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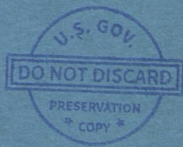


**INVENTORY  
OF  
TOWN AND CITY ARCHIVES  
OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**No. 6 Franklin County  
Vol. II • BERNARDSTON**

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THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE PROJECTS  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION**



**THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
1941**

INVENTORY OF CITY AND TOWN ARCHIVES  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

No. 6 Franklin County

Vol. II Bernardston

Prepared by  
The Historical Records Survey  
Division of Community Service Programs  
Work Projects Administration

\* \* \* \* \*

The Historical Records Survey  
Boston, Massachusetts  
1941

The Historical Records Survey Program

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SPONSOR OF THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY PROJECT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Frederic W. Cook,	Secretary of the Commonwealth
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## PREFACE

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey was established in January, 1936, under the national direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans, as a federally sponsored project of the Work Projects Administration. Since August 31, 1939, the sponsorship of the Massachusetts unit of the survey has been undertaken by Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Since March, 1940 the individual state projects of the Historical Records Survey have been under the national direction of Sargent B. Child, who, as field representative of Dr. Evans, had had technical supervision of the work of the survey in New England from its inception. The present writer has been in direct charge of the project in Massachusetts from August 1936 to September 1940 when he was succeeded by Aron S. Gilmartin.

The purpose of the project is to survey, preserve and render accessible historical source materials of all kinds. Its work has fallen naturally into the following main divisions: public records, private manuscripts, church records, early American imprints, historical portraits and newspapers. Practically all historical material falls under one or another of these divisions. In bringing this material under control certain techniques have been found practicable, depending on the nature of the subject matter, and using variously the methods of the inventory, the guide, the calendar, the check list or the index in the publication of the result. For public records, church records and portraits, the method of the inventory has worked best; for historical manuscripts, the guide or, in rare cases where the material was of unusual importance, the calendar; for imprints, the check list; for newspaper and court records, the index; and so on.

The actual work of gathering information concerning historical materials at their place of storage or custody has in most cases been preceded by a most necessary and, for both the custodian and posterity, important task, that of putting records in order; of cleaning, dusting, re-filing, and treating them; and, in short, doing everything possible to ensure their preservation. This function of the project, often performed by its workers under almost indescribable conditions of dust, filth, dampness, poor ventilation, and even vermin may well be regarded by future generations as a most important contribution of the survey.

Scarcely less important, however, are the editorial processes to which all field information must be subjected before publication. Here gaps and inadequacies are spotted, inconsistencies reconciled, and order brought out of chaos. In the field of public records it has been found necessary not only to sketch briefly the history of the county or town and its government but also to preface the inventory of each subordinate office or institution with an outline of its development, based upon its own records or upon statutory or other sources. In the inventories of

## Preface

church records, similarly, the preparation of the history of each church constitutes a task equally arduous with that of locating and listing its records. In Massachusetts two broader works have also been undertaken. The general historical background, statutory origin and functioning of county, city, or town offices have been studied with a view to providing satisfactory accounts of the development of county and municipal government generally. These latter undertakings are now happily nearing completion.

The inventory of the town archives of Bernardston is the second in the series of such inventories covering the towns of Franklin County. A full list of publications of the survey to date appears after the index at the end of this book.

The Survey is indebted to the town officials of Bernardston for their cooperation and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Frederic W. Cook, without whose sponsorship this project would not be possible.

Aron S. Gilmartin  
State Supervisor of Historical  
Records Survey

## FOREWORD

The Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the Archives of Bernardston in Franklin County, is volume II of number 6 of the Massachusetts series.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by town officials, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalogue for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey attempt to do more than give merely a list of records--they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and city inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey, even in a single town, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey directed by Luther H. Evans from its inception in January 1936 to March 1, 1940 when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child formerly National Field Supervisor. It operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

Howard O. Hunter  
Acting Commissioner of Work  
Projects Administration

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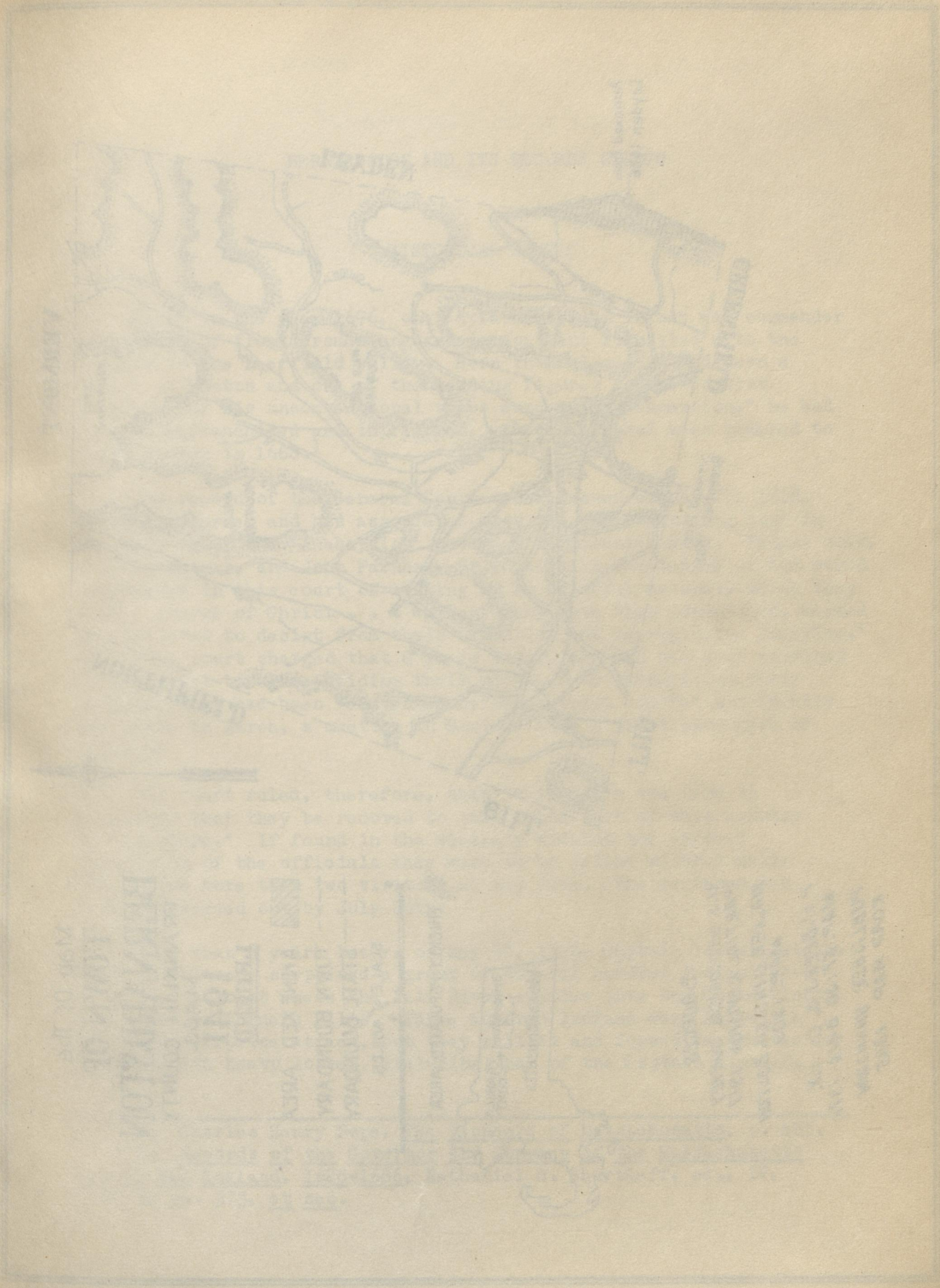
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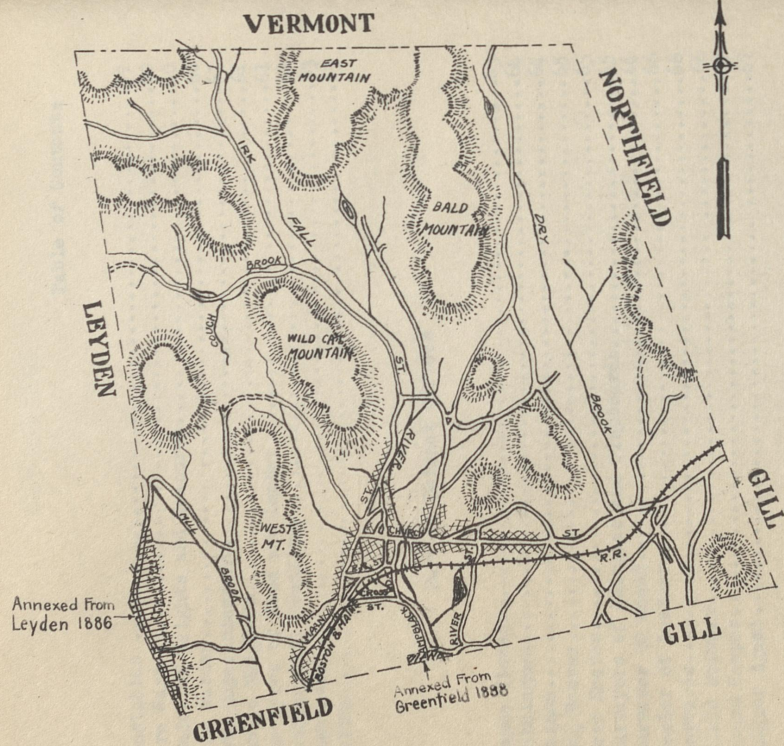
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

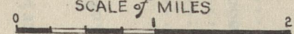



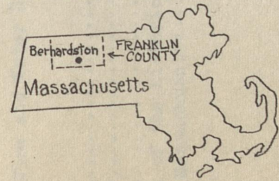


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 WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 20540



Map Of The  
**TOWN OF**  
**BERNARDSTON**  
 FRANKLIN COUNTY  
 MASS.  
**1941**  
**LEGEND**

-  ANNEXED AREA
-  TOWN BOUNDARY
-  STATE BOUNDARY
- SCALE OF MILES
- 
-  THICKLY POPULATED AREA



**SOURCES**  
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 PARTIAL REVISION 1917  
 WALKER LITHO. CO. BOSTON  
 MAP. 1909  
 P.W. BEERS & CO. N.Y.  
 MAP. 5F:83. B41A 1971  
 PUBLISHER UNKNOWN  
 ROAD MAP 1885

Annexed From  
 Leyden 1886

Annexed From  
 Greenfield 1888

## BERNARDSTON AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

Early in the year 1676, one Captain William Turner was commander of a troop of frontiersmen engaged in constant struggles with the Indians in the Deerfield valley. Born in England, he had been a tailor in Boston and one of the leading figures in the Baptist church. For his unconventional views concerning "immersion," he had been disenfranchised and imprisoned, and finally had been ordered to leave Boston in 1668.<sup>1</sup>

The record of the General Court order issued on May 27, 1668, banishing Turner and his associates provides an interesting page in the history of the "Anabaptist" movement in Massachusetts. Thomas Gold, William Turner, and John Farnham, Sr., had been complained of and stood "convicted in this court of setting up an unlawful assembly which they call a church of Christ . . . whereof they have been admonished, warned and required to desist from their offensive and presumptuous practice." More, the court charged that 2 years before the men had been enjoined by the court to cease holding their meetings or propagating their beliefs; they had been "convented before several courts" and finally had held, in March, a meeting in Boston "with a great concourse of people."

The court ruled, therefore, that "this court doe find it necessary that they be removed to some other part of this country or elsewhere." If found in the vicinity without the express permission of the officials they were to be jailed without bail, and denied more than two visitors<sup>2</sup> at any time. The sentence was ordered carried out by July 20th.

More than 8 years later, on May 18, 1676, Captain Turner, at the head of 141 men, surprised a group of several hundred Indians encamped at a point where the Fall River empties into the Connecticut, now known as Turners Falls. Three hundred Indians were killed in the first surprise attack, but they rallied and forced the whites to retreat with heavy losses, including that of the Captain himself.

---

1. Charles Henry Pope, The Pioneers of Massachusetts, p. 465.

2. Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628-1686, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., IV, part 2, pp. 373, et seq.

The skirmish became famous as the "Falls Fight."<sup>1</sup>

Fifty-eight years later, in 1734, a petition was addressed to the General Court by Samuel Hune and other surviving officers and soldiers who had "belonged to the Company of Capt. Turner and the Representatives of them that are dead . . . praying that this Court would grant them a tract of land above Deerfield, suitable to make a township."<sup>2</sup>

On November 28, 1734, the General Court granted to the officers and soldiers who had participated in the Falls Fight, and to their descendants, a tract of unappropriated land 6 miles square, "to the northward of the Town of Deerfield," but only upon condition that the grantees settle 60 families within the township in 4 years, each with a house 18 feet square "and four acres of land brought to English grass or broken up by plowing, and also build a convenient meeting house and settle a learned orthodox minister among them. . . ." A seventieth part of the land was to be laid out for the minister, another seventieth for the ministry, and 100 acres of land was to be set aside for the support of a school. In addition the General Court named a committee to examine all claims lodged for grants, and to accept as grantees only those who had participated in the fight or one descendant, preferably the oldest male.<sup>3</sup> The report of this committee was submitted in June, 1735, and its list of those entitled to share in the township was accepted by the General Court on January 21, 1736. The date is commemorated on the seal of the town of Bernardston.<sup>4</sup>

On December 24, 1735, Thomas Wells, who had been the bearer of the original petition to the General Court, was directed to notify the grantees to appear in some town in the county of Hampshire in order to choose a moderator and clerk, and to agree upon effective methods of laying out and meeting the conditions of the grant.<sup>5</sup>

At this meeting, held at Northampton on January 27, 1736, the proprietors elected a moderator and a clerk. There was also elected a committee of three to decide where the town should lie, to have it surveyed by a surveyor and chain men, and to have a plat prepared, which, upon being accepted by the moderator, was to be sent to the General Court for confirmation.<sup>6</sup>

---

1. J. G. Holland, *History of Western Massachusetts*, II, 317.

2. Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, 1692-1780, XII, ch. 111, pp. 55-56, hereafter cited as Province Acts or Province Resolves. Also quoted in *Proprietor's Records*, first vol., 1735-1819, pp. 3a, 3b, see entry 8.

3. *Proprietor's Records*, first vol., 1735-1819, pp. 3a, 3b, see entry 8.

4. *Massachusetts Archives*, CXIV, 605-608.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 197; Province Resolves, XII, ch. 167, p. 197.

6. *Proprietor's Records*, first vol., 1735-1819, pp. 6, 7, see entry 8.

On the first Wednesday in May the proprietors again met at Northampton and drew lots for the first division of the land.<sup>1</sup> By October 6, 1736, when the proprietors met again, the township had been surveyed, and they were now in a position to vote that only a part of the entire territory should be allotted to the grantees; that each proprietor should have not less than 50 acres for a home lot; and that intervale or meadow land should be additional and divided later.<sup>2</sup>

On March 30, 1737, the proprietors elected a treasurer as an additional officer and accepted the report of a subcommittee recommending that the tract be divided into 100 lots, of which 3 had already been "Pitched upon" for the minister, the ministry, and the school respectively.<sup>3</sup> Proprietors who had not yet drawn their lots were given an additional opportunity to do so.<sup>4</sup> A few months later, on May 4, the proprietors elected a committee to discover "which of ye Proprietors will be Settled, to ye number of Sixty," and voted that these 60 settlers should furnish the treasurer with a bond of 100 pounds to insure their living up to the requirements of the General Court. Each of the 37 proprietors who was not expected to settle immediately was assessed 18 pounds for building the meeting house and settling a minister.<sup>5</sup> In the same year, 1737, the proprietors directed that a saw mill should be built.<sup>6</sup> It was completed by 1740, for in that year the proprietors were able to elect a committee of three to build a bridge - the first in the plantation - "over Fall River from ye Saw Mill."<sup>7</sup>

The proprietors, however, had been over-sanguine. On February 1, 1738, it was reported that 60 settlers could not be found. Consequently, the sum assessed upon the non-resident proprietors was raised to 22 pounds.<sup>8</sup> On October 18, 1738, lots were drawn for the meadow land.<sup>9</sup> Fifty-five persons were found finally who promised to settle in the township and who paid their bonds; the first four families, those of John Burk, Deacon Elisha Sheldon, Lieutenant Ebenezer Sheldon, and Samuel Connable, were settled in the fall of 1738. They built fortified homes of heavy logs called "Deacon Sheldon's Fort," "Burk Fort," etc.<sup>10</sup> On June 13, 1739, at a

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1. Ibid., p. 13.
  2. Ibid., p. 9.
  3. Ibid., p. 16.
  4. Ibid.,
  5. Ibid., p. 20.
  6. Ibid., pp. 19, 22.
  7. Ibid., p. 47.
  8. Ibid., p. 27.
  9. Ibid., p. 34.
  10. Lucy C. Kellogg, A History of the Town of Bernardston, p. 27.

proprietors' meeting held in Deerfield, a committee was elected to "Prepaire Materials and Necessaryes for the Building the Meetinghouse," which should be "50 feet in length and 40 feet in bredth, and 23 feet between Joynts."<sup>1</sup> On October 17, 1740, a committee was elected to provide preaching,<sup>2</sup> and on September 23, 1741, the selection of Rev. John Norton was approved.<sup>3</sup> He was granted for his settlement the minister's lots, the use of the ministry land, and 200 pounds, half in cash and half in work or building materials. His salary for the first 5 years was to be 135 pounds a year, then to be increased 5 pounds each year until it reached 170 pounds annually; "The Bills to be Eaquil to Silver at twenty-nine Shillings per ounce . . . and his fire wood brought to his dore."<sup>4</sup>

In 1741 Thomas Wells, agent for the proprietors, represented to the General Court that, by a former grant, 500 acres of the best land had been taken out, that the grant of 6 miles square was not as valuable as other grants, that the number of grantees was more than expected, and that a great part of the land was rough and barren. He therefore petitioned the General Court for an additional grant of a gore of adjacent land. On August 5, 1741, the court accepted the plat of the 1736 grant, and gave to the descendants of two persons who had participated in the Falls Fight, and who had as yet received no allotment, 264 acres of land in the gore mentioned in the petition. It presented the rest of the gore to the proprietors provided that it should not exceed 4,480 acres in area.<sup>5</sup>

Work on the meeting house was started immediately, and was well-nigh completed by June 1743.<sup>6</sup> In the same year a committee was elected by the proprietors to audit the treasurer's accounts, and in the following year, 1744, they elected five surveyors of highways.<sup>7</sup> On March 25, 1745, Mr. Norton was dismissed.<sup>8</sup> But the 17 families settled in "Fall Town" by the close of 1743<sup>9</sup> were now beset by a greater problem, namely, the impending rupture between Great Britain and France. In November 1743 the General Court<sup>10</sup> granted the township 100 pounds to strengthen its fortifications. The "forts" already in existence apparently proved adequate, for no additional fortifications were constructed.<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, during the course of King George's War (1744-1748), all but two families left the township.<sup>12</sup>

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1. Proprietor's Records, first vol., 1735-1819, pp. 43, 44, see entry 8.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 48.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 52.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 53.

5. Massachusetts Archives, CXIV, 594-596.

6. Proprietor's Records, first vol., 1735-1819, p. 69, see entry 8.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 73.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 75.

9. Kellog, *op. cit.*, p. 26.

10. *Province Resolves*, XIII, ch. 184, pp. 311, 312.

