

**Volume One Town Meeting Minutes  
Province of Massachusetts**

**Methuen's first book of Records begun the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1725/6.**

Whereas it was enacted by the Great and General Court of this Province, that the west end of Haverhill, with the lands adjoining, be, and hereby is set-off, and constituted a separate Township, by the name of Methuen. And for the erecting and settling of said Township, it was ordered in Council, that Mr. Stephen Barker, a principal inhabitant of the Town of Methuen, to notify and summons the inhabitants of said Town, to meet some time in the month of March, to choose Town Officers according to law, to stand for the year.

**In Council, December the 9, 1725. Ordered, That Mr. Stephen Barker, a principal inhabitant of the Town of Methuen, be and hereby is empowered and directed to notify and summons the inhabitants of the said Town, duly qualified for voters, to assemble and meet, some time in the month of March next, to choose Town Officers according to law, to stand for the year.**

**Sent down for concurrence.**

**J. Willard, Secr.y.**

**In House of Representatives, December 10, 1725, read and concurred.**

**Wi. Dudly, Speaker.**

**Consented to, William Dummer.**

**A copy taken out of the warning for the first Annual Meeting in the Town of Methuen.**

Page 2. **At our first Annual Meeting, in the Town of Methuen, March the 9, 1725/6, Lieutenant Stephen Barker was legally chosen Moderator for the meeting.**

At the same meeting, William Whittier was chosen Town clerk, and sworn for the year ensuing.

At the same meeting, Select Men were legally chosen for the year.

1. John Bailey
2. Ebenezer Barker
3. Asie Swan
4. Daniel Bodwell
5. Thomas Whittier

Select Men sworn to the faithful discharge of the office of Assessors, August the second, 1726,  
before me, William Whittier, Town Clerk.

At the same meeting, Richard Swan (was) legally chosen Constable for the year ensuing.

Voted, That the Constable or Collector shall be paid one shilling, for each twenty shillings of money that he shall collect or gather of the taxes which shall be laid upon the non-residents, or people which belong to other Towns.

March the 9, 1725/6. The Town voted that Thomas Silver should be accepted to serve Constable or Collector, instead of Richard Swan, for the year ensuing, and the same day Thomas Silver was sworn to the faithful discharge of the office of a Constable, by the Selectmen of Methuen.

Robert Swan is legally chosen Town Treasurer at the same meeting, March the 9, for the year ensuing. Town Treasurer sworn.

Surveyors of highways, 1. Robert Swan  
2. Ephraim Clark  
3. Benjamin Stevens  
4. Thomas Messer. Surveyors of highways all sworn.

Fence viewers 1. John Cross  
2. Samuel Stevens. Both sworn.

Tithingmen 1. James How  
2. William Gutterson. Both Tithingmen sworn.

Field drivers 1. John Hastings  
2. Zebediah Austin.

At the same meeting, March the 9, 1725/6, Hogreeves were legally chosen.

Samuel Smith  
Thomas Austin. Hogreeves, both sworn.

At the same meeting, March the 9, voted, that hogs should go at large, according to law.

At a Town meeting March the 9, 1725/6. Voted, that the Selectmen should have power to agree with an Orthodox Minister to serve in the work of the ministry for the year ensuing, and not to exceed five and forty pounds, and find the minister his diet.

3. We, the subscribers, having received a petition, signed by a member of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, praying that they may have a private or particular road, laid out as set forth in the said petition - in answer to said petition, and in obedience to the law of the Province, we have, to the best of our skill, laid out the said way, three rods wide, in manner following: beginning at a white oak tree marked near Ephraim Clark's land; from thence, across Thomas Eaton's, and by the west side of Samuel Clark's cellar; thence by the west side of a white oak tree marked with H, by Hawk's meadow and so along said meadow as near as is convenient, to the lower end crossing the brook between two maple trees marked; from thence, as the trees are marked, to a white oak by Haverhill path running from the east side of the tree in the path, until we come to a stake by James How's well, and by agreement of the said stake to a white oak marked with H, the way lying to the east. The owners of the land not being present, we thought it not convenient to proceed any farther. The above said road was laid out April the 8, 1726.

John Bailey      Selectmen  
Ebenezer Barker }      of  
Daniel Bodwell      Methuen  
Thomas Whittier

Received the above written return May the 28, 1726, and entered June the 14, 1726.

At the request of several of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, we, the subscribers have laid out a private or particular way from the country road, through land of Benjamin and Samuel Stevens, of two rods wide, on the west side of their land, till we come to the now Stevens fence, between the house of Lieut. Stephen Barker and said Benjamin Stephens' house.

Laid out June the 21, 1726, by us,

John Bailey  
Ebenezer Barker } Selectmen  
Asie Swan of  
Thomas Whittier Methuen

4. **May the 28,1726.** By virtue of a warrant directed to the Constable by the Selectmen of the Town of Methuen, on May the 28,1726, to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants duly qualified for voting in Town affairs, to assemble themselves at the house of Asie Swan in the said Town, on Tuesday the 14 day of June next ensuing, at ten of the clock in the morning to prefix a place whereon to build a meeting house, as also to appoint a place or places to meet at for public worship, till there be a meeting house erected, and to prepare convenient seats.

Accordingly, the people being come together, it is voted that Joshua Swan is moderator for this meeting.

Votes being called for, for a place to set the meeting house on, were brought in, in manner as followeth.

Voters for a place between James Davis and Samuel Smith's house, with the persons names.

John Hastings	Thomas Whittier
Samuel Clark	Samuel Currier
John Messer	Robert Swan
Daniel Lancaster	Ephraim Clark
Thomas Messer	James Emery
Robert Corgill	Joseph Pudney
Samuel Smith	John Rueue
John Cross	Richard Swan
William Cross	Asie Swan
John Bailey	James How
Richard Messer	Abraham Masters
Thomas Silver	James Wilson
Nathaniel Messer	Abiel Messer
Thomas Eaton	Daniel Peaslee

28.

We, whose names are underwritten, enter our dissent against the meeting house being carried from the meeting house land, or hill, so called.

Dissenters Names.

Stephen Barker	James Bodwell	Zebediah Austin
Henry Bodwell	John Harris	Joseph Gutterson
John Gutterson	John Gutterson	Zebediah Barker
Joseph Morse	William Gutterson	Thomas Austin
		Abel Merrill

Henry Bodwell Jun. Richardson	Benjamin Stevens	Thomas
Daniel Bodwell Samuel Huse	James Barker Samuel Stevens	Ebenezer Barker Joshua Swan
22.		

5.

**May 28, 1726.** The meeting is adjourned for the space of half an hour.

The people being met, it was put to vote to see whether they would remove the meeting from

Asie Swan's to Henry Bodwell's, and voted that they would not.

6.

**August the 28, 1726.** At a meeting warned by Thomas Silver, constable of the Town of Methuen,  
by virtue of a warrant directed to him, the said constable by the Selectmen of said Town of Methuen, August the third, 1726, to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of said Town of Methuen,  
who are by law qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble themselves together at the house of  
Asie Swan in Methuen, on Tuesday the 23 day of August, at ten of the clock in the forenoon.

**Particulars mentioned in the warrant relating to the Meeting house.**

Firstly, to see what bigness the Town shall think proper to build the meeting house.

Secondly, to choose a committee to procure so much as they shall think convenient for to set the Meetinghouse on, and a conveniency of yard room in the place where the Meetinghouse was voted to be set, and that the said committee may procure one acre of land in some convenient place, for a burying place; and for the said committee to provide timber and draw it to the place voted, or hire it drawn; and to hire a carpenter and other workmen to hew said timber, and frame it, and to take care to have it raised as soon as they conveniently can, and that the said committee may take care to provide for the raising, and all upon the Town's cost and charge.

Thirdly, to see whether the Town will agree to rate all their lands and meadows at one penny an acre this year.

Fourthly, to bring in the town debts, to see what debts the town will allow of.

Fifthly, and to see what sum of money the Town will agree to raise, to defray the Town's charges.

Sixthly, to see whether the Town will agree that every man in this town shall have an equal proportion of the common land within this Town, according to what rates he shall pay in town.

The inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, being assembled together at Asie Swan's house,  
on the 23 day of August, in the year 1726, voters were called for, for a moderator, and it  
was voted that Robert Swan should be the moderator for this meeting.

**Bigness of the meetinghouse.**

It is voted that the meeting house should be built forty feet long, thirty five feet in width, and twenty feet stud.

**A committee chosen to carry on the work, to agree with a carpenter to hew and frame the meetinghouse.**

Voted that there should be a committee chosen to procure so much land as they, the said committee shall think convenient for to set the meeting house on and a conveniency of yard room in the place where the meeting house was voted to set, and to procure one acre of land in some convenient place for a buying place; and to provide timber, and to draw it to the place voted, or hire it drawn; and to hire a carpenter and other workmen to hew said timber, and frame it, and to take car to have it raised as soon as they conveniently can, and to take care for the raising, and all upon this Town's cost and charge.

Which accordingly was voted, that Thomas Whittier, James Davis and Richard Swan should be the committee to carry on the above-mentioned work, relating to the Meeting house.

7. **September the 6, 1726.** Upon adjournment, it was put to vote to see whether the Town would rate all their lands and meadows one penny an acre this year, and voted the negative, that they would not.

Voted that Benjamin Stevens and Samuel Stevens should have forty shillings allowed then by

the Town for a highway or road laid out through their land; but afterward Benjamin Stevens  
came and said he did not desire anything for it; so the vote was disannulled.

Voted that James How should three pounds 10 shillings, allowed him by the Town for  
building  
the pound, and providing a lock and key, which was in answer to a petition brought in  
by the Selectmen.

Voted, that the Lieut. Stephen Barker, Richard Swan and James Davis should, for  
perambulating  
the line between Haverhill and Methuen, be allowed the Town according to their  
petition, five and  
forty shillings.

Voted that William Whittier shall be paid for the town book, thirty shillings by the  
Town, and for  
his time and horse, going to Boston and expenses, sixteen shillings, according to his  
request and sixpence.

**The meeting was adjourned until the 6 day of September 1726, at ten of the clock  
in the forenoon.**

Upon the adjournment, the Town voted to raise money to defray the town's charges.

The town voted that there should be one hundred and thirty pounds of money raised,  
to defray  
the town's charges.

Voted, that Patience Peacock should be paid by the town for sweeping the meeting  
house for this year, fifteen shillings.

