

INVENTORY OF CITY AND TOWN ARCHIVES
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared by

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Division of Professional and Service Projects
Works Progress Administration

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Vol. II. BELLINGHAM

* * * * *

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The Historical Records Survey

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PREFACE

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration was established in January, 1936 as part of Federal Project #1 under the national direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans. In fulfillment of its purpose to preserve historical source materials and render them accessible to the scholars and the public, it has laid emphasis upon its survey of public archives of state, county and local units of government; upon the American Imprints Inventory, a comprehensive recording of the early products of the printing press in each state; upon its survey of historical manuscript collections and upon its inventories of church records and those of business, labor and social organizations. In Massachusetts, a catalogue of early American portraits has recently been completed, together with an index to the Hampshire Gazette of Northampton. For a complete list of the publications of the Historical Records Survey in Massachusetts, see page 59.

The present volume continues the series of town inventories of which there are about fifty now in the editorial stage. It purports to present a brief sketch of the history and government of Bellingham, a report on its records system and the conditions under which they are housed and cared for. Preceding the inventory of the records of each office or department within the town is a short account of the development of that office. Three indexes are provided: A chronological index which lists the records appearing in each decade, a chronographical index which gives the same information in another form, and a general subject index.

It is hoped that the inventory will be helpful first of all to the town officials of Bellingham but thereafter to all those interested in local records, whether as students of local history and government, or economic or social conditions.

The field work was done originally by Mr. Patrick G. Collieran under the direction of Mr. Paul Baker, supervisor of the Survey in Norfolk county. The volume has been edited by Mr. Morris Wartow, editorial supervisor; the historical sketch written by Mr. Maurice Ross; and mimeographing done under the direction of Mr. Ralph Kahn. The binding of the volume has been accomplished through the Massachusetts Geodetic Survey Project of the Works Progress Administration by courtesy of Mr. George F. Delano, chief engineer of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. The Survey is indebted to all the town officials of Bellingham who have given their cooperation but especially to Mr. Leo A. Gosselin, town clerk. Inquiries concerning this and other publications of the Historical Records Survey in Massachusetts should be addressed to the state office, 221 Columbus Avenue, Boston.

Carl J. Wennerblad
State Director

INTRODUCTION

As town clerk for the past five years I am happy to commend to the public this inventory of the archives of Bellingham, together with its sketches of the history and government of the town. The inventory will not only be an aid to town officials in finding records, but it will, I hope, make it possible for them to see the records system of the town as a whole. Too often is it true that individuals who occupy town offices are aware only of the records which they keep themselves. Frequently they consider their records personal property, and, when they leave office, take their records with them, so that they are lost to future generations. This inventory which presents the records of the town as a whole should make each official realize that his records are part of the town's record-keeping system and should be considered as such.

As to the broader uses of the inventory for historical and other scholars, I am happy if the records of Bellingham can serve to throw light on these aspects of our past. Bellingham is in many ways unique among the towns of Norfolk County, as a careful reading of the following historical sketch will show. Its two centuries of corporate existence should throw considerable light on the development of town government and social institutions in Massachusetts.

I, therefore, heartily endorse this publication of the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration as a useful handbook for town officials as well as for the public generally.

Leo A. Gosselin
Town Clerk, Bellingham, Mass.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A. Bellingham and its Records System

1.	Historical Sketch.....	3
	Map of Bellingham.....	11
2.	Governmental Organization and its Records System.....	13
	Chart of Town Government.....	15
3.	Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Records.....	17
4.	List of Abbreviations and Explanatory Notes.....	19

Part B. Town Offices and Their Records

I.	Board of Selectmen.....	21
	Minutes and Reports; Roads and Highways; Licenses and Permits; Pole Locations; Miscellaneous	
II.	Town Clerk.....	25
	Minutes and Reports; Vital Statistics; Licenses and Permits; Mortgages; Town Officers; Miscellaneous	
III.	Registrars of Voters.....	30
IV.	Board of Assessors.....	31
	Minutes and Reports; Valuations and Assessments; Abatements; Motor Vehicle Excise; Miscellaneous	
V.	Collector of Taxes.....	34
VI.	Town Treasurer.....	35
VII.	Finance Committee.....	36
VIII.	Auditors.....	36
IX.	Town Accountant.....	36
X.	School Committee.....	37
	Pupils' Records; Financial Records; Miscellaneous	
XI.	Public Library Trustees.....	40
XII.	Board of Welfare.....	41
	Reports; General Cases; Receipts and Expenditures; Aid to Dependent Children; Old Age Assistance	
XIII.	Town Counsel.....	43
XIV.	Constables.....	44
XV.	Chief of Police.....	44
XVI.	Chief of the Fire Department.....	45
XVII.	Sealer of Weights and Measures.....	46
XVIII.	Superintendent of Streets.....	46
XIX.	Forest Fire Warden.....	47
XX.	Tree Warden.....	47
XXI.	Moth Superintendent.....	48
XXII.	Public Weighers.....	48
XXIII.	Surveyors of Wood and Lumber.....	48
XXIV.	Fence Viewers and Field Drivers.....	48
XXV.	Moderator.....	49
XXVI.	Nurse.....	49
XXVII.	Inspector of Milk.....	49

Table of Contents

XXVIII.	Inspector of Animals.....	49
XXIX.	Inspector of Slaughtering.....	50
XXX.	Dog Officer.....	50
XXXI.	Liquor Agent.....	50
XXXII.	Cemetery Committee.....	51
XXXIII.	Agent for the Care of Indigent Soldiers' and Sailors' Graves.....	51
XXXIV.	Agent for the Burial of Indigent Soldiers and Sailors.....	51
XXXV.	Sextons.....	51
XXXVI.	Tithingmen.....	52
XXXVII.	Workmen's Compensation Agent.....	52
XXXVIII.	Janitor of Town Hall.....	52
XXXIX.	Memorial Day Committee.....	52
XXXX.	Appendix - Manuscripts.....	53
	Separation from Bellingham; Establishment of New Precinct; Annexation to Bellingham; Illegal Town Meeting; Removal of French Neutrals; Religious Freedom; Care of William Carey and Wife	
	List of Sources.....	57
	Chronographical Index.....	61
	Chronological Index.....	65
	Subject Index.....	67

Part A. BELLINGHAM AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1669 King Philip, chief of the Wampanoag Indians, sold the land which is now Bellingham, but which was at that time considered part of the town of Dedham to the white settlers for twenty-two pounds, eight shillings.¹ The first white settler in this territory, which was then called No Man's Land, was Jacob Bartlett of Providence, who purchased his plot on Oct. 29, 1696, for five pounds from James Albee of Mendon. The deed of sale was recorded just forty years later,² on Nov. 16, 1736, though the purchase had been confirmed by the vote of the town of Dedham on June 7, 1698. The late recording of the early deeds was caused by doubt as to whether the land in the southern part of the town belonged to Massachusetts or to Rhode Island.³

In 1718 the proprietors of the common land between Wrentham and Mendon, finding the distance from Dedham Center too great to attend church conveniently and to conduct town business, and desiring to obtain relief from their share of church and school expenses in Dedham, petitioned the General Court for permission to settle the land between their holdings and Wrentham.⁴ The town of Dedham had already consented,⁵ and the petition was duly granted on condition that the new town agree to have a settled orthodox minister within three years.⁶

The town, called Bellingham by order of the General Court after the original order calling the town Westham was changed,⁷ was supposedly named for Richard Bellingham, one of the twenty-six original members of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay and its third governor.⁸ At the

1. Partridge, George F., History of Bellingham, 1719-1919, Bellingham, 1919, p. 15.

2. Suffolk Registry of Deeds, (Transcribed Property Records), Bk. 54, p. 20.

3. Dedham Town Records, Town and Selectmen, 1672-1706, 6 vols., Hill, Don. G., ed., vols. 1-5, Tuttle, J.H., ed., vol. 6, Dedham, 1886-99, 1936; V, pp. 252, 255; hereafter cited as Dedham Records.

4. Records of the Proprietors of Land Between Wrentham and Mendon, (see entry 18) p. 73; Annals of the Town of Mendon From 1659 to 1880, compiled by Metcalf, J.G., Providence, 1880, pp. 183-184. Hereafter cited as Mendon Records and Mendon Annals, respectively.

5. Dedham Records, VI, p. 187.

6. Partridge, op. cit., p. 76; Mendon Annals, p. 184.

7. Mendon Annals, p. 184; Massachusetts House Journal, 1718-1720, pp. 200-203. These two records show the original order for the name Westham and the change to Bellingham. The following two records, however, show Bellingham as the name ordered and no mention is made of Westham: Massachusetts General Court Records, 68 vols., mss., X, (1715-1719), pp. 430-431; (these are sometimes referred to as "Legislative Records of the Council" as distinguished from "Executive Records of the Council"). Massachusetts General Court, The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of Massachusetts Bay (1692-1780), 21 vols., Boston, 1869-1922, IX (1708-1719), "Resolves, Orders, Votes, etc.", Ch. 96 of 1719. Hereafter cited as Province Acts and Resolves.

8. Fairbanks, Rufus G., "Bellingham", in History of Norfolk County, Hurd, D. Hamilton, ed., Philadelphia, 1884, pp. 144, 145.

time of incorporation on November 27, 1719,⁹ the town was made up of a section called Rawson's Farm, comprising thirteen families, in the northeastern part; the northwestern part taken from Mendon, comprising four families; and the remaining two-thirds of the area taken from Dedham, comprising twenty-three families.¹⁰ Caryville was the first village to be settled, and North Bellingham the second.¹¹

At the time of its incorporation in 1719, Bellingham was included in Suffolk county.¹² This county, with its seat at Boston, extended south to the borders of Plymouth county and of the Providence plantations. Proposals to create a new county in the southern portion of Suffolk were made in 1738¹³ and 1775¹⁴ but met with defeat. When Norfolk county was finally carved out of this area in 1793,¹⁵ the townspeople of Bellingham, which was included in the new county, protested the change but to no avail.¹⁶

Though lacking a charter, the town was built up around the Congregational church, and much of its early history is identified with that institution. In 1726 the Reverend Jonathan Mills was called to the pastorate, serving for the following twelve years. He was, however, the only settled orthodox clergyman the town ever had.¹⁷ The Congregational church was supported by law, although the ruling was hated by Baptists and Quakers. In 1728 a law was enacted that Anabaptists and Quakers should not be taxed to support the town church, provided they attended their own church and lived within five miles of it.¹⁸ Even then there were fiery disputes between Congregationalists, Anabaptists, Quakers, Independents and members of the Church of England.¹⁹ With the incorporation of the new West Parish of Medway in 1747/8, Bellingham was relieved of its obligation to support a church of its own.²⁰ The town church of Bellingham, a Baptist institution after the closing of the Congregational church in 1744,²¹ continued its feeble existence until 1756, when it was disbanded.²²

9. Mendon Annals, pp. 183-184.

10. Mendon Records, I, p. 44; Mendon Annals, pp. 183-184.

11. Partridge, op. cit., p. 22.

12. Massachusetts General Court Manual, 1911, p. 155.

13. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of State, Massachusetts Archives, 418 vols. in 417, variously titled mss., VI, 39. Hereafter cited as Massachusetts Archives.

14. Fairbanks, op. cit., p. 147.

15. Massachusetts General Court, Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1780-1805), 13 vols., Boston, 1890-1898, Laws 1792, ch. 72. Hereafter the laws will be cited as follows: The session laws of 1780-1838 as Laws, etc.; of 1839-1914, Acts, etc.; 1915-1919, General Acts, etc., or Special Acts, etc.; 1919 to date Acts, etc. Resolves will be cited as Resolves, etc. or Special Resolves, etc.

16. Fairbanks, op. cit., p. 150.

17. Partridge, op. cit., p. 78.

18. Province Acts and Resolves, II (1715-1741), ch. 4 of 1728-29.

19. Massachusetts Archives, XII, p. 627; XIII, p. 504.

20. Partridge, op. cit., p. 35.

21. Ibid., p. 49.

22. Ibid., p. 87.

The first town meeting was held March 2, 1719/20,²⁵ and was followed by four other meetings the first year.²⁶ In the early days, the inhabitants insisted that town meetings follow a regular procedure, and they did not hesitate to petition the General Court to annul the proceedings of any meeting which they considered irregular.²⁷ In 1738 Bellingham had fifty voters and ninety-six taxpayers, who were assessed a total of approximately nineteen pounds in taxes on their real and personal estate and polls. The tax rate on personal and real estate was a penny per pound. Tenants and non-residents of the town apparently were taxed, but were not qualified to vote.²⁸ The town showed a steady increase in population. The state census in 1765 showed the population to be 462;²⁹ in 1776 it was 627.³⁰ In 1790, when the first United States census was taken, the population was 735.³¹

In 1737 the town voted to have a free school to be kept for a total of six months at five different homes. The first school seems to have been no great success, for it was voted down the next two years, renewed in 1740, omitted the next three years, but supported after that.³² In 1744 it was voted to form seven school districts to include the fifty families.³³ The first schoolhouse was built in 1790,³³ and the first school committee was chosen in 1791.³⁴

For two decades, after its founding, Bellingham suffered from uncertainty concerning its boundary lines. This confusion, enhanced by internal governmental weaknesses and religious differences, impeded its growth and development. In 1730 the town petitioned the General Court to act to prevent the loss of inhabitants and of three hundred acres of land to Wrentham through a proposed change of the western boundary line of that town. This line, fixed in 1661, had caused many disputes, but was finally left unchanged.³⁴ In 1740, as the result of a controversy begun in 1707, the town lost the southern part of its territory to Rhode Island. Boundary lines between Bellingham and the neighboring towns of Medway, Holliston, Wrentham and Mendon were frequently changed on the petition of inhabitants who maintained that they were too far from the town church and meeting-house and consequently desired relief from the necessity of contributing to the support of the town minister and church. They wished to be allowed

25. (Town Records) entry 16, I, p. 1.

26. Partridge, op. cit., p. 90.

27. Massachusetts Archives, CXIV, pp. 399, 408-410.

28. Ibid., pp. 408-410.

29. Benton, Sr., J.H., Early Census Making in Massachusetts 1643-1765 with a Reproduction of the Lost Census of 1765 (Recently Found), Boston, 1905, unnumbered pages following p. 71 of text.

30. Collections of the American Statistical Association Containing Statistics of Population in Massachusetts, Boston, 1845, Part II, I, p. 158.

31. Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States taken in the year 1790 in Massachusetts, Washington, 1908, p. 10.

32. Partridge, op. cit., p. 95.

33. Ibid., p. 99.

34. Ibid., p. 91.

either to join another town or to become a separate town or precinct and support their own church.³⁵ The dividing lines of Bellingham, Franklin and Medway were straightened in 1832.³⁶ That between Mendon and Bellingham was finally established in 1872.³⁷

During the Revolutionary period, the town kept a representative in the Provincial Congress and paid his expenses. In the town meeting of July 4, 1776, as if anticipating the historic event in Philadelphia that same day, the people of Bellingham declared that "if the Continental Congress should think it necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to declare themselves independent of Great Britain, the inhabitants of this town with their lives and fortunes will cheerfully support the measure."³⁸ The town voted a bounty to its soldiers. In 1777 a committee of seven was chosen to report what more could be done for the army men of the town, and in 1779 another committee was named to hire soldiers to serve the colonies at the expense of the town.³⁹

A description of the town in a gazetteer of 1784, quoted by Partridge, gives the following word picture of Bellingham: "There are two grist mills and one fulling mill but of little use in winter for want of water, nor all used even then. Roads are tolerably good but in some places very rutty. The trade is very small; people depend on the land and some mechanical employments. Almost every family is provided with a pair of looms by which they make nearly enough clothes for themselves. The number of farms is about 80. The inhabitants are about equally divided between the Congregational and Baptist persuasions. The latter have a house and a settled minister."⁴⁰

For the first century of its existence, the people of Bellingham were, of necessity, farmers. Beginning with the second decade of the nineteenth century, however, farming began to give way to manufacturing. Boots and shoes, cotton and woolen goods, farm utensils, brushes, carriages, glue, straw and lumber were among the most important articles made, and there was a steady growth in these industries for years.⁴¹ The North Bellingham Mill, a cotton mill, was built in 1810.⁴² The Caryville Mill, the second textile mill in town, was started in 1813.⁴³ In 1814 the Bellingham Woolen and Cotton Manufactory was incorporated⁴⁴ with a capital of \$15,000.⁴⁵ By 1828, even

35. Massachusetts Archives, XII, pp. 197, 226-228, 232-235, 237, 428, 431-433; XIII, pp. 21-22, 638, 682; XIX(B), p. 778; CXV, pp. 262-265, 267-268, 270-271, 272a, 273, 273a, 278-279, 284-286; CXVI, pp. 651, 657; CXVII, p. 4.