11. Proprietor's Records, first vol., 1735-1819, *passim*, see entry 8.

12. Kellogg, *op. cit.*, p. 36.

As a result, the township fell into grave difficulties. A proprietors' clerk was elected who refused to serve; on January 14, 1752, the General Court, informed of the matter, empowered Ebenezer Sheldon to call future meetings, and appointed a committee to discover which of the proprietors had not fulfilled the conditions of their grant.<sup>1</sup> This committee visited the place, and, on May 8, 1752, reported back to the General Court that many proprietors had abandoned the township during the war, that some of the lands were grown over with brush, that some of the buildings had been burnt, and that even those proprietors who carried out their tasks had not done so within the allotted 4 years. They added that the minister had left during the war, and that there were only 15 grantees who were still residing in the township.<sup>2</sup>

The following year some of the proprietors of Fall Town petitioned the General Court that they be empowered to collect the taxes legied on each right, and any further taxes necessary to pay for preaching and settling another minister; and that the court determine which of the holders of the 97 rights should be obliged to settle. On December 31, 1753, the General Court responded by ordering all concerned to show cause, if they had any, why the petition should not be granted, and appointed a committee to decide what further steps should be taken.<sup>3</sup> This committee recommended, in turn, that another committee be appointed to repair to the township at the proprietors' expense and there to consider the several matters contained in previous petitions. The latter committee, appointed January 4, 1754,<sup>4</sup> met with the proprietors on August 20, 1754. Its report, accepted by the General Court on November 6, 1754,<sup>5</sup> recommended that a treasurer be named and empowered to require all collectors forthwith to account for and to pay the several assessments committed to them, that the proprietors be empowered to levy taxes for preaching and to summon a meeting for the purpose of selecting a minister, and that all taxes be on the basis of allotments laid out in the first grant. The report listed the 28 lots where the conditions of settlement had been met, and recommended that the proprietors of the remaining 32 lots be enjoined to settle immediately, at the risk of forfeiting their right.<sup>6</sup> Despite these difficulties there were, by 1760, 25 families in the township,<sup>7</sup> and on March 5, 1761, the proprietors, at a meeting held in "Falltown," extended a call to Rev. Job Wright.

- 
1. Province Resolves, XIV, ch. 116, p. 585.
  2. Massachusetts Archives, CXVI, 190-192.
  3. Ibid., pp. 421, 422; Province Acts and Resolves, XV, ch. 109, p. 50.
  4. Massachusetts Archives, CXVI, 423.
  5. Ibid., CXVI, 424-425; Province Resolves, XV, ch. 104, p. 208.
  6. Massachusetts Archives, CXVI, 424, 425; Province Resolves, XV, ch. 104, p. 208.
  7. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 37.

Mr. Wright "excepted" the terms of settlement and salary, and was inducted on July 1, 1761.<sup>1</sup>

On December 16, 1761, eight proprietors of Fall Town, including John Burk and two members of the Sheldon family, petitioned Governor Francis Bernard, His Majesty's Council, and the House of Representatives that the place be incorporated into a town:

by the name of Barnard and be invested with all the privileges of the rest of the Towns in this province, and be directed to raise their taxes and defray their charges as the rest of the towns do excepting a reasonable tax upon the unimproved lands for the present, and considering the large number of proprietors in said Township, their great expense in settling two ministers, and a large tract of land falling into New Hampshire, your memorialists humbly pray the proprietors of said Fall Town may have a tract of land granted to them to make them equal with other grantees of the government for service done. . . .<sup>2</sup>

A few months later, on March 3, 1762, the Governor concurring on March 6, the General Court responded favorably:

the Plantation aforesaid bounded as followeth (viz) north on the Province line, South partly on Deerfield partly on Greenfield, East upon Northfield and West on Colrain be and hereby is erected into a Town by the Name of Bernardston and that all the Inhabitants thereof be and hereby are Invested with all the Powers Priviledges and Immunities which the Inhabitants of the Towns within this Province do enjoy.

Elijah Williams was named to summon the first town meeting to choose "Such Officers as are or shall be required by law to manage the Affairs of Said Town."<sup>3</sup>

The town was named in honor of Governor Bernard, although the petitioners for incorporation asked that the town be called "Barnard."<sup>4</sup>

The warrant calling the first meeting read:

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1. Proprietor's Records, first vol., 1735-1819, p. 185, see entry 8.

2. Massachusetts Archives, CAVII, 768. Full text also in Bernardston (Town) Records, second vol., 1786-1815, p. 1, see entry 7, hereafter cited as Town Records.

3. Province Acts, IV, ch. 42, pp. 530, 531. Full text also in Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 1, see entry 7.

4. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 38. The governor's name was actually pronounced as though spelled with an "a"; the petitioners were employing a phonetic form of spelling. The name of the town is, however, Ber' nards ton.



Whereas the Subscribers have received a Warrant from Maj'r Elijah Williams of Deerfield wherein I am Required to Warn all the Inhabitants of this Town who are Qualified by law to Vote in Town Affairs to meet at the Meeting House in this Town on the Eleventh day of May next at Nine of the Clock in the forenoon to choose all Such Officers as are or shall be by law Required to manage the affairs of the Town These are therefore to Warn the above Mentioned Inhabitants to meet at the time and Place above mentioned then and there to act on the above mentioned Affairs.

Eben'r Sheldon Jun'r

Dated in Bernardston April 26th 1762<sup>1</sup>

Summoned in this fashion, the voters held the first town meeting and elected a moderator, town clerk, town treasurer, three combined selectmen and assessors, a constable, tithingman, two "Wardens," three surveyors of highways, two deer reeves, three hogreaves, two fence viewers, and a sealer of weights and measures.<sup>2</sup> At the second annual meeting, held at the home of Remembrance Sheldon (or Sheldon) on March 7, 1763, additional officers called surveyors of wheat and surveyors of shingles and clapboards were elected.<sup>3</sup>

By 1765 Bernardston had a population of 230.<sup>4</sup> They were an industrious and resourceful people, if only owing to the exigencies of creating a civilization in the midst of wilderness. In 1764 they built two roads, one from "the Bridge by the Saw Mill to Lieut Sheldens," the other from house lot number 16 to Moses Scott's house, where the two roads met.<sup>5</sup> In 1767 another road from the saw mill to Joseph Slate's home and from there to Sergeant Allen's house as far as the swamp was confirmed.<sup>6</sup> In 1764 also, it was voted to build a pound 34 feet square.<sup>7</sup> In 1767 a committee was elected "to clear up one acre within the bounds of the burying place where the land has

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 3, see entry 7.

2. Ibid., pp. 3, 4.

3. Ibid., p. 6.

4. Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1860. From the Eighth U.S. Census, prepared under the direction of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, p. 256. Hereinafter cited as Abstract, 1860.

5. Proprietor's Records, first vol., 1735-1819, p. 24, see entry 8.

6. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 19. see entry 7.

7. Ibid., p. 8.

been used for burying."<sup>1</sup> This old burying ground, which was fenced in 1856, is still Bernardston's only cemetery.<sup>2</sup>

But these improvements did not signify any comparable improvement in the financial status of the community. The State archives contain many pleas for assistance by the inhabitants and proprietors of Bernardston. On June 10, 1762, in response to a petition that the province tax be abated and that a tax be laid "on their lotted Lands for three years to enable them to pay their Minister his Settlement and Salary."<sup>3</sup> the General Court passed an act enabling the proprietors to levy fresh taxes on non-resident proprietors and to sell, within 60 days after the assessment was made, the property of those persons neglecting to pay.<sup>4</sup> On March 3, 1763, the act of the proprietors' assessors in selling the lands of certain delinquents was confirmed.<sup>5</sup> On February 15, 1764, John Burk, agent of the town of Bernardston, lodged a petition with the General Court for relief from public taxation. The court ordered that the assessors draw up and return to it a full list of the polls and real and personal estates in the town at its next session in May.<sup>6</sup> On June 7, 1764, Burk again petitioned the General Court, stating that the proprietors at the time of incorporation were indebted to Rev. Job Wright for his settlement and part of 1 year's salary; that the act of incorporation had made no provision for raising money for this expense; and requesting that the proprietors be allowed to call a proprietors' meeting in order to levy taxes on the grants in order to pay this and other debts contracted before incorporation.<sup>7</sup> On June 14 the General Court granted the petition.<sup>8</sup> The following day it granted in part another petition of John Burk. This petition alleged that "their numbers are yet small, having only 31 Families and 49 Poles (polls); that the War has so retarded their Settlements that they have put 400 Acres of improved Land in said Town, and yet they have been taxed the three last years, for two of which they have paid £58 and have now a Tax upon them for £19 which cannot be collected but by distress. And Praying that it may be abated." The General Court deferred action upon this petition to the next session, but directed the province treasurer "not to Issue any warrant for ye Enforceing payment thereof in ye mean time."<sup>9</sup> On February 14, 1765, the court granted further relief by empowering the proprietors to call to account all collectors and treasurers for money not yet turned in.<sup>10</sup>

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1. Ibid., p. 19.
  2. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 158.
  3. Quoted in Province Acts, IV, 785.
  4. Ibid., IV, ch. 8, p. 723.
  5. Ibid., XVII, ch. 405, p. 126.
  6. Ibid., ch. 240, p. 613.
  7. Massachusetts Archives, XIV, 383.
  8. Ibid., CXVIII, 49-50.
  9. Ibid., p. 44; Province Resolves, XVII, ch. 84, p. 546.
  10. Province Resolves, XVII, ch. 19, p. 736.

In 1765 occurred the first of a series of land changes which altered greatly the area and boundaries of the town of Bernardston. Several proprietors of the town, having shown the General Court that "on running the line between this Province & New Hampshire, they lost seven thousand three hundred and fifty acres of land," were granted, on June 25, 1765, the same amount of the unappropriated lands belonging to the province.<sup>1</sup> On November 1, 1765, the plan of the 7,350 acres was submitted to the General Court, and was confirmed, "Provided it Does not exceed ye Contents of ye Grant nor Interfere with any former Grant."<sup>2</sup> On December 2, 1779, 2,756 acres of land on the west side of the Green River was ceded to Colrain.<sup>3</sup> Finally, on March 12, 1784, the district of Leyden was set off, upon the complaint of the inhabitants that they had difficulty in reaching the meeting house. Leyden was not granted the right to have a separate representative to the General Court, however.<sup>4</sup>

By 1775 the 4 families which had timidly begun the settlement of Fall Fight Township by building 4 "forts" had developed into a community with a population of nearly 500.<sup>5</sup> Despite the intermittent wars with the Indians and the reluctance of the town's own proprietors to settle in the town, it had nevertheless commenced a number of modest enterprises, had utilized to some extent the water power of the Fall River, had bridged the river, and had made its first school appropriation. Along the Fall River several industries had appeared. By 1770 the original sawmill ordered by the proprietors in 1737 had been supplied, with an attendant grist mill.<sup>6</sup> One other sawmill at least had begun operations, as well as a factory for turning wooden furniture, farm articles, and tool handles; a gin distillery; a shingle mill; a corn mill; and several others. Three inns were being operated, two of them in the forts of pioneers Elijah Sheldon and John Burk; one was considered a valuable link in the chain of stations on the Greenfield-Brattleboro stage route to the north.<sup>7</sup> In 1774 the town voted to build a bridge over Fall River "between this town and Greenfield, provided Greenfield Build their part of Said Bridge next Summer."<sup>8</sup> In 1781 4 pounds and 10 shillings were appropriated to pay a master workman for framing the town's part of the bridge at the iron works and to purchase rum for the raising.<sup>9</sup> In 1791 an agent was appointed to request the General Court for permission to hold a lottery in order to raise funds to build a bridge over the Deerfield River.<sup>10</sup>

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1. Massachusetts Archives, V, 245-249; Province Resolves, XVIII, ch. 85, p. 44.
  2. Province Resolves, XVIII, ch. 122, p. 65.
  3. Ibid., V, ch. 21, pp. 1126, 1127.
  4. Acts, 1784, ch. 45, pp. 616-617.
  5. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 73; Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 12, see entry 7.
  6. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 12, see entry 7.
  7. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 57.
  8. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 59, see entry 7.
  9. Ibid., p. 116.
  10. Ibid., second vol. 1786-1815, p. 84.

The thrifty settlers utilized every natural advantage. By 1769 one of the nearby hills had already yielded 20 tons of limestone, and enough low-grade ore had been dug to operate a small iron foundry.<sup>1</sup> The "new" method of making sugar and molasses from the sap of the maple tree was especially popular in Bernardston.<sup>2</sup> The first physician, Polycarpus Cushman by name, arrived in town in 1777.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile, town meetings were still being held in private homes, the owners of the houses being paid for the privilege.<sup>4</sup> In 1767 a committee was elected to determine where the new meeting house should be located;<sup>5</sup> the following year its report was accepted.<sup>6</sup> By 1772 the first meeting house was apparently completed.<sup>7</sup> Less than 20 years later, however, in 1788, meetings were again being held in private homes, and the question of repairing the old meeting house or building a new one was being discussed.<sup>8</sup> In 1791 it was decided to build a new meeting house "as fast as can be consistent with Reason at this Season of the year."<sup>9</sup> In 5 years the second meeting house was completed.<sup>10</sup>

These peaceful pursuits were interrupted to a certain extent by the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Bernardston supported the revolutionary cause with unstinting loyalty. Within a month after the battle of Lexington, the town voted to "provide Sixteen men with what are already Enlisted to Serve in the Campaign at Cambridge."<sup>11</sup> On February 19, 1778, a bonus of \$50 was offered to every volunteer who would enlist for a period of at least 8 months.<sup>12</sup> Though historians differ on the exact number of Bernardston men who served at one time or another in the army, one estimate places the total at about 50, of whom 1 person at least, Captain Caleb Chapin, played an important part in the war.<sup>13</sup> In addition the town contributed in a single year 9,734 pounds of beef, and a large amount of wheat, bread, and blankets.<sup>14</sup>

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1. Kellogg, *op. cit.*, p. 60.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 7.

3. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 4, see entry 7.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 11.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 23.

6. *Ibid.*, pp. 26, 27.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 49.

8. *Ibid.*, second vol., 1786-1815, p. 41.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 91.

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 128, 150.

11. *Ibid.*, first vol., 1762-86, p. 5.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 81.

13. Kellogg, *op. cit.*, p. 80.

14. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, pp. 86, 117, 119, see entry 7.

Bernardston had the usual five-man "committee of inspection" and a committee of equal size as a "committee of correspondence."<sup>1</sup> From 1776 through 1780 the two committees were combined as the "committee of correspondence, inspection and safety," with the number of its members varying from three to seven.<sup>2</sup>

As was customary, the affairs of the original Congregational church were considered town matters. It was the town meeting, for instance, which dismissed Rev. Job Wright in 1782 and hired his successor, Rev. Amasa Cooks.<sup>3</sup> The formal separation of this church and the town took place in 1817.<sup>4</sup> In 1823 the church was removed to its present site in Bernardston Village, and in the summer of 1824 it was rebuilt. It was again rebuilt, and dedicated anew on October 31, 1850. By this time it had become definitely Unitarian in sentiment.<sup>5</sup> By an act passed February 19, 1891, its rights were confirmed, its past proceedings ratified, and its name established as the Congregational Unitarian Society of Bernardston.<sup>6</sup> The church was given a parsonage in 1863, and a pipe organ in 1871, but few other changes have occurred.

As early as 1782 certain professed Baptists were freed of the ministerial tax in Bernardston,<sup>7</sup> and in 1789 a Baptist society was organized. It built a church the following year, but dissension among its members so weakened it that the church eventually had to be sold. It was re-organized in 1808, however,<sup>8</sup> and a new meeting house was built in 1817.<sup>9</sup> It was replaced by the present church building dedicated on December 10, 1851.<sup>10</sup> It was remodeled and an organ installed in 1915.

Although historians state that Methodist classes were held irregularly in Bernardston as early as 1799,<sup>11</sup> the extant records date only from 1829. From 1830 to 1842 the classes were held regularly, with the number of attendants increasing from 10 to 35. On April 5, 1842, the group "Voted themselves into a society to be called the Methodist Episcopal Society in Bernardston." Meetings were held in Goodale Academy Hall, the Universalist meeting house, and the town hall, until a church was built in 1852.<sup>12</sup> It was a white, wooden building, 30 feet by 40 feet, with a bell tower which, however, has never contained a bell. About 1881 it was enlarged and a vestibule added. By 1912 the number of members had perceptibly declined; many of the later ministers

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1. Ibid., p. 61.
  2. Ibid., pp. 69, 74, 99.
  3. Ibid., pp. 127, 136.
  4. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 128.
  5. Holland, op. cit., II, 323.
  6. Acts, 1891, ch. 22.
  7. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 121, see entry 7.
  8. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 9.
  9. John Warner Barber, Historical Collections, p. 235.
  10. Holland, op. cit., II, 322.
  11. Ibid., p. 323.
  12. Ibid.

were supplied from adjoining towns. Last regular services were held Easter Sunday, 1912, after which the society merged with the Goodale Memorial United Church. However, summer services are occasionally held in the Methodist building.

It would appear from the original church records in Bernardston that dissatisfaction with the adoption of Unitarian beliefs by the First Congregational Church first arose in 1822, and that a dissenting group formed the Orthodox Congregational Society in Bernardston on January 13, 1824. One authority, however, places the date of formation of the new society in 1823.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the erection of its first meeting house in 1831, it was also known as the Second Congregational Church and as the First Presbyterian Society in Bernardston. In 1831 it became as the Evangelical Congregational Church, and in 1833 reverted to its original name, Orthodox Congregational Society in Bernardston. In 1846 a new meeting house on the site of the original building was dedicated.<sup>2</sup> In 1891 the building was repaired, and in the same year the society altered its name to the Goodale Memorial Church. It was united in 1912 with the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the appellation of the Goodale Memorial United Church, using the building, a wooden structure with a bell tower and a bell, of the Orthodox Congregational group. In 1930 the church spire was destroyed by lightning and replaced by a more modest spire, and in 1935 an organ was installed.

A "Restoration Society" was formed in Bernardston, and its first services were held in 1820, in one of the village school houses. The following year use was made of the Baptist church. In 1823 a building was erected, and the organization took the name of the "First Universalist Society." The land on which the building stood was not, however, purchased from Job Goodale until the following year. In 1852 the church was repaired and rededicated. During the next decades, many parishioners joined the Universalist Church in Leyden, necessitating the reorganization of the society in 1872, with a membership of 16. The group continued to be small, however; the last settled minister resigned in 1879. Preaching continued until about 1885, and in 1890 the church building was deeded to the Massachusetts Universalist Convention.<sup>3</sup> Its remaining members joined various other religious groups.<sup>4</sup>

On December 3, 1770, the town voted that the selectmen should provide a school master and appoint the time and place where school

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1. Barber, op. cit., p. 235.

2. Holland, op. cit., II, 323.

3. Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Greenfield, (Transcribed Property Records), Book 413, p. 41.