It was put to vote to see whether the town would vote that every man in the town  
should have an equal proportion of the common land in this town, according to what  
rates he shall pay in the town, and it was voted the negative that they should not.

(Number 8. not used)

**Dissenters against sundry of the particulars in the warning for a meeting.**

9. We, the subscribers, dissent against the proceedings pursuant to sundry of the  
particulars as  
mentioned in the warrant for this meeting;

first, for that, in, the warrant, the day being prefixed, but the year is not.

2. For the bigness of the meeting house according to the warrant; to this we dissent;

for the bigness cannot be known until a committee be chosen and bound out the land,

for the particulars being placed in the warrant agreeably to the old saying, the cart before the horse; therefore irregular.

3. To choose a committee to procure so much land as they shall think convenient,

for to set the meeting house on. To this we dissent; for that there is no land to be purchased. Our fathers in time past, whilst we belonged to Haverhill, voted and

granted a piece of land for a parsonage, for the west end of said town, which since,

by an act of in-corporation of the General Court, is constituted by the name of

Methuen, a Township; and the foresaid parsonage being most suitable and con-

venient for the inhabitants to build the meeting house on although in a former

meeting of this town, as may be seen by the town book, and a number of free-

holders and other inhabitants, did, by a pretended vote, contrary to law; or rather

by a petition, carry the meeting house to another place; which we then gave our

dissent against, and do now dissent against the proceedings consequent upon said

vote or petition.

For a committee to have the disposal of our estates after the manner as is set

forth in the warrant to purchase any land is unreasonable, for that by the warrant

they are invested with a power too great. Our estates ought not to lie at their will

and doom. The great Charter of England, lately confirmed to us by our sovereign

lord, king George, wherein is contained liberty, right and property, reference thereto being had, gives us the disposal and ordering of our estates, all debts and demands

to our sovereign lord the kind being paid first, what committee then shall assess our lands by tax to pay for the purchase of land without our consent?

4. That the said committee may procure one acre of land, in some convenient place,  
for a burying place. To this we dissent. Our right and property that we have in voting and procuring such a place, we deny the giving of it into the hands of a committee, in the manner as is expressed, in the warrant. For that it is every man's right and property, that belongs to the town, to have (his) vote in the choice of a committee, or rather to vote the place where, and not to have them appointed by the Selectmen.
5. The said committee are to provide timber, and to draw it to the place, or hire it drawn.  
We dissent; for that there is no need of making a land tax for such a thing, when every man by consent may draw his own proportion of timber carting etc.
6. To see whether the town will agree that every man in this town shall have an equal proportion of the common land within this town, according to what rates he shall pay in the town. We dissent, first, for it is unreasonable that a hired servant, who is rated only for his head and hath, no freehold, shall have an interest in our right and property; and farther, the Province law provides that all persons that reside in any town, for the space of twenty days, if they trade, shall be rated. By this, you will give our right and lands to strangers. To the particulars as above, and for the reasons annexed, we offer out dissent as freedom subjects to the Crown of Great Britain, having an interest in the wholesome laws and liberties by and from which we expect to be protected.

Jun.	Stephen Barker	Abel Merrill	Henry Bodwell
	Daniel Bodwell	Benjamin Stevens	John Gutterson
	Henry Bodwell	Joseph Gutterson	Joshua Swan
	Samuel Huse	Zebediah Barker	Zebediah Austin
	Thomas Richardson	Ebenezer Barker	James Bodwell
	John Harris	Joseph Morse	John Gutterson
	William Gutterson	James Barker	Joseph Morse Jun.
	Thomas Austin		

## 10. Warning for Town meeting.

Essex SS. To Thomas Silver, constable of the town of Methuen, greeting.

In his majesty's name you are required forthwith to warn all the inhabitants of this town,

qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the house of Asie Swan in Methuen, being the usual meeting place, on Monday, the twelfth day of December next, at ten of the clock, in the forenoon; then and there to elect and choose a committee, and empower them to provide materials for the finishing of the meeting house now erected in Methuen and to finish or cause the same to be finished, as soon as may be with conveniency, both outside and inside, fit and convenient for the worship of God; and that at the Town's proper cost and charge.

2. To see if the Town will provide themselves with a constable's staff, and a tithing man's staff, and a law book for the use of the Town.
3. And whereas the town clerk has represented to us that some persons threaten to prosecute him in the law, under a pretence that he refused to enter their dissent against raising money to defray Town charges; at a meeting in Methuen for the aforesaid purpose to see if the Town will on their own cost and charge defend their said clerk, in the law against all such outrageous disturbers of the peace and welfare of the town.

**At a legal meeting December the 12, 1726, Robert Swan was voted and chosen moderator for this meeting.**

**The General Court send to Methuen for their reasons.**

Whereas the great and General Court of this Province have sent to the town of Methuen to shew cause why the prayer of the petitioners, Stephen Barker, Daniel Bodwell, and others may not be granted, and there being a town meeting legally warned for sundry particulars on the 12 day of December, in the year 1726, the town voted and chose Thomas Whittier of Methuen, and Nathaniel Peaslee and Jonathan Emerson of Haverhill, to repair to this honorable Court, to give in the reasons why the prayer of the petitioners may not be granted.

This meeting is adjourned into Tuesday, the 10 day of January, 1726/27, and upon the adjourn-

ment, January the 10, the town voted to see whether they could by vote, choose a committee for to finish the meeting house, and it was voted in the negative.

## 1727

### **Selectmen to provide constables and other staves.**

January the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1726,27. Upon the adjournment the town voted and granted that the Selectmen should provide a constable's staff, a tithing man's staff and a law book for the town's use.

### **Constables to post up a warning for meetings.**

At a legal Town meeting on January the 10, 1726,27 upon adjournment, upon consideration of the great trouble to the constable, by traveling to warn town meetings, the town voted and granted unanimously, that warnings being posted up upon the door of the house where the public worship of God is carried on, fourteen days before the day for the town meeting, shall be accepted for a warning of any town meeting in this town, for the time to come.

January the 10, 1726,27. Upon the adjournment it being put to vote to see whether the Town would defend their Clerk in the law, against any that should prosecute him in the law, for not entering their dissent, and it was voted in the negative.

11. At a Town meeting in Methuen on January the 10<sup>th</sup>, 126,7 (actually 1727), upon an adjourn-ment. The town unanimously agreed to choose a committee of their own townsmen to view the land in the town, to see where they, the said committee shall think the properst place for the meetinghouse to stand, and to make their report to the town at their next town meeting; to see if the town would accept of the said committee's report, in order to an agreement in the town relating to the meetinghouse. Whereupon, it being put to votes and was unanimously voted that Lieut. Stephen Barker, Henry Bodwell, Robert Swan, James Davis and John Bailey should be the committee.

### **A warrant for a town meeting.**

#### **Essex. To Thomas Silver, constable of the Town, greeting.**

In his Majesty's name, you are required to warn all the inhabitants of this Town, who are by the law qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble themselves together at the house of Asie Swan in Methuen, on Monday the thirteenth day of

February next ensuing, at ten of the clock in the morning, to act upon the following particulars that whereas the Town voted and chose a com-mittee at a town meeting on January the 10, 126,7. upon an adjournment to view the lands to see where they think the properst (most proper place) place is, for the meeting house to stand and to make their report at the next meeting in Methuen; first, to see whether the town will abide by the report or judgment of the said committee in order to an agreement

2ly, to see if the Town will choose a committee to cover the outside of the meeting house frame.

**Committee's return concerning the meeting house.**

February 13. day, 1726,7. The town voted and granted that James Davis should be the moderator of this meeting.

At a town meeting in Methuen, on January the tenth 126,7, upon adjournment then we, Lieut.

Stephen Barker, Henry Bodwell, Robert Swan, James Davis, and John Bailey, being chosen for a committee to view the lands in this town, and to see where we think the properst place is for our meeting house to stand, which accordingly we, the subscribers have taken a view of the lands on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 1726,7, and we are of the opinion that our meeting house cannot be placed in any place that will be so convenient for the inhabitants of this town in general, as the place where the meeting house frame now stands.

Robert Swan, James Davis, John Bailey,  
Committee.

At a legal Town meeting, February the 13, 1726/ 7, the Town voted and granted that the above written report of the Town's committee should be accepted, and that the Meeting house should stand and remain accordingly in the place where the frame now stands.

**Dissent against removing the meeting house except to the place that the General Court orders it.**

We, whose names are under written, do enter our dissent against erecting or finishing the meeting house in Methuen, except it is in the place where the General Court hath ordered it.

Henry Bodwell

Daniel Bodwell

John Gutterson	John Harris
Joshua Swan	Samuel Huse
Joseph Morse	James Bodwell

**12. Committee chosen to cover the meeting house.**

At a legal Town meeting on February the 13, 1726,7, the Town voted and chose William Whittier,

Samuel Smith Jun. and Thomas Eaton as a committee to cover the outside of the frame of the

meeting house in Methuen, and that upon the Town's cost and charge.

**Allowance to the constable.**

At a legal town meeting on February 13, 1726,7, the Town voted and granted that Thomas Silver,

constable, should be allowed by the Town for gathering the non-residents rates forty shillings more.

**A warrant from Justice Woodbridge.**

At a town meeting warned by virtue of a warrant from Justice Woodbridge, on the 8 day of

February 1726,7, to erect a meeting house.

The town voted and chose Robert Swan the moderator for the meeting. February the 8, 1726/7.

At a town meeting warned by a Justice's warrant the Town agreed that they would adjourn the meeting, and it was voted and granted that it be adjourned unto the first Tuesday in March 1726,7, at ten of the clock in the morning.

At a town meeting in Methuen warned by a warrant from Justice Woodbridge, on March the 7, 1727, by adjournment, it being put to vote to see if the town would choose a committee to erect another meeting house in Methuen, and it was voted in the negative.

**13. A warrant for the choice of town officers**

**Essex SS.** Warrant for the Annual Town meeting **March the 8, 1726,7.**

To Thomas Silver, constable of Methuen greeting,

In his majesty's name you are required to notify and warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of said town, duly qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble themselves together at the house of William Whittier in said Town, on Wednesday the eighth day of March next ensuing,

the date hereof at nine o'clock in the morning, to act upon the following particulars  
viz.

First, to choose town officers for the year ensuing as the law directs.

2ly. To see if the town will empower the selectmen or others as a committee to draw  
money out of the Town treasury, to pay Town debts for the year post.

3dly. To choose men to clear the fish courses in this town for the year ensuing.