36. Laws, 1832, ch. 48.

37. Acts, 1872, ch. 69. For the present boundaries, see map, p. 11.

38. Partridge, op. cit., p. 126.

39. Ibid., p. 129.

40. Ibid., pp. 136-137.

41. Ibid., p. 141.

42. Ibid., p. 143.

43. Ibid., p. 148.

44. Laws, 1814, ch. 124, secs. 1-2.

45. Partridge, op. cit., p. 51.

though the mills had been in operation a comparatively short time, Bellingham was an active and flourishing manufacturing town.⁴⁶ The population, which was 704 in 1800 and 766 in 1810, had increased to 1034 in 1820, and 1281 in 1850.⁴⁷ By 1930 manufacturing had declined considerably. The Directory of Massachusetts Manufacturers of 1930 shows that the following large manufacturing establishments were in operation: The Bellingham Woolen Company, with 200 employees and the Taft Woolen Company with capital of \$330,000 and 260 employees.

As the town grew, the Baptist church built in 1761, which had been used as the second town meeting house, proved to be unsatisfactory. In 1802 a new town hall was built at a cost of \$1000 near the center of the town. This new building was in turn to be used by the Baptists and churches of other denominations as a place of worship.⁴⁸ With the new building came new disputes and arguments between the Baptists, Congregationalists and Universalists regarding its use and the support of the minister.⁴⁹ The Baptists finally decided to raise funds and build a church for themselves, an enterprise which was completed in 1826. At North Bellingham, a mill hall was used as a chapel from 1847 to 1910,⁵⁰ when the new Baptist church was completed. The town now has two Roman Catholic churches also. A public library costing \$9,000 and a Community Building, costing \$21,575, were opened in 1930.⁵¹

The early school committee reports, the first of which was made in 1858, reveal that in that year three hundred and twelve pupils attended the schools of the ten districts of Bellingham. The total cost of the schools for that year was \$1,225.78. In the report of 1866 there occurs the first mention of a high school, evidently privately organized and managed. By 1873 agitation for a town high school had begun, but the recommendations of the school committee were ignored. Shortly after this, the trend toward the centralization of the town school system began to manifest itself. Although the number of pupils and teachers increased, the number of schools decreased. In 1894 the town accepted the State Library Act,⁵² based on an earlier act of 1888,⁵³ and was empowered to unite with the towns of Mendon and Hopedale to employ a superintendent of schools.⁵⁴ In 1934 Hopedale withdrew from the

46. Partridge, op. cit., p. 141.

47. U.S. Census Reports. For full citations, see bibliography.

48. Partridge, op. cit., pp. 114-115.

49. Massachusetts Archives, XIV, p. 592.

50. Partridge, op. cit., p. 167.

51. 212th Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Bellingham, (1930), pp. 99-100.

52. 176th Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Bellingham for Year Ending Feb. 1, 1895, p. 12.

53. Acts, 1888, Ch. 431.

54. Acts, 1894, Ch. 246.

union. The town high school held its first graduation from a 2-year high school course in 1896, but after a few years the high school pupils were sent to other towns.⁵⁵ This arrangement continued until 1938 when on October 24th, a new high school was opened, with a registration of 140 pupils.⁵⁶

DATA FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Year	1841	1859	1868	1883	1893	1903	1913	1923	1932	1937
No. of Schools	9	10		11	9	3	3	3	3	3
No. of Pupils*	273	312	268	252	264	317	278	411	748	582
No. of Teachers		13		17	13	9	11	16	19	20
Total Expend.		\$1,225	1,463	2,878	3,453	7,692	9,392	25,319	43,693	47,329

*Except in 1932 school attendance figures after 1882 do not include high or parochial school pupils.

Until the nineteenth century, travel by cart or coach over the roads laid out by the town itself was the only means of transportation. In 1804 the Hartford and Dedham Turnpike Corporation was chartered to build and operate a turnpike from Mendon or Bellingham to Dedham.⁵⁷ This was followed in 1805 by the chartering of the Winsoket Turnpike Corporation to construct a road from the state line near Woonsocket, Rhode Island, through Bellingham, to the Norfolk and Bristol turnpike in Dedham.⁵⁸ A few decades later, in 1846, the act of incorporation of the Wrentham and Foxborough Railroad authorized the construction of a line from Marshfield, Massachusetts to Cumberland, Rhode Island, to pass through Bellingham.⁵⁹ In 1849 the Norfolk County Railroad Company was authorized to build and maintain a branch railroad running from Bellingham to Woonsocket, Rhode Island;⁶⁰ and in 1851 this company was authorized to contract with the Woonsocket Union Railroad Company for the building of the road.⁶¹ After the Norfolk County Railroad Company had failed to build the branch authorized, the Bellingham Branch Railroad Company was chartered in 1852 to build the road.⁶² Not until 1898 when the Milford, Attleborough and Woonsocket Street Railway Company was incorporated was Bellingham served by a street railway.⁶³

55. Report of the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools of the Town of Bellingham for the School Year 1895-96, pp. 5-6.

56. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, in two parts, II, 26.

57. Laws, 1803, ch. 146.

58. Laws, 1804, ch. 140.

59. Acts, 1846, ch. 254.

60. Ibid., 1849, ch. 184.

61. Ibid., 1851, ch. 272.

62. Ibid., 1852, ch. 130.

63. Ibid., 1898, ch. 329.

The Woonsocket Electric Machine and Power Company of Rhode Island was authorized to furnish electric light and power to Bellingham and Franklin in 1893.⁶⁴ Telephones were in use as early as 1904, and gas pipes from Woonsocket were laid in 1905.⁶⁵ Since 1906 the sewage disposal systems of Bellingham, Mendon and Hopedale have been authorized to be part of the extended system of the town of Milford.⁶⁶ In 1932 the city of Woonsocket, Rhode Island was empowered to supply water to the inhabitants of Bellingham.⁶⁷

The present town, with an area of 17.8 square miles⁶⁸ and a population of 3,056, is the seventh largest and twenty-second most populous town in Norfolk county. It is situated about thirty-one miles southwest of Boston and about twenty miles northwest of Providence, Rhode Island. Bellingham is bounded on the north by the towns of Milford and Medway, on the east by Wrentham and Franklin, on the south by Rhode Island, about the boundary with which there was a long-standing dispute between the two states,⁶⁹ and on the west by Hopedale, Mendon and Blackstone.

64. Acts, 1893, ch. 390.

65. Partridge, op. cit., p. 185.

66. Acts, 1906, ch. 458.

67. Ibid., 1932, ch. 178.

68. Massachusetts Year Book 1911, Boston, 1911, p. 36

69. Partridge, op. cit., pp. 97-98.

Table of
Aggregates of Polls, Property, and Taxes as Assessed

Date	No. of Polls	Value of Personal Estate	Value of Real Estate	Total Value Real and Personal Estate	Rate of Total Tax per \$1000 Valuation	No. of Persons Assessed on Property	Total State, County, Town Tax
1861 ¹	303	\$90,628	\$ 365,512	\$ 456,140	\$ 9.00		\$ 4,105
1870 ²	330	102,904	410,215	513,119	15.70		8,843
1880 ³	335	99,572	408,064	507,636	13.00		7,270
1890 ³	319	110,690	511,720	622,410	11.00	420	7,485
1900 ³	370	130,255	622,345	752,600	13.75	456	11,099
1910 ³	400	139,950	766,695	906,645	17.00	533	16,209
1920 ³	550	418,075	1,108,880	1,526,955	20.00	900	33,289
1930 ³	860	395,662	2,241,250	2,636,912	25.00	1,127	67,642
1937 ³	860	173,107	2,075,880	2,248,987	37.60	1,206	86,281

Date	No. of Dwelling Houses	Acres of Land Taxed	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Neat Cattle	No. of Swine
1861	236	10,770	160	341		
1870	245	10,825	157	350		
1880	270	10,850	208	421		
1890	298	10,958	232	505	38	58
1900	332	11,037	299	457	80	37
1910	357	11,908	233	417	80	51
1920	470	12,106	196	405	93	115
1930	742	11,079	135	365	605	28
1937	778	10,855	57	442	13	40







1. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, Etc." Public Document No. 42, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.

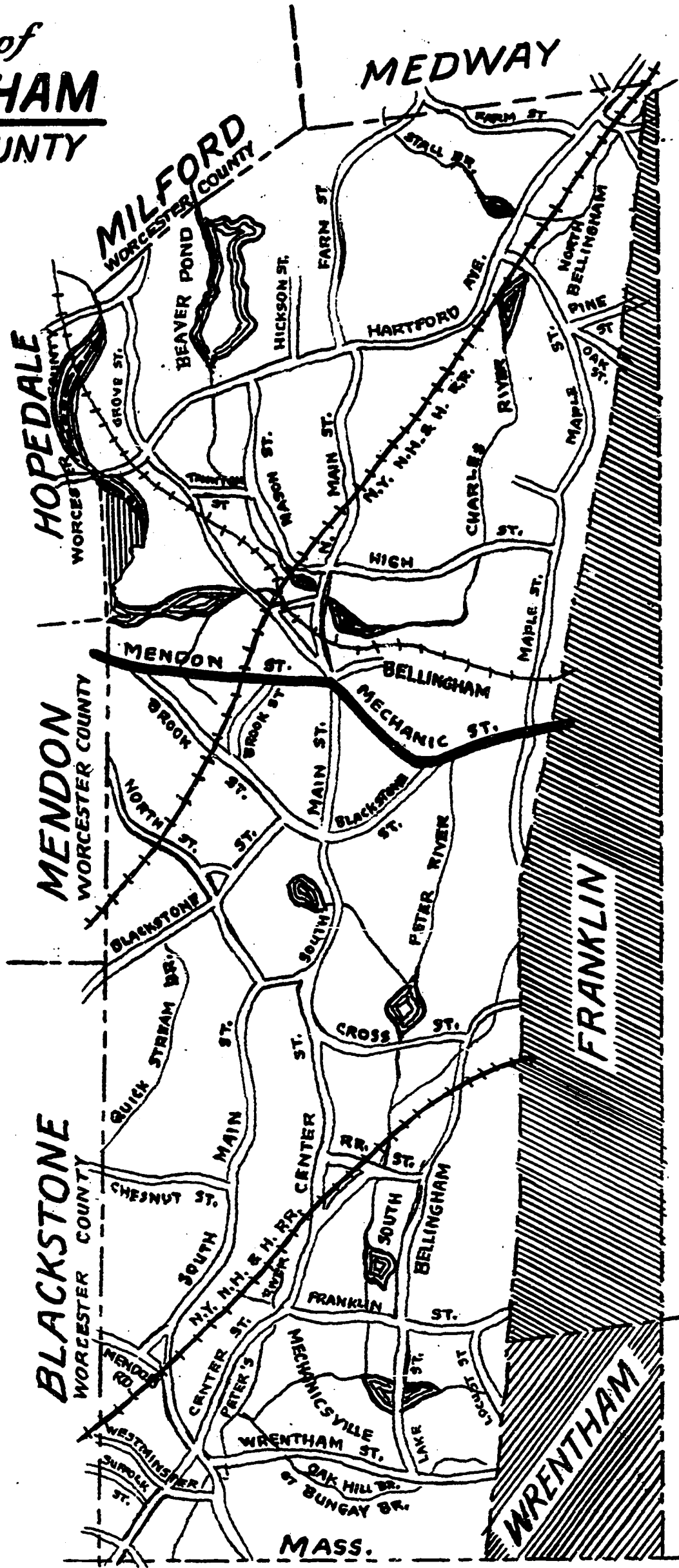
2. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, Etc." Public Document No. 36, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.

3. Figures taken from "Aggregates of Polls, Property, Taxes, Etc." Public Document No. 19, in Public Documents of Massachusetts.

The Town of
BELLINGHAM
 NORFOLK COUNTY
 1938

LEGEND

-  1735, SET OFF TO WRENTHAM
-  1832, SET OFF TO FRANKLIN
-  1872, SET OFF TO MENDON
-  ROUTE 140
-  COUNTY LINE
-  STATE LINE



RHODE ISLAND

Sources:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Archives Office, State House, Boston, Town Plans, Vol. I, p. 19, Newell Nelson, Surveyor, Sept., 1830.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dept. of Conservation, "Map of Bellingham", 1932.

Works Progress Administration, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, "Map of Bellingham", Oct., 1938.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Governmental Organization

The officers elected at the first town meeting in 1719/20 were a moderator, clerk, treasurer, five selectmen, two constables, two surveyors, two tithingmen, two men "for the observance of swine", two fence viewers and two field drivers.⁷⁰ Of these officials, the selectmen were the most important since to them fell all functions not performed by other officials. As the town grew and new town functions became necessary, the selectmen performed them, that is, until the duties became too burdensome and separate offices had to be established. For example, the selectmen served until 1798 as assessors, tax collectors and registrars of voters, and until 1832 as overseers of the poor.⁷¹ The management of the schools were also in their care until the election of a school committee in 1791.⁷² Constables, being the agents of the town in law enforcement and also being charged, until 1798, with the collection of taxes were relatively more important officers than they are today. Separate assessors and a separate tax collector were elected beginning with 1798, the board of assessors taking over the duty of keeping the list of eligible voters.⁷³ This latter function devolved in 1834 upon the three elected registrars of voters.⁷⁴ Beginning with 1832 three overseers of the poor were elected, the number of selectmen being reduced simultaneously from five to three.⁷⁵

As new offices became necessary it was natural that the selectmen should be delegated control over many of them by their power of appointment. In 1886 the office of forest fire warden was established, followed in the period 1892 to 1895 by three surveyors of wood and lumber, three sextons, six public weighers, an inspector of animals, an agent for the burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, and a janitor of the town hall all appointed by the selectmen.⁷⁶

A cemetery committee of three since 1890,⁷⁷ three elected road commissioners and a sealer of weights and measures since 1892,⁷⁸ a tree warden and six public library trustees since 1894 were elective offices established in the same period.⁷⁹ In 1908 the road commissioners were replaced by a superintendent of streets appointed by the selectmen,⁸⁰ and the following year a town accountant, also appointed by the selectmen, took over the duties of the auditor who had previously been elected annually.⁸¹ In the period of 1911 to 1915 a moth superintendent, an agent for the care of soldiers' and sailors' graves, an inspector of slaughtering, a dog officer, a clerk to the selectmen,

70. (Town Records), I, 1.

71. See p. 22.

72. Partridge, op. cit., 137.

73. (Town Records), II, 182.

74. Ibid., IV, 106.

75. Ibid., IV, 73.

76. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1886-92.

77. Partridge, op. cit., 184.

78. Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1892.

79. Ibid., 1894; (Town Records), VII, 89.

80. Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1908.

81. Ibid., 1909.

an inspector of milk and a workmen's compensation agent were established as separate offices appointed by the selectmen.⁸²

After 1915 the changes were few. Since 1921 a Memorial Day Committee of three,⁸³ since 1922 a chief of police,⁸⁴ and since 1932 a fire chief⁸⁵ have been appointed, while a finance committee of eight has been elected annually since 1926 to make recommendations concerning proposed appropriations.⁸⁶ The overseers of the poor were renamed and the board of public welfare in 1927,⁸⁷ organized as a bureau for the granting of old age assistance in 1931, a soldiers' relief officer has been appointed by the selectmen since 1933.⁸⁸

Records System

In Bellingham as in all Massachusetts towns, the clerk is the center of the record-keeping system. Indeed, practically all the records of the town are kept by a score of officers.

The records of the board of selectmen (entry 1) go back only to 1835. The registrars of voters, the board of assessors and the board of public welfare keep no minutes of meetings currently, and it is hereby recommended that such minutes be kept, at least by the latter two boards.

The records of the town accountant present a fairly complete system, and go back, with one exception, to the beginning of the office (entries 74-78). No minutes of the school committee exist but published annual reports make a fairly consistent record from 1827 to date (entries 79-82). Pupils' records (entries 84 to 88) and financial and miscellaneous records (entries 89 to 95) are found only from 1934. The current records of the board of public welfare date from 1934 but certain records go further back (entries 101, 102, 104, 105, 108, 109).

82. Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1911-15.

83. Ibid., 1921-38.

84. Ibid., 1922.

85. (Town Records), IX, 213.