4. Kellogg, op. cit., pp. 174-178; Barber, op. cit., p. 235; Holland, op. cit., II, 324.

should be kept.<sup>1</sup> Six pounds was appropriated for this purpose.<sup>2</sup> In 1772 it was voted to raise one shilling and sixpence for each scholar; boys from 6 to 16, and girls from 6 to 12, were reckoned as scholars, and were sent to various private homes for schooling.<sup>3</sup> It was estimated at this time that there were 90 children of both sexes of school age.<sup>4</sup> On December 6, 1784, twenty pounds was appropriated for "supporting Publick Schools in town," the first appropriation for that purpose since 1772.<sup>5</sup> A committee was elected to divide the town into four school districts, each of which should be responsible for building and maintaining its own school.<sup>6</sup> The report of this committee was confirmed in 1786.<sup>7</sup> By 1800 the number of districts had risen to six,<sup>8</sup> but it is clear that most of these district schools were held at private homes.<sup>9</sup> In the same year a school committee of six, one from each school district, was elected to office.<sup>10</sup> This committee of six controlled all school affairs until 1843 when it was voted that each school district might elect its own prudential school committee with power to hire the teachers.<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, a "visiting" or "superintending" school committee, generally of three members, was elected regularly. In 1874 the prudential committees were abolished.<sup>12</sup> By this time, 1874, the school budget, which had been \$140 in 1800 and \$400 in 1839, had increased to \$600.<sup>13</sup> In 1895 the town accepted the provisions of Chapter 451 of the Acts of 1888, pertaining to the employment of a superintendent of schools.<sup>14</sup> In that year the school appropriation was \$1,000. Two years later, in 1897, the budget was \$1,200,<sup>15</sup> and remained at that figure until 1909 when it jumped to \$2,000.<sup>16</sup> In 1920 \$6,000 was spent for the schools;<sup>17</sup> in 1925 it was almost tripled again, reaching the sum of \$16,000.<sup>18</sup> Since 1935

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 36, see entry 7.
  2. Ibid., p. 37.
  3. Ibid., p. 48.
  4. Ibid., p. 5.
  5. Ibid., p. 250.
  6. Ibid., p. 251.
  7. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 2.
  8. Ibid., p. 191.
  9. Ibid., p. 123.
  10. Ibid., p. 191.
  11. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, 325.
  12. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 118.
  13. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 191; third vol., 1816-48, p. 265; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 129.
  14. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 400.
  15. Ibid., p. 452.
  16. Ibid., p. 657.
  17. Ibid., vol. 6, p. 124.
  18. Ibid., p. 194.

\$17,300 has been spent annually for the school system in Bernardston.<sup>1</sup> Reimbursements from the State of Massachusetts, from local trust funds, and from other towns for high school tuition, however, total \$10,000 annually; thus the net cost to the town of Bernardston is approximately \$7,000.<sup>2</sup>

The expansion of the town's school system was supplemented on January 24, 1833, when the General Court passed an act incorporating Goodale Academy, a private school whose trustees were given the power to hold real and personal estate not exceeding \$20,000.<sup>3</sup> In addition to providing for the site and school building, Mr. Goodale gave the town a fund of \$200 to be lent out at interest by the town treasurer until it had reached \$20,000. The income thereafter was to be used for public education and relief.<sup>4</sup> The Academy flourished for a period of only 20 years; however, its closing enabled this fund to reach the \$20,000 mark within a comparatively short time. The income from this fund is now given for relief; in 1939 the amount was \$503.13.<sup>5</sup>

The town was not without secondary school education for long. On March 22, 1856, it accepted a legacy of \$10,000 from Edward E. Powers, of Columbus, Georgia.<sup>6</sup> One-half of the income was to be used for the support of the common or public schools in Bernardston, provided that the town raised and expended for the support of its common schools not less than \$300 annually. The other half of the income was to be used to maintain a grammar or high school in Bernardston.<sup>7</sup> On October 14, 1856, the recommendation by the trustees of the Powers Fund that a building be erected on a suitable site was adopted.<sup>8</sup> The Powers Institute now has 47 pupils in its elementary department (grades 6-8), and 68 in its high school section.<sup>9</sup> The first trustees were 18 in number, with 6 elected annually for 3-year terms. They consisted of one representative from each of the six school districts in Bernardston, seven members at large, two representatives from Greenfield, one from Leyden, one from Gill, and one from Northfield.<sup>10</sup> Since 1897, however, all trustees have been

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1. Ibid., pp. 346, 412.
  2. Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, 1939, p. 27, see entry 2, hereinafter cited as Annual Report.
  3. Laws, 1833, ch. 10.
  4. Town Records, third vol., 1816-48, p. 218, see entry 7.
  5. Annual Report, 1939, pp. 63, 80, see entry 2.
  6. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 142, see entry 7.
  7. Ibid., pp. 142, 143.
  8. Ibid., pp. 164, 166.
  9. Annual Report, 1939, p. 20, see entry 2.
  10. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 150, see entry 7.



elected by the town of Bernardston.<sup>1</sup> They are 12 in number, 4 elected annually for 3-year terms.<sup>2</sup> Powers Institute is considered part of the public school system, and from the first tuition has been free to residents of Bernardston.<sup>3</sup> The trustees merely control the endowment funds.

In 1895 Mrs. Susan S. Clark, of Hartford, Connecticut, gave the town \$5,000 to establish the Aretas Ferry Fund. The income is expended, under the direction of the trustees and principal of Powers Institute, for educational purposes in the town.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the institute, there are four elementary schools in Bernardston. The Green School had, in 1939, an enrollment of 36; the South School, the East School, and the Bald Mountain School, each had 19. The total school population is 208.<sup>5</sup>

Though several Bernardston men, notably Ezekiel Root and Capt. Caleb Chapin, participated in Shays' Rebellion (1787-1788), the history of Bernardston from the end of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War was a period of tranquility and steady growth.<sup>6</sup> A number of volunteers - one text says 13 - enlisted in the War of 1812, but in general Bernardston strongly disapproved of the conflict, holding, with most of New England, that the President has no authority to demand men from the states.<sup>7</sup> It preferred to concentrate on producing, hay, grain, apples, tobacco, and dairy products.<sup>8</sup> With the passage of time, maple sugar, lumbering, and the manufacture of cutlery were added to the town's industries.

Other major events prior to the Civil War were the annexation in 1838 of part of Greenfield,<sup>9</sup> the advent of the Connecticut River Railroad (Now the Boston and Maine) in 1847-48 from the southwest,<sup>10</sup> and the construction in 1844 of a new town hall<sup>11</sup> which has served the town to the present time.

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1. Ibid., fifth col., 1867-1912, p. 451.
  2. Annual Report, 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.
  3. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 150, see entry 7.
  4. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 414-417.
  5. Annual Report, 1939, p. 20, see entry 2.
  6. Kellogg, op. cit., p. 83.
  7. Ibid., p. 85.
  8. Ibid., p. 693.
  9. Laws, 1838, ch. 117.
  10. Acts, 1844, ch. 134; 1847, ch. 262; 1847, ch. 265.
  11. Town Records, third vol., 1816-48, p. 359, see entry 7.

The town responded militantly to the outbreak of the Civil War. On July 22, 1862, it authorized a bounty of \$100 to be paid to each volunteer, and it was "Resolved that we as citizens of the Town of Bernardston with a view to the suppression of the most atrocious rebellion of modern times, do hereby heartily indorse the policy of the President of the United States and hereby express our confidence in his tried patriotism, his integrity and devotion to the welfare of the whole nation."<sup>1</sup> An incomplete compilation lists 33 soldiers who enlisted for 3 years, and 24 volunteers who enlisted for 9 months.<sup>2</sup> Fourteen of these were killed.<sup>3</sup>

On September 13, 1862, Bernardston accepted a gift from Henry W. Cushman of \$1,000 to establish a free public library, \$100 a year for the enlargement of the library, and \$500 for the erection of a library building - in all, \$2,500. Upon Mr. Cushman's death in 1864, he left to the town, in addition, a boarding house called Cushman Hall and the lot on which it stood, valued at \$5,000, for the use of the library and the Powers Institute; and the income from another fund of \$2,500 for the purchase of library books. Another tract of land he donated for conversion into a public park. He directed that these bequests be managed by a committee, incorporated by the Commonwealth, consisting of the trustees of the Cushman Library, the president of the board of trustees of Powers Institute, and two other persons, to be called the Cushman Hall Committee. The bequest was accepted by the town on April 16, 1864. The Trustees of the Cushman Library were incorporated on May 20, 1867.<sup>4</sup>

In 1886 part of Leyden was annexed to Bernardston, following the payment of \$250 to the former town and ratification by the Bernardston town meeting.<sup>5</sup> The tract annexed was about a mile in length and began at the junction of the town lines of Leyden, Bernardston, and Greenfield.

By this time, 1885, the number of farms in Bernardston had increased to 139, with a total produce worth 132,981. Maple sugar products and lumber had replaced in importance grain-raising and dairy products; a cutlery factory, the only industry in town, employed 15 people. The seven district schools were valued at \$6,500.<sup>6</sup>

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1. *Ibid.*, fourth vol., 1848-66. pp. 289, 292, 293.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 415, 416.

3. Kellogg, *op. cit.*, p. 89.

4. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 335-342, see entry 7; Acts, 1867, ch. 261.

5. Acts, 1886, ch. 196.

6. Kellogg, *op. cit.*, p. 214.

In more recent years Bernardston has again become a strictly agricultural community. Its only industry with an income of over \$5,000 is a dairy products concern. The cutlery, farm implement, maple sugar, and other industries have virtually disappeared. The town has, however, capitalized on its natural beauty to some extent and holds considerable tourist interest. The visitors are largely interested in the mountains that surround the town (West Mountain, Bald Mountain, Wilcoast Mountain), the picturesque brooks (Dry Brook, Mill Brook), and the Fall River as it cuts a deep gorge through the town on its way to the Falls a mile below the town limits.

The population statistics indicate a remarkably stationary population through the past century and a half. In 1790 the population was 691; in 1800 it was 780; in 1810 it was 811, and in 1830 it was 992.<sup>1</sup> This was the peak year; in 1850 the population was 937;<sup>2</sup> in 1870 it was 961,<sup>3</sup> in 1890 it was 770,<sup>4</sup> in 1910 it was 741, and in 1930 it was 893. The population is now (1935) 975,<sup>5</sup> approximately the same as 1850.

The purchase of a fire pump was authorized in 1900, and a chief fire engineer and three assistants were appointed.<sup>6</sup> In 1908 a fire chief was elected.<sup>7</sup> No further steps were taken leading to the establishment of an adequate fire and water system, however, until 1910 when the General Court authorized Fire District No. 1 in Greenfield to distribute water "through those parts of the towns of Shelburne, Colrain and Bernardston in which its water mains may be laid. . . ."<sup>8</sup> In 1916 the General Court passed an act providing for a municipal water supply but the town failed to ratify it. Finally, the Bernardston Fire and Water District was established by an act of the General Court passed on March 7, 1930. This act defined the boundaries of the district, empowered it to purchase water from the town of Greenfield, and authorized the election, annually, of a district clerk and a district treasurer. It provided for the election of three water commissioners, elected, one annually, for 3-year terms.<sup>9</sup> Two auditors and a moderator are also elected

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1. Abstract, 1860, pp. 202-203.

2. Ibid.

3. United States Department of the Interior, The Statistics of the United States, Embracing the Tables of Race, Nationality, Sex, Selected Ages, and Occupations, I, 166.

4. United States Department of the Interior, Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, I, 199.

5. Massachusetts Secretary of State, The Decennial Census, 1935, p. 12.

6. Town Records, fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 500, see entry 7.

7. Ibid., p. 643.

8. Acts, 1910, ch. 432, sec. 1.

9. Ibid., 1930, ch. 93.

annually by the district.<sup>1</sup> This act was amended on June 9, 1936, to allow for the exemption of persons from taxation who could derive no benefits from the district owing to the location of their property, and for the inspection by the State Department of Health of all sources of water supply.<sup>2</sup>

Bernardston is located in Franklin County, on the Massachusetts-Vermont line, about 100 miles northwest of Boston. With an area of 24 square miles, it is bounded on the east by Northfield, on the south by Greenfield and Deerfield, on the west by Colrain, and on the north by the State of Vermont.<sup>3</sup>

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1. (Minutes of District Meetings), pp. 4, 8, 49, see entry 82.

2. Acts, 1936, ch. 321.

3. Massachusetts General Court, A Manual for the Use of the General Court, p. 192.

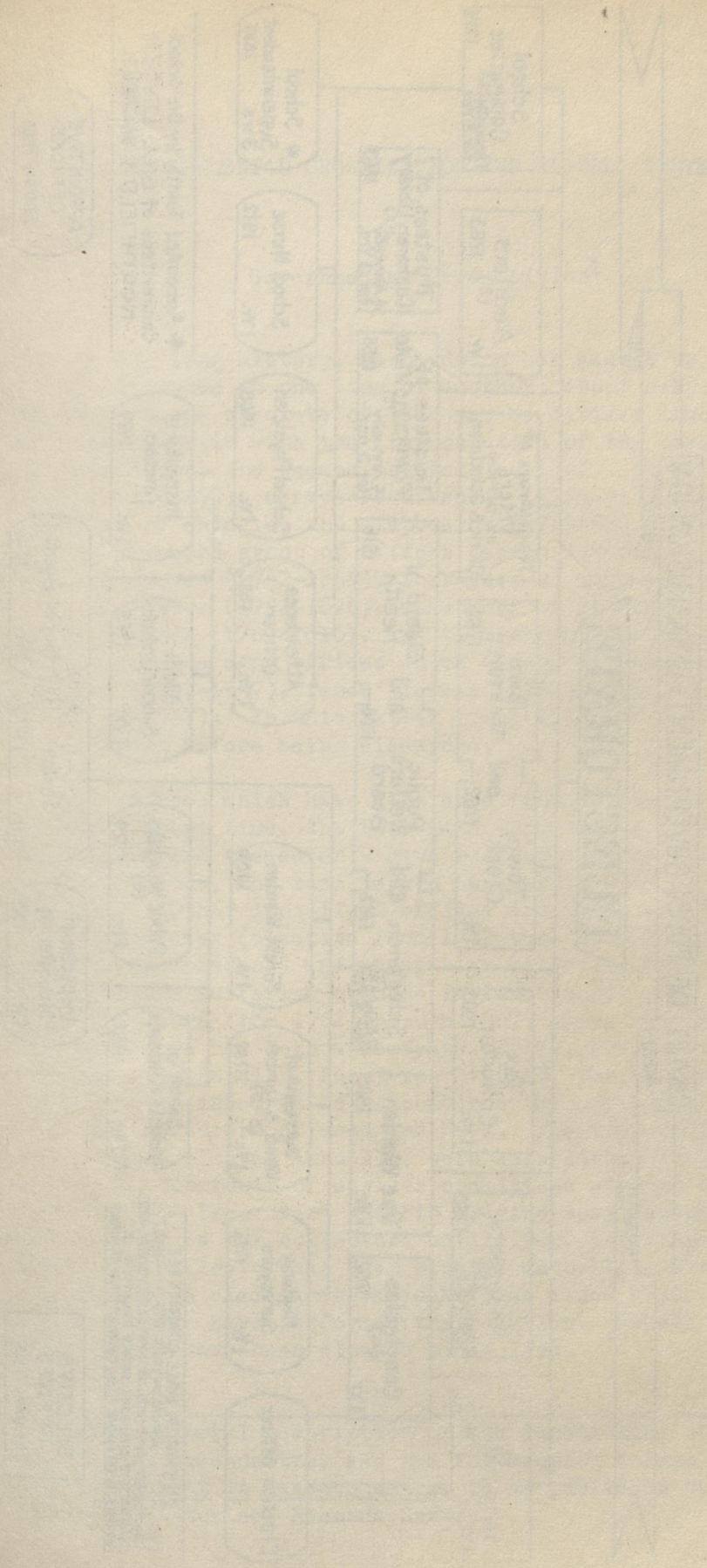
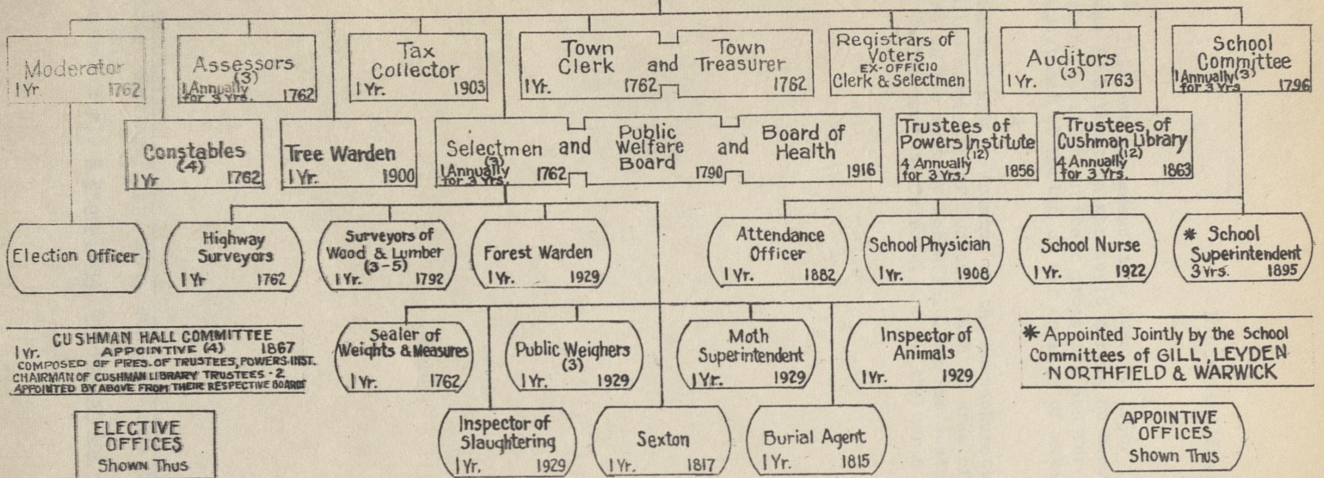


CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT-BERNARDSTON-1941

ELECTORATE



CUSHMAN HALL COMMITTEE  
1 Yr. APPOINTIVE (4) 1867  
COMPOSED OF PRES. OF TRUSTEES, POWERS INST.  
CHAIRMAN OF CUSHMAN LIBRARY TRUSTEES - 2.  
APPOINTED BY ABOVE FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARDS

\* Appointed Jointly by the School  
Committees of GILL, LEYDEN  
NORTHFIELD & WARWICK

ELECTIVE OFFICES  
Shown Thus

APPOINTIVE OFFICES  
Shown Thus

## GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

### Governmental Organization<sup>1</sup>

During its long history, Bernardston has had 30 or more town offices in existence at one time or another; about half of these are now defunct. These obsolete offices may be divided into three groups. The first group began with the incorporation of the town in 1762 or shortly thereafter, and became obsolete by 1800. In this category are the wardens (1762-92), surveyors of wheat (1763-94), deer reeves (1762-96, surveyors of shingles and clapboards (1763-98), and heywards (1770-92). A second group of offices became defunct by 1876, and included hog reeves (1762-1834), surveyors of highways (1762-1876), surveyors of lumber (1792-1870), measurers of wood and bark (1853-70), sealers of leather (1769-1810), and tithingmen (1762-1846). A final group would include many offices which became defunct only recently: Pound keeper (1797-1937), fence viewers (1762-1937), and field drivers (1796-1937). In this latter group all officers were appointed by the selectmen before being discarded.

Of the offices which have continued from the incorporation of the town to the present time, the four most important - selectmen, moderator, town clerk and treasurer - have remained substantially unchanged. Since 1807, however, the same person has served both as town clerk and treasurer. Other long-lived offices are those of sealer of weights and measures (elective from 1762 through 1928, appointive from 1929 to the present) and constables (elective from 1762 to the present, although suffering changes in functions). The selectmen served as assessors from 1762 through 1907; since that time, the board of assessors has been a separate office, consisting of three men elected, one annually, for 3-year terms. The surveyors of wood and lumber, established in 1871, combined the offices of surveyors of lumber and measurers of wood and bark. The town auditors, consisting of three persons elected annually, were established in 1867, but were merely an outgrowth of earlier committees elected "to settle accounts with the treasurer" and "to examine town accounts." The constables acted as tax collectors until 1903, but since that time a separate tax collector has been elected annually. Overseers of the poor have been elected at various times since 1790, but since 1854 the selectmen have performed their duties. School committees of various sorts have been elected since 1796.

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1. For a general description of the functioning of town government in Massachusetts, see the forthcoming volume on, Town and City Government in Massachusetts, to be published by the Massachusetts Historical Records Survey.

