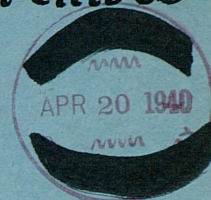


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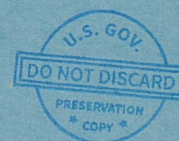


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The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

No.14. Worcester County
VOL. III. AUBURN

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The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1940

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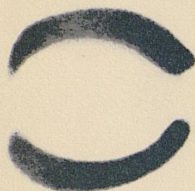
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The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

No. 14 Worcester County

Vol. III. AUBURN

* * * * *

The Historical Records Survey
Boston, Massachusetts
1940



The Historical Records Survey

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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 Works Progress Administration (now the Work Projects Administration). Since federal sponsorship ceased on August 31, 1939, the sponsorship of the Massachusetts unit of the survey has been undertaken by Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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, refiling, 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 be well 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 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.

In the field of county records the survey of eight of the fourteen counties of Massachusetts are nearing completion. In that of municipal records, approximately sixty of 350 cities and towns have been covered to date including several of the more populous. Editorial work is now also proceeding on six of an estimated ten volumes of the inventory of the records of the city of Boston. Some 200 manuscript depositories, large and small, have been surveyed and a preliminary guide to them published. An inventory of the records of Universalist churches in Massachusetts will soon be published, and field work is being carried on in other denominations, particularly in the Unitarian, Congregational, Baptist, and Jewish bodies. A catalogue of portraits painted before 1825 in Massachusetts has been published and editorial work is proceeding on similar listings for the other New England states and New York State. A listing of the publications of the Massachusetts unit of the survey follows at the end of this volume.

This inventory of the town archives of Auburn is the third in the alphabetical series for Worcester County. Field work in reporting the archives as well as research in the preparation of the historical and office sketches was primarily the work of Gunhilde Heaney, under the supervision of Lincoln E. Ross, supervisor of the survey in Worcester and Franklin Counties. The inventory of records was edited in the Boston office by George Weiner and Lawrence Lehane under the direction of Morris I. Wartow, supervisor of records editing. The historical, governmental and office sketches were written primarily by Maurice Ross under the direction of the undersigned. The index was prepared by Charles N. Haskell and Leon Ryther. The cover design, map and chart of government were prepared by Michael Waters. The technical process of publication was under the direction of Ralph Kahn. Final editorial scrutiny was given the volume by the Washington staff of the survey, directed by Dr. Luther H. Evans.

The Historical Records Survey wishes to express its appreciation to the town officials of Auburn for their cooperation and interest; also to Secretary of the Commonwealth, Frederic W. Cook, without whose sponsorship this work would not be possible.

Carl J. Wennerblad
State Supervisor
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 Auburn in Worcester County is volume III of number 14 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 a 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 was organized and has been directed by Luther H. Evans, and operates as a nation-wide project in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. C. Harrington
Commissioner of Works Projects

1.
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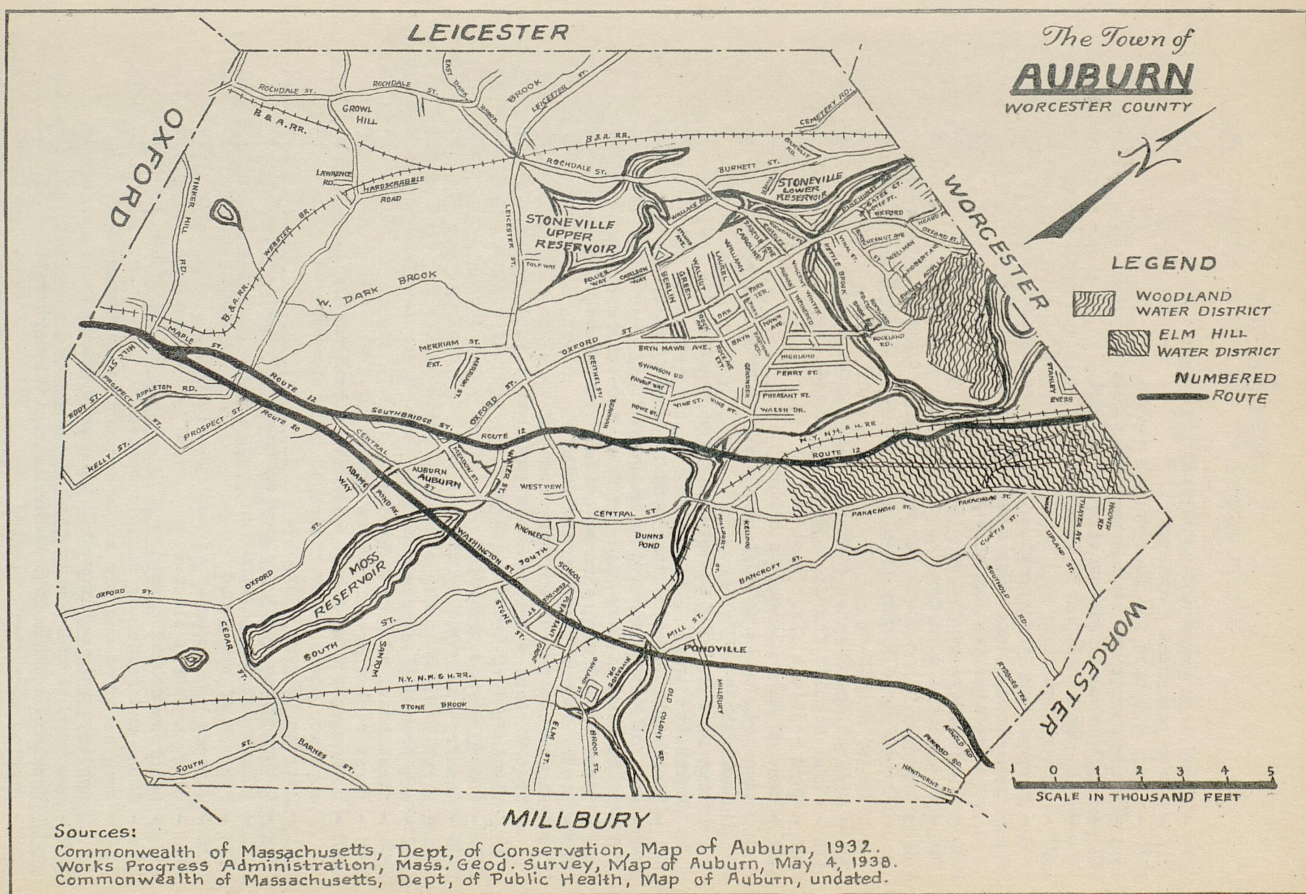
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PART A AUBURN AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first grant and settlement of that land in the vicinity of Worcester which is now the site of Auburn were made in 1650, when 3,200 acres of land were given to Increase Nowell of Sudbury.¹ In 1662, 1,000 acres were granted to the church in Malden for the use of the ministry forever.² Two hundred and fifty acres were given to Ensign Thomas Noyes of Sudbury on October 19, 1664.³ The settlements were small and weak and were subsequently abandoned. Worcester was twice settled and twice destroyed by Indians.⁴ The general court tried to encourage settlement by liberal grants; scouts and missionaries traveled over the Indian trails that crossed the region and spoke enthusiastically of the fertility of the Nipmuck country, in the heart of which lies Auburn; but the isolation of the frontier and the constant menace of the Nipmuck Indians, allies of King Philip in the Indian War of 1675-76, and whose headquarters were on Pakachoag Hill on the border of Auburn, deterred settlers from occupation.

The third settlement on the site of the present city of Worcester was made by Jonas Rice in 1713. His brother, Gershom Rice, became the second permanent settler when, in 1715, he located on Pakachoag Hill, two and one-half miles southwest of his brother.⁴ Sutton was given town status in 1714. Worcester and Leicester became towns in 1722. The inhabitants of these three towns and of Oxford who lived near the intersection of the boundaries found their new position inconvenient and difficult. Separated by miles of bad road from the centers of their respective communities, they suffered because they were forced to support churches whose regular services they could not attend. In 1742 they petitioned for independent status. A second petition, some months later, was accompanied by a plan showing the desired precinct to be five miles square.⁵ The four mother towns were loath to allow the partition of their territory and protested the division. The general court denied this petition and those of 1770 and 1772, but finally on June 19, 1773 the court ordered that the petitioners with their families and estates "be erected into a Precinct with all the powers and privileges which other Precincts in the Province by law enjoy".⁶

The new precinct of Worcester was named the South Parish. All persons

1. Massachusetts General Court, Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628-1686, N.B. Shurtleff, ed., 5 vols. in 6, Boston, 1853-1854, vol. IV, part I, pp. 7, 294.

2. Ibid., part II, p. 45.

3. Ibid., pp. 139-140.

4. Caleb A. Wall, Reminiscences of Worcester, Worcester, Tyler and Seagrave, 1877, p. 10.

5. See entry 149.

6. Massachusetts General Court, The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, 1692-1780, 21 vols., Boston, 1869-1922, V (1769-1780), pp. 858-859. Hereafter cited as Province Acts and Resolves.

living in the towns of Worcester, Leicester and Oxford within three miles of the site designated for the meetinghouse, with all others living in Sutton within a mile and one-half of this place who cared to belong to the South Parish were given the privilege, provided their names were registered in the secretary's office within nine months.¹ The new precinct had seventy-four members.² The first meeting of the new parish was held on July 6, 1773. In August of that year it was voted "to begin Preaching as soon as may be" and to make plans for the erection of a meeting house which, though in use in 1776, was still uncompleted ten years later.³ The church was regularly organized in 1776, but no pastor was settled until 1784.⁴ In 1775, according to the "Last List of Estates by which the Taxes are made", there were only twenty members of the South Parish who were qualified to vote.

Precinct status did not satisfy the inhabitants of the South Parish, and almost at once they began to ask the general court to be set off as a separate town. The requests were opposed by Worcester and repeatedly denied by the court. Twice, in 1776 and 1777, special war taxes on the inhabitants of the South Parish were abated, perhaps with the hope of influencing them to remain a part of Worcester. The settlers of the precinct were, however, insistent. On April 10, 1778, after Worcester had withdrawn its objections in 1777,⁵ the South Parish of Worcester was at last incorporated as a town. In the bill for incorporation the name of the town was designated as Wardborough, but the name was amended after two readings to Ward.⁶ Although no reason was given for the change, it was probably due to the convenience of writing a shorter name. The town was named after the Revolutionary hero, Major-general Artemas Ward, first commander-in-chief of the army in the War for Independence, later a member of the Council of the Provincial Congress, a judge in the county courts, and a representative in Congress.⁷

Not all of the residents of the area favored the incorporation of the new town, for twenty-eight inhabitants of Sutton whose dwellings were included within the boundaries protested at once. The general court ordered that certain residents of the town, although included within its boundaries but not within the parish, should nevertheless be accounted as residents of the towns to which they respectively belonged previous to the incorpora-

1. Province Acts and Resolves, V (1769-1780), pp. 858-9. Which secretary the court meant was not specified.

2. Idem.

3. History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, E.B. Crane, ed., 3 vols., New York and Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1924, II, p. 720.

4. Idem.

5. Worcester Town Records, 1722-1848, Franklin F. Rice, ed., 5 vols., Worcester, 1879-1895, IV, p. 307.

6. Province Acts and Resolves, ch. 28 of 1778, notes, p. 860.

7. Abijah P. Marvin, History of Worcester County, 2 vols., Boston, 1879, I, p. 242.

tion of Ward. This provision remained in effect until 1850¹ and caused considerable confusion, for the people concerned lived within Ward and yet were not residents of the town.

At the same time, however, the town gained new members, for the general court provided that anyone living adjacent to Ward could, if he so desired, become a legal resident by signifying in writing to the town clerk.² To complete the establishment of Ward, the court ordered the clerks of the four adjacent towns of Worcester, Oxford, Leicester and Sutton to deliver the last valuation list of real and personal property of those inhabitants who had joined the new town in order that their voting qualifications might be determined.³ As soon as the franchise holders were decided, the warrant for a town meeting was issued.

The first town meeting in Ward was held on May 4, 1778. The only business conducted at this meeting was the election of officers.⁴ One of the early acts of the town government was to grant one hundred twenty-five pounds for religious purposes and one hundred pounds for repairing the highways.⁵

As early as 1779 persons of the Baptist persuasion in Ward, as in many other towns, asked for exemption from the customary ministerial tax imposed on all resident church members at that time. In March 1812 the town voted to allow dissenters from the Congregational Society the use of the meeting house on week days for lectures, providing the Congregationalists did not themselves wish to use the house.⁶ For over a century and until 1897 when a new town hall was built, the Congregational Church served as town hall. On September 18, 1837 it was "voted to accept the offer of the First Religious Society to build the basement story under their meeting house and to pay the sum of \$400 towards defraying the expense on condition that said Society fit up said basement suitable for a Town House and guarantee to the town the use of said basement story for all town business whenever the town may want". At the same meeting it was "voted to give liberty to The First Religious Society to move the Meeting House to that part of the town common which said Society has selected".⁷ The church building was therefor moved back fifty feet and the belfry and spire added. The first meeting held in the basement Town Hall was on

1. Massachusetts General Court, Acts and Resolves of the General Court of Massachusetts, 1839-1914, 1920-1938, 97 vols. including 2 for special sessions, Boston, 1842-1914; Acts, 1850, ch. 243. Hereafter the laws will be cited as follows: The session laws of 1720-1838 as Laws; of 1839-1914, as Acts; of 1915-1919, as General Acts or Special Acts; of 1919 to date, as Acts. Resolves will be cited as Resolves or Special Resolves.

2. Province Acts and Resolves, V (1769-1780), ch. 28 of 1778, pp. 797-798

3. Ibid., V (1769-80), ch. 39, pp. 955-956

4. Marvin, op. cit., I, pp. 243-244

5. Ibid., II, p. 244

6. TOWN OF AUBURN - TOWN CLERK - RECORDS, 1786-1939, 10 vols., mss., III, p. 183. Hereafter cited as Town Records. See entry 8

7. Ibid., IV, pp. 360, 361

June 4, 1838.¹ In 1869 the church was raised up, the galleries removed and the interior remodeled. Finally in 1896 the town voted to borrow \$7,600 to construct a new town hall and by the following year it was in use.² The Baptists erected a church building in West Auburn in 1814. Later, when the society merged with the Baptist Society of North Oxford, the building was sold,³ and used as a tannery until it burned in 1863.⁴ The Baptist Church in Sutton called a council of elders and delegates who met April 9, 1815 and formed the First Baptist Church of Ward with twenty-eight members.⁵ A Roman Catholic Church was established in Auburn, at Stoneville, in 1867. A schoolhouse was used until 1869, when a small church, St. Joseph's Mission, was built and maintained as a mission of St. John's Church of Worcester. Care of this mission was transferred to St. Anne's in 1881, then, in 1885, to the Church of the Sacred Heart, both of Worcester, and later to the Oxford parish, after which it was placed under St. Peter's in Worcester.⁶

The four mother towns did not entirely lose contact with Ward, for on February 22, 1779 the general court allowed Worcester, Oxford, Leicester and Sutton to tax the inhabitants of Ward "as they were in their respective towns before the incorporation of said town, the acts of incorporation notwithstanding". This order continued until the end of the ensuing year.⁷

Even though the town of Ward had not yet been established at the beginning of the Revolution, the inhabitants of the precinct did not hesitate to voice their views on political matters. The records of the precinct contain a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the precinct sent soldiers to the service.

In the turbulent days that followed the war, the town of Ward supplied a company to augment the forces of Daniel Shays.⁸ This company helped to flout the court at Worcester and to prevent the sitting of justices. On January 29, 1787 the town "voted to choose a committee of 3 to draught a petition to send to the General Court respecting the in-barrisments of town at present labour under respecting the part they have taken in the insurrection now subsisting".⁹ In accordance with instructions the committee drew up the following petition: "Whereas sundry of our brethren inhabitants of this town, have acted (in conjunction with others) hostility against the authority of said Commonwealth . . . yet in truth

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1. Town Records, V, p. 23
 2. Town Records, VI, meetings of March 16, March 28, 1896; also VII, pp. 11, 25
 3. Crane, *op. cit.*, II, p. 720
 4. S.D. Hosmer, "History of Auburn" in History of Worcester County, D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1889, I, p. 187
 5. *Idem*
 6. Rev. J.J. McCov, History of the Catholic Church, Springfield Diocese, Boston, Hurd and Everts Co., 1900, p. 257
 7. Province Acts and Resolves, V (1769-1780), pp. 955-956
 8. Town Records, II, pp. 16-17
 9. *Ibid.*, II, p. 15

we may aver they were not originally in the nefarious place, but were precipitated into the meance by the instigation of pretended and insinuating friends, which they were the more easily embarrassed to yield unto from the real distressed condition of the town, which altho industrious and frugal in their measures in general, yet by reason of sundry heavy losses they have met with in their corporate capacity, and having in our humble opinion a very exceeding proportion of the public burden assessed them, are not able by their most strenuous exertions of making seasonal payments even to the amount of one-half the demands upon them This town solemnly voted their disavowal and disapprobation of their unlawful proceeding Therefore cometh this townforth with their petition humbly to implore in behalf of our distressed inhabitants, a pardon for their misguided attempts soliciting this honourable court to pass an act of idemnity to our said inhabitants. . . ."¹

Meanwhile one of the Auburn men, Henry Gale, had been condemned to death. The town came to his defense in the following plea adopted July 9, 1787: "The petition of the inhabitants of the Town of Ward in the county of Worcester in behalf of Henry Gale, a convict under sentence of Death in the Goal in the county aforesaid for being concerned in the late insurrections. Humbly Herewith; That your petitioners have just reason to believe that the said Henry is heartily sorry for his misconduct, and desirous to return to his allegiance and behave well for the future: - They, therefore pray that your Excellency and your honours would be graciously pleased to spare his life, by granting him a Pardon for the offence he has committed; and as in duty bound shall every Pray."² As a result of these petitions from the townspeople, the state relented, and also removed some of the causes for complaint against the methods of tax and debt collection.

