

Satan's Kingdom

In the eastern section of the town of New Hartford there is a particularly rough and rocky upland that has gone by the name of Satan's Kingdom since colonial times.

One of the first descriptions of this neighborhood appears in a volume entitled "Connecticut Historical Collections, Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Connecticut with Geographical Descriptions" by John Warner Barber, printed in 1836. The description is as follows:

"In the eastern part of this town there is a rough and mountainous district, formerly designated *Satan's Kingdom*, and the few inhabitants who lived here were in a measure shut out from the rest of mankind. An inhabitant of the town invited one of his neighbors, who lived within the limits of this district, to go and hear Mr. Marsh, the first minister who was settled in the town. He was prevailed upon to go to church in the forenoon. In the course of his prayer, Mr. Marsh, among other things, prayed that *Satan's Kingdom might be destroyed*. It appears that the inhabitant of this district took the expression in a literal and tangible sense. Having probably never heard the expression used but in reference to the district wherein he resided. Being asked to go to meeting in the afternoon, he refused, stating that Mr. Marsh had insulted him; 'for blast him,' said he, 'when he prayed for the destruction of Satan's Kingdom, he very well knew all my interests lay there.'"