Definitely new offices include the tree warden, elected annually since 1900; the trustees of the Cushman Library, elected for 3-year terms since 1863; and the superintendent of highways, appointed annually by the selectmen since 1929.

The selectmen, in their capacity of a board of public welfare and a board of public health, have appointive powers even more extensive than those generally vested in selectmen.

### Records System<sup>1</sup>

In Massachusetts towns, the town clerk is custodian of the bulk of town records. Since the town clerk in Bernardston is also the treasurer, the number and importance of the records kept by him are greatly increased. His most ancient treasures are two volumes of proprietors' records, covering the period from 1735 to 1835. The town records, in six volumes, continue with the minutes of town meetings and elections from 1762 to date. Other material in possession of the town clerk includes vital statistics, the annual reports of the town officer since 1881, records of personal mortgages since 1832, dog licenses since 1859, and many records of lesser importance. As treasurer, his most important record is a 17 volume journal, dating from 1757, during the days of the proprietors, and continuing to the present time.

Other town departments also contain valuable records, more than is customarily found, although it cannot be said that they are complete. Minutes of the school committee meetings date from 1808; library records date from the founding of the library in 1862; assessors' valuation lists begin as early as 1790; welfare records, in five volumes, begin in 1834; and there exists a list of registered voters which runs from 1803 to the present time. Most of these records are in good condition.

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1. For an account of the record keeping systems in use in Massachusetts towns generally, see the forthcoming volume on Town and City Government in Massachusetts, to be published by Massachusetts Historical Records Survey.



HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The bulk of Bernardston records are kept in a small brick building located back of the Town Hall. The building has a steel door and a small barred window, and is used as a storage vault only. Facilities for using the records in this place are very limited. Light can be obtained only by leaving the door open; there is no way to heat the room in winter, and it is always dusty.

A safe in the town office room, in the town hall, is completely filled with selectmen's and assessors' records. If it were replaced by a larger, or an additional, safe, it would not be necessary for many officers, including the town clerk (who is also treasurer), to keep many of their records in their homes. Most of the officers, and particularly the town clerk, take good care of their records; nevertheless, they would be much more accessible if they were located in the Town Hall. Records of the school department are divided between the Northfield High School, in the principal's office, and in Powers Institute.

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Bernardston Town Hall, Church Street

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Depository	Town Office	Town Vault
Location . . . . .	.1st. fl. . . . .	.Behind Town Hall
Dimensions . . . . .	.15x10x11. . . . .	.14x14x13
Cubic Feet . . . . .	.1,650. . . . .	.2,548
Class of Construction. . . . .	.3rd . . . . .	.1st
Shelving . . . . .	.Wood. . . . .	.Asbestos
Containers . . . . .	.Steel . . . . .	.None
Lighting . . . . .	.Good. . . . .	.Poor
Accessibility. . . . .	.Good. . . . .	.Fair
Arrangement. . . . .	.Fair. . . . .	.Fair
Physical Condition . . . . .	.Good. . . . .	.Poor
Room for Expansion . . . . .	.None. . . . .	.Ample
Department having. . . . .	.Selectmen . . . . .	.Clerk
records there. . . . .	.Assessors . . . . .	.Selectmen Assessors Collector Board of Health Reg. of Voters School Committee Trustees of Powers Institute Trustees of Cushman Library Board of Welfare Treasurer Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Housing

	Cushman Library, Church Street	Northfield High School Main St., Northfield
Depository	Reference Room	Superintendent's Office
Location.....	1st floor.....	2nd floor
Dimensions.....	31x20x12.....	10x7x8
Cubic Feet.....	7,440.....	560
Class of Construction.....	2nd.....	2nd
Shelving.....	Wood.....	None
Containers.....	Wood.....	Steel
Lighting.....	Good.....	Good
Accessibility.....	Good.....	Good
Arrangement.....	Good.....	Fair
Physical Condition.....	Good.....	Good
Room for Expansion.....	Ample.....	None
Departments having records there	Trustees of Cushman Library	School Superintendent Trustees of Powers Institute

## Powers Institute, Church Street

	Principal's	Store Room
Depository	Principal's	Store Room
Location.....	1st floor.....	2nd floor
Dimensions.....	20x20x18.....	15x11x11
Cubic Feet.....	7,200.....	1,815
Class of Construction.....	3rd.....	3rd
Shelving.....	Wood.....	Wood
Containers.....	Wood.....	None
Lighting.....	Good.....	Good
Accessibility.....	Good.....	Good
Arrangement.....	Good.....	Fair
Physical Condition.....	Good.....	Fair
Room for Expansion.....	Ample.....	Ample
Departments having records there	Trustees of Powers Institute	Trustees of Powers Institute

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

Name	Address	Office Held	Records of
Percy Buchan	South Street, Bernardston	Tax Collector	Tax Collector
Georgia L. Wyatt	Center Street, Bernardston	Town Clerk Treasurer	Town Clerk Treasurer
Henry O. Root	South Street, Bernardston	Sealer of Weights and Measures	Sealer of Weights and Measure
Margaret Dunell	South Street, Bernardston	Member of School Committee	School Com- mittee
Abbie J. Nelson	Old Northfield Rd., Bernardston	Treasurer, Powers Institute	School Dept. (Powers Institute)
M. A. Denison	Parmenter Rd., Bernardston	Member. Bd. of Public Welfare	Public Welfare, Old Age Assistance
R. E. Franklin	South St., Bernardston	Selectmen	Selectmen
Lynn Wyatt	Center Street, Bernardston	Clerk and Treas- urer of Bernardston Fire and Water District	Bernardston Fire and Water Dis- trict

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Abbreviations

alph.....alphabetically	off.....office
arr.....arranged, arrangement	<u>op. cit.</u> ...work cited
aver.....average	p., pp.....page(s)
bdl(s).....bundle(s)	<u>passim</u> .....occurring here and there
ch.....chapter	ptd.....printed
chron.....chronologically	rm.....room
cl.....clerk	rd.....road
coll.....collector	sel.....selectmen
discont.....discontinued	St.....Street
estab.....established	strm.....storeroom
<u>et seq.</u> .....and following pages	supt.....superintendent
fl.....floor	T.H.....Town Hall
hdw.....handwritten	treas.....treasurer
<u>ibid</u> .....in the same place	va.....vault
no.....number	vol(s).....volume(s)
num.....numerically	

Symbols

x	by	...	denotes omission in
--	continues to date	:	quoted matter
"	inches	:	equivalent to

Explanatory Notes

Inventory Arrangement

The city and town offices are arranged in the order of their importance from a functional viewpoint, with related offices grouped together. Records within an office are classified by subject. Within each subject classification entries are listed in the order of their importance, and for records considered of equal importance a chronological sequence is used.

Titles of Records

Exact titles of records are written in solid capitals without parentheses. In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid caps and enclosed in parentheses. If a record title is not descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title (or explanatory words), written with initial caps and enclosed in parentheses, has been added. The current or most recent title of a record is used as the entry title and title variation is indicated.

Dates

All dates used are inclusive. Missing records are indicated by broken dates.

Quantity

When two or more types of containers are considered in a single entry, the quantity is shown in chronological order, insofar as possible.

Labeling

The numbering, lettering, or other markings on a record are shown in parentheses following the quantity. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed there is none.

Discontinuance

Where no statement is made that the record was discontinued at the last date shown in the entry, it could not be definitely established that such was the case. Where no comment is made on the absence of prior, subsequent, or intermediate records, no definite information could be obtained.

Cross References

Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time. An example is shown in entry 13: "1743-1810 in Bernardston (Town) Records, entry 7-ii a; 1752-1854 in Births - Deaths - Marriage Intentions - Copies and Originals - Miscellaneous - Town of Bernardston, entry 10-iii a; 1844-97 in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, entry 11." They are also used in all artificial **entries**, those set up to cover records which are to be shown separately under their proper office even though they are kept in records appearing elsewhere in the inventory, as for example, the title-line cross reference in entry 9, "In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2."

Separate third-paragraph cross references from entry to entry, and see also references with subject headings or subheadings are used to show prior, subsequent, or closely related records which are not parts of the same series.

Indexing

If a record is indexed, mention is made of a self-contained index or reference to a separate index is indicated. If there is no index to a record, the fact is stated in the entry.

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#### Condition of Records

If no comment is made regarding the condition of records, it may be assumed to be satisfactory.

#### Dimensions

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

#### Location

The location noted is that at the date of the final field check of the inventory, approximately 4 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 OFFICERS AND THEIR RECORDS

### I. SELECTMEN

From 1762 through 1935 three selectmen were elected annually.<sup>1</sup> Since 1936 they have been elected, one annually, for 3-year terms.<sup>2</sup>

As in most New England towns, the selectmen have had, and have retained, a good deal of power. Except for 2 years, they were the assessors during the entire period from 1762 through 1907.<sup>3</sup> Since 1854, and on several occasions before that, they have been in charge of relief matters in Bernardston, and now constitute the board of public welfare. They have always attended to health matters, and are now the regularly constituted board of health. In various years before 1866 they were elected to examine the town accounts.<sup>4</sup> With the exception of 1907, they were elected annually as fence viewers from 1892 through 1930,<sup>5</sup> and thereafter they appointed these officers regularly through 1937.<sup>6</sup> They were the pound keepers in 1929 and 1930,<sup>7</sup> and appointed this officer at various times through 1937.<sup>8</sup>

In general the broad appointive powers of the selectmen are of fairly recent date. Since 1929 at least, they have appointed the special police, the public weighers, the moth superintendent, the inspector of slaughtering, the inspector of animals and barns, the fire warden, and the superintendent of highways.<sup>9</sup> They have generally appointed the sealer of weights and measures since 1929, and the surveyors of wood and lumber and field drivers since 1931.<sup>10</sup> Since 1936 they have appointed the burial agent and the sexton.<sup>11</sup>

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 98; vol. 6, pp. 12, 352, see entry 7.

2. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 368, 414.

3. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 98; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 621.

4. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 137, 202, 287.

5. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 356; vol. 6, p. 274.

6. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 288, 389.

7. Ibid., pp. 265, 274.

8. Ibid., pp. 301, 334, 367, 389.

9. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

10. Town Records, vol. 6, pp. 288, 301, 389, 418, see entry 7.

11. Information obtained from Mr. Melvin Denison, chairman, board of selectmen.

(1-2)

Selectmen

1. RECORD (of Selectmen's Meetings), 1937--. 1 vol. Prior records missing.

Date of meeting, names of selectmen present, nature of business transacted. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 8½ x 7 x 1. Residence of R. E. Franklin (cl. of sel.), South St.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1881--. 6 vols. (4 vols., 1881-1937, 1-4, dated; 2 vols., 1938--, dated). Missing: 1867-80. Title varies: Bernardston Town Reports, 1881-1937, 4 vols.

Contains reports of town officers and committees as described in entries 3, 9, 28, 34, 38, 47, 49, 51-53, 55, 56, 58-60, 65-67, 76, 78. Also contains:

- i. Jury list, 1888--: Names of persons selected for jury service 1935-- includes occupation of jurymen.
  - ii. Special reports, 1894, 1896-98, 1900, 1920-22, 1925-29, of:
    - a. County agent, 1926, 1928-29: Account of activities at community meetings, lectures, demonstrations; progress of work in soil testing, marketing, disease control; name of person assisting work.
    - b. County club agent, 1925-29: Activities concerning demonstrations, exhibits, 4-H Clubs.
    - c. Cushman legacy agent, 1896-98, 1900: Value of special funds, 1896-97, 1900; names of payees, amount and purpose of payments, 1896, 1898; amount of income from investments, 1898.
    - d. Farm bureau secretary, 1920: Account of activities concerning meetings, discussion groups, home demonstration work; number of children enrolled in clubs, names of persons assisting work.
    - e. Home demonstration agent, 1927-29: Account of departmental activities, attendance at meetings, demonstrations, projects sponsored by agent.
    - f. Superintendent of streets, 1921-22: Names of roads upon which work was done, name of payee, amount and purpose of payments, period for which payment was made, rate of pay of laborers, cost of materials.
    - g. Town Hall repair committee, 1894: Name of payees, amount and purpose of payments.
  - iii. Town-meeting minutes, 1915-16, 1933-35: For description, see entry 7.
  - iv. Town-meeting warrants, 1886--: List of articles to be voted upon; place, time, date of meeting.
  - v. Town officers, list of, 1929--: Names of elected and appointed officials, dates of elections of trustees, titles of office.
- Arr. by subject. Indexed by subject. Ptd. 4 vols., 1881-1937, 500 pp. 10 x 5 x 4; 2 vols., 1938--, 80 pp. 8 x 5 x ¼. State Library, State House, Boston.



3. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SELECTMEN), 1881--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

## Contains:

- i. Appropriations, amount of departmental, 1881--. 1888-90, 1909--, includes amount of recommended appropriations; 1930-- includes amount of special appropriations.
- ii. Assets and liability accounts, 1882-93, 1903-7: Amount of collected, uncollected taxes; amount of unpaid bills; balance. 1885, 1888 includes names, value of securities held by town.
- iii. Certification of accounts by auditor, 1888--: Amount of total departmental payments.
- iv. Expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment. Includes: 1881-1911, names of paupers; type, amount of aid; 1894-1927, summary of expenditures; 1891-92, rate of pay for highway labor; 1922, 1928, amount of special payments for Franklin County extension service.
- v. Insurance-policy statistics, 1928-33: Name of town building insured, company insuring building; number of policy, amount of premium, date of maturity of policy.
- vi. Narrative account of general town activities, 1881, 1892, 1895.
- vii. Population of town compared with population 10 years ago, 1891.
- viii. Recapitulation of departmental and other payments, 1928--: Amount of appropriations, payments, unexpended balances, overdrawings, reserve funds.
- ix. Receipts: Amount, source of income, balance.

4. (Record of) SELECTMEN'S ORDERS, 1879--. 21 vols.

Record of orders drawn on treasurer for payment of town bills: Name of payee, department charged; amount, itemization, number, date of order. Arr. chron. by date of order and orders numbered consecutively. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 11½ x 3½ x 1. Town va., T.H.

For treasurer's report on payments 1881--, see entry 38-iii.

5. SELECTMEN'S (Original) ORDERS, 1915--. 8 bdl.

Orders on treasurer for payment of departmental expenses: Name of payee, department charged; amount, number, purpose, date of order; signature of selectmen. Arr. chron. by date of order. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 16 x 7 x 4. Town va., T.H.

6. APPLICATION FOR A COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE, 1933--.

1 file box.

Name, address of applicant, firm; description of premises, type of license, date of application, signature of applicant. Arr. chron. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 x 14 x 12. Town off., first fl., T.H.

(7)

## II. TOWN CLERK

A town clerk has been elected annually since the first town meeting in 1762.<sup>1</sup> Since 1807 he has been elected as treasurer also, with the exception of the years 1810, 1819, and 1823 when he served as clerk only.<sup>2</sup> In 1925, and since 1932, the town clerk has appointed as assistant clerk annually.<sup>3</sup>

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town vault, Town Hall.

## Minutes and Reports

7. BERNARDSTON (Town) RECORDS, 1762--. 6 vols. (2 vols., 1762-1815, dated; 3 vols., 1816-1912, unlabeled; 1 vol., 1913--, marked 6). Title varies: Meetings Births, Deaths, Intentions, Miscellaneous, Town of Bernardston, 1762-86, 1 vol.; Meetings, Births and Deaths by Families; Marriages, Intentions, and Miscellaneous, Town of Bernardston, 1786-1815, 1 vol.; records, 1816-48, 1 vol.; no title, 1867-1912, 1 vol.

Minutes of town meetings: Date, place of meeting; list of and decisions on articles of town-meeting warrants, nature of other business transacted; attest, signature of town clerk. Includes copies of town-meeting warrants. Also contains:

- i. Animals, markings of, 1763-66: Name of owner of animal; description, date of marking.
- ii. Vital statistics, 1743-1810, showing record of:
  - a. Births, 1743-1810: Name of child, names of parents, date of birth. For record of births 1898--, see entry 13.
  - b. Deaths, 1763-1810: Name of deceased person, date of death. For record of deaths 1898--, see entry 18.
  - c. Intentions of marriage, 1784-88, 1799-1809: Names, addresses of contracting parties; date of intention.
  - d. Marriages, 1787-99: Names, addresses of married persons; date of marriage. For record of marriages 1898--, see entry 16.

Minutes arr. chron. by date of meeting; other records, chron. by date of event. No index. Hdw. 1 vol., 1867-1912, binding torn off. 273 to 752 pp.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ . 5 vols., 1762-1912, town va.; 1 vol., 1913--, safe, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 3; vol. 6, p. 414, see entry 7.

2. *Ibid.*, second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 252, 281; third vol., 1816-48, pp. 6, 34, 402; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 146.

3. *Ibid.*, vol. 6, pp. 198, 304, 399.

8. PROPRIETOR'S RECORDS, HISTORICAL NOTES, TOWN OF BERNARDSTON, 1735-1835. 2 vols. Title varies: Proprietors Fall Town, Town of Bernardston, 1735-1819.

Minutes of proprietors' meetings: Date, place of meeting; decisions on articles of warrant for meeting, names of officers and committee members chosen; attest, signature of proprietors' clerk. Includes copies of warrants for meetings. Also contains record of plans of lots laid out: Number, location, description, boundary lines of lot; date lot surveyed, name of surveyor, names of committee men chosen by the proprietors to supervise the work; names of persons who drew lots, with numbers thereof. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 390 pp. 13 x 9 x 2 and 57 pp. 14 x 9½ x ½.

9. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN CLERK), 1896--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Dog licenses:
  - a. Number of licenses issued, classified by sex of dog; amount of fees collected, paid to county treasurer.
  - b. Certification of dog-license accounts, showing total amount of receipts from fees.
- ii. Vital statistics:
  - a. Births: Name of child, date of birth, name of parents. 1899-- includes maiden name of mother.
  - b. Deaths: Name of decedent, date of death. 1896-1900, 1904-- includes age of deceased.
  - c. Marriages: Name of contracting parties, date of marriage. Includes: 1899, place of marriage, town of residence of parties; 1901--, name of person performing marriage; 1918--, town of residence of person performing marriage.

Vital Statistics

(See also entries 7-ii, 9-ii)

10. BIRTHS - DEATHS - MARRIAGE INTENTIONS - COPIES AND ORIGINALS - MISCELLANEOUS - TOWN OF BERNARDSTON, 1752-1859. 1 vol.

Contains:

- i. Dog register, 1858-59: Name of dog owner, number of dog, date of registration.
- ii. Military duty, list (copy) of persons liable to, 1840-51: Name of eligible person; attest, signature of clerk.
- iii. Vital statistics, 1752-1859, showing record of:
  - a. Births and deaths by families, 1752-1854: Names of parents, children; date of birth, death. For records of births 1898--, see entry 13.
  - b. Deaths, 1788-1844: Name, age of deceased person; date of death. For records of deaths 1898--, see entry 18.
  - c. Intentions of marriages, 1811-49: Names, addresses of contracting parties; date of intention.

(10-15)

Town Clerk - Vital  
Statistics

- d. Marriages, 1776-1859: Date of marriage; names, addresses of married persons; name of person officiating; attest, signature of clerk. For record of marriages 1898-- , see entry 16.

Arr. by subject and thereunder alph. by name of person. No index. Hdw. 241 pp. 16 x 8 x 1.

11. (Record of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, 1844-97. 2 vols. Contains: (Record of) Births, entry 13; (Record of) Marriages, entry 16; (Record of) Deaths, entry 18. Arr. chron. by date of event. For indexes, see entries 14, 17, 19. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 18 x 16 x 1. Safe, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

12. (Original) CERTIFICATES OF MARRIAGE - BIRTHS AND DEATH RETURNS, 1871-76, 1886-94, 1896-1928, 1930-- . 95 bdls.