At the end of the eighteenth century, Ward, a well-established town with a widely scattered population of four hundred and seventy-three persons, was still a small agricultural community. Despite the rolling character of the land the earliest references to the area speak of the excellent quality of the soil, especially in the Pakachoag Hill district. Peter Whitney, writing in 1793, describes the soil of Ward as being, "in general fertile, rich and strong, suitable for orcharding and all kinds of fruit; well adapted to pasturage and mowing, and produces large crops of rye, oats, wheat, barley, Indian corn and flax. The hills are not high, but the land is good."³

In May 1825 Ward was made a post town. The first post office was in the center at the store of the postmaster.⁴ Almost as soon as the mail route was established, Ward began to experience difficulty in the delivery of mail. The similarity of the names of Ward and the town of Ware,

1. Town Records, II, pp.16, 17. See entry 150.

2. Ibid., II, p. 21

3. Peter Whitney, History of Worcester County, Worcester, 1792, p. 292.

4. Marvin, op. cit., I, p. 249

situated about thirty miles to the west of it, was so confusing that the mail of the two towns was constantly getting mixed. On February 17, 1837 the general court granted the petition allowing the change of name from Ward to Auburn.² The new name was presumably suggested by the line in Goldsmith's poem, The Deserted Village: "Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain".³

Since the renaming of Auburn, many changes have been wrought in the town. In 1850 those residents who had been paying taxes to the original mother towns were ordered by special act of the legislature to pay them to Auburn in the future.⁴ The next year a section of Auburn was annexed to Millbury⁵ and in 1908 the boundary between Auburn and Oxford was readjusted.⁶

With the beginning of the nineteenth century, the economic life of Auburn had begun to change. Agriculture no longer remained the principal enterprise of the townspeople. The industrial development that was gradually gaining ground throughout the young nation was not unfelt in the little community. Small mills were built along the swiftly running streams of the town, and men and women began to supplement their labors in the field and kitchen with work at the loom and forge. Production, which had heretofore been limited to family consumption, expanded to include production for the community. Cotton and woolen textiles, sheeting, paper, boots and shoes were produced in increasing quantities. In 1777 a tannery, destined to be destroyed by fire in 1893, had been built. In 1794 there were two grist mills, four saw mills, and one fulling mill in the town. There was a mill at Pondville which later became a satinnet mill. This mill was also destroyed by fire and subsequently rebuilt in 1865, 1870, and 1880, becoming finally the Auburn Woolen Mill.⁷ In 1820 a small shop was opened to supply the local market with wooden rakes, and hammer and chisel handles. In 1837 there were three shingle mills, one woolen mill, one paper mill, one card factory, one lath mill, one sash and blind mill and one tannery in the town.⁸ In 1840, the panic of 1837 having intervened, only one tannery, two grist mills, four saw mills, and two stores appear in the valuation lists of the town.⁹ In 1841 the Stoneville Manufacturing Company, now known as the Auburn Textile Company, was incorporated to manufacture cotton and woolen goods.¹⁰ In 1850 one of the woolen mills, originally intended to be a brick mill when built in 1834, changed to the production of cotton. This mill changed owners again in 1858 and became the Stoneville Worsted Company, making yarn for a Worcester carpet factory. In 1856 flood waters carried away the four-story paper mill in Stoneville, which had been built in 1832. In

1. See entry 151.

2. Town Records, IV, pp. 338, 350. See entry 152

3. Crane, op. cit., I, p. 128.

4. Acts, 1850, ch. 243.

5. Ibid., ch. 323

6. Acts, 1908, ch. 302

7. Crane, op. cit., I, p. 189.

8. Hosmer, op. cit., I, p. 189

9. VALUATION LIST FOR THE TOWN OF AUBURN (entry 49), IV, pp. not numbered.

10. Acts, 1841, ch. 59

1860 Auburn had two cotton mills producing 840,000 yards of cloth, and during the Civil War these mills enjoyed considerable prosperity.

Immediately after the town of Ward had been established, plans were made for education. On March 29, 1779 the town was divided into five school districts or "squadrons", and the sum of two hundred pounds was appropriated for education. In 1780 the first school committee was chosen.¹ The school appropriation for that year, £3,000, did not represent much more than the thirty pounds in undepreciated currency which was the average annual appropriation for several subsequent years.² By 1789 there were six school districts, and this number was increased to seven in 1790.³ During the first half of the nineteenth century, the school year was usually twenty-two weeks. There was a ten-week winter term taught by a man, and a second term of twelve weeks in summer, taught by a woman. As in other towns a prudential committee had charge of school finances, and a visiting committee determined the literary attainments of teachers and pupils. The pastors usually served on the visiting committee.⁴ The first printed school committee report, issued in 1851, shows that there were 167 pupils enrolled for the summer term and 196 pupils for the winter term.⁵ In 1869 the district school system was abolished.⁶ The Stoneville building was erected in 1872 and in 1874 housed two schools.⁷ It obtained an annual appropriation of \$1,300 to which was added the state school fund and the dog tax.⁸ In the fall of 1875 instruction was offered in high school subjects.⁹ In this year there were seven schools and two hundred and forty children between the ages of five and fifteen. In the winter of 1896-97, evening school sessions were held for fifty-three evenings,¹⁰ and on November 3, 1897 the Stoneville evening school was formally opened "for the young people who work in the factory".¹¹ By 1900 Auburn had nine schools.¹² As a result of a petition by the selectmen,¹³ the legislature passed an act on March 15, 1926 authorizing the town to borrow money for school purposes.¹⁴ From

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1. Marvin, op. cit., I, p. 248.
 2. Crane, op. cit., II, pp. 720-722.
 3. Town Records, II, pp. 101, 127.
 4. Ibid., III, pages not numbered.
 5. Report of the School Committee of the town of Auburn for the Year 1850-51, pp. 2-7.
 6. Town Records, VII, pages not numbered.
 7. Annual Report of the School Committee Year Ending March 3, 1875, pp. 8, 9.
 8. Town Records, VII, pages not numbered; also ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 6 vols., 1849-1938, published annually by the town, 1876, p. 10. (entry 2). Hereafter cited as Annual Reports.
 9. Idem.
 10. Annual Report for Year Ending March 1, 1897, p. 30.
 11. Ibid., Year Ending March 1, 1898, p. 27.
 12. Ibid., Year Ending March 1, 1900, pp. 34, 35.
 13. Ibid., Year Ending December 1, 1926, p. 33.
 14. Acts, 1926, ch. 118.

the available funds the following appropriations were made: \$78,000 for the construction and furnishing of the Julia Bancroft school;¹ \$84,000 for the Mary D. Stone School;² \$55,900 for the Pakachoag School.³ The Bancroft School was opened September, 1927;⁴ the Stone and the Pakachoag Schools in September, 1929.⁵ In 1933, \$250,000 was appropriated for the Auburn High School building.⁶ The school was opened for classes on December 16, 1935.⁷ The schools in use today are: Boyce Street, grades I-III; Julia Bancroft, grades IV-VIII; Stoneville, grades I-V; Pakachoag, grades I-VIII; Mary D. Stone, grades I-VIII; West Auburn, grades I-VI; and the Auburn High School.⁸ The first libraries were owned by citizens, churches, and school districts. In 1872 a free library was established in the Town Hall,⁹ and in 1911 the Merriam Library building, a gift to the town, was dedicated.¹⁰ In 1929 the town voted that the official name of the Auburn Free Public Library be changed to the Merriam Public Library.¹¹

Manufacturing in Auburn decreased when the older concerns were abandoned due to the rapidly expanding industrial life of Worcester. In 1922, according to the statistics of manufactures issued by the state department of labor and industry, the town of Auburn was twenty-fourth in the value of its industrial products among the sixty-one cities and towns of Worcester County. Auburn then had four manufacturing establishments with a total invested capital of \$1,096,477; an employment of two hundred and sixty persons and a total product valued at \$947,585. The active business establishments in the town at present are: the Baldwin Duckworth Chain Corporation, which employs two hundred men in making all types of chains, and is assessed at \$195,000; the Consolidated Rendering Company, dealing in tallow, grease, poultry feed, fertilizer, hides, wool and raw furs, employing fifty men; the Queensbury Combing Company; the Shrewsbury Concrete Block Company, manufacturing cement blocks and bricks; the Worcester Transit Concrete Company; and the Pondville Woolen Mills, assessed at \$60,000 and employing about one hundred fifty workers.¹²

Agriculture, although eclipsed by industry, has always held an important place in the town. The Auburn Grange No. 60, P. of H., was organized July 2, 1874. The values of agricultural products for the year 1884 as shown by the tables of the state census of 1885 were as follows: total

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1. Annual Report for Year Ending December 31, 1927, p. 143.
 2. Annual Report, 1928, p. 25; ibid., 1929, p. 28
 3. Ibid., 1929, p. 143
 4. Ibid., 1927, pp. 145, 173.
 5. Ibid., 1929, p. 150 and pp. 4, 5 of School Report.
 6. Ibid., 1933, p. 33.
 7. Ibid., 1935, pp. 5, 13.
 8. Ibid., 1937, p. 22.
 9. Ibid., 1873, pp. 11, 12.
 10. Ibid., 1911, pp. 64, 65.
 11. Ibid., 1929, p. 38.
 12. Town of Auburn, Valuation List, 1938, pp. 6, 24, 37, 52, 84, 86, 87, 89.

value of dairy products, including 250,716 gallons of milk, \$47,164; hay, straw, fodder, \$30,927; vegetables, \$19,391; animal products, \$9,152; wood products, \$7,368; poultry products, \$6,874; total, \$132,032. There were 91 farmers and 85 additional farm laborers. From 1925 to 1935 the number of farms decreased 43% from 187 to 106.¹ The total acreage has also decreased 37% in the same period, from 5,952 acres to 3,739.² In 1935 the following types of farms were listed: 4 self-sufficing, 35 abnormal, 10 truck farms, 3 fruit, 6 general, 2 crop specialty, 30 dairy, 9 poultry, 32 part-time, 3 unclassified farms.³ Five hundred and twenty-three persons or eight percent of the total population live on farms.⁴

In 1919 due to the growth of Auburn as a residential suburb of Worcester, a step was taken by private capitalists to provide the town with water. The Auburn Water Company was incorporated by an act approved July 23, 1919.⁵ The corporation was permitted to acquire by purchase or eminent domain the necessary real estate for its water system up to the amount of \$50,000. The capital stock was not to exceed \$50,000 in shares of \$100 each. An equal amount in bonded debt was authorized. The corporation was permitted to distribute water and to fix and collect water rates. The right was reserved to the town of purchasing at any time the real estate and plant of the company by paying an amount equal to the original cost plus interest at 50 percent. In case the town and the company could not agree upon the cost, appeal might be taken to the supreme judicial court, providing two-thirds of the voters had first sanctioned the taking. The charter of the company was to be void unless it had begun to distribute water to consumers within three years of the passage of the act.

This requirement was fulfilled and distribution of water began in 1919, the source being from driven wells of which there are nine at present.⁶ A special act of 1924 permitted Auburn to acquire land and construct a town water system, with the reservation that before proceeding to do so it must acquire by purchase or by eminent domain the property of the Auburn Water Company.⁷ Continued but fruitless negotiations between the town and the company resulted in 1935 in three further state acts pertaining to the Auburn water supply. One of these amended section seven of the act of 1924 to permit the town of Auburn to construct its own water system without first purchasing or taking by eminent domain the property of the Auburn Water Company.⁸ The other two acts set up within the town the Woodland Water District and the Elm Hill Water District.⁹ Although these

1. Agricultural Census Figures by Towns for 1925 and 1935, George W. Westcott, compiler, 1936, table 6, p. 6; table 7, p. 7.

2. Idem.

3. Ibid., table 57, p. 101.

4. Ibid., table 53, p. 93.

5. Special Acts, 1919, ch. 241.

6. Appraisal of Property of the Auburn Water Company for the Town of Auburn, Mass., made Feb. 1, 1930, p. 4.

7. Acts, 1924, ch. 326.

8. Acts, 1935, ch. 382.

9. Ibid., ch. 385 and 386. See pp. 81-83, incl., and map, page 4.

districts are now serving their respective areas no definitive action has yet been taken by the town to construct a water system, or to purchase the plant of the Auburn Water Company, and water is still being supplied by the company.

The complications attending the growth of the railroads in the nineteenth century, the failures, consolidations, interlocking directorates, leasing and final emergence of a few powerful controlling companies, was reflected in the development of the railroads in Auburn. The Western Railroad Company was incorporated March 15, 1833, to "lay out and construct a railroad from the western termination of the Boston and Worcester Railroad to the Connecticut River"¹ Locations filed with the county commissioners of Worcester County December 17, 1833, show the proposed route as passing through Auburn.² The line was completed and opened Sept. 13, 1841.³ When on Dec. 28, 1870, a consolidation of a number of roads produced the Boston and Albany, the Western railroad was included in this merger.⁴ The Boston and Albany was itself leased to the New York Central and Hudson Railroad Company for 99 years from July 1, 1900.⁵

The Norwich and Worcester Company was chartered March 15, 1833.⁶ Before any lines were laid it consolidated in May 1836 with several other companies, the new corporation still being known however as the Norwich and Worcester.⁷ Locations through Auburn were filed with the county commissioners in 1837.⁸ The road was opened April 1, 1840.⁹ The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad got control of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad Company on July 1, 1898 by obtaining a 99 year lease on the New England Railroad Company.¹⁰ The latter organization had similarly leased the Norwich and Worcester line for 99 years from February 9, 1869.¹¹ The establishment of the Auburn depot, situated opposite the post office on this line was a result of the election of a committee of three at a town meeting in 1837 "to give respectful invitation to the Norwich and Worcester Railroad to establish a depot within the limits of this town".¹²

A Providence, Webster and Springfield road, including an off-shoot from Webster to Auburn, was chartered March 23, 1882 and opened in June 1884. The line was operated by the Boston and Albany Railroad under contract, not lease.¹³ It is now used principally for freight service.

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1. Mass. Laws, 1831-33; ch. 116 pp. 660-670.
 2. Shelf 2, Book 3, Maps 5-6 and 7, cabinet, Room 21, Balcony, 3rd floor, Worcester County Court House.
 3. H. V. Poor, Manual of the Railroads of the United States, 40 vols., 1868-1907; pub. by H. V. and H. W. Poor, New York, 1885, p. 43.
 4. Poor's Manual, op. cit., 1907, p. 138
 5. Ibid., p. 138
 6. Mass. Laws, 1831-33; ch. 118, pp. 672-681
 7. Poor's Manual, op. cit., 1900, p. 32
 8. Room cited above, shelf 30, Book 54, maps 2-8.
 9. Poor's Manual, op. cit., 1875-6, p. 109
 10. Ibid., 1900, p. 31.
 11. Idem.
 12. Town Records, IV, p. 352.
 13. Poor's Manual, op. cit., 1900, p. 5

A charter of incorporation was granted the New York and Boston Atmospheric Disptach Company on April 12, 1854 to "erect supports" and build a tube "no more than two feet in diameter" to run, among other towns, through Auburn, for the "faster delivery of freight and mails".¹ No Further record can be found of this venture.

The population of Auburn has increased steadily, particularly during the last quarter century. In 1840 Auburn had 649 inhabitants; in 1900 the population was 1621; in 1910, 2,420; in 1920, 3,891; in 1930, 6,147; and in 1935, 6,600.² Auburn is today chiefly a residential suburb of Worcester. It lies in central Worcester County, with Worcester on the north, Millbury on the east, Oxford on the south and Leicester on the west. The town forms an irregular hexagon covering an area of fifty-two square miles, which, at its greatest width, extends five miles. Work in the industrial plants of the town, available farm land, and, particularly its easy access to Worcester have been the prime factors in the town's development. With growth in population, there have come definite social changes. New racial strains have been woven into the pattern of community life with the arrival of Irish, Swedish, French, Polish and English residents. Racial segregation, so natural at first, has been gradually broken down, until today the various segments of Auburn's population have been fused into a fairly homogeneous whole.

Aggregates of Polls, Property, and Taxes as Assessed³

Date	No. of Polls	Value of Personal Estate	Value of Real Estate	Total Value Real and Personal Estate	Tax Rate per \$1000 Valuation	No. of Persons Assessed	Total Tax ⁴
1861	210	\$108,618	\$ 312,334	\$ 420,952	\$ 6.50		\$ 3,749
1870	248	149,145	384,622	533,767	13.60		7,781
1880	288	90,379	352,198	442,577	12.00		5,754
1890	351	118,086	381,812	499,898	13.00	339	7,201
1900	391	90,380	557,020	647,400	18.40	551	12,631
1910	625	192,050	1,115,950	1,308,000	16.40	919	22,701
1920	987	420,131	1,992,310	2,412,441	28.00	1,247	72,483
1930	1,809	612,205	5,384,325	5,996,530	33.60	1,643	205,101
1937	1,910	475,785	5,427,985	5,903,770	34.80	1,311	209,271

Date	No. of Dwelling-ings	Acres of Land Taxed	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Neat Cattle	No. of Swine	Date	No. of Dwelling-ings	Acres of Land Taxed	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Neat Cattle	No. of Swine
1861	135	9632	108	358			1910	465	9580	302	562	91	24
1870	156	8880	135	517			1920	759	9684	245	514	134	161
1880	200	8880	174	441			1930	1376	9310	134	389	143	57
1890	232	9429	242	593	162	108	1937	1490	9459	100	316	94	122
1900	303	9324	332	792	191	51							

1. Acts, 1854-55, ch. 276, pp. 199-201

2. For sources, see census reports for these dates found in the List of Sources, at end of volume

3. Valuations are at May 1st from 1861 through 1900, at April 1st from 1910 through 1930, and at January 1st in 1937. The figures are taken as follows: for 1861, from Public Document No. 42; for 1870 from Public Document No. 36; for 1880 to 1937 from Public Document No. 19, all published by commonwealth

4. From 1890 to 1937 includes overlays

CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT - AUBURN - 1939

SHOWING NAME OF OFFICE, NUMBER OF INCUMBENTS, TERM AND DATE OF ORIGIN.

ELECTORATE

BY BALLOT IN TOWN ELECTION

BY TOWN MEETING IN SESSION

MODERATOR

1 Yr. 1776

RECORD - KEEPING OFFICES

SELECTMEN(2) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1778	TOWN CLERK 1 Yr. 1778	ASSESSORS(3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1778	TAX COLLECTOR 1 Yr. 1790	TREASURER 1 Yr. 1778	HIGHWAY SURVEYOR 1 Yr. 1778	SCHOOL COMMITTEE(3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1787	PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES(6) 2 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1872	PLANNING BOARD (6) 2 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1926	BOARD OF HEALTH (3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1904	PARK COMMISSIONERS(3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1937
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REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (3) (THREE CLERKS, 2nd persons) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1906	TOWN ACCOUNTANT 3 Yrs. 1930	CHIEF OF POLICE 1 DEPUTY 9 SPECIAL OFFICERS 1 Yr. 1922	FIRE CHIEF SO CALL MEN 3 SOO CALL MEN 1 Yr. 1923
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SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 1 Yr. 1787	SOLDIERS' RELIEF AGENT 1 Yr. 1934	PRECINCT OFFICERS (45) 1 Yr. 1914
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 3 Yrs. 1902	SCHOOL NURSE 1 Yr. 1902	LIBRARIAN 1 Yr. 1874	CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1908	BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE (3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1908
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MILK INSPECTOR 1 Yr. 1938	PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 1 Yr. 1934	HEALTH OFFICER 1 Yr. 1934
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NON - RECORD - KEEPING OFFICES

WATER COMMISSIONERS (3) 1 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1924	TREE WARDEN 1 Yr. 1900	CONSTABLES(6) * 1 Yr. 1787
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ATTENDANCE OFFICERS(3) 1 Yr. 1892	SCHOOL PHYSICIAN 1 Yr. 1892
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INSPECTORS OF SLAUGHTERING(2) 1 Yr. 1902	INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING 3 Yrs. 1957
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MOTH SUPERINTENDENT 1Yr. 1921	SOLDIERS' BURIAL AGENT 1Yr. 1921	TOWN COUNSEL 1Yr. 1926	FINANCE COMMITTEE (6) 2 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1925	BY-LAW COMMITTEE(6) 2 ea. Yr. for 3 Yrs. 1932	FENCE VIEWERS(4) 1Yr. 1778	FIELD DRIVER * 1Yr. 1787	MEASURES OF WOOD, BARK, AND LIMBER(2) 1Yr. 1787
WMA COORDINATOR AND CERTIFYING AGENT 1Yr. 1938	ANIMAL INSPECTOR 1Yr. 1901	DOG OFFICER 1Yr. 1926	CHAP. 90 SUPERVISOR 1Yr. 1937	SEXTON 1Yr. 1789	POUND KEEPER 1Yr. 1789	PUBLIC WEIGHER 1Yr. 1908	

Elective

Appointive

* IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED BEFORE 1787. THIS WAS THE FIRST MENTION OF THE OFFICE IN THE TOWN RECORDS.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Governmental Organization

When the south parish of Worcester was organized on July 27, 1773, a clerk and treasurer and probably also a moderator were elected.¹ Tythingmen, to collect the rates for the support of the parish, may have been chosen, although there is no record to substantiate the point. Five years later, at the first town meeting of Ward on May 4, 1778, a moderator, five selectmen, a town clerk, a treasurer, five highway surveyors, three assessors of taxes, two fence viewers and two tythingmen were elected.²

Although the first volume of town records is missing and their existence cannot therefore be proved beyond doubt, there is reason to believe that many of the offices appearing in the first extant record, that of 1787, were established in 1778 or between 1778 and 1787. Such officers as constables, of which there was one in 1787,³ field drivers, of which there were two in 1787,⁴ deer and hog reeves, of which there were two and four respectively in 1787,⁵ a sealer of weights and measures,⁶ a measurer of wood,⁷ and a warden⁸ may well have been established at the organization of the town. The same is true of the school committee to which seven members were elected in 1787.⁹ After the election of a pound keeper¹⁰ and a sexton¹¹ beginning with 1789, a tax collector beginning with 1790¹² and the discontinuance of the deer reeve after 1790,¹³ the town offices remained fairly stable except as to number of incumbents which sometimes varied from year to year. This is especially true of highway surveyors, of which ten were, however, generally elected, one for each highway district, between 1819 and 1875.¹⁴

To the selectmen in their capacity of general overseers of town matters reverted all responsibilities not delegated to other officers. Although the actual support of the town poor prior to 1857 was entrusted to those, chosen by the town meeting, who bid lowest, there is no doubt that the selectmen had much to do with the details of that problem. In 1857 and for a half century thereafter (except in 1892-1894) until the establishment of a separate board of overseers in 1908,¹⁵ the selectmen were officially

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1. Hosmer, op. cit., I, p. 185.
 2. Marvin, op. cit., p. 243.
 3. Town Records, II, p. 33.
 4. Ibid., p. 32.
 5. Idem.
 6. Ibid., p. 33.
 7. Ibid., p. 31.
 8. Ibid., p. 33.
 9. Ibid., p. 32.
 10. Ibid., p. 96.
 11. Idem.
 12. Ibid., p. 108. The lowest bidder for the privilege of collecting taxes was elected.
 13. Idem.
 14. Ibid., III, pp. 292, 294.
 15. Ibid., VI, pp. 145, 181; VII, p. 372.

elected as overseers of the poor. The keeping of lists of eligible voters, the responsibility for such health measures as fell within the province of the town, and the general "prudential" management of the town's affairs fell to the selectmen.

