Titus Flats area and built tract housing. By the time of his death in 1929, he had built 90 houses in the city, modestly priced dwellings for working people, including most of the ones on the street named for him.

James L. Gibbs Drive is the road leading from Route 34 to the entrance to Stewart Park, and is named to honor James Lowell Gibbs, who worked as executive director of the Southside Center, for the post office and BOCES, and as district representative for Mohawk Airlines. President of the local chapter of the NAACP, he received the first Corinne Galvin Award from the county Human Rights Commission in January 1981, two months before his death.

Jay Street. *See* Adams Street.

Kelvin Place is most likely named for Lord Kelvin, a famous physicist who visited Cornell University in 1904.

Klondike was the name given to the area on South Hill close to the railroad tracks and the city boundary. About 1900 makeshift shacks were built on vacant land by immigrant squatters, many of whom were single men of Italian origin who had come to work on the railroads and in various building projects. Their rough housing and outdoor camp-like lifestyle brought comparisons to the Klondike gold region in Alaska, then much in the news. Most of workers left before World War I, and the area became largely residential.

Lewis Street. *See* Clinton Street.

Lincoln Street was named in 1924. It had been called Railroad Avenue since early days, because of the adjacent railroad lines, and had also received the name of Neagha (or Neaga) Avenue in 1919, a name with a brief history and no clues about its origin.

Linden Avenue was originally called Hazen Street for Dean Dickson C. Hazen, a prosperous South Hill sheep farmer who transferred his operation to East Hill about 1845. Residents petitioned for the change in 1908. They were instructed to clean up the street and to plant the appropriate trees along the sides. They did so and the name change was approved.

Linn Street was named for William T. Linn, who came to Ithaca in 1812 as an agent for Simeon DeWitt. A member of the Locofoco Party, he became notorious for having perpetuated a false tale in 1844, published in the local paper, about then presidential candidate James K. Polk's having purchased slaves. This type of political hoax has come to be called a roorback.

Llenroc (Cornell spelled backwards) is the name of Ezra Cornell's villa (also called Cornell's Folly), completed in 1875.

MacDaniels Park was dedicated in the late 1980s to two longtime residents of Chestnut Street, floriculture and ornamental horticulture professor Laurence Howland MacDaniels and his wife, Frances. MacDaniels, who developed an 11-foot hollyhock in the 1920s, died in 1985 at the age of 97.

Madison Street. *See* Adams Street.

Marshall Street pays tribute to John Marshall, who served the country as diplomat, congressman, secretary of state, and second chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Mechanic Street. *See* Hillview Place.

Mill Street. *See* Court Street.

Mitchell Street is named for the Mitchell family, and most likely for its patriarch, James Mitchell, who first came to our area in 1802, purchased a farm from the Pew family, and built a log cabin on the north side of the street. The 1853 map shows just one house on the street, and it is labeled Mitchell. The oldest house on East Hill, it still stands at #609. By 1866 there were seven Mitchell residences on the eastern side of the village, five on today's Mitchell Street.

Monroe Street. *See* Adams Street.

Needham Place. In 1924 the section of Thurston Avenue west of Stewart Avenue became Needham Place, named for Cornell professor of limnology James G. Needham, who lived at #6.

Newman Golf Course. The municipal golf course, developed in 1935, is named for Jared Treman Newman; elected city mayor in 1906, he had leased most of the land.

Octopus is the popular name used to describe a complicated West End intersection, in existence as early as the mid-nineteenth century. At that time the extension of West Owego Street, later West State Street, which five other streets joined, was called, appropriately, Junction Street. Through the years the intersection has presented traffic and safety problems. In September 1956 a traffic island was built at the end of West State Street, with a reinforced steel passageway, mainly to protect school children who needed to cross the streets. Today the Octopus (the name has been in use since the middle of the twentieth century) has been replaced by a new arrangement of streets involving three bridges, and the term Octopus is heard less often.