Contains:

- i. Birth returns: Name, color of child; date of birth; names, address, ages, occupations of parents; signatures of attendants at birth, clerk.
- ii. Death returns; Name, sex, age, color, marital status, occupation, birthplace of decedent; names of parents; cause, date of death; name of informant, undertaker; place of burial, signature of physician, clerk.
- iii. Marriage certificates: Name, address, age, color, occupation, marital status, birthplace of bride, groom; names of parents; dates of marriage; signature of person officiating, clerk.

Arr. chron. by date of return or certificate. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9½ x 6½ x ¼.

13. (Record of) Births, 1898-- . 1 vol. 1743-1810 in Bernardston (Town) Records, entry 7-ii a; 1752-1854 in Births - Deaths - Marriage Intentions - Copies and Originals - Miscellaneous - Town of Bernardston, entry 10-iii a; 1844-97 in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, entry 11.

Date of registration; name, sex of child; place, date of birth; names, address of parents; occupation of father. Arr. chron. by date of birth. For index, see entry 14. Hdw. under ptd. head. 500 pp. 18 x 11½ x 1½. Safe, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

14. INDEX TO BIRTHS, 1844-- . 2 vols.

Index to births recorded in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1844-97, entry 11; (Record of) Births, 1898-- , entry 13: Name of child, page reference. Arr. alph. by name of child. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp. 11 x 9 x 1¼.

15. NOTICE OF INTENTION OF MARRIAGE, 1850-- . 1 vol., 2 bdls.

Title varies: Marriage Intentions, 1850-1919, 1 vol. Names, addresses, ages, places and dates of birth, occupations of contracting parties; date of filing of notice, names of parents. 1900-- includes marital status, color of bride, groom; date of issue of

Marriage certificate; attest, signature of clerk. Arr. chron. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. 1850-1919; hdw. on ptd. form 1920--. Vol. 150 pp.  $10\frac{1}{2}$  x  $8\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ; bds. 10 x 9 x 3. 1 vol., 1850-1919, town va.; 2 bds., 1920--, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

16. (Record of) Marriages, 1898--. 1 vol. 1776-1859 in Births - Deaths - Marriage Intentions - Copies and Originals - Miscellaneous - Town of Bernardston, entry 10-iii d; 1787-99 in Bernardston (Town) Records, entry 7-ii d; 1844-97 in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, entry 11.

Date of registration; name, address, age, occupation of bride, groom; date of marriage; name, address, title of person officiating; names, addresses of parents. Arr. chron. by date of marriage. For index, see entry 17. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp.  $18$  x  $11\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

17. INDEX TO MARRIAGES, 1844--. 2 vols.

Index to marriages recorded in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1844-97, entry 11; (Record of) Marriages, 1898--, entry 16: Names of married persons, page reference. Arr. alph. by names of persons. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp.  $11$  x  $9$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

18. (Record of) Deaths, 1898--. 1 vol. 1752-1859 in Births - Deaths - Marriage Intentions - Copies and Originals - Miscellaneous - Town of Bernardston, entry 10-iii a, b; 1763-1810 in Bernardston (Town) Records, entry 7-ii b; 1844-97 in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, entry 11.

Name, sex, age, birthplace of deceased person; cause, date of death; place of interment, names of parents. Arr. chron. by date of death. For index, see entry 19. Hdw. under ptd. head. 500 pp.  $18$  x  $11\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

19. INDEX TO DEATHS, 1844--. 2 vols.

Index to deaths recorded in (Record of) Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1844-97, entry 11; (Record of Deaths), 1898--, entry 18: Name of deceased person, page reference. Arr. alph. by name of deceased person. Hdw. under ptd. head. 200 pp.  $11$  x  $9$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Mortgages

20. RECORDS OF PERSONAL (Property) MORTGAGES, 1832--.  
7 vols. (1-7).

Names of mortgagor and mortgages; location, description, valuation of property; amount, terms, date of mortgages. Arr. chron. by date of mortgage. No index. Hdw. 200 pp.  $12$   $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $8\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . 5 vols., 1832-94, town va.; 2 vols., 1895--, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

## Dog Licenses

(See also entries 9-i, 10-i, 24, 28-ii)

## 21. DOG LICENSE RECORDS, 1859-- . 9 vols.

Stubs of licenses issued: Name of dog owner; name, breed, sex, color, age of dog; amount of fee, date of license. Arr. chron. by date of license. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 12 x 5 x 3/4. 8 vols., 1859-1934, town va.; 1 vol., 1935--, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (cl.), Center St.

## Military Records

(See also entry 10-ii)

## 22. MASSACHUSETTS MILITIA COMPANY ORDERS, 1822-31. 1 vol. Company organized 1822, disbanded 1831.

Record of orders issued by the commanding officer relative to date of company meeting, assignments, drills; date of order. Arr. chron. by date of order. No index. Hdw. Writing faded. 150 pp. 13 x 8 x 1.

## 23. ROLL OF THE COMPANY OF INFANTRY IN THE 2nd REGIMENT, 2nd BRIGADE; 4th DIVISION, BERNARDSTON, 1829-33. 11 vol. Company organized 1829, disbanded 1833.

Company roster: Names of officers, privates; date of enrollment, discharge; reason for discharge. Includes inventory of equipment. Arr. alph. by name of soldier. No index. Hdw. Writing faded, paper poor. 7 pp. 14 1/2 x 10 x 1/8.

## 24. MILITIA RECORDS, 1st COMPANY OF INFANTRY (and Record of Dog Licenses), 1831-32, 1878-1916. 1 vol.

Milita roster, 1831-32: Name of militiaman; dates of enlistment and discharge. Includes record of orders for supplies and equipment. Also contains record of dog licenses, 1878-1916: Name, address of dog owner; name, sex, breed of dog; amount of fee; number, date of license. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. Writing faded. 200 pp. 8 1/2 x 7 x 1 1/2.

## 25. REBELLION RECORD, 1861-65, 2 vols.

Service record of soldiers and sailors in the Civil War: Name, address, rank of soldier or sailor; record of military engagements, promotions, citations; dates of enlistment and discharge; remarks. Arr. alph. by name of soldier or sailor. No index. Hdw. 80 pp. 15 1/2 x 9 3/4 x 3/4.

## Mutual Society for Detecting Thieves

## 26. RECORDS OF BERNARDSTON MUTUAL SOCIETY FOR DETECTING THIEVES, 1832-95. 1 vol.

Bylaws of the society, names of members, financial reports; summary of activities including record of apprehension of thieves: Name of thief, date of apprehension, type of goods stolen, amount of loss or damage,

date goods recovered, date of apprehension. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. Writing faded, paper and binding poor. 150 pp. 7½ x 6 x 1.

### III. REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The selectmen have drawn up and kept lists of eligible voters since 1803. Since 1885 they have constituted, together with the town clerk, the board of registrars.<sup>1</sup>

27. REGISTER OF VOTERS, 1803--. 1 bdl., 3 vols. Title varies: List of Voters, 1803-77, 1 bdl. Name of voter, date of registration. 1878-- includes age, address, date and place of birth, signature of voter. Arr. alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. Bdl. 10 x 5 x 5; vols. 150 pp. 16 x 10 x 3/4. 1 bdl., 2 vols., 1803-1928, town va., T.H.; 1 vol., 1929--, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (town cl.), Center St.

### IV. ASSESSORS

From 1762 through 1907,<sup>2</sup> with the exception of 2 years, it was voted annually that the selectmen should be the assessors. In 1781 and 1905 three assessors were elected for 1-year terms as an independent board.<sup>3</sup> Since 1908, three assessors have been elected, one annually, for 3-year terms.<sup>4</sup>

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town vault, T.H.

28. (ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSESSORS), 1886, 1888-92, 1896, 1904, 1905, 1930--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Appropriations, amount of total town, 1930--.
- ii. Dogs registered, number of, 1886, 1888-90.
- iii. Expenditures, 1891, 1892, 1896, 1930--: Amount of payments for state and county tax.

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1. Town Records, fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 265, see entry 7.  
 2. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 98; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 621.  
 3. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, p. 112; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 507.  
 4. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 634, 715; vol. 6, pp. 12, 415.

- iv. Motor vehicle excise tax list, 1930--: Number of vehicles in town; amount of valuation, assessment on each vehicle.
- v. Receipts, 1930--: Amount, source of estimated income and available funds; totals.
- vi. Tax list, 1890-92, 1896: Name, town of residence of taxpayer; amount of property valuation, tax levy. 1891, 1892, 1896 includes description of property.
- vii. Valuations: Total valuation of real and personal; property, 1886, 1888, 1892, 1896, 1905, 1930--; number of polls, dwellings, acres of land, horses, cows, neat cattle, swine, sheep assessed, 1886, 1888, 1892, 1904, 1905, 1930--; number of fowl assessed, 1930--; amount of total assessments, 1888-90, 1930--; tax rate, number of persons assessed on real, personal property or both; 1888-92, 1904, 1905, 1930--; name, valuation of exempted property, 1881, 1892, 1896, 1930--.

29. RECORDS OF ASSESSORS' MEETINGS, 1914-16. 1 vol.

Discussions and decisions on tax rates, valuations, assessments; reports on tax-abatement hearings. Also contains: Abatement Record (of Poll, Real, and Personal Property Taxes), entry 31. Arr. chron. by date of meeting or abatement. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 9 x 1.

30. VALUATION AND POLL LISTS, 1790-1838, 1840-41, 1845-46, 1848--.  
3 bdls, 121 vols.

Valuations of real and personal property: Year of valuation, name of taxpayer; amount of valuation, assessment: 1808 includes location, description of property; tax rate. Poll lists: Name, address of poll; amount of tax. 3 bdls., 1790-1807, arr. chron. by year; 121 vols., 1808--, arr. chron. by year and thereunder alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 1790-1807; hdw. on ptd. form 1808--. Bdls. 7 x 6 x 3. 80 pp. 18½ x 16 x 1.

For published tax list 1890-92, 1896, see entry 28-vi; for published report of valuations 1886, 1888, 1892, 1896, 1905, 1930--, see entry 28-vii.

31. ABATEMENT RECORD (of Poll, Real, and Personal Property Taxes), 1909--. 1 vol. 1914-16 also in Records of Assessors' Meetings, entry 29.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, type, date of tax; amount, cause, date, of abatement. Arr. chron. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. Safe, town office, first fl., T.H.

32. (Record of) MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE (Assessments), 1929--.  
8 vols. Tax authorized by law 1929.

Name, address of car owner; type, model, make, valuation of vehicle; date of registration; amount, date of tax; date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 12 pp. 19 x 16 x ½.

For published tax list 1930--, see entry 28-iv; for commitments, see entry 37.



## 33. RECORD OF ABATEMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE, 1930--.

1 vol. Tax authorized by law 1929, first entry 1930.  
Name of car owner, amount of assessment; amount, cause, date of abatement; amount of payment, date of application for abatement, remarks. Arr. chron. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Safe, town off., first fl., T.H.

## V. TAX COLLECTOR

Prior to 1903 the constables acted as tax collectors. From 1903 through 1908 the office of tax collector was disassociated from that of constable, although it was still sold to the lowest bidder.<sup>1</sup> In 1909 and 1910 it was voted that all taxes should be paid to the town treasurer by a certain date; unpaid bills should thereafter be placed in the hands of a constable for collection.<sup>2</sup> Since 1911 a tax collector has been elected annually, on a salary basis.<sup>3</sup>

34. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR), 1915--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2. Certification of accounts by auditor: Amount of tax and interest collections, abatements; amount of total tax levy; balance.

35. TAX COLLECTOR'S RECORDS, 1875--. 66 vols. Title varies slightly.

Record of monies received from poll, real, and personal property taxes: Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of payment. Also contains: Record of transfer of tax collections to treasurer, 1897--, entry 36. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 7 x 4 x 1/2. 59 vols., 1875-1930, town va., T.H.; 7 vols., 1930--, residence of Percy Buchan (coll.), South St.

For assessors' published report of receipts 1930--, see entry 28-v.

36. TAX COLLECTOR IN ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER, 1840-96. 1 vol. 1897-- in Tax Collector's Records, entry 35.

Record of transfer of tax collections to treasurer: Amount, source of collection; date of transfer, annual totals. Arr. chron. by date of transfer. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 7 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 3/4. Town va., T.H.

1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 3; vol. 6, p. 414, see entry 7.

2. *Ibid.*, fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 657, 672.

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 694, 716; vol. 6, pp. 12, 415.

37. (Record of) COMMITMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX, 1929--.  
8 vols. (1-8). Tax authorized by law 1929.  
Name, address of car owner; type, make of vehicle; amount, date of tax, abatement, refund, payment. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 12 x 10 x  $\frac{1}{2}$ . 3 vols., 1929-31, town va., T.H.; 5 vols., 1932--, residence of Percy Buchan (coll.), South St.  
For assessments, see entry 32; for abatements 1930--, see entry 33.

## VI. TOWN TREASURER

A town treasurer has been elected annually since the first town meeting in 1762.<sup>1</sup> Since 1807 he has always been elected as town clerk also, with the exception of 3 years - 1810, 1819, and 1823 - when he served solely as treasurer.<sup>2</sup>

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the town vault, Town Hall.

### Reports

38. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER), 1881--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.
- Contains:
- i. Assets and liabilities, 1895-1914, 1925: Amount of loans, outstanding orders, cash on hand, uncollected taxes, balance of indebtedness. 1886 includes names, value of securities held by town.
  - ii. Certification of accounts by auditor: Amount of total receipts, payments; balance.
  - iii. Expenditures, 1881--: Amount of total abatements, payments on selectmen's warrants.
  - iv. Receipts, 1881--: Amount, source of income; balance.
  - v. Special funds, 1896-1915, 1925, 1928--: Name, value, place of deposit, rate of interest of Town School, Goodale and Areatas Ferry Funds, 1896-1915, 1925, 1928; J. V. Hale Fund, 1904-15, 1925, 1928--; Charity Farm Fund, 1925, 1928--; Sanderson, F. L. Burrows Cemetery Funds, 1928--; Old Cemetery Fund, 1896-1912.

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1. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, p. 3; vol. 6, p. 414.  
2. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 252, 281; third vol., 1816-48, pp. 6, 34, 402; fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 146.

## Receipts and Disbursements

(See also entries 3-iv,-ix, 4, 5, 36, 38-iii,-iv, 54, 76)

39. TREASURER'S JOURNAL (of Receipts and Disbursements), 1737--.  
17 vols. Title varies: Falltown Proprietor's Treasury  
Book, 1737-1811, 4 vols.

Record of monies received from taxes, loans, grants, rentals of town property, departmental revenue: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of income. Disbursements for loans, interest, state and county taxes, departmental expenditures: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 7½ x 3/4. 16 vols., 1737-1934, town va.; 1 vol., 1935--, residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (treas.), Center St.

40. GASOLINE TAX RECORD BOOK, 1930--. 1 vol. System estab. 1930.

Record of monies received from local tax on gasoline filling stations: Name, business address of owner; amount, date of tax; date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 9 x 6 x 3/4. Residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (treas.), Center St.

41. (CANCELED CHECKS), 1900--. 38 bdls. (dated). Prior records destroyed.

Name of payee, bank; amount, number, date of check; signature of treasurer, date of cancelation. Arr. num. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 x 12 x 12.

42. (CHECK STUBS), 1921--. 17 vols. (dated). Prior records destroyed.

Name of payee; amount, purpose, number, date of check. Arr. by check no. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 9½ x 5½ x 1½.

43. (PAID INVOICES), 1919-27. 5 bdls. Prior records destroyed.

Invoices for labor, materials, supplies, equipment: Name of creditor; amount, itemization, date of invoice; date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of invoice. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. 16 x 12 x 12.

44. TOWN BILLS PAID, 1853-64. 1 vol.

Record of bills presented to town for salaries, supplies, materials, fuel: Name of payee; amount, itemization, date of bill; date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 10 x 8 x 1.

Notes and Loans  
(See also entry 38-i)

45. BOOK OF FORMS FOR ISSUING TOWN NOTES, 1914--. 10 vols.  
System establ. 1914.

Stubs of notes issued in anticipation of taxes: Name of payee; amount, terms of note; dates of issue and maturity. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. 50 pp.  $18\frac{1}{2}$  x 13 x  $\frac{1}{4}$ . 9 vols., 1914-27, town va.; 1 vol., 1928--., residence of Georgia L. Wyatt (treas.), Center St.

46. RECORDS OF SURPLUS REVENUE DEPOSITED WITH TOWN, 1857-57. 1 vol.

Record of loans to inhabitants from Federal surplus revenue allotted to towns: Name of borrower; amount, purpose, conditions, date of loan; dates of payments. Arr. chron. by date of loan. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 9 x 7 x 2.

VII. AUDITORS

Beginning in 1763 the procedure in Bernardston, for many years, was to elect a committee of three to settle accounts with the treasurer (the selectmen were chosen a few times as this committee), and another committee, also of three members, "to examine and pass town accounts." The selectmen were occasionally elected to this office also, but these committees were considered as having entirely different functions.<sup>1</sup> From 1856 through 1886 an "auditing committee" of three, elected annually, settled with the treasurer,<sup>2</sup> while the selectmen were appointed to "pass all town bills except their own."<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, the auditing committee of three apparently assumed the functions of both offices, although it did not receive the power "to examine accounts of the Selectmen . . . as well as to settle with the Treasurer" explicitly until 1885.<sup>4</sup> From 1894 through 1925 the number of "town auditors" elected annually was two;<sup>5</sup> since 1926 three have been elected annually.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to the following record, see entries 3-iii, 34, 38-ii, 51-iii, 60, 66, 78 for certification of departmental accounts.

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86 pp. 6, 63, 264; third vol. pp. 12, 403; fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 4, 125, see entry 7.
  2. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 178, 314, 385.
  3. Ibid., pp. 137, 202, 287.
  4. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 9, 21, 228, 272.
  5. Ibid., pp. 383, 716; vol. 6, pp. 12, 198.
  6. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 215, 368, 415.

47. (ANNUAL REPORT OF AUDITORS), 1891-1908, 1923, 1928. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2. List of recommended appropriations, 1891-1908; value of the Goodale, Hale, Ferry, Town School, Burrows, and Charity Farm Funds, 1923, 1928.

### VIII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Early school committees, beginning in 1796, generally consisted of six persons, one elected from each of the six school districts.<sup>1</sup> In 1842 it was voted that each school district should elect its own "prudential school committee," with the power to select the teacher for the district school.<sup>2</sup> Naturally, the number of committeemen varied in each district.

Meanwhile, since 1828, there had existed in Bernardston a "superintending school committee," generally of three members elected annually.<sup>3</sup> In 1874, when all prudential committees were abolished, the superintending school committee assumed complete control of school management.<sup>4</sup> Since 1858 it has consisted of three members, one elected annually for a 3-year term.<sup>5</sup>

In 1895 the school committee was authorized to employ a superintendent of schools;<sup>6</sup> since then a school physician, a school nurse, and an attendance officer, all appointed by the school committee, have also been added to the staff.<sup>7</sup>

48. (Minutes of) MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1808--. 4 vols.

Discussion and decisions on appointment and salaries of teachers; changes in curricula, improvements in buildings and equipment; date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 8½ x 7 x ½. 3 vols., 1808-1924, town va., T.H.; 1 vol., 1925--, residence of Margaret B. Dunnell (school committee member). South St.

1. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 149, 191-318; third vol., 1816-48 pp. 7, 101.

2. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, p. 325.

3. Ibid., pp. 108, 119, 264, 293.

4. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 117.

5. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 201; vol. 6, p. 415.

6. Ibid., fifth vol.; 1867-1912, p. 400.

7. Ibid., vol. 6, p. 231; Annual Report, 1939, p. 15, see entry 2.

(48A-50)

48A. RECORDS OF THE UNION DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY IN NORTHFIELD, BERNARDSTON, AND GILL, 1895--. 1 vol.

Minutes of annual and special meetings of joint committee of school union: Names of towns comprising union, committee members; nature of business transacted, date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 144 pp. 10½ x 8 x ½. Residence of Mrs. Dorothy L. Miller, South Main St., Northfield.

49. (ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE), 1881--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Appropriations recommended, amount of, 1883-96. For appropriations 1925--, see entry 51-i.
- ii. Attendance statistics, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1889-90: Number of pupils neither absent nor tardy during year, 1881, 1883, 1885; length of school term, 1881, 1883; number of school days lost due to absence or tardiness, 1883, 1889, 1890. For statistics 1897-98, 1905, 1918-24, see entry 51-ii.
- iii. Enrollment statistics, 1881-85, 1887-90: Maximum enrollment for year, 1881-85, 1887-90; number of resident and nonresident pupils admitted to Powers Institute for each term and during year, totals for year, 1881-82; number of schools in town, 1881, 1883; number of school districts, 1882. For statistics 1906-11, 1916, 1918--, see entry 51-iv.
- iv. Expenditures, 1881-1912, 1915: Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment. For expenditures 1925--, see entry 51-v.
- v. Narrative account of school activities, 1881-1906, 1931--: Findings and recommendations concerning pupils, teachers, studies, buildings, finances. Includes: 1883, 1889, 1890, number of visits made to schools by school committee, parents, others; 1897-1901, 1923--, school calendar; 1905, copy of bylaws concerning compulsory school attendance; 1916, number of schools, teachers, pupils in each town of which the superintendency union is composed; 1923--, names of officials, teachers; title of office held by each; date of expiration of committeemen's terms.
- vi. Receipts, 1882-95, 1900: Amount, source of income; balance 1885 includes rate of tuition for nonresident pupils.
- vii. Teachers' statistics, 1881, 1883, 1913-17: Name of teacher, amount of salary. 1881 includes names of prudential committee members; 1913-17 includes grade taught by each teacher. For statistics 1896-98, 1906-11, 1918-19, 1922-24, see entry 51-viii.

50. CURRENT FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1799-1814, 1835-1931, 1933--. 1 bdl., 5 vols., 1 folder. Title varies: Records of School District, 1799-1814, 1 bdl.; School District General Fund Records 1835-1931, 5 vols.

Record of expenditures for salaries, supplies, equipment, maintenance, books, pupils' transportation: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. chron. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw.

1799-1931; hdw. on ptd. form 1933--. 1 bdl., 1799-1814, writing faded, paper poor. Bdl. 7 x 4 x 4; vols. 70 pp. 14 x 9 x 3/4; folder 12 x 10 x 2. 1 bdl., 1799-1814, 4 vols., 1835-1928, town va., T.H.; 1 vol., 1929-31, 1 folder, 1933--, supt. off., Northfield High School, Main St., Northfield.

For published reports of expenditures 1881-1912, 1915, 1925--, see entries 49-iv, 51-v.

### IX SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

On March 4, 1895, the town meeting voted to adopt the provisions of chapter 431 of the Acts of 1888, relating to the employment of a superintendent of schools.<sup>1</sup> The following month the school committee was instructed to unite with the towns of Warick, Northfield, and Gill in employing such an officer, and a superintendent was appointed immediately thereafter.<sup>2</sup> However, in 1898, Bernardston withdrew from the union.<sup>3</sup> In July 1917, it joined a new union, consisting of Gill, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick; and since that time, a joint committee from these towns has appointed the superintendent of schools every 3 years.

51. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS), 1896-98, 1902--.  
In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Appropriations, 1925--: Amount of regular school appropriation. 1927-- includes amount of special appropriation. For appropriations in 1883-96, see entry 49-i.
- ii. Attendance statistics, 1897-98, 1905, 1918-24: Names of pupils neither absent nor tardy during year, 1897, 1898, 1905; aggregate, average daily attendance, 1918-24; number of pupils attending out-of-town schools, 1918. For statistics 1881, 1883, 1885, 1889-90, see entry 49-ii.
- iii. Certification of school accounts by auditor, 1888--.
- iv. Enrollment statistics, 1906-11, 1916, 1918--: Table of age and assignment of pupils by grades, showing number of pupils in each group, 1906-11, 1918; table showing total enrollment of all schools for past 5 years, 1916; total number of pupils in each grade of each school, 1918--; table of total registration by grades, 1921--. For statistics 1881-85, 1887-90, see entry 49-iii.

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1. Town Records, fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 400, see entry 7.

2. Ibid., p. 404.

3. Ibid., p. 468.

- v. Expenditures, 1925--: Name of payee; amount, purpose of payment. For expenditures 1881-1912, 1915, see entry 49-iv.
- vi. Narrative account of school activities giving findings and recommendations concerning teachers, pupils, studies, buildings, finances, 1896-98, 1902--. 1904, 1907 includes copy of courses of study; 1918-24 includes length of school terms.
- vii. Pupils' census, 1897, 1909-10, 1918--: Number of pupils 8-14, over 15, under 5 years of age, 1897; number of pupils 5-15, over 18 years of age, 1909-10; average age of pupils in high school, 1918; number of pupils 5-7, 7-14, 14-16 years of age in each grade, 1918--.
- viii. Teachers' statistics, 1896-98, 1906-11, 1918-19, 1922-24: Number of visits to schools by superintendent, 1896-97; name, salary of teacher; length of school term; average pupil membership, attendance in each room, percentage of attendance by rooms, number of school days lost by pupils' absences, 1897-98, 1906-11; names of teachers who have resigned, 1922-24. For statistics 1881, 1883, 1913-17, see entry 49-vii.

52. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF DRAWING TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1903-19. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Narrative account of accomplishments, objectives of work.

53. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC TO SUPERINTENDENT), 1903, 1905, 1908-12. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Narrative account of departmental activities: Value, progress of work; recommendations for improvements.

54. TREASURY WARRANT - TOWN OF BERNARDSTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, 1932--. 1 file box.

Copies of warrants to treasurer authorizing payment of departmental expenses for maintenance, books, supplies, transportation, salaries, sundries: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment; voucher number, signatures of superintendent of schools and selectmen. Arr. num. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 x 12 x 12. Supt. off., Northfield High School, Main St., Northfield.

#### X. SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

The school committee has appointed a school physician annually since 1908. However, the records make no mention of appointments in 1918 or 1920.<sup>1</sup>

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1. (Minutes of) Meeting of the District School Committee, passim, see entry 48; Annual Report, 1922, p. 57; 1939, p. 15, see entry 2.



55. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL PHYSICIAN), 1909, 1911, 1912, 1924-29, 1932--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Narrative account of general health conditions of school; survey of accomplishments, recommendations for improvements. 1909, 1911, 1924, 1932-- includes number of pupils suffering from physical defects, classified by type of defect.

#### XI. SCHOOL NURSE

A school nurse has been appointed annually by the school committee since 1922.<sup>1</sup>

56. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL NURSE), 1923--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Number of pupils suffering from various defects or diseases, treated at clinics; number of visits to schools by nurse; record of assistance given school physician, health tests given pupils.

#### XII. ATTENDANCE OFFICER

In 1882, 1897, and 1901, the school committee appointed two truant officers for terms of 1 year. One truant officer was appointed annually from 1904 through 1908, two were appointed annually from 1909 through 1912, and one truant or attendance officer has been appointed by the school committee annually since then.<sup>2</sup>

#### XIII. ELECTION OFFICER

On election days, some person, generally the chairman of the board of selectmen, is nominated from the floor, and appointed by the moderator, as election officer.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Annual Report, 1922, p. 57; 1939, p. 15, see entry 2.

2. (Minutes of) Meetings of the District School Committee, passim, see entry 48; Annual Report, 1922, p. 59; 1939, p. 15, see entry 2.

3. Information obtained from Georgia L. Wyatt, town clerk; Melvin A. Denison, chairman, board of selectmen.

(57-58)

## XIV. TRUSTEES OF POWERS INSTITUTE

In 1856 the town accepted a legacy of \$10,000 from Edward E. Powers, for the use of the schools in Bernardston.<sup>1</sup> In the same year it was voted that a school building be erected with part of the funds.<sup>2</sup> The first trustees of the Powers Institute were 18 in number, 6 elected annually for 3-year terms. They consisted of one representative from each of Bernardston's six school districts, seven members at large, two representatives from Greenfield, one from Leyden, one from Gill, and one from Northfield.<sup>3</sup> Since 1897 all trustees have been elected by the town of Bernardston.<sup>4</sup> They are 12 in number, 4 elected annually for 3-year terms.<sup>5</sup> The institute is considered part of the public school system; the trustees control the endowment funds, but not the policies of the school itself.

## 57. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF (Trustees of) POWERS INSTITUTE, 1896--. 1 vol.

Discussions and votes concerning curricula, teachers, supplies, books, improvements, maintenance; date of meeting. Includes bylaws and copy of deed of gift to school. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 12 x 10 x 2. Residence of Mrs. Abbie J. Nelson (trustee), Old Northfield Rd.

## 58. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF POWERS INSTITUTE), 1885-1907, 1909. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Contains:

- i. Enrollment statistics, 1885-1902: Number of resident, non-resident pupils enrolled each term; totals.
- ii. Narrative account of school activities: Investigations and recommendations concerning teaching, equipment, buildings, pupils, 1885-1903; names of trustees, date of expiration of terms, 1885-87, 1892-1907, 1909; account of activities of alumni association, 1891-92; copy of regulations concerning election of officers, 1901.
- iii. Pupils' census, 1887-94, 1902-7: Names of graduates, 1887-94, 1902-7; number of pupils passing college entrance examinations, amount of donations to construction of athletic field, 1897; average number of pupils paying tuition, amount of tuition payments, 1898.

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1. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 142, 143, see entry 7.  
 2. Ibid., pp. 164-166.  
 3. Ibid., p. 150.  
 4. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 451.  
 5. Annual Report, 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

59. (ANNUAL REPORT OF PRINCIPAL OF POWERS INSTITUTE), 1903-4, 1906--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Narrative account of functioning of school; findings, recommendations concerning education, teachers, attendance and health of pupils, finances, extracurricula activities. Includes: 1918, 1930, 1935, 1938, copy of graduation program; 1922, graph showing enrollment, teaching-load increase of each teacher for past 3 years; 1935, copy of high-school regulations.

Also contains:

- i. Enrollment statistics, 1903-4, 1906--: Number of resident, nonresident pupils. 1908-12 includes number, average age of pupils in each grade; 1923-28 includes number, sex of pupils in each grade.
- ii. Pupils' Census, 1903-4, 1906, 1929-32, 1934--: Percentage of attendance, 1903-4, 1906; average age of pupils, 1906; percentage of absence, tardiness, 1912-14; names of pupils neither absent nor tardy during fall term, names of pupils on honor roll, 1929-32; names of members of graduating class, 1934--.
- iii. Teachers' statistics, 1903, 1916: Names of teachers, 1903; number of classes taught by each teacher, 1916.

60. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER OF POWERS INSTITUTE), 1898, 1901--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Receipts and expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date (1908-34 only) of payment; amount of income from Ferry fund, certification of account by auditor. 1903 includes excerpts from will of Mrs. Susan S. Clark; 1934-- includes value, amount of income from Morgan fund.

61. ACCOUNTS OF THE TREASURER OF POWERS INSTITUTE (Receipts and Expenditures), 1896--. 1 vol.

Record of money received from Ferry and Morgan funds: Name of payer; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures for salaries, laboratory supplies, maintenance: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Residence of Mrs. Abbie J. Nelson (trustee), Old Northfield Rd.

62. POWERS INSTITUTE (Pupil's Scholastic) RECORD CARD, 1896--. 2 vols., 1 file drawer. Title varies: Register - Powers Institute, 1896-1924. 2 vols.

Name, address, age, course, grade of pupil; scholarship record. 1925-- includes date of birth, name of parent or guardian, date of admission, graduation; number of days absent, times tardy; educational, vocational outlook; signature of teacher, principal. Arr. alph. by

name of pupil. No index. Hdw. 1896-1924; hdw. on ptd. form 1925--. Vols. 200 pp. 16 x 11 x 3/4; file drawer 24 x 12 x 12. 2 vols., 1896-1924, strm., second fl.; 1 file drawer, 1925--, principal's off., first fl.; Powers Institute, Church St.

63. SCHOOL REGISTER (Enrollment of Pupils), 1902--. 262 vols. Name of school, total annual enrollment; name, grade, date of enrollment of pupil; name, address of parent or guardian. Includes record of visits to pupils by school officials. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. 16 pp. 11 x 8 1/2 x 1/8. 170 vols., 1902-24, town va.; 92 vols., 1925--, strm., second fl., Powers Institute, Church St.

#### XV. TRUSTEES OF CUSHMAN LIBRARY

Since 1863 the board of trustees has consisted of 12 members, 4 of whom are elected each year for 3-year terms.<sup>1</sup> On occasion, owing to the resignation or death of some trustees, it has been necessary to elect five, six, or even seven members in 1 year.<sup>2</sup> Records date back to 1862, since they describe the formation of the library.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the librarian's desk, reference room, first floor, Cushman Library, Church Street.

#### Minutes and Reports

64. MINUTES OF (Trustees') MEETINGS, 1862--. 1 vol. Discussions and votes on appropriations, purchases, salaries; list of officers, date of meeting. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 9 x 2.

65. (ANNUAL REPORT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES), 1883-85, 1896, 1899-1901, 1906, 1908, 1909. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2. Amount and source of income, amount and purpose of payments, dates of transactions, amount of balance, 1883-85; names of trustees whose terms expire present year, number of books added to library during year, number of books in circulation, 1896, 1899-1901, 1906, 1908, 1909; name of librarian, 1891; narrative account of condition of equipment, 1899, 1906.

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1. Town Records, fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 313, 384; vol. 6. pp. 33, 415, see entry 7.

2. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 38, 321, 355.

Trustees of Cushman Library -  
Minutes and Reports

(66-70)

66. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER OF LIBRARY), 1887-94, 1896, 1897--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Receipts and expenditures: Names of payees; amount, purpose of payments; amount, source of receipts; balance. Includes certification of accounts by auditor. Also includes names of trustees whose terms of office expire present year, 1907, 1912; number of books in library, number added during year, 1912.

67. (ANNUAL REPORT OF LIBRARIAN), 1903, 1922, 1924--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Number of each type of book and magazine in use; total circulation past, present year; total number of books purchased, given library during year; total number of books in library. Includes: 1903, number of each type of book in each room of library, names of donors, titles of books given library; 1922, 1924--, amount and source of income, names of payees, amount and purpose of payments, balance; 1931--, names, grades of pupils in public schools who have completed reading course.

#### Financial Records

(See also entries 64-67, 71)

68. CASH, EXPENSES OF LIBRARIAN OF CUSHMAN LIBRARY, 1918--. 1 vol. Record of expenditures for salaries, supplies, services: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 9 x 7 x  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

69. TREASURER'S RECORDS, 1920--. 4 bdls.

Contains:

- i. Acknowledgements of payments for salaries, maintenance, supplies, purchases: Name of payer; amount, purpose, date of payment; signature of payee.
- ii. Paid invoices: Name of creditor, department charged; amount, itemization, date of invoice.
- iii. Paid vouchers: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment; voucher number.

Arr. chron. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 18 x 12 x 9. Town va., T.H.

70. (CHECK STUBS), 1914--. 4 vols. System estab. 1914. Stubs of checks drawn for salaries, fuel, light, repairs, books: Name of payee; amount, purpose, number, date of check. Arr. num. by check no. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 4 x 2. Town va., T.H.

(71-73)

Trustees of Cushman Library -  
Financial RecordsCirculation and Accessions  
(See also entries 65-67)

71. CIRCULATION RECORD BOOK, 1920--. 20 vols. (dated). System estab. 1920.

Monthly and annual summaries of adult and juvenile books in circulation. Includes record of fines, number of books added annually, total number of borrowers registered, monthly and annual attendance. Arr. chron. by date of summary. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 25 pp. 12 x 10 x  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

72. ACCESSION BOOK, 1920--. 1 vol. System estab. 1920.

Record of new books placed in circulation: Title, cost, size of book; name of author, publisher; place, date of publication; date of purchase, accession number, remarks. Arr. num. by accession no. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 x 10 x 2.

## XVI. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

On December 7, 1789, it was "Voted to Raise an Overplus of Fifteen Pounds for the Support of the Poor," and in the following year three overseers of the poor were elected for a 1 year term.<sup>1</sup> They were elected more or less regularly through 1853, but their main task was apparently to see that the poor of the town were "vendued to the lowest bidder."<sup>2</sup> In some years no provision whatever was made for the poor, and no overseers were elected; in some years the poor of the town were vendued without mention of any contracting officials; in other years it was voted that the selectmen be overseers of the poor.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1854 the town has voted "that the care of the poor be left in the hands of the selectmen," or that the selectmen should "act as the overseers of the poor."<sup>4</sup> The Town Records make no mention of the formal establishment, as required by law, of a board of public welfare, but the annual reports indicate that such a board has been established, with the selectmen serving as members.<sup>5</sup>

73. OVERSEERS OF THE POOR RECORD, 1834--. 5 vols.

Register of persons supported by town: Name, address, birthplace, settlement status of aid recipient; amount, type, date of aid; manner, date of discharge (if any). Includes copy of will of Job Goodale

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1. Town Records, second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 67, 69, see entry 7.  
 2. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, p. 21.  
 3. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 311; third vol., 1816-48, pp. 35, 187, 266, 376; fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 74, 95.  
 4. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 112, 384; vol. 6, pp. 8, 412.  
 5. Annual Report, 1939, p. 2, see entry 2.

bequeathing land for Charity Farm. Arr. chron. by date of aid. Indexed alph. by name of recipient. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 8 x  $\frac{1}{2}$ . 4 vols., 1834-1917, town va., T.H.; 1 vol., 1918--, residence of M. A. Denison (board member), Parmenter Rd.

74. OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, 1931--. 1 vol. Assistance authorized by law 1931.

Name, address, case number of recipient; amount, type, date of aid; date of notice of aid, amount and date of bill rendered to state department of public welfare; amount of reimbursement; remarks. Arr. num. by case no. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 12 x 12 x 1. Residence of M. A. Denison (board member), Parmenter Rd.

#### XVII. BOARD OF HEALTH

The selectmen have always handled all matters pertaining to public health, but the date when they were formally constituted the board of health cannot be found; it is possible that no formal vote was ever taken. The town warrant lists "all necessary Town Officers" to be chosen for the ensuing year, but the board of health is not found in it.<sup>1</sup> However, by custom, the list of town officers given in the annual reports, gives the names of the selectmen as members of the board of health.<sup>2</sup> The fact that their record of contagious diseases begins in 1916 would indicate, however, that, by that time, at any rate, the selectmen were carrying on the functions of a board of health.

75. RECORD OF DANGEROUS DISEASES, 1916-17. 1 vol.

Name, address, case number of patient; nature, date of illness; source of milk supply, laboratory finding, name of informant, remarks. Arr. num. by case no. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 13 x 1. Town va., T.H.

#### XVIII. BURIAL AGENT

Two officers called "grave diggers" were elected for 1-year terms in 1815 and 1816.<sup>3</sup> Their obvious successors, "saxtons," were two in number from 1817 through 1819.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Ibid., 1939, p. 82.