Only four new offices of importance were created in Auburn in the nineteenth century. The office of library trustees together with the appointive librarian were set up in 1872 in what was a relatively early response, on the part of so rural a town, to the growing public library movement.¹ School attendance officers were appointed beginning in 1892.² Finally, the office of auditor was established in 1894.³

The turn of the century, however, saw many new offices. The conservation movement had its local aspect in the election of a tree warden, beginning with 1900.⁴ The growing importance of the dairy industry locally, as well as the increasing attention being paid to the problem of tubercular cattle, was shown by the appointment by the selectmen of an animal inspector in 1901⁵ and an inspector of slaughtering in 1902.⁶ Concern for public health matters, generally, is evidenced by the election, beginning in 1904, of a board of health.⁷ The increasing burdens of the selectmen required the appointment of separate registrars of voters in 1906.⁸ A cemetery committee was also elected that year.⁹

The creation of so many new offices required a more orderly method of election than was possible in open town meeting. We therefore find Auburn adopting, on August 28, 1907, the method of electing all its principal officers by ballot at a separate town election held on the Saturday following the annual town meeting.¹⁰ The creation of a new precinct at Stoneville and the appointment annually of regular precinct officers by the selectmen, beginning in 1914, gave the town full-fledged election machinery.

The office of weigher of hay and coal became defunct in 1906¹¹ but a public weigher replaced him in 1908;¹² that of sealer of leather became defunct in 1912.¹³ The second decade of the twentieth century saw no further creation of offices.

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1. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered
 2. Idem.
 3. Idem.
 4. Ibid., VII, p. 146.
 5. Annual Report, 1902, p. 6.
 6. Idem.
 7. Town Records, VII, p. 244.
 8. Annual Report, 1906, p. 5.
 9. Town Records, VII, pp. 201, 369.
 10. Ibid., VIII, p. 180.
 11. Ibid., VII, p. 298.
 12. Ibid., p. 375
 13. Ibid., VIII, p. 30

The third decade saw some important changes. A moth inspector was appointed in 1921, as was a soldiers' burial agent.¹ A police chief was first appointed in 1922,² and a fire chief the following year.³ The movement for a town water system led to the acceptance of state legislation permitting a board of water commissioners in 1924.⁴ The following year a finance committee was appointed by the selectmen for the first time to scrutinize town appropriations and advise on financial problems.⁵ In 1926 a planning board was created to study and make plans for the future growth of the town.⁶ A public health nurse appointed by the board of health in 1922,⁷ a town counsel in legal affairs and a dog officer, appointed by the selectmen in 1926,⁸ were also added. With the acceptance of chapter 165 of the Acts of 1927, the overseers of the poor became the board of public welfare in 1929.⁹

The last decade has seen few changes. A permanent town accountant who conducts a perpetual audit of the town's accounts replaced the town auditor, who audited intermittently, in 1930, in which year the town also accepted the uniform state accounting system.¹⁰ In 1932 a bylaw committee was created to recommend necessary changes in the town's bylaws. A soldier's relief agent, required by state law to be divorced from the board of public welfare, was appointed by the selectmen in 1934.¹¹ A "supervisor, chapter 90" was appointed by the selectmen in 1937.¹² The board of health added a permanent agent and clerk to its list of appointees in 1935,¹³ also an inspector of plumbing in 1937¹⁴ and a milk inspector in 1938.¹⁵ An elective board of three park commissioners was established in 1937.¹⁶

Today, there are in all fifty-two separate offices in the town of Auburn, the records of four of which, the superintendent of schools, the school nurse, the librarian, and the clerk to the selectmen, are listed under their respective superiors. Not including police officers, firemen, and precinct officers, of which there are 105 in all, there are at least

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1. Town Records, IX, p. 98.
 2. Ibid., p. 305.
 3. Ibid., pp. 50-51.
 4. Ibid., p. 307.
 5. Ibid., p. 377.
 6. Ibid., p. 430.
 7. Town of Auburn, Board of Health, RECORD, 1934-1939, p. 91. See entry 99. Hereafter cited as Board of Health Record.
 8. Town of Auburn, SELECTMEN'S RECORDS, 1923-1939, 4 vols., 1 bdl., mss., I, p. 35. See entry 1. Hereafter cited as Selectmen's Records.
 9. Town Records, VII, p. 416.
 10. Ibid., X, pp. 281-282.
 11. Selectmen's Records, III, p. 7.
 12. Ibid., IV, pages not numbered.
 13. Board of Health Records, pp. 3, 9.
 14. Ibid., p. 225.
 15. Ibid., p. 271.
 16. Town Records, II, pp. 156, 203.

101 elective or appointive offices which must be filled from the ranks of the citizens. Of the latter many are unsalaried or are paid merely nominal salaries. If it be said that this is too many offices for a small town, it should be remembered that it is of the essence of democracy that as many as possible of the citizenry should participate in self-government.

Records System¹

Auburn's records are in the main complete and well-kept. All boards except the board of assessors currently keep records of meetings, a most desirable practice.

The first volume of the town records (entry 8) is missing but much of the material which it contained is to be found in the bundles of miscellaneous papers kept by the town clerk (entries 33-35). A transcript of such records in volume form and an index to the complete set are therefore recommended. The town should acquire a set of the annual reports of the town officers (entry 2), in addition to the library set, the individual years to be bound together in conveniently sized volumes and deposited in the town vault. A compilation should also be made of the vital statistics (entries 9-20), which, although practically complete, are so scattered physically as to render search difficult.

1. For an account of the record keeping practices followed in Massachusetts towns generally, see U. S. Work Projects Administration, Historical Records Survey, Town and City Government in Massachusetts, (preliminary edition), Boston, 1940

3. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

Although the records of the town of Auburn are, on the whole, well-kept and in good condition, the Town Hall does not at present offer the best storage facilities. In the assessors' room two large safes contain the records of a number of departments and there is no room for expansion. The lack of adequate storage space has led many of the town officials to keep their records in their homes, a condition no doubt as inconvenient as it is dangerous to the safekeeping of the records. A large fireproof vault in the Town Hall is therefore urgently needed.

The following is a summary of the conditions under which the records in the Town Hall are stored:

Auburn Town Hall, 104 Central Street				
Depository	Assessors' Room	Room Adjoining Assessors' Rm.	Tax Collector's Off.	Bd. of Health Office
Location	First fl.	First fl.	First fl.	First fl.
*Dimensions	20x20x11	10x8x8	16x16x11	17x15x11
Cubic Feet	4400	640	2816	2805
Class of constr.	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd
Shelving	Wood	None	Wood	Steel&Wood
Containers	Steel&Wood	Steel	Steel	Steel
Lighting	Good	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Fair	Good	Good	Good
Physical cond.	Fair	Good	Good	Good
Room for expansion	None	Ample	Ample	None
Departments having records there	Selectmen Town Clerk Reg. of Voters Assessors Tax Collector Treasurer Welfare Fire	Assessors	Tax Collector	Bd. of Health
Depository	Basement	Welfare Off.		
Location	Basement	First fl.		
*Dimensions	55x40x12	18x26x11		
Cubic feet	26400	5148		
Class of constr.	2nd	2nd		
Shelving	Wood	Steel&Wood		
Containers	Wood	Steel&Wood		
Lighting	Poor	Good		
Accessibility	Fair	Good		
Arrangement	Fair	Good		
Physical cond.	Poor	Good		
Room for expansion	Ample	Ample		
Departments having records there	Treasurer Selectmen	Welfare		

*All dimensions are given in length by width by height in feet.

First entry, p. 28

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records

The following is a summary of the conditions under which the school, fire, and library records are stored:

	Auburn High School Auburn St.	Fire House, Drury Sq.	Merriam Memorial Library 100 Central St.
Depository	Closet, Supt's office	Engine rm.	Main rm.
Location	First fl.	First fl.	First fl.
*Dimensions	12x4x12	40x40x11	40x30x15
Cubic Feet	576	17600	18000
Class of constr.	2nd	3rd	2nd
Shelving	Wood	None	Wood
Containers	Steel	Wood	None
Lighting	Good	Good	Good
Accessibility	Good	Good	Good
Arrangement	Good	Good	Good
Physical cond.	Good	Good	Good
Room for expansion	Ample	Ample	Ample
Departments having records there	School	Fire	Town Clerk Assessors Library

*Dimensions are given in length by width by height in feet.

A number of town officials keep their records in their residences or private offices, as follows:

Name	Address	Office Held	Records Held
Cecil Trotter	328 Oxford St.	Cl. of Selectmen, Soldiers' Relief Agt.	Selectmen, Soldiers' Relief
John Riley	380 Southbridge St.	Town Clerk	Clerk, Reg. of Voters
George O. Keep	Post Office Bldg., 31 Auburn St.	Treasurer	Treasurer
Charles Cross	888 Southbridge St.	Highway Surveyor	Highway Sur- veyor
Blanche Farnion	65 School St.	Cl. of Precinct No. 1	Precinct Officer
Wilfrid Croteau	316 Oxford St.	Cl. of Precinct No. 2	Precinct Officer
Edmour Dubois	19 Southbridge St.	Clerk of Pre- cinct No. 3	Precinct Officer
Karl Kontol	684 Southbridge St.	Dog Officer	Dog Officer
Clifford A. Boxell	87 Pinehurst Ave.	Cl. of Board of Health	Board of Health

Cont'd.

Town Officials Having Records In Homes (cont.)

Name	Address	Office Held	Records Held
Mary J.L. Pond	450 Oxford St.	School Committee member	School
Horace F. Jacobs	297 South St.	Cl. of Cemetery Commission	Cemetery Commission
Wilfrid Taylor	75 Bryn Mawr Ave.	Chairman of Park Commission	Park Com.
Philip W. Warren	34 Chatham Street, Worcester	Clerk of Park Commission	Park Commission
Allen Ashhead	122 South St.	Clerk of Planning Board	Planning Board
Charles E. Branan, Jr.	65 Rockland Rd.	Chief of Police	Police
Ralph White	41 Central St.	Chief of Fire Department	Fire Dept.
Alfred T. Benavais	27 South St.	Sealer of Weights and Measures	Sealer of Weights & Measures
Carl Carpenter	136 Franklin St.	Treas. of Woodland Water District	Woodland Water Dist.

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

General Abbreviations

alph.	alphabetically	i.e.	that is
arr.	arranged, arrangement	incl.	inclusive
art.	article	Lib.	Library
assrs.	assessors	Mass.	Massachusetts
Ave.	Avenue	Ms(s).	manuscript(s)
bsmt.	basement	no.	number
bdl(s).	bundle(s)	off.	office
ch.	chapter	op. cit.	in the work cited
chron.	chronologically	p., pp.	page, pages
cl.	clerk	ptd.	printed
coll.	collector	rm.	room
dept(s).	department(s)	sec(s)	section(s)
discont.	discontinued	secy.	secretary
ed.	editor	sel.	selectmen
e.g.	for example	st.	street
env(s)	envelope(s)	strm.	storeroom
estab.	established	supt.	superintendent
etc.	and so forth	T.H.	Town Hall
fl.	floor	treas.	treasurer
hdw.	handwritten	va.	vault
ibid.	in the same place	vol(s)	volume(s)
		W.	West

Symbols

x	by	Denotes omission in
--	continues to date		quoted matter
'	feet	:	equivalent to
"	inches		

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

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

is noted.

Labeling

The numbering, lettering or other markings on a record are shown in parentheses following the quantity.

Cross References

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

Indexing

If there is no index to a record, the fact is stated in the entry. If no mention is made of the absence of an index, it is either contained in the entry or in a separate entry, immediately following it, if possible.

Dimensions

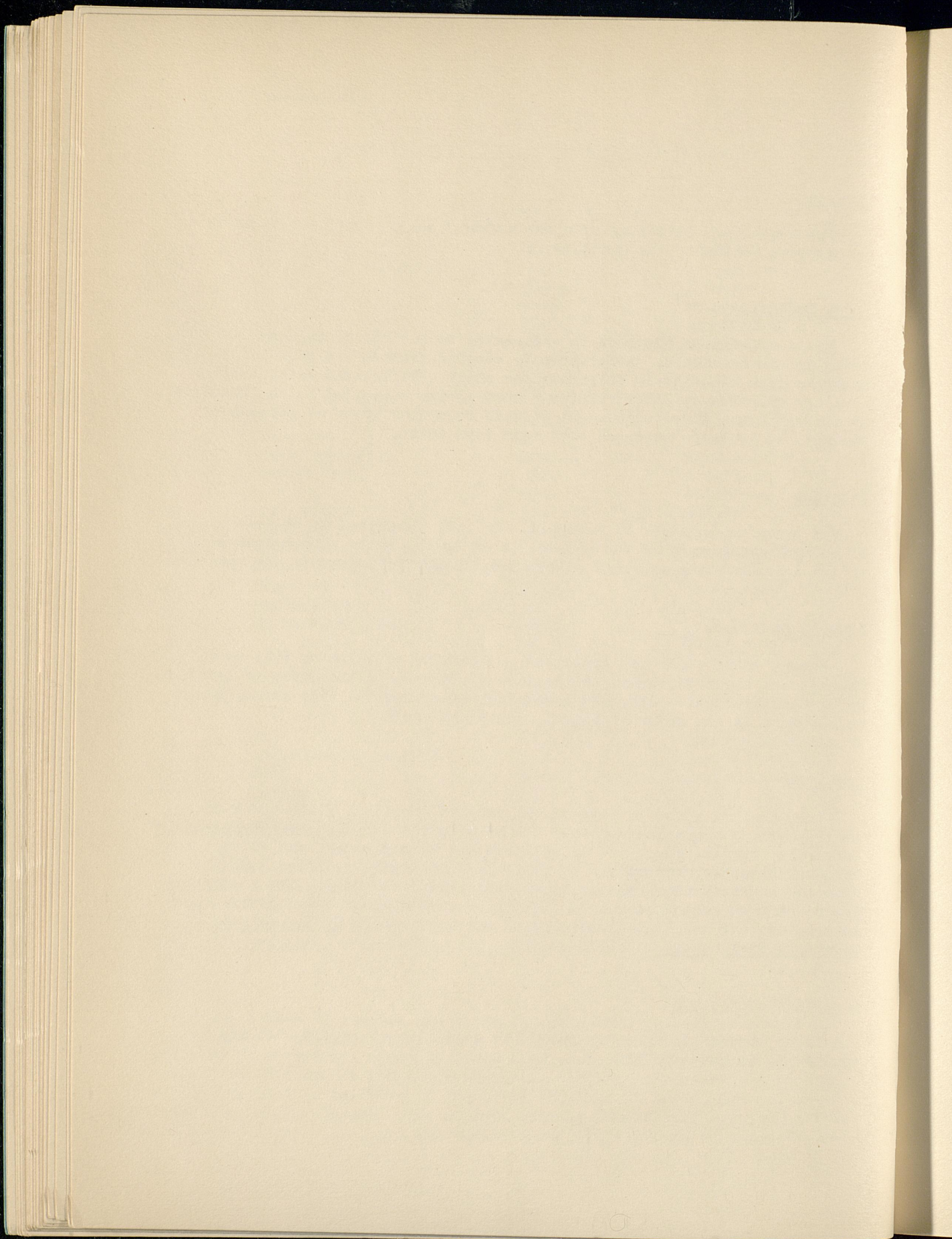
Except where otherwise indicated, dimensions of volumes, file boxes, or maps are shown in inches; dimensions of volumes in the order of length along binding edge, width, and thickness; dimensions of file cases, boxes and drawers in the order of height, width and depth.

Location

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

Condition of Records

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



PART B. TOWN OFFICERS AND THEIR RECORDS.

I. BOARD OF SELECTMEN¹

In addition to the functions prescribed by law, the bylaws of Auburn give the selectmen certain specific duties.² They are given full authority to prosecute or defend the town in suits at law or equity.³ A majority of the board must countersign contracts for expenditures exceeding \$500, which can only be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, after the proposal has been advertised and sealed bids have been submitted.⁴ No town officer or salaried employee may sell any material or supplies to the town or accept any compensation for town work except his official salary and fees without a vote of the selectmen.⁵ The selectmen must approve the investment of funds deposited with the treasurer for the care of burial lots.⁶ Excavations or obstructions in the streets except by the highway surveyors, or the erection of fences or buildings adjoining public streets or grounds require the approval of the selectmen, as do the affixing of placards, posters of bills on public property.⁷ Selectmen must also designate streets for coasting and license junk dealers.⁸ They must prepare and cause to be distributed seven days before the annual meeting, the annual reports of the town officers, which shall be indexed and which shall contain every five years a copy of the bylaws with all additions or amendments.⁹ Finally the selectmen exercise a general supervision over all matters affecting the interests or welfare of the town, not otherwise provided for.¹⁰

Five selectmen were elected for a term of one year at the first town meeting on May 4, 1778.¹¹ In 1851 the number of selectmen was changed from five to three at which number it has remained ever since.¹² The term was changed to three years in 1890, but restored again to a single year in 1892.¹³ Since 1909 the three-year term has again been in effect, one selectmen being elected each year.¹⁴

From 1857 to and including 1907 the selectmen served as overseers of the poor, except from 1892 to 1894 when three persons not selectmen were

1. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Work Projects Administration, Historical Records Survey, Town Government in Massachusetts, Boston, 1940

2. In Annual Report, 1936, pp. 211-221

3. Ibid., p. 214, ch. III, sec. 5

4. Ibid., p. 216, ch. IV, sec. 1

5. Ibid., secs. 3, 4

6. Ibid., p. 217, sec. 6

7. Ibid., pp. 217-218, ch. V, secs. 3, 4; pp. 219-220, ch. VII, secs. 7, 10, 11

8. Ibid., p. 218, ch. V, sec. 5; ch. 6, sec. 1

9. Ibid., p. 211, ch. I, sec. 2; p. 214, ch. III, secs. 7, 10

10. Ibid., p. 214, ch. III, sec. 6

11. Marvin, op. cit., p. 243

12. Town Records, VI, p. 1.

13. Ibid., pages not numbered

14. Ibid., VII, p. 416

(1-3)

elected.¹ Also until 1906 they served as registrars of voters.² For the town officers appointed by the selectmen, see chart, p. 11.