4. To see what the Town will act concerning swine going at large.

Dated at Methuen the 21 day of February, 1726,7. Ebenezer Barker  
John Bailey      } Selectmen  
Asie Swan  
Thomas Whittier

**Methuen March the 8, 1726,7.** Pursuant to this warrant. I have warned all the  
freeholders and other inhabitants of this town to time and place, by posting up a  
warning on the door of Asie Swan's house, it being according to vote of said town, by  
me, Thomas Silver, constable.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 8, 1726,7. The Town voted  
and chose Robert Swan, moderator of that meeting.

Voted and chose William Whittier Town Clerk for the year ensuing.

On March the 8, 1726,7, the Town voted and chose Henry Bodwell Jun. Constable for  
the year ensuing.

Swan,	Asie Swan	Voted & chose Robert
Treasurer	Thomas Whittier	Town
Voted & chose	Ebenezer Barker      } Selectmen John Hastings	Voted & chose William Cross and }
Tithingmen	William Gutterson	Zebediah Barker
Voted and chose	Henry Bodwell John Gutterson      Surveyors Richard Swan      } of Highways	Voted and chose Thomas Austin Ebenezer Barker      } Fence
Viewers	Ephraim Clark William Whittier	John Bailey Samuel Clark
	James Bodwell	Joseph Morse

Voted and chose	Thomas Richardson	}	Houards	John Messer	}
Hogreeves					
	Samuel Smith			Samuel Currier	
	Daniel Peaslee				

Voted and granted that the Selectmen shall have power to draw money out of the Town treasury,  
to pay the Town's debts for the year past.

Voted and granted that James Davis and Daniel Peaslee shall have power to clear the fish courses in this Town for the year ensuing, and that upon the Town's cost and charge.

Voted and granted that the swine in this Town, shall go at large according to law, the year ensuing.

#### 14. **A List of the names of Town Officers.**

A list of the names of those that were chosen Town officers in the Town of Methuen, in their Annual meeting on March the 8, 1726.7. William Whittier Town Clerk, Henry Bodwell, Jun. Constable, Robert Swan, Town Treasurer, William Cross and Zebediah Barker, Tithing men, Henry Bodwell, John Gutterson Jun., Richard Swan, Ephraim Clark and William Whittier, Surveyors of highways, Thomas Austin, Ebenezer Barker, John Bailey and Samuel Clark, Fence viewers, Joseph Morse Jun., John Messer, and Samuel Currier, Hogreeves.

#### **Town Officers sworn.**

The persons named in this list, have appeared before us, and have taken oaths to their several and respective offices belonging, as is by law appointed.

Dated at Methuen, March the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1726.27

Methuen	Thomas Whittier
	Asie Swan
	William Gutterson }
	Selectmen of
	John Hastings
	Ebenezer Barker

**March the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1726.27.** Then Thomas Whittier, Asie Swan, William Gutterson, John Hastings, and Ebenezer Barker personally appeared before me, and were sworn

to the faithful discharge of the office of Assessors, as well to assess the lands of nonresidents, if there be occasion, as all other assessments to be raised in this Town.

Before me, William Whittier, Town Clerk, by order of the Selectmen.

**Burying Place.**

Pursuant to the Town's vote, we, the subscribers have laid out a Grave yard southerly from the meetinghouse, about six or seven rods, and bounded as followeth viz.

Beginning with a small pine tree marked B, thence running southerly to a pine stump marked with B. twenty rods in length thence to a pine tree marked with a B. northeasterly about six or seven rods in width, and so to another pine tree marked with B; northwesterly about twenty rods and so to the bounds first mentioned.

Laid out by us Joshua Swan and William Whittier, June 7, 1728.

Joshua Swan  
William Whittier } Committee

**Voted to have the Burying place recorded.**

This above written return was read in a Town meeting in Methuen, on the fifth day of February, 1728/29, and then voted that it should be recorded, and was recorded the same day by me, William Whittier, Town Clerk.

**15. Particulars of a warrant for meeting.**

At a Town meeting warned for sundry particulars on **April the tenth, 1727.**

First, to see what the Town would do concerning hiring a minister.

2. To see if the Town would cause supplication to be made to the General Court to explain their act concerning the lands of nonresidents, lying in this Town.

3. To bring in Town debts, to see what debts the Town would allow of.

4. To see what the Town would allow the constable for gathering the nonresidents rates.

**Robert Swan Moderator.**

At a legal Town meeting on April the tenth 1727, the Town voted and chose Robert Swan,  
the Moderator for that meeting.

**Committee chosen to agree with a Minister.**

At a legal Town meeting on April the tenth 1727, the Town voted and chose Robert Swan and  
John Gutterson and empowered them as a committee to agree with a minister to serve  
in the work  
of the ministry in this Town for one quarter of a year next to come.

**A negative vote.**

At a legal Town meeting on April the tenth 1727, it being put to vote to see if the  
Town would  
choose a committee to go to the General Court, to see if the General Court would  
explain the act  
concerning rating the lands of nonresidents in this Town, and it was voted in the  
negative.

**Committee's bill of cost allowed for erecting the frame of the meetinghouse.**

Whereas the Town voted and chose a committee at a legal Town meeting on the  
twenty  
third day of August in the year 1726 to erect a meeting house frame in this Town,  
which  
accordingly the said committee who are James Davis, Richard Swan, and Thomas  
Whittier have  
perfected according to the Town's vote, and brought in their bill of cost to the Town  
at a legal  
Town meeting on the tenth day of April 1727, and the Town voted and granted that  
their account  
should be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury, which account is fifty four  
pounds, seven  
shillings and eight pence.

**A Committee chosen to repair to the General Court.**

Whereas the General Court sent to the Town of Methuen to show cause why the  
prayer of the  
petitioners concerning the erecting a meeting house in Methuen should not be  
granted, and there  
being a legal Town meeting warned for sundry particulars on the twelfth day of  
December, in the

year 1726, and they voted and chose Thomas Whittier, Nathaniel Peaslee and Jonathan Emerson

to repair to the General Court to give in their reasons, and the said Thomas Whittier, Nathaniel Peaslee and Jonathan Emerson sent in their account or bill of cost to the Town, at a legal Town meeting on the 10 day of April 1727, and it was voted in the negative, that the account should not be allowed them the account being nine pounds, one shilling.

**The Selectmen's bill of cost allowed.**

**At a legal Town meeting on April 10, 1727** voted to the selectmen their accounts for the year past.

Voted to Thomas Whittier for money expended, and for making the rates, one pound, ten shillings and sixpence.

Voted to Asie Swan for money expended and making rates, one pound and 6 shillings.

Voted to Ebenezer Barker for his time making the rates, one pound 2 shillings.

Voted to John Bailey for making the rates, twenty shillings.

Voted to Daniel Bodwell for making the rates sixteen shillings.

**Henry Bodwell allowed for gathering non-residents' rates.**

Voted and granted that the constable should be allowed for gathering the non-resident's rates, twelve pence per pound, to be paid out of the Town Treasury.

**Selectmen to be allowed money pay minister.**

16. **At a legal Town meeting on the tenth day of April 1727**, the Town voted that the Selectmen should Allowed forty-five pounds money to pay Mr. Heath for his work in the ministry for the year past, and for his years diet and candles, fifteen pounds.

**Selectmen to board the minister out.**

Voted that the selectmen should provide a place for the minister to be honorably entertained and boarded at.

**Dissent against allowing money to pay for the meeting house.**

This is to signify the dissents of the subscribers against allowing the bill of cost brought in by

James Davis, Thomas Whittier and Richard Swan for building the meeting house, which is not in place where the General Court ordered.

Joseph Morse  
John Gutterson  
James Barker  
John Harris

Ebenezer Barker  
Daniel Bodwell  
Henry Bodwell  
Benjamin Stevens

Henry Bodwell Jun.  
John Gutterson Jun.  
William Gutterson

**Town meeting to choose a Representative.**

At a Town meeting warned for the choice of a Representative on the **16 day of May, in the year**

**1727**, it being put to vote to see whether the Town would choose a representative or not, and it was voted in the negative.

At a Town meeting in Methuen warned on May 16, 1727, to see what the Town would do concerning hiring a minister, the Town voted and chose Robert Swan moderator for that meeting.

**Selectmen to agree with a minister.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 16 of May 1727, the Town voted and granted, that

if the selectmen should agree with an orthodox minister, to serve in the work of the ministry for the year ensuing, or for one quarter of a year.

**The Town to pay the minister according as the Selectmen shall agree with him.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May 16, 1727, the Town voted and granted, that if the Selectmen should agree with a minister for one year next to come, or one quarter of a year, that the Town shall pay the minister according as the Selectmen shall agree with him.

**Particular mentioned in the warrant.**

By virtue of a warrant from the Selectmen, the Town assembled at the house of Asie Swan on the

tenth day of July, in the year 1727, to see what they should do concerning removing the frame of the meeting house to the place, where the General Court ordered it should stand.

**Moderator chosen.**

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on July the 10, 1727,** the Town voted and chose Stephen Barker, moderator for that meeting.

At a legal Town meeting on July the 10, 1727, the Town voted and chose John Gutterson Jun. Joseph Morse and James Bodwell as a committee.

**A committee to remove the meeting house.**

Voted that the above said committee are empowered to remove the frame of the meeting house to the place where the General Court ordered it to be placed at, and there to raise it and provide for the same at the Town's charge.

17. **Particulars of a warrant.**

The particulars of the warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen held the **eighth day of August 1727** are as followeth, viz.

first to see what the Town would do concerning the meeting house.

2. to see if the Town would disannul the vote that was formerly passed that the meeting house for public worship should be held at the house of Asie Swan till the meeting house was finished and order that the meeting may be held at the house of James How some part of the time.

**James Davis moderator.**

**At a legal Town meeting held the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1727,** the Town voted and chose James Davis moderator for that meeting.

**August the 8, 1727** voted and chose Joshua Swan, Samuel Smith, James Davis committee.

**Committee to cover the meeting house.**

The Town voted that the above named committee should have power to board and shingle the roof of the meeting house frame, and to plank and clapboard the sides and ends, and to make the window frames and to hang them, and to lay the under floor, and all upon the Town's proper cost and charge, and to make and hang the doors.

**Negative against removing the meeting from Asie Swan's.**

At a legal Town meeting August the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1727, it was put to vote to see if the Town would disannul the vote that was formerly passed concerning the meeting for public worship at the house of Asie Swan, and it was voted negative.