2. Ibid., p. 2.

3. Town Records, second vol., 1786-1815, p. 328; third vol., 1816-48, p. 7, see entry 7.

4. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, pp. 16, 35.

Thereafter, only a single sexton held office. He was elected annually through 1852, and then was appointed annually by the selectmen until the office became defunct after 1866.<sup>1</sup> From 1820 through 1823, and in 1825, 1831, and 1834, the office was apparently not filled. The sexton's macabre duties were "to have charge of the hearse,<sup>2</sup> to open the grave, convey the corpses thither and bury them decently."<sup>2</sup> Since 1836 the selectmen have appointed a burial agent annually, although these appointments are not recorded in the records.<sup>3</sup> His main function is to provide for the burial of soldiers and sailors.

No records were found for this office.

#### XIX. INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS AND BARNES

An inspector of animals and barns has been appointed regularly by the selectmen since 1929,<sup>4</sup> and on occasion before that date.

No records were found for this office.

#### XX. INSPECTOR OF SLAUGHTERING

An inspector of slaughtering has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1929,<sup>5</sup> and probably on occasion before that date.

No records were found for this office.

#### XXI. SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

The history of this office must inevitably include the history of the surveyors of highways, who were elected annually from 1762 through 1876. Until 1795, their numbers varied from 3 to 11; thereafter, the number elected was generally 6 (1 from each district) or 12 (2 from each district).<sup>6</sup> From 1877 through 1889 the selectmen appointed the

1. Ibid., pp. 74, 101, 402; fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 3, 74, 98, 387.

2. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, p. 74.

3. Information obtained from Mr. Melvin Denison, chairman, board of selectmen.

4. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

5. Ibid., 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3.

6. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, pp. 4, 255; second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 2, 140, 328; fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 8, 159, see entry 7.



## Superintendent of Highways

surveyors, or, on occasion, managed the highways and bridges themselves.<sup>1</sup>

In 1890 three road commissioners were elected for 3-year terms, one annually,<sup>2</sup> but in the following year, the selectmen were authorized to appoint a single road commissioner in accordance with chapter 98 of the Acts of 1889.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, through 1928, the system in vogue varied almost every year. Sometimes the selectmen managed the highways directly; sometimes they appointed a road commissioner or superintendent of highways; occasionally the town meeting elected a road commissioner, superintendent of streets, or even highway surveyors.<sup>4</sup> Since 1929, however, the selectmen have appointed a superintendent of highways annually.<sup>5</sup>

The superintendent keeps no records, but see entry 2-ii f for report of superintendent of streets 1921-22.

## XXII. CONSTABLES

A constable was elected for a 1-year term in 1762 and 1763.<sup>6</sup> From 1764 through 1902 the constable was also elected tax collector.<sup>7</sup> For much of this period it was the custom to "put up the collection of taxes to the lowest bidder with the understanding that the collector shall be constable."<sup>8</sup> Generally only one collector was elected; but occasionally, as from 1897 through 1902, two collectors were elected with the understanding that the "first constable," being the lowest bidder, should be collector also, while the other performed routine constable duties.<sup>9</sup> From 1903 through 1918 the number of constables elected annually varied from two to five,<sup>10</sup> since 1919, however, the number has been invariably four.<sup>11</sup>

No records were found for this office.

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1. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 171, 322.
  2. Ibid., p. 334.
  3. Ibid., p. 346.
  4. Ibid., pp. 303, 489, 623, 716; vol. 6, pp. 30, 86, 122.
  5. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.
  6. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 6, see entry 7.
  7. Ibid., p. 7; fifth vol., p. 545.
  8. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, p. 262.
  9. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 451, 545.
  10. Ibid., pp. 555, 675, 716; vol. 6 pp. 13, 96.
  11. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 108, 415.

## XXIII. FIRE WARDEN

A fire warden has been appointed by the selectmen annually since 1929,<sup>1</sup> and at various times before that date.

No records were found for this office.

## XXIV. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In general, it can be stated that a sealer of weights and measures was elected annually from 1762 through 1928, and that he has been appointed by the selectmen each year since then. In certain scattered years, however, - 1764, 1774, 1777, 1787, 1794, etc. and throughout the entire period from 1820 through 1834, - no elections of a sealer took place.

76. (ANNUAL REPORT OF SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES), 1921--.

In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2. Number of measures, pumps, scales tested; amount of fees paid treasurer.

77. SEALER'S RECORDS, 1909--. 2 vols.

Record of tests of weighing and measuring devices: Name, address, business of owner; type of device; results, date of test; amount of fee, date of payment. Arr. chron. by date of test. No index. Hdw. 20 pp. 18 x 10 x  $\frac{1}{4}$ . 1 vol., 1909-15, town va., T.H.; 1 vol., 1916--, residence of Henry O. Root (sealer), South St.

## XXV. TREE WARDEN

A tree warden has been elected annually since 1900.<sup>4</sup> No records were found for this office.

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1. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

2. Information obtained from Mr. Melvin Denison, chairman, board of selectmen.

3. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 4. see entry 7; Annual Report, 1937, p. 37; 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

4. Town Records, fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 496, 716; vol. 6, pp. 12, 415. see entry 7.

## XXVI MOTH SUPERINTENDENT

The selectmen have appointed a moth superintendent annually since 1929, and probably before, although the Town Records make no note of prior appointments.<sup>1</sup>

No records were found for this office.

## XXVII. PUBLIC WEIGHERS

Public weighers, generally three in number, have been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1929.<sup>2</sup>

No records were found for this office.

## XXVIII. SURVEYORS OF WOOD AND LUMBER

This office has been continuous, under various titles, since 1792 when a "surveyor of lumber" was elected for a 1-year term.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, through 1870, from one to three surveyors of lumber were elected annually.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, from 1853 through 1870, from one to four "measurers of wood and bark" were elected annually by the town meeting.<sup>5</sup> In 1871 the two offices were combine,<sup>6</sup> and from three to five "surveyors of wood, lumber and bark" were elected annually through 1877.<sup>7</sup> Since 1878 the title of these officers has been "surveyors of wood and lumber." In numbers varying from two to seven they were elected annually through 1930.<sup>8</sup> Since 1931 from three to five surveyors of wood and lumber have been appointed by the selectmen.<sup>9</sup>

No records were found for this office.

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1. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.
  2. Ibid., 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3.
  3. Town Records, second vol., 1786-1815, p. 101, see entry 7.
  4. Ibid., p. 328; fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 8, 56.
  5. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 98, 385; fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 8, 56.
  6. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 75.
  7. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 97, 170.
  8. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, pp. 190, 636; vol. 6, pp. 11, 274.
  9. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 288, 334, 367, 387, 418.

## XXIX. CUSHMAN HALL COMMITTEE

In 1864, by the will of Henry W. Cushman who had already been a benefactor to the public library, the town of Bernardston was given a boarding house called Cushman Hall and the lot upon which it stood, for the use of the library and Powers Institute. Mr. Cushman directed that this bequest be managed by a committee incorporated by the Commonwealth, consisting of the trustees of the Cushman Library, the president of the board of trustees of Powers Institute, and two other persons, to be called the Cushman Hall Committee.<sup>1</sup> The act incorporating this body was passed on May 20, 1867.<sup>2</sup> At present the Cushman Hall Committee consists of four members who serve annual terms: One is the president of the trustees of Powers Institute, another is the chairman of the Cushman Library trustees, and the remaining two are appointed by these gentlemen from their respective boards. The function of the Committee is to handle the income from Cushman Hall, which is now run as an apartment house; half of the proceeds are devoted to the public library, and the other half to the support of a public lecture series.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the following records, see entry 2-ii c for report of Cushman legacy agent 1896-98, 1900.

78. (ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER OF CUSHMAN HALL COMMITTEE), 1883--. In Annual Report of the Town Officers and Committees, entry 2.

Accounts for maintenance of Cushman Hall, Park, and Library: Amount of town appropriation; name of payee; amount, purpose of payment; balance; amount, source of income; amount of dividends, repayments on loans; includes certification of accounts by auditor. Also includes names, value of securities received from H. W. Cushman Estate; number of shares of stock held; place, amount of deposits, 1906-7, 1915-17, 1919-20, 1922-24, 1926--; occasionally total value of all funds.

79. (TREASURER'S RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES), 1927--.

1 vol. Prior records destroyed by fire.

Record of monies received from dividends, interest, hall rent: Name of payer; amount, date of receipt; total receipts. Expenditures for labor, lectures, entertainment, insurance: Name of payee; amount, date of expenditure; total expenditures. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. Binding in poor condition. 152 pp. 10 x 8 x  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Residence of W. H. Root (treas.), South St.

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1. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 335-342.

2. Acts, 1867, ch. 261.

3. Annual Report, 1938, pp. 8-10, see entry 2.

## XXX. MODERATOR

Until recently, a moderator was elected for each town meeting. He now serves a full year term.<sup>1</sup>

No records were found for this office.

## XXXI SEXTON

Two "grave diggers" were elected for 1-year terms in 1815 and 1816.<sup>2</sup> They were succeeded by "saxtons," also two in number, elected annually from 1817 through 1819.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, a single sexton was elected annually through 1852, and appointed by the selectmen through 1866.<sup>4</sup> During certain of these years, however, - 1820-23, 1825, 1831, 1834, - the office was allowed to remain vacant. After 1866 the records are silent concerning this or similiar offices, but since 1929, and perhaps earlier, the selectmen have appointed a sexton annually.<sup>5</sup> The Annual Reports make no mention of his duties, but it is clear that they are different from those of the burial agent.

No records were found for this office.

## PART C. DEFUNCT OFFICES

## XXXII. FENCE VIEWERS

The history of the fenceviewers indicated the rapid obsolescence of time-honored offices when the conditions that brought them into existence are no longer present. This office was created at the

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1. Town Records, vol. 1, 1762-86, p. 3; vol. 6, p. 414, see entry 7.

2. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 328; third vol., 1816-48, p. 7.

3. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, pp. 16, 35.

4. Ibid., pp. 74, 101, 402; fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 3, 74, 98, 387.

5. Annual Report, 1929, p. 3; 1939, p. 3, see entry 2.

first town meeting in 1762,<sup>1</sup> and for more than 100 years thereafter, from two to six fence viewers were elected by the town annually. The first important change took place in 1892 when it was voted that the selectmen should be the fence viewers.<sup>2</sup> Except in 1907, when three fence viewers were elected for a 1-year term,<sup>3</sup> the selectmen were elected as fence viewers through 1930.<sup>4</sup> In 1931 it was voted that the choice of fence viewers should be left in the hands of the selectmen, and the selectmen appointed three fence viewers each year through 1937.<sup>5</sup> No elections or appointments whatsoever took place in 1938 and 1939, perhaps indicating the extinction of this office.

No records were found for this office.

#### XXXIII. TITHINGMEN

At the first town meeting, held in 1762, one tithingman was elected for a 1-year term. Thereafter, through 1785, two were elected annually.<sup>6</sup> The number of tithingmen elected thereafter varied from two to six.<sup>7</sup> The last election of tithingmen took place in 1846 when five were chosen.<sup>8</sup>

No records were found for this office.

#### XXXIV. WARDENS

From two to five "wardens" were elected annually from 1762 through 1792.<sup>9</sup> The office has been defunct since then.

No records were found for this office.

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1. Town Records, first vol., 1762-86, p. 4, see entry 7.
  2. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 356.
  3. Ibid., p. 621.
  4. Ibid., vol. 6, p. 274.
  5. Ibid., pp. 288, 334, 389.
  6. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 5, 255.
  7. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 2, 83, 328; third vol., 1816-48, p. 6.
  8. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, p. 389.
  9. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 3, 255; second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 2, 101.

## XXXV. HOG REEVES

Hog reeves, in numbers varying, from 2 to 12, were elected annually in Bernardston from 1762 through 1834.<sup>1</sup> However, none were elected in 1783 nor in 1790. The office has been defunct since 1834.

No records were found for this office.

## XXXVI. DEER REEVES

From 1762 through 1796, with the exception of the period 1790-95, two "deareaves," or "deer reeves" were elected annually at the town meeting.<sup>2</sup> The office has been defunct since then.

No records were found for this office.

## XXXVII. SURVEYORS OF SHINGLES AND CLAPBOARDS

These officers were elected, with more or less regularity, from 1763 through 1798 when the office became defunct.<sup>3</sup> The number of officers generally elected was two, with their titles ranging from a severe "surveyors of shingles and clabbords" to an ornate "surveyors of boards, shingles, slitwork, clapboards, staves and hoops."

No records were found for this office.

## XXXVIII. SURVEYOR OF WHEAT

Two surveyors of wheat were elected annually from 1763 through 1767.<sup>4</sup> One surveyor was elected annually from 1791 through 1794.<sup>5</sup>

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1. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 4, 32, 255; third vol., 1816-48, pp. 7, 67, 188.

2. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 4, 57, 255; second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 49, 149.

3. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 6, 255; second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 2, 162.

4. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 6, 19.

5. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 83, 127.

In the intervening period, and since 1794, no surveyors of wheat have been elected.

No records were found for this office.

#### XXXIX. SEALER OF LEATHER

A sealer of leather was elected annually from 1769 through 1809.<sup>1</sup> However, the records make no mention of this office in 1771 and 1787.<sup>2</sup> In 1810 two sealers were elected for a 1-year term; the office became defunct thereafter.<sup>3</sup>

No records were found for this office.

#### XL. HEYWARDS

In 1770, 1772, 1773, 1775-80, 1783 and 1788 two heywards were elected for a 1 year term.<sup>4</sup> One was elected in 1774 and in 1792.<sup>5</sup> While three were elected in 1789.<sup>6</sup> In the intervening years between 1770 and 1792, none were elected. After 1792, the office became defunct.

No records were found for this office.

#### XLI. FIELD DRIVERS

In 1796 two field drivers were elected for a 1 year term.<sup>7</sup> No further elections to this office took place until 1835. Then, from 1835 through 1930, six field drivers, "one from each district," were

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1. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 28, 255; second vol., 1786-1815, pp. 2, 269.

2. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, p. 38; second vol., 1786-1815, p. 13.

3. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 281.

4. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, pp. 32, 45, 62, 98, 233; second vol., 1786-1815, p. 28.

5. Ibid., first vol., 1762-86, p. 57; second vol., 1786-1815, p. 101.

6. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 49.

7. Ibid., p. 149.



## Field Drivers

elected annually, with clock-like regularity.<sup>1</sup> From 1931 through 1937 the selectmen have generally appointed six field drivers each year,<sup>2</sup> but no appointments have taken place in 1938 and 1939.

No records were found for this office.

## XLII. POUND KEEPER

In 1792 it was voted "to build a pound on the hill, north of John Foster's, for the sum of two pounds eighteen shillings."<sup>3</sup> It must have taken a considerable time to build the pound, for no pound keeper was elected until 1797. However, a pound keeper was elected annually thereafter through 1812.<sup>4</sup> The office was defunct for a period ensuing. Annual elections of a pound keeper were again resumed, however, in 1835, and continued through 1928.<sup>5</sup> However, in 1895 and in 1909, the records make no mention of this office, and in 1905 the field drivers were elected to serve as pound keepers in their various districts.<sup>6</sup> In 1929 and 1930 it was voted that the selectmen should serve as pound keepers;<sup>7</sup> in 1931 the choice of a keeper was left in the hands of the selectmen;<sup>8</sup> in 1932, 1934, 1936, and 1937 the selectmen appointed a pound keeper for a 1 year term;<sup>9</sup> and in 1935 a pound keeper was elected for a single year.<sup>10</sup> No elections have taken place in the last two years (1938-39).

No records were found for this office.

## XLIII. LIQUOR AGENT

In 1864 and 1865 the selectmen appointed a liquor agent for a 1-year term.<sup>11</sup> The records make no further mention of this office.

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1. Ibid., third vol., 1816-48, pp. 200, 403; vol. 6, pp. 6, 275.
  2. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 288, 301, 389.
  3. Ibid., second vol., 1786-1815, p. 112.
  4. Ibid., pp. 162, 298.
  5. Ibid., pp. 200, 403; vol. 6, p. 244.
  6. Ibid., fifth vol., 1867-1912, p. 586.
  7. Ibid., vol. 6, pp. 265, 274.
  8. Ibid., p. 288.
  9. Ibid., pp. 301, 334, 367, 389.
  10. Ibid., p. 351.
  11. Ibid., fourth vol., 1848-66, pp. 345-367.

81. LIQUOR AGENT'S RECORD, 1867-68. 1 vol.  
Record of liquor sales: Name of purchaser; amount, kind of liquor; date of sale. Arr. chron. by date of sale. No index. Hdw. Writing faded, paper poor. 100 pp. 8 x 7 x 1. Town va., T.H.

LIQUOR AGENT'S RECORD

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LIQUOR AGENT'S RECORD

[Faded text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

#### PART D. BERNARDSTON FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT

The Bernardston Fire and Water District was established in 1930, with the passage of chapter 93, Acts of 1930. The officers consists of a clerk, treasurer, two auditors and a moderator, all elected annually, for one-year terms and three commissioners elected, one annually, for one-year terms. Prior to the formation of the district, Bernardston's water needs were supplied in part by Fire District No. 1 in Greenfield, while local fire engineers, and later a fire chief, performed the necessary fire-fighting task.

All records are in the residence of Lynn Wyatt (district clerk and treasurer), Center Street, Bernardston.

82. (MINUTES OF DISTRICT MEETINGS), 1930, 1935--. 1 vol.  
Date, place of meeting; names, terms of officers; nature of business transacted; signature of district clerk. Includes copies of warrants for meetings and constable's returns thereon. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw., typed. 150 pp. 10½ x 7 ¾ x 1.

83. (Published) REPORT OF THE OFFICERS, BERNARDSTON FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT, 1937-39. 3 vols.  
Contains report of:  
i. Assessors: Amount of real and personal property assessments, tax rate; names of assessors.  
ii. Tax collector: Auditor's statement of examination of tax book, showing amount of tax, interest, abatements; names of auditors.  
iii. Commissioners: Treasurer's receipts and expenditures. Includes copies of warrants for district meetings.  
Arr. by subject. No index. Ptd. 12 pp. 9 x 6 x 1/8.

84. (TREASURER'S RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES), 1936--. 2 vols.  
Receipts: Date, amount, source of receipt; total receipts. Expenditures: Date, amount, purpose of payment; name of payee, check number, total expenditures. Also contains record of monthly water-meter readings: Date of reading, name of consumer, amount charged, quantity of water consumed, amount paid treasurer. Arr. chron. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 8 x ½ and 175 pp. 10½ x 8 x 1.