86. Annual Reports of Town Officers, 1926-38.

87. Acts, 1927, ch. 165.

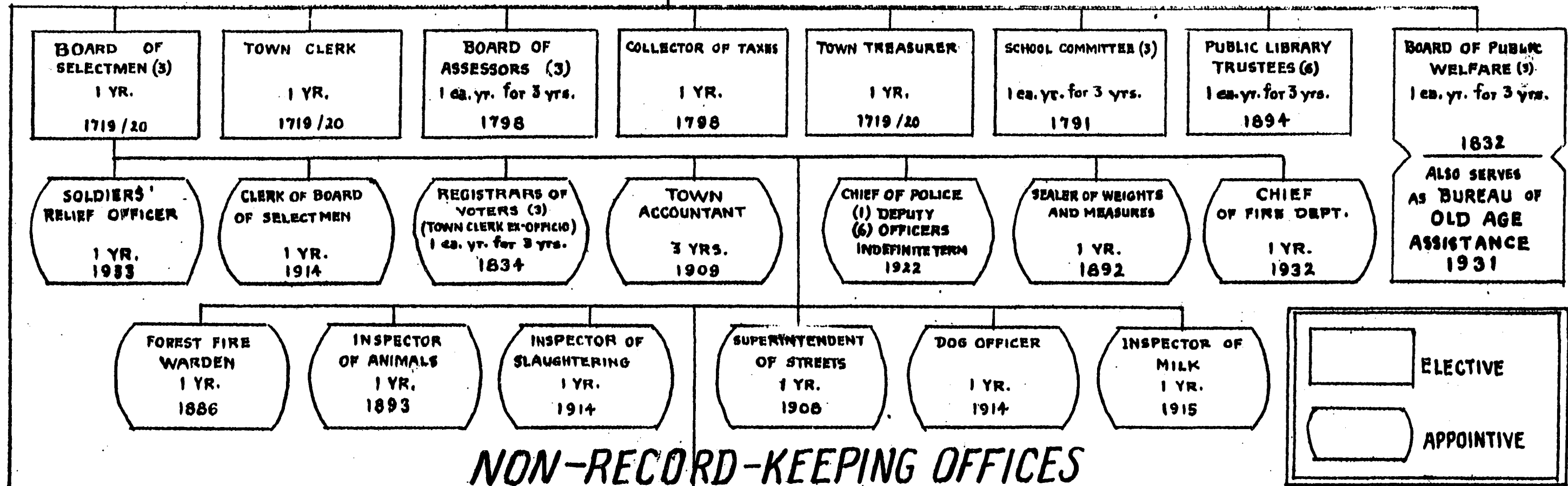
88. Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1938-38.

CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT-BELLINGHAM-1938

**ELECTORATE
IN TOWN MEETING**

MODERATOR
1 YR. 1719/20

RECORD-KEEPING OFFICES



3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

About half the records, in volume, are kept in a storage vault on the first floor of the town hall, a third in other offices therein, and the balance in the homes of officials, in the Bellingham Center schoolhouse and the public library. Since most of the officials serve part time only, appointments to consult the records must be made in advance.

The recheck of the preliminary inventory made by the survey in 1937 was considerably handicapped by the fact that it was impossible, on a recent visit, to open a large iron safe in the town clerk's office, the key of which was broken off. The condition of records in the town hall was as follows:-

Town Hall, Main Street, Bellingham				
Depository	Town Clerk's Office	Assessor's Office	Selectmen's Office	Storage Vault
Location	First floor	First floor	First floor	First floor
Dimensions	8'1x12'wx10'h	10'1x12'wx10'h	10'1x12'wx10'h	8'1x10'wx8'h
Cubic Feet	960	1200	1200	640
Class of Constr.	3rd	3rd	3rd	3rd
Shelving	Wood	Steel	Wood	Steel
Containers	Iron	Steel	Wood	Steel
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good ⁸⁹	Good	Poor	Good
Arrangement	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair
Phys. Condition	Good	Good	Poor	Good
Room for Expansion	Ample	Ample	Ample	None
Departments having records there	School Com. Reg. of Voters Board of Public Welfare Selectmen Town Clerk Assessors	Assessors	Selectmen Town Clerk	Tax Coll. Selectmen Town Clerk Welfare Assessors Accountant Treasurer Reg. of Voters Sealer of Weights & Measures

89. While this is true of other records in the clerk's office, it is not true of his large iron safe, the key of which is broken off in the door.

First entry on p. 22

Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Records

The town officials having records in their homes were the following at the time of the inventory:-

Name	Address	Office Held	Department
William W. Fairbanks	South Main Street	Accountant	Accountant
Leo A. Gosselin	Grosvenor Avenue	Town Clerk	
Edward M. Reid	Blackstone Street	Chairman, board of public welfare	Welfare
Euclide A. Fleuette		Chief of police	Police
Wasył Kornicki	19 Center Street	Fire chief	Fire

With the exception of a small percentage housed in the town clerk's office at the town hall, the records of the school committee and the school department are found in the superintendent's office at the Bellingham Center School, Main Street and those of the Bellingham Public Library in a desk in the reading room. A summary of housing conditions in these buildings follows:-

	Bellingham Center Schoolhouse Main Street	Bellingham Public Library Bellingham Square
Depository	Superintendent's office	Reading room
Location	First floor	First floor
Dimensions	10'1x15'wx12'h	20'1x40'wx12'h
Cubic Feet	1800	9600
Class of construction	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Steel	Wood
Containers	Steel	Wood
Lighting	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good
Phys. conditions	Good	Good
Room for expansion	Ample	Ample
Departments having records there	School department	Public Library

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

General Abbreviations

alph.	alphabetically	jr.	junior
amt.	amount	lib.	library
arr.	arranged, arrangement	Mass.	Massachusetts
ass.	assessed	no.	number
bsmt.	basement	off.	office
bdl(s).	bundle(s)	p., pp.	page, pages
ch.	chapter	pers.	personal
chron.	chronologically	pr.	printed
cl.	clerk	ref.	reference
co.	company	rm.	room
coll.	collector	sec.	section
comm(s).	commissioner(s)	secy.	secretary
--	current	sel.	selectmen
dept(s).	department(s)	st.	street
discont.	discontinued	strm.	storeroom
E.	East	supt.	superintendent
est.	estate	T.H.	town hall
fl.	floor	treas.	treasurer
hdw.	handwritten	va.	vault
ibid.	in the same place	val.	valuation
idem	the same	vol(s).	volume(s)
incl.	inclusive	W.	West

Explanatory Notes

Titles

Exact titles of records are shown in upper case without parentheses. The contents of untitled records are indicated by assigning titles to them. Titles of this kind are shown in upper case enclosed by parentheses. When an exact title does not adequately describe the true nature of the records, such information is inserted in the title line but in lower case and enclosed within parentheses. Variations of title within a record series are noted.

Cross References

Cross references are made in each entry to records of the same series found in other entries. References to similar records are embodied in a separate line immediately following the entry. References below subject headings are made to other related record series suggested by the headings or subheadings. Where no comment is made regarding prior or subsequent records, it is to be presumed that none were found.

Dimensions

Except where otherwise indicated, dimensions of volumes, file boxes, or maps are shown in inches; dimensions of volumes in the order of length along binding edge, width, and thickness; dimensions of file cases, boxes and drawers in the order of height, width and depth.

Location

The location noted is that of the date of the final field check of the inventory, approximately four months prior to publication. Many records, especially current ones, are in constant use by officials, and subject to frequent transfer from office to vault or from vault to office. Shifts from one vault to another also occur, but less frequently. The Historical Records Survey cannot guarantee that the record will be found in the location noted, but merely that the record was found there at the date of the inventory field check.

Part B. TOWN OFFICES AND THEIR RECORDS

I. BOARD OF SELECTMEN⁹⁰

Five selectmen were elected for a term of one year at the first town meeting on March 2, 1719/20.⁹¹ No change occurred in their number or method of election until 1765. In that year, as the result of a controversy, the five selectmen originally elected were ousted, being replaced by four others elected at a July meeting and an entirely new slate of nine elected in October. The following January the general court decided that only the five originally elected should remain.⁹² No further change occurred until March 5, 1832 when "the town voted to choose but three members of the selectmen and also voted to choose three overseers of the poor instead of five selectmen as heretofore."⁹³ The election of three selectmen annually for a term of one year has continued down to the present day.⁹⁴ Vacancies in the board are filled by election at a posted town meeting.

In addition to their statutory duties and powers as the governing body of the town, executing the policies adopted by the town meeting, the selectmen of Bellingham served until 1798 as assessors and collectors of taxes (aided in this latter function by the constables), and kept lists of eligible voters. In that year, with the imposition of a direct federal tax on real estate, the duties of assessing and collecting taxes became sufficiently onerous to cause the establishment of separate elective offices for these functions.⁹⁵ To the assessors fell the duty from 1798 to 1834 of keeping the lists of eligible voters.⁹⁶ Until 1832 the selectmen also had charge of poor relief, being replaced in this function that year by separately elected overseers of the poor.⁹⁷ In their official capacity the selectmen have also performed the functions of a board of health, as there never has been a separate board in Bellingham.

Since 1834 the selectmen have appointed the registrars of voters, since 1892 the sealer of weights and measures, since 1894 a variable number of police officers, since 1922 a police chief, since 1927 a deputy police chief and since 1932 a chief of the fire department. They have also appointed almost a score of minor, non-record-keeping officials.⁹⁸ Since 1914 they have appointed annually a clerk, to assist in the keeping of their own official records. If for any reason one of the elective offices should become vacant, the selectmen are empowered by law to appoint a temporary incumbent,

90. For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Works Progress Administration, Historical Records Survey, Town Government in Massachusetts, Boston, 1939, hereafter cited by title only.

91. (Town Records) I, 1.

92. Ibid., I, 193-202.

93. Ibid., IV, 73.

94. Ibid., 1832-1938.

95. Ibid., II, 182.

96. Idem.

97. Supra.

98. See chart of town government, p. 15.

who shall hold office until a successor has been elected at a duly posted meeting. The selectmen elect one of their number as chairman.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the selectmen's office, first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 69 for orders on treasurer 1912--; entry 78 for authorization of expenditures of town departments 1912--.

Minutes and Reports

1. SELECTMEN'S RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings), 1835--. 7 vols. Votes on appropriations, authorization of expenditures, appointment of town officers, selection of jurors, issue of licenses and permits; place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 12 x 16 x 1.
2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1861--. 72 vols. (dated).
Missing: 1863-66.
 - i. Building committee's report, 1896-97, 1901, 1904, 1907, 1930: Appropriations and specifications for town buildings.
 - ii. Community building committee's report, 1930: Cost of construction and inspection at completion.
 - iii. Electric light committee's report, 1924: Recommendations for improvement of street lighting system.
 - iv. Fire committee's special report, 1928: Recommendations for improvement of fire department.
 - v. Health regulations, 1928: Rules governing reporting of contagious diseases, sanitation, handling of food.
 - vi. History of the town, 1919: Vote appropriating \$560 for publication of history.
 - vii. Jury list, 1928--: Names, addresses, occupation of prospective jurors.
 - viii. Selectmen's report, 1874-1918, 1920--: Expenditures by departments in detail. 1892 includes estimated appropriations for the next year; 1900 includes an act passed so that the town might receive money for road construction from highway appropriation, and application made therefor; 1909 includes report on gypsy moth and elm beetle eradication.
 - ix. State auditors' report, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1937--: Audit of town accounts as required by law.

Also contains reports of town officers and committees described in entries 17, 40, 44, 62, 67, 72-74, 79, 98, 101, 114, 115, 120, 123-130. Arr. by subject. Indexed alph. by subject. Ptd. 7 x 5 x $\frac{1}{2}$. State Lib., State House, Boston. (Also 7 vols., 1867-73, town cl. off., first fl., T.H.; 36 vols., 1887--, residence of Leo A. Gosselin (town cl.), Grosvenor Ave., S. Bellingham.)

3. REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN RECKONING WITH THE TREASURER (Summary of Departmental Expenditures), 1820-63. 2 bdl.

Summary of expenditures for each town department as authorized by the selectmen: Name of department; amount, purpose of expenditure; date of authorization.

Roads and Highways

(See also entries 2-viii, 15-i.)

4. PETITIONS FOR ROADS, 1814--. 1 bdl.. 1 file box.

Name of petitioner; description, location of proposed lay-out; reasons for petition. Arr. alph. by name of petitioner. No index. Hdw. and typed. Bdl., 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$; file box, 8 x 10 x 4. 1 bdl., 1814-29. safe, cl. off.; 1 file box, 1829--., storage va.; first fl., T.H.

5. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (Record of Accepted Bids), 1926-31.
5 vols.

Name of bidder, amount of bid, specifications for construction, date of acceptance. Arr. by date of acceptance. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 11 x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{8}$. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

6. BLUEPRINTS (of Street Lay-outs). 1926-36. Approx. 50 plans.

Location, dimensions of street; names of abutting property owners, town boundaries. Various authors, publishers. Blueprint. 1":80. 14 x 22. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

Licenses and Permits

(See also entries 1, 10.)

7. (COMMON VICTUALERS' LICENSE STUBS), 1936--. 1 vol.

Name, business address of licensee; date of issue, expiration of license; amount of fee, license number. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 7 x 12 x 1. Desk.

8. (WINE AND MALT BEVERAGES LICENSE STUBS), 1938--. 1 vol.

For description, see entry 7. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 5 x 12 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Desk.

Pole Locations

9. (Petitions and Orders for) POLE LOCATIONS AND PLANS, 1905-31.
1 file box.

i. Orders for pole erections: Name of petitioner; number, length, type, location of poles; terms of indemnification; date of petition, hearing, order; signatures of town clerk and selectmen.

- ii. Petitions for pole locations: Name, address of petitioner; number, length, proposed location of poles; terms of agreement. date of petition, signature of petitioner.
- ii. Plans of existing and proposed pole locations: Name of petitioner; sectional street lay-out; location of pole, date of petition. Arr. chron. No index. Plans hand-drawn, orders and petitions typed on ptd. form. 10 x 4 x 8. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

10. (RECORD OF PERMITS FOR POLE ERECTIONS AND WIRE ATTACHMENTS), 1914-29. 1 vol.

Name of grantee, terms of indemnification; location of pole, wire attachments; signatures of selectmen, date of grant. Arr. by date of grant. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 10 x 7 x 1. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

Health

(See also entry 2-v.)

11. RECORDS OF DANGEROUS DISEASES, 1898--. 2 vols.

Name, address, age, occupation of patient; type of disease, name of physician; date of illness, notification, disinfection; period of isolation, disposition of case. Arr. by date of illness. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 12 x 16 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 vol., 1898-1916, storage va., first fl., T.H.; 1 vol., 1916--, sel. off.

Miscellaneous

12. (Original) TOWN (Meeting) WARRANTS, 1872--. 1 file box.

Place, date, time of meeting; subject, number of article; date of warrant, signatures of selectmen, constable's return. Arr. by date of warrant. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 8 x 10 x 4. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

For copies of warrants and minutes of town meetings 1719--, see entry 16; for transcript of minutes and copies of warrants published in clerk's annual report 1887--. see entry 17.

13. (WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND REPORT THEREOF), Feb. 6, 1738/9. 1 sheet.

Notification of meeting to elect town officers and decide whether hogs be confined or allowed to run at large. Includes constable's return and addendum by John Metcalf, town clerk, listing names of officers elected. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 10. (Mass. Archives, State House, Boston, "Towns, 1730-1742," vol. 114, p. 407.)

14. CORRESPONDENCE, 1920--. 3 file boxes. Prior records destroyed. Communications concerning appointment of town officers, issue of licenses and permits, requests for information. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 25. 2 file boxes, 1920-30, storage va., first fl., T.H.; 1 file box, 1930--, sel. off.

15. (MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS), 1773-1925. 1 bdl.

- i. Approved street lay-outs, 1890-1925: Name, location, dimensions of street; signatures of selectmen, date of approval
 - ii. List of jurors, 1773-1866: Name, occupation of juror. For selection of jurors by selectmen 1835--, see entry 1; for annual published jury lists 1928--, see entry 2-vii; for lists of residents liable for jury duty 1719--, see entry 16.
 - iii. Poll Tax (List), 1773-1801. entry 64.
- No arr. No index. Hdw. Writing faded, paper poor. 15 x 12 x 3. Safe, town cl. off., first fl., T.H.

II. TOWN CLERK⁹⁹

A town clerk has been elected annually for a term of one year since the first town meeting in March, 1719/20.¹

Except where otherwise noted, all records are on the first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 9-i for acknowledgment of selectmen's orders for pole erections 1905-31.

Minutes and Reports

16. (TOWN RECORDS), 1719--. 10 vols.

Action taken on articles listed in town meeting warrants, reports of town departments, appointment of officers, lists of residents liable for jury duty; returns of town vote in town, state, and federal elections; place, date of meeting. Includes copies of warrants for town meetings. Also contains: Military List (Residents Eligible for Military Duty), entry 37. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 3. 6 vols., 1719-1922, safe, cl. off.; 4 vols., 1923--, storage va.

For transcript of minutes published in annual report 1887--, see entry 17; for original town meeting warrants. see entry 12.

17. (CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1887--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Transcript of minutes of town meetings, town meeting warrants, vital statistics, election tabulations.

99. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

1. (Town Records), 1719/20-1938.

18. RECORDS OF THE PROPRIETORS OF LAND BETWEEN WRENTHAM AND MENDON
(Minutes of Meetings). 1714-1813. 1 vol.

Discussion and decisions on appropriations for town expenses, appointment of committees, instructions to assessors, perambulations of town boundaries; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. Writing faded. 215 pp. 10 x 14 x 1½. Cl. off.