**Meeting to choose Representative.**

At a Town meeting in Methuen warned for the choice of a representative on **November the 13<sup>th</sup>** 1727, it being put to vote to see if the Town would choose one and was voted negative.

**A Town meeting November the 27, 1727**

The particulars mentioned in the warrant for this meeting, are as followeth, viz.

First, to choose a person or persons to reckon with the Town treasurer.

Secondly, to bring in Town debts and see what debts the Town will allow of.

Thirdly, to vote what money to raise for pious uses, and for defraying Town charges.

**James Davis Moderator**

James Davis legally chosen moderator for this meeting.

**James Davis, William Whittier and Zebediah Barker committee to reckon with the Treasurer.**

At a legal Town meeting November the 27, 1727, the Town voted and chose James Davis  
as a committeeman to reckon with the Town Treasurer.

At a legal Town meeting November the 27, 1727, the Town voted and chose William Whittier  
a committeeman to reckon with the Town Treasurer.

At a legal Town meeting November the 27, 1727, the Town voted and chose Zebediah Barker  
the third committeeman to reckon with the Town treasurer.

**Voted money to Joseph Peaslee.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen November the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1727, the Town voted and granted  
that Joseph Peaslee should be paid four pounds by the Town for the country roads  
crossing his  
meadows.

**Money to Samuel Clark.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen November the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Town voted and granted  
that  
Samuel Clark should be paid ten pounds by the Town for the country roads.

**18. Money to Evan Jones.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen November the 27, 1727, the Town voted that  
Evan Jones  
should be paid ten pounds by the Town for the country road crossing over his land.

**Money to Asie Swan & Richard Swan.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen November 27, 1727, the Town voted and granted  
that Asie  
Swan and Richard Swan should be allowed and paid by the Town nineteen pounds,  
and fourteen  
shillings, money which they paid to the Jury for laying out the country road.

**Money to Joseph Morse and John Gutterson.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, November 27, 1727, the Town voted that Joseph Morse  
and John Gutterson Jun. and James Bodwell committee should be allowed and paid  
by the Town

their cost in removing the meeting house frame, which is eighteen pounds, nineteen shillings, and 3 pence.

**Money to Thomas Whittier, Peaslee & so forth.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, November 27, 1727, the Town voted and granted that

Thomas Whittier, Nathaniel Peaslee, and Jonathan Emerson, which were appointed a committee by the Town to go to the General Court in the Town's behalf, should be allowed and paid by the Town nine pounds and one shilling.

**Money to Robert Swan, William Whittier & so forth.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, November 27, 1727, the Town voted and granted that

the bill of cost brought in by the persons, whose names are under written, should be allowed them, and paid by the Town for their journey to the General Court, and expenses, which is, their twenty shillings to each of them.

Robert Swan  
John Bailey  
Ebenezer Barker  
Asie Swan

William Whittier  
Thomas Whittier  
John Bailey

**Adjournment.**

This meeting is adjourned until Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December next at one of the clock in the afternoon.

**Money to the Selectmen.**

At a legal Town meeting the 4 of December 1727, upon adjournment, the Town voted that the selectmen should draw 43 pounds, 15 shillings out of the treasury, to pay Mr. Sargent his salary for this present year.

**Money to the Selectmen.**

At a legal Town meeting the 4 of December 1727, upon adjournment, the Town voted to the selectmen 6 pounds, and 5 shillings, money to pay Mr. Walker for the time he preached here.

**Money to Asie Swan.**

At a legal Town meeting the 4 of December 1727, upon adjournment, the Town voted to Asie Swan for sweeping the house of public worship 15 shillings.

At a legal Town meeting the 4 December 1727, upon adjournment, the Town voted to the Selectmen thirty shillings, money which they paid of their own to Mr. Heath.

**For raising money.**

At a legal Town meeting the 4 of December 1727, on adjournment, the Town voted to put to vote to see what money the Town would raise to defray Town charges, and for the other pious uses, and it was voted to raise four score pounds.

**The end of this meeting.**

19. **1728**

**Particulars of a warrant for a Town meeting.**

To Henry Bodwell, constable of Methuen, greeting; In his Majesty's name, you are required forthwith to notify and warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of this Town, duly qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the house of Asie Swan, in said Town, on Monday, the 22 day of January instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon the following particulars viz.

First, to see what methods the Town shall think proper to take in order for an agreement concerning the meeting house; and

secondly, in answer to the petition presented to us by Henry Bodwell, and John Gutterson Jun.  
and sundry others, to see why the committee chosen by this Town, doth not go on to finish said house; and

3. to raise and order money for that affair.

Fail not, and make return of this you warrant, with your doings herein, at or before the time of said meeting, to one or more of us, the subscribers. Dated at Methuen,

**January the 3, 1727,28.**  
Methuen

William Gutterson  
Thomas Whittier      } Selectmen of  
Asie Swan

### **Methuen, January 22,1727/28 – Constable's return.**

Pursuant to this warrant, I have warned all the freeholders and other inhabitants of this Town, duly qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the time and place, and for the purposes within specified.

Henry Bodwell, Constable of Methuen.

### **Daniel Bodwell moderator.**

At a legal Town meeting, January the 22, 1727/28, the Town voted and chose Daniel Bodwell moderator for this meeting.

### **Two committeemen chosen to finish the meeting house.**

At a legal Town meeting, in Methuen on January the 22<sup>d</sup>, 1727/28, the Town voted that there should be two committee men more chosen to go on with the other three committee men as to the finishing the meeting house.

### **Samuel Huse and Daniel Bodwell, committeemen.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, January 22, 1727,28, the Town voted and chose Samuel Huse and Daniel Bodwell as committee men to go on with the other three committee

men about finishing the meeting house.

**The Town voted to raise forty pounds to finish the meeting house.**

At a legal meeting in Methuen, January the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1727/28, the Town voted to raise forty pounds of money towards the finishing the meeting house.

**Selectmen to make a rate of forty pounds.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, January 22, 1727/8, the Town voted that the Selectmen should make the rate of forty pounds and deliver it to the constable, and order the constable to gather the said forty pounds, and pay it to the committee at or before the last day of May next.

**The committee to finish the meeting house to draw money of the non-resident rate.**

At a legal meeting in Methuen January 22, 1727,8, the Town voted that the committee chosen by the Town to finish the meeting house, shall have power to draw money of the non-resident rate out of the treasury towards the finishing the meeting house.

**The particulars of a warrant granted out by Justice Saltonstall.**

The particulars of a warrant for a Town meeting held at the house of Asie Swan in Methuen, on Monday the nineteenth day of February, 1727-28, granted out by Richard Saltonstall, one of his Majesty's Justices of the peace, are as followeth viz.

First, to see if the Town will come to an agreement concerning the removal of the meeting house.

2. To see if the Town will allow of such Town debts as have not been already allowed of.
3. To see if the Town will choose a man or more, as committee men to join with the committee that is chosen for the finishing of the meeting house.
4. To see if the Town will choose another selectman.

5. To see if the Town will send to the General Court, for the last act of said Court,  
relating  
to the meeting house.

**20. James Davis moderator.**

At a legal meeting in Methuen, January the 22, 1727,28, the Town voted and chose  
James  
Davis moderator for that meeting.

**Voted Henry Bodwell eight pounds.**

At a Town meeting February the 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Daniel Bodwell,  
Jun.  
constable, should have 8 pounds paid him out of the non-resident rates for gathering  
the same.

**Voted to Daniel Bodwell 3 shillings.**

At a Town meeting February the 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Daniel Bodwell  
should be  
paid thirty shillings by the Town, for laying out a road by Thomas Silver.

**Voted to Robert Swan thirty shillings.**

At a Town meeting February the 19 1727,28, the Town voted that Robert Swan  
should be paid  
thirty shillings by the Town, for boarding of ministers.

**Voted to Joshua Swan five pounds.**

At a Town meeting February the 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Joshua Swan  
should be  
Paid five pounds by the Town, for the country road that was laid out from Swan's  
ferry  
towards Nutfield, which crosses over his land

**To Ebenezer Barker eighteen shillings.**

February 19, 1727/28, voted to Ebenezer Barker for making rates, one pound and  
eighteen shillings.

**To Asie Swan twenty shillings.**

February 19, 1727,28, voted to Asie Swan twenty shillings for his services done for the Town in the place of a selectman.

**To Thomas Whittier twenty shillings.**

February 19, 1727,28, voted to Thomas Whittier Jun. selectman one pound.

February 19, 1727,28, voted to William Gutterson, selectman one pound.

**To the widow Hastings eighteen shillings.**

February 19, 1727,28, voted to the widow of John Hastings deceased for his services done for the Town, as selectman, eighteen shillings.

**To William Whittier ten shillings.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that William Whittier should be paid ten shillings by the Town, for keeping the Town book the year past.

**To Stephen Barker, Daniel Bodwell & William Whittier fifteen pounds.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Stephen Barker, Daniel Bodwell, and William Whittier should be paid fifteen pounds by the Town, for their time and expenses in getting this Town granted, they paying out to every man a proportion of the money where it was first reimbursed.

**Ephraim Clark Selectman**

February 1, 1727,28, voted that Ephraim Clark should be the selectman instead of John Hastings deceased, the remaining part of this year.

**To Stephen Barker, forty shillings.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Stephen Barker should be paid forty shillings by the Town, for his journey to Boston, and expense in opposing the last commit-

tee's coming up to this Town concerning the meetinghouse.

**To Daniel Bodwell, forty shillings.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Daniel Bodwell should be paid forty shillings by the Town for his going to Boston to oppose the last committee's coming to this Town, concerning the meeting house.

**To Thomas Silver, forty shillings.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Thomas Silver should be paid twenty shillings by the Town for a journey to the Eastward after the non-residents' rates.

**To Stephen Barker, Daniel Bodwell, James Davis & the widow Hastings, their forty two shillings apiece.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Stephen Barker, Daniel Bodwell, James Davis, & the widow of John Hastings deceased, should be paid by the Town, their forty-two shillings apiece, for their obtaining the committee from the General Court for stating the place for the meeting house.

**21. Stephen Barker & Daniel Bodwell's bill of cost allowed.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Stephen Barker and Daniel Bodwell shall be paid seventeen pounds by the Town for their obtaining the first committee from the General Court, for stating a place for the meeting house, they paying out the money to each man his proportion of whom they received it.

**Richard Swan's and William Whittier's bill of cost allowed.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Richard Swan and William Whittier should be paid by the Town nineteen pounds and ten shillings, money which they paid the last committee which came for the stating of a place for the meeting house.