APPENDIX

STATE ARCHIVES RELATING TO BERNARDSTON

1. (ORDER OF GENERAL COURT FOR ORGANIZATION MEETING OF PROPRIETORS),  
Dec. 24, 1735. 1 sheet  
Order of the General Court empowering and directing Thomas Wells to call a meeting in some Hampshire County town, of the grantees of the tract of land made by said court to the officers and soldiers who were at the "Falls Fight" above Deerfield, for the purpose of choosing a moderator and proprietors' clerk; also to agree upon effectual methods for laying out lots and fulfilling their grant and calling future meetings. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 7. (Vol. 114, "Towns", 1730-1742, p. 603.)  
For printed version of this order, see Province Resolves, XII, 1734-1740, p. 197.
2. (REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF GENERAL COURT ON SELECTION OF PROPRIETORS),  
June 1736. 2 sheets.  
Report of committee consisting of William Dudley, Eze. Lewis, John Stoddard, Joseph Dwight, John Wainright, members of committee appointed by the General Court, presenting a list of those entitled to a share in the township granted those or the descendants of those who took part in the "Falls Fight." Court order thereon accepting committee's report dated January 21, 1736/7. Hdw. 4 pp. 7 x 12. (Vol. 114, "Towns", 1730-1742, pp. 605-608.)  
For printed version of this report, see Province Resolves, XII, 1734-1740, p. 334.
3. (PETITION OF PROPRIETORS' AGENT FOR ADDITIONAL LAND), Aug. 5,  
1741. 2 sheets.  
Petition of Thomas Wells, agent for the proprietors of lands granted for a township to the officers and soldiers participating in the "Falls Fight" with the Indians in November 1734, to Governor Jonathan Belcher, council, and house of representatives stating that in 1734 said court granted petitioners a tract of land six miles square, that a plot was made of said land by the surveyor, Nathaniel Kellogg, and is now before the court for confirmation; that petitioners' grant is not as valuable as other grants made by the court, because a former grant of five hundred acres to Mr. Fayerweather's heirs and other grants were taken from the town's best lands, and the number of grantees is more than was expected; also, part of the land is rough and barren. Therefore petitioners ask for an additional gore of land adjacent to theirs, and that their plot be accepted and confirmed. Read in the house of representatives Aug. 5, 1741 and ordered that the plot of said tract granted to Sam Hunt and officers and soldiers of the Falls Fight in Nov. 1734 made by Nathaniel Kellogg on May 4, 1736, be accepted and the lands described be confirmed to said grantees according to their list as presented to the court on January 21, 1736/7, exclusive of Mr. Fayerweather's grant; and since Sam Colby of Almsbury and Tryal Newbery of Malden, deceased, were in said fight and had not received their share in said township, that Sam Colby's son be granted 264 acres of the land mentioned in said petition, and a like quantity to Nathaniel Newbery's son, and the

remainder be granted the proprietors of said township to be theirs forever, provided said gore does not exceed 4480 acres. Hdw. 3 pp. 8 x 13. (Vol. 114, "Towns", 1730-1742, pp. 594-596.)

For a printed version of this petition, see Province Resolves, XIII, 1741-1747, pp. 34, 35.

4. (ORDER FOR DEFENSE APPROPRIATION), Nov. 11, 1743. 1 sheet. From the apprehension of the house of the speedy rupture of relations between Great Britain and France, and in order that the inland frontiers of the province may be put in a better posture of defense the house of representatives authorized an appropriation from the Supply Bill for constructing a garrison or blockades of square timber round some dwelling house or houses or otherwise in frontier towns as seem prudent; also, that Thomas Ingersole, John Leonard and Thomas Jones be a committee to carry out said order; that sums granted be apportioned to each place and any overplus be returned to the province treasury. Passed in house of representatives, November 11, 1743. Read in council, November 11, 1743 and concurred, and appointed John Stoddard and Oliver Partridge member of said committee; also ordered that Fallstown, Colrain, Blandfad, Stockbridge, Sheffield, and Upper Housatunaack each receive 100 pounds, that New Hampton receive sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings, four pence; that Fallstown be one of the towns fortified. Consented to by Governor William Shirley. Hdw. 2 pp. 8½ x 12. (Vol. 115, "Towns", 1742-1751, pp. 183-184.)

5. (PETITION OF PROPRIETORS FOR SETTLEMENT OF GRIEVANCES), Dec. 25, 1751. 2 sheets.

Petition of Ebenezer Shelden and Caleb Chapin in behalf of the proprietors of Fallstown to Lieutenant Governor Phips, council, and house of representatives, stating that Colonel Israel Williams had refused to accept the office of proprietors' clerk to which he had been elected; that as a result the proprietors are without a clerk and unable to hold regular meetings; that it had been twenty years since the township was established, and although the grant required sixty families to settle in said township within three years from date of grant, only fifteen families had done so; therefore, petitioners asked the court to enact necessary legislation to remedy their difficulties. Read in house of representatives January 9, 1752, and ordered that upon application in writing of any five proprietors, Ebenezer Shelden be empowered to give notification of a meeting; that said notice be posted at some public place in the towns of Fallstown and Deerfield at least twenty days before the date of meeting; that Oliver Partridge and Joseph Hawley report to the court which proprietors have and have not fulfilled the conditions of their grant. Read in council, January 14, 1752, and concurred. Petition consented to by Lieutenant Governor Phips. Hdw. 3 pp. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 116, "Towns", 1751-1754, pp. 157-159.)

For a printed version of this petition, see XIV, Province Resolves, 1747-1752, p. 585.

6. (REPORT OF GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES OF PROPRIETORS),  
May 8, 1752. 2 sheets.

Report of Oliver Partridge and Joseph Hawley, members of the committee appointed by the General Court to consider the petition of Ebenezer Shelden and others of Fallstown, in which the committee stated they had visited said town and presented a list of original proprietors or their assignees who had fulfilled completely or in part the conditions of their grant; the committee found that although some of the proprietors included in said list had fulfilled the conditions of their grant, they did not do so within the four years as required; that many of the proprietors had deserted the township during the war, and some of the lands were grown over and numerous buildings had been burned; that proprietors had built a meetinghouse and settled a minister who had left town during the war and at present there were but fifteen inhabitants in said town. Hdw. 3 pp. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns", 1751-1754, pp. 190-192.)

7. (PETITION OF PROPRIETORS FOR AUTHORITY TO LEVY AND COLLECT  
TAXES), Sept. 3, 1753. 1 sheet.

Petition of Ebenezer Shelden, Jr. and other proprietors of Fallstown to Governor William Shirley, council, and house of representatives, requesting power to gather all the taxes that have been raised upon the rights of said town, and especially one of twenty-two pounds on each right, part of which the proprietors have refused to pay; also, to be empowered to gather future taxes necessary to pay for preaching, settling a minister, and other public expenditures; that the court decide who shall be excused from settling their rights, there being ninety-seven rights besides the public rights in town and only sixty are required to be settled. Read in the house of representatives, September 12, 1753, and ordered that the substance of the petition be printed in the Evening Post, that resident and nonresident proprietors may show cause why petitioner's prayer should not be granted. Read in council, September 13, 1753, and concurred. Read again in council, December 31, 1753, and ordered that Sylvanus Brown and Eleazer Porter, with such as the house shall join, be a committee to take said petition under consideration and report what they judge proper to be done. Read in house of representatives, December 31, 1753, and concurred; Captain Elijah Williams, Mr. Mosely, and Colonel Partridge be appointed to join in the affair. Hdw. 2 p. 7 x 12. (Vol. 116, "Towns", 1751-1754, pp. 421-422.)

For a printed version of this petition, see Province Resolves, XV, 1753-1756, p. 50.

8. (REPORT OF GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE ON PROPRIETORS' PETITION  
CONCERNING TAXATION), Jan. 3, 1754. 1 sheet.

Report of the committee appointed by the General Court to consider petition of Ebenezer Shelden, Jr. and others, recommending a committee be appointed to go to Fallstown, hear the parties concerned, and report their opinion thereon; that the expenses of the appointed committee be paid by said proprietors. Signed by Sylvanus Brown. Read in council, January 3, 1754, and ordered that Eleazer Porter with such as the court shall join

be a committee for above purposes. Read in house of representatives. January 4, 1754, concurred, and named Elijah Williams and Oliver Partridge to join in the affair. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 6. (Vol. 116, "Towns", 1751-1754, p. 423.)

9. (REPORT OF GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE ON RESULT OF HEARING WITH PROPRIETORS), November 6, 1754. 1 sheet.

Report of Oliver Partridge, Elijah Williams, and Eleazer Porter, members of the committee appointed by the General Court on January 4, 1754, stating they had met with the proprietors on August 20, 1754, and recommended that the present treasurer, Ebenezer Shelden, Jr., or such as the proprietors select, be empowered to require collectors to settle forthwith all assignments committed to them; that said proprietors be empowered to levy taxes for providing a preacher until they settle a minister; that proprietors call a meeting to select a minister, raise and levy other taxes deemed necessary by proprietors; that all taxes shall be raised on land laid on in the original grant, including lands of Mr. Fayerweather and the two grants in the gore. The committee presented a list of lots on which the conditions of settlements had been met, twenty-eight in number, and another list of lots which they recommended should be disposed of at the direction of the court, unless settlement was made; that the sixty proprietors who settled in said town as required by their grant be allowed the twenty-two pounds each which the proprietors voted them. Read in council, November 5, 1754, and ordered that said report be accepted. Read in house of representatives, November 6, 1754, and concurred. Order consented to by Governor William Shirley. Hdw. 2pp. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 116, "Towns", 1751-1754, pp. 424-425.)

For a printed version of the report, see Province Resolves, XV, 1753-1756, pp. 208, 209.

10. (PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF GREENFIELD), Oct. 5, 1756. 1 sheet.

Petition of inhabitants of Greenfield to Governor Spencer Phips, council, and house of representatives, in which Fallstown is mentioned as being eight or ten miles from Colrain. Petitioners give account of their exposed condition, request a guard, and ask assistance in building fortifications. Order on petition dated February 25, 1757. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12½. (Vol. 117, "Towns", 1755-1762, p. 208.)

11. (PETITION OF PROPRIETORS FOR ADDITIONAL LAND AND INCORPORATION), Dec. 16, 1761. 1 sheet.

Petition of Ebenezer Shelden, Jr. and other proprietors of Fallstown to Governor Francis Barnard, council, and house of representatives, asking for additional of land and that their planation be incorporated into a town. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 10½. (Vol. 117, "Towns", 1755-1762, p. 768.)

12. (PETITION FOR CHANGE OF SHIRE TOWN), Jan. 1, 1762. 2 sheets. Petition of the selectmen and agents representing towns and plantations in the northern part of Hampshire County to Governor Francis Barnard, council, and house of representatives, asking that the shire town be changed to either Northampton or Hadley, thus lessening the inconvenience and expense necessitated to them on account of the distance between their towns and the shire town; petitioners stated they had no desire and did not think their proposal would impose any unfair burden on towns in the southern part of said county. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 12½, (Vol. 117, "Towns", 1755-1762, pp. 682-684.)

13. (ACT CHANGING PLANTATION OF FALLSTOWN TO TOWN OF BERNARDSTON), March 3, 1762. 1 sheet.

Whereas it hath been represented to this (general) court that the erecting of the plantation called Fallstown, in Hampshire County, into a town by the name of Bernardston would be of great advantage to said plantation, be it enacted that the bounds of said plantation be on the north by the Province line, south by Deerfield and Greenfield, east by Northfield, west by Colrain; that said plantation's name be Bernardston; that inhabitants of said town be entitled to enjoy same privileges as other towns in the Province; that Elijah Williams be directed to issue his warrant to some principal inhabitants of said town, requiring him to warn qualified voters to meet at such time and place as therein set forth that they may choose officers as required by law to manage their affairs. Read in the house of representatives, March 2, 1762; reread on March 3, 1762, and passed to be engrossed. Read in council, March 3, 1762, concurred, and passed to be engrossed; approved March 6, 1762. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 117, "Towns", 1755-1762, p. 809.)

For a printed version of this act, see Province Laws, IV, 1757-1768, pp. 530, 531.

14. (PETITION OF PROPRIETORS FOR POWER TO CALL A MEETING AND PAY DEBTS INCURRED BEFORE INCORPORATION), June 7, 1764. 1 sheet.

Petition of John Burk, in behalf of the proprietors of Bernardston, to Governor Francis Barnard, council, and house of representatives, stating that the proprietors of said town at time of incorporation were indebted to Reverend Job Wright for his settlement and part of one year's salary; that no provision was made in the act of incorporation for raising money on the proprietors' lands. The petitioners ask the court for authority to call a meeting of the proprietors and raise money to pay said debts. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 9. (Vol. 14, "Ecclesiastical", 1757-1774, p. 383.)

15. (ACT AUTHORIZING PROPRIETORS TO CALL A MEETING AND PAY DEBTS INCURRED BEFORE INCORPORATION), June 14, 1764. 1 sheet.

General court order that, upon application by five or more proprietors of Bernardston to any of the justices of the peace of Hampshire County stating they desired to call a proprietors' meeting in order to raise money to pay aforesaid debts and transact business relative thereto, the said justice of the peace issue his warrant, giving time, place, and purpose of meeting therein, to one of the proprietors; that a copy



of said warrant be posted in some public place in town, and inserted in three Boston newspapers for three successive weeks at least twenty days before said meeting; that proprietors at such meeting may make choice of necessary officers and make such votes as necessary for levying, assessing, and collecting sums they owe, together with such sums as necessary to defray the expenses of procuring warrant; that the assessors be empowered to make sale and convey delinquent proprietors' lands upon which their tax remains unpaid after sixty days, observing the rules as provided in an act entitled "An Act to Subject the Unimproved Lands within This Province to be Sold For Payment of Taxes Thereon". Read in house of representatives, June 14, 1764, and passed to be engrossed. Read in council, June 14, 1764, and passed to be engrossed. Hdw. 2 pp. 7 x 12. (Vol. 118, "Towns", 1763-1774, pp. 49, 50.)

For a printed version of this act, see Province Laws, IV, 1757-1768, pp. 723, 724.

16. (PETITION FOR ABATEMENT OF TOWN TAXES), June 15, 1764.  
1 sheet.

Petition of John Burk, in behalf of the proprietors of Bernardston, to Governor Francis Barnard, council, and house of representatives, stating the thirty-one inhabitants of said town were very poor, and due to the effects of wars had only four hundred acres of improved lands; that said town had paid taxes for the last three years amounting to 58 pounds, but was unable to pay one then due of 19 pounds without causing great distress; therefore, petitioners prayed said tax be abated. The house of representatives, June 14, 1764, ordered petition referred to next session of General Court, and the treasurer not to issue his warrant for the enforcement of tax payments in the meantime. Read in council, June 15, 1764, and concurred. Consented to by Governor Francis Barnard. Hdw. 1 p. 7½ x 12. (Vol. 118, "Towns", 1763-1774, p. 44.)

For a printed version of this petition, see Province Resolves, XVII, 1761-1764, p. 44.

17. (REPORT OF GENERAL COURT COMMITTEE ON PETITION FOR RESTORATION OF LAND), June 1765. 3 sheets.

Report of the committee appointed by the General Court to consider the petition of Oliver Partridge and other proprietors of Bernardston who claimed loss of 7350 acres of land due to running of the line between the provinces of New Hampshire and Massachusetts; the committee recommended that 7350 acres of unappropriated lands belonging to this province be granted said petitioners and their heirs and that grantees return a plat of said grant to the secretary's office within twelve months from date. Read in council, June 22, 1765, and sent down. Read in house of representatives, June 24, 1765, accepted, and ordered that the several grants mentioned be passed separately. Read in council, June 25, 1765, and concurred. Hdw. 5 pp. 7 x 11½. (Vol. 5, "Colonial", 1728-1774, pp. 245-249.)

18. (LETTER REGARDING ASSIGNMENT OF LAND), October 17, 1770.  
2 sheets.

Letter from Thomas Hutchinson to Governor Barnard suggesting that land belonging to one Mr. Story be assigned to the Province treasurer as security for payment of his note. Hdw. 2 pp.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  x 13. (Vol. 27, "Hutchinson's Correspondence", 1770-1774, pp. 25, 26.)

19. (PETITION FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICAL CARE), May 24, 1771.  
1 sheet.

Petition of the selectmen of Bernardston to Governor Thomas Hutchinson and General Court asking for reimbursement from Province treasurer for expenditures entailed in caring for William Peat, an indigent stranger ill with smallpox; petitioners also presented an itemized account of said expenditures. Signed by Joel Chapin, Elijah Sheldon, John Burk. Hdw. 2 pp.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  x  $11\frac{1}{2}$ . (Vol. 118, "Towns", 1763-1774, pp. 433, 434.)

20. (SELECTMEN'S ORDER ON PROVINCE TREASURER FOR PAYMENT OF BILL FOR MEDICAL CARE), Aug. 24, 1771. 1 sheet.

Order of the selectmen of Bernardston on Harrison Gray, Province treasurer, for payment of eight pounds, 12 shillings, 11 pence, or whatever His Excellency, Governor Thomas Hutchinson and His Majesty's Council shall allow Samuel Hinsdale for the expense of caring and providing for William Peat in his sickness. (Six pounds, 1 shilling, three pence was eventually allowed.) Hdw. 1 p.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . (Vol. 118, "Towns", 1763-1774, p. 435.)

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PUBLICATIONS OF THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Note: Except where noted, all volumes are published at the state headquarters of the Historical Records Survey, Sharp School, Pinckney & Anderson Streets, Boston, Mass.

- Abstract and Index of the Records of the Inferiour Court of Pleas (Suffolk County Court) Held at Boston, 1680-1698, (iii, 224 pp., mim., 1940).
- American Portraits, 1620-1825, Found in Massachusetts, 2 vols., (iv, 254 pp. and 318 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).
- Brief History of the Town of Braintree in Massachusetts, 1640-1940, compiled and written for the Tercentenary Committee, Marion Sophia Arnold, ed., (64 pp., Boston, Thomas Todd Co., 1940).
- Calendar of the General Henry Knox Papers in the Boston Public Library, (ii, 19 pp., mult. dupl., May, 1939).
- Calendar of the Letters of Charles Robert Darwin to Asa Gray, (vii, 148 pp., mult. dupl., December, 1939).
- Calendar of the Ryder Collection of Confederate Archives at Tufts College, (v, 165 pp., mim., 1940).
- Diary and Journal, 1755-1807, of Seth Metcalf, (iii, 31 pp., mult. dupl., October, 1939).
- Description of the Manuscript Collections of the Massachusetts Diocesan Library. (ii, 81 pp., mult. dupl., February, 1939).
- Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Massachusetts, (ii, 160 pp., mim., September, 1939).
- Index to the Hampshire Gazette, 1786-1937, 3 vols., (vii, 213, 217, and 295 pp., mim., May, 1939).
- Index to the Proclamations of Massachusetts, 1620-1936, 2 vols., (xvii, 200 and 153 pp., mim., April, 1937).
- Inventory to the County Archives of Massachusetts, No. 5, Essex County, (ii, 370 pp., mim., December, 1937).
- Inventory of the Town and City Archives of Massachusetts, (Series) No. 6 Franklin County  
Vol. I Ashfield, (ii, 108 pp., mim., 1940).  
Vol. II Bernardston, (iii, 90 pp., mim., 1941).  
Vol. III Buckland, (ii, 74 pp., mim., 1940).

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No. 7 Hampden County

Vol. V Chicopee, (xi, 296 pp., mult. dupl., and mim.,  
October, 1939).

No. 10 Middlesex County

Vol. XXIX Maynard, (iii, 149 pp., mult. dupl., 1941).

No. 11 Norfolk County

Vol. I Avon, (ii, 83 pp. mult. dupl., May, 1939).

Vol. II Bellingham, (ii, 76 pp., mult. dupl., August, 1939).

Vol. IV Brookline, (v, 348 pp., mult. dupl., 1940).

Vol. XI Holbrook, (iii, 179 pp. mult. dupl., 1941).

No. 13 Suffolk County

Vol. I, Part 5 Boston, (v, 356 pp., mult. dupl., 1940).

No. 14 Worcester County

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Vol. III Auburn, (iii, 89 pp., mim. February, 1940).

Vol. IV Barre, (iii, 132 pp., mim. 1940).

Note: The following are reprints of the sketches of history and government for use in the respective public schools of the town concerned. Since they duplicate material already included in the respective city or town inventories, these reprints are not distributed separately to official depositories of Historical Records Survey publications.

Sketch of History and Government (reprints for use of public schools)

No. 6 Franklin County

Vol. I Ashfield, (iii, 48 pp., mim., 1941).

Vol. III Buckland, (ii, 36 pp., mim., 1940).

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Vol. IV Brookline, (ii, 74 pp., mult. dupl., 1940).

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No. 14 Worcester County

Vol. IV Barre, (ii, 45 pp., mim., 1940).