In addition to the following records, see entry 34-i for perambulation of town lines, 1783, 1787-38; entry 34-ii for certification of parish-meeting warrants 1775-76; entry 36-i for approval of street and road layouts 1838--; entry 36-iii for approval of street railway franchises 1893--; entry 36-iv for grant of pole permits 1907-11; entry 36-vi for approval of bus lines permit; entry 36-vii for issue of traffic rules 1925; for notification of appointment of town officers 1915-22, see entry 37-iv; for reports of town-boundary perambulations 1915-22, see entry 37-v; for joint financial report by treasurer and selectmen 1849-60.

1. TOWN OF AUBURN - SELECTMEN'S RECORDS (Minutes of Meetings). 1923--.
1 bld., 4 vols. Missing: 1903-22, 1924-25. Title varies: Minutes, 1923, 1 bdl.; Record, 1926-37, 3 vols., 1790-1902 in Town of Auburn - Board of Selectmen, Order Book, entry 3.

Discussion and decisions on appointment of town officers, petitions, permits, licenses, road construction and repair, orders for payments, soldiers' relief cases (1938--); place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. to 1937; typed thereafter. 1 bdl., 1923, paper poor. Bdl., 12 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$; vols., 500 pp. 14 x 10 x $2\frac{1}{2}$. 1 bdl., 3 vols., 1923, 1926-37, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 1 vol., 1938--, residence of Cecil Trotter (cl. of sel.); 328 Oxford St.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS, 1849--. 6 vols.

Reports of town officers, committees; itemized statement of receipts and expenditures; lists of elected, appointed officers; lists of jurors; election returns, vital statistics, record of licenses issued, copies of town-meeting warrants, minutes of town meetings. 1936 includes copy of bylaws. Arr. by subject. Indexed alph. by subject. Ptd. 600 pp. 9 x 6 x 3. 5 vols., 1849-1929, reading rm.; 1 vol., 1930--, librarian's desk; first fl., Merriam Public Lib.

3. TOWN OF AUBURN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN, ORDER BOOK, 1789-May 1930. 6 vols. Missing: 1903-15, 1924-25. Title varies: No title, 1789-1812, 1862-94, 1925-30. 3 vols.; Records of Selectmen - Town of Auburn, 1812-61, 1 vol.; Journal - Town of Auburn, 1895-1902, 1 vol.

Record of authorizations for payments of departmental expenses: Name of payee, town department; amount, itemization, number, date of authorization. Also contains: Town of Auburn - Selectmen's Records (Minutes of Meetings). 1790-1902, entry 1. Arr. by date of authorization of meeting. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 13 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2. 5 vols., 1789-1923, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl.; 1 vol., 1926-30, bsmt.; T.H.

For approval of authorizations 1923--, see entry 1; for copies of orders for payment of board of health expenses 1904--, see entries 106, 109.

1. Town Records, VI, pp. 145, 181; VII, p. 298
2. See p. 37 (Reg. of Voters)

4. (DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES), 1916-30. 3 vols. System discont. 1930.

Analysis of departmental expenditures: Name of department; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; departmental balance. Arr. by name of dept. and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, garage, residence of John Riley (town cl.), 380 Southbridge St.

5. (ORIGINAL PETITIONS FOR NEW ROADS), 1786, 1825, 1887-98. 1 bdl. Names of petitioners; description, location of roads; date of petition, selectmen's recommendations. Includes plans of proposed layouts. Arr. by date of petition. No index. Hdw. and typed. $10 \times 4 \times 3$. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.

For consideration of petitions 1923--, see entry 1.

6. (PETITIONS AND PERMITS - WORCESTER GAS LIGHT COMPANY), 1925-26, 1 vol.

Contains:

- i. Copies of petitions for extension of gas mains: Name of petitioner; proposed location, description of piping; date of petition, signature of petitioner.
 - ii. Record of permits for excavation and street obstruction: Name of applicant, date of application; location, date of excavation, obstruction; certification of clerk, signature of selectmen.
- Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 1$. Safe, garage, residence of John Riley (town cl.), 380 Southbridge St.

7. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1936--. 1 letter file.

Correspondence relative to authorization of loans, soldiers' relief reimbursements, hearings on petitions for pole locations, issue of licenses and permits, administration of business of various town departments. Arr. by subject and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw., typed. $13 \times 12 \times 3$. Residence of Cecil Trotter (cl. of sel.), 328 Oxford St.

II. TOWN CLERK¹

In addition to the duties prescribed by law, the bylaws of Auburn require that the town clerk notify all officers and committees elected or appointed at town meetings of their election and of all votes of the town pertaining to their respective departments.²

A clerk was elected at the first meeting of the South Parish of Worcester on July 27, 1773. Five years later at the first town meeting,

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

2. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 215, ch. III, sec. 13

(8-9)

Town Clerk - Minutes and Reports; Vital Statistics

on May 4, 1778, a clerk was elected for a term of one year.¹ A clerk was also elected for one year at the first town meeting for which there is an extant original record, that of 1787.² There was no change in the term or method of election except in the period 1902-11 during which the clerk was elected for three terms of three years each.³ In 1911 his term again became one year and has remained so ever since.⁴

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the residence of John Riley (clerk), 380 Southbridge Street.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entry 2.)

8. TOWN OF AUBURN - TOWN CLERK - RECORDS (Minutes of Town Meetings, Pew Deeds, Fence Agreements), 1786--. 10 vols. (5 vols., 1786-1837, 1910-26, II-IV, 8, 9; 5 vols., 1837-1910, 1926--., unlabeled). Prior records missing. Title varies slightly.

Reports of town officers, committees; discussions and decisions on articles of warrant; election of officers, jury lists; copies of oaths of office, copies of town-meeting warrants. Also contains:

- i. Fence division agreements, 1826-37: Names of contending parties; location, description of land; nature of dispute, decision of fence viewers, date of agreement; signatures of fence viewers and town clerk. For fence viewers perambulation of bounds 1765-1844, see entry 33-i.
- ii. Record of pew deeds, 1786-1832: Name of grantor, grantee; location of pew; amount, conditions, date of instrument. For pledges to pay for pew purchases 1778, see entry 35-i.

No index. Hdw. to 1933, typed thereafter. 200 pp. 13 x 9 x 2. 4 vols., 1786-1861, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 6 vols., 1862--., safe, off.

For annual published minutes of meetings, reports of town officers and committees, lists of elected officers, jury lists and copies of town-meeting warrants 1849--., see entry 2; for copies of warrants for and proceedings of parish meetings 1775-76, see entry 34-ii.

Vital Statistics

(See also entries 2, 6, 96-ii,iii,iv; entries 97-iii, 97-iv, 112.)

9. (Record of) BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS (and Marriage Intentions), 1804--. 5 vols.

Contains: Records (of Births), entry 13; (Record of Marriage Intentions), 1804-43, entry 15; (Record of Marriages), entry 17; (Record of Deaths), entry 19. Arr. by subject and chron. thereunder. No index, 1804-43; for index 1844--., see entry 10. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 11½ x 2. 1 vol., 1804-43, safe, no. 2, assrs. rm., T.H.; 4 vols., 1844--., safe off.

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1. Marvin, *op. cit.*, p. 243
 2. Town Records, II, p. 31
 3. *Ibid.*, VII, p. 204.
 4. *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 28.

10. INDEX TO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, 1844--. 3 vols. System estab. 1844.

Name of principal, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by name of principal. Hdw. 400 pp. 15 x 12 x 3. Safe, off.

11. RETURNS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, 1867--. 2 boxes, 7 bdl., 17 envs.

Contains: Depositions (of) Births, 1917--, entry 14; (Marriage Returns), entry 18; Certificates of Deaths, 1867-1911, 1920--, entry 20. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Boxes, 8 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12; bdl., 7 x 4 x 2; envs., 13 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4. 2 boxes, 7 bdl., 1867-1919, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 17 envs., 1920--, off.

12. AUBURN VITAL STATISTICS TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1850 (Published Record of Births, Marriages, Deaths), 1778-1850. 1 vol.

Births: Name of child, date of birth, names of parents. Marriages: Name of bride, groom; date of marriage. Deaths: Name, age of deceased; date of death, names of parents. Includes transcripts of all tombstone inscriptions in the Center and West burial grounds. Arr. chron. Indexed alph. by name of principal. Ptd. 8 x 6 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 142 pp. Worcester, Franklin P. Rice, 1900. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester. (Also found at Widener Lib., Harvard University, Cambridge.)

13. RECORDS (of Births), 1827-42. 1 vol. 1765-1818 in Ward (Auburn)-Town (Book) of Records (Vital Statistics and Other Miscellaneous Records), entry 33; 1804-- in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths (and Marriage Intentions), entry 9.

Name, sex of child; place, date of birth; names, address of parents. Also contains: (Record of Deaths), entry 19. Arr. alph. by name of principal. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, off.

14. DEPOSITIONS (of) BIRTHS, 1880-1916. 1 bdl. 1917-- in Returns of Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 11.

Name, address, sex, color of child; place, date of birth; names, addresses, ages, occupations, birthplaces of parents; name, address, signature of physician; date of original birth return, deposition; signature of clerk; registered deposition number. Includes affidavit: Name, address, position of deponent; name of child, notary public; cause of delay, nature of evidence supporting deposition, date of birth, deposition; signature of clerk. Arr. by date of deposition. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 7 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe. garage.

15. (RECORD OF MARRIAGE INTENTIONS), 1848--. 17 vols. Missing: 1844-47, 1900-1921. 1779-1804 in Ward (Auburn)-Town (Book) of Records (Vital Statistics and Other Miscellaneous Records), entry 33; 1804-43 (Record of) in Births, Marriages, Deaths (and Marriage Intentions), entry 9.

Names, addresses, ages, birthplaces, occupations of contracting parties; names of parents, date of filing, signature of clerk. Arr. by date of filing. For index, see entry 16. Hdw. on ptd. form. 144 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 vol., 1848-99, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., T.H.; 16 vols., 1922--, off.

16-23

Town Clerk - Licenses and Permits

16. INDEX TO INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE, 1848--. 1 vol.
Names of contracting parties, volume and page reference. Arr. alph. by
names of contracting parties. Hdw. 200 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 x 1. Safe no. 2,
assrs. rm., T.H.
17. (RECORD OF MARRIAGES), 1779--. 1779-1804 in Ward (Auburn)-Town
(Book) of Records (Vital Statistics and Other Miscellaneous Records),
entry 33; 1804-- in (Record of) Births, Marriages, Deaths (and
Marriage Intentions), entry 9.
Names, addresses of contracting parties; place, date of marriage; name of
person officiating, signature of clerk.
18. (MARRIAGE RETURNS), 1867--. In Returns of Births, Marriages,
Deaths, entry 11.
Names, addresses, ages, color, occupations of contracting parties; place,
date of marriage; name of person officiating.
19. (RECORD OF DEATHS), 1765--. 1765-1844 in Ward (Auburn)-Town
(Book) of Records (Vital Statistics and Other Miscellaneous
Records), entry 33; 1804-- in (Records of) Births, Marriages,
Deaths (and Marriage Intentions), entry 9; 1827-42 also in
Records (of Births), entry 13.
Name, age, sex, color, occupation of deceased; place, date of death, burial.
20. CERTIFICATES OF DEATHS, 1912-19. 1 vol. 1867-1911, 1920-- in
Returns of Births, Marriages, Deaths, entry 11.
Name, address, sex, color, age, marital status of deceased; cause, place,
date of death; signature of physician; place, date of burial; name of
undertaker. Arr. by date of death. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 400 pp.
11 x 9 x 4. Safe, garage.

Licenses and Permits

(See also entries 1, 2, 6, 36-iv, -v, -vi.)

21. DOGS-AUBURN (Record of), 1906-16. 1 vol.
Name, address of owner; color, sex, breed of dog; license number; date of
issue, expiration. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11
x 1. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.
For list of dog owners 1915-22, see entry 37-iii.
22. (DOG LICENSE STUBS), 1921-25. 5 vols. Missing: 1926-35.
Name, address of owner; age, sex, color, breed of dog; license number; date
of issue, expiration. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form.
400 pp. 12 x 5 x 3. Safe, garage.
For subsequent related records, see entry 23.
23. (DUPLICATE DOG LICENSES), 1936--. 1 bdl.
For description, see entry 22. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on
ptd. form. 7 x 7 x 4. Off.

Town Clerk - Property Records; Pole
Locations; Military Records

24-29

24. CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION (for Hunting, Fishing Privileges), 1920-21. 2 bdl. Subsequent records sent to state dept. of conservation, division of fisheries and game.

Name, address, age of registrant; amount of fee; nature, number, date of registration; signature of clerk. Arr. by registration no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 5 x 2. Safe, garage.

Property Records

25. RECORDS-AUBURN (Copies of Personal Property) MORTGAGES, 1832--. 7 vols. (2 vols., 1832-49, 1932-38, unlabeled; 5 vols., 1849-1931, 1938--., 2-5, 7.) System estab. 1832. Title varies slightly.

Name, signature of mortgagor, mortgagee; location, description of property; amount, conditions, date of instrument; date, day, hour, minute of recording; date of discharge. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of mortgagee. Hdw. 600 pp. 13 x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 4 vols., 1832-1906, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 2 vols., 1906-31, safe, garage; 2 vols., 1932--., safe, off.

26. (ORIGINAL DEEDS TO TOWN PROPERTY), 1872--. 1 bdl. 1787-1842 in (Miscellaneous Papers), entry 40.

Deeds to cemetery lots, schoolhouses, fire station, town hall, parks, athletic fields: Name of grantor, grantee, register of deeds; location, description of property; conditions, date of instrument; date, day, hour, minute of recording; attestation of county register of deeds, volume and page reference to property records in county registry of deeds, Worcester. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 x 3 x 2. For abstracts of deeds 1900--., see entry 60-i.

Pole Locations

(See also entries 7, 36-v)

27. (Petitions for) POLE LOCATIONS, 1920--. 2 bdl. 1915-19 in (Town Clerk's Papers), entry 41.

Names, signatures of petitioners; nature, date of petition. Arr. by date of petition. No index. Hdw. and typed. 13 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4. Off.

28. RECORDS (of Petitions), 1912--. 6 vols. (B-G).

Record of petitions from telephone and electric companies for pole locations and grants thereof: Signatures of petitioners; nature, date of petition; name of street, certification of clerk. Arr. by date of petition. Indexed alph. by name of st. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$. 4 vols., 1912-32, safe, garage; 2 vols., 1933--., off.

Military Records

29. CIVIL WAR RECORDS (of Servicemen), 1861-65. 1 vol.

Name, birthplace, occupation of serviceman; term of enlistment; name of

company, regiment or ship; cause; date of discharge or death; names of parents, remarks. Arr. alph. by name of serviceman. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 14 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, garage.

30. AUBURN BOYS IN THE WAR OF 1917 (Record of Enlistments), 1917.
1 bdl.

Name, rank of serviceman; date of enlistment, branch of service, name of nearest of kin, remarks. Arr. alph. by name of serviceman. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9 x 7 x 1. Safe, garage.

Miscellaneous

31. (QUALIFICATION OF TOWN OFFICERS), 1933--. 1 vol. System
estab. 1933.

Name, title, qualifications of officer; date of appointment or election, resignation. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 14 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2. Safe, off.

For appointment of officers 1923--, see entry 1; for officer's annual published reports 1849--, see entry 2; for election and oaths of office 1786--, see entry 8; for election expenses of candidates for office 1915-22, see entry 37-i; for notification of appointment to office 1915-22, see entry 37-iv.

32. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1926--. 4 file boxes. Prior records destroyed. Correspondence regarding building contracts, supplies, legal settlements of claims against the town, departmental activities. Arr. by date of letter. No index. Typed. 12 x 13 x 24. Off.

33. WARD (Auburn)-TOWN (Book) OF RECORDS (Vital Statistics and Other Miscellaneous Records), 1765-1844. 1 vol.

Contains:

- i. Fence viewers' perambulation of bounds: Description of land and bounds surveyed; results, date of perambulation. For fence division agreements 1826-37, see entry 8-i.
 - ii. Records (of Births), 1765-1818, entry 13.
 - iii. (Record of Deaths), entry 19.
 - iv. (Record of Marriage Intentions), 1779-1804, entry 15.
 - v. (Record of Marriages), 1779-1804, entry 17.
 - vi. Record of stray cattle impounded: Name of owner; number, description of stray; extent of damage to property; place, date of impounding.
 - vii. Warnings to leave town: Name of person, reasons for warning.
- Arr. by subject and chron. thereunder. No index. Hdw. Paper poor. 100 pp. 13 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. Safe, off.

34. MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS - TOWN OF AUBURN, 1775-88. 1 vol.

Contains:

- i. Copies of certificates of perambulation of town lines, 1783, 1787-88: Date of perambulation, names of selectmen who perambulated lines, names of towns concerned. For reports of perambulations 1915-22, see entry 37-v.

- ii. Copies of warrants for and proceedings of parish meetings, Mar. 14, 1775, Mar. 14, 1776: Instructions to constable to post warrant, list of articles to be voted on, names of selectmen; return of warrant by constable giving date of return, signature of constable; proceedings of meetings showing date of meeting, decisions on articles, signature of moderator, parish clerk attesting copy.
 - iii. Floor plan of meetinghouse, undated: Location, number, cost of each pew; name of pew purchaser, notation as to whether pew price was paid.
 - iv. Map of land deeded to town by Thomas Drury, 1781, showing boundaries, area of land.
- Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 24 pp. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.

35. (MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS), 1778-1822. 21 bdl.s.

Contains:

- i. Pledges to pay for pew purchases, 1778: Pledges made to "Meeting house committee" to pay "the last Third part of the purchase price of our Pews", showing amount, date of pledge; signature of pledger, statement of receipt by members of committee for total amount pledged. For record of pew deeds 1786-1832, see entry 8-ii.
 - ii. Receipts acknowledging payment of minister's salary, 1778-94: Date of receipt, name of parish treasurer from whom salary was received; amount, purpose of payment; signature of minister.
 - iii. Receipts acknowledging payment of teachers' salaries, 1785-1806. Date of receipt; amount, purpose of payment; signature of teacher.
 - iv. Tax collector's fidelity bonds, 1783-1807: Names, addresses of bondsmen; name, title of person bonded; amount, date, conditions of bond; signatures of bondsmen and justice of the peace.
- Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 7 x 4 x 2. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.

36. (Miscellaneous), RECORDS, TOWN OF AUBURN, ROADS AND FRANCHISES, 1898--. 1 vol. (5).

Contains:

- i. Copies of county commissioners' decrees for street and road lay-outs: Description of lay-out, names of abutters; name, address of civil engineer; signatures of selectmen, signature of clerk attesting copy, date of submittal to town vote, date of acceptance.
- ii. Copies of married women's business certificates granted to married women doing business on their own account: Name of woman; name, location of business; date of declaration; date, time declaration received and entered into record by clerk, signature of clerk attesting copy.
- iii. Copies of petitions for franchises to construct, maintain, operate street railways, and to alter tracks: Text, date of petition; names of petitioners, signature of clerk of petitioners. Includes record of permission granted, date of approval by selectmen, signature of clerk attesting copy.