19. (TOWN MEETING MINUTES - ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS), Mar. 7, 1738/9.
1 sheet.

Minutes of a meeting at which town officers were elected. Includes copy of warrant for meeting. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 8. (Mass. Archives, State House, Boston, "Towns, 1730-1742," vol. 114, p. 407.)

20. (TOWN MEETING VOTE - REMOVAL OF MEETINGHOUSE), May 17, 1742.
1 sheet.

Copy of a vote taken at a town meeting consenting to the removal of the meetinghouse. Hdw. 1 p. 6 x 8. (Mass. Archives, State House, Boston, Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 234.)

Vital Statistics
(See also entry 17.)

21. (Record of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, 1719-- 13 vols.
Missing: 1845-57.

- i. Births: Name, sex of child; date of birth, names of parents. 1827-44 includes date of recording; 1858-- includes condition of child, place of birth; address, occupations, birthplaces of parents; 1898-- includes color of child, name of attending physician.
- ii. Deaths: Name of deceased, date of death. 1827-44, 1858-- includes sex of deceased, name of next of kin; 1858-- includes address, color, occupation, marital status, birthplace of deceased, cause, place of death; place of burial, name of undertaker; names, birthplaces of parents.
- iii. Marriages: Names, addresses of contracting parties; date of marriage, name of person officiating. 1827-44, 1858-- includes place of marriage; address, position of person officiating; date of recording, signature of clerk; 1858-- includes ages, color, occupations, birthplaces, prior marital status of parties; names of parents.

Arr. chron. For index 1850-1935, see entry 22. Hdw. to 1930, typed thereafter. 200 pp. 20 x 14 x 2. 7 vols., 1719-1844, cl. off.; 6 vols., 1858--, storage va. (Also 1 published vol., 1719-1850, found in the following depositories: State Lib., Boston; Boston Public Lib.; Brookline Public Lib.; Dedham Hist. Soc. Lib.; Mass. Hist. Soc. Lib., Boston.)

22. (INDEX TO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS), 1850-1935. 7 file boxes (A-Z).

- i. Index to record of births: Name, sex of child; place, date of birth; names, occupations, birthplaces of parents; volume and page reference.
 - ii. Index to record of deaths: Name, sex, birthplace, marital status of deceased; names of parents, volume and page reference.
 - iii. Index to record of marriages: Names, ages, occupations, birthplaces, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents; place, date of marriage; volume and page reference.
- Arr. alph. by names of principals. Typed. 4 x 4 x 12. Sel. off.

23. BELLINGHAM (Original Certificates of) BIRTHS, 1899--. 1 file box, 16 vols. (1 file box, 1899-1922, unlabeled; 16 vols., 1923--, dated.)

Contains the following birth certificates:

- i. Delayed certificate of birth: Name, sex, color, condition of child; place, date of birth; names, address, ages, color, occupations of parents; signature, position, address of attendant at birth; number, date of certificate. Also includes affidavit: Name, address, position of deponent; name of child, notary public; cause of delay, nature of evidence supporting affidavit; date of birth, deposition; signature of clerk.
- ii. Physician's return of a birth: Name, sex, color, condition of child; place, date of birth; names, address, ages, occupations, birthplaces of parents; attestation of physician, date of return, signature of clerk.
- iii. State standard certificate of birth: Name, sex, color, condition of child; place, date of birth; names, address, ages, color, occupations of parents; signature, position, address of attendant at birth; number, date of certificate. 1918-- includes attestation of state registrar of vital statistics. Also includes excerpts from General Laws governing birth reports.
- iv. Supplemental report of birth: Name of child, date of birth; names, addresses of parents. Also includes excerpt from General Laws governing birth returns, and instructions to parents.

Includes birth certificates and copies of birth records of children born in Rhode Island of Bellingham parents. Arr. by date of birth. No index. Hdw and typed on ptd. form. File box. 8 x 4 x 10; vols., 150 pp. 11 x 10 x 2. 1 file box, 1899-1922, storage va.; 16 vols., 1923--, safe, cl. off.

24. (Physician's Monthly Report of) BIRTHS, 1885-98. 1 bdl.
Names, sex, color of children delivered; places, dates of births; names, addresses, birthplaces, occupations of parents; date of report, signature of physician. Includes excerpt from General Laws governing returns. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 6 x 1. Safe, cl. off.
25. (Original Certificates of) MARRIAGE INTENTIONS, 1915--. 2 file boxes.
Names, addresses, ages, color, birthplaces, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents, maiden names of mothers; signatures of contracting parties; number, date of certificate; signature of clerk. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 4 x 10. Storage va.
26. (Record of) INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE, 1911--. 2 vols.
Names, addresses, ages, color, birthplaces, occupations, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents, date of filing. Arr. alph. by names of contracting parties. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 12 x 1. Storage va.
27. (Original Certificates of) MARRIAGES IN THE TOWN OF BELLINGHAM, 1860--. 1 bdl., 1 file box, 12 vols. Title varies: Marriage Certificates, 1860-97, 1 bdl., 1898-1926, 1 file box.
Names, addresses, ages, color, occupations, birthplaces, prior marital status of contracting parties; names of parents, date of filing of intentions, signature of clerk; place, date of marriage; signature, position of person officiating; number, date of certificate. 1927-- includes maiden name of mother, address of person officiating. 1 bdl., 1860-97, 1 file box, 1898-1926, arr. by date of marriage; 12 vols., 1927--, arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bdl., 8 x 5 x 2; file box, 8 x 4 x 10; vols., 50 pp. 11 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 bdl., 1860-97, 12 vols., 1927--, safe, cl. off.; 1 file box, 1898-1926, storage va.
28. (Original Certificates of) DEATHS IN TOWN OF BELLINGHAM, 1884--. 1 bdl., 1 file box, 11 vols. Title varies: Death Certificates, 1884-1904. 1 bdl.; Deaths, 1905-26, 1 file box.
Name, sex of deceased; duration of illness; cause, place, date of death; signature of physician; number, date of certificate. 1897-- includes address, age, color, occupation, marital status of deceased; names, birthplaces of parents; place of interment; 1904-- includes date of interment; name, address of undertaker; address of physician; 1927-- includes hour of death, maiden name of mother; name, address of informant; statement of attendance by physician; number, date of burial or removal permit. 1 bdl., 1884-1904, 1 file box, 1905-26, arr. by date of death; 12 vols., 1927--, arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Bdl., 8 x 5 x 2; file box, 8 x 4 x 10; vols., 50 pp. 11 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 bdl., 1894-1904, 12 vols., 1927--, safe, cl. off.; 1 file box, 1905-26, storage va.

Licenses and Permits

29. BURIAL PERMITS, 1918--. 1 file box.

- i. Permits returned by superintendent of cemetery or crematory: Name, age of deceased; cause, place, date of death; place of interment; name of applicant, attending physician; number, date of permit; place, date of interment or cremation; signature of superintendent of cemetery or crematory
- ii. Stubs of permits: Name, age of deceased; cause, place, date of death; place of interment; name of applicant, attending physician; number, date of permit.

Arr. by permit no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 2 x 10. Storage va.

30. FISH AND GAME RETURNS (Copies of Monthly Reports to State Department of Conservation, Division of Game and Fisheries), 1924--. 1 file box.

Report of receipts from licenses issued: Serial numbers, classification, total number of licenses issued; amount of fees retained by town, amount remitted to state; signature of clerk, date of return. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 4 x 10. Storage va.

31. (Stubs of) SPORTING (Fish and Hunting) LICENSES, 1937--. 1 file box. Prior records kept by State Department of Conservation, Division of Game and Fisheries.

Name, address, age, physical description of licensee; number of license; date of issue, expiration; amount of fee. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 6 x 10. Residence of Leo A. Gosselin (cl.), Grosvenor Ave., S. Bellingham.

32. (DOG LICENSE DUPLICATES), 1934--. 5 bdl. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of dog owner; name, sex, color, breed, age of dog; type, number of license; date of issue, expiration; amount of fee, signature of clerk. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 4 x 2. Safe, cl off.

Mortgages

33. (Transcriptions of) PERSONAL PROPERTY MORTGAGES, 1880--. 5 vols.

Name, address of mortgagor, mortgagee; statutory text, terms, date of instrument; amount of consideration, date of recording, signatures of witnesses, acknowledgment of justice of the peace or notary public. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 12 x 7 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Storage va.

Town Officers

(See also entries 1, 13, 19.)

34. (Town Officers' Fidelity) BONDS, 1901-13. 1 file box.

Bonds guaranteeing faithful performance of duties: Name, address, position of officer; names, addresses of sureties; amount, terms, date of issue and expiration of bond; signatures of principals. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 8 x 4 x 10. Storage va.

35. (NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICES), 1937--.

2 bdl. s. Prior records destroyed.

Name, address of candidate; signatures, addresses of voters; name, term of office; number of signatures, date of filing; signatures of registrars of voters. candidate, clerk. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form.
6 x 14 x 2. Safe, cl. off.

36. (Letters of) RESIGNATION OF TOWN OFFICERS, 1930--. 1 file box.

Name of office; cause, effective date of resignation; date of letter, signature of officer. Arr. by date of resignation. No index. Hdw. and typed.
8 x 4 x 10. Storage va.

Miscellaneous

37. MILITARY LIST (Residents Eligible for Military Duty), 1936. 1 bdl.
1719-- in (Town Records), entry 16.

Name, address, age of resident. Arr. alph. by name of resident. No index.
Typed. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, cl. off.

38. WARNINGS TO DEPART THE TOWN OF BELLINGHAM, 1856-96. 1 file box.

Notices to persons requesting that they leave town, served by the constable and returned: Name of person warned, reason for warning; constable's return. No arr. No index. Hdw. 4 x 6 x 8. Cl. off.

39. BELLINGHAM - TOWN MAP, 1826. 1 map.

Map showing location of streets, road intersections, hills. Elihu Partridge. Black-and-white. 1":3,300'. 14 x 22. Cl. off.

III. REGISTRARS OF VOTERS²

From 1719/20 to 1798 the selectmen kept the lists of eligible voters in Bellingham. With the election of a board of assessors in 1798 this duty was assigned to them, where it remained until 1834. In that year on recommendation of the selectmen the office of registrars of voters was first established³, the selectmen appointing three registrars for a term of one year.

Since 1834 the number of registrars has varied from two to four but most commonly it has been three, all appointed by the selectmen. The registrars are now appointed in rotation by the selectmen, one registrar annually for a term of three years.⁴ The registrars elect a chairman from among themselves and the town clerk is an ex-officio member.

2. For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

3. (Town Records), IV, 106.

4. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, p. 6.

In addition to the following records, see entry 35 for registrars' certification of nomination papers of candidates for town office 1937--.

40. (REGISTRARS' ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1892, 1915, 1917, 1921, 1923--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Revised voting list; place, date of meeting held for purpose of revision.
41. GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS, 1882--. 4 vols.
Name, address, age, birthplace, occupation, signature of voter; residence April first, place of employment, date of registration. Arr. alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 16 x 10 x $\frac{1}{8}$. Storage va.. first fl., T.H.
42. LIST OF VOTERS, 1817-34. 1 file box.
Name, address of voter. Arr. alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. 4 x 6 x 8. Town cl. off., first fl., T.H.
43. (LIST OF VOTERS), Mar. 5, 1738/9. 1 sheet.
Names of qualified voters as compiled from (Poll, Real and Personal Property Tax List), entry 49. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 6. (Mass. Archives, State House, Boston, "Towns, 1730-42", vol. 114, p. 406.)

IV. BOARD OF ASSESSORS⁵

Until 1798 the board of selectmen served as assessors. Three assessors were first elected in 1798.⁶ Upon these assessors devolved not only the duties of valuation of property and assessment of taxes, but also, until 1834, the duty of keeping lists of eligible voters which had hitherto been performed by the selectmen. After 1834 the latter duty was taken over by the newly appointed registrars of voters.⁷ The system of rotation in office is now in use, one member of the board being replaced by election each year and all members serving a three-year term.⁸

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the storage vault, first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 18 for proprietors' instructions to assessors 1714-1813.

Minutes and Reports

44. (ASSESSORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1885-87, 1891, 1896-1900, 1905, 1907--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Total valuation of real and personal property, and poll tax.

5. For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

6. (Town Records), II, 182.

7. See p. 30.

8. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, p. 329.

[45-51]

Board of Assessors - Valuations and Assessments; Abatement

45. RECORDS OF ASSESSORS' MEETINGS (Minutes), 1910-20. 1 vol.
Recommendations for tax abatements, proposals for tax changes, estimate of departmental budget. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 100 pp.
8½ x 11 x ¼.

46. BANK RETURNS (Reports on Shareholders and Depositors), 1849-56.
1 bdl.

Name of bank; names, number of shareholders, depositors; total assets, signature of bank official. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 3 x 6 x 2.
Safe, town cl. off., first fl., T.H.

Valuations and Assessments

(See also entry 44.)

47. (Real and Personal Property) VALUATION (and Poll Lists), 1811--.
84 vols. Missing: 1844-48.

Real and personal property lists: Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property; amount, date of tax; total amount of tax.
Poll lists: Name, address of poll; amount of tax, total number of polls.
Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 16 x 20 x ¾.

For real and personal property tax receipts 1885--, see entry 63; for collector's poll tax lists 1885--, see entry 64.

48. (VALUATION CARDS), 1935--. 2 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.
Valuation of real and personal property: Name, address of property owner; location, description, valuation of property. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Typed on ptd. form. 12 x 14 x 22. Assrs. off., first fl., T.H.

49. (POLL, REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LIST), 1738. 2 sheets.
Valuation list completed by John Metcalf and Seth Hall, assessors, showing names of taxpayers; rate, amount of tax. Hdw. 4 pp. 4 x 6. (Mass. Archives State House, Boston, "Towns, 1730-1742," vol. 114, pp. 402-405.)

50. (Real and Personal Property) TAX (Assessment) BOOK, 1764--.
42 vols. Missing: 1822-40, 1866-1900.

Name, address of property owner; location, description, valuation of property; amount of assessment, abatement, total tax. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. to 1840, ptd. thereafter. 300 pp.
10 x 14 x 1½. 21 vols., 1764-1821, cl. off.; 14 vols., 1841-65, storage va.; 7 vols., 1901--, assrs. off.; first fl., T.H.

Abatements

(See also entries 45, 50, 55, 56.)

51. (Poll, Real and Personal Property Tax) ABATEMENT RECORD, 1904--.
1 vol.

Name of taxpayer; amount, type, date of assessment; amount, cause, date of abatement; total annual abatements. Arr. by date of abatement. No index.
Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 8 x 11 x 1.

52. (REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES), 1926--
8 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; location of property; amount, date of assessment; amount, cause, date of abatement; signatures of assessors. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 3 x 7 x 3/4.

53. (APPLICATIONS FOR ABATEMENT), 1935--. In Correspondence, entry 59.

Name, address of applicant; reason for desired abatement, amount of abatement requested.

Motor Vehicle Excise

(Tax authorized by law 1929; see also entry 66.)

54. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE (Assessments), 1929--. 9 vols.

Name, address of owner; make, model, type, valuation of vehicle; amount of tax, date of registration. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 16 x 20 x 3/4.

55. EXCISE ABATEMENT BOOK, 1929--. 1 vol.

Name of taxpayer; amount, date of assessment; amount, cause, period, date of abatement. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 8 x 11 x 3/4.

56. (ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES), 1930--. 3 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of assessment, abatement; signatures of assessors. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 11 x 8 x 3/4.

Miscellaneous

57. LIST OF RESIDENTS, 1935--. 5 sheets. System estab. 1935.

Name, address, precinct number of resident. Arr. by precinct no. and thereunder alph. by name of resident. No index. Ptd. 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. Assrs. off., first fl., T.H.

58. LIST OF FEMALE RESIDENTS, 1924. 1 sheet.

Name, address of female resident. Arr. alph. by name of resident. Ptd. 24 x 30. State Lib., State House, Boston.

59. CORRESPONDENCE, 1935--. 2 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.

Correspondence with taxpayers pertaining to applications for abatement and property valuations; with state and county officials relative to reports and tax levies on town. Also contains: (Applications for Abatement), entry 53. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 25. Assrs. off., first fl., T.H.

60. BELLINGHAM MAP, 1725. 1 map.

Land tenure map showing grants of land along the Rhode Island line. John Chandler. Black-and-white. No scale. 16 3/4 x 12 3/4. Mass. Hist. Soc. Lib., Boston.

61. (LIST OF GRANTEES), Apr. 18, 1735. 3 sheets.

Names of grantees of seven Narragansett townships, including Bellingham, laid out by order of the general court. Hdw. 8 pp. 6 x 18. (Mass. Archives, State House, Boston, "Towns, 1730-1742", vol. 114, pp. 106-110.)