**Richard Swan's bill of cost allowed.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Richard Swan should be allowed one pound and fifteen shillings by the Town for entertaining the last committee the time they were here.

**A negative vote.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that they would not choose another committee man or committee men to join with the committee that are already chosen to finish the meeting house.

**Thomas Whittier, Richard Swan & James Davis' bill of cost allowed.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, the Town voted that Thomas Whittier, Richard Swan, and James Davis should be paid sixteen pounds by the Town for timber for the meeting house frame, and for providing for the raising, they paying to every man his proportion of said sixteen pounds, according to what timber he found, and according to what each man provided for the raising.

**A negative vote.**

At a Town meeting February 19, 1727,28, it was being put to vote to see if the Town would send a man to the General Court for the last act of the court, relating to the meeting house and it was voted in the negative.

**The annual meeting, March the 13, 1727,28.**

**The particulars mentioned in the warrant for the annual Town meeting, held in Methuen on March the 13, 1727,28 are as followeth viz.**

First to choose Town officers for the year ensuing.

2. To see what the Town will do concerning hiring a minister for the year ensuing.
3. To determine the price whereat the several species, which the inhabitants of this Province have

liberty to pay their Province in, shall be received by the constable from any of the inhabitants of this Town.

4. In answer to a petition to us presented by ten of the inhabitants of the monthly part of this Town, to see if the Town will allow the said petitioners some reasonable relief and ease under their difficulties respecting there remoteness from the meetinghouse.
5. To see if the Town will allow swine to go at large the year ensuing.
6. To see if the Town will order that the highways shall be mended by a rate for the future.
7. Whereas sundry persons rated as non-residents, scruple the authority of the Town to rate them as such; to see if the Town will stand by and defend the selectmen from any damage coming by reason of said rate.
8. To raise money for the payment of Town debts.
9. To choose a person or persons to clear the fish courses within this Town.

22. **At the annual meeting, March 13, 1727-8,** the Town voted and chose Stephen Barker moderator for that meeting.

**At the annual meeting March 13, 1727-8,** the Town voted that they would choose William Whittier, Town clerk for the year ensuing.

**At the annual meeting March 13, 1727-8,** the Town voted that they would choose but three Selectmen for the year ensuing.

Voted & Chose	Asie Swan Ebenezer Barker James How	} Selectmen
---------------	---	-------------

**May the 26, 1728.** Then Asie Swan Ebenezer Barker, and James How were sworn to the faithful discharge of the office of assessors, by me, William Whittier, T. Clerk.

**At the annual Town meeting in Methuen March 13, 1727,8,** the Town voted and chose John Gutterson Jun. constable for the year ensuing.

**At the annual Town meeting in Methuen March 13, 1727,8,** the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, Town Treasurer for the year ensuing.

	Daniel Peaslee
	Stephen Barker
Voted & Chose	Daniel Lancaster } Surveyors of highways
	James Bodwell
	William Cross
Voted & Chose	Benjamin Stevens } Tithingmen
	Samuel Smith
Voted & Chose	John Cross & } Fence viewers
	Samuel Huse
Voted & Chose	John Tibbets & } Surveyors of lumber
	Samuel Smith
Voted & Chose	Samuel Stevens
	Richard Kelly & } Hogreeves
	Nathaniel Messer
Voted & Chose	James Bodwell
	Samuel Huse & } Field Drivers
	Ezra Merrick

**At the annual Town meeting in Methuen March 13, 1727-8,** the Town voted that the Selectmen should agree with an orthodox minister for the year ensuing.

Whereas the General Court have ordered that each Town in this Province, may pay their Province tax in the year 1727, in the several species mentioned in the act granting the same, the Town voted that the constable shall be allowed two shillings a bushel for transporting the same, and 3 shillings the hundred for what he, the said constable shall receive by weight.

23. A humble petition, to the Town of Methuen in general, of us, the subscribers. In the behalf of difficult circumstances in being remote from the public worship of God, whereas we being six miles and upward from Haverhill or Methuen, where it is kept, so that we could not attend the public worship of God; whereas a number of us have joined together, a part of Haverhill and part in Methuen, to carry on the public worship of God, and have hired a minister to preach to us, in the west end of Haverhill, which is about two miles and half from the furthest of us; now we humbly pray, that the Town would pass an act in the Town to free us from the minister rate in Methuen and set us of. Beginning at Hawks meadow brook's mouth, so running westward about midway between James How's and Samuel Clark's, so running the course over

Spicket river, all the land which belongs to Methuen to join with the party in Haverhill, in carrying on the worship of God.

Samuel Currier	Richard Kelly	Robert Corgill
Abiel Kelly Jun.	Abiel Kelly	Ephraim Clark
Thomas Eaton	John Bailey	Daniel Peaslee

The above written petition, being read in the annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the 13<sup>th</sup> 1727-8, and was put to vote to see whether the said petition might be granted, and was voted in the negative.

This meeting is adjourned until Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of this instant March, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon, the to be held at the house of Asie Swan in Methuen.

### **The Adjournment**

At the annual Town meeting in Methuen March the 18, 1727-8 upon adjournment, the Town voted that swine should go at large, the year ensuing.

At the annual meeting in Methuen March the 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment it being put to vote to see if the Town would mend the highways by a rate, and it was voted in the negative.

At the annual meeting in Methuen, March the 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment, it being put to vote to see if the Town would stand by and defend the Selectmen in making the non-resident rate this year, and it was voted in the affirmative.

23. At the annual meeting in Methuen March the 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment, it being put to vote, to see if the Town would raise money to defray Town charges, and it was voted in the affirmative.

At the annual meeting in Methuen March 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment, the Town voted that there should be one hundred and twenty pounds raised of money to pay the arrears of Town debts.

At the annual meeting in Methuen March the 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment, the Town voted and chose Thomas Silver for to take care for the clearing of the fish courses in this Town for the year ensuing.

24. At the annual meeting in Methuen March the 18, 1727-8, upon adjournment the Town voted and chose Joseph Gutterson to take care for the clearing of the fish courses, in this Town the year ensuing.

Whereas the Town voted and chose John Gutterson Jun. constable at the annual meeting in Methuen March 13, 1727-8, & upon the adjournment March 18, 1727-8, the said John Gutterson Jun. did agree with and hire James Davis in his room to serve constable, and the Town voted that they would accept of the said James Davis to serve constable in the room of John Gutterson Jun. for the year ensuing. (Note: "in the room of" = in place of)

At the annual meeting in Methuen on March the 18, 1727-8 upon adjournment, the Town voted that there should be a grave yard provided in the Town, somewhere near the meeting house, also, the Town voted and chose William Whittier and Joshua Swan to measure and bound out the said Grave yard, agreeably to the Town's vote.

**A list of the names of those that were chosen Town officers in the Town of Methuen,  
March the 13, 1727-8.**

William Whittier Town Clerk, John Gutterson Jun. chosen constable; Joshua Swan chosen Town Treasurer; Daniel Peaslee, Stephen Barker Jun., Daniel Lancaster, James Bodwell, and William Cross, surveyors of highways; Benjamin Stevens, Samuel Smith tithing men; John Cross, Samuel Huse fence viewers; Samuel Smith, John Tibbets, surveyors of lumber; Samuel Stevens, Richard Kelly, and Nathaniel Messer, hogreeves; These persons, named in this list, were sworn before the selectmen March the 13, 1727-8, except the constable and whereas at the Town meeting, March the 18, 1727-8, by adjournment, the Town accepted of James Davis, constable, instead of John Gutterson, Jun. who was accordingly sworn.

**Dated March 18, 1727-8.** This list above entered and recorded by order of

James How  
Ebenezer Barker } Selectmen of  
Methuen  
Asie Swan

The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen, held at the house of Asie Swan, on the 11 day of April, is as followeth viz. To choose trustees to take out our Town's proportion of the sixty thousand pounds, and to act something in order to the disposal of the said money.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on April the 11, 1728, the Town voted and chose John Gutterson, moderator for that meeting.

It being put to vote to see whether the Town would send for their proportion of the sixty thousand pounds, and was voted in the affirmative.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, April the 11, 1728, the Town voted and granted that the

Trustees should have one third part of the Town's part of the interest of their proportion of the sixty thousand pounds, for their trouble.

At a legal meeting in Methuen, April the 11, 1728, the Town voted that the trustees shall not let out more than ten pounds of this Bank money to any man, and not under five pounds to a man.

April 13, 1728. This may certify, that Joshua Swan, Daniel Bodwell, and William Whittier,  
who were chosen trustees by the Town of Methuen, in a regular meeting of the freeholders of  
said Town, the eleventh day of April current, were sworn to the faithful discharge of  
their trust,  
by us, the subscribers.

Oath recorded in the Town book  
by order of the Selectmen.

Asie Swan	{} Selectmen
Ebenezer Barker	{} of
James How	{} Methuen

## Representative

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, warned for the choice of a Representative on May the 13, 1728, it was then put to vote to see if the Town would choose a Representative, to represent them at the General Court, and was voted in the negative.

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1727. This day reckoned with Mr. Robert Swan, Treasurer, and we find according to the orders from the Selectmen, and receipts of money, which the treasurer had paid out as followeth, viz.

The sum total of the rates, is,	188-12-10	James Davis
Paid out by the Treasurer as appears by receipts, 98, 14-0		William Whittier }
Committee.		
And remains unpaid	89-18-10	Zebediah Barker

**July 4, 1728. The Particulars of a warrant for a Town meeting held at the house of Asie Swan on July 4, 1728, are as followeth, viz.**

First, to see what money the Town will order to be raised for the use of the ministry.

Secondly, to see if the Town will send to the General Court for an explanation on their act relating to the lands of non residents within this Town, and also the common and undivided which lies within this Town, and was formerly within the Township of Haverhill.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on July the 4, 1728, the Town voted, and chose Robert Swan, moderator for that meeting.

At a Town meeting in Methuen, on July the 4, 1728, the Town voted, and granted that there should be sixty five pounds of money raised to pay the minister for his work in the ministry this year, the one half to be paid in to the Treasurer on the twentieth day of September next ensuing, and the other half on the twentieth day of March following.

At a Town meeting in Methuen, on July the 4, 1728, it was then put to vote to see if the Town will send to the General Court, to explain their act concerning the land of non-residents within this Town, and also the common and undivided land which lies within this Town and it was voted in the negative.