- iv. Copies of pole permits granted, 1907-11: Date of grant by selectmen permitting erection and maintenance of poles, names of petitioners; location, purpose of poles; names of selectmen, signature of clerk attesting copy.
 - v. Copies of poolroom licenses granted, 1915--: Name of licensee, owner; location of business, terms of license, date of grant, signature of clerk attesting copy.
 - vi. Record of permit to operate bus line: Date of grant, names of petitioners for permit, duration of permit, signatures of selectmen, attest of clerk.
 - vii. Traffic rules of Auburn, 1925: Date of adoption, list of rules, signatures of selectmen; date of public hearing, newspaper publication, submittal of copy to county clerk of courts; signature of town clerk.
- Arr. by subject. Indexed alph. by subject. Hdw. 500 pp. 14 x 9 x 3. Safe, off.

37. (CLERK'S PAPERS), 1915-22. 5 file boxes, 1 bdl.

Contains:

- i. Election expenses of candidates for town office: Name, office of candidate; date of election, amount of expenditure, signatures of candidate and notary public.
- ii. Election returns for representatives to general court, 1920-22: Date of meeting of district town clerks, names of candidates, total number of votes for each candidate, names of towns sending in election returns, signatures of town clerks.
- iii. Lists of dog owners showing name of owner.
- iv. Selectmen's notification of appointment of town officers: Date of appointment; name, title of appointee; signatures of selectmen.
- v. Selectmen's reports of town boundary perambulations: Date of perambulation, names of two towns whose lines were perambulated, signatures of selectmen of the towns certifying perambulation was performed. For certificates of perambulation 1783, 1787-88, see entry 34-i.

Arr. by subject. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 9 x 10 x 15. Safe, garage.

38. DRAWINGS AND BLUE PRINTS OF ALL AUBURN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS, 1937-. 1 vol.

Plans in triplicate showing name, location, boundaries of street or highway; scale of plan, signature of engineer. Arr. alph. by name of way. No index. Black-and-white, blueprint. 300 pp. 20 x 30 x 5.

39. (Notices of Naturalization), 1886-1900. 27 entries in 1 vol.

Copies of notices of applications for naturalization filed in superior court. Date of notification, filing of application; name of court; name, address, age, occupation of applicant; signature of clerk; date of receipt, recording by clerk. Arr. by date of notification. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 13 x 8 x 1. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., T.H.

40. (ORIGINAL WILLS - REQUESTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARY BY WILLIAM. H. EMERSON AND WILLIAM CRAIG), 1870, 1876. 1 vol.

Names of testators; conditions, date of will; signatures of testators,

Board of Registrars of Voters

witnesses, notary public. Arr. by date of will. No index. Hdw. 11 pp.
10 x 8 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Safe, garage.

III. BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS¹

Until 1906 the selectmen performed the duties of registrars. The selectmen appointed one, three or four registrars annually from 1906 to 1925.² On May 17, 1926 a registrar was appointed for three years, thus inaugurating the system of rotation in office.³ One member of the board is now appointed annually for a term of three years.⁴

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the residence of John Riley (town clerk), 380 Southbridge Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports.

41. RECORD BOOK OF REGISTRARS (Minutes of Meetings), 1926--. 2 vols. System estab. 1926.

Discussion and decisions relative to certification of nomination papers, revision of voting lists, expenses for elections and registrations. Include lists of new registrations: Name, address of voter; date of registration, names of witnesses. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. 500 pp. 14 x 10 x 2. Off.

42. TOWN OF AUBURN - GENERAL REGISTER OF VOTERS, 1884--. 5 vols. Missing: 1892-1905.

Name, address, age, birthplace, occupation, signature of voter; place of employment, date of registration, residence as of April first, minutes of naturalization proceedings, remarks. Arr. by date of registration. Indexed alph. by name of voter. Hdw. 400 pp. 15 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 vol., 1884-91, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 4 vols., 1906--, safe, off. For lists of new registrations 1926--, see entry 41.

43. (ANNUAL VOTING LIST), 1908--. 3 vols. Prior records destroyed. Name, address, political affiliation of voter. Arr. by precinct no. and thereunder alph. by name of voter. No index. Hdw. 800 pp. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe, off.

44. RECORD OF PERSONS LIABLE TO BE ASSESSED A POLL TAX, 1916--. 3 vols. Prior records destroyed.

List of polls submitted by assessors: Name, address, age, occupation of person; residence as of April first, prior year. Arr. by precinct no. and thereunder alph. by name of person. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 380 pp. 15 x 10 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 2 vols., 1916-31, safe, garage; 1 vol., 1932--, off.

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

2. Annual Reports, 1906-25

3. Selectmen's Records, I, p. 12

4. Ibid., IV, pages not numbered

IV. PRECINCT OFFICERS¹

On March 16, 1914 it was voted in town meeting "that a voting precinct be established at Stoneville", the details being left to the selectmen.² At the same meeting it was voted to hold the annual town election of officers by ballot on the Saturday following the annual town meeting, a choice which was subsequently changed to the Monday following.³ In 1926 a third precinct was added.⁴

A warden, clerk, four inspectors (two from each of the major political parties), and two ballot counters are appointed annually to serve at each precinct for a term of one year. Except for the ballot clerks, deputies for each of the above officers, who serve only in case of the absence of the principal, are also appointed annually.⁵

45. TOWN OF AUBURN - PRECINCT 1, Nov. 3, 1914-- 1 vol. System
estab. 1914.

Record of voting: Names of officers on duty at polls; time, date of opening and closing of polls; total number of ballots received, cast, blank; number of votes cast by men, women; number of votes for each candidate; results of referenda, local option questions. Arr. by date of election. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 12 x 10 x 1½. Residence of Blanche Farndon (precinct cl.), 65 School St.

46. (RECORD OF VOTING - PRECINCT 2) Sept. 18, 1928-- 1 vol. System
estab. 1928.

For description see entry 45. Arr. by date of election. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 10 x 9 x 2. Residence of Wilfred Croteau (precinct cl.), 316 Oxford St.

47. RECORD (of Voting - Precinct 3), Nov. 3, 1914-- 1 vol. System
estab. 1914.

For description, see entry 45. Arr. by date of election. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 10 x 9 x 2. Residence of Edmour Dubois (precinct cl.), 19 South-bridge St.

V. ASSESSORS⁶

The bylaws of Auburn stipulate that "the assessors shall publish their annual report, containing a list of their valuation of all real and personal

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

2. Town Records, VIII, p. 179.

3. Town Records, VIII, p. 180.

4. Ibid., X, p. 39.

5. Selectmen's Records, IV, pages not numbered.

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

property in the town, as soon as practicable after committing tax lists to the Collector of Taxes.¹ The bylaws also require taxes to be assessed and the tax list and warrant committed to the collector on or before September first of each year.²

On May 4, 1778, at the first town meeting three assessors were elected for a term of one year.³ The term of office was made three years on March 11, 1889, but reduced again to one year in 1890.⁴ The term was again made three years on March 17, 1902, and has so remained, one assessor being elected annually.⁵

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the assessors' room, first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 44 for list of polls submitted to registrars of voters 1916--.

Reports (See also entry 2)

48. ASSESSORS ANNUAL REPORT (Assessments on Real and Personal Property), 1898--. 3 vols.

Name, address, occupation of property owner; location, description, valuation of property; amount of assessment. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Ptd. 600 pp. 9 x 6 x 3. Reading rm., first fl., Merriam Public Lib.

Valuations and Assessments (See also entries 40, 54, 59)

49. VALUATION LIST FOR THE TOWN OF AUBURN, 1786--. 85 vols. (dated). System estab. 1786. Title varies: Ward Town Book, 1786-1800, 1 vol.; no title, 1801-26, 2 vols.; Records, 1827-55, 2 vols.; Valuation Auburn, 1851-90, 3 vols.

Assessments on polls, real and personal property: Name, address of taxpayer; location, description, valuation of property; amount of assessment, total tax. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. till 1861, hdw. under ptd. head thereafter. 250 pp. 14 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2; 75 pp. 24 x 21 x $\frac{3}{4}$. 8 vols., 1786-1890, 38 vols., 1862-1900, safe no. 1; 38 vols., 1901--, safe no. 2.

For record of abatements 1890--, see entry 53; for tax receipts 1870--, see entry 57; for real and personal property tax commitments 1870--, see entries 57, 58; for poll tax commitments 1870--, see entries 57, 59.

1. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, pp. 214-215, ch. III, sec. 11.
See entry 48.

2. Ibid., sec. 12.

3. Marvin, op. cit., p. 243.

4. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered

5. Ibid., VII, p. 204.

50. (REAL ESTATE TAX LISTS), 1924--. 2 file boxes. System estab. 1924.

Name, address of property owner; location, description, valuation of property; record of property transfers, total valuation. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. and typed. 7 x 10 x 24. Cabinet, rm. adjoining assrs. rm., T.H.

51. (POLL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS), 1924--. 3 file boxes. System estab. 1924.

Poll lists: Name, address, age of poll; amount, date of tax. Personal property lists: Name, occupation of property owner; itemization of property, total tax. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index. Hdw. 7 x 10 x 24. Cabinet, rm. adjoining assrs. rm., T.H.

52. (Real and Personal Property) VALUATION LIST FOR THE WOODLAWN WATER DISTRICT OF AUBURN MASS., 1936--. 3 vols. (dated).

Name, address of property owner; types, valuation of buildings; lot number or number of street with lot number, number of acres of feet in each lot of land, value of land, total value of each parcel of real estate, aggregate value of real estate, total tax on real estate, total tax. Includes table of aggregates showing number of persons assessed on real estate, personal estate; total number assessed; value of assessed personal estate, real estate; tax rate; total taxes for state, county, city or town; amount of tax including overlay on real, personal property; total tax, number of dwellings, acres of land assessed. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. and ptd. head. 100 pp. 17 x 15 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe no. 1.

Abatements

(See also entries 55, 56, 58, 59, 61, 62)

53. ABATEMENT RECORD (of Poll, Real and Personal Property Taxes), 1890--. 3 vols.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of tax; cause, amount, date of abatement; amount due. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 10 x $1\frac{1}{2}$. Safe no. 2.

Motor Vehicle Excise

(Tax authorized by law 1929; see also entries 61, 62)

54. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE (Assessments), 1929--. 10 vols.

Name, address of owner; description, valuation of vehicle; amount of tax. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 21 x 18 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe no. 1.

55. (RECORD OF ABATEMENTS), 1929--. 2 vols.

Name, address of owner; description, registration number of vehicle; amount of assessment; date of commitment, application for abatement; cause, amount, date of abatement. Arr. by date of abatement. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 8 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Safe no. 2.

56. (ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES), 1935--. 3 vols.

Name, address of owner; amount of assessment; cause, amount, number, date of abatement; amount due, signatures of assessors. Arr. by abatement no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 200 pp. 10 x 4 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Safe no. 2.

VI. TAX COLLECTOR¹

The bylaws of Auburn stipulate that "the Collector shall deliver all the tax bills within fourteen days after commitment."² The collector is also required to file with the town accountant a statement of taxes collected for the preceding month on or before the seventh of each month.³ The collector must furnish a bond.⁴

In 1790 the collection of taxes was "struck out" or farmed out to the lowest bidder.⁵ This method of filling the office continued until 1833 when it was voted that the "Treasurer be Collector of Taxes."⁶ The two functions were united in the treasurer until 1902 when a separate collector was elected.⁷ Since 1902 a collector has been elected annually for a term of one year.⁸

All records are on the first floor, Town Hall; except where otherwise noted, they are in the collector's office. In addition to the following record, see entry 2 for annual published reports; entry 35-iv for fidelity bonds 1783-1807; entries 68, 69 for attestation of nonpayment of taxes (tax titles), 1932--; entry 78 for tax accounts 1930--.

57. COLLECTOR'S CASH, (Receipts From Real Estate, Personal Property, and Poll Taxes), 1870--. 57 vols. System estab. 1870.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, type, date of tax; amount, date of payment. Also contains: Tax List (Commitment of Real and Personal Property Taxes), 1870-1917, entry 58; (Commitment of) Poll Tax, 1870-1917, entry 59. Receipts arr. by date of receipt, tax lists arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 40 vols., 1870-1917, 200 pp. 6 x 4 x $\frac{3}{4}$; 17 vols., 1918--, 150 pp. 12 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 47 vols., 1870-1928, safe no. 2, assrs. rm.; 10 vols., 1929--, safe, off.

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

2. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 215, ch. III, sec. 12

3. Ibid., p. 217, ch. IV, sec. 5. See entry 78.

4. Ibid., p. 215, ch. III, sec. 14

5. Town Records, II, p. 108

6. Ibid., IV, p. 243

7. Ibid., VII, p. 203

8. Ibid., VII-XI

58. TAX LIST (Commitment of Real and Personal Property Taxes), 1918--.
21 vols. 1870-1917 in Collector's cash (Receipts From Real Estate,
Personal Property, and Poll Taxes), entry 57.
Name, address of property owner; amount, date of tax, interest, abatement,
payment; balance due. Arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. Hdw.
300 pp. 12 x 10 x 2. 11 vols., 1918-28, safe no. 2, assrs. rm.; 10 vols.,
1929--, safe, off.

For real and personal property assessments 1786--, see entry 55; for
real estate tax lists 1924--, see entry 50; for personal property tax lists
1924--, see entry 51.

59. (Commitment of) POLL TAX, 1918--. 21 vols. 1870-1917 in Collector's
Cash (Receipts from Real Estate, Personal Property, and Poll Taxes),
entry 57.

Name, address of taxpayer; amount, date of tax, abatement, interest, payment;
amount of old age assistance tax. Arr. alph. by name of taxpayer. No index.
Hdw. 150 pp. 9 x 8 x 1. 11 vols., 1918-28, safe no. 2, assrs. rm.; 10 vols.,
1929--, safe, off.

For poll tax assessments 1786--, see entry 55; for poll tax lists 1924--,
see entry 51.

60. (ABSTRACTS OF DEEDS AND WILLS, AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SALE OF TAX TITLE
DEEDS), 1900--. 20 file binders. System estab. 1900.

Contains:

- i. Deeds: Name, address of grantor, grantee; amounts, number of mortgages
(if any); amount of consideration, whether buildings on land, area
of land, volume and page reference to instrument recorded in county
registry of deeds; date of deed, recording. Includes plan of land
showing area, boundaries, names of abutters. For original deeds to
town property 1872--, see entry 26.
- ii. Record of authorization from state commissioner of corporations and
taxation to the town to sell at public auction to the highest bid-
der tax title deeds held by town: Name of former property owner,
year of tax levy, date of tax sale, volume and page reference to
deed recorded in county registry of deeds, certificate number (if
land is registered in county land court). For original tax titles
1932--, see entries 68, 69.
- iii. Wills: Name, addresses of deceased; case number, name of executor,
date of executor's appointment; names, addresses of heirs; relation-
ship to deceased; text, date of will; itemization, total value of
real estate; amount deposited in bank. For bequests to public
library 1870, 1876 see entry 40.

Arr. alph. by subject. No index. Typed. 12 x 7 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe no. 1.

61. MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX COMMITMENT (Books), 1929--. 10 vols. Tax
authorized by law 1929.

Name, address of owner; amount, date of tax, abatement, payment. Arr. alph.
by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 11 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

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

62. MOTOR VEHICLES EXCISE TAX CASH (Receipts), 1929--. 10 vols. Tax
authorized by law 1929.

Name, address of owner; amount, date of tax, abatement, payment. Arr. by
date of payment. No index. Hdw. 280 pp. 11 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

VII. TREASURER¹

The bylaws of Auburn require the treasurer to furnish a bond, and to have custody of the funds paid for perpetual care of cemetery lots.²

A treasurer was elected at the first precinct meeting of the South Parish of Worcester on July 27, 1773. Five years later on May 4, 1778, a treasurer was elected for a term of one year at the first town meeting.³ A treasurer was elected annually from 1787 through 1832.⁴ From 1833 to 1902 the treasurer served also as the tax collector, but was still elected annually for a term of one year.⁵ Since 1902 the offices have again been separate and the treasurer has been elected annually.⁶

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the treasurer's office, Post Office Building, 31 Auburn Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 93 for relief orders drawn on treasurer 1908-10; entry 141 for copies of dog officer's reports to treasurer 1935--.

Receipts and Disbursements
(See also entry 78)

63. TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS (of Receipts and Expenditures), 1796--.
5 vols.

Receipts from taxes, bonds, licenses, services, recording of deeds: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures for departments, equipment, maintenance of public property: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment; warrant no. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 8 x 2. 4 vols., 1796-1932, safe, sel. rm., T.H.; 1 vol., 1932--., safe.

64. (VOUCHERS), 1918--. 183 file boxes.

Approval of bills for payment: Name of creditor, department charged; purpose, date of bill; amount, number, date of voucher; amount, date of payment; signature of department head. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 18 x 12 x 3. 110 file boxes, 1918-30, bsmt., T.H.; 72 file boxes, 1930-36, assrs. rm., T.H.; 1 file box, 1937--., treas. off.

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

2. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 215, ch. III, sec. 14; p. 217, ch. IV, sec. 6. For records of such funds see entries 75, 77

3. Marvin, op. cit., p. 243.

4. Town Records, II, 31 to IV, pages not numbered

5. Ibid., VII, p. 203

6. Ibid., VII-XI

65. CANCELED CHECKS, 1917--. 32 file boxes. Prior records destroyed. Name, endorsement of payee; name of bank, certification of payment; amount, number, date of check. Arr. by check no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 18 x 12 x 3. 20 file boxes, 1917-33, bsmt., T.H.; 12 file boxes, 1934-- , treas. off.

66. CHECK REGISTER (Record of Checks Issued), 1936--. 1 vol. System estab. 1936. Name of payee, voucher number, amount, number, date of check. Includes reconciliation of bank balance: deposits, withdrawals, checks outstanding, balance. Arr. chron. No index. Edw. 300 pp. 16 x 16 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Tax Title Records
(See also entry 60-ii)

67. TAX TITLE ACCOUNT, 1932--. 1 vol. Prior records destroyed. Accounting of property taken over for nonpayment of taxes: Name of taxpayer; location, description of property; amount, itemization, date of tax, interest, costs; date of foreclosure; date, day, hour, minute of recording in registry of deeds; amount; proceeds, date of redemption; volume and page reference to property records in Worcester registry of deeds. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 20 x 16 x 3.

68. (NONREDEEMABLE TAX TITLES), 1932-35. 3 file boxes. Titles to property taken over for nonpayment of taxes, and now nonredeemable: Name of former owner; location, description of property; date of demand, foreclosure; date, day, hour, minute of recording; volume and page reference to property records in Worcester registry of deeds; signature of treasurer, tax collector; attestation of register of deeds, justice of the peace. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 24 x 12 x 8.

69. (CURRENT TAX TITLES), 1935--. 1 bdl. Titles to property foreclosed for nonpayment of taxes and subject to redemption: Name of taxpayer; location, description of property; date of demand, foreclosure; date, day, hour, minute of recording; volume and page reference to property records in Worcester registry of deeds; signature of treasurer, tax collector; attestation of register, justice. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 x 2. Safe.

Bonds
(See also entry 63)

70. (STUBS OF BONDS ISSUED IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES), 1915--. 23 vols. Amount, purpose or name, interest rate of bond; date of issue, maturity; amounts, due dates of principal and interest payments; authority of issue, name of purchaser. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 15 x 12 x $\frac{3}{4}$. 21 vols., 1915-35, safe no. 1, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.; 2 vols., 1936-- , safe.

71. (Officials' Fidelity) BOND RECORD, 1930--. 1 vol. Name of official; amount, date of bond. Arr. alph. by name of official.