Park Place was Varick Street on the 1836 map, a name given for Richard Varick DeWitt, Simeon's son and owner of considerable property around Washington Park. By 1909 the name had become Park Place.

Parker Place is an early street, named for the Reverend Samuel J. Parker, whose residence, built in 1832, stood there. Parker was known for having joined a bold missionary venture to bring religion to Native Americans in the West. The area where Parker lived—as did the strong and out-spoken early Presbyterian minister William Wisner—was known in early usage as Brimstone Hill.

Pearsall Place was named for Ira L. Pearsall, a linoleum layer who lived on the corner of Hudson Street. In October 1936 he refused to pay his water bill, over a disagreement with the city about the water line and the extension of the small street through his property. Ultimately Pearsall deeded his claim to the water main to the city, and his wife, Gracia, made a special request to the Board of Public Works that the name Pearsall Place remain.

Percy Field is the area occupied today by Ithaca High School. It was the name given to seven acres of land used by Cornell University from 1890 until about 1920 for its athletic fields and acquired by the city in 1925 as its municipal athletic field. Colorado businessman J. J. Hagerman had given \$7,000 to the university for a cinder track and athletic buildings and named the field for his athlete son, Percy Hagerman, Cornell 1890.

Prospect Hill. *See* Brewery Hill.

Quarry Street is a name designating a natural area with its cliffs and the presence of a quarry.

Railroad Avenue. *See* Lincoln Street.

Renwick Park. *See* Stewart Park.

Renzetti Place on South Hill bears the name of the Italian who worked as a stonemason at Cornell and built his house on the edge of the Klondike area.

Roberts Place and Roberts Hall on the Cornell campus, were named for Isaac P. Roberts, who came to the university in 1874 and built its agriculture department.

Sage Avenue today runs straight from Campus Road to a dead end at Barnes Hall on the campus. In the late nineteenth century it was much longer and more complicated. Henry Williams Sage, trustee and prominent businessman, was a major benefactor of the university. His residence on East State Street is on Sage Place, shown on modern maps but not in existence as a street. Designed by William Henry Miller, the residence was used for years as the university infirmary and today is the home of the offices and operations of Cornell University Press.

Schuyler Place appeared on early maps as Spring Street. Sometime in the early 1920s it was given its present name, for the family of local merchant George Washington Schuyler, whose house was at the top of the street. Schuyler served as treasurer of Cornell University.

Sears Street was named for John Sears, who owned land at the head of what was in his day an open muddy lane frequented by the local geese who came through on their way to and from Cascadilla Creek. For years it was known as Goose Alley, and the 1866 map shows it as such.

Short Street is the perfect example of a descriptive street name, for it is indeed short.

Sisson Place off Triphammer Road was named for Philip Frank Sisson, a businessman who started a sash and blind factory that developed

into an organ and piano factory; he was elected 39th president of the village in 1881.

Six Mile Creek is said to have derived its name from two markers, six miles apart on an important Indian trail.

South Hill was surveyed early, and on the 1836 map shows several streets including Creek Road (Giles Street today) and the Owego Turnpike (which is today Hudson Street). By 1866 there were many houses along Prospect, Pleasant, and Columbia streets. The area acquired several names used locally. *See also* Brewery Hill *and* Klondike.

Steamboat Landing was situated on the old channel of the Cayuga Inlet. Its early location is hard to pinpoint because the course of the creeks has changed over the years. The Inlet was made a “public highway” in 1821, and by 1827 lake boats began using the port there. According to Glenn Norris, the area was first called Green’s Landing, for the Archer Green of Green Street fame. For many years it was a busy place for both freight and passenger transportation and trade and until Renwick Park was opened in 1894 provided a dock for pleasure boats. Today it marks the location of the Ithaca Farmers’ Market.

Stewart Avenue was first called Factory Street, so named for the cotton factories up the hill and the tobacco factory just below on Seneca Street; it was as well traveled in early days as today. Wholesale grocer David Barnes Stewart became the village’s 44th president in the mid-1880s and was responsible for opening and extending Factory Street across a new iron bridge over Cascadilla Creek. When Ithaca was incorporated as a city in 1888, Stewart became its first mayor and Factory Street was renamed Stewart Avenue in his honor.