V. COLLECTOR OF TAXES⁹

Prior to 1798 the collection of taxes was performed by constables under the supervision of the selectmen. In that year a collector of taxes was elected for a term of one year,¹⁰ a practice which has continued to date.¹¹

62. (COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1891-1901, 1903--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Amounts, types of taxes collected; amounts of abatements.

63. REAL AND PERSONAL (Property) TAX (Receipts), 1885--. 51 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property; amount of tax; amount, date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 8 x 10 x 2. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

For assessors' valuation lists 1738, 1811--., see entries 47-49; for assessments 1764--., see entry 50; for abatements 1904--., see entries 51, 52.

64. POLL TAX (List), 1885--. 25 vols. 1773-1801 in (Miscellaneous Papers), entry 15-iii.

Name, address, age of poll. Arr. alph. by name of poll. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 12 x 2. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

For assessors' poll lists 1738, 1811--., see entries 47, 49; for abatements 1904--., see entry 51.

65. (Published) ASSESSED POLL TAX LIST, 1924. 1 sheet.

Name, address of poll. Arr. alph. by name of poll. Ptd. 24 x 30. State Lib., State House, Boston.

66. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAXES (Receipts), 1929--. 7 vols. Tax authorized by law 1929.

Name, address of taxpayer; registration number, description of vehicle; amount, date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 8 x 10 x 2. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

For assessments, see entry 54; for abatements, see entries 55, 56.

9. For the statutory origin and functions of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

10. (Town Records), II, 182.

11. Ibid., 1798-1938.

VI. TOWN TREASURER¹²

Since the first town meeting in March, 1719/20, the treasurer has been elected annually for a term of one year.¹³

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the storage vault, first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 96 for school committee's orders to treasurer for payment of teachers' salaries 1776-1839; entry 108 for board of public welfare orders on treasurer for payment of departmental expenditures 1898--.

67. (TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1868--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

Receipts and expenditures by department in detail. 1874-- includes liabilities and assets.

68. TREASURER'S (Cash) ACCOUNT BOOK (Receipts and Expenditures), 1753--. 5 vols. Missing: 1871-1908.

Receipts from taxes, licenses and permits, county and state grants, interest on bank deposits, sale of bonds, departmental revenue: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of receipt. Expenditures for departmental expenses, principal and interest payments on bonds, trust funds: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; voucher number. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 11 x 15 x 2.

69. SELECTMEN'S BILLS (Selectmen's Orders on Treasurer), 1912--. 11 file boxes. Prior records destroyed.

Authorization by selectmen of payment of expenses of town departments: Name of payee, department appropriation; amount, itemization, date, number of order; date of authorization, payment; signatures of selectmen. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 x 4 x 10.

For vote of selectmen on authorizations 1835--, see entry 1.

70. (CHECKS), 1907--. 34 vols.

- i. Canceled checks: Name of payee; amount, number, date of check; warrant, voucher number; bank cancelation stamp.
 - ii. Check stubs, 1907-22: Name of payee, department charged, amount, purpose, number, date of check.
- Arr. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 500 pp. 11 x 16 x 2.

71. TAX TITLE RECORD (of Property Taken by Town for Nonpayment of Taxes), 1923--. 3 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; location, valuation of property; year, amount of assessment; amount of tax, interest costs; date of demand, advertisement, foreclosure, redemption or sale, release; amount, date of payment. Arr. by date of sale or redemption. No index. Hdw. 260 pp. 9x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

¹². For the statutory origin and functions of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

¹³. (Town Records), 1719/20-1938.

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE¹⁴

A finance committee of eight members has been elected annually in Bellingham since 1926.¹⁵

72. (FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1926--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Report on budgets for all town departments.

VIII. AUDITORS¹⁶

A board of three auditors was first elected in 1849.¹⁷ From 1869 to 1925 a single auditor was elected annually for a term of one year, the incumbent often being a selectman, clerk, assessor or other official.¹⁸ In addition to the following record, see entry 2-ix for state auditors' reports 1928, 1931, 1933, 1937--.

73. (AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1861-62, 1867, 1898-1902, 1904-9, 1911-12, 1914-17, 1919-25. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Certification of accounts of all town departments. 1861-62 includes record of town indebtedness.

IX. TOWN ACCOUNTANT¹⁹

The first town accountant was appointed by the selectmen in 1909 for a term of three years.²⁰ No change has occurred in the term or method of appointment since that date.²¹

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the storage vault, first floor, Town Hall.

¹⁴. For the statutory origin and duties of this committee, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

¹⁵. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1926-38.

¹⁶. For the statutory origin and duties of auditors, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

¹⁷. Fairbanks, op. cit., p. 153.

¹⁸. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1869-1925.

¹⁹. For the statutory origin and functions of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

²⁰. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1909.

²¹. Ibid., 1909-38.

74. (ACCOUNTANT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1927, 1929--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Receipts and expenditures of town departments, town indebtedness; amounts, purposes of appropriations; balance sheet.
75. JOURNAL (Estimate of Departmental Receipts and Expenditures), 1909--. 15 vols. Name of department; amount, source of receipt; amount, purpose of expenditure; date of estimate. Includes adjusting bookkeeping entries. Arr. by date of estimate. No index. 100 pp. 5 x 7 x 3/4.
76. CASH (Classification of Receipts and Expenditures by Department), 1909--. 15 vols. Name of department charged or credited; name, number of account; amount, source or purpose, date of receipt or expenditure; total receipts, expenditures. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 15 x 10 x 1 1/8
77. LEDGER, 1909--. 15 vols. Summary of accounts as posted from Journal (Estimate of Departmental Receipts and Expenditures), entry 75; Cash (Classification of Receipts or Expenditures by Department), entry 76: Name, number of account; amount, date of debit, credit posting. Arr. by name of account. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 5 x 7 x 3/4. 13 vols., 1909-33, storage va.; 2 vols., 1934--, residence of William W. Fairbanks (acct.), S. Main St.
78. (Original Paid) VOUCHERS (for Expenditures of Town Departments), 1912--. 12 file boxes, 12 bdls. Prior records destroyed Selectmen's authorizations to treasurer, transmitted to accountant after payment: Name of department, payee; amount, itemization, purpose, date of expenditure; number, date of voucher; signature of department head, chairman of selectmen. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. File boxes, 5 x 12 x 30; bdls., 12 x 5 x 2.

X. SCHOOL COMMITTEE²²

Although schools were supported fairly consistently from the incorporation of the town, not until 1791 was the first school committee elected ²³ This was a committee of three elected annually at the town meeting for a term of one year. The school committee has remained with the exception of a few years, at three members. One member is now elected each year for a three year term.²⁴

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the superintendent's office, first floor, Bellingham Center School.

²². For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

²³. Partridge, op. cit., p. 137.

²⁴. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, pp. 4, 29.

79. (SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1882--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Summary of departmental activities, list of honor students, scholarship and attendance statistics. 1893 includes request for a new school building at Caryville; 1894 includes superintendent's report; 1896 includes financial statement, educational briefs.
80. (Annual Published) REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1858-1902. 37 vols. Missing: 1862-64, 1874-75, 1882, 1892, 1900. Title varies slightly. Summaries of district activities, lists of teachers hired, discussions of educational policies, recommendations for housing improvements and statement of new curricula added. Includes generally, tabulation of attendance, salaries of teachers, and, intermittently, summary of receipts and expenditures. Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 20 pp. 5 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1/8. Widener Lib., Harvard University, Cambridge.
81. (Copies of) SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS (Submitted Annually to Selectmen), 1827-57. 1 bdl. Prior records destroyed. Recommendations for appropriations, appointment of teachers; discussion of educational methods, school policies. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. 9 x 12 x 1. Town cl. off., first fl., T.H.
82. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF BELLINGHAM, 1850-53. 2 pamphlets. Excerpts published from (Copies of) School Committee Reports (Submitted Annually to Selectmen), entry 81: Recommendations for school appropriations. list of teachers, statement of school policies. Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 4 pp. 5 x 8 x 1/8. Town cl. off., first fl., T.H.
83. (REPORTS FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94. Report of state-wide educational activities, curricula revisions, suggested programs of study.

Pupils' Records

84. (PERMANENT SCHOLARSHIP AND ATTENDANCE RECORD), 1934--. 1 file box. Name, address, grade of pupil; place, date of birth; date of admission, names of prior schools attended, subjects studied, rating in each subject, dates of attendance; number of times tardy, absent; name, occupation of father; signature of teacher. Arr. by year and thereunder alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24. For published scholarship and attendance statistics 1882--, see entry 79; for other attendance records 1776-1839, see entry 96.

85. (INTELLIGENCE TEST PAPERS), 1934--. 1 file box.
Name, grade of pupil; name of teacher, school; rating, grade and age equivalent in each subject; total grade equivalent, date of examination. Arr. by grade no. and thereunder alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.
86. (MONTHLY ATTENDANCE RECORD OF PUPILS ATTENDING OUT-OF-TOWN SCHOOLS), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name of pupil; name, location of school; number of days of attendance.
87. (RECORD OF PUPILS CONVEYED TO AND FROM SCHOOL), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name of pupil, school; number of days conveyed, number of daily trips, total number of trips during the school session.
88. (WORK CERTIFICATES AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF PUPILS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name, address, age, physical description of pupil; place, date of birth; name of school, grade last attended; name, address of employer; type of employment, date of certificate; signature of superintendent, pupil.

Financial Records
(See also entries 79, 96.)

89. (COPIES OF CONTRACTS), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Contracts between school committee and teachers, bus drivers, supply houses: Name, address of contracting party; terms, purpose, date of contract; place, date of meeting of committee voting upon contract; signatures of contracting parties.
90. (SCHOOL PAY ROLL), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name of employee, amount of salary, pay roll period, amount of deduction for retirement fund; amount, date of payment.
91. (SCHEDULES OF BILLS PAYABLE), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name of creditor; amount, itemization, date of bill; total amount, date of schedule.
92. (DUPLICATE PAID BILLS), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Expenditures for supplies, furnishings, and maintenance: Name, address of creditor; amount, itemization, date of bill; date of payment.
93. (TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND RECORD), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94.
Name of teacher; name, location of school; amount of yearly, monthly salary; date of pay roll, amount of deduction for retirement fund.

Miscellaneous

94. (MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS), 1934--. 3 file boxes.
Contains: (Reports from State Department of Education), entry 83; (Monthly Attendance Record of Pupils Attending Out-of-Town Schools), entry 86; (Record of Pupils Conveyed to and from School), entry 87; (Work Certificates Authorizing Employment of Pupils Under 16 Years of Age), entry 88; (Copies of Contracts), entry 89; (School Pay Roll), entry 90; (Schedules of Bills Payable), entry 91; (Duplicate Paid Bills), entry 92; (Teachers' Retirement Fund Record), entry 93; (Correspondence), entry 95. Arr chron. No index. Hdw., hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 12 x 12 x 24.
95. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1934--. In (Miscellaneous Records), entry 94. Superintendent's correspondence with State Department of Education, town officials, parents, teachers, applicants for employment, supply houses.
96. MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOL DOCUMENTS, 1776-1839. 7 bdl. School attendance records, list of contributions for school expenses, petitions for new school buildings, appointment of teachers, orders to treasurer for payment of teachers' salaries. No arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 7 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Town cl. off., first fl., T.H.

XI. PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES²⁵

On the recommendation of the selectmen six public library trustees were elected at the annual town meeting of 1894.²⁶ Two trustees are now elected each year for a three-year term.²⁷

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the custodian's desk, first floor, Bellingham Public Library.

97. RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Minutes of Meetings), 1894--. 2 vols.
Discussion and decisions on purchase of books, payment of bills; recommendations for appropriations, analysis of book circulation, report on activities; date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 140 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.
98. (TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1894-1914, 1916--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Report on appropriations, expenditures, circulation, accessions. 1930 includes report of erection of new library building and dedication exercises.

²⁵. For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

²⁶. (Town Records), VII, 89.

²⁷. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, pp. 4, 30.

99. FINANCIAL RECORD (Receipts and Expenditures), 1905--. 2 vols. Receipts from fines, appropriations: Amount, date of receipts. Expenditures for salaries, books, and supplies: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 140 pp. 10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

100. (Receipts from) FINES (for Overdue and Damaged Books), 1931--.
1 vol.

Name of payer; amount, date of payment; daily, monthly total. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 90 pp. 7 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

XII. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE²⁸

Until 1832 the selectmen functioned as overseers of poor. At the annual town meeting of that year "the town voted to choose but three members of the selectmen and also voted to choose three overseers of the poor instead of five selectmen as heretofore".²⁹ One member of the board is now elected each year for a three-year term.³⁰ In 1927 the name of the overseers was changed to board of public welfare by statute.³¹ In addition to having charge of welfare aid and aid to dependent children, the board has, since 1931, functioned as a bureau for the granting of old age assistance.³²

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the residence of Edward M. Reid (chairman), Blackstone Street.

Reports

101. (ANNUAL REPORTS OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE, SENT TO SELECTMEN), 1867--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.

- i. Report of overseers of the poor, 1867-1926:
 - a. Table of expenditures for support of almshouse inmates, persons outside almshouse; number of recipients; amount, purpose of expenditure; total expenditures, 1867-1925.
 - b. Inventory of farm stock and produce, showing quantity and valuation; total receipts from sale of produce, names of inmates, 1867-1913.
 - c. Narrative report of activities and needs. 1926 includes notice of closing of almshouse.
- ii. Report of public welfare board, 1927--: Narrative report of activities, recommendations; comparative increase or decrease, number of recipients classified by type of aid.

²⁸. For the statutory origin and functions of this board, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

²⁹. (Town Records), IV, 73.

³⁰. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1938, pp. 4, 29.

³¹. Acts, 1927, ch. 165.

³². Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1931, p. 89.

[102-108]

42.

Board of Public Welfare - General Cases:
Receipts and Expenditures

General Cases
(See also entry 101.)

102. CASE BOOK (Histories of Aid Recipients), 1913--. 2 vols.
No title, 1935--.

Name, address, sex, color, register number of recipient; place, date of birth; physical, mental condition; place, date of settlement; date of aid, discharge; remarks. Also contains: Mothers' Aid Ledger (of Expenditures), 1936--, entry 110. 1 vol., 1913-35, arr. by date of aid; 1 vol., 1935--, arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 20 x 14 x 3/4.

103. (Aid to) WORK RELIEF CASES, 1937--. 1 vol. System estab. 1937. Name of recipient; amount, date of aid. Arr. by month. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x 1 1/2.

104. PAUPER REGISTER (Aid Rendered to Paupers and Vagrants), 1860-1927. 5 vols. System estab. 1860, discontin. 1927. Name, age of recipient; type, amount, date of aid. Arr. by date of aid. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 11 x 1. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

105. REGISTER OF VAGRANTS (Granted Lodging), 1901-5. 1 vol. Name, age of vagrant; date of lodging, nature of labor required in return for lodging. Arr. by date of lodging. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 16 x 12 x 1/2. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

For constable's report on the lodging of vagrants 1891, see entry 114.

Receipts and Expenditures
(See also entries 101-i, 110.)

106. (Weekly) RECEIPTS (Appropriations by the Town and State Department of Public Welfare), 1934--. 2 vols. Amount, source, purpose, date of receipt. Arr. by week. No index. Typed. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x 1.

107. (Weekly) EXPENDITURES (for Clothing, Food, and Fuel), 1934--. 2 vols. Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. by week. No index. Typed. 200 pp. 12 x 14 x 1.

108. (Copies of) ORDERS (on Treasurer) - POOR DEPARTMENT, 1898--. 9 vols. Orders on treasurer for payment of aid and miscellaneous departmental expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose, number, date of order. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 125 pp. 14 x 8 x 3/4. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

109. (Summaries of Receipts and Expenditures of) OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, 1792-1888. 14 vols. System estab. 1792, discont. 1888. Name of payer, payee; amount, source, date of receipt; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; totals. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 6 x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Town cl. off., first fl., T.H.

Aid to Dependent Children
(Aid authorized by law 1912.)

110. MOTHERS' AID LEDGER (of Expenditures), 1928-35. 1 vol. 1936-- in Case Book (Histories of Aid Recipients), entry 102. Name of recipient; type, amount, date of aid; total aid, voucher number. Arr. by date of aid. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 20 x 14 x 1.

111. (APPLICATIONS FOR AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN), 1934--. In Application Folders, entry 113. Name, address, place and date of birth, marital status, citizenship, physical and mental condition of applicant; description, valuation of property; names, places and dates of birth of dependent children; date of application.

Old Age Assistance
(Assistance authorized by law 1931.)

112. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE (Case Histories), 1934--. 2 vols. Name, address, sex, color, marital status of recipient; place, date of birth; physical, mental condition; place of legal settlement; names, birth-places of parents; prior sources, dates of aid; cause, date of discharge; remarks. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 20 x 14 x $\frac{3}{4}$.