No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Safe no. 1, assrs. rm., first fl., T.H.

For tax collector's original fidelity bonds 1783-1807, see entry 35-iv.

Reports
(See also entry 2)

72. (Annual) TOWN REPORTS (by Treasurer and Selectmen of Receipts and Expenditures Submitted to Town Meeting), 1849-60. 1 env. Receipts: Amount, source, date of income; names of selectmen and treasurer. Expenditures: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment; names of selectmen and treasurer. Arr. by year. No index. Ptd. 10 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Manuscript room, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

VIII. FINANCE COMMITTEE¹

At a special town meeting on January 29, 1925, a motion was passed to nominate five persons to serve as a finance committee in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 16 of the General Laws of 1921 as amended by Chapter 388 of the Acts and Resolves of 1923.² No changes occurred until February 9, 1933 when a bylaw was adopted authorizing the selectmen to appoint a finance committee of six, two to be chosen each year for three-year terms.³

The finance committee keeps no records, but see entry 2 for annual published reports.

IX. AUDITOR⁴

An auditor was elected annually from March 26, 1894,⁵ until the office was abolished on June 6, 1930. It was then voted to accept the uniform state accounting system and to replace the auditor by a town accountant appointed annually by the selectmen.⁶

The auditor kept no records, but see entry 2 for annual published reports.

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

2. Town Records, IX, p. 377.

3. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 221, amendments art. 11.

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

5. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered.

6. Ibid., X, pp. 281-282.

(73-77)

Town Accountant - Receipts and Disbursements;
Accounts Receivable and Payable

X. TOWN ACCOUNTANT¹

On June 6, 1930 the town voted to accept the uniform state accounting system and to substitute a town accountant appointed by the selectmen for a term of three years in place of the elected auditor.²

All records are in safe number one, assessors' room, first floor, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports; entry 141 for copies of dog officer's reports to accountant 1935--.

Receipts and Disbursements

73. CASH (Book), 1930--. 1 vol.

Accounting of receipts from all sources and expenditures for all purposes. Receipts: Name of payer, department credited; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures: Name of payee, department charged; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

74. (Departmental Budget and) JOURNAL, 1930--. 1 vol.

Summary of anticipated expenditures: Name of department; amount, purpose of expense; department, subject totals; date of budget. Also contains: (Tax Collector's Account) entry 78. Arr. by date of budget. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 12 x 2.

75. TOWN OF AUBURN - LEDGER - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, 1930--. 1 vol.

Summary of accounts as posted from Cash (Book), entry 73; (Departmental Budget and) Journal, entry 74: Name, number of account; amount, date of debit, credit posting. Arr. by name of dept., chron. entry. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 22 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Accounts Receivable and Payable

76. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, 1930--. 1 vol.

Current accounts with debtors of the town: Name of debtor; amount, source, date of charge; amount, date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 12 x 2.

77. DEBT RECORD, 1930--. 1 vol.

Town indebtedness for loans, state and county taxes, trust funds, departmental bills: Name of creditor; amount, source, date of expense; amount of interest accrued. Arr. by date of charge. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 20 x 12 x 2.

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

2. Town Records, X, pp. 281-282.

78. (TAX COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT), 1930--. In (Departmental Budget and) Journal, entry 74.

Charges against collector's account of all tax assessments, and collector's transfer thereof to treasurer: Amount, type, date of tax; amount, date of transfer.

XI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE¹

On March 29, 1779 the town was divided into five school districts or "quadrans" for the first time and the sum of two hundred pounds was appropriated for education.² Although one authority states that a school committee was first chosen in 1780,³ the earliest entry in the extant records concerning the schools is found in 1787 when it was "voted to chuse a Committee of 7 persons for providing School."⁴ A new committee was chosen annually but in 1797 the number was fixed at five, in 1823 at three, and in 1826 at eight.⁵ In that year the committee was called the "School Committee, District and Visiting."⁶ Two years later the committee was divided into two groups, an administrative committee of five and a visiting committee of five, the members of both being elected annually until 1845.⁷ Then the town voted that each district "be authorized to choose their own Prudential Committees" to engage teachers.⁸ In 1851 three members were again elected and, except in 1872 when six were chosen, the committee has remained at three ever since.⁹ In 1858 the term of office was fixed at three years where it has remained.¹⁰ Today one member of the school committee is elected each year for a term of three years.¹¹

A superintending union was formed with Sutton on January 7, 1902.¹² The school committees of both towns in joint session elect a superintendent for a term of three years and a school nurse annually.¹³ Five attendance officers and a school physician are appointed annually by the Auburn committee to serve the town of Auburn only.

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

2. Hosmer, op. cit., I, p. 187

3. Marvin, op. cit., I, p. 248

4. Town Records, II, p. 32

5. Ibid., p. 270; III, p. 157; IV, p. 81.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., IV, p. 124.

8. Ibid., V, p. 143

9. Ibid., p. 269

10. Ibid., VI, p. 164

11. Ibid., II, p. 203.

12. Annual Report, 1902, pp. 43-48

13. Ibid., 1937, p. 6.

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the Auburn High School Building, 71 Auburn Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 35-iii for receipts for teachers' salaries 1785-1806.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entry 2)

79. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS), 1853--. 12 vols. Missing: 1913-14. Appointment of teachers, janitors, truant officers: Discussions and recommendations pertaining to budget, health program, problem children, special classes, school building construction and repairs; approval of bills for payment. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 11 x 10 x 1. 10 vols., 1853-1934, supply closet, supt. off., main fl., Auburn High School Bldg.; 2 vols., 1934--, residence of Mary J. L. Ford (committee member), 45 Oxford St.

80. (COPIES OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION), 1912-20. 2 vols. Itemized account of expenditures for salaries, supplies, repairs, equipment: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; order no. Arr. by date of expenditure. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 9 x 8 x 1. Supply closet, supt. off., main fl.

Pupils' Records

81. CONTINUOUS PUPIL RECORD CARD, 1923--. 8 file boxes. Case histories: Name, former and present address, place and date of birth of pupil; date of vaccination: Name of school, grade last attended; date of graduation, discharge; subsequent employment record; name, address, occupation, birthplace of parent or guardian. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 6 x 9 x 16. Supt. off., main fl.

82. RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT, 1923--. 6 file boxes. System estab. 1923. Name, address, age, birthplace, sex of pupil; date pupil reaches age of 16, 21; last grade completed, last school attended; number, date of employment certificate; name of employer. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 7 x 16. Supt. off., main fl.

83. PHYSICAL RECORD, 1923--. 8 bdl's. System estab. 1923. Inactive cases, 1923--; active cases, 1927--: Name, address, age, birthplace, physical description of pupil; dates of physical examinations, Schick test, vaccination, immunization of diphtheria; names of parents, brothers, sisters; birthplaces of parents, occupation of father. Arr. by grade no. and thereunder alph. by name of pupil. No index. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2. 4 bdl's., 1923--, nurse's off.; 4 bdl's., 1923--, closet, nurse's off.

For record of Schick tests 1928--, see entry 103; for vaccination record 1928--, see entry 104.

84. CHADWICK CLINIC FOLLOW-UP RECORDS (Examination of Tubercular Cases), 1934--. 4 bdl's. System estab. 1934. Name, address, age, physical condition of pupil; semi-annual height and

weight; nature, date, result of examination. Arr. alph. by name of pupil. No index. Hdw. and typed on ptd. form. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x 4. Nurse's off.

Expenditures

(See also entries 79, 80)

85. PAYROLL (and General Expense) BOOK, 1901--. 5 vols. Title varies: Records, 1901-23, 4 vols.

Monthly account of disbursements for salaries, supplies, equipment, maintenance; payment of tuition for high school students sent to Worcester: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure; voucher no. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 4 vols., 1901-23, 200 pp. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 x 1, supply closet; 1 vol., 1923--, 150 pp. 15 x 13 x $1\frac{1}{2}$, safe; supt. off., main fl.

XII. ATTENDANCE OFFICERS¹

On July 2, 1892 the town voted to accept a bylaw which stipulated that "two or more Truant Officers shall be appointed annually whose duty it shall be to inquire into all violations of the truant laws and the laws relating to compulsory education and to do all the acts required of them by the laws of the Commonwealth. . . ." ² Truant officers were thereafter elected annually until the school committee began to appoint them in 1903. ³ Although the number has varied, the school committee has made all appointments annually since 1903. In 1914 the name was changed from truant to attendance officers. ⁴ Five attendance officers were appointed by the school committee in 1938 for a term of one year. ⁵ The attendance officers keep no records.

XIII. TRUSTEES OF MERRIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY⁶

In 1871 Auburn received a bequest of \$1000 for establishing a free public library on condition that the town contribute an equal sum. ⁷ In

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

2. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered

3. Annual Report, 1903, p. 41

4. Ibid., 1914, p. 57

5. Town of Auburn, School Committee, (MINUTES OF MEETINGS), 1853-1939, 12 vols., mss., XII. See entry 79.

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

7. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered.

April 1872 the town voted to assess this amount in taxes and five persons were elected as a library committee.¹ Two years later on March 9, 1874 a permanent, library committee of three members and a librarian were elected for a term of one year.² The committee was called a board of trustees, and its term changed to three years on March 12, 1877.³ Twenty years later on March 15, 1897, the town voted to have the trustees appoint the librarian, hitherto elected annually.⁴ In 1910 Mr. Leander S. Merriam bequeathed \$10,000 to the town for a new library building.⁵ Simultaneously, the membership of the board of library trustees was increased to six, two of whom were to be elected annually for three-year terms.⁶

All records are in the librarian's desk, main room, first floor, Merriam Public Library, 100 Central Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports; entry 40 for bequests to public library 1870, 1876.

86. (MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS), 1934--. 1 vol. System estab. 1934.

Discussion of reports of librarian on circulation, fines; recommendations for new books, requisitions for supplies. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 10 x 9 x $\frac{3}{4}$.

87. ACCESSION RECORDS (Books Acquired), 1911--. 6 vols. System estab. 1911.

Classification, source, number of accession; name of author, title, place of publication, description, cost, catalogue number of book; remarks. Arr. by accession no. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 16 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

88. DAILY CIRCULATION RECORD (Circulation Statistics), 1911--. 6 vols. System estab. 1911.

Daily library attendance, amount of fines received, classification of books issued; totals. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x $\frac{1}{4}$.

XIV. BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE⁷

The earliest extant record of poor relief is under date of August 23, 1786 when the town contracted with a citizen "for the West Room in his dwelling house, for to use as a Work House the present year", the citizen

1. Town Records, VI, pages not numbered

2. Idem

3. Idem

4. Ibid., VII, p. 22

5. Ibid., VIII, p. 63

6. Ibid., p. 70

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

being made the overseer.¹ Until 1857 the method of caring for the town poor was generally "to set (them) up to Vendue to see who will support them cheapest", or for some individual to board them, presenting the bills for their care to the next town meeting for settlement.² From 1857 through 1907 the selectmen were elected as overseers of the poor except in the years 1892 to 1894, inclusive, when three persons not selectmen were elected.³

In 1908 three separate overseers of the poor were elected and the following year the term of office was fixed at three years.⁴ In conformity to state law the name of the overseers was changed to board of public welfare in 1929.⁵ The board elects one of its members chairman and since March 30, 1935 has employed a full time clerk.⁶ One member of the board is elected annually for a term of three years.⁷

All records are in the Town Hall; except where otherwise noted, they are in the public welfare room, first floor. In addition to the following records, see entries 109, 110 for correspondence with board of health concerning recipients of aid 1904--.

Minutes and Reports
(See also entry 2)

89. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE), 1864--. 5 vols.

Discussion and decisions concerning applications for aid, reimbursements from state and other towns, estimate of expenditures for ensuing year, approval of bills from hospitals, transfer from reserve account. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 11½ x 10 x 1. 2 vols., 1864-1907, safe no. 2, assrs. rm.; 3 vols. 1908--, desk.

90. (COPIES OF ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE), 1900-1908. 1 bdl.

Number of persons fully or partially supported; number of vagrants, travelers lodged at expense of town; ordinary, extraordinary relief expenses for year; date of report. Arr. by year. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 8½ x 4 x ½. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl.

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1. Town Records, I, pp. 3, 4
 2. Ibid., I-IV, passim
 3. Ibid., VI, pp. 145, 181, other pages not numbered; VII, p. 298
 4. Ibid., VII, p. 372
 5. Town Records, VII, p. 416
 6. Town of Auburn, Board of Public Welfare (MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE), 1853-1939, 5 vols., mss., IV, p. 364; V, p. 99. See entry 89
 7. Town Records, II, p. 203

(91-96) Board of Public Welfare - Case Histories; Relief Expenditures;
Aids to Dependent Children

Case Histories

91. (CASE PAPERS), 1900--. 5 file boxes. System estab. 1900.
Individual folders containing the following records:
- i. Case history sheet: Date of record, general summary of case, record of monthly aid; personal histories of recipient, spouse, parents, children.
 - ii. Correspondence with investigators, relatives, banks, employers, relative to applicant for aid.
 - iii. Notifications to and from other municipalities relative to legal settlement: Date of notification; name, address of applicant; statement regarding need, signatures of welfare board.
- Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 11 x 14 x 24.

Relief Expenditures (See also entires 89, 90)

92. (RECORD OF AID RENDERED), 1864-1908. 3 vols. System estab. 1864.
Disbursements for food, rent, fuel: Name, address, settlement status of recipient; amount, type, date of aid; date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 7 x 4 x $\frac{3}{4}$; 140 pp. 13 x 9 x $\frac{3}{4}$. 2 vols., 1864-92, desk; 1 vol., 1892-1908, safe no. 2, assrs. rm.
93. (Stubs of) ORDERS - OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, 1908-10. 3 vols. System discont. 1910.
Orders drawn on treasurer: Name of payee, recipient; amount, purpose, number, date of order. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 100 pp. 11 x 4 x $\frac{1}{4}$. Safe no. 2, assrs. rm., first fl.
94. (JOURNAL OF DISBURSEMENTS), 1928--. 10 vols.
Name of recipient; amount, itemization, date of aid; weekly administration costs. Arr. by date of aid. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13 x 11 x 1. 9 vols., 1928-36, safe; 1 vol., 1937--., desk.
95. (LEDGER), 1928--. 10 vols. System estab. 1928.
Summaries of accounts as posted from Journal of Aid Disbursements, entry 98: Name, address, case number of recipient; amount, type of aid; date of posting. Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 13 x 11 x 1. 9 vols., 1928-36, safe; 1 vol., 1937--., desk.

Aid to Dependent Children

96. (CASE RECORDS), 1931--. 1 file drawer.
Contains:
- i. Applications for aid: Name, address, marital status of applicant; personal histories of parents, children; statement of property owned, estimate of monthly aid.
 - ii. Copies of children's birth certificates: Name of child; place, date of birth; names, addresses, birthplaces of parents; name of physician.

- iii. Copies of deceased parent's death certificate: Name, address, age, sex of deceased; place, cause, date of death; name of physician.
 - iv. Copies of parent's marriage certificate: Name of bride, groom; place, date of marriage; names, address, ages, occupations of parents; name of person officiating.
 - v. Correspondence from state supervisor of aid to dependent children.
- Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 24 x 14 x 11.

Old Age Assistance

(Assistance authorized by law 1931; see also entry 59)

97. (Case Records), 1931--. 2 file drawers.

Contains:

- i. Application and first interview: Name, address, age, sex, physical condition, of applicant; place, date of birth; citizenship status; name, place and date of birth of spouse; personal histories of children, housing conditions, amount of income from other sources; list of properties owned, amount of insurance.
 - ii. Certificates of citizenship: Name of citizen, date of naturalization, name of court.
 - iii. Copies of birth certificates: Name of child; place, date of birth; signature of person attesting.
 - iv. Copies of marriage certificates of female applicants: Maiden name of applicant; place, date of marriage; name of husband.
- Arr. alph. by name of recipient. No index. Hdw. 24 x 14 x 11.

XV. SOLDIERS' RELIEF AGENT¹

The selectmen had direct charge of soldiers' relief prior to the appointment of their clerk as soldiers' relief agent in 1934.² The agent is appointed annually.³

In addition to the following record, see entry 1 for consideration by selectmen of soldiers' relief cases 1938--.

98. (CASE HISTORIES), 1934--. 1 vol.

Name of soldier; amount, type of aid; date of application. Arr. by date of application. Indexed alph. by name of soldier. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 12 x 2. Residence of Cecil A. Trotter (agent), 328 Oxford St.

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1. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.
 2. Selectmen's Records, III, p. 7.
 3. Idem.

XVI. WPA COORDINATOR AND CERTIFYING AGENT¹

An agent has been appointed annually by the selectmen since 1936.² The agent keeps no separate records.

XVII. BOARD OF HEALTH³

This board was established March 21, 1904 with three members elected for terms of three years each.⁴ One member is now elected each year.

Since records of appointments made by the board of health have been kept only since 1934 the inception dates of some of the appointive offices cannot be determined exactly. In 1934 the board appointed a burial agent; two meat inspectors (one an alternate); a clerk, health officer and agent, and a public health nurse.⁵ A plumbing inspector and his alternate were appointed in March, 1937 for terms of three years.⁶ A milk inspector appointed in 1938 and a change of title from meat inspector to inspector of slaughtering are the only changes since made.⁷

Except where otherwise noted, all records are in the board of health office, Town Hall. In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports.

Minutes of Meetings

99. RECORD (Minutes of Meetings), 1934--. 1 vol. System estab. 1934. Discussion and decisions on health rules and regulations, appointments, licenses, complaints, sewerage, sanitary conditions, reports of board officers; names of members; place, date of meetings. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 12 x 10 x 2. Residence of Clifford A. Boxell (cl. of board), 87 Pinehurst Ave.

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

2. Selectmen's Records, 1936-1938, passim.

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

4. Town Records, VII, p. 244.

5. Board of Health, RECORD, entry 99, pp. 3, 9, 19, 91.

6. Ibid., p. 225.

7. Ibid., p. 271.

Communicable Diseases
(See also entries 105, 110)

100. (CASE HISTORIES), 1934--. 1 file box. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109.
Name, address, occupation of patient; family history; nature, date of illness; name of physician, dates of physician's visits. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 18.
101. RECORD OF DISEASES DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Quarantined Cases), 1934--. 1 vol.
Case histories: Name, address, age, occupation of patient; name of informant, type of disease, date of illness; date of receipt of notice; period of quarantine; number, disposition of case. Arr. by date of receipt of notice. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 15 x 15 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Nurse's desk.
102. TUBERCULOSIS RECORDS (Case Histories of Sanatorium Patients), 1934--. 1 file box. System estab. 1934.
Name, address, age of patient; name of sanatorium; results, date of diagnosis; disposition of case. Includes case correspondence. Arr. alph. by name of sanatorium. No index. Hdw. 10 x 12 x 24.
103. DIPHTHERIA RECORDS (Schick Immunization Tests), 1928--. 1 file box.
Parental consent to and record of tests: Name of child; approval, signatures of parents; date of injection; nature, date of reaction. Arr. alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 24.
104. VACCINATION RECORD, 1928--. 1 file box. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109.
Name, address, age of child; name, grade of school; name of doctor, nurse; results, date of vaccination, revaccination. Arr. alph. by name of child. No index. Typed. 4 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 24.

Financial Records

105. (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES), 1934--. 2 vols. System estab. 1934.
Receipts from license fees, state subsidy, outside and private cases: Name of payer; amount, source, date of income. Expenditures for segregation and treatment of contagious disease cases, clinics, dump rentals, supplies and office equipment, salaries: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of expenditure. Arr. by date of transaction. Indexed alph. by subject. Hdw. 250 pp. 11 x 9 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Cabinet.
106. (COPIES OF ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES), 1934--. 3 file boxes. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109.
Name, address of payee; amount, nature, date of expenditure; amount, date of payment; signatures of members of board of health, approval of selectmen. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 12 x 24.