**26. The particulars of a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen, held at the Meeting house, on Wednesday, twenty eighth day of August 1728, are as followeth, viz.**

First, to see if the Town will order that the public worship of God should be exercised in said meeting house.

Secondly, to see if the Town will order reckoning to be made with the committee that was chosen to go on towards finishing the meeting house.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on August the 28, 1728, the Town voted and chose Joseph Morse, moderator for that meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on August the 28, 1728, the Town voted that the meeting for public worship should be removed from the house of Asie Swan, and held at the meeting house the next Sabbath.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on August the 28, 1728, the Town voted and chose William Whittier, John Gutterson Jun. and John Tibbets a committee to reckon with the

committee that was chosen to go on towards the finishing of the meeting house.

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen on December the Sixteenth, 1728, are as followeth, viz.**

First, to appoint a day of fasting and prayer, to spread our united supplications before the lord for his gracious assistance and conduct in our endeavors to settle a minister amongst us, and to act such things as may be necessary in order thereunto.

Secondly, in answer to a petition to us presented, by several of the inhabitants of this Town, to see what this Town will do, concerning the Irish people settling on the out lands within our Township.

Thirdly, to see if the Town will send to the General Court, to get the act more fully explained concerning the title of the common land that was formerly in Haverhill but now in Methuen.

Fourthly, to dismiss the committee that was chosen to finish the meeting house in part, and to see what the Town will further do, concerning the finishing the meeting house.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 16, 1728, the Town voted and chose Joseph Morse, moderator for that meeting.

At a Town meeting on December the 16, 1728, the Town voted that there should be a fast kept in this Town, in order to the settling a minister here.

Voted, that the private fast to be kept in this Town, in order for the settling of a minister amongst us, should be on the second Wednesday of January.

27. At a Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 16, 1728, the Town voted and chose Robert Swan, Lieut. Stephen Barker, and John Gutterson to agree with the neighboring ministers concerning keeping a fast, in order to settle a minister among us.

It being put to vote to see whether this Town, would do anything with the Irish for settling on the out lands in this Town, and it was voted in the negative.

It being put to a vote to see whether this Town would send to the General Court, to have

their act more fully explained concerning the common land in this Town, and was voted in the negative.

Voted, that the committee that was chosen to finish the meeting house in part; should be now dismissed, and proceed no further.

It being put to vote, to see whether the Town would do anything farther concerning finishing the meeting house at present, and it was voted in the negative.

## 1729

**January the 1, 1728-9.** We, the subscribers, being employed by the Selectmen of Methuen, to run the line from the head of Dunstable line, to the bounds where the line from Hawks meadow brook intersects Haverhill north line according to Methuen's grant, and we began at said Dunstable line and run about four miles and three quarters, a straight course North, seventy three degrees East, which is about a point North of East and by North to where the said line intersects.

James Stevens, Surveyor.

Richard Swan }Chairmen.  
Francis Swan }

### Dracut and Methuen line renewed, 1728.

28. **September the 26, 1728.** We the subscribers, according to our appointment met at the river where Dracut line and Methuen bounds, for the perambulation of said line between Dracut and Methuen; and then began at a white oak tree, near the river, lettered :D: and then run north by several trees marked with the letter :D: on the west side of said trees, and we set the letter M on the east side of many of them said trees, and renewed the marks of said trees, until we came to a pine tree at the north corner, and there we run northwest, and renewed the bounds, and marked them as aforesaid, until we came to Dunstable line.

Renewed by us the subscribers,

Dracut

Ephraim Hildreth } Selectmen of

Josiah Richardson

Received this above written return January 28, 1728-9 and recorded the same  
January 29, 1728,9, by order of the Selectmen of Methuen.

**The particulars of a Town meeting mentioned in a warrant for the same, held at the meeting house in Methuen, on the fifth day of February, in the year 1728-9 are as followeth viz.**

First, to see if the Town will choose and call Mr. Christopher Sargent to dispense the word of God unto us.

Secondly, to see what the Town will do concerning a burying place.

Thirdly, to see if the Town will choose a committee to finish the meeting house.

Fourthly, to bring in Town debts and see what debts the Town will allow of.

Fifthly, to raise money to pay Town debts.

Sixthly, in answer to a petition to us presented by sixteen of the inhabitants of this Town, to see if the Town will choose a committee to survey the Parsonage land, and to lay out to it, and make it up, according to the order of the Court, and to sell some land to defray the charges, and to see if the Town will take some proper method to divide the rest of the common land amongst the inhabitants of this Town.

Signed by Asie Swan }  
Ebenezer Barker } Selectmen.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the 5 day of February 1728,9, the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, moderator for that meeting.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February, 1728,9, it being put to vote to see whether the Town would go on to finish the meeting house, and it was voted in the negative.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728,9, the Town voted to

Ebenezer Barker twenty-seven shillings for perambulating the line between Dracut and Methuen,  
and for making rates according to his request.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728,9, the Town voted to

Asie Swan twenty four for perambulating the line between Dracut and Methuen and for making rates, according to his request.

**29.** At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728-9, the Town voted to

James How twelve shillings for making rates, according to his request.

It was put to vote to see whether this meeting should be adjourned one hour, and was voted in the negative.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the fifth day of February 1728-9, the Town voted to

Asie Swan and Ebenezer Barker three pounds and fourteen shillings, they paying the surveyor one pound, five shillings, and to Richard Swan and to Francis Swan their ten shillings to each of them.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728-9, the Town voted to Robert Swan twelve shillings for providing for the ministers on the day set apart for fasting and prayer, in order for settling a minister among us.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728-9, the Town voted to

James Emery twenty shillings for sweeping the meeting house for the time past and for the time to come until our March meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728,9, the Town voted that there should be a committee chosen to survey the parsonage land, and to lay out more, so as to make it up, according to the order of the great and General Court, both for the ministry and school.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728,9, the Town voted and

chose Joshua Swan, James Davis, and Daniel Bodwell a committee to lay out or survey the parsonage land in this Town, and to make it up, both for parsonage and school, according to the order of the great and General Court.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February, 1728,9, the Town voted that Joshua Swan, James Davis and Daniel Bodwell, a committee, are empowered to sell some common land in this Town to defray Town charges.

Whereas Robert Swan, Asie Swan, Richard Swan and Stephen Barker, with some others, brought in a writing, dissenting against the Town's laying out, or any way disposing of any of the common land within this Town, and the moderator denying to have it recorded, put it to vote at Town meeting, on fifth day of February, 1728-9. to see whether the Town would have the above mentioned dissents recorded, and it was voted in the negative, that they should not.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the fifth day of February 1728-9, the Town voted that there should be one hundred and twenty eight pounds, one shilling & sixpence of money raised in the Town, for defraying of Town charges.

This meeting is adjourned until the first Monday in March at one of the clock in the afternoon, then to meet at the meeting house.

30. **At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the third day of March 1728,9,** on the adjournment, the Town voted to give Mr. Christopher Sargent a call to dispense the word of God to us.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the third day of March 1728-9, it being put to vote to see if the Town would lay out the rest of the common land amongst the inhabitants of this Town, and was then voted in the negative, that they would not at present.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the third day of March 1728,9, the Town voted that there should be a committee chosen to discourse with Mr. Christopher Sargent in order to his settlement with us in the work of the ministry.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on the third day of March 1728,9. On adjournment, the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, John Bailey, William Whittier, Daniel Bodwell, and William Gutterson a committee to discourse with Mr. Christopher Sargent in order to his settling with us in the work of the ministry, and to see what terms he will settle upon, and to return Mr. Sargent's answer or proposals to the Town at their annual meeting in this instant March.

**February 27, 1728,9,** Pursuant to the Town's vote, we the subscribers have viewed and surveyed the parsonage land in this Town, which was laid out by the Town of Haverhill for the use of the

ministry for the west end of the Town of Haverhill, but now in Methuen laying where our meeting house now stands, and where our burying place it laid out, and we find that there is about seventy acres of said parsonage, and also we have laid out two pieces more to make up our parsonage, according to the order of the General Court; one piece lying on the easterly side of Bear Meadow, containing about sixty acres, and is bounded as followeth; Beginning with a pine tree marked on the easterly side of Bear meadow, and so running easterly to another pine marked standing by the road that leads from Whittier's land to Musketoe (mosquito) bridge, and so bounded by said road until it comes to another pine tree standing by said road on the side of an hill near said bridge,

and so southerly to a pine, which is a bound of Capt. James Frye's land, and so southwesterly to another pine tree standing by the path that leads from William Whittier's to John Cross', which is

a bound of said Frye's land, and so northwesterly to a red oak tree marked, standing on the north side of an hill next to Bear meadow, and from thence to the bounds first mentioned. Laid out by

Joshua Swan      Committee  
James Davis      } to lay out  
Daniel Bodwell    said land

This above written return was read at a Town meeting in Methuen, on the 3<sup>d</sup> day of March

on the adjournment, and then voted to be recorded March the 6, 1728,9, by William Whittier, Town Clerk.

31. **February 17, 1728, 9.** We, the subscribers have laid out one piece of land more, lying northward from the World's End pond, for a parsonage for this Town, containing about seventy acres, which makes up our parsonages according to the order of the General Court, and is bounded as followeth viz.

First, with a black oak tree, marked with the letter P standing by Carlton's road, and from thence, southwesterly, to a pine marked with the letter P, and from thence, northeasterly to a maple marked with the letter P, and from thence, to the bounds first mentioned.

Laid out by    Joshua Swan      Committee  
                    James Davis      } to lay out  
                    Daniel Bodwell    said land

The above written return was read in a Town meeting on the **3<sup>d</sup> of March, 1728,9.** and then voted that it should be recorded.

**Methuen, February 27, 1728,9.** We whose names are under written, have laid out fifty acres of land, at the north of the World's End pond, for the use of a school,

according to the order of the great and General Court, the bounds of said land to be as followeth; beginning at Thomas Eaton's black oak, and so on said Eaton to Mr. Mitchel's road, and on said road westerly to a white oak marked with the letter S, standing by a run, from thence southward to a white oak, marked with the letter S, standing in a swamp, from thence to the bounds first mentioned.

	Laid out by	Joshua Swan
	Committee	
out		James Davis      } to lay
land)		Daniel Bodwell      out said

This above written return was read at a Town meeting in Methuen, on the 3<sup>d</sup> day of March on the adjournment, and then voted that it be recorded.

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for the annual Town meeting, for the year 1729, are as followeth, viz.**

First, to choose Town officers for the year ensuing, as the law directs.

Secondly, to act what may be further necessary, in order to the settling Mr. Sargent amongst us  
as our minister.