113. APPLICATION FOLDERS, 1934--. 1 file box. Name, address, physical condition, case number of applicant; amount of property, insurance; financial status, estimated budget. Includes copies of birth certificates and copies of naturalization papers. Also contains: (Applications for Aid to Dependent Children), entry 111. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 20 x 15 x 40.

XIII. TOWN COUNSEL³³

A town counsel has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1930.³⁴

The town counsel keeps no records.

³³. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

³⁴. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1930-38, incl.

XIV. CONSTABLES³⁵

Two constables were elected at the first town meeting on March 2, 1719/20.³⁶ Since then the number has varied from one to four, elected annually at town meeting for a term of one year. Four additional constables to serve writs on civil process were appointed by the selectmen in 1920 and one in 1934.³⁷

In addition to the following record, see entries 12, 13 for constable's return on town meeting warrants 1738/9. 1872--; entry 38 for constable's return on warnings to depart town 1856-96.

114. (CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1891. In Annual Reports of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Report on arrests, convictions, fines, lodging of vagrants.

XV. CHIEF OF POLICE³⁸

In the early days constables performed the necessary police functions. Separate police officers appointed by the selectmen, appear first in the Annual Report of Town Officers for 1894 when four officers were appointed. Since then the number has varied from two to sixteen. A chief of police and a deputy chief were first appointed by the selectmen in 1922 and 1927, respectively, for indefinite terms.³⁹

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the office, residence of Euclide A. Fleurette (chief of police).

115. (POLICE CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1928, 1930--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Statement concerning property stolen and recovered; number, classification of arrests.

116. DAILY POLICE (Officers') REPORTS, 1929--. 7 vols.
Name of officer, number of hours on duty; nature, date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 365 pp. 9 x 12 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

35. For the statutory origin and duties of constables, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

36. (Town Records), I, 1.

37. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1920, 1934.

38. For the statutory origin and functions of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

39. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1894-1933.

117. (COMPLAINTS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS), 1931--. 4 file boxes.
- i. Complaints from residents: Name of complainant, nature, date of complaint; disposition of case.
 - ii. Correspondence with town and state officials relative to arrests, fines, convictions.
 - iii. Officers' reports of motor vehicle accidents: Names of parties involved, witnesses, date of accident, report; license, registration numbers of operators; description of injuries, narrative description of accident by officer and by witnesses, names of physicians or hospitals rendering first aid, signature of officer, judicial disposition of case, action by state registrar of motor vehicles.
- Arr. by subject and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw., typed. 6 x 12 x 14.
118. POLICE RECORDS (of Liquor and Motor Vehicle Violations, and Motor Vehicle Accidents), 1931--. 6 file boxes.
- i. Liquor and motor vehicle violations: Name, prior court record of offender; nature, date of violation; name of reporting officer, disposition of case.
 - ii. Motor vehicle accidents: Names, addresses of parties, witnesses; location, narrative description, date of accident; registration, license numbers of operators; name of reporting officer, disposition of case. For police officers' reports of motor vehicle accidents, see entry 117-iii. Arr. alph. by names of parties. No index. Hdw. and typed. 4 x 6 x 12.

XVI. CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT⁴⁰

Call firemen and volunteers have always performed most of the work of fire fighting in Bellingham. In 1933, however, a chief of the fire department, appointed annually by the selectmen, was authorized by the town meeting, men to assist him being "called by the selectmen when needed".⁴¹

In addition to the following record, see entry 2-iv for special report of fire committee 1928.

119. FIRE DEPARTMENT RECORDS (of Fires), 1933--. 1 file box. Names of members on call; location, date, time of fire; extent of damage. Arr. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 4 x 6 x 12. Residence of Wasyl Kornicki (chief), 19 Center St., S. Bellingham.

40. For the statutory origin and functions of the chief of the fire department, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

41. (Town Records), IX, 213.

XVII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES⁴²

A sealer of weights and measures was first listed in the Annual Report of Town Officers for 1892. He has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year since that date.⁴³

120. (SEALER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1907-8, 1910-18, 1920-23, 1925--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Report on number and results of inspections.
121. SEALER'S RECORD (of Inspections), 1914-29. 1 vol. System discontinued. 1929.
Name, address of owner; nature of business; type of device, commodity; results, number, date of test; amount of fee, date of payment. Arr. by date of test. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 75 pp. 10 x 14 x 1. Storage va., first fl., T.H.
122. (DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION), 1914--. 4 vols. Certification that devices and commodities have been inspected and approved: Name, residence, business address of owner; type of device, commodity; amount of fee; number, date of certificate; signature of sealer. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 12 x 4 x 1. Storage va., first fl., T.H.

XVIII. SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS⁴⁴

Two surveyors of roads were elected at the first town meeting in 1719/20.⁴⁵ A varying number were elected annually thereafter until 1891. In that year the surveyors were replaced by road commissioners. Three elected road commissioners are listed in the annual reports from 1891 to 1905. Beginning in 1908 and continuing to date they were replaced by a single superintendent of streets appointed annually by the selectmen.⁴⁶

42. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

43. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

44. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer and his predecessors see Town Government in Massachusetts.

45. (Town Records), I, 1.

46. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

123. (ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS AND SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS, SENT TO SELECTMEN), 1891--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
- i. Report of road commissioners, 1891-1906:
 - a. Narrative report of activities; recommendations for construction, extension, or repair of highways; amount of requested appropriation.
 - b. Total amount of appropriation, breakdown of expenditures by purpose and amount, total expenditures, unexpended balance, 1895-1906.
 - ii. Report of superintendent of streets, 1907--: For description, see i, a (above).

XIX. FOREST FIRE WARDEN⁴⁷

Since 1886 except for 1887, 1889, 1890, 1919 and 1920 when there were no appointments, from one to five forest wardens have been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year. Since 1909 the practice has been to appoint only one.⁴⁸

124. (WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1896, 1924, 1936--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Report on forest fires, showing number of fires attended, purchase of equipment, summary of activities.

XX. TREE WARDEN⁴⁹

A tree warden was first listed in the Annual Report of Town Officers for 1894. Since 1894 a warden has been elected annually for a term of one year.⁵⁰

125. (WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1901, 1904-12, 1914-31.
In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Statement of work done on trees, and recommendations for further improvements.

47. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

48. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1886-1938.

49. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

50. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1894-1938.

Next Entry P. 49

48.

Moth Superintendent; Public Weighers; Surveyors of Wood and Lumber; Fence Viewers and Field Drivers

XXI. MOTH SUPERINTENDENT⁵¹

A moth superintendent has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a one year term since 1911, except in 1912 and during the years 1919-1925.⁵²

The moth superintendent keeps no records, but see entry 2-viii for report on gypsy moth and elm beetle eradication 1909.

XXII. PUBLIC WEIGHERS⁵³

Public weighers were first listed in the Annual Report of Town Officers of 1892. Since that date the number had varied from three to eight, the present number being six, appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁵⁴

These officers keep no records.

XXIII. SURVEYORS OF WOOD AND LUMBER⁵⁵

Four surveyors of wood and lumber, appointed by the selectmen for a term of one year, were first listed in the Annual Report of Town Officers of 1892. Since then a number ranging from three to seven has been appointed annually, the latter figure having prevailed since 1933.⁵⁶

These officers keep no records.

XXIV. FENCE VIEWERS AND FIELD DRIVERS⁵⁷

Separate fence viewers and field drivers were elected at the first town meeting on March, 1719/20.⁵⁸ Since 1892 and until 1926 three fence viewers

51. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

52. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1911-1938.

53. For the statutory origin and functions of these officers, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

54. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

55. For the statutory origin and duties of these officers, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

56. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

57. For the statutory origin and duties of these officers, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

58. (Town Records), I, 1.

have been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year, except in 1922 and 1923 when the number was four and two, respectively. From 1892 to 1921, inclusive, three field drivers have also been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year, except in 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1915. Since 1926 the offices have been combined, three fence viewers and field drivers having been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁵

These officers keep no records.

XXV. MODERATOR⁶⁰

A moderator has been elected annually in Bellingham for a term of one year since the first town meeting in March, 1719/20.⁶¹

The moderator keeps no records.

XXVI. NURSE

A town nurse was appointed annually by the selectmen functioning as a board of health from 1929 to 1936, inclusive.⁶²

The town nurse keeps no records.

XXVII. INSPECTOR OF MILK⁶³

Since 1915 an inspector of milk has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁶⁴

126. (INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1916-18, 1921-23, 1925-31, 1933--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Report on number and results of milk inspections.

XXVIII. INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS⁶⁵

This officer was first listed in the Annual Report of the Town Officers for 1892. Since 1892 he has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a one year term.⁶⁶

59. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

60. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

61. (Town Records) 1719/20-1938.

62. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1929-36.

63. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

64. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1915-38.

65. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

66. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

[127-129]

Inspector of Slaughtering; Dog Officer; Liquor Agent

127. (INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1912--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Report on inspection of barns, dairies, tuberculin tested cattle.

XXIX. INSPECTOR OF SLAUGHTERING⁶⁷

Since 1913 an inspector of slaughtering has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁶⁸

128. (INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1913--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Statement reminding residents of state law requiring the inspection and stamping of slaughtered stock offered for sale.

XXX. DOG OFFICER⁶⁹

Since 1914 a dog officer has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁷⁰

129. (DOG OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1936--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2.
Report on number of dogs impounded, killed, redeemed by owners.

XXXI. LIQUOR AGENT⁷¹

A liquor agent was first elected in 1855.⁷² It is probable that he was elected annually until 1870, after which date there is no evidence that he continued to exist.⁷³

67. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

68. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1913-38.

69. For the statutory origin and duties of the dog officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

70. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1914-38.

71. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

72. Partridge, op. cit., p. 180.

73. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1866-70.

XXXII. CEMETERY COMMITTEE⁷⁴

A committee of three to have charge of the cemeteries of Bellingham was first elected for a term of one year in 1887.⁷⁵ No change in the number, term or method of election has occurred since that date.⁷⁶

130. (COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO SELECTMEN), 1889-91, 1893-95, 1921, 1926-28. In Annual Report of the Town Officers, entry 2. Report on appropriations and expenditures, cemetery fund statement.

XXXIII. AGENT FOR THE CARE OF INDIGENT SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' GRAVES⁷⁷

From 1913 to date this officer has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.⁷⁸

The agent keeps no records.

XXXIV. AGENT FOR THE BURIAL OF INDIGENT SOLDIERS AND SAILORS⁷⁹

Except for the years 1896-98 this officer has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1895.⁸⁰

The agent keeps no records.

XXXV. SEXTONS⁸¹

This office was first established in 1892 when four sextons were appointed by the selectmen for a one year term. The number of sextons remained at four until 1915 except for the years 1893, 1899, 1900 and 1901 when three were appointed. From 1915 to the present time three sextons have been appointed annually by the selectmen for a one year term.⁸²

The sextons keep no records.

74. For the statutory origin and duties of this committee, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

75. Partridge, op. cit., p. 184.

76. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1890-1938.

77. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

78. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1913-1938.

79. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

80. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1895-1938.

81. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

82. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1892-1938.

Next entry p. 53

Tithingmen; Workmen's Compensation Agent; Janitor
of Town Hall; Memorial Day Committee

XXXVI. TITHINGMEN⁸³

Two tithingmen were chosen at the first town meeting in March, 1719/20.⁸⁴
This office was abolished in 1842.⁸⁵

XXXVII. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AGENT⁸⁶

Except in 1921 a workmen's compensation agent has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year since 1915.⁸⁷

The agent keeps no records.

XXXVIII. JANITOR OF TOWN HALL

This office has no statutory origin. The duties are such as the selectmen of Bellingham may prescribe. Except in 1905 and in 1912-14 for which years there is no record of the appointment of a janitor, although there may have been one, a janitor of the town hall has been appointed annually in Bellingham since 1895.⁸⁸

The janitor keeps no records.

XXXIX. MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

This office has no statutory origin or functions. Since 1921 the selectmen have appointed a committee of three annually to have charge of the town's observance of Memorial Day.⁸⁹

The committee keeps no records.

83. For the statutory origin and duties of these officers, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

84. Hurd, D.H., History of Norfolk County, p. 14.

85. Ibid., p. 152.

86. For the statutory origin and duties of this officer, see Town Government in Massachusetts.

87. Annual Report of the Town Officers, 1915-38.

88. Ibid., 1895-1938.

89. Ibid., 1921-38.

XXXXX. APPENDIX - MANUSCRIPTS

The following manuscripts are found in the Massachusetts Archives at the State House in Boston.

Separation from Bellingham

131. (PETITION TO GENERAL COURT TO BE SET OFF FROM BELLINGHAM), June 1747. 1 sheet.
Petition of 27 inhabitants of Bellingham for annexation to Mendon - Medway - Wrentham with reasons therefor. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 6. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 268.)
132. (APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE), 1747. 1 sheet.
Appointment of Samuel Welles and Joseph Wilder to investigate the petition for annexation to other towns. Hdw. 1 p. 6 x 8. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 272a.)
133. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ANNEXATION TO OTHER TOWNS), June 9, 1747. 1 sheet.
Copy of report submitted by Samuel Welles, for the committee, with order that the Bellingham petitioners submit to the general court their names and the names of the towns to which they ask to be annexed. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 6. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 267.)
134. (NAMES OF RESIDENTS DESIRING ANNEXATION), 1747. 1 sheet.
Names furnished in compliance with the recommendation of the general court committee, with names of towns to which they ask to be annexed. Hdw. 1 p. 6 x 8. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 268.)
135. (PETITION OPPOSING ANNEXATION TO OTHER TOWNS), May 25, 1748. 1 sheet.
Petition of Samuel Darling and others, requesting the general court that the petition of several inhabitants of Bellingham, Holliston, Medway and Wrentham be denied. Hdw. 2 pp. 14 x 8. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, pp. 278-279.)
136. (REPORT TO GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE OF TAXES PAID), Nov. 26, 1748. 1 sheet.
List showing amount of taxes paid by the inhabitants of Medway, Holliston, Wrentham, and Bellingham who wish to be set off to other towns. Hdw. 1 p. 9 x 6. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 270.)
137. (PETITION FOR RETURN), 1755. 1 sheet.
Petition to general court by former inhabitants of Bellingham, now annexed to Wrentham, that they be released and permitted to rejoin Bellingham; petition granted. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 8. (Ecclesiastical, 1749-1756, vol. 13, p. 682.)

Establishment of New Precinct

138. (COVENANT OF INHABITANTS), Oct. 2, 1747. 1 sheet.
Agreement of inhabitants desiring to form new precinct that they will form into a society for regular worship, erect a meetinghouse, and petition their respective towns and the general court for the establishment of the new precinct; includes signatures of petitioners. Hdw. 1 p. 10 x 18. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 433.)
139. (PETITION TO GENERAL COURT), Feb. 28, 1747/8. 2 sheets.
Petition of inhabitants of Bellingham, Holliston, Medway and Wrentham to be made a precinct by themselves, so that they might have their own meetinghouse; petition granted. Hdw. 4 pp. 8 x 12. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, pp. 262-265.)
140. (COPIES OF PETITION SENT TO TOWNS BY GENERAL COURT), Mar. 2, 1747/8. 1 sheet.
Order that copies be sent to towns, including Bellingham, whose inhabitants desire to form a new precinct; includes notice of hearing on petition. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 10. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 431.)
141. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE REPRESENTING TOWNS), 1748. 1 sheet.
Recommendation to general court that the petitioners be set off as a separate precinct. Hdw. 2 pp. 10 x 12. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, pp. 284-285.)
142. (COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE REQUEST), June 17, 1748. 1 sheet.
Recommendation by general court committee to general court that a committee be appointed to examine the request of inhabitants of Bellingham and others that they form a new precinct; committee appointed Nov. 4, 1748. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 6. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, pp. 273-273a.)
143. (REPORT OF GENERAL COMMITTEE), Dec. 1748. 1 sheet.
Recommendation that the general court grant the petition of the inhabitants of Medway, Holliston, Bellingham, and Wrentham that they be set up in a separate precinct; accepted by general court. Hdw. 1 p. 14 x 10. (Towns, 1742-1751, vol. 115, p. 270.)
144. (RECOMMENDATION FOR REARRANGEMENT OF NEW PRECINCT), 1748. 1 sheet.
Report of the committee investigating the new precinct, with recommendation that certain lands included be taken out, and one farm that was left out be included. Hdw. 2 pp. 6 x 8. (Ecclesiastical, 1749-1756, vol. 13, pp. 21-22.)
145. (PETITION OF BELLINGHAM INHABITANTS TO BE SEPARATED FROM NEW PRECINCT), Jan. 19, 1755. 1 sheet.
Petition presented to precinct meeting, and voted to be sent to general court, with request that the court investigate the reason for the petition. Hdw. 1 p. 10 x 18. (Towns, 1755-1762, vol. 117, p. 4.)