(107-111) Board of Health - Vital Statistics; Licenses; Miscellaneous

Vital Statistics

107. BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS, 1928--. 1 file box. System estab. 1928. Births: Name, sex of child; place, date of birth; names, birthplaces of parents; name of physician. Deaths: Name, address, sex, age, color of deceased; cause, place, date of death; name of physician. Arr. alph. by name of principal. No index. Typed. 4 x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 24. Cabinet.

Licenses

(See also entry 99)

108. (STUBS OF ALCOHOL, MASSAGE, AND UNDERTAKERS' LICENSES), 1934--. In (General Correspondence), entry 110. Name, address of licensee; nature, number of license; date of issue, expiration.

Miscellaneous

109 (MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS), 1904-33. 2 file boxes. Contains: (Case Histories), entry 100; Vaccination Record, entry 104; (Copies of Orders for Payment of Departmental Expenses), entry 106; (General Correspondence), entry 110; Complaints (Against Public Nuisances), entry 111; (Stubs of) Milk and Cream Licenses, entry 114; (Stubs of) Oleomargine Licenses, entry 116. No arr. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. Writing faded, paper poor. 4 x 12 x 14.

110. (GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE), 1934--. 1 file box. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 114. Correspondence relating to welfare patients, water inspection, vaccinations, sewage, dumps, health survey, communicable diseases, garbage collection, dog bites, slaughter of animals. Also contains: (Stubs of Alcohol, Massage, and Undertakers' Licenses), entry 108. Arr. alph. by subject. No index to correspondence, for index to licenses 1935--, see entry 112. Hdw. and typed. 10 x 12 x 24.

For other correspondence 1933--, see entry 113.

111. COMPLAINTS (Against Public Nuisances), 1934--. 1 file box. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109. Name, address, precinct number of complainant; number, nature, date of complaint; disposition of case. Arr. by date of complaint. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 7 x 18.

XVIII. MILK INSPECTOR¹

A milk inspector was first appointed by the board of health in 1938, to serve for one year.² All records are in the board of health office, Town Hall.

112. (LICENSE INDEX), 1935--. 1 vol. System estab. 1935. Index to (Stubs of Alcohol, Massage, and Undertakers' Licenses), entry 108; (Stubs of) Milk and Cream Licenses, entry 114; (Stubs of Licenses to Sell Milk and Cream from Vehicles), 1936--, entry 115; (Stubs of) Oleomargarine Licenses, entry 116: Name, address of licensee; type, number, date of license. Arr. alph. by type of license and thereunder by name of licensee, chron. entry. Hdw. 75 pp. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cabinet.

113. (APPLICATIONS FOR MILK LICENSES), 1933--. 1 file box. Name, address of applicant; date of application. Includes milk score cards, press releases, correspondence. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 10 x 12 x 24.

114. (Stubs of) MILK AND CREAM LICENSES, 1931--. 2 vols. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109. Name, address of licensee; date of issue, expiration; license number. Arr. by date of issue. No index 1931-34; for index 1935--, see entry 112. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 6 x 1. Cabinet.

115. (STUBS OF LICENSES TO SELL MILK AND CREAM FROM VEHICLES), 1936--. 1 vol. Name, address of licensee; number of vehicles, drivers; date of issue, expiration; license number. Arr. by date of issue. For index, see entry 112. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 6 x 1. Cabinet.

116. (Stubs of) OLEOMARGARINE LICENSES, 1935--. 1 vol. 1904-33 in (Miscellaneous Records), entry 109. Name, address of licensee; date of issue, expiration; license number. Arr. by date of issue. For index, see entry 112. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 6 x 1. Cabinet.

XIX. HEALTH OFFICER³

The first recorded appointment of a health officer was made by the

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

2. Board of Health Record, p. 271.

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

Inspector of Plumbing; Public Health Nurse; Cemetery Commissioners

board of health in 1934.¹ One has been appointed annually to date.² The health officer serves generally as agent of the board and keeps no separate records of his own.

XX. INSPECTOR OF PLUMBING³

The board of health first appointed an inspector of plumbing in March 1937, for a three-year term.⁴ The inspector keeps no records.

XXI. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE³

The first recorded appointment of a health nurse was made by the board of health in 1934.⁵ One has been appointed annually to date.⁶ The nurse keeps no records.

XXII. CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS³

The bylaws of Auburn stipulate that "the Town Treasurer shall invest money deposited for the care and preservation of burial lots, subject to the approval of the Selectmen and Cemetery Commissioners."⁷

In January 1775 a committee was chosen by the south parish of Worcester "to pick a burying yeard."⁸ After the incorporation of the town the selectmen in their general supervisory capacity looked after necessary matters pertaining to the town's cemetery.⁹ On March 16, 1908, a board of three cemetery commissioners was elected.¹⁰ Since that date one member has been elected annually, the term being three years. The board chooses a chairman and clerk from among its members.¹¹

1. Board of Health Record, p. 19
2. Ibid., p. 271
3. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts.
4. Board of Health Records, p. 225.
5. Ibid., p. 91.
6. Ibid., p. 271.
7. By-Laws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 217, ch. IV, sec. 6. See entries 75, 77.
8. Hosmer, op. cit., I, p. 191.
9. Town Records, V, pp. 158, 171, 172, 251.
10. Ibid., VII, pp. 201, 369
11. Town of Auburn, Cemetery Commissioners, RECORD, p. 202. See entry 117

Cemetery Commissioners - Minutes of Meetings; Hillside Cemetery (117-124)

All records are in residence of Horace P. Jacobs (clerk), 297 South Street. In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports.

Minutes of Meetings

117. RECORD (Minutes of Meetings), 1908--. 1 vol.
Discussion and decisions pertaining to financial matters, maintenance of cemeteries, and general activities of board; date of meeting. Includes list of expenditures for labor, supplies, equipment. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

Hillside Cemetery

118. (ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES OF SALE OF LOTS), 1848--. 3 vols.
Name of purchaser; amount, date of sale; location, description, number of lot; certificate number. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 119. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

119. (INDEX TO CERTIFICATES OF SALE OF LOTS), 1848--. 2 vols.
Name of purchaser, names of interred; lot, certificate number; number of graves in lot. Arr. alph. by name of purchaser. Hdw. 500 pp. 6 x 4 x 2.

120. (ORIGINAL DEEDS OF LOTS), 1848--. 1 file box.
Name of owner; location, size of lot; amount, date of purchase; provisions for care. Arr. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 7 x 4 x 18. Safe.

121. (Record of) TRANSFERS OF DEEDS - HILLSIDE CEMETERY, 1908--.
1 vol.
Name of grantor, grantee; names of witnesses; conditions, number, date of instrument; attestation, signature of notary public. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of grantee. Hdw. on ptd. form. 150 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

122. (RECORD OF LOTS), 1848--. 1 file box.
Name of owner, lot number, number of graves in lot. Includes diagram of lot showing lay-out of graves. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 7 x 4 x 18.

123. (Provisions for) PERPETUAL CARE (of Lots), 1848--. 1 file box.
Name of lot owner; name, amount, date, provisions of fund; lot number. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 7 x 4 x 18. Safe.

124. PLAN BOOK (Diagrams of Lots), 1848--. 1 vol.
Name of person interred; location, number of graves; lot number. Arr. by lot no. Indexed alph. by name of person interred. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Safe.

125. WEST AUBURN CEMETERY (Record of West Auburn Cemetery Burials in Each Lot), approx. 1775. 1 vol.
Name, age of person interred; place, date of death; name of lot owner; location, number of lot; layout of graves. Includes diagram of cemetery, showing layout of lots. Arr. by lot no. Indexed alph. by name of lot owner. Hdw. 300 pp. 6 x 4 x 1.

Financial Records

126. LEDGER (Expenditures), 1908--. 1 vol.
Expenditures for labor, maintenance, equipment, supplies: Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Also contains:
i. Receipts and expenditures of perpetual care funds: Name, amount of fund; amount of dividends, expenditures; balances, total; lot number.
Expenditures arr. by date of expenditure, funds arr. alph. by name of fund. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. Safe.

Miscellaneous

127. (Record of) APPLICATIONS TO SUPERINTENDENT (for Permission to Open Graves), 1908--. 1 vol.
Name, age, birthplace of deceased; names of parents, name of applicant; number, date of application; place of death, time of burial; direction of foot of grave; lot number. Arr. by date of application. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on ptd. form. 350 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½. Safe.

128. SOLDIERS' (Grave) RECORD, 1930--. 1 vol. System estab. 1930.
Record for reference in decorating soldiers' graves: Name of soldier, lot number, provision for care of grave. Arr. alph. by name of soldier. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 12 x 9 x 1. Safe.

XXIII. SOLDIERS' BURIAL AGENT¹

In 1921 the selectmen notified the town clerk of the appointment of a soldiers' burial agent.² This officer has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year ever since.³

The soldiers' burial agent keeps no records, but see entry 128 for soldiers' grave records 1930--.

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

2. Town Records, IX, p. 98.

3. Annual Report, 1931-1937.

XXIV. ANIMAL INSPECTOR¹

The first record of an animal inspector is found in the year 1901.² Since that date he has been appointed annually by the selectmen for a term of one year.³ This officer keeps no records.

XXV. INSPECTORS OF SLAUGHTERING¹

A meat inspector was paid for his services during the year ending March 1, 1902.⁴ In 1916 the board of health appointed two meat inspectors.⁵ Although they were presumably appointed annually thereafter, no further record of this office is found until from 1934 on, when they are listed as appointees of the board of health for a term of one year.⁶ The name was changed to inspectors of slaughtering in 1938. These officers keep no records.

XXVI. PARK COMMISSIONERS¹

On February 8, 1937, three park commissioners were elected for terms of one, two and three years respectively, replacements to be made by election for a term of three years.⁷ The commissioners choose a chairman, secretary and treasurer from among their number.⁸

In addition to the following records, see entry 2 for annual published reports.

129. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS), 1937--. 1 vol. System estab. 1937. Discussion and decisions on construction and maintenance of parks and fields; approval of bills; names of members; place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 150 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Residence of Philip W. Warren (cl.), 34 Chatham St., Worcester.

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

2. Annual Report, 1902, p. 6.

3. Ibid., 1902-1938.

4. Ibid., 1902, p. 6.

5. Ibid., 1916, p. 42.

6. Board of Health Record, 1934-1938, passim.

7. Town Records, II, pp. 156, 203.

8. Town of Auburn, Park Commissioners, (Minutes of Meetings), 1937-1939, mss., 1938, pages not numbered. See entry 129.

130. (CORRESPONDENCE), 1937--. 1 letter file. System estab. 1937. Correspondence with supply companies, local and outside departments in regard to administration, maintenance, recreation facilities. Arr. alph. by subject. No index. Hdw. and typed. 10 x 14 x 6. Residence of Wilfrid Taylor (chairman), 75 Bryn Mawr Ave.

XXVII. WATER COMMISSIONERS¹

Since the incorporation of the Auburn Water Company in 1919,² water has been supplied the residents of the town by this privately owned concern. A state act authorizing the town to establish its own water system was passed on April 30, 1924.³ By this act the town was permitted to take land by eminent domain and to construct the necessary reservoirs and distributing facilities.⁴ Bonds to the total of \$150,000 might be issued, the interest on them to be paid and the principal to be amortized from annual water charges within thirty years.⁵ The law required, however, that the plant of the Auburn Water Company either be purchased or taken by eminent domain before any other proceedings were commenced.⁶ Another provision permitted the town to purchase water from the adjoining city of Worcester with the permission of the mayor and council of that city.⁷ To administer the act a board of three water commissioners was set up, one of whom was to be elected each year and, except initially, each for a term of three years.⁸ In this board was vested all power given in the act to manage the land and plant acquired, and to fix water rates.⁹ After payment of operating expenses surplus revenue was to be applied first toward new construction, and thereafter to the reduction of future water rates.¹⁰ The act was made conditional upon its acceptance by majority vote at a town meeting called for the purpose.¹¹

On July 7, 1924 the town accepted the act and elected the board of three water commissioners for terms of one, two and three years, respectively.¹² Despite the failure of negotiations to purchase the plant of the Auburn Water Company and also to take the property by eminent domain, the board of water commissioners has been elected to date. In 1935, however, the Woodland and Elm Hill water districts were set up within the town of Auburn to

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

2. See p.

3. Acts, 1924, ch. 326.

4. Ibid., sec. 2, 4

5. Ibid., sec. 5, 6

6. Ibid., 1924, ch. 326, sec. 7

7. Ibid., sec. 11

8. Ibid., sec. 9

9. Ibid., sec. 3, 10

10. Ibid., sec. 10

11. Ibid., sec. 12

12. Town Records, IX, p. 307

Highway Surveyor

accomplish virtually the same purposes as outlined in the act of 1924.¹ These districts are, however, separate corporate entities, geographically within, but otherwise entirely distinct from the town itself. Since Auburn has no town water system, the town water commissioners have no functions and keep no records.²

XXVIII. HIGHWAY SURVEYOR³

Four highway surveyors were elected at the first town meeting on May 4, 1778.⁴ The earliest extant record indicates that five highway surveyors were elected in April 1787 for a term of one year.⁵ Up to 1790 the surveyors collected the highway taxes.⁶ The number of surveyors varied from six in the period 1790-1798 to five in the period 1799-1817 and six again in 1818.⁷

In 1819 a special committee of ten surveyors was elected to alter the highways of the ten highway districts with an agent to superintend the repairing.⁸ The ten surveyors were elected annually until 1875 when the town voted to have the selectmen "appoint Highway Surveyors in each district at their discretion."⁹ In 1903 the town accepted chapter XI, section 336 of the Revised Laws and elected one highway surveyor.¹⁰ One Surveyor has been elected annually to the present time.¹¹

All records are in the residence of Charles Cross (surveyor), 888 Southbridge Street.

131. (EXPENDITURES FOR CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAYS), 1928--. 1 vol. System estab. 1928.

Name of payee; amount, purpose, date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 11 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

132. DAILY TIME BOOKS (Work and Pay Roll Record), 1933--. 25 vols. Prior records destroyed.

Name of employee; number of hours of labor per day, per week; amount of wages, total amount of payroll. Arr. by day. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$.

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1. See pp. 81-83
 2. See pp. 74, 76 (Part D - Water Districts)
 3. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts
 4. Marvin, op. cit., I, p. 243
 5. Town Records, II, p. 31
 6. Town Records, II, pp. 31, 108
 7. Ibid., II, pp. 108, 223, 311; III, 270
 8. Ibid., III, pp. 292, 294
 9. Ibid., VI, pages not numbered
 10. Ibid., VII, p. 224
 11. Ibid., VII-XI, annual meetings 1903-1938

XXIX. CHAPTER 90 SUPERVISOR¹

A "Chapter 90 Supervisor" has been appointed annually by the selectmen since March 29, 1937 for a term of one year.² This officer keeps no records.

XXX. PLANNING BOARD¹

On January 28, 1926, the town voted that "five named candidates be appointed as members of the planning board."³ On February 10, 1927, five members were elected from the floor for a one-year term.⁴ This method of electing the members of the planning board continued until 1932 when a bylaw was adopted providing that the planning board should consist of six members, nominated and elected on the official ballot at each town election.⁵ The rotating system of election was adopted, two members retiring and two members being replaced each year, the term of office being three years.⁶ Vacancies occurring between town elections were to be filled by the remaining members.⁷

133. (MINUTES OF MEETINGS), 1935--.. 1 vol. System estab. 1935. Discussion and decisions on recommendations concerning street planning, water supply and distribution, zoning and housing laws, Works Progress Administration projects; names of members; place, date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 100 pp. 12 x 10 x 1. Residence of Allan W. Aishead (cl. of board), 122 South St.

XXXI. TREE WARDEN¹

The first tree warden was elected on March 19, 1900.⁸ A tree warden has been elected annually for a term of one year since that date.⁹ The tree warden keeps no records.

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

2. Selectmen's Records, IV, pages not numbered

3. Town Records, IX, p. 430

4. Ibid., X, p. 59

5. By-Laws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 215, ch. III, sec. 16

6. Idem

7. Idem

8. Town Records, VII, p. 146

9. Idem; IX, p. 203

Moth Superintendent; Town Counsel; Constables

XXXII. MOTH SUPERINTENDENT¹

The earliest reference to the appointment of a moth inspector is found in 1921.² The earliest reference in the selectmen's records occurs in 1928 when a moth superintendent was appointed by the selectmen for a term of one year.³ Since 1928 this official has been appointed annually by the selectmen. The moth superintendent keeps no records.

XXXIII. TOWN COUNSEL¹

In 1791 and again in 1830 an agent for the town was elected who appears to have been the forerunner of the town counsel. The earliest reference to a regularly appointed town counsel is a record of an amount paid to such counsel for services in 1897.⁴ From 1926 to the present a town counsel has been appointed annually by the selectmen.⁵

This officer keeps no records, but see entry 32 for correspondence relative to claims against the town 1926--.

XXXIV. CONSTABLES¹

One constable was elected at the first town meeting for which there is an extant record, that of April 30, 1787.⁶ From one to three constables were elected annually from 1787 until the system of election by official ballot was adopted on August 28, 1907.⁷ In 1859, for example, there was one constable;⁸ in 1872, two;⁹ in 1896, three.¹⁰ In 1907 the number of constables was fixed at six who have since been elected annually on the official ballot for a term of one year.¹¹

The constables keep no records, but see entry 34 for constable's return on parish-meeting warrants 1775-76.

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

2. Town Records, IX, pages not numbered
3. Selectmen's Records, p. 88
4. Annual Report, 1899, p. 9
5. Selectmen's Records, I, p. 35 to IV, pages not numbered
6. Town Records, II, p. 33
7. Ibid., VII, pp. 361, 369
8. Ibid., VI, p. 180
9. Ibid., VI, pages not numbered
10. Idem
11. Ibid., 1907-1938, passim

XXXV. POLICE DEPARTMENT¹

Prior to the appointment of police officers, the constables performed their functions. Special police were appointed from time to time by the selectmen to perform specific tasks. The first police chief was appointed by the selectmen in 1922 for a term of one year.² The chief, together with a variable number of officers, has been appointed annually since that date.³ In 1938 the department consisted of a chief, a deputy chief, 33 police officers and 9 special police.⁴

All records are in the residence of Charles E. Braman, Jr. (chief of police), 65 Rockland Road.

134. (BLOTTER - DAILY RECORD OF ACTIVITIES), 1932--. 6 vols. Investigation of accidents; telephone calls received, answered; assignment of officers to duty, number of arrests; property stolen, recovered; record of radio calls received and answered. Arr. by day. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 6 x 4 x 1.

135. (ARRESTS, MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS), 1932--. 4 file boxes. Contains:

- i. Copies of police reports of motor vehicle accidents, sent to state registry of motor vehicles: Case number; date, time, place of accident; names, addresses, sex, ages, license numbers of operators; whether killed or injured, number of years of driving; names, addresses, sex, ages of passengers killed or injured; notation as to what operators were doing (e.g., speeding too fast, backing, cutting in, etc.); names, addresses, sex, ages of pedestrians killed or injured; notation as to what pedestrians were doing (e.g., crossing diagonally, standing in safety zone, etc.), type of accident and vehicles, registration numbers, make, type of vehicles involved; state of registration; condition of brakes; lights, other equipment; notations as to conditions attending accident (e.g., type of district, means of traffic control, atmospheric and light conditions, etc.), date report signed; title, signature of reporting officer. Reverse side contains names, addresses of witnesses; remarks.
- ii. Notice from state registry of motor vehicles of return of revoked license to operator: Name, address of licensee; license number.
- iii. Officers' reports of arrests: Arrest number; name, address, age, color, occupation, nationality, physical description of person arrested; name of complainant; time, place of arrest; name of arresting officer; charge on which arrested, facts of arrest.