Thirdly, to see what the Town will allow the constable for the year 1728, for his collecting the  
non resident rate.

Fourthly, to see if the Town will choose a committee to erect a pulpit in the meeting house, and provide timber for seats.

Fifthly, to see whether the Town will give liberty for swine's going at large the year ensuing.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March, 1729, the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, moderator for that meeting.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729, the Town voted and chose William Whittier for the year ensuing, to serve Town Clerk.

32. **At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March, 1729,** the Town voted and chose James How, to serve constable in this Town, for the year ensuing.

Voted and Chose	James Davis Ephraim Clark Daniel Bodwell	} Selectmen of Methuen
Voted and Chose	Joshua Swan	} Town Treasurer for the year ensuing
Voted and Chose	Samuel Smith William Gutterson John Bailey	} Tithingmen
Voted and Chose	Asie Swan James Bodwell Ebenezer Barker Thomas Silver Samuel Currier Thomas Messer	} Surveyors of highways
Voted and Chose	John Cross Evan Jones Benjamin Stevens	} Fence viewers
Voted and Chose	Daniel Peaslee James Barker Richard Swan	} Hogreeves
Voted and Chose	Samuel Smith William Gutterson Samuel Clark	} Surveyors of lumber
Voted and Chose	Samuel Stevens Joseph Gutterson	} Field Drivers

This meeting is adjourned for one quarter of an hour.

**At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729,** the Town voted to give Mr. Christopher Sargent, for his salary, eighty pounds per year for the first four years, and then to give ninety pounds per year for the next four years, and then to give one hundred pounds per year so long as he shall continue with us in the work of the ministry.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729, the Town voted that the committee that was first chosen to discourse with Mr. Christopher Sargent concerning settling with us in the work of the ministry, should yet stand in

that place, in farther proceeding in order to Mr. Sargent's settling amongst us, in the work of the ministry.

33. **At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729,** the Town voted that James Davis should be allowed out of the nonresident rate, just so much as the late constable Bodwell had allowed him for gathering said rate.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729, the Town voted that there should be a committee chosen to erect a pulpit in the meeting house.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729, it was then put to vote to see whether the Town would choose a committee to provide timber for the seats in the meeting house and was then voted in the negative.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen on the 12 day of March 1729, the Town voted that hogs should go at large the year ensuing.

**This meeting is adjourned until the first Monday in April at one of the clock in the afternoon.**

**At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen by adjournment from the 12 day of March to the 7 of April 1729,** the Town then voted that they would not give Mr. Sargent according to his proposals to the Town, neither to his salary, neither to his settlement. The proposals are as followeth viz.

First, as to salary, that you give me eighty pounds money a year for the first two years, ninety pounds a year for the two next years, and then an hundred per annum so long as I shall continue with you in the work of the ministry, and also thirty cords of wood yearly from the time that I begin to keep house.

Secondly, that as to settlement, you give me two hundred pounds in money or labor and materials at the price current, as I shall want them towards building, to be paid by the next September come twelve month; or otherwise, if the present circumstances of your Town be such as to render it difficult to you to advance so much towards settlement at present, that you pay one hundred of the aforesaid in money at the end of four years from this present.

Thirdly, that as to the parsonage land, you do in convenient time, fence in about thirty acres of the best and most convenient of it, and prepare part thereof for mowing and planting, and also that the fence be kept always in repair; and that you do make needful additions to my salary as your circum-stances will allow, and my measures call for it, the yearly salary to be paid at two payments.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, by adjournment from the 12 day of March unto the 7 of the next April 1729, then the Town voted that they would choose a committee to finish the meeting house throughout completely.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, by adjournment from the 12 day of March unto the**

**7 of April** next following the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, Asie Swan, and Samuel Smith Jun. a committee for to complete the finishing of the meeting house.

**This meeting is adjourned until Monday the 14 of April**, and then to meet at the meeting house, at one of the clock in the afternoon.

34. **At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the first adjournment from the 12 day of March**

**1729 unto the 7 of April following**; the Town then voted that they would give Mr. Christopher Sargent for his yearly salary, eighty pounds per year, for the first five years and then one hundred pounds per annum so long as he shall continue with us in the work of the ministry, and one hundred pounds gratis towards his settlement in labor and materials for building, when he calls for it; and to fence in thirty acres of the best of the parsonage land, and to clear part thereof, fit for mowing and planting, and to keep the fence always in repair.

**At a legal Town meeting, April 14, 1729**, by adjournment the Town voted that they would choose

a committee to prefer a petition to the General Court, for that land which was laid out by the Town of Haverhill, for a parsonage, in the year 1721, and also the other three pieces of land, which were laid out by the Town of Methuen for the use of the ministry and school in the year 1728,9, which makes up the complement of land according to the order of the General Court.

At a legal Town meeting, April the 14, 1729, by adjournment, the Town voted and chose

Joshua Swan, and Daniel Bodwell a committee to prefer a petition to the General Court for that land which was laid out by the Town of Haverhill for a parsonage in the year 1721, lying were

our meeting house now stands, and where our burying place is; and also the other three pieces

of land, which were laid out by the Town of Methuen in the year 1728,9. which makes up the complement of Parsonage land according to the order of the Great and General Court.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on April the 14, 1729, the Town then voted that Joshua Swan and Daniel Bodwell as a committee, should have liberty to draw money out of the treasury in this Town to bear their necessary charges, in preferring a petition to the General Court, they giving a true account to the Town of their charges and expense.

**This meeting is adjourned until Monday the 28 day of this instant April** at one of the clock in the afternoon, then to meet at the meeting house.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, by adjournment, from April the 14, 1729, until Monday, the 28 of April instant;** the Town voted to give Mr. Christopher Sargent, eighty pounds a year for his yearly salary, for the first four years; and after that, one hundred pounds a year, yearly, so long as he shall continue with us, in the work of the ministry, and ten pounds yearly, in lieu of parsonage and fire wood, and also one hundred pounds gratis towards settlement, to be paid in labor and money and materials towards building by next September, come twelvemonth.

Voted, that there shall be but one pew in the meeting house, and that to be for the ministers family; the rest to be filled with seats.

**At a Town meeting in Methuen on the 28 of April 1729,** by adjournment, the Town then voted to give Mr. Christopher Sargent one hundred acres of the province land in this Town, according as it is petitioned for at the General Court, provided that the General Court grants it to the Town and provided Mr. Sargent settles with us in the work of the ministry.

At a Town meeting in Methuen on the 28 of April 1729, by adjournment, the Town then voted that Mr. Sargent's salary be paid at two payments, viz. to begin on the 20 of March last, and to be paid at the end of every half year.

The end of this meeting.

35. **At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the fifteenth of May, 1729,** warned for the choice of a Representative, it being put to vote to see if the Town would choose a man to represent them at the General Court, and it was voted in the negative.

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9, in the year 1729, are as followeth viz.**

First, to choose a Town Clerk and another trustee, to supply their places, which are deceased.

Secondly, to see what the Town will do concerning fencing the burying place.

Thirdly, to see by what rule the Selectmen shall make Mr. Sargent's rate.

Fourthly, to see if the Town will choose a committee to reckon with Mr. Robert Swan, the former Town Treasurer.

Fifthly, to see how the Town will have the committee finish the inside of the meeting house.

Sixthly, to see what the Town will do concerning ordaining Mr. Sargent.

Seventhly, to see if the Town will vote money for to get the country land.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729,** the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan, moderator.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729, the Town voted and chose Asie Swan to be Town Clerk, to fill up the vacancy in that office.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729, the Town voted and chose Stephen Barker Jun. to be one of the trustees for this Town, and he is sworn to the faithful discharge of that office.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729, the Town voted that Mr. Sargent's rate shall be made by the last year's Province rate.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729, the Town voted and chose William Gutterson, James Davis, and Joseph Morse, to be a committee to reckon with Robert Swan, the former Treasurer for Methuen.

36. **At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729,** the Town voted that William Gutterson, James Davis and Joseph Morse shall bring in their reckoning with the former Town Treasurer, at the next Town meeting.

**The committee for the ordaining Mr. Sargent.**

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729,** the Town voted and chose

Robert Swan, Henry Bodwell, Joshua Swan, John Gutterson, and Lieut. Stephen Barker to be

a committee to provide for the ordaining of Mr. Sargent.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on September the 9 1729, the Town voted to raise

money for Richard Swan & James Davis to go to the General Court to get the Province Land.

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting in Methuen, held at the meeting house on November the fourth 1729, are as followeth viz.**

First, to see if the Town will let Mr. Sargent have the non-resident money towards his hundred pound settlement.

Secondly, to see what the Town will allow for Mr. Sargent's ordination.

Thirdly, to see there be no needless charges brought upon the Town.

**At a Town meeting in Methuen upon the 4 day of November 1729,** James Davis is chosen moderator for this meeting.

The Town voted that Mr. Sargent shall have fifty pounds of the nonresident money that by warrant is in the Treasurer's hand, towards his hundred pounds settlement.

At a Town meeting in Methuen upon the 4 day of November 1729, the Town voted that the committee shall provide for twenty or thirty ministers and messengers for the ordaining of Mr. Sargent.

At a Town meeting in Methuen upon the 4 day of November 1729, the Town voted whether they would act upon the 3 particular, and the Town voted it in the negative.

**November the 6 1729,** James Davis and Daniel Bodwell personally appeared before me, and were sworn to the faithful discharge of (the duty) of Assessors, for the year ensuing, till others are chosen in their room (in place of) - before me, Asie Swan, Town Clerk.

**November the 7 1729,** Ephraim Clark personally appeared before me, and made oath to the faithful discharge of the duty of Assessor, for the year ensuing, till another be chosen in his

Room - before me, Asie Swan, Town Clerk.

37. The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting are as followeth viz.

First, to choose and empower men to make application to the General Court, in behalf of the Town, for the Province land.

Secondly, to choose and empower men, if the Town see cause, to petition to the proprietors of the common and undivided land in Haverhill, for a piece of land for a parsonage.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, the 8 of December 1729,** the Town voted that they would choose a committee to go to the General Court, in the Town's behalf to get the Province Land.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, the 8 of December 1729, the Town voted and chose Richard Swan and James Davis to make application to the General Court in behalf of the Town, for the Province land that lieth in this Town.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, the 8 of December 1729, the Town voted that they would choose a committee to petition to the proprietors of the common and undivided land in Haverhill, for a piece of land for a parsonage.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, the 8 of December 1729, the Town voted and chose Joshua Swan and Asie Swan to be a committee to petition to the proprietors of the common and undivided land in Haverhill, for a piece of land for a parsonage, that lies between the meeting house and Spickett river, that was formerly entered in Haverhill Town book, for the use of a parsonage.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Monday, the 8 of December 1729, the Town voted that the selectmen shall dispose of those shingles that were bought to finish the meeting house, that were not used, to Mr. Sargent for part of his payment, towards his hundred pound settlement.