Stewart Park was developed in the early 1890s and named Renwick Park for the tract of land owned by Major Robert Jeffrey Renwick. While Edwin C. Stewart (son of Ithaca president and first mayor David B.

Stewart) was in office, the city purchased the park lands. Edwin died in office, leaving funds in his will to rebuild the park, which was re-named Stewart Park in tribute to him on June 22, 1921, just days after his death.

Strawberry Fields Park. After local protest successfully prevented the development of ten acres of fields and woodlands behind the Louise Wilson Annex of the Belle Sherman School, the area was designated as a green space in the early 1970s and called the Forever Wild Park. It appears on the maps as Strawberry Fields, however, a name inspired by the Beatles song “Strawberry Fields Forever.”

Taber Street. In April 1924 the West Green Street extension was named Taber Street for Benjamin Taber, who started a boat-building business nearby some time after 1830.

Taughannock Boulevard is named for its destination, Taughannock Falls, northwest of Ithaca. The Indian word Taughannock is reported to mean “great falls in the woods.” In its April 1924 meeting the Board of Public Works resolved that Westport Street and Glenwood Boulevard be combined to form Taughannock Boulevard. Westport had first been indicated on maps as West Port, because it was the place on the west side of the village where boats landed. Glenwood Boulevard was named also for a destination, Glenwood Point in the Town of Ulysses, a popular tourist and recreation area since the nineteenth century.

Thompson Park. In the minutes of the Village of Ithaca’s board meeting of August 8, 1867, the trustees ordered that the “Triangle Park north of Cascadilla Bridge be hereafter known as Thompson Park.” Despite considerable research, the origin of this name remains a mystery.

Thurston Avenue is the main street of the Cornell Heights area of the city, and was called Thurston Avenue for mechanical engineering

professor Robert H. Thurston, director of the Sibley College of Engineering, outstanding educator and exceptional administrator.

Titus Avenue. In 1868 businessman Charles M. Titus bought a parcel of land south of Clinton Street and set about building and developing properties. He had sections of the creek filled in and diverted it to a new channel running parallel to a freshly laid road, which he named Titus Avenue. By 1897 he had made plans for a parallel road on the other side, hence today's North and South Titus Avenues. The city names of Titus Flats, Titus Park, and Titus Towers bear his name as well.

Tompkins Street. *See* Clinton Street.

Treman Triangle was the area occupied by the Cascadilla Mills since 1843. When Cascadilla Park was developed by Robert H. Treman and his colleagues, he had the old mill demolished and created a park known today as the Treman Triangle.

Triphammer Road goes north from Thurston Avenue just beyond the bridge over the Fall Creek Gorge. The name comes from as early as the 1820s, when a triphammer was in operation at the foot of the falls there. *See* Triphammer Road *in the* Town of Ithaca.

Turner Place was first named Turner Street, a name given to the extension of South Tioga Street by the Board of Public Works in April 1924; today South Tioga Street no longer exists, and any extension would involve traversing a creek and a cliff. The name probably honors E. S. Turner Jr., who in 1918 gave funds for the West Side House.

University Avenue first appears in the village minutes in 1867 as the "Street above Cascadilla Mill, passing the cemetery," and the resolution declares that it be "hereafter known as University Street." At that time Cornell University was under construction but not yet open.

Van Natta's Dam was named for James and John E. Van Natta, brothers who ran a flour and feed business in the mid-nineteenth century and operated their mill just down the creek.

Varick Street. *See* Park Place.

Vinegar Hill is a short, very steep street running between Hector and Cliff streets. The story goes that a wagon carrying a shipment of cider (there have always been apple orchards on West Hill) went out of control and overturned. Barrels of cider came spilling down, smelling up the place afterward; the whole street was a mess until the next big rain. An *Ithaca Journal* article of January 13, 1940, however, with the headline "Vinegar Hill Sign Irks Neighborhood," tells another story: the Board of Public Works gave the street its name that year and a vinegar factory had once been located there.