Annexation to Bellingham

146. (PETITION OF MENDON INHABITANTS TO JOIN BELLINGHAM), May 8, 1742.
1 sheet.

Request to Bellingham selectmen to be allowed to join Bellingham, upon condition that the meetinghouse be moved to a more convenient site. Hdw. 1 p. 9 x 14. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 232.)

147. (PETITION FOR ANNEXATION TO BELLINGHAM), May 26, 1742. 1 sheet.

Petition to Governor William Shirley from committee representing town of Bellingham and certain inhabitants of Mendon, that those inhabitants be annexed to Bellingham for greater convenience in attending the meetinghouse. Hdw. 2 pp. 10 x 18. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, pp. 226-227.)

148. (ORDER BY GENERAL COURT TO PETITIONERS), June 8, 1742. 1 sheet.

Order that copy of petition be given to town of Mendon, and that hearing on petition be held at next session; includes vote Sept. 3, denying petition. Hdw. 1 p. 10 x 18. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 228.)

Illegal Town Meeting

149. (PETITION FOR ANNULMENT OF ILLEGAL TOWN MEETING), 1739. 1 sheet.

Petition by Oliver Hayward and 33 other inhabitants, objecting to meeting at which only three of the five selectmen were present; includes signature of Jonathan Belcher, governor-general of the colony. Hdw. 2 pp. 9 x 14. (Towns, 1730-1742, vol. 114, pp. 408-409.)

150. (DEPOSITION), June 4, 1739. 1 sheet.

Deposition of Robert Smith and others charging irregular proceedings at town meeting of March 7, 1739. Hdw. 1 p. 9 x 16. (Towns, 1730-1742, vol. 114, p. 410.)

151. (ANSWER OF SELECTMEN TO HAYWARD PETITION), June 4, 1739.
1 sheet.

Answer of the selectmen to the general court setting forth reasons for holding meeting and denying its illegality. Hdw. 2 pp. 9 x 14. (Towns, 1730-1742, vol. 114, p. 399.)

Removal of French Neutrals

152. (REPORT OF GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE), Aug. 25, 1756. 2 sheets.

Report to general court, recommending that French inhabitants of Boston be removed to other Massachusetts towns including Bellingham, the selectmen of those towns to assist in finding employment or furnishing relief; recommendation accepted. Hdw. 4 pp. 8 x 6. (French Neutrals, 1755-1758, vol. 23, pp. 189-191.)

153. (ORDER FOR REMOVAL), Oct. 13, 1756. 1 sheet.

Order by general court for removal of French inhabitants from Charlestown and Marblehead to other Massachusetts towns including Bellingham; read and concurred in the council. Hdw. 1 p. 12 x 6. (French Neutrals, 1755-1758, vol. 23, p. 236.)

154. (NAMES OF INHABITANTS TO BE REMOVED), Jan. 27, 28, 1761.
1 sheet.

Names of inhabitants and towns to which they are to be removed including Bellingham; report of expenses incurred by committee. Hdw. 3 pp. 12 x 8, (French Neutrals, 1758-1769, vol. 24, p. 388.)

Religious Freedom

155. (PETITION FROM INHABITANTS), May 31, 1749. 1 sheet.

Petition from inhabitants of five towns, including Bellingham, that laws be enacted guaranteeing religious freedom, or that the existent ecclesiastical laws be repealed. Hdw. 1 p. 10 x 18. (Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749, vol. 12, p. 627.)

156. (PROTEST BY THE PROVINCE COMMITTEE FOR BAPTISTS), May 29, 1754.
1 sheet.

Protest to general court against infringement by other sects upon the religious freedom of Baptists, including those of Bellingham. Hdw. 11 pp. 18 x 12. (Ecclesiastical, 1749-1756, vol. 13, p. 504.)

Care of William Carey and Wife

157. (CORBETT ACCOUNT), June 20, 1769. 1 sheet.

Bill rendered by John Corbett to the town for three weeks' care and medical attendance upon William Carey and his wife. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 6. (Towns, 1763-1774, vol. 118, p. 401.)

158. (HAYWARD ACCOUNT), Aug. 8, 1769. 1 sheet.

Bill rendered by Eleazar Hayward to the town for boarding and nursing William Carey and his wife. Hdw. 1 p. 3½ x 7. (Towns, 1763-1774, vol. 118, p. 401.)

159. (SELECTMEN'S PETITION), Sept. 11, 1769. 1 sheet.

Petition of Joseph Holbrook and other selectmen to the general court, asking that the expenditures incurred in the care of William Carey and his wife be paid by the province. Hdw. 1 p. 10 x 7. (Towns, 1763-1774, vol. 118, p. 401.)

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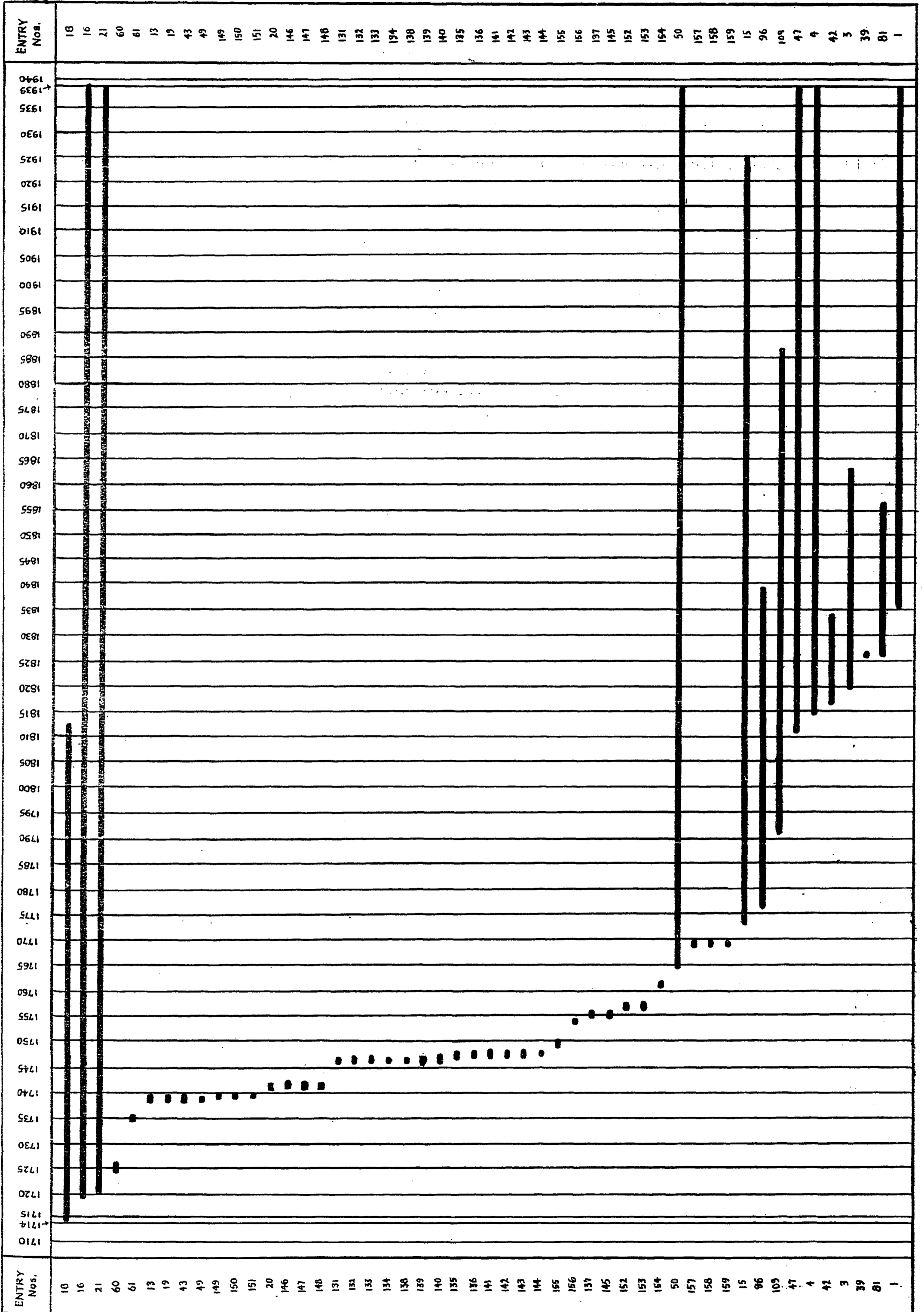
Inventories of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts.

No. 11 Norfolk County (Series)

Vol. I Avon

Vol. II Bellingham

Chronographical Index of Records



CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX

(All numbers refer to entries. A record entry number is listed under each decade which the record covers in full or in part. An entry number is underlined to call attention to the initial appearance of the records, the last listing of the entry number indicates the decade within which the record ends.)

1710-19

16, 18, 21

1720-29

16, 18, 60

1730-39

15, 16, 18, 19, 43, 49, 61, 149-151

1740-49

16, 18, 20, 131-136, 138-144, 146-148, 155

1750-59

16, 18, 137, 145, 152, 153, 156

1760-69

16, 18, 50, 154, 157-159

1770-79

15, 16, 18, 50, 96

1780-89

15, 16, 18, 50, 96

1790-99

15, 16, 18, 50, 96, 109

1800-09

15, 16, 18, 50, 96, 109

1810-19

4, 15, 16, 18, 42, 47, 50, 96, 109

1820-29

3, 4, 15, 16, 39, 42, 47, 50, 81, 96, 109

1830-39

1, 3, 4, 15, 16, 42, 47, 50, 81, 96, 109

1840-49

1, 3, 4, 15, 16, 46, 47, 50, 81, 109

1850-59

1, 3, 4, 15, 16, 22, 58, 46, 47, 50, 80, 81, 82, 109

Chronological Index

1860-69

1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 22, 38, 47, 50, 67, 73, 80, 101, 104, 109

1870-79

1, 2, 4, 12, 15, 16, 22, 38, 47, 50, 67, 68, 80, 101, 104, 109

1880-89

1, 2, 4, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 33, 38, 41, 44, 47, 50, 63,
64, 67, 68, 79, 80, 101, 104, 109, 130

1890-99

1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 15-17, 22, 23, 24, 27, 33, 38, 40, 41, 44,
47, 50, 62, 63, 64, 67, 68, 73, 79, 80, 97, 98, 101, 104, 108,
114, 123, 124, 130

1900-09

1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 22, 23, 27, 28, 33, 34, 41, 44, 47, 50,
51, 62-64, 67, 68, 70, 73, 75-77, 79, 80, 97, 98, 99, 101, 104,
105, 108, 120, 123, 125

1910-19

1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15-17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33,
34, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 50, 51, 62-64, 67, 69, 70, 73, 75-77,
78, 79, 97-99, 101, 102, 104, 108, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125,
126-128

1920-29

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9-12, 14, 15-17, 22, 23, 25-29, 30, 33, 40, 41,
44, 45, 47, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58, 62-64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70,
71, 72, 73, 74, 75-79, 97-99, 101, 102, 104, 108, 110, 115, 116,
120-124, 126-128, 130

1930-39

1, 2, 4-6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30,
31, 32, 33, 35-37, 41, 44, 47, 48, 50-52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59,
62-64, 66, 67, 69-72, 74-79, 83-95, 97-99, 100, 101, 102, 103,
106, 107, 108, 110, 111-113, 115, 116, 117-119, 120, 122-128, 129

SUBJECT AND ENTRY INDEX

(Underlined numerals refer to pages, others to entry numbers)

Abatement

see also Assessment
applications for, 53, 59
motor vehicle excise
 certificates, 56
 record of, 55
poll, 51
property, real and personal
 certificates, 52, 56
 records of, 50, 51
 recommendations for, 45
Abbreviations and explanatory notes, 19
Accountant, 13, 14, 36
 annual report of, 74
 departmental receipts and expenditures
 classification of, 76
 estimate of, 75
 summary of, 77
 vouchers for, 78

Agent

for the burial of indigent soldiers
 and sailors, 51
for care of indigent soldiers' and
 sailors' graves, 51
liquor, 50
workmen's compensation, 52

Aid, see Welfare

Albee, James, 3

Almshouse

farm stock and produce
 inventory, 101-i-b
 receipts from sale of, 101-i-b
recipients, support of, 101-i-a
report of, 101-i-c

Anabaptists, 4

Animals

see also Cattle; Cows; Dogs; Hogs;
 Horses; Swine
inspector of, 13, 49
 annual report of, 127

Annexation, 6

see also Precinct; Separation
 committee, 132, 133, 147
 petitions for and opposing, 131-137,
 146-148

Annual reports, town officers and committees, 2

 accountant, 74
 assessors, 44
 auditor, 73
 board of public welfare, 101-ii

Annual reports, town officers and committees (cont.)

 building committee, 2-i
 cemetery committee, 130
 chief of police, 115
 collector of taxes, 62
 community building committee, 2-ii
 constable, 114
 dog officer, 129
 electric light committee, 2-iii
 finance committee, 72
 fire committee, 2-iv
 forest fire warden, 124
 inspector of animals, 127
 inspector of milk, 126
 inspector of slaughtering, 128
 overseers of the poor, 101-i
 public library trustees, 98
 registrar of voters, 40
 road commissioners, 123-i
 school committee, 7, 8, 79-82
 sealer of weights and measures, 120
 selectmen, 2-viii
 superintendent of streets, 123-ii
 town clerk, 17
 treasurer, 67
 tree warden, 125
Appointment, of town officers, 1, 13, 14,
 16, 21
Appropriations, 14
 see also Financial
 amounts for
 buildings, 2-i
 cemetery, 130
 highway, 2-viii, 123-i-a
 public library, 97, 99
 publication, history of the town,
 2-vi
 road, 123-i-a-b
 school, 81, 82
 town expenses, 18
 welfare, 106
 departmental, 2-viii, 69, 74
 votes on, 1
Area, 4, 9
Army
 see also Soldiers
 provision for, 6
Assessment
 see also Abatement
 motor vehicle excise, 54

Subject and Entry Index

Assessment (cont.)

property, real and personal, table
10, 50-52
tax, 5, 31

Assessors

board of, 13, 14, 21, 30, 31, 36
annual report of, 44
bank returns to, 46
correspondence, 59
departmental budget, 45
minutes of meetings, 45
proprietors' instructions to, 18

Assets

see also Financial
treasurer's report of, 67

Auditor, 13, 36

annual report of, 73
state, report of, 2-ix

B

Bank

see also Checks
receipts from interest on
deposits, 68
returns to assessors, 46

Baptist Church, 7Baptists, 4, 6, 7

protest against religious infringe-
ments, 156

Barns, inspection of, 127

Bartlett, Jacob, 3

Belcher, Jonathan, 149

Bellingham Branch Railroad Company, 8Bellingham Center School, 17, 18Bellingham Public Library, 7, 17, 18

appropriations, 97-99
expenditures, 98, 99
receipts from fines, 99, 100
trustees
board of, 13, 40
annual report of, 98
minutes of meetings, 97

Bellingham, Richard, 3

Bellingham Woolen and Cotton

Manufactory, 6, 7

Beverage, license, 8

Birth

certificates, 23-i, 23-iii, 23-iv
physician's report of, 23-ii, 24

Birth (cont.)

records, 21-i, 22-i
report of, 23-iv
laws governing, 23-iii, iv

Blackstone, 9

Board

see Assessors; Health; Library trustees;
Public Welfare; Selectmen

Bonds

see also Financial
payments on, 68
receipts from sale of, 68
town officers' Fidelity, 34

Boots and shoes, 6Boston, 4, 9, 152Boundaries, 9

see also Annexation; Precinct;
Separation
settlement of, 5, 6
perambulations of, 18

Bounty to soldiers, 6Brushes, 6

Building

appropriations and specifications, 2-i
committee

annual report of, 2-i

community building, 7

annual report of, 2-ii

number of dwelling houses, table 10

Burial permits, 29

C

Candidates, for town offices, 35

Carey, William and wife

medical care of
bills rendered for, 157, 158
petition for settlement of, 159

Carriages, 6Caryville, 4

request for new school building, 79
mill, 6

Cattle

inspection of, 127

number of, table 10

Cemetery

appropriations and expenditures, 130
committee, 13, 51
annual report of, 130
superintendent
burial permits returned by, 29

Subject and Entry Index

Census, 5
 Charlestown, 153
 Chart, town government, 15
 Charter, 4
 Checks
 see also Financial
 cancelled, 70-i
 stubs, 70-ii
 Children, aid to dependent, 111, 113
 Church, 4, 7
 history, 3-5
 Church of England, 4
 Commissioners, road, 13, 46, 123-i
 Committee, 6, 18
 see also School
 annexation, 132, 133, 147
 building, 2-i
 cemetery building, 2-ii
 electric light, 2-iii
 finance, 14, 36, 72
 fire, 2-iv
 Memorial Day, 14, 52
 Community building, see Building
 Congregational Church, 4
 Congregationalists, 6, 7
 Constable, 44
 annual report of, 114
 returns of town meeting
 warrants, 12, 13
 warnings to depart town, 38
 Continental Congress, 6
 Contracts
 highway construction, 5
 of school committee, 89, 94
 Controversy, boundary lines, 5, 9
 Corbett, William 157
 Corporations
 Bellingham Woolen and Cotton
 Manufactory, 6
 Hartford and Dedham Turnpike, 8
 town, 4
 Winsoket Turnpike, 8
 Correspondence
 board of assessors, 59
 board of selectmen, 14
 chief of police, 117-ii
 school superintendent, 94, 95
 Cotton goods, 6
 see also Mills
 Cows, number of, table 10
 Crematory, see Cemetery
 Cumberland, R.I., 8

D

Dairies, inspection of, 127
 Darling, Samuel, 135
 Death
 certificates, 28
 records of, 21-ii, 22-ii
 Debt, 73, 74
 Dedham, 3, 4, 8
 Deeds, early, 3
 Diseases
 see also Health
 contagious, rules for reporting,
 2-v
 dangerous, records of, 11
 Dog
 license, 32
 officer, 13, 50
 annual report of, 129

E

Education
 see also School
 state department of, reports,
 83, 94
 Election
 see also Voters
 of officers, 13, 13, 21
 returns, 16
 tabulations, 17
 Electric
 light committee
 annual report of, 2-iii
 light and power, 9
 Elm beetle
 see also Gypsy moth
 eradication of, 2-viii
 Expenditures
 see also Financial
 amounts for
 almshouse recipients, 101-i-a
 care of William Carey and wife,
 159
 cemetery, 130
 mother's aid, 110
 overseers of the poor, 109
 public library, 98, 99
 road, 123-i-b
 school, 80, 92
 welfare, 107, 108
 authorization of, 1
 bonds, for interest and principal,
 68

Subject and Entry Index

Expenditures (cont.)

- departmental, 2-viii, 3, 68
- estimate of, 75
- classification of, 76
- summary of, 77
- vouchers, 78
- treasurer's report of, 67, 68
- trust funds, 68

F

Farming, 6Federal tax, see TaxFence viewer, 13, 48Field driver, 13, 48

Financial

- see also Appropriations; Assets;
- Bonds; Checks; Expenditures; Funds;
- Liabilities; Pay roll; Receipts;
- Tax; Vouchers

Finance committee, 14, 36

annual report of, 72

Fire

committee, special report of,
2-iv

department

- call firemen, 45
- chief of, 14, 21, 45
- recommendations for improvement
of, 2-iv

records, 119

volunteers, 45

forest, 124

Fish and game

see also Hunting; Sporting

licenses, 31

receipts from, 30

Food

see also Healthhandling of, rules for report-
ing, 2-vForest fire warden, 13, 47

annual report of, 124

Franklin, 6, 9

French neutrals, removal of, 152-154

Funds

see also Financial

teachers' retirement, 93

trust, 68

G

Game, see Fish and gameGas pipes, 9General court, 3, 5, 21, 61, 133,
134, 136, 141-143, 148, 151, 156
petitions to, 131, 135, 137-140,
145, 159Glue, 6Governmental organization, 13, 14

Grantees, list of, 61

Grants

see also Permits

state and county receipts, 68

Great Britain, 6

Gypsy moth

see also Elm beetle

eradication of, 2-viii

H

Hartford and Dedham Turnpike

Corporation, 8

Hayward, Eleazar, 158

Hayward, Oliver, 149

Health

see also Diseases; Sanitation;

Food

board of, 21, 49

regulations, 2-v

High School, 7, 8

Highway

see also Road: Streets

appropriations, 2-viii, 123-i-a

construction, 123-i-a

contract, 5

extension, 123-i-a

repair, 123-i-a

History

historical sketch, 3-9

publication of town history, 2-vi

Hogs, 13

Holbrook, Joseph, 159

Holliston, 5separation from Bellingham, 135,
136, 139-144Hopedale, 7, 9Horses, number of, table 10Houses, see Building

Subject and Entry Index

Hunting

see also Fish and game; Sporting licenses, 31

I

Independents, 4

Indians, Wampanoag, 3

Industries, see Manufacturing; Mills

Inspector

of animals, 13, 49, 127

of milk, 14, 49, 126

of slaughtering, 13, 50, 128

J

Jurors

list of, 15-ii

selection of, 1

Jury

residents liable for duty on, 16

list, 2-vii

K

King Philip, 3

L

Land

acres of taxed, table 10

early deeds of, 3

ownership of, 3

proprietors of, 3

Liabilities

see also Financial

treasurer's report of, 67

Library, see Bellingham Public Library

License

see also Giants; Permits; Tax

dog, 32

fishing, 30, 31

hunting, 31

issue of, 1

malt beverages, 8

receipts from, 68

sporting, 31

victualers', 7

wine, 8

Liquor

agent, 50

license, wine and malt beverages, 8

violations, 118-i

Looms, 6

Lumber, 6

surveyor of, 13, 48

M

Malt beverages, license, 8

Manufacturing, 6, 7

Map, town, 11, 39, 60

Marblehead, 153

Marshfield, 8

Marriage

certificates, 27

intentions

certificates of, 25

record of, 26

records of, 21-iii, 22-iii

Massachusetts Bay, Province of

Governor and Company, 3

Measures, see Weights and measures

Medway, 4, 5, 6, 9

separation from Bellingham, 131-145

Meetinghouse, 5, 7, 20, 138, 139,

146, 147

Memorial Day committee, 14, 52

Mendon, 3-9

perambulation of boundary, 18

separation from Bellingham, 131-

annexation to Bellingham, 146-148

Milford, 9

Milford, Attleborough and Woonsocket

Street Railway Company, 8

Military list, men eligible for duty,

16, 37

Milk

inspector of, 14, 49

annual report of, 126

Mills

Bellingham Woolen and Cotton

Manufactory, 6, 7

Caryville, 6

cotton, 6

fulling, 6

grist, 6

North Bellingham, 6

Taft Woolen Company, 7

textile, 6

Mills, Rev. Jonathan, 4

Minister

settled, 3, 4

support of, 5

Minutes of meetings

assessors', 45

Subject and Entry Index

Minutes of meetings (cont.)

- proprietors', 18
- public library trustees', 97
- selectmen's, 1
- town, 16, 17, 19

Moderator, 13, 49

Mortgages, personal property, 33

Moth

- see also Gypsy moth
- superintendent, 13, 48

Mothers' aid, 110

Motor Vehicle

- accidents, 117-iii, 118-ii
- excise tax
 - abatements, 55, 56
 - assessments, 54
 - receipts, 66
- violations, 118-i

N

Narragansett townships, grantees, 61

No Man's Land, 3Norfolk and Bristol Turnpike, 8Norfolk county, 4, 9Norfolk County Railroad Company, 8North Bellingham, 4, 7mill, 6Nurse, 49

O

Officers, see Town

Old age assistance

- applications for, 113
- bureau of, 14, 41
- case histories, 112

Overseers of the poor, 13, 14, 21, 41see also Almshouse; Welfare, board of public

- annual report of, 101
- expenditures, 109
- receipts, 101-i-b, 109

P

Pauper

- see also Vagrants
- aid to, 104

Pay roll

- see also Financial
- school, 90, 94

Permits

see also Grants

- burial, 29
- issue of, 1
- for pole erection, 10
- receipts from, 68

Petition

see also Protest

- for annexation to Bellingham, 146-148
- for and opposing annexation to other towns, 131-137
- for annulment of illegal town meeting, 5, 149, 151
- for boundary settlement, 3, 5
- for establishment of new precinct, 138-144
- for new school buildings, 96
- for pole locations and plans, 9-ii
- for religious freedom, 155
- for roads, 4
- for separation from new precinct, 145
- for settlement of Wm. Carey's expenses, 159

Philadelphia, 6Plymouth county, 4

Pole

- locations
 - plans of, 9-iii
 - petitions for, 9-ii
- erection
 - orders, 9-i
 - permits, 10

Police

- chief of, 14, 21, 44
 - annual report of, 115
- complaints to, 117-i
- correspondence of, 117-ii
- deputy chief, 21, 44
- officers, 21, 44
 - daily reports of, 116
 - report of motor vehicle accidents 117-iii
- records
 - liquor violations, 118-i
 - motor vehicle accidents, 118-ii
 - motor vehicle violations, 118-i

Poll

- see also Election; Voters
- abatement, 51
- aggregates of polls, table 10
- tax list, 15-iii, 44, 47-49, 64, 65

Population, 5, 7, 9
 Precinct, 6
 see also Annexation; Separation
 petitions for establishment of new,
 138-144
 petition to be separated from 145
 Property
 aggregates of, table 10
 mortgages, personal, 33
 persons assessed on, table 10
 tax, see Tax
 valuation of, see Valuation
 Proprietors
 instructions to assessors, 18
 of land, 3
 minutes of meetings, 18
 Protest
 see also Petition
 against infringement of Baptist
 freedom, 156
 Providence, R.I., 3, 9
 Providence plantations, 4
 Province committee
 enter protest for Baptists, 156
 Provincial Congress, 6
 Public library, see Bellingham Public
 Library
 Public weigher, 13, 48
 Pupils, see School

Q

Quakers, 4

R

Railroads, 8
 Railway, see Street railway
 Rawson's Farm, 4
 Real estate, see Property
 Receipts
 see also Financial
 almshouse produce, 101-i-b
 board of public welfare, 106
 departmental, 74
 estimates of, 75
 classifications of, 76
 summary of, 77
 library fines, 99, 100
 licenses and permits, 68
 motor vehicles excise, 66
 overseers of the poor, 109

Receipts (cont.)
 revenue, 68
 sale of bonds, 68
 school, 80
 state and county grants, 68
 tax, real and personal, 63
 Records
 cross reference system, 21
 dimensions of, 20
 housing, care, and accessibility,
 17, 18
 location of, 20
 system, 14
 titles of, 19
 Registrar of voters, 13, 14, 21
30, 31, 35, 40
 Relief, 21
 aid to work relief, 103
 for French Neutrals, 152
 Religion
 petition for religious freedom,
 155
 protest against infringement of
 Baptist freedom, 156
 Residents
 female, 58
 list of, 57
 Revenue, departmental receipts
 of, 68
 Revolutionary war period, 6
 Rhode Island, 3, 5, 9, 23, 60
 Road
 see also Highway Streets
 appropriations, 123-i-a-b
 commissioners, 13, 46
 annual report of, 123-i
 construction, 2-viii, 8
 expenditures, 123-i-b
 petitions for, 4
 surveyors of, 46
 Roman Catholic Church, 7

S

Sailors
 agent
 for burial of indigent, 13
 for care of graves of, 13
 Sanitation
 see also Health
 rules for reporting, 2-v

Subject and Entry Index

School

see also High School; Education
 appropriations recommended, 81, 82
 bills, 91, 92, 94
 buildings
 petition for new, 96
 request for new building at
 Caryville, 79
 committee, 5, 7, 8, 13, 35, 37, 82
 annual report of, 7, 8, 79-82
 contracts, 89, 94
 records, 18
 contributions for expenses, 96
 correspondence, 95
 cost of, 7
 curricula, 80, 81, 83
 districts, 7
 summary of activities, 80
 early history of, 5, 7
 educational policies, 80-82
 financial statement, 79
 housing improvements, 80
 pay roll, 90, 94
 pupils, 7, 8
 attendance record, table 8,
 79, 80, 84, 86, 94, 96
 employment work certificates, 88, 94
 honor students, 79
 intelligence test papers, 85
 scholarship records, 79, 84
 transportation of, 87, 94
 receipts and expenditures, 80, 92
 records, 18
 superintendent, 7
 correspondence of, 94, 95
 report of, 79
 teachers
 appointments, 81, 96
 list of, 80, 82
 retirement fund record, 93, 94
 salaries, 35, 80, 96

Selectmen

board of, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15-ii
17, 21, 22, 25, 30, 31, 34, 36, 40, 40,
41, 43, 44, 44-52, 62, 67, 72-74, 78, 79, 81
82, 98, 101, 114, 115, 120, 123-130, 149,
151, 152, 159
 annual report of, 2-viii
 chairman of, 22
 clerk of, 13, 21
 correspondence, 14
 expenditures
 authorization of, 1, 78
 departmental, 3, 69
 summary of, 3
 minutes of meetings, 1
 orders on treasurer, 69

Separation

see also Annexation; Precinct
 petitions to be set off from
 Bellingham, 131-137
 Settlement of Bellingham, 3, 4
 Sewage systems, 9
 Sextons, 13, 51
 Shirley, Governor William, 147
 Shoes, 6
 Slaughtering
 inspector of, 13, 50
 annual report of, 128
 state law covering, 128
 Smith, Robert, 150
 Soldiers
 see also Army
 agent
 for burial of indigent, 13
 for care of graves of, 13
 bounty to, 6
 relief officer, 14
 Sporting
 see also Fish and game; Hunting
 licenses, 31
 State Library Act, 7
 Straw, 6
 Streets
 see also Highway; Road
 lay-outs
 approved, 15-i
 blue prints of, 6
 lighting system, improvement of,
 2-iii
 superintendent of, 13, 46
 annual report of, 123-ii
 Street railway, 8
 Suffolk county, 4
 Superintendent
 see also School
 of streets, 13, 46, 123-ii
 moth, 13, 48
 Swine
 officer, 13
 number of, table 10

T

Tables

aggregates of polls, property and
 taxes as assessed, 10
 data from annual reports of school
 committee, 8
 housing, and condition of depart-
 mental records, 17, 18
 Taft Woolen Company, 7

Tax

see also Abatement; Assessment;
License; Poll

aggregates of taxes, table 10
changes, 45

collector of, 13, 21, 34
annual report of, 62

federal, 21

paid by other towns, 136

rate, table 10

receipts, 63, 66, 68

state, county and town, table 10

titles, 71

Teachers, see School

Telephones, 9

Textiles, see Mills

Tithingmen, 13, 52

Town

see also Annexation; Precinct;
Separation

clerk, 13, 14, 25, 30, 36

annual report of, 17

counsel, 43

description of, 6

hall, 7, 17, 22, 25

janitor of, 13, 52

incorporated, 4

indebtedness, 73, 74

meetings, 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 25, 35,

37, 40, 41, 44-46, 48, 49, 52, 149-151

minutes of, 16, 17, 19

petition for annulment of illegal,

5, 149-151

warrants for, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 44

name, origin of, 3

office, candidates for, 35

officers

annual report of, 2

appointments, 1, 13, 14, 16, 21

bonds of, 34

elections, 13, 13, 19

reports of, 2-ix

resignations, 36

records, 14, 16, 17

situation of, 9

Transportation, 8

see also Railroads; Street railway;

Turnpikes

of pupils, 87

Treasurer, 3, 13, 35

annual report of, 67

authorization to, 78

departmental receipts and expend-
itures, 3, 67, 68

orders on, 69

Tree warden, 13, 47

annual report of, 125

Turnpikes, 8

U

United Colonies, 6

Universalists, 7

V

Valuation

farm stock and produce, 101-i-b

property, real and personal,

table 10, 31, 44, 47-50, 63

rate of tax, table 10

Vagrants

see also Pauper

aid to, 104

lodging of, 114

Victualers' license, 7

Vital Statistics, 17

see also Birth; Death; Marriage

Voters

see also Election; Poll

list of, 13, 21, 30, 31, 42, 43

register of, 41

registrar of, 13, 14, 21, 30, 31, 35

annual report of, 40

Vouchers

see also Financial

accountant's, 78

W

Wampanoag Indians, 3

Wardens, see Forest fire; Tree

Warnings to depart town, 38, 44

Warrants, town meetings, 12, 13,

16, 17, 19, 44

Water

lack of, 6

supply of, 9

Weighers, public, 13, 48

Weights and measures

sealer of, 13, 21, 46

annual report of, 120

certificates of inspection, 122

record of inspections, 121

Welfare

see also Overseers of the poor

aid, 41

to aged, see Old age assistance
case histories, 102

to dependent children, 41

applications for, 111, 113

Subject and Entry Index

Welfare

aid (cont.)

to mothers, 110

to paupers, 104

to vagrants, 105

to work relief, 103

board of public, 14, 41

annual report of, 101-ii

departmental expenditures, 108

expenditures, 107

orders on treasurer, 108

receipts, 106

Welles, Samuel, 132, 133

Westham, 3

Wilder, Joseph, 132

Wine, license, 8

Winochet Turnpike Corporation, 8Wood surveyor of, 13, 48

Wool

see also Millswoolen goods, 6Woonsocket, R.I., 8, 9Woonsocket Electric Machine and Power
Company of Rhode Island, 9Woonsocket Union Railroad Company, 8Workmen's compensation agent, 14,52Wrentham, 3, 5, 9

perambulation of boundary, 18

separation from Bellingham, 131-145

Wrentham and Foxborough Railroad, 8