## 1730

**The particulars mentioned in a warning for a Town meeting in Methuen, held at the meeting house on Tuesday, the 27 day of January, in the year 1729,30, are as followeth viz.**

First, to bring in Town debts and to see what debts the Town will allow of.

2. To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges.
3. To see what the Town will do further, concerning Mr. Sargent's hundred pound settlement.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30,** the Town voted and chose James Davis, moderator for that meeting.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30, the Town voted that

John Cross shall have twenty shillings, for sweeping the meeting house a year.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30, the Town voted that James Davis and Daniel Bodwell shall have ten shillings a piece, to each of them, for their making of rates, for the year instant.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30, the Town voted to William Cross two shillings and sixpence for plank used about the causeys on the country road when he was surveyor.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30, the Town voted to  
Mr. Sargent, fifty pounds towards his hundred pound settlement that the Town was to give him.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on the 27 day of January 1729,30, the Town voted to  
raise sixty pounds, to defray Town charges for this year.

**38. The particulars mentioned in a warning for the annual Town meeting, in March, the eleventh day, in the year 1729,30 are as followeth viz.**

First, to choose Town officers, as the law directs.

2. To see if the Town will vote some money to help supply the agents of this Province,  
in the defense of our charter privileges and so forth.
3. To see what the Town will do concerning clearing the fish course up Spickett River,  
and whatever else the Town shall see lawful and proper, when convened together.

**At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the eleventh, 1730,** the Town voted

and chose Joshua Swan moderator for that meeting.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the eleventh, 1730, the Town voted

and chose Asie Swan, Town Clerk for the year ensuing, and, he was sworn to that office.

At the Annual Town meeting in Methuen, on March the eleventh, 1730, the Town voted

and chose Stephen Barker Jun. constable for the year ensuing, and he was sworn to that office.

Voted & Chose      Richard Swan      Selectmen for the year ensuing and  
                            John Gutterson Jun. }      sworn to faithful discharge of  
                            James Davis      assessors for the year ensuing.

Voted & Chose Daniel Bodwell Town Treasurer, for the year ensuing, (who was) sworn to that office.

Voted & Chose James How, Tithingman for the year ensuing, (who was) sworn  
to that office.

highways  
Voted & Chose  
and  
Benjamin Stevens Daniel Lancaster Surveyors of  
Samuel Clark John Cross } for the year ensuing  
Thomas Silver Abel Merrill sworn to that office

Voted & Chose      William Cross      Thomas Eaton      } Fence viewers for the year ensuing  
and sworn to that office.

39. Voted & Chose Joseph Gutterson } Hogreeves for the year ensuing,  
John Tibbets and sworn to that office

Voted & Chose Jonathan Corliss } Field Drivers for the year ensuing,  
Samuel Watts and sworn to that office.

Voted & Chose      Samuel Smith  
                         Ebenezer Barker    } Surveyors of lumber for the year  
                         Samuel Clark        ensuing, and sworn to that office.

Voted that hogs shall go at large this year.

## Abiel Merrill and John Tibbets committeemen to discourse with Mr. Huse.

**At the annual Town meeting in Methuen on March, the eleventh day, in the year 1730, the**

Town voted and chose Abiel Merrill and John Tibbets to go and discourse with Mr.

Abel Huse, to

see if he will make a convenient course for fish over or round his mill dam that is across Spickett

River in this Town and if they and the above said Huse do not agree, then the above said Merrill

and Tibbets to go to the Court for to obtain that privilege in said Town, and to be upon the

Town's cost and charge, so far as may be necessary.

**The particulars mentioned in a warning for a Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 19, in the year 1730, are as followeth viz.**

To see what the Town will do concerning choosing a Representative.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on May the 19, 1730, the Town voted not to send a Representative to the Great and General Court this year.**

**The particulars mentioned in a Town meeting on September the twenty second day, 1730,  
are as followeth, viz.**

First, to see if the Town will empower the Selectmen to make Mr. Sargent's rate by the last year's Town Tax.

2. To see what the Town will do concerning part of the money for Mr. Sargent's settlement and any other business the Town shall see cause to do.

Daniel Bodwell is chosen moderator for this meeting.

Voted that the selectmen shall make Mr. Sargent's rate, by the last year's Province tax.

The moderator put to vote whether the Town will act upon the second particular, in the warning, and the Town voted it in the negative.

**Committee to reckon with the Treasurer 1730.**

The Town voted that they would choose a committee to reckon with the two former Town Treasurers.

John Cross

Committee men to reckon with the

Voted & Chose      Daniel Bodwell }      former Town Treasurer, and to bring in  
Ebenezer Barker      your report at the next Town meeting.

**40. The particulars in a warrant for a Town meeting 1730.**

**The particulars mentioned in a warrant for a Town meeting are as followeth,  
upon the  
15 day of December, 1730.**

First, to bring in Town debts.

2. To see what the Town will do concerning reckoning with the former Treasurers.
3. To see what the Town will do concerning Mr. Sargent's 50 pounds settlement that is not paid.
4. To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges.
5. To see if the Town will choose a committee to go to the proprietors of Haverhill, see if they will give us a parsonage, and whatever else the Town shall see lawful and proper, when convened together.

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday the 15 day of December in the year 1730, the Town voted and chose Daniel Bodwell moderator for this meeting.

**Joshua Swan 18-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday the 15 day of December in the year 1730, the Town voted Joshua Swan eighteen shillings for going to Salem to the General Court, to obtain the parsonage land.

**Joshua Swan 0-5-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday the 15 day of December in the year 1730, the Town voted Joshua Swan five shillings, for going to the proprietors of Haverhill to get a piece of land for a parsonage.

**Asie Swan 0-5-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, the Town voted to Asie Swan five shillings, for going to the proprietors of Haverhill to get a piece of land for parsonage.

**Mr. Sargent's vote of 46-0-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, voted to Mr. Sargent forty six pounds of the non resident rate, which is a confirmation of

the former vote to Mr. Sargent upon the non resident rate, with the shingles that he has already received.

**To the last committee chosen to finish the meetinghouse, 82-7-3.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, the Town voted to the last committee chosen to finish the inside of the meeting house, 82-7-3, for work already done.

**To Robert Swan 16-0-0.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, the Town voted to Robert Swan 16-0-0 for entertaining the ministers at the fast, before ordination, and for providing for ministers and messengers for the ordination.

**To Benjamin Stevens 1-9-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, the Town voted to Benjamin Stevens 1-9-0 for timber and carpenter's work about the bridge over the Spickett River.

**To John Cross 1-6-6.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to John Cross 1-6-6 for sweeping the meeting house, and for plank for Bloody brook bridge.

**To Ephraim Clark 0-5-6.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to Ephraim Clark 0-5-0, services done for the Town when he was selectman.

**41. To Asie Swan 3-5-0.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on Tuesday December the 15 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to Asie Swan 3-5-0 for paying Capt. Kimball's rate and charges, for that he was unreasonably rated in the non-resident rate.

**Ebenezer Barker, Abel Merrill and Asie Swan Committeemen.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 15 day in the year 1730, the Town voted and chose Ebenezer Barker, Abel Merrill, and Asie Swan to be a committee to reckon with Mr. Joshua Swan, Treasurer, and to bring in their return of their reckoning at the next meeting.

**This meeting is adjourned unto Monday the 21 day of December instant.**

**Daniel Bodwell & John Cross 0-3-0 each.**

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730,** the Town voted to Daniel Bodwell and John Cross, three shillings to each of them, for reckoning with the Treasurers.

**Ebenezer Barker 0-4-6.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to Ebenezer Barker 0-4-6 for reckoning with the Treasurers.

**James Davis 3-15-0.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to James Davis 3-15-0 for going to Salem to get the Province Land.

**James Bodwell 12-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to James Bodwell 12 shillings for his former expenses about removing the meeting house frame.

**A negative vote.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day in the year 1730, the Town voted  
to see if they would allow Mr. Joshua Swan 3-0-0 for his being Treasurer, and the  
Town voted it  
in the negative.

**Asie Swan 17-0**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21<sup>st</sup> day in the year 1730, the Town voted to Asie Swan 17-0 shillings for feathers and lining or the minister's cushion.

**Richard Swan 3-8.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day in the year 1730, the Town voted to Richard Swan 3-8 for mending the window in the meeting house.

**A negative vote about going to the proprietors for a parsonage.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to the moderator put to vote to see if the Town would choose a committee to go to the proprietors of Haverhill, to see if they will give us a parsonage, and the Town voted it in the negative.

**To defray Town charges 50-0-0.**

At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730, the Town voted to raise 50-0-0 pounds to defray Town charges.

**A reckoning with the Treasurer.**

We, the subscribers, being chosen a committee to reckon with the former Town Treasurers,

42. have proceeded on the service, on November the 3, 1730, with Joshua Swan, who showed us some receipts not agreeable to orders, which we refused to reckon as legal.

The committee brought in this return of their reckoning with Joshua Swan, Treasurer, and the Town voted that this return of the committee should be recorded at legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December 21 day in the year 1730, and find according to his orders, when they are all paid and answered, that there will remain in his hands, besides Mr. Sargent's 65-0-0 which is answered already, 115-8-6.

**John Cross, Daniel Bodwell a committee to reckon with Robert Swan, Treasurer.**

And on December 7, we proceeded to reckon with Robert Swan, and find that when all the orders which were given him to disburse out are fully answered and satisfied, it is an even balance between the Town and the said Robert Swan.

This reckoning was put to vote in a legal Town meeting in Methuen December 21, 1730, and voted to be recorded. Joshua Swan's remainder, 115 £ 8 s 6 d

John Cross  
Committee  
Daniel Bodwell } for  
Ebenezer Barker      Methuen

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730,**  
the Town voted to Asie Swan and Abel Merrill, 1-6, to each of them, for reckoning with the Town Treasurer.

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen, on December the 21 day, in the year 1730,** the Town voted to James Davis, Richard Swan, and John Gutterson, ten shillings to each of them for making rates and other services done to the Town.