Wait Avenue is named for Cornell mathematics professor Lucien A. Wait, who also organized and directed the Cascadilla School.

Westport (West Port) Street. *See* Taughannock Boulevard.

Wheat Street. *See* Cleveland Avenue.

Williams Street, in the village records as early as 1847, was named for the prominent Williams family, probably for Timothy Shaler Williams, 17th president of the village (1844–1846), who opened the Cascadilla Mills (a grist mill) at the foot of the Cascadilla Gorge in 1843 and died in 1849. His son Howard (H. C.) Williams took over the mill in 1858 and managed it for another thirty years. He owned property on both sides of Williams Street, as well as the whole area north of Cascadilla Creek and south of the cemetery, what is Cascadilla Park today.

Wood Street, designated originally as DeWitt Street on the 1836 map, was most likely renamed for local architect Alvah B. Wood, who designed the Fall Creek Elementary School.

Wyckoff Avenue is named for Edward G. Wyckoff, who developed the residential area known today as Cornell Heights. He named many streets there for university professors and included one for himself.

Yates Street. *See* Clinton Street.

And, finally, some information on some unusual and popular names, only a few of which are still in use today. The Flats, a designation given to the early community, refers to the level area from the south shore of Cayuga Lake stretching through the Inlet Valley. It comprises areas and neighborhoods with the names of Downtown, Fall Creek, Northside, Southside, and West End. The term is still used in Markles Flats (named for settler Abram Markle) and Titus Flats (for developer Charles M. Titus).

The land to the north and east of Cascadilla Creek, toward Fall Creek, and to the east (including part of what became the Cornell campus) was owned by Simeon DeWitt in the early days; it was called the DeWitt farm. On the Flats villagers could pasture their geese and cattle, and it became known as the Goose Pasture.

North of the Ithaca Falls was a wedge-shaped piece of land at the foot of the hill called the Nook; it was so designated on early maps. A small distillery was located there in early times, and, according to Morris Bishop, Ezra Cornell built a small house there for his wife; their nine children were born there, and from it four were buried. On the village's south side was an area called the Tadpole, a swamp that covered a large portion of the Flats and the Inlet Valley. The Inlet, flowing north, represented the tadpole's tail, and the nickname seemed doubly appropriate for a place shaped like a tadpole and where frogs were known to breed.

Late in the nineteenth century the section of Ithaca west of Fulton Street, extending to the Inlet and beyond to Floral Avenue, and north to the city line was known as the Rhine. The story goes that a Cornell crewman likened the creek and its surroundings to the Rhine area in Europe, and the name took hold. In this section, and especially along

the Inlet, was a squatter settlement known as the Silent City. It was inhabited by a whole colony of drifters, poachers, and canal people. Living in shacks, these residents were often called Rhiners. The community lasted for years and was finally demolished by the BPW in 1927.

The unusual name of the Hog (or Hogs) Hole was given to a spot at the southwest section of the lake in what is the Treman Marina today. From the beginning it was a preferred fishing place. Norris and others have said that a squatter in the area had the nickname of “Hoggy” and suggest this as the origin of the name.

On East Hill Frosh Alley was a shortcut used by the first Cornell students, many of whom walked up and down the hill daily; it was a narrow path between Eddy and North Quarry Streets. Some also walked a path up from what became university Avenue, through the cemetery, to Cornell; it had the name of Boneyard Cut. Another route up East Hill is still known today as Gun Shop Hill, a name coming from the presence of the now-closed Ithaca Gun Company factory part way up the Lake Street hill toward the campus.

The major roadways on the Cornell University campus were named in 1887; several are gone today. There was a Terrace Avenue that ran to the west of what is called the Stone Row (Morrill, McGraw, White), a President’s Avenue from Morrill Hall to the meeting of the A. D. White House circular driveway, and a Reservoir Avenue from East Avenue to a reservoir on the campus.