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

2. Town Records, IX, p. 305

3. Ibid., 1922-1938, passim

4. Selectmen's Records, IV, pages not numbered

Fire Department

Reverse side contains judicial dispositions of case before district court, grand jury, superior court.

- iv. Returns from state registry of motor vehicles relative to revocation of licenses: Date of return, registry number; name, address of licensee; name of company covering liability insurance, name of chief clerk of registry.
- v. Record of arrests of motor vehicle operators: Name, address, date of birth of operator; number, date of issue of license; registration number, name of owner; date, time, place, nature, explanation of offense; name of police department, signature of reporting officer.

Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 24.

136. (MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSFERS), 1932-- . 1 file box.

Name, address, signature of transferor, transferee; name, make, year, type, capacity, horsepower of vehicle; engine, registration, maker's number; date of transfer. Arr. by date of transfer. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 4 x 18 x 12.

137. (Record of) PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER, 1935-- . 3 vols.

Name, address, sex, occupation, physical description of licensee; place, date of birth; date of naturalization; make, type, caliber, serial number of pistol or revolver; reason for permit, date of issue, signature of police chief. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 50 pp. 6 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

138. (COPIES OF APPROVED MONTHLY BILLS FOR WORK PERFORMED BY OFFICERS), 1932-- . 7 vols.

Name of officer, department; month of bill; date, description of work performed; number of hours on duty, miles traveled per assignment; total number of hours, miles traveled; total amount of bill; signature of police chief, accountant. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 300 pp. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 x 1.

XXXVI. FIRE DEPARTMENT¹

Prior to 1923 fire fighting was done by volunteers, the town furnishing small appropriations for the purchase and care of apparatus when it was deemed necessary.² The department was first organized after a site for a firehouse had been purchased on February 1, 1923.³ That year the selectmen appointed a chief and seventeen callmen.⁴ Since 1923 the chief and a varying number of callmen and substitute callmen have been appointed annually

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

2. Town Records, VI-IX, passim

3. Ibid., IX, p. 217

4. Ibid., IX, pp. 50-51

for a term of one year, the number in 1938 being twenty and three, respectively.¹

139. (RECORD OF FIRES), 1886--. 3 vols. Missing: 1901-17. Name of owner, occupant; names of men on call; location, cause, time, date of fire; valuation of property, extent of damage, amount of insurance. Arr. by date of fire. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 12 x 14 x 2. 1 vol., 1886-1900, safe no. 2, assrs. rm., T.H.; 1 vol., 1918-22, residence of Ralph White (chief), 41 Central St.; 1 vol., 1922--., desk, fire house, Drury Square.

XXXVII. SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES²

The bylaws of Auburn stipulate that "the Sealer of Weights and Measures of the Town shall be paid a salary, determined by the Selectmen, and shall account for and pay to the Town Treasurer the fees received by him by virtue of his office."³

The first sealer of weights and measures was elected in or before the year 1787.⁴ A sealer was elected annually from 1787 to 1907.⁵ From 1907 to 1917 the sealer of weights and measures was elected by nomination from the floor, also for a term of one year.⁶ In 1917 the town voted that he should be appointed annually by the selectmen, a practice which has been continued to date.⁷

In addition to the following record, see entry 2 for annual published reports.

140. SEALER'S RECORD (Inspection of Weights and Measures), 1929--.
1 vol.

Name of owner, type, of device; results, date of test; total number of devices tested. Arr. by date of test. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 24 x 12 x 1. Residence of Alfred T. Beauvais (sealer), 27 South St.

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1. Selectmen's Records, II, pages not numbered
 2. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts
 3. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 215, ch. 3, sec. 15
 4. Town Records, II, p. 33
 5. Ibid., II-Vii, passim
 6. Ibid., VII, p. 338
 7. Ibid., VIII, p. 441

XXXVIII. DOG OFFICER¹

The earliest reference to a dog officer is found in the annual report for the year ending February 28, 1903 where the services of a constable in killing unlicensed dogs are noted.² The selectmen's records reveal that a dog officer has been appointed annually since 1926.³

141. (COPIES OF REPORTS SENT TO TREASURER AND ACCOUNTANT), 1935--.

1 bdl. System estab. 1935.

Reports on disposal of unlicensed dogs: Name, breed, sex, description of dog; location, date of seizure; place, duration of impoundage; manner, date of disposal; amount due for care and custody of dog; signature of dog officer. Arr. by year. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 11 x 8½ x 1. Off., residence of Karl Konkol (dog officer), 684 Southbridge St.

XXXIX. POUND KEEPER¹

In 1789 an officer, sexton, and keeper of the pound and stocks was elected for one year.⁴ A pound keeper has been elected annually up to the present time, and since March 16, 1908 by nomination from the floor.⁵ This officer keeps no records.

XL. MEASURERS OF WOOD, BARK, AND LUMBER¹

A measurer of wood was elected in 1787, and each year thereafter until 1801 when the office was combined with that of surveyor of lumber.⁶ A measurer of wood and surveyor of lumber was elected from 1801 to 1823.⁷ In 1823 and through 1911 a surveyor of lumber was elected annually.⁸ Meanwhile in 1837 three measurers of wood and bark were elected.⁹ Sometimes called "surveyors" and sometimes "measurers" and with a number varying from three to five, these officers were elected annually through 1919.¹⁰ In

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

2. Annual Report, 1902, p. 7

3. Selectmen's Records, 1926-1938, passim

4. Town Records, II, p. 96

5. Ibid., VII, p. 375

6. Ibid., II, pp. 31, 349

7. Ibid., III, pages not numbered

8. Ibid., VIII, p. 30

9. Ibid., IV, p. 343

10. Ibid., V, p. 249; VI, p. 197; IX, p. 29

1920 the present office of measurer of wood, bark and lumber was established, three measurers being elected each year.¹ In 1938 the number was reduced to two, still elected annually.² These officers keep no records.

XLII. FIELD DRIVERS³

The earliest extant record shows the election of two field drivers in 1787.⁴ From 1787 to 1836 two were elected annually, in 1837 and 1838 six annually, and from 1839 to 1936 two annually.⁵ Since 1936 only one field driver has been elected.⁶ These officers keep no records.

XLIII. FENCE VIEWERS³

Two fence viewers were elected at the first town meeting on May 4, 1778.⁷ In 1787 the earliest extant records shows two fence viewers elected that year.⁸ The number elected annually continued unchanged to 1858 when it was changed to three, and in 1937 to four, where it has remained.⁹

These officers keep no records, but see entry 8 for fence division agreements 1826-37; entry 33 for fence viewers' perambulation of bounds 1765-1844.

XLIV. MODERATOR³

The bylaws of Auburn give detailed rules concerning the powers and duties of the moderator in the conduct of town meetings.¹⁰

It is probable that a moderator presided at all meetings of the south precinct of Worcester from July 27, 1773, to the formation of the town, and later through the early years of the town's growth, to 1787 for which

1. Town Records, IX, p. 76

2. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 197

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

4. Town Records, II, 32

5. *Ibid.*, IV, pp. 342-343; V, pp. 11, 32; XI, p. 107

6. *Ibid.*, XI, p. 197

7. Marvin, *op. cit.*, p. 243

8. Town Records, II, p. 32

9. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 164; XI, pp. 165, 197

10. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, pp. 211-213, ch. II, secs. 1-18

Bylaw Committee; Sexton

there is the first extant record.¹ From 1787 to 1907 a moderator was elected at each meeting before the business of the meeting was begun. On February 10, 1907 for the first time, a moderator was elected to serve one year.² When the town accepted the amended election law, the moderator was placed on the ballot and regularly elected each year.³ No changes in term or method of election have occurred to the present time. The moderator keeps no records.

XLIV. BYLAW COMMITTEE⁴

The earliest recorded acceptance of bylaws by Auburn was on March 17, 1902.⁵ Special committees were appointed by the moderator to draw up amendments which led to revision of the bylaws in 1906, in 1923, and in 1930.⁶ A permanent bylaw committee of six was established with the adoption of the revised bylaws on February 15, 1932.⁷ The system of rotation in offices established so that two members of the committee are elected each year for three year terms.⁸ The duties of the committee are to recommend additions to, or changes in, the bylaws.⁹ This committee, which reports to the town meeting, keeps no records.

XLV. SEXTON⁴

A sexton who was also keeper of the pound and the stocks was elected in 1789.¹⁰ Although sometimes combined with the pound keeper, especially in the early years of the town's growth, a sexton has always been elected for a term of one year.¹¹ Since March 16, 1908, a sexton has been nominated and elected from the floor at each annual town meeting.¹² The sexton keeps no records.

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1. Town Records, II, p. 24
 2. Ibid., VII, p. 435
 3. Acts, 1913, ch. 431; Town Records, VIII, p. 301
 4. For the statutory origin and duties of this office, see Town Government in Massachusetts
 5. Town Records, VII, p. 204
 6. Ibid., VII, p. 307; IX, p. 241; X, 258
 7. Bylaws in Annual Report, 1936, p. 216, ch. III, sec. 17
 8. Idem
 9. Idem
 10. Town Records, II, p. 96
 11. Ibid., 1789-1939, passim.
 12. Ibid., VII, pp. 192, 375

XLVI. PUBLIC WEAHER¹

The first weigher was elected March 16, 1908 by nomination from the floor for a term of one year.² Although the title of the office was changed to public weigher in 1926, no change in term or method of election has occurred to date.³ This officer keeps no records.

PART C. DEFUNCT OFFICES

XLVII. SEALER OF LEATHER¹

From 1787, the first extant record of a town meeting, to 1912 a sealer of leather was elected each year.⁴ In 1912 the office became defunct.⁵ This officer kept no records.

XLVIII. WEAHER OF HAY AND COAL¹

The first weigher was elected in 1898.⁶ The title was changed to weigher of coal in 1902, and so remained until the expiration of the term of the last weigher of coal elected in 1906.⁷ No records have been found from this office.

XLIX. TYTHINGMEN¹

Two tythingmen were elected at the first town meeting, May 4, 1778.⁸ Two or more tythingmen were elected annually from 1787 to 1840.⁹ On March 2, 1840, the town voted not to choose any tythingmen.¹⁰ No records have been found for this office.

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

2. Town Records, VII, p. 375

3. Ibid., VII, p. 59

4. Ibid., II, p. 31

5. Ibid., VIII, p. 30

6. Ibid., VII, p. 39

7. Ibid., pp. 203, 298

8. Marvin, op. cit., p. 243

9. Town Records, II-V, passim.

10. Ibid., V, p. 58

Deer Reeves; Hog Reeves; Wardens

I. DEER REEVES¹

In 1787 two deer reeves were elected.² In 1789 and 1790 only one was elected, after which date the office became defunct.³ The deer reeves kept no records.

LI. HOG REEVES¹

Four hog reeves were elected at the first town meeting for which there is an extant record, that of 1787.⁴ A varying number of hog reeves was elected each year until 1834 when the office became defunct.⁵ No records have been found for this office.

LII. WARDENS¹

A warden was elected at the town meeting of 1787.⁶ The wardens were elected each year through 1790 when the office became defunct.⁷ The wardens kept no records.

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

2. Town Records, II, p. 32

3. Ibid., pp. 91, 110

4. Ibid., II, p. 32

5. Ibid., IV, p. 267

6. Ibid., II, p. 33

7. Ibid., pp. 90, 109

PART D. WATER DISTRICTS

WOODLAND WATER DISTRICT

The Woodland Water District of Auburn was set up under a state law passed June 29, 1935.¹ The district was given power to contract with the city of Worcester or any other town, city or water district for the purchase of water, or to acquire land and build its own water system, paying for any damages thus inflicted on property.² The district was permitted to borrow up to \$30,000 under the act, and to levy taxes sufficient to cover all charges, as well as to extinguish the loan.³ Another section required the clerk of the water district to send to the assessors of Auburn annually a duly certified copy of taxes voted by the district to be assessed and collected as part of the town tax and remitted to the district treasurer.⁴ At the same time a list of estates granted exemption from taxation by reason of the fact that they received no fire protection or could show no reduction in fire insurance rates was also required to be sent by the board of water commissioners to the assessors of Auburn.⁵

On October 30, 1935, the first meeting of the voters living in the territory defined in the act was held and the act accepted.⁶ Three resident taxpayers of the district were elected by ballot to constitute the board of water commissioners, one to serve for three years, one for two years, one for one year, and one to be elected annually thereafter to serve three years.⁷ A moderator, a treasurer, and a clerk were elected, each for one year.⁸

Work was begun on November 14, 1935, and water first supplied on January 1, 1936.⁹ On January 1, 1936, there were 66 consumers.¹⁰ At present there are 108 consumers and water is purchased from the water department of the City of Worcester.¹¹

All records are in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carpenter (treasurer and clerk, respectively), 136 Franklin Street. In addition to the following records see entry 52 for valuation list 1936--.

1. Acts, 1935, ch. 385. For the boundaries of the district see map, page 4.
2. Ibid., secs. 2, 3
3. Ibid., secs. 4, 5
4. Ibid., sec. 7. See entry 52
5. Idem
6. Ibid., sec. 8; Proceedings of Meetings of Woodland Water District, (entry 147-VI.) p. 34. Hereafter cited as Minutes of Meetings.
7. Acts, 1935, ch. 385, sec. 9; Minutes of Meetings, p. 34
8. Idem
9. Town of Auburn, Woodland Water District Commissioners, Annual Report, 1936-1939, mss., 1936, p. 1. See entry 147-i
10. Idem
11. Interview with Mr. Carl Carpenter, treasurer of Woodland Water District

142. (CASH BOOK), 1935--. 1 vol.

Daily record of receipts and expenditures. Receipts: Name of payer (if consumer, address); amount; date of receipt; amount of discount, monthly totals. Expenditures: Amount, date, purpose of expenditure; monthly totals. Includes monthly summaries for each type of receipts and expenditure: Amount, dates of receipts, expenditures; total receipts, expenditures. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 8 x $\frac{3}{4}$. Filing cabinet.

143. (LEDGER), 1935--. 1 vol.

Summaries of accounts as posted from (Cash Book), entry 145. Accounts of expenditures such as water servicing taxes, construction and maintenance: Name of payee; amount, itemization, purpose, date of expenditures; monthly totals for each account. Accounts of receipts such as water rents, tax collections: Name of payer; amount, source, date of receipt; monthly totals for each account. Arr. by name of account and thereunder by date of receipt or expenditure. No index. Hdw. 75 pp. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Filing cabinet.

144. (CONSUMERS' ACCOUNTS), 1936--. 1 vol.

Location of water meter (street and house number), account number; name of property owner, occupant; amount, date of bill, payment; balance, remarks. Reverse side contains record of quarterly meter readings: Meter number, date of reading, number of cubic feet charged; amount, date of bill, payment; amount of discount; remarks. Arr. alph. by name of st. and thereunder by house no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 108 pp. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Filing cabinet.

145. (APPLICATIONS FOR WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS), 1935--. 108 cards in 1 file box.

Date of application; location, number of meter; amount, date of payment for installation of meter; signature of applicant. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 5 x 3 x 3. Desk.

146. (RECORD OF QUARTERLY METER READINGS), 1936--. 1 vol.

Name of resident, person billed; location, number, size, make of meter; date of reading, number of cubic feet of water consumed. Arr. alph. by name of st. and thereunder by house no. No index. Hdw. on ptd. form. 108 pp. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$. Filing cabinet.

147. (CLERK'S MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS), 1935--. 1 file drawer.

Contains:

- i. Copies of annual reports of water commissioners, 1936--: List of receipts and expenditures, discussion of special activities.
- ii. Copies of quarterly water bills, 1936--: Name, address of person billed; bill, service number; number of tenements; amount of minimum charge, discount, payment; date discount effective, number of cubic feet of water consumed, stamp of receipt, signature of clerk.
- iii. Correspondence with state department of corporations and taxation and State Fire Insurance Underwriters relative to tax levies and property insurance.
- iv. Minutes of meetings of water commissioners, 1937--: Date, time, place of meeting; discussion of general activities, approval of bills; time of adjournments, signature of clerk.

- v. Monthly bank statements: Name of bank, date of statement; amounts, dates of deposits, drafts; bank balance.
 - vi. Proceedings of meetings of Woodland Water District: Date, time, place of meeting; list of articles of warrant to be voted on, decision on each article, election returns of district officers, time of adjournment, signature of clerk.
 - vii. Record of tax collector's payments: Date of tax levy, payment.
- Arr. alph. by subject and chron. thereunder. Hdw., typed, hdw. on ptd. form. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 25.

148. (PLANS OF SERVICE BOXES AND GATES), 1935--. 1 vol.
Location and lay-out of service boxes, mains, gate boxes, hydrants, curb boxes. Arr. alph. by name of st. and thereunder by house no. No index. Blueprint. 108 plans. 8 x 6 x 1. Filing cabinet.

ELM HILL WATER DISTRICT

The Elm Hill Water District of Auburn was authorized by a state law passed June 29, 1935.¹ The provisions of the act are exactly the same as for the Woodland Water District,² except that the limit of indebtedness which might be incurred was set at \$50,000.³

At the first meeting of the voters of the district held in July 1936 the act was accepted and officers elected.⁴ Not until April 1938 were negotiations completed with the city of Worcester to supply the district with high-pressure water; a federal grant of \$72,600 secured and an additional \$30,000 borrowed.⁵ Actual work was begun in July and water supplied for the first time on some lines in September, 1938.⁶

A permanent record system has not yet been established.

APPENDIX - MANUSCRIPTS

149. (PETITION FOR NEW PRECINCT), Sept. 14, 1743. 1 sheet.
Petition of Daniel Boyden to Governor William Shirley in behalf of certain inhabitants of Leicester, Oxford, Sutton, and Worcester that certain parts of these towns be made a new precinct. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$. Mass. Archives, State House, Boston.

1. Acts, 1935, ch. 386. For the boundaries of the district as defined in the act, see map, page 4

2. See p. 81

3. Acts, 1935, ch. 386, sec. 4

4. Personal Notebook of Mr. Andrew Love, Commissioner, 1936-1939, ms.

5. Idem

6. Idem

Appendix - Manuscripts

150. (PETITION FOR INDEMNITY - SHAYS' REBELLION), Jan. 29, 1787.
1 sheet.

Petition by vote of the town to the general court citing the extreme plight of the townspeople from excessive taxation as the chief reason for being drawn into the rebellion, and requesting the court to pass an act of indemnity to the citizenry; signed by town clerk. Hdw. 2 pp. 9 x 12. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

151. (PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF TOWN OF WARD TO CHANGE NAME OF TOWN), Jan. 12, 1837. 1 sheet.

Petition to the general court by the inhabitants of Ward asking that the name of town be changed to Auburn. Hdw. 2 pp. 8 x 10. Mass. Archives, folder marked Acts, 1837, ch. 14.

152. (ACT TO CHANGE NAME OF TOWN OF WARD TO TOWN OF AUBURN), Jan. 30, 1837. 1 sheet.

Act of the general court authorizing change of name of town of Ward to Town of Auburn. Hdw. 1 p. 8 x 10. Mass. Archives, folder marked Acts, 1837, ch. 14.

153. (REIMBURSEMENT FOR CARE OF PAUPER), Oct. 1830. 1 sheet.

Petition of Samuel Warren, town agent, to state supreme judicial court requesting a review of refusal to reimburse town of Ward for the care of Abner Putnam, a pauper, allegedly a citizen of Oxford; clerk's statement granting a hearing. Hdw. 2 pp. 16 x 10